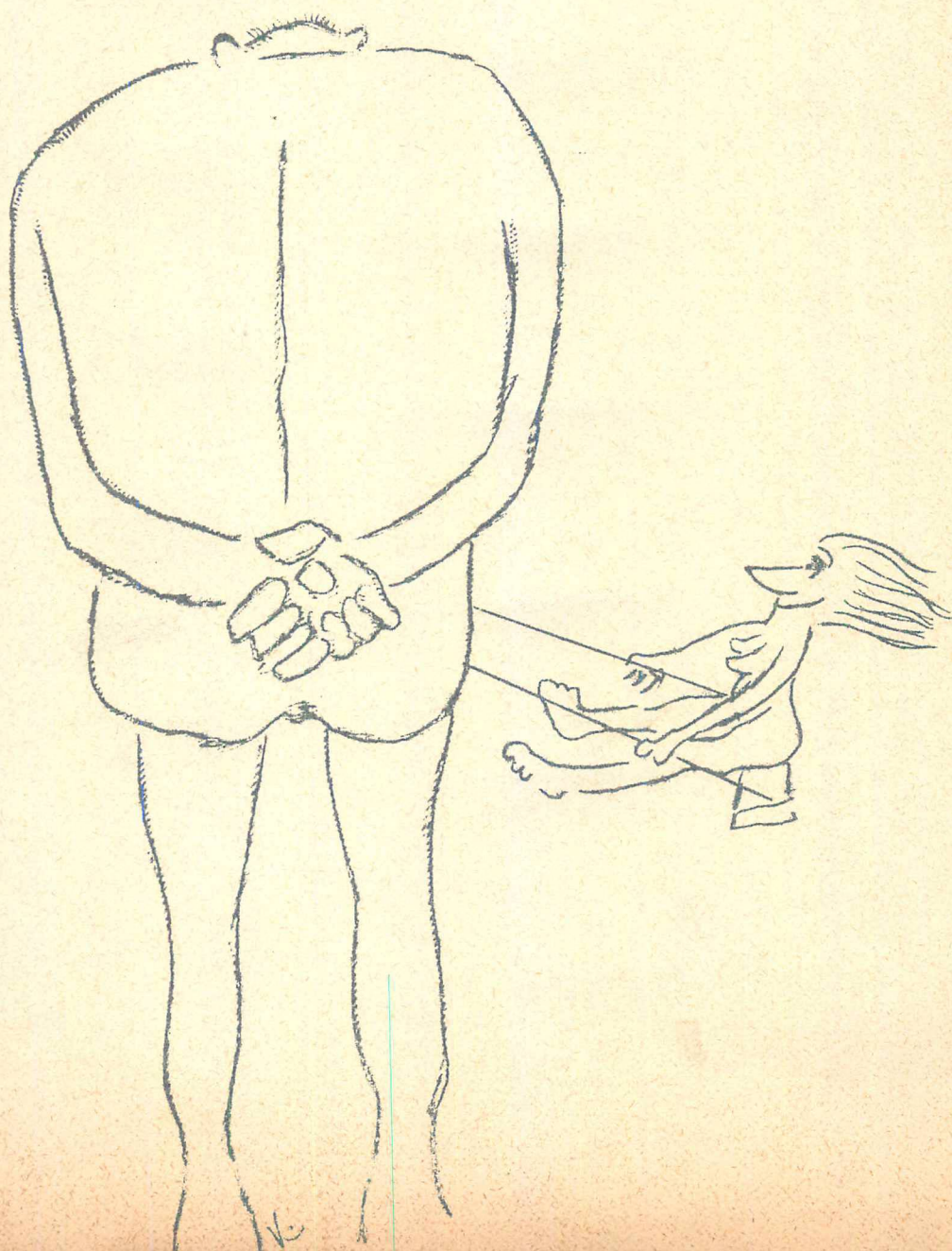


HECK MECK 24



THIS
IS

HECKMECK 24

FROM MANFRED KAGE & MARIO KWIAT

JAN 1970

english edition
200 x

Hello Fans,

here we are again. It took us quite a while to bring another issue of HECKMECK on the market - as usual might some of you add (I couldn't even blame them for it), or perhaps some might say: " What a pity, they've made it again! "

By the way, I couldn't blame them for it either. But to publish such a fanzine is quite difficult sometimes. To type on stencils I can only use the typewriter in my office (my private owned Typewriter isn't good for this kind of typing) and I always have to be careful that nobody minds my private work during duty hours. Furthermore we have a lot of mail to be sent back and forth between Kwiat and me - I have mentioned already that he lives in quite a distance from Schaesberg and that we haven't much chance to see each other. He is doing the printing under the same circumstances as I do my typing (in duty hours only). All this takes a lot of time. Besides there still is the language barrier and the money needed to pay the postage rates, paper, stencils etc. And we both aren't what one could call rich. Since I furthermore have to spend a lot of time for my HEICON '70 work (and not only time) you might understand why we are not able to bother you more often with our poor product.

It is just an explanation - no complaint!

We both believe in the chance International Fandom offers to our hobby if it grows strong enough to be more considerable one day. Therefore we are glad if we can help a little bit to reach this goal - and we suppose that even HECKMECK is better than nothing and is at least doing no harm in this respect.

Before you have this in hand it will already be the year 1970.

I am sorry that we are too late with best wishes but I still hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I wish you all possible success in your family, your job or your hobby. May you have all the success you dream of!

Manfred Kage

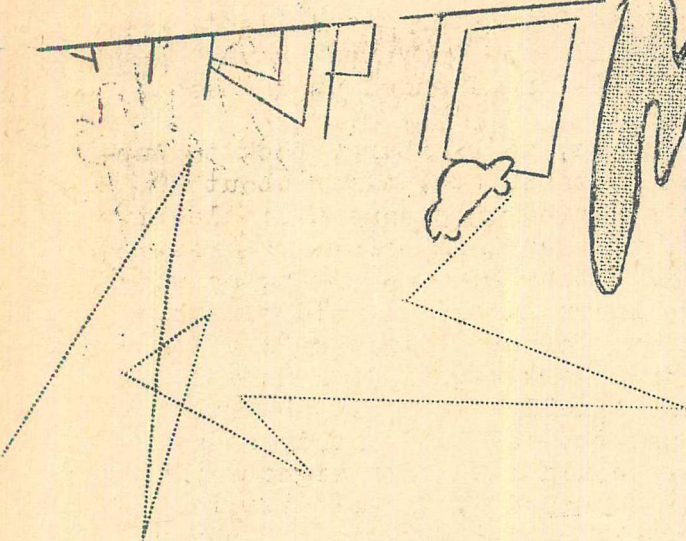
CHANGE OF ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESS -

Please note that Jean Muggoah and Daphne Sewell live at Clydfan, Bridge Street, Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire, U.K. now!

Please note again that all letters - fanzines - bombs - grenades - requests for autographs (hi-hi) - and all other tokens of interest should be

send to

MANFRED KAGE
SCHAESBERG (L)
ACHTER DEN WINKEL 41
NETHERLANDS



MÜNSTER

page 2

This is no conreport!

It all started real innocent with a call from Mario Kwiat asking us (my wife and me) if we would like to pay a visit in Münster. Very few people should be there also and all we would have to do is chatting about everybody and everything. Well, we agreed (because we aren't able to look in the future).

In the meantime I received a letter from Mrs. Osterrath (French well-known fanzine publisher and HEICON representative) that the Rumanian writer Hobana was coming to Germany with some official delegation and that he wanted to talk to Mario Bosnyak and me about HEICON '70. I thought it would be a splendid idea to have him in Münster as well and wrote this to Mrs. Osterrath. A long silence followed. Thursday before the weekend in question I received a phone call from Mario B. telling me that he had received a phone call from Mario K. that he has received a phone call from some hotel in Munich telling him that a certain Mr. Hobana will arrive at Düsseldorf airport Friday 2100 hours and wants to be picked up over there. But that Hobana speaks French only.

Are you confused already? Wait if I go on.

Mario B. and I agreed that he will go to Düsseldorf, stay there over night and bring Hobana to Münster next morning. By the way, Mrs. Osterrath, Mrs. Auler (Molly) and Mario B. were invited also. Short time later (while I wasn't in the house) my wife received a phone call from Mario B. that he had called Molly to inform her about the whole thing. She told him that he forgot an important visitor supposed to be in Friday night (she was with her family in Wuppertal. I believe it was Wuppertal) and that he couldn't go to Düsseldorf. Furthermore Mario B. had the information that due to some kind of industries fair there were no rooms available in Düsseldorf anymore (some secret enemy must have done this to increase difficulties). Before he gave me this result a lot of phone calls took place among Mario K., Mrs. Osterrath and him. Well, I finally agreed to leave Friday night and to pick up Mrs. Osterrath (because I cannot speak French) and Mr. Hobana on my way to Münster at Düsseldorf airport.

You are still not confused yet, are you? And that's when all the trouble began.

Surprisingly I made it in time for the airport on Friday night although I had to drive through almost all of the city (Why surprisingly? Wait and you'll see). We indeed met Mrs. Osterrath

and Mr. Hobana (all right, it took us 30 minutes) and light-hearted we started for Münster. Meanwhile somebody must have camouflaged the right way in Düsseldorf- and I ended up in Essen. From now on you need a map of Germany!

I remember that I sometimes was on my way to Duisburg, back to Wuppertal, passed Mülheim, went on to Dortmund etc. After about 90 minutes driving around my passengers seemed to become a little bit nervous (my wife started to become nervous long before the rest did - no wonder, she knows me!) and Hobana kept on asking me where we're at. Well, if only I would have known myself. I told him that I wanted to show him part of the area. Perhaps this wasn't a too good evasion at around 2300 hours in a dark night. Obviously I failed to console him. Thanks heaven, finally I did hit the right highway by chance. On my way to Münster I went. Everybody seemed to be satisfied this time because we could read road signs saying to Münster 150 kilometers (around 100 miles). My wife started telling me that I should prepare myself better next time (before she didn't dare doing it because she thought I would blow off the top). Inside I agreed - but I certainly started to argue. Who is willing to take this? I told them that I know my way to Münster exactly now and I pointed out that I was supposed to know because of being a heavy truck driver for a period of six months in the area in question. I really was after leaving the Navy and before hiring in the Bundeswehr. This last argument seemed to convince everybody - naive as they were.

Mrs. Osterrath and Mr. Hobana started chatting in French again and everything seemed fine. It was - until I noticed that there were no more road signs showing Münster after we had passed a highway diversion about 30 minutes ago. And I still was on the highway to Hannover this time, very close to Bielefeld as I could see on another road sign. I got off the highway, stopped and looked on my map (I should have done this earlier).

Yes, friends, you are right! Wrong highway again. Can you imagine how I felt? At almost 0200 hours at night, way off Münster, my wife just ready to burst into tears, Mr. Hobana with the imagination that I want to kidnap him (he didn't say a word. But I suppose he must have had this imagination), Mrs. Osterrath saying no word because she was afraid I might explode and chop my car (as she told me later on), and - to make an evil worse - we all could see on my fuel gauge that I was running out of gas. And I had not seen a fuel station in the last 30 minutes.

What a lovely night!

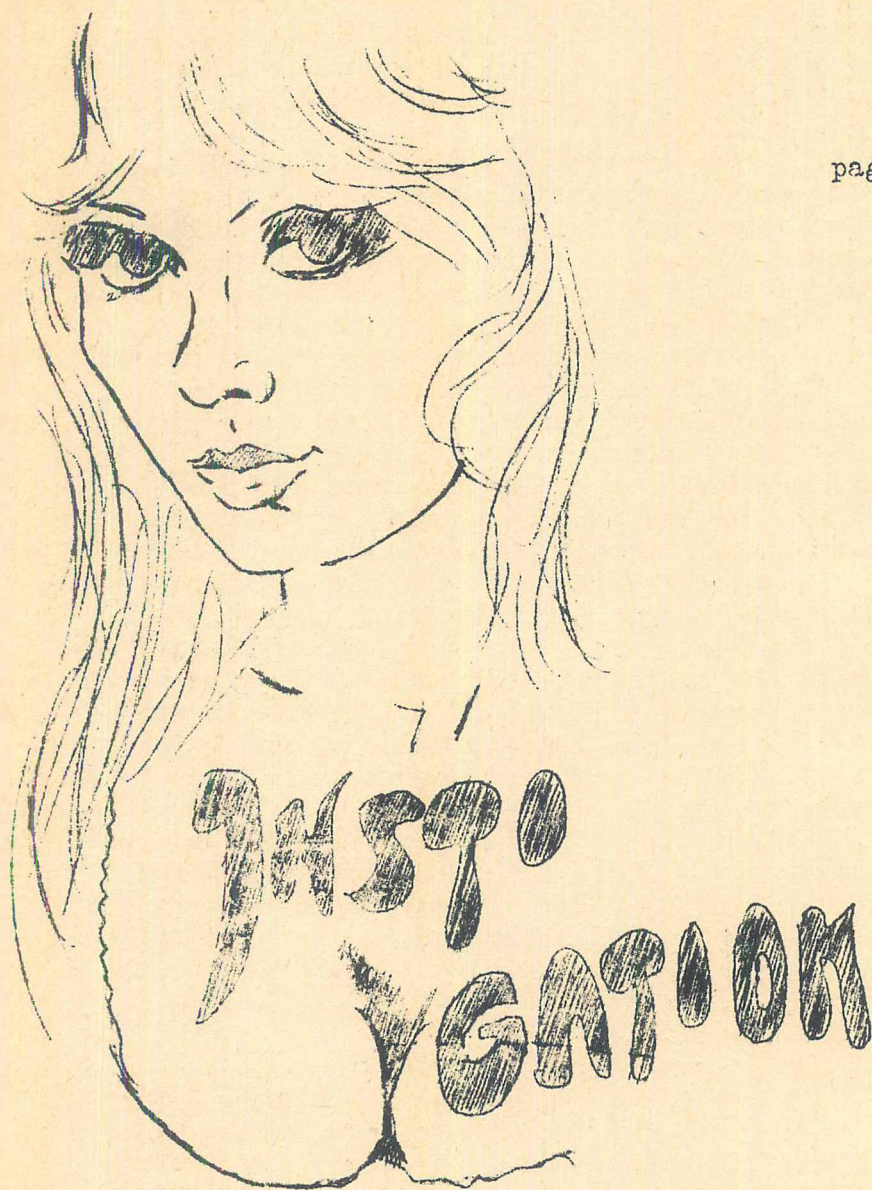
Well, I finally made it back to the highway diversion, there I found an open fuel station, and (although you might not believe it) arrived in Münster around 0300 hours in the morning, I believe. After asking a police officer in a police station for Hobana's hotel (he had booked a room) we even found this hotel, had dropped Mrs. Osterrath at her hotel already - and arrived at the Kwiat's. Folks, was I glad.

We all spent a nice Saturday and part of the Sunday in Münster. We talked a lot about HEICON and had a lot of fun. Sunday night I even arrived back in Schaesberg without more complications.

Do you now understand why I don't want to add another mini-conrep to this. Two pages is enough.

I just hope nobody is calling me Odysseus from now on.

Manfred Kage

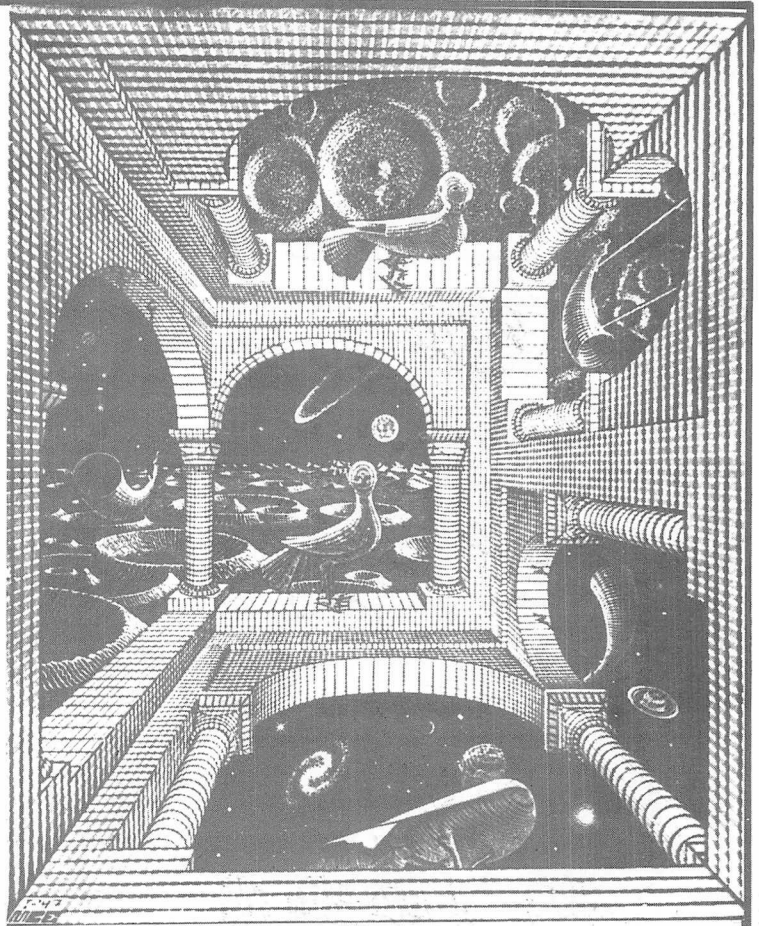
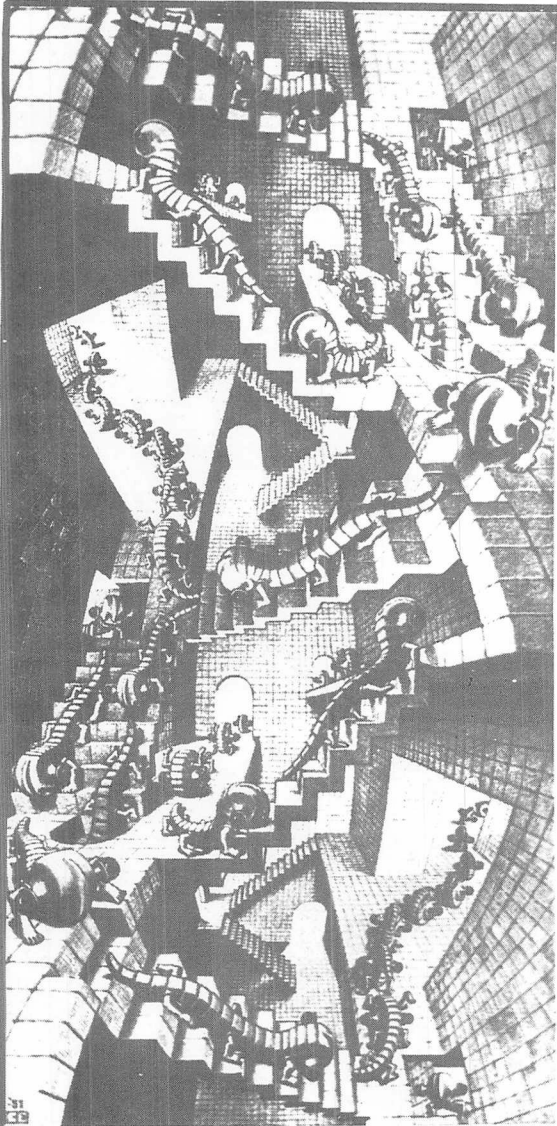


L' Ange Jacque 4, English, Ed Reed, 668 Westover Rd. Stamford,
Conn. 06902, USA

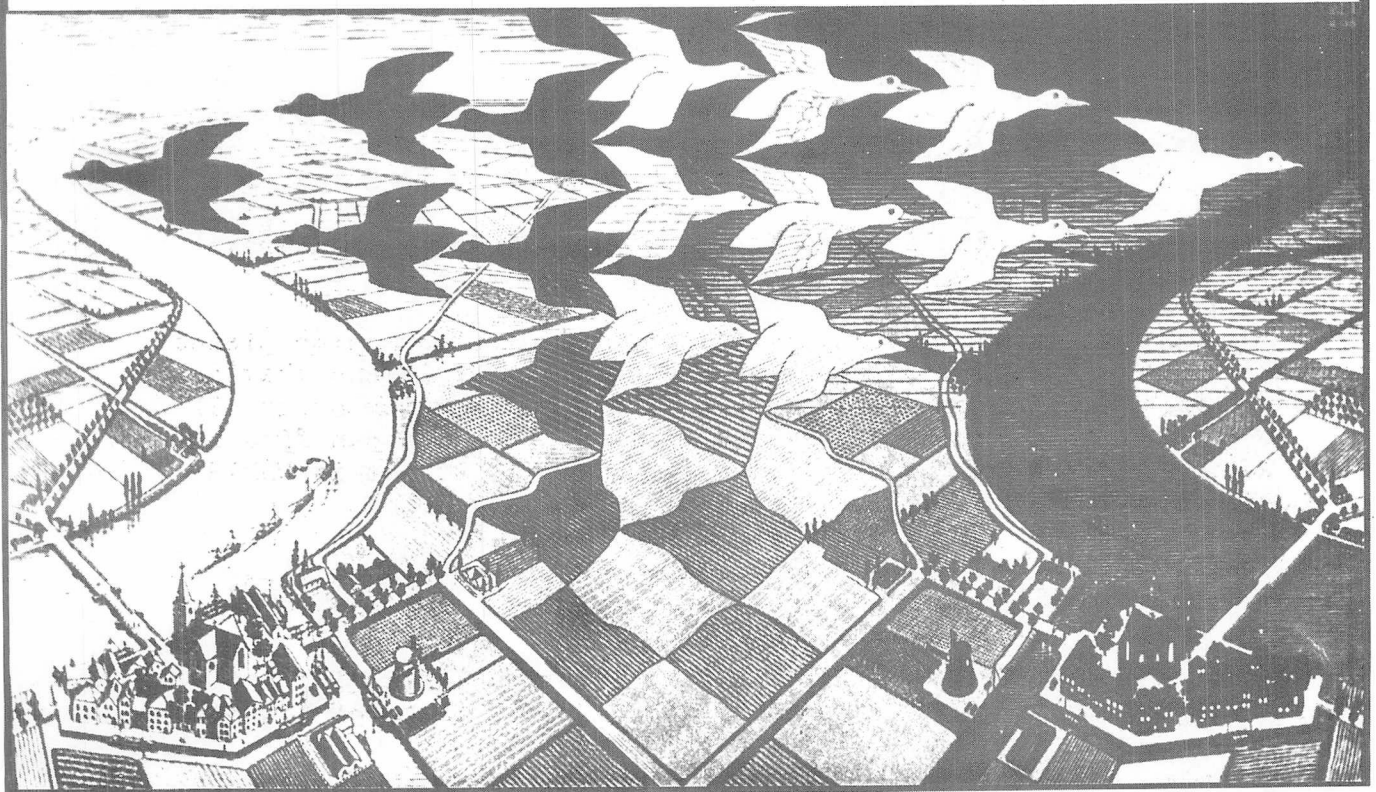
Very nice fanzine with a lot of different items. Very nice pieces
of art in it too. I really enjoyed reading all of it and that's
why I am not going to give you more inside information on it. If
you could read about all these interesting items one can find in
L'AJ in HECKMECK, you wouldn't try to buy L'AJ. And it is WORTH
buying it!

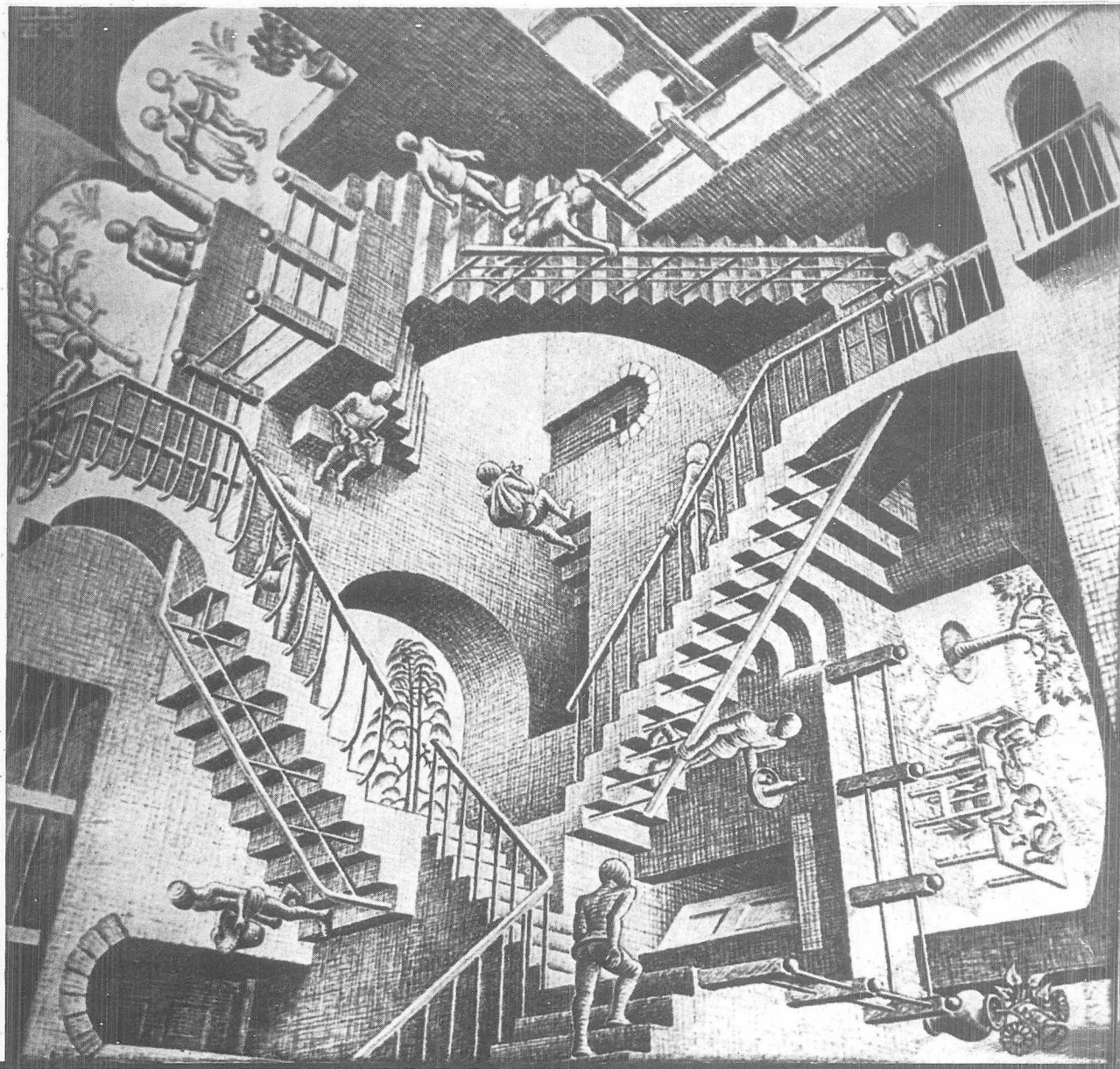
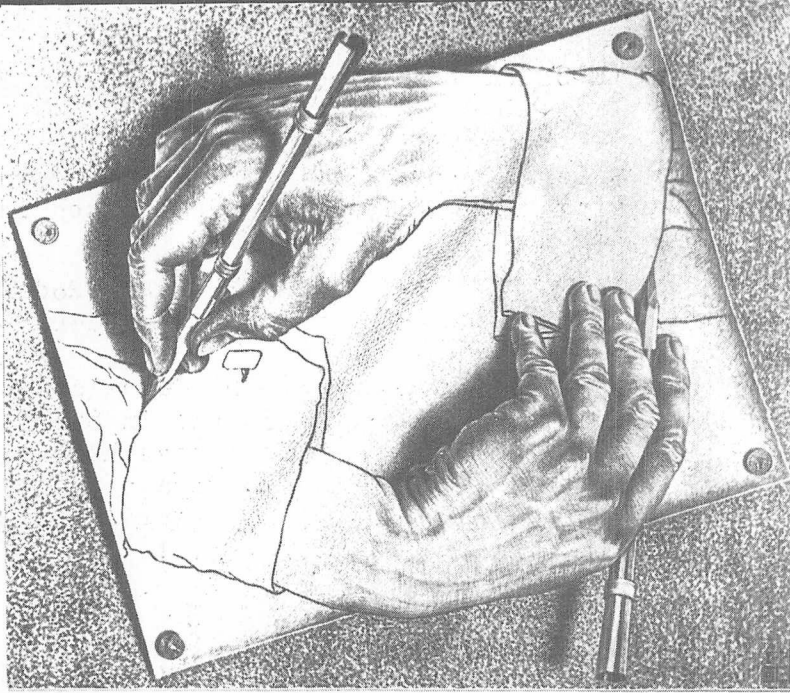
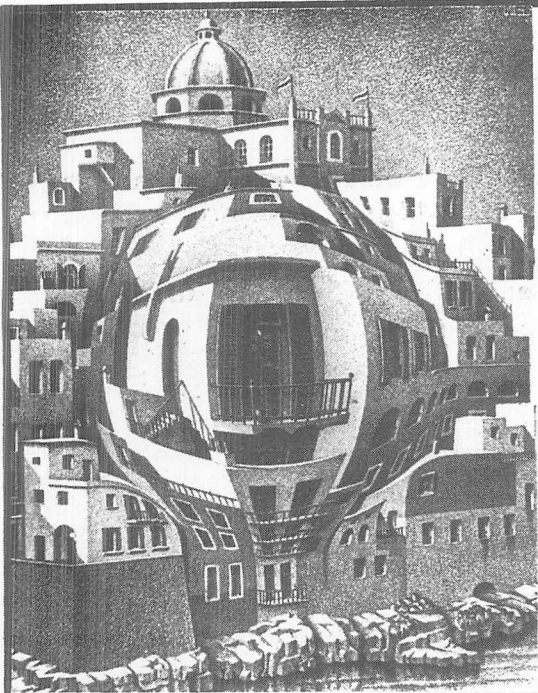
LOCUS 36, English, Charlie and Marsha Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave.,
Bronx, N.Y. 10457, USA

is a very interesting news-fanzine. It offers a lot of fanzine re-
views and news about SF magazines - among other items of interest.



M. C. Escher





LE SAC A CHARBON, French, Michel Feron, 7 Grand Place, Hannut,
Belgium

offers fanzine reviews of 192 international fanzines. Very interesting for those who are interested in international fandom.

AD INFINITUM 4, Spanish, Angel Rodriguez Meton, Navas de Tolose,
Barcelona - 13, Spain

This is a fanzine of the Circulo de Lectores de Anticipacione. Although this edition is all in Spanish they as well produce an English edition. The one I have here offers nine quite good stories to its readers. On the last page one can see four photos of the staff (I suppose). All of them wearing HEICON-Badges. All, but one - our foreign agent! Oh, Lord...!

MOR-FARCH 3, English, Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol
BS 4 5 DZ, U.K.

Good news-fanzine with a couple interesting views on folk song and record reviews. Furthermore one can read book reviews and a few words about interesting British fans who are introduced to the readers.

KRUMMHORN, English, Peter Roberts, see above

offers a lot of interesting LoCs on MOR-FARCH.

Checkpoint ? , English, Peter Roberts, see above

Well, Peter is really active in producing fanzines. In here he is reviewing fanzines from Australia, Britain, Germany, USA. Very interesting.

Forum International 1, English, Per Insulander, Midsommarvägen 33,
S-126 35, Hägersten, Sweden

The first Swedish fanzine of nowadays which is written in English completely. Very interesting items, for example one can read reviews on magazines, interviews with Hohn Sladek and John Brunner. Furthermore they offer a partial bibliography of Roger Zelazny, and a lot of other items too.

THE LOWDOWN II, English, Richard Labonte, 971 Walkley Road, Ottawa
8, Ontario, Canada

is offering reviews and comments on the nominees in the ten Hugo categories. Very interesting for me.

SF - nytt 30, Swedish, Sam J. Lundwall, Larsbergsvägen 46, 181 38
Lidingö, Sweden

Godd news-zine with a report of the GALACTIC FAIR 69 in Oxford - and

a lot of other items. Among these book reviews of Swedish and English SF books. More books are mentioned but not reviewed.

No. 29 of the above mentioned fanzine offers a biography of Robert Sheckley among a lot of items. Fanzine reviews, book reviews, advertising of the Swedish Con 69 etc.

INTERIM, English, A. Graham Boak, 7 Oakwood Road, Bricket Wood,
St. Albans, Herts. U.K.

This fanzine is talking about Herts fandom in its editorial. At least do I believe that it is supposed to be an editorial. Its print is as blotchy as HM's print is. It ends with a few fanzine reviews.

HARPIES 3, English, Roger Sims, 1961 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods,
Michigan 48236, USA

is talking about the Hugo Nomination bit at the St. LouisCon ballot. Furthermore it offers book reviews and LoCs.

THE WSFA JOURNAL 67, English, Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd.,
Wheaton, Maryland, USA 20906

Excellent fanzine with a real bundle of items. It really is impossible to mention all the items offered but one should not fail to get a copy of this fanzine - not matter how.

HOLLAND-SF Vol. 3 no. 2 and 3, Dutch, Frank Schoonhoven, Wolve-
laan 11, Hilversum, Holland

No. 2 starts with some kind of a conrep about a general meeting at the 12-4-69 in Hilversum. Here they have passed a motion to become a real association. Furthermore one can read a conrep about this year's Con in Oxford written by Annemarie van Ewijk. Those who have been there will remember her. Besides these items one can read information about an ancient SF book, new SF books from publisher Meulenhoff, something about a nice NCSF activity in the Hague, and last not least a story.

No. 3 starts with an editorial by Hein Jansen. He seems to be a little bit mad that nobody has praised SF as a forerunner while talking about the project APOLLO. In my opinion he seems to over-estimate this kind of literature as well as our hobby. Besides two stories, book reviews and a report of the film-week in Arnhem Leo Kindt wrote a very informative contribution about HEICON.

AD INFINITUM no. 8 and 9, English, see elsewhere in here

These are the English editions now. No. 9 starts with five fine stories. News from British SF books and a report about Trieste by Wolfgang Thadewald are following. Some info about COMICS, a few LoCs mentioned only, news of the international fandom and the CLA itself almost complete this very fine fanzine. I said almost because they furthermore show a very nice photo-page followed by a report about a not so very nice film-week in Sitges. In fact this film-week must have been a big bunch of mistakes, absolute lack of considerably good films and a lack of organisation. No. 8 offers stories again to begin with. Furthermore they have similar items in here again such as news of CLA or the short mentioning of LoCs. Besides in this issue one can read quite a few information about HEICON and even a short report about the Oxford "Worldcon-discussion" with Dave Kyle.

MIZAR no. 6, 7 and 8, Michel Feron, see elsewhere in here, French

Very informative news-zines with info on a world-wide scale. Extra pages for HEICON.

LE SAC A' CHARBON no. 10, French, Michel Feron, above

Quite a lot of fanzine reviews from a lot of countries.

SFAN no. 1 and 2, Dutch, Julien C. Raasveld, St. Bernardsesteenweg 623, Hoboken-Antwerpen, Belgium

No. 1 is two pages with news from Belgian fandom. No. 2 has improved - it is three pages now.

1 Fanzine, Japanese, (I am lost on its name because even it is in Japanese), Takumi Shibano, 1-14-10 O-okayama, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo, Japan

This fanzine has an English editorial with news from Japanese fandom. But these are April 69 news. Not much sense to quote them.

SF GALAX no. 4, Dutch, Julien C. Raasveld, see above, Dutch

This fanzine is dedicated to Eddy C. Bertin completely.

Crabapple 8, English, Mary Read, 5 Park Close, Longmeadow, Stevenage, Herts., U.K.

With a lot of interesting items besides a lot of interesting LoCs.

The certain touch of humour in this fanzine seems to be very rare in fandom. That's a pity, really!

Speculation vol 2 no 11, English, Peter R. Weston, 31 Pinewall Avenue, Masshouse Lane, Birmingham 30, U.K.

with a lot of info on the Oxford Con and the "new-wave-discussion" there. Furthermore one can read a contrib about good or bad reviewers followed by book reviews. But there are a couple other interesting items and letters too.

FUTUR no. 3, French, Danny de Laet, c/o Pothoek 21, Anvers 1, Belgium

This fanzine offers a few news and a lot of stories.

EN GARDE no. 6, English, Richard Schultz, 19159 Helen Street, Detroit, Michigan 48234, USA

Here you read all about Diana Rigg and Patrick MacNee called Emma Peel and John Steed. I thought EN GARDE wasn't published anymore and now I really was glad to read about good old friends again.

EUROPEAN LINK, English, Jean J. Muggoch. I have got the word that she lives somewhere in Wales now. Sorry, I haven't got her new address.

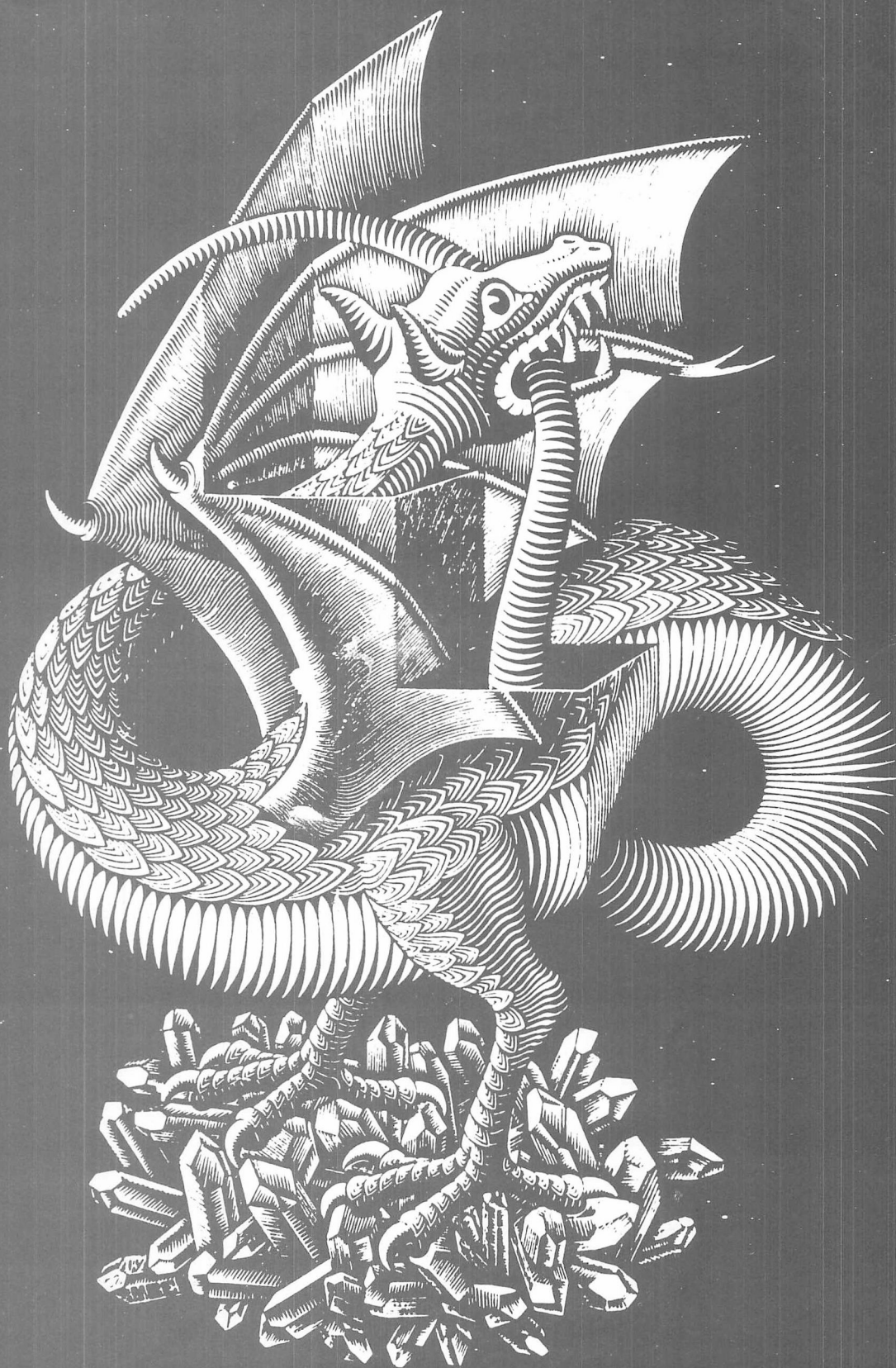
Yes, EUROPEAN LINK is still alive. Jean publishes a lot of news from quite a few European fandoms. As informative as ever.

ANOMALY, English, Jan Steven Strnad, 2540 Aloma, Wichita, Kansas 67211, USA

This is a very fine fanzine with nice stories as well as other fine contributions. But the most astonishing point with it is the great number of excellent art in it. The whole fanzine looks really commercial due to its very high standart in print.

YANDRO 191, English, Robert and Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348, USA

Always a very interesting fanzine with a lot of different items. Robert is dealing with complaints in fanzines from young fans, saying that the fan-establishment is discriminating against them. Seems to be the same problem in all fandoms. Furthermore one can read about grapho analysis in a not too scientific manner, get informed by book reviews, magazine reviews, fanzine reviews and last not least be amused by quite a few LoCs.



SF COMMENTARY no. 5, English, Bruce R. Gillespie, P.O. Box 30,
Bacchus Marsh Victoria 3340, Australia

With a lot of interesting LoCs and reviews.

The WSFA Journal 68 and its son, English, Don Miller, 12315 Judson
Road, Wheaton, Maryland 20906, USA

Offers a lot of interesting items. Amusing article about PAN (but he wasn't an SF fan to my knowledge, was he?), some ideas on pulp mags, very interesting St. Louiscon report (I will refer to this later in HECKMECK again) and a lot of views and reviews. But that isn't all. One just cannot quote all the fine things in here. But LoCs are there too, yes Sir. If I believed this to be a very fine and informative fanzine the more astonished I was when reading all the news and info included in its son (not published in father/mother yet).

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY, English, Box 40, University Sta., Regina,
Canada

This excellent printed fanzine starts with a very informative (for those who want to know about it) article about Kurd Lasswitz by Franz Rottensteiner, followed by a fine story written by Cusack. Furthermore there is an interesting article on " WELLS AND THE GREAT DEBATE ", nice poems, a review of Farmer's " THE LOVERS " with an interesting " AFTERWORD " and an article about " THE CREEPING HORROR ". The fanzine is continued with an article by Harry Warner, Jr. about the financial respectability of the humble or most elaborate current fanzines and a lot of LoCs. Fine pieces of art in it also.

id no. 5, English, James Reuss, 304 South Belt West, Belleville,
Illinois 62221, USA

Starts with some kind of a review on " Picnic on Paradise " (seems to be Bob Tucker's favoured one) and continues with " WARLOCK " one of the quite rare political contributions with a satirical view. The fanzine furthermore offers reviews and LoCs.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW no. 32, English, Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box
3116, Santa Monica, Cal. 90403, USA

The fanzine offers a lot of reviews and information about books and mags. Quite interesting. It is continued with quite few fine LoCs.

SANDWORM no. 7, English, Bob Vardeman, P.O. Box 11352, Albuquerque,
N.M. 87112, USA

Starts with an amusing editorial. This is the best a reader can say

about something he reads. If he states that what he reads is good, excellent or whatever he calls it, this actually means he didn't even read it completely. If he states it was interesting nothing has been said whether he liked it or not. But if he states it was amusing - he must have read and enjoyed it (NO - this doesn't go for me, just for everybody else !). The fanzine continues with reviews, poems, and a few fanzine reviews. Some LoCs are there also.

HARPIES no. 4; 5 and 6, English, Richard Schultz, see " EN GARDE"

The no. 4 offers among other items such as LoCs for example a very informative (yes, and amusing) conrep about MidWestCon. No. 5 deals with NEW WAVE a little bit, offers quite a few reviews, conrep about WESTERCON XXII, very few fanzine reviews and LoCs. The no. 6 offers a very informative conrep about St. Louis, and furthermore a few fanzine reviews and some other minor items.

VECTOR no. 52 and 53, English, Michael Kenward, 53 Nassington Road, London N.W. 3, U.K.

Issue no. 52 isn't what one could call the most topical fanzine - but I still enjoyed reading it. Not even VECTOR's no. 53 could be called " brand new " at this time of the year anymore. It includes a lot of book reviews as the main items.

HAVERINGS 39 and 40, English, Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton. Surrey, U.K.

Actually it doesn't seem necessary to add Ethel's address because almost everybody in almost every fandom should know it by now. Ethel again offers a lot of interesting information on fanzines. A LOT OF FANZINES !

SCOTTISHE 53, English, Ethel again

Starts with reviews of ACE paper backs. Very informative. It continues with LoCs and book reviews. Some news about British fandom are offered as well.

LOCUS 37; 40 and 41, English, Charlie and Marsha Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10457, USA

It will not be necessary to mention all the news, information, reviews, other amusing items, interesting contributions and conreps offered in these issues. Everybody knows that the " SMOFs " always offer topics concerning the above mentioned items.

Being a member of B.S.F.A.

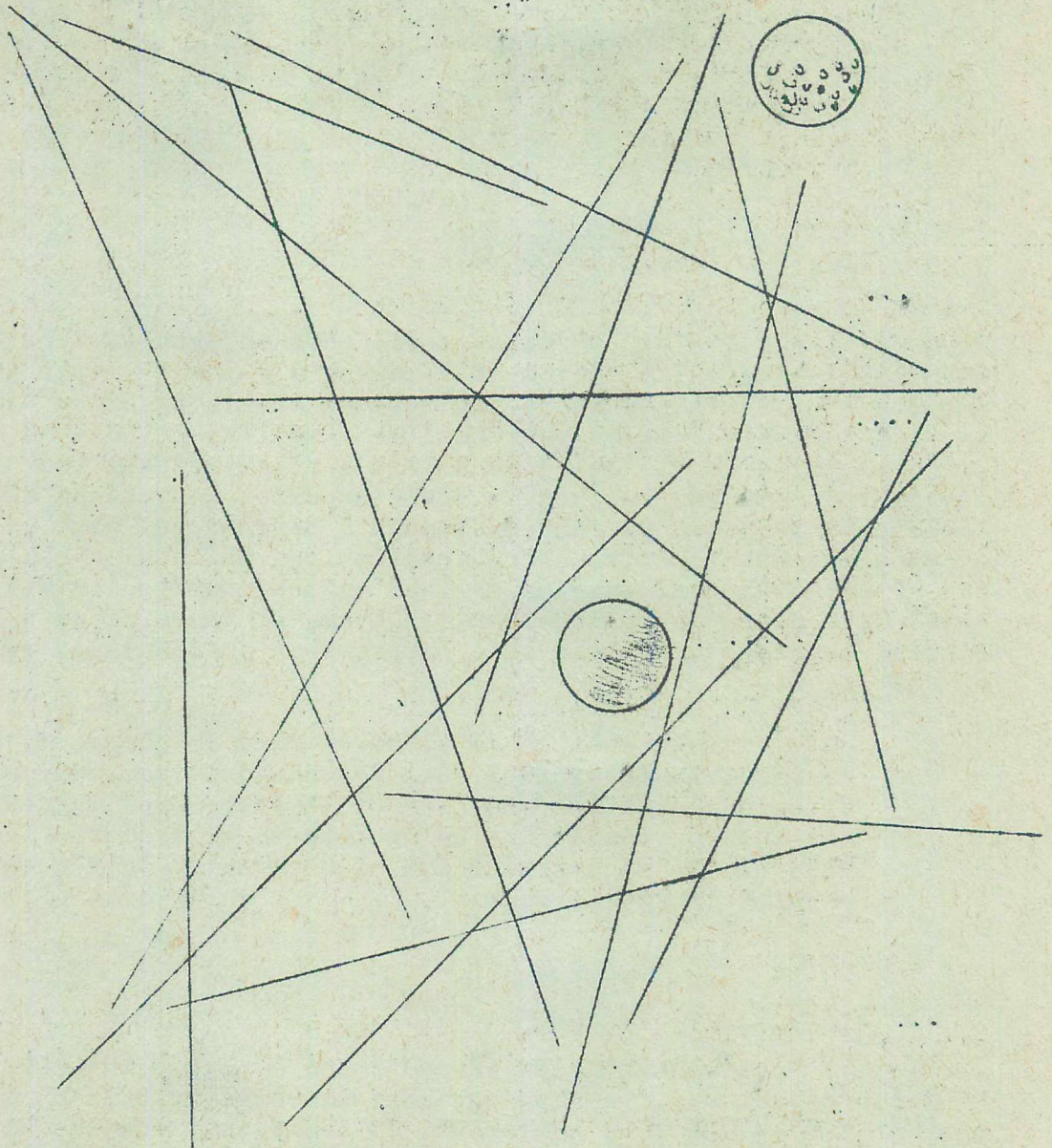
I furthermore have received a lot of very interesting info provided

by the B.S.F.A. about a lot of things happening in the British field of SF. I really would be glad if our SFCD (Science Fiction Club Germany) would only provide half as much material to its members and would show half as much activity than B.S.F.A. does. Well, perhaps one day in future - one shall never give up hope!

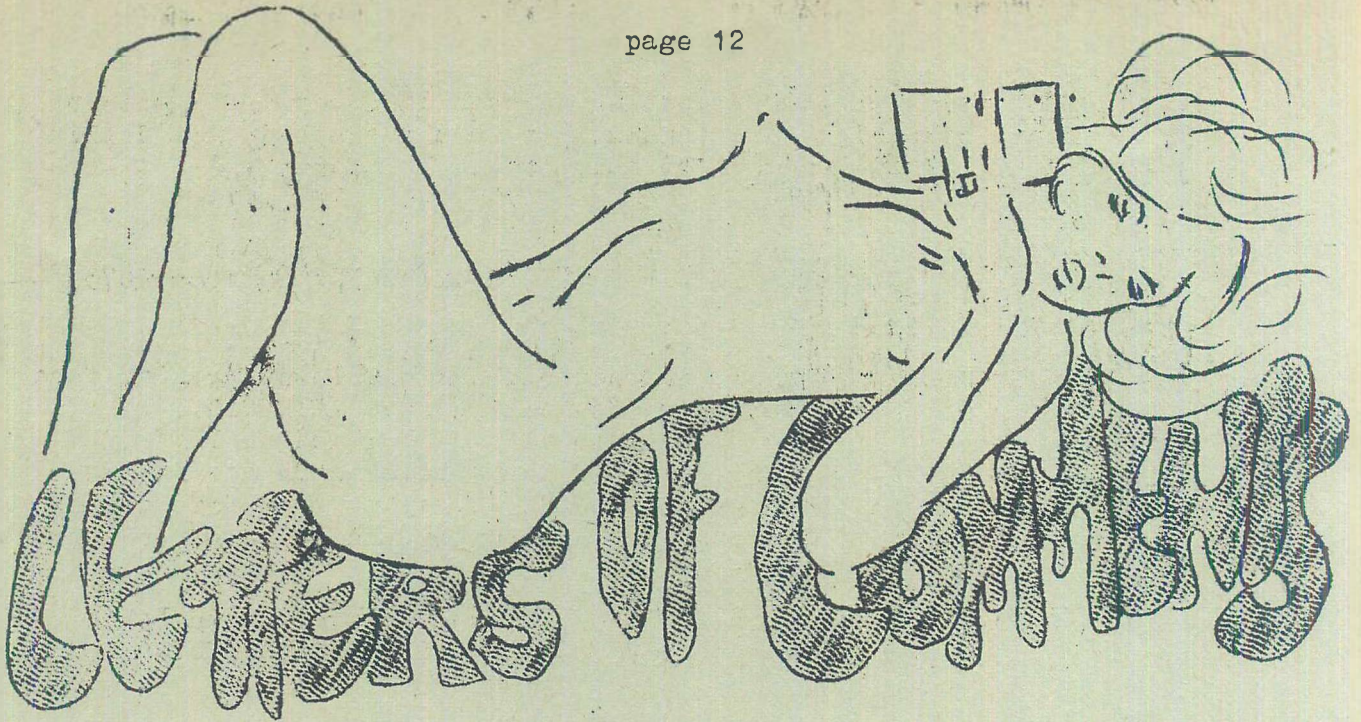
INSTIGATION was written by Manfred Kage who therefore is liable for all errors in it.

I have mentioned fanzines (alright, one at least) from:
Australia - Belgium - Canada - Japan - Netherlands - Spain -
Sweden - United Kingdom - United States of America.

Manfred Kage



!!!!!! ATTENTION : MARIO KWIAT NEW ADDRESS !!!!!!!!!!!
D-4192 Kalkar
Am Schlueskesgraben 1



Jean Muggoth:

...many thanks for HECKMECK. As usual most enjoyable. I rather wish when you fall off the bottom of a page would put a little arrow or something, pointing to where the rest of the interesting article is, but don't dare to change your English - we like it just as it is! We curled up at the edges a little after reading your Con reports, but hope you enjoyed it just the same. Your ideas about organising international fandom, though I haven't had time yet to examine them thoroughly, sound interesting. But having had a tiny bit of experience of banging my head on that particular wall, they sound like dreamy-eyed idealism. However, if those of us who would like to see something like this happen keep on shouting, perhaps someday.....

EGO: Thanks Jean, no I'll never dare to change my English anymore. In fact, if I want to change it somebody else more experienced in the use of your language must then write it - and I never would dare doing this to my readers. Yes, we've enjoyed Oxford a lot. Board of Governors: as you said - perhaps someday.....

Bob Vardeman:

... I just received HECKMECK 22 and found a couple interesting points on which to comment. Perhaps the most universal "comment hook" is in Margot's OXFORD 1969 conreport. It seems that mundanes are totally and absolutely incapable of understanding fans and fandom. Margot overheard the two discussing Siegfried with the comment about not seeing anything like that in 27 years. I heard almost identical comments at the Miramar hotel (where the Westerncon was held this year) in the hotel's restaurant.....

EGO Well, Bob, it sometimes is even hard for us fans to understand other fans and fandom. How should somebody not dealing with that matter then be able to.

CIRCULO DE LECTORES DE ANTICIPACIONE, Apartado de Correos 1573,
Barcelona, Spain

.....I write this letter to introduce a new circle of Spanish fans founded in Barcelona recently. We call ourselves CIRCULO..... C.L.A. for our friends. We publish a fanzine named AD INFINITUM. One of the most important goals of our circle is to get in contact with SF fans all over the world.... May we therefore ask for the co-operation of SF fans of your country and all other countries..

EGO: Well, friends, SF fans, those who pretend to be either one or the other, enemies or everybody else: WRITE!

Julien C. Rassveld:

..... very glad to have received HECKMECK, which I only knew by name up till now. This is because I haven't much contact with international fandom. Rather regrettable, but I just can't spare time and/or the money, tho I'm very interested. No news is good news, as the saying goes, well, Belgium's first prozine will start in 1970. So the rumors of a "Golden Age" weren't that wrong.... I think your plans to make fandom a real international movement are worth considering. HECKMECK should be a good start for it, maybe the best thing that could be done, would be to start one big fanzine on a very large scale to be distributed all over the world, with changing editorship (i.e. every year)..... I think this is the only way to reach international fandom. What about it, fans?

EGO: Well, Julien, although your proposal for one big fanzine sounds good, it even will be more difficult than the foundation of my proposed Board. To make this fanzine a real success one must get contributions from a lot of fans from a lot of countries written in one language and carefully selected in order to avoid repetitions. Furthermore all fandoms involved must agree upon a rotation plan for editorship, distribution of the fanzine, payment of the expenses. In order to come to terms with all these necessary agreements you would need my Board to make sure that all fandoms are represented to the best of their imagination. See what I mean?

Danny De Laet:

I just received HECKMECK 22 which reminds me I didn't answer your last letter: mea culpa and so on...

The Belgian delegation for Heidelberg '70 is slowly growing.... We are preparing an index of all translated SF in Dutch for Heidelberg '70. So we won't come with empty hands. We will also bring along drugs, chains, guns, hardboiled heads, fists and a lot more interesting things.....

EGO: Thanks for being active for HEICON '70. I especially like the idea of drugs, chains, guns, hardboiled heads (shouldn't that be eggs) and fists.
Man, will that be an interesting and amusing Con!

Eddy C. Bertin

.... Ik hoorde van Uw tijdschrift HECKMECK. Daar ik ten eerste geïnteresseerd ben in SF, ontving ik graag verdere inlichtingen... (I am sorry, but the letter was in Dutch)
... I have heard from your fanzine HECKMECK. Because I am very interested in SF I would like to have further information on it..

EGO: I don't give you further information. I will give you HECKMECK and you then make up your own mind about it.

I have furthermore read a letter in our SFCD fanzine ANDROMEDA. Here a sixteen year old Norwegian girl states to be interested in SF and that she would like to get in contact with international fandom. Her address for those who want to get in contact with her for fannish reasons (especially the Scandinavians should try):

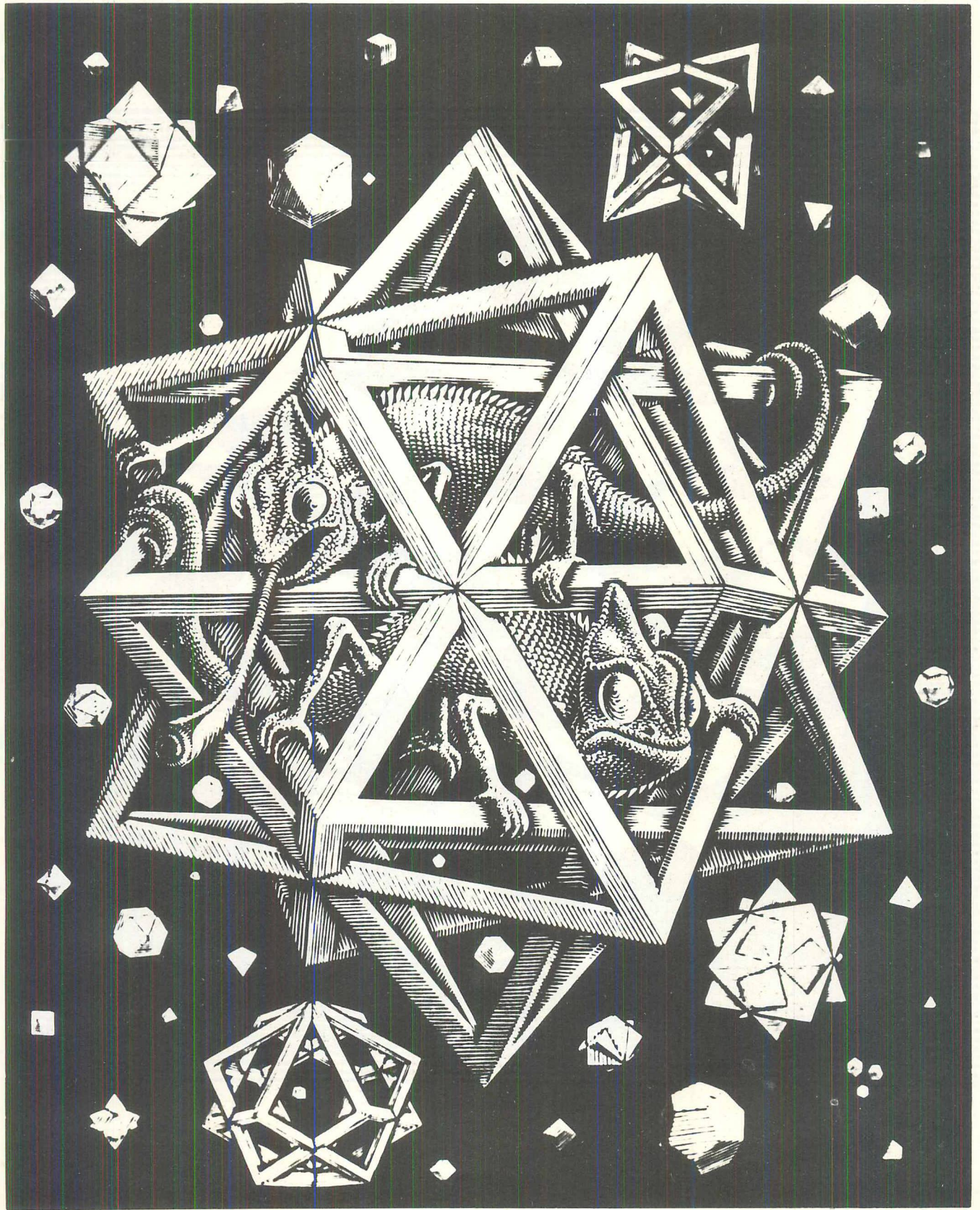
Guri Hjeltnes, Griniveien 606, 1340 Bekkestua, Norway

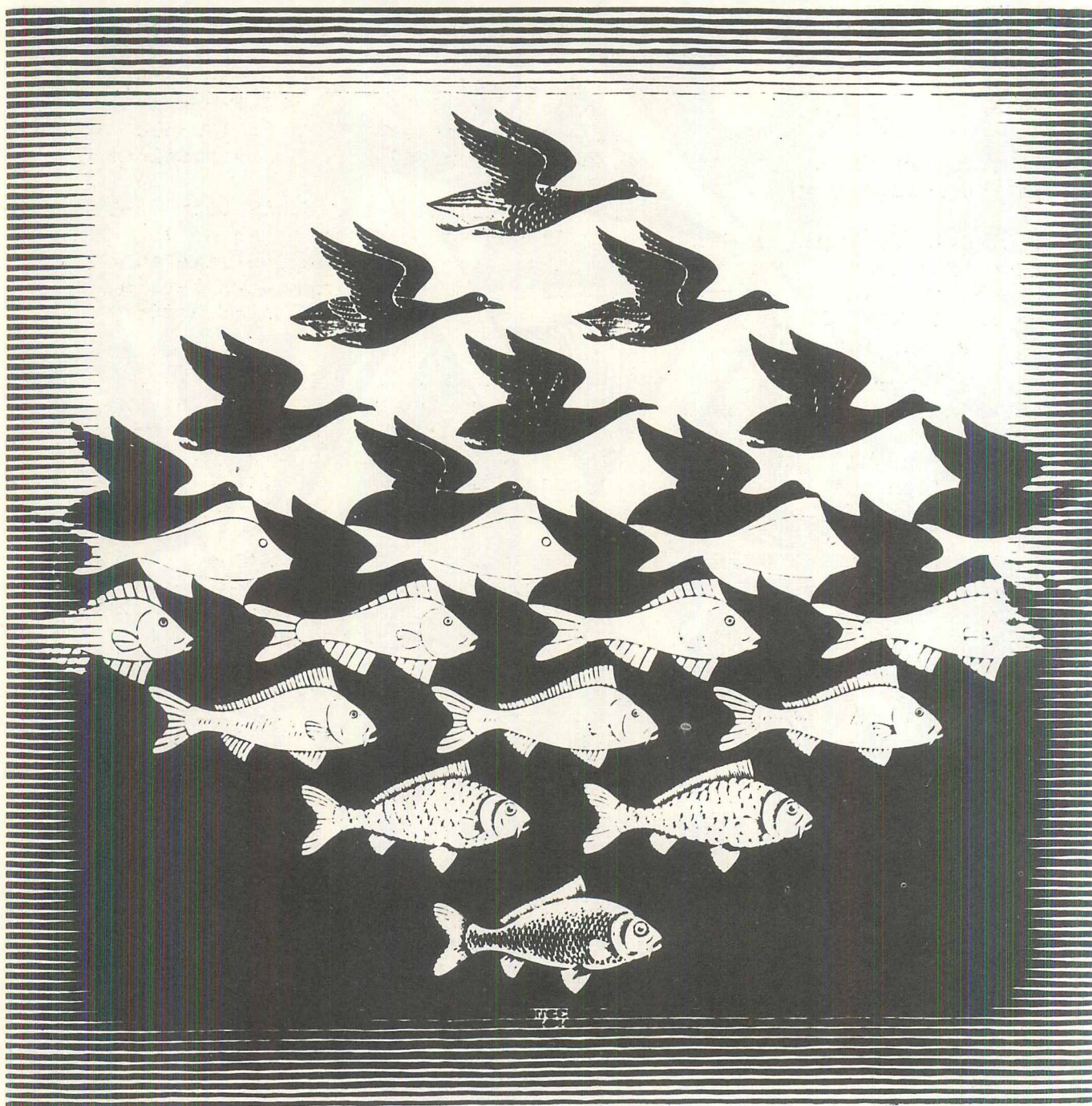
ONE AMERICAN VIEW OF PERRY RHODAN

I must admit to being surprised that something as successful as the Perry Rhodan series seems to be in Germany hasn't been translated into English before now. The sales figures for the magazine version are staggering by American prozine standards. In fact, the sales are so astronomical when compared to our leading prozine (definitely in distribution and in my mind in quality, too), Analog. Analog's monthly distribution is a paltry 102,000. If Hans-Werner Heinrich's figures in Impressionen (vol. 3 no. 4) are correct, PERRY RHODAN magazine sells 10 times as well! All American prozines combined couldn't match those figures.

What further makes the delay in translating less understandable is the American revival of old pulp heroes. Doc Savage reprints have reached the exalted number of 38 (out of 181 in the original magazine version). Capt. Future is being reprinted. The Shadow series is just starting. And modern versions of the space opera type of sf have been started by Edmond Hamilton and Jack Vance.

Edmond Hamilton has already written 3 books in his Star Wolf series. Jack Vance also has 3 books in his





" Wankh " stories. Both series are written by masters of their craft who are expert in handling space opera themes.

While these series are just beginning, they have a id well indicating that fans are still eagerly reading about heroic derring-do and high adventure like they did in the days of the pulpzine. Little wonder that Ace Books has decided to add PERRY RHODAN to the line of space opera. If Americans are even half as enthusiastic about PERRY as the Germans must be, it'll be a smash best seller!

I have read all the translated works that have been printed so far. Apparently these are the first six (Enterprise Stardust, The Third Power, The Radiant Dome, Twilight of the Gods, Galactic Alarm, and The Mutant Corps). While it is hard to pass judgment on over 400 books solely on the basis of just 6, I would like to present my opinions of these six and also some observations on their impact on American fans.

Enterprise Stardust has already been dated. Neil Armstrong and not Perry Rhodan was the first man on the moon. But then a space opera is not written as prediction like such pieces as Jules Verne's A Journey To the Moon and Hugo Gernsback's Ralph 124C41+. It is written as pure adventure with lots of action to hold the readers interest.

Enterprise Stardust (abbreviated ES for brevity) contains several classic situations. The journey to the moon, the alien menace, the heroic stature of Rhodan and the decadence of the Arkonides are all time honored components for a story. They are also rather worn out thru 30 years of usage. If I had just picked up ES and read it, I doubt if I'd have ever read another Perry Rhodan book.

The Third Power (abbrev. TTP) continues to introduce plot material in the form of the Arkonide super-science, political intrigue, spy networks complete with devious spy masters, a quest in the form of getting medical aid for Khrest and the hackneyed idea of a threat uniting the world.

This plot has been used in American fiction so many times that it is threadbare and fails to arouse the slightest bit of interest. Christopher Anvil, in Pandora's Planet, has come closer to describing what would happen during an alien invasion. Each country would be firing merrily away at the aliens - and at each other as well. Each would think the alien menace was a plot by the other and all lines of communication would break down. But Perry Rhodan, thru his use of super-science, is able to effectively coerce all the nations into realizing that there is just one threat and that only TTP is responsible. What would have happened if he had not had the nuclear neutralizing screen? The world would have been destroyed. It is obvious that the Arkonide super-science will be used to pull off the impossible each time a crisis is created. And that the crisis will not mean too much since a new device can be pulled out of a hat at an instant's notice. In short, the science is too " super " for any really exciting confrontation.

The Radiant Dome (TRD) tries to add a little uncertainty to the plot by having the earth develop a " cold " atomic bomb which will detonate inside the anti-neutron screen. Such an idea is fascinating but the implications of what would mean are ignored entirely. Such a cold bomb would imply that thermonuclear reactions could be triggered without using an atomic bomb to generate the heat required to

start the fusion process. Such a fusion initiating process would give the Earth unlimited power. Fusion plants could run off a teaspoon full of seawater and match the largest of present day nuclear plants. America's Project Sherwood (attempting to control the fusion chain) is probably no closer to the solution of this problem than it was 15 years ago and some of the keenest minds in the world are working with this project. But this can be cast aside since, as in all space opera, we must " suspend disbelief " a little.

All right,

Earth has developed a controlled fusion process. America has given it to China (highly unlikely but that's what happened in TRD). China could set up two or three plants and generate literally millions of times the power needed to break down the generators creating TRD. But the process is ignored as being of use only in a bomb. If TTP were really such a threat, more conventional artillery would be passed over for the more efficacious fusion power.

However, in Twi-

light of the Gods (TotG), such artillery is used to set the force dome to resonating like a bell. It seems odd that the Arkonides enemies had not used similar tactics in the past whereupon the Arkonides would have developed some type of damper to cause the vibrations to rapidly dissipate. Super science has its drawbacks in a story, especially when such a device would be simplicity in itself to a race that could build a force field in the first place. Also, it is most strange that the fact that light could penetrate the dome didn't immediately cause someone to drag up a high energy continuous beam laser and melt everyone inside the dome.

TotG also introduces another sf theme, that extra sensory perception. Galactic Alarm (GA) carries the theme further as well as introducing an alien menace of some import, the Fantan. The Fantan are inscrutable like all alien races should be. They seem to either be craven cowards or incredibly cautious beings who prefer to have all planned out in advance. If so, it seems strange that they would rush in to investigate the wreckage of the Arkonide ship on the moon. They would have sent an unmanned probe with some type of TV camera to survey and perhaps then have sent a small landing craft to investigate more closely. Surely such an interstellar ship would be equipped with two such common sense pieces of equipment. Especially if they if they thought foul play had ended the lives of the Arkonides aboard ship.

The space battle between Rhodan and the Fantan ship is a little too pat. Again the super science angle takes all the drama out of the situation. Naturally, we all knew before hand that Rhodan would triumph - after all, he's a hero - but he does it too easily. The decrystallization ray, to my mind, works backwards. Instead of decrystallizing the metallic hull, it should have crystallized it. A crystallized material will shatter easily while a decrystallized one usually adopts extra strength. Ordinary glass comes to mind. Ordinary silica - the crystallized form - is merely sand. When sand is fused, or decrystallized in a certain respect, it forms a glass. And glass can possess a higher tensile strength than steel. Be this as it may, what would have happened if the Fantans had used a plastic hull? Plastic has no crystalline form to go to and would probably have been unaffected by the ray. Again, a race as cautious or cowardly as the Fantan are pictured have come remarkably unprepared to face an

enemy that possessed weapons powerful enough to destroy an Arkonide cruiser.

The Mutant Corps (TMC) introduces telepaths, teleports, precogs (precognition is a closer term to my way of thinking for the ability possessed by Anne Sloan) and has Homer G. Adams manipulating the stock market for the benefit of TTP. Telepathy and the ESP aside, this is the most consistent episode. Adams presumably has the innate ability to make money. And he does so thru a series of fairly convincing stock market ploys.

Each of these books, taken individually, are hardly worth the time taken to read them. However, taken together (and with the knowledge of Ernsting, Scheer, Mahr, Shols usw. are still creating background) they show promise of developing into an interesting series.

The background created is complex with practically every pulp plot known to sf being tossed in. There is an alien threat, super-science, ESP, political intrigue, a dashing hero, a cold (but thawing) heroine in Thora, a decadent galactic empire just waiting for Earth to take it over, and a slowly uniting Earth. As pointed out, there can't be much threat to Rhodan's goals (whatever they might be in future books) since he is so much the superman. His mechanical education has given him powers that are unbeatable. He has access to weapons and devices that make him invincible. And so far he has shown absolutely no human weakness.

Even in the Superman series, it was realized that an invincible hero wasn't very exciting and the debilitating kryptonite was introduced. Will such a weakness be developed in future Rhodan stories? Does he have an Achilles' heel which his enemies will take advantage of? If not, future stories might prove to be boring.

I doubt if Perry Rhodan will cause much of a splash on the American sf scene. All the subplots have been seen over and over and for the most part, at least 20 years ago. This isn't to say Perry Rhodan is badly dated, but it does show the path being tread by Rhodan has been tread previously by Captain Future, Richard Seaton and Kimball Kinnison. The road isn't new to American sf fans, we've all been down it many times before.

It might be possible to introduce new sights along the road but the road itself can really hold no surprises of any magnitude. My personal evaluation is that I'll read the next Perry Rhodan as it is translated and that I'll try to fit together the universe being created around him. The books aren't badly written and the action flows along with few of the backwaters of long philosophical discussions that abound in many American books and slow the pace. Disbelief is not really suspended but then it isn't in any modern reader of Captain Future either. The action is more enjoyable than the motives (or lack thereof). The heroic stature of Perry Rhodan is appealing after so many of the anti-heroes that abound now in sf but I wish Rhodan could be just a little less heroic and more human.

In short, as a special fan of the sub-genre of space opera, I'll be awaiting the next episode. But I doubt if many other American fans will unless they also have a special interest in space opera.

Bob Vardeman

PO Box 11352, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112, USA

R E A D E R ' S

R E S T

Yes, I have read them in various magazines before also....

A young lady buys a dress from the show-window. One forgets to put a new dress on the lay figure. In the evening a lot of men meet in front of the window.

Between the feet of the naked dummy one can still read the ad:
Exactly the right thing for your favoured sport!

Mother was on vacation. Next morning after her return she asks her little daughter: " Well, darling, did you always go to bed without crying? "

" Yes, mom," the little sweetheart replied, " because Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the nurse did sleep in me bed with me."

" In my bed ", dad corrected her. " No, dad, that happened on Wednesday ".

" Dear doc, please try to help my husband. He believes to be a race horse, wants oats for breakfast, neighs and now he even wants shoeing ".

The doc looks at her and replies: " Well, madam, this will be a long and expensive medical treatment ".

" Money doesn't matter, doc, he won four races already ".

A tourist walks clumsily in the London smog without any orientation. Suddenly he hears steps. " Could you please tell me where this way leads to, Sir? "

Out of the smog a voice answered: " Into the Thames, Sir. I am just coming out of it! "

Kelly Burrows in St. Louis, USA sued for divorce (well informed sources like to stress the fact that he has no connection with St. Louis fandom at all). He clinched the argument that his wife added great portions of garlic to every meal in order to keep him off other women.

During the first court-day the judge asked him to step back three yards. Then he divorced the couple in question.

Did you know that some babies start lying with their very first words?

Sometimes they do when they say " Daddy " for the first time in their life.

All right, I know that you have read this jokes somewhere else! That's where I stole them.

PROBLEMS - PROBLEMS - PROBLEMS - PROBLEMS - PROBLEMS -

VIEWS OF FUTURE
WORLDCONS NOT U.S.

Let me in this article offer you a few views on problems of future Worldcons in Europe or outside of English-speaking countries in the world. May I stress that all the quoted opinions are these of the author and must not necessarily be my opinion also. My contribution means my private opinion and will have no effect on decisions of the HEICON committee. I furthermore would be glad if you join the discussion and publish your opinion of these problems in your fanzine or otherwise.

LOCUS 37

.....1. The name of the S.F. convention now held in North America and styled the " World Science Fiction Convention " should be changed to the North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFic). 2. A true World (or International) Science Fiction Convention (or Congress etc.) being desirable, it is recommended that a committee be set up at St. Louis to confer with similar committees and individual fans in Europe, the Pacific, etc. to suggest suitable mechanisms for holding such conventions. 3. To maintain the continuity of the name World Science Fiction Convention the following interim plan is suggested. The World Science Fiction Convention title shall rotate through continental zones in a pre-arranged manner. One of these zones shall be North America. The fans of each zone shall determine as they see fit which convention in their zone shall assume the title " World Science Fiction Convention " when the title is resident in their zone. In North America the NASFic would automatically assume the title when the title is resident in North America. 4. The numbering of the NASFic shall continue the numbering from the former World Science Fiction Conventions in order to preserve continuity when dealing with hotels. The NASFic will become a reality with the 1972 convention. A motion was made and passed, putting the NASFic on a three year rotation plan. The rotation plan of the worldcon title will be left up to Heidelberg to decide. A resolution was passed to allow the site of the 1972 NASFic, which was to be voted on at Heicon, to be selected by a mail ballot. A motion to continue mail ballots for consite selection was tabled until Boston. In addition to the Worldcon business, the following motions were passed concerning the Hugo awards: No Award shall be listed as a choice in each category on the final ballot - the novelette category has been deleted and the word limit for short fiction has been raised to an upper limit of 17,500 words - the Hugos shall be designated an English language award.....

HARPIES 6

.....There are going to be some minor fireworks at the HEICON next year and afterwards over a proposal which was put through at this Con.

Namely that from now on (or at least starting in 1972) the Big Cons held on the North American continent will be termed the North Amer.SFCon (or NASFic for short). A true World (or International SF Con) will be set up, and plans formulated to rotate and maintain the World Cons themselves as a viable organization. There was a great deal more of it, and fortunately some of the hairier proposals were torpedoed quite neatly and promptly. But evidently Fandom per se has said it's say...it wants to divorce the Big Cons being held here from the new WorldCon system, excepting that when the WorldCon is due to be in the North American continent, the NASFic of that year will be the WorldCon. They also eliminated the Novelette category in the Hugos and stated that the Hugos as presently operating shall continue as an English language presentation only.....

The WSFA Journal 68

..... The business meeting was a strange blend of small-mindedness and monumental stupidity. A faceless mob consisting mostly of Tony Lewis, Charlie Brown, Elliot Shorter, Bruce Pelz, Bob Pavlat, Bill Evans, and George Nims Raybin was giving fandom the business. John Trimble, the chairman, acted as if he wanted to get the thing over with, and since he was running short on sleep too, this was understandable..... The second step was the presentation and acceptance of the Raybin report, which called for a U.S. Committee to meet with a European Committee, and present the following demands:

- 1) The Hugo stay English, and remain in custody of the Americans.
- 2) The U.S. will continue to hold a big convention over Labor Day every year.
- 3) We will generously let Europe hold a con at the same time, and the title " Worldcon " will go to Europe in even years, after HEICON in '70, and to the U.S. in odd years....

As soon as the report was accepted, a motion was made that the report be passed as a motion. Even Raybin thought that was a bit much, but parliamentary procedure carried the day, even though a nominal discussion of the about-to-be-accomplished fact was permitted. At the very most, there were thirty fans present, about 1 1/2 % of the con, and half of them had no idea what was going on.....

So what does all this mean?

It means that HEICON '70 will be the last Worldcon ever held in Europe. The title " Worldcon ", shorn of the Hugos and competing for U.S. fans with a U.S. con (actually North American, but the phrase is cumbersome and N.A. is a poor abbreviation), is going to be a nothing event..... It means something else. The end of the idea of an International fandom. Giving Europe an empty title every other year is not my notion of just dealing with one's peers. Either European fans are our peers, or they are not. If they are not, somebody ought to explain to me --- and to them -- why not... If they are, we should play fair..... What happens in Europe? The European Worldcon dies on the vine. Pity, pity, pity. Either you support World Fandom in fact as well as in name and give them a con once in awhile - including the Hugos - or you do not. The St. Louiscon, by its action does not, and all the fair flowery verbiage " they " may choose to spout will not hide or alter the fact..

Bob Vardeman

.....the rest of my comments will be about the idea of a Worldcon and what I think should be considered to rectify some of the problems. I think most of the furor about holding a Worldcon outside the US rests on the fact that there are no enduring rules governing the convention. Any and all rules can be changed by a simple vote of the attendees. This means (from the viewpoint of various chauvinistic fans in the US) that if the con is outside the US the rules can be changed to anything at all. And since non-US fans would be in the majority, the US could possibly lose all control of the con. Which might not be a bad thing at all. I think the rotation plan is an abomination and if the con were held outside the US for a couple of years running, it might bring some of the blockheads in this country around to realizing that fandom is not their personal kingdom in which they have absolute control. Fans are basically anarchists at heart (just look at the Worldcon rules if you don't believe me) but they also have a strong US tradition of holding one con right after the other to break.

If I am lucky enough to attend Heicon, I am seriously considering putting the following motion before the business meeting attendees for consideration. I would change the rotation plan to have the con outside the US every other year. I think the majority of sf fans are still in the US but I think we should recognize the rapidly growing fandoms in other parts of the world. Tokyo, Melbourne, Stockholm and perhaps Buenos Aires just to name a few in addition to German-Dutch-Austrian fans. Certainly they have just as much right to bid for a Worldcon as does any US city. Having to wait 5 years is ridiculous. I favor an every other year out of the US plan to give both non-US fans the chance to bolster their positions in the world fandom that is just coming into being and to give fans in other parts of the world a chance to participate in a Worldcon who might otherwise not be able to.

If there are no foreign bidders in any year, that would mean the US could hold the con 3 years in a row and then the bid would go to a non-US region again. From past experience, there'll always be some US group willing to put on a Worldcon so foreign bidders would not have to put in a bid every 2 years but could if they wanted.

The big advantage to this system is that at one non-US con, the decisions for the next Worldcon (under the 2 yr in advance plan) would also be non-US. Likewise, when the con is in the US, the site of the next Worldcon held in the US would be decided by US fans. Those blockheads among US fans who feel letting a non-US group host the Worldcon would spell disaster would be semi-pacified in that they'd still have control over US cons. And further, this would allow foreign fans a chance to gain experience in both bidding for and putting on Worldcons that a 5yr plan would stultify.

As far as the Hugo is concerned, it is supposed to be an achievement award. All I have really read are US and British authors, but I find it hard to believe that only English writing authors are deserving of the Hugos. From what I've heard Skyo Komatsu and Ryu Mitsuse are very good writers. But could any but someone reading Japanese really know? If the Hugo is really an achievement award, we should pass it around to places where fans can honor authors writing in non-English languages since English speaking fans can never really

give a fair and honest appraisal.

However, in the US and England, being awarded a Hugo means not only egoboo but money. An author greatly enhances his income by winning a Hugo and for this reason it might be hard to pry the Worldcon lose from the US domination. I find it hard to believe that a Worldcon held in Tokyo would honor solely English writing authors. There is no reason to believe they should or would even be under any obligation to do so.

The very flexibility of the Worldcon rules make it a natural for true Worldcon stature. And it is the very flexibility that has so many US fans wondering if they might not get "their" con taken away from them. Perhaps in time (and after Heidelberg) they might come to find that non-US fans aren't all that different from the US ones....

And I think a worldwide fandom will gain a big impetus if it can shake the shackles of US domination of the Worldcon. I say, let's give everyone a chance at the con and not let us in the US hog it for 4 years at a time....

Manfred Kage

Let me just again make one thing clear before I start:
This is strictly my personal opinion!

When reading LOCUS 37 and the other informations about St. Louis-Con's business meeting I was a little bit shocked. I have no reason to doubt the information in WSEFA Journal about the number of fans passing such an important motion, important for Europe's fandoms as well as for the development of International Fandom. I cannot believe that this is really the US fandom's average attitude towards these problems. I know (and feel it to be a pity) that US fans in general do not know much about European fandoms but a few facts must have been obvious even to those fans voting upon the matter in St. Louis.

A future Worldcon in any regional zone without the Hugo awards will be a Worldcon without the World. Authors, publishers and all those making a Worldcon to that what it is now will have no interest in attending. This plan actually means that NASFiC will remain to be the real Worldcon (no matter if it is called one or not) but this time no fandom other than the North American fandom can bid for it. There are exceptions, yes. English-speaking fandoms will have the opportunity to have Worldcons with the Hugos also. But what does that mean? Besides North America and Canada there are two more English-speaking fandoms. Australia and U.K. So in fact, we have four first class fandoms entitled to real Worldcons with all the interesting items and a lot of second class fandoms entitled to nothing but an empty term!

This might even separate U.K. fandom from continental fandoms.... Although I am fully aware of the problem " Hugos with future Worldcons " in non-English-speaking countries I don't believe in any solution without real good consideration and discussion from all fandoms interested in the problem. And for sure, it cannot be solved in such an unskilled manner as shown in St. Louis by only a very few fans. And furthermore the solution should not be dictated - not even by the fandom that founded the award.

And here is another point. A Worldcon on the Continent will see quite a few national fandoms. None of them will be strong enough to form a national majority. So we do have only one choice if a vote about Hugos is concerned. Works, we all can read and we all do know!

Here we have another item concerning the HEICON '70.
THE MAIL BALLOT

These are my points as a basis for discussion:

- a) Australian ballot will be used (as used in TAFF).
- b) Voters have to be at least supporting members of the VOTING con (the original position was that they had to be present at the VOTING con. Here I see a real improvement to make supporting membership more attractive.)
- c) Voters have to be at least supporting members of the VOTED-UPON con (otherwise it would be possible that HEICON members with no particular interest in the '72 consites can become the decisive factor. Perhaps we then will have a limited number of voters only, but those who vote are really interested and able to judge what is good or bad about the consites voted upon).
- d) Mailed votes have to arrive at Mario Bosnyak (he has got the HEICON membership list) prior to 14 days of the day of the vote (14 days because later on he might not be in his house anymore but in Heidelberg and might not get his mail).
- e) Voters at HEICON present will use a voting-paper handed to them by the BIDDING COMMITTEES present. All BIDDING COMMITTEES will receive a certain number of blank forms. They will either hand over the blank forms not used or the equivalent number of membership dues to the HEICON COMMITTEE prior to the vote.
- f) BIDDING COMMITTEES will either agree on one American campaign-manager (to be named by them) or will found an electoral college (one representative from each BIDDING COMMITTEE).
- g) This campaign-manager (or electoral college) will open up a bank-account for all membership dues of mail ballot voters.
- h) It is in the responsibility of the BIDDING COMMITTEES to publish this bank-account to inform their possible voters.
- i) The campaign-manager (or electoral college) will acknowledge receipt of at least supporting membership due for '72 on the voting-paper. Only those voting-papers will be considered valid.
- j) Membership dues of mail ballot voters will remain in the US and be handed over to the winner of the vote by the campaign-manager (electoral college) after their return to the US.
- k) Membership dues of voters at HEICON present will be handed over to the HEICON COMMITTEE prior to the vote, as stated above.
- l) All voting-papers will be counted by a body formed by one representative of each BIDDING COMMITTEE, one representative of HEICON COMMITTEE, and either the campaign-manager or one umpire named by all BIDDING COMMITTEES.

Well, this is as far as my suggestion goes. If I will not receive response to it, I suppose you all agree upon and HEICON COMMITTEE will vote on it during our next meeting. Any comments will certainly be taken into consideration but it is up to HEICON COMMITTEE to make the final decision.

Manfred Kage

continued from page 22

In other words - English-speaking works. As far as the Continent is concerned I really cannot see any reason for such a " panic-motion " as it was passed in St. Louis.
But there are a few more points to the proposed new rotation plan. From now on it is not necessary anymore to show efficiency and ability of a bidding committee because this proposed rotation plan

would allow any national fandom to call any con a Worldcon if it is their turn. Then it would be possible to call a small national con with 100 - 120 members and without any international highlights a Worldcon just because the rotation plan says so. This is ridiculous! Perhaps one might even say later on: Well, the Europeans had all the chances they've asked for - look what they have made of the Worldcon. This is no fair way to deal with a partner! It must have been obvious that European fandoms are not able to organize a real Worldcon more often than perhaps once in five years. Most European fandoms are not yet able to organize one at all. Why, do you believe, is Sweden announcing the bid that far ahead? One shouldn't talk about a tureen full of soup if he means a soup-tureen only! The Worldcon will die '73. - Long live NASFiC!

MISUNDERSTANDINGS - MISUNDERSTANDINGS - MISUNDERSTANDINGS -

..... I need all my time to work for HEICON '70. I am pretty certain that you'll agree, because if I waste my time I waste your money

This sentence published in B.S.F.A. publications could have been cause for the reader's imagination that I am paid in any way for being the chairman of the HEICON committee (that's at least what I was told), and I was told furthermore that this perhaps could have been the reason for the Browns not to publish this sentence in their version in LOCUS. Well, to cut a long story short, I have asked Charlie&Marsha Brown as well as Archie Mercer independent from each other to translate my " Kage-English " into correct English. So the two different versions (if anybody has noticed it at all, what I doubt) were absolutely in their concern, and I really appreciate that both did it fine.

This last sentence in question should only tell the reader that I waste HEICON membership money if I am not trying to bring the very best items in the program one can possibly get for the amount of money the committee has. In order to do so one has to look around, contact a lot of people, write a lot of letters etc. It is easy to buy certain things if one has enough money, but it needs a lot of extra work and ideas if one wants the same items with less money spent on them. That's what I wanted to say. In no way am I paid for anything I do in respect of HEICON. On the contrary - it still costs me money!

Manfred Kage

mea culpa - mea culpa - mea culpa - mea culpa - mea culpa

one could furthermore read in LOCUS :

..... all memberships must be paid to Mario Bosnyak from now on (by check or in cash) because we must be very careful to get the right moment for exchange.....

Well, Charlie&Marsha had got this info from me with others in a leaflet. So the misunderstanding is all my fault. I certainly wanted to say that checks or money in cash should be sent to Mario Bosnyak, but the checks still made payable to Thea Auler..

Certainly Thea (Molly) Auler is our cashier and holder of the bank-account - but since they both live in the same house I just thought of the same address and did mention Mario. As I said - mea culpa. It is all right with those checks we have received already but please note for future checks that nothing has been changed as far as our bank-account and Thea Auler being cashier is concerned. Sorry!

Manfred Kage

I have tried to write a story. Perhaps it isn't an original idea, certainly it isn't well written - but I have tried it anyhow.

Manfred Kage

Do you believe.... ?

" Well " - with a satisfied groan he pushes his typewriter back. That's it for today.

He, that is Robert Wilm, a writer of sf- and all other stories one can make money with. Because he doesn't know yet how to finish this sf story he is working on and after six hours of work he decides to have a whisky or two in the little bar just around the corner and talk to a few friends he might meet there.

Thoughtfully he walks through the quiet street towards the bar. Certainly, not much people believe in the possibility of an invasion or only the visit of other than human beings on this earth. But only to think of the various possibilities is exciting. Perhaps this is the reason why people always buy these stories again. If he is real honest he does not believe in such a possibility either- but this kind of writing pays good. After all, the probability of such an event is very small. Visitors from other planets? Even if one would admit the existence of this often quoted super-technics - the possibility of covering these distances would not fit in the bounds of known laws of nature..

When he enters the bar and walks to the reserved table where his friends usually meet, he sees that even the priest is present. Sometimes he comes to chat a little about this and that. Soon they all talk about his writing and his friends develop more and more fantasy to offer him fierce beasts from some faraway planet for one of his stories. Only the priest keeps back - which is understandable.

By chance it happens that he walks part of the way home with the priest. After a certain time of walking in silence, the priest suddenly starts talking: " See, Mr. Wilm, the fantasy offered by our friends in respect to your writing was quite amusing. But I don't believe in these beast. Why shouldn't there be very intelligent beings on other planets as well? May I tell you a story I have thought of? This invasion, quoted so very often by you or your colleagues, had happened about 2000 years ago. Those invaders didn't occupy the earth. To prepare and equip such an expeditionary force will need years and the power of a whole population of a planet. Besides the long period of time to reach us. For these reasons the invaders were not able to maintain any kind of supply for their force. They only placed a few observers among us and left again. But because observers without contact to their home planet are useless they had to find possible means to report. And what is faster than the energy of human thoughts?

Certainly one individual will never have the power of thoughts to bridge over such a distance. But thousands or millions of people whose thoughts are co-ordinated thinking the same thoughts in the very same minute. Could there be a better transmitter?

Yes, Mr. Wilm, I know what you want to object to my idea. But you forget that this co-ordination of thoughts happens. Thousands of people with the same thought in the same minute. Think of the prayers in the churches. So it is near at hand that these observers are priests. Some of the thousands of human priests. Consider the celibacy. One says that a loving wife observes better with her motions than eyes are able to. They have avoided this possibility. Let's not talk about

their reproduction now - I am certain that one could think of possible solutions also.

A priest can add certain words in his prayers, and the congregation replies. Can you think of a better and safer way of communication?

Well, you see, and perhaps this way mankind is observed for thousands of years without ever become aware of it.

Well, see you tomorrow ".

The priest enters his house and leaves a very pensive Mr. Wilm behind.

For your recovery - for your recovery - for your recovery -

" Recently ", the famous TV producer told his friends, " I was so very exhausted that I really had not even the slightest idea for my new show anymore ".

" You are right ", his colleague from the other TV broadcaster replied, " I have seen this show ".

Question to Radio Eriwan (Soviet Union):

.... Do we have postal sensors in the Soviet Union?

Answer of Radio Eriwan:

.... on principle no. But letters with Anti-Soviet contents will not be dispatched.

Can computers be wrong?

They really can!

Basil de Ferranti, Director of the ICL in U.K. told someone the following story:

..... A newspaper publisher wanted to write a polite letter to 30 000 people who had cancelled their newspaper subscription. The computer had to write name and address in the printed letter-heads and on the envelopes. Something went wrong and the computer wrote the same name and address on all of them. This poor man received 30 000 letters of the newspaper publisher within two days.

Terrified he sent a telegram to the publisher:

O.K. You won, I order again!

news - news - news - news - news - news - news - news

A new science fiction club is born in Belgium. After several meetings between fans in Hannut and Antwerp, the decision was made so that the first steps could be taken.

This club will be called SFAT (International SF club). The club will organise a first convention (SFANCON) in Antwerp during march or april 1970 with a small exhibition, bookshop, fanzine exchange, and a lot of other things.

The club is represented for the French part of Belgium by Michel Feron, Grand Place 7, B-4280 Hannut, Belgium and for the Flemish part by Julien C. Raasveld, 623 Sint-Bernardsesteenweg, B-2710 Hoboken, Belgium.

HEICON CHARTER FLIGHTS

Let me again quote LOCUS 42 for those who might not have heard of the matter yet:

.....we have two charter groups being formed. One, leaving from the west coast, Dr. Nourse christened " HEICON Charter West". Arrangements for this will be handled directly by Allan E. Nourse and he will coordinate with me. The other is " HEICON Charter East" for which I am soliciting reservations..... Reservations for either charter may be sent to either person, but it slows down matters slightly.

The arrangements for the charter as they now stand are:

Depart - New York City, Kennedy International Airport,
August 7, 1970

Arrive - Frankfurt/Main, 7 hours and 2 meals later

Return - August 30, 1970, New York City

In order to travel on the charter, you must be a member of HEICON so please include your membership number with the deposit. At the present moment we are asking only a \$ 50 deposit (per person) which is completely refundable if, for some reason, the charter does not go through. The balance of the money is due in two payments: \$ 100 on or before April 1 and the remainder (about \$ 40-50) by June 15. The exact cost depends on how many people go. Based on the number of people already contacted, I estimate a cost of \$ 190 - 200. To facilitate matters, include (as a minimum) the following info - 1) Name and address, 2) East or west coast, 3) HEICON member number, 4) St. Louiscon member number (I don't know if that is needed anymore? Manfred), 5) Check for \$ 50. Send all this on to either myself or Allen Nourse depending on wether you're interested in HEICON Charter East or West.

Heicon Charter East
Donald Lundry
RD 1 - Old York Estates
Hightstown, N.J. 08520

Heicon Charter West
Allan Nourse
Tradewinds Travel Bureau
Fall City, Washington

AND MORE INSTIGATION

LOCUS 42 - 44, address elsewhere in here

They have made it again! A lot of news, info, reviews and other interesting items. One couldn't mention them all - but everybody should try to get them.

CUENTA ATRAS 85 and 89, Spanish, Carlos Buiza, Atocha 12, Madrid 12, Spain

Two very nice printed and very voluminous issues of that Spanish fanzine. Quite a nice cover too. But I cannot read Spanish. Sorry!

AD INFINITUM no. 10, English, address elsewhere in here

Again one fine issue published by C.L.A. They seem to be very active and efficient. They offer a lot of fine stories, news about C.L.A. and news from International Fandom.

Lunatique 45 - 50, French, Jacqueline H. Osterrath, 5929 Sassmannshausen, Germany

These fanzines published by Mrs. Osterrath always show excellent covers and a nice print. Furthermore she always offeres nice drawings, interesting stories, and a lot of other items such as news, views and reviews etc. Nobody who is able to read in French should miss these fine fanzines.

SF COMMENTARY 6, English, address elsewhere in here

Again quite a few interesting LoCs and a lot of fine reviews. Very interesting to read. I really was amused by "A MATTER OF DEFINITION" in this issue. Thanks Ghu, John hasn't changed yet. I am really looking forward to hear him in Heidelberg.

GRANFALLON no. 7, English, Linda Eyster Bushyager, Darlington Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217, USA

Interesting fanzine with amusing items as well as a lot of book, magazine or fanzine reviews. A few drawings offered also. Ends with interesting LoCs.

VECTOR 54, English, Michael Kenward, Richard Bertram House, Danehill, Sussex, U.K. !! Note change of address !!

This fanzine shows a nice cover. It offeres quite a few interesting items to its readers. The main part of the fanzine are reviews - a lot of reviews, and all kind of reviews.

THE WSFA Journal 69 (and its sons 2 and 3), English, address elsewhere in here

offeres again various items (a lot if items) to the readers, and all of them are interesting. Besides it shows a very nice cover and a neat print. Interesting " report " by David Halterman. Doesn't sound bad at the first glance. Very interesting letter of comment on St.LouisCon's business meeting. But it surprises me a little bit (well, to be honest: On the other hand, thinking of my experiences in my past, it shouldn't surprise me at all) that none of them did ever try to get European views of the problem. One of them states that the plan was based on investigations of a committee and that it has been discussed in a lot of fanzines throughout '69. Did this committee or those discussing ever try to hear European or Continental points of view? If not - why not?

Science Fiction Review 34, English, address elsewhere in here

offeres a lot of interesting reviews, and a lot of interesting LoCs.

Moebius Trip no. 2, English; Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA

offeres a few fine items and a lot of LoCs. I liked it!

SCOTTISHE 54, English, it is Ethel again.

Ethel Lindsay offeres a lot of LoCs and reviews. Furthermore one can read an interesting contribution named " natterings ".

HORIZONS FAPA no. 112 - 114, English, Harry Warner, Jr. 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, USA

Again three nice issues of Harry's fanzine. Always informative to read, his fanzines.

Well, friends, this was it. Certainly there is again only one individual one could hold liable for all errors, typos etc. in this " late instigation " as well as in the whole fanzine, namely

Manfred Kage

If you will not hear from us for a while now, don't be too enthusiastic about this. We will come again around " HEICON-time ". Right now Mario has changed to another unit and there is no possibility to print HECKMECK. On the other hand he wants to be promoted and therefore had to change. Furthermore I have quite a few things to do besides HECKMECK, not only as far as HEICON is concerned but on the " out-of-fandom " sector as well, and I really am running short of time. But as I said: We will be back again!

See you all,

Manfred

