

personalzine of SEK3 for APA-V (NYUSFS)

For loss, etc., write Samuel Edward Konkin III, Box 294 Peter-Stuyvesant Station,
New York, New York 10009. Acknowledgements to E.E. Smith, fellow chemist, Ph. D.
"ASTRUM USQUE AD ASTER"

Volume I, Number One

Samuel Edward Konkin III
to one coming into the April 11, 1974

The World Is Crawling With Fanzines! cries the poor unfortunate who first receives this in his mailbox. "Why another?"

Why indeed? Well, I could reply as Archib, "creative expression is the need of my soul" (translated directly from the Cockroach, rather than relying on the poor Marquisian edition), but I am known to edit a publication styling itself the "World's Only Libertarian Fanzine" already, and write columns for such varied journals as Option (CanidbZine), Rip-Off Resistance (anti-Tax zine), and some once and future libertarian publications.

Ah, but that is the crux of the matter. While I publish fannish material, I am constricted to write editorials in a polemical vein for News Letters Columns, and my other writing is appropriate to the publication. Where but in an out-and-out personalzine can I write in fannish to express the other part of my schizoprenic soul? Where but in CLEAR C₂H₅OC₂H₅ (oops, sorry, slipped into Chemistress for a moment--all Konkinsoul is divided into three parts ...) can I play word games and be even more "in" than talking about libertarianism (and Theoretical Chemistry!)? And even hyphenate without J. Heil Schulman claiming it ruins the appearance of the publication?

And start fan feuds (oh lovely arguments/fights/friendly rivalries, right Mike...?) by gossiping about one's fellow fan.

So CLEAR ETHER is intended to be as fannish as Harry Warner's mailbox and as freewheeling as a broken axle. Now what Hell can I write about...?

Well, one could do worse than starting to talk about one's fellow fan locally. Either they will fawn on you for actually bestowing egeboo or start a feud with you for slighting them. How can one lose?

Now, in the beginning, (more or less, give or take over-punctuation), I attended an LASFS meeting and had a copy of APA-I bestowed upon me. Eureka!, as I usually cry when I am about to rip off a "new" idea, this is what New York fandom (non-lunarian) needs. So I returned to New York University's soon-to-be-famed Science Fiction Society meetings on my Flying Olive Branch bearing the Love and said, "Let there be an APA-NYU (pun on "NYU" by using the Greek letter ν, which means "frequency" in Chemistry and its subset, Physics)" and lo and behold, we missed the first couple of deadlines! "hanks, it is bound to be pointed out in the other zines, I am sure, to my 1) Browning Out* on the first deadline day, 2) entrusting Richard's zine to be typed to Mad Mike Moslow, who 3) left it in Bob "Mr. Astrology" Cohen's Terror Toyota.

Actually, since you are reading this finally, it did get printed. And it is not going to be either totally restricted to NYUSFS members nor distributed solely to APA-v contributors (one can do with extra copies as one wishes--laissez Faire!). But here goes noth...well, Clear Ether.

And on the other side of this page, all that hot juicy steaming gossip (underpunctuated) about NYU fandom you were waiting for (wading forth?)
*Gaffate" to non-libertarians

A typical New York University Science Fiction Society Meeting will begin around 5 PM any Thursday (not an NYU holiday, which may occur for a Christian holiday, Jewish holy day, Cthulhu worship, Martin Luther King's birthday, the death of James Earl Ray, or even more obscure religious rites). Richard Friedman arrives for his dwindling Open Space (to be confused with Free University) class on Science Fiction (which is what any fan teaching a "class" on SF deserves, of course), if I may remark parenthetically (which I am wont to do ((Richard, as we all know, talks in footnotes, I in parentheses, Mike Moslow in non-sequiturs for which no standardised notation exists as yet ((now start counting the right parentheses backwards until your eyes cross to see if they match the left parentheses))))).

Victor Dricka no longer appears at this time, which is only fitting for the publisher of the Official NYUSFS publication Aurora financed from the NYU Student Plunder, er, "fees" and his sister who does attend (to integrate our meetings, I suspect) and is not only more personable but better-looking. Others dribble in (except Mike, who, of course, drools in) such as the ex-Jesus freak, the token Neo-Fan, the token artist Jeff Grimshaw whom I will always lavish with praise in hopes that I can get a few of his cast-off illustrations and art crumbs for CLEAR ETHER, not to mention NLN (which I promised that I would not mention), and...do you get the feeling NYUSFS has enough tokens to bankrupt the MFA should we ever cash in?

Andy Thornton, the famous The Thornton, may turn up, and fellow Prefan Neil, the token lunatic Grey Mouslow, and, finally, an hour late as usual, the Token Canadian, the effete barbarian from the North himself, and order breaks out!

Wish you to sample the conversation? Ah, wait until next issue. (Always leave them hanging...)

PROZINE REVIEW (More or less):
Antaeus #13/14, American address:
1 West 30th St., New York, NY 10001.
\$4.95(1) Special Fiction Issue.

Fellow Carrollephiles (Lewis, that is) will want to collect this particular issue of an artsy publication which contains some never-before-published problems for Part II of Symbolic Logic written in his own peculiar style. Illustrations by Edward Gorey, which should get John Pachak's heart beating faster, at least. Unfortunately, the price is prohibitive, and one can only console oneself that one can read works by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Yukio Mishima, Anais Nin, and an interview with Christopher Isherwood, and other non-entities to be cast into the Mainstream Darkness, and... Thomas M. Disch? Well, enough said about the "New Wave" (and if not, wait until I get my cudgel).

One could subscribe to this quarterly for \$8 a year if one were so inclined.

BOOK REVIEW: Subspace Explorers by Edward Elmer "Doc" Smith, out of print, I think, but an old Ace (H-102) \$.60 found at Change of Hobbit in Los Angeles, 1965.

Clearly the work of the famous author of the History of Civilization or "Lensmen" series, not-to-mention (but I will anyways) the Skylark Series. Somewhat disjointed and episodic, it still has that "cosmic awareness" and "sense of wonder" which makes Smith such a delight. Starting off in a not-too-far-distant-future with colonized planets in nearby stars, Smith's heroes and heroines turn out to be genetically gifted (as usual) and rapidly raise the the evolutionary level of Mankind several Millenia worth in a generation. And technology goes from the equivalent of the Dark Ages to the equivalent of Buckminster Fuller's daydreams almost overnight.

It is interesting to see Smith affected by his times, with villains now wicked capitalists and Commies, ...and maybe just a little bit sad.