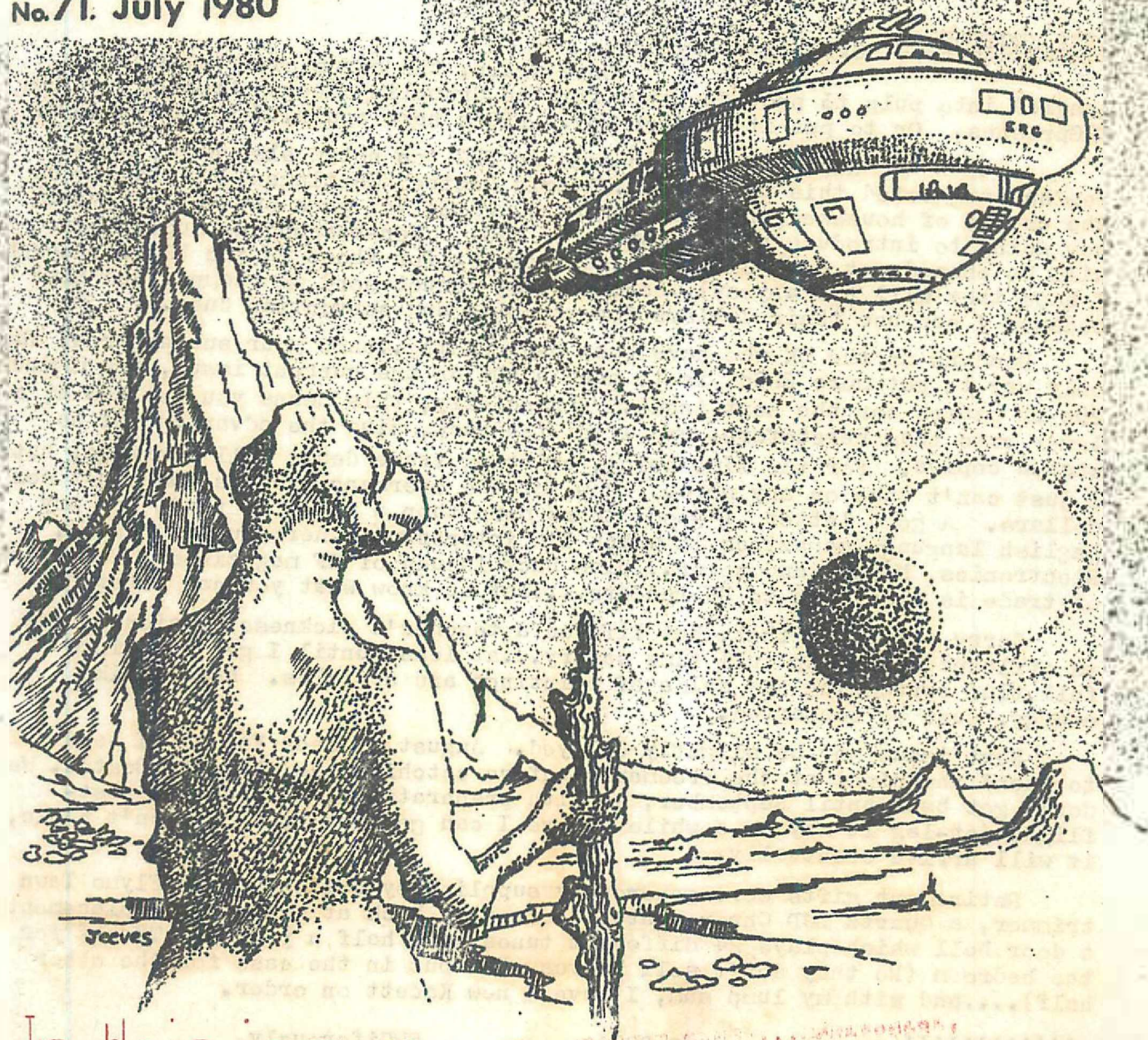


ERG

QUARTERLY

No. 71. July 1980



In this issue :-

"THINGS THAT CAME"...Ergitorial.
"THOSE ASTOUNDING STATISTICS"..Nike Ashley "FABULOUS FANZINES"..reviews
"THE STARCROISER"..Airfix Kit Review "SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES"..E.Needh
"LETTERS"...all of you "RECENT READING"...book reviews
Bacover.. "JUPITER'S GREAT RED SPOT"....N.A.S.A. (via Harry Andruschak)

ERG

QUARTERLY

NUMBER 71

JULY 1980

Editor.. Terry Jeeves
230 Bannerdale Rd.,
SHEFFIELD S11 9FE
ENGLAND

.U.S.A.... \$2.00 for three issues (in bills)
U.K. and other countries..(see below)
LOC plus 20p in stamps

MINI EDITORIAL

Greetings Ergbods,

Once again, the acres of woodland are mangled into pulp to provide paper for the Crumbling Jeeves Mansion and its ERGpresses. Or to put it another way...ERG's here again..for some of you.

Having finally become an ERG (as noted elsewhere, Eric Needham suggested this must mean..Elderly Retired Gentleman) and taking on the chores of housekeeping, cooking etc., while Val goes out to work, I am now going to introduce a new system for ERG. Non-responding subscribers will be phased out as their subs end...except for those in the USA (although I hope they will LOC anyway)..because they cannot send me stamps..and also because I can use their dollars for magazine and convention dues.

Readers in the UK who have been subscribing..once your sub expires, the only way to get more ERGs, is to send a LOC on the current issue, and include 25p in stamps for the next issue. Financially, this means you get ERG at a lower rate than heretofore..and I get feedback, plus the advantage of no wasted copies. For the time being, existing trade deals will continue, but I just can't take on any more. Now for the overseas readers who can't send dollars. A good letter ('good' means more than a page) or trade for any English language magazines in which I'm interested...Aeronautics, Space, Electronics, Models and so on...plus back issues of SF magazines. This sort of trade is also open to UK readers....let me know what you can offer.

Sorry about all that, but life on a teacher's sickness pension is not as affluent as one on full time salary...at least until I get back into full time cartooning and sales of paintings and articles. Money, like energy, must be conserved.

Next issue may be slightly delayed. August 21 sees Val and I head off to spend the night at the Freeman's before catching the plane to Boston. We don't get back until September, so with preparations, absence and post-flight jet-lag it may be a while before I can get out No. 72...don't panic, it will arrive eventually.

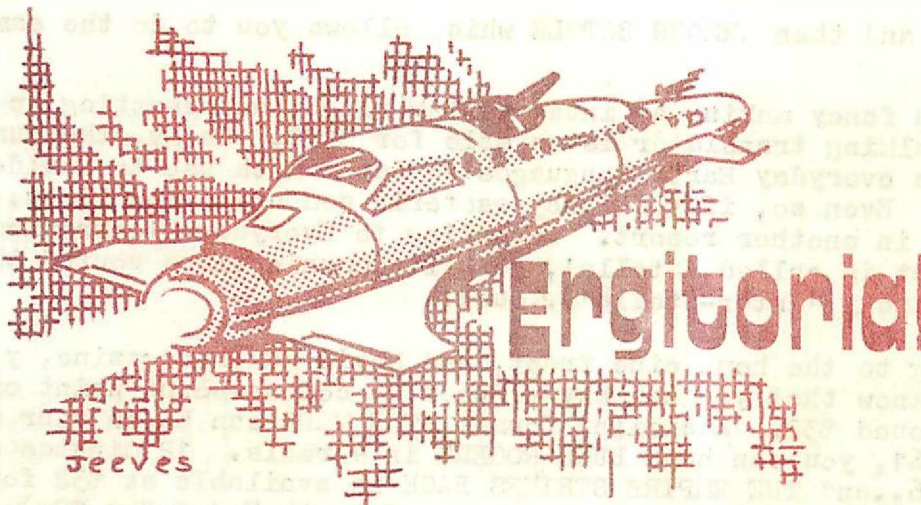
Retirement gifts were generously supplied by colleagues...a Flymo Lawn trimmer, a Quartz LCD Chrono watch (currently back at Metac for replacement) a door bell which plays 24 different tunes, and half a portable TV set for the bedroom (No they don't sell halves..Val put in the cash for the other half)....and with my lump sum, I have a new Kadett on order.

..... Time to send \$2.00 in
..... bills....or a LOC and
..... 25p in stamps

ERGiferously,
Terry

2 (send me this issue from..H.Bridge/363 Kennington Lane/Vauxhall/LONDON SE11)
95p + 15p postage...mention ERG won't you ?

THE SHAPE
OF THINGS THAT
HAVE COME



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:
::

Browsing through the odd paperback and some current magazines, I kept coming across various items which might well have escaped from the pages of science fiction..if the authors had been sharp enough to think of them first. For instance, according to Rosen's FUTURE FACTS (Corgi £1.55, reviewed in ERG 64. Oct.78), in Virginia, U.S.A. you can cycle, ride, play tennis or run your soap box car on the gentle slopes of Mount Trashmore. What makes the project unique, is that the quaintly named recreation hill was created from junked garbage. Packed down, soil covered and grass seeded, the locals have turned an eyesore into a thing of beauty and a recreational amenity as well.

Elsewhere in the book is a note about currently available pocket-sized heart monitors which not only worn the wearer of unusual heart rhythms, but can also be operated to pipe the sounds directly into a 'phone line to your local doctor for instance diagnosis. So now we know where A.C. Clarke got the idea from for the gadget in 'Fountains of Paradise'.

For those interested in getting into computing..but deterred by current prices (Apple..£695, Research Machines..£897, Pet..£469 or Tandy for £385), you might consider the newly introduced Sinclair ZX80 which although having only 1K of RAM (or 1000 bits you can enter and fiddle with) is a good introduction to learning BASIC..the layman's computer language. Unlike the more expensive jobs, it doesn't have its own VDU, but operates through your TV screen. It costs around £100, with power pack £9 extra, but if you are handy with a soldering iron, the kit is only £80. If interested, drop a line to Sciences of Cambridge Ltd., 6 Kings Parade, Cambridge, Cambs.. who I gather are snowed under with orders. A close competitor (and from a near neighbourhood), is the Acorn 'ATOM' Kit, from Acorn Computer Ltd, 4a Market Hill, Cambridge, CB2 2NJ....this one has 2K of RAM, and again interfaces with your domestic TV. The kit is £120 plus VAT..the made-up model £150.

Changing direction slightly and heading for Electronic Games, fans might be interested in GALAXY INVADER which is based on 'Space Invaders'. According to Hobby Electronics, this game has a series of aliens attacking your base and firing as they come. You have three 'lives' to lose and can retaliate by joystick operating a 'laser' and firing at will. The cost is around £23..but that is complete as there is no need to hook it into your TV. Also free of TV slavery are SUB CHASE where you hunt up hidden

4
underwater craft, and then ARMOUR BATTLE which allows you to do the same for simulated tanks.

If you fancy making an interstellar flight and chatting up the local aliens; a talking translator is on sale for £170. Sadly, the current model only handles everyday Earth languages so isn't much use to would-be Galactic Scouts. Even so, if you fancy esoteric communication lines..you may be interested in another report. According to Everyday Electronics, the new European Comsat is called 'Stella', so all communications routed through it are most definitely 'Inter-Stella'...ouch!

Moving to the home cine front, and Movie Maker magazine, you may be interested to know that you can buy a Super 8, colour-sound print of THE BLACK HOLE for around £32. A similar format STAR WARS can be on your screen for £31 and for £61, you can have BUCK ROGERS in 4 reels. 12 minutes of STAR TREK cost £26..and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK is available at £32 for 400 feet. (No, Mabel, you can't have three yards of Darth Vader for 10p). If you want less familiar SF titles, Portland Films have a wide selection at £10.95 a throw.

At this point, someone is bound to say, "Why mess with cine film when videotape is the coming thing? For around £10 worth of tape you can have any film you like, straight from the 'box' ". Well, apart from the copyright restrictions..notice that small bit at the foot of the ad. "You may need a license to record from TV"...IF you can get one. the snag is that video recorders aren't cheap..or reliable. Panasonic's latest NV-7000 has a 14 day timer, etc..and costs £700. Cameras are around the £600 mark and the quality is inferior to cine film.

For my money, I'll stay with film..I've used it since 1960 with no repair bills other than new lamps...and my current Eumig sound projector has just had its first new lamp after eight years! Against this, the school videorecorder was costing around £50 a year in repairs the last time I heard. If you want to bring back a record of your trip to Lower Slobbovakia, you'll need an expensive portable video recorder...bang goes more cash. and of course there is also the threat of lawsuits by BBC, ITV or the Performing Rights Society.

If you just want hassle-free playback of purchased material, I'd fancy the new laser-scanned discs. Few moving parts to break down, and no high speed scanning heads being abraded away by coarse recording tape. However, so far, you can't modulate them with your own signals..so they're not so flexible...but wait for it...progress is rapid. Moreover, once the market starts to saturate..and microelectronics gets into mass production of the modules..prices will tumble.

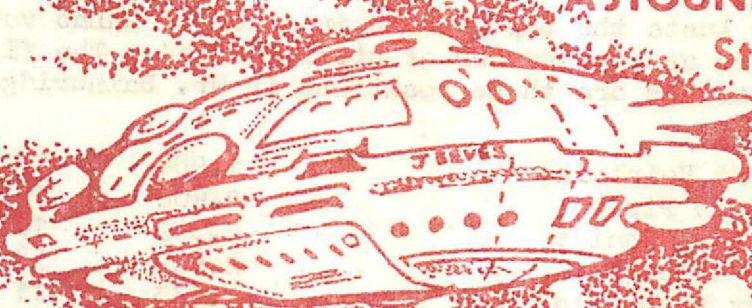
Which is enough nattering this time round...remember to LOC (and send a stamp) for ERG 72...which reminds me...Eric Needham asked if ERG stands for Elderly Retired Gentleman???? If you have a current sub, that of course renders you exempt from the LOC/stamp route until it expires. As for 'Trades'..sorry, but I just can't take on any more to the mailing list.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Boston over Labor Day weekend....and this may mean ERG 72 gets delayed a week or three while I recover from Convention-cum-jet-lag.

Best to all,
Terry

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Those ASTOUNDING Statistics



by
Mike Ashley

If you read the small print in a recent ERGitorial, you'll have noticed that Terry and I have been working on a complete Index to the full 50 years of Astounding/Analog. As I write, I'm about to launch into the grand type-up, and it should be out from Robert Weinberg in the States, later this year. In the meantime it seems only fair that as Terry has done so much of the spadework on the Index, that he has the opportunity to publish first some of the discoveries. The Index will cover everything in ASF (bar the adverts), and the issue listing will be complete with the Analytical Laboratory scores. For all that the system adopted by Campbell for scoring the stories was wide open to discrepancies, it was nevertheless fascinating to look at the final placings, and the AnLab is something the modern Analog would be better bringing back.

The January 1980 Analog included an article by William Sims Bainbridge in which he analysed the AnLab scores, and for all that his findings are probably more statistically accurate than mine, I don't feel he had completely the right approach. Equating all the stories on to a single scale was fine, but in so doing he omitted two fundamentals. He retained separate votes for each episode of a novel, thereby inflating the bias-vote towards novels; and he ignored pseudonyms, thereby allowing for the favouritism vote always accorded popular authors.

In my approach I've retained the original AnLab scores, since I feel that provided one takes a sufficiently large quota, inconsistencies between issues of varying sizes will, to some extent, be cancelled out. I've set this quota at ten contributions (novels counting as one), though I was tempted to go higher. This means that some of the writers included in Mr. Bainbridge's list are excluded - most notably James Blish and E.E. Smith. However, by including pseudonyms, other authors are now included. Grossing pseudonyms did cause one problem, as in some issues that meant authors were competing with themselves. In one issue, Randall Garrett had three stories, which meant he was doomed to average less than 1.00, but this did not happen that frequently and in at least one instance, an author with two stories in one issue had then both voted into first place (one guess who that writer was)!

Although the AnLab votes began in March 1938, only place scores were given until January 1941 when point scores first appeared. So my own calculations commence with the latter date which, unfortunately, omits many major stories and authors. Nevertheless, it still gave me 430 issues to compute, and some 2,000 or so stories.. the results are both intriguing and surprising. There is a variety of scores I've calculated, too many for

this one essay, so this time I'll present the top 30 writers. Next issue I'll list the stories and novels that received the highest scores.

The following lists the top authors in order of AnLab vote, with both the average AnLab score and the number of stories voted. The figure in brackets after the placings are those positions in Mr. Bainbridge's chart in the January 1980 ASF

1	(1)	Robert Heinlein	1.984	17
2	(14)	H. Beam Piper	2.406	16
3	(15)	Stanley Schmidt	2.582	10
4	(9)	Poul Anderson	2.589	58
5	(4)	Jerry Pournelle	2.633	11
6	(12)	Clifford D Simak	2.642	23
7	(13)	Isaac Asimov	2.643	34
8	(24)	Walter M. Miller, Jr.	2.66	10
9	(23)	Randall Garrett	2.661	49
10	(20)	James H. Schmitz	2.697	36
11	(11)	Jack Williamson	2.76	12
12	(5)	A.E. vanVogt	2.785	40
13	(17)	Raymond F. Jones	2.785	28
14	(7/28)	Henry Kuttner & C.L. Moore	2.803	46
15	(-)	Stephen Robinett	2.817	10
16	(10)	Hal Clement	2.862	18
17	(8)	Frank Herbert	2.88	17
18	(21)	John T. Phillifent	2.893	10
19	(22)	Eric Frank Russell	2.908	44
20	(6)	Harry Harrison	2.909	15
21	(25)	Mack Reynolds	2.925	35
22	(26)	Murray Leinster	2.934	37
23	(29)	Fritz Leiber	2.981	10
24	(35)	Robert Silverberg	3.00	15
25	(31)	Everett B. Cole	3.008	14
26	(19)	Gordon R. Dickson	3.041	28
27	(32)	Theodore Sturgeon	3.064	20
28	(28)	Christopher Anvil	3.081	72
29	(-)	Howard L. Myers	3.190	15
30	(-)	John Brunner	3.194	11

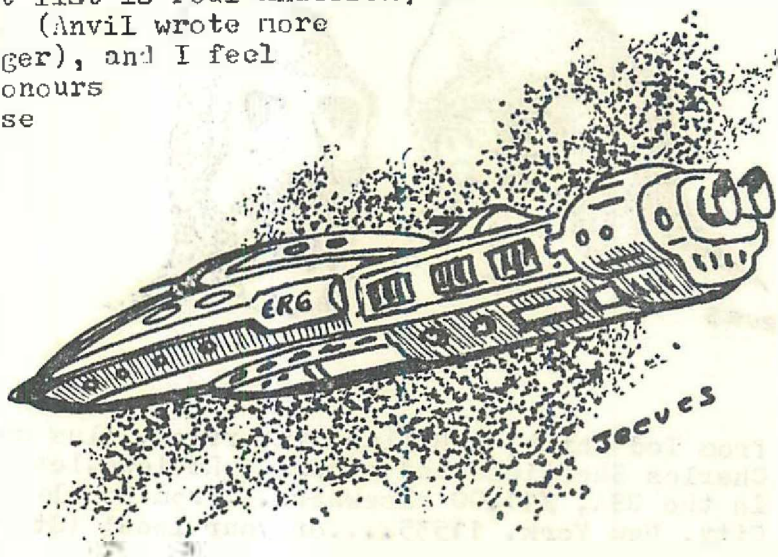
In all, 47 writers qualified within this system, but as all scores below 3.00 are below average, I'll save the other writers the discomfort of seeing the final placings,

One point worth making concerns collaborations. I've only counted authors's scores for solo efforts and have treated collaborations separately. That meant that a writing team had to produce ten voted stories together to qualify. Only two such teams did, Walt & Leigh Richmond, who are further down the list, and the incomparable Henry Kuttner & C.L. Moore. With the Kuttners, it's usually reckoned that they collaborated on most stories after their marriage, no matter what by-line appeared, so I've lumped all stories together. However, it is possible to identify those stories predominantly by Kuttner, and those by Moore, leaving a balance as collaborations. In all instances, the scores cover 10 or more stories, meaning that all three combinations could be entered separately in the list. With 10 voted stories, C.L. Moore scores 2.361 which would place her second and which I feel is a just recognition of her undeniable talent. This would notch the other placings all down one until position 14 where the Kuttner/Moore duo come out

leaving Robinett at 15. Henry Kuttner alone now figures in 17th place with 2.865, pushing Frank Herbert and the rest down one further place until the Kuttner/Moore partnership come in at the new 20th place with 3.061, leaving Sturgeon and Anvil with 29 and 30.

Finally, I think greater recognition should be given to those authors who have sustained a high quality throughout a quantity of fiction, especially those with 30 or more stories with an average of less than 3.00. Heading that list is Poul Anderson, the most prolific wordsmith in ASF. (Anvil wrote more stories, but Anderson's are longer), and I feel he should be accorded all due honours along with Robert Heinlein, whose achievement cannot be belittled -- the only writer to average 1st place throughout.

Mike Ashley
27-2-80



SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES

Continued from page 12

....velocity by ploughing through the walls of the Spanish Room in Wong Lee's downtown Kosher Hamburgery..finally coming to rest on Connie's front drive. Glowing with the effort and relief, he released his breath in the most stupendous wolf-whistle ever heard.

Hours later, a seismograph in Kowloon recorded that titanic screech, but Stu, reeling from the shock of the incredible blast, saw only a lustful crab heading for Connie's front door. Disregarding all biological considerations he seized the first thing to hand. Rushing over, he shovelled up the hateful thing and drowned it in a bucket of CONNIE'S CONCENTRATED KETTLE CLEANER. The shockwave of Big CC's death finished off Little CC, but ere he slumped into a heap of calcium hydroxide, he planted all the basic drives of the crab creatures into Connie's mind.....

"" LOCAL HERO DECALCIFIES ALIEN'S EXOSKELETON"" was the headline in the local paper. Reading it, Connie marvelled that HER hero was the man she had despised for so long. Strange feelings stirred within her. Claspig Stu to her ample bosom, she felt a strange need to love... to eat, ... to grow.

With a tender, loving sigh, she sank her teeth into Stu's neck and began to feed.

.....Eric Needham.

INTERESTED IN TRADING ? I want pre-1935 Asf, Flying magazines, G-8 etc from that era, or modern magazines on model aircraft, astronautics, full size aircraft, the cinema and popular science. Let me know what you have, and I'll mail you my list for you to see what I can offer. If our lists are compatible, we can do a deal..I offer double rates on 1935 material.

Contact the editor...Terry Jeeves.

NOUMENON 35/36 A double issue for the 4th Annish. 28 photolith pp full of excellent book reviews, films (ST-TMP, & ALIEN). Letters, Text of a talk on H.G.Wells, news items, ads, and some excellent art. 10 for £7.50 from UK Agent, K Walker/2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd. Lancaster, Lancs. It comes from Brian Thurogood in New Zealand. Not quite as serious as SF Commentary..but equally good. How come most of the best zines come from so far away ?? THOUGHT FOR TODAY..If you get a fanzine you don't want to keep...pass it along to someone else who may enjoy it too.

STARGRUISER 1



a series 7 kit by AIRFIX Ltd.

Nothing is worse than to open a kit box to find a load of loose and very small parts swilling around inside..with some having already escaped through the battered corners of the carton.

No such problems arise here. Not

only are all the bits firmly fixed to the moulding stems, but these in turn are safely sealed within a strong plastic bag-which is further protected by a box bearing a well-angled view of the made-up model to aid in colouring.

With a normal kit such as an aircraft, one usually knows where each part fits, but when making up such a speculative model as Starcruiser, a lot depends on the instructions. No bother on that score. The Airfix ones are models of clarity (with an interesting addition in the form of a picture story of a space incident featuring the Starcruiser). Clear line diagrams in sequence, with each part clearly numbered on the moulding stalk make the steps simple. Another good point on my kit was the complete absence of mould 'flash' or warps. Parts fitted together with that snug fit and absence of 'play' which is the hall-mark of a top quality model. One qualification though..the roof of the mobile capsule needs careful sitting to ensure mating with its suspension lugs. Only a gentle scraping of the joining lugs is needed to ensure a really sound job.

I painted my model in step with the assembly...and this is where you can really indulge your fancy. The model is virtually a Chris Foss spacecraft brought to life, so give your imagination full rein and be as colourful as you like. When detailing the cabin (and indeed, all sections) I found it useful to make a 'dry' assembly first, to decide which parts would be visible...and so saved time on painting the crew's boots, hands etc., which are out of sight once the roof is in place on the command module. However, you can leave this part detachable and put in all the detail you want to have on show.

When you come to assemble the mobile pod, it is best to fit the sides and base together and leave off the roof for a while. This way, you can do all the paint work before adding the windows..these can be added when the paint is dry. Also fit in the sliding door and finally position the module roof. The only exception to this 'windows' last sequence, is in the main unit...where the forward window must be fitted as you join the fuselage halves. A point here about the transparencies...they are all of very clear plastic and deserve careful mounting (I used liquid cement) and because of this, all interior detail is easily seen..so don't skip it!

And now for the only criticism of the kit...when you come to applying the decals....DON'T. They are not waterslide transfer, but the peel-off-the-backing-and-stick variety. As a result, they have a complete surround of white paper which totally mars the finished kit. Throw them

away and pirate your hoard of surplus aircraft waterslides..or if you are a more advanced modeller, use the dope and luggage label technique to make up personalised insignia of your very own..the resulting improvement will be well worth the effort.

As can be seen from the heading illustration, the model makes up into a striking, 4-part spacecraft, with each component easily removable at any time, for display, photo or other purposes. The front unit is the Command Module... a two-seater spacecraft in its own right. The central core is the Main Unit, bearing beneath it, the Command-Base-Mobile Pod which is linked by two lugs, has a sliding door, and simulated movement tracks on the underside. Finally, the single-seater Interceptor Unit mounts on the rear. The total adds up to plenty of modelling pleasure. Airfix are

The total adds up to plenty of modelling pleasure. Airfix are well known for the quality of their products, and this one like others in their space series is a worthwhile addition to any model spacefleet.

Terry Jeeves

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE..still a few copies left... send 50p in stamps.

ERG's 21st. ANNIVERSARY BADGES,...send 25p in stamps for yours.

WANTED by the editor.. Back issues of Astounding..particularly pre 1935, but also interested in pre 1950 to replace tatty copies in my collection. FLYING MAGAZINES, MODEL MAGAZINES, almost any old pulps, space travel, etc. I'm only interested in trading..but for older stuff, I'll offer twice their catalogue value (Fantast Medway or other) in books. Drop me a line saying what you have to offer. T.J.

REVIEWS

continued from page 24

THE SKY TRAPEZE

Claude Nunes
Male \$5.25

THE SKY TRAPEZE
 Claude Nunes
 Male \$5.25

When Earth develops power-seeking telepaths called the Overmen, a plan is devised to ship them off to the stars. Scattered colonies are established until after generations on the new world, the psi powers have made great advances. One small community can levitate and would even have developed their telepathy were it not for the control of the Overmen. Then one 'flier' survives in a high flight and this makes a powerful young telepath from over the mountains to become aware of the situation. With the aid of a strange ally, he comes to see what is happening. I found this one rather disjointed in plot, but otherwise an interesting variation on the psi power theme.

THE MICRO REVOLUTION

Peter Laurie
Futura £1.50

THE MICRO REVOLUTION *** One of the most easily readable, clearly explained and comprehensive books I have come across, It covers Peter Laurie the binary system, information theory, computer Futura £1.50 languages and microchips..along the way it includes digital recordings, a touch of electronics, TV games, thinking machines industrial robots plus some future possibilities. Much of the material would provide an SF plot in its own right. Some diagrams (I'd have liked more) and very useful explanatory footnotes. This is one of the rare books which explains all the unusual terms as they crop up. If you have any interest in computers and their offshoots..then rush out right away and get this title. ***and I'm not saying that to please Futura, as I bought this one myself, it wasn't a 'freebie'. Well done Mr. Laurie.



Only the Crab Creatures of Canopus III had IMPERIENCE, the ability to travel faster the more they ate. Moreover, IMPERIENCE gave the crabs an intelligence which increased with mass. So, as faster moving crabs preyed on slower, less intelligent crabs; ethical standards declined. Cannibalism became rampant until the Planetary Council, horrified at the decrease in numbers decided to build a huge food factory to ensure racial survival.

The Athabasca Glacier in the Canadian Rocky Mountains ceaselessly grinds down mountain tops into gravel and rock flour whose calcium content is dissolved out by the melting snows of Spring. This dilute linewash flows via the mighty Bow River into Lake Chuckaroquin, where it forms the municipal water supply of Mismatch and coats the inside of electric kettles with limestone deposits. Our hero Stu, sighed deeply as he gazed into his clogged-up kettle and thought of the cruel tongue of the woman who had spurned his love. "Get a job!" sneered Connie, the only available girl left in Mismatch, as she flounced out of his life. Scraping at the obstinate scale in the kettle, he pondered over his twin problems, and in a flash of insight, saw the solution to both.

The Canopus Food factory, one hundred-miles-square, was too small and too late. In its construction, hundreds of quarter-mile-long crabs, moving at 150 mph, perished miserably in wholesale collisions. By completion of the factory, only two crabs remained..eycing each other in mutual distrust and suspicion. Well-matched in size, speed and intelligence, each sought to gain control of the factory. The crab with the lowest ethical standards and dirtiest underhanded tricks, won....and began to feed and grow hugely. The loser fled to the only method of escape, an archaic interstellar cruiser which had remained fully stocked and fuelled in case someone discovered a new galaxy. By ripping out the central bandstand and minstrel's gallery the loser crammed his vast bulk into the ship and fled to its starkly bizarre destiny.

Back in Mismatch, Stu thought over the requirements of ridding his kettle of lime scale, earning a living, and winning Connie's heart. He would perfect a kettle de-limer and call it 'CONNIE'S KET DE CLEANER' That should soften her haughty heart. Stu set to work....

On Canopus III, Big CC was having difficulty in obtaining sufficient raw materials to maintain his food supply, since it followed a cube-law characteristic. In irritation, he scratched the planet's crust from beneath the great factory and pushed it towards a mountain range through which he tunneled at great speed until at the other side he rocketed into the sky and became airborne. Little CC though, was in a fix. IMPERIENGE demands that you eat and move, and in the cruiser, neither was possible, so the strange cycle of IMPERIENGE continued. Little CC began to shrink; the energy so dissipated was radiated outwards in mental probes as he sought an intelligent life form to which he could bequeath his ancestral memories. On the third planet of a distant sun, his mental probe found a totally vacant mind. Swathed in priceless engine room tapestries against the interstellar cold, Little CC set course for Connie and his incredible doom.

Skimming low in orbit round Canopus III, Big CC planed off a few mountain tops until his incredible mass resulted in an incredible mind. He didn't need a food factory..he could convert matter into radiation and so become directly energy nourished. Three bites disposed of the food factory and in glee, he planed his planet into a perfect sphere. Eventually, when Big CC and his planet formed a binary system, Big CC unlocked the key to mental conversion of matter to propulsive energy and the way was open to reach Little CC. Locating the trail of subatomic particles left by the cruiser, Big CC calculated his density, finished off the core of the planet, then took a deep breath and converted slightly less than half his mass into forward motion. Slightly below the speed of light he headed after Little CC, totally unaware of the unimaginable danger awaiting him and utterly careless of the fact that the air in his breathing cavities was already under enormous pressure by the reduction of his bulk. Sensing Little CC's mental probe, he too, began to home in on Connie.

Stan was elated as he gazed at the glittering kettle as he drew it from his solvent tank. Now to concentrate the stuff and get it on the market. "CONNIE'S CONCENTRATED KETTLE CLEANER, he chanted, hearing wedding bells in the offing.

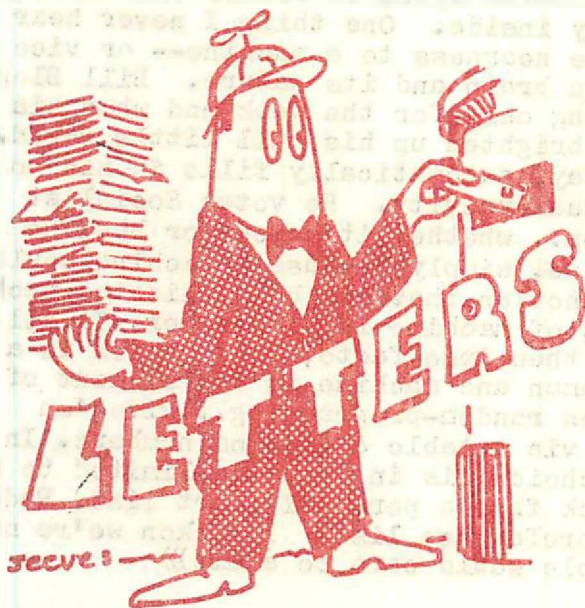
The now tiny, shrivelled, utterly feeble minded Little CC located Connie by a great pool of oxygen hydride, and set his ship down on the bottom of the lake. Leaving the craft, he walked across the lake bed, slowly and sluggishly, not knowing that the hellish Spring floodwaters of the Athabasca Glacier were softening his calcium shell. Partly liquefied, Little CC crawled ashore and slowly set solid in the morning breeze.



Connie, Walking by Lake Chuckaroquin, found the fossil crab and took it home to place on her mantelpiece between her Lucky Cornish Piskey and a souvenir sporran from Scotland. Little CC, not being dead, but unable to move, eat or grow, achieved his pre-death exfuriation, the last stage of IMPERIENGE. Little CC radiated his last, Highest Possible ethical standard, purest LOVE for all, and a strange peace descended on the township of Mismatch.

Big CC felt that last surge of exfuriation as he approached Earth, and converted half his remaining mass into decelerating force; an action which reduced his size to normal, left him feeble-minded, and crushed the air in his breathing cavities into almost solid matter. His entry into the atmosphere shattered every pane of glass in Tokyo and Yokohama. He streaked across the Pacific Ocean towards Mismatch and reduced his final velocity by

((Continued on Page 7))



Greetings ERGbods, varied mailbag this time, so let's kick off with a word from..

KAJ HARJU Box 71

S-134 00 Gustavsberg, SWEDEN

"I smiled when I read Mr. Waddington comments about nostalgia. Many s-f readers today read old space operas instead of the new that appears. Also, I don't like articles about the ion-drive etc. When I read a fnz by a sf-fan, I would prefer that it's including more about sf and fandom or editor's own written things than Mr. Griffiths. Where is the fantasy that sf fans should have? Some weeks ago, Mr. Andruschak send a couple of hundred copies of a space magazine to a Swedish APA...its contents were the same as his articles...boring,

really boring. (((Egad, a sf fan who (a) wants fantasy..and (b) thinks that the exploration of space is boring. This was THE dream of SF for 50 years, and now it is relegated to the ash can...shame!))). I like your fnz, most of the fillos are good (I like your style), could you send me some, or must I steal them...(((Feel free to re-use any of my illos from ERG)))

WIKTOR BUKATO
P.O. Box 983
00-950 Warsaw
POLAND

"The Fourth National SF Convention in Poland will take place in Cracow on September 16-21, 1980...fans from other countries will be taking part. This year's Guests Of Honour are :- Brit-in..John Brunner & Bob Shaw. France..Claude Avice and Pierre Barbet, plus a group of writers from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria and Rumania. For further information, contact me at the address on the left...the entrance fee is too complicated to explain here.

R.J.FAULDER
19800308
Yanco Agricultural
Research Centre
Yanco, NSW 2703
AUSTRALIA

Shame on people who cannot be bothered to respond to fanzines sent to them (((No panic..they won't get any more copies))). Intriguing to hear how easy some of those model rocket kits can be to make. As far as I know, it is legal to fly them in this country.

Your mini-reviews were as enjoyable as usual, but I'm curious about the way in which you review old books (again, some John Wyndham turned up) in the same way as new books. Is this a deliberate policy, and if so, why? (((Simple...such books will still be new to a lot of readers who have only just come to the sf field...and at times, such books may be new to me personally...thus in this issue is a review of WE, by a Russian writer. Originally appearing in the 30's...important, since it pre-dated Huxley and Orwell...but a tale new to me personally. You can't dismiss such a book by simply saying..."an oldie from the 30's, can you?))) I noticed your little evaluative comments at the end of each review. In these you seem to have arrived at a nice balance between expressing the Reviewer's personality and providing a basis on which the potential reader can make a judgement. ((That sums up my method...I do NOT aim for high quality, literary hatchet jobs...but only to give readers an idea of what is available..plus a clue as to my own tastes on the book....glad I'm achieving that.)))

ALAN BURNS
79 The Crescent
Wallsend on Tyne

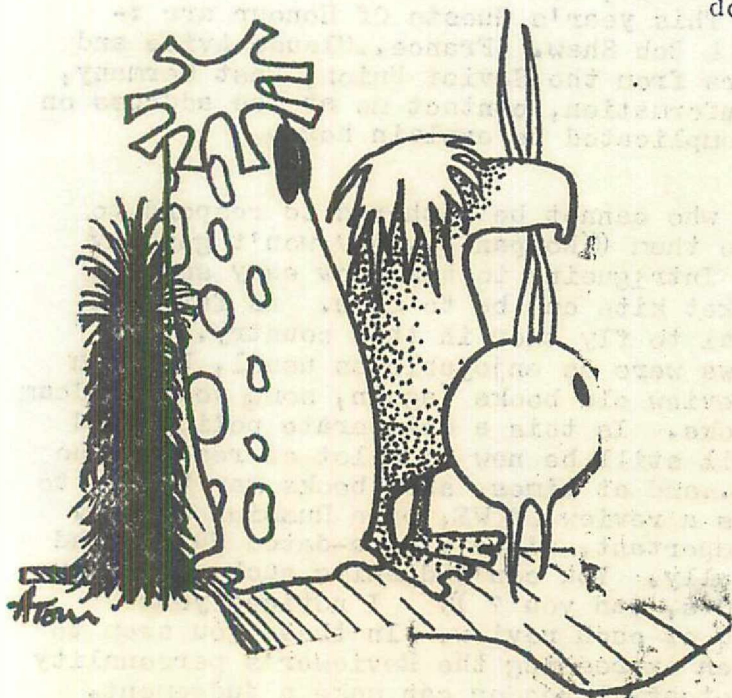
Congratulations on reaching ERG's majority. A magnificent back and front cover which opens to reveal the ERG style we know, hiding coyly inside. One thing I never hear discussed is that the nearness to a machine-- or vice versa-- of a human depends on the human brain and its nature. Bill Bloggs, who spends his life taking orders, living only for the week-end when his pay-packet will be turned into beer to brighten up his dull little world. He automatically places a bet on Saturday, automatically fills in his pools and his mind is a paradise of intellectual vacuity. He votes Socialist without thinking, he goes with the Union...whether it's good or bad, he neither knows nor cares. He is a machine, simply because a machine could be built to do what he does. Any human function that can be duplicated mechanically means that person has an element of machine in him or her. If all the functions can be equated mechanically, then ipso facto, that person is a machine. The one difference between human and machine is the element of randomness. (((Well machines can be given random-programming...give them multiple-choice programming, selection via a table of random numbers. In the case of humans..much of our 'free-choice' is in practice limited to a few viable possibilities...f.e.l, we pick from a personal short list. Radio, TV, books etc...again, we each have a preference list. I reckon we're much nearer to being machines than most people would care to admit)))

E.C. (Ted) Tubb
London SE23 2RL

Congratulations on being 21! A nice issue with covers which are a joy..the red illos make for a nice touch, too. Thanks also for the nice review of 'The Luck Machine'. Comment on 'Can Machines Think?' If a machine can be made which emulates the human brain, then it will be able to think. It seems that it's just a case of adding more and more capabilities - and from the actions of some humans it shouldn't be hard to make a brain better than nature and environment together with our 'liberal' attitude toward such things as the three R's can often achieve. (((I tend to agree with both you and Alan Burns...and apparently so does Allen Boyd-Newton....)))

ALLEN BOYD-NEWTON 42 Church Lane
Bicknoller, Somerset.

It seems that people can be re-programmed, e.g. the cannon-fodder type soldier who can't be allowed to think for himself, merely to react to orders in pre-programmed ways. We can turn a human into a semi-intelligent machine, but not the reverse. Certainly, if we pre-programmed a computer to do randomly things it isn't basically programmed to do, and then program it to invent logical reasons for its actions..well that would be difficult to prove as non-human behaviour, which is not the same thing as intelligence.



ALLEN BOYD-NEWTON..Contd. "Zines column..I agree with your aims, a real hatchet job never helped anyone. If you're going to take all the time and trouble to produce a zine, however bad, well you have to feel it has some saving grace or you just wouldn't bother. Either you totally ignore the negative reviews and carry on, or you take it to heart and give up. Most people's first efforts were pretty bad. Hopefully, we ignore the negative reviews and improve. I like to think I have... On rockets..after the primitive experiments of my youth, I found out for myself that rockets and space probes are a darn sight more complicated than most people think. I never got anything up further than 150 feet. Stability and steady burning of the propellant were the big problems. Sodium Chlorate and weed killer plus sugar worked quite well. Corrugated cardboard soaked in a solution of the above certainly gave quite a bit of thrust, though I seem to remember the proportions were quite critical. (((Now who is going to be the first to soak a copy of ERG in the stuff and put it into orbit ??)))

ERIC BENTCLIFFE

17 Riverside Cres.

Holmes Chapel, Ches.CW4 7NR

A very impressive cover, and the Andruschak bacover equally so...evokes the old Sense of Wonder. I for one, never really expected to see such detailed photos of Mars when I started reading SF. The reality is even better

than the fictional images. The same can be said of Harry's and Dave Griffiths' pieces on current space technology. I'm sorry some of our mental images gained from reading pulp sf didn't prove to be true ones...the world could do with a few hairy BEMs. (((Maybe if we tarred and furred Brian Burgess?)))



BERNARD M Earp
21 Moorfield Grove
Tonge Moor
Bolton

I'm hardly going to mention the cover, as anything I could say would be banal by comparison..and on the subject of stunning views, that back photo cover is exactly that. Let's all hope that by the time that

the next anniversary ERG comes round, we will at least have the plans to get Man out that far. (((Can we start with Trade Unionist Mick McGahey..or however he spells it ?))) Fabulous Fanzines..I've always read these pieces in ERG and elsewhere, with interest, but nowhere..Peter Roberts' Guide, or Rob Jackson's is there any info on getting money out to all these foreign fans....it could be the subject of a fanzine column.. (((Right, here goes...

PAYING FOR FANZINES, BOOKS ETC...The first and obvious way is to write and arrange a trading deal..British stuff for whatever..but if you really want to send cash.....INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS...buy these at the GPO, and they are redeemable in other countries at the rate for whatever the basic sea mail rate is out of that country...thus if you pay 2cp here, in the US the coupon will be worth their basic sea mail rate. This is OK for small amounts..pricey for others. For larger amounts..the GPO will supply you with an International Money Order redeemable in most countries. On the other hand, for a fee, your bank will do the job...another easy way is to go to the nearest travel agent and purchase currency to the value you want, then mail it off (This may be illegal..check if you're uneasy)..I sell ERG subs for dollars, and use those for overseas purchases in the USA. If you can't use the trade br sub. routes...I'd suggest the most convenient method is currency from a travel agent...but as I said..check if you're uneasy..TJ)))

REDENT READING



UNIVERSE 9

Ed. Terry Carr
Dobson £5.25

Those familiar with Terry Carr's 'Universe' series will need no introduction. For newcomers, here are nine speculations opening with a murder mystery by Bob Shaw and ending with Varley on the problems in sex-changing. In between, you get inverted male/female role societies, a time capsule and a message from the past, a dose of space nostalgia and a road via the 4th Dimension. Space buffs get a game of interstellar conkers, and there is Turkey Lurkey and pollution plus a tale of seducing innocents into writing. No hard-core, but a better-than-average selection of way-out what-ifs. All improbable and all intriguing. The best 'Universe' yet.

THE FACE

Jack Vance
Dobson £5.25

Kirth Gersen sets out on the trail of Lens Lague, killer and fourth of the five Demon Princes who killed his parents. The trail leads from world to world, among many of the alien cultures for which Vance is famous. These are engagingly different, as even villains have a charm of their own. Musicians play such intriguing instruments as 'chinklepins', others keep appointments at half-morning. Against this background, Gersen flashes his prey by cornering shares in the worthless Kotzash Syndicate which Lague is using for some strange purpose...which supplies a nice twist ending as Gersen triumphs. Vance's aliens form an acquired taste...one which is well worth cultivating.

THE WORLD'S BEST SF. 5

Ed. Donald A Wollheim
Dobson £5.95

Each Wollheim anthology seems better than the last. Here are ten tales with an author line-up like a 'Who's Who' of SF. Varley tells of castaways who manage to survive on Mars; Haldeman, a piece on looped time; Bishop tells a story of empathy and understanding whilst Bryant has novas proliferating to end the human race. Brunner describes a perfect, addictive food cooked by an immortal and Ellison puts his eternal five-year old in a 1940 dreamworld. There is an alien attack which utilises our own pest control methods; elsewhere, we meet the winged people of Titan, then a time traveller guiding the past along the path of cheap energy. To wind up, a pastoral Sinak has an alter-ego voyaging to the stars. Although I had read many of these in magazine form, I found them enjoyable reading on their second time round. A further plus from my point of view is the absence of the current 'to-hell-with-the-plot-just-string-words syndrome. These are stories not stream of conscious waffling.

BEYOND THE OUTER MIRR

Julian Jay Savarin
Hale £4.95

Dissension in the Galaxy and at the same time, a lone space traveller in suspended animation is discovered. A Ruler's son, from Atlantis and launched to avoid a holocaust...his name is Yesul Chri'stl. It turns out he is one of an experimental branch of the Galactics, set up by G.O.D. (The Galactic Organisation and Dominions). Then follows back travel in time to alter and guide Terran history..complete with Christ, the Bethlehem Star and disciples. We then return to the main plot for a fight between good and evil. Finally, we see the culmination of events on Terra. Complicated, but once you get things sorted out it becomes an enthralling mix of space-opera, allegory, and high-quality SF with tremendous depth and scope. If this one doesn't cop a bevy of Awards...there just ain't no justice.

THE STRANGE LAND

Julia Riding
Hale £5.25

The I.P.P. Icarus is hit by a meteorite and the survivors take refuge on an unlisted planet. We follow their efforts to survive under alien conditions, with the added tensions of opposing factions within the group. Captain Jones seems particularly inept (and uninformed about his crew and craft) and the story, while pleasant reading, is rather flaccid and lacking in conflict, surprise or final resolution. On the other hand, since it avoids today's mandatory sex and swearing, it would make an excellent gift for any youngster if you can afford the price.

THE EARLY POHL

Frederik Pohl
Dobson £5.25

Nine tales from the early forties when the young Pohl was learning his craft (and editing 'ASTONISHING') As befitted the era, the accent is on action, with ray-gun wielding heroes fighting villainy, aliens and oppression. They flit in spaceships, explore the Solar System (including a steamy,swampy Venus) and always get their girl. The real strength of this volume lies in Pohl's linking, autobiographical details and anecdotes wherein he manages to give a capsule history of (his) fandom, how each story came to be written and where it fits into his sequence. No brief notes these, but almost as prolific as the stories. Definitely a book for the nostalgia-ridden

ELECTRONIC GAMES

R.A. Penfold
Babani £1.75

Knowing that many ERG readers are interested in electronics I specially asked for this copy. 19 make-it-yourself games such as.. Heads/Tails, Electronic Dice, Roulette, Random Numbers, Naughts & Crosses, Speed Reflex Tests, etc. Starting with 7 simple games then 12 more advanced. The simple ones include complete Veroboard wiring (far better than messing with caustic solutions to make up PC Boards). Being a 'from-the-circuit' man myself, I particularly appreciated the complete diagrams accompanying each project, together with details of how the circuit works plus some possible uses. If you can solder and read a wiring diagram this slim volume is ideal. As with other Babani books, there are no frills; you get what you pay for..down to earth details and information enabling you to make up the gadgetry with a minimum of fuss. I would recommend using sockets for the ICs where needed..they only cost around 16p..and prevent damaging during soldering..or by a chance finger contact from static electricity. Power sources are 9v batteries, so no danger of shocks. If you would like a full list of Babani titles...send a SAE to:- BERNARD BABANI (Publishing) Ltd. The Grampians, Shepherds Bush Rd., LONDON W6 7NF (Overseas readers send Reply Coupons)...and don't forget to mention ERG when writing. Why not make your next Convention brighter by having a few such games tucked away in a croner ??

THE SANDOVAL TRANSMISSIONS

Jules N. Dagnol
Hale. \$4.95

When Dr. Kevin Sandoval creates a mind-reading device, he only plans to use it once..to smash a drug syndicate. Events escalate and he is forced to more and more uses of his invention, together with sundry improvements, all 'for the good of the community'. Sandoval also experiments on his newly-born grandson with unexpected results.

Despite some rather wooden characters, this is a taut yarn, with events and inventions piled on one another in the style of the traditional, golden-age, epics. Once you start it, you'll find it hard to put down..and, who knows, there might even be a hint of a sequel in the final lines.

WHEN THE EARTH TREMBLED

Walter Walkham
Hale \$4.95

When a giant meteor strikes Earth and changes its orbit, the resulting tidal waves destroy most of the world's maritime areas and oil-man Bill Walker is left stranded in Iran. His efforts to save his company and companions lead to a diversionary plan to air Iran take over the Gulf, while Walker's small band further their own escape bid. Borderline SF, with the meteor supplying the reason for the breakdown in normal living. Once that is established, the story could be that of almost any expatriate group trying to escape a hostile land. A tense adventure drama, with the Iranis tending to come out as nicer people than the oil people..which in view of the current world events makes things just a bit too friendly.

COWBOY HEAVEN

Ron Goulart
Hale \$5.25

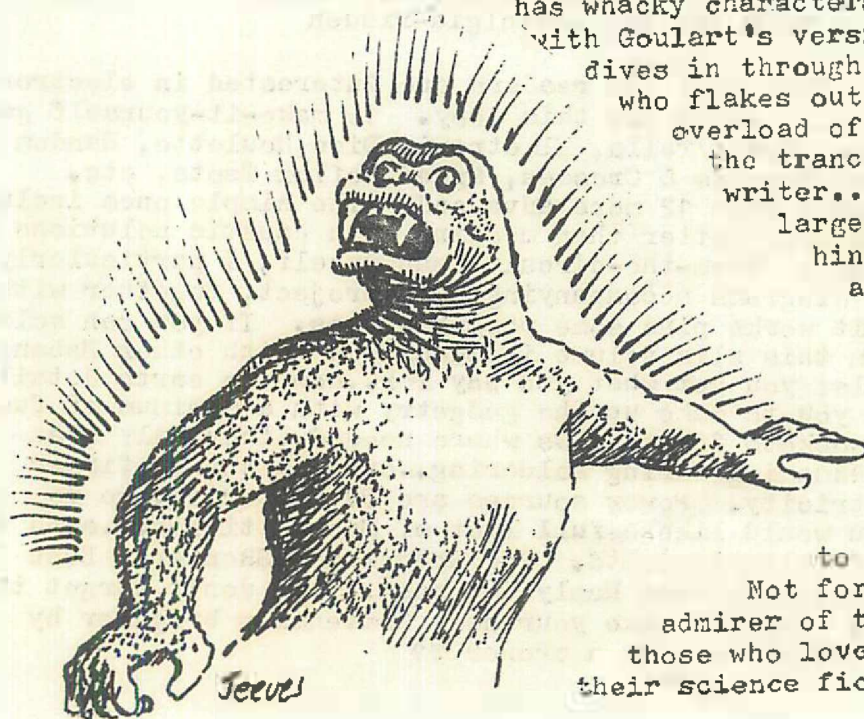
The title is the name of a (Film) Cowboy Museum which ageing star Jake Troop is due to open. When he is hit by a malfunction in his replacement heart, his place is taken by a look-alike android, and agent-cum-trouble shooter, Andy Stoker gets the job of riding herd on the robot which has all of Jake's orneriness, plus a bit extra of its own. If you think Hollywood

has whacky characters, wait until you tangle with Goulart's version..a cowboy who always dives in through the window, a character who flakes out in bars thanks to the overload of his brain stimulator, the trance-stimulated script writer..and many others...all larger than life...but with a hint of.."Could this be...?" about them..such as John Wayne for Troop.

Goulart has written some hilarious short stories ('I love his 'Into The Shop') and here on a larger

canvas he is really able to spread his literary wings.

Not for the sober-sided or the admirer of the arcane...this is for those who love ..and can also laugh* at, their science fiction.



TIN WOODMAN

D.R. Bailey &
D.F. Bischoff
Sidgwick & Jackson
25.95

When 24th Century explorers encounter the sentient space craft, 'Tin Woodman' an expert telepath Div Harlthor is sent to investigate. His actions tip the captain of the discovering craft Phoenix into paranoia so that as Div achieves communication with the alien ship, the deranged Danser begins a campaign to follow and destroy Tin

Woodman and thus gain vengeance against all telepaths..particularly the girl who aided Harlthor and a young ensign who befriended Div. The whole makes a taut, compelling yarn which is less concerned with the Woodman than with the emotions and motives of those on the Phoenix. Once started, you'll have a job putting it down before the end.

THE AVATAR

Poul Anderson
Sidgwick & Jackson
36.95

Earth has begun colonising the Phoebus system via one of the multi-linked stargates left by the 'Others'. Then the 'Emissary' is sent to explore other exits. It returns after 8 years of travel, to a period only months after its departure thanks to a time-shifting facet of the

stargate. The crew is interned and held incommunicado by a no-expansion Government faction. However, Dan Broderson, a womanising, watered-down Van Rijn character steps in to put the matter right and a hectic chase to the stars ensues. Inside a cover reminiscent of a Curtiss Warren pb (which opens to a striking full spread) you get a hefty 379 pages of steady ongoing story development. Background flashback characterisation is rather overdone as is the psychological aspect of the trip..this slows the second half of the yarn...but if ever there was intellectual space opera...this it it!

LEVIATHAN'S DEEP ****

Jaye Carr
Sidgwick & Jackson
25.95

The Kimassu Lady is a member of the amphibious Delyene matriarchy which the Terrans are beginning to threaten. Taken prisoner, the lady is tortured, drugged and gradually begins to understand the enemy and how best to fight them..including the one she loves.

Too brief a precis? Wait.. this is a first novel of compelling power with all the panache of an established writer, many of whom have tackled the 'alien viewpoint' theme..with results bordering on parody. In this novel, the author has succeeded, not only in constructing a complete, well rounded and credible character in Kimassu, but also a totally alien, but plausible matriarchy which is not just a standard reversal of for 'man' read 'woman' and vice versa. I'd nominate this yarn as a future Award winner and one of the best, most original books of the year.

CORRECTION....and APOLOGY

In ERG 70, when reviewing Pierrot Publications excellent ALIEN LANDSCAPES, I said that I thought the artwork had first appeared as cover art. Mr. Dunn, Managing Director of Pierrot has written to put me right on this, and adds that his company spent over \$10,000 on original art work for the volume.....which of course only enhances what I said...that ALIEN LANDSCAPES is a rattling good book..and I hope to see many more along similar lines. So why wait..you can't get the paintings on paperback covers...so rush out and BUY a copy. You'll not regret it.

THE GODS FROM OUTER SPACE

'REVOLT OF THE TITANS'

Methuen 'Magnet' 31.25

A 50 page, quarto sized 'comic' book based very loosely on the von Daniken idea that travellers from the stars settled Atlantis. This time,

starmenr have mated with their mutant hominids thus producing giant offspring. The baddies, Satham and Azazel control the giants and lead the mutants into debauched ways before the starmen can overthrow them. Colourful, but not outstanding artwork with a story line up-and-downing in true cliff-hanger fashion. Comic and von Daniken buffs will go for it, but it seems a bit strong in parts for children. This one is fourth in the series.

BASIC STEPS IN ASTRONOMY

John Boulton
Blandford £4.50

Here's one for those who want to know more about things. Opening with a brief history of astronomy followed by a clear and concise description of various telescopes, then an explanation of astronomical co-ordinates and observation takes you up to a potted outline of the Solar System. Galaxies and star types come next together with stellar evolution (which surprisingly stops short of pulsars and black holes as the step after the white dwarf/dead star). Finally, a set of appendices on stars plus a set of constellation maps. Clearly illustrated (one more diagram could have clarified which direction Right Ascension and Declination are counted), with some SUPERB colour photographs of nebulae. The plain-language text is easy to follow; the layout clear and logical. The whole being ideal for its purpose..an appetite whetter and basic primer to help get you started. If you want to learn more...don't miss this one.

Newly Discovered Drawings
Of ELVIS PRESLEY

Betty Harper
Bantam £3.95

I make no apologies for including this one, many readers are Elvis fans; even more seem to like good artwork. Here you have around 40, utterly superb pencil renderings of 'The King' in near photographic detail, beautifully presented and with only the briefest of introductory notes..and a rather 'twee' dedication by the artist. Ignore that quarter page, her drawings speak loudly, clearly and beautifully: in this coffee-table sized volume. I may not be a great Elvis fan myself, but I most definitely am a fan of Betty Harper's art..and even inspired by it. Definitely a must for art-loving Elvis fans.

THE MENACE FROM EARTH

R.A.Heinlein
Corgi 95p

A re-issue of Heinlein's outstanding 8 story collection from the 'Golden Age'...world's

end; time travel; star travel; aliens among us, and even a spot of psionics. My own favourite is 'Goldfish Bowl'..but 'Year Of The Jackpot' runs it a close second. If you missed it first time out, get it now, This is Heinlein as a story-teller!

PERRY'S PLANET

Jack C. Haldeman
Bantam 85p

Crippled by a sneak Klingon attack, power low, and crew morale at low ebb, the Enterprise

is limping to base when it is re-routed on a diplomatic mission to Perry's Planet. Kirk meets Perry himself..now 300 years old, his planet is peaceful as anyone contemplating violence is laid low by a virus..which also gets Kirk's men. At this point, the Klingons return to the attack, and the Merry Men of the Enterprise can't retaliate..but as always, in impossible spots, virtue always triumphs..!most illogical' as Spock might say.

WANTED IN TRADE by the editor.. Current aircraft/astronautic/model/radio and electronics magazines.....and pre-1940 magazines of similar nature (Double rates on the pre-1940 stuff if you have any to unload. Drop a line to. 230 Bannerdale Rd. if you're interested.



OCTOBER THE FIRST IS TOO LATE

Fred Hoyle
Penguin 95p

When mysterious signals from the Sun are detected, composer/pianist Richard (his last name remains a mystery) manages to become involved with a scientist friend and together they examine the solar signals by wandering around doing nothing much. Earth has suddenly developed different time tracks..America regressing, and Europe still in World War 1. Richard winds up in ancient Greece, where he encounters people from the future. Sounds complicated? ..it is. I never really found out the cause of the trouble, or why Hoyle's characters kept shooting off in all directions.

WE

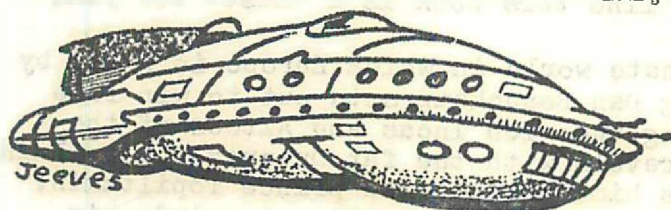
Yevgeny Zamyatin
Penguin £1.10

Written in diary form, by D.503, a mathematician and builder of 'The Integral', a craft designed to spread the glory of the 'One State'. D. is quite happy with his utterly regimented existence and coupon-regulated sex periods with 'O'...until he meets the seductive E.330 who leads him into subversive activities and away from the joys of marching in step.

A powerful satire on the Communist State, beautifully contrived, but which nevertheless earned its writer exile from the USSR...and also formed an inspirational basis for both 'Brave New World' and '1984'

THE MUTANT

Gary Grant



An abortive raid on a nuclear power station sets the scene for strange happenings on the surrounding moorlands. Richard Drayton and Joe Pilcher find themselves frighteningly involved in the strange deaths brought about by the horror which lurks in the deserted gravel-pit pool.

The basic idea stems from the thirties when such tales as

Ernst's, 'The Thing In The Pond', sent shivers down our spines. Here Mr. Grant gives the theme a distinctly British flavour as he deftly builds each incident into a suspenseful and enthralling novel. Nothing new here, but just a jolly good read...even if the characters are a bit implausible.

DILATION EFFECT

Douglas R. Mason
Hale £5.25

Having located a lode of infrangom, Ben Dogood and Ava Mallan flee from Scotian aggressors. They enter a space-time warp, but the pursuers neddle with the beam, and as a result, Dogood and Mallan swing back and forth in time to a totalitarian state where they fall foul of Conform. Alternately hunted by Scotians or Conform, Dogood/Duguid choices of action always narrow down to their inevitable conclusion. A hectic novel, fast paced and with a touch of humour. I felt it suffered from the effort needed to sustain tension in two alternate time-tracks but this is a matter of taste. If you go for action adventure, this will be your cup of tea.

~~Jonas~~ Jonas SODERBLAD

Gosvagen 13
382 00 NYBRO
SWEDEN

9500

Enjoys these reviews..but says "What's so fun with rocket building? // I don't care about 'Rocket Column'" (((Where's your S.O.W. ?))) Jonas publishes THE DARK LORD, and would like to trade or buy fanzines. Why not drop him a line ?

THE ENEMIES OF THE SYSTEM

Brian Aldiss
Panther 95p

Homo Uniformis has replaced Homo Sapiens, and all are citizens ('Utopianists') of a Communist Utopia. Fifty of the elite (being more equal than the rest) take a decadent holiday on Lysenka II and end up as prisoners of the local savages. Much Kilkenny-cat bickering along dialectical lines and subversive argument follows before the almost inevitable end is achieved. The 'enemy' is really an inner one and this is well brought out in entertaining, but rather bland tale...with the Utopianists always seeming slightly out of touch with reality.

DOWSING

Tom Graves,
Mayflower £1.25

The author tackles his subject in three sections. First covering various methods and devices...rods, wires, pendulums etc. This is followed by an explanation of operating techniques and description of lesser-known systems such as map-dowsing. The final chapter covers the various applications of the techniques. There is a good bibliography to extend your studies and numerous line illustrations point up the text. This is a 'nuts and bolts' book, it avoids the 'airy-fairy' and describes dowsing in everyday detail so that if you want to try it, simply pick up the book and away you go. For myself, I'm a sceptic...I just cannot see any logical reason for the methods to work. However, that doesn't seem to stop others using them successfully, so if you have any interests along the line this book is a 'must' for you.

THE GATE OF WORLDS

Robert Silverberg
Methuen Magnum £1.25

Set in an alternate world in which Europe is ruled by the Turks, young Dan Beauchamp sets out to win fame and fortune among the rich Incas and Aztecs of the Americas. He gravels with the fat Quequex who explains the theory of time branching and allies himself with the prince Topiltzkin. Despite numerous adventures and battles, his fortune manages to elude him. Virtually straight adventure, with the alternate time track merely a peg on which to hang the different society. However, if you like such tales, then this is excellent reading, particularly in its contrasts with our 'reality'.

A WILDERNESS OF STARS

Ed. William F. Nolan
Corgi £1.25

One of those rare collections where each yarn seems as good, if not better than, the last. Miller's 'Lineman' concerns revolt and a travelling space brothel. From Bradbury, 'I, Mars' tells of a castaway defeated by his own anti-boredom devices. Clarke's 'Sunjammer' is about space sailing races. In other tales, Earth's last two men fight it out over the last woman; the psi-killing disease in a telekinetic society; sentient trees; a near-immortal castaway; future race relationship problems of star travel; alien protection and the last moments of an aged spaceman. Ten yarns, all top quality, plus a brief introduction by Shelly Lowenkopf. Excellent buy for self or gift.

CITY WARS

D. Palumbo
Bantam 85p

After the atomic wars, only a handful of autonomous city-states survive. Chicago, armed to the gills and spoiling for war, only needs a nudge to trigger her war machinery. It arrives in the form of an apparent tentative probing from New York. War hero Jake Bowman checks things out while a power coup takes over his city. Further variety is provided by his love affair with super efficient Guardian-cum-killer Cassandra. Implausible, but nevertheless gripping throughout with enough variety and action to hold you hooked to the end. I enjoyed it no end.

SOME WILL NOT DIE

Algis Budrys
Methuen 'Magnum'
£1.25

Synthesised from several shorter magazine tales, this tells the recovery saga of an America brought low by a plague. The remnants are re-united by Berendstov who is then killed. We take up his story, and the parallel one set thirty years later, when rumours of his continued existence cause the new rulers to seek him out. The threads unite, and we get a glimpse of what a self-policing society can bring on its way to civilisation. Enjoyable, but hampered by its episodic construction.

AN INFINITE SUMMER

Christopher Priest
Pan £1.25

Five speculative tales from the writer of the superlative 'Space Machine'. The title story is of the 'freezers' who capture moments in time. Then a soldier is caught in a strange sex trap, followed by an involved love story set in a park with three time bridges. There's an introspective piece about a soldier, a writer and a wall and to conclude, an observer becomes involved with the Qatarii he is observing. The ideas wind around...all cerebral SF, so if thud and blunder is your bag...keep away. *(Wells wrote the sequel)

Two titles in a new 'In Action' series from Blandford Press, at £6.95 each.

UNITED STATES NAVAL FIGHTERS OF WORLD WAR II by Michael O'Leary

UNITED STATES P.T. BOATS OF WORLD WAR II by Frank D. Johnson

These hefty, 11"x9", 160 page hardcovers outline the design, development and operation of these craft and the heroism of the men who fought in them against the Japanese in the Pacific. The text is a bit 'Gung Ho!' in parts, but this only serves to bring home the magnificent achievements against overwhelming odds. Profusely illustrated with superb action 'photos', plus, in the case of 'Fighters', constructional diagrams, the subject matter is really brought to life.

'Fighters' covers the failures and successes of six carrier-borne aircraft, together with considerable 'as-it-happened' biographical detail on various pilots. One minor niggle is the absence of a glossary to explain the alphabet-soup (What is a VSMB-231 or VMF-221?)

'P.T.Boats' follows a similar format of highly readable text ably pointed up by great photographs...with the added bonus of a capsule history of high speed boat development by racers such as Gar Wood and Scott-Paine. In its own way, this one is possibly a more comprehensive 'history' than its companion...and is equally engrossing.

I would like to have seen a map of the various war areas included, but even so, these are nostalgic treats for war buffs, ideal for war gamers and invaluable reference sources for modellers, either of single craft, or of complete action dioramas. Having spent some years with a B-24 Sqn and ending up on a coral island, 'Fighters' is my favourite...but they are both excellent 'buys'...and now I hope they'll bring out the next one on the Consolidated Liberator. Definitely a read-and-come-again pair of titles.

LAST SHUTTLE TO PLANET EARTH

John Rankine Dobson £5.25

The decaying satellite, 'Wirral City' hangs in an impossible orbit (stationary over the Wirral Peninsula). Technician Elliman is tried for being out of bounds, escapes and kidnaps Barbara Meynell, daughter of one of the rulers. He steals a shuttle and boots off for Earth. The pair fall foul of a bunch of robots, but after some hectic adventure all works out for the best. Lightweight, lively and entertaining, plenty of fast, continuous action by and around a genius hero. One quibble...I wish writers would avoid spaceships being driven hither and yon as if they were private cars (in this case, complete with powered and steerable wheels!).

XENO
 L.F. Jones
 Granada £1.25

When aircraft vanish..and reappear, months later, things are hushed up - until survivors lapse into a coma and give birth to vampire-like creatures..the Xeno. The author's 'Colossus' was superb..this one is even more 'unputdownable' with each escalation of tension followed by a deceptive lull before the next arrives. Best thing since 'Sinister Barrier', surely an Award winner..and superb material for a hit horror/menace film. DON'T MISS IT!

THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT
 Berlitz and Moore
 Panther £1.25

Interested in Pyramid Power, UFOs, Bermuda Triangles or von Daniken's whacky theories ? Here's another equally implausible 'suppressed mystery' of an experiment to render a destroyer invisible by magnetically re-arrangement...which turns the crew mad.

Photographic evidence proves the existence of a ship, the Navy Yard where ships were built, and even of Albert Einstein..so of course the rest must therefore be true. If you want to believe..read the book and enjoy a load of unusual evidence which proves -- some people can be fooled all the time.

STEPPE
 Piers Anthony
 Panther £1.25

Another Piers Anthony hero rides out. The all-powerful Galactics play at re-enacting history and one group grabs barbarian Alp from the 9th Century to use his knowledge to help them win. He escapes, and pursued by police, takes refuge in the arena of the ~~Game~~ machine where he struggles to cope with a mixture of bows, swords, spaceships and lasers. A neat combination of time travel, space warfare and barbarian battles.

THE STARCHILD TRILOGY
 F.Pohl & J.Williamson
 Penguin SF £1.95

A bumper volume opening with 'Rogue Star' set in a multi-racial universe complete with intelligent stars. Then a new, vengeful one is created by accident. 'Starchild' sees the tyrannical 'Plan Of Man' machine meeting opposition from the Starchild..who paradoxically isn't created until the end of the yarn. 'Raids Of Space' (which should precede 'Starchild' is how the great machine created its own opposition. Strongly reminiscent of 'Seetee Shock' and 'Comet' etc, the plot is multi-layered and never really 'hooked' ne into its evocative words (Williamson dots on 'gold') and its shifting perspective. Great if you like the older style though.

THREE TO THE HIGHEST POWER
 Ed. W.F.Nolan
 Corgi 85p

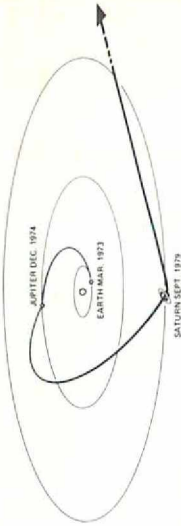
A slim collection, filled out by each tale having a biographical piece to precede it. Bradbury has a search for a Martian city which fulfils a seeker's wants. Sturgeon describes a cloven-hoofed girl and an imprisoned power, then Chad Oliver tells of two space scouts who discover peaceful but immortal natives. Steady reading, often satisfying, but not earthshaking.

NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED
 Mark Jales
 Hale.£5.25

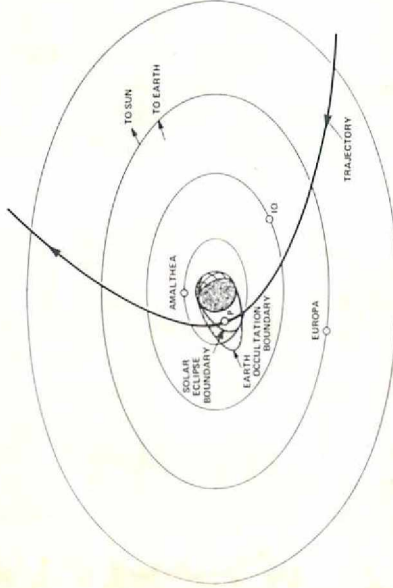
With all resources squandered, the Britain of the future is divided into separate factions. Tom Boyce starts life in the lowest caste of the Council-ruler Southern England. Existence is one advantage-grabbing rat-race until an assault gives Boyce a mind-reading edge which leads to his steady rise through the hierarchy. Jales builds a chilling, but plausible future and a convincing picture of a man who has and lives by principles which he was unaware that he possessed. Almost borderline SF..which is just the stuff to sell well in the mainstream as well as among devotees of the genre.

Reviews continue on page 10.

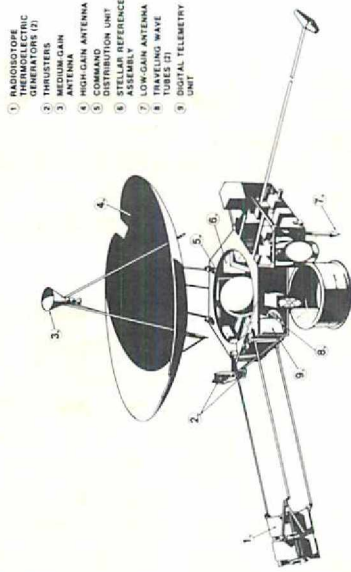
PIONEER 11 FLIGHT PATH



PIONEER 11 JUPITER FLYBY
VIEW PERPENDICULAR TO TRAJECTORY PLANE



PIONEER/JUPITER
MAJOR SUBSYSTEMS



- 1 RADIOISOTOPE THERMOELECTRIC GENERATORS (RTG)
- 2 THRUSTERS
- 3 MEDIUM GAIN ANTENNA
- 4 HIGH GAIN ANTENNA
- 5 COMMAND
- 6 DISTRIBUTION UNIT
- 7 SOLAR WAVE REFERENCE ASSEMBLY
- 8 LOW GAIN ANTENNA
- 9 TRAVELING WAVE ANTENNA
- 10 THERMAL TELEMETRY UNIT
- 11 SPACECRAFT

JUPITER'S GREAT RED SPOT REGION

This view, taken by Pioneer 11 as it saw Jupiter December 2, 1974, shows the Great Red Spot like a Cyclopean eye at 715,000 miles from the planet. The Spot, the most prominent feature on any of the planets, is 20,000 miles long and 4,000 miles wide, large enough to swallow several Earths.

The flow of white cloud streams both north and south of the Red Spot, from right to left in the picture, is clearly visible. They appear as brown and white bands girdling the planet, the most prominent features of Jupiter. The triangular regions on either side of the Spot appear to be areas where two such streams converge. Many of the bands are the size of continents on Earth. Both light and dark, they traverse thousands of miles around the planet.

Pioneer 11 made it possible to study many details within the Red Spot as well. There is a counterclockwise spiral within the Spot which theory suggests is due to the flow of cloud material north and south of it. The white oval below the right end of the Spot is one of three which are usually 120° apart on Jupiter. The positions of the ovals change relative to the changing location of the Red Spot.

Turbulence extending out to the right of the Spot seems to show a large wake created by a stream of cloud material in Jupiter's atmosphere. This cloud stream appears to be one of the first examples seen of the transfer of mass between belts and zones, something predicted by theories on Jovian meteorology.

Scientists believe that the understanding of weather on Jupiter and on other planets will be of great importance in the understanding of meteorology on our own planet Earth.

PIONEER-JUPITER MISSIONS — Man's first visit to Jupiter began with the launch of two spacecraft, Pioneers 10 and 11, in March 1972 and April 1973.

These two Pioneers are the first to go beyond the orbit of Mars, to pass through the Asteroid Belt, to reach Jupiter, and to use Jupiter's gravity to escape the solar system or to go to Saturn. The trip to Jupiter covered more than a half-billion miles.

Pioneer 10 came within 81,000 miles of Jupiter's banded cloud tops in December

1973. Pioneer 11 came within 26,000 miles of the cloud tops in December of 1974. Pioneer 10 will cross the orbit of Saturn in 1976, of Uranus in 1979, and will leave the solar system headed for the red star Aldebaran in 1987. Pioneer 11 is targeted to reach Saturn in 1979.

SPACECRAFT — Pioneers 10 and 11 are identical spacecraft, weighing about 570 pounds apiece, including 65 pounds of scientific instruments. Each can perform at least 13 experiments, and make hundreds of measurements. The Pioneers can communicate to Earth from as far as two billion miles.

