

A newsletter from John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote, Victoria, 3070, Australia; commenced July 9th, 1967. This issue includes selections from SF WEEKLY, published by Andrew Porter, 24 East 82nd Street, New York, 10028, U.S.A.

MSFC IN THE NEWS: Elizabeth Auld of THE AUSTRALIAN, interviewed members of the Melbourne SF Club last Wednesday night, and the result of her labours appeared in yesterday's issue of that 'paper under the heading "IF YOU BELIEVE IN FLYING SAUCERS DON'T READ THIS..." A somewhat disorganized article, with many inaccuracies, the result is generally judged better than Keith Dunstan's coverage of last year's Melbourne Convention in THE SUN, not nearly as good as Charles Higham's article in THE BULLETIN. Several letters are believed being written to the Editor of THE AUSTRALIAN. Some say bad publicity is better than no publicity. I'm not so sure.

A. BERTRAM CHANDLER: writes that he has been transferred and is now master of m/v PATEBNA, on the Sydney-Hobart run.

JOHN CLAYTON TOMPKINS: A fine name for a fine young man, born 5th July to Elizabeth and Allan Tompkins. All well. Allan has recently published a superbly-produced fanzine called E.R.B. DIGEST. Now Liz also has an expensive hobby.

FOYSTERS MOVE: John, Elizabeth, and Jillian Foyster have moved into a new house not far from Monash University, where John is at present studying. Their address: 12 Glengariff Drive, Springvale North, Victoria, 3170.

SOME COMMENTS ON ASFR: Ursula K. LeGuin: "Seeing what donkeys offended authors make of themselves, I promised myself long ago never to react at all to any review of my own stuff. Now I am breaking my promise. Your review and Sten Dahlskog's were so kind, and so discerning (I trust), and gave me so much pleasure, that it would be merely mean not to thank you. ... You have an awfully good magazine going." Roger Zelazny: "I think you've got a very good thing going there in ASFR. I'd certainly like to subscribe. ... I do want to write something for ASFR, and I will." John Carnell: "I must commend Alan Reynard on a very astute piece of reason and deduction on the background to NEW WRITINGS. He is so close to the truth in all his assumptions that I have the uncomfortable feeling that he is picking up my thoughts on a private mental wavelength. This is the first and as far as I know the only piece of straight reporting and reviewing on the series to have appeared. If I can get out of this heavy load of work I want to write a short follow-up, broadening his outline a little and filling in one or two gaps." Buck Coulson: (in YANDRO 170) "One of the best serious fanzines around... (Nos. 8 & 9) contain, respectively, 44 and 36 pages, and every page is well worth reading. ASFR is presenting some of the best commentary on sf now being written in the fanzines."

MATERIAL ON HAND: ASFR 11 will contain articles by Dr. Arthur Burns and John Foyster on the life and work of Cordwainer Smith. This issue, I promise you, will be a memorable one. I hope to have no.11 out towards the end of August, but there may be some delay if I can't straighten out certain financial problems by then. I have plenty of material for subsequent issues, but I am finding it hard to get sufficient competent reviews, so volunteers for this interesting work are still needed. Proof and sample copies of new books are gradually coming in, so there is little difficulty in supplying copies for review. The following articles are scheduled for publication during the remainder of this year: GEORGE TURNER: Nothing To Lose But The Chains: hackneyed ideas in sf. WILLIAM F. TEMPLE: Plagiarism in SF. MAURICIO KITAIGORODZKI: SF in Argentina. SVEN EKLUND: SF in Scandinavia. JAMES BLISH: Eine Kleine Okie-Musik. There are a dozen, maybe more, reviews from Diana Martin, Norma Williams, John Foyster, Lee Harding, Alan Reynard; and I believe Stephen Cook has written a couple. I am toying with the idea of writing a series of articles called "Evenings at Northclump." If this eventuates it will incorporate material supplied by a number of people, notably our good friend Brian Richards. ASFR is sadly lacking a news section. There is no dearth of material from overseas, but I can't get anything from Sydney, Brisbane, or Adelaide. How about some of you interstate people writing to me occasionally about what's going on? Surely enough happens in, say, Sydney for me to publish a paragraph or two about it every second month? Marriages, births, deaths, hospitalizations, imprisonings, changes of address, good or bad fortunes, publications, telly programmes, films, publicity; all of these things interest readers, and I would like to hear about them.

OVERSEAS NEWS (mainly from Andy Porter's SF WEEKLY):

NEW WORLDS: Two interim issues, nos. 171 & 172, were published earlier this year, and are available from Dept. S, Gold Star Publications Ltd., 42-44 Dock Street, London E.1. (Or, before long, we hope, from McGill's.) Publication of no. 173, first in the new large format, has been delayed due to the printer raising his price beyond the amount allowed by the Arts Council grant.

TWO SF CONTESTS: PYRAMID/KENT/F&SF: Pyramid Books, The Magazine of F&SF, and Irwin Allen (Kent Productions, Inc.), are sponsoring a major sf contest. Pyramid will award the winning novel \$1000 plus publication contract of \$1500; F&SF will award \$500 plus serialization contract of \$1000; Kent Productions will pay a fee of \$1000 for a one year option to purchase, plus \$4000 if accepted. The initial prize will thus be \$5000; plus \$4000 from Kent if accepted, plus Pyramid royalties. The contest is open to all professional sf authors. All entries must be submitted by November 15th, and the winner will be announced by December 20th. Length: 40,000 to 70,000 words, typed double spaced. Judges are Donald R. Benson, Edward L. Ferman, and Irwin Allen. Address for further information or submission of entries: Science Fiction Award, Pyramid Publications, Inc., 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022. N3F STORY CONTEST: The National Fantasy Fan Federation will award prizes of \$20, \$15, and \$10 for best stories submitted. Non-members of N3F must pay an entry fee of 50¢. Judge is Frederik Pohl, and anyone who has sold less than three stories to pro magazines may enter. Entry forms from Michael Iggiano, 1834 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11210.

PONG" WITHDRAWN: The NYCon 3 Committee has decided to withdraw the name "Pong" from the fan achievement awards for best fanzine, best fan writer, and best fan artist, in the face of widespread opposition to the name. The committee points out that "pong" is imply a label, like "Oscar" or "Hugo", and should not have obscured the purpose of the awards.

OKANALIA FOUNDATION: Emil Petaja heads the newly-formed Hannes Bok Appreciation Society, a non-profit foundation dedicated to publishing Bok material. First publication is a handsome portfolio of 15 drawings on fine 9x12 art stock, for \$3.00, and may be ordered from Emil Petaja, 225 Diamond Street, San Francisco, California, 94114. The print run is limited; first come first served.

"IF" WRITER DIES: Stan Elliott, whose first professionally published story appears in the June IF, died on May 13th at the age of 46.

"GALAXY" ARTIST DESIGNS STAMP: The U.S. Post Office's first twin stamp, depicting an astronaut in space and Earth with spaceship will be issued on September 29th. Artwork is by Paul Calle, whose work appeared in GALAXY in the early 50's.

COULSONS IN PRINT: Juanita Coulson's first novel, CRISIS ON CHEIRON, will be published in an Ace Double in September. The same month will see the issue of MAN FROM UNCLE no. 12 by Thomas Stratton, alias Gene de Weese & Buck Coulson - their second.

ANDREW PORTER POINTS OUT: that he should not by any means be regarded as publishing official NYCon 3 statements in SF WEEKLY. Though secretary of NYCon 3, he should be regarded as a private fanzine publisher in any opinions expressed in SF WEEKLY.

FAN ETIQUETTE: Bjo Trimble is doing a book on the subject; any comments, suggestions, or questions may be sent to her at 243 Santa Rosa Avenue, Oakland, California, 94610.

TOURNAMENTS ILLUMINATED: is the title of a new fanzine, edited by David Thewlis, 2953 Linden, Berkeley, California, for the Society For Creative Anachronisms. Sub: \$1.50.

SIXTH JAPANESE SF CONVENTION: Tokon III will be held August 19th and 20th.

CANADIAN NEWS: Rumours have it that the Queens University SF Club and other clubs in Canada are joining to form a nationwide Canadian SF Club, and there are even rumbles on for another World Convention in Canada. The only previous WorldCon held in Canada was the Toronto Convention in 1949.

BRITISH NEWS: The Bristol Convention will donate a sum of money to sponsor a party at the NYCon to boost Heidelberg for the 1970 World Convention. :: On October 22nd there will be a Mini-Con in the Dunbar House (Ella Parker's block of flats) Hall. It will run from 11am to 11pm. A program is being sketched in, with Ted Carnell as Guest of Honour.





Monday, July 10th, and in the mail today an article for ASFR from William Atheling, Jr. "There are some nasty people in the world, of whom I unfortunately am one, to whom the sight of a man deliberately sticking out his chin represents an irresistible target..." Thus begins a fiery piece in the finest Atheling tradition; and guess who the surprisingly eminent "target" is! Well, you'll just have to guess until August. Heh heh.

Also in the mail: SFW 189. From which I excerpt the following notes.

BOB SILVERBERG's book, THE MORNING OF MANKIND: PREHISTORIC MAN IN EUROPE (New York Graphic Press), \$4.95, has been named as one of 26 "exceptional titles" by the Editor of SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL in his list of Best Children's Books of the Spring Season.

JULES VERNE: Ron Miller and Lawrence Knight are interested in publishing an offset fanzine dealing with the works of Verne, to be called DAKKAR. For information, write Ron Miller, 2836 Kingsrowe Court, Columbus, Ohio, 43209.

ASFR 10: "This issue, which I received airmail, produced a profound silence at the Fanoclasts, while everyone sat around and read it. Later that week, Ted White drove 10 miles to pick it up and write a rebuttal to a certain letter in it."

Other news include a report on the WesterCon (at which Marion Zimmer Bradley was Guest of Honor) held in... well, Andy doesn't mention where... and the Triple Fan Fair, held in Detroit, where Roger Zelazny received the first annual Nova Award and talked about how comic books influence his writing style.

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Over the last couple of months you've had a good chance to get to know about SF WEEKLY and the kind of news it reports. Personally I find it an indispensable publication; there's just so much goes on in American fandom, and there's no other way to get to hear about it except through a newsletter. Let's be fair; there are others besides SF WEEKLY, but none of them are as good, and none of them come out so regularly. Andy Porter is in an excellent position to hear about everything newsworthy that's happening, since he is right there in New York, working with Sam Moskowitz, a member of the Fanoclasts, and in regular contact with publishers, professional writers, editors, and leading fans.

Subscription details haven't been finalized yet, but the rate will very likely be 8 for \$1.00, airmailed fortnightly. Or you can get more by surface mail. Whichever way, I recommend SF WEEKLY to you strongly. (I only wish there was a British newsletter I could recommend to you...) Send me a dollar, indicate which way you want your copies sent, and I'll tee it up for you immediately.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS: GARY WOODMAN: Thanks for your letter, Gary. Would like to meet you sometime. Have you been to the Club? NORMA WILLIAMS: Will probably write at length soon, Norma. Meantime your Vance article is scheduled for no. 11. ROBERT W. GERSMAN: A fine display of slang there, cobber. Fact is, I didn't understand half of it. I've sent you ASFR 10 and look forward to your comments. Contact Andy Porter for a sub (5 for \$2.00 currently). Maybe send you an article sometime, but don't bank on it. More information about yourself? Are you Australian? ALEX EISENSTEIN: Have sent you 3467 & 10; will send other issues when they come to hand. Yes, I'd like to trade with TRUMPET, and have sent Tom a copy of 10. GRAEME RIDDLE: We'd like to do a series on the writers, as you suggest, but we're not in a good position to do this, being so far away, so we'll leave it to Sam Moskowitz for the time being. But now and then we'll be arranging for people on the spot to interview current writers. This is one of our projects we haven't had time to organize properly as yet. PAUL COVINGTON: McGill's is the only Australian shop specializing in sf, Paul, and you'd do better patronizing your own, e.g. F&SF Book Co. in New York. No prozines in Australia. ALEX EISENSTEIN again: I would send you ASFR airmail for \$7.50 (Australian) per annum, but do you think it's worth it? If you really want to, send me US\$4.50 for postage on the next 4 issues, which your present sub covers, then, in February, \$8.30 (U.S.) for the following 6 issues. PAT TERRY: Still haven't explained "Cell 7" to you, have I? Why not write Bert? - he'd tell you. Tara Street, Woollahra. DON TUCK: Thanks for Partisan article (I might try to get permission to reprint) and paperback listing, which is most useful.

Postscript, 14.7.67:

I report, sadly, the death of Stephen Cook on Sunday, 9th July. The full circumstances of his death are not known to me at this stage, but I am given to understand that he took his own life.

Stephen is known to readers of ASFR as the author of several reviews in recent issues, and of the fascinating short story in No.10. His work also appeared in SCIENCE FANTASY no.55 and (as Morris Nagel) in NEW WORLDS no.122; he appeared in a recent Australian book called UNDER 25, and was well-known in Melbourne University circles as the creator of the cartoon strip 'Porous Pasternak' in FARRAGO.

Those who knew Stephen personally knew him as a young man of high intelligence and unfailing good nature. We admired his friendliness and his obvious ability; we were confident he would one day make good the considerable promise he showed as a writer. We are left with fragments of his work, and memories of his person. We regret the work we will never see, but we will treasure the memories.

John Bangsund