

No. 18

November 1970

## Lowndes Magazines in Peril

I'm sure you have been wondering what happened to *Magazine of Horror*, *Startling Mystery Stories*, *Weird Terror Tales*, and *Bizarre Fantasy Tales*. To put it briefly, due to events outside of my control, and the publishers' control, we were forced to cease operations toward the end of June, and start a process of reorganization in the hopes of being able to resume shortly. A large sum of money (I do not know the exact figure, but if you cut the figure in half that I heard, I could still retire on it!) due to our parent organization, Acme News, was suddenly cut off. Negotiations with creditors and with possible candidates to come in with us, proceeded like a peace conference -- on Friday it looks as if all is settled; then, Monday morning when one goes back to sign the final agreements, it's discovered that all is illusion. There were several such false starts during the period between the end of June and the end of September. And the most crushing was the one where, literally, everything seemed settled on Friday, and Monday it was discovered that creditors had combined to force Acme News into bankruptcy.

At the time the roof fell in (before we were cut to pieces), the fourth issue of *Weird Terror Tales* was ready to print; the second issue of *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* was closed; and copy for the 35th issue of *Magazine of Horror* had been sent to be set up in type. None of this material will ever appear as originally planned. I expect to use nearly all of it in later issues, but the 35th issue of *Magazine of Horror* will not contain anything previously announced for it. And one editorial and one set of book reviews, and one letter department will have to be done over from scratch; that's what I get for not making carbons! (Worse still, I haven't the foggiest recollection now of what that editorial was about.)

We're putting the pieces back together, and we expect to continue *Magazine of Horror*, *Startling Mystery Stories*, *Bizarre Fantasy Tales*, and *Exploring the Unknown* on a bi-monthly basis. Whether *Weird Terror Tales* will be revived at a later time, I cannot say now. For reasons I shall have to leave dark at the moment, it was decided not to go on with it at the present time. However, this new plan will result (if it goes

through -- I won't believe it myself until I see it; I've been caught off-base too often during the siege) in 18 issues of the weird-fantasy-oldtime science fiction magazines a year: *Magazine of Horror* will be paired with *Exploring the Unknown*; *Startling Mystery Stories* will be paired with *Bizarre Fantasy Tales*. At this moment, the first pair has been closed and the master pasteup is about to be prepared for the printer, and I'm laying out the covers.

Contributors to the last three issues we published (*Magazine of Horror* #35, *Startling Mystery Stories* #17, *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* #1) have been waiting a long time for their checks. At several times it looked as if we could send them out; something intervened to delay. As of this date, I can only say that we expect and intend to pay our long-suffering authors, and hope we can do so within the fortnight; and also hope to be able to pay for new issues more promptly.

--Robert A.W. Lowndes

**MAGAZINE NEWS** *Vision of Tomorrow* will suspend publication effective with the current September issue. Plans for the contemplated companion magazine, *Sword and Sorcery*, have also been suspended. The publisher, Ronald Graham, recently suffered a heart attack and is severing ties with all his publishing activities. *Vision* was also having problems with distribution, although it was believed that these could have been worked out.

*Venture*, the companion magazine to *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, will cease publication effective with the issue currently on the stands. Poor sales are reported to be the major factor determining the second demise of F&SF's sister magazine. It is reported that sales on *Venture* never went over 20,000.

--Focal Point

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## The International Scene

**DENMARK** Vonnegut's *Pearls Before Swine* has appeared over here. Bad reviews. Moorcock's *The Final Programme* has appeared, in my translation. No reviews yet.

The Danish science fiction author Niels E. Nielsen has had a new sf novel published, *Herskerne* (The Rulers). The Danish radio has also, on October 12, broadcast his sf radio play *Hinsides Sol og Stjerner* (Beyond Sun and Stars). This story tells us of two French scientists exploring the Sargasso Sea in a diving bell. The line bursts, of course, and on the bottom of the sea they find an ancient civilization -- guess which. Full of empty phrases. --Jannick Storm

**GERMANY** **FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR.** The Frankfurt Book Fair this year brought about 200,000 different titles from 66 countries and 3300 publishing houses to the show halls in Germany. Only a very small fraction of these titles were science fiction. And most titles of that category were to be found in the traditional American and English publishers' displays. Only the new Ballantine series of adult fantasy seemed to draw any special attention.

The only folder devoted to science fiction, however, was passed out by Marion von Schröder science fiction & fantastica, a German series presenting translated science fiction. From Germany also, Heyne and Goldmann paperbacks presented their traditional "Utopische Romanen," while original German stories were easier to find on Lichtenberg Science Fiction (for example Wolfgang Jeschke, *Der Zeiter*) and Nymphenburger (among others, an interesting international anthology, *Der Monster in der Park*).

France had a few good displays. Marabou showed stories originally written in French, collections by Jean Rey, Thomas Owen, Claude Seignolle, etc. Likewise the series "Domaine fantastique," published by Pierre Belfond, was an interesting presentation.

As Tor Åge Bringsvaerd and myself spent time looking for stories originating outside the Anglo-American tradition, we asked for science fiction from the countries themselves. This proved to be a fairly negative search. Most science fiction published in Europe today is translated from English, and whatever originates in the respective countries of fantastic literature, is carefully not dubbed as science fiction. The same is true in respect to Asiatic, Australian, African and South American literature.

The Norwegian Book-club, which was not represented at the fair this year, is planning a science fiction-centered stand at the Frankfurt Book Fair 1971. --Jon Bing

**NORWAY** On Norwegian television, the science fiction adventures of "Slim John" is at the moment serving as language instruction for a general audience. Likewise the Norwegian tv science fiction series starts up October 17 with a 45-minute retrospective look at science fiction -- starting with folk tales and sagas, and ending with Wells and Meliërs. Next follow adaptations of the Bob Tucker story "The Tourist Trade" and the Bradbury chronicle "The Visitor." This last was shot in the only desert of North Europe, just outside the small mountain village of Pøros (This city will soon be well known as the setting for Nobel prize winner Solzhenitsyn's *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch*, which is also shot here).

*Continued on Page 9*



## Coming Events

November

1 ALBUQUERQUE SF GROUP MEETING at Los Ranchos Village Hall, 920 Green Valley Rd., N.W., Albuquerque, N. M. For info: Bob Vardeman, P. O. Box 11352, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

1 ESFA MEETING at the YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St, Newark, N.J. at 3pm

3 FANATICS MEETING at home of member at 7:30pm. For info: Quinn Y. Simpson, 977 Kains Ave Albany, Calif. 94706

4 WOODCHUCKS MEETING at home of member. For info: Greg Bear, 5787 College Ave, Apt. 37, San Diego, Ca. 92120 (ph:286-4736)

6 LITTLE MEN MEETING at home of member at 7:30pm. For info: J. Ben Stark, 113 Ardmore Rd, Berkeley, Calif. 94707

6 WSFA MEETING at home of member, at 8pm. For info: Alexis Gilliland, 2126 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20032

7 CINCINNATI FANTASY GROUP MEETING at home of member. For info: Lou Tabakow, 2953 St. Johns Terr, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

7 HOUSTON SF SOCIETY MEETING at home of member. For info: Joe Pumilia, 420 W. Bell, Houston, Tex. 77019

8 HAFASD MEETING at home of member at 1pm. For info: Roger A. Freedman, 8479 Scarf Pl, San Diego, Calif. 92119 (ph:469-4280)

8 NESFA MEETING at home of member For info: NESFA, P. O. Box G, MIT Branch Sta, Cambridge, Mass

13 NAMELESS ONES MEETING at home of member at 8:30pm. For info: Wally Weber, Box 267, 507 3rd Ave, Seattle, Wash. 98105 (ph: RO7-6243)

13 PSFS MEETING at Central YMCA, 15th & Arch Sts, Philadelphia, at 8pm in conjunction with Philcon

13 VALSFA MEETING at home of member. For info: Dwain Kaiser,

390 N. Euclid, Upland, Calif. 91786

13-15 PHILCON at the Sheraton Hotel, 1725 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. Principal speaker: Larry Niven. For info: George H. Scithers, Box 8243, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101

14 CALGARY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB MEETING. For info: Brian Hval, 1712 Home Rd, N.W., Calgary 45, Canada

14 MINN-STF MEETING at home of member at noon. For info: Frank Stodolka, 1325 W. 27th St Minneapolis, Minn. 55408

15 MISFITS MEETING at home of member at 3pm. For info: Howard DeVore, 4705 Weddel St, Dearborn Heights, Mich. 48125 (ph: LO5-4157)

17 FANATICS MEETING, see Nov. 3

18 WOODCHUCKS MEETING, see Nov. 4

20 LITTLE MEN MEETING, see Nov. 6

20 WSFA MEETING, see Nov. 6

21 CHICAGO SF LEAGUE MEETING at home of George Price, 1439 W. North Shore Ave, Chicago, Ill. 60626, at 8pm

21 CINCINNATI FANTASY GROUP MEETING, see Nov. 7

21 DASFA MEETING at Columbia Savings & Loan Assoc, corner of W. Colfax & Wadsworth, Lakewood, Colo. at 7:30pm. For info: Camille Cazedessus Jr, P. O. Box 550, Evergreen, Colo. 80439

21 DaSFS MEETING at home of member at 8pm. For info: Tom Reamy, Box 523, Richardson, Tex. 75080

21 LUNARIAN MEETING at home of Frank Dietz, 655 Orchard St, Oradell, N.J. at 8:30pm. Guests of members & out-of-town fans.

22 HAFASD MEETING, see Nov. 8

22 NESFA MEETING, see Nov. 8

27 VALSFA MEETING, see Nov. 13

28 CALGARY SF CLUB MEETING, see Nov. 14

28 OMICRON CETI THREE MEETING at home of member at 8:30pm. For info: Joe Isenstadt, 821 N. Hamilton Ave, Lindenhurst, N.Y. (ph:516-TU8-8327)

29 OSFA MEETING at Museum of Science & Nat. Hist., Oak Knoll Pk at Big Bend & Clayton Rds, St. Louis -- the Science Bldg, 3rd floor, at 2pm. For info: Doug Clark, 6216 Famous Ave, St. Louis, Mo. 63139

29 OSFIC MEETING in Toronto. For info: Peter Gill, 18 Glen Manor Dr, Toronto 13, Canada (ph:694-0667)

## December

19-20 PARTYCON at Howard Johnson's in Dallas. For info: Larry Hearndon, 1830 Highland Dr, Carrollton, Tex. 75006

## January

1-2 AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION in Melbourne. For info: John Foyster, 12 Glengariff Dr, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170, Australia

22-24 MONDO-CON at the Statler Hilton, 33rd St, & 7 Ave, NYC. Adv. reg: \$2.50, \$3.50 at door. For info: Gale Burnick, P. O. Box 74, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

## February

12-15 PRESIDENTS' DAY SCIENCE FICTION CONFERENCE (PRESICON) at the Airport Marina Hotel, 8601 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, Cal. 90045. GoH: Emil Petaja. Adv. reg: \$3 till Feb. 1; then \$5.00 For info: Bruce Pelz, P.O. Box 1, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

## March

12-14 BOSKONE VIII in the Boston area. Adv. reg: \$3.00, \$4.00 at door. Program, films, swimming pool. For info: NESFA, P.O. Box G, MIT Branch P. O., Cambridge, Mass. 02139

26-28 MARCON VI at the Sheraton-Columbus Motor Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. GoH: Lester Del Rey. For info: Larry Smith, 5730 Roche Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229

## April

2-4 CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EARTH at The Cleveland State Univ. For info: Jan Finder, 23951 Lake Shore Blvd. #204-B, Euclid, Ohio 44123

9-11 EASTERCON 22 at the Giffard Hotel, Worcester. GoH: Brian W. Aldiss. For info: Peter R. Weston, 31 Pinewall Ave, Birmingham 30, U.K.

9-11 PECON 2. GoH: Gordon R. Dickson. Adv. reg: \$2.50, \$3 at door. For info: Don Blyly, 158 Hopkins, URH, Champaign, Ill. 61820

16-18 LUNACON at the Commodore Hotel in New York. Adv. reg: \$2.50 to Devra Langsam, 250 Crown St, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225

## July

8-11 DCON at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Dallas. Adv. reg: \$5; \$6 at door. For info: Dcon, Box 242, Lewisville, Tex. 75067

## MEETINGS HELD EVERY WEEK:

BALTIMORE SCIENCE-FANTASY GROUP: Sat. at homes of members. For info: Jack Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21207 (ph: 301-367-0605)

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: Thurs in the Postcrypt (basement of St. Paul's Chapel) on the Columbia campus, at 8:30pm. For info: Eli Cohen, 408 McBain, 562 W. 113th St, New York, N.Y. 10025 (ph:280-7310)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SF SOCIETY: Wed on Univ. campus at 7:30pm. For info: Don Blyly, 158 Hopkins, URH, Champaign, Ill. 61820 (ph:332-1170)

LASFS: Thurs at Palms Playground Recreation Center, 2950 Overland Ave, W. Los Angeles, at 8 pm. (ph:838-3838)

NOSFA: Sat at homes of various members at 7pm. For info: John

*Continued on Page 12*

## S F and the Cinema

*GAS-S-S-S!* a release from American International Pictures, 1970. 80 min  
Directed by Roger Corman. Story by George Armitage. Starring Robert  
Corff and Elaine Giftos. Color by Movie Lab. Rating: GP

Taking off from the premise of accidental release of a gas designed for biological warfare, which causes extremely rapid aging of everyone over 25, this film attempts to portray what life might be like among the under-25 once they are completely free of the establishment. Unfortunately too many of those we meet are pictured as psychos, obsessed with football, golf, and the like. While this makes for wild action, it nevertheless creates a credibility gap which makes the whole film unbelievable. But since the picture really wasn't meant to be believable, it merely adds to what is really a spoof on the whole youth movement. It's quite an experience, and recommended for anyone who digs the put-on which is currently popular.

--F. Maxim

### NEWS AND NOTES

*Marooned*, which was originally the official U. S. entry at the Czechoslovakian Karlovy Vary Film Festival, was withdrawn from competition after problems with the Czech government over the USIA's film of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The film was still shown, but only non-competitively.

*2001*, which still appears regularly on *Variety's* top 50 list, has been running for over 3 years in Toronto, making its stand there its longest so far anywhere in the world.

A little known Jules Verne novel, *Light at the Edge of the World*, is being filmed in Spain under the direction of well-known Spanish director Alfredo Matas. The picture co-stars Kirk Douglas, Yul Brynner, and Samantha Eggar, and at \$4,000,000 will be one of the most expensive films in Spanish history.

--Jerry Lapidus

Walter Seltzer Productions has just signed Boris Sagal to direct the new film version of Richard Matheson's 1954 terror novel of the last human on an Earth of vampires, *I Am Legend*. This Warner Bros. film will star Charlton Heston and filming is scheduled to begin on November 16. In 1961 there was a mediocre Italian-made version of the Matheson book with Vincent Price in the lead, under the title *The Last Man on Earth*.

American International Pictures will release *Dorian Gray*, an updated version of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, last filmed in the 40's with George Sanders and Hurd Hatfield. Massimo Dallamo directs *Dorian Gray*, and Helmut Berger and Richard Todd are the featured players.

American International is re-releasing four recent horror films: *The Oblong Box*, *The Conqueror Worm*, *Horror House* and *The Crimson Cult* under the inclusive title, *Ghoul-a-rama*. Vincent Price, Christopher Lee, Boris Karloff and Frankie Avalon are among the stars in these films.

Another American International re-release will be called *Three Peter Fonda Films*. Included in this package are *Wild Angels*, *The Trip*, and *Spirits of the Dead*. Of interest to fantasy fans are the last two titles.

*The Coffin* is a French horror drama released by Cinemation. Louis Soulannes will direct *The Coffin* which stars Nicole de Bonne and Danieeve Argene.



Cinematation will also release *Grimm's Fairy Tales for Adults*, a foreign import with a heavy emphasis on fantasy and horror, starring Marie Liljedahl, Ingrid von Bergen, Walter Geller and Alltera Lewitt.

*I Drink Your Blood* and *I Eat Your Skin* (so help me, those are the titles) are on double billing release from Cinematation. Anita Ekberg and Ralph Adams star in this horror combination.

Jim McBride is directing *Glenn & Randa* for UM Films. This film tells of a devastated Earth many years after an atomic holocaust. Two young survivors make a pilgrimage through the land composed of fragments of the past. Shelly Plimpton and Steve Curry are the stars.

--Mike Deckinger

Sagittarius Productions has acquired the film rights to *The First of January* by Max Ehrlich and Frank Defelitta. This ecological science fact/fiction of the future will be directed by Michael Campus, shooting to begin in January.

Other films currently in production are *The House That Dripped Blood* by Amicus Productions for CRC release, produced by Milton Subotsky and Max J. Rosenberg; and of course *Clockwork Orange* which started filming September 7 in England (Warner Bros., Stanley Kubrick producer/director).

The widespread fires which devastated thousands of acres in California late in September also swept the 20th Century-Fox ranch at Malibu, razing a number of standing sets. Sets destroyed included some used for *Dr. Dolittle* and *Planet of the Apes*.

**SITGES FESTIVAL** Screening of a week of non-competitive fantasy and terror films ended October 9 with 12 countries participating. Highlights were the two last films made by Boris Karloff, *The Curse of the Crimson Altar* and *The Sorcerers*. Both were well received by audiences. Most acclaimed picture of the festival and probable winner if prizes had been awarded was Andrezej Wajda's *Roly Poly*, made for Polish tv and farcically dealing with transplant problems. Russian entries, *Fogs of Andromeda* and *Sadko* both disappointed audiences. The largest number of entries came from Britain. In addition to Karloff pictures, screenings included *Torture Garden* by Freddie Francis with Jack Palance and Burgess Meredith, *Old Dark House* by William Castle, *The Body Stealers* and *Are You Dying Young Man?* with Beryl Reid and Flora Robson. France entered *Paris n'existe pas* (Paris Doesn't Exist) directed by Robert Benayoun with Daniel Gauberg & Richard Leduc, *Le dernier homme* (The Last Man) by Charles Bitsch (who was the only director personally present at the fest) with Sofia Torkeli, *La pince à ongles* (The Nailcutter) and *Piege* (Trap) by Jacques Baratier, based on the story by exiled Spanish playwright Fernando Arrabal, with Arrabal in the cast.

Germany entered *Burn, Witch, Burn*, directed by Michael Armstrong, with Herbert Lom; and *Jonathan* by Hans Geissendorfer, as well as *Dorian Gray*, co-produced in Italy. Brazil came up with *Tarzan* by David Neves and *The Last Man* by Fontuora y Calmon, while Czech entries were *Nights in Prague* and *The Lame Devil*. Italy's bid was *The Tunnel Under the World* by Alfredo Castelli. South Korea entered *Amorous Rancer*, the U.S. *The Name of the Game Is Kill* by Gunnar Hellstrom with Susan Strasberg, Japan *The Destruction of the Monster* by Ishiro Hondo, and Canada *Vertice*.

Lack of subtitles in various offerings was a major shortcoming throughout the festival and only three or four pictures ran with them. No celebrities showed up for the festival, which is in its third year at this vacation resort near Barcelona.

**AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL NEWS** AIP's multiple picture contract with Vincent Price has been extended to assure at least two more features by January 1973. Probably the only star-studio association left on the Hollywood scene, Vincent Price has starred in 19 films for AIP, beginning with *The House of Usher* in 1960.

Jason Robards has been signed to star in *Murders in the Rue Morgue*. The second AIP release to star Robards, *Murders* was scheduled to roll October 5 with Gordon Hessler as director. It will be an Italian-Spanish coproduction.

Vincent Price has been cast in the title role of *The Curses of Dr. Phibes*, AIP's most expensive horror picture. Scheduled to begin shooting on November 2, the story is about a modern screwball genius who visits Biblical curses on his enemies. To be directed by Robert Fuest, it will be produced by Albert Fennell and Ron Dunas. Screenplay by James Whiton and William Goldstein.

Richard Matheson has been signed to develop the screenplay for *G.O.O. - Galactic Octopedular Ooze*, which will be produced early in 1971 by Samuel Z. Arkoff and James H. Nicholson.

Acquired for release in the spring of 1971 is *Incredible Two-Headed Transplant*, a color feature starring Bruce Dern, Pat Priest and Casey Kasem. It was directed by Anthony M. Lanza, John Lawrence producer, for Transgrafting Productions, Inc.

AIP has signed an agreement with Cartridge TV Inc. for the non-exclusive distribution of 15 AIP features on video cartridges. The first group, all of which were originally released between 1956 and 1959, include *It Conquered the World*, *She Creature*, *I Was a Teen-Age Werewolf*, *Amazing Colossal Man*, *I Was a Teen-Age Frankenstein*, *Blood of Dracula*, *How to Make a Monster*, *Horrors of the Black Museum* and *Brain Eaters*.

#### CURRENTLY IN RELEASE

**COUNT YORGA, VAMPIRE** AIP Written and directed by Bob Kelljan, produced by Michael Macready. Starring Robert Quarry, Roger Perry, Michael Murphy, Michael Macready and Donna Anders. 90 min. Rating: GP

**THE CRIMSON CULT** AIP Directed by Vernon Sewell, produced by Louis M. Heyward, screenplay by Mervyn Haisman & Henry Lincoln. With Boris Karloff, Christopher Lee. 87 min. Rating: GP

**I KILLED EINSTEIN, GENTLEMEN** Czech State film release of Barrandov Studio production. Directed by Oldrich Lipsky, screenplay by Josef Nesvadba, Milos Macourek & Oldrich Lipsky. Starring Jiri Sovak, Jana Brejchova, Lubomir Lipsky, Iva Janzurova, Petr Cepek & Radoslav Brzobohaty. 95 min.

**JE T'AIME, JE T'AIME** 20th Fox release. Directed by Alain Resnais, screenplay by Jacques Sternberg. Starring Claude Rich, Olga Georges Picot, Anouk Ferjac, Marle-Blanche Vergne, Dominique Rozan and Van Doude. 91 min.

**THE MIND OF MR. SOAMES** Columbia Pictures release of Amicus production Directed by Alan Cooke, screenplay by John Hale & Edward Simpson from novel by Charles Eric Maine. Starring Terence Stamp, Robert Vaughn, Nigel Davenport. 87 min.

**TIME OF ROSES** Cinema Dimensions release, Finnish. Directed by Risto Jarva. Starring Ritva Vepsa, Arto Tuominen, Taria Markus. 90 min.

**TOOMORROW** Rank release of Lowndes production. Directed and written by Val Guest, produced by Harry Saltzman and Don Kirshner. 95 min.

**TROG** Warner Bros. release. Directed by Freddie Francis, produced by Herman Cohen, screenplay by Aben Kandel from original story by Peter Bryan and John Gilling. Starring Joan Crawford. 93 min.



THE VAMPIRE LOVERS MGM-EMI release of Hammer-American International production. Directed by Roy Ward Baker, produced by Harry Fine and Michael Style. Screenplay by Tudor Gates from adaptation of Sheridan LeFanu's "Carmilla". Starring Peter Cushing, Ingrid Pitt, George Cole. 91 min.

A VAMPIRE'S DREAM UCB release of Ser-Cine production. Directed and written by Ihere Cavalcanti. 80 min.

WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH Warner Bros. release of a Hammer film Directed by Val Guest, screenplay by Guest with treatment by J.B. Ballard. Starring Victoria Vetri, Robin Hawdon, Patrick Allen, Drewe Henley, Sean Caffrey, Magda Konopka, Imogen Hassall & Patrick Holt. 100 min.

### SOME NEW THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS IN NEW YORK

ALICE IN WONDERLAND adapted by Andre Gregory, director of the Manhattan Project, NYUSOA. Opened early October at The Extension, 277 Park Ave. South. Highly praised by New York Times' Clive Barnes.

DRACULA SABBAT by Leon Katz, based on the novel. Directed by Lawrence Kornfeld. Presented by the Judson Poets' Theater at Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South. Opened early October. Called "depraved, shocking" by New York Times

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WANDA JUNE by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Directed by Michael J. Kane at the Theater De Lys, 121 Christopher Street. "A diverting evening."

VIA GALACTICA, a new science fiction musical being prepared for the fall Broadway season by Galt McDermot, composer of the music for *Hair*. The production has been described as "a futuristic, science fiction adventure in outer space" and will reportedly include numerous visual effects. McDermot is writing the music, with book and lyrics by Christopher Gore. Edwin Sherin, who directed the multi-award-winning *The Great White Hope*, will also direct this production. Lighting will be by Jules Risher, with scenery designed by Robin Wagnern. --Jerry Lapidus

### THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE *Continued from Page 3*

Tor Åge Bringsvaerd's new novel, *Vazar*, is called by critics "the sensation of the year." The author calls his book "a report from a world where all things are relative and reality changes from day to day." The main character is "a cross between Alice and Winnie the Pooh." In this crazy world the reader is captured by a crazy professor with three dead skyscrapers, an ex-cashier who insists on survival and consequently has made his home in a vaccinated bunker, a supranormal cat, a band of wild garages and a coitus machine.

Jon Bing's new book, *Det Myke Landskapet* (The Soft Landscape) has also received favorable comments. This is a book from the borderline of reality and fantasy. The style is hard as an agent-story or soft as a ballad, a traveler's guide to the soft landscape that is the mythology of daily life.

Tor Bjerke's *Rendezvous* is a science fiction thriller which has much in common with for example *Marooned*. It's slick and fast moving. The comments in the press have been rather mixed, but all in all favorable for a first timer.

I am on the lookout for non-Anglo American science fiction and fantasy and would be interested in anything that looks promising. Write to me at: Jon Bing, Tøyengaten 37, Oslo 5, Norway.

# Coming Attractions

F&SF -- January

## Novelettes

THE HUMAN OPERATORS by Harlan Ellison & A.E. Van Vogt  
SEEKER FOR STILL LIFE by Gordon Eklund

## Short Stories

MR. KRISKY'S CROSS by Michael Gillgannon  
HEATHEN GOD by George Zebrowski  
SPRING AND THE GREEN-EYED GIRL by Doris Pitkin Buck  
MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER by Leonard Tushnet  
SPECIALIZATION by Gary Jennings

## Features

FILMS by Baird Searles  
WINTER CITY (verse) by Sonya Dorman

## Science

HOT WATER by Isaac Asimov  
Cover by VAUGHN BODE for "The Human Operators"

MAGAZINE OF HORROR -- February

## Novelettes

THE ALTAR OF MELEK TAOS by G.G. Pendarves  
IN THE LAIR OF THE SPACE MONSTERS by Frank Belknap Long

## Short Stories

THE CHENOO by Stephen Goldin  
OLD CITY OF JADE by Thomas H. Knight  
A RENDEZVOUS IN AVEROIGNE by Clark Ashton Smith  
THE MYSTERY IN ACATLAN by Rachel Marshall & Maverick Terrell

WORLDS OF FANTASY -- Winter

## Complete Novel

THE TOMBS OF ATUAN by Ursula K. LeGuin

## Novelette

IF A FLOWER COULD ECLIPSE by Michael Bishop

## Short Stories

MEE TOO by Sonya Dorman  
DEATH OF A PECULIAR BOAR by Naomi Mitchinson  
SANTA TITICACA by Connie Willis

A SHIP WILL COME by Robert F. Young

FUNNY PLACE by Naomi J. Kahn  
IN THE CARDS by Robert Bloch  
THE MAN DOORS SAID HELLO TO by James Tiptree Jr.

## Features

WHAT DO YOU MEAN -- FANTASY? by Theodore Sturgeon  
AMONG THE GRIMOIRES by Lester del Rey

Cover by GAUGHAN suggested by "The Tombs of Atuan"

## Current Issue

VISION OF TOMORROW -- September

## Short Stories

LALOE by Norman Lazenby  
CASSANDRA'S CASTLE by Lee Harding  
THE FAUNTLEROY SYNDROME by Brian N. Ball  
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE by Richard A. Gordon  
THE SLITHERERS by John Russell Fearn

## Features

MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE by John Baxter  
THE IMPATIENT DREAMERS, pt.12 by John Carnell  
ARTICLE & PAINTING: Mars: Not So Friendly Neighbour by David A. Hardy

Cover by STANLEY PITT for "Cassandra's Castle"

## ACE NOVEMBER RELEASES

Carr, Terry, ed. ON OUR WAY TO THE FUTURE. 62940 75¢  
Compton, D.G. CHRONOCULES. 10480 75¢  
Farmer, Philip Jose THE STONE GOD AWAKENS. 78650 75¢  
Garner, Alan ELIDOR. 20275 60¢  
Heinlein, Robert A. THE ROLLING STONES. 73440 95¢  
Koontz, Dean R. DARK OF THE WOODS and SOFT COME THE DRAGONS. 13793 75¢

# ASTRONOMICAL ART GREETING CARDS

Morris Dollens, 4372 Coolidge  
Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90066.

From the art work of MORRIS SCOTT DOLLENS, a series of greeting cards have been produced, mostly in French Fold format about 4 x 6 inches folded, and three designs in straight folded format about 4 x 9 inches; all are printed in shades of blue-black ink, appropriate to the scenic paintings of other planets. One card's design uses the symbolic art of four linoleum blocks reproduced by lithography, one design is hand-printed in two colors direct from the blocks, and another consists of three nature photographs of trees of our earthside. Most of the designs are from paintings depicting landscapes of our moon and other planets, with appropriate messages. An illustrated brochure showing each design in miniature size costs 10¢ to cover postage; a sample card will be sent for another 15¢.

The cards sell for 15¢ each, with discounts for quantities larger than 10, which can be mixed in designs. There is a possibility of an additional selection of a few new designs available in early November -- notice will be given to inquirers.



## BOOK PLATES

Sometime this fall or winter, a group of bookplates will be produced using some of these designs -- an illustrated brochure with a sample will be 10¢ to cover costs.

## Color Slides

Color slides are available, in stock, of 208 different subjects from these paintings--- a completely illustrated catalog is 50¢.

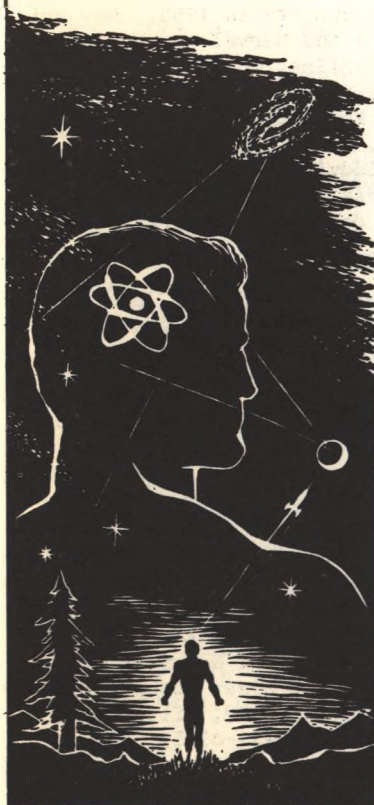
## sf radio plays

A catalog listing over 150 half-hour radio plays from Dimension-X, X Minus One, and Exploring Tomorrow, including many Ray Bradbury stories, is 50¢. These are available for trade or custom copying.

## Arts & Infinity

The long-awaited art magazine is still in process, delayed by the painting of almost 200 new astronomical scenes since May, 1969, for sale at conventions and to private collectors. The first issue is expected before the end of 1970. \$1.00 per copy, \$4.00 for four issues. Brochure about it, 10¢.

MORRIS SCOTT DOLLENS, 4372 Coolidge  
Ave., Los Angeles, California 90066.





# Comic World

by David Charles Paskow

This new department (named after a fanzine of mine of many years back) will attempt to deal with an area of fantasy publishing which is too seldom treated with the seriousness it deserves. Naturally, I'm referring to the sadly misnamed 'comic' magazines.

By way of introduction, this initial column will deal with the three main publishers: National Periodical Publications Inc., Marvel Comics, and Gold Key. National is the oldest and largest, and best known for *Superman*. Unfortunately, quantity outstrips quality too often and some serious attempts fall victim to greed. It is only recently that National has turned to the serious issues of the day (race relations, pollution, population) in such titles as *Green Lantern*, *Aquaman*, *Justice League*, and *Teen Titans*. National will succeed or fail (in a social sense) mostly on the efforts of editors Julius Schwartz and Dick Giordano and writers such as Gardner Fox, Frank Robbins, and Denny O'Neill.

The Marvel Comics group of today was born in August, 1961, when the November 1961 issue of *The Fantastic Four* went on sale. Stan Lee wrote the script and Jack Kirby drew it, and success was immediate. Here was something new -- a super-hero team that did not get along well with each other. At its inception, the FF wasn't truly a team, but rather four individuals who suddenly found themselves drastically transformed and did not know how to cope. In a word, here was characterization. The Marvel line caught on, achieving its peak in quality in 1965. New writers were added, giving Mr. Lee some free time and Marvel marched on. The last two years, however, have seen a slow decline, what with the issuance of reprint titles and some sloppy scripting by Mr. Lee. Still, Marvel is Stan Lee (with a little help from Roy Thomas) and is the leader in the areas of art and characterization.

Gold Key, though publishing mostly 'kiddy' titles, is included for its excellent Tarzan adaptations, *Korak*, *Boris Karloff Tales of Mystery*, *Twilight Zone*, *Dark Shadows*, and the now defunct *Star Trek*. "Superheroes" have proven unsuccessful with this line, perhaps for the best; TV adaptations are Gold Key's strong point.

This has been an admittedly cursory examination of the publishers; when we start concentrating on individual titles, the background information will be more detailed. In the meantime, send for a copy of Jim Steranko's *History of Comics*, volume 1 (\$3.25 from Supergraphics, Box 445, Wyomissing, Pa. 19610), hope for the publication of Dick Lupoff's *All in Color for a Dime*, and grab a copy of what may be the comic of the year, Marvel's *Conan the Barbarian*.

Any suggestions from LUNA readers as to what should or shouldn't be included in future columns will be welcome and appreciated.

## COMING EVENTS *Continued from Page 5*

Guidry, 5 Finch St, New Orleans  
La. 70124 (ph:282-0443)

### PORTLAND SOCIETY OF STRANGERS:

Sat at homes of members at 7:30  
pm. For info: Mike Zaharakis,  
1326 SE 15, Portland, Ore.  
(ph:232-8408)

QUANTA LTD: Sun at 5pm at home  
of Ivor Rogers, 110 S. Monroe,

Green Bay, Wis. Call Ivor or  
Debby at 432-4741 for details.

### WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SF ASSOC:

Sun at 2pm at homes of members.  
For info: Linda Bushyager, 5620  
Darlington Rd, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
15217 (ph:421-0185)

Information supplied in this list is the latest available  
to us, including all changes received prior to closing date.

## New Books

### HARDCOVERS

- Addams, Charles MY CROWD (cartoons) Simon & Schuster, Sept. \$5.95
- Alexander, Lloyd THE MARVELOUS MISADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN (juv fty) Dutton, Sept. \$5.95
- Briggs, Raymond JIM AND THE BEAN-STALK (juv fty) Coward McCann, Oct. \$4.95
- Burroughs, John Coleman JOHN CARTER OF MARS (Sunday pages) House of Greystoke. \$15.00
- Cohen, Daniel A MODERN LOOK AT MONSTERS (nf) Dodd, Oct. \$5.95
- Dines, Glen SIR CECIL AND THE BAD BLUE BEAST (juv fty) S.G. Phillips, Oct. \$4.95
- Engdahl, Sylvia Louise JOURNEY BETWEEN WORLDS (juv) Atheneum, Sept. \$5.25
- Fensch, Thomas ALICE IN ACIDLAND (marg fty) A. S. Barnes, Oct. \$5.95
- Fine, Warren THE MOUSECHILDREN AND THE FAMOUS COLLECTOR (fty) Harper, Sept. \$7.50
- Gordon, Giles PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION (coll, marg fty) Dial Sept. \$4.95
- Goulart, Frances Sheridan THE MOTHER GOOSE COOKBOOK. Price/Stern/Sloan. \$3.95
- Haining, Peter, ed. THE SATANISTS (repr) Taplinger, Sept. \$5.95
- Hartman, Lou THE MONSTROUS LEATHERN MAN (marg juv) Atheneum, Sept. \$5.25
- Kavan, Anna ICE (repr) Doubleday Oct. \$4.50
- Kelley, William Melvin DUNFORDS TRAVELS EVERYWHERE (marg supernat) Doubleday, Sept. \$5.95
- Krahn, Fernando HOW SANTA CLAUS HAD A LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY DELIVERING HIS PRESENTS (juv fty no words) Delacorte, Oct. \$3.95
- McCutchan, Philip THE ALL-PURPOSE BODIES (marg, repr) John Day, Sept. \$4.50
- Mackellar, William A GHOST AROUND THE HOUSE (juv) McKay, Fall. \$3.95
- Manning Sanders, Ruth, ed. A BOOK OF MAGICAL BEASTS (juv fty) T. Nelson, Oct. \$4.95
- Max, Peter THE PETER MAX LAND OF BLUE (and how the cousins got there) (marg juv fty) F. Watts, Oct. \$2.95
- THE PETER MAX LAND OF RED (and Boy Green's surprise in the cosmic color tunnel) (marg juv fty) F. Watts, Oct. \$2.95
- THE PETER MAX LAND OF YELLOW (and how the Purple King nearly lost himself there) (marg juv fty) F. Watts, Oct. \$2.95
- Meltzer, David LUNA (poems, some fty & sf) Black Sparrow Press, July. \$15.00
- Mills, Mary PETER PRETZEL (juv fty) Dorrance, Oct. \$2.50
- Nishimaki, Kayako & Shigeo Nakamura THE LAND OF LOST BUTTONS (juv fty, tr) Parents, Sept. \$3.95
- Norton, Andre DREAD COMPANION (juv) Harper, Sept. \$4.95
- Nourse, Alan E. NINE PLANETS (YA, nf, rev. ed) Harper, Sept. \$8.95
- O'Keefe, Richard F. A BOOK OF CREATURES (juv) Carlton, July. \$2.50
- Olds, C. Burnell THE QUAS OF QUAS-AR. Vantage. \$3.50
- Pillitteri, Joseph WHEN THE GIRAFFE RUNS DOWN (marg supernat) Dial, Sept. \$5.95
- Rojas, Riera, illus. THE MAGIC FLUTE (juv repr) F. Watts Curtain Raiser Book, Sept. \$4.95
- Rudwin, Maximilian THE DEVIL IN LEGEND AND LITERATURE (repr of 1931 ed) AMS Press. \$14.50
- Sallis, James A FEW LAST WORDS (coll) Macmillan, Oct. \$4.95
- Softly, Barbara MAGIC PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD: A Book to Begin On (juv) Holt, Sept. \$3.50
- Stanton, Will ONCE UPON A TIME IS ENOUGH (marg fty) Lippincott, Oct. \$2.95
- Stewart, Ramona THE POSSESSION OF JOEL DELANEY (supernat) Little, Sept. \$5.95
- Süssmann, Christel MY HAPPY

DREAMLAND BOOK (juv fty, tr)  
 Platt & Munk. \$1.95  
 Sutton, Henry VECTOR (marg) B.  
 Geis, May. \$5.95  
 Taine, John THE TIME STREAM, THE  
 GREATEST ADVENTURE, THE PURPLE  
 SAPPHIRE (Dover book rebound)  
 P. Smith. \$4.50  
 Terris, Susan THE UPSTAIRS WITCH  
 AND THE DOWNSTAIRS WITCH (juv  
 fty) Doubleday, Sept. \$2.95  
 Thomas, Ted & Kate Wilhelm THE  
 YEAR OF THE CLOUD. Doubleday,  
 Oct. \$4.95  
 Wahl, Jan THE PRINCE WHO WAS A  
 FISH (marg juv fty) Simon &  
 Schuster, Fall. \$4.95  
 Wahloo, Peter THE STEEL SPRING  
 (repr, tr) Delacorte, Sept.  
 \$5.95  
 Walters, Hugh NEPTUNE ONE IS MISS-  
 ING (juv repr) Ives Washburn,  
 Sept. \$3.95  
 Whitney, Thomas P. tr. VASILISA  
 THE BEAUTIFUL (juv fty) Mac-  
 millan, Sept. \$4.95  
 Withers, Carl PAINTING THE MOON:  
 A Folktale from Estonia (juv)  
 Dutton, Sept. \$4.90  
 Wurlitzer, Rudolph FLATS (marg)  
 Dutton, Sept. \$4.95

### PAPERBACKS

Anderson, Poul SATAN'S WORLD  
 (repr) Lancer 74698, Nov. 75¢  
 Buckland, Raymond PRACTICAL CAND-  
 LE BURNING (spells) Llewellyn.  
 \$2.00  
 Burroughs, John Coleman JOHN CAR-  
 TER OF MARS (Sunday pages) House  
 of Greystoke. \$12.50  
 Butler, Ivan THE CINEMA OF ROMAN  
 POLANSKI. A. S. Barnes, Oct.  
 \$2.95  
 Carlson, Eric W., ed. THE RECOG-  
 NITION OF EDGAR ALLAN POE: Se-  
 lected Criticism since 1829 (nf,  
 repr) Univ. of Mich. Press AA  
 168, Sept. \$2.95  
 Carter, Lin, ed. GOLDEN CITIES,  
 FAR (fty) Ballantine 02045, Oct  
 95¢  
 THE MAGIC OF ATLANTIS. Lancer  
 74699, Nov. 75¢  
 Charbonneau, Louis BARRIER WORLD

Lancer 74687, Oct. 75¢  
 Coffman, Virginia PRIESTESS OF  
 THE DAMNED (Lucifer Cove #2)  
 Lancer 74697, Nov. 75¢  
 Dias, Robert Vas, ed. INSIDE OUT-  
 ER SPACE: New Poems of the Space  
 Age. Doubleday Anchor A738, Sep  
 \$1.95  
 Dixon, Roger NOAH II. Ace 58250,  
 Oct. 75¢  
 Foster, Hal TARZAN: Two Great Ad-  
 ventures (Sunday pages) House  
 of Greystoke. \$7.00  
 Gallagher, Richard THE DOOMSDAY  
 COMMITTEE (marg) Award A670S,  
 Aug. 75¢  
 Gaskell, Jane ATLAN (fty, reissue  
 #2 of series) Paperback 65-452,  
 Oct. 95¢  
 THE CITY (fty, reissue, #3 of  
 series) Paperback 64-450, Oct.  
 75¢  
 THE SERPENT (fty, reissue, #1 of  
 series) Paperback 65-451, Oct.  
 95¢  
 Greenfield, Irving A. SUCCUBUS.  
 Dell 8410, Sept. 95¢  
 Heinlein, Robert A. THE STAR BEAST  
 (repr) Ace 78000, Oct. 95¢  
 Hesse, Herman MAGISTER LUDI (tr,  
 repr) Bantam T555, Oct. \$1.50  
 Lavender, Curtis CONFESSIONS OF A  
 WARLOCK (marg nf) Lancer 75150,  
 Nov. 95¢  
 Lionel, Robert TIME ECHO (repr)  
 Macfadden 60-459. 60¢  
 Meltzer, David LUNA (poems, some  
 fty & sf) Black Sparrow Press,  
 July. \$4.00  
 Mendelsohn, Felix, Jr. SUPERBABY  
 (repr) Paperback 64-444, Oct.  
 75¢  
 Moskowitz, Sam, ed. FUTURES TO IN-  
 FINITY. Pyramid T2312, Sept.  
 75¢  
 Niven, Larry RINGWORLD. Ballan-  
 tine 02046, Oct. 95¢  
 Norton, Andre UNCHARTED STARS  
 (repr) Ace 84000, Oct. 75¢  
 Pendleton, Don 1989: POPULATION  
 DOOMSDAY. Pinnacle P007N, Sept.  
 95¢  
 Piper, Walter SPACE SWAP 1984-  
 8612 (ssf) Narcissus Series 185  
 \$2.25  
 Pohl, Frederik, ed. NIGHTMARE AGE



Ballantine 02044, Oct. 95¢  
 Simak, Clifford D. WHY CALL THEM  
 BACK FROM HEAVEN? (reissue) Ace  
 88601, Oct. 60¢  
 Smythe, R. John SWITCH-OFF (ssf)  
 Greenleaf ABl538. \$1.50  
 Temple, William F. SHOOT AT THE  
 MOON (reissue) Macfadden 75-356  
 Sept. 75¢  
 Townsend, Larry 2069 + 2 (ssf)  
 Phenix PR277. \$1.50  
 Trimble, Louis THE NOBLEST EXPER-  
 IMENT IN THE GALAXY / THE COMM-  
 UNIPATHS by Suzette Haden Elgin.  
 Ace 11560, Oct. 75¢  
 Van Arnam, Dave LORD OF BLOOD  
 (sequel to Star Barbarian) Lan-  
 cer 74688, Oct. 75¢  
 Van Vogt, A.E. CHILDREN OF TO-  
 MORROW. Ace 10410, Oct. 95¢  
 Wolfe, Louis JOURNEY OF THE OCEAN-  
 AUTS (juv repr) Pyramid T2299,  
 Sept. 75¢

#### NEW BRITISH BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Asimov, Isaac A WHIFF OF DEATH.  
 Sphere, 5/-, ne, non sf, pb.  
 7221.1242.4  
 Bloch, Robert & Ray Bradbury FEV-  
 ER DREAM AND OTHER FANTASIES.  
 Sphere, 5/-, pb. 7221.1714.0  
 Boulle, Pierre MONKEY PLANET. Tr  
 from French by Xan Fielding.  
 Penguin, 5/-, ne, pb. 14.002401  
 .8  
 Bulmer, Kenneth STAR TROVE. Hale  
 21/-, 7091.1644.6  
 Burroughs, Edgar Rice TARZAN AND  
 THE LOST EMPIRE. H. Baker, 25/-  
 ni. 09.308160.X  
 LORD OF THE JUNGLE. H. Baker,  
 25/-, ni. 09.308150.2  
 Carnell, E.J., ed. NEW WRITINGS  
 IN SF, vol. 17. Corgi, 5/-, ne,  
 pb. 552.08516.2  
 Clarke, Arthur C. EXPEDITION TO  
 EARTH. Sphere, 5/-, ne, pb.  
 7221.2407.4  
 GLIDE PATH. Sphere, 6/-, ne,  
 pb, non-sf. 7221.03374.2  
 Disch, Thomas M. ECHO ROUND HIS  
 BONES. Panther, 5/-, ne, pb.  
 586.03374.2  
 Hartridge, Jon EARTH JACKET.  
 Macdonald, 30/-, 356.03450.X

Knight, Damon ANALOGUE MEN.  
 Sphere, ni, pb. 7221.5306.6  
 Knight, Damon, ed. CITIES OF WON-  
 DER. Sphere, 6/-, ne, pb. 7221  
 .5305.8  
 Merril, Judith, ed. BEST OF SCI-FI  
 No. 12. Mayflower, 7/-, pb.  
 583.11784.8  
 Moorcock, Michael BEHOLD THE MAN.  
 Mayflower, 5/-, ne, pb. 583.  
 11787.2

These books are only available outside the United  
 Kingdom subject to market restrictions.

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## Have You Read?

Gumilev, L. N. & B. I. Kuznetsov  
 "Two Traditions of Ancient Tib-  
 etan Cartography" *Soviet Geo-  
 graphy*, Sept. p.565-79  
 Gussow, Mel "Vonnegut Is Having  
 Fun Doing a Play" *New York  
 Times*, Oct. 6, p.56  
 Hentoff, Nat "Looking Backwards--  
 and Ahead--With 'Alice'" *Wilson  
 Library Bulletin*, Oct. p.169-71  
 Joyner, Conrad "Pondering the Un-  
 thinkable" *America*, Oct. 10, p.  
 257-8  
 Kroll, Jack "The Count" (Dracula:  
 Sabbat) *Newsweek*, Oct. 5, p.87  
 Panshin, Alexei "Science Fiction  
 Bibliography and Criticism" *Amer-  
 ican Libraries*, Oct. p.884-5  
 Prideaux, Tom "New Blood for an  
 Old Vampire" (Dracula at Yale's  
 Story Theater) *Life*, Sept. 18,  
 p.20  
 "2001: A Race Odyssey" (photos of  
 space theme on truck panels)  
*Hot Rod*, Oct. p.82-3  
 Whitman, Charles "Lean Indeed"  
 (Shattered Ring) *Christian  
 Century*, Oct. 21, p.1268+

## Classified

"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" Special  
 Publication. July 1970 issue of  
 ERB-DOM; 10 pages of photos,  
 full color wrap around "mono-  
 lith" cover, several articles &  
 collectors' info. 25¢ per copy,  
 postpaid. Caz, P. O. Box 550,  
 Evergreen, Colo. 80439

# With Broadsword and Grimoire

by Lin Carter

*SWORDS AND DEVILTRY* by Fritz Leiber

*Ace 79170, May. 254 p. 75¢*

Not only is Fritz Leiber the finest Sword & Sorcery writer alive, but he has been writing the stuff longer than anyone else in the world. And he is still working on the same series he began with, for the first Fafhrd and Gray Mouser story was published in the August, 1939 *Unknown*, and the most recent yarns have been printed in 1970. Thirty-one years on the same series suggests that by now Leiber's saga must have a depth, texture and richness that renders it unique. Such is, indeed, the case.

Leiber seems to owe absolutely nothing to Robert E. Howard, and in that he stands apart from almost all the others who have worked in the genre. His prose seems more indebted to Eddison and Cabell than to anyone else. He writes with wit, precision, polish, and a wry humor that is delectable.

This is the fourth volume in the Fafhrd & Gray Mouser saga; by internal series-chronology, it is the first book of all; by any measurement, it is the very best. The three long novellas which comprise the book were written eight years apart. They are simply superb. First we "meet" the young barbarian, Fafhrd, and learn why he broke with his tribe in the first place. Then, in the second yarn, we watch as the young Mouser becomes a loner. And finally comes the ultimate story in which they team up for the first time. And it is a honey of a yarn. It has everything -- humor, drama, action, supernatural effects, characterization. A breathtaking piece of writing, spectacularly good. If the Sword & Sorcery world had its own Hugoes -- what would we call them, "Farnsworths"? -- my vote for 1970 would go to this excellent book.

*THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS* by Poul Anderson

*Avon S412, March. 160 p. 60¢*

Poul Anderson has done precious little straight Sword & Sorcery, and this novel is just that -- precious. In the sense of being a rare and flawless gem, I mean. Anderson plays on the plot of Pratt and de Camp's *Land of Unreason*, or so it seems: his modern-day hero is precipitated into an imaginary alternate past which never existed, save in the heroic epics of the Carolingian mythos.

Anderson is a "hard" writer: he works with strength, clarity, resonance, and brains. He has worked his story out beautifully, and puts his hero through the paces: in fact, the poor guy runs a gamut of monsters that would leave most of the Conan-esque muscleboys gasping -- a witch, dragon, giant, werewolf, and I don't know what-all. But through it all shines the loving care of a good craftsman. And one of the spunkiest, most delightful heroines since Jirel of Joiry!

Recommended without reservations.

*JEWEL OF THARN* by Jeffrey Lord

*Macfadden 75-272, March 1969. 160 p. 75¢*

This is the third in a series of gawdawful abortions from the pen of somebody who thinks a cross between straight heroic-world Sword & Sorcery, James Bond, and soft-core porno is a great idea. Let me not keep you in suspense -- it is one of the worst ideas ever.

It seems that whenever the Prime Minister at good old Number 10 Downing Street gives the word, special agent Richard Blade goes into the

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secret thingummy machine and emerges in another dimension or something. No conceivable reason why is ever offered. In this new world he is beaten, whipped, tortured, enslaved, hunted, chased, and also encounters an endless succession of sexually-insatiable super-women. He himself, for one or another plot reason, is bare-ass naked most of the time. This gives dear old Jeffrey Lord the chance to have every male character Blade meets gape, slack-jawed and drooling in jealous envy, at the superbly robust genital equipment wherewith our hero is fitted out. The writing is lackluster, the plot routine, and the book fails even as pornography in being, simply, dull.

Skip this one, gang. Skip the whole series, in fact.

*SONS OF THE BEAR-GOD* by Norvell W. Page  
Berkley X1769, Nov. 1969. 143 p. 60¢

This is the second of Page's novels about Wan Tengri, the giant swashbuckling ex-gladiator who brawled and battled his way across the ancient East to become the fabulous Prester John of glorious legend. Like its predecessor, *Flame Winds*, it is a damn good yarn, written with gusto and enthusiasm and a surprising touch of humor. Both of these novels are from the pages of *Unknown*; sadly, this is the last of them, which is a great pity. For not only are they squarely in the Conan tradition, but they are every bit as good as Conan. Strongly recommended.

*JONGOR OF LOST LAND* by Robert Moore Williams  
Popular Library 02498, April. 126 p. 60¢

Frankly, I approached this one with trepidation, as I have not enjoyed anything I have read by Williams in some years.

And, as I got into it, I felt hostile: had he borrowed his "Jongor of Lost Land" from my own character, "Thongor of Lost Lemuria"?

However, the copyright credits Ziff-Davis with the original publication, and gives a date of 1942, which suggests Williams is free at least of literary borrowing. I assume the novel appeared in either *Amazing* or *Fantastic* back in the Palmer era, but as I gave up both magazines as lost rather early on, I cannot be sure.

Surprisingly enough, the novel turned out to be first-rate Burroughsian heroics, with Jongor the son of aviators lost in the unknown interior of Australia. Parents slain in the wreck of their aircraft, the boy grew to manhood in the jungles, learned how to put the whammy on dinosaurs with a mind-freezing crystal, and keeps getting into trouble with a lost city.

The novel has freshness, excitement, and a plot full of interesting twists and turns. I thoroughly enjoyed it -- O would that Williams was still capable of turning out stuff of similar calibre! -- and I place it second only to the Gor books as Burroughs-derivative. But it's really good, entertaining fantasy fiction on its own.

#### Other recent titles received:

THONGOR AND THE DRAGON CITY by Lin Carter. Berkley X1799, Feb. 1970.  
60¢ Reissue of the 1966 novel THONGOR OF LEMURIA revised and expanded.

SLAVE OF SARMA by Jeffrey Lord. Macfadden 75-305, March 1970. 75¢  
More tasteless Bondesque heroica plus mechanical porno.

ZOTHIQUE by Clark Ashton Smith. Edited, with an Introduction, Epilogue, and Map, by Lin Carter. Ballantine 01938, June. 95¢ As it would be slightly unethical of me to review a book created by myself, let



it suffice that here, in one book for the first time and in paperback for the first time too, are all of the Zothique stories from *Weird Tales*. I place this series high in the canon of the best S&S ever written.

**DARKNESS WEAVES** by Karl Edward Wagner. Powell PP213, 1970. 95¢ A curious book: at once inept and amateurish, yet not without a certain narrative power. I found the further I read the more I liked it, but someone should inform this writer that in an imaginary medieval-type world filled with sorcerers and magicians, no one is about to offer a broad-shouldered assassin two hundred dollars to do a dirty deed. Imaginary worlds are not likely to have modern American coinage, I assure you!

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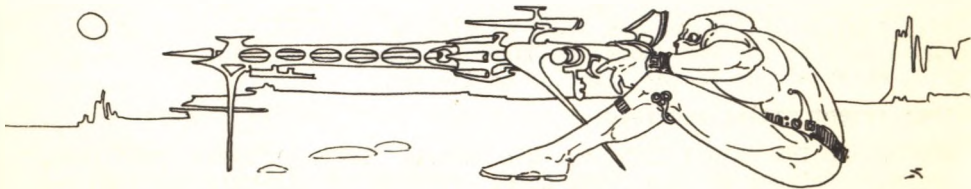
**CONVENTION NEWS** The European convention has collected more than 100 memberships for their first con in Trieste in 1972. The convention will take place during the last two days of the Trieste film festival plus the following Sunday. And an attending membership includes the right to view all films presented during the SF film festival. The pre-supporting fee of \$2 should be sent to CCSF, Casella Postale 423, 30121 Venezia, Italy. American agent is Anthony Lewis, 33 Unity Avenue, Belmont, Mass. 02178.

A new bid for the 1973 Worldcon has developed in Toronto, following the dissolution of the Montreal in '74 bid. The ex-Montreal committee is supporting the Toronto bid, and a number of them are also members of that committee. This places Toronto in competition with Minneapolis and Dallas for the 1973 convention, with the 1974 contest between New York and Washington.

Noreascon now has a total of nearly 550 members, mostly from the United States and Canada but with a scattering from Europe and Australia.

**LEY CRATER** The name of Willy Ley, rocketry pioneer and popular science writer, has been chosen for immortality as the name of a crater on the far side of the moon. His crater is at 43° North, 154° East.

**PLANET MARS QSO** Visitors to the headquarters of the American Radio Relay League in Newington, Conn. continue to be intrigued by one of the most unusual trophies offered to ham radio operators. Donated to the ARRL in 1929, the Elser-Mathes Cup will commemorate the "First Amateur Radio Two-Way Communications Earth and Mars."



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# Lilliputia

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION SERIES by Henry Barman, William Odell and Robert Whitehead

Benefic Press, 1970 48 p. each \$2.40 each

Space Pirate	level 2	Planet of the Whistlers	level 4
Milky Way	level 2	Ice-men of Rime	level 5
Bone People	level 3	Inviso Man	level 6

As a former teacher of English, I was overjoyed to find a publisher who is attempting to fill our great need for materials to motivate even the most reluctant reader. This series is written for students in grades 6-9 whose reading levels are far below average. The books have controlled readability ranging from grades 2-6, but the format, with illustrated text and library binding, is so attractive that it is hard to believe the vocabulary is so simple. Each story is an independent, real live sf adventure, guaranteed to hold the child's interest from beginning to end. Librarians and teachers must certainly take note of this and other series from Benefic Press.

--Marylou Hewitt

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE by Barbara Hazen Illus by Tomi Ungerer  
Lancelot Press, 1969 Abt. 36 p. \$3.95

(also available as book & LP stereo record set from Columbia Book and Record Library CC 25502 \$5.98)

This classic children's story of magic spells and mishaps has been retold many times, but this edition is one of the best I have seen. Tomi Ungerer's full page color illustrations are some of the finest he's done, and are a special delight when following along with the record. It would make a fine gift for that special child in your life.

--Marylou Hewitt

WE REACH THE MOON by John Noble Wilford

Norton, Dec. 1969 132 p. illus (color & B&W) \$4.95

Young Readers' Edition. "based upon the original book published by the New York Times and Bantam Books"

Had I not read the regular edition of this book I should now proceed to write an enthusiastic review. Unfortunately, as with any YA or juvenile "edition," the original has been watered down and much valuable material lost in the process. It is to the credit of those responsible that, taken by itself, this is a pretty good chronicle of the U.S. man-in-space and man-on-the-moon efforts, written as it is for those who cannot remember a time when launchings were exciting events, every countdown a cliffhanger, and men became national heroes by making sub-orbital flights downrange from Cape Canaveral.

Actually, I suppose the younger readers will not really be interested in accounts of dissension within NASA, contradictions in investigators' reports of the Apollo 1 fire, and some not-quite-heroic but very ordinary "flaws" of character in the backgrounds of some of the astronauts; but to gloss over these imperfections is also to run the risk of presenting a less-than-accurate picture. Also, is it really necessary to assume that a reader who is familiar with "rendezvous" will not be able to cope with such terms as "rotate" and "revolve"?

The illustrations are excellent, especially the color photographs -- in fact, they are worthy of a better book. This one is all right, but not excellent.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

*THE SEA FAIRIES* by L. Frank Baum illus by John R. Neill  
Reilly & Lee, Nov. 1969 240 p. \$4.95 facs. of 1911 ed.

L. Frank Baum wrote marvelous books for children -- in 1911. Young readers, especially little girls, were then supposed to enjoy fairy tales peopled with mermaids, friendly old sea captains, and darling little girls named Mayre. Since that time, children have been getting older and older younger and younger, until now most children with the such a "babyish" story. I say "most" because there are always a few brilliant 6 or 7 year olds around who can and do read everything in sight. Except for these exceptionally talented youngsters, this book will appeal only to the read-aloud group who have outgrown picture books, but the reader had better be able to explain such things as why the "Stannerd Oil Company" is compared to an octopus.

If you need a serial bedtime story, this is an ideal book. If you know a voracious little girl reader under 8, she would enjoy it. Otherwise, unless you are collecting L. Frank Baum's books, forget it.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

*THE EPILEPTIC BICYCLE* by Edward Gorey  
Dodd, Mead, Nov. 1969 Abt. 64 p. \$3.00 Age level: 7 up

Don't try to make much sense out of this picture book. It is pure whimsy with a little bit of macabre thrown in for good measure. Edward Gorey is well known for writing and illustrating books of this sort and has over twenty-five to his credit. The format here consists of twenty-two (count them) chapters of cartoon-type illustrations, each covering 4/5ths of the page and with one line of print underneath it describing the action -- which in this case happens to be the adventures of Embley and Yewbert as they ride on a bicycle. A book like this will be enjoyed by children of all ages.

--Joyce Post

*ALISTARE OWL* by Herbert A. Kenny Illus by Murray Tinkelman  
Harper & Row, Oct. 1969. 80 p. \$3.50 Age level: 8-12

George was afraid of the dark, afraid of owls, afraid of the bullies at school; but when his father brought home a haunted painting in which an owl appeared only when the light was just so, and George rescued a half-frozen owl which a bully was pelting with snowballs, things began to change. George's mother did not like the painting or the sick little owl, and she was vaguely disturbed by the fact that her son no longer slept with the light on. George gradually outgrew his fear of the dark by spending hours in the dark hallway, talking with the owl he had rescued ("Alistare, because owls stare"), and even ventured alone into the woods which had formerly terrified him.

This quiet story weaves back and forth across the border between fantasy and reality, and, after all, maybe Alistare really did talk with George there in the dark. Murray Tinkelman's black-and-white illustrations have a brooding air about them, and the owls are sinister, misshapen creatures, yet, in the end, George is not afraid.

*Alistare Owl* deals with irrational fears -- George's and his mother's, but George emerges as the stronger person. The subject is handled subtly; the story is good in itself; and no pat solution is offered, yet, one wonders, was it the haunted painting, or Alistare, or would George have grown up eventually anyway? An afraid-of-the-dark child may find reassurance here that there have been others who shared his fears.

--Charlotte D. Moslander



*FEE, FI, FO, FUM, Friendly and Funny Giants* by Adrien Stoutenburg  
Illus by Rocco Negri

Viking, Oct. 1969 127 p. \$4.95 Age level: 9-14

In my mind, the best kind of bedtime reading is that which gently leads you away from harsh day to day reality into the nether world of sleep. These seven non-violent giants, each from a different folklore, make *Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum* a perfect collection for this purpose. The giant Fingal is popular in Irish folklore, Reygok comes from Slavic folklore, Antaeus from Greek mythology and Manabozho from American Indian folklore. The story of Hurtali is taken from Book II of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. "The Giant Who Took a Long Time to Grow" is grounded in Scottish tradition and "The Giants Who Wanted a Son" comes from Cornwall. The child who is not old enough to read these for himself, would love having them read to him.

--Joyce Post

*THE LIONESS WHO MADE DEALS* by Fred Gardner Illus by Fernando Krahn  
W.W. Norton, Nov. 1969 Abt. 22 p. \$4.25 Age level: 7-12

This is an amusing little tale. The youngest readers will simply think it's funny, those a little older will be interested in the gimmick used which is the doubling of numbers. The lioness likes to bargain, and upon capturing one boy, he promises to give her two rams for his freedom. That done, the rams exchange themselves for four dogs, the dogs for eight cats, etc, etc. The lioness' downfall comes when she makes a deal for sixty-four Ctenocephalides felis. Go look that up in your Linnaeus!

--Joyce Post

*THE WHISPERING MOUNTAIN* by Joan Aiken Illus by Frank Bozzo  
Doubleday, Oct. 1969 237 p. \$3.95 Age level: to 14

The golden harp of Teirtu has been found amid the ruins of a monastery, and what a storm it has stirred up! The people of Pennygaff say it belongs in their museum; Mr. Hughes, the curator, is looking for the rightful owner; the Marquess of Malyn (who collects gold) has hired two thieves to steal it; and nobody is sure exactly what the Seljuk of Rum is doing poking about the little Welsh town. The real protagonists, however, are Owen, grandson of Mr. Hughes, and Arabis, daughter of a traveling barber and dispenser of folk medicines.

This could have been a run-of-the-mill, dashing-across-the-country-side, adventure story -- but it isn't. In fact, it's funny! Hopefully, this was the author's intention, since humor would be the only excuse for peopling a book with such outlandishly stereotyped characters. The curator is grouchy; the Marquess is vain and arrogant; the Seljuk is plump and oily; Arabis is beautiful and talented; and Owen is brave and resourceful, though somewhat near-sighted. There are also a raft of other characters who contribute to making the book lively and the ending happy: David, Prince of Wales (who has a Scots accent); a lost tribe of Rumians who are living beneath a mountain; and the boys from Pennygaff, to name a few.

People caught somewhere between childhood and adolescence will probably enjoy this book immensely -- just figuring out the prophecy at the beginning of the tale is an interesting mental exercise. Also, the story has a most satisfactory ending -- the evil are punished; the good are rewarded; and everyone is neatly accounted for. Even King James III has his toothache cured in time for Prince David to resume his hunting expedition with a clear conscience.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

*THE FANTASTIC MIRROR* by Benjamin Appel  
Pantheon, Nov. 1969 144 p. \$3.95 Age level: 12 up

Subtitled "Science Fiction Across the Ages," this survey by Benjamin Appel (who has one sf novel to his credit, *The Funhouse* -- Ballantine 345K, 35¢) is fine up to a point. After starting with an excerpt from Lucian's *True History* and Kepler's "Somnium," Mr. Appel guides his reader through the centuries and distinguished literary works which come under the heading "science fiction." We are treated to selections from Poe, Hawthorne, O'Brien, Swift, Twain, Verne and Wells.

Now we reach "the point." For contemporary authors, Appel is content to settle for one Russian authoress, Valentina Zhuraleva and one American author, Murray Leinster. Period. No mention of Asimov, Belayev, Clarke, Heinlein, the Strugatskys, Williamson, Yefremov or countless others. And it is this sin of omission which proves to be the book's most serious defect. And it is a serious defect.

*The Fantastic Mirror* can be recommended as a survey of science fiction through the early twentieth century; as such it is worth the price tag. Just be certain to have supplementary material ready when the youngster reaches Chapter 7.

--David C. Paskow

*THE KING AND HIS FRIENDS* by Jose Aruego  
Scribner, 1969 Abt. 39 p. \$3.50 Age level: 7-10

Two dragons and a griffin are the friends of King Doowah and together the animals make a very clever team. We see them decorating the King's throne, mirror, doorways, bed and generally making themselves quite useful. Their supreme test comes when they successfully prevent a stampeding herd of unicorns from going off the edge of a cliff. Children will enjoy looking at the various shapes taken by these sinuous beasts.

--Joyce Post

*APOLLO: LUNAR LANDING* by James Haggerty  
Rand McNally, Nov. 1969 159 p. \$4.95 Age level: 10 up

This account, in laymen's language, of the Apollo 11 moonwalk and the intensive research and testing which preceded it, is by far the most complete popular explanation of the U.S. space program yet encountered. Anyone from a bright 10-year-old with a specialized interest through his great-grandfather who has difficulty understanding the terminology will find here a useful, clearly written, profusely illustrated tool -- with a glossary, I might add. Mr. Haggerty does not talk down to his readers yet he does not assume that they have graduate degrees in physics, either, and if he tends to wax a bit poetic in spots -- well, even astronauts are allowed to do that, so why not the people who write about them?

The book describes how Apollo differed from the earlier series of sub-orbital and orbital flights and shows in detail how various components were tested under simulated and actual conditions, separately and then together as a functioning unit, before the entire package was lifted off the launching pad. Even the disastrous fire which killed three men and set back the progress of Apollo resulted in structural changes which increased the safety of the men who finally made that first, long journey to the moon and back.

If you really want to understand what the television commentators and newspaper articles are talking about -- read this before the next manned spacecraft leaves the launch pad.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

## Reviews

A HISTORY OF THE HUGO, NEBULA AND INTERNATIONAL FANTASY AWARD, LISTING NOMINEES & WINNERS 1951-1969 by Donald Franson & Howard DeVore. Science-fiction Sales, 4705 Weddel St., Dearborn Heights, Mich., 1969. 45 p. 65¢

Even though this is merely mimeographed (with all the problems that implies), this compilation is an essential item for any fan. Certainly the price is fair. For a listing not only of the winners of the three awards, but of runners-up (where there were such), the compilers deserve our applause and financial support. The arrangement is basically award, category, year with the winner underlined. Some folk might argue for a different arrangement but that is really minor. What counts is the information. (Aside to libraries: use this as a checklist to see what was well thought of. Aside to publishers: use this to compile an "also-ran" anthology.)

--J.B. Post

NOMADS OF GOR by John Norman. Ballantine 01765, Nov. 1969. 344 p. 75¢

This is the fourth book in Norman's Counter-Earth series, and far and away the best of them. Frankly, I couldn't put it down once I started it, and the blasted thing kept me up till 2 am.

As you may recall, in *Tarnsman of Gor* the hero, Tarl Cabot, is mysteriously transported to the planet Gor, rather similar to Mars in Burroughs' John Carter series. In the approved manner, he hacks his way to the top and wins the princess. Nothing new here, except for the hero flying around on a giant eagle-like bird called a Tarn.

In *Outlaw of Gor*, Cabot returns to Gor (he was brought back to Earth at the end of the first book after falling asleep on his wedding night -- a rotten deal, I must say). He finds that his adopted city has been leveled to the ground, that his princess is missing, and that he has been declared an outlaw by the shadowy Priest-Kings who rule the planet. He sets out in their direction.

In *Priest-Kings of Gor*, Cabot finally arrives at the Sardar Mountains where the Priest-Kings have their stronghold, and walks right in on them. The Priest-Kings turn out to be super-intelligent giant insects from another planet, vaguely reminiscent of the ant-people in Ralph Milne Farley's *The Radio Man* (come to think of it, Farley's hero was named Myles Cabot -- tsk tsk).

In *Nomads of Gor*, Tarl Cabot has left the Priest-Kings and is off looking for their last surviving egg, which is in the hands of the Wagon People, four tribes of nomads rather similar to the ancient Mongols. Somehow the series really starts to move with this book. Norman has finally unloaded Burroughs, Farley, and the standard sword-and-sorcery plot. Cabot's adventures among the nomads are entirely new, and unlike anything you've ever read before. And the characterization has been tremendously improved -- the book is alive with fascinating three-dimensional people that you really get interested in.

Another good feature of this book is that it can be read on its own, without wading through the other three books in the series. I would recommend this, since the others make rather dull reading.

One minor point: the entire series extols the virtues of female slavery. The author seems to feel that all a woman needs to be happy is to be chained to a bed, beaten, and raped. Alas, I fear this reveals more about John Norman than it does about the secret of feminine happiness.

--Joe Schaumburger



THE MERRILL CHECKLIST OF EDGAR ALLAN POE compiled by J. Albert Robbins.  
Merrill, July 1969 44 p. 75¢

"Charles E. Merrill Checklists are intended to provide students with the tools that will give them access to the most meaningful published resources for the study of an author. For that reason they are highly selective. Generally, they omit writings made obsolete by the passage of time and the progress of knowledge, as well as master's and doctoral theses, works in a language other than English, the entire category of editions of an author's work whose major recommendation is current availability, and articles of interest only to the specialist already involved in close study of the author." OK, students, go to it. All others ignore. --J.B. Post

CRAZY MIXED-UP PLANET by Charles E. Fritch. Powell PP197, Nov. 1969.  
203 p. 95¢

Fifteen short stories, spanning a period from 1952 to 1965, but most of them coming from the fifties. That was a good period for science fiction but it was also a transition period as probably every time is, and this becomes very apparent as you look back. Some of these stories are amusing, but mildly so and the word mild is one that can be used as a blanket description for all of them. There are many kinds of short stories; for the most part these were of the surprise ending type but there wasn't much of a surprise. --Samuel Mines

MAN, MYTH, AND MAGIC by Mildred Boyd. Criterion, Sept. 1969. 173 p.  
\$4.75 bibliog

To primitive man, image and object are the same, so a successful hunt can be guaranteed by the ritual killing of the game desired -- thus begins this fascinating anthropological study of superstition and religion. It continues through alchemy, crusades, and witch hunts, not to mention a man who called himself Count Alessandro Cagliostro, who made some rather remarkable predictions in the late 18th century and acquired a large and noble following as a result of some outstanding escapades. He also acquired quite a few unpayable debts.

*Man, Myth, and Magic* explores all religion as an outgrowth of primitive man's attempts to propitiate the apparently vengeful elements of his environment which he did not understand. The "Christian" idea of witches making compacts with Satan is represented as the opinion that those who followed the old gods were enemies of the new God; therefore they must be in league with the newcomer's enemies, namely Satan. Politics aside, in a world not too far removed from a time when every tree and rock had its own dryad, it is not surprising that Joan of Arc was burned as a witch because she claimed the Saints had first spoken to her near a beech called the Ladies' tree or Fairies' tree. Rumor has it that not all the garlands woven by Domremy maidens found their way to the statue of the Virgin -- some were hung upon this tree.... Also, why were seven of the Salem "witches" omitted when a 1711 court reversed the convictions of the other 27? if the whole messy business was merely the invention of some hysterical young girls?

The basic concept of the function of religion in society expounded here is not new, but this approach is in refreshingly ordinary language and very readable. The scholar will probably not find this book useful at all, but the lay person will appreciate Mildred Boyd's somewhat informal style and excellent bibliography. --Charlotte D. Moslander

*THE BLACK CORRIDOR* by Michael Moorcock. Ace 06530, Nov. 1969. 187 p. 75¢

Waves of nationalism, paranoia and despair are sweeping Earth. In England, people are hounded for being Irish, or even Welsh. Ryan, and a group of relatives and friends decide that in the face of insurmountable horrors, the only sensible thing to do is leave Earth. There is a spaceship, unused because of the widespread panic. They take it over, and leave Earth, heading for the planetary system discovered orbiting a star called Munich 15040. Ryan alone stays out of suspended animation to pilot the ship. This book is the very poetic story of what happens to him.

Somehow this book made me think of the line by Robert Frost, "These woods are lovely, dark and deep..." Most of it is written as flashbacks or thoughts; it is a book to read carefully. It is an excellent blend of old time survivors-of-earth-disaster-flee-in-spaceship, and new writing styles; an old story, retold in a new, and different, voice. I definitely recommend this.

--Jan Slavin

*THE ALIEN ONES* by Leo Brett. Tower T060-1, Nov. 1969. 140 p. 60¢ (hardcover: Arcadia, June 1969. \$3.50)

This is a kooky one. A colonist on a little-explored planet is briefly exposed to a piece of radioactive rock which converts him in a matter of minutes into a scaled, fanged and clawed monster 15 feet tall -- a cross between King Kong and Albert the Alligator. Everybody runs like crazy except his wife who knows that the true loyal heart is still beating under all those scales and that even if the lightest caress with a six inch claw is apt to knock her off her feet, it is done with love. Meantime the monster has a great time tearing buildings apart and wrestling with bulldozers and smashing things flat. Doesn't make a lot of sense and doesn't really go anywhere, but may appeal to the kids who've often wondered how it would feel to be so strong you could pick up a five or ten ton truck with one hand and hold it over your head while a mechanic tinkered with the steering rods. And as for telling off your boss -- it makes a nice reverie.

--Samuel Mines

*ADVENTURES IN DISCOVERY* edited by Tom Purdom. Doubleday, Nov. 1969. 182 p. \$4.95

Here is a book which belongs in every fannish home or pad. Ten well known sf writers have written on a discovery or an aspect of science. Each of the ten essays is rather well written (and who would expect otherwise?) and informative. Poul Anderson writes on early man; Isaac Asimov writes on the discovery of argon; James Blish writes on Roger Bacon; L. Sprague de Camp writes on the Cope-Marsh feud; Hal Clement writes on measuring interstellar distances; Robert Silverberg writes on dating the advent of man in the Americas; Harry Harrison writes on medical detection; John Brunner writes on scientific dream analysis; Ben Bova writes on weather control; and Willy Ley writes on the possibility of a trans-Plutonian planet.

From a fannish viewpoint, the weakest part of this book is Tom Purdom's introductions. While they are admirably brief and concise and while they are rather excellent come-ons for the general reader, containing some mention of the science fiction produced by the contributors, they will tell the fan nothing he does not already know. Despite this, I think this collection is a basic book in any home library.

--J.B. Post

WEIRD WAYS OF WITCHCRAFT by Dr. Leo L. Martello. HC Pubs, 1969. 221 p. \$1.00paper

This is not a collection of short stories, neither is it a "how-to" book. It is an introduction to witchcraft, explaining what it is and what it is not. It seems to be intended to refute the claims of organized religion, particularly the Catholic Church. I believe that most fans do not hold the attitudes that this book is trying to dispel and therefore would not find it worth the time to read.

--Joni Rapkin

THE BIG WIN by Jimmy Miller. Knopf, Oct. 1969. 241 p. \$5.95

Put it down to the fact that I'm over 30 if you will, and therefore beyond the pale, but I freely confess that for most of the time I wasn't at all sure of what was going on in this free-wheeling tale. The skeleton of the plot is a chase -- a hunt for a war criminal -- but the hunters are a diverse trio -- two men and a girl with so many hang-ups of their own that the story stops frequently to delve into the more psychedelic aspects of their personalities and personal habits while they wander from New York, to France, to the jungles of Guatemala and to Venus. The writing style is erratic, sometimes quite brilliant with insight, sometimes like an overdose of LSD, done deliberately and with acid. There is more sex of various bizarre sorts than you'll find in most books and the orgies alone might be worth the price of admission for the more devoted sex fiends. In Miss Miller's world of the future (yes, Jimmy Miller is a girl) food ranks right up there with sex and French orgies consist of coating the more delicious females with even more delicious food and eating them like corn on the cob. That ought to sell some books. Otherwise -- the author appears to be both a gourmet and a traveler with a tremendous interest in people. But none of this really explains what she was driving at in this book. As I say, I'm over thirty.

--Samuel Mines

PASSPORT TO MAGONIA: FROM FOLKLORE TO FLYING SAUCERS by Jacques Vallee Henry Regnery, Oct. 1969. 372 p. \$6.95

Only 163 pages are really text, the rest of the book is an appendix listing "A Century of UFO Landings (1868-1968)". Really, quite a mass of information (or misinformation) for the saucer believer. Since I don't believe in flying saucers perhaps I am the wrong person to review a book on the subject, but if my sympathy toward the subject is non-existent I think I have enough objectivity to describe Mr. Vallee's work. Strange things in the sky and little men have been with us before Kenneth Arnold and before Charles Fort. Mr. Vallee records several supposed encounters with saucer-men, elves, fairies, angels, etc. from St. Anthony (and earlier) to the present. The author believes there are more things in this world than are dreamt of in our philosophies. It is to his credit that he doesn't push wild answers like the usual nut but attempts more to raise questions. One of the questions it would do us all well to ponder is if all these sightings of ships and beings is in the mind of the beholder, what need (and psychological mechanism) does this indicate in humanity; why have we always had this delusion throughout recorded history? If one has any sympathy toward saucers and little men, this is a book to read. Even though I have none, I don't regret having read Mr. Vallee's work -- but I wouldn't read it again.

--J.B. Post



THE UNICORN GIRL by Michael Kurland. Pyramid X1990, Nov. 1969. 159 p. 60¢

A number of people are responding to the challenge that humor in sf is rare. Some of the results are funny in various degrees, some are interesting, and some are failures -- in the percentage dictated by Sturgeon's fascinating law. *The Unicorn Girl*, somewhat a sequel to *The Butterfly Kid*, is wry and glib, and sometimes as funny as de Camp-Pratt's finest, and in some ways as original. It's a tale of parallel worlds, interdimensional blipping, and generally wacked-out (if knowledgeable) heroes. The pace is fast, the ad-libs are clever, and the philosophical content is small to niggling. It is by no means "the wildest trip in science fiction," as the promo writers would have us believe, however. It's delectable, culturally-oriented (almost ethnic) humor. Worthwhile reading.

--Greg Bear

THE FROZEN PLANET by A.J. Merak (original title: No Dawn and No Horizon) Belmont B60-1071, Dec. 1969 142 p. 60¢

I'm not sure what planet the title refers to, since the extra-solar planet that is the object of the expedition in this work is described as lush and tropical. It might refer to Pluto, which is where they blast off. This is about the first extra-solar, faster-than-light trip, done by Americans, with the Soviets right on their heels. They run into belligerent aliens, and band together to defeat them.

This is not a very original book, although it is quite readable. The action is absorbing and rapid; some of the description is stilted and the characters a bit pat. The structure of the book is somewhat different, alternating styles of narration. A little juvenile, but enjoyable.

--Jan Slavin

THE THINKING SEAT by Peter Tate. Doubleday, Oct. 1969 225 p. \$4.95

The "thinking seat" is a swing in an abandoned playground on the coast of Southern California. It gives to one Simeon (a seeker after he-is-not-sure-what) first the knowledge that the resident "budnick" poet at a nearby bar is actually plagiarizing from his predecessors at Washington Square, then the words with which to exhort vacationing college students against the changes made in the Pacific Ocean by the local desalinization-cum-atomic power plant.

Brooding over the scene is the ominous feeling that this time mankind has gone too far in making domestic servants of naturally "wild" phenomena, and, in the end, the ocean pushes aside human interference (including nine specially created resort areas, complete with imported Hawaiian sand) and returns to its former inhospitable self. At the same time, Simeon, a troubled man who has difficulty communicating his innermost feelings, finally destroys the swing upon which he has depended for words and begins to speak and act for himself.

The other characters -- the budnicks, the self-made entrepreneur, the sympathetic bartender, and the CIA-agent student (and two quixotic Conscientious Objector instructors whom he coerces into evaluating Simeon) are somewhat predictable, "stock" people. Simeon's girl, Tomorrow Julie, is one part flower child, one part Modern Woman, and the rest loyalty and love for Simeon.

This unusual piece of very-nearly-present "futuristic" fiction is definitely a book to be read. Maybe twice.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

THE MEASURE OF POE by Louis Broussard. Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Oct. 1969. xiv, 168 p. \$4.50

Essentially Mr. Broussard has produced a brief historic recapitulation of Poe criticism. He really can't be faulted for leaving out Moskowitz and Lovecraft writing on EAP, but I find it disturbing that T.O. Mabbott is not mentioned in the text though well represented in the 58 page bibliography. This book is a very minor contribution to Poe scholarship, though the bibliography is quite good. --J.B. Post

ASTROTOTS by Constance Bannister. Essandess Special Edition 10358, Oct. 1969. Abt. 78 p. \$1.00

I'm sure you're all familiar with the Constance Bannister thing of taking "cute" baby pictures, giving them "amusing" captions, gathering them together into a theme, and lo - instant best seller. At first the idea was a good one and often quite amusing, but I found myself doing a lot of ho-humming while turning the pages of this one. Either I've become jaded or she's running out of material. But anyway, sf people should at least take a quick look through *Astrotots* to keep informed of what is being published in space literature. --Joyce Post

EIGHT FANTASMS AND MAGICS: A SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURE by Jack Vance. Macmillan, Oct. 1969 288 p. \$5.95 (paperback: Collier 02598, Nov. '70 95¢)

Feudal armies fight their battles with the aid of conjured demons -- until they meet an enemy whose thought processes are unlike their own ("The Miracle Workers"); 5 moons rise together over a lonely lighthouse, and the keeper begins to see as reality the images produced by his imagination ("When Five Moons Rise"); a new form of "game" is used to select the candidate most fitted to be Galactic Prime ("The New Prime"); and three different adventurers face problems of survival on a dying world ("Cil", "Guyal of Sfere", "The Men Return"). Add to these the experiences -- or are they imaginings? -- of a man marooned on a silent planet -- or is it really 'silent?' ("Noise") -- and a society more or less enslaved by a telekinetic minority in their midst ("Telek"), and you have the ingredients of *Eight Fantasms and Magics*. Many of the stories seem to move simultaneously forward in time and backward in technology and social structure, as magic, spells, and demons are relied upon rather than logic (in "The Men Return", cause and effect do not even exist) and invention, and 'knights' go forth on 'quests,' yet some seek the knowledge of their ancestors and others revere as holy the artifacts which they no longer understand. Nevertheless the characters are still human, and familiar, and therefore believable; so the reader may begin to cast somewhat nervous glances over a shoulder, to shudder somewhat more violently than a passing draught would seem to require, to wonder about those objects which never seem to be where they were last put. And we are living in an era of enlightened scientific reality. But who's to say what there is beyond the rim of science? -- or beneath the cover of conscious memory?

Jack Vance here explores some of those 'beyond' and 'beneath' possibilities, and with such skillful use of words and such strong images that one cannot but accept as 'normal' the conditions described and enter for a while into the worlds the author has created. I must admit, I for one, was rather reluctant to leave the 'silent' (?) planet, but others may prefer different worlds. Read the book and take your pick.

--Charlotte D. Moslander

AMMIE, COME HOME by Barbara Michaels. Fawcett Crest T135, Dec. 1969. 223 p. 75¢

The basic plot of this ghost story is acceptable and Miss Michaels conveys the auras of the ghosts so well that it is very disappointing when the humans in the story act so stupidly. They can't even remember to leave the haunted house before nightfall when the danger begins and are therefore constantly unprepared for it. One good touch is the idea that exorcism rites that the ghost did not believe in when he was alive have no effect on him. In all, the ideas in this book are good, but they deserve a better treatment than this writer gave them.

--Joni Rapkin

PRINCE OF DARKNESS by Barbara Michaels. Meredith, Oct. 1969. 230 p. \$4.95

I was not expecting too much when I began reading this book, particularly after reading the blurbs for some of Barbara Michaels' "popular, suspenseful romances." Spare me the fair damsel menaced by Mysterious Strangers route...

*Prince of Darkness* is far from disappointing. True, there is a mysterious stranger, a writer (or supposed writer) named Peter Stewart who comes to the small (population 9300) town of Middleburg, Maryland to apparently drive a woman over the brink of sanity. The woman, Dr. Katherine More is an expert in folklore whose lover died under mysterious circumstances. A young, attractive relative, living with Dr. More had an uncle who liked to prey on people's superstitions to the extent that he had some believing in werewolves. And Dr. More is interested in seances...

Stewart finds himself the prey before too long, as a puppet made of clay is left in his room. Earlier he had discovered an inverted crucifix in a drawer. His only true friend appears to be the town doctor, Paul Martin, and Martin is unaware of Stewart's true motives. And vice versa.

The novel moves briskly. Seances give way to Black Masses, Dr. More is driven closer to the edge of sanity and Stewart finds himself the hunted instead of the hunter as he nearly succumbs to an accurately-aimed arrow before the veil is lifted from the outwardly innocent town of Middleburg to reveal the festering horror beneath.

Here's one not to be read in the (heh, heh) dead of night.

--David C. Paskow

A FEAST OF EGGSHELLS by Florence Stevenson. Signet T4129, Jan. 1970. 189 p. 75¢

According to an old wives tale, if you feed eggshells to a changeling, it will disappear and your own child will appear in its place. Unfortunately, however, the child in this story is not a changeling and is never really suspected of being one, and the eggshell bit is only mentioned in passing. She is possessed, and the way in which she is finally cured is not what you would expect.

For the most part, the book itself is well written, but I question the plausibility of an operating room nurse with a stable personality turning into an alcoholic overnight simply because of hearing a newborn baby say something when she was spanked, even if what she said was unprintable. Aside from that, this book is full of satire and good clean fun that leaves you with the impression of being dirtier than it really is.

--Joni Rapkin



STARSHIP by Brian W. Aldiss. Avon V2321, Dec. 1969. 224 p. 75¢

Good epics are hard to find nowadays: Aldiss seems to have written a good one. Tribes of barbaric men live in the corridors of a giant interstellar spaceship, and make their homes behind barriers in jungles of overgrown hydroponic plants. A few courageous misfits start exploring, trying to find the legendary Control Room. They have skirmishes with the giant Outsiders, and intelligent rats. Another tribe captures them, and tortures two of them to death before the rest can escape. Finally they discover the secret of their spaceship home, leading to its destruction -- and their race's salvation.

The writing in this book is consistently good. The plot is logical and well-knit, with a satisfying conclusion. Aldiss shows a great deal of imagination in creating a whole different world, almost a perverted image of man's civilization. This is an excellent book and I recommend it highly.

--Jan Slavin

THE SINISTER RESEARCHES OF C.P. RANSOM by H. Nearing Jr. Curtis 07051, Dec. 1969. 224 p. 75¢

The cover proclaims this to be "A science fiction novel by H. Nearing Jr." which is only half right: *The Sinister Researches of C.P. Ransom* is by H. Nearing Jr. It is not, however, a novel but rather a loosely knit collection of short pieces which appeared in the early 1950s, many in F&SF.

Professor Cleanth Penn Ransom is a mathematics professor and it isn't so much that he's an instigator; rather he acts as a catalyst and becomes involved with assorted weirdos all "doing their thing" in the name of science. From a temperamental poetry computer through voodoo dolls with math majors and interspatial basketballs, Professor Ransom continually belies the "Sinister" portion of the book's title and provides many chuckles (and a few snickers) for the reader.

I think you'll enjoy this.

--David C. Paskow

BIZARRE FANTASY TALES vol.1 no.1, Fall 1970. Robert A.W. Lowndes, editor Health Knowledge, Inc., 140 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011, publisher. Single copy 60¢

How does one review the first issue of a magazine? With great difficulty, as the old joke has it. One can be witty and say that like Chinese waiters, all Doc Lowndes' magazines look alike. One can be nostalgic and say Doc Lowndes puts out magazines which are like *The Avon Fantasy Reader* except with book reviews and letters. A proper review of a magazine is really a post-mortem, a review of that magazine's accomplishments after it folds, not an announcement of a hopeful birth. So, we shall be a bit improper. *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* is a spin-off from *Magazine of Horror*. The plan is to have stories 1000 to 3000 words long, reprints with some original stuff, but Doc Lowndes isn't up-tight on word count. This first issue contains "The Great Circle" by Henry S. Whitehead; "The Doom That Came to Sarnath" by H.P. Lovecraft; "Never Bet the Devil Your Head" by Edgar Allan Poe; "A Taste of Rain and Darkness" by Eddy C. Bertin; and "The 'V' Force" by Fred C. Smale. Not a spectacular first issue, but entertaining enough. And entertainment is the goal of this publication, a story, well told, to entertain the readership, not a morally uplifting timely tale. Gosh, it's good to know one editor thinks people read for fun. Let's not knock it for a couple more issues.

--J.B. Post

*THE SPOOK WHO SAT BY THE DOOR* by Sam Greenlee. Bantam N5237, Jan. 1970. 248 p. 95¢ (hardcover: Baron, Oct. 1969 \$4.95)

And still another novel of the threat of black rebellion, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* is written on an entirely different level than *Afro-6* or *Siege*. Mr. Greenlee is a very bitter man and his bitterness is directed against both the Caucasian and Negro races and young Freeman the novel's protagonist comes across more as a symbol than a man.

Freeman (which may or may not be significant in itself as a choice for a name) is constantly being used by his country in one way or another. Fed up, Freeman quits the service of his country but not before he has learned how to succeed in the cynical, back-stabbing world of inter-government society. With this knowledge and with his hatred and disgust, Freeman is a very dangerous black man. Perhaps the most telling sentence comes at the end of Chapter Nine (p.104): "No one could imagine that Freeman, tame, smug and self-satisfied, would ever rock the boat; much less suspect that he planned to sink it."

There are many character portraits in this novel, most readily recognizable in our political scene (see especially pp.71-73); though some of these are dated, the effect is just as damning. Not a pleasant novel to read, it is nevertheless a necessary one. --David C. Paskow

*WE REACH THE MOON* by John Noble Wilford. "An expansion of the text of the Bantam book of the same title." Norton, Nov. 1969. 352 p. illus (b&w) \$7.95

John Wilford has, as a staff member of the *New York Times*, been able to follow the U.S. space program closely, and he has had at his command the reports of his co-workers as well as his own observations. This book shows it -- it traces the space program from its earliest, unmanned beginnings and President Kennedy's "man on the moon" speech through the celebrations following Apollo 11. All is seen as an orderly progression toward that flight, and such "sidetracks" as communications, weather and other-planet satellites are mentioned only when they pertain to the Apollo program. The program is not glamorized. However: the intramural squabbles at NASA, congressional reluctance to spend so much money, the initial debate as to what method was best for a lunar landing, the failures, the tension, the tragic fire, the ever present fear that the Soviets would get there first -- are all included as necessary to an understanding of how really giant a leap for mankind Neil Armstrong's "one small step" really was.

The book is written with the economy of one who is accustomed to getting the most meaning into the fewest possible words, and Mr. Wilford is very good at this -- the reader really experiences the Mercury-Gemini-Apollo sequence at the next best thing to first hand.

*We Reach the Moon* is first class history for those who have grown up with the space program. For those of us to whom each launching still has the aura of the miraculous, it is an album containing such heroic types as Alan Shepard and John Glenn, and remember Deke Slayton's disappointment when a slight heart defect kept him earthbound after being so close, and Ed White, walking in space and not wanting to return to his Gemini capsule...

My only negative comment concerns the illustrations, and then just the photographs (line drawings are excellent). While the black-and-white pictures are good, they are drab in comparison to the color ones in the "young readers' edition" of the same book. The publisher obviously had the better photographs, so why not use them? --Charlotte D. Moslander

*STRANGE PARADISE* by Dorothy Daniels. Paperback 63-259, Dec. 1969. 154 p. 60¢

Based on the TV soap opera of the same name, this is a novel of possession, following the plot of boy meets girl; evil spirit meets girl; boy saves girl and they all live happily ever after, except that this is only #1 of a series. The characters do not seem to be quite the same as they are on the TV show but that is not necessarily a liability. Given what she had to work with, the author didn't do too bad a job, but she could probably have done much better if she could have made up her own characters and situation.

--Joni Rapkin

*TIDY'S WORLD: A COLLECTION* by Bill Tidy. Hutchinson, 1969. unpagged (but lots of them) 13/6 (U.K.)

Bill Tidy is a very funny man. Back around 1964 he was producing a regular cartoon series in *Punch* centering around the misadventures of Mr. Chelm, the human operator and master of a horde of robots, on a British space station. Hopefully someday some publisher will bring out the complete Chelm (some were rejected by *Punch*). This collection of cartoons is still very funny even if there are few sf items. Tarzan gets mocked a couple of times; we are introduced to obscene music; the agony of a Japanese vampire is depicted; the foibles of mankind are exposed constantly -- in short, this is a book for fandom to cherish. And if we all clamor for Chelm... who knows?

--J.B. Post

*ALL JUDGMENT FLED* by James White. Walker, Dec. 1969. 215 p. \$4.95 (paperback: Ballantine 02016, Sept. 1970. 95¢)

James White is at the peak of his writing form when he is engaged in relating the adventures of the occupants of Sector General Hospital (i.e., *Hospital Station* and *Surgeon in Space*, both released by Ballantine Books). Which is not to say that *All Judgment Fled* is not a good tale in itself.

It's Man-meets-Alien time as a mysterious ship makes its presence known to the inhabitants of Earth. Its behavior is strange and alarming and a "boarding party" is (perhaps too) hastily assembled. They believe themselves ready for anything but in reality are totally unprepared for what does happen.

The Aliens appear to be totally, unpredictably savage and unreasoning. They are practically human in their blood-lust. The question is "Why?" Why bring their ship to our system only to greet ambassadors with attacks? Are these creatures the same that built the ship and, if not, where were the true visitors and what was behind their actions?

Interesting questions to which Mr. White provides interesting, if not earth-shattering answers. In all, *All Judgment Fled* makes for fast paced reading and raises some interesting questions about the nature of intelligence.

--David C. Paskow

#### ALSO RECEIVED:

*Daughters of Earth* by Judith Merril. Dell 1705, July 1970. 75¢ (hardcover: Doubleday, 1969. \$4.95 reviewed LUNA Monthly 13)

*Superbaby* by Felix Mendelsohn Jr. Paperback Library 64-444, Oct. 75¢ (hardcover: Nash, Jan. \$4.95 reviewed LUNA Monthly 13)

*Three for Tomorrow* by Robert Silverberg, Roger Zelazny & James Blish. Dell 08863, August. 75¢ (hardcover: Meredith, 1969. \$5.95 reviewed LUNA Monthly 13)