

FANTASY FICTION FIELD

Founded by Julius Unger

Volume 1 ... BI-WEEKLY ... Number 14

July 16, 1963

The National Fantasy Review

Whole Number 14

AMAZING STORIES — september

The Winds of If (novel)	A. Bertram Chandler
Homo Aquaticus (short)	Poul Anderson
Boarding Party (short)	Robert F. Young
Neutrino Astronomy (article)	Ben Bova

FANTASTIC, september lineup

The House That Time Forgot (novelet)	Robert F. Young
The Demon of the North (novelet)	C. C. MacApp
The Sudden Afternoon (Short)	J. G. Ballard
The Singing Sands of Prester John (short, classic)	H. Bedford Jones
Vanity, Thy Name Is (short)	Ron Goulart
Adjustment (short)	Wilton G. Beggs

FANTASY & SF — october lineup

Girl of My Dreams	Richard Matheson
Epistle To Be Left In the Earth (verse)	Archibald MacLeish
Books (reviews)	Avram Davidson
Deluge (novelet)	Zenna Henderson
The Light and the Sadness (verse)	Jeannette Nichols
Faed-Out	Avram Davidson
How To Plan A Fauna	L. Sprague de Camp
Special Consent	P. N. Hubbard
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (article)	Isaac Asimov
They Don't Make Life Like They Used To (novelet)	Alfred Bester
Toward A Definition of Science Fiction (guest editorial)	Fredric Brown

ODDS & ENDS IN FANDOM --

Avram Davidson states in his fanzine, HOMUNCULUS #3, that because of landlord trouble and the difficulty of finding another place in Milford, Pa., he will be moving to Mexico.

From John Boardman (Box 22, NYC 33) the information that a new fanzine is available from him at ten for a dollar. Called GRAUSTARK, it is a bi-weekly devoted to the current postal "Diplomacy" game and related topics. John also says the Cult now consists of its 13 active members, 5 active waitlisters, and 12 inactive waitlisters including himself.

FANTASY FICTION FIELD is published bi-weekly by Harvey Inman, 1029 Elm Street, Grafton, Ohio. Associate Editor: Paul Scaramazza. Subscription price: single copies for ten cents, 13 issues for one dollar, 26 for two dollars. All checks and money orders should be sent to and made payable to Harvey Inman.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS Well, folks, we are a little, ha ha, late again this time. Caused mainly by the fact that not too much of newsworth seems to be happening at this time. In view of this, and also the fact that vacation time arrives next week, I have decided to do the sensible thing and skip an issue. Perhaps then I can get back on the schedule when I return. ## I would like to point out that many subs expire with this issue. Although I do not believe I have pointed this out formally, I think most know what the little number following their name on the mailing label means. The slogan "exp." means just what it says, too. Numbers indicate the number of issues due you following the current issue. If nothing at all follows your name, either we trade or you are a member of that insecure group who is likely to be cut off the list at any time. And if we are trading and I have not had news from you within the last few months, I am worrying about you. ## It occurs to me that perhaps some who have joined us with the past few issues may wonder about the cryptic sheet which accompanies FFF. This is an index volume to some of the fantasy and sf published before 1926. The current sheets are listing Weird Tales, and this will complete the volume when completed during the next few issues. At this late date, I have decided not to send the supplement to new subscribers and with sample copies.

THE COSMIC CIRCLE -- fanews and other et ceteras

They said it couldn't be done, but the Baltimore Science Fiction Society continues to grow with the addition of several new members. The club has nine members, plus six other irregulars, and has now chalked up 14 consecutive fun-filled meetings. There will be a special BSFS meeting at the Discon for members and corresponding members only. Date and time will be announced Friday, August 30, at the Discon.

Two new science fiction series are due on TV this fall, both hour long, one in color on ABC and the other on CBS. The ABC item is now called "The Outer Limits," and will be a science fiction anthology series. The second is a CBS situation comedy and is called "My Favorite Martian." Ray Walston will play the Martian visitor marooned on Earth whose antennae give him the power of invisibility. ... "The Twilight Zone" will revert to a half hour in the fall.

"The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao," based on Charles G. Finney's "The Circus of Dr. Lao," is now being filmed in Cinemascope and Technicolor by MGM. It is a George Pal production and stars Tony Randall in a role playing seven characters.

Jack Chalker has sold a new, revised, bibliography of H. P. Lovecraft to Arkham House. It will appear in THE DARK BROTHERHOOD AND OTHERS in 1964. Assisting Jack in the compilation, revision, etc., is John E. Vetter, late of Kadath Books.

THE FANZINE FIELD

by Mike Deckinger

WITHIN #4 (Paul Williams, 163 Brighton St., Belmont, Mass., trades, mtl, 25¢, LoC, irregular) Paul is one of the youngest fan-eds today, and his lack of years is scarcely evident in WITHIN. It's quite competently handled, from the disappointing covers to some stimulating and highly readable interior items. In addition, Paul turns out a long editorial and effectively infuses his personality into the pages of the magazine, so that it becomes more than a bland, featureless publication. From what I have gathered, Paul's personality is energetic and hearty, and at times he fairly shouts from the pages. This innovation, while perhaps overdone, is not to be discouraged. What is to be discouraged, however, is Paul's method of mailing WITHIN. The practice of mailing a fanzine, or any publication for that matter, rolled up in a compact, practically unopenable tube does not go well with me at all. Fanzines sent this way invariably retain some of the creases and can never be completely transformed into their original, flat forms. I'd much prefer to have a zine to me mailed completely flat, with the edges stapled, as Ted Pauls does with KIPPLE, than in a rolled up format. A word to the wise: The repro here is good, but the artificial looking hand drawn headings aren't, and they tend to detract from any overall esthetic effect the zine achieves. Lettering guides can do a great deal for a fanzine--I wish more fan-eds would realize this. The written material ranges from a bad short story by an author whose unfamiliarity with the avant-garde technique is painfully apparent, to a volley of generally well handled reviews. In one instance, reviewer Dave Hartwell ingratiates me to his opinion by praising Tevis' THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, and then thoroughly demolishes my image of his ability by praising PODKAYNE OF MARS more highly. Anyone who likes PODKAYNE doesn't know Heinlein.

FANTASY-NEWS #4 (Ken Beale, 115 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx 67, N. Y., 12 for \$1.00, weekly /!!!/) My faith in the boundless energy of fandom has been restored by this blearily mineod, unimpressive pretense of a newsheet. Crudzines are indeed appearing again, and FANTASY-NEWS is a prime example of that curiously limited breed. None of the news here is timely or of any great import. There are half page accounts of sf films, books, and other related trivia, but what is presented is unimposing and hardly worth the effort to secure the fanzine. The weekly schedule interests me, too--many newszines can't find enough timely items to fill out their bi-weekly or even irregular schedules. I'd like to know what sort of crystal ball Beale and Sykora are going to use in their case.

SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES #65 (Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles 25, Calif., trade, LoC, 25¢, bi-monthly) This issue of SHAGGY has a special bonus in the form of a small folio of drawings rendered by Poul Anderson for his THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS. In a preface to the art he describes the drawings as "doodles" and he's basically right. Poul should stick to writing and leave the artwork to Karen. ... The emphasis

THE PANZINE FIELD, continued

here is on light, frothy, amusing material. Bjo has an entertaining report of a trip offered by a nutty radio station for a wacky contest they were conducting. The purpose of this trip is to locate Lance LaVon. They don't. The closest thing we have to these characters on the East Coast is Bob and Ray (if they are still on) and Klaven and Finch. But I'm not much of a radio listener, so I can't speak with authority on the matter. Ron Ellik concludes what seemed to me to be a skimpy TAPT report, even though what there was of it was highly readable. I suppose that I'm just so accustomed to 50 and 60 page reports that anything broken up into serialized installments does not evoke the same imagery that one compact chunk would. The usual SHAGGY features are present, and as readable as ever. And in the lettercol one Grandfather Pong, who writes under the name of Ticker or Tacker, or something like that, ineffectively refutes the known fact that sf writers are invariably filthy rich and are wallowing in cash to such an extent that setting fires to 75 dollar bills is an everyday occurrence. Better oil your rocker, Gramps, before you make any more irrational statements like that. We all know that Tacker or Ticker, or whatever the hell it is, frequently visits Las Vegas where he indulges in prolonged sieges on the slot machines, usually emptying them of their contents, to say nothing of the Roulette tables, and said author is a living rebuttal to Grandfather Pong's argument.

YANDRO #124 (R & J Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana, 25¢, monthly)
This issue leads off with a fair multilithed Adkins cover that resembles the first draft of some pro assignment. As is the case with most Adkins art, it's a damn sight better than the majority of his prozine output, even though it appears sketchy and incomplete. The twin editorials are quite good as usual, though Buck offers the inflammatory remark that Vance's "The Dragon Masters" "far outclasses the competition." I have read that particular story through twice, and I still think it is miserable Vance work and certainly far below his potential. But all this talk of awards and "year's best" has gradually reduced my capacity to protest what I consider to be unfair inclusions. The topper was Judith Merrill's YEAR'S BEST anthology recently put out by Dell, which I found to be one of the altogether worst collections I've ever read. Many of the stories in it did not deserve publication in the first place, much less reprinting, but if they got away with it I can't see why the Vance story won't. Clod Hall has a Remarque-able article examining the inconsistencies of ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT and finally concluding with the observation that it is not at all a good book. I don't think it is quite as bad as Hall implies, but I've read better. In the lettercol, editor Coulson offers 50¢ for a copy of EROS, and I would be willing to up that bid to 60¢. There is a certain measure of enjoyment to be derived from bad magazines, as well as from good ones. I would not give five bucks for a copy of Ginzberg's publication, which is the preposterous newstand price, but at 60¢ I might receive a partial recompense for the expended sum. This issue of YANDRO is uneven, but most of the material and features are good. The ol' reliable hand of the Coulsons' has cast another highly satisfying issue. Only where the devil did you ever get that ash-grey granite, Buck? YANDRO just isn't YANDRO if it is not mimeod on yellow paper. #

SPOTLIGHT on the PROS

by Bill Bowers

WONDER STORIES, 1963 - 50¢. Sense of Wonder, anyone? I'm beginning to wonder if I wasn't quite so far off when I speculated on the possibilities of another stf boom a few months back. WONDER STORIES is back and is back in the size I prefer a magazine to be--pulp. It is out under a new publisher (for it)--Popular Library, whose main concern is, I believe, paperbacks. No schedule is listed in the magazine itself, but according to BESTSELLERS, a magazine primarily circulated among magazine and book dealers, WS is to be annual--but they use the same listing for one-shots. It's pure speculation, but I sort of hope it is a trial issue, and if it does well enough on the stands, WS might resume publication on a regular schedule and with original stories. This issue is not only reprints, but reprints of reprints. This information courtesy of the Wabash Mash and Buck Coulson's collection, since I do not have the older issue. Actually, it is almost an exact copy of the last WONDER STORIES which came out in '57, except for: size, very minor differences on the cover, and the addition of a couple of other reprints and the expulsion of one in the '57 edition. But the '63 version has two beautiful inside covers by Finlay, which make it worth my money. Aside from the eight short story reprints by the likes of Bradbury, Clarke, Fred Brown, Boucher and others, it contains a novel entitled "Shadow on the Sand" by John D. MacDonald. This I found to be very entertaining, and I think you would too if you enjoy the combination of slickly smooth writing and a straight adventure yarn. I make no recommendations as to whether you should buy it or not; it's up to you and your interests.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, August, 1963 - 40¢. In addition to the second installment of Robert A. Heinlein's "Glory Road", which is required reading, you know, we find a novelet which is labelled a "short novel." This latter is "Turn Off the Sky" by Ray Nelson, fan, cartoonist, and uncountable other things. I do not generally care for these "type-1984" stories, if I can make myself clear with a phrase. But for a first story it is a terrific job, nevertheless; an easy-to-read, smoothly written piece, laid over a good plot. I've heard or read somewhere that Damon Knight read this story several years back and called it one of the best stf stories ever written. I wouldn't go that far, but it is definitely a better than the run-of-the-mill story. Despite the good plotting, the story shows several gaps, which leads me to believe it was cut. Was it, Mr. Davidson? It is rather difficult for me to give any resume of this story without giving its meaning away, so just let me add that since you have to get this issue of F & SF for "Glory Road," you don't have any excuse for not reading "Turn Off the Sky." More, Ray Nelson.

IN THE RACKS

LET THE SPACEMEN BEWARE! by Poul Anderson; and THE WIZARD OF STARSHIP POSEIDON by Ken Bulmer. Ace Double F-209, 244 pp. - 40¢

The Ace double novel books remain one of the biggest bargains in stf paperback fields with this latest addition. Not only does a magnificent Emsh (different from the, alas, usual heroic chap with shapely gal and bug-eyed monster type of thing) bedeck the Anderson story, but the Anderson story itself is not of the usual type.

In the years since "The Double-Dyed Villians," Poul Anderson has shown that he can, on occasion, evoke an astonishing depth of atmosphere about a tale. And do it in such a way as to evoke the characters more sharply instead of hiding them in a cloud of petty details. This is such a story, and it is a shame it is only 98 pages long in Ace format. Externally, the story revolves around Tolteca, a peace-loving individual, and Raven, a professional mercenary. Not only their own inter-personal conflicts, but the conflicts within themselves. These conflicts centralize about the hidden nature of the natives of Gwydion and Elfavy, a beautiful young widow and native of the planet. Gwydion is a planet lost for many centuries from civilization, and the two differ on allowing it into the mainstream of civilization once more. As the lines deepen, we are treated to a quite three-dimensional portrait of a man seeking the truths of his own soul. The plot develops cleanly, the story is well written, and even mundane reviewers would rave over the internal conflicts if they would deign to examine something that was not deliberately literary. And yet I feel something more should have been there. What, I do not know. Despite the superficially resolved story line, I feel it goes on to many more depths of meaning. This book I shall have to read again in about six or eight months to try to "see" it better. It's that kind of story. It fits no common mold, and for that reason I say that the stf fan will not waste his time reading it. Not by a long shot.

The longer part of the book is Bulmer's "Wizard of Starship Poseidon." Which brings me to a thought I've been holding for some time. For some time now, Bulmer has been pulling out decent, though not outstanding, adventure stories. According to the law of averages (not withstanding Herr Bulmer's own not inconsiderable talent so often displayed) sooner or later Bulmer is bound to CLICK! with a boom to be heard on Mars. One of these days. But not with "The Wizard." "The Wizard" is a professor who resolves to stick up a starship in order to finance some experiments of his. Mad Scientist? Not on your life. He seems to be the sanest character there, though he has a commendable, if irrational, habit of non-violence toward his enemies. At any rate, despite the trumped up ending it's not a bad adventure. As I said, Ace seems to persist in producing good fiction at low price some way or another.

--Reviewed by Dick Schultz

PLANET OF PERIL by Otis Adelbert Kline. Ace F-211, 160 pp. - 40¢.

On the cover of this book--a beautiful Krenkel cover, by the way--it

IN THE RACKS, continued

says "complete and unabridged." Naturally, this doesn't fool us. It is the "complete and unabridged" Avalon edition, which edition was considerably abridged. There are some people who, as a matter of principle, just don't read abridged books. I am one of them; but when it comes to a matter of paying ten dollars for the original edition my scruples vanish but fast. In any case, abridgment does not seem to harm PLANET OF PERIL, which is so episodic that an incident cut here or there does not really matter. If a Burroughs story were abridged, it would not be the same. ERB plotted his stories so carefully that any cut would really ruin the story. As for PLANET OF PERIL, what can I say? Robert Grandon, of present-day Terra, is sent back to the Venus of a few million years ago. There he leads a rebellion, makes himself a king, conquers an empire, is lost among strange civilizations, has a country named after him, and marries an empress (of course). Kline might not have been a Hemingway, but he could still give zing to a story like this. Read it; it's lots of fun.

Reviewed by Paul Scaramazza

STAR SHORT NOVELS edited by Fred Pohl. Ballantine P-730, 165 pp. - 50¢.

This is a reprint, as are the STAR SHORT STORIES floating around lately. I am glad Ian Ballantine brought it out again, if for no other reason than to let me look at my reading opinions of '54. "The Little Men" is by Jessamyn West. West is a Big Name Author (pardon me...it's Novelist, any more), and we should all feel properly Grateful and Honored over getting such high-class material in a stf pb. When I first read it in '54 I thought it was a poor novelet. Now I know why. She writes stiffly, with a way all her/his own of stifling action through monotone writing. West also tells you what happens instead of showing you. And so on and so forth. I thought this dreary kind of thing went out of style with the Utopian novel. Those who have read Kingsley Amis' NEW MAPS OF HELL might have recalled Amis' passing slam at del Ray's FOR I AM A JEALOUS PEOPLE. I think it's undeserved, as this is one of del Ray's three best stories. And for me, the most memorable. It may not be all that well written, but it is written with a spirit which shows through despite any sneer. Amis, you might remember, said that it typified the "By Gaud, Humans Can Do Great Things!" type of stf. And it does. It's an upbeat story. Read it and argue with me. "To Here and the Easel" is a fairly well-written Sturgeon mood piece, but nothing special. It is somewhat confusing, it shows his first draft habit, and it is not a story neatly fitted into some niche. Try it sometime. I can think of worst things to spend 50¢ on, if you don't already have a copy.

--Reviewed by Dick Schultz

THE CURRENTS OF SPACE by Isaac Asimov. Lancer 74-815, 191 pp. - 75¢

I still think that 75¢ is a ridiculous price for any pb., no matter how jazzed up the binding is. Still, this is one of the best stf novels ever written. It looks nice on your shelf. And it is perfect to give to a friend to start him in on some good stf. For 75¢ though I'd think they could get some real stf classics.

--Reviewed by Dick Schultz

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T O ———

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