

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

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In Brief --

Our readers can tell from the dates of the first cons covered in "The Con Game" how long ago we typed the rest of the stencils in this issue. We ran out of gas midway thru typing #113, and paused to catch our breath and rest our eyes for a couple of weeks. #112 will probably hit the mails Wed., Oct. 31; this issue will be mailed noon, Oct. 29.

Thanks to you who have been letting us know dates of receipt. We will continue with this thru #112, and then will compile the results and let you know what they are. (For the record, pls. note that #110 didn't hit the mails until Oct. 23; we missed the 22 Oct. pick-up (he came early....)).

No new news on TWJ #80; #83 moving right along (keep those letters coming!-- and please note: we still urgently need articles, essay-type reviews and bibliographic material for the issue). And pls. remember: we will especially need articles, reviews, and surveys dealing with the SF scene in 1973--for both the U.S. and elsewhere in the world--for #84 (as well as the usual material).

SOTWJ is approx. bi-weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/\$2 (80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more issues, dep. on length). For info on airmail, "Collector's" (3rd-class) subs, ads, Overseas Agents (list in #95 & TWJ #82), etc., write ed. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; H, L, or M, WSFA Honorary, Life, or Regular Member, resp. (# indicates # of WSFA issues remaining on sub); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade (see #89 for Trade-Sub details); W or Y, Subbor via 1st- or 3rd-class mail, resp. (# = # of issues left on sub); X, Last issue, unless ...

-- DLM

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BOOKS ANNOUNCED (Announcements Received by SOTWJ) --

ARKHAM HOUSE, Publishers, Sauk City, WI 53583:

In a flyer dated 15/8/73, they announce several changes to their Oct. '72 Catalogue: They will not be publishing the scheduled Donald and/or Howard Wandrei titles. Basil Copper's collection, From Evil's Pillow, was rescheduled for Aug., at a price of \$6, and with five stories instead of the originally announced ten. Joseph Payne Brennan's Stories of Darkness & Dread was rescheduled for Sept., at a price of \$6 (collection of 10 stories). H.P. Lovecraft & August Derleth's The Watchers Out of Time and Others has been rescheduled for late 1973 or early 1974; Lovecraft's Selected Letters IV:1932-1934 is uncertain, but is expected in 1974. Newly out of print are: Derleth's Over the Edge, Campbell's The Inhabitant of the Lake, La Spina's Invaders From the Dark, Long's The Horror from the Hills, Derleth's The Trail of Gthulhu, Lovecraft's Three Tales of Horror, Vol. I of THE ARKHAM COLLECTOR. And they carry limited stocks of British editions of the following oop Arkham titles (Neville Spearman Ltd. reprints; \$5 ea.): Genius Loci & Co, The Abominations of Yondo, Lost Worlds, Out of Space & Time; (Tom Stacey Ltr. reprint; \$6): Carnacki, The Ghost-Finder.

BALLANTINE BOOKS, 201 E. 50th St., N.Y., NY 10022: (Oct. '73)

Hrolf Kraki Saga, by Poul Anderson (\$1.25): ". . . a reconstruction of the famous Danish epic celebrating the kings and heroes of the Dark Age of the House of the Skjoldungs. . . ."

Dying Inside, by Robert Silverberg (\$1.25): ". . . the reader enters the mind of David Selig, who has the power to project his consciousness into other minds, bodies and souls . . . Silverberg describes the flux of dying--what it is like for David to be dying inside, regretting a lost past and fearing the future."

Alpha 4, ed. Robert Silverberg (\$1.25): Anthology; includes works by R.A. Lafferty, Norman Spinrad, Thomas M. Disch, Damon Knight, William Tenn, Brian W. Aldiss, Edgar Pangborn, Terry Carr, James Elish, Philip Jose Farmer, & Alfred Bester.

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB, Garden City, NY: (Fall, '73)

Orbit 12, ed. Damon Knight (\$1.49): 14 original stories, by Doris Piserchia, Edward Bryant, Steve Chapman, Kate Wilhelm, Ursula K. Le Guin, Brian W. Aldiss (4), Michael Bishop, Mel Gilden, Vonda N. McIntyre, Gene Wolfe, & (again) Ed Bryant.

Clone, by Richard Couper (\$1.49): Genetically identical human quadruplets are constructed in a laboratory and later separated. As their powers develop, they search each other out to reach the full potential of their abilities.

Alternates: The Gods Themselves, by Isaac Asimov (\$1.98); The Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Vol. 2A, ed. Ben Bova (\$3.50); The Third Ear, by Curt Siodmak (\$1.49); The Time Masters, by Wilson Tucker (\$1.49); 2001: A Space Odyssey, by Arthur C. Clarke (\$1.49); The Ice People, by René Barjavel (\$1.49); The Day the Sun Stood Still, by Poul Anderson, Gordon R. Dickson, & Robert Silverberg (\$1.49).

MACMILLAN PUB. CO., INC., 866 3rd Ave., New York, NY 10022: (Sep.-Nov. '73)

The following are avail. in paperback from Collier Books, & hardback from Macmillan:

Good Neighbors and Other Strangers, by Edgar Pangborn (Sept.; \$1.50 pb, \$5.95 hb): Collection of 10 stories, each introducing a strange form of life.

The Eye of the Lens, by Langdon Jones (Oct.; \$1.25 pb, \$5.95 hb): Five stories which focus on the nature of time.

The Chameleon Corps and Other Shape Changes, by Ron Goulart (Oct.; \$1.50 pb, \$5.95 hb): 11 stories, 5 of them featuring Lt. Ben Jolson of the Chameleon Corps.

Frontiers 1: Tomorrow's Alternatives, ed. Roger Elwood (Nov.; \$1.50 pb, \$5.95 hb), and Frontiers 2: The New Mind, ed. Roger Elwood (Nov.; \$1.50 pb, \$5.95 hb): The first two anthologies in the Frontiers series of original SF, the first including "some barely-fiction futuristic chillers", and the second containing "a dozen explorations into the infinite possibilities and potential of the human mind".

Rendezvous With Rama, by Arthur C. Clarke (Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich; SFBC; orig. serialized in GALAXY) -- Three Views:

BARRY GILLAM:

Rendezvous With Rama is a trifle but a very entertaining trifle. It is by far Clarke's most slickly written novel: a delight to read for the casual clarity of its narrative exposition. Like almost all of Clarke's work, it presents its characters with a series of problems to which they react as if they were consulting engineers to the universe. The current question concerns the nature and purpose of an asteroid-sized alien spaceship (Rama) that has entered the solar system. Rama is the novel's protagonist and in fact the only reasonably developed character. The other figures, be they spaceship commanders, renowned physicists or entire planets, act according to type and are interesting chiefly for their revelations about Rama. But these fascinating revelations are nearly of a calibre with imaginative precision and architectural elegance of Clarke's best work.

DAVID STEVER (the GALAXY version; he has not read the book yet):

The Sense of Wonder book of the year, Rama is cast from the same mold as Ringworld. Rama began as merely a large (40-km.) asteroid, coming into the inner Solar System at a rate of speed so high that it was obviously just passing through. By means of a photo taken from a fly-by mission, it is discovered that it is also an artifact. Now begins a flurry of activity to get a ship to Rama, before it flashes back on out of the system. I refuse to describe the interior of the gigantic cylinder that is Rama, as that is the entire purpose of Clarke's work. This book is even more reliant on the wonder of Rama than Ringworld was of the Ring, but that shouldn't be counted against Mr. Clarke. With Rendezvous With Rama, a goal is set: to awe the reader with the glories of a world, made in miniature by a race of intelligent beings. Clarke succeeds--and with one of the most up-beat last lines I've ever seen, this is a book to be remembered.

DON D'AMASSA --

Arthur Clarke's first novel in too many years is a cross between 2001: A Space Odyssey and Niven's Ringworld. A strange celestial body enters the solar system and is discovered to be artificial--in fact, an immense cylindrical spaceship. Predictably, a team of explorers is dispatched to land on and explore the artifact, christened Rama. There ensues a series of low-keyed adventures within the cylinder, as the quiescent crew of apparently organic robots awakens and prepares the vessel for the next step in the accomplishment of its mysterious purpose. This purpose is never revealed; in fact, most of the mysteries of Rama are never explained. Clarke has resorted to the tried and true method of story-telling which involves a succession of wonders--and he makes it work very well. But while this may be one of the best SF novels of the year, it is not an outstanding SF novel--not even one of Clarke's best. There is a sub-plot involving the paranoid government of Mercury, which only serves to interrupt the otherwise smoothly moving plot, much like commercials interrupt a movie on TV. Clarke also commits a tactical error in building up suspense about a particular discovery within Rama, but then switching to a committee meeting on the moon for the revelation. The curve of interest is broken and the reader feels cheated. As with Asimov, it seems that the gap of years between novels brought with it a bit of rust.

Planet of Exile, by Ursula LeGuin (Tandem pb).

(Reviewer, KEN OZANNE)

I have only recently discovered Le Guin, to my shame. But at least I know there are several more treats in store. This is the story of an embattled outpost of terrestrials, the remainder of a once considerable colony, on a planet with years seventy Earth-years long. There are intelligent natives, who are seen both as friends and foes, but, as the terrestrials are the aliens on the planet, so it is that Le Guin makes us see things primarily through the natives' eyes.

A hint is given, after the colony is nearly wiped out, that mutations are appearing that may eventually make the planet permanently livable for men. (Whether or not they remain men.) Although there are plenty of HILF (highly in-

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telligent life form) enemies, it is the planet that is the real enemy, and the action stops as the little town of terrestrials is besieged by the 20-year winter. Strongly recommended.

Excalibur, by Sanders Anne Laubenthal (Ballantine 23416; \$1.25). (DOLL GILLILAND)

If you like Gothics, you should like Excalibur. If you like fantasy...well, Lin Carter likes fantasy and he liked Excalibur.

It's an extension of the Arthurian romances--placed in a "now" framework and an Alabama locale. The portrayal of the Queen of Air and Darkness is almost as effective here as in Once and Future King, and the glimpse of the Grail perhaps more so; I thought the author's view of Morgan LeFay refreshing, but--well--I suppose we must have the first part of the book in order to have the second part. Perhaps I'm being hypercritical, having just reread White's tetralogy, but his introductory portion is so well done and hers so mundane. Nonetheless, Excalibur's otherworld is very well written and the climax gripping.

The author seems to be writing in two modes: Her everyday one is commonplace, a cut above nurse stories, but her fantasy is fine. I could see putting up with the everyday to enjoy the fantasy. The choice is yours.

Operation Nuke, by Martin Caidin (Arbor House, NY; '73; \$6.95; 240 pp.).

(Reviewer, RICHARD DELAP)

Labeled a "new Steve Austin-Cyborg super agent adventure", it seems abundantly clear that the publisher would like to double sales by appealing to two specialized audiences, science fiction and spy-novel fans. The sad fact of the matter is that neither will be satisfied, and any "general" reader who unfortunately gets his hands on it may easily be soured on both genres if he assumes this is an example of the best, which it most certainly is not.

I have not read Mr. Caidin's Cyborg, the best seller to which this is a sequel, having been unable to get past the first chapter of the author's ponderous, club-footed prose. The present book, however, can't even be started without breaking into embarrassed and pitying chuckles as Caidin sweats out the first paragraph:

Underfoot was slime dangerous to four men struggling with a heavy, cumbersome metal case. . . They ignored the rats, centipedes, and spiders all around them. . . A curse as the lead man buckled to his knees.

"My ankle. I've twisted it."

Caidin sets the stage here for cheap melodrama of the most insulting variety, and in the following 200+ pages he never once breaks away from it.

Steve Austin is a cyborg man, horribly injured in a test-plane crash and rebuilt into "an exquisite blending of shattered body, biological engineering and electronics"--i.e., his plastic left eye has a built-in camera, his legs and one arm are metal-and-plastics extensions, and he is imbued with extraordinary power. And when OSO (the Office of Special Operations) calls him in to assist breaking a new international black market in nuclear weapons, which has already destroyed the African city of Butukama with a small "nuke", halting the emergence of an all-black Congress for Black Africa...well, how can one ex-astronaut, loyal to his country and true to "blue planet earth", remolded into a superman by a beneficial government, resist the plea to save the world?

Needless to say, he can't. But readers would be much better off if he had, having salvaged a couple of extra hours to read something worthwhile or, at the very least, entertaining.

With OSO covering his tracks, Austin infiltrates the merciless blackmailers, finding one of the key men is Sam Franks, a soldier who was chastised by the government when he went bomb crazy with air raids during the Vietnam war. Convincing Franks of a lie about his own newfound disloyalty to the United States, Austin is commandeered to help in a raid on a shipload of jewels, a raid in which the ship is destroyed with a nuclear bomb and all its crew murdered. Caidin attempts to

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seat the reader on pins and needles of suspense by keeping Austin numb and dumb throughout the entire operation, but he is also careful not to let the victims take on more than an anonymous and hazy shape, so that the readers will not be scandalized and alienated by Austin's helplessness.

This is one of the book's most serious flaws, this refusal to come to terms with the horrors of innocent deaths. Austin is always sickened and infuriated by such slaughter, but he is never close to it until the novel's conclusion when his own life is in as much jeopardy as the millions of citizens of Atlanta threatened by a secreted bomb. The city's ransom is one billion U.S. dollars, and Austin--who's trapped with the bomb, pressing buttons every five minutes to counter the firing sequence--dim-wittedly swims through the muddy waters of espionage to at last realize that these meanings mean business and that, despite the ransom, he and the city are surely doomed.

Caidin seems to be fulfilling his own wish-fantasies with this character, but if Austin is any example Caidin must be a very dull man indeed (or, at most, a very dull writer). Austin, for all his superhuman powers, is simply a dolt, a klunkhead. When first informed of the black market in nuclear weapons, he responds with the kind of stupid dialogue that issues from him all the way through the book: "You're kidding."

A former pilot, Caidin can't keep his story out of planes or his detail out of a mire of repetition--again and again we are into planes, out of planes, flying planes, landing planes, on and on ad nauseum. It's enough to make the more earth-bound among us wish the damned steel-winged birds had never been invented.

If Caidin's not so lucky, Operation Nuke will be remembered as one of the worst books of 1973. If he's more fortunate, it won't be remembered at all.

Android at Arms, by Andre Norton (Ace Books). (Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA)

Andre Norton has been writing consistently competent SF adventure novels for more years than most of us have been reading SF. She is often criticized for the monotony of her plots, not without justification. Over the years she has had several phases (the Forerunners, empathetic animal teams, and most recently, magic), but always her novels have been essentially chase stories. Android at Arms is no exception. Andas Kastor awakens in a strange prison on an unfamiliar planet, apparently having been held there in suspended animation for several years. He escapes and returns to his home planet, where he attempts to claim his birth-right, rule of the planet. Along the way he encounters a parallel universe and a wide variety of magic. Unfortunately, the frequency of magical solutions and the protracted side journeys are very distracting. Two thirds of the way through the novel, it becomes difficult to follow the action, with dreams, telepathic sequences, and the like. This remains an entertaining novel, but it's still a disappointment.

The Time Masters, by Wilson Tucker (Lancer pb). (Reviewer, KEN OZANNE)

This is a revised edition of a 1953 book which I had managed to miss. A story of humanoid aliens among us that seems to miss out on most of the clichés of the situation. The aliens are the survivors of a wrecked spacecraft and have been among us for an immense time. (Their lives are enormously long, so it is the original survivors, decimated by the perils of Earth, whom we see.) A good deal of this book is in the vein of a detective story, as authorities strive to discover the antecedents of "Gilbert Nash" and Nash searches for another survivor, one who has not come to terms with her exile on Earth.

Strongly recommended.

Friends Come in Boxes, by Michael G. Coney (DAW Books). (DAVID STEVER)

Coney's third book is his first episodic-novel. (Every author has done it at one time or another--you write several stories based in the same universe, and then by adding some sort of bridging material, it becomes a novel.) This one is similar in theory to a James Schmitz book, in that all the stories take place on

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a single day. All center around the city of Axminster, one of the centralized cities that cover the world, and all involve the idea of Transfers. (Transfer is what, in theory, will happen when you reach the age of forty. Your brain will be removed from your body, and placed within the modified skull of a six-month-old child. In fact, however, the system--meant to reduce population and lengthen one's life--has resulted in a dramatic drop in the birthrate, so that more and more people, upon approaching forty, have to be put in "Friendship Boxes"--boxes of nutrient solution with audio and speech facilities attached.)

By September 28, 2256, many forces--all set up by the system--are heading for a showdown. On that day, many stories, all accenting the problems of the Transfers, come to light:

"Croche" -- A nurse working inside the Axminster Croche is trying hard to keep her unregistered child a secret, only to have her superior find out and attempt to blackmail her.

"The Never Girl" -- A young girl, raised by her parents in the countryside, removes her parents from the Transfer Center after they have been placed in Friendship Boxes. Having no legal identity, she must use her mother's card, only to be discovered by a person at the Center.

"The Menagoric" -- A lot of background information sets up a good little puzzle which is the meat of the story--a story of a tangled love/hate relationship between a woman and her son. The best of the book.

"A Woman and Her Friend" -- An obnoxious Friendship Box blackmails Placement Officer Alice Lander; for her silence, the Box wants to be jumped to a high spot in the placement list.

"Charity Run" -- A woman living outside the city is dying of cancer, and her husband uses the opportunity of a police raid on their settlement to kidnap a Transfer surgeon and a baby to give his wife a chance at life.

I have been watching the development of Conoy since his first story in IF, in 1970. While the first two stories in the book are not as good as the rest, this book marks one more step for Michael Conoy. Buy Friends Come in Boxes, and watch for more Conoybooks in the future.

THE DOOMSDAY GENE, by John Boyd (Weybright & Talley). (Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA)

John Boyd's eighth novel attempts to deal with free will and the morality of experimenting with human subjects. Amal Severn has been genetically picked to develop into a genius early in life, to create a boon for mankind, then die suddenly at 21. The flaw in the Eugenics Agency's plan is that linked to this same gene is a tendency to cause catastrophes in the act of dying. Severn's field is seismology, so naturally his actions result in the destruction of Los Angeles. But Boyd's logic is twisted; while it is true that Severn is indirectly responsible for the earthquake, this causation has nothing to do with his genetic heritage. Boyd also demonstrates an annoying habit of categorizing people. Underground newspapers are read almost exclusively by "sex-oriented perverts, deviates and voluptuaries". Students are described as "a group traditionally furtive, clandestine and antisocial". There are several references to the "sexual arrogance of the young". Not a bad novel, but wait for the paperback.

The Last Continent, by Edmund Cooper (Hodder pb). (Reviewer, KEN OZANNE)

Maybe a little less than faq science fiction, but not really bad. Blacks, returning to Earth from Mars 2000 years after the final war, discover a feeble white civilization in Antarctica. All life had been thought gone from Earth and the white race extinct.

Too contrived, too moralistic in tone to be really good. But a hell of a lot better than Zelazny's The Dream Master (which I reviewed in SOTWJ #110). I was going to suggest that Cooper would bear watching if this were his first book, but I see it is his sixth. Put him down as a minor writer.

Recommended if you can't find anything better.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

FANZINES RECEIVED --ARGENTINA:

TINK (Mae Strolkov, Casilla de Correo 55, Jesus Maria, Cordoba, Argentina; 6 3/4" x 8 3/4"; hectographed; irregular; free to persons whose letters are published within) -- #5 (undated?): 6 pp.; editorial comments; "Sum of Our Days", by Mae (short language article); letter from Rose Hogue. ## #6 (July '73): We're not sure whether this has 4 pages, or whether some of the pages were loose in Mae's letter (there were lots of loose pages, either separate bits and pieces from other issues, or parts of TINKHUNAKUK #6); Editorial notes; LoC from John Leavitt. Loose pages: illos ("China's Queen of the West", "China's Mare Goddess", "A Quechuan Message", "A Quechuan Prayer", "Our Many Peaks", "The Great Lines at Nazca, Peru!", TINK cover (this, at least, is for #6), & several smaller painted illos (the rest are hecto--and quite good--very atmospheric)); more editor's notes; short article on the "Quechuan Message" illo; Donn Brazier LoC; Harry Warner LoC; another short language piece. #### Not a very well organized magazine, but most interesting nonetheless--particularly enjoyed the art (wonder what Mae could do in a stronger medium than hecto?) and Mae's commentary.

AUSTRIA:

QUARBER MERKUR #33 (Apr. '73) (Franz Rottensteiner, A-2762 Ortman, Felsenstr. 20, Austria; quarterly; mimeo (offset cover); 8 1/4" x 11 3/4"; 2 DM ea., 4/8 DM (S 15 ea., 5/S 60)) -- 90 pp. / cover; Editorial; "Der Realismus der Phantastik: Polemische Bemerkungen", by Wsewolod Rewitsch; "Wissenschaftsfantasien ohne Wissenschaft und ohne Fantasie", by Michael Rumpf; "Glanz und Elend der französischen Science Fiction: Einige Randbemerkungen", by Daniel Walther; "Science Fiction in Italien: I., Teil", by Gianfranco de Turris; "Science Fiction als inhaltsbezogene Literatur", by Kurt Storz; "Die Allmacht der Kannibalen", by Dr. Robert Plank; "Phantastisches und Groteskes", by Karl Hans Strobel (reviews); brief letter; 30 pages of reviews by Manfred Wegener, Wilfried Rumpf, Michael Rumpf, James Mark Purcell, Franz Rottensteiner. ## In German. A huge magazine, chock full of articles (many of them reprinted) and other material re the serious side of SF. Highly recommended to serious SF fans who can read German.

CANADA:

THE NEW CAPTAIN GEORGE'S WHIZZBANG #16 (undated) (Vast Whizzbang Organization, 594 Markham St., Toronto, Canada; ed. Peter Harris; 60¢ ea., 10/\$5; offset; quarterly) -- 36 pp. incl. covers; short lettercolumn; Checklist of new movies & books (short reviews); "The Lydeckers: Masters of Miniature Mayhem", by Don Daynard; "The Great Pulp Heroes #5: G-8 and His Battle Aces", by Don Hutchison ("A fond look back at Robert Hogan's immortal master spy"); reviews of books about films; short SF book reviews, by Peter Gill; "Favorite Films of 1944", by Don Miller (no, not us....); "The Small Screen", by Don Miller (TV section); reprints of comic art, movie posters; Boris Karloff photo; short biography of Frank H. Willard; numerous stills and photos. ## An excellent magazine, highly recommended to all nostalgia buffs.

PARADOX #9 (Sum '73) (Bruce Robbins, POBox 396, Station B, Montreal 110, PQ, Canada; offset; irregular; \$1.50 ea., 4/\$4) -- 38 pp. / 4 pp. artwork (two pieces by Marry Shelley as they appeared in 2nd (1831) ed. of Frankenstein, plus the same two pieces enlarged to bring out the detail); Editorial; "Remarks on Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus; A Novel", by Anonymous (1818); "The New Frankenstein", also by that well-known and prolific writer, Anonymous (1838), / Bibliographical Notes; "Some Notes on Arkham House Books in Paperback", by Bruce Robbins; lettercolumn. ## Accompanied by 1-pg. flyer: Catalogue #3 (Fall '73) of books & magazines for sale by Bruce. ## All of this but pp. 1 and 35-38 was also mailed out earlier to all FAPA members as a postmailing to the Feb. '73 FAPA Mailing. #### Another fine magazine from someone who doesn't publish very often--but when he does, it's something well worth having for all serious SF/fantasy fans.

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THE FOREIGN SCENE (Continued) --

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY #21 (Aug. '73) (Leland Sapiro, Box 40, Univ. Station, Regina, Canada; quarterly; offset; 5 1/4" x 8 1/4"; 60¢ ea., 4/\$2) -- 96 pp., incl. covers (front cover by REG; bacover by Adrienne Fein) / 1-pg. flyer for SCIENCE FICTION STUDIES; interior illos by Robert Jennings, Rudy der Hagopian, Gretchen Schwenn, Cy Chauvin, Erik Millson, Kevin MacDonnell, Jan Jonsson, Harry Habblitz; "Illiteracy, Inc." (on "misusages of languages in current books and magazines"); "The Prudish Prurience of H. Rider Haggard & Edgar Rice Burroughs", by Richard Dale Mullen; "The Myth of Descent in Vincent King's 'Light a Last Candle'", by S.C. Fredericks; Poetry by Norman Poole, Lee Mallory, William McMillen, Edward Hagerman, Morris Herman, Harry J. Riley; "A Eulogy for the Dying Science-Fiction Magazines (being sprawling reminiscences)", by Robert A.W. Lowndes (Boskone X Gch speech); "Zamiatin's 'We': A Caricature of Utopian Symmetry", by Camille R. La Bossiere; Bill Blackbeard's comics column "From a Corner Table at Rough House's" (thish: "The Doom that Whirled Toward Minnie, or, Mickey Mouse and the Phantom Artist"); Jim Harmon's "The Seasonal Fan" column; Harry Warner Jr.'s "Opere Citato" column (thish: FAPA); Book Reviews by Darrell Schweitzer, Leon Taylor, Wayne Connelly, Douglas Barbour; Film Review (Asylum), by Tom Greeniones; letter-column. ## Highly recommended for the serious fan.

FRANCE:

MAGNUS #2 (May '73) (Eric Batard, Rue Kleber, 37500 Chinon, France; bi-monthly; in French; mimeo; 8 1/4" x 11 3/4"; 1,50 Fr. ea. (or the equivalent); 4/5 Fr, 8/10 Fr, 16/16 Fr (Switzerland: the same in SFr; Belgium: 5/50 FB, 8/100 FB, 16/175 FB; Canada & U.S.: 4/\$1, 8/\$2, 16/\$3.50 seaimail, 4/\$1.75, 8/\$3.50, 16/\$6 seaimail; Finland: 4/7 mk, 8/14 mk, 16/25 mk; Spain: 4/60 pts, 8/120 pts, 16/200 pts; Italy: 5/500 li, 8/1000 li, 16/1600 li; U.K.: 4/60p, 8/£1.20, 16/£2 airmail; newszine) -- 32 pp., incl. cover; Editorial; notes/announcements; news sections from: Belgium, Portugal, Finland, America, France (these news sections seem to be primarily fanzine reviews/commentary); misc. news; article: "D'Autres Livres Envrac", by Markus Leicht; some misc. material which we can't make out (our French isn't very good); an English-language 1-pg. news summary. ## Looks like a fairly comprehensive newszine (certainly it's a thick one!)--a good buy for ye who speak French.

GERMANY:

ALPHA #10 (July '72--yes, we know it's old, but we're covering it here for comparison with those we covered in SOTWJ #109) (Folkert Mohrhof, 2071 Hoisbüttel, Teichweg 3c, W.Germany (hope this is the complete address....); quarterly(?); offset; 1.50 DM ea., 5 DM/yr.; in German) -- 58 pp. / covers (front cover by Helmut Pesch; bacover by Alicia Austin); interior illos by George Barr, John Pound, Alicia Austin & one uncredited (all art reprinted but front cover); Editorial; Articles: "Vorwärts zu Karl dem Grossen", by Gert Heidenreich (repr.); "Der Mann, der die Fantasy Erfand", by Jürgen Maier; Poetry by Albert Arnold Scholl, Peter Kühler, Folkert Mohrhof, Michael Kloth, Hans-Jürgen Kühn, Marc Bolan, Computer Type ZUSE Z 22; fiction by Ronald Hahn, Franz Kafka, Arkadij N. & Boris N. Strugatzki (repr.), Michael Haupt, Helmut W. Fritz, Roger Zelazny ("The Man Who Loved the Failoi", repr. GALAXY 6/67); Play by Ron Miller ("The Mastermind", repr. GRANFALLOON). ## Another good-looking 'zine. If you like fiction and poetry and your German is good, give it a try. ## 8 1/4" x 11 3/4".

REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA:

PROBE III:10 (Apr. '73) (Official magazine of SFSA (South African S.F. Assoc.); Tex Cooper, 1208 Carter Ave., Queenswood, Pretoria, S.Africa; bi-monthly; mimeo; 6 1/2" x 8"; free to SFSA members (don't remember what dues are; we're in for life....), 30¢ ea. (U.S.) or 15p ea. (U.K.) to others) -- 20 pp. / covers (not credited); no interior illos; Editorial; fiction by Josephine McGrindle; news from outside, by Bernie Ackerman; articles: "Electricity--Part I: The Present", by R. Reilly; "Amateur Radio & SF", by Ackerman; short book reviews; lettercolumn. ## Not as fat as some past issues, but its contents are better-ordered and what's there is interesting.

THE CLUB CIRCUIT --

ESFA REPORT (Minutes of the 9 Sep '73 meeting of the Eastern S F. Assoc. (ESFA), which meets informally on the (normally) 1st Sunday of the month, at 3 p.m., in the YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, NJ.

In the absence of the Director the meeting was called to order by the Secretary, at 3:00 p.m. There was an eventual attendance of 16 persons. The Secretary's minutes were read and accepted with one correction. The Treasurer's report was incomplete because not all expenses have been submitted.

Sam Moskowitz reported that he has located six additional Edward Page Mitchell reprints in American newspapers, two under title changes. Sam also said he has made discoveries that surpass those disclosed in The Crystal Man. These will appear in a forthcoming book.

Vice-Director Herkart arrived and took over the meeting. There was no old or new business. Art Saha announced he would chair the 1974 Lunacon, which would be held at the Statler-Hilton in New York over the Easter Weekend, with Forrest J. Ackerman as GoH.

Paul Herkart, Mark Owings, Sam Moskowitz, and Art Saha, who attended Torcon, gave their collective impressions and experiences. The consensus of opinion was that the convention was well organized, but the programming was unimaginative. However, they enjoyed themselves on a personal basis in informal talks with old friends, although because of the mass of attendees, a person might be encountered once, and never seen again. The Con was the largest ever held, with a registration of 2700, and an attendance of 2400. The banquet drew close to 1,000 people. The huckster room was a disappointment in quantity, possibly because of a tariff imposed at the border, which tended to discourage dealers from bringing in their stock. Moskowitz reported speaking to Ejlar Jakobsson, who said that GALAXY is doing well financially, mainly because subscriptions have risen from 12,000 to 20,000. This may be because of the difficulty in finding SF mags on the newsstands. IF is picking up, but not doing as well as GALAXY.

These ESFA members who attended the Burroughs Bibliophile Dum-dum, with Buster Crabbe as GoH, reported it the highlight of the convention. Ian Ballantine said there would be a reprint of the Mars stories with new cover art. The 300,000-word Burroughs biography by Erwin Porges is finished with no takers as yet because of length. It may be that ERB, Inc. may eventually publish it. Philip José Farmer has an anthology of stories about feral children coming out.

The 927-page French Encyclopedie de l'Utopia by Pierre Versins won a special Hugo for outstanding scholarship. Sam Moskowitz, who bought a copy at about \$60.00, wondered if the committee actually read the book, or gave the award on reputation alone, or because of its impressive dimensions. Several persons who gave spot translations seemed to think it prejudiced and polemical. In spite of its bulk it appears to be curious for what it excludes, with huge gaps in important American and British information. Nevertheless it is the only thing of its kind until Advent publishes its own SF encyclopedia in English.

Art Saha reports a projected anthology of durable old-time SF, selected by First Fandom. Art requests that suggestions be sent to him at:

Art Saha
307 N. 8th St.
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA

(Over)

THE NATIONAL SCENE (Continued) --

THE CON GAME:

(Sources in parens)

- Oct. 19-22 -- Witchcraft & Sorcery Convention; Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles; registration: \$7 (\$2.50 daily, \$2 supporting); for info: Witchcraft & Sorcery Convention, 1855 W. Main St., Alhambra, CA 91801. (FANTASIAE #6)
- Oct. 23-Nov. 25 -- BEYOND THIS HORIZON, "A Festival of Science Fiction & Space Exploration"; Sunderland, England, in conjunction with the Wearmouth 1300 Festival; for info: Sunderland Arts Centre, 17 Grange Terrace, Stockton Rd., Sunderland, Co. Durham, England. (Eric Bentcliffe letter in SOTWJ #108)
- Oct. 27 -- Revel & Crafts Fair, Bhakail (SCA); Beaver College, in N.W. Phila., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; for info: Finlay Moore, Michael Herol, 107 Briarwood Dr., Horsham, PA 19044. (PIKESTAFF II:5)
- Oct. 27-28 -- MILEHICON V; Sheraton Inn, 3535 Quebec St., Denver, CO; GoH: Gordon Dickson; Fan GoH: Dovra Langsam; regis.: \$2 attending, \$3 nonattending (a switch!); for info: Carol Angel, 2885 S. Raleigh St., Denver, CO 80236. (LUNA MONTHLY #48)
- Nov. 2-4 -- NOVACON 3; Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, England; GoH: Ken Bulmer; regis., 50p; info: Stan Eling, 124 Galton Rd., Smethwick, Worc. B67 5JS, England. (LOCUS #146)
- Nov. 9-11 -- PHILCON '73; Marriott Motor Hotel, Phila., PA; GoH: A.E. Van Vogt; regis., \$3; info: Don Sobwick, 2501 Maryland Ave., Willow Grove, PA 19090. (LUNA MONTHLY #48 & LOCUS #149)
- Nov. 10 -- Undetermined event in Carolingia (SCA); no further info. (PIKESTAFF)
- Nov. 17 -- Meeting of the College of Heraldry, Østgardr (SCA); no further info. (PSF)
- Nov. 23-25 -- CHAMBANA CON III; Champagne-Urbana, IL; GoH, Andrew J. Offutt; for info: Penny Hansen, 1607 Lincolnwood, Urbana, IL 61801. (FANTASIE #6)
- Nov. 23-25 -- FILM-CON 2; Regency Hyatt House, Los Angeles, CA; regis., \$10 attending (\$5 daily, \$5 supporting); GoH's: Roger Corman & Forrest J. Ackerman; for info: POBox 74866, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (FANTASIE #6)
- Dec. 8 -- Masked Ball, Carolingia (SCA); no further info. (PIKESTAFF II:5)
- Looking Ahead (briefly) -- 15-18 Feb '74: International Star Trek Con III, Hotel Americana, New York City; \$4 advance, \$7 at door; supporting, \$3; info: ST Con, Box 3127, N.Y., NY 10008 (WARPED MIND #1; LUNA MONTHLY #48); 15-18 Feb '74: Balticon; Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD; \$3 advance, \$4 at door (L.M. #48); 1-3 Mar '74: Boskone 11; Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA; \$3 adv., \$5 after 15/2; GoH, Isaac Asimov; info: NESFA, Inc., Box G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA 02139 (flyer); 12-14 Apr '74: Lunacon; Statler Hilton, NYC; GoH: Forrest J. Ackerman; info: Walter Cole, 1171 E. 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11230 (L.M. #48); 12-15 Apr. '74: TYNECON '74, Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England; GoH: Bob Shaw; \$2 supporting, \$6 attending for N.America; info: Ian Maule, 13 Weardale Ave., Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, NE12 0HX, U.K. (LOCUS #149); 12-14(?) Apr '74: EQUICON 2; Los Angeles, CA; GoH: D.C. Fontana; Star Trek con; \$8 to 12/73, \$10 to 1/4/74, \$15 thereafter; info: Equicon 2, Box 3781, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 (LOCUS #146); 24-27 May '74: EYECON; International Hotel, L.A., Calif.; GoH's: Ian & Betty Ballantine; \$6.50 to 15/4/74, \$10 thereafter, Star Trek con; info: Eyecon Committee, 10170 Gould St., Apt. C, Riverside, CA 92503 (LOCUS #146); 31 May-3 Jun '74: 19th SCANDINAVIAN SF CON; Stockholm, Sweden; GoH: Brian Aldiss; \$6; info: Fancon 2, Box 3273, S-103 65 Stockholm, Sweden (LOCUS #146); 25-30 Aug '74: EUROCON 2/SFANCON 5; Brussels, Belgium; \$10 attending, \$5.50 supporting (L.M. #48). This list is, of course, far from complete.... (Additional info greatly appreciated.)
- DISCON NEWS -- DISCON II, 29 Aug-2 Sep '74; Sheraton-Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd., N.W., Wash., D.C.; GoH: Roger Zelazny; Fan GoH: Jay Kay Klein; \$5 attending, \$3 supporting; info: DISCON II, POBox 31127, Wash., DC 20031. PROGRESS REPORTS received to date: #1 (5½" x 8½"; offset; 16 pp., incl. covers (front cover by Harry Roland; interior illos by Alexis Gilliland); ads; hotel info (rooms: Singles, \$19; Doubles, \$25; Triples, \$30; Quads, \$32); membership list; misc. DISCON news & announcements); #2 (5½" x 8½"; offset; 16 pp. inco. covers; cover by Harry Roland; ads; memberships; misc. con news/announcements). ## Extracted details soon.