

nibblings

This column is usually found in my other zine SCOTTISHE. In my ordinary schedule this would be appearing about now. However, this is not an ordinary year for SCOT. As it was its 15th year of publication, I celebrated with a large anniversary issue..No 55. This is still selling quietly and I will not be putting out another issue until September. The problem remained of the books due for review, it seemed unfair to make them wait until such a long time. So I determined to put this out as an addition to the latest HAVERING. Due to this some people will be getting HAVER who usually only receive SCOT. This will make no difference to their SCOT subscriptions.



DOBSON SF

Junk Day:by Arthur Sellings.25s.This novel was published after the early and untimely death of the author. It all takes place in London after a holocaust which has reduced the land to rubble. Bryan, picking his way through the ruins falls through into a cellar and so meets Vee. Bryan the artist, and Vee who had been a novice in a convent set off to make a life together. Then they find the junk society which had grown up around the ruins of Portobello Road. Anyone who has visited this fascinating place will appreciate that this might very well happen. They find that it is ruled by a man called Barney. In a way this story moves slowly. The author has been more interested in examining human values, and certain ways of life, than in producing an adventure story. Interesting, if rather downbeat.

Danger From Vega:by John Racham.21s. In contrast this one has plenty of adventure. We follow the fortunes of Jeremy who has changed places with Gerald so that he could go off to join the war against the Vegans. Apart from plenty of action; there is an interesting culture to be examined. In this only the men have been taken over by aliens..and the women's reaction to this has shaped the culture.

New Writings in SF.No 17:Edited by John Carnell:21s.This maintains the steady excellence of the series. The first story MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH is by H.A.Hargreaves and is worth the price alone. It is set in the future when students are taught by professors who take full advantage of the television media. It has now progressed to the point where he can take classes all over the country and be able to cut students in so that they may discuss the points he makes. Alan Hamilton is a Senior Lecturer whose subject is Shakespear. He is able to demonstrate the points he makes by the use of a unit of actors. The story concerns the people of the unit and the effect upon them of a student with para-normal ability. The rest of the stories are rather anti-climax.

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ASPECT OF ENVIRONMENT by J. Davison is a fairly stark picture of a happening in space. SOUL SURVIVORS by Lee Building shows an old man with his memories in an age when it is possible to make those memories appear real. DEATH AND THE SENSPERIENCE POET by Joseph Green has a poet on an alien planet discovering what he really thinks about death. TWO RIVERS by R.W. Mackelworth and THE HERO by Ernest Hill plus THE TRUE WORTH OF RUTH VILLIERS by Michael G. Coney have all rather a melancholy air. However, as Carnell says... "Life isn't all sweetness and life, even though it is exciting most of the time."

Rapp & Whiting SF Books

Decision At Doona: by Anne McCaffrey. This future Earth is vastly over-crowded and the author starts with a vivid picture of what this might feel like to someone who was not reconciled to the conditions. Kenneth Reeve and his family are such people and they can hardly believe their luck when they are chosen to go to the planet DOONA as colonists. Not long after their arrival they find that there are aliens also on the planet. According to the rules this means that they cannot stay. How they tackle this problem, the meetings with the aliens, and in particular the experiences of one very unruly child, makes a highly readable story. I did not find it quite up to the standard of this author; but it is always interesting to see the female viewpoint of an SF idea.

28s

Ubik: by Philip K. Dick. 28s. One can trust this author to come up with something different; and this book is no exception. There is a world where it has been discovered that people do not die completely but have a 'half-life' for some time in which they can be contacted by the living. This is the ordinary background. In the foreground is Chip who works for Runciter Associates. He becomes involved with a crew of telepaths and inertials (those who can nullify a telepath) who are all to work on a major project. At an early meeting there is sabotage and an explosion kills Runciter. From then on Chip moves through a confusing and nightmare adventure where he receives warnings from the dead man in sky-writing, traffic tickets, match-book covers, tv commercials..and the key word is UBIK. Chip has never heard of it before; but until he understands its significance he has many a weird experience. This is one that kept me guessing and I know I will be re-reading it one of these days. Not, I should think everyone's taste, but those who like the work of this author, always an original, will not be disappointed.

The Santaroga Barrier: by Frank Herbert. 28s. This is the kind of SF story I like it has a central puzzle at which I can try to guess. When an SF story has an element of the mystery story added I always accept it as a bonus. In the mystery field, however, all must be explained at the end. In SF this does not always apply and here I am left wondering about a few details never explained. Still: it is an absorbing story. Santaroga is a small town in California which has something odd about it. People never seem to leave and do not welcome outsiders in any way. One outsider, Dasein, comes to town to seek a college girl-friend - Jenny who has told him she cannot leave. Dasein finds himself welcomed in the town as a friend of Jenny's; but also repulsed as an outsider. The longer he stays in the town, the more he finds that it is dangerous to his life to do so. As he nears the heart of the mystery he realises that even the Santarogans themselves do not know all the answers. A very intriguing book.

Holding Your Eight Hands: Edited by Edward Lucie-Smith: An Anthology of Science Fiction Verse. Casebound 30s. Limp bound. 12s6d.

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The title of this book of poems is taken from one by Adrian Henri...

"sitting
holding your eight hands
on the bank of the dry red canal"

The editor maintains that the poet has been searching for new horizons and has found them in the SF sphere. This column, therefore, does not contain the sort of poetry as seen in THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH; but rather that found in the pages of NEW WORLDS. The editor states that he has chosen poems that would not look out of place in an SF magazine. All of them would look at home in NW; but I'm doubtful if they would fit into, say, ASTOUNDING. Mind you there are plenty fanzines that would welcome them gladly. Yet there are some that would be at home anywhere, notably those by Brian Aldiss and John Brunner. I guess I liked about half the poems here, particularly two by Thomas Disch. As poetry is such a very personal thing, I should imagine that is about par. I doubt if any SF enthusiast could go through this column, which has a generous amount of selections, without finding a group he will like.

Nightfall, 20 SF Stories: by Isaac Asimov: 35s A very handsome collection of stories by this always entertaining author. Each one is prefaced by his remarks upon the story which adds to the interest. The date and place of the story's appearance is also given. The first, NIGHTFALL, was published in 1941, and Asimov discusses the fact that this has become an SF classic -which rather puzzles him. It may be that this story strikes a chord in us all; for who has never felt a stir of fear in the dark? The stories have been collected from all the SF magazines and range right up into the 1960s. I think they might all fairly be called SF classics told by a master story-teller. The stories included are - Green Patches....Hostess...Breedes There A Man?.....C-Cute...In A Good Cause...What If-....Sally...Flies...Nobody Here But-....It's Such A Beautiful Day...Strikebreaker...Insert Knob A in Hole B.....The Up-To-Date Sorcerer...Unto The Fourth Generation...What Is This Thing Called Love?...The Machine That Won The War...My Son, The Physicist...Eyes Do More Than See.....and....Segregationist.

Vision Of Tomorrow: No 10:5/- per copy. The production of this magazine continues to be handsome. The lead story is by Lee Harding -ECHOES OF ARMAGEDDON There is a trick to this one which I don't think I'll give away; having just read some rather bitter remarks by Bob Tucker about a reviewer who did just that! I enjoyed it, at all events, for I like to be kept guessing. John Brunner surprised me with FAIRY TALE: as it is literally about fairies! Chris Priest has NOTHING LIKE THE SUN -rather grisly! THE DARK CORNERS by Robert J. Tilley treats telepathy as something to be feared; and makes a good story of it. Apart from the fiction, and I have not covered them all, there are the usual departments, plus an article by E.C.Tubb on the subject of SF. An added bonus is the beginning of a series by John Baxter on SF in the cinema.

ACE PAPERBACKS

Men on the Moon: Edited by Donald A. Wollheim. 52470/60s. This is aimed at people who have had their interest in SF stimulated by the moon-walk. It contains 5 stories: OPERATION PUMICE-how we flew to the moon by R.Z. Gallun; JETSAM-how we landed on it by A. Bertram Chandler; THE RELUCTANT HEROES - how we settled there by Frank M. Robinson; MOONWALK-what we saw around us by H.B. Fyfe; KEYHOLE-the surprise that awaited us by Murray Leinster. With the exception of the first story which was published in 1949, all these were published in the 1950s. Thus the dyed-in-the-wool SF reader can compare these stories with actualities. I do not think the stories suffer. A good third of the book is taken up by SF writers invited to comment upon the plaque which was left on the moon. A timely book.

The Yellow Fraction: by Rex Gordon. 94350/60s. I enjoyed this very much due to good characterisation. It was nearly spoilt by the insertions of official documents..how male authors love this device! The planet Acron has been colonised from Earth; and there are now three parties. The Blue Party says: "Let's change people to fit this world". The Green Party says: "Let's change the world to suit humanity". But the Yellows say; "Let's drop the whole thing and go somewhere else". As a member of the Yellows, Len Thomas has an interesting time!

The Time Trap Gambit: by Larry Maddock. 01043/75s. This is an Agent of T.E.R.R.A. novel and the first I have read. Back into the age of Hannibal goes the agent in an effort to prevent history being distorted by unscrupulous men. Adventurous stuff told with humour.

Invasion From Space: by Walter Ernsting and Kurt Mahr. 65973/75s. The 4th Perry Rhodan story has an interesting start as a man quietly fishing is taken over by an alien. Ranged against this menace is Perry and his Mutant Corp. I send all these to my nephew who just loves them.

Almutic: by Robert E. Howard. 01750/60s. Originally serialised in WEIRD TALES in 1939, this edition deserves a place on the bookshelf of any serious SF fan. From these imaginative beginnings of life on another planet comes a whole stream of novels that take the predicament of a man alone in a strange culture.

The Best From Fantasy & SF. 15th Series: Edited by Edward L. Ferman. 05454/75s. 14 stories and 3 poems might lead one to expect very short, short stories. However the first THE DOORS OF HIS FACE, THE LAMPS OF HIS MOUTH by Roger Zelazny is of a respectable length. It is the tale of a "baitman" who has as long a hunt and as an obsessive a one as the hunter in MOBY DICK. It is told with all of Zelazny's verve. The other story I especially liked was Fritz Leiber's FOUR GHOSTS IN HAMLET. I always enjoy a plot set in a theatrical background and a touring company in a small-town theatre with a "supernatural" smell" is something I cannot resist. Zenna Henderson has an enjoyable "people" story; on the whole this is a very good selection, well mixed.

Fourth Mansion: by R.A. Lafferty. 24590/75s. It is quite impossible to put this book into a category. I feel the only thing I could safely say is I think Lafferty must be Irish alright! Sometimes it reminded me of a wild Irish myth; and often the dialogue has a lilt in it. There is complete mastery,

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of an incredibly complicated plot. All winds its way to the end; but then the end demands as many questions as the beginning. It contains some extraordinary characters, not least the protagonist Freddy who started off with "very good eyes but simple brains"; and who ends up as the one who may take poor humanity into the "Fifth Mansion". Do read this one!

The Anything Tree: by John Rackham and The Winds of Darkover by Marion Zimmer Bradley. 89250/75¢. I know I've said it before--but I do think Rackham improves with every publication. The story is of Selena who reaches a planet where she meets the only inhabitant, Joe, and begins to realise she has found the planet of the legendary Anything Tree. How these two are affected by their encounter with the Tree; and how it affects the villains who have pursued them is a very original story. In the second half of this double I made my first acquaintance with the planet of Darkover. Very taut story line with good reader involvement in the character of Dan who has his mind taken over by a man desperate to save his house and family. I can see why this is a popular series; the planet of Darkover lends itself to many an adventurous tale.

Phoenix Ship: by Walt & Leigh Richmond and Earthrim by Nick Kamen. 66160/75¢. In the first half of this Double, Dustin is at a school where he is being taught in an unusual fashion without completely realising that it is another man's memories that is helping him. From school he runs away to the Asteroid Belt and into even more intrigue. Rather a boy's adventure yarn. EARTHIM was more enjoyable being less predictable. The character of the man Standard is interesting. He has a steel arm that is a weapon; and he does not know the key that will trigger the weapon. It was also refreshing to have a hero who does not possess all the virtues and shows himself as less than lily-white.

The Steel Crocodile: by D.G. Compton. Ace Special. It is a pleasure to read an SF book that places all its emphasis upon people--the two main characters, Abigail and Mathew have a complex relationship even before they face the problem of living at the Colindale Institute Computer Centre. They live in a Britain which has a Civil Liberties Committee; one of whose members asks Matthew to spy for them at Colindale. Unsure of whether he wants to do this or not--he takes the post and soon finds that his predecessor had been murdered. The puzzle of what lies behind the secret work of the computer is well plotted and makes it a book hard to put down. While all the main interest can be focused on the characters and the puzzle; still the background of a Britain of the future is brilliantly shaded in to explain the wellsprings of the action.

The Weapon Shops of Isher: by A.E. Van Vogt. 87855/60¢. Undoubtedly another one for the classic SF shelf..and it is good fun to read..and the ending is a really stupendous finish in every sense of the phrase.

The War Against The Rull: by A.E. Van Vogt. 87180/75¢. The Rull is not only alien but is able to take any shape ..and this is the enemy facing mankind. Not a new theme, hmm? It was a lot newer when this was written and so worth reading.

The Pnume: by Jack Vance: 66902/60¢. This is No 4 in the Planet of Adventure series, The Pnume were the historians of the planet Tschai and they are interested in collecting Adam Keith as an exhibit for their museum. More

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More risks for Reith and well up to the standard of this series.

The Mercy Men:by Alan E.Nourse:52560/60¢. Very interesting idea for the background of this future - physical ills are no longer a worry - the rise in mental illness is a desperate one. Hence the Mercy Men, medical mercenaries who sell their brains to science in the hope that they can survive and return with a fortune. Jeff, suffers from a blank in his memory and an obsession to find the man he believes killed his father. He follows the man into the Mercy Centre and this begins a real puzzle for the reader to unsnarl. As the blurb says.."a real brain twister."

And Chaos Died:by Joanna Russ:02268/&5¢. Ace Special. Jai Vedh is castaway on a planet with, apparently, human inhabitants. Descendants of a colony they have developed mutant powers. This is not just another psi story, however, the author attempts to tell what it is like to experience such phenomena and uses great imagery and good writing to achieve her object.

The Phoenix And The Mirror:by Avram Davidson.66100/75¢. This centres round Virgil Magus and is the start of a series. Definitely one for the fantasy fan. Basically this is the tale of a search by Virgil for a Princess through various dangers; uses all the author's skill with words. Set in an other world with echoes of our own. Here magic works, in fantasy it always does. Not my brew. Ace Special.

After Things Fell Apart:by Ron Goulart.00950/75¢. This is much more to my taste. It postulates an America after an unsuccessful invasion and is placed fairly far in the future. It has solid reality about it; I kept thinking that this is very well how it may be. The essential story is of Haley who is an agent set to discover who is behind a series of murders by someone called Lady Day. His search takes him through a California that is not only suffering from a series of earthquakes; but whose culture has been shaken loose in a fascinating pattern. In many ways this is a grim future; but told with so much wit I often fell to giggling. Highly recommended. Ace Special.

The Blind Worm:by Brian Stableford and Seed Of The Dreamers:by Emil Petaja 06707/75¢. Ace Double. In The Blind Worm, Earth's future has the oceans dried up and the inhabitants mutated. There is also an entity known as the Wildlife, and Earth is controlled by a hive mind. Readable but not, to me believable. Plenty of adventure rules Seed of the Dreamers in which Brad Mantree, agent of Star Control, is whirled from a routine mission into a chase after his stolen ship.

Gallagher's Glacier and Positive Charge: both by Walt and Leigh Richmond 27235/75¢. Ace Double. One half of this double is novel length, the other consists of short stories. Most of the interest is focused on technical matters, characterisation is subordinate.

Tigers and Traitors:by Jules Verne.80900/60¢. This is a sequel to THE DEMON OF CAWNPORE. Again set in India where Colonel Munro heads a band of men undertaking a tour with Behemoth a traction-engine in the form of a gigantic elephant. These books are mounting up into an attractive edition of the works of Verne.

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The Vega Sector: by K.H.Scheer & Kurt Mahr. 65974/75¢. No 5 in the Perry Rhodan series. Perry ranges further afield now into the Vega sector where he finds a race of humanlike beings who are being destroyed by a reptilian race. Naturally he joins in the fight and so produces another adventure for his admirers.

The Far-Out Worlds of A.E.Van Vogt: 22811/75¢. This is the first collection from this author in 15 years. He has lost none of his touch for holding reader interest. I liked the first story best which tells of Matlin the man who stirs up a whole lot of trouble for himself by killing a 'monster'. Matlin is a very surly character, but I ended up liking him.

Gullivar of Mars: by Edwin L.Arnold. 30600/60¢. First published in 1905 and some experts think it may have inspired the Barsoom books. Certainly has all the ingredients..ruined cities, a Princess to be rescued. A good one for the fans of Burroughs.

England Swings SF: Edited by Judith Merrill. 20670/\$1.25. In my review of the hard-cover edition I said that once I had stopped laughing at the title I enjoyed a great deal of the contents. Not all, of course, for this is the 'New Wave' and some of it was just too wavy for me. Still; unless you have read at least some of this you are in no position to argue about the phenomena. Thicker than usual so it deserves the price. Contains Aldiss, Ballard, Moorcock, Disch, Roberts and Platt.

The Jester At Scar: by E.C.Tunn and To Venus! To Venus!: by David Grinnell. 81610/75¢. Ace Double. The Tubb half is a further adventure of Dumarest the man who is searching for his home planet, Earth, in a galaxy that has never heard of it. The planet Scar is a nasty one, containing many poisonous spores and one golden spore which holds great wealth. Characterisation is given as much attention as adventure in this half. The halftime Grinnell has three astronauts meeting up with a manned Russian probe. If you liked MAROONED you will like this one.

High Sorcery: by Andre Norton. 33700/60¢. Craike is a man who is being hunted by an 'espcr' slave when a desperate plunge takes him into another world. He finds just as much excitement there after meeting Tamisen. She is an 'action dreamer' who can take others into her dreams. Plenty action and magic.

This Immortal: by Roger Zelazny. 30691/60¢. On this my second reading I found this story even more enjoyable. I had more time to enjoy the background to the story of the man who says "Just call me Conrad!" Told in the first person it describes how Conrad is chosen to guide a Vegan Ambassador around a shattered Earth. Masterly writing, vivid characterisation, lively dialogue..great!

The Year Of The Quiet Sun: by Wilson Tucker. 94200/75¢. Ace Special. Fundementally a time story of three men who move into the future. Seen through the eyes of one of them, Chaney. At first I began to be a bit impatient for the men to get into the machine and go..but the author has his sights on more than routine time-adventure. The plot is laid carefully to take full recognition of today's stresses - and how a time-machine might make a difference. Blurb says "A very personal novel of Armageddon" and this is a good description. I kept being surprised right up to the end.

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The Arlantic Abomination: by John Brunner. 0330/60¢. A horror story..alien monstosity which can take over men by the use of pain-waves and make them slaves. Left re-working of the take-over theme.

Swords & Deviltry: by Fritz Leiber. 79170/75¢. This story tells of the original meeting of Fafhrd and Gray Mouser in the city of Lankhmar. Fans of this fantasy series have been looking forward to this book; and this master of fantasy will not disappoint them.

The Secret of Holm Peel and Other Strange Stories: by Sax Rohmer: 75750/60¢ These stories are all pretty short and are supposed to be gothic mystery or witchcraft tales. I found them pretty tame and rather old-fashioned. No doubt of interest to the collector.

A Promising Planet: by Jeremy Strike and Flower of Doradil: by John Rackham. 2/100/75¢. Bill Warden makes first landing on what seems like a very promising planet indeed..until he discovers it has a god that likes to be obeyed. Dialogue is particularly good and the characters dilemma captures the whole interest, enjoyed this one very much. I was a bit disappointed in the half by Rackham, this is a rather routine adventure story not up, I think, to his usual standard. It concerns a safari on the planet Safari notable for its big game..and also for unexplored continent. On this the safari hopes to find the source of an illicit traffic.

World's Best Science Fiction. 1970: edited by Donald A. Wollheim and Terry Carr. 95¢. Another excellent column from this duo. A MAN SPEAKETH by Richard Wilson - a Last Man story with a difference. AFTER THE MYTHS WENT HOME by Robert Silverberg - an idea story with a too predictable ending. DEATH IN ECSTASY by Larry Niven - a logical future if transplant operations continue - rather grisly in spots but engrossing. ONE DAY IN SUNDAY by Alexei Panarin - science and characterisation, a good combination. FOR THE SAKE OF GRACE by Suzette Haden Elgin - she thinks up an alien culture in which women are very much subjugated; I suppose it takes a woman to really get her teeth into such a subject which is why I am pretty sure that THE STORY OF O was written by a woman..just take a nightmare..YOUR HAPLOID HEART by James Tiptree, Jr - another alien culture with a mystery at the heart of it. THERAFY 2000 by Keith Roberts - I am a bit dubious about this one, not very believable. SIXTH SENSE by Michael G. Coney - nice to see this one selected as it is from our new SF mag VISION OF TOMORROW - the people in this one breathe. A BOY AND HIS DOG by Harlan Ellison - won a NEBULA award so put my dislike down to the fact that, being female, I didnot identify with the boy..or the dog either for that matter. AND SO SAY ALL OF US by Bruce McAllister - this mixes mental illness with an SF gadget and has a gimmick ending. SHIP OF SHADOWS by Fritz Leiber - one of the longest in the book and the one I couldn't bother finishing. NINE LIVES by Ursula K. LeGuin - one of the best exploring being part of a group and then being alone..now and then an SF story gives you an uplift; this is one of them. THE BIG FLASH by Norman Spinrad - the phenomena of the current pop scene fascinates SF authors a lot--but I've yet to read one story that doesn't have the pop groups leading us to our doom..this being no exception. Well that's it..you won't like them all but I guarantee you'll love some.

HAVERINGS 45

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\$1 or 8/- for 6 issues.

***** May/June 1970 *****

Comments upon fanzines received....

The Gamesletter: Vol. 6, No. 20: From: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, Maryland, 20906, USA. Free to all members of the NFFF Games Bureau (\$1/calendar year) and 15¢ to others. Main game played is DIPLOMACY..ideal for people who like to play games by correspondance.

Vector SF Review: No 55: Official organ of the BSFA. After a lapse of membership I once again am seeing this magazine and am much impressed by the improvement. Production is good and there are some interesting articles. With this comes the BSFA Bulletin and lists of published SF. All very useful.

Holland-SF: Official organ of the Nederlands Contactcentrum Voor Science Fiction. Editor: Leo Kindt, Heilostraat 206, 's-Gravenhage 2030, Nederland. Sorry, the editor is Hein Jansen, Leo is the distributor for foreign fans. Each issue of this zine carries an English summary. Trades are very welcome. First item of information is the news that 20 Dutch fans will be at Heidelberg. The summary shows that the zine contains all the usual departments plus news of Dutch fandom and fiction. I sure would have liked a translation of the report by a Dutch fan to a British con!

Australia in 75: From: Robin Johnson and Peter Darling, PO Box A215, Sydney South N.S.W. 2000. Nos 1-7. 50¢ or \$6 per year. Any fan who is interested in world conventions must obtain a copy of this. It gives the business meeting minutes in which Australian fandom decided to bid for a Worldcon in '75. In doing so they also discuss the implications of the new business rules which were passed at St Louiscon. Australian fandom is against the new rules and wants to see a return to the old way. They are enlisting the help of Swedish fandom who are also planning a Worldcon bid. If you are a bit unsure of it all-do get a copy—and by doing so you will help the funds of the Australian bidding committee. One thing for sure, the Heicon business meeting is one I don't mean to miss! I wonder what American fandom will think if Heicon sees all the business at St Louiscon tossed in the air! Sure makes life interesting! There is the added bonus of seeing what fans are like when they use the procedure of committee—if it seems a bit chaotic at times—believe me..fan committee meetings are like that the world over.

The Gamesman: No 5: From: Donald L. Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, Maryland, USA 20906. This is published for the General Games Division of the N3F. \$1 per year. Martian Chess is only one of the games covered here. Good value for the interested fan.

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Son of the WSFA Journal: No 6: From: Don Miller, address as before. 15s. 10pp packed with news of fandom and itemised SF news. Awesomely efficient

Outworlds: No 2: From: Bill & Joan Bowers, PO Box 87, Barberton, Ohio. 44203. 50s or 3/- . British Agent: Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Rd, Sheffield, S11 8RB. A nicely personalzine, beautifully produced. The artwork is rather special too.

Qwertyuiop: No 3: From: Samuel S. Long, Bolney Lodge, Shiplake-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Nicely varied contents. Article of languages by Don Harlow is good; as is the music column. There is a fascinating bit about a fanzine of the 17th century which makes me reflect.. trust an American to find out more about Britain than the British do themselves. Sam's own enthusiasm and enquiring mind enlivens it all and he gains confidence with every issue. I was pleased to see him with a proper fanzine review column.. but tch tch.. he forgot to give the addresses. How we gonna get subs that way, hmm? I also liked the poetry, which is highly unusual.

Scream: No 5: From: Keith A. Walker, Pupil Nurse Training School, Burnley General Hospital, Burnley, Lancs. 1/6d. Keith starts by telling that he has had a very poor response to his desire to make this a newszine. The trouble, as I see it, is that the few British fans interested in fanzines are already publishing and that keeps them pretty busy. The majority of British fans these days read and collect SF and like meetings but are not much hand at writing letters. Besides there are so many fanzines now. I think it takes a brave fan nowadays to try to make some impression upon fandom in general. In spite of the numerous fanzines I always hate to see one become discouraged.. so why not send your news to Keith and help him out?

Book Catalogue.. received from Roger Peyton, 131 Gillhurst Rd, Harborne, Birmingham. 17. He lists hc and magazine and pb SF. Prices seem very reasonable.

Beabohema: No 8: From: Frank Lunney, 212 Juniper St, Quakertown, Pa. 18951. 60s. Dean Konntz's column seems rather scrappy this time, very little meat! Piers Anthony fills his column up with answers to critics--as I can't remember the original remarks, I got little from this either. Then there is J.J. Pierce taking issue with a fan he keeps calling Mr St. John... I guess this is meant to be the most cutting thing a fan can do to another. The argument appears to be over 'New Wave' writing--but personalities will creep in! Paul Hazlett comes next to tell about book publishing over here.. and seen through an American's eye.. our lot did seem a bit weird. But this was far too short for the subject. The book reviews are good; and the letter column is still hopping over the subject of the SFWA. I see Harry Harrison has asked to have his name taken off this mailing list as well as SFR. Hey ho!

Egg: No 2: From: Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol, BS4 5DZ, US Agent: Ed Reed This is small yet highly promising, Peter allows his own personality to come through and shows himself very involved with British fandom. He gives a con report for this year in London, and has international zine reviews. The letter column has aroused interest in the state of British fanzines and the subject is well discussed-- I do hope Peter keeps this up!

Haverings 3

Wadezine: No 6: From: Audrey Walton, 25 Yewdale Cresc. Coventry. CV2 2FF. Warks. 2/- What my Mother would have called "a bit of a mixter-maxter". Letters are scattered throughout which confuses my tidy mind; but in between them I enjoyed the book reviews(particularly by Bryn Fortey) and Audrey's own continuation of her "Coventry Tales".

Rataplan: No 5: From: Leigh Edmonds, Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183. Australia. 30/- First comes a report of the con held in Sydney known as SYNCON '70. Next is the GOH speech at that con given by Ronald Graham in which he gave some of his plans for VISION OF TOMORROW, plus the news that "en Bulmer will edit a sister magazine devoted to fantasy. Another speaker at this con was John Foyster and he discussed the criticism of SF. The speech is reproduced here and should prove interesting to all would-be fan critics. The last item goes into the subject of torture a bit more than I could stomach. Still it was thoughtfully done. All the material in this is first-class; I am beginning to think they don't publish anything else in Australia.

Norstrilian News: Nos 1&4: From: John Foyster, 12 Glengariff Drive, Mulgrave, Victoria. 3170. Australia. 5/- Published fortnightly. British fans..6d will get you a copy from Mervyn Barrett, 179 Walm Lane, London NW2. Very good general round-up of news..and this is the place to find out how the work on AUSTRALIA IN'75 goes.

Interfandom: No 1: From Gian Paolo Cossato, Calle Fontane, Cannaregio 3825, 30121 Venezia. Italy. All in English, in case you think otherwise, neat and well organised. Gian has started this as a link between Continental and other fandoms-and dedicates it to Jean Muggoch's LINK. He gives a good history of Italian fandom, some reviews of Italian authors..and also covers fanzines, the Trieste Film Festival and Scicon '70. An admirable start and good luck to it.

De Profundis: No 36: From: Bruce Pelz, PO Box 1, Santa Monica. Calif. 90403. This is the newsletter of the LA SF Society. Bimonthly. 6for \$1. Mainly club news and of interest to friends of the LaSFS.

Science Fiction Review: No 36: From: Richard Geis, PO Box 3116, Santa Monica. Calif. 90403. 50/- or 4/-. I am British Agent. Dick starts arguing with his alter-ego over the HUGO nominations. Bob Shaw then fascinates with a theory of why some men stay interested in SF and others begin to think it 'childish'. I'd like to see him extend his theory to cover femme fans. There is a story here by Wiley Nance Jackson; which is impossible to discuss without giving away too much; but it certainly ought to jolt quite a few people. Dick is moaning that he wants to get his page count down - and then generously gives 7pp to cartoonists Tim Kirk and Mike Gilbert in which to battle with amusing results. The letter column has less argument this time but plenty of animated discussion of SF. There is an especially interesting letter from Avram Davidson. The one who amused me most was Lee Hoffman who says.."I'd like to see the critic's name at the beginning of each review. As it is now, I have to look ahead to find out whose opinion I'm reading...More easier the other way, like with the letters, where I can tell immediately whose rant I'm arriving at."

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Xandro: No 196: From Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. USA. British Agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd. Hoddesdon, Herts. 40/- The Coulson editorial columns are as entertaining as ever but young Bruce takes the palm this time. He finishes off... "But except for a bomb scare at the high school, it has been quiet here." I think he should get more space! Joe Hensley continues his column in urbane fashion. He mentions a new book by T. L. Sherred. Somewhere at the bottom of a tea chest in the attic there ought to be three copies of SPACE kept by me only for a serial by this author. This new one is called ALIEN ISLAND (Ballantine); I hope it comes my way. The other columnist, Liz Fishman is still amusing and I begin to get more and more curious about her "rotton little brother". J.R. Christopher-Hayes has an article which proposes a change in the way we obtain our names. To me, it sounded almost as bad as changing to decimals.

The Earth Gazette: From: W.G. Bliss, 422 Wilmot, Chillicothe, Illinois. 61523. USA No price quoted. This journal of the future in 'Time-style' is dated 2287. It is carried out carefully to produce amusing and sometimes believable paragraphs of news. Highly ingenious.

The Mystery Reader's Newsletter: No 3: Vol. 3: From: Mrs Lianne Carlin, Box 113, \$31st class. \$2.50 3rd class. \$3.50 overseas. Lead article in this concerns the Phantom Detective--so it ought to interest the 'pulp' fans as well as this zine's faithful readers. I especially enjoyed THE AMERICAN REGIONAL MYSTERY by Marvin Lachman. This is to be a series of articles on the mystery story as it features a particular region; and I was very happy to find the first region chosen was that of New England. I have long enjoyed stories that have that setting. This type of article is always a feature of this excellent publication and book and film reviews are always of high standard.

Science Fiction Forum: No 45: From: John-Henri Holmberg, Norrkogsågen 8, 112 64. Stockholm. Sweden. His fellow directors are Bertil Mårtensson and Mats Linder. Some items are in English, most are in Swedish. I cannot find a price in English! I expect, though, they would be happy to trade. Nicely mixed subject matter, SF, fiction, poetry, Tolkienese, and fantasy.

And Now Smile... is a flyer following Interfandom- in which Gian lists the fanzines he had mentioned earlier but this time complete with addresses and rates. Now that's what I call service! Please note new address for Gian... Cannaregio 3825, 30121 Venezia. ITALY. Dear me, I hope he is not to forsake London altogether!

SF Commentary: No. 12: From: Bruce R. Gillespie, Box 245, Ararat, Victoria. 3377. Australia. \$3 for 18, 30/- for 20. Trades etc. The first half of this contains the very good SF reviews for which this zine is noted. The second half this time has an interview with the Polish author Stanislaw Lem. Bruce pleads that there is not enough room for my request for fanzine reviews and Lee Harding's request for letters. I sympathise, but we could do with more good fanzine reviews.

Dallascon Bulletin: No 5: From: Tom Reamy, Box 523 Richardson, Texas. 75080. USA Published quarterly by The Dallasin '73 Bidding committee. The bulk of this is adverts.. at a nice rate for fans. Keen lot aren't they? 3 years ahead!

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Osfan: No 6. Vol. 2: From: The Ozark SF Assoc. 15¢ single issue to Treasurer--Linda Stochl, Rt 1, Box 89c, House Springs, Missouri 63051. Too many names under the heading of editor to quote. There is a short news column from George Hay, and a report of a club meeting. Len McFadden writes about comic-fandom, and moans a trifle at their bad 'image'. I wish some comic fan would explain to me why they like them. There are some fanzine reviews and meeting news, but not nearly the efficient round-up of before.

Yandro: No 197: As before: All the Coulson columns are concerned with their move to a new house.. a very handy move in that they need not change their address! Joe L. Hensley's column appears again - it makes him sound like a great character; I could go on reading his anecdotes for much longer. Liz Fishman also continues to entertain in her column. Derek Nelson explains how sweetness and light is not spread by international sport, and Dave Locke writes about THE LONG LOUD SILENCE. That's the extras.. the usual goodies are all there too.

Cypher: No 1: From James Goddard & Mike Sandow, 1 Sharvelles Rd, Milford-on-Sea, Hants. SO4 0PE: 2 for 14/-. Nice to welcome another new British fanzine, production is good. Book reviews are given a decent amount of space; and SF discussion is the main item. However there is also the first part of an interesting history of attendance of the London SF group by Frank Arnold. The monthly meetings have been going on since 1937; and Frank has been a part of it. This zine looks promising.

Ad Infinitum: No 13: From: Spanish fandom.. who always forget to give an editorial name and address. They have never quoted a charge, I think they are much more interested in contacts and trades. The address I will give is of Pilar Giralt, Apartado de Correos 1573, Barcelona, Spain. She conducts the column headed Correspondance and also another headed International Fandom. The latter undertakes to explain VURGUZZ-a wine those attending Heidelberg will be meeting. Roger Waddington sends news in a LETTER FROM ENGLAND. The remainder consists of fiction, of a higher standard than is usual in fanzines. They have also sent me something called NOVENA FUNDACION FANZINE.. I think it is an Apazine.. so that has got to Spain too!

Nooeil: No 1: From: Brian Williams, c/o John Upton-Frowse, 42 Highland Rd, Amersham Buckinghamshire. 8d per copy. Some production troubles here, I'm afraid, but a valiant try. Contents are some zine reviews and poetry,.. and a request for material.

Science Fiction Review: No 37: as before; One might call this a 'serious' zine, except that the editor conducts it with humour; humour that he is not above poking at himself. It is a great zine for arguments on the subject of SF, often fiercely engaged. Main contenders this time are Panshin and Rottensteiner mainly over the subject of Heinlein. SFR is, of course, notable for the book reviews being of high calibre and this issue continues the tradition. You always learn something.. this time I learnt what the Essex House books are like which I have heard so much about. As agent I watch with awe the way the subs flow in.. this issue had a print run of 1000! And the back copies don't last long. So hurry if you want it.

Seagull: No 6: From: Rosemary Pardoe, 15 Selkirk Court, Whitley Rd, London N.17. No subs.. write for trades. This one has a pleasant atmosphere, material is a mixture of articles, poems and fiction. Rosemary's own continuing article

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Graustark: No 206: 106-108 Broadway, 2nd fl., E 10th St., Brooklyn, New York, 11226, USA
A fanzine for those interested in Fostel Diplomacy..if you want to join, write to John for details.

Crabapple No 9: From Mary Reed, 5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts. 1/-
She says she is pruning her list. This is only one sheet from her zine so I am afraid I cannot tell you about the contents.

Moebius Trip: No 4: From: Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, Illinois, 61604, USA 35¢. The editor tears into New Worlds and after that Joseph Pumilia is fairly stringent over MAROONED. Then Ted Pauls is severe in a review of MECHASM but has done the novel the honour of reading it carefully and giving praise where due. The editor then has one of those attacks on a person that inevitably arouses sympathy for the persona attacked (in this instance Harlan Ellison) by the lack of restraint in the attack. Quite a long and readable letter column.

Fan-Fare: No 13: From: Tony Roberts, 8 Princess Ave, Worthing, Sussex, 3/-. On reading Tony's remarks on the price of paper, I am reminded that I ought to spread the news abroad of a paper firm which is very reasonable as to prices. It is MacLean Bros (Paper) Ltd, Denbigh Road, Watling Street, Bletchley, Bucks. The last order I gave was for paper at 11/- a ream. This one is for the comic-fan and appears to have a good coverage for the enthusiast. Plenty letters saying so.

Speculation: Vol. 3 No. 2: From: Peter R. Weston, 31 Pinewall Ave, Kings Norton, Birmingham, 30. Pete starts this off well by a neat summing up of this year's SF Con and What Went Wrong; and also his thoughts on the difference between the booming comic-fandom and the quietness of SF fandom in this country. I have a feeling that the con he puts on next year may go some way to changing this. I liked the Frederick Pohl column of SF reviews; he has decided opinions and so gives you clear guide lines. Chris Priest waxes enthusiastically about Ted White's editorship of AMAZING - he has sold me anyway, I really will buy it. Aldiss starts to do a review of 3 Moorcock books, but it turns into a paen of praise. This has an especially good letter column; a model of its kind and the book reviews are all excellent.

The Twilight Zine: No 23: From: Jon Ingersoll, c/o MIT SF Society, Room W20-443, M.I.T., 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, USA. 25¢. This zine suffers from the fact that it is put out by a club..so every time there is a turnover in the student population at MIT-it loses its editor and has to find a new one. This is, I think, about the 4th. What I have noticed is that the first issue usually shows a drop in quality..but by the time of the second the quality has picked up again. In this, for instance, there is some poetry that has echoes of the old witty way. I guess it must help the new ed to have a backfile for inspiration.

SF Commentary: as before: No 13: Less than 30pp but, my goodness, what a lot is packed into this! For one thing another clear description of the new rules for world-cons which gives everyone time to ponder their reactions. Interested fans really must try to get a copy of this-or NORSTRILIAN NEWS which also features this service. Perry Chapdelaine gives a report of his visit to our Easter-Con and as he enthuses about everything -it is in interesting contrast to British reports, which did not. There are again some fine reviews and Bruce dovetails his own opinions neatly. Good stuff.

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on the subject of unicorns is the best. She would like to hear from people who know of stories that feature unicorns. The other highly interesting article is by Ken Cheslin on the subject of glass-making in the Stourbridge area. I was very pleased to see a proper fanzine reviews column here conducted by Rosemary's husband, Darroll. He is generous with the space too, for my part I am suitable grateful. Letter column is not up to much.

The Third Foundation: No 92: From The Third Foundation c/o Lee Gold, 11969 Iowa No 6, Los Angeles. Calif. 90025. 15¢. Fine thing.. they are not to give the end of David Gerrold's story.. as he may be selling it! I'm not so fond of the fiction that remains; though I rather like the little articles that pop up here and there. Some book reviews and letters.. I also received THE THIRD FOUNDATION no 91.. and have only just realised I have mentioned these in the wrong order! There is related a discussion between Ted Johnstone and a computer that is very weird. This one has the last instalment of that Gerrold story.. very tantalising. There is something scatty about this zine, but I like it.

Locus: Nos 52, 53, 54, & 55: From: Charlie Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave. Bronx. New York. 10457. Locus is a comprehensive newszine of them all. Every department of SF fandom and pro-Mos covered. Full coverage of the SF magazines, conventions, books, and fan-zines. Indispensable.

Focal Point: Nos 3, 4, 5, & 6: From: Arnie Katz, Apt. 3-J, 55 Pineapple St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 and Rich Brown, 410-61st St. Apt. D4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220. 8/1. Trades are asked for both editors. I disapprove of this practice and have said so before; but no co-editors have argued with me so far. This is also a newszine, but more relaxed than LOCUS. There are various columnists, leisurely con reports and the fanzine reviews are given generous space. Frankly I like getting both zines-- they both fill a need.

ERBOM: No 34: From: C.E. Cazedessus Jr., Box 550, Evergreen, Colorado. 80439. This also incorporates THE FANTASY COLLECTOR. \$2.50 per year. Coloured cover, article on artist Roy Krenkel. Other topics of interest to ERB fans.. and pages of adverts that will interest collectors.

Tolkien Journal: No 11: From: Tolkien Society of America, Bellmop College, Centre Harbor, N.H. 03226. U.S.A. Incorporates OCHIEST which is the Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin Tolkien Society. Single copies of OCHIEST from Richard West, 614 Langdon S. Madison, Wisconsin. 53703. at \$1.25. Subscription to the Tolkien Soc is at \$2 per year. This issue is a special Secondary Universe issue. This was held at Wisconsin University in May 1968 - and this features the fantasy papers from it. Illustrations deserve admiration.

Norstrilian News: Nos 4, 5, & 6: as before: Great for keeping up with Aussie news. No 4 features the new rules introduced at St Louis for worldcons. If you are going to Heidelberg and take an intelligent interest in the fandom you inhabit you ought to read this.

H. VERING NEWS

The Charter flight from the US for Heicon will land in London on Aug. 11th. Some names that will be on this flight are--Banks Mebane, Ellior Shorter, George Nims Raybin, Jack Chalker, Ed and Nan Meskys, Jack and Blanche Williamson.

Marsha Brown J

Bruce Pelz is now the US agent for The Art Show at Heicon, taking over from Ejo Trimble who unfortunately will now be unable to go. He arrives London on Aug. 3rd.

Peter Weston is already at work on plans for next years Easter convention. Write him for details of membership..10/- for preliminary membership..at 31 Pinewall Avenue, Masshouse Lane, Birmingham. 30. GOH is Brian Aldiss..and Peter promises this will be an SF con.

Mary Reed reports some splintering of Herts fandom..Keith Bridges goes to Winchester, Graham Boak to Surrey. Hertsfandom still going ahead with a stand at the WGE 50 year celebrations. Mary also sends Julia's new address-- 6, Kenilworth Court, Kenilworth Ave. Oxford. She asks me to cross my fingers for her friend Churl who sits his finals in three weeks. Could I just wish him luck, Mary? It's kinda awkward whilst typing...

Graham Boak..now working at Hawker Siddley(good show) and new address is... c/o 3, Ryde Lands, Nuthurst, Cranleigh, Surrey.

Brian Williams, "Kenya", Ballinger, Gt. Missenden, Bucks. is starting a new fan-zine and is interested in obtaining articles and poetry.

The stork is heading for Stourbridge.

Joe Patrizio casually mentioned in a throwaway line that Ted Forsyth was now married. I threatened him for further details.

Ron Bennett will be stationed in Germany by August of this year. British fandom will then see much more of him, so better brush up your Brag. Then everyone amoy him to get out SMYRACK again and I can drop this chore.

Postcards received(so far)..thanks to-Fred Parker from Budapest, the Mercers from Tintagel and Bocastle

Peter Weston sends news os a BBC series on SF--Thursdays 2nd July for 5 wks 7.10pm Radio 3. With this is a short story contest. Preliminary details are- Stories should be 3000-3200 words, written for radio, author's own work. Authors should not have had any previously published fiction. Prize £50.

Bram Stokes bookshop DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN-EYED are now selling ADVENT books so now you can get your copy of Harry Warner's ALL OUR YESTERDAYS from there at 62/6. Worth the money! Bookshop address is-28 Bedfordbury, London. WC2.

Christopher Priest just had his first novel published..congrats! Titled - INDOCTRINAIRE it is published by Faber & Faber at 28s.

Progress Report No 1 -out from Pete Weston. Hotel chosen is the Giffard Hotel Worcester. Hotel -- looks good; it can accommodate 150 and is fully reserved for the Con. They now have 120 paid registrations..so waste no time when the booking forms come out. I have been asked to conduct a session or panel on the subject of fandom; and am open to all and any suggestions. This is addressed particularly to new fans..what would you like to see discussed? There is plenty time to mull this over.

Ethel Lindsay.