

DEGLER! 234

DEGLER!, the experimental fanzine, is published by Andrew Porter, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn NY 11201 USA. Degler! is available for comment, fillos, or 8 issues for \$1. In England, 5 for 8s0d from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; in Australia 5 for \$1 from John Bangsund, POBox 19, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156. Doompublishation #325, published January 10th, 1969. Shaw for TAFF!!

This noble experiment will be published occasionally, as the urge arises. And so, a New Wave fanzine rises from the ashes of a staid newszine to capture fannish enthusiasms, even as that bastion of fannishness, Psychotic, sheds its skin to emerge as a new serious discussion amateur magazine and somewhere in the process lets a few fannish enthusiasms die. Ah, well -- the more things change, as Uncle Hugo said... Anyway, this bold experiment in fanzine layout and content -- Letraset headings, Commercial advertising, halftones -- will continue when response

Harry Warner, Jr. Writes!

The sudden resurrection of DEGLER! is a double delight. I'm happy for the Ding An Sich, as one of my boyhood friends used to say, and it's also pleasant to find one of my worst fears realized. This terror consists of slow realization that every fanzine ever published is in the process of being revived. It is a process that began unobtrusively with SHAGGY, CRY, PSYCHOTIC, and a few other scattered publications that had been dead for years. But now it is becoming obvious that these were mere test runs. You resume your newsweekly only a few months after it ended, at one extreme, and a certain fan has just written me a long letter describing in detail how I'm going to revive SPACEWAYS, whose last issue appeared more than a century ago, at the other pole.

Fandens all over the nation will begin collapsing under the weight of the loads deposited daily by mailmen, and hardly anyone will notice the damage because the fans themselves will have split completely off from reality, unable to get used to reading an issue of COSMIC CIRCLE COMMENTATOR before breakfast and a copy of SLANT immediately after the orange juice.

I think I've discovered who is responsible for this state of affairs, and I intend to expose him publicly the first time a worldcon is held in Hagerstown.

justifies another issue. It may be two months in the making (with a cast of just one, though), or only a few days away. But for some reason a weekly schedule turns me off. I wonder why. By the way, Rich Brown, publisher of Califan and other Golden Age fanzines, is now reprint editor for D!; expect to see reprints from PRA, FMZ, and other zines here Real Soon Now.

By the way, spies inform us that former fan Lyle Kessler has written a play, which will appear on Broadway in February. Read your local locus for all the earthy details.



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Algernon Blackwood is the only really impressive name in this mixed bag of seven stories, and he contributes a witty Dr. Silence Story, "A Victim of Higher Space," in which a patient is sent levitating through space whenever he hears Wagnerian music. In "The Voice of the Night" by William Hope Hodgson a becalmed schooner in the Pacific encounters a ghostly ancient mariner type; "The Kelpie" by Manly Wade Wellman has fun with some Scottish water plants that start acting funny in a home aquarium. Good to mediocre, but with variety.

JANUARY 27

New SF:

JANUARY 20

LORD OF LIGHT. Roger Zelazny. Avon Books, \$.95

This year's Hugo Award novel, it is a science-fantasy set in the future, and weaves Indian religion and philosophy (very hip subject among the young, at present) into a plot about a master-group that controls technology and has given itself godlike powers that include immortality. These super-beings rule in the names of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon; one of them, the reincarnation of Siddhartha the Buddha, opposes the gods of destruction, of lust and of death. Avon is hoping for another "Stranger in a Strange Land."

AVON FANTASY READER #1. Edited by Donald A. Wolheim & George Ernberger. Avon Books Original, \$.60

DOUBLE, DOUBLE. John Brunner. Ballantine Books Original, \$.75

A little seaside town in Kent is shaken from its placidity when a weird monster emerges from the sea. The thing is squid-like at first, but the locals soon learn that it can change shape and assume the form of its victims. The police are mystified and sent running in circles as the monster devours a dotty old lady, a hospital attendant, a marine biologist and, finally, a dog. When the beast is cornered at last, it is a fishlike dog with human hands and feet and almost-human intelligence. The action is continuous and frantic, but the author has diluted the suspense somewhat by having too many characters running in too many directions and repetitively explaining what just happened.

BROTHER ASSASSIN. Fred Saberhagen. Ballantine Books Original, \$.75

The 40 million inhabitants of Sirgol are burrowed deep into their planet's crust, fighting a desperate battle against the "berserkers," incredibly efficient robots

that have been programmed to destroy all human life. Sirgol's intricate technology includes time machines, and an officer in Time Operations goes scooting back and forth in time in order to rout the berserkers. It is mainly through Derron Odegard's forays back into a Viking era, and later into a medieval one, that the berserkers are finally destroyed. The complicated plot provides plenty of action, and the book should make two camps of sci-fic fans happy: those who appreciate *le dernier cri* in electronics and those who prefer the primitive worlds of strange beasts and dank castles.

FEBRUARY 7

THE PHOENIX AND THE MIRROR. Avram Davidson. Doubleday, \$4.95

Part allegory, part fantasy, this richly told tale takes for its central theme the fact that during the Middle Ages a group of strange legends sprang up, with the Latin poet Vergil as the hero, ascribing sorcerer's powers to him. In the present story, Vergil, in search of materials he needs to make a magic mirror, travels to Tyre and the Ionian Sea. On the journey he meets a Phoenician who turns out to be a Phoenix, the legendary creature which reincarnates itself every 300 years. This is both an erudite and splendidly written novel, full of adventure and mythological lore. It is projected as part of a series to be known as Vergil Magus and it should interest many people who have a taste for ancient myths but never ordinarily read science fiction.

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