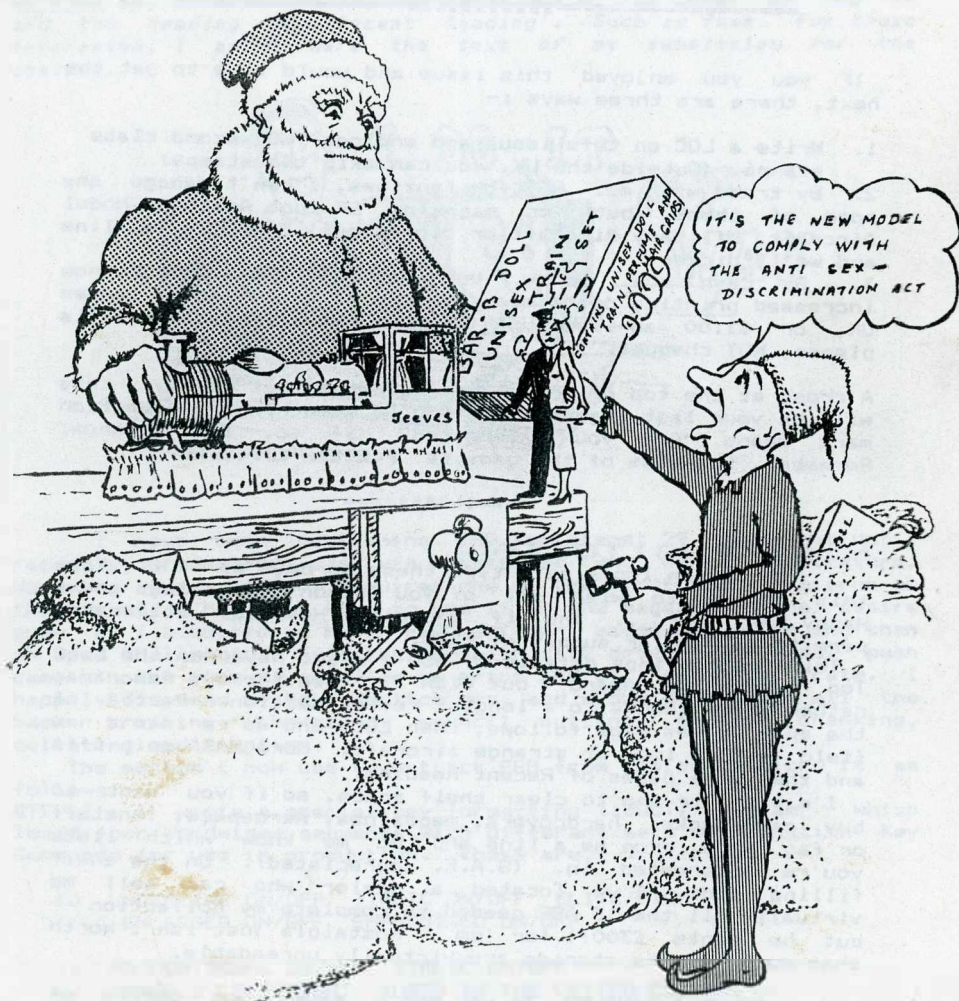


# ERG 101

QUARTERLY

January 1988



2

```

EEEEEE RRRRRR GGGGG
EEEEEE RRRRRR GGGGG
EEEEEE RRRRRR GGGGG
EEEEEE RRRRRR GGGGG
EEEEEE RRRRRR GGGGG

```

```

III 0000 III
III 0000 III
III 0000 III
III 0000 III
III 0000 III

```

JANUARY 1988

FROM...

TERRY JEEVES  
56 RED SCAR DRIVE  
NEWBY  
SCARBOROUGH YO12 5RQ

Please note new address  
=====

=====SSSSSSSSSS=====

IF you you enjoyed this issue and would like to get the next, there are three ways :-

1. Write a LOC on this issue and enclose TWO second class stamps. (Outside the UK, you can skip the stamps)
2. By trade with me. NOT for fanzines, I can't manage any more of those, but for magazine SF (not Analog), Model Aircraft, Military Aircraft or old pulps. Drop me a line and we'll dicker.
3. By cash sub. Sorry, but postal raises and the now increased printing costs mean you pay £2.00 for four issues UK, or \$1.00 an issue USA (and pro rata), in dollar bills please, NOT cheques.

A cross at the top of this page indicates that sadly, this will be your last issue unless you DO something. A question mark means "Are you interested? if so, let me know. Remember, the name of the game is **RESPONSE**

====SSSSSS====

## MINI-ERGITORIAL

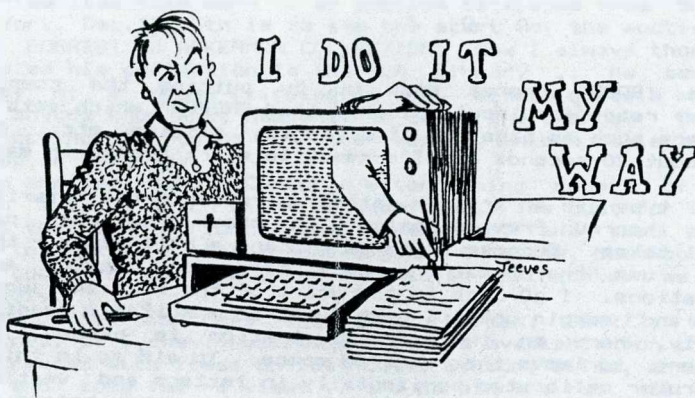
Christmas looms as I type these words, so I'll take this chance to wish all of you Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year .. and if upcoming Hospital attendance permits, a regular supply of ERGs.

This issue brings details of how I might have won the Desk Top Publishing Award - but didn't. Then there's Panorama, rather brief thanks to a longish review section. Part.4 of the epic Jeeves Saga follows, then LOCs and we're into a new field with a look at strange aircraft. More NASA spin-offs and then nine pages of Recent Reading.

I'm still trying to clear shelf space, so if you want to buy paperbacks, hardcovers, magazines, Aerospace, fanstuff or fag cards, drop me a line and let me know which lists you're interested in. (S.A.E. appreciated). On the shelf filling side, I've located a dealer who can sell me virtually all the 15 ASF needed to complete my collection -- but he wants £300!! for 'em. Nostalgia just isn't worth that much, as the stories are virtually unreadable.

DO ME A FAVOUR? If you don't save your copies of ERG, would you pass them along to a friend (or enemy) and thus help to spread the gospel? Ta.

At the beginning of September, I entered a Desk Top Publishing competition advertised in Micro User. It involved sending two copies of ERG, a disc bearing all my material and an article on how I produced the mag. I sat back and forgot it until the local paper rang up to say they'd been notified by the organisers that ERG had reached the finals of the national DESK TOP PUBLISHERS AWARD. They ran my pic plus a quarter page natter. IF I won, I would get a £1000 Archimedes computer!!! I waited and waited, but NEVER heard a word from the organisers, not even to tell me I was a finalist. Eventually, I rang 'MICRO USER' and was told that the Award had been won by 'Icon Publishers', and no, there were no consolation prizes for finalists. In the next issue, they made no mention of the Award, but ran an article on Desk Top Publishing and included without any form of credit, reproductions of the cover of ERG 99 and the heading of 'Recent Reading'. Such is fame. For those interested, I print here the text of my submission for the contest...



I have been publishing ERG for almost 29 years, but until recently, production was via Gestetner and Roneo duplicators. However, ever since I acquired one of the first BBC 'B' micros on the market, I had been keen to use it on the magazine. The desire grew as I acquired an Epson FX80 printer, added Wordwise+ and then an Opus Challenger 3 Solidisk RAM with disk drive. The final push came in the form of an offer to print ERG at a reasonable rate. I happily disposed of both duplicators, and along with them, all the back breaking chores of stencil cutting, machine cranking, collating and stapling.

The method I now use to extract ERG from inside my micro is as follows:-

STEP.1 I wrote a special key formatting (!BOOT) program which loads four Wordwise+ segments with different sets of Function Key Commands for use in production.. these are,

f0 UNDERLINE ON/OFF ITALIC ON/OFF ELITE/PICA  
ENLARGED ON/OFF EMPHASISED ON/OFF

f1 PROPORTIONAL ON/OFF ITALIC ON/OFF  
SYMBOLS LEFT/RIGHT (USED IN THE LETTER COLUMN)

## ENLARGED ON/OFF EXTRA-EMPHASISED ON/OFF

f2 SUBSCRIPT ON/OFF SUPERScript ON/OFF  
 MINIScript ON/OFF CONDENSED ON/OFF  
 ENLARGED ON/OFF (permanently)

f3 Assorted symbols from other countries' fonts.  
 Viz. # \$ % & \* + , - . : ; ' " & # A E e z

These key sets are called into action by SHIFT/f(x) and the function keys then give embedded commands by using SHIFT/CONTROL/F(X)

I also designed some of my own symbols for special uses ..  
 pi, ohm, hexagon and an integral sign ..

$\pi$   $\Omega$   $\square$   $\int$

The !BOOT program ends up by putting the computer into Wordwise+ ready for input. I then load ERGFORM which sets standard parameters such as page and line length, margins etc. All this takes about 20 seconds and I'm ready to start typing in material.

I type in an article, story or review until material is all entered, then run Preview Option 7 to check how many pages the material takes. Suppose it takes two and a half pages - this means I can use the remaining half page for heading and other illustrations. I go back to the start of the text and juggle line length and margin until I have built in a suitable heading space. Similarly, where an in-text illustration is needed, I adjust parameters to leave the required space. To aid me in this, I have made a ruler calibrated horizontally in letters and vertically in lines, so I can measure an illustration space before adjusting parameters. I keep trying Preview 7 until the final article neatly fills an exact number of pages, A4 size. Then I enter embedded commands for EXTRA EMPHASISED print and call up a copy on A4 paper.

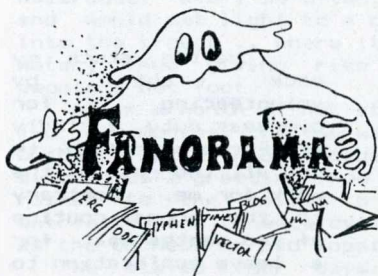
Next I draw my heading and other illustrations into the spaces left in the text, and that material is now ready for the printer. I proceed this way until I have 23 pages (my normal ERG page count), design and draw myself a cover to make a total of 24 pages, and then ship the whole bundle off to the printer for reducing from A4 to A5, printing and collating.

Whilst waiting for the return, I enter mailing list programs for readers and publishers of review copies, run off labels and stick these onto A5 envelopes along with the requisite postage. All is now ready, as soon as the printed magazines arrive back, I slip them into the envelope and shove them into a mail box.

No more slogging away with waxy stencils, muscle-aching duplicator-cranking, ink-stained fingers or tiring collating sessions. I just sit at ease before my micro and have even more fun from my desk top publishing.

Terry Jeeves  
 Scarborough 1987





Those of you who yawn widely on seeing the words 'Con report', relax, cheer is at hand. I've just received THE RETURN OF FUNNY ANIMALS, 'The Wingnuts At Minicon 22' by Teddv Harvia - c/o D.Thayer, 7209 De Ville Dr. N.Richland Hills, TX 76180. Only four pages, but in the form of a 3-colour cartoon strip highlighting comments on the Con. None of this .. we crashed in somebody's pad at 4am then next day went for a pizza.. Short but sweet, you might faunch a copy out of Teddy.

Surprise item this morn .. an auction catalogue from Guernsey's of New York. Dec.12-13th is to see the start of the auctioning off of THE FORREST J ACKERMAN COLLECTION! Now I always though Forry had donated his collection to the LA library .. he sent me a photocopy of a press clipping to that effect quite a while ago. So does anyone know what happened to cause the change? Certainly, it's shocking to thing of his superb, unique collection being broken up in this way.

Also arrived, Robbie Cantor's entertaining report of her UK Worldcon trip .. which might be subtitled, 'The Hunt For Dr. Who'. It seems that the Worldcon was mismanaged, and that the same applies to Britain's train/phone/transport system, but Robbie still had a good time despite going home to an earthquake. We fen live dangerously.

WAHF-FULL 36pp/mim comes from Jack Herman, BOX272, Wentworth Bldng, Univ. Of Sydney, Australia 2006, is available for the usual, and is crammed with items on lost cats, Syncon, films, an excellent LOCcol and some fmz re views .. and herein the rub. Is Australia going isolationist? More and more of their zines ONLY review indigenous fanzines and books - shame. Care to comment Jack?

HYPHEN 37 has just awakened from a 22 year hibernation. Crammed with goodies from James White, John Berry, Eric Mayer, Chuck Harris, the Nielsen Haydens, a GDA item and superb illos by Atom, two helpings of BoSh, and a lettercol from 1965. 62 A4 pages, card cover and a real collectors item .. plead prettily and you might faunch a copy out of Walt Willis, 32 Warren Rd., Donaghadee, N.Ireland, BT21 OPD

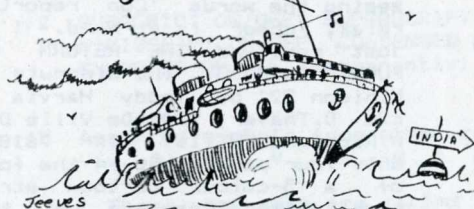
Friends of Harry 'Andy' Andruschak will be delighted to know that he has managed to get a new job as Electronics Technician with the Postal Services (free mail, Andy?). He also has a new address, so faneds please copy.. Harry Andruschak, 946 W.220th St., Unit #106, Torrance, CA 90502-2256.

Another adrenalin booster in the mail, a letter from the Scarborough Writer's Circle, would I give a talk at one of their meetings? Subject, ERG Quarterly, its production, origins and links with SF. Now who could turn down a chance to spread the gospel .. and for a £20 fee!!

Those of you who want to buy and SF, I have a lot to dispose of. Paperbacks, Hardcover, Aerospace, Magazines, Fanstuff, Cigarette Cards. Drop me a line saying which lists you'd like -- the lolly helps support ERG printing and mailing costs so it's a good cause -- well I think so.

Bestest, Terry

# Carry On Teeves



## Part 4. 'Passage To India'

Having stuck my neck out by volunteering for overseas duty, a kindly Air Force proceeded to do all the rest of the work for me. Contrary to the normal routine of two months wait for a leave application to go through, be approved, and then

cancelled, my Embarkation leave whistled through the bureaucratic minefield by the end of the week. I had a quick (by relativistic standards) month at home, then off to Padgate.

Kit packed into two kitbags, the 'deep sea' one labelled VW VW X-8-0. This was to fool the enemy, well, it baffled me. Then one dark and dismal night, we marshalled at 10pm, then marched out by lantern light to board a troop train and set off North.

Dawn was breaking as we reached a secret harbour (Stranraer) 'somewhere in Scotland' and boarded the 'Duchess Of York' - our home for the next two months. She slipped out into the North Atlantic one murky morning in February of 1942, joined a convoy, and we began our journey to parts unknown -- though the fact that we had been issued with pith helmets plus khaki shorts and bush jackets suggested that our destination might not be Russia.

The Duchess was packed to the gunwhales (wherever they were) with RAF bods. We ate at long tables using mess tins and mugs. Fresh water was only turned on for half an hour in the morning and the same in the evening, so as the magic hour approached, long queues would form by the single water tap. Water bottles were filled and these had to last you until the next oasis opening time.

Entertainment consisted of either joining the inevitable Housey-Housey session, or finding an uncrowded bit of deck on which to sit and play cards.

Another place where one could sit, was in the latrine. This heavenly abode took the form of a shack on the port side. Inside was a long wooden trough through which an endless stream of sea water was pumped. Above it, two parallel planks a few inches



7

apart supported a row of customers. Very gregarious, but also hazardous. Every so often, some bright spark at the upstream end would set light to a crumpled sheet of paper, then drop it into the trough .. where it was carried along by the running water, thus giving rise to everyone else. Talk about giving people a hot foot.

After a month of hot sticky travel, we crossed the Equator (No ceremonies, the tub was too crowded) and dropped anchor in Durban. Not without incident, as the famed 'Lady In White' was singing us a greeting from the quayside. Naturally, everyone rushed to the rails to see her .. and despite the Captain's entreaties and threats over the Tannoy, everybody stayed there as the Duchess warped lopsidedly into port.

We stayed four days in Durban, and got ashore for a few hours on three of them. My only memories of that place are the bus stop benches labelled 'Whites only', a shop on Aliwal Street where I had two consignments of tea sent home, and the fact that one could buy American issues of ASTOUNDING at the bookstalls - something impossible in England, even before the war.

Another month saw us re-cross the Equator, this time heading Northwards to Bombay. Again, no line-crossing ceremony. Indeed, although I ended up crossing that imaginary line four more times, I never participated in that tradition. In case you're wondering how I managed a total of six Equatorial crossings. The third was much later, when flying down to the Cocos Islands. This was followed by two more North and South crossings when during repatriation, I was flying in a Liberator which had to abort the flight when it was forced back to the Cocos Islands by a monsoon storm, then a final (sixth) successful flight on the way home.

We came ashore in Bombay in April 1942 after two months at sea, and were immediately whisked up in the hills to Deolali transit camp (which was much bigger than its counterpart in "It Ain't Half Hot Mum". It was also the origin of the phrase, 'he's gone doolally'. The good news was that the place was bug-free as once a week, we dipped our charpoys (rope covered bed frames) into a giant vat of insecticide boiling over a log fire. THAT was the only spot in the whole of India where bed bugs didn't demand a nightly feast. On the other hand, it was where I met my BIGGEST spider -- Reclining on my charpoy, I glanced up at the thatch roof of the hut. Crawling above my bed was one with a leg span larger than a saucer. I estimate it was around 5 inches .. Yecch!

Another black mark for Deolali was its temperature .. being in the hills, the place was cold at night, but the powers that be, wouldn't issue blankets until an airman was posted. Inevitably, virtually every posting was to a hotter part of India, where blankets were never needed. Thus I was given a blanket on my posting to Juhu near Bombay .. where a refrigerating suit would have been more suitable.

Life at Juhu was pleasant. Since I worked shifts in the Transmitting Station which was Bombay's main radio link, I was excused guard duties, fire watching, work parades and all the other fascinating entertainments arranged to keep the rank and file amused.

The aerodrome, once the base for TATA Airlines, about 18 miles outside Bombay, was separated from a lovely beach by a narrow road and a gap in the palm trees. It now housed No.2 Flight I.A.V.R. (Indian Air Force Volunteer Reserve). A grand name for four huts and three aircraft. As befits defenders of the flag in a far flung (if not flung far enough) outpost, we had modern aircraft. Modern in Gunga Din's era, that is. They were probably left behind by Lawrence of Arabia after operations with Orville Wright. Two twin engined D.H. Dragon Rapide biplanes (or Dominies) and a Westland Wapiti two-seater comprised our strike force.

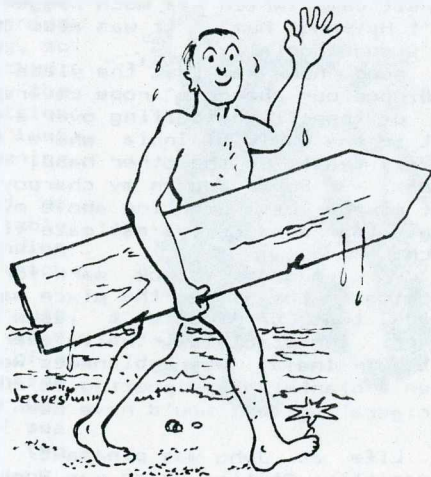
However, they FLEW....just. Moreover I was allowed to go inside them, and even touch the radio gear if I promised not to break it. Seeing as it was the battleship-like R1082/T1083 combination, that was no danger. Better still, I was given a chance to fly on anti-submarine patrols! My official duty on such flights was as message passer. I perched precariously between radio operator and pilot so I could hand over across the two foot gap between them, any important messages which might arrive.

We never found any submarines - indeed, on one flight, we couldn't even find the sea, as a thick fog rolled in soon after take-off. Flt. Lt. Chaturvedi, our pilot cruised around a while as we all carefully observed lots of nothing - until suddenly we flew out of the fog bank and equally carefully observed that we were only three feet above the sea! 'Chatty' decided to call it a day, and headed home, again into fog. Finding Juhu was a feat which rather overtaxed his navigational powers. The next time we came out of fog, it was in a 30 degree bank and heading straight into a palm-covered hill side.

We missed it by a miracle and got back safely onto Juhu's tiny airstrip.

When off duty, it was only a brief stroll to the beach, where we could swim (carefully avoiding the giant jellyfish, 'Portuguese Men of War'), sunbathe, or drink the milk from freshly opened coconuts flogged by strolling vendors. Several beach front cafes were also available for sundry forms of liquid refreshment, so we never ran dry.

Jack Hazell, a pal of mine made himself a surf board, and after coming off late shift would often go moonlight surfing in the nude. He was having a whale of a





9

time when a comber took him right up the beach and deposited him at the feet of a strolling couple. Unfazed, Jack stood up, bid them goodnight, tucked his board under his arm and strolled back into the sea.

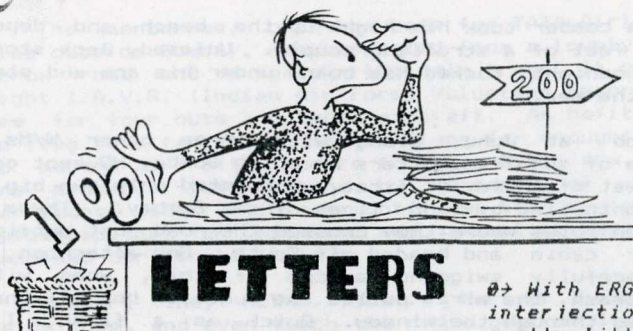
My job at Juhu, along with three other W/Ms, was maintenance of the Transmitters by which Bombay HQ kept contact with the rest of India. At first, we boasted only two big 1087s remotely controlled by land lines from Bombay. These were supported on poles where they crossed the road just outside the Transmitter cabin and headed off South. One afternoon, I was sitting peacefully swigging a cup of char, when with an almighty crash, the wires pulled the junction box off the wall and vanished through the window. Quick as a flash, I knew something was wrong. It turned out that a high lorry had run into the cables and yanked 'em all apart. Naturally, the wires were not colour coded .. and even more naturalluy, among them were the 'phone lines linking us with Bombay. It took quite a while to sort that lot out.

On another occasion, insulation began to burn in one of the newer T1190 transmitters and a zealous passer-by sprayed EVERYTHING in sight with foam. It took us a week to get that lot cleaned up again.

Perhaps the most unusual event came when a swarm of hornets settled on the ladder leading to the roof of our cabin .. up which we had to go when changing aerials from Day to Night frequency and vice versa. What to do? The Signals Officer took one look, turned to the Sergeant and said, "Throw a bucket of acid over 'em". He then walked away, rather quickly I thought. The Sergeant caught my eye and instructed me to mix a bucket full of water and battery acid. This I did. "Now throw it over the hornets", said the sergeant as he disappeared down the road in search of the officer. I looked around, but even the Indian bearers had vanished, it was up to me. Several deep breaths, a couple of timing swings and then I heaved the lot, including the bucket, and took off down the road at top speed. I was almost fast enough, only two hornets caught me .. they were the supercharged variety with red-hot needles on their rear ends. I went back after ten minutes and found the rest of the swarm definitely kaput .. so if you're ever troubled by hornets ...

From time to time, a young Indian lad would come round and ask in pidgin English if we wanted anything to eat or drink. These he would fetch from the Tata canteen. Normally, we just wanted tea, but he would often say "Cakes manta?" meaning 'Did we want cakes' and whenever we said, "No cakes", he inevitably returned with a plate heaped high with the things. It took quite a while before we discovered that 'No' was the Indian word for 'Nine'.





@ With ERGitorial  
interjections between these  
pretty little symbols @

ETHEL LINDSAY 69 Barry Rd. Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7QQ

Many rather belated congratulations on ERG 100; with its colour cover, this puts you definitely in Fandom's Hall Of Fame. Mike Ashley adds to this by checking that you really are the first British solozine to attain 100. It is notable to me, that of the zines he mentions, I have consistently only received two after my retirement. They are ERG and YANDRO. Zines sent to me are very few, I must admit I still take bad with the fact the postman no longer calls daily. @>Come on you faneds, put Ethel on your lists @< Carry on Jeeves becomes more engrossing as you start on your RAF days, my brother was a mechanic in the RAF, so I felt very proprietary about it and thought it the best of the services. @> No argument, it was .. and still is. @<

NICK SHEARS 27 CHILTERN RD., Wendover, Aylsbury, BUCKS HP22 6DA

The cards feature was full of curiosities, and I thought the illos matched it perfectly. Coal is of course being turned into oil, thought not in this country as far as I'm aware. In Sarf Africa they have two enormous plants (SASOL and SASOL II). A high percentage (40%) of any petrol you Buy there has to be SASOL. They invested the necessary millions years ago when they foresaw the inevitability of international sanctions. @> Personally I wonder if sanctions will be an answer as not only will they cause as much hardship to blacks, but they failed against Rhodesia. Radical as it sounds, what do you think of refusing to make deals with any white South African, and insisting that all contacts be through blacks ?? @<

ALAN SULLIVAN 53 Eccleston Sq., London SW1V 1PG

So at last, the magic 100th. issue (see cards enclosed) @> Alan very kindly sent birthday cards both to me and to ERG. Now that's niceness @< I don't think I'm aware of a non-clubzine that has made it beyond four issues. You hear a lot of talk nowadays about the shortage of zines, their brevity, the poor quality ... content, limited life ... basically, not much encouragement for new types (like me) - unless of course they're dogged, dauntless, determined and don't give a fig for what others think, and do it anyhow. @> Personally, I think there are two main factors. Firstly, editors lose interest in fan-pubbing and move to some other interest. This is exacerbated by lack of feedback via letters. I'm glad I didn't make ERG100 a double-size issue, as it attracted fewer LOCs than usual .. so a few more names drop from the mailing list for #101. Interest is fed by response, I fancy others think like me, why throw money into a seeming vacuum?@<

MIKE ASHLEY Chatham, Kent.

I am especially interested in the I.O.Evans WORLD OF TOMORROW cards you mention. Funnily enough, Tom Cockcroft the New Zealand researcher, mentioned the book of this title that Evans published sometime in the 30s or 40s and which drew heavily on the illustrations you mention from the pulps. I hadn't realised they'd been issued (earlier or later?) as a fag card series and shall have to check out more details about them. As I think I've mentioned before, I'm working on a book about Hugo Gernsback and the 26-35 period of sf magazines. I wonder if Evans corresponded with Gernsback at all? I shall have to try and trace whoever now represents Evans' estate. You see what mammoth tasks your articles and memories start? Do you still have these cards by the way, and any chance of a full listing of them? ➡ List by all means, let me know if you didn't acquire a set from L.C.Co. Re the book, WORLD OF TOMORROW, if anyone can steer me to a copy ??? ☺

ALAN BURNS 19 The Cresc., King's Rd. Sth., WallSEND, N.Tyneside

Congratulations on ERG 100, well done, et al. I've manfully tried to avoid saying how much things have changed since the first ERG - I seem to recall I started subbing at Kettering in -- well, it doesn't matter. For someone that doesn't have an untidy beard, thick glasses and a paid up membership of Militant Tendency you've done remarkably well, despite the criticisms of the likes of Thom Penman (Thom who?).

In fact, all those neos are probably respected citizens by now, complete with mortgage, last year's car and unsympathetic children who are just as stropky as they were.

I recall my first meeting with you at the first con I went to. You were MC and introduced someone by saying, "Short speeches mean less work for Jeeves, here we have ....." and sat down.

PAM BOAL 4 Westfield Way, Charlton Hts. Wantage, Oxon OX12 7EW

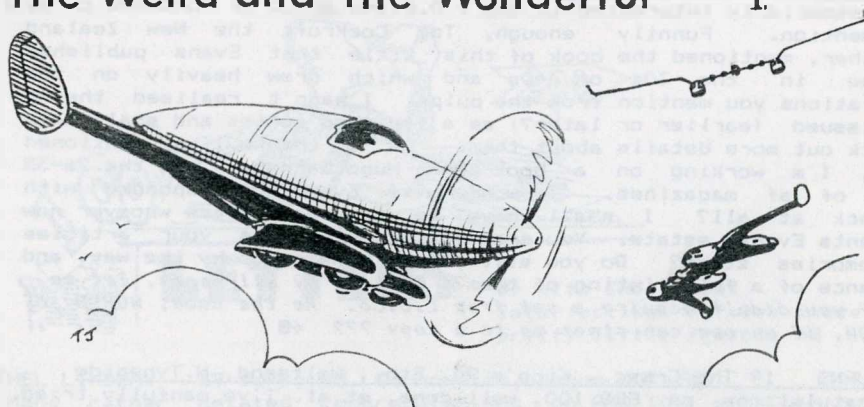
Many Congratulations on ERG 100. Long may you and ERG continue and long may we continue to agree to disagree -- while obviously thinking alike on many others.

➡ Pam, you put it in a nut-shell. You and I can hold different views without any rancour, yet so many fans today seem to take the view that if you disagree with them, then you're a nutter. The notorious Hi-ass sent me a copy of his nastily-named 'F the Tories' .. I didn't LOC, but simply sent him a copy of ERG. He then sent the next FTT, so I politely wrote and said that since I disagreed with the

title and his views, there was little point in sending me further copies. Back came a vitriolic letter, castigating my views and saying that he had only sent FTT to provoke me into a response and that I was an a, y and z person. Obviously, he wanted me to join a slanging match, so I never replied. Argument, yes: but pointless slagging, NO. Which is why I appreciate your comment, Pam. ☺ Have you tried 'Upwords'? After years of Scrabble addiction, we have come to prefer, or at least equally enjoy it.



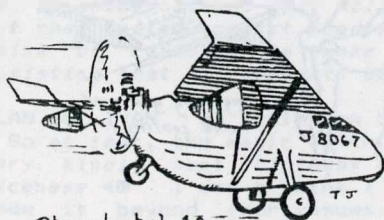
# The Weird and The Wonderful 1.



Remember that tail-less aircraft flown by Raymond Massey as an Emissary of 'Wings Over The World' in the film 'Things To Come'? That, and the giant flying-wing bombers were generally seen by cinema-goers as being very definitely futuristic designs which might come -- someday. In actual fact, tail-less aeroplanes had been around for some ten years by the time the film was released, possibly they even formed the basis for the design of Massey's craft.

These strange-looking machines were the brain children of ex-RFC pilot, Professor G.T.R.Hill, a character with a string of degrees and decorations after his name and who wanted to make flying safer. His ideas centred around a near-stall-and-spin-proof aircraft which he named 'Pterodactyl'.

Aided by his wife, he built and tested, the first 45 foot wing span Pterodactyl glider in 1924. A year later he added a diminutive 32 hp engine driving a 'pusher' airscrew. At this stage,



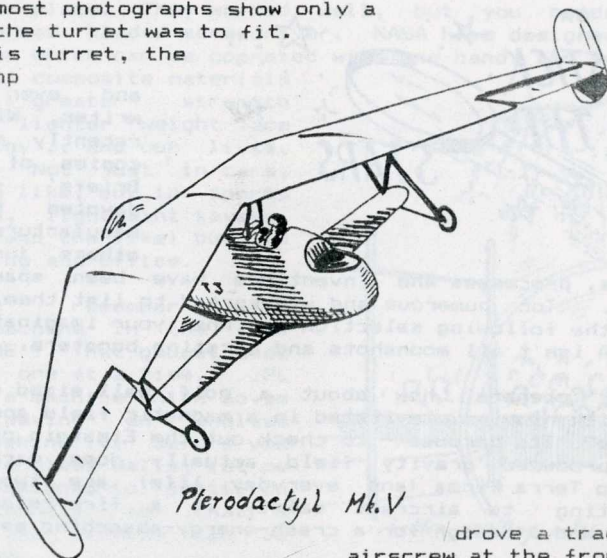
Pterodactyl 1A

Hill managed to coax backing out of both the Air Ministry and the Westland Aircraft Company with the result that the Pterodactyl 1A appeared in 1928. This was a two-seater, and was powered, first by a 34hp engine. Then when this was up-rated to one of 70hp, the aeroplane became the Pterodactyl 1B, it even had an R.F.C number, J9251. When a hard landing wiped out its single main wheel undercarriage, the machine was rebuilt with two in-line, tandem wheels and became the Pterodactyl 1C.

The Marks II and III were never built, being only designer essays in Hill's mind, but the entirely new Pterodactyl Mk.IV of 1931 (R.F.C. No. K1947) was a 120hp three seater of aerobatic standard capable of 113 mph. Incidentally, it was also the FIRST swing-wing aircraft, as wing sweep could be altered in flight though only by just over 4°. This machine appeared at the 1932 Hendon Air Pageant bearing a frightening, dragon-like paint job.



Pterodactyl Mk.V appeared in 1932 (Service No. K2770) and was a metal-built fighter designed to carry a power operated, two-gun turret on its rear end. Whether one was ever fitted seems a moot point, as most photographs show only a large hole where the turret was to fit. To accommodate this turret, the Pterodactyl's 650hp engine now



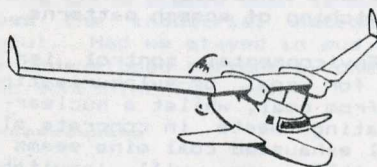
*Pterodactyl Mk.V*

drove a tractor airscrew at the front end.

A second, sesquiplane wing was added for strength and stability.

Despite the fact that the Pterodactyl Mk.V outperformed its more orthodox rival, the Hawker Demon, its trouble-prone engine gave problems. Considerable development would have been needed to make the Pterodactyl designs suitable for combat as although the longitudinal control was fighter-like, it was also difficult to handle. As for turns, the wide wingspan ensured these were relatively stately affairs. Even so, the machines were nearly stall-free and virtually unspinnable.

The Mark VI was never built, but its design called for a return to pusher format, with the gun turret moved to the front so it could fire at a target whilst approaching, rather than defend itself after making a pass. Pterodactyl VII was to have been a flying boat and Pterodactyl VIII might have served as one of the 'Things to Come' bombers ... it was intended as an airliner, with passengers in the wings!



*Projected Mk VII*

Sadly, the Pterodactyls were eventually scrapped and all work on swept-back wings halted. Who knows, with a bit more foresight .. and money, the R.A.F. might have gone supersonic before the war!

## PER ARDUA AD FRYING-PAN



That good man and even better SF writer, Wilson Tucker recently mailed me five copies of 'NASA Tech Briefs' - a magazine devoted to informing manufacturers and others, just what

new ideas, processes and inventions have been sparked by NASA research. Too numerous and widespread to list them all here, but perhaps the following selection may whet your imagination and show that NASA isn't all moonshots and bursting boosters.

For openers, how about a golf ball sized quartz sphere, coated with niobium, levitated in a magnetic field and spun as a gyroscope? Its purpose - to check out the Einstein prediction that a mass-produced gravity field actually does warp space. Much nearer to Terra Firma (and everyday life) are two other items contributing to aircraft safety .. a fire-retardant cushion material and a design for a crash-energy-absorbing seat.

Right down on the deck are improvements in tread design for tracked vehicles. Newly designed links and plates are not only cheaper and easier to manufacture, but also much more resistant to displacement and can be fitted by one man.

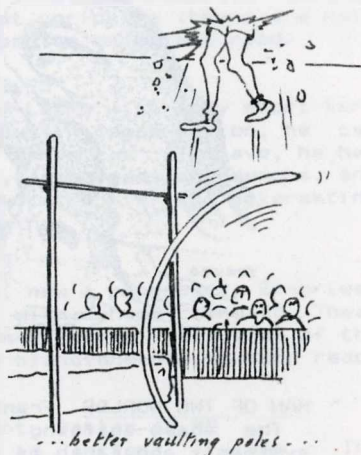
For disabled drivers, there's a single joystick, car control lever. Where muscular rehabilitation is carried out, an electronic hand-strength measuring device ensures accurate recording of progress. Kidney-stone sufferers will escape major surgery thanks to an ultrasonic probe which disintegrates the stone in situ. (A similar widget is supposed to be in use over here, but if one had been available, it would have avoided three of my five operations in 1986). For the deaf who need special training therapy to make their speech intelligible is a computer/TV set up which allows colour matching of speech patterns.

Environmental control isn't overlooked either. A new process for coal de-sulphurisation removes the acid-producing element from coal, whilst a nuclear-waste disposal plan involves encapsulating waste in concrete slurry then using the material to back-fill exhausted coal mine seams in geologically stable areas. Sadly, this one will inevitably suffer from the familiar 'elsewhere' syndrome which holds that any such idea is an excellent one provided it takes place somewhere else.

More accurate beef-grading is achieved by using IV scanning and computer colour comparisons. It may seem a bit over the top, but the system is faster, and what is more important, the results are more consistent than when someone grades the meat by eye alone.

In my RAF days, we used Dzus fasteners to hold frequently removed panels in place. They worked well, but you needed two hands and a broad bladed screwdriver. NASA have designed a new style of fastener which can be operated with one hand, and needs no other tools. New composite materials which promise greater strength coupled with lighter weight are changing technology .. and our lives, all the time. Not just in cars, aircraft and the like, but in sports (vaulting poles, lightweight kayaks, tennis racquets and the like) but in furniture, housing and office.

Do you remember that wall-building machine in the film 'THINGS TO COME'? That gadget made walls on site .. one at a time. JPL have designed a machine which moves slowly along leaving an endless concrete wall behind it. Before you ask, 'Who needs endless walls, let me add that it is designed to partition off mining tunnels so that a continuous two way airflow can be easily maintained.



...better vaulting poles...

There was an awful lot of fuss in the press when 'Stars & Stripes' won the America Cup back from Australia. That triumph was aided by covering the hull by a thin, ribbed plastic film developed by 3M in answer to a NASA design aimed at making aircraft wings more efficient and thus saving expensive aviation fuel. Amazing how research in one field can have its effects in a seemingly totally different area isn't it?

Next time someone tells you that all the space program has produced is expensive moon rock and non-stick pan coating, tell 'em how wrong they are. But human nature being what it is, there'll still be some who scoff at 'progress' as not fulfilling some other need in their lives. I'd rather be alive today, than at any other time in the past, and just because the industrial nations have pushed ahead doesn't make it sinful. Had we stayed in mud huts it wouldn't have improved the lot of undeveloped nations by one teeny bit. At least this way, we can do SOMETHING for 'em.

=====

BACK ISSUES OF ERG... I still have a few of the duplicated, Quarto sized issues ... Make your offer for one or all:-  
 ERG 70 Apr.80 21st Annish..32pp      ERG 86 Apr.84 25th. Annish..40pp  
 ERG 89 Jan.85..28pp      ERG 90 Apr.85 26th. Annish..28pp  
 ERG 91 Jly.85..28pp      ERG 94 Apr.86..27th annish..32pp  
 ERG 95 Jly.86..32pp      ERG96 Oct.86..28pp  
 ERG CALENDAR 1984 12 ERG cover reproductions....50p



MAN OF TWO WORLDS Frank & Brian Herbert Orbit £3.50

The shape-shifting Dreens can create anything, including solar systems - and Earth is such a creation. However, humans are evolving too fast, so a craft is prepared to destroy them - but Ryll steals it and has an accident which merges him with entrepreneur Lutt, leaving the blend to sort things out. Excellent, gripping hardcore. Recommended.

STAR REBEL F.M.BUSBY Orbit £2.50

In a UET Company dominated system, young Bran Tregare joins the 'Slaughterhouse' Space Academy where we follow him through years of sadism, brutality and plenty of sex before he is able to 'Escape' to begin a programme of rebellion. Unlikely situations and umpteen coincidences, but packed with action and presumably first of a series.

THE RAGGED ASTRONAUTS Bob Shaw Orbit £2.95

Land and Overland are twin worlds, sharing a common atmosphere as they orbit only 5000 miles apart (and pi is exactly 3). An increasing menace from the airborne ptertha drives the Landers to emigrate via giant balloons. We see events as background to fighting pilosopher Tollers conflict with a cruel prince. Sustained interest and interesting characters, but rather short on credibility.

THE PLANET ON THE TABLE Kim Stanley Robinson Orbit £2.95

Eight tales ranging from plundering Venice, art forgery on Mercury, mountaineering and acting, to an alternate Hiroshima, Dixieland jazz, a deserted curio shop and an ancient sea saga. I found these overwritten and lacking in basic plot interest, but if you like sheer writing style, then you'll find it here.

BROWNIE Sydney Van Scyoc Orbit £2.50

Colonists on a water planet have forgotten their origins but developed telepathy along with communication with sea creatures. Keiris, a telepathic mute loses one sister at sea, and is sent on a quest to find his other, never-seen twin sister taken away by his vanished father. Rather slow moving and wordy for my tastes.



17  
KNIGHT MOVES Walter John Williams Orbit £2.95

Immortality is for the asking and Falkner's generators take men to the stars - but only in deep freeze. Made rich by the proceeds, he has changed the Earth and raises Centaurs. Then word is received of alien herbivores, 'lugs' can teleport instantaneously. Falkner investigates with surprising results. Taut, gripping (there's a nail biting sequence in a computer run house) and an excellent read.

SOLDIER OF THE MIST Gene Wolfe Orbit £2.95

A sword wound has left Greek mercenary Latro with only short-term memory which he aids by a diary scroll - but in compensation, he can see and communicate with the gods. Taken as a slave, he has adventures aboard a warship, in a brothel, among gods and demons, and on a rescue mission. In semi-diary form, Latro is an interesting character, but the tale is rather slow moving.

THE GOLDEN HORN Judith Tarr Corgi £2.75

Second in the 'Hound & Falcon' trilogy, now a paperback. Ex-priest and immortal, Alf travels through Europe with shape-changing Thea. He helps heal sufferers during the 4th Crusade, falls foul of the ruler and futilely tries to resist Thea's blandishments as both react to events around them.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CLANS Kenneth C Flint Bantam £2.95

5th in the 'Sidhe Legends' series, set in ancient Ireland. The High King plots with the Druid Tagd who uses magic to effect the death of Warrior Chief Cumhal. Cumhal's infant son Finn is spirited away, reared by two servants and raised for revenge. Sorry, but all these sword and warrior epics tend to be repetitious.

LOVECRAFT'S BOOK Richard Lupoff Grafton £2.95

A dramatisation, set in the thirties of an alleged incident in HPL's life, where he agrees to write a pro-Fascist book in return for seeing his stories anthologised. An incredible mix of gangsters, secret plots, underwater bases and dangerous missions. I always thought HPL a frail recluse, but here he is shown as being almost gregarious, sexually frigid, pro-slavery, anti immigrants, Jews, and racial mixing. Read this unusual 'story' and wonder ???

LESS THAN HUMAN Charles Platt Grafton £2.95

A lazy technician causes a faulty biological construct, 'BURT' to be created. Released on the corrupt New York ghetto, Burt makes an antigravity belt, escapes his watchers and takes refuge on Roosevelt island with teeny-bopper Melanie and hoodlum Mike. Pursued by Police Chief Jackson who is largely prosthetic thanks to the man controlling the robot President. Burt takes over a commune and changes everything.

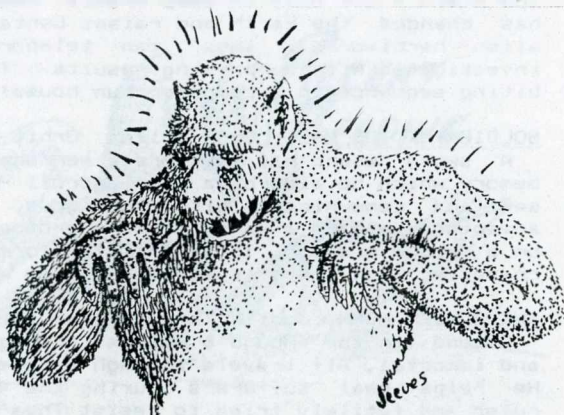
A black comedy with an occasional snigger for those who like the unusual.

NEW YORK BY KNIGHT Esther Friesner Headline £2.95

An armoured Knight is mobbed in a New York street. While he recovers, the dragon he came to slay grows in size and power. It takes over 'servants' to do its foul deeds, extends its grip on the city and adopts a cathedral as its lair. Before final confrontation, knight and helpers visit a world of the living dead. An out and out fantasy set in modern times and aimed at the horrific as the monster bends humans to its will.A

WATCHERS Dean R Koontz      Headline £10.95

Travis Cornell is adopted by a stray dog which daves him from an unseen creature which hen goes on to a series of hideous killings. Both it and the dog have escaped from a research centre and are hunted by Secret Service men, as well as by a sadistic hit man. Meanwhile, the dog, 'Einstein' has guided Travis into saving the introverted Nora from a rapist. They go into hiding and establish communication with Einstein, but all the time, the creature, the



Secret Service and the sadist are getting ever nearer. One of the most exciting and well written 'menace' stories in ages, and the development of Einstein is particularly good as Koontz moves his characters to a taut climax. Recommended.

THE FOLK OF THE AIR Peter S Beagle      Headline £4.95

Wanderer Farrell comes to stay with old friend Ben and his lady, Sia; an earth-mother archetype. Then he meets old-flame Julie who takes him to a meeting of Ancient Pursuit enthusiasts. Among them is Aiffe who seeks to conjure demons ... and who calls up 'Nicholas Bonner', an enigmatic being intent on destroying Sia, as events move to a confrontation betwixt gods, time and magic. Full of colourful, if slightly incredible characters moving in a delicately constructed fantasy.

THE POWER Ian Watson      Headline £2.50

Left-Wing, anti-Establishment monomind Jeni voids an alien creature into her toilet and is present at a peace camp during two inexplicable acts of violence. Then nuclear war begins, escalates and the Government seizes extra powers whilst the mysterious Power escalates its violence, horror and filth. Pro-CND, massively anti-Establishment and nowhere near Watson's usual standard. Political SF for the nasty-lovers.

FATAL OBSESSION Stephen Greenleaf      New English Library £2.50

Private eye, John Tanner returns to his home town to help settle the family estate - eagerly sought by various interests. Then his nephew Billy is found hanging from a tree and Tanner investigates ... a trail of drugs, venality, and sex. Plenty of gutter language, not SF, but a straight, entertaining who-dun-it where the gumshoe doesn't get beaten up every third page.

THE PLAGUE: THIRST.II Guy N Smith      N.E.L. £1.95

A heavy snowfall isolates the Welsh village of Bryn Gawr, then from infected fish, the plague of 'Thirst.1' returns. Victims are driven to maniacal acts of mayhem, sadistic violence, sex crimes etc. before the thaw comes and all is well. OK if you like mindless nastiness without much story line.

DOWNTIME Peter Fox Coronet £2.95

A hypersonic aircraft disintegrates, a headache remedy goes awry - Technocrime via computer has Lucius Finn investigating. His girl friend is working on a TV spectacular to usher in 2001, the project involves a dirigible which is also on the sabotage list. As the new era dawns, hit man Bruno moves in and everything comes to an exciting climax. A rather cop-out ending, otherwise an excellent computer crime adventure.

Bio Of A Space Tyrant.5 STATESMAN Piers Anthony Grafton £2.95

The deposed Tyrant and his sister, Spirit, are on their way to exile on Saturn when he foils a pirate attack. On Saturn, Chairman Khukov gives the Tyrant the task of taking humanity to the stars -- which involves first overthrowing an underground cabal. Numerous assassination attempts plus lashings of sex, but otherwise, simplistic and episodic.

NERILKA'S STORY and THE COELURA Anne McCaffrey Corgi £1.95

In 'Nerilka', plague threatens Fort Hold, kills Nerilka's mother - and her father installs his mistress so Nerilka flees the hold, tends the sick and meets a husband. 'Coelura' see 20 year old Caissa betrothed to an inane suitor so she flees to the islands, discovers and saves the near mythical Coelura and meets a husband. Two similar McCaffrey romances if you like 'em.

THE PRESERVING MACHINE Philip K Dick Grafton £3.50

Re-issue of the 1973 Pan anthology (it was 35p then) 15 yarns - a machine which creates weird animals from music; sinister Ganymedean toys; a girl beset by angels, a time travel loop, and a time-warping saleswoman; a dog's eye view of alien invasion and many more. An excellent collection despite the inflation of 15 years.

TWISTING THE ROPE R.A.McAvoy Bantam £2.50

Another tale of Mayland Long (who used to be a dragon). He, his love Martha and several musicians are touring the U.S.A. giving recitals of Celtic music. Friction develops, also a love interest, Mayland narrowly evades a lethal booby trap, then the piper is murdered. A sort of sequel to 'Tea With The Black Dragon', but complete in itself.

THE CHRONICLES OF CORUM Michael Moorcock Grafton £3.50

The Old Races of Vadrach and Nhadrach are dying, Corum is one of the last and has been given a replacement hand and eye by a sorcerer. Now his wife has gone, he is becoming a recluse until he answers a call to fight the 'Cold Folk' who are bringing Winter to the World. He seeks the spear Bryionak and the Bull of Crinananass and has many adventures before reaching his End. Tongue-twisting names, but s&s lovers will rejoice at Moorcock's word-magic.

BRONWYN'S BANE Elizabeth Scarborough Bantam £2.95

Princess Bronwyn's Bane is to lie all the time thanks to a sorcerer's curse. When Worthyman The Worthless attacks her country, she is shunted off to safety with Regent Wormroost's daughter Carol (a witch). From here she teams with a magicked swan and a gypsy lad to try and void the curse .. a task involving monsters, talking rivers, spells and sorcerers. A lovely send-up of so many s&s quest yarns.

*TOO MUCH IS MORE THAN ENOUGH... The market seems to be flooding with sword-toting muscle men (and women), heading off on some quest or heroic battle against the overwhelming Dark Forces of Satanic Sorcerous Evil - said forces holding all the aces, but still getting clobbered by Good Triumphant (until the next book in the saga). In future, or until my toes uncurl, I shall merely list such titles along with whatever information I can glean from jacket or publisher's handout. This will inform lovers of the genre as to what is available -- and save me ploughing through it. 'Real SF' will of course get the full treatment. Now read on...*

THE THRONE OF SCONE Patricia Kennealy Grafton £3.50

Second in the 'Keltiad', after 'The Copper Crown'. Crammed with unmanageable names as Queen Aoibhell seeks to regain her throne from sorcerer Jaun Akhera. To do this she must visit Earth and root out an Arthurian legend .. and take a deadly test.

THE SONG OF HOMANA Jennifer Roberson Corgi £2.95

Book 2 of the Cheysuli legends. Prince Carillon (aided by a shape-changing henchman seeks to regain his throne from the tyrant Bellam and overthrow the sorcerous Ilhini, thus restoring the Cheysuli to their rightful place and fulfill a prophecy forced upon him.

A DARKNESS AT SETHANON Raymond E Feist Grafton £3.50

Conclusion of the Riftworld Saga following MAGICIAN and SILVERTHORN. Prince Arutha prepares for a final battle with necromancer Marcos The Black's forces of evil. The fate of two worlds is to be decided as the old link between Kelewan and Midkemia is reopened.

THE JADE DEMON'S QUARTET Robert E Vardeman N.E.L. £4.95

Into 800+ pages are crammed four novels of warrior-girl Kesira. When her monastery is destroyed by demons, she sets off on a vengeance Quest accompanied by the omen-speaking crow and a 'shape-changer' under a geas. Robbers, demons, monsters and other perils cross her path before the four demons are destroyed. The central characters are interesting, but the incidents and battles tend to be repetitious.

HALLOWEEN HORRORS Ed. Alan Ryan Sphere £2.75

A mixed bag of 13 horror yarns on a Halloween theme - Devil's luck, a retarded child, a living mask, an imaginary playmate, frozen time, a rotting house, and many others, including some 'trick or treat' yarns (a horrible practice in itself) plus rot and depravity. Some good, some boring depending on your personal tastes.

BLOOD OF AMBER Roger elazny Sphere £2.75

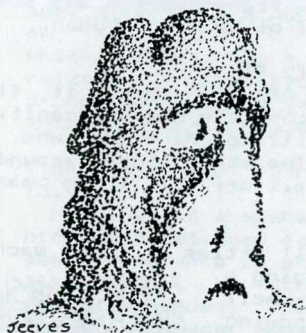
Merlin, son of Corwin of Amber uses his magic to escape an underground trap, then returns to the world of Amberwhere he overcomes sundry dangers including an assailant who deluges him with flowers. There's also an enigmatic woman who can change bodies, but I'm afraid I never really sorted out what was going on, but I suppose a certain familiarity with earlier 'Amber' novels would help.

SHADOWS II Ed. Charles L Grant Headline £2.50

Second in the series brings you 13 macabre fantasies covering such themes as a child ghost, a schizophrenic hand, a pact with the Devil, murder at a seance and so on. 'Names' include Bloch, King, Campbell, Lafferty etc. Some of 'em may leave you wondering what happened, but there's enough variety for everyone.



**TAMING THE FOREST KING** Claudia J Edwards Headline £2.50  
Warrior-girl and Infantry Colonel Tavra is sent to sort out the corrupt mismanagement of Forest Province. She hangs the governor, then sets out to find a replacement, only to encounter opposition, invisible monsters, bandits and other terrors. She also has problems with the sexually attractive Forest King, and her own adjutant. I thoroughly enjoyed this one, as it avoids the downbeat and gives a refreshing change from all those interminable 'Quests'. Recommended



**VOTAN** John James Bantam £2.75

A 1966 re-issue set in Germany of the Middle Ages where young Votan flees a jealous husband and sets out to seek the valuable Amber. He undergoes sundry trials, tribulations and magic before being hailed as the god Odin and finally reaches his goal. Fantasy fiction with a mythological background.

**EQUAL RITES** Terry Pratchett Corgi £2.50

Third in the Discworld series. A dying wizard passes his power to an 8th son of an 8th son .. who is really a girl, Esk. Brought up by her granny,

who is a witch, Esk's wizard power grows and she sets off to get it trained at Unseen University .. leaving a trail of chaos along the way. A hilarious send up of S&S without the sword.

**TO LIVE FOREVER** Jack Vance Grafton £2.95

Re-issue of a 1956 yarn, put out by Sphere in '76. In a society striving for life extension and immortality by the acquisition of 'slope', assassination awaits those whose line rises too slowly. Immortal and murderer, Waylock has been hiding from the assassins and re-starts the social climb. Fast moving, well plotted with interest sustained throughout in a rattling good read.

**SHADE OF THE TREE** Anthony Piers Grafton £2.95

After his wife is killed, Josh Pinson takes his two children to live in an isolated cabin shadowed by a huge tree. Locals warn the place is haunted, but John stays on despite escalating menace, ghosts, crazed animals and other horrors - until the totally unexpected SF-ish ending. One of the best 'frighteners' I've read. \*\*Recommended\*\*

**THE DAY IT RAINED FOREVER** Ray Bradbury Penguin £3.95

Another in the Classic SF series holding 23 stories and opening with the eponymous tale of a bone-dry desert hotel. Then there's a meeting with Picasso, a 'dragon', a communal suit, a mental construct and a host of others. Reading Bradbury is akin to a concentrated dose of 'Picturesque Speech and Patter', but if you're an addict, this one is for you.

**CASKET OF SOULS** Ian Livingstone Penguin £3.95

A quarto sized 36pp paperback jammed with superb fantasy artwork as the background to a puzzle-game. After a brief scene setting, come a dozen textual clues accompanied by paintings. Your task is to decypher the clues, find the spell and send in the solution. Every entrant gets a 'Mega Fantasy Poster' whilst the winner collects a 'Golden Casket' worth £200. Fantasy buffs, have fun.

THE GOBLIN TOWER L.Sprague De Camp Grafton £2.95

Part 1 of a trilogy. To escape beheading, King Jorian promises to aid the wizard Karadur acquire the Kist of Avlen (a chest of arcane manuscripts). Along the way he is menaced by a wizard, swindled, saves a bunch of slaves from a den of torturers, outwits an erotic Serpent Princess and faces sundry other perils. Numerous side stories are interleaved to give breadth to a light-hearted and always entertaining Quest, with Jorian a neat blend of hero and human.

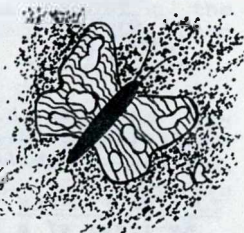
MARTIANS GO HOME Fredric Brown Grafton £2.95

Bearing a cover reproduction of the 1954 ASF in which it first appeared, this is an expanded version of the tale where humanity is plagued by an invasion of obnoxious kibitzing Martians who are intangible so cannot be driven away. The story hinges around SF writer Luke Deveraux who finally sees them all off .. in a manner different from the original yarn.

METHUEN have re-issued two Eric Frank Russell titles at £2.95 each.

SENTINELS FROM SPACE sees Mars & Venus waging a cold war for independence, so Earth's Council calls on David Raven to intervene .. not knowing he is a superbeing whose task is to guard Earth against a pending Denebian invasion. Raven achieves his aims and Earth's reward, in a surprise ending. Reminiscent in parts of van Vogt's 'ASYLUM' but with more interesting characters.

THREE TO CONQUER opens with the telepathic Wade Harper finding a dying man and thus sparking a murder hunt which becomes a fight against aliens seeking to take over human bodies, starting with their control of three astronauts. Taut, amusing, never a dull moment. Ignore the garish covers on these two, each yarn represents one of THE top line SF authors in action.

THE TIMEKEEPER CONSPIRACY Simon Hawke Headline £2.50

'Time Wars Bk.2' The Temporal Corps sends men back to fight in past wars. This time Lucas Priest and maverick Finn Delaney return to 17th Cent. France to prevent the rebel 'Temporal Preservation League' from making a major time slip. They meet D'Artagnan, the Musketeers, Richelieu and others in a tangled web of mayhem and intrigue before all is solved .. for the time being.

WHO MADE STEVIE CRYE Michael Bishop Headline £4.95

Stevie Crye supports herself and children by writing, until Seaton Bendeck repairs her typewriter and it develops a life of its own. It begins to describe a hideous series of alternate events indistinguishable from reality, almost driving Stevie crazy until she starts writing her own ending. Unlikely characters and events, yet somehow you get hooked on finding what happens next.

GABRIEL Lisa Tuttle Sphere £2.99

Dinah is another lone woman in danger. Ten years after her husband Gabriel dies, she is haunted by dreams, then a birthday card from him, and on moving to a new job, encounters ten year old Ben who is Gabriel's son by another woman. Possessed by Gabriel, Ben seeks to renew his love for Dinah and frightening complications ensue.

BEOWULF adapted by Julian Glover Alan Sutton. price ? (c.£15)

Quarto-sized, slick production and originally conceived as a one-man stage presentation of the 8th Century Anglo Saxon bardic saga. Here, beautifully illuminated/illustrated by Sheila Mackie, is Glover's verse form telling how Beowulf slays the monster Grendel, then its dam, and finally, in his old age, a terrible dragon. There's also an Introduction by Magnus Magnusson which outlines the origins and events related in the saga. An exquisite production for lovers of theatre, mythology and the old legends.



TIGER! TIGER! Alfred Bester Penguin £3.95

Marooned in a spacewreck and with a hideously tattooed face, Gully Foyle seeks vengeance on whoever ignored his distress signals - but he is also sought by others for his knowledge of where the priceless Pyr-E is hidden. Then as he nears his goal, a burning replica of himself keeps appearing. Throw in a radioactive man, mass teleportation, showman Fourmyle and you have a top notch yarn - which is what made this 4 part 1956 Galaxy serial a winner then .. and now.

ORVIS H.M.Hoover Methuen £7.95

12 year old Tabitha and young Thaddeus (whose parents are off on a 170 year FTL jaunt!), schooling on Earth encounter the ancient robot Orvis. They attempt to smuggle it (him?) to the ranch of Tabitha's great, great grandma and endure hijacking, being marooned and a cult kidnap. Improbable characters and situations but youngsters may like the action - which centres on Tabitha (Thad is pure cardboard), thus limiting the tale to female appeal.

NON-STOP Brian Aldiss Grafton £95

Aboard a generation starship gone awry, Complain leaves his tribe and sets off with the priest Harapper and others to win control of the Ship. Struggling through vine-filled corridors, they encounter 'Giants', intelligent rats, telepathic rabbits and hostile tribes before final confrontation with the terrible truth.

A re-issue of one of Aldiss' first novel .. and one of his best. Read and enjoy.

THE TROLL'S GRINDSTONE Elizabeth H Boyer Corgi £2.95

A Viking-style saga in which petty thief Leifr agrees to pose as warrior Fridmarr and overthrow a warlord - but Fridmarr is hated for betrayal. Leifr must gain a magic sword and sharpen it on the troll's grindstone with both items held by those who would kill Fridmarr by slow torture.

THE WOMEN AND THE WARLORDS Hugh Cook Corgi £2.95

Third in the 'Chronicles Of The Age Of Darkness'. Slavegirl and oracle, Yen Ollass is called on by priest Ondrask to win recompense for Lord Alagrace's stolen horses -- a task which involves her in a warlord feud, gives her a child and takes her hither and yon among wild places and people.

FANTASMS AND MAGICS Jack Vance Grafton £2.50

No one can equal Vance for creating fascinating worlds and characters, and here are seven of his gems. Lord Faide and his jinxmen view with the Forest People; elsewhere, strange events occur when 5 moons rise. A castaway seeks his 'Shangri La': a would-be ruler is tested - these and other delights make an excellent buy.

INHUMAN John Rosso Grafton £2.50

Aptly classed as horror, this concerns a group of sadistic terrorist, brain damaged after their get-away 747 crashes. Reaching an isolated group of people they begin their mindless atrocities. If blood, violence and sadism appeals, get this -- otherwise avoid it.

BLOOD HERITAGE Sheri S Tepper Corgi £2.95

Eleven months after his wife and child die, Badger meets seer, Mahlia who says his son still lives. Meanwhile, a demon escapes from a maze and brings horrible death and menace to their search before Badger fights back. A neat blend of reality with the supernatural.

THE TENTH VICTIM Robert Sheckley Methuen £2.50

Set in the same world as 'VICTIM PRIME', 'The Hunt' allows legalised murder to ease repressions and win riches. Caroline must kill the inept Polletti to gain the coveted Ten status and her TV team follows to record the killing .. but Cupid shoots first. Sheckley expands on his bizarre theme, with light but deft comedy.

TIME FIGHTERS Bernard King Sphere £3.50

The mysterious, immortal Erzebet hires a circus troupe, she pays for a strange mechanical construction and leaves a trail of ghastly killings as she seeks a skull and manuscript in order to win power over the dark lord Thule. Ferrow investigates some of the deaths and seemingly unconnected threads gradually come together. King achieves an excellent blend of horror and reality far better than namesake Stephen.

TROLLNIGHT Peter Tremayne Sphere £2.75

Ann Steven working an archaeological dig, dies 'accidentally' only a few days after her boy friend. Her brother Tony investigates: other deaths occur and strange mind-controlled creatures roam the Norwegian hills. A Hollywood style thriller in a convincing style.

ARAMINTA STATIDIN by Jack Vance is a forthcoming title from New English Library, priced at £12.95. (Paper £6.95) Start of the Cadwal Chronicles (happenings on the proscribed world, Cadwal). Due in January, this one concerns Glawen's search for his lost lover - and discovery of a conspiracy. A new Vance is an event, so watch for this one.

NIGHTFALL John Farris New English Library £2.95

Angel, a sadistic, homicidal maniac kills his way out of a mental home and sets off to kill his wife Anita. She is living with son Tony and drug running Mob guardian Carl in a house rented from night-blind Clay Tomlin. Anita and Clay become lovers and then Angel arrives. Taut, exciting, unputdownable and a must for terror buffs.

THE NICK OF TIME G.A.Effinger New English Library £2.50

Mihalik is sent back from 1996 to 1939 where he gets stuck in a time loop. Girl friend Cheryl comes to his aid, and they begin shuttling to and fro in alternate time lines in a lightweight and occasionally funny yarn.