

Big Fleas have little fleas  
Upon their backs to bite 'em,  
Little fleas have lesser fleas  
And so 'Ad Infinitum.

( Poor Infinitum. But he  
was fortunate compared with you, for you have.....

NUMBER

1½

# BEM

SPECIAL  
SCRUFFY  
SUPERMANCON  
COMBOZINE  
ISSUE.  
\*\*\*\*\*

(SPACE  
FOR FILTHY  
THUMBPRINTS)

"Say, Tom, how come you call the cat  
Mickey when it keeps having kittens?"  
"Well, originally we thought it was a boy."  
"But it must have been obvious it was a cat--  
--it's covered with hair!"

"Well so are you, but you don't have kittens."  
"Not usually, but I have a feline that I shall  
have if we don't find something original to  
fill this thingummy up with. We want something  
that lynx it up with science-fiction, so stop  
just lion there grinning all over your puss  
like a Cheshire cat, and think of something."

"Think of something?--Me 'ow? I just  
want to Coeurl up and go to sleep. I was thinking  
how wonderful it is that cats always have two holes  
in their skins just where their eyes are."

"That's not an original joke."

"No. I must admit I purr-loined it; but, if you will  
keep taking the Mickey....."

"I haven't touched your cat. I wouldn't cheetah pal."

"Would you please paws whilst I finish my tail  
because I haven't got very fur with it; not past the  
first claws in fact."

"SHARRUP!"

"Yes, we'll stop larking around and thrush this  
matter out between us. We could call it 'Starling  
Stories'. Of course I woodpecker name like that, but  
it's your pigeon really....."

"SHUT-RUDDY-WELL-UP! We have to think of something  
intellectual, something dynamically scintillating to  
put in this Combozine one-shot. We hope to get  
hundreds of subscribers from it, don't we? Do you think they're going to  
sub if we just fill all the space with esoteric puns? Don't interrupt!  
Now what have we to tell them? Lemme see, well, we want to put in a plug  
for that struggling little fanzine called HYPHEN, published by some Irish

IF YOU WANT TO BE  
A  
BEM



Just keep  
looking

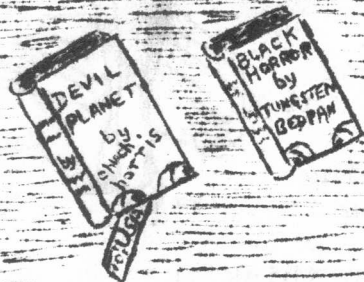
Page Too. (Gee--so it is!)

neofan or other; and a plug for ORBIT the organ of the Leeds S-F Association, from George Gibson Little London, Aberford, Nr. Leeds---the fmz which contains more of our puns than our own; and, of course a massive great mention for the FUTURIAN Mike Rosenblum's revived fmz which could easily be the fan-publishing event of 1954. (From Mike at 7, Grosvenor Park, Chapel Allerton, Leeds 7.)

And then we want to tell them not to be led astray, and to worship OOGO, the only true ghod, and we want to wish them all a Hell of a good time at the Con and hope to meet every one of 'em. Then we ought to mention the Con Committee for all their hard work, and put in yet another plug for the Transfanfund and.....  
"Don't you think you might mention BEM?"  
"Don't interrupt me with trivialities, now lemme see....."

They called him Porky--he was a Pig Name Fan.

We don't imajin for a minute fraction of time that any of youse nice people are going to subscribe to the zany rag which is responsible for this black spot(-) in the Combozine, but we's goin' to tell you about it anyway. We'll forgive you for not subscribing if only you'll write sumpn for us to publish, and of course you will receive an utterly gratis copy of the ish in which your work appears. BEM is a just-for-the-Hell-of-it Publication and contains stuff which is intended to be humorous, interesting and, especially, fannish, by anyone who will write for us. In addition it has illos by anyone who will illustrate for us, including Terry Jeeves, one of who's masterpieces has been cunningly placed over to catch (and hold) your eye. Vine Clarke writes a regular column 'The 19th Eye from the Left' and BEM No 1 contained material by inter alia, Walt Willis, Harlan Ellison, Ken (Dead-Ox) Potter and Terry Jeeves. BEM 2, out in June (which makes it a bright idea



"WHERE ARE YOU BOUND FOR?"

to sub early, huh?) will feature, also inter alia, a lead story by authoress, Frances Cook, Supermancon Reports, a poem by Norman G. Wansborough, a/c of the BEM/HYPHEN Hoax, Ashwhite Chronicles, and a Letter Column. All you need to do is seek out we two-headed BEMs and hand over a can of cash.\*\*\*\*\*

The TRANSTANFUND needs more support.  
The TRANSTANFUND needs YOUR support.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Instead of buying WAW a drink, give him the cash for the fund!!!

Here's another Serious Constructive Scheme:-  
When the Con is over and all (or most) hatchets buried, let's all donate our Zap guns and auction 'em--the proceeds for the fund. You may need a Colt 45 by then, anyway!  
SUPPORT THE TFF,  
W.A. Willis,  
170, Upper Newt'n'ards Rd.,  
Belfast, N. Ireland.

BEM comes to you (if you're unlucky) from Ashwhite Publications Ink., of:-

3, Vine Street,  
Cutler Heights,  
Bradford 4, Yorks.  
(Tom White) and:-

40, Makin St.,  
Tong Cemetery, (Yuk, Yuk)  
Bradford 4, Yorks.  
(Mal Ashworth.)

It is approximately irregular, but not usually more frequent than quarterly.

Subs 1/6 for 2 issues.