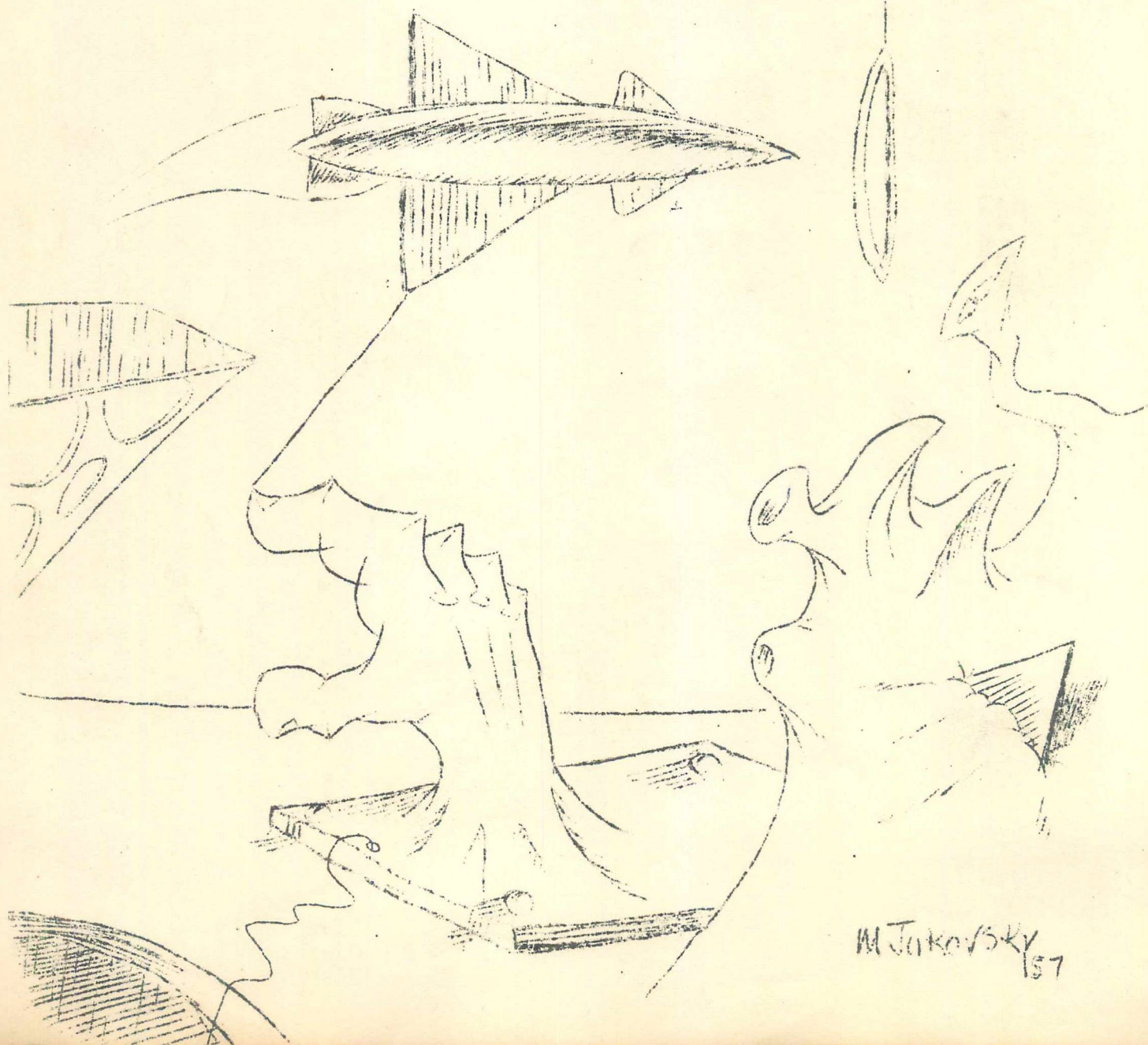
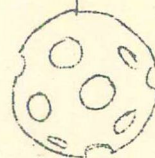




metrofam



M. Jakovsky 1957





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# METROFAN

Number 5      June 1957      Editor- David MacDonald

This is the unofficial publication of the Circle and the ESFA, two sterling New York area societies, and is the first issue thereof under new management. Letters and suchlike should be addressed to David MacDonald, Apt. 309, 101 W. 109th St., N.Y. 25, N.Y. Assisting with this issue are: Martin Jukovsky, Art Director; Ken Beale, Editorial Consultant; and David Papayanopulos, New York Correspondent. It is sent to members of the Circle and the ESFA and to certain others, at the discretion of the editor. It is published monthly. Non-members of the above clubs may receive it by sending in 50¢ for a year's sub. Individual copies will be sent on request.      Excelsior!

## CIRCLE

### --THE NEW YORK SCIENCE FICTION CIRCLE--

REGULAR MEETING FOR JUNE WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

JUNE 23rd      at      2:30 P.M.

Place:  
Apt 309  
101 West 109 St  
New York City

Directions:  
Take B-way IRT or 8th Ave. AA  
IND local to 110th St.

### THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

## ESFA

REGULAR MEETING FOR JULY WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

JULY 7th      2:30 PM

Place:  
Slovak Sokol Hall  
358 Morris Avenue  
Newark, N. J.

Directions:  
Take #25 Springfield Ave. Bus  
From Penn Station (Newark).  
Get off at Morris Ave. and  
Walk 1/2 block right.



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## SPACESHIPS AND CELLULOID

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by Ken Beale

After 5 years, this column appears to have found a home, thanks to Dave MacDonald. (It was previously slated to appear in an upstate fanzine, and was in one issue of Inside.) I expect to review all or most of the SF films from here on, tho' doubtless other reviewers will appear in these pages. I would also like to say something about SF and fantasy on TV.

### The She Devil

Regal Films, released by 20th Century-Fox. Produced, directed, and co-written by Kurt Neumann. Stars Mari Blanchard, Jack Kelly, Albert Dekker.

This film should invite fan interest, inasmuch as it is based on Stanley G. Weinbaum's ("John Jessel's") well-known story, "The Adaptive Ultimate". Unfortunately, it is a hastily-thrown-together affair, seemingly based largely on a recent TV version. The script follows the story (or my memory of it agrees, anyhow) but fails to develop the theme properly. Direction is flat, special effects virtually nonexistent, and performances pallid. The movie's chief virtue is Miss Blanchard, who also is responsible for the only acceptable performance. Verdict: worth missing.

Coupled with the above in a recent double-bill was the more widely advertised:

### Kronos

Regal, Fox release, produced, directed by Neumann. Stars Jeff Morrow, Barbara Lawrence, John Emery. Original story and special effects by Irving Block.

This is a slightly different slant on the by-now-standard Hollywood SF pic. Those of us who went to see a sad little effort called "Robot Monster" in the vain expectation of something like this, will now be gratified. In other words, here we have a blend of two types of movie (and SF mag) plot: space-opera and monster-melodrama.

Extraterrestrials on a planet whose name now eludes me send a sort of floating space-city to observe the Earth. It crashes into the Pacific Ocean (or is it a landing?) and from it a huge metal giant emerges. His purpose: to drain away our electrical energy. He (or more properly, it) is the "Kronos" of the film's title. It soon starts cutting the expected swathe of destruction. Can the Army, plus our hero, stop this? I presume you know the answer to that one.

Six years ago, two talented young special-effects men made a rather good little SF film called "Unknown World". (Which has



recently been on local TV.) One of them, Irving Block, later worked on the story of "Forbidden Planet", and he did similar chores on this one. Kurt Neumann, who produced and directed, made the rather underrated "Rocketship X-M". (Also on TV lately.) The result of their collaboration is an above-average scientifilm, full of the weird mechanisms and pyrotechnics many fans seem to enjoy. Morris Ankrum, who has been in nearly every film of this type since "Destination Moon" appears creditably here, and the rest of the cast, including "This Island Earth's" Jeff Morrow, acquit themselves ably.

I could wish for more consistency in certain trick sequences, (notably those of the space-city as viewed by telescope) and for better characterizations. And the story is vague on some points: what was that glowing substance that emerged from the Bureau Director's brain? And why? Also, an impressive-looking electronic brain plays only a subsidiary role, and seems to have been devised mainly as a background prop.

The film received poor notices; but so has virtually every SF picture, good, bad or indifferent since "Destination Moon". And I confess I cannot understand fans who will criticize a picture such as this as immature and sensational (both of which it admittedly is) and then go back to their reading of such as E.E. Smith's "Lensman" epics or Williamson's "Legion" tales. This is maturity?

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Old monsters never die, they just meet Abbott and Costello.  
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Miscellany: Two recent horror pictures playing together were "Voodoo Island" and "Pharaoh's Curse". Both were Bel-Air ("The Black Sleep") productions, United Artists releases. This Sf-horror double bill policy rarely produces a good show; in fact usually one picture is barely acceptable, the other completely beneath notice. But economic necessity seems to dictate this policy, at least with the cheaply-made films of the past two years.

"Voodoo Island" featured Boris Karloff, valiantly striving to get something out of an inept script, and some cannibalistic plants. It was worthless on all counts. "Pharaoh's Curse" had a script by the same Howard Koch who wrote its co-feature, but its director was Lee Sholen (of TV's "Long John Silver") who is better at his craft than the director of "Island". "Pharaoh's Curse" was therefore mildly exciting, and had a couple of effective scenes in an old tomb. It also had a slightly unconventional monster (which it handled poorly) and a bewitching Israeli miss named Ziva Shapir.

Other recent films have included "Not of this Earth", (produced and directed by Roger Corman, who made "The Beast with a Million Eyes", and "The Day the World Ended") which was co-billed with "Attack of the Crab Monsters". Neither has played widely in



this area as yet, so both can be expected soon. I haven't seen them, but Variety reviewed "Not of this Earth" favorably, and Cor- nan's previous films have been interesting....Also, "Voodoo Woman", (not to be confused with "Voodoo Island") and "The Undead" are a double bill yet to be seen generally...."The Living Idol" is another to watch for in your vicinity.....Disney's "Man in Space" appeared briefly, but I missed it....Heinlein's "Project Moonbase", Siodmak's "Riders to the Stars" and "Gg" were on TV of late, as was "Pogbody's Mermaid" .....The short daily series, "Top Secret" (7:15 p.m., channel 5) is worth watching.....The same channel presents horror films Saturday nights around 11:00.....Year's silliest movie title is "I was a Teen-Age Werewolf", forthcoming from American-International films.....Ray Bradbury is reportedly preparing a half-hour TV series called "Report from Space"....And his short story, "The Rock Cried Out" is to be filmed by Hecht-Hill-Lancaster (of "Marty" repute), Sir Carol Reed directing, Ray himself doing the adaptation.....Back next month with more of this.

click..insufficient data...buzzz...query: what is love? - - - -

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POLLARD THROWS A PARTY  
by D. MICHAEL PSMITH

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Phans who were fortunate enough to attend the party given by Erudite Dave Pollard at his apartment on West 113th Street last month will remember it as one of the more pleasant evenings of the current social season. There was no particular reason for the affair, Pollard giving the party, as he put it, "Just for the heck of it."

Guests were delighted to find that the host had provided refreshments in the form of three bottles of Jack Daniels and two bottles of Smirnoff's, as well as a buffet for those who wished to eat.

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'Oh! Is that L. Sprague de Camp? He looks like Dewey." CI

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In all, about a dozen and a half NYFen attended, including such notables as the Sabater Sisters, Pat and Lorie, who were greeted with cries of joy by all their old friends, and Stan Serxner, former toad, who made his farewell appearance before leaving for parts unknown. Stan was seen in earnest conversation with Sandy Cutrell and it is believed that he was teaching Sandy a few Japanese phrases for use in Tokyo Geisha Houses. Also present were Chuck Freudenthal, Martin Jukovsky (boy Meuh), Carole Ingersoll, who performed a torrid calypso dance, Irrepressible David MacDonald, Selma Rosen, erstwhile fake fake-fanne, & this writer.



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MacDonald spent much of the time in front of the mirror, showing himself card tricks. Occasionally however, he would go around the room asking people to pick a card. He was ignored by all. Entertainment was provided by the host, who read from the Verse Edda in the original Old Norse. Unfortunately he was forced to interrupt his reading in order to accompany Selma to her home, as she had to leave early. When Pollard returned, several hours later, he was rather nonplussed to see that only three people remained. One of them, Chuck, had passed out on the bed and resisted all Pollard's efforts to move him.

When last seen, Pollard was making preparations to sleep on the couch, and grumbling to himself in Low Gothic.

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Campbell is the egghead's Ray Palmer.  
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NEWS NOTES  
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Latest local publication is The Saturday Evening Toad, emerging from Toad Hall, the ancestral home of Lin Carter, Joe Schaumburger and (until recently) Stan Serxner. Serxner has since departed for a seat of learning, and Joseph McKenna has moved in. This initial issue is filled with monumental literary fare like "Leaves from a Toad Hall Diary", "Scribblings in the Dark", "Mother Toad's Recipe of the Month", "Darklings in the Scrib", and, of all things, "New York News-Notes". Editor Carter has also been dabbling in sculpture, and has several Tau Crosses completed..... Sandy Cutrell of the USAF will not be seen in these parts again for over a year. The Air Force has sent him to Japan. A rousing(?) farewell party was given for him by David MacDonald before he left... Arrangements have now been made for the collection in America of membership dues to this year's World Convention, instead of transmitting cheques or cash to London. Applicants should send one dollar to Franklin M. Dietz Jr., 1721 Grand Ave., Bronx 53, N.Y., stating this sum is for the 1957 WSFS membership. Membership cards and all Society literature will then be issued from London.... San Mosky at the last ESFA meet read a communication from a prominent English fan who stayed at the Kings Court hotel a weekend recently. He described the facilities of the hotel... A rattrap in no uncertain terms..... Betty Van Houten, lovely wife of local BNF Ray, died recently. I'm sure all of NYC fandom joins me in wishing our condolences..... WSFS Inc. is definitely to hold a postal ballot for the next convention site. Applications, together with credentials, must be in by 30 June.... The New York SF clubs (ESFA, CIRCLE, NYSFS) and possibly the Philadelphia group will hold a joint excursion to Asbury park New Jersey. Date not set, at this writing..... Martin Jukovsky (Boy Meuh), has declined the nomination by Kent Corey for Eastern Representative at the Oklacon this year..... Harlan Ellison is in Town for two weeks, having finished basic training.



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LAST MINUTE NOTES & AFTERTHOUGHTS

The Bradley Beach Excursion is definatly slated for Saturday, August 10th. I received a postcard from Hal Lynch of Philly stating that he talked with Will Jenkins (Not Murray Leinster- this is a different Will Jenking, Pres. of the Philly SF Society) about the get-together, and it seems that it "... sounds like a great idea...you can count on a small but vigorous Philly contingent." Those interested in going will meet at La Reine Street and the Beach. La Reine street is  $\frac{1}{2}$  block from the bus and railroad terminals in Asbury Park, New Jersey. For further info, write this magazine... I might mention that, as you can see, this magazine has changed editors. Dick Ellington has given up in disgust, and David MacDonald (ne) has decided to take over. My editorial policies are almost the same as Dick's, excepting that I will not lambast any New York club or individual in these pages. I will, however, publish letters; if anyone feels like sending in some nasty crack... Please, PLEASE, PLEASE try to make the next Circle meeting. Attendance has dropped to a fearful low number, and the club may well be doomed to extinction. Besides, Ian Macaulay has been called by the Armed Forces, and may be forced to resign at the next meeting. To further prompt attendance, I will personally offer free beer to attendees, with the exception of certain blackhearted scoundrels whom I suspect might come just for the free beer... Rumor has it few if any NYfen at Midwescon. Shane... alors till next ish.

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