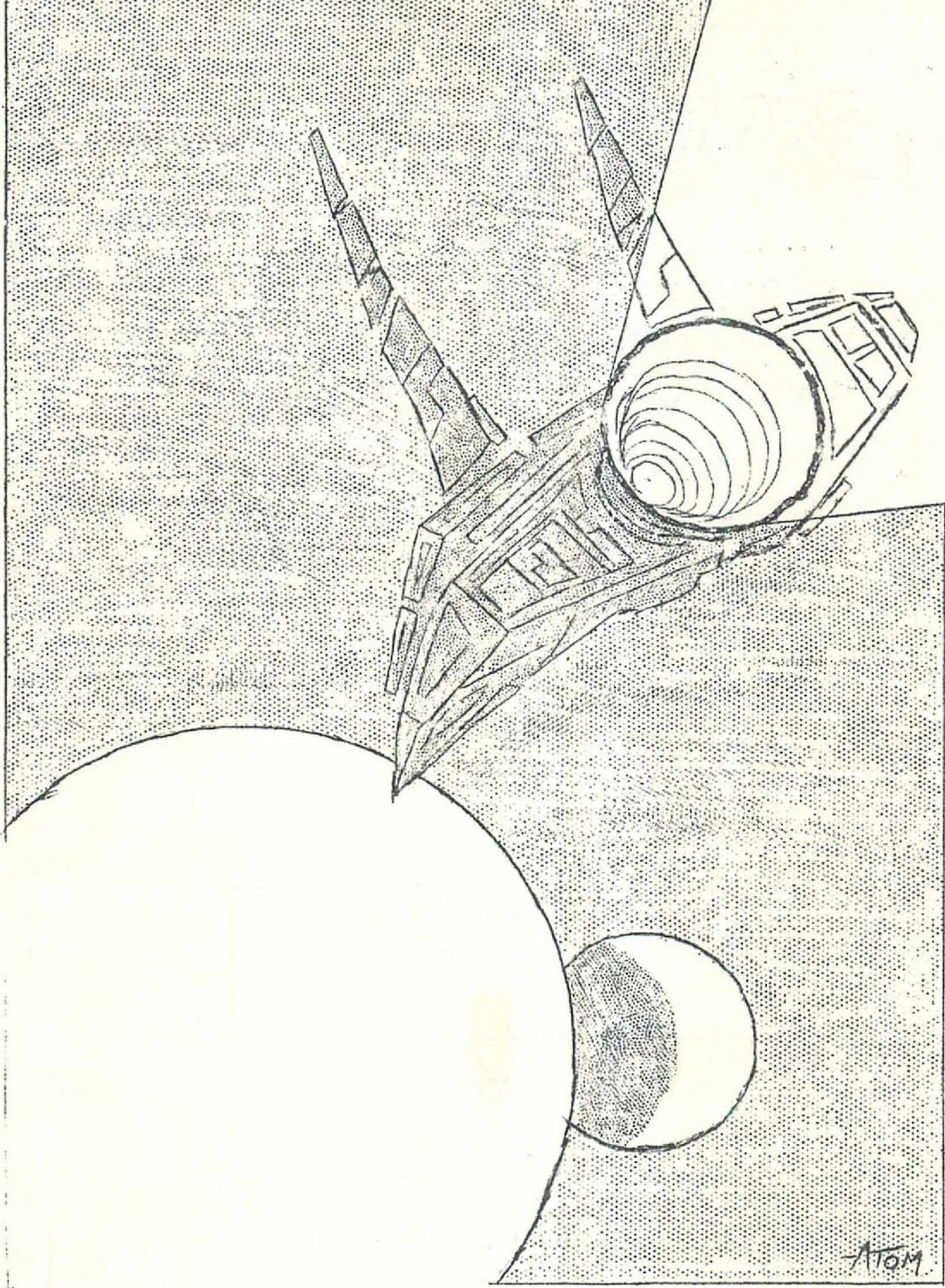


SCOTTISHE



SCOTTISHE

no 77

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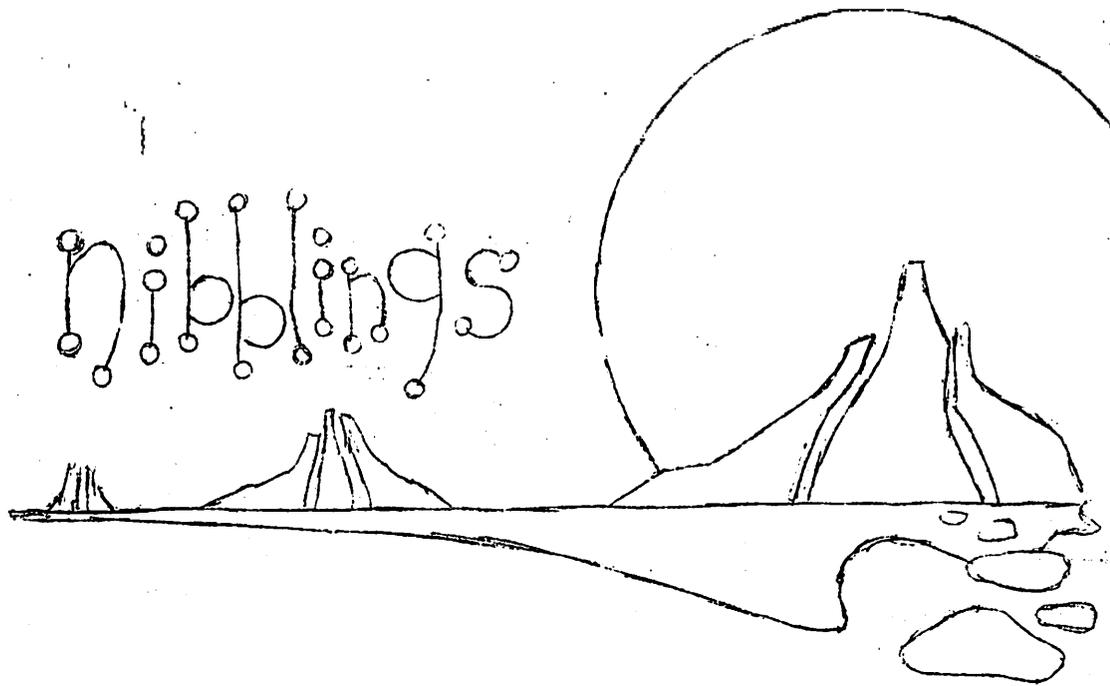
CREDITS

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CATFACE by Clifford D. Simak, Sidgwick & Jackson. £4.95. Asa is a man who, through his dog and the local simpleton, finds the means of "time-roads" into the past. His lover, Rila, sees many money-making propositions in this and how to use the "time-roads" in this way takes up the bulk of the book. There is an odd feel to this book, I kept wondering why the characters acted the way they did. The best of the book is in its descriptions of the prehistoric times visited.

THE PRISONER by Thomas M. Disch, Dennis Dobson. £4.25. Based on the TV series, this has certainly got the same mysterious atmosphere. In the Village nothing is as it seems and with the Prisoner, the reader wades through peculiarity ever endeavouring to reach reality. As one would expect from this author the writing standard is very high.

CIRQUE by Terry Carr, Dennis Dobson, £4.25. This unusual novel is hard to put down. Cirque is an Earth city several millenia in the future. It contains an Abyss into which all refuse is thrown, it is a highly intriguing city that contains many religions. We encounter it in the time when it is visited by an alien and when a Beast is climbing out of the Abyss. Apart from the puzzle of what is to happen next the author shows many characters who inhabit Cirque and through them introduces a wealth of imaginative background detail.

EARTHCHILD by Doris Piserchia, Dennis Dobson, £4.25. Reese is the last human on Earth—all the other humans having fled to Mars. She shares the planet with two aliens - Indigo who is a protoplasmic ocean gobbling up everything, and Emeroo who looks after Reese. The story spans centuries and is one of the strangest I have read. The personality of Reese is fascinating, she is tough, objective, yet sometimes childish. Recommended for originality.

THE WORLD ASUNDER by Ian Wallace, Dennis Dobson, £4.25. The intricate plot switches from 1952 to 2002 and back again. It takes concentration to keep tag of it all but it is basically about the fight between good and evil.

THE WORLD'S BEST SF No 3 edited by Donald A. Wollheim, Dennis Dobson, £4.95. This has 10 stories. I liked best THE STORMS OF WINDHAVEN a logical extension of hang gliding with some wonderful descriptive passages. Most haunting was CHILDREN OF ALL AGES by P.J. Player which explores what would happen if a child never grew up. As usual a good buy and a good mixture.

FROSTWORLD & DREAMFIRE by John Morressy, Sidgwick & Jackson, £4.95. Hraggellon is the planet featured here and the protagonist is Hult of the Onhla tribe, a half-human, Half-animal species. His tribe is extinct due to sickness and so he has to bargain with out-worlders to take him to another planet. He plans to persuade other Onhla there to return with him and re-start his tribe. An interesting concept but told in rather a flat style that drains away the drama.

THE INFINITY BOY by Kate Wilhelm, Arrow Books, 95p. 318pp. 9 stories all well written but all very sad. Ingenious ideas such as immortality being found by the medical profession who keep it a secret, are at the centre of each story. But they are sad, not to be read at one sitting!

Nibblings 2

SWORD OF ORLEY: by Stewart Farrar. Arrow Paperbacks. 85p. 235pp. A psychic research team visit Orley to investigate a ghost. Jane finds herself having nightmares of taking part in a Black Mass and this begins to edge into reality and become something she has to fight. Suspence well kept up, modern setting lends verisimilitude

STAND ON ZANIZBAR: by John Brunner, Arrow Paperbacks. £1.75. There are three strands to this book - the main plot, the "context", and "the happening world". They are skillfully woven to show what life could be like in the 21st century. There are three main characters - Norman the negro, a successfully corporation man who finds more rewarding work in Africa; Chad a sociologist who detests this world; and lastly Donald, a sythesist who is the most tragic. A most worthy HUGO winner.

THE VIEW FROM SERENDIP: by Arthur C. Clarke. PAN SF. 95p 237pp. Autobiographical - covers what the author calls the three S's which have dominated his life - Space, Serendip and the Sea. A series of articles that spans his many interests from deep-sea diving to space research. Well written and intriguing.

CAPRICORN GAMES: by Robert Silverberg. PAN SF 80p 191pp. 8 stories. The lead story captures the atmosphere at a party in which young Nikki hopes to obtain the secret of immortality. I was making heavy weather of the other stories, finding them too abstract, when I came to a story of the Jews who went to a new planet and how their religion became transplanted among aliens. That, I thought very fine.

THE ROAD TO CORLEY: by Richard Cowper. PAN SF. 80p 156pp. A 1,000 years into the future persistent rain has divided Britain into separate islands. The story concerns the struggle between the Church and followers of a new religion. This struggle is witnessed by a team of researchers scanning the future, and one becomes involved with a dying man. Beautifully written and with a quite haunting quality.

INVERTED WORLD: by Christopher Priest. PAN SF. 85p. 256pp. A highly original plot with a real twist ending. The world that is described is a city that moves forward by great exertion in a desperate attempt to keep stability. A Future Surveyor of the alien land they traverse goes 't Down Past and so begins to realise how strange is the surroundings of his city. Powerfully descriptive writing.

ALL FLESH IS GRASS: by Clifford D. Simak. Magnum Books. 95p 255pp. I found this heart-warming; the protagonist is very human and could never be called a hero. He lives in a village which is suddenly cut off by an invisible bubble. Aliens have chosen his village to try and enter into partnership with humanity. Alien contact theme has never been better handled.

CLANSMAN OF ANDOR: by Andrew J. Offutt. 90p 190pp. An Earthman is given the chance to have unlimited adventure by transferring to the body of a man in another world. This man is badly needed by his world but is dying. So Robert becomes Doralan and enters into enough derring-do to satisfy any man. MAGNUM BOOKS.

ACROSS A BILLION YEARS: by Robert Silverberg. Magnum Books. 95p 249pp. A archeological expedition find a "globe" which transmits information about the "High Ones". This starts off a search from planet to planet as they become aware that there may be some of this species left. There is a rather tedious love story, the interest lies in watching the various species working together.

ASIMOV'S CHOICE: COMETS AND COMPUTERS: Magnum Books. 95p. 221pp. A collection of 12 from the Asimov Magazine. A Rim Worlds story by Chandler, is followed by Aldiss with something neat and (good) explicit. However all the stories are sharp and good and there is a bonus in an article from Jack Williamson on WILL ACADEME KILL SF?

THE FUTURE MAKERS: edtd by Peter Haining: Magnum Books. 90p. 174pp. 8 stories and an introduction, which explains that these are early stories of the writers chosen. Leinster, Asimov, Sturgeon, Bradbury, Heinlein, Clarke, Shekley and Aldiss. Splendid examples to show how they went on to become our most famous writers.

THE WHITE DRAGON: By Anne McCaffrey. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95. 497pp. Someone named Whelan has given this a beautiful cover depicting the most realistic picture of dragon and wrider that I have seen so far. Once again this author takes us to Fern with an interesting story of a dragon who was thought a runt, she is called Ruth and is paired with Lord Jaxom. He is quite sure that Ruth is unique and begins to disobey the rules by going back in time as well as between. All those who have enjoyed the previous books about Fern will love this, and the author has widened the story of Fern which promises more good books to come!

THE RAINS OF ERIDAN: by H.M. Hoover. Methuen Children's Books. £3.95. 175pp. Aimed at the teenager as there is quite a deal of biology packed in this story. Theo is a biologist who befriends young Karen when Karen is orphaned. Together they are

Nibblings 3

involved in puzzling out some of the alien animals they encounter. Nicely paced. STEPS OUT OF TIME: by Eric Houghton. Methuen Children's Books. £3.65. 160pp. A Time story that has Jonathan as a lonely boy who finds a way into another boy's life. He finds himself in a family who treat him as their son and becoming a boy quite different from himself. Realistically told and with a freshness of style.

THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY STORIES: Series No 4: Edtd by Lin Carter. DAW SF. \$1.75 203pp plus an appendix listing important fantasy literature of the year. 11 stories. Foul Anderson begins with an Icelandic saga, and a new writer, Grail Undwin delighted me with a Scottish elf story. A good collection made notable by the inclusion of Tanith Lee.

THE QUILLAN SECTOR: by E.C. Tubb. DAW SF. \$1.50. 158pp. Dumarest of Terra No 19. The Cyclan are hot on the trail of Dumarest this time. One has to admire the author's dexterity in keeping this series going with such varied adventures for the hero. A crash-landing into an alien ocean is one of the highlights.

WAR-GAMERS' WORLD: by Hugh Walker. DAW SF. 160pp. \$1.50. Based on the Game which produced the fantasy planet MAGIRA this offers full-blooded adventure and is the beginning of a series.

CAMELOT IN ORBIT: by Arthur H. Landis. DAW SF. \$1.75. 175pp. Galactic watchers called the planet "Camelot" because on it magic worked. They send Kyrie to help the natives fight an alien who threatens chaos. Sword & sorcery with scientific background makes this enjoyable for both types of readers.

PENDULUM: by A.E. Van Vogt. DAW SF. \$1.75. 158pp. 8 stories. Full of the usual ingenuity but, confined as they are to short stories, much less confused plots as in the novels. I liked best one which shows a little girl learning to live with androids.

GOLDEN SCORFION: by Alan Burt Akers. DAW SF. \$1.50. 207pp. No 18 in the Dray Prescott series. This contains a useful Glossary and is another turbulent adventure.

NIGHT'S MASTER: by Tanith Lee. \$1.75. 188pp. Heroic fantasy in a series of stories featuring Azhram the Prince of Demons whose delight is to torment mankind. Unique and horrifying and powerful. Many images will haunt the reader.

WYST: ALASTOR 1716: by Jack Williamson. DAW SF. \$1.95. 222pp. The planet WYST is a kind of Utopia. Everything free for 13 hours work per week. Jantiff arrives as a short-term visitor and finds it is not so easy as all that! Plenty of detail about the culture. Jantiff is not the usual swashbuckling hero which I enjoyed!

THE PIRATE OF WORLD'S END: by Lin Carter. DAW SF. \$1.75. 173pp. The tale of Ganelon Silvermane a genetically-created warrior. Sword & sorcery with panache.

THE WICKED CYBORG: by Ron Goulart. DAW SF. \$1.50. 156pp. The story of the Wicked Uncle trying to cheat the youthful nephew is here translated by Goulart into a humorous future. Good plot ingenuity and plenty scatty characters.

THE KILLING MACHINE: by Jack Vance. DAW SF. \$1.75. 159pp. Second in the Demon Princes novels. Good and evil are clearly defined in this saga, with the hero now in pursuit of Kokor Hekkus to the planet Thamber.

Z-STING: by Ian Wallace. DAW SF. \$1.95. 222pp. The Z-Sting is an ultimate peace weapon, and peace has reigned for a century. Now the war-potential is beginning to rise seriously and actual use of the weapon would be catastrophic. Quite a dense plot, diverse characters, this one requires concentration.

THE SURVIVORS: by Marion Zimmer Bradley and Paul Edwin Zimmer. DAW SF. \$1.95. 238pp A sequel to HUNTERS OF THE RED MOON in which the three survivors of it are asked to check out a Closed World. The three characters are likeable particularly the lizard-man Aratak and his continual quotations and his ability to enjoy the diversity of Creation.

CITY OF THE BEATS or WARRIORS OF MARS: by Michael Moorcock. DAW SF. \$1.50. 160pp These new editions of the books originally published under a pen-name, have delightful introductions by the author describing how they came about. They are strongly in the Burroughs tradition and are known as the Michael Kane series, Kane being the man who visits and adventures in Mars through a matter transmitter.

BALANCE OF POWER: by Brian N. Stableford. DAW SF. \$1.75. 173pp. 5th in the DAEDALUS series. This time they find a colony that is barely hanging on and with no desire to contact the aliens on a farther continent. So some of the crew go to see what is happening there and find a pretty stew of humans and aliens. Good characterisations and terse dialogue. No neat endings and so realistic.

NIBELINGS 4

ARMY OF DARKNESS: M. GIRA 11: by Hugh Walker. DAW SF. \$1.50. 155pp. This follows WAR-GAMERS WORLD and continues the story of the fantasy world Magira. If I have got it right it is also a game that can be played by correspondence, and was first started in Vienna. Sheer fantasy.

DEATH'S MASTER: by Tanith Lee. DAW SF. \$1.95. 348pp. Again this writer returns to her time when demons have power among men. This is the story of Uhlume, Death's Master, and how he affected many human lives. Again there are strong images that show a powerful imagination so that one can call this truly epic fantasy.

THE PALACE OF LOVE: by Jack Vance. DAW SF. \$1.75. 176pp. Falushe is the third of the Demon Princes on the vengeance list of Gerson. He is a little more human in his vice than the previous two, but still someone who richly deserves punishment. But first Gerson has to find him and has quite a time tracking him down.

LORD OF THE SPIDERS or BLADES OF MARS: by Michael Moorcock. DAW SF. \$1.50. 160pp. This is the continuation of the story of Michael Kane in which he returns to Mars and to further difficulties and dangers.

THE FAR TRAVELLER: by A. Bertram Chandler. DAW SF. \$1.50. 174pp. The FAR TRAVELLER is a rich woman's starship constructed of gold. The Baroness wishes to visit and study Lost Colonies and her computer, known as Big Sister, is more than capable of running the ship. However law demands a human Captain, and Grimes finds it necessary to take the post. Good plotting, tight story, and a very interesting computer!

TO RENEW THE AGES: by Robert Coulson. LASER BOOKS. 95¢. 190pp. A after-the-holocaust story set in N. America where the hero is a Scout who rides out into the Deadlands. Here he meets Tamara, also a scout but from a matriarchy at another settlement. She reluctantly teams up with him—and then they discover a common enemy—a deadly mutation that lures its prey by telepathy. Well written and carries the reader along willingly.

SHIP OF STRANGERS: by Bob Shaw. PAN SF. 80¢. 156pp. The SARAFAND is a ship which charts new planets, it's computer is named Aesop and the longest serving member is Surgenor. It is through the eyes of Surgenor that we follow the voyages and some of them are very hair-raising. Particularly the last one when the ship enters a part of space that is imploding. Told without undue histrionics and all the more impressive for that.

A.K.A.: A Cosmic Fable: by Rob Swigart. Magnum Books. 95¢. 226pp. This is billed as a richly comic novel; so the hero is named Avery K. Augenbaluc. He is a multi-talented scientist and the story recounts the effect of his talents on a group of people. It is not unlike a Goulart story with sexual exploits taking the place of the weird Goulart gadgets. I did not find it comical and found it far too thick-edged for true satire.

THE WEB OF WIZARDRY: by Juanita Coulson. Ballantine Books. \$1.95. 357pp. Wizardry is the centre of this story as it is the force behind the army invading the lands of Krantin. It makes it necessary in Krantin, for fiercely opposing clans to unite, and we watch Danaer help in this painful procedure. However, armies alone cannot win and the Web of Wizardry must join in the battle. The landscapes and differing cultures are well described. Denseness in detail makes this one absorbing.

Some DAW books came in as I started to run this off, I will not have time to read them all but here are the titles...

EXPLORERS OF GOR by John Norman. No 328. \$2.25. 464pp
ISAAC ASIMOV PRESENTS THE GREATEST SF STORIES. No 329 \$2.25. 432pp
MASTERS OF THE PIT or BARBARIANS OF MARS by Michael Moorcock. No 330. \$1.50. 158pp
HELLO, LEMURIA HELLO. by Ron Goulart. No 331 \$1.50. 156pp
MESSENGER OF DARKNESS by Hugh Walker. No 332. \$1.50. Magira 111
THE FADED SUN: SHON JIR by C.J. Cherryh. No 333. \$1.45. 253pp
HEROIC FANTASY Edtd. G.W. Page & H. Reinhardt. No 334. \$1.95. 320pp
A LIFE FOR KERGEN by Alan Burt Akers. No 335. \$1.75. 215pp. Dray Prescott No 19
SPACE OPERA by Jack Vance. No 336. \$1.75. 168pp
THE 1979 ANNUAL WORLD'S BEST SF. Edtd. Donald Wollheim. No 337. \$2.25. 268pp
SPACELING by Doris Piserchia. No 338. \$1.75. 239pp SF Book Club selection.
CITY OF THE CHASCH by Jack Vance. No 339 \$1.75. 156pp
SAGA OF LOST EARTHS by Emil Petaja. No 340. \$1.95. 222pp

Ethel Lindsay. June 7th 1979

RIPPING THE LID OFF THE PAST

By

John Boardman

There are continual reminders of the Past about us, and usually we live among them and give them little thought. Some traditions, indeed, are sources of reassurance and strength. But from time to time you'll encounter a catchphrase, a line in a book, a joke that rips the lid of several hundreds or even thousands of years, and shows us a living relic of an ancient Past.

Several years ago something of the sort occurred during a conversation with my brother, a man of no more than a high school education and a 20-year man in the U.S. Navy. He was describing a conversation with a chief petty officer who was about to retire. Someone asked him where he was going to live after he left the Navy. He replied, "I'm going to take an anchor over my shoulder and walk inland until someone asks me, 'What's that funny-looking fishhook?' And I'll settle there." It is a terse statement of how sick of the sea an old sailor can get, and why not? You'll find virtually the same remark in the 11th book of the Odyssey. This story has probably been passed down from Folc'sl to folc'sl for 3,000 years!

Animal calls and children's counting games are also of great antiquity. Scraps of African languages have been found in the counting rhymes of black children in America, while some white children seem to use a form of Welsh. My grandfather called his cattle and hogs in Latin: "Bos" and "Suin". There is said to be an English sheep call: "Ovi! Ovi!" (I wouldn't know for sure; members of my family would not admit to knowing anyone who raised sheep. That cattleman-sheepman feud is not just a plot element in a western film; it is a living antagonism to this day.)

Human sacrifice is something found back in the histories of all societies, if you look far enough. (Indeed, in his sardonic Killing No Murder, Edward Hyams professes to find elements of it in modern wars and assassinations.) I have myself taken part in a highly ritualized symbolic act of cannibalism—and so has every reader of this article who was raised a Christian. The late science fiction writer David Mason once told me a curious story from Scotland. It seems that, several years ago, the herring catch failed on the east coast. Prayers were sent up in the churches, but the herring remained absent. Finally, someone recalled an older tradition. One Sunday morning, down on the beach, four white horses were found with their throats cut. The herring came back on the following week—and a Church of Scotland minister resigned his pulpit, saying that if that was all the progress Christianity had made in Scotland in a thousand years, he was going to give up. The return of the fish was good luck for somebody, because if the horses hadn't "worked" we all know what would have come next.

There are still places in Europe where the last sheaf of the harvest is made into a "corn Dolly" and thrown off a bridge or otherwise disposed of. This clearly comes from some ancient harvest ritual in which a human being was the victim. Much of this was eliminated through the work of Christianity, which did the right thing for the wrong reasons. Christianity, to judge from the number of people who have been killed with its blessing, has no objection to bloodshed. But in the Christian view, Jesus Christ was the final and all-sufficient sacrifice. If a priest of Odin tied up a criminal and

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Throw him into the Gdinsee, he was not merely killing a man; he was denying the central belief of Christianity and therefore should be suppressed.

An apparently innocent children's verse preserves a tradition of human sacrifice. What must London Bridge be built of, to preserve it against dangers visible and invisible? In the Dark Ages everybody knew what had to be done against the latter - you sacrificed a human-being whose ghost would guard the building against ghostly dangers. In practice a child would be grabbed off the streets - who would miss it? - and impaled alive with a candle and an axe, to stand guard for eternity. (Here comes a candle to light you to bed, and here comes a chopper to chop off your head). Grisly relics have been found among the foundation stones of Europe's older buildings: And to this day, construction workers will tell you that "Every building takes a life."

Oaths are another ancient survival. Ten or twelve centuries ago, my ancestors were baptized at the point of a sword. Yet in moments of stress I will swear, as they did, "By Thunder" It has been even longer since the "great Twin Brothers" were worshipped, and yet "By Gemini" is still heard. I once heard a South-American take 120 volts across two fingers and rip out "Santisima Chocha de la Virgen de Guadalupe!" He was actually invoking whatever pre-Columbian fertility goddess got herself smuggled into Christianity disguised as the Virgin of Guadalupe. "Nuestra Senora de la Luche", the nursing madonna of the Phillippines, probably had a similar origin.

In other parts of the world it is the same. An American anthropologist once went into the Arctic and reported that the "cat's cradle" is a major art form among the Inuit (as Eskimos are properly to be called). After you've mended hunting tackle and swapped wives, there is little else to do during the long Arctic nights. There were even some "X-rated" cat's-Cradle patterns. Then the old Inuit informant began doing patterns that represent various wild animals. After doing wolves, musk-oxen, and a few others, he presented a cat's-cradle which represented "an animal which doesn't live around here any more. It was as big as a hill, covered with hair, and had huge tusks."

For the nation that led the Industrial Revolution, Great Britain is singularly well stocked with reminders of ancient myths. For 35 centuries Stonehenge has mystified onlookers, though the mystery seems at last to have been solved. But at Cerne Abbas, in Dorsetshire, is a figure that was old when Stonehenge was young. Cut into a hillside, and freshly outlined in chalk every seven years since time immemorial, the Cerne Giant stands 55 meters high, brandishes a club 36 metres long, and is possessed of an erection that measures 9 meters. The Giant was able to preserve himself against the Puritans in the 17th century and the Victorians in the 19th, and under the care of the National Trust he now presides in spirit over Swinging Britain, showing that the "New Morality" is really very, very, old.

It would be hard to find a tradition that preserves a yet older memory, and yet Great Britain has that too. The Mabinogion is a collection of Welsh tales that seems to date from about a thousand years ago. But there are older elements in many of them, traditional Celtic myths grafted upon an Arthurian framework. One is "Branwen Daughter of Llyr", which tells how King Bendigeidfran married his sister Branwen to the King of Ireland. Learning how badly his sister is being treated in her new home, he collects an army to avenge this insult. "Bendigeidfran and the host of which we spoke sailed towards Ireland, and in those days the deep water was not wide" Elizabeth Jenkins, in The Mystery of King Arthur, calls this passage "a trace of indescribable antiquity". There was indeed a time when the Irish Sea was narrower than it is now, but that was a time when people walked dry-shod from the Seine to the Thames, and the Thames flowed into the Rhein. Some elements of the tale of Branwen apparently hark back to the last Ice Age.

We pride ourselves that we have put the grimmer relics of the past behind us. And in many respects we are right to do so. Whatever the motives of Christianity in suppressing human sacrifices, it was right to do so. Cannibalism is no more, even in Polynesia. The laying of cornerstones is now a minor civic duty of mayors, complete with champagne and electioneering. But from time to time, the mythic past makes

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itself known. About twenty years ago, the old English ballad "The Fair Maid of York", also called "Down by the Greenwood Side", surfaced in the dull and respectable city of Syracuse, New York. In that song, an inconveniently impregnated woman sneaks out into the woods to bear twin sons, and then stabs them and leaves them there. Precisely that happened in Syracuse, save that one of the babies lived, and the retribution took place not in an apparition of the boy's spirits but in the courts of the State of New York.

John Boardman.

STARSHIP (formerly ALGOL)

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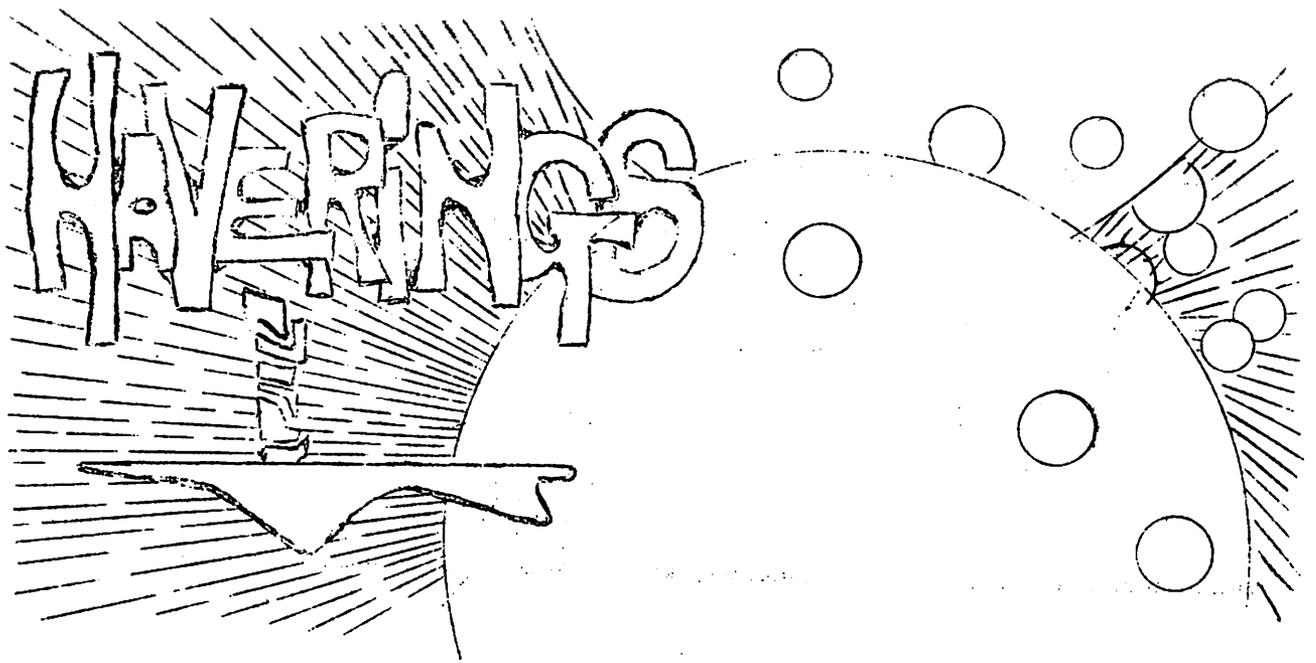
Colour cover by Carl Lundgren. Editorial by Andrew Forter in which he begs subscribers to remember to notify him when they move. Jack Williamson writes SF AND I an excellent autobiography which also tells of the early days of SF. Alexei and Cory Fanshin write about John W. Campbell. There is an interview with Vonda A. McIntyre in which she is particularly interesting in discussing the problems of feminine authors. Film review column by Robert Stewart. Vincent DiFate has good advice in his column for artists approaching the professional field. Frederick Pohl, another regular columnist, always has something constructive to say about science fiction. The novels of C.J. Cherryh are considered by Patrick McGuire and this is followed by the deservedly popular LUPOFF'S BOOK WEEK, a column of book reviews by Richard Lupoff. The Readers Letter's section is well filled with much discussion of the previous issue lead article. This was Susan Wood's WOMEN AND SF. I'm glad to say that the letters are mostly thoughtful and challenging.

There is a supplement in this issue called SF CHRONICLE which gives up-to-date news of the science fiction world, particularly the professional publishing end of it. This will be sold at 50¢ per copy and will be published quarterly.

You may obtain STARSHIP, which is also published quarterly, by subscription.
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STARSHIP.....THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION!

Back issues are available direct from the editor. Issue still in stock run from No 25 to 33.



being comments on fanzines received.....

Last issue I carelessly put a Canadian fanzine among the American group, of all people I should not have made that mistake! So as an apologia I list the Canadian fanzines first this time:

DNQ: From: Victoria Wayne & Taral, PO Box 156, Stn. D, Toronto, Ont. M6P 3J8. A Newszine, mostly Canadian news or of friends. Also has zine reviews.

SCHMAG: No 2: From: Michael S. Hall, 8833-92 St., Edmonton, Alberta. T6C 3P9. Sample available on request. Personalzine describing cons, meetings and parties. A pleasant atmosphere but the editor is apt to apologise too much for his opinions. Handsome production and artwork.

ZOSMA: No 12: From: Steve George, 94 Brock St., Winnipeg, Man. R3N 0Y4. \$3 per year. Pretty much a personalzine too, but more reviews of books and films. Some letters. An article by Tim Ender is a bitter short diatribe on Christmas present-giving.

VOLTA: No 5: From: Daniel F. Farr, R.R. No 8, Dunnville, Ont. N1A 2W7. Trade etc. '1 buck' This calls itself a crudzine and it is rather haphazard in presentation. The editor says he is changing direction in his zine aims. Mostly reviews and letters.

SIMULACRUM: No 8: From: Victoria Wayne, address above. \$2.50 (\$3 overseas). The production of this is impeccable with marvellous artwork. There is another editor wanting to change direction from a genzine to a fannish zine. HORRIBLE ECOLOGY STORIES by Don D'Amassa is amusing as he waxes sarcastic over some horrible books. It gets more serious though with Ben Indict describing author's use of New York as a locale for disasters and Angus Taylor writing about Post-Industrialism. One can sympathise with Victoria when she complains that typing serious material is too like work. However she must have had fun with the next lot of cartoons on ways of destroying Tokyo. I was less happy with Angys Taylor's 'fannish' item as it was rather limp. But then, what is fannish writing?

REQUIEM: Nos 24 & 25: From: Norbert Spehner, 1085 St-Jean, Longueuil P.Q. Canada J4H 2Z3. \$2. A particularly handsome zine entirely in French. Very professional in material covering the SF field.

There is an advert here for SCIENCE FICTION STUDIES obviously a scholarly magazine from R.M. Philmus, Dept. of English, Loyola Campus, Concordia U. Montreal P.Q. Canada H4B 1R6. Write there for details.

Now for Australian zines...

SPECTRE: No 1: From: Perry Middlemiss, PO Box 98, Rundle St., Adelaide 5000. 50¢. Good interview with Susan Wood particularly when she describes her experiences as a teacher of SF at University. John Alderson discovers that ThOs. Carlyle in 1831 invented time-travel and boasts that he was Scottish. Good reviews. Brian Mancer tries to figure out why so many zines never get past a second issue. (my theory is few are content with little reaction) Good genzine this, largely serious content.

ORNITHOPTER: No 3: From: Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056. Fapazine. This one has a largely humorous base in addition to being well-written. I found it highly enjoyable.

DIPPING INTO ANZAPL, Part 1: From: Leigh Edmonds, address above. Anzapa is now 10 years old and this is a selection from its early mailings. A formidable undertaking... 100pp! It starts off well with John Bangsund in top form and it contains most of the good writers who have appeared in Australian fandom such as John

HAVERINGS 2

Brosnan, Bruce Gillespie, John Foyster, Eric Lindsay, etc. This has, in addition, a checklist of mailings, handy for the historian.

So now to the US of A.....

WESTWIND: Nos 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 79th Pl., NE, Kirkland, WA 98033. Newszine of the Northwest SF Society. Mainly concerned with their bidding for the '81 Worldcon, I am interested as this is the year I hope to go to the US. This group seem a lively lot who have plenty meetings and activity going. They also put on the Norwestcons.

DE PROFUNDIS: Nos 101-106: From: Leigh Strother-Vien, 7107 Woodman Ave., No 10, Van Nuys, Cal. 91405. Newsletter of Los Angeles SF Society. \$3 per year, some trades. A fascinating glimpse into the high voltage activities of the most active SF club anywhere. Good news roundup too.

DAGON: Nos 181-197: From: John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. York, 11226. This is an APA-Q zine. Always interesting as John has wide interests. I enjoyed his comments on the DARKOVER series, his contrasting Wells and T.H. White, and his many astringent comments on today's happenings.

TANTRUM: No 1: From: Bruce Felz, 15931 Kalisher St., Granada Hills, Cal. 91344. Personal zine which gives an absorbing picture of Loscon 5 - the model of what a con report should be. I wish Bruce would publish more.

Don Miller (that publishing phenomena) 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Maryland, 20906 has sent THE GMS NEWSLETTER: Nos 8-10. which has publishing news, reviews and covers a wide field from sf to mystery. 30¢ each. THE GMS REVIEW: No 3 which contains longer reviews mainly mystery though his field really is wide. 30¢. THE SF AND F NEWSLETTER: No 8 which has mainly publishing and media news with sf reviews. 30¢ and lastly (for the moment anyway) THE SF & F INFORMANT: No 22 which is thicker than the others (60¢) not only lists everything in the SF field but has reviews also. All are invaluable to the SF and mystery reader.

ALPHA CENTURI: No 11: From: Owen K. Laurion, 1609 Roma, NE, Albuquerque, N. Mexico, 87106 This comes from a SF club with a Star Trek emphasis. They are looking for trades. Features short articles, some fiction and reviews. Rather slight, promising tho.

THE PURPLE PROCASTINATOR: No 8: From: Richard Llewellyn, PO Darawer BP, Cullowhee, N. Carolina 28723. One of the few spirit duplicator zines I have seen in ages! Here is a fanzine editor who has taken up volleyball and it has seduced him from fanediting! There are so many things that can interest us it is a wonder we don't lose more in this way.

THE SCIENCE FICTION VOTARY: No 4: From: Steve Ferram, 2920 Meridian St., Bellingham, WA 98225. no price, I think he wants trades. Mostly letters and reviews and rather dull. Still it has an amusing cover.

STEFANIASY: No 34: From: William M. Danner, R.D. 1, Kennerdell, PA. 16374. Bill continues with excerpts from SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and this time has a long one from 1908 by a girl of 12 theorising about thunderstorms, she had a fantastic vocabulary for her age. Good letter column all participants having firm opinions and fine at putting over their viewpoint. Still the only privately printed zine done with loving care.

QUINAPALUS: No 2: From: M.K. Digre, 1902 S. 4th Ave., No 1A, Minneapolis, MN 55404. 50¢ A happy zine that fools around without being foolish. Terry Hughes writes a piece of fan fiction - the type I thought had disappeared for good. However another long piece by "Mark Twain" I skipped because it used the mock "In yo heat of yo talk. Naught doth so befit yo" type of dialogue from which I flee..ye, ye.

SPANG BULLH: No 19: From: Jan Howard Finner, PO Box 428, Latham, NY. 12110. 50p. This is a special issue containing the cartoon work of Jim Barker. Very impressive full page cartoons that are really funny and an excellent cartoon-strip. Well worth the money

MONGOOSE: No 2/3: From Seth Goldberg, c/o Dept. of Chemistry, Bilger Hall, Univ. of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822. \$1.25. Interesting article about working in a bookstore by Kat Kan, and the trials of trying to get SF on the shelves. As a zine that is just really getting started this is very good, letters are a mixed bunch, but articles are nicely balanced. Available for trade.

FANTASY AMATEUR This comes from the Official Editor who is recruiting among British fans to enter FAPA. If interested he is Harry Andruschak, 6933 N. Rosemead No 31, San Gabriel Cal. 91775.

PRETENTIOUS SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY: No 2: From: Michael Ward, Box 1496, Cupertino, CA 95014. \$1.50. A fine article by the editor on the work of Suzy McKee Charnas is followed by an article on SF games. There is an equally valuable article on the GOR novels and the letter column is of high standard. I hope I see more of this zine, I'd like to know what comes next.

HAVERINGS 3

SKUG:No 3:From:Gary S.Mettingly,864B Haight,San Francisco,Cal.94117.No price. The first half (26pp)is written by the editor who describes what it is like to move to San Francisco who then goes on to a variety of other subjects. It began to appear monotonous which puzzled me until I figured out that it was because of his writing style. He uses a lot of short sentences that give it a staccato quality. The latter half consists of letters which are well varied.

LAST KNASS:No 38:From:Linda E.Bushyager,1614 E . I am really sad to see this excellent newszine go, but heartened by news that Linda may well publish again later but in a different format. A lot of this is artwork as she cleared out her files and so there is a lot of good stuff. As usual her listing of cons that can be attended is awesome-there are about 3 or 4 every month of the year!

FANHISTORICA:No 8:From:Joseph D.Siclari,2201 N.E.45th St.,Lighthouse Point,FLA 33064. \$1.This reprints from fanzines some good material that has appeared down the years. Fanzines can be so ephemeral and collectors are already pushing up the prices for early ones that this is useful. This features Willis,Tucker and Ted White. Main item is the first part of AN SWEET IDIOCY by F.Towner Laney - the fascinating story of a fan who became too immersed in fandom.

MOTU:Nos 26@27:From:Terry Hughes.4739 Washington Blvd.,Arlington,VA 22205. \$1 or trade. Terry nicely conveys the trepidation that goes along with the honour of giving a speech when he describes his stint as GOH. Bob Shaw once again entertains and Terry's own sense of humour communicates itself to the readers. I have just giggled at a letter from Bob Pavlat..all these years I never knew he could be so comical! No 27 has Peter Robert's TAFF Report Chapters 5@6, they are excellent and, one should hope, will stimulate the publication of more such reports..

JANUS:No 12/13:From:c/o SF3,Box 1624,Madison,WI 54701. \$1 but \$2 for this double issue.Editors Janice Bogstad and Jeanne Gomell. While the production is very good the type is just too small to be comfortable. Samuel Delaney writes on what is attractive about sf-he says academics are attracted because it is a comparatively small and therefore knowable field.There are a further 8 articles which dissect sf followed by a few zine reviews, some good con reports, film reviews(the most cheerful offering)and letters. The letters are concerned with "feminist" cons and the Equal Rights Amendment. On the whole a 'serious' zine, but some highly humorous cartoons are always featured. I find this a 'must' to allow me to keep up with the latest in femme fandom.

YANDRO:Nos 245&246:From Robert & Juanita Coulson,Route 3,Hartford City,IN 47348 75¢ or 40p.British Agent:Alan Dodd,77 Stansetad Rd.,Hoddesdon,Herts. Reading. Juanita's column brought the thought to my mind -long before 'feminism' became fashionable she had equal status with her husband on Y, and this has been something that I have always taken for granted! Buck writes affectionately of his Father who died recently, and describes how he acquired so many of his Father's independant attitudes. Sandra Miesal does a lovely parody of Buck's novel TO RENEW THE AGES, even if you haven't read the book this is still funny. As always a stimulating fanzine.

SF REVIEWS:Nos 28&29:From:Richard E.Geis,PO Box 11408,Portland,OR. 97211. \$1.50. I enjoyed the transcript of a speech by Damon Knight in which he impresses on us the need to keep our scepticism. There is an interview with C.J.Cherryh where she mentions her difficulty at first in presenting male characters. So maybe we should not blame male authors too much for all those cardboard women. In 29 there are two more informative interviews with John Brunner and Michael Moorcock. The end of Dick's own story ONE IMMORTAL MAN came, I found it riveting if gruesome! Extensive reviews are a highlight of this zine.

so now I come to oor ain folk....

SELMONSTERS:Nos 2&3:From: Simone Walsh,7a Lawrence Rd.,Ealing,London W5 4Xj.for tarde, letter, or show of interest. Simone has the knack of good descriptive narrative which gives this zine a good head start. Next best item came from Chris Atkinson describing her first visit to an American con. D.West has a con report that makes it all sound rather dreary; I suppose he did enjoy himself. Chris Priest has an onetraining article as he knows just how much to exaggerate.Still I would have liked a straight report on his dealings with the BEC. It is a constant puzzle to me why our established writers are used so rarely there, apart from a few panels where they are often wasted.This zine gets better every issue.

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NABU: Nos 6&7: From: Ian Maule, 5 Beaconsfield Rd., New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4HY. Trades Ian is complaining about the One Tun being swamped by Dr Who and Trak fans, so I guess I am not missing anything there. John Brosnan describes the Writers Conference in Dublin, he can be scathing in criticism but, unlike some, uses a scalpel not a bludgeon and always with humour. Letter column discussing use of Fan Room is good. Many take exception to Joseph Nicholls' who criticises fanzines. I find myself hampered by thinking he is the Nicholls of the SF Foundation.. fandom can be confusing with a bad memory like mine! My main feeling about his columns is that the use of the phrase FANDOM IS JUST A GODDAM HOBBY ought to be revived just for him.

W&F: Nos 2&3: From: Tom A. Jones, 39 Ripplensmere, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 3QA. Trades. I found No 2 confusing as it was often impossible to know who was writing. I puzzled out Mary Long writing about her snow-in and someone wrote about a trip to Iceland. No 3 at least gives a contents table but one still gets a scrappy impression. Apparently it is deliberate as Tom wants to get away from a conventional format. I let me know that it was Tom who went to Iceland.

GRCK: No 5: From: Science Fiction Society, U.M.I.S.T. Union, U.M.I.S.T., PO Box 88, Sackville St., Manchester M60 1QA. A clubzine from I guess the Univ. of Manchester. The abbreviation UMIST is not explained. Mainly fiction with some club news. I don't read amateur fiction, have enough to do keeping up with the professional. This zine could do with more articles.

CHECKPOINT: Nos 92, 93, 94: From: Peter Roberts, c/o 38 Oakland Dr., Dawlish, Devon. 5/50p. or selected trades. Newszine, all events efficiently reported. Lots of terse zine reviews; book reviews are longer, both done well.

TWILL DDU: Nos 14&15: From: Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave., Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW. 25p or trade. See the letter column for Dave's comments on my misspelling... He has two good cartoon covers, one from Harry Bell and the other from Jim Barker. Dave has a neat way of giving a Silicon report reminded me of Boyd Reeburn's DESCRIPTIONS, a high compliment! The same irreverent and humorous approach is there combined with a heap of knowledge about various fans. A cheerful personal zine that I really enjoyed.

The Wrinkled Shrew: No 8: From: Pat & Graham Charnock, 4 Fletcher Rd., London. W4 5LY. Good contributors - Terry Hughes, Robert Holdstock and the Charnocks themselves who can both write well and present pleasant editorial personalities.

SMALL FRIENDLY DCG: No 16: From: Cas and Skel, 25 Bowland Close, Offerton, Stockport Cheshire, SK2 5NW. Well, that's what they say but I wouldn't trust the FC that much myself and would advise using their full name of Skelton for mail. Diary-type zine that flags here and there but on the whole comes under the title of a good (double) personal-zine. There is a sober letter on feminism in fandom from Eli Cohen and Skel answers it in the same vein and admits to feeling guilty. An interesting exchange.

GANNETSCLIPBOOK: No 6: From: Edited by Ritchie Smith, letters and trades to Andy Firth, 185 Osbourne Rd., Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Ritchie Smith on fanzines is followed by Ian Williams on his librarian work. Kevin Williams describes THE SF YEARBOOK and is amusing about the fans reaction to it. As a clubzine the standard of material is high, reproduction is poor.

MALFUNCTION: No 12: From: Pete E. Presford, Ty-Cwyn, Maxwell Close, Buckley, Clwyd, N. Wales. Peter defends his numerous typos and poor sentence construction by pointing out that "maybe I didn't learn good English"... this is a personalzine and his enjoyment of it is what matters. Considering how little criticism I have listened to over the years, I am hardly in a position to argue his attitude! The content matter is quite good. After the description of his schooling I found myself curious as to what line of work he eventually entered. What do you suppose people do in Wales - apart from being British Steel?

ARENA: No 8: From: Geoff Rippington, 15 Queens Ave., Canterbury, Kent. CT2 8LY. 50p. Serious articles on SF by such as Brian Stableford, Dick Lupoff, Chris Evans and Angus Taylor. Also an interview with Vonnegut. Review section is excellent. The letter column shows that authors are interested in comment on their work and will respond, sometimes in great length! Worth the money.

KNOCKERS FROM NEPTUNE: No 6: From: Mike & Pat Meara, 61 Borrowash Rd., Spondon, Derby DE2 7QH. Mostly letters and the editors response so of varying interest. They support the idea of holding another astercon in a University saving that Manchester should not be locked upon as typical. Well Liverpool is certainly

vastly better, wash-basins in every room, waitress service and good food. Also a nice bar.

FANZINE FANTIQUE QUARTERLY: From: Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd., Lancaster, Lancs. Fanzine reviews which I've always enjoyed but the reproduction had been poor. This time they have tried Xerox which is certainly clearer but, of course, very small. They have also published SF FILM FANTASTICA No 1 which gives the cast and a synopsis of each film - four done in depth and an Index commenced, should be a useful reference zine.

THE CIDEEMAL TIMES: No 6: From: Allen J. Boyd-Newton, The Gatehouse, Coombe Florey, Via Taunton, Somerset. 15p. Continues a series on how I discovered SF from various fans. There are also book reviews, and an article on Time-Travel in SF. A clubzine.

PERIHELION: No 3: From: S.W. Higgins, 18 St Austell Ave., Tyldesley, Manchester. M29 7FY 5/51. Editor Steve is a new fan and having some difficulty with an editorial. He also gives a Novacon report and follows fashion by describing how he feels rather than what he sees. The cover has a great picture of a fan sound asleep at a con.

THE PANELCLOGIST: No 10: From: George Barnett, 3 Colford Bridge Rd., Mytchett, Camberley Surrey. GU16 6DH. 10p. I see the argument about feminism has crept into comics fandom too! Very neat this and with lots of news for the comics fan.

FANTASY TRADER: No 35: From: Gez Kelly, 34 Howorth Hall Dr., York. YO3 04C. 5p Adverts and articles for the fantasy fan.

Some catalogues...

FANTASY CENTRE, 43 Station Rd., Harlesden, London. NW10 4UP. Sf in hard and paperback good selection, prices reasonable. Monthly catalogues.

THE SKYRACK FANTASY TRADER: from Ron Bennett, 36 Harlow Park Crescent, Hacrogate HG2 0AW. N. Yorkshire. 6/51. Sf plus comics, pulps, cinema..full range. Enlivened by an article from Ron telling of weird bookshops in various parts of the world.

Forward to the Stars Ltd, 57 Lynwood Ave., Clayton-le-Moors, Nr. Accrington, Lancs. SF and Fantasy paperbacks, plus books on the Cinema.

FANTAST(MEDWAY) Ltd, 39 West Street, Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 2LX. Monthly catalogues from Ken Slater who always includes a news page of publishing data. The largest catalogue that comes in here, very comprehensive.

FERRET FANTASY LTD, 27 Beechcroft Rd., Upper Totting, London SW17 7BX. This one covers fantasy, SF and detective novels. Hardbacks usually rare and first editions, details of each book make fascinating reading for the collector.

and so to the BSFA... quite a bundle...

VECTOR: Nos 90-92: Official organ of the BSFA. Editor: David Wingrove, 4 Holmside Court, Nightingale Lane, London. SW12 8TL. 75p. No 90 has an interview with Fred Fohl, an article by Brian Stableford, reviews and letters discussing SF. No 91 is a Bob Shaw special issue; his fiction is reviewed by James Corley and there is a long interview with Bob. 92 has an interview with Richard Cowper (was amazed to learn he'd had books turned down in the US as "too literate!") and the fiction of Cowper is covered by David Wingrove. Reviews are copious in each issue. With them come Supplements which also have reviews and letters and lists of the BSFA awards. Also with each mailing is PAPERBACK PARLOUR lists most pbs that are published. The last that comes from the BSFA is MATRIX now being edited by John & Eve Harvey. It seems much more efficient. Committee jobs are explained (and I hope that everyone realises they are unpaid). The services being offered are getting wider as clubs are being described and useful bookshops being listed. Outside contributions vary - there is a Novacon report from Dave Langford I thought poor, not his usual standard; but Chris Priest has a useful article for budding writers. Very worthwhile.

Now for some foreign-language zines..

OCTA-MAGAZINE: No 11: From: Calude Dumont (editor), College Namurois D'anticipation Scientifique, B.P. 29 A Namur 2, Belgique. Fiction, articles, poetry, crossword puzzle!

FANDOM: From: Francis Valery B.F.06, 33620, Cavignac. France. A newszine that lists many fanzines and an article WHITHER FANDOM?

ZELLOC: Nos 3: From: Ragnar Fyri, Solliveien 37, N 1370 Åsker, Norway. This one is in English and consists of letters and comments upon them by the editor. I have another issue here which is full of fun and obviously the issue that brought forth so many letters from British fandom. Please trade your zines with this one, it is a highly praiseworthy effort.

UNIFAN: No 2: From: Ellen Federson & Niels Dalgaard, Tohubohu Press, Hersokildevej 13, 1V dør 3, DK-2500 Valby, Denmark. Trades wanted. Has a Kelly Freas cover! They first

HÄVERINGS 6

tell us of the difficulties of putting on a Eurocon and then describe one held in Brussels. It is good the way the European fans are trying not to let the cons become divided between east and west, but to maintain communication between both. This has a long piece of fiction and also an enlightening article on Sf in Yugoslavia. Do trade.

With these the huge pile that threatened to fall over has been cleared but of course zines still come in and I shall comment upon them until the last minute before publication..

DREAM VENDOR:No 3:From:Alan C. Santercock,44 Glen Rd.,No 1009,Hamilton,Ontario L8S 4N2,Canada. 50¢ or 25p or trade. Excellent personalzine as Alan can describe well what he sees; in particular his Skycon report gives a good picture of the activities. He is interested in films and discusses them.

GEGENSHEIN:From Eric Lindsay,6 Hillcrest Ave.,Faulconbridge,2776,Australia.Trade etc. Eric has been away for 5 months and commendably goes through his mail - so this is letters and his replies. He also catches up on book and zine reviews. 2 issues. One of the good writers in Australia, always with an original viewpoint.

MOONSHINE:No 46:From:June & Len Moffatt,Box 4456,Downey,Cal.90241.Fapazine with a few extra to friends. The major part of this is taken up with a trip report by June. To anyone interested in the American way of living this is very worthwhile as June gives detail in her descriptions and they travelled quite a bit. The various eating-places described made me feel hungry!

CULLOWHEE:No 5:From:Richard Llewellyn,PO Drawer BP,Callowhee,N.Carolina.28723.A good item is discussing the award winners both HUGO and Nebula of 1978. Reviews of books, films, and zines. Editor too engrossed in his production to tell much about himself.

GIANT WOMBO:No 1:From:Leigh Edmonds & Valma Brown,PO Box 103,Brunswick,Vict.3056 AUSTRALIA.Urbanely amusing, with nice variety. bush-walking (highly instructive about Australia)how-to-be-a-convention-treasuere(most sensibly written) and Valma giving an excellent review of a book about battered wives. Hm..not that the last was amusing, that was written from the heart!

VALMAPA:came with the above and was also pleasant to read, in fact I was sorry it was so short as was becoming absorbed in a description of Canberra

XENOLITH:No 1:2nd series.From;Bill Bowers,PO Box 3157,Cincinnati,Ohio.45201\$1.50 An excellent genzine that also has a strong editorial personality. Contributors are good including, as they do, Foul Anderson and William Rotsler. Was surprised to learn how many pseudonyms Rotsler writes under. As usual from Bill, there is beautiful reproduction and artwork. Only quibble..Bill writes about putting on World Conventions but so nebulously I don't understand what he is getting at.

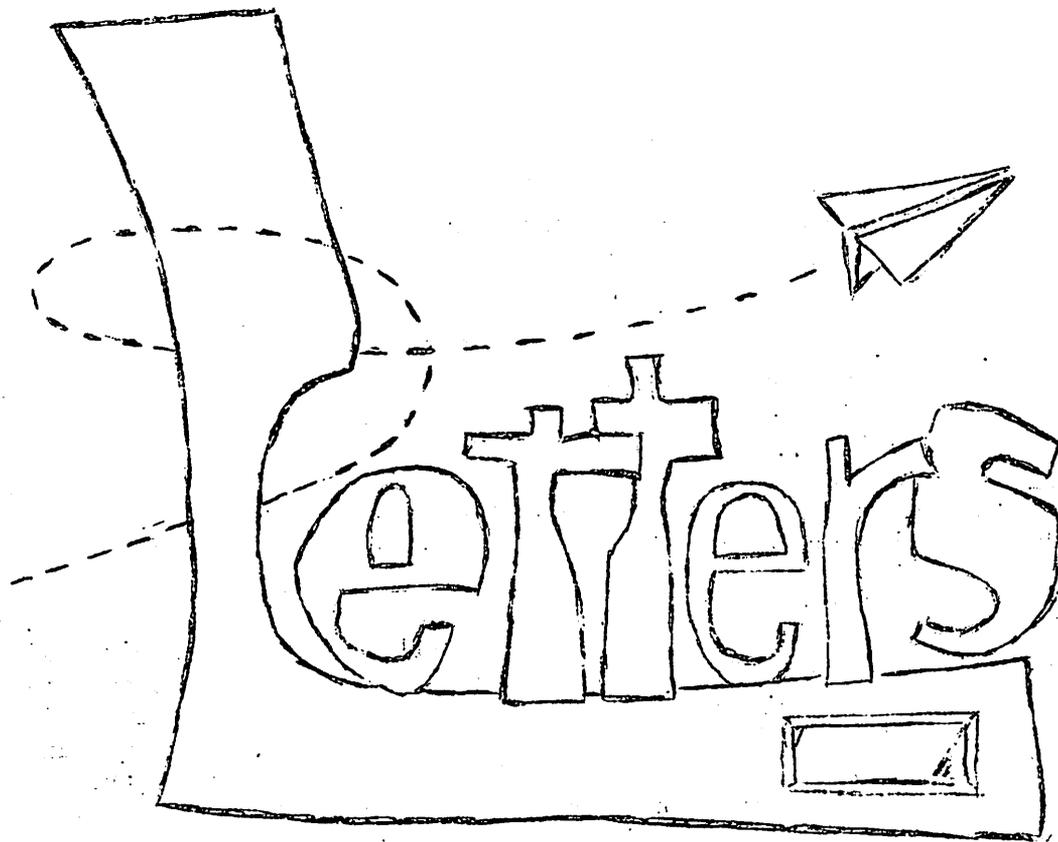
DAGON*Nos 198-203:From John Boardman who has been busy again. Entertaining as usual but I enjoyed most a strip cartoon he enclosed. Called HAGAR THE HORRIBLE it shows two Norsemen invading England in heavy rain. Says one "This your first raid?" the second says "Yeah..tell me are the English tough?" The first one replies "Let me out it this way..they live here!"

REQUIEM:No 26:Showing that this one continues very regularly, I wish I could read the language there appears to be an article on "arlan Ellison.

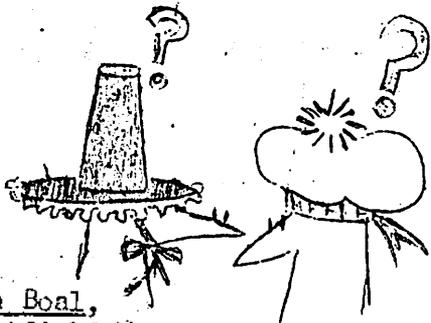
LES SPINGS:No 33:From:Darroll Fardoc,38 Sandown Lane,Liverpool,L.5 4HU. Some sage thoughts from Darroll on "elitism" and conventions. He participates by producing some sexist quotes that need no comment!

FANTAST MEDWAY CATALOGUE,May issue:From:Ken Slater,39 West St,Wisbech,Cambs.PE13 2UJ. 2lx. Once a fanzine editor, always a fanzine editor..this issue has Ken giving lots of news notes, and even giving a con report. There is one on Yorkcon from Joyce Meins, but Ken's on the Antwerp con was better. Also lots of goodies for sale at reasonable prices.

Ethel Lindsay



Dave Langford,
 22 Northumberland Ave.,
 Reading: Berks. RG2 7PW



Pamela Boal,
 4 Westfield Way,
 Charlton Heights,
 Wantage. Oxon.
 CXL2 7EW

Pamela writes that poems
 should say
 something, be it sad or gay;
 In words that rhyme
 if so, alas
 why don't mine

"I see that once again your implacable
 Scottishness (oh! forgive me--what an unfair
 misprint) Scottishness has converted my zine
 title Twll-Ddu to Twyll Dhu as in the skean
 dhu with which I understand all true Scots
 clean haggis fragments from their teeth....
 Seriously, the title is supposed to be from
 Welsh. Not very good Welsh, but even worse
 Scots... Never mind, it's at least recognisable
 unlike some of the variants like Twiddley-doo
 which I suffered..." ***I wish all my typos
 brought such an amusing response!***

There is so much pretentious nonsense talked
 about poetry but I agree with your basic con-
 tention, a poem should say something. I also
 think Betjeamen was right in one respect when
 he said that you can't write free form until
 you know and have mastered what you seek to be
 free from.. Hurray for your attitude to retire-
 ment. Yes, not a time for stopping but a time
 for going off in directions that you hadn't
 the time for whilst working for your crust. I
 have the honour to be asked to talk to various
 groups, particularly the elderly in day centres
 Frankly they often make me sick at heart, all
 those lovely people allowing society to tell
 them they are old. I tell them no one should

ever mentally retire, just change gears. If life becomes more physically
 difficult, as it does for many, I tell them there are ways round such problems if
 they will only believe and look for them." ***I think it is so sad the number of
 people whose enjoyment of life is bound by their physical ability. Usually they
 have never found that reading is enjoyable... they equate this with school, studying,
 work. I used to believe that it was only poorly educated people who did not enjoy
 reading, but I have since realised that this is not the criterion. If I puzzle
 them by loving books; they puzzle me even more by not doing so. Is it a lack of
 imagination - or what?

Letters 2

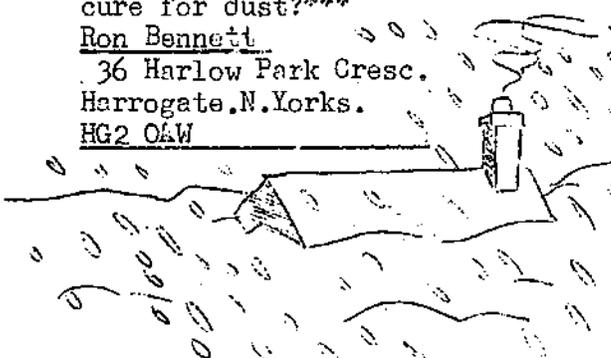
S. Birchby,
40 Parrs Wood,
Didsbury.
Manchester, M20 0ND



"You must keep us informed about Life after Retirement, because several Old Fen are about to emerge from their chrysalis too. I for one am beginning to count-down, and we could both name others, except it might make them blush at Conventions. Maybe you should start a club. What about the Old Fen Fellowship and Literary Club? (OEFAL for short). By the time I retire it should be going nicely. Mind you, as Groucho said, I wouldn't join a club that wanted me as a member. Already you are changing, my dear. Matterings now speaks of arcane runes such as droich an' in'tilt, of which the De'il only kens. Can it be long before your column is re-titled "Wauchling Hame"! Fair warning if you do that, I will write to you in Mercian. (No net you, Archie).

Agree completely with your attitude to book reviews. I do hate those plonking Sunday features consisting of a lot of egoboo for the critic, followed by a chunk of waffle about Significance, and maybe two lines and a short quote about the book. Your reviews have always been my guide as to what's worth reading and I must say that whenever I see SF on the 2nd-hand book barrows in Manchester's quaint old streets I always think: "What did Ethel say about this?" I rarely have to ask for my money back. Your visitor's interest, or lack of, in your bookshelves reminds me of long ago when fen visited me. I could always tell a Truefan from a Human by the way he or she trotted over to whatever books were visible. Vincent Clarke was the boy. A quick one-over in the first five minutes and you were judged and sentenced. Reminds me of the man who went into a bookshop and asked for "Spirits and their production" by a well-known distiller. "Religion downstairs!", he was told. There's an answer for the garden you have acquired. Turn it into a Nature Trail. All you need do is neglect it, and put up a few signs, such as "Giant Hogweed" and "Caterpillar Sanctuary". Get rid of the dustbin and throw everything onto a heap labelled "Natural Composting". Nature-freaks will come for miles, pleading for admittance. Carnoustie could become a second Findhorn. Don't forget that in 1982 all the planets are due to line up, and everything will go whee! But that's 3 years away. Don't buy any 5-year bonds, that's all." ***One of the nice things about Retirement is being able to sit still and do nothing. Of course I then become aware of a feeling of guilt and so a stencil gets cut...a letter gets answered! I soon discovered housekeeping was boring, so that gets done in spurts. I take a dim view of dusting because that is never-ending. I don't like to see it but I do get fed up finding it has to be done again and again and again. Why don't the scientist's figure out a cure for dust?***

Ron Bennett
36 Harlow Park Cresc.
Harrogate, N.Yorks.
HG2 0AW



"I'm quite willing to bet that the greatest difference you notice in your life in Surbiton and living in Carnoustie is the weather or perhaps just the difference in temperature. Well, you Scots are a hardy type with your claymores and Bells/Tocchors...ah TAFF reports, a sore pint with me. Perhaps I'm becoming more and more sour as I get older but I'm afraid TAFF doesn't have the same appeal, aura, panache, ring...what is the word?...for me these days. How can it, when many candidates declare that they're going to a convention anyway and

that virtually they're using the fund, if successful, as a freeloader and nothing more, or when TAFF is actually promoted on the lines of "be an acti-fan and you'll get a free trip to the States." Or when an ex-delegate awards himself a certificate to say that he's been a TAFF delegate, as blatant a piece of narcissism as I've seen in fandom...well, my opinion, anyway, and as everyone else at the time seemed to think it was a good idea I'm obviously willing to agree that I'm entirely in the wrong, especially as I admire everything else the same ex-delegate has done. I agree that this silly business of "bad reporting" in a

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TAFF report, which would result in bad feelings, is definitely a little (or even a lot of) rationalisation. Definitely a cover, as you say, for sheer laziness. Good grief, we know, that one has to exercise a little commonsense and restraint. I had thought that one idea of the report was so that others, who had to stay behind, could share one's enjoyment, albeit second-hand. Ah well, sincere plaudits to ol' Pete Roberts and his excellent report and foesh on all those others... I'll go along with Rick Sneary about throwing open one's rooms to millions of strangers for an open room party at the present day every-convention bigger gatherings, but at the same time I must defend old Mike Moorcock who is one of the most generous people I know, ridiculously generous, I'm afraid... and his home is like a continuously open room party..." ***as it happens, I do know about Mike's generosity as I have more than once been a grateful recipient.***
Michael Moorcock:



"Nice to get a SCOTTISH even if the information is a little out of date! What I mean is Hilary Bailey and I haven't been together for five years--I'm now married to Jill Riches, who has done a number of illustrations for various books of mine and is a painter. I still see a lot of Hilary and, of course, the three kids, because we all live across the way from one another--this done deliberately since the separation was amicable. Hilary came to edit NEW WORLDS because she wanted to and I didn't at that time, feeling that I had done everything I could in the way of innovation and that I was getting stale. Since then I've revived the

magazine because it struck me there were some possible developments now. We're running it on haphazard lines deliberately, with different editors doing different issues. I see no reason to pretend to be tied to 19th century distribution methods when they no longer exist anyway-- Barry Bailey, as you know, is a real person. Strange that there are these days lots of people about who don't at least know someone who knows Barry! And I didn't kill off James Colvin. Charles Platt did, behind my back. Not too many authors have their pseudonyms killed in such a manner! What I was saying (re Rick Sneary) about conventions was simply that there is no need for closed room parties. If closed room parties become a 'necessity' --have the parties in the public rooms. But I suppose numbers have become a problem and that's probably one of the main reasons I stopped attending conventions-- I got confused and slightly claustrophobic at 'em these days. The fact is, however, that there is a terrible tendency in sf circles to form social pyramids with --what?-- authors and BNFs at the top? I became distressed because my friendships seemed to cut across these mysterious boundaries and I was either being offended or feeling I was about to give offense. In such an atmosphere one would rather disappear. And this isn't paranoia, I know. Ah, well. I'd rather see old friends outside such circumstances. I might drop in at the Brighton convention, but only because it could be the only way I'll see a few faces I haven't seen in years. Closed room parties seem to me to be a development of the problem, not a solution to it." *** I do see that authors have a bigger problem on their hands at conventions than do ordinary fans like myself. In fact it is a continuing miracle that more do not stay away; most non-SF authors would blench and run a mile from such an amount of people. I can remember Andy Offett writing bitterly about some of his encounters. Yet it is only a part of the problem of socialising with other people, we all have those worries to overcome. Take me, I sometimes feel as if younger fans look at me and are amazed to find I am still alive--after all I have been in fandom for over 20 years now! I know of others who feel the same at times. However, I believe that shyness is at the bottom of all these problems. BNFs pooh! I have serious doubts that there is such a creature. Do come to Brighton Mike, if you look around you will see other professionals whose friendships cut across fandom!***

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Harry Warner,
423 Summit Ave.,
Hagerstown,
Maryland, 21740

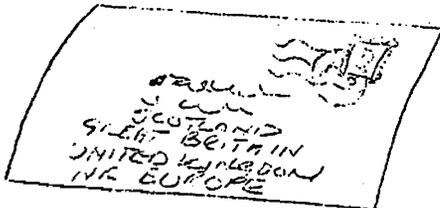


"In NIBBLINGS this time, the best news is the description of George Lock's book about first editions. I'm gradually losing patience with collectors and dealers who have only the sketchiest idea of how to identify a first edition...I share the impatience you express over too much chatter about beer in fanzines. Every so often I decide to parody this by references two or three times in every log to drinking water: where I got it on some occasion how differently it tastes in different areas, and so on. But I've never had the nerve to go ahead and do it. People don't think of me as anything but a dead-serious person and a

barrage of water references in my logs might be interpreted as proof that I've finally gone senile instead of what I really meant it for...Besides, constant chatter about alcohol makes me nervous, because I keep wondering if any of the fans who keep talking about firewater are doing it because they've already become alcoholics. I've seen too many people here in Hagerstown ruin their lives by becoming dependant on alcohol, and most of them had a habit of talking incessantly about it while they were deteriorating. I trust that fans who write about beer do so because beer has become a symbol of fanaticism. I recognize another phenomena: certain people drink in inverse ratio to the amount of references they utter to drinking, the more they talk about drink, the less they drink. Besides, I know all about the secret drinkers who never mention the topic and are actually in greater danger of rotting their livers than the talkative type." *** I merely found all the talk about beer boring; but you have alerted me to a danger. If new fans are to get the idea that a fan must love beer, then they will drink it too. There is always a certain percentage of people who become alcoholics through no fault of their own. I should hope they never become so through fandom.***

Robert Coulson,
Route 3,
Hartford City,
IN 47348, USA

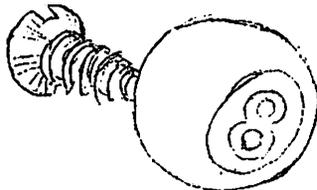
"Yours was one of the few fan addresses I had memorized, and now you've moved and I have to start all over again. Bah, and likewise humbug. Jurnite wanted to know if you picked your new home because the postal code is easy to remember? I don't recall any other British one that easy. Hmm. "British" comes naturally from Great Britain, but what does one do with U.K.? I don't suppose "Ukish" would be appreciated, and "Kingish" sounds silly. Not that it matters much as I can't use U.K. as an address anyway. I once resolved to change all my British mail-



ing addresses from "Great Britain" to "United Kingdom" since most of the residents there seem to prefer the latter. All the fanzine copies were returned to me by the US Post Office with the explanation that "United Kingdom" wasn't a specific enough address and I should specify which country I meant." ***Once I got home I was very tempted to use just Scotland for my address..but I felt that after all those years of brain-washing Americans about UK it would not be fair..besides I think Ron Bennett might have shouted at me...***

Bill Danner
R.D.1 Kennerdell
PA.16374 USA

"My main reason for writing is to express the hope that you enjoy your retirement as much as I've been enjoying mine. You may seldom give a thought to the job you have just left, but I'll bet a cookie that you'll have occasional dreams about it. For years after I quit J&L I had occasional dreams about being bagged back by management for six months or so to straighten out all the troubles with those temperamental instruments I used to service.



As for your finding lots of things to do, there won't be any end to that state of affairs. While I was working I used to get out four issues of Stef a year and in addition find time for model railroading, Photography and other hobbies. Now I'm just able to get out two issues a year and the other things suffer in proportion. One reason, of course, is the relativity of

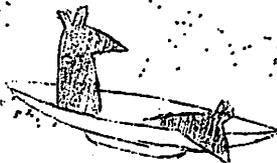
Letters 5.

time. When one is ten years old a year is a tenth of his life, and that's a pretty good slice. For me, now, a year is only 1/72 of my life, and the damn things whizz by like mad. If only these cold dreary winter months would pass as rapidly as do the summer months it wouldn't be so bad" *** My first winter and everyone keeps saying how it has been the coldest for yuks. Even May Day, for goodness sake, had snow falling! Days and days when, it has been so cold, I did not leave the fire-side-is no help when it comes to fanatic!***

Dave Rowe
8 Park Drv.
Wickford
Essex.SS12 9DH



Roy Lavendar
2507 E.17th St
Long Beach.
Cal.90804



pletely eliminates Snopake (writing out) on letters. Waiting for that stuff to dry can easily slow a 60 word per minute typist down to 10wpm.

Bob Tucker
34 Greenbrier Dr.
Jacksonville, Ill.
62650



I saw Pamela Boak back in mid-Dec and I have some news. Her "ABC of Household Hints For the Disabled" has been accepted by a publisher; so if several organisations keep their word it should be a success. Needless to say Pamela is channeling her royalties to A.I.D.S....which needs more members (HINT) the address is - Association for Independant Disabled Self-Sufficiency, 7 Alfred St., Bath, Avon. And of course you don't have to be disabled to join at £1 per annum."

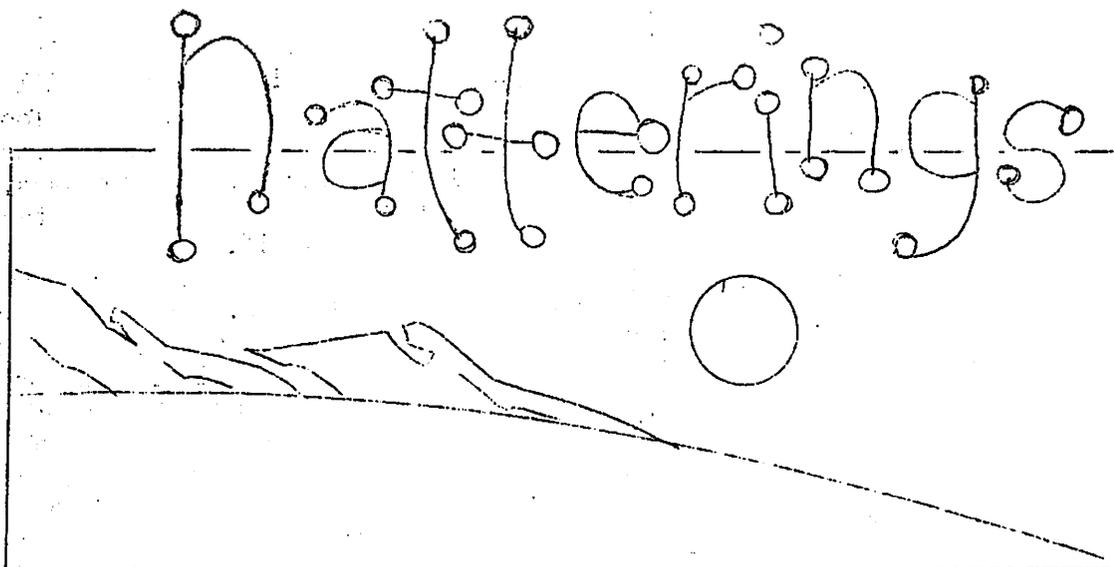
At work we have gotten in the word processing system that we were fighting for and the girls have pretty well accepted it as their easiest way of doing the various publishing jobs we have to do. Mainly it has almost eliminated re-typing. They can rough draft on the IBM Selectrics, using an OCR-B element, then put it through the type reader, which puts it on cassette tape and on the screen. Then they can edit it according to the notes that the author made on the original until he is happy, then push a button and it types out a corrected copy, without adding more typos. Cuts the work from around 4½ typings (in proposals) to about 1½. Plus it comp-

"I had hoped to have another issue of Le Zombie published last year, but although I have gathered some material for it the magazine never got into print. Well, not yet anyway. December 1978 would have been my 40th anniversary and I had hopes to issue a gale anniversary issue but plans went astray. I gathered in a cover by Jackie Causgrove and two articles by Sam and Mary Long, and a hint of a promise of a letter by Harry Warner. What more could I ask?

Well, Real Soon Now. I'm saving all that material and may yet publish a delayed 40th anniversary issue this summer. If all goes well I hope to be at Seacon..."
***Your last LE ZOMBIE with its full report of your Australian visit ought to put all these non-writers of TAFF reports to shame!

We also heard from and wish to thank...Terry J. Eves who told me that the Friends of the Earth do a cheap re-cycled paper..thank you...Mike Glicksohn who hopes the crowds at Seacon won't be too great for us to meet..I hope so too!... Thomas Schlueck who informs me he is now a family of four..congratulations Tom.. Fred Jacobic who says he would be a member of the Precastination Club but that he hasn't got around to joining it yet..alexander D.Wallace who looked Carnoustic up on the map and found the population is 6000 (and I keep thinking of it as a small town..) Lastly Jerry Kaufman (I think his signature is pretty illegible) who informs me that Elliot Shorter and Steve Stiles both wrote partial TAFF reports. A portion of Elliott's was in SPANISH INQUISITION which took him as far as the plane leaving the US.....He does not say where the partial report of Steve Stiles appeared.....

and that's all... Ethel Lindsay.



I went off for a holiday in April to attend two very contrasting weekends. The first was spent at Liverpool University to attend the Annual Conference of the International Ophthalmic Nurses Association (IONA). The second weekend was spent at the Dragonera Hotel in Leeds attending the annual SF convention. They did have some things in common - both had a banquet, both had film-shows and both had lots of people with whom to talk. However mostly there was very little resemblance between the two. Mention of my attending the second brought disbelieving laughter at the first!

At Liverpool we were given a Civic Reception where we were welcomed by the Lord Mayor. I wonder if we will ever see such a thing happen to an SF con? Still, part of the Liverpool Conference dealt with the future and particularly with the great advances made by science in the world of Ophthalmology. The films showed the huge strides being taken in surgery due to the use of giant microscopes, micro-sutures and micro-needles. The microscopes are capable of tremendous magnification, they are equipped with cameras, observer side-pieces and video-screens. The use of these microscopes has been mostly seized upon by the Ophthalmic surgeons, but others in the general field are becoming aware of the great advances that can be made by their use. These microscopes led logically to the invention of micro-sutures and micro-needles too small to be seen by the naked eye. Watching films of their use many, like myself, mourned that they had not been invented when we first entered the ophthalmic world. Someone at the banquet quoted "Once an ophthalmic nurse, always an ophthalmic nurse" and it is a fact that once drawn to this speciality we rarely leave it. I thought you might be interested in the changes I have seen and the easiest way is to choose the cataract operation as an example.

As you will know a "cataract" is actually the lens of the eye becoming cataractous - that is - what has been clear becomes opaque and so the vision deteriorates. When the cataract lens is 'mature' it is fully opaque and no light can enter the eye. The aim is to remove the lens and replace it with an artificial lens such as spectacles. When I first started this was a hazardous operation. The surgeon made a swift small incision and scooped out the lens. Many dangers attended this and speed and accuracy were vital. Then came a long period of rest to allow the wound to heal. The sutures were large compared with today's and the eye could not tolerate many of them. So the wound had to heal without the aid of many sutures and this meant the patient had to lie flat with both eyes covered, not allowed to do anything for himself, for 10-12 days. One of the speakers said that many people coming now for cataract surgery remember this procedure being used for a parent or elderly relative and that they take quite some persuading to believe that this is no longer necessary.

Now with the sophisticated equipment being used the surgeon cuts quite a large incision, he can remove the lens gently by holding a tip which freezes to the lens so that it may be gently drawn out. He can then take at least half-an-hour placing micro-sutures around the wound. With such good suturing (they are eventually dissolved and absorbed) the patient does not need extensive care.

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Of course this was not only a clinical meeting, lots of socialising went on. I had a fine time gossiping with former colleagues and discussions of the ophthalmic world in general. After being out of the nursing world for six months one thing struck me forcibly-what an organising lot we are! One item will show what I mean. The dining-room had waitress service (and surprisingly good food) but at the end of each course everyone automatically stacked up the dishes, passed them down and had them ready for the (I thought) rather surprised waitresses. It was all done so neatly and efficiently that, looking down on the heaped stacks, I almost expected to hear a firm voice call out "bedpan round!".

Still this is a very closed world and after three days of it I was glad to head towards Scunthorpe and visit with Doreen and Phil Rogers. With them I passed happily into a world where discussion of books is taken for granted. I had brought with me the books of David Kemelman who writes the Rabbi mysteries. They run from FRIDAY THE RABBI SLEPT LATE to WEDNESDAY THE RABBI GOT WET; and I had started to read them as I left home. Doreen immediately started on FRIDAY, I was at MONDAY when I arrived there, Phil soon passed Doreen and in fact all three of us had finished the series by the time we left for Leeds at the weekend. Apart from the fact that they are extremely well-written they are very enlightening as to the Jewish religion. I felt myself very sympathetic towards its ethical content although the ritual would be too time-consuming for me.

The Dragonears Hotel was very comfortable and apart from the usual waiting about for lifts, convenient. At that, the lifts did well in not having a mechanical nervous breakdown with fans surging in and out all the time. I missed the opening ceremony, I think they must have had it on time, however there was plenty room to sit around and talk with friends. In fact it was 5pm and time for the BSFA AGM almost before I knew it. This went briskly as the Chairman was decisive. I do like a Chairman who does not allow people to waffle. There was often an alternative programme in the Fan Room and I managed to attend GETTING INTO FANDOM on the Saturday morning. This consisted of much discussion of how difficult some new fans find it when encountering fandom on masse. On the whole the opinion seemed to be that it was just like trying to join any social group and that perseverance was the main ingredient required.

The Fan Room was rather too small. When I tried to attend another item I found it impossible to get in. There was a second, display room which contained photographs of conventions in the seventies; and there were many samples of various fanzines. This seemed to be manned a lot by Ian Watson who looked more and more tired as the weekend rolled on.

I skipped a lot of the programme but was well rewarded by attending the GOH speech of Richard Cowper. He was a delightful speaker, having a slight accent that I think was Welsh, and an excellent vocabulary. Obviously well-read himself, he spoke of the science fiction genre as it encountered "closed minds" with a wealth of illustration from Wells to Gide. His quotations were apt and one that lingers was "I will follow the man who seeks the truth but leave him when he declaims he has found it!".

A disappointment was the panel discussion HUMOUR IN SF. The panellists, Mike Deckinger, Bob Shaw and Richard Cowper, went off on the track of humour in the abstract. They did not discuss one writer, such as Goulart, who tries to inject humour into SF. In fairness I don't know how much time they had for preparation. I do know that Bob Shaw had no warning before coming to the con that he would be on this panel, or on the panel in the Fan Room GETTING INTO FANDOM. Bob is one of fandom's best humourists but he is not a stand-up comedian (there is a difference) and should be given time to prepare. He is so good-natured I'm sure it would never occur to him to complain.

The banquet numbers were not very high, yet I thought the food good. Mind Phil Rogers told me that I had no palate whatsoever, that was after I had got three cups of coffee out of one small pack... At the beginning of the banquet speeches Brian Burgess gave a short speech of appreciation about Michael Rosenblum and pointed out how Mike had helped found British fandom, had held it together during the war and how, had it not been for him none of us would have been there that night. It was a very good speech and must have surprised those who consistently make fun of Brian. His way of speaking is ponderous but whoever has the patience to listen will find has many interesting things to tell. Certainly he knows a great deal about the history of British Fandom. I think we were all conscious of

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the ironic fact that the convention had come to Leeds just too late for Mike to have enjoyed it; and he was a man who enjoyed life.

I had one great surprise, the convention was visited by Dave Cohen from Manchester, a fan who had been very active at the time of the Supermancon; and who had dropped out of fandom for over 20 years. He caught up on a lot of what had happened since then. My! it would have taken me the whole weekend to tell him it all!

As far as numbers went there was a very poor turn out for the Fancy Dress, and if all the puns were eliminated the numbers would have been even less. That is what one should do with puns--eliminate them! Easily the best costumes were worn by the two grand-children of Betty Rosenblum who had made the costumes for them. She had made excellent cave-women costumes and a very realistic dinosaur for them to roll along behind. Winners of the adult section were a man of Gor with two female shackled prisoners. Liable to set every feminist hackle rising! They came on to a dour look from me at least. However- they had a very well-rehearsed scene in which one of the female prisoners manages to free herself, fight a duel with her captor (real steel by the sound of it..) and despatch him realistically. Which brought loud cheers from the audience - even if it was predominantly male. Which all proves something-or-other no doubt.

I thought the atmosphere at this convention very friendly and relaxed, I did enjoy it and hope it augurs well for Brighton.

I had a very nice letter but not for publication..yet I cannot resist quoting one part of it..."There is a remarkable thing about SF and SF Fandom: We met once, 17 years ago, and our contacts since then have been at best tenuous, and yet I feel that Ethel Lindsay is a friend. I have many close friendships with fans and fellow writers with roots just as tenuous, but just as lasting."

Well, of course, this is the nice part of fandom, the fact that one can be friends with people who are met rarely, some once a year, others with years and years in between. Because we are both in the network of fandom we know what is happening to the other, so that even a regular correspondence is not always necessary. I have been very pleasantly surprised at the number of people who took the trouble to write wishing me a happy retirement. Especially busy people like Bob Tucker and Bob Bloch. Then there was John Brunner, Michael Moorcock and P. J. and Dee-Dee Lavendar who sent books. No wonder that every time I think maybe I should retire from publishing, something nice like this happens to make me once again trundle out the duplicator. It is getting old now, and the inking mechanism is showing signs of this. I have never had the heart to count the number of typos in an issue but I have the feeling they get more not less as the years roll on. In the early days Frances Varley used to help with proof-reading but as her husband Brian keeps getting promoted they move about the country at a dizzying rate..but never where I can get ahold of them and nag them into helping!

I am still a member of the Royal College of Nursing, so receive their weekly news sheet. Curiosity makes me browse through the adverts..and my eye was caught by one...

STAR WARDS

Be with our force

and as a Staff Nurse

you'll find our hospital is really out of this world.'

I tell you, times they are a'changing!

as ayo,

Ethel.