

THE FRENETIC FANAC REVIEW

#1

April 2012



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NONSENSE NATTER

“What the hell is the Graeme up to?” you may well ask. “It’s not enough he publishes ‘Space Cadet,’ ‘WCSFAzine,’ ‘The Auroran Lights,’ ‘Coruscating Conundrums,’ ‘The Canadian Science Fiction Fan,’ ‘Entropy Blues’ and ‘The Fanactical Fanactivist’; he has to go and start up an 8th zine? Is he crazy?”

No more than usual. It’s all part of an effort to revamp my written fanac so that I publish more frequently. In the past I’ve tended to pub zines that were very formal in style, filled with set-piece articles, and expectations that this or that had to go in, zines that took me seemingly forever to put together, zines that often loomed over me as oppressive burdens, especially if intended to publish monthly.

I find this old fashioned approach somewhat intolerable, entirely too constricting and frustrating. Following Dale Speirs approach of less is more, having a small number of pages filled in as one goes then banging it off when enough pages are done and immediately starting to fill up the next issue makes sense to me.

Besides, putting all my reviews in one zine speeds up production of all my other zines, or so I fondly like to imagine.

I made an initial stab at this first issue, writing two reviews, then put it aside because of my hernia operation & recovery period when I didn’t feel like doing much of anything.

I will leave in the two older reviews and make a fresh start. Here goes:

CANADIAN FANZINES

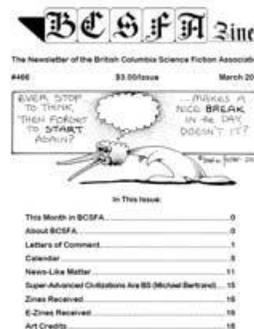
BCSFAzine # 466 – March 2012

Faned: Felicity Walker

Available at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm>

Send comments and/or submissions to

felicity4711@gmail.com



Felicity has been editor for about three years now and is doing a great job with this monthly newsletter for the B.C. SF Association.

One of the strengths of this zine is the active letter column, this issue including regulars:

- Dave Haren “...almost as much fun as watching

Ahmadinejad fondling a reactor fuel rod,”

- Lloyd Penney “*It is this lack of objectivity on the press’s part that proves my opinion that the press is not your friend,*”

- and Michael Bertrand “*I am so glad the new generation has not inherited the Generation X apathy...Maybe they will do something with our ideas, unlike my generation and its morass of diffidence.*”

In fact Michael alone is another strength of the zine, frequently contributing sharp-minded essays deftly skewering some of the more common assumptions found in traditional SF. For example, in this issue’s article ‘Super-Advanced Civilizations are Bullshit’ he writes:

“*Why do so many advanced alien races [in SF fiction] seem to favour basic geometric shapes? ...We’re a fairly advanced civilization and we don’t build in regular solids. Try to describe for me what the shape of an airplane is. You can’t. It’s airplane-shaped... So what makes us think that with thousands of more years of progress, we’ll suddenly be back to spheres and pyramids and cubes?”*

Anyway, if Taral is looking for an excuse to carry on, I say what he does should be fun to do. If it is no longer fun, then do something else. Otherwise carry on as long as it pleases you.

‘All Good Things, Even Furry’ is the title of a fascinating article comparing the early years of Furry Fandom in Toronto (when it first evolved circa 1980s) with the contemporary Furry scene in that city. I suspect Taral rejects the local Furrydom of today because it no longer resembles the Furrydom of his past, featuring a totally new cast of characters for one thing, but as it is large enough to sponsor a convention which draws hundreds, I’m inclined to believe it’s healthy enough, at least to those involved. It’s no longer the same thing is all.

As I know next to nothing about Furrydom, let alone its history, I found the article of great interest, if a trifle sad.

His last article deals with artist D. West who refused to accept the 2011 Rotsler Award for fan art. Here in his commentary Taral’s passion is evident in every line. It’s one thing to read art criticism by an art critic, but the spectre of one artist being criticised by another artist is utterly intriguing. This is the kind of powerhouse essay Taral is noted for when he decides to go all out.

Only 8 pages long, but a heck of a read.

DOMINION DISPATCH # 3 – January 2012

Faned: Adam Smith

Available: <http://www.steampunkcanada.ca/dispatch.htm>

This is the official newsletter of Steampunk Canada, a Toronto club. Smith apologises for the “linear” look of the zine (as opposed to its normal double column format) which is evidently due to “*an open source word processor*” he was trying out.

In truth the zine looks quite spiffy, in fact absolutely imperial, as the layout is crisp and clean, featuring many good colour Daguerreotypes of a visual veracity to rival those of Roger Fenton (I particularly admire that of the demented chap, wearing a pith helmet, who appears to be offering a cup of tea in a most reprehensible manner).

A goodly portion of this periodical is devoted to reviews of weighty tomes of Steampunk Fiction. Quite handy for any gentlefolk seeking to delve into this most respectable genre. Alas, there also be an occasional foray into the realm of Ladies’ unmentionables in the form of an ad for (dare I say it) corsets, indeed even an article on how to construct such infernal devices, both of which may well bring a blush to the cheeks of our more respectable young

gentleman readers. Fortunately they will be rescued from this shameful exposure to the black pit of depravity by the most splendiferous musings of Joseph Hutt, Esquire, on the quest for archetypes of “*Arthurian chivalry*” in this “*world plagued by soot*”, men who “*may not be perfect, but they are far from villains.*” A worthy quest indeed.

In sum, a fascinating observation on our mechanical age and one which warrants further investigation on your part. Do your part. King and Country demand it!

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST # 8

– **January 2012**

Faned: R. Graeme Cameron

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Auroran/index.htm#ff>

THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST



Why review one of my own zines? Just to mention its contents and hope you will be intrigued enough to download it and check it out.

It’s designed to be fairly frequent, a strategy all the more plausible because each issue is limited to 6 pages including the cover. A quick read in other words.

It is published on behalf of “The Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society” (a non-existent society consisting of *me*) in order to promote said awards. Having already given out the first set of awards (at VCON 36 last October) by fiat, the next order of business is to convince Canadian fans to participate in a genuine nominating and voting process. Time will tell.

This issue is fairly typical. It features a brief article by myself on the question of how to replicate the ‘Faned’ award figurine, followed by locs from the likes of Eric Mayer, Robert Runté, Sam Macdonald, Murray Moore, and Lloyd Penney in which all manner of matters pertaining to Canadian fanzine fandom are discussed. If that topic is of interest, then this zine is for you!

Nifty cover by Taral Wayne too.

ONE SWELL FOOP # 6 – February 2012

Faned: Garth Spencer

Available at <http://efanzines.com/RSNG/index.htm>

A very intimate perzine in which Garth wrestles with problems and ideas, the problem of ideas, ideas about problems, and so on.



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He writes: *“I wonder, are some people just **born** to be Eeyores, and other people Tiggers, and other people Bugs Bunnies?”*

“I’ve been looking at things like Myers-Briggs temperament psychology to try to read people better. Would I do better to see them as cartoon characters? (Would it help me

get past writers’ block?)”

I think Garth has hit upon an excellent idea here. Everyone has a pretty clear conception of the character of assorted famous cartoon entities, so assigning one to an individual would, if not quite accurately define, at least capture the primary aspect of the person in question. Could be quite a handy labelling technique useful for learning how to cope with them critters.

I started to wonder which character I might be, but squelched that idle speculation immediately, for that way lies madness... (Foghorn Leghorn a little bit?... shut up!...Shhh...)

Garth also has some interesting points to make about the nature of religion, such as:

“The Bible and other scriptures read very much like a wrestling match between different impostors claiming to be God and grabbing the microphone away from each other to give completely different indoctrinations.”

I had realized as far back as Sunday school that every religion claims to be the ‘true’ religion exclusive of all others, so obviously they can’t ‘all’ be true, and it was more than likely therefore that ‘none’ of them were true. As a consequence I was expelled from Sunday School. My mother was disappointed, but my father thought it a remarkable achievement. Made him grin.

At any rate, I’d never thought to put the concept forward as vividly as Garth presents it.

Garth also devotes a fair amount of space to vent his opinion, or at least his disappointment, with local (Vancouver & region) fandom, using a rather precise comment to encapsulate his interpretation of same:

*“I haven’t yet used the plain Anglo-Saxon translation for the ailment I discovered, *inversio craniorectalis*, but oh I am tempted.”*

Ah, ummm, I couldn’t possibly be included, could I? (Useful phrase though...)

He further writes:

“All of which is to say that BCSFA and its fellow travellers in the Lower Mainland may be just before a great transformation, if past history is any guide. Conceivably the transformation has already happened - a breakdown of the illusion of a social consensus, the loss of common interests, points of reference, and definitions of terms.”

“In this respect, is fandom a vague parallel to our society at large? I rather think so, and that gives me the willies. I feel a bit like one of the minor Hebrew prophets sometimes, foreseeing how my society is about to destroy itself heedlessly, and unable to point it out effectively.”

To which I say, all of us old pharts are different from when we were young, everything changes, everything decays, and nothing ever, ever stays the same, not even memory. Pointing out effectively the approaching tide will not stop it any more than King Canute could. All one can do is keep one’s head above water and see where the current takes you.

Boy, I really suck at analogies.

At any rate, ‘fandom’ is my hobby horse and I intend to ride it into the ground for the sheer hell of it.

In other words, I have no intention of ‘saving’ fandom, I just want to have fun. If ‘everyone’ in fandom had the same altitude I think fandom would save itself quite nicely.

Garth is far more articulate and less misunderstood than he gives himself credit for. His essays are always thought provoking and well worth reading.

OPUNTIA # 71.1A – October 2011

Faned: Dale Speirs

Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7

Available for trade (hard copy only!) or letter of comment.

This being a .1 issue in Dale’s complicated system, it’s a reviewzine.

First off is a review of several novels by Canadian author Richard Rohmer. *“The novels are distinctly Canadian, usually involving invasion of Canada by the USA, separation, or terrorist attacks. Most have faded out of print because they were made obsolete by the march of events.”*

Dale refers to Rohmer's books as "*action-adventure novels in the style of Tom Clancy*" and as he astutely points out, they suffer from too much information. I read several of his novels and found them 'realistic' to the point of boredom. Too much padding with info unnecessary to the plot or the characters, presumably for the sake of verisimilitude, but to deadly effect. Rohmer is a near future alternate history writer of SF for mundanes, or such is my opinion. Dale dissects him very neatly, virtually writing a primer on 'How not to write a novel.' Better reading than Rohmer's novels.

Dale also briefly reviews 'THE ENGLISHMAN WHO POSTED HIMSELF AND OTHER CURIOUS OBJECTS' by John Tingey. It concerns Reginald Bray (1879-1939) who, after obtaining a copy of British postal regulations, evolved into a (mostly harmless) crank obsessed with testing said regulations, at one point mailing himself (without packaging) to his father "*who had to sign for him.*" Needless to say, after this and many other bizarre mailings – all utterly in accord with the regulations – the postal authorities decided to tighten up the regulations a wee bit to confound this gadfly. The British are justly famous for their eccentrics.

Dale then lists and briefly reviews 38 fanzines! What makes this particularly noteworthy – since Dale refuses to communicate over the internet – is each and every zine is a paper hardcopy! (I just recently began sending Dale printouts of my zines in order to trade with Opuntia.) Some of these zines are also available at efanzines.com, but Dale doesn't mention that. Only snail-mail addresses are listed.

The zines reflect Dale's wide-ranging interests, out of the 38 perhaps a third are SF or tangentially related to SF, the rest run the gamut from political rants to obscure mundane trivia. This reflects the fact that zinedom worldwide is flourishing, but that 99.9% of it has nothing to do with SF, and the little that does is unfamiliar to 99.9% of SF fans. I note that only 4 out of the 38 zines listed are Canadian, of which 3 ('BCSFazine', 'OTTAWA SF STATEMENT', and my 'THE FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST') are SF, and one ('LES CARNETS DE RASTOPOPOULOS') is not. 3 out of 38. Hmmm. We must improve on that.

By the way, as archivist for CSFFA, let me point out that Dale was nominated twice (1991, 1992) for the Fan Organizational – Other (Fanwriting) Aurora Award, and ten times (1992, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009, & 2010) for Fan Achievement (publication) Aurora Award, winning twice (2005, 2008) for 'OPUNTIA.' Quite a record!

This raises the question: Is 'OPUNTIA' a science fiction fanzine? Yes and no. It's a general interest perzine yet still qualifies to win Aurora Awards because almost every issue contains content in some way related to SF. This issue, for instance, reviewing Rohmer's future alternate histories counts, as does briefly discussing a number of SF zines (among other types). Furthermore, Dale retains active fannish sensibilities and interests which often lead to interesting asides and comments interspersed among his other material. Plus he occasionally locs the SF zines he receives.

Bear in mind most SF zines range far beyond SF in subject matter. Sometimes only the fact the editor is a famous fan betrays the SFictional foundation of a zine.

In short, there's no fine line, no recognizable fixed boundaries defining a science fiction zine, often it's a gut response which determines whether a zine qualifies or not. My gut says OPUNTIA qualifies.

OSFS STATEMENT # 395 – March 2012

Faned: Grant Duff

Available?

It's weird. I've never been able to contact Grant Duff. Generally his email box is too full, and whenever I've sent proposed trade copies of my zines they're rejected as being too big. Felicity Walker of BCSFazine forwards me her copies of OSFS (in pdf format) and that's the only way I get to see them. How she manages to trade I don't know. Perhaps mails paper copies of BCSFazine to OSFS and gets e-zine copies in trade? I suppose one of these days I'll just have to buy a membership in OSFS in order to get the zine directly.

Anyway, normally the OSFS Statement (an Ottawa club newsletter which has been around a long time, almost as long as BCSFazine) features news of upcoming events, media news, and a great deal of material on the latest astronomy news (not that I mind, planetary geology in particular has long been an interest of mine, and the rest of the universe is pretty cool too).

But what makes this issue of special interest to me is the 'President's Column' by club President Diane Bruce about the 'Ossified' SF Society. She writes:

"It is apparent by just looking at the nickname that many consider OSFS as an aging clique, and I can hear them secretly thinking perhaps it would be kinder to take the old horse out back to shoot it for the glue. However, from what I have observed and been told, OSFS is not the only local club to suffer from aging members,

and low attendance, the question is how to revitalise such an organisation.”

Indeed, Toronto’s OSFiC disappeared as far back as 1984, and BCSFA is currently at its lowest level ever, though steps are being contemplated to attract more members. MonSFFA in Montreal seems to be doing extremely well though.

Diane is convinced all the “*young fen and science-minded geeks*” which used to attend club meetings have gravitated to theme-specific clubs which offer more in their area of interest, and that online interaction has replaced much of the physical social interaction of past times.

So, is the solution to plunge into online activity, tweets, blogs, live journals, facebook and all the rest? Diane thinks not, because:

“Social media is at least 20 years old, the groups and interests that draw people together in online social media have already drawn these people together, there is no room for a late comer.”

This sounds distinctly odd, but what she’s getting at (as she further explains) is that competing with social media by participating in social media and offering what they already offer – written communication, newsletters or equivalents, rapid dissemination of news – is to offer nothing that can’t be found elsewhere bigger and better and more attractive. I think she has a point.

So what should old-fashioned general interest SF clubs do to attract new members? According to Diane, what we “*have to sell is getting together with other real warm smelly humans. If a local club cannot do this, then they should quietly fold up their tent and walk away.*”

In other words, offer something different from the online experience, namely face to face physical interaction, or as she puts it “*Local groups must tailor to the niche market of ‘meat space’ meetups.*”

By sheer coincidence, at the last BCSFA meeting members hit upon the idea of more structured activity during meetings, such as games, or discussions about authors, or anything else we can think of, providing they are announced well in advance so that people could prepare and plan ahead, not to mention look forward to meetings. We used to do this. It’s what MonSFFA does now. So why not do it again?

In other words, instead of concentrating our efforts on ‘finding’ more members, why not focus on what existing members ‘actually do,’ and help word of mouth spread

about how much fun it is to get together for a quiet, relaxed meeting revolving around an activity or interest both attractive and fun? Sounds good to me!

SPACE CADET # 18 – March 2012

Faned: R. Graeme Cameron

At: <http://efanzines.com/SpaceCadet/index.htm#space>



This is my perzine, and boy is it ever! The bulk of it is devoted to describing my hernia operation and recovery aftermath. Not to be alarmed, it is reasonably amusing and entertaining, or at least meant to be.

I also review an article written in a collector’s magazine back in 1994 on the subject of how to tell whether you’re a collector or a hoarder. Turns out I can’t make up my mind which one I am.

Throw in a couple of fannish dreams I had, an article on ancient coins by Taral Wayne (I like ancient coins), and a couple of locs (usually there are more) including one from the ubiquitous Lloyd Penney, and you’ve got what I like to think is an interesting zine well worth reading.

But then, I do fantasize a lot, you know...

SWILL # 12 – February 2012

Faned: Neil Jamieson-Williams

Available at <http://Swill.uldunemedia.ca>

Long story short, SWILL used to be a rude and crude crudzine sticking pins in the somewhat overly inflated ego-balloons of fen everywhere, or such was the intention circa 1981. Neil revived it last year in the guise of same, but in actual fact it may be the most important and significant SF zine published in Canada today, for its purpose is to definitively define what fandom was and is through discussion and research. A dry, academic exercise? Academic for sure, for that’s what Neil is these days, but not dry, rather a juicy morsel saturated and dripping with the old Swill spirit, albeit far more articulate and meaningful than it was thirty years ago.

Of course, one has to get used to the ‘Pudmonkey’ font replicating a manuscript produced by a typewriter with dirty keys, but that is merely the price of admission.

Now having praised SWILL for dissecting fandom most gloriously, naturally the current issue has very little to do with fandom, and instead dwells on how the evolving world is turning out to even worse than dystopian SF predicted.

In his editorial, titled “Goose-stepping toward Tomorrow,” Neil writes:

“There is an unfortunate and strong authoritarian undercurrent within science fiction.... Ursula K. LeGuin in her 1975 essay “American SF and the Other” also touches on this theme as she questions the preference for, “authoritarianism, the domination of ignorant masses by a powerful elite...democracy is quite forgotten. Military virtues are taken as ethical ones... It is a perfect baboon patriarchy”... And I agree, the passion for authoritarianism in SF is a retreat to pre-human primate social organisation.”

Neil then talks about the typical SF authoritarian setup, cuddly father figure benevolent dictators ruling over featureless masses for their own good, etc., etc. I personally am not so sure this reflects right wing tendencies on the part of the authors so much as laziness. It’s a lot easier to concentrate on a few nifty characters and leave the rest of humanity in the background than it is to conjure up a radically novel society whose cultural mores and motivations are mind-bogglingly different from our own and unlike anything in human history to date.

Still, what are the implications of Neil’s premise, why is it important to note? He proposes that the SF in question has proven distressingly prescient, that we are in fact moving towards such a future. He states:

“...since the end of the Cold War, authoritarianism has been on the rise within the Western democracies. Civil liberties have been eroded (for our own safety), social programmes gutted, the average wage continues to shrink, the middle class is in decline, while our politicians vote themselves substantial pay increases, and our corporate CEOs hire analysts to recommend that annual compensation is inadequate and must be increased, the right to strike and collective bargaining is being curtailed, and the financial sector was permitted (due to the relaxing of government regulation) to create the worst recession since the Great Depression and handed the taxpayer, i.e. the average citizen the bill. The current trends point toward a more authoritarian future, everywhere....”

I happen to believe he is correct.

On the positive side, our near future will eventually make the old dystopian SF look like Utopian SF, and as a result SF will regain its popularity as harmless escapist literature. Just goes to show, there’s a silver lining in every cloud...

By the way, Neil is looking for copies of the three issues of his 1984 zine DAUGHTER OF SWILL, MOTHER OF SCUM, his own having been destroyed in a basement flood (I think). If anybody owns one or more of them, he’d appreciate scanned versions being emailed to him.

Unfortunately for us, his opinion of his 1975 zine SIRIUS SCIENCE FICTION is *“I have re-read the issue and to be blunt, my content really does suck, end of story. The only excuse (albeit lame) that I can give is that at the time that Sirius #1 was published I was 16 years of age...”*

Unfortunate, that is, in the sense he is reluctant to scan it and share it with us. Personally, I think it would be representative of the teenage fan mindset of that bygone era and consequently a most interesting blast from the past.

To be clear, I don’t subscribe to a desire to read only the ‘good’ zines, the ‘quality’ zines, the ‘best’ zines, and so on. I have a historian’s perspective. I’m interested in ALL zines (in the SF genre) be they award-winning masterpieces or crudzines, beautiful works of art or hopeless messes.

As Harlan Ellison once said, *“It take’s just as much effort to write a bad novel as a good one.”*

And the same goes for fanzines. It’s that inspired if inadequate effort by beginners I’m especially interested in. Besides, most of the famous fanzines of first fandom were churned out by eager teenagers, and what a load of crap, especially political crap and libelous infighting is to be found in the pages they wrote, yet many gems too, or at least the beginnings of a fine crystal garden.

In short, I don’t care if SIRIUS SCIENCE FICTION sucks! I Wanna reads it!

Anywho, check out last previous issues of SWILL which do indeed explore the nature of fandom

WARP V24 # 4 Whole Number 80 – Autumn 2011
Faned: Cathy Palmer-Lister
At: <http://www.monsffa.com/monsffahtml/warp.html>

Last October WARP won the very first CFF (Canadian Fanzine Fanac) Award for Best Canadian Fanzine. It won on the premise it was an attractive, well-laid out clubzine whose contents reflected the high energy of what must be one of the most active clubs in Canada, namely MonSFFA, the Montreal SF&F Association. Issue#80 is very much an ongoing example of what I'm talking about.



This 32 page issue begins with a loc column featuring the likes of Lloyd Penney, Garth Spencer, and myself. Basically I'm informing Cathy of her CFFA victory. She writes in response:

"I'm tickled pink! I love the award, and had great fun trying to find the SF references in the cartoon [the award

certificate]. Congratulations also to Garth, Taral, and Lloyd! [the winners in the other categories] I think this award is an excellent project, a great way to hopefully rekindle interest in our fanac. Let me know if I can be of help to you next year!"

The Award is reproduced on the following page with the inscription: *"Designed by Taral Wayne, there are 10 homages to SF TV, films, comics, and literature Can you identify them all? (The Gestentner backpack doesn't count) Answers on page 13."* Hopefully readers had fun spotting the visual references.

There follows a fiction section I admit I always skip over because I'm not interested in fiction any more (except the old stuff), but the fact that members have contributed no less than four stories for this one issue, and that issue after issue contains at least two or three, speaks well of the creativity of the club's members and their commitment to SF.

Next comes a short but evocatively nostalgic piece on the closing of a Montreal Planetarium first opened in 1966, and several pages listing recent awards.

Then comes the kind of article I especially love, a review by Sylvain Saint-Pierre of "two old Martian novels" namely GULLIVER OF MARS written by Edwin Lester Arnold in 1905 (before Burroughs Barsoom series) and Otis Adlebert Kline's OUTLAWS OF MARS circa 1933. Neither are as good as Burrough's creation, apparently, but still, this review makes me want to read them.

Sylvain St-Pierre reviews a number of movies. JOHN CARTER had not yet been released, so he reviews the

movies' trailers with an eye for detail, seeking to determine whether or not the movie is faithful to the Barsoom series by Burroughs. The answer is a firm maybe. Some details are spot on. It's a good forensic look at the evidence then available. His interpretation of the trailer sells the film better than the trailer itself does.

Keith Braithwaite reviews Montreal ComicCon 2011. He makes the following very interesting comment:

"Effectively demolished by this mass of fandom was the myth of today's sci-fi fan being a socially awkward, girl-shy fellow in his 20s or 30s still living in his parents' basement. There were as many women wandering the convention floor, young and old, as men... attendees were a diverse mix of teenagers, young college students, aging baby-boomers, many couples, some married with their children in tow, blue collars workers and professionals. It's always satisfying to see the mainstream's negative image of the so-called geek turned on its head."

Reading this would leave me terribly excited, were it not for the fact this convention is a professional convention rather than a fan run convention. Prices attendees were charged for autographs and photo ops ranged as high as \$125 (for Adam West of TV Batman).

Still, the convention was packed, to the point where, for Keith at least, it often proved impossible to get close enough to the 100 or more vendor tables to peruse the goods, or get anywhere near the 'Stars' (as opposed to 'GoH'). One wonders what their cut-off limit was, or whether there even was a cut-off limit.

Rather ominously, the full page review only discusses the attendees, the 'stars', and the vendors. No mention of programming, if any.

The last article, on the other hand, offers a splendid role model for the kind of programming to schedule for club meetings. Last October, for example, Keith Braithwaite gave a talk/slide presentation on the hoary old Bert I. Gordon film THE MAGIC SWORD. In September Josée Bellemare and Mark Burakoff gave an overview of the Steampunk Genre. In October Sylvain St-Pierre gave a multi-media presentation on the Sci-Fi toys of our youth, such as the Major Matt Mason action figure series. Wonderful stuff!

Hmm, I've got a slide projector. I should start giving inspirations at BCSFA meetings! (Inspirations in the sense of presentations inspired by the MonSFFA activity listed above.)

WARP continues to be well deserving of the CFF Award it received. It is very much a reflection of the

incredibly active SF club it represents and promotes, and is part of the reason it is so much fun to be a member of that club.

BRITISH FANZINES

PARANOID # 24 – January 2012

Faned: Ian Maule

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Paranoid/index.htm>



Honestly, I gravitated to this zine because of its title. Perfectly appropriate title for this modern age.

“Don’t Give Up, or the Case of the Two James Maulls” is Ian’s account of his genealogical research. Seems he put together a ‘respectable’ family tree going back to 1732 from the research he conducted back in 1998

which involved visiting actual records offices. Lately he tried again, utilizing the modern internet, and discovered his initial family tree was incorrect. I won’t give away the result, but his origin turns out to be less than respectable by the standards of the day. Lesson to be learned? Be paranoid about your family tree, it’s probably not as grand as you thought.

“Graham’s Irritating Day” by Graham Charnack begins “*Many people find me irritating.*” He chronicles a long series of incidents (allegedly accomplished in a single day) of which this is the shortest and simplest:

“On the way back home I got into an argument with a traffic warden who was trying to give a car a ticket. I don’t know why I bothered. It wasn’t even my car.”

I suspect this is an example of the feisty, off-the-wall, almost surreal, and very dry humour British fandom has long been noted for. I found the article hilarious. Lesson to be learned? Be very paranoid if you see Graham Charnack approaching.

“All the Pretty Little Horses” is a nostalgia piece wherein Mike Meara describes a delightful present he received Christmas of 1958, namely a surprisingly sophisticated (for the era) Horse Racing game called “Escalado” involving die cast model horses and a moving belt on which the horses somehow raced. I say “somehow” because it isn’t clear (even to those playing it) how the horses move at different speeds. Kinda creepy actually. Lesson to be learned? Your toys could be haunted. Watch out!

Jim Linwood contributes “Jophan’s Quest” in which he quotes a very brief description – printed in a 1963 edition of SKYRACK – of a fannish party thrown in April of that year. Turns out Jim was present at that party and the rest of the article details what went on. Among other activities, there was a fan-created board game based on THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR wherein the player attempts to reach the tower of Trufandom. I’d love to play the game! It would be very cool to host the game at a BCSFA meeting, or even at one of the Trumpeter Gaming Meets in Vancouver. But, if it still exists, it’s probably hidden long forgotten in someone’s closet. Lesson to be learned? Be paranoid about your own desires. You probably can’t realize them.

If I really faunch for the game as much as I think I do, I suppose I’ll have to create my own version. Hmm, as if I don’t have enough projects...

Closes with a really hefty loc column including, but of course, one from Canada’s own Lloyd Penny, but also one from the equally Canadian Taral Wayne, which I hadn’t expected. Don’t know why. I guess because I tend to associate him more with his art and his numerous articles in fanzines than with loc writing. A renaissance fan is Taral.

A good and fun zine is PARANOID. Well worth reading.

QUANTUM B*LLOCKS # 8 – January 2012?

Faned: Jinnie Cracknell

Available at <http://efanzines.com/QB/index.htm>

Jinnie stumbled into fanzine fandom with her first issue some time last year, in which she admitted “*I have no idea what’s supposed to go into a fanzine. I’m just making this up as I go along, because it’s fun.*”

Well, bless her for being a newcomer (we need to encourage more such), and more blessings upon her for hitting upon the single most important rule of fanzine fandom: “*Because it’s fun.*”

A book review, a short story, and a plea for material completed her first issue.

Her latest issue starts with a brief description of a meeting of the Birmingham SF Society. They sound an active club. Their ‘annual’ quiz took place.

Next comes a loc from Chris Garcia, to which Jennie comments “*I do believe that there is life somewhere else in the Universe, I’m just keeping an open mind about whether there is intelligent, self-aware life out there.*” To

which I would comment that I'm still keeping an open mind as to where there's intelligent life on Earth, never mind the rest of the universe.

And, of course, a loc from Lloyd Penney.

Next Jennie proposes an intriguing theory, that successful writers have made deals akin to that of Dorian Gray, namely that as they leap from strength to strength in their writing career, their first novel, unpublishable, becomes even more decrepit and unreadable as time goes on. Hmm, I think she has something there.

And, rather naturally as it IS a British fanzine, she proposes a drinking game to be played by fans desirous of an inebriated state. Of course, as she points out, such games tend to drift into confusion and incomprehension rather quickly if the game is at all successful.

There follows her musings on her favourite movies, favourite SF futures, and the type of technology she'd like to see, as well as a link to her play list of favourite youtube themes.

Issue #8 ends with a rather fetching picture of Jennie at the age of 18 costumed as the comic character She-Ra, wearing a white tunic with gold boots, gold belt, and a gold helmet, while holding a sword aloft. At first I assumed it was taken in her teenage bedroom, but on closer examination I realized the background was too tidy and neat for that. Besides, there's a filing cabinet, assorted storage drawers and shelving, a couple of potted plants, and above all a white cabinet clearly labelled 'First Aid.' Not your usual teenage bedroom. Had to be an office! But what sort of office lets you dress up as She-Ra?

(Ghu knows none of the places I worked would ever let ME dress up as She-Ra... not that I tried, mind you. Being a prudish, old-fashioned male who imbibed the strict moral code of the period I grew up in... I don't actually want to dress up as She-Ra... I'd rather be Cthulhu... Or Godzilla... but I digress)

The thing about QUANTUM B*LLOCKS is that it is a VERY fannish fanzine. Lots and lots of stuff about SF&F and personal approach thereto. And mainly, it's fun to read. Keep it coming!

AUSTRALIAN FANZINES

SCRATCH PAD # 24 – February 2012

Faned: Bruce Gillespie

Available at <http://efanzines.com/SFC/index.htm#sp>

This is actually a version of his APAzine for ANZAPA. Begins with a photo of a rather gigantic hailstone that collapsed his cat enclosure. A remarkable hailstone. But what strikes me as even more remarkable is the very concept of a cat enclosure. Never occurred to me such a thing was possible. I always thought in terms of two choices: A) let your cat out (and risk it getting killed or diseased = short lifespan of 4 years on average), or B) keep your cat indoors (10 to 20 year lifespan). How big is the cat enclosure? What's in it to keep the cats amused? What do the cats think of it? Is it bird proof? Inquiring fannish minds want to know.



Bruce also speaks of the tiresome task of applying for an old age pension now that he's turned 65. In Canada the Federal

government recommends you apply 6 months in advance of your 65th birthday. That way you have at least a fifty/fifty chance it will get processed in time to begin payments once you're due. Also, in Canada it's not very much, about 1/4th of what you need to survive semi-decently. There is a supplement you can apply for, but I don't know how big it is. On the bright side, in the recent budget speech from the throne the government promised to make the initiation of the pension automatic, no need to apply... someday. We'll see.

The rest of scratch pad is taken up with lists of favourite music bits (of various types) he listened to, various books he read, and assorted movies he saw, in 2011, with comments. Each grouping is divided into sections. For example, he lists both his favourite novels he read in 2011, and his favourite books (which includes some of the novels). Also he lists his favourite films seen for the first time in 2011, and all the movies he'd seen before but liked upon seeing them again in 2011. An interesting approach.

Most of the above was not genre, but fascinating nevertheless. For instance, he read Arnold Bennett's novel ANNA OF THE FIVE TOWNS (first published 1902). I've never read Bennett's fiction, but this brought back memories of reading his published diaries, which were full of detailed and often wryly amusing observations of some of the odd characters he came across in his travels. I think it was Bennett whom, on his deathbed, the London city authorities sought not to disturb by virtue of strewing straw along the street outside his window to keep down

the noise of the horse-drawn carriages. A measure of how popular he was. Good luck hoping for that sort of treatment today.

SCRATCH PAD (at least this issue) is a good example of a perzine where the author talks about his likes and dislikes, and throws in personal recounting of recent experiences. Rather like a diary or journal substitute, but one shared with readers. The very definition of a perzine methinks. I found it quite absorbing.

AMERICAN FANZINES

ALEXIAD # 61 – February 2012

Faned: Joseph T. Major

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Alexiad/index.htm>

This is always a solid, sercon, goddamn-well-make-time-to-read-it fanzine. A full meal deal fanzine. A meat and potatoes fanzine. And a real pleasure to peruse.

Two reasons:

First, the extensive book reviews (nine in this issue) covering the more interesting sort of SF novel to the even more interesting type of history book, such as a recent biography of Gagarin. The reviews are often cutting, since Joseph can't abide sloppy research.

ALEXIAD is so keen on history, in fact, that it is the only fanzine I'm aware of that runs a regular column on the latest "Monarchist News." Example: Did you know that January 24th was Frederick the Great's 300th birthday? And that his heir, Prince Georg-Ferdinand 'Prinz von Preussen' laid wreaths and potatoes atop his tomb? Hmmm, potatoes.... Aristocrats really do degenerate over the generations, don't they...

If you like both history and SF, this is a perfect zine.

And if you like history and SF AND fandom, the second reason I recommend this zine, its loc column, is amazing. This issue features 18 contributors, including Canadians Rodney Leighton and Lloyd Penney, as well as such well-known fans as Brad Foster (noted for his art) and Alexis A. Gilliland (also noted for his art).

For the most part these locs are not the usual short comments centred around 2 or 3 comment hooks, but quite lengthy discussions, ongoing debates even, and full of interesting stuff. In this issue, for instance, much discussion on global warming, and on the decline of conventions (not what they used to be). I will quote matters of Canadian interest:

By Lloyd Penney: *"Andrew Murdoch is still involved to some degree in Vancouver fandom, but not in zines any more. Benoit Girard was at the Montreal Worldcon . . . he's dealing with a divorce and just trying to make a living in Quebec City. Scott Patri is up Vancouver Island, and I haven't heard from him in some time, although I do see some of his artwork from time to time in zines, don't know if they are recent."*

Andrew used to publish ZX and COVERT COMMUNICATIONS FROM ZETA CORVI back in the 1990s, and Benoit did THE FROZEN FROG in the middle part of that decade. Scott's only publication was THE BOOKS OF ROSCOE in 1994, but he provided fillos for zines into the 21st century. In fact he was nominated for an Aurora Award, BEST ARTIST, in 2002 for his illustrations in Murray Moore's A TRIP REPORT FOUND IN A MANILLA ENVELOPE but, alas, did not win. He gafiated not long after. I still have a backlog of Scott Patri's fillos and it is my use of them which probably accounts for the occasional 'sighting.' Would love to get more though. I wonder how he's doing? He was a fixture at VCONS for a while, the only fan wearing an honest-to-Ghu propeller beanie, battery-powered no less! (Where can I get me one of those?)

Joseph T. Major commented in response to Lloyd's loc: *"...people are using old artwork of Scott's. He was often crude and over-the-top, but he understood something about the changing attitude in congoers that many others still don't."*

To which I would add that Scott often captured some of the original flavour of fandom, that aggressive innocence which is so very rare now.

And Rodney Leighton wrote: *"Graeme Cameron has created some new fan awards. Taral gets to design his own award which sounds kind of fun. Hmmm, I see that Lloyd mentioned this last time. Given the award for Best Canadian Loc Hack. Dunno why Graeme didn't just name the thing the Lloyd Penney Award and be done with it. Given that he is currently the ONLY Canadian Fan Hack that I know of . . ."*

Actually, Taral Wayne qualifies. As does local B.C. fan Michael Bertand. There are others...

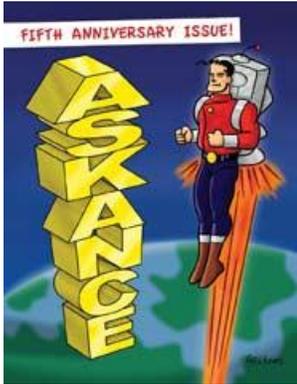
Anyway, if you feel like spending an hour or two savouring a pleasant, stimulating read, ALEXIAD is a damn good choice.

ASKANCE # 26 – March 2012

Faned: John A. Purcell

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Prior/index.htm>

This issue, the fifth anniversary issue, features a heavy Canadian presence (we're infiltrating everywhere!), namely: Taral Wayne (well known fan artist & writer), Lloyd Penney (award winning loc hack), and Neil Jamieson-Williams (fanned of SWILL).



Taral contributes a fascinating article on the second Canadian Unity Fan Fund winner (himself) back in 1988 when the fund took him to KEYCON 5 in Winnipeg courtesy Fran Skene's revival of CUFF.

Though he comments that he did not write a trip report at the time (though he later thought he had), I recall he wrote a speech which he never got the chance to deliver. I think he printed it in his CUFF-LINK newsletters shortly thereafter.

At any rate, I did not know it was Taral who (at the CUFF AGM) introduced three concepts new to CUFF:

- 1) A voting fee of \$2.00 (Now \$10.00).
- 2) The Fan Category be expanded into three categories: Fanzine, Organization, and Other. (There are now, with the addition of Best Fan Filk, four fan categories).
- 3) A two-year eligibility for novels, which remained in effect till 2000, when it switched back to previous year only. Taral's idea was that allowing only the first year's publication (in hard cover) meant that not many read it compared to the soft cover version published the second year. Now, I think, soft covers generally come out the same year as the hardcover, so the rule is no longer necessary. I may be wrong, but that's my theory.

In briefly describing the contemporary zine scene in Canada Taral states: "[recent] decades since have been dominated by Dale Spiers and Opuntia – a decent zine, but somewhat off-the-map of the rest of fanzine fandom – and on the West Coast, Graeme Cameron and Garth Spencer. Both the West Coast guys seem determined to educate fandom rather than entertain it, and their zines tend to show that..."

Arrgh! Such an accusation! And speaking for myself, as evidenced by this first issue of TFFR, I attempt to educate AND entertain. And isn't Taral educating us about CUFF in his article? Hmmm? Albeit with his usual dry sense of humour? Huumph. Nothing wrong with

educating and entertaining. Huump-huumph! Huzzah to both I say!

Neil contributes a book review and Lloyd a humorous account of a fannish legend in the making. Other articles include John's account of the highlights of the highlights of five years of Askance publication, Steven H Silver's account of the history of Starved Rock in Illinois (atop which people starved in the Indian wars), a hilarious tale by Lizbeth Phillips why you should never let your cat near your keyboard, fanzine reviews by John, and a fine loc column with the likes of Eric Mayer, Neil Jamieson-Williams, and Lloyd Penney.

One item I particularly appreciate appears in a selection of Nasa photographs. A hubble colour portrait of Mars is printed side by side with an 1894 globe of Mars drawn by Eugene Antoniadi and Lowell Hess. Both show the identical hemisphere. Suddenly the old 'canal' maps make sense! They were an overly-elaborate attempt to explain the albedo markings now clearly visible in the Hubble pictures (though not when you get close to the red planet as many probes have shown). The green belts of 'vegetation' do indeed exist; they even look 'greenish' in contrast to the orange tan of the lighter regions. Those early astronomers weren't so crazy after all.

A good, quality genzine with excellent articles.

BULLSHIT # 00 – October 2011

Faned: William Housel

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Bullshit/index.htm>



This is probably a one-shot hoax zine done by whoever the heck William Housel is. One thing's for sure, he's an active fan who knows his fannish history.

He reveals, for instance, that Claude Degler, the notorious ultra-enthusiast fan and fantasist of the late 1930s and early '40s, is the sinister mastermind behind contemporary fandom. For example, he's allegedly attempting to restart his fannish breeding program (he had a 'love camp' in the Ozarks):

"Perhaps most subtly, Degler's hand has manifested in the collapse of programming at NOLAcon II and Torcon 3. What better way to ensure fannish mating than to gather them all into one place with nothing to do? Surely, many slans were born in the wake of these conventions."

“On My Recent Expedition to the Arctic Circle to Investigate Puffin Populations” by the alleged Dr. William C. Langston, PHD, is loads of fun, as witness:

“Harsh though this may seem, I am not of noble blood and feeding me to the seals was well within his rights as lord and master. So I began to plead my case...”

I don’t know if sufficient time has passed to allow the actual film of President Kennedy’s assassination to be the subject of dark humour, but the article by ‘Gary Christian’ titled ‘The Keynote Address for the First Annual International JFK Assassination Deniers Conference’ is about as dark a spoof of conspiracy theorists as you can imagine. Full marks for guts.

“The Robot Revolution will not be Livestreamed’ by R. Bukinin (wasn’t there a famous Anarchist by that name?) more or less insists the reader is likely to be a replicant, or a cyborg at the very least, and consequently must vote “no preference” on the Hugo ballot. I don’t quite follow the logic but it’s an interesting advocacy to say the least.

The zine closes with a hoax bid to hold a Worldcon at the famous ‘Burning Man’ festival. Not a bad idea actually.

I’m assuming this is a one-shot, but you can contact ‘William’ at:

william.housel@gmail.com

if you want to submit material. Just remember BULLSHIT is devoted to *“fibbing, fiction, fabrication, falsehood, deception, misdirection, counterintelligence, hoaxes, bullshit, horseshit, chickenshit, prevarication, disinformation, rampant speculation, and outright lies...”*

And be prepared to be anonymous.

Garth Spencer has been advocating such a zine for a very long time. Hmmm...

CHALLENGER # 34 – Fall/Winter 2011

Faned: Guy H. Lillian III

Available at <http://efanzines.com//Challenger/index.htm>

At ninety pages this is one massive zine! Especially since Guy was kind enough to mail me a hard copy!

A genzine to be sure, featuring articles by authors Greg Benford and Mike Resnick, famous fans including Christopher Garcia, Earl Kemp, Steven H. Silver, Joseph

Major, and Richard Brandt, plus articles by Guy himself, also a famous fan.



The Canadian connection is an article by Taral Wayne, titled “Whose Royals are they Anyway?” which, you might think, is a very obscure topic to most of the readership, and you’d be right. But, as Taral reveals (something forgotten even by most Canadians), the Royal family of Canada (and Britain) is not English in origin, but German.

Having a royal family belonging to the ‘House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha’ somehow seemed less than patriotic when WWI broke out, so King George V arbitrarily after (much?) thought changed it to ‘The House of Windsor.’ Apart from mere facts however, the article is replete with Taral’s dry humour, especially when he suggests (on the premise of keeping the monarchy) who would make the most interesting candidate to replace Elizabeth II (and it’s not William the Dull!). Fun article.

Mike Resnick contributes an article about his career as a porno author in the early sixties. Pretty lucrative, he earned over \$75,000 a year churning out a couple of soft-core novels a month. The guy who ran the outfit was a self-made millionaire (courtesy of the public’s insatiable desire for porno) named Reuben Sturman whose ultimate business fate was the same as the well-known entrepreneur Al Capone. Fascinating article.

The loc column is excellent. Ginnie Cracknell is there, and Lloyd Penney, and Brad Foster, John Purcell, Chris Garcia, Milt Stevens, Martin Morse Wooster, R-Laurraine Tutihasi, Joseph Major, Alexis Gilliland among others. If, like me, a really good loc column is something you actively faunch for, you’ll find it in the pages of CHALLENGER.

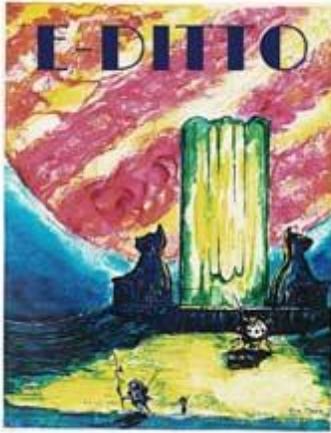
The zine closes with a brief account of Guy’s recent major operation (how insignificant my hernia operation is in comparison – I really should stop whining about it) and its happy outcome. Continued good health Guy!

E-DITTO # 16 – November 2011

Faned: Eric Mayer.

Groggy.tales@gmail.com

Available at <http://efanzines.com/E-Ditto/index.htm>



The cover is a glorious colour image of a green and yellow monolith flanked by gigantic statues of alien beasts, the monument rising from the surface of one of Jupiter's moons, the mighty Jovian world itself filling the sky in the background, astronauts capering in the foreground on the flinty surface of the moon.

Knowing that Eric used to do wonderful hectograph colour covers for 'Groggy' back in the late 1970s & early 1980s (the BCSFA archive has numbers 2, 3, 8 & 9, originally donated by the Susan Wood estate), I assumed this was a particularly splendid example.

Turns out, as explained in a wonderfully wry and humorous article titled 'Hue and Cry', it was done with water colours and printed out on the first commercial colour copier Eric had ever seen, at 50 cents a pop, a considerable sum for 1980. The monument was based on a lamp in his possession. I don't think I like the lamp, but I love the monument, and the painting. Cool stuff! And witty writing.

In his editorial Eric comments nothing much of anything has happened of late. The way things are nowadays, that's a blessing.

Dry and funny is his article on monthly elections held in his fifth grade class which seem to have been a lot saner than the contemporary mess.

Taral Wayne contributes 'Bedside Manner', an account of a less than civil doctor seeing a patient for the first time. Could be worse. I remember a grade school doctor (came once a year) who smoked like a chimney, had just taken a swig from a bottle in his car out in the parking lot (to judge by his breath) and must have weighed close to 400 pounds. Making the rounds of grade schools to examine hundreds of kids in a day was the last stop in his career before the grave. Wonder if this public service is still provided? They did weird things back in the 50s, maybe not so much now.

There's a good loc column with the likes of Brad Foster, Lloyd Penney (of course!), John Thiel, and others, and a short column contrasting eating habits with writing habits.

Then comes an article in which Eric expresses his shock that the legendary fan Walt Willis, co-author of 'The Enchanted Duplicator' with Bob Shaw, later wrote a sequel with James White about Jophan's continued journey to the enchanted convention. I've never read it, but I understand Eric's sense of betrayal. Fanzine fandom merely a way station to the greater glory of conventioning? Thing is, Walt loved both aspects of fandom, and I don't think that was his intention. Having achieved popular success with the mythologizing of fanzine fandom, he opted to do the same to convention going, his other principal fanac. No harm intended. Such is my opinion.

As to the concept of fanzine fandom now being nearly extinct, I say not! As I make clear in my issues of 'FANACTICAL FANACTIVIST.' The old days are gone, but there be new days ahead.

Anywho, E-DITTO is quite delightful.

REVENANT # 2 – February 2012

Faned: Eric Mayer

Available at <http://efanzines.com/Revenant/index.htm>



This is now what Eric is doing in lieu of E-DITTO. REVENANT # 2 is very much a perzine, and a nostalgic one at that.

Eric's editorial "The Ink-Stained Wraith" conjures up Baseball memories in a time-binding sense, and is immediately segued into his article "Fielding Practice."

Now, I played in the Mosquito League when I was a kid (one step below Little League), and I was the star pitcher on the team, mainly because I was the only guy who could throw the ball all the way to the batter. Despite my nifty uniform, I hated every minute of every game. I couldn't catch worth a damn, and I was afraid of the ball.

But Eric's article is magical. It somehow captures the way I was SUPPOSED to feel about the game. But then much of the article talks about the experience of playing baseball with his dad. That never happened to me. Even my older brother wouldn't play catch. Every other kid in the league was a stranger to me. I was very lonely out in left field. But for those who have loving memories of the

game as a kid, this article will bring those memories back to vivid life. I'm envious. If only that could have been me.

Eric includes several pages of panels from his "brief Fanartist career" circa 1986 when he published his 'BAD CAT' comics. They're not professional, but very good for an amateur, and definitely fun. Like something I might draw... if I had any talent.

He writes: "I struggled with the old fashioned metal nib drawing pens that you dipped into a bottle of India Ink. You had to know how to vary your line and avoid splodges. They were unforgiving."

"The felt tips, however, came in a wide variety of widths. Narrow points for lettering, huge paintbrush points for filling in dark areas. They were a lot of fun to use. I am not sure if they come in such wide varieties these days. In art supply shops, perhaps. In the drug stores where I usually picked them up the variety seems to have vanished."

Cartooning with metal nibs. Heck of a challenge. In grade school I couldn't even print with the damn things. Ink everywhere. As for felt tips, yes, art supply stores have them, some unbelievably expensive, kept in locked cabinets. More options for artists these days, if they can afford it.

In 'Fanacademia' (word newly coined by Eric?) he muses on what possible academic purpose library archives of "mouldering old fanzines" could possibly serve. He finally settles on:

"Mostly, I suspect, future historians will find in fanzines an invaluable source of what folks who weren't paid to write were thinking back in the twentieth century."

I think that's right. Exactly right. And every once and a while some historian or other will publish an anthology of the most interesting bits for them as likes arcane lore. So you Faneds, a chance to astound and amaze long after you are dead, or at least get people chuckling, even at the sercon. Just a few people, mind you, but people yet unborn. Pretty cool methinks.

There's a medium-sized loc column with a number of good locs. I was astounded to read in Lloyd Penney's loc the following:

"I have been considering what to do with my own collection, about 20+ Bankers' Boxes of zines. I don't want to recycle or shred them, and I might want to give them to the Merrill Collection, our local SF library, but whether or not they'd take them, I am not sure. I could

give them to Murray Moore, I suppose, but his house is only so big...."

Arrgh! Arrgh! Arrgh! There might be items I need to add to the BCSFA archive! But Lloyd lives on the other side of the country... must get in touch right away...

And Eric has something VERY interesting to say:

"Fanzine fandom is the most unwelcoming hobby I've ever encountered. Every other hobby cult I've been involved with, from mini-comics, to orienteering, to interactive fiction, has been thrilled just to have anyone share their obscure interests. While I believe that the vast majority of fans are welcoming and friendly towards newcomers we have in fandom a small cadre of critical, insular loudmouths who do our hobby a disservice."

If we are to successfully promote zinedom to neofen, we've GOT to overcome the influence of our dark side!

Heck of a lot of good stuff in this zine.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

The Graeme's comments are in dark Red.

From: Somebody willing to comment on reviews?

Seems unlikely anybody would, but what the heck, you never know....

TO SUM UP

My purpose is threefold: to review, to promote, and to entertain. Not bad for an experimental first issue. What do YOU think?

Cheers! The Graeme

You can contact me at < rgraeme@shaw.ca > or R. G. Cameron, 13315 104th Ave, Apt 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5

COLOPHON

The Frenetic Fanac Review #1, March 2012, Volume 1, Number 1, Whole Number 1, is a fanzine review-zine written and published by R. Graeme Cameron with the intention of promoting Science Fiction & Fantasy Fanzine Fandom in general and Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Fanzine Fandom in particular.

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