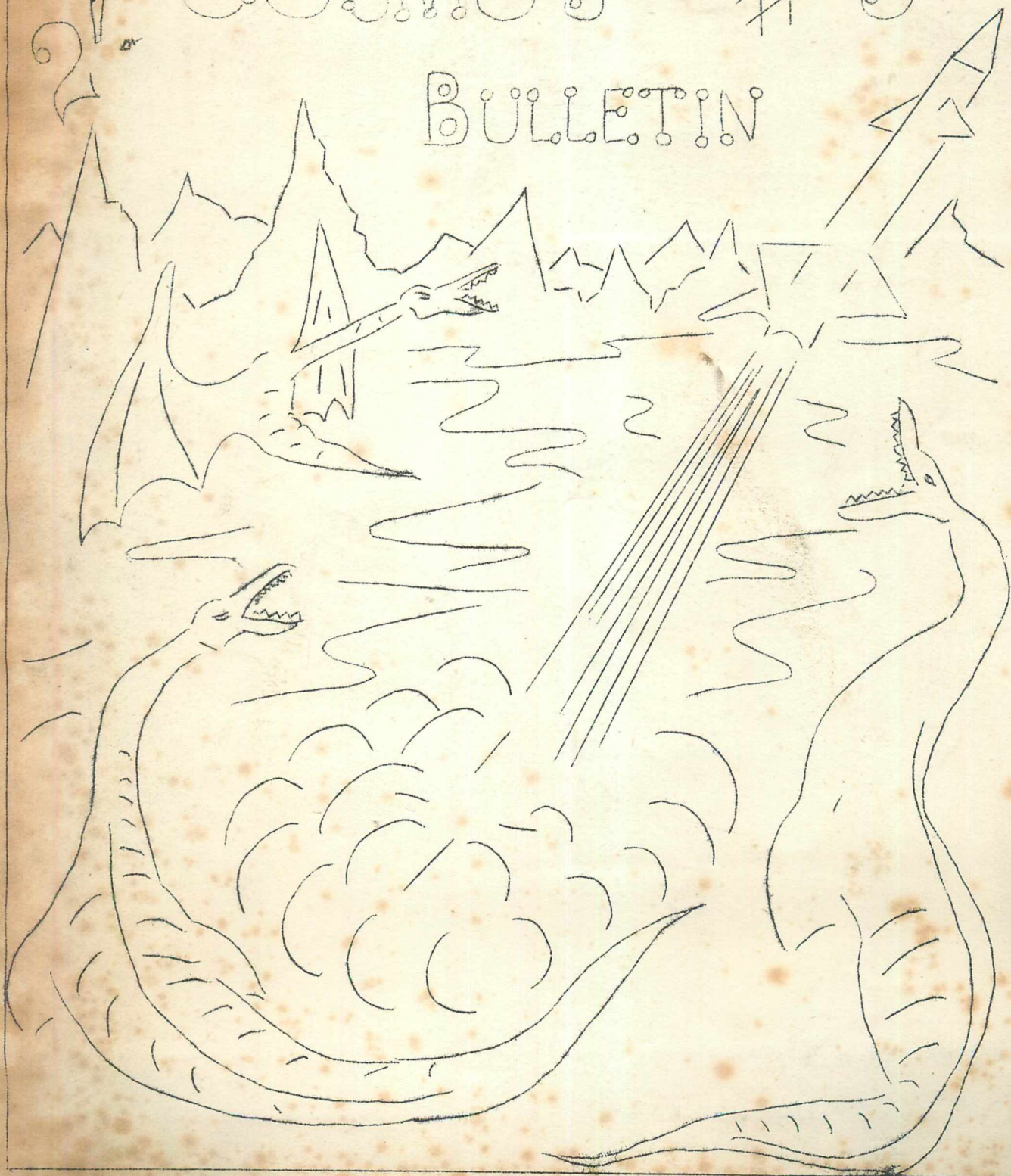


21  
COSMOS

#3

BULLETIN



C O S M O S   B U L L E T I N

EUROPEAN BRANCH ORGAN OF I.S.F.C.C.

EDITORIAL

So as not to confuse any member of I.S.F.C.C. who has not previously received a copy of Cosmos Bulletin the listed members of it's organisation are not members at all, but merely subscribers. As it takes cash to run a Fan Magazine we have mainly to depend on S.F. fans for its livelyhood.

This copy is issue 3 and I hope it meets with your approval. I do wish that I could receive more S.F. news from America, as it is, it is mainly British News or mainly news from British sources that goes into this magazine, come on American fans and change this.

If any member has a "Trade" or "Swap List", I'll publish it free of charge. Non members will be charged the price of one issue or subscription. Depending on their advertisement.

Since the birth of the trading branch, the British collectors are stocking. If you've anything in the magazine or book line that you want to trade, just drop me a line. Thru this magazine you can trade anything whether S.F. or otherwise, all you have to do is send me your lists.

Will blast off now and let others have a go.

End of report by publisher - Gavin Brown.

Mal Ashworth will be visiting Manchester shortly with his wife. To celebrate the event, and an excuse for a general get-together, Eric Bentcliffe has suggested to both the Liverpool Group and the Manchester Group that we all meet Mal and make a day of it at Belle Vue, 'The show place of the North'. All parties concerned agreed with the idea. It's a long time since Whit at Kettering when a number of fans last got together. So you can be assured the idea was enthusiastically received. Among other fans present will be Terry Jeeves.....Whose for the Elephant Ride?

This reporter has had the privilege of having his name sent to Dave Kyle, Chairman of the New York World Convention for this year as a member of the said convention.

To date the result of the distribution of the Minutes of the Meetings of The World Convention in London Committee to Outside members has been disappointing. Only two have sent in to the Central Committee to offer opinions, suggestions and ideas, for the World Convention of 1957. Ideas from others not of the Committee will not be neglected, as long as they are worth while ideas. Send your ideas to Gavin Brown, 47, Causeyside Street, Paisley, Scotland, and he will forward them on to me.

A fund is being raised to send Pete Reaney to the Siberian Convention. All contributions gratefully received, even bottles of beer.

Triode has at last arrived at your reporters doorstep. Being so thick the postman had to knock on the door at the unsightly hour of 7.00 a.m. waking me up from a pleasant dream of S.F. magazines galore. Congratulations to both Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves for a wonderful issue. Among its many contents is the complete unabridged edition of the play by the Liverpool fans that was such a success at the Kettering Convention; Last and First Fen. Plus illustrations by Arthur Thompson, Terry Jeeves, Ken McIntyre, Harry Turner, (Ye Old Fan), John Greengrass and Bill Rotsler, and articles and stories by Ted Carnell (Editor New Worlds), Terry, Eric, John Berry, Alan Bramhall, Jullian Parr and Arthur Thompson. Don't miss Triode. Write for a copy to Eric Bentcliffe, 47, Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, 4/- for four issues.

Another popular fanzine at hand play edited and published by Ron Bennett, 7, Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Containing further photographs from the Kettering Convention, and articles and stories by Archie Mercer, Dennis Tucker, Sid Birchby (Ye Very Old Fan) etc.etc. Illustrations by Arthur Thompson, Terry Jeeves, Juanita Coulson, Bill, Harry and Eddie Jones. The Convention report by Archie Mercer is something no fan should miss. 6 issues at 5/-.

Some strange things are happening around us, aren't there? Must be this atomic radiation that's flying about. Heard of the Homo-Superior of the future? Well we've got one with us now, one Dr. Rolf Alexander who claims he can make clouds disappear with thought waves. Apparently this isn't so crazy as it sounds for already he has made some controlled tests in Canada and Mexico. Planning his first mass demonstration in Blackpool during August, one more item for the Golden Mile? I tried it myself, but the clouds just didn't disappear, they grew larger, and I found myself caught in a thunder storm. Was my face wet.....Still we

have those visionaries who claim that man will eventually reach the planets: a piloted satellite vehicle would be seen for 1975, man's landing on the moon in 2,000, and on Mars in 2,020. I hope your wrong Mr. Cleaver. I want to appreciate such landings while I am young enough to appreciate them.....still life goes on. Did you know it was Flying Saucer Day last June, the 30th to be precise. Mrs. Cowdy of the Manchester Flying Saucer Research Society states that people all over the world had been asked to watch. June 30th has passed and nothing exciting has occurred. Mrs. Cowdy, perhaps there ain't such things as Flying Saucers. Yet one person claims the following; a Manchester man was standing in his garden when he saw "two very bright discs floating around". Unable to believe his eyes, he called his wife to come out. On seeing the "discs" she fainted. Sounds like a liver complaint to me. With all my doubts, I personally would like to see an F.S..... A fantastic speed of around 1,750 miles an hour has been reached on land by the testing sledge. Did you see On The Threshold Of Space? Remember that land sledge for testing mans action in an aircraft flying at 2,000 miles an hour? Well it was on such a craft that the above mentioned speed was reached. Seems at this speed we'll be reaching Heaven's Gate much quicker than we anticipate. Can you imagine your car going at that speed?.....Ghosties on my stairway! Tennants of Stockports' 300 years old Staircase Cafe in Market Street, Miss Enid Millward has begun to talk of "ghostly noises" in the rooms above the staircase. Must be Eric playing about up there.

Fans! We've had it! Beer is the new Cancer Suspect. Smokers relax, it has now been proven that there is definitely no evidence that smoking causes cancer. The suspect now is beer! Somehow I can't imagine a convention with the following comments being stated. "Here Jim, have a ginger pop". "The lemonade throws you". "I had sarsparellas last night and now I've got a right hangover". People who drink beer in and beer out daily, tend to run increased risk of cancer. McIntyre, watch out!

All For Now.

FROM MARK CURLOVIC

Pete Hartman and other radio hams and fans, may be interested to know that if a radio is tuned to very low frequencies, a whistling sound can be heard, usually following a loud atmospheric click. It's doubly interesting to learn that the clicks are caused by lightning somewhere within 600 miles, and that the whistling .....hold your breath, fans.....comes from 15,000 miles out!

Science-Fiction writers who wrote about a civilization living at the centre of the earth should have checked with Harvard University's Prof. Don Leet, seismologist. He is ready to prove that the centre is in a liquid, and that it is 790 miles in diameter. What is lighter flint, actually? None of the common metals, not an element either.

Address    Change

Richard F. Abbot,  
1800, Riverside,  
Monroe,  
Louisiana,  
U.S.A.

THE BURROUGHS BULLETIN; VERNEL CORIEL; BOX 652; PEKIN; ILL.

MAY 15, 1956

I've just returned from leaving the memorial issue of the Burroughs Bulletin at the photo offset publishers. The job is costing \$365 and that is the most reasonable figure I've received to date. I paid \$200.00 down and can pay \$65 more when I get my check. I still need \$100. So I've decided to ask 100 E.R.B. fans to become co-publishers for this issue, by sending me \$1.00 each. In return for their dollar they will receive 48 pages of E.R.B. articles, stores, photos, reviews and original "professional" art-work, plus a complete check-list of everything ever published containing E.R.B. material from 1st editions to comic strips, and a listing of films, radio, T.V. programmes as well as novelties. And each person will receive full credit as a co-publisher in the next B.B., plus a return of a dollar as soon as I can afford it. Does this seem fair to you? Will you help publish this issue of the B.B? But whether you do or not you can still receive this issue within three weeks simply by sending a card requesting it. The Burroughs Bulletin is still free to all fans, and is highly recommended by E.Fireston.

In the pocket-edition book, "Man Against Nature" in story by J.N.Leonard, Rocket Shoot At White Sands, there is a paragraph that must be quoted for fans who may not have read it; "....the screaming bellowing flame is a beautiful thing. When certain fuels are used it is so bright....it sears the eyes thru filters that shut out the sunlight. With other fuels the flame is a delicate transparent violet with a line of diamond-shaped plates that look like a gold leaf trembling in its centre. These burnished leaves are caused by shock waves zig zagging thru the flame. When the fuel is shut of, they chase one and another into the motor like rabbits running down a hole, flame of one experimental fuel, a boron hydride, is brilliant green, and it fades into billows of purplish smoke."

This is type reading I favour, and Leonard's write-up is the only one (in this book containing 22 stories) of interest to me - with the exception of another by Alsop and Lepp, giving brief outline of pioneer research in atomics and information about radiation from the explosion.

Attention; please give me first option on any material that fans may have by Jonathan Norton Leonard in reference to White Sands research business.....and wishes to trade it for some other items, connected with Science-Fiction.

#### STRONG RADIO SIGNALS FROM PLANET VENUS

June 2 (A.P.). The director of Ohio State University's radio Observatory has reported that several times during May the observatory received strong radio signals from the planet Venus. Dr.John D.Kraus said it was the first time the planet had been heard from. It is more than 27 million miles from earth. The signals were observed on each occasion for a period of several hours. They consisted of crackling sounds somewhat similar to radio static from thunderstorms on earth. The signals may indicate similar storms on Venus. The planet is often called earth's twin since it's nearly the same size and comes closer than any other planet. The observations were made with a radio telescope. Kraus said Venus is presently approaching the earth at a speed of 500,000 miles per day, and in the evening is the brightest object in the western sky. By June 22nd, Venus will reach its point of nearest approach, 27 million miles, and then start to recede. The newly discovered radio signals are being studied to learn more about atmospheric conditions

surrounding Venus. It is the second planet from which radio signals have been detected.....Carnegie.Institution, Washington,D.C., picked up radio noises from Jupiter last year.

14TH WORLD S.F. CONVENTION, P.O. BOX 272; RADIO CITY STATION,  
NEW YORK 19, - NEW YORK STATE.

DELAYED ACTION REPORT

I.S.F.C.C.'ER Jan Jansen has had an enforced spell of Gafia, due to a disagreement with his motor scooter. It seems they each decided to go their own way, with disastrous results to Jan's collar bone, and also to his fanac. No doubt Jan will extend the olive branch to his scooter when he is fully recovered, and fanac will return to the peaceful glades of Berchemlei.

Also recovering from a spell of enforced Gafiaitis, is Ellis Mills. His trouble did not arise from the argument with a scooter, but a kidney which had hitherto done yeomen service at conventions, packed up on Ellis, and sent him into dock. I always told Ellis, to feed it such raw stuff as orange juice, grapefruit and tomato juice was overtaking his poor little kidney. Imagine an inoffensive kidney having to cope with a mess like that, especially when good honest beer is so much cheaper. Anyway, according to the last tape I had from Ellis, he was on his back in base hospital, with his kidney being used as a routine station for water. He had to record his intake and output on two separate charts. Half-way thru the tape, the medic came in to jab Ellis with some special goo, but Ellis very unkindly neglected to record that part of the operation on the tape. Next thing was a postcard from Ellis to say that he was off on convalescent leave to the U&S. Apparently he was planning a restful holiday at the Biltmore over Convention week-end, as he asked me to write him there. Pity that poor unsuspecting kidney.

Another item just came thru from the Loncon Committee, is a telegram from Stateside to the effect that London won the vote for the World Convention in '57. Pack your grips boys, and oil your zap guns. The Americans are coming over again.

And that is all from the president of vice. Until further notice, keep tuned to this station for further misinformation.

End of Report by Terry Jeeves

Jan Jansen has received definite information that Dick Ellington and Richard Eney have been put forward as Transatlantic Fan Fund candidates for a trip to London in September 1957.

Another Address

Loubel Wood,  
119 SE 2nd St,  
Dania,  
Florida,  
U.S.A.

IS THE FAN ARTIST ANY GOOD?BY GREG BENFORD

The other day when I had nothing to do and was pageing thru some old mouldy fanzines, a thought kept running thru my small little mind. I'd noticed that some of the illustrations were rather crude.

It seems to me that the quality of fan art has gone down somewhat lately - in other words, some of it stinks. I believe that some fan artists can draw about as well as seven year-olds, and yet are published in fan magazines. I know a lot of people who can draw better than a certain artist I dislike (because of his work). The trouble is, these people aren't interested in S.T.F. or fandom.

Let's face it, some things can be drawn by anyone who can hold a pencil. For instance, a space ship rocketing thru space. All it takes is a few lines to make the ship, some fuzzy marks to depict space, with maybe a line drawn around the bottom of a beer bottle to turn out a planet. It's ridiculously simple. Many monsters in fan magazines are just things somebody has jotted down in a few seconds, and they have no special touches in them that make drawings a lot better. Little things mean a lot.

Shading is a thing that's always bothered me. Some artists bother with such things; others don't even think of it. Yet shading can made a picture look as if it had depth, instead of having a line hanging in space for no apparent reason. I know its hard to duplicate some sorts of shading, but usually it can be done. And the readers will appreciate it. Details can make or break a picture; they only take a little time, but they're very rewarding. Also the matter of filling in illustrations; they look a lot better if a line doesn't make the shape of a thing, but a mass of lines does. That makes a lot of difference.

And now on to covers. Undoubtedly a lot of fans like abstract (no pun intended) covers, but I don't. At the moment I can only think of one of the 'zines that has weird covers, Nite Cry, but there are others. To me this sort of cover is a waste of space, time, paper and ink. But that's only my opinion. Remember when you draw a cover for a fanzine that it will take one page. It's not like doing a small interior illustration, where if its bad it's not so much space lost. You have put enough good work into the cover to make it rate that page. To me a bad cover is just a wasted page, and most fanzines don't put anything on the page on the back of the cover. So that's two pages wasted because of a bad cover.

Then there are the good artists. Psychotic, I think has the best artists in the fan world. What with Plato Jones, R.R.Phillip, Jim Bradley and the ever lovin' Bob Kellogg, PSY has made itself the 'zine with the best art anywhere. Of course, this excludes all the art fan magazines. That boy Kellogg can really cut a wild pen. I believe Bradley steered him into fandom, and I'm fully in favour of giving him a medal for it.

Then there are the amateurs. It would be useless to present them here, as opinion differs from person to person. These people are the ones who really try their best to please the reader. Some make the grade, others fall by the wayside.

The number of fanzines has greatly increased in the last few years. And, I'm afraid, the number of good fan artists hasn't. There would probably be a lot more good illustrations if there weren't as many fan magazines. An artist has to turn

out a lot of material in a short time if he is to keep up with the demand, and usually his quality goes down. When this decreases, the general quality of fanart lowers.....and when, say, a third of the fanartists are short of time, it effects fandon alot.

If fanzines will not feature to much art, there will naturally follow higher quality and lower quantity. This plan could possibly work if we played our cards right, and I for one am willing to try. How about you?

.....Greg Benford.

DEATH OF A ZINE

Although Eva Firestone will continue stencil cutting for the OO of the I.S.F.C.C. and N3F she has given up her own club magazine Hi!

Although she had been complaining that the lack of publishing material and financial support for her magazine were low, the main reason for the folding is duplicator trouble rather than lack of support.

ANOTHER ZINE FOR I.S.F.C.C. BY MIKE LYONS

Pete Hartman and I have got publishing fever. Is there, or has there ever been a fanzine called Chaos or Arial? We hearby beg, scream, plead, also politely ask for material from anybody. Art work, articles, fiction, letters, anything. Maybe this is quite a bold venture for two so-bold neofen, but I'll try anything once.

A second reprint of (Avon pocket book edition) Out of the Silent Planet by C.S.Lewis, is on the American stands. Do not miss this story if you've never read it..... Truely an absolutely fascinating S.T.F. yarn - a classic. I am now reading it for the fourth time and still enjoy it. It is a blend of S.T.F. and fantasy. Worth a lot more than the 35¢ cover charge on it.

Janie Lamb is now in charge of a fan file card index for N.F.F.F. This file contains interesting information about many S.T.F. fen. I think it might be a fine prospect for I.S.F.C.C. to have one for its members. If the idea appeals - how about sending comments to Roy C.Higgs for Explorer and remember the deadline 20th November - Please make a big effort to mail all material early enough so that it reaches him by the 20th of November. Especially in this time of year.

.....  
14th World S.F. Convention  
P.O.Box 272,  
Radio City Station,  
New York 19, New York.  
.....

Welcome to I.S.F.C.C. to new members Annie and Jean Linard. Come on you letter hacks get your pens out and drop them a line, they will correspond with anyone who cares to write to them. Here is their address.

Annie & Jean Linard,  
24, Rue Petit,  
Versoul Haute - Saone,  
France.



(AMERICAN STUFF)

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Someone once said that a change of address by a firm is almost equivalent to having a fire (presumably without holding any insurance), and while it has been quite that bad, it has meant that at first we fell well behind with our orders; then in the middle of moving, holidays - that had been arranged early in the year - had to be taken.

The net result is that it is only now that we are beginning to get back to routine work, although Clients generally will already have noticed that they are now getting the better service we promised in our previous catalogue.

Incidentally Clients should note that under our new arrangements, stock can only be inspected by appointment made either by mail or by telephone.

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