

Terence X. O'Leary's WAR BIRDS

APRIL
15c

O'LEARY DYNO-BLASTER
OR
**ADVENTURE OF THE AGELESS
MEN**

A \$2 NOVEL FOR 15c

by Arthur Guy Empey

\$50.00 IN PRIZES

FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE issue number 15 Spring 1968

FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE is published for FIRST FANDOM, a non-profit organization. Edited and published by Lynn A. Hickman at 413 Ottokee Street in Wauseon, Ohio 43567. Printed by The Pulp Era Press.

Front cover and illustrations by Rudolph Belarski.

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Six Great Classics by Roy Tackett is reprinted from Dynatron number 33.

This issue is not being sent in envelopes. While most of you who wrote, like the idea, there was not enough response to constitute a majority. So please write and answer the questions below.

1. Do you want the magazine mailed flat in envelopes? 2. Do you want a larger offset magazine? 3. Would you want it even if it meant an increase in dues? 4. Do you want some of the hard to find older stories reprinted here? 5. Do you like the idea of a Swappers Corner? 6. How many times per year do you want a roster of members published?

Please answer the questions by number. The results will be published next issue.

THE EDITORS REPORT

On page 8 I said I would not be using any of the new equipment in this issue, however, I want to experiment with this monster and see if I can do any typing with it direct on master. So far all the typing I've done with it has been on paper and then I've made a paste up and a negative and then burned a plate.

So far the only report I have received is the state of the treasury from Dale Tarr. I won't publish it this time, but expect to have reports from all committees and officers for the next issue. We HAVE to have more activity from the members for FF to be successful. The response to FFM was better this time with a few more letters and some offers of material. It will have to be better yet to make this an interesting zine. I'm willing to spend the time and effort to get this out, BUT, I expect some help and response.

In the next issue I hope to have some artwork by the Dean of Artists in the First Fandom group. MORRIS DOLLENS. Morris has been so kind as to even offer to make the negatives himself and send them. Thanks!! There will also be an article by Terry Jeeves and I hope, some other goodies. I fully intend (barring any accidents) to publish the next issue in two months. I would like to make it a larger issue with artwork and articles of interest to all of the group. I would like to see a good interesting letter column. I would like to see the membership use the SWAPPERS CORNER. I have even thought of reprinting some of the old hard to find sf stories from time to time. For example: would any of you like to read THE OTHER by Everard Jack Appieton? It was originally published in the March 1899 issue of THE GRAY GOOSE magazine. As far as I know, I may be the only fan to have a copy of this magazine. While the story is not exceptionally good, it is very interesting from the standpoint of the many later stories written around this theme of a man trying to develop a secondary brain, the development of it and its personality, the fight for power of the body, and finally the hatred between the two personalities and their destruction of each other by the killing of the body.

Using this Vari-Typer it would be possible to reprint some stories without using up too much space by using a small type face such as this. Or would this be too small for FIRST FANDOM'S tired old eyes?

Another thing you will notice this issue is a couple of colors of ink. I am trying to use up some old stocks of ink while it is still useable. When this is used, I will either standardize on black or brown.

Next issues cover will be a reprint from an old CAVALIER illustrating a George Allen England novel.

I hope all First Fandom members are subscribers to Bob Lowndes magazines, MAGAZINE OF HORROR, STARTLING MYSTERY, WORLD WIDE ADVENTURE, and FAMOUS SCIENCE FICTION. These are GOOD magazines reprinting stories from the era of FIRST FANDOM. 1938 on back. The magazines deserve our support.

An article by Bob, THE COVER COPPERS, will appear in both THE PULP ERA and FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE.

Had a visit today from a pulp fan from Tacoma, Washington. Nick Carr. He is doing a complete survey of the OPERATOR 5 novels. I will print this toward the end of this year as a Pulp Era Book.

It seems that the Universities of this country are finally realizing that the pulps are a form of American literature and are becoming more interested in them. At any rate, I have been getting an increasingly larger subscription list from them. In the past month, six more universities have subscribed and I've had queries from several more.

A late letter of comment came in from Larry Farsace which I will quote from here. 'My, what a beautiful cover, the nicest ever by Paul, and then, that back cover of FFM, how reminiscent (and no wonder, isn't that the issue with my poem SKY WORLDS, first to break its no poetry policy?) By all means, continue the new features, illustrations, envelopes, etc. My what a difference.

Also enclosed, announcement of our new RWPD Contest which should be of great interest in the sf field seeing that from now on it will be perpetuating the names of Lilith and CAS. (I could kick myself for not getting Lilith enrolled as a member of FF; and she was in the very first issue of COSMOLOGY, THE COMET, back in 1930. She was also supposed to be the first Guest of Honor for the Nolacon, but couldn't make it so sent Duverne - the Mrs. - as her representative).

Rochester's GOLDEN ATOM PUBLICATIONS (Est. 1939) is again pleased to announce the No Entry Fee Rochester World (and National) Poetry Day Contest.

This year a major prize will be the CLARK ASHTON SMITH - LILITH LORRAINE MEMORIAL AWARD. The headline theme this year is POETRY, THE FIRST AND LAST FRONTIER.

Deadline for submissions is October 1st. Larry and Duverne Farsace, Chairmen, ROCHESTER WORLD (and National) POETRY DAY, P. O. BOX 1101, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14603.

Thanks for the letter and information Larry.

Coming in the next issue will be I KNOW WHAT I LIKE by Terry Jeeves, THE COVER COPPERS by Bob Lowndes, and hopefully reports by everyone. It should be a good issue. It will be better if there is a lively letter column.

A number of cons will be coming up soon. The 3rd DETROIT TRIPLE FAN FAIR at the Fort Pick Shelby Hotel on June 15& 16th, The MIDWESTCON at the North Plaza Motel in Cincinnati, and the OZARKON 3 at the Ben Franklin Motor Hotel in St. Louis. Two of these cons will have Harlan Ellison as GOH.

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There will be the regular FIRST FANDOM meeting at the MIDWESTCON and I imagine there will be pickup FF meetings at the other cons if enough members are present. At this writing I intend to attend all three.

Be thinking of the nomination for FF Hall of Fame. The first nomination is at the Midwestcon, followed by the Westercon, and then finalized at the Worldcon. There are many authors deserving of this award.

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There are still a lot of fans that should be in First Fandom that are not members. Lets try to get there and sign them up. If you know the addresses of any, send them to Dale Tarr or Bob Madle so that a flyer on FF can be sent to them.

Lynn Hickman

TERENCE X. O'LEARY'S WAR BIRDS

by Robert A. Madle

Starting sometime in the mid-1920's (or, perhaps, the early 1920's) magazine publishers discovered the Air War magazine. The appeal of this type of publication to the general reading audience was immediate and soon the market was saturated with them. Some of the many titles were: Flying Aces, Battle Aces, Dare-Devil Aces, Sky Fighters, The Lone Eagle, Wings, Aces, Battle Birds, and War Birds. All of these many publications dealt with the air battles between the heroic Americans and the heinous Germans during World War I.

By the time the mid-1930's arrived, however, World War I had been over for more than fifteen years and, it seemed to some publishers, the time had come to make a change. Several publishers, apparently, eyed the science fiction field, and came up with the idea of combining air war with science fiction. This in itself, was not a new idea. Some of the air war publications had been featuring stories of German scientists unleashing fantastic weapons and planes on the Allies. The best example of this was G-8 and His Battle Aces which, every month featured a novel with titles like "The Bat Staffel", "The Panther Squadron", "The Sword Staffel", and so on. G-8 started sometime around 1933 and was a real attempt to break away from the routine air war story. Then came the change of two magazines from World War I to modern air action: Battle Birds became Dusty Ayres and His Battle Birds and War Birds became Terence X. O'Leary's War Birds. Of the two Dusty Ayres is by far the better known, especially since the recent Corinth reprint editions. There were, I believe, seven Dusty Ayres; only three O'Leary's appeared. (March, April and June 1935).

Terence X. O'Leary's War Birds was published in the standard pulp format, 128 pages, by Dell Publishing Company. Dell also brought out, almost simultaneously, Doctor Death, which also lasted only three issues. The author was arthur Guy Empey; Covers and interior illustrations were all by Rudolph Belarski, except for one issues interiors which were done by Frederick Blakeslee. The first issue explained the new policy as follows:

"The war is over. We have come to our own Armistice day. . . By the expressed interest of you who make the WAR BIRDS, we have put a period to the tales of a war that was settled 17 years ago, to the ancient hates and the ancient fueds.

. . . .Your letters have called our attention. . . .You have protested against the necessity in war fiction for clothing of the men of any nation for the cloak of villainy. You recognized the necessity for presenting villains in tales of adventure but the air-war story narrowed the fields of villainy.

Terence X. O'Leary's WAR BIRDS

MARCH 1945

COMPLETE
\$200
NOVEL

THE
WORLD'S
GREATEST
HERO IN A
SMASHING
EPIC OF
SUPER AIR
ACTION

"O'LEARY
FIGHTS
THE
GOLDEN
RAY"

CASH PRIZES IN THIS ISSUE



... We found that, to you, Terence X. O'Leary represented the spirit of adventure, of dauntless, reckless, laughing courage. You wanted the Sky Hawk pitted against his natural foes -- the evil, the scheming, and the vicious. You did not want him forever pitted against a nation with which we had ceased to be unfriendly."

The novel in the initial issue was titled, "O'Leary Fights the Golden Ray", and the cover shows a ship out of Air Wonder Stories blasting a U.S. airplane out of the skies. The novel consumed the entire issue, with the exception of several departments. The time sequence of the series was, I would assume, 1935. The initial story opens up with Unuk, High Priest to the God of the Depths, informing his understudy, Alok, how he will destroy the USA, then Britain, and go on to conquer the world. Unuk, a foul fiend, is a mad scientist, 500 years old, who has been planning world conquest for several centuries. He and Alok have, through nefarious means, taken control of Lataki, a hidden island in the Pacific and, with the assistance of numerous captured scientists of many nations, has invented fantastic air ships, death rays, and so on. The captured scientists have been turned into zombi-like creatures who respond only to the will of Unuk.

There exists, however, the good, heroic group of Latakians, led by Murokaii and his American Agent, Kiva. They have been, for years, trying to convince America of the oncoming disaster, but to no avail. Murokaii captures Terence X. O'Leary ("The X stands for ixcellent") and his pal, McGuffy, and transports them to the island kingdom where he finally convinces them of the coming destruction to the USA from Unuk. (In these stories there is a lot of destruction as numerous cities are destroyed by the evil forces.)

O'Leary and McGuffy (Terence is an Army Captain and, I believe, McGuffy is a Lieutenant) are the type who laugh at danger. They are always ready for a fight or a beer-bust. However, women apparently scare them. Like most other pulps of the era, the sex theme is practically non-existent in these novels, the only female in the first novel being Princess Latea; a good princess, by the way.

O'Leary finally thwarts Unuk by stealing his super air ship and crashes 30 monstrous missiles, destroying all of them. However, before O'Leary's victory, Unuk destroyed lots of the USA, including bombing New York City.

The second novel, "O'Leary Dyno-Blaster or Adventure of the Ageless Men", is more of the same. Unuk and Alok are still the primary villains, and they have introduced flying belts (very similar to the 1929 Phil Nowlan-Buck Rogers type.) Belarski's cover this time shows Terence flitting about attired in his flying belt, having a ray-gun battle with one of Unuk's villainous types. This time Terence X. and McGuffy apparently destroy Unuk and Alok forevermore.

In the final novel, "The Purple Warriors of Neptunia", a new enemy is introduced, Umgoop, the Horrible, who is the monstrous High Priest of the sunken kingdom of Neptunia. Belarski's cover, this time, shows Terence in futuristic diving gear, shooting same ray gun as on the previous cover.

Umgoop has teamed up with a treacherous High Priestess, Satania and, they two, are going to destroy America and conquer the world. As a matter of fact they have, through great scientific knowledge, reconstructed Unuk and Alok. Terence X. and McGuffy are also killed and reconstructed in this one. The boys finally defeat all four of the villains and Adrasteia, the Just takes control of the sunken kingdom again.

Frankly, these novels were pretty bad. Changing from routine air-war to hard-to-digest stuff like this, proved to be a total failure. Unlike other invasion-of-America series (Operator 5, Dusty Ayres, for instance), the invasions envisioned by Arthur Guy Empey were just too much. The Island kingdom of Lataki and the sunken kingdom of Neptunia must have been almost laughable even in 1935. Today they are ludicrous. Pitting an accepted hero like O'Leary against unbelievable villains such as Unuk, Umgoop, and Satania was a catastrophe. Yet, I cannot deny the idea of the magazine to be a good one; the idea as spelled out in the initial issue, that is.

If nothing else, the three issues of Terence X. O'Leary's War Birds represent a strange and unusual attempt to change with the times. These issues were numbered 84 - 85 - 86. Whether the magazine reverted to its original title (War Birds) and continued publication, I do not know.

Robert A. Madle

The Terence X. O'Leary's War Birds article by Robert Madle and all the illustrations in this issue are reprinted from issue #69 of THE PULP ERA.

Since starting this issue of FFM, I have purchased a considerable amount of printing equipment, including a model 1250 Multilith, a DSJF Vari-Typer, plate burner, etc. While none of the new equipment will be used on this issue, it will be possible in the future to vary the format of FFM considerably. It would cost a little more to produce the zine, but that would be offset by better printing, more wordage per page, and a better appearing zine. It will be up to the membership as to whether or not you would want the entire zine to be plated and offset. I would appreciate any comments on this. I will also be doing some commercial printing on a part time basis if any of you are interested.

Terence X.
O'Leary's
WAR BIRDS

JUNE
1935

THE
PURPLE WARRIORS
OF
NEPTUNIA

AN AMAZING BOOK-LENGTH NOVEL
by
ARTHUR GUY EMPEY

The much-discussed "Sense of Wonder" is, or should be, a part of good science fiction. Perhaps today, with science catching up with - and even passing science fiction, the sense of wonder is not as strong for the young fan or the casual reader as it was in early fandom. This fact alone must have a major role in any comparison of "old stories vs new stories."

The corps of s-f authors today has many fine craftsmen, and the excellence of their efforts cannot be denied. However, the style and manner of writing varies over a period of three or four decades and I'm sure that many reprints of early classics suffer because of the out-moded speech and customs, or the simple fact that what was an amazing feat then is only a minor accomplishment or a commonplace event now.

As for myself, I can still recall the excitement that unfolded me each new month as I haunted the newsstands looking for the first appearance of AMAZING STORIES or one of the Gernsback publications. (Sometimes it was a problem on money when the big, bulky quarterlies came out the same month.) The scores of other magazines faded by comparison when the vivid covers of Frank R. Paul and H. W. Wesso were placed on display, for they certainly stood out when placed along the more conservative journals of the day.

But roll back the pages of time - and science fiction magazines - to January 1, 1938 - the cut-off date for First Fandom Membership, and the FF member of today becomes, in most cases, a beardless youth, or no more than a young man. His environment was far different from the world of today. Odds would be stacked against him owning an auto, although his suit would come with two pairs of pants as a matter of course. FDR was president; you could buy two pounds of sausage for a quarter, but jobs were scarce as the Great Depression still made itself felt. Ford was leading Chevrolet in total sales, Wayne King and Shep Fields were big sounds in music and you could get your hair cut for 25¢. Yes, the world was different then; and due for radical changes soon, for already the rumblings of WW2 could be heard from Europe. Whereas today one can look at films taken by our astronauts of the earth as seen from 850 miles up with great interest indeed, there still does not seem to be the same feeling, the thrill that was felt in the aviation feats of the twenties and thirties.

With that in mind, I recall many, many stories that were outstanding entertainment for me, starting with the John Carter series of Edgar Rice Burroughs in hard-covers, which I borrowed from a cousin, and the Pellucidar tales that appeared, of all places, in Modern Mechanics magazine! And there were great tales like the never to be forgotten epic THE SKYLARK OF SPACE by Edward Elmer Smith in the August 1928 AMAZING STORIES which also contained the first appearance of BUCK ROGERS. The old

Aristocrat ran a lot of fine novels then, such as INTO THE GREEN PRISM by A. Hyatt Verrill. THE SUNKEN WORLD by Stanton A. Coblentz was another. As were many stories by the beloved Dr. David H. Keller (some of his best were THE HUMAN TERMITES, THE CONQUERORS & THE EVENING STAR in SCIENCE WONDER STORIES.)

Many fine short stories appeared in early years too, such as THE PURPLE CLOUD by Jack Williamson and THE CITY OF SINGING FLAME by Clark Ashton Smith in WONDER STORIES. There were others, too, and for an example, let me quote from the pages of my own pioneer fanzine, SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, for March 1933, with my review of THE Nth MAN by Homer Eon Flint which appeared in the 3rd AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY:

"This is a thrilling story of such immense magnitude that it holds you breathless throughout. Strangely, a story has never been printed even remotely resembling the basic idea. Imagine a giant man, nearly a mile in height, attempting to conquer the United States! And in the end, he does it, too! Despite the efforts of the army, artillery and the air force. "Whatta man!" The story has a fine plot running through it, which is filled with swift action, suspense and even romance. The marvelous illustrations by Paul help the story a lot too."

Yes, I was a lot younger then - but those were the days!

Dan McPhail

NOTICE: Starting with the next issue we will have a swappers corner. Every member will have a maximum of five lines to describe his wants or what he has for sale in each issue FREE of charge. Each line over five lines will cost 5¢ a line. All ads and any payments should be sent to Dale Tarr. He will forward the ads to me and put any monies in the treasury. An example of an ad would be:

WANTED: Any issues of WONDER STORIES between 1935 and the start of THRILLING WONDER STORIES. Please send a list of issues available, condition and prices. Jack Masters: 1717 Wonder Avenue, Wonder City, Ohio 43567.

This ad would be free of charge.

Lets use this service. Swap for magazines you need. Advertise for original artwork you would like buy. Plug your fanzine. Don't let Big Hearted Howard be the only one to get free advertising.

NEXT ISSUE OUT IN TWO MONTHS. SEND IN YOUR LETTERS OF COMMENT, YOUR ARTICLES, COLUMNS, ETC. NOW!!! KEEP FFM GOING.

Ah, those were the days. Six great classics for a dollar. You can't find anything like that any more.

It was like this: a long time ago, back about nineteen hundred and thirty-two as a matter of fact, Uncle Hugo (may his name never be forgotten) brought out what he called the "Science Fiction Series". These were stories from the old WONDER reprinted in booklet form and sold to ~~the gullible public~~ ardent stfans for some sum or other. He did not, it would seem, sell very many of them for when Better Publications or Thrilling Publications, or whatever name of the outfit was, took over WONDER from Uncle Hugo and started publishing THRILLING WONDER STORIES and its companion magazine, STARTLING STORIES, they seem to have also acquired a vast stack of the Science Fiction Series booklets. So each issue of TWS and SS carried an advertisement advising ~~the gullible public~~ ardent stfans that they could buy six great classics of science fiction for one dollar.

The titles offered included THE IMMORTALS OF MERCURY by Clark Ashton Smith, THE FLIGHT OF THE AEROFIX by Maurice Reynard, THE MEN FROM THE METEOR by Pansy Black (oh, now THAT was a classic) and a host of others. Number 17 of the series was a double: THE SPECTRE BULLET by Thomas Mack and the AVENGING NOTE by Alfred Sprissler.

Let us steel ourselves and consider the first half of this classic combination.

THE SPECTRE BULLET by Thomas Mack is actually a refugee from the detective pulps, a short story that was included, one presumes, by Uncle Hugo because it purports to show scientific deduction in detective methods. Yes. Shall we have a go at it? Well, I'm game if you are.

Our story opens in a motion picture theatre: "The figure of the enraged man on the screen grew to a close-up of giant proportions." He stares off the screen at a man in one of the boxes and snarls, "Cur!".

Thomas Mack tells us that "The man thus unflatteringly addressed rose trembling to his feet..." Unflatteringly addressed, he says. Yes, I suppose so. You'll note the language of gentility here though: Cur! Nowadays our writers would have him snarl: "You son-of-a-bitch" which is the same thing as "Cur" only more gutty. But if you all remember the thirties, and you should, that sort of thing wasn't printed then. If the author was going to get gutty he would have hid character snarl, "You -----!" and leave it to us to fill in the blanks.

Editor's note: This article was originally published in DYNATRON #33. I want to thank Roy Tackett for retyping it and sending it to us.

Anyway, what we have here is a new gimmick in the art of the motion picture --- remember this was in the early 30s. Erle Mertle is the hero, Ruth Wesson the heroine, and Dave Grierson is the villain of the picture. Howard Sarson, manager of the opulent Regent Theatre, and Marcus Kelter, the producer of the flic, have arranged it so that Grierson is actually seated in a box in the theatre. (Kelter, Mertle and Wesson occupy boxes on the other side of the auditorium.) At the crucial moment, Mertle, on the screen, spies Grierson seated in the audience and, snarling "Cur!", turns the gun towards that side of the theatre and fires. The gimmick is that Grierson is to grasp his chest, or someplace, thereby breaking a vial of Hollywood blood and fall to the floor supposedly dead. He does. And is. Dead. Quite.

Ah, so.

In a seat in the balcony, and at those prices and on his wages it is all that he can afford, is Emmet Reardon, first-grade detective. (I think the idea here is that he is supposed to be top-notch and all that but from his subsequent actions one could assume that Reardon never got beyond the first grade.) He is fat. (In the depression he is fat? On what a cop got in those days he is fat? One has suspicions....) Reardon heaves his vast bulk, with some difficulty one assumes, out of the balcony seat and charges off, rather in the manner of a rhinoceros, to where the smartly-uniformed ushers have hauled Grierson. There he finds the other principals all standing around looking stupified. (Well, they all seem to be rather stupid anyway.) After some discussion the conclusion is reached that Grierson has actually been shot.

"Unbelievable! Amazing!" Kelter contributed in a thick, stunned voice. (I think Uncle Hugo let this stay in because, after all, Amazing was his first stfzine...)

"Amazing, but we have to belive it", Reardon avered, "We can't deny the evidence of our senses."

"No, we can't deny that Dave has been shot." Howard Sarson said in a thoughtful, practical manner.

Amazing! I mean here is this cat stretched out on the rug with a hole in him big enough to stick your fist into and gushing gore like a Kuwaiti oil well, and these clowns, after some thoughtful discussion, conclude that he's been shot. Amazing! (Ummm. Better make that a Texas oil well, the Kuwait fields hadn't been discovered in those days.)

About this time dear Ruth shows up and has a tearful scene with Erle. She drops her handbag which hits the floor with a resounding thud. The detective picks it up and secretly ascertains--yes--there is a gat in it. He doesn't say anything about it though, just hands the bag back to Ruth and then wanders off to call Headquarters and report the crime. Eventually one Lieutenant Ingram shows up accompanied by Otis, the Bertillion expert. Thats fingerprints to the layman. Burton investigator

for the coroner is also along. I think he eventually concludes --tentatively--that Grierson is dead. Reardon fills this crew in and Ingram calls in the witnesses: "Come in here, Youse." he bellowed politely.

Well, one expects a bull to bellow, no?

They all troop back to the boxes and fumble around and stumble around on their feet destroying whatever clues there might have been. Ruth siezes the opportunity when no one is looking to drop the gat into the auditorium below. But Reardon saw her and he rushed downstairs, picks it up, and rushes back upstairs -- puffing somewhat, one presumes. He turns the gun over to Ingram who examines it. The Bertillion expert Otis, doesn't say a word as these clowns get their greasy paws all over the gun effectively wiping out whatever fingerprints may have been on it. BUT

SCIENTIFIC DEDUCTION WINS! Reardon spots an eyehole in the curtain of the box and it of such a height that only one of the suspects could have possibly used it; Sarson. The rest are too short.

That's real scientific deduction. Yes.

The story, while only 12 pages, was too long. Never mind what Sarson's motive was...you wouldn't be interested. Or maybe you would. He was trying to buy the theatre from the producer but the two actors had topped his bid by a hundred grand. He eliminated one and that eliminated the top bid, making his high.

Nowadays for a hundred thousand bucks you could buy two or three theatres plus the popcorn concession but back in the 30s movie palaces were just that, palaces, and cost millions. I tell you there was glamour in the movies in those days.

Six science fiction classics for a buck. Well, I'll tell you, these so-called classics are like the movie palaces of 30 years ago...they were great in their day, but their day is gone. The stories remain as collector's items and curiosities. They weren't good, but in their day they were fresh and original.

Which is, I'm sure you will agree, more than can be said for much of today's better written stf.

Roy Tackett

Letters.....

Terry Jeeves That Paul cover on FFM #14 is the best thing
Sheffield, England I've ever seen by him and for once makes me
 think the old master might have something
on the ball after all. I always considered his work very stilt-
ed apart from his machines, but this one was good. However, my

favourites are still Schneeman, Finlay and Cartier.

Eichner didn't write about Atlantis at all, despite the title. He did write an interesting piece about collecting books on Atlantis -- maybe next time he'll give us some of the different theories on Atlantis, Mu, or what have you.

Couch was also interesting, but I'd like to have had a bit more detail on the early sf field -- and how the world ticked in those days. I reckon every fan in those days was a 'loner', I know I was. None of my mates evinced any interest in sf and as a collector I was regarded as bonkers.

The Midwestcon report wasn't my cup of tea I'm afraid. Too much of the "we got a drink and went out for a meal, a party, a gab fest". All cons have these, I personally prefer to hear either the highspots "A fringe fan was de-bagged and thrown into the pool" or details of the programme. (Editor's note: There is no formal program at the Midwestcons. It is all one grand gab-fest and/or parties.) Which I guess covers the script part. The production was excellent as always, a good pair of covers, but one small criticism -- if art type headings for each piece are too difficult to arrange, couldn't you jazz up the typed headings by using some of the standard spacing and boxing tricks? (Editor's note: Time has been the problem here. However, I may try to do this next issue. I will for sure if I plate all of the issue instead of typing directly on master as I am doing here.)

Leigh Couch The FFM was a joy to Nor and I. The covers are beautiful, please continue. I much prefer to receive a fanzine in an envelope. Some of the ones I get that aren't, are in such a condition as to call forth tears, after the gentle treatment the USPOD is famous for. I really enjoyed reading the zine but I must say that after reading my article I felt a little like I had appeared in a crowded room in my slip or something. But I guess fandom is one place where no one minds if you bare your soul.

The conreport by Klein made me wish that I had "the power to cloud men's minds" and so could have listened in on all the convention-getting strategy. But maybe not, since it didn't do them any good.

FOR THOSE THAT LIKE SATIRE AND ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST, I WILL BE PUBLISHING A NEW ZINE IN JUNE OR JULY. TITLE?

BADMOUTH ... the magazine of opinion.

BADMOUTH 413 OTTOKEE STREET WAUSEO, OHIO 43567



FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE
413 OTTOKEE STREET
WAUSEON, OHIO 43567



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TP: *Howard W. DeVore*
4705 Weddel St.
Dearborn, Mich. 48125

Issue number 15
Spring 1968

*Mixed
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