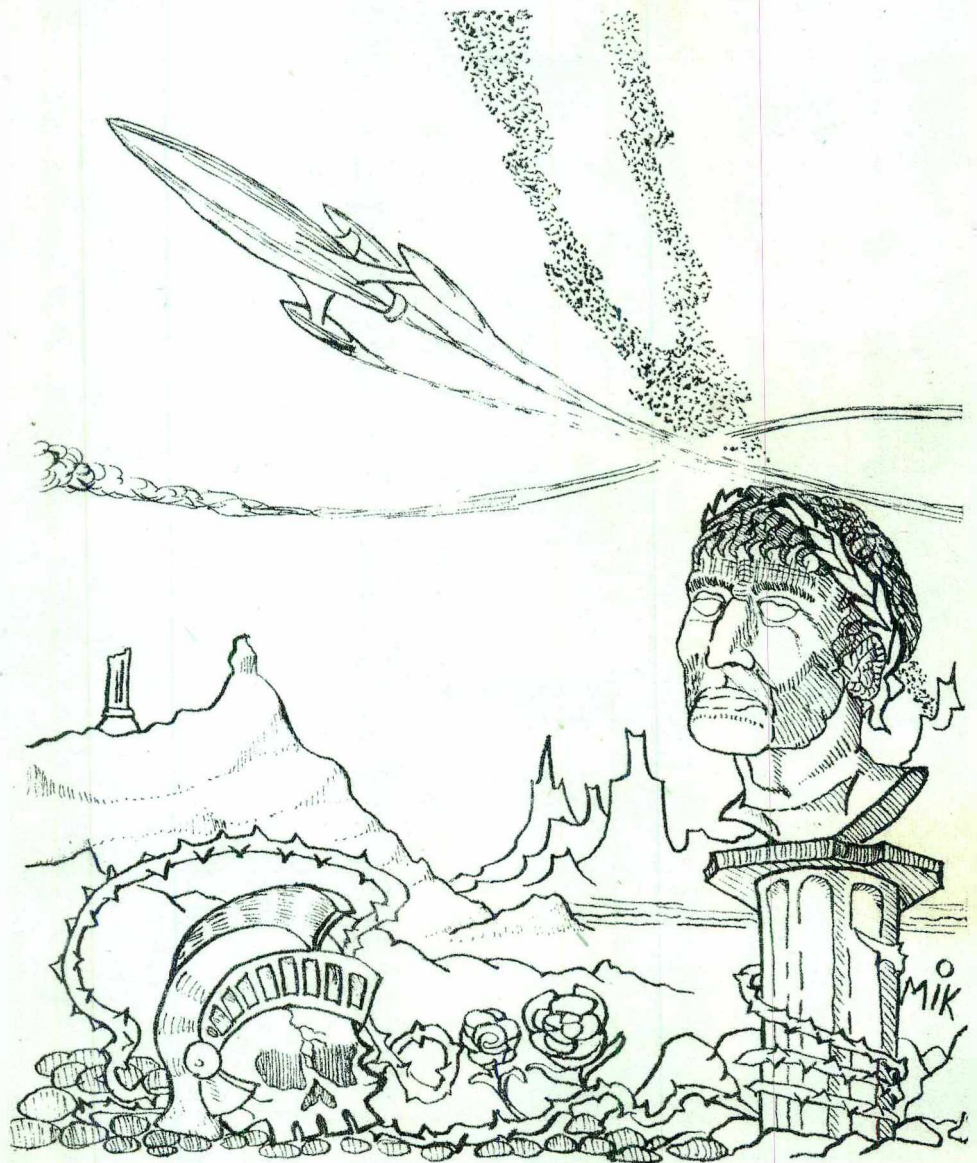


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# ZENITH





# ZENITH

NUMBER 2.

DECEMBER 1963.

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All Artwork In This Issue Mike Higgs  
ZENITH 2 Duplicated by Peter R Weston & Roger G. Peyton



ZENITH is produced and edited by Peter R. Weston, 9, Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham, 31. It is intended to be a bimonthly magazine of science fiction articles; news; and short fiction. The Birmingham Group provides much of the material, but contributions of all kinds are always welcomed. ZENITH can be obtained at 1/- per issue, or six issues for 5/- from the Editor.

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(Number --- of your subscription (5/- for six )  
You earned this copy ( contribution, exchange etc. )



## EDITORIAL

Here it is, the second ZENITH . It has been a hectic time during the last few weeks , as I decided to attempt to keep to the proposed bimonthly schedule for the magazine. Only now do I realise what a truly hellish task it is to run a magazine. It is a warm proud feeling to look upon the finished product, and think, "There it is, all my own work." It is not such fun to sit up most of the night, pounding out stencils for the next days' printing. ( I had better explain that as yet, I do not have my own duplicator . The work has to be done at odd intervals during the week on the machine that belongs to my college. And to make matters worse, homework often interferes with my schedule for getting some typing done . )

I must also say a word or two about the stencilling. I have more or less grown up with a spirit-duplicator, but this printing is my first experience of Gestetnered work. Consequentially, you will find that there are several mistakes that I have made in this issue. Some of the margins do not really leave enough room for the staples and in some places, ink has been used too liberally, or too sparingly; and there are some glaringly obvious typographical errors that were not at all obvious to me at the time. But I doubt that this matters all that much. After all, this is only an amateur publication, and very few people expect a detailed Errata for such a magazine . What does matter, is that all of the copy can be read and understood , and I do not think that there should be any difficulty here.

Those few people who received a copy of ZENITH I will immediately notice a number of changes in the presentation of the magazine. The first issue was of necessity an experiment, and as such had only a limited printing, mainly for distribution among local fans. It was spirit-duplicated, and had a rather unusual format , being only 5" x 8" . This idea was quite popular, but had to be given up due to the difficulties inherent in stencilling for such a small sheet. I think that the Gestetner method of reproduction is far better than spirit-duplicator, except possibly for illustrations , where more than one colour can be used with ease. The trouble is, of course, that there is a very definite limit to the number of copies that can be turned out from one master.

The fundamental basis for the magazine remains unchanged. ZENITH is intended to be a magazine for the science-fiction fan. It will contain fiction, book & magazine news, articles, and regular features, such as a letter column. The first issue was exclusively non-fiction, while this issue has rather a high proportion of fiction.

I hope that in future issues, as contributors get into the swing of writing, to establish a balanced mixture of possibly several articles and one good, medium-length story in each issue. Fans seem to think that articles are of more interest, and more value than amateur fiction. Anyone who has a science-fictional theme for an article is invited to send it in. I shall be only too glad to receive ideas, or complete contributions at any time.

A few words about the origins of ZENITH may be called for. Once upon a time, there was a local project intended to result in the production of an official Birmingham Group journal. But various difficulties intervened. How to finance the magazine, who would edit it, what sort of contents, etc, all conspired to cause the idea to be shelved.

Being an anarchist at heart, I decided to bring out a magazine that would be entirely my own responsibility. This would cut out all wrangling, and leave all difficult decisions in my hands. It seems to be a fairly happy arrangement at the moment, since no-one else has the time to bring out a magazine of their own (All the checklisting takes a long while to finish off.) So it is, that ZENITH has a vague connection with the BSFG. I intend to run a regular report on Birmingham Group affairs, and to print a large proportion of my material from local contributors.

There it is; you know the history of the magazine, you know the editorial bias is towards the production of an SF magazine. What remains is for you to read the contents, and then do your bit. You can contribute, and all over the magazine there are annoying little plugs that will tell you exactly what I want. Most important of all, in a way, you can subscribe to ZENITH, or put in an order for a further single copy (1/-). Subscription copies will from time to time contain little 'bonuses' that other copies will not have. And of course if you don't like ZENITH, I shall be interested to hear why not.

.....

AFTERTHOUGHTS ( inserted at the last minute by the Editor )

Forthcoming Releases (Page 34) : Penguin, "The Hugo Winners" & "Sirius" (Stapledon); Mayflower, "Imagination Unlimited" ed. by Bleiler & Dikty; "The Great Explosion" (Rusbel) from Panther.

Correction to ZENITH I ( Article on Poul Anderson )  
"War Of The Wingmen" is merely a retitled of "The Man Who Counts"  
& "Question and Answer" is retitled as "Planet Of No Return." and  
Sorry about mistakes. Add "Broken Sword" (fantasy) and "Golden Slave" (not SF) to listing of Anderson books.

In the Next Zenith :-

An article on "Caves Of Steel" & "The Naked Sun."

Future History series; a toss up between Anderson & H. Beam Piper  
regular features on books; other articles and fictional entry.

# BSFG

THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP.

## IN THE BEGINNING :

B.S.F.G. was originated by a group of local science fiction fans who congregated together for their mutual benefit. For perhaps two years, the group grew slowly, until the beginning of 1963. Now the population explosion has begun to affect us, and the number of members has more than doubled.

## ORGANISATION.

Perhaps the word 'member' is a misnomer, giving as it does the mental idea of a rosacrucean-like cloak and dagger movement, fully burdened with membership cards, red tape, and DUES. We do not operate our group in this way. We had a stormy few weeks until this matter was settled with the recognition of the fact that the best way to destroy ad-lib SF fandom was to shackle it with the chains of formal organisation. Consequently, our support comes from those who are keen enough to come along to meetings, or at least keep in regular touch with the Group. Money for any necessary occasion is obtained by a swift passing-around-of-the-hat. And of course, while we continue to meet at the homes of various members, it is customary to leave donations behind with the washing-up.

At the present rate of growth, it will not be long before some more airtight organisation is introduced. As yet, we don't need it.

## OBJECTS AND ASPIRATIONS.

Many folks ask "What is the object of it all?"

This is very difficult to explain if they do not read Science Fiction. The objects of our Group are basically to make it easier for everyone to read Science Fiction that they might otherwise not be able to obtain. We have found that by pooling our resources, we can keep up to date with a wider range of the latest books released, and also borrow or exchange books between our respective collections.

Cliff Teague does an enormous amount of work that helps everybody else. Not only did he more or less start the Group, but he keeps a large number of 'spares' at his place, and can often provide a book that someone has been searching for for years.

Rog Peyton

is very efficient with the bookwork. He keeps a record of all his books, and catalogues all of the works of individual authors. He has recently decided not to bring out his own magazine, as originally was intended, but to concentrate instead on the compilation of check-lists.

Rod Milner is a very useful man to have in the group. He is in a position to get us word about forthcoming books, chat with various sales representatives, etc. He has in fact helped the group a great deal in the last few months.

Pete Weston ( that's me ) has recently started to receive catalogues from various dealers and firms. These are passed on to the other lads of the group, and a bulk order is put together. It is posted off and we often get quite substantial discounts. We now have communication or irregular correspondence with a satisfactory number of dealers. Together.

We cover all of the Birmingham bookshops that sell SF. We make a point of going to various centres of fannish activity in large parties. And of course, we hold frequent meetings.

#### AFTER HOURS.

Meetings are held irregularly, though usually at least once a week. On historic occasions we have pushed the total up as high as four meetings in one week, but this so exhausted everyone, that we did not congregate again for some time.

At meetings, we spend a lot of time exchanging information, comments on stories, etc. Then the arguments start. Although it has long been a rule never to mention Politics or Religion ( It is not funny. We do not want any vendettas just yet ), there are plenty of ether subjects.

A perennial topic is that of " the best " SF author. (actually a meaningless concept.) Individual contenders now include the Dave Casey faction, who support Edmond Hamilton; the Poul Anderson Followers led by Rog Beyton ; and the Jack Vance sect ( Pete Weston, Dave Casey & others. ) Of course, we all acknowledge that everyone elses' hero is 'pretty good', and the closest runner-up in everyones choice, is of course, Robert A. Heinlein.

After the arguments, the darts come out, or the cards, or a Japanese game, 'Go', revived from obscurity by Chas. Winstone. The latter is a game that is well worth an article in itself. The strategy is subtle.

#### PUBLICITY.

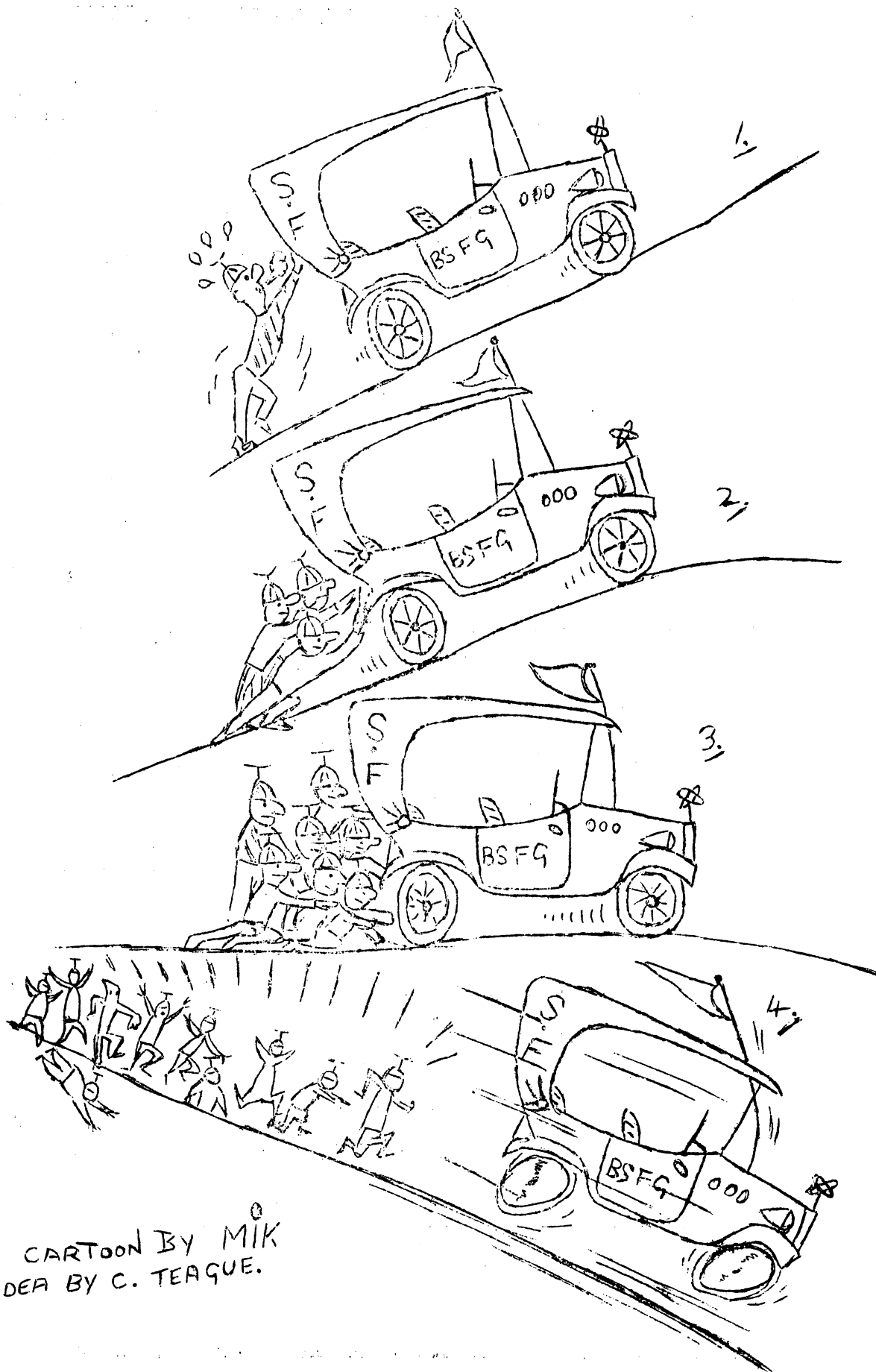
The Group spends a great deal of effort to contact new fans. An influx of new faces keeps the group fresh, as well as being to the advantage of all concerned. ( What do you want to trade ? )

To this end, the members of the Group employ various means.

Notices are on display in the SF displays of many local shops, and we hope that fans will see these. Advertisements have appeared in one of the local papers, and the group has had a write-up in the 'Erdington News'. One other trick is to leave small cards in SF books that are traded in at various shops. This latter device can be very successful.

IF YOU ARE EVER IN BIRMINGHAM, LOOK US UP.

QUOTE Neofan : Do you have a sense of the macabre ?  
Teague : Who wrote it ?



CARTOON BY MIK  
IDEA BY C. TEAGUE.



# A LISTING OF SOME BIRMINGHAM ( & DISTRICT ) FANS.

Clifford Teague, 1/299 Heath Street, Winson Green, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Roger G. Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Road, Quinton, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Charles Winstone, 71, George Road, Erdington, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Peter R. Weston, 9, Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Oliver Harver, 12/40 Bracebridge Street, Aston, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Mike Turner, 54, Park Hill Road, Harborne, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Dave Casey, 27, Lincoln Street, Sasall Heath, Birmingham.  
Rod Milner, 44, Sheepwash Lane, Greatebridge, Tipton. (BSFA)  
Beryl Henley, 59, The Fearnings, Craabs Cross, Redditch. (BSFA)  
Jack Pickering, 224, Victoria Road, Aston, Birmingham.  
Ron Haycock, 192, Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Richard Wikes, 145 Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham. (BSFA)  
Lawrence Terry, 6/27, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.  
Anthony Ventris-field, 350 College Road, Erdington Birmingham.  
Geoffrey Tallis, 24, Acheson Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.  
Janet Mills, 45, Shepley Road, Rednal, Birmingham.  
Anthony Greenway, 12, Machin Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

The above fans are of varying states of keenness. Most if not all of them attend meetings reasonably often. There are several addresses that are as now being investigated, and which may lead to the listing of further names on future lists.

QUOTE : (Heard at meeting after stormy argument on merits of various authors) " I'll have to read some SF. I only read 'New Maps Of Hell' and I've bluffed the rest. "

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS : (Being a word of thanks to those who have helped )

The staff of Boots Library, New Street, for help with SF titles.  
The Panther Sales Representative for the Midlands.  
The chaps in the various bookshops that have displayed notices, and generally to publicise the Group.  
The girls in Hudsons - They put up with a lot.  
Gollancz for assorted information and services.  
Ken Cheslin for advice about printing and paper.  
Mrs KENNEDY for helping with the printing & technical assistance.  
All the contributors who have sent me material for this magazine.  
All the chaps who have sent samples of their magazines, letters of comment on Zenith 1, and other details.

A KEEN LOCAL FAN ? GET IN TOUCH WITH US NOW . WE WANT MEMBERS !

# I WANT TO GO HOME

by BERYL HENLEY.



I wish I'd never let Cru-Sin enter a plea of insanity. But he said it was the only way to get me off. Well I know now that death by tail strangulation would have been infinitely preferable to this. If I wasn't crazy before I was sent to this place I sure will be by the time they let me go.

If you caught a cocky young grilch messing about with your numeroor three wife, what would you do - say, "I beg your pardon," and retire discreetly? No, you wouldn't, and neither did I. I crept up behind him, my tail twitching with rage and claws unsheathed on all four hands. Silent as I was, he must have sensed my angry presence for he opened his rear eye in alarm at the last moment. He let out a 70-decibel screech, and jumped to one side. Number three wife beat it, but quick. Never mind, I thought, I'll attend to you later.

We zig-zagged around, each trying to get behind the other. In case you don't know, the only way to lay out a grilch is to apply pressure, or a slow, to the base of his tail.

He lashed out with an upper arm, trying to knock me off-balance; I caught the flailing limb, and swung him around in savage triumph. I leaped upwards, intending to land with all my considerable weight, on the vulnerable spot. Realising what was coming, he screeched again, and flung himself forward.

BERYL HENLEY is a housewife with a dynamic personality. She writes stories, poems, and has recently broken into the lucrative field of 'pop' song-writing. She lives some distance from the rest of the Group, but visits whenever possible. Beryl has some highly original ideas about life, which are sometimes reflected in her stories. She also has a couple of phenomenally-intelligent children, who play Chess well enough to beat Lawrence Terry, who is a regional champion.

....And went straight out of the window.

My apartment, as befits the first-grade manager of a kithree farm, is ten stories up. They said he was probably dead of neuro - shock before he hit the ground. It's certain that he couldn't have been deader after he hit it.

They called it murder. He, a first-grade manager, accused of the archaic crime of murder, virtually unknown on Krathan! During my trial ( Ha! If that's what you call it! ) the courtroom was almost empty. The video companies wouldn't touch the case with a mallet-stick. The newsblocks gave it two lines on the back page the first day, and thereafter ignored it. Krathan was ashamed of me. Krathan didn't want to know.

Which would have been very right and proper if I'd been guilty.

My number one wife, bless her, actually visited me once, the day before the trial. Her tail green with shame, she told me that my crime had caused the biggest scandal on Krathan since the graft trials, seventeen manats earlier. I was speechless with rage and humiliation. Those decadent surgeons, stealing tails from the non-ourable bodies of dead first-class citizens, and grafting them onto awful nouveaux-riches of third-class status. -- Fancy comparing my accident to that disgraceful affair!

But they wouldn't believe it was an accident. And my number three wife, believing that she saw a way to avoid chastisement, swore that she'd seen me push him. The lying little she-grilch! I ought to have listened to number one, she never did trust number three; and it wasn't jealousy, because she's always been best of friends with N<sup>o</sup>2.

They said my managerial status entitled me to the services of an Upstairs Counsellor. I reckon now that I couldn't have come off any worse if I'd been represented by the youngest, greenest, Downstairs Counsellor with a still - wet tail.

Be that as it may, I got Upstairs Counsellor Thavoc cru-Sin. And when I'm released -- if I'm released -- I shall have a few words to say to him.

He was, admittedly, a clever grilch. He warned me that the father of my victim ( ever body would persist in calling that slimy young grilch my VICTIM! ), was on the Board of Assessors, and was determined to have my tail. U.C. cru-Sin insisted on the advisability of pleading insanity. It would mean, he told me, that I would be sent for an unspecified period of time to a laughing academy, and that if I behaved myself, and showed suitable remorse, I would be released to enjoy my old age in peace.

The way that cunning old devil put it, it sounded infinitely preferable to having my tail amputated without sleep-jabs, and then being strangled with it. Krathan hadn't known an execution for many manats, and never, cru-Sin emphasised ghoulishly, of a managerial grilch.

"And think," he added impressively, "of the unfortunate executioner. It is such a shock to his nervous system that he will go into a decline, and die within a few jorns. They always do, you know. That is why the oldest citizen of Krathan always volunteers for this terrible duty."

I tried to think about the executioner. It was a mistake . All I could see was my amputated tail, coiled in four old, shaky hands, and being lifted towards my neck. I closed my eyes and snuddered. cru-Sin thought I was suffering on the executioners behalf. I wasn't. I was suffering strictly on my own.

So I let him enter a plea of insanity. I said the things he told me to say, pretending that I couldn't for the life of me understand what all the fuss was about. When I was subjected to the psychoprobe I followed cru-Sins instructions again. I let myself get thundering mad -- at the dead grilch, his father, my number three wife, the whole Board of Assessors, cru-Sin himself, and Krathan in general. And the executioner. Particularly the executioner.

Afterwards cru-Sin told me the rest of it , standing outside my cell so that I couldn't get at him to make him victim number two.

"Now then, " I began, rubbing my two upper hands together, " where is this place I'm being sent to ?"

"Well,.. it -- er -- it isn't on Krathan, " he told me nervously .

" WHAT ? " I roared. " Oh Great God Triplok, I HATE space-travel!"

"Space-travel is not involved, Manager sko-Lep," he said placatingly.

I got the distinct impression that he was trying to cutter me up. For one thing, I was no longer a Manager. I had automatically forfeited all my status titles when I was sentenced.

" Go on, " I said ominously. His tail twitching with fright and horror, he gabbled out the rest and fled .

" GOD BLESS YOU MERRY GENTLEBEM "

(--- with apologies to Jack Pickering)

As Christmas draws ever nearer, it becomes more and more important to get some greeting cards.

It should now be possible to supply anyone who is interested with SCIENCE FICTIONAL cards.

Attractively illustrated by M.K., and printed carefully on card, these cards will be available at a very reasonable price from the Editor. Send a 3d. stamp for further details, and a free sample card .





I fought them when they came for me, but it wasn't any use. Panting, they hauled me off, telling each other that madness added to agrilch's normal strength, trying to apologise for the terrible thing they were forced to do to me, and promising to take excellent care of my body until I returned to claim it again, -- if ever.

I wonder if that handsome body has aged or altered at all, lying these many manats in its tank of suspension fluid? I wonder if my wives have gone to other mates? I hope cru-Sin got number three. That would be a complete revenge for what he did to me, and I won't have to do a thing when I get back. If I get back.

By temporal manipulation, Krathan's legal technologists sent my wailing spirit to the asylum world, there to occupy the newly-born body of one of its natives. It is an appallingly ugly body, by Krathanic standards, and to make my disgrace and shame complete, it is female.

Well, I have done my best. I tried to keep the laws, such as they are in this chaotic, anarchic environment. I have mated with one of the male psychotics, and by a revolting process which I cannot bring myself to describe, I have produced three more bodies for the insane of other worlds to occupy. None of them is a Krathanite, but I didn't expect that. Insanity is almost unknown on my peaceful, lovely world. We are a sane, balanced, integrated race. After all, I wasn't insane. The more I think about it, the more sure I am that I was the victim in that case the victim of some Upstairs plotting, possibly instigated by cru-Sin. I was the first Krathanite to be sent off-world, bodiless, as a psychotic, since way back.

My punishment-body is slowing down, ageing. Soon it will cease to function; I await this event with mingled hope and fear. What will happen when I am free of it? Have I served out my time? Will I awake in that beloved body which sleeps in its tank on Krathan? Will I rise up, shaking off the sustaining, preserving fluid, swishing my tail for the sheer joy of homecoming?

Or will I find myself trapped in yet another punishment-body, helpless, tiny, depending upon the uncertain ministrations of psychotics as I did before? Oh, loathsome prospect!

I am so lonely for my own kind, the sane, gentle folk of Krathan. I am so homesick for my spacious tenth-floor apartment, with its view of the beautiful craggy landscape, and the distant pink shimmer of the sea. Every night, I pray to Triplok to end my agony; I mourn with desperate sincerity the death of the young grilch, and repent my rage which was the unwitting cause of his demise.

Oh, Great Triplok, take pity on me, Your humble servant and supplicator. Allow me, in your great mercy, to return to the blessed peace and sanity of Krathan. Condemn me not to another term of misery in this terrible, mad place which the inmates call Earth.....

WESTON : "Henry Kuttner is just a Jack Vance pen-name ! "

IN THE NEXT issue of ZENITH I hope to begin a new feature, one that will deal with the numerous 'Future History' series that have been developed by different writers over a period of years. I hope to include all of the principal works of this kind, and I will endeavour to be as comprehensive and accurate as is possible. A number of our contributors are compiling the series, which should include the Poul Anderson future; the Asimov scheme; Heinleins tabulation, and several others.....

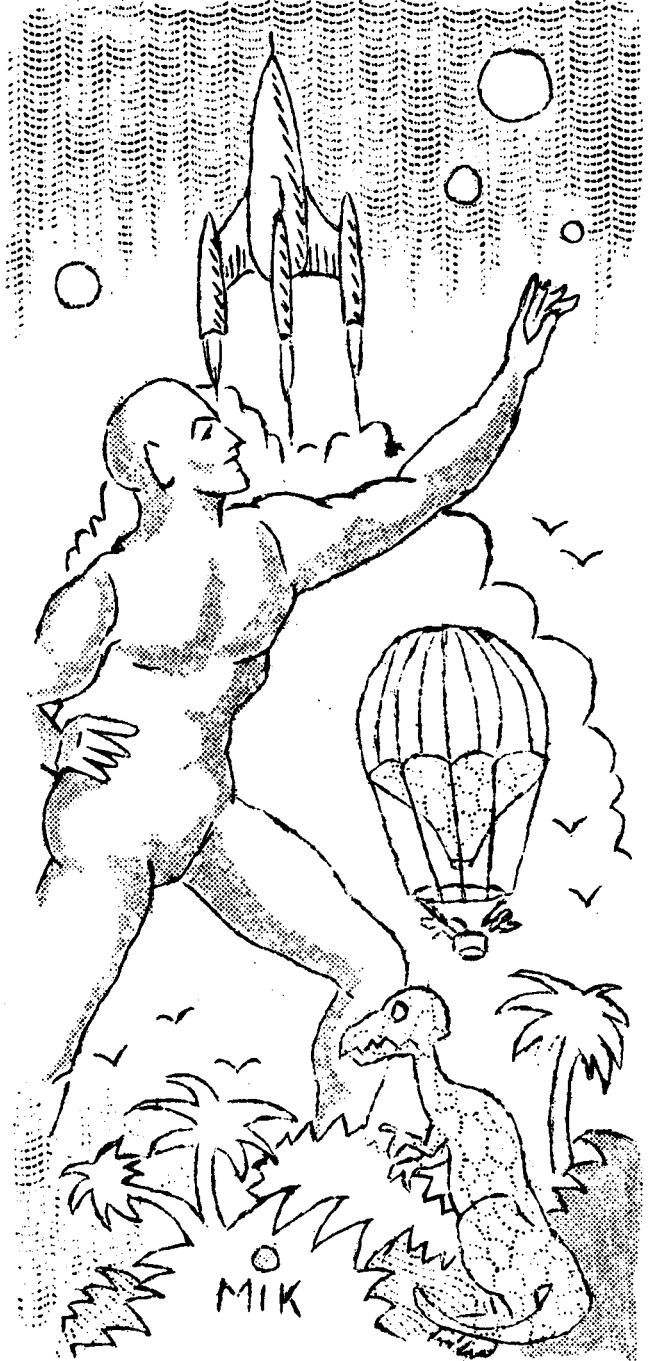
# THE FUTURE

By P. R. WESTON.

## What constitutes a Future History ?

This is one of the common disagreements that can arise between fans. Everyone seems to have a different definition in mind, and of course, there are always the particular examples that cut across any limits. For the purpose of these articles I am adopting the criteria that are below :-

1. The true F/H series must be made up of a number of stories that are actually written to fit into the chronology of the series. A mere passing reference to past, or contemporary incidents does not seem to me to be sufficient. It is also not enough to write a half dozen pieces, and then attempt to ram them together into a coherent whole by means of an unsatisfactory and amorphous prologue. The result is neither a Future History, an anthology, or a novel. It is a mess. Examples to hand include 'Canopy Of Time' and to a lesser degree, the Okie series of James Blish.
2. I do not consider a F/H to be a worthwhile structure, unless it is about different characters at different points in the chronology of the series. For example a number of connected stories about one character may be excellent science fiction, but



do not fall into the category that we are considering here.

The reader must have a chance to follow the development of the environment, and to do this, he must be presented with the crucial moments in the evolution of the chronology.

It is interesting and sometimes amusing to compare the conceptions of different authors. There is surprisingly little divergence in all of these series, in so far as the destiny of man seems to be to expand into the stars and colonise extensively. Each author of course treats the individual eddies in the stream of history in a different manner. But even here, repeated similarities crop up.

The conclusion of most authors are that man will survive the present deadly confrontation of nuclear weapons. He will perfect robots with a sense of ego-integrity. He will perfect a star drive, and spread unhindered into the expanses of the Galaxy.

What is so intriguing is that many authors do not more than mention the existence of unhuman intelligences, whilst others spend a great deal of time and wordage on the differences that will invariably rise between alien and human.

Naturally, the theory of 'cyclic history' (so abused by Van Vogt in his "Voyage Of The Space Beagle.") is used extensively. Is this a valid approach to future problems? I for one hope that sometime in the boundless future of man, there will be an end, or at least a watering-down of the rise-and-fall cycle of human achievement.

A story such as the Foundation epic of Asimov set some 40000 years in the future, does much to depress me, when I see homo sapiens of circa AD 40 millenia, behaving exactly as contemporary humanity. Perhaps this is due to Asimov merely bringing the Roman Empire into interstellar space.

For me, this is not good enough. After such a vast period of time I would expect that social evolution would have produced a breed of man able to live an orderly life without the necessity of Empire.

The immensities of time are too broad for us to more than attempt to forecast the possible future systems of government. However we can try to look ahead. We can be reasonably sure that any form of totalitarianism as embodied in the Imperium can never provide an answer. We can see that our present unstable Democratic system will not be at all suitable. The very nature of the problem is such that any solution other than anarchism will not become apparent until we are in a position to develop it.

But that is a very long way ahead. Most of the stories that you will find in these series concern themselves with much shorter looks ahead, being often no more than a century ahead of our time. For instance, almost all of Heinlein's Future History series takes place before 2250 AD.

The next issue of this magazine should see the beginning of this feature. I am not yet in a position to say exactly whose work we will be tabulating. However, it will be one of the lesser known of these series. I think that it will be interesting and informative to many readers.

DON'T MISS THE FIRST ARTICLE IN THIS SERIES. PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR ZENITH THREE NOW.

RODERICK J. MILNER.

John Fastness slammed the door of his bachelor flat behind him, and descended the shaky stairs two at a time. He always slammed the door behind him when he was annoyed, and he was always annoyed when he ran out of cigarettes unexpectedly. That is why he slammed the door behind him on the night of the falling stars. Outside the grimy Victorian tenement in which he lived, John turned left and headed briskly towards the cigarette machine on the corner of the street.....

Kraal Haajibe, patrolling officer for Sector Nine switched over to autopilot and reached for a julu sbich. Discovering that he had run out, he decided to head for his parent ship for a fresh supply, and irritably stabbed his eight fingers over the control toggle. He had neglected to release autopilot. Normally the resulting interference would be phased out, but this time the ship was so oriented that it tumbled out of control towards the upper atmosphere of Sol 3. ....At the cigarette machine John Fastness inserted two and sixpence and pulled open the machine drawer. Pausing to remove his change from the pocket he glanced upward at the clear sky above. High up in the outer atmosphere a sudden burst of light sent streamers of quick-silver cascading over the Earth.

Kraal Haajibe, realising that his craft was wildly out of control, desperately thumbed the release catch of his escape bubble. Unfortunately it mis-fired and only as the ship broke up in the planets atmosphere did the capsule escape, to be burnt up fractionally later than the mainship. ....John Fastness watched, fascinated, as the last thin streamer of silver died in the sky. He touched the flame of a match to his cigarette and flicked it away. The discarded match spun crazily to the ground as the last short streak of silver faded and died in the clear, cold sky.

ROD MILNER is a young chap who is now in charge of the paperback department of one of the largest Birmingham bookshops. He has made a bold display of SF, and must have helped many people to get started on good SF books. He has also helped the group very much, and does supply most of the information needed for the advance news appearing in ZENITH. Rod is studying at college (two of us) and has little time to write. This means that his first contribution for ZENITH is a very short story, one that illustrates the folly of speed, and impatience. It has little plot and what there is has appeared elsewhere ("Kaleidoscope" by Ray Bradbury?), yet it is a well-written episode. We shall be seeing more from Rod in future editions of ZENITH. Already, he tells me, ideas exist.

The  
Stars  
Are  
Falling  
The  
Stars  
Are  
Falling  
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Stars  
Are  
Falling



## THE NEW GENERATION MAGAZINES.

This feature consists of reviews of the amateur publications that come my way. I do not intend to review the established and well-known mags. that are currently in existence, because I feel that these have been quite adequately reviewed elsewhere, and there is no need to repeat. I also feel that some of the new magazines are somewhat different in style to the established regulars. Normally, a science-fiction fanzine is great fun, if you know the author, and all his friends, and can thus understand all the jokes & references. However, a magazine of this type is also calculated to drive away any fans that have only just begun their activities.

This has all been said before, mainly by some of the editors of such magazines as are reviewed below. But they do have a good point. Science Fiction fanzines should not be ingrown and clannish. There should be some provision made for attracting new blood. That is why I hope that the 'new-look' magazines all survive. They are mainly edited by recent additions to fandom, and should bring more such into the fold. (And ZENITH belongs, I hope, to this class.)

Point Of View. Produced and Edited by Charles Platt, copies 6d. each, 8, Sollershott West, Letchworth. Herts.

This first issue of PoV states exactly the point I raised above. In the editorial sentiments, Charles Platt expresses an wish to be less of a fanzine, and more of a magazine. He then presents an issue that contains mainly fiction, with some extremely interesting material put into an article on ESP. There was a shortage of material for No. One, but it didn't show, and Charles tells me that he is assured of variety in future issues.

The issue was printed by spirit duplicator on foolscap, which when bent double, makes a compact 7"x8" size. The reproduction was good, a little faded in spots, but quite readable. The illustrations came out well, but I am afraid that Charles possesses no MIK.

The magazine was very similar in format and style to ZENITH ONE. Our first issue was printed by spirit duplicator, giving 5"x8" page-size.. Our material was very different, the first issue being exclusively non fiction. Now that the spirit-method has been scrapped, the page size has reverted to a more standard quarto.

Point Of View is a magazine that I could show to most of my non-S.F. friends, and which would probably interest them. Number Two should be out very soon, and will be worth while ordering.

CHAOS --2. Produced and Edited by Roy Kay, 91 Craven Street, Birkenhead

I didn't see Number One. I heard it was a laugh. This issue is a bit old now, but Number 3 is not yet out. I liked it.

CHAOS strikes a happy medium between 'straight' sf and deep-dyed fandom. It is mainly wacky, but is well-worth reading. The issue contains the second part of a serial, a piece by Archie Mercer, a letter page, quite good artwork by Roy and Ken MacIntyre, and Roy's assorted comments and opinions throughout. The paper is of all thicknesses and textures, and

one of the pages is printed on tissue paper. An interesting gimmick, Roy, be sure to include it in the next issue.

INSIDE Edited by Jon White, 90 Riverside Drive, New York 24.2/-each.

When I first saw this magazine, I almost wept with envy. It is a Very Important Magazine. It is professional-looking, and contains material by professional authors. I received Number 2, June 1963.

The size is  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ ", and it contains 54 pages, each a foolscap size that has been reduced down and offset printed. Naturally, reproduction is perfect for both illustrations and text.

Contributors include S. Fowler Wright, George O. Smith, William Temple and many more. Inside is top-rate, and I put my subscription in right after finishing the issue. Now I await No. 3. eagerly.

TENSOR 2. Langdon Jones, 36, Winscombe Crescent, Ealing, London. 1/-.

I liked TENSOR 1, in spite of poor reproduction. Number 2 came my way recently, and I found it much the same. Reproduction is still a bit messy, though the illustrations come through well. The best part of the issue was 'The Journey Of Jones', being a report of Langs' experiences at the Con. in Easter. It is almost time for Number 3. & I am looking forward to seeing what will be in the next issue. More please about the tail-less cat that inhabits the Jones household....

ICARUS 5. obtainable from Fantic Publications, Dave Wood, 14 EDIN-  
-burgh Street, Radford, Nottingham. 9d.

Another magazine that wants to break away from conventional fanish content. The editorial in this issue contains a very strongly worded criticism of fandom generally, and fanzines particularly. I should not be surprised to see fireworks in the Letter Column, next issue.

Icarus is run by a trio of young chaps who started the magazine as a Sixth-form magazine at school. It is now somewhat satirical, using SF as a vehicle for comment on today. The material is pretty good, and I liked the odd footnotes on so many pages that raised short and snappy little comments on pop music, etc.

There didn't seem to be any of the traditional contents in Icarus. No reviews of books, or other fanzines. There were also few illustrations. As I said earlier, I liked Icarus. It is just the correct mixture of whimsy and seriousness. Recommended.

ALIEN. 6. obtainable from Tony Edwards, 10 Cheltenham Place, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester 13. 1/- per issue.

Alien is really going places. This issue has a printed cover with a large still from MGM's The Haunting. Inside layout is well-handled, and includes more stills. The content of this magazine is somewhat

OLIVER HARVER

# FOR THE KIDDIES



In the dusk, we had stumped up the narrow path-way to the old house, walked with fear, for this was the blackest night in our year. This was the night of the Coming Of The Thing Of Blood Red. The thing that made our people tremble with anger at its' name.

Of the four of us, on that fateful night, I was perhaps the least afraid. I knew more about the thing than the other three, and knowing it's motives and desires, I could in sympathetic moments almost understand why it committed the terrible deeds which we this night, had sworn by the devil to avenge.

Inside the old house, we made ourselves as comfortable as possible, considering the damp and cold, and began our long wait, for no-one knew when the thing would come. Anytime between midnight and dawn it could spring on us, if we were not constantly on watch.

The long night wore on, at one time we nearly slept, so oppressive was the atmosphere of that accursed room.

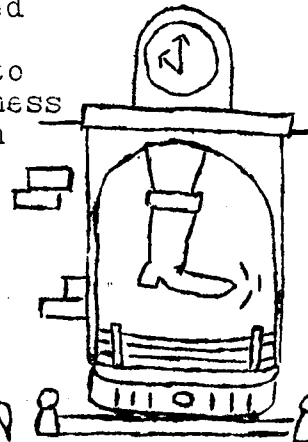
And then at last we heard the sound that woke us to full consciousness, that swept away all the drowsiness from our minds. So lightly, that if we had not known what to listen for, we would have missed it, a faint scraping noise sounded on the roof above our heads.

At the sound in the chimney, we tensed and moved towards the dark recess that was the fireplace. We waited, until at last, after an almost interminable time, the extremity of the thing's body appeared.---In the moonlight, it's body appeared to glow slightly, as though the moonlight gave it life.

The thing fell to the floor with a flopping sound, and for the first time, we got a clear view of the monster. It was a pale red in colour, and the outline of it was fringed with some grey-white substance that gave it a quality of utmost malignancy.

--Oval in shape, it gave the impression of bloatedness, as though it had sucked up some horribly-stenching miasmatic fluid.

We stood rooted to the spot in fear and disgust, and then it moved slightly towards us. Whether it was about to attack or not, we will never know, for at that moment, one of my companions screamed, and this broke us out of our stupor.



OLIVER HARVER is a quiet-seeming chap, who sits in corners and says a word once every half-hour. Underneath, however, he is pretty sharp, and knows exactly what is going on. Olly is a dab-hand at writing a short story or article, and dashes them off with gusto. The stories usually have a nasty twist, though Olly lacks this himself. He is a keen darts player, and comes to every meeting with commendable punctuality. His collection is rumoured to be quite large, but true to form, Olly will not confirm or deny this.







In the last issue of ZENITH, I mentioned in my article on Poul Anderson that none of his books had yet been published in paperback form in this country.

I can now report that this unfortunate state of affairs will be corrected by Pan in February, when they will publish "Guardians Of Time" (previously in Gollancz, now out of print).

Pan's output of SF has been in the past very poor indeed, but looking at their future programme, it seems that SF fans are in for a good time. Pan books have always been well produced, (none of this shoddy printing which most publishers are guilty of at one time or another.) And when they have published an SF book, it has always been a first class one, with the sole exception of "Spaceways" by Charles Eric Maine. (although well written, this book is hardly more than a transplanted murder mystery.)

Around about 1955, Pan published several excellent titles, but since then, nothing new has appeared, only a few reprints of these early pioneer titles. But in the next few months, they have some brand-new titles ready, which are every bit as good as their predecessors.

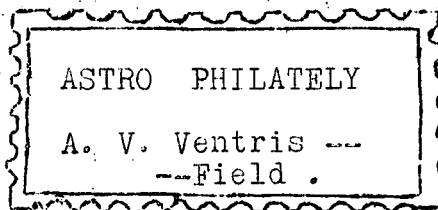
#### A Listing Of Science Fiction Books Issued By Pan.

Out of the Silent Planet	C.S. Lewis.	1.
Voyage To Venus.	"	2.
That Hideous Strength.	"	3.
The Time Machine.	H.G. Wells.	4.
Childhoods End.	Arthur C. Clarke.	5.
Prelude to Space.	"	6.
Earthlight.	"	7.
Spaceways.	Charles Eric Maine.	8.
Man Who Sold The Moon	Robert A Heinlein.	9.
Green Hills Of Earth.	"	10.
The Cataclysm.	R.C. Sherriff.	11.
<u>Coming Shortly</u>		
Guardians Of Time.	Poul Anderson.	12.
Fall Of Moondust.	Arthur C. Clarke.	13.
Sands Of Mars.	"	14.

#### Notes.

Reprints of Nos. 5, 7, & 9 now out, new cover paintings. (Not as good as originals, which were really excellent paintings.) Somewhere, Pan lost rights to No. 6. It appeared as a reprint, 4-square in last years releases. However, No. 14. was published by Corgi, originally, so Pan must have gained the copyright of this book.

ROGER PEYTON. One of the original members of the Group, he has an office job, and an official-looking collection. Everything has its proper place. He turns out checklists now, (see elsewhere in this issue) and spends the rest of the time keeping check on his catalogues. ZENITH will have a piece by Rog. appearing almost every time, (articles on publishers, authors...)



As I am already talking to the converted, I shall not speak about the fascination of space travel, the new frontiers, etc, but shall go straight to the point of my article.

How many fans have realised that interesting sideline to our own pet subject that exists in stamps? I say foreign stamps, because we have no space stamps of our own to date. This is due to the typical blindness of the Post Office. We have plenty of subjects for British stamps, -- the two British satellites now in orbit, the Blue Streak launching rocket for the European Space Project, Jodrell Bank, and many others.

France brought out a whole series of stamps about Telstar, to give everybody the impression that the space transmission was between Andover, Maine and Pleumeur-Bodou in France.

What about Goonhilly Downs, our own receiver?

Having got over my pet grouse, let us return to the main stream of the article. Namely, How to be an Astro-Philatelist.

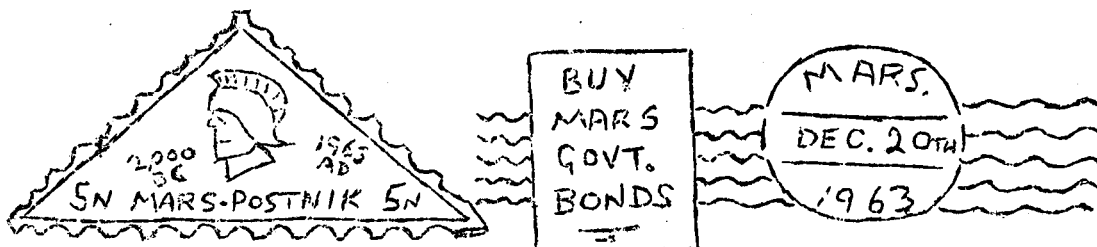
(Tony) Ventriss - Field has been touch with the Group for a considerable length of time, although he has not until recently been coming along to meetings. He works with newspaper concerns, and while with the 'Erdington News' he very kindly did a feature on the Group, including a large photo. of Cliffs room and collection. Regrettably, many of the Group have joined since then, so a repeat performance is called for.

Tony has a really beautiful collection of space stamps which he showed up at a meeting. There must be very few that he does not have, and it is a source of wonder to us all that he can afford stamps and SF!

SPACE GOSSIP. by A.V.Ventriss-field.

....Just heard that Valentina Tereshkova the girl Astronaut has been promoted from Junior Lieutenant to Captain. Is this so that husband Nikolayev can hold hands officially, without offending military protocol?

I wonder if the return of Gagarin and Val from Cuba means a Moon - Circuit in the near future? She has been quoted as saying that she will be in the crew, and that Gagarin will pilot.



There are a large number of sets, even now, that can be picked up from a dealer for a few pence. But beware! The dealers are becoming aware of the growing popularity of space - stamps, and prices are rocketing (pun) I notice that my own dealer has now started a separate section for space

The earliest of all came of course from our comrades behind the Iron Curtain, and they certainly made a field day of it. But before very long everybody got in on the act. -- USA, Togoland, France, Paraguay, such places totally unconnected with space travel, such as Haiti, Indonesia, Monaco, Egypt. Everybody except the stick-in-the-mud United Kingdom.

Some of the most interesting to a fan come from Czechoslovakia . Two recent sets from this country are really science fiction, featuring landings on the Moon, Space Stations, Interplanetary ships, -- the lot! And don't think that they are not worth collecting . The first Russian Sputnik stamp, price 40 kopeks, (about 2½ d. ) is now worth 7/6. -- Not bad interest for only six years .

Most collectors obtain their stamps from dealers, but there are other sources of supply. I get some of my stamps from pen pal correspondents from people in societies such as the Anglo-Soviet Society, and even at garden parties given by people in Birmingham and nearby areas.

If you are only able to get stamps from a dealer, don't be downhearted. If you can get them straight after release, they are cheapest. The price always rises the following year, -- when Titov visited Berlin, the East Berliners commemorated the event with six stamps at a price of 5/6. The following year, they were selling at 8/6, a profit of 3/-. Not bad, eh?

Of course, there are some countries that are quite unscrupulous, and who quite deliberately 'milk' the collector. Such is the case of Togo-Land, who brought out a stamp of Alan B. Sheppard at 0.5 Francs. (The first US space 'hop', not orbit.) Then, they proceeded to overprint the same stamp with the words 'John H Glenn Orbital Flight' when he went up. --- and raised the price to 100 Francs.

Apart from profitable speculation, the one other thing that I want to stress about Astro-Philately, is that this subject is history in the making. Especially to the older fans like myself -- we are seeing our dreams come true, and these stamps are a vindication of the days when we were thought of as those queer people who did not know that "What Goes Up, Must Come Down." He who laughs last, eh?

XX  
INFORMATION WANTED : OTHER FAN - EDITORS PLEASE COPY !

IF Science Fiction Magazine (US Edition ) Please send the following in-  
formation to Roger G. Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Rd. Quinton, Birmingham.

For all issues listed below,-- Editors; Title and Artist of Cover Painting; Listing of story titles & authors; type of story (short, novel,..)

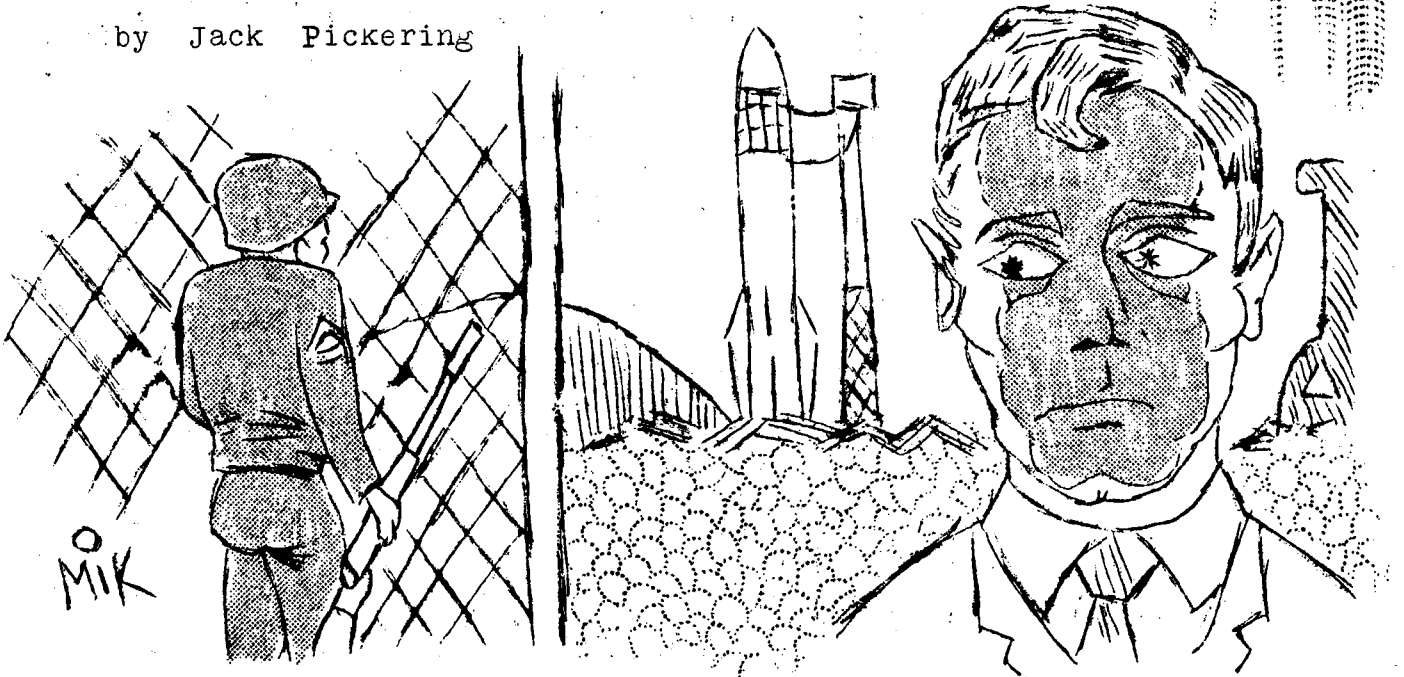
Vol 4 No 4. December 1954  
Vol 5 No 1. March 1955  
Vol 6 No 4. June 1956  
Vol 6 No 5. August 1956  
Vol 7 No 1. December 1956

Vol 7 No 5. August 1957  
Vol 9 No 3.  
Vol 9 No 4. Dates unknown due to  
Vol 9 No 5. erratic publication.

# LAST MISSION

003 $\frac{1}{2}$

by Jack Pickering



The agent of the United Worlds Council began slowly to awake and shiver. This was his thirteenth mission, and we was not yet used to the "Freeze." A voice in his ear began to drone : Awake. Switch On Record.

Awake. Switch On Record.

Awake. Switch On Rec.....

003 $\frac{1}{2}$  switched on the screen, a short distance above his face, the picture of the Grand Council meeting came into focus.

The five representatives were gathered in the meeting room. There were the "Blobs"; "orms"; "Multilegs"; "Twolegs"; and the "Lightballs," each in their individual atmosphere chambers. The "Blob " was speaking.

..."The Twolegs agent has received the neccessary alterations. I will call him now. "

003 $\frac{1}{2}$  entered and saluted. His facial breathing organ had been made smaller, and itched terribly.

..."Your mission is to prevent a barbaric race from achieving space-travel . As very little is known about their psychology, you must act on your own initiative .

JACK PICKERING is another founder-member of the Group. He is not often now, due to his working nights, ( and earning fabulous amounts of money ). He sports a formidable beard, has a beautiful collection of U.S. Galaxy & F&SF , and has travelled all over the place ( Syria, Egypt, etc ) This is Jacks first contribution. I like it, and hope he will send more.



003 $\frac{1}{2}$  switched off. His subconscious triggered back to full memory. He was glad to leave the Freezer, and enter his comfortable cabin. He saw by the screen that he was already descending on the dark side of the planet. The sphere descended into the centre of a large patch of vegetation. 003 $\frac{1}{2}$  left the ship, switching on the PSIBEACON. He began to walk into the open, and came upon a wide plastic strip. He was regarding it curiously when a sound at his side made him turn.

"GRUMPHEEK." said the alien.

He saw at once that it bore a resemblance to himself, but its face was barbarically painted, and its hair was bright red.

003 $\frac{1}{2}$  quickly adjusted his "Translator".

"Greetings, spaceman!"

His heart jumped. "How do you know I'm a spaceman?" he asked the alien.

"Who else would wear a silver suit. Are you looking for a female?"

"No, I was looking for my way back to the launching site."

"Well, it's over that way," said the alien, pointing.

003 $\frac{1}{2}$  bowed and left, feeling a little shaken. "Never knew a spaceman turn down a chance like that." he heard her say as he walked away. Presently he came upon a lighted wire gate, guarded by an alien much more like himself, and dressed in blue more adequately than the last one. It showed its teeth and opened the gate. 003 $\frac{1}{2}$  showed his teeth back at it, and the alien seemed pleased.

RUMOUR : We hear that Robert Heinlein and Poul Anderson will be guests at the World Convention in London in 1965. True or false?

003 $\frac{1}{2}$  began to walk towards the tallest building with the hope of gaining information about the planned attempt on space. It was painted the "Imperial Colour" and well lit by outside lights. There seemed to be no ships at all just a few other small buildings. The entrance of the tall building was high in the side and entry was by what seemed to be a rising platform; at the bottom of this was another alien like the first. It handed 003 $\frac{1}{2}$  a stiff sheet of some white substance, covered on one side with strange writing. He stepped on to the platform, and as it began to rise, 003 $\frac{1}{2}$  noted that the building was metal, and was not painted.

As he reached the open door, he was surprised to see a vast number of instruments. As he walked round he felt some familiarity with the dials, coloured lights, and meters, etc. This must be the ship he was sent to stop from reaching space. But why the odd shape?

It was not until he found the enormous metal tanks at the rear of the ship that this question was answered. This was a "Rocket Powered" Ship. He remembered his own planet's history, and seeing the many types of such ships in museums. For many thousands of years his people were held within their own planetary system. The wreckage of many failures still circled the Sun, like a great graveyard of men and metal. Then the real power was discovered; and contact made with the "United Worlds".

Sadly; 003 $\frac{1}{2}$  hid the tiny "Ironic-wave Bomb." He rode down again on the platform, the guard held its hand out for the board. He exchanged the tooth ritual with the gate guard, who made some remark about stamina and headed back, guided by the PSIBEACON.

LETTER PAGE

( it's not much of a page, but there aren't many letters. )

HARRY TURNER , Cheshire. (Editor of the original ZENITH )

"...I've no objection to you calling your fanzine ZENITH. My original magazine lasted about eight issues, twenty years ago, until I was hauled into the RAF, and then there was an odd issue in an attempt at revival, early in the 1950's. So I can't see that anyone can grumble at you using the name after all that lapse of time...."

ED. Thanks very much Harry, that has set my mind at rest. I didn't find out about your ZENITH until it was too late; hope you like No 2.

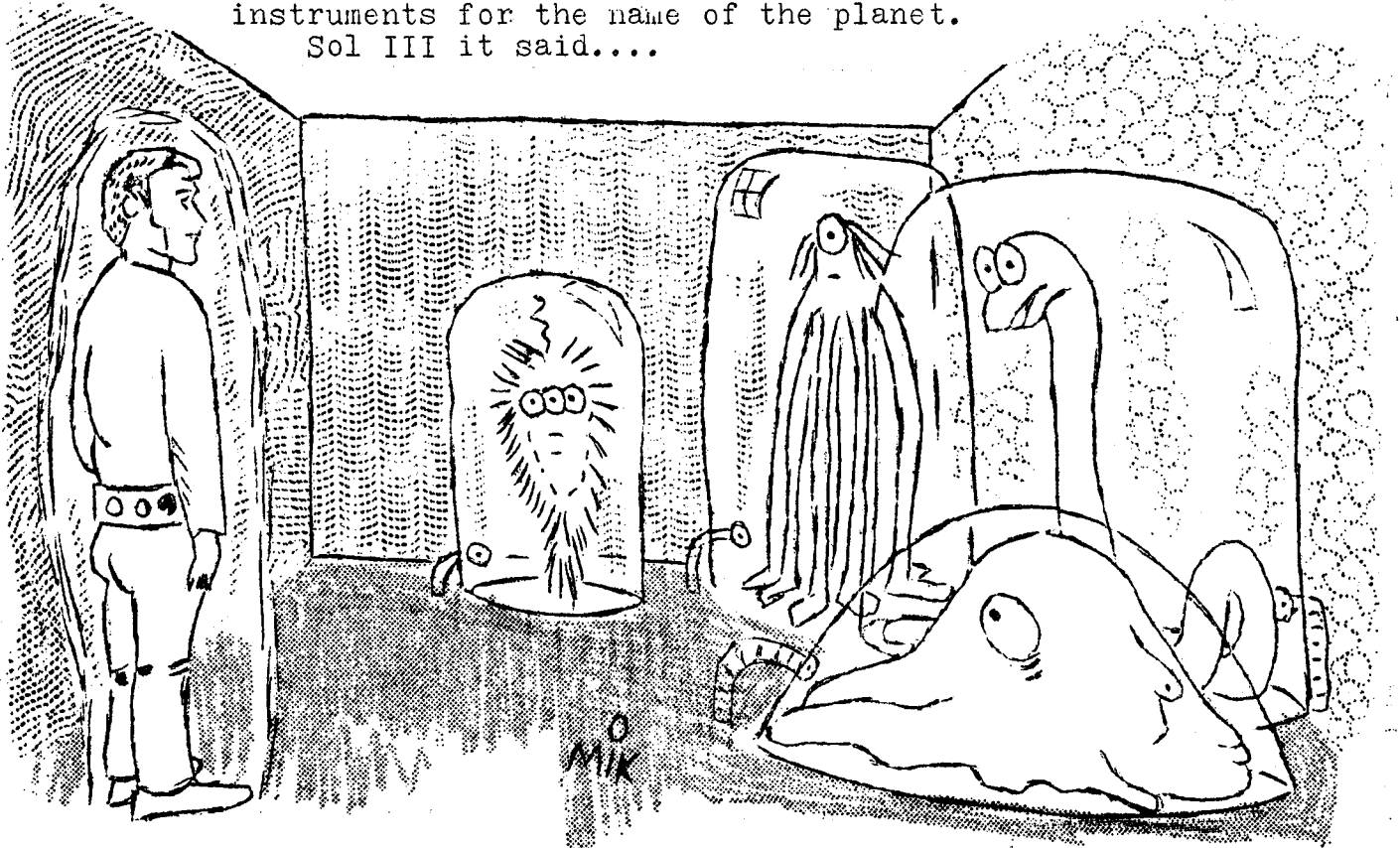
-----continued on page 27.-----

LAST MISSION by Jack Pickering (continued from page 23. )

003½ slammed the airlock. He should have been feeling very relieved, but his mind was troubled. He threw the switch which would take him home. The Council seemed very sure that these people could reach space with rockets, and yet his own people could not. Or were they, long ago also sabotaged ?

He made his decision, and once more threw the switch. The planet grew again on the view screen, with a golden light spreading from the East. He wondered how these people would react to all he had to tell them, and perhaps he would see again that painted female. He looked at the instruments for the name of the planet.

Sol III it said....



# A PARTIAL LISTING OF JACK VANCE STORIES .

This listing is by no means complete . We hope that readers who are aware of unlisted Vance stories will write in to the Editor, and then it should be possible to revise this list, or publish an addendum in a future issue.

Information collected and compiled for ZENITH 2. by members of Birmingham Science Fiction Group .

SS - Startling Stories; TWS Thrilling Wonder Stories ; ASF Astounding SF.

Planet Of The Black Dust	SS	Sept. 1946
Hard Luck Diggings	SS	July 1948
The Unspeakable McInch	SS	Nov. 1948
The Sub-Standard Sardines	SS	Jan. 1949
The King Of Thieves	SS(or TWS)	(?) Nov. 1949
The Howling Bounders	SS(or TWS)	(?) Nov. 1949
The Spa Of The Stars	SS	July 1950
Cosmic Hotfoot	SS	Sept. 1950
The Space Pirate (5 Gold Bands )	SS	Nov. 1950
Men Of The Ten Books	SS	March 1951
Masquerade On Dicanthropus	SS	Sept. 1951
Abercrombie Station	SS(or TWS)	Feb. 1952
Sabotage On Sulphur Planet	SS	June 1952
Noise	SS	Aug. 1952
Big Planet	SS	Sept. 1952
The Kokad Warriors	SS(or TWS)	Oct. 1952
Three-legged Joe	SS	Jan. 1953
The Houses Of Ism.	SS	Spring 1954
The World Thinkers	TWS	Summer 1945
Rhalida Fate	TWS	Dec. 1946
The Plagian Siphon	TWS	Oct. 1951
Cholwells Chickens	TWS	Aug. 1952
Parapsych	Amazing	Aug. 1958
I.C.a BeM.	Amazing	Oct. 1961
Gateway To Strangeness	Amazing	Aug. 1962
I'll Build Your Dream Castle	ASF	Sept. 1947
The Potters Of Firsk	ASF	May. 1950
Telek	ASF	Jan. 1952
Gift Of The Gab	ASF	Nov. 1955
The Miracle Workers	ASF	July 1958
Dodkins Job	ASF	Feb. 1960
Winner Lose All	Galaxy	Dec. 1951
Ullwards Retreat	Galaxy	Dec. 1958
The Moon Moth	Galaxy	Aug. 1961
The Dragon Masters	Galaxy	Aug. 1962

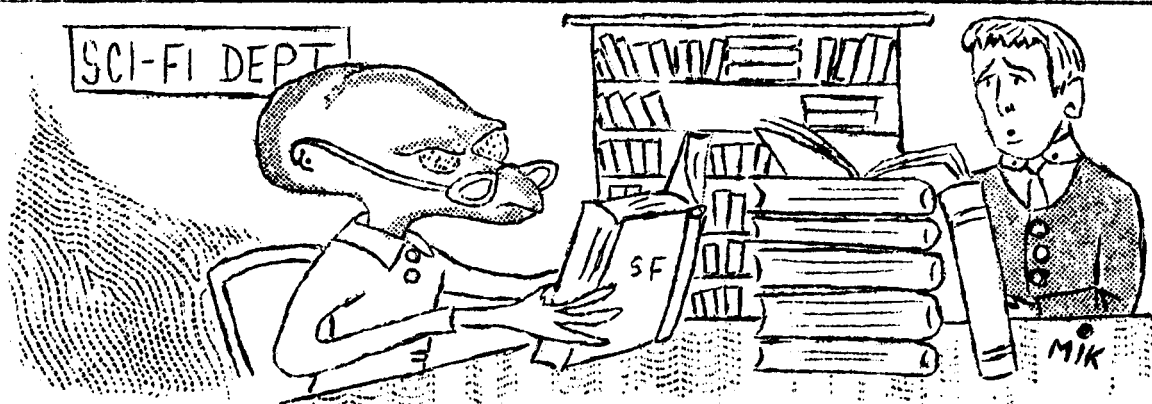
The House Lords	Saturn	Oct. 1957
The Enchanted Princess	Orbit	Dec. 1954
Shape Up	Cosmos	Nov. 1953
Sjamback	If	July 1953
The Men Return	Infinity	July 1957
Ecological Onslaught	Future	May 1953
The Loom Of Darkness	Worlds Beyond	Dec. 1950
The Brain Of The Galaxy	Worlds Beyond	Feb. 1951
Laughter Of Sharrus	Fantastic Adventure	Oct. 1951
Reggie and the Vampire	Fantastic Adventure	Sept. 1948
The Devil On Salvation Bluff	Star SF 3.	
D.P.	Best SF Stories 5th series. B & D.	

### Book Publication.

To Live Forever	B	Ballantine 167
The Dying Earth.		Lancer 74-807
Languages Of Pao		Avalon. 1957
Big Planet		Avalon. 1957
Vandals Of The Void.		Winston Juvenile. 1953
Slaves Of The Klau /	Big Planet	Ace Double Book
The Dragon Masters /	Five Gold Bands.	Ace Double Books.

### Miscellaneous.

When The Five Moons Rise. ( magazine and date not known )		
Some stories listed as SS may be TWS. We do not have access to the issues concerned.		
Addendum ( stories just discovered before printing )		
Overlords Of Mexuo	TWS	Feb . 1951.
Son Of The Tree	TWS	June . 1951.
New Bodies For Old	TWS	Aug. 1950.



The Roger G. Peyton Listing Of Authors Pennames is still available, at 6d. per copy, post free. List I contains over 100 pen-names of SF authors. It can be obtained through the Editor, or by writing to Roger directly .

QUOTE ; CASEY ( to grudzine editor ) "Add Vance and be recognised ."

----- LETTERPAGE ( continued from page 24 )

ARCHIE MERCER. Bristol

...Generally speaking, I found the articles in this issue interesting, but far too short. And why, I wonder, do female sf readers commit themselves to paper in verse, rather than prose ? It happens time and time again, it could almost be called a syndrome, or something.

You rave, all of you, over the book of Jack Vance's BIG PLANET ? Sling it away and get hold of the magazine version (Startling Stories Sept. 1952.) It's not only longer, it's considerably better -the book version is considerably watered-down.

Anyway, ZENITH 1, due to the method of duplicating if nothing else, is not perfectly reproduced, it is neatly and grammatically produced, and has a lot to be proud of, particularly for a first issue.

But you should have stuck to tradition by calling it CRUMMY, like Paul Hammet was going to.

Thanks Archie. Everyone agreed that the features were too short. It was more or less deliberate policy though, I wanted to give everyone a go .

LANGDON JONES , London.

...Yus, I quite like ZENITH, even though --I hate to admit it,--it is a little too science-fictionally inclined for my tastes. I'm afraid that since I came into fandom, my interest in SF has waned considerably. I hope that this is just reaction.

"too-sf-ally inclined" sweet words of praise for ZENITH. That was what we hoped to do, Lang, produce an SF magazine rather than a fanzine.

ROY KAY CHESHIRE ( only fragments, shortage of room )

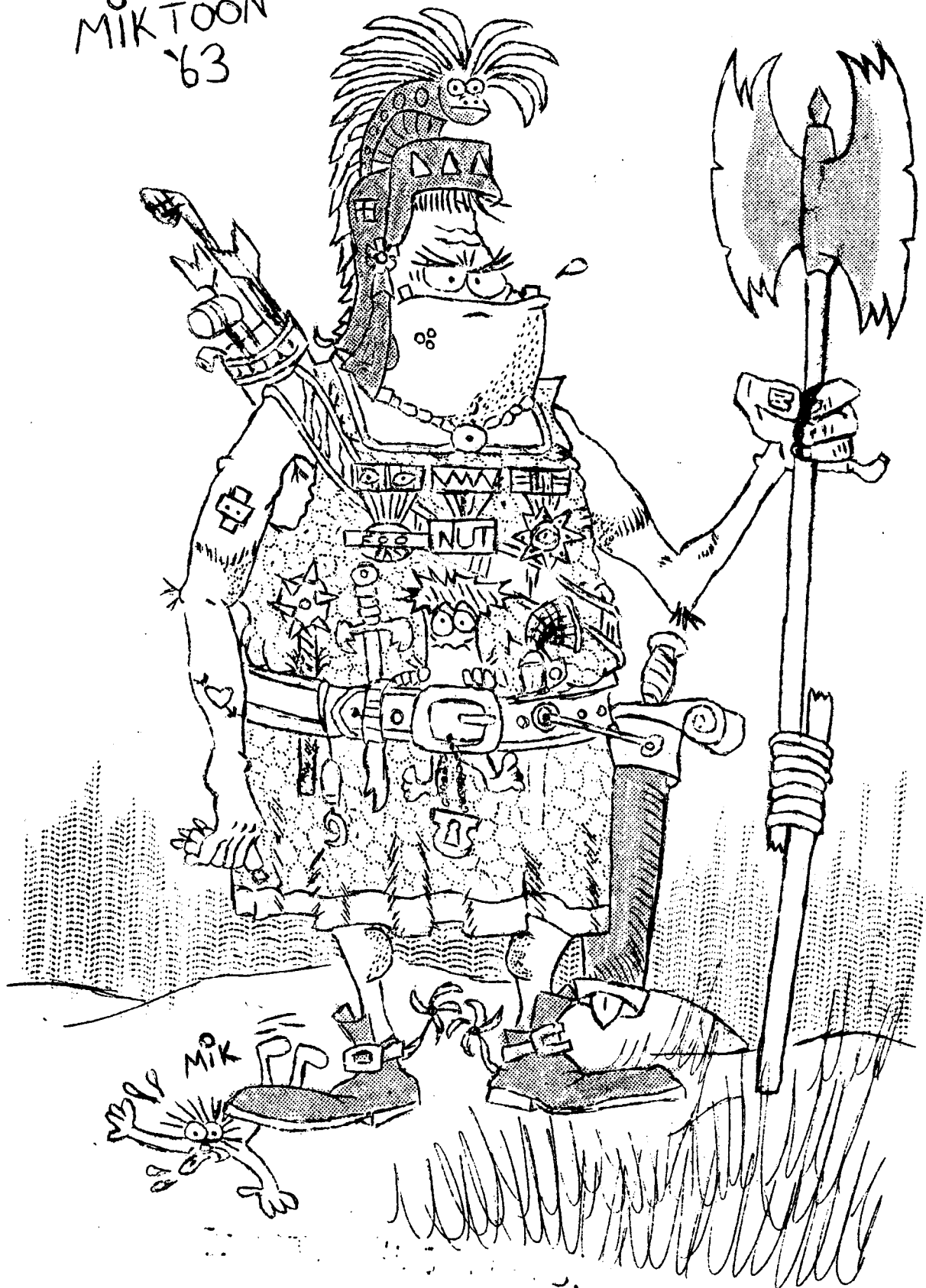
....Don't like the cover, untidy somehow,...On the other hand, the contents page was clever and well-designed....."It's A Hard Life" was too short, Blue Pencil ? I know you say about wanting to keep your first articles small, but there isn't enough of this article to interest. You like the start, just get into it, and all of a sudden you've finished . It's annoying.....I did like the Summary Of Digit Books, for me one of the most interesting pieces in the magazine....Cute Dinasoar..... The idea for the magazine is a good one, I look forward to seeing how and along what lines ZENITH develops.....

Just the letter we want, Roy. No I didn't blue-pencil Ollies article on "Hard Life". It was short from rough draft to completion. All of those fans who have contributed seem to prefer to write very short pieces. I look forward to comments etc. on No. 2. It has developed all right !

o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x-o-x

The mailbag was pretty satisfactory to me, in that poor reproduction was excused, and most articles were liked. Comments on No.2 anybody ?

MIK TOON  
'63





# BOOK DEPT.

This department of ZENITH carries reviews of the latest releases and of older works that may have been missed. The reviews are conducted by members of BSFG.

Further on, you will find advance information on the books that are scheduled to be released in the future, and on future issues of some of the professional SF magazines. We would like to thank all of those who have supplied information for this feature, and we are proud to say that we do not think any other magazine besides "SF Times" carries so much up to date (& advance) book and magazine news.

---

TIME FOR THE STARS by Robert A Heinlein. Gollancz 1963 . 12/6 d .

This is a book, which although written primarily for the juvenile market, makes acceptable reading for the adult. Interstellar - radio is superseded by the use of pairs of identical telepathic twins. The story is told in the first person singular by Tom, one of a pair of such twins. The psychology of the unique relationship between identical twins is well presented, although the authors attempt to define the differences between 'liking' and 'loving' doesn't quite come off.

There is dry humour in the mental exchanges between Tom and his brother, Pat. There are also a few astonishingly naive passages which are likely to provoke hoots of derisive laughter from even thirteen-year-old readers. For instance, is it likely that the father of a boy in his late teens, at some unspecified date in the future, would embark upon a red-faced Birds-'n'-Bees lecture before his son leaves home? Or that Tom would have to be enlightened as to the meaning of the slang term 'headshrinker'?

Heinlein has leaned over backwards to avoid the use of any cuss-words stronger than "Shucks" and "Goodness" (ugh!) Somebody ought to tell him that even today's youngsters employ "Damn, Blast & Hell" without causing more than a slightly raised eyebrow. The lack of sophistication of Heinlein's youngsters of the future, simply doesn't jell with the highly technological society in which they live.

Heinlein tells us very little about that society, stimulating the readers curiosity without any attempt to satisfy it. It's possible that young readers are not interested in the mores of a future culture; they want a good adventure yarn which doesn't 'talk down' at them. That would have been fine if Heinlein had left it as such. But at the end of the book, he drops a single hint, and this reviewer has been going quietly mad in a corner, trying to extrapolate from that one clue.

: - When Tom returns from his years (Earth-time) in space, he naturally finds many changes in customs, dress, language, etc. He is slightly shocked to see bare-headed girls "Father would never allow my sisters to come to table without wearing a hat."

---

Why ? Religion ? ( a derivative from Jewish customs perhaps ? ) Or Hygiene ? One more aberration of the masculine-superiority complex ? ( Heinlein will have Ted Sturgeon after him ( ) )  
..In spite of these admittedly minor faults, the book is recommended , especially for those who prefer their SF without any abstractions, or philosophising

.....Beryl Henley.

A HANDFUL OF TIME. by Rosel George Brown. Ballantine Books, F703. 50c.

This at first glance appeared to be just another collection by one of the many authors under the Ballantine label . It is a lot more than that . It is a superb collection by one of the few women who write really excellent science fiction . The bias is towards humour. I detect a strong flavour of Evelyn E. Smith throughout the book. None of the sticky verbalisation of Zenna Henderson, or the meaningless sophistication of the F&SF school. I went through the book at one sitting, and out of the twelve stories, by favourite is 'Fruiting Body.'

.....Peter R. Weston.

VIRGIN PLANET by Poul Anderson. Beacon Books. 270.

This delightful story held my attention . I was pleased to find in the authors note at the end, an explanation of the science used in the story, particularly in view of my own opinion "One fallacy -- One Science Fiction Story )

The story tells of one mans landing on a planet where the whole population is female. The birth rate is kept up by parthenogenesis, ( Would this produce only females ? ) The hero, Davis Bertram , seems to be rather ineffectual throughout the first three-quarters of the book, and as to how the women could forget how the procreative act was carried out, ( well, they were mammals, and would produce their young as mammals ) , this is also left in the air. I thought while reading this, that there was an astonishing similarity to 'Flesh' by Philip Farmer, although the two stories are of obviously very different themes.

On the whole, Virgin Planet was most enjoyable, with the alien flora and fauna well established, as were the differing female societies .

THE ABOMINABLE EARTHMAN by Frederick Pohl. Ballantine Books, F685.

This collection of stories by the author is mainly a repeat of stories already published in Galaxy. They are all enjoyable reading, especially the 'Martian Stargazers'. The alien technologies introduced in " The Abominable Earthman" and "Whatever Counts" were very well detailed, although why Fred Pohl should allow the aliens to always have the upper

hand is rather depressing. Of the seven stories in the book, there are four conflicts of Earthman versus Aliens. Of these, the aliens win two and draw two. The other three stories don't leave the Earthmen very happy, either.

.....Charles Winstone

A CENTURY OF SCIENCE FICTION . edited by Damon Knight. Gollancz .

"Every year we aim to publish for the Christmas season a bumper SF volume. --not just the regular round-the-year diet of novel or short-story collection, but if we can find suitable material, a 7 - course banquet for the science fiction addict." --quote from dust-jacket. This collection is indeed bigger than usual, 350 pages, and does contain a somewhat different range of stories to that in a usual anthology. However, for 21/-, this volume does not contain enough to make it a truly memorable collection. Even so, it is excellent reading. But the one thing that I do not like is the amount of pages that are spent -- wasted -- on 'selections' from great works of SF, such as "The Time Machine"; "20,000 Leagues under the sea" etc.

Five books from Consul, as predicted by ZENITH I.

-- TOMORROW AND TOMORROW by Lewis Padgett; THE FAR REALITY ( THE FAIRY CHESSMEN ) by Lewis Padgett; BYPASS TO OTHERNESS by Henry Kuttner; THE OUTER REACHES edited by August Derleth; THE TIME OF INFINITY edited by August Derleth. All from Consul, 2/6 each.

--- Excellent books, all of them. But I for one do not relish paying 2/6 for Tomorrow and Tomorrow, with only 100 pages. Also, Consul have the nerve to put advertisements in their books, as in the old, bad days of Curtiss and Hamilton books, and 'Joan The Wad'. It is so much like the Space Merchants, to fill a volume with adverts. No more please. ;

THE EVOLUTION MAN by Roy Lewis, Penguin SF Series,

This book was originally published by Hutchinson as "Father " and can only marginally be classed as Science Fiction. Indeed, it seems to me that this story can be rated on several levels, as a fantasy, a comedy, or a deep-biting satire. All the follies of mankind can be found here, and in a light-hearted way, Roy Lewis shows us the origins of all human customs, inventions, and attitudes. I do not really know how to class this book. I thought it was fabulous, but I know of at least one SF fan who simply could not find anything that interested him in the book. The best advice seems to be for you to try the book for yourself. If you like it at all, you will like it a lot .

.....The Editor.

[illegible]

# GOLLANCZ BOOKS

In spite of increasing competition from Dobson and Faber, Gollancz are still the leading publisher of hard-cover Science Fiction in Britain.

## SOME CURRENT RELEASES

Conditionally Human	by Walter M. Miller.	15/-
Methuselahs Children	by Robert A. Heinlein.	15/-
Cats Cradle	by Kurt Vonnegut.	18/-
A Century Of S.F.	edited by Damon Knight	21/-

## TO BE PUBLISHED IN 1964.

The Furious Future.	by Algis Budrys.	15/-
Cycle Of Fire	by Hal Clement.	15/-
Strange Relations	by Philip Jose Farmer.	15/-
Counterfeit World	by Daniel F. Galouye.	15/-
In Deep.	by Damon Knight.	15/-
Gladiator-At-Law	by Pohl & Kornbluth.	15/-
Journey Beyond Tomorrow.	by Robert Sheckley	15/-
Way Station	by Clifford D. Simak.	16/-
Best From F&SF. 11th Series	edited by Robert P. Mills.	18/-

## JUVENILE SERIES.

Farmer In The Sky	by Robert A. Heinlein	12/6
Red Planet	by Robert A. Heinlein	12/6
Time For The Stars	by Robert A. Heinlein	12/6
Dolphin Island.	by Arthur C. Clarke	12/6

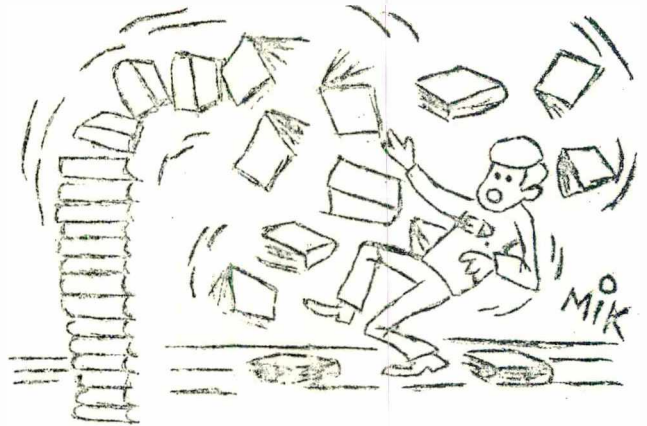
## IMAGINATIVE FICTION SERIES . (prices unknown )

The Purple Cloud.	by M.P. Shiel.
A Voyage To Arcturus	by David Lindsay
Medusa	by E.H. Visiak
Wylders Hand	by J.S. Le Fanu.
The Greater Trumps	by Charles Williams
The Lord Of The Sea	by M.P. Shiel

The Gollancz books are all well-bound in strong boards. However, it is a pity that SF books do not have illustrated covers ( except the juvenile series, which I suspect are reprinted from the original covers issued by Scribners.) I would also like to see a reduction in some of the prices, which seem to be steadily rising to ridiculous extremes .

## The Paperback Releases.

The Paperbacks now on sale in this country are on the boom, and we now see both US & UK releases in liberal supply. We intend to try to keep up to a fairly efficient standard of reporting on all of these new releases.



### CURRENT RELEASES IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Shrouded Planet, Mayflower, Robert Randall. 3/6. A printing of the US book. Nice cover. (Did you know that the series about Nidor has this book, the later, "Dawning Light" and a novelette never published in UK "All The Kings Horses" printed in an American Edition Analog.) Considerable wordage added to this book, since the appearance in the magazine of the separate stories.

Destination Universe & Voyage Of Space Beagle. Van Vogt. Panther Books Reissues, with attractive covers. Prices have gone up.

Away And Beyond Van Vogt. ; Dark Tides Russell. Panther Books, 3/6 d. Just out; new-look in cover paintings, a printing on matt surfaces for covers, giving attractive appearance. Shows fingerprints though.

Lest Darkness Fall L. Sprague DeCamp. Pyramid 7/6d. New edition of this long-standing classic.

Orbit Unlimited Poul Anderson. Ballantine Reissue. Same as earlier printing except for new shade of cover colouring.

The Unknown Edited by D.P. Bensen. A collection from UNKNOWN. Eleven fabulous stories, plus illoes by Ed Cartier. (Pyramid 3/6d.) A Bargain! Or All The Seas With Oysters. by Avram Davidson. Berkley 3/6d. Eighteen Stories. Title Page only lists 16. What went wrong?

Contact Edited by Noel Keyes. 12 stories concerning life. Paperback Library 3/6d. Good collection, could have included "Gift Of Gab" Jack Vance.

The Answer by Philip Wylie Paperback Library. 3/6. Wide-set type, and only 94 pages.

Great Science Fiction About Doctors edited Groff Conklin. Collier 7/6d 412 pages. 13 stories. Beautiful binding and paper. The local bookshop order only. All but two have sold, in a week, even at this high price. It is certainly worth the cost, although there are several eminantly suitable stories that are not in the book. (Ole Doc Methuselah; James White Hospital series.)

QUOTE : Beryl Henley : SF addicts never bother with surnames. : It is the law of inverse proportion. --- The smaller the minority group, the stronger the bond that holds them together.

PREVIEWS OF PAPERBACK PUBLICATIONS.

Shield. Poul Anderson. Berkley. 50c. Not released yet in UK  
Star Surgeon James White. Ballantine. 50c. "  
Waldo & Magic Inc. Robert Heinlein. Pyramid. 40c.(reissue) "  
Supermind Mark Phillips. Pyramid. not yet released in UK.  
6 x H (Jonathan Hoag ) Robert Heinlein. Pyramid. (reissue) "  
Strangers In Universe. Simak. Berkley. 50c. not yet released in UK  
Darker Than You Think. Jack Williamson. Lancer 75 c.  
Starburst. Alfred Bester. Signet (February 1963 but still not seen)  
Supernova. Alfred Bester. Signet (Some time in 1964, new novel )

The Green Millenium . Fritz Leiber. Icon. 3/6d.  
Guardians Of Time Poul Anderson. Pan.  
Fall Of Moondust Arthur C. Clarke. Pan.  
Sands Of Mars. Arthur C. Clarke. Pan.  
No Refuge John Boland. Mayflower.  
17 x Infinity. Groff Conklin. Mayflower.  
Seven Gothic Tales. Isak Dinesen. Penguin.  
Deathworld. Harry Harrison. Penguin.  
The Night Shapes. James Blish. Four Square.  
The Sleeping And The Dead. August Derleth. Four Square.  
Children Of The Damned. A.B.Sellwood. Four Square  
Planet Of The Damned Harry Harrison (reissue) Corgi.  
The Mind Thing. Fredric Brown. (reissue) Corgi  
In Deep. Damon Knight. Corgi

When Nova Publications cease publication in March, we hear that John Carnell will become Science Fiction Editor for Corgi Books.

The Man Who Owned The World. Chas. Eric Maine. Panther.  
(cover painting is from US PB edition of Stranger In A Strange Land)

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB.

December. Dark Universe. Galouye.  
January. No Future In It. John Brunner.  
February. Drowned World. J.G.Ballard.  
March. Darkest Of Nights. Maine.  
April. Time In Advance. William Tenn.

ZENITH can always use letters of comment; humourous quotes and re-marks ; odd bits of science-fictional information and comment; news of forthcoming books ; short fiction; and sf-al articles.( & ads. ) Remember, decide what you want to see in ZENITH, then let us know .



## MAGAZINE NEWS.

Due to the US Dock Strike and Printing Strike, we have still not come up to date with magazines such as GALAXY. This is now six months behind schedule in this country. ANALOG was neither imported or issued as a reprint for three or four months, and is not obtainable in this country for these months.

WORLDS OF TOMORROW the new magazine in the Galaxy chain should be on sale shortly, but it will not begin with the first US issue. Issue dated August 1963 contains "All We Marsmen" a short novel by Philip K. Dick.

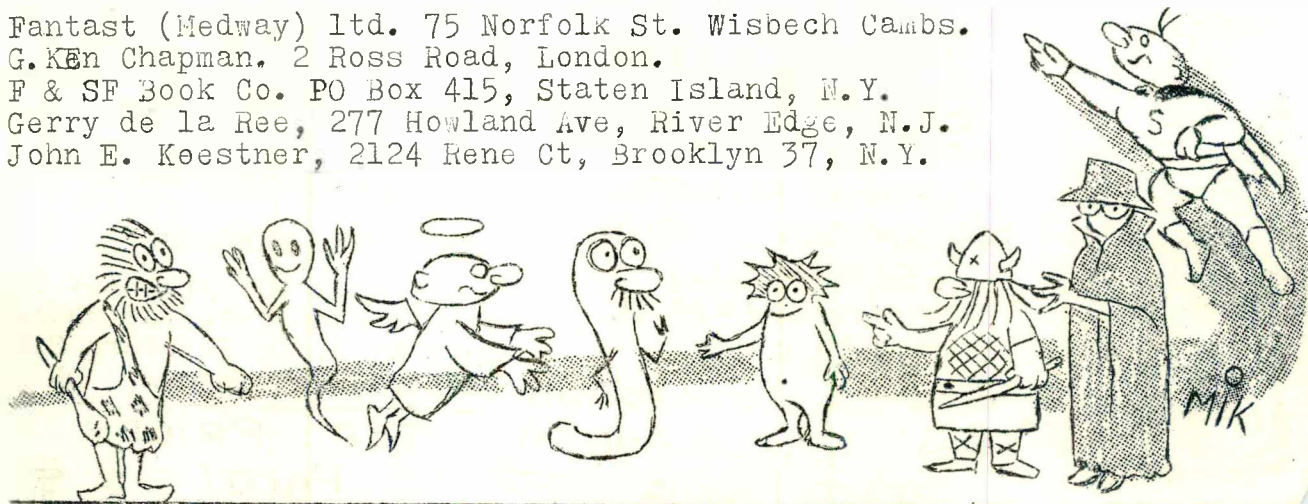
GALAXY August 1963 ( to be released shortly )  
Hot Planet , a novelette by Hal Clement. ( illustrated on cover )  
GALAXY October 1963.  
" The Men In The Walls " a complete novel by William Tenn.  
plus Leinster, cordwainer Smith, etc.

IF. July 1963.  
The Reefs Of Space " beginning a 3-part serial by Frederick Pohl and Jack Williamson.  
Also, Brian Aldiss, Keith Laumer, Robert Silverberg, etc.  
IF September 1963.  
a new logo and contents page design.  
" The Expendables " a new story by Van Vogt. (first for 14 years ! )  
also, Murray Leinster , Lester del Rey, etc.  
IF November 1963  
John Brunner, Keith Laumer, Damon Knight, etc.  
IF January 1963  
" Three Worlds To Conquer " A 2-part serial by Poul Anderson.  
also, Philip K. Dick. Robert F. Young, etc.

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## RECOMMENDED DEALERS.

Fantast (Medway) ltd. 75 Norfolk St. Wisbech Cambs.  
G. Ken Chapman. 2 Ross Road, London.  
F & SF Book Co. PO Box 415, Staten Island, N.Y.  
Gerry de la Ree, 277 Howland Ave, River Edge, N.J.  
John E. Keestner, 2124 Rene Ct, Brooklyn 37, N.Y.



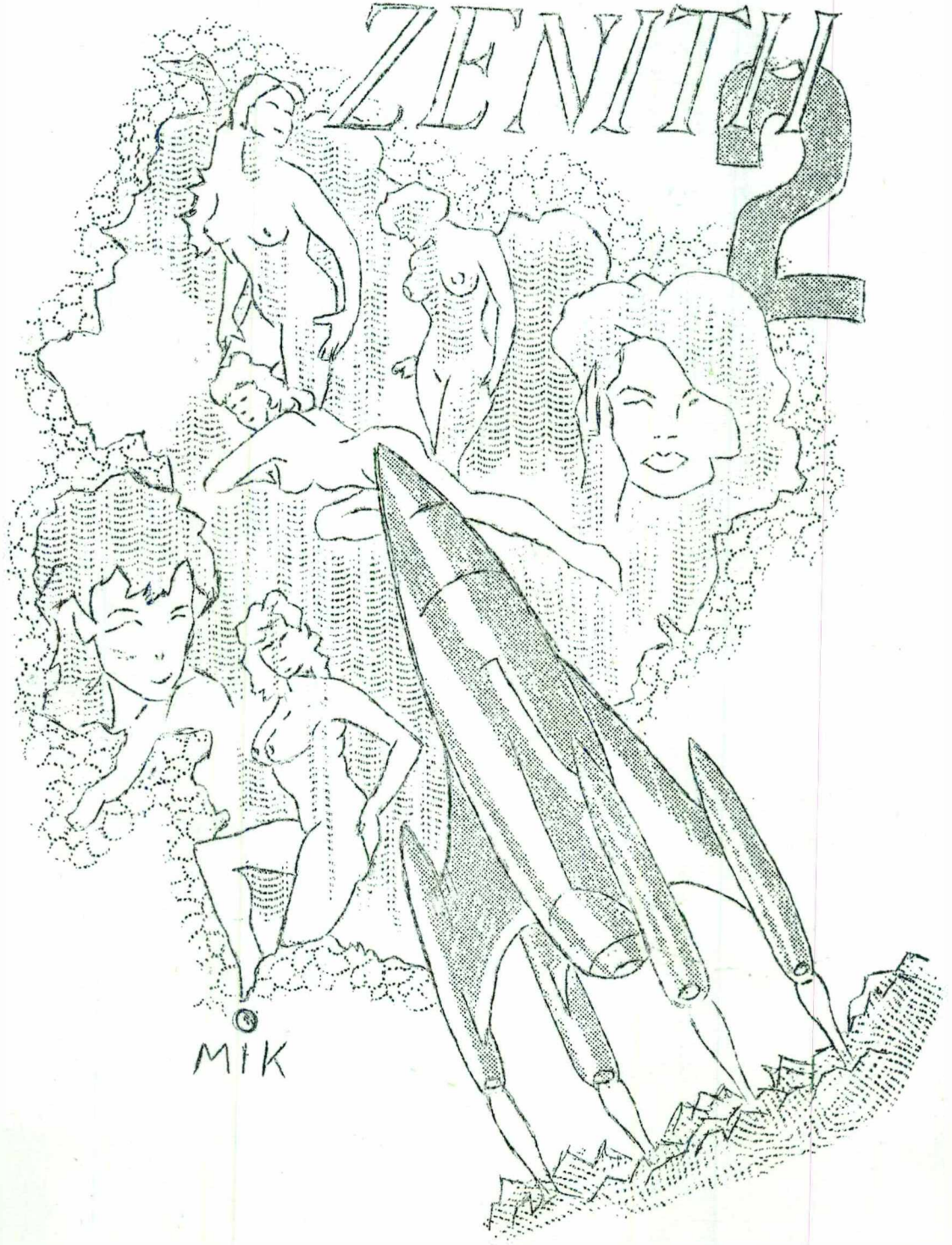
From Roger G. Peyton ( The Birmingham Press ) come a new series of checklists SF Pen-names (over 100) costs 6d copy . Checklist Of Science Fiction Adventures Magazine will be released shortly . You are advised to reserve a copy now. Further Checklists of ACE BOOKS and IF magazine will be announced presently .

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# ZENITH 2



To Don + Maggie Thompson  
from Mike Hys.  
England.