

# LEFTOVERS

#3

Brocklyn, New York

8 December 1967

## THIS MAY REQUIRE AN EXPLANATION

The approximately 300 people to whom LEFTOVERS #1 was mailed in October read there-in that LEFTOVERS #2 would appear over the Christmas holidays. It would be a rather thick 'zine, incorporating articles and letters originally intended for KNOWABLE and POINTING VECTOR.

So what is LEFTOVERS #3 doing, appearing as a one-sheet 'zine two weeks in advance of the publication schedule announced for #2?

Well, it seems that there are several items that need to be announced to various people, and this is as good a means as any of doing it. LEFTOVERS #3 is being handed out at New York fan meetings, and will also be mailed to people who will be affected by or interested in any of the news in it.

The colophon number will also surprise a few regular readers of OPERATION AGITATION publications. The last colophon number to come out here was #350 - so why #235? Well, through an oversight the reason for which escapes me, no publication ever received the number #235 (see KNOWABLE #10, p. 12.) Since LEFTOVERS #3 is for cleaning up a lot of unfinished and pending business, this number will also be used in the clean-up.

(While I'm on the subject, copies of KNOWABLE #10 are still available for 25¢. It's a science-fiction fanzine, with an article on Fritz Leiber's Change-war stories, a review of the de Camps' Spirits, Stars, and Spells, a discussion of a pseudo-scientific theory, and an assortment of letters, poetry, and fiction. Your editor is more than a little pleased to announce that the article on Leiber was translated into French and reprinted by the Belgian fan Michel Feron - my first such appearance in a foreign language.)

First, the FISTFA (Fannish & Insurgent ScientiFictional Association) meeting of Friday 22 December 1967 will be held at our home in Brooklyn. Aside from this change in location, it will be the same, informal, BYOB sort of thing as other FISTFA meetings. Take the 'F' train into Brooklyn, and get off at the 15th Street - Prospect Park stop. (That's the second stop after the train resumes underground operation following a brief open-air passage across the Gowanus Canal.) If you arrive by 8:30 and an elderly and crochety TV set is working, we'll have Star Trek on.

Second, STROBECK subscribers should not give up hope on that chess fanzine. The response to this publication has not been sufficient to justify further publication, so it will be terminated with the 3rd issue. This issue will be out sometime early next year, and will contain solutions to the problems posed in #2, as well as George Heap's article on the King-Princess endgame. The unexpired balances of all subscriptions will be refunded at that time. In the meantime, the 1st and 2nd issues of STROBECK are available at 25¢ each.

Third, club news. The science-fiction fan clubs at C. C. N. Y. and Columbia seem to have become defunct with the graduations of Elliot Shorter and Fred Lerner respectively. However, there place is being supplied by two new organizations.

One of these new clubs will have its founding meeting at the home of Estelle Sanders on Long Island on the evening of Saturday 16 December 1967. Subsequent meetings will take place on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The new club is envisaged as a Long Island affiliate of the Lunarians. To get to the Sanders home, drive east on the Southern State Parkway and leave at Exit 303. Go right for 1 mile past 2 schools to your right. The address is Apartment G-11, Grover House, 131 Edmondton St. For information call 516-537-3723.

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# 235

The other new club, which has already held several meetings, deals principally with fantasy insofar as it can be distinguished from science-fiction. For details contact Fred Phillips, 1278 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N. Y. 10456.

Fourth, readers are strongly recommended to read one new book, and to avoid another. Dick Lupoff, a great name in Burroughs scholarship, has just had his first work of fiction published by Lancer: One Million Centuries. It is an adventure story in the classical tradition: Put the hero at Point A and obligate him to get to Point B. The hero, an American Negro airman named Robert Parker, is forced down in an Antarctic blizzard and apparently frozen to death. But he awakes - one million centuries later - in a subtropical Antarctica which the shifting of the Earth's crust on its mantle has moved into a zone of even, moderate temperatures.

In this warm Antarctica, Parker finds three cultures - one similar to the stockaded settlements of the American frontier, one which is a grim ideological dictatorship compounded from Calvin's Geneva and Mao's China, and one, isolated within the hollow of a huge extinct volcano, which is nothing less than a civilization of hippies. Parker experiences the good and bad points of all three - though there is little good to be said for the dictatorship - and concludes that there is no way of returning to his own times. Details of the three cultures are convincingly given, and yet there is none of the preachment which characterizes such other novels of this genre as Holberg's Niels Klim or John's The Fabulous Journey of Hieronymus Meeker. The characterizations are excellent, the adventures gripping, and the narrative compelling.

By contrast, just about every defect of which fiction is capable is contained in Mark S. Geston's Lords of the Starship (Ace). Most fans will grant that the line between science-fiction and fantasy is a hard one to draw, and no one will object to a time-travelling vampire (Frederic Brown, "Blood") or an ironless spaceship built by elves (Poul Anderson, "Interloper"). But when hard-science and magic both play major roles in the plot, something in the reader's sense of proportion is outraged. A TV antenna on the highest turret of Minas Tirith, or R. Daneel Olivaw solving a crime by raising the victim's ghost would be decidedly jarring elements.

Yet the whole plot-fabric of Lords of the Star-Ship is composed of such things. A Machiavellian scheme to give a nation a sense of purpose, which involves the reactivation of a long-dormant space-shipyard and the spanning of a continent with power lines is in itself believable. Yet when a Dark Power, resembling a third Xerox copy of Sauron, is hiding behind the scenes, the willing suspension of disbelief is hung very high indeed. And when long-dead corpses rise up, take the sword, and smite the living, while behind everything this Dark Power manipulates everybody, a strong inclination is produced to hurl the book down the nearest Credibility Gap.

Fifth, we wish to send our best wishes for a pleasant Caribbean cruise to George and Sherry Heap, at whose bon voyage party this evening copies of LEFTOVERS #3 will be distributed.

Sixth, we wish to extend best wishes of the season to all our friends - whether they call the season Christmas, Chanukah, New Year's, Hogmanay, the Rebirth of the Sun, Mithra's Birthday, or the Feast of the Wheel. Considering what the U. S. government is currently up to in Vietnam, we want also to wish our readers a New Year.

(Preferably we wish them a Happy New Year, but we hope at least that we all get a New Year of some kind.)

Seventh, beginning with GRAUSTARK #146 (16 December 1967), that fortnightly bulletin of postal Diplomacy will begin a 3-part series of editorials entitled "War Games and the Game of War". Subscriptions to GRAUSTARK, which also carries 4 games of postal Diplomacy, are 10 issues for \$1. The three issues with this series will be 25¢ in all.

LEFTOVERS is published from time to time by John and Perdita Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218. (For the benefit of FISTFA members, this is 2½ blocks towards the park on 16th Street from the subway stop. If you get lost and want directions, call HY 9-7686.) This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

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SUPPORT OUR BOYS IN VIETNAM - BUT NOT SIX TO A BOX! BRING THEM BACK ALIVE!