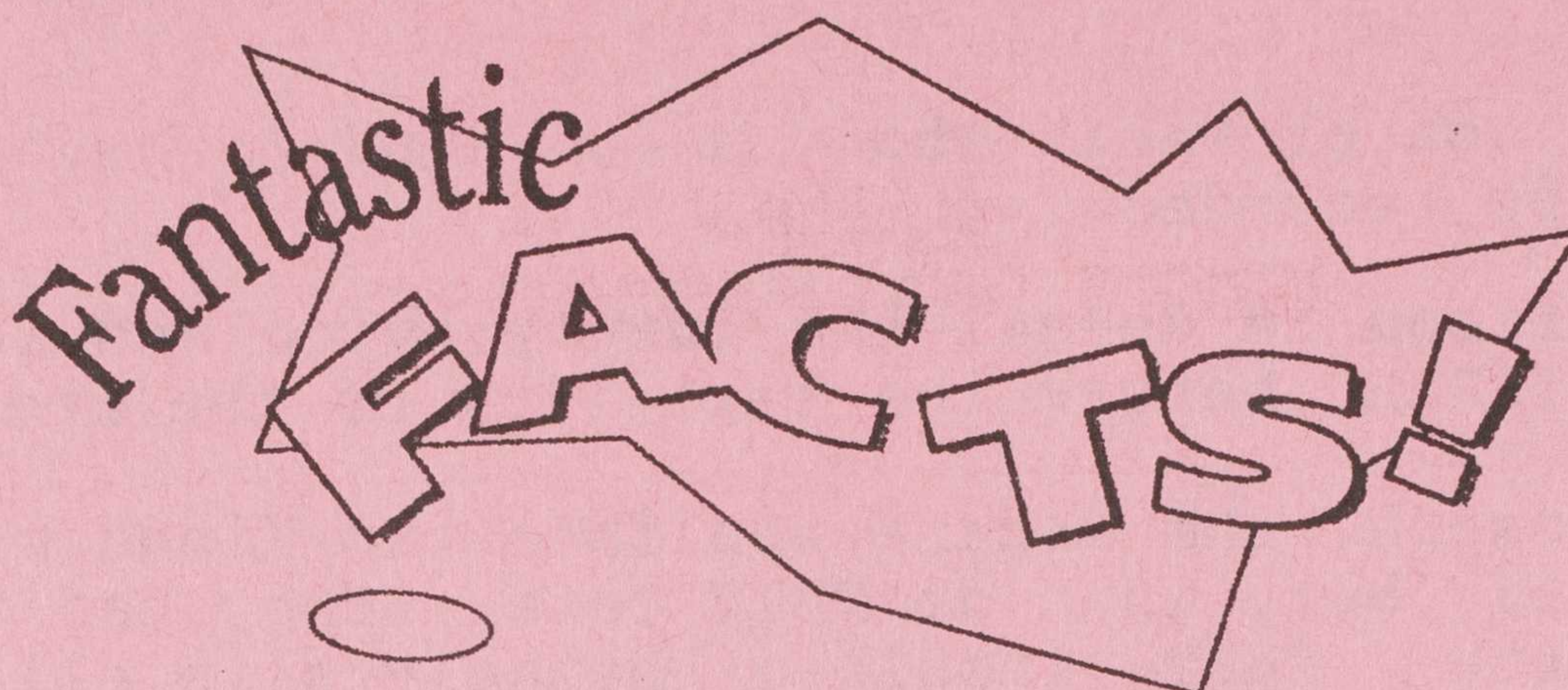




DID YOU KNOW?

Who 'They' Are?

A group, a foolish aristocracy to which it is no honour to belong.... Those from whom little good ever proceeds. Those who are a root of much evil in the nation.

"They drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments; but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph." AMOS 4:6

I do not covet a place in the ranks of its members.

Our text refers to the cost and magnificence of their drinking vessels, as well as to the quantity drunk! "Chief ointments" refers to the cost of their perfumes...

They are an example of unequaled, unmatched greed, self-centered. THEY are marked out by gluttony, drunkenness and extravagance. THEY improvise idle songs, given to singing extemporaneous tunes made up as they go along; with "all sorts of instruments."

Their Country and the cause of their Nation and their God have no place in their hearts...This Scripture clause: "They are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph." is so close to being "at ease in Zion." They are not in 'one accord' with their God, His Word, or with His People.

Moffatt describes THEY of our text: "...with never a single thought for the bleeding wounds of the nation." What a terrific description of the collapse, the downfall of TEN TRIBED ISRAEL!

The "ruin of Joseph" was the Division of the Kingdom of David and his successor Solomon into the rending of the Kingdom from the House of David.

The "affliction of Joseph" is called in Scripture "THE BREACH"; the great national calamity of Joseph.

[Cont. p.4]