

TO MEMBERS OF THE I.S.F.C.C.

from Lawrence Kiehlbauch, Pres., I S F C C

Quite a few of you have sent me a reply to the Roster letter that I wrote out and sent to all of the I. S. F. C. C. To those members I wish to extend my thanks. Also received several Christmas cards, too late to send one in return, so I will take the opportunity now to thank you once more if you sent me a card and didn't get a reply.

I am making a list of things that I believe should be included in an application blank for new members. Some of the information I should like to have other than the name and address are such items as age, hobbies, likes and dislikes in science-fiction reading, preference in trading and correspondence, and favorite subjects for discussion in the s-f world. Are there any other things you members would like to know about new members? If there are, please send them in to the editor of the Explorer and we'll see what can be done when we make up application blanks.

There should be, too, a "Delinquent" department of the Explorer, to find out which members are or are not interested and active in the ISFCC. We want active members, and not a long list of disinterested ones. The two main requirements of ISFCC are to be in contact by letter with some of the members, and to subscribe to the official publication of the club.

And how about a Pen-Pal Department? Are there any ladies in the club interested in running such a column? Enough rambling for the moment? I believe so -- so long.

"Ad Stellas"

Lawrence Kiehlbauch

President, I. S. F. C. C.

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#### THE LENDING LIBRARY

The idea of the lending library will be to let club members interchange (only temporarily, of course) the books they have. Whether or not you would like to include pocket-books and mags (personally I like the idea) would be determined by your replies in the letters I ask you to send me, giving a list of the books you may be willing to lend other members, and, as soon as possible, sending the books themselves.

There'll have to be a time limit on the keeping of the books, but as some people read faster than others, members themselves should decide on a time limit and what it shall be. Now--as to the cost of shipping the books. Since some will be reading more books than others, I don't see how it would be too far off to ask them to repay the price of insurance and postage to the shipper. Although this might prove a slight difficulty to some, it might be worked out in a "round-robin" affair. That is, after a master list has been compiled and distributed, you might write me as to your choice. I'll make out a list to be sent with every book, and each person can send it on to the next person on the list; thus the cost will fall equally on everyone--except the cost of sending it to the first member. This might be acquired from rental to non-members. I think a fee should be charged to non-members requesting books, and perhaps a penalty of a penny a day to be imposed on members who keep books over the time period. Also, should a deposit be required of non-members to insure return of books and mags? If so, how much? Write me as soon as possible and let me know.

The following is a partial list of pocket books, mags, and books which will be among those loaned:

The Purple Cloud - Shiel; Adventures in Time and Space - Healy & McComas (anth.);  
Burn, Witch Burn -- Creep, Shadow, Creep -- Seven Footprints to Satan -- Merrit;  
Great Horror Stories -- The Weird Shadow over Innsmouth -- The Dunwich Horror --  
Best Supernatural Stories -- H. P. Lovecraft; Sho - H. R. Haggard.

Sherman Berg

1125 W. Cherry St.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

LIBRARIAN

(Ed. Note -- As you can see, this idea is but in its infancy, but it's starting to grow up and in a few months we hope to have it going full blast. Mr. Berg has a few books already, and we hope that members may donate more -- any are appreciated. We request that everyone write to Mr. Berg, giving opinion and suggestion, offering books or magazines when possible. The service is for you -- how about a whole-hearted support? Let's make it a terrific response.)

#### ROCKETEERS, Note--

Coronet announces that its next (March) issue will have a 24 page series of paintings of a rocketship adventure, "Mr. Smith Goes to Venus". Sounds good. FLYING SAUCER readers:- Most of you may have read it already, but if you haven't -- get January TRUE --- a good article by Don Keyhoe on the elusive saucer. SHAVER-ites and ANTI-SHAVERITES:- Pritchard S. Little's observations on the caves in Ganley's FANFARE. (Ed. note on the latter -- Honi soit qui mal y pense, or if y' don't like it -- h-h-h-h-h)

#### ERRATA from the last Roster

Dick Lashbrook's address is: 672 Laporte Ave., South Bend, Indiana

Morton Paley's zone number wrong: should be 1455 Townsend Ave., New York 52, N. Y.

Arthur Millward, 70 Leicester Rd off Queen Rd, Chootham, Manchester 8, England.

The Christmas and New Year seasons have passed --- MAY WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE EXPLORER? It's 50¢ a year --- 10¢ a copy --- flip the page and you'll find the subscription blank.



THE EXPLORER

Official Organ of the ISFCC

THE FIRST issue of the EXPLORER made its appearance with the waning of 1949. It brought considerable comment ranging from compliment to angry threat. To both extremes, many thanks and many regrets. For the other letters between these two poles, also many thanks. Criticisms, observations, and comments are always helpful.

The second issue starts with a new year, hopefully a good one. Just how good a year it may be depends upon individual members. The EXPLORER is for all the members -- it is just getting started. Letters, articles, stories, essays -- all are wanted, written by ISFCC members. Should the membership increase as well as it has done since the first issue, and the subscriptions thus grow in number, there'll be a larger number of pages.

Looking forward to word from more of you, and ready to type the stencils for as many pages as the material demands, we'll let this be enough of an editorial. OK? OK!

From the Lake Land News and Morristown Daily Record  
Some more reports of the highly disputed 'flying-saucers', 'discs', etc., along with a most interesting article by John H. Janssen, Aviation Editor of the Morristown Daily Record, all too long to reprint in total, but asking numerous questions about the origin of the oft-reported 'saucers' in the event they be the realities attributed them. Discounting other planets of this solar system as being either too close to this sun or too distant, Janssen views the possibilities of space-visitors, much as does Donald Keyhoe in the January issue of TRUE Magazine -- he discredits the ideas that they may be operated by the well-known BEM's on a worthy supposition. A very interesting piece. If we can get Janssen's OK for it, and if enough want copies, we'll try to run 'em off. Let's hear from y'all about it.

To Hopefully Quell Disturbed C(h)olo(r)

The following has been received by this office in explanation:

Re Lou Sherman's article: It was written to Richard Abbott in January, 1949, protesting the Constitution of the International Science Fantasy Correspondence Trading Club. It does NOT represent the opinion of the EXPLORER or of the ISFCC. It was written as an attack on Calvin Thomas Beck when it first came to the original editorial office in May of 1949. It may imply an attack on QSFL, but does not say so. All it said was: 'Look at QSFL'--nothing more. However, the EXPLORER and the ISFCC do wish to say that they regret inconveniences caused and did not intend that Lou Sherman get into trouble, nor to libel anyone or anything. To that extent we trust you will accept offered apology."

Working The Mind - Arthur Millward, Manchester, England

There can be no greater fascination than the study of the mind. There is another point to this: It is common knowledge that we do not use our minds to anything like one hundredth of its capabilities, and it is logical to assume that the individual who uses his mind to more advantage than generally used is bound to be outstanding among his fellow men. It is of course, hard work, and only time will show. The thing to try is this: - each action you are about to take should be preceded by a few seconds of thought in this direction. 'What can I do to make this job easier? Am I wasting energy? Am I going over the same ground when I can prevent it?' It is amazing how you waste energy, how you tire yourself unnecessarily, both at home and at work, making numerous trips from room to room where one might do, repeating actions when the motions and actions might be cut down.

This is not being written for the purpose of improving your habits, but to state that an attempt to increase your thought-force can only result in an improvement in your life. I suggest you try it, if only on a small scale. Realize that you have a brain capable of enormous power. Then use your brain, as you use your eyes, say for an hour, or even a day, and begin to live. Many people already do this to some extent, but it is up to you to keep it up longer than they do to get the advantage. If you try it you'll be amazed at the POWER OF THE BRAIN -- at the possibilities of the mind. There is no limit to it!

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REMEMBER, ISFCC-ers -

YOU CAN GET NEW S-F BOOKS FROM W. C. BUTTS, 2058 ATLANTIC ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
AT A 20% DISCOUNT -- ONE OF THE ISFCC FEATURES.

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Here's that ol' subscription blank for which we told you to flip the page:

THE EXPLORER

c/o Ed Noble, Jr. or Bea Glass, Treas.  
Girard, Penna. 97 Baker St.  
Dover, N. J.

I'd like to get my copy of THE EXPLORER regularly. Enclosed find \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
copies. (Rates: 10¢ per copy; one year (6 issues)-50¢)

I should like to read of the following things in THE EXPLORER: (Comments, please)

Name:  
Address

(DO NOT SEND STAMPS, PLEASE)



ISFCC CHARTER AND  
CONSTITUTION

## Charter:-

Article I: NAME. The name of this chartered club is the INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

Article II: PURPOSE. The purpose of this chartered club is for the exchange of ideas, thoughts, and methods on the science fiction world.

Article III: DURATION. The duration of this chartered club will be for an unlimited time, or until such time as when the club is disbanded.

Article IV: OFFICERS. The officers of this chartered club are as follows: President, Vice President, Correspondence Manager, Trading Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Article V: DUES. This chartered club shall have no dues unless otherwise designated by an amendment to the club's BY LAWS.

Article VI: MEETINGS. There shall be no state meetings for this chartered club.

Article VII: TRUSTEESHIP. This club, as chartered by this document, is under the trusteeship of the club's charter representative.

Article VIII: CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS. The CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS of this chartered club are as follows:

## CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name. The name of this club is the "International Science Fiction Correspondence Club".

Article II: Purpose. The purpose of this club is for the exchange of ideas, thoughts, and methods on the science fiction world.

Article III: Membership. Membership to this club shall be granted to those who apply to the President for membership, are in regular contact with some of the other accepted members, and subscribe to the official publication of the club.

Article IV: Officers. The officers of this club shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Correspondence Manager, Trading Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Article V: Amendment. This CONSTITUTION of this club can be amended by a majority ballot vote of the members.

## BY LAWS

Article I: Order of Officers

Section I: Election. The officers of this club will all be elected by a majority ballot vote of the members.

Section II: Eligibility. (1) Only members may be officers. (2) One member may hold one office at a time. (3) One member may be an officer only five times.

Section III: Duties.

(1) PRESIDENT: To grant membership, keep the entire membership of the club, hand down the official decisions of the club, write an editorial in every issue of the club magazine, and be Chairman of the club's conventions.

(2) VICE PRESIDENT: To assist the President in every way possible in the interests of the club, and take over his office should the President be unable to finish his or her term.

(3) CORRESPONDENCE MANAGER: To inform the professional science fiction and fantasy magazines of the activities of the club, oversee the correspondence within the club, and welcome new members into the club.

(4) TRADING MANAGER: To write a trading column in the Club magazine, oversee trading within the club, and welcome new members into the club.

(5) SECRETARY: To keep the entire membership list, keep the history of the club, and inform the members of the club activities through his or her column in the club magazine.

(6) TREASURER: To have charge of all the club funds, which will be derived from the exchange of money concurred in the transactions concerning the club magazine.

Article II: Suspension. A member may be suspended by a majority consent of the members.

Article III: Funds. There shall be no entrance fees, dues, or special funds, but only the monetary club transactions will be concurred concerning the club magazine.

Article IV: Elections. Elections of officers will be held every six months.

Article V: Amendment. These BY LAWS may be amended by a majority ballot of the members.

Article VI: Charter Members: Ben Abas, Richard Abbott, Wrai Ballard, Dick Bartlo, William Butts, William Calabrese, Sue Chadwick, Louis Crimmins, Erania Collins, Stanley Crouch, Rose Davenport, Frank Dietz, Jr., Howard DeVoro, Edward Dickmon, Paul Ganley, Beatrice Glass, Eva Firestone, Raymond Isadore, Ronald Jacobs, Herbert Johnson, Lawrence Kiehlbauch, Howard McCulloch, Claire Miller, Paul Moore, Ed Noble, Paul Pearson, Fred J. Remus, Jr., Charles Riddle, David Sandridge, Beverly Steitzer, Albert Toth, Martin Yaeger.

Club Charter Representative  
(Signature of Richard Abbott)

The above is the one and only legal charter of the International Science Fiction Correspondence Club.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my presence this seventh day of April, in the year 1949 of Our Lord.

On the Charter, in this space,  
is the seal of the State of  
OHIO, as legal proof of the  
validity of this.

Attest

(Signature of Wilson Coon)



## "NOT SO SAFE"

by Morton D. Paley

THE four men sat around the table, each uncomfortably aware of the strained silence. The Captain was the first to speak.

"We all know that they wouldn't let us get off that simply. We're not out of the woods yet, not by a long shot."

Little Sturgess laughed uneasily.

"I wonder how it'll happen. Maybe they've sprayed us with Martian bacteria. Maybe they made a hole in the airlock, or the fuel supply, or the cosmic ray shield. None of us will live to return to Earth."

Baxter, tall, handsome Baxter, rose stiffly and turned on his companions.

"Of course we won't make it easily - if at all," he said. "But it won't help to sit around and talk about it. We should make a record for the people of Earth, so that they'll know what's happened, even if we arrive dead."

"Yes," said the Captain, "we should have a record. Stein, get the recorder from the shelf."

Stein, the fourth crew member, an electrical engineer, released his hold on the screwed-down chair and floated leisurely to one of the shelves which walled the Captain's cabin. Removing the studs which held the recorder down, he "sawm" back to the table, wafting the machine ahead of him.

"I'll go first," said the Captain. Leaning over, he spoke firmly into the microphone.

"My name is Captain Roger Smith, commander of the first Martian Expedition. After an uneventful flight of four month's duration, I and my crew of twenty-three landed on the Red Planet without serious injury, although the port rocket was partially splintered in the landing. We were greeted by the dominant life form of Mars, a humanoid race with a very mechanized civilization."

"After receiving kind treatment in their city for several days, the entire crew, save Baxter and myself, were murdered, and the two of us placed within some kind of laboratory and put under study. Later, another Earthman, Abraham Stein, sole survivor of the Second Martian Expedition, was imprisoned with us. Taking the Martians by surprise one night, we escaped to where my ship had first landed, hoping to escape to one of Mars' moons in the damaged rocket. (The Martians do not yet have space travel) When we arrived there we found that the Third Expedition had just landed, no doubt having been attracted by my ship's presence, and the Martians were in the process of bringing the men to the city. However, having taken weapons when escaping, we assailed their rear, and left the planet with Samuel Sturgess, a member of the Third Expedition, whom we had rescued. Unfortunately we were unable to aid any of the other personnel."

"It is my impression that the Martians hope to discourage space travel by keeping word of our safe arrivals from reaching Terra. Being a very warlike people they may intend to conquer the Earth after developing interplanetary travel. Because of the two spaceships in their possession they may effect this shortly. As there are now no spaceships on Earth, each of the three having been singly constructed experimental models, we will not be able to retaliate. Furthermore, the people will be very loath to build more, when so many lives and so much money has seemingly been wasted. But if we arrive on Earth and tell our story the situation will be changed. The Martians, who are continually listening in on Terran radio broadcasts, must know this. That is why we are so sure that they made provision for the possibility of our escaping, so that we are not yet safe."

Baxter took the mike next.

"My name is Warren Baxter, Second Mate, First Martian Expedition. My story is the same as the Captain's. I have nothing to add."

The microphone was silently passed to the third speaker.

"I'm Abraham Stein, crew member, Second Martian Expedition. We landed a mile from Captain Smith's ship after sighting it while we braked by circling the planet. The Martians acted friendly until we were half-way to their city. Then - then they cut us down. I took a bullet - or something - in my leg, and they caged me with Captain Smith and Mister Baxter. They've told the rest."

"Name's Sturgess - Sammy Sturgess. I was on the Third Expedition. We'd landed close by the other ships, and they did the same thing to us. I killed one, though. Maybe the only one we got. I was close by the ship when the firing started. All of a sudden three Earthmen came running over a hummock behind us and shoot down four of the things that was guardin' the ship's door. I says to myself, 'Sturgess, time for action.' There's two of the damned things next to me. One I kick where the judo manual tells me to. I grab the other's neck. He's dead - I twisted his head halfway around the other side of his body. Maybe they're both dead. They should all be like that."

"Anyway, we jump into the ship and take off. We agreed that Captain Smith should be in charge, and - well, that's about all."

Stein then took the recorder and floated into the next room to remove the record. Saying he was curious, Baxter followed. Sturgess glanced at the Captain.

"I may be a little short in height," he said, "but I'm not so short in brains that I think we'll make Earth. They were mechanics - all of 'em. Everything they did shows they think in gears and pistons. I didn't even see the city, but I could tell. They left a machine in this ship - just in case. Hid it, maybe. They had the opportunity and time enough. And they weren't the type to take chances."

There was a slight 'phss-est', like an airlock being slowly opened. The Captain, partially facing the eight inch duraplex disk which was the cabin viewport detected a movement out of the corner of his eye. It was Stein. Stein - dead, frozen stiff, slowly, almost majestically floating out into the inky blackness of uncharted space. Had Sturgess seen it, too?

Baxter came silently into the room.

"Stein's had a little trouble with the recorder," he said. "He'll be back when he's done."



Suddenly there was a flash of light, and Baxter fell to the floor with a shriek of agony.

Behind him was Sturgess - little Sturgess - with a hand-beam disintegrator. He watched silently as a large washer detached itself from the mass of whirring machinery, described four crazy circles, and came to rest in the middle of the room.

"A robot!" breathed the Captain.

"He - was their machine," said Sturgess. "They must have substituted a robot for Baxter at the laboratory and you never knew the difference. He would have killed us all before we reached home, and brought the ship back to Mars." Then he brightened. "But now we're safe! And so is the Earth! Safe! All safe!"

"Not so safe," said the Captain.

Sturgess didn't even cry out as the gun in the Captain's metallic fingers sent a two-inch steel slug through his body.

### TRADING CORN...err!

by Rich Elsberry

413 E. 18th St., Minneapolis, Minn.

This is your column - for YOU - take advantage of it and send me your trade and want lists. So far the response has not been too good for a club of this size, but we're just getting started with a lot of things. If I can fill this column with your wants - so much the better. If you're interested, I'm 17 and have been reading s-f over two years. On to the business end. I've got about 200 mags here that are for sale or trade for books. They include TWS, SS, FFM, AMZ, FA, etc. for '28 to '49.

Here is what some of the other members want, have, and will swap for: JAM means "jacket and mint".

Bill Butts, 2058 Atlantic St., Philadelphia, Pa. - Wants "Adventures in Time and Space" and books by Burroughs. Offers 20% discount on new books purchased from him.

Marvin Hirsh, 7440 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. - Wants to sell "From Off This World" and "The Kid from Mars"

Ed Noble, Jr., Girard, Pa. - Wants anthology entitled "A Bottle of Relish"

Bob Hoskins, Lyon Falls, N. Y. - Wants to swap "She" and "King Solomon's Mines" and "The Humanoids" for new SF book

Larry Saunders, 170 Washington St., Stamford, Conn. - Will trade "The Last Spaceship" and "The World Below" for nearly any Arkham House in JAM shape; his books are JAM.

Bea Glass, 97 Baker St., Dover, N. J. - Has New Worlds and BRE Unknown Worlds for sale or trade. Also wants to trade detective and best sellers for SF books.

Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif. - Has many fanzines, including "If" for disposal. Also wants to sell TWS, SS, PS for '47 and '48

All these have mags for sale or trade:

Frank E. McNamar, Granger, Missouri

Bruce Lane, 1630 Old Shakapoe Rd., Minneapolis 20, Minnesota

Tom Covington, 315 Dawson St., Wilmington, N. Carolina

Stanley Crouch, Sterling, Virginia

Remember to get those lists in here and I'll guarantee you'll get some results. So, 'til next ish, when I'll be reposing on the corn cobs again in this CORN-err, S'long.

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NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE --- Greetings, people.

Nick Solnstoff, 184 Girraween Rd., Girraween, N. S. W., Australia

Robert P. Hoskins, Lyons Falls, N. Y.

Del Close, 1726 Poyntz, Manhattan, Kansas

Thomas L. Mitchell, Plymouth, Illinois

Mrs. A. R. Miller, 356 1/2 Water St., Helena, Montana

Mrs. Robert Dunn, 94 Baker St., Dover, N. J.

Bruce Lane, 1630 Old Shakapoe Rd. E, Minneapolis, Minn.

Frank E. McNamar, Granger, Missouri

Ben Pugsley, Rt. 3, Box 1486, Marvaville, Calif.

Charles Moslander, 2840 Lemp Ave., St. Louis, Missouri

Thomas Covington, 315 Dawson St., Wilmington, N. Carolina

William S. Vernon, Marine Flag Allowance, Cmdr. 1st Task Fleet, c/o FPO, Sandiego, Cal.

ANOTHER ERRATUM - On Page 1 we listed Dick Lashbrook's address as being in South Bend. Just had word from him that by the time most of you get this he shall be en route to California, and his coming address will be "C/O Gen. Delivery, Fresno, California."

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SECRETARY'S COLUMN - Sec'y W. Paul Ganley, ISFOC

As I write this it is still 1949. I look back on the history of the ISFOC during this fading year and I see a time when everything seemed perfect, and I see disruption, and I see frantic efforts at repair -- efforts to repair something that only time and work could repair.

The time has passed and the work is being done. We, the elected officials, are trying to get the ISFOC started and get it going full blast. To do that we need your full cooperation.

(Cont. on page 6\*\*\*\*\*)



Sec'y's Column - cont.

So far we have accomplished many things without full cooperation. I, personally, have got the elections rolling, with Richard Abbott's help. Ed Noble has managed to publish the long-awaited EXPLORER. Lawrence Kiehlbauch is laboring to coordinate the members while Rick Sneary is taking time out from other organizations to aid him. Beatrice Glass is helping all of us with her suggestions and membership drive; while Rich Elsberry is not only taking over the trading duties, but is directly responsible for this flash of activity.

We, and Rich Abbott whose influence is still recognized at this date, have put together an organization whose benefits should not be ignored by any unbiased person. Look at these opportunities: Investigation into ESP, headed by Sgt. Fred J. Remus and myself, with possible occasions for directing Dr. Rhine's valuable work; well organized trading under the direction of Rich Elsberry; the EXPLORER itself, a growing publication, which offers the opportunity to every ISFCC member to air his or her views through letter, story, or article, and which should afford entertainment for every member; no dues except subscription to the EXPLORER, an organ which in itself is worth the 50¢ per year subscription rate; the Lending Library, still in its infancy, but soon to be quite active; and a service of which many of you already know: a 20% discount on new popular science-fiction books.

So....ISFCC has the officers; it has the material; and it has the will to be a great fan club. Does it not deserve your response? We officers have done everything in our power, including giving up freely of hard-earned cash, to make the ISFCC a worthy club, with attractions that can allure any science-fiction fan.

The time has come when we can do no more without full cooperation from those who have shown enough interest in the club to have joined it. If you have not sent in your half-dollar for the EXPLORER -- then do so right now, before the day passes. It's worth it alone; and the benefits from being a member of the ISFCC should make it a doubly attractive idea.

Let's hope that every single one of you shall give us your assistance in making the ISFCC 1950's foremost fan society.

W. Paul Ganley, Sec'y.

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- TAKEN FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY MEMBERS -

FRANK McNAMAR, GRANGER, MISSOURI - Saw your letter in FA -- I'm sort of a lone wolf down here in Missouri and don't know of another fan around here, and I'm lonesome and doggoned tired of it. I'd be glad to write to and get letters from others interested in the same things I am; also I'd be glad to swap magazines with some of them.

THOMAS COVINGTON, 315 DAWSON ST., WILMINGTON, N C - I would like to correspond with anyone, specially fans around my own age (18). Although I haven't been reading s-f very long I feel capable of discussing it with anyone and would like to do so. I've got the following pocketbooks for sale at 10¢ or will swap for s-f mags: The Fox Woman (Anth) by Merrit; The Cave Girl by Burroughs; and Invasion from Mars (anth). My favorite authors are Leinster and Phillips, and in the field of fantasy I agree that Merrit is good, but I also believe there are other fantasy authors just as good, and some better.

BRUCE LANE, 1630 OLD SHAKAPEE RD. E, Minn'pl's, Minn. - I saw your letter in the Jan FA and would like to join your club. I am very interested in s-f, fantasy, and weird stories. In fact, these are about all I read now. From time to time I have books to trade, and almost always have magazines.

SHERMAN BERG, 1125 W CHERRY ST., Milwaukee, Wis. - An interesting note on s-f - while getting ready for a party of a German Club at school I happened to mention something about s-f to a fellow club-member. The Librarian overheard us and asked me to make out a list of the better s-f books on the market, as there is an increasing demand of s-f at our library. I think it is an indication of how interest in s-f is increasing.

STANLEY CROUCH, Sterling, Va. - As one club to another, would you plug ENOSI for me in your next issue? If you are interested in science and the world about you, why not write for information about ENOSI? It's an organization designed for the dissemination of scientific knowledge and "to promote better understanding between scientists and religionists." We have a lot of services set up for members, including our own periodical. Membership is open to all persons ~~xxxx~~ 15 years of age or older, and who have an interest in science, any phase. A Membership Committee reviews all applications and issues copies of the Constitution.

MORTON D PALEY, 1455 TOWNSEND AVE. NYC 52, NY - I have many things to say concerning EXPLORER, so please pardon the length of this. The first thing is the letter from Lou Herman, an imbecilic missive which moves me to thoughts of violence. First of all, if a person is willing to take the time, trouble, and expense to start a correspondence club and is willing to continue being president as long as the club will let him, why shouldn't he? There is little gain in being president of such an organization. In fact, the president finds himself doing the work of people he never sees. If this be dictatorship, Lawrence Kiehlbauch is welcome to it.

Of course, in a regularly meeting club it's a different story. There is no reason for dictatorship in such organizations, as Mr. Sherman terms it. I am in no position to know about LASFS and would rather not comment on ESFA, but QSFL is not ruled by a reign of error. Will Sykora has done a great deal for the club, and this is an understatement, and I have not met a QSFL member with both the desire and capability to be a better Director than Will has been. Furthermore, Sykora INSISTS that all official club rulings



No matter how seemingly trivial be voted on by the club. I'm sure any QSFL member will bear me out.

About EXPLORER -- well, I think that given time it will improve greatly. Keep it by all means. Every club should have a fanzine.

I would like to make an announcement in EXPLORER that I have a fanzine called "TRANSGALACTIC", the first issue of which is being mimeod at present. I'll need future material, and so make an appeal to all fanauthors and fanartists to help me out. TG will be quarterly, have 24 pages, sell for 15¢ ea., 50¢ a year.

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LARRY LICHT, 33 POST AVE., NYC 34, NY -- Aha! Finally the EXPLORER! I've been waiting, lurking around until this great and revered day. Not bad, not bad at all! Don't make it big! Why make it big -- it isn't easy to store -- tears easily. I like that Profile

Speaking of stories: Where is that story department? You can't just leave me up in the air with one little morsel like the one you printed. There must be more than that!

As a centerpiece or whatever you call it, "Ad Stellas" is beeyootifull! Perfect!

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CHUCK HARRIS, 90 MAXEY Rd., Dagenham, Essex, Eng. -- Many thanks for the first issue of EXPLORER. I like the idea of letting UK members 'pay' their subs in magazines. Rich Abbott tried to work out a solution for UK members, and I think the 'swap' idea may be the answer. How about letting us know what you want? I like letter columns, but how about a letter digest until the 'zine expands, salient points picked from a dozen or so letters, or put a word limit on letters for publication.

I'd appreciate it if you'd mention Arthur Millward, if you have any members looking for new pen-pals. He says he will answer all letters. That of course goes for me, too.

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#### PROFILES

LAWRENCE KIEHLBAUCH, Pres., ISFCC

I am a happily married man thirty three years young. Have been married to the same woman for eleven years, and we have three daughters, ten years, five years, and twenty months. I am five feet six inches tall and weigh anywhere from 168-176, depending on the cook. I have dark brown hair and light blue eyes.

In sports I'm interested in hunting and fishing (trout and catfish), wrestling, boxing, baseball, dancing, and bowling. In hobbies I have letter writing and making friends through the mails as my favorite one. We also have a two acre garden with strawberries and raspberries, so if I don't answer a letter on time in the summer you'll know why -- I'll be out in the berry patch. I like to read about Psychology, Anatomy, or any of the other sciences.

When I have some spare time after taking care of club work and letter writing I practice on the accordeon. My profession is sausage making.

Did I leave anything out?

"Ad Stellas"

Lawrence Kiehlbauch

Pres., ISFCC

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#### ELECTIONS COMING UP

There will be elections of officers for the ISFCC coming up again in April. Along with the elective posts, a number of proposed amendments will be put before the members for approval or rejection, one of which regards the length of the term of office, another regarding the creating of two non-elective positions, the editorship of the EXPLORER and the post of Librarian. Another will be a modification of the second article of the By-Laws, and the last is an amendment to the third article of the Constitution, for the benefit of members residing in countries other than the United States.

Remember -- to vote in these elections you must be a member of the ISFCC -- and there is one monetary qualification a number of members have not observed. Read Article III of the Constitution (which is printed in its entirety on page 3) to check on that part.

If there are any members aspiring to elective posts in the ISFCC, please contact W. Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y., who will be preparing the ballots for the elections. If there be any members wishing to nominate possible candidates, send in the nominations to Ganley, too. A nomination needs no seconding.

With the basic work already pretty well done, official posts will not take quite as much time as they have demanded in previous months, but they will occupy several hours of work per month.

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WHY THE HEAVENLY BODIES ARE SO NAMED

by RAY REBEL

(In the last issue the sun and the moon were covered -- the series continues--)

Planet MERCURY Named for the SWIFTEST God

Just as the sun and moon were early worshipped as gods or goddesses, so were the planets of the solar system endowed with names of popular deities.

The seven planets (from a Greek stem meaning "wandering stars" as distinguished from the fixed stars) were of the ancients. The order of their estimated orbits by the ancients were: The moon, Mercury, Venus, the sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. They took the earth as the center of the solar system. In the modern solar system concept the planets revolve around the sun rather than around the earth.



## WHY THE HEAVENLY BODIES ARE SO NAMED - Cont.

Mercury is the closest to the sun. Smallest of the major planets, Mercury revolves around the sun in the shortest time -- 88 days. The Chaldeans named it Nebo, god of Wisdom.

The ancient Greeks, seeking a name for Mercury, hit upon Hermes, wing-footed messenger of the gods. Fast, nimble and tricky, he most closely resembled the qualities of the fastest moving and often invisible planet or wandering star.

Hermes was also the god of trade and commerce. In Roman mythology Mercury became known as Mercurious (Mercury) apparently from the root "merx" or merchandise.

## Planet VENUS Began as the Lady of Heaven

Like Mercury, the rest of the names of the planets in the solar system (save one) were taken from Roman mythology, the stems being Latin in origin. Next, after Mercury in distance from the sun, was Venus, regarded widely as the most beautiful of the planets or wandering stars. The Romans were not the first, however, to name the most brilliant of all the planets for a goddess of love and beauty. One of the most ancient people to honor her were the Sumerians, who called her Inanna, or Innini, after their goddess of love, "Lady of Heaven".

The Babylonians knew her as Ishtar, and Greece inherited her along with the other concepts (chiefly Phoenician) as the goddess Aphrodite.

She was not only the goddess of love, but also of the sea and crops. Outshining all the goddesses in grace and loveliness, perhaps it was only natural that as Venus, the last of her transitions, she should symbolize the brightest planet, alternating as a morning and evening star.

## EARTH Was Not a Planet to the Ancients

The ancients, of course, did not consider the earth as a planet or wandering star, or a fixed star. Stars, by the way, go all the way back to Sanskrit and Send, as points of light "strewn" over the sky. Yet to the hypothetical men on Mars, the old Earth must appear much like that planet does to us.

Earth, therefore, is the only planet which does not have its name source in mythology. The oldest civilizations thought the sun, moon, planets, etc., revolved around the earth, which was simply 'home plate' to those on earth. However, Earth is third in distance from the sun among the planets revolving around old Sol.

In origin, the word earth means "solid ground" from a Teutonic source. The Romans had the same idea and their word, "Terra", is from a root meaning "that which is dry" -- Good old "terra firma" was simply dry ground, as opposed to the heavens, sea, and air. All pagan peoples had earth gods or goddesses, such as the Greek goddess Gaia, but they were simply nature deities -- father or mother of living creatures rather than members of the top Olympians.

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(In the next issue Ray Rebel continues, and the discussion starts outward into space, with Mars as the first topic, taking in the rest of the planetary set-up.)

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Thus concludes another issue of the EXPLORER --- this one hopes that it may be looked upon with increasing favor and that all of you may want to see more copies in future days. Again, much of this edition is due to the help of the National Radio Club, on whose new machine one half of this is printed, probably the good-looking half, or the first four pages. Not knowing how well these last four pages shall look after running them off, I assume them to be amateurish beforehand. So, we give you, again, another

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THE EXPLORER  
c/o Ed Noble, Jr.  
Girard, Iowa.



TO:

Paul Gantley

119 Ward Rd

North Tonawanda, N.Y.