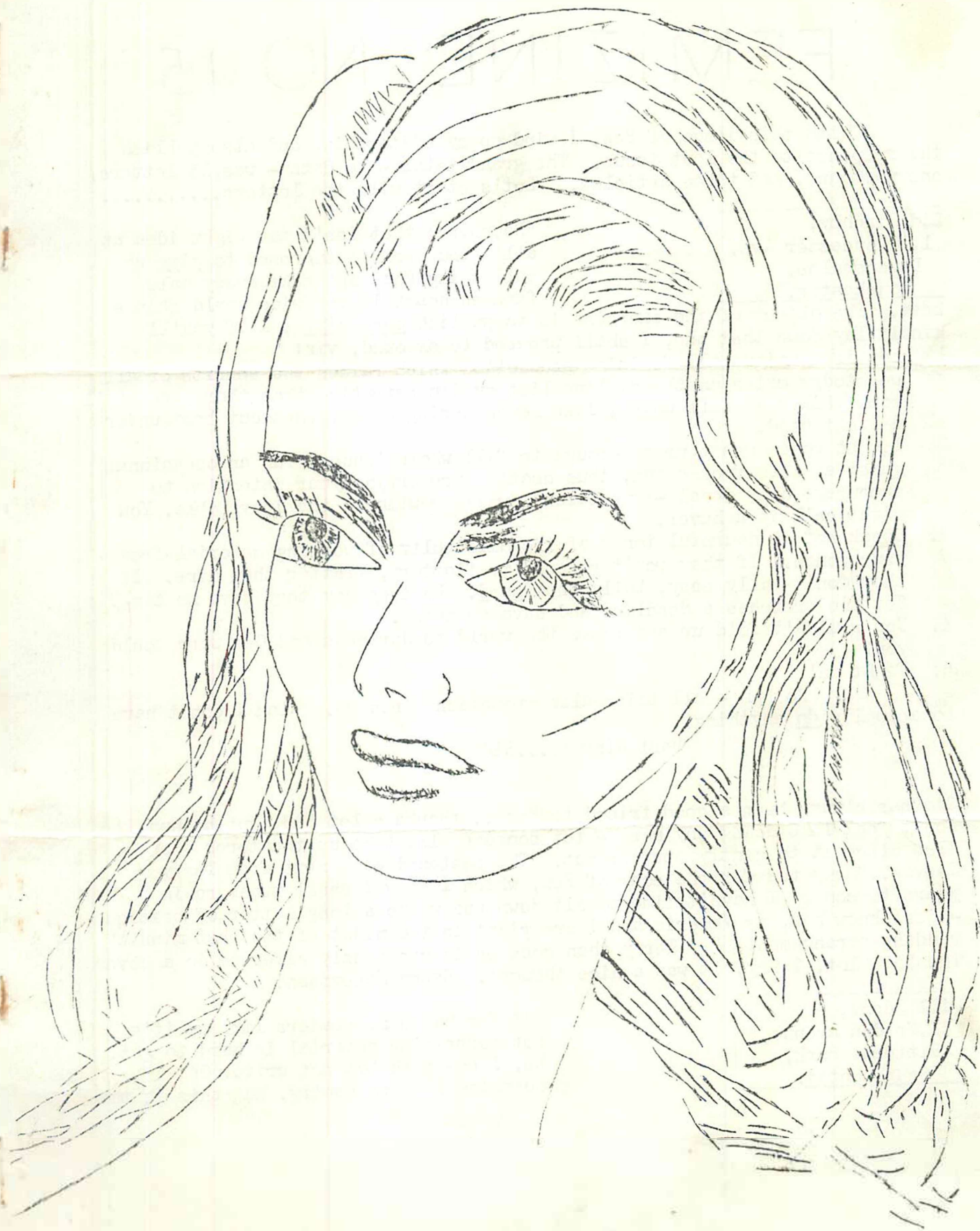


FEMIZINE #15



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FEMIZINE NO 15

With this issue of Fez, I wind up my editorship, and also publish the response to the last issue. The grand total - to date - was 15 letters, one postcard, and three articles. Let's start with the letters.....

Sid Birchby,
1, Gloucester Ave.
Levenshulme.
Manchester.19.

"No, no, no: that isn't the right idea at all! You are not supposed to give up publishing Fez, and make every male fannish heart in the wide world skip a

beat. The object of the exercise is to publish more often, & if you'll kindly lay down that axe, I shall proceed to expound, viz:

1. Fez is a unique all-feminine production which raises the spirits of all we stodgy males on the mailing list by demonstrating that there are still some things in life which, like lemon meringue pie, turn out best under a light hand.
2. If the women won't write enough to fill whole issues, run an occasional guest article from a man, thus neatly preserving your intention to encourage only female-type talent, while bowing to the inevitable. You might call it a haver.
3. Speak not in mournful tones of the difficulty of worming material from your women. If they won't respond to flattery, flatter them more. If they don't bully easy, bully them hard. Do they say they have no time? Set the wretches a deadline and have no mercy.
4. You wouldn't fold up and leave the world to darkness and Gem Carr would you?
5. Fight on!

Ho hum - all this sales promotion tires me. Glad I don't have to actually do anything!

Best Wishes....Sid"

Sid has always been a good friend to Fez .. thanks a lot Sid, but ho hum, I don't feel like doing any more - let someone else take up the torch - or else allow it to gently sputter out. The postcard came next from Terry Jeeves.. "many tas for the copy of Fez, which I know I shall treasure in years to come. I havn't time to sit down and write a long letter of critique - if I knew how, as Valerie and I are right in the midst of the last minute wedding arrangements." Terry then goes on to generously offer to do a cover. Thanks a lot, Terry, it was a nice thought. Happy Honeymoon!

Jill Adams,
54, Cobden Avenue,
Bitterne Park,
Southampton.

"If Fez has many readers like me it's not surprising material is hard to get. Me, I can talk but not write. On occasion I write poetry, but this is the

only one fit for anyone to see. Dead gloomy aint it? Most of 'em are like that.

The vastness of space chills my soul
All my life I lifted up my face to the sun's warmth
Now I am surrounded by suns
And I am cold.

The gleaming diamonds shine about me
All my life I lifted my face to the sun's light;
Now I am surrounded by suns
And it is dark

The life lights burn in emptiness
All my life I lifted up my face to the lifegiving sun
Now I am surrounded by suns
And I am dying.

The cold darkness enfolds me
And I become a part
Of the eternal night.

Jill Adams".

Listen, Jill, I have seen a lot worse fan poetry than this, and unlike you, the writers did not appear to possess a sense of humour.

Archie Mercer,
434/4 Newark Rd.,
North Hykeham,
Lincoln, Eng.

"This thin 14th Fez-type Thing..it is unwarrantably thin. For this I am sorry. There was a time when Fez was my favourite British fanzine, giving place only to the

immortal GRUE. The days when Joan Carr was mat uring at a positively unnatural rate, Francezka was giving of her best, and the letter column was as lively as the "Inchmory Fan Diary" has been of recent years. (What - no mention of a certain diminutive Miss Lindsay? Well, she was probably only a hoax anyway)

Have I got you hopping mad yet? If so, better say I didn't mean it.

Since Joan was revealed to be other than she seemed, and Francezka gafiated, Fez has never quite got back to that fabulous standard. I agree there is still plenty of first-rate female talent around and plenty of letter-writing talent of both sexes, but not in king (or maybe queen) - sized helpings all in the one place. From which it seems to be a logical conclusion that Fez itself - be the idea never such a good one - has not within itself alone, as Fez, the makings of a top fanzine. It requires just that little bit more that Joan and Francezka provided. Supposing, say, Bobbie and Betty Kujawa, or Bjo and Joy or any couple of femme-fen of their calibre, could be induced to really go to town at length for a couple of issues. Then, for a time, I think Fez would really be back on form as the letter-column snowballed AND unsolicited contributions likewise.

Well, there's this Lindsay character - she's certainly infinitely more sure of herself these days than she was when first heard of around fandom. Supposing she went and spread herself thickly through the zine for a start, roping in just one little partner for variety. All at once Fez

would find itself a Focal Point - and a Fez with a point is really something! As it is the zine seems to be becoming nothing more than a parade of profiles Excellent fare - but neither varied enough nor substantial enough to carry the zine far on its own. I'm going into this sort of a post-mortem (which I very much hope is entirely the wrong phrase) mainly as a follow-through to the deitorial (leave it, it looks sort of pretty, but I meant Editorial) You sound vaguely discouraged, and I can only agree that your gripes are justified. Fez is, alas, right now in a period of decline"

This suggestion that I present more of my 'personality' in Fez has come up many times. My reasons for not doing so were that I wanted it to be a zine to 'show off' and encourage the femme fans, and so I deliberately did not follow this policy. There are plenty zines which present the editor's 'personality', I have one myself, I wanted Fez to be different. Your other suggestion to Bobbie, Betty, Bjo and Joy sounds fruitful, and perhaps they will take you up on it?

Marijane Johnson,
1011 E.Hoffman Ave.,
Spokane 22.
Washington. USA

"I can see where Fez might not go over with everyone, but as far as I'm concerned, what zine does? I get very tired of the general run and find Fez

very refreshing. I suppose you just can't please all of the people all of the time, but hope enough, and who cares if it's males or females, rally round that you can keep it going. I was very pleased with my 'reviews' even Ted Whites! //Who said that the cat series left him cold // The same kind of deal on the 'Care of Firearms' would leave me just as cold. At least he read it, so that's all that matters".

I still have the remainder of Janey's 'Cat Stories', and am not quite sure what I shall do with it.

Vic Ryan,
2160, Sylvan Rd.,
Springfield Ill.
USA

" Have you ever devoted some thought to getting material, though? I don't mean work, it's obvious that you've done that but thought. "

Vic then goes on to give his thoughts, but as he adds a DNP, I must honour it. He intends to put his thoughts out as an article. Anyway, Vic, I can safely say that I tried the few examples you gave.

Sheila Ashworth,
14, Westgate,
Eccleshill,
Bradford 2, Eng.

" I wonder if THE TRUTH ABOUT STEVE SCHULTHEIS is the whole and complete truth. Mal shared a room with Steve at the London Worldcon and he told me that

Steve Schultheis didn't breathe when he was asleep. Mal and James White watched Steve for quite some time and they both said that there wasn't any sign of Steve breathing at all. Perhaps Virginia could confirm this?????? I thoroughly agree with Juanita about non-fan wives. Though I don't do any one-shots or publishing myself, I still find that non-fans seem to look askance when the day comes when one has finally to explain just why ones husband buys lots of books instead of houses and furniture etc. It has taken me three and a half years to get my fellow office-workers to accept me

and my husband and the things we do as quite normal. Although there are still times when they raise their eyebrows and tell me we are crazy...I am sorry to hear that the future of Fez is in the balance. It will be a great pity if you have to let it go. I suppose it must be very disheartening to keep on trying to drag articles out of femme fans who seem to be kept busy by their husbands. Mal keeps me quite busy cutting stencils and writing letters, or at least typing his letters for him. Then also the man likes feeding, and I suppose it must be the same the whole fan-world over"

I suppose it must..look at the latest CRY, eighteen stencils cut by Elinor and she has two pages of material in a 44 page zine. She is no sooner into an extremely thought-provoking article, when she stops.

Ken Cheslin,
18, New Farm Rd.,
Stourbridge.
Worcs. Eng.

" This seven to one proportion of letters of comment on Fez, have you a theory as to why this is, what proportion of your mailing is to femmes, or

maybe women have less of a 'group spirit' than men? "

Yes, Ken, more of the mailing went to men than women, as there are more of them, and that does partly account for the men being the majority of letter writers. They are that in any fanzine, of course.

Ken Hedberg,
Rt.1 Box 1185,
Florin.
Calif. USA

" I do believe that women in fandom should write more often. Many of them are content to sit in their husband's shadows. This should not be. Come out,

femmesfannes, wherever you are! Come out and see me! Excuse me, now I must draw a map of my place so that femfans can find it "

You hope.

Dorothy Hartwell,
124, Stanley Rd,
Hornchurch.
Essex. Eng.

" Fezitorial was interesting. Ah ha! I thought. (yes!) I thought, here is a place for my work! I have recently written the story of my Trials and

Tribulations I have had to go through to publish TRIAL, which I enclose herewith. You are the ed, you can do with it as you wish. Sincerely tho I hope you like it"

I have decided not to run your article in this, as it really isn't a proper issue of Fez. Should someone else take over it will be a fine start to their search for material. If not, I shall return it to you. One thing though, you mention a great deal about methylated spirit which you use for your duping. In such quantities, that I earnestly hope you do not smoke.

Dick Schultz,
19159 Helen,
Detroit 34, Michigan

"Let me here and now add my voice to that of yours in defending the all femme policy of Fez. As it is, it is unique.

But let the all-femme policy lapse, and Fez turns into just another agreeable British fanzine. "

Thanks for the kind words Dick, and pardon the way I abbreviated your letter, but I still have a long way to go yet..

Christopher Miller,
44, Wheatclose Rd,
Barrow-in-Furness.
Lancs. Eng.

folks) is very interested (natch) in how femmefen look. "

"I keep confusing Busby with Burbee.
Please enlighten me //Busby belongs to
Elinor, Burbee collects piano rolls //
As per Ted White - this fan (that's me

You see, Chris, Ted White has a wife!

Harry Warner,
423, Summit Ave.,
Hagerstown.
Maryland. USA

"...I enjoyed very much this issue, and
I might point out that it is particularly
pleasant to read a fanzine to which I
know I will not be asked to contribute.

Since you're having some trouble getting contributions, why don't you resort to some reprints. It might spur today's females to more output, if they saw what their sex was doing a few years back. Maybe Joan Carr has been gone long enough for many persons to enjoy some reprinting from her early works. Then there was Gertrude Kuslan, who produced some quite savage material about fans and fandom in the final year of her activity, after behaving like a sedate and unexceptional young lady during the first part of her fannish career!"

I would like to read this Gertrude myself, it sounds intriguing. At several points of my editorship I have felt a little like that.

DO NOT FORGET ANN CHAMBERLAIN'S RUBBER STAMPS. OBTAINABLE FROM 2440, West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles 6. Calif. USA.

Dorothy Ratigan,
131, East Dulwich Grove,
London. SE 22.

"Thanks for sending me a copy of Fez No
14 - although I haven't subbed to this
fanzine, nor have I written anything

for its pages - I can only assume that you've sent it to me to jerk me into doing something or to give an opinion on it. It must be extremely hard-going to produce a fanzine of any description on one's own, especially when you're trying your damnest to keep out the male contributors, so therefore, criticism in this instance would be somewhat unfair and unnecessarily harsh. (This doesn't infer that there isn't considerable room for improvement; I most certainly wouldn't suggest anything to you, because you have your own ideas and want to carry them out). What I think I should do is to contribute something to your pages - I know I keep saying this and end up by doing nothing - but this time I will really try and do something for you. I personally feel that your pages need something terribly controversial to give it some sort of an impact; at the moment it meanders gently along like some meadow stream with neither objective nor time to

hinder its flow. Again many thanks for sending me a copy of Fez and, not knowing when you hope to get out another issue will try and let you have something within the next couple of weeks. Unless you decide not to have anything controversial and prefer to meander gently along..and thats fair enough" "PS Re: your plea for Femme-interest..."..this is your zine, it is in your lap now what to do with it..." I seem to remember you, I and Bobbie and Daphne discussing the problems of producing Fez and several ideas were exchanged (although not necessarily agreed upon) but you preferred to go your own way - there's no harm in doing this of course - but now you come back onto the femmes and more or less blame us for the disinterest which appears manifest. No sour grapes this Ethel, but I still think FEZ could do with more than just one personality behind it - it wants people like Bobbie with her historical legends, it needs the Rabelaisian pen from Ella, it needs the argumentative pen from Daphne; it needs opposing factors to bring it to life (no hard feelings here, I know black and white sounds absolutely dashing, but it's not meant to be truly; placidity is a dangerous level for any fanzine and unless you get opposition within your pages you will lose whatever interest is left. However, we must go down fighting if go down we must Ethel..so watch out in a couple of weeks I'll have an argumentative article for your pages...thats if you want it".

This letter is dated July 25th and it is now August 30th, so in lieu of the controversial article I did not receive from you I have published your letter in full. At first I was deeply hurt by this letter, but then I decided not to be silly and childish but to think carefully over your criticism. To begin with the article has obviously not arrived, because I did not answer your letter until here. So that is my own fault.

I too remember that night at the Globe with Bobbie, Daphne, and yourself. Our main idea then was for Bobbie and I to edit Fez together, and there was also talk of help in cutting stencils. Well, I invited Bobbie down to see me with a view to deciding our policy. She sat the whole night telling me tales of her adventures in Military Hospitals. In vain I brought up Fez, in vain, until in the end I gave it up. Mistake me not, I was not bored, Bobbie tells an extremely amusing tale, as you know. Still that was as far as I got with the co-editing idea. It would have been a little difficult too, we did not live near, and I rarely get up to town above once a week.

So I started cutting stencils, and had some help from Joy. This was one of the first things criticised, the different types did not improve the zines appearance, and I came to feel that on these grounds, many stencil-cutters a bad idea. I did not realise that by taking on the whole production and editing myself, you might have felt I was intent on my own way, nor wanting any helpful advice. Certainly you gave me none, for when I look up your card I find that three issues of Fez were sent to you without reply.

In the May 1959 issue you had an article on "Women" which I obtained by ringing you up on the telephone...just as you had started to make a souffle, for which you kindly forgave me.

In every issue I have asked for help, I did not think there was anyone who wished to help with production. In editing, no help was needed, for it consisted of publishing what little material I could obtain. I never had

any choice in material. In every issue I have tried to emphasise that I was only the editress (I thought of myself thus) and that the content matter was in the writer's hands. I tried supplying an idea - that of Sadie Shaw's - that the wives of actifen should give the 'lowdown' on their husbands. I hoped this would turn out a humorous series. This seems, however to have given the impression that it was the only type of material I was interested in, so no doubt, I went about that the wrong way. Believe me I now see many mistakes that I made, but they were not made through a sense of power in my editorship. I cannot think though, how I can have given you such a wrong impression of me - at least as I think I am.

I have printed your letter Dorothy, and answered it publicly, not because I want to start any feuds or fusses, I like these as little as I know you do, but because I may have given others the same wrong impression. As to Daphne, well first here is her letter.

Daphne Buckmaster,
8, Buchanan St.,
Kircudbright.
Scotland

" Please excuse ½pintsize letter and scrawl - I just wanted to get this note enclosed with HOB0 as it's time you heard from me..Next job is ESPRIT - you may have heard I'm making that into a generalzine too! I'll write that idea about why so few women in fandom that I mentioned and you seemed to approve of, as soon as I can. Review of Fez in HOB0 - hope y ou didn't mind my being outspoken!"

For those who have not seen it, the review went like this --

"FEZ 14 comes with a cri de coeur from Ethel who is still managing to gather material from reluctant fannes but seems to be getting near the end of her tether, so hard is the job. One thing she is determined on and that is that it would be better for FEZ to fold altogether than to give in to pleas to become general i.e.include male contributors. I can't say I blame her for this view; FEZ' present policy of 'females only' is, and always has been unique in fanzines and if it were to let in the males it would no longer be FEMIZINE. If I might offer a word of advice, I would say that the trouble is that the field of subject matter is too narrow. Exposés of husbands, profiles of fannes, accounts of pets, etc., while each entertaining in themselves are not enough to fill or sustain a fanzine continuously. There is nothing to inspire controversy... It may well be that Ethel does not and never has intended to restrict her contributors to the type of material that has been appearing lately - in fact I am sure she does not - but her editorials do, unwittingly perhaps, give this impression; also, of course, when anyone writes for an editor, he/she tends to write something that fits with what appears to be that editors policy, namely with what already appears in the magazine and so FEZ has got itself into a vicious circle."

Yes, I have undoubtedly given the wrong impression in my editorials. I must have, if someone like Daphne - a fanne I have been able to meet many times, and plead with personally for material on any subject, should write so. The infuriating part about this is, that with the publication of HOB0 and ESPRIT

she shows herself a veritable well of though-provoking articles. Yet never have I met Daphne without mentioning Fez, and my need for such material. Nor has she ever mentioned to me this feeling she had about my editorials. Now she tells me!

Appropriately enough, we now come to the article which Daphne wrote and sent to me. I will give this a heading, just to break up the monotony of all this type for you.

WOMEN IN FANDOM

Have you ever wondered why there are so few women in fandom? Or have you, perhaps, wondered why there are any women at all in it, considering that science fiction is not a subject that is generally thought of as appealing to the fair sex?

There is one puzzling thing I have noticed about fannes and that is that most of them are fantasy rather than science fiction fans. I don't know why this should be. It is often said that s-f and fantasy fans cannot and should not be distinguished from each other in any real sense because there is so much over-lapping of these categories. However, in my experience, there is a basic difference; while both require the type of mind that likes to speculate about impossible-seeming things, the type of mind that is common to all in fandom, the one (s-f) requires imagination that is based on reason and logic while the other (fantasy) requires imagination based on the emotions and that cares not a jot about logic. In our society, women are brought up to think that it is 'not feminine' to be logical; they are encouraged to be as emotional as possible and perhaps this accounts for the fact that those with an imaginative outlook turn towards fantasy rather than the more logical and 'masculine' s-f.

To find out just what are the comparative numbers of women and men in fandom, I took a look at Ron Bennett's current fan directory. This does not, of course, contain all known fans but it is as good a random sample as any. The total number of fans in this is 493. Of these, according to my counting, fifty three are women. That is to say: just over 10 per cent. This does not include 19 wives who are listed by name along with their husbands but who are not, to my knowledge, active as individual fannes apart from helping their husbands with their publishing, though if a wife is active of her own accord, I have counted her as a fanne. These figures therefore, must be taken as subject to my knowledge of who is active and who is not which may not be accurate.

When we come to the number of fannes actually publishing, as against attending clubs, corresponding or subscribing to fanzines, the percentage becomes very small indeed. It would be interesting to find out whether the percentage of women who publish is different from the percentage of men who do so but I leave that for someone else to work out. I've done enough counting for this time!

The figure of ten per cent (women in fandom as a whole) while small, seems to be a good deal greater than the prewar figure. I have not any statistics about prewar fandom but I have read accounts of prewar activities, especially in England, and I don't remember seeing any mention of women at all. When I joined fandom in 1947 I was told by Ken Slater that there had been one other fanne in this country before me! Certainly I was the only one at the White Horse for a year or two.

One good reason for there being more women in postwar fandom comes immediately to mind and that is that women in general, have more leisure. Before the war women did not have time for hobbies but, now that labour-saving devices have cut down the housework so much, we are branching out more into spare time activities.

Another contributing factor, I think, is the changeover of fandom as opposed to the s-f oriented outlook it had before. This new outlook must have attracted women more than the serious discussion sessions of the previous period. Again there is the fact that we are all better off financially than we have been. This has led to more entertaining between fans and so the wives have become known to the fans and soon find that they are a part of fandom themselves. The easier financial position means, too, that some wives can hire baby sitters and thus go along to club meetings with their husbands.

But in spite of all these factors which are bringing more women into fandom there is still, as the figures have shown a vast difference between the number of women and the number of men. It may be because males are freer to go where they like and make friends with whom they like than females are. This state of affairs is dying out gradually of course, but even today many teenage girls would not be allowed to get fanzines or correspond with strangers - especially once their parents have seen some of those fanzines! For let us admit that very few fanzines have an appearance (let alone content) that is calculated to inspire an urge in mothers to get their daughters into fandom.

We must remember too, that fandom perhaps because of its imaginative nature, tends to be unconventional in its way of life and women, as a rule, have not the courage to be unconventional - not so much as men have at any rate. "Publishing before housework" is not a motto that many women are willing to live by - they rely more than men on the approval of their families and neighbours and this approval is soon withdrawn when visitors see the chaos that is the normal state of the typical fan household!

There is no conclusion to this article (which does not mean it will be endless). The foregoing are merely a few thoughts that have occurred to me in connection with women and fandom. I leave the conclusions to you. And if any of you fannes reading this are pleased, offended, enraged, disgusted or possibly croggled at what I have said, why not write and tell Ethel about it"

Daphne's admirable article set me ruminating..When I first entered fandom I was in it a long time before I contacted another fanne. This was Frances Evans and we corresponded mightily. Among the things we discussed was just how many women there were in fandom, and it was then that Frances suggested starting FEMIZINE to find out and put us in touch with one another. That was when my dream of encouraging out the few we had and perhaps recruiting more first started.

I was feeling mighty blue, I had made a failure of Fez, Dorothy and Daphnes' criticism had hurt, and I was in the only too human state of looking round for someone else to blame. Then out of the blue came this.....

AN ARTICLE FOR ETHEL

BY JOYCE SLATER.

It all started a long time back - at least five years ago! - when Ken said "Can you give me an article for Ethel?" Casting a glance in his direction (he dodged) I remarked that he was in one of his light-hearted moods, and so I guessed that this was the opening gambit for one of his atrocious puns. Ken spends an unreasonable amount of time working out really horrible puns, which he then lets fly at harmless and unsuspecting humans. A good witty pun is something he has no use for, it must be a real stinker before he takes the least interest.

Anyway I made the obvious reply to Ken's question - a counter question. "Definite or indefinite?"

After the flood of invective had been reduced, I gathered that what Ken wanted to know was would I write some sort of an essay for Ethel to publish in a fanzine. Naturally I declined. It was taking me all my time to compose notes to milkmen, coalmen and others of that ilk, and a weekly letter to my mother (mainly filled with comments on the inclemency of the weather) really exhausted me. In any case I was in mourning for WEIRD TALES, just recently defunct and the only fantasy mag which really appealed to me, and during that period no public engagements could be considered.

Since that time this question has been raised in the house many times. Once or twice it has raised the house. It usually is dragged up by Ken shortly following the arrival of a letter from Ethel, a fanzine from Ethel, a postal order from Ethel, or on the other tack the despatch of a book/books to Ethel, a letter to Ethel, or a catalogue to

to Ethel. Now let it be clearly understood that the fact that it is Ethel has nothing to do with this. It might be Queen Anne, Bridie Murphy or Walt Willis for whom I was being pestered to put words to paper. My reaction would be just the same - a flat refusal. I just don't like writing. A study of my shopping lists would reveal this to anyone with a modicum of intelligence or sufficient interest. Anyone who abbreviates 'biscuits' to 'bis' (puzzle in the chemists - why the heck did I put 'bismuth' on the shopping list?) and 'sugar' to 'sug' obviously is not the person who can be expected to essay an article for a fanzine. It stands to reason that such a person just doesn't like writing.

Ethel as an individual I quite admire (I've never actually met her) from what little I know of her - mainly from her letters, an odd photo or two that Ken has purchased after a convention, and from Ken's comments on people he has met. But anyone who can both engage in Ethel's occupation and take an active part in fandom is deserving of respect, for their stamina and strength of will if for nothing else.

Ethel as the editress of a fanmag is someone of whom I wish I (or Ken) had never heard. Or alternatively, if edit a fanzine she must, then it would be better for me (and possibly for her) if it were a fanmag for whom anyone can write. Ken himself rarely writes anything for anyone these days - on his working schedule this is not surprising, he doesn't take time off to eat half the week, and he has been to a cinema only twice since we returned from Germany. His idea of relaxation is to sit down for about ten minutes and read the review column in Astounding (pardon, I mean Analog, don't I?). But if he did - or even if he didn't - write anything, I'd much prefer that Ethel pestered him, instead of the present system where to my knowledge Ethel hasn't asked Ken to ask me for over a year, but Ken automatically does ask me on almost any occasion that the name "Lindsay" crops up. I've even known him, in a discussion on the old time fans, turn to me and say "Oh, Joyce, I really think you should" when someone has mentioned NIGEL LINDSAY. It makes me wonder if at some convention or other Ethel has backed Ken into a corner, hypnotised him with the reflected highlights from a glass of Double Diamond, and set up a conditioned reflex or something....

In any case, why me? At the school where I was educated the only thing that prevented my English teacher from giving minus marks for composition was her own lack of education in higher mathematics. Ken is full of funny stories about my confused means of communication, such as the time when a gentleman, looking for the people next door, left a message with me but forgot to give me his name, and when I was asked to describe him, the best I could manage was "Well, he was riding a pink bicycle". You'll understand that the most well-intentioned of folk would hardly be doing any editor a favour by recommending me as a writer to be sought after.

But what prompted me to tell you all this was that Ken has just been making a more than usually eloquent plea, as he says in that the latest issue of FEZ Ethel is bemoaning the lack of material from people. Ken makes it out that unless someone does something now, if not sooner, then the next issue of FEZ will be all clean white paper.

Now, personally I've nothing against that. If Ethel were to send us some clean white paper it would prove very useful. As things are the children are always wanting some paper on which to draw or scribble, or do home-work or such, and every time I pick any of the odd bits that litter all over Ken's desk, chair, filing cabinets, index trays and floor, Ken shouts - "You can't have that, I've got some notes on the back". So if Ethel were to send out a copy of FEZ, addressed to me, containing a dozen or so sheets of near virginally (a few fingerprints here and there wouldn't matter) clean paper, well, I'd be pleased anyway. And so would Michael and Susie. Ken has been reading this and has made some comments about nan-handlin virgins, and how a little fingering never spoiled a virgin yet, and so on, but I've told him I've no intention of discussing such matters as FEZ is a clean zine, and in any case what I mean to say is that I just don't have the time or the ability to do an article for Ethel.

JOYCE SLATER

I read this at first with amazement, for I never knew that Ken had been agitating Joyce in this way. Gradually I began to chuckle, and by the end I was laughing out loud. My! but it did cheer me up, - and to think I had been feeling so sorry for myself, yet all the time when I never knew it, someone was thinking of me and trying to help.

It cleared my eyes too, for I was able to then contemplate Fez calmly and realise that it's failure was my own fault. Yet, still I did not feel depressed, for surely the scene had changed since Fez first was started. All the fannes who were likely to be active, were so, busy publishing their own zines. The others, like Joyce, found the keeping of their home a full enough life, and though I agree with Daphne as to the pleasant unconventionality of fans, I retain enough conventionality myself to respect a woman who puts her first job first, and treats fandom as a luxury. As much as possible I tuck fandom out of sight in my own room, retaining only it's best aspects such as a framed Atomillo.

As to the recruitment of fannes, I doubt if I would ever be successful in this - how many years did I wait before meeting Frances and finding another woman 'like myself', and having found her, why should I want to find anyone else? Also, in all the years I have been nursing only once did I find someone who would have fitted in with fandom, and she vanished into the R.A.F!

Looking back over the stencils I think I have written all I meant to, except for two points. One concerns Bobbie, I wrote either too much or not enough here. I should have added that it was my fault really, in that I did not try again to interest her in the editing. She is a very helpful person really, has been a hard worker in fandom, and once personally helped me by duplicating a whole issue of Scottishe.

The other point is that although this brings to an end my editorship, it need not be the end of Fez. There are many helpful suggestions throughout this, the best being that two fannes should work on it. From my own experience I feel that if only one fanne were to take over, I would suggest that instead of a quarterly zine, the experiment be tried of an annual Fez. This could display the combined fanne talent.

Should anyone wish to do either of these things, I will be very happy to hand on the files -- which are in order -- and give any other help that may be wanted. Failing this, perhaps in a few years time I may try the annual idea myself.

At the moment though, I feel that one can put out a fanzine without many things, but never without enthusiasm, and I have, at this time, lost my enthusiasm.

There are a few people with outstanding subscriptions. This can be returned if they wish. Otherwise I will supply copies of my fanzine Scottishe in the place of Fez.

I would like to extend my thanks and good wishes to all the contributors to Femizine, and thanks also to the American Agent, Betty Kujawa.

Ethel.

FRONT COVER BY DAPHNE BUCKMASTER.

This has been FEMIZINE no 15. September 1960
Published by

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