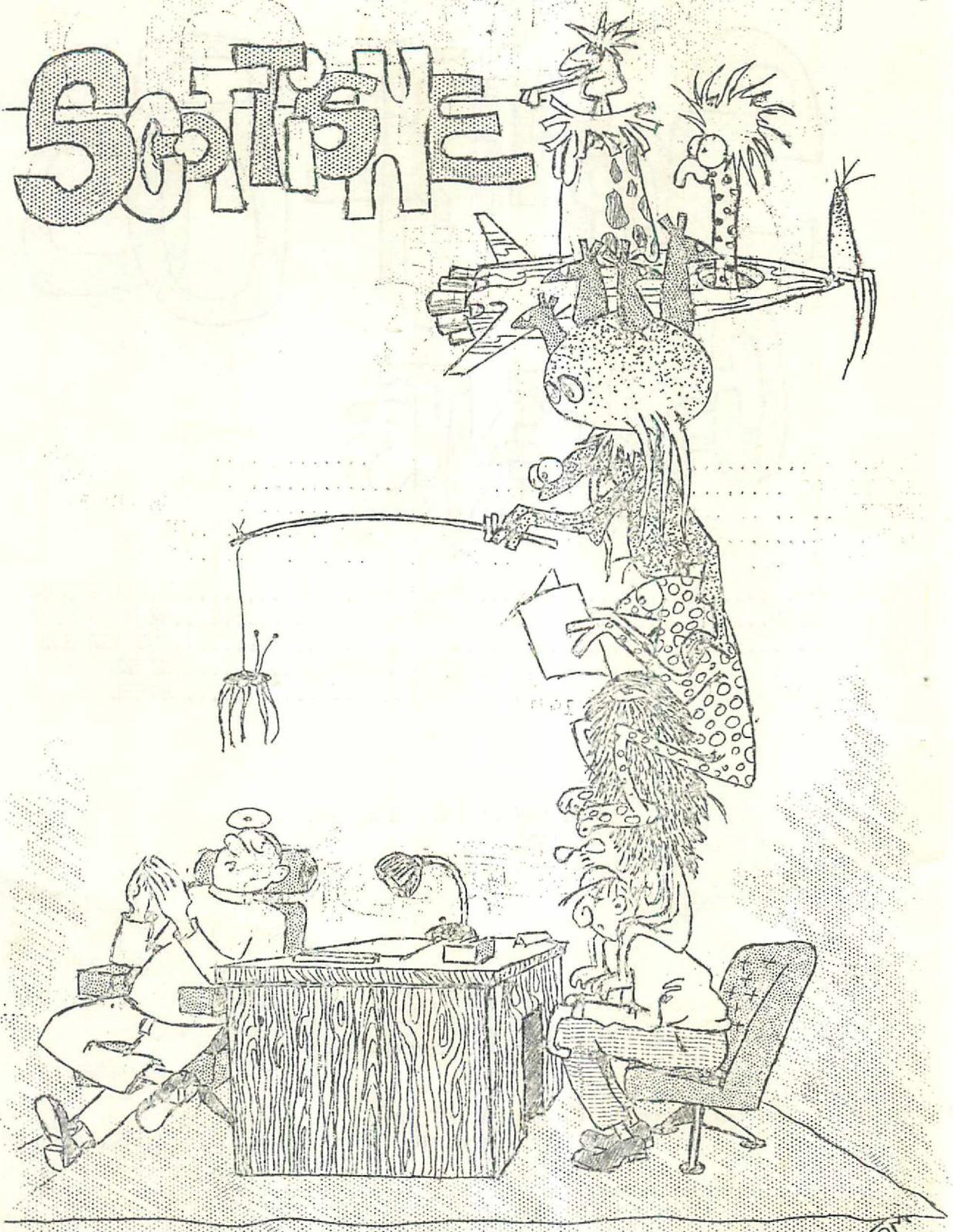


# Scott's



ATOM

"YOU NEED A REST, YOU'RE LETTING THINGS GET ON TOP OF YOU"

# SCIENCE FICTION 80 CONTENTS

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THIS IS THE THIRD LAST ISSUE OF THIS FANZINE.  
TWO MORE ISSUES ONLY IN 1981  
50p or \$1.            Also for Trade.

## CREDITS

ALL ARTWORK BY ATOM

Produced and published by Ethel Lindsay,  
69 Barry Road, Carnoustie, Angus, DD7 7QQ, Scotland.

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PO Box 4175, New York City, N.Y. 10017.

# Nibblings

- LEVIATHANS DEEP by Jayge Carr. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95. A very unusual tale from the viewpoint of an alien lady who is encountering Terrans. Such a clash of cultures here that provides very salutary reading.
- TIN WOODMAN by David Bischoff & Dennis Bailey. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95. Covers quite a lot of territory—"Talents" with psionic ability who are hated by Normals a spaceship captained by a 'Moby Dick' type captain; alien contact with a symbiotic race—all told in a fast-paced, detailed plot. Quite absorbing.
- THE SNOW QUEEN by Joan D. Vinge. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.95. 536pp. The Queen has reigned for 150 years but the Stargate was closing and the rule of the Winter folk would give way and her life would end. The Queen has planned against this by having a secretly-cloned heir brought up among the Summer Folk. The seeds of this story, the author acknowledges, comes from the Anderson story of the Snow Queen and Robert Graves' THE WHITE GODDESS. She has however enriched and expanded on these roots in producing a highly imaginative world. Quite a tour de force!
- CAUTIONARY TALES by Chelsea Quinn Yarbo. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.50. 205pp. 13 short stories all of an unusual character. Found to be when the author states she is "mildly amused" at her tale of a ghoul. To be honest I did not like them but I never did like a morbid story.
- HOW THE GODS WOVE IN KYRANNON by Ardath Mayhar. Sidgwick & Jackson. £5.95. 281pp. The peoples of Kyrannon live separate lives in peace until a Tyrant appears which causes them to consider the merits of cooperation! Nicely paced.
- THE PLANET MASTERS by Allen Wold. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.50. 230pp. McCade comes to the planet of Seltique to look for the Book of Aradka. He finds it a strange world where everyone has their status which can be improved by killing someone. He faces many dangers but as the reader discovers that he is some sort of superman this rather takes away any thrill. The mystery of the Book lures this reader on however!
- THE WEB BETWEEN THE WORLDS by Charles Sheffield. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.95. 277pp. This one features the idea of space elevators!
- WILD SEED by Octavia Butler. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.95. The theme of immortality in an unusual form. Anyanwu is an African woman who has lived for hundreds of years and who is able to change her form. All goes well with her till she meets Doro and discovers that he has lived for many times her own age and that she is in fact one of his descendants. The battle between them goes on for many generations. Quite a fascinating idea and well worked out.
- SCIENCE FICTIONAL SOLAR SYSTEM. Edited by Isaac Asimov. Sidgwick & Jackson. £6.95. 12 stories—one for the Sun, all the planets, Asteroids and Comets. Editorial states to show how SF authors have seen them and what the knowledge of them all is nowadays. So-interesting from a scientific point of view and also as a good range of science-fiction stories.
- LAST SHUTTLE TO PLANET EARTH by John Rankine. DOBSON SF. £5.25. Elliman lives on a satellite which has had no communication with Earth for centuries. When he breaks out of arrest he kidnaps the daughter of the Director and takes off for Earth in a shuttleship. Fairly predictable story but told with the competence one expects from this author.
- WORLD'S BEST SF No 5 Edited by Donald A. Wollheim. DOBSON SF. £5.95. 10 stories.
- THE SCREWFY SOLUTION by Raccoona Sheldon is the most horrific. Most amusing is by John Brunner. Other authors are Ellison, Bishop, Varley, Haldeman, Simak, Vinge and Gunn. Very good and wide selection.

## Nibblings 2

TAKEOFF! by Randall Garrett. Starblaze editions. \$4.95. Soft-cover, illustrated by Kelly Freas, lovely to look at and to handle. These are parodies that are presented so lovingly. The authors chosen are such as E.E. Smith, Lovecraft, Poul Anderson, Burroughs, and Van Vogt. My favourite is the one done of Eric Frank Russell but they are all very clever and good fun.

### PAPERBACKS.

A WORLD BETWEEN by Norman Spinrad. Arrow Books. £1.35. 343pp. Pacifica is a happy planet until approached by two warring factions. One is led by men and the other by women whose actions begin to polarize the sexes on Pacifica. SF is often used to plug a theory but never more thoroughly than here. Spinrad is deeply interested in the use of TV to mould thought and rather too much of the book describes this. Some of the characters are made to be unbelievably naive-but the battle between the sexes is clearly shown in all its obsessions.

THE RUINS OF ISIS: by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Arrow Books £1.35. 298pp. Husband and wife team visit the planet named the Matriarchy of Isis. In order to do the research that is their aim, they must disguise their abilities and relationship. Fascinating study of women in control and of man/woman complications.

SABELLA: by Tarith Lee. DAW Books. \$1.75. 157pp. Sabella is a vampire who lives on blood and she does not know why. She tries to avoid taking blood from other than animals. The puzzle of Sabella is well constructed and shows considerable ingenuity. The author is able to evoke sympathy for Sabella, which is no mean achievement.

THE MANY WORLDS OF MAGNUS RIDOLPH by Jack Vance. \$1.75. 174pp. A series of stories about Magnus, the professional trouble-shooter. He is tricky, inventive, and entertaining.

A VICTORY FOR KREGAN by Alan Burt Akers. Dray Prescott No 22. More battling for Prescott as he tries to beat his way home. One of the longer-running series. DAW

THE TERRA DATA by E.C. Tubb. DAW BOOKS. Dumarest No 22. Elysium is another puzzle planet for Dumarest; and the sub-plot follows the trouble now being encountered by the Cyclon. Another worthy series!

THE 1980 ANNUAL WORLD'S BEST SF: Edited by D.A. Wollheim. DAW Books. \$2.25. 284pp. 11 stories. In his introduction, the editor shows his continuing interest in what comes next as does his selection of tales. They deal with the future of religion, sex changes, cryogenetics and alien invasion.

ROGUE SHIP by A.E. Van Vogt. DAW Books. \$1.95. 177pp. The chronicle of 20 years travel in a spaceship mainly dealing with the various men who take command and of the plotting among them.

THE PEOPLE BEYOND THE WALL by Stephen Tall. DAW Books. \$1.95. 204pp. 'Lost Race' novel but unusual in that the people there grow smaller as they grow older!

THE GREEN GODS by N.C. Henneberg. DAW Books. \$1.75. 173pp. Very weird fantasy of a future where plants rule men!

TWO TO CONQUER by Marian Zimmer Bradley. DAW Books. \$2.25. 335pp. A Darkover book that is placed towards the end of the Age of Chaos. We first follow the fortunes of Bard the bastard son which makes grim reading as he seems unable to think good of anyone. He rapes a Priestess and from her receives the ability to see what other people feel. Powerful story of a man who belatedly finds out how many mistakes he has made with other people.

THE LANGUAGE OF PAO by Jack Vance. DAW Books. \$1.75. 159pp. Based on the science of linguistics this novel probes into how society is influenced by speech.

CROWN OF THE SWORD GOD by Manning Norvil. DAW Books. \$1.75. 175pp. Heroic fantasy in pre-history times, told with verve.

ZANTHODON by Lin Carter. DAW Books. \$1.75. 188pp. Further adventures in the Underground World.

THE FIRES OF LAN-KERN by Peter Tremayne. Magnum Books. £1.40. 272pp. Dryden lands in a future on the shores of Cornwall where he is be-friended by the Celtic tribe of Lan-Howlek. More time is spent explaining how he enters this future than is usual in this type of story but his adventures after that follow a fairly predictable path. What makes this one different is the use of the Celtic language of Cornwall by an author who uses his expert knowledge of Cornish history to add depth.

Nibblings 3

THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES:Series VIII:Edtd by Karl E.Wagner.D&W Books.\$1.95 221pp. When they are labelled horror stories they really mean it! Anyone of them is guaranteed to make you grue! I hated them.

STAR HUNTERS by Jo Clayton.D&W Books.\$1.75.176pp.The 6th in the series about The Diadem, which features Aleytus whose mysterious diadem conveys her to a planet where she had to combat the mental force of a madman. Engrossing detail.

A WIZARD IN BEDLAM by Christopher Stasheff.D&W Books.\$1.95.191pp. Six hundred families who took over a planet and then cloned the twelve servants they had brought with them -leads to a weird planet of Lords and serfs. Dirk had started life as a softie but had been taken off planet and trained to return and try to start a revolution. Plenty action plus an involved culture well imagined.

BEASTS OF ANTARES by Dray Prescott.D&W Books.\$1.95.206pp.No 23 in this series. Headlong adventure that never sags is the motif throughout.

LOST WORLDS by Lin Carter. D&W Books.\$1.95.176pp.9 stories which cover the 'lost world' spectra..from Mu to Atlantis..all the known ones..but some I had not heard of..such as Antillia. Should be high on the lists of fantasy fan, good introductions to each 'lost world'.

HAIL HIBBLER by Ron Goulart.D&W Books.\$1.75.157pp.Once again we meet Jake and Hildy Face of OddJobs,Inc. who this time have to deal with a threat to the world from Hibbler who has been in cryogenic deep freeze since the Hitler era and now is behind a death ray menace. Aimed for comedy and succeeding.

SERPENT'S REACH by C.J.Cherryh.D&W Books.\$2.25.287pp. This describes a very alien world. The intelligent aliens live in hives with a bee-like culture. Humans in one ship(or hive as the alien majat thought of them)were allowed to land. From that contact came trouble. Raen is the heroine whose family is massacred and who lives to find revenge. The human culture that evolves is as strange as the alien one and in Raen's wanderings the reader is given a dense amount of detail to figure out. Highly absorbing and, to be honest, I would have found a glossary of terms helpful!

STAR RIGGER'S WAY:by Jeffrey A.Carver. Arrow Books.£1.25.237pp. The main interest here is in the meeting by Gev with the alien cat-like Cephean, and their slow growing-together relationship. The science of the Riggers, of whom Gev is one, who sail the rivers of space is not something I understand but this did not detract from the central focus. Certainly the Cephean is an intriguing entity.

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to go on reviewing the DAW Books after the demise of SCOT. I had thought of offering this to the BSFA; but wonder if the air there is too rarified for my short factual reports!

What do you think folks?

Ethel Lindsay

# Going Good!

Mervyn Barrett

I believe that the reason more fanzines aren't loved has more to do with the working habits of the recipients than the quality of the fanzines. Let's face it; there are a lot of disorganised fans and until recently I was one of them. Fanzines came, were read, and were put aside on the dressing table, on top of the refrigerator, in the bathroom on the trunk along with the back issues of PRIVATE EYE and the old consumer magazines and, oh just everywhere. But eventually the buildup of these, along with other books and magazines would make the place unlivable and come house cleaning time I'd transfer them all to the bookshelves where on account of the limited space they'd pile up on the bottom shelf and sort of lost track of. A couple of years ago though I finally got it all together and that sort of thing just doesn't happen now. You see, I bought a desk.

I'd often thought about buying a desk but could never figure out where I could put one. There was this ideal space in the hall—about three quarters of the way along the hallway suddenly becomes about 19" wider—but I had the beds stacked up there. (Two beds that go with the flat but when I bought my double bed I was able to pull the legs off them and stack them up out of the way in the hall.) One day though I noticed an asbestos panel had been pulled away from the wall of the house next to my bathroom window and I realised for the first time that I could get under the house. That there was in fact an awful lot of room there between the wall of the lower floor and the excavation wall. So, under went the beds leaving a nice desk shaped space in the hall.

At Mike's Mart in Ghuznee Street I found a 19" deep desk for \$29.00 and a typists chair that cost me \$14.00. A friend brought his truck into town one lunch hour and we picked the chair and desk up from Mike's, brought it here and the desk fitted beautifully. I got rid of the empty fruit box the telephone was standing on, put the phone on the desk, hung a switchable light above the desk, got me a very nice green eye shade from this little shop in Cubacafe that just sells things made in the Phillipines and things were nearly together. When my section of the Education Department moved from the old Government Building to Europa House some of the more ancient and junky wooden furniture got thrown out and I scored a wooden box with three pigeon holes in it. It stands now on the end of the desk with the divisions running horizontally and in the bottom pigeon hole I put fanzines.

I'm sure you can already see what an advance this is. Nothing put away before its time. No guilt feelings a year later on when I realised a favourite fanzine hasn't been acknowledged. Take now for instance. I sit down at the desk, put on my green eye shade, switch on the overhead light, take a fanzine and I'm ready to loc.

What's first? Oh yes, the ACTEARAPA mailing number two. I've been sent this on spec. and because they had a couple of spare mailings. I won't be joining. I just don't have time to write letters of comment and publish so publishing had to go. Anyhow in this case it would be inappropriate for me to write letters of comment to any of the fanzines in the mailing on account of my non-member status. I can just out this one away with all the other New Zealand fanzines.

Now, what's this? SIKANDER ONE - an Australian fanzine with some Bangsund reprints in it from one Irwin Hirsh. Well this arrived last November and here it is June and I've not received another issue. The editor has obviously gaffiated so for me to write to him would only result in him having guilt feelings and that's the last thing I'd want. RIP Irwin Hirsh,

## LOCING GOOD 2

Another Australian fanzine - THE SPACE WASTREL. It's a long double spaced largely incomprehensible unfunny joke. The editor is probably incredibly embarrassed about the whole thing now. It would be cruel and tactless of me to write to him and remind him of it.

Ah, SCOTTISHE. Now what can I say to Ethel about this. Usual brilliant ATOM cover. Yes but everyone knows they're brilliant Book reviews? Nothing there I want to comment on particularly. The letters? No. Haverings is the usual daunting assembly. I shudder at the thought of receiving all these fanzines even now that I'm organised. I wasn't at SEACON so there's not much I can say about Natterings. I think I can safely transfer this to the shelf without the need for a letter. Ethel knows how much I like getting her fanzine. Still...I know, I'll write an article for her some time. One article is worth 6 letters of comment I always say.

NOUMENON 34. A bit late to do anything about this now since I've received 35 and 36. Some good things in 35 too - Roy Shaker's WELLCON talk on H.G. Wells and some stuff of films which I could really take to pieces. Still I did work with Brian on WELLCON and I talk to him on the phone sometimes.

Here's the 9th Annish of SF ECHO - incredible the work Ed Connor puts into this. This one I'll really give a high priority to. AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS. No need to write a letter for this one as Merv Binns was over here for the Convention a couple of weeks ago as Guest of Honour.

What's

this? Eric Bentcliffe's WALDO 5. Never had this before. Word must have got around that I'm locing fanzines. Nice drawings, nice zine. Seems like everyone in the letter column is talking about fannish reminiscences. I don't know if my reminiscences would be all that different. I could talk about the Wellington SF Circle; still afloat after all these years in that strange Sargasso of fannish associations because when I called a meeting to dissolve it no one showed up. No perhaps I'll just send him a copy of the WELLCON programme which has an excellent history of New Zealand fandom. That seems fair.

Here's CHUNDER for Jan. 1980. Well John Foyster handed me this copy when I stayed with him in Melbourne in March so I don't think that fannish etiquette demands a letter of comment. I mean it's not the same as when a zine comes through the mail is it? Besides, I did do a page - well 3/4 page - direct on the stencil for him for a future CHUNDER. That he'll probably have to retype, but it's not my fault if his typer insists on sticking and letters get typed on top of each other and I can hardly be held to blame for the fact that you can get Chocolate Milk in Melbourne and I'd been able to mix myself Lurumbas for the first time in 5 years.

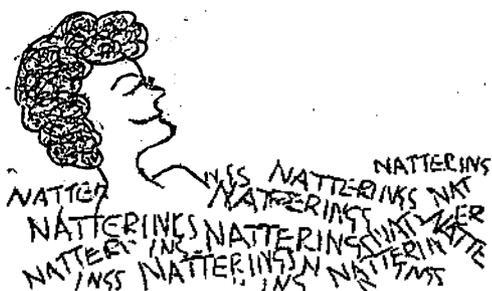
Here's IL VOMBATO. Back in the bad old days before I got my desk and got organised I wrote to Jan Finder and explained that since I was going through a state of not getting around to fannish letter writing - or even mundane letter writing - I couldn't in all conscience go on receiving his fanzines much as I liked getting them and I felt he should drop me from his mailing list. He wrote back that he was quite happy to keep me on the mailing list and they've been coming ever since. I think I'm really on to something here and if I were an unprincipled ruthless sort of fan I could really exploit this. To be asked to be removed from a mailing list because you won't get around to locing is a sort of negative one two to the jaw of the fan editor. It provokes a reaction that is a mixture of - "at last, an honest fan" and "I'll show that son of a bitch he can't get off my mailing list that easily"

I won't get on to the Moffatt Newsletter or that deserving fanzine from Dunedin. By now you've got the picture and can understand what a difference being organised and having a desk has made to my facing up to my fannish commitments. I mean, back in the bad old days nothing ever got loced. Now it's all quite different

Mervyn Barrett, Wellington, June 1980

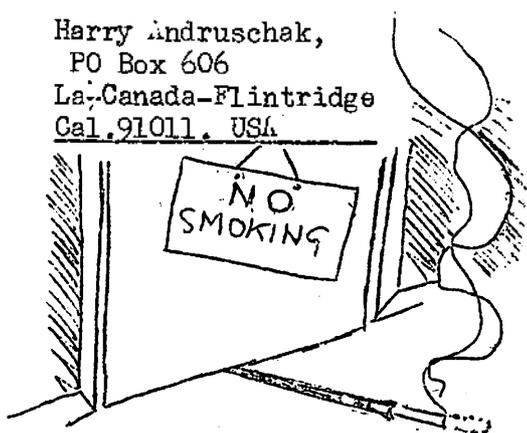
# LETTERS

Peggy White  
10 Riverdale Gdns  
Belfast, BT11 9DG



"Thank you very much for our copy of SCOT. We both feel ("My Husband and I") that it will be a sad day when the presses stop rolling after the final issue next year. I trust you will still attend the Cons for many years to come. May I say it was really nice to find myself in NATTERINGS. The egoboo was much appreciated by someone who is really neither fan nor pro. I do enjoy most cons and enjoy mostly meeting old friends and having a good chat" \*\*\*Now that we all know that you are as good a speaker as your Husband (guess I'd be Risking it to say better) I hope that future con committees bear this fact in mind. I bet a panel of author's wives would be an interesting thing!

Harry Andruschak,  
PO Box 606  
La Canada-Flintridge  
Cal. 91011. USA



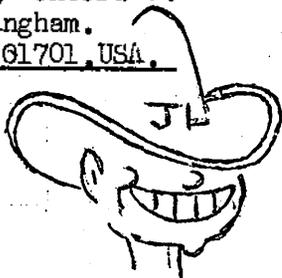
"I see no reason why your no longer pubbing would mean less fanzines sent to you. Look at Harry Warner..hasn't published SPACEWAYS in decades..but he still gets fanzines. In other words...WHERE IS A LOC ON INTERMEDLATE VECTOR BOSONS? Seriously, I'll be glad to send you or anyone else my zine as long as I get something, even a short postcard, expressing interest. I'm not fussy. Concerning Rick's comment on parties. I have started to give them and have found a perfect way to keep attendance under control. I make it NO SMOKING in my room. This works wonders. As a matter of interest I find that 3 cases of beer and 4 of soft drink are

what I use on a typical night..10pm-2am. Also, since I give my parties on the first night of the con, I get a large number of neos who walk in and ask "what is this party for?" They cannot understand why someone will spend \$50 just to have a bunch of strangers walk in. Ah, but soon they are not strangers, right? "

\*\* I have been smoking since I was 14..far too late for me to change now..even if I wanted to do so...Locs I will attempt, of course, may be the cost of postage will affect this..I have to watch the pennies now, whilst the pounds go to hang..

Letters 2

Ron Salomon,  
1014 Concord St  
Framingham.  
Mass. 01701, USA.



for LE ZOMBIE as he is a Truefan and even sticky quarters are anathema to him.....  
Down with inflation and and high postal rates! That's about as effective as I can  
get, darnit. What we need are fannish political leaders to subsidize us, right?\*\*\*\*  
When I first started SCOT the cost was 6d (even HYPHEN only cost 6d then) but things  
sure have changed. Yet only the minority of those receiving SCOT have ever paid.  
It is an expensive hobby.\*\*\*

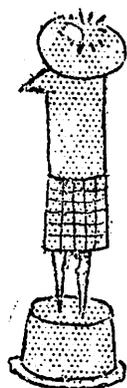
E.C. Tubb  
67 Houston Rd  
London, SE23 2RL



"Thanks for SCOT and sorry to hear that it may soon  
be no more. Not that I'm suggesting you keep going  
regardless but when a part of established life goes  
then its a loss. Which is why I dislike all the  
planners and developers who have robbed me of my youth  
-the places I knew when a lad have vanished and I  
can't even wallow in nostalgia when I return to the  
old stamping grounds. Its shocking to discover  
just how bad a memory can be - you look at a corner  
or a place and know you should know what was there

but you can't. They've taken the signposts away and I can't even act the million-  
aire by going into the small sweet shop where sweets were sold by the ounce or less  
-halfpennyworths, etc., and buying the lot. Another dream gone up in smoke - the  
hell with growing old! Anyway, at least you can retire - at times I think I've  
beaten you to it and, at others, I know I can never retire. I may give up writing  
or it may give me up, but there'll be no sharp, clear-cut change. So I envy you a  
little - at least you can plan. But I bet you never really, totally and completely  
stop fanning" \*\*How right you are! I mean to get rid of my Gestetner but never  
my typer! One thing..you can't stop until you get Dumarest back to Earth..and here  
is one reader who says..no hurry!\*\*\*\*

Arnold Aitken  
6 Dunblane Rd  
Seaburn, Sunderland  
Tyne & Wear, SR6 8EU

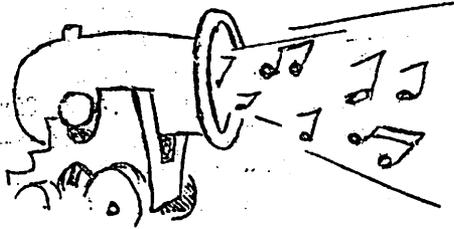


"So you announced the end of SCOT. Didn't the pros-  
pect of the havoc you will cause in the economic  
structure deter you at all? Then just consider -  
you are a "cult figure". It must be true, Robert  
Bloch says so in ERG's 21st issue... "It's a wonder  
you haven't become a cult figure like Harlan  
Ellison or Ethel Lindsay". I know Robert Bloch is  
right for you appear quite often in Dick Bergeron's  
enormous WARHOON 28..the fanzine to top all fanzines.  
You've been reading Willis for many years; imagine  
the impact his work had on me who had never previ-  
ously encountered him. Perhaps if WARHOON 28

gains wide readership in modern fandom, ATOM's complaint of the general lack of  
awareness of early fannish history may be solved. It's good to have WARHOON which  
not only provides a wealth of superb writing but also contains a sort of running  
history of fandom. Including its cult figures!" \*\*\*Yes, well, I have had my  
brooding eye on Bloch ever since I read that comparison with Ellison. I suppose he  
thinks he is safe just because we have the Atlantic between us!\*\*\*

Letters 3

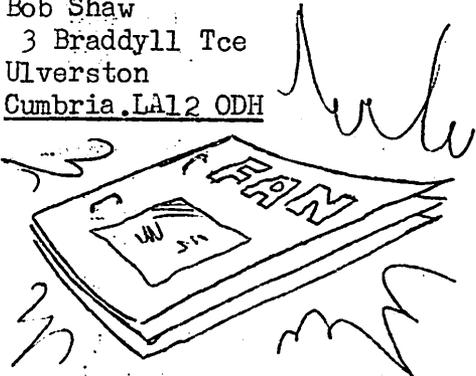
Sid Birchby  
40 Parrs Wood Ave.  
Didsbury.  
Manchester, M20 0ND



"SCOT will be missed..you must ask ATOM to do a special farewell cover--something with bagpipes and weeping postmen might do. What do you plan to do instead of issuing SCOT? You can't spend all your time sorting over that load of pebbles in the garden, not unless you intend to review them(Pebblings?) Seriously though, you have such a lively letter column that the writers are just like old fiends--oops!----friends. What a pity to lose touch with them(you may not, but I shall)when SCOT scoots! Isn't there some hut in Carnoustie Park where the old buffers meet for a spit and a draw, and could you not do likewise for your correspondents? Bring own sleeping-bag--tent and

well-drained pebble floor always available. Don Wollheim's encounter with the peripatetic parade of pneumatic tyres on the highway, and the case of the gambolling grapefruit on the Great North Road, proves that the World as We Know It is coming to an end. There was a bit in today's paper about a wedding where the cake exploded, injuring several guests. When interviewed, the chef thought he might have put too much brandy in it. Then there was the concert in Ontario where someone fouled up the 1812 Overture, which is scored for cannon-fire, and 42 music-lovers received shrapnel wounds. Rick Sneary isn't the only one to suspect that if our ancestors did come from outer space, as Von Daneken says, they must have been rejects. That's what makes fandom so likeable, compared to everyone else. Has anyone been following the recent two false alarms of nuclear attacks on the USA? Both were due to computer malfunctions, and the 'New Scientist' is quite scathing. Apparently, the said computers are well-and-truly clapped-out and are constantly giving off duff gen. Hopefully, the Russian ones are even worse, though the idea of idiot savants on both sides is disturbing. Black joke:the White House bomb-shelter is officially called the Situation Room. This reminds me of that fine book about Apollo 13, 'The Flight that Failed'; lumps of rocket falling off like dandruff, and the message:'Houston, we have a problem'. Oh yes, and the flight failed because an oxygen tank broke open; inside it were heaters controlled by thermostats fed from the space-craft's 28-volt current. Unfortunately, the final ground test used a 65-volt supply which stripped off the insulation. So the next time the heaters were used...boom. It's another exploding wedding-cake situation" \*\*\*\*Och but Sid, I am the one who is going to miss your letters..this one had me laughing out loud as I ate my breakfast...\*\*\*\*

Bob Shaw  
3 Braddyll Tce  
Ulverston  
Cumbria.LA12 0DH



"I couldn't agree more with your comments about fanzines and criticism of them. There appear to be two great schools of thought or mental attitudes, as distinct as Left and Right in politics, in people's approach to fanzines. I have seen critics really leather into another fan for producing a "bad" fanzine, and I knew exactly what was enraging them -- things like bad layout, poor reproduction, typos and mis-spellings, weird editorial points of view, unacceptable subject matter in articles, amateurish artwork, etc. But what these critics don't realise is that a fanzine can have all the above faults and more, and yet be a thing of joy

to receive and read simply because its editor is taking pleasure in doing his own thing and communicating that pleasure to others. To me, that is basically what fandom and this wonderful invention - the fanzine -- is all about." \*\*\* On the whole I take a dim view of critics..the Sunday paper one being scathing about some popular TV programme..the book critic more interested in showing how clever he is than telling you what the book is about..and the fanzine critic who is just practising until he can get his foot in some professional door..a plague on them all. Fandom has only got one good fanzine critic and that is Buck Coulson..and I wish he would start writing them again!\*\*\*

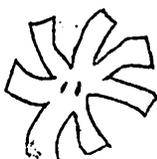
Harry Warner  
423 Summit Ave  
Hagerstown,  
Maryland, 21740, USA



"I admit to having thoughts about an equivalent to your plan, an official announcement that I can't think up any more locs. The old pleasure in writing them has been diluted through the years and I detest this chronic guilt sensation which results from my inability to respond to every fanzine. A couple of considerations have prevented me from putting thought into action. I still enjoy immensely some of the fanzines that arrive and would hate to do without them: those like Mota or Wild Kennel, and a few other types. There is also the uncertainty about how I would react to fanzine deprivation....I second your remarks on the modern tendency to ... fanzines and then kick them

repeatedly if they're still alive after the first attack. Most of this ultra-harsh criticism probably is written to attract attention and stir up fanzine publishers. But some of it seems to result from the mistaken notion that there is some sort of philosophical imperative which requires every fanzine to be beautiful to the eye and stimulating enough to the intellect to raise the reader's IQ several points. But it's more rational to assume that most fanzines look and read as they do because their editors and their readers aren't really concerned about anything more than entertainment or information. Fans with experience can shrug off a killer review. But I think there's a real danger of driving out of fandom a potentially fine fanzine publisher, simply because a profane and adjective-ridden blast by a reviewer on the first issue persuades the neofan that he really has no ability and causes him to gaffiate. Your solution to the lawn problem is alluring...another possibility would be the artificial lawn that can be bought under such names as AstroTurf and TartanTurf. But covering such a large area with it would be very expensive, and it has the added defect of storing up heat and acting in general like a green flat furnace in warm weather." \*\*\*Ella Parker covered her balcony with artificial turf and it looked very nice. My mind boggles though at TartanTurf.\*\*\*

Roger Waddington  
4 Commercial St  
Norton, Malton.  
N.Yorks, YO17 9ES



"I have to admit that having long thought of your place in fandom as being in loco parentis (or: Father works for the British Rail) the feelings I had on reading the news were very much like those I and doubtless others had when leaving home for the first time and being thrust out into the cold, unfriendly world to make it on our own. You've helped us and taught us even through the times when we thought we knew it all. (They're habit-forming these Daft Definitions; you'll have heard of 'sic Gloria transit': or Gloria's been sick on the bus, but what about 'genius loci' or Mike Glicksehn)..Though don't count on that flood of fan-

zines ceasing, once SCOT settles down into retirement with you; if I'm any judge at all, they'll still be there clogging up your mailbox and prompting the postmen to ask for danger money; there's nothing so persistent as a fan once he's got your address!\*\*\* Excuse my editing out your many kind words; but I never enjoy a letter column that isn't aimed at the reader instead of puffing up the editor! I can get puffed up enough reading the letters without seeing it all over again in print! \*\*\*

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

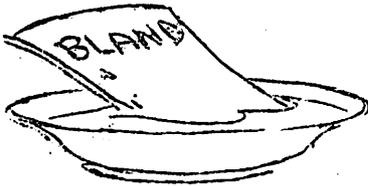


"Thank you, very much for saying nice things about TAFF-DHU. We printed 300 and hope to clear over £150 for TAFF if sales go well. The little green slip is something I've been sending out with TAFF-DHUs ordered by BSFA members misled by Rob Jackson's price of 60p (it's 75p with postage): if you could possibly mention the extra 15p in the next SCOT I'd be grateful. Someday I must write to you about mystery stories which I too collect (it seems to go with SF somehow). Tension

Letters 5

mounts as I narrow down my John Dickson Carr needs to 3 books...Have just been reading the new Peter Dickinson:marvellous writer." \*\*\*As you waived all production costs on TAFF-DHU, I hope everyone sends you their 15p and that you sell the lot...Yes,Dickinson is to be highly recommended to SF fans. There is always a lot of fantasy as well as mystery in his books. Have a look for him among the Puffin Books for children..they are excellent too. Whilst you are at the Puffin shelf you will find other familiar names such as Le Guin..\*\*\*

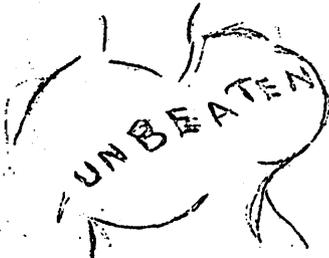
Ian MCKeer  
SF&F Society  
Student Union  
PO Box 88  
Sackville St  
Manchester.M60 1QD.



"I see you've caught onto the "bland" label for clubzines, i.e. in your description of CT9--surely that open letter wasn't bland? What do you suggest be done to allievate the situation as you see it? I begin to feel what you describe as the chore aspect of producing fanzines - after writing, dictating to the typist, and helping most of the production phases of GROK I begin to feel it's a chore already and I haveN't been at it for anywhere near as long as you have..As For Chelsea Quinn Yarbo - perhaps it is a pseudonym for Alice Hackenbacker or some equally unmarketable name! Anyway it has a certain poetic quality to it, doesn't it?" \*\*\*I would suggest,

diffidently, that to counteract against the 'blandness' of most clubzines there always be an article which describes the club and its members. What a clubzine lacks is editorial presence which is the essence of a fanzine...in my opinion. Sometimes clever writing-up of the club minutes makes up for this as in the LaSFAs Newsletter...As to Chelsea, I agree on the quality of its sound and that it is probably a pseudonym. Of course a rabid football fan might give the name but would his wife let him? \*\*\*\*\*

Pamela Boal  
4 Westfield Way  
Charlton Heights  
Wantage.Oxon.OX12 7EH



"I nearly skipped your comments on LES SPING. as it's one I get, so glad I didn't, because then I would not have known of your support(for wheel-chair users at conventions)for which I most sincerely thank you. I'm not a breast-beater and there is no point in moaning about an event over and done with..except to bring the problems to the attention of relevant people, so that they may act to improve things not only for wheel chair jockeys but the considerable number of fans who have difficulty in walking and climbing stairs. Fandom on the whole is way ahead of the rest of society in accepting that people with

handicaps are people. No fan has ever been guilty of asking people with me if "She takes sugar in her tea?" on the other hand, because there are so few of us obviously active, fandom is not aware that it is in danger of excluding people through lack of access. It's a universal problem, lack of access excludes us,so people are not aware that we exist, so all unknowing continue to exclude us. It's up to people like myself to break through this circle and we can only do so with the help of other aware people (such as yourself)realising and supporting us" \*\*\*Somewhere in the pile of zines I've just been through, I saw mention of an American convention stating that arrangements had been made for wheel-chair jockeys..a trend, one hopes! Particularly as the number of older fans increases every year. Any day now we will be able to have a convention for retired fans.\*\*

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO WROTE.....

# Waverings

Comments on fanzines received.....starting in the US of A.....

PHOSPHENE:No 8:From:Gil Gaier,1016 Beech Ave.Torrance,CA 90501.\$2 or trade etc. A handsome production with 22 pp of both British and American fan photos. The last issue came out two years ago which is too long for me to remember if I received it or not. Evidently it contained a lot of personal soul-bearing by Gil to which readers have responded. A mite too introspective for my fancy.

SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES:No 76:From The Los Angeles SF Society,11513 Burbank Blvd. N.Hollywood,CA 91601.\$1 or trade etc.12 years since this last appeared and in contrasting the differences since then the editors mention that the club weekly attendance can run from 100-125 members! There is a reprint of the history of SHAGGY written by Ron Ellik in 1964. This history is continued by Len Moffatt who describes some of the fans in the early days. Main item is by Mike Glycer who writes sensibly on the growing practise at cons of fans acting out aggressive scenes in fancy dress. Agreed with every word, a thing not to be encouraged.

SHELDON'S PLAN:No 46:From:Wayne Third Foundation,Box 102 50B, Wayne State Univ. Detroit,MI 48202.\$1 or trade etc.Review of SUPERMAN:THE MOVIE by Ed Zdrjewski which is a clever piece of writing. The letter column is discussing the subject of women in fandom in a praiseworthy sober fashion.

INTERMEDIATE VECTOR BOSONS:No 1:From:Harry JN Andruschak,6933 N.Rosemad Blvd.Apt 31, San Gabriel,CA 91775.\$1 or trade etc.Contributers include Poul Anderson,Chas Burbee and Elmer Purdue. Sorry to hear from Harry in this that high blood pressure has forced him onto a diet he dislikes and lessened his fancc. He still produces an awesome amount.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:No 35:From:Richard E.Geis,PO Box 11408,Portland,OR 97211. Most interesting part by Dick is his description of a murderer who cited the Gor books in his defense, blaming them, of course. Dick knocks this down very smartly. Naturally the most amusing article is by Bob Shaw. This again features a profuse amount of reviews all of high quality.

SF HORIZONS:No 2:From Harry Andruschak,address as before.Free to members of the Teaching SF Society.10p or trade etc.Sample free. On the other hand on the back page it says that it is from Keith Walker, certainly sounds more like Keith than Harry..and it is full of fanzine reviews.Rather chaotic!

WESTWIND:Nos 37&38:From:Northwest SF Society,Editor:Janice Murray,11110 Beacon Ave.S.Seattle,WA 98178.\$7 per year.Artwork and photography extra good.Slim but packed with news items(not confined to club news)and film and book reviews.

STEFANTASY:No 86:From William M.Danner,RD1,Kennerdell,Pennsylvania.16374. This carefully printed magazine continues to delight the eye.Exterps from the early editions of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN also continue to interest, particularly the 1905 piece on using waste to fuel engines! The letter column gets better and better as it ranges over a wide area of subjects.

SF ECHO:Moebius Trip:No 27:From:Ed Connor,1805 N.Gale,Peoria,IL 61604.\$1.50. The smallest (7x4 inches)zine to come my way and one of the neatest. There is a good potted history of sf in the cinema by Randy Hagan. Fleased to find the continuation of the story of Siegfried as told by Walt Liebscher. The bit I laughed out loud at was.."Beavens to Hetsy, isn't this a tory gale." I can't agree with Ed that reports of travel to a con are more interesting than a con report..but did enjoy his description of a night in a Greyhound terminus. This one definitely recommended

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG:No 14-15 From:Brian Earl Brown,16711 Burt Rd.No 207, Detroit,Mich.48219.50¢ or trade etc.Terse and useful fanzine reviews forms the bulk; but articles on the art of duplicating are also given and there is a short but interesting letter column.

HAUT TON:Nos O&1:From:Elayne Pelz,15931 Kalisher St.Granada Hills,CA 91344. The official newsletter of The Friends of the English Regency.Dues of \$5 per year will get you the Newsletter,invitations to all events and access to dance tapes and instructions.

DE PROFUNDIS:Nos 119&120:From:The Los Angeles SF Society. Address as for Shaggy \$5 per year membership fee. Monthly newsletter of a lively club liable to make all other clubs envious at their list of activities.

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE:10-12:From:PO Box 4175,New York,NY 10163. \$12 per year USA.Foreign\*\$18.Monthly. Impeccable production,many photographs of SF people.Good reproductions of SF book covers.Bonus is a round-up of the best and worst SF in 1979 from Dick Lupoff.

LOCUS:Nos 231-235:From:Box 3938,San Francisco,CA 94119.\$1.25. My copy comes to me through the kindness of Roger Waddington. This is another newszine that covers the SF world efficiently. An interesting series of articles has been by Charles Platt on A BUYER'S GUIDE TO WORD PROCESSING.

DAGON:Nos 227-230:From John Boardman,234 E.19th St.Brooklyn,NY 11226.An APA-Q zine in which John discourses on his many interests.Enlightening this time on dolphins. He also sends me TIME MACHINE which is a zine of reprints and ANAKREON which is an APA-Filk zine aimed at filk-singers and containing the words to some of the songs.

Now some zines from Canada...

ECOLOGY:Newsletter of the Edmonton SF&Comic Art Society.Good roundup of what is happening in fan groups around Canada.75¢ or trade etc.More wide-ranging in interests than in most club zines.

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY:Nos 8-10:From:c/o Robert Runte,10957 88 Ave.Edmonton,Alberta. T6G 0Y9. 75¢ or trade etc.(2 for 1) This has 4 editors who take it in turns publishing. Makes for a nice bright outlook and prompt publication.

and now Australia...

WAHF-FULL:No 4:From:Jack R.Herman,1/67 Fletcher St.Bondi,NSW.2026.\$3/4 or trade etc. A routine con report so not very illuminating. Lots of letters discussing an article on Future War, and much mulling over of war strategy. Brr.

CEGENSHEIN:No 14:From:Eric B.Lindsay,6 Hillcrest Ave.Foulconbridge,NSW 2776. A Con report makes me feel envious with its description of a heated swimming-pool party. Lots of informative material -on hobby computers,airlines, and 'daylight robbery'. Eric has a fine free-wheeling way with a subject like that last one. Quite one of the best of the Australian bunch.

GILANT WOMBO:No 3:From:Leigh Edmonds& Valma Brown,PO Box 433,Civic Square,Canberra ACT 2608.Nice mixture-Leigh describing a boat trip, a short con report, and a plea for better female characterisation in SF.

SIKANDER:No 2:From:Irwin Hirsh,279 Domain Rd,S.Yarra.Victoria 3141.\$1 or trade etc. Irwin describes the trouble he has had with his name and some highlights from his US trip. Another who entertains here is David Grigg on his first attempts with a typewriter. He struck a few chords here!

Only one from Europe...

ZELOC:Nos 4&5:From:Bactriannus Enterprisos,Solliveien 37,N 1370 Asker,Norway. Editor is Ragnar Fyri.Trades wanted.In English.No 4 consists mainly of locs,badly needing edited and confused by Ragnar's inserted remarks.No 5 quotes the sub rates as "a handful of money" and is more interesting as Ragnar writes about the books he is reading,films and fanzines..so it becomes a good personalzine.

and lastly the British....

RAGNAROK:No 1:From:John Shire,Ponderosa,Church St,Marriott,Somerset,15p or trade etc. In the editorial John fears his thoughts on fandom have all been said before, and I'm afraid he is right. My advice John, if wanted, is be informative..fans like to know about other fans...and don't be wasteful..two sentences on meeting an author and two sentences on Albecon! One good factual description of either would have made your first issue memorable. But do keep going!

CIDEREAL TIMES:No 10:From:Allen Boyd-Newton,c/o 42 Church Lane,Bicknoller,via Taunton,Somerset.30p.I enjoyed an engrossing interview with Jack Chalker. Many letters discussing a previous article on SF..some quite fiery!

NABU:No 9:From:Ian & Janice Maule,5 Beaconsfield Rd,New Malden,Surrey.KT3 3HY. "available for the usual". I think you should send this to John Shire so that he can see it is possible to be entertaining about such things as a child's first bucket and spade and a young man entering the advertising world.There is a long article by Joseph Nicholas about fanzines and I think I have spotted what it is about his fanzine criticism that makes it seem irrelevant to me. He writes "If they wish their fanzines to be noticed, to stand out from the rest -as all editors do..." He is wrong in thinking all editors have the same reasons for publishing..there are as many reasons as there are fanzines.In the letter column the subject of the difference between American and British fanzines is finally chewed to death..had made fascinating reading though.

CHIMERA:No 2:From:Ian Williams,6 Greta Terr,Chester Rd,Sunderland.SR4 7RD.Tyne & Wear.50p or trade etc.It is so rarely that I see SCOT mentioned in a British fanzine that I nearly fell off my chair when I spotted some kind words from Ian.. thankee! Not being one for rock music I nearly skipped an article about it..till I discovered that Ian was describing the people rather than the music and I found this enthralling. More fanzine discussion in the letter column..introspective lot aren't we?

GROK:No 9:From:UMIST,Student Union,PO Box 88,Sackville St.Manchester. 25p Ian McKeer asks in this why there have been no Writer's Workshops over here; but I am sure there have been some..did not James Blish organise them? Production has improved enormously and this is now more like a genzine than a clubzine. There are two good reports of SF in the theatre. Also enjoyed the Novacon report as it was less a personal saga than usual.

DGT:No 9:From:Kevin Smith,10 Cleves Court,St Marks Hill,Surbiton,Surrey.KT6 4PS. There is a really funny exercise by Kevin of how to write like Joseph Nicholas, it is also very clever. The rest is a running commentary on the letters Kevin received..he has a nice affable style.

SECOND HAND WAVE:Nos 42:From:Alan Ferguson & Trav Briggs,26 Hoccroft Ct,Hoe Lane,Enfield,Middsx.An Albacon report is accompanied by some good photos. Humour is the aim of this zine; and lots of it made me smile - but the story of the airline pilot who played practical jokes on his passengers made me laugh out loud.

SNORKEL:From:Harry Bell,9 Lincoln St,Gateshead,Tyne&Wear.NE8 4EE. A personal zine to keep Harry in touch with fandom and amusing enough to lure letters writers the most entertaining of which is Chris Priest.

THE NORTHERN GUFFBLOWER:From:Dave Langford,22 Northumberland Ave,Reading,Berks. RG2 7PW.Devoted to the GUFF Fund and advising that the new administrator is Rob Jackson,8 Lavendar Rd,West Ewell,Surrey.KT19 9EB.It states that there are two firm candidates..Malcolm Edwards and Joseph Nicholas.

ANSIBLE:Nos 7,9&10:From:Dave Langford, address as above.4/60p. Newszine which covers a vast amount of SF and fannish news. Given with a nice humourous touch.

ARENA SF:No 10:From:Geoff Ripington,6 Rutland Grdns,Birchington,Kent.CT7 9SN. 50p Good serious SF criticism in which many books are covered.Main article is about Barrington Bayley, an author about whom I always feel guilty as I was for years one of those fans who thought he was a pseudonym for Moorcock! Recommended.

ERG QUARTERLY:No 71:From:Terry Jeeves,230 Bannordale Rd,Sheffield.S11 9FE.25p in stamps plus loc. Terry is now retired and so tightening up his subscription plans. In his editorial he lists all the new gadgets that can be bought, including a home cine on which to show STAR WARS! Eric Needham surfaces here(old fans never die..they just hibernate)with a horror story.Book reviews are short and useful. Always a well-produced genzine.

VECTOR:Nos 97&98:From:The BSFA.Apart from very good book reviews there is also the text from John Brunner's speech at SEACON which gives plenty room for thought. Then there is Chris Priest's resignation from the SFWA speech..this is the third time I have seen this in print..isn't anyone going to answer it? With this came MATRIX Nos 29&30 which is the BSFA Newsletter. Both hefty magazines full of news,letters and discussion. Also con reports,BSFA reports and a very good round-up of the clubs that are active in Britain.

## H.AVERINGS

some late-comers...

TELOS:No 2:From:Brokedown Palace,5022 9th Ave,NE Seattle,WA 98105.\$1 or trade etc. Co-editors are:Teresa Hayden,Gary Farber and Patrick Hayden. The appearance of this reminds me of INNUENDO and this is strengthened by the fannish atmosphere. There is even a column by Dick Bergeron; and it is good to see this fine writer back.Among other goodies is a parody of THE HOLLOW MEN; a column by JohnBerry, an entertaining editorial by(I think)Teresa; and a letter column that starts with Terry Carr.

INTERMEDIATE VECTOR BOSONS:No 2:From:Harry Andruschak,PO Box 606,La Canada-Flint-ridge,CA 91011. \$1 or trade etc.In the light of the new knowledge of Mars, here is Bradbury writing about his Martians guaranteed to evoke sympathy in the reader. A good genuine -some excellent reprints, NASA news and letters.

FANTAST(Medway)LTD.39 West St,Wisbech,Cambs.PE13 2LX. Monthly catalogues which also usually has publishing news. Up to date with convention dates.

FANTASY CENTRE: 157 Holloway Rd.London,N7.Regular catalogues of SF.

MAINSTREAM:No 5:From:Suzanne Tompkins & Jerry Kaufman,4326 Winslow Pl.North. Seattle. WA 98103.3/\$2. Two editorials is always nice if they are good and these two are. Long article on 'Roscoe'..done very seriously with very little of the tongue-in-cheek. visible. There is a good letter column discussion here about TUFF and DUFF and about the type of fan that should be nominated. Gary Farber points out that British fans 'stand' and American fans 'run'; which is a very cogent point. Makes quite a gap in thinking for a start. Some point out that a fan who could not otherwise afford to go should be chosen. With recession on both sides of the Atlantic I'd have liked to see that point given greater emphasis. This zine has a definite friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

OUT OF THE BLUE:No 2:From:Harry Bell &Kevin Williams. address as for Harry given before. Kevins address is 9 Whitton Pl.Seaton Delaval,Northumberland. Trades please send to both.No price. For some reason the excretory processes seem to fascinate some British fans- a bit surprised to find that Harry is one of them. Looked at with a cool eye the whole human body and its processes is a marvellous thing. Let's hope none of these lads ever find out how unfunny it can be to have prostate trouble! Then comes Kevin describing his time in the "Ops Room" at Seaton. Quite a fascinating read.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:No 36:From:as before: High time I gave special mention to the artwork in this zine, particularly the continuing series of cartoons by Alexis Gilliland which have deservedly won an award recently. Dick thinks the SF boom is over for now as recession begins to hit harder. Certainly the number of books he has reviewed here have been keeping him, and a stable of helpers, very busy. In addition to these reviews there are, as usual, some interesting articles. Best I thought was Charles Platt's interview with Philip Dick, a very good word-picture. As ever, a very worth-while magazine.

Science Fiction Chronicle:Vol.2:No 1. More up-to-date publishing news. Some very interesting such as Ted White being terminated as editor of HEAVY METAL and the Oxford University Press starting a series on SF writers..with Heinlein, naturally! Kay Anderson's column on SF in the media promises a whole lot of goodies to come.I was most interested in reading that Mel Ferrer has bought the rights to PETER PAN and plans a \$12 million film of it. I know that the Children's Hospital in London owns the rights to PETER PAN..I wonder how much they will gain from this!

WESTWIND:No 39:The cover features photographs from THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK which is odd as inside is a very scathing review of this film by Blake Mitchell. Fans who are scathing like this surely do not remember the days when there was practically no SF on screen or TV! I have been watching some re-runs of THE OUTER LIMITS and my but a lot of them are very poor. Patrick Hayden has embarked on an explanation of fanzines to the newcomer, it is full of good advice.

Re Kong:Nos 1&2:From:Bruno Baccelli,via Carriona,79, 54033 Carrara.Italy. In Italian Trades wanted. Good clear production.

SPACEREPORT:The Newsletter of A.S.T.R.A.:Vol.3.No 1:From: David Proffitt & Oscar Schwiglhofer,49 Almada St.Hamilton,Scotland. ASTRA stands for Association In Scotland To Research Into Astronauts Ltd.Free to members otherwise 10p. Strictly for those interested in the mechanics of space-flight. Lead item is THE SECOND GENERATION OF ASTRONAUTS which gives a very thorough history. This club offers a good programme of lectures. Should you be interested write to the Secretary who is William Ramsay,19 Eastfoeld Ave.Cambusland,Glasgow.

JANUS:No 17:From:c/o SF3,Box 1624,Madison,WI 53701.4/\$6.Overseas \$8. The Equal Rights Law in America is supported by women's groups; and it is being debated here in regard to the bidding for the '82 Worldcon. The bidding is between Detroit and Chicago. Detroit is in the state of Michigan which supports ERA and Chicago is in the state of Illinois which does not. Both groups debate whether this should be taken into consideration at Worldcon bidding. I have a hunch that Detroit will win! I was very horrified to read here that in Chicago women traffic offenders are strip-searched whilst men are released. This zine is now being produced by a committee of 16. This means no editorial..but as they are all fine writers who have something sensible to say, I can't say I missed it much. a truly fine zine.

THE WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG:No 16:From..as before..a long list of zines reviewed handily listed alphabetically.

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY:No 11:From..as before.Robert Runte's editorial argues that fandom is not going to the dogs, agree except where he implies that 6,000 at a con is a good thing..it would frighten me to death. Interesting article on THE PRISONER fandom..good all-round zine.

WESTWIND:No 40:From..as before. Club news but reviews useful for non-members.

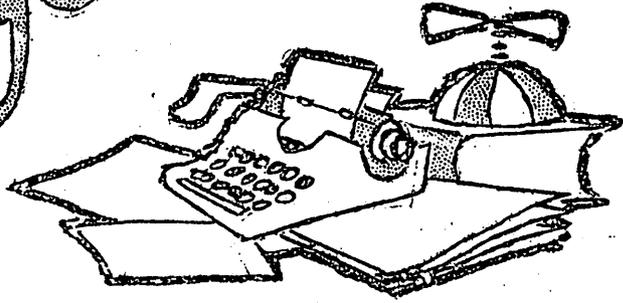
SMALL FRIENDLY DOG:No 19:From:Paul Skelton,25 Bowland Close,Offerton,Stockport Cheshire,SK2 5NW.No price.Personal zine with a running commentary by Skel between the letters he quotes. He is funniest when he writes about his small daughter,and he has judicious words to say on the HUGOS.Skel is very fond of puns..I am looking forward to his comments on WARHOON 28!

ERG:No 72:From..as before. Some practical advice here on home computers from Terry plus an article by Ralph Roberts..a part-time writer who finds his computer invaluable..but £3250! Roberts also shows how a computer can give you lists of names for aliens...Very useful book reviews here.

Ethel

# Natterings

Ethel Lindsay



The article in NEBULA, written by Walt Willis that enticed me into fandom pointed out that there are many groups passionately interested in diverse subjects. That to the observer they are often very weird-tram-car devotees; steam engine fanatics; stamp collectors (although this one is considered 'respectable' by most people); there are beetle-collectors and butterfly-chasers; opera buff and gardening masochists. You think of a subject and someone is daft about it.

An interest in SF is no longer considered quite so odd as before but over 20 years interest in fandom could be, by a dispassionate observer, considered childish. Whenever that notion floats around something comes along to prove to me that I am Not Alone. This time it was a massive book entitled THE INTERNATIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES by Ronald Burt De Waal - 621pp devoted to listing everything ever published about Holmes. Now wait for it - this is a companion volume, an additional volume to THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by the same author which has a listing of 6221 items. Whilst you are mulling over that phenomena consider also that this latest book THE INTERNATIONAL HOLMES costs £27.50. That makes the \$25 price for WARHOON 28 look inexpensive.

It was Walt, I recall, who gave as a reason for staying in fandom - "to see what will happen next", and this I find a very good and valid reason for my own long stay. I can also relax over my interest in things fannish - there are lots and lots of people just as crazy about just as daft things as I am over fandom.

I suppose my main complaint about fandom is that it has become so big. Not that I quarrel with this but it does make it impossible to keep in touch with it all. Reading through WARHOON 28 (which I discuss later) one remembers the day when a joke told one place in fandom was understood everywhere. Once I knew practically every fan in America - looking at 22pp of fan photos in PHOSPHENE I realised that the majority of them were unknown to me. Goodness! I don't know all the British fans anymore never mind the rest of the world. Still too much nostalgia might sound as if I were not enjoying the present - and folks! I am having a wonderful time.

Just not having to go out to work is the nicest thing.

It was a lousy summer of rain, rain, and more rain but I had two lots of visitors to cheer me up. First came Doreen and Phil Rogers who had to wait until almost the end of their stay before seeing Carnoustie without a belt of rain above it. Phil disappeared among my books and seemed to be trying to read them all; but Doreen and I braved the elements to visit Glamis Castle and Scone Palace. We went through to Edinburgh for a couple of days and there the weather was kinder so that we were able to walk down the Royal Mile at our leisure. Part of the way down this was a Camera Obscura and Phil prevailed us up the long tower to view this. We were told that the Camera had been installed a century ago and that, like the periscope of a submarine, it projects a picture of Edinburgh onto a circular table. Quite fascinating and I would like to see it again on an even sunnier day.

We stayed at the Pollock Halls of Residence which is the student quarters of the University of Edinburgh. I must admit I was studying it with a view to whether it would be suitable for an SF Convention. Well, first of all, the prices are good; £7.45 for bed and full breakfast. Dinner cost £2.30 and lunch £2. The food was good with a choice for every course. Witness to this is the fact that, after having dinner there the first night, we chose to do so again the second night. Now that I would trot back again says nothing about the quality of the food (Phil says I keep my palate in the sole of my shoe.); but Doreen and Phil are much more fussy and I was relieved that they gave the food thumb's up!

The Refectory was run on efficient lines, the menu was outside with the various choices numbered. You then went to the numbers you had chosen to collect and this made for a rapid service. At breakfast you helped yourself to tea from urns but after dinner you went upstairs to a room where coffee was served. To get to this room you went through a large bar and could take your coffee back there to drink. Had the weather been just a shade warmer we also had the choice of going out onto the large verandah. In this same building was a shop selling newspapers and many sundries.

Doreen and I ventured down into Princes Street; but the crowds were so great we beat a hasty retreat into the Gardens opposite. Anyway, Princes Street is not the marvellous street I recall when I would go happily browsing along for hours through the various bookshops. All gone now and replaced by tartanary..

Much better was The Royal Mile - lots of small shops and so many historic places to see. One could devote a whole day to this itself, particularly if you are interested in architecture. However we did also visit the Castle and Holyrood House. Fortunately after our return from Edinburgh, Doreen and Phil saw something of Scotland without heavy rain clouds but the Varleys, who came next were much luckier with the weather.

With the Varleys, and some pleasanter weather I had a lovely time exploring the Scottish scenery. August is the time of year when the heather is in full bloom, it is years since I have been home at that time and I had forgotten just how lush it can make everything look. We toured round the Angus Glens, the Grampian Region and looked to the hills with great content. Another day we went over to Fife and from St Andrews toured round the coast as far as Pittenweem. We were most impressed by the village of Crail which boasts the most photogenic harbour in Scotland. Many of the houses have been preserved with the help of the National Trust. We topped off a lovely day by being able to see the fishing boats come home at Pittenweem.

My garden is considerably tidier..the pebbles are all in place and the two centre plots have been a mass of marigolds. I have started to plant bushes around the border which, hopefully one day will hide the fence. In the beginning rockery the white heather plants have given a brave show. Everywhere I go I look for stones for the rockery ---on the beach, in an old quarry, at an abandoned cottage, I do not scruple to help myself. I mean, you don't think I am going to pay for stones, do you? It was bad enough paying for those pebbles!

Yesterday it rained the live long day..so in the morning I started reading WARHOON 28 and continued at that all day. The only break was for meals and a short trip to the Bank for some money. Friday..today..is the day for paying the milkman, the coalman, and the papers. I read this WRHN, therefore, in front of a lovely blazing fire and with innumerable cups of tea, plus the comforting knowledge that I am free to indulge myself this way. Walt wrote recently to say that he is now retired..so my notion of a gathering of retired fans is not so odd, the numbers are gathering.

GAFIA TOO MIGHT BE A WAY OF LIFE..quoted in WRHN 28, said in 1958...

For new fans..that is an interlineation, a fan fashion that seems to have died out these days.

WARHOON 28 arrived in Barry Road last month and I received it with honest awe. Hardcover bound, 614pp, this Special Issue dedicated to the works of Walter Willis is something each Truefan should possess. It costs 25\$ and can be obtained from Richard Bergeron, 1 West 72, New York City, NY.10023.USA.

Dick himself has a short introduction which is followed by Harry Warner writing a biography of Willis. Harry explains the reason why Walt's writing was so much better than other fans was because he worked harder at it; and, he points out, it was free of cliches. I also liked Harry's definition of why HYPHEN was so good. Says Harry "HYPHEN was civilised".

The first section is devoted to extracts from SLANT and after that THE HARP IN QUANDRY. One must pause here to praise the artwork of Dick Bergeron and the splendid section headings. It is in this section that I find a typical Willis remark - "Fans like drawing naked women, mainly because they are pretty easy to draw" - that sort of sums up why it is useless to object to the practise.

One of the pleasant things about reading Willis is that his writing has not dated - points he is being acute about then are still being discussed today and often not so sensibly. He always was against any form of bigheadedness.

Of course reading this WRHN is like reading a history of fandom. Here is a report of the May 1951 London convention and another on the London convention of 1952. These bring back to me some forgotten details like the 'Ladies' in the old WHITE HORSE pub which required a male fan to stand guard whilst you used it as it was entered through the 'Gents'! I found myself laughing at Walt's reaction to having to make a speech. How he hated and dreaded this.

Following comes the complete text of WILLIS DISCOVERS AMERICA, the fan-fiction that Walt wrote before he made his US trip and in which I defy you not to laugh at his puns. After that comes THE HARP STATESIDE, Walt's report of the trip that gave fandom the idea for TAFF. I had a copy of this which vanished mysteriously years ago, so I welcome it back. It is good to read again Walt's meeting with Palmer and Shaver and his description of Wendy Akerman's growing horror at the realisation Shaver firmly believed in his "deroes".

Further on I am struck by Walt's description of segregation on the buses in the American South; that makes me realise just how long ago this all was, and how many changes there have been since. As a picture of America and fandom in the 1950s it is of great value.

I do have my original copy of THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR but it is so handy to have it included here where it belongs.

Next comes THE HARP IN COPS LA, Walt's column which has among other gems, Walt's RULES FOR A NEOFAN. Ever since I read this I have obeyed Rule 3: NEVER DESTROY A FANZINE. I have given them away, donated them to auctions and even sold some, but never destroyed one.

THE HARP IN WARHOON is where you'll find Walt describing his writing habits and this shows what Harry Warner means when he says Walt worked harder than anyone else.

On Walt's second trip to America he was accompanied by Madeleine. This was the year I was making my TAFF trip. I had been comforted by the fact that they would be at the CHICON; that I would see at least two familiar faces there. As things turned out the only time I asked for their moral support was to the Banquet. After that we toured America in opposite directions and only met up in San Francisco. I am very lucky to have Walt's description of that day preserved so that I can see every detail clearly.

I REMEMBER ME was written by Walt who had kept all his correspondence and hoped by writing this column quoting them to be able to finally destroy the pile of letters. Many of these letters are prize specimens in themselves. One of them that I remember fondly was a copy of Viné Clarke's to British Rail. A masterpiece which I've found useful to remember whenever dealing with faceless bureaucrats. I have a theory that Walt chickened out on continuing this as he approached the London O 'wars'. After all these people involved are still around and he never was one to deliberately hurt someone's feelings. I once tried writing about it myself and gave up in despair.

Here is the first mention of 'quote cards', another fannish fashion which has died out. It has been replaced by artists such as Terry Jeeves and Jim Barker producing a variety of cartoons to which fans are invited to add their own remarks. This seems to be particularly popular in Scotland where they are circulated round at the Banquet. This is fine by me in that it sure adds to the Banquet atmosphere. I decry, however, the custom of then collecting them and deciding then which are the best. This could be done later, it is too much of a holdup to the Banquet speakers.

I enjoyed reading Walt discussing the difference between fanzine fans and convention fans. This is not such a burning issue today, but his thoughts on the differences between extroverts and introverts are still valid. Yes, it was a very rewarding day reading through this, it brought back fond memories, showed me a panorama of the shifting face of fandom, and how often things come back to where they started. If you want to study the world at large, you can't do worse than studying fandom, for it is the world in microcosm.

I had a severe shock to my system this month. I bought a bottle of Correctine and it cost me £1.25p! Maybe it is as well I am winding SCOT up, at this rate I definitely cannot afford to continue. They wanted over £8 for a box of 50 stencils and for the first time in years I only bought some stencils rather than the box. This certainly brings me back to where I started for then I used to buy 6 stencils at a time, even at 6d each (old money) that was all I could afford. Time sure does whizz by from these days..when I first started I meant to find out the ingredient that can be added to Correctine so that you do not have to throw out about a third of the bottle..well here I am at the end and I never did find out. I think it was mentioned in Vine Clark's DUPLICATING WITHOUT TEARS; but I lost that years ago.

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Dear Constant Reader,

Do you not agree that MachiaVarley should send SCOT an article for its closing issue? Would you not think it black burning shame if he did not? If you agree, send him a telegram saying so!

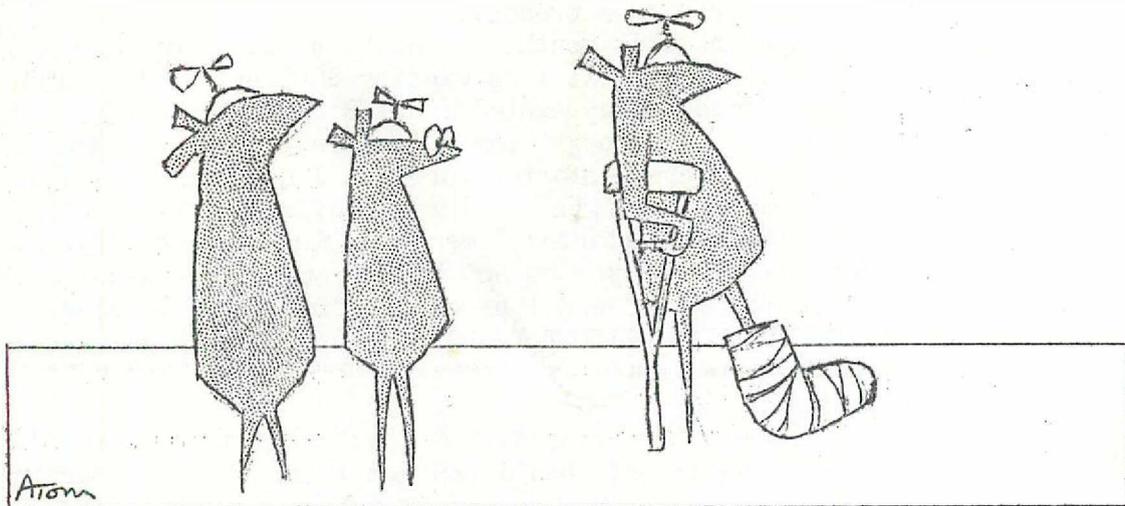
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Only two more issues to go, so if you want your pennysworth in now is the time to mac siccar. I have a Eric Needham article for the next issue.....  
The two issues for 1981 will come out in the Spring and Autumn.

as aye

Ethel

"HE'S GOING TO SUE BERGERON.. WARHOON 28  
FELL OUT OF THE MAILBOX AND BROKE HIS LEG!"



"Y'KNOW, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WRONG WITH ZINES  
FROM SEATTLE, THESE DAYS "

