

FANTASY FICTION FIELD

Founded by Julius Unger

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The National Fantasy Review

Whole Number 9

ERB RIDES AGAIN !!

AN INFORMAL REPORT FROM OUR MAN IN NYC & VICINITY, PAUL SCARAMAZZA

I went to the meeting of the Lunarians here in New York on April 21. Judy Merrill was guest of honor. She was supposed to receive a plaque, but there was some sort of mixup. Seems that Chris Moskowitz went to pick up the plaque on Saturday, and the place was closed then. Randall Garrett and cigar were also there. Garrett smiled while he gave fans hell for not supporting the magazines, for not writing to the editors, and for not criticizing the stories (as either good or bad), and for not writing letters to JWC telling him what kind of stories we do want. Sam gave an interesting slide lecture on J. Allen St. John and other Burroughs illustrators. Loads of fun. Donald Wollheim was there.

And then it came. A man from Canaveral was there to talk about future plans for publishing Burroughs. He started by reading the opening lines from what was evidently an ERB Pellucidar story. Can any fan identify it, he asked. "Back to the Stone Age," "Land of Terror," "Emperor of Pellucidar" were heard from the audience. Nope. Seems it was the opening lines of "Savage Pellucidar," a hitherto unpublished ERB story. And that wasn't all, not by a long shot! Ever heard of "The Wizard of Venus," "I am a Barbarian," a half finished Tarzan novel, an autobiography of ERB, a full length 130,000 word modern novel, two 60,000 word novels? The uproar at this announcement can be imagined.

Well, it seems that Canaveral is now the official ERB publisher. They will publish twelve Burroughs books a year for five years. The three short novels from AMAZING will be combined with "Savage Pellucidar," and have that same title. "The Wizard of Venus," "John Carter and the Giant of Mars," and "Skeleton Men of Jupiter" will be published in one volume tentatively titled "Tales of Three Worlds." The Tarzan short stories and "Quest of Tarzan" will also be published, plus the ERB autobiography, and--perhaps--the unfinished Tarzan. An ERB biography may also be commissioned.

Fiction lineup for FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION for July, 1963

Glory Road (1st of 3 parts)

Success

The Respondents (verse)

With These Hands

As Long As You're Here

McNamara's Fish

Robert A. Heinlein

Fritz Leiber

Doris Pitkin Euck

Kenneth Smith

Will Stanton

Ron Goulart

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SPOTLIGHT ON FANDOM

The National Fantasy Fan Federation has announced their third annual short story contest open to all amateur writers. The contestant is not required to be a member of NFFF, and an amateur is defined for their purpose as someone who has sold no more than two stories to professional magazines. Stories must be shorter than 5,000 words and must be either science fiction, fantasy, or weird-horror. It will cost you 50¢ entry fee unless you belong to NFFF. Deadline for submissions is midnight, October 31, 1963. Prizes to be awarded on the basis of the judges' scores are: first prize, \$10.00; second prize, \$6.00; and third prize, \$4.00. Manuscripts and entry fee (if applicable) should be sent to Clayton Harlin, Southwest Harbor, Maine. An entry blank should presumably accompany your submission. I would suppose information as to where to obtain these is also available from Clay.

Robert and Juanita Coulson are campaign managers for Marion Zimmer Bradley for TAFF. Now all they have to figure out is what a campaign manager does in a fan campaign.

The CHICAGO DAILY NEWS weekend magazine supplement for April 6 carried a story about Edgar Rice Burroughs and Burroughs fandom which should make all the Burroughs Bibliophiles happy. Bob Tucker, who passed along a clipping of the story, thought it was a fairly decent piece himself. Written by John I. Tucker, it is a thumbnail biography of ERB and his works. Also mentioned by name is Vernell Coriell and the Burroughs Bibliophiles and "fanzines" such as ERB-dom, THE BARSOOMIAN, and ERBANIA. Of the characters created by ERB, Tarzan is singled out for special attention, as you might expect. Mention is made of the town in California where all Tarzan books were ordered off the library shelves because it was the opinion of some official that Tarzan and Jane were living a life of unwedded sin. The author refutes this slander, as well as that of Tarzan's illiteracy as pictured by the movies. Bob Tucker denies he is related to the author.

Harlan Ellison has a review of the book HOLLYWOOD IN TRANSITION in the May issue of WRITER'S DIGEST. Harlan considers the book (title self-explanatory) to be a particularly inept work. Besides, it didn't tell him anything he did not know already.

Harriett Kolchak reports that she has just returned from a month's vacation in Florida, during which she met fan and author Piers Jacobs and fan Tom Dilly. She also mentions that she is the owner of 18 cats and is anxious to peddle some kittens for free. Lots of luck!

THE FANZINE FIELD

by Mike Deckinger

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This new column of fanzine reviews will appear in each issue of FFF, if all goes well. If Mike is not presently receiving your mag and you wish a review, send him a copy at 31 Carr Place, Fords, New Jersey.)

AXE #35 (monthly, 20¢ a copy, \$2.00 a year or selected trades, Larry and Noreen Shaw, 1235 Oak Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.) AXE is gradually relinquishing its former identity as a Fanac-type newszine and moving into the ranks of the genzines. In addition to some previously unreported news items there's an adequate film column by Bob Stewart, and Dick Lupoff's competently handled, though infuriatingly aloof fanzine reviews. Dick, I am told, is also publishing a Reader's Guide to Burroughs' science fictional worlds (this is not a plug for the zine, either; let Lupoff buy his own free space.). I wonder what's to come next--perhaps a detailed and intricate anatomical chart of Tarzan, revealing such trivia as the number of hairs on his chest. If Burroughs' fandom cared to undertake a worthwhile project, they might publish an accurate scientific report supporting some of ERB's more absurd claims. I, for one, would be more interested in the bases of fact that Pellucidar's existence is linked to, then some candid revelations telling why ERB chose such-and-such a name for Mars. Walt Willis' travel-and-con report is being serialized in AXE, and that, more than anything else is an inducement to secure a place on the AXE mailing list. It's too early to tell whether the report will become another TIB, but it's highly readable and entertaining.

YANDRO #122 (monthly, 25¢ each, \$2.50 a year, Buck Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana.) There's an unfailing consistency that marks each issue of Y, and this one is no exception. None of the material run in YANDRO, except for a few pitiful attempts at free verse and some pretentious articles, has ever been truly mediocre. And neither has anything ever been superlative, but the range between these two qualities is wide enough, and readable enough, to accommodate the majority of YANDRO's material. This issue, for instance, has an informative letter-expanded-into-article, I presume, by E. J. Carnell on the IFA. Allen Mardis has a predictable story, J. E. Pournelle contributes an insufferably lifeless article, and the rest of the regular features are on hand. Coulson's fanzine reviews are probably the best handled in a fanzine today, the twin editorials don't have the usual tendency to become gushy diary-excerpts, and the letter column is fresh and lively. YANDRO seems satisfied with the niche it has achieved. Long life to it.

THE PANIC BUTTON #13 (bi-monthly, 35¢, \$2.00 a year, Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Road, Toronto 15, Ontario, Canada.) THE PANIC BUTTON could probably be described as a Canadian equivalent of MAD combined with

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THE REALIST, with perhaps a dash or two of MONOCLE thrown in for good measure. It contains everything from a superficial but sincere account of racial strife in Illinois to a hilarious parody of a Canadian pevert rag. It's a hard zine to review, since the normal standards applied to fanzines would be incongruous when utilized in analyzing THE PANIC BUTTON. I personally enjoy most of it. You can decide for yourself.

DYNATRON #16 (bimonthly, 15¢ or 8 for \$1.00, Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico.) Unlike the above-reviewed THE PANIC BUTTON, which has undergone a considerable metamorphosis from QUE PASADO to VAMANA to (finally) THE PANIC BUTTON, DYNATRON has always been DYNATRON, and will, I trust, continue to be DYNATRON. Like YAN-DRÖ, there's an indefinable sameness that becomes apparent after several issues, but doesn't detract from the overall quality. DYNATRON appears to be manipulated more as a labor of love than an example of the "We-gotta-publish-or-else" syndrome. This issue has an stf quiz by John Baxter, fiction by me and a Japanese writer whose name is almost as unpronounceable as his translator's, and a good reprint from Tucker of a proposed NBF constitution. The lettercolumn is interesting, though too short, and Roy obligingly alternates black ink with blue, red, and green ink. Some of the repro is spotty, and there's more offset than there should be, but DYNATRON still maintains a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere about it.

DOUBLE-BILL #1 (bimonthly, 20¢, 6 for \$1.00, also for contributions, letters, art, trades, Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Avenue, Akron 13, Ohio.) The Double-Bills of the title refer to Bill Bowers, who edits the zine along with Mallardi, and the latter's address is sufficient for inquiries. The material range here is pretty good to rotten (an excruciatingly bad story by S. W. P. Wyszowski which is the n'th variation on the theme of the dead man who winds up in Hell and thinks it's heaven). Mallardi does some apologizing for an emotional, inaccurate article last issue on integration/segration. Bill Bowers seeks to delineate "The Essence of a Fan" and winds up in a state of restrained confusion. Clay Hamlin writes a tribute to Murray Leinster (but, Clay, L. Ron Hubbard, not Leinster, wrote the Ole Doc Methuselah stories.). And a moderately well handled lettercol closes the issue; the only comment I can make is that in the interest of continuity it would be preferable if the editors held their interjections until the end of the letter, rather than breaking into practically every other sentence. DOUBLE-BILL improves proportionately with each issue. Stick around and see how it ultimately makes out--it's worth the wait.

HYPIEM #32 (irregular, 15¢ or 7 for \$1.00, Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland.) A new HYPIEM is always a thing of joy, and this issue is no exception. The dependable, facile wit of IF is once again distributed in easy-to-take doses within these pages. Bob Shaw writes about Tommy Johnston (Who's Tommy Johnston? Read it and find out.), Ted White eulogizes The Village, and James White reports on the Harrogate con. The bacover quotes are good, ATOM is reliable as ever, and the three page lettercol is adroitly edited, but should have been longer. Three pages?

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ENCLAVE #2 (bimonthly, letters, trades, cont. 25¢, Joe Pilati, 111 S. Highland Avenue, Pearl River, N. Y.) The zine is shaping up right now into an enjoyable "New Direction" fanzine, with a decided emphasis on politics, satire, and mundanity, with short dribbles of fandom here and there. This occurs either when the editor is too inexperienced to concentrate his fanzine's theme on fandom without becoming bogged down in a myriad of unfamiliar terms, or when he deliberately aims at adopting a non-fannish outlook, even though he can return to a fannish basis if he so desires. Pilati seems to fall in the latter category, because there is practically nothing about ENCLAVE that would indicate it to be a neofan's gropings into the complexities of fandom. Joe writes straightforwardly and with a minimum of verbal smoke-screening; he knows his aim, and he knows his audience. The material reflects a noticeable difference between seriousness and light, but significant articles. Ted Pauls leads off with a dry, tedious six pages on The Liberal and Foreign Policy. Ted's style isn't quite as lifeless as Jerry Pournelle's. Not yet, anyway... Both Ted and Jerry seem to know what they're talking about, but they still are usually dry and inanimate in print. Skip Williamson tries writing like a fan, with negligible results, and then tries writing like a beatnick, with slightly better results. The best item is an article by Maris Givzskis on Peter Sellers and the (non GDA) Goon Show. A good lettercol rounds out this flat at times, but generally stimulating, issue.

ROT #5 (irregular, no price listed, Mal Ashworth, 14 Westgate, Eccleshill, Bradford 2, England.) Let's take the good things about this issue first. Like an excellent pair of covers by AFOM. And some good articles by Doc Weir and Irene Potter. And a slightly dated lettercol which turns out to be nearly two years old. Incredible, you say? Not on your life. The inside front cover says this is the Summer, 1961, issue, and by gosh it is, too. Mal offers some excuses for the delay. Since the lettercol takes up about half the issue, and comments on the previous ROT that appeared about 3 years ago, most of what's said is lost to the casual browser. The remainder of the material doesn't show up quite so bad, but I wonder if Mal is trying to match (the late?) HABAKKUK's proportionate size increases with a proportionately expanding publishing interval for ROT. I admit it's novel, and is sure to cause some comment, but sentimentalist that I am, I prefer the old system whereby an issue appeared when it was supposed to. Hear that, everybody?

LUNA #2 (quarterly, 15¢, four for 50¢, Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Avenue, Bronx 53, N. Y.) This is a specialized zine, devoted entirely to the publication of convention speeches and panels which Frank has taped. Only two items appear this time: a speech on reviewers by Doc Smith, from the '55 Cvention, and the Pittcon panel discussion on sf art, with John Campbell, Ed Emsh, and Sam Moskowitz. The latter item was of particular interest to me, and this sort of zine should definitely be encouraged. The repro is flawless, the artwork superlative, and the cover excellently reproduced, even if the subject matter is gaudy and badly drawn. #

ODDS & ENDS: We're late this time because all our Ace Contributors goofed off. Bowers gets his salary cut, and Scaramazza gets a stern reprimand. I'd better let Redd Boggs alone...As of June 10, Vic Ryan will be back at: 2160 Sylvan Rd., Springfield, Ill. ...Send Bill Plott's mail to: Box 654, Opelika, Alabama.

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