

STRENGTHS
OF
RESEARCH
IN
PLANT
GROWTH
AND
YIELD

RECHNUNG

REDD BOGGS
EDITOR

AUGUST 1987
NUMBER 2
FAPA 200

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WAHRSCHEINLICHKEITSRECHNUNG #2, intended for the two-
hundredth mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press associ-
ation, August 1987. Published regularly every 25 years
by the Gafia press. Next issue: August 2012.
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2012

I CLAIM FOR MYSELF a happy distinction in connec-
tion with FAPA anniversaries: I was present at the
collation of the hundredth mailing in August 1962, and
if the fates are kind perhaps I will be present also
at the two-hundredth mailing, 25 years later.

There may be others who can claim the same dis-
tinction. I can no longer recall clearly which mem-
bers forgathered at Charles Burbee's for that hun-
dredth mailing, and of course I do not know at this
writing who will be at Seth Goldberg's for the two-
hundredth a few weeks from now. But not many persons
will attend both collations, surely. A bare handful
of members are still (or again) in FAPA from the long-
ago days of 1962. Two or three fapans who were at
Burbee's 25 years ago -- or at least I think they were
-- have passed away, further diminishing the ranks of
those who might make the same claim as I.

I remember something about the hundredth mailing.
In August 1962 I had just arrived in California, and
was staying temporarily at Jim Harmon's apartment on
San Marino street in Los Angeles. I had toted my Ges-
tetter 120 with me from Minnesota in the trunk of my
little Rambler, and I believe I ran off a few final
pages of my three contributions to mailing #100 in Los
Angeles, though most everything had been done before I
left Minneapolis in mid-July.

The mailing was collated at Burbee's. He was
official editor then, and lived at 7628 South Pioneer
boulevard, Whittier, an address that is so familiar
that I didn't have to look it up to write correctly
here. But other than that memory grows dim. My copy

WAHRSCHEINLICHKEITS

RECHNUNG

number one

REDD BOGGS, editor

AUGUST 1987

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| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

FAPA MAILING 100 • AUGUST 1962

Though I have in my collection a few fugitives from the first and second FAPA mailings, the third mailing (spring 1938) is the earliest of which I possess a representative selection. This mailing is virtually complete, lacking Mutation or Death! most prominently, and I have been leisurely leafing through it this quiet midnight in deep summer 1962.

Most of the entries in this mailing are hektographed, and many are folded into half-lettersize format. Their titles -- Galaxy, Interplanetary Tales, Queer Tales (before F. Towner Laney, "queer" was not a pejorative term in fan circles) -- their contents, largely fan science fiction, and the halfsize format indicate that these fanzines were intended as imitations of the professional magazines.

Two hektographed fanzines in full lettersize, Strange and The Vagrant, both published by Robert W. Lowndes, make a much pleasanter impression on the fan who examines them in this year of 1962, and it is hard to believe that the same may not have been true in the year 1938.

One printed paper, Bulletin of the Leeds Science Fiction League, consists of two off-centered impressions on two mismatched sheets of paper, and makes as dreary reading as the title implies. On the other hand, the mimeographed journals in the bundle are more praiseworthy efforts. These include Daniel McPhail's The Rocket, which is somehow legibly mimeod on both sides of sleazy 16 lb. (?) paper, Way Out West (Russ Hodgkins), neatly stenciled in two typefaces but spottily mimeod, and The Fantasy Amateur (Don Wollheim, Fred Pohl), whose chief defect is an overabundance of uncorrected strikeouts, marring an otherwise workmanlike job.

All the headings in both the mimeod and the hektographed journals are either typed or hand-

lettered. The hektomags contain many illustrations in a prism of watery colors (one of them, a cover drawn by Charles Stiles Jr for Olon F. Wiggins' Galaxy, exhibits some artistic talent) but the mimeod magazines offer not a single example of artwork. No lettering guide, stylus, or shading plate was used in the preparation of any of these magazines. Nor do the mimeod fanzines boast colored inks or paper.

The material in this third mailing is not noteworthy for its far-ranging quality. James V. Taurasi's "Bob and Koso" stories are ubiquitous in Solor and other prozine imitations, but in other magazines the material concerns organizational matters and the politicking and feuding that preoccupied leading members during the formative era. Way Out West and Fantasy Herald print chatty notes about fan clubs and fan and pro personalities. Lowndes presents some Lovecraftian imitations in Strange, and verse is sprinkled through the other magazines (that by William Hornspit in Queer Tales being the most interesting). But the only creative effort that is still of great interest is The Missing Sea-Serpent, a short whimsy by Richard Wilson.

In Loke Jack Speer inaugurated the mailing commentary, but "Alpha and Beta in the Second Mailing" manages to "review" 12 journals in a grand total of 99 words and without any serious attempt at critical analysis. Example: "MENTATOR -- Ye Spays Flyghte best; Observation (the one about the virdous gleep snortling) close second." Ideas are scarce in this 1938 mailing.

That was FAPA in its first year. In the ensuing quarter century the hektograph became obsolete, and even the old fluid-ink mimeograph is outmoded. Elaborate headings and artwork, some of it done by electronic stencil, grace or disgrace many fapazines, and colored inks and papers are found in profusion. The nature of the material has changed as completely as the publishing methods. Fan science fiction is

quite dead in FAPA. While politicking and fan feuds still involve many fapans, the serious, dedicated tone has been replaced by a sophisticated and satiric air. Mailing commentaries have grown from the modest seed planted in the third mailing to become the most bountiful and characteristic feature of most 1962 fapazines.

What of the future? Unless doomsday arrives, and barring revision of the calendar or of FAPA mailing dates and/or frequency, FAPA mailing #200 will be assembled on Saturday, 8 August 1987. What will that bundle be like? The vast differences between the mailings of 25 years ago and those of today teach us that predictions are probably futile, but I will make a few wild guesses.

Since fapans are tending to retain their memberships for longer and longer periods, it's probable that the modal age of members in 1987 will be somewhere between 55 and 60. Age has its rewards, and leisure time will be a more plentiful commodity in the "golden years." Thus fapazines will probably tend to become more elaborate productions; layouts will be painstaking, even fussy. New and handier duplication methods will probably allow everybody to produce fapazines that will make the QWERTYUIO-Press publications of 1962 look drab, but I suspect, too, that handset printed magazines will become more prevalent over the next hundred mailings. As the pace slows, a more leisurely sort of duplication will be utilized.

As to material, mailing comments will continue; so will politics and feuds, but the tone will be less feisty, if more querulous and testier. Science fiction will be dead, but old-time fans will continue to drone on about the old "classics." The most characteristic feature of 1987's fapazines will be the personal reminiscence, in which the editor harks back to the Good Old Days, when he and the world were young and FAPA sent forth its hundredth mailing.

of the hundredth mailing has been in storage, unseen by me, all this while, so that I cannot refresh my recollections by that means. All that remains besides a few bare facts are the tinted impressions of a happy day long ago when John F. Kennedy was still in the White House and John W. Campbell was still in the editorial chair.

It's a small coincidence that a quarter of a century later I am living about as close to the scheduled meetingplace for the collation of mailing #200 -- 1418 Gordon street, #7, in Redwood City, California -- as I was to that of mailing #100. Despite the bravado depicted in the masthead above I don't honestly expect to be present at, or even to participate in at a distance, the three-hundredth mailing 25 years hence. If I'm there at all, it will be as a ghost (if our loves remain). Twenty-five years into the future seems to me now a much longer time period than 500 years seemed to me when I followed "Buck Rogers" in the comics and on the radio when I was a small boy.

While A. D. 2012 seems a far distance over the dark horizon, A. D. 1962 seems only yesterday, even if my memory of particular events is sometimes lacking. Those were "sprightlier times" than now, and I think back with nostalgia to a day when we were younger and perhaps happier. The current fanzines, this season's science fiction, do not please like such things of the long ago.

I incline to dwell on the past rather than the future these days, however uncharacteristic this seems of a purported science fiction fan, and the embarrassing inaccuracy of my predictions for FAPA of 1987 provides no assurance that I can see the future unwinding as one vast scroll or roll, as a real fan should.

Of course I was right in some details. I did suppose, if rather vaguely, that "new and handier duplication methods will probably allow everybody to produce fanzines that will make the QWERTYUIOPress publications of 1962 look drab." But this hardly makes

me a fannish Nostradamus, for I don't suppose I quite imagined things like word processors, computerized printing, and copiers, all of which have come about in the past quarter century. Nor have such things made Ted White's Gestetnered fanzines "look drab." Fan publications done on such modern equipment have, like the mimeod fanzines of 1938, very seldom used colored inks or paper. I am sure that I didn't dream that by 1987 the very duper I am using to publish this fanzine would be almost as oldfashioned as a letterpress.

Perhaps I could have a word processor and a lasar printer. But I wonder if such machines aren't dangerous to the future of fandom. They take a lot of the drudgery out of fan publishing, I suppose, but at the same time they interfere with the old rhythm of fannishness. It's not unlike hiring a Japanese gardener to come around each week and efficiently do your gardening chores. Planting and hoeing and harvesting are hard work, but they're a pleasure too. So are stenciling, mimeoing, collating, and stapling. But the modern tendency is all toward instant success with as little work as possible. Despite the popularity of microwave cooking, I think roasting a chicken should not be rushed. Nor should the process of fan publishing. At its best the making of a fanzine ought to be largely a hands-on task where we make our own mistakes and achieve our own successes, even though there will be more of the former than the latter.

To paraphrase something that has been said about the past: the future is a foreign country. They do things differently there. I can't guess what FAPA is going to be like in 2012, if it still exists. Perhaps it will be some sort of computer network rather than the present arrangement that relies on the increasingly unreliable postal system.

My guesses about the longer terms of membership and the modal age of members have not come true, but even so FAPA still goes on, much as it did in the Good Old Days when it sent forth its hundredth mailing, and I hope that it will continue for a long while yet.