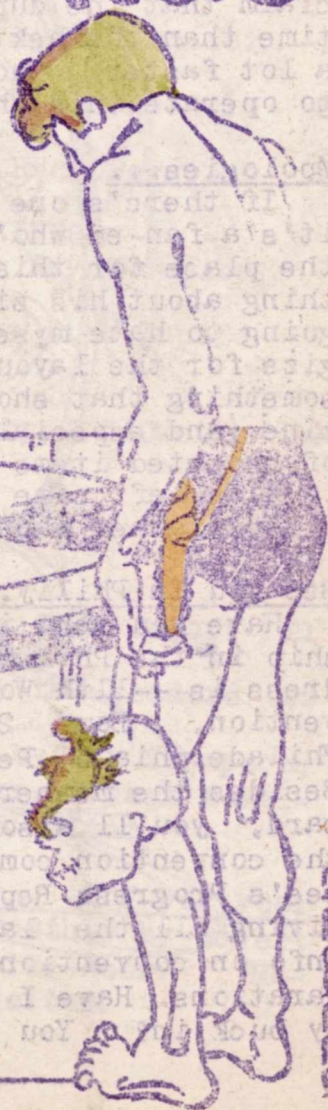


# MOTE

No. 5



naamah



# Re:Mote...

...being mostly stuff by the editor

## Firstly...

All you observant readers will note that this issue of MOTE is ditced, rather than hektoed as former issues. I don't claim that the duplication is better this time than the hektoing was, but it sure is a lot faster. Who knows? I may even learn to operate this thing in time.

## Apologies...

If there's one thing that I don't like, it's a fan-ed who's apologizing all over the place for this and that and the other thing about his zine. Well.... I know I'm going to hate myself, but I should apologize for the layout of MOTE this ish. It's something that shouldn't happen to a crud-zine (and especially not to MOTE). A couple of expected items that didn't materialize in time left some holes that had to be filled rather haphazardly. And they were.

## See You In Philly...

Have you sent in your buck for membership in the Philcon yet? If not, the address is--llsh World Science Fiction Convention, Box 2019, Philadelphia 3, Penna. Besides the membership card, you'll also get the convention committee's Progress Reports giving all the latest info on convention preparations. Have I sent my buck in? You bet.

a fanvariety enterprises publication

# MOTE

Issue No. 5

March - 1953

## CONTENTS

COVER	by Naaman	1
Re:MOTE	mostly by the editor	2
A LETTER TO THE EDITOR	by M.T. Twaddle	8
PUBLIC OPINION	by Rich Bergeron	9
HOW NOT TO WRITE FOR FANZINES	by Ray Thompson	10
RICH'S ROUNDUP	by Rich Lupoff	11
A BOOK REVIEW:		
Hoffman in Wonderland	by D.O. Cantine	20
PAL MAXY SCIENCE FICTION		
The Illustrated Ham		
Fishin: Interplanetary		
The Marionette Masters		
	by Rich Lupoff	21
COMOTION	mostly by the readers	25
Interior illustrations	by Ray Thompson,	
Paul Powlesland, Terry Carr, Robert McMillan,		
lan, Bobby Stewart and the editor.		

5¢ per copy 25¢ per year  
MOTE is published bi-monthly by Robert  
Peatrowsky, Box 634, Norfolk, Nebr. Ma-  
is welcome--in fact, solicited.



Membership card #244---that's me.

### Free Advertising Department.

The first issue of Don Cantin's new zine MICRO- arrived a few weeks ago and looks like it's off to a fine start. It's mimeographed and quarter-size. The cardboard covers and taped binding improve the looks a lot. Issued six-weekly--10¢ perish or 3 for 25¢--at 214 Bremer, Manchester, N.H.



Another new zine which arrived recently is COMET. Issued bi-monthly by Karl Olsen at RFD 24 Allendale, N. J. 10¢ per, 3/25¢ or 6/50¢. In spite of Karl's protests, I still think it looks like it was inspired by SOLAR. But regardless, it's a good first issue.

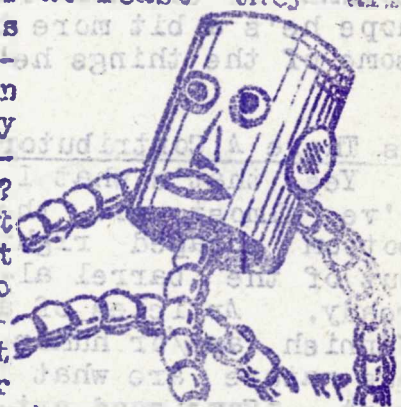
The first issue of FAN WARR should be out about now. It's to be published monthly--20¢ per and one buck per year. The ed. Lyle Kessler says it will not be any run-of-the-mill publication. Its prime purpose will be to publicize the Philcon and other conventions after it. A lineup of pro writers for the first issue and a pro artist doing the cover. Address is 2450-76 Ave. Phila. 38.

The second ish of Ray Thompson's zine ECLIPSE (EEK for short) should be out in a few weeks. For only a nickel, you're able to get your money's worth--especially with this second ish. In a moment of weakness, I volunteered the use of my ditto for his

second ish and he apparently took me at my word. Last time I saw him, he had about 25 full-size pages of stuff lined up and if that isn't a nickel's worth then I don't know my values. Some good material too. Ray's address is 410 South 4th St., Norfolk, Nebr.

### The Stewarts Are Coming Ta Ra Ta Ta...

Fandom (or at least this one fan) seems to be over-run by an army of "Bob Stewart's" recently. Or at least they all claim their name is Bob Stewart. I've already lost count on how many I actually have heard from. Coincidence, you say? That's what I thought too....at first. But then I caught on to their scheme. Apparently there's a plot underway to take over fandom. And they're using a clever psychology to do it. All the members of this "underground movement" call themselves "Bob Stewart". The joiners of fandom will soon catch on to what they think is the latest fad and call themselves Bob Stewart. Thus the movement will gain strength. The serious, constructive fan won't have a chance. He'll either have to leave fandom or be driven insane by trying to keep all his correspondents (all named Bob Stewart, naturally) straight. Until, finally, all fans will be called Bob Stewart. All fans wishing to join this movement, send your doughnations (don't bother to send your name and address) to me, Bob Stewart at the address on the contents page.





### I Note With Alarm...

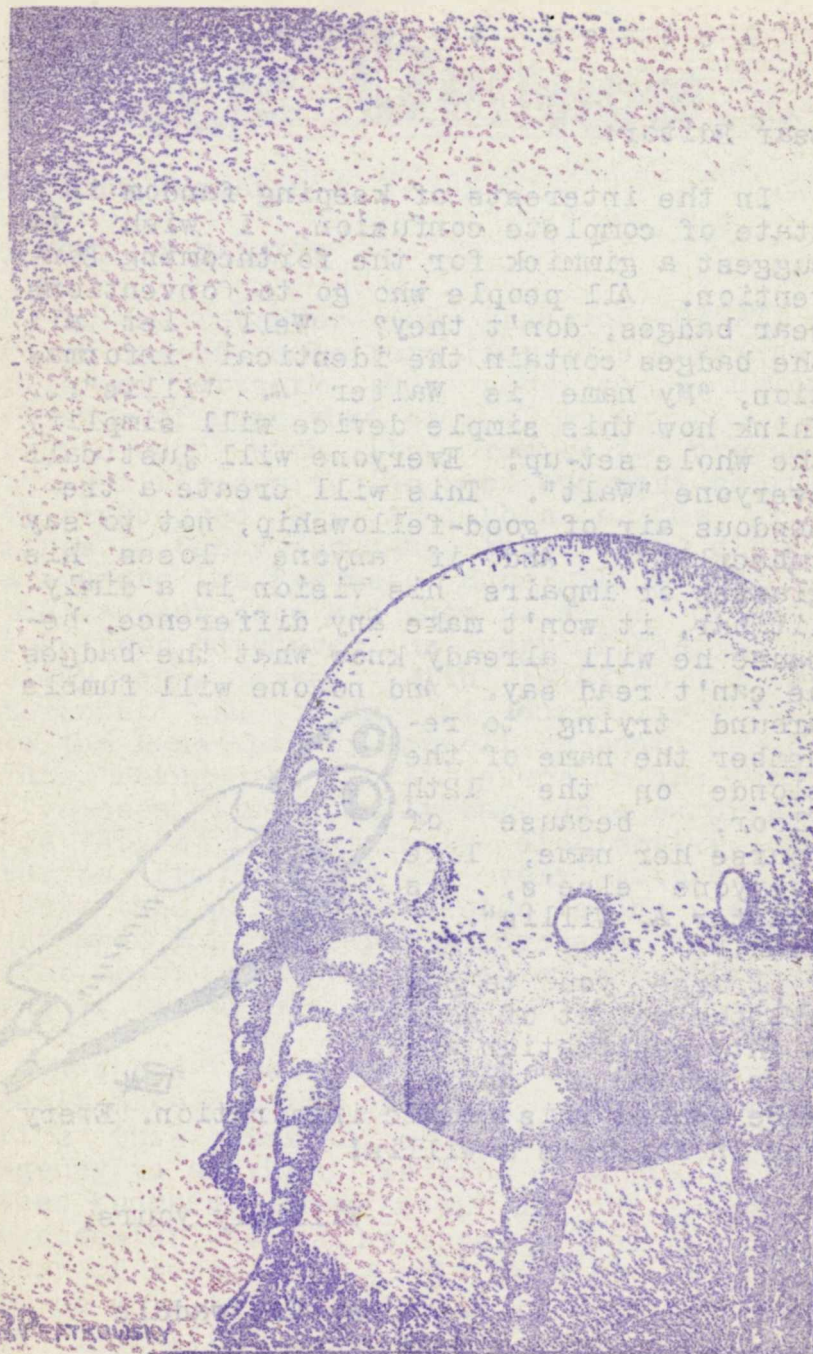
The fanzine review columns in the prozines seem to be going the way of the buffalo. Amazing has dropped the Club House with its change to digest size and, almost simultaneously, Startling had suddenly discontinued its review column by Rixby. Looks like it's up to Mari Wolf in Imagination now.....I've heard tell that Calvin Thos. Beck is to start a fan column for Columbia Pubs. soon. If so, I hope he's a bit more tactful in it than in some of the things he's written.

### Is There A Contributor In The House???

Yee, that's what I need---contributors. I've almost got the bottom scraped right out of the barrel already. Articles of a fannish and/or humorous nature are what I want. Some good artwork too. I won't threaten to cut down the size of the zine if I don't get more material. I'll fill those 28 pages with something---even if I have to reprint my own back issues. Also, MOTB's anniversary will be coming up before many months have passed---# in July, to be exact. I'd like to put out an issue of about 50 to 60 pages if I can collect what much material. With the increased size, I can handle longer articles than in the regular issues. Soooo??? I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

End of the line for this time. See you next issue.

*Bob Pentkowski*



*RPentkowski*



a letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

In the interests of keeping fandom in a state of complete confusion, I wish to suggest a gimmick for the forthcoming Convention. All people who go to Conventions wear badges, don't they? Well, let all the badges contain the identical information, "My name is Walter A. Willis"... Think how this simple device will simplify the whole set-up! Everyone will just call everyone "Walt". This will create a tremendous air of good-fellowship, not to say imbecility. And if anyone loses his glasses or impairs his vision in a dimly-lit bar, it won't make any difference, because he will already know what the badges he can't read say. And no one will fumble around trying to remember the name of the blonde on the 12th floor, because of course her name, like everyone else's, is "Walter A. Willis".

I urge you to put all the weight of your mighty publication and your editorial influence behind this cosmic inspiration. Every fan in Philly's a Willis!

Willisly yours,

M. T. Twaddle

8

## PUBLIC OPINION...

by Rich Bergeron

### A NOVA IN GALAXY?

In the December '52 issue of GALAXY I found one of those rare (for this magazine) bits of artwork that give one a brief flicker of hope that at last it may be coming through with its promise to present the s-f field with the best and most sharply reproduced art available in the magazines. Oddly enough, these rare pieces are among the few well done illustrations that appear here and show no signs of having been butchered as many of the other stray ones have. With relation to the December issue, I am, of course, referring to the lone pic by Connell in that issue. This being the first piece of his work I've seen, it naturally came as a surprise. His style is extremely distinctive and varies from Finlay by very little. In fact, this particular design is the cleverest and most clearly expressed one I've ever seen, with the possible exception of one or two by Richard E. Miller.

Too bad that Gold, or his art editor, can't make a point of using more nice work like this instead of flitting from one agency to another, setting up artists and then knocking them down and out in rapid succession, as tho he were visiting a gallery of sorts. The only artist who seems to be able to call his shots with any sort of regularity appears to be the very prolific Bush, who has been in all the '52



line-ups and most of the '51. In fact, Ensh was the only artist that attracted GALAXY's fancy enough to be invited to the party given by that magazine to various of its writers earlier this year, as was pointed out by Magnus in SF #3. But that's a Paige from another book.

Anybody's guess is as good as mine as to who GALAXY will give a run for his money next but personally I hope they keep Connell and start fulfilling a few of those promises with him.

### THE MUTE JUDGEMENT

Ever since I met Eva Firestone back in January '51 (that is since I've entered fandom) I've been one of those victims of fan-hucksters who have "lots" of fmz to get rid of at a bargain price. They're either fans going out for good and wanting to sell the major part of their collection or just fans wanting room to sleep. Being the gullible person that I am, I have (to this date) acquired about five such clearing out collections. In the course of collecting these magazines, I have also acquired several duplicate sets of various publications that continually turn up in such sellouts.



The one that has occurred most often seems to be the Official Organ of the W3F. I must have all of six sets, including my personal one, covering the period begin-

ning early in '51 and ending with the latest issue. Years from now, when this item is sought as a curiosity by fans wondering what Moskowitz is talking about, I'll be able to flood the market with them and educate tenth fandom at the same time.

One that has turned up three times is the Rhodomagnetic Calendar, which isn't surprising when one recalls the sub-pro



artwork which went in to its pages. Two of these copies turned up back in June which seems to be as good a commentary on it as anything I can think of at the moment. The Little Men certainly didn't make a very good first impression. I hope they change it

with their second one.

ODD comes next in popularity with about four copies of issues 10, 11 and 13, with the annish appearing only once. That annish, if you remember, was one of those "once in a year" things various editors seem to be springing a tradition up around. Being one of the larger (70 pages) I was surprised to see it here. This is the issue that Duggie didn't have enough postage to send out and subsequently placed a squib in the next issue that if anyone wanted a copy he should send in postage for same. Evidently not many fans bothered taking his advice, for Tilsberry's con-report "When Fans Collide", which appeared in this, later was published in revised form in TLMA. When the ed doesn't keep his copies flowing, he doesn't receive a



very good circulation. Too bad.

Both OPUS and FANVARIETY find their way over this route quite frequently. Issues of OPUS being seen most, with all the FANVARIETYs except 1 and 9, which seem to be something close to collectors' items. #9, a copy of which rests in my very personal collection which not even my mother sees, did not appear in any of the little packages, as they all came through the mail. Occasionally I remove that particular copy from its hollowed spot and glance through it, marveling at Max's victory over the Post Office. Then, when sounds down-stairs tell me that the family has returned from the midnight show, I hastily replace it in the Fv file, slide the floor-board back in, and push the bureau into its usual place over it.

Very surprising in that they should turn up at all are two copies of that hybrid (er, pardon me) high bred publication, SLANT (#5). One with two contents pages, by the way, which should make it one of the few items I'll always want to keep a brick on.

Other issues that come in range from EUSIFANSO, VARIENT WORLD, and OOPSLEA to an extremely violent one from Ken Beale refuting something or other.

Interesting to note is that just about the only fan-mag I've never seen a copy of

in one of these third - class bundles is QUANDRY (a first-class magazine). Enlightening too, as it shows better than words would be able to, that I'm going to have to bleed through the nose to get those first 12 issues that I need to complete my file. I consider myself very lucky indeed to have caught Bob Johnson in a weaker mood in Chi and bought a copy of #13 from him for a mere \$1. No doubt Q will go on being a collectors' item for years until eventually it's forgotten in moldy trunks and attics like SPACEWAYS seems to have been.

Just in case some of you were wondering, those mags didn't have a very long rest. Most of them have gone on to others for postage. They'll probably keep right on the move too, as their owners have decided, more or less passively, which are desirable as items to collect dust and memories with and which should go on getting tossed about in the grab-bag of fandom.

#### POSTAL TO A NEW FAN-ED

Dear Joe;

Received the first issue of IMPLICATIONS a few days ago and find it to be the best fmz that I've seen in some time. Your format is fine. I particularly like the justified margin. You sparkle plenty in your editorial, which makes for lively reading. The fiction and article were the best I've seen in 13 years of fanactivity. Keep up the good work and don't forget to send me a copy of the next ish.

Fannishly,  
P.S. DO NOT PRINT THIS CARD! B. N. Phann

--Rich Bergeron



# WHY NOT GIVE THESE

**FANTASIAS**  
David English  
63 W. 2nd St.  
Dunkirk, N.Y.

**PENDULUM**  
Bill Venable  
610 Park Place  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**ASFO**  
Ian T. Macaulay  
57 E. Park Lane NE  
Atlanta 5, Ga.

**TYRANN**  
Norbert Hirschorn  
853 Riverside Dr.  
New York 32, N.Y.

All published  
Fanvariety

# FANZINES A TRY?

**FANTASY SCIENCE**

12701 Lorain Rd.  
Shaker Square  
Cleveland 20, Ohio

**VANATIONS**  
Norman G. Browne  
13905-101A Ave.  
Edmonton, Alberta  
CANADA

**THE CHIGGER**  
**PATCH OF FANDOM**  
Nan Gerding  
Box 224  
Roseville

by members of  
Enterprises





# How Not To Write For Fanzines

by Ray Thompson

Making your mind up to do an article or a story is a project akin to that of planning and building a major drainage development, or suchlike. You must have an agile brain, something which I do not, unfortunately, possess, in order to turn out anything worthwhile reading. Otherwise, it is useless.

Take me, for example. I think I can write stories and articles. There is the crux of the matter---I am the only one who does think so. It is a very discouraging arrangement. When I should be concentrating on something more important, my head is full of scintillating phrases and catchy quips, which, when put down on paper, would surpass even Walt Willis at his wittiest. However, when I sit down before a typewriter to transcribe these scintillating phrases and catchy quips into sentences and paragraphs--an article--my mind

becomes a complete blank. Complete, I tell you! As I said, a very discouraging arrangement.

It is not so bad when I have a column that must be in on a certain date so that it will be printed. Then, I know I've got



TC

to think of something to fill space, so I throw anything that comes to mind down on the paper and send it to the editor to whom it is to go. But--when I try to write a story, or an original article, there I get bogged down. My condition might be compared to an underwater swimmer trying to wipe his face dry on a piece of kleenex.

The situation becomes particularly disgusting when I sit down to write a fiction story. I crouch before my typewriter, staring morosely at the blank paper



clutched therein, making a brave, but vain attempt to visualize a plausible plot upon which to hang my characters and action. It is hopeless. For

thirty or forty minutes I sit. At the end of that time, the paper is still blank. Then, I begin to pace the floor, hoping that maybe this will jar something loose from my cranium. No hope. The paper yet remains blank.

I do not know what is to be done. Because I can't write decent articles and stories, and because my columns are thrown together, I am fast losing my self-respect in fandom. I am a fifth wheel, a square peg in a round hole. My friends and correspondents all wonder why I can't write. All of them seem to be able to turn out saleable fiction and articles by the ream. But not I. Fanzine editors write to me and ask me to contribute to their magazines. I write back, making up any kind



of an excuse I can think of, to get out of doing what I am not able to do.

It is certainly a bad thing. I am wasting reams and reams of paper on nothing. In fact, I have about seventy or eighty sheets of blank paper which I have just emptied out of my typewriter, and for which I have no use. Oh well, I guess I can make paper airplanes out of them and throw them out of an eighteenth story window at the Bellvue-Stratford next fall!

--Ray Thompson

### TASIFIC IN RETROSPECT

A thorough, personalized, unique report of the Tenth Anniversary Science Fiction Convention--more than 70 pages of convention coverage by Joe Gibson, Franklin M. Dietz, Ian Macauley, Walt Willis, Dick Clarkson, Norman G. Browne, Harlan Ellison, Bill Venable, and many more, as well as a special photogravure section and some reminiscent cartooning.

TO BE ISSUED SOON!

Price \$1.50

Send your advance orders to:  
Bill Venable  
610 Park Place  
Pittsburgh 9, Pa.

## RICH'S ROUNDUP

by Richard Lupoff



A fascinating idea in science fiction is "what if...?". That is, assuming that the facts were altered in just one small way, what a different world we could construct.

Phillip Nolan (of MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY fame) penned a story on the basis of "What if Joseph had escaped when his brothers sold him into slavery?" and quite logically led to the complete annihilation of the human race.

Other stories of this type have dealt with many "What if's"; several of the best concerning the 1860's... "What if the South had won the Civil War?".... Perhaps the basis for this one was the earlier "What if Grant had been drinking at Appomattox?".... "What if Lincoln had not been assassinated?"

The way of getting around pure fantasy in the "what if..." vein has been the parallel worlds theory. That is, what happened really happened, but somewhere else something different happened. This "somewhere" is not in the usual three-dimensional idea of "elsewhere". In his won-





derful and wacky WHAT MAD UNIVERSE, Fred Browne holds that there are an infinite number of "side-by-side" worlds. Everything, but everything, has happened...is happening...and will happen again an infinite number of times. Sam Merwin, in HOUSE OF MANY WORLDS, has a finite number of parallel worlds.

If that fellow who was killed in a traffic accident last week had had a cold and stayed in bed.... Get the idea? The little thing, extrapolated, makes the big one. And after all, isn't that what science-fiction is....extrapolation?

--Richard Lupoff

a book review - - -

- - - by d. o. cantin

HOFFMAN IN WONDERLAND. Lewis Silverberg  
(Willis & Moore Inc. 394 pp. \$ .124)

This is the whimsical dream of Hoffman, a sixteen-year-old girl who falls asleep in a smoke-filled room. She follows Tucker into a hole and her adventures begin. They include drinking from a bottle, which makes her ten inches tall, lying down; eating a cookie which makes her nine feet tall, and meeting various creatures and assorted bems, on either a friendly or humorous footing. The climax comes when she refuses to receive the sentence: "Off with her heads". But before it is carried out, she is awakened by a kick in the ribs and therefore saved.

--d.o.cantin

((The following is reprinted from Rich Lupoff's "One Shot Wonder #1 --- Pal Maxy Science Fiction". Because of the very limited circulation of his one-shot, Rich has twisted my arm until I agreed to re-print some of the material here. -- rp))

The following three items are patterned, obviously, after stories by Bradbury, van Vogt, and Heinlein. All three are among the finest of contemporary s-f writers. In poking fun at them, I do not mean to be running them down, for the ridiculousness is not in their styles, but in what would be the result if said styles were carried to extremes.

--Rich Lupoff

## THE ILLUSTRATED HAM

by Ray Razzberry

I was sitting naked on the ice of the lake, near my Alaskan hunting lodge one night last January when I decided I would have a snack. So I opened a canned ham, and lo and behold, it was covered with illustrations.

"I haven't had a job that's lasted for 476 years," said the ham. "You know why?"

"No," I said, and the word dropped from



my mouth as a grease-blob from an automatic transmission.

"Because when people look at me they see the way they are going to die. May I sleep with you?"

"I really shouldn't let you," I said, because you're a stranger, but all right."

He was soon asleep, like an innocent child who has just derailed a train. I looked at the Illustrations. Here I saw many things come to life, many tiny actors play their parts. But then, in the bare spot near his bacon strips, I saw my own death. I would eat him and die of ptomaine poisoning.

I got up and started to run. The Alcan Highway was not far. I would reach town by mid-July.

## FISHIN:

### INTERPLANETARY

by A. E. Van Hocked

GROSEVIVINIE LOOKED AT KENT. No time for intraship politics. The Space Spaniel was in grave danger. Pussy, The Redd Terror, and the Gas-Monster were all loose at once.

HE TOOK SOME HYPNOTIC GAS AND KNOCKED

OUT THE CREW. "You will do exactly as I say," he spoke into the radio for which every crew member had a receiver hidden under the nail of his left pinky. "This is Grosevivinie, the chief Glexinflexialist. According to Glexinflexialism we believe that if nobody believes in something it will cease to exist. None of you will believe in Pussy, or in The Redd Terror or in the Gas-Monster..."

SO THEY DIDN'T.

AND THEY DIDN'T.

"DON'T BELIEVE IN KENT, except as a kind, nice, cooperative fellow, who wants me to be the ship's chief," he continued.

SO THEY THOUGHT THAT.

AND I WAS.

AND EVERYTHING WAS JUST DANDY.

## THE MARIONETTE MASTERS

by Robert A. Mainline

He ran when the Old Man called. He always did. "Hello, Old Man," he said.

"Hello, Sam," said the Old Man, "Here's Mary".



"Hello, Mary," he said.

"Hello, Sam," she said. Suddenly Mary cried out, "Sam, what's that thing on your back?"

"It's a Master. Ha! Ha! Ha! Here, have one."

He reached around his back and split the disgusting thing in half. Then he split one half again and gave one piece to Mary and one to the Old Man.

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Isn't it great?" said Sam

"sure is, Son," said the Old Man.

"Let's get married," said Mary.

"Okay," said Sam.

The cat came in and half of the goop slid off the baboon and onto the dog lying in the corner. It bit off the cat's ears. Terrible bother, have to have them replaced later.

Project Purple went into effect.

All the Masters died. All the people got sick. All the people got better again.

We're going after the goops now on their own world. Nice people they live on up there.

////////////////

Rich Lupoff

////////////////////////////////////

# COMMOTION

...BEING MOSTLY STUFF BY THE READERS

NAAMAN PETERSON

...I do believe that you should make the coloring of MOTE's covers a regular practice from now on. ??? How can you possibly bring out #6 with a plain ol' dull hekto cover now?? You could even have interiors in color...

((Now that I've got a ditto, MOTE will have colored covers and interiors--but not hand colored. I'm much too ~~XAX~~ busy for that.--rp))

JOEL NYDAHL

...Naaman's cover was outstanding although a little--shall we say--pointless?? #...Not all fen might agree with "upoff about his choice of stf authors. I myself am a Bradbury fan, but I don't consider Robert Heinlein the second best. In my opinion Isaac Asimov is #2 in writers.... It's hard to overlook his Robot series. #...Gartin's article was the best in the mag in my opinion. But he beat around the bush about how to drop out of fandom. I know it was supposed to be humorous, but the way to drop out of fandom is just not answer any letters. However, I'd suggest the person in question stop reading stf altogether, as the "bug" will get a hold on him again.

((Naaman's cover pointless?? Just what



kind of a point do you look for in a cover illo? I thought that the "little critter" in the foreground who was scrambling to keep from being trampled by the "big critter" behind him was what made the illo. No???--rp))

TERRY CARR

I note that you're using a shading plate now. Well, it's an idea, and I've done it myself, but I see no sense in using a shading plate except for special effect....Just plain shading is far more flexible.... # "Krud and Thunder" is a pretty good satire, it's main faults lying in the things it could have been but wasn't. Plenty of chances for satire there that weren't taken.

((We're pretty well agreed on "plain shading vs. shading plate". The "shading plate"---actually a piece of canvas---was used mostly as an experiment.--rp))

GEORGE VIKSNINS Did you choose the title of your mag just in order to pun the title of the editorial?

((Nope. More the other way around. The "Note" came first and the "Re:Note" was a last minute inspiration. (Rog Phillips please note.)rp))

ROBERT McMILLAN

This Naaman is good. I guess it must



be his imagination. Those unghedly critters he intersperses among your pages beat anything I ever saw. I only wish I had a sixteen-cylinder imagination like that. # Rich's Roundup: Good writing. Very nice analysis. I could hardly wait for him to get to the point. He didn't. # Krud and Thunder: Lovely illustration. The story? Who read it?

((If you ever find out where to get one of those sixteen-cylinder imaginations that you mentioned, let me know. I'll take one too.--rp))

HAL SHAPIRO



Clarkson's "goat-chlorophyll" poem was, to me, worth wasting two pages. However, it was the only redeeming factor. Do you HAVE to run a column of nonsense? # Marian Cox's item was very good. Not commentworthy however. Was that a pic of her at the end of the article? # Why did you publish that "thing" on pages 22-23? # Letters were interesting, as are most letter column. One thing, however. Suggest that when you cut letters for publication, that you do not cut them so that you change the meaning of any of the statements, as happened in mine slightly. Wasn't too important...

((I doubt if that was a pic of Marian Cox at the end of her article, but it's an idea. Anyhow, Naaman did the illo and he didn't tell me who his model was. It was a slip on my part in doing the layout, ILL



admit. # I rather liked that "thing" you mentioned--The Sad, Sad Story of Samuel Smith--and quite a few of the readers seemed to agree with me. # Sorry if I changed the meaning of your letter last time. It was unintentional. Some of the letter-cutting was done in kind of a rush last issue.--rp))

DAVID ENGLISH

My, seems to be a lot of excitement about Friend Fillinger's title. (You know, when anything gets three letters about it printed, it's really big stuff!) Miz Shisler seems to feel that it was coincidence by which that title was arrived at. Not so. Joe explained to me that he chose MOTE for a title because that was what most fanzines contain. And isn't it so sadly true?



((Too true.--rp))

CHARLES WELLES

...I wish you would either stop even-edging or do it perfectly. One doesn't just halfway even-edge, and get away with it. Even-edging is a perfectionist process...

((Well, MOTE has to be a little bit different to distinguish it from all those perfectionist zines, doesn't it?--rp))