

MOONSHINE # & ! ;



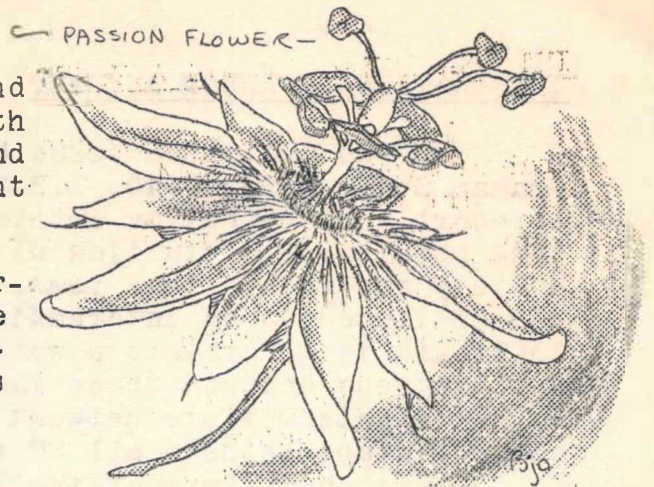
"Now, explain this TAFF thing, again..."

A HUB Publication, edited by Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St. South Gate, California, for the 87th FAPA Mailing of May 1959.

Comments on the 86th Mailing.. Fantasy Amateur It may be rank heresy, but I for one do not mind the smaller mailings. It may seem that I am a drab, an unnatural member, but I rarely find time or the urge to read a complete mailing. From past experience the additional pages do not mean there is that much more worth while material. And no wonder the dues went up. I even thought at one time of suggesting that the big publishers were the ones that ought to be charged more. Would

you really want 20 pages a mailing from us Zero rated members? As for surplus money, even though it is traditional at times like these, in random, to cry, "Let's give a party" - it seems a sounder plan would be to reduce everyone's dues slightly. This would slowly absorb the extra, and pass the benefit on to us all.//// Horizons: I enjoyed the details about your job, i.e. the truth about a reporters life. I have wished other literate members would do the same. But other than the behind the scene look at the town and the use of company equipment, I'm not sure I see anything in the job that I couldn't probably find in some Civil Service post, with out the bad effects you mention. I'm not as optimistic or naive as I once was, but I would hate to be exposed to the cynicism you are. I'd like the freedom you have at work, but dislike the lack of same around town. But then, all this relates to your reaction to other people. I have always been puzzled by your warm and friendly approach to nearly everyone, yet your seemingly very soft contained if not hermitic way of living. As if the people around you had no more effect than the waves upon a rock. //// Gemzine: Proof again, that you don't really read what other write. For if there was anything about the last MOONSHINE that you could read, it was my masthead klrk.

That clearly stated that I, not Stan, was editor that time. Our many-meaning title was originated Moffatt when he was a member back in the 1940's. -- I am sorry the issue was so hard to read though. I hope for better results this time. This is being done on Gestetner film stencils, and LASFS's machine. If this is hard to read, it will be my old typers falt. -- I agree, the Tea Drinking Contest was a fiasco. But I was to sick just then to care, and felt that 'no contest' would have been even worse. ///// Tapebook: Some months ago, filled with gloomy thoughts, I began to speculate on what I would do if I were to learn I had only six months to live. I thought about the things I would rush out to buy, and found that most of them things I would no longer find importen. It worked down to the only thing that would really be of any value was a tape-recorder. One could launch oneself into all-out tape-correspondence, exchanging with all the wierdly wonderfull people that appear on list like this. To absorb as much friendship as possable in the time remaining. But, as I haven't got the word, I'll hold on to my money for what seems importen now... Anyone know what I can do with a old wire-recorder with a worn out mike?///// Stefantasy: Leman must have one of the oddest jobs in fandom. (I don't know of any active type fans that are professionally called on to talk with flying sauser cranks. I try not to believe Harness and the other ASF fads are this far out.) It is probably impossible, but I'd be interested in reading atleast one story that tried to explain how people get this way. What couases otherwise seemingly normal people to get crack-pot ideas? How do they think? What dose the world look like from this defective viewpoint? ///// Burblings, etc: I believe I'm at last beginning to see how the Burbee-type humor works. (I think of Burbee as that local fringe-fan that was once to shy to speek to me in a book store.) I have been reading Carr (T.) and Twain(M). In "A Connecticut Yankee" Twain shows an example of the effect of repeating a good story. "At last I ventured a story myself; and vast was the success of it. Not right off, of course, for the natives of those islands /England/ does not, as a rule, dissolve upon the early application of a humorous thing; but the fifth time I told it, they began to crack in places; the eight time I told it, they began to crumble; at the twelfth repetition they fell apart in chunks; and at the fifteenth they disintegrated, and I got a broom and swept them up." This must be the secret behind the great watermelon story. When I at last was allowed to hear it, Burbee told it three times in one evening, and I laughed more each time. The first time with supprise that that was all there was to it; the second time, at the look on the faces of others hearing it for the first time; and the third time, because it was starting to sound funny. - He told another story too, and by the twelfth time it was even braking him up. Jack Benny has been getting laughs with the same gags for years. The art is really in the telling, and Jack & Chas are masters at it. Burbee could make you laugh at something that wasn't funny. --To bad the Burbee Fan Club insist that he do only humor. I can remember a bigger man. -- Poor Anna Moffatt, she may be remembered as WorldCon Chairman, only for the Business Meeting, and for telling some one eather to set down or to move out of the hall. Atleast this is the only thing mentioned in every con-report I have seen. And I suspect she did more than many past Chairmen. -- I am one up on her though, in that I had to tell Campbell to move his discussion group out of the hall. It was probably the only thing I got to say to him thought the Convention.



Le Moindre: Yes, passion plant grow around here, there is one growing on LASFS's 12th Street Towers right now, but I can't find anyone who has eaten the fruit. The plant is sort of vine-like and has a very odd type of flower. Seen in parks and older parts of town. I imagine most of the foreigners that have been coming in from the East in the last 20 years have either ignored them, or didn't know the fruit was edible. I'm a native, ofcourse, but not very adventurous in my eating habits. Probably because I've allways looked on eating as a necessary evil. To me, eating out is fun, only because of the people I'm with, or the surroundings... I'd enjoy your Fancy Expensive restaurants, but only because of the different sensations recieved by eye and ear. I wouldn't be such a clod as to order hamburgers in such a place, but it would pain me to be paying good money for food I could only remember. When, I could look or listen to books and records for a long time. The truth is, I'm a miser. -- I've heard the word "arse" used, but never seen it in print before. I always thought that it was a euphemism for the word "ass." It has always seemed to me that there has never been a polite, middle-of-the-road word in English, to disscribe this area of the human anatomy. In following this line of thought I tried seeing what they called it in foreign languages. I found the German word is "hintertail." Fractured German, anyone?//// Lark: Bill, you may not be able to understand why anyone would willingly move to Los Angeles. Well, I've always found it hard to understand why anyone would willingly live were the temperature regularly went 20 below in winter. I wouldn't live the year round in N.Dakota..period. It would kill me. .. I suppose the answer is some what the same though, i.e. that it isn't 20 below or smoggy all the time. And, there are ofcourse some people that aren't bothered by the smogg. We in South Gate, don't get it as bad as thos father North, in the belt. And beach cities get it hardly at all. --Ofcourse, as a native, I'd just as soon most of these people hadn't come here. It's all these foreigners, inhaling & exhaling, that polluting the air for us Californians.//// Amis: Other than a word of welcome to friend Trimble, my only comment is to admire Bjo's cartoons. I think it is fair to say that she is the best illustrative cartoonist in fandom. Both Atom and Rotsler are good, but their style is not as grafic. Bjo's drawings look more like the people they are suppose to represent, or the spirit and mood they are supposed to be in. Her squirrels look more like Ellik, than Ron does at times. (Ofcoirse she is a good serious artist too, but you can't show that in fanzines.) We SoCalFans are doubly blessed to have this obliging, talented and attractive w/lister in our midst. If all goes well, I'll have a heading and acouple illos by my favorite redhead, on this effort. Don't quote me, but---Bjo for TAFF.. //// A Propos de Rien: You are right Jim, regarding Laney and his memoirs. Things were undoubtedly rather bad at the time, but not nearly so bad as he made out. Laney as a talented writer, wrote for a perpose, about how things seemed to him. But he admitted that he was an emotionally disturbed person, writing so extensively as a form of therapy. Fans being what they/we are, I don't doubt that anyone with a simular ax to grind could write just as sensationally today, about any of the major fan centers. Look what Pete

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INTERNATIONAL FANDOM ANYONE?

In the Oct. 1958 issue of Science Fiction News, edited by Graham Stone - Box 4440, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia, there was a report that caught my interest. I'll quote part of it (without getting permission), starting with -- "The International Science Fiction Society was formed this year, based on the former Utopia Club Austria reconstituted as an international center and clearing house. The ISFS' aim is to promote a world-wide movement of friendly co-operation and progress between those interested in the Field of Science Fiction. It is to intermediate between SF fans and professionals, to promote close contact between all SF readers and associations.

"Branch Offices of the ISFS exist in several countries: Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Rumania, Portugal, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Canada, Belgian Congo....." It then went on to list the organizations that were associated with them, including the Sydney Futurians, as the only English speaking group in the list.It is all "held together by the ISFS Central Committee, a circle of volunteer leading scientifiotionists, led by the Central Office in Vienna. (Erwin Scudla, Chairman. Vienna XVII/107, Rotzergasse 30/1, Austria) It runs an information center, collecting news from all over the world and passing it on to clubs and editors. It also takes care of isolated single members."

"The organ of the ISFS is its magazine, Sirius, published in several editions, edited by the local branch offices in their own languages. In 1959 an international edition in German, French and English will appear monthly."

Now, I don't know about you, but this was the first time I had read anything about the ISFS. I knew of clubs in Germany and Sweden, but this sounded like the big time. And it sort of frightened me. Could it be, that another fandom was formed and growing, that we didn't know about? I knew science fiction was booming in Europe, but I'd only read vague reports about it's fandom. If there really was a big movement in the contra-English speaking world, now was the time to find out about it. Before we had drifted too far apart. Just think -- I thought -- they might try holding World Cons too. And who's would be right?

The person I thought of that could tell me more was our own w/-listener, Pierre Versins. I wrote him a longish letter asking for more info about the ISFS, and the state of fandom over there. The answer said so many things that I was interested in, and think you should be interested in, that again without permission, I am going to quote from it.:-

Lausanne, March 4, 1959

"Now, your info about the ISFS. Yes, for sure it's like another world forming without the knowledge of the first, it's really another world, as was for me fandom a couple of years ago: there you have an example of an iron curtain more real and actual than the Iron Curtain. Why? Mainly, I think, because there are some language differences between us. You must know that very few people here speak English. The main languages in Europe are French, German and Italian. You may find people speaking and reading two or three of these languages, the wars between France and Germany being a cause for this understanding. Mixing people sort of, if you see what I mean. I for myself, having learned English in the college, would never have practiced it really if it

were not for science fiction sake. Beside, there is something more : even if we, in Europe, understand and read a little English, there is not in the States, or even in England, an equivalent; that is you don't read French, or German, or Italian, in one word, you don't understand our language. Then, we are bound to a sort of misconception of your way of life, no, of your way of thinking : we infer from this situation that our goals, our intentions, our ideas don't interest you at all. And I, for myself, think that this the main reason for the fact which bothers you. Why tell you about an European sf club if it's of no interest for you? Do you know, for instance, that I'm Chairman of the only French sf club (France, Belgium, Switzerland - I'm French, if living in Switzerland) which gathers the best sf writers in French, writers who are by no means inferior to your best writers, writers of whom you know nothing? There is there a terrible reason, due both to your wealth (as a nation) and your way of considering other people than you : you're accustomed to give (or sell, but mainly to give) things to other people, receiving nothing in exchange than good words. This, coming from, as I told you above, both your very good heart or/and character and your wealth, has done the worst to you : people from here daign to accept your goods and tell you many thanks and that's all. If you only could hear most of the French speaking of you, my ghod, it's nearly unbearable. They just can't know you. One has to correspond with some of you for at least a couple of years, to understand that you are not your goods, that you're far better than coca-cola (I hate coca-cola), than juke-boxes (I hate juke-boxes!), than A and H-bombs (we hate A and H Bombs). But, my Lord, everybody here is not Jean Linard or myself, we have had an improbable luck, finding such a lot of friends outside of our country, friends who, not even (probably) knowing what they were doing, have given us a better idea of the people in the States than the common one.

"Then, you have a lot of reasons for the situation. Just think that the ISFS has got a fanzine, but written in German and circulated only in Europe and you have your answer. The general Chairman and initiator of the ISFS is an Austrian, Erwin Scudla. Don't recall exactly how we met (only by letter) but he proposed to me a half a year ago to join FUTOPIA (my club) to his. I'm the holy father of every country where French is mainly spoken, that's a good fifth of the World (!!!). It'd be a very good thing to make the ISFS known in the States, but I don't think, personally, that it'd go for long. I don't think you have need for it, you see? Because it's mainly a case of need. Why is FUTOPIA steadily growing in number, never quitting it? Because we have only four mags, one of which is very bad, the other being nearly as bad as the first one, for the translations are horrible and the French authors chosen the worst possible (take it easy, it's the French GALAXY !!!) The other twos are FICTION (The of Fantasy and sf, translations from the original one & French stories, and not bad ones) and SATELLITE (not too bad and growing up these times - nothing to do with the American SATELLITE). Then, if you consider that French readers are as avid readers as are American ones, you see that there is the need of a club like FUTOPIA, where one can discuss and read more : FUTOPIA has a library of nearly 2000 books and mags, mainly in French but also in English, German, Italian, even one in esperanto (!) and publishes (well, I publish, with the help of Martine, my wife) AILLEURS, on a monthly basis, yes missir (nearly 25 issues up to now), where you find articles and stories which are exactly as good as the ones published

in commercial magazines. Think of INSIDE, for instance, and you'll have an idea of what is AILLEURS in French. My English zine are only poor ones, for I'm nearly the only responsible for them. Think of a fanzine where Damon Knight, Bradbury, Lovecraft, Williamson, Simak, Sturgeon, van Vogt and the like are published and you'll see what is AILLEURS like. I know that there used to be such fanzines in the States, I have even a lot of them, but right now, you may understand that we are, in France, in the same position as you were in the thirties in the US. AND NOBODY in the States knows this."

"(Note: the opinion here above expressed about AILLEURS is, naturally, not mine. I'm not so self-conceited. " Pierre Versins

Well, now at least FAPA knows about it. And I hope something can be done about it. Not knowing even English very well, there is not much I can do but relay information. It seems like some of you First Fandom members might be a real help, as well as being able to recapture some of the spirit of the old days. -- I'd first thought that there ought to be re-print fanzines, using translations -- but if things are as Pierre says the articles might be too different to be of real interest. What is needed is a special exchange series.

What I suggested to him as a start would be two or three page news-&-reports column, to appear about quarterly. The one seen in this country, would report on French & ISFS fan doings, and appear in some large, regular zine such as CRY or the new SHAGGY. Versins seems the logical one to write such a column, while some high-grade French speaking US fan could write for AILLEURS, or the ISFS zine. Through such an exchange of info might grow more individual interest -- and thus a general growing togetherness, of what at present is clearly two different fandoms. What ideas do you have?

(I have just made contact with Mike Deckinger, 85 Locust Avenue, Millburn, New Jersey, who is the ISFS Chairman for the States, and plan to join through him. At present there seems to be little or no activity in this country -- and I haven't gotten many details from him yet. But even if nothing comes of it, as a club, I rather think it is important we take an interest in them as fans. And, it might be fun.)) (Anglo-fans please understand, I thought of you. You'd go on our report, of course, though you might find it easy to do one on your own.))

South Gate again 2010!

Graham was able to do with one blast at D.C.Fandom. And is supposed to not really dislike them. And I suppose Sandersod could write "memoirs" of London fandom that would be equally juicy. You can always write bad things about people you know well, because you know their weaknesses. Fortunately, most fan are better adjusted than to need to. 1958 Fan Directory: A noble effort, and the most useful item of the year. Last years directory is still on the table beside me. I fear it may never find it's way back to the right bundle... I'm glad to see everyone numbered, as I had need to count them last year, to check our Solacon list.. I miss the symbols though, as there was a sort of snobbish appeal in seeing how you rated. All ways felt a little "class distinction" was a good thing. As long as each person is able to change his "class," it sort of adds incentive to life. And lets you know where you stand. My phone number is LOrain 7-6101.....rs