

FOCAL POINT, Volume 2, Number 21, a fanzine of news, views, and reviews, is edited by rich brown (410 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220) and Arnie Katz (59 Livingston St., Apt. 6B, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201). Invaluable Help: Joyce Fisher. Published bi-weekly it is available for news, all-for-all trades (bot' editors, please), or 6/\$1. Illustrations by Jay Kinney and Steve Stiles. Support the Shaw Fund! January 4, 1971.

HUGO BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED The Noreascon, the 1971 worldcon, has distributed nominating ballots for the 1971 Hugos. Material which first appeared in 1970 is eligible. Members of the Noreascon or Heicon may nominate, but, naturally, only Noreascon members will get final ballots.

To join the Noreascon, send \$4 for a supporting membership or \$6 for an attending membership to: Noreascon, Box 547, Cambridge, Ma. 02139.

We are distributing ballots with this issue of FOCAL POINT and hope you'll all fill them out and send them off to the committee. You know, you can't just wait around for the final ballot; the thing you want to vote for for the Hugo must qualify for the final ballot or it hasn't got a chance.

TERRY JEEVES' TAFF NOMINATORS NAMED Terry Jeeves' TAFF nominators have posted their bond with Eddie Jones and Terry is now officially a candidate in the TAFF race to bring an English fan to Noreascon. His nominators are Ethel Lindsay, Darroll & Rosemary Pardoe, Peter Roberts, Bill Bowers and Lynn Hickman. Nominations will be closed on January 31, 1971, at which time ballots will be distributed. While FOCAL POINT remains foresquare behind Pete Weston, we urge you to vote for the candidate of your choice --- Support TAFF!

NAMELESS ONES DISBAND The Nameless Ones, long-established Seattle fan club, has suspended meetings after 21 years of operation, according to F.M. Busby. The general feeling seems to be that, though another club may rise eventually, The Nameless Ones, as it has existed since 1950, is no more.

The club persued an open membership policy, while holding meetings at the homes of various members. The two aspects were not always compatable, but the club had recently been the target of a larger than usual Barbarian Invasion.

While some of the miscellaneous people who shoed up at recent meetings were free-loaders

and some were reputed to be speed freaks, the newcomers were generally thought to be all right as individuals. As a whole group, however, it was a case of just too many strangers milling around to make anyone very interested in being host.

The Broxons, who hosted the November meeting, were not inclined to repeat, and the Webers, who were to take the club for December, cancelled.

BRITISH TOLKIEN SOCIETY A meeting of the British Tolkien Society held November 21 at the **HAS ROUGH SLEDDING** University College Union in London resulted in a severe setback for the infant organization. A provisional constitution, which had been circulated among the members, was approved. Unfortunately a discussion subsequent to the vote bogged down in constitutional wrangling. The constitution was thrown out, leaving the society without any body of rules.

As things now stand, the current officers are continuing to serve and nothing has been done about a new constitution.

The main point of contention in the Tolkien Society is reported to be whether the club should be limited to discussion of the works of JRRT or should embrace related fantasy works.

There is some talk of resolving the incipient feud by simply forming a British Fantasy Society. Such a group would accommodate those who wish to deal with the entire fanast field, and, of course, the people who want a club exclusively devoted to Tolkien could also be satisfied.

SYRACUSE SF GROUP FORMED After much striving, a Syracuse science fiction group has finally come into existence. Meetings are held weekly, on Sunday at 3:00 pm, 303 Stadium Place, Syracuse.

Presumably, the presence of two active fans (Lisa Tuttle and Jerry Lapidus) provided the needed momentum. Those wishing further information should contact Lisa Tuttle, 1000 Irving Ave, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210.

LASFS ELECTS OFFICERS The LASFS, at its Thursday, December 17 meeting, elected procedural officers to serve for the January-June 1971 term. Milt Stevens is the new director, Fred Patten was elected Senior Committeeman, Beverly Warren was elected Junior Committeeman, Jack Harness became Secretary, and Bruce Pelz retained the Treasurer's post.

LACON The LACon, the 1972 World Science Fiction Convention, is scheduled for The International Hotel, near the Los Angeles International Airport, for Friday, September 1 to Monday, September 4. Frederik Pohl, science fiction writer, editor and anthologist, will be Professional Guest of Honor, and Bob and Juanita Coulson, editors of YANDRO, one of the longest running genzines, will be Fan Guests of Honor. Anne McCaffrey will be Toastmistress at the banquet.

The International Hotel, which provides free transportation for those coming to town via the airport, has rates low enough to please cost-conscious fans. Singles are \$14, doubles and twins are \$16, and it's \$2 per person more for the third and fourth room occupant. The swimming pool is open around the clock, and the coffee shop, which seats 200, will stay open 21 hours a day. Three bars which have no dress restrictions will stay open until 2 am, and special convention bars will be set up in the Huckster and Art Show rooms.

Attending memberships are currently a rather steep \$7 and they will go higher Aug. 1, 1971.

The first Progress Report will be out in February and has a copy deadline of January 15. Page size is 6 x 10½. A full page is \$10 for fans and \$20 for pros.

Further information on the LACon can be had from L.A. Con, P. O. Box 1, Santa Monica, California 90406.

ASIMOV BIBLIOGRAPHY PUBLISHED A 90 page photo offset bibliography of the works of Isaac Asimov has been published by Los Angeles fan, Matthew Tepper. The book is available for the low price of 75¢ from Matt Tepper, 535 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, Calif. 90402.

LIST OF APAS Stven Carlberg has begun on a project, which though rather modest would be a nice thing to see completed. He is trying to compile a list of the currently functioning apas. If you are currently the officer of an apa or are in an apa, a post card with the name of the apa, the name and address of the official officer, the frequency of the mailings, the number of members, whether there is a waiting list, special conditions which must be met to qualify for membership, and activity requirements (if any) to Stven Carlberg, Box 1958, Sarasota, Fla 33578 would be most appreciated. As soon as there has been a significant response, we'll try to arrange for publication of the list in FOCAL POINT.

FINLAY RECOVERING Although the prognosis seemed to be somewhat gloomy at first, Virgil Finlay is now expected to recover from the liver ailment which had his hospitalized recently.

NEWSWEEK NOSTALGIA ARTICLE The article on Nostalgia mentioned in the last issue of MENTIONS FANS FOCAL POINT has appeared. While it isn't the best article ever written on the subject, it does feature a half-page full color photograph of Forry Ackerman surrounded by the memorabilia of horror and sf. The text of the article gives Dick Lupoff credit for helping to launch the comic book nostalgia craze with Xero, but for some reason renders the title of that excellent fanzine "///XERO//" throughout. Bill Blackbeard is also noted as one of the leaders in the comic book nostalgia field.

SF MOVIE NEWS The only film currently ranking on Variety's list of 50 top-grossing films is Cornel Wilde's film version of Christopher's "No Blade of Grass". The film is rising steadily, reaching 16 on the December 16 listing. ::: Kirk Douglas is producing "The Light At The Edge of the World" based on the Jules Verne novel and starring Yul Brenner, Samantha Eggar, and Douglas himself. ::: The Charlton Heston remake of Matheson's "I Am Legend" eliminates the vampires, substituting inter-racial sex and ecological disaster instead. ::: Donovan will write songs for and appear in "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" co-starring Jack Wild.

FAN MOVIE NEWS Ted Johnstone, as a prelude to filming "The Black Adept", will make a movie loosely based on the U.N.C.L.E. series. The film begins at the end of Johnstone's novel "The Final Affair" and follows efforts of individual THRUSH satraps to put together a device that renders its wearer invincible.

MINNEAPOLIS CORRECTION Because the news of the withdrawal of the Minneapolis in '73 bid was communicated to us through an intermediary and not with a direct communication, there were a few areas of inaccuracy. Most important are that the prime movers have not lost interest in fandom and that the bid is being withdrawn in favor of Toronto in '73.

BOSH FUND NEWS

\$661.00 is the new total in the Bob Shaw Fund account, up from last issue's \$625.00. You can do YOUR part by sending your contribution to rich brown at 410-61st St., Brooklyn, NY 11220.

SPECIAL BOSH FANZINES The following fanzines are those which have been published or will be published to benefit the Bob Shaw Fund. Fanzines marked with an asterisk have already been published and will be sent to you as soon as your money is received.

*MICROCOSM #14, Dave Burton (5422 Kenyon Dr., Indianapolis, Ind.)

*FOCAL POINT 12.5, \$1, rich brown (410-61st St., Bklyn, NY 11220)

THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, \$1, Arnie Katz, (Apt. 6-B, 59 Livingston St., Brooklyn, NY 11201)

INNUEENDO, \$2, Terry Carr, (35 Pierrepont St., Bklyn, NY 11201)

METANOIA #9, 50¢, Greg & Suzy Shaw (64 Taylor Dr., Fairfax, Calif. 94930)

BEABOHEMA #13, \$1, Frank Lunney, (Box 551, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.)

INFINITUM #5, 50¢, Dave Lewton, (735 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46220)

NOPE #12, 50¢, Jay Kinney, (215 Willoughby Ave., Apt. 1212, Bklyn, NY 11205)

TRANSLATIONS #2, \$1, John-Henri Holmberg, (c/o Thomas Mellgren, Nedre Slottsgatten 16, 752 20 Uppsala, Sweden)

SPECIAL BOSH FUND OFFERS 20 FREE fanzines from recent years will be sent to anyone who donates \$1 or more to the Fund. When sending your contribution to rich brown, merely indicate that you want the free fmz and he'll pass your name along to Terry Carr, who's making the offer.:: LIFETIME SUBS TO SFR are being sold to benefit the BoSh Fund by Dick Geis (Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403) for \$30. Send your checks or moneyorders, made out to rich brown, to Dick Geis so he can mark you a lifetime subscriber. :: BACK ISSUES OF FOCAL POINT are being sold 5/\$1, to benefit the Fund. Issues available are Vol. 2, Nos. 3, 5, and 7-20 (exclusive of 12.5). Issues 16, 17, and 20 were larger sized issues and count as two issues. Send your \$\$ to rich brown, specifying the issues you want.

BOSH FUND AUCTIONS All bids for the auctions listed below, both old and new, should be sent to Colleen Brown (same address as rich brown). Send no money, unless specified, just a bid on the

items you want. We are asking that bids be submitted in increments of at least 50¢ on items under \$10 and \$1 on items over that.

- CLOSED AUCTIONS Lenny Kaye will receive his MOJO-NAVIGATOR R&R NEWS as soon as he sends us \$8.50. :: DIMENSIONS 14, 15, ELLISON WONDERLAND 1-3, CRYSTAL BALLING SCIENCE-FANTASY BULLETIN and VECTOR will go to Rick Pohlman upon receipt of the \$30 he bid for them. :: David Stever came out as high bidder on the STAR TREK CONCORDANCE and six film clips with his bid of \$12 for the two, and they'll be on the way to him as soon as we receive the money.

AUCTIONS STILL ON The following items are still receiving bids. The asterisked items have not received bids since the last issue and will be closed out if further bids have not been received by January 12, 1971. NOTE: A bid for several of the auction items which we got shortly after the last issue of FP went to press was lost. We don't recall whose it was, merely that WILD HAIR was one of the items bid upon; for that reason, we're not asterisking WH this time; please, whoever you are, bid again.

*SPACESHIP 21, donated by Lee Hoffman. Top bidder is Joseph Pate @ \$3.50.

*REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST VIII, 182pp from the pages of SPACEWAY. Robert Whitaker is the current high bidder at \$7.

*QUANDRY #13, donated by Dick Bergeron. Missing page 40, "A Dream," by David English. John D. Berry has bid \$7.50 for the issue.

*DON FORD'S TAFF REPORT, two volumes, published & donated by Lynn Hickman. Five copies are up for bids. We have bids from Joseph Pate (\$4.50), John Leavitt (\$4), Chester Lee (\$4), Richard Bergeron (\$3) and Arnie Katz (\$3).

*HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT: A TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY, published by Laney & Evans in 1943, donated by Dick Ellington. Chester Lee has bid \$3.

*PANIC BUTTON #6-15, donated by Dick Ellington. Current top bidder is Robert Whitaker, who has bid \$25 for the set.

*A COMPLETE set of LIGHTHOUSE (#1-15), more than 700pp of fine fannish material edited by Terry Carr and Pete Graham, donated by Richard Bergeron -- in mint condition. Robert Whitaker is high bidder, having offered \$40 for the set.

*UNKNOWN, March, 1939, Vol. 1, No. 1, donated by Forry Ackerman. In excellent condition; only minor rips along spine. Contains Eric Frank Russell's "Sinister Barrier." High bid is from rich brown @ \$10.

✓ *FEN CRITTUR COMICAL BOOKS, donated by Dick Bergeron, a Pogo takeoff written by Walt Willis and Bob Shaw in 1952. rich brown has bid \$2 for this.

✓ *QUANDRY #14, edited by Lee Hoffman and donated by her. This issue was the "Nola-Quandry" issue of sixth fandom's focal point fanzine. rich brown (is he in all the rooms?) has bid \$2 for the issue.

*SCIENCE FICTION FIVE-YEARLY #4, edited and donated by Lee Hoffman. Yes, rich brown has bid \$3 for the issue.

A complete file of SLANT, donated by BoSh. Richard Bergeron is the current high bidder at \$65.

FUTURIA FANTASIA #1, donated by Lee Hoffman. Gerry de la Ree has bid \$45.

Three copies of THE GOON GOES WEST, donated by F.M. & Elinor Busby. The top three bids are from Richard Bergeron (\$7), Chester Lee (\$6) and Robert Whitaker (\$6).

WILD HAIR #3, donated by Richard Bergeron. Contains Burbee's classic "I Was The Captain Of A Spaceship." In lieu of a lost bid, rich brown has bid \$5 for the issue.

TWO ORIGINAL Rotsler-Kirk collaborations, full page. Both of high fanzine quality, donated by the artists. Neither have been published. Linda Bushyager has bid \$5 for the two.

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #2, edited by Forry Ackerman and donated by him. Fair condition. Joe Staton has bid \$2 for the issue.

FANCIFUL TALES, Vol. 1, No. 1, Fall, 1936, edited by Don Wollheim, donated by Forry Ackerman. This rare old printed fmz contains material by Lovecraft, Wollheim, Rimel, Howard, Ackerman, Keller, Derleth, Sykora and Pritchard. Richard Bergeron has bid \$6 for the issue.

NEKROMANTIKON #1, edited by Manly Banister and donated by Dick Ellington. Famous printed/mimeographed fan-fiction fmz of the early 50s. rich brown has bid \$2.

FANTASY MAGAZINE, June, 1936, donated by Forry Ackerman. In excellent condition. The focal point fmz of its time; printed. Richard Bergeron has bid \$5 for the issue.

WARHOON #17, edited by Richard Bergeron, contributed by the editor. This issue has the editor on Pablo Picasso, Breen's Chicon II report, C. Wells on the art and craft of music & writing, Baxter on the sf scene from down under, J. Blish on criticism and some inside stuff on the writing of "A Case of Conscience," 22pp of letters, and Dick's SAPS mailing comments. Minimum bid: \$2.

THE WHITE SYBIL by Clark Ashton Smith b/w MEN OF AVALON by David H. Keller, donated by Forry Ackerman. Printed. Minimum bid: \$4.

UNKNOWN WORLDS, June, August, October 1943, sewn together, donated by Robert Whitaker. In very good condition, with only defects being small areas chipped on June and October covers. Minimum bid: \$3.50.

"THRU THE DRAGON GLASS" by A. Merrit, 24pp, donated by Forry Ackerman. Published by the ARRA printers in 1917. Excellently done. In mint condition. Minimum bid: \$4.

THREE pen & ink illustrations by Vincent Di Fate, contributed by the artist. One appeared in ANALOG (Aug. '70) entitled "Meet a Crazy Lady Week"; another, for the same story, was unpublished, and the third was shown at Eastercon 22. Minimum bid: \$2.

THE BOATS OF "GLEN CARRIG", book, by William Hope Hodgson, donated by Forry Ackerman. Second edition, 1920, poor spine. Minimum bid: \$2.

- 4 THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, donated by Andy Main. The set is complete for the better part of eight years, from the first issue in Fall, 1949, through March, 1958. 1959 is complete but the set has only eight issues between the beginning of 1960 and May, 1963. From May, 1963 to the end of 1968, only four issues are missing. Minimum bid on the set is \$50.

A BOOK OF WEIRD TALES #1, donated by Forry Ackerman. A British publication, not dated, in mint condition. Minimum bid: \$1

MIRACLE SCIENCE & FANTASY STORIES #2, June-July, 1931, donated by Forry Ackerman. Missing spine and back cover, otherwise in good shape. Minimum bid: \$2.

THE ARKHAM SAMPLER, Winter, 1949, donated by Forry Ackerman. In excellent condition. Considered rare. This was the All Science Fiction issue. Includes stories by Bradbury and Van Vogt, poems by Clark Ashton Smith and August Derleth, an article by SaM, reprints by Jules Verne, Peter Viereck, Regis Messac, and a symposium on the basic sf library by Ackerman, Bleiler, Keller, Merwin, P.S. Miller, Searles, Sturgeon, Van Vogt and Wandrei. Minimum bid: \$3.

WARHOON #15, edited and contributed by Dick Bergeron. This issue has Bergeron on a variety of subjects, V. Blish on "La Dolce Vita," Boggs on the Good Life, J. Blish on Who Killed SF, Willis on Irish Politics, Lowndes on the value of reader response to sf, Aldiss on the same subject as Lowndes, Nancy Rapp's takeoff on Bill Rotsler's Tattooed Dragon series, "The Tattered Dragon in a Strange Land," 24pp of letters, and Dick's SAPS mailing comments. Minimum bid: \$2.

EGOBOO POLL BALLOTS AGAIN We've decided to circulate the ballots for the Egoboo Poll again with this issue of FOCAL POINT. We're doing it because we hope the following installment of "The Infinite Beanie" will inspire even more votes than have come in already and because we can send out the ballot this issue without cutting into the usual serving of FP material or incurring additional postage. Response so far has been excellent. Ballots are coming in steadily and several other zines will be sending them out soon, too. If you haven't voted, consider this a second invitation to do so.

the infinite beanie

T E R R Y C A R R

Scenes from the Revolution. #27:

Well gee, Herbie, I don't know. I mean, I'm afraid it might hurt our relationship -- I mean, the purity of it.

No it won't. It's, you know, a way of sharing, on a whole new plane, and I think sharing's very important, don't you?

It would destroy your respect for me. You wouldn't respect me anymore.

Yes I would. Sure I would. Of course. Wow, why wouldn't I respect you?

Well, will you still love me?

Sure I will. Even more! I mean, love is really coming close to each other, you know, it's really knowing each other completely. And that's what this is. I mean, really getting into each other.

Really?

Yeah. Sure. Of course. Come on.

Well...okay. 4:30 a.m., November 9.

Scorpio? Wow, jeeze, Margot, that's pretty heavy. I mean, I donno, maybe we shouldn't...you know, maybe we should cool it a little....

Fanhistory Dept.:

The new Egoboo Poll that FOCAL POINT just sent out, with its questions about what were the ten best fanzines ever, and what ten BNF's would you pick for a Fan Hall of Fame, reminded me that one of the big projects that I started with great enthusiasm and did a lot on but never finished was a chart of the results of all fan polls I could find in my fanzine collection. As I say, I never finished compiling it, but what I did put together might be interesting to look over just as an indication of what people at the time seemed to think of the fanzines and BNF's that will be nominated for these sinecures. Like all fan polls, or any kind of poll, these polls give only an incomplete idea of what an incomplete number of fans thought, but they're interesting anyway.

The earliest poll I copied out that covered fans and fanzines was the Fourth BEOWULF Poll, conducted through the pages of BEOWULF by Gerry de la Ree. (Yes, the same Gerry de la Ree you know as a science fiction specialist dealer today.) Gerry had categories for Fans and Fanzines, and the results were as follow (the numbers in parentheses are points totals, not numbers of votes per se):

FANS	(Fall 1946)	FANZINES
1. Joe Kennedy (285)		1. VAMPIRE (422)
2. Forry Ackerman (278)		2. FANTASY COMMENTATOR (295)
3. Bob Tucker (268)		3. SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES (270)
4. Jack Speer (180)		4. THE SCIENTIFICTIONIST (234)
5. Francis T. Laney (178)		5. THE ACOLYTE (210)
6. Sam Moskowitz (176)		6. SUN SPOTS (178)
7. Gerry de la Ree (170)		7. THE STAR ROVER (176)
8. Walt Dunkelberger (157)		8. FANEWS (175)
9. E. Everett Evans (109)		9. VOM (165)
10. A. Langley Searles (82)		10. LE ZOMBIE (156)

In fairness I have to add that I think both VOM and LE ZOMBIE were at or near the ends of their runs; Ackerman and Tucker were better remembered as people than for their fanzines that year. Joe Kennedy and his fanzine VAMPIRE were both at the top of the poll, Laney was still known most for his sercon Lovecraftzine THE ACOLYTE. Sam Moskowitz was serializing THE IMMORTAL STORM in A. Langley Searles' FANTASY COMMENTATOR, and all of them benefited on the poll. The Shaggy that placed third was of course the incarnation under Burbee's editorship.

Joe Kennedy himself published the first FANTASY REVIEW in January 1946, in which he published the results of his own fan poll with detailed coverage of what each winner had done during the year; I revived the practice for FANAC's Fannishes, so if you've seen what they were like just imagine them being rather pale shadows of Kennedy's exhaustive and beautifully produced FANTASY REVIEWS. Kennedy had only one fan category his first year, Fan Journalist:

FAN JOURNALIST (January 1946)

1. Joe Kennedy (171)
2. Francis T. Laney (137)
3. Walt Dunkelberger (119)
4. A. Langley Searles (114)
5. Bob Tucker (101)
6. Sam Moskowitz (96)
7. Jack Speer (80)
8. Forry Ackerman (55)
9. Walt Leibscher (50)
10. Gerry de la Ree (47)

Kennedy published his second, and last, FANTASY REVIEW the next year, and this time he had three fan categories, Fanzines, Fan Clubs and Fan Journalists -- Kennedy excluded himself from the latter category, though he accepted votes for his fanzine VAMPIRE in the first one. The results were like this:

FAN JOURNALISTS (Jan. 1947) FANZINES

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Francis T. Laney (489) | 1. VAMPIRE (961) |
| 2. Sam Moskowitz (421) | 2. FANTASY COMMENTATOR (556) |
| 3. A. Langley Searles (311) | 3. THE SCIENTIFICTIONIST (415) |
| 4. Jack Speer (305) | 4. SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES (409) |
| 5. Henry Elsner, Jr. (277) | 5. THE ACOLYTE (397) |
| 6. Charles Burbee (270) | 6. FANEWS (180) |
| 7. Bob Tucker (190) | 7. FANTASY ADVERTISER (168) |
| 8. Gerry de la Ree (187) | 8. THE GROTESQUE (154) |
| 9. Forry Ackerman (162) | 9. SUN SPOTS (153) |
| 10. Lloyd Alpaugh, Jr. (115) | 10. STAR ROVER (133) |

FAN CLUBS

1. LASFS (443)
2. Philadelphia SF Society (361)
3. ESFA (227)
4. Queens SF League (78)
5. NFFF (69)

The name Henry Elsner, Jr., may be unfamiliar even to people who know some fan history, which just shows you how transitory is fannish fame. The #5 Fan in 1946, and how many today could match his name with the fanzine he published, in the second column? (Hint: It was THE SCIENTIFICTIONIST.) No doubt some of the other names are forgotten ones too: Ron Christensen published THE GROTESQUE, Van Splawn put out STAR ROVER, and the #10 Fan, Lloyd Alpaugh, Jr., was a leading light of the first year or two of SAPS, which had just begun when this poll came out. As for the fan clubs, LASFS has always outnumbered everybody else, ESFA had only just started at the time of the poll, and it was early enough in the annals of the N3F that it wasn't yet completely clear that the national organization that was suggested by Damon Knight would inevitably sink into the personification of a fan club run by Trekkie mentalities.

Putting together two thick FANTASY REVIEWS to serve as fan yearbooks climaxed, and pretty much finished, Joe Kennedy's fan-publishing career. The slack was taken up early in 1948 by Don Wilson and Howard Miller, coeditors of DREAM QUEST, who circulated a "Dreamland Opinionator Poll" that had categories for Fanzines, Fan Journalists, Fan Popularity, Fan Humorists, Fan Artists, Worst Fans and Best Fan Clubs. The number of fans voting in the poll was only 37, but when you consider that this was probably about 20% of fanzine fandom, the sample doesn't seem quite so ridiculous.

FAN JOURNALISTS (April 48) FANZINES

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Sam Moskowitz (50) | 1. THE GORGON (208) |
| 2. Joe Kennedy (47) | 2. DREAM QUEST (145) |
| 3. Don Wilson (43) | 3. FANTASY ADVERTISER (130) |
| 4. Redd Boggs (37) | 4. FANTASY COMMENTATOR (123) |
| 5. Jack Speer (23) | 5. FANDOM SPEAKS (117) |
| 6. Charles Burbee (22) | 6. SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES (86) |
| 7. Rex Ward (21) | 7a. TEMPANI (70) |
| 8. Stanley Mullen (17) | 7b. VAMPIRE (70) |
| 9. F. Towner Laney (14) | 8a. THE VORTEX (63) |
| 10. Forry Ackerman (12) | 8b. THE FANSCIENT (63) |

FAN POPULARITY

1. Joe Kennedy (64)
2. Forry Ackerman (58)
3. Charles Burbee (35)
4. Sam Moskowitz (32)
5. K. Martin Carlson (27)
6. Rex Ward (16)
7. Jack Speer (15)
8. Redd Boggs (14)
- 9a. Milt Rothman (13)
- 9b. Rick Sneary (13)

FAN CLUBS

1. Philadelphia SF Society (34)
2. Portland Science Fantasy Society (25)
3. ESFA (20)
4. NFFF (18)
- 5a. LASFS (12)
- 5b. Young Fandom (12)

WORST FANS

1. Forry Ackerman (37)
2. Sam Mason (29)
3. Elmer Perdue (18)
4. Robyn LeRoy (14)
5. E. Everett Evans (13)

FAN ARTISTS

1. John Cockcroft (84)
2. Howard Miller (47)
3. William Rotsler (38)
4. Roy Hunt (29)
5. Don Day (22)

FAN HUMORISTS

1. Joe Kennedy (85)
2. Charles Burbee (72)
3. Bob Tucker (36)
4. John Van Couvering (23)
5. Redd Boggs (19)

In the space of just 15 months, fandom being as cosmic as we know it to be, you can see the face of fandom changed since the last poll. LASFS has fallen from the heights to a tie for fifth place among fan clubs, and Forry Ackerman is both the second most popular fan and the #1 worst fan; these changes reflecting the bitter feuding that had broken out in LASFS between the Burbee-Laney Insurgents and the Ackerman-Evans orthodox LASFSians. (Of the five Worst Fans, three were members of LASFS; you've gotta figure there was some hard feeling in that club.) New names show up on the poll: Young Fandom and Rick Sneary, who'd just entered fandom and organized this first precursor of Apa-45; Bill Rotsler already a top fan artist 22 years ago; VAMPIRE fades from the top spot and Stan Mullen's THE GORGON takes its place; Don Day, his fanzine THE FANSCIENT and its sponsoring club in Portland all hit the poll. Rex Ward and the fanzine he coedited, FANDOM SPEAKS, both make it' (FANDOM SPEAKS was a letterzine that stepped in to fill the void left when VOM folded).

If you think the Hugo balloting for best fanzine is an unreliable barometer of quality, you should see THE VORTEX, which tied for eighth best fanzine then. It was a thick, professionally printed fanzine almost entirely filled with terrible amateur sf stories; its placing on this poll shows how impressed fans were with "prestige formats" at the time.

At the end of 1948 appeared by far the best fan yearbook ever done, FANTASY ANNUAL: Ackerman financed it, Don Wilson and Redd Boggs edited it and Boggs did a beautiful production job on it. Like the Kennedy yearbooks before it, it gave the results of a fan poll and wrote up the various aspects of fandom₁₉₄₈ at length, and

this time the fan categories easily outnumbered those for pro magazines, pro writers and pro stories:

FAN JOURNALISTS (Dec. 1948) FANZINES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Redd Boggs | 1. THE FANSCIENT (1017) |
| 2. Stanley Mullen | 2. DREAM QUEST (946) |
| 3. F. Towner Laney | 3. FANTASY COMMENTATOR (921) |
| 4. Don Wilson | 4. THE GORGON (906) |
| 5. Charles Burbee | 5. FANTASY ADVERTISER (906) |
| 6. A. Langley Searles | 6. CHRONOSCOPE (523) |
| 7. Art Rapp | 7. FANTASY REVIEW (481) |
| 8. Sam Moskowitz | 8. IF! (433) |
| 9. Don Day | 9. SCIENTIFANTASY (355) |
| 10. Joe Kennedy | 10. SKY HOOK (276) |

BEST FANS

1. Redd Boggs (172)
- 2a. Don Wilson (146)
- 2b. Rick Sneary (146)
3. Art Rapp (95)
4. Forry Ackerman (90)

WORST FANS

1. Paul D. Cox (83)
2. Bob Farnham (79)
3. Ray C. Higgs (67)
4. Vaughn Greene (57)
5. Edwin Sigler (56)

FAN ARTISTS

1. John Grossman (385)
2. William Rotsler (275)
3. D. Bruce Berry (253)
4. Howard Miller (244)
5. Don Day (167)

FAN CLUBS

1. FAPA (128)
2. NFFF (117)
3. Portland Science Fantasy Socy (81)
4. ESFA (59)
5. SAPS (57)

BEST FAN WRITER: Redd Boggs
BEST FAN CRITIC: Redd Boggs
BEST FAN FICTIONIST: Redd Boggs
BEST FAN HUMORIST: Joe Kennedy
BEST FAN EDITOR: Don Wilson
BEST FAN PUBLISHER: Stanley Mullen
BEST FAN ARTICLE WRITER: Sam Moskowitz

This was the end-of-the-year Dreamland Opinionator Poll, so it's not surprising to see Don Wilson, Howard Miller and DREAM QUEST high in the ratings. But notice the ascension of THE FANSCIENT to first place among the fanzines, and the continued strong showing of the sponsoring club, the Portland Science Fantasy Society, this year first among the local clubs. By the end of 1948 the PSFS had won the bid to host the 1949 world convention, with THE FANSCIENT's editor, Don Day, as chairman. Francis T. Laney has on the two Dreamland Opinionator Polls (it's the second one that's reported in the FANTASY ANNUAL) been transformed into F. Towner Laney: his sercon zine THE ACOLYTE died, but Towner now shines as an Insurgent, especially with the publication of AH! SWEET IDIOCY. The FANTASY REVIEW that placed 7th among the fanzines isn't the one Joe Kennedy had published, but rather Walter Gillings' British sf news and reviews fanzine.

Yes, if you thought the #3 fan artist sounded familiar, that was the same D. Bruce Berry who in 1962 published A TRIP TO HELL, a notorious document in the annals of fan paranoia. In 1948 Berry was just a good fan artist, though, distinguished like John Grossman and several others for his meticulous pen techniques, all derived from Virgil Finlay. As for those five Worst Fans, I don't know offhand what fannish atrocities Bob Farnham and Ray Higgs committed that year, but Paul Cox and Edwin Sigler were both rabid racists, and Vaughn Greene wrote a devil's-advocate article in defense of benevolent dictatorship that caused quite a storm.

After the 1948 FANTASY ANNUAL I don't have any record of a major or even minor fan poll till 1954, when Pete Vorzimer called for a poll of the best fanzines, in the pages of his ABSTRACT. He published results in June and September 1954, as follow:

JUNE 1954

1. SKY HOOK
2. PSYCHOTIC
3. INSIDE
4. ABSTRACT
5. OOPSLA!
6. SPACESHIP
7. HYPHEN
8. PEON
9. DESTINY
10. SF ADVERTISER

SEPTEMBER 1954

1. PSYCHOTIC (1313)
2. HYPHEN (1295)
3. OOPSLA! (1226)
4. GRUE (901)
5. ABSTRACT (896)
6. SKY HOOK
7. PEON
8. DIMENSIONS
9. SCIENCE FICTION ADVERTISER
10. DESTINY

While the ABSTRACT poll was going on, Charles Wells announced in his newszine GREY that he would hold a complementary poll, and invited lists of favorite fanzines, but I can't find any publication of his results in any of his fanzines of the period. And after that, as far as I know, there was nothing done till the FANAC Polls covering 1958, 1959 and 1960, whose results went like this:

<u>1958</u>	<u>FANZINES</u> <u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
1. FANAC (302)	1. FANAC (729)	1. HABAKKUK (635)
2. HYPHEN (261)	2. CRY OF THE	2. FANAC (576)
3. INNUENDO (187)	NAMELESS (584)	3. CRY OF THE
4. RETRIBUTION (172)	3. SHANGRI-	NAMELESS (534)
5. OOPSLA! (159)	L'AFFAIRES (473)	4. RETROGRADE/DIS-
6. GRUE (143)	4. APORRHETA (438)	CORD (372)
7. APORRHETA (112)	5. OOPSLA! (416)	5. INNUENDO (338)
8. CRY OF THE	6. HYPHEN (320)	6. YANDRO (327)
NAMELESS (106)	7. INNUENDO (315)	7. SHANGRI-
9. INSIDE (98)	8. YANDRO (272)	L'AFFAIRES (320)
10. TWIG (91)	9. JD-ARGASSY (239)	8. VOID (270)
	10. TWIG (211)	9. HYPHEN (247)
		10. WARHOON (199)

These were the big years of what Ted White has termed Eighth Fandom or the true Seventh Fandom, I forget which. Just a glance at the fanzines represented on the poll will probably trigger ancestral memories in today's fans: this was the period people mean when they

talk about fannishness. Yet even in this period more science fictionally oriented fanmags like INSIDE, TWIG, JD-ARGASSY and especially YANDRO made the polls. The only notable indications of changes going on in fandom are the placings of HABAKKUK, Boggs' RETROGRADE later DISCORD, and WARHOON: all these were at the time called "New Wave" fanzines or "discussionzines," being devoted more to talking about philosophy and politics than to either science fiction or fannishness. A year or two after the last FANAC Poll fannish fanzines had mostly all disappeared, and curiously so had most of the discussionzines: fandom began the return to preoccupation with science fiction that's characterized it in recent years.

Here are the rest of the categories on the three FANAC Polls:

FAN ARTISTS		
<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
1. Dan Adkins (64)	1. George Barr (151)	1. George Barr (181)
2. Arthur Thomson (40)	2. Dan Adkins (93)	2. Bjo (94)
3. Bjo (32)	3. Bjo (78)	3. Arthur Thomson (62)
4. Bill Rotsler (23)	4. Arthur Thomson (73)	4. Dave Prosser (54)
5. Eddie Jones (13)	5. Jim Cawthorn (55)	5. Dan Adkins (40)
FAN CARTOONISTS		
<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
1. Atom (96)	1. Atom (238)	1. Ray Nelson (161)
2. Bjo (64)	2. Bjo (171)	2. Bjo (158)
3. Bill Rotsler (60)	3. Bill Rotsler (121)	3. Atom (140)
4. Ray Nelson (27)	4. Ray Nelson (69)	4. Rotsler (68)
		5. Les Nirenberg (46)
FAN WRITERS		
<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
1. John Berry (98)	1. John Berry (276)	1. Terry Carr (224)
2. Walt Willis (71)	2. Terry Carr (220)	2. Harry Warner (196)
3. Bob Bloch (65)	3. Harry Warner (185)	3. Walt Willis (165)
4. Terry Carr (58)	4. Walt Willis (129)	4. John Berry (152)
5. Carl Brandon (44)	5. Dean Grennell (95)	5. Redd Boggs (104)
6. Dean Grennell (39)	6. Bob Leman (90)	6. Bob Tucker (67)
7. Harry Warner (38)	7. Bob Bloch (76)	7. Grennell (50)
8. Bob Leman (32)	8. Ron Ellik (71)	8. Ron Ellik (49)
9. Ron Ellik (30)	9. Bob Tucker (36)	9. Bob Leman (48)
10. Bob Tucker (15)	10. Wally Weber (34)	10. F.M. Busby (41)
BEST FAN COLUMNS		
<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
1a. THE HARP THAT ONCE OR TWICE by Willis	1a. THE HARP THAT ONCE OR TWICE by Willis	1. FANDOM HARVEST by Terry Carr
1b. THE S-F FIELD PLOWED UNDER by F.M. Busby	1b. THE S-F FIELD PLOWED UNDER by F.M. Busby	2. PLINTH by Walt Willis

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. THE GLASS BUSHEL
by Bob Shaw | 2. THE SQUIRREL CAGE
by Ron Ellik | 3. THE SQUIRREL
CAGE by Ellik |
| 3a. THE SKEPTIC TANK
by Dean Grennell | 3. FANDOM HARVEST
by Terry Carr | 4. ALL OUR YESTER-
DAYS by Warner |
| 3b. INCHMERY FAN
DIARY by Sandy
Sanderson | 4. INCHMERY FAN DIARY
by Sandy Sanderson | 5. THE S-F FIELD
PLOWED UNDER/
WITH KEEN BLUE
EYES AND A
BICYCLE by
F.M. Busby |
| | 5. OPERE CITATO by
Harry Warner | |

BEST NEW FANS

1959

1960

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Les Nirenberg (58) | 1a. Andy Main (47) |
| 2. George Locke (31) | 1b. Walter Breen (47) |
| 3. Bob Lichtman (24) | 2. Ruth Berman (14) |
| 4. Ella Parker (13) | 3. Jeff Wanshel (12) |
| 5. Don Franson (12) | |

TOP FAN FACES

1959

1960

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. John Berry (152) | 1. Terry Carr (68 1/2) |
| 2. Terry Carr (73) | 2. Bjo (55) |
| 3. Bjo (66) | 3. Earl Kemp (47) |
| 4. Ron Ellik (43) | 4. Richard Eney (43) |
| 5. Richard Eney (35) | 5. Ron Ellik (41) |

FUGGHEAD OF THE YEAR
(1959)

G. M. Carr

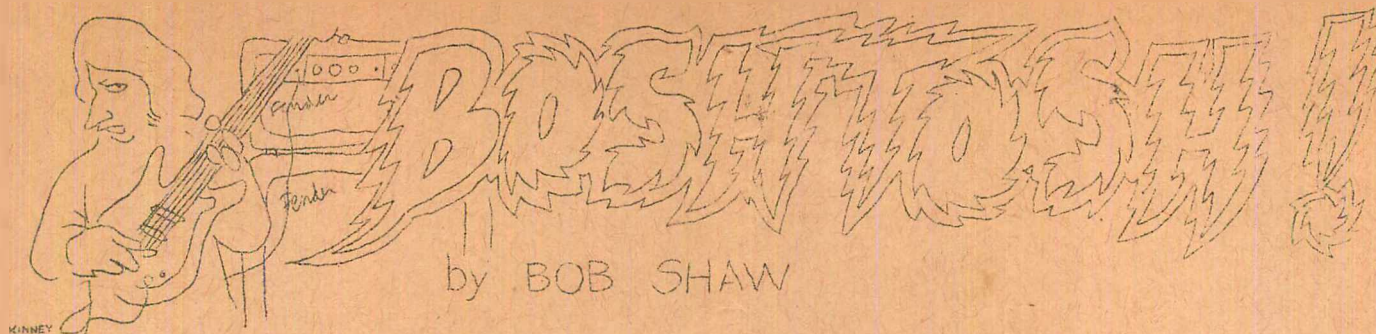
MOST OVERRATED FAN WRITER
(1960)

John Berry

Hi there, you still awake? Looks like I did more research on this than I'd thought; I sure didn't expect it to go on this long. Anyway, there it all is: a patchwork panorama of fandom past, the names of those who strutted their brief hour on the stage and are now much forgot. With certain notable exceptions, of course: Bob Tucker and his fanzine LE ZOMBIE show up on that first poll back in ought-46, and just this past year he picked up a Hugo as our best fan writer; Redd Boggs was all over the poll results in 1948, not only as a writer but also as publisher of three of the fanzines in those top tens, TYMPANI, CHRONOSCOPE and SKY HOOK, and then there he is again on the 1960 poll with RETROGRADE which changed its name to DISCORD; Bill Rotsler turns up on the polls for 1948 and he's still going strong, better than ever.

Save this issue of FOCAL POINT. When the results of the Fan Hall of Fame polling are announced in April, get this issue out and check the standings of the old-timers in their own day. There ought to be all manner of opportunities to practice your fansmanship.

"Oh, HYPHEN was a good fanzine, but you know, it never could beat PSYCHOTIC." "Of course I enjoy browsing through things by Burbee and Laney, but you've got to remember that Stanley Mullen was better thought of at the time." "Tucker? -- of course I remember him. But how bout that ole Hank Elsner, Jr., eh?"



The other night, while trying to do some work on a book, I made the mistake of opening the bottom left-hand drawer of my desk. This is where I keep old manuscripts -- all kinds of bits and pieces that somehow never got finished, literary foetuses which will never see the light of day -- and looking at them never fails to bring on an attack of melancholia. This time I discovered a fragment which I had absolutely no recollection of writing, but which must have been done shortly after reading Daphne du-Maurier's Rebecca. There was just one page, headed "Linda" and it read:

Last night I dreamed of Slanmanor again. And as I dreamed all the haunting strangeness of those autumn days, when Smedley took me there as his bride, returned with undiminished force. Once more I seemed to walk up the twisting, sheltered paths to the house; that grey sentient house which seemed to mourn and, during the long night, sigh for Linda.

The cold September rain was drumming loudly on the roof of our Humber the evening that Smedley and I arrived back in England, honeymoon ended. The drive down from London had tired me more than a little and Smedley was trying to cheer me up as we neared Slanmanor.

"Cheer up, darling," he said, "in the morning, after a good night's rest, you'll feel as right as rain. Or should I say, as no rain. Haw, haw, haw. Pretty good one, that. I'll use it in my next editorial.

I smiled fondly at Smedley. It was not hard to see why the once renowned Fanmanor Burblings had dropped in the fanzine polls since Linda had so suddenly and mysteriously disappeared.

Smedley glanced at me. "Enjoyed that little witticism, dis you? If only you could have heard Linda put a joke over...but then, nobody could joke or pun like Linda." His eyes reflected the dark, streaming windscreen of the car and I knew, with a coldness inside me, that for Smedley --- Linda was still alive.

I remained quiet until we reached Slanmanor and sprinted up the time-sagged stone steps into the great hall.

That's all there was. One page of a fannish parody of Rebecca which I must have launched into in a fit of enthusiasm some forgotten evening more than a decade ago, and for which--knowing the way I work--I must have had a plot and a suitable case of characters. All of it is completely lost to me now, another victim of the fatal weakness which leads me to start things and leave them unfinished. Plunged into a deep gloom I flicked through other yellowed pages and found a two-page effort which looked comparatively recent. Could it be a complete little article I had forgotten to offer to a fan-ed? I read it eagerly:

The death of Richmal Crompton earlier this year hurt me, and millions of other

Anglo-Irish, like the loss of a friend.

I doubt if her name would be known in the States---I imagine that, like Guinness, she wouldn't ravel well---but as a boy I actually looked forward to the next illness because it meant my mother would get me the latest William book to read in bed. And no matter how frequently the illnesses would occur (I was prone to bouts of influenza triggered by falling into the local river while fishing) there would always be a new book available because Richmal Crompton knocked out about fifty of them during her career.

William Brown, the hero of all the books, was eleven in the prohibition era, and hadn't aged a day when he made his final appearance last year. He lived in a small village two hours from London, in a middle-class home, with his parents and an older brother and sister. I never discovered the name of the village, but I knew all its shops, prominent families and environs better than I knew those of Belfast. William and three other boys--Ginger, Henry and Douglas--made up a gang, the Outlaws, who adventured for over forty years, their youth miraculously preserved by a diet of Pontefract cakes, ice cream, and a potion of their own devising called liquorice water.

As I got older, my fanatical devotion to William faded away but I retained a grateful affection for his creator---even though I slowly began to see her through different eyes. Richmal Crompton had fixed views on most subjects and she never hesitated to pass them on to her public, which consisted of entire generations in their most impressionable years. She did so by using William as a mouthpiece and by not-too-subtle editorialising. Through her I learned that domestic servants (the Browns had a cook and a gardener), postmen, shopkeepers, transport employees, etc, are members of an inferior species who invariably say "nuffink" in place of "nothing", live in mean cottages, and exhibit a surly resentment towards their betters. The war brought no (break in narrative here)

But if the lower orders were objectionable, they had at least the excuse of not knowing any better. Richmal Crompton's special scorn was reserved for members of her own, and William's, class who had allowed themselves unaccountably to be tainted by Leftist politics, or an interest in the arts, science, philosophy, social reform, travel outside England, the cinema, prison reform... The list was a lengthy one. Art was an especially dangerous pursuit in her view, possessing the power to make men effeminate and women masculine. The following description of an artist and his wife is completely typical:

"insert quote here"

I see my own children reading William books now, but I don't interfere, partly because I wouldn't deny them the pleasure which meant so much to me, partly because Richmal Crompton had her good points. She understood children, and her vision of boyhood--idealistic though it was--couldn't have endured so long without merit and magic. Also she was supremely innocent. Nobody else I know of would have abbreviated "couldn't" to, as she always did, "cu'n't". (In his The Thin Red Line, James Jones uses all the other swear words with monotonous frequency, but in the single instance

That's all there was of that one, but it seemed more hopeful even though I had forgotten what point I was going to make about Jones. I remembered that I had gone through a couple of old William books and selected some good passages. This piece of writing could be saved. It had the makings of an article...

At that point I recalled that I had not marked the passages I needed and that the books had been thrown out anyway a few months earlier. More carelessness. More

inexcusable waste of time and effort. What else was in there? Half a radio play, one page of a television play, three chapters of an unfinished novel about Belfast...Reading through them took most of my allotted working time for that evening and the consequent urge to drink several glasses of whisky took care of the rest.

Next morning I found the old manuscripts sitting on my desk and gathered them up with the intention of throwing them in the bin. But I weakened and put them back in the drawer. Some day, I told myself, they might come in handy.

It isn't all negation and self-reproach in the Shaw household, however. At the moment I'm congratulating myself on having successfully launched a brand new Belfast fan group which has about ten members up to the present. The new group is coexistent with the old Irish Fandom, but organised along different lines.

It came about when James White and I got the feeling that we ought perhaps to get some new blood into Irish Fandom. The IF system is one of rotational meetings in members' houses, but as this wouldn't work out too well for a larger group we decided to emulate the old London Circle idea of meeting in a pub. We selected a place called White's Tavern, an olde worlde place which unfortunately has no connection with James, otherwise we might get cheaper drinks. I contacted the columnists in the local papers and they obligingly put in large pieces about the proposed club. These yielded precisely one new fan, by the name of Ed Dilworth, but Ed has a true fannish genius which makes him worth a dozen. He got the idea of putting up notices in Smithfield bookshop, which is one of the principal outlets for science fiction in Northern Ireland.

This brainwave has brought in a steady trickle of fannish types, all of whom had been living in the wilderness for years. Among the names which you may hear more of in fanzines are Frank McKeever, Jim Lavery, Rodney Beck and Tommy McDermott. Ed Dilworth in particular has superhuman powers--he works in the office of a big fruit and vegetable importer and when he decides to send messages to other club members the good word arrives on five-ton lorries full of potatoes and turnips.

We all meet in White's Tavern every Thursday night, and George Charters sometimes drops in to be venerated. There has even been some loose talk of putting on a convention. The thing that awes me about these people is that with no contact with fandom they have, nonetheless, managed to develop in the true fannish tradition. They also know far more about science fiction than I ever will. It was Ed Dilworth, for example, who explained to me where Warhoon had derived its name.

My display of ignorance over the matter nearly got me drummed out of the club...

-- Bob Shaw

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