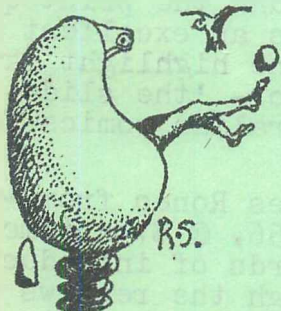


chunder!

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BORING NEWS ABOUT SCIENTIFICTIONAL PERSONALITIES : It is rumoured that sometime editor of ANALOG and more recently fiction editor of OMNI, Ben Bova, is to be booted upstairs at the latter publication, to Executive Editor, with Robert Sheckley to come in as fiction editor. // And Hank Stine is supposed to be coming in as editor of STARBLAZE Books, formerly edited by Kelly Freas. As well as being editor of GALAXY. Hmmph - Between them he should be producing about four publications a year, I suspect. There are also stories about other Great Production coming from UPD - but they've long been great on promise and ratshit on delivery. // WORLD FANTASY AWARDS - Best Novel, GLORIANA (by Michael Moorcock - also won John W Campbell Memorial Award for Best SF Novel of 1978, same not even being nominated for Hugos, and a glorious example of how fuckwitted these various awards are), Best Short Fiction, NAPLES (by Avram Davidson), Best Collection/Anthology, SHADOWS (edited by Charles L Grant), Best Artist, (tie) ALICIA AUSTIN and DALE ENZENBACHER.

On the other hand, we probably could look forward to 1980 as the fiftieth anniversary of Astounding (more recently Analog), for it appears to be intended to celebrate the occasion throughout the year rather than with just one special issue - contrasting strongly with F&SF's Thirtieth Annish, just f'rinstance. Unfortunately Analog will continue to be edited by the many-thumbed Stanley Schmidt, who not only forces upon us dreadful pseudo-learned/scientific gobbledegook by G Harry Stine in seemingly endless streams, but even goes to the lengths of making Stine appear more ignorant than ever by not editing his mss. - e.g. his references to 'Gallileo' on page 10 of the November Analog in a piece in which Stine attempts to impress us with his ability to cite the names of Famous Scientists - including of course the learned William O Davis. Maybe the fuckup column (p 153 11/79) could be expanded and replace Stine's articles?

SOME RECOMMENDED FANZINES

Things are getting tight; unless I make some attempt to catch up fanzines will have become anachronisms by the time they get reviewed in Chunder! These fanzines are recommended for particular reasons, and may be dealt with again at length. And I may very well have enjoyed other fanzines which don't get mentioned on this occasion. We begin locally.

THE AUSTRALIAN COMIC COLLECTOR 8 (September 1979, 32 pages offset from Joe Italiano/Moris Sztajer, 27 Percy Street, Mitcham, Victoria 3132, @ \$2 a time) Although the print quality is down a little from last time this remains an excellent piece of work, with the report of COMICON being the highlight (and the most horrifying clause was in there, too - 'the slide projector smashed to the floor'). For Australian comics fans this is essential reading.

BUNCHY WATCHES FANZINES 1 (long ago, 20 pages Roneo from Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria 3056, @ \$1 a time) Apart from proportionately insignificant words of introduction this consist of fanzine reviews and, although the reviews are rather briefer than I believe is desirable, the result is that Leigh gives the reader an excellent guide to what is around, and for this reason future issues of BWF would be useful for those wanting to find out which fanzines are worth reading.

SIKANDER 1 (October 1979, 24 pages Roneo from Irwin Hirsh, 279 Domain Road, South Yarra, Victoria 3141, @ \$1 a time) This new fanzine is worth more for its promise than for its content, perhaps, although the pieces by Eric Lindsay, John Bangsund and Leigh Edmonds are above average examples of their writing. Irwin is enthusiastic and energetic, and that's what SIKANDER has going for it at the moment.

GRUNDOON 1 (July 1979, 28 pages from Andrew Brown, 23 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, @ 50 cents a time) This first issue prints a transcription of the feminist panel at EASTERCON '79 and not much else. GRUNDOON is fannish in a way that SIKANDER isn't - the growth of these two fanzines will be worth watching.

TANJENT 10 (August-October 1979, 40 pages offset from Greg Hills, PO Box 770, Wanganui, New Zealand, @ 50 cents a time) I still like this very much for its enthusiasm; very American in style (but without a table of contents, which makes things tough), TANJENT is a fannish fanzine with something for everyone.

NOUMENON 33 (October 1979, 28 pages offset from Brian Thurogood, Wilma Road, Ostend, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand, @ 70 cents a time) This complements TANJENT by printing all this serious stuff about science fiction (although it is for the most part serious rather than useful...). But the letter column now (as opposed to the case several years ago) provides a good forum for those who get their rocks off by talking about The Future.

WELLCON CONVENTION BOOKLET (24 pages offset from Brian Thurogood for \$2) This well-produced publication has so much information about the history of New Zealand Fandom which has never been available anywhere before that it is an essential purchase for anyone interested in NZ fandom (first Fanzine 1932). Many illustrations reproduced from old fanzines.

LOCULUS 1 (September 1979, 48 pages offset from Alessandro Bani, Via S. Giovanni, 2, I-28047 OLEGGIO, Italy) Yet another occasion for me to lament my lack of Italian. Although the reproduction isn't quite as good as in the other offset fanzines I've mentioned above, well, let's just say that quite a few of the jokes come across very clearly - a strong Woody Allen influence... (Cost is a thousand lire - say \$A1 - and worth it)

HOLLAND SF 13/4 (July 1979, 40 pages offset from Annemarie Kindt, Postbus 87933, 2508 DH Den Haag, Netherlands.) This is the official organ of the "Nederlands Contactcentrum voor Science Fiction, and is impeccably reproduced, with the layout being at least as good as Andy Porter's. The best of the excellent illustrations are probably those of Ian Miller, which remind me very much of the dragons Marilyn Pride drew for TELMAR a year or two ago. There seems to me to be in this a better balance between SF and fannish stuff than in most other fanzines which try to go this route (e.g. NOUMENON). A fanzine in English like this would be a Hugo-winner. (Annemarie - if you send some copies to Dick Geis he might pick up a clue or two on how to do it.)

ANOTHER BLOODY FANZINE 1 (November 1979, 14 pages duplicated from Alan Dorey, 20 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St John's Woking, and Joe Nicholas, 2 Wilmot Way, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1JA, England, for the usual) This is in part a statement of intent (despite earlier flyers) and in part a reasonable demonstration of (some of) the Limpwrist's attitudes to fandom. I enjoyed this because I know something about some of the people, er, described - and this certainly provides an interesting insight into Pommie Fandom. More typoses than Chunder!

ANSIBLE 2/3 (September/October 1979, 12 pages Roneo from Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW, England, @ 5 for £1) The lazy Langford, who devotes just over nine pages of this to short comments from British fans on SEACON, takes over from Peter Roberts with a newszine which is sorta similar to and sorta different from CHECKPOINT. It's too early to know how this will go, but you can't afford to miss being along for the ride.

VECTOR 95 (October 1979, 44 pages offset from, I guess, the BSFA Manager, Trevor Briggs, 6 The Plains, Crescent Rd, Chingford, London E4 6AU, England) Mike Dickinson is editor, with Dorey and Nicholas (see above) along for the ride. You don't often see offset printing which is too dark, but here's an example. This issue, the first to be edited by Mike, strikes a nice balance between shortish articles about science fiction in general and reviews of specific books.

DEADLOSS 2 (August 1979, 50 pages duplicated from Chris Priest, 1 Ortygia House, 6 Lower Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0DA, England, for the usual if at all) Chris Priest has been vacillating about the production of a third DEADLOSS. It will be a pity if he decides that it is all too much, because DEADLOSS manages to be a personalzine of a different kind - although relatively little of it is written by the editor, his stamp runs throughout the contents. This idiosyncratic mixture is something we need more of. Well, it suits me, cobber.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE MERRIED

On 1 December David Grigg and Sue Pagram (the lesser of the two weevils, we insiders always say) were married during the course of one of those exclusive Oldphartte stfnal parties which Tiny Daryl and the Punkettes find so rancorous. The actual nuptials passed almost unnoticed amid the merriment. Lee Harding only fell down once (that I noticed).

Besides that, Rob Gerrand and Maggie Fitzgerald are supposed to be plighting their troth on December 16. And, far off in the future (next January), Leigh Edmonds and Valma Brown will be Doing It in Dimboola.

Under the circumstances it is probably appropriate to stop as many as possible of the ugly rumours which are flying around. I have it on the best of authorities that Mervyn Binns and Paul Stevens will not be married next Easter.

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE CHARNEL HOUSE

Someone complained that Chunder! doesn't carry news about Melbourne club activities. This must be stopped (the complaints, at least). While Chunder! rolled its merry way through 1979 the Victorian Science Fiction Foundation was conceived, born and died, wholly ignored by the present writer. Ho hum. The Australian Science Fiction Foundation, though you might believe the contrary, didn't die in 1979, and will continue organising the massive television, radio and print media publicity for the advancement of science fiction in this country for which it is so justly famous. Well, they're having a meeting of a few of the fellas next week, anyway.

ZAPA, the dynamic new "Melbourne apa, is the subject of a weird broadside recently acquired by yours truly. 'urportedly produced by the ZAPA Groupies, it rambles on for a couple of A4 pages before climaxing with the following ringing paragraph:

'So far The Groupies can boast, and have 20% of ZAPA's members. We will become stranger.'

"Never happen, boss.

ALL CONDOM PLUNGED INTO WAR

Sydney Fandom, always subject to splits of one kind or another, seems to be on the verge of another. This one, though self-inflicted, is being encouraged by interstate fans who are asking questions about the profit from this year's national convention. I shall report more gruesome details when the dust settles a little and I can see who's left standing.

EDITORIAL

Most people want Chunder! to continue on a monthly basis. This special short issue gives me an even chance to go into 1980 staying on that schedule. I wanted to a bit on the DUFFup, but will hold it over. Meanwhile, Ralph Silverton did the page 1 illo (ta!) and the rumours mongered on that page were noticed in recent issue of Locus and Science Fiction Chronicle. Watch out for the next line.

Your status: Hi ho (no check) Suck Air Grab Clusters