

Haverings # 21

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In the past I have announced here that HAVERINGS is a fanzine of comments upon fanzines received by the editress. That the comments are just that and not intended to be reviews in the strict sense of the word.

Let, inevitably, I must criticise as everyone has their likes, dislikes and opinions and I am no exception.

So: perhaps I should state my prejudices!

I do not like amateur fiction unless it is extremely well done. I am not fond of the short story form even when done by professionals. I attribute this to a large a diet of magazine sf when young.

I get bored with Letter columns filled with comments on the previous issue of the fanzine; the kind of comment that can only be of interest to the loving editor.

I gag at mock Feghoots.

When the meaning escapes me at first reading..I don't have time to read it again.

I could live very happily without the majority of poetry that is published in fanzines.

So: if you want to know the value of fiction published in fanzines, for instance, remember that I am prejudiced on that point and turn to a proper reviewer like Robert Coulson..

Ethel Lindsay

1966

Feb. 1st

Deadwood: No 2: From: George Locke. A Fapazine. Apart from some sudden dives into pessimism - "George" I once said "if you were standing on a gold mine you'd complain of sore feet" "True, true" he admitted - George writes interestingly of his projected trip to the US. He then asks how many fans have been conned into publishing for some non-fannish club and proceeds to tell us what happened when he produced his gliding club's magazine. A sample of this proves that the gliding world is as ingroup-ish as fandom. Then George gives a fine description of the art of keeping discipline in class by the use of a well-thrown piece of chalk; as it is practised by your friend and mine..Ron Bennett. Let's hope a copy of this teacher-defense system wends its way to Felice Rolfe.

Feb. 3rd

Ankus: Nos 16, 16, 17: From: Bruce Pelz. A Fapazine. These are illustrated by Bruce's wife Dian. I particularly liked a dancing elephant that she drew the best I've seen since FANTASIA. Bruce himself writes in this very little; I'd like to see more of his own comments. The main item in all three issues is Walt Willis's Trip Report. Walt has such an observing eye; he can describe the American landscape in a way which makes the reader see it too. There is a hilarious episode in a Greyhound Bus Depot recounted with great humour. But it is Walt's quiet reflections upon the human scene that lifts this so high above the ordinary tale of a fan trip.

Spelobem: Nos 27, 28, 29: From Bruce Pelz: Also an apazine. There are more comments by Bruce in this lot; he writes well on the other apazines that he has received. The other item in these fanzines is Madeleine Willis's Trip Report. She is running ahead of Walt and is at San Francisco whilst he is still on the way there. They complement each other very nicely. Madeleine describes the people she meets well, and adds the type of observation that only a woman could make--'cos only a woman would notice! If ever these Trip Reports come out as an entity - they should be produced together. The last issue of this fanzine has an interesting item added - a copy of a UCLA newspaper featuring a scholarly article on Lovecraft.

Feb. 5th

G2: Vol 5, No 4: From: Joe and Roberta Gibson, 5330 Sobrante Ave, El Sobrante Calif. 94803. European Agent: Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hosp. Knaresborough, Yorks. 4/3/6 or 50¢. In the editorial Joe is calling me an old Taffer. Not so much of the old there Joe.. He has just started another story of the future in which present day fans are involved - very promising; I look forward to the next instalment. The letter column is as breezy as ever. One of my favourite zines.

Feb. 14th

Skyrack: No. No 85: From: Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate Yorkshire. US Agent: Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. 6 for 2/6d or 35¢. This comes with a TAFF flyer (Vote for Tom) and a Voting Form. News sails into Ron from all quarters - Mike Moorcock on the latest SF news - Harry Harrison as a Wedding Reporter (yes really!) Good short and snappy fanzine reviews from Ron. Always worth getting.

Haverings 3

Feb.16th

Hydra No 7:From:Peter Campbell,15 Wilson St.,Workington,Cumberland. 5/- per year or for Trade etc. This is a fanzine of the Hydra League. There is a listing of sf clubs and some non-sf as well. One is called The Church or Religion of Counting Blessings..which sounds weirder to me than anything sf. can dredge up. There is also a listing of people who want pen-pals. Lastly there is a couple of technical articles which are -to me-mercifully short.

Starling:No7:From:Hank Luttrell,Rt 13,2936 Barrett Station Rd.Kitwood Missouri 63122.25¢ or Trades etc. Hank has cut down his editorial -which seems a pity - as it was to make room for something called The Ballad of the Congoer by Richard Gordon. Gordon himself calls it "an account in dubious verse of the 1965 Worldcon". Dubious is the proper word alright; haven't seen so much bad verse since I last read MacGonagle. Much more to my taste(by the same writer)is an article called The Intellectual 'Invasion'. The intellectuals referred to are Aldiss,Ballard, and Vonnegut. You can either agree with this or disagree; certainly it is a statement guaranteed to start an argument anywhere. It may liven up the following issue's letter column. This lot badly . wants trimming. Joe Sanders writes on the Doc Savage stories. By praising them for what they are good at - adventure by proxy -he gives them their true worth without any condescension. A piece of short fiction by E.E.Evers leaves me with a crammed feeling. I have no inclination to disentangle such a jerky flow of ideas. In spite of my criticisms - a promising zine.

Feb.17th

Yandro:No 154:From Robert & Juanita Coulson,Route 3,Hartford City,Ind. 47348.British Agent:Alan Dodd,77 Stanstead Rd.Hoddesdon,Herts 30¢ or i/9 A remarks in Juanita's column tips me off to the fact that the poor soul thinks that once you've got over the childhood thrill of staying up after midnight - that's all there is to New Year's customs. Buck in his column runs down his choices for the 65 Hugos; and finishes up with the thought that new fans nowadays all seem to want to get into an apa instead of producing genzines. I agree with him in thinking this is a pity. YANDRO is never completely the same twice..Here we have John Berry describing a visit by Bob Bloch, Antonio Dupla on the subject of space stamps. A short, short article on KING KONG says nothing new. "On the Van where I Vogt" by Alex eisenstein, to the tune of "On the street where you live" is very clever. It leaves the reader, however, to make up the chorus. As if I haven't enough to do! Bil Bowers is also choosing his nominations for the Hugos and comes down strongly for DUNE by Frank Herbert. Buck's book reviews are again extremely good - example "If you like low-grade humor(and if you don't, why are you reading fanzines?)try a copy." Then there is his fanzine review column called STRANGE FRUIT where he disposes of the fanzines in a masterly style to make folks like me(pecking away at it..)feel inferior.

Feb.18th

Focal Point:Nos 18 & 19:From: rich brown and Mike McInery, 326 E.13th St Apt.7.New York.NY 10003.British Agent:Peter Singleton,Ward 2,Whittingham Hosp.Nr Preston.Lancs.12 for 7/- or \$1. Both rick and Mike give their

Haverings 4

addresses. I've only quoted Mike's. I would suggest respectfully to the editors that it would be a good idea to have one editorial address. By the time it is typed, and the overseas agents..that's enough, fellas! This newszine is again full of useful information to the actifan.

Feb. 22nd

effell: No 1: From: Charles Winstone, 71 George Rd. Erdington, Birmingham. 23. This is an official publication of the Birmingham Fanzine Foundation - also known as the Fanzine Library. No price quoted; but you can get a copy for the asking. Charles says this started when the BSFA Fanzine Library was transferred to them. I'm not clear as to whether the zines can be borrowed or not. Charles' idea is to list the British zines in this zine effell (at first I thought someone was making a horrible pun on my name); whilst US zines will go in another publication. Charles is obviously one of those dependable people who will compile properly and publish as he promises. This therefore is a worthy project..but one flaw! He is commenting upon the zines as he lists them - and I think his standard of reviewing leaves a great deal to be desired. As an example he thinks that BEM rates this - "This series of six Fanzines try so hard to be amusing and humorous, that it's embarrassing". Why I'd trade six of some of today's fanzines for one copy of good old BEM.....

Feb. 23rd

Birth of a Project: From George Locke, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Rd. London. SW1. This is for FAPA and "Collecting-type fans". So if you are the latter - write and ask him for a copy. George has an enormous collection of early sf and has now started to publish his lists. They start in 1634! Each book has a brief description of interest to even those who would not contemplate trying to have such a collection.

Feb. 24th

Tom Chats in the Dark: From Thomas Schlueck. This is an Ompazine, which is also combined with a letter to his friends. Tom is now a full-fledged banker; and is also doing some translation work. He tells a little of what is involved in translating books..and then goes on to discuss the art of translating in general (films etc). A nice glimpse into a fairly unknown area. I can remember when Tom first came into fandom he used to offer me articles. Now he's like every other hard-pressed fanzine-ed - trying to find enough time. But it's fun, isn't it Tom?

Mar. 2nd

Centro Culturale Science Fiction: This is an Italian fanzine. It came to me from Giampaolo Cossato, 5 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5. He seems to spend part of his time in Italy and part here. He attended the Worldcon in '65 and was at the latest Open Meeting of the SFCoL. Giampaolo tells us that there are hundreds of SF fans in Italy and that they have a very strong club membership. This is a very well-produced zine, printed and even with two colours. The main item that I can recognise is a report on SF in London by Frank Arnold. I can also spot a listing of fanzines from various countries. You will gather that the zine is entirely in Italian..should anyone out there have knowledge of this language - I think you might find this interesting and rewarding. And you may help to get Italian fandom into touch more with the rest of us. If they are

Haverings 5

all like Giampaolo..my goodness! At our first meeting he asked me to write out an account of the Loncon 11 for his fanzine. I did this and I am still wondering why - I could have sworn that I wouldn't have done such a chore even if my best friend had asked me!

Yandro:No 155:From:Robert & Juanita Coulson,address and rates as before. Juanita's column consists of a recital of "things that went wrong". I felt sympathetic; but still had to snigger at a remarks she makes after telling that Buck had to mend the mailbox. She says that the postman knocked it down --"He was honest enough to tell us so, but not generous enough to offer to stand there and hold it up from now on." In this issue, young Bruce Coulson has his first attempt at a column. Whilst he can't beat his elders yet; he has his Dad's idea of 'short and to the point' as the best way to communicate. I would say "poor little child" no wonder he sent me a card saying "Help! I am a prisoner in a fanzine factory" - only Buck keeps forgetting to say how old he is now. If he grows like Euan Peters, who seems to gallop at the rate of 2 to my 1(how I wish it were so),then there's no telling how old the tad is by now. I seem to have got myself side-tracked! A piece of short fiction by Robert E.Gilbert is intended to be funny and it is. I liked the critical analysis of Vonnegut by Alexei Panshin, the kind of criticism that adds to your reading pleasure. Another piece of fiction - I was put off by the use of the expression "the masses". One of the most enjoyable items -Buck's trenchant book reviews as is also his even more trenchant zine reviews. There is a serious look at anti-Americanism in Canada by Canadian fan Derek Nelson of interest to anyone concerned with why people think as they do. Rounding off is the letter column which tends to side-track me continually(I'll never get onto the next zine)as I mentally write letters of argument and rebuttal.

Mar.10th

Another One:No 3:From:Heinrich Arenz,6000 Frankfurt 1,Schliessfach 5002 For trades etc but no price. An Ompazine. Heinrich is full of enthusiasm for the idea of a Worldcon in Germany in 1970. Here also is the first European murmur against the Rotation Plan..it was bound to come. There are some short comments on the Loncon and on other Ompazines. One of the few German zines to come completely in English.

Mar.11th

Tightbeam:No 35:From:Janie Lamb,Route 1,Box 364,Heiskell.Tenn.37754.USA Consists entirely of letters from N3F members. The interest content varies a lot; some issues being better than others. This one is rather below par. To join the N3F and receive this send \$1.75 to Janie.

Xeron:No 2:From:John Quattromin & Michael Ashley,9 Shurland Ave.Sittingbourne.Kent. A Padszine.1/6 or 25¢. This zine features quite a lot of fiction. One couldn't complain of a lack of imagination in them; but they have all the faults of amateurs I'm afraid. Some with too large ideas for a short story; some with too few, all leave you feeling slightly breathless at the way they have been crammed together. I'm surprised to find Terry Jeeves in this company with a serial which(by this instalment) is pretty awful. Fan editors are far too indulgent when it comes to accepting fiction. I once chided a well-known editor for this and

Haverings 6

his reply was that I ought to see what he turns down. Looks like they all landed here - sorry fellas! There is a competent-looking checklist at the end of this zine.

Mar. 14th

Ergo-Sum:No 39:From:Paul Wyszowski,Box 3372,Station C.Ottawa 3.Ontario. Canada.6 pages packed with reflections by Paul, some well worth quoting-"Those who are self-sufficient and self-satisfied dare not remember that they are alone". From there Paul goes on to contemplate the universal misuse of Krushchov's "We'll bury you" to muse on the PLAYBOY philosophy; a dead child in Vietnam, love and poetry. And he does it all well proving that "guid gear" does "come in small bundles".

G2:Vol.5No5:From Joe and Roberta Gibson:Address and rates as before. Bang into Joe's editorial goes more 21st century ideas-all of them eminently sensible when you read his explanation. Joe is a little sneaky: he starts off a fanfiction story and then glides into a lecture on air(with diagrams) --before you know where you are you are reading about things like thermals. With a sigh, I turn to the letter column-let's face it if my friends like me it's not for my brains. I'm stopped by an illo of a nude; I can't decide if that's pubic hair or a muff I like the letter column very much, in fact it's one of my top favourites.

The Damned Patrol:No 1:From Joe Gibson again..this is the beginning of what looks like a lot of fun..an apa for aeroplane buffs. It seems as if some connection with aeroplanes; no matter how remote is the necessary ingredient to gain entry. I'll admit to being more interested in the people so far involved..and am wondering if having nursed RAF men will be too remote an ingredient!

Mar.16th

Riverside Quarterly:Vol2:No 1:From Leland Sapiro,Box 82 University Station Saskatoon,Canada. 35¢. A beautifully produced zine, one of the few which is printed. He does real justice to the illustrators, I highly admired the work of Charles Schneeman. This artist has illustrated "Chapters and Notes towards a Science Fiction Story" by Arthur Jean Cox. This is a very lively plot outline using astrology as if people were definite types according to their planets. A sword and sorcery atmosphere is induced; the illos are highly reminiscent of those seen in AMRA. I would have liked some explanation of it all from the editor--his purpose in publishing this; and if it is meant for eventual publication. Anyone interested in the technique of laying out a plot outline will enjoy this. Another item in this zine is the last part of Alexei Panshin's fullscale article on Heinlein titled "Heinlein in Perspective". Very scholarly, thoughtful, and well-researched. Highly recommended as surely the last word on the subject. Another long article in instalments is by Barbara Floyd, this is outlining "The Once and Future King". It is not doing much more than that - outlining it - perhaps there is more to come later. The editor writes on "The Evils of Banality". This harks back to the type of editorial which took an idea or opinion and dilated upon it. The last editor who was really good at this was Paul Enever. Leland takes con reports in zines and deals severely with them by quoting from some of them. You'll gather he has a low opinion of con reports; and I have to admit we've had some

Haverings 7

rather poor ones lately. Why do we read con reports? Well, why do I? I want to know about my friends for a start; and I'd like to know about the programme I missed. If, in addition, the writer can add to this by his awareness of the human scene from the microcosm of fandom, I'm exceedingly grateful. Leland says he thinks there has been only one good con report - by Walter Breen. It was good, but I'd also add to that Walt Willis's accounts of his US journeys; some very forthright word pictures by Ted White; and I think that John Berry's THE GOD GOES WEST is the best thing he's ever written. Con reports, like everything else, should not be judged by the worst examples. Leland writes me that he will exchange with other zines. His British agent is:- Graham Hall, 57 Church St. Tewkesbury.

I have just discovered that some of the zines had got out of place in my pile - which should be according to date received...which explains why I suddenly now cut back to -

Mar. 3rd.

A Checklist of SF?Fantasy & Supernatural Stories: Compiled by Ken Slater, Fantast Medway Ltd. 75 Norfolk St. Wisbech. Cambs. Price 7s6d. This price also includes the supplements which will be issued from time to time. An extremely valuable service to all fans.

Mar 8th

Anabis:No 16: From: Reinhard Hirschberger, 10001 Berlin 12, Següterstr. 49. Germany. Wrestling with my poor German - this seems to be another group effort, but letters to the above. It is a good-sized offering and all in German. There is some effective artwork from Peter Krüger. With this also comes -

Coeurl:No 8: They are both put out by the SF Club of Berlin. If you wish to sub send the equivalent of 10DM to Horst Christiani, 1 Berlin 41, Lefèvrestr. 30. They also wish to exchange zines. Whenever I cast my eyes down the columns of zine reviews in these German zines I am awed to realise that they have so many of them that, for so long, we had never heard about. I'm sorry, G erfans, that I cannot do justice to what you send me - but my German ist sehr arm.

Link:No 5: From: Beryl Mercer, 1st Floor Flat, "Rosehill", 2 Cotham Park S. Bristol 6.1/6d. A Padszine. Single subs only. In this there is a piece of fiction by Michael Ashley that baffles me completely; I haven't the faintest idea what is his intention. Next comes the letter column which is devoted mainly to comments on the last issue, all very trivial. I must quote one comment - "It's not a bad story, though there's nothing in it to hold the reader's interest."..I found myself interested, however, in an article on Quasars by Graham Boak. Another interesting article is by Tony Walsh on the subject of wine-making; I could have gladly read more. A lot of this zine is devoted to humour; it's not the kind that makes me laugh - but it may very well suit you, so don't let me put you off. At that, there is one piece by Archie Mercer which I liked. Archie has the knack of being zany without being arch.

Mar. 9th

Tolkien Journal:V2.No1: From: Dick Plotz (Tolkien Society of America) 159

Haverings 8

Marlborough Rd, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226. Quarterly. I can't see a price quoted. The first thing I learn from this is a new word. "Mythopoetic" fiction describes the works of Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Peake, etc. A must, no doubt, for the mythopoetic fan.

Zenith Speculation: Vol. No 12: From Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Cresc. Northfields Birmingham 31. 2/- each. Trades by arrangement. I've had a letter from Peter rebuking me for calling him Peter instead of Pete. No harm meant- I just read off what is on the contents page. In this issue a part of the large-scale work done on Heinlein by Alexei Panshin is produced. I'm glad to see it covers Heinlein's non-fiction output; as it describes the extraordinary advertisement he once ran in his local paper. From what I read here, there is hope yet that Panshin will have this all published as a book. In the last issue, Joe Patrizio had a critical essay on Ballard. In this issue there is an answer to it by Mike Moorcock. Mike writes, reasonably, that Joe has been missing Ballard's meaning by not comprehending (or not being interested in) the subject of metaphysics. It is obvious once we get into a discussion of the metaphysical meaning of Ballard - that there are shoals ahead! Maybe I could perform a helpful public service by quoting from my dictionary the meaning of metaphysics (just to refresh all your memories of course)... Metaphysics:-- Abstract philosophy dealing with problems of being, of absolute nature and of ultimate causes..... Maybe Joe ought to arm himself by reading up on semantics now that I notice that ominous word -abstract. Whenever it comes to the philosophers I remember the tag.. "about it and about, but evermore came out by the same door as in I went." This is another zine with the good idea of the editor discussing his choices for a HUGO. Very useful. Richard Gordon writes the kind of review for Philip K. Dick that makes the reader want to go out and buy. The Mercers give their double-barrelled review this time to DUNE WORLD, a real service as it is sure to go on the HUGO ballot. There are many other reviews like this too numerous to mention. This is one zine that is devoted to SF and presents the material in a highly readable manner. I am also most impressed at the amount of advertising that it now carries. Highly recommended.

Mar. 18th

Future Tense: No 2:

Ikarus

Peter's Pride: No 2: From: Bernhard BtBmann, 44 Münster/W Morbertstrabe. Germany. These zines are in German. The only part that is in English says TOM FOR TAFF. They would be great for me to practise on if I were not still at the stage of grappling with the problem of how to put "Are you doing it yourself?" into German.

Dynatron: No 27: From Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico- who says "We have a British Agent. I think our Agent is Ethel Lindsay. I'm about certain the Agent isn't double oh seven so it must be Ethel Lindsay. Yes. Besides she's prettier than double oh seven: I am also very vain and can never resist quoting something like this. 20¢ or Trades etc. This is the kind of zine that -to me- doesn't come out often enough. Roy describes a short spell of gafia that had him in its grip. Gafia is like the common cold; all you can do is wait until it goes away. As a change from reviewing currant bad sf, Les 3 sample reviews

Haverings 9

some bad old SF-by Ray Cummings. I don't know why he bothered. There is more interesting SF talk later on from Buck Coulson and Richard Mann. Best of all though is the letter column. In this there is more SF discussion but many other topics are ranged over also. Roy's own interjections are half the fun of this column. One letter-writer's remark.."Was there a President from 1952 to 1960?" gets the answer from Roy of..."Well, Ralph Holland was President of the M3F." One of my favourite zines..why don't you all sub to it, so that I can take the money and go out and buy a lamp for Roy's wife? Chrystal collects oil-lamps.

Catalogue of SF and Fantasy:From:Fantast Medway Ltd.75 Norfolk St Wisbech Cambs. This comes plus SF news from KFS which includes the news that ACE has now settled their difference with Tolkien and "a sizeable payment has been made". So, as KFS says -"Will everyone please down weapons?". I note that you can buy 'The Proceedings' of the Discon and Chicon III through Fantast Medway. Another useful item available is Whitakers "Paperbacks in Print".

Mar.22nd

Focal Point:No 20:From:Mike McNery(326 E.13th St.Apt 7.NY.NY10003)and rich brown(236 Mulberry St.Apt 12.NY.NY.10012)3/25.Overseas Agent:Peter Singleton,Ward 2,Whittingham Hosp.Mr Preston.Lancs.12/7shillings. Now - that must be the longest address etc in this Haver..Wish these guys would use only one address. Oh yes, and it's available for news and trades. News from F.P. and then a rider a Nomination ballot for the HUGOS.Next FAN NOISE from Gary Deindorfer, this is stapled in with F.P. It's pretty light-weight stuff and hardly justifies the separate title. But the news in F.P. is always useful.

Mar.26th

Early Bird:From Michel Feron,7 Grand-Place,Hannut,Belgium. This is the first issue of a newszine published in both French and English. At the moment confined to SF news but perhaps it will branch out later. A good idea and very welcome.

Mar.30th

Auslander:Nos 1& 2:From:Ed Cox, 14524 Filmore,Arleta,Calif.91332.USA and Dave Hulan,Box 422,Tarzana,Calif.91356.20¢.Subs and letters to Ed,art and written material to Dave. This comes from the LA area and announces via the two editorials that SHAGGY has now given up the ghost. Very sad that. However, the two editors mean this to fill in the gap and they are also publishing because they feel there is a dearth of genzines. Too many new fans come into fandom and head straight for the apas, they say, and I agree with them on that. Contents are promising, fine book reviews in the old SHAGGY tradition, and articles on a wide interest range. Robert Coulson writes on Elron Hubbard. Ed Cox discusses the HUGO awards and also suggests that the 'World' conventions held in the US should now have their proper name of 'National'. That's the second time in one issue of HAVER that I have spotted this idea being voiced. Ed wants to change and widen the voting for the HUGOs; but he's very vague as to details. There is an ironic peice of fiction from Richard Hulan which I liked; and Ron Ellik's review of LET'S KILL UNCLE made it sound promising reading. The second issue features a "Blast Off" department for fans; and Felice Rolf takes the stand by blasting off at objections to communal living as something

Haverings 10

that would depersonalise one. "The name is not the man, remember" he says. The other new department is a fanzine review column by Dian Pelz. As in the first issue, the book reviews are excellent. Roy Tackett writes amusingly of watching an old Tarzan film on TV. There is a letter column full of discussion of the HUGO and 'World' con subjects. Yes, this zine will most certainly fill the gap left by SHAGGY, and is highly welcome for that.

I still have twenty copies left of THE LINDSAY REPORT, an account of my experiences as TAFF Delegate to the Chicon III. This was written in blood, sweat, and sheer guts...I've never worked so hard on anything in all my life. Why not buy to see if it was worth all that effort? It costs \$1 or 7/6d and all proceeds go to TAFF.

SCOTTISHE is a quarterly genzine also published by Ethel Lindsay. Four for \$1 or 7/6d.