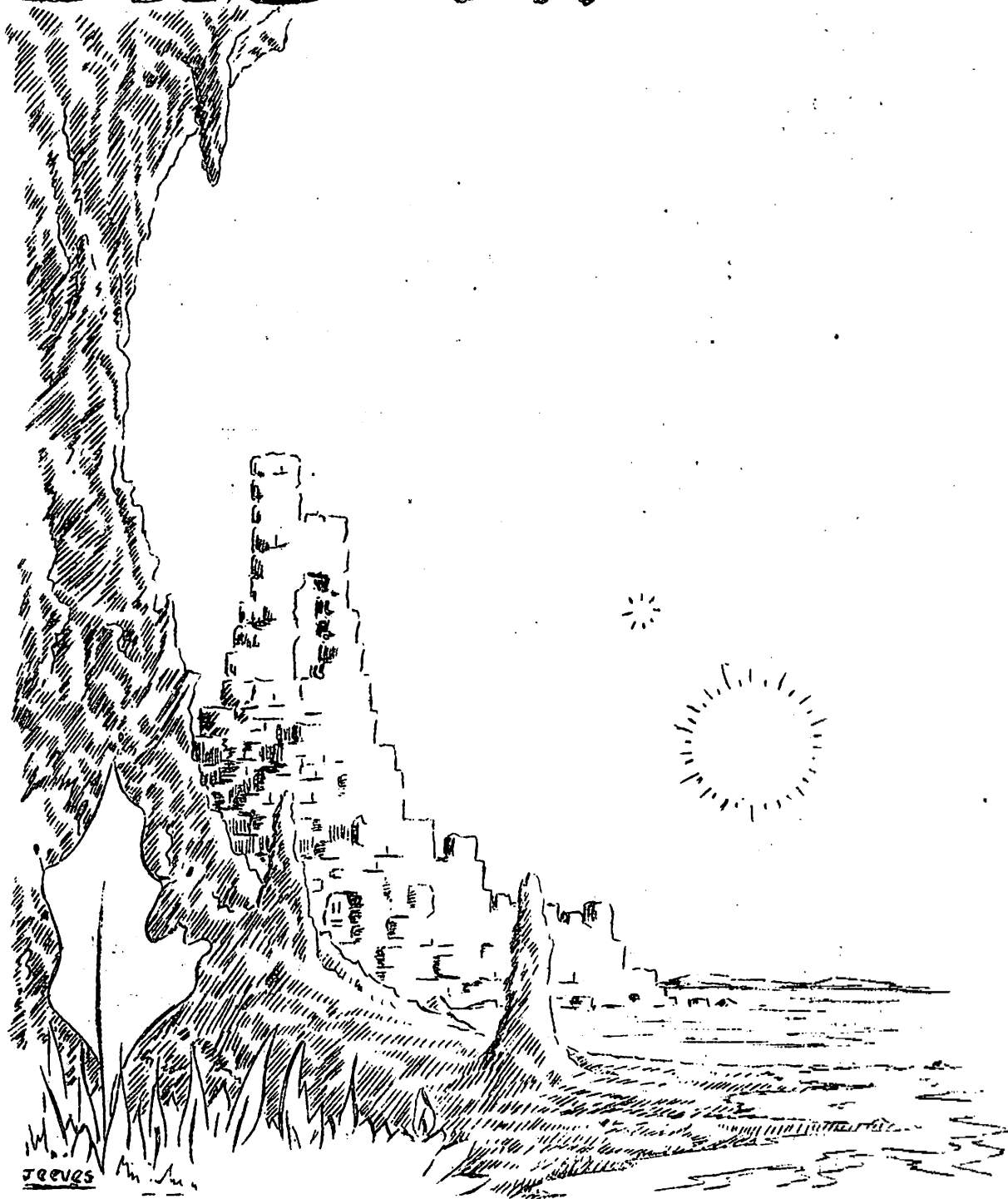


ERC 14.



Erg. 14.

January 1963

Statement required by Act
of Congress 1547.

ERG is published by Terry
Jeeves from 30 Thompson
Road, Sheffield.11.

ERG is primarily published for OMPA..the Off Trail Magazine Publisher's Association. It is also mailed out to those kind people who have contributed in some way, or shown interest by a letter of comment. Erg is priceless, so if you would like further issues, let's hear from you. Pressure of work, asthma and GAFIA have tended to slenderise this issue, thus reducing your area of comment...but even a pc. is welcome.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A copy of the second (Peterborough 63) Con leaflet to loan, or quote to me ??? The third leaflet informs me that entries for the Cartoon contest must be in by February 28th. I can't find my own copy of No.2, and this No.3 doesn't give any details of the contest. Ken hasn't answered my SOS to him, so if anyone else can clue me up, I'd be obliged.

Remember Wally Gillings ?? I've just had a letter to the Sheffield Tape Society (which folded three years ago) to tell me that the new editor of 'Amateur Tape Recording' is none other than Walter G. in person

Eric Jones tells me that the CSFC can no longer run the BSFA library as was at first hoped, owing to a sudden drain on the old stalwarts, many of whom have now moved away from the Spa. Current hope, is to avail ourselves of the joint Liverpool offer, with the magazines going to one address, and the hard covers to another.

Is Galaxy a science fiction magazine ?? the last few issues seem to have degenerated even lower than normal, and are fast approaching the gosh-wow fanzine standard, with their 'laugh at this screamingly funny story' technique..ugh. Analog itself while still the top zine is also sinking into a dusty rut, and as for Amazing and Fantastic...phagh! Nearer home, Sci-Fantasy continues to be desecrated by Mike Moorcock..sorry Mike, but that how I feel about it. New Worlds plods steadily along in its own little path. Not outstanding...but the most consistent of the lot. And with this downbeat note, may I wish you all, that 1963 will bring better things...and be preceded by..

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

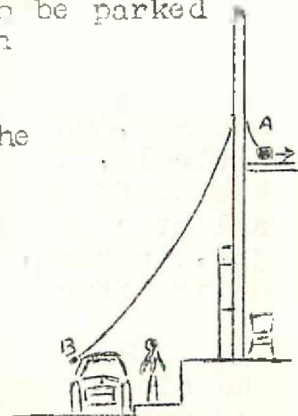
ERGONICS FOR AMATEURS

by

OR RAMBLING WITHOUT A RUCKSACK

The Editor

This will be a peripatetic column where I natter about anything appealing or appalling. The first thing to mind, is the overhead cableway installed by me on moving into 30 Thompson Road. Having no garage available, the car has to be parked on the road all night. This requires the use of a parking light, and to avoid running down the battery a 'system' was evolved. Truly fannish in its details, it requires a close inspection of the diagram. A is a 230v to 12v transformer located in the bedroom, and B is the parking light. By hoisting the cable to the top of the window, it clears the heads of pedestrians on the footpath. During twilight, I used a regulation light from the battery, and then after dark, ran out the cable and clipped the PL to the car and switched on in the bedroom. Early next morning, I used to nip out of bed, twitch the cable to unhook the parking light, and reel in the flex. Every now and then, the unhitching failed to come off, and I had to nip outside in my pajamas. Other snags, were passing policemen, and high winds which threatened to cause a premature disconnection. To get around this, I now use the Mark 2 system. Brian Jordan fixed me up with a Government surplus accumulator, so I fitted a charger in the kitchen, and on the acc., I screwed a parking light, socket, and two way switch. Now, all I have to do, I bring in the accumulator, throw the switch, and plug in. The acc charges during the day, and runs the parking light at night. The Mark.2. has the advantage of being legal..I can now sleep at nights without listening for the wail of a strangling rozzar.



Val and I recently visited the new home of the Benters in Cheshire Hulme...we found Cheshire Hulme in about an hour, but it took a further 1/2 of an hour to find the Benteliffe hide out. This was because Eric has written... "then turn left and then take the first right"...INSTEAD of.. "then turn right and take the first left". You may think this a small difference, but that shows you don't know Cheshire roads. Anyway, we finally made it, and admired the lovely house and grounds ... the latter still need digging, so Eric suggests that if you call, you'll be doubly welcome if you bring a spade. Things

4
around the place showed us that Eric was buckling down to the married life by making bookcases to house his collection of s-f. The Liverpool Group were due to arrive for a house-breaking around 8-30, but we had to leave before they arrived, as for some reason, they were late...no doubt Eric have them directions too. If you're thinking of visiting, I suggest you get Beryl to draw you a map.

Brian Ball has interested a publisher in an anthology of s-f for use in schools, and for the last four weeks, we've been hunting up suitable stories...easy? Not on your Nellie, our first list of eight, was pruned to four with a request that we include more British authors, as the copyright was easier to release (and cheaper)...and could we include a story by Bradbury? Obviously, the publisher wanted names, so after much soul searching, we had a short list of Wells, Wyndham, Russell and Christopher...finding short stories of under 4,000 words by these people is another fettle of kish entirely. We had to remove Russell, as not only is 90% of his stuff on the American market, but he also uses the Trans-Atlantic idiom. I always thought anthologising was money for jam...not so. I'm glad Brian is doing the work, and all I do is offer up a few ideas.

Having invested vast sums (4/6d) in a close-up lens for the cine camera, I proceeded to paint a Bonestell-type backdrop and arranged a blanket loosely on the table. Plonked down a pair of plastic rockets (from the Monogram 'Missile Arsenal'), added two spacemen (Kellogg's Cornflakes), and sidelit the arrangement with one Photoflood. Using Gevaert Ultra-32 bw film, I ranned slowly across the set-up a couple of times. On projection, the result far exceeded my expectations, and certainly has given me the idea of getting more ambitious next time. Before jumping in with both feet though, I want to repeat the shot in colour to see if this improves things, or mucks 'em up completely.

Sheffield recently experienced a Flying Saucer sighting, and one bloke filmed it with his cine camera...according to ACW, the film only showed a streak of light crossing the sky, but a couple of fourteen-year-olds on the other side of the city had better luck. Presumably using a box camera, they obtained the usual 'out of focus' dots, which look like blobs on the emulsion. Naturally, some 'expert' stated the film had not been tampered with. What the article never explained, was how the cine sighting was at night, whereas the still shot was taken in the daytime. As far as I know, there was only the one sighting flap. All this takes us back to the early days of TRIODE, when we published some flanged up saucer shots, and a 'serious' report of the sighting. One typical saucer addict never checked with us, but included the sighting in his book on UFO's, as another example of an authenticated sighting with evidence. There may be UFO's, but I still need convincing.

REVIEWS

in general

5

In addition to the reviews of the Ompazines it seems only fair to do the same for the many other general-zines which keep appearing. So as to keep things down to a manageable level, I'm going to try to review these as they arrived, and put the reviews on to this stencil left permanently in the spare machine...thuswise when next Erg appears there should be several stencils full of reviews to hand. This will mean that some reviews are dated, but at least it should mean fair shares for all.

THE ICONOCLASTIC QUARTERLY...36 mimeed pages from Alan J Lewis, c/o AMRA, Box 9006 Roselyn, Arlington 9, Virginia. Good duping and layout, with numerous (though not outstanding) illos. A well varied contents featuring a pointless bit of fan gossip by Dick Lupoff, a serious though rambling account by Bloch on what makes humans what they are, a distasteful piece on Gerber. A much better article by Gerber himself on record buying. Harry Warner has an erudite piece on music, and there is an excellent though overlong blast at John Brunners 'Super Barbarians'. A piece of idiotic 'poetry' closes off an interesting issue which must surely have something for everyfan

BIRTH AND IRONY 80+ well mimeed pages..Editor, Thomas B Haughey, 4211 - 71 Avenue, Landover Hills, Maryland. An excellent job from the production angle. Clearly duped and well laid out pages make up for a paucity of illos - some brightened by hand colouring. The editorial side is a trifle too portentous (I almost said 'pompous') but the variety of material soon makes amends. Jack Chalker has one of the best (20+ pages) bits of fan fiction in many morns. The two other pieces (one, a contradictory future fantasy and the other a morbid bit of muck) can't hold a candle to it. An article on witchcraft looks very competent..I didn't read it as I'm allergic to the theme. Articles on Cons, s-f, Lovecraft v Poe, a couple of ultra trashy poems and several interesting columns round out an issue well worth the 25¢ price tag for anyone who takes his s-f seriously.

MISTILY MEANDERING 1. and SALAMANDER 3 BOTH from Fred Patten of 5156 Chesley Ave., Los Angeles 43, California. MM is a slim but well duped SAPSine..Two excellent (film & book) reviews, a short natter, and reviews make up this item. SAL is the real pay dirt in the envelope. 50 beautifully duped..AND multi coloured pages. Good artwork and interesting layout. Highlights are..Patten reviewing Andre Norton's books. Lichtman with (too few pages) of Fmg reviews. and further gen on the controversial 'Coventry' theme currently occupying some fen. Briefly, 'Coventry' is a mythical world composed of heterogeneous items culled from fact & fiction, and populated in the same way. Bruce Pelz has a story set there. Not my idea of fun, but this is strictly a matter of taste. ..and there's an excellent king-size lettercol.

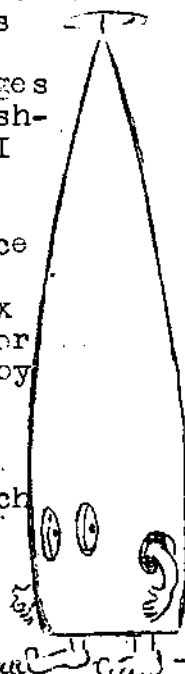
6. UCHUJIN.1. from the Science Fiction Club of Japan. 2/- an issue from British Agent, Ken Cheslin. 20 clearly duped pages, printed heading, but no illos. This issue contains a Con report, but a missing page in my issue made this rather esoteric. Next came a 'Conversation Piece', and several s-f stories by Japanese authors. Published here, owing to the lack of a Japanese prozine to accept them. Rather precious, but interesting. The issue is rounded out by a list of Western s-f which has appeared in Japanese. For the serious minded fan.

THE BUG EYE.11. Hel Klemm, 16 Uhland St., 413 Rheincamp-Utford Krs. Moers, West Germany. 40 pages, and a great improvement production wise on earlier issues. Theo Grade explains how Germany (and elsewhere) could go totalitarian again..not very convincingly I'm afraid. Several letters tackle this controversial theme. Deckinger on elevators, a natter on German fmz complete the 'meat', the other 20 pages form the lettercol..and a good one it is.

DOUBLE BILL.1. Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave, Akron.13., Ohio. 30+ pages, well duped, but indifferently illoed contain a variety of material suited to just about every taste. A double (BILLS) editorship gives us an ultra short lettercol (firstish remember) Fmz reviews, Deckinger fiction, a classic book review, 'Rebirth' this time. Poetry (ughish) and article on ham radio and centaurs vie with a Con song and other goodies. 20¢ bi-monthly, and well worth it.

G² (or G-8 and his Battle Aces...the actual title is a trifle obscure) from Joe Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Ave., El Sobrante Calif. USA. This has some nostalgic air-war illos, which will take the old timer back to the thirties and his copies of G-8, Flying Aces, etc., Ten pages of pseudo movie script of a faaan-gosh-wow-boy nature, and further pages of general natter. The basic idea is good, but the gosh-wow approach reduces it to just another zine ..pity, I liked those illos.

AD NAUSEAM (Here again, the title is obscure, and since the whole thing is in French, I hope I got it right...there is no colonon, or mag title) Max Jakubowski, 90 Matlock Rd., Leyton E.10 London. One or two (mangled) illos from Erg (by permission) A story by J-M Panas, a coy (fan-ed) piece, an arty piece about a blue bird on the window ledge, and the memories it evokes. More fiction, a dialogue between Maxim and Jacques Ferron. There is more, but my stumbling French has probably done enough injustice to the material mentioned so far. There is a GOOD atom illo 'borrowed from Vector ?', but the rest of the artwork suffers from stencil desecration I'm afraid



OMPAVIEWS

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OMPAVIEWS

Most interesting cover.....Sally-Port.3.

Best Cover.....Morph.

Runners-up (and very close)

Viper, Prose of Kilimanjaro, Hungry

Best Production-wise item in the mailing was Viper No.6. So Ompaviews will kick off with that. Decisions were hard this time, as the whole mailing was of a very high standard...probably because my bundle did NOT have a copy of ERG in it...anyone else miss out?

VIPER.6. Outstanding item is part five of the Astounding saga. DOES anyone have the first part of this (VIPER No.2) to sell trade or somep'n? About Gosseyn and the Games Machine...if memory serves, we never did find out what the games were..loads of hints, but never any details. The Heinlein article was also of a high standard, but I have still to see any fan comment on a point raised in 'Beyond This Horizon'..the almost 'fait accompli' acceptance of the reincarnation theme. By the way, what is/are/ filkniks? and what is 'filking'?

Bill Donaho is a good man, and Alva Rogers is another. Hooray 4 em.

MORPH I liked that brush stencil cover..so did Val, and her vote put it in front. That 456 Kc oscillator would work...but it would only give a whistle..my fiendish spark gap would cause BEDLAM.

Funny you should mention Hayakawa's 'Language and Thought', Less than two hours ago, I failed to find it in the library files..I did find Stuart Chase's 'Tyranny of Words', but someone had it out. They didn't even have a card for the more recent 'Power of Words'. I'll have to try the city library next. Where can I get me a Lo-Fi outfit? As to India, I'm afraid that I am one of the blokes who wasted a large amount of time there..I did get off the beaten track into the villages but made no great attempt to meet 'Mother India' in the raw.

PHENOTYPE I think you're probably right in saying that a zine without illos is better than one with poor illos. The latter set up a sort of mental distaste. In Phen, you make amends for this by using plenty of clear spaces...a good thing..I forgot to do it on this page, and look how cramped it is. 'Can't say about Laney's "Ah Sweet Idiocy", as I'm not familiar with it..sorry.

PROSE OF KILIMANJARO You know, I fear that your title, while making a good spur of the moment pun, is too unwieldy for a regular title. Please don't limit reprint to FWD, tackle Harry Turner and get him to loan you some of the real old-time stuff. Machiavarley was superb! This deserves a wider audience. Fred Brown has the wrong opening comment for collection viewers. Visitors to the Crumbling Mansion NEVER Say.."Poor dear" or suchlike to Val. Their gambit (to me) is always the idiotic.."And have you read all these books?"

HUNGRY A beautifully produced piece of work in all directions. What is an 'intellectual draughtsman'? (Page 6 line 6) Page 8, you mention donating Brian's article to his credit..I thought this had been clobbered as a practice? My Russell comment meant that a person (e.g. Russell) can have a great mental capacity, but not necessarily use it..this is the equivalent of being mindless.. I really made that crack to stir up comment...seems it worked.

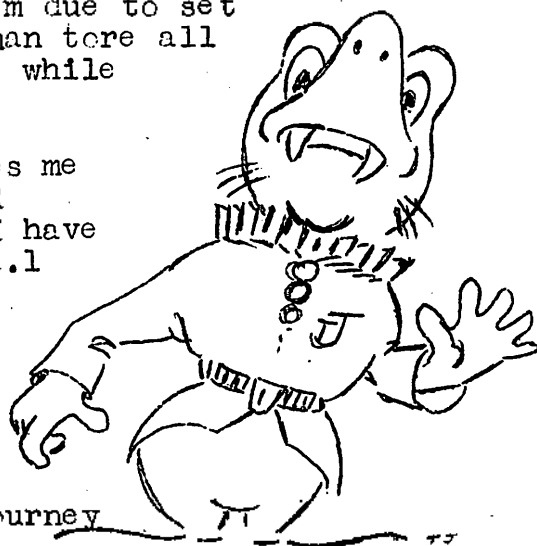
8. HUNGRY A well drawn cover and interior art work, all of it well stencilled and with good layout..Roses to Cawthorne. Liked your account of 'digs' and their proprietors..Croggling some of the more unpleasant types could be great fun if one had the time and money. I agree with Brian Jordan, that our University system AND our school system could do with some dusting..exactly what would replace them I don't know, but they don't produce optimum results in education, I know there is more to education than 'book learning' but it seems a waste of time and money to erect huge faculties and then either leave most of the work to the individual (while still paying huge fees to professors etc.,) or to devote too much time to making him 'cultured'..which he'll do himself or not at all without too much recourse to any 'system'. Chamberlain and CND? without trying to establish too close a parallel, I feel that both typify the Gestrach approach...ignore it and it will go away..or "You won't hit weak little unarmed me, would you?" Anyway, I liked Hungry.

QUARTERING I wish you had numbered the pages..I had to do it for myself to facilitate comments. Nice duping and layout..how about some illos though?. The fan fiction (McCombs) was another well done piece..such f-fiction is on the up grade these days. Note you take the same view as myself I.Q. 100 is the normal average, and not 80..90 or what-have-you. About the half of Britain being below average in intelligence..I've all ready made this crack in Erg with many arguments as a result..actually it is more accurate to say almost half. Presumable a large proportion will be dead on the half way mark, thus leaving slightly less than 50% above and below. I once argued this with a rabid trade union Commie. He insisted that only about 20% were below average in intelligence.

TO HEL This was one of the most interesting items in the mailing Brian, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and sincerely hope that you'll repeat the dose after future travels. I'm afraid that you are more venturesome than I..I'd never boot off on such a long journey just to post a fmz on the day I'm due to set off home..Incidentally, our ruddy post man tore all 4 corners of that lovely stamp from Hel, while trying to pinch it.

ALCES I enjoyed that cover, and it gives me thoughts for my class of backward children (Give 'em a drink) Like you, I have 3 children ..Keith.14 Pauline.11 Sandra.1 I bought a play pen, and now they can't get at me when I sit in it.

DOLPHIN That idea for a \$100 travel ticket for TAFF reps sounds a good one...that would be £28. The fare for the N-South length of England is less than half that for the return journey so quite a few side trips could be made.



SALLYPORT Do you have a tame slave market to produce such fascinating covers, or what? It keeps giving me naughty ideas..such as getting one of my art classes to paint the covers of Erg for me...since I have about 150 children pass through my hand for this subject each week, I could get quite a production line. How come RIP signed his name backwards on the Viking illo? furthermore, where do you get all your energy?

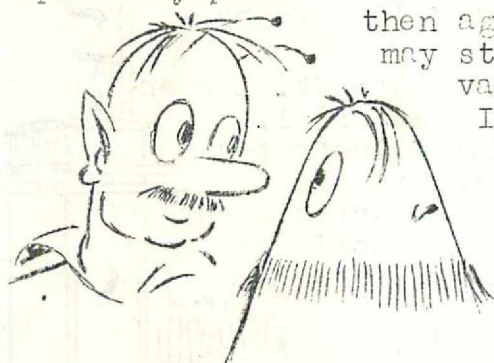
ENVOY WHERE do you find your energy Ken? All this and the BSFA too, not to mention Ompeediting. Cor, you coggle me. I'm afraid that I didn't dig this issue though, in spite of the work it entailed.

CHICKEN WAGON I enjoyed your tussle with Mensa, and further on when you mentioned that anyone with a tested IQ of under 70 cannot be held legally responsible for his action..in Calif., I had visions of taking the test, getting 69, and then shooting the examiner. On the other hand, I presume that less than 70 leads you straight to the booby hatch..one way. Does it?

SCOTTISHE..WELCOME HOME, Ethel, I hope you had a good trip..and thanks also for the card. Production of S, as impeccable as ever. I agree with you about Malash..we need him back, and I for one would gladly have duped his stuff to help out..let's hope he soon rejoins. Machiavarley must be on a see saw these days, he is alternately brilliant, and then just ordinary (but never dull)..maybe it's because I prefer him being funny.

UL..That 21st Infinity turned out to be a spare copy of number 1. However Max Jakubowski has bought both those and the Nebula, so all is well. Yep, my spark gap idea is illegal, but can you imagine a detector van tracking down anything like that which would be limited in range..and turned off if a van appeared.

No doubt this illo will have lost its point by publication date, but



"Do you think Britain will join the Common Market?"

then again it may still be valid, so I'll keep it in

AMBLE. Once again, I enjoyed your Army ramblings. What follows your demob though? That business of the tapes reminds me of when I got mine...in India, and as a result I never got around to putting them on my 'Blues'..until I went on leave to a hill camp at Naini Tal. The cold nights meant UK uniform blues, and I hunted up a tailor..he only had 3 tapes, and wanted to put 2 on one sleeve, and one on the other. I ended up with one sleeve adorned and had to aim that side at any officers.

MAINIAC.2. I nearly gave you a Con report on the 1963 Con, so that your Ompachronopoffer would be almost in schedule by the time this appeared..trouble was, I couldn't find anyone who had been to the 1963 Convention.....tough!

BIXEL No.1. Nice cover and good duping. I didn't like my own illos, but then I seldom do when I see 'em in a zine...I must be a selfotrope...or summat. Anyway, welcome to Ompa, and may you produce many things as fascinating as the asf series in Viper...one of the best things ever to grace Ompa's pages. Cartmill rings the bell in sayin' (in effect) that s-f is becoming introverted..."Who is Man? What is he?" may spark a good story...but not indefinitely...viz the latest asf serials on Africa.

ENVOY. 9 Some of the file fanatics will clobber you for the foolscan in this one Dick...of course, they could re-type it quarto size. I'm afraid I don't go much on straight fan type fiction, and in this case, I was put off by the lack of any spacing. Sorry, Dick, but I just couldn't get into this. I am curious though to know if your envious appreciation of things Germanic is primarily for the people, the Nazi regime, or just their generally accepted love of regimentalism. I've often noted your predilection for warfare and the storm-troopers uniform, can you give us the lowdown?

HE-X 3 (I thought this was titled He.10 and was all about males, for a while) I too, enjoyed the first Telstar programmes, and managed to get photographs from the screen of President Kennedy, and a baseball game. I wondered later, what sort of stink would have arisen, had Telstar's photocells been mucked up by the atomic explosion of any other country than the USA...all we need now is for West Ford's non operative needles to get released and perforate the next astronaut. Looks like the left hand not being too sure of what the right is doing.

OVER AND ABOVE THE OMPA MAILING....THE OTHERS

L.F.1. is a short and frantic zine from Don

Studebaker. 'Ludicrous Portraits' is a fairy story about Princess Cherrycheeks (age 40)

FOCUS+1+ Pat Kearney, Flat One, 33 Elisabeth St. London

A superbly produced piece of material.

30 plus pages of material, beautifully illustrated by Douthwaite and Jones. Mainly devoted to the cinema, but there is also an interesting article on the telephone...which says an ordinary subscriber pays £8 a year, whereas a privileged one pays £12. To my knowledge, I was an ordinary subber...but I paid £14 a year plus calls.

I quibble....Focus is a superb production and bids fair to even outcraggle 'bastion' once it gets on its feet...If you're not an OMPAN....ccax Pat.

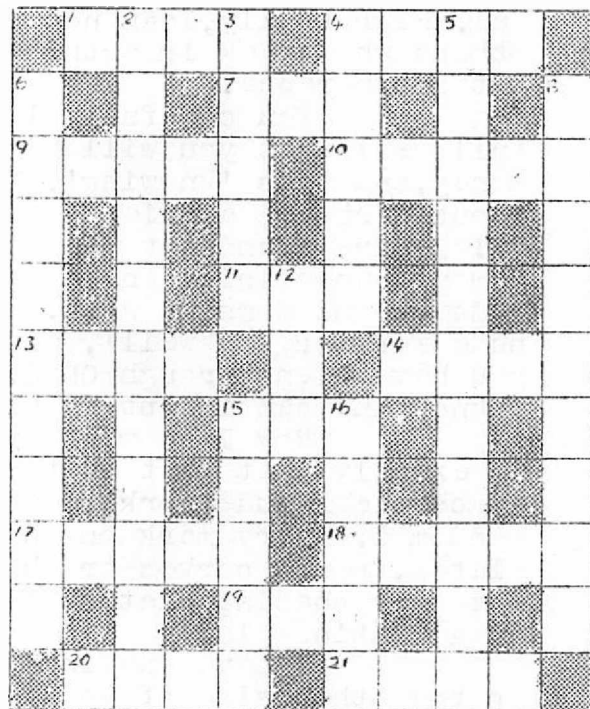


The Prize Crossword

11.

ACROSS

1. This with a base, gives a salt and water
4. A certain period in time
7. It expands as it is created
9. A proposed form of rocket drive
10. Samuel's code
11. Unpleasant noise
13. It caused the loss of a shoe, horse, rider, and battle
14. Wife of Osiris
15. Container in the tavern if returned
17. Mountains or a music maker
18. Like the snow in the Carol
19. A singular prefix
20. Donations
21. Payment for passing



THE LETTERCOLUMN.....a one-shot inspired by one for whom we feel is more to be pitied than censured. Read on.

"Dear Terry, Brother, you really fell in the smelly stuff with this one. Regretfully, I can now relegate you down there with all the others who speak in authoritative tones, but from nothing but total ignorance.

You carefully label the stuff as 'opinion' but knowing full well that you will be heard as one who sells drawing for money, and thus 'knowing'. You have written a lot of guff to me about 'art' as applied to stencil, as if from one who knows. Dear me! I have found out many a so-called critic this way...just let him air an opinion on something about which I have inside knowledge...and down he goes. You say here 'can handle mechanical nude work pretty well', and you base that on such of my work as you have seen through OMFA. That narrows the field enough so that I know and can indentify all the drawings in question.

Now I know why you use the word 'croogle', because that is exactly what that statement does to me. What, if anything, does 'mechanical nude work' mean? Take for instance that cover for Random 3. Every mark on that paper, was done by hand. No shading plates, french curves or whatever. At the time I did it, I didn't have any shading plates. I didn't even have a stylus of any kind, or a cutting plate.

I have shading plates now, several, and the background on the other side of this paper was done, thereby ((Another nude)) But, brother, if you can't tell the difference between mechanical shading and hand work, you need glasses and a large dose of extra strong quality humility. Use both, lavishly, before you start sounding off about technique again. Especially when you can indite such tripe as 'a marvellously intricate pen style, but one which demanded an electronic stencil to cope with it' and stuff like that. What you probably meant was a drawing too difficult for you to trace. Did you? Just what did you mean anyway? What is a mechanical nude?

Now that I have concrete evidence just how much 'fact' there is at the basis of your opinions, and how expert you are.. I'm not interested anymore. I can meet all the blowhards I want any time, anywhere. No point in going out of my way to encourage them. You'd better stick with the company you match, I've got other things to do.

John Phillifent (John Rackham by another name)

It must be nice to know so much, but in this case, I'm not a bit surprised, since I had all ready been informed that John belonged to a high I.Q. group (he told me so in an earlier letter). I prefer to let the above be its own criticism, and would only like to point out that John's final sentence probably means that he is off to produce more mechanical nudes (whatever they are). Terry.