

DEGLER! 165 || FANSPEEK 1

JANUARY 20 1967 British Agent: Ethel Lindsay

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ROBERTS & VINTNER, LTD., CEASE PUBLICATION OF NEW WORLDS AND SF IMPULSE

Roberts and Vintner, Ltd., publishers of New Worlds and SF Impulse (formerly Science Fantasy) have folded both publications due to bankruptcy. Under the Roberts & Vintner banner the two publications had climbed from 7,000 to more than 14,000 circulation. However, the distributor, Thorp & Porter, over-extended their stock and were forced into bankruptcy. Roberts & Vintner, who owned 50 % of the distributor, were forced to cover their debts and were themselves forced into bankruptcy in the attempt to do so.

However, Brian Aldiss, Kingsley Amis, Robert Conquest and a number of other s-f professionals presented the plight to an Arts Council, and the council has decided to give New Worlds a grant to continue publishing. It is unknown at the moment how this will influence the editorial policy of NW. Since Ted Carnell left the magazine in 1964 the NW story policy has gone in several different directions, as the various editors attempted to impress their own personalities and philosophies on the magazine. New Worlds #169, the latest issue on sale in New York, features Michael Moorcock as editor with Thomas M. Disch, David Masson, and J.G. Ballard, among others on the contents page. SF Impulse will cease publication with the 12th issue.

R.C.W. Etinger Dept.: The New York Times for January 20th carried an item stating that 73-year-old Dr. James Bedford was frozen in liquid oxygen shortly after his death due to cancer. The frozen body of the Professor in psychology at Glendale, California, City College, will be shipped to Phoenix Arizona, where it will be stored until a cure for cancer is discovered. The body is now resting in a \$4,000 capsule at 220 degrees below zero centigrade.

"I've met her in the flesh" -- Arnie Katz

Our Northern West Coast Spy Reports: John and Bjo Trimble moved to Oakland, California on January 13th, and have settled in a house in suburban Oakland. Their new address is 243 Santa Rosa Ave., Oakland, California, 94610.

Matched: Calvin W. "Biff" Demmoj, formerly of New York fandom and now living in Los Angeles, will marry Wilma Adele Alexander on February 4th in San Francisco. The couple will be living in San Francisco

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Anthony Boucher Dept. Part 3: Anthony Boucher writes that KPFA is in Berkeley, not Los Angeles. He further writes that Golden Voices and Escape! are heard in Berkeley (KPFA), Los Angeles (KPFK), and New York (WBAI). However, I'm a subscriber to BAI, and try as I might, I can't find Escape listed in the Portfolio. Mr. Boucher appears frequently on Critics' Circle (KQED-TV, San Francisco, Thursday 10 pm) reviewing opera and also records and books, for the record.

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Black blotches on page one with the compliments of Donald Wollheim...
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The Pickering Affair -- continued: "12 Jan 67. Pickering writes he is mailing back
3 pkgs of further pilfered material. First to
arrive contained 25 items valued at approx'ly \$100. =4e"

Reply to Degler! 164 -- By Stephen E Pickering: Every individual, either in personal
or in public life, makes mistakes,
whatever his age, whatever his profession. Unfortunatley, I have fallen to a tempta-
tion which, as likely as not, comes across the mind of every individual who enters
the residence of Forrest Ackerman: "He won't miss it; there surely must be inexpen-
sive duplicates elsewhere." However, while I concede the fact that I have made a
very stupid, abominable mistake, that my actions were completely uncalled for, etc.,
I do have a specific comment to address to those who may wish to jump the gun, and
blast me when they know nothing of my personal political/civil rights activities.

One, Mr. Ackerman has now received all of the material which I removed from his res-
idence; these comprised, as I understand it, two and one-half suitcases. Mr. Daugher-
ty to the contrary, the other one and one-half were filled with a wardrobe, miscell-
aneous materials (sociology books, science fiction books, and the like, which I had
hoped to read during my stay in Los Angeles); the suitcases were not large, in fact
one is rather small. "Two light suitcases" is an error, as is "three heavy" suitcases.

Two, I have never used the name "FJA #1" in print, and neither have I used this des-
ignation in public; its last use, never seriously intended, was almost two yearsago.
Also, I personally resent the fact that the assumption is held that all who disagree
with me are "anti-intellectuals," and the like; Mr. Porter uses the term "new-left-
ists" rather strangely, as I am a member of the New Left. Unfortunately, I do not
have the space here to delineate a sufficient rebuttal to those who know nothing
about my political activities.

This is all I have to say about the matter. I made a mistake. And, considering that
various factions dislike my criticisms, it will come as no surprise if this is ig-
nored. But, I suggest, before anyone makes any comments in print, that they, first,
think about possible legal actions, and two, if they know of my own activities out-
side of fandom, to reconsider any such statements. They may be surprised that, like
anyone else, I, too, make mistakes.

Editor's Note: Two sentences were deleted from this letter. These, in the first para-
graph, do not appreciably alter Pickering's wording. If Mr. Pickering wishes to dis-
pute the judgements expressed in the article about him, he should take them to the
writer, Forrest Ackerman. Mr. Pickering will further discover where he called people
"anti-intellectaals" and "new-leftists" when I have his letters photo-offset and
published. I'm sure Mr. Pickering wouldn't object to having a few friendly letters
published, would he...? And I'm also wondering what the "various factions" that Mr.
Pickering mentions are composed of. Perhaps he is referring to "fannish fans" who
have become professional writers/editors of s-f, whom Mr. Pickering seems to hold in
rather low regard (see the lettercolumn of the last issue of Nyarlahotep...). But
this is conjecture; I invite Mr. Pickering to give us some examples.

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Obit: Delos W. Lovelace, writer for Weird Tales in the '30's, died recently. He also
wrote for other pulps in that era, and was responsible for the original tie-in
novelization of King Kong.

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Steve Stiles for TAFF !!!
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