

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Science Fiction Times

No. 463 February 1969

SF At The MLA

At the Modern Language Association meeting at the Americana Hotel, December 27-29, science fiction received perhaps its greatest academic recognition and success. On the 27th Samuel R. Delany led a discussion of "Speculative Fiction Here and Now" at the eleventh annual MLA Seminar on sf. Main attraction of the last session of the meeting (despite the floor fight at the business meeting that has attracted so much attention) was the second of two featured forums: a panel discussion, "Science Fiction: the New Mythology." Isaac Asimov, Fred Pohl, and Professor Darko Suvin of McGill University were the panelists. Judith Merrill should also have been a member but was unavoidably absent.

Fifty-one attended the seminar intended for 35. Despite the business meeting between 400-500 attended the Forum. Professor Bruce Franklin of Stanford University, editor of Future Perfect, chaired the Forum. Professor Thomas Clareson of the College of Wooster chaired the Seminar. Both meetings, though the Forum particularly because of its larger crowd, followed formal presentations of topics with wide-open discussion from the floor.

Delany's script, and a tape of the complete 2½ hour Forum, and, hopefully Miss Merrill's script, will be made available to subscribers of Extrapolation the Newsletter of the MLA Seminar on Science Fiction in its spring (May) issue. Its address is Box 2515, The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio 44691

NEW SCHEDULE FOR SFT

Due to production problems, the deadline for material for SFT will be changed to the first of the preceding month (e.g. Feb. 1 deadline for the March issue). The new schedule should result in issues being mailed about the 20th of the month preceding the date on the issue.

1968 Galaxy Awards

The editors of Galaxy and If have announced the winners of the 1968 Galaxy Awards for the best stories published in their magazines during the past year. The winning stories were chosen by polling randomly selected groups of subscribers to both magazines, and their vote was final.

The winners were:

\$1,000 Award

GOBLIN RESERVATION by Clifford D. Simak (Serial, April & June issues of Galaxy)

\$250 Award

SLOWBOAT CARGO by Larry Niven (Serial, Feb-April issues of If)

\$100 Award

THE MAN IN THE MAZE by Robert Silverberg (Serial, April & May issues of If)

GETTING THROUGH UNIVERSITY by Piers Anthony (Novelette, August issue of If)

THE TIME TRAWLERS by Burt K. Filer (Short story, August issue of Galaxy)

(Due to the closeness of the voting, three \$100 awards were given. In addition, Simak, Niven and Silverberg are now guaranteed 4¢ a word; and Filer and Anthony 3¢ a word for any stories sold in the next year to If or Galaxy.)

The \$100 award category would have included one other winner, ROGUE STAR, by Fred Pohl and Jack Williamson; however this story was declared ineligible since Fred Pohl is the editor of Galaxy and If.

The process of voting was carried out as follows: the plan from the beginning was to have the choices made by the readers themselves, and to the maximum extent possible by all readers, rather than any particular group. Since it was not possible to reach every reader of If and Galaxy, the voting was limited to subscribers, partly because their names were readily available, and

partly because they would be in a good position to choose among all the eligible stories since they would have presumably read them all.

Selected samples of subscribers were chosen at random (the number of persons chosen was relatively small -- but, by standard statistical criteria, enough for good reliability), and ballots were mailed to them. One list of every story published in If in 1968 went to If subscribers. A similar list of Galaxy stories went to Galaxy subscribers. They were asked to indicate their favorites. The votes were totaled, and the top ten from both magazines were selected. A list of these top ten went to a further random sample of people who were subscribers to both Galaxy and If, and their votes picked the winners. Response to the poll was better than 50 percent, a substantially higher return than is normally expected.

A FAN AT THE MLA
by Fred Lerner

Two sessions of the 1968 Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association of America, the professional organization of scholars in linguistics and literature, were devoted to science fiction. On Friday, December 27, a seminar on "New Directions in Science Fiction" was held at the Americana Hotel. Speaker Samuel R. Delany called three novels the "seminal" sf books of the decade: Roger Zelazny's This Immortal, Picnic on Paradise by Joanna Russ, and Thomas Disch's Camp Concentration. The discussion afterward reminded this reporter of Joanna Russ' recent Phillycon speech, "The Barbarian Invasion": a roomful of scholars almost succeeded in talking science fiction to death.

A public forum, well attended by local fans, was held on Sunday, December 29 in the Americana's Imperial Ballroom. H. Bruce Franklin, Professor of English at Stanford University, and editor of Future Perfect, was the moderator. Participants were Isaac Asimov ("Science and Science Fiction"), Darko Suvin ("The Theory and Practice of Science Fiction in the Soviet Union and East Europe"), and Frederik Pohl ("Science Fiction and American Society"). Judith Merril (who was to cover "Science Fiction and Contemporary Literature") was unable to participate, because of an auto accident in Toronto.

Asimov disclaimed a prophetic role for science fiction, citing an early story of his in which the first manned moon expedition took place in 1973, and contrasting the typical sf account of a backyard inventor building a spaceship out of tin cans with the unexpected reality of a large government-financed space exploration program.

Suvin described the large readership

of science fiction in the socialist countries, and mentioned the prolific Polish writer Stanislaw Lem as the major figure in East European science fiction. Pohl spoke of the role of science fiction in alerting readers to the consequences of technological change and development, and stressed the increasing uninhabitability of our environment.

A lengthy question and discussion period brought comments from Lester del Rey, Robert Silverberg, and other sf writers, as well as from some rather bizarre characters from the MLA. Considering the two sessions, I was left with the impression that there is still a large gap between the practitioners of science fiction and most of its would-be students; and that it is of questionable advantage to science fiction to attempt to bridge it.

NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

Next year's MLA Conference to be held at the 1969 Convention on December 27-29 will be on the subject of John Brunner's Stand on Zanzibar. Mr. Brunner has been invited to speak about the book, either in person or on tape.

BAYCON COMMITTEE NEWS

The Baycon Committee is reported to have sent \$500 to the StLouiscon, and given \$100 to the FUNCON. Approximately \$1000 is being held in reserve to cover the cost of publishing the Proceedings. The agreement with Advent (who will produce the book) requires the Baycon Committee to handle the transcription. In addition, the Baycon will pay Advent \$500 to cover printing costs plus an additional \$50 profit. Advent will sell, on their own, all copies of the Proceedings beyond those subscribed for during the convention.

Casting of the Hugo rocketships for the StLouiscon has been ordered. This will be the second time that the permanent patterns, made for the Hugos presented at the Baycon, will be used. On the Hugo balloting, they report having received 245 nominating ballots, and 482 final ballots by the deadlines.

The Baycon Committee has also announced that they intend to bid for the 1972 Worldcon, and are in the process of investigating hotels in San Francisco.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SF GROUP

The Syracuse University Science Fiction Society is now officially chartered with Student Government. The first official meeting will be held early in February. Anyone interested in the group may contact Jerry Lapidus at Box 479, 1000 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210.

Obituary

HERBERT SCHOFIELD

Philadelphia fan Herb Schofield died January 20 at the age of 58. Herb became active in fandom about 1952, being a regular of the PSFS and a well known face at regional and World conventions. Although not a "big name fan," Herb's friendly manner made him well known and liked to convention attendees.

An engineering graduate of Drexel Institute, working as a steel salesman, Herb is survived by his wife and brother.

An sf devotee to the end, Herb was still avidly reading science fiction during his last days in the hospital. He will be sorely missed by his many friends.

MOVIE & TV MISCELLANY

Unless NBC has a sudden change of heart, this will be the final season for STAR TREK. There is yet no official word about the show, but low ratings in the Friday 10 pm spot appear to have doomed the show. Word is expected sometime in March on renewal.

Producer Aaron Spelling and writer Rod Serling have given an old plot a new twist for an ABC pilot currently being filmed. THE NEW PEOPLE is about 50 kids on a world trip whose airliner force lands on a remote island complete with an abandoned, intact, model town built for an H-bomb test and never used. The stranded youths set about creating their own new society "And they find it isn't as easy as they thought."

YELLOW SUBMARINE has been chosen best animated film of the year in Britain's 1969 edition of The International Film Guide. The film already has been cited by the New York Film Critics for "achievement in the field of the animated feature."

Preview screenings of CHARLY are being arranged for educators by Bantam Books, publishers of the book in association with the distributors of the film. The screenings are based on the idea that teachers would be able to use the book and/or the movie in teaching human relations.

Mark Wolf, special award winner in the Kodak Teen-Age Movie Awards contest for 1968 (see SFT 461), is making a STAR TREK movie as his next entry. The film, officially sanctioned by Gene Roddenberry, will be a half-hour animated-live action color film of the Enterprise and her attempts to recover several alien diplomats from the infamous Klingon Empire. After this he hopes to shoot several animated films on the works of Asimov, Clarke, and the Conan series.

News from the Authors

HARRY HARRISON

Nova 1 is completed for publication later this year. Watch SFT for the first news about the chances of Nova 2. This will be the year of the anthology. The Year 2000 will be out from Doubleday also later this year, a collection of brand new stories by the best writers around the theme of that year. Best SF: 1967 sold so well in Berkley paperback last year that Best SF: 1968 will be out first in hardcover from Putnam in March. The British edition, The Year's Best Science Fiction 2, has already been published by Sphere.

Towards the end of the year Doubleday will also publish my anthology of best sf for boys, which will be out earlier from Faber & Faber titled Blast Off. Also, sometime during the year, Berkley will publish a collection of my stories titled Harrison's 20.

NEW SF AWARD

The second International Film Festival of Rio de Janeiro to be held March 17-30 will have a symposium March 25-30 on "Science Fiction Literature and the Cinema." During the awards ceremony Arthur C. Clarke and Stanley Kubrick will be given the Black Monolith, a hematite work of the Brazilian sculptor Caio Mourao.

The awards will be given every year at the festival for the best film and the best book of science fiction in the preceding year.

CURRENT SF PUBLICATIONS IN GERMANY

- PERRY RHODAN: biggest science fiction serial in the world with 250,000 copies weekly in three printings. Entire circulation to 1968: 25,000,000 copies. Single copy 20¢
- PERRY RHODAN PLANETENROMANE: pocket books dealing with events outside the running Perry Rhodan series. Published monthly. 60¢ each. Authors of both series are Clark Dalton and K-H Scheer.
- TERRA: presents novels and stories by authors from all over the world. Published weekly. 20¢ each.
- UTOPIA: contains an "ad astra" serial. Translations and German authors. Published weekly. 20¢ each
- REN DHARK: new successful serial including amateur stories. Same idea as Perry Rhodan. Published weekly. 20¢ each. Author is Kurt Brand.
- HEYNE SCIENCE FICTION: pocketbooks, mostly American and British translations. German editions of F&SF and Galaxy. 2 books a month. 60¢ each.

--Impressionen v.3 no.4

International News

by Franz Rottensteiner

FROM EAST GERMANY

Sf published during 1968 included The Invincible and Test, a novel and a short story collection by the Polish writer Stanislaw Lem; The Photon Space-Ship by the Bulgarian Dimiter Peew; The Lilac Crystal by the Russian writer Alexander Meyerov; The Death of Captain Nemo, a collection of 12 short stories by the Czech writer Josef Nesvadba; the novel Nabou by Günther Krupkat and the collection Krakentang by Carlos Rasch, both German authors. For 1969, publisher "Neues Leben" in Berlin is planning 12 books: 3 reprints and 9 first editions, with 2 Czech, 7 German, and 1 Russian writer. Two anthologies are planned: one of Russian stories, the other of robot stories.

Some East German sf has appeared abroad. Carlos Rasch's Asteroid Hunters (Asteroidenjäger) appeared in Albania (1962), Hungary and Poland (1968). It will also be filmed. The Blue Planet (Der Blaue Planet) by the same writer has been translated into Bulgarian.

FROM WEST GERMANY

Ullstein in Berlin will publish as a supplement to the already published Memoirs the Utopian novel Edward and Elizabeth, or, The Journey into the Interior of the Earth by the famed Casanova. Each of the 3 volumes will cost about \$7.00. The book was first published under the title of Icosameron ou historie d'Edouard et d'Elisabeth qui passerent quatre vingts un ans chez les Megamicres, in Prague in 1788. It anticipates the automobile, television, telegraphic communication the airplane, and the use of poison gas. It will be the first complete German translation.

FROM GREAT BRITAIN

Faber & Faber will publish the Danish sf novel Termush by Sven Holm in May, and later Solaris by the Polish writer Stanislaw Lem. I understand that the novel by Lem will also appear in America, the first appearance of Lem in the English language with the exception of a short story in the anthology Polish Mind.

FROM RUMANIA

There is a growing interest in sf in Rumania. In March 1966, Yiata Romanesca, a renowned periodical, devoted an entire issue to sf. Writers included Camil Baciú, Horia Arama, Ray Bradbury, and J. L. Borges. Verse was by Geo Dumitrescu, and Silvian Iosifescu

and Ov. S. Chrohmalniceanu contributed essays. Various weeklies frequently publish sf stories and there are bi-monthly book series featuring sf.

One thing about Rumanian sf that should be noted is that it is often written by non-specialists, writers of literary stature. So Adrian Rogoz (author of Omul si Naluca (Man and Phantom)) is a translator of Rimbaud, Hölderlin, Rilke and Poe; Vladimir Col-in (author of the collection Viitorul al Doilea (The Second Future)) is a poet; Mihu Dragomir one of the most important Rumanian writers since WWII, and so on.

SFWA BANQUET PLANS

Three SFWA Banquets will be held this year on Saturday, March 15. The newest banquet, chaired by Don Walsh will be held in New Orleans. The New York banquet, again at Les Champs Restaurant, will be handled by Bob Silverberg with Ben Bova as Toastmaster.

The West Coast banquet will be held in Anaheim, California. Preceding the banquet will be a one-day conference for SFWA members. Joe Poyer will serve as Chairman, assisted by Ray Bradbury as Co-chairman, and Harry Harrison as Banquet Toastmaster. The conference will be held in the Carousel of Progress Pavilion at Disneyland. This is the first time in Disneyland history that an outside group has been offered facilities for a conference inside the park. The site for the banquet itself has not yet been announced.

NEW PSFS OFFICERS

The new officers of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for 1969 are: President, Ron Stoloff; Vice President, Oswald Train; Secretary, J.B. Post; and Treasurer, Harriett Kolchak.

The February meeting will feature portions of the record THE CYCLOTRONISTS NIGHTMARE, courtesy of the McKnights.

Have You Read?

Clarke, Arthur C. "Views from Earth on the Odyssey Into Space" (Apollo 8) Look, Feb. 4, p.72+

"Out of the Unknown" (TV series) Radio Times, Jan. 2, p.29

See, Carolyn. "How's Life Among the Giants These Days?" (Gary Conway of LAND OF THE GIANTS) TV Guide, Jan. 25, p.30-33 & cover

Strick, Philip. "Fantascienza" (Trieste Film Festival) Sight & Sound, Autumn, 183-84

"Thank You, But We Don't Need No Chimps Today" (Janos Prohaska, movie monster man) TV Guide, Jan.25, p.21-23

"201 Min. of a Space Idiocy" Mad, March p.4-10

Calendar of Events

February

- 1 NEOSFS Meeting at home of Joan Baker 17300 Peardale Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44135, at 7:30pm
- 1 MASF Meeting at home of member. For info: Jack Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21207 (ph: 301-367-0605)
- 2 Albuquerque SF Group Meeting at home of member. For info: Gordon Benson, Jr, P.O. Box 8124, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 2 ESFA Meeting at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St, Newark, N.J., at 3pm
- 2 Houston SF Society Meeting at home of member. For info: Beth Halphen, 2521 Westgate, Houston, Tex. 77019
- 7 WSFA Meeting at home of Alexis Gilliland, 2126 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20032, at 8pm
- 7 PenSFA Meeting at home of member, at 8:30pm. For info: Mike Ward, Box 45 Mountain View, Calif. 94040
- 7 ValSFA Meeting at home of member. For info: Dwain Kaiser, 1397 N. 2nd Ave, Upland, Calif. 91786
- 7-9 CONFERENCE ON LITERATURE AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT at the Univ. of Calif. For info: Letters and Science Extension, Univ. of Calif., 2223 Fulton St, Berkeley, Calif. 94720
- 8 Cincinnati Fantasy Group Meeting at home of member. For info: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. John's Terr, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
- 8 Minn-STF Meeting at home of Walter Schwartz, 4138 Wentworth Ave.S, Minneapolis, Minn. 55409, at 12 noon. For info: Frank Stodolka, 1325 W. 27th St, Minneapolis, Minn. 55408
- 9 NESFA Meeting at home of member. For info: NESFA, P. O. Box G, MIT Branch Sta, Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- 14 PSFS Meeting at Central YMCA, 15th & Arch Sts, Philadelphia, at 8pm
- 14 Little Men Meeting at home of member at 8pm. For info: Alva Rogers, 5967 Greenridge Rd, Castro Valley, Calif.
- 14 FISTFA Meeting at home of John Boardman, 592-16th St, Brooklyn, N.Y., at 9pm
- 14 Nameless Ones Meeting at home of member at 8:30pm. For info: Wally Weber, Box 267, 507 3rd Ave, Seattle Wash. 98104
- ★ 14-16 BALTICONFERENCE 3 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md. Advance reg: \$4.50, \$2.00 at door. For info: Jack Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Md.
- 15 Chicago SF League Meeting at home of George Price, 1439 W. North Shore Ave, Chicago, Ill. 60626 at 8pm
- 16 Houston SF Soc. Meeting, see Feb. 2
- 18 Fanatics Meeting at home of Quinn Yarbrow, 369 Colusa, Berkeley, Calif. at 7:30pm
- 21 WSFA Meeting, see Feb. 7
- 21 PenSFA Meeting, see Feb. 7

- 21 ValSFA Meeting, see Feb. 7
- 22 Omicron Ceti Three Meeting at home of Estelle Sanders, 131 Edmunton Dr, N. Babylon, L.I., Apt.G-11, at 8:30pm
- 22 Lunarian Meeting at home of John Boardman, 592-16th St, Brooklyn, N.Y at 9pm. Guests of members and out of town fans.
- 22 Cincinnati Fantasy Group, see Feb. 8
- 22 Minn-STF Meeting, see Feb. 8
- 23 NESFA Meeting, see Feb. 9
- 23 OSFA Meeting in Auditorium of the Central St. Louis Library, St. Louis Mo, at 2pm. For info: Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Pk, St. Louis, Mo. 63108
- 23 OSFiC Meeting in Toronto. For info: Peter Gill, 18 Glen Manor Dr, Toronto 13, Canada
- 28 Little Men Meeting, see Feb. 14
- 28 FISTFA Meeting, see Feb. 14

March

- 1 CONFERENCE ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCIENCE FICTION at Harkness Theater, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. at 1 pm. Reg: \$1.00. For info: Fred Lerner, 98-B The Boulevard, E. Paterson, N.J. 07407
- 1 STAR TREK CON at the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St, Newark, NJ at 1 pm. For info: Sherna Burley, 1480 Rt. 46, Apt. 123A, Parsippany, N.J. 07054
- 2 OPEN ESFA at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St, Newark, N. J., at 3pm. Featured speaker: L. Sprague de Camp
- 22-23 BOSKONE VI, at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Boston. GoH: Jack Gaughan. Reg. fee: \$2.00. For info: Leslie Turek, NESFA, P.O. Box G, MIT Branch Sta, Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- 29-30 MARCON 4, at Holiday Inn East, 4701 Broad St, Columbus, Ohio 43227. GoH: Terry Carr. For info: Dannie Plachta, 9147 Roselawn, Detroit, Mich

April

- 4-6 BRITISH SF CONVENTION, at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford. GoH: Judith Merril. Reg. fee: \$1 overseas. US. agent: Sam Russell, 1351 Tremaine Ave, Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
- 4-6 MINICON II, at Andrews Hotel, 4th St & Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, Minn 55401. Membership: \$2. Send to: Minicon Registration, c/o Jim Young, 1948 Ulysses St.NE, Minneapolis, Minn 55418. Checks payable to Mrs. Margaret Lessinger.
- 11-13 LUNACON/EASTERCON, at the Hotel McAlpin, Herald Sq., New York. GoH: Robert A.W. Lowndes. Advance membership \$2.00. Progress rept. #1 from: Frank Dietz, 655 Orchard St, Oradell N.J. 07649
- 25-26 CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EARTH at the University of Illinois at Urbana. For info: Jan H. Finder, 809 W. Illinois St., Apt. 4, Urbana, Illinois 61801

May

9-11 DISCLAVE, at the Skyline Inn,
S. Capitol St, Washington, D.C. GoH:
Lester del Rey. Registration \$1.50
in advance, \$2.00 at door. For info
Jack Haldeman, 1244 Woodbourne Ave,
Baltimore, Md. 21212

31-June 2 LUCON in Lund, Sweden. For
info: Mr. Bertil Martensson, Magis-
tratsvägen 55 U:101, 222 44 Lund,
Sweden

June

6-8 PqHLANGE at the Allegheny Motor Inn
1464 Beers School Rd, Coraopolis, Pa.
15108. GoH: Robert Silverberg. Adv
reg: \$1.50, \$2.00 at door. For info
Peter Hays, 1421 Wightman, Pittsburgh
Pa. 15217

28-29 MIDWESTCON at the North Plaza
Motel, 7911 Reading Rd, Cincinnati,
Ohio 45237. For info: Lou Tabakow,
3953 St. Johns Terr, Cincinnati, Ohio

July

4-6 WESTERCON/FUNCON II at the Miramar
Hotel, Santa Monica, Calif. GoH:
Randall Garrett; Fan GoH: Roy Tack-
ett. Membership \$3 attending, \$1
supporting. Send to: Ken Rudolph,
Box 1, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

August

1-4 SFCD-CON 1969, in Düsseldorf,
Germany. For info: Peter Schellen
405 Mönchengladbach, Alsstr.260, Ger-
many

29-Sept. 1. STLOUISCON, at the Chase
Park Plaza, 212 N. Kingshighway, St.
Louis, Mo. 63108. GoH: Jack Gaughan
Fan GoH: Ted White. \$4 attending,
\$3 supporting & foreign non-attend-
ing, payable to St. Louiscon, Box
3008, St. Louis, Mo. 63130

Meetings held every week:

Colorado Fantasy Society
Sat. at homes of various members,
Denver area. For info: Caz, Box 550
Evergreen, Colo. 80439 (ph.674-4246,
local from Denver)

C/SFS
Sat. at homes of various members, at
7pm. For info: Bob Gaines, 336 Ol-
entangy St, Columbus, Ohio 43202.
(ph.263-6089)

Fellowship of the Purple Tongue
Sat. at home of Phil Walker, Apt.3,
1308 Boissevain Ave, Norfolk, Va.
23510, at 2pm

LASFS
Thurs. at home of Tom Digby, 330 S.
Berendo, Los Angeles, Calif. at 8pm.

MoSFA
Mon. in Brady Commons, Univ. of Mis-
souri at columbia campus, at 7:30pm.

MSU Fantasy & Science Fiction Society
(Continued on page 7)

S F Forecasts

GALAXY -- March

Serial

AND NOW THEY WAKE by Keith Laumer

Novelettes

THE WEATHER ON WELLADAY by Anne Mc-
Caffrey

GODEL NUMBERS by J.W. Swanson

Short Stories

THE CITY THAT LOVES YOU by Ray Banks

LEVIATHAN by Lise Braun

THE LAST FLIGHT OF DR. AIN by James
Tiptree Jr.

GREEKS BEARING KNEE-HIGH GIFTS by
Brian W. Aldiss

Article

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TELEPORT-
ATION by Larry Niven

Cover by CHAFFEE from "The Weather on
Welladay"

IF -- March

Complete Short Novel

THE FROZEN SUMMER by David Redd

Novel Excerpt

CREATURES OF DARKNESS by Roger Zel-
azny

Novelettes

DOWN IN THE BLACK GANG by Philip Jose
Farmer

THE SHIP WHO DISAPPEARED by Anne Mc-
Caffrey

SABOTEUR by Ted White

Short Stories

PHOENIX LAND by Harlan Ellison

THE FAITHFUL MESSENGER by George
Scithers

ENDFRAY OF THE OFAY by Fritz Leiber

Features

AUTHORGRAPHS: An Interview with Har-
lan Ellison

Cover by GAUGHAN from "Creatures of
Darkness"

STARTLING MYSTERY STORIES

No.11, Winter

Novelettes

SWORD FOR A SINNER by Edward D. Hoch

THE CITY OF THE BLIND by Murray
Leinster

Stories

THE WOMAN WITH THE VELVET COLLAR by
Gaston Leroux

THE REAPER'S IMAGE by Stephen King

TIGER by Bassett Morgan

Features

SIRRUSH (verse) by L. Sprague de
Camp

WEST ENGLAND'S LITTLE FOLK

MARCH ACE RELEASES

Frayn, Michael. The Tin Men. 81290.
60¢

Jakes, John. The Planet Wizard. 67060
60¢

Laumer, Keith. Envoy to New Worlds.

20730. 50¢
 LeGuin, Ursula K. The Left Hand of
 Darkness. 47800. 95¢
 Leiber, Fritz. The Green Millennium, &
 Night Monsters. 30300. 60¢
 Mills, Robert P., ed. The Best From
 Fantasy & Science Fiction: 9th Series
 05448. 60¢

FEBRUARY PAPERBACK LIBRARY RELEASES

Jakes, John. The Hybrid. 63-049. 60¢
 Spinrad, Norman. The Solarians. 63-044
 60¢
 Stoker, Bram. The Garden of Evil. 63-
 790. 60¢

Fanzines

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 Rockaway, N.Y. 11690. 8/\$1
 GOTHIQUE 8. Stan Nicholls, 5 St. Johns
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 England. 2/6 ea +6d postage. Films
 HOOM 3. Bee Bowman, 1223 Crofton Ave,
 Waynesboro, Va. 22980. Quarterly.
 Mainly Lord of the Rings.
 IMPRESSIONEN v.3 no.4. Harald Fischer,
 2800 Bremen-Walle, Waller Strasse 14
 Germany
 NIEKAS 20. Ed Meskys, Box 233, Center
 Harbor, N.H. 03226. 60¢ ea, 4/\$2
 PLAK-TOW 11. Shirley Meech, Apt. B-8,
 260 Elkton Rd, Newark, Del. 19711.
 10/\$1. Star Trek
 SANDWORM 6. Bob Vardeman, P. O. Box
 11352, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112. Ir-
 reg. 20¢ ea
 SPACE AND TIME 4. Gordon Linzner, 20-
 41 Linden St, Ridgewood, N.Y. 11227.
 Quarterly. 25¢ ea.
 STARDOCK 1. Stanley Nicholls, 5 St.
 John's Wood Terr, St. John's Wood,
 London NW8, England

CALENDAR cont. from p.6

Fri., at lower lounge of South Hub-
 bard Hall, on Michigan State Univ.
 campus, at 8pm. For info: Tracie
 Brown, 151 Mason, MSU, E. Lansing,
 Mich. 48823 (ph.355-1957)

University of Chicago SF Society
 Tues. at Ida Noyes Hall on the Univ.
 of Chicago campus, at 7:30pm. For
 info: Mike Bradley, 5400 Harper, Apt
 1204, Chicago, Ill. (ph.312-324-3565)
 Western Pennsylvania SF Association
 Sun. at 2pm. For info: Peter Hays,
 1421 Wightman, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217
 (ph.421-6560)

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 Jose Farmer...Jack Gaughan...
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 90403

Lilliputia

by Marylou Hewitt

Much of the literature being published for children and teenagers can be classified as fantasy, while the amount of sf for younger readers is also increasing. Here are two samples from each category which have appeared during the past few months.

TERRIBLE TROLL

Story & pictures by Mercer Mayer
Dial Press, 1968
Unpagged \$3.50
Age level: 8-10

Charming illustrations of medieval life accompany this story of a little boy who wishes he had lived a thousand years ago. His imagination makes him assistant to a great knight who is commanded to save the kingdom from the terrible troll. When the boy and knight finally come face to face with the enemy, the fantasy ends as abruptly as it started. Despite all the adventure of long ago, he is happy to be living right now.

THE CRACK IN THE WALL AND OTHER TERRIBLY WEIRD TALES

By George Mendoza
Illus. by Mercer Mayer
Dial Press, 1968
57 p. \$3.95
Age level: 9-12

Mercer Mayer's intricate pen and ink drawings capture all of the suspense of these four tales concerning a haunted quarry, a sea monster with the head of a cougar, a crack in the wall of a hermit's shack and a dead skunk floating in a pond. The stories are not of ghosts or horror, but of little events which could have happened. They are certain to capture the reader from beginning to end, and stay in his thoughts long after the book is closed.

TRAPPED IN SPACE

By Jack Williamson
Illus. by Robert Amundsen
Doubleday, Oct. 1968
144 p. \$3.50
Age level: 10-16

When 18 year old Jeff hears that his brother Ben is missing on a space mission, he becomes part of the rescue team to go to Topaz, an unexplored star a thousand light-years away. With Ty, the Negro pilot; Lupe, a Puerto Rican girl; and Buzz, a fuzzy alien creature with powers to communicate with his fellow creatures by telepathy, Jeff sets out in an old training ship to battle the strange rock hoppers who have trapped Ben's ship on Topaz. The story is exciting and well told, but the illustrations show the characters

(Continued on page 15)

Beyond Imagination

On SF & Fantasy Collections
by W.R. Cole

Those of us who are sf readers (and we can safely assume that covers a great percentage of SFT readers) can boast about the unique attributes of the branch of literature called science fiction. Other forms of fiction are limited to basically one type of subject matter. Western fiction has the bad guys against the good guys; mystery stories usually have the good guy solving crimes committed by the bad guys. Science fiction, on the other hand, has limitless ideas for stories available. The theme anthology is a perfect example of this uniqueness.

FLYING SAUCERS IN FACT AND FICTION

Ed. by Hans Stefan Santesson
Lancer 74-953, Aug. 1968
12 stories, 3 articles. 224 p. 75¢

During the period of time that Mr. Santesson was editor of Fantastic Universe, and the years that have elapsed since FU went the route of other sf magazines that ceased to exist, his belief in the existence of flying saucers has been well known.

In this collection we have two articles by Ivan T. Sanderson and John Nicholson listing incidents and trying to prove the existence of flying saucers. On the other side, Lester del Rey argues that UFOlogy does not belong in the science fiction field, and he certainly does not believe in the existence of flying saucers. This topic, of course, like religion and politics, can be the cause of many arguments without any solution. At least none has been presented at this writing.

As for the fictional entries in this collection, they are all light reading and on the amusing side. Only Theodore Sturgeon's "A Saucer of Loneliness" is serious. The only verse in the collection, Nancy Forsythe Coe's "The Night Before Christmas," is an excellent sf rendition of Clement Moore's "'Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Even if flying saucers aren't your cup of tea, this anthology is a good change of pace.

FUTURE TENSE

Edited by Richard Curtis
Dell 2769, Sept. 1968
10 stories 220 p. 60¢

Dell Books evidently hopes that the name of Isaac Asimov will bring attention to this anthology. The Good Doctor wrote the introduction and his name on the front of this paperback is in larger type than the editor's.

The stories in this collection are certainly not new. Without checking

(Continued on page 9)

Bibliomania

NEW HARDCOVERS

- Davies, L. P. Dimension A (juv) Doubleday, Jan. \$3.95
- Lewis, C.S. Perelandra (reprint) Macmillan, 1968. \$4.95
- Palmer, William J. The Curious Culture of the Planet Loretta. Vantage, 1968 \$3.95
- Ruy-Vidal, Francois. The Secret Journey of Hugo the Brat (juv fty) Harlan Quist, Jan. \$3.75
- Shelton, William R. Man's Conquest of Space (nf) Nat. Geographic Soc., 1968. \$4.25
- White, T.H. The White/Garnett Letters. ed. by David Garnett. Viking, Sept. \$6.95

NEW PAPERBACKS

- Adler, Allen. Terror on Planet Ionus (reissue, orig: Mach 1) Paperback Library 63-048, Jan. 60¢
- Alexander, Lloyd. The Book of Three (juv fty) Dell Yearling 0702-4, Jan 75¢
- Alter, Robert E. Path to Savaqery. Avon S380, Jan. 60¢
- Asimov, Isaac. Asimov's Mysteries (reprint, coll) Dell 0307-1, Jan. 60¢
- Naked Sun (reprint) Lancer 74-986, Jan. 75¢
- Avallonne, Michael. Missing. Signet 73741, Jan. 75¢
- Ball, B.N. Sundog (reprint) Avon V2193 Jan. 75¢
- Binder, Otto O. Lords of Creation (reprint) Belmont 850-852, Jan. 50¢
- Brunner, John. Double, Double. Ballantine, 72019, Jan. 75¢
- Carter, Lin. Giant of World's End. Belmont 850-853, Jan. 50¢
- Davenport, Basil. Tales to Be Told in the Dark (fty, reprint) Ballantine Bal-Hi 70009, Jan.
- Elwood, Roger & Sam Moskowitz, eds. Alien Earth; and other stories. Macfadden 75-219, Jan. 75¢
- Hamilton, Edmond. Outlaw World (Capt. Future) Popular Library 60-2376, Jan. 60¢
- Harness, Charles L. The Rose (reprint) Berkley X1648, Jan. 60¢
- Kastle, Herbert. The Reassembled Man (reissue) Fawcett Gold Medal R2041 Jan. 60¢
- Koontz, Dean R. Fall of the Dream Machine / Kenneth Bulmer. Star Venturers. Ace 22600, Jan. 60¢
- Matheson, Richard. Shores of Space (coll, reissue) Bantam F3936, Jan. 50¢
- Meade, Richard. Sword of Morningstar. Signet P3774, Jan. 60¢
- Norton, Andre. Operation Time Search. Ace 63410, Jan. 60¢
- Ready, William. Understanding Tolkien and The Lord of the Rings (reprint

- nf, orig: The Tolkien Relation) Paperback Library 64-036, Jan. 75¢
- Robeson, Kenneth. Dust of Death (Doc Savage 32) Bantam F3937, Jan. 50¢
- Ross, Marilyn. Secret of Barnabas Collins (#7 in Dark Shadows series) Paperback Library 62-039, Jan. 50¢
- Saberhagen, Fred. Brother Assassin. Ballantine 72018, Jan. 75¢
- Siodmak, Curt. Hauser's Memory (reprint) Berkley X1649, Jan. 60¢
- The Story of Doctor Doolittle (nf) Dell Yearling 8307-4, Jan. 75¢
- Tabori, Paul. The Cleft. Pyramid X1940, Jan. 60¢
- The Green Rain (reissue) Pyramid X1941, Jan. 60¢
- Tubb, E. C. Star Flight. Paperback Library 62-009, Jan. 50¢
- Vance, Jack. Servants of the Wankh (Planet of Adventure #2) Ace 66900, Jan. 50¢
- Wilhelm, Kate. The Killer Thing. Dell 4496-1, Jan. 50¢
- Wollheim, Donald A. & George Ernsberger eds. Avon Fantasy Reader #1. Avon S384, Jan. 60¢
- Zelazny, Roger. The Isle of the Dead Ace 37465, Jan. 60¢
- Lord of Light (reprint) Avon N197, Jan. 95¢

BEYOND IMAGINATION cont. from p.8

each story, a good percentage of this collection has been published in previous anthologies. As Dr. Asimov comments in his introduction, "This anthology is a sampling of stories in which the cloudy crystal ball cleared for a moment to allow a writer to look ahead and see what was to be..."

This collection is recommended only to show non sf readers how close sf writings have been to actual scientific developments.

APEMAN, SPACEMAN: Anthropological Science Fiction

Ed. by Leon E. Stover & Harry Harrison
Doubleday, June 1968
26 selections 355 p. \$5.95

This is one of the most unusual anthologies we have read in quite some time. The editors have compiled a collection of mainly fiction, with articles interspersed throughout the book.

At least two of the stories selected, Robert Heinlein's "Goldfish Bowl" and Arthur Clarke's "The Nine Billion Names of God" are familiar due to their previous appearances, but fit in the basic theme of the book.

Other well-known sf authors represented are L. Sprague de Camp, Lester del Rey, and Damon Knight to name a few. Apeman, Spaceman certainly ranks high among the best anthologies published in 1968. Only Sam Moskowitz's Science Fiction by Gaslight gives this collection competition as the best.

Reviews

"To live night and day with that hopeless mountain of new books (mostly uncongenial) piling up on your desk, to be compelled to say something where you have nothing to say, to be always behindhand..."

--C.S. Lewis
OF OTHER WORLDS

SYNTHAJOY by D.G. Compton. Ace Science Fiction Special H86, Sept. 189 p. 60¢

This is the first United States appearance of British author D.G. Compton who, according to the information supplied by Ace, is the author of three previous science fiction novels. On the basis of the novel under consideration, Compton's non-publication in the U.S. has deprived fans of some good entertainment.

Synthajoy, as the title suggests, deals with a world given over to emotional stimulation by artificial means. Synthajoy takes up where Charles Eric Maine's The Man Who Couldn't Sleep left off. No emotional experience is sacred. Now before you say something to the effect that this is hardly a new theme, let me agree, but let me add that the theme has never before been explored in such depth. Where Maine's novel hinted at nightmarish possibilities, Compton's details the nightmare quite meticulously through first person observations and experiences.

Recommended.

--D.C. Paskow

LAND OF THE GIANTS by Murray Leinster. Pyramid X1846, Sept. 156 p. 60¢

It's a pity that Murray Leinster was not placed in charge of the scripting duties for Irwin Allen's latest television venture, for he might have been able to save the series from being just another product of the vast wasteland.

Leinster's novelization does what the series does not do -- it probes into the why's and how's of a suborbital flight from Los Angeles to London suddenly being transported to a planet of "giants." The same characters present in the tv series are also present here, but at least in Mr. Leinster's version they have received intelligence transfusions.

Mr. Leinster's previous novelizations from television series, also from Irwin Allen shows, are Time Tunnel (Pyramid R1522, 1967, 50¢) and Timeslip! (Pyramid R1680, 1967, 50¢), both far superior to the show they were taken from. To paraphrase an old come-on that says "Read the book -- See the movie!", I say, regarding Land of the Giants, "Read the book...period."

--D.C. Paskow

COSMICOMICS by Italo Calvino. Translated from the Italian by William Weaver. Harcourt, Brace & World, August. 153 p. \$3.95

"From the start I was willing to bet that there was going to be a universe, and I hit the nail on the head; on the question of its nature, too. I won plenty of bets, with old Dean (k)yK." (p.85). This speech by the narrator, Qfwfq, summarizes Cosmicomics quite succinctly. If the Man-in-the-Street had been present throughout Creation, and were interviewed later about his impressions of it, Cosmicomics might have been the result. The characters are represented by mathematical formulae, the setting is the cosmos, and the plot is the coming-into-being of the universe and the planet Earth and its life-forms. It is written in a breezy, off-hand, modern stream-of-consciousness style, which may have suffered in translation. The dust jacket describes the author as an essayist, journalist, and short story writer rather than a scientist. His title aptly describes his cartoon-like spoofs of various theories of the mechanics and physics of the evolution of the galaxy. Perhaps fanciers of archy and mehitabel would enjoy Calvino. He seems, like licorice ice cream and certain wines, to require some training of the palate of his consumer to be enjoyed.

--C. Woodruff

FOUR CAME BACK by Martin Caidin. David McKay, Sept. 275 p. \$5.50

Eight went up and four came back. Six men and two women inhabited Space Station Epsilon, orbiting high above the earth. The first bit of trouble involved human conflict. This, however, was relatively minor compared to what followed shortly. For what followed shortly was a plague from space (no relation to the sci-fi novel of the same name by Harry Harrison). Seemingly highly contagious, it first appeared physically as a rash. Victims then turned irrational and...died. No cure could be found.

The question was now what to do. The rumor that survivors of the Epsilon plague might be returned to Earth caused panic in the streets. Was there a solution, or should Space Station Epsilon be turned into an orbiting tomb?

Martin Caidin again turns his attention to the human side of space exploration (as he did so capably in Marooned) and again comes up with an absorbing, dan't put it down novel.

(A theme similar to this was handled in the science fiction movie MUTINY IN OUTER SPACE. Martin Caidin's novel is better.)

--D.C. Paskow

H. P. LOVECRAFT: A PORTRAIT. Mirage Press, Sept. iv, 66 p. \$2.95

If anyone owns Beyond the Wall of Sleep, this book is an overpriced extra because Mr. Cook's reminiscence of Lovecraft appears in that rare tome. For those who just can't abide H. P. Lovecraft and his works, this is also a waste. Anyone curious about H.P. Lovecraft would do well to read it. This is not a biography but a series of random remembering of a twenty-year friendship. It is a picture of a human being, which, even though becoming a cult, Lovecraft was. Quite personal, it nonetheless demonstrates Lovecraft's (and Cook's) humanity. Mr. Cook writes with a moderate amount of wit about his subject, a happy change from the usual somber pontifications about HPL. There can be some argument with a few of Mr. Cook's critical conclusions. But whether we admire or abominate Lovecraft, we must agree that "He was quite alone in the dreams which he spread on paper."

--J.B. Post

MOONDUST by Thomas Burnett Swann. Ace G758, Oct. 158 p. 50¢

A new novel by the author of the hauntingly beautiful Day of the Minotaur and The Weirwoods is a cause for rejoicing. As the blurb writer says of author Swann: "Thomas Burnett Swann has won himself a special place...for his marvelous evocations of forgotten ages and lost peoples...he has taken the infinite range of the past for his province, and, bringing to it the learning of a scholar and the talent of a poet, he has woven wonders." I wish I had said that!

This time the setting is the Biblical Jericho during the seige. It is written in the first person by Bard who resides in Jericho with his mother and brother. The brothers soon discover that there are more things in Jericho than dreamt of in anyone's philosophy. Their adventures inside the mountain Jebel Kuruntul form another winning entry in author Swann's credits.

--D.C. Paskow

SANDS OF XAPA by Tom Walters. Dorrance 1968. 195 p. \$4.00

This is a novel set in the locale of ancient Persia, about 5000 B.C. It details the flight of a nomadic tribe before a vast hord of barbarians from the north. They flee across Caucasia into agricultural Persia, where they take refuge with the people of Xapa. The slight fantasy element present is indefinite, and a rather unnecessary intrusion into an otherwise interesting novel of this period.

--F. Maxim

BALLROOM OF THE SKIES by John D. MacDonald. Fawcett Gold Medal R1993, Sept 176 p. 60¢

WINE OF THE DREAMERS by John D. MacDonald. Fawcett Gold Medal R1994, Sept. 175 p. 60¢

John D. MacDonald has three science fiction/fantasy novels to his credit (being best known for his crime novels and the popular Travis McGee series). His previous Gold Medal science fantasy was The Girl, The Gold Watch and Everything (K1513, 40¢). Now Gold Medal has reissued his long out-of-print 1952 sf novel of a future society much like our own; except for the fact that instead of the mighty dollar being worshipped, it is the mighty rupee since the ruling global power is India (hard to believe in the world of 1969, but perhaps less unbelievable in 1952). MacDonald uses the aliens-among-us theme, combining it with the threat of an impending second nuclear war to build a tight and grim story, carefully plotted and executed.

Gold Medal has also reissued MacDonald's Wine of the Dreamers, previously a 1953 Pocket Book under the title of Planet of the Dreamers, which in turn was the retitled edition of the original Wine of the Dreamers, published by Greenberg in 1951. Also competently written, it is the story of a telepathic race which believes Earth people to be the stuff of dreams, and attempts to use them as such. One of the Dreamers realizes the truth, however, and attempts to stop this cruel manipulation, with the help of an Earth scientist and his assistant.

Read MacDonald's sf and then latch onto Travis McGee for further entertainment.

--D.C. Paskow

CATCH A FALLING STAR by John Brunner. Ace G761, Oct. 158 p. 50¢

Once upon a time there was a science fiction novel titled The Hundredth Millennium (Ace D362). Nine years and some revisions later we have Catch a Falling Star.

The story is that of Creohan who, ages from now, makes the discovery that our planet is in danger of destruction from a wandering star. Though the calamity would not occur in Creohan's lifetime, it nevertheless would occur. Creohan believes that, in the three hundred years left humanity, something could be done to prevent the catastrophe. Unfortunately, people could care less about a disaster three lifetimes away. Creohan's problem: save an apathetic humanity from itself.

This is early Brunner, but it is good nonetheless.

--D.C. Paskow

OMNIVORE by Piers Anthony. Ballantine 72014, Dec. 221 p. 75¢

Piers Anthony, whose previous Ballantine novel Chthon gave birth to a controversy that is still raging regarding possible interpretations, returns now (or should I say 'strikes again?') with a slightly less complicated tale.

The fungus planet Nacre (the name itself has a loathesome ring) has proved deadly to explorers. Now Aquilon (female), Cal and Veg (males) survive whatever it was that claimed eighteen previous explorers and authorities must know why.

Subble is a government agent whose job is to find out what it was about Aquilon, Cal and Veg that permitted them to survive on Nacre. With the three were also the omnivorous (look that up in your Funk & Wagnalls!) mantas of Nacre, creatures that might pose a serious threat to Earth.

The description of Nacre and the explorers is extremely well handled and reminds one of the similarly detailed Asgard in John Brunner's Bedlam Planet. The story itself moves at a brisk pace and the reader is hard pressed to put the book down once he has started.

--D.C. Paskow

INVADER ON MY BACK by Philip E. High & DESTINATION: SATURN by David Grinnel and Lin Carter. Ace H85, Sept. 146 & 107p 60¢

This is a totally enjoyable Ace Double Novel. The High novel takes place in a future world where people are classified as (1) a Delink, (2) a Geek, (3) a Norm, (4) a Scuttler or (5) a Stinker. When a "mysterious stranger" (or, for that matter, anyone) is caught up in this world, he must be classified. If you're a Norm or a Scuttler, you're fairly innocuous. As a Delink you're mean, wicked, evil, bad and nasty and treated as such. If you're a Stinker, you're in trouble, for you arouse antipathy in all around you. But if you're a Geek, you are trouble... An interesting novel, carrying the trend of "labeling" people to an almost nightmarish conclusion.

The "Grinnel"-Carter half of this Ace Double is hauntingly familiar; I think it had its origins in one of the post-1955 Columbia sf publications. Ajax Calkins, "modest" multi-billionaire, resides on a world all his own, Ajaxia, a self-made king. The baddies of the novel are low down Saturnians, who manage to steal Calkins' coveted Ajaxia by stealing Ajax Calkins' name and affixing it to a Saturnian agent. The shenanigans involved in the return of Ajaxia to the real Ajax Calkins make for a pleasant reading experience.

--D.C. Paskow

THE SCREAMING DEAD BALLOONS by Philip McCutchan. John Day, Sept. 224 p. \$4.50

Feeling depressed because he feels responsible for the death of some astronauts, Commander Shaw resigns and attempts to lose himself in drink and women. Maybe he sings, too. Running out of money, he is contacted by another intelligence establishment (still the good guys, though). He investigates mysterious screaming globs in the Brazilian jungles with Anya Kiselyov, girl agent. The evil Dr. Zan (or Zulu-etta) has discovered Fungi from outer space (from Yuggoth, maybe) that can be controlled by vibrations. Well, anyway, Shaw saves London from being destroyed by the mycetons and Zan kills himself. Wouldn't be too bad as a movie; strictly camp, of course.

I wouldn't say never read this but it is so low on my list of what I would recommend that most sf readers should forget it. I would rather read a Romney Pringle adventure by "Clifford Ash-down."

--J.B. Post

THE INFERNO by John Creasey. Berkley Medallion X1627, Nov. (reprint) 192 p 60¢

This is a suspense adventure, set in present-day London, by an author more often associated with detection than with science fiction. Threatening to incinerate the great cities of every nation, a cult-conspiracy uses an almost irresistible inflammatory substance to force the world's heads of state into submission. Dr. Stanislaus Alexander Palfrey ("Sap" to friends) and Z5, his world secret service group, although abandoned by their supporters and beset by deadly peril on every hand, stalk the malefactors to their doom. Incredible? Creasey forces the reader to believe it. He creates suspense by timing rather than by ingeniousness of plot. He is a master of characterization, atmosphere and mood. Out of a few sentences steps a full-dimensional man for whose death one can feel sorrow, no matter how minor his role in the story.

Palfrey himself is an unusual hero--an administrator rather than an adventurer; one who knows his policy and his men, and how to match them strategically; not a fool, but human enough to err occasionally. The plausible ease with which the world comes to its knees is frightening, in context, though perhaps less plausible in cold retrospect.

If you can savor the sauce of the excellent style without too deep inquiry into the meat of the plot, you will enjoy this.

--C. Woodruff

SOS THE ROPE by Piers Anthony. Pyramid
X1890, Oct. 157 p. 60¢

I'm not quite sure what Piers Anthony thought he was doing in this novel, but here goes. At the start it looks like a rather promising bit of heroic adventure. We are introduced to a wandering barbarian swordsman whose dream is to build an empire single-handed. Okay, sounds nice.

But the hero's name is -- hold on, now -- "Sol the Sword." How's that for a name with the old heroic ring to it, eh gang? And there's more in the same vein: we meet Sol, Sos, Sola and Sav; then we move into the T's with Tor, Tyl, Tora, Tori, Tyla, and so on. Piers Anthony is one helluva coiner of names, all right. And not much better on plots. For his poor empire-builder goes about the job in what must be just about the dumbest way you could imagine. He goes wandering around the jolly old wilderness, challenging every single guy he meets to a duel: if Sol wins, the other guy joins up with the empire. How's that for a plot of Machiavellian subtlety, gang? By the time the empire is a couple hundred strong, it begins to get a wee bit ridiculous. With a Conan-type character, an indomitable, larger-than-life superhero, you might get away with the notion, but Sol is all too human. Early on, he gets bit by a moth and is laid up with an attack of moth-bite-poison-fever. Later on it comes out that he is a eunuch. He is also a pretty dull character in general.

The alternate hero rejoices in the name of "Sos the Rope." He has a pet bird named Stupid. He is madly in love with Sol's girl like for twenty years or something, but does nothing about it. Finally he challenges Sol for her, gets whopped, and goes off to "climb the mountain" and die. Inside the mountain he finds a secret headquarters of the crazies. I should explain that this is one of those old-fashioned cornball After the Bomb stories, and the whole world is divided into the wandering warriors and the crazies, or ordinary people, who have a secret technological civilization going in the background. The only reason for this that the novel gives is so the crazies can set up sort of super-bird-feeding-stations all over the wilderness, where a wandering warrior can get medical attention, supplies, new weapons, and watch a little free tv. No explanation of why they do this, of course.

Up in the mountain, the crazies rebuild Sos into an invulnerable superman and send him back to destroy Sol's empire. At this point the novel degenerates into utter nonsense and you keep reading only so as to put the book atop the "have read" stack. Get the

picture now, gang: for twenty-odd years old Sos has been laboring mightily to help his buddy build the empire; now, for no reason whatsoever he goes back to destroy it. He decides to do so simply because the crazies tell him to. Incredible! He wasn't even brainwashed. He loves Sol and has no reason for wishing to destroy the empire. Oh, well. I suppose it is all very Deep, Symbolic and New Wave.

Piers Anthony also wrote a novel called Chthon, remember it? There was this planet-sized garnet mine, and the time-structure was all inside-out which was supposed to remind you of some Faulkner novel or other? It, at least, was only a bore: this one is just plain silly.

--Lin Carter

PRIEST-KINGS OF GOR by John Norman.
Ballantine 72015, Dec. 317 p. 75¢

In December of 1966, Ballantine published volume 1 in "the strange history of Counter-Earth," Tarnsman of Gor. In this novel, Tarl Cabot, following clues to the whereabouts of his missing father, found himself transported to a strange Counter-Earth in much the same manner in which John Carter found himself transported to Barsoom. On this counter-Earth, Cabot found himself to be part of a strange heritage. He became a master of the strange winged creatures known as Tarns and established himself in Ko-ro-ba.

One year later, returning to Counter Earth, Tarl Cabot found his proud name tarnished, himself an Outlaw of Gor. It was a long struggle, but Cabot managed to clear his name. At the end of this struggle there came no joy, however, for because of some sinister master plan of the mysterious Priest-Kings, Ko-ro-ba had been destroyed. At the conclusion of Outlaw of Gor, Cabot vowed vengeance on the Priest-Kings.

Now, in Priest-Kings of Gor, Cabot seeks to fulfill that vow. Homeless, with his dearest friends missing or dead, even without the Tarn that had been his constant companion; Cabot set off for the Mountains of Sardar, legendary home of the Priest-Kings. The power of the Priest-Kings was great, their flame-death a constant threat to all Gor. Cabot's hatred was strong but was any mortal a match for these entities?

Once more John Norman takes us on a journey to Counter-Earth and its fascinating ecology. This is a solid series and my one regret is that new volumes come but once a year. If this is the time required for the production of these skillfully plotted, intricately detailed novels, the wait is well worth the effort.

--D.C. Paskow

1969 BRITANNICA YEARBOOK OF SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1968. 448 p. \$8.95

This lavishly illustrated tome is really a difficult book to review. One is impressed by the moderate price (considering what one gets for it), the list of contributors, the illustrations, the ambition and pride of the publisher, but then one reads the articles. This book is geared for someone almost completely ignorant in the sciences. Taking myself as the average fan, i.e. a layman moderately knowledgeable about science, I didn't really learn anything worthwhile. To be sure, I picked up all sorts of new facts, but they were really rather trivial and easily findable if I needed them. While this may be a great boon to science teachers, fans are going to find it a bit of a drag. The pictures are very good, however. There are articles on atomic energy, space exploration, transplants of human organs, microelectronics, DNA, modern medicines, Mayan archeology, to name a few.

While still not containing new information, I found "Science and the Law" by Morris Ernst and David Loth, and "Man and His Future" by Herman Kahn and Anthony Wiener to be the most interesting. If they said what I already knew, they said it interestingly. The year in review and the preview for 1969 were mildly uninspiring. Dr. Isaac Asimov's article "The Art of the Tomorrow Seekers" is a sketch of science fiction for those who know little or nothing about it. For the fan, it is not up to Dr. Asimov's usual level. But one can't fault a book for accomplishing what it sets out to do, especially if what it sets out to do is socially important. If this collection can bring some understanding of science in our lives to those who have heretofore had none, this book deserves our praise.

If the fannish home contains children, this might be worth buying although I think How Things Work (Simon & Schuster, \$8.95) is a more important work to have.

--J.B. Post

PAVANE by Keith Roberts. Doubleday, Oct. 279 p. \$4.95

Suppose Queen Elizabeth I had been assassinated in 1588 before the defeat of the Spanish Armada... Keith Roberts has supposed so, and has extrapolated an unusual and thought provoking "present": an all-powerful Papacy has outlawed radio and electricity and strictly limited internal combustion engines; steam engines are contemporaneous with an Inquisition, and 17th century medicine coexists with the manufacture of nylon stockings.

Pavane consists of six measures and a coda, each of which communicates the feeling of an era of Roberts' pseudo-history by highlighting one individual's personal episode. Three of these chapters concern the family of Jesse Strange, a railroad owner; another tells of a young man in the semaphore signal corps; a fifth describes the relationship between a young girl from a sterile fishing village and a strange white boat, and another presents a priest sent to paint the Inquisition who becomes either a lunatic or a saint. Throughout all weave the mysteries of Time and Cycle and the Old Gods of the North.

This is not an adventure epic. Roberts' prose evokes sensual images reminiscent of Keats' St. Agnes' Eve. His characters are perfect portraits -- complete in every detail, yet never revealing their innermost thoughts. An unusually literate and well-written book.

--C. Woodruff

THE UNDERPEOPLE by Cordwainer Smith. Pyramid X1910, Nov. 159 p. 60¢

SPACE LORDS by Cordwainer Smith. Pyramid X1911, Nov. 206 p. 60¢

The late "Cordwainer Smith" began what was to become a notable writing career with his classic "Scanners Live in Vain." It was not until much later, however, when his stories began appearing regularly in Galaxy that he received some of the recognition he deserved.

It is impossible for me to find the words to accurately describe Smith's writing: it displays the pyrotechnics of a Philip Dick, the solidity of a Poul Anderson and the beauty of a Brian Aldiss. It can also display the savagery of a Harlan Ellison, as witness "A Planet Named Shayol" in the collection Space Lords. Haunting beauty may be found in "The Ballad of Lost C'mell," the story immediately preceding "Shayol" in Space Lords (let the reader be warned!). And then there's "The Dead Lady of Clown Town" and "Drunkboat." Indeed, the only "lightweight" of the collection is "Mother Hitton's Littul Kittons" which is also the oldest story in the collection.

P.S. -- There is also a Dedication worthy of your attention (page 5)

The Underpeople is the first paperback publication of a "novel" pieced together from stories which appeared in the Galaxy group of magazines. The central character is Rod McBan, but characters from the stories appearing in Space Lords abound, most especially C'mell. Mother Hitton's Kittons are also present; on the whole The Underpeople is repetitious, particularly being issued with Space Lords. If you've but 60¢ to "splurge," buy Space Lords.

--D.C. Paskow

THE LORD OF THE RINGS by J.R.R. Tolkien
Allen & Unwin, Oct. 1977 p. 1/10/G

The Complete Lord of the Rings trilogy has just been published in one large paperbound edition in Britain. This is the first time any section of this classic work has appeared in a paperback version here, and the publishers, who publish all of Tolkien's fiction here, have done us proud. They have put the revised versions of 1966 of The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, and The Return of the King together with one of the appendices in one well-made book at a very reasonable price by anybody's standards. The 130 pages of appendices and indexes left out are still available in the hardback edition of The Return of the King which is priced at £1.5.0 as are the hardback versions of the first two books in the trilogy. The only criticism I can find with this book is that the maps are not as clear as they might be. They are reproductions of those from the hardback editions which were printed in red & black on pull-out sheets, but they were compressed to fit the 8½" x 5½" format of the paperback. The heavy writing on the maps now tends to obscure some of the fine detail of the drawings, and the hills are shaded in too heavily. However, apart from this, Britain now has a well printed and bound edition of one of the greatest works of all time available at a very reasonable price and at every bookshop, as this edition is so popular that most shops have it in stock, and a massive reprint was necessary before publication.

--G. Bishop

THE GREAT RADIO HEROES by Jim Harmon.
Ace A27, Nov. 253 p. 75¢ (Hardcover:
Doubleday, 1967, \$4.95)

To anyone who only knows the age of television, this is an interesting look into the past, a well documented history of radio serials that is about on a par with Every Day Life in the Old Stone Age. But for those of us who lived through those days, Mr. Harmon has recreated them. He brings them all back -- I LOVE A MYSTERY, THE SHADOW, INNER SANCTUM, THE LONE RANGER, CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT, all of them -- but not just a simple recreation. No, Mr. Harmon tells us things we would never know (and probably wouldn't care) about as young, carefree listeners. We learn about how the actors hopped from show to show, that Tony Randall was once Reggie in I LOVE A MYSTERY, that Agnes Moorehead once played Margo Lane on THE SHADOW, that the Green Hornet was the great-nephew of the Lone Ranger. The bargain of the year at 75¢, all fans who ever listened to the radio should buy this book.

--J.B. Post

THE YELLOW SUBMARINE, voyage chartered
by Max Wilk. New American Library, Nov
\$1.95; Signet Q3632, 95¢. 128 p.

As a souvenir of the film this book is a nice memento, a picture book summary accompanied by the brief story line of the movie. The youngsters may also get a kick out of it. Beyond this, however, we doubt that this book will interest anyone in the sf field.

--F. Maxim

THE SANTAROGA BARRIER by Frank Herbert.
Berkley S1615, Oct. 255 p. 75¢

This is the much expanded version of the story which ran as a serial in Amazing Stories last year. I place it a few notches below Dune and many notches above The Eyes of Heisenberg.

The town of Santaroga is truly a world unto itself: self-sustaining, resentful of outside influences, indeed scorning outside trade. The question arises as to why, and Gilbert Dasein sets out to find the answer.

In Santaroga he renews his relationship with an old flame, only to find her curiously cold. Soon he realizes that there is a very tangible force operating in Santaroga; producing these attitudes of alienness in the citizenry, a force known to Santaroga's inhabitants as "Jaspers," a substance which acts almost like a psychedelic hypnotic.

As Dasein finds the answers to his questions, he also realizes that Santaroga may have gained a new permanent resident, to wit Gilbert Dasein!

As Arte Johnson says on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In": "Very interesting"

--D.C. Paskow

LILLIPUTIA cont. from p.8

to be children rather than young adults. No drawings at all would have been better than those which appear in this edition.

THE HENDON FUNGUS

By Richard Parker
Meredith Press, 1968
186 p. \$3.95
Age level: 10-16

When Emmelle and Peter plant the fungus specimens their botanist father has sent back home to England, they do not realize this simple task will change the lives of many people. The fungus escapes the greenhouse and spreads with amazing speed, leaving destruction in its path. Mr. Hendon returns from his trip to be faced with a situation as frightening as anything man has encountered, for the lives of millions of people are threatened by this menace. This is an excellent story, so incredible and realistic that it is both believable and amazing.

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