

BILCYN NO. 1

MARCH 1955

Published and printed by Kenneth F. Slater of 22, Broad Street, SYSTON, Leics., for OMPA III solely to vent his bilious cynicism on others.

- Contents. Page 1 a heading of sorts and sundry bits of chitchat.
Page 2 inconsequential jottings, duly titled in accordance with their nature.
Page 3 a complete page of Slater's well known bilious cynicism.
Page 4 I have not yet thought up anything for that page, and I expect there won't be any after it, so I'll get down to the sundry bits of chitchat.

Department of giving credit where credit is due.

Credit to Mr. H. K. Bulmer, Prexy of this association and spokesman of the London Circle, for giving me the title of this fanrag. Unwittingly, perhaps, but still - he done it!

Department of righting of wrongs.

This department has suspended its activities. If anyone has any grievances which do not directly concern me, will they kindly take 'em to the people directly concerned. Please note: I have no connection with the British Fantasy Library. I am a member only of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, and that membership will lapse shortly. I am no longer interested in writing to the various magazine publishers, dealers, and what have you, asking why so-and-so's subscription didn't come through; or why so-&-so was charged X for something which should cost Y; or why neo-fan Whosist's subscription to fanrag "Utter Ends" has not yet brought him any copies. In other words, chums, anyone wants any dirty work done, they better get out their own shovels. However, I reserve the right to action - if requested - on behalf of any OF members or folks who still happen to be friends of mine.

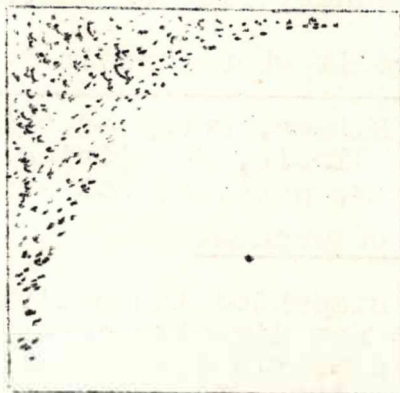
Department of unanswered mail.

I have on hand a number of letters I frankly do not intend to answer. Offhand, I don't think any OMPA members are included, but it simply boils down to the fact so far as I am concerned the TAFF question was settled in my last letter to Joy Goodwin on the subject. Unless someone has anything new to say, I've done

(2) INCONSEQUENTIAL JOTTINGS

It seems that the British s-f market having become so poor that it would not support the uncounted "BRE" magazines, these publishers of paper-jackets have turned to the weird field. The two magazines from John Spencer & Co. have now made a total of eight issues (Supernatural Stories 6, Out of This World 2), and now Gannet Press comes Vol.1, No.1 of WEIRD WORLD. Forty-eight pages, 7½ x 9½" approx, with some quite good illustrations. So far I've not found time to read the yarns, but with the death of WEIRD TALES - the last issue was Sept '54 in USA - I guess a magazine or two of this nature will find some support. On the back cover there is an advert for a forthcoming mag called "Fantastic World" - it will SHOCK the hidebound; it will MOCK the bigots; it will ROCK the conventional - or so at least the blurb says. What it will do about the new obscene libel laws (if any) they don't mention.

Considering the wealth of books and mags I've read in 1954, I think I give my own personal award to a little effort titled: DROODLES. Written by Roger Price, only some 93 pages and costing all of 5/-, it might well be sub-titled "the fan editor's guide to art". It is screwy enough.... I'll give you just one sample.....



Unfortunately I can't recall the exact text that went with this drawing, but so far as my recollection goes it was "His best friends avoiding a germ who caught penicillin". The majority of the other "art-work" in the book is just a crazily delightful (at least, my cynical bilious taste finds it so), and I'd recommend you borrow a copy for an amusing half-hour - and perhaps a few good ideas :

Just so everyone knows, I've told Walt that my nomination for the TAFF is very definitely off. After Walt, Ted Tubb and I had - I thought - amicably settled our disagreement - and before the London Circle launched their rocket - I'd gone back in. Now I am out. But let it be clearly understood that this has nothing to do with the private war I started; it is for business reasons, and Walt, Ted, Joy Goodwin and some other members of the London Circle are - I believe - in possession of the reasons for my withdrawal.

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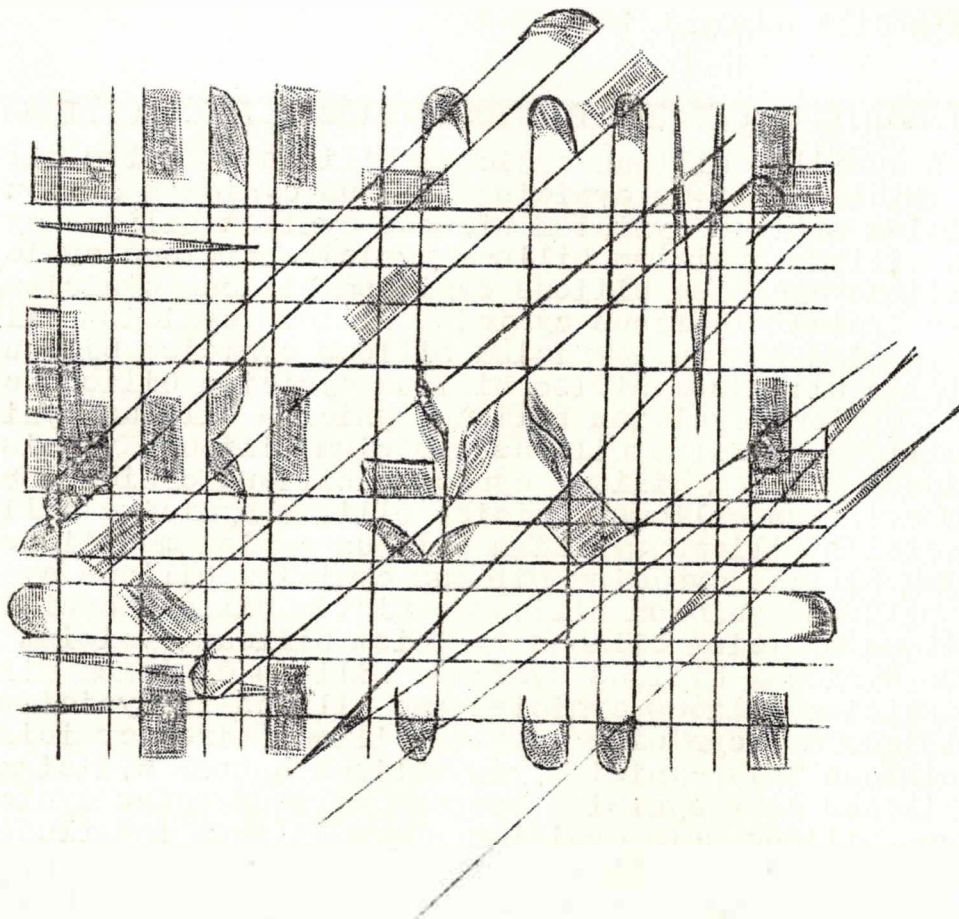
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If the top of this sheet is just an 'orrid blob, sorry, folks - it was a little idea that didn't come off. If it has worked out, well, it should be plain enough. However, it is not what I started out to do - there should be at least another couple of lines, but I came to the conclusion the stencil would not hold up. Of course, the alternative would be to do each set on a separate stencil, but the other stencils I have on hand are booked for the F(M)L catalogue, and as it is the week-end I shan't be able to get any more in time. And you'll appreciate that the F(M)L catalogue is of greater importance (to me) than is this oddment.

I gather from the CYTRICONCIRCULAR received a couple of days ago that we get thrown out on Saturday night to make room for a Rugby Club Dance. I do hope the ConCom is making some arrangements for our entertainment whilst the Rugger fans stampede across the floor.....although gate crashing the dance might be an idea, at that. What is the dress for the dance, Dennis ?

We now a club - sort of - in Leicester. Membership, 4 regulars, and one odd "casual". Busily looking round for more - if you know any fans in Leicester you might tell them - Tuesday nights, 8 p.m. onward, The MAGAZINE Hotel (note the name !), Newarke Road, Leicester.