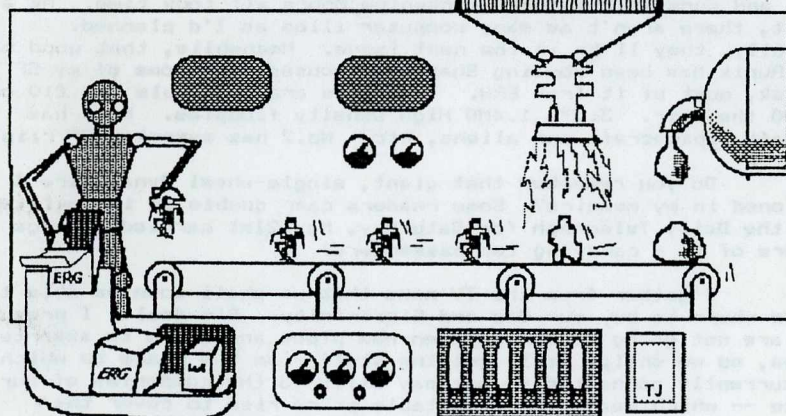
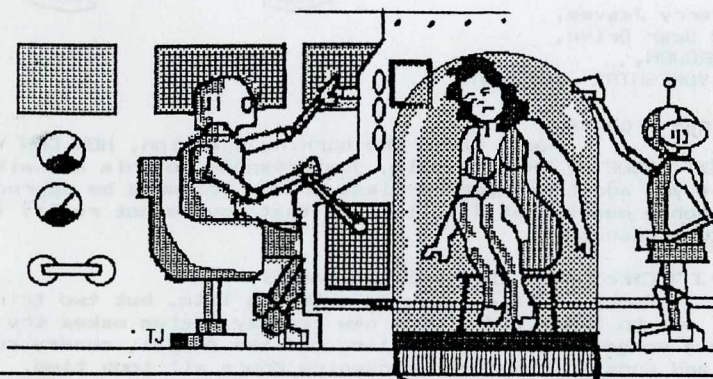


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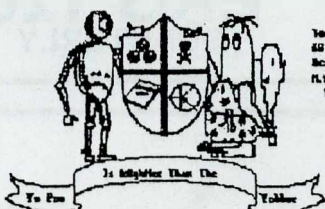
QUARTERLY

JULY 1994



ERG¹²⁶ QUARTERLY

JULY 1994



Terry Jeeves
45 Red Scar Drive
Scarborough
North Yorkshire YO12 5RQ
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From Terry Jeeves,
56 Red Scar Drive,
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NORTH YORKSHIRE YO12 5RQ

Greetings Ergbods,

Well first the burning question, HOW CAN YOU GET THE NEXT ISSUE OF ERG? Simple, just respond to this one with a LOC. (and if you add three second-class stamps it would be appreciated). No response means that I'll take it that you're not really interested in future issues.

ERGITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Sorry if this issue is a trifle late, but two trips to Wales, one to Sheffield (Their new tramway system makes the city centre a no-go area and is killing off the shops), sundry runs to York, and runs in the North Yorkshire Moors all took time. As a result, there aren't as many computer illos as I'd planned. Hopefully, they'll be in the next issue. Meanwhile, that good man John Rupik has been touting Shareware houses with some of my SF art on disk, most of it from ERG. Two disks are available for £10 or \$15.00 the pair. 3.5", 1.4MB High Density floppies. No.1 has aircraft, spacecraft and aliens, etc. No.2 has assorted SF clips.

Do you remember that giant, single-wheel Dynasphere I mentioned in my memoirs? Some readers cast doubts on its existence. Well the Daily Telegraph for Saturday, May.21st carried a large picture of it - carrying two passengers!

I gather from the TV news that we shall soon be able to choose where to buy our Gas and Electricity. Big deal! I presume they are not going to run umpteen new pipes and wires to assorted houses, so we shall still get the stuff from the place to which we are currently connected -- but pay bills to the companies of our choice -- which means the inevitable price rise to cover the administration needed to handle the cash transfers twixt the companies. How daft can you get?

I've decided to start selling off my SF collection. Magazines first - IN SETS, not separate issues. If interested in buying ASF 1930-1974, Galaxy 1950-76, SPACE, VENTURE, GALILEO, ISF, VORTEX ETC., SEND SAE FOR a list. And of course, I still have several pages of paperbacks, as new, for £1.00 a copy and upwards.

WEIRD & WONDERFUL this issue is devoted to the series of X-1 planes developed in the USA. Next issue will be on the X-2 aircraft, and so on through the series. I don't know what else will be in the issue, so if you have any suggestions, bung 'em in. After 35 years of ERG, it would be nice to write about something new.

Meanwhile, all the best,

Terry

Words of Wisdom

Some words or phrases are loaded with such great import or esoteric meaning that once heard, they are never forgotten. There's one such totally unforgettable quotation which escapes me at the moment, but I'm sure you know the one as well as I do. It's terribly funny and always causes gales of laughter. When I said this to my friend Fred, he nearly laughed outright, I'm sure he would have done if I could have remembered the quote. I could see his face twisting as he suppressed the mirth. He even said that he hadn't been so amused since half an hour ago when for breakfast, he had a boiled egg on which his son had painted a queer face on the eggshell.

This didn't seem so funny, so I explained that I didn't like boiled eggs, one might get a splinter in the eye when cracking them and that poached eggs were much safer. Fred can't do much cooking, as when I asked if he knew the best way to poach an egg, he said, "Put a sock in it." That seemed a strange thing to do, so I asked him if that improved the taste and if so, what was the best kind of sock. Fred mumbles a bit, but I'm sure he said, "Go To Wells" before he dashed off in a hurry. Probably the talk of eggs had made him hungry again. Funny though, 'Wells' is a hardware shop, I can't get socks there - maybe he meant they sell a special poaching pan, or maybe I misheard his "Go to Wells", for "Go to" some other place. All very confusing.

Anyway, undaunted, I will return to my quotation. I remember our local MP used it once when he was giving a memorable speech about something important. At the time, it seemed very witty and everyone laughed out loud just as his belt broke causing his trousers to fall down. Naturally, everyone was very distressed, especially the MP who had just been saying that politicians should have nothing to hide. No doubt about it, words can be strange things.

Be that as it may, if not otherwise, words are funny things. Take that 'gales of laughter' I mentioned. Why can't such gales power wind farms? How often do people tell you that "Speech is silver, silence is golden"? Daft twits, just try to sell the local goldsmith half an hour's natter or five minutes of silence and see how far you get. Then the idiot who claimed the pen to be mightier than the sword never had to face a scimitar-toting Conan when armed only with a clapped out Biro. In total contradiction, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me' wouldn't go down well with a librarian trapped under a tower of collapsing bookshelves. Doctors may say people need more iron in their diet, but do they eat a bag of nails for breakfast? As for an apple a day keeping the doctor away, nowadays even total abstinence from such fruit won't get him to come and see you after a string of heart attacks.

Another curiosity is that night falls but doesn't break, whilst day breaks but doesn't fall. One might also ask, if you can have one pair of trousers, why not half a pair? Then we hear that it's a long road which has no turning. Rubbish, I know lots of dead straight short roads and some long ones which wind like snakes. As for being advised to "Cast your bread upon the waters", presumably for some future profit. If it comes back at all, it will be soggy mush. No mugger's victim really believes that "The meek shall inherit the Earth", and if "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", why don't fish have wings and halos? One might wonder if dentists get called upon to treat the teeth of a gale, a pilot fly on the wings of the morning or an optician treat the eyes of a potato. For that matter, you can't get boots from shoe trees, poodles from dog roses, sandwiches from a ham actor, or preserves from a traffic jam.

Even dafter is the canard that "The exception proves the rule". I'd say it tests it to destruction. Take the case of "i before e, except after c". It suffers badly when it comes up against words such as 'seize', 'heir', 'their', 'weir', 'weird' or 'ancient', 'conciierge' and 'financier', to name but a few. Those 'exceptions' make the 'rule' look damned silly.

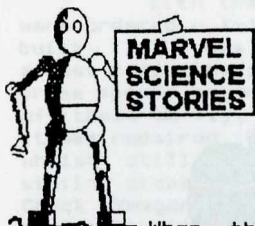
Words are queer things, how can you raise a building when putting it up, but raze it when knocking it down? Two people can cleave together, but you can cleave a block of wood into two pieces. For that matter, why are 'cupboards' always called 'cubbards', and why is Magdalen College referred to as 'Maudlin'? We say 'by and large', but by what and how large? Many hands reputedly make light work, but on the other hand, too many cooks spoil the broth. Maybe they do that whilst cooking a square meal -- which isn't quite so daft, as I gather it got that name from the square tins in which meals were prepared aboard early Naval sailing ships. Likewise, we get down to 'brass tacks' from an old method of measuring cloth in a draper's shop.

One Australian fan suggested spelling reforms such as replacing 'read' in sentences such as "I read that yesterday" with 'red', (I'm not sure what he advocated for "I am going to read it"), but such economy runs into trouble if you write, "Have you red Hairy Legs". If spelling reform were needed, a better starting point might be with rough, though, through, cough, bough and their offspring.

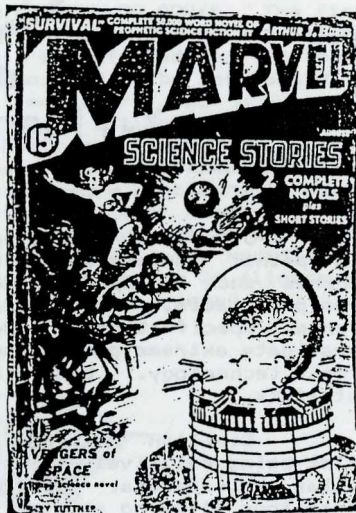
Even if you're daft enough to try, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear", but neither can you make a sow's ear out of a silk purse. For that matter, you can't make a tin tray out of a bowl of blancmange, so what's all the fuss about? If you really want a meaningful quotation, how about 'Many a mickle makes a muckle'? How many mickles have you seen walking around busily assembling a muckle? Precious few I fancy.

On the other hand, it is all these idiosyncracies which give us the real rich variety of the English language. I hate to see it debased with such deformities as 'Kwik Snax', 'To-Nite', 'Kiddies Korner', or the misuse it suffers under commentators who tell us "Fred is playing fluently", or "The team were defeated". How I wish we could all club together and batter the perpetrators of these gems with a club - not the Reform, Bridge or Conservative variety of course. That goes without saying, which is better than going without one's supper. Here endeth the lesson.

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When this magazine hit the newstands it caused quite a fuss. The Norman Saunders cover included a very scantily dressed female, chained by the neck to a red hot ball mounted on a pursuing machine. Once inside, the Contents Page listed - Two complete novels, a novelette and three short stories. Interior art was shared by Paul, Robison and an un-named artist who depicted a beautiful girl being stripped by a winged alien. Another illustration had an ugly creature about to operate on another clothes-rationed damsel. As you might guess, the whole idea was to present spicy SF - in the best possible taste of course.



SURVIVAL by Arthur J. Burks saw Japanese armies devastating America. A handful of survivors entombed themselves in underground caverns with the aim of emerging, generations later, to wreak vengeance. Being short of women to supply the generations, they resorted to polygamy. **AVENGERS OF SPACE** by Henry Kuttner saw an experimental spaceship leave Earth just before it was destroyed by aliens. Its crew of two men and a girl set off to retaliate - with the girl getting stripped at regular intervals. Robert O. Kenyon (a pseudonym?) supplied **DARK HERITAGE** in which a time traveller reduced humanity to barbarism by destroying all metals. For some reason, he forgot to include a stripper. This omission was rectified by James Hall (Henry Kuttner), with **DICTATOR OF THE AMERICAS**, a chap who kept the true ruler quiet in a Pleasure Garden (guess what sort of pleasure). The hero gets consigned to another dimension where a maiden disrobes to entice him into killing a monster.

THROUGH THE TIME RADIO by Stanton A. Coblentz concerned Eskimo archaeologists from after a future Ice Age. They use a time viewer to discover civilisation killed itself off by - horrors, war! **MONSTER OF THE MOUNTAIN** was by-lined Leon Byrne, but I suspect another Kuttner. A scientist creates huge animals, dogs, rabbits etc. and entraps the hero and heroine - who manages to lose most of her clothes during the process.

In actual fact, the sex angle in these tales was very mild - 'pale globes of her breasts' and 'a gleam of milky white thighs' being the limit, but to a generation shocked by Shaw's use of 'bloody' in *Pygmalion*, it was hot stuff. To magazines such as **WONDER**, **THRILLING WONDER**, **AMAZING** and **ASTOUNDING**, s*x didn't exist. Women in their stories were there to wander off and get caught or menaced by evil aliens. Occasionally a man would catch a girl in their arms, but only to prevent her from falling in a faint. As for dialogue, the girls were 'true bricks' or 'brave little things'.

Little wonder that when **MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES** appeared, it caused a furor in fandom.



The X-1 Planes

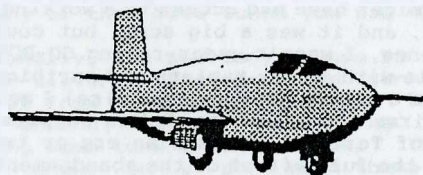
Over the years, aircraft development has followed three main paths; Commercial, Military and Research with subsidiary branches such as Sport or Record Breaking. Commercial designs have to be profitable, Military machines must fulfill various attack and defence specifications, Research aeroplanes are designed to investigate extreme performance and push development to the limits of current technology. Each field of endeavour has its own built-in restraints.

Civilian machines must be as safe as humanly possible whilst being relatively cheap to buy and operate - such as the Douglas DC.4/Dakota. Military machines relax somewhat on cost and safety thus allowing shorter production runs and aiming for extended improvement of a specific design - thus the Supermarine Spitfire which began life as a 330mph fighter with minimal load and ended up flying at nearly 500mph and in the Seafire.7 version, it was taking off with a weight greater than the original model by an amount equal to an extra 31 passengers, each with 40lb of luggage! Research machines are usually limited to short production runs of two or three designed to check out new designs or extremes of performance in speed, altitude etc., with the final aim of using the data to improve military or civil aircraft. An example being the Fairey Delta.2 which after bumping the air speed record to 1132mph, was rebuilt as the BAC.221 to test out the ogive wing plan designed for Concorde.

With data gathering in mind, work began in the USA on a series of high speed research planes. Identified by 'X' for Experimental, they probed high speed flight, exotic materials, rocket propulsion, VTOL, and control methods as well as sound and temperature barriers.

First in the series was the Bell X-1, a design to explore transonic and supersonic flight. Three beautifully streamlined monoplanes were built, each powered by a rocket engine. Because of limited fuel duration of between four or five minutes they were to be carried to altitude by a four-engined mother plane before being air-dropped, whereupon the rocket motor would fire and the test run begin. Initial flights were unpowered glides to test out airborne release systems, controls, telemetry etc., the first of these taking place in January 1946. The first powered flight came in December 1946, but it was not until the 50th. flight in October 1947 that Chuck Yeager pushed the X-1A through the sound barrier to Mach 1.06 and became the first man to fly faster than sound. Between them, the three aircraft made over 150 flights, reached a maximum altitude of over 70,000ft. and a maximum speed of Mach 1.45. A record slightly marred by the machines having a tendency to nose wheel failures on landing.

With the success of the original three, a further four X-1s were ordered - X-1A, X-1B, X-1C and X-1D, although only three were built (X-1C was cancelled). These second-generation aircraft had almost twice the performance of the original X-1s and were meant to probe speeds beyond Mach 2.0 and altitudes above 90,000ft. The first of these to fly, the X-1D made a crash landing on its maiden flight. It was repaired, but on its second flight, it suffered an explosion whilst still airborne inside a B-50, and had to be jettisoned. A similar disaster overtook the X-1A some time later, but not before Chuck Yeager had flown it to Mach 2.4 and an altitude of 74,000ft. - at which point, he lost control and tumbled right down to 24,000ft before recovery. The explosion faults were finally traced to 'Ulmer' leather used in certain gaskets, but not before considerable damage had been caused by the spontaneous ignition of the compound. The second series of X-1s saw over fifty flights, and set an unofficial altitude record of 90,440ft in 1954. The X-1B was later modified to become the X-1E. It had thinner wings and had done 26 flights and worked up to Mach 2.4 before it was retired with a cracked fuel tank.



SUMMARY OF FLIGHTS

Plane	Flights	Speed Mach/mph	Altitude	Conclusion
X-1 (i)	59	1.45/957	71,902ft	In Smithsonian Institute
X-1 (ii)	74	1.20/792	46,000ft	Edwards Air Force Base
X-1 (iii)	-	-----	-----	Exploded during ground dump of fuel
X-1A	14	2.44/1650	90,440ft	Exploded aboard B-50 and was jettisoned
X-1B	27	2.30/1541	65,000ft	Modified into X-1E
X-1C	--	-----	-----	Cancelled, not built
X-1D	1 glide	-----	-----	Exploded aboard B-50 and was jettisoned
X-1E	26	2.24/1475	73,000ft	Modified from X-1B, now in Wright-Paterson AFB

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SPITFIRE	Jeffery Quill	Arrow 1983	£2.95
THE JET AGE	Bill Gunston	Barker 1971	£2.50
THE X-PLANES	Jay Miller	Orion Books 1988	\$29.95

GENERAL CHUNTERING

Ken F Slater

Sometime back in 1946, when the international postal service had pretty well normalised and one could get a package from the USA in about three weeks, and a letter by air took three or four days, I managed to obtain a subscription to *Amazing Stories*. One of the first issues I received had a tale titled *Joe Dannon, Pioneer*, by Richard S. Shaver. I quite liked the yarn, although when I found more Shaver material I must admit I went off the stuff. Especially the footnote... For those who never knew, or have disremembered, Shaverian/Palmer science presupposed that the solar fires could produce ash which adversely affected life; this was pushed by the suns into the planets (gravity was a sort of reverse effect). Badly infected people could retrogress, or suffer diseases, etc. etc. Now everyone is advised against sunbathing without covering themselves with assorted blockers, and the wearing of hats, scarfs, and long sleeves is *de rigueur* if the sun mistakenly shines, I wonder if perhaps Shaver and Palmer might have had access to a working crystal ball. I know they were way off, and it was a big scam but could there be caverns below...? Oh, Vince, I wasn't under-rating CD-ROM, just saying that I am more comfortable with my wax tablets and scribing reed, and that when I attempted to find a source (for someone else) I met with a total lack of enthusiasm from firms who were recorded as suppliers. On postal speeds and charges (one of Terry's comments an erg or two ago) I knew of but didn't appreciate the full effect of the abandonment of the preferential rate for Newspapers ("Registered at the GPO as a Newspaper" is obsolescent today). I've just sent a couple of copies *The Times* to the States, printed papers surface mail, at a cost of £4.48. The actual cost of the two issues was 72p. No idea when they'll arrive, but on current form I'd say six weeks minimum for the trip. Such is derogress, to counterfeit a phrase. On aspirin (in fact, I'm on Arthrofen 400, a nice fannish name) - which I think was a late 1800's German discovery, originally (and still) used for the reduction of inflammation - this is the sort of thing which I was trying to infer was the possible basis of the protagonist/inventor story today. Very few people - as opposed to governments and multi-national corporations - can afford the space or finance for massive engineering projects. If they could we'd probably have "steam" cars, "linear magnetic" railways, and such like. Big business can't afford to retool. Governments are different; it isn't *their* money they are spending; and just think of the profit some continental manufacturer will make shipping us a few million gross of two-pin plugs! Incidentally, *ABORIGINAL* often has some good "hard" sf shorts... Recently Ned Brooks (publisher of IGOTS) commented on the obscure dialect used in John Buchan's *WITCH WOOD*, wondering how it had been understandable to English readers in the 20th century. I wrote and told him that people were still using that sort of language in the 1940's, which he found mildly suprising. Maybe the 1995 WorldCon should arrange language lessons, 'cos I'm pretty certain that up in the hills beyond Perth folk will still be talking that way. And I read Burns and Scott in school in the '20/30's. You can conduct some weird conversations in Glasgow, as Harry Harrison and I discovered on being accosted by a mildly inebriated local when we were waiting outside the Central Hotel... My own accent is a sort of mixture of Berkshire and South London, with a smattering of various things - possibly some Norfolk, for although my postal address is Cambridgeshire in fact we live in Norolk one of those strange anomalies that result from mucking about with political boundaries.. I was going to talk about "quest" stories, but...

A Touch Of VARIETY

9

My heart sinks when I look at TV listings and see plugs for the mis-named VARIETY PERFORMANCES. According to my Chambers' Dictionary, variety means, 'difference, diversity, many-sidedness', - which is just what TV 'variety' shows are NOT! Instead you get a seemingly endless run of lollipop-lickers screaming or moaning some idiotic pop song. Don't ask me which one, they're all idiotic, and for that matter how many of them have tunes you can whistle?

Very occasionally, the auditory mayhem is interspersed by a so-called comedian or clever-dick compere and perhaps, if you're very unlucky, an excerpt from some London musical. This involves the culprits in leaping around, waving their arms (this is called 'dancing') and screaming some tune from the show. This is blatant advertising of their show; on a par with those annoying 'novel excerpts' which magazines occasionally stuff in because they get 'em free. Hopefully, they'll make you rush to buy the whole shebang. Pop singers, wise-cracks and arm-waving do not a variety make.

So what does? Well, before the war, and for a period afterwards we had real Variety in our theatres. I suppose the Americans would call it Vaudeville. Just for the heck of it, I ransacked my memory banks and in a few minutes had jotted down a long list of variety acts I can recall seeing on the stage at the Sheffield Empire - and I probably missed many more. Fasten your seat-belts, here we go...

Big-name dance bands would often head the bill, Harry Roy, Joe Loss, Jack Hylton, Henry Hall and others always gave a good and varied performance. Preceding them we might watch various performing animals, seals, lions, tigers, dogs and even doves or budgerigars. Admittedly we couldn't have such acts today. The Animal Rights Brigade would beat up anyone treating animal that way. More acceptable were magicians, conjurors and illusionists doing tricks and making people vanish (I wish they would practise on Cilla Black or Tina Turner).

We watched in awe as fire-eaters did their stuff. but here again the Trade Description Act would probably say "Incorrect, they don't actually eat the fire". Re-titling the act as 'A Man Who Puts Burning Things Into His Mouth' doesn't have quite the same ring to it. Then there were trick cyclists, roller-skaters, tightrope walkers, trapeze artists and acrobats swinging, jumping, balancing and doing wonders of equipoise. We watched in awe as knife throwers or axe wielders hurled their weapons at targets or placed them accurately around a scantily-clad female standing against a board. Other daring acts saw Crackshot marksmen performing wonders with rifles and pistols. Less daring but more amusing were the comedians,

clowns, corss-talk acts, skits and the balloon benders who created weird animals from bunches of balloons - or the paper tearers who produced fantastic results from ripped up newspapers.

Humorous monologues such as 'Albert & The Lion' were squeezed in whilst scene changing went on behind the curtain. Quick-change artists performed and I even watched in awe as Joe davis did marvellous things with cue and balls on a full-size snooker table. Huge mirrors angled above it, enabled us to see all the action. Instead of lollipop-lickers we had real singers and instrumentalists - violins, trumpets, accordions, Teddy Brown and his xylophone, even people playing tunes on partially-filled wine-glasses or bottles. One chap even played tunes on gadgets created from plumbing piping.

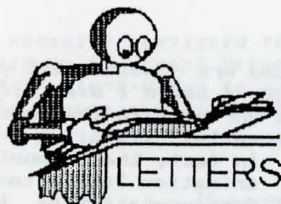
I recall boomerang-throwers zooming their devices out over the audience, bird and animal imitators creating all the country noises as they took us on 'farmyard walks'. Albert Whelan entertained with musical whistling, strong men lifted weights, bent bars or had concrete blocks laid on their chests and smashed by sledge-hammers. Escape artists took only seconds to free themselves from ropes, chains, handcuffs and straight jackets.

Hypnotists could always raise a laugh as they made their victims pedal non-existent bicycles, play on invisible instruments or walk imaginary dogs. Western-garbed performers spun ropes, or wielded stock whips to snuff candles. A favourite trick was to knock a cigarette from between an assistant's lips. We watched in an agony of sympathy as contortionists tied themselves into knots. The ventriloquist who drank a glass of water whilst his dummy sang a song was always popular - as was the 'memory man' who could reel of dates of any event you asked, or remember long strings of numbers or objects after a quick glance. Thought readers amazed us with their seemingly uncanny ability to communicate with each other or tell the contents of sealed envelopes.

Audience participation was common. In the Sheffield Empire, the late Eric Jones, Eric Bentcliffe and I responded to Mr. Electro's call for volunteers. Using high voltage coils and other impressive gadgetry, he gave us fluorescent tubes to hold and made them glow, caused our hair to stand on end and sparks to leap from our finger tips.

Ah happy days! Now that was variety. It only took a few minutes to recall that little lot, so older readers could probably add a heap more. So WHY do we no longer have real variety shows? Has TV killed them off, or, dare I say it? Could it be that we no longer have people willing to devote time and effort to mastering some unusual skill? Do we really prefer lollipop-licker and emulators of disaster sirens?





VINCE CLARKE, 16 WENDOVER WAY, WELLING, KENT DA16 2BN

Reprint 'DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE'? I get the impression the readership doesn't vary much over the years, and feel this might be a bit of a waste unless you have new data to add. Ta for the stuff on THE LENS MAN, tho'

I'm a bit suspicious you only managed 30 minutes of it. @> That was because I had to go out. I quite enjoyed it when I had time to see the lot - though it took a lot of liberties with the series. <@ Letter section good. Re. Ted Hughes letter, as I understand it, editor Gilling in TALES OF WONDER was trying to 'educate' the public into a liking for SF by printing fairly simple stories. Incidentally, I see from my TOW index that Ted Hughes made an appearance in the lettercol, but not T.Jeeves. Why not? @> I was only fifteen at the time and only met fandom via an ad for Scientifiction in TOW. Re the stories, I think Gillings said the UK readers needed leading gently up to the standard of the American pulps -- so who led US? <@

ALAN BURNS, 19 THE CRESCENT, KINGS RD. 5TH. WALLSEND, N. TYNNESSIDE, NE28 7RE

The cover was what I call Jeeves' primitive style, enough details to tell the story, is it a man? Is it a robot? No, it's Captain Marvel. @> It was drawn on the computer hence the style. <@ The Wonders of SF, well there is no limits to man's ingenuity or nuttiness. Some like Arthur C. Clarke, found their work in solid fact, others like Van Vogt soared into the realms of fantasy. No harm there, but when you get the Chinese Emperor who wished to visit his ancestors and had four big rockets tied to his throne and ignited, he did just that. Ken's Chunterings, enjoyable - but take the inventor of Aspirin, his lab was set up neatly on a tray. @> Tray Bon! <@

BEREK PICKLES, 44 ROOLEY LANE, BANKFOOT, BRADFORD, N. YORKS. BD5 8LI

The Wonders Of Science brings back memories of Campbell's hobby-horses, it also reminds me of Arthur C. Clarke's primitive reaction propelled vehicle where a strong bloke chucked bricks off the back of a railway trolley. Two other points. Dowsing, my brother-in-law (a hard-headed plumber) used to find leaks in unmapped water pipes drains using bent welding rods. Second, J.B. Rhine's work did go under a cloud for some time but has since been re-instituted. I have done uncontrolled experiments with students using Zener cards with some spectacular scores. Of course, these were useless as unless we conducted hundreds of tests under control conditions, no real conclusions could be drawn. @> Why not try your luck with that ESP computer program I ran in ERG a while back? <@

ETHEL LINDSAY, 69 BARRY RD. CARNOUSTIE ANGLIS, SCOTLAND DD7 7QQ

I remember Chick Henderson and being sad at his death. I also remember that he turned cartwheels whilst singing 'Begin The Beguine'. I used to have some Russell Fearn mags but the only one I kept has my 'fan photo' in it, Number 10, no date, sent in by Dave Cohen, remember him? @> Yes, we still correspond .. and my photo was in, I think, number 4. Happy days <@ Your idea of a PhD thesis sounds no dafter to me than some I have heard about. @> OK, now just complete the test in this issue and send it in along with a cheque for £50 to cover postage. <@

ALAN SULLIVAN, 30 ASH RD, STRATFORD, LONDON E15 1HL

The Paintbrush program seems to do pretty good art - wait until you see what Neopaint can do. *Q* Lacking a handbook, I haven't used it yet *A* Word Perfect can be a bit daunting, but worth it in the end.

Oddly enough, I've seen LENSMAN quite recently. Visually, it's fantastic - especially the computer graphics. In fact, the computer bits are so striking they make the 'painted' animation look a touch dull. Overall, it's an interesting, different interpretation of the original tale. Well worth seeing. Well I liked it anyway. *Q* So did I *A* Aircraft: I've always had a liking for the delta and flying-wing type of aircraft. It's something about the way they look. It is also interesting to see just how far this sort of design goes back. Recent Reading: Timothy Zahn seems to have a pretty good touch with space opera. His additions to the Star Wars universe are not only good reading, they actually add quite a lot to the story line. Admiral Thrawn is clearly an enduring character - he even appears in the latest Star Wars computer game.

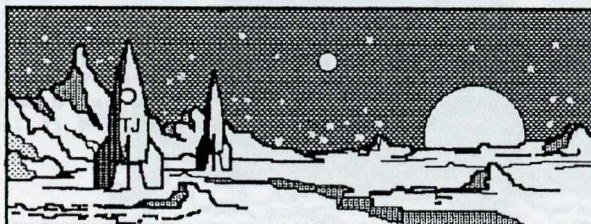
ROGER WARDINGTON, 4 COMMERCIAL ST., MORTON, MALTON, N.YORKS YO17 9ES

You're certainly enjoying life with your PC. I'm very content with my Atari. I don't regret going straight to a mouse and GUI, missing out all the steps in between. I never fancied myself as a MS-DOS expert *Q* Neither did I, but I enjoy a bit of Basic programming and did sell the odd program. *A* With this w/p I can just press a key to change a command line. *Q* Me too, Wordwiser is much easier in many ways than Write or Word Perfect. *A* Ken has been Chuntering to good effect; he's made me realise I may have been a little selfish with my attitude to Analog. Of course, there's a new generation of readers with new interests and aspirations, who knew not JWC. To expect it to stay still, frozen at one particular moment does seem to fly in the face of all we expect of SF. *Q* Not necessarily, I for one still expect an entertaining story with a good plot, even if it does concern cause-plugging. What I hate is the modern, breast-beating, whining yarn with minority-group stereotypes which fades away without getting anywhere. *A*

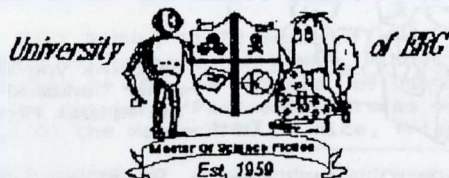
HARRY ANDRUSCHAK, PO Box 5309, TORRANCE, CA 90510-5309, USA

must disagree that 'large scale use of penicillin or DDT could solve all the problems of space flight'. You're showing your age there. It has been years since either penicillin or DDT has been much use. Here, there are so many strains of penicillin-resistant strains of bacteria running around, no doctor bothers prescribing it.

Q Relax, my doctor still serves it up. *A* Yes, I have heard the story that a piece of buttered toast always falls buttered side down. I've also been told that cats dropped from a height, land on their feet. Now what will happen if you tie a piece of toast, buttered side UP to a cat's back, and drop it? The irresistible force of the bread trying to land 'butter up' is fighting the immovable force of the cat trying to land on its feet. Will this result in the end of the Universe? *Q* No problem if you use Shrodinger's Cat, you get both results *A*



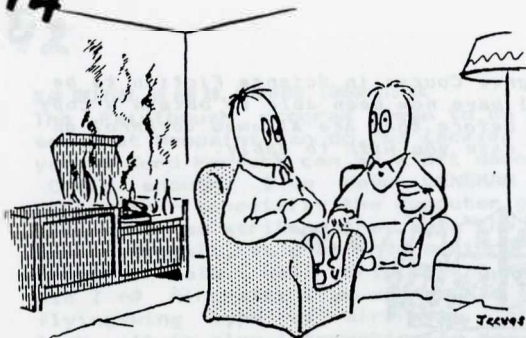
I recently mentioned the new Degree Course in Science Fiction to be held in Liverpool University. I have now been able to obtain a copy of the test given to applicants before they are allowed to enrol on the course. I offer it here in case you wish to apply.



Applicants must answer not more than 25 of the 15 questions.
Forms to be returned to the Head Examiner prior to having your head examined.

1. In 5000 words or less, say which of the following have no connection with SF as it is today?
(a) Gernsback (b) Campbell (c) Verne (d) Wells
2. In not more than ten words, explain the politically correct significance of the sentence, "A vertically challenged, hirsutely disadvantaged, pigmentally darkened person with inoperative vision, should not be referred to as a short, bald, and blind, black man".
3. Arrange to following in the order in which they need saving:-
(a) Whales (b) Dolphins (c) Earth (d) Money (e) pulp mags
(f) Liverpool United (g) Souls
4. Which of the following phrases completes the sentence beginning, "It is a proud and lonely thing ..."
(a) to be lonely and proud. (b) half drunk (c) totally drunk
(d) a reader of SF (e) in Scotland (f) eating garlic
5. Who wrote the following novels?
(a) BONOVAN'S DRAIN (b) THE CITY AND THE BARS (c) I MORON
(d) GALACTIC PETROL (e) SAND ON ZANZIBAR (f) MOBY DUCK
6. Explain the working of the following with diagrams and give full engineering details.
(a) The Spindizzy (b) The Bergenholm (c) The Dean Drive
(d) Positronic Brains (e) Convention Accounts
7. Is a superconductor found on ...
(a) A bus (b) A Cook's Tour (c) The London Symphony Orchestra.
You would find a Black Hole in ...
(a) Calcutta (b) Black socks (c) A coal mine
8. Place in order, the following Novels with their reasons for politically incorrectness in order.

(a) THE FAIRY CHESSMEN	Suggests homosexuality
(b) GREY LENS MAN	Shows colour prejudice
(c) FARMER GILES OF HAM	Offensive to vegetarians
(d) SLAVES OF SLEEP	Unfair to insomniacs
(e) NEEDLE	Suggests drug addiction
(f) MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON	Favours Capitalism
(g) LITTLE WOMEN	Avoids men and tall females



FANZINES

"I think you'll find this is a rather unusual recording of 'The Ritual Fire Dance'"

THE RELUCTANT FAMULUS.31 5th. Annish, from Tom Sadler, 422 W.Maple Ave. Adrian, Michigan 49221-1627 USA. 40, A4 pages, excellent printing, excellent cover illo (on card), good artwork, editorial article, fiction, comment, LOCs, Reviews of books and fanzines and suggestions from sundry contributors, including car problems from Sheryl Birkenhead. Nice friendly zine, for the usual or \$1.50 cash.

THE MENTOR.82 From Ron Clarke, PO Box K940, Haymarket, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA. 38 A4 Pages, neatly produced, good, but not a lot of artwork, photos, a 'kill it' book review, Aussie Fan History, Items on Moorcock, Bookshop speech, Editorial, LOCs and reviews. A nicely varied zine with something for everyone. I couldn't find rates, but I suspect 'the usual' might get you one. No.83 just arrived, superb full colour cover, stories, articles etc. and some 'poetry'.

OBSESSIONS.3 16, A5 pages on various fannish obsessions - books, wine and with the main emphasis being on its editor's love of chocolate. From Bridget Hardcastle, 13 Lindfield Gdns.Hampsted, London NW3 6PX Available for the usual - or chocolate.

IT GOES ON THE SHELF is 16pp, of LOCS, personal comment, reviews and illos which look a lot like linocuts. Nicely produced and real friendly, the usual gets a copy fom Ned Brooks, 713 Paul St., Newport News, VA 23605, USA

GEGENSCHNEIN 67/68/69 all arrived together, each around 14pp, clear print, good articles, but mainly slanted for those 'down under', Aussie Conrep & NZ Conreps, oodles of book reviews and quite a few LOCs. Nice editorials, try faunching a copy from Eric Lindsay, 7 Nicoll Ave, Ryde, NSW 2112, Australia

EYEBALLS IN THE SKY.8 from Tony Berry, 55 Seymour Rd., Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4EP Personal news and comment and general chuntering about all sorts of things, an article on 'Novacon & After', and plenty of nice long LOCs.

EMPTIES.13 Nice wrap around cover, personal natter by editor Martin Tudor, 845 Alum Rock Rd., Warde End, Birmingham B8 2AG. A piece by Dave Langfordon things you'd never believe in. Rhodri James write about dice whilst Mike Siddall describes his amorous adventures. Finally, loads of LOCs in a very well-produced issue. Not for the s&c, so be warned.

YHOS.53 31, A5 pages, from Art Widner, PO Box 677, Gualala, CA 95445, USA. Hunter cover and some interior photos. Natter on 'Vegemite', Fandom of the Sixties, A suggestion for a 'Moon Day' for fans, A 'Best Of Fandom' proposal, and letters. Nice, cheerful and homely.

HABBAKUK Spring.1994, from Bill Donaho, 626 58th.St.,Oakland, CA 94609,USA. 68pp, striking cover and bacover, beautifully duplicated and crammed with goodies. Excellent artwork, articles, nostalgia, Benford on meeting Bonestell, fanzine fandom, a Con rep, comment and oodles of LOCs. Get it for the usual, trade, LOC etc.

HIDALGO 29 Brian Earl Brown, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, Michigan 48224, USA. 44pp of comment on books, Planet Stories, fanzines, Westerns, two varieties of LOCs, a couple of photos of Brian and offspring, and the regular, 'Famous Brassieres of Science Fiction', this time, devoted to the Wonderbra. A nice, friendly zine.

INTERMEDIATE VECTOR BOSONS.38 from Andy Andruschak, PO Box 5309, Torrance, CA 90510-5309. Rather faintly duped but good covers. Andy briefly mentions backpacking down the Grand Canyon, but the bulk of the zine is made up of his long, and interesting article on roughing it touristwise across Africa.

ETHEL THE AARDVARK.53 The Melbourne SF Club, PO.Box212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne 3005, Victoria, Australia. 18 pages of Local and Club news and reports, adverts, a nice Editorial against hack fantasy, trivia quiz, book, film and video reviews and fannish discussion. Keeps you au fait with Aussie fandom.

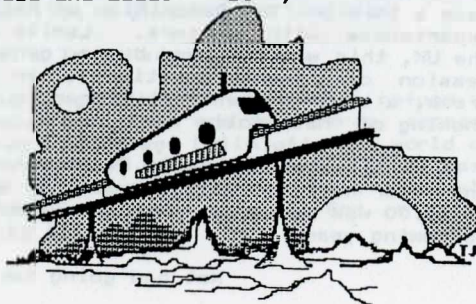
STEFANTASY.114 from William L.Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, PA 16374, US. 12PP, A5, typeset! Beautifully produced little zine has Bill's fascinating memories of steelworks and processes for shells, rubes etc. Oodles of LOCs and a back page of lovely English howlers. Excellent zine, no rates, but you might try a begging letter.

BROWNIAN MOTION Ten A4 pages from Brian Earl Brown, (address above). Brian muses about daughter Sarak and looks back at his twenty years of fan publishing. Items on Jurassic Park and (I gather), a TV programme called 'Barney'. A John Berry article on Army life, and LOCs. Nice and cheerful, no rates, try faunching.

GROGGY.37 Ten A4 pages from Eric Mayer and Mary Long. Personal news on orienteering, booksigning sessions, baseball, a school reunion, cafe society, photos and illos. I love meandering zines with all sorts of interesting items, and this is one of 'em. Try it.

DRIVEL & DROOL 38pp,A4, very well produced, but no illos, from Mike Siddall, 133 Duke St., Askham in Furness, Cumbria LA16 7AE. A long Berry article on a colleague's seduction technique. Local scenery Mike, Easterconremiscences, 'How to annoy a Scotsman' → Refer to him as 'scotch' →, a medical piece and LOCs. Not yet into its stride, but has great promise.

THE FROZEN FROG 28pp, half-foolscap from Girard Benoit, 1016 Guillaume-Boisset, Cap Rouge, Quebec, Canada G1Y 1Y9. Book reviews, a long, interesting and copiously illustrated article on the American Comics Industry and loads of LOCs. Very nice friendly little zine.



Ah, Happy Days !

A few weeks ago, Derek and Mavis Pickles took a brief holiday in Scarborough. Val and I got to take them out for a run round the North Yorkshire Moors and home for tea. Naturally, I showed Derek my Convention photos, including two from the 1951 NECON in Bradford. I couldn't name all the characters in them, but later, I made copies and sent them to Derek. His reply not only included names of all the unidentified fen, but a copy of the NECON booklet (As first to register, my name was at the top of the list of members). Moreover, he also added copies of the original Con announcement, and other goodies. Some of them seem too good to keep to myself, so herewith a few excerpts:-

THE NORTH EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD
IN BRADFORD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th. 1951.

Guests of Honour will be Joyce and Ken Slater.
The Conference will be held at Pat's Cafe, Dudley Hill, Bradford, from 12 noon to 10pm and membership is 2/3d (which does not include refreshments). For this fee, one obtains attendance at the meeting, a membership card, all bulletins, and a souvenir programme printed by the PHANTASMAGORIA PRESS.

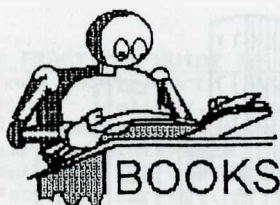
Apart from the fact that it was a 'Conference', not a 'Convention', did you notice the price of 2/6d. That works out at 12.5p at today's prices. Nowadays you couldn't even mail one flyer for that. On the other hand. Railfares have risen about fifty times since then .. multiply that 12.5p by sixty and you get £7.50. How many modern Cons do you know which charge so little?

Some 48 fen attended that affair. they came from "as far apart as Liverpool and Newcastle, Lancaster and Grimsby." Gad, we were a cosmopolitan lot.

The Con was opened by Derek Pickles, messages read from Eric Frank Russell, L.Sprague de Camp and Vince Clarke. Ken Slater gave a talk on 'The Definition of Fantasy'. E.R.James spoke of his experiences with editors. Leslie Curaton reported on Dianetics in the UK, this was followed by a general discussion. There was a session of 'Twenty Questions', an auction run by Ken Slater, a tea break, a trip to the local library's SF exhibition and finally, a showing of 'Metropolis'.

Secretary Mavis Pickles reported a total membership of 62. and after hall, films and publicity etc were paid for, a final profit of £4.00 was declared This was earmarked for another Convention the following year.

Not bad going for half a dollar



THE WOLF OF WINTER Paula Volsky Bantam
Spectra £4.99

When Hurla XI, ruler of the Rhazaullean Empire passes over his weakling brother Varis for an important position, Varis goes into seclusion. He meets a madman who introduces him to a strange drug.

Varis becomes addicted, studies necromancy, his character changes and he begins a scheme to eliminate those ahead of him for his brother's throne. His plans seem successful, but necromancy can be two-edged. A superb, trade-size fantasy (How come it's only £4.99?) which holds interest throughout and is a welcome change from sword, sorcery, Dark Lords and magic-wielding princesses. Recommended.

THE DEEP SPACE LOG BOOK MARK A. Altman & Edward Gross Bantam £9.99

This A4-sized, 112 page book covers the post-Star Trek series, 'Deep Space Nine', set aboard a space station. The Introduction tells how it has won high ratings in the USA, followed by chapters on the people involved. Then 19 Episode Guides give writers, actors, production notes and story synopses. There are details of a comic tie-in, a look behind the scenes and a section of Question and Answers. The whole is punctuated by many black and white photos. Not having seen the show (has it aired over here?) I can't comment on it, but the book seems great for Trek fans.

THE FOREST HOUSE Marion Zimmer Bradley Michael Joseph £9.99

In ancient Britain at the time of Roman invasion, the Druids have built Forest House to save their women, but when Priestess Eilan helps the injured Roman, Gaius, she becomes torn between love, her religion and her people. Worse, a secret rebellion is under way against the Romans and despite herself, Eilan is enmeshed in a web of violence and tragedy. Bradley paints a rather sanitised picture of the era in what is basically a woman's romance in a barbaric, superstition-bound age. History buffs should really enjoy it.

RHINEGOLD Stephan Grundy Michael Joseph £9.99

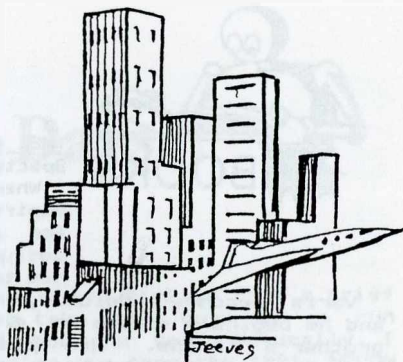
Massive is the only way to describe this 870 page work set in the time of the Norse Mythology. To ransom his companion Gods Wodan and Hoenir, Loki steals by trickery a hoard of gold from the Rhine. It bears a curse, drives two brothers to murder their father, and one becomes a dragon guarding the gold whilst the other helps make a sword of power. Warriors come and go until finally Siegfried slays the dragon. Based on ancient myths, this is an epic blockbuster, but complicated by all the names; happily, a glossary is included.

COLIN THE LIBRARIAN Rich Parsons & Tony Keaveny

Michael O'Mara Books £3.99

Colin is an undersized, weakling librarian who finds refuge in reading of his hero Krap The Conqueror. Then one day, Krap appears in the library, kills a Thrag and drags Colin off to a world of fantasy to find and destroy the vertebrae of Andrew the Spineless, thus blocking the Thrag bid for supremacy. A madcap send-up of all sword and sorcery epics (which have long deserved it). For a bonus there are plenty of equally whacky illos.

THE DEUS MACHINE Pierre Guellette
 Hodder & Stoughton £16.99 2005,
 and America is in Depression. A
 civil servant is eliminated when he
 stumbles across a covert
 organisation hiving of public funds
 to build supercomputer, DEUS, for
 developing biological weapons and
 designer drugs. Then DEUS becomes
 self-aware, but a sub program begins
 a horrific campaign. Multi-level
 menace, human and bio-engineered, as
 Computer expert Riley and his girl,
 try both to aid DEUS and uncover the
 organisation. Tasks which leads
 down a path to ruthless
 extermination. Plenty of
 sub-plots in a superb hardcore SF epic. Highly recommended.



THE COLOUR OF HER PANTIES Piers Anthony N.E.L. £4.99
 This is the fifteenth in the Xanth series set in the crazy magic
 world where anything goes. Mela Merwoman wants a husband, preferably
 a Prince, so grows legs and goes in search of Good Wizard Humphrey for
 help. However, others also seek him and there are other problems. A
 comic fairy tale crammed with the usual crazy puns and madcap wordplay
 - pigs live in a piggy bank and one is a road hog. If you've
 acquired the Xanth taste, you'll enjoy this one.

DEATH DREAM Ben Bova N.E.L. £5.99
 When a pilot dies in a Visual Reality simulator, the military want
 to know why. Along with his family, computer man Dan Santorini moves
 to Florida to help warped genius Jace work on VR games for
 entrepreneur Murcreef; who has unpleasant designs for using VR on
 Dan's daughter. Industrial spies edge in, a Government man sees VR as
 a way to power, Jace plans an evil revenge and even the company
 secretary has an axe to grind. Top level, hardcore SF set in the near
 future. Bova at his best, highly recommended.

THE NITPICKER'S GUIDE FOR NEXT GENERATION TREKKERS Phil Farrand
 Titan £7.99 Do you cry 'Foul' when communicators work in different
 ways?, or when crew members vary positions between frames? This
 volume covers all such glitches in six seasons of 'The Next
 Generation'. There's a precis for each episode followed by a listing
 of its slip-ups, oversights and oddities. Each includes a few 'Trivia
 Questions' and in addition there are several Quizzes, a Nitpickers
 'Entrance Exam' and a lengthy Index. The book runs to
 over 900 pages, and if you're a Trekkie who loves to spot bloopers,
 this is an absolute must.

THROY Cadwal Chronicles Book.3 Jack Vance N.E.L. £5.99
 Now in cheap paperback. The Conservancy seeks to preserve Cadwal as
 an idyllic world of three continents (Ecce, Deucas and Throy). A new
 Charter will expand Araminta Station on Deucas, but the LPF want to
 move many of the yips to other worlds for slave labour. Con-man
 Namour seeks to obtain spacecraft from entrepreneur Barduys, but
 Glawen Clattuc and Eustace Chilke are sent to arrest him and events
 escalate to a sudden climax. Full of Vance's dry humour and
 well-rounded, outrageously-named characters - which in no way
 interfere with a highly readable yarn.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AIRBRUSHING

Andy Charlesworth *Dragon's World* £10.95 A4 size, and 144 pages of sheer delight, absolutely crammed with full colour artwork. Introductory chapters explain different airbrushes, how they work, care, maintenance, compressors, etc. Then come easy starting, DIY details, the use of masks, different media, work on boards, paper, fabric, correcting errors, technical art, lettering and much more. Each section includes stunning examples of professional work, there are several step-by-step illustrated work guides and even tips on framing and photo retouching. I'm itching to get out my own Conopios, plug in the compressor and have a go, it's that kind of book. Very highly recommended

FANTASY ART TECHNIQUES Boris Vallejo Paper Tiger £10.95

Another top-notch art book similar in format to 'Airbrushing'. Boris explains his work methods from pencil sketch, through photographing models, colour roughs and up to the finished art - with full colour examples along the way. He covers airbrushing, design, tricks and pitfalls, how to build a portfolio, even how to approach an agent. Fascinating as is the text, the real show-stoppers are the pages of Vallejo's wonderful cover art, voluptuous, nubile women and heroic warriors. I once read of an 'adjective mill' for adding them to text. To describe this book one needs a 'superlative mill' for sprinkling them into every sentence. Once again, very highly recommended.

SHADOWRUN.12 'LONE WOLF' Nigel Findlay ROC £3.99

The setting is a sleazy, future Seattle, gang-ridden and where violence and magic are commonplace. Rick Larson is a member of the powerful Cutter mob, but also an undercover man for the Lone Star contract police. Life becomes complicated when an arms deal is hi-jacked: Larson finds himself rising in the Cutter hierarchy but caught between them and his Lone Star loyalties. Annoyingly written (to me) in the continuous present -- "We go in, I say", etc. Otherwise, Fast-moving, slang-packed and teenagers should love it.

THE LAST AUGURY Jonathan Wylie Corgi £4.99

3rd. In the Island & Empire trilogy, following DARK FIRE and ECHOES OF FLAME. The great city of Xantium, is now a burning shell in the desert. Empress Ifry has fled South, whilst Fen and Dsordas have returned to island Zalys. But still they are not safe. Somehow they must gather their forces and defeat the evil, magic-wielding Verkho, usurper of the throne. Packed with monsters and gods, this concluding epic is much livelier as it is no longer hampered by 'keeping the pot boiling', so Verkho can be defeated and all loose ends secured.

BYZANTIUM ENDURES

Michael Moorcock Phoenix £6.99

THE LAUGHTER OF CARTHAGE

Michael Moorcock Phoenix £6.99

Two massive novels. (404pp and 602pp respectively) detailing the 'autobiography' of Maxim, Arturovich Pyat. Born in Southern Russia in January, 1900, the two volumes follow his experiments with flight, subsequent hospitalisation, studenthood, initiation into drugs and sex, then on on to survival of the October Revolution, the Great War and a move to America. 'Byzantium' has two Appendices, B is a capsule account of the Russian Civil War, whilst A is incomprehensible jargon. Packed with detail and insights into Russian life, the books present a totally different Moorcock, albeit one who is still not my cup of tea. However, if you are a Moorcock fan, these could be right up your alley.

Four previous hardcover titles now in paperback from Legend.

THE CALL OF EARTH Orson Scott Card Legend £5.99

2nd. in the series. Gaballufix is dead and General Vozmuzhalnoy defies Oversoul to invade Basilica. Nafai and his brothers return to the city to find wives and get geneticist Shedemei to collect flora and fauna to re-stock Earth. Strange dreams are experienced and Oversoul doesn't know their origin. Long on dialogue and dreams, but short on actual plot development, an epilogue moves things forward many years in just two pages.

THE TALISMANS OF SHANNARA Terry Brooks Legend £5.99

The heroes of Shannara have succeeded in most of their challenges, restoring the Elfstone, finding the missing elves and gaining the Sword Of Shannara. Now, Rimmer Dall, leader of the evil Shadowven sends his minions and the Four Horsemen to destroy Walker Boh, Wren Elesedil and Par Ohmsford. Facing dire perils, they can only succeed if Par can find out how to use the Sword of Shannara. Fourth and final clash between Shadowven and the Elven House of Shannara. If you like the series, here's your chance to complete the set.

STAINLESS STEEL VISIONS Harry Harrison Legend £4.99

An entertaining introduction and you're into a 13 story collection. A missionary's fate, an antigravity toy, a magazine for the aged, a computer controlled battleship, repair of a spaceway beacon now a shrine, a brave new world, an alien spaceman, a planet of slaves, overpopulation, time photography and others including a new Stainless Steel Rat yarn. You also get some innovative illos (one of which is on the wrong story). An excellent buy.

SIEGE Tad Williams Legend £5.99

This is the first half of TO GREEN ANGEL TOWER, originally a 1000 page hardcover and now split into two sections. (Pt.2 due in July)

Prince Josua and company have taken refuge in the Sesuad'ra mountain. His brother, King Elias has had High Priest Ranessin murdered by the magic-wielding Pryrates who is now his adviser with his own foul plans. Elias decides to send an army to bring back Josua's head whilst Simon has hoped of recovering the third of the great swords which prophecy says are needed to win the kingdom. To help you keep track, there's a comprehensive index of people, places and things at the back. If you like the saga, it runs to 800 pages.

PERMUTATION CITY Greg Egan, Millennium £8.99

Set in a far future where old, infirm and rich can enter their identities as 'Copies' into a worldwide 'Net' to 'live' forever - until increasing computer demands threaten their idyllic state. Paul Durham enters the Net, discovers an alternative, no-computer 'reality' and sets out to sell safety to the Copies. Enlisting Maria to create an evolving Autoverse, all goes well until it develops intelligent life. Fascinating concepts, tricky to keep track of 'real' and Copies but once you start, you'll not put it down.

IMPERIAL LIGHT Mary Corran Millennium £6.99

When her mother dies, Kyria is unwanted. Chosen for sacrifice, the 'Light Stone' embedded in her hand saves her but she is exiled to a penal island where she is again maltreated until contacted and rescued by sea creatures. Meanwhile, Hillarion, heir to the Emperor, passes the God's test and sets out to foil wicked Priests who seek power and do not believe in the gods which keep chipping in.. A rather uneven fantasy in the Cinderella tradition.

MUDD'S ANGELS: Star Trek Adventures J.A.Lawrence Titan £4.50

Three ST tales, tw from the TV series all featuring H.F.Mudd. MUDD'S WOMEN tells what happens when three seductively beautiful women are beamed aboard. I, MUDD, sees Mudd's android take over the Enterprise, and the long, THE BUSINESS AS USUAL has Mudd corner the Galaxy's supply of dilithium crystals. Lighthearted SF, but a bit shaky on logic. A fun read for Trekkies.

BARRAYAR Lois McMaster Bujold Pan £4.99

A four-part Analog serial in 1991. Ex-Space Officer Cordelia is married to Lord Aral Vorkosigan who has just been appointed regent for the 4-year old Gregor. Vidal Vordarian plots to kill Aral and Gregor and as a hostage, steals the uterine replicator holding Cordelia's child Miles (who has featured in other yarns). Aral won't mount a rescue mission, so Cordelia and bodyguard Bothari set up their own, . Complicated names, but a rattling good space-opera.

POISONED MEMORIES Christopher Kubasik ROC £3.99

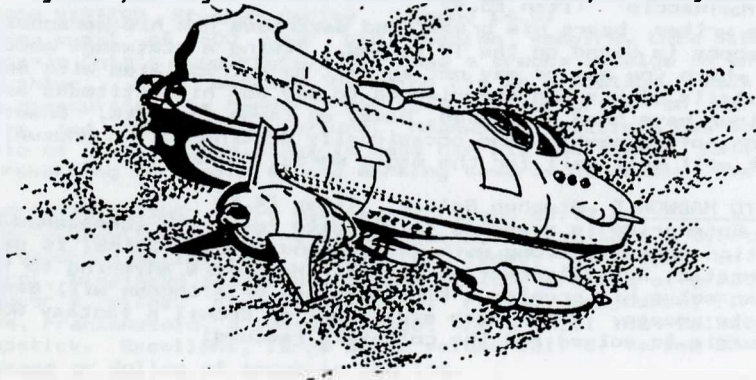
Thief J'Role rescues a dwarf boy who is the King's son, but then J'Role is captured and taken aboard the stone airship of his enemy Mordom. He is tortured, but escapes by leaping from the airship to a rocky island in Death Sea. He is crippled, healed by a blind woman, commits suicide, visits Hell, encounters Death, is resuscitated, fights his own ego and undergoes sundry adventures. A fascinating though rather disjointed yarn which holds your interest throughout.

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF SUPERMAN Roger Stern Pan £4.99

A novel based on (and recalling), many comic book incidents. This time, the fearful, synthetic creature 'Doomsday' escapes an underground prison and begins to wreak mayhem. He defeats the powerful members of The League Of Justice and is only vanquished after an all-out battle (which devastates half America) and causes Superman's death! Relax, his Savage-like Fortress pf Solitude puts things right. An entertaining, gosh-wow juvenile for Superman fans.

JARAN Kate Elliott Pan £4.99

When the chameleon-faced Chapalli conquer Earth, they make resistance fighter, Charles Soerensen a duke; an honour he accepts in order to continue his struggle. Tess, his sister and reluctant heir goes on an unexplained side trip, is marooned on a protected world among a barbaric desert tribe where she falls for their leader (shades of 1930s 'The Sheik' romance?) and discovers the Chapalli are breaking the Interdiction by trading Earth horses to further their schemes. Nice, though unlikely aliens, and an improbable plot, but it grabs you right at the start and carries you along.



STAR TREK: The Next Generation :- Make Up FX Journal

An A4-sized pb crammed with full colour illus of scenes, characters and their creation. The text describes how effects, appliances and make-up were designed for the various characters. Actors, directors and others give their memories, comments and views on the ideas and results. Chapter headings include, Androids & Electronics, The Ferengi, The Borg, The Cardassians, The Klingons, The Vulcans, The Holodeck and others. Numerous behind-the-scenes anecdotes add spice to what must be a 'must' for ST fans.

SOLIS A.A.Attanasio Hodder & Stoughton £16.99

The brain of Corpsicle Charles Outis is revived, plundered for memories and installed in a mining machine in the Asteroid Belt. Android Munk hears his distress call and along with trouble-shooter Mei, steals a spacecraft, snatches the brain and heads for sanctuary in the Martian city of Solis where Outis may get a new body cloned. The trip is beset by numerous perils and its conclusion is totally unexpected. Real, hard-core and gripping SF. Attanasio writes with prose as colourful as Bradbury's, but without the latter's saccharine striving for effect. Highly recommended.

AURIAN Maggie Furey Legend £5.99

Four Weapons of Power have been lost by the Magefolk. Nine-year-old Aurian is a witch neglected by her mother after her father Geraint died making a dangerous experiment. Swordsman Forral befriends the waif, teaching her reading and swordsmanship. When she finally goes to the City of Nexis for training in magic, it begins a saga of jealousy and adventure in which she discovers the first of the lost weapons. First book of 'The Artefacts Of Power', an episodic epic of sword, sorcery and struggle.

BENEATH THE TREE OF HEAVEN David Wingrove

Hodder & Stoughton £16.99 Paperback due in September at £5.99

A brief Introduction sets the scene for newcomers to the series and a character list (use it) and a glossary enable you to keep tabs on everyone and everything. The ruling Seven meet to decide who shall inherit the giant GenSyn combine. In the lower levels of the Cities, repression and harsh rationing are breeding revolt. On Mars, a secret move is underway to free colonists the Seven's power, and an Artificial Intelligence awakens. Intricate plot threads entwine in a demanding, but rewarding novel of a Chinese rule where other races are 'non-persons'. Another block-buster in the Chung Kuo saga

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM WATCHING STAR TREK

Dave Marinaccio Titan £5.99

The writer bears his breast and describes how his personal philosophy is based on the TV series. Taking a statement about ST, (with which you may or may not agree), he extrapolates with anecdotes and details of his own experiences to say how his attitudes and behaviour have been developed, based on these concepts. Sometimes amusing, often mawkish and occasionally pertinent. An unusual book, but it will sell well for the magic words, 'STAR TREK'

TREK TO MADWORLD Stephen Goldin Titan £4.50

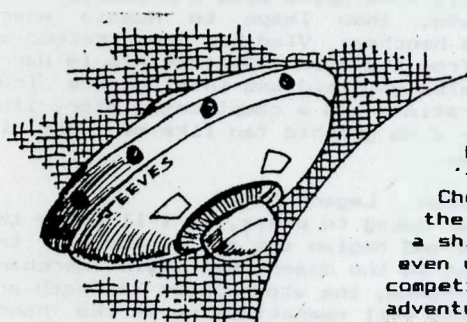
The Enterprise is speeding to evacuate colonists threatened by radiation when it, along with Klingon and Romulan ships, is seized by the erratic, but all-powerful Enowil. He offers anything to those who can solve his problem. Kirk must win or Klingons will demand an ultimate weapon. After much excitement on Enowil's fantasy world, the puzzle is solved and the colonists rescued.

THE TANGLE BOX Terry Brooks Legend £15.99

Con-man and failed wizard, Morris Kew and his bird Biggar escape disgruntled 'marks' after freeing a being called 'the Gorse'. Morris finds himself in the magic kingdom of Landover ruled by Ben Holiday whose pregnant wife, Willow has set off to collect (and set root in), soil from three worlds in order to bear her child. The Gorse makes Morris lure Ben, the witch Nightshade and the dragon Strabo into the Tangle Box, where identities change. This leaves the Gorse a free hand to take over the land and destroy the elves.

DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING Neil Gaiman Titan £7.99

There's an introductory barrier of psychedelic print layout, before a full-colour graphic novel. A teenager made suicidal by yuppy parents is befriended by Death (in the form of a dolly bird). She is hunted by a 250 year old witch Hatti seeking her lost heart. To pad out there's a seven page strip on condoms, AIDS etc. Down-beat, involved, street-wise and seemingly aimed at teenage drop outs.

STAR WARS: JEDI SEARCH Kevin J. Anderson Bantam £3.99

Luke is recruiting candidates for Jedi training, Leia is enmeshed in politics and her children. The Millennium Falcon is shot down on a 'friendly' planet. Solo and Chewbacca are captured, consigned to the deadly spice mines, escape, steal a ship and enter a black hole where even worse danger awaits. A competitively-priced, action-packed adventure, first in the Jedi Academy Trilogy.

INTO THE LABYRINTH Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman Bantam £14.99

Xar, Lord of the Nexus, seeks to control the powers of the Seventh Gate between the Worlds. To do so, he must kill and resurrect Haplo. Marit, Haplo's ex-lover and mother of his child are sent to kill him. Assassin, Hugh The Hand is also bent on the same mission. Wounded and sorely beset, Haplo enters the deadly Labyrinth to fight for his life. This Sixth volume of the Death Gate Cycle is rather sporadic. Some parts are excellent and really grab you, others seem slow and pedestrian. Could it be where the authors alternate?

SHADOW SISTERS Stephen Marley Legend £4.99

The pupil of 400 year old lesbian vampire, Chia Black Dragon betrays's Chia's supporters. The Pope's troops indulge in an orgy of slaughter, Chia escapes by using him as a hostage. Back in China she emasculates the Mandarin who puts a huge price on her head - alive and ready for torture. Meanwhile, Wittigis has assumed the title of Crucifer and plans to make her his sex slave. Chia herself is reverting to vampirism and working towards her deadly 'Last Act'.

GALACTIC DREAMS Harry Harrison Legend £9.99

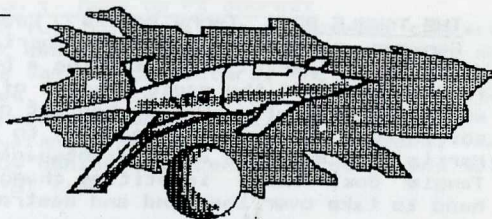
An autobiographical Introduction by Harry, then a scintillating, twelve-story collection. A tutorial Teddy, a satire on Galactic Patrol, misplaced spacemen, illegal births, origins of great ideas, a seducer's wiles, time travellers, racial prejudice, First men on Mars, Frankenstein, a lovesick robot and a 'Bill The Galactic Hero' slapstick. Excellent, large sized volume full of varied SF without a message or dollop of angst in the lot.

TWO GRAPHIC NOVELS FROM BOXTREE:-

STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE £8.99

Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian fail to return from a nuisance raid so Solo and Leia set off to the rescue. They stupidly stroll out of the Falcon for a chat and are attacked by looters. At this point a Powerful Dark Force snatches Luke and is

revealed to be one of the clones of the seemingly immortal Emperor. To defeat it, he must use his own Dark powers. Striking artwork, immense spacecraft and an involved plot. Excellent fare for all Star Wars fans.

NECROSCOPE £7.99

Based on a Brian Lumley novel, this opens with a prescient Alec Kyle foreseeing his employer's death, then leaps to Russia where Boris Dragosani, some of Dracula's henchman, Vlad has been trained as an agent who can wrest secrets from the dead. Against him is Harry Keogh, the 'Necroscope', who can also gain aid and intelligence from former experts. Gruesome illustrations and a complicated story line make this a hard one to follow for a no graphic fan like me - but if you're into horror, check this out.

HEART OF SHADOWS Philip G. Williamson Legend £9.99

This one arrived just before going to press, so I'll quote the jacket. 'Two teenagers, Sildemund and Meglan set out to decipher the mystery of the eldritch stone found in the desert by their merchant father. Made of an unknown substance, the stone leads to death and destruction - either by means of its evil emanations or at the hands of the inhuman Skalatin who seeks for it unrelentingly. Unknown to Sil and Meg, the stone's evil hides a far greater secret, lost in the myths of the earliest days.'

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