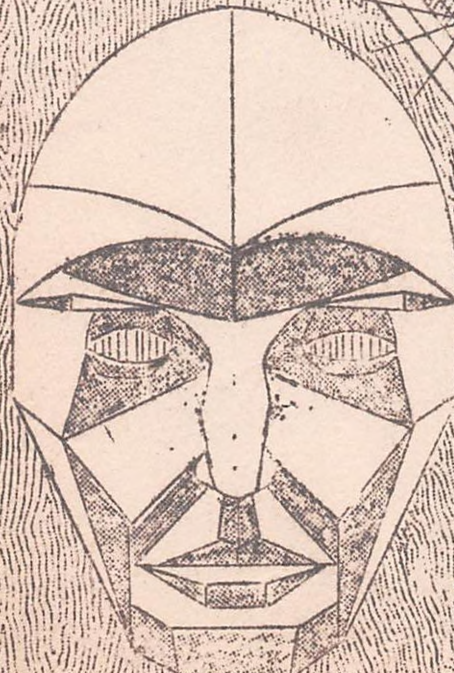
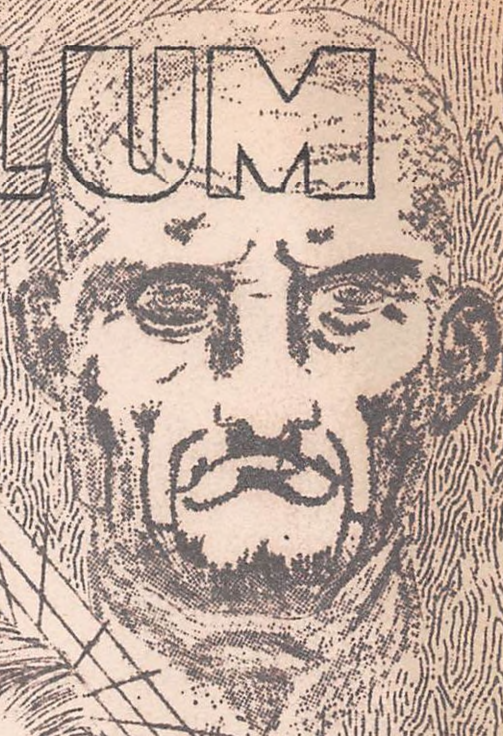


# PENDULUM



15¢

SEPT. 1952

D. SUSAN







Fanvariety  
Enterprises

Presents the

# PENDULUM

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# Gabber

Editorial

---

"Procrastination...is the thief of time." ---Some Famous Person

---

We could cover two full pages with flowery apologies for being so confoundedly late with this issue, but what's the use? After all, the best apologies we could make can't overshadow the fact that PENDY has been almost four months late---and anyway, we've no really good excuses right off the bat. It's not that a tornado struck, or that we have had pneumonia in the interim, or even anything so prosaic as failing to receive all the slated material, or not having the wherewithall to purchase supplies.

Someday, tho, if you want to produce a good facsimile of Original Chaos, we suggest you try going to college and being an actfan at the same time.

Don is a pre-med student at the University of Pittsburgh, and in spite of that robust constitution of his (he gets along very well on two hours of sleep a night) he's busier than a one-armed beaver under contract to TVA. Bill is a Junior Physics student at Carnegie Tech, (Don's a senior, graduating this year, incidentally) and finding this year rougher than all the previous three combined. Add that to the fact that Don's now a bookdealer; is studying the violin and piano and perpetually attending concerts (being a great music lover). Is an officer of the Pittsburgh S-F Association, a Director of Fanvariety Enterprises, added to several other activities we can't think of off-hand. And Bill is currently also a Director of FVE, the Chairman of the PSFA, the President of the NFFF, a member of FAPA---all fannish activities---plus running two radio programs for WRCT, working on a research project involving microwaves, working in the 1952-53 THISTLE (Tech's yearbook) and such-like activities.

It's just a case of too much to do, we guess.

---

Due to lack of interest, the small adverts have been discontinued. Actually, as irregular as PENDULUM has become, it wouldn't be a feature worth continuing, anyway.

While we're at it we'd like to credit a note from Gem Carr, who remonstrates that SIR HUDIBRAS IN FANDOM (Pendulum, VINI) was not wholly her idea, but that part of the credit belongs to Dick Frahm, who got the idea of such a parody in the first place and helped to write the actual poem. Our apologies to Dick, and due credit to him for his part in what you readers felt was a good chunk of poetry.



If you attended the Chicon, or even if you didn't, you'll be interested in the complete and personalized convention report that FVE is preparing at this moment. It will be a rather mammoth thing, consisting of from 70 to 100 pages, mostly mimeographed but with photo-offset photographic features and a beautiful lithographed cover by Dick Bergeron. The name of it is TASFIC IN RETROSPECT, and it will contain material by Dick Clarkson, Hal Shapiro, Frank Dietz (of STATION LUNA), Norman G. Browne, Orville Mosher, Ian Macauley, Walt Willis, and a number of your other favorite authors. The reports are more or less personalized, being accounts of the convention as the author saw it; they're also categorized---instead of presenting more or less run-of-the-mill stuff concerning the program and the official doings, each author covered a phase of convention activity and what went on there. It's a fan's account of the convention, and as nearly complete as any account can be.

The selling price is \$1.50, and you can put in your order now by sending the money in to myself or Don Susan (whoops, I let you in on who's doing the writing at this stage!). The report won't be out for at least another three months, due to the gigantic task of getting all this material assembled, made up into an attractive booklet, and published. We can assure you that it will be very well worth the money and we think it'll be the definitive report on the Chicon. To date of this announcement (the first) we have almost 40 advance orders already in, so it might be a good idea if you'd shoot off that buck and a half now while you're thinking of it. Too, the more capital we have to spend now on the reproduction, the faster it will appear, and that's to everyone's benefit.

---

That color cover that we promised you went the way of so many excellent enterprises. We gave a painting to Sam, our silk-screen man, in August. Sam told us just this last November that he finds he cannot reproduce the painting, so we're up the proverbial estuary. However, if we can find another silk-screen artist who will give us the same deal Sam made us, we'll keep the thing on reserve.

---

For the next PENDULUM (Ghod knows when it'll appear) we have slated some rather nice material---including a sequel to THE RIDGE, by Joe Gibson, with the ominous title of GET OUT THE SCOTCH, WILLIAM, WE'RE LOST AGAIN---and the issue following will have a sequel to that! Then Ian Macauley is starting a new column with us, and Harlan Ellison (who blew his cork over the lateness of this LIMELIGHT feature) will have another intimate portrait of one of your favorite prozines. In fact, we've got material we haven't even read yet! Don't let this discourage you from submitting, tho---you may submit something so good that we'll scratch a more uninteresting item already slated to use your masterpiece.

Some of you have been wondering who-all is in FVE to date. Well, our membership has about reached its limit---with Dick Clarkson, Orv Mosher, Nan Gerding, Hal Shapiro, Harlan Ellison, Norman G. Browne, Ian Macauley, Bob Peatrowsky and potential members Barclay Johnson and Bob Farnham. Look for our first projects in the future months---including a CHECKLIST OF FANTASY MUSIC for you longhairs in the audience.

Until next issue, then...

---BILL VENABLE & DON SUSAN



by JOE GIBSON

## THE

## RIDGE

'Way back in the dear, dead days of science fiction---the 1930s, that is, and ASTOUNDING,--a guy named Nat Schachner was writing his Space Lawyer series, concerning various legal problems before the Bar (Name your choice) in a galactic civilization.

Now, there are galactic stories and there are galactic stories; but in these galactic tales, Schachner continually referred to a certain little item which no galactic tale should be without---but which they are! It usually cropped up whenever his lawyer was on a starship bound for Terra, or from Terra to somewhere else far, far away.

I don't have the series on hand, so I haven't his descriptions of this little item. But I do remember he called it "The Ridge."

In any age of galactic junkets, it would probably be the most important item in any galactic pilot-astrogator's repertoire. Yet so far as I know, not a single other stf writer has ever mentioned it. Instead, we've had star-roaming tales galore wherein the Bold Hero is aboard a super-duper spaceship lost somewhere in interstellar space, unable to distinguish Sol from the rest of the stars and so find his way back to Earth. Inevitably, he must find someone with a "star-chart" which will show him the way.

In short, what Nat Schachner called "The Ridge" is simply the constellation of stars in which you find Sol. That any pilot-astrogator would take on a galactic cruise without knowing this particular constellation by heart is stretching probability pretty far---even in an interplanetary age, they're likely to have positions of major stars in this constellation memorized, as "fixed stars" to be used in astrogation.

And I've often wondered what "The Ridge" looked like. Did it look like a ridge?

The only way to find out was to dig in a few astronomical tomes. In doing so, I found out that Earthbound astronomers have absolutely no use for this particular constellation--for good reason: they can't see it. Instead, the "constellations" they use aren't constellations at all! For example, take the familiar example of finding Polaris, the Pole Star, by extending a straight line through the edge of Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper. The astronomers call Ursa Major a "constellation" and, seen from Earth, it looks like one. Actually, though, the stars "in" the Big Dipper are widely scattered across space, far from each other. We merely see them close together, in the same general direction from Earth, forming a pattern roughly similar to a dipper.



This is true of all constellations as we see them--and as astronomers use them for reference. They aren't actual groups of stars at all.

In plotting "The Ridge" on even a crude scale---enough to give an idea of its shape---I had to use the Pole Star/Ursa Major reference to plot the angle in which the stars are seen from Earth. Then I had to consult a table giving the distances of the stars. And, of course, the stars' magnitudes were important. Barreling in from Betelgeuse, 300 light-years away, you're going to spot a constellation by its brightest, 1st magnitude stars and then pick out any dimmer stars among them. The 1st magnitude stars would be the reference-points, giving "shape" to a constellation.

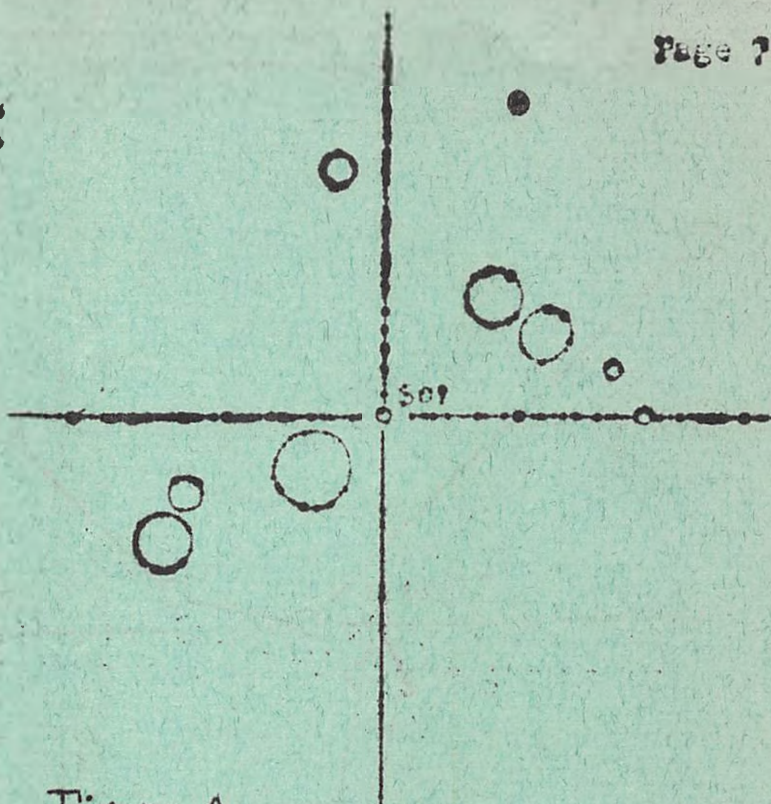


Figure A.

I found that there are nine 1st magnitude stars near Earth (and of course, Sol), from 4.4 to 67 lightyears distant, and strung out roughly on a line running from Sol to Polaris---both of which are 2nd magnitude stars. The next-nearest (1st magnitude) is Achernor, some 70 lightyears away, but it's beyond the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, with a considerable gap in between. There is quite probably a thin stream of dimmer stars connecting Achernor with the rest of "The Ridge" and if so it would form a "dim slope" out on the end of "The Ridge."

Finally, there was one other problem: paper is flat, and the Ridge isn't---it's three-dimensional. Thus, the Ridge would have one shape when seen from one angle, and another shape from another angle. And seen end-on, from a starship out beyond Alpha Centauri, it would appear as a loose cluster of stars. (Figure A)

Therefore, in diagramming the Ridge, I had to draw the stars in sizes denoting their relative distances: near ones big and distant ones small. And to get the various "shapes" of the Ridge, I had to diagram it from one angle (using the Polaris/Ursa Major reference) and then---roll it over a half-turn! (Note positions of Pollux in Figures I, II, III, IV, and V.) ((Pollux is also 2nd Magnitude.))

Any way you look at it, it does resemble a ridge---in fact, it doesn't resemble much of anything else!

It's a definite group of stars. It would be visible---and the brightest of its bright stars would be the large-sized ones in the diagrams---to a starship approaching from any great distance; say, Deneb, 400 lightyears away. And with the Ridge to start from, finding Sol would be easy, so there is absolutely no basis for all those Bold Heroes getting themselves lost out there. About the only way they could get lost would be to go halfway across the galaxy, where the Ridge would be hidden behind intervening constellations and star-clusters.



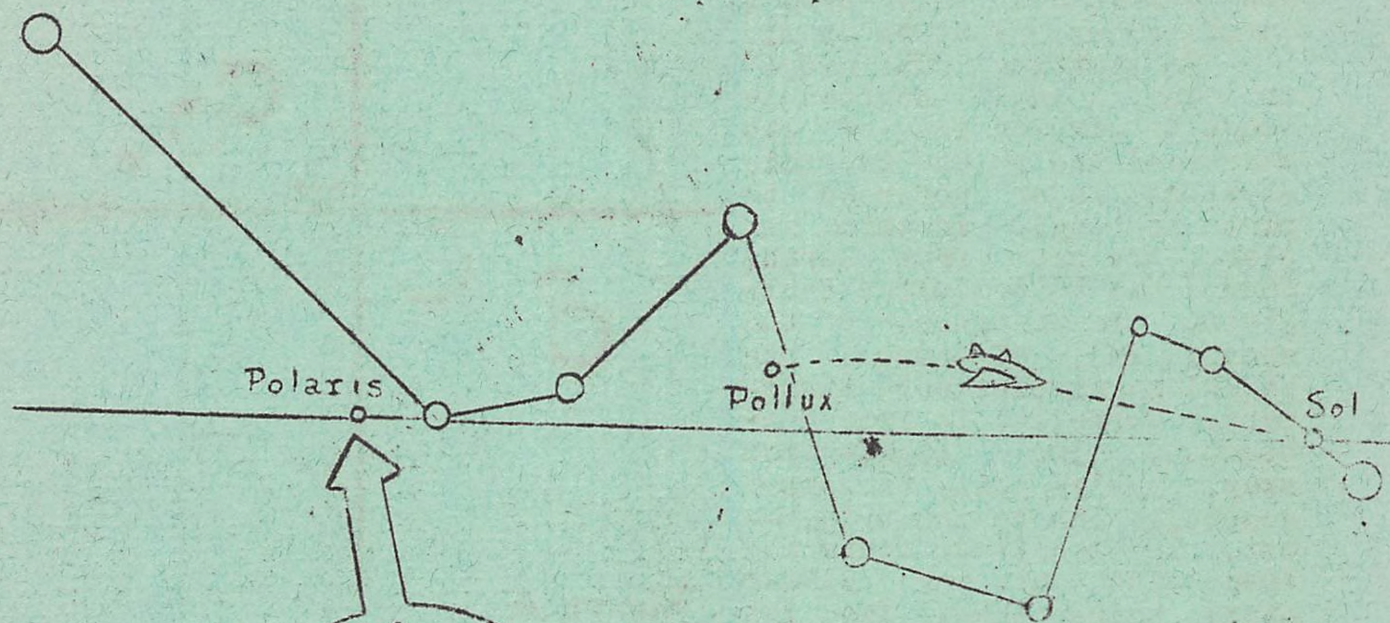


Figure I

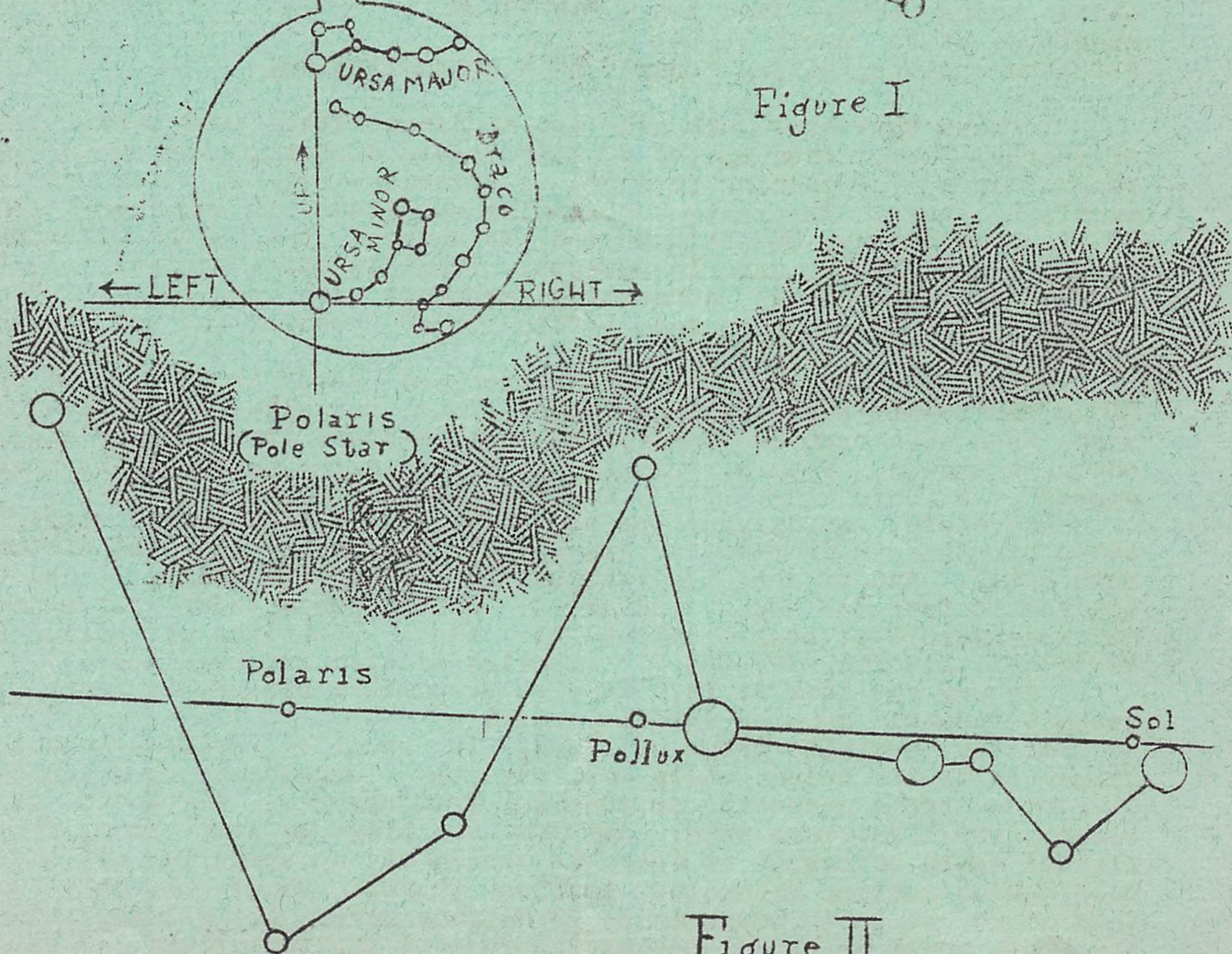
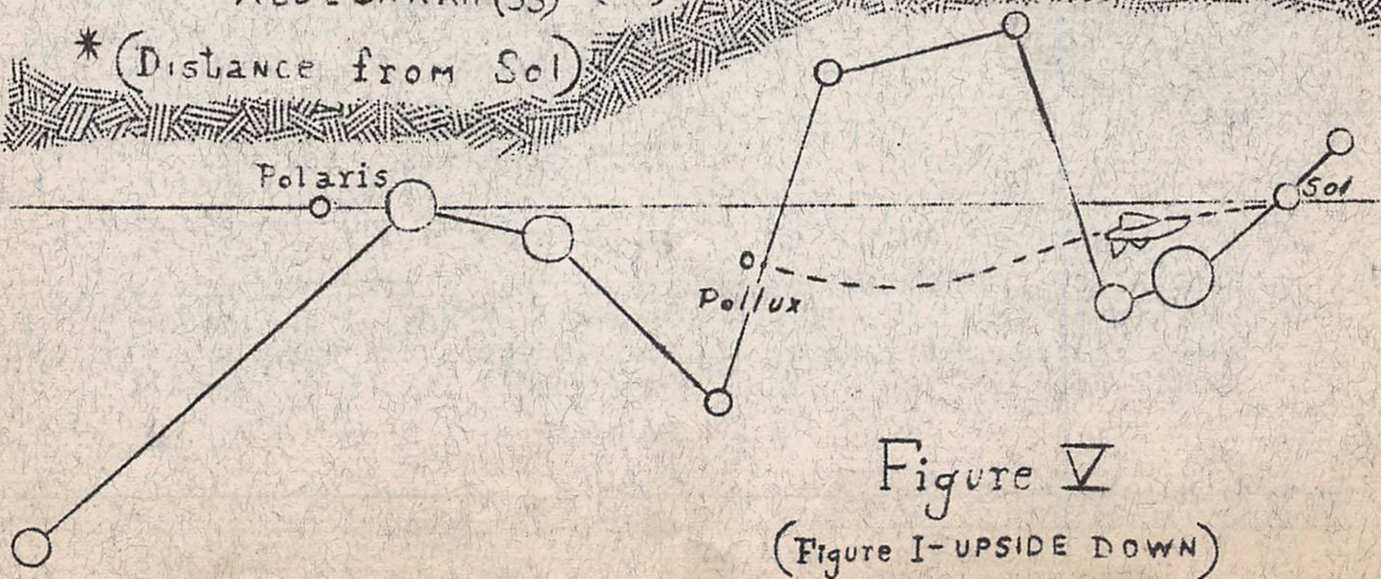
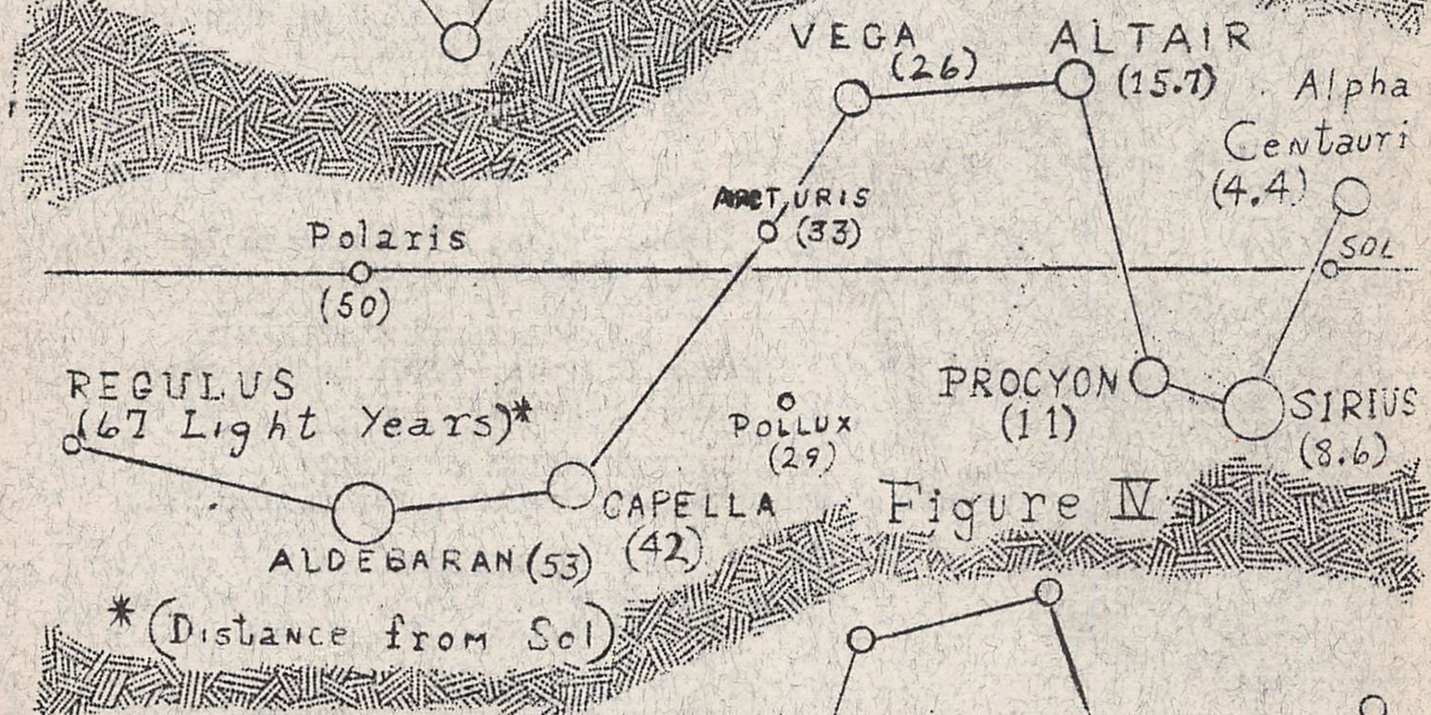
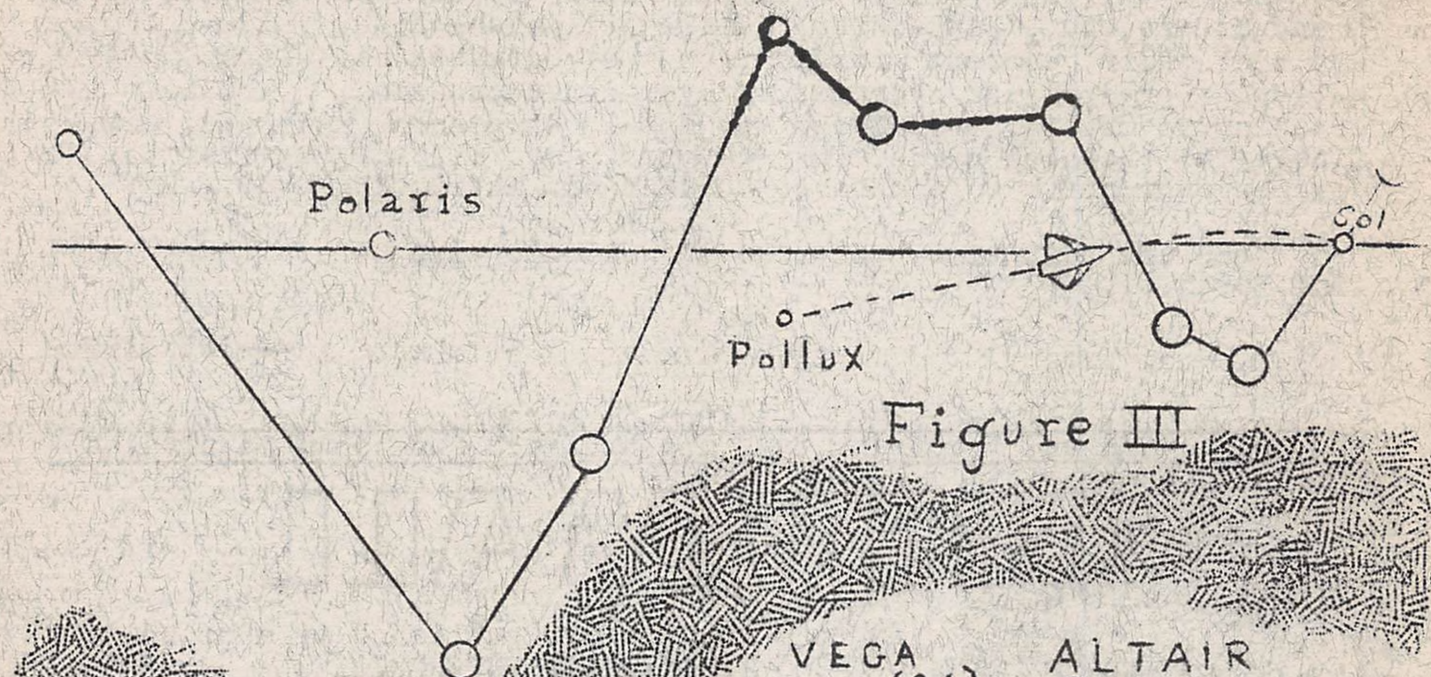


Figure II







Of course, none of the 1st magnitude stars (Figure IV) are Sol type suns. Sol is a G-type sun, 2nd magnitude. Sirius is a white giant, A-type. Arcturus is an orange, K-type star. Aldebaran is a red double-star. Capella's G-type, but it's also a triple-star system. Procyon is yellowish-white, F-type. These "types" run O, A, B, F, G, K and M; are blue, blue-white, white, yellowish-white, yellow, orange and red; their content ranges from ionized gases to strong neutral helium to predominant hydrogen to hydrogen decreasing, metals increasing to metals predominant to metals surpassing hydrogen, and so finally to titanium oxide. Temperatures range all the way from 55,000 degrees fahrenheit to a mere 5,500 degrees. Intriguing stuff, eh?

And the next time you read a galactic yarn where they "can't find Earth....."

—JOE GIBSON

she had a dark and revolving eye, and her face hung down in rivulets-

# GET 'EM ALL

These magazines are published by members of  
FANVARIETY ENTERPRISES:

ASFO

Ian Macauley, 57 East Park Lane, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

SCIENCE-FANTASY BULLETIN

Harlan Ellison, 12701 Shaker Blvd.  
Apt. 616, Cleveland 20, Ohio

THE CHIGGER PATCH OF FANDOM

Nan Gerding, Box 484, Roseville, Ill.

VANATIONS

Norman G. Browne, 13906 - 101A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alta., Canada

NOTE

Bob Peatrowsky, Box 634  
Norfolk, Nebr.

FANVARIETY ENTERPRISES magazines are all different, all the best in their field. If you haven't seen any of the magazines listed above, write to their editors and ask for a sample copy of 'em. We think that you'll like 'em! So----

GET 'EM ALL!

Everyone's clear but me & thee and even thee's a little clear dear...



# PROJECT FAN-CLUB

## A REPORT

by Dick Clarkson

If I'm going to talk about Project Fanclub, I guess I'd better explain just what's coming up. First of all, though, I gotta tell you that I'm severely limited as to space, so I'm afraid that I'll have to dispense with humor and fan babble, and simply lay down the facts as I know them.

Project Fanclub is simply the pet name given to the forthcoming booklet "How to Form a Science - Fiction Fanclub" by the originator of the idea, - Orville W. Mosher, III. In looking for help, he found Shelby Vick, Nan Gerding, and myself, and thus PFC began to roll. Project Fanclub, through help which only YOU can give, will thoroughly cover the subject of S-F fanclubs. There will be info on all phases of forming and operating a fanclub, well written and mimeographed in a small but potent booklet chock full of substantial, solid facts and information. It will be aimed mainly at three categories: (1) Fen who are planning to form a fanclub, (2) fanclubs just getting started, and (3) any fanclub at all who can use a million and one new and interesting ideas for more fun and a better group. But it will take YOUR help; and with it, PFC will do a lot of good in the places where it counts!

In his "Test-Tubes", Orv has taken into hand several new clubs. He has given them much of the info that will later be printed in the booklet. A series of letters from one of these "test-tubes", following, will show you the rise of a fanclub due to the PFC help and the "test-tube" method, and just how much Project Fanclub will really do for fanclubs -- any fanclub! Now -- read on....

130 Vera Street  
West Hartford 7, Conn.  
January 26, 1952

Dear Orville:

I might need that booklet you're working on since I'm attempting to form a greater Conn. S-F club, and have been having quite a time of it. I hope this won't shock you, but I'm only 16. My age is my greatest handicap. Everyone starts thinking of me as a "crazy teenager". Don't like to cut this short, but I gotta go.

STFanicly yours,

Ron D. Rentz

130 Vera Street  
West Hartford 7, Conn.  
February 2, 1952

Dear Orville:

Glad to hear from you. Yep, I sure do know Nan Gerding. Just men-



tion my name to her. Now down to the business of S-F clubs.

In the first place, I haven't given the club a formal name, as we are concentrating on finding prospective members. In the second place I might not go on with this club as I found two more in this area. I figure we might all merge into one big club. I think if we all got together we could accomplish something.

I tried getting new members by posting an announcement right above the S-F corner in my town's library but drew a blank there. All they had to do was drop a card to my address. Not one person was interested enough. Might try that idea of a card in each book, but I don't think that will do any more than the card in the library did.

Major problem I have so far is getting addresses of prospective club members. After getting 5 fen together I just can't seem to get any further; however, this 3-club merger might be the solution. Keeping the members that I have together hasn't been a problem and the future get-together of us won't be one either.

A good practise I've found is to ask fen you write to if they know of any other S-F fen in your area. This way I got the addresses of the two most active fen in my gathering from a friend way up in Canada, of all places!

I'll keep you posted on problems I encounter as I go along.

STFantastically yours,

Ron D. Rentz

18 February, 1952

Dear Orville;

Just got your letter this morning, and here I am answering. First of all I want to say thanks for all the advice you've given me. Haven't tried all of it yet, but I'll keep you posted.

I've tried about everything as to the library - no new prospects. Bookstores will get my attention now. I'll try that angle.

You know, you're right about 5 being plenty. Now that I think about it, seems silly to try to get a lot of them right away.

All the other advice you've given me won't be forgotten or discarded. I keep all letters I receive from fen, and they come in handy. Oops - it's late. See you. So long for now.....

Ron D. Rentz

March 1, 19 52

Dear Orv:

Here I am. No new developments in the club yet, will let you know if there is. Going to hold a meeting soon; 'Till then, no news.

I see your plugs in every zine I get lately. What do you do? Write letters to zines all day? I have to hand it to you!

No name for the club yet but would like to build it up around "Conn. fen". Connfendom-shuly, etc. Got any new twists? Anyhow, club problems are nonexistent right now, but there'll be plenty soon. Will let you give me some free advice when they pop up. Be seeing you.

STFanicly,

Ron D. Rentz

4/1/52

Dear Orville:

Was glad to hear from you. Thanks for the outline of questionnaire. Am beginning to go through it this evening.

Well, we located another member, Charles Lee Riddle, in New London, of FANVETS and FAPA. A bnf. Happened to see a column on Conn.



S-F and sent me a letter. This zine publicity must really pay off!

Hope your preparation for the booklet is going all right.

Am concentrating on plugs in zines now, though I find the word-of-mouth system in letters seems to bring in the most members. Well, guess that's it for tonight.

STFanicly,

Rondee Rentz

4/16/52

Dear Orville:

I'm sincerely glad to learn that I'm to get a copy of your booklet. My members have agreed that it should be of great help to fen who want to get a club started. Look how that info helped us!

We're having a big meeting 2 weeks from now. Will keep you posted. There many questions will be discussed and settled. Also we are going to try to get plugs for the club in the local papers, and we'll approach the biggest bookstore in Hartford. We'll all go in and buy 2 or 3 books from them, then spring the plug idea. Gotta go.

STFanicly, Ron D. Rentz

May 10, 1952

Dear Orv:

Nobody seems to be able to think up a tricky name, but we've been gathering new members fast. I'm surprised as the rest of the club put together. One of the members brought this up last week: DO NOT ORGANIZE ANY MORE THAN YOU MUST. He's an old fan, and thinks that once a local club gets organized, all the fun goes out. What say?

"Rhondee" Rentz

May 21, 1952

Dear Orv:

We now have better than 20 members. I've been elected Prexy and the official title of the group is now the CONN. S-F LEAGUE. (Are going to have local branches in the larger cities like Hartford where there are quite a few fen in one area.) Have located 2 new fanclubs in this state, but they're no help; yet, anyhow.

We're having a meeting June 8. Will tell you all about it as soon as we meet. I'm keeping track of things that might interest you. We're getting JEROME BIXBY as a come-on for the meeting; is a friend of Lee Riddle (the "big wheel"). It sure is a help to have someone like Lee in the club!

FAN-atically,

Ron D. Rentz, Pres.  
Conn. S-F League

Well, take a look at that. From nowhere to a darn fine group. So, as you've seen, Project Fanclub is in a position to do something besides talk. All we need now are sure, steady contributors from fanclubs.....contributors get egoboo and a free copy. If we get the support we need, then we're set! Orv and PFc need and deserve your co-operation. So how's about it? Siddown at that banged-up typer - yes, YOU, there - and GIVE!

SUPPORT PROJECT FAN CLUB AND IT WILL SUPPORT YOU !! Dick Clarkson.....

Address--Orville W. Mosher, 1728 Mayfair, Emporia, Kansas.....



## NEWS

Pendulum

## FLASHES

---

 from our roving British reporter.....
 

---

DEREK PICKLES

Happenings in the SF world in England have been moving rapidly towards a climax, with publishers, fans, radio and newspapers piling on the pressure. First books and magazines.

The John Spencer & Co. Publications, "Tales of Tomorrow" and "Futuristic Science Stories", now have interior illos, the first pocket-sized British mags to do this. With Tot No. 4, and FSS No. 7, there are small cuts above the story titles, whether or not they illustrate the stories I do not know as the stories themselves are of the lowest standard imaginable; although they do print short stories, the other publishers concentrating on full-length (35,000 word) novels. Four new titles in the FANTASY BOOKS series have been announced, publication date July 31st. They are The Thing From Another World, by John W. Campbell, Jr. (original title Who Goes There), No. 2 is Typewriter in the Sky by L. Ron Hubbard, third is Vanguard to Neptune by J.M. Walsh, a brand-new previously-unpublished story, fourth is Solution T-25 by Theodora du Bois. All have color glossy covers, books previously published in US editions have new covers by British artists. British fan to break into the pb field in the last few months are Vincent Clarke & Ken Bulmer (publishers of SF NEWS), E. C. (Ted) Tubb, well-known member of London Circle, John Brunner, teen-age fan who recently sold a 20,000-word story to Astounding.

Fanclubs springing up all over the place. New one appeared in the Lake District, LAKELAND SF ORGANIZATION, leading light Peter Campbell (Ass't editor of Operation Fantast); they propose to publish a fanzine. Also new club appeared in Leeds known as the LEEDS SF ASSOCIATION: the secretary and two other members paid an impromptu visit to the Bradford SFA clubroom; an auction was held and a good time was had by all. Bradford club has 25 members, own clubroom, regular film shows, socials, a small library ---- mostly books and PB editions of novels. A joint trip to the Mancon in October is being organized by the Bradford and Leeds club, chartering a bus to take everyone. Probably about 25-30 members will go.

Latest Dennis Wheatley story, the much-publicised Star of Ill-Omen, has turned out to be a real, first-rate, unadulterated stink-eroo, pages of straight quotes from Scully's The Flying Saucers Are Real and an obviously elementary textbook on the solar system, the "science" is laughable, and even hardened Wheatley fans, who are also sfans, cannot read it. The most outstanding bloomer is that after 2 days in space, the kidnapped Terrans can still see "daylight" down the lavatory pipe. Definitely not recommended for original ideas or even good writing. Straight from the 1930 WONDER STORIES type of story.

New British prozine NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION from Crownpoint Publications of Glasgow, first issue was August. Policy of lead novel & shorts, features and letters, etc.

See you all next issue.

—DEREK PICKLES



# BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION



by the editor of  
AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION---

H.J. CAMPBELL

THE history of this genre in Britain is chequered, and mostly black cheques. A long way back, of course, people read Verne and seemed to like it, with the traditional apathy that Englishmen accord to their likes. But anything new soon died a quick, painful death. Scoops, a kiddish mag that came out in February 1934, died abruptly in June 1934. A short life, but not a gay one.

Walter Gillings pushed the boat out to sea in 1937 with Tales of Wonder. That came out quarterly until 1942 when paper had to be used for more serious things. It was the first British mag that really tried to do justice to sf. We all deplored its passing. The fact that Wally continued to get it out when things were not too pleasant in the bottom of England is a tribute to his sincerity and determination. There was never another like him.

Round about 1938 there was a host of magazines that blossomed for a single issue, or sometimes two, and then quietly departed. Several of them are not mourned. In 1946 Walter Gillings came back fighting with Fantasy, a magazine he edited for the Temple Bar Pub. Co. after they bought it from George Newnes, who had put out three issues in 1938-39. Fantasy died in August 1947.

1946 Also saw what was to become a milestone in British science-fiction---the establishment of Nova Publications and their magazine New Worlds. The story of how Nova came into being is intriguing, but I feel Ted Carnell could tell it better; so much of it depended on him. Anyway, New Worlds has never looked back. For long it has represented the height of British s-f and was, for five weary years, the only magazine that presented true science-fiction. In 1950, Nova brought out a second magazine, Science-Fantasy, edited by Walter Gillings. Wally put out two issues and then circumstances got in the way again. Editorship of Science-Fantasy passed to Ted Carnell, who now runs both Nova's mags with a flair and efficiency that are little short of remarkable.

In January 1951 Authentic Science Fiction appeared. For a time, it was fortnightly, then became, and stayed, monthly. It is the longest-lived British s-f magazine. Its merits and demerits are things I should not speak about here. But I'd like you to know that I'm doing all I can to raise the standard and to make Authentic into a world-respected mag. There are obstacles.

Now let's go beyond the mags and take a look at sf in the large. The first thing about it is that there is a strong prejudice about it, among publishers and the public. Happily, this is growing less. Indeed, over the last year or two, people have actually been asking for s-f. Often, though, on analysis, they don't want it enough. For example, I did an s-f strip for our Daily Herald. The fans liked it. But so few people put their approval in writing that the strip folded. There are other instances of this comatose condition, among pen and in the public.



The mags sell well enough; the reprints are doing remarkably well. SF films get good box-offices. Radio programs get good listenership. Here and there a slick magazine takes a chance and publishes an s-f story. Book publishers are leading the field, but even they are inclined to be reserved and cautious.

One could fairly say that over here s-f doesn't yet compare in popularity with crime, romance, and westerns. But it's a good deal more popular than it was. No doubt this is due to the dearth of good science fiction and the plethora of juvenile muck. SF has become linked with the gaudy, the sexy, and the downright stupid. Slowly we are putting this right. But slowly.

You see, British mags can't pay the fees that yours can. Authors cannot be blamed for sending their stuff to you and getting about ten times as much as they'd get over here. It's not easy to be altruistic when the grocery bill needs paying. All in all, we do very well considering these facts. New authors are springing up, such as Ted Tubb and Bryan Berry. And the old ones like Bill Temple and John Wyndham keep up as much of a supply as they can commercially afford.

Finally, I would like to say that all of us here are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from your shore. practical interest and spontaneous regard play no small part in the continued existence of British science-Fiction. Someday, maybe, you will have to say the same about us!

You see, we are very optimistic.

—H. J. CAMPBELL

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and here is one just for fen:

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THE MAGAZINE OF

# Fantasy & Science Fiction

by Harlan Ellison

## # 2: BOUCHER'S BEAUTY or THE MAGAZINE OF CULTURE AND CLASS

It is being said rather noisily from here to Timbuctoo (if they have stf fen there...and they undoubtedly do) that science fiction is no longer "pulp trash" but is a thing of literary excellence on a par with the detective and novel level.

After seeing some of today's detectives and novels, this doesn't appear to be saying, but if we assume that this is meant as a compliment, then we must pay the Angel his due.

Let's face it. Much as we love Astounding and gleat over Galaxy and (I hate to say it because I may have to write to Browne) put up with Amazing, the bulk of the praise for stf's literary awareness falls to a gentleman who, to this writer, has always represented something of the typical man of the world...Anthony Boucher.

His magazine, THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, has set so many goals of high rating, that I fear the rest of the field will have to work their proverbial heads off to reach them.

Here's the rundown on the MAG OF F&SF, straight from the mouth of Boucher, it's guiding hand.

### PART I: It's Editors

Tony Boucher and J. Francis McComas had known each other for over 20 years, both mutually interested in science fiction before they ever got the idea for F&SF. It was back in 1943 that the plotting for the eventual publication of a literary stf mag was thought of first.

An indication that a magazine of F&SF's type might work in the stfantasy field was given by the success of the ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE in the detective field.

So Boucher and McComas approached Lawrence Spivak of MERCURY PUBLICATIONS for a trial. Needless to say, once Spivak was convinced, F&SF started out on a quarterly basis. Three or four issues on that basis and...bi-monthly.

A much better account of the above can be seen (read, glimpsed, observed, approached or in any other way absorbed) in the new book,  
(next page)



THE BEST FROM FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION (Little, Brown and Co., 1952).

## PART II: It's History

One of the lucky breaks F&SF got was to have George Salter as the art director of Mercury Publications. As Boucher says, "George has been on their staff for Heaven knows how long." Which just goes to show that Heaven must be looking out for the sfen by giving them F&SF.

History of F&SF, so far as re-publication of stories in anthologies goes, would reveal a pattern something like this. And brother, this is the first public release of a lot of this info. You never had it so good. To wit:

(These do not include the BEST FROM F&SF mentioned before. For those, you'll have to buy a copy of the book.)

% signifies: not yet published.

INTERLOPER - POUL ANDERSON - THE OUTER REACHES: DERLETH 1951  
 % OF TIME AND THIRD AVENUE - ALFRED BESTER - BEST SF OF 1952: BLEILER-DIK-  
 TY  
 THE GNURRS COME FROM THE WOODVORK OUT-R. BRTENOR - BEST SF: '51 - BLEILER-  
 DIKTY  
 THE STAR DUCKS - BILL BROWN - BEST SF: '51 - BLEILER-DIKTY  
 OUNCE OF PREVENTION - PAUL CARTER - FAR BOUNDARIES: DERLETH '51  
 % SUPERIORITY - ARTHUR C. CLARKE - ??????????: DERLETH 1951  
 MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO - MILDRED CLINGERMAN - INVADERS OF EARTH:  
 CONKLIN 1952  
 % THE SHAPE OF THINGS THAT CAME - RICHARD DEMING- ??????: DERLETH 1952  
 THE DEVIL WAS SICK - ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW: CROSSEN - BRUCE ELLIOT  
 1952  
 % THE WELL-OILED MACHINE - H.B. FYFE - SF CARNIVAL: FREDRIC BROWN and  
 MCK REYNOLDS : EDITORS 1952  
 NOT WITH A BANG - DAMON KNIGHT - BIG BOOK OF SF: CONKLIN 1950  
 THE SILLY SEASON - C.M. KORNBLUTH - TOMORROW, THE STARS: HEINLEIN 1952  
 PRIVATE--KEEP OUT! - PHILIP MacDONALD - WORLDS OF WONDER: PRATT 1951  
 BORN OF MAN AND WOMAN - RICHARD MATHESON - BEST OF SF '51: BLEILER -  
 DIKTY  
 % SRL ad - RICHARD MATHESON - SF CARNIVAL: BROWN-REYNOLDS '52  
 % THE EMBARRASSING DIMENSION - H. NEARING, Jr. - SF CARNIVAL: BROWN-  
 REYNOLDS 1952  
 % TAKE TWO QUIGGIES - KRIS NEVILLE - SF CARNIVAL: BROWN-REYNOLDS 1952  
 % BRIGHTNESS FALLS FROM THE AIR (PUBLISHED AS ?) IDRIS SEABRIGHT BEST  
 SF '52 BLEILER--DIKTY  
 THE HURKLE IS A HAPPY BEAST - THEODORE STURGEON--SF GALAXY: CONKLIN  
 1950  
 " " " " " " " " BEST SF '50. BLEILER-DIKTY  
 PROCESS - A.E. van VOGT - BEST SF 1951 - BLEILER-DIKTY  
 % THE GORGE OF THE CHURELS - H.R. WAKEFIELD - NIGHT'S YAWNING PEAL 1952  
 DERLETH  
 % THE EXILES - RAY BRADBURY - BEYOND TIME AND SPACE: DERLETH 1951  
 THE ONE WHO WAITS - RAY BRADBURY - FAR BOUNDARIES: DERLETH 1951  
 TOP SECRET - DAVID GRINNELL - INVADERS OF EARTH: CONKLIN 1952  
 % THE RATS - ARTHUR FORGES - BEST SF OF 1952 BLEILER-DIKTY

## PART III: That's a Classic

Naturally, since they are in the publishing game to make money, a



magazine's editors have to buy what they consider good stories. Inevitably they will buy a better than average story. Or on an even more rare occasion, they may purchase a classic.

I believe F&SF have had more classics than any other sf mag, for the length of time it has been published. These, natch, are all personal preferences flavored with audience appeal. The are:

THE GNURRS COME FROM THE VOOOVORK OUT	by	R. Bretnor
POSTPAID TO PARADISE	by	Robert Arthur
GAVAGAN'S BAR(the whole series)	by	de Camp and Pratt
NOT WITH A BANG	by	Damon Knight
BORN OF MAN AND WOMAN	by	Richard Matheson
THE SILLY REASON	by	C.M. Kornbluth
THE LISTENING CHILD	by	Idris Seabright
TEMPORARILY AT LIBERTY	by	Lawrence Goldman
BARNEY	by	Will Stanton
THE DEVIL WAS SICK	by	Bruce Elliott
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT	by	Philip MacDonald
THE RATS	by	Arthur Porges
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	by	Mildred Clingerman
JIZZIE	by	John Wyndham

If, perchance, your favorite isn't here included, don't pine because there are hardly any bad stories in F&SF and if you consider another one your favorite.....go ahead.

#### PART LV: Art For Art's Sake

Nothing much can be said for F&SF's inside art, since they don't have any. Boucher's comments on whether he thought a story could be remembered better if there was an illo with it was, "As a reader I don't think it's true---at least my memories don't work that way."

Following their policy of only using art on the covers since they feel they get a better magazine with only a better typography, Boucher and McComas have switched from the straight fantasy covers they have been using mostly up 'till now, to a straight diet of science fiction.

Scheduled for more work for them is EMSH(who did the June 1952 cover) and a fellow(oh, what's his name...) name of Bonestell. As far as unusual "arty-type" articles such as the GANYMEDUS SAPIENS run a while back, Boucher comments, "By all means, if we can find anything of the sort."

Insofar as awards for art and makeup, the American Institute of Graphic Arts started their awards two years ago and both years F & SF has been not only the only s-f mag to win, but the only all-fiction mag to win a CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENT.

#### PART V: Crystal-Balling

Donning my Arabian headdress and blowing the smoke from off of my hookah, I take a peek into the far future(hah!) and predict thus and so for the future ishes of F&SF:

1) more of the GAVAGAN'S BAR series, the RANSOME and MacTATE stories, the JOHN THE BALLAD-SINGER tales, and the new Boucher series of DOCTOR VERNER.

2) a new series of tightly related novelettes by Judith Merrill which Boucher says is, "Her best best work to date and which seems to us some of the solidest strong s-f in years that we've seen."

(next page)



- 3) CAT by R. Bretnor(5500 words)a noble satire on academic institutions.
- 4) MOTHER by Alfred Coppel(1200 words)marks the return of Coppel to stf writing with a uniquely psychoanalytic study of space travel.
- 5) THE LAST MAGICIAN by Bruce Elliot(4500) show business and topology.. LOO(couldn't tell whether this was "LOO" or "IOO"--Nangee)REE by Zenna Henderson(5700)a new twist on the imaginary playmate story by the authoress of the popular "Come On Wagon".....DANA LYON by Elsie Smith(1700) a terrifically funny(and 1st) fantasy by a top suspense novelist.
- 6) THE FOOTPRINT by Mabel Seeley(4500) another 1st fantasy by a mystery "Big Name".....TO A RIPE OLD AGE by Bob Tucker(6700) of which says Boucher, "Frankly, the best writing Bob's ever done.".....and in the bag, ready to be published are stories by Wm. Campbell Gault, H.F.Heard, Fritz Leiber, Mindret Lord, John D. MacDonald, Richard Matheson, Ward Moore, Alan Nelson, Arthur Porges, Ralph Robin, Idris Seabright, John Wyndham, etc.,etc.
- 7) a great many "firsts" by such authors as Philip K.Dick, Marion Gross and Evelyn E.Smith of whom Boucher advises to keep watching seeing as a lot will be heard from them.

#### PART VI: Most Likely

If personal opinion means anything, then here's this author's on the future of F&SF. As the years go by, this magazine MORE THAN A N Y OTHER STF MAG, BAR NONE will become a "legitimate" form of publication. Persons in all walks of life, even more so than now, will be seen bearing this magazine home with them.

Sales of F&SF will so far surpass ALL OTHER STF MAGS and 90% OF THE ALL-FICTION MAGAZINES(including mystery)that it will come out monthly. This will happen within the next two years.

Stories from F&SF will break into all anthologies that feature the good stories, not necessarily s-f or fantasy. Martha Foley's BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES series will feature F&SF tales in the next few years.

Boucher and McComas will become, more and more, celebrities in the non-stf field for their work with F&SF.

#### PART VII: Tidbits

As a final word on F&SF, these little tidbits culled from here n' there in F&SF's history.

- 1) HOBSON'S CHOICE by Alfred Bester coming up in the August 1952 issue is rated the best s-f short of the year by Boucher
- 2) watch also in the August 1952 issue for Boucher's story NINE-FINGER JACK which has been reprinted four times in nine months already but never before in the stf field.

And so, draw your own conclusions on the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction; I've presented all the facts.

And watch next time for the low-down on Howard Browne's AMAZING STORIES.....harlan ellison.



## OPEN LETTER TO ALL READERS OF SCIENCE FICTION &amp; FANTASY

The rapidly increasing popularity of tape and wire recorders has given rise to a new and most fascinating hobby--- Tape-Response or Wireresponse.

I'm an old-time science fiction reader myself, and it occurred to me that this hobby would be of especial interest to my fellow readers, be they active fans or not.

This type of communication is definitely on the scientific side. It is the very latest and there is nothing else like it. It is a great boon to the many of us who carry on a heavy personal correspondence. By using "talking letters" instead of the old fashioned kind you can triple and quadruple your present output of correspondence, and do so pleasantly, effortlessly.

Compared to most other hobbies, tape-response is an inexpensive hobby. A good recorder costs no more than a good radio and, with ordinary care, lasts as long. Only a few tapes or wires are needed because they may be used hundreds of times and can be mailed anywhere for a few cents.

Let this be clearly understood: I am not trying to sell you anything. I am not connected with the recording industry, nor do I seek personal publicity or financial gain. In short, I have no axe to grind. I'm enthusiastic about tape-response & wireresponse because I think it's a wonderful hobby, a hobby that I'd like to share with you.

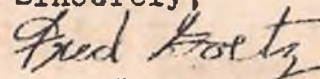
Talking and listening to people from everywhere is a tremendous thrill. I know, because I've exchanged over 1200 "talking letters" with many people in this and 18 foreign countries. Although many of my friends live thousands of miles away I know more about them, their families, their work, their every-day affairs than I do about the people living in the next apartment. In fact, my talking letters friends mean just as much to me as do my personal friends of many years standing.

In response to numerous requests I am now forming an organization, TAPE RESPONDENTS, INTERNATIONAL; this is an association of congenial men and women who like to make friends by exchanging "Talking Letters" with people all over the world.

Membership is open to all. There is no obligation. Anyone who has a friendly disposition and a recorder (tape or wire)--- may join. Here is something new, fascinating, intriguing---something fine. A hobby? Yes, but we think it's much more than that because the formation of friendships on an international scale can hardly be called a mere hobby.

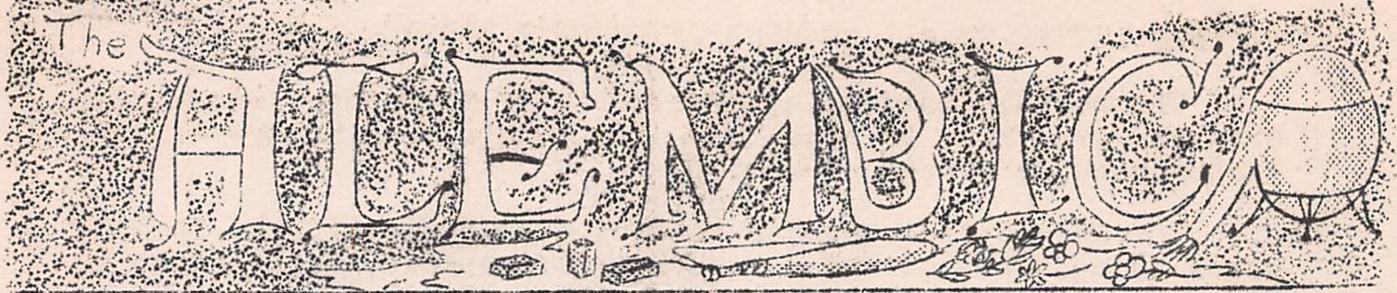
Join T-R-I today! Get in touch with me by tape, by wire or by letter. I'll be glad to have your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Fred Goetz  
3488 22nd St.  
San Francisco 10, Cal.





An accurate and representative condensation of letters from  
-----our readers-----

G.M. CARR:

"But Is It Science Fiction? Redd is obviously destined for a brilliant career in government--- anybody that can take four pages of polysyllabic gobbledygook to say that Bradbury writes good literature as well as science fiction, would be a valuable man in the OPS. Such a talent for obfuscation should not be squandered on mere fanzines. ...Cover: Good idea, neat drawing...but hardly worth the expense of litho'ing, was it?"

NAN GERDING:

"Gee whiz, but that's a beautiful cover this time. Not only because it's offset (it is offset, isn't it?) but the drawing itself is excellent---both in its detail and its meaning. In fact it would be a little insulting to call it a mere drawing---it's a well-done bit of art. ...But Is It Science Fiction is the best I've seen of that nature for a long time. In fact, I would say that it was the best article in the ish. ...Alembic was a total loss."

LARRY ANDERSON:

"Pen is so revoltingly good, I am subbing."

REDD BOGGS:

"Don't expect anything quotable in here, because this second Pendulum was the year's most disappointing fanzine. So much talent and money wasted...I still have hopes, though, that you'll get on the ball and put out a magazine worthy of your ability. Isn't it awful to have ability to live up to? If you were somebody like Friedman, I wouldn't be so disappointed. I'd throw the damn magazine away and forget about it. But you -- my god, what's the matter?"

CLAUDE HALL:

"...I have some suggestions. Give us at least one piece of fiction each issue, even if it's only one of your rejects. ...lengthen the editorial. It's the main thing about any zine. Besides, editorials are interesting."

ALASTAIR CAMERON:

"The main objection is to your printing single-sentence excerpts from letters implying that Joe Phan thought not unhighly of the first issue. Bufflocon report inadequate. The remainder was encouraging, however."



JOE GIBSON:

"Ronald S. Friedman, your news reporter, had as much in his column about Ronald S. Friedman as he did about everything else, with the exception of the news on Aussie fandom. I noticed, too, that he made no excuse or apology for giving an egoboo article and calling it a news column, which makes me wonder if it'll continue that way."

/We'll let the Table of Contents this ish speak for us---Ed.

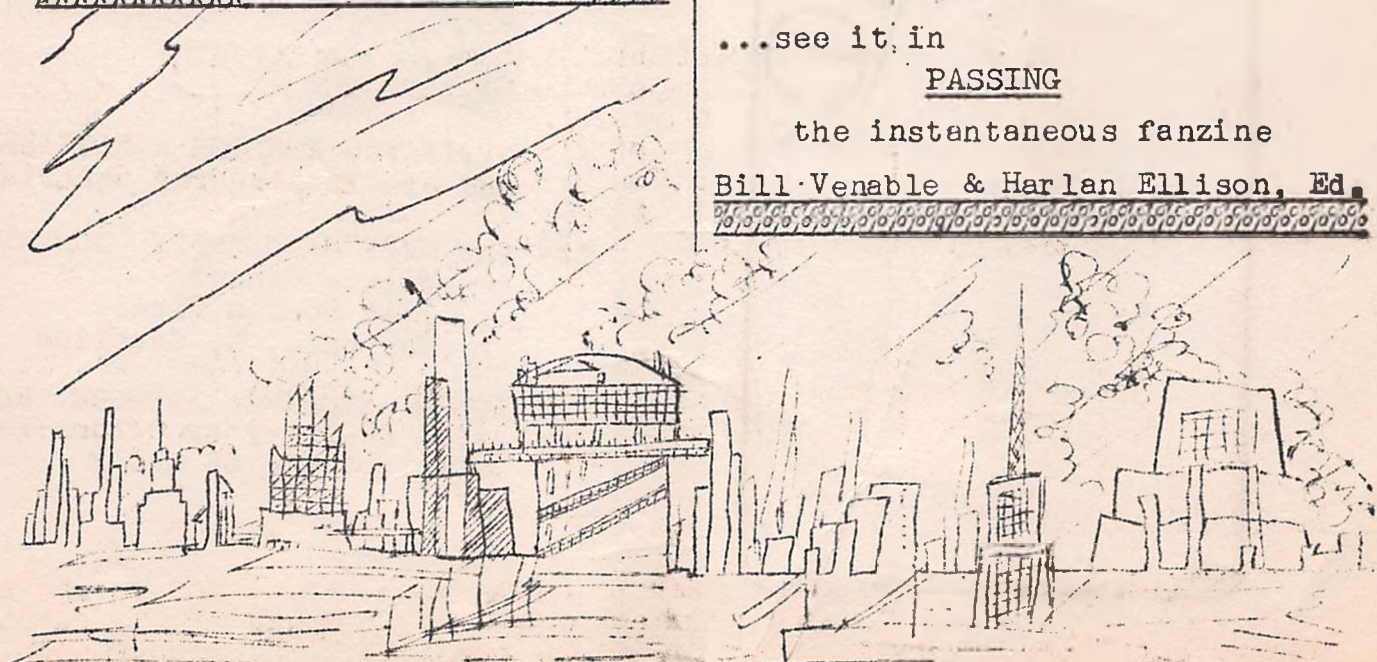
RICHARD BERGERON:

"A word or two on the covers you've been using on the P:-- Your covers (the ones you used) were of amazingly low quality---- what ever possessed you to spend the \$10 each they must have cost you....? "

/Oh, come now---they weren't that bad, were they?---Ed/

/That finishes off the ALEMBIC this issue, but don't forget to send in some comments and letters letting us know your opinion on this ish, something to fill up next ish's ALEMBIC./

\*\*\*\*\*-JOIN THE NFFF!!!-\*\*\*\*



...in passing...

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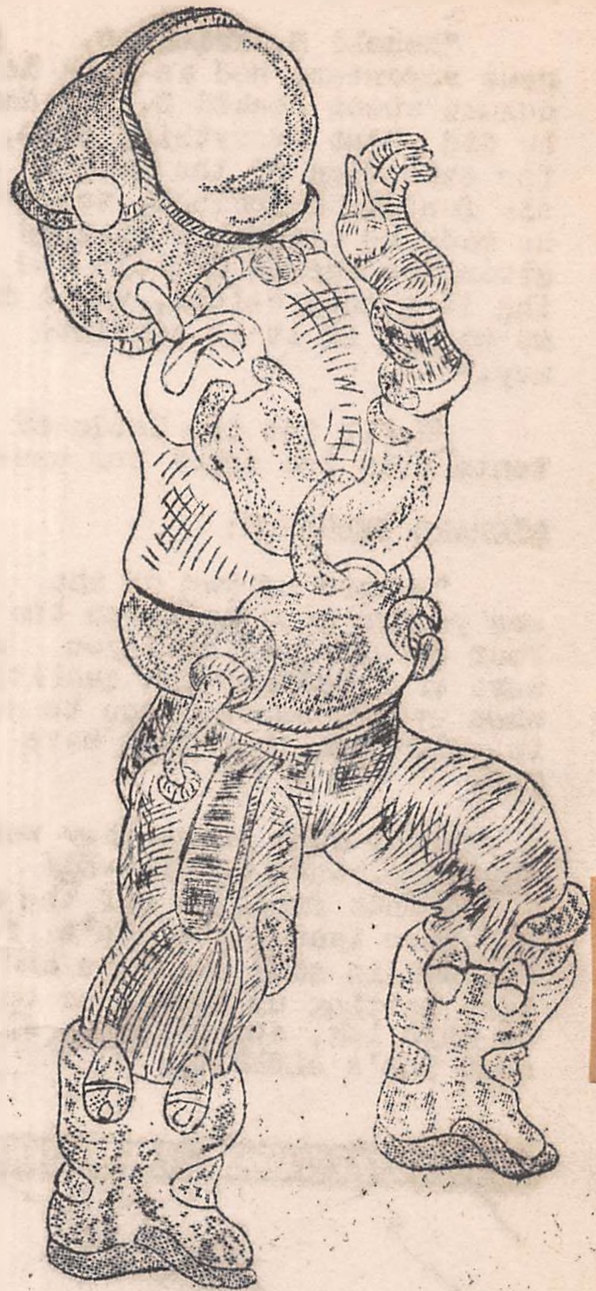
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