

the  
COLLECTOR'S  
BULLETIN #

5









# THE COLLECTOR'S BULLETIN

#5

Edited and published by C. W. (Ned) Brooks, Jr. for the NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION - Collector's Bureau, at 911 Briarfield Road, Newport News, Va. - 23605. Irregular but about quarterly. This issue should appear late in May or early in June, 1966. Cover probably by Steve Stiles, mimeography probably by the Rev. O. K. Brooke.

## Potpourri

By Ye Ed.

Observant readers will note the probabls above, this is being typed ahead of time, before the cover or mimeography are done. Yes. CB#5 might have been delayed even longer, it's only been two months since #4 and I don't want to outdo TNFF, but I learned last night that my uncle, the mimeographer, is likely to be gone to another church after this June. How #6 will be done I don't know, I could stand over Phil Harrell with a gun, or maybe another CB member will do it. Raleigh Roark has promised to type more stencils for us. The articles in this issue by Bob Leman and Paul Crawford were done onto stencil by Raleigh. The rest of the issue by me will be mostly comments from Out There, plus some additions to the Bok Art list and an installment of Bibliomania. And now to the comments:

\*JACK CHALKER told me that Mark Owings INDEX TO THE FANTASY PUBLISHERS would be for sale at the Lunacon... Any time now?

\*FRED COOK sent a copy of BRONZE SHADOWS his Doc Savage zine, very nice.. Says his index will be ready shortly.

\*Buck Coulson says he hasn't gotten a reply to his requests to the former editor for permission to reprint an article of his from BANE that I wanted, but that he'll send it anyway, "one of these months". No, Buck, anyone who could get "Buck" from Robert shouldn't inquire as to how "Ned" is derived from Cuyler. Buck also sent in a list of the translations of works by Wilson Tucker into Italian.

\*

I will take up here the matter of Daniel Cole, bookdealer. At least two members of CB have had trouble with this dealer, who was once a member of CB. He never replied to my letter complaining of the poor condition some books arrived in, due to his carelessness in wrapping them, and he has not, as of this writing, replied to numerous letters from Bill Bruce concerning some magazines for which Bill sent him \$\$\$. At my request, a friend of Coles who also lives in Canada wrote Cole about these matters, but there has been no result. I do not like to write nasty things about people, but Cole is a large-scale dealer, has ads in Bibby's FANTASY COLLECTOR. I would like to know if any other CB members have had trouble with Cole. CAVEAT EMPTOR!

\*Paul Crawford says nice things about #4 (tho he calls it #3) and thinks the Series indexes by Eberle should be expanded into a complete "Series Index". Paul has sent in a chronological index to the magazine appearances of Heinlein.



- \*DON D'AMMASSA, a new member of CB (George Fergus's roommate) with a 4000+ collection, all but 18 of the sf paperbacks published in the US, and a ditto machine, writes that he is working on a "Series Index" and needs help. He wants info on the "Ensign du Ruyter" stories by Porges, the "Gree" stories by MacApp, and the "Berserker" stories by Sabers-hagen. So between Don and Paul Crawford and Ron Eberle, we should have a series index before long! A dittoed CB...? Who knows?!
- \*FRANK DIETZ, also a new member, seems to collect everything except manuscripts. He publishes a fanzine LUNA, which had a Hannes Bok issue last year, with another such promised for later.
- \*DICK ENEY, BNF, was good enough to tell me that he would be in Saigon for 18 months, so not to send him CB. Gee Dick, I would gladly have sent it to you there!
- \*WALTER FOXWORTH writes me that he has rejoined the NFFF just to get CB - Ah, sweet Ego!boo!
- \*DON FRANSON (he gets a lot on a postcard) sends in a complete checklist of art by Muller in sf prozines:  
AMAZING, Dec '30, "Anachronism" by Cloukey, page 840.  
Seems that Muller was good, many readers wrote in asking for more of his work, to no avail. Don also points out the the "Escanaba" address that I gave in #4 for the "OZ" club is in Mich, not Calif. Sorry about that! And (it was a very large postcard), Don wants us to discuss what is needed in the way of new indexes, rather than what is easy to do, and cites MARVEL TALES as an example. Not, I gather, an example of "easy-to-do", it had 5 issues in 1934-35!
- \*FRED GOTTSCHALK says he never got CB #3 or 4, though he had only moved from one dorm to another at MSU. That's the PO for you!
- \*JAMES W. LATIMER III writes that he is now librarian for WSFA. He also sends in some info for the Bok index, bless his Roman numeral!
- \*JOHN McCALLUM, not even a member, offered to do #4 for us when it looked like I would have trouble getting it out. May the stars ever shine upon your pathway, John!
- \*RICH MANN writes that he "doesn't recall" getting CB#4. You really know how to hurt a fellow, Rich!
- \*ANGELO OGGIANO, another new member, lives in Roma. He collects the heavily illustrated sf of the 19th century, is interested in any Jules Verne books with color plates.
- \*BRUCE ROBBINS sends in much interesting news. He mentions another CB-type zine, Jim Pobst's WAYFARER, which is very good. Unfortunately, Jim wrote me that he was quitting after 2 issues. Bruce says that his PARADOX will resume checklisting of paperbacks, the Brad Day pb index was so poor. Also adds the new Arkham book to Bibliomania, it has a bibliography of HPL by Jack Chalker. Bruce says that for those interested in the expensive illustrated editions of Verne (as Oggiano is) there is a JULES VERNE COLLECTING SOCIETY in New York. He doesn't know their address though.
- \*JAMES TOREN wants a new category for collectors, namely "adventure pulps" or "ap" for those who collect Doc Savage and The Shadow etc. Also, James is looking for a copy of the pb SHADOW'S REVENGE, and he wants to know how many issues of STARTLING STORIES did Captain Future appear in. Oops, I see by a later letter he got the pb, ignore it please.
- \*MIKE WARD, at least I think it was Mike, handed me a sheet of additions to the Bok checklist at the Lunacon. No name on it, but I think it was Mike! Mike also suggests (in a letter) a trade column. Hmm?
- \*WALTER WENTZ, of Merritt fame, sends in some items for the Bok list. Also says that he is collecting material for a revised edition of his Merritt Biblio.

\*PAUL J. WILLIS sends in a new address, INFO, Box 341, Festus, Missouri 63028, and says that his code should be NF, non-fiction. He collects Fortæana and such.

\*ANDY ZERBE writes that he has a checklist of THE WHISPERER, from Oct 1936 to Apr 1942. I never heard of this one before!

\* \* \* \* \*

### ASSORTED NOTES

\*A neglected fantasy trilogy, THE HUMAN AGE by Percy Wyndham Lewis, is still in print in England in two volumes for 55/- or 7.70 in real \$\$\$. Publisher is Methuen, but book can be obtained through Blackwells or directly from Associated Book Publishers, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4.

\*A one-sheet sf-fantasy-book-film newzine has been started by Michel Feron, 7 Grand-Place, HANNUT, Belgium. It's called EARLY BIRD, and is in English and French. Price, \$1.60 a year (12 issues) by airmail.

\*In addition to ENTMOOT, the TSA Journal, and the very infrequent I PALANTIR, there is another Tolkien zine, SHIRE-POST, by Steve shectman, 77 Muttontown Road, Syosset, New York - 11791. Oh, I see that this is a PROPOSED artzine. Send him art, he is going to use a silk-screen. This info is shamelessly copied from the TSA Journal. They also list NIEKAS as a Tolkien zine.

\*Speaking of Tolkien, there is to be an article on Tolkien and Tolkien fandom in a June Sat. Evening Post, by Henry Resnik. I know this sounds wild, but it is confirmed by numerous sources. Our own Phil Harrell was contacted by phone by Resnik, and Greg Shaw (ENTMOOT) and Dick Plotz (TSA Journal) have been interviewed.

\*An Ace pb, WEIRDSTONE OF BRISINGHAMEN by Alan Garner, now on the stands, has interior art by Jim Cawthorn. This is very good Tolkien-inspired fantasy, also the first Ace with extensive interior art, I think.

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Hoka" series by Poul Anderson & Gordon Dickson  
Compiled by Ron Eberle

1. "Heroes Are Made" - OTHER WORLDS, May 1951
2. "In Hoka Signo Vinces" - OTHER WORLDS, June 1953
3. "The Adventure Of The Misplaced Hound" - UNIVERSE, Dec 1953
4. "Yo Ho Hoka!" - F&SF, Mar, 1955
5. "The Tiddlywink Warriors" - F&SF, Aug 1955
6. "Joy In Mudville" - F&SF, Nov 1955
7. "Undiplomatic Immunity" - F&SF, May 1957
8. "Full Pack (Hokas Wild)" - F&SF, Oct 1957
9. "Don Jones" - original story in EARTHMAN'S BURDEN

Numbers 1-5 & 9 in EARTHMAN'S BURDEN, Gnome, 1957 (#1 as "The Sheriff Of Canyon Gulch")



## ADDENDA TO THE HANNES BOK ARTWORK INDEX (CB#4) by Ye Editor

It should be noted that while Don Martin started this to cover just the pulp artwork, I want now to cover all of Bok's professionally published art. This is not really a large change, as most of Bok's work appeared in the pulps between 1939 and 1954. As published in CB#4, the index covered several digest-size prozines not usually considered "pulp".

CAPTAIN FUTURE - All still to be checked except Win'40, Fall'42

COMET STORIES - Still to be checked: Dec'40, Jul'41

COSMIC STORIES - All now checked.

May'41, V1#2 - Cover, G

Dimension of Darkness - S. D. Gottesman: p.27G

The Riddle of Tayne - W. P. Cockroft: p.48F

The Improbable - Charles R. Tanner: p.80G

Jul'41, V1#3 - Interference - Walter C. Davies: p.35G

The Colossus of Maia - Lawrence Woods: p.45G

The City in the Sofa - Cecil Corwin: p.54F

The Real Thrill - James Blish: p.67G (?)

DYNAMIC SCIENCE FICTION - All now checked: No Bok

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES - Still to be checked: 1939-All, 1940-All but Jan, Jun, Aug, 1942-Feb, Mar, Oct, 1944-Mar, 1945-Jul, Oct, 1946-All 1948-Feb, Apr, Nov, 1949-Nov, 1950-Jan, Feb, Apr, May, 1951-All but Jan, Jun, Jul, 1952-Jan, Feb, Jun, Aug, Sep, 1953-Mar

FANTASY BOOK

Jul'47, V1#1 - (given errone. as V1#7 in CB#4)

\*Still to be checked: All others except Feb'48, V1#2

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE

Oct'56, V6#3 - Cover, G

Dec'56, V6#5 - Cover, VG

\*Still to be checked: 1956-Oct, Nov, Dec, 1957-Jan, Aug, Nov, Dec, Note: The FU listed as to be checked have not been checked at all. Some of those previously listed were eliminated by use of Ed Wood's Index in Lore and have not been checked for interior illos. I will write Ed about these.

FUTURE FICTION

Oct'41, V2#1 - Pogo Planet - Martin Pearson: CoverG, p.82G

The Man On The Meteor - Ray Cummings: p.10-11P

JOURNAL of the IES, July'61, V1#2 - Crazdipple Bonk, Bok: p.15, 16, 17VG

WEIRD TALES

Nov'42, V36#8 - Ad for "Quest of a Noble Tiger" by Frank Owen: p.105G

The Evil Doll - Hannes Bok: p.107VG

BOOKS ILLUSTRATED BY BOK: THE FOX WOMAN/THE BLUE PACODA (6 illos), THE BLACK WHEEL (6 illos), THE BLIND SPOT (6 illos & dj), SEVEN OUT OF TIME (4 illos). With dj only: GREEN MAN OF GRAYPEC, SIDEWISE IN TIME, SECRETS OF DR TAVERNER, ALIEN MINDS, UNDER THE TRIPLE SUNS, THE TITAN, THE CASTLE OF IRON, WHO GOES THERE, BEYOND INFINITY, THE MOON IS HELL, THE CRYSTAL HORDE, SKULLFACE & OTHERS, HOUSE ON THE BORDERLAND That's 17, are there any others?

\*Misc.: The 1949 Gnome Press Calendar (7 plates)

BIBLIOMANIA

Being a continuing column of bibliographic material. As in CB#4, the asterisk (\*) indicates that I actually have the item.

Austin, William N., MACABRE INDEX, priv. pub., 1952 (FAPA mailing #59) Gives date, vol, number, authors, titles, some artists for incomplete listings of ACE MYSTERY, DIME MYSTERY, EERIE, TERROR TALES, UNCANNY TALES and others.

\*Brooks, Ned, TOLKIEN IN PAPERBACK, in Entmoot #3, 1966. Gives list of editions of Tolkien's "Middle-Earth" books and page number conversion equations for them.

Chalker, Jack Laurence, HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, in The Dark Brotherhood & Other Pieces (pp198-241), Arkham House, Sauk City, 1966

De La Ree, Gerry, AN INDEX TO NOVELS IN THE SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES. Priv printed, 1962. Lists lead novels from 26 sf zines. I got this from Don Miller, I assume he means various issues of each of 26 zines.

\*Eney, Dick, FANCYCLOPEDIA II. Priv. Printed 1959. An expansion of Speer's FANCYCLOPEDIA, it defines and explains almost any imaginable fannish term or concept. Over 200pp.

\*Frazer, Roger, A GUIDE TO THE AVON FANTASY READER, in WAYFARER II pub. by Jim Pobst, 1966. Gives title, author, and source if a reprint. Also what story if any the cover illustrated, but cover artist not given.

Harbottle, Phillip, JOHN RUSSELL FEARN - AN EVALUATION. Pub. as YANDRO BIBLIOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT #1, Jan'63 by Bob Coulson. Gives at least 25 of Fearn's psuedonyms.

Jeeves, B. T., A CHECKLIST OF ASTOUNDING, PART I, 1930-39. Pub. by ERG (?), England, 1963. Contents cross-indexed by author and title.

\*Lord, Glenn, THE MYSTERY TITLES OF ROBERT E. HOWARD, in WAYFARER II pub by Jim Pobst, 1966. The word "mystery" here refers not to the contents of these stories, but to their whereabouts or existence. They are titles mentioned in Howard's letters but lost or published under other titles. Eighteen titles are listed and explained, references and sources given.

\*Pavlat, Bob & Evans, Bill, FANZINE INDEX. First printed in 1952, reprinted in 1965 by Harold Palmer Piser. Lists "all" fanzines from "the beginning" to 1952, giving editor, issues, dates. Has 140 large double-column pages.

\*Robbins, Bruce, CHECKLIST OF THE NON-PROFESSIONAL WRITINGS OF DAVID H. KELLER, in PARADOX#7, 1966. Alphabetically by title, giving fanzine and date of publication.

\*Smith, R. D. Hilton, ALICE ONE HUNDRED, Adelphi Book Shop, Victoria, 1966. A catalogue in celebration of ALICE'S looth birthday. Lists 450 books by Lewis Carroll, including 209 editions of ALICE, with full information on each.



Wood, Ed, FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES: Golden Minutes, pub as YANDRO BIBLIOGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT #2, 1963, by Bob Coulson. Lists contents of each issue, with comments.

\*Wood, Ed, CHECKLIST TO FANTASTIC UNIVERSE, pub. as LORE Supplement #1, by Jerry Page. Copyright 1966 by Ed Wood. Gives contents, authors, and artists for each issue. NOTE: My comments on page 4 of this CB are in error, as it is clear that there were no Bok interiors in FU, unless we concern ourselves with the unknown authors of the Nov and Dec '59 issues.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### TRADE WINDS

Mike Ward wants a trade column, here it is. We aim to please! But don't send in a page of junk you want to unload and expect me to print it. Keep it short, or make 100 copies yourself and I'll mail them out with CB!

Brooks, Ned - Will trade FOX WOMAN/BLUE PAGODA (fair), WHO GOES THERE (near mint), A NIGHT WITH JUPITER (good, fantasy ss anthology not in Cole Index), TARZAN & JEWELS OF OPAR, assorted duplicate zines for any illos by Bok, any of the Finlay, Freas Artfolios that I don't have, terms to be arranged.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTE THE NOTE AT THE TOP OF THIS PAGE: NOTE ME NO NOTES ABOUT THE FANTASTIC UNIVERSE GOOF ON PAGE FOUR. NOTICE THIS NOTE!

\* \* \* \* \*

The "People" series, by Zenna Henderson, all in The Mag. of F&SF  
compiled by Ron Eberle

1. "Ararat" - Oct'52
2. "Gilead" - Aug'54
3. "Pottage" - Sep'55
4. "Wilderness" - Jan'57
5. "The Last Step" - Feb'58
6. "Captivity" - Jun'58
7. "Jordan" - Mar'59
8. "And A Little Child" - Oct'59
9. "Return" - Mar'61
10. "Shado On The Moon" - Mar'62
11. "Deluge" - Oct'63
12. "No Different Flesh" - May'65
13. "Angels Unawares" - Mar'66

Numbers 1-4, 6, & 7, with some new material published as PILGRIMAGE: THE BOOK OF THE PEOPLE, Doubleday, 1961; Avon (pb), 1963.



## VENTURE SCIENCE FICTION

by BOB LEMAN

(Ed. Note: This is reprinted with much gratitude from Bob Leman's "The Vinegar Worm," Vol. II, nos. 6 and 7.)

I want to write about Venture Science Fiction. Some of you may not even remember it; the first issue was dated January, 1957, and the last, July, 1959, and that's a long time ago. But it was an uncommonly good magazine, and it deserved to be better remembered than it is. Its stories were, on the average, better than average, and there were a few that were really superior. Later on I'll have something to say about some of these stories.

Venture published, in all, ten issues. Joseph W. Ferman was the publisher. (He still owns the title, as you may note in the "Including Venture Science Fiction" in the masthead of F&SF.) Venture started as a poor relation of F&SF; Bob Mills, who was then managing editor of F&SF (Boucher was still editor) was given the job of editing the new magazine. Prior to publication of the first issue, Mills had this to say: "The slant will be toward good adventure stories, with special emphasis on story value. That is, stories with beginnings, middles, and ends—stories with suspense and pace. Which is not to say that the writing will be on a juvenile level; well-rounded characterization will be important, villains and heroes will not be flat black and white, improbability will not be substituted for excitement, cowboys will not ordinarily be central figures."

Ferman also had something to say about the new magazine. In a foreword to Vol. I, No. 1, he had this to say: "This first issue...offers, we think, a pretty fair example of the kind of strong stories of action and adventure that the future issues will contain... There will be two prime requisites for Venture stories: in the first place, each must be a strong story..."

You can see what Mills was after: action and plot, in that order, with some characterization thrown in, if space permitted. (I take it that Mills wrote the matter signed by Ferman.) Now if I remember correctly, Startling had but lately died at the time that Venture was undertaken, and I would guess that Venture was intended to fill the gap. The Boucher F&SF may well have seemed to Ferman to be a little too cerebral for the kind of circulation he was after, and Mills' plan for Venture must have appeared to be a reasonable undertaking. It would certainly have seemed so to me. F&SF, good as it was, was becoming a little precious, and Astounding was beginning to be pretty spotty, and Galaxy had long since fallen over the hump. There was definitely a need for the kind of magazine Mills proposed.

Well, he brought out the magazine, and it failed. It failed, I think, because Mills didn't live up to his prospectus; Venture became a much better magazine than he had in mind when he first planned it. It's my guess that he was thinking initially of something that would revive that Good Old Sense of Wonder: something with plenty of action in the far reaches of space, with perhaps just a touch of sophistication to meet 1957 standards.

The trouble was that Mills' taste was little too good to let him publish the kind of magazine he originally started to publish. There somehow crept into the magazine a fair proportion of stories that considerably exceeded in quality the proposed standard; they were simply too good for the magazine Ferman wanted. It's possible, of course, that distribution difficulties contributed to the untimely demise of Venture, and there are doubtless many other problems that I know nothing about, but I lay the chief onus on the superior quality of the stories. (I take it as an axiom that a thing that is popular is pro-



bably no good.

Venture published a total of sixty-seven pieces of fiction. Of these forty-seven were short stories and twenty were "novelets." (I set the demarcation point at 8,000 words, following, as nearly as I can, Mills' system.) There were, in addition to these, seven book columns by Sturgeon, and four popular science columns by Asimov. There was a total of forty-one authors represented; (Sturgeon and Asimov both published fiction as well as columns.) A list of authors will be found below.

In format Venture resembled F&SF very closely. Its dimensions, paper and cover stock were identical with the F&SF of the day--and of today as far as that goes. The single important difference in format was that every issue of Venture had internal illustrations. These, on the whole, were not particularly good, but the initial plan for the magazine--which called for a pulp-style magazine in digest size (I surmise)--called for illustrations. Six interior illustrators were used. Emsh, Giunta, Schoenherr, Dollens, Horwitz and Cindy Smith (her only pro appearance, as far as I know), and no issue was without illustrations.

Of the covers, eight were by Emsh, and one by Dollens\*. The Shelton cover (and who he?) seems to be an only slightly revised version of something originally intended for a mystery magazine, and is further marred by what looks like an effort on Ferman's part to do some extra-cheap color printing. The Dollens is a better-than-average Dollens, done with the usual airbrush. "Night on Titan" is its title, and while it's not Bonestell, it's not bad. The eight other covers are by Emsh. They're all good competent work, ranging from some movie-posterish stuff in the early issues to a really superior painting illustrating Pudrys' "The Edge of the Sea". (March, 1958.)

Sturgeon's book column, "On Hand. . .Offhand," appeared first in whole number four (July, 1957), and was in every issue thereafter. In his first three columns he used an uncommonly nerve-abrading style, affecting a third-person reference to himself, but nonetheless his reviews were almost always perceptive and intelligent, and his thumbnail-review section was extremely useful.

Asimov commenced his column in whole number seven (January, 1958), and wrote four in all. They were shorter and perhaps a bit more elementary than his current series in F&SF, but not very different. That is to say, Good.

And so we come at last to a consideration of Venture's fiction, which is after all the reason you came down here to the carnival. The authors were, in the main, old pros: Anderson, Asimov and Sturgeon had four stories each; del Rey, Gunn and Kornbluth had three; and there were twelve writers who published two stories in the ten issues. Of these twelve, only Robert Marner is an unfamiliar one, and he writes well enough to make me believe that he's somebody's pseudonym.

That leaves twenty-three authors who had one story each. Among these I find only five unknown names: Lincoln Boone, Erik Fennel, Dick Hetschel, William Scarff and Albert Stroud. If anybody can tell me anything about these people, I'd appreciate hearing from him. At least three of them, I'm sure, are pseudonyms.

Mills was, then, buying his stories from accomplished professional writers, most of whom have written good stories for years, and who can turn out an at least competent story on order. And yet, Venture turned up with a considerable number of stories that were highly unusual and do not at all fit the stereotype (even our own stereotype) of science-fiction-for-the-mob. He certainly must have begun by combing F&SF rejects and asking the popular pros to send in stuff from their files; but it's very doubtful that he could have produced as many as ten issues in this way. And what is, in my opinion, the best story

\* Who has done the covers for the first three issues of GAMMA.



the magazine published (Budrys' "The Edge of the Sea") turned up in the antepenultimate issue. This would seem to indicate that Mills, in the latter days, was pulling in serious efforts from the best writers.

In the very first issue there is a story that looks like one that was dug out of the file for Mills because it hadn't found a home anywhere. I'm speaking of Sturgeon's "The Girl Had Guts". It is, by anybody's definition, SF; but it is also based upon a most especially strange and gruesome idea, and I would bet that Sturgeon has the thing stuffed in a file together with a number of appreciative but regretful rejections at the time he heard that Mills needed some stories.

The featured story in this first issue is Poul Anderson's "Virgin Planet." Now I am prejudiced in Anderson's favor, and I have a tendency to believe that he can do no wrong. But this piece (the longest Venture ever published) is a slick and trivial novella that was probably written to order for the new magazine, and while it's amusing enough, it's eminently forgettable. So is the rest of the issue, except for the Sturgeon. Mills hadn't yet hit his stride.

Number three had some more Sturgeon, again out-of-the-way stuff. This was "Affair With a Green Monkey," the plot of which is simply a mildly dirty joke, but which urges the doctrine that Sturgeon has been peddling in almost everything he's written: that everybody ought to love everybody else. It's not a bad notion, I suppose, although Ted has gone pretty far out, sometimes, to argue it. Some of Your Blood seems to me to be about as far as you can go--although that has nothing to do with Venture.

And since we're talking about Theodore R., we may as well mention his other stories in Venture. These were the well-known "The Comedian's Children" and "It Opens the Sky." The latter is what might be called a rattling good story, and is of course done with superb competence, but it's lightweight Sturgeon. "The Comedian's Children" is another matter. It is a story that has something serious to say about people and the way they treat each other, and while Sturgeon's technical virtuosity sometimes becomes a little too apparent, the story should be numbered among the few SF stories that are simply good stories. (Mills calls it a "novelet.")

The best story Venture ever published was, as I said before, Budrys' "The Edge of the Sea." Budrys, like Blish and Sturgeon and Anderson, is a craftsman who has learned his trade passing well, and I suppose he could tell "Little Red Riding Hood" in a way that would make it seem fresh and new. But he tends, again like Blish and Sturgeon, to overload his work with message and/or symbol... (In his work and Blish's the message is usually an intellectual one, while Sturgeon's preachings are to the emotions.) "The Edge of the Sea," however, wraps up message and plot in an almost perfect way. Budrys is talking about human motivations, and the kind of man who will be strong under the gravest adversities, but he has put this idea into a strong and suspenseful short story. It's a story that has been written with cold skill, ending in precisely the right way, and it can easily and enjoyably be read simply as a facile piece of work done for the sake of two cents a word. But down inside the smooth carpentering is a close hard look at one of the important aspects of the human critter. It's not the all-round examination of people that Budrys gave us in Rogue Moon, but then this is a short story. A most superior short story.

There are a good many other good stories among the sixty-seven. (I think I forgot to mention that Venture never published a serial.) Apart from those I've already noted, attention should be given to Walter M. Miller, Jr.'s "Vengeance for Nickolai," Marion Bradley's "Bird of Prey," Tom Godwin's "The Harvest," Avram Davidson's "Now Let Us Sleep," and A. J. Budrys' "Falling Torch." These stories are outstanding for as many reasons as there are stories and authors; but even the crudest of them (Marion Zimmer Bradley's "Bird of Prey") has--on its own terms--something beyond today's run-of-the-mill.

It will take a scholar with more knowledge than mine to ferret out which of these stories have found their ways into anthologies; but where you find one, pay attention. It's from a fine magazine.

There follows a list of the stories published by Venture, issue by issue:

No.1--Jan., 1957

Title	Author	Length
Virgin Planet	Poul Anderson	Sh. Nov. (26,000)
A Man of the World	Leo Cole	Short
A Woman of the World	Rose Sharon	Short
The Dust of Death	Isaac Asimov	Short
Hero at Work	John Jakes	Short
Oh, Father of Mine	Chas. Beaumont	Novelet (8000)

No.2--March, 1957

Too Soon to Die	Tom Godwin	Novelet (14,000)
The Lady was a Tramp	Rose Sharon	Short
Friend for Life	Gordon R. Dickson	Short
The Queer Ones	Leigh Brackett	Novelet (13,000)
Blind Alley	Chas. L. Fontenay	Short
Vengeance for Nikolai	Walter M. Miller, Jr.	Short

No.3--May, 1957

Space is a Lonely Place	James E. Gunn	Nov (16, 500)
The Corpse in Your Bed is Me	Walter M. Miller, Jr.	Short
	Lincoln Boone	
Night Sky of Venus	Erik Fennell	Short
Cold Victory	Poul Anderson	Short
Bird of Prey	Marion Zimmer Bradley	Short
Affair With a Green Monkey	Theodore Sturgeon	Short

No. 4--July, 1957

Not So Great an Enemy	James E. Gunn	Novelet (15,500)
And Then She Found Him	Paul Janvier	Short
Aces Loaded	Theodore R. Cogswell	Short
The Keeper	H. Beam Piper	Novelet (7,600)
The Education of Tigress McCardle	C.M. Kornbluth	Short
Seat of Judgement	Lester Del Rey	Short
The Harvest	Tom Godwin	Short

No. 5--Sept., 1957

The Nevada Virus	Floyd Wallace	Novelet (7,200)
A Bit for Mrs. Halloran	Jim Harmon	Short
For the Duration	Poul Anderson	Short
The Winds of Siros	Robert Silverberg	Novelet (8,800)
Executioner No. 43	Rog Phillips	Short
Snafu on the <u>New Taos</u>	Mack Reynolds	Short
Before the Talent Dies	Henry Slesar	Short
Written in the Stars	Robert F. Young	Short
Now Let Us Sleep.	Avram Davidson	Short



## No. 6--Nov., 1957

It Opens the Sky  
 Jury-Rig  
 Featherbed on Chlyntha  
 I'm in Marsport Without Hilda  
 No Earthman I  
 All the Colors of the Rainbow

Theodore Sturgeon  
 Avram Davidson  
 Miriam Allen Deford  
 Isaac Asimov  
 Edmond Hamilton  
 Leigh Brackett

Novelet (15,200)  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Novelet (8,800)  
 Novelet (8,200)

## No. 7--Jan., 1958

Falling Torch  
 Robots Should Be Seen  
 Skin Game  
 The End of Winter  
 New Moon  
 The Meddler  
 The Enemy  
 Pop. Sci. Article by Asimov  
 Sturgeon on Books

Algys Budrys  
 Lester Del Rey  
 James E. Gunn  
 William Scarff  
 Doug Morrissey  
 John Novotney  
 Damon Knight

Nov. (14,000)  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Nov. (10,000)  
 Short  
 Short

## No. 8--March, 1958

The Edge of the Sea  
 The Tael Psychiatrist  
 Eve and the Twenty-Three Adams  
 There Ain't No Other Roads  
 Intruder  
 Virginia  
 The Game of Glory  
 Pop. Sci. Article by Asimov  
 Sturgeon on Books.

Algys Budrys  
 Dick Hetschel  
 Robert Silverberg  
 Robert Marner  
 Don Berry  
 C. M. Kornbluth  
 Poul Anderson

Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Novelet (15,000)

## No. 9--May, 1958

The Dark Background  
 Cosmic Casanova  
 Ground Leave Incident  
 Fleegl of Fleegl  
 A World Named Mary  
 Buy Jupiter!  
 The Comedian's Children  
 Pop. Sci. Article by Asimov  
 Sturgeon on Books.

Edmond Hamilton  
 Arthur C. Clarke  
 Rog Phillips  
 Gordon R. Dickson  
 Robert Marner  
 Isaac Asimov  
 Theodore Sturgeon

Short  
 Short  
 Novelet (11,500)  
 Short  
 Short  
 Short  
 Novelet (17,000)

## No. 10--July, 1958

Two Dooms  
 Contest Between Equals  
 Biggest Damned Martini in the  
 Universe  
 The Money Tree  
 Lady of Space  
 Pop. Sci. Article by Asimov  
 Sturgeon on Books.

C. M. Kornbluth  
 Albert Stroud  
 John Novotney  
 Clifford D. Simak  
 Lester Del Rey

Novelet (20,000)  
 Short  
 Short  
 Novelet (15,000)  
 Short

## THE MEMORY BANK

## "ON THE NATURE OF CHECKLISTS"

by Paul Crawford

It seems to this neo that right in there among such favorite fan pastimes as corresponding, missing deadlines, feuding, and delaying official organs is the worthwhile sport of compiling myriad indices, checklists, and bibliographies of anything remotely related to stf and fantasy. Up to the present, there have been at least eight major publications of this sort (bibliographies of 100 pages or more), and there are probably many more not enjoying widespread use.

Checklists deal mainly with titles of books, magazines and stories, dates, volume numbers and other facts about publications themselves. The entries of a checklist are tied together by the common factor of an author's name or by the contents of the publication--though contents are usually not of greatest consideration in checklists. Two checklists in current use list only magazine titles, dates and volume numbers, and author names and book titles.

The distinction between index and checklist is not as noticeable as it might seem; there are some very detailed checklists, (as W. R. Cole's Checklist of SF Anthologies seems to be), and some undetailed indices. But, all things considered, detail is the most noticeable feature of an index; most of those in the stf field deal with contents of publications. Indices catalog, alphabetize, and place within easy reach of the user (or they should) much more detailed information that is contained in a simple checklist. An index is a checklist with great detail. Most indices presently in print are concerned with the contents of the science fiction magazines.

The third term used to describe listings of stf material is "bibliography"--which, actually, is what most checklists and indices are. However, the term is usually reserved to describe accumulations of information on one specific author, as in the mammoth ERB bibliography and in Brad Day's Bibliography of Adventure. I have compiled a bibliography of all the published paintings of Chesley Bonestell, but I call it an index--don't ask me why.

As I write, I'm positive that everyone reading the first part of this article will become energetic immediately afterward, and will run off voluminous checklists over night. So I will discuss a few of the problems involved in indexing, and maybe, if I'm suddenly afflicted with lucid thought, some solutions.

Checklists are usually produced out of an attempt by an individual to make his own collection of fantastic material more orderly and accessible, or they are intended as a guide for enlarging his collection in an orderly manner. So a checklist usually begins as a personal thing--a "labor of love"--without much concern on the part of the compiler about fans in general using his checklist. Therefore, what checklists should cover or do cover will not be discussed here.

So Irving Superfan, completist, has a lousy memory and wants to have all the stories and articles in his massive collection, containing every stf mag ever published, at his fingertips. He decides to completely index them, covering authors, artists, editors--everything. The inadvisability of attempting such a project singlehanded seems obvious, but Irving has time on his hands. And he has even completed the first step in compiling his index--he knows exactly what information he wants to include--everything.



Know exactly what type of information you want to cover in your checklist, and it can be obtained and organized easily and efficiently. The actual work of gathering information can then begin.

Where information may be obtained depends on what the checklist is to cover; if the information will come primarily from publications of the sf field, the best places to start gathering would probably be private libraries. Public libraries are the best source of mundane material. There is a good chance that any new index will be an expansion of some feature already covered in some depth in other checklists, so earlier publications should be utilized whenever possible to minimize work.

Supposing a fan wanted to do a bibliography on all of Asimov's works, mundane and sfictional; he could use present checklists something like this: from the Checklist of Fantastic Literature\*, he could obtain the titles of all of Asimov's sf books, and then he could go to his public library and peruse the Cumulative Book Index for mundane titles (though that index would contain sf titles as well). A similar checking of the sf magazine indices would yield a list of the Good Doctor's short stories and the first magazine appearances of some books, and from the Readers' Guide to Periodicals, like information from mundane fields could be gleaned. Much research has already been completed, and all that remains for some fans to do is sort and compile the information.

When a checklist is intended to be especially large, it isn't a bad idea to recruit some help on the project. Assistance can come from people close by, but more often fans have persuaded many of their correspondents to do some of the work for them. But it is a good idea, before asking anyone at a great distance to do research, to be certain that he knows exactly what information is needed; (it would be quite disappointing for a Heinlein indexer to be told the title of an anthology (which he had no way of seeing) supposed to contain RAH stories, without being told what stories).

Once all the necessary sources are at hand, and you are imprisoned in a room by enormous stacks of magazines and books, the information can actually be written down. If the sources are faultlessly arranged, it might be possible to begin typing up the index itself, but since that is usually not the case, it is best to store the information in some intermediate form. Three by five inch index cards will probably be the most versatile things that could be used; they're easily sorted and arranged, and are relatively inexpensive. They make for extremely easy information retrieval; in fact, about the only means of storing information more versatile for indexing is punched cards (and then only because they can be sorted and collated by machines at great speed--which is the main reason why the MIT automated wonder of an index is so inexpensive for its size, relatively few man hours were required for its completion).

Format is the next thing to consider in compiling an index. Arrangement is the key factor in information retrieval, and arrangement of information in an index is determined by the format--the way numbers, indentations, capital letters and spacing are used to make some types of information more prominent than others. The worth of an index is determined in large measure by the ease with which information can be found in it. The indexer must grade his information by importance, and then decide what means he will use to make it noticeable in order of importance. In a checklist of books by many authors, an entry might be similar to this:

Heinlein, Robert A.

PODKAYNE OF MARS, Putnam, 1963

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, Putnam, 1962

In that checklist, the author's name is the most important bit of information, that under which all the titles are grouped, so it is set apart from the books. If there were a section where the books were grouped by title, the author's name would be of secondary

\* See article "Bibliomania" in LGB #3



importance, and therefore, would be less noticeable. In the area of arrangement of material according to importance, an outline is very similar to an index. Whatever the information that is most important, it should always be arranged in some kind of order; and alphabetical order can't be beat as such a system.

When an index is completed, its lasting value will be discovered. If the bibliography receives widespread use, the value of it is obvious. If the compiler finds that no one else is interested in his index, he may wonder why the hell he went to the trouble.

If you're planning an index for widespread use, talk to people about it beforehand to determine the extent of general interest, and you may save yourself some work. If the index is for your own use, and your original plans regarding it didn't include anything about publication, get started on it right away and enjoy yourself--otherwise why bother?

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Cumulative Book Index, ed. by Nina R. Thompson; H. H. Wilson, 1928-1965.

(A complete listing of all books published throughout the world in the English language. Index by author and title.)

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature; H. H. Wilson, 1910-1965.

(Index to all stories and articles published in 100 well known periodicals. This and the book index are available at most public libraries)





ONE FINAL NOTE

I have a good deal of Bok index material that came in after I finished this issue, and I'd like to put out a special issue this summer to bring the Bok list up to date, so try to get your info for it in fairly soon.

The MIT Index is out, I just got my copy a couple of days ago. And Mark Owings swore at Disclave that his Fantasy Publisher's Index is done. He didn't have one with him though!

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