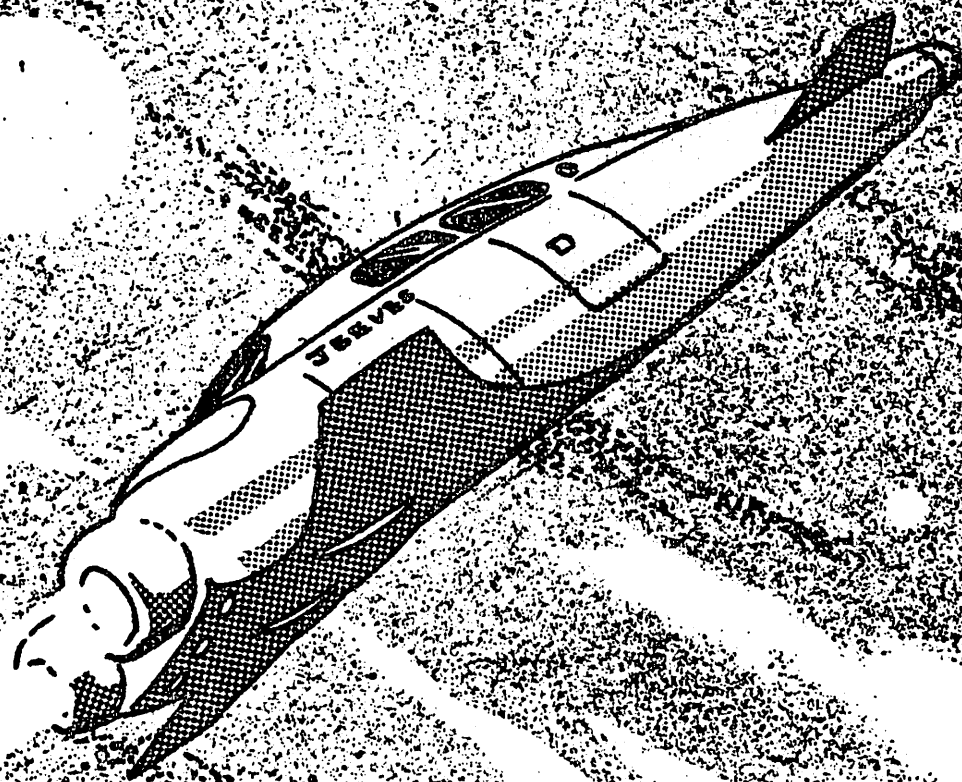
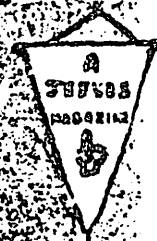


ERG QUARTERLY

#95 JULY 1986



2.

.....Status
.....Box

EEEE	RRR	GG	99	5555
E	R	G	9	5
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J U L Y 1 9 8 6

Now in its 28th. Year

If you enjoyed this issue, you can get the next by.....

1. Write a LOC on this issue and add two 15p stamps (or equivalent) if writing from the UK
2. By trade...but not for fanzines. I have all the fmz trades I can handle... however, if you live in the USA, then any back issues of SF mags (not Analog), Flying, Model or Popular Science/Mechanics etc. accepted at their dollar value against an ERG sub.***

3. Cash subs if you must...

50p or \$1.00 an issue, or 6 for \$5.00, but please send bills, not cheques as the banks rip off too much in charges.

STATUS BOX.. If empty, you're OK, but I always like to hear from you.

X means this is your last issue unless you DO SOMETHING...sorry.

? indicates I'd like to know if you do want further copies as/or I haven't heard from you lately.

S means this is a sample issue...can I tempt you to ask for more ??

*** I'd particularly like..Scale Models, American Modeller, Science Digest, Wings, Air Power, Air Classics - but NOT civilian/light plane/sport flying civil magazines. (Contact me if in doubt)

ERG 95 is printed, published, illustrated and desecrated by Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd., SHEFFIELD S11 9FE Ph.(0742) 553791

BUDDING WRITERS

===== Story Contest 1986 National Fantasy Fan Federation

Once again the annual amateur Story Contest comes round..entry fee \$2 or \$3 (N3F or BSFA members, half price) contact Don Franson 6542 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91606 for full details and entry form. I'll summarise here. 1. You must have sold not more than 2 SF stories. 2. Original and less than 7,500 words SF/Fantasy 3. Typed, double space on A4 First prize is \$25, 2nd.\$15, 3rd.\$10 (It was \$10 first when I won this contest when it was first held...it's a good one, so have a go fen) Hon Mentions and semi finalists get a paperback. Entirets returned, and N3F assume no publishing rights, so you can try your epic on the pro' market if you wish once the contest is over. Closing date...Dec.1st 1986

THIS MONTH'S COVER.. The spacecraft, lettering, sun, moon and the darker bands of stars were first drawn in ink. Letratone tints were then added to the spacecraft. Following this, main drawing, two star bands, sun and date logo (not the title) were masked off, and the whole area stippled by scraping a knife across an old toothbrush loaded with ink. Masking removed, title lettering was filled in with white acrylic and a few more stars added. A photocopy was then sent off to Rectory Row Press* for electronic stencilling, and finally, the stencil was run off on 85gm paper. I hope you like the result. Anyone care to make a bid for the original complete with lettering ? (* P.O. Box 29, Tunbridge Wells, KENT TN1 2PJ charge is £1.00 per stencil inc. p&p. Mention ERG when writing)

ERGITORIAL UPDATES AND THINGS

=====

First of all, my thanks to all those kind people who sent good wishes and 'Get Well' cards during and after the hospitalisation detailed in 'OPERATION FANTAST'...now read on...

April 2nd 1986 saw the birth of grandson Ian Stuart Jeeves. This is our third grandchild, but since the other two were born in Australia and no word from daughter and son-in-law has been received for nigh on ten years, this new baby is the first one for us to see and hold..and spoil if we get the chance.

On that same April 2nd., at 4 am, I was rushed into hospital with an inflamed gall bladder. Three days of no food or water, a glucose feeding drip and an unmentionably (and painfully) placed catheter catered to my basic needs. Then followed three days of semi starvation before I was set free (at both ends) from the hospital and given a low-fat diet on which to exist for 'six to eight' weeks whilst everything settles down..then it's back inside to have the thing removed.

All of this means that this/the next issue/s of ERG may well suffer a delay or three, so if this one or others arrives late on your doormat, you will now know the answer. I'll be quite cut up about it too.

HAPPIER NOTE...Those Ghodmen Chuck Connor and Rob Gregg are plugging for having TWO Guests of Honour for the 1987 Con...They want a partner putting up there beside the well deserved oroginal Guest, Ken Slater..and their ise is that I should be that number 2 GOH. After fifty years in fandom and not once a GOH, I'm tickled by the idea...and I hope you all are too...enough to write supporting the idea either to the Con Committee, or to Rob pr Chuck. Your support would be appreciated.

Now what else? Well, another lo k at my Beeblebox (BBC Micro B to the uninitiated). I suspect that many (most?) micros are bought for novelty, used mainly for games and soon relegated to the cupboard under the stairs. Well, I seldom play games on mine, but I find it invaluable for a host of other activities. Ever since I had WORDWISE + fitted, the thing has gone from strength to strength. I have all my Sales Lists (six or seven of 'em) on computer files and can update and print them out as easily as pressing a key or two. Also on file are ERG mailing lists, sundry Checklists and indices, Income Tax details for cartoon sales, standard form letters for submissions and stuff like that. As for letter-writing, I find it invaluable for that purpose...no need to retype details common to several letters, simply delete unsuitable material, add any new text and the job is done. Likewise it is a great help when writing articles and stories. For openers, there is no need to play around with messy carbons and the lining up of several sheets of paper. A second copy can be run off as and when it is needed from a file stored..at the moment, on cassette .





In case you're wondering what other advantages lie in using a micro-cum-printer for story writing, let me expand a bit. First off, typing errors are easy to correct..either as you make 'em..or even when all is finished and you find some king-sized bocks in the printout. Simply re-load, type in the correction and run off a pristine new copy. The machine also justifies each line of print for me, heads each new page with Story title and page number and keeps a running total of the word count throughout. I can

change formats and typefaces by simple key pressing., choosing between Pica and Elite sizes and microprint, condensed, normal, or enlarged in standard, Italic or Emphasised styles..with or without underlining. Then if at the end of a 4000 word Ms I find I've inadvertantly changed a name from 'Fred' to 'Jim' half way through...a five line program will convert all the Jims to Freds..or vice versa.

No doubt about it, word processors take most of the slog out of the writing game...and if a Ms comes bouncing back in a delapidated state, no need for me to retype it..just load the machine and let it do the job of churning out a nice new copy.

So what about future plans? Well, right now I'm working on going over to a Disc Filing System...having that Interface fitted will cost around \$85, then comes the purchase of twin disc drives (c \$220). With that done, SAVE/LOAD/ACCESS tile will be cut drastically. Speed isn't the main aim though...after the dust settles and my bank manager suitably tranquilised, comes the fitting of a PAGEMAKER ROM..which allows one to create whole pages of Text in various Font types and sizes directly on the computer. By this stage, I hope to produce ninety percent of ERG (bar my illos) on the computer and then go over to photo-lith reproduction with ERG 101...thus cutting out tedious stencil cutting, electro patching, the cost of ink, stencils, electros and a reduction in the postal costs and price of envelopes...as well as relieve me of that hefty duplicating and collating nightmare. The overall cost will rise a bit of course...but it will be worth it for the flexibility and easier workload. That's the plan, time will tell whether or not I achieve it..one big snag is being without my magic box for the estimated week's fitting time. No doubt about it, my micro is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

ADDENDA to 'The Good Old Days' further along in this issue..I wrote this in April, and three days later came the Chernobyl reactor disaster. Whilst I fully admit that this will add a powerful argument to the anti-nuclear brigade, it doesn't alter my basic points.. (1) Cars, planes and coal mines kill more people than nuclear 'incidents' to date, and (2) We desperately need nuclear power research before the fossil fuels run out.

HOSPITAL UPDATE.. Friday May.16th got note from hospital 'Complete Form B and return immediately..Get Form C completed by doctor. Scurried round like scalded cat to catch doctor while open and to hospital to hand in Form B. Duly rang as instructed monday 8-30 to confirm bed. "Ring again at ten". Ten am..No bed yet, we'll ring you" 12.15 they rang to say no bed..we'll call you in the next two weeks. This morning (May.22 further set of forms..so again, no time to mair; back..rush to hand in at hospital and if the bed isn't cancelled, I go in Monday May.26. Stay tuned.....



Far too frequently people seem to take a malicious delight in denigrating modern society, technology and the benefits brought by them. Oh, they have brought us headaches as well - or to be more precise, the nasty side of humanity has found ways to subvert society or mis-employ technology to their own perverted ends - to paraphrase a famous quotation, "The fault, dear reader, lies not in our science, but in ourselves."

Personally, having survived (and served through) a World War, I still feel I'm one of the lucky generation...having been born to better medical attention and welfare service than my grandparents. I'll be pushing up daisies before the full spate of violence, crime and social anarchy levied on us by the permissive society and the rabid militants really strikes.

'What about famine in the Third World, or the allied problems of A bombs and nuclear power plant leakage?' These are the favourite moans of the Cassandra brigade. Well first of all, and some of you may howl loudly at this, but almost all of the Third World's 'famines' can be traced to three main factors - none of which can be blamed on the technologically oriented West.

1. Over-breeding. Lacking effective birth control, often having social or religious objections to it, brings more mouths to feed than available resources can fill.
2. Poor (antiquated) farming methods coupled with bad growing conditions and overworked soil. This is aggravated by the lack of money to buy fertilisers, equipment and good seeds.
3. Venality and greed of local rulers and officials. I have been told that Band-Aid consignments were held at import points until local tax and duties had been paid to Ethiopian authorities.

Against these 'causes' and aggravations, one can set that Western science has given us the know-how to overproduce food and thus be able to make it available (along with cash) to the starving hordes.

So what has this to do with the 'Good' Old Days? Well surely, that surplus and aid shows that we are now able and willing to do more than any previous generation to help less fortunate countries?

Nuclear weapons are certainly a modern problem...but you're just as dead if killed by a machine gun or stone club...and MORE people died in

the four years of non-nuclear WW1 than in the six years of World War II. Oh, I fully agree that we need to junk A-bombs, along with virtually all other weaponry - but NOT unilaterally. Bullies thugs and yobbos do NOT back off and go somewhere else when they see people who are weak, old, infirm or defenceless. Baldwin's disarmament showed us that in the early thirties, and bomb-toting terrorists don't stick to military targets. As for those 'radiation leaks'...more people die on our roads EVERY DAY than have been killed by all power station leakages to date. Coal mining has claimed far more deaths..many of 'em slow and lingering from silicosis than any nuclear 'incident'. As for bigger disaster possibilities, we have a long way to go to catch up to Aberfan, Flixborough and the Italian and Indian chemical disasters...so don't single out A-plants... they will be sorely needed (along with fusion power) when our fossil fuel deposits run out in less than a hundred years. Nuclear waste dumping if done with care and in sensible places will lumber future generations with far less problems than the currently inevitable one of NO POWER. Don't kid yourself about wind and tidal schemes, they can't begin to touch current power demands....and hmw do you distribute FOOD without POWER ?

We also blame modern society for Apartheid evils. Indubitably abhorrent, but how much more so were the evils of the slave trade? For that matter, is youth unemployment worse than the child exploitation in mine and factory which we had a hundred years or so ago? Housing is far better for more people nowadays, the vast majority having hot and cold water, electricity and often central heating, TV, refrigeration and washing machines. By contrast, I grew up in a house where all the water came from one cold tap...all hot water for baths etc., having to be heated over the fire (one for the whole house) in kettles and then poured into the tin bath in the scullery. (It normally hung on a nail outside the back door. Our toilet was a lightless little hut at the bottom of the shared backyard. Light in the house came from gas mantles and for entertainment, I well remember our first 3-valve battery radio in about 1932. If anyone walked near it, the thing burst into uncontrolled oscillation. All of which makes me laugh a bit when I recall how one cantankerous femfan recently said I was the product of 'a typical middle-class upbringing'



No doubt about it, conditions for most of us (all?) have vastly improved in a single lifetime. When I developed crippling asthma at the age of 39, I had four or five years of agony before research into drugs produced the Intal which now allows me to lead a normal life. On the travel front, whereas people seldom moved more than a few miles from home, I've been able to visit India, Ceylon, Africa as well as tour Europe and twice visit America. Cheap jet travel has opened the world to the masses. Going back even further, people had to endure decaying teeth rotting in their heads, a broken leg meant you became a cripple and physical disorders easily treated today, usually meant a long lingering death. One's working day ran from dawn until dusk, Sundays often included. Entertainment was mostly D.I.Y. unless you hoofed it ten miles or so to the nearest market day. As for 'civil rights', they seldom existed...what the Lord of The Manor wanted, the Lord Of The Manor took...and woe betide anyone who protested.

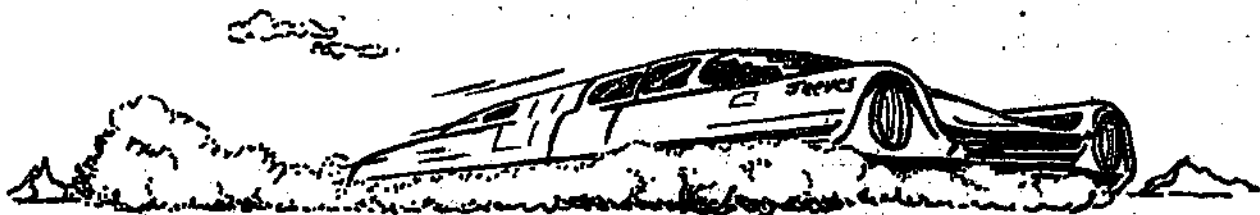
Clifford D Simak and other writers often extol the virtues and sheer delights of the bucolic, back-to-nature existence. Their characters sniff the pine-scented air as they sit in their rocking chairs or hammocks, smoke corn cob pipes and make folksy chatter with other sons of the earth. The days all seem to be those long, hot, summery ones when the grass was dry, the leaves rustled, and everyone went around in shirt sleeves. Somehow such writers never dwell on the long cold winters, the downpours which turn rural pathways into impassable bogs and the trip to that little wooden outhouse becomes a major expedition..especially at night when the paraffin lamp blows out along the way. Slaving in the fields from morn till nightfall without mechanical aids never gets a look in..nor do the problems of the erupting appendix, heart attack or broken leg enriched by the fact that the nearest doctor (witch variety) lives fifteen miles away.

Oh yes, it may be fashionable to complain long and loud about the perils of modern science...but you don't have to plastic bread or nosh all the additive stuffed goodies from the supermarket... they only sell so well, because people are too inherently lazy to look elsewhere. TV may be 90% unadulterated tripe. but you can always use the 'off' switch. Shows such as Dynasty, Constipation Street, East Enders, and other 'soaps' or the brainless quiz games and suchlike only proliferate because idiots will drool over them. Stop watching and bitch like crazy until the ratings fall, and maybe we could get some decent material..and who knows? we might even tap some of that great educational potential of the box.

Certainly we have plenty of problems...when have we been without 'em? Press gangs, 100 Years War, plagues, crop failures and so on. M-an about modern progress and technology if you like...."If all that money was spent on...cancer research/Third World/something else" is a common cry. Well first read my piece on NASA in the last issue of ERG..and then ask yourself...just how many qualified cancer research scientists are there around? Could more money conjure them out of thin air? or would it lead to a duplication of effort? Is pouring money into Africa or elsewhere likely to solve their population increase figures? ..and for that matter, is too much charity likely to be a good thing in the long run?

No doubt about it...we'll always have problems. The question is, would YOU rather be alive today, or do you think you would be far better off a few hundred years ago?

=====t.j.=====





SMALL ADZE

=== No charge for this service, just
send in your ads...but try to keep 'em to
less than eight lines ===

Matt MACKULIN, 8 Upper Ashmount, Cloughfold,
Rawtenstall, Rossendale, LANCs BB4 7PS is
clearing out his comics collection. Marvel,
DC etc., drop him a line if you're interested.

THOMAS FERGUSON, S.F. Society, c/o Student's
Union Building, University Rd., BELFAST BT7 1PE N. Ireland announces the first
N.I. SF Con, 18th-20th October, 10am-10pm Cost £3.00. I gather it's a one
day affair (18, 19 or 20th)...full details from Tom. == and Tom also wants
to buy First Edition (pb or hardback) of Larry Niven's RINGWORLD...the one
with the error', he says.

KEN LAKE, 115 Markhouse Ave., LONDON E17 8AY..seeks complete set of JIMMIE
RODGERS set of Japanese LPs numbered RA 5459-5466 (8 LPs) issued 1973.
titled..."THE LEGENDARY JIMMIE RODGERS...10 Collections'. Anyone help?

TERRY JEEVES, 230 Bannerdale Rd., Sheffield S11 9FE wants to buy or trade..

WORLDS OF TOMORROW (USA) Vol.5.No.1 GALAXY NOVELS..No.29
VENTURE SF (USA) 1969 Vol.3 No.1 S.F.DIGEST (USA) May, 1954
ORIGINAL SF (UK) No.12 S.F.YEARBOOK, No.4 ORBIT (USA) Vol.1 Nos 2,3 & 4
DOC SAVAGE pbs Nos 98=110 and 115 on. RIGEL SF 1981 Nos.2,3 & 4
ASTOUNDING...1930..Jan, Mar, May to Dec. 1931..Jan, Feb, Jly, Oct, Dec
1932..Jan, Sep. 1933..Oct, Dec 1934..Jan, Feb, May, Jun, Sep, Oct.

ERIC BENTCLIFFE 17 Riverside Cresc. Stockport, Ches CW4 7NR is selling off
his collection of SF...hardcovers, magazines, paperbacks etc. Since it goes
way, way back and includes many rare goodies (including Fantasy & Gnome
Press items), you might do yourself a good turn by sending Eric a copy of
your Want List. Collectors, please note...or pass on. (Got any of my wants
from above list, Eric ?)

JOHN ROLES, 55 Mount Pleasant, Waterloo,
Liverpool L22 5PL offers 'a good many'
issues of ASTONISHING STORIES from 1930
to 1934....No.1 £150, others down to
£15 depending on condition. If any of
you millionaires respond, tell John
you heard of him in ERG...and a 10%
cut would be appreciated.



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Joining Things

(...before they came apart)

Clubs etc.,

So far in this series, I've nattered about magazines, comics, fanzines, inventions and a host of other topics...but no mention of the sundry fannish societies and clubs to which I have had the pleasure - or otherwise, - belonging. Now is the time to remedy that omission :---

As far as I can recall, the very first SF Club which I joined, was the now long-defunct 'SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN', that was in 1948, and I was Member No.20. A highly forgettable milestone, as despite the imposing title, I can't remember a thing about its aims, activities, or even how I came to join. All I have to pass on to future generations, is a slightly tatty membership card...who knows, like the lines on that plain in South America, it may pose a problem for future investigators.

More memorable was the FANTASY ART SOCIETY created by Alan Hunter. This society saw several artistic projects...bookmark cards, a calendar and a more ambitious project where Alan, currently art-editor for Peter Hamilton's magazine NEBULA, gave members a chance to actually illustrate for a prozine. That gave me my first professional SF illo for a story in, I think, Nebula 4. I still have a copy in my file book of sales, and it still gives me a nostalgic feeling when I see it.

SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

(OF GREAT BRITAIN)

Name

B. J. James Esq.

Membership No.

20

Date

Oct 2nd 1948

P. R. - Fann

the
Fantasy Art Society



NAME... Terry. James.

Membership Expires... Sept. 1952

FANTASY FAN FEDERATION... a group still in existence, as witness the writer's competition detailed on page 2 of this issue. Among other things, the N3F issued many excellent publications and Checklists, some of which I still have in the files. I also have memories of an offshoot of the N3F...at least, I seem to recall they were linked in some way...THE I.S.F.C.C. or to

give it its full and rather deterring name.. THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. This, like the N3F's WELCOMMITTEE was meant to ensure that any SF reader unwary enough to raise his head above the parapet by writing to a magazine, or being seen buying a magazine, was the recipient of sundry letters from ISFCC members welcoming him or her to the ranks of the faithful. This had a built-in drawback for members as it put them at the sharp end of a steadily increasing correspondence - indeed, I suspect that it caused as many GAFIA's among the welcomers as it introduced new members to SF's ranks. For my letter-writing sins, I somehow rose to exalted ranks of Chairman of this group (I had the greatest staying power).

Here in the U.K., I also joined the N.W.S.F.C .. the North-West SF Club and encountered such fen as Mike Rosenblum, Dave Cohen (with whom I still correspond), John Russell Fearn and others - and this led eventually to the Mancon and Supermancon. I had the pleasure of visiting Mike Rosenblum at his home and actually seeing that fabulous collection. Stored in an upstairs bedroom on racks reaching from floor to ceiling, with just enough room to sidle edgewise between them, Mike had EVERYTHING..well, if not everything, he had made a damned good try. He was rather disturbed when I asked if he had had the floor joists strengthened..seems he had never considered the sheer weight of all that lot. I left him to muse over the chances of a sudden bulk delivery of SF into his lounge.

A less fan-active group formed in Liverpool (LiG) around Norman and Ina Shorrocks, John Roles, Dave Newman, Eddie Jones and others. They not only read SF, but dabbled in archery, tape recording and film-making. Their tape epics such as 'MARCH OF SLIME' and 'LAST AND FIRST FEN' were popular not-to-be-missed highlights of Kettering Conventions. (Concoms please note..what happened to fan entertainment...tape epics, Delta Film Comps, Kts of St. Fantasy and the like?). One of these tapes introduced the panacea for all ills...BLOG By the end of the weekend, BLOG had found its way onto the bar tariff card, and visitors to local cafes and eateries found menus offering 'Blog and Chips' or 'Crottled greeps in Blog Sauce'



ESTABLISHED 1941

300 STF FAN

This Certifies That

Byron Terry Jeeves

is a member, in good standing, of the
National Fantasy Fan Federation
Roy & Deedee Lavender, Box 132, Delaware, Ohio

1955

Since large alcohol intakes also cause frequent side trips to jettison the load, it wasn't long before many of the trees bore little tinplate labels, - the kind you used to stamp out on British Rail station platforms at 1d for 26 letters.- Go there and you may still find trees proudly stating that.. "Stan Nuttall tiddled here..A.D. 1957"

I was also a long-distance member of the Cheltenham Circle. Their basement HQ boasted a library, kitchen, and a hole in the wall to allow Eric Jones to sit outside on the stairs and project films into the clubroom. one wall of which was decorated by visiting fan-artists ..including a noughts and crosses game between Eddie Jones and I. He drew his little creatures as noughts and I used Sog-gies as crosses. It was the Cheltenham Group which came up with the mythical Knights of St. Fanthony - into whose ranks I was elevated at the London Worldcon in 1957 - after first quaffing a libation of 120 proof Polish White spirit.

Over in Ireland, Messrs. Willis, Shaw, Berry and White created the Goon Detective Agency, and I qualified for that august band by virtue of having two articles on Disguise (not quite the normal variety) in their official organ. In the U.K., we had a loosey-woven sort of fandom for a while, with Ken Slater being a sort of lynch pin cum clearing house for all and sundry... and naturally, since I got most of my SF from Ken, and had my first fannish writing and artwork published by him, I was

a member. I reckon it's time Ken resuscitated the society - we did nothing of an official nature, just belonged.

In the amateur publishing line, I was at first a poor relation of OMPA ..The Off-Trail Magazine Publishers Association, by virtue of a half share in Eric Bentcliffe's

Basement
130. London Rd.
Cheltenham.

Telepathy
Hypnosis
Radionics

Cheltenham Science-Fiction Circle

Recording
FILMING
DISCUSSIONS

Meetings
WEDNESDAYS
7 30 P.M

MEMBERSHIP CARD



This Certifies that

BYRON T. JEEVES

is a member in good standing of
OPERATION FANTASY.

Fellow members and "operators" are
requested to give the holder all
possible assistance.

Membership No. B160-FAS

FOR VALIDITY SEE OVER

contribution PLATFORM. In April 1959, with ERG No.1, I became a member in my own right..eventually rising to the ranks of Chairman..and this in turn meant I chaired the Birmingham Ompacon a few years later. I soon began to mail ERG out to a wider audience, and for a time, I was also a member of FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) in the USA and the Australian apa, 'APPLESAUCE'... but the huge total activity requirement (about 100 extra copies) plus the long, long response lag (minimal even then) caused me to drop out. Pity, I like being in an apa, but mailing out 100 copies of a fanzine for a return totalling less than one quarto page of response, just wasn't on.

During the fifties, Fandom Conventions enjoyed a happy, all one family atmosphere. There were probably less than a 100 acti-fans in the whole country.

It seemed then, that fandom was in danger of dying out! The need for 'new blood' (just a load of vampires, that's us) was aired at a Kettering Con!. After a stormy meeting in the basket lounge, Ted Tubb rammed through the idea of forming a British Science Fiction Assoc. Using all his powers of rhetoric and persuasion, he drove us to the stage of forming a Committee. Archie Mercer was Treasurer, Eric Bentcliffe and I were joint Secretaries..with me doubling as publisher of the Official Organ once Ted had edited it. Somehow, my suggestion for the name of Vector was accepted, and we were under way..for a while. With the arrival of the first pages of Ms for me to put on stencil, came Ted's resignation from the editorial chair..so I ended up editing $\frac{1}{2}$ Vector 1 and issues 2,3 & 4 whilst E.B. took over all Secretarial duties. During the years I was in the BSFA, I rose to the dizzy heights of first, Vice-Chairman and then full Chairman. For a brief period, I was a member of the B.I.S., but in those days, the nearest meeting was in London and as cash was scarce, I just let my sub lapse I also qualified as 'A CRY Letterhack' by virtue of having a LOC in that fanzine. There were various other esoteric Clubs, Societies and cliques all over the place....

I have one dummy police card saying....

"The Holder Of This Card is an Undercover Operative. J st lie down and do exactly what he tells you."

and Chuck Harris, now returned to Fandom, was responsible for the little gem illustrated below.

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

SIGNATURE
OF HOLDER

Terry Jeeves M4

➔ CRY LETTERHACK ➔
This is to certify that

TERRY JEEVES

Has had a letter published
in CRY OF THE NAMELESS

Not to be outdone by such shenanigans, Harry Turner up in Romiley, publisher of that superlative, but irregular fanzine NOW AND THEN, formed the mythical ROMILEY FAN VETERANS AND SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY.....

This certifies that

Terry Jeeves

is a member (in good standing) of
The Antique and International Order of
FULLY CERTIFIED SEX FIENDS

C. R. HARRIS
Potentate

This is to certify that

TERRY JEEVES

has been elected an Honorary Member of the

ROMILEY FAN VETERANS
& SCOTTISH DANCING SOCIETY

and is entitled to all rights and privileges of membership

Harry Turner Harry Turner

Eric Needham Eric Needham

Founder Members

Not to be outdone, Eric and I (then publishing Triode, came up with the equally mythical STOCKPORT AND INTAKE DOG AND CAME-WALKING SOCIETY. Offhand, I don't think we ever had more than two members.

Then of course, Nick Falasca in the U.S.A. had his own personal coterie of fans....Ghu knows what I did to qualify..or be sentenced to the dead, but nevertheless, through the mail came yet another card which certified me (H'm, maybe that's not the best word) as a member of

FALASCAFANDOM

Fandom seems to throw up (?) Clubs at a fast and furious rate - even if their life times average but a few years or even months. Recently, I was a member of an American 'Fantasy Art Society', but thanks to a snafu on my part, (I sent my renewal dues to the wrong place (and never got 'em back)) my membership lapsed. Does anyone out there know if it still functions? Or better still...Alan Hunter, I know you're reading this, so how about re-forming the British Society ????

This card certifies that the bearer is a full fledged (no pinfeathers) simon pure sanctified member of

FALASCAFANDOM

Members shall hew (Axes only) to the party line as directed by the edict from the Fountain Head. Holders of this card shall be entitled to all privileges of Tru-Fans; even though they may not have published for one week.

Cell No. 12-A.	Pecking Order in Cell 3rd from top
APA No. 4-1	W. S. F. S. No. 273421
Parkinson Index N.B.4.	B. S. S. Yes ... No. 19786
S. S. No. 444-0-2	Army Serial ... 3 PARTS
	(Summer Soldiers Only)

FAKE FANS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Way off and down in South America, SF fandom flourished in the hands of Hector Possina, publisher of the excellent little fanzine, the ARGENTINE S-F REVIEW. Among other items, he published one or two pieces by me, among them my item on space stamps...ASTROPHILATELY .. I also got a cover and sundry smaller illos into his fanzine...so when Hector began to cast around for someone to look after subscriptions and the like from the UK, he didn't look far...(nor did he write and ask me first)..I suddenly found myself the recipient of yet another card...this one appointing me as the 'Foreign Correspondent' (Damn it, I'm not foreign, it's you, Hector) for the Argentine SF Review. ah, fame. Don't send any subs though, as my agentship and ASFR both lapsed a long time ago.

PRIMER FANZINE
ARGENTINO

**ARGENTINE
SCIENCE FICTION
REVIEW**

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

B.T. Jeeves

qualified me as a member of THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SF PROFESSIONALS and a Charter Member forsooth. All this despite the fact that I had shelved all the sundry application forms and dues notices as fast as they arrived. My sales in the SF field have been limited to a story in Van Thal Horror series, a bucketfull of illos a couple of letters in SF mags and work with Mike Ashley on THE COMPLETE ANALOG INDEX etc.

I'm also a member of the Dinosaurs of SF, FIRST FANDOM, a club of which I am proud to be associated -- but away from SF, I was a Founder Member of The Sheffield Tape Society, a member of the SHEFFIELD CINE CLUB, of THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE, and of THE MILLHOUSE AND ECCLESALL

DANCING CLUB. Yes, once upon a time, Val and I even gained Gold Medals in Latin American dancing...how does that grab you?

Oh yes, and I'm an ex-member of UNDERATIER EXPLORE HIS CLUB..and went diving off the coast of Spain with that club.

So if you happen to need a member for your club....?

SHEFFIELD UNDERWATER EXPLORERS' CLUB

MEMBERSHIP CARD

MR.....**B.T. JEEVES**.....

No.....19..... Valid until **30th Nov, 1955**.....

NOT TRANSFERABLE

Offhand, I can't help wondering if I might have been grabbed during the Falklands War - the arrival of an exoteric language-d fanzine from Argentina might have been construed as dealing in coded communications !

There have been many other clubs and societies in my life..but possibly the most recent - and the most surprising, was the arrival of all sorts of publications..followed by a membership card which

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONALS

Charter Member Number

Nr 255

[Signature]
Member's Signature

=====

P A N O R A M A

=====

Maybe I'd better open on a slightly downbeat note...namely in answer to several enquiries. No, I'm afraid I have enough fanzine trades right now, so the reluctant answer to those who ask... 'Trade?' must be "No".

Sorry folks... but maybe later if I succeed in going over to photo-lith. In the meantime, on to...

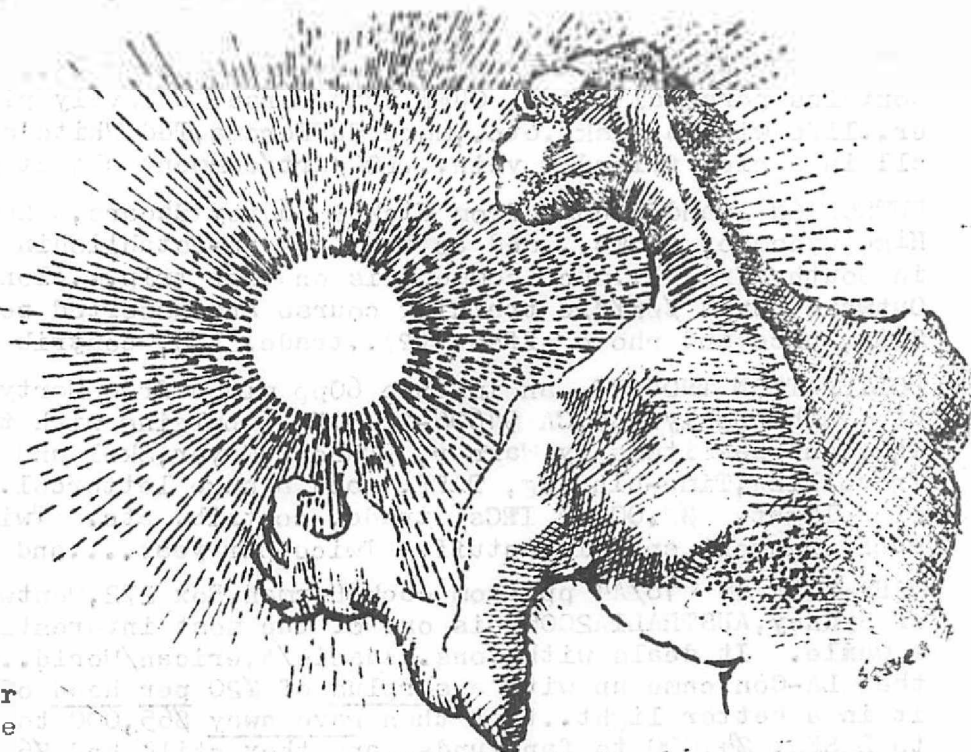
LAN'S LANTERN 17, a superb 60pp affair from George Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills MI 48013, USA. Comment on Con/Hugo voting, Reviews, Gernsback pro and con, David Brin's GON speech, USSR visit, Conreports and an excellent lettercol. Well worth getting, at \$1.50 or all the usual methods. Oh yes, immaculately produced as well.

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY, 28 some 50 A5 offset pages crammed with goodies.. essays on Ballard, Conan Doyle/Shelley etc., verse, interview with Wm Tenn (Pt.3), Popeye's creator, horror, radio, film etc...and a long LOCcol. Best of all, it isn't too highbrow even though it is s&c \$5.00/4 issues from Leland Sapiro, PO Box 833-044, Richardson TX 75083.

I gather that support is growing for having me as a sacpn GON for the 1987 Con...but one correspondent tells me that certain fen are stirring up opposition because they 'don't like my politics'. Once upon a time, fen couldn't care less/never knew about others views. I only started airing my pro-Conservative views because I got fed up with certain left wingers using every chance to slag Maggie Thatcher. Heck knows, I don't love her, but I do prefer her to Militants...and said so. Apparently another trait of the Militants is that they only allow 'free speech' if it agrees with their views...since my ideas differ, I'm to be ostracised. Brave New World!

THE NOTIONAL.11 20pp/14/min from Leigh Edmonds & Valma Brown, PO Box 433, Civic Sq., ACT 2608, AUSTRALIA. Mainly comment/review on Australian SF and books, also reviews, comment and some letters. No rates...the usual ??

IDOMO 20 c 36/A4/min from Chuck Connor, Sildan House, Chediston Rd, Wissett, Nr. Halesworth, SUFFOLK. Irreverent treatment of all things SFnal, pop music, comment, reviews, assorted art, fanzine commentary, fiction, LOCs, and some lovely re-captioned old adverts and illustrations. Not for the gentleminded but a load of fun for the more accomodating. LOC/Trade/usual...



WALLBANGER 11 30, 44pp from Eve Harvey, 43 Harrow Rd., Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3QH
Contains personal notes, GUFF trip, verse, a lovely piece by Judith Hanna on
er..life with a desk..etc., more GUFFerama, Ted White's Con GOH speech, LOCs
all in a nice friendly vein...LOC/Art/comment/object plea, or cash.

ENTROPION 2 and 3 came from Nick & Audrey Shears, 9 Kestrel Close, Downley,
High Wycombe, Bucks...and as they are re-establishing a UK base after a month
in South Africa...much comment is on that trip...along with an account of an
Outward Bound ~~XXXXX~~ training course and assorted personal details and LOCs.
Slim, nice and photo offset (?)..trade, LOC, contrib etc.

HOLIER THAN THOU 23...an immense 60pp mimeo from Marty Cantor, 11565 Archwood
St., Nth. Hollywood, CA 91606-1703, USA bulging with top quality art and...
This one has items by Warner, Franson, Mayer, Skel and others..Concomment,
Travelling, Time-binding, TAPP, and a huge lettercol...plus many other items
of delight. \$2.00, 7 IRCs, trade, contrib, etc. Twice a year, and full of
much argument sparking stuff. Twice per year....and worth waiting for!

WAHF-FULL 16 18/44 pp from Jack Herman, Box 272, Wentworth Bldg. University
of Sydney, AUSTRALIA 2006 is one of the most interesting Aussie zines in
a while. It deals with Cons..Aussie/American/World..with a note on the fact
that LA-Con came up with a surplus of \$20 per head of attendees ..to put
it in a better light..they then gave away \$65,000 to 'Con Workers', \$30,000
to LASFS, \$4,000 to fan funds..and they still had \$65,000 left! Who said
Cons aren't too big and expensive?? WAHF-Full also tells you how to run a
Con, reprints Dave Langford's Novacon natter, a spot of con-fantasy and an
excellent lettercol. Get it for article, art, letter, trade, old zines, stamps.
GROGGY TALES 26 from Eric Mayer, 1771 Ridge Rd. E, Rochester, NY 14622, USA is
a fannish first inasmuch as the cover is a superb Banda(ditto) job and the
interior is dot matrix printout and photocopy...16pp. Personal natter on
home life..and why does a fanpubber, pub. Comment on fandom, letters and
some good art. Crawl and faunch for this one..Eric limits his print run, but
if you can get a copy, you'll enjoy it.

FANZINE FANATIQUE has eight pages of capsule fmz reviews..so if you're in a
quandary (advt) as to which ones to get, contact Keith Walker, 6 vine St.,
Greaves, Lancaster, Lancs for a copy...a nice begging letter and SAE can help.

NIEKAS 34 has 56 superbly produced and illustrated pages. Jammed with sundry
nattering, columns (Piers Anthony, John Brunner and others) Fred Lerner tells
of (and plugs) his new book on SF, Diane Paxson tells you all about elfland,
How D&D meets Christianity, books, films, letters...and other goodies. Niekas
only appears twice a year, but is well worth waiting for .. \$2.50 from
Ed Meskys, RFD.1 Box 63. Center Harbor, N.H., USA 03226-9729, or \$2 from R.
Waddington, 4 Commercial St.,
Norton, Malton, N.YORKS YO17
9ES.

RUNE.74 40pp from Minnesota SF
Soc. PO.Box 2128, Loop Stn,
Minneapolis, MINN 55402 is a
light hearted zine..reviews, fmz,
LOCs, Neofan's Guide to the
Herring, and 'Ask Dr.Minmeo' (if
you want a daft answer. Get it
for the usual. Few illos, but
well hand-cut.



17
LAN'S LANTERN 18 boasts 80 pages! ..superbly produced and illustrated.
'Ten Year's a Fan', 1st in a series on Heinlein, Writing Notes, Verse, Books, Movies, why a digital computer will never become intelligent, TV, population, Conreps, LOCs etc etc. It's a toss up whether this or Niekas is your 'best buy', but I feel LL is less..shall we say 'up market' and of more general appeal. How can one do justice to such an excellent product in a few brief lines of comment? Answer, you can't, so write off and get a copy. Now \$2 or the usual..see first item in this Panorama.

DUPLICATING NOTES as I mention elsewhere, is long out of print...but, I'm wondering whether or not to run off a new issue..limited to, say, 50 copies and priced around \$1.50 to \$2.00 I'd appreciate feedback as to whether or not you think this a viable proposition and/or your interest (if any) in buying a copy. Well....?

NEWTOY.11 has 36pp, excellent artwork and comes from Taral Wayne, 161, 1812-415 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale, ONTARIO, CANADA M2N 5B4 (\$2.00 or 'the usual') It contains a natter by Taral on his (and Canadian) pubbing, then on ghosts, wrestling, Fan Loon's Lives and a WAHF sub for a LOCcol. A nice, hefty perzine. Less ambitious,

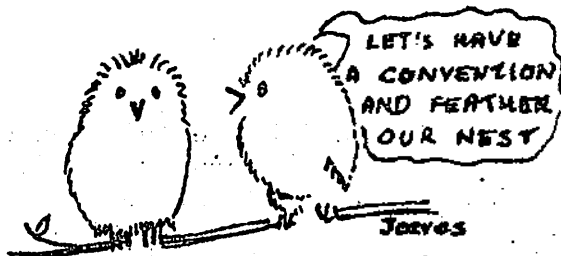
but an interesting little zine is the 24pp/A4 SPACE WASTREL from Messrs Loney & Warner, BOX 545n South Perth, WA 6151, AUSTRALIA. A proposal for an 'alternate Worldcon'..Rescon in times when Worldcon is elsewhere; pop music (ugh); wine (honest!); a crit of Bob Shaw and his heroines; 3 page review of Rhialto, and some letters. Get it for the usual..or a launching letter.

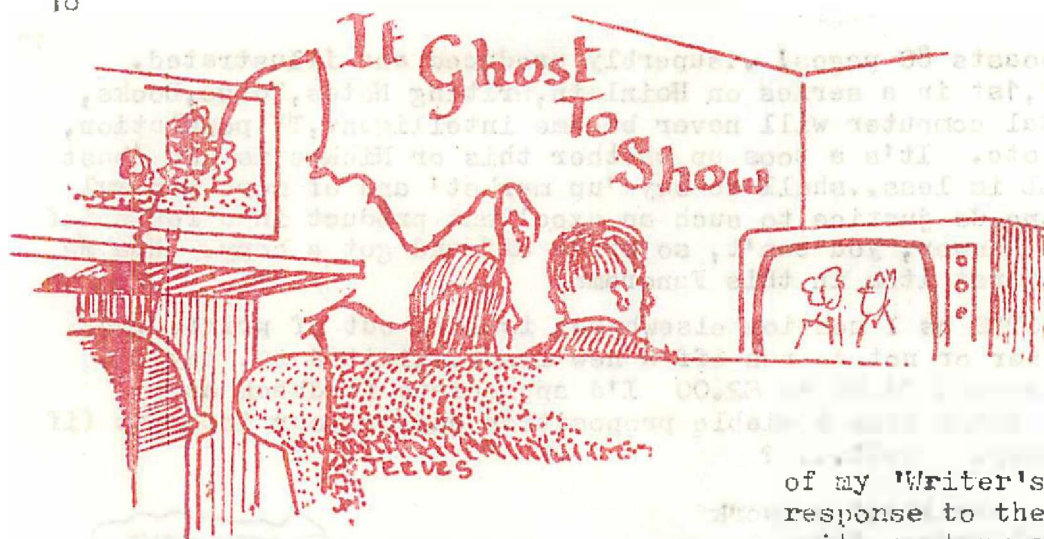
Small world department. 'ANYTHING NOSTALGIC', a book dealer in Cambridge area who has supplied me with (non-SF) titles, sent me a note to advise me of a fellow selling off 1030-34 issues of ASTONISHING STORIES.. but who wanted \$150 for No.1, and \$15 each for the others...his address was enclosed. None other than John Roles of the LiG who I have neither seen or heard from in a coon's age. At \$150 a copy, I'll not be beating a path to his door.

APOLOGIES AND EXPLANATIONS

This issue of ERG should have been mailed but early in July..BUT..

May 23 I went into hospital...May 26 I had a gall bladder removed...but something wasn't right...an ulcer developed above my liver and two weeks later, I had operation 2. To clear it out. That didn't work, so I was rushed into surgery and had operation No.3 !! So far, that hasn't worked either, so after two months in hospital, I am still fitted with an external drain bag. They let me come home this weekend for 48 hours..but back Sunday night (Jly20) with further tests on Monday. Prognosis..six to eight weeks for it to finally heal...then? Well then I go in again for an operation on the prostate. SO...bear with ERG delays and a minimal letter or fanzine response from me. I'll get this issue out as soon as possible..and if YOU can pass the word along that I'll be limited in fanac for some time to come...I'd appreciate it. Yours, Terry.





This is
another
product

of my 'Writer's Workshop' in
response to the assignment to
write a story about a worried
ghost. Now read on :....

The old house had been empty for months and Henry was bored stiff. Various would-be buyers had wandered round the place, but despite the agent's blandishments, nobody had opted to buy. Once or twice, Henry had tried to help the sale by doing one of his tricks, but that only seemed to drive customers away. Indeed, his last effort had been so disastrous, he had taken himself off to the summerhouse and had a good sulk for a week or two. Now it seemed that in his absence, the old dump had finally been sold.

Henry only became aware of this, when on returning to the house, he floated in through the East wall, crept through the oak panelling and materialised behind the sofa. This was his favourite place for watching TV without being noticed. After many TV-less months, Henry was delighted to find that new owners had moved in and settled down to watch the box. His attention turned to the glowing screen. Ogod! It was the 'Bruce Fayzake Show'. Henry dematerialised so rapidly that he left a cold draught behind him. It swirled around the ankles of the near-hypnotised couple seated on the sofa. "Bit of a breeze, Mary," said the man. "I'll have to check those window frames."

"I hope it isn't going to be a draughty house," replied his wife. "I told you Frank, there must be something wrong with a place like this going so cheaply - and what's more....Oooh look! Brucey's going to throw that custard pie..." Momentary discomfort forgotten, two pairs of rectangular-shaped eyes feasted on the delights of Bruce Fayzake as he deftly made fools of his 'guests'.

Henry decided to get a bit bolder, maybe he could coax them into changing channels, possibly to 'The Munsters', one of his favourites. Still in his immaterial state, he did his impersonation of clanking chains.

"Did you hear that, Frank?" asked Mary. "I'll bet Brucey has got an anchor chain in his trousers, just to fool 'em." Henry gave a graveyard sniff and tried his 'rattling of graveyard bones'.

"He's got some castanets in there as well," offered Frank. Determined to provoke a reaction, Henry tried in quick succession...sabre shaking, door banging and his most impressive moan of agony... only to have the telly-besotted pair credit Bruce Fayzake's trousers with holding a canteen of

cutlery, three yards of parquet flooring and the Queen Mary's fog-horn.

It was more than any self-respecting ghost could bear. Henry oozed through the panelling and retreated to his attic hideaway to make plans. It had been boring enough without people for him to haunt, but to have people who ignored his best performances was even worse. Something would have to be done. Two hours later, he got his chance. The gently simmering TV was finally switched off, and a near comatose Frank and Mary settled into bed. Henry gave them half an hour to get fully relaxed before trying out a trick he had learned from a peripatetic poltergeist. Nipping into the kitchen, he threw pots and pans in every direction, then hastily dematerialising, he waited for the result. Ten minutes passed, and apart from slowly freezing ankles, nothing seemed to be happening. Henry zoomed up to the master bedroom. The dulcet roar of a bass-snoring Frank was ably counterpointed by the higher register snuffling from Mary. Henry's pan throwing never had a chance against that sort of racket.

The following night, Henry didn't wait for the couple to fall asleep after a solid diet of 'Constipation Street' and 'Enema Farm'. He began his groaning and moaning right in the middle of their telly-viewing marathon. It was dismissed as gurgling in the plumbing system and not allowed to interfere with the joys of a new soap opera. Sundry blasts of icy cold air merely caused the donning of more woollies and a resolution to get the windows draught-sealed. Whatever Henry tried, the new home owners managed to foil in some way which made Henry more despondent than before. Came bedtime, and the worried ghost decided to make an actual appearance. Normally, he avoided doing this as it gave the place a bad name, but now it seemed the only way. Once and for all, he would show these new people who was the real boss of the place.

He waited until the telly had been doused and Mary and Frank were crossing the poorly-lit hall. With a dramatic gesture, he materialised directly before the casement windows. As an entrance, it was beautifully done, but as an effect, it fell absolutely flat.

"Ah, jolly good, the moon's come out just in time to help us across the hall," said Frank cheerfully...and led the way straight through Henry and off up the stairs. Henry tried again on the landing, but was shattered to hear Mary say, "Oh and it's lighting up the landing as well. How lovely." Henry's final try in the bedroom, but he was completely shattered when the couple used his aura as a nightlight, whilst eulogising on the convenient moonlight.

It was too much. Bored before, what would life be like if these idiots totally ignored his masterful hauntings. Henry swept up to the attic, hastily packed an ectoplasmic bag with a few psychic oddments and swept out of the house. Behind him, he left only a few haunting nekories...as well as Mary and Frank. They were standing, arms around each other and watching gleefully from their bedroom window, as the streaking moonbeam which was Henry, vanished into the distance.

"I told you it would work, dear. Ignore a ghost and it will get fed up and go somewhere else. Now we can sell this dump for at least twice what we paid for it. Go and find that book on haunted houses and let's see which one we can buy next."

THE END



((With ERGitorial interjections
inside these delicately executed
triple parentheses)))

MIKE ASHLEY You should have plenty
Chatham, of NASA pictures for your
KENT back cover soon, what with
the coverage of Uranus and Halley's
comet. I didn't go much on the BBC
coverage of the Halley Encounter
because James Burke in particular had
no idea what to burble on about. After
all the hullabaloo, that evening was a
waste of time. ((Sorry, unless Good
Man Andruschak can help, no more NASA
back covers. Agree on the BBC drive,
and feel the same 'overkill' extends
to Horizon, etc nowadays. They strive
too much for popularisation and lose
sight of the main theme.))) When I
think of that probe and the one before,

already gone beyond the Solar System, out there in the enormity of space, I
still get overwhelmed with a Sense Of Wonder. ((Me too, and how any SF
reader can scoff at the technology which gave us that vista, is beyond me.,
and as for our petty squabbling...words fail me!)))

PAMELA BOAL I wouldn't like to see ERG 100 as a separate one-off.
4 Westfield Way Perhaps a little larger and extra stamps required from
Charlton Heights your regulars if we want to receive ERG.100. I wouldn't
Wantage, OXON ban political education in schools, and I do not think
some teachers concern that is it biased is good enough. Banning is a weak
answer; working towards a balanced presentation is a responsible one. ((I
agree, but how can you ensure balance? Teachers are human and automatically
have their preferences given a stronger case. I always worked on the idea
that party politics was between child and parent. I limited my teaching to
showing how Government/local & Central were elected via electorate and the
parties and then said that which party one voted for depended on one's own
preferences and views...NOT on mine.))) Hear hear..when we start to regard
imagination and curiosity for its own sake, as useless; humanity starts to
become an extinct species. ((Right on, Pamela))) I stayed up late to watch
the GIOTTO encounter ((I was craft and videoed it))). Oh dear, they managed
to turn what was an interesting, even exciting event full of technological
achievement and potential, into a dull non-event. ((I agree yet again))

ALAN BURNS Your fantastic inventions article...earth-boring
19 The Crescent machines. I remember a snippet in the Daily Express
WallSEND NE28 7RE many moons ago, that Professor Zworykin had invented a
machine which bored through the Earth like a mole and that the next war
would be fought underground. Anyway, judging by the problems that my late
colleagues of the NCB have, I wonder just what the problem would be with an
earth-boring machine that trundled happily through the ground and saved the
difficulty and expense of driving a tunnel. ((How about power demands,
material disposal, tunnel shoring up and ventilation, for openers??)))



Ving Clarke
16 Wendover Way
Welling
KENT DA16 2BN

I liked the Memory Bank Lane article on Inventions, tho' I notice that not many of your mentions are later than the mid-1950s - in fact, Bob Shaw's 'Slow Glass' is the only one I think. (((Well I try to keep DMBL set as far back in the mists of time as possible))) Is this because the amount of science you need for a story is so complicated that authors don't bother with it? It's on a lot higher level now than rub two sticks together, light the blue paper and retire into the spaceship cabin.

(((I think you touch on a valid..and important point here. Not many modern authors know enough science to write good sf ..and if they did, I suspect that not many of the readers would have the grounding to understand it. One result of this, is I suspect, the terrific upsurge in sword-toting magic and evil against the puny forces of good..which we seem to be experiencing. Easier to write and less demanding to read. Comments??))) Personally, I haven't noticed many inventions, tho' some theories and ideas of a general nature - Bussard ram jets, the nature of neutron stars and their planets - still crop up. I'm wondering, in fact, whether the old New Wave brought in people who couldn't be bothered by science. (((Couldn't understand it, morelike))) - the story was the thing, and science languished. Gee, there's three explanations in one paragraph. (((Well, story level and writing quality have improved immensely..but of late, they have become rather bland. I think the 'new invention' yarns still crop up..but the invention is no longer the main gimmick, but just an incidental background detail.)))

TED HUGHES

10 Kenmore Rd
Whitefield
Manchester
M25 6ER

First, ERG 94's cover. Excellent. I note that with probably the exception of the current cover, few of your readers comment on the artwork in ERG. (((True, sob))) Perhaps they think those dinky little fillings grow on the bushes in the Jeeves' garden, and you just go out and pick a few when you're in need? (((The same goes for the colour work..sometimes I think of dropping it, as nobody seems to give a damn whether I use it or not))) To Ken Lake's (and your) alphabet...I offer V - veldt (((surely one sounds that 'v' ???)), Y = ypsilon (((..and ain't that either epsilon..or upsilon ???))) and Z - zwitterion (((Whatever's that?..and surely, that z is sounded too?? ..over to Head referee Ken Lake))) ..and what do you offer for a well-thumbed Chambers Twentieth Century in good condition? (((A well-filled dustbin perhaps ???)))

KEN LAKE

115 Markhouse Ave
LONDON E17 3AY

ERG94 has by far the best cover illo I have ever seen., I mean this really sums up magazine fandom, no? Any chance of a signed pull of the artwork without the lettering? I'd frame it straightway and display it to the joy of many friends. (((Well, I have the cover original on offer..you could always lay white paper over the lettering and have a photocopy made .. any use?))) If you want to serialise CARRY ON JEEVES, you will doubtless do so, and we will doubtless laugh and enjoy. But why the either/or argument? Surely DMBL can continue if necessary by opening your pages to suitably vetted DMBLs from your fan? (((Only snag, I don't want too much of the issue devoted to time-binding...but a now-and-then system might well work)))

ROB GREGG
103 Highfield Rd
Romford
Essex RM5 3AE

Even though we haven't gained much out of it (((You must be kidding))) I guess I've always supported the space race

but not the present U.S. policy towards the militarisation of outer space, of which the Shuttle is a major part. (((Sad, but part of the 'who pays for it' syndrome))) In a practical sense I can't understand why spacecraft aren't spheroid rather than the shape they use now. (((One reason is to lower cross-section area/wind resistance. I fancy when we build 'em in space, we may see a spheroid or two))) I rather like your idea of a special double size 100th issue available for twice the amount. This would really be memorable, and maybe you could reprint some of the best bits from the first 99 issues. (((Right folks, how about feedback on that... and suggestions for what to reprint ???)))

JUDY BUTTERY
16 Southam Rd.,
Hall Green,
Birmingham

How do you define 'poetry' You seem to be operating on the opposite principle to a literary critic (((Good))) He would designate anything he didn't like as doggerel. I have to admit defeat in trying to tell the difference. At

one time, I might have said that anything written in funny length lines was poetry, but that would exclude some marvellous prose pas sages which I think are more like poetry than much that is published in anthologies. I still prefer the poetry of my youth .. Southgate, Tennyson and Coleridge. (((I can't define poetry..and I recall (though a confirmed sports-hater) listening enthralled to one radio commentator's daily Test summary...that WAS poetry even though the events bored me. What I don't class as poetry is much of the current unrhymed pseudo arty drivelling which appears in so many a fanzine. I feel that poetry should flow and sound right. That's the best I can do, I'm afraid.))) Was 'TIME TWIST' a deliberate dig at Harrison's Stainless Steel Rat..and I think I've read it somewhere before. (((No dig, just seemed a nice idea..and no you haven't read it, I only wrote it a few months back..it IS original.)))

THOMAS FERGUSON
90 Carnhill
Shantallow 3
DERRY BT48 8BE

One slight annoyance, your 'What Is It?' although I agree wholeheartedly with..(Curiosity may have killed the cat, but with man, it led to the society we have now) ..some might say "Exactly, look at where we are!". The

viewpoint I meant was your presentation was somewhat a bit like a rate. As an argument it kind of failed. However, as an informative article, it was just that. (((Which is what it was meant to be...no use trying to convince those "Are we any better off?" Polyannas..they would (seemingly) prefer it if we bred and starved like Indians/Africans, suffered privation, hardship and cruelty as in the Middle Ages, had no medicare...but were 'free'. Such people only see what they want to see. No, I was writing for the thinker who wanted a few facts and could then make up his own mind.))) Although I haven't been into fandom all that long, it seems to me I'm about 20-30 years too late. In all the zines I get, it seems there's a lot of fandom fighting and slugging...all of which can do nothing but harm to the whole scene. However, I know there are a whole lot of people out there for whom SF is a 'FIJAGH'. (((True Tom, we had feuds way back..but with fewer fen, they were smaller and shorter. More recently, one fan did his best to scupper me in various quarters....I remember his name..and just avoid contact)))



BOOKS :-



...and some you may have missed:-

ARROW

- ADVENTURES IN SPACE McKellar & Bullough. An activity book for the younger end. 'Make your own Astral Avenger, decode the secret messages and play the Terraclaw Game'. 32pp Hippo. £1.95
- THE DANCING METEORITE Anne Mason. For slightly older children, Kira Warden, Space Cadet meets an unusual meteorite. 168pp £1.50
- WAYLANDER David Gemmell Fantasy, seq to 'King Beyond The Gate' £3.50
- DR. WHO SPECIAL EFFECTS Mat Irvine. Behind the scenes look at how effects are filmed and Daleks and K9 operated etc. Beaver £5.95

CORGI/BANTAM

- KILLASHANDRA Anne McCaffrey. Reviewed in ERG 94 and see Prize Xword in this issue. Second in 'Crystal Singer' series Corgi pb £2.50 or for collectors..Bantam Hardcover £8.95
- THE PRACTICE EFFECT David Brin. 'The reader being led through fantasy worlds where Laws Of Science are changed' Bantam pb £1.95
- SECRET OF THE SIXTH MAGIC L.Hardy Corgi £2.50 Seq. to 'Master Of The Five Magics' Application of logic to magic.
- EXILES OF THE RYNTH C.N.Douglas Seq. to 'Six Of Swords' Kendric and Irissa stranded in alien magical world Corgi £2.95
- ENEMY MINE Gerrold & Longyear Film story of alien conflict. Corgi £2.95
- HEART OF THE COMET Benford & Brin Hardcover SF Bantam £9.95
- IN OTHER WORLDS Attansio. Other worlds fantasy Corgi £2.95
- THE REVENANTS S.S.Tepper Good v evil Cult of Gold Corgi £2.95
- THE ISLE OF GLASS J.Tarr 1st in Hound & Falcon trilogy Bantam £8.95
- THE SWORD AND THE SATCHEL E.H.Boyer 1st of 4 Corgi £2.50
- BRIDGE OF BIRDS B.Hughart Fantasy set in ancient China Corgi £2.50
- THE BOOK OF KELLS R.A.MacAvoy 16th Cent. Ireland Bantam £2.50
- OF MAN AND MANTA Piers Anthony Omnibus Ox Trilogy Corgi £4.95 (Aug.)

MIDLAND COUNTIES PUBLICATIONS

24 The Hollows, Earl Shilton, Leicester LE9 7NA
Aerospace books which may grab your interest...(S.A.E. for full catalogue)

- MARALINGA W.E.Jones 4 British nuclear tests and look at weapons and planning, range, rehearsal etc. £9.95
- STS: Space Transportation System. Full colour/Japanese text £14.95
- THE UNIVERSE Nicholson & Moore with 200 colour photos £15.00
- SPACE SHUTTLE LOG T.Furniss Development & operation £6.95
- WAR IN SPACE Chris Lee £10.95
- JANE'S SPACEFLIGHT DIRECTORY 1986 (sit down first....) £62.00
- STEALTH AIRCRAFT Secrets of future aircraft photos/diags £8.95

((This is a new idea for ERG, so please write in and tell me if you'd like it to become regular. Might help with titles for which I have no review copy. So let's hear what you think.))

Michael Scott Ro
Macdonald £9.95

USHER'S PASSING

Usher is dying of the curse and summons estranged son Rix, a writer of horror novels and sufferer from Usher's disease. Rix seeks to unravel the mysteries of the dynasty...the curse, the 'Pumpkin Man', the monster 'Greediguts' and the old 'King Of The Mountain' plus other strange items. He seeks to write a history of the line..but is hampered by his drunken, impotent brother Boone. Then there's his drug-taking sister, a sadistic servant, psi-power and much much more. Numerous seeming loose-ends are all finally brought together in a stunning climax of a superlative, Hitchcock-type thriller. Out of the rut and un-rut-downable!

Richard Cowper,
Orbit \$2.25

THE SHATTERED STARS

Moses Callaghan, penurious skipper of the battered Richard S. McEnroe tramp Wild Goose, accepts a mysterious cargo proving Orbit £1.95 to be a super bomb. His mate, Mitsuko, is a telepath fleeing her 'Institute' and his pilot an ex-Navy, part-cyborg fighter held impotent by conditioning. Then a renegade telepath controlling the bodies of two henchmen seeks to take over bomb and ship. Only Mitsuko, manipulated by an Institute nodality, can oppose him. After a routine opening, this one soon takes off with a vengeance as the various interests clash and move headlong to a final confrontation. First in a new 'future History' space adventure series.

A HERITAGE OF STARS

Millennia ahead, in a future without science or technology following a Luddistic revolution, Cushing finds Clifford D Simak papers referring to 'The Place Of Going To The Stars'. Methuen £2.50

He sets off to find it, quickly acquiring strange companions in the form of Rollo the Robot, Meg the witch, the 'Shining Snake', a group of shadows and an old man and a girl who can talk to plants....most of whom are folksy, loquacious clones of the standard Simak character. They face nomads, living boulders and sentient trees, etc., before all is resolved.

This is another of the trek/quest yarns which Simak does so well..and so often. Interesting, placid, philosophical, but bringing nothing new.

NICK HAZARD: Interstellar Agent

is the 3rd and final part of the 'Mission To Varga' series - a 34pp A5 'comic' book based on a J.R.Fearn yarn, script by Phil Harbottle and superbly illustrated by Ron Turner (who is currently working on two new Dan Dare adventures) In addition to getting the final episode of the adventure, you also get a complete 'Space Ace' strip and a brief lettercol. The whole issue costs only £1, as do the earlier two parts which are still available from John Lawrence, 39 Carterways, Dunstable, Beds...or from Phil Harbottle, 32 Tynedale Ave., Wallsend, Tyne & Wear. You can also get story (not strip) Fearn yarns...WORLDS WITHIN, FROM AFAR, SURVIVORS OF MARS, & TALES OF WONDER for £1 inc. of post & packing. Comic or JRF fan, buy now, as these will become collector's items.

THE SKOOK

J.P.Miller Fleeing from a bike gang, Span Barrman takes refuge in a cave. Entrapped, he encounters the 'Skook', a strange being Arrow £3.50 from a story he used to tell his children..it depends on Span's existence, and this depends on his surviving under ground. Meanwhile, his wife's lawyer boyfriend schemes to cash in on Span's 'death' .. which means it must become a real one. Improbable characters and events, but with that fantasy touch which makes everything credible. In short, a fantasy-love-(sex)-crime story.

KING'S JUSTICE

Vol.2 of the 'King Kelson' saga. Katherine Kurtz Set in ancient Wales, young King Arrow £2.95 Kelson has the despised Deryni power, is off fight against the Kingdom of Neara. Against his advisers, he appoints his Uncle Nigel as regent. His mother seeks to 'save' him from Deryni and to find him a bride. We meet a bewildering array of motives and characters (with a helpful index) and numerous plans, intrigues and desires, all of which add depth to an intriguing fantasy.



GUARDIANS OF THE STONES

Moyra Caldecott

Arrow £4.95

a 600+pp volume holding all three parts of the trilogy:- 'The Tall Stones', 'The Temple Of The Sun', and 'Shadow On The Stones' Set in ancient Britain when magic worked and priests had strange powers.

Old priest Maal is dying, his replacement, Wardyn, is not a true priest, so Maal turns to young Kyra (who also has power) and begins to train her to fight the evil powers. She and her brother Kerne aided by forest girl Fern embark on an epic struggle involving the Astral Plane and priests of many countries. A wide-ranging fantasy, but I felt the peasant life was rather over glamourised and idyllic.

WINGS OF FLAME

Nancy Springer

Arrow £2.95

Orphan stable girl Seda saves the life of Prince Kyren when bandits (and strange creatures) attack to prevent him reaching King Auron...as a hostage to establish peace between the kingdoms of Vashti and Deva. Kyren suspects Auron, but gradually learns the truth and confronts the Old One who is behind the troubles. There is also the plotting High Priest Nasr Yamut who serves the Horse God, and the problem of Seda's origin..and her twin.

With all characters straight from stereotype moulds, I'm afraid this is just one more heroic battle against magic and evil..but great if you like 'em.

DICTIONARY OF SPACE

Malcolm Plant

Longmans £7.95 paper

£10.95 C/Bnd.

This one masses 270pp Crown 8vo if you count pennies. Want to know what ROSA is? how a rocket can 'pogo' or what 'carmet' might be? Hundreds of such terms are listed (and explained), most having direct or indirect connections with the space programs.

'Apollo' gives you a breakdown on the missions. 'Electron' 'hadron' etc bear on particle physics, whilst centripetal and centrifugal forces are explained. Space-probes, craft, rockets.(and even HOTOL), materials, uses,

people and theories all come within this book's scope. You also get numerous excellent line drawings and diagrams. The

whole volume is an excellent work of reference..not just on space, but on the science and technology which supports it.. and I suspect that most SF writers will find it invaluable and space buffs adore it.

STARKADDER

Bernard King

New English Lib.

£2.50

Starkadder is a Norse warrior, cursed by Odin to live three lifetimes, betraying someone in each, before he can die. Now in his third extension, craving the death which will see the ending of the Norse Gods, Starkadder

kills twelve men, including Angantyr, whose daughter Hervara seeks vengeance..so bears a son Hather to do this for her. Armed with the cursed sword of Tyrfy, Hather moves through a web of spells and portents to his destiny. Bloody killings, sadism, rape and all the barbaric trimmings of the era, this yarn also boasts some striking imagery and a welcome change from the standard saga of good fighting against evil.

===== DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE.....ARTWORK =====

Now on offer, all the original artwork (including covers) used in the 16 episodes of Down Memory Bank Lane. I've lost track of whoever it was first bid £5 so would he, or anyone else wishing to make a bid for the drawings, please drop me a line. Remember...there are 50 copies of DMBL on sale (£2.50 a copy) but only ONE set of original artwork. Bid now!

SWORD OF THE LAMB

First Part of a new 'PHOENIX LEGACY' series, and NOT another barbaric saga. This is set in the 33rd Century amid a stratified society of Bonds, Fechs and the ruling Elite. Background is quickly and deftly set by a tutor

schooling the young sons of the powerful Woolf House. Alexander, the Woolf heir and Richard, a semi cripple. The oppressed Bonds are ready for revolt, the undercover Society of The Phoenix seeks to achieve equality for all, and someone is using the unrest for their own ends. Alex, though bound by ritual seeks to aid the Bonds. Richard takes a more active role.

A block-busting 400+ pager full of colour, intrigue and well-drawn characters. Future language mutations are both light and pleasing and I particularly liked the 'Tuckerism' of having a scientist named Isak Samovi. Hard to put down, and an excellent read. Recommended!

HOSPITAL STATION

Five of the 'Sector General' stories from New Worlds which James White, sees the problems of a giant hospital in space designed to Futura \$1.95 handle every variety of alien. Doctors Conway and O'Mara Orb it face a variety of patients, large, small, telepathic, hive-mind and so on with each suffering in some unexpected way...the cures usually require the employment of obscure, out-dated or highly improbable methods. Each incident is excellent in itself, but a certain similarity of plot means that you'll get the most out of this book if you read each part separately. That way, you recall all the old enjoyment of the individual stories. For devotees, this is the first in a series of six.

THE SECOND BOOK OF SWORDS

When the gods fought, Vulcan made twelve swords each with its own magic power, and have them to Fred Saberhagen mortals. The story opens as Blue Temple mercenary, Futura Orbit \$2.50 Ben works on a pack train taking treasure to a secret hideout. Escaping the traditional death of such workers, he joins with Mark, two wizards, Baron Doon and others in a bid to return and plunder the hoard. This is also meant to strike blows against the Blue Temple, the Dark King and the Silver Queen. Their adventures - against temple guards, dragons, dwellers in caverns and magic spells make for a fascinating yarn...and one which avoids the traditional cliches of good v evil.

THE NIGHT OF THE SCORPION

Richard Cole (26) and Michael Hopkins (13) (who A. Horowitz Magnet \$1.75 fought the 'Old Ones' in an earlier yarn) live in an unusual ménage. Michael has visions which save his school from a disaster, and is led to a murder which shows the Old One's agents are seeking to re-open a 'Gate' in Peru. The two set off and when Richard is arrested on a trumped up charge, young Pedro appears and steals money to help Michael. They fly to Cusco, are hunted by the villains, rescued by Incas and finally, foil the Old One. A juvenile crammed with highly improbable characters and events...but plenty of action for the less discriminating reader.

DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE Complete compendium of Parts 1-12 including covers and the stories 'Last Stage Reflectorsman' and 'G-8 and His Bottle Aces' \$2.50 or \$4.00 post and packing included. Buy now while stocks last.

ERG TAPES 1, 2, and 3 C-60 cassettes containing all sorts of material from ERG, plus new items hitherto unpublished. £2.00 or \$3.00 each.

THE ISLE OF GLASS

Judith Tarr

Bantam (hardback)

£8.95

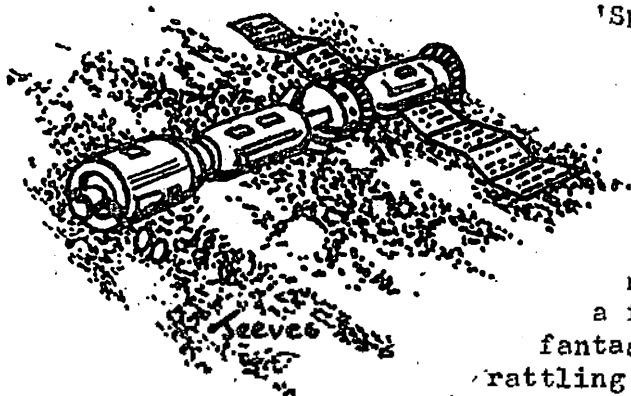
Never judge a sausage by its skin..or a book by its cover. Not that the cover of this one is at all bad, but another trilogy? Relax, this one is not only different, but a refreshing change from all the heroic men or maids.

In 12th Century England, the changeling, 'immortal' monk Alfred can also heal. Using his powers on the tortured elfling Alun, envoy of the Welsh King, Alf becomes embroiled in preventing the border war which the Lord Rhydderch seeks to precipitate. Setting out with young Jehan, Alf is joined by the amorous (and shape-changing) Thea. To achieve his aim, Brother Alfred gets seized and tried for witchcraft. To say more would ruin the plot..save to tell you that this is beautifully written and totally free of the stereotype quest/saga syndrome or magic swords, amulets and the like. I fancy it will be up there among most of the Award nominations once word gets around.

THE PATHS OF THE PERAMBULATOR Orbit £2.50

'Spellsinger Bk.5' Alan Dean Foster

Jon-Tom has been hauled into an alternate universe by wizard Clothahump (a giant turtle) and awakes to find his shape..and reality, changing because of the effects of a strange 'perambulator' held captive by a mad villain. It must be set free to restore normality..so off set Jon, Clothahump and a few other esoteric aides. A light²hearted fantasy romp treatment of a basic SF plot and rattling good fun to boot..I especially liked the use of pop music and country & western as the ultimate horror weapons.

ENEMY MINE

Barry Longyear & David Gerrold. Corgi £1.95

The story of the 20th. Century Fox film. Lizard-like Dragons and Earthmen are locked in battle and two opposing fighter pilots crash near each other. Instead of killing each other, they form an strange alliance in order to survive on a hostile world..gradually learning each other's language and philosophies. Then an unexpected event occurs leaving the Earthman saddled with a great responsibility and a promise...

Raw, frightening, laughable, tender and fully capable of tugging your heart strings. As a book it is stunningly different...as a film I reckon it will be a sell out.

CITY OF SORCERY

Marion Zimmer Bradley, Arrow £2.95 (A Darkover novel)

When an aircraft goes down in strange circumstances in the frozen Heller ranges, it poses a problem..then its pilot appears at Terran HQ, but totally brain-wiped things get hectic. Magdalen Lorne heals the pilot only to be faced with the problem of a stranger 'Sisterhood Of The Wise'. A small, cozy (all girls together) expedition sets out to seek the truth and after facing death, high mountains, hostile villages etc..and a Dark Sisterhood they reach their goals....which hardly seem worth all the effort which they expended. Feminist slanted and riddled with esoteric cults, groups, oaths and societies...a total change from the standard trek/saga formula

STARCLIPPER: On The Snowstone

Methuen Children's Books

Hardcover...£5.50

When the star-roving (telepathic) pop-group, 'Star Jam' rescue two girls adrift in space, they turn out to be the daughters of 'The Count' (a totally unbelievable character) who not only owns the giant recording combine 'The Sorcerer's Hand', but has kidnapped the mother of the Jam Pack members to write pop hits for him. The Pack wangle a gig on the pleasure world, 'Snowstone' and 'kidnap' the Count's daughters against their mother's return.

A juvenile with pace, much 'pop' reference, but which rather baffled me as to its target age group. The S part of SF is deftly ignored, but with Christmas not all that far away, maybe you have presents in mind. Buy it for anyone from...say...age 8 to 14

THE OTHERS Alison Prince

Methuen Children's Books £7.95

Set in a stratified, gene-manipulated world where workers are biologically tailored at birth for particular jobs. 18 year old (secateur-handed) Ergo is an illegal 'freebrain' (His mother dodged his being fitted with the at-birth brain control implant). Then he meets Venti, one of the ruling 'Others' when she makes an illegal visit to the 'Underhills'. He joins a freedom movement, finds many of the ruling 'Others' sympathetic. Events escalate until all is eventually (and glossily) resolved. Sorry, but juvenile or not, this never really rings true... the number of freedom fighters among a society both brain controlled and video-microphone surveyed seems most unlikely...as did the actions of the 'Others'. However, it IS a juvenile, so one must make allowances for an otherwise fast-moving, incident-filled yarn.

THE MAN IN THE TREE

Damon Knight

Penguin £2.95

Gene Anderson is born with a strange t.k. power which alienates his peers. During a hazing session, one (son of Sheriff Cooley) gets killed. Though innocent, Gene flees for his life. The Vindictive Cooley sets out to hunt Gene with an unexpected success/failure. Time passes and by age 20, Gene is nearly eight feet tall, studying, working in a circus...and rich by virtue of his powers...but Cooley still pursues with trap after trap until he reaches his goal...and later, so does Gene. Gentle/violent, thought-provoking and totally different from the average superman story...but I suspect the ending will cause controversy.

CHRONICLES OF THE STAR KINGS

Edmond Hamilton

Arrow £2.50

Venture SF.10

This volume contains the TWO novels... 'The Star Kings' and 'Return To The Stars'. Opening with ex-bomber pilot John Gordon is contacted telepathically by a man from the Galactic Federation, some 2,000 years in the future. A personality transfer follows and though ostensibly only for six weeks...it doesn't quite work out that way, and John finds himself landed smack in the middle of interstellar war and intrigue. The mixture is repeated with variations in the second novel. Names, titles factions and encounters are rooted very firmly in the good old space opera vein. Despite the somewhat dated and naive style (it even has explanatory footnotes), this is one of those oldies which buckle and swash in all directions.. you can almost smell those old decaying pulp pages (even though the older of the two only goes back to 1949). Great fun for all you action/nostalgia buffs.

30 DRAGONS OF AUTUMN TWILIGHT Vol.1

Margaret Weiss & Tracy Hickman
Penguin £2.95

First in a new trilogy. When evil threatens the world of Krynn, a motley band including a half-elf, a dwarf, a knight, a kinder, a barbarian and a mage, find themselves joined on a mission to save their land. Beset by lizard-men, aided by a white stag and talking centaurs they brave the Darken Wood and head for the evil, ruined city of Xag Taroath. A nice variety of unusual characters add a bit more life and spice to yet another battle against the powers of evil. You pay your money and you take your choice...oh yes, the series title... Dragon Lance Chronicles.

HEART'S BLOOD Jane Yolen
Futura £2.50

Second in the series set on the former penal world of Austar IV where dragon breeding and fighting is the chief industry. Young Jakkim, now a freed bondmaster sees his dragon produce a large clutch of eggs which can produce many winners...but politics has come to Austar IV. Rebels seek to abolish the bondsystem whilst the Foundation seek to end dragon fights and despoil the planet. Jakkim is coerced into spying on the rebels when his love, Akki, vanishes...then the trouble flares into violence and he is forced to flee into the wilderness where he and Akki make new discoveries about the dragons. More stereotyped than the first yarn, but the background is beautifully (and cruelly) set out...and remember, this series is rewardingly different from McCaffreyworld.

THE QUEST FOR MERLIN

Nikolai Tolstoy
Coronet £3.95

This is NOT a mighty saga of magic and valour, but a scholarly examination and investigation into the legendary character of Merlin and his era. Was he but a creature of myth and legend? Was there a real-world counterpart?...and if so, what of his prophecies and powers? The author's early fascination with his theme settles firmly into a systematic search... with Merlin first appearing as one more character in an early fiction work 'Historia Regum Britanniae' c1170. From here, in book, chronicle, legend and other minor works, Merlin has become too good a character to kill off and thus enters common background 'knowledge'. Written in a light, easy-going style, yet fully erudite and enlivened by excerpts and anecdotes plus eight pages of photographs, copious page notes, cross references and a useful index. An ideal reference work for writers, a delight for browsers...and Gandalf lovers may even find his prototype hidden here.

BRIDGE OF BIRDS

+++++
Barry Hughart
Corgi £2.50

This is the story of Yu Lu, otherwise known as 'Number 10 Ox'. Set in ancient China, a mysterious plague strikes the village, but hits on children of a certain age. Yu Lu is sent to seek aid and acquires the drunken old philosopher-magician, Li Kao. They embark on a series of incredible and entertaining adventures before their mission is fulfilled. Comparable with (and probably inspired by) the Ernest Bramah tales of Kai Lung, this saga is totally different from his works being more comprehensible in language and less involved in story line. A quaint, humorous and totally refreshing change from today's stock formula fiction. The result is sheer delight.

The Penguin WORLD OMNIBUS OF SCIENCE FICTION

Ed. Brian Aldiss & Sam Lundwall Penguin £3.50

When the American mag,
'International SF'
folded (after 2 issues)

we were left with no other material than the formidable avalanche in the English language. With the formation of the World Society of SF Professionals things changed..here two well-known writers have compiled (what will hopefully be the first) an anthology of 26 items, plus two Introductions of material selected from nearly as many countries. A half-wit missile expert, an unusual android, wedded bliss in a computer society, a naked lady and a paper spaceship, Incidents on a space island, Coming of age rites in a regimented society, future menace and many, many more. What you will NOT get, are atomic wars, earth-threatening menaces natural or alien, no brave heroes seeking kidnapped heroines. This is a well-mixed variety pack with plenty for everyone and thanks to a selection of shorter items, it makes an ideal bedside reader. Don't miss it!

CHANUR's VENTURE

(Sequel to 'Pride Of Chanur', re-issued to coincide).

C.J.Cherryh

Methuen £2.50

Pyanfur of the hari cat people finds herself again enmeshed with the Earthman Tully which leads her deeper into debt and hotly pursued by the hostile kif. Then Tully reveals why he has returned to endanger her and her ship. Complicated as all get out..doubly so by the near incomprehensible alien dialogue and 'pidgin English'. If you can cope with that then you'll be OK..but new readers, either read the appendix at the back first, or else read 'Pride Of Chanur' in toto.

THE BLACKCOLLAR

Venture SF 11

Timothy Zahn

Arrow £1.95

The Ryrril invaders conquered the Terran Democratic Empire, 30 years ago..but now Resistance fighter, Allen Came locates the remains of the legendary 'Blackcollar' corps. With these drug-enhanced, Samurai-type warriors he sets out to locate five hidden Nova class cruisers and effect Terra's resurrection. James Bond-ish in expertise and long on fast action. Not 'cerebral SF', but sheer space opera entertainment.

MAGGOTS

Edward Jarvis

Arrow £1.95

Horrid enough at the best of times, but totally gruesome when they multiply in the Earth's crust, grow to various sizes and emerge from streams, rivers, water taps etc to ravage humanity before all is resolved by science in the good old pulp tradition by an 'invention'. Stereotyped characters and many nig les - a pupil attacks a teacher with a knife and is laid out by karate, yet this is never reported and they (presumably) become the best of mates. Why no investigation into how another pupil vanishes? or into the cave holding a 40 foot maggot? The whole aim of this one seems to make your flesh creep (cringe?)...unless you are really into abysmal horror, this isn't one for your list.

KITEWORLD

Keith Roberts

Penguin £2.95

In a feudal, post-nuclear world, the Church Variant rules and imaginary Demons are kept at bay in the mutant-ridden Badlands by the continuous flying of giant, man-carrying kites known as 'Codys'. In a series of short stories, we see into the lives of various interacting characters, each of whom has a link with the Kites. I believe some of these yarns have appeared elsewhere, but in this format they form a well-linked and highly readable novel.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

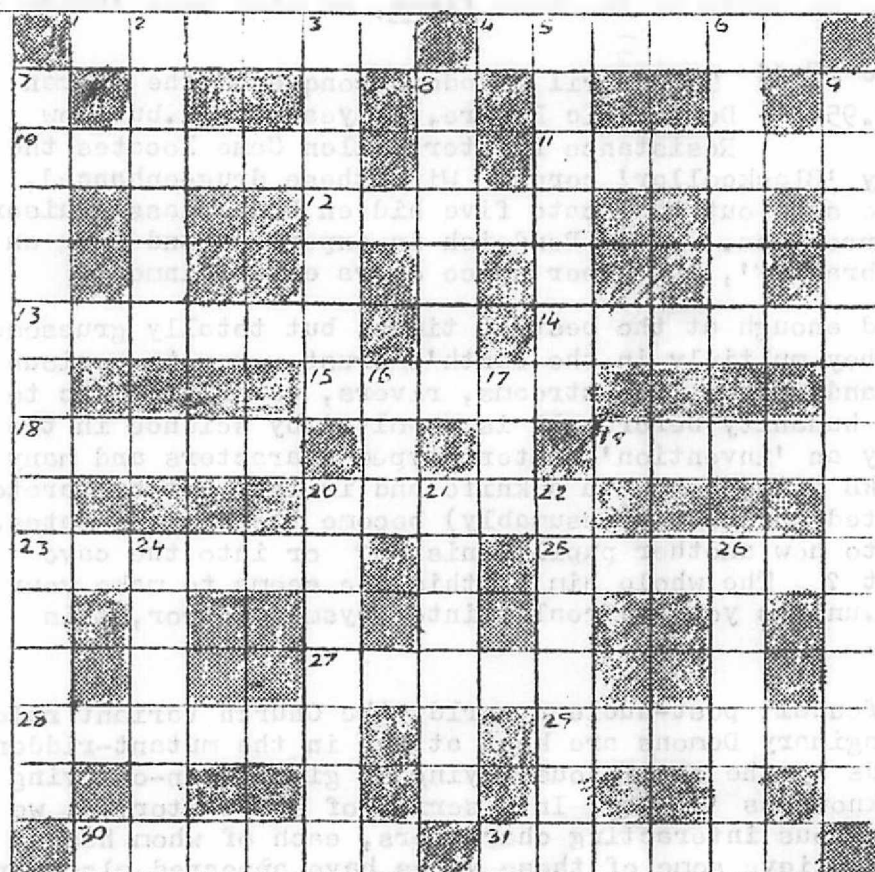
We haven't had a Crossword in ERG for over two years..so here's a new one. The first three correct solutions out of the hat (I'll wait a month to give you all a chance) will each receive a 15"x12" colour reproduction of the KILLASHANDRA jacket illustration...without any lettering, but signed by author Anne McCaffrey and artist Steve Weston. An asset to your den and one which can only appreciate in value. Each is one of a numbered 500

CLUES ACROSS 1. Sounds like a female donkey, estimate 4. Scrounge food or cap
10. Metal with atomic weight of 58.71 11. A J vian moon 12. Between or bury
13. Surname of man who played 'Cisco Kid' and Batman's opponent 'The Jester'
14. Who travels around in it 15. Courage or axion/neuron 18. Radioactive gas from element of A.Wt.222 19. Decoration on a letter 20. Enduring animals
23. Eldest 25. Smith's thionite planet 27. If you over this, something goes under. 28. Capek created them. 29. Blish wrote of one on Jupiter
30. Clockwork model of Solar System. 31. A gentle offer?

CLUES DOWN 2. A triangular pelvic bone 3. Used for doping transistors
5. Work or use 6. Common parlance for zero voltage potential 7. Original ASF serial title for 'Dragon In The Sea' (5,8) 8. Aerolite or siderite?
9. Pre-war UK SF magazine (5,2,6) 16. Used for sightseeing
17. Piers Anthony wrote '--- The Stick' 20. One who haunts bookstores for a

free read.
22. It may precede a fall
24. Painkilling digit
26. Clement didn't get this title from a haystack.

If you don't want to cut up your precious copy of ERG, send your entry on a copy of this grid.



Name
Address
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