

# FANTASY FICTION FIELD

Founded by Julius Unger

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## Sam's "Explorers" Expanded

Sam Moskowitz reports that the great amount of additional material edited into his forthcoming book, *EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE*, has required the addition of almost 100 additional pages. The book, now due May 31, 1963, will be increased from the previously announced 256 pages to 352, and the word count will go up to about 115,000. The price will be increased to \$6.00.

*EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE* is the history of the development of science fiction, traced through the biographies of its major molders, among whom are Edgar Allen Poe, Mary Shelley, Jules Verne, A. Conan Doyle, Karel Capek, and H. G. Wells. Also included among the more recent influences are Hugo Gernsback, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Stanley G. Weinbaum, H. P. Lovecraft, and A. Merritt.

According to Sam, this book was deliberately put together as the master framework of a history of science fiction. It is intended to be an insider's interpretation of science fiction showing the relationship of the building blocks of early science fiction to today's field. It is not only intended to balance the picture of outsiders' trying to make coherent sense out of a subject they do not completely understand, but to provide these same outsiders with an accurate and sympathetic (to the field) guide for their own work. #

## AMAZING STORIES lineup for July, 1963

Redemption (novelet)	Robert F. Young
The Game (novelet)	Neal Barrett, Jr.
THE PROGRAMMED PEOPLE (serial, conclusion)	Jack Sharkey
The Formula (short)	Arthur Forges
The Yes Men Of Venus (short)	Ron Goulart

## July lineup for FANTASTIC

The Trouble With Tweenity (short)	Jack Sharkey
He That Hath Wings (short, "Fantasy Classic")	Edmond Hamilton
The Recurrent Suitor (short)	Ron Goulart
A Contract in Karasthan (short)	Phyllis MacLennan
Final Audit (short)	Thomas M. Disch
A HOAX IN TIME (serial, second of three parts)	Keith Laumer

FANTASY FICTION FIELD is published bi-weekly by Harvey Inman, 1029 Elm Street, Grafton, Ohio. Associate Editor: Paul Scaramazza, Box 599, Fordham University, Bronx 58, N.Y. Subscription price: 13 issues for one dollar or 26 for two dollars. All checks or money orders should be sent to and made payable to Harvey Inman.

## EDITORIAL GRUMBLING

This will mark the tenth issue in the new series of FANTASY FICTION FIELD. This is quite a milestone when you consider the difficulties involved. This also may very well be the last issue, unless something changes for the better. I still have plenty of time to handle the mechanical chores involved. The problems which keep hanging me up are lack of news and insufficient financial support. You will notice that this issue is at least a week late. Possibly absolutely nothing happened the past two weeks; if anything did happen, the facts have been kept secret from me. I note that the latest STARSPIKLE appears to be suffering also from this trouble, to a lesser extent.

As I have said, I have a reasonable amount of time to devote to FFF, and I am happy to do so. However, this free time is not unlimited and must be borrowed at the expense of other pleasurable activities not necessarily connected with the fan field. This is the reason I hate to have to go into extensive correspondance merely to obtain fan news; I could devote more time obtaining pro news if everyone would pass along news items without my having to specifically ask each time. I do not intend to belittle the half dozen or so who have supplied many of the items in past issues. But I need more contributors who consistently pass along items which comes to their notice.

Another thing which troubles me is the fact that I have never achieved enough paid subscriptions to allow me to cut off all the dead-beats from the mailing list and still maintain a circulation high enough to be worth the trouble of getting mimeo ink all over me. I do not know what is the trouble. If you have been receiving sample copies of FFF, will you please inform me whether you care to continue receiving it? All suggestions for improvements are welcome. I do not believe that FFF is overpriced--is it? As a matter of fact, in the future I will have to restrict trades to only regularly issued general interest zines. No apa-type zines, except a rare exception or two arranged on an individual basis.

Do you believe fandom needs a newsheet of this type? That is, one devoted primarily to coverage of science fiction and the fandom thereof? The gossip type news is well covered elsewhere, but aren't there fans interested in science fiction itself? Whether there will be another issue depends primarily upon the availability of news. I do not plan to let money prevent FFF's publication before the index supplement is completed. I plan to complete volume one of the index in any case. If FFF is suspended before that time, I plan to mail the remaining sheets to all paid subscribers and trade-zines, also to return all unused subscription monies. (All those with two year subs can relax.)

Sam Russell's new zine HAUNTED is finally out; suggest you try a copy.

# THE FANZINE FIELD

by Mike Deckinger

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KNOWABLE #3 (irregular, trade, LoC, cash, John Boardman, Box 22, New York 33, N. Y.) The most notable feature about this issue is the general unreadability of the various over-offsetted, dittoed pages. Battling through a bleary hodge-podge is not conducive to enjoying the zine, no matter how good it may be. I found John's short, critical analysis of Eney's A SENSE OF FAPA to be the most interesting item in the zine. Boardman is not afraid to publicize his opinions and adheres to his principles with a tenacity that is admirable, even if his particular arguments may not be so. Assorted trivia fill up the remainder of the pages.

SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES #64 (irregular, trade, LoC, 25¢ apiece, Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield Avenue, Los Angeles 25, Calif.) SHAGGY has undergone more incarnations than a devout Hindu soul. Its latest version contains the typical LASFS editorial staff, juggled around, and the results are uneven, but generally worthwhile. The SHAGGY I liked was the SHAGGY of the Bjo/Djinn era a few years ago. This is similar in some respects, dissimilar in others, but nonetheless better than most fanzines around today. The readable repro, whimsical, yet eye-appealing layouts, and high quality material all contribute to a most satisfactory zine. Its publishing frequency could become stabilized, but once enough interest is generated over SHAGGY's production, as it was in the past, I expect that matter will be taken care of. This slim issue features Ron Ellik continuing his T.A.F.F. report, Bjo writing an energetic and highly amusing column on telephones, and the usual SHAGGY features. Nothing is outstanding, and nothing is mediocre.

CRY #167 (bimonthly, LoC, 25¢ apiece, CRY, Box 92, 507 Third Avenue, Seattle 4, Wash.) CRY, like the above mentioned SHAGGY, is a former paragon that has buckled under the burden of an exhaustive publishing schedule and an exhausted editorial staff. Where it used to be monthly it is now bimonthly, and where it used to average 50-plus pages an issue it now averages 30-35. It has unimaginative, if not non-existent, layouts, and it further increases the confusion over the consistently high quality of material that CRY presents. In addition, the nearest thing to a PLANET/Sarge Saturn type lettercol appears in every issue, and even that has undergone some alteration. The current issue has the ubiquitous ATOM cover (as well as the ubiquitous Berry article within). Wally Weber unleashes his talents for foreseeing the future by skimming over his own T.A.F.F. trip report in anticipation of winning T.A.F.F. (Which isn't such a bad idea at that; it would give T.A.F.F. winners time for a much needed interlude for relaxation if they all composed their T.A.F.F. reports before elections.) Jerry Pournelle writes dryly on Thermonuclear War, which isn't much of a subject to start out with, but under Pournelle's care seems even more boring than it should be. Much of the material here is in-groupish, and unless you've spent some time with past CRY's it may be meaningless. Otherwise, it's a typically good issue.

## THE FANZINE FIELD

KIPPLE #38 (irregular, LoC, trade, 20¢ apiece, Ted Pauls, 1448 Meridene Drive, Baltimore 12, Maryland.) This zine is even more ingroupish than the others. Either you agree with Ted Pauls' opinions, or you don't. If you do, you will like KIPPLE, and if you don't you'll probably become annoyed with it, write an indignant letter which Ted will print, and be dissected by the loyal regulars of KIPPLE fandom. It's that sort of zine. For my own part, I agree with nearly all Ted says, even if I don't particularly care for the way he may say it or the seemingly deliberately vague and stylish writing style he often adopts. KIPPLE is very unfannish, and the tone of both the editorials and the letters is generally pensive and well thought out. It's more of an acquired taste than anything else, and if you don't get it try sampling the water before taking a plunge.

ALHABOR (irregular, no info on price, Per G. Olsen, Johan Hirsch vei 2, Manglerud, Oslo, Norway.) About all I can possibly comment on in this zine is the repro, which is uneven but generally readable. That is, you can see the words, but I doubt if you can read it any better than I can. The whole zine is printed in Norwegian, and it might as well be Sanskrit. Several tantalizing terms were identifiable, but most of it isn't. It has good artwork, anyway.

JACK HIGH #12 (irregular, trade, LoC, Phil Roberts, RR #1, Bronson, Michigan.) One of the comic book fandom's last holdouts, JH has gradually been loosening itself in gen-fandom while still maintaining a policy emphasizing humor and satire. As with most of the fanzines of this type, the comic strips and satires are generally mediocre, and the interviews and magazine news are usually quite good. I haven't read a copy of MAD in ages, but I can't believe it is quite as bad as some of these MAD-type cartoon strips that appear. I'm still an ardent devotee of EC's output, but as far as I'm concerned that output ended around 1957, and very little from EC since then has been worth mention. This current issue ranges from very good to very bad. Joe Pilati and I have columns, there's a comprehensive review of several ECs, an interesting interview with John Norment, and some adolescent, contrived satire that misses its mark. This also appears to be the final issue, the editor laments on the last page, and a newsheet will take its place.

MACH-1 #2 (irregular, Kris Carey, 1016 2nd Street, Wasco, California.) This is another zine that has been improving. The first issue had spotty repro and uninspired material. This issue features adequate repro, a handsomely arranged layout, and material that is both readable and good. Kris seems to have a certain reluctance for attempting anything too elaborate, which, perhaps, is to his credit. Ed Wood's fanzine reviews are always interesting, whether or not you may agree, and his comments on WARHOOM, while not original, certainly deserve saying. (Of course, anyone who dismisses LA DOLCE VITA as a "dreary bit of depravity" is not displaying much insight, and this remark does not enrage me to that person's judgment.) Wood is amusing, though; he is even more amusing when he is wrong than when he is right. Elsewhere, Tom Armistead struggles with trying to analyze a writer, and fails, Alan Dodd writes on aliens, I have a short story, and editor Carey reviews books. A fair lettercol rounds up the issue. #

# SPOTLITE on the PROS

by Bill Bowers

The Magazine of FANTASY and SCIENCE FICTION, June, 1963 - 40¢

Avram Davidson certainly has a wonderful fanzine here. What with page-long introductions to the stories and a letter column coming up in the next issue, one wonders what will happen next.

A varied magazine, this. The usual emphasis is on fantasy, to the detriment of "straight" science fiction. But it has been said that this is not entirely of the editor's choice; but based on the publishable stories submitted to him. At least, Davidson doesn't publish poor science fiction for the mere sake of publishing science fiction. Instead he publishes poor fantasy. There must be a moral in there somewhere.

\* \* \*

Poul Anderson is one of my favorite authors--most of the time. There are some of his stories that I simply can't stomach (for no explainable reason), but most of his stories I like, and some of them I like very much. "No Truce With Kings" falls into one of the latter two categories. I'm not quite sure now which--it'll require a re-reading. But regardless, it is a good story, one of the best published in F & SF (and indeed, the entire field) in recent months.

A few months back, Mr. Davidson mentioned that he wasn't interested in any "after-an-atomic-war" stories, but apparently either this one was purchased before that edict or can be considered to be the exception that proves the rule. In any event, it is a nicely written and easy to read story--nobody can accuse Poul Anderson of being illiterate. Then too, it is of sufficient length to be considered a story, rather than a piece of what I call "3,000 do-it-yourself junk," the type which dominate most of the prozines (including F & SF) these days.

So, as a story "No Truce With Kings" is a success in that it succeeded in giving me a few minutes of pleasurable reading. Whether or not Mr. Anderson has embedded in its framework some Message of Deep Significance, I'm not sure--and as you have probably guessed by now, I could not care less.

The story itself, as mentioned before, is set in the "after-atomic-war" situation, but not immediately thereafter. Rather, it is set a few hundred years after the event when things have settled down to a less chaotic, if not stable, world. The world is now comprised of numerous small (in relation to the US, USSR, etc.) political divisions, which have reached a rather confusing state of advanced feudalism mixed with a few "modern" mechanical devices--they have the knowledge but not the means--with a bit of psi mixed in just to keep the pot boiling.

One of the largest of these political entities happens to be the Pacific States of America, and "No Truce With Kings" concerns a futuristic civil war between two factions within this PSA. One believes that it is its manifest destiny to reunite the world (under its leader-

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PROS

ship, of course); the other faction believes that the retention of the current semi-feudal state of affairs is the safest, wisest course. Which side wins, you say. Read it--you may be surprised, and it is well worth your time.

\* \* \*

About Richard Matheson's "Tis the Season to Be Jelly," I can do no better than to quote Mr. Davidson's introduction: "This is one of the damndest stories (I) have ever read." Science fiction, fantasy, or neither? I really couldn't say. What it reminds me of is a family of radiation-ridden Beverly Hillbillies existing in some dimension lost even to the annals of the Twilight Zone. What you might think of it is beyond the comprehension of my feeble brain. You'd have to read this story (?) to believe its existence...and even then I wouldn't blame you if you didn't.

\* \* \*

All in all, the June F & SF is a slightly better than average issue, being dominated in length and quality by Poul Anderson's short novel, and covered by one of Emsh's lesser works. F & SF is still one of the better sf mags--not the best, but right now no one magazine regularly tops the others by any appreciable margin. #

EDITORIAL NOTE: Our two Ace Columnists suffer from the usual human vanity in desiring some sort of recognition. In spite of the fact FFF does not publish letters of comment, your criticism is always welcome. You may write directly to Bill Dowers, 3271 Shelhart Road, Barberton, Ohio; or to Mike Deckinger, 31 Carr Place, Fords, N. J. Or I will pass along comments.

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