

BLOOMINGTON NEWS-LETTER

Fanzine
Index
Extra

#5 February 1947 Bob Tucker, Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. * Priceless

One of the year's pleasantest surprises was the revival of the pre-war fanzine, The Alchemist. This new edition, appearing in the latter months of 1946 having a neat, mimeographed format $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches including 40 pages, presented an attractive lino-block cover and meaty material. It represents a lot of careful workmanship and will rank high on any 47 fanzine poll if the initial issue foretells things to come.

On the other hand an old and dear favorite folded. The Acolyte is no more, if we can believe Los Angeles news reports. Laney temporarily suspended Acolyte last summer, having made plans to have it lithographed and published by The Fantasy Foundation last Fall. The plans fell thru. A sad loss.

Speaking of fanzines that fell by the wayside, the absence of all of the following in '46 seems to indicate their demise: Fantasy News (Sykora); Fantasy Fiction Field (Unger & Moskowitz---altho the one issue listed as appearing in 1946 actually was dated 1945); the fine, annual Michicon Booklet (Ashley --- and we wonder if his removal to Californy had anything to do with it?); Nightmare (Fox); Tellus (Lou & Larry Smith); Venus (Lora Crozetti was going to issue many of them--remember?). The one issue of Wheller's Rosebud which did appear, was the final one. Ackerman produced but one VoM, and Tucker but one Le Zombie. In addition, any number of smaller fanzines vanished unnoticed--pick your favorites if you can remember their names and faces.

So many fanzines appeared in 1946 that the average reader, unless he has exchange or special agreements with the publishers, can't hope to get them all. We may as well confess this happened to us, forcing us to rely on outside sources for some information in the Index. Apparently the day has passed when every new, young publisher automatically sends a copy to Tucker. Such is the fate of a has-been luminary.

For those who can only afford, or prefer, a few of the better fanzines, we offer a list of ten that is believed to be a fair sampling of the field. The exclusion of any particular title from the below list does not imply that title lacks merit in our opinion. The list is simply an honest guide for those who prefer a few fanzines only, and want the best for their money.

The Ten

- (1) Stefnews, and (2) Ember, for news; (3) Vampire, for humor; (4) Fantasy Commentator, for book collectors; (5) Fantasy Advertiser, for where-to-buy-it; (6) The Scientifictionist, for meaty articles; (7) Shangri-L'Affaires for an entertaining club organ; and (8) The Grotesque, (9) The Star Rover, (10) Canadian Fandom, for all-around general fanzines containing something for all tastes.

The Advertiser, with a reported circulation of 1000, and Fanews with a reported circulation of 500 top the field. The usual circulation is 50 to 150.