



PHANNY

THE

PHILMSY

PHANZINE

F. A. P. A.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

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JOE PHAN 7-11

P H A N N Y

" T H E P H L I M S Y P H A N Z I N E "

Vol. II, No. 4

Winter, 1943

Published Occasionally

for the

F A P A

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D. B. Thompson

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In this issue, we present another in our series of historic covers. Most of you have heard or read vague references to "The Sign Board of Space." One fanciful writer went so far as to suggest that the name was applied to the planet Mars in the days before space-travel, ignoring completely the more reasonable possibility of an actual sign of conventional type. We proudly (ahem!) present a picture of the real thing.

The sign board itself is eloquent evidence of the crass commercialism so often attributed to the Age immediately following the period of planetary colonization. Incredible as it may seem to us in this enlightened age, this gigantic structure, involving almost super-human fetes of engineering, was built for the sole purpose of advertizing the magazine PHANNY to the peoples of the circling worlds. to

Available records indicate that PHANNY was an obscure sheet, with a circulation never exceeding 500,000,000. Its contents, moreover, were devoted almost entirely to providing entertainment for its readers. Such waste of good metal was nothing short of criminal.

The sign no longer exists, of course. The tough beryllium, magnesium, and aluminum alloys were long ago utilized in the construction of energy-projectors for the inter-stellar fleet, now engaged in the conquest of the planets of the Polaris system.

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If my luck doesn't fail, there are two issues of PHANNY in this mailing. The other one is the Fall issue; Vol. II, No. 3. The cover says that this is also No. 3. That is a lie. This is No. 4. We had about half of the covers printed before we discovered the error. We had neither the time nor the sensitized paper necessary to reprint those, so we just ran off the rest of them with the error intact.

Failure of the Fall issue to make the Fall mailing is largely my fault, with an assist credited to the Post Office Boys. We sent the stencils to Chauvenet in plenty of time, along with a letter, (under separate cover) announcing the fact. Chauvenet moved. The letter followed him. The stencils, which were also sent first class mail, just like the letter, didn't. They stayed in Massachusetts until it was too late to have them printed in time for the regular mailing date; then they came back to me. This time, the mimaing is being done locally, because Chauvenet is no longer of the leisure class.

Footprints on the sands of time; "Today we carry 22 States; tomorrow, 9 planets." Rogers..

"BY THEIR WORKS YE SHALL KNOW THEM"

A Review of the Last Mailing.

Someday, we are going to select a title for this department and stick to it; but until that happy day comes, we shall continue to follow our custom of using whatever comes to mind at the moment. How d'ya like this one? Of course, it is a couple thousand years old, but....

We ended comments in the last PHANNY with the words, "that is all, we hope." And then along came a post mailing, making us look very foolish indeed. Because we didn't hope that that was all, but merely that we hadn't skipped any. We apologize. And so, we start off this time with the left-over mags--and what left-overs!

PEGASUS. -- This is a worthy rival of most subscription magazines. We didn't get the significance of the long story, if any really existed; but we did get something else. "The Well of Duorm" succeeded where many a pro story has failed. We actually received a modicum of chill, eerie, horror. We didn't get that, even from Lovecraft. -- The poetry is adequate, review very good, and "The Far Off Places" very fine indeed.

THE READER AND COLLECTOR. -- There is little to say about this. All questions as to quality are, as usual, answered by the word "excellent." Others have already mentioned the Hasty Caustic Kommentator's own little slips. Well, they added variety to a monotonously perfect record.

NOW, FOR THE FALL MAILING;

YE OLDE SCIENCE FICTION FANNY. -- Adolf at home at last.

COSMIC CIRCLE COMMENTATOR. The use of my name was unauthorized. Nuf sed.

WALT'S WRAMBLINGS. -- How in the name of all that is Wowsey do you find time for all that reading, Walt? Are you one of those 700-word-a-minute readers? Glad you've discovered "Exile of the Skies." Belongs on every Best-Ten List. Detroit doings delicious, altho, for some reason, we suspect that you may have exercised your feeble imagination just a little on that epic.

THE NUCLEUS. -- We thot "Premature Adulthood" a very clever phrase, too, Trudy; that is why we borrowed it from "Mrs. Miniver." Thanks for agreeing with us, anyway. -- We like NUCLEUS better than in its previous format, too. -- Except for local clubs, FAPA is almost all of Fandom now, isn't it? The best remains; survival of the fittest, etc. -- If Jack or anyone else tells you that Negroes outnumber Whites in the South, don't you believe 'em, Trudy. The last Federal Census showed that Louisiana, for example, is only 36% Negro, and, if we remember rightly, no State is more than 40% Negro. The Whites reached the 50% point in Louisiana circa 1900. Your discussion of the matter was very good.

SARDONYX. -- The Working Man puts out a super-doooper. The nostalgic remarks on past mailings set us dreaming. The "Journeys With Art" darn near set us screaming. And Poetry too. (Note to LRC; that last is not a crack!) -- We don't even know LOUISIANA French. Paul Valery's "Autres Rhumbs" insists on translating itself "Other Rumps." -- We haven't read and probably won't read any of the recommended books anent the preferable size of Terra's population, but we don't like rural societies much. We presume that there is considerable difference between the type of society to which LRC refers, and the type with which we are familiar; but we know many people who say they like the type we know, so we reckon it is just us. -- We don't see why there is ever any reason for getting drunk either; reckon it is just one of those things which must be done before understanding is possible; and then, having been done, no longer requires understanding.

SATYRIC. -- Don't stay away so long again Edgar. The discussion of auxilliary languages is amusing, and "SubAqueous Romance" is quite--er--yes; quite.

"Andagreatstormrose(in LA)andthe"footprints"werewashedaway"wottayerkishfinale.

RAHUUN TA-KA. -- The illustrations fit the text perfectly. Even Koenig will agree to that, we think.

HAVE AT THEE, KNAVES. -- We have always thought that the second person plural is "ye," not "thee." Tch-tch. -- Look, Samuel; the outlook for the future fans who read the comic books of today isn't as bad as all that; most of these comic book readers will remain just that, so they won't be reading the prozines; the rest will grow up, and either (a) will look with amused tolerance at their former folly, or (b) will worry over "what the younger generation is coming to," after the fashion of one Samuel D. Russell. -- Yerke's analysis is pure Yerkish, and like most such, interesting. Quite impossible to tell whether or not he is serious. Our guess is that the whole business is best summed up in the sentence, "Or else Dawnish is so much nonsense designed to provoke articles like this."

FANDANGO. -- We agree that the almost universal tendency to rate stories according to the mag in which they appear, rather than on their own merits, needs revision. We think, also, that STARTLING often presents stories of good quality; less frequently, stories of the type we like. -- We disagree violently on the comparison between present-day UNK fantasies and the works of Lovecraft, Smith, and Derleth. We prefer the UNK type; in fact, our very great dislike for the WIERD type of tale resulted in our delaying a long time before purchasing UNK, with the result that we missed a number of fine stories. We unhesitatingly place "Colour Out Of Space" among our favorite stories; no other Lovecraft story even knocks at the door. Lovecraft specialized rather closely in horror stories--not the "thriller" type, it is true, but still, horror stories. Such tales almost invariably leave us cold. With the horror element passing us by, there is nothing left except some excellent writing, and that is pointless without a story. So say we, anyway. -- We willingly lay a few shillings on the line to help pay for the anthology; we will even cut a few stencils, if our stencil cutting meets the standards; but what is most needed is a lot of work looking up the stuff to be printed. We couldn't do that. -- The average fan is not a snob; it is just a case of the snobs being more noticeable, like the drunks on the college campus, or the professional politicians at a farmer political meeting.

FANDOMANIA. -- Neat. Nice, homey, cover.

GOLDEN ATOM. A monumental issue; congratulations, Farsaci. -- The cover is excellent. A very fine effect was achieved by the insertion of the statue of "Lylda" against Rosco's "Future City" background. -- For the first time, the trials and tribulations of the searcher after rare items, as described by Farsaci, have awakened a feeling of kinship within us. His previous discussions in SPACEWAYS evoked nothing but a yawn, but we read this eagerly. Farsaci seems to have a rather exaggerated notion of the dramatic value of coincidence. -- The poetry did not interest us greatly; the criticism that it "is of very uneven quality" seems well justified. The issue should be of real value to Lovecraft fans.

HORIZONS. -- Much as we hate to say it, Harry, we just couldn't manage to decipher enough of our copy to make a comment feasible. The last page was the worst; about all we could make out was "On Dit." Apparently, your experiment didn't pan out very well. We presume the fault lies in your typer; there seems no other possible explanation.

BROWSING. -- Very interesting is the point about a genuinely world-wide civilization being possibility now, because technological advancement has eliminated the necessity--if not the existence--of slave labor. -- This publication actually achieves the feeling of a personal conversation with the writer. More, Mike!

SUSTAINING PROGRAM. -- As usual, we found this very interesting, but, like the Ashley's, we find it hard to comment on. -- Jack discusses previous mail--And the dream of fandom's most sincere and energetic member came to thought: alas and woowoo

ings without identifying them sufficiently, making his stuff hard to follow. We feel very badly about this, because we have just discovered that we have often done the same thing, in the effort to achieve brevity. We have decided to throw brevity overboard. "Scientific Romances" is just a trifle dry in treatment, but otherwise adequate.

EN GARDE. -- Color Combinations don't affect us that way, Pals. One certain shade of green does so, but not the shade you have used, and that affects us just the same, regardless of its environment. However, your color scheme could by no means be called pleasing! -- The subject of the cover reminds of one drawn at our suggestion for FRONTIER by a cousin of ours. Said cousin was and is considerable shakes as an artist; but he obstinately refused to take the advice of experienced hekto-ers, so that, while the original was excellent, it couldn't be reproduced without retouching, and the retouching was not on a par with the original work. -- We don't know which account of the Detroit expedition was more enjoyable; we give both accounts an "A". Most enjoyable line--the "incipient compost heap" which Walt devoured so nonchalantly. -- The Smith letter to Stanley much appreciated. [It is going to be the final straw in winning a certain near-fan over into active fandom, we think.] -- "The Cereol Universe"--reWalt, no less.

FAN-TODS. -- Ties for "best in the Mailing" title. That is quite a record in these days of large mailings. -- The review of the previous mailing, in FAN-TODS, becomes a continuous juggling of all sorts of ideas of interest. We like 'em! -- All this discussion of "unhypersymmetrico-....etc." is amusing. We saw it in a "believe it or not," and some weeks later, needing a filler line, stuck it in, with no particular effort to remember the order of the various parts. Fun, No? -- We agree with Norm on this business of individuality. The way to free future generations from the fears and misconceptions of our time lies not so much in denying them access to knowledge of these things, as in a careful presentation of all the elements related to any given line of thought or field of knowledge, so that they may form rational concepts. Guidance is desirable, but should apply to all sides of the question, else we shall be as guilty as those we criticise. The militant anti-religionist is often a "believer" of the most bigoted type, completely blind to the good in older concepts, in his determination to root them out. As a British fan pointed out in a recent issue of VOM, there is no rational basis for complete atheism, since there is no rigorous proof of the non-existence of gods. There is, at best, only the absence of proof of their existence. Whence, it follows that the avowed atheist is necessarily a "believer" in the non-existence.

Surgery is quick and clean, but an anodyne has its uses also. You can't expect a child to reason well without material on which to work, and history is one of the materials he needs. You can't teach the history of Civilization without teaching the history of Christianity; and you can't teach that history, without teaching something about the faith itself. The history of the Church, as Trudy pointed out, is not inspiring; denying the child access to this information can only hinder, not help, his development.

The above have led us to the notion, probably not in any sense original, that one of the attributes often to be found associated with the "true believer" is the ability to accept two mutually exclusive concepts as being true. In the case of a low-grade mentality, this is simple enough; the mentality is incapable of discerning that the two concepts are related so as to be mutually exclusive. In the case of the highly intelligent person,--well, you answer that. -- It may be further pointed out, however, that the matter works both ways; two concepts may appear to be mutually exclusive to the less intelligent or more poorly informed mentality, when they are not so in the eyes of the more intelligent. A simple example is the case of the first iron ships. The notion that iron is denser than water, and that ships of iron

Forthedreamwasfedupontheunsubstantialfoodofenthusiasm andpropaganda, promising

could float were mutually exclusive ideas, insofar as the average man of the street went in those tea-hauling days. The fact that iron pots and pans would float apparently didn't occur to anyone. -- The point about interesting reading-matter possessing sleep-producing qualities hits home, altho in this particular case, it wasn't reading matter. We were taking an eleven A. M. summer-school course in projective geometry one summer. The subject interested us immensely, yet we struggled unsuccessfully through most of the six-week course, in a heroic effort to keep awake. Apparently, the instructor understood the situation, for he never mentioned our daily derelictions, and gave us a very satisfactory grade. We did work all the assigned problems, and dutifully handed them in, but apparently, the instructor never looked at them, except, perhaps, to see that a paper really had been turned in. He never graded them nor returned them. (Maybe he was sleepy, too.) -- We agree with you, Norm, on the Seetee tales in ASF. We think the political set-up presented in such a story is not important in itself; the author couldn't very well know just what the actual conditions will be, for one thing, so might as well use known conditions; and, anyway, it doesn't really matter, because, whatever the set-up, there will still be malcontents, irreconcilables, and very probably injustices. There will still be "causes" to fight for, simply because values will continue to change. So say we, anyway. -- The idea of a "sense of fantasy" corresponding to a sense of humor appeals to us. It seems much more likely than most of the other explanations presented for the purpose of distinguishing people from fans, and vice-versa. The "superior intelligence" theory is not really tenable. There is a tendency to say that fans are intelligent because they are fans; actually, we should say, it is the other way around. The ideals and aspirations of fans are unlikely to appeal to a stupe, because he can't comprehend them. There are many other hobbies of a like nature; amateur astronomy, for example. That requires brains. If all such intelligent people had a highly-developed "sense of the fantastic," fantasy authors would make money, and brilliant writers would write fantasy. -- We do not agree with the oft-expressed notion that interest in fantasy and fan affairs implies escapism. Many fans are escapists, but so are many other hobbyists. We don't like at all the idea of buying an island and escaping from the world of today, to build one to suit ourselves, after the fashion of Odd John and his super-humans. The most obvious drawback is that such an attempt would certainly rouse the cupidity of someone, if it succeeded at all; some country would certainly try to take over the island for its "protection." But there are other reasons. Such escape accomplishes nothing. The nuns and monks of numerous religious orders have been doing it for many centuries. We hear rumors that certain Asiatic Monkish orders have accomplished great things, but such accomplishment has an aura of unreality about it which we dislike very much. Such colonies handicap themselves, and handicap the World. Nuts to the notion!-- The most interesting line in "Riposte" is the statement that "there is never any clear answer to the important problems!" If there were, of course, the problems would cease to exist. ** Just what is meant, incidentally, by "the economic system under which we live" as used in "Riposte?" The "system" is constantly in a state of flux; even basic, or seemingly basic, principles change within themselves. The word "Capitalistic" certainly does not mean today what it meant in Marx's day, or in the days of the vast industrial exploitation of labor and resources in the last century. True, the concept has changed only through pressure, but it has changed. The "Conservative" of today would have been an extreme leftist in those "good old days." Neither, we should say, does the word "Communism," altho our opinion is open to challenge on the ground that we haven't read Marx, if no other. (There will be others, if anyone cares to comment!) much asking nothingsaveonlybelief; and belief is not enough for a scientific world.

INSPIRATION -- Separated from PHANNY again, through no fault of its editor. Well, INSP. seems more able to stand on its own feet than PHANNY. -- Obviously, Lynn's statement about the "messiest" typing job in the history of the FAPA is fantastic. A few strike-overs, that is all. Had Juffus been able to furnish better paper on the instant (he had no warning that the stencils were coming) the issue would have compared very well with previous issues. -- "Those Dressed-Up Westerns" is good. We don't agree, tho, that "Twilight" and "A Martian Odyssey" proved that "plot is largely an over rated quality usually demanded by the cheaper pulps." They merely demonstrated that there is more than one good way to write a story. And most stories, we think, need plot.

DREAMS OF YITH. Rosco seems to have captured this classic poem's spirit very well. One suggestion, only. The draftsmanship could be a bit sharper, more exact as to details. Yes, we are thinking of Hunt's Monsters. We don't expect Rosco to duplicate the work of such a master craftsman; at least, not yet. But some of Rosco's work is better in this respect. The first interior drawing suffers less in this respect than the rest. However, draftsmanship is not art; if it were, maybe we could qualify as artist, which we can't. More of Rosco's interpretive drawings will be welcome.

YHOS. Tied with FAN-TODS for first place. This time, Art comes out with our favorite size and shape for a mimeoed mag. If we could only use the long-carriage typer in the office at Camp... -- That Ifrit on the cover is really a hard-looking bozo. -- "Survival" makes some good points. We suggest that "intelligence" actually could replace the kind of mobility Art is talking about --namely, the matter of "leaving the planet..." especially when combined with curiosity, for such an ability is almost wholly the result of those two qualities. Intelligence might well replace toughness completely, too. -- "If the people...were possessed of...logic, they would....get the war over...." Probably true, but Trudy's thesis still holds, as far as existing conditions go, because logic as most people understand it doesn't go as far as you say it should. The Generals use logic, --at least, we hope they do, and on the basis of results so far, they appear to--and some others do, too; but the great majority is composed of persons who do not reason logically, and they have to fight, too, if we are to win. -- Football vs. Baseball. What is this subject doing here? You really don't know anything about the entertainment value of football, Art, if you are basing your opinion on the Harvard-Bates game, and on the news reels; nor do you know anything about the technical excellence required. You have to understand thoroughly the rules and strategy of the game, and see the working out of plays with an understanding eye, to really appreciate it, being the logical-minded person you are. We will agree that it takes greater mental and physical alertness to make a big-league baseballer than it does to make a big-league footballer; because every individual on the baseball team when in the field, much be able to react instantly and correctly to a large variety of situations. The same ability is valuable in football, also; but teams get along very well with some players without this characteristic, because several others are equally valuable. We haven't seen as much big-league baseball as we should, if we are to judge that phase of the game; but we watched Class A ball for a long time, and have seen a lot of big-leaguers in action in the local USO-Army Camp league. On the other hand, we have seen considerable top-flight football in the Nebraska stadium. We have gone to sleep at a close, well-played baseball game; we can't imagine doing that at any football game. We have seen one or two genuine nit-wits who were stars in football because of their ability to do one or two things exceptionally well; but the same thing occurs in the case of the right-fielder who is a heavy-hitter, and who stands in right field because he is less likely to do as much damage there as elsewhere. But our greatest objection to base*
And thus the cosmic circle do most to an early grave (before it is dead, we suspect it still kicks.)

ball is the matter of baiting the members of the other team and the umpire; especially the umpire. It might be argued that baiting the opposition is a good piece of strategy; but baiting the umpire could hardly come under that head. You may argue either (1) that such action is not an intrinsic part of the game, and so should not be counted against it; or (2) that it is a part of the game, because of historical precedent. We will accept either one as being essentially true; but we still won't like it. We, let it be said, will take a high school football game to a big-league baseball game anytime. -- Add another good reason for liking football--every week, the employees in the office chip in two-bits each in a football pool. Whoever picks the most winners correctly gets the pot. We are now (Oct. 20) \$9.00 ahead of the game, as a result of winning two out of five. Our method is simple--we use X-logic. --Anent typography; we'll take too much ink in preference to too little, too. We second you on the matter of spelling, also. We spell by means of a complex mixture of methods which we have never been able able to explain to anyone. Mostly, we can spell any word after we've seen it once. There are flaws in this, though. Words ending in -ent, -ant; -end, -and; or -ence, -ance, because we classify these pairs as equivalent endings, and fail to distinguish them. -ise and -ize cause us similar trouble. -- The idea of a gradual switch to X-logic is intriguing. Let's have a little more on this. -- We have already expressed our disapproval of moving to "Slan Island." We liked the presentation of the idea well enough, and think maybe Battle Creek is not the best place for a "Slan Center." (We don't like that name; it has a snobbish ring which is not intended.) Such a center is OK, so long as its inmates don't become recluses. Most fans don't act like recluses. -- We have the same trouble finding titles in HORIZONS. We like our system. -- The decadence of Latin Europe is fairly evident, we think. It has even carried over to Latin America, with only the Brazilians, descendants of Columbus' Portuguese teachers, and the Mexicans, only now beginning to lead the way toward a progressive outlook. -- The "Maine Stay." What more can we say about this event; all the participants make it painfully clear that they had a wunnaful time, cuss 'om! -- Milty's comments on the world police force are worth careful thought. Perhaps membership could be made a highly desirable thing, like membership in E E Smith's Lensmen. Such an intelligent force would not require the petty restrictions necessary in an army composed of men of all levels of intelligence above the moron level. But to bring about such a change in Army methods would be almost, if not fully, as difficult as getting isolationist Senators to accept the idea. -- Art, one of those radical signs in the Futurian Coat of Arms should have a -1 under it, to take care of the fantasy angle. No?

FA AMATEUR. Only the cover suffered. We knew everything would be all right. Three Presidential Messages; oh glee! -- Jack's reports on the amendments; Tsk, tsk, fellahs; those directions were simple enough. (If we messed em up, Jack, don't say anything!) -- Laureate Awards. Fiction, Articles, most interesting idea, and humor should have awards. We suggest another for editorial writing of the kind we are attempting right here and now; that is, carrying on a dozen or fifty arguemnts on all subjects simultaneously, thru the medium of comments on previous mailings; the sort of thing that Stanley and Widner do so well. -- Critic's reports; more interesting than usual. Swisher's unexpected insertions had us in stitches, no end. (Long seam, wasn't it?) Look; a member from Nebraska, again; hurray for Rouse!

A LATE FAPAZINE FROM ELMER PURDUE. -- Boy, has Elmer got the makins of a snooty fapazine+! Fancy paper, fancy type, n'everything. This issue has some interesting stuff in it; we are waiting until he gets out a bound issue all on the same size sheets.

We finished the cosmic circle last page; this page we finished the last mailing we think!!!

AN ALPHABET FOR AN INTERNATIONAL Auxiliary LANGUAGE
(An Alfabet for an Internazyonal Oksilyari Lanvez)

Little if any attention seems to have been paid to the problem of increasing the intelligibility of a spoken international auxiliary language by a broadening of the values and a reduction in the number of the fundamental sounds used. It is my considered opinion that most of the modern languages have too many fundamental sounds, with too little distinction between similar ones; and this applies to such synthetic languages as Esperanto, as well as to most of the national languages.

For example, the German fails to distinguish between our v and w; we can scarcely distinguish between his terminal p and b; the German ch (Spanish j) is likely to become English sh or ch when used terminally by us, and h or hy when used initially; the German makes our j into English ch or y; while the Spanish use the symbols b and v interchangeably, giving them sometimes the value of b, sometimes v and sometimes a value halfway in between, depending upon position. Such a situation can only be viewed with alarm by a confirmed Viewer-With-Alarmor.

Similar difficulties are encountered with vowels. The Italians, Japanese, and Hawaiians--to name only a few--manage to get along with only five. The Spanish use seven. The Germans use nine or ten, while we use from eleven to thirteen, the number depending mainly upon geography. (Middle-westerners, for example, omit medial a as in calf, dance; short a as in hat is used instead.)

So, with alarming situation threatening to scuttle the whole international language movement, and thus perhaps, the hope of the world for a permanent peace (ahem! harrmmppf, etc.!) I bravely set out to alter the status quo for the better. By a method explained later, I arrived at the alphabet which follows:

Vowels,--a, e, i, o, u. (Amazing, isn't it?) The corresponding English values may be represented by a as in ah, e equal to a in late, i as in machine, o as in oh, and u equal to oo in loot.

Semi-vowels: v, y. V is equivalent to English w. These characters serve as consonants or weak vowels as initial sounds; as weak vowels when used terminally in diphthongs and triphthongs.

Consonants,--p, f, l, r, t, k, g, j, s, m, n, z, and h. The English equivalents are --p, f, l, r, t, k, ch, zh, s, m, ng, dz, and h.

The basis for the choice of vowels needs no discussion. The normal shortening of the long vowels in closed syllables would of course take place, without in any way influencing comprehensibility.

The semi-vowels are used mainly in forming diphthongs. The diphthongs to be used would be: ay, av, ev, oy, ya, ye, yi, yo, yu, va, ve, vi, vo, and vu. The diphthongs ov and ey are omitted because of their similarity to o and e, respectively. In fact, in English, o and e (long a) are actually pronounced as diphthongs.

It would, of course, be possible to get along by using u and i for the semi-vowels, as is done part of the time in English; but that would involve the use of some diacritical mark to indicate whether or not a diphthong was intended. As an example, consider the English word mow (in the short alphabet, written mauv). The terminal v shows that a diphthong is intended, and hence, the word contains but one syllable. But mau is a two syllable word, pronounced, in English, mah'oo. In Esperanto, the diphthong is indicated by placing a breve over the weak vowel, thus making a separate character. In Spanish, the strong vowel is given an accent mark ('). Since there are plenty of ordinary characters to go round, there seems to be no point in using either such method here.

(Continued on next page)

YerkeoncecalledtheFAPathe"utileandputridassociation."Wonderwouldhedosonow???

An Alphabet for an International Auxiliary Language (Cont.)

A considerable number of triphthongs could be used. Only one example will be given--the English word (?) yow. This would become yaw. It may be noted here, that if no separate characters were assigned to the semi-vowels, there would be no way of knowing whether one, two, or three syllables were intended, for in addition to yaw, we might have iav (ee--ow) yau (ya--oo) or iau (ee--ah--oo). Such vowel groups are uncommon in English; are frequently encountered in some languages.

The basis for selecting the consonants is not so readily understood as that for the vowels. The method involves what I shall call "consonant sequences," and will be illustrated by examples in the following paragraphs. Since it involves a number of sounds for which there are no characters on any typer, it will be necessary to resort to digraphs. Those common in English, such as sh and ch will be given their usual values. German ch will be written kh, and the soft French will be represented by zh. The symbol g will represent only hard g, as in go. The remaining digraphs should be clear enough.

We shall start with these two similar sequences:--dz, z, s, ts; and zh, sh, ch, kh, g. Add the vowel o to make a syllable of each sound, and we have dzo, zo, so, tso, and zho, sho, cho, kho, go. Pronounce those, and you will probably find that any two consecutive syllables in either sequence are difficult to distinguish. You may find that you can't distinguish between zho and sho, or cho and kho, because zh and kh are not normally present in English. But if you take alternate pairs, such as dzo, so, or sho, kho, the distinction is readily apparent.

But there is more to the problem than that. Put one of these sequences above the other, thus:

dz, z, s, ts
zh, sh, ch, kh, g.

It is evident that dz has no close counterpart in the lower sequence, and kh, g have none in the upper; but z, zh; s, sh; ts, ch are similar pairs. We must, therefore, eliminate one from each such pair, as well as skipping every other symbol in each sequence, if we are to maintain the same degree of dissimilarity. There are four possibilities: dz, zh, s, ch, g; or dz, sh, ts, g; or z, sh, ts, kh; or z, sh, ts, g.

By repeating this process with other related groups of sequences (some of them containing elements related to these) I eliminated all but the thirteen consonants listed above, plus the semi-vowels, v and y, which were, of course, included in the consonants in this elimination. (Thus, English v was automatically eliminated by the inclusion of w, to which the symbol v was assigned in the short alphabet.)

So much for the method of choosing sounds for the alphabet. The particular selections made are not the only ones possible. For one thing, with no suitable reference works available, I undoubtedly omitted some basic sounds from consideration; also, some of the digraphs used are probably compounds of two sounds, and not true digraphs at all. But any alphabet derived in this fashion would have the same general characteristics as this one; and it is these characteristics, not the particular sounds chosen, which matter.

One exception to the general rule was made however, in this particular set of characters. Both r and l are retained, in spite of their similarity, and in spite of the very wide variation in values assigned to r in different languages and localities. This was done for two reasons; neither l nor r is very close to any other sound chosen, and both have very wide utility because they can be used in combination with most of the other consonants.

I think a language built up from this alphabet would practically eliminate all confusion due to radical differences in methods of pronouncing

(Continued on next page)

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An Alphabet for an International Auxiliary Language (Cont.)

basic sounds. Not because the sounds chosen are especially easy to pronounce, nor because they are common to many languages. Those points were not considered at all, simply because no sounds--as least as far as consonants go--are intrinsically easy; the facility with which sounds are used is a matter of environment. If you learned English first, j is easy, but German ch is hard. If your native tongue is German, initial w baffles you, but the glottal stop is as natural as breathing.

But pronunciation difficulties are, nevertheless eliminated, because each symbol represents a broad range, rather than a single, exactly defined sound. "Correct" and "incorrect" pronunciation no longer have meaning. A few examples will make this clear.

Suppose we take English ch (c in the short alphabet.) Ch, in ordinary speech, must be distinguished from such closely related sounds as sh, kh, j, and ts. Consequently, it must be pronounced very carefully, if it is to be completely intelligible. But such is not the case with this short alphabet, because those similar sounds aren't present. Ch may, therefore, approach kh very closely, so long as it still resembles ch more nearly than it does k or h, its nearest neighbors in that direction. Similarly, it may approach sh, j, and ts, so long as it still sounds more like ch than it does like zh or s, dz or y, and dz or s, respectively. Similarly, k, dz, y, zh, and s, may approach these same limits in the direction of ch. Any sounds within the broad limits so established will be readily comprehended, whether or not the hearer himself pronounced it in the same fashion as the speaker.

Try the same thing, using the word chain as a starter, and pronouncing the following syllables: kain, dzain, hain, zhain, sain, yain. None of them sound much like chain, yet they come as close as it is possible to come in using this alphabetic system. Now try khain, tsain, jain, or shain. They are much closer to chain, although shain and jain won't bother you much, because they are normal constituents of English, along with chain. But they would certainly bother a Spaniard, who has no sh or j.

By now, I can hear some one (maybe some two, if that many have stuck with me this long) demanding to know how I expect to get enough words out of an alphabet containing so few sounds. There are two answers to that; one based on existing foreign languages, and the other on non-existent English "words."

The Hawaiians get along in fairly satisfactory fashion, using a language containing only eight distinct consonants, and five vowels--and they use few, if any closed syllables. The language is likely to be monotonous, of course; and to American ears, those big mouthfuls of vowels are apt to sound all alike. The Japanese, among their several systems of writing, have two sets of syllabic alphabets. They don't look alike, but they sound alike. Approximately 65 syllables, plus a terminal n are all the Japs use.

There are some doubts as to the merits of Japanese, too; not only from a linguistic standpoint, but from a philosophical and psychological one. When a man must say "Watakushiwa anata suki masu" where a Spaniard gets by with "Yo te amo" and the American chokes out "I love you," the guy is sure to get that frustrated feeling which leads him to believe that the whole world is against him--especially if the girl relieves her emotional tension by yawning right in the middle of the declaration of passion. But anyway, those sixty-odd syllables suffice for the Japs.

English has some 400,000 words. If we used the Japanese syllables, we would have some right long words. But in English, we use closed syllables; also, we use combinations of consonants to increase greatly the number of syllables possible. Just how many different syllables there are in English, I don't know and don't care. There are plenty, at any rate. We use only a small portion of them, as you will quickly find out if you ever try constructing cross-word puzzles. Every time you find a good filler for that

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An Alphabet for an International Auxiliary Language (Cont.)

hard-to-fit five-letter space, you discover that Webster never heard of it. It's just a "nonsense syllable." I'm going to illustrate my contention that this short alphabet is capable of producing all the words we are likely to need, by means of a list of syllables beginning with p and ending with t, using English sounds. I'm not going to list them all, of course; I intend to finish this article on this page. But here goes:

pat, pet, pit, pot, put, pate, pete, pite, pote, pute, pout, poit, pawt, putt, pwit, pwat, pwet, pwot, pwut, pwite, pwate, pwote, pwete, pwute, prit, prat, pret, prot, prut, prate, prete, prite, prote, prute, plat, plet, plot, plit, plut, plate, plete, plite, plote, plute..... That should be enough to illustrate my point. It isn't necessary to count the words and the non-words in that list to see that we could get a gosh-awful lot of short, brand-new words by that method. Some of the syllables in the above list couldn't occur in our short alphabet spelling, since they contain short vowels not found in it; but on the other hand, very few diphthongs were used, either. I think we could find plenty of words.

The last point is the matter of extracting words common to many present day languages, and fitting them into the short-alphabet spelling. Can such a procedure, which is obviously valuable in forming any auxiliary language, be applied here? It can; simply because the same sorts of differences and changes occur in these common words, as the ones we have been considering in forming this alphabet. The change which must be made to put the words into the short alphabet spelling will, in general, be less than the difference already existing between the corresponding words in different languages.

Suppose we start with German vater and Spanish padre, which stem from the same root if you go back far enough (Sanskrit, if I remember, correctly.) We might select fater, fatre, patre, or pater from these two alone. (Remember there is no v). Add father, Latin pater, and French pere, and the possibilities aren't affected much. If now, our language has vowel endings indicating parts of speech, etc., as in Esperanto,-- a useful device, I think--we will probably settle for patr- or fatr- as the logical root.

You can do the same sort of thing with brother and Spanish fraterno. They don't look much alike, at first glance, but the differences are superficial. The old English plural, brethren, might help. Then, remember that y and b are very similar, and are often interchanged, and that the same holds for v and f. It's easy from there on. You can stick in a lot more languages, but you will probably settle for fratr-.

And there you have it; an alphabet suited to a readily-comprehended spoken auxiliary language. Personally, I'd like very much to see what a well-qualified, capable, experienced writer could do with the idea. L. Sprague de Camp, for instance. He could make it amusing, interesting, and convincing. As for my own efforts,--well, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Any more FAPANS want to jump the gun on the Angels? That's all finished now; no more" continued on next page. "Aincha glad? I am. hurrah! End.

This space needs to be filled somehow, so I may as well tell you that football continues to follow x-logic. I missed out on the 6th pool in the office, but collected half of the seventh, as a result of picking correctly the winners of 27 out of 30 games listed. So now, I've paid \$1.75 into the pool, and taken out \$12.75. Net profit, \$11.00. Somebody must be losing; and it doesn't take x-logic to figure that out!

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There doesn't seem to be any particularly good reason for putting this stuff in here, no???

"The End Is Not Yet"

This is a sort of addition to the remarks on the first page. We don't yet know what is going to appear here, though, except in a very general way. Since it is being typed directly onto the the stencil, there will undoubtedly be a sufficient supply of typographical errors, if nothing else.

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We have just received a letter from Gordon K. Rouse, new member from Imperial, Nebraska. Among other things, he mentions that he is "an enthusiastic collector" of Amateur publications of various sorts. He mentions sub-fanzines specifically as coming within his sphere of interests. --Quit shovin', fellers; one at a time; one at a time....

---:oOo:---

By the time the winter Mailing of the FAPA has been laid aside, the Cosmic Circle will probably be only another of the crazy dreams which hit Fandom periodically, and then fade away. But the Cosmic Circle Bubble was not quite of the usual sort, because Degler's methods are entirely unlike any that have appeared in Fandom previously, so far as we know. The indiscriminate use of the names of established fans, prominent and otherwise; the insistence on the "one and only" status of the CC as a fan organization; and, above all, Degler's fantastic trips, make the CC unique. Without the CC, the trips would have constituted a stupendous and interesting activity; with the CC, they became something much less.

Since writing the interlineations re the CC in previous pages of this issue of PHANNY, some three weeks ago, I have gradually realized that I do not, as stated in the interlineations, consider Degler either very earnest or very sincere. Recent events have recalled to memory a little incident, insignificant in itself, which happened when Claude visited me here. I noted it at the time, considered it briefly, and dismissed it as of no consequence.

As was to be expected, I dug out a copy of PHANNY for Degler's inspection. As it happened, the one I got hold of first happened to be the March, '43, which had as a cover, my only attempt at stylus work of that sort. In case you don't remember, it was very poorly done. But before I ever got the thing out into view, the Circle Man began a long, drawn-out appreciative whistle, such as might conceivably be elicited by a Hunt Monster, or a Tom Wright nude on which someone else--Rudy Sayn, for example--had restuffed the posterior upholstery. I said something about the cover being very poor, and he broke off in the middle of the whistle, when he found that it was not having the desired effect. He didn't even have the wit to disagree with my statement.

And that, we hope, is the last you will hear out PHANNY concerning the Cosmic Circle, the One Man Multitude.

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Setting Warner straight department (or maybe it is Chauvenet, but I think it was Warner): Last year, you credited Ackermann with "The best crack of the year" award for the quotation, "All work and no play makes Jack." Now, I don't think Forrie claimed any originality in the matter, but you attributed it to him. An Aunt of mine, a business woman in Lincoln, sprang that one on me first, some time between 1927 and 1931, as being the latest crack of that sort that she had heard in her shop. How old it was then, I have no idea. "Old things are best," no doubt.

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When we have to dig back that far to find anything to comment on, it is about time to stop. And that is exactly what we are going to do; we are going to stop. We are going to stop just as soon as we have have typed enough words on this page to fill out to the end of line 57; and this is it.