number twelve

Whenever the sight of the glorious night Sends chills along my spine,

I swim through the stars in astro-cars

And drink dark heavenly wine.

....Stan Woolston

Spirit-phantoms always linger
When the full moon shines above,
Giving to the young Renaissance
Drinking in the wines of love-When their cup is overflowing,
Moon-ghosts weirdly take to flight
For the soul has found revival
In bewitching pale moonlight.

....E.R. Kirk

in analysis of the billion of this bill

VICTOR

Spirit of freemen, though you have languished in Bastile on Bastile, martyred in chains of authority forged by fossilized brains, you are the victor even when vanquished.

....Lloyd Frank Merrell

WHO SLEPT TOO SOON

Who knows in what far bleak necropolis
Lie ashes of a burned-out thing of clay,
Cooled all too soon, who might have set
The stumbling feet of all his earth-bound kind
Along a shining pathway to the stars?

....Dean A. Grennell

SLOW BUT SURE

She led the monster on a golden leash
And made him dance the difficult schottische
For raucous crowds at every country fair,
As though he were an alien dancing bear.
His tentacles had ceased their angered lashing.
His pale green eyes no longer gleamed their flashing.

Apparently, he had succumbed because
The magic leash commanded him to pause;
Why should he let the pinkish things see hate
When wisdom warned he only need to wait?
With each gyration, the leash was wearing thinner,
And then the mistress would make a tasty dinner.

.... Harlan King Yostman

THE WITCH ILLYLA

She dances nimbly in her scarlet shoes, her feet as light as if they trod on air - with pale green jade to bind her purpling hair, and small white hands that make such potent brews; but woe to him who breaks her strange taboos; he makes his peace with death without a prayer; so if you meet Illyla, best beware of starlit nights and secret rendezvous.

The old Venusians tell us of a den, a shady trysting place where witches play, a spot where sorcerers and demons stray to toy a while with skeletons of men who brought Illyla with their souls as pay and met her gaily in the silent glen.

.... Emili A. Thompson



HARNESS

ARBORESCENT FANTASY

The oaks and maples etched in fall array, Blaze mirthful colors on the countryside; The scarlet sumac helps the scene portray Enchanted vistas, flame personified! The trees, like wizards, charm and emphasize Poetic splendor's captivating reign.—
Their fantasy and flair shall symbolize The fairy beauty seen on hill and plain.

The tirted trees with brilliant artistry Espouse all nature by their fay desire, Their equinoxial spontaneity Ensorcells with prismatic, binding fire; This arborescent spectacle concludes The liveliest of yearly interludes.

.....Byron E. Phelps

THEN WHAT?

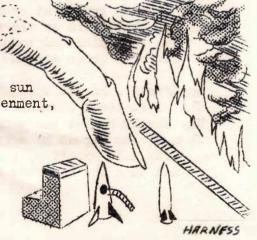
Just enough fuel for a few more years
and then what?

Will it be one thing or another?

Shall we harness the flaming stallions of the sun
And drive them into the white dawn of enlightenment,
Or shall we cower in the caves of contention
Gnawing the marrowless bones of dead dynamos,
While the wolves of chaos howl outside
In narrowing circles?

Just a little more fuel....and then what?

....Lilith Lorraine





WAR (from John O'London's Weekly)

Out of deep soil, Out of full life but frugal, the ploughman comes. Eager - as though his dreams leap into real and sudden things at the sounding bugle.

The barley rots,
And unthatched ricks sag steaming at his back.
Starved in a harvest of rock, the rib-ridged rats
from barns
hollow with dreaming,
ferry the lane,
in scrabbled dust, and bundle the cottage-crumbs
into their aching frames. But the weeping woman
weeps on
by a flickering candle.

The flame-drunk moth Whose frizzled wings no longer lift his weight, fumbles on crippled feet across the cloth and dies, not knowing anger.

....James Angell

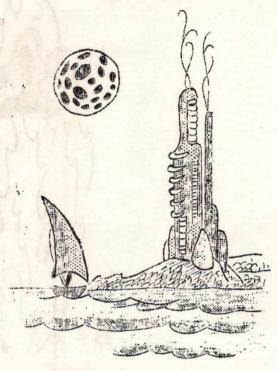
GALLEON OF DREAM

I sail my Galleon of Dream
To shores where golden cities gleam,
To Samarkand and Zanzibar
Where sandalwood and rubies are,
And fabled realms that lie beyond
Like Turkistan and Trebizond.

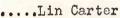
Across the wine-dark seas I quest
Past palmy isles where Gryphons nest,
And coral shores where Mermaids play
Neath orchid skies, to bright Cathay
Where blooms the lotus-lilies pale
And sings the sacred nightingale.

I voyage then to Araby
Where the sunset meets the sea.
And there I meet a caravan
Bearing silk from Samarkand,
Casks of wine and bowls of jade
And teakwood chests in Persia made.

But when morning gilds the sky
I moor my Galleon on high
And forsake the briny deep
And the golden realms of sleep,
I must wake to face the day
With only dreams of my Cathay.



BERGERON

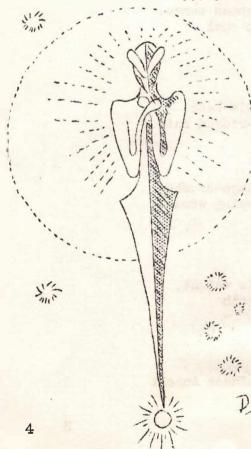




At the foot of the rainbow, you were standing there

Clothed in scarlet flame,
A beautiful creature with golden hair,
Though I've forgotten your name.
I shall never forget your eyes and lips
Unless I'm no longer sane.
I shall seek a goddess with sylphlike hips
Even if I search in vain.
Perhaps you are just a phantom child
Seeking release in my brain....
But why insist on haunting me
Indifferent to sunshine or rain?
And why is the rainbow so hard to keep,
And why is a dream just meant for sleep?

....Jess Nesbit



TWO VIEWS OF SPACEFLIGHT

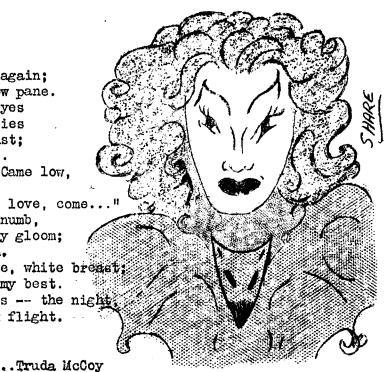
The inquisitive butterfly
Bursting from his chrysalis
Breaking forth from the encirclements of gravity,
Clung weakly to the pale white blossom
While his wings stiffened and straightened,
Then launched himself
Fluttering into space
Toward the bright red flower
Nodding, beckening,
Three yards away.

Man,
Like a delicate moth
Bursting from his cocoon;
Shedding the entanglements of gravity,
Clings briefly to the pale white blossom
While his wings broaden and strengthen,
Then he launches himself,
Experimentingly,
Into space
To the bright red Mars flower
Beckoning,
Over thirty-five million miles
Away.

....Lawrence Stark 3rd

BLOOD-DRINKER

The black blood-drinker came again; Wings softly brushed my window pane. Her tapping beak and hungry eyes Reflected floods of ancient lies That mortal man returns to dust: They were insatiate with lust. "Lift up the window, love." Came low, A lovely voice from long ago Still haunting me... "Oh, come love, come. My senses swam, my WILL went numb, I stumbled through the ghostly gloom; A black bat flew into my room. Her soft wings brushed my bare, white breast She nestled, drank, and took my best. I searched -- with hungry eyes -- the night As two black bats arose, took flight.



TOM

GYPSY BARTER

I found a gypsy penny deep in an autumn wood.
"I'll buy with it a bright new love if it be proven good...."

I weighed the elfin metal,
It never did ring true,
but with a kiss you took it
there in the moonlit dew.

A strange ironic justice that a penny, stained with mud, Could buy for me a shining dream... But yours was gypsy blood.

.....Theda L. Pobst

EMILY DICKINSON

The little poems come in and out
Of you on a sunny day
And when it rains you have enough
To throw away ---

I like the way they fill
my heart
But never stuff it up
Like too much food upon
a plate
Or wine within a cup --

I like the atmosphere
of them
So tight, yet so elastic-free.
I wish that every poem of hers
was written
By the mind of me!

....Marion Schoeberlein

TIME TRAVELER

There was a world beyond this earth before For me, a planet with a sun of blue, And saltless waters with a warm, red shore. A life away there was a world I knew.

There was a spacious city where a race
Of people lived in peace, the peace that came
From never knowing Hatred's sullen face,
For there it had no meaning and no name.

Another life, another world away...

A time dimension in eternity...

Would that this troubled earth might be today
Like that lost, lovely land of saltless sea!



REQUIEM

The moonlight softly sifted down upon the crumpled shell. And there a shard of plastic burned, a riven hullplate fell. The captain lay on his twisted couch, his grim face calm with death; The frigid air was fain to bear his last convulsive breath; And far away a ruin lay, majestic, tall, and still, the cold wind roars down carven halls, and out a sandy rill. The shadows flitted about the land, the memories of yore. A dream is all that's left for them, their spirits live no more. So Ares children sought the stars, forsook their native clime,forever left their mother Mars to moulder on through time.

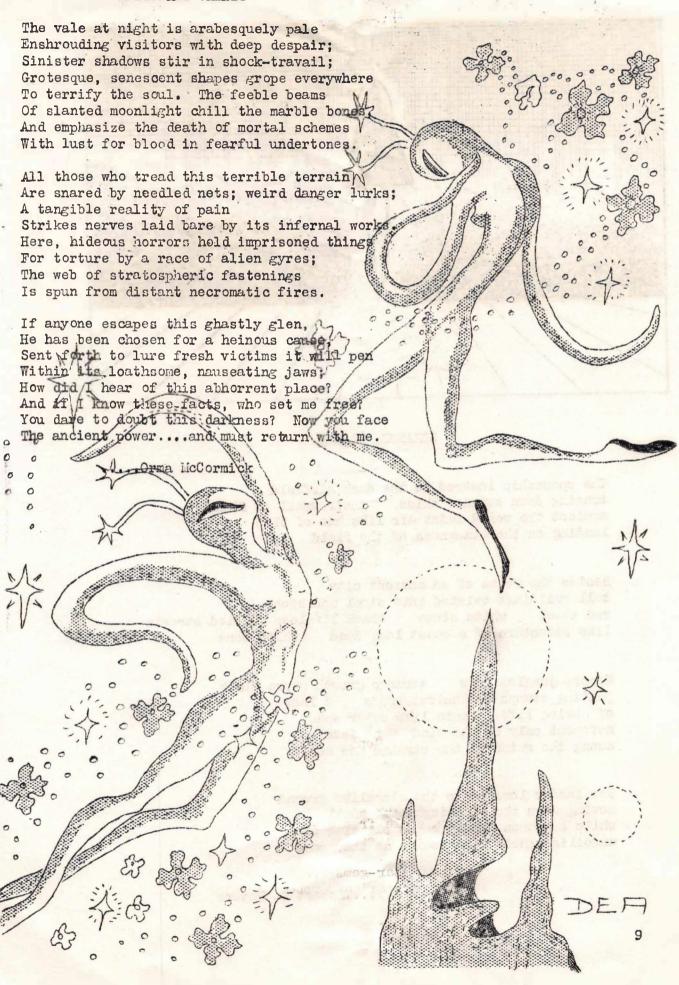
....Page Brownton

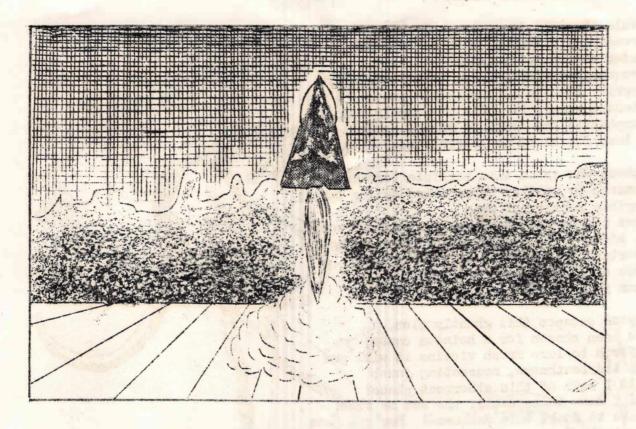


NO COMPARISON

You said you collected things too. Well - have YOU a leprechaun's shoe? I have an old African doll Wearing a headdress parasol, With a feathered skirt for decor (Some nights he dances on my floor). A stoppered jar found on the beach, (And did you hear that genie screech?) You said you had an arrowhead From Hiawatha, long since dead. I have a shawl made from rainbows, A frozen dew-drop from a rose, An arrow from the Centaur's bow, Coral flowers from caves below, A tress of gold from the Moon-Maid, -From Phobus, amulets of jade. But I never saw the sapphire You said you stole from a vampire, Or feathers from a comet's tail You said you rode one winter's gale. But - have YOU star-gems for your hair With strands of pearl and robes of vair?

....Isabelle E. Dinwiddie





STRANGE PLANET

The spaceship lowered to the dark airfield tracing down strange skies their trail of flame against the weird faint air like hue of blue landing on the blackness of the field

Beside the ruins of an ancient city
tall buildings twisted into steel and stone
red steel white stone black lifeless rubbled streets
like structure of a beast long dead white bone

Nearby jungles grew strange growth where black jutting stumps of ancient trees a lack of noving life muto like outer space movement only of the wind no face among the ruins on the strange new world

The ladder lowered to the glasslike ground moving down the gleaming metal shell while spacemen slowly began climbing down uncoiling their long bodies as they came

.....Robert L. Peters

OH YOU WITH WHOM I SOARED ...

Oh you with whom I soared the welkin wide
And flew so high our wings were singed with sun,
Each silver bird will call you to my side;
Each throbbing engine hums a haunting tune.
The God of Justice pays my love this due
Because you showed the rising moon to me
And ever after rising moon was you.
Wherever beams come slanting in, you'll see
He sliding down them, to your private room
Into the sanctuary of your arms
Where tender kisses slay impending doom,
And trust in you, my every fear disarms.
But if you dare forget - then do not wonder
When I come flashing in astride the thunder.
....Hyacinthe Hill

HOT QUESTION

He brushed against me on the stair.

I noticed then his lack of hair
And caught my breath in sheer surprise
To see he had twin sets of eyes.
His ears were pointed, and his chin
Receded. Where his lips had been
Were two repellent scarlet lines.
The staff he had was topped with times
His nose emitted brimstone poufs
And sure as shooting, he had hoofs.

Of course it could have been a hoar To dupe all simple-minded folks,-But as for me, I much prefer To fancy I saw Lucifer.

.... Dorothy B. Winn



THE BLACK BUZZARD (from Sunlit Clearing)

Without power, without a throne, Hate journeys afar. Without a kingdom of its own It crawls into a cabin door left ajar By misery.

Then like a gaunt black buzzard feeding on broken wings, Hate wanders on,
Circling past the canyon where Hope sings,
Hunting starved thin dying things
To devour.
Then slinking through the darkest hour,
Hate hides before the dawn
Pours over the dark hills
A floodlight of tranquillity.

....Karen Niemann





SEEIN' THINGS

(With acknowledgment to Kley's Cartoon)

On a bench in the park in the sun Sat a wrinkled old man with smiling face; He winked at me as I passed, with fun In his eyes. But ye gods of Space!

Was I seeing aright? On the bridge of his nose, I swear I saw the nude form of a girl! A trident she held in one hand o'er his brow, And seemed to be combing his hair in a swirl.

A youth with a scythe stood on top of his head, Cutting his gray locks as though cutting grass, While one at the back gathered hairs in a sheaf, And upon his left ear stood another mude lass.

I rubbed my eyes madly at what I beheld
And stopped in my tracks for another long look.
It was true! Those things were scarce an inch high,
They WERE there, by gum! I could swear by the Book.

The old man was grinning as though with delight, But that uncanny sight filled me with affright!

..... Agatha Grey Southern

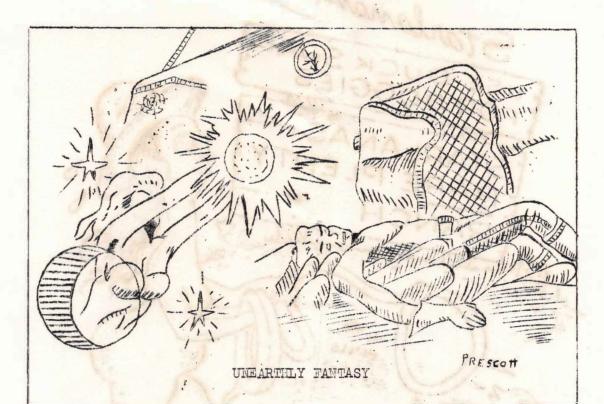


UNCLAD AVENGER

Who is the unclad maid with flowing hair
That seeks a tryst with ghouls on moonless nights?
Why does she dance with apparitions bare
And rendezvous with foulsome troglodytes?

She is an undead spirit who exists
To feed upon all mystifying crimes;
Unpunished sinners follow her through mists
To serve her evil lords in warmer climes.

.... Emerald Etone Smith

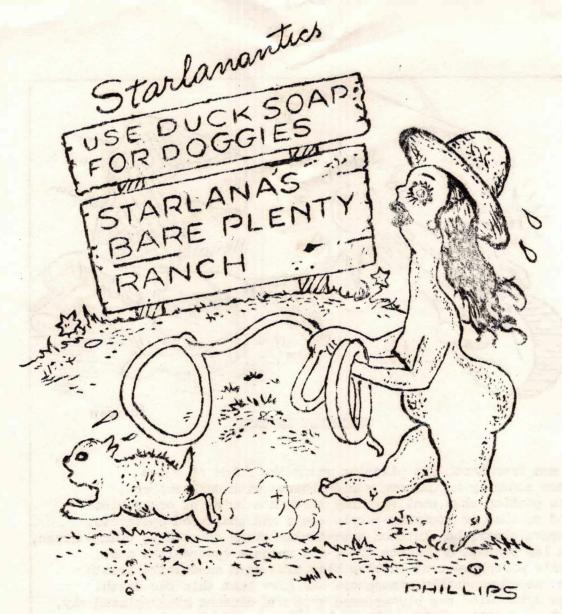


A man from Earth was piloting among the folds of space
When suddenly an unknown world enticed with dark embrace,
His panting ship went spinning through a swirl of ochre mists
And crashed in steaming purple sands and scattered amethysts.
Thrown clear, he clutched a squirming clump of sticky, orange grass,
He lay beneath a pulsing tree, its shape a sponge-like mass,
While phosphorescent bubbles blew with each successive breath
He gasped unearthly atmosphere and knew that this was death.
His dying mind saw blue-rimmed suns and distant green-glazed sky,
But no familiar ant was there to hear his final sigh.

A great white form for sook its hole to touch the too-cold hand, Its feelers moved across the face and tried to understand. Then motionless, it pondered with a long developed brain And wished this ugly, pinkish thing were able to explain—It seemed unfitted to survive the sweet, suspended bliss, And why should any God devise a creature such as this.

Country Industrial

.... Margaret G. Hindes



SL # 11

STICK TO STF

SL # 11 contains a quality line-up
That is fine up
To the very last,
Starlanes is moving fast
To a high position
Among fanzines.

The cover, my God, How odd..... It appears to be colored By hand!

Reading this, far and wide, Poetry lovers sighed And writhed in soul-tearing Agony.

.....David English
63 West Second Street, Dunkirk, N.Y.

Enclosed, my list of votes, And you may plainly see That if it is not stf It rates no votes from me.

The reason Starlanes is Worth five cents more than "Post" It's OFF-trail verse, unique, Is what keeps me engrossed.

....Orystal Kalmeer

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Dear Orma:

Comment, on an issue long deferred. Is not a thing by editors preferred.

But comes at long last to its destination This tardy victim of procrastination.

> For forsooth, in truth I am impressed. By Ess-Ell-One-One in its cover gaily dressed.

And as I sit and ponder rhyme for it I'm puzzled over where you found the time for it.

> Top plaudits now are given free-To Garth Bentley's Masqueraders on page 3.

> > & the second climactic point is the Zymac

And tertiary honors to To whom? To whom but you!

> NB: I find no less than dreamy These well-done illos signed by Remay.

And find, as always, there are fillups Of enjoyment in these pix by Phillips.

> And it's perfectly plain That Lilith Lorraine Is a poetess lacking a peer,

> For her stuff's never trite And her name is just Wright* And she pleases my optical ear.

And now to ease the strain upon my brain, I'll ease into an Ogden Nashish vein and say that

If the reader is a Lover of Philip Jose Farmer I'm sure that BEAUTY IN THIS IRON AGE would strike him as a thoroughgoing, out-and-out charmer.

> I note with quiet, soft opprobrium the short, blithe carol Called BREATH OF LIFE that's signed by Lloyd Frank Merrell.

And now a voice is calling from outside the yard And I must close this letter, saying:

yours in fond regard,

*According to the Evans-Peterson Dean A. Grennell, Index. the real name of Lilith 402 Maple Avenue, Lorraine is Mary M. Wright -- dag

Fond Du Lac, Wis.

A RESUME

(Taken from the first lines of 18 poems in # 11)

You say you love, but you know me not, Let us look once more upon you I'm lonely when I cross the void. I lived among the natives here About the shoulders of the world,-A wild, sweet calling on the midnight air. Outward and upward swings the bolder drama, I know there is, somewhere, an earthly sacrament. Upon this hidden little star Out from behind the Corona, Souls too magnanimous to die, They stand before the gate, waiting. Give me a rocketship jetted and primed, Blast off! The relays chatter. Mars broods.... Hear the engines growl and pound, In space there rose uncharted spheres, Star beams of glory flush the pathless skies.

Isabelle E. Dinwiddie 425 Ghormley Avenue Oakland 3 California



CRITICISM AND PLEA

I read my first STARLANES today, and though
I admire the verse and artistic depiction,
Don't you think, as a zine, it would be improved
If you published only the best science fiction?

I counted so many borderline poems, And though I enjoyed them, they could have been better If only the poets would stay in the star lanes Instead of on earth.....so I write you this letter.

FOR MUSIC should have been on some other world,
THE STARCHERS could have met where stars interlace,
THE NUTE CITY might have been on alien soil,
And BHAUTY IN THIS IRON AGE has depth, but not space;

These four are the finest in poetry
But not out-of-this-world enough between stars,THE BREATH OF LIFE would have been finer to me
If, like RETURN, it had started on Mars.

I mean no offense, the verses I mentioned

Are excellent as any I've ever seen,

But please.......withhold my address

And keep STARLANES a ZINE:

In unscanned haste,

H. K. Y.

STARLANES Number Eleven came today Read with pleasure and tumultuous applause,
With a top vote for Isabelle's Shroudless Wanderer;
Next, SONG for STAY-AT-HOMES, and that's because
It is so cute with an ending to ponder-er.
MASQUERADERS, very good, and so "sez me,"
A lot of truth in it too I see.
A WARNING to lovers in far-off spaces
Shows what ATTERIATH may possibly do
To TERRA, on the GORY ROAD OF DOOM and places.

UNPEOPLED STARS was a pleasure to read, And OVERTURE TO SPACE very clever indeed: Acrostics are mighty hard to do As I have found out in bitter rue. COSMIC ROMANCE I liked very much, And COSMIC SECRET had a professional touch. STARLANES # 11

by

Agatha Grey Southern

600 Stanyan, Apt. 8

San Francisco 17

California

DEAR PHILLIPS

Dear Phillips, in Starlanes eleven, on page number sixteen,
Your washerwonan drawing is the cutest ever seen.
Where did you find the lady? Though she hasn't many clothes,
She hasn't been a-starving for she's plump, and goodness knows
You've got to eat a lot of fat to have a full behind;
She must be new to planet earth, because our womankind
Buy fancy clothes to cover up their fleshless, skin-clad bones;
They eat rye-crisp and stuff their ears against their stomach-groans.
But I'll just bet your model - after she's been here awhile,
Will change her ways and buy some clothes and slim herself to style.

OR

If clothes' prices soar much higher, the lady gives us hope: We can wash our ragged panties out in water and DUCK SCAP.

.....Minnie Pearl Perkins

SUM TOTAL OH, LITTLE STAR OF UMPEOPLED STARS, DESTINY, OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET,

SHARED GLORY, THE BREATH OF LIFE, THE COSMIC SECRET and

by BEAUTY IN THIS IRON AGE to

THE SEARCHERS (A LADY IN DOUBT).

Truda McCoy MASQUERADERS walked THE GORY ROAD TO DOOM;

NO SHROUD FOR THE WANDERERS, NO HORIZONS....

Route 1

A WARNING: RETURN TO MARS, ATAVISM NATATORES;

Box 339 West THE MUTE CITY; TERRA, ETERNAL EARTH

Is an AFTERMATH, A WISH, THE ZYMAC, THE BIRTH OF A GHOST.

Pikeville

WHAT? WHENCE?

Kentucky It is an ENTREATY, A SONG FOR STAY-AT-HOMES;

A COSMIC ROMANCE for SAN SOUCH ON THE MAGIC ISLE.

And an OVERTURE TO SPACE

FOR MUSIC.

STARVUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voting points received on Starlanes # 11 are as follows:

POETRY

FIRST: Unpeopled Stars by Emili A Thompson	141 votes
SECOND: Beauty In This Iron Age by Philip Jose Farmer	73 votes
THIRD: A Warning by Truda McCoy	67 votes
FOURTH: Return To Mars by Lilith Lorraine	57 votes
FIFTH: For Music by Marion Schoeberlein	50 votes

OTHERS: Isabelle E.Dinwiddie 41; Garth Bentley 40; James Angell 38; Nangee and Theda L. Pobst tied at 36; Arthur Hillman 31; Hyacinthe Hill 26; Lloyd Frank Merrell 23; Dean A. Grennell 21; K. Houston Brunner and Dorothy B.Winn tied at 20; Byron E.Pholps 16; Andrew Duane and Olive Morgan tied at 15; Emerald Etone Smith 11; Norman Wansborough 10; Vera L. Echert 8; Marie Hand 5; Agatha Grey Southern 3; Page Brownton, Alice Douglas, and Elmer R. Kirk tied at 1 each.

LETTERS: Robert Stewart 91; Elmer R. Kirk 55; Theda L. Pobst 47; Dean A. Grennell 41; Agatha Grey Southern 35; Emili A. Thompson 30; Vera L. Eckert 12; Isabelle Dinwiddie 10.

ART: Individual pics:

Cover by Share 114; Page 13 by Reamy 95; Page 3 by Prescott 67; Page 9 by Phillips 56; Page 5 by Reamy 43; Page 7 by Prescott 26; Page 11 by Reamy 15; Page 16 by Phillips 12.

Totals: Reamy 153; Share 114; Prescott 93; Phillips 68.

Starlanes' readers may be interested in the following booklet by Truda Mc-Coy entitled "TILL THE TROST", obtainable from Mrs. Truda McCoy, Route one, Box 757, Pikeville, Kentucky - 50¢ per.

MAGAZINES: NEO, a quarterly of prose and poetry. A magazine devoted to all forms of literary art including that of fantasy. 50¢ per copy; \$2 per year; 454 Bolivar Street, Canton, Massachusetts.

DIFFERENT, a quarterly of quality verse and science fiction; 50¢ per copy; \$2 per year; 79-14 266 Street, Glen Caks, Floral Park Long Island, New York.

GALLEY, a quarterly of up-to-date information on little magazines 75¢ per copy; \$2.50 per year; Box 190, North Hollywood; Calif.

- Starlanes is - A FANVARIETY ENTERPRISES MEMBER-

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ANNOUNCEMENT

STARLANES, The International Quarterly of science fiction postry, is edited by Crma McCormick and Nan Gerding. This is the last 20¢ issue in posmaine format. STARLANES goes into print with the January issue. 195h prices will be h0¢ a copy, \$1.50 a year, or for any four copies. Present subscriptions will be honored at the old price.

For those who feel that this new price is too high, the poemsine ARTON is being published for 20¢ a copy by Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Indiana.

STARIANES' editorial policy remains unchanged. A complimentary copy will be sent to each contributor when his material is used. As yet, there is no other payment. Please enclose a stamped return envelope when submitting new poetry.

The January booklet has already been sent to the printers, so no voting can be listed in that issue. To make room for more regular poetry, the artwork and letters have been dropped.

Whether the voting will be continued or not will depend on reader's comments, so please let us hear from you before the April booklet goes to press.

Address changes, poetry, and subscription money, should be sent to Orma McCormick, 1558 W. Hazelhurst St., Ferndale 20, Mich. We will need many new subscribers and contributors to keep STARLANES in print during 1954. Friends of present subscribers may receive a free copy upon request, if they have not already seen a copy of STARLANES.

If readers decide they wish to maintain the voting on poetry, the results of this issue will appear in April.

We want the most unusual verses, weird, futuristic humor, fantastic, and science fiction. The January issue will be 24 pages, 82 x 53, and contain 42 poems. Britons may still subscribe by sending equal value in British presince or poetry magasines.

After January, 1954, our exchange list must be revised according to value.

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