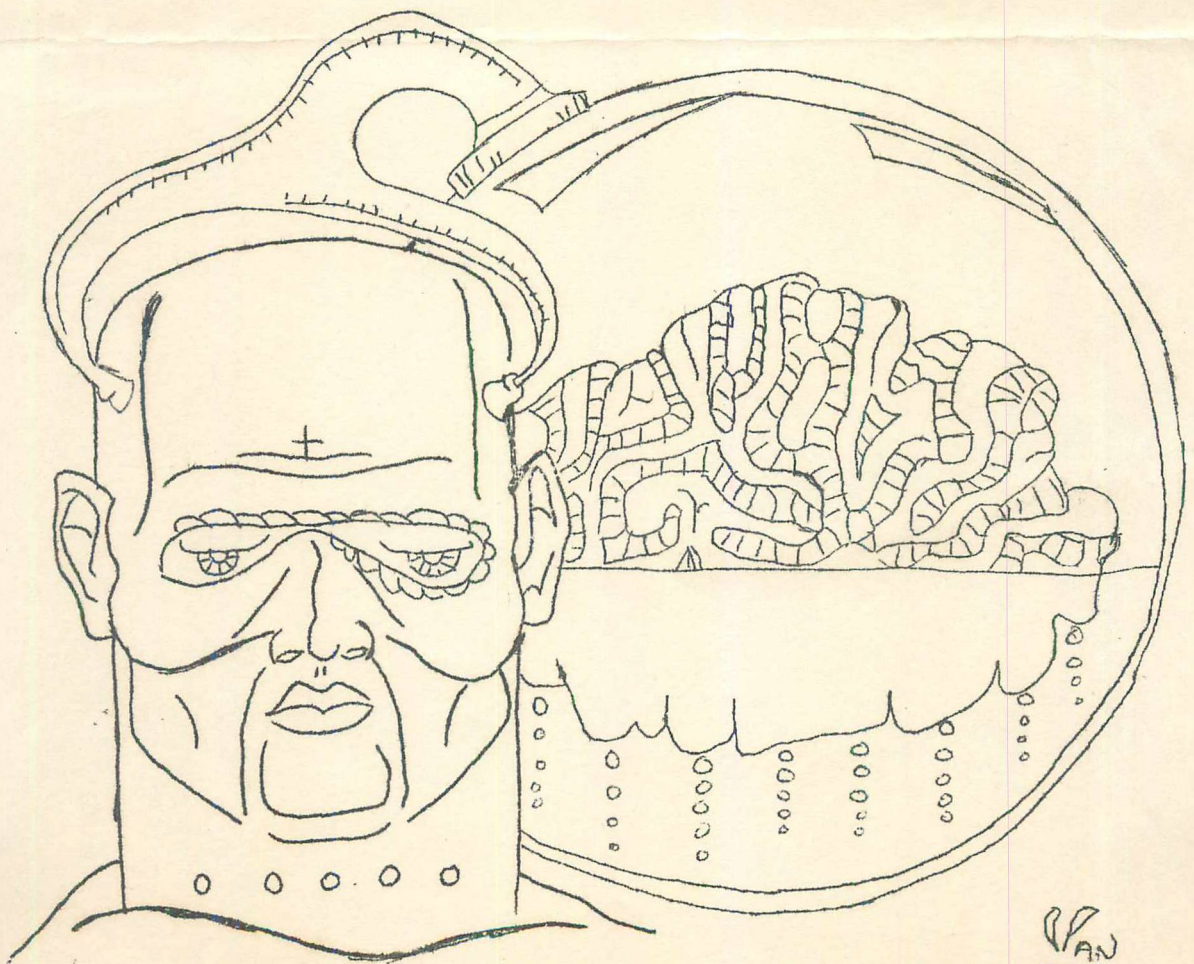
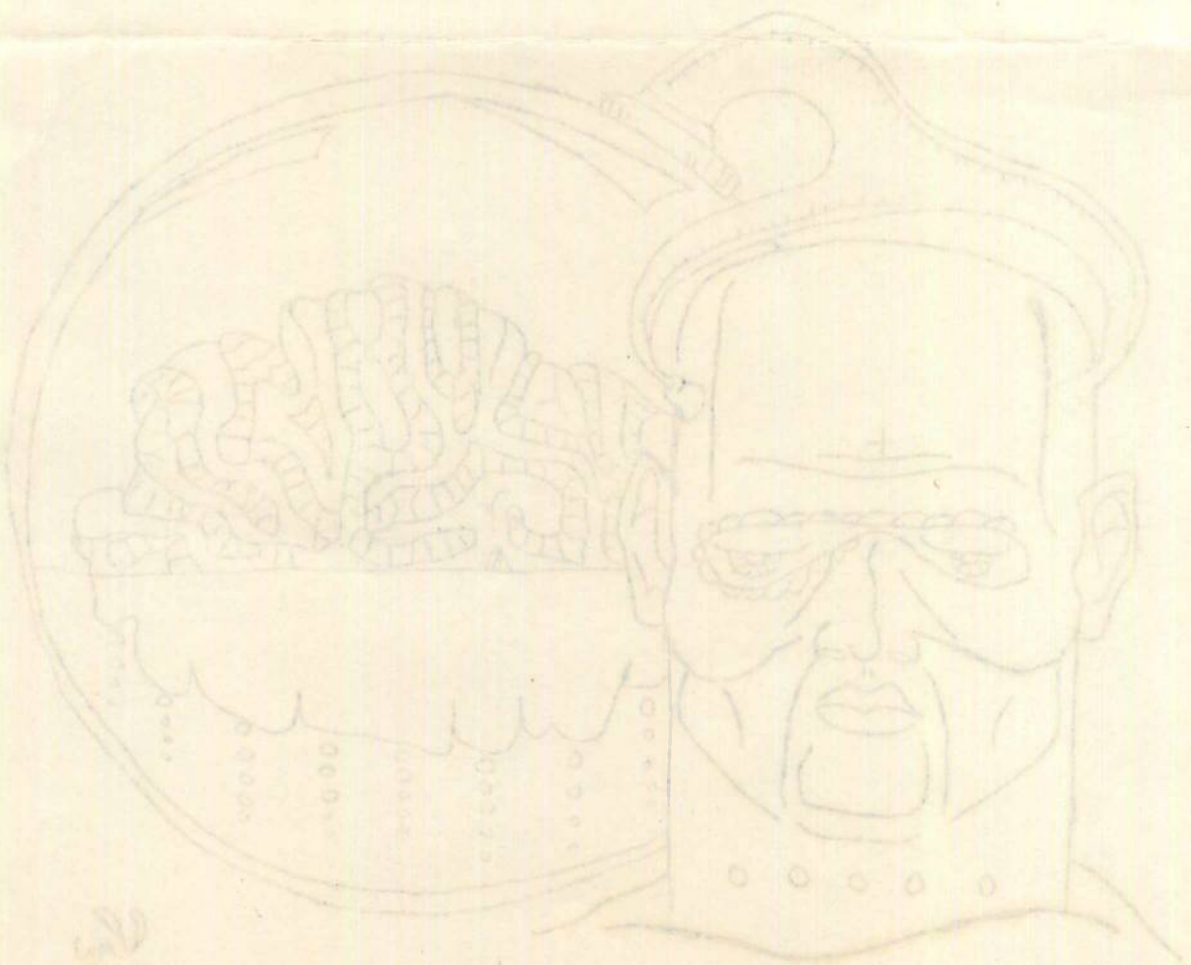


met rofan



AN

restoration



METROFAN

new series

NUMBER 9

MARCH-APRIL 1958

EDITOR - DAVID MACDONALD

This is the unofficial publication of the New York Fandom Council, Composed of Circle, ESFA, and Lunarians---three first rate s-f clubs in the New York area. Letters, etc. should be sent to David MacDonald, 39 East Fourth Street, New York 3, N. Y. Assisting with this issue are Frank and Belle Dietz, Technical Assistants. People receiving this free are members of the various clubs, as well as select outsiders. Faneds can get it by exchange, others for 50¢ a year (or letters of comment). Metrofan will diminish like Alice in Wonderland, after its fantastic growth to 28 pp., back to 3 sheets. This is all explained in the editorial. Individual copies on request. Published monthly. Excelsior!

-- THE NEW YORK SCIENCE FICTION CIRCLE --

CIRCLE

REGULAR MEETING FOR APRIL WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

APRIL 20th at 2:30 P.M.

Place:
Apt. 3R
39 East 4th St.
New York City

Directions:
Lex Ave IRT
Local to Astor Place
or IND "D" to
B'way-Lafayette St.

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

ESFA

REGULAR MEETING FOR APRIL WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

APRIL 6th at 2:30 P.M.

Place:
Slovak Sokol Hall
358 Morris Avenue
Newark, New Jersey

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

4-1

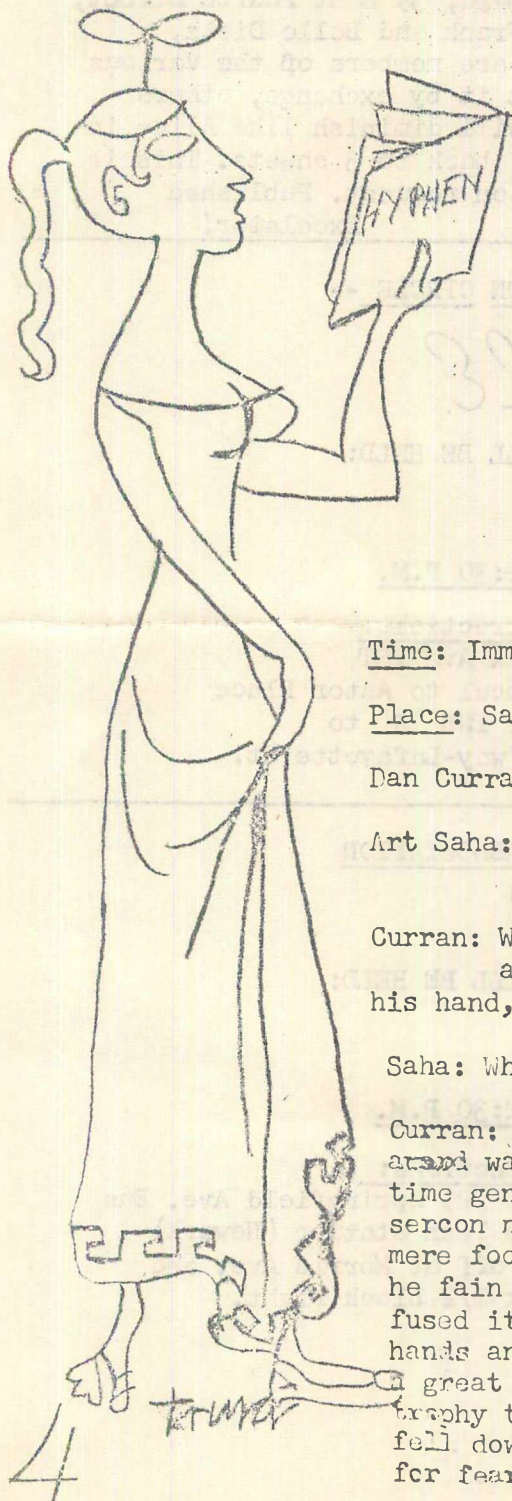
the tragedy of

SAM MOSKOWITZ

A PARALLEL TIME-TRACK ADVENTURE

by Kenneth Beale and David Mac Donald

installment
three



Continued from last issue. The story so far: Lin Carter and Ron Smith, Seargents-at-arms at the NewYorCon, disperse a group of fans gathered to welcome Sam Moskowitz. Jealous of Sam's popularity, they set about to destroy materials pertaining to Moskowitz they find about the hall. Moskowitz appears, surrounded by supporters. A priest of Kahtah cryptically warns Sam to 'Beware the third Convention Day'. After Sam leaves, Dave Mason speaks to Art Saha, subtly turning Saha against Sam. Three shouts are heard from the convention hall, and Saha says he fears the fan choose Sam as the leading fan. The crowd returns, and Saha stops Dan Curran to discover what transpired. So opens act one.

Scene three

Time: Immedeatly after.

Place: Same, before the Convention Hall .

Dan Curran: You pulled me by the cloak. Would you speak with me?

Art Saha: Aye, Curran, tell us what hath chanced today, that Moskowitz looks so sad.

Curran: Why, at the auction, there was a trophy offered him: and, being offered him, he put it by with the back of his hand, thus: and the fans fell a-shouting.

Saha: What was the second noise for?

Curran: Why, for that, too, and the third time also. The award ~~award~~ was offered him thrice, and he put it by thrice, every time gentler than the other; and at every putting by, mine sercon neighbors shouted. Kyle offered him the award: it was mere foolery. For mine thinking, though he refused it thrice, he fain would have had it. The third time, as he still refused it, the faaaans shouted and clapped their inkstained hands and threw up their bheetsoaked beanies and uttered such a great deal of Carbon diOxide because Moskowitz refused the trophy that it almost choked Moskowitz: for he swooned and fell down at it; and for mine own part I durst not laugh, for fear of opening my lips and inhaling the CO₂.

VOTING FORM

Candidates

RON BENNETT

JOHN BERRY

DAVE NEWMAN

ROBERTA WILD

Votes must be mailed to reach H. Ken Bulmer,
Tresco, 204, Wellmeadow Road, Catford, London,
S.E.6, England before 15th June, 1958

Please write below your 1st 2nd and 3rd choice
of a candidate to be sent to the 16th World
Science Fiction Convention to be held in South
Gate, U.S.A., in September, 1958.

First Choice

Second Choice

Third Choice

All candidates have
signed a statement
to the effect that
if elected, God Wil-
ling, they will go
to the Convention.
Should the winner be
unable to go through
reasons beyond his or
her control, the sec-
ond will be offered the
opportunity and then
the third provided he
obtained more than 25
percent of the votes.
If no-one goes or if
there is not suffi-
cient money, the cash
in hand will be held
over until 1959.

(N.B. Your first choice will receive 3 points,
your second 2 points and your third 1 point.
You may vote for any one candidate once only.
If you wish you may leave blank the third and/or
second places)

Write-in Votes are allowed.

To be eligible to vote you must contribute or
have contributed a minimum of 2/6d (50¢) to the
Fund and have been active in fandom prior to
November, 1957. Contributions in excess of
2/6d or 50¢ gratefully accepted. If you are
not a known fan, please give here the name
and address of a fan or club to whom reference
may be made

Details of voting are
kept secret.

Reproductions of this
form are authorised pro-
vided an exact copy is
made.

No proxy votes are
allowed. Each voting
fan must sign his own
ballot paper.

Persons outside Great Britain may send ballots
and/or money to Robert A. Madle, 7720 Oxman
Road, Hyattsville, Maryland, USA.

I enclose/have sent to you/Bob Madle the sum
of.....as a contribution to the Fund. (NB:
Money paid for raffle tickets and special fan-
zines does not count)

Name

Address

.

RON BENNETT Ron Bennett is co-editor of one of the most serious literary fanzines in Britain...and publisher/editor of one of the zaniest trufan type. He's one of the few Britons who've been enthusiastic enough to visit Continental fans, can talk like a runaway tape-recorder, has published long accounts of all Conventions he's visited, is an active member of FAPA, OMPA and the Cult, and is well known for the lighter side of his life such as his fictitious elephant Cedil. His more serious side is demonstrated by his regular publication of a Fan Directory and his work on Michael Rosenblum's New Futurian. Ron is a Knight of St. Fantony and was on the 1957 ConCommittee. Fans gleeing at the Bennett humour, notorious throughout British sf circles, find it more piquant because of his profession - school teaching. He's amongst the top ten British fans and a worthy representative.
Bob Pavlat. Mike Rosenblum. Terry Carr. A. Vincent Clarke. Sandy Sanderson.

JOHN BERRY It seems that some people would like to see a Faan go TAFF. Who better then, than John Berry. John entered fandom in 1954 and since then his produced fannish writings have found their way into most fanzines that have been published during this period. One of the kindest and most enthusiastic fans I know John has never turned a deaf ear to anyone who wrote requesting material from him, even when up to his moustache ends in publishing and co-editing such Goon Press publications as Retribution and Veritas. For a good write-up and a good representative for the trip to South Gate in '58, John Berry is the man to go.
Arthur Thomson. Roberta Wild. Ron Bennett. Len Moffatt. Anna Moffatt.

DAVE NEWMAN In Dave Newman we find a fan who could, well represent nearly all of the aspects of British fandom at the World Con in Los Angeles. If American fans want to meet a typically atypical British fan, known for his wonderful personality -- if British fandom wants to send an active science fiction fan, a trufan, a fan active in organising the Kettering Conventions and the past London World Convention, a fan author of no mean abilities, and first British director of the World Science Fiction Society, no better choice could be made than Dave Newman. (Has own glass. Will travel.)
Steve Schulteis. Ted Carnell. Ted Tubb. Eric Bentcliffe. C. L. Barrett, M.D.

ROBERTA WILD Much can be said for Bobby Wild. A fan the past four years, she spent more than a decade before that in the Women's Royal Air Force. After being invalided out, she entered fandom in 1954, contributed to the all-female mag FEZ, and joined the Off-Trail Magazine Publishers' Association (the British version of FAPA) for which she publishes regularly. Her work on the recent London Convention kept her from contributing widely to other fanzines. She handled the gruelling job of Convention Secretary with efficiency and skill, and now that the Con is over can devote more time to other fan activity. She has shown herself full of fannish spirit, and we predict she'll be well known in fandom from now on. We feel she deserves election as the 1958 TAFF delegate for her remarkable contributions and activity in fandom.
Franklin M. Dietz. Belle C. Dietz. Ken Slater. Robert Silverberg. Joy Clarke

Dave Mason: But, soft, I pray you, did Moskowitz swoond?

Curran: He fell down on the platform, and foamed at the mouth, and was speechless.

Saha: What said he when he came unto himself?

Curran: Marry, before he fell down when he perceived the common herd was glad he refused the trophy, he plucked me off his Science Fiction League lapel pin and offered it to me. And had I been sober, I would have stuffed it down his throat, though I might be barred from the Con. And so he fell. When he came unto himself, he said that if he had done or said anything amiss, he declared their worships to consider it were his infirmity. Three or four fem-fans where I stood, cried, "Alas, good fan!" and forgave him with all their hearts, but there's no need to be taken of them; if Moskowitz has burned their collections, they would have done no less.

Saha: And after that, he came, thus sad, away?

Curran: QX, ace.

Mason: Did Ackerman say anything?

Curran: Ay, he spoke Esperanto.

Mason: To what effect?

Curran: Nay, and I tell you that, I'll never attend a Fanarchist brawl again. But those that understood him smiled at one another, and shook their heads. But for mine own part, it was Esperanto to me. I could tell you more news, too. Carter and Smith, for burning copies of The Immortal Storm, are expelled from the hall. Fare you well. There was more foolery, if I could remember it.

Saha: Will you be at the banquet tonight, Curran?

Curran: No, I do not have ten dollars.

Saha: Will you dine with me tomorrow?

Curran: QX, if I be alive, and your mind hold, and your liquor be Jack Daniels.

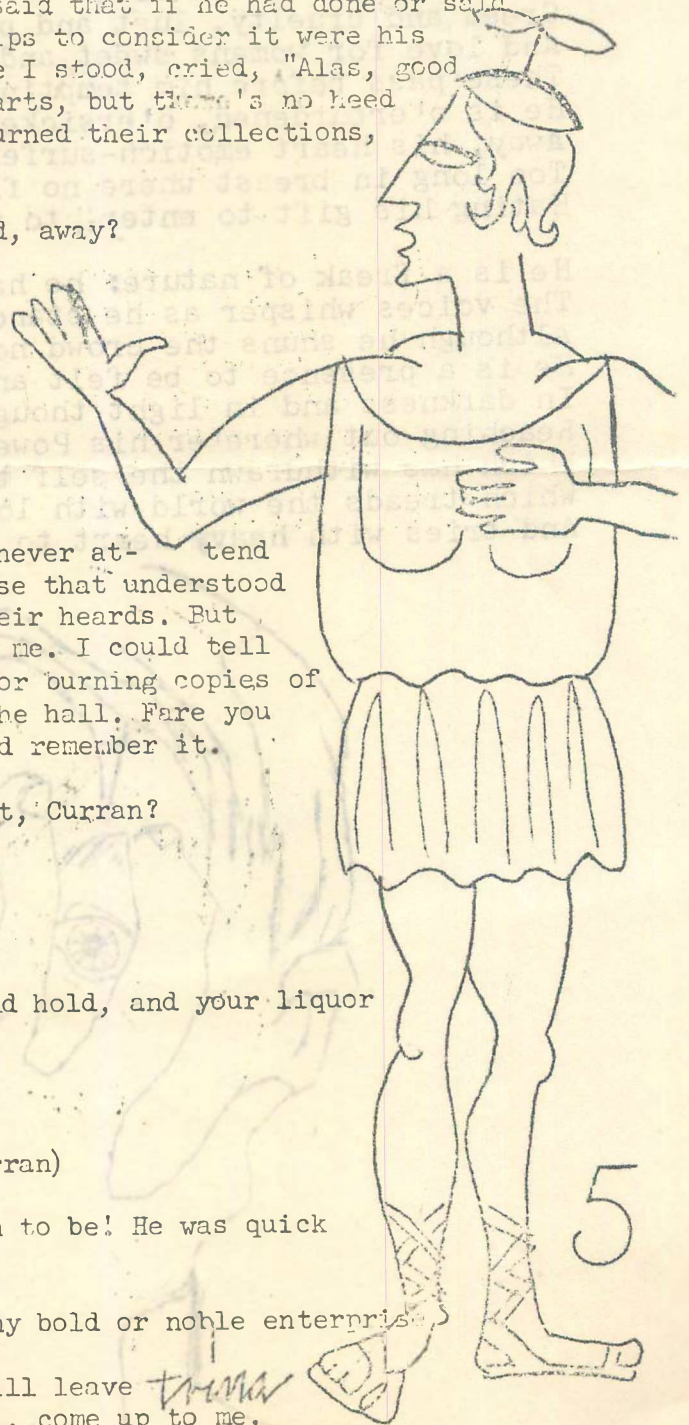
Saha: Good. I will expect you.

Curran: Do so. Farewell both. (Exit Curran)

Saha: What a blunt fellow this is grown to be! He was quick mettle when he was a neophan.

Mason: So is he now, in execution of any bold or noble enterprise.

Saha: And so it is. For this time I will leave you; Call my room, or if you will, come up to me, and I will wait for you. (Cont! on page 18)



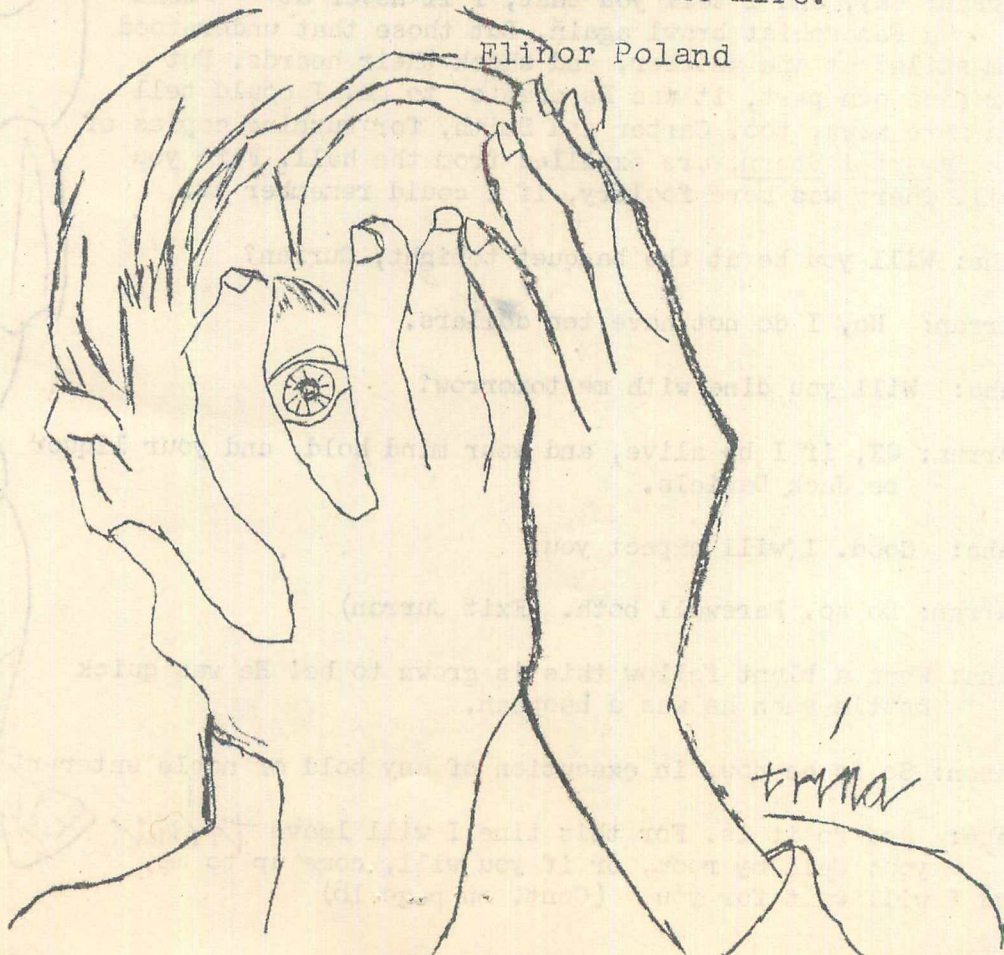
THE CRY OF THE TELEPATH

Peace, peace! He longs for death, he cannot sleep
He lies awake from nightmares strife
'Tis we, who full of wild emotions keep
His mind in struggle from our wars with life
And in mad terror strike with mental knife
Vulnerable places. We despair
Like drowning men in hungry seas; fear and grief
Torture him until he bows in prayer
And begs for peace -- no minds to share

He has outgrown the vices of our race
Greed and cruelty, lust and pain
And love for womans sweet and smiling face
These pass before him tempting, but in vain
He is o'erburdened, o'ersickened, his soul replete does turn
Away, his heart emotion-surfeit like stone has lain
Too long in breast where no flame is left to burn
Hating his gift to enter, to probe and to discern

He is a freak of nature: he has heard
The voices whisper as he stands alone
Although he shuns the crowd nor speaks a word
He is a presence to be felt and known
In darkness and in light thoughts to him are shown
Reaching out where'er his Power may desire
Which has withdrawn the self that was his own
Which treads the world with love beyond tire
And tries with heavy heart to lift it from the mire.

Elinor Poland



trina

THE READER SPEAKS OUT: DAVE KYLE

HANS STEFAN SANTESSON, King-Size Publications, 320 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

"I am afraid that this article may be misunderstood - enthusiastically, in some instances - by those who have mixed feelings about the Convention at the Biltmore. This is regrettable, because while the article confirms Dave's much discussed tendency to make various decisions without consulting the London Trip Fund Committee, whose co-responsibility he apparently questioned, it takes up a number of further matters which I feel it was improper to comment on, in this fashion, without at the same time running an explanation by Kyle. If you will forgive me for saying so, Dave, it is one thing to tear into a person for procedural errors but it is another thing to imply that the man in question has done more than this - the way this article by McCune does."

H. P. SANDERSON, 7 Inchmery Road, Catford, London S.E. 6, England

"The January issue of Metrofan was not received until February 20th and it was impossible at that time to do anything for the February issue, the deadline for which was February 14th. This might give rise to the impression that we are not concerned with the article on Dave Kyle by McCune, but this is not the case. We appreciate your sending Metrofan and thus enabling us to see the article (the late arrival was merely unfortunate) and we hope that you will find space in the next issue to publish the position that I, as the accountant, and other members of the London Convention Committee take in this matter.

"Of minor importance, perhaps, is the fact that the story did not start in March, 1957 as stated by McCune (although it must be acknowledged that he was basing his report on the available documentary evidence). It was in March, 1957 that we contacted Frank Dietz and asked, in sheer desperation, if he could say what was happening to the trip. This appeal followed a considerable period of time during which we attempted to discover the position from Kyle without success. As far as we were aware, nothing had been done. There is no documentary evidence of this since the matter was conducted by the Convention Chairman (Ted Carnell) via tape recorded messages. As stated, Frank Dietz was contacted because we could get no information from Kyle that anything had been done. He came to our assistance immediately but naturally pointed out that he could not proceed without authorisation. We gave that authorisation at once. Kyle can have no objection to make to the forming of a committee since he appeared to be taking no action himself and the whole idea of a trip to the London Convention was in danger of collapsing. Any action taken by Frank (and Belle) thereafter was the result of notification from us that Kyle had not carried out the various actions that he had undertaken - the plane list being a good example.

"While not in any way wishing to decry American fandom, for there has already been more confusion and misunderstandings between British and American fans than the differences really warrant, it must be appreciated that both fan politics and legal wrangling were new facets of fandom to us. We had never considered it essential that matters conducted between fans should always be put in writing. This explains in part why strict adherence to the rules and regulations of an incorporated society was looked upon with a considerable amount of humour in the early stages of our contract with the W.S.F.S. At this stage it can only be said that the attitude we adopted is very much regretted and that had we had sufficient prior experience of the political and legal aspects of the convention-attending portion of fandom we would

(Continued on following page)

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KYLE (Continued)

have been more whole-heartedly in favour of the WSFS method of working in a business-like manner. As it happened the Convention went into the red for a considerably larger amount than the \$100.00 which was the result of not obtaining the list of passengers in time, as specified by McCune in his article.

"The Trip was originally suggested in Easter, 1956 at Kettering and it was agreed (verbally) that excess funds would go to the Convention. Again in September, 1956 it was agreed (verbally) between Kyle and Carnell in New York that a small amount would be added to the cost of the seats on the plane. It was expected that Convention funds would be tight, and small additions were being made to the cost of a number of items so that we would be covered for all eventualities. In this particular instance the extra amount would hardly have been noticed by the individual passengers but when multiplied by 55 would have been of considerable assistance to the Convention. This source of income was taken into account when preparing the costs of the Convention. A short time before the arrival of the American party Carnell informed the Committee that the excess plane money had been swallowed up. His information came from Kyle, naturally, and the rather vague impression he gave the Committee was that either through the change in the contract or through some mistake a free seat on the plane (for Kyle) had now to be paid for. This will give some impression of the amount of 'extra' money we had been anticipating. ((You know, this is very surprising to me. As far as I knew, and from what the Dietz's and Raybin told me, they never knew about this agreement. Kyle kept them completely in the dark on this as well as the other matters I mentioned before in the previous article. They, too were dumbfounded when they saw this letter - it was the first they knew about our boy Kyle's chicanery on this matter. --DM))

"Although this came as a shock the loss of funds was, after all, one of the eventualities we had to be prepared for. A hasty review of the accounts showed that we would still cover our expenses. The legality of Kyle's action was not even considered - he was a fan. In the subsequent trouble with the hotel manager over rooms this misappropriation of Convention funds by Kyle was overlooked. The Convention actually suffered a loss of approximately \$250.00. However, rather than pass this loss to South Gate all members of the committee withdrew expense accounts to the total of at least \$150.00, and another \$100.00 was donated by the London Circle (this being the total sum held by the Circle as the result of five previous British Conventions).

"You can therefore imagine our feelings to discover that despite Kyle's misappropriation there still remained a credit balance of \$1,305.50 in the Trip Fund. One-fifth of this amount would have covered the Convention losses adequately. Nothing can be done now because the money has been refunded, but Kyle had no authority to do this. In fact, the money collected for the trip was a part of the Convention funds. Having collected the money under the authority of the Convention Committee Kyle should not have disposed of it without consulting with the Committee Accountant. (Naturally, the refund of this large amount to the passengers would not have been withheld but a portion of it could easily have been set aside to cover part of the Convention expenses). Kyle had no authority to use the money collected to pay for his own seat on the plane - if he did in fact do so, no authority to issue a souvenir booklet, no authority to use the fund money as the

(Continued on following page)

KYLE (Continued)

basis of a gift to himself and his wife (except that donations for such a gift could have been deducted from the refunds due after all Convention expenses had been cleared, on a voluntary basis and without the spur of the published list of all donations), and no authority to dispose of the balance of the funds.

"It is now a matter of some concern as to whether we should continue as planned and finalise the accounts of the Convention to show \$30.00 brought forward from the New York Con and \$30.00 carried forward to the Solacon, or whether we should obtain expense accounts from all the committee members and change the London Circle donation to a loan to be refunded, and balance these sums against an amount owed to the Convention by Dave Kyle. Whatever action is finally taken it will not now be possible to pass on to the Solacon the \$30.00 carried forward from New York. This amount will be required to cover Solicitors fees and other extra costs arising out of our attempt to regain money from the Convention Hotel - which as you will recollect was caused in part by our not receiving the list of plane passengers in time. The Convention Secretary (Bobbie Wild) is writing to you under separate cover. Her feelings are identical to ours. (Signed, H.P. Sanderson, Convention Accountant; Joy K. Clarke, U.K. Publicity; A. Vincent Clarke, Committee."

BOYD RAE BURN, 9 Glenvalley Drive, Toronto 9, Canada

"Thanks for the copy of Metrofan #7. Judging by all the red pencil marks on it, you seem to be anxious to get my opinions on the Dave Kyle affair featured in this issue - and I am so touched by your undertaking to give my letter every consideration.

"So. First of all, I'm damn sure that this item was not written by the person who wrote previously in Metrofan under the name of "Edsel McCune" for he would not be likely to get excited about such an affair, would not write in this manner, and I'm sure wouldn't give a damn about a proposal from Munich to bid for the 1960 convention. This article sounds like one of the Lunarians writing under a stolen nom de plume.

"I've heard other stories on the chartered plane affair, but ignoring all this, I'll just comment on the article as it stands. If Kyle was not authorised by the WSFS to make a contract with PAA, why all the excitement, as the contract would be invalid? A contract cannot be binding if the signer has no authority to sign it. ((Kyle is still a Director of the WSFS: --DM)) First there is all sorts of excitement because the contract with PAA doesn't have a cancellation clause, and then on the next page we find it is cancelled. ((But supposing it wasn't? --DM))

"Oh dear. And here is Kyle planning a tour of Europe, without authorization from the London committee. Horrors. Gee, all the time people are organizing European trips, and they don't have any authorization from the London committee either. Tsk. ((Yes, but Kyle held tour under auspices of Trip Fund --DM)) On page 16 we learn that Ted Carnell received the complete passenger list on July 22. The convention wasn't until September, so why all the fuss? If the convention lost money through booking all the passengers into the hotel, is this Kyle's fault? Wasn't it up to the individual attendees to advise Bobbie Wild whether they wanted rooms? ((I suggest you read Bobbie Wild's letter on page 11.--DM))

(Continued on following page)

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KYLE (Continued)

"If Dave charged a group for taking them to Europe, isn't the matter of charges and services rendered something between himself and those who took the tour? What business is it of anybody else? ((But he ran the tour under the auspices of the Trip Fund and complaints were made to the other members of the Trip Fund Committee. --DM)) If Belle Dietz made the necessary arrangements, why were the passengers charged? Why should Kyle drop everything to arrange such a matter, after having the plane committee breathing down his neck all the time previously....or did they consider Kyle to be a joe boy, at their beck and call.

"Just from this article, I too get the feeling that Raybin and the Dietzes pushed themselves in on the whole affair. I may be wrong. I can't see the point of the writing to London asking permission to form a committee and so on and so on. Did this trip have to be under the auspices of the WSFS? Why couldn't Kyle be left alone to organize the trip himself? If he had run it himself, even in the name of the WSFS, having no authority to contract by himself on behalf of the WSFS if anything had gone wrong he alone would have been responsible.

"Why was all this trivia published, anyway? What is the writer trying to prove, that Kyle and the Raybin-Dietz faction have a quarrel? So what! I'm sending you a copy of A BAS #10 in trade. I want to keep on getting Metrofan. These samples of rampant fuggheadedness are too hilarious to miss."

DICK ELLINGTON, 299 East 11th Street, New York 3, N.Y.

"Since you seem eager for some answers on the Dave Kyle bit, here tis: The subtitling on the cover of No. 7 is quite apt -- 'Dave Kyle, Confidential'. Like Confidential and other mags of this sort you Name the Names and Give all the Lowdown, 'Nothing but the Facts'. Unfortunately, again like Confidential, you give only the dirt and none of what are sometimes known as 'extenuating circumstances,' what you might call slanted writing. Probably nice egoboo as a fmz publisher but hardly ethical.

"That letter from Kyle on page 14 is an interesting bit indeed. I don't think anyone will doubt its authenticity -- doubt that you'd run in a patsy with all the legal vultures poised to pounce. Only thing I can say is it's a piece of unbelievable stupidity on Kyle's part. Whatever possessed him to send out a thing like this, knowing that a dozen petty bureaucrats around town were gunning for him, I'll never know.

"Elsel II, in spite of his claims to objectivity, writes a prejudiced article. Some of the stuff he left out and he didn't seem to bother with any of the whole slew of extenuating circumstances we both know about. I resent his questioning, even in subtle form, Kyle's honesty tho. I've known Kyle long enough and close enough to be sure beyond any doubt that he's ridiculously honest. On the other hand, I don't think it's my business (or anyone else's for that matter) to answer the charges in the article. That's something for Dave to do himself -- if he thinks it's worthwhile. Right now, I happen to know, he's laid up with the Asiatic Flu, so I dunno when you'll hear from him -- or if you will for that matter. Rather than worrying about who had "correct authorization", who was an 'accredited representative' or whether this or that was technically in violation of rule number one thousand and umpty-seven of the Great and Wondrous Laws, why don't you worry about whether or not things get done? Try that also on your plane trip and think on it a little."

(Continued on following page)

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Kyle (Continued)

BOBBIE WILD, 204 Wellmeadow Road, Catford, London S.E. 6, England

"I have received 'Metrofan' and was very interested (and mightily surprised) in Edsel's article.

"The surprise is because when Dave Kyle was over here in 1956 the idea of a chartered plane trip was mooted and the plan then was that if the trip materialised any profits accruing to it should go to Convention funds. Why this was not done I honestly don't know. Whether it was because the Trip, although officially in the London Convention's name was privately backed by Dave and Art and Klm, or whether because the financial arrangements were publicly known is the reason, perhaps. In any case, the Convention Committee were given the impression that any profits would be placed at the disposal of World Convention funds. However, I cannot recall this actually being put into writing. (Although the solicitor with whom I have been in touch over this hotel business has informed me that a verbal promise is as legally binding as a written one - but perhaps the law is slightly different in the States).

"Because we were under this impression some of the Convention members dug into their own pockets (myself included) figuring that if the Convention showed a decent profit we could be reimbursed then. However, there was this hassle with the hotel and although I have managed to get some money back from various sources it has been scarcely enough to pay our bills. Some of the people who made the plane trip wrote to me personally booking rooms, others left it very late although they knew they were coming - and as the Manager wanted the names by mid-June you will realise just how stuck I was. Still others did not write until the last moment telling me they had booked their own accommodation elsewhere. This was somewhat irking as I had already informed some fans whom I could have booked into the hotel that there was no room left. The result was that some, rather than not be in the hotel, did not come at all. Added to that, was the fact that I didn't receive a list of the people who were going on to Amsterdam until the Thursday before the plane was due to arrive. The result was that not only did we have to pay for the British fan who never arrived (one died and two were sick so that was definitely beyond our control) but also some of the plane passengers. Even then, not being aware that several had booked accommodation elsewhere I had had to book some of the members in another hotel (I pulled the names out of a hat so that there could be no bias) and these people could have been accommodated in the hotel used for the Convention.

"Also, as the plane trip was first suggested in 1956, it wasn't until May 1957 (three months before the Convention) that we knew that it was definitely on. This left me very little time to make arrangements although I had closed local bookings at Easter because we had stated all along that overseas visitors would get priority for bookings. This again meant outside bookings for some members who could have been in the Convention hotel if I had known earlier of what the plane passengers intended to do. So I did the best I could and since the Convention tried to get some of the money back which, of course, resulted in my getting one or two abusive letters (not from the States or the Continent I hasten to add) in which one writer accused me of cooking the books. Far from doing this (my maths are hopeless, anyway) I did not draw as much petty cash as I should have done.

(Continued on following page)

11

Kyle (Continued)

Since there was so little from the New York Convention until a few weeks before the London Convention I was paying for nearly half the postage myself, then the postage got so heavy I could no longer do it - I'd made a big enough hole in my bankbook and, in any case, I am no Rockefeller. I wouldn't have mentioned this because as far as I was concerned it was for a good cause, but as I know I am not the only member of the London Worldcon committee who spent quite a bit of personal money I do feel that some of that profit should have gone to the Convention funds. Even if we were not reimbursed there is the matter of £33 (about \$100) borrowed from the local London funds to start us off and if this could be repaid I know that I (and probably the other members) would be willing to cut our own losses. In any case, there will also be solicitor's fees to pay. The solicitor I am in touch with is trying to get either £41 (about \$110) or £29 (about \$83), but it will probably be the lower sum if we get anything. The whole business is held up as soon after the manager of the hotel got the £100 from us, he departed on a trip to South Africa (I won't put into words what I am thinking as it is probably libel) so we have had to await his return. ((Editor's Note: H.P. Sanderson writes to tell me that "We have now discovered that there will be nothing to come back from the hotel. We could probably bring a court action but couldn't pay if we lost." --DM))

"But my biggest disappointment is that it wrecked an otherwise good convention for me and owing to the hotel hassle and the fact that the plane trip profits weren't handed over to the Convention funds we haven't been able to get South Gate funds off to as good a start as we all hoped. However, I have the consolation of knowing that for most people the Convention was thoroughly enjoyed."

End

THE INSCRUTABLE SMILE OF THE SWAHILI SANDWORM

by Don Johnson

In a far-off corner of our planet lies the mysterious, unexplored Swahili Desert. No human foot has ever traversed its sandy wastes. No human eye has ever seen that enigma of the desert, the Swahili sandworm.

The Swahili sandworm is, naturally, a worm; a small reddish worm. It would be unworthy of note save for its smile. This Mona Lisa of the desert is endowed with a grin which implies that the worm knows more than it should.

You have seen superior smirks, good-natured grins and sly sneers, but nothing matches the inscrutable smile of the Swahili sandworm. It is the smile of a child whose mouth turns down at the corners. It is the smile of the defeated candidate as he prepares to congratulate his victorious opponent.

This smile serves a two-fold purpose. It serves to frighten away predators by convincing them that the worm's apparent self-confidence stems from its being the possessor of some horribly effective natural weapon. The small creatures the worm feeds upon are enticed within reach of its jaws by the friendly grin.

The worm, known to science as *Smilensii Swahili*, is unknown in captivity. At this moment, several major scientific institutions are preparing to send expeditions to the Swahili - if they can find it - in search of this rare worm.

SPACESHIPS
&
CELLULOID

ken beale

ADDENDA: I inadvertently omitted the following from my last column, which listed all of the '57 SF and Fsy films: "The Story of Mankind" (Warners), was not all fantasy, but the prologue is laid in heaven. "Ordet" (Kingsley International) was reportedly an exceptionally fine Danish film concerning revival of the dead. (By the director of the classic "Vampyr".) "Brain From Planet Arous" and its co-feature were Favorite Films pictures. (Still no reviews).

Reviews in Brief: "The Disembodied" (Allied Artists) sneaked into town this January. In a rash moment, I saw it. It featured Allison Hayes (see below) and a cast of the usual unknowns in some sort of mish-mosh about Voodoo (in Africa) and strange tribal rites. Quite apart from its total inaccuracy (voodoo or vodoun, is a religion and involves no black magic, pins in dolls, etc.) it was also very dull, and not really fantasy.

"From Hell It Came" (also All. Art.) was only slightly better than the above. A tropic isle, this time, was the locale. But the plots and casts of both were interchangeable. There were lots of scantily clad "native" girls (all obvious Anglo-Saxon types), pounding drums, and a Finlayesque tree-creature (see pic in Life, Nov. 11th last). The latter played the title role (rather better than most of the cast), and went about pushing people into a swamp (or was it a pool of lava?).

The above two films made up a double bill, and accounted for one of the most nauseating evenings I have ever spent in a theatre.

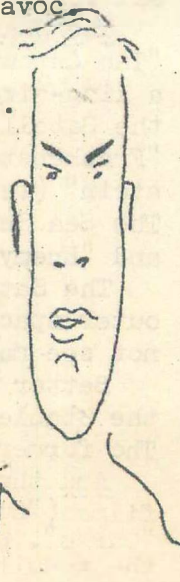
By now, many of you will have seen "Rodan" (Distributors Corp. of America) assuming you missed it at the preview held locally. This was a Japanese film, in some unidentified color process (not Technicolor), dubbed into English with the usual ineptness. (I have seen only one satisfactory dubbing job in all the years I've been going to the movies. The process is one that completely destroys any merit a picture may have originally possessed. (Though in this case, I can't see that it did much harm.)

There were two types of monsters here--giant termites, and giant pterodactyls, which latter flew at supersonic speed (!) and caused great havoc. For once, it wasn't the army that destroyed them, but a volcano. I was surprised at the poor quality of the narration, considering that it was written by David Duncan ("Beyond Eden", "Dark Dominion", etc.). The photography was so-so, the color very inadequate, the special effects good, if you like buildings being ripped down and similar scenes of destruction. There was also the inevitable quota of gore, in which (Ray Van Houten's review in S-F Times to the contrary) foreign films have absolutely no monopoly.

It is sad to say that this little bomb is one of the better recent monster films.

"I Was A Teenage Frankenstein" (American-International) is another overhaul of Shelley's whimsy, throwing the accent on - "Youth!", as exclaimed by the mad "Professor Frankenstein" ((the title refers to the monster.)) "Not the worn-out

bodies and overtaxed brains my illustrious forbears used!" Thus inspired,



the doctor creates a rather dumb teenage monster, typical marquee bait except for his "My Friend Irma" behavior.

However, Whit Bissell (the Professor) is an excellent character actor. Giving a decent - even credible - performance in the fangs of a lurid script is asking a lot of any man, but Bissell delivers the goods, keeping the film alive through its most absurd moments. Some fairly effective modern jazz backgrounds chase the whatsit through his fatality list, and there's a nicely managed switch to color in the last reel.

Very bad, but mildly enjoyable rock-with-a-shock fare. --Norman Clarke

I finally managed to see "The Undead" (American-International) and received what is probably the biggest surprise of the year. It was good! To anyone who liked "Unknown" or "Weird Tales", I can unreservedly recommend this little fantasy (not a horror film, despite its advertising) of a girl thrown back in time to an earlier incarnation. Witchcraft and a Satanic mass (complete with Satan) are also involved. Especially in view of the low budget, this is a remarkably good film. Allison Hayes (who is constructed along admirable lines) does quite well as a witch, and an actor called (I believe) Mel Welles does what he can with the impossible-to-play role of Satan. (I can think of very few actors who could even attempt the part.)

"Voodoo Woman" (the co-feature) is as bad as its companion is good. There is a monster created by a mixture of voodoo and science, plus natives, drums and all the rest. Also Tom Conway as a mad scientist. ("You--you're insane!" cries Mrs. C. "Don't ever say that!" snarls Conway.) Some of the principals of "From Hell It Came" and "The Disembodied" were also involved here, and I know they used the same plot. (Unlike many dual-bills, these two halves were directed by different people. Roger Corman, whom I've mentioned here before, did "The Undead".)

Also showing, but not reviewed: "The Monolith Monsters" (Universal), "Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs" (Re-issue, Buena Vista), "The Gamma People" (Columbia), "The Unnatural" (Dist. Corp. of America). The last was originally called "Alraune", from the book of that name by Hans-Heinz Ewers, and starred Hildegard Neff and Eric Von Stroheim. It is about a female homunculus who grows into a woman of great beauty and great evil. (Reportedly not too good a film though.)

I think I should mention that Channel 7, locally, showed "Weird Woman" on its weekend horror series. This proved to be an incredibly bad butcher job of Fritz Leiber's "Conjure Wife". Almost nothing was left of the original, and all fantasy was "explained". Sad.

The Shape of Things To Come: Promised, or threatened, are such titles as "The Astounding She-Monster" (Allied Artists, with Allison Hayes again) about a king-size gal, and from the same studio, "Queen of the Universe", "War of the Satellites", "Invasion of the Gargons", "The Giant Behemoth" (!), and "Frankenstein 1950". A-I has "Blood of Dracula" to run with "Teenage Frankenstein" (female vampire in school for girls.) Other titles: "Viking Women vs. The Sea Serpent" (I don't believe it either), and "The Girl From 2,000,000 A.D." and "Enemy From Space".

The Satellite headlines have doubtless prompted a switch from monsters to outer space, but due to the time-lag between production and release, we may not see many of these for some time.

Better news is the Harry Belafonte film, "The End of the World" (MGM) and the Stanley Kramer production of Nevil Shute's "On the Beach" (United Artists). The former is now being filmed. Both post-atomic sf.

And there will be a subliminal sf film: "E.S.P." (U-I). England's Hammer films ("Curse of Frankenstein", "X. The Unknown") are working on a sequel to "Curse", plus a Dracula and a Jekyll-Hyde film. It may be interesting to watch the results. --KB

METRO MUMBLINGS

editorial

"The current issue is a little large", Rick Sneary wrote me recently, "If you are going to be a monthly. What I mean is, I fear you will get tired of it all, if you try to do this much every month." Rick is right. Metrofan will have to cut down quite a bit. There are any number of reasons for this. First, Metrofan is primarily sent out to local fans to publicize the New York groups. For this purpose, in my opinion, it's a waste of time and money to send a generalzine to these fans. Second, a monthly mag of this size takes too much time and money anyway. Thirdly, I haven't got enough material to fill out a twenty-page issue a month. Also, I was for the last year and some suffering from the malady Amor Inreddere, or more explicitly Amor Nonreddere. Besides, I'm lazy.

So this will be the last (thank Ghod) published in this format. Beginning next issue, we will return to a six-page New York newszine. All of the articles, letters, editorial comments, artwork, etc., will go by the board.

But they won't be lost. In June, the first issue of a new quarterly fanmag will appear to supplement Metrofan, called simply m/f. This will be sent to select members of Metrofan's audience, as well as others. It will cost 50¢ per year (15¢ per copy). Club member type freeloaders will not get this zine except by subscription.

I repeat, Metrofan is not folding. I just intend to keep it down to a reasonable size.

This issue also completes the Kyle story. To this date, I have heard nothing from him, nor, I understand, have Frank or Belle Dietz or George Nims Raybin. Out of sight is not out of mind, dammit, nor does absence make the heart grow fonder.

Don't forget to send your TAFF ballot in now. Ken Bulmer didn't get the material to Madle until almost too late this year, so there's little time left.

Vote Ron Bennett for TAFF.

Detroit in '59

NOTE BY FILM CONSULTANT FOR METROCON II

I am currently trying to obtain a film to be shown at Metrocon II, in October. I would like your opinion as to the type of film (no titles, please). Should it be a) fantasy b) horror c) SF d) science-documentary? If SF, would you object to seeing an old film over again? (i.e., "Destination Moon") Inasmuch as fans have seen most of the recent SF movies, it may be preferable to show a fantasy of high calibre or else a rather obscure SF film. Two examples are among the films being considered. One is a Czeck film of 1950, "Krakatit", an atomic phantasy (which is actually SF), by Karel Capek; and "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream", a rarely seen production from the U.S., made in the '30s. Kindly send your opinions to Ken Beale, 115E Mosholu Parkway, Bronx 67, N.Y.

15½

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THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY
- - - - -

...First of a series on fan clubs and activities

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society has been in existence for over twenty years. For awhile after its beginning in 1935, the Society met in private homes. During World War II, with most of the members away in service, the club was kept active by correspondence, and after the war it had grown large enough to meet in a rented hall. Since then the Society has come together in various quarters convenient to the membership.

Today the group meets regularly about twice a month to discuss various aspects of science and science-fiction. Recent topics of special interest have included peaceful uses of atomic energy, new developments in education, and the launching of the unmanned satellite as mankind's first step toward exploring other planets. Up-to-date information - and pointed criticisms - are exchanged on the latest scientific and science-fiction books, motion-pictures, and magazines. Occasionally the discussion turns into other channels such as unexplained historic mysteries, strange and unusual customs of distant peoples, experimentation on animal and insect intelligence, possibilities of thought-communication, and similar subjects. Programs are sometimes varied with motion-pictures and recordings of science-fictional interest.

In addition to these local gatherings, each year the Society sponsors a Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference, a large public meeting featuring well-known guest speakers. This conference brings fans from New York, Baltimore, Washington and other points along the eastern seaboard. This friendly annual get-together is always an occasion for face-to-face meetings with favorite authors, for renewing old friendships and making new ones, and for an exciting auction as science-fiction collectors vie with each other for possession of rare works of imaginative literature.

If you have a vivid imagination, and an interest in the unusual, you will want to visit the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society. The meetings of this group are open to all who may wish to attend, and visitors are always welcome. For details on meeting dates and activities, write Hal Lynch at 7203 Cresheim Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

HEINLEIN & HALFWITTED HUGO HANDLING - by guess who, again...

It was brought to my attention a couple of days ago that -- apparently -- Robert Heinlein never received the Hugo that was supposed to have been awarded to him at the 1958 Convention. - Dick Ellington.

Yes, Heinlein was awarded a Hugo for the Best Novel of 1956 - DOUBLESTAR. I spoke with Jimmy Taurasi about this, and he told me the following: "In the summer of 1957, we recieved information that certain Hugos had not been delivered. These were for Frank Kelly Freas, Damon Knight, and Arthur C. Clarke. Dave Kyle, who was in charge of sending them out, informed us that 'due to the cost of packing and mailing', those three had not been delivered. As Clarke was touring at that time, Kyle said that he would deliver it to him as soon as Clarke hit New York City, or whenever it was possible to. Since Ray ((N.B. - Ray Van Houten)) and I could deliver the other two Hugos, we asked Kyle to give them to us, which he did - and they were delivered. At that time, Dave Kyle told us that all of the Hugos - except, of course, the Arthur C. Clarke Hugo - had been delivered. "

If Ellington speaketh truth, as Ellington is wont to do, something is afoot. Or as a fan I know once said, "Damn that Kyle!"

CON FORECASTS

LUNACON #2

The New York Science Fiction Society "The Lunarians", will present their second annual one day conference, on Sunday, April 13th, 12:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., at 213 West 53rd Street, N.Y.C. Program will consist of an Isaac Asimov panel, entitled "Asimov - The Man-The Writer" and will have a 'tape-recorded introduction from Asimov; also London Con films; an Editors' panel - "What Editors Think Of Fans"; and the first showing anywhere of 100 full color slides, taken by Dr. Christine E. Haycock, of science fiction cover art, with narration by Sam Moskowitz. Membership \$1.

DISCLAVE

A weekend conference to be held at the Arva Motek, U.S. Route 50, Arlington, Virginia, on May 10-11, is being sponsored by the Washington Science Fiction Association. Informal-type, this gathering will feature a bring-your-own-drinks party on Saturday night, May 10th. For more details, write Bob Pavlat, 6001 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland.

MIDWESTCON

The 9th annual MidWestCon will be held over the weekend of June 28th-29th, at the North Plaza Motel, 7911 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio. This informal no-planned-program conference will be presented by the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, and will have a banquet on Saturday night, June 28th. The motel has a swimming pool and the MidWestCons are always highly enjoyable. Plan to attend. Contact Don Ford, Box 19-T, R.R.#2, Wards Corner Rd., Loveland, Ohio, for further info.

SOUTHWESTERCON VI

The annual SouthWesterCon will be presented this year by The Dallas Futurian Society over the July 4th weekend, at the Lido Hotel Courts, southeast of Dallas, Texas. All modern facilities will be available, including a swimming pool, air-conditioning, TV, etc. Sounds like a wonderful con again. Membership is \$1, to SouthWesterCon VI, 4243 Buena Vista, Dallas, Texas.

SOLACON

The World Science Fiction Society, Inc. will present the 16th annual World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles, California at the Alexandria Hotel, Fifth & Spring Sts. Many interesting things are being planned for the program. Guest of honor this year will be Richard Matheson. This will be a 4 day affair since it will be combined with the 1958 WesterCon. Membership is \$1 and registration, if you attend, is another \$1. You will receive progress reports and a copy of the program booklet. Send your \$1 (or \$2 if you desire) to Rick Sneary, Treasurer, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, California.

METROCON II

An old style conclave-convention is being sponsored by the New York Science Fiction Circle on Sunday, Oct. 12, 1958, at Werdermann's Hall, 160 Third Ave., N.Y. from 10 A.M. to 11 P.M. Program will include speakers, panels, films, auctions and AARDVARK, the "electronic computer". Aardvark will answer any question put to it. You can even solve your love problems. Admittance is free, but a \$1 membership will get you a card, progress reports and a chance in the raffle. Send your \$1 to Martha Cohen, 270 Crown St., Brooklyn 25, New York.

The Tragedy of Sam Moskowitz (cont. from page 5)

Mason: I will do so. Till then, think of Fandoms future. (Exit Saha) Well, Saha, thou art a true fan, yet I see, thy honorable genes may be changed from those characteristics they did inherit. I will this night, Under several pennames, under his door push, as if they came from several neofans, fanzines, with editorials, all tending to the great opinion and respect that fandom holds of his name: wherein, obscurely, Moskowitz' ambition shall be glanced at. And, after this, let Moskowitz seat him sure; for we will shake him, or worse days endure. (CURTAIN)

----- Continued in m/f, June '58. -----

MISCELLANY: Change of address for Dick Ellington to 229 East 11th Street, New York 3, New York. Mail goes to Box 104, Cooper Station, New York 3, N. Y. In case you're interested, Dic has c pies of Edward Bellamies Looking Backward, English pb edition, for sale at 35¢ apiece, and M. L. Berneri's "Journey Through Utopia"- a study of the Utopian theme in the literatures of various ages through the present, hardcover, for \$2.00.

COMING UP IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF m/f:

Spaceships and Celluloid takes you on a tour of todays motion picture lots, explaining techniques employed in filming SF movies, and a discussion of the industries attitude towards SF, together with reviews of current SF movies...

San FanFrisco - memories of bheer, jazz, fanzines and parties on the legendary West Coast of the early 50's, as reported by Tom Condit, who wuz there...

Block ThateNoun - KB and DM bemoan the narrow - worldishness of fandoms self-appointed 'only true fan' cliques...

SAM MOSKOWITZ finds himself the victim of a Fanarchist plot to restore fandom to 'it's former glory', in the fourth episode of the hilarious Tragedy of Sam Moskowitz...

Elinor Poland returns to weld SF and poetry together as one of the contributors of 'S-F Poetry'...

Illustrated profusely by Trina Perlson, Martin Jukovsky, Will Rotsler, and, we hope, Sol Levine and many others. Introducing Anna Annus in her first appearance as an fanmag illustrator - worth getting the mag for alone!

Send cash (15¢: Year (4)/50¢), trades, letters of comment, or material to reserve your copy now.

Newsnotes, hey... Jon Stopa, formerly of New York, is now formerly of Chicago, too. Uncle Sam wanted him... Ellingtons have girl, Marie-Louise. All three doing fine as last reported... Cyril Kornbluth died of a heart attack barely weeks after Henry Kuttner... Rick Sneary(address in lettercol) is recieving all checks for memberships in WSFS, 1958. Hint, hint! ... Fandom Houde, Inc., changes name to SF Times, Inc. Yousee, Random h use claimed the former name was an example of unfair competition. Poor Bennett Cerf. Think of all the damage Taurasi c uld have done!... Brave New World will hit NYC soon as a musical... Willis to Gate fund is off, as Walt claims he cant make it this year...When I was in Philly last month, I attended a meeting of the PSFS. Gad. Lyle Kessler, rehearsing for his part in a production of Waiting for Godot, wasn't arround, but his girl was... Woo-woo! I return!



FROM MY

~~LITER~~ LETTERPILE

FRED PROPHET, Director, Michigan Science-Fantasy Society, 1704 Green Street, Detroit 9, Michigan:

"Thanks for the Jan. Ish. of Metrofan. It was a pleasure to see the article on Dave Kyle & the London Trip. More power to Edsel McCune--his timely article brought all the facts to light. I was especially interested as I was a member of the trip.

"As of this writing I have received no communication of any kind from Dave though I have written him several times. I was one of those who didn't sign the 'Special Award' list for the Wedding Present. I never refused to sign but nobody even asked me. I don't know Dave's motives in ignoring me but now the last thing in the world I'd do now is sign his Award List. I'm 100% in agreement with 'One Fan's Reply'.

"Thanks for the plug for 'DETROIT in '59'. We appreciate any support you may give DETROIT. We have long sought the World Con and we feel we can put on a first class Con. This is our most determined effort and we're hard at work preparing campaign news on our bid.

"I'd like to subscribe to 'Metrofan' to keep up with N.Y. fan activity. Keep up the good work." ((There is still \$500 in the Trip Fund bank account. Why Kyle hasn't sent around the rest of the refunds, I'll never know. Although George Nims Raybin entered suit against Kyle for the petty cash, loans and advertising receipts from the NewYorCon, he never did answer. Where is this man? should be the fannish cry for '58. DETROIT IN '59!!! --DM))

GUY E. TERWILLEGGER, 1412 Albright St., Boise, Idaho:

"When I first saw Metrofan and delved into it a bit, I got the impression that, like Cry of the Nameless, it would be an official organ for the sf clubs. Was pleasantly surprised to find, that while it is, it doesn't deal only with club doings.

"Top article of this issue was without a doubt 'Edsel McCune Speaks Out: Dave Kyle'. Being here in Idaho with no other fans around, I find articles like this interesting. We hear a lot about some of these fen through various channels, but nothing quite as pointed as this. Fell that McCune did right in writing the article if Kyle did these things and can say I would go right along with him. Like the unsigned letter, I believe I would have asked for my money back, too, under the circumstances. Whole thing seems rather underhanded to me, and it certainly can't help the cause of fandom.

"Beale's column-article was interesting from the point that it brought together a listing of films for the year. But, as is mentioned, it is not a review column since most of the films seemed to have been gone over more thoroughly before.

"The Moskowitz" bit is interesting, but not outstanding. Think it would be better in its entirety rather than broken up as it is.

"News Notes are always well accepted in this quarter. And that brings me

to the end of the issue. You had "trade" marked on the back of Metro so will get a copy of Twig '7 right away. Want to keep on receiving your zine. ((Oh, hell. The less said about Kyle, the better, actions speak louder, etc. Couldn't publish MOSKOWITZ in its entirety just yet due to space requirements. Maybe in the future if we get a favorable reaction, we'll publish it as a separate, entire thing. --DM))

BOB PAVLAT, 6001 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md.

Thanks for Metrofan. I enjoyed it greatly. On the Kyle fuss, I'm inclined to agree with you; Kyle wasn't right, but the rest of the bunch aren't the easiest people in the world to work with either. Raybin's complaints about lack of authorization for the European trip--if correctly reported--are exceeded only by Kyle's \$3 fee for services--again if correctly reported. Oh well, it made interesting reading, and more than a little interested guessing around Washington about who Edsel McC is. Thanks for your coverage of the Disclave. No more news to announce on it just yet, but you will receive the later announcement when it's released about a month from now. ((So far as I know, plans for Disclave are going ahead as per schedule. Further info next issue. --DM))

LEN MOFFATT, 10202 Belcher Avenue, Downey, California

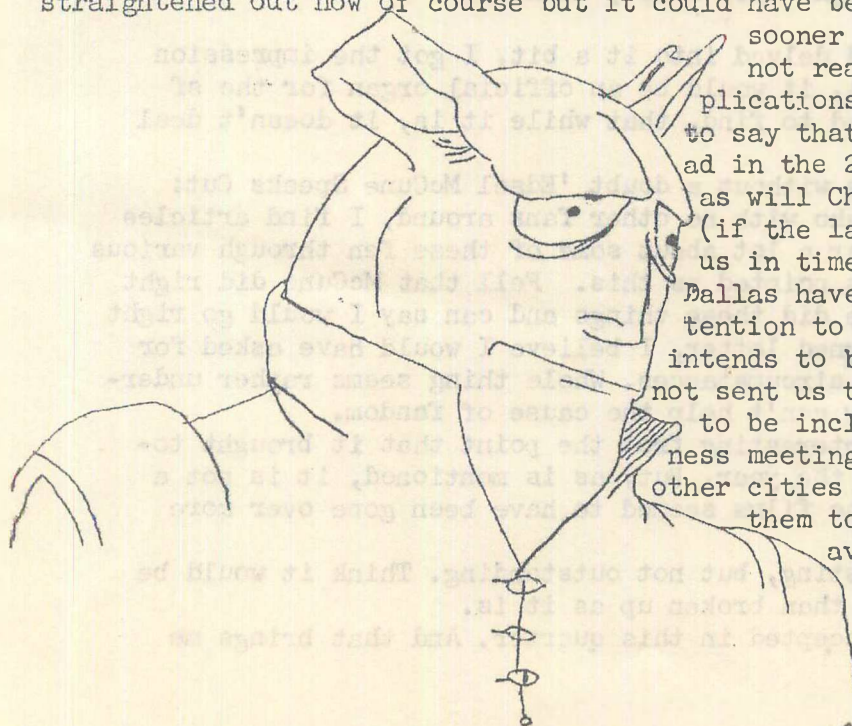
Thanx for Metrofan No. 7. I found most of the issue interesting and parts of it quite entertaining. I particularly enjoyed the film reviews and the paraphrasing of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar wasn't badly done either.

I would like to correct one of the items in your "News Notes" and am asking you to publish this correction in your next issue. Jim Wilson, Editor of the SOLACON Journal, did not reject the Detroit ad on the basis of its lack of "esthetic appeal" but on the basis that it would reproduce poorly.

There was no need for the Detroit fans to "get up in arms", as you say.

A simply reply to Jim's letter (which was a sincere offer to be of help) with (if they wished) a carbon to Anna (our Chairwoman) would have resolved the whole thing without a lot of needless fuss and bother. It is all straightened out now of course but it could have been settled easier and

sooner if the Detroit fans had not read a lot of ridiculous implications into Jim's letter. Suffice to say that Detroit will have their ad in the 2nd issue of the Journal, as will Chicago and perhaps Dallas (if the latter gets their copy to us in time). Both Detroit and Dallas have sent us their Written Intention to Bid. We know that Chicago intends to bid but to date they have not sent us their list of officers, etc., to be included in the SOLACON business meeting agenda. If you know of any other cities intending to bid please urge them to send us whatever info is available about their group so we can include this in our agenda. It certainly looks like we'll have a real lively biz session.



R-

Illo by Rotsler

Len Moffatt (continued)

I see that you list Milwaukee as one of the cities wanting the '59 con site. We haven't heard from them yet but perhaps we will soon. Gad, with four cities competing for the '59 WorldCon it is going to be hard to choose the "best" one. Am reserving my own personal opinion until I meet all of these people in person and hear their respective arguments first hand.

Well, as you can imagine, we are pretty busy folks these days so I'll have to cut this note short. Good Luck with Metrofan! (Wish L.A. had a similar 'zine....) ((I stand corrected. I agree with you, but the Detroit fen have been planning for a con for so many years now, I can hardly blame them for getting excited. I have heard that Indianapolis may put in a bid. Five cities now. --DM))

RICK SNEARY, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, California

Thanks for a copy of METROFAN. There was no check mark, as to the reason I was getting it, so-- I don't know if I'm supposed to be one of the exalted who get it for just Being, or you want me to subscribe.. Will enclose a couple stamps for postage at least.. I wouldn't risk a long term sub.. If Lee Shaw can fold a magazine, you can't depend on anyone...

Glad to see METROFAN back. The current issue is a little large, if you are going to be monthly.. What I mean is, I fear you will get tired of it all, if you try to do this much every month.. But I hope..

The movie reviews of things I'd missed, were fairly interesting.. To be really interesting a review has to be longer.. But this list had a perpose, which made up for it.. I hope you keep it up, as it will be a head when it come time to pick the most Outstanding one... Maybe I should explain that the SOLACON will be giving an award for the most Outstanding Movie, of the period.. A lot of people will forget the earlier ones..(We realize there maybe no good pictures, but we have hopes.) Other awards will be for the most Outstanding Artist, and Actifan.. Also "Hugos" for the Best Novel-Novelet, Short Story, and Magazine.. That is, there will be Hugos, if we can get them made for a reasonable price.. We are asking around, and the best we have is something close to \$120.

The trouble with Kyle gives me to shutter.. All I can say is I'm golly glad not to be involved in any part of it, and will fight to keep it that way.. There being nothing I could do, in any case.. It is just to bad that NYC fandom is cut up by fights like this, so offen.. It gives a bad name to you that do work together... Well, Los Angeles had it's day of fights and feuds...

The SaM tradegy was great fun.. I'm very found of J.C., and thus was able to follow the play better than my usual dull manner.. This then, was better than the average fan attempts...most of which are pretty poor.

Disclave and SF Poetry noted, with regrets.. (I can't attend one and don't like the other.)

Re. News Notes... You are the first we have heard mention Milwaukee as a sit for the 1959 Con.. I hope they do, as it will be all the more interesting. Though I see the real battle as being between Dallas and Detroit. The Committee will remain nutral in all this. At least, up tell the time to vote. (Gor..That sounds sinister, like we were suddenly going to come out at the last minute and support Dever, or something.. All I ment was, we will make our indavigual desitions at the last Con, and not pump for any site,

as a group. The Luncon people were not so reserved in supporting us... but there really wasn't a fight.)

About the matter of our Reports Editor (Wilson) rejecting a ad from Detroit.. Briefly, the whole trouble was lack of understanding.. Wilson said "esthetic appeal" rather than slopy. Actually, the ad as submitted would not have reproduced clear. Wilson wanted Detroit to use better copy... Apparently D. though the deadline was sooner than it was, and they were being cut out. When there was plenty of time to talk it over... There would have been a ad, no matter what.. they had payed for space.. Unfortunately Detroit sent out the fanzine, before consulting anyone on the Committee.. In fact, they haven't yet answer us. And the Moffat's were the only ones to receive a copy of the fanzine.. It erks me, that they would think I would have a hand in anything that would hurt their chances.. Or, that any one on the Committee would, for that matter.. The end result here is that the original ad will be used.. Art type replacing the lettering.. and the typed part, retyped with a carbon ribbon, so that the whole ad will come out.. And, Wilson won't try to get better ads, in the future..

I don't know how much news you want, but we have a letter from Robt. McCubbin in Australia, and he mentions there is going to be the 6th Australian S.F. Convention, in Melbourne, on April 5th.. Anyone going?

That's about all.. Thanks for putting me on the list. ((Letters of comment will always bring at least one more issue, if they're used...METROFAN will be cut down considerably to a mere newszine, the other material etc. to be included in a quarterly general-zine. More details on this in editorial. It is too much work. New York Fandom not torn apart by fueds. Would that it were. It's mostly apathetic here now. Kyle's not really a New Yorker anymore, anyhow. --DM))

GEORGE W. FIELDS, Fan Public Relations, Solacon, 3607 Pomona Blvd., Montebello, California

Was sorry to hear about the Journal incident and the "aesthetic appeal" bit. As far as the first Journal from editor Wilson is concerned, I can't imagine aesthetic appeal being important with such insipid layout and that trite symbol. O, well--I'm only Fan Public Relations and Poster Putterer. ((Trite is right. Ugh. --DM))

NICK & NOREEN FALASCA, 5612 Warwick Drive, Parma 29, Ohio

BRAVO!

JOE SANDERS, R.R.#1, Roachdale, Indiana

Many thanks for METROFAN #7. I'll review it in SIGBO (published by Jerry DeMuth, 1936 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Ill.) as soon as possible. My general opinion, as a reviewer, is "Walk, don't run, to the mailbox". I thought the best thing in the issue was Martin Jukovsky's cover. It had a very interesting style and good stencil cutting (memeoed artwork needs both). The movie reviews were brief but good. The material about Kyle's crooked dealings was totally uninteresting to me. "The Tragedy of Sam Moskowitz" was competent enough, but I seem to remember reading a somewhat similar story, somewhere. Show-through is not too bad, but I'd advise using a heavier stock for the cover. And there you are; I liked it, but not much. It's hard to say--MET could easily go somewhere, but it could equally easily go nowhere. ((LeeH Shaw wrote a similar Caesar parody eons ago. Keep reviewing, keep sending letters, and I'll keep sending METROFAN. --DM))

ESFA OPEN MEETING

-- by Belle C. Dietz --

At the annual open meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association of Newark, New Jersey, held on Sunday, March 2, 1958, the featured speakers were Robert Heinlein and Willy Ley. Mr. Ley reported on the failures of Vanguards 1 and 2 and the success of the Jupiter C, on the Russian Sputniks and the latest developments in satellite carrying rockets.

Mr. Heinlein's talk was more general, ranging from the inadequacy of our educational system to Finagle's Law, "If anything can go wrong in an engineering experiment, it will".

Co-featured was a memorial panel on the late Henry Kuttner, moderated by Sam Moskowitz, consisting of Cyril Kornbluth, Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, Larry Shaw and L. Sprague de Camp. A fascinating discussion of the works of Henry Kuttner followed, touching on both the stories published under his own name and under the various pen names he used, the best known of which, perhaps, is Lewis Padgett. His particular brand of humor and his wonderful stories will be greatly missed.

The introductions to the speakers were ably handled by Allan Howard, the Director of the ESFA, who also called to the attention of the attendees that many notable people were present; among them were Ed Emshwiller, Walter Kubieli, Sylvia Margulies, John Victor Peterson, Hans Stefan Santesson, Katherine McLean, Sol Levin, Fred Shunaman. Among the fan attendees were Hal Lynch, Oswald Train, George Heap, Jimmy Taurasi, Ray Van Houten, Frank Prieto, Frank & Belle Dietz, David MacDonald, George Nims Raybin, Roger Sims, Ian Macauley, Dr. Christine Haycock, Sandy Cutrell, Bill Donaho, and many others.

Letters (Concluded)

ALAN DODD, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts. England

Thanks muchly for the latest copy of METROFAN and it's really nice to have a zine from New York after so long. The reviews of the past SF films were excellent and gives one a chance to realise just how long it takes some to filter over here - if the dates mentioned are correct, that is.

Especially I liked the film title in METROFAN of DAUGHTER OF DR. ALLIED ARTISTS (P. 18) a science fiction film I shall just have to look out for. ((Well, that sums it up for this issue. METROFAN will not have a letter column, and by the time I get out my new 'zine, I hope to have found a decent name and format for the letter column: so keep sending letters.:-DM))

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AS
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--Trina Perlson

For TUFF

RON BENNETT

The following is a reprint from John Berry's zine, ^{Veritas}~~REX~~, entered in the February, 1958 OMPA mailing:

I've never met this paragon of trufandom, unfortunately, although once he telephoned me asking for PLOY material, and we have corresponded regularly for a number of years, so I have some grounds for pubbing a long overdue tribute to this bhoy - this man of mystery - this modern fannish enigma.

I've followed his fannish career closely since my introduction into fandom in 1954 (for which good fortune I have to thank Walt Willis.) I immediately became aware of Ron's passion for pseudonyms, the Mickey incident, Redd Grayson, and, for all I know, etc, etc, etc. In fact, any name I come across which I've never heard before I classify without thought as being a Ron Bennett alias. I'm not really convinced that there is such a person as Mike Rosenblum, and I have serious doubts that a faaan exists by name of Bill Harry. I think there possibly is a Dave Newman, and I hope there is a Terry Jeeves. Archie Mercer might or might not be a separate entity. In fact, I'm so confused that the only personality I'm sure about is Cecil. Bennett definitely has an elephant of almost human intelligence....that I can vouch for. I've even written stories about him.

Bennett has assured me that he is married to a nice girl named Joan, and she has been written about in a story published in RETRIBUTION, the author being Archie Mercer. This, then, is the kernel of my problem. Ron says he is married to Joan. My contacts say he isn't. Mercer writes in the affirmative, but maybe Mercer is a Bennett pseudonym anyway. So I've been through the whole complicated gamut, and come out the other end.

My basic trouble is that I'm a sort of semi-provincial, and somewhat gullible to boot.

But I'm sure there is a Ron Bennett. He is a school teacher, and therefore an intellectual. He is also an ardent philatelist, and a faned of some considerable reput, responsible for a brilliant fanzine named PLOY. In fact, Bennett has had the word PLOY copyrighted.

Insofar as I am aware, Bennet is not a pun addict, but he is a prolific writer for other fanzines, and I always derive great satisfaction from his literary works. In his letters of comment to expectant faneds, he always has something sensible and direct to say, and, thank goodness, faneds have sufficient gorblimey to quote his remarks at length in their letter columns.

Bennett, to my mind, is a compleat faaan. He hasn't sold out to the pro's - he publishes regularly - he has a prolific correspondence with a large section of fandom, and keeps fandom on a firm foundation with his shrewd comments, witty quotecards and interesting writings. He also manages to keep fandom fully alerted with his clever plays and postage due envelopes.

Long may Bennett (not forgetting Cecil) continue to delight us, annoy us, intrigue us, inspire us, frustrate us, soothe us, and always keep us wondering.
--John Berry.

Let's see Bennett at South Gate - tear off & mail your TUFF ballot and donation at once!! --DM

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LUNACON 2

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"The Lunarians"

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Program

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An Editors' Panel - "What Editors Think Of Fans", with
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☐ You are an officer in an established fan club who might be interested in keeping your club up-to-date on NY fanactivity.

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