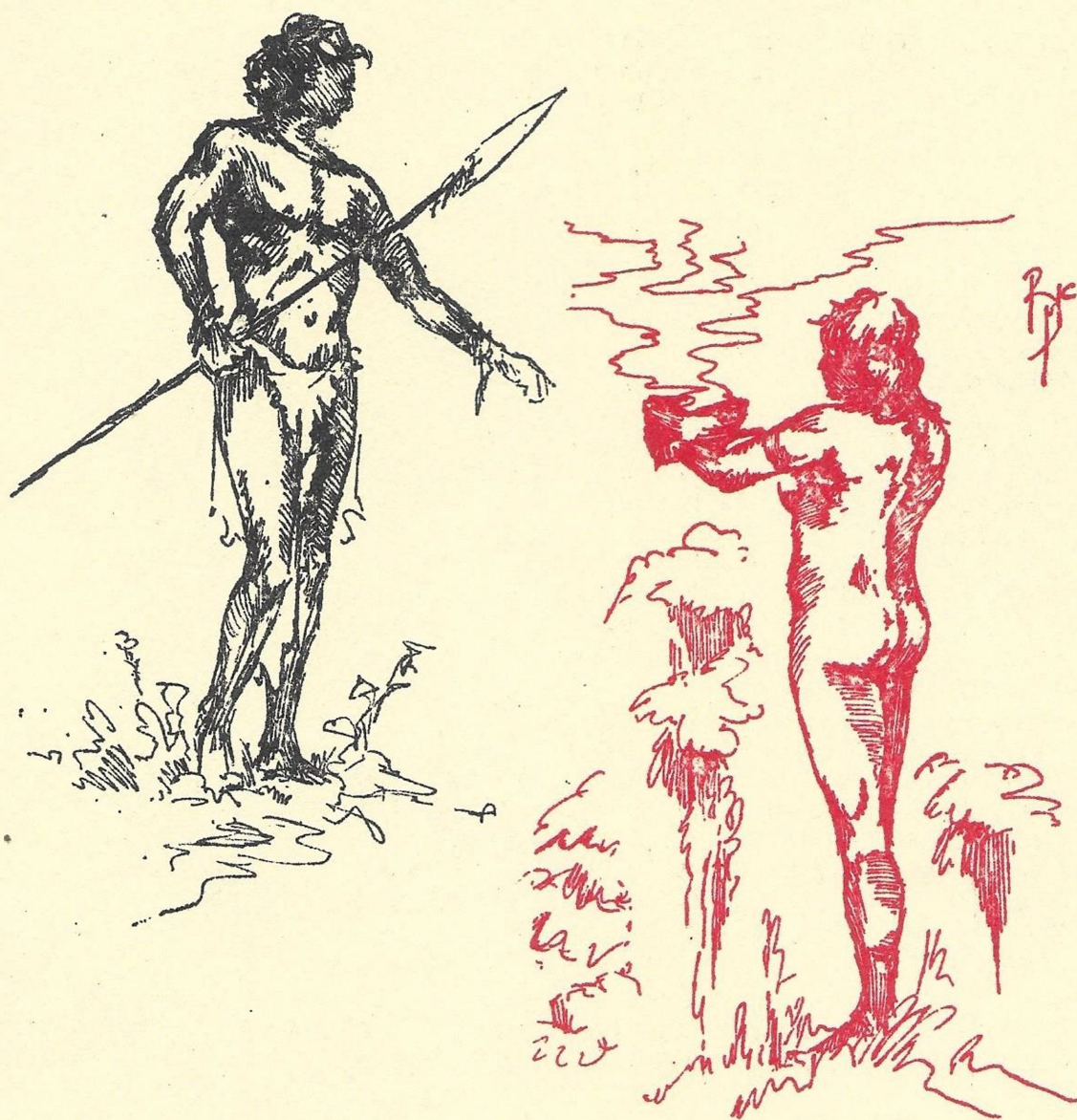
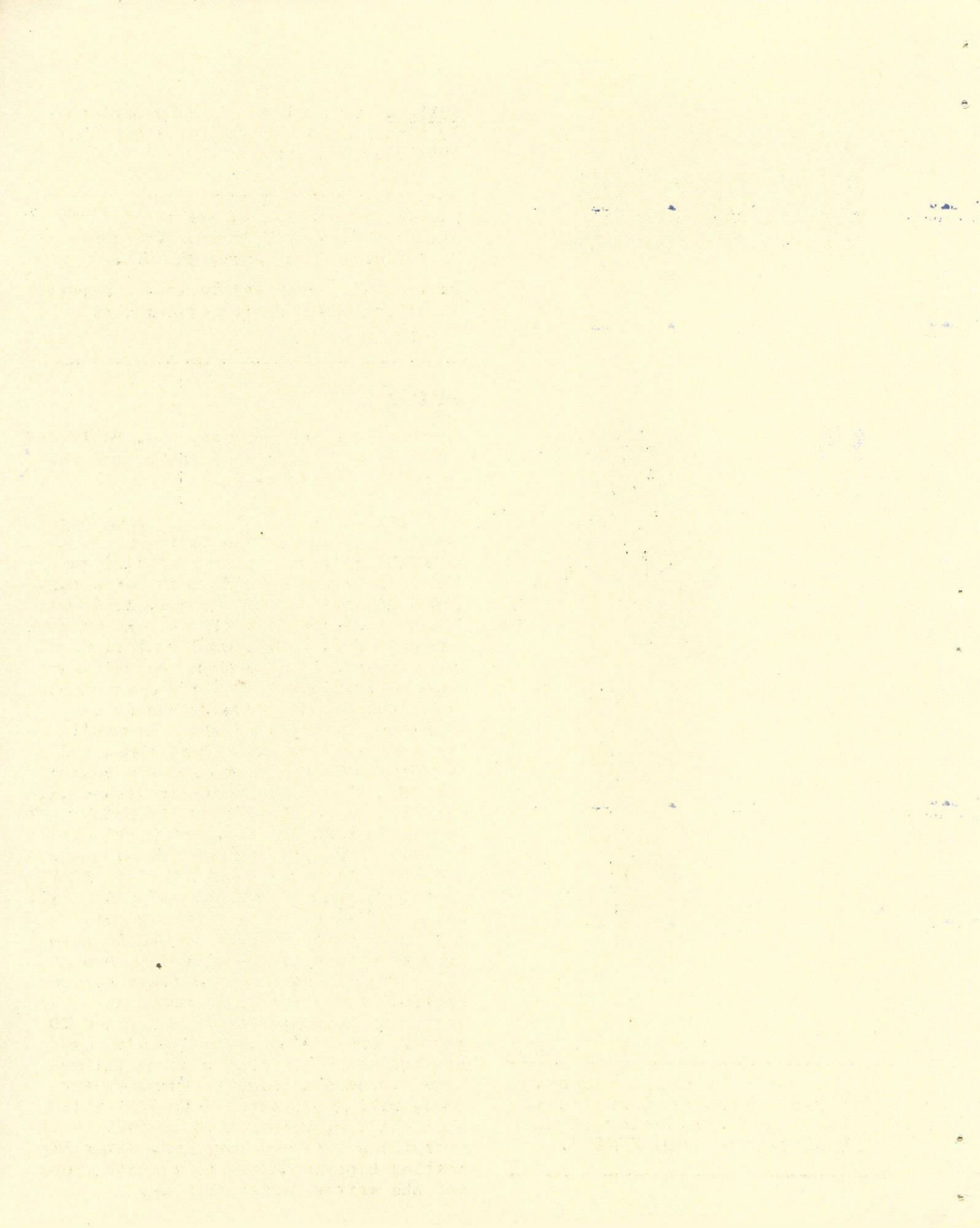


NEXUS





NEXUS

NEXUS 4 is produced for the September 1965 mailing of the Offtrail Magazine Publisher's Association

Edited, typed, and the responsibility of, Pete Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham, 31. U.K.

Duplicated (probably) by Archie Mercer, at ridiculously short notice; many thanks.

WOFFLES

(Being a clever-type pun, i.e. "Woffles" is both a word for chuntering and the name of my guinea-pig.)

This quarter has been in some ways a hectic one, so much so that this issue of NEXUS will only just (I think) make the deadline, and is in fact being composed directly on to stencil. Although I have page-credit until the end of my current term, I feel guilty about not contributing to more than one mailing; especially since I am a pro-Jeevesian, and advocate that members should have something in every mailing. I can't even cheat, like I did last time, and get Doreen Parker to type out a ream or two of LoC's on the previous issue; this time I have received very few LoCs, and Doreen is BSFA Hon Sec, and isn't able to take on my load as well as her own. And member's usual trick, that of filling up with extensive mailing comments, will not do, either. I have not, as yet, (and here I bow my head deeply in shame) done more than glance casually through the last mailing to extract any personal egoboo. A pity really, since I have two very fine headings for both LoC and MC depts. And foiled again! - although some quite amusing/interesting things have happened lately, my fiancée Mary Reed, making her debut into OMPA with this mailing, has written up just about everything that has happened. Naturally, nothing happens unless we're both there: and she writes faster than me.

Front cover by Brian McCabe.
Interior illos by Terry Jeeves
& Ivor Latto. Interior lithoed
illustrations from ZENITH.

Strange how some things seem to happen all at once, isn't it ? By July I had decided to get rid of my duplicator and get a car. Then, all of a sudden, the deed was done, and I'd unloaded the one debt and taken on the other. Luckily I found a buyer quite rapidly, namely Jim Grant, who produces FUSION for the BSFA Publishing and Distributing Service. The car came equally rapidly, though not without setbacks. Originally I began to look around with a mechanic friend, and found a 1961-model Anglia de luxe, quite cheap and in seemingly excellent condition in every way. I left a deposit, and agreed to call back in a day or two's time. The car was supposedly being sold by a small manufacturing company, and was (supposedly) a company secretary's car. But then, when concluding the deal, the whole business took a distinctly fishy turn. First, the chappie was reticent about showing me the log-book. Then, when he was answering the phone, I saw a wad of car log-books under a paper. Other details mounted up to point out that the people were in fact dealers - only operating as "private sale". Now obviously, you can get cheap bargains with a private sale, but if a dealer sells a car cheaply, there is something wrong with it. And why be underhand ? There is nothing wrong in admitting to being a dealer, unless, as I said, there is something shady about the people. So, I challenged the chap, got a load of nonsense out of him about 'collecting cars' and getting rid of them when he felt like it. So I told him I was cancelling the cheque, (which I later did) and walked out.

The car I actually bought is a 1960 Popular de luxe, in black with red upholstery. Very powerful-looking (semantic note; when I say 'power' I'm not talking about Engine Horse Power, but about the power of being rich & superior. At my job, B.S.A Power Units, we make a great joke of 'Power' and varying degrees of same possessed by different executives. All in fun, really, we're not snobs) But the car is a model I've always admired, although it uses a lot of petrol for a small car. (about 30m.p.h.) and has the virtue of having a Side-Valve engine which is almost foolproof. It will go great distances without any trouble (so I'm assured - I've done nearly 2000 miles in 3 weeks without hitch, other than my own fiddling about with the carburettor settings etc.) It certainly makes a difference to one's life, being a Motorised Pete - When you've got it you use it - no waiting for buses, trains, hitch-hiking, etc - makes a difference in getting to Banbury now - I can do the journey in about 1½ hours now.

As I say, strange how things come together. When I signed the documents for the car, I found that my job had been declared null & void. Just like that. It seems that BSA Power Units, my firm, for which I am Technical Writer (sort of) has been bought out by Villiers Engineering Co. So our Service Department just folded up, all in a few minutes after the decision was made. Not to worry - our firm is but a small branch of the Mighty BSA group, and we were all assured of work (huh - who wants work ? - I just want money.) within the Group. Being a little dubious of just what would be offered to me, I made a few tentative enquiries of my own, without immediate success. Then, on the advice from my former boss, I went to see the Group Personnel Manager - the chap who appoints the Top Brass of the Group. And, telling the whole sad sorry story of my working life proved to be a success. I am now a Group Graduate Apprentice, on a sort of 'roving commission' for the next 2 years, doing various jobs and taking on various 'projects' at different companies within the Group. This means plenty of variety, and a chance to look around and see what I really want to do. It also could mean a career in Industrial Management. So, all in all, I've feel on my feet.

So what else is new ? Oh yes, that duplicator. It is proving somewhat of a hardship (albeit a minor one) to no longer be able to run things off at leisure, at my own convenience. I'm now relying on people like Archie, (who has taken on the PaDs mentioned above) who have bought their own machines. Incidentally I hear that Archie is ~~xxxxxx~~ encountering the difficulties I faced when running of heavily-inked illos. And he has a Gestetner (which, in my opinion, is a slightly more versatile machine than a Roneo).



What about that veritable (or venerable ?) magazine, ZENITH ?

"The Bopamagilvie Principle"

As it happens, I have been considering 'going litho' for some time, and now I'm without a duper, I shall try to produce the next issue by litho. It will cost a bit more, of course, but when considering the amount I would normally pay for the duper per quarter, not very much more. And the saving ~~agx~~ of labour would be terrific - just think, no printing, collating, stapling, etc. And a saving on envelopes, and postage. I would like to put ZENITH into litho, and to this end I'm soliciting subscriptions - I need a 100 more subscriptions. In this issue of NEXUS, somewhere, you'll find some bumpf about ZENITH, and if you'd like to sub (and don't get ZENITH already for some reason) I'd be pleased to take your shekels.

Naturally, I'm very curious about the Hugo-business. I think YANDRO will get the Award, but I do think, purely from my own impressions, that ZENITH will get 2nd place. Whatever happens, I'm not complaining; after all, to be nominated at all is somewhat of an honour when you've only been in actifandom for a couple of years.

The BSFA supposedly has a Fanzine Foundation, which has been in the hands of John Nash for a long time, who is very much overworked as it is. It has recently been bequested to Mike Beard, of Brummie Fandom, who is also very much understaffed. So, after discussion, Charlie Winstone & myself are thinking of doing something. I consider a Fanzine repository a very sound idea, and would like to see every fnz in the country sent by the editor to the BSFA as a matter of course. I'd also like to see old fanzines sorted and listed for easy reference, and ~~xxxx~~ available for study. So much good material is printed and lost after a brief interval; this is why fandom is such a cyclic phenomena. So, as soon as all are agreeable, I shall pop up to Liverpool (I'm a Motorised Pete, remember) and fetch the BSFA accumulation down to Brum. And then, we shall inform everyone that we want a copy of everything, including the OMPA mailings. But this can wait till the backlog is cleared.

Speaking of backlogs (crafty), much of my ~~p~~ inactivity during the past few months has been due to a breakdown in the Records Dept. Due to chronic laziness, courting, and other seasonal factors, my files just about gave up the struggle. I have been spending much time getting things back to a degree

of orderliness, and am now actually catching up with current items. As the answers come in from the ZENITH circulars I'm sending out, I get these cleared immediately, and send off any back-issues requested. Letterhacking has and still is suffering (sorry Joe Patrizio, above & all others, for my non-writing). Perhaps it will be of interest to describe my system.

There are two filing cabinets, small ones, about 9" x 7", single drawer, really card-index cabinets, I think. The one is split by alphabetical dividers, and is the 'Elephants Graveyard' of all correspondence. Each division has a pink manilla file labelled 'A miscellaneous', 'B Misc...' etc. In here go the letters from people I hear from once in a blue moon, etc. Then, in each divider, there are brown manilla files, labelled for my regular correspondents. (There are an awful lot of 'P's, I've noticed - Platt; Priest; Patrizio; Parker; Perry - all heavy writers).

The other cabinet will shortly have to take the overflow from the former. At present I use it as a receptacle for all letters which have not, as yet, been filed.

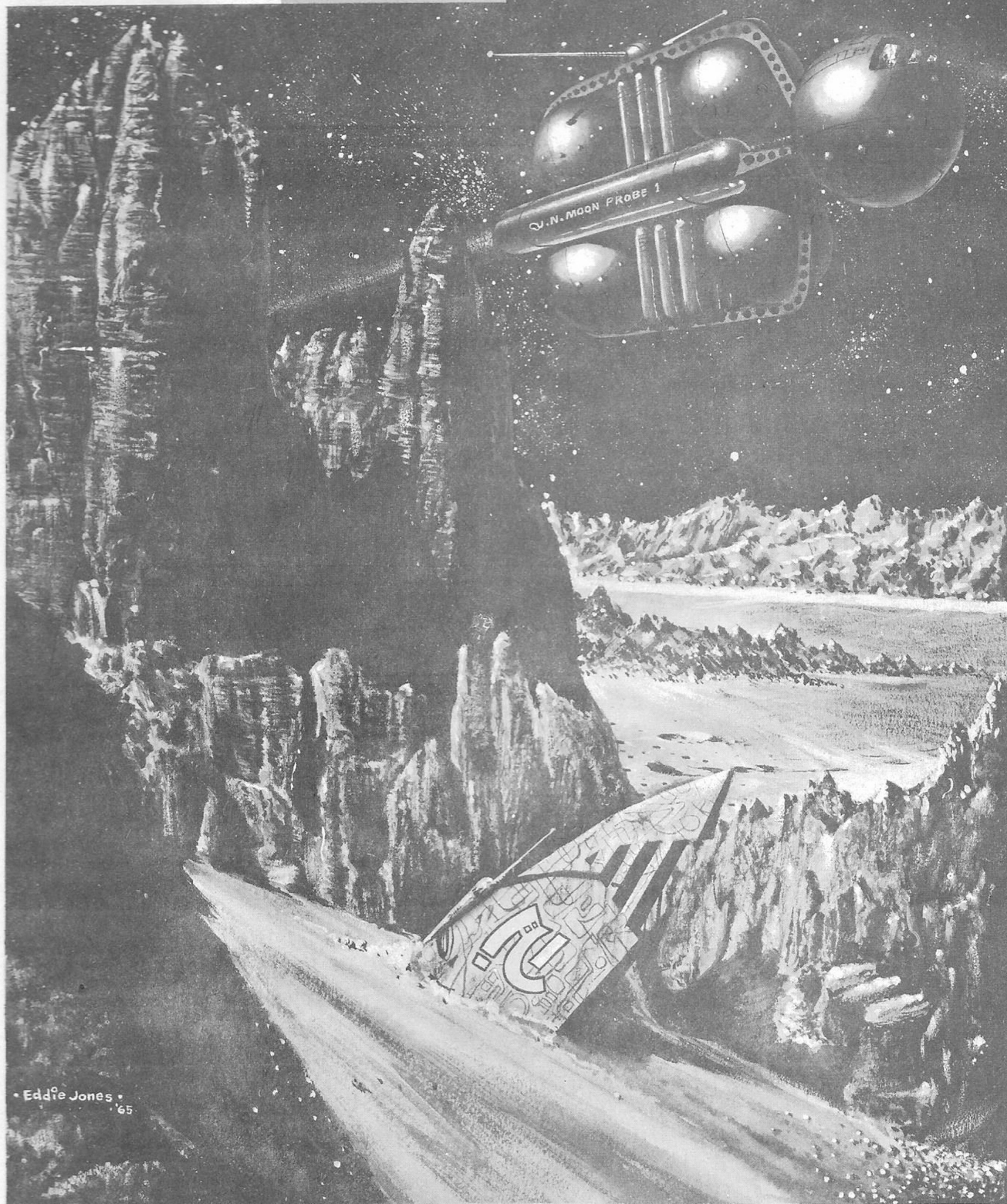
But letters are for use, not burying, so I have 5 box-files as well, quarto(2) and foolscap(3) sizes. The foolscap files are labelled respectively, ZENITH material; BUSINESS: & PRO-FORMAS. The quarto files are labelled NEXUS material; & ARTWORK (ZENITH & NEXUS). The ZENITH file contains any articles, columns, notes, etc, plus a manilla file of loc's. The NEXUS file contains much the same for this zine. The artwork file contains all my 'stockpile' and my backlog of Lettraset. The PRO-FORMA file contains my printed forms - of which I keep a considerable range & supply. The BUSINESS file is the nerve centre of operations, and contains my ZENITH Sub list (red manilla, printed forms made up specially, needing only filling-in in the appropriate columns) ZENITH Trade and ZENITH Complimentary lists, List of Circulars & Addresses - all the people I've sent bumph to, and their replies, if any; quotes etc from printers, and my UNANSWERED LETTER file, which I often take away with me when I go anywhere (Banbury) for a while - in here are the various letters which I really ought to do something about.

And that's about it. I've found it much easier to establish a rigid system at first, then stick to it, than going gaily along and never being able to put my hands on what I want without rummaging. It seems to work, too.

Did I ever mention the typewriter episode? You may remember that I used to use a Pica-typeface machine, and now I'm using Elite-face. What happened was this; My own machine was giving trouble, so I took it to the shop from where I bought it, many years ago, to be serviced. After paying, I found it was worse than ever. So back it went, and I borrowed an Elite-machine for the duration. The duration stretched into months - no word from the shop; while I was quite happy with this machine, nice neat typeface, \$ sign, 2-colour ribbon, all the things my own Empire Aristocrat doesn't have. (This is an Olivetti Lettera 22). There are a few snags with this machine - a couple of what I consider design flaws - and I wouldn't want it permanently. (Oh yes, my own typer doesn't have a ribbon-shift for stencilling - I have to remove the ribbon each time!) Today I phoned and found my machine was ready (surprise! after 6 months) so I agreed to go and get it. And take this one back. So, after finishing this stencil, I think I will drive over (Power!) and do the necessary. If, after the adverts, I'm using a Pica-type, you'll know the reason why.

(4 stencils non-stop, ad lib! Easy really, but cheating isn't it?)

ZENITH SPECULATION



• Eddie Jones •
'65

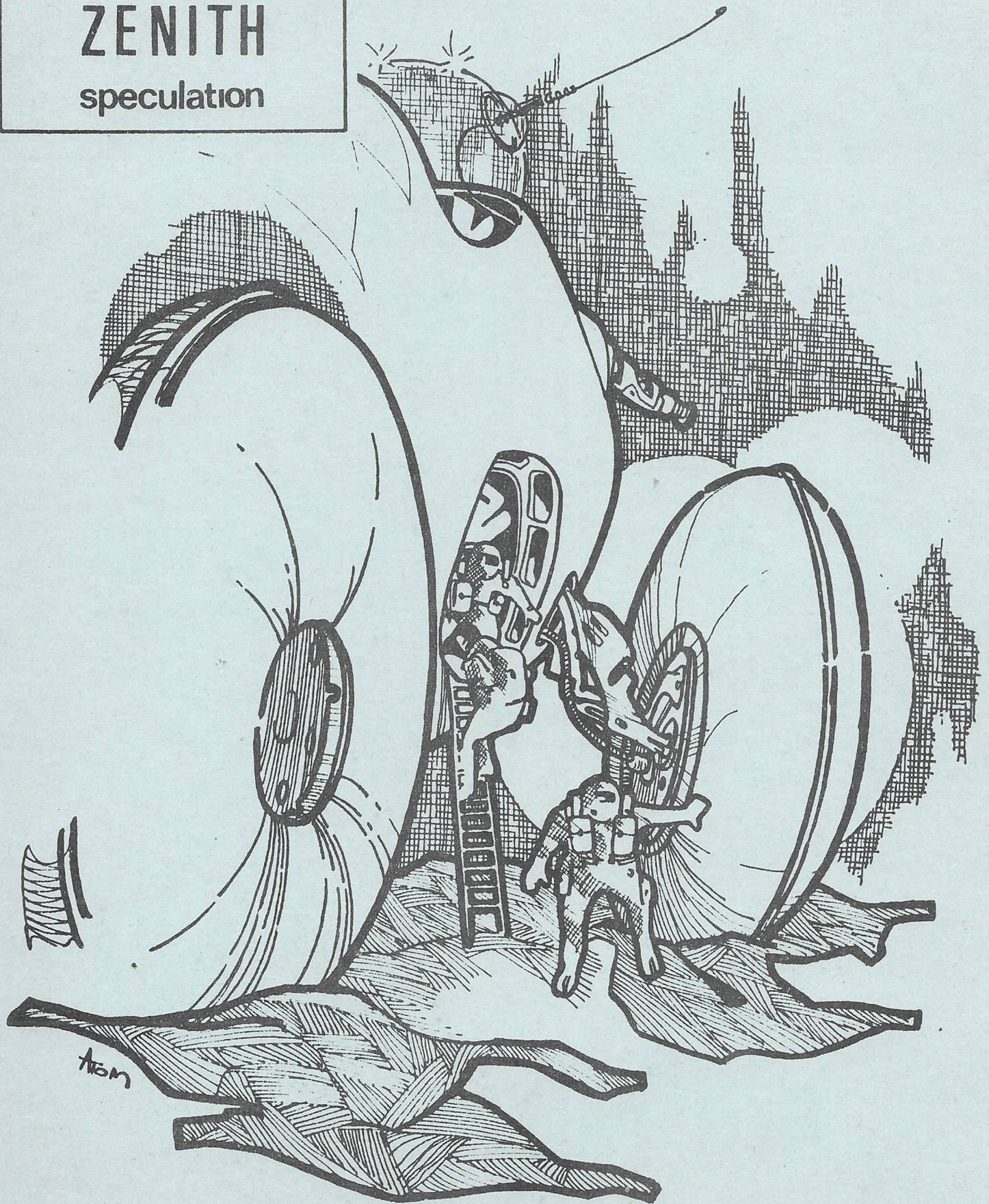
ZENITH

speculation



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Brian W. Aldiss



earthworks

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Just how true this was he had yet to learn. Long after the kind guidance of other telepathists had enabled him to become an indispensable member of the psychiatric staff at the great WHO hospital in Ulan Bator, long after the world had ceased to care about his ugly face and dragging leg and learned to respect him for his irreplaceable curative skills, he was haunted by the fear to which only telepathists were prey. The strain of coping with the world might break him, and after that there would be nothing except the fatal drug-like lure of the all-absorbing fantasies a telepathist could become lost in by a simple gesture of resignation.

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18s



ZENITH

SPECULATION

EDITOR: Peter R Weston

SECRETARY: Mary Reed

9, Porlock Crescent,
Northfield, Birmingham 31,
ENGLAND.

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Yours sincerely,

Pete Weston

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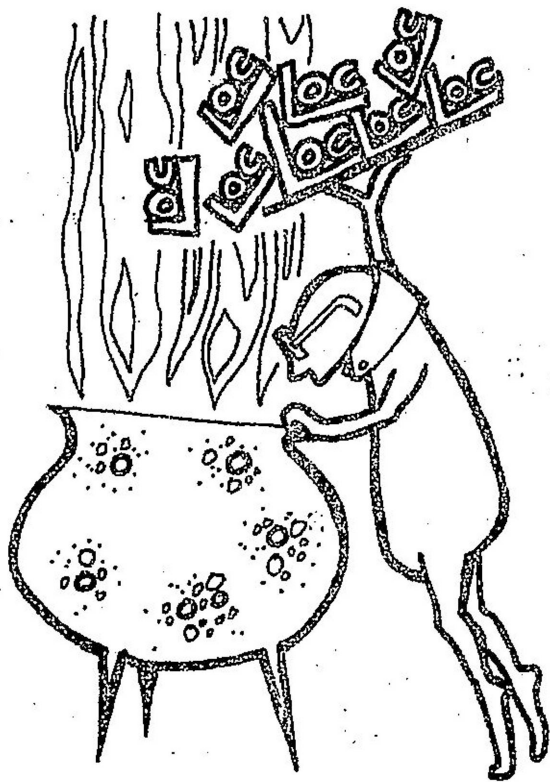
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(June 1965)

contains articles as follows:- EDMUND COOPER OVERLOOKED CHANGE BUT THE NAME (is SF a suitable title?): EARTH-MAN, GO OKIE (on Blish's "City" stories); BRICKBATS & ROSES, DOUBLE BOOKING (Book Reviews in a new style, by Archie Mercer & Beryl Henley); READERS LETTERS, etc.
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THE MELTING POT

....The Krisha stories were published in book form by Twayne about 1952 or '53, as The Continent Makers, that being the title of the longest story in the book, a short novel from TWS (I think). It also contained six or eight short stories.

....Some of these Piper-pickers might do well to read some of his earlier stuff rather than just the things he wrote during the last four years of his life. I'd especially recommend "Police Operation", "Last Enemy" & "Omnilingual". It all boils down to a matter of personal taste, of course, I happen to like the type of things Piper wrote. I hear that he had finished a novel and at least 2 short stories before his death; perhaps we will see them in Analog. To Chris Priest's eyes, bloodshot or otherwise, "Last Enemy" might not seem legitimate SF; it deals with reincarnation. However, I shan't let that hamper my enjoyment of Piper's work.

....According to my encyclopedia, Paine's The Rights Of Man was written in support of the French Revolution after Paine had left the United States

where there was no work for an itinerant revolutionary, and gone to England. Common Sense was written to encourage the colonies to break away from England by force of arms rather than try to settle their differences with the mother country, and the Crisis papers were written in support of the war effort after it had commenced. As for Paine's effect on the Revolution, as I recall the only thing Paine actually did was to sit in the Assembly and try to figure out what was going on; he couldn't speak French. He was revered as a sort of Elder Statesman, but later the only thing that saved him from the guillotine was an illness that nearly killed him. When he recovered, Robespierre was dead and the radical movement was folding up.

Joe Patrizio, 14 Pilgrim Close, Park Street, St Albans, Herts.

....You really want to know why you don't do anything about the person on the bus who coughs and coughs? You're yellow, that's why.

....Your mention of spelling blind-spots is an interesting (now that I have got this far, I can't think of a noun that a 'mention' can be an interesting one of - and if you have any idea of what I'm saying then you're a better man than I am, Gunga Din, - and no, I'm not drunk.)

Anyway, yes, I too have spelling blind spots; my favourite one is "attatched" - I do it every time.

....Seth Johnson. So I've to read the rest of Dianetics and then Science Of Survival, and then I'll at least know what I'm talking about. Well, tell Seth Johnson that he didn't spell my name correctly (if it was his mistake in NEXUS 3) It was -PRW/, and I find this of considerable importance. Italian names usually have double 'Z' (if they have any): Seth Johnson recognised mine as an Italian name; therefore, because he has been conditioned to respond in a particular way to a given stimulus, he spelled my name wrongly. So he didn't get the information which was there - he got the information he thought was there. So why should I take the advice of someone who doesn't look at what he's reading? And Dianetics was boring.

Seth Johnson, 339 Stiles St, Vaux Hall, New Jersey. USA

....I found Doreen Parker's letter most interesting. I wonder if you couldn't get her to write a serious article on the French Revolution and stuff like that there. As for James, I can only say that he sheds more confusion than light. As for Dictatorships, it seems to me that goverment, as the responsibilities and populations get larger and larger, will just naturally tend to become more and more bureaucratic and dictatorial.

There was a time when the rural communities of America could be more or less administered through a town meeting of all the citizens. Today it is impossible to even bring the issues before the voters without a million or rather a multi-million dollar press & television empire. All of which are dominated either by bureaucrats or private interests.

I would like to call E.F.Jame's attention however to an American PB called THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS, in which it was claimed that Madison Ave Adverting industry has perfected techniques whereby they can cause the public to elect any candidate they care to support. Something new called Motivational Research. And with this tool at hand there will be little or no difficulty for a Dictator or Dictatorship to takeover and stay in power, and literally tell the public just what to think.

So, for better or worse, it is only a matter of time before most of the great nations of the world are dominated by Dictatorships of one kind or another. And with automation displacing permanently some million people of all classes every year, it is only a matter of time before we have the Welfare State.

I seem to be having communications difficulties with Seth; after getting long LoCs on every NEXUS, I asked him why he never LoCed ZENITH, of which I've sent him 3 or 4 issues. Back came a Loc - on ZENITH 3, last February (1964). Then again, I've been getting Mary to take some letters in shorthand and type them out later. She sent one to Seth, with a wee footnote of her own. Back came thereply - addressed to Mary. Now Seth writes every day to Mary and probably has forgotten all about me. I think I'll remind him thathe owes me a LoC for ZENITH 4 (March 1964). 7

