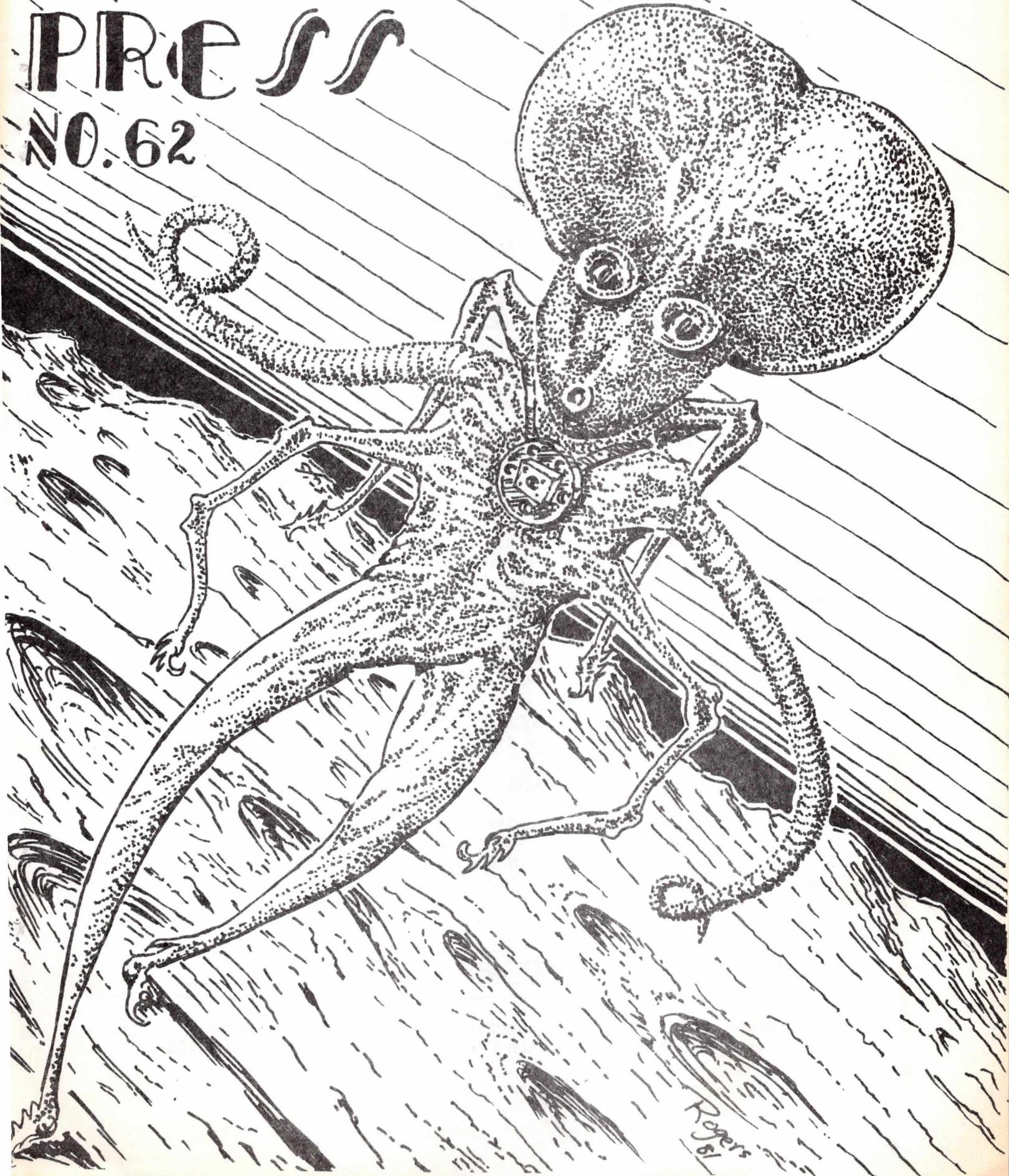


PHANTASY PRESS

NO. 62



Phantasy P R E S S

DANIEL L. McPHAIL
Editor
M. LOUISE McPHAIL
Associate Editor

VOLUME 19	WHOLE NUMBER	APRIL	MAILINGS
NUMBER 1	62	1981	175

PRESS TO EXPAND, STAFF IS DOUBLED

LAWTON (Exclusive) The Phantasy Press, local publication, is going to expand its size and double it's staff. Daniel L. McPhail, publisher and local tycoon, made the announcement on April 1st.

A new associate editor has been named. The person named is Mrs. M. Louise McPhail, who will handle all office duties and prepare copy. She will also handle advertising if any comes in. She will also sweep out the office on Saturday morning. McPhail said this hiring of McPhail will double the size of the editorial staff.

The Publisher also states that plans are under way to enlarge the size of The Press by one or two more pages. A sheet will be added for sure, but at this time it is not known if both sides will be printed.

The Press has a guaranteed circulation of 65 readers. Some changes are being considered at this time to make the publication more attractive. McPhail said the hiring of M. Louise McPhail will certainly improve the appearance of the office. Speaking of Louise, McPhail said (Quote) "M. Louise can beat me typing with one arm tied behind her." (end quote).

FOOT NOTE TO THE ABOVE: A P R I L F O O L !

Editor's Statement: No foolin' now - speaking seriously, I'm proud to have my wife, Louise, as an Associate Editor. I am grateful for the typing she will do - and I am sure our readers will!

Cover by James Rogers

PHANTASY PRESS is issued quarterly for the Fantasy Amateur Press Ass'n. by Dan McPhail, 1608 Cheyenne Circle, Lawton, OK 73505

from
OUT OF THE PAST

FROM THE PRESS #7,
 JANUARY, 1956



Continuing our journey
 back to the beginning
 of our organization...

- a review of -

F.A.P.A. MAILING NO. 3
 (Spring, 1938)

This was the first large mailing of the fledgling FAPA and necessitated the first double-section mailing. Together, they contained 27 items totaling 155 pages, over twice the size of the Winter bundle. Official Editor Frederick Pohl imprinted in red the new Fapa emblem on the envelopes, which he mailed from Church St. Annex in New York City, at a total of 6¢.

The first bundle contained 13 pieces. The majority of the fanzines then were hectographed; and although the ones I have are now beginning to fade; one can still catch the rare beauty that hecto ink gives to the amateur publication.

Olon F. Wiggins of Denver contributed the second issue of his GALAXY, small size hecto of 8 pages. Charles Stiles and James Rogers did excellent illustrations throughout. Featured was a "Bob & Koso" yarn by Taurasi, although no credit was given to him. Editor Wiggins at this time was noted for his Science Fiction Fan, a fine fanzine of general interest, but he irritated many fans by accepting only one-year subs & many fans couldn't raise a buck.



James V. Taurasi offered SOLOR #3, 4 page hecto with another of the Bob & Koso yarns, titled "Pluto", illos by the author.

SOLOR#4, again 4 pages, carried a list of British s-f books

by J. Michael Rosenblum, a cartoon "It Can't Happen" & editorial.

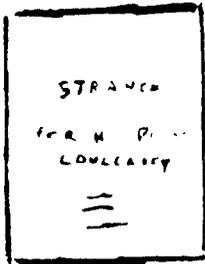
INTERPLANETARY TALES #1, an 18-pager, was the mailings largest publication, hectoed by Taurasi, it contained fiction by J.N. Vincent & North Bryant plus a poem by Gertrude Kuslan.



The longest title perhaps to ever appear in Fapa history was SCIENTIFICINEMAGAZINEXTRAORDINARY, 4 hecto pages by "John Bolin & P.C. Graves". It put forth a death hoax on Forrest j Ackerman but didn't cause any excitement as I recall.

J.V. Baltadonis had a 12-page hectoed FANTASY HERALD #2, small size, it was the neatest publication of the mailing. The editor did beautiful color illos & covers. Contents included "Why Science Fiction?" by Jack Speer, an article on s-f poetry by Sam Moskowitz while I introduced a "gossip" and news column.

THE FAPA FAN #4 by Don Wollheim was a 2-pages mimoed plus an attached slip of paper telling of the second section, to be mailed two weeks after the first. It listed new members as Jack Gillespie, Litterio B. Faraci, Jack Rubinson, Leslie Perri, Jack Agnew, Harry Dockweiler, Daniel C. Burford, Dale Hart, R. D. Swisher, Louis Kuslan, Oswald Train and Walter E. Marconnette. It also revealed that, while the first two mailings had 50 bundles sent out; the extras going to what were felt to be good prospects; that a petition by Baltadonis, McPhail, Speer, Madle, and Taurasi had been presented to restrict bundles to members onlysaving extras for future purchase by new members. As a result, Wollheim stated the only extra bundles of this mailing went to the Science Fiction League (for publicity notice), Edward H. Smith (for filing in the National Library of Amateur Journalism) & Ray Zorn (for NAPA & UAPA publicity). Some back mailings available at 15¢ each. The membership is listed at 33.



"Vodoso, which I believe was a group-name for several west coast "members", contributed a full-page line drawing of a future city, via mimeograph on letterhead stock.

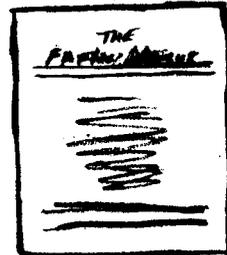
STRANGE was the title chosen by Robert W. Lowndos, who termed himself the "Archdeacon Infernal of all Ghughuism," in this initial number of a large-size hectoed zine of 10 pages. There were no illos but the present day editor of Columbia Publications penned some outstanding prose & poetry and at a time when he was facing tremendous hardships and dispair, it featured a short-short story and 5 poems.

The second issue of THE ROCKET that I mimeographed on my then new Wards Mimeo was enlarged to 4 standard pages, three columns to the page. The "dog-ears" of the newspaper plugged the 1939 Con & for a Thrilling Wonder Quarterly. Headlines shouted "Wollheim, McPhail, Pohl, Election Victors" with sub-head: "Baltadonis Landslides to Secy-Treas. Post." Another front page story concerned Astounding Stories change in name to A.S.I. Inside was a feature "This Thing Called the FAPA" by Wollheim, which some of you will recall was reprinted in Phantasy Press #9 in the 76th mailing. Another item worth noting is the very first mailing comment column: "Looking 'Em Over" appeared. It covered the first two mailings. As you know, we still use this title, but it is really older than FAPA! I had lifted it from my old subscription fanzine, Science Fiction News, which ran from 1931 to 1936.

The "Committee for the Political Advancement of S.F." sneaked in a 12-page printed booklet, reprinted from New Masses.

The second section also contained a CPASI item, a speech by J.B. Michael, "Nutation of Death" mimoed with embossed cover.

More important was the first appearance of our FANTASY AMATEUR, 7 mimoed pages by Pohl with message by officials, the petition previously mentioned, the appointment of Lowndes as Chief of the bureau of Critics (laureate) and a unique appointment of a "Mailing"Manager" (Michael) to send out bundles. Income, Aug. '37 to Feb '38 was listed as 14 plus 40¢ donation expenses were 50¢ postage for secretary, 50¢ for membership cards \$1.50 postage for each mailing.



Additional members include Wm. Sykora, Russell Hodgkins, Milton Rothman, Bernard Quinn, Herbert Goudket, John Quinta, Russell Leadbrad & Ackerman. Edwin D. Smith wrote on the Library of Ayjay.

Taurasi was back in force, with SOLOR #5 & 6 and a new hectoed 8-pager, QUEER TALES, an attractive weird fiction zine. Like Rosenblum of the Leeds SFL submitted their 2-sheet BULLETIN, odd-sized and printed on one side only, while Jack Speer brought forth LOKI, hectoed 2 pager with quotable quotes, mailing comment, political opinions (of course) and even a poem.

Sam Moskowitz's 4-page hectoed FIRST NATIONAL S-F CONVENTION BULLETIN detailed plans for the upcoming May 29th Newark convention. Sam also had a circular in the mailing, as did Jack Baltadonis. Speer presented a large size sheet hectoed on both sides of selections from Tennyson while Richard Wilson offered "The Missing Sea-Serpent" in the same format.

Two large format zines were Lowndes' VAGRANT, 10 hectoed pages of a blast at Moskowitz in reply to his blast at Wollheim; and new member Hodgkins 5-page "Way Out West", excellent contents, including details of a visit with Edgar Rice Burroughs.

S U M M A R Y

This 3rd FAPA mailing contained 27 items, representing 16 publishers of 7 states & England. They totaled 155 pages & comprised 3 printed, 7 mimoed & 17 hectographed. The average size was 8½ pages. New York had 4 members contributing, California and Okla. 2 each, plus one from New Jersey, Connecticut, Colorado & England. Leading publisher was James Taurasi with 42 pages, followed by Lowndes with 20 and Baltadonis with 13.



In the 174th
F.A.P.A. Mailing
for
April, 1981

FANTASY AMATEUR: Another nice job, Bruce! And to Ed Cox, thanks for your format & a return to the traditional & simplified category poll. I think it will be a lot more productive in the number of ballots cast.

520 07 0328 (Perdue) one of the most interesting items in this mailing. But then, everything that Perdue writes is of interest....The science fiction world suffered a great loss

in the death of Kris Neville. He was author of many fine stories, while also active in other fields. He was an executive in the chemical industry. He recently organized Perspective House to publish a series of books presenting abstracts of the contents of s-f magazines, 1926 to 1940. The market would be mainly college libraries, as research aids. His widow and son will continue his project. Those already selected to write abstracts are Ed Cox, Frank Robinson, Alva Rogers, Cy Condra and Bob Bradford. My good friend Roy Squires is acting as manager and overall editor. He asked me if I would abstract an early year of Amazing Stories. I accepted the assignment and had begun work on it when a situation developed that made it necessary for me to withdraw from the project. I really hated to let the Nevilles and Roy down, but it is a matter over which I have no control.....I really enjoyed the play, "The Uplist of Lucifer". Did any one other than me notice that there was a Norman McPhail in the cast?

THE BOBBED BUDGIE JOURNAL (Hills): I wonder if OE Pelz noticed that the last four pages of this zine is actually #8, stapled with #7?

CELEPHAIS (Evans): I stand corrected, Bill, in re the article "Dear Editor", in The Phantasy Press #60, as you say, the date of that Amazing should have read November, 1930. I'm sorry I didn't proof it more closely....it seems you are working as hard after retirement, as before - but it sounds like an interesting job....I sure enjoyed your remarks to Pavlat re trains. This part of the country is really suffering for lack of freight service - especially wheat farmers. Ever since the Rock Island went broke, the State government has tried to get them going again. Some closed down sections have reopened - but a lot more is needed....my pick as all-time best laugh-makers, is Laurel and Hardy....the earliest comic I can recall is Happy Hooligan. I think ditto for Mutt and Jeff ("Mutt" seems like an unlikely name, but I knew a boy with that name).

CURMUDGEON (Horvat): Mike, this is great printing! I think that is a great cover by Adkins....the account of your activities was interesting.

DETOURS#9 (Chauvenet): I'm glad you beat the deadline on this issue. Good cover-where is it?....I'm glad the Press is finally legible & I'm sorry about the poor repro in the past. Illness, as well as other problems bothered me, so I took two steps to improve: My pretty wife is now doing all final typing and - like you, Russ, I went to my friendly neighborhood repro shop for printing. Don't feel sorry for Louise, however, she may be doing the typing, but I'm doing the dishes!!...you sure had bad luck on finding the mailing, but it was worth waiting for.

THE DEVIL'S WORK #45 (Metcalf): Enjoyed reading your remarks re Afrika Korps. I was especially interested in the naming of a unit that was formed for the invasion of Iran, which indicated that Germany planned to sweep thru Egypt, Lebanon, Syria & Irak and then slam the door in Turkey and control the Middle East oil. He would be lucky, in that Israel did not then exist, or they would have really got their tail scorched!

FROM SUNDAY TO SATURDAY (Fitch): Glad to see you back in the mailing....Yes, I will continue to use "fillers" in the Press from time to time. These bits of trivia are usually of interest to some members...your comment, "It's difficult to fully appreciate the sense of isolation which must have pervaded those early days, and the sense of unity which must have been such a strong part of the fannish experience then," is sure right Don. With most fans living in New England or on the west coast, I some time felt like I was manning a far distant outpost on the fringe of fandom, looking each day for the arrival of mail via Pony Express. Early fandom letters came from such fans as Don Wollheim, Forrest J Ackerman, John Baltadonis, Harry Dockweiler, James Blish, Morris Scott Dollens, George Clark, Larry Faraci, Charles Hornig, Bill Miller, Julius Schwartz, David Kyle, Sam Moskowitz, Walter Marconette, Bob Madle, Fred Pohl, Milt Rothman, James V. Taurasi, Ted Cornell, Bob Tucker, and, of course, Harry Warner, the few fans I met in those early days included Jack Speer (and he and I visited Mary Rogers - the sister of James) Edgar Hirdler a one-shot editor & Walter Sullivan who hitch-hiked to the OSA (POW-WOW) in Oklahoma City. Yes, there was a strong sense of unity and friendship back then.

FANTASIA (Helen Wesson): Even tho I am not a Holmes fan, I always admire the neat and attractive make-up of this zine.

FAPAMMENTARY #1 (Brown): Welcome to this interesting new title. I enjoyed the mc's. Thanks for your praise of Rogers cover - I think he is among the best, I guess that it doesn't matter how many copies of a mag is duplicated as long as it is two or more. (as you said, "the mere act of publishing means multiple copies") The important thing is that the editor has spent time and energy in designing, selecting material and art work, deciding on a title, picking a goal or an editorial slant, determine the copy cost and the type of printing. The type of duplication or the amount of circulation does not determine if it is a magazine or not. No one can arbitrarily set a circulation of 15 copies, when it is possible for an even better-looking zine could turn up later that was older, but numbered only 12 pages!....Like you, I am fascinated by the early days of fandom and I hope you enjoyed the first part of my review of the first dozen mailings. I didn't make it clear, but the page of the review is an actual reprint from The Press #21 (Oct. 1958) which may have confused some.

HORIZONS #159 (Warner): Like Brown, above, I am curious about the 11-year old FAPA Member?...it's too bad that you were unable to get your father's scrapbook.... I'm looking into the cost of publishing some of my un-published stuff. Recently, I found a box of odds and ends, including a comic I wrote and drew in 1931 - when I was only 15 years old. It was named "A History of Space", numbering 10 pages and with three strips to the page. The art is very good with a lot of detail....I am so glad you went ahead with your review of the 1956 era of FAPA and since our time spans don't overlap, there is no conflict....and I really enjoyed your article. Your mention of Shrewbury reminds me of the fact that Marion Zimmer Bradley worked for a while in a carnival - as a target for a knife thrower!

GRANDFATHER STORIES (DeVore): Good abstract job on Fanciful Tales - the background of the Shepard-Wollhiem combo is an interesting one....hope you got the roof etc. fixed before winter set in.

PHANTASY PRESS #61 (me): I think this is a great Rogers cover - right out of Barsoom, I'd say!....I feel like this issue rates an "A".

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE #4 (Stone): Your appearance is always neat, Graham...I enjoyed (and appreciated) your comments on my pioneer Science Fiction News. Glad you like the 1936 issue I sent you. By the way, the final issue of Joe Schuster's Science Fiction had a news column titled Science Fiction News.

SHADOW OF A FAN #1 (Siclari): A very neat first issue, JoeD! I like the logo & lettering. And the cover by Diana Gallagher is excellent... I hope issue #2 will be in the next mailing. If not, we'll know happened the Green Hole got you!

STATIC ELECTRICITY #1 (Wooster): Only 4 pages, but most interesting. I enjoyed your comments...I plan to do a lot more research & writing about the past.

TALES OF THE SILVER SCREEN #1, (Wooster) : Another good zine, Martin. I really enjoyed your movie reviews. Hope you keep it coming.

STARSHIP #40 (Poeter): This, of course, is in a class of its own. I enjoyed it all - and a extra cheer for the beautiful cover - its great!

This ends the mailing comments. Know that I read everything. If a title is not listed here, consider it as read and noted but did not spark a comment.

TRIVIA FROM MAILING ONE

Only seven members made up the first mailing. Largest and most attractive was IMAGINATIVE FICTION. Vol. 1, No. 3 edition was hectographed in beautiful colors. All art work was by editor, John Baltadonis. Contents included "A Quest" a mood piece by Sam Moskowitz, "Flint Mystery" by Robert Madle, concerning the mysterious death of pioneer author Homer Eon Flint. "The Electric Eye", an article on Russian archaeology by George R. Hahn. "The Fantaseer". is two pages of news and gossip, such as: Robert E. Howard had several stories published in MAGIC CARPET under the pen name of Patrick Erwin...Wollheim & Michel may issue an s-f monopoly game originated by Baltadonis...according to the June TWS, R. A. Squires is a "haggard" fan...He reveals that Balty & Madle issued a small carbon-copy mag titled "The Science Fiction Fan" in February, 1935 (NOTE: the more well-known SF Fan by Olan Wiggins, did not appear until July 1936) The back cover of SOLOR shows the new FAPA insignis, designed by Morris Scot Dollens ... OBSERVATIONS AND OTHERWISE by Willis Conover, Jr. contained three poems by H.P. Lovecraft - unpublished at that time. THE AMATEUR SCIENCE REVIEW contained a report on test firing of rockets, Height of 300 feet was reached. However, a rocket exploded, seriously injuring two. (Wollheim was an abserver.) PHANTAGRAPH CONTAINED POEMS BY Pohl, H. Koenig & F.B. Long. The 13 items included 7 that were printed, 4 were mimood & two were hectood. Total pages were 42.

In the last mailing, Press #61 carried a listing of items in the first mailing but not a great deal of information. At this time I am giving some more details. Also, on page 10, is shown a number of logo's as they appeared then.

THE SCIENCE FICTION BARD, by DAW, was a 4½ x 5½ mimood and "was issued once in a blue moon". It's 8 pages had poems by Lovecraft, Allen Glasser & others...DAW also provided a one page GHUGHU calendar...The F.A.P.A. FAN, gave details on the new club & listes the Offical Board (until an election could be held) It consisted of President D. A. Wollheim. Vice-President Dan McPhail; Wm H. Miller, Secretary and John Michel, Official Editor...A copy of the Constitution was also enclosed..There was 13 items, total of 42 pages. Of these 7 were printed , 4 mimood & two hectood.

Wollheim announced that a regular election would be held as soon as 15 members had paid their dues. (The original issues were 50¢ per year)

Dear Editor:

...the "Discussions" department in early editions of AMAZING STORIES reflected the interest and enjoyment of both editor and reader, viz.....

Forrest j Ackerman plugs for a Amazing Annual \$1.00 (January 1932)

In October 1932, Ina Birnigher of Switzerland reveals she has been making "most violent efforts" to get into the Fifth Dimension, but with no success. The Editor says it is fun to try, even if we never succeed.

Thomas Sharrid of Detroit, wants the name changed to "Scientifiction".

The October Amazing carried box ads for Science Fiction Digest (free copy for six cents in stamps) and a booklet "Thru the Dragon Glass" by Doctor David H. Keller.

One of the first women to appear in Discussions was Lovina Johnson.

In June, 1927, one Aaron L. Glasser (any relation to Allen Glasser - an early fan)? quotes NYC newspapers re one Prof. Cazzamaili, said to be receiving brain wave transmissions. Editor Gernsback says he has been unable to locate the professor and he must be considered a myth.

In August, 1927, Aaron Glasser again appeared and reveals that if he were to be stranded on the "well-known" desert isle and could pick books for his exile, it would be a complete set of Edgar Rice Burroughs. The Editor said to let him know and he would see that he was provided a complete set of Amazing Stories. Then his enjoyment would be complete!

In a long letter in the March, 1928, issue, a 15 year old freshman in Union College, was later in life to become a premiere author. His name? P. Schuyler Miller.

Ben Domingo of Medford, Mass. writes in to say he thinks "International Science Club" sounds better than "Boy's Science Club".

The December, 1929, Discussions had a well-written letter from a fan only 10 years old! He was Cyril Solomons of Brooklyn. Also in this issue was a letter from Maurice Z. Ingher. Older fans will recall that Ingher was the first editor of Science Fiction Digest; the great printed newszine.

In April, 1929, a newspaper clipping was reprinted, revealing that one Robert Condit, of Condit, Ohio, "an obscure chemist & engineer" who had constructed a hanger-like structure on the beach at Miami, Fla. - and is building a machine for a trip to Venus, and return! For fuel, he will use the most powerful alkali known to man - peroxide and sodium. He says his craft will reach a top speed of 2400 miles per minute.



Smoke | Signals

-by-
DAN McPHAIL

SAD NEWS

Those in FAPA who belong to First Fandom, have already heard the sad and shocking news that Lou Tabakow is in a very serious condition, suffering with Lou Gehrig's disease. Just as we go to press, we learn - in a joint-letter from Ray Beam and Bob Tucker - that they visited him March 30, just after he had surgery. They believe it to be a terminal illness.... perhaps as short as a few weeks or a month.

They suggest we send a postcard or a short letter...but, please, no "get well soon" or similar commercial cards. He can read, and he scribbles notes on a pad. Be discrete in what you write.

Send letters in care of his son, Phil Tabakow, 3953 St Johns Terrace, Deer Park, Ohio 45236.

Lou Tabakow is a real fan, a fine gentleman and a loyal friend. One of founders of First Fandom...he served many years as its Secretary-Treasurer. At Lou's request, Ray Beam will handle that job until further notice.

RE: THE EARLY FAPA MAILINGS

I'm glad to hear from several of you that you are enjoying our re-run of the first 12 mailings. In an effort to lend more color, we are detailing more trivia we feel you will find of interest. And in many cases we reproduce the exact pages as we printed them in the period of 1952 to 1965.

I trust you all realized that the back cover of our last issue (PP #61) was a reprint of PP #28 front cover, just as it appeared in the 92nd Mailing for August, 1960, showing the New York City sky line on the envelope.

On page 10 of this issue is a reproduction of the various logo's in the first two mailings.

The next issue of the Phantasy Press #63 will review Mailing #4.

BOOK DEPARTMENT

DREAM MAKERS ("The uncommon people who write science fiction"). Issued by Berkly, it is a series of interviews (with photos) of 30 prominent authors by Charles Platt.

Everybody's favorites are in this list, with much of interest about their back grounds and their stories. And with 284 pages, it is a good buy at \$2.75.

Charles Platt has also had an interesting past - author of 15 books and also a magazine editor.

PIONEER FANZINES -

These titles appeared in the first two F.A.P.A. Mailings, Fall & Winter, 1937

Imaginative
fiction

a 12-page hectographed mag
by John V. Baltadonis of Phil.

THE
INDIAN TALKING PIPE

issued by Donald A. Wellheim
(printed, size 4 1/2 x 6)

SOLO
FAN
SCIENCE FICTION

hectood
4-page mag by
James V. Taurasi

Amateur Science
Review

Contributed by Wm. S. Sykora.

THE F.A.P.A. FAN
(Mimeo, large size, by Wellheim)

THE
SCIENCE * FICTION
BARD

(small mimeo mag by DAW
and John B. Michael)

BULLETIN

of

The British Interplanetary Society
printed by Ted Carnell of London

THE
ROCKET

Mimeoed by Dan McPhail

HERMES

Jack Speer's first
mag. Hecto, 1-page.

FANTASY

THE
MENTATOR
MAGAZINE
(Michael-Wellheim mag)

HERALD

4 hecto pages
by Baltadonis &
Oswald Train

THE
METEOR

hecto by Robert Madle

"THE SCIENCE FICTION ADVERTISER"
small mimeo by Fred Pohl

OBSERVATIONS AND OTHERWISE
by Willis Conner, Jr

8 hecto pages by Olon Wiggins of Colo.
GALAXY