Celephais

25

Again, a late start on an issue of Celephais; and this time I can't just drive across town and drop it with Dick. Same excuse, too, only more so - lack of time, time, time. The last couple of months I've been holding down two jobs - at one pay - while everyone else was out of town - or so it seems. Anyway, to make matters worse, we had a reorganization pending from the middle of June, which finally took place the 2 of October. This has messed things up worse than usual, as the new division chief didn't know just what had happened in the past, and the old division was still minus a permanent head. And, as they had control of the money and records, we're having trouble finding out just how much money we have - if any.

Last time I threatened a 6-months report on the wanderings of the Evans. Since that time I have done no wandering - not even to Pittsburgh - so the report will actuall resemble that of the last mailing. I might remark that the above-mentioned reorganization and dual job was one major reason for not making the Pittcon - I was working at the office Labor Day. That was the weekend we lost our secretary, who went on maternity leave that Friday before to have a baby a month later. It arrived, much to the surprise of both her and her doctor, the day after Labor Day.... And last year one of the women working for me had her baby on Labor Day; she had also left the Friday before. Anyone looking for a job?

But back to the travel report. The only travel this year - including summer vacation, which is probably coming in December with a trip to the West Coast, somewhere between Seattle and San Francisco - was a week in New Hampshire at the Gordon Conference on Critical Tables. These Gordon Conferences are really wonderful ideas. Started before the war (WWII) by professor Gordon at Johns Hopkins as a weekend of informal discussion on a particular theme by people interested in it, they developed into a series on various subjects, sponsored by the AAAS, which continued even through the war. After the war, the site became unavailable - a resort club at Gisbon Island in the Chesapeake Bay, I believe, and the demand for various conferences increased. So, they started with 13 weekly meetings at a small college - Colby Jr College, I think - in New Hampsire, and renamed them from Gibson Island Conferences to Gordon Research Conferences. A few years later the demand required a second parallel series, with 13 more at another similar location. And a couple of years ago a third group was set up, with 13 more, at New Hampton School. They start the first week in June and run to Labor Day. This was my first one, and I was impressed by the whole thing. The one I went to was sponsored by the Office of Critical Tables of the National Research Council; naturally, it was on the preparation of critical

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CELEPHAIS, published by Bill Evans, Box 86, Mt. Rainier, Maryland, for the Nov., 1960 mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Vol 7, No 1, Whole No 25.

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A Woltschmerz Publication

tables. The meetings were organised on a semi-formal basis - each morning, Mon thru Fri, there were one or two general review type talks, with lots of time for discussion, and the same each evening. Unfortunately, I knew the chairman and so got roped into giving a talk - on the application of digital computers to critical table preparation. Of course, I am not a computerman, or a formal programmer, [illegible]ven. I've learned programming in SAP for use in the simple applications I use - simple statistical mechanical calculations, where a whole table is computed in less than a minute - because that was [illegible] easier and cheaper than having the [illegible] computer people do it. [Fun, too, until things go wrong.] So, I scurried around and dug up some horrible examples, and wrote a talk - which ran longer than the 45 minutes I had been alloted. Of course, I didn't [illegible] follow the script, adding and subtracting stuff as I talked. But it went off ok, I feel, especially as I was being somewhat unenthusiastic about the practice of just grabbing numbers and a program and a [illegible] machine and turning out numbers, and followed a speaker who was all for doing everything by machine. He had very carefully glossed over the word "critical" in his talk, being [illegible] concerned with putting data into the machine, churning it around, and printing it out in carefully digested forms. So, my mention of critical tables was a dash of cold water that broke the spell he had cast.

Aside from the talks, the Gordon Conference is a wonderful thing, in general. The New Hampton School is a New England Prep School; New Hampton is a small village, whose shopping section - right across from the school - consists of one grocery store, one barber shop, one variety store, one post office, and one garage, with only one pump, of the old, hand-pumped type. We were quartered in the various dorm rooms, one or two to a room. They provided maid service, but the beds were not the usual motel inner springs. However, they fed us, to make up for it. I can't remember the breakfasts or lunches in detail, although they were among the very few [illegible] breakfasts where I've had my eggs the way I like them. The dinners, though.... Sunday evening was a light supper - mixed grill with lamb chop, bacon, broiled tomato, sausage, salad, two vegetables, dessert, coffee - which followed a social hour with pitchers of martinis and manhattans. The entrees the next three days included steak - 3/2" thick and plate size - chicken fried just right, and roast beef - like the steak. Then Thursday was the traditional buffett supper, with a talk afterwards to which the wives were invited - a lot of wives came along for the vacation - which was on a more general basis and less technical. This started with a fresh fruit cup, baked beans (naturally), meat balls, corn bread, three kinds of salad, lox, gefüllte fish, cold turkey, cold ham, cold roast beef, pickles, etc, and halves of [illegible] steamed lobster - a platter three feet around heaped high. Seconds and thirds and fourths and... I had only three halves of lobster; I'm not really fond of it.

Afternoons were free for talk, hiking, swimming, golf, tennis, sightseeing, or what. I did some sightseeing - up to the Notch - hiking, and lots of talking. Got a chance to confer with a couple of other fellows who were with me on a committee and got a resolution whipped out in one afternoon that would have taken a dozen letters apiece. One afternoon was just spent in bull-shooting. Ran into an old time fan - ex LA in the Bradbury era, which is over 20 years - who had been at Detroit, and was getting interested again, along with his son. He was a friend of Campbell, dating back a number of years, and always dropped in on him in New York. This lead to a talk on the Dean drive and other Campbell fancies. Lots of fun.

The food was so good that I really didn't appreciate the dinner at Durgan Park in Boston between trains. Which is saying something. And no time either up or back to contact the Youngs, except by phone - which didn't answer.

Aside from that, I haven't left the DC area. A dull summer.

Reprint dept. Cullings from Antiquarian Bookman. Scattered here and there in this issue may be some little fillers from the AB. Like the following.

RESEARCH PROJECT

May I request the assistance of all auditors in the following research programs:

"Have You Lived Before This Life?", the new book, has elicited such deep interest that it will be followed in a few months by a sequel: "Where are you Buried?"

You can help by doing the following: (a) Check out your preclears for recent deaths and any you find have died in the last century in the country where you are, (b) write down all particulars for record, (c) then go to the place of burial and locate the grave or get a copy of the death roll from official sources, or both, and (d) send all data, the story of the life and death, to HCO W W, Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex, England.

Be sure you have the preclear's permission for data to be used. Be sure data is authentic in every possible way. The resulting collection may be published in book form.

L. Ron Hubbard in Ability(#115)

AB, June 27, 1960.

And having had our laugh, let us turn to more serious thoughts, to thoughts of science fiction, in fact. And, to indicate such serious thought, let us title this, a pseudoarticle,

How to define science fiction — with a lot of answers.

Back in the May Colophais I mentioned the definitions I had worked up for science fiction and fantasy, and objected to the definition Sam Moskowitz had propounded at about the same time. To refresh your memory - or at least to refresh mine, as the rest of you, with perfect recall, don't need it - the definitions I used are:

Science fiction is the fiction that is based on contemporary science and extrapolations of that science, and which is not in opposition to the knowledge of the period; extrapolations that change basic theories must do so logically. The science must be an integral part of the plot, and the development of the story must be consistent with the assumptions made.

Fantasy fiction is fiction based on assumptions impossible according to contemporary science; the assumptions must be an integral part of the plot, and the development must be consistent with the assumptions.

Sam had proposed:

Science fiction is a branch of fantasy identifiable by the fact that it eases the 'willing suspension of disbelief' on the part of its readers through insisting upon an atmosphere of scientific credibility for its imaginative speculations on science, space, time, sociology, and philosophy.

I objected to the latter, and received the following letter/article from Sam in the month after the mailing. [He does read the mailings, it seems.] And I quote for the next couple of pages.

I thought I would drop you a note of clarification on my definition of science fiction which you discuss in Colophais #23. First, as you probably are aware, the definition of science fiction which appeared in Peales 4....was written to lead off an essay on science fiction I wrote for inclusion in the next edition of Collier's Encyclopedia.

For readers of the Encyclopedia I must define science fiction as it may be found today and the form in which it appears. I must define not the "ideal" or a certain type of science fiction but the material that the readers, writers and editors of today's world label and identify as such.

My definition must embrace the majority of such material being published, written and read and accepted as science fiction.

I have no wish to criticize your definition which is acceptable in a classical sense, but if we were to apply it rigidly to even the early stories of the Gernsback era, we would find that in most of them, the "science is in opposition to the knowledge of the period" as was so graphically proved by a series of articles in Science Fiction Quarterly a few years back. Yet we know that the intent of the authors fitted your definition. Their knowledge and performance could not.

The great difficulty in achieving a definition of science fiction has rested in the mental block of us loyal fans in accepting the notion that science fiction is not a separate category unto itself and never was but is a branch of fantasy.

This arises from the misconception that "fantasy" is a separate branch to place alongside science fiction, fairy tales, ghost stories, supernatural tales, tall stories, the grown-up fairy tales such as those published by "Unknown". This is the great delusion. Actually Fantasy is the prime heading and science fiction, fairy tales, supernatural stories, et al. all must be defined as branches of fantasy. For this purpose the definition of any good dictionary for literary fantasy is adequate to explain the term. [[Webster's Collegiate: (noun) fantasy: 1. Obs. Imagination or fancy. 2. A product of imagination; specif., an image; esp., an illusory image; phantasm.]]

By any logic you want to utilize science fiction is fantasy. I have had many disagreements with August Derleth in the past as most people are aware in our great debates of science fiction versus the supernatural but one thing he has always contended and one thing in which I have always agreed with him was that science fiction was a branch of fantasy, just as were the ghost stories he was so proud of.

Once you accept that then your problem becomes to determine in what manner science fiction is different from other forms of fantasy. Defining the difference now lies within the realm of possibility but if one does not accept the fact that there are many forms of fantasy and that science fiction is but one of them definition becomes impossible and will always be so.

Now what is this difference?

Primarily that the author of the science fiction story does not attempt to get you to believe the story by saying: "Once upon a time" as does the fairy tale, or appealing to our old fears and superstitions as does thesupernatural tale or by sheer charm and writing skill as did the weavers for the "unknown" tale but through a scientific explanation or a surrounding background or atmosphere that implies scientific logic. He rejects magic or supernatural powers. His explanation may be scientifically inaccurate or inadequate and for the more learned among us, it may spoil the story is he is not adroit enough with words to smooth it over. The closer he comes to scientific accuracy the more believable the story becomes and the more successful the effort, but because his science proves faulty does not rule the story out as science fiction. It simply weakens the effect the author is attempting to convey on those readers who recognize its flaws.

It is far, far too late to reject the tremendous mass of literature[!] that has been labeled as science fiction because it no longer represents an ideal. It is already part of the family and all we can say is that there are various types of science fiction and we can defint them. There is of course the classic type covered by your definition. There is the scientific romance of Edgar Rice Burroughs, George Allan England, Austin Hall, Homer Eon Flint, Otis Adelbert Kline, which I refuse to rule out of the book. They are science

fiction of a certain type. There is the horror science fiction tale so powerfully exemplifiedby H. P. Lovecraft, William Hope Hodgson and Clark Ashton Smith. There is the "psychological" science fiction tale to which Gold is so devoted and the Utopias and Utopias in Reverse.

It is because science fiction is a form of fantasy that we find marriage so easy between certain types and it is for this reason that we acknowledge a borderline group known as science-fantasies, indicating that the authors have at one point or another dropped the attempt to sustain the scientifically credible atmosphere throughout, such as Lovecraft did in The Dunwich Horror when he rang an incantation into a tale that explains its horror with complete scientific logic otherwise.

We know that time machines are sheer fantasy, yet you, as do I, accept them because they attempt to explain time travel scientifically and because they are. Similarly, we do not as a rule accept werewolf stories as science fiction, but we make an exception such as There Shall Be No Darkness by James Blish. Certainly the scientific explanation could be disproved without tremendous effort but what makes the story is the attempt to explain the seeming supernatural logically and scientifically and we accept it as "Science fiction" and even anthologize it as such.

My definition may be broad and may not seem as precise asone would like but it defines a field which is broad and unprecise: "Science fiction is a branch of fantasy identifiable by the fact that it eases the 'willing suspension of disbelief' on the part of its readers through insisting upon an atmosphere of scientific credibility for its imaginative speculations on science, space, time, sociology and philosophy."

If you feel like publishing the above you may and thanksfor your interest.

End of letter.

This is the kind of letter that would take a dozen pages to answer. Of course, I could have used the GMC technique of interpolating my comments at length in the midst of Sam's letter, but I don't like that method. It is too destructive of any continuity of argument on either side. The only interpolation, in [[ ]], is the definition of fantasy.

As I see it, Sam is using the word fantasy in a much different sense than most of fandom, at least, visulizes. His definition - implied - and in agreement with the dictionary, includes all literature (fiction) that is not a simple retelling of an actual happening. It includes detective and mystery stories, from Poe to date. In includes love stories, adventure stories, sports stories, war stories, sea stories, western stories - in fact, 95% or more of all fiction. This is not what my definition covers, obviously. I am considering the section of general fiction which is based upon either the scientific knowledge of the day or upon the non-scientific knowledge of the day. A love story is fantasy by the Moskowitz definition, and can yet be excluded from either of the fields I have defined, if the plot does not involve such elements.

Sam makes the point that he is defining science fiction as it exists today; I would say that a lot of "science fiction" published in the last ten years is not science fiction, but adventure fiction laid in an exotic locale. [Which always reminds me of one perfect example of a rewrite. A story in Fantastic Adventures or Amazing was laid on Mars, complete with bad guys and good guys and blasters and sand-crawlers and such. But, in one place, the hero forgets he is on Mars, and drawls, "I've just come up from Texas." This is science fiction?]

But taking the various specific points in Sam's letter from the first. I'd feel that my definition could be applied to the stories of the Gernsback era, even better, perhaps, than nowdays. In those days, when the science was violated, they came right out and said that such and so was wrong; their evidence said so. Then, having justified somehow their violation of a portion of basic

science of the period, they take off. Sure, there were stinkers in the mags of that period - the giant insects, Ray Cummings and his sizestories, to say nothing of the one that had spiral nebulas "unwind" as the hero watched. [I think the actual words were "uncoiled and coile up again".] But, I'd say that at least half the stories published in that period would follow, more or less perfectly, but at least recognizably, the definition above. Of course, the Burroughs Mars stories wouldn't; his Venus stories could.

I'll agree that the science fiction author doesn't use the "Once upon a time" opening, as a rule. He is not writing about "the good old days" so why should he. He is basing a story upon a projection of the science of his time. If he uses this science as a basis for his story, then we have science fiction, good or bad depending upon how well he follows science. If he uses the trappings of science fiction - space ships and blasters, far worlds and lost lands - as asetting for his story, then we have adventure or mystery or love or such, laid in a special background. Although this may appear in a science fiction magazine, it is not science fiction.

I'm not trying to rule out Burroughs - when he fits - or Kline or Flint or Hall out; some of their stories will fit, some will not. Stories such as "The Blind Spot" would be included - if you grant one basic premise, which is not necessarily opposed to science - as science fiction. Kline's Mars and Venus stories would fall into the adventure category, as would most of Burroughs. Lovecraft and Smith have certainly written science fiction. They tend to underplay the scientific aspect, and to minimize the mechanical part, but "Mountains of Madness" for example is certainly science fiction; the deviations from accepted scientific knowledge are rationalized, and are thus acceptable. In fact, almost all of the original Lovecraft mythos is not opposed to science fiction.

As for time travel. I'm not too sure it is strictly fantasy - on a limited scale, at least. There have been questions about sub-atomic reactions that seem to violate the accepted time concepts. And I'm not sure it would be that easy to disprove werewolves. It is hard to prove they exist, but it is a much more difficult thing to disprove something. Consider some of Campbell's editorials. A negative statement is the hard thing to prove; how can you check all possible cases?

One last point, before I stop this rambling article. I'm very curious about that line "science, space, time, sociology and philosophy." This is one of the odd collections of words that sound impressive and mean little. Space and time are certainly included in (physical) science, while the general term would also include the biological and social sciences. I also wonder how many science fiction stories are based on imaginative speculations on philosophy, using the word in its general term.

I'm not completely satisfied with my definitions for the two divisions of the general field of non-realistic fiction that we are most interested in in FAPA (??), but they serve to define most of the material. A third category, the scientific romance, might be introduced, in which lip service might be paid to science to obtain a different background for an adventure plot; Sam seems to include the large mass of these in science fiction. I don't. (As a footnote, Doc Smith doesn't consider "Skylark of Space" science fiction; he prefers scientific romance, because of the errors in the basic science.)

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"I phoned a public library to ask if they had a copy of Oscar Wilde's Ballad of Reading Gaol. The answer was 'We don't keep music here.'" ----AB

Leaving the serious part of this mag, we come to the general discussion section, in which the various entries in the 92nd mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association are mentioned, discussed, and generally praised or torn to pieces, with numerous side discussions that have nothing to do with the subject at hand. But it's fun. So, on to the mailing. As always, the order is that in the FA.

First is Vandy [Buck and Juanita Coulson]. First, thanks for handling the vote counting; I should have realized a deadline should have been given, even though there is one in the constitution. But, that is really the OE's job - I think. Turning to Buck's section - as lord and master I note he has the front pages - I think we've come to essential agreement on the folk singers, at least as to why we prefer different ones. [And right now I'm listening to Odetta!] On thinking on why I like the jazz/blues singers I like, I find I don't listen to them as a singer alone, but as one of a group of instruments, with the voice taking its part with the other instruments. Thus, the Bessie Smith I like has a wonderful supporting group, Armstorng, Joe Smith, etc., which supports the voice, and interplays with it, until I'm not conscious of the voice separately. [This happens in some opera, where you don't have voice and background, but voice+orchestra.] In the correct setting, Bessie Smith is a good singer; her voice fits, by color, phrasing, timing, intonation, etc., with the supporting group. As a solo singer Bessie isn't so good, I'll admit. I've never heard Odetta with a combo; I feel she would be less effective there. Her singing is so individual that I can't see her fitting in with someone like the old Hot Five. This may also be the reason I prefer the old Armstrong, in the Hot Five, rather than the solo artists of today. (And that statement you left dangling about folk singers judged by feel....)

There are still some houses in the District of Columbia with no inside plumbing. I think the outhouses have been removed, with no replacements.

Discount records? Want any shopping done? Right now, Londons are going for $2.99 generally, and have been down to $2.69. Archive are $3.98, etc. I wouldn't mind some shopping, as I get in anyway, and can check menos before mailing. ## I've heard that even the vinyl 78s had abrasive addded to smooth in the needle, most of the time until just before the end.

Your statement disagreeing with my definition of sf is exasperating - why and how? The best example of "crackpot" I can think of is the saucer craze - the people who have flown to Venus or talked with the star people or such. All with no proof. Maybe they have; I'd like to see proof. ## That dancing statement is incomplete; I'm thinking of the dancing I'm familiar with from high school and college, slow foxtrots and such. The old Miller swing, for example. ## I can understand you missing Ivie Anderson; she sang only with Duke Ellingto from about 1933 to 1943. But Jimmie Rushing -Mr Five-by-five - is still singing, and is one of the top blues shouters; he started - or made the big time - with the Basie Orch of 1937-42. ## I differentiate between country and western singing. Country is something I hate; probably I shouldn't, but so much of it is junk that I don't recognize good when I hear it. There is a group of western - cowboy - songs that I feel are among the best American folk music - Streets of Laredo, I Ride an Old Paint, Chisholm Trail, Honey Gal, etc. Not Tumbling Tumbleweed or Blood on the Saddle or such. Good performances of the good songs are hard to locate, unfortunately.

Tucker, sandwiched in between the Coulsons. I liked your pages; I find no checkmarks, which means I probably agree.

Juanita. Now that the Oz books are hard to read for the age group that should read them, the library world is recognizing them. And, I've been told they are going out of print.

Which reminds me of this Trade Review from AB
Baum, Frank L. The Visitors from Oz. 4to. $3.95. Reilly & Lee (Chicago 10). A previously unpublished Oz story, "adapted for today's children", and pictured by Dick Martin, a la Disney Ø technicolor.

I have mixed feelings about this. I fear....

I like the pics this issue, even more than usual, for some reason. The shading in the hair on page 18, for example, amazes me. ## I thought the book for "The Mouse That Roared" was better than the movie; the picture had a lot of wonderful sections, though. The exchange with the Queen Elizabeth, for example, was superb. In fact, TMTR is the one movie I've seen in the last 6 months. And one of the best in the last 6 years.

Ole Chavela! [LA] All I can say is Ole! And resolve to get down to LA again sometime in the next five years.

Bareen [Ellik]. I wish that exam formula was available for my prelims; I still don't remember much of what happened in those exams, especially the oral. It is just a blank section of my life. ##That Berkeley campus is not exactly smooth; I'veseen flatter sections in DC designated as hills and mountains (Mt. Rainier, for example).

So, when did Paul Freehafer die? This is the typical omission of the basic bit of data from an otherwise well constructed discussion.

Descent [Clarkes]. There is one very good reason for a marriage, if there are to be offspring, and if you plan to have any worldly goods to pass on. The legal problems of a common-law marriage - and there are states that don't recognize them - become horrible when a question of inheritance of property come up. This is the reason for a formal marriage, if there are children. The state wants it to make descent of property easy.

I'd say that Ottawa has at least one more back part of a horse than it has front parts. And one is running traffic. ## If they ever figure out a way to make you trade in your house every three years, society will really be in perpetual debt. Of course, they are working on it with all the "home improvments". Which keep you constantly bringing your house "up to date." ## I like some of Norms pieces.

Rambling Fap [Calkins]. A useful summary on a usually interesting writer. The only addition I could suggest would be to indicate which stories fall into the Future History group.

Target:FAPA! [Eney]. I assume part two of 20000 Leagues will be in this mailing. So far, interesting, like other con reports. And like other con reports spends a lot of time on getting there. ## Please, Dick, "carbolic acid" isn't an acid; let's be scientific and call it phenol. It might work on embalming fluid, it that is formaldehyde; under the right conditions formaldehyde and phenol give bakelite. Of course, getting those conditions might be a little hard on the car....## Only part of Armenia is in Turkey; the section that last was independent, following WWI, became part of the USSR. "With Azerbaijan and Georgia, Armenia formerly made up the Transcaucasian Federation of Soviet Republics (Eastern Europe). Under the new Soviet Constitution adopted Dec 5/1936, this federation was divided into the autonomous republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia." Scott Stamp Catalogue, 1959. This is one of the Soviet Socialistic Republics. In 1919, it formed a National Republic, which in 1921 was overthrown and a Socialist Soviet Republic.

Apocrypha [Janke]. The color gives this away. So those announcers announce it in Eastern Standard Time - which is the same as Central Daylight Time - which is what you should be on. ## The Middle West with towns like Pittsburgh and Albany and Baltimore. Or like Denver and Salt Lake City. And Eastern cities like Cleveland and Chicago and St Louis and Omaha and Detroit. Until I came east - To Iowa - I had considered, like everyone else, those were eastern cities.

Curt, you're losing your touch if you don't know what a "presumably respectable young matron doing with a Gorgon in the bathroom." Two answers: She's reading a fanzine. Two, you'll find a lot of paperbacks that will "reveal the truth" to you. Take your pick.

For your castles in the air you need some of the fogs we get back home in winter; the basement would need a good pump. ## I believe the sriek is an old time instrument; at least the name sounds like one.##I like the shorter Janke almost as much as the longer. Almost.

Stefantasy [Danner]. Wonderful cover. Wonderful printing. ## That picture of scribe Danner is much better than the drawings that clutter up the ads in the lower calse mags. ## And I thought Grennell has a gun always when outside? What happened? And is Frieda for real?

Doodle is a real gem of a telephone scribble. Next time I have a long phone call I'll make sure the colored pencils are at hand.

There is only one trouble with Stf - two, rather. Not enough of it, of course, and it is so much fun it is hard to discuss like a Gemsine. But, of course, it is also hard on the blood-pressure - but from a different cause. So, I say thanks, Bill.

Catch Trap [Bradley]. What is really disconcerting is to come rolling over a slight hill, find a "cattle Crossing" sign and also the occupied crossing. With no real warning. And then there was the time a flock of sheep started across the road just before we got there. That took about 20 minutes. ## I've always slept with an open window. When I first went to Iowa I was sort of unnerved when they put up thestorm windows, and we could open the window only about 6 inches. Turning off the heat in the room helped, but I still felt smothered. Even though I turned the bed around, and had the head near the window. The second year, I had a Canadian roomate, who liked it even cooler than I. We had fun. It got cold enough to freeze the milk in the room.

To mend sheet music, try Scotch Tape 810, Permanent mending tape. It works, doesn't draw or discolor, can be written on, has a dul. finish that makes it really very little noticable, and costs a lot more than the regular stuff. Wonderful stuff. ## One of the problems you'll find in assembling a mailing, as distinct from sheets, is that some mags are one page, some forty. his makes it hard to be sure you've picked only one of each, and has caused some bundle checking in the past, looking for mags up to a dozen pages. ## Amen to Crosby and "Adeste Fidelis" which has been one of the banes of each Christmas as it comes wavering over the radio day after day. ## Although I don't sing or play an instrument, I have the same feeling you do on supplying the missing sounds on old records. I can slip into a mental attitude where I don't hear the surface noise or lack of highs and lows on an acoustical recording, but listen only to the voice. Thus, I can enjoy Farrar and Destinn and Ponselle as well as the latest soprano. ## What happened to point five under Deukauon (sp?) (or rather point four?)? I realize we have a point four program, but.... I certainly agree with you that drinking per se is not a sin; it is the acts that the drinker does or omits to do that are. Of course, the teetotalers would say that one drink leads to another and thus to the sins. But, I know a lot of people who drink only a little, for enjoyment - a wine with dinner, a scotch before, a brandy after, or a few beers in an evening of talk or cards - and who certainly are not committing any of the sins ot the teetotalers.

How do you get into Rochester from the East? Or don't you-all folks recon'anything as being east. ### Ditto is a reverse hekto. ^In ditto the master is the back of the page you type on, in reverse. So, you are pretty much limited to the purple, red, green, yellow, and black carbons. Hekto gives you much more opportunities for color work,

but lot shorter runs.(That's why FAPA started with 50 - about all you could pull from a hekto master.) All the colors are done in one run - each is of course typed/drawn on using a different carbon.

Colophais comes from a HPL story; I just liked the name some 16 years ago and started to use it. And I guess it's about the third or fourth oldest title in FAPA. ## Is "ligatures" the word you want for thosetied letters, like fll and ff?

Some time I'll have to relate the story of how one of the girls who works for me and her (girl) friend, on a trip west, ended up one night on the floor of the motel office. And without any car breakdowns or such. They just shopped at too many curio shops until they were sooo late....

Phantasy Press [McPhail] The Memory Book issue is wonderful; what a job of stencil drawing. Only one minor complaint. I only wish both pages of the constitution had been done, just to compare with the present. Shall we switch over to the Ghughu Calendar? One of the nicest things in the mailing, even if one of the less discussable items.

Phantasy Press [McPhail]. The regular issue. Why does the heading of for LEO remind me of the Cowardly Lion of Oz? Because of the happy, unlionlike smile? ## When I can dig out Ah Sweet Idiocy, I'll send it on.

Colleges sometimes have profs who don't care if you attend calss or not, just so you know the material. Like the Thermodynamics class I had at Iowa State. The second and third quarters I went to about one out of four classes; I was way ahead of the class, and as it was an 8AM class on wartime time in an Iowa winter, I didn't always roll out of the sack that early, especially as I had nothing 'til 10 those days, and it wasn't time enough to start on any lab work.

Outof the Past continues as always - good. And the whole issue is of that steady, enjoyable McPhail quality. Less noise than a General Motors Carr, but more reliable and more refreshing.

Moonshine [Sneary]. I'd hate to try shooting bullets from a gun made from the metal they used in the guns I had, way back just before the Depression hit hard. Nice heavy shiny metal, but it fractured too easily. And I also remember them as being very small, even for my hand; much smaller than the monsters - full size - used now (where the gun is almost as big as the shooter.). We had the single shot cap guns, the automatics that took a roll of 50 caps, and ejected burned fragments of paper from the top, and later than these a six shot revolver that used a disc containing six caps that fitted over the cylinder and as the cylinder revolved gave you six shots - "just like the real ones" - but which were a disappointment as you had to stop to load them, and the movies never showed that. ## That liguid helium water pistol really is way out; even for a BR toy.

If your mag Uranus was for the newly - most recently - discovered planet, you've certainly been fanning for a lot longer than most of us. After all, Pluto was discovered in 1930 ± 1 year, and even Buck Rogers had to suddenly shift from travel to "Planet X" to travel to Pluto - it must have taken them 500 years to name the planet, it seems.

I'm certainly not in favor of a senior FAPA; this would merely set up another waiting list, and add a lot of headaches for the two organizations.

Why not outlaw automobiles? Or at least restrict their use to a few professionals who know how to drive well? There is no real reason for everyone to have a car, especially if adequate public transportation were again made available. I know I'd rather take a streetcar - or even a bus - to work, if it didn't take 3 times as long and cost as much as driving. My roommate drives to the end of a bus line and parks.

Salud [Busby, Elinor]. Aren't the four year high-schools on their way out? Theory being that the change from primary (up to 8) to high school is too much. ## Then there are the engineering groups lunches. I've been roped into a couple; they are just as bad as any business type lunch, except that the topic isn't business but how great engineers we are and such. ### Sure, there's a lot of constructive dreaming going on. I see it every day at the office. It is a great help in writing reports. Almost as good as our "Standard Ceiling" from when we read the correct value for any quantity that we have no experimental data on - or even for those we do. We're planning a move to a newer and bigger NBS in a few years; we will have to take the ceiling of our room along. It has been seasoned for fifteen years now, and it would disrupt our programs for at least five years to have to reseason such a new ceiling. ## I wonder if the big names and/or long wait doesn't frighten some recent members. After all, they are treading hallowed pages.... ### Probably everyone in "On the Beach" went indoors to die because it would be more comfortable sitting down or lying on a bed.

Canadian silver almost never gets this far south, even though we are a tourist town. I think I've had only a couple of cents and a dime in the last several years.

Like MacArthur, I shall return. Maybe even on my summer vacation, next month. I didn't see enough of such nice people as the Busbys last year. ## I wonder about that uncle of Buz' and social security. SS went in about 1938, if he retired in 1960 after paying the top amount all the time, He'd get about $100 per month, roghly (probably a little more). But, he had probably paid in only about $200 a year, or $4500 in all. Thus, in about 4-5 years, He would have collected it all back. Or is he 115 now?

Did you ever read "Riddle of the Sands" by Erskine (?)? First pub about 1906, it is supposed to be the reason Germany never invaded England in WWI - the English knew their plans. A reprint edition - new edition, I mean - came out in 1940, with a new preface, pointing out that it was still valid. And a pretty good spy story, too. Reminded me somewhat of Buchan in "39 Steps." ## Lots more checks, but I'm running out of time and masters. And no chance for more of either before deadline.

Kerry Portfolio [Bradley]. Don't let Kerry get away, Marion. FAPA needs her Those kittens are wondefrul - and wonderful, too. And so full of life. And in mimeo, yet. The others are all good, but the kittens are superb.

Alif [Anderson]. Karen, this time you will have to play second fiddle to your husband; that bit by Poul on Hamlet is one of my favorite items in the mailing - why, I'm not sure, but it just hit the spot. ## Unfortunately, I'm afraid Stevenson would be too old come 1964. I wish it were not so.... Ah, someone else who likes Saki. He is my favorite short story author, I believe. ## You've also got a full-length operetta too, as well as an animal identity. And one of the very best - better than a lot of the "grand" operas. ##Very neat issue, too.

Klein Bottle [T&MCarr]. Rotsler is good. I would miss him were he to stop writing. ## Some words with the Devil seemed to me to be minus a punch line. At least, I felt it lacked an ending. ## Somewhere you've added 3 members to FAPA, when you offer those kittens to 22 1/3 members per cat. I'd be out, no cats in the apartment. Especially as we're gone all day.

I'm another of those who eats the parsley they garnish with. Back home, we used to grow the stuff, and I'd be able to eat it really fresh. Good stuff. I don't like it when they chop it up fine before adding it. Or drop it in the gravy. Hot, wilted, gravy laden parsley....

The letters were interesting - but uninspiring. And Hornig was something of a real serious fan, back then. Did you ever see the issue of Imagination? he edited? What a difference.

I've just discovered I'm almost out of masters, and won't be able to get any more before deadline for mailing this. So, I'm going to cut comments to the bone; I'll try to mention items, but lengthy comments will be held to a minimum. (So I'll end up with 3/4 of a page blank, probably.).

Time Finder [Coslet]. Nice brief trip report - gives me the same feeling I have of not being able to remember just what went on when and where.

Day*Star [Bradley]. On the cover it is 4 points, inside it's 5 points. And 4 points. So + wins? Another non-con trip report - and not even to fan houses! I think I'd have turned back. Your analysis (?) of Norma is certainly modernized. Question: Is it Gaul or Britain? I've impressions of the latter.

Bandwagon [Ryan]. Welcome back. You're so right about baseball. The suspense is there, but everything seems to be out in the open. Not like football, where everyone is devoted to hiding the ball from everyone else, including the spectators. Football is more fun, but less to see, from the sidelines. ## Heinlein has written fantasy; his style is such that it appears too logical for the usual fantasy - the Thorne Smith or the Gothic - but "The Unpleasant Profession ..." among others is fantasy. ## Right now, I'm the lone non-smoker in the office - three smokers.... ## Sure a book ad would get credit. Non-fiction, your own work....

Style Sheet [Linard]. Some of the quotes are amazing.

Limbo [Rike]. You forgot Camp Detrick in Md. Germs. ##Of course, when something is put in - franked - by a member, he is assuming responsibility, unless the author is around to take the questions. Like Donaho. Bill, check on "Puppet Masters" - it had some good parts, but other sections... And "Door into Summer" is good; better than a lot of his, although "Double Star" is good, considering the characters of the two narrators. At least, the backgrounds in these are consistent, not like in that three part story, "Citizen of the Galaxy". ## Doesn't RDBennett try to give the English - Elizabethean probably - treatment of his songs? ## The Catholic schools around here have football leagues for 7th and 8th grades. ## Penrod and Sam are much like kids I knew, and the scenes are very similar to towns I knew back in the late 20s - very late. Thus, they seem more real to me than Tom Sawyer. The area I grew up in had very few young children; in the area of 5 or 6 blocks there were only half a dozen children within two years of my age. That was the period of small families. So, my friends, onde I got a little older, came through scouting, and were scattered all over town. ## M. E. Shaw will have to submit credentials to get on the waiting list. ## Bottom lands back home were those - rich soil - lands that had been river bottoms centuries before. Usually low, and often flooded. ## Look where you are on the wl now. ## It wasn't the "night clubs" that were killed by the entertainment tax; it was the juke box soft drink places near schools, where kids could dance after school. If they permitted dancing, they had to pay the entertainment. Remember the old Miller record "Juke Box Saturday Night." ## Around here, Pepperidge Farm bread isn't exclusive A&P - Safeway has it. And it has Ca propionate. ## Do you have the Marlene Dietrich Vox of her old Polydors? She can't sing, but those records are sex....

Small Wonder [Linard]. I'd like to spend time on these, otherwise I can't do them justice. So, it will have to be merci.

Phlotsam [Economou] Another that gets short changed this time - always one of my favorites. One other advantage to a PO box, for me. With no one at home, and an apartment sized box, the days Life comes, anything else in the mail is usually in two pieces when you get it out. At the PO, I can get even books in the box. ## In camp I've had something between Chick Sales and nothing: a couple of logs with a pit below and behind. Complete with shovel. ## That's a cliche cliche in your remarks to Linard; on purpose, for him, no doubt.## Woodford-Finden was the composer for Indian Love Lyrics. Very sweet.

Sambo [Martinez]. Long time since I've seen Dale Hart's stuff. And I wonder how many will catch the source of "Why Fen Have No Tails" - the original of the format.

Le Moindre [Raeburn]. Remember, here is a market for used stamps, too; evidently, the powers that be figure any Chinese(Red) stamps eventually would result in benefit to the Red Chinese Govt. Of course, I can own gold - I do. Anyone can collect coins, if not more than two of the same date, type, mint, denomination. nd dealers can have more in stock. (That's US gold; foreign has no limit, I guess.) Some one has been trying the reverse Red line on you - we didn't discover everything, we just made it in a mass production, complete with fins. And there are a lot of Chinese and Russian reprints I'd like to get ahold of - and books too.

The Expurgated Doob Stewart [Carr]. The notes add a lot to this, for fans who were out of the main stream then, like me. I enjoyed.

Sercon's Bane [Busby, FM]. Check on "Two Sleepy People" And also "Thanks for the Memories" of same vintage. ## Seems to me that the national frat will have more than 10000 people over 100 years. That means a membership - national - of roughly 400 in any year, assuming 4 years in college. Of course, it isn't a matter of the total populations, but of the populations in the microcosmos of the college. Here, the importance of the organization is much higher. ## The book, "Starship Trooper" does have a plot - of a sort - I am told. It can't be much of a plot is cutting only by 25% can take out almost all trace of it. ## It wasn't the Spec Rev problems that I was weeping about; that was merely on top of a 55-60 hour week, recently, which has killed my spare time - 7:30 AM I leave, 8 PM I get back, after eating out, too tired to read. Or write. ## OK, next mailing we'll use little pictures of George Washington for each fan - except maybe those in Canada or England or such outlands where they won't do any good. Didn't notice it, or it would have been done this time - no time now. [Maybe even pictures of Franklin?]. As far as I know, the price of Pt is free. Only Czarist Russia used Pt coins - and some Pt forgeries gold plated!

Null-F [White]. What happened to Lee's mailing?

Tumult and the Shouting [Graham]. No, in Govt, you get the top scorers every time; it's the law.

Xtran [Linards]. Anie, these are among the best mailing comments in the mailing - right up with Warner and Economou and.... Why extra ta xes to be called Mont d'Argent? Nobility? Non-standard name?##I hope the alternate day one way streets stay away from here; we have streets one way north in the AM, two way during the middle of the day, one way south in the PM, and again two way in the evening and night. That is the AM and PM rushes. And that is bad enough for an innocent visitor. ## Birth certificate -- to get a passport, sometimes to marry, job applications, retirement, etc. Any certified copy will do; the originals are usually on file in the county or state offices, and they will supply a certified copy for a fee - $1-2. ## Most people here - at least in the northern and western states, can pronounce the bs couple; those who can't are principally those from areas with recent immigration from Germanic areas - the same onew sho have trouble with "th". I didn't realise this was also true in French. ## No, streetcar fandom is another hobby. These fans ride them, charter special trips, take pictures of them, dig out old pictures, maps, rosters of cars, postcards showing cars in the streets, etc. Another very articulate fandom, with more emphasise on sercon type work - system maps, rosters, pics, etc. Work is calculation and compilation of thermochemical and thermodynamic data for all chemical species. ## Managed to get a copy of the complete French record catalogue - a good three inches thick. The ""is the German umlaut, representing the ae, oe and ue dipthong. I type so much more German than French, I find it more useful than the three accents and the ç in French (and taking only one key).

14 - and last:

Musical chairs. A game in which a row of chairs, one less than the number of players, is set up, and everyone marches around the row, tomusic played by a non-player. When the music suddenly stopps, everyone tries to get a s eat. The one who doesn't is out. One chair is removed, and the game continues down to one chair. ## Those record jackets I get - and have yet to find a bad one in - cost 70c a dozen, delivered. ## I find I play 78s about half as much as the LPs - the ratio changes gradually, as I get more LPs of material formerly on 78s. Your ditto fluid at $1.20 for 2 liters is about the same as the cheaper stuff here ($2.50 per gallon). But I think methyl alcohol (methyl spirits) would do adewuately.

Sisyphos [Speer]. Is that letter on page one for real? Sounds like Shaver. ## Newtonian mechanics is a special case of relativistic mechanics. ## I thought you were the one who published a rather long and detailed article on holding conventions. Was it Rothman, then? ## No, the Alger stories weren't bounced because no one read them (from libraries, I mean). They never got in to be read. Like the Oz books. At least, in none of the libraries I've ever seen. ## I seem to remember that writeup on Atzor, back about 1940 (?).

Lark [Danner] And the other Danner stuff. Weren't there several models of the Big Bang Cannons? I seem to remember seeing a list once. I do remember one a friend had. Lots of fun. But maybe the problem was getting the CaC_2 and keeping it dry. ## I suppose you have seen the ads for the big "compacts" like Buick. Compact monsters. ## If you want rain, try Salem some winter - I've seen it mild and wet for a month at a time - mild for winter, I mean. ## I believe they put a mercaptan in leaded gas so people won't sniff it and get the $PbEt_4$ fumes. "hich are bad stuff.

Gemzine [GMCarr] (fell out of order). But Gertrude, that cutback in dues was exactly what we did last year. And without any great furor. ## Mr Carr is so right in so few words. ## I'm curious just what you feel about requiring credentials from the wl - first you say you do (Horizons) and then you object to the amendment (FA) to do this. Having it spelled out makes it easier to continue uniform action from administration to administration. And Andy Young ddidn't change the constitution. Which doesnot cover the waiting list; the s-t coould do anything he wanted. Back to Horizons. When Harry is attempting a serious discussion of music or such, he writes a little more carefully and precisely than when lightly discussing goings-on in Hagerstown. Have you listened to "Die Frau"?

Horizons ["arner]. There are cases - sickness for example - that might make the escape clause useful. ## Those weren't uncut pages in those books - or they may have been, but apparently were also unopened - meaning the folds hadn't been trimmed. Uncut means having the rough edges of the large sheets untrimmed. ## I like Marais (minus Miranda) when he was with the Bushveld B and. Very nice, unforced music. Nothing pretty-pretty. ## And Kipnis, in Boris, was singing with a southern accent - if you know Russian. Kipnis was a singer, of course, but Chaliapin was a singing actor, who created the character. I still prefer his Boris over all others. Look into the Bellmann Songs by Schiptz. Delightful. ##Yes, there are slipshoeters. ## I think I saw a note on H.C.Koenig's death; I'm not sure, though. ## I believe most magazines copyright by the volume - 6 months or year or month or what, depending on size. And I think renewal is the same way. Ryan, Help! ## The Community concert article was interesting background on something I once was interested in actively - before the war. ## Lots more but no room.

Driftwood [Kidd]. In Maryland, you cannot be a notary public unless you believe in God. And the Bible is read daily in school - even if you are an athiest. Nice comments. Do more. Again.

Illegible [Caughran]. See may answer elsewhere.

A Fanzine for Fapa [Trimbles]. (Wrong title - A Propos de Rien). But good farming is skilled labor. Do you mean Checkers or Checker cabs?

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