

# WHAT SIT

%.....eye of Newt and um...er....that is....um....er....



A Cringebinder Publication

from K M P Cheslin 18, New Farm Road, Stourbridge,  
Worcs., England.

for then 36th OMPA Mailing, JUNE 1963

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# HAVE AT YOU!

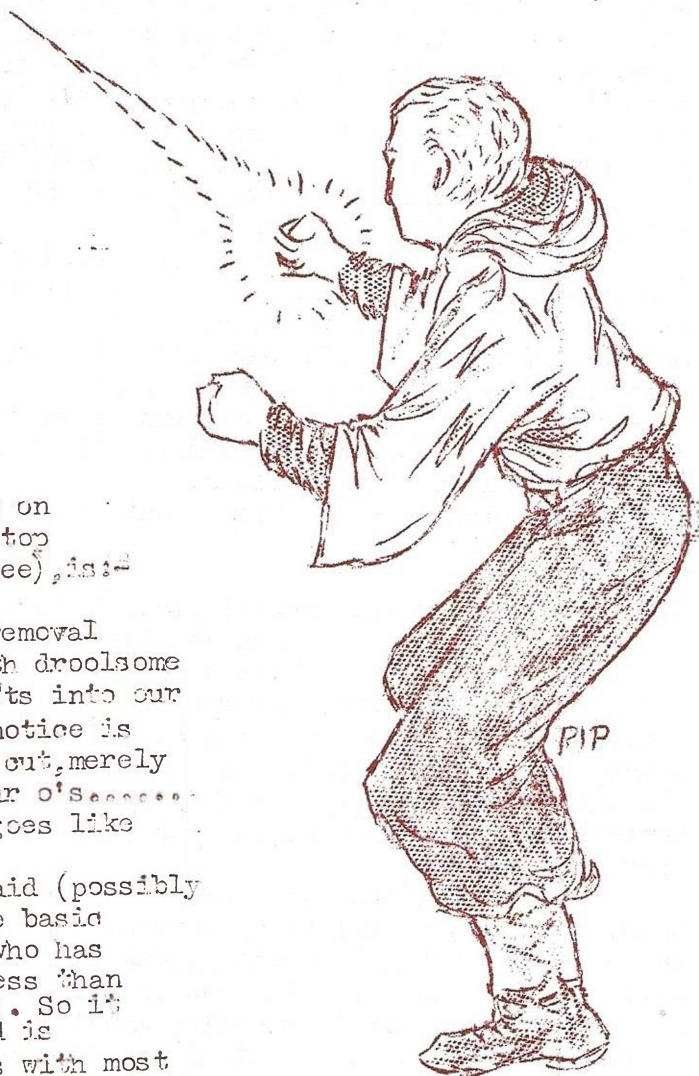
Here we go again! First on the list (because it is on the top of the pile, no favouritism y'see), is:-

COMPACT 1. Ella A Parker, the removal giant. Complete with droolsome atomillos this drifts into our Kens' ken. The first thing I notice is the attractive pattern you've cut, merely by bashing down heavily on your o's.....

My 2bits about TAFF goes like this:-

As someone has already said (possibly Ron B) it is no use upping the basic contribution. Reason, no-one who has sent in money has ever sent less than double that (well, nearly ever). So it seems that what is really need is wider support for TAFF, for, as with most things, if you've seen one list of TAFF contributors you've seen the lot (apart from the odd drifter) because it's mostly the same people who support TAFF year in and year out. On the other hand, one way to make money is on the TAFF auctions. (Tho' I have a suspicion that the people who give things for TAFF auctions are already on the subs list) The only straight profit a TAFF auction could get is at an Auction Bloch, where some generous pro sells his time. If we can't get enough money for TAFF it must mean that there just isn't the support. I can't (sorry) offer any suggestions for gaining the needed support.

One thing perhaps you might chew on. Deciding that the US type contribute more to TAFF, and there are more of them, would it not be fairer to send 2 US fans across the Atlantic to every 1 British fan. So the Anglofans would only get a trip once in 3 years. But we are far less well provided with BNF anyway. (or fans for that matter...., but I've said that once already).





COMPACT 1 continued.

an idea, I suppose, would be to hold TAFF elections only when there is enough in the kitty to allow it...like maybe this would mean we would have to wait two years or so until the dribble of money had grown big enough to be used. This would...hmmm...be better than abandoning TAFF+ altogether. Possibly there might be something in the idea of electing the TAFF delegate first then asking for contribs., Bow, wow, wow, wow, etc., (your p2 instructions).

Wish Arthur had remembered the other authors name too. This is the sort of stuff I lap up.

What sort of columns do you need names for Ella. After all, it depends on the tone/content of the thing to a large extent. Like, if it was your msc., for instance you'd need something evocative of mcs., or your attitude towards them..or something. How about "With A Beady Black Eye"... or "Feamale of the speeches", or..."Penetrating"..... (Pen, its rateing see?). "Wordsxand phases"... "In this case". (a play on COMPACT y'see.). "By Dawns Early Light". has someone used Candle-droppings?, it sounds familiar.

Uts a 'plane! Uts a burd! Nn! Its SUPERCHUCK!!!!!!

adios'.

SIZAR 9 Bruce Burnz. Yoiks! etc., indicitive af high spirited  
"lets go climb a mountain" high spiri<sup>ts</sup>,  
while under the influence of...hi' spirits.

and so on. My dear cur, how the heck can you call that shower Midlanders! Why Al Rispin is a dyed in the beard Mancunian, for a start, and I thought Brian was a Bristol type?. Why there isn't a true Midlander born farther away than 30 miles from Brum. Avaunt! northern barbarians (etoe,). get thee jence, or somewhere just as uncomfortable.

Remember the story in GALAXY called, I think, THE AMATURES, there you got the chop at 65 anyway. But you could shgose the way to go.. like, hemlock, beheading, gas, fighting in a mock-up of a battlefield etc.,. The plot was simple. This blokes doctor had told him he had a bad heart condition and toldvhim he'd have to go. As a last request his family attend on him. Then it comes out that the doctor had been bribed by the family. The "hero" thereupon decides to live. But h<sup>is</sup> relatives stab him to death. Telling the officials that he'd decided to "go" as Julius Ceasar.

Personally I'd like to go all sudden like. Say sit on top of a H-bomb while they explode it. That would be fairly quick. But not yet.

I'm puzzled. What do I say about your awe of my genius? I admit I deserve it....like, could also be described as butterfly thinking. I am not, however, incapable of concentrating on one thing at a time if I want to. Isn't everybody the same. ie., think both ways.

I know what you mean when you say you didn't like the general knowlege test. Perhaps I shouldn't have printed it. But that was only a small part of all the questions I've asked since. With comic/tragic results...comic, obviously because "we" know the right answers. Tragic because....they are not unusual people. Only part of the great majority who....I sometimes think....are less than half awake.

Take yore cotton pickin hands of mah Littul Villains from Space. They're mine I tell you, mine! Mine! Mine!!!!

hasta la vista!



CURIOSITY SHOPPE. Spencer.

I'm father appaled at the violence on TV. For this reason.

(first, I'd like to say that I'm not against violence on TV or films if it fits in. Like the duel scene in EL CID or things like that).

What I don't like are the "stories" that say, or have the characters say rather, "Violence solves nothing, its against our Way of Life, etc.,"

And then, kaput! the hero goes and bashes the villain and says something like, "Its the only thing they (ie;- the villains) understand"

Or similar things like that.

While we're on the subject of films. I saw, years ago now, A film. The plot was roughly that a certain bloke was against capital punishment. Mainly because its so final. He was frightened of the idea that an innocent man might get executed.

Whereas, if the maximum was life imprisonment and later he was found to be innocent.....

So, what he does is to arrange for this other bloke to get himself tried on a

murder charge. Like, between them they plant incriminating evidence all over the place, takeing films all the time to show just how they were "fixing" the evidence.

So, the lad gets hauled in by the cops, tried, found guilty and sentenced to death.

At this point the Anti-capital punishment chap sets out to the DA's office to show him how the plot was rigged. (thus causing, he estimates, consternation and a realisation that an innocent man could be caught up in events and executed...just like the bloke they are about to execute). Ah. Un-fortunately, on the way to the DA this lad has an accident, and his car, plus himself and the evidence & films to clear the condemned man, are burned.

So. Our lad in prison gets rather alarmed, at this turn of events and spills the whole story to the Governnor (or Warden or whatever he's called Stateside). Who, tho' he doesn't believe him, instigates an investigation.

Meanwhile time moves on. The day of the execution dawns. The to-be-executed bloke lets slip here that he really is guilty of the murder, and figured on getting away with it by co-operating with the anti-capital punishment bloke.

More to come yet....



CURIOSITY SHOPPE. Spencer, continued.

At that moment up rushes the lawyers of the anti-cap-pun-ers estate and says that they have found duplicate films and evidence amongst the late blokes estate.

So.You know what happens?. They execute the condemned!

It struck me then,as now,that the processes of the law,as depicted in this film,were strictly UN-lawful.

For what law system would proceed with an execution,even if they have a verbal confession, when they have evidence in black and white that screams for a retrail....at the very least.

The point of course is not wether the bloke is guilty,but he should be found so by legal,lawful,means.

Oh, the premise about capital punishment being unsafe got lost somewhere along the way. For that blame...er...who?.

My casual demonstration of the Cheslin thought stream has been more than rewarded because it induced you to relate that glorious ..er, anecdote?...of experinces in India. I would be very pleased and interested to read any more of these little items you might dig up. Cultivate that anthropologist!

I never have read American history texts about Cornwallis. Just what sort of a bounder is he made out to be?. By the way,does the average school history text give reasons for Arnolds defection?. If so what do they say. And does a decent history differ. And does any of them relate his fears of the French take-over of the colonies?.

I always enjoy a quiet chuckle when I see films of US footballers. Why, even our rugger lads don't bundle up like that. Evdn more amusing are these serious little boys all dressed up in their football kit...migod! ....and those queer baseball cathing gloves!.

Cricket,although I admit I am no fan,haven't even played since school,and then indifferently, is at least a gentlemen's game. Like, if you think the bowler is sending the ball down too hard you merely jump out of the way. Hmmm. at least that was what I always did,tho' I must admit that it didn't contribute to my popularity. But then,at least I had an unbroken body. Not like some clowns I've seen who, resolutely but foolishly,stand in the way of the ball.

Our kind of football is rather different from the US type of course,especially soccer. Hmmm. I remember playing that at school too. Only me and my mate and the goal keeper used to prefer to play a cunning game if possible...we pulled the off-side trick 14 times in one game I remember. Although....and I shudder to think of it now.... I was not averse to tackling the heftiest opponant. I rather think it was my hope to disconcert the opposition rather than to capture the ball for my own use. Then of course, later in life (sigh) I discovered basketball and badminton. Both of which I enjoyed imensesly, and probably enjoy now if I had the opportunity to engage in such activities.

ICE CUBES? in the mens bogs?. Come,come. Surely you mean those blocks of (somehow solidified) perfumed disinfectant? (Which is quite common over here....but then...harrup...this is a more civilised country....)

vayas con Dios.

4

SOUFFLE.4. Baxter. Hi' JMB. Must get this one out befor I forget it. Charachter drownning his sorrows, to companion similary engaged."My wife cooks on gas, and hope"

Re;- your remarks to BB about singing-to-scare-aliens story. Thats another one...but not the one I had in mind. I vaugly recall that the story had an AMAZING or an IMAGINATION feel about it...and I read it about 1954, (I'm guessing the date).

I would be delighted if you would expand your remarks about the fan-state idea. (Have not read OMEGA yet. Haven't even got it).

The thing about the present fannish set-up of course is that we are a minority group. (ITS A PROUD & LONELY etc.,). Possibly if there was a place were fandom was the norm its value would decline. Especially as a "by golly, another fan..why come on in. Beer?, have a fag?, etc.," in other words the "persecution complex" that presently makes fans more tolerent of each other than they are of mundanes (or one mundane is of others) would be absent.

I don't think it would go all caste conscious tho' (this may be wishful thinking) but I rather like the idea of a society similar to that outlined in "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE". The Gands and their obs and "F -IW!" and MYOBs.

Anyhow, ~~come~~ on JB, lets here a version from you.

Yus, ah remembers that story... tho' I can't think of the plot and the title of the story, or the author.

BUT.. what about eveyday type operational submitting to anesthetics?.

Tut, tut. Now BB calls that think type demonstration "agility" and you call it "attention wanders". Who do I believe is giving a true opinion? Actually I'd say both of you, after all they are both opinions. So that you may both respect and laud my genuis perhaps I should expand a little on this rather (?) delicate subject.

I vaugely appreciate and vaugly resent facets of both your opinions, (as interpreted by me...don't get shirty tho' about that "resent" up there...is the nearest I can come to the word I wan't. Don't be misled by other conotations). For one thing let me assure you, JB, that this particular "method" of thinking is actually used by me. But I must also ask you to note the word "used". Ponder on it.

Because, you see, while the "method" is mostly automatic I do at times, for the sake of amuse/surprising the various friends aquantences etc., deliberately plunge into this "method" to dredge up a ..hum...(the nearest I can come) witticism.

On the other hand, BB, I do not go taru' life constantly thinking in this manner. As you must appreciate.





SOUFFLE 4 Baxter continued.

No, when necessary I manage to hang on to one line of thought, to concentrate.

JB again. Probably the covers are not "worth" it. But I like doing them. Besides, I have no patterns and abstracts that benefit from the use of bright shades. But, if you would like to get such a cover for me... and indicate, if you like, the colours you think best.... in fact, if you give me enough time, I'll do a cover for you, as you outline.

Pardon me; but (sacreligious tho' I be) I have read much of Dickens (I have even now several editions of the Pickwick things on my shelves) but, ugh! great! yah!.... and so are those dopey Bronte things. Both of them read like a collaboration between Zane Grey, Enid Blyton and Ethel M Dell... or worse. (hen, hen, hen, hen, hen.) In their own times of course they might have been outstanding... but, unless you can mentally time travel you cannot see them as their contemporaries did. I tried but I suppose I didn't altogether succeed.

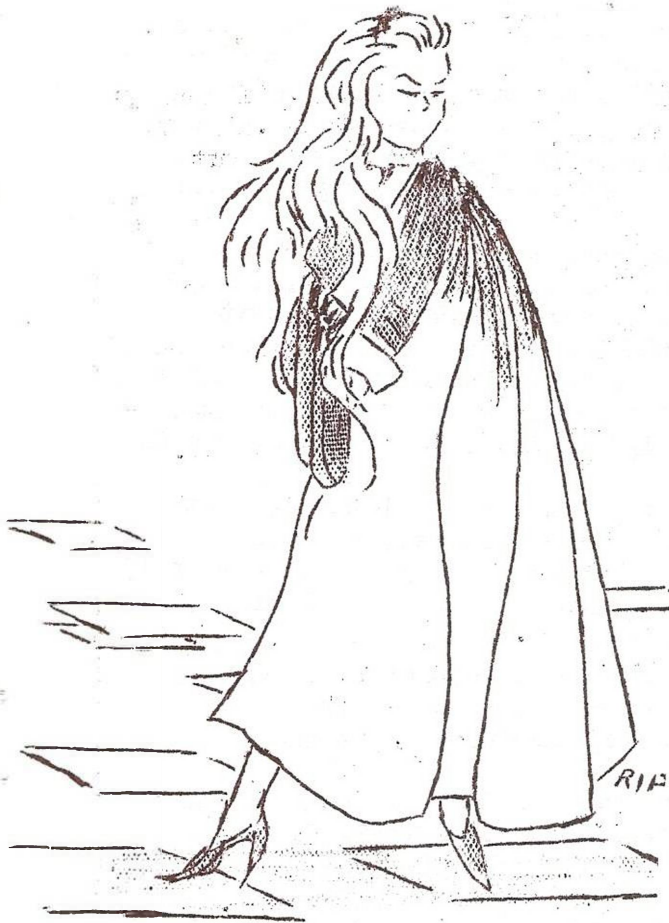
Actually this mad modern art, action paintings etc., Most of it I don't know that it could really be called art. (Tho' I suppose some genius could use paint like a musician uses sound and paint emotions). Many of these action painting for instance... oh, I like a lot of them, but not because they are art. But because there are often pleasing designs of colour combinations. I would enjoy as much the smudges of that chimp who paints, or the splashings my small nieces make, or the marks left on a bench where I've been painting... a firescreen say. I once accidentally made a rather wonderful "painting" of the seat of an old chair. Merely because I spilled paint there while I was colouring something or other. It reminded me forcibly of a scene from "Dragon in the Sea". It was like a vast hulk of a sub moving dead slow thru' an underwater forest of weeds, a few feet above the ocean floor. And here and there was a green lance of sunlight. And that was the merest accident. A person who could have done something like that, deliberately and by design would not be an action painter. Who, as far as I can see, depend to a large extent upon sheer luck for any results. But like I said. A lot of this un-art looks pleasant. (You know what, I figure that action type art is appreciated in the same way as, ahed, you look up at the ceiling and build pictures from the irregularities... or in the same way as you see pictures in a fire, or smoke of a cloud - or those ink-blot tests I guess).

Stand by. I am about to reveal the truth behind the bossa nova. Just look at it. Bossa Nova. Say it quickly, bossanova, bozzanova, bosknova, boznova. See! boska nova, NEW BOSKONE! It's all an EE Smith plot to take over Civilisation!

Oh, I read recently the phrase "APAs are mutual admiration societies". ANYONE like to enlarge upon that?. It never struck me till now, but most time I (and presumably other OMPAns) go out of their/my way to look kindly on other members efforts. This tolerance is perhaps necessary, to keep an APA running, but is it harmful enough in other ways to make it worth while bisking an APA break up?. Opinions?.

CONVERSATION 21 Hickman. Read (up to p7 so far) all you wrote. But, although it was interesting enough it has been said many times before (and deserves to be said again.) The trouble is of course is that you don't give me anything to argue/comment about. I agree with what you say. You are all anti social medicine again. You say you don't want to pay to help some lazy non-paying slob. DON'T you know that in UK EVERYBODY does pay?. Automatically, along with their tax, (by a better method than





CONVERSATIONS 21 Hickman, continued.

you lot have). No one can sponge this way. (there are other ways like via unemployment and National Assistance.) But you can't sponge medical-ly. And you have to be genuine to get money from the National Assistance, and if you are unemployed you got to go back to work eventually (If you are just idle) or your "credit" goes sour. The trouble with you is you have been frightened by US medical propaganda. The only real difference between your social security and medical schemes, and your unemployment insurance. Is that our scheme is owned by the Government, (eventually by the people) While your lot are run privately, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STOCKHOLDERS, NOT THE PATIENTS. They are profit seeking organisations.

Yep, those book fairs sound a lot like a subsection of a normal jumble sale. It is a matter of luck however what books in what quantity are offered at jumble sales. I have never come across anything that could be really compared to your description of a book fair. Which is a great pity.

BINARY 4. Patrizio, Rather dissappointingly

I can't think of much to say about the cake making episode...was amusing (as was a certain sub-parsons egg),

in parts...but rather lacking in punch somehow. Pedestrian. And I can't see anything in your mcs, to comment on either. Ah well, next time perhaps?.

SCOTTISHE 31 Lindsay. Superb Atom cover yet again. Arthur is more than a cartoonist only. As this shows well. The John Prebble book, "CULLODEN" sounds extremely interesting. But your review of the same, tho' your...um..s-o-wonder?, comes across well, is not really a thing to comment on. As with Frances Varleys' letter. (I've forgotten - if I ever knew - what a letter to a generalzine should be like).

Well, now that the French have chucked us out of the CM - if such an expression is grammatical - seeing as how we were never in it - there are several things UK can do. Leaving aside all the more sensible ones, how about this for an idea.

We get our EFTA thing organisgd...and then subvert all the other European nations away from France. One by one until she is begging to come into OUR CM. (We would admit her of course).

Political blackmail, embargos, embarrassing customs searches by British warships. Harrying in the UN, and via the International courts, and making things difficult generally. Denying the CM countries access to outside supplies of food and fuel and machines etc., Getting the BBC on the job broadcasting French language, etc., propaganda directed to the

SCOTTISHE 31 Ethel, continued... same ends. Troublemaking in the colonies of CM members etc and so forth. In short, by using well tried methods on a larger scale and more openly than everyone uses them now. Oh yes. Have MacMillan appear on TV every month or so foaming at the mouth and chewing rugs. The should scare the pants of them, if they have anything like a memory - and a rough idea of what 2 + 2 make.

Was reading an old ASF, about '45 or maybe '55, the other day. (I hope I'm remembering right and this wasn't the last editorial or like that). And JWC says words to the effect that only people with incomes (EARNED) of about £10,000 and more should be able to vote. On the idea that a bloke who can make himself £10,000 a year is no fool, and if one of these blokes gets elected then he'd probably be a lot more competent than the usual MP (Senator, or whatever it is in the US). Now, I figure he's got a point there. I guess competence is a fairly good rule of thumb to select voters.

Another thing I was pleased to see recently was a slam at the present method of jury selection. (someone at the Old Bailey evidently has been browsing thru' old Envoys or Whatsits). A case in point was where 11 out of 33 people called for jury service had criminal records at a recent OB trial. Not only that, but the qualifications demand that the jurist own property of a certain rateable value (or be a tenant in such a property) so that we have cases where the landlady of a boarding house can be on a jury and her boarders, (this was in Oxford I believe) who were professors at the local university were disqualified.

Walt Willis will again get few words from me. How the heck can one say anything that has not been said already....and better too?. Just to make a point however. This is the 2nd or 3rd time I've read thru' this particular "Warblings", and it still holds my attention. Oh, I wonder what Walt would have said (re the letter about Britcons packing in at 11pm, and how we should have to wait for the time when a whole hotel was booked) if he could have had a pre-vision of this last Con?. Ah, he (in his present person,) has noted his early remarks..

Thats it! (Oh just finished your TAFF trip account. I hope its not because I've forgotten how good other reports were, but I put it down feeling that this was the best, most agreeably pleasant, TAFF report I've seen.).

HEX Charld's Wells. There are provisions for sharing/distributing v.11. No.2. (w.no.4). credit. This works OK. The thing is we don't want two people getting credit for the same work. Dammit, I thought Bob made that clear enough. (sighs,).

Gee, now I got an idea that might help you US types organise all this taxation bussiness. How about you lot ceeding back into a colonial status, then ye'll do all the tax collecting for you, with our methods. Huh!...er...no, Charles, no...no, NO, NO, NO, AAAAGGGGhhhhh.....

Darned why I get comments like this of yours Charles, calling my writing style "unorthodox". You're not the only one to say something like this, and, while I somehow feel vaguely flattered, I'm also a little puzzled. What do you mean by "unorthodox"..or can't you explain the term? (this is written in the spirit of true enquiry, honest). I lost the slow game, if you mean the chess thing. (now where did I "file" that last mailing.....) or...um...no, come to think of it, I won. I did the dirty on him, if I remember correctly, and swapped my queen for a checkmate. (I don't mind losing pieces too much. I often sacrifice hordes of men to get the position I'm after.). Terry Jeeves says 100 is IQ mean. So there. And it still looks valid enough. As a proposition anyway. Can't help it if the



HEX Charles Wells. if the standard is outdated and the present "100" would rate 110 by the scales you quote....the lady who referred to the Pentagon as a cathedral spoke better than she know. Hum. interesting about Australites, but I was under the impression that they were still falling. And THAT was what made them so unusual. Information?.

If there were enough people interested it might be an idea to investigate the idea of a thrice yearly APA. But are enough people interested?.

BURP! Bennett. It's a treat to see you come out of hiding and publish a zine other than SKYRACK (no reflection on Sky of course).

Re your remarks drawn from reading the WHATSIT 2 survey, all I can say - but I say it heartily - is, sheesh!

I told you I didn't know much about chess. I have heard of the Fernandel films in which he plays Don Camillo, but I've never seen one. I would rather like to.

The most hilarious suggestion for years was the one you make in a deliberate "knock" on the pools boys. Words, temporarily, fail me. I should have known..thats the Freeman col.,

Honest, I didn't make a statement about the Eysenck book (Know your own IQ) all I said was words to the effect that I bought it and I hadn't yet read/tried it. If I did imply the contents, well, look at the title, that seems implication enough. (where the heck am I now? oh, well).

Interesting anyhow. But I'm not going into that this time round. (cunningly implying.....?).

THE NAMS&SC Fanzine.1. Johnstone.

Ah, I see that civilisation is slowly catching up with you colonials, it must be if "THE CASE OF THE MUKKINESE BATTLEHORN" has finally been allowed into the country. Ah, what a film! Such adventure! Such Social Significance! So original!

Well. it warnt too bad, wor it? Ever since I saw that film I've wanted to get hold of a similar Battlenhorn. If I could ever get hold of one..its a, whatymcallit, straightened out, with bells and tassells and things on it. Anyhow, if I had one I could go to the next con as a Mukkinose Battlenhorn Weilder. If I could only transport the thing.

Other goon films are "DOWN AMONGST THE Z MEN" (which I've seen) And that "RUNNING, JUMPING, AND STANDING STILL" thing. (which I havdnt seen). There is at least one other goon film, whose title I was told recently, but I've forgotten.

If enough people, besides yourself want OMFA to go thrice, then there's nothing to stop you voting an amendment to the constitution. Would you like to draft a proposal according to the rules and submit it? The thing would at least give an idea of how popular - or otherwise - the idea was.



The NAMS&SC Fanzine 1 continued. Serves you right TED. Now you're stuck with that name. (Anyway, it would be awful strange trying to think of you as Dave-McDaniels after all this time). It was an infernal plot to confuse the membership. Or, at least that's MY story, and I'm sticking to it! I've no recollection of seeing this FUTURE HISTORY OF FANDOM. Perhaps it was before my time. Would like to have a gander at it tho'. Disentergrating paper, OK, maybe it was Mac Reynolds then...or...well, perhaps Norm Metcalf will tell me in this mailing. Or the next.

Ella Rarker and Bruce Burn drove up from London with me last W/E, the 21st April, approx., and we all went up to Tonys' place. There we had a game of RISK (amongst other things) and I think we now have another couple of risk-fans. (if Bruce wasn't one before). Long time ago we had a clown who wanted to introduce A-bombs into RISK. He was speedilly suppressed. The TACTICS 11 game sounds familiar, but the other ones we certainly havdnt got. I like the sound of GETTYSBURG. And DIPLOMACY, but can this one be played with fewer players?. No, haven't seen the Don Camillo movies. A certain local lad, nicknamed by me Fearless Fred, had his name in the local rag. (cutting sent to Ron Bennett). He spotted a weird flying object over the village a week or two ago.

MacDonald. I'd be interested to hear more.

SAVOYARD 9 Bruce Polz. Its a pity that you (or whoever allowed it) set Barr to do TLOTRing illos. He's one of my favourite artists. BUT, that's a hell of a way to draw a Dwarf. No, I suggest you don't let him do even one more illo until he's read TLOTRings. Even if he never produces any more illos. This, like his Hobbits, is cute etc., but it sure as fate isn't a Dwarf in any way like the Ring ones.

The Gindorf hat was autioned for TAFF at the Peterson. Last I saw of it it was bding worn by the winner. See this thing about covers on OT. Now who was it said he/she ripped the covers off?..hmm, I've forgotten. Must have commented on that zine already...Anyhow. As long as the whole lot of ye don't gang up on me I'll continue to put covers on OT as long as I feel like it. After all, why shouldn't the OO have a covdr? I think it adds something to it. Not just being a, a, sufficient, type of zine, it gives it an air of being cared for. If you see what I mean.

Chesling an AE is far more terrible than Burning one, after all fire is one thing, but the complete disintergration of the thought process is something even more horrifying..(eh?).

ERG 15 Jeeves. Alchemist? or Samman? Norman Shorrocks in protective asbestos brewing a Liverpool Seedriver?.

Hear, Hear! re your remarks about the 2off" switch.

Its always amazed me that these nits who write or phone in about programmes they don't like never seem to think of switching the darn thing off. They don't have to watch anything they don't like.

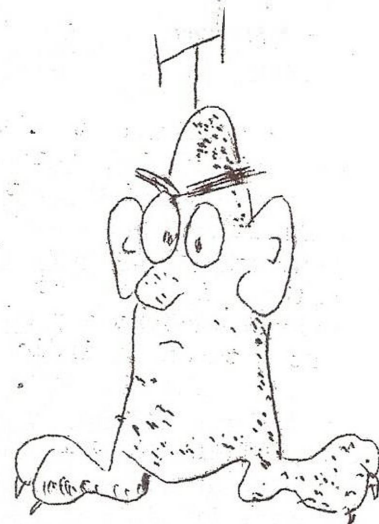
Now if you'd only expand your mo's a bit more maybe I could find something to natter about..as it is....

SHADOFAX 2 Eklund. Have you got OT 34 now? if not I'll send you one. I mail all mailing bundles at the same time. IF, somehow, I can only mail a few, (say I have nothing in which to take them to the PO, my car being in for servicing) I always mail the overseas ones first. Its the POs fault if they get delayed, and what the heck can we do about that lot?. Thats about it. Nothing in the rest of Sx to comment on, for me.



AMBLE 43 Mercer Archib. Why not send in an official type proposal to change the mailing months.

This would also activate the constitution again...re;- your earlier remarks. I wouldn't mind seeing the mailing months changed. Say to Feb, May, Aug, Nov. This cuts out the entire Christmas and New Year period. Contestants? in that questionnaire. I'll tell you later but not in a zing. If you really want to know. And I didn't make them up.



OUTPOST vln4 HUNTER. another good cover.. I'm still not entirely convinced

that there are enough roads on Shetland to make it worth while having a car.....

I greatly enjoyed you ed., and Colins column, but particularly I was interested in the RUSSIANS WITHOUT TEARS write-up. The only thing is that I (as usual) am at a loss as to what to say about them. (over and above this). Anyhow, I reckon Fred Hunter is the best thing thats happened to fandom, (and OMPA in particular) for years.

Now look here Frid, what the hell do you think would happen to the universe if I spelled the Revered Prez's name correctly all through OT?. Exactly! it would disintegrate. Having been fulfilled.

Olaf covers. THERES MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!!!!!! (phrase by kind permission of Count Jim "Knees" Moriarty). On, Ella showed me a photo of you last week. Not to worry tho', MI5 will get nothing out of me.

Gad, If thats what its like in hospital over Christmas... I always liked my stay anyhow, but now I wish I'd chosen another time of year.

MORPH 30 Roles. Hat raising procedure was a glorious opening to this Merph, JR. And I am, as always, fascinated by the Rolling Roles. Although, as with so much else, it is not the sort of thing I can find much to say about. I would like to meet the Malays, they sound very decent types. But were they not given to head-hunting, not too many years ago?. But I don't think OT should be merely functional. An OO should have a cover, in my opinion. Questionnaire, no joke. It started innocently enough by me conversing with persons-herein-un-named and I was rather surprised at the answers I got to some (to me at any rate) very simple questions. So I hastily organised the questionnaire. It does show the signs of hastiness. The questions are not grouped or graded in any particular way. I asked the questions as they popped into my head and scribbled the answers down on bits of scrap paper. From the same source;- "You don't tickle babies feet because it makes them stutter". In answer to the (ETMills) question;- if you found a coin dated BC 12 what would be wrong with it, and why?.

"Coins weren't made then" "Dates hadn't been invented then"  
"There were no people then".

Discussing fish & chips one of them asks why some fish are boneless. the reply. "Fish has bones on the outside and they takes them off befor they cooks them", doubled me up. A codfish was then variously estimated as being between 6 and 14 inches long. Ah well, thats life I suppose. That "novel page numbering system" was actually only to help me in collateing. I didn't think anyone would notice it actually.

MORPH 30 Roles continued. Yup I've seen these "filler" type news reports. but on the other hand a lot of the interest in the Fort books (for me at least) is the way that Fort uses his bits of information. They are, at the very least, entertaining.

I tried listing US states and UK counties. I didn't get 40 of either. In fact I know more States than Counties. Still, I only considered English counties. Was this intended? all.

DETROIT IRON 1 Dick Schultz. No more Schultz ENVOYS.sad,sad,sad. We had more than one of them satisfyingly mind mangled with our double-act y'know,Dick.

We got islands too. But only little ones made by mud from the Stour banking up against willow trees. (Just thought I'd let you know, like.) And seeing as your standing on the pro-Nazi, or, accusation? query?..(or whatever you call it) is nothing new to me it isn't really commentable. A case of "know your enemy" it seems to me. (A pity that the study of communism and its methods is not encouraged in schools and colleges. Trouble is that - as in the MacCarthy period - to be head of studying such would/is all too often taken as indicating fellow traveller status. Stupid.).

All for now.

PHENOTYPE something or other. Ency. A few words first about the FTLancy thing. Its interesting in a sort of historical or a research sense, but

I can't help feeling that it might have been better left unwritten in the first place. I came into fandom in 1959 so please judge my opinions etc., by the time/knowledge-of-fandom scale implied by that date. I would dearly like to hear others opinions of this Lancy thing. And perhaps personal memories of Lancy, the fandom of his time, and the LASPAS.

I heard about Outer Baldonia before. Mebbe in the TONIGHT TV programme, or in READERS DIGEST some years ago. Vastly amusing.

Well, I heard about this mail train being burned, and it worried me. I had visions of OMPA bundles (like the Donaho one which actually was never posted) going up in flames. As all the mail aboard the train was for this area, and I was expecting your bundle any moment....Anyway, doesn't it make you feel good to have the AE worry about your bundle?.

"Stewart suggests....garden produce as most obvious seeds etc.," What Stewart?. Book title, publisher, etc., Please.

Three Wizards. A slip of the tongue. I did remember Rhadagast the Brown. Master of Shapes, Friend of Animals etc., Mayas. I'm only quasi-quoting what it said in the book. Besides, they must have had a pre-writing civilisation a few years before 31 BC. The Mu-Atlantis thing was a tale the two Americans had heard. They didn't place much credence in it. Except from the view that they might pick up a clue or two from it. The interesting part was about the 3 differently coloured races mentioned. As I said, if the tale were truly old, instead of a mere something grown up from the Spanish Conquest times, it would have been interesting to know what made the originator of the tale choose the skin colours he did. The probability that the tale is more than (at best) a few hundred years old is rather unlikely.

Nothing to say on Lancy. I'm more interested to read what other people have to say about him and his time. With this in mind I will eagerly scan Bixel and other likely zines. A comparison is what I'm looking for I suppose,

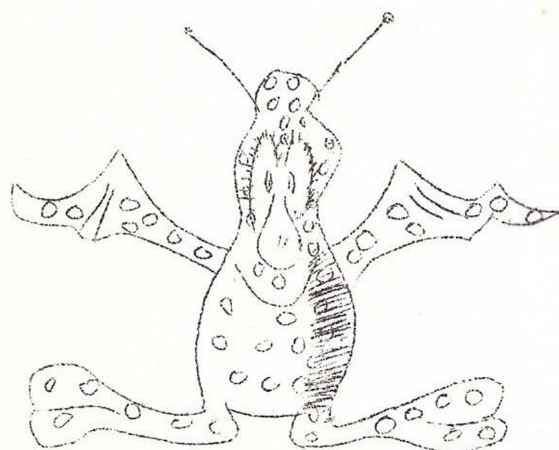


GRIST v4 n2 E T Mills. One  
complaint  
about the  
cover. The aircraft (or whatever  
it is supposed to be) spoilt the  
whole thing. It would have been  
better to have left it out, it only  
confuses things.

Could have had thief mk.2. say,  
"hey, you guys, didya hear the one  
about the water-melon?" or like  
that.

I did ask the (ahem) less  
complicated questions of certain  
people. It was a waste of time  
really. I couldn't even get a  
quoteable wrong answer from them.

(See MORPH comments) no.4,5,6,  
8,9 (I don't know either) and 10  
were far beyond them. All.



DOLPHIN 4 EBusby. I guess it had a cover on it, didn't it? I seem  
to remember taking one look at it, ripping it off,  
and throwing it away. I had no aversion to the  
cover as a cover, but I think a DOLPHIN is better off without one.

That means, EB, that tho' I can hardly remonstrate with you about OT  
covers, after all its your copy you ripped the cover off, at least let me  
go on record as disapproving of such practises. You may, if you wish,  
continue ripping off all successive OT covers. But as long as I feel like  
doing them, and am AE, and the membership doesn't vote forbidding it, I'm  
going to use a cover on OT. I do not regard OT as purely functional.

That out of the way lets have a look at the rest of your mcs.,  
African elephants are tameable. Though for some reason they are not used  
to any great extent. Probably due only to the different cultures (human)  
of Africa and India. The Africans ate elephant but never really  
developed a culture complicated(?) enough to think of using elephants  
as domesticated animals. The Indians on the other hand early became aware  
of the need of some animal to do the heavy work, (besides the ox and horse)  
the obvious choice was - I suppose - the elephant. Though it is likely  
that the first elephants were captured with an eye to using them as  
war beasts. They must, at one time then, have been the "secret weapon" of  
some enterprising Rajah. Tolkien says that no Oliphant survives today.  
Even the African elephant is but a slight reflection of his families  
ancient majesty. (or words to that effect). As soon as I walk into a house  
I start looking for places to build bookshelves! As I check up on this  
vital information I'm also sidling up to any bookcase the house may have  
already, to check up on the titles. I still can't make out why someone  
who can get sloppy over a silly sausage dog cat happily wear the  
skins of a couple of other animals. Is it the difference between the  
submissive (parasitical?) domesticate and the independant, don't-give-  
a-damn-for-humans, wild?. Some people, I know, don't like cats because  
cats like to be independant. Would it be true to say that you only  
like animals who will (or can/would) behave in the manner you want  
them to? I notice, you see, you used the words "basically unpettable"  
about the minks. Deducing from this that a "pettable" animal is OK  
in your book, but an "unpettable" one is not. (except that they may  
be eaten, or their skins used for decoration, etc.). I don't like minks  
myself. But I don't figure they should be bred just to be skinned either.

Sure, Webber for TAFF. (Webber? Wibber? ef...) all.

