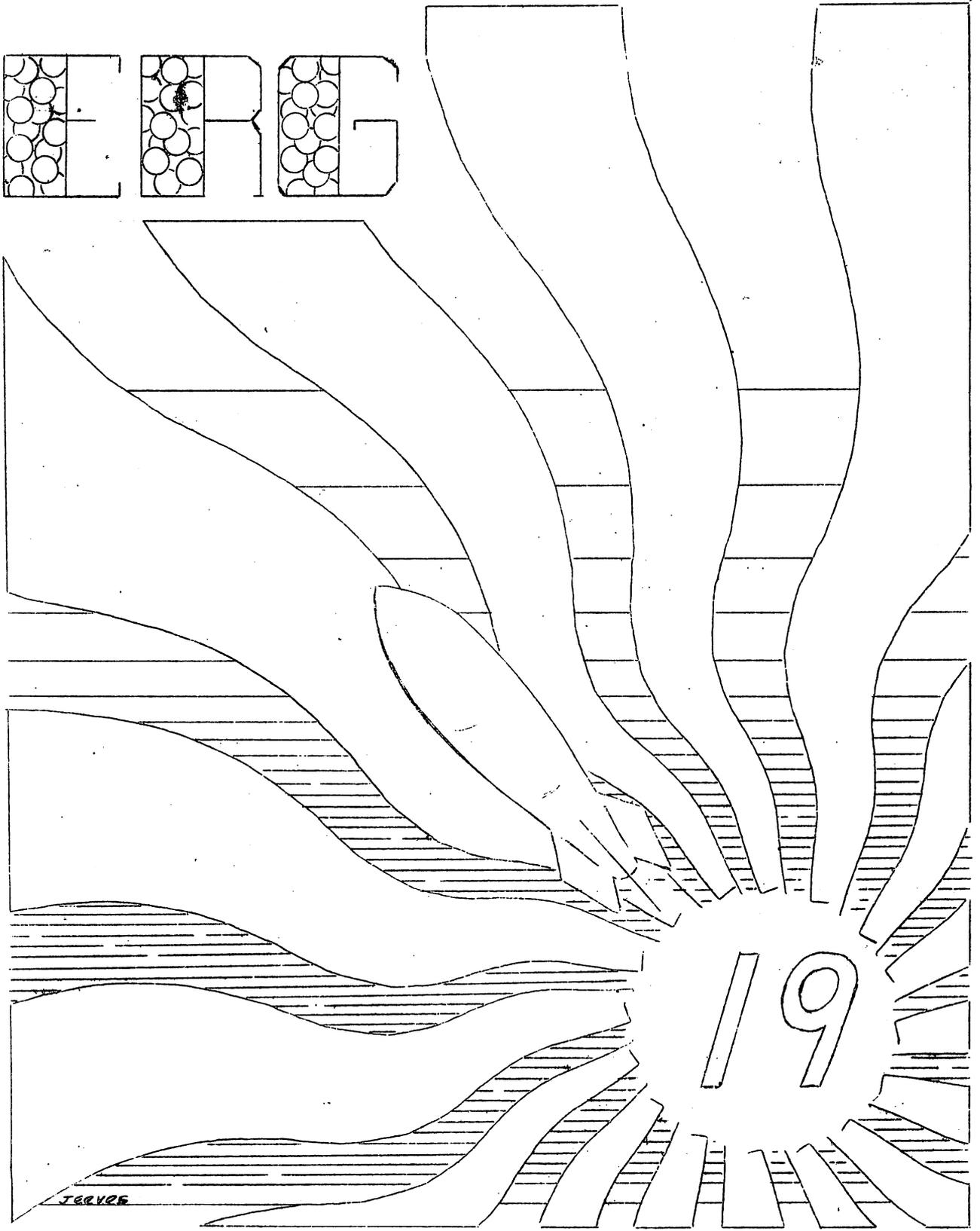


PERG



JERRY

2

ERG 19

APRIL 1964

ERG is printed and perpetrated  
by Terry Jeeves from  
30 Thompson Rd. Sheffield. 11  
YORKSHIRE  
and Phil Rogers for TAFF. see!

Much has been said and written about the tragic death of President Kennedy, and this issue is so long after the event that lengthy comment would be out of place. Just let me say that I have never felt such a sense of personal loss, at any other time in my life.

Once again, the Crumbling Mansion has been graced by a visit from Alan Burns, who bravely made the safari from the wilds of Newcastle over the weekend of December 28. The weather was once again unkind to him, and although we were able to take a run out into the wilds of Derbyshire, the lack of sunshine inhibited us, as well as the cameras. Incidentally, Alan arrived here looking like Father Christmas...he had presents for every member of the family..even down to the dog. We had a grand weekend yakking about science-fiction, tape recording, photography, and the like.....If you ask Alan, he'll even admit to having had a smashing time - but that is a private joke. Anyway, we really enjoyed having you Alan, and we're looking forward to a return visit to Newcastle...when time and lolly get in synchronisation.

Another visitor on a surprise visit, was Fred Hunter who dropped in while on a business trip of some sort ~~or another~~. He didn't say just what, but I suspect he is trying to find a buyer for the Shetland Isles. He knocked on our door one night in the middle of the week, and stayed over before heading off to Leicester the next day. Again we had an evening talking s-f, and TV (I was amazed to find Fred's favourite programmes were 'Compact' and 'Come Dancing' with Victor Sylvester. Even more amazing was (Is this still a secret Fred ??) his admiration for Vargo Statten. Anyway, I hope you managed to surprise Ella Parker when you got to London.....but would you please write to Betty, as she really meant what she told you. Whatever it was, she won't tell me, but she says you'll know what she means. Do you ?

Ethel's comments on keeping magazines down to size set me thinking (I do it now and then), and so I flanged up a few rough figures to see what ERG costs me. Apart from Ompa dues, a 12 page Erg takes around 22/- out of the kitty each quarter, so it would seem that people willing to pay that money out for a hobby might be more than willing to produce a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, rather than scribble just anything to make up their

3  
quota. Personally, I'd rather see the small mailings we have been having, coupled with better quality; than artificially boosted (by extra members) loads of crudsheets.

Department of mechanical art-work. Cast another look at the cover of this issue. Titling was done by use of a ruler, as was the hatched background to the Sun. The sun was produced by cutting the curve of ONE ray out of a piece of card. This was fixed to the Sun centre by means of a drawing pin, and rotated about  $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  at a time (This was guesswork, but you could use a protractor) Each stop of the template, I drew a line along its edge with the stylus. As for the rocket ship, that was made by folding a piece of thin card, and cutting out HALF a rocket freehand (or free scissored) And there you have it...mechanical art work.

PHIL ROGERS is a good man..Naturally, and therefore I feel sure that you will appreciate the fact that he is also a Convention going fan, having been at the last half dozen or so, to my own knowledge. Phil Rogers has also done his stint (and is still doing it) for the BSFA. Those of you who made the long trip to Harrogate (as did Phil Rogers) will recall his organisation of the horse racing game to raise TAFF funds. Therefore, it is only right that his name should once again be associated with TAFF...this time as a candidate. He's a good man, you will vote for him won't you ?

BRIAN BALL's s-f anthology. 'Tales of Science Fiction' should be in the bookshops by the time you read this, so if you have 6/- to spare, nip round and buy a copy. The stories have been chosen with an eye to the newcomer to the field, so if you're wanting a book to loan out to a prospective fan...here it is. Hard covers and with a full colour cover (not dust jacket) which was obviously inspired by the famous Bonestell, 'Luna Landing' scene. Close behind Tales of Science Fiction, will be Brian's 'Focus on Space' which is now in the galley-proof stage. If you still have any money left after that, you can always send a copy of my Astounding Checklist to a friend.

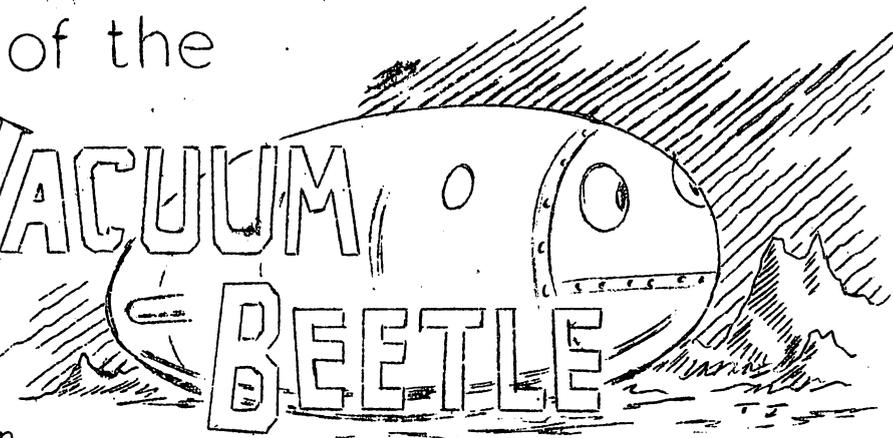
What's happening ? I picked up a new copy of 'UWorld of Tomofrow' on a newstand the other weekend. American edition, and priced at 50c. This normally translates (expensively) at 5/- as with Analog and other zines. Price this time ? Only 2/- Anyone know where I can get a sub at this rate ?

Miscellaneous (I hope I got that right) notes. Philatelists can get news and details (sometimes they even send stamps) of future British issues, by getting on the mailing list of the Philatelic Bureau (5/-) GPO. St Martins le grand, London. Aeromodellers who have a nostalgic memory of the old B-24 'Liberator', will be pleased to know that Airfix now make a superb kit of this aircraft for only 7/-d. First steps in animated cine cartoons have worked out O.K., so if patience and money hold out, you may yet see an animated Soggy cartoon at the 19-- Convention....and if Norman Shorrocks is interested, I'll tell him a simplified method.

Rogers 4 TAFF T.J.

# JOURNEY of the

# VACUUM BEETLE



This story was written for the Sep. 1952 issue of Henry Burwell's S-F Digest. Readers of van Vogt's 'Space Beagle' may enjoy

the parody..I hope so, as I hope to reprint some of my earlier fannish creations in future issues of ERG. T.J.

The planet was lonely and dark as it swung on its path through space. Lonely because it was the only offspring of a dark star, and dark due to an absence of light. High on a rocky ridge sat Gei-ga, one of the few remaining life forms on the planet. For many toks he had been trailing and odour emanating from a gaym. The gaym creatures were becoming increasingly scarce, and in consequence, so was the source of bul which Gei-ga's stomach craved. Well he remembered the days when he and his brethren would flock to the hunting grounds, pass through a turnstile to the accompanying click-click of the Gei-ga counter. And then - then they would see the gaym. Those days were gone, and Gei-ga looked like following them unless a new source of bul appeared.

Then it happened. A roaring filled the air, there was a flash and as Gei-ga's eyes readjusted, he could see a huge spherical object settling to the ground. He fearlessly approached it in time to see a rectangle of light appear on the sphere, and out stepped four dumpy figures. Gei-ga's tendrils stiffened....here was bul, bags of bul in fact! If only he could get aboard this craft, both he and the precious contents of his cranium would be saved.

Molton, skipper of the Vacuum Beetle, gazed around as he stepped from the ship. Suddenly he saw Gei-ga. To Molton, he looked like a large flower. Molton stepped forward to pluck the flower, only to find it needed no plucking. Instead of roots, it had coarse tendrils which apparently were a means of locomotion..possibly for movement as well. At the top, two finer tendrils appeared, surmounted by a large ball. "What do you make of it, Juanita?" he asked. The Russian grunted, "Harmless, let's put it in the Mess room."

One hour later, a crew member was found smeared across the mess room ceiling. A search unearthed three more crewmen, all treated with the same smear technique. Gophknaw, as the only Neckist on board pronounced them dead and after X-raying their bodies with a multiple - beam Singloscope, called the Skipper. "Molton, this is hot stuff, these men haven't a trace of brain matter left in their bodies. I have two

5  
deductions and an offer of advice. Either someone slipped in Intelligence, or our little Pansy has done it. I suggest we kill the thing."

Molton scoffed, and pointed out that no crew member was expected to have any brains. The smearing he blamed on an undercover campaign to discredit his authority, therefore nothing need be done. Gophknew acted immediately. He hypnotised the crew by means of a vogtometer and set out after Pansy. He found her busy picking the navigator's brains, and quickly threw a handy bucket of weedkiller over Gei-ga. Gei-ga planted a crnium cell in the navigator's remains and attacked Gophknew, who grabbed a Tommy-gun from a nearby hook and let Gei-ga have it. Gei-ga not understanding its function, politely handed it back, and Gophknew fired at the plant. Pansy dodged the bullets and chased Gophknew down the corridor. The Neckist snatched a brick from his pocket and hurled it at Gei-ga without any effect. Dashing through the hydroponic garden he scattered radioactive dust behind him. In quick succession he tried a hand grenade, a baseball bat, and a pair of the cook's socks. All of no avail, Gei-ga still came on. Gophknew energised the walls, the floors, and even the ceiling, after first donning dry socks to avoid energising himself. Gei-ga copied the stratagem and continued to come on. Gophknew found himself pressed against the wall..something stuck into his back. His hand grasped it and drew it before him. It was a FANZINE, complete with blotched ink, cruddy illos and naughty words. Gei-ga took one look, screamed, shrivelled into a dried up little ball and vanished..... no wonder thought Gophknew as he slid to the floor in a dead faint and bashed in his skull on the carpet. He never recovered.....and as far as I know, the crew on the Vacuum Beetle are still in a state of hypnosis.

THE END

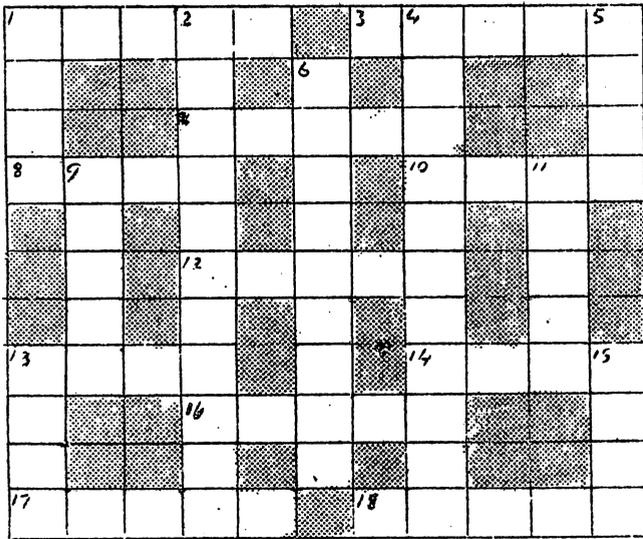
### DESERT ISLAND DISCARDS

Frantically switching off the sick-making Liz Taylor slush over the Christmas telly season, I thought how nice it would be to have TEN MAGIC BULLETS with which you could shoot (via the screen) any ten TV performers or scriptwriter who annoy you. Val thought the bullets a bit harsh, so we compromised by picking those we would consign to a desert island...here then, are my 10 Desert-Island Discards. How about yours ?

1. Francis Durbridge for his Paul Temple series
2. Lana Morris for her ham performances
3. 'Gussy', 'Little Podge'(whose name escapes me) and the
4. entire cast and scriptwriters for Compact...I usually see
5. the last 5 minutes of this while waiting for the next show.
6. Richard Dumbleby for his pomposity.
7. Andy Stewart for his falsity
8. Wilfred Pickles likewise
9. Raymond Baxter for his patronage
- 10 George Simenon for not writing enough Maudit stories.

The above performers are all BBC-ites as I dismantled the ITV aerial partly through poor reception, and partly because of its drug-addict effect on the children.

# The CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1. There's nothing in it
3. Your head sits on one end of it and you on the other
7. Blake's burnt bright
8. Greek letter B
10. Puts meat into the side
12. Make a crate into a mark
13. Jason's ship
14. He sees the future
16. Used for a repair
17. Constructional metal
18. Green fly

## DOWN

5. A short examination
9. A dead cinder
13. British author

1. Its the end
2. Great disaster
4. A combined effort
6. To make worse
11. Mercer's walk ?
15. Rodents

No prizes this time...it's too easy. But if you really get stuck, here are the answers.....no peeking.

THIS IS THE PHIL ROGER FOR TAFF PRIZE CROSSWORD++ or sump'n

ACROSS. 1.Space 3.Spine 7.Liger 8.Beta 10.Team 12.Trace  
 13.Argo 14.Seer 16.Patch 17.Steel 18.Aphis  
 DOWN. 1.Stub 2.Catastrophe 4.Partnership 5.Exam  
 6.Aggravate 9.Eruber 11amble 13.Amits 15.Rats

FOR PUZZLE FIENDS...here's an algebraic one. Find x and y in these equations.

$$\begin{aligned} 5x + 7y &= 0 \\ x^2 + x &= y \end{aligned}$$

No prizes are offered, but if you get stuck I'll confess to cooking it so that it is simply solved by letting both x and y equal...no peeking....zero.

And of course, much as I like Phil Harbottle, zero minus one has no comparison with zero.

# Ompa views

Being assorted  
mailing comments  
and such like  
natterings.

@@@@@@

BEST COVER...Scottishe, by Atom      Runner up ...Whatsit by Higgs ..1  
Compact by Atom ..2  
Souffle by Harry ..3

Harry's 'Souffle' cover would have rated higher, had it not been a re-run. Atom as usual, scoops the art credits..Ompa would be an anaemic affair without his talents. Ghu preserve him from GAFIA, and in the meantime, can someone persuade him to do a short article on the Atom method (and tools) for stencil cutting???? Please.

SCOTTISHE...Interior art, layout and headings, board covers, all on the 'plus' side. Your Ompa comments intrigued me (apart from appreciating the bouquet). I'm not too sure that Ompa does sort of 'milk' general fanpubbing. In my own case, with EB, Triode was still a hefty piece of work with 150 issues of 40 pages every quarter. Erg is more my size, and I circulate it to genfandom where interest (LOC) is shown. The only in-group item being these mc's...so I sometimes, (not always) delete them from the genfandom issues. Walt and Brian didn't come through so well this time I thought, and (sob) the issue seemed smaller.

WHATSIT...I wasn't so taken by the artwork inside, as that on the cover, and I found the green ink a trifle difficult. The bot on the board game looks good, but so far, I haven't got around to giving it the attention which such an article deserves...This issue goes in the special file. That APA merging might be good, BUT I'd hate to have to produce that many extra issues of ERG every quarter.

COMPACT...One of the best things in the (post)mailing. I liked the size of it, the board covers (slurp), and the material. I'd also like to see more illos herein. Maybe I'd better clarify my dislike of 'comments on comments', as I obviously have been a bit obscure here. My objection is to zines which consist purely of comments on the past mailings...they contribute near to nothing to OMPA. What I do agree with, is a zine that has a section (large or small) for mc's, and if some of these comments deal with earlier comments, fair enough, that is normal discussion.. especially so, if NEW comments on the current mailing also appear. But if we have too many 100% mc zines, then they must live in the past (nostalgia like) as there won't be much new stuff on which to make comment. Agree with your idea for a members activity requirement to come due within the half year...sounds a good idea, cos after all, his (or her) waiting list time can be well spent putting new material on stencil and getting his baby ready to face the big hard world of OMPA. Really enjoyed your work account, and wish I had the courage (and sense) to take lessons and get off the hunt and peck wagon.

8 SOUFFLE... Loved your reply to Ethel, after all it was the logical riposte wasn't it. Good job she has a sense of humour, some people would sharpen the meat axe. Also liked your 'Clippings' and comments..more please. The review of 'Manchurian Candidate' had a rare effect..it made me want to go and see the film. I liked Souffle.

PHIL  
ROGERS  
FOR  
TAFF

MORPH...A ~~xxx~~ Brush stencil cover ?? Nope, never had any trouble with stencil cutting after using a pencil..meanwhile, that ASF index (part.1) is now out, can I sell you,one ? I too, did not enjoy 'Orphee' as a film, but did enjoy the camera work. Do you attend the showing of the Ten Best Amateur films each year ?..no connection I hasten to add. PHIL ROGERS is a good man isn't he ..PHIL ROGERS

AMBLE...Agree with you, I didn't like 'Three Hearts and Three Coronets' either...sort of cutprice O(Shea,Fahfrd,Conan and dammit, even old Elric the Unreliable. Also enjoyed your poem/verse/chant on the value of action...wish I'd thought of that connection myself. In case you haven't looked yet, a patella is a kneecap...it keeps your knee warm in cold weather.

MEIN OMP-F Welcome in mate...I'm a plastic (aircraft and rocket) modeller myself..and I'm also a Yorkshire tape-fan..as of course you know. Liked your comments on news items. That Keswick bus banning character certainly has a point...another is more important to my mind..do they make buses with corridors ?? Many thanks also for your long letter...an asthma pile up caused me to curtail my letter hacking around Xmas. Vote for Phil ROGERS

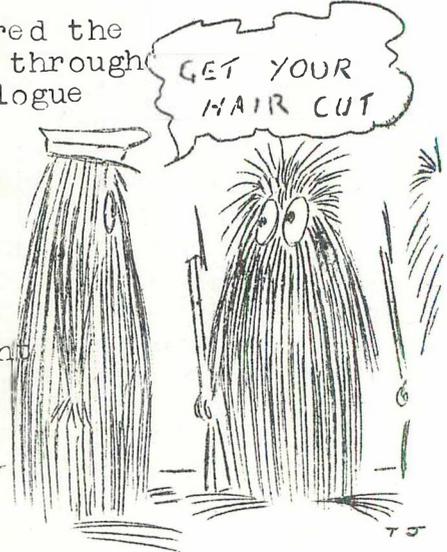
DETROIT IRON...I enjoyed the fanzine farrago, but was a bit sad to see the reference to Joy and Vinç Clarke. Glad to hear you support ROGERS for TAFF

PHENOTYPE...I'm being got at !...and I like it. Send me six models. I enjoyed the Con report, and once again felt downcast at not being there...Someday, if I win the pools....

BIXELTYPE...I'm being got at...but if I answered the cover query, EEG would never get through the mails. The opening statement to the prologue for FTL and ASI sums the whole thing up...a polemical document. Nuff said. Sorry, but it seemed an unfair attack in ASI.

GET YOUR  
HAIR CUT

HEX...I hope you can make it to Britain, but I'm not a great help with University details...I suggest you send a query to the Ministry of Education and get things straight from the horse's (or in this case donkey's) mouth. Mills Family Horrible, is a purely personal crack, as I don't like the father and I'm afraid I detest the kind of film in which Hayley appears.



LEFNUI...I keep trying to think of a sentence to go with that title.  
How about...Len Eagerly Flicks Nuts Under Iris. Liked the cover and duping, but how about some interior illos..please. I tend to agree with Bailes' view of s-f..at least as far as Analog is concerned. Well into the rut. Oh yes, and welcome to OMPA. More power to Lef. and of course ROGERS FOR TAFF'

SIZAR(s). Rather thin pair this time Bruce, but not to worry, no doubt you're still in a flat Antipodean spin. Anyway, you can always ban the Woomera bombs can't you? Me, I feel a bloke has a right to be anti-bomb, and even to try and propagate his gospel..my objection is against a minority trying to swing the majority...and by majority, I include the rest of the world who would keep bombs when we had none. Now if a referendum of Britain proved a majority in favour of bomb banning, OK. These of course are pure personal and off the cuff comments...no digs intended. I like you.

IDITIC GENIUS...Liked the 'Happiness is....' Have you seen that kiddy style book in a similar vein? 'Happiness is a bed of your own' and so on. How about 'Revolt of the Typewriters' as as-f story?

CYRILLE...Enjoyed the loco piece...I only knew the 4-6-2 business before...Heck I enjoyed your travels, and your commentary on Britain as well. Dammit, I enjoyed the whole thing. Very good.

ROGERS FOR TAFF BECAUSE HE IS A VERY GOOD ACTIFAN AND CONGOER SUPREME

IT IS NOT TOO LATE..  
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PART.1. (1930 - 1939) costs on 4/6, and in addition to B Board covers and a plastic spine, contains :-  
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B. a complete listing by author  
C. a complete listing by story  
D. listing of all article  
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FERNOPHILES...can get a copy of 'John Russell Fearn...An Appreciation from Philip Harbottle, 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend on Tyne, Northumberland. 30 foolscap pages...and only 2/6

And I'm always glad to receive your old foreign stamps.

And a happy Easter to you all.

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