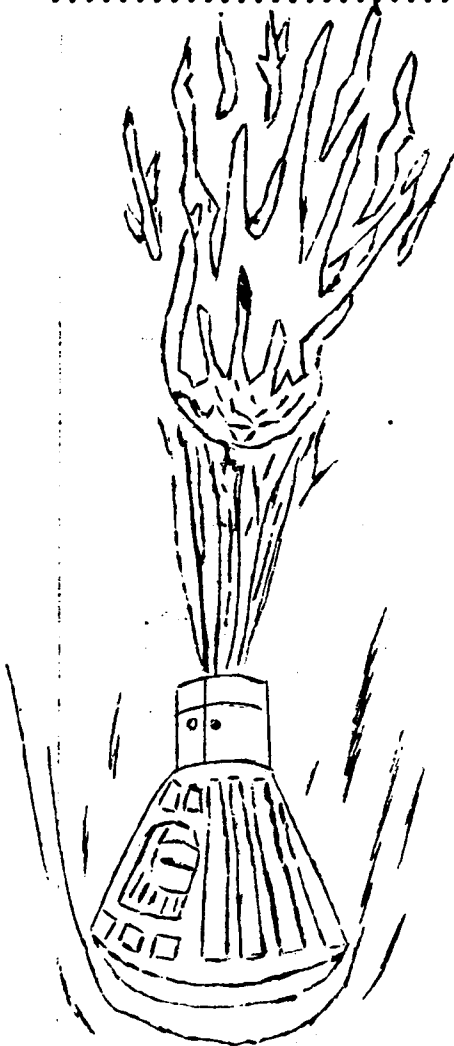


The
SKYRACK
-- NEWSLETTER --

This is SKYRACK 86, dated 9th February 1966 and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6 issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (70¢ airmail) where subscriptions may be sent to Buck Coulson, Rte 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Contributors include Lady of St.

Fantony, Ethel Lindsay, Jimmy Groves, Alan Dodd, Michael Moorcock, Harry Harrison, Arthur Thomson, Ben Jason and George Locke. John Ramsey Campbell appears by kind permission of Harry Nadler and Hammer Films and the cartoon is by Kris Carey. Vienna in Sixty-Six and Tom Schluß, for TAFF.



COMPACT MAGAZINES ALTER FORMAT. Say goodbye to Science Fantasy. The March issue, out at the end of February will see the title changed to Impulse with more pages, a slightly larger page size and a price increase to 3/6d. The issue will be an "all-star" affair, with contributions from James Blish, Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, James Ballard, Jack Vance and Richard Wilson. In addition there will be Poul Anderson writing on the theme of "sacrifice." New Worlds 160, out at the same time, will feature similar page size and price changes and will include material by Ballard, Zelazny, Jones, Platt, Masson and the U.S. poet Bill Butler as well as a new Brunner serial. (MJM)

FAIRLY FREQUENTLY PUBLISHED AUTHOR MARRIES. Saturday, 11th December 1965, dawned bright and lovely in Oxford and many and wondrous were the SF notables who assembled there to celebrate with strong drink and mighty oaths the joining in wedlock of Margaret Manson and one Brian Wilson Aldiss. Kyril Bonfiglioli clashed glass with Michael Moorcock, Tom Boardman nibbled sandwiches with your reporter, Kingsley Amis cheered on Jim Ballard who suffered virus or flux and drank but cold water(!) and when the happy newlyweds left for Paris only Harry Harrison and Michael Moorcock were fool enough to throw rose petals and received from BWA the scowl they so richly deserved. Merriment and cheer and drink were the order of the day and I am sure that all Skyrack readers and lesser fen join us in wishing the couple all of the very best in the years to come. (HH)

"CAPSULE TO RECOVERY....
....Repeat last transmission
....our WHAT is on fire?..."

PRONWS. Jim Ballard's new novel, The Crystal World (Cape, May) has been bought by Panther for a record fee, the highest paid for an sf book. Panther outbid both Corgi and Penguin (who have published Ballard's other work in pb) for paperback rights.

fanzine index

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Some very good fanzines have arrived since the last issue, fanzines probably worthy of more space than afforded here:

VECTOR 37 (Jan 66; BSFA o-o) Another small size, professional looking Vector and another issue full of good reading. R. Haldricks analyses Russian sf, Ken Slater chunters on book and magazine news, Vic Hallett looks at sf films, Chris Priest reviews British prozines and Jimmy Groves answers sticky questions. The cover is by Eddie Jones and is well up to his best. As if all this were not enough there is an excellent article on the economics of writing sf by John Brunner.

BRENNSCHLUSS 6 (Ken & Irene Potter, 4 Hartington St., Lancaster). Once upon a time, way back in the murky reaches of the forgotten sixth and the dusty seventh fandoms there was a fanzine named Brennschluss. It was a darn good zine, full of personal Potter gems, big names and esoteric humour. Ah... how are the mighty --- keeping up the good work! This is well up to the Potter standard, with homely verbal doodles from Mike Moorcock, Mal and Sheila Ashworth, Nigel Lindsay, Ken and Irene and the far too infrequently published Don Geldart. The duplicating is a little thin at times but the overall atmosphere of, to me nostalgic, good faanish humour isn't.

DEADWOOD 2 (George Locke, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW1) Published for the FAPA's February mailing this is highly readable but a little below the usual high Locke standard. Readable and worth a try, however.

POT POURRI (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belfast 4) Numbers 39 to 43 have arrived in a batch and feature an excellent spectrum of subject matter in an aptly named zine. Again, highly readable; one can only dream of a return of Retribution with material like this to whet one's appetite.

ZENITH SPECULATION 11 (Jan 66; Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31; 2/-) This latest Zenith lives well up to its Hugo nomination reputation with sf, rather than fan, news and reviews and excellent appraisals of Ballard and Anvil by Joe Patrizio and Pete Weston respectively. Definitely highly recommended. Were this zine a little more fantasy slanted it could easily be mistaken for a reborn New Futurian.

SOL 42 (Thomas Schlück -- yes, our boy for TAFF -- 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, W. Germany) A large size English language edition, with amongst other goodies, Harry Warner on fan polls (Ploy, yet --- Ploy!!! -- what are you doing to me?), Lois Lavender and James White on the London Worldcon and a Mario Kwiat art folio, to say nothing of photo pages from the FranCon and LonCon II. Good stuff all round.

FANNY HILL is an extremely bulky art folio, also by Mario Kwiat, decidedly of interest to any fan artist and available also from Tom Schlück.

YANDRO 152 and 153 (1/9 each, 12 for 14/- from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts) are in from Buck & Juanita Coulson. 1965's Hugo winner in fine fettle and full of the Great Ace-Tolkien War. Great, great. When I stay up to 1.30am reading a fanzine it has to be good.

NIEKAS 14 (Dec 65; Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif; 2/6 per and worth every penny from Gray Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos) 74 pages of superlative material and featuring a complete printing of John Brunner's How to Get High Without Going into Orbit speech which was generally agreed to be the highlight of the London Worldcon programme.

Your Subscription Expires This Issue ; next issue ; Contributor

Apologies for the second issue in succession for the fact that there has been a period of about two months between issues, but in addition to a couple of bouts of illness, one the flu epidemic which is going the rounds, I had a slight argument with a car early in December, running into it whilst riding my moped. Nothing serious -- the car pulled out from a minor road across my path and did not stop. Hit and run! Gladiator sports!

SNIPPETS. Astounding Checklist part II from Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Road, Sheffield 11 is 5/- not 4/6 as quoted in an earlier Skyrack. My apologies to Terry who has lost several pounds because of the error:::Colin Steele, 49 St Michael's Road, Liverpool 17 is looking for a copy of the Zenith which has in it the review of Heinlein's Farnham's Freehold:::In protest of Ace Books' ethics in printing the Tolkien trilogy, Poul Anderson is refusing to have any more of his work published by Ace:::Lee Hoffman has sold her first novel, a western, The Legend of Blackjack Sam to Ace:::Yarcon news -- the main con hotel, the Royal, is now full except for 6 double rooms. With 95 members on the books is con is quickly heading for its century. Contact Dave Barber, la Walsoken House, Walton Rd., Wisbech, Cambs.:::Sutton Breiding, 616 - 8th Street, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505, is looking for British contacts of about his own age, fifteen:::New Bristol public house is called The Man in Space -- part of the city's preparation for the '67 con, says publicity minded Tony Walsh::: Help -- At the Globe in September, someone asked Dave Kyle for a number of Stateside addresses. Dave (Rte 4, Potsdam, NY 13676) is eager to help but has no record as to the name of the fan concerned:::Various German conventions lined up for this year -- Eastercon at Marquarstein Castle (which now, incidentally, has a new owner), 1st May FairCon in Hannover to coincide with the annual Hannover Industrial Fair, the VlohCon in Vlotho at Whitsun, the 4th Susi-Con (named after Mario Kwiat's charming wife) in October, to say nothing of the August WienCon in Vienna, which is being looked upon by many as a full scale try-out in preparation for a later Worldcon bid, possibly 1970 with Frankfurt as the site:::Just in is Scottishe 39 from Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, the first issue for just a year -- very readable without reaching the heights of the previous half dozen or so issues. All too short, however, is the three page glimpse into the Willis letter files at gems by Bloch and Ashworth:::Arthur Clarke on TV, Sunday 6th Feb -- in advert for Daily Express!

~~SKYBACK 86 from~~

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