

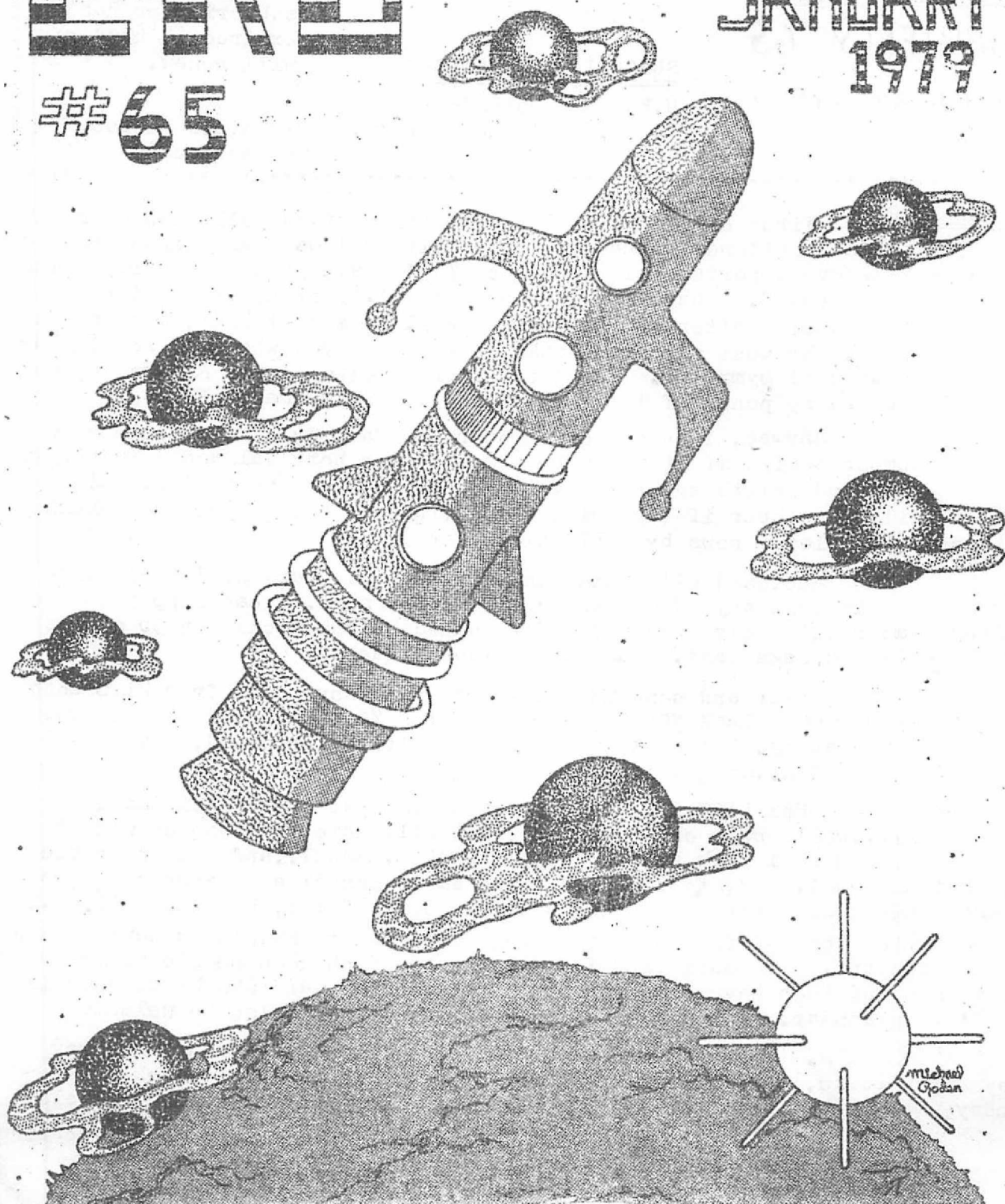
ERG

#65

QUARTERLY

JANUARY

1979



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ERG is printed, produced and perpetrated by

Terry Jeeves
230 Bannerdale Rd.,
Sheffield S11 9FE
ENGLAND

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U.K. 4 issues for £1
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QUARTERLY '65

JANUARY 1979

MINI-ERGITORIAL

First off, that Stop Press notice of cancellation of my trip to the USA to attend Iguacon. Unhappily, Val was taken into hospital only a week before departure time and I couldn't have made the journey with her needing me around. Happily, she was out fairly soon, and we took a week in the Cotswolds after she had had a spell in a rest home, and all is now well again. My most sincere thanks to those of you who were so kind as to send messages of sympathy. Another bright spot was when Messrs Thomas Cook refunded every penny of the flight money...so '79 maybe ???

Anyway, I dashed off a query to Dave Kyle and Lpā Tabakow in early September asking if it would be possible for both Val and I to use the Fund together and attend an East Coast Convention sometime in '79. Right now I'm waiting to hear if that will be OK (This is being typed in November, so there may be later news by publication date)

Enclosed with this issue is a sample page of 'Ex Libris' bookplates. In case any of you would like a few more, I can supply them on foolscap paper (with five plates) and ungummed, blank backs for 30 sheets for 60p whilst stocks last. Cash with order please.

Cover and some interior art this issue come from Mike Roden whose fanzine THRO' BLACK HOLES you can get for \$1.00 an issue and in the UK, subs to me at £2.00 for 3 issues. Beautifully produced, and mailed direct from the USA..so get in now.

FREE LIST ENTIRELY SUSPENDED is what the old cinema ads used to say...well, part of ERG's free list will have that happen with the next issue. it will mark ERG's TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY..and will be rather larger than usual. So, to defray the increased postal and paper costs, the non-responders will not be getting a copy. Sorry folks, but there it is.. the economic facts of fanzine publishing don't run to keeping sleeping dogs in the backyard. To mark TWENTY YEARS of ERG, such good people as Brian Aldiss and Ted Tubb have come through with material..and who knows who else may finally appear. Telegrams of congratulation will also be welcome

LAST MINUTE NEWS: I have just had a 'phone call from Eddie Jones to say that Brian Lewis, the well known SF artist, died of a heart attack on Monday, Dec. 4th. Both he, and his work will be missed from the SF field.

And on that sad note, I'll sign off and commence duplicating.

Sincefely, Terry.

ERGITORIAL

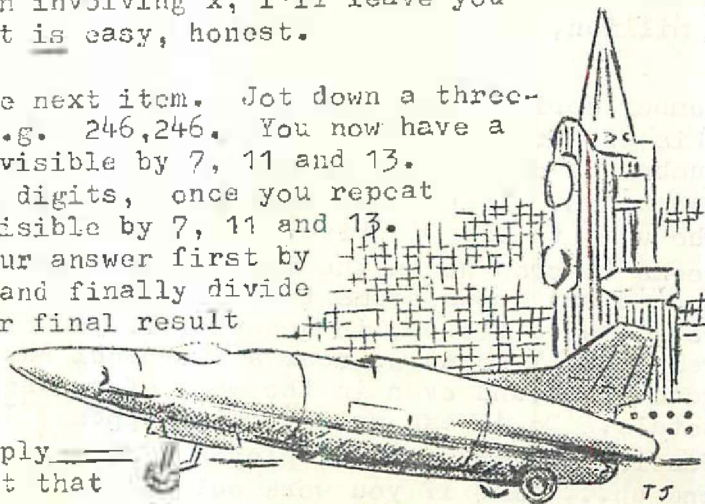
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Think of a number, double it, add six, divide your answer by two, take away the number you first thought of and the result will always be three. Such a simple calculation delights most children and forms a happy introduction to some simple algebra. I find that such arithmetical-pill sweeteners always seem to go down well so for those who, like me, enjoy playing with numbers I'll run a few of them here. I claim no originality for any of them, but they all have one thing in common -- the arithmetic involved is elementary and shouldn't scare off even the most mathematically inept reader...and calculators may be used to take the drudgery out of the thing.

No more than the multiplication table is needed for this first one... write the numbers 12345679 (notice the 8 is omitted). Now pick any number from 1 to 9 (and this time you can pick 8 if you wish). Multiply this chosen number by 9 (i.e. if you chose 4, then 4×9 gives 36) and then take this result and multiply 12345679 by it (in this case, by 36. You may, or may not.. be surprised to find that the end product is a string of fours. Had you picked 5, then 5×9 would give 45, and 45 times 12345679 ends up as a line of 5s and so it goes. Try it on a calculator to be sure ..and to avoid erros. If you want to see why this happens, just try multiplying the 12345679 by 9 only...and then you can see why using the selected number always comes up at the end.

Want something a bit easier ? Try this one for size. Write down any three figure number, then reverse it...and subtract the lesser number from the greater. Example.... 345 if reversed, gives 543. Take the 345 from 543 add you will get 198...a number that is divisible by 9...and any three figure number you try will be the same...i.e. divisible by nine. If that isn't enough, try the same trick with four, five, six, or indeed any number. Reverse and subtract...the result will always divide by ~~four~~ 7. The reason for that involves some very simple algebra...but knowing how many people shy away from any expression involving x, I'll leave you to try finding it for yourself...it is easy, honest.

Still very simple is the next item. Jot down a three-figure number, then repeat it... e.g. 246,246. You now have a six figure number which will be divisible by 7, 11 and 13. No matter how you vary your chosen digits, once you repeat the three, the final result is divisible by 7, 11 and 13. Take it a step further...divide your answer first by 7, then divide that answer by 11, and finally divide the answer to that one by 13. Your final result will be the original 3 digit number. The hidden catch in this one is that $7 \times 11 \times 13$ will give you 1001 ..and of course if you multiply that by any 3 digit number, you get that number repeated.



TS

Then of course there's the old problem of the chess board with its 64 squares set out in eight rows of eight. Legendary monarchs, caliphs and others have been bankrupted (in fables) by the task of placing 1p on the first square, 2p on the 2nd square, 4p on the 3rd, 8p on the next, and so on, doubling the amount deposited each time (I believe it also forms the basis of an 'infallible' roquette system)...the two questions are .. (1) How much money must you put on the 64th square..and (2) What will be the total amount on the board ? Care to try it on paper or calculator before you read on...or how about making a guess.

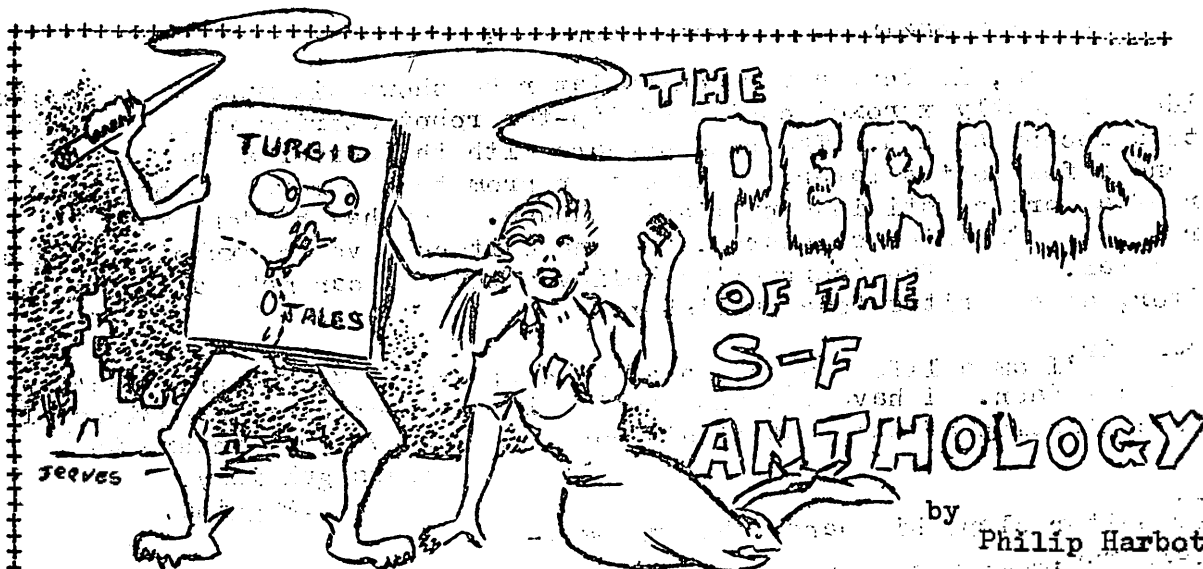
Once you get to the 2p on the second square, you then progress in powers of 2..for 63 more squares, so the final total will be 2^{63} plus the 1p on the first square. I tried it with logs and also with a calculator and unless I've slipped a cog somewhere, you'll be plonking on that final square, the sum of 9 million, billion pence - and those are English billions. In figures it comes to 9223368800000000000 pence. How much on the board altogether ? double that amount less 1p, or some 18 million billion pence. For those who like smaller numbers..convert it to pounds sterling by lopping off the last two zeroes...it's still a heckuva lot of cash

Following on from the above, yet at first glance, totally unconnected, is the question...if a shopkeeper wished to weigh out any exact number of pounds from 1 to...say 31 lbs. What is the smallest number of weights he must purchase..and what weights must they be ? Try working it out before reading any further.

The solution follows the same progression as the chess board. He will need the following weights.. 1,2, 4,8, and 16 a total of five weights. By judicious selection of these he can get any weight from 1 to 31 inclusive. Had he wanted to weigh up to 63 lbs, one further weight of 32lbs would have been needed. The progression would have been the same as with the chessboard problem...1,2,4,8,16,32,64,128,256, 512 and on.

There is one interesting aspect of putting the two together.. if you put 1lb weights on the chess board instead of pence, you would only need 64 weights to weigh any amount in exact pounds right up to something within spitting weight of the moon...assuming you can handle weights of 9 million, billion pounds or so.

Forgetting the chess board for a while and going to a simple (?) number series. Suppose we start with 1, 2, add 'em together and get 3, add this to the last number (2) and we get five..and so on making up the next number in our series by adding the last two together...1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34 and so on. This forms what is called a Fibonacci series after a character who used to live in Pisa. So what ? Well that innocent string of numbers seems to crop up in the most unusual places...the number of stem diversions as a plant grows seems to follow it closely..as does the possible number of petals on a flower..in general, if you count up the petals on a flower the result will be on or near a Fibonacci number. The series crops up in genetics...and even in the ways of arranging coins to form consecutive totals. Don't ask me why this happens, I haven't a clue...but that's the fascinating thing about playing with numbers..you never know where you will end up...like if you work out the ratio between consecutive Fibonacci numbers...the higher the two numbers chosen..the nearer the ratio approaches the classic Golden Section. Get out your calculator and have fun.
Ergitorially, T.J.



by Philip Harbottle

The anthology is an oddity in the science fiction world. Odd, insofar that the official editorial policy of many publishers is not to publish them because they have demonstrably poorer sales figures than full length novels. And yet, anthologies are still being published, not so many as in former years, maybe, but in appreciable numbers. Why?

As a literary agent who has specialised in anthologies, I have my own theory about this. Briefly, I put it down to personal enthusiasms on the part of a small group of people. Said people have very different axes to grind, however. Firstly, the editor himself. He comes in two main varieties: one, the long-time fan and collector who has detailed personal knowledge of the good, the bad, and the ugly in science fiction. Mike Ashley is the archetype of this breed of editor. Second, the thrusting young publishing executive who has any number of contacts inside the business. He may not know a great deal of sf history, but he knows what he likes. More importantly, he is skilled at offering blandishments to gullible fans, enabling him to pack their brains and borrow their collections. I do not need to name this variety - their work is everywhere apparent. It is easy to be contemptible of this breed, but such contempt is misplaced. The fact is that the insider-editor usually offers a superior package. So far as the reader is concerned, he usually gets value for money. He should: 'insider' anthologies have usually been compiled with the help of the most knowledgeable (and gullible) collectors.

Sf anthologies - and throughout this article I am only talking about the reprint anthology - only exist because fans and collectors who remember a certain story, and - crucially important, can produce a copy of it. All of you reading this article are potential anthology editors, although you probably don't realise it. Yes, you too can be the Sam Moskowitz or Mike Ashley of tomorrow! All you have to do is to play your cards right. It's as simple as that. You don't believe me? Well, let's consider some 'hypothetical' cases.

At a publishing house, the managing director briefs his editors. He has just seen STAR WARS, and is impressed. Not by the film, but by the commercial possibilities, particularly of those cute robots the kids love. Wouldn't it be a great idea to put out an anthology of stories about intelligent robots? He asks one of his editors to attend to it. And his editor is helpless. He is helpless because he is not an sf collector and he

has no copies of sf magazines. So what happens?

What happens, is that a few months later he shows his managing director a fat folder of neatly xeroxed copies of tip-top rpbpt stories from the 1930s through to a recent ANALOG. The book appears with the editor's name in his letters, and a few months later, he is either promoted or moves to become the sf editor of a more prestigious publishing house. How has he done it? Simple, really. The richest source, and one editors love to exploit, is the gullible sf fan. This fan (correctly) believes that he can make a good anthology editor, so he writes to a publisher.

Dear Sir, I am a life long sf magazine collector. My favourite author is Dione Russel Paen. I have all his stories in their original magazines. I could do a collection of the best of his work. I hope you are interested.

Yours gullibly,
Fred Muggins.

Our editor claps his hands. He writes :-

Dear Fred, Thrilled to hear from you. Incredibly enough, I too am a great admirer of Paen. I cut my sf teeth on his yarns. The trouble is, so many of his stories deserve reprinting that selecting half a dozen will be a great task. I would like to make a suggestion. Why don't you select four different books of six stories each, and I will choose the best one?

No need to tear sheets from your magazines. Send the 24 magazines to me intact, and I will xerox all the Paen stories you have selected and return the magazines by registered post. I am getting really excited about this project and look forward to receiving your 24 vintage magazines.

Yours nauseatingly
A. Young, Editor.

P.S. Naturally, I will see that you are paid as editor of the anthology. We can discuss this over lunch when you are able to come to London.

P.P.S. Have you any copies of Weird Tales? I'm working on a special project...

Dear Young Editor, I was delighted to get your letter. Please find enclosed 4 copies ASTOUNDING, 4 AMAZING, 4 THRILLING WONDER, 4 STARTLING and 2 each of MARVEL, ASTONISHING, SCIENCE FICTION and FUTURE FICTION.

I note your interest in Weird Tales. I also collect this magazine because of its hundreds of stories by Mack Willison. So I am sending 24 copies of this as well.

Yours incredibly stupidly,
Fred.

Dear Fred, I am sorry to have bad news for you. When I tried to buy the copyrights from Mrs. Paen, she told me to bugger off. This often happens in publishing. Obviously our whole project is cancelled. I am returning all your magazines. Pity, but there it is. Don't call me, I'll call you if the situation changes.

Yours smugly,
A soon-to-be-promoted editor.

P.S. My two new anthologies will be published soon. THE BEST OF WEIRD TALES and GREAT ROBOT STORIES photostatted from the rest of the contents (excluding Paen) of the old SF magazines you were stupid enough to send me, along with a couple of other fans of Mack Reynolds and James White et alia.

...A horror story - which happens all the time. But it need not happen at all. Mike Ashley has proved it: a fan collector can make it into print with his own byline and anthologies. How did he do it? That will be the subject of my concluding article THE PLEASURES OF THE SF ANTHOLOGY, next issue.

P. Harbottle 1978

ERG
PRODUCTIONS
PRESENT

FLICK FANTASIES

by
G. ROG
PILE

Ask an SF fan to pick the story he'd like to see filmed and it's a bit like putting \$10 in a small boy's hand and pointing him in the direction of the nearest toyshop. No SF novel seems beyond the scope of the modern cinema - if the financial backing is there and the writer can envisage it, the model makers and the matte painters can convey it on the screen. The Cinemascope camera can lie very convincingly.

The question then: which story?

Bearing in mind the current remakes of FAREWELL MY LOVELY and THE BIG SLEEP, and the current trend towards SF, it might be a good idea to film Eric Frank Russell's, THREE TO CONQUER. It's the film I'd like to see anyway. Not a blockbuster maybe, but certainly with good commercial and cinematic possibilities.

Ideally, the director I'd choose to handle this one would be Den Seigel, who made the excellent and under-rated INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS back in 1956, before turning his terse, documentary-style technique to recording a rather different kind of suburban paranoia with the first of the Dirty Harry cycle.

It would be asking a lot that the film be shot in monochrome and small screen, in order to retain the claustrophobic intensity of the book. But, as we're playing 'let's pretend', then okay, let's have it filmed just that way.

Even in this never-never land, though, it would be too much to ask that the story wouldn't be tampered with, but that's its beauty. It's a straight-ahead, no-frills, thriller; nothing anyone could do would really harm it.

The plot then; to begin with. The romantic element, almost entirely lacking in the book would have to be developed. 'Moira' would make her appearance early in the story instead of almost at the end-- and of course would be abducted by the enemy half-way through. The enemy takes the form of an alien virus which, possessing no intelligence of its own, once injected into a living body, possesses the mind of its victim.

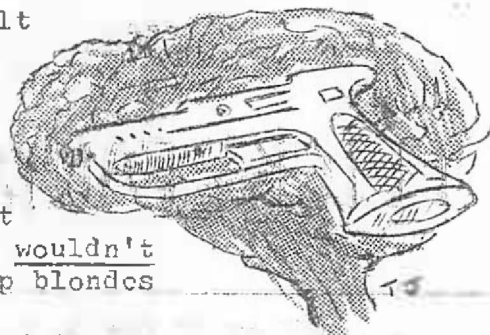
Which of course doesn't bode well for the abducted Moira.

It would make good cinema, though: the telepathic Wade Harper receives a mental distress call from Moira, and attempts to locate the enemy base--- all the time knowing he's too late. The aliens' days are numbered; but the only cure for the virus is a drug which reduces the patient to an imbecilic state.

Some might look on this as an unwelcome return to the attitudes of the paranoid thirties when the only good alien was a dead one. Personally, I prefer to regard it as a sobering note in the present atmosphere of flag-waving optimism.

Enough of moral issues, anyway; back to more concrete details. Casting... This is undoubtedly the most difficult part; everyone knows just what Moira and Wade Harper look like.

The unfortunate truth is, though, that the number of perfectly cast films could probably be counted on the fingers of one hand and you'd still have digits remaining to snap at the rest. The only thing certain is that Moira wouldn't appear as Russell describes her, as small, plump blondes seldom make photogenic heroines.



The first actress who springs to mind for the part is Melinda Dillon, who displayed a nice sense of vulnerability tempered with determination in *Close Encounters*, and might not compromise Russell's description too much....then again, I've just been looking through an old Photoplay, and Britt Eklund, as she appeared in *THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN*, might be just right; certainly small and blonde, and probably a more likely telepath than Dillon. ((I'm a bit puzzled her..Moira wasn't a telepath in the story...Ed.)) The problem is, she's Britt Eklund.

When you go to see a Bond film, you know all the time that you're really going to watch Sean Connery --- it just isn't the same when another actor plays the role, and that has nothing to do with his ability to act. Film actors must be very good at doing nothing at all; they should not emote', Hitchcock said. Film actors never do anything but display tiny fragments of their own personality...and if an actress isn't a 'Moira', then that's unfortunate, but hard luck.

Wade Harper, then?

Unfortunately, I know just who I'd like to play the part of Harper. 'Unfortunately', because, apart from being totally incompatible with either of the two actresses mentioned above, Spencer Tracy will be 78 this year...that's if he's still alive (something I'm not sure of). ((He isn't. ED))

"A squat man with immense breadth of shoulders, hairy hands and bushy eyebrows"--- he fits Russell's description perfectly---I visualised him in the role when I first picked up the book.

Not, I hasten to add, the Spencer Tracy of all those Tracy-Hepburn domestic comedies. But certainly the other Spencer Tracy, the darker side of the man glimpsed in the determined vigilante figure stalking through John Sturges' *A BAD DAY AT BLACK ROCK*. In that film, Tracy was Wade Harper (even lacking an arm and telepathic powers).

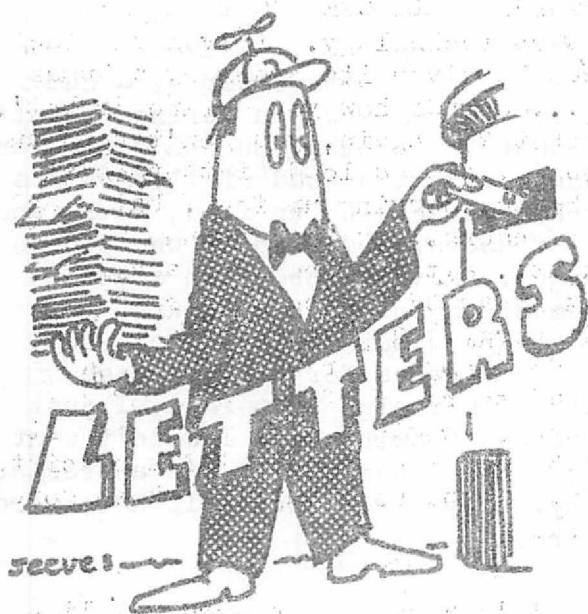
Whatever, he's too old, incompatible.

They'd probably use Charlton Heston (Well, at least he'd be compatible) That's the problem with making up fairy stories; sooner or later the clock strikes twelve and the hero turns into a pumpkin.

Rog Pile. 1973

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EDITORIAL FOOTNOTE. 'Three To Conquer' originally appeared as a three part serial in *Astounding Science Fiction* under the title, 'Call Him Dead', in the Aug. Sep. Oct. 1955 issues. It appears to differ from Rog's book version in that Moira did appear early in the book and was Harper's secretary. D.T.J



Doug Young
14 Church St
Whitstable.
Kent.
"Pretty fair issue all round, but in my humble opinion the stencilling wasn't up to your usual high standard, but I guess you'll sort it out by No. 65.

I don't get awfully excited over the interviews, but I do like and look forward to your covers and fillers..but best of all and I turn to first, The Book Reviews, you've got it down to a fine art. (((Ta Doug, hope you like the art this issue...and the books are some of the very best we've had in for review...no kidding!)))

Dave Griffiths
43 Jacob House
Kale Rd
Brith, KENT.
"On the subject of your editorial, you might be interested to hear that

according to a friend of mine (who worked on Gemini, Apollo, Titan and Polaris, the internal combustion engine may not be finished. Hydrogen is being looked into as a prime candidate for an alternative power source. Various organisations are experimenting with ways to hold liquid or gaseous hydrogen safely, without huge heavy tanks. One guy came up with a hybrid tank that stores the stuff in powder form and releases it. He has several buses and cars running on it as proof of the concept. Modifications are minor, and he hopes to be able to convert cars to H₂ for \$250-300 Big plus for hydrogen is that it is environmentally benign. (((Maybe we could even use some in a gas bag and make our cars airworthy !))) I enclose my sub, and speaking as someone in the process of paying for a trip to see the launch of the first Space Shuttle, this is not a step to be taken lightly. (((Many sincere thanks..and can I talk you into writing about it for ERG ???)))

Alan Freeman
23 Adelaide Rd
High Wycombe,
Bucks.
"Not too keen on ERG 63 except for the book reviews which I liked as usual. The cover seemed a bit badly printed, especially the top left corner. (((Yes, being a brush acid job, control wasn't as precise as I'd have liked)))
ERG 64..the only thing I didn't like about this issue was its cover which I'm not keen on at all...was it meant to be humorous because the funny alien has just shot down two big spaceships all by himself (((well he did have a gun.))) This is really one of the best issues of ERG I've ever read, I really enjoyed all of its contents. (((Thanks a lot, Alan. I also appreciated the very long (nine pages !) of your LOC, and wish I could print it all in ERG..even so, it was very welcome)))

Harry J.W. Andruschak
6933 N. Rosemead 31
San Gabriel
California
Received ERG 63 today. I guess the number one item in this issue was the piece by Robert Bloch.
PRICELESS! Worth every subscription \$ (((So tell all your friends about ERG will you ?))) A for your editorial, I think you are behind the times. Here in good old LA we have many people with home computer systems, they get more

elaborate every day. Remember Bradbury's 'THERE SHALL COME SOFT RAINS' ? That kind of computer is actually within modern technology. (Given the fact that the computer controls the house, and can be given its order by a human master, is this not a robot ? ((As I said...depends how you define 'robot'. A human manservant could do that..is he a robot? Again, you don't need an elaborate computer system for Bradbury's house...just a load of thermostats and time relays...remember it was an idiot house...serving up food, baths and bridge tables without a thought for a lack of users..and when an unexpected event occurred, it was useless. In my thought.. a true robot can adapt to unexpected conditions and make a value judgement as to the best course of action...in this case..NOT wasting food and energy..but deploying a fire extinguisher.))) P.S. I think you forgot to do 8 pages for FAPA..please rejoin, we need you. ((Thanks Andy..but I had to resign from FAPA..I just couldn't spare the time or cash to make a decent showing..and I didn't want to submit two page crudzines..Fapa deserves better than that. I'd appreciate your mentioning this to any interested party. Maybe some day I'll have more free time for extra publishing, once I retire.)))

J.J.Bell

52 Trenoweth Estate
North Country
Redruth
Cornwall.

Artwork! Artwork! It's a common occurrence, like flu, for many fans to praise the artwork highly and neglect the literature inside. Art is fun, yes, important no ((Say that to a bloke owning a Canaletto))) I agree the cover is 'pretty', but what use is a pretty cover? ((Ask any packaging designer which goods sell best..brown paper or gift wrappers))) The artwork is good I'll admit, but then people don't buy daily papers to read the cartoons..it becomes irritating to read everyone saying 'what a clever artist fellow'. Mind you, the contents in ERG 64 does justify the cover, or vice versa. I'd say it exceeds the cover. A fanzine in my opinion should be provoking and entertaining; to which ERG certainly conforms, which is why it stands as one of the best I have read, this combination well illustrated' ((there you are..'illustrated')) in ERG 64. The most promising of the new energies is the hydrogen-oxygen formula, but this has strange side effects, mainly that when released into the atmosphere they create a chemical reaction that releases the moisture in the clouds; thus a traffic-jam in London will cause light showers. If this is to be our alternative form of energy we must be prepared to become amphibious. ((Sounds all wet, to me)))

Bernard M. Earp
Film Theatre
Hanover St
Bolton

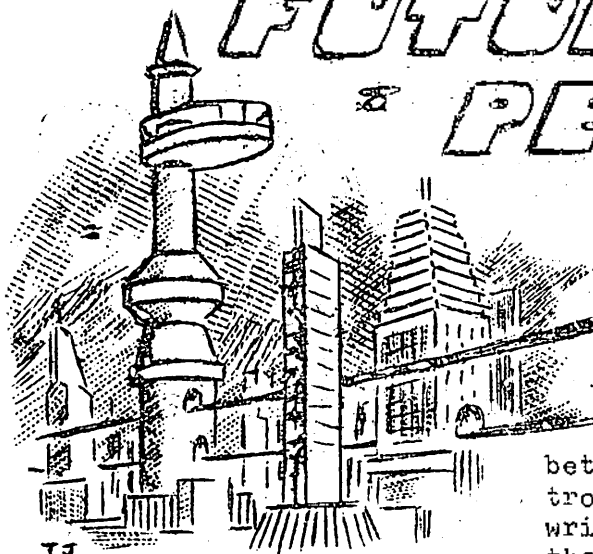
Looking at ERG 64, the cover is one of the brightest and clearest I've seen in your zine. The fantasy aspect appealed to me strongly though your sportsman seems to have had a good day of it doesn't he? On the fuel scene, one source that could be used is methane from human and animal sewage..it would solve all of our problems and provide fuel for the zeppelins and hot air balloons you have floating around the future skies. I like Michael Banks' style but what worries me, is that with a full time job, how is he going to do all that writing and find the time to edit his new zine ?

SPACE short this issue..but We Also Heard From...Robert Bloch and Arthur C. Clarke among many others...couldn't resist that. Bob sent a very kind letter of commiseration to my missing Iggy, and Arthur C. took the trouble to explain his current existence in Sri Lanka..and how he needs a time machine. Keep the letters coming..I can't print 'em all, but I still enjoy hearing from everybody. T.J.

In response to my energy Ergitorial in ERG 64, I was delighted to receive...

FUTURE & PERFECT

by
ALAN BURNS



No, it won't be, but it will be a lot better than the doomsters predict. The trouble with these people is that their writings tend to depress the ignorant rather than inspire the intelligent. Look back

through history, things have always got better, never worse. Five hundred years since, mortality by our standards was appalling. A man was wedded and a parent in his teens, and a dotard in his forties. Plagues raged unabated, filth and stench would appall us and magnificent things were built and done by artists meditatively scratching at the lice that crawled unchecked over them. Crime, vice, oh yes it's bad today, but if you could go back a hundred years, shock would be too mild to describe the feelings.

But all right, we're running out of fossil fuels, there are muggings and rapings, probably inspired by the media most say, but for my money, more likely inspired by the 'liberated' teaching of the bearded trendies that haunt our schools. In my days at school, retribution for wrong-doing was swift and painful, instead of today's little talk with the local psychiatrist, in those days you had a little discussion with the teacher, about the fact that a pat on the back was good, if administered young enough, often enough and low enough. But all these faults were dealt with in time.

Fossil fuels now. At the worst, twenty-five years for oil, three hundred for coal. Well then stop cars using filthy petrol and run them on electricity, it's quite in the cards, either electricity used to generate hydrogen or direct drive electricity. The factor holding things back is a convenient way of storing electricity but it'll come if it hasn't all ready. Pictures show old glass batteries as heavy, cumbersome and fragile. I have a couple of batteries in the watch on my wrist, not the size of shirt buttons, giving me time that would be unequalled by the finest mechanical watch of a year or two since. But to store electricity you must first generate it and here I am an ecofreak. I don't believe in nuclear power as it now is. Fusion power yes, uranium power NO. But there is an abundance of power ours for the taking in the winds and tides if only a fraction of the money used on nucleaf power was spent on developing them. I can't really imagine the future will have massive lines of pylons marching across the countryside, rather I fancy that the generating centres will have massive battery charging units and the electricity will be shipped out in

batteries of all sorts and sizes and shapes for use. Hence a car maybe will drive into a garage, the spent battery will be whipped out and a new one in, though probably the garages will have a means of charging the battery in the same time as it now takes to fill up with petrol. Lubrication needs oil, or does it? A rolling mill once wore out its bearings in a week, they put in nylon bearings and got six months wear. Lubrication, in my opinion is an admission of poor technique in machining, but no doubt the future holds fabulous advances in synthetic oils that could be made even now were not the cost of power prohibitive, but once baragges and win power units have their initial cost written off, then it will be power for practically nothing.

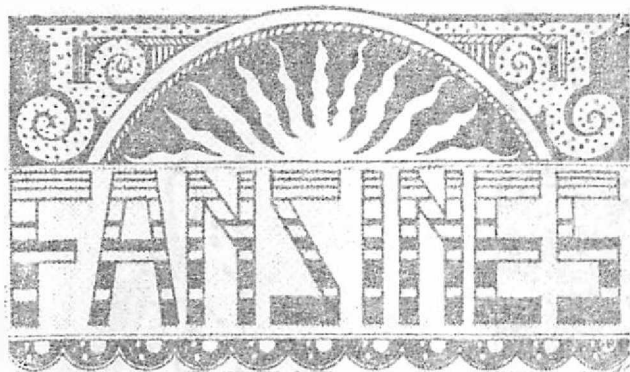


What do we want of the future is something n-one, not even the doomsters has thought about. Yes, what do we want? For myself, I want peace, good health and freedom to do my thing as long as no-one is hurt by it. Others may want other things but I believe that what we all want, and will get in the future is greatness. Not the greatness of mindless fools yelling their adulation of a rabble-rousing politician or a howling top star, but the greatness of a man or woman at one with life, the quiet gentleness of family and friends, the delicate touch that caresses the rose and tenderly handles the new-born life. Greatness can only develop when the background needs of food and fuel, care and resources are all met and these the future will bring, because a man creating riot gas can also create a new drug, and the grim men that handle weapons of destruction can equally drive tractors instead of tanks and drop food and aid to the victims of natural disaster from above instead of bombs.

My father expressed envy for the world I was going to inherit, and in my turn when I see a young child I burn with envy at the wonderful world it will grow into. Future Perfect, indeed!

Alan Burns.

EDITOR'S NOTE. I'd like to re-iterate that my original piece was a warning that we had to do something now...not 'we're going to hell in a bucket'. With that in mind I welcome Alan's suggestions, but feel duty bound to point out several points :- 1. The life of oil and coal is irrelevant, it is finite and not renewable, so we must set up new sources NOW, while we still have energy with which to do it. 2. Dispensing with power lines seems unlikely, we should then be wasting power in simply carting batteries to and fro. 3. IF we dispense with such lines, how does the garage get its wave energy to charge the batteries it exchanges, or handles? 4. We shall not get energy for 'next to nothing' even from air and sea, remember how cheap nuclear energy was going to be? With wind or wave, you only save on fuel costs, there still remains the generating plant, distribution network, and maintenance costs to be paid. 5. By all means let us all look forward to doing our thing provided it harms no-one else, but doesn't that include listening to politician or pop-lover?, provided the former is only heard and not acted on, and the latter is not organising a pop concert in or near your backyard, or giving you the free benefit of his pop through wall or window. 6. Yes, I too fancy the future may be better, in power handling and artifacts...I'm not so sure on food and living space. T.J.



ONCE AGAIN, owing to a lack of space, I'm only able to make brief mention of the cream of the crop. Maya ought to be here..they tell me it's out..but no copy has come my way, so.....

THE FRIENDS OF KILGORE TROUT. No3. 40 superbly produced pages; items by Ken Slater, James White, Don Malcolm etc. a crummy cartoon but all else pure gold. 30p an issue from Sandy Brown, 18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre G72 9NA. Scotland (W England)

GNOMENCLATURE 2. hefty covers, 32 pages, poetry, cartoon, conreps, lovely rules for a bus-driver's school, letters etc. 50c, or LOCs trade, stamps etc. from Al Curry, 3904 W.Liberty St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45205 U.S.A.

ROTHNIUM 60 page superzine. Art, letters, fanzines, history, humour and all wrapped up in a really readable format. Very GOODun. \$1.25 (4 for \$4.50) or trade, contrib etc. David Hull, P.O. Box 471 Owen Sound, Ontario CANADA L7K 3P7

NOUMENON 25. The Jam-packed, photo-offset 24 page newszine plus from down under. Very good art, news on Hugos, Conventions, letters, book and film news, pop music, book reviews. Nearest thing to a quality of newspaper \$5.50 for ten issues from Brian Thurogood, Wilma Rd. Ostend, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand...but I believe Keith Walker is offering to be UK agent..you might contact him first.

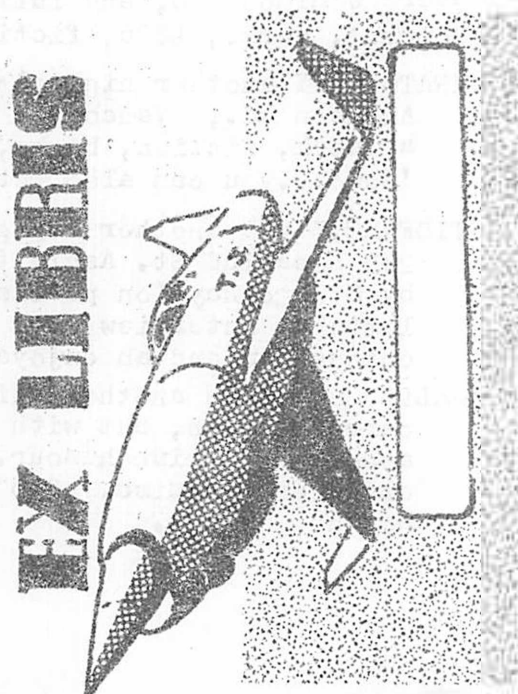
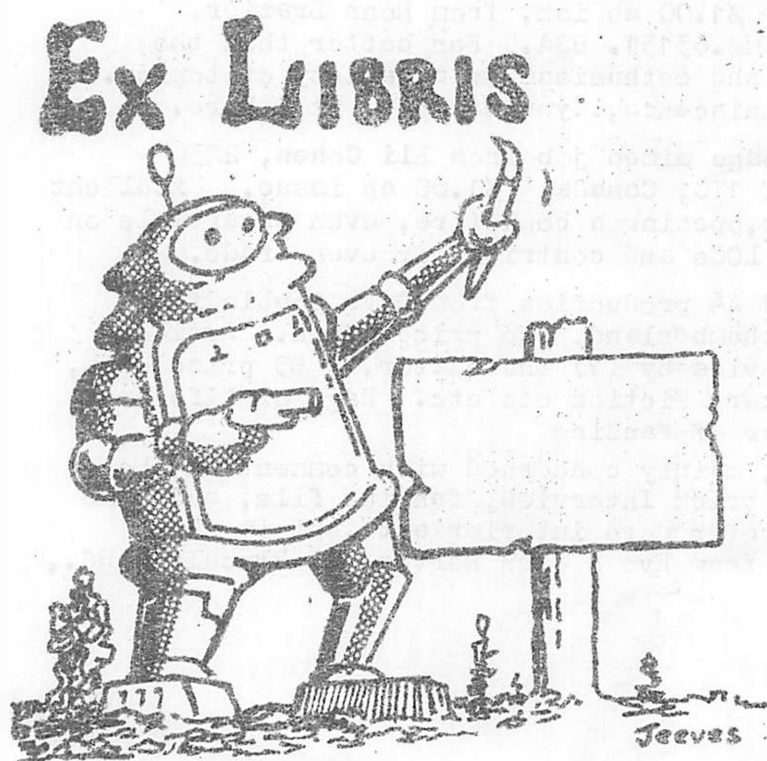
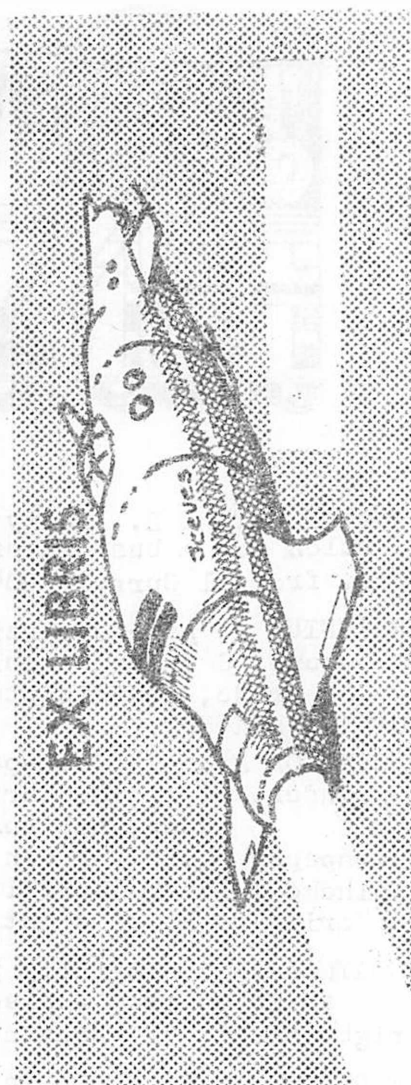
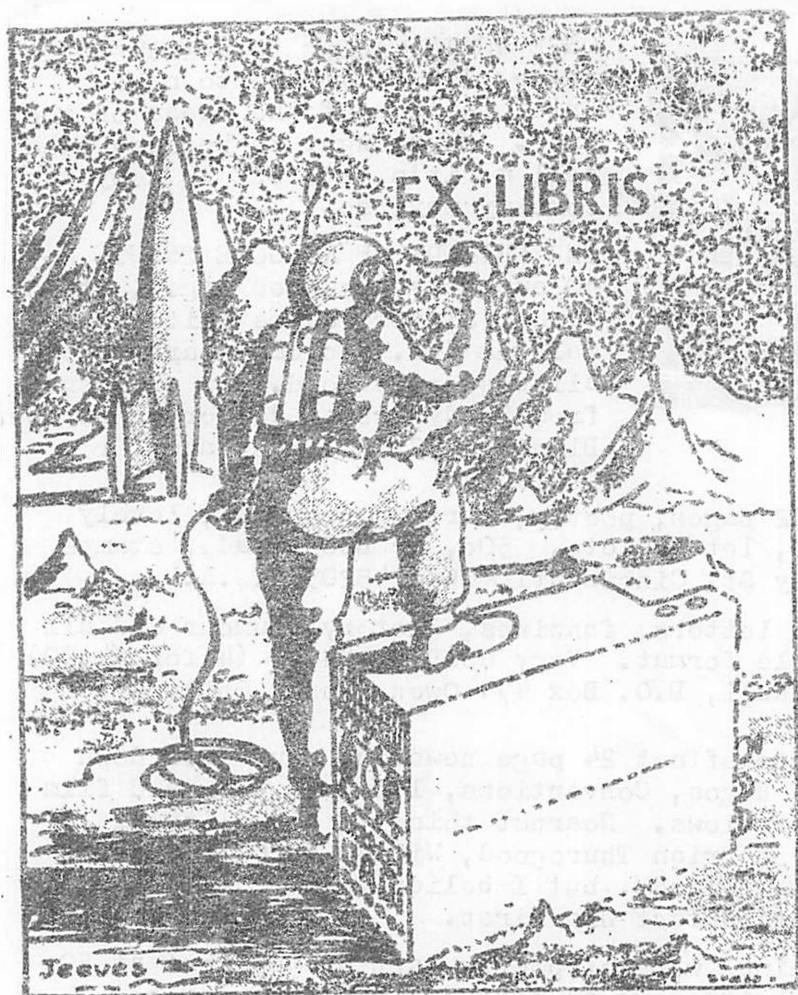
GRAYMALKIN beautifully produced mince work of poetry, art and comment at 50c an issue from Denise Parsley Leigh..two addresses given..I fancy the right one is 121 Nansen St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45216.

FARRAGO 8, about 40+ pages, mince. \$1.00 an ish, from Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr. St. Louis Mo.63131. USA. Far better than the average mince job, and full of fun and enthusiasm on a variety of topics. Comment, verse, LOCs, fiction, reminiscence...you name it, it's here.

KRATOPHANY another high-class, 40 page mince job from Eli Cohen, 2236 Allison Rd., Vancouver B.C. V6T 1T6, Canada. \$1.00 an issue. Excellent artwork, fiction, books, letters, opening a bookstore, even an article on 'Now!...you can also get it for LOCs and contribs..or even trade.

TIOFART.3 yet another 40page mince A4 production from Dave Cobblelick, 245 Rosalind St. Ashington, Northumberland. No price given. Articles by George Hay (on publishing) Movies by (?) the editor, a \$5 prize quiz, letters, interview with Bob Tucker, Fiction etc etc. Bags of life and enthusiasm and an enjoyable piece of fanzine

WALLBANGER.1 is another hefty zine, mainly concerned with comment on the current scene, but with a Phil Strick Interview, fanzine file, and some assorted fannish humour. I'd prefer more interior art..but it shows excellent promise. 25p or LOC, from Eve & John Harvey, 55 Blachland Rd., Morden, Surrey.



Recent



Reading

Alanna was orphaned at eight, ran wild until fifteen, then two years later, was taken by her Missionary foster parents to the colony world of Canaan. Here, the drug-addicted Garkohn, lure the colonists onto the bait and plan to use them in the fight against the non-addicted Tehkohn. Alanna, once a prisoner, then wife to a Tehkohn chief, strives to bring a settlement between the three factions and free her people of the drug. Her job is difficult as both tribes are wild, regarded as animals by the Missionaries (The chief took Alanna by force). The action is hectic, and the plot complicated by the multi-flashback style which makes it difficult to work out who is doing what...and to whom. Get over that hurdle and you

find a most enjoyable read as the believable characters mesh together.

THE ANARCHISTIC COLOSSUS

A.E. vanVogt
Sidgwick & Jackson £4.95

Earth has become an anarchistic society and placed its law enforcement in the care of Kirlian computers which control punishment lasers. The Earth space fleet has been conditioned (by aliens) to

believe it has won a great victory when in reality the aliens are playing a great game to exterminate life on Earth. Their main fleet is only 14 days away and one of the Ig, is surveying the situation through the aura which surrounds Chip Mitchum as he strives to alert Earth to its danger.

This is a new vanVogt, not a re-hash and it has all the old master's mind-blowing intricacy of plot, motives and actions...but sadly, also with his usual cardboard characterisation.. and such English as, "he can count as good as no". Putting aside such irritations, van Vogt weaves an entertaining web of mystery and menace as the alien seemingly works himself into a more and more invincible position.

THE FANTASY BOOK

F. Rottensteiner
Thames & Hudson
£2.95

Those familiar with the author's earlier, "The Science Fiction Book" will need no more introduction than to be told that this is the companion volume. For the newcomer, this is essentially an account of various aspects and milestones in the history of fantastic art and literature.

Mr. Rottensteiner traces Gothic origins, a selection of Gothic masters, a few common fantasy themes, horror stories in Britain and the U.S.A. He also takes a brief look at the world in general from a fantasy viewpoint plus several other aspects of his subject. There is a tendency to let personal opinion colour the comments..a breed of fans, common in the USA who like to produce glossaries and concordances, but overall, the text reads well, and is ably supported by some 200 monochrome and 40 colour illustrations throughout its 160, large-sized pages. Entertaining, low priced, a snip for fantasy lovers.

UNIVERSE 5

Ed. Terry Carr
Dobson 24.25

12 hitherto unpublished stories. LeGuin, Russ, Pangborn, Wolfe, Leiber, Neville, etc. all here writing on such themes as :- a new variation on time travel (Busby), a fantasy of mental creation, birth of astronomy on a sun's single planet, a monster yarn, an incomprehensibility from LeGuin, people encapsulation, a hermaphroditic alien, a Holmesian robot satire, and Doc Smith's parasite, S.Goldin has a nice tale of stockpiling soldiers in deep freeze.

UNIVERSE 6

Ed. Terry Carr
Dobson 24.25

A 7-story line up this time. The perils of dream research, Future one-upmanship of decadent holidaymakers, 19th Cent. air-warfare in an alternate world, a gathering of bored immortals, death as a new energy source, insanity on a star ship, and computer crime by frequency manipulation.

Throughout the two volumes, the writing styles remain true to the new thought in sf. Finding the story line, and what is happening is as hard as finding the proverbial haystack-hiding needle. Plot is subordinated to experimental style..which of course is great stuff if you go for it .. and hard luck if you're a reactionary old fuddy-duddy like me. If you do go for modern writing, then these two will tickle your jaded palate.

THE FAR CALL

Gordon R. Dickson
Sidgwick & Jackson
£5.95

** When Phoenix 1 and 2 set off for Mars, their launch is
** attended by much fanfare and a horde of diplomats whose
** countries, seeking prestige, have dangerously overloaded
** the work schedules of the six 'Marsnauts'. 'anateur'

diplomat, Jens Wylie seeks to redress the matter, but meets a stone wall of protocol and face-saving. Out in space, the overworked crews are endangered by a major solar flare and forced into heroic measures to solve their numerous problems. Interwoven with these main themes are several minor ones of petty ambition, intrigue, love and human frailty. This is a novel which (in my opinion) could scoop a bucket of awards..and may even become a best seller in the mainstream race. Its scope is as wide as its 400+ page physical size. Despite its driving home much of the pettiness of the governors and the governed, it still achieves the message that mankind must drive into space. Dickson at his best, unreservedly excellent, DON'T miss it!

IN THE HALL OF THE MARTIAN KINGS

John Varley
Sidgwick & Jackson £5.50

** TWO ** items in a row must be a record. A
** clue may lie in the fact that both are in
** the newly inaugurated QUANTUM SF series.

Whatever the reason, here are nine enthralling stories from the writer of OPHIUCHI HOTLINE. A weather sculptor is repeatedly murdered and reborn via cloning. Rescuers operate from the future in disaster areas. Bio-formed humans cavort on Mercury, hunt blast-jewels on Venus, and live in space. There is the torment of isolation on watch-stations and the joy of a human-symbiote musician. You encounter an ego world in a computer and a colony of the blind, deaf and dumb where communication is by body contact, and the whole transcends human limits.

Varley takes an outrageous theme, then makes it both credible and enthralling by being one of the few writers who can tell a good yarn in a near 'New Wave' manner. Throughout the book, there are central themes of man achieving immortality via cloning; adapting himself surgically to hostile environments; and treating sex as a simple personal relationship. Pick where you like, with this collection you can only win...every time.

ROBOTS Fact, Fiction & Prediction

A paperback boasting 168 large-sized (20 by 28cm) pages, absolutely packed with drawings and photographs. Complementing these is a linking text which outlines the background. A brief 'partial history' is followed by comment on social implications and a definition of terms. From here, the author ranges over early ideas and devices; robots of fact, fiction and film; prosthetic devices; remote manipulators; toys; children's views; computer controlled tools and Mars probes before concluding with a too short look at future possibilities. Bang up to date, and I thoroughly enjoyed the feast of automata, but found the captioning rather erratic as far as placing with its relevant picture. What I did like were the excellent footnotes which were at the foot of each page, and not hidden annoyingly away in a junk heap at the back. Not a definitive work, but a wide-ranging and easy-to-follow coverage of the subject.

EYRE METHUEN have come up with a new (to me, at least) idea by publishing near-simultaneous paperback 'Magnum' editions and handsomely bound and dust-jacketed hardcover library editions which use the same paperback pages.

ODD JOHN

No paperback price, but the hardcover is £3.75. This is one of the real classics of SF, written in 1935 and almost continually in publication ever since. John is born with super intelligence and telepathic powers. As these grow, he assembles a band of other 'lomo Superiors' and a colony is built on a Pacific island where it thrives until jealous nations intervene. Far more readable than Stapledon's 'Men' stories, hailed by many as the definitive superman story, if you haven't read it....get out and make up for lost time.

THE MAN WHO JAPED

Philip K. Dick
Hardcover £3.50
Magnum pb. 85p

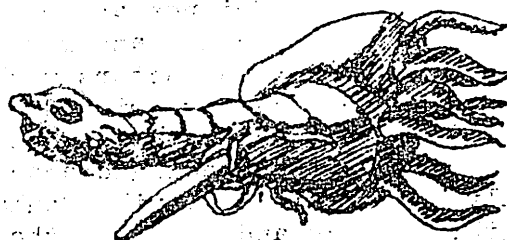
A post-holocaust world dominated by MOREC (Moral Reclamation) do-gooders armed with robot snoopers, a corps of young toughs, and the ordeal of trial by block committee. Alan Purcell runs an advertising agency devoted to plugging MOREC, but then his subconscious leads him to decapitate the statue of MOREC's originator. Things get hectic for Purcell as faced with promotion..and a mysterious kidnapping, his ego acts up again and his society faces an outright confrontation. Light-hearted, loose-ended, but nevertheless, fun to read.

THE GODS FROM OUTER SPACE

based on the ideas of
Erich von Daniken
Methuen £1.25

Physically large, 50 pages (21cm x 29cm) strip cartoon based on the ideas of von Daniken, that star travellers landed on Earth and influenced civilisation. However, if you like strips..and dislike Daniken, don't be put off, as apart from

that basic idea, this is a straight forward tale of a starship's voyage of discovery..and mutiny on a new world...once standard sf fodder and neatly told. The drawing is better than average, although not outstanding. If you like your sf in strip format, then this, first of a series of three, could be right up your alley.



TIME OF PASSAGE

Ed. by

J.D.Olander and

M.H.Greenberg.

Hale. \$4.25

The chosen theme for this 15 story anthology, is death and dying...which at first glance would seem rather depressing.

A glance at the scintillating author line-up will soon disabuse you of that idea. No morbid death agonies here, but fascinating idea-exploring by Brunner, Clarke, Haldeman, Simak, Knight, Ballard and company. What happens when all

spare souls are in use? or how does a space stowaway fare? Then there's a genocide theme; a reversal of time's arrow; legal problems raised by a deep frozen corpsicle; the insignificance of death in a hive city; and even a last man on earth. Immortality appears in various forms:- a girl who wants to avoid ageing; an immortality-refusing senator; immortality via mind-transfer; and the death of an immortal. You may prefer to read of the love of a cyborg, or an introspective tale of religion and flying men. They're all here, all different..and believe it or not, but there isn't a single make-weight in the bunch. Try it and see.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK 1979

Edited by Colin Lester.

Pierrot \$2.95

A hefty, 400 page paperback bearing a superb cover and crammed to the edges with so vast an array of information that the cumbersome but

effective reference system groans under the strain. Boasting 29 sections on magazines, fanzines, agents (with lists of current clients), artists, clubs, cults, film, TV, radio, APAs, etc. etc. The sort of thing you keep returning to again and again..if not for information, then simply to see what else is there (after you've checked the parts where you get a mention). You can read about Awards, the state of SF, convention, conferences and to lighten the going, virtually every page boasts at least one illustration culled from a variety of sources (including me) plus some lovely Jim Barker cartoons. The only snag being the lumping of the credits into an unfathomable mass at the back. "A Significant Event" Ben Bove says of the book in his opening essay on SF's place in the world. "I'll drink to that! and add that this is a book for fans, professionals, publishers and anyone even half interested in SF. Well worth the price and as this will probably be a sellout...get cracking on ordering your copy."

THE WAKING OF THE STONE

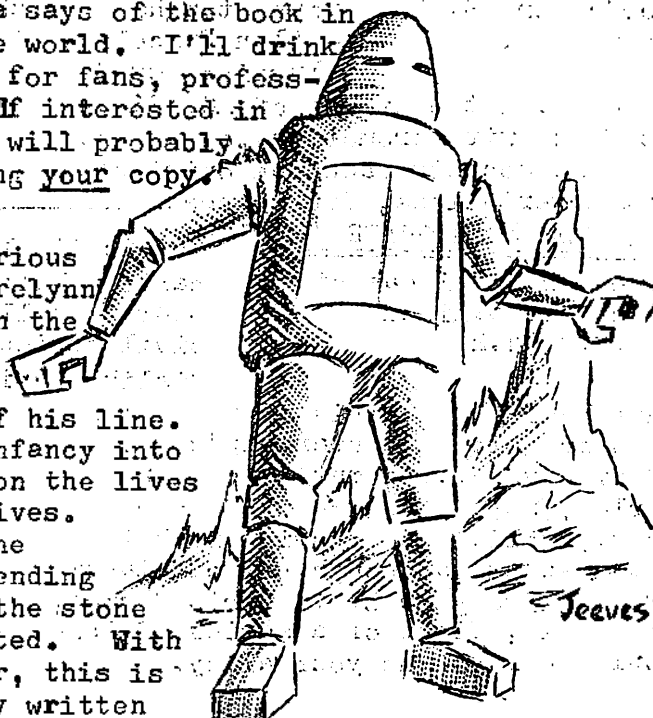
John Lymington

Hodder & Stoughton \$4.50

The mysterious stone of Trelynn appeared in the 17th Cent.

When it granted a wish to Josiah Baswell making him rich and founder of his line. Then, as descendant John grows from infancy into his 'teens, the stone has its effect on the lives and fortunes of his friends and relatives.

Wishes and events culminate with the vanishment of a group of actors week-ending at Trelynn after they have wished on the stone and its time and space gate has operated. With young Baswell as the leading character, this is virtually a 'with-it' juvenile fantasy written with with, fluency and style so that one enjoys the narrative without questioning too deeply the miniature people dwelling in the stone..or the mysterious ghost of Josiah.



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION

Ed. Robert Holdstock
Octopus 84.95.

Yet another superb volume of artwork and comment on the SF field. Boasting close on 400 illustrations, many in colour, it is

worth getting for the artwork alone. However, you also get an Asimov Introduction plus twelve assorted essays..with the art fitted around them, instead of as so often in the past, make-weight wordage filling the cracks between haphazard picture selections. Then you get a rather wordy Holdstock* piece followed by a very good pre-Gernsback history from Brian Stableford. Douglas Hill* covers the main themes in SF and then Mike Ashley has an honest, appreciative and cheerful section on 'the Pulp' wherein he judges them for what they were instead of their shortcomings against some clinical (and mythical, yardstick). Alan Frank has a perceptive piece on films, and Harry Harrison talks of the machinery in SF..both excellent items. Chris Morgan on aliens, then a rather one-sided piece on art by David Hardy, (could this be 'ghost-written'?, there are several references to 'the art of David Hardy'). Patrick Moore scintillates on Fiction and Fact, then Ashley returns to tell of SF in other lands. Chris Priest* details the 'New Wave' and Malcolm Edwards* discusses the contemporary scene. Finally, a mixture of pieces on rare items, fandom (a scrappy thing), Awards, Conventions etc.

Excellent value, highly readable, and indeed my own real quibble is the lumping into one indigestible mass, of the art credits. Highly recommended. Oh yes..those asterisks. These are the people who seem rather disdainful and ashamed of SF's origins..seems nothing good was written before 1970. This seems a period of 'musts'..well here's another..one you must get

HORROR FILMS

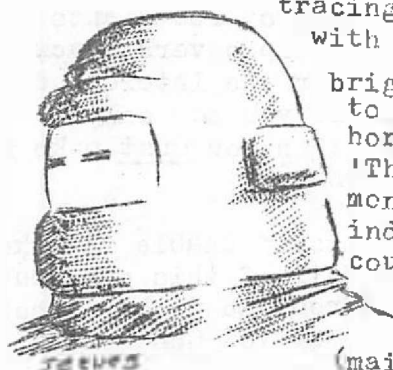
Alan Frank
Hamlyn 85.95

Only too often, one finds that 'film' books are simply a mound of ill-assorted 'stills', shored up by a footling text. Not so this excellent assembly from Hamlyn. First of all, the shots are well-chosen and avoid those cliché-shots with which we have become so familiar. Of equal stature is the accompanying text tracing the history and development of the horror film - with many an interesting or enlightening anecdote to

brighten up the way. Nor has Mr. Frank limited himself to Gothic horror. Where an s-f film has any sort of horrific content, it appears here..which accounts for 'The Invisible Man', 'Forbidden Planet', and even a mention of Disney's Snow White. The comprehensive index makes for easy location of any title (and I couldn't catch any omissions). (Inevitably, with such coverage, comment on any particular film must be limited. However 180+ pages of text and photos

(mainly, but not exclusively, in black and white) this is darned good value at the money. My only, very minor quibble, is the occasional Ackermanesque-type caption on the level of 'Fangs a million'. So movie buffs, this one is far, far better value than your old Gifford or Baxter..and don't forget that index as a bonus. Want more? Well, there are two lists of film retitlings...British to American, and vice versa to help with the identification.

THE CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT, UNBELIEVER. (1) Lord Foul's Bane. 2. The Illearth War 3. The Power That Preserves. My humble apologies to all concerned, but these come from FONTANA, not Futura as I incorrectly stated in ERG 64. My thanks to Joseph Nicholas for pointing out the error...and of course, it's still a great trilogy.



THE PURITY PLOT

Stephen Goldin
Panther 75p

Another dip into the E.E.Smith well (or should I say 'rut') for the 6th. story in the family d'Alembert series. This time the SOTE agents tangle with a Holy War being stirred up among the fanatics of the planet, Purity, by one of the humanoid robots which escaped in 'Bloodstar Conspiracy'. Sadly, Mr. Goldin seems unaware of radar, infra-red snooper or proximity alarms, as he repeatedly allows his agents to creep undetected upon enemy camps. Plenty of running, stunning and bushels of 'gospodin' and suchlike...but there is a distressing similarity about each episode which the author must shrug off if the series is to survive.

From CORGI/BANTAM come a further two titles in the Star Trek Photonovel series in which favourite episodes are recreated in the form of 'stills' Nos.7 & 8

THE GALILEO 7

Bantam 95p

Spock, Scotty, McCoy and others take a shuttlecraft to inspect a quasarlike phenomenon. They are disabled and marooned on a planet populated by barbarian giants which kill off a couple of crewmen before Spock takes a gamble and acts illogically to save his first command.

A PIECE OF THE ACTION

Bantam 95p

Kirk and Spock beam down to investigate Lotia and find the inhabitants have modelled their society on some gangster books left by a previous spacecraft. Kirk and Spock are sought after by rival gangs for the assistance they may give in gangland fights, but eventually the spacemen bring peace to the gangs.

THE COLLAPSING UNIVERSE

The Story of Black Holes

Isaac Asimov

CORGI 65p

Over the past few years, articles and stories on Black Holes have been on the increase..some have been abstruse, others incomprehensible. Here is a comprehensive treatment both understandable and informative..EXCELLENT on all counts. Dr. Asimov proceeds from known to unknown in easy stages.

Beginning with universal forces, atoms, planets and their densities before moving on to escape velocity, stellar mechanics, white dwarfs, red giants and neutron stars. Having firmly established his ground, he then covers black holes and speculates on their properties. Truly a book for the interested amateur, and a superb guide to basic astronomy. If you can only afford one book in the field, then you must make it this one. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

NOVA EXPRESS

William Burroughs
Panther 85p

I found myself unable to make head or tail of this one, but gather (from the jacket) that the Nova Mob (of Con Hen)

tangle with the Nova Police..what inventive names!. It also adds that the author is willing to look at hell and report what he sees...so I'll do the same. Mr. Burroughs favourite word, seems to be 'shit'..in the circumstances, remarkably appropriate.

RUNNING PRESS, 38 South Nineteenth St.,
Philadelphia, PA 19103 write to say that
Grosset & Dunlap are working on the final
design for their hardcover edition of
THE TOLKIEN SCRAPBOOK..and that the

Running Press pb edition will be out in Spring.



CORONET have re-issued a couple of Edmund Cooper titles at 75p each..and I fancy, with new covers..to refresh your memory :-

SPAHORSE IN THE SKY

16 people are snatched from their normal lives and wake to find themselves in a vivarium complete with a hotel and shops, and other groups of less gentle persuasion. They finally escape through a 'force wall' and confront their captors before all is revealed.

THE TENTH PLANET

Idris Hamilton pilots the last spaceship to leave Earth, killed in a space accident he awakens five thousand years later in a bland and aimless society. Cast in the role of barbarian throwback, he has numerous brushes with the law before setting out to escape back to Earth or die in the attempt. Some interesting sequences..and of course, the inevitable Cooper sex sequences. Speaking generally, I find that this author can set up a good story and gain one's interest, but then he seems to lose steam..or interest, and things start to flag.

DRAWING

I asked for this one, which explains why it is here..so many of readers are interested in art that no other apology is needed, I particularly like this one as it breaks from the normal routine by not being a showcase for the author's skill thinly veiled as a 'teaching' book. This one shows you how to work in a variety of media (including ball-pen) and starts very simply indeed. The illustrations are simple, yet delightful. The chapter on perspective is one I wish I'd had when starting out. Balance, composition, figure work and texture, etc., all here. So if you have any artistic aspirations..get this.

WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO

Joanna Russ
Methuen 75p

When a space-warp jump goes wrong, a small group is castaway on an alien world with food for only six months and no hope of rescue. It doesn't take long for the idea of breeding to establish a colony to be raised, despite the obvious insanity of the plan. At which point, the chosen vessel rebels, makes her own arrangements and having carried them out takes the remainder of the book to flash back to real and imaginary talks and incidents. 'free writing', 'new wave'..call it what you will, but I can't really see this winning any awards.

WHAT IAD UNIVERSE

Bantam 85p
Fredric Brown.

A moon probe misfires and blows SF mag editor, Keith Winton into an alternate universe in which 8 foot tall monsters mix freely with normal humans, space travel came in 1903, and suspected Arcturan spies are shot without a trial. Leading the fight is near-superman Dopelle (alter-ego of a fan from Winton's universe) aided by Mekky, a robot brain. Hunted as a spy, Winton braves the New York 'mistout' and is finally aided by Bergey-girl, Betty Hadley, and Mekky to make an attempt to get home. Fast moving, always entertaining and well plotted, but not really a 'golden oldie'.

OUR LADY DARKNESS

Fritz Leiber
Fontana 80p

Franz Westen, writer of weird tales pursues several intertwined mysteries..the riddle of two old books purchased in a second-hand shop, a strange brown-clad figure seen on a distant hill, and the location of '607 Rhodes'. As the threads slowly tighten together a pattern of horror begins to emerge and Westen is threatened by a monstrous creation called to 'life' by a passage in the books. A slow, gradual build up of horror as the emphasis shifts imperceptibly from the mundane to the macabre. Read it at night.

GLORIANA or 'The Unfulfilled Queen' In an alternate universe, Albion includes Michael Moorcock America, and is ruled by Gloriana, a queen often bedded Fontana 31.25 but never satisfied. Her palace outrivals Gormenghast in its intricacies. Her Chancellor, Montfalloon employs robbery, kidnap, assassination and any illegality which serves his end of upholding the law and peace of the Queen's realm. His henchman, the sadistic Quine, is insulted, so joins a plot to cause terror and disturbance in the palace and country so that Arabia may take over. Undoubtedly one of the best Moorcock tales it has been my pleasure to read. Several sub plots are kept moving with none growing stale. All the scruffiness of Elizabethan England is kept mainly off-stage to leave more room for the intricately detailed background. For my money, it is even better than Aldiss' 'Malacian Tapestry'. Excellent reading.

THE REBEL WORLDS Feckless Emperor Josip appoints Snelund, a sadistic opportunist as governor of a remote world..misrule and oppression follow until Admiral McCormac and his wife are imprisoned for trying to call for help. McCormac is rescued and raising a fleet, makes a bid to become Emperor..while his wife, Kathryn suffers a fate worse than death. At this point Flandry is sent to sort things out. I winced at Anderson allowing a cruiser to take up dychronous orbit at latitude 34°, but otherwise thought this one had more story depth to it than the average Flandry

LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT A book-full of Bradbury is rather like a diet of cream-puffs. Here is a collection of no less than 22 short stories which read like a concentrated dose of 'Picturesque Speech and Patter' from Reader's Digest. His word pictures flutter through time trav., homosexuality, life on Mars, puppy-love, transvestism, a bottle which is all things to all men, rust as a weapon, and a scintillating assortment of other themes. Not really science-fiction, but light fantasy, and there are quite a few gems here (and some rent-payers). Excellent for schoolroom use..and even better as a bedside reader ..if you ration yourself to one story a night.

MOONBEAST Originally three short ASF tales... 'The Great Engine', 'The Beast' and 'The Wonderful Man'..and now joined into one yarn. A.E.van Vogt ('Wonderful Man' appeared as 'The Changeling') We first meet the one-armed Pendrake as he discovers and operates a space ship propulsion device only to have it taken from him. He sets out to trace it, and his quest leads him to the moon and the discovery that not only can his arm re-grow but so can his body cells thus making him immortal. The 'Moonbeast' is a Neanderthal man, leader of a band of people snatched to the moon. Van Vogt takes his multi faceted theme, and renders what to my mind, is one of the best of his novels...full of action, plenty of his inimitable twists and plot hooks...and never a dull moment...which of course is why it was a Book Club selection and has had so many reprintings.