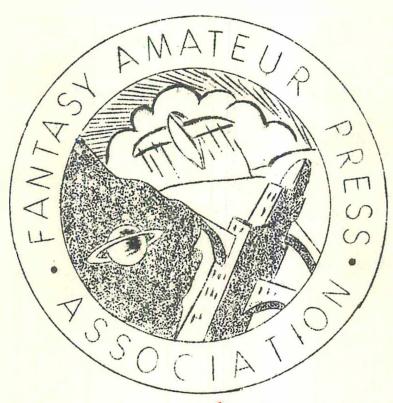
PHANTASY FRESS 15

FAPA MEMORY BOOK commemorating the

2014 ADDIVERSARY OF THE



fantasy amateur press association



1937 FAPA MEMORY BOOK 1957

Commemorating the 2014 ANNIVERSARY OF THE fantasy amateur press association

Special Edition PHANIASY PAESS

November, 1957 volume 14 - number 5 whole number 15

DAN MCPHAIL

RON PARKER associate editor and publisher

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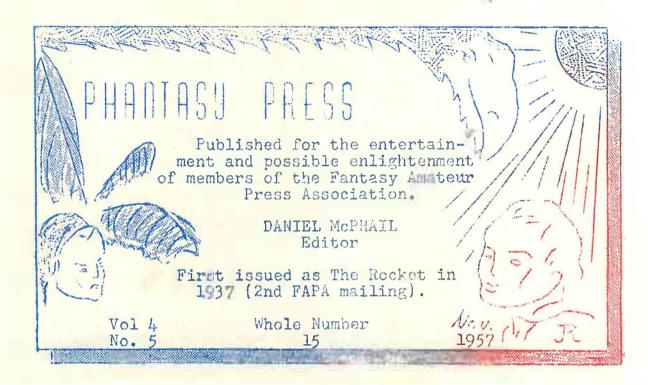
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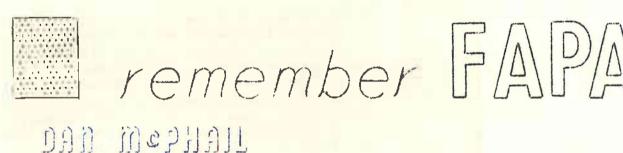
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Page 4 art is the standard logo.
All other interior art by Bill Rotsler.





It was a hot Summer day, much like any other that August of 1937. And life moved much as usual in the sleepy little Oklahoma town of Comanche, with little excitement other than the twilight league softball games, ice cream lawn parties and the outcome of the next chapter of the Tarzan serial at the Ritz on Saturday night.

Yet, one event has made it stand out from other days in my memory. That was the arrival of a large manila envelope. Its imprint, "Souvenir of New York City" was scratched through and the return address of one Donald A. Wollheim written im. The contents of that envelope was the very first mailing of the new Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

Yes, 80 mailings ago, the charter members of this organization brought forth that first, thin bundle. Its membership contained only a score of fans, all men and boys intensely absorbed in a new field of literature that had been on the newsstands only some eight years.

These fans, unlike devotees to other types of fiction; had banded together in clubs formed through correspondence with other readers. Readers whose letters had appeared in the "Discussions" department of the first science fiction magazine. Some began to issue small 'fan mags', containing news, fiction, articles, and artwork devoted to their hobby, and many displayed promising talent as budding authors and artists.

Don Wollheim and a few others were familiar with the various amateur press clubs and felt the time appropriate to form such an amateur journalism group among these fans. The first, hastily assembled mailing numbered only 42 pages, contributed by 6 members. They were: Ted Carnell, Will Sykora, Willis Conover, James Taurasi, J. V. Baltadonis, and Don Wollheim.

FAPA grows slowly but surely through the early years, overcoming many an internal crisis. It held together through the hectic wer years, and as it gained strength, altered its constitution in order to expand beyond its original limit of 50 members. The nations rising standard of living enabled members to acquire improved methods of duplicatic n and its publications grew in number, size and reader appeal. And as postwar science fiction's popularity increased, the organization gained a large waiting list of fans eager to enter this venerable club.

And now FAPA is 20 years old -- an institution held in high regard by fandom. Its list of alumni and present members include countless names that are prominent in the professional science fiction world. It is a hobby most rewarding in the bond of close companionship it brings to its members, irregardless of whether they be doctor, engineer, artist, teacher, minister, salesman, reporter, student or housewife. For we have them all in FAPA, and they share a common pleasure in their quarterly exchange of amateur journalistic efforts, personal opinions and creative works.

As a charter member, I had the pleasure of receiving that first FAPA mailing, on that hot Summer day twenty years ago. Now, time and faces have changed, but once again it is a typical Summer day, and a host of fans/friends are enjoying another mailing...the 80th direct descendant of that pioneer bundle!

I dedicate this special issue of PHANTASY PRESS, respectfully and fondly, to those who pioneered this organization. It is my tribute to FAPA's 20th Anniversary, and to the Class of '37. I hope you enjoy it,

and I know you join me in saying

Editor's Note: I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my Associate Editor and Publisher for this Special Issue, Ronald Parker, one of our Waiting Listers. He is responsible for most of the final work on layout, all stenciling, as well as the excellent reproduction. Without his generous assistance, I doubt this Memorial Edition could have been produced.

then and now

The CIO is now in the midst of a big drive to join all the steel workers in the nation into one union. Last month Governor Davey of Ohio ordered 4500 National Guardsmen into the steel strike area around

Youngstown.

Overseas, Jews and Arabs squabble in Palestine while Englandtries to deliver a judgment of Solomon in the crisis. On July 17th, the Spanish civil war was a year old and has already brought death to some On July 17th, the 500,000 of its peoples, and American volunteers are fighting -- a n d

dying -- there, too.

At home, headlines proclaim the rise of Fascism and Communism in the United States, while a grasshopper plague, the worst since 1880, ruins crops in the vast wheat belt. On July 2nd, Amelia Earhart flew into eternity on her round-the-world attempt, when her Lockheed Electra vanished over the Pacific. But a far more important aviation event is taking place over the Atlantic, where Pan-American and Imperial Airways have begun a series of survey flights, aimed at establishment of safe ocean flight.

Round steak and butter are about 35¢ a pound, milk is 11¢ a n d sugar about a nickle a pound, but money is tight. The WPA has c u t 315,000 off its relief rolls which drop them to 1,600,000. For those who can afford it, the new picture magazine, LIFE, advertises a La-Salle V-8 for 21095. And the new Oldsmobile has 95 horse power in the Six and a big 110 horses in the Eight!

But there is lots of entertainment, too. The sports fans saw a new heavyweight boxing champ crowned the night of June 22nd, when new-comer Joe Louis put James J. Braddock away in the 8th round. The big sensation on radio is one Charlie McCarthy (with Edgar Bergan) who first appeared last December. The top movies this Summer are "Knight Without Armor", with Marlene Dietrich, and "Topper", which stars Ron-ald Young, Constance Bennett and Cary Grant. Hal Roach left his famous two-reel comedies to film this, and it is drawing big crowds.

.....If the above coverage of "current events" sounds strange to some of you, there is a reason for it. For that is the world as it was in July and August of the year 1937. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in his second term as president of these United States and we were still struggling in the backwash of the terrible depression of those As a result, for many people, pleasures were few and simple, and as inexpensive as possible.

And a new breed of reader and collector - the science fiction fan - often found his then skimpy collection almost more than he could But by some means or another, many managed to obtain a n d keep the publications of that period. This also included keeping a close watch on 'border-line' prospects, such as ARGOSY, POPULAR, DOC SAVAGE, DIME MYSTERY, HORROR STORIES and KAZAR THE GREAT.

Of course the fans big interest lay in AMAZING STORIES, ASTOUN-

DING STORIES THRILLING WONDER STORIES and WEIRD TALES. To retain the atmosphere of the fan world of two decades ago, let's take a look at a typical issue of a typical prozine of that day, to wit:

Thris publication was the outgrowth of Hugo Gernsback's SCIENCE WONDER and AIR WONDER STORIES of 1929, later WONDER STORIES. Gernsback had sold out a year previously to Better Publications which were continuing on a bi-monthly basis. The magazine had a bulky feel, with its untrimmed 132 pulp pages, and you felt you had a good buy for the 15¢ price tag. It had a Wesso cover, containing a tremendous amount of detail, showing Earthmen attacking ameoba-like creatures on Ganymede. It depicted a scene from John W. Campbell's "The Double Minds". Other novelettes were by Otis A. Kline, Eando Binder, and Paul Ernst, with shorts by Edmond Hamilton (about an earth satellite, no less), J. Harvey Haggard and two newcomers. All inside illos were by Wessoloski and excellent. P. E. Cleator, a leader in the British Interplanetary Society, had a most comprehensive article on rocket decloments, with photos. Issues of this time also featured "IF", an interesting illustrated "believe-it-or-not" type by Jack Binder, younger brother of the other two, EandO Binder; plus the notorious Zarhak carton which raised a howl similar to that against the 'build-in funnies' of a certain prozine that was due to appear nearly twenty years later.

TWS of those days included a host of "extras" including book re-

views (Weinbaum Memorial volume), movie reviews ("The Eternal Mask"), Science Questions and Answers, Swap Column, The Reader Speaks(letters from J.V. Baltadonis, Roy Squires. T. Bruce Yerke) and the Science Fiction League, which listed six foreign chapters and 30 domestic(including one at Bloomington, Ill.) James Taurasi is amounced as head of the new Flushing chapter. Among new members are R.R. Winterbotha, John Guinta and Alex Osheroff. Ads included interesting data regarding 40 power telescopes for \$2.48, false teeth on 60 day trial, and how to raise giant frogs. Also other mags of that time were advertised: POPULAR WESTERN, THE PHANTOM DETECTIVE, G-MEN, MECHANICS AND

HANDICRAFT, EVERYDAY ASTROLOGY and COLLEGE HUMOR.

The fan world of 1937 was small but active and many excellen t fanzines appeared, in many forms. Perhaps the best in appearance was SCIENTIFICTION, printed bi-monthly by Walter Gillings. This British Fantasy Review contained a wealth of information and resembled the

American SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST, an earlier publication.

In the U.S. the first great surge of fandom appeared over, as the outstanding ISA group disbanded and discontinued their large size IN-TERNATIONAL OBSERVER. The S.F. Advancement Assn was building, spear-headed by their monthly TESSERACT. Morris Dollens celebrated the first anniversary of his excellent SF COLLECTOR by changing the hecto mag to large size, and then the very next issue he had to give up the magazine. John Baltadonis then took over in a very efficient manner. Richard Wilson brought out a neat, printed issue of THE ATOM. Other fanzines included Olon Wiggins SF FAN and Claire Becks SF CRITIC. And in Flushing, NY a young fan, Jimmy Taurasi, launched what was to be a long and successful career with the first issue of COSMIC TALES.

But the biggest event of the year was not launched with great fanfare, but slowly developed, mainly through correspondence, by its founder, Donald A. Wollheim. I refer, of course, to the Fantasy Ama-

teur Press Association.

And now, 20 years have passed since FAPA was launched. Two turbulent decades have seen the teen-age fans of 1937 grow into manhood. fight in a world war that saw some give their lives in their country's cause, has seen them marry, and has even seen some of their children become fans.

The small, exclusive world of sf has grown to enormous size and fans number in the thousands. And the men who launched FAPA can look with pride on the oldest of fan organizations in which membership has become a much sought after and cherished badge of the actifan.

a message

from the 1956-57 President of the Janjasy Amajuer
Press Association

VERNON McCAIN

908 Walker Wenatchee, Wash. June 21, 1957

Dear Dan:

About this proposed memorial publication, I don't know just what I can say. My own membership in FAPA comprises only 72 of those twenty years and, since my interest in the organization is primarily of a current, rather than historical, nature I find it difficult to think of any really germane comment to make.

However, I might say that I do think this is a noteworthy anniversary in that it demonstrates a remarkable stability for an organization which exists within a movement always distinguished for its constantly changing nature and amorphousness. It took a unique (though perhaps fortuitous rather than intentional) combination of factors to build a group which offered its members sufficient return in satisfaction and enjoyment to make it a permanent institution rather than merely another in the long list of mayfly clubs which science-fiction fandom has otherwise spawned. Many individuals contributed to this success but I think that two can be particularly singled out for mention. The member that contributed more than any other to this valuable sturdiness was; in the first decade of FAPA's existance, Jack Speer, while in the second decade I think the most valuable member salute was earned by Harry Warner.

Vernon M. Cain

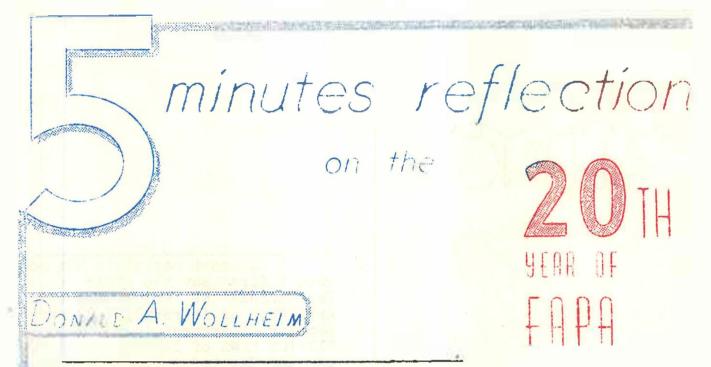
Vernon McCain President 1956-57 of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association Greetings

FROM THE

CLASS of 37

In the following pages, PLANTASY PRESS is privileged to present cricles and comments from some of the small band of charter members of the Fortasy Amateur Frees Association, "Class of 157."

The Editor approciates greatly the kindness of these ploneer members, who were able to spare the time to contribute to this special Memorial Edition.



From the fertile brain of Don Wollheim.
No. 1 Fan of his time, came the original concept of our organization; "....to go on for years...", he said at that time. But we doubt that he visualized the extent of its growth when he launched it two decades ago.

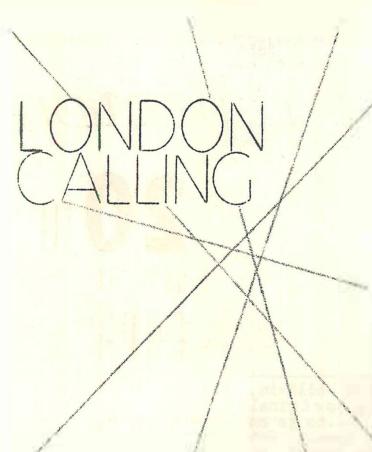
When I look back on my fan activities of bygone days (and I must say that generally I dislike doing so, as I ever prefer to keep looking forward to present projects and future plans) I am sometimes rather astonished at how unimportant has become so many of the things that loomed so big on those fannish horizons. Feuds and arguments, opinions and urgent causes, have somehow flattened out and now it hardly seems worth the bother of remembering how they came out or even if they were ever completed. But it is beginning to seem as if, among all the hullabaloo of an active fan career, the creation of the FAPA may eventually prove the most permanent. It is at this time running neck and neck with two other innovations of my creation in the thirties——the invention of the sf convention and the creation of GhuGhu. But time is likely to favor FAPA, if this is to prove an elimination contest.

And so I can honestly say that I'm happy to hear FAPA is healthier than ever in this of the far future, 1957 (as it seemed then---Gernsback in one of his early stf magazines said we'd reach the moonby 1950---see what I mean?), and that its mailings are assuming astronomical proportions and its line of applications waiting for membership evidently now stretches all the way around the block and halfway across

the avenue.

One of the practical purposes of an amateur press association is to serve as a practical training ground for professional careers in the literary world. The roster of the National A.P.A., for instance, has quite a list -- but a survey of the sf pro field today would show a solid list of FAPA graduates in all branches. And I think that for only twenty years of existance, it would be shown to have easily atstripped all other organizations of its sort, percentagewise.

So, keep those mimeos running!



A pleasant nostalgia hit me when I first saw the title that Ted Carnell is using for this article, as it recalls his very popular department in my SCIENCE FICTION NEWS of 1935-36. Ted, pioneer fan and a loyal friend, edits Britain's two top prozines and is Chairman of this year's WorldCon in London.

ARNELL

It certainly seems strange typing the old column heading after a lapse of twenty years but I greatly appreciate Dan McPhail inviting me to contribute an article to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of FAPA. I also get a kick out of learning that quite a number of my old-time columnist friends will be appearing in this issue. The surprising thing is that so many of the old-time fans are still active in the field ---many of them professionally.

Without my file of those early SCIENCE FICTION NEWS handy (they were carbon copies, with a circulation of about 20, I believe) I am having to rely on memory for past events, but the most significant item to myself is the friendships made all those years back which have endured and even been strengthened through the two decades.

Dan McPhail was one of the first Americans I became friendly with through fandom -- the sequence grew out of my contacting George Gordon Clark of Brooklyn, who was No. 1 in the old Science Fiction League. A column I wrote for his BROOKLYN REPORTER brought a request from Claire Beck of California for his SCIENCE FICTION CRITIC. Dan picked it up from there and "London Calling" was inaugurated. From those early beginnings the long trail eventually led to permanent editorship of Britain's two magazines, NEW WORLDS and SCIENCE FANTASY. Fate certainly produces some strange twists.

One of the first columnist scoops I made back in those days for Dan was to cover the premiere of H. G. Well's "Things To Come" and get the copy away by air on the first transatlantic mail plane, which meant that he had the copy out within 10 days of the film being shown in London. By and large the column dealt with the early struggles of an isolated British fandom growing up without any home produced professional magazines. They were pretty good days even then, although I think they are a lot better today.

12

I had a lot of fun producing items for FAPA in its early stages—at that time I was working in a printing house in London and was able to set up and run off the JOURNAL's for the British Interplanetary Society, for which I was Publicity Director. Copies of these Journals became my contribution to FAPA. And through FAPA I corresponded with Don Wollheim, Bob Lowndes, Bob Madle, Jack Baltadonis, and a host of others still active in science fiction — most of whom I have now met on one or the other of my two trips to the States. But the crowning disappointment is that I have never yet met Dan McPhail, although we have spoken to each other by telephone and our two families correspond regularly.

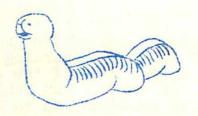
This column is more reminiscences than reporting -- unavoidably so when thinking back over the events of 20 years, yet this gap finds myself Chairman of the 15th World Science Fiction Convention being held in London. Few Americans will realize the intense satisfaction British fans in general feel at this step forward along the inter-nationalization of science fiction -- they are determined that this year's Convention will be one which will go down in Con history as being a criterion. From the advance information I have, it certainly looks as though it will be, too.

With John W. Campbell, Jr. coming over as Guest of Honor, and a charter plane with 55 visiting Americans, plus others travelling independently, North American representation is going to be strong. We have to live up to a lot of big past Convention events and at the same time present a Convention that is subtlely different in a British manner. Primarily the success of the Convention will rest on timing and organizational ability, both of which I am assured of through the Programme Committee who all reside in Liverpool, some 250 miles North.

By the time this article is published the Convention will be almost upon us. I wish that all of you who read this could be there. That being impossible you will be hearing a lot about it in the f a n press and pro journals after it is all over. Whatever the opinions finally expressed I am thinking of the Convention as the bridge that has spanned a 20-year gap. There should be a lot of traffic across it in the years to come.



FAN TO FAN I



Dear Jack:

I was reading an old letter, dated Oct. 12, 1935, from Comanche, the other day. It started off "I was talking to Preston /my cousin/

in study hall the other day and we got started on stf."

That was the first communication that I received from Jack Speer, SFL $_{\pi}$ 297. Which must make us among the very early correspondents of fandom, I'd say. You mentioned that you were then in correspondence

with DAW and I had a few fellows I'd written to, also.

Anyway, it was a long time ago, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge, as they say, but they have certainly been colorful, eventful years. All of us have had experiences and have evolved into ways of life that we perhaps little suspected in those happy, long-ago days. You especially, Jack, have had a varied career the past two decades. Compared to myself, for example, you have really gone places. Africa, all points of the U.S., I guess perhaps all of the s-f cons and have met a great many of the more prominent fans. And now established, with family, in a successful (I trust) legal career.

commemorating FAPA's 20th Anniversary. It will be an effort to add to the historical volumes of fandom - of which you have contributed so much. As FAPA's only continuous member since 1937, would you kindly write a review of the past 20 years, hitting the highlights and major

developments?

As Ever,

Dan

Dear Fellow-Fossil:

I turned your suggested topic over in my mind, but didn't come up with anything that seemed to be worth writing an article about. So instead I dug up a rough draft that had been ripening in my drawer for

a few years, and rewrote it, as you see enclosed.

No, I haven't been to nearly all of the s-f conventions. I was doing pretty well up to 1948, and then I didn't hit any until 1950 and 1951 and haven't been to one since. I'd like to go to the one in London, and am hoping to....

See You In FAPA,

Jack

FAPA has never had a more stanch and loyal supporter than Jack Bristol Speer, chart er member and legal-guardian of our order. His services have ranged from constitutional rewriting to outright financial support. PHANTASY PRESS is unable to print his article due to its length, but watch for his "Tarzan and the Lost World" complete in the next issue.

PHANTASY FRESS is happy for the privilege of bringing back to FAPA a charter member who led all others in activity our first year. He is a most distinguished alumnus who has made a career of covering the news events of the s-f world. We therefore are presenting his article much as he would do in his famous newspaper, which, we are proud to say, was inspired by the old Rocket, our predecessor.

Science-Fiction Times

16th Year - Vol. 12--Extra Aug. 1957 Special PHANTASY PRESS Edition

OLDEST SCIENCE FICTION NATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN U.S. CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY

by JAMES V. TAURASI, SR.

College Point, NY, 7 July 1957 (CNS)* - With its 80th mailing The Fantasy Amateur Press Association celebrates its 20th Anniversary, making it the oldest national science-fiction fan organization in the United States. Only two local clubs, the PSFS and the LASFS are older, and the World Science Fiction Convention is next in line with 18 years of age.

When the FAPA was activated there were about 50-odd fans in the US, and each one bought or traded to get every fan mag then being published. With this in mind, the FAPA was organized; patterned after the NAPA and other non-sf amateur press organizations. The founding fathers forsaw the day, they thought, when subscription fan mags would be a thing of the past and all fan mags would go out through the FAPA. No one at that time could see a future when s-f fandom would grow to enormous numbers. Today, unfortunately, the FAPA is almost a forgotten organization. Though the membership number has been raised, i t still is only a drop in the waters of s-f fandom, and subscription magazines are more numerous than ever before. One today may wonder why the limitation of FAPA was only 50 at the beginning. At that time most fan mags were hectographed, and 50 clear copies were all you could expect.

My own activity in the FAPA was cut short by the founding of FAN-TASY-NEWS in 1938 which began to take up most of my free time. Since then, SCIENCE FICTION TIMES, now in its 16th year, married life and two kids take up all my time, with no time at all for such a fine or -

ganization.

Let us, 20 years later, look up a few of the Charter members of the FAPA and see what they have done in s-f in twenty years:

- 1. Donald A. Wollheim. Since then he's married, has a kid, has edited such pro mags as STIRRING SCIENCE STORIES, COSMIC . SCIENCE FICTION, AVON FANTASY READER, AVON S-F READER, 10 STORY FANTASY; has been a successful s-f author, editor of anthologies and is at present the editor of the ACE s-f pocket books and SATURN SCIENCE FICTION.
- John B. Michael is the editor of an air magazine among other things.
 Ted Carnell is the editor of the British NEW TORLDS and SCIENCE-FAN-TASY, is editor of numerous anthologies, s-f agent and chairman of the 15th Worldcon.

4. Fred Pohl has been editor of SUPER SCIENCE STORIES, ASTONISHING STORIES, of numerous anthologies, a most successful s-f author, and his new s-f magazine STAR SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE will see its

first issue this fall.

5. Dave Kyle has been a s-f book editor, s-f artist, chairman of the 14th World Science Fiction Convention, and chairman of the successful London Plane Trip and organizing the chartering of a plane to carry 55 fans to and from the LondonCon this year.

Julius Schwartz at the time of the organization was a successful sf agent. Now he is editor of the Superman DC comics, editing two sf

comics, STRANGE ADVENTURES and MYSTERY IN SPACE.

7. Robert W. Lowndes has been a successful sf author and is now editor of FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION, SCIENCE FICTION STORIES and SF QUARTERLY.

Dick Wilson has turned out to be one of the top-notch sf authors of

today.

9. Sam Moskowitz has become Mr. Science Fiction of Eastern US. He edited SCIENCE FICTION PLUS, an anthology, runs a series of articles in SATELLITE SCIENCE FICTION and is the successful editor of the leading frozen foods magazine. Author of THE IMPORTAL STORM, the only history of sf and of sf fandom, and still one of the most active fans in the field.

10. Robert A. Madle has a successful column in Lowndes' s-f magazines,

"Inside Science Fiction', and is still very active.

11. Our own boy, Dan McPhail, has returned to activity in s-f fandom. He is a past president of the Oklahoma SF Confederation, (successor to the old OSA), and Co-Ordinator for this year's 5th OklaCon. He is an interviewer for the Employment Security Commission and feature editor of their employees journal; is chief observer of his cities Ground Observers Corps and puts out their bulletin. He is married and has two children.

12. Me, I publish SCIENCE FICTION TIMES, the oldest fan mag of them all, and do some articles for the pros now and then (see the Sept., 1957 AMAZING STORIES). I'm employed as a mechanic for the Consolidated Edison Company, a producer of electric and gas light and power. Work usually in the giant power house next door to the UN in New

York City.

Most of the founding members were in their teens or early 20s when TAPA was started and are now past or pushing 40, and almost all are

still active one way or another in science fiction fandom.

My most heartfelt congratulations to a fine organization on its 20th Anniversary. It brings back old happy times. Hey, Dan, place me on the waiting list. I want in again!

*Cosmic News Service

Editor's Note: It was my very great pleasure, on receipt of the above, to write the Secretary and request that the name of James Taurasi, charter member, be placed on the FAPA waiting list.

BOB MADLE

Bob Madle is the 1957 winner of the TAFF election and will represent the US at the London convention.

Here, one of fandom's most distinguished historians reveals for the first time the intrigue and maneuvers that went on before the start of FAPA.

Thapter went on FROM THE EGINNIG

How did the FAPA actually start? What were the underlying causes for its formation twenty years ago? Those are difficult questions, especially the latter because some might say there were no basic causes -- it was just something that Wollheim just dreamed up one night. Perhaps so. But it is felt here that the following little tale which I don't think has been told before, may shed some light on the subject.

As those of you who have read THE INMORTAL STORM know, the leading fan group of 1935-36 was the International Scientific Association. This was an organization originally intended for the discussion of and advancement of science. However, as time displayed, the most active and vociferous members of the group were science fiction fans. The president of the ISA (formerly the International Cosmos Science Club) was William S. Sykora. Other leading lights were John B. Michel, Frederick Pohl and Donald Wollheim.

Briefly, Sykora was a rare combination of scientific experimenter and science fiction fan. He had been reading sf since the early Gernsback days, and was firmly convinced that science fiction should develop in one an interest in practical science. The ISA was based on this premise. However, it soon became evident to Sykora that the science fiction fans were rapidly assuming control of the organization, and the "scientific experimenter" group were either leaving the club, or remaining inactive. This was a blow to the Sykora idealogy, and Will, a man of sudden and strange decisions, made one that shook fandom to its very foundations.

Sykora, realizing that he was loosing control of not only the basic reason for the existance of the ISA, but of the organization itself, sent a letter to all members of the club announcing his resignation. He deplored the fact that "scientifiction had become an end in itself", rather than a means to an end. In his letter he recommended James Blish or Robert A. Madle as his successor. It should be observed that both Blish and myself were very young -- but very active members in the ISA, despite the fact that we were comparatively recent members. Even so, I was dumbfounded to be named by the great Sykora as his successor.

Wollheim, realizing that Sykora really wanted to get control of the ISA out of New York, decided to disband the organization. By some clever manipulating, he was able to do this, and to all intents and purposes, the ISA was dead.

It was at this time that Wollheim decided that a truly representative science fiction club should be formed to fill the vacuum created by the dissolution of the ISA. Now Wollheim was quite active in the

mundane APA's of the day, and saw in them the germ of a new science fiction organization. He talked over the idea with his compatriot, John B. Michel, who was quite enthused. Then both Wollheim and Michel made a special trip to Philadelphia to discuss the situation with me. (This was Memorial Day, 1937).

At this time Wollheim was, without a shadow of a doubt, the biggest name in fandom, and his special attention to me was very flattering. In retrospect I can see that Wollheim felt it would be more logical to have me with him than against him. Despite the fact that I was only 16 at the time, I was the editor only fan magazine, and had recently be en elected President of the PSFS. Also, and this is very significant --- Sykora had named me as a potential successor.

Vollheim outlined his plans to me. They included a modest beginning with fans either placing their subzines in the mailings, or creating a new publication for the organization. Eventually, explained DAW, the entire fan field would be simplified to the extent that everyone would receive everyone else's fanzine -- under this most novel arrangment. After all, no one made money on fanzines, and this would insure the receipt of all others in exchange. Furthermore, it would be an organization of science fiction fans (scientific experimenters were not wanted and, indeed, would find it difficult to become members).

The officers had already been handpicked. Wollheim, of course, would be the President, Michel Official Editor, and Pohl Secretary-Treasurer. The office of Vice-President was offered to me. I accepted -- naturally. (Note: The offices held by Michel and Pohl may be reversed. After 20 years, it is possible that my memory is a little shaky.)

A month or so later I was visiting in New York and received a letter from Will Sykora. He wanted to see me immediately -- on a matter of utmost importance. That evening I found my way out to Long Island City and was confronted with a real pregnant proposition by oily Will. He wanted the ISA reorganized (it had been illegally disbanded, he said) and wanted me to be President. Two magazines would be published --- a science fiction magazine and a science-experimenter's magazine. I would edit the former, he the latter. His mimeograph would be come mine; he would supply all the money needed to get the organization off to a good start.

My youthful mind reeled with the possibilities. In one swoop I could become one of the leaders of fandom -- and be able to publish the fan magazine of my dreams (I had always visualized a printed or well-mimeoed zine based on the old SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST.) Fully aware of the fact that I would incur the wrath of Wollheim, I accepted. (It should be mentioned that, up until this time, very few people had in-curred the wrath of Wollheim -- and stayed in fandom.)

Not only did I announce my plans of reorganizing the ISA, but I also decided to run for V-P of FAPA, despite the 100% opposition of the Wollheim group. In the election returns I lost out by one vote to an Indian bloke from Oklahoma named Mick Fale or Mack Fale, or something like that. I can still vividly recall hollering foul, and accus in g Wollheim of rigging the election. However, DAW merely benignly stated "Whom the Gods destroy, the first make mad."

This was all so long ago. Yet as I sit here and recall the se events it doesn't seem possible that 20 years passed. And who would have thought, in 1937, that the FAPA would still be flourishing--assentially in its original form -- in 1957?



Michael Rosenblum, editor of the Leeds SFL Bulletin of 1938, and a leader in keeping British fand om alive during the long war years, here pays tribute to FAPA for its role as a source of inspiration and hope during those difficult times.

No one can deny that twenty years is a long time, and it rather shakes me to think that it is so long since the formal inception of the FAPA. Alas, where have the years gone to? But I am very pleased that someone has thought about it, and proposes to mark the occasion by the issue of a special edition and I salute the gallant Mr. McPhail as a founder-member who has stayed the course - which is more (alas, again!) than I managed to do.

There is little doubt that someone else will deal with the birth pangs and early days of the society. All this takes its place in the fan histories. That I should like to do is give an appreciation of how much FAPA meant to me in the early years of the war - Britain's war, I mean - 1939 to 1941.

British fandom disintegrated right at the outbreak of hostilities. There were good reasons for this. Many people were in the forces in the first few months, many were evacuated from their original haunts, all of us had no idea of what conditions would be like and some of us rather expected long-range rockets and the breakdown of civilization before the year was out. Our Leeds group just melted away-the chairman had just qualified as a chemist and went straight into the medical corps: the librarian was a 'territorial' (similar to the US National Guard) one was already a 'militiaman' - that was the first group of peacetime conscripts called up just before the war began, and others followed in the groups of conscripts called up on the outbreak. As some of you are aware, I wouldn't go; but we won't go into that just now.

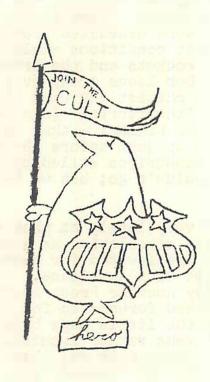
But all in all, I was very lonely at that time. Arthur C. Clarke did start some chain-letters circulating as soon as regular addresses were obtainable but these were few and far between. Fandom to me therefore became entirely contact with Americans. And the nerve-centre of that contact was the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. That was the time when mailings were looked forward to for weeks, read and re-read avidly; and the atmosphere the little mags brought with them seemed to bring a breath of sanity (seems rather ironical to say that about fandom, but 'tis true) into a thoroughly mad phase of existance. If some of the FAPAns of the time did not realize this, may I point out that it

is by far my strongest memory of FAPA. I almost lived the snippets of real life that were mentioned so casually, I was practically present at the Conventions and meetings whose accounts were published - since then recent Conventions seem hazy echoes of what the real Conventions h a d been like--to one who wasn't there. They became twice as large as life at least.

So I should like to make this message an appreciation of the mental and the moral assistance given to me, at least, by the American members of FAFA in those war years. If I may, I would expand this appreciation wider by offering thanks to all American fandom who showed their solidarity with British fandom and sent over fan and prozines, laid out subscriptions for us, and even sent food parcels at times. And I rather have the suspicion that FAPA was then the central nervepoint that made these things possible. Which may be something of a new idea to you Yankees as to the reason d'etre of the organization.

I am still sorry that outside reasons forced me to leave FAPA soon after the war. Please count me as a most sympathetic onlooker. In my room, crammed with books and magazines that wait years for tidying and listing, I still have two boxes of all the FAPA mailings of the first ten years, and I still enjoy just leafing through them for a quick glance after all these years; and one day I have promised to let Ron Bennett read right through them, which may lead to an article or two.

FAPA -- oh, those dear dead days ...



REFLECTIONS

It is a pleasure to present the views of the top editor of the Columbia Publications, as charter member Bob Lowndes turns his keen analytical eye on some of the early concepts of FAPA.

When the Fantasy Amateur Press Association was formed, back in the Summer of 1937, I doubt that anyone stopped to wonder whether it would still be going twenty years hence. And I doubt even more whether any of the founders imagined FAPA existing in 1957, but without most of the "big name" fans of the time, who had set it up. I myself am astonished to learn, every few years, that FAPA yet survives—but somehow the surprise is a pleasant one, even though I haven't seen a mailing for well nigh a decade.

It might not be a bad idea to look into some of the original expectations of the founding fathers, estimate whether they were realized, and see if they still make sense today. I can speak very authoritatively on this subject because I've had no connection with FAPA for about a dozen years, and no connection with any other APA for over six years, I am thus uncontaminated by contact with my subject. (This is one of the prime requisites, you know, for being an authority on any aspect of science fiction - it's best to have had no experience at all; the next best thing is to have had a little experience - sufficiently long ago to insure that any knowledge you may have is properly obsolete.)

There were quite a few fan magazines in business in 1937, but a fan publisher could never be sure of his circulation. Not that any fan publisher, to my knowledge, ever expected to make a profit on his venture - merely to clear expenses was the top expectation--but the publishing fan did want to have his efforts read by other fans of the day, particularly the top ten. He could rarely be sure whether a given run was sufficient - the odds were that he'd have stacks of copies he couldn't even give away, or that he'd find he had a sell-out and late-comers were clamoring for copies.

FAPA, we reasoned, would solve the problem: the FAPA publisher could be sure of a definite circulation, and need print no more copies than were necessary to cover the membership. If he wanted to print more, to circulate outside the organization, that was another m atter; if I remember correctly, he could offer them to sale to non-members.

Well, the fact that FAPA is still going pretty much proves that this was a sound idea. After all, while the act of publishing your own paper is rewarding in itself, the fun doesn't last if you don't see evidence that a fair number of people are reading your efforts.

I think that, while there was no intention to drive the subscription magazines out of business, we reasoned that, if the new organization clicked, FAFA would absorb all the fan publishers. The idea was that, for a modest membership fee, which would cover mailing costs, we could be all sure of getting all the fan magazines published. In those days, new ventures were popping up all the time; at times fan magazine collectors would learn of a new title only after the first few i ssues were out of print.

Needless to say, this was a futile hope and obviously is even less likely to be realized today. Nor should it be. Some fan publishers don't want an assured circulation; they want to see how well their efforts can compete in an open market and want to conduct their hobby in the manner of a business. There was certainly that element of competition in 1937 fan magazines, and I suspect that it's still there today. In some instances, the fan publishing independently will bring out a better product than he would were his circulation assured. It's all a matter of individual temperament; some need the spur of competition for sales while others will do their best anyway.

FAPA publishing offered opportunity for a type of journalism which the subscription magazine did not — the personal organ, the publication which was glorified correspondence. Instead of writing long letters to a dozen people, you wrote one long letter and it was sent to up to fifty people. This approach could bring forth some pretty sad publications, but it could also result in some fascinating ones, too. Both kinds appeared. And, after all, since each member receives a large selection of publications, he'd get his money's worth, even if he does ignore some items in the package.

I think it's safe to assume that this still goes on.

The facts of life being what they are, we mustn't overlook the fact that part of the motive in organizing FAPA was prestige-building on the part of the organizers and the heavy contributers. That motive still exists, and there's nothing wrong with it. Fans being what they are, you have to deliver in order to build prestige, and fan reputations have been boosted via FAPA. It's still going on, isn't it? Fine. There was also the hope of bringing collective influence to bear upon the professional magazine editors. This was more nebulous, since it assumed the possibilities of a more united voice in fandom that could or can be ever realized. That professional editors are susceptible to fan influence goes without saying; however, the extent has never be en measurable, and I doubt if it will ever be such.

And, finally, there was the hope that, through the media of publishing and criticizing in FAFA, some fans could be helped to attain the status of professional authors.

This, I have become convinced, is a fallacy. It overlooks the fact that few "fan critics" understand professional standards well enuf to make meaningful criticism - and "few" is an overstatement. The effect of such criticism is more likely to foster illusions than to offer genuine help, to convince the would-be writer that he is ready to sell when he is nowhere near the mark. Even professional criticism is not too reliable, because the man who tells you that you're ready for sales doesn't buy the stories. The only professional criticism that really helps an author in is the kind that comes in a letter from a neditor, saying "do so-and-so and I'll take it."

All in all, I think that most of the intentions of FAPA's founders were realized, and that the original aims are good today, in respect to its continuance, as they were in 1937. Of course, they've all been improved upon; that goes without saying.

The formation of FAPA as seen in

tory of early fandom, "The Immortal Storm." At his suggestion, we are reprinting Chapter 22 from this important work. The immortant work.

by SAM MOSKOWITZ

As hes been noted, Donald A. Wollheim was the leading fan during the first six months of 1937. And when fandom felt its foundations swept away, naturally all looked to Wollheim for leadership. His first answer was that America fandom had failed, and that all should look to Britain. To those who still wished to publish Wollheim set the example by issuing a series of envelope-sized mimeographed leaflets which he nicknamed "mijimags." These carried such titles as, The Science Fiction Bard, The Mentator, Voice of the Gostak and others. Some of these were the works of Pohl. Here, said Wollheim, was a cheap form of publishing. "magazines" which could be distributed free to correspondents.

Science fiction author, editor and agent. FAPA charter member

Sam Moskowitz is noted also for compiling the only complete his-

But fans did not take to this idea. Some of them, viewing the large number of titles, imagined the firle to be as flourishing a sever; they recognized no general collapse, but nevertheless could not help feeling the lack of integration in the field. Wishing to do something about it, they attempted to publish as before, but were met by the obstacles we have already noted and could not understand why conditions were not alleviated.

Then Wollheim, bowing to the desire of fandom to continue on its own, came forward with a second idea, not only much better than his first but of such surprising foresight as almost to fail because the youthful fans were not ready for it. For some time such fans a swellheim, Shepard and Bloomer had been active in amateur press associations. Indeed, in the Fall of 1936 Wollheim had actually discussed with Miller and Blish the possibilities of organizing such a group in the fan field; nothing came of it at the time, however. In mid-1937 he not only proposed the idea as a solution to fandom's problems, but began immediately to work on the material factors needed for its success. Through correspondance and personal contact he convince d such rising leaders as Baltadonis and Taurasi of the efficacy of his new idea. Then the leading fans of the time received a sample mailing from "The Fantasy Amateur Press Association." This mailing consisted of a number of magazines; outside of Solor, the work of Taurasi, all of them had been published by Wollheim and his friends.

Wollheim's article, "Why the Fantasy Amateur Press Association?" in the first issue of The FAPA Fan was a masterpiece of simple, concise, patient explanation. He explained that there were about two dozen titles in the field at the time, appearing with great irregularity. The average circulation of a fan magazine was between twenty and thirty-five. Those surpassing that range were rare exceptions. Was a paid circulation this low worth the effort expended? The answer, contended Wollheim, was No. Obviously, then, the only gain was the publisher's personal satisfaction.

He told of the amateur press groups, whose members could publish at any intervals they wished magazines of any shape, size, form or description. The distribution of these publications was emphasized: all members produced enough copies of their magazine to cover the entire membership. These were sent to a mailing manager who mailed to members at stated intervals a copy of each magazine so contributed. In this way, every editor and author could be certain that his work received the widest possible distribution. Wollheim emphasized the money, time and energy saved by eliminating seperate postings of magazines by individual editors to subscribers. There would be no deadlines to meet, no subscription lists to keep up by advertising, and so on; no fan need be obliged to continue printing a magazine he was no longer interested in because of outstanding subscriptions or any other reason. Concluded Wollheim:

We limited FAPA to fifty members because hecto magazines can not exceed that. We limit officers to one term....We limit membership to active fans because we do not want any deadwood. All members must be willing and able to do their share to hold up the fan magazine standards. The number of eligibles exceeds fifty. We believe that we will reach our limit in short order.

Had the fans been a bit older, a bit more mature, they might have realized that here was at least a temporary salvation for them. Active fans then numbered less than fifty---The Fantasy Amateur Press Association could have included every fan of importance. Wollheim's statements about the circulations of fan magazines were unquestionably true. Thus it might have been expected that fans would flock to the organization immediately, and enter into its activities with ent husiasm. But they did not.

Despite Wollheim's crystal-clear explanation the fans did not understand the FAPA. They did not understand it because nothing of comparable nature had ever entered the sphere of their interest before. The idea of giving any magazine away was regarded as almost fantastic; "We lose money as it is!" they protested. Some, because of past fracases, distrusted Wollheim hisself, mistakenly feeling that the organization belonged to him alone just as a fan megazine belongs to its publisher. In vain Wollheim pointed to the democratic constitution, providing for annual elections, which had been sent out with the mailing. Fans didn't understand that either. There had been plenty of fraternity but little democracy in previous organizations. They remembered the ISA where one group was always ahead of another in its interpretations of the constitution.

Then why didn't the association fail? The answer to that is twofold: Firstly, as we have previously noted, fans of that day were fanatic collectors of their own publications. FAPA magazines could be obtained in only one way---by joining FAPA. And so, many joined, probably feeling that for fifty cents they were probably striking a

bargain. Secondly, "ollheim virtually begged fans to join. He campaigned continually with all of his plentiful energy. As a result, many fans "did him a favor" and joined. But most of the joiners soon became intrigued after a while and wondered how they ever could have considered staying out. And still later many fans confined most or all of their activity to FAPA, thus contributing much to the progress and welfare of the group. But that is another story.

By December 1937 the roster of the association included Rosenblum, Wollheim, Michel, Carnell, Pohl, Kyle, Schwartz, Lowndes, Mc-Phail, Speer, Osheroff, Thompson, Taurasi, Wilson, Wiggins, Baltadonis, Madle, Moskowitz, "Vodoso" (the name under which a Los Angelles group received mailings), Thomas Whiteside and H. C. Koenig. As yet probably no one dreamed that FAPA would amount to much more than a passing fad. For FAPA did not become science-fiction fandom; it simply became another facet of the whole field. Fans continued to publish their own subscription magazines, and contributed worthless little sheets to FAPA. Fandom did not recognize a solution to its problems when it was offered: it continued to work out a salvation in the traditional, if fumbling, fashion.

Perhaps it is fortuanate, in the long run, that the Fanhasy Amateur press Association did not achieve its aim of becoming fundom itself. For this would have doomed fans to a cramped and isolated sphere, an obscure unit which might well have stagnated and died for lack of new blood. As an integral part of fandom, however, it continued to remain virile throughout its life.

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

DAN MCPHAIL

It has been a long time since as many old-time top flight names have appeared in one farzine as in this special edition of PHANTASY PRESS. It has been my real pleasure to hear again from good friends of by-gone days who took time from busy schedules to prepare material for this Memory Book. As I extend my thanks to them for their kind assistance, my thoughts go back to many events of First and Second Fandom with which they were so closely associated.

I regret that time, that relentless enemy of all editors, prevented me from including more members of the 'Class of '37', as well as those who came in shortly thereafter, such as Fdgar Mertin, Harry Warner, Forrest Ackerman and Bob Tucker. I do appreciate the many old friends who enswered my request for material and regret I did not have time to search out the others.

This Special Issue is my contribution to the written history of fandom, as an expression of gratitude for the many hours of enjoyment, and the many friends it has brought me. Ted Carnell and I are now in our 21st year of correspondance, and I hear at intervals from others. I am especially happy over sparking Jimmy Taurasi to join on the Maiting List and I look forward to his active return to FAPA.

Sam Moskowitz pointed out something to me in a recent letter. He said "Life plays peculiar tricks on us as we grow older. It broadens our interests but absorbs the time we have to engage in them. When we were very young, we had plenty of time but not enough money or knowledge. Now, as we grow older, we have the knowledge and relatively speaking, the money, but there are not enough hours in the day for what we have to do."

That is what I have certainly realized in preparing this publication. So many, many things come up in your work, family and community life, that it is a difficult matter to find enough time to do all the careful planning and research that you desire. Then, before you realize it, the mailing deadline is here and you must wind the thing up in time for a postmailing.

Stepping from the past to the present, I would like to pay special tribute to a Maiting Lister who has actually made this publication possible. He is Ron Parker and his fine skill and knowledge of mimeography is responsible for the neat espearance of this issue. He is a Good Man, and joins me in hoping this booklet will take its place along side the FANCYC, THE IMPORTAL STORM and THE NEO-FANYS GUIDE as a valuable reference work in this field.



a word about MORRIS SCOTT BOLLENS OFFICIAL ARTIST

When founder Wollheim began to lay plans for launching the Fantasy Amateur Press Association in 1937, he picked a promising young artist to create an official emblem for the new organization.

That artist was Morris Scott Dollens, then of North St. Paul, Minn., and he designed a symbol that has endured thru two decades, and adorns the cover of this FAPA MEMORY BOOK.

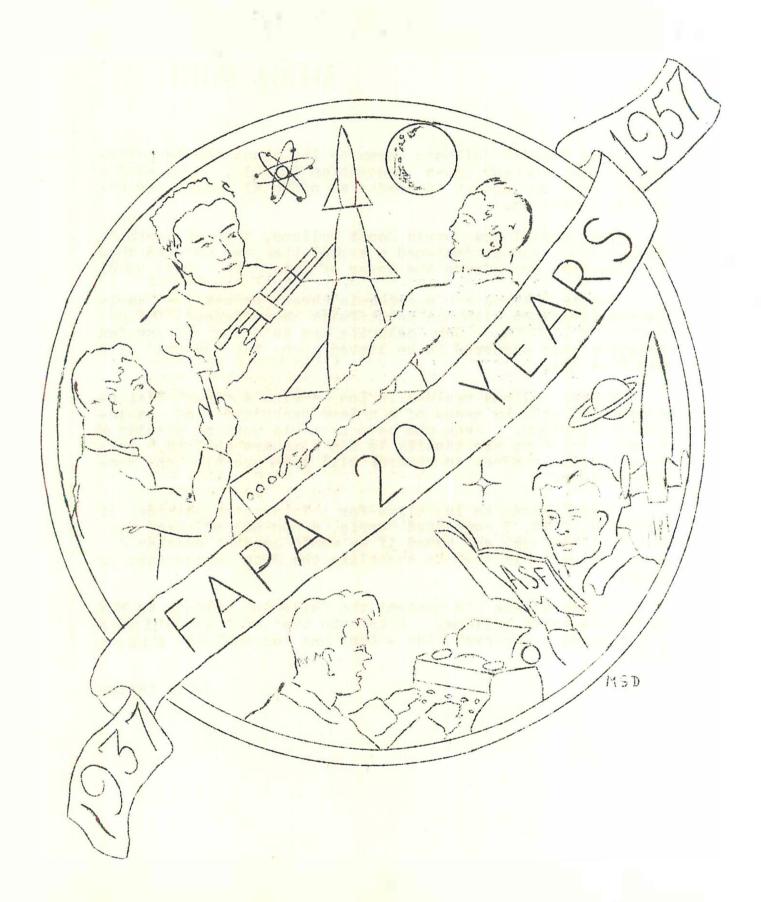
Morrie Dollens cut a meteoric career across the early fandom firmament with his beautifully hectographed SCITNCE FICTION COLLECTOR. Sam Moskowitz has said that if any fan magazine ever deserved to be listed among the "greats" it was this one.

Today, Dollens resides in Los Angeles and has distincuished himself by means of a unique technique of tabletop photography. Fans who have seen his work on display at recent WorldCons can testify to his fine art ability. Science fiction readers in general will soon see him on prozine covers.

When I began to lay plans for this special edition of PHANTASY PRESS, I contacted Morris, a pen pal of mine during the Thirties, and asked if he would create another design for us, this time to symbolize the 20th Anniversary of FAPA.

We are pleased to present the following tribute to FAPA by Morris Scott Dollens. A tribute that well symbolizes the changes - the evolution - that has taken place since 1937.

-- The Editor



in the beginning

Some twenty years aro, Don Wollheim stated that "the world of fantasy fans has entered upon the phase of amateur journalism and it will probably always have it."

The prophetic nature of his words are confirmed today in the fact that not one but several fan aviar groups are flourishing and show every indication of continuing to do so.

The Fantasy Amateur Press Association is a pioneer among fan organizations and its early history is hazy to many 'old-timers' and almost unknown to those who have joined the ranks of fandom since World War II days. It is the purpose of this section of the Memory Book to review many of the activities and highlights of FAPA's first year, 1937-38.



Pioneer Politics



DAN MOPHAIL

FAPA started with a very small membership and founder Wollheim appointed a temporary slate of officers to operate until enough fans joined to make an election possible.

In Pecember, the membership totaled 21 members and ballots were sent out to elect officials to complete the remainder of the year end-

ing in July, 1938.

Some pre-election campaigning went on, with Baltadonis having a "hand-bill" in the second mailing, boosting his stock for Sec. - Treas. Bob Madle also had a leaflet boosting his qualifications for Vice-President, while the incumbent had an ad in his newspaper ad vising

readers that "McPhail's the Man" for Veep.

Pon Wollheim swept a field of five candidates, polling 15 votes to 3 for Michael and one each for Moskowitz, Wilson and Wiggins. Dan McPhail took a hotly-contested, and disputed, race over Madle, 11 to 10, with one vote blank. Baltadonis tallied 16 votes for S-T against 2 for Wollheim (not a candidate, since he was running for Presiden t) and Wilson with one each for Dockweiler and Taurasi. Fred Pohl took Michael. 12 to 9 for the post of Official Editor.

Considerable opposition to the Wollheim group was developing and in the 4th mailing much political advertising appeared. Especially active was a group endorsing Ealtadonis, Speer and Madle for president, v-p and OE and supporting Taurasi for Sec.-Treas, although he was not associated with them. However, the New York party snowballed in to three offices, as Michael upset Baltadonis, 20 to 11, with Wiggins getting 7 votes, Sam Moskowitz 3 and Pohl 1. Lowndes took a close Veep race with 15 votes to 12 each for Speer and Wilson, while three others got a vote apiece. DAW polled 28 votes to 13 for Madle, and Taurasi

romped home with 31 votes to 11 for his four opponents.

So, again, the Michalists had retained control of the organization but an amazing development was to shortly take place. Opposition to the new administration was still strong but no one expected anything unusual to happen. Then the second section of the 5th mailing appeared in November, 1938, including a special issue of the FA, in which was printed a series of official correspondance. First, Lowndes resigned as Vice-President. Michal then apponited Olon Wiggins to replace him. Then, Nichal advised Wiggins that he, the president, was resigning, and recommending Richard Wilson Jr. as his replacement. Finally, DAW resigned as OE and suggested Milton Rothman as his successor. However, Walter Marconette came in as new V-P and Rothman took over the mailing duties.

As the Summer of 1938 approached, the first actual political paty was formed in FAPA. It was organized by Marconette, Taurasi and Mo-Phail and was named the Progressive Party, aiming at members that might be termed as "independents". Marconette designed a party emblem (a triangle enclosing a retort and a book) and McPhail issued PHAMTASY PROGRESS as their publication. A number of members joined the party and others made incuiries. Their announced aim was to fight the "isms" threatening FAPA and promote other benefits, especially regular

quarterly mailings.

37

The election that year was another hot political battle, and when the smoke had cleared, a new slate of officers were heading up the organization. There were not as many candidates as the previous election, and a total of 19 out of 28 qualified voters participated. McPhail had considered the race for President, but withdrew in support of Taurasi in order not to split the Progressive ticket. Jack Speer was making a second successive attempt to win the V-P crown, and this time another Michalist candidate faced him, Fred Pohl. For secretary-treasurer, retiring Wiggins was vieing against Robert Madle, while Walter Marconette faced Wack Agnew for Official Editor.

The outcome showed that Philadelphian Rothman had overwhelmingly defeated Taurasi, 15 to 4, while his stable-mate Madle had done almost as good, downing Wiggins of Colorado, 13 to 5. Speer triumphed over his New York rival, 11 to 7, but the big landslide went to Marconette, winner by a vote of 17 to 1. There was one member who cast a vote only in the presidential race. Shortly thereafter, Marconette submitted his resignation, claiming he never ran for the office of OE in the first place, and that his name was placed on the ballot w i theout his knowledge. (although he actually published one issue of the F A!) President Rothman then named Jack Agnew as Official Editor.

The mid-1940 election was fairly mild, although Rothman and Elmer Perdue did issue a campaign circular, and Speer, announcing he was not a candidate for office, did a review of the situation as he saw it. Final results saw an administration composed of Bob Tucker, president, Harry Warner, vice-president, Milton Rothman as sec-treas,

and Elmer Perdue, Official Editor.

Thus the first three years of FAPA's political history. Outside the bundles, there were often hot letters exchanged between contending parties, and much intrigue took place via the postage stamp route, as well as occasional gatherings of the clan. Generally speaking, there were two main opposing parties, with a sizable number of independents, who likely held the balance of power in those early days. The so-called Michelists group included Wollheim, Pohl, Lowndes, Wilson, and Wiggins. Their most active rivals were the Philadelphia group which included Baltadonis, Rothman and Madle plus Speer. These groups fought hard, and sometimes bitterly, for the 'silent vote', with the New York group finally locsing art.

It is difficult, these many years after, to recall, and locate, information and data relative to that period. The PHANTASY PRESS, which was originally a straight newspaper, carried very complete news coverage of FAPA politics as well as other events, as long as it appeared, but it ceased publication with its June, 1939 issue, in the

9th mailing.



At the end of the first full year of Fapa, President Wollheim, in accordance with established custom in other ayjay groups, set up a committee whose purpose would be to select the best work of 1937-38; and thus pave the way for an annual recognition of outstanding talent in our organization.

Following preliminary correspondence on the subject, the President wrote to

Dan McPhail, in way, 1938, as follows:

"as Vice-President, you would serve as Chairman of any Laureate Committee should such be appointed....do you think it advisable? I have in mind the appointment of five members, residing in different sections. Each will pick his choices (first and second) for various Laureate titles and send to you. You will total them and announce the winners. I suggest the following honorary titles: Publishing Laureate, Poet Laureate, Artist Laureate and Literary Laureate. These will not be given for specific items (as do other AFA's) but to individuals for total work.

The Literary Laureate to the mumber doing the best writing - story or article (or do you think we should divide this into two laureateships?)

"Poetry ... and Artist .. for best work in those fields.

"Choices will not be made on single specimens, they will be given for those who have done the most to deserve such a title. For instance, if A has published three very good publications, while B has put out seven fairly good on estable a wins it. But if has put out one publication to B's five - and if A's is very good, and B's five each not as good - B wins it anyway."

From this start, we evolved five catagories; the four above plus an Editing Laureate, for the member editing the best magazine in appearance and quality. The committee based their decisions not upon any single piece of work but on a general survey of all work by any individual.

Certificates, such as reproduced on page 35, were created, and donated to the winners, by John B. Michel. The committee, in its report in the Fall, 1938 Fantasy Amateur, said they felt these awards would prove an incentive for the members to strive for better work in the years ahead.

The second annual Laureate awards were made by chairman Walter Marconette, with a committee composed of Jack Speer, Frederick Pohl, Robert Lowndes, and followed the precedent of the first committee of tallying three points for first place, two for second.

The final results showed Publishing Laureate won by John Michel with Honor-able Mention going to the team of Forrest J. Ackerman and Morojo.

Editing Laureate winner was R.D. Swisher, with Russell J. Hodgkins runnerup. Artist Laureate went to Walter Marconette, with Leslie Ferri and John Baltadonis tied for Honorable Mention.

Poet Laureate was again won by Robert Lowndes, followed by J. Chapman Miske. Literary Laureate was awarded to J. Chapman Miske, with Honorable Mention going to H. C. Koenig. This writer's early Fapa files ends with the 12th mailing and the Fantasy Arateur (Sept., 1940) does not contain any announcement regarding the appointment of a Laureate committee let alone a report from one. Fresident Rothman had stated (in the March, 1940 FA) that "Jack Speer will continue with the Laureate Committee", but apparently no work was done on it. It should be noted, however, that Fapa had just gone through a most critical period, during which one mailing was actually not sent out, and records were in bad shape. Milton and Jack and a few others deserve a great amount of credit for bringing order out of chaos, and it is understandable that a Laureatship for the third year may have been omitted.

Harry Warner was Vice-Fresident for 1940-41, but I don't know if he headed up

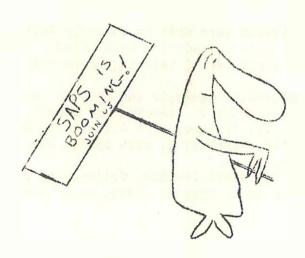
a Laureate committee at the end of his term or not.

I have no details upon the period from 1941 to 1946, but I understand the annual awards, citing outstanding work in the various fields of Fapa journalism were made. According to Norman Stanley, president of Fapa during the period of 1945—46, the laureatships went unawarded, "for no good reason." Also a custom that had built up, of members publishing nominations in their own publications as a guide for the committee, died out. Stanley became Vice-President the following term, succeeding Bob Tucker, and it is assumed he did not revive the traditional awards.

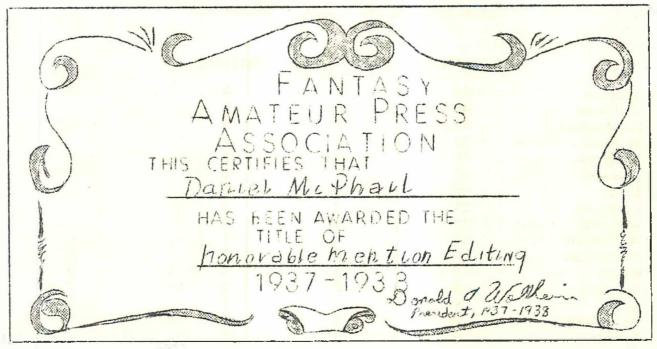
The Fapa Constitution, as approved in June, 1940 (by a vote of 22 to 1), specified that the Vice-Fresident serve as chairman of the Laureste Awards committee. The present Constitution does not list such a duty, so it can be assumed that somewhere along the line the past ten years it was dropped. Perhaps by one of the many revisions the Constitution has gone through; I do not know.

An organization such as Fapa should give tangible evidence of superior work by its members, in the form of a citation awarded annually for outstanding craftsmanship, as determined by a laureate awards committee. Our present Constitut i on gives the President power to appoint auxiliary officials for purposes not otherwise provided for.

Perhaps 1957-58 can see a revival of this old custom of giving official recognition to the really productive and talented members of our organization. Perhaps in-coming President Ted White will agree that it is a Good Thing to Do.



The Editor guarantees himself a little ecobor with this reprint of the award which he received, based on work during the first year of Fapa. (But, heck, it was a cinch; he was Chairman of the selection committee)



THE FIRST LAUREATE AWARDS

As one of his last official acts, retiring first President, Donald Wollheim established a Laureate Awards Committee, to select outstanding talent among the membership and to award suitable certificates to the winners. The committee was composed of dichard Wilson, Robert Lowndes, Robert Madle and Clon Wiggins, with Daniel McPhail as Chairman. They made their selections, giving three voices for first place, two for second. Final tabulations showed the following results:

Publishing Laureate
James V. Tauresi
Honorable mention
Conald A. Wollheim

Editing Laureate
John V. baltadonie
Huderable Mention
Daniel McFnail

Art Laureate
Walter M. Marconette
Honorable Mention
John V. Haltadonis

Robert 1. Loyndes
Honorable Montion
Frederick Pohl

Robert W. Lownder Honorable Mention
Donald A. Wollheim

MEMBER'S ACTIVITY RECORD

DURING FAPA'S FIRST YEAR

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates non-member

	name	total pages	number issues	Mailings
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Taurasi Wollheim Baltadonis Michael Wiggins Lowndes Pohl	62 46 42 27 25 20 20	11 16 16 6 4	4 4 2 3 1 3
8 9 10 11 12 13	Hodgkins McPhail Gillespie Rosenblum Speer Carnell	14 13 12 9 8	5 2 3 6	2 3 1 2 3
14 14 15 15 15.	Madle Moskowitz Sykora Sheppard* Wilson Bolen & Graves *	5 5 4 4 4 4		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
16 16 16	Conover Kyle Vodoso Ackerman	1 1	1 1 1	1 1 1 (card)

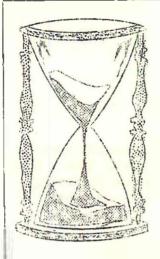
The largest magazine to appear during the four mailings of FAPA's first year was the 18-page edition of "Interplanetary Tales". Editor was James V. Taurasi.

Longest title to appear during the initial year was the 4-page "SCIENTIFICINEMAGAZINEEX TRACKDINARY" by Bolen & Graves.

The first postmailing in FAPA's history was made by Olon Wiggins of Denver, after he missed the 2nd mailing. The mame of his magazine should be of interest to H. Gold: GALAXY.

most frequent publication was Taurasi's SOLCR, with nine issues; Carnell's BULLETIN of the BIS and Wollheim's FAPA FAN (6 each); Wollheim's FHANTACRAPH - 5 issues; and Wiggin's GALAAY and McFhail's ROCKET, three issues each.

The	First	Year	Mailing let 2nd 3rd 4th	Contributors 6 10 14 14	No. Items 12 21 27	No. Pages 42 63 136 107
				44	83	348



The Time Traveller

A BACKWARD GLANCE AT THE FIRST FAPA MLG.

Fall. 1937

Fapa's first meiling came in a brown envelope (postage of) with a picture of the New York City skyline in the upper left-hand corner along with John & Michel's return address.

Its contents included the first issue of the F.A.P.A. Fan which (with per-

mission of its editor) is reprinted elsewhere in this publication.

The Amateur Science Review #1 (Jan., 1937) was a fine printed four-pager of odd size (7x9). It was issued by an American Amateur Science League of West Chester, Pa., and none of the staff were Fapa members. (Cnly recognized fan was Will S. Sykora and it is assumed Wollheim contributed the magazine, as he was an AASL member).

Ted Carnell contributed Vol. 1, Nos 4, 5, and 6 of his Bulletin of the British Interplanetary Society, another odd-size, being 7xll. Printed, one side only, it

contained news and articles on English rocket activities of that era.

Gem of the bundle was a I2-page, Imaginative Fiction by John V. Baltadonis of Philadelphia. Che of the "Comet" group of fanzines, this Jrd issue was dated June and was beautifully hectographed in color. It contained a short short tale by Sam Moskowitz, an article on Homer Eon Flint by Robert Madle, a department of science news briefs by George Hahn and a 'gossip' column that contained mention of a rumor that Hugo Gernsback might soon issue a "Farveloue Stories".

Willis Conover, Jr. contributed a printed Observations And Otherwise in a format of 5 3/4 x 125. It contained comment on H. F. Lovecraft and printed son-

nets from HPL's book "Fungi from Yuggoth". One page only.

Vol. 6, numbers 3 and 4 of The Fhantagraph, a 42x6 printed four-pager by Woll-heim was of excellent appearance. They contained a Lovecraft short and poems by Pohl. Frank B. Long, H. Koenig and Robert Lowndes also had material in them.

Same size, 8 pages, but mimeographed, Wollheim and Michel submitted the initial issue of The Science Fiction Bard, featuring Lovecraft, Long, allen Glasser.

Braxton Wells, Willis Conover and others. It was a 'Mijitmag'.

James V. Taurasi of Flushing had a 4-page hectoed #1 Solor, which contained a review of the new British prozine, Tales of Wonder; and a cartoon feature poking fun at fans. A reproduction of the British magazine appeared on its cover.

A copy of the GhuGhu Calendar for the Year Three took up a page, mimeographed.

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST MAILING

12 items, from seven publishers, representing three states and England. Seven were printed, four mimeographed and two hectographed. Total pages: 42

OFF THE RECORD DATA FROM BUT ULD FAPA JOURNAL

In the last issue I volunteered to keep and preserve for FAPA, the old records donated to us by Robert Madle. Bob Pavlat sent them on to me, and from them I have picked a few items that I feel are of a general interest. Such as the following list of charter members and the credentials they offered to qualify themselves:

- 8-30-37 - Fublisher, The Fhantagraph Don Wollheim - 8-30-37 - "L'Adres Midi P'un Sap" in Phantagraph John Michel - 8-30-37 - Column in Scientifiction ("Fantasia") Ted Carnell - 8-30-37 - "One The Trail of Weird and Phantastic" in Phanta-H. C. Koenig graph - 8-31-37 - Editor Mind of Man Fred Pohl Julius Schwartz - 9-14-57 - Editor Fantasy Magazine (Jan., 1937) - 0-17-37 - "Forbidden Books" (sonnet) in Phantagraph, June 37. Robert Lowndes - 9-18-37 - Editor Phantasy World (Feb., 1937) - 9-19-37 - Cover drawing on Imagination! Dave Kyle Vodoso - 9-20-37 - Regular column in Science Fiction News Jack Speer Dan McPhail - 9-22-37 - Editor Science Fiction News (Dec., 1936) - 10-8-37 - copy of the Solar Scout Alex Osheroff -11-14-37 - Editor Cosmic Tales James Paurasi Robert Thompson -11-14-37 - article in Cosmic Tales -11-29-37 - Editor Helios Sam Moskowitz - 12-2-37 - Publisher SF Collector, PSFS News, Fantasy Herald J.V. Baltadonis -12-20-37 - Assistant editor, Cosmic Tales Jack Gillespie -12-27-37 - "To A leteor" (poem) in Imagination! (Cct., 1937) Larry Fareaci -12-30-37 - Editor Fantasicience Digest Robert radle Harry Dockweiler -12-30-37 - Editor Fantasy Mirror Michael Rosenblum-12-30-37 - Publisher SF Gazette, articles in Novae Terrae -12-30-37 - Helped stencil International Observer; short stories Jack Rubinson Leslie Perrie -12-30-37 - Material in Mind of Man -12-30-37 - Editor Science Fiction Fan Olon Wiggins -12-30-37 - (none listed on application) Tom Whiteside

The record book contains also applications for the year 1938 and include the following: Jack Agney, Louis Kuslan, Dan Burford, R.D. Swisher, Dale Hart, Oswald Train, E.H. Smith, Russell Hodgkins, M.A. Rothman, Morojo, Will Sykora, Valter Varconette, Russell Leadabrand, Herb Goudket, Bernard Quinn, F.J. Ackerman, J.J. Weir, Jack Johnson, Edgar Allen Martin, and Richard Wilson, Jr.

Some interesting notes were scribbled on many of these old forms: Koenig indicated that his address was was that of the Electrical Testing Labs; Swisher oddly inquired about a book; Dale Hart, who said "DAW has previously received the half-dollar" listed a "Scientiscraps" to be published; Leadabrand said he would publish "Io" as soon as he received the first mailing and "see how others do it."; Goudket stated he was editor of "Scientiphoto" - to be published - while Weir's credential was Fautasmagoria, the mag of quality, "plus other eldritch goo now and then."

On one point, Wollheim missed the boat as a forecaster. He underestimated the strength of his own creation, when he maintained, in 1938, that the idea of a mailing deadline was one which, in practice, had never worked out in the ayjay groups.

Mac, the Frophet: In a letter to DAW, in April, 1938, McFhail said: "Glad to hear Lowndes is head of the Bureau of Critics..... I imagine the other mags will gradually start a "comment" column, similar to my 'Looking 'Em Cver' in The Rocket ---you know how the fellows in the AAPA gab about each other's sheets."

The first waiting list contained the names of Edgar Allen Martin, Millie Taurasi (Jimmy's sister), Bob Tucker, and Willard Dewey. Martin became first w.l.er to come in, after Jack Gillespie dropped out.

The Rocket, now Phantasy Press, was the first newspaper in fandom. It also featured the first Fapa review column and the first ballot results.

Richard Wilson, Jr., revealed in a contribution to the fifth mailing that a group of Philadelphia fams almost formed a rival organization, to be known as PAPA -- Phantasy Amateur Press Association.

On the other hand, the Michelists threatened to start their own APA if Speer's group bested them in the 1938 elections.

Robert Madle reported, in Science Fiction Collector (March, 1938) that "Robert W. Lowndes sent only 30 copies of his Fapa paper "Strange" to be mailed. Therefore, all the members names were written on small slips of paper and a few were chosen at random. Each of those chosen was not to receive "Strange" in his mailing. Imagine Fred Pohl's surprise, if it can be called that, when he found that he, the Official Editor, was one of those who were compelled to be slighted."

The Amateur Science Fiction Journalist, appearing in the 7th mailing, had the first tally sheet of member's activity to appear in Fara.

To Milton A. Rothman must go credit for establishing the custom of publishing a complete membership list in each Fantasy Amateur (Farch 1940 - Fa v3, n2).

The membership of Fapa, as printed in the first Fantasy Amateur, showed 18 members from New York, 7 from Pennsylvania, 5 from California, two each from New Jersey, Conneticut, Oklahoma, and England; and one each from Colorado, Chio, Virginia, Massachusetts and Texas. Total of 43 members in 11 states and Britain.

Total pages for the four mailings of Fapa's first year was 335 pages. By contrast, the total pages for Mailings 75 thru 78 totaled 2335 pages!

The original membership cards were printed by John B. Michel (total cost to Fapa treasury: 50¢) and sent to all paid-up members in late 1937. He also sent a large imprint of the Fapa embler, which was suitable for framing. About 19 years later, as present-day members know, Sam Martinez obtained copies of these two items from a charter member and reproduced them for 1956 members.

Morris Scott Dollens, present-day top flight artist (currently doing covers for Boucher's Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction) was commissioned by Don Wollheim to create the official Fapa emblem in 1937. Dollens great skill with pen and brush first came to the attention of fandom with the appearance of his now legendary "Science Fiction Collector" which he hectographed in beautiful colors.

Fhantagraph, edited by DAW and a mainstay of early mailings, originally was the IFG Bulletin and later combined with SF Review, Fantastory, The Time Traveller, The Planeteer, Curious Stories, Queer and others.

First petition to appear (in #1 FA) was addressed to Papa administrations, past. present and future, by Robert A. Madle, James V. Taurasi, John V. Baltadonis and Daniel McPhail. It requested that "back-date mailings" be kept for the convenience of future members and be sold at 15d each! (dated 3-15-38)

Edwin Hadley Smith, librarian of the National Amateur Journalism Library, was accorded a membership in 1938 in order that mailings could be cataloged and filed in the museum of ay jay in Philadelphia,

John Baltadonis provided the first financial report, covering the period of August, 1937 to February, 1938. Income (28 members) \$14.00 plus a 40¢ donation; Expenses: 34.00 for postage.

YEARS ACCIN FAFA

In July, 1937, Donald A. Wollheim and a few associates sent out copies of a Constitution for a proposed new ayjay group — the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Wext month the first mailing was sent out to prospective members. A temporary administration was named, pending an election, composed of Wollheim, McPhail, Miller and Michel.

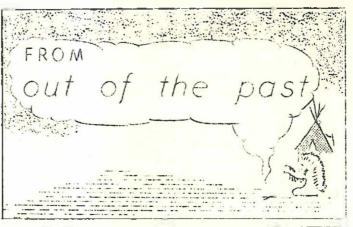
YEARS AGO IN FAFA

A most constructive administration composed of Stanley, Tucker, Widner and Perdue, worked to clear out deadwood by use of the new activity requirements, admitting 18 new members during the year. Jack Speer drafted a new constitution for formal vote. Publishing was down from the 1943-4 record, but produced a total of 1471 pages (Mailings 41, 42, 45, 44).

YEARS AGO IN FAPA
The new administration, as Fapa passes its 15th year, is Lee Hoffman,
President; Bob Silverberg, Vice-Fresident; A. E. Winne, Secretary-Treasurer; Redd Boggs, Official Editor. The 60th mailing, Summer, 1952, numbered 311 pages, including 41 postmailed. The 1951-52 year, just ended, had a total of 1469 pages, compared to 943 for 1950-51, 1109 pages in 1949-50; and 1265 pages in 1948-49.

Special Reprint Section
COMMEMORATING FAPA'S

2014 Anniversary



Cldest of all titles in the fantasy Amateur Press Association is that of THE F.A.P.A. FAN, which founder Donald A. Wollheim published for the first mailing as an introduction to the purpose and aims of the new organization. And while he proclaimed it as his personal journal, it nevertheless served as a semi-official publication until the later appearance of The Fentasy Amateur.

We are privileged to reprint, with Mr. Wollheim's approval, this first of all FAFA publications, exactly as it appeared in the initial mailing.

-published in the interest of the Fantasy Amateur Frees Association--- Donald A. Wollheim. COl West Find Ave., W.Y.C. --

Number One

PAPA

July 1957

WHY THE F.L.P.A. ?

Interest in our new organization has reached considerable proportions. Those fan editors and publishers who have heard of it in advance have with no exception been very enthusiastic about it. All have felt that it was an organization for which there had been great need.

What is the F.A.P.A.? That is best found out by studying our constitution(probably the clearest and most workable of any stf club). The purpose and organization is there outlined. Then why this?

There are today about 27 fan magazines coming out iregularly. Several, not too many, manage a regular publication date; others start off regularly and then peter out; still others see a first issue and then lapse for ages before another appears. Some go through various metamorphoses; pass through printing and hekto stages, change hands; change comership; and in other ways are unreliable. Why co?

The answer is that fan magazines, although published for the fun of it, have had thus far to keep up a pretence of being subscription magazines in order to have any circulation. Of course they could be given away, but to whom? To 100,000 stf readers? To 1000 fans? Such circulation would be prohibitive and murserously expensive. So charging their very nominal (for the most part) rates they manage to get circulated. But their circulation is very small. The writer has a large experience with few magazines and has had the confidence of many fellow editors. The average circulation of a faw magazine is somewhere between 20 and 35. Those who surpass that are rare exceptions. But is a circulation this low worth it? The answer is "no".

Of course, practically all the editors exchange publications with each other. Thus figures may rise. But this is very uncertain and unreliable. And can fans be sure that even the paying subscribers appreciate the time and work put into a publication? I doubt many of them do unless they are themselves editors. Many of them are.

With each editor exchanging and subscribing to other magazines, he soon looses any money he might make, if he could make any. That is why many titles go one issue and no more, or pass out after three or four. The subscribers do not support it. The gain is only the amusement derived by the editor, publisher and writers.

Now in the general world of youth there are several organizations of what are known as "amateur journalists". These chaps publish little papers and magazines as a hobby. They follow no regular publication date. They may range from 4 page 3x3 quarterlies to pretentious 30 page professionally printed magazines.

These young general amateur publishers banded themselves together into amateur press associations for the purpose of regulating and bettering their exchanges, of aiding each other, of giving and receiving advice and appreciation. These associations hold amunal gettogethers, elected officers and conducted heated political contests which supplied constant topic for cultorial discussion. No matter who won or lost, they all remain leval to the ideal of amateur journalism and to their association.

The most binding feature of these associations was a unique institution called the mailing bureau. When a member had printed his paper, he sent them to the official designated as Mailing Manager. This person would mail out at regular intervals to all the members a bundle of all papers sent to him. A bundle similar to that in which this leaflet is enclosed. Thus every member was sure of getting all the publications and every publisher was sure that his paper was reaching everyone, and every writer assured that his works were getting the widest possible reading.

This saved the publishers quite large sums of money and hours of time and energy that he would nave spant and gone through for individual mailing. As subscription magazines, he papers could not have paid. Besides it was his hobby, not his business. He made his money some other way. He set type or wrote as relaxation in his spare time. He didn't kill himself to meet deadlines or build subscriptions. It was all done for pleasure.

The world of fantasy fans has entered upon the phase of amateur journalism and it will probably sluays have it. Measures are needed badly to preserve the individual publications and to place the entire field of fan magazines upon a more friendly, less commercial, and more solid foundation. There are many fans destring to put out a voice, who dare not for fear of being obligated to keep it up and for the worry and time taken by subscriptions and advertising. It is for them and for the fan who admits it is his hobby and not his business that we formed the Fantasy Amateur Press association.

We limited the FAPA to fifty members because hekto magazines can not exceed that. We limit officers to one term because we do not want this organization to remain in the hands of any single person or group. We limit membership to ACTIVE fans because we do not want any dead wood. All members must be willing and able to do their share to hold up the fan magazine standard. The number of eligibles exceeds fifty. We believe that we will reach our limit in short order. Pledges of support have reached us from every fan editor who has beard of us. Among these are such as Edward Carnell (London), Fred Pohl (Brooklyn), Bill Miller (East Crange), Harry Dockweuler (Queens), J.M.Rosenblum (Leeds), James Taurasi (Flushing), Den McPhail (Oklahoma), Robert Wadle (Philadelphia), and others.

Get on the bandwagon. If you received this, you are eligible for membership. Let's hear from you and let's see you in the bundle!

OFFICIAL BOARD

FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION

Temporary officers appointed until a regular election is held.

President - Donald A. Wollheim Secretary - William H. Miller, Jr. 801 West End Avenus 69 Halstad Street New York City, N.Y. East Orange, N.J.

Vice-President- Daniel McPhail Official Editor - John B. Michel Comanche, Cklahoma 2225 Cortelyou Road Brocklyn, N.Y.

A regular election will be held as soon as fifteen members have paid their dues. Do not fail to send in the application blank on the lower half of this sheet as soon as possible. We anticipate a large response. Fill it out accurately and do not fail to list your credential. We had been intending to have printed applications ready for this mailing but the exigencies of time made us unable to have them ready. They are now being printed up.

(tear off here)

Application for Active Membership

FALTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION

I hereby apply for active membership in the Fantasy Amateur Press association and inclose fifty cents for one year's dues. Listed herewith is a statement of my credential as required by Article 3 of the constitution.

Name	Date	
Street	••••	
City and State	•••••••••	
Credential :-		
Check the branches of interest you	will be active in :-	
() Writing () Editing () Publishing	() Printing () Drawing	
Send this blank and dues to the Secretory	Transurar William U Willow	Tue

69 Halstad Street East Orange, N.J.