

jd - ARGASSY #41

January 31, 1950

jd-ARGASSY is published monthly by Lynn A. Hickman at 304 N. 11th Mount Vernon, Illinois. Subscriptions are 12 issues for \$1.00. Single copies 10 pages or less are 10¢. 10 pages or more are 20¢.

Home to Napoleon, Ohio for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and as usual the Detroit gang came down for our annual Christmas get-together. Met at Bob Zellors' house in Napoleon. Bob was one of the original members of the Napoleon Fantasy Club along with myself, Don Fruchey, Walt Glick etc. (the club was started back in 1935 when we were all in the 4th grade and starting to grind our sf teeth in the Amazings, Wonders, Argosys, etc. We hadn't actually heard of a fandom or fanzines but used to put out single copies of hand-written and hand-drawn magazines, copying the sf mags and then Dusty Ayres and G-8. It was a lot of fun and I wish I could find some of the zines we put out then.) George and Mary Young, Mabel Young, Roger Sims, Howard DeVore and Fred Prophet came down from Detroit. I tried several times to call the Falascas in Cleveland to let them know the date we would be there but could never get an answer on the phone. Seems those people never stay home.

Stopped at Bob Madle's on the way back to Mount Vernon for a couple of hours. His official announcement on who is running for TAFF should reach here before this issue is run off, so I feel safe in stating that my nomination for this honor is DON FORD. There is no one that deserves it more.

Most of you that know Don or know the history of TAFF realize this fact, but for your information I am running a special editorial page that will tell you a little of the fannish history of this man and why he deserves your support and your votes. I'd also like to mention (and I hope you don't hold it against him), Don is the main reason I've been an actifan for the past 10 years. I had been reading, collecting and to some extent corresponding since 1935 but it wasn't until 1949 when I decided to attend my first convention, that I met Don and decided that FANDOM instead of fandom was for me. Don went out of his way to see that I was introduced around, helped me in adding to my original artwork collection, let me help in a small way on the Cinvention Memory Book,



(I secured some artwork for it by Don Duke, another Napoleon fan) and even invited me to his home after the con to chat and look over his collection. He followed this with an invitation to the Midwestcon the following year and from then on FANDOM was for me. Until that time, I imagine the only way that Don had ever heard of me was by seeing letters of mine in some of the prozines, but he still took time even while running a Worldscon to be a good friend to me. Don's that kind of guy. THAT KIND OF GUY IS THE KIND OF GUY WE WANT FOR TAFF!!!

BOB BLOCH writes: On the evening of January 3rd, 1959, Arthur and Phyllis Economou played host to what, for the lack of a worse word, might be called the Phyllcon. Attendees, despite subzero weather, were Bill Beard and gal-friend Miss Peterson; neofan Joan Emerson, of Milwaukee, and husband Eugene; Fon du Lacunae Dean and Jean Grennell; Chicagoans and/or suburbanites Joe Sarno, Jim O'meara, Earl Kemp, Nancy Kemp, and three little Kemp-followers; Bob Briney; Sid Coleman; Bob Bloch. That eighteen people could assemble in such bitter weather from such distances and consume enough food and drink for a crowd of eighty is a remarkable tribute to the endurance of fans, to say nothing of the host and hostess. According to carefully pre-arranged plans, a one-shot was not put out. (Actually, of course, it was a very nice little gathering; the Chicago gang bringing up an enormous supply of food and drink to supplement the Economou's output. It took hours for them to drive through the bad weather and heaven only knows how they got back, but it was a pleasure to see 'em).

Bob states further that he is doing another cover yarn for FANTASTIC. I had stayed overnight with the Kemps a couple of weeks before the party and would have loved to be there but it fell on the night that we were returning from Ohio. In fact it was the same night that I stopped at Bob Madles. I hope to be in Milwaukee in Feb. tho, and will stop at Phyl's and see if any of that enormous supply of drink is left. Phyl, you have been warned. The Scarlet Pimple is on the loose again!



From LES GERBER we hear; It seems like nobody is interested in what the sf pros are doing anymore. I'm glad to discover that you are. Anyway, here is the latest dope; Forthcoming ACE BOOKS:

March -- "Starhaven" by Ivar Jorgeson (Robert Silverberg)(reprint) and "The Sun Smashers" by Edmond Hamilton (original).

February -- "Plague Ship" (reprint) and "Voodoo Planet" (original) by Andrew North.

Also in March -- "The Macabre Reader" edited by Donald A. Wollheim. "Red Alert" by Peter Bryant (about future war, not published as sf.)

(continued on page 5)

43,000 YEARS LATER by Horace Coon; Signet (original) S-1534; 35¢.

I admit it: I'm a pushover for this kind of story. It appeared to be a fun-loving combination of archeology and future-opera. The cover portrayed a sleek e-t craft winging toward a great shadowy, ruined metropolis that could only be New York; the blurbs promised high adventure as three visitors from an incredibly distant galaxy descend on earth, bent on archeological exploration. The time is 43,000 years hence, and human life had vanished from the planet. oh, goody! I said, and gave the man the coins I had clutched in my hot little fist.

Well, now.

The story is told (via the author posing as an anonymous scribe) by three sterling, super-intelligent characters: Yundi, who is "One of our top scientists in sociology, anthropology, psychology, and archeology"; and Xia, who is "a brilliant student in biology, aesthetics, and cultural and artistic problems"; and finally Zolcus, the crew leader, who "had considerable experience on similar explorations". These three come to earth with a mighty armada, and what appears to be thousands upon thousands of pick and shovel men for archeological digs. They are from a world of perpetual daylight, and are somewhat astonished to find that old Terra has periods of day and night, caused by the "whimsical movements" of the sun. The visitors are hardy folk who do not eat food but instead live on "easily digested vitamin tablets (which) supply all nutritive needs".

Xia, a sentimental lass, is entranced with earth. Sunrises and sunsets are marvelous things to her; and at night she loves to sprawl on a grassy riverbank looking up at the stars. Never, before her arrival, had she seen the stars -- perhaps she slept thru the interstellar journey. But she is doubly thrilled by an even better sight. She can see her home world! She watches the planet "from its most beautiful vista"; her planet is located in a great galaxy "aeons away in light years" but never mind that -- she sees it.

Landing first in South Dakota and finding little of interest, the trio (and their thousands of diggers) move on to New York, which becomes their headquarters for the world exploration soon to follow. The three are shrewd scientists of considerable experience and it doesn't take them long to guess that the world has destroyed itself by hydrogen bombs. Nearly every city of the world is leveled, and covered with the debris of 43,000 years. In a day or so, the scientists reach the lower levels of New York (I said they must have had thousands of diggers!) commence the long, weary task of reconstructing human life as it was. They find piles of clothing, and instantly realize that humans endured four seasons each year and were miserable with each. They know at once that "city dwellers spent most of their lives eating, sleeping, and defecating in monotonous routine". They can tell by the groupings of beds that humans practiced a family life life, and scrabbled for a living.

Meanwhile, of course, the terrible blasts of the hydrogen bombs have nearly destroyed everything. The heat waves were so intense that filing cabinets in the tall office buildings failed their duty, and "all cellulose records were destroyed". Those same heat waves were so thorough that steel rails melted (except in the subways), and naught remained other than the wrecks of locomotives and the ghastly masses of

wrecked automobiles jamming the roadways. after learning everything there is to know about New York, the three wise savants divide the entire world into three zones of archeological exploration, and go their separate ways. Each must thoroughly examine his zone and report back in thirty days.

And they do.

Xia, the star-lover, is assigned to the Western Hemisphere. Somewhere in New England (or possibly the Maritime Provinces) she discovers an ice age. Of course, the mighty glacier is retreating now, but about 5000 years ago it had obliterated the cities of the area. (Have I mentioned that there has been absolutely no change in climate in 43,000 years?) Next she runs down to Washington DC, where she "learned much about the history of these United States from the inscriptions and quotations on the ruins of public buildings". As a matter of fact, those inscriptions and quotations were magnificently complete, for she leaves the city knowing absolutely everything worth knowing about American political life, including the absurd struggles between the white, black and red races. (The whites were moral, sanctimonious people, whereas the blacks and the reds were a happy lot.) She disapproves of the Los Alamos proving grounds because it "made me doubt if the scientists really knew what they were doing". Also falling under her disdain are the piles of gold in Fort Knox, and supermarkets and such. "The one thing humans could not buy at a supermarket ... was spiritual satisfaction". She knows all this, because she can read inscriptions on the remaining statuary. Furthermore, in South America, she looks at a cross on a mountaintop, and instantly knows all about Christ and Christianity. (She approves).

Meanwhile, scientist Zolcus has been taking the grand tour of Europe, and he does it in his allotted thirty days -- including the digging up of virtually every major city in a dozen or more countries. Like Xia, he must rely on inscriptions and quotations from statues for his knowledge, but he reads them quickly and easily. The inscriptions, which surely must abound, tell him everything he needs to know about every country. Finding the remains of an ancient grain field, and some broken plows, he grasps agriculture from its infancy in prehistoric days right up to the year of the bombings. He knows that France was gay and charming; that Germany was an evil, evil thing; and that England had a long colonial history in which it throttled many smaller nations. The ruins of a British museum, for instance, not only gives up much Egyptian history, but England's sorry interference into their affairs. Eventually, Zolcus gets to Russia.

Ah, Russia. Now Zolcus approves of what he finds. Dictatorships and the regimentation of the people is the best of all possible worlds. From statues and inscriptions, Zolcus reads the story of the czars, the revolution, Lenin, Stalin, and even old Mao yonder in China. Keen stuff, for after all, Zolcus' own world is a dictatorship -- with telepathy yet, and strict telepathic control is maintained over every citizen. Well, it goes on like this for 143 pages.

But I didn't. I boggled and quit. Does anyone want to buy a paper back cheap? The man who wrote this monstrosity has been reading too much of that crazy Buck Rogers stuff.

-Bob Tucker

April -- "The Plot Against Earth"
by Calvin Knox (Robert Silverberg)
and "Recruit for Andromeda" by
Milton Lesser (both original)
"The Hidden Planet" edited by
Donald A. Wollheim (anthology
of stories about Venus)
"The Haunted Strangler" by
John Cooper (novelization of
a horror movie.)

Forthcoming BANTAM BOOKS

March -- "The Hunger and
Other Stories" by Charles
Beaumont.

April -- "Earth is Room Enough"
by Isaac Asimov,

June -- "Point Ultimate" by
Jerry Sohl.

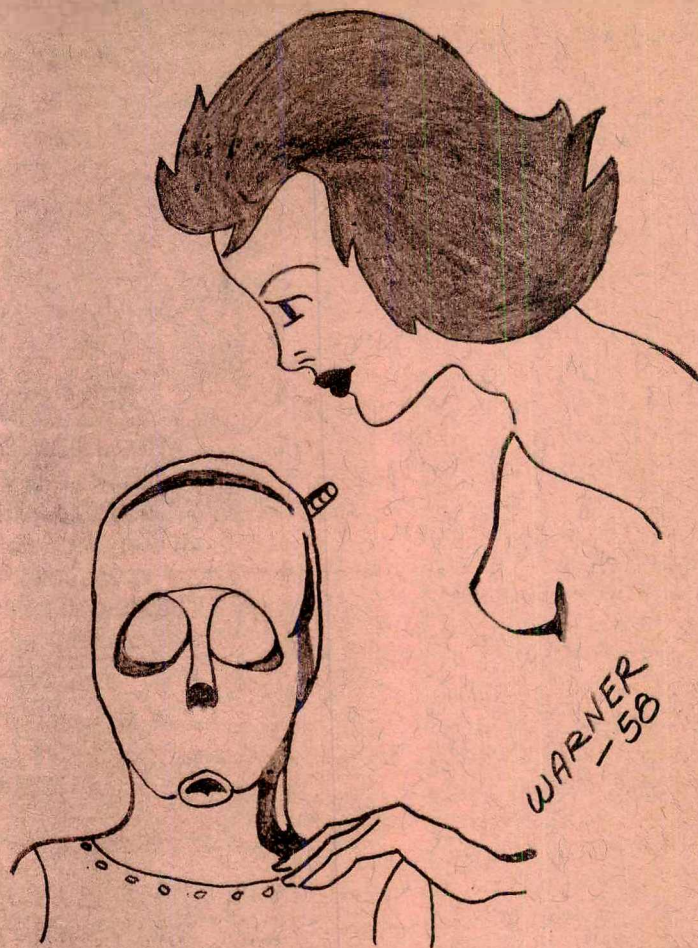
Larry T. Shaw informs me
that since there will be no next
issue if INFINITY, the Philip K,
Dick novel scheduled for the
next issue has been sold to
Lippencott,

The next issue of SHORT STORIES will be called Short Stories
FOR MEN with the latter part of the title in bigger type. It will
be the same size as SATELLITE, but it will contain 80 pages, the
equivalent of 160 digest-size pages. It will contain both fiction
and fact articles. Included in the fiction will be an sf short by
Fritz Leiber. Margulies says he plans to continue to print sf in
Short Stories FOR MEN. He would also like to increase the size of
SATELLITE to 80 pages, but that depends on how the sales go. Inci-
dentally, 150,000 copies are being printed of the large size mag,
twice as many as the small size,

KENT COREY writes that he is now attending Tulsa U. Law School,
and that he was married Sept. 3, 1958. His new address is 915 South
Cheyenne, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

BOB MADLIE sends the following news of the Indianapolis SF Assoc.
Recent visitors to the Saturday night bi-weekly meetings have been
Jim Harmon, Buck and Juanita Coulson, Eugene DeWeese and Dale Brandon.
Arthur C. Clarke is going to be in Indianapolis January 23rd as a
speaker at the "Town Hall" series. His subject will be of all things,
"The Conquest of Space". We are going to try to get him to our meet-
ing that weekend.

G.M. CARR says -- Glory be...! Imagine, somebody in fandom
actually wants to hear from me. Nice feeling. I've got a down-
beat gripe.... Not at fandom, bless their little hearts, but at
Madison Avenue for what it is doing to Christmas. Have you heard

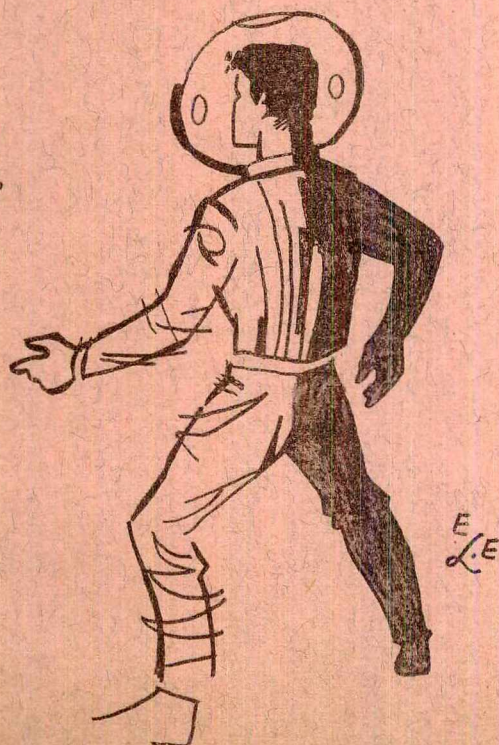


Stan Freberg's "Green Christmas" record yet? Probably not -- out here the radio stations refuse to play it on the grounds that it is "unfair" to their sponsors, and they love their sponsors... yes, indeedy they do! Well, I don't blame them for loving their paychecks. I enjoy eating regularly myself. But I think that Stan Freberg hit the nail right on its flat little head with that parody... This year the stores started sprouting tinsel before hallowe'en, and the pressure to buy, buy, BUY has been getting so heavy that it makes a guy feel like a heel for not going into hock in order to load a bunch of junk on their kids. Even the ordinary non-seasonal businesses have jumped on the band wagon -- for instance, a heating and fuel establishment the "Bayles Oil Company" has a singing commercial on the air about "Jingle Bayles, Jingle Bayles..." Gaaah! Whoever figured that one out deserves the Madison Avenue "Green Christmas" award... I've been tempted to send them a pc saying so, too. Maybe I will yet! However, my reaction to this commercialized pressure was to refuse to send out Christmas cards this year -- not even home made ones -- and instead I sent the money I would have used, to a Catholic Mission among the poverty-stricken in the deep south with a request that the people who would have received cards from me be remembered in prayer. I dare say they can use a few prayers for their temporal and spiritual welfare, but there'd be a lot of peculiar expressions on sensitive fannish faces-- especially among the "athiests" and "black protestants" in fandom -- if they knew they were the subject of a Catholic Mass! ("Subject" is an incorrect term -- I don't know the correct term for it -- unless it is "intention". But I guess it doesn't really matter. Probably by now the Recording Angel will have made a note to the effect that somebody wants special attention to the spiritual and temporal welfare of one Lynn Hickman and family, and no doubt will notify LH's Guardian Angel to that effect...) That's why I'm not sending any "Xmas Cards" this year....I'm sending prayers, instead.

Dear Gem:- No I hadn't heard the record although Tucker had and described it to me. I feel that most stations through here must have been afraid of losing sponsors also. I must say I agree wholeheartedly with you in regard to sending the Christmas cards. I would much rather have a prayer and see the money really do some good where it is needed. More power to you Gem!

Other letters here from Bill Meyers, Dainis Bisenieks, Wilkie Conner, Bruce Pelz, Earl Kemp, Buz Busby, Bob Kvanbeck, Bill Conner, Coral Smith, Dan Adkins, Dirce Archer, Vic Ryan, Major Cox, Fred Chappell, Bob Farnham, Lee Anne Tremper, Betty Kujawa, Ray Beam, John Koning, Don Ford, Sture Sedolin, Mike Deckinger, Walt Willis, Claude Hall, Bob Leman, Nick Falasca, George Young, and Joan Cleveland. I'm sorry that space won't permit me to print more of them.

Joined FAPA and will enter The Bullfrog Bugle in the coming mailing.



Today is Friday, Feb. 13th, and I am already 2 weeks late in publishing this issue. A variety of reasons caused this, much work, little time, etc., etc., but I'm rather glad since I just bought this Royal electric typer and I want to see how it prints. It is the Canterbury type face and should look good via multilith. Lets hope so, because I've already paid for it.

Yesterday and today were Boy Scout days. I'm a committeeman and my son Doug is a scout. He was made County Judge for the day and had quite a time sitting in with the judge on the various cases that came up.

Most of Max Shulman's books are out in paperback editions now. Max is one of the best at really hilarious slapstick writing. I bought his first book back around 1940 and haven't missed one since. I especially recommend "Barefoot Boy With Cheek" to all who enjoy this type of comedy. BANTAM is doing the reprinting.

I hope all of you have read Harry Golden's bestseller "Only in America". In it he has taken some of the best editorials from his paper, THE CAROLINA ISERALITE, and the choice was wonderful. Two of these editorials had appeared (with the kind permission of Mr. Golden) in this magazine a couple of years ago. Those of you that had read his Vertical Negro Plan, know what a great treat you have in store when you read the book. It is a book that you will want to keep in your permanent collection. Harry is the type of man that enjoys living and has the quality and the wit to make others enjoy it with him. You'll chuckle as you read, but when you've finished you shall also have learned. For example his bit on why he never gets mad at waitresses and the piece about his mother buying their winter suits on the hottest day of the summer and the battle of wits between the salesman and herself. And I feel that his Vertical Negro Plan hits the nail square on the head. It is a book that everyone should put on their MUST read list. It's guaranteed enjoyment. Published by WORLD at \$4.00.

Dan Adkins sends in a change of address along with this letter. Been in New York for almost two weeks now. I started to work the first day at an art-advertising studio. Few days later Bill Pearson and I moved into a large apartment and got settled. Because of work I haven't had much chance to free lance. Larry Shaw had accepted a cover for MONSTER PARADE, then it died. Then he was going to use it on MONSTER AND THINGS, but that too has been killed. This weekend I'M doing up some samples, on request, for the sexy man's mag KNAVE. If liked, the samples I mean, I'll probably sell to it. Also might get into Shaw's UNTAMED. Since I intend on staying in New York more or less permanently, I should sell off and on. I'll stay with my job though for trying to make a living free lancing is too, too rough right now. Mags folding all over the place. Thanks re: BULLFROG Bugle. Enjoyed listening to you talk on various subjects. Very glad you're going monthly with JD-ARGASSY, but I hope you lessen all the con-reports. At least no more than one an issue and get some fiction, reviews and/or articles. Dan's new address is as follows. P.O. Box 203 Madison Square Station New York 10, New York. Dan will be reviewing fanzines for both TWIG & JD-ARGASSY, so any fan-mags you want reviewed to his new address. I can't say which zine they will be reviewed in as they will not be duplicated, but split up between the zines.

Harry Golden appeared on Ed Murrows' Person to Person program tonight. It was a very interesting program and showed more of the type of man Harry Golden is. I was extremely happy to learn that he has a new book in the making and will also start writing a syndicated column for the newspapers soon. Success could not have found a more deserving man.

Bob Madle's London report hasn't arrived as yet, but it will be continued in the next issue. I imagine Bob has been too busy with TAFF details to have done much writing the past month.

Howard DeVore writes: The Detention Committee have announced a new system for awarding the "HUGO'S" for '59. ALL of fandom will be allowed to make nominations and to vote on the nominations. Probably the first time that fandom as a whole has had a voice in naming the people who are considered for the awards. A copy of the initial ballott will appear here shortly and all readers are urged to vote whether they have joined the convention proper or not. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO JOIN THE CONVENTION TO VOTE *** but, it takes money to pay for the trophies and your two dollars to JAMES BRODERICK 12011 KILBOURNE ST., DETROIT 13, MICHIGAN will buy you a membership and help pay for the trophies.

I have reviewed the various cities and clubs that are bidding for the 1960 convention and after serious deliberation (I liked two of the sites) I have decided to give my support to the Pittsburgh Science Fiction Association. There are a number of reasons I chose Pittsburgh, 1st, the maturity of the club. Dirce Archer (a founding member has been the president for the past 6 years), P.S. Miller is a member and will do much in making it a success. They have one of the finer hotels of the town lined up for the convention and they will offer a 25% discount in rates to convention attendees. The hotel is air conditioned, free tv and radio, baby sitting service, children under 14 free, etc. I am planning a monthly column to be written by a member of the PSFA to tell you more of the WHY you should vote PITTSBURGH IN '60. In this column they can discuss their plans for the convention and tell you other details of the city and the other attractions it has to offer.

It seems tornado season is year round through here. The bad one that hit Mt. Vernon was in Dec. and now another has hit St. Louis in Feb. This section of the country is called tornado alley and for good reason.

This issue is also intended as a post-mailing to OMPA's 18th mailing.

An X means that this is the last issue you will receive unless you WRITE
SEND MONEY
TRADE

Artwork this issue is by LEE, Dan Adkins and Bob Warner. Written material, unless credited, is by the editor. I am sorry that I haven't been able to fill all the requests for copies of jd-Argassy. Starting with the next issue, I am upping my printing by 100 so I will accept new subscriptions.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE ADVERTISING APPEARING IN JD-ARGASSY?

I am happy to be able to be one of the nominators of Don Ford for TAFF. In my opinion there is no one that deserves this honor more. In the past ten years I've gotten to know Don very well and would like to tell you a few things about him that the average fan might not know.

Don has been reading sf since about 1930 and got interested in the pulps around 1933. His tastes and mine seemed to have run about the same as he was also an avid follower of Doc Savage, The Shadow, The Spider, Secret Operator #5, Phantom Detective, G-8 etc. I think the first fanzine he read was Crawford's Marvel Tales in late 1934. I remember once that he told me he used to use his school lunch money for mags and usually ended up eating a 5¢ hamburger (yes, we used to have those things).

In 1940-41 he helped Bob Jones put out his fanzine, PEGASUS. Attended the Ohio-Indiana Conference in Ft. Wayne in 1941. The older fans might have read Ted Dikty's report. That was about the time Degler was getting started with his Cosmic Circle. WW2 came along then and Don joined the Air Force.

Toronto was Don's first World Con and he came back with Cincinnati as the site of the 1949 convention (that was my first one). Cincy had a very successful convention and was probably one of the very few that ended up in such a solvent manner. The profit on the con was over \$800.00. This was divided up among various groups and \$150.00 was allotted to England and \$150.00 to Australia to buy books for them, which they could not import very easily. Vinç Clarke can tell you more about that as he was one of those to whom the books were shipped. Ted Carnell was their visitor and one of the forerunners preceding TAFF.

In 1950 Don was one of the originators of the 1st MIDWESTCON (and all of them since). The Midwestcons in my opinion have changed fandom alot and is the basis or model for all regional cons.

Don published The Cinvention Year Book, is active in OMPA, and has written articles for other fanzines. He is a great collector, not only collecting sf & fantasy but apple boxes as well. He has He has attended besides the forementioned cons, The Torcon, Philcon 2, Chicon 2, Clevention, Oklacon 3 and the 1950 Hydracon.

Don was very active in the early stages of TAFF and also served as the first U.S. Director for 4 years.

The original idea of TAFF was for the delegate to go to the convention in the other country & then write up the trip. This Don can and will do. I also think other qualities should be considered like: poise, ability to meet people, ability to talk to a large gathering, stability, etc. Some people have only "typewriter" personalities and an extrovert type is needed for a delegate. Don Ford has all of these qualifications.

The Cincinnati Fantasy Group recently gave the London Circle \$79.00 to help repay them their loan to the Loncon, which went into the red and was unable to pay back. The money is being used to open a club room for them for the first time.

Don is well known in England through his TAPP directorship, his Ompa-zine, correspondence and personal contact with previous TAPP delegates to this country.

Lets ALL give Don Ford our support AND our votes for TAPP delegate!!

Lynn A. Hickman

+++++

From:

Lynn A. Hickman
304 N. 11th
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

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To:

This is our NINTH year of publication. Don Ford for TAPP!!