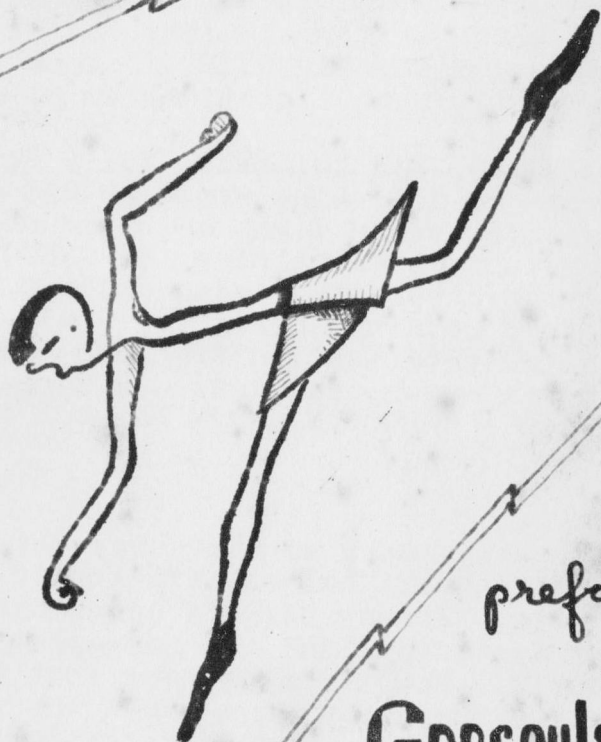


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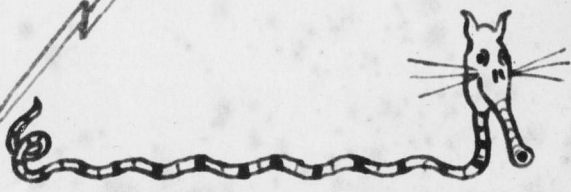


a
preface
to

GARGOYLE III

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A PAN PUBLICATION

FORERUNNER a preface to GARGOYLE III
XX

PUT DOWN THA MUSKET, SAM !

From FANTASY WAR BULLETIN, Vol:2 No:1
"At any rate I hope you will not follow McIlwain's example and inform Johnny Burke that I am not worth writing to. This after pleading for articles for GARGOYLE? Common politeness demands a personal notification at least."

From FANTASY WAR BULLETIN, Vol:2 No:2
"I wrote to McIlwain, wrote to him several times. In return I got a $\frac{1}{2}$ page note imploring me to write something for GARGOYLE at once. At terrific personal inconvenience I complied, and heard nothing thereafter until the aforementioned notification from JFB. Sic Erat!. Don't ask me why the articles were wanted tout de suite - GARGOYLE still has not appeared."

Thus C.S. Youd.

Sam appears to be worried over three things: the fact that I had not written to him for a long time; Johnny Burke's accusation as in first quotation, and the non-appearance of GARGOYLE. Now it so happens that these same three points are also a great worry to me, & in this pamphlet I hope to straighten the situation out a little.

Being a lethargic sort of bloke I naturally hate to see well meaning folks getting overheated about some petty little point of fan etiquette. I also object to having my name dragged into the contemporary fan press all covered in filth, but that doesn't matter so

much, because the filth is theirs, not mine.

I say now, quite definitely, without hesitation that Johnny Burke's accusation that I informed him that Sam was "not worth writing to" is a lie. There is no basis of fact whatsoever in this fabrication. I am surprised and hurt that the originator of this spot of slander should be John Burke - my fellow conspirator and swing fan these past six or seven years. Sam cannot be blamed - though one might have expected a greater degree of level-headedness with less personal animosity from a fan so renowned. He might, for instance, have taken the trouble to check up on this statement of Burke's, and find out just how far it was true if true at all. But instead he chose to publicise the libel. So be it. I repeat that it is untrue.

And as to my not having acknowledged his last letter (plus two very excellent articles for GARGOYLE) - I plead guilty, and do apologise sincerely. But there are others besides Sam, a fact which he appears to have overlooked. I also apologise to the following fans to whom I have not written since last April or thereabouts:- Eric Williams, Doug Webster, D.R. Smith, Will Temple, Roland Forster, Eric Hopkins, Eric Needham, Harold Chibbett, James Rathbone, R.G. Medhurst, Mike Rosenblum, Julian Parr, L.V. Heald, Maurice Hanson, Arthur Clarke, Louis Kuslan, Harry Warner, Doc Lowndes, 4sj Ackerman, and R.D. Swisher. If there are others whom I have not included in this list, I trust they will forgive the omission.

Thus Sam is but one among many who have suffered or benefited (depending on the viewpoint) from my long silence. He is not unique.

But perhaps Johnny would insist that I considered ALL the above named fans "not worth writing to". ??? Surely it is unnecessary for me to offer defense against a hypothetical assertion so utterly ridiculous!

With the exception of Sam, none of the above fans have complained at all about my shameful laxity - much less attempted to spread childish untruths over fandom. But then, they were not recipients of Burke's "information".

The explanation of the whole business (with the exception of Burke's apparent mendacity, which is as unprecedented and incredible as it is inexplicable) lies in the fact that during the past three or four months I have been wholly involved in certain activities which have finally resulted in my engagement to a very lovely girl. Do you blame me for dropping out of fandom for a time? Would you blame anybody? Even fans must bow to Nature - occasionally.

As a result of that lapse, the third issue of GARGOYLE did not appear on time - although half completed. It has not appeared yet --- and it is still half completed. It has been abandoned. A new GARGOYLE will appear to replace it: a larger, better GARGOYLE. It will be published soon, Hitler willing. And thanks are due solely to Reggie Potter, a new active Liverpool fan, who has undertaken to duplicate the magazine. Thanks also to Ronnie Holmes who introduced Reggie to fandom, and arranged for the production of GARGOYLE under new hands. The credit is entirely theirs. I am just the guy who thumps the typewriter and adopts the flattering - too flattering -

title of "editor".

In conclusion I repeat that the blame for the unfair accusations in his Bulletin lies not with Sam. To put it crudely; if one guy tells another guy that some other guy has insulted him, then the second guy is bound to be sore. And if the first guy is lying, or has made a mistake; then both the other guys are sore. Sam is sore; I am sore. What about Johnny?

What about it Johnny? Is it all a silly misunderstanding? You should know. I appeal to you to set things right: you are the one to do it. Fandom in wartime Britain is riven enough without feuds. We must have unity, not division; and that cannot be achieved where there is misunderstanding, misrepresentation, animosity and division. There are no bad fans; there are only misunderstood fans.

So I leave it at that. I have presented my case, and though I must confess that it is not a very good one, yet it is sincere. Never again must I let my obligations to fandom slide. With the appearance of the new GARGOYLE I hope to maintain normal contact with British and American fans, as in the past before my lapse; not by fighting the distractions and attractions of the outside world, but by achieving a compromise. One must find time for all things. And as for the place --- that will undoubtedly be the air-raid shelter.

Dave McIlwain.

.....

VOX FANOPOLIS

VOX FANOPOLIS

VOX FANOPOLIS

being gargoylish

fan comments.....

(We thought that if we printed this department here, it would leave more space for articles in GARGOYLE. Do you approve? -ed.)

RATING RESULTS:- Here are the results of the merit ratings for the second issue of GG...

Flat Truth (Temple)-9:26 Vox Fanop.-8:75
Review (A.C.Clarke)-7:53 Cover-7:53
Confessions (R.Holmes)-6:93 S.F.Fan (Guess Who?)-6:73 Round & About-6:54 I Meet a Famous Man (E.C.Williams)-6:32 Story Behind the Story (D.R.Smith)-6:13 Hack's Psalm-6:11

The average rating for the whole issue was 7:199, against 6:69 for the previous issue, an increase of 0:50.

GUESS WHO ??????

The mystery author of "The Science Fiction Fan" in the last issue of GG was, of course, D.R. Smith. Of the rating slips returned, only a few bore any attempt at identification. Here are the results:---

D.R.Smith - 6 votes. Maurice Hanson - 2 votes.
D. McIlwain - 2 votes. Burke, Williams, Youd, Medhurst and Towndes - 1 vote each. Also one vote each for Webster, Fantacynic and Cameron. Smith netted 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the votes, and the two next highest 11:7% each.

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LETTERS

D.R. SMITH:-- What is this rash thing you have done? Publishing an article of mine without my name attached to it! /"The Science-Fiction Fan" in the last issue of GG/ Surely you know that it is only the hypnotic power of the syllables D.R. Smith that intimidates the rabble who worship me into giving me consistently good marks. Unless everybody recognises the touch of the master in the article, some may blaspheme and not give due regard to the thing. /Blasphemy there was, O Most High, and in fear and trembling we have dared to besmirch Thine eyes with some of the most blasphemous blasphemies of the blasphemers/

ERIC HOPKINS:-- It's not subtle enough for Smith (always hoping that it's meant to be); it might be Eric CW., then again it might not, or even Medhurst - perhaps yourself, and I'd suggest even Maurice if he weren't satisfying his aesthetic soul in France.

MAURICE HANSON:-- The writer I would judge to be Eric Hopkins, or possibly Cameron, Robb or Rathbone.

DOUGLAS WEBSTER:-- "The S-F Fan" - from the style I should really be inclined to say Doc Lowndes.

ERIC S. NEEDHAM:-- I guess at Doc Lowndes as the mystery writer.

RON HOLMES:-- "S-F Fan" worst of the lot: I think the author is either Fantacynic, Don J., or yourself, and I have my suspicions that they are all one and the same.

/But weep not, O Most High, for somebody loves Thee...../

JULIAN PARR:- Hooray D.R. Smith - hip, hip! England would not be the same without him!

WILL TEMPLE:- Ron Holmes little piece was amusing, and I was intrigued enough to attempt to discover what the father said when he A?4@o¹/₂"&"-ed. I guessed it was the "Shift Key Cipher" which is done by using the shift alternative to the letters of the real message on the typewriter keyboard. But the result on my typewriter appeared thus: a.@403872 --- so I gathered that the cipher depends also upon the make of the typewriter, and mine isn't the same as Ron's. Unless, of course, that twerp has spelt it wrong as usual! ::: I just want to bleat a protest about "The Warp and the Woof". Arthur's a Warp, certainly, but the other accusation isn't a Woof. To think that we entertained Eric Hopkins under our own woof and gave him tea! Never again! He is like the boy who cried woof once too often.

ERIC WILLIAMS:- Best thing in the whole issue was the "Flat Truth" by W.F.Temple, Esq. ::: I think that this is the best thing Will has ever written for a farmag. If he ever does write a book about it all, please undertake to publish it per Weinbaum Vol: at 1d per copy.

ROLAND FORSTER:- "Vox Fanopoli" is welcome. Haven't you gone a little astray in the title though? I take it that the nominative of the word is "Fanopolis", in which case the genitive should also be "Fanopolis", not "Fanopoli".


SAM YOUNG:- "Vox Fanopoli" -- I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the title

is wrong. In the first place, "vox" is Latin while "polis" is a Greek noun. If vox is retained you must have "Vox Fanurbis". That doesn't sound so good, so we might as well try the Greek "phoney" instead of "vox". But "polis" is nominative, and the genitive is required. Thus it would be "Phoney Fanopoleos". How about it? /We have decided upon the lesser of the two evils: see title of this department now/ :: My method of teeth cleaning is much more efficient than you would make out. I hang them outside the front porch at night and allow the wind to whistle through them. This not only cleans the dentures, but also provides late-night music for the neighbours.

ARTHUR CLARKE:- No:2 is definitely several points above No:1. Bill's article, of course, topped the issue. However, I must take up the cudgel in my defence on a couple of points.

- 1) I like Judy Garland, especially after seeing the "Wizard of Oz". WHICH DON'T MISS!!!!'
- 2) I didn't say "You disgusting spectacle!" What I did say was that next time I'd lock him out, or push him in the bath, or both. Is this a puritan nostril:-
- 3) After the first half dozen games, Medhurst never beat me again at table-tennis. The only person in the SFA who can consistently beat me is Harold Chibbett, and the last time we clashed I managed to get away with it.
- 4) Doesn't the tale of the tray prove that I'm not highly strung after all?
- 5) I once took a catarrh course for a couple of months, which involved the use of two bottles and a nasal douche of indecent design. That can hardly be called hypochondriac!!

Wait till I see Eric Hopkins! The Warp and the Woof indeed!!



4c ACKERMAN. Sooner or later, it seems, every fan publishes his own mag; & somebody--like myself--promptly nicknames. By Gar, I can see but one possibility for her, & that's "Goil"! /Gar forbid!/: Brooklynese for "girl", y'know? Here's how I rate your No.1 Goily, hoping the marks don't arrive so late U karl me down: "Round & About", ryt in the Centaur - or 5; "Mystery of Earth" a 7; "Rezu", an 8; "Suffering" by Miguel (oops! I mean "Paean"); also 8; Smith's "Funny Biz" average - 5; 9 for the editorial; tops or 10 for Cameron's "Average Fan" (which I have chosen to read aloud tonyt at our meeting); and a midway mark once more for Eric Wms' "I Meet a Famous Man". I have only one criticism to make, and that is of the editorial policy; it seems rather a liberal one; in fact, notably in the instance of Paul Kent's article, I was considerably alarmed to observe no less an incredible innovation than nonstop paragraphing! I woud plead with U--but earnestly--to put an instant stop to this sort of thing. "An end to this 'progress'!" as that wise Wells character Theotocopules put it, "bror it is too late!" I noted other evidences of novaciousness which, if not rigidly suprest, myt develop into a sort of Anglic Ackermanese--Foo 4bid! /Although in favour of Ackermanese ourselves, we must abide by the readers' decision. Pro or con?/

JULIAN PARR (again):~ If, as was rumoured, D.R.Smith is not D.R.Smith - then he must be twice the genius I think he is. Could anybody write in his style, and then, at a moment's notice, in his own? :: "Round & About" gives me the lowdown on this spring-clean of correspondence on your part. /Meaning the septic leg?/ I suppose if I wish you a quick recovery Garge will start slipping, and so will your letters. /How very very true! And how they slipped!/?