

LONDON NEWSLETTER No.12

Very irregularly from Jean G Muggoch, 15 Balcombe House, Taunton Place, London, N.W.1

Sorry about the long gap but there really hasn't been any news. The Globe meetings are about the only happenings in London just now, but happily there seems to be a good crowd every time compared with, say, a couple of years ago when the company was sometimes rather thin. The December Globe saw John Brunner, Ted Tubb, Ken Bulmer, Mike Moorcock, Ethel Lindsay, Brian Burgess, Arthur Clarke for the second time this year among those famous in fandom and elsewhere, and also quite a few very fannish-type newcomers. Arthur Clarke had a 90 minute programme on American TV title the same as his new non-fiction "The Promise of Space". He is now off to make another film with MGM/Time Life. He wouldn't say much except that it was more ambitious than 2001 and that it would be "the real thing".

Brief visits recently from John Mansfield of Canada and Paul van Oven brought his brother Gerit. I read in a German fanzine that Holland hasn't any Fandom-as-we-know-it but these two Dutch fans adjusted well to British fandom. They have both booked for the Con - have you? No, I'm not going to go on boosting the Con, I know I don't have to. After all, when before has there been such a brilliant committee with such diversity of talents and interests? But help is needed. We seem to have more offers of art from overseas than from Britain. Any artists or anyone who knows an artist Please! The honour of British Fanartists is at stake. Other much appreciated support would be any auction material. We don't want Ted wasting the rippling cadences of his rhetoric on rubbish do we! Also wanted objects wacky or otherwise demonstrating this advanced technological age for the Museum of the Future.

Don't forget, in order to make the Fancy Dress Party a real success EVERYONE is requested to wear the appropriate gear.

And while on the subject of Cons I have a copy of a letter from Luis Vigil of Spain written to N3F about the fact that so much is decided in a WorldCon in America which affects future WorldCons in Europe, specifically the 5-year plan. I don't want to sound too critical of American fandom, certainly I think something is wrong with the situation but if the Americans are not aware of how widespread and active European fandom is that is not altogether their fault as they grab and publish any news they get. Nevertheless if European fans are getting on their hind legs and demanding their rights it might be as well for British fans to give the matter some consideration. Note I don't say "ought to" (wouldn't dare) but European fandom is becoming more alive and integrated and I would hate to see Britain become a minor component of it.

Still on the subject of Cons and HIGHLY relevant to the above, there is the point that the response for TAFF is greater from America than from Europe.

So how about EDDIE JONES FOR TAFF?

I did say there wasn't much news!

An item of interest is a new author in British SF, Ernest Hill, whose first book "Pity About Earth" Ace Double in April, now hardback in Britain, Hale SF.

Seems fannish to say there is no news with pictures from Apollo on every newscast. Ted Carnell tells me the Express headline on Saturday "Masters of the Moon" was cribbed from the title of a story from way-back-when by A. Hyatt Verrill. Takes some time but they catch up eventually.

Best Wishes for a happy, prosperous and exceedingly fannish New Year.