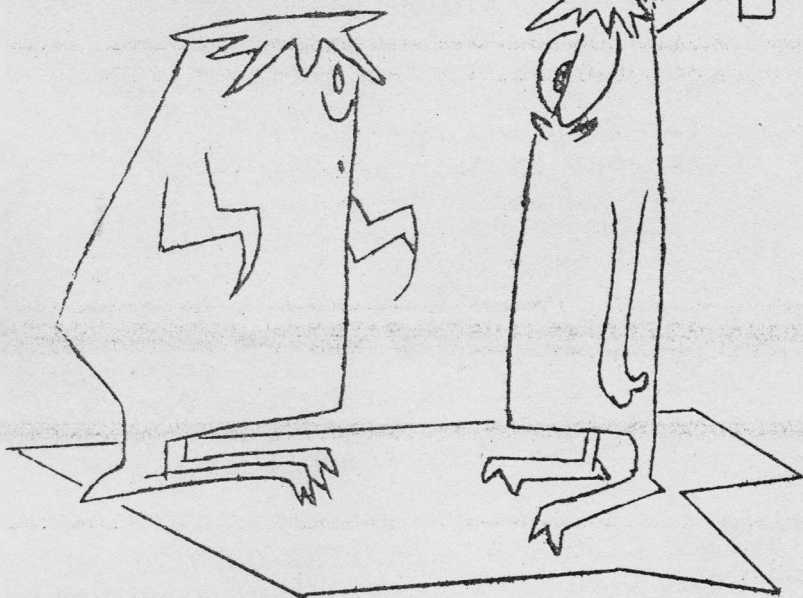


THREE PAGE  
CHELTENHAM  
VALCON  
REPORTS!!!

THE

# SKYRACK

-- NEWSLETTER --



"..... And then Ron Bennett flung himself at my feet crying out for N\*E\*W\*S!"

\*\*\*\*\*

\* This is SKYRACK No.14 dated  
\* 22nd February 1960, thereby  
\* resisting a temptation to  
\* have itself dated 29th. SKY-  
\* RACK is published by Ron M.  
\* Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs  
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\* Pavlat, 6001-43rd Avenue,  
\* Hyattsville, Md. News of in-  
\* terest to fandom gratefully  
\* received as the cartoon by  
\* Arthur Thomson shows. Con-  
\* tributors: Klaus Eylmann,  
\* Peter Davies, Ted Forsyth,  
\* and Norman Shorrocks and Ella  
\* Parker both by letter and by  
\* phone.

## CON HOTEL SWITCH

Because of the dissatisfaction expressed at the high prices of the Dominion hotel, the site of the BSFA Easter Convention has been switched. Take note, therefore, of the following:

TIME: Remains Good Friday 15th April to Easter Monday 18th Apr.

PLACE: The Sandringham Hotel, 25 Lancaster Gate, London W.2.

BOOKINGS: Bed & Breakfast 30/3d. Double rooms 58/-. Some four bedded rooms @ 22/6d per. Priority for cheaper accommodation to be given to younger fans travelling the greatest distances. All bookings (no deposits) to be made by letter through Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6.

The Sandringham is not a licenced hotel but the Manager is agreeable to our bringing in alcohol provided we keep it to our rooms and the lounge provided for us. A night porter will provide tea or coffee. Breakfast is normally from 8 -9.30, but as a concession this has been extended to 10.30. If anyone would like to insure articles of value, John Newman, 36 Bulstrode Ave., Hounslow, Middx., will take care of any inquiry. Auction material to Ella Parker. Convention fees to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. These have now been reduced to: BSFA Members 7/6, junior members 5/-; Non BSFA members 10/-, junior nonmembers 7/6d -- for the entire convention.

This is a BSFA Convention and is not being organised in conjunction with the London Circle.

CLAUS EYDMANN writes from Hamburg on fandom in Germany, "There are 3 big SF Organisations. The SFCE with Fanclub SFCD e.V., the SFCD and the SSFI. It is a unique situation in fandom that two different fanclubs have the name SFCD, but no one will give it up, because the very first club which was founded by Walter Ernsting has been the SFCD. Now both clubs, which are calling themselves SFCD are not the original clubs, but both organisations are saying that they are the successors of the original SFCD. There is a terrific feud running on between Wolf Detlef Rohr (Rainer Eisfeld) and Walter Ernsting and his SFCD. In a short time a law suit will be filled out in this matter. When a delegation of the SFCE (SFCD e.V.) (e.V. means "registered Club") will turn up at the England Convention then please don't think they are speaking for the majority of German fans. The majority of the German fans are organised in the SSFI (Stellaris Science Fiction Interessen Gemeinschaft) whose membership is increasing rapidly, only they have no such agile and versatile correspondent as the SFCE has in Rainer Eisfeld. Nevertheless Poul A. Pradel, who has been a long time in the U.S. and who attended the world con in San Francisco or New York (I don't know for sure) is a committee member of the SSFI."

THE CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FICTION CIRCLE'S VALENTINE CONVENTION was held over the weekend 13th/14th February. Out of town attendees made their way to 44 Barbridge Road, home of Margaret and Eric Jones, then proceeded to Ah Chows Restaurant where they were joined by more Cheltenham fans. Stage One Party HQ were the Palatial clubrooms in London Road where, before continuing the general merrymaking, a discussion ensued on the Easter Convention. The new solution was apparently well received by all. The programme continued with the showing of vintage Chaplin and Hal Roach films, cartoons and some non-vintage fan film shot in Bebington last month. We then returned to Gavagan's Bar for brag, femmes, vodka, heavy water (!) and general gabfesting. At midnight the party uprooted itself and was transplanted to 14 Bennington Street home of Bill and Bobbie Gray, finally breaking up around 4 - 5am. Sleeping arrangements had been well organised and fans scattered to the far flung reaches (it says here) of Cheltenham where they were bedded down and fed by hospitable Cheltfen. A most excellent and enjoyable gathering. Attendees included Eric and Margaret Jones, Wally and Joy Johnson, Paul Briggs, Archie Mercer, Ian Adlem, Mike Chapman, Bob Parkinson, Bob and Barbara Richardson, Bill and Bobbie Gray, Doug Lacey, Keith Freeman, Eric Bentcliffe, Peter Mabey, Tony Walsh, Sandra Hall, Frank Herbert, Shirley Stevens, John Roles, Norman Weedall, Eddie Jones, John Owen, Ina and Norman Shorrock and Mersey and Deeside minibus driver Jeff Collins. (NLS)

LYNN HICKMAN (304 N. 11th., Mt. Vernon, Illinois, USA) reports that the 10th Anniversary issue of JD-ARGASSY will be published in May, a 70 page issue for 50¢, with material by Harry Warner, Dean A. Grennell, Rog Phillips, Bob Tucker, Bob Madle, Sandy Sanderson, John Berry, Earl Kemp and Charles de Vet amongst others. Interested fans in Britain may obtain this argosy by sending British agent Ron Bennett three shillings and sixpence.

APORRHETA No 15 (Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery," 236 Queens Road, London SE 14; 50pp; 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 6 for \$1 or 8/-, 12 for \$2 or 15/-). With the latest Apz, Sandy switches back to black ink and conjures up micro elite type for the editorial -- and as one who suffers from eyestrain, I'm pleased that the use of the small type is indeed limited. 24 pages are given over to a highly interesting Inchmery Fan Diary, but pride of place must go to a competition set by the literary minded Ving Clarke, the funniest fannish idea I've seen produced in a long time. George Spencer contributes a fan story, John Berry writes an American adventure, and Andy Young asks "What's Wrong With SF?" Regular columnists Joy Clarke, Cantaloupe Flabbergaste, Penelope Fandergaste, and Dean Grennell are here in force. Joy's "Li'l Pitcher" concerns itself with general chatter, including a nicely thought out development of Hemingway's having a cash register attached to his typewriter (Ha! Caught you, Joy Clarke! Boucher first used the idea in "Rocket To The Morgue."). After criticising the Apa, Cantaloupe suggests that the BSFA forms one. PF salutes the Los Angeles group, a worthy sentiment, and quietly tears Ted White to pieces. Grennell coins words (a wonderful piece). Arthur Thomson moves his A to Z from S to W. Sandy provides a TAFF platform for all three candidates. A slightly below standard Apz, which is to say merely brilliant.

TRIODE 17 (Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire and Terry Jeeves, 58 Sharrard Grove, Sheffield 12, Yorks. 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 4 for 5/- or 6 for \$1.38pp. U.S. subs to Dale R. Smith, 3001 Kyle Avenue, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota). This issue kicks off with a too short editorial by Eric. John Berry is present with the account of the Berry Two-Stage Rocket. Harry Warner pictures the homes of fen from their addresses (I wonder what he made of Donaho's Nunnery!). Terry Jeeves writes for four pages, mostly on the recent LASFAS party. Penelope Fandergaste spills over her Mill Stream to discuss dreams and several million BNFs make up the letter column. The artwork and layout once again deserve special mention. It used to be said that TRIODE was too formal and staid, but these days the zine is a quarterly which does not appear too often. Shucks! Almost forgot to mention Doc Weir writing on filming Tolkein's "Lord of the Rings" in England and George Locke writing on tiddly winks in fandom -- which just goes to show how good the rest of the magazine must be.

CACTUS No. 3 (Sture Sedolin, Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden. 17pp. 7/- for no fewer than 10 issues to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddeston, Herts.) Duplicated entirely in red, this issue maintains the improvement shown in the second issue, and is noteworthy for the pen pictures presented by John Berry which show Inchmery fandom in a deservedly good light. Ray Nelson contributes some good cartoons which are spoiled somewhat by the duplicating. Bob Lichtman reviews fanzines. Terry Carr writes on jazz. Try this one.

THE CHELTENHAM VALCON almost made fannish history by burning itse out in an unusual manner. Archie Mercer reports that the paraffin heater caught fire at Bennington Street. "Eric ("I'll do it - I see these") the Bent assumed control. Ten minutes or so later he was still in control - and the thing was flaming brightly. Man, that was the SMOKE FILLEDEST room ever," writes Archie. Ha!

Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_ : next issue \_\_\_\_\_

To spread the Cheltenham ValCon mentions over to a third page, Norman Shorrocks notes that the specially hired LASFAS minibus was festooned with outside notices "LASFAS On Tour" and "M.A.D. Productions on Location."

KEN CHESLIN, leading light of the Stourbridge group, recently suffered an accident at work, resulting in the loss of three right hand fingers.

HALF A DOZEN fans have already voted in the TAFF's Pitcon Push. If this campaign, to send a British delegate to the September Worldcon, is to be successful, we'll have to do better than that. Move! Meanwhile, America's TAFF delegate to the Eastercon, says that he will fly jet to London, arriving April 9th. \*\*\* The TAFF auction at the Eastercon will include 5 Nova covers by Brian Lewis, from NEW WORLDS 71, 74, 79 and 82 and SFA 11. Postal bids are invited.

THE DIRECTORY OF 1959 SF FANDOM (1/9 or 25/- from Bennett or Pavlat) is still selling. 500 fan addresses, tape and phone listing.

TED FORSYTH (139 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh 8) writes on his recent trip to London, "If you read SKYRACK you'll have noticed that I had a visit to London coming up. I left Edinburgh early on Wednesday morning, 27th Jan and arrived back on Monday evening, 1st Feb. I spent two nights in Woking with relations and stayed Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at Ella Parker's. During this time I managed to put faces to quite a few fans who had been only names and in the process enjoyed myself immensely. London looks like the inside of a train. I seldom seemed to spend more than a few minutes on the surface and when I did it was usually at night. On my way home I passed through Harrogate, but I did not see you. Was it something I said?"

ALAN RISPIN hitched over to Harrogate for a brag session Feb 7th and caught the train back. Hmm.\*\*\* Norman Shorrocks has had a card from Boyd Raeburn in Puerto Rico. \*\*\* Liverpool University Rag Mag runs photo of Assistant Editor Bill Harry on contents page.

SKYRACK 14 from  
Ronald M. Bennett  
7 Southway  
HARROGATE  
Yorkshire

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PLOpress

ELEVEN SKYRACK POLL FORMS HAVE BEEN RETURNED COMPLETED. AND YOURS?