

Like to read other people's mail? 125 copys of this are on their way to England for circulation with Fido, the Futurian War Digest. Spose it can be classified as one of those "grand" gestures of myn (---Gilbert). Am. edit. 55 for FAPA.

OPEN LETTER TO ANGLOFANS

236 1/2 N New Hampshire
Hollywood Calif
1 Sept 41

Dear Everyfan
Everytown
England

(Not neglecting the genus stfan in Scotland, Wales & Ireland, altho I shall refer to all of U thruout, with offense to none, I trust, as the British Boys)

Salutations from Shangri-LA!

There have been several things I have wisht to say to a growing group of U for quite a few mos. now, things I have been able to say in direct correspondence to only a couple of U; things which have been understood in part, or in some parts, but have not rcvd widespread understanding.

Item a., What does 4sJ expect in return for his Bundles to Britain? This is a question which seems to have been bothering a bunch of U. Very well, then, let us get into a discussion of it:

Since the outbreak of World War 2, I have been sending science fiction, professional & amateur, in increasing quantities to various individuals in "England" (+ Scotland-Wales-Ireland). For the first few mos. this was on an exchange basis; I was traded copys of TOW, Fantasy, Scoops, New Worlds, Fantast, bks, &c. As the war wore on-- communication became erratic-- U were conscripted-- your earnings reduced-- your lives "messt up" (to quote Cabal)-- I decided to drop all regard for reimbursement, announced in Voice of the Imagi-nation that for the duration I shoud supply 'stff' (pro's & tmz, tsy & weird alike, to satisfy each appetite) to U gratis, giving every interested inquirer a copy of Vom--& not just a copy but a free sub for as long as hiser interest was sustained & I could afford it--& putting forth the promise to attempt to fill all "orders" (also free) for promags or fanmags desired. A long & involved sentence & I also apologize to any whom the simplifd spelling may irritate.

But because I have been unable to accompany every pkg with a note of explanation, many have misunderstood my intentions. Commonly U ask "What can I send you to cover the cost?" Understand this: The correspondence alone I have rcvd from U amply has repayd me for my expenditures along this line.

If there be certain of U who cannot be satisfyd til U have maild me something in return & are determind upon this course of action, then I think a used stf bk whose title U imagine I mightnt have woud suit me best; yes, that'd give me most satisfaction. Or if every fan reading this were to send me a copy of "The World Below", War with the Newts, 'Odd Jno', Star Maker, LAST MEN IN LONDON or one The Not at Nite series, I could distribute them in America. Any action along this line woud be appreciated fully. BUT UNDERSTAND THIS PERFECTLY: One particular purpose of this letter is to make it completely plain to U there is no necessity whatsoever to feel any way obligated! I keep no records of to whom I send what, keep no track of which fans (if any) fail to acknowledge receipt. I noe cases where some of U have rcvd something from me in such a roundabout way as to have bliev'd it donated by someone else. I am not interested in who gets credit--just that all of U get stff! All I want is for every fan Jack of U to get all the imaginative fiction it is within my power to supply & nothing material necessary in return. Look, at the 3d World Science Fiction Convention they presented me a medal for services renderd fandom--with special mention of the English angle--so what more recognition could be required than that???

Now I have got a way to spike your guns, U sonsoguns who insist on worrying about repayment: Rather'n sending stf to U individually, I'm coöperating 100% with the altruisticly-conceived British Science Fiction War Relief Soc'y. Sure, I'd rather deal with U personally, sending this to this one, that to that; it's more fun that way. But I look at it in the impersonal manner, to determine that in the long run the greatest good will be done for the greatest number by having one servicer center efficiently supplying needs rather'n scatterd individuals thruout this fanation praps favoring certain fans to the exclusion of others.

(PTO)

Just for the fun of it I've been earmarking (but inconspicuously) the mags I've been sending U thru the BSFWS. Some day I spect several of U will run across the clew simultaneously & some mention will be made of it in British fandom; but this is for amusement purposes only!

Bfor I forget about it again (intended to publish this fact in my Denvention article in Vom) I merely mailed U the Souvenir Bklets & other material from the aforementioned convention; thanx shoud be expresit to Olon Wiggins & Everett Evans for their generous donations covering postage. (This also goes for any Aussys lising in--& in a large measure, this letter may be taken as appertaining to U too.)

There is something I wish to comment on or explain about the Voms that are sent U: They are the worst copys, the culls. It sometimes is funny to receive your raves about the quality of reproduction, for often I am ashamed to release such copys! O, yes! every one doesnt roll off the mimeo 100%; we forget to watch & get pgs with life patches where enuf ink wasnt applyd, or paper wrinkles in running thru the machine, or occasionally sheets slip thru upsidedown--that sort of thing. Then we sort those out & make up the issues which we send to U. Shameful, isnt it! But with the Voms subject to bombs & sinkings & sevrsl forwardingings & so on, it just doesnt seem to make sense to send the better copys.

Now I want to mention a number of U by name.....

Warmest personal regards to
Ted & Rene (xxx), Bill & Joan, Joan &
Ken, Dave, Mike, Sam, Wally, Sid,
Maurice, 'Ego', Doug, the Johns
Burke & Jean & Craig, Larry, the
Williamses Les; & Very Best Wishes
Hopkins, Rennison, Rathbone & Eadie, Med-
hurst, Smith, Nurse Pitman, Holmes, Bloom,
Gottliffe, Russell, Dougherty, Special
Greetings to Every Other Fan!

And, finally, I want to tell U about my biggest ambition at the presentime: It is, after Armistice, to come to England. I want to do this in the most desperate way--to meet all of U swell guys & gals in person--that is my reaction to "all this". Unfortunately, my temperament is not of the type to permit hitchhiking to NY or working my way across the Atlantic on a tramp steamer, or something like that, so there might be a financial delay. But I'd come as soon as possible, because I woud subject myself to the meanest of transportation accommodations to be able to spend 2 or 3 wks--just give me 10 days!--among U. So please somebody hurry up & send the word that it's "over... over there"!

Yours very cordially

Pouf (Ae) Beckerman