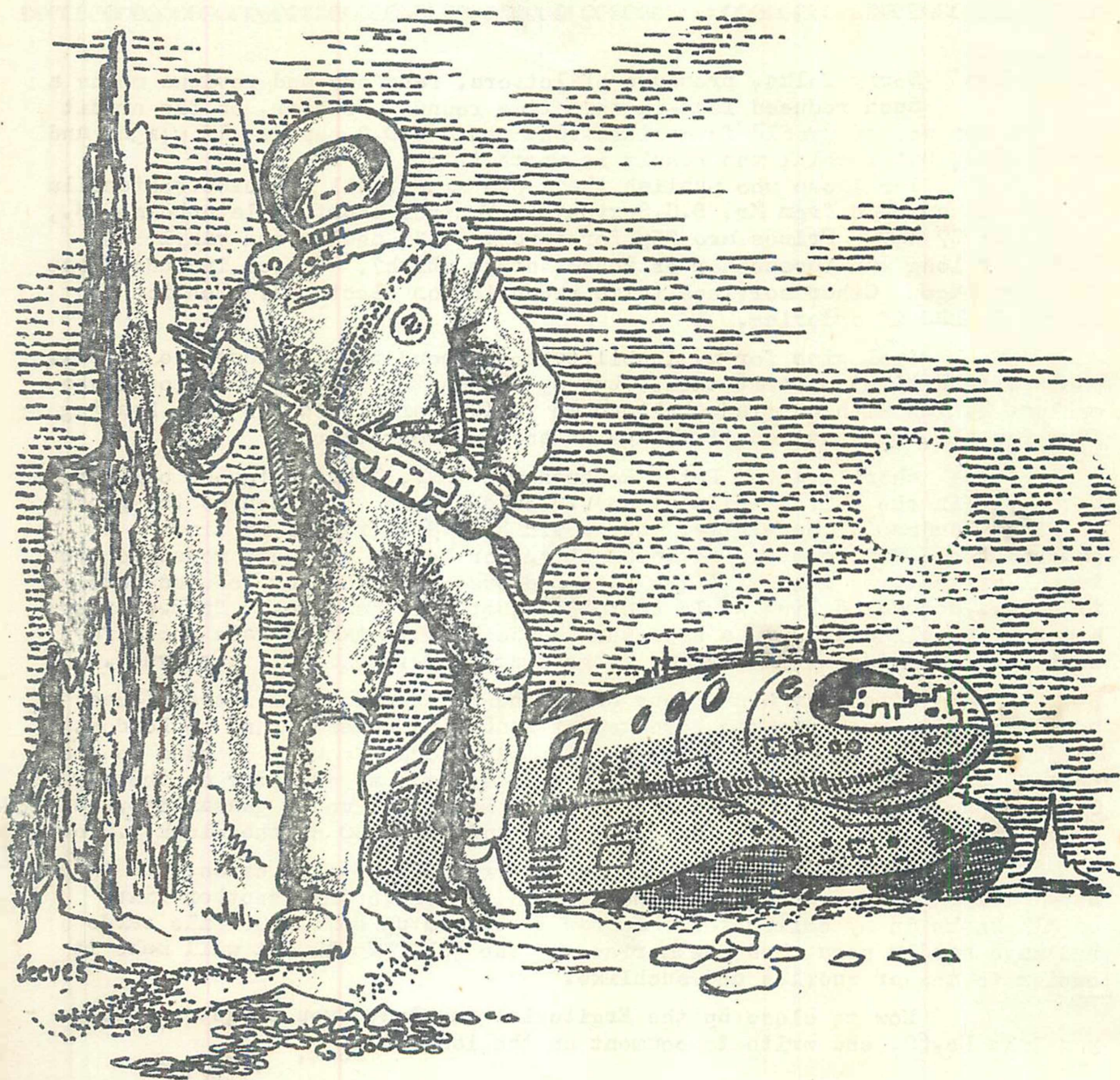


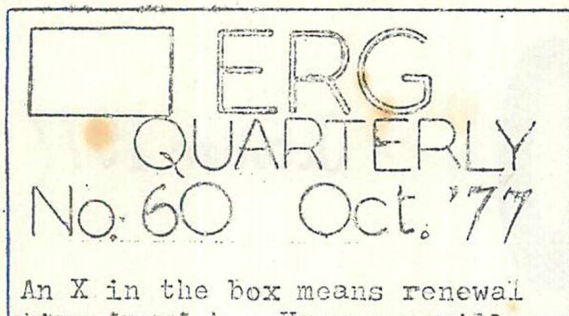
ERG

QUARTERLY

60

October 1977





This is ERG Quarterly. No. 60 Oct. 1977

From :- Terry Jeeves,
230 Bannerdale Rd.,
Sheffield S11 9FE. ENGLAND

Subscription Rates :-

U.K. six issues for £1

U.S.A. seven issues for \$2.00 (Please
send dollar bills, NOT cheques, etc.)

ERGITORIAL.

Sorry folks, pressure of letters, fanzines and reviews means a much reduced lead-in this time round. However, on the credit side is the use of my old favourite...Chapman's OCD.2 paper. It weighs and costs more, but I think the result is worth it.

For those who publish their own zines, all the electrostencils in this issue came from Mr. B.C.Sexton, 14 Ventnor Court, Wolstenholme Rd., Sheffield S7 4LB. Prices are 75p for paper, £1.15 medium run vinyl, and £1.30 for long run (Gestetner or Roneo..state which). Prices include First Class Postage. Other services (size reduction on electros). Mention you saw it in ERG if ordering.

Apologies for my inability to respond to all those who write.. postage (and time) prevent this...but my thanks to the thoughtful ones who enclose S.A.E. with queries..believe me it IS appreciated. I love hearing from you all, but just can't manage an answer every time.

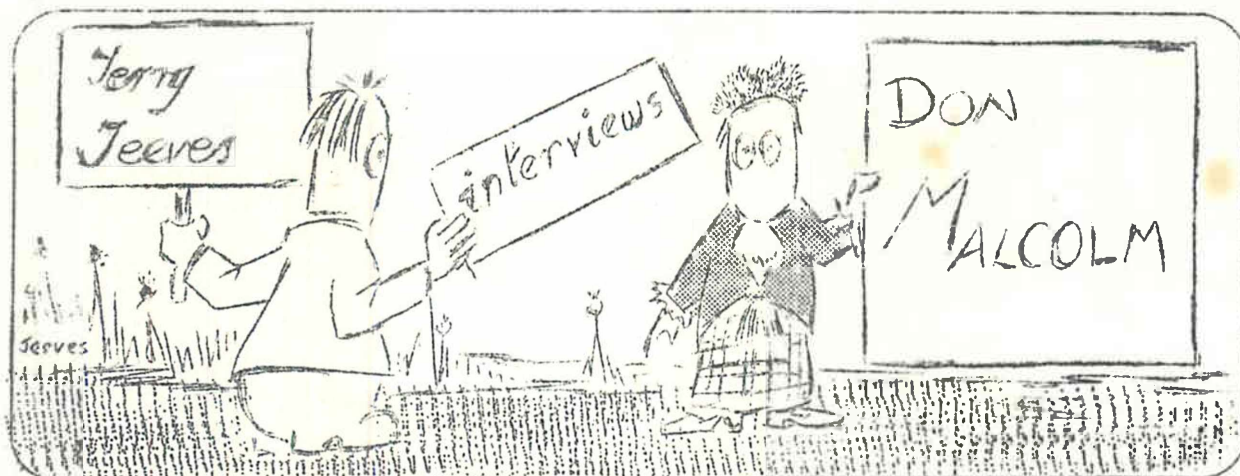
Shortly after Peter Roberts won TAFF, I had a 'phone call from Dave Kyle in the U.S.A. (Midwestcon).. "Would I come to Suncon as the guest of First Fandom ? Hopefully, they would have \$300 raised in time." I grabbed the offer, sent in an application for leave, and shot round to the travel office...to find that the date had just gone for any reduced rate flights...Scheduled line would cost £385 just for the fare. So the offer had to be declined...with a hope that maybe I could take a rain check for next year in Arizona. I have my fingers crossed...hence all the typos.

After our Grand Tour of Europe last June, summer travel has been limited...apart from a bereavement requiring several runs to London. We did manage a few days in the Lake District, and a couple of runs to the East Coast (Scarborough). All of which caused the speedometer on the new Opel to pack up...so now we have had a new one fitted under guarantee...and so have a car with 3,700 miles on the tyres, and only 700 on the clock...Great!

Latest time consumer, is the transfer to file cards, ALL the book information on items reviewed in ERG, and secondly, another file on all books in my collection. So far I've used up some 1200 file cards and have hardly scratched the surface of the job. Still, it will make it easier to answer queries and suchlike.

Now to close up the Ergitorial and leave you to get on...hope you like No. 60, and write to comment on the issue. Best,

Terry



Jeeves. How long have you been a reader of SF? and can you recall what hooked you on it? (I assume you are a reader..and hooked)

Malcolm. The earliest story I can recall reading was George O. Smith's Venus Equilateral, in a 1945 Astounding, so I must have started around then. Other stories in the issue were - I think - Pandora's Millions and The Golden Journey

T.J. What stimulus finally brought you to the stage of writing a story of your own for profit?

D.M. The one common to most writers; the conviction that I could do at least as well as some of the people then writing (c. 1958). I'd been writing, and selling, articles for some years prior to trying fiction. My first story, Lone Voyager - my title was The Thousand-Year Corpse - was published in Nebula No. 30 May, 1958

T.J. Did your first submissions sell, or was the path beset with rejections and any other difficulties?

D.M. I can't recall with certainty, but I doubt if my first efforts sold. I'd been churning out work in other fields and had my share of rejections. Any difficulties I've experienced have been largely of my own making. My trouble was - and still is - that I could never resist the siren call of trying to write something for a field that was new to me. This paid off in astronomy, space flight, philately and aero-philately. But perhaps I should have concentrated more on science fiction. John Carnell advised me to do that. He could absorb for New Worlds the stories I was writing at just about the rate at which I was producing them. This, I think, was a major reason why I never broke into the American market. Carrying on this supposition, all my stories were being taken by one editor, who was also my agent; so I wasn't really being tested, with the result that I did not have the challenge to produce more and better work.

However: John Carnell helped all his writers. After he had accepted my first story, he took the second one by return of post. The third Story, The House of Lights, was a crucial one. He made me re-write it twice before he was satisfied. He had tested me and I had passed. On a rough reckoning I have published something, somewhere, on average every four weeks since 1955...

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T.J. Given a free rein and no editorial direction, what kind of story do you like to (a) read, and (b) write ?

D.H. Ah, yes, Terry, a free rein, my old trouble! My bent has been towards stories with a technical bias. Clarke and Anderson were favourites of mine. But my tastes are catholic. My favourite story is A Canticle For Leibowitz, by Walter M. Miller Jr., I find it beautiful, enduring, timeless. I don't like stories which I find obscure; if I can't understand them without a road map, what's the point ?

I like to write stories which show there is hope for humanity. While I firmly believe that such hope exists, it is increasingly more difficult to sustain such a belief when I look around and see what people do to each other.

T.J. Which do you prefer, the SF of today...or of the period when you began reading it ?

D.H. On balance, I prefer the SF of today. Much of the SF of the 50s and 60s is dated, formal, and at best, explored only the very safe, warm and shallow waters of human relationships.

T.J. Should SF strive for 'main stream status...and do you think it has a duty to experiment with new writing styles and techniques ?

D.H. I don't think SF should strive for main stream status, simply because it doesn't need it. Many of the themes of SF cannot adequately be tackled by mainstream techniques. That is one of the reasons why I prefer today's SF. What I think SF has achieved today, and in some cases, with distinction, is the development and refinement of literary techniques which can be applied as an analytical tool to questions posed by, and about, humanity within a science fictional content.

We should not be too quick to claim that SF has cornered innovation. Writing styles; what about Ulysses (Joyce) or Roll Of Honour (Linklater); typographical experiments: see Dylan Thomas's poem, Vision and Prayer; permissiveness; the choice is almost infinite; Fanny Hill (Cleland) or Nana (Zola) or Tropic of Cancer. Each individual writer will always retain his or her own style. But that does not preclude the continual effort to improve his craft in every respect and to say his piece in a modern way where possible. He should always be testing his limits, to find out if they will hold, stretch or break. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work out that way. It's worth remembering, too, that some writers are innately better than others.

T.J. Are there any types of story which you would NOT class as 'SF' ?

D.H. We all have our own ideas about what SF is. Some of the stories that have appeared in New Worlds of recent vintage, for example, I wouldn't call science fiction. In fairness, I don't think that their writers claim them to be SF.

T.J. In brief, why do you think media SF (film and TV) is largely of a thud and blunder, or juvenile quality when compared with the printed version ?

D.H. A Leading question! ..which I hope to agree with. When a story is presented visually, the reader's right to exercise his imaginative facilities to re-create in his mind a unique version of what the writer has described in words is rudely - and often crudely - abrogated (The same applies when silly attempts are made to televise programmes that are meant to be heard and not seen). A writer's concept must undergo change when it is rendered in another medium. Instead of his story reaching the mind via the eyes which are reading words, it now reaches the mind visually, with an aural supplement. The reader is no longer a reader, in a one-to-one communication with the writer; he is now a viewer, being fed a concoction of interpretations of what the writer originally said. I know that I would resent such an intrusion, which is why I have never tried to write scripts.

Talking of scripts; they are often written by people who know nothing about the tenets of SF and can, therefore, have no feeling for it. Films and television are made for a general, indiscriminating public who, in the main, have little or no knowledge of written SF. They would not recognise any of the keys that open the doors to the dark imaginings of SF readers. So much visual SF lacks such keys and is written on a superficial level which does not require the viewer to think, but only to react.

T.J. Do you think illustrations help or hinder a story line ?

D.H. I don't like illustrated stories, for the reason that I prefer to visualise in my own mind what the writer is describing and which is, presumably, why he described it in the first instance. For me, illustrations neither help nor hinder a story, as I ignore them. Obviously, a novel or a magazine needs an attractive cover as a selling point, but that doesn't interfere with my own interpretation of the story

T.J. Have you any current or future writing ambitions in the SF field ?

D.H. I am currently planning the expansion of my novelette, Between The Tides, which appeared in New Writings in SF 29. This was really a trial run for a longer story. The future could depend on what happens to the two novels at present malingering in some publisher's desk, especially the one titled The Jixers, which is much better than anything I've written. Whatever I write, I shall be trying to do it to the best of my ability, to break out of the 50s-60s mould - not an easy thing to do!

Thanks, Terry, for the opportunity to air a few comments and, in some respects, to take a new look at myself as a writer.

Don Malcolm, 18 July 77.

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Coming up in ERG 61 is another piece by Don ... ODD IRISKEY. You might try working out what that might be about while you wait for next January. T.J.

*Q/A
at 11:00
on 18 July*

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FANZINES



Brief details of recent items received.

THE BSFA MAILING..for those who still say, 'What do you get for your money'..VECTOR, 81, MATRIX 12, NEXUS 3, The SF YEARBOOK, and 'Paperback Parlour' I suggest you join NOW, it's well worth it, write Dave Wingrove,

4 Holmside Court, Nightingale Lane, Balham, LONDON SW12 8JW.
for details (they also run a library, taper service etc. etc.)

SCOTTISHIE, 73, 26, A4 pages, twice yearly, 50p, from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House 6 Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surrey. Reviews, letters, fanzines and Ethel's own natterings. Varied and all nice friendly stuff. I like it a lot.

KARASS 30. 20, Qto pages, 5 for \$2.00. Linda Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave, Prospect Park, Pa 19076. General news and fanzine coverage, films, books, plenty of illos and colour work. A must for the news hungry.

SCINTILLATION 12, 40, Qto (folded) superbly produced pages for \$1.25 from Carl Bennett, P.O. Box 8502, Portland, Oregon 97207. USA. A near 'pro zine with interviews, letters, reviews and excellent artwork. For me, a far better proposition than the sickly slick VERTEX

MAYA 14, 24, A4, offset pages. Superlative repro, from Rob Jackson, 71 King John St., Newcastle on Tyne NE6 5XR (50p, or 4 for \$1.50) Britain's TOP fanzine featuring Aldiss, Shaw, Glicksohn, Wolfe, plus letters, reviews and excellent artwork. If you can only afford one zine..this is IT.

STRANGE DYSTOPIAS ,/3. 32, Qto pages, for trade, contrib, letter, from Bill Brunner 11 Strath Humber Court, Islington, Ontario CANADA m9a 4c7. Excellent art, layout and presentation. Columns, parody, review of Children of Dune, Warner on Space, letters, etc, etc. Excellent zine. Try it.

ATROPOS, 4. 28, Qto pages, for LOC, xontrib trade or cash, from Dave Cockfield 57 Wilson Ct. Hebburn, Tyne & Wear. Nice duping, but no interior art. Comment & query on nuclear power stations. Ditto for TV hoax. Alternative 3 Newcastle Con rep. Langford in hospital, films etc. I found this one a pleasure to read, and full of comment hooks..hope he can get some art.

VAGARY 33 & 34; 20 Qto.pp. Ompazine from Bobbie Gray...14 Bennington St., Cheltenham, Glos. Bobbie on cats, cricket, ompazines, dreams, astrology books, films and whatever takes her fancy. Quiet, but a pleasant read.

WINDING NUMBERS, 5. 56 Qto.pp, loc, trade, contrib, or 75¢ from R. Reichardt 53 Penrose Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2J 1S1 Super zine with humour on every page (or so it seems) Poetry, letters, good art, good repro, nostalgia, a CAGLE eulogy, comment on NIVEN. Without doubt, more and more top zines are coming out of CANADA.

7
HOMER 21 46 Qto pp. Terry Hughes, 4739 Washington Blvd. Arlington,
VA 22205. for Locs, trade, contribution or \$1.00 Tom Perry does
a Heinlein knocking con-rep. Columns by Ted White, Jim Turner, etc.,
plus letters and good art. Another nice one.

ASH-KING 22 38, Qto.pp Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave S.W. Seattle
WA 98166 get it for the usual. Articles by Hoffman Price, Denton,
Dentcliffe, reviews, Locs, good artwork, a 'sonnet' and many other
goodies. Recommended..but ACT, as Frank is pruning his list..

BOGHATT May.1977 Garth Danielson 616-415 Edison, Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada R2G OM3 approx 40 Qto pages. repro patchy and artwork not
so hot..or plentiful. Personal-zine, comment and natter.

SPRING BLAH 14 18 Qto pp photolith. News on books, cons, fans etc
from all over the world. Good art, excellent repro. 75¢ from Jan
Howard Finder, P.O.Box 2038 Fort Riley, KS 6642. If you crave
up-to-date news, this one is for you.

LOGO 4 Kevin Easthope, 6 Ipsley Grove, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7SY
48, A4 and beautifully duplicated pages, excellent art, Eastercon
report, TOROCON Photopages, excellent Loc column and a host of
other goodies. Yet another excellent zine..HIGHLY Recommended..

SIDDHARTHA 8. 28 or so, A4 pages from Ian Williams, 6 Greta Terrace,
Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR4 7RD. Personalzine, rambling over
Eastercon, thiscon, thatcon, and in France. No illos, so it's a
bit heavy, but fun..if you don't mind the crude expressions.

ENERGY Mar. 76 (Is this a parallel time track ?) Dick Patten,
P.O. Box 12057 Albuquerque, NM 87105. 17 neatly done Qto pages
and a Superb, two colour cover. Locs, art and suchlike. Nice.

BLACK HOLE 10. 55pp Octavo. Photolith (?) with a nice, colour cover
and feeble interior art. Letters, Reviews, News, fanzines
and quite a lot of everything. Erratic in the reproduction, but
obviously a zine which cares about SF. I liked it.

TITLE 64 24, A4 pages, Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr. St. Louis
MO 63131. Poll results, fan humour and comment, nice illos, a
chatty, friendly perzine. Grinds no axes, lives for fun. Gudun.

STOP BREAKING DOWN. 5 Qto. G. Pickersgill, 7A Lawrence Rd., 8th. Baling
London W.5. Good, Bell cover, Bentcliffe on Taff. This could
be much better if the editor would mature a little.... maybe get
that chip off his shoulder. We were all neofen once, but there's
no copyright on fandom.

PARRAGO 46 Qto pages. Donn Brazier (address, see TITLE) Article on
fairies (winged variety), weasels (OK, some people love 'em)
Shaver's rock pictures, locs, and other goodies. Loads of
photos, but repro just isn't up to it. Nevertheless, a good zine.

BLACK HOLE (see above) comes from Leeds University SF Society, 20p (It
MUST be best value on the fan market), Leeds Univ. Union.
Leeds 2 West Yorks.

CELESTIAL 3 8, A4 pages from Tony Richards, 153 Dagenham Rd., Rush Green, Romford, Essex. Personalzine, news, comment, fiction. Friendly and chatty. get it for trade. LOC, submission, or just a 9p stamp. Try it.

KINGHTS 17/18. from Mike Bracken, E-3 Village Circle, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 120 (yes, 120) Qto pages, superb repro, covering essays on every topic you can think of, letters, artwork (there's a Jerry Pournelle article) Rick Wilber has an excellent piece on Heinlein etc. etc. You get it for \$2.50...and believe me, it's a BARGAIN. EXCELLENT VALUE.

DURFED.2 40 Qto Pages from Kevin Williams, 9 Whitton Place, Seaton Delaval Northumberland, NE25 OBJ. A beautiful blend of sercon and send-up. Serious (and good) pieces on Larry Niven, and Robert Sheckley, board covers, good art, superb duping and layout..and lots of fun. Get it for LOC, Trade, or 30p. ..and remember, this is only no.2 !!

ALVEGA 4. 38, impeccably photolithed, Qto pages, excellent art, articles by me, Doug Barbour, Terry Hughes, Mike Glickson, etc, A good LOCcol and Alyson's con adventures...for \$1.00, trade, LOC, contrib, art, from Alyson Abramowitz, 638 Valmont Place, Elmont, N.Y.11003. U.S.A.

KARASS 31. THE Newszine. 18 Qto pages of news, views, forthcoming cons, fanzines and events. Hugo details and comments. If you can only run to one zine and want to keep abreast of events, this it for you. From Linda Dushyager, 1614 Evans Ave, Prospect Park, Pa 19076. USA.

IT COMES IN THE MAIL.27. 18,Qto pages giving a break down of mail, fanzines, letters and events as seen by Ned Brook, 713 Paul St., Newport News, VA 23605. u.s.a. A goodly mixture, available for the usual

FANZINE FANATIQUE 26/2 from Keith and Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd., Lancaster, Lancs. 4 pages of capsule reviews such as these..duping spotty, but the right spirit. Keeps you aware of what's available, and friendly chatter..

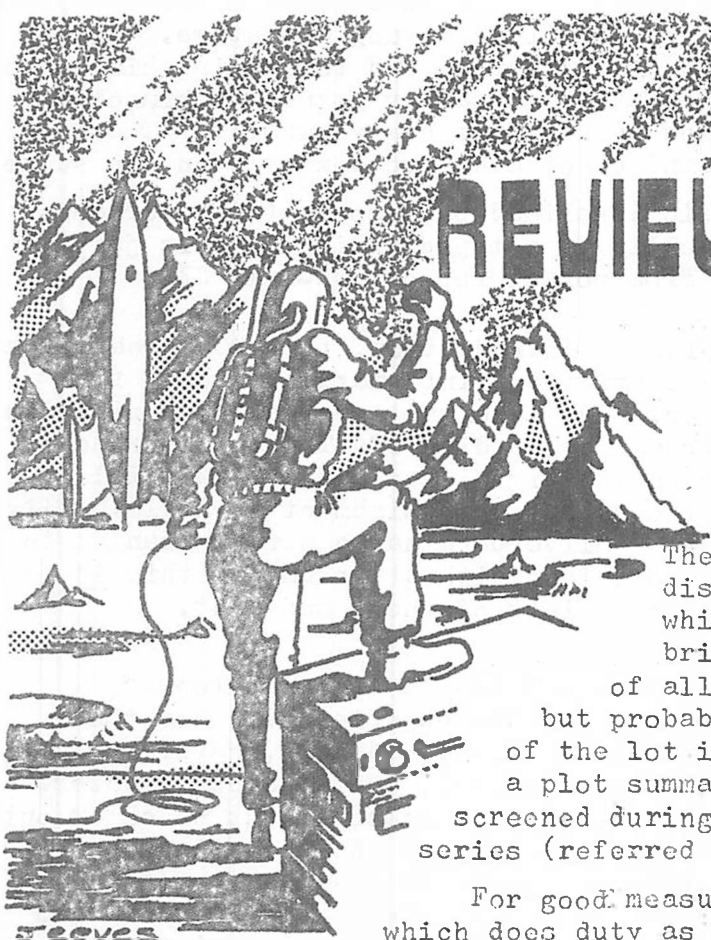
MOTA 22 Qto pages. Terry Hughes, 4739 Washington Blvd. Arlington, Virginia 22205. Articles by John Brosnan, Mike Glicksohn, letters and artwork..good artwork. First copy a dollar..then no subs, but LOCs, contribs etc.

WHICH MUST WEAP UP this section. If you like it...say so. If not, it will vanish from human ken..or Uncle Ken. So LOC..if you aren't a subscriber..or you may not get No.61

Nature and faneds, abhor vacuums, so please respond in some way..by letter or sub. Best, Terry



Jeeves



STAR TREK CONCORDANCE

Bjo Trimble
Futura / Ballantine \$3.50

Just about the size of an old-time Amazing Quarterly, which for newcomers, means 8 1/2" by 11" and 3/4" thick... but in this case, with 256 quality paper pages.

Of these, some 131 are devoted to a LEXICON giving details of every person, place or thing mentioned or written into the programmes.

There is a 17 page section on FAN ART displaying some excellent illos on ST which have appeared in fanzines; also, brief notes of 'Stardates', a listing of all episode..in 'Stardate' order...

but probably (to me it is) the best section of the lot is the 90 page area given over to a plot summary of each Star Trek episode ever screened during its three seasons..and cartoon series (referred to here as 'ANIMATED'...ccch)..

For good measure, the cover has a rotating disc which does duty as an index (paste it to the fly leaf to avoid creasing it). Well illustrated, (but sadly without production stills or other 'inside information'),

this is undoubtedly a must for Trekkies. Indeed, anyone who enjoyed Star Trek and would like all the details at their finger tips will find this one a very handy reference book.

MILLENNIUM

Ben Bova
Macdonald & Janes
\$4.25

Colonel Kinsman, commander of the U.S.A. part of the Russo-American Moonbase (called Selene) is faced with the problem of an overcrowded and power hungry Earth. rapidly escalating a simmering Cold War into all out hostilities. He talks things over with his Russian counterpart in Selene and the result is a plan to take over the Base.. a schene which escalates into mastery of the ABM laser satellites and all out struggle to bring peace to Earth.

The yarn has a chilling sense of 'it could happen right now' and Bova (Analog's editor in case you didn't know) keeps the pace taut, fast moving (and swearing) right through the book. Being a real-time space buff, this one was just what the doctor ordered...and it also boasts a great dust jacket by Bob Layzell.

10 THE KING IS DEAD

Alexander Thynn
Longleat Press
\$4.00

The far future, and Earth Has been conquered by The Cobra who, after killing (sadistically) off the opposition, founds his own dynasty before moving off stage. Years later, Askadaz is on the throne and tormenting his own son Pyrrock, to 'make a man of him'. The latter is rather unsure of himself, introverted, but develops as we follow events from his viewpoint. There is a minor side plot, and an overall, omniscient overmind comments on the scene occasionally. Less a story, than a fictionalised philosophy (with perhaps a touch of autobiography). Several spelling (or typographical errors jar a bit in what is completely different from normal run-of-the-mill SF

THE BEST OF ROBERT SILVERBERG

Sidgwick & Jackson \$4.95

A Malzberg Introduction, then 10 tales, each with a brief but informative note by the writer. We have the inevitable cannibalism of 'Road To Nightfall', the robot, treasure guardian of 'The Sixth Palace', the body possessor of 'Passengers' plus the highly acclaimed 'Hawksbill Station' and 'Nightwings'. There's the statutory punishment of invisibility, and the lovely satire of a robot Pope. Silverberg has a strong leaning to the downbeat, but if you don't mind that, then without argument, this is the man at his 'best', in a bewildering variety of theme and plot.

ANALOG 2

Ed. Ben Bova
Dobson \$3.95

To say that this contains six novels from the top SF magazine is quite enough for the experienced. For the newcomers, I'll add that the first, 'Answer, "Affirmative or Negative"' deals with a whimsical, poetic supercomputer. Then, 'The Gold At The Starbow's End' tells of a spacecrew sent to check out a mythical Centauran planet as a cover for an intelligence boosting experiment. Laumer's 'Plague' is really the plague of claim-jumpers on a colony planet. Then there's a bit of near-alchemy and off-trail physics in 'Out, Wit !'. Best of all, for me, 'Hero' by Joe Haldeman, wherein Private Mandella gets his inhumanly tough battle training in what was to become, The Forever War. Pick where you like, they're all top level tales - what else ? they came from Analog didn't they ?.

THE ANCIENT WISDOM

Geoffrey Ashe
Macmillan \$4.95

'A quest for the source of mystic knowledge' says the jacket, and this scholarly tome looks into many myths, legends, fables and bits of folk lore while searching. More than half of the 230 pages is concerned with the number 7 - did you know that if you divide it into any other number the answer always contains the figure sequence 142857 ? The 7 is found in patterns, sagas and designs of nearly every country. The author traces his theory through Islam, Greece, the Semitic literature, Bible, Koran and gradually locates his 'Shambhala' or Holy Place as somewhere in Siberia or Mongolia (linking it with possible extra-terrestrial visitors and the Tunguska meteorite of 1908). There are also mentions of the 'lung-gom-pu' or Tibetan wind-men, capable of running at 40 mph., and others who can create the 'tulpa' - a projection of a person or thing.

Baffling in its complexity, the Ancient Mysteries remain so to the end, but on the way you get plenty of thought-food..and maybe a story plot or two.

THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES

* Ed. Michael Stapleton An ambitious title, but well
 * Hamlyn £2.95 justified by the contents...which defy any
 * adequate description by the sheer volume
 * and quality jammed between the covers.
 * Wells, Forster, Leiber, Asimov, van Vogt and a host of others in what
 * is almost a Roll Of Honour for SF authors. Let the statistics speak
 * for themselves. You get 750 pages !! A 2" thick volume bulging
 * with no less than 43 top-notch stories, apart from Wells 'In The Abyss',
 * the rest date from 1939 to the present...and with a price tag of only
 * £2.95, this should sell out in very short order. DON'T MISS IT.

PERPETUAL MOTION

Arthur W.J.G. Ord-Hume As a youngster, I often tried to trisect the
Allen & Unwin £5.50 angle, or evaluate pi to the bitter end just
 because I had been told it was impossible. Here,
 subtitled 'The History Of An Obsession' we have
 a highly detailed and well illustrated investigation into another near-
 classical exercise - the devising of a machine which needs no further
 application of power to keep it operating once the initial impetus is
 supplied. In addition to tracing the history of such devices, the author
 does not neglect hoaxes, frauds and near misses - some of which are quite
 hilarious. Throw in low-energy gadgets, ball operated clocks and you have
 a fascinating compendium of gadgetry, great and small; ably explained and
 well documented. One of the most interesting items in a long time.

THE WAR FOR THE LOT

Sterling E. Lanier When young Alec March spends the summer on his
Sidgwick & Jackson £3.50 grandfather's farm, known as 'The Lot', the city lad
 finds a whole new world to investigate. Very soon,
 he begins to hear, then talk with the animals and is
 taken to a midnight meeting where the timeless entity of the wood examines
 him as to his fitness to aid the creatures in their coming battle against
 a terrible enemy. Definitely a juvenile (but one which may well appeal to
 many adults..Tolkein lovers etc.) Buy it for your offspring, or young
 relative, but sneak preview it first yourself.

THE BEST OF ARTHUR C. CLARKE Vol.1 1932-1955

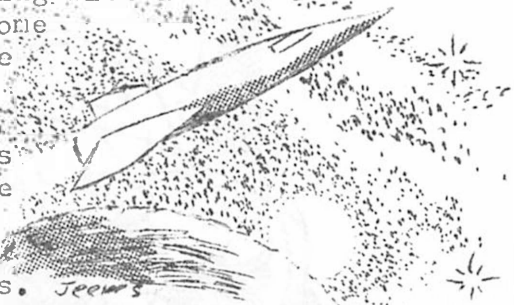
THE BEST OF ARTHUR C. CLARKE Vol.2 1956-1972

Ed. Angus Wells

Sidgwick & Jackson, £3.95 each part.

This is the 1974 pb
 from Sphere, now in
 two volumes, but with
 exactly the same contents. Vol.1
 opening with a

Preface (excellent) by 'Ego' himself, then come
 several fanzine reprints, and you're into the
 real meat with such tales as 'Castaway' with
 its radar mechanic jargon; History Lesson,
 'The Sentinel' (2001 sparker). 11 yarns plus
 a Biography (by Gerbish ?). In Volume 2, the
 story count is down to 7, plus the biography
 again. Here you get, 'Venture To The Moon',
 'Into The Comet', 'Sunjammer' and other goodies. *Jewels*
 No doubt about it, Clarke is one of, if not the favourite in my list.



HIDWORLD

Alan D. an Foster
Macdonald & Janes
83.95

Generations after a colony ship crashes among the predator-filled rainforests of Green Planet, the descendants have mutated to live in a kind of symbiosis with their Tree in a hell of menacing plant life. Born, a hunter and the 'different'

one of the tribe, rescues two 'giants' from a wrecked flitter and sets out to return them to their illegal base. Studded with a fantastic range of menaces from plants to aerial beasts, their journey is but a prelude to further problems for Born.

The jungle of deadly flora and fauna is not a new plot, but I can't recall it ever being used to such telling and gripping effect and with such warmth of description. Foster's characters come alive, their actions are credible, but never descend into stock 'goodies and baddies'. I'd recommend this to all and sundry, and fancy it will cop an Award in no time at all.

HEALER

F. Paul Wilson
Sidgwick & Jackson
83.50

When Stephen Dalt takes refuge in a cave on Kwashi, he acquires a 'mind partner' which not only improves his body, but renders it immortal... a point which has generally been overlooked by previous writers on this theme. The narrative then follows Dalt

through a series of widely separated (in time) episodes - the first originally appeared in Analog. Gradually, Dalt and 'Pard' adjust to each other, frequently changing their identities to hide their immortality. One manifestation of the symbiosis is the curing of those driven mad by the 'horrors'. Dalt gains his title 'Healer' and eventually confronts the menace behind the 'horrors' and a mysterious band of invaders. Others have used the 'mind symbiote', but Wilson makes it into a gripping story with both Dalt and Pard emerging as likable characters in a tale which never flags.

DRAGONRIDER

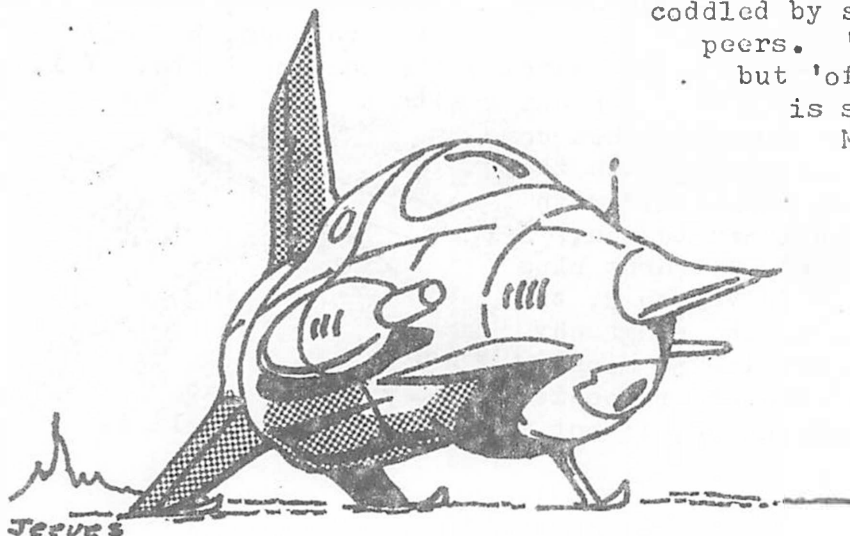
Anne McCaffrey
Sidgwick & Jackson
87.95

Following on from Dragonsong, the teenage Menolly and her nine fire lizards are brought to Harper Craft Hall, where she is installed as an apprentice musician. Ms. McCaffrey describes Menolly's

settling in period with the fervour of a Victorian novel as the youngster is

coddled by some and ostracised by her peers. 'Threadfall' occurs once but 'off stage'. Strangely, it is said to have started when Menolly was only a few years old...yet in

'Dragonrider the 'Threads' were long established. Quibble apart, this is a pleasant, smoothly flowing 'read' and will be snapped up by Dragonlovers everywhere.



UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

Robert Silverberg
Coronet 90p

Twelve tales ranging from the delightful tongue-in-cheek of 'Caught In The Organ Draft' to the deft satire of 'Good News From The Vatican' where a robot cardinal wins the Papal election. The author pads a bit (a table of amino acids in 'Caliban', or the repeated themes inherent in time travel yarns)- of which there are five), but he is never dull, whether on telekinesis as in 'Push No More', or the group sex of, 'In The Group'. Ecology buffs will go for the poetic, 'The Wind And The Rain'. Silverberg prefers the more cerebral SF of people and ideas; here, he is at his best, and there is something for everyone.

QUEENS OF DELIRIA

Michael Butterworth
Wyndham Star 80p

Earth is devastated and the Dark Forces are moving in for the kill in a frenetic mixture of Rock, Pop guitar, and suchlike slang. There is more rampant wordage than Bradbury at his most rampant. The jacket bills this as 'Rock and Roll Sci-Fi' (and anyone using that term gives away their media background)). This is No. 2 in the trilogy which began with 'The Time Of The Hawklores' and will end (hopefully) in '78 with 'Ledge Of Darkness'. The jacket acknowledges a debt (blame ?) to Mickael Moorcock, so this may grab you. Check it.

THE HAND OF OBERON

Roger Zelazny
Avon \$ 1.50

This is another in the 'Amber' series, and once again, Corwin and his fellow princes are beset by dangers caused in the main by a traitor in the ranks. The imagination and colour are still here, as is the rich tapestry of Amber, the Shadow World, and the interplay of the princes themselves. Despite this, I find a certain sameness to the series without the basic plot moving forward very far. Despite this, if you are an Amber fan, the old magic is still there.

ROLIND OF MERU

Peter Lyle
Avon \$1.50

Another strange land, this time Meru, where each person seeks to work out his Li. Rolind and Del are twin princes, and it is written that Rolind will slay Del for the throne. Thanks to the unlikely aid of his father, this happens, the father moves off stage (I couldn't quite make out how) and Rolind becomes king and starts to work out his Li. An unusual tale, but if you like semi barbaric kingdoms, swordplay and prophecy, this could be what you're looking for.

EYE AMONG THE BLIND

Robert Holdstock
Pan. 70p

Biologist, Zeitman returns to Ree'hdworld with the twin aims of studying the Ree'hd, and getting back his wife who has 'gone native'. Behind him, he leaves the 'Fear', an unknown disease decimating civilisation. As well as the Tee'hd, he meets the bestial Rundi and rumours of an earlier 'master race'. Ghosts are seen, and also the strange, blind, McGuire who can not only 'see' but can teleport and is 700 years old. His main function being to point Zeitman into unveiling the Ree'hd powers of telepathy and ancestral communication.

An enthralling tale which avoids the 'clever human, dumb alien' syndrome and keeps the reader hanging on the next development. Nice one.

MEN OF MYSTERY

Ed. by Colin Wilson
Wyndham 75p

Nikola Tesla, Aleister Crowley, Hell Fire Dashwood, Uri Geller, Franz Mesmer and Nostradamus are all put under the microscope..but not in any clinical manner, these accounts are all on the dramatic side and tend to detail or stand amazed at, the sundry powers related and make little or no attempt to seek a cause for them. Apart from this, the book is a handy quick guide to the people covered, fascinating reading, and could well spark the imagination of any would-be SF writer. One to come back to.

SUN SIGN SUCCESS

Joseph Polansky
Wyndham 80p

This one sets out to show, how via astrology you can find a pathway to better living by explaining the significance of your birthdate, and that of others so that you may use the knowledge to your advantage. Studded with charts and diagrams, plus such chapters as, 'Improving Your Reading Habits! (Which does NOT tell you any such thing), I doubt whether it will get you an extra five thousand a year, but if you're an astrology buff, then this is for you.

THE TIME FIGHTERS

Michael Butterworth
Wyndham Star 60p

Another in the SPACE 1999 series, (with 8 pages of photographs). This time, while Psychon Maya suffers here own variety of nervous breakdown..and gives Alpha a series of monsters to cope with, Commander Koenig is trapped in a time warp and encounters a cruel matriarchy.

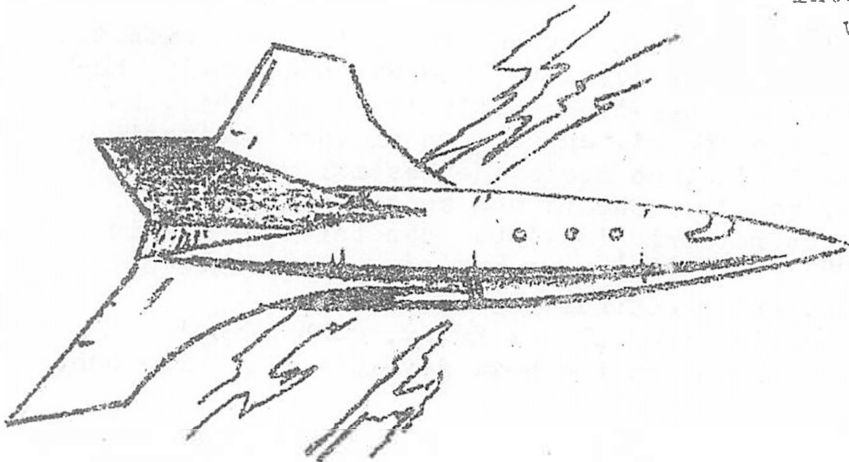
OK for 1999 lovers, but I find these yarns constrained by the TV scripts and the authors do not seem to 'flesh out' their scenes to compensate for the lack of visual images.

GALACTIC MEDAL OF HONOUR

Mack Reynolds
Methuen Magnum 70p

When Don Mathers allows two crooked businessmen to talk him into attacking an alien derelict to feign a one-man invasion defeat, he is awarded the Medal of Honour. The Award allows him to take anything

free, be it artifact, service, wine women or song. In addition, the two crooks form a company to corner the System's radioactives, with Mathers as the figurehead. As usual, Reynolds shoves in a few 'history' lessons (has he ever written a story without these interjections?). The story reads well, but the ending is so glib as to give the impression it had to be trimmed to fit the available pages.



THE SIMULACRA

Philip K. Dick
Bethuen 'Magnum'
75p

In the 21st Century, America has withdrawn behind the 'Shield' and is a semi-police state headed by the 100 year old, ever-young Nicole and her current husband the 'der Alte'. The story jumps haphazardly among the entwining lives of a widely assorted group - the last psychiatrist, jalopy salesman, a telekinetic musician, jug players and the like. Sadly, they are but thin cardboard figures involved in a web of politics, business, a spot of off-stage time-travel (even Goering struts his brief moment on the stage). Despite a plethora of ideas and characters, the story though entertaining, never really gets far before its final fizzle.

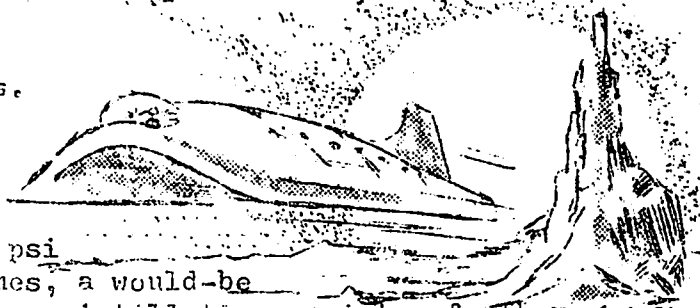
THE TURNING WHEEL

Philip K. Dick
Coronet 30p

and other stories.

Seven yarns from
the fifties in

which Dick ranges happily among robot nursemaids in battle, healing psi powers, a couple of time travel themes, a would-be Earth-conquering paranoid group and a scintillating variety of others. Something for everybody (and no rubbish). Personally, I think Dick is at his best with the short story, and here, he bears out my theory.



COUNTER-CLOCK WORLD

Philip K. Dick
Coronet 70p

Time has reversed and human processes (but not thoughts or actions) flow backwards..people walk forward, but regurgitate food as they grow younger on their journey to the womb. Sebastian Hermes, who

digs up revived bodies and sells them, exhumes 'The Anarch' as powerful religious leader. A multitude of involved plots entwine as various groups try to get the Anarch. The yarn fails to convince, characters are of cardboard and act irrationally and inconsistently. Personally, I much prefer Dick's short stories

FLASH GORDON

is reworked in a new series of titles from Wyndham. The jackets say, 'Alex Raymond's original story' and the fly-leaf says, 'Adapted by Con Steffanson' I suppose they must be based on storylines from the cartoon strip.

THE LION MEN OF MONGO (No.1) sees Flash, Dale and Zarkov crash landing on Mongo, where each is captured by a different group. Flash puts things right after meeting lion men, salamanders, apemen and a battle in the arena.

THE PLAGUE OF SOUND (No.2) Uncontrolled sound vibrations are being used as a weapon to attack Estampa Territory, Flash is framed for murder, caught by giant spiders, and an underground city are all ingredients of this one.

Forthcoming titles are to be :- The Space Circus; The Time Trap Of Ming XIII The Witch Queen of Mongo; and The War Of The Cybernauts. Priced at 60p each, the tales are not too sophisticated in style or content..but better than you might expect..and considerably better than other 'spin off' series such as 'Star Maidens', 'Space 1999' or even Goldin's 'horrible 'E.E.Smith Stories'. These will appeal to Flash Gordon fans, those bent on nostalgia, and the younger generation. Publisher, Wyndham 'Star'

CORONET BOOKS have re-issued four John Wyndham titles at 60p each and with new (Chris Foss ?) covers. Excellent reading and a second chance for those who missed them first time round :-

THE SECRET PEOPLE Sees Mark Sunnet and his girl Margaret crashland in a New Sea being created in the Sahara. They wind up in a maze of underground caverns populated by the gnomes of legend. Mark is put among other prisoners, but Margaret gets different treatment. Flooding from the New Sea threatens death to all, and a traitor offers further danger.

STOWAWAY TO MARS is of course, a classic. I remember seeing the weird Martian machines in a copy of Passing Show, but had to await the magazine version to read about the voyage of the Gloria Mundi, the stowaway, the Martians, and the rival Russian craft, The Tovaritch.

SLEEPERS OF MARS holds five stories; the title yarn tells of what happened to the crew of The Tovaritch, left on Mars. Other stories cover time travel and war from the future; An invisible monster brought back from Venus; A strange animal in an alien zoo, and finally, the effects of a re-discovered weapon too terrible to use.

WANDERERS OF TIME holds ~~five~~ stories covering time travellers caught in the future, High Adventure in space, 'Child Of Power' foreshadows the Midwich Cuckoos, and 'The Puff Ball Menace' precedes the wuthor's 'Day of The Triffids', and 'The Last Lunarians' is almost in the Wellsian vein. Pick any of 'em, they all make excellent..and nostalgic reading.

WYNDHAM BOOKS have a stack of forthcoming and available titles. Ready now are the following :-

VIRGIN PLANET
Poul Anderson When a spaceship carrying nothing but women crash landed on the planet Atlantis, a semi-barbaric matriarchy and
Wyndham 'warner' a new 'religion' were soon established. Things went well
65p for 300 years...then space explorer Davis Bertram arrives.
A lovely, tongue-in-cheek romp, with plenty of fun. I enjoyed it.

SOJAN
Mike Moorcock A collection of Moorcock items from a variety of sources
'Savoy' 30p (including to my delight, a reprint from TRIODE !). Fiction, biography, a dash or two of SF history and a set of Sojan stories...all this, and some excellent Cawthorn illos.

THE PEOPLE THAT TIME FORGOT Tom Billings sets out to rescue Bowen Tyler from the lost city of Caprona. A sequel to
Edgar Rice Burroughs 'The Land That Time Forgot', and has also been
'Tandem' 60p made into a film. In a 'Triode' LOC, Jim Cawthorn mentions watching Patrick Wayne shooting one of the scenes.

THE LOST CONTINENT The 22nd Century, and Jefferson Turck's airship is carried beyond the 30th Meridian to the forbidden
Edgar Rice Burroughs 'New World' of Europe where the people have become
'Tandem' 60p barbaric jungle dwellers. Archaic dialogue, but fun.

THE CAVE GIRL

Edgar Rice Burroughs
Tandem. 60p

Shipwrecked on a South Pacific Island, timid, sick, W.E. Smith-Jones encounters a lost race of cavemen. He falls in love with cave-girl, Nandara and finds he must start to fight, finally ending up as a warrior chieftain. Again, a bit dated in some ways, but Burroughs made his name as a story teller...and these are his stories..and still good.

MESSENGER OF ZHUVASTOU

Andrew J. Offutt
Methuen 'Magnum' 80p

Rich playboy, Moris Keniston has himself altered physically so that disguised as a powerful ruler's envoy, he can wander the hostile planet Svold. Ostensibly, he searches for his runaway fiancée, but there are other reasons. Cast in the de Camp 'Zamba' mould, this is a far, far better..and more entertaining adventure. Another very good 'un.

=====SPECIAL ITEM =====

MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S WIZARDRY & WILD ROMANCE
interpreted by RODNEY MATTHEWS

A Calendar for 1978
Big 'O' Publishing Ltd., £3.95

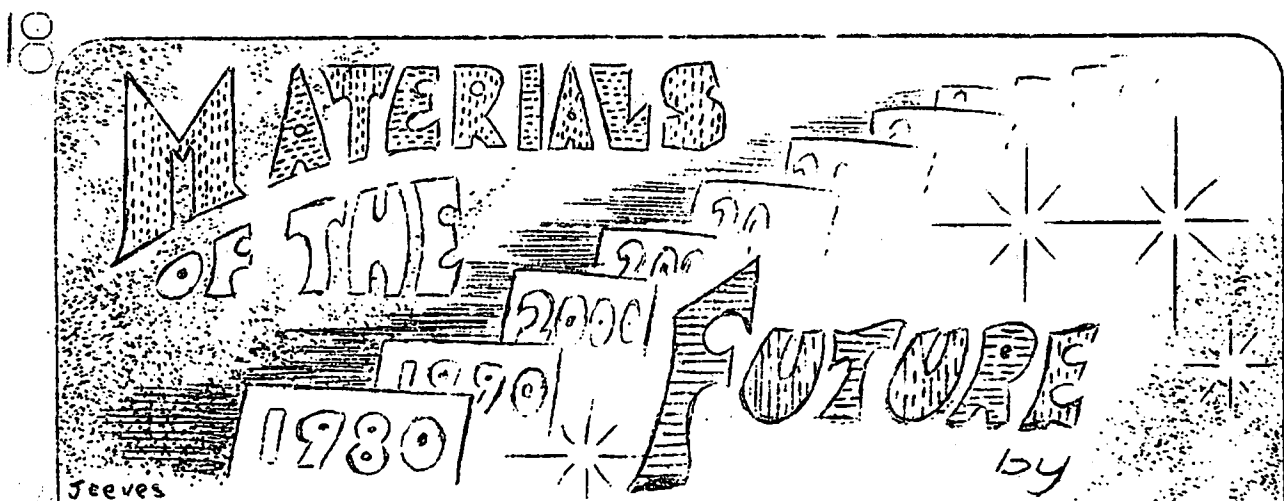
New items from the 'Big O' don't come at the breakneck pace of some other houses, but each one is worth the wait. Roger Dean's VIEWS was one such goody. Now,

and with a style remarkably similar to Dean's, Rodney Matthews has illustrated a round dozen scenes from the writings of Mike Moorcock (the relevant passages appearing beneath each painting) and a further page sets out a complete Moorcock Bibliography. Overall calendar size is 43cms sq., with the illustrations (31 x 22 cms) surmounting the stylish calendar pages. When '78 is out, you still have a beautiful art folio. Postage will be about 66p...enquiries to:- Gill Hart, Big O Publishing, 228 Fulham Rd. London S.W.10 (Ph.01-352 2251...or Ken Slater can probably get you one..

And speaking of Ken Slater..FANTAST (MEDWAY) LTD., can get you any or all of the aforementioned items...and any others you may want. Write to 39 West St., Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 2LX...and Ken would no doubt appreciate something by way of postage...catalogues the size of his cost money.

STILL WANTED ... I would appreciate any spare copy of a good aerospace magazine so that I can subscribe to same if it meets my distorted needs. I'M interested in spaceflight in all its aspects, plus military and high-performance aircraft (and models of same). I do not want details of civilian aircraft, airliners or light planes. Can anyone help from the good old U.S.A. ? Any such magazine gets the next two copies of LRG...a threat or a promise. If a subscriber, you get a two issue extension. How about it folks ?

JUST RECEIVED from Laszlo Lantos, President of the TIT SF Club, Hungary, a five page (A4) 'POSITRON NEWSLETTER'...in English in case you were getting worried. It describes their activities, aims and aspirations, also news items and other information. If interested, drop Laszlo a line at .. TIT Tudományos Fantasztikus Club
H-1113 Budapest
Bocskay u 37 HUNGARY



Of new materials in the home I talk. Not your old-hate polythene and silicones, for one well-placed nuclear device and the supply is cut off. I speak of the new-old materials of survival which we should learn to use, just in case... Go into any old house or castle, note the solidity of everything compared with the ephemeral nature of things today. Those people built to last, so that what they considered important, their religion, their Lord and his soldiery, and their stockpiled food against hard winters was protected. The people themselves built wattle-and-daub huts, which, though not specially elegant, were serviceable and kept out the weather.

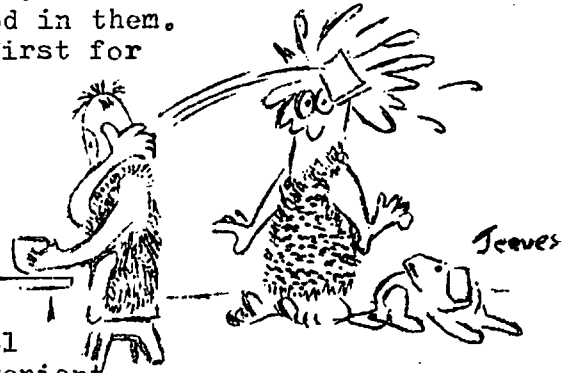
Look at our own new-old house and see what we have. It is built of stone blocks. You could of course make mud bricks, but adobe is really a hot weather material, depending on blazing sun to bake mud bricks rock hard. No, for England, it must be stone. Quarrying it does not depend upon modern amenities like dynamite, it is in fact split out, as the Indians of North America did, using fire. In modern American quarrying, this method has had good success using flame-throwers judiciously. Dressing stone is not difficult once you learn that stone has grain like wood, but it is tedious. You use big stones for the foundations and lower storey of your house, rising to smaller stones for the upper parts...and what else but slate for the roof? Stone floors are cool in summer and warm in winter, and for the rich, what of mosaic flooring?

But we speak of the suburban semi. Glass can be made, green if scavenging ferric salts are in short supply, but with primitive furnaces, it can only be made in small pieces. The windows are wood-framed, with glass squares. Light at night? Tallow smells disgustingly but you learn to live with anything, and you could retire and sleep comfortably on a wood-framed bed with reed slats, homespun sheets and pillows stuffed with moss.

Rising in the morning, you bound downstairs. The distaff side has the turves off the peat fire and the huge kettle, hand-forged and precious, already boiling. Tea or coffee? Nettles or roasted

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acorns ground in a pestle and mortar. The family also has a huge frying pan and sides of bacon from the pig; eggs from hens. Plates are of wood, turned from willow on a primitive lathe. Cups might be of earthenware. Cutlery? W-e-e-ll flint knapping is not yet dead and may yet revive. Instead of plates, you could be even more primitive and use tranches, that is to say, thick slices of the coarsest brown bread on which food is piled. In days past, the slices were flung over the shoulder to the dogs, but they can be eaten and are delicious with all the goodness of the food in them. Bones are husbanded carefully, used first for soup and then dried and cut up for needles and other things. Bone pegs make good jointing dowels.

Furniture in the new-old house is primitive, but not uncomfortable. Wickerwork perhaps or carved from wood, cushioned with carefully washed and teased sheep-wool in homespun bags. Storage is on convenient shelves built into the walls during construction of the house; wool rugs are on the floor, or beast skins. The fire place is built into the base of a single chimney which serves to heat downstairs by radiation from the fire and upstairs by heat from the stone of the chimney. I specify peat for the fire, because it burns with a sweet smoke and smell..wood would be too precious to burn, unless the forests returned, which is unlikely.



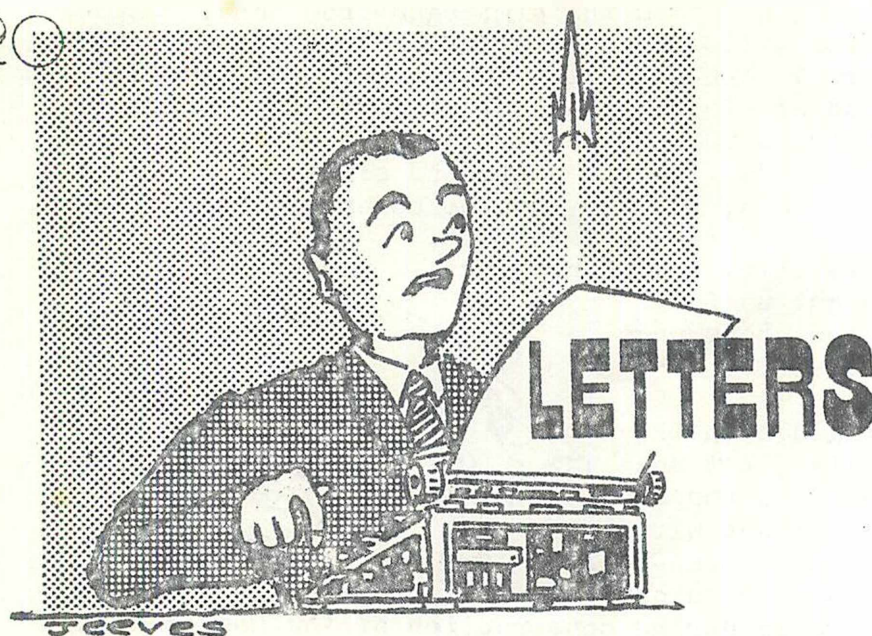
Baking of the bread and stuff would be done in a communal oven as in the old days, when for a trifle, the local baker would allow you to cook your turkey in his oven, or you could build an oven into your chimney side, but heat control would be diccy. Needless to say, hanging in the chimney would be the hams and sides of meat, getting preserved, though salted meat would also be popular.

But civilisation would slowly overtake things. In Jerry Sohl's 'Costigan's Needle' a whole people from an area of Modern America were flung naked into a new world. In no time they had modern conveniences to equal those they had left, built from their own knowledge. The primitives had to find things out, - we know! So in no time a complete new neurotic civilisation would sweep our new-old house away. Oh well, as Jenkins in Simak's 'City' said, 'Lord Help The Cobblies !'

..... Alan Burns

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DUPLICATING NOTES. 54 pages of articles collected from three years of ERG, plus an art section. Board covers.
£1 or \$2.00 (bills NOT cheques) from Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannardale Rd., Sheffield S11 9FE.



ERG 59 drew a king-size letter crop, so despite the usual space pinch it seemed a good scheme to include a selection from them in this issue.

Selection is by my dictatorial whim, and interjections from the Ergitorial chair are denoted by triple parentheses.

(((Now read on...)))

DAVE WIXON
343 E. 19th St.,
Apt. 8B
Minneapolis
MN 55404

I recently stumbled on Gordy Dickson's copy of your April issue -- specifically, the Tucker Interview. I am moved to comment, if only to protect myself from the gratuitous slanders being so adeptly practised by that creaky old Illinois Fan (((Soon to be Tucker Transferred, I hope.))). What Tucker didn't realise when

he stole the idea for ICE AND IRON from me, you see, was that I couldn't afford to protest about it -- I myself had stolen the idea from Tucker himself; the idea for the novel came into my head while I was in the midst of TIME BOMB -- specifically the following poetic line :

"Limestone," Danforth said to the ceiling. ' This being the case, I guess it's only fair that Tucker never offered me a share of the royalties (although I did autograph a copy of the book for him.

Guido Belhaut
Dietssestraat 34 bus 1
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Really enjoyed your latest ERG.. Mr Ashley may be a good editor, but why didn't he do deeper and tell us more about author's agents, transactions, figures (yes, why not ?). Another thing that bothers me is that you don't give publication dates of the books you review. It may not be important to the casual reader, but it is to someone who is a collector or bibliographer (((Not all publishers give a date, and since the main aim to is to advise readers as to what is available, it seems a bit superfluous as a general rule))). Wolfe's interview was short but interesting, but the Italian comedy; shouldn't it be 'Comedia del arte' ? (((Your are dead right, but both Michael Banks who did the interview, and I who typed it up, are both ignorant types..sorry about that one))) Very good issue, and I hope the letter section will return for the next one. (((How's this for service ???)))

JUSSI PIKKALA
C/o Raudsepp
Urkupillintie 6 F 187
SF-00420
HELSINKI 42

Concerning ERG, I read the Ergitorial with great pleasure. It had a friendly tone of nostalgia, and I do say, you read a lot of SF books in three months. The illustrations in DUPLICATING NOTES were very exciting.

Overall, your 'style' is very British, in a warm and polite way which is rarely seen in Scandinavia. Dissolvingly yours, Jussi.
(((And there in a nutshell is what fandom is all about..communication with others..so it is particularly nice to hear from Helsinki.)))

ALAN J FREEMAN
25 Adelaide Rd
High Wycombe
Bucks.

...doesn't get his letter included, but he did win a prize of a paperback for originality. So far, he is the only one who seems to have noticed the inside of the mailing wrapper is a blank school report form...so he made it a report on ERG..Nice one Alan.

D. TODD
12 Castle Bank
Tow Law
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham.

The cover of ERG 58 has me puzzled. Is that a bush he's standing in, or is he really on fire? (((The answer is complicated..the bloke is called Moses and he has a thing about bushes))) Maybe it is one of those fire-breathing dragons? (((No, they can't get the petrol))) Enjoyed your Ergitorial piece on early conventions. It was quite fascinating to hear how things went on in the early days, and with the fancon piece, gave a good 'now and then' comparison. The Wilson Tucker Interview was excellent. The reviews were great, as usual, and all done by yourself I notice.

LASZLO LANTOS
THE SF Club
H-1113 Budapest
Dacska ut 37

We received ERG and have read it with pleasure. Our Club, by means of this letter would like to take up the contacts with you. I am the President of the Club, Agnes Hosszu is Secretary and since 1970 we have operated as a method centre giving a helping hand to amateur SF Clubs of Hungary and co-ordinating their work. We help in the organising of programmes, exhibitions, and film shows. We would appreciate a mention of Hungarian amateur SF activity (((so there you are folks, write to Laszlo if you want Hungarian news and fanzines)))

DAVE GODFREDICK
245 Rosalind St.,
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 9AZ

Once again I must congratulate you on a superb copy of ERG. I don't know how you manage it every time, practice and hard work I guess (((And a very understanding wife))) A multitude of book reviews This is one section that I both like and dislike, too few and it ain't worth the trouble, and too many, and it becomes boring. This issue saw 9 pages of ERG taken up with such reviews, far too many for me, Terry, but I guess someone will enjoy 'em (((Yep, seems an almost 100% response in favour...as I suspected, most fan like to have a brief plot precis, and make a final decision as to quality, for themselves. Why not just pick out reviews on books of interest to you ?)))

Have
asked
old

22(((Another unusual LOC ..the heading is set out in Letraset, from..)))

Michael A Banks,
P.O. Box 312
Milford
Ohio 45150

There were several things in "The Coventry Caper" which reminded me of MIDWESTCON this year. Dave Kyle was there (without a red blazer); The elevators stopped at every floor - without being directed to do so by button pushing tykes; there was an auction at MIDWESTCON, a banquet and a dance, though the dancind was a belly-dancing exhibition (((More buttons to push ?)))

Mike Ashley's views on anthologising were most informative. I must however add something to his comments - not only do publishers not want anthologies; they also do not want novels, biographies, guidebooks etc. I heard a rumour (don't know how true it is, that a firm is now marketing a printing press able to churn out full blown books without the aid of writers. (((Take a look at a Badger book if you can find one around..they never seemed to use writers))) Liked the illo with Gene Wolfe; reminds me that the lights went out while I was in the tub the other night. Ever take a bath by candlelight ? (((Yes, and to add to the delight, the bathrrom window caved in during a snowstorm...honest !))) I must correct you on one point..I do lecture on SF at the University of Cincinnati, the classes I teach are in creative writing. I believe you'll find a few readers dissatisfied with the LOC column this time out, though, particularly the illustration. (((Mike, you need new glasses..there wasn't a LOC-col in 59)))

Chris Jones
!St. Ivy'
North Rd.,
Queenborough
KENT

Many thanks for ERG 59, yet another excellent issue. Your Ergitorial on Eastercon 77 gave a wide coverage and a well rounded picture of my first and certainly not my last con. Full Marks to "So You Want To Be An Anthologist" by Mike Ashley. With that amount of anthology editing behind him, he certainly knows what he is talking about. I think that at some stage, every fan thinks about editing an anthology, and so this article would have held interest for many. I like your book reviews as they give a clear idea of the contents of a book without disclosing the endings. There are a couple of books lying unread on my shelves through this fault in some other zines. The interview with Gene Wolfe by Michael Banks was also interesting.

Now to the production. One of the most important obligations of an editor is to print the material of his contributors in the clearest and most readable way possible -- a fact I can see you agree with by the well thought out layout and legibility of ERG. Your zine is readable in every sense of the word. (((I thanks ee kindly sir, and most sincerely)))

(((I handed ERG to a complete mundane..a degree man with several languages and a number of translation jobs on the Continent behind him.)))

Peter Patmore
(Address
withheld)

Many thanks for letting me see a glimpse of a completely new world - many of the words themselves were strange 'fanzines, perzines, con, flip, LOC' and the pictures, considering they are pictures of non-existent entities, seemed so tangibly real, imbued with a very human irony (e.g. choosing between two identical pics) and depicted with apparent effortlessness which was style itself. I wish I had the knowledge to respond adequately to references to Hieronymous machines, De la Warr devices, doppelgangers etc., The Ergitorial on the Coventry Caper did give me the feeling of witnessing the strange assemblage and I liked the thought that only someone with three left legs wouldn't have enjoyed the dance."

(((Which being a look at fandom from a complete uninitiate is not only interesting, but gives food for thought as to just how far from 'normality' our fannish pathways can take us.)))