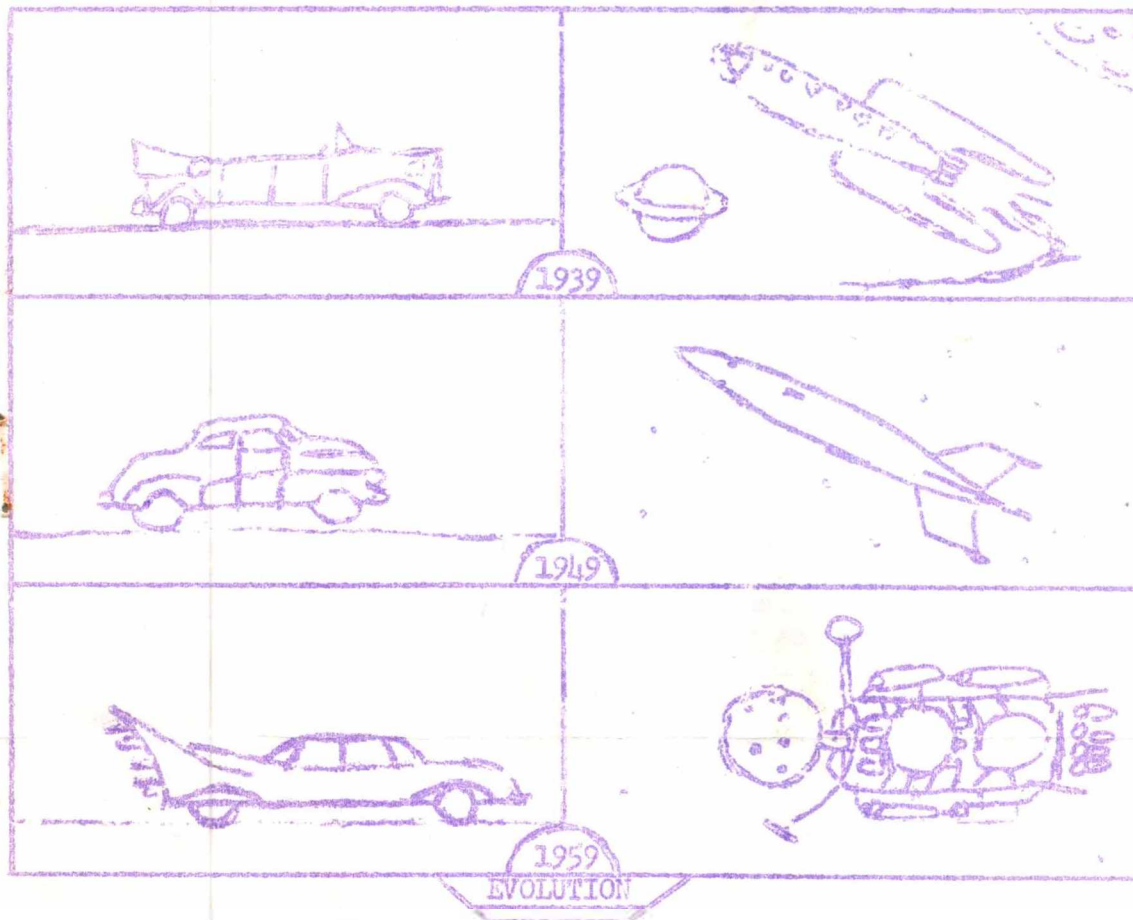


A O L I O O O E



"The Polhode rolls without slipping on the herpolhode lying in the invariable plane."

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SECOND SMALL PRINTING!

being published for Meffer's Amateur Press Alliance mailing # 2. First printing of 95 copies; 40 for N'apa, 10 to be immediately sent to various pre's, and the remaining copies to various fortunate persons & for review, to be mailed out AFTER I receive the 2nd. mailing. 5+ extra copies will be available, and the stencils will be kept for a 2nd printing (plainly so designated) if necessary.

#### SCHEDULE:

Intended: quarterly  
Promised: 3 a year  
Actual: semiannual  
SUB'S & TRADES

Sub's will be accepted, for now, at 10¢, 3 for 25, or trade. Sub & trade copies will be mailed out 1-3 days after I receive the N'apas mailing, in order to be fair to the N'apa members. If you are willing to trade, I suggest we do so for 1 year, then even out any differences with cash, due to differences in publishing schedules.

### About Various Things, Including me

Since, in the first mailing, almost everyone introduced him (or her) self (in fact, some did little else), I will do likewise.

23, 6'2", & fat; reading stf for 9 years, & hanging around the edges of fandom for 4. Finished 1 year of graduate school, & need 2 more for a Master's or 1 for a Ph.D. Incidentally, I'm majoring in physics at St. John's University.

For the first time since I started college, last year I did not go to summer school, but joined to communers in working. I was hired down at Fort Monmouth NJ as a "Physicist-335" (This place is about 80 mi. from NY, so I took a room in Asbury Park, a few minutes from work.) What did I do you ask--I grew crystals! A chemists job! That's govt. efficiency for you.

Anyhow, I was supposed to return this summer, but there was this little thing known as the recession. Seems that normally, if the govt. tells 3 people they're hired, I will take the job, but since jobs were scarce, all this. Therefore the place was over-staffed, & they found themselves having to let people go. 1 week before leaving I got a letter from the fort; 3 guesses what it said. No, I wasn't fired, but I could only return to work on Aug. 3, & not sooner.

Fortunately, at this time a lab technician in school suddenly quits, & I'm hired for the summer, untill they can get a replacement. The school is completely revamping the laboratory in freshman physics, introducing many new experiments. My job is to try out the new experiments, to see if it is possible to do them, & then to write up a set of instructions for the freshmen, telling them how to do the experiments.

But about my fanning--I'd been reading Rog Phillips' column in OW for awhile, when I read Rocket to the Morgue, & decided that fandom must be fun. In a circuitous manner (thru R.P. & then Ron Smith) I joined the N.Y.S.F. Circle in Nov '55, & I've been a member of one or more local clubs ever since. But that's all that there was to my fanning--no correspondence, no fanzines, no nothin', till I decided to put out this rag.

I collect stf, but specialize. (I have neither the space nor the money to be a completist.) My specialties are certain magazines, paper-bound books, & books & periodicals dealing with stf, authors, & fandom. As for the Astoundings, which are the major part of my collection, except for 15 before 1945, I am complete back to Oct. '36, & have 6 issues from before that, including 3 Claytons. I acquired my Astoundings over the last 4 years for an average price of 35¢, & the only time I paid more than 50¢ for any magazine was when I got my one issue of Arkham Sampler for 75¢. I also collect Unknowns, but only have 12 plus the anthology, & the various Columbia magazines. In the last category, I'm rather weak. Also, over the years, I've collected a number of other magazines, both old & new. For instance except for the last 2 or 3 years, I have complete sets of Galaxy & NSF.

As for the paperbacks, I get everything except fantasy. I used to get the latter also, but recently they began to publish too much of that horror junk, which I just don't care for. (Of the many horrors I've read, there were only 3 shorts I liked, "Mad House" by Matheson, "They Bite" by Boucher, & "The Lurking Fear" by Lovecraft. The first two were the only stories I've seen that are so frightening, that I had to put them down several times before finishing. & the last had only one saving scene ((in the cabin on the side of the mountain waiting for the ruin to stop)).)

But back to my collecting--what I'm really after is unusual paperbacks, & mint copies of the early Signets. On oddity that I have is Republic of the Future by Anna Bowman Dodd, pub. by Cassell & Co in 1887, & not listed in Bleiler's checklist. Sever others, recently pubbd, are mentioned below.

In the field of publications about stf, the most notable gap in my collection is Inquiry Into Science Fiction, which I have never got around to picking up. For the fanmag part of my sercon collection, I need the first 2 ish of Journal of S.F., a few S.F. Advertisers, & many Fantasy magazines. Also I need Fantasy Times #'s 165, 167-3, 161, 97-8, 84-3, & most of the 1st 2 copies of the International Edit., the Spanish Edit., Fantasy Comics, Fantasy, & other associated mags.

In the field of hardcover stf, I have accumulated what comes my way cheaply, & now have about 150. I also accumulate books by Willy Ley, but I'm missing 3 or 4.



of his early ones, & didn't bother with his recent juveniles.

I have a number of duplicate Astoundings from around '40, & a few earlier in conditions varying from excellent to coverless with pages missing. After I sort them out, I'd like to trade them for some wants.

I originally intended to have this mag divided up into neat little sections, each listed on the table of contents, but I found it more convenient just to ramble on--hope you don't mind.

Sandy Cutrell, Ken Beale, & I were probably the last 3 fan to see C.M. Kornbluth alive. This was at & after the ESFA open meeting held on March 2, 1956, which I'll never forget. The meeting had been, for the most part, a 3-day convention in honor of Henry Kuttner. (First Willy Ley had spoken on Sputniks, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~Vanguards~~, & Explorers, & the proposed "eye in the sky". Then Robert Heinlein had reminisced about a V-2 firing he had attended with Lee Corey, & talked about how the Sputniks "woke us up" ((temporarily)). There was then much discussion of education & scientific preparedness.) Sam Moskowitz, Dr. Gardner, & L.S. deCamp eulogized Kuttner & analyzed his work. They were then followed by Cyril M. Kornbluth, who said that the world was better off without him. He, said CK, was a hack, & got his start by writing for the sex-horror pulps of the '30s, causing heaven-only-knows how many of today's juvenile delinquents. Then Larry Shaw & Robert Heinlein further eulogized Mr. Kuttner, L.S. deCamp contested some of CK's statements (mainly about the effects of literature on the reader's morals), & the meeting broke up. ((If there is a favorable reaction, I will go into more detail on the various talks listed above, when I put together Polhode #2))

After we had dinner in a local restaurant, Ed Emshwiler (or perhaps it was Mr. Kornbluth) asked if anyone wanted a lift into N.Y. Besides the other of the 2, Mr. Heinlein, Ken Beale, Sandy Cutrell, & I accepted. On the way in, Mr. Heinlein invited us up into his hotel-room for some chatter & drinks, & only Beale declined; Cutrell & Mr. Heinlein dominated the conversation, which centered on how ridiculous & pompous the military "traditions" are. (Several months later, Cutrell told me that he had hoped to discuss stf, & heaven only knows how that conversation got started. ((As I remember it, it got started with references made by Mr. Heinlein about Sandy's uniform.)) ) CK & EE contributed also, but I just sat in a corner & listened--I don't know what RH thought of me, but I just couldn't think of anything appropriate to say, until I was on my way home on the subway. 3 hours later, when we broke up, RH mentioned that he heard something about himself winning a Hugo 18 months back (for Double Star) at the Newyorkon, but that he had never gotten it. I headed for the subway, & Sandy, CK, & Emshwiler drove off for L.I.; that month, Kornbluth died, & Sandy was probably the last fan to see him.

But I wonder: Kuttner's hand reaching for revenge from beyond the grave.....?

No use saying anything about this year's Lunacon--it has already been reviewed very extensively elsewhere. The best review I've seen was in the Dietz's Feels #2, written by Christine Moskowitz, if I remember correctly. Another was in Ground Zero #4, which I understand will be in this mailing.

For a long time, the Fanarchists (or Zen-fan) & the other fan in the N.Y. area had lived in a sort of peaceful coexistence, both supporting the Circle & both maneuvering behind the scenes to get control of it. Nothing much was happening at the meetings towards the end, except moaning over the good-old days & making plans which never came true. Plans were in the making for a 3-day Metrocon, when the split between the 2 groups became open, & the Zen-fan, over the others' protests, took over the con & its funds. (I was out of town at the time, but as I understand it, this is what happened. The Zen-fan wanted to convert the circle into a drinking club, so proper plural of Sputnik.

that it would be doing something, & something they like at that, weren't successful, & the split became open. The treasurer was a Zen-fen, the secretary wasn't, & they wouldn't give each other the money or mailing list. The Zen-fen then "called" a "meeting", but sent no notices to the non-Zen-fen, even those whose addresses they knew. They "donated" the club's treasury to the Fanarcon--or Metrocon--& "dissolved" the Circle. Last November, a full meeting of the Circle was called by the others; the Zen-fen attended, but refused to return the money. The Circle was then officially disbanded (this had been, by the way, the best attended meeting in over a year, with 20+ present), the Zen-fen asked (politely) to leave the apartment, & "Metropolitan Fandom" or "Metrofen" organized. (The Zen-fen had already organized their own club several months back, the "New Futurians".) Anyhow, that's the way I understand it, but the only thing I was in on was the tail end of the Nov. meeting.) As far as I know, no other member of the Metrofen went to the Fanarcon, (as it was re-christened) but I figured that since I'd already paid my dollar, I'd try to get my money's worth.

Friday night, I arrived about 8 or 9, & some 30 people were already there, including Larry Shaw & Randall Garrett (who wore a cape & beard). After discussing differential equations with some reader from Jersey who knew nothing about fandom (he'd seen plugs for the con in a promag), I moved on to Lin Carter, & we talked about his articles in Inside. All this time, a punch was being served which consisted of 2 gallons of concentrated fruit juices & water, a bottle of wine, & such odds & ends as lemons & cherries. About this time, I thot I saw Dave Kyle come in the door (which door would fall off its hinges every half hour, & block the exit) & go into the other room, but when I escaped the person I was talking to, I couldn't find him.

I talked to some of the Zen-fen themselves, & they were all excited about some new thrill--getting drunk on cactus squeecings. Ugh!

About this time, the punch ran out, & a new vat was prepared, this time hot, & with the added dividend of 1/3 bottle of gin thrown in. I drifted into a conversation between Dave Pollard & Randall Garrett. RG was, of course, dominant, & he had just started discussing the take-off of Astounding in Inside. Mr. Campbell, he said, has the habit of forgetting things he doesn't like, & RG decided to put this to the test. JWC had been sent 2 copies of the take-off several months back, which included a "short-short" novel, "Turnabout" by "F.Y. Peep". RG claimed to have taken this story, expanded it, keeping the same plot & names for the characters, & submitted it to JWC (having, of course, removed some of the extremities of the original plot). Mr. Campbell, said RG, purchased this story, "Dead Givaway" by (if I remember correctly) "Dave Gordon", & it was to be published soon.

Well, the current (Aug '59) Astounding does have a "Dead Givaway" by Randall Garrett (!), but any resemblance between it & the above is purely coincidental. While the former dealt with a "psionic telephone", (if you make a call on it, you will get an answer, even if nobody is home) the latter dealt with an "abandoned" city which some aliens use to feed humanity knowledge. Apparently, Mr. Garrett made up a rather elaborate joke on the spot for the benefit of his audience of 3.

A little later, after talking to a few more people (including Larry Shaw), I went home, leaving around 12. As far as I could see, nobody was drunk yet (& who could be with the 0.76 proof punch they were serving), altho I've heard stories of what happened later that night, & on other nights. If they're true, I'm glad I couldn't stay.

Next day, I just attended the movie they showed (my whole Christmas vacation was spent catching up with school work); they started with the main feature, "Krak-attit". The picture surprised me, for altho it was made in post-war Czechoslovakia, it had negligible Bolshevik propaganda. As usually happens with pictures shown by Ken Beale, the projector broke down or, more accurately, this time, had to be stopped every 3 minutes during the first reel in order to put the film back in place. Some parts of the picture were rather confusing, & it was unintentionally funny in several places. Too much time has passed since I've seen it to give an accurate review, but it concerned a scientist who discovered an explosive which, when stimulated by a



peculiar radiation, would explode by complete annihilation & conversion of its matter into energy. Only one batch was made, & there never was an explanation as to why all of it, instead of only an isolated chunk, didn't explode the first time the transmitter was turned on.

Two shorts were also shown--the first was the Russian picture (shaded ((as opposed to line-drawn)) B&W cartoon) showing how they intend to explore the moon by remote control. During this picture, I commented to the people next to me that it was almost as bad as the thing made by the Phili SFSec & shown at the Newyorkon, & it turned out that these were Phili fen! (That picture had confused me, because I'd come in late & was therefore too far away to see the captions; also my glasses were all fogged up because of the heat. All I remembered after it was over was that cars had been flying, & people with long noses ran around.) The last picture was an abstract thing--a jazz "Fantasia". While some jazz band & a piano soloist beat it out, all sorts of squiggles danced across the screen. I don't remember its title, but it was made in Canada & I thot it was the best of the 3 pictures.

Well, as much of the Fanarcon I attended, I enjoyed, & if they have another one next year, I might go again. But I wonder how many non-Zen-fen attended the later sessions, & what kind of an affair the costume party was. And as I said, if those stories of what happened later are true, I'm glad I couldn't stay.

I recently saw "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari", & a review is about to be published by Leslie Gerber in Metrofen #2, the groups O-O.

Speaking of the Metrofen, last May I was given the task of sending out meeting notices for the next 6 mo. After typing up & sending out some 30 postcards in June, & again in July, I decided to run the next notice off on the spirit duplicator at work (the same one this rag is being run off on). What didn't go wrong? I only had a little time, so I didn't confirm the information & composed directly on master, making 253½ spelling & grammar mistakes, giving the wrong address for the meeting place, & even giving incorrect information about the speaker (all inadvertently of course--I didn't realize my information was dated).

Since I had a lot of extra space, I also included a synopsis of the minutes of the last meeting (which irritated some members, because I mentioned that our one juvenile member created a disturbance) & some news which hadn't yet appeared in SFT.

As I understand it, there are 5 standard magazine sizes: PB (approximately 4" x 6", such as used by Authentic, the upcoming Strange, & magazines like Quick), digest (5½" x 7", pioneered by Astounding), pulp (6" x 9", such as SFQuarterly, OW, Popular Science, etc.), flat-bed (8" x 11", like the late Satellite & SF+; also referred to as slick, but that term should be reserved for the next size. When ASF used this size, JWC referred to it as "flat-bed", so that's good enuf for me), & slick (the actual size used by most of the women's slicks, 11" x 13½", & by mags such as SatEvePost, Life, etc. I think the only stf mag to use it was Scoops, & I'm not even sure of that.)

When I heard that Fantastic Universe was to adopt the page size designated above as pulp, I mentioned this fact with the other news. Well, all hell broke loose. I don't know how many people told me that it will NOT be pulp size, but will be the size of Mechanix Illustrated. Well then, what the heck is pulp size? Apparently there is much confusion as to the proper designations of magazine sizes. Is the above list correct, or isn't it? (After writing this, I got SFT #318, which also referred to it as pulp-size!)

Oh well, what can you do? (be more careful, I guess.)

Apparently FU will be the biggest bargain on the stands, 96 pulp size (there I go using that word again!) pages of stf & fan-columns for 35¢. This should easily rival Amazing's 114 digest pages in wordage, & Astounding is about to abdicate its position as biggest bargain by adding 15¢ & only 32pp, with 16 of these being ads. (That reminds me--somewhere I heard a rumor that ASF was losing \$5,000 a month, but was in no danger, since Street & Smith can easily underwrite the loss.) For the in-

terested, the 32 page fact section in FU will be an added bonus (to give a total of 128 pp of reading material), & since it costs nothing extra, should not prevent the non interested from buying the mag. And it does deserve fan support, since it's taking it easy on the flying-saucer goo & is the only US mag to support fandom.

#### PLUGS

A 2nd, expanded & completely revised edition of Tuck's Handbook of Science-Fiction & Fantasy has been published. (The first was reviewed in the 8/54 F&SF, 11/54 AstSF, 9/54 Galaxy, the NYTimes, etc.) It is 396 pp long, in 2 paper-bound volumes, & sells for \$6.75. It is "duplicated" (mimeod?) in elite type on 20# paper, 8" by 11" (as compared to the 8x11 letter size used by Don Day in both volumes of his famous index, & 8 x 12 1/2 "legal" size). It has complete information on 23,000 entries, giving such info as bibliographies on most authors & editors, magazine data, complete listing of almost every anthology published since 1900 that contains an appreciable amount of fantasy, publication data on hard-cover & paperbound books, information on fan magazines & fanclubs, etc. 100 sets were bound (more will be after these are sold) & 25 shipped to the US (125 of the first edition of 225 were sold here), & after these are sold, it will take 2 mo., excluding delays in binding, etc, to get more over here. Mr. Howard W. DeVore/4705 Weddel St./Dearborn Mich. is exclusive U.S. distributor.

As almost everybody knows by now, Walter Cole will soon be publishing his Checklist of Science-Fiction Anthologies, which will list stories by title, author, name of anthology, & editor. However, because of mounting production costs (it will be foto-offset, looseleaf bound ((to make it easy to add the supplements to be issued annually)) & with cardboard covers) he had to raise the price. After Oct. 15 everything will go up by \$1.00, so that it will be \$5.00 post publication, \$4.00 if ordered before publication, & \$3.00 if ordered & paid for now. (Publication is set tentatively for Feb. 1960)

Last March I wrote my first letter especially written to get published to an sf magazine. The intention was to slip in a plug for the Metrofens; the letter was published by Amazing, but all reference to the club was deleted.

My address had come out weird, because I had put down, "723A, 45 St./Moses' Slum 20, Kings County, N.Y.", & the middle line was also deleted. I put the address this way because I wanted to get a dig in at a certain man NY is unfortunately saddled with, & can't (apparently) get rid of. You might have heard of him--Robert Moses (& despite his name, he's no saint), the supposedly uncultured BEM who wanted to ban Shakespeare.

I live in the outskirts of a community called Bay Ridge, which Mr. Moses has started to wilfully destroy. He is about to build a one-block wide 12-lane highway (with landscaping several hundred feet wide) thru the community, 6 lanes of which will dead-end at the center & spew forth a large aggregation of vehicles. This is purposely designed to cause traffic congestion which will necessitate the construction of still another highway which was defeated a few years back. He would neither accept alternate routes nor a 6-lane road--he insisted on the 6 extra dead-end lanes; what other motive could this thing have but to revive that other dead project--one of his few defeats. In fact, in a recent article in the NYTimes magazine, he bragged that he works that way! From his behavior, one would think that he was some fiend who gets pleasure from destruction & human misery.

I was very disappointed that some of the 10,000 persons displaced by his latest project didn't belt him with tomatoes at the ground-breaking a few days back. Maybe the D.P.'s will make up for it at the ribbon cutting.

As long as he just built beaches or cleared slums, he was ok, but now that he's trying to throw Indians from their reservation (in upstate NY) or usurp the mayor's powers or make slums out of good neighborhoods (the opposite end of the community, where the highway begins, is one of the best neighborhoods in the city) he must be stopped!

Well, that's the news from Moses' Slum, as I'm sure the neighborhood will come to be called. (The other end of the highway becomes a bridge, & every time a bridge is built, the neighborhood deteriorates--take a look at downtown Brooklyn near the



bridges!)

For the most part, I went along with this year's Hugo nominations. In the field of novels, the only serious contenders were Who? (I wonder if that is really the way a genius thinks) & A Case of Conscience, the former having (in my opinion) a slight edge. That these 2 were the only ones worth considering was the consensus of opinion at the July Metrofen meeting, with a hot debate developing over their relative merits. But wasn't CoC pubbd in '57? Time Killer had what most fen say is missing from stf today--a new idea--but it still didn't compare with the above, & the other 2 didn't even come anywhere near to these 3.

As for the novelettes, I gave it to "Reap the Dark Tide" ("Shark Ship") by a wide margin. I was surprised that "Big Sword" from Astounding wasn't nominated, but of those nominated, "Deskful of Girls" was 2nd best, & "Unwillingly to School" 3rd.

Why the heck wasn't "No Connections" nominated--it was certainly the best short of the year! After that, "Hellbound Train" & "Theory of Rocketry" were just about tied, with "Train" a slight favorite.

And what about Vanguard? Wasn't its one issue far better than all of the other promags combined?

I think Ensh's cover on the 9/58 F&SF was the best of the year, Frost's on the 6/58 Orion SFS the 2nd best, & Ensh's on the one issue of Vanguard 3rd. Wasn't Finley's "Gorgeous" Broad in Satellite" on a recent FU miserable?

Famag--of the 5 nominated, I sub only to one, & have seen one recent issue of one other. The first has gone down in quality, & I hope the editor can get it going again, & the other I didn't like. But didn't the "Kuttner Memorial" one-shot deserve nomination? And what about the satires on ASF & F&SF in Inside?

After the nominations were published, I read every story I hadn't before, with the exception of one (the Burys yarn in Venture, for nothing good could have ever been pubbd in that sex-&-sai-ian rag). This way I read many good stories I would have missed otherwise, & I even changed some of my votes. Which brings up a point--I think the Hugo's are, for the most part, meaningless. In the old days, when every fan read every word published, sure; but today, with most (including myself) reading less than a quarter of the stuff, what does "best novel", etc. mean? This is especially true when nominations are being made, & in the field of short stories.

By the way, take a look at Silverberg's "Eye of the Beholder" in the Sept '59

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20 minutes ago, I found the first issue of still another Beast-mag (or -rag?) on the stands--Journal of Frankenstein--looks better than average for this kind of thing. Ken Beale is on the staff, but I recognise no other name, except Calvin T Beck.

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COFS. Was any better short pubbd this year? If it was, I haven't seen it. Also, the best (in my opinion) cover so far is the one by D.McKown on the June '59 Nebula.

And isn't Lowndes' editorial in the above ish true? I know how little I write to people I owe letters, much less editors.

This Summer, I read at least one issue of every American stf mag pubbd, except for Super-Science (I just picked that up this AII for the heck of it, altho I certainly didn't like the fiction in Monster Parade). There has certainly been an improvement in the quality of stuff pubbd--maybe this thinning out of magazines is a good thing. I remember the junk I'd read the last time I tried Amazing about 3 yrs back, or in Vortex or the 2nd ish of Spaceway (the first had been good); there's no comparison! (The ish of Fantastic that I read was the one with The Idol illd on the cover--I was told by several people at the 3rd annual NY Fan Picnic last Sunday ((15 Aug)) that the previous issue, with Black's "The Hungry Eye" stank.) Next mo., I'll hate to go back to just reading ASF (because of school & lack of time), since so much good stuff is being pubbd elsewhere.

Ir pabalktas dil sia karta!



# PERKUNAS!

## ODDBALL PAPERBACKS:

### 1--"Saucer" fiction

Two real weirdies come to my attention during the last 6 mo., which are neither sci, nor fcy. The only thing I can think of calling them is "saucer fiction".

The first is Theory of Flight by "Jacques Casolet", while the other is Rockets Vs Flying Saucers by "Edwin Parker".

Both are short, poorly written, published by amateur presses, written in the first person, & pretentious (the latter boldly states on its cover "Adult Space Fiction" while the former proclaims "A Theoretical Science Novel" on its title page). Both are on good paper, altho that of the latter is so stiff, that it will probably crack if bent. Both covers are poorly drawn--the former is in color, the latter in B & W. The first has 8 1/2 x 12 1/2 cm. pages & is bound so as to have a square spine along which the pages are trimmed & glued (like FOSP), while the other has 32 12 1/2 x 19 3/4 cm. pages & is bound like the Avon readers & Fantasy Book were, & Science Digest still is.

Saving the best for last, Rockets Vs Flying Saucers (published for 35¢ by "Space Research" ~~1952-1954~~ at 511, 572 St., New York 21, N.Y. in 1958--"any person copying all or any part will be amenable to law. Those who infringe will be shot to the moon.") concerns a man who, failing to get govt. aid, builds a "flying saucer" with the backing of civic-minded investors. Apparently the author thinks that a "flying saucer" is just a piece of magic which will automatically work better than rockets (which don't have enough to push against in space!) & that the way to build one is obvious. Nowhere does he say what makes it fly--apparently, the words "flying saucer" are enough for a true believer (altho a little gibberish is thrown around on pg 24).

On the initial flight they hop from planet to planet, passing many stars (!) at a speed of 162,000 MPH, but have to slow down to 51,000 MPH because of turbulence. The crew investigates a place they named Planet Dinosaur, travels further to Saturn, explores its rings, & moves on to Uranus. They find a temperature of -15,779°F there, but 18 jet motors keep them warm enough to land. They find insect shaped like people, & 6 ft tall intelligent ants. Among other things, they learn that the sun's magnetic field is quite strong--strong enough to hold the planets in their orbits (What ever became of gravity?). Then follow some "scientific" passages funnier than those in The Space Child's Mother Goose, but while it is obvious that the author of the latter knew what he was talking about, the former was funny just because the author (apparently) didn't. On 2 occasions, they see meteors hit & shatter giant supercold planets (Why are there still any left?). Finally, they find a glowing planet they name Electron, but are driven away with magnetic forcefields, & go home. (Why are saucerites so obsessed with magnetic fields?)

In summary, this is a book with a crude & miserable plot, & I have read only ONE story with a cruder writing style. That was "Rock Around the Tombstone" in the first issue (VII/6) of Monster Parade. Every story I have ever read in a science, or even those in Spaceway, Vortex, Science Fiction Digest, etc & those by Lovecraft were better written.

What I wouldn't give to see a review of this book by Damon Knight!

(While copying this onto the master a thought struck me--what if this book wasn't



meant to be taken seriously? Possibly it was published as a joke on the flying-saucer bugs, who would take it seriously. It does read like a takeoff of George Adamski, or another member of his kin.)

The other book, Theory of Flight (published at 35¢ + 5¢ postage by James A. Worley, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The publisher is apparently ashamed of it, for he is listed nowhere on the book; I got this address from Leslie Gerber.), is infinitely better, but still not good.

The main advantages this book has are; it does not have the crude, stilted, writing style of the other, but flows along fairly evenly--the science is not ridiculous for the most part, but only naïve--finally a plausible, even if incorrect, method of atmospheric propulsion is given (altho deep space travel is accomplished by a variation of the old "Cavorite" garbage).

During WW II, lightning flashed past the hero's plane, " destroyed the atmosphere, & thus created a vacuum which pulled his plane --". Therefore, he decided, powerful arcs can be used to propel a vehicle thru the atmosphere.

The explanation of what would drive the ship thru space must be seen to be believed:

"I was told that the Hoesel Corporation, under the supervision of B.C.Kither, built the first plant for creating pure uranium efficiently (U235), and found that by mating U235 and U238 in a propagation of species, the male element, U235 is destroyed in consumption thus liberating the fertilizing agent--ie--the neutron which penetrates the U238 nucleus; thus putting both elements out of existence and giving birth to a new isotope, containing 147 instead of its original 146 neutrons.

"This isotope, being a very rambunctious being, tends to be top heavy and incapable of restoring its equilibrium of protons and neutrons; thus giving birth to a new negative electron (beta particle); a neutron thus converted into a proton.

"Thus has been created the first man made power on Earth named Neptunium, after the planet Neptune. Thus by fission of U235 and U238 a new element or neutron, without gravity to the earth, and attracted only to the sun, had its birth. This action was first discovered by Dr. Lebason in 1940 through X-rays on film, by traces of markings heretofore unknown."

Thus the ship will be attracted to the sun, but somehow, there is no explanation of how--he used this to fly ahead of the earth in its own orbit. Halfway around, he finds the planet Earthal, whose inhabitants capture him. The inhabitants, who are also men, had used up, & thus destroyed, all of their uranium; therefore the attraction between the planet & the sun has weakened, & the planet is slowly drifting away from the sun. Therefore, they intend to take over the earth, & will not release him for fear that he will warn earth. He is, on the other hand, allowed to travel to the vicinity of earth with them in one of their flying saucers (altho they have extensive files on the earth, they are incredulous when he tells them that their flying saucers are considered to be just myths by earth-people.) & drops the manuscript of the book hoping it will be found, & saying that he hopes to try to drop others as time goes by (thus leaving an opening for sequels).

The book ends with: I couldn't help but mention to "Egoel" ((his guard)), "The lack of progress on earth, during the months I have been gone," and "That Earth was still trying to force heavy, gravity controlled planes through the air", a theory that I have long since deemed and proved to be against the laws of nature and science.

In conclusion, this is a sloppily written & published book, but written by an author of infinitely greater skill than that of the former, if the former is not a satire. The typograph on the first looked neat & professional, but on this it was rather poor. The main difficulty was that at one point on a page, the lines would be as far apart as if they had been double-spaced, while on another, they were touching each other.

Altho the book was 84 pages long, there were only 61 pages or parts thereof of text, plus 8 1-page "poems".

All in all, it is not worth 40¢--the average pocket-book is much better.

## 2- Jokes?

Two unusual paperbacks were published during the last 3 months which attempt

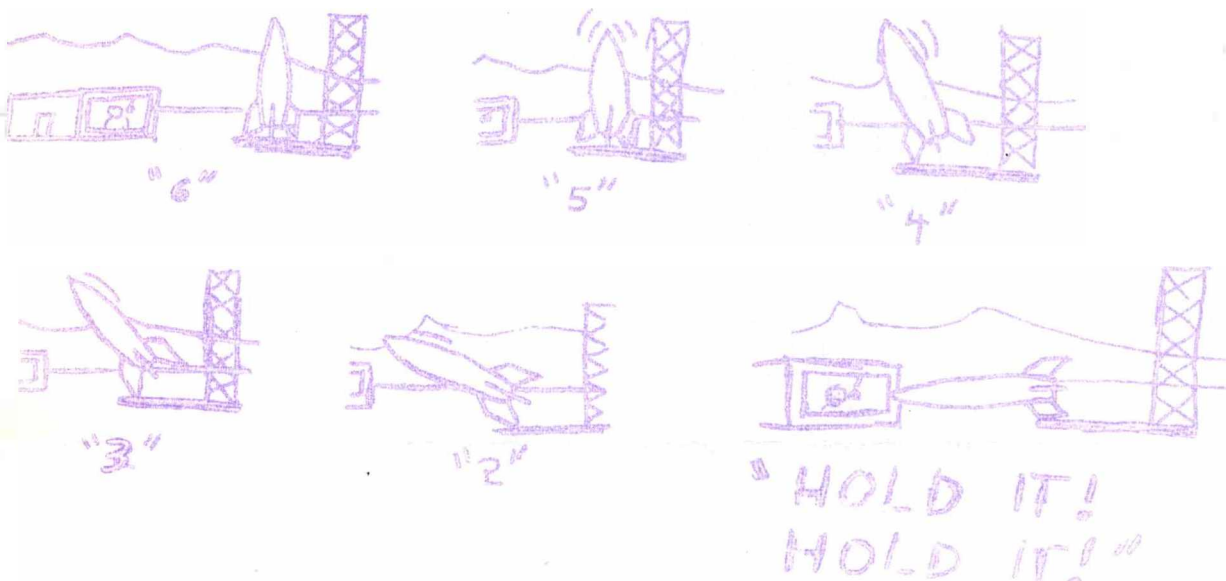
at humor with varying degrees of success. They are Passionella And Other Stories by Jules Feiffer (McGraw Hill, 160 pp ((unnumbered)), 20 x 14 cm, \$1.75) & Space Jokes, Cosmic Cartoons, & Martian Laughs compiled & edited by Lenore Bredesen & Dick Nelson, Citadel Press, 64pp, 21 x 14 cm, \$1.00).

Saving again the best for last, Space Jokes is quite unfunny. It consists, for the most part, of "Jokes" in which Martians mistake juke boxes, fire plugs, drums, etc for people & variations on "Take me to your president". Need I say more?

There were only 2 half-funny jokes in the whole book, & both were cartoons.

The first, on pg 10, shows a rocket standing on the moon, & a sergeant watching a number of privates disembarking. Says the sergeant, "All right, men, let's police up the area." It's drawn by "Thaves", & owned by the Ben Roth Agency.

The other, unsigned, is from Look, & appears on pp 44-5. I can't describe it, but only try to copy it, onto paper:



In summary, this book stinks! If you ever see it remaindered for 5¢, it might be worth it. But NOT 6¢.

The other book, Passionella, consists of 4 cartoon stories, 3 being of interest. The stories, & their lengths, are "Passionella" (50 pp), "Munro" (52 pp), "George & Moon" (32 pp) & "Boon" (22 pp).

This is the only book of the 4 reviewed which is worth the time it takes to read it. None of the stories are "comical", but they are amusing, interesting, & viscerously biting. On the other hand, its attacks on contemporary society are not original, but just a well-done rehash of what the pseudo-intellectuals have already said over & over again. On the other hand, despite the introduction by John Crosby, I don't see what this book has to do with the bearded, dope taking homosexuals who call themselves "beatniks".

Incidentally, this book was reviewed by Herbert Mitgang in the NY Times on 23 May 1959, on page L-23. Portions of the plot summaries below are taken from that review.

The first is about a chimney sweep, Ella, who is automated out of a job, & who has only one opiate left--television. One day the screen goes blank & flat-chested Ella hears a voice say: "Hello, out there! This is your friendly neighborhood godmother come to bring you the answer to your most cherished dreams!" And suddenly, "plink, plink, plink," Ella becomes Passionella, a full-blown film star.

The TV godmother's powers are effective only between the beginning of the "Mickey Mouse Club" and the end of the "Late, Late, Show", more in keeping with our generation than midnight. Her popularity grows, & a man comes into her life. Flip Charming, who wears a leather jacket & is interested only in spiritual things ("You



Big Becket, man? You dig Ionesco?). But she leaves him cold, for she can't act, something no one has ever asked her to do in Hollywood.

And so, she goes to the "Inner Me Acting Studio", where pretty dimpled starlets are taught how to act like "confused juvenile delinquents, disillusioned dope addicts, sensitive gun fighters, misunderstood Nazis." Or, as the school-master says, "the real people". Passionella returns to Hollywood, and decides that she wants to play the role of a chimney sweep. A Time magazine story about her is captioned "Amid the cinders, a busty rose?" She makes the picture, and wins an academy award & her man (who has troubles of his own). They live happily ever after, arms entwined, watching television, & drinking beer.

"Hurro" is the story of a 4-year-old boy who is drafted into the army. The sergeants, the captains, the doctors, the chaplains and the generals refuse to believe him when he says he is only a little boy. ("It is the official policy of the Army not to draft men of 4. Ergo, you cannot be 4.") After much poking at the army, all is straightened out, & he is awarded "an medal, a set of military brushes, and a whole box of toy nuclear weapons."

"George's Moon" is about a man who lived on the moon. He was kind of worried, because he somehow felt that he didn't belong on the moon, & couldn't figure out his origins. He tried doing many things, but each bored him; he tried believing in many other things, but each disillusioned him. Until he decided to believe in earth. Then one day, they began firing rockets at the moon. George was overjoyed; "They're coming for me! This way, Pella's, THIS WAY!" But the rocket didn't even come close. He got to thinking that despite living on the moon all these years, he didn't know anything about it. He felt like a fool; how would he answer all of their questions? Then he got to thinking--when they will eventually land, they'll plant a flag on HIS moon, make fun of him, etc., & he began to hate the earth-people. Finally, when he saw another rocket coming he decided to repulse the invaders. "I don't care how many rocks they have. I know the terrain." And he patiently waited."

The middle 2 stories, in my opinion, were the best. They were actually funny, & not just pseudo-satirical. The last story, "Bomb", is the most vicious of them all. "If you've got a Bomb you're supposed to test it," say the little man representing all the big nations. & after each test, the government scientists issue statements: "This test has added no appreciable amount of radio-active fallout to the atmosphere." Not only does every country possess its own Bomb, but so do some far-out towns, such as Westport, & eventually some mechanically minded children. Of course, all must be invited to participate in the fruitless disarmament conferences. Madison Ave. public relations outfits dream up new slogans such as: "The Big Black Floating Specs Are Good For You!" And, of course, "Speck-Proof Filters" & "Speck-Proof Tranquilizers" are placed on the market. Finally, the day comes for one big Bomb test. "And", says Jules Feiffer, "it worked." End of story, end of world.

In summary, the whole book made interesting reading, & the middle two stories were best. But I think \$1.75 is a little too steep for a mere joke book, even if it does have pretensions. If it were \$1.00, it would be well worth the money. If you want to read it, try the library, or get together with someone else & split the costs.

I also intended to review Tuck's new handbook, but it still hasn't arrived. Well, I'll save that for the next time around.

FDHS!

"THE POLIODE ROLLS WITHOUT SLIPPING ON THE HIRPOLIODE LYING IN THE INVARIABLE PLATE"

and don't you forget that, either!

ABOUT THE NAPA ITSELF

I am satisfied with 5 pages every 6 mo, but wouldn't mind the 10 once a year. Personally, I intend to make every issue a 14 pages, & publish at least semiannually.

I would not like to see the membership permanently limited to 40.

I would like to suggest some automatic procedure, like the following:

Every time the waiting list reaches 25, an election notice be automatically placed in Yap. If the membership approves, the top 10 are to be admitted 2 mailings after the one announcing the election, & everybody's requirements goes up by 10 copies. If the membership does not approve, and if the waiting list is still 25 or more, a new election is to be automatically taken 1 year later.

Let the dues for '59 be \$1.00 (& those who sent in 2 have the extra one credited to '60) and from then on, let it be \$2.00 per annum. Perhaps it should automatically go up by 50¢ for each added group of 10 members, if this is needed to meet costs.

TWONCE(Belle C. Diets & George Hims Raybin): Chris' Corner was interesting, particularly since I was at the LSFA meeting in question. The reference to Hydra Club surprised me, since I'd heard of it when I first became mixed up with NY fandom 4 years back, but never heard it mentioned again the last 3 years. I thought it was long out of existence. (About the same time, I saw it mentioned by Santesson in FU.) George's column was the most fun, but what has it got to do with stff? or even fandom? I hope this is the last of the fueled nonsense--I hope I never see another word about it! Altho I'm not in OIPA, & have never seen an OIPazine other than Feals, I found many of the mailing comments interesting. How about leaving both the OIPA & NAPA ones in in the future, but not counting the wrong ones toward the page requirements?

SUN SPOTS(Bjo): The best in the mailing! The whole thing is kinda inconsequential, but her personality fairly sparkled thru the mico ink. I also especially liked the first 2 illos (self-portraits?) & the cartoon. This is the first thing I've seen by the famous Bjo, & I'm impressed. Sorry to hear about the accident.

GUANO-2 (Art Hayes): No Discuss was of passing interest, but I found the article about hekto's interesting, even if I don't intend to use the process.

THE UPSET APPLE CART (Walter A Coslet): I'm more of a stff fan than a fandom fan myself. I much prefer reading to writing, & I never dreamed that putting out my own rag would take so much time.

HYDRA (Eva Firestone): "Report" was fair; as you've gathered from "Perkunas!" I don't care for flying saucers (but those books at least admitted that they were fiction); you a Zan-fen that you read "Views & Comments"! Fair front cover, nice back one. Wish I could draw!

DEPUSE (Wally Weber): I found pre-convention report quite interesting. I'm not going to Detroit, but I'll probably to the next one, wherever it is. If I do, I think I will vote for Seattle.

CHI SAI ZAI MOKU (Gay Terwilliger): I agree--if a person drops out of N3F, he drops out of Necapa also. MI was a Teenage Monster for the FBI" was quite good. Why is pg upside-down? At first glance, I thought that was lightning reaching out of clouds. "Paul Brandon Address" was fair, but I know ~~the~~ none of the background.

THE SAVOYARD 1 (Pruce Polz): Never was crazy about G'S, altho I don't hate it either. "Commentary" was interesting, & I agree with most points, more or less. Especially about membership. But give the FTCH a chance to operate, & see how it does. Of course, it can't enforce anything, but it can be of help to someone honestly



Wanting to avoid duplication. No, I never did get around to clearing my bills, but I'm virtually positive that it's original, & I will send in a copy of the pg 11 the chairman isn't in Illapa. The clearing house is a good place for neo's to start & I intend to send in a dozen or so copies. The last looks good in theory, but apparently the mass bure doesn't work out in practice (if what you say is true). The letter excerpts were interesting, & brought forth pangs of conscience. I have only answered 1/3 of the welcomette letters I got, & I got them about 4 mo ago. I personally dislike cheesecake, & I think it is the sort of thing OT warned against. Bjo's stuff at least isn't obscene looking, & is both pleasant & humorous but your backover certainly isn't.

DRLAN STUFF (GKarr): The story was just so-so, in my opinion, but I kinda liked Mr. Pantory. Kinda sneaky with those letters tho! The last pg illb was nice, altho I generall don't care for poetry, the poem wasn't bad.

DRUNO'S GARPLAN (Steve Telliver): Was each cover kind-irresist? There was interesting (I like to know who I'm writing to--after all these ap's and ap's--all these five related letters) Flat Brill was very good, & more excellent Bjo illb. This was "The Last Page" inside down? I agree about letters--they just take too much time!

FRANK (Don Allen): I heard some much about this one that I was intending to put in it--they are a long time, but I was quite disappointed. I was the same as is better.

THE SMALL BAME BAME (John Trinkle): Nice illb on pg 3. Good thing you didn't make the color, & you might have been barged up with the others. (After 350) A woman with a broken jaw just wasn't feel like a woman. How sad that is to see the full! Somehow, I just can't find anything to comment on in your page.

GRABER'S GARPLAN (Danie Sheatley) Nice cover, & interior illb. Interesting writing, but I can find nothing to comment on.

PS: I see the end coming, at last! I cut & ran off pg 6, which includes the plug for Cole's Clocks list a few days ago, & things have happened since. He originally intended to sell for 2, 2 1/2, 4, but quickly changed it to 2, 3, & 4. But he didn't catch the error in the notice he sent Miller, & Astounding has 2.50. The price still is 3.00. But he wasn't expecting the plug in AS. He has already gotten a few orders on the basis. Now there is a all bit chance that prices WON'T go up on Oct. 15, if enough orders come in. But he said last night (23 Aug) that unless he makes an announcement to the contrary, prices will go up on Oct. 15, as listed. I've seen the binders he intends to use. They have flexible paper covers & 3 rings are holding the pages. You might say that it is a 3-hole looseleaf binder, but the holes are evenly spaced & the holding wires thinner than the usual looseleaf wire.

Last Sunday, Aug 16, we had the 3rd annual SF fan picnic. Besides yours truly there were 12 persons present: Walt Cole, Dan Dietz, Ray & Rose Trinkle, Joe Casey, Mike Dockmeyer, Frank Balknap (did I get the spelling right? No, George Mike Martin, Dan Blackburn, Pacho Alfonso (Dan's collaborator on Tintat this mailing) & Harriet Kolchek.

It had originally been scheduled for the previous week, but Leslie Gerber couldn't make it, & made an offering to Gnu to bring rain down on us. Then, when it was held the next week, he couldn't make it again, & this time his offering didn't work. Because of the delay, we had a smaller turnout than we expected, but it turned out for the best, for this way everybody was in one discussion, instead of the many little ones which would have resulted if more people were present.

We met at Penn Station in Newark at 12:00, & moved out at 12:40, 10 minutes later than we planned. If there would have been enough cars, we would have gone to

# HALLOWEEN THE LAST PAGES

Esche Lake, but there were absolutely no cars. Therefore we went to Weequahic Park, which is near Newark Airport, & to which public transportation is available.

We arrived at 1:00, & moved 4 benches into a square under a tree, in the corner of which a bare blanket was placed.

We spent a pleasant 5 hours there, & for me they were usefull. Most of the "About Various Things" was written, as was the first book review, at that time, & these were checked for spelling & gramatical mistakes for me by Belle Dietz. (I can't spell for nothing!) In cutting the master, I made the same mistakes again, even the Belle's corrections were right in front of me, also I added a few (uncorrected) paragraphs here & there. At the same time, Joe Casey drew the design on pg. 8 for me, & the design + lettering on page 12. Of course, I made a complete mess of things in transferring things onto master, & next time I'll do better (I hope!).

At one point, Walt Cole & Frank Dietz playfully tried to kill each other with fallen branches, much to Belle's consternation. (Gerber said later that he wished he could have been there & joined in the mayhem.)

Much of the talk centered about plans for what to do at the Detention, by those lucky ones who could attend.

At 6:19 of us boarded a bus directly for NY, while the others headed in various directions.

In all, it was a pleasant afternoon.

Well, I have 13 pages run off now, & I see how miserable some of them came out. There's a piece chipped from the wick, which caused a white streak down most pages, & the illo on page 12 didn't come out at all. Also, 25 copies have page 2 upside down. The machine only has a few drops of alcohol left in it, & I hope it will be enough to run off this page--if it isn't, things'll have to wait till Monday. If I get 10 out, I'll send them off tomorrow AM, & hope they arrive in time for the 2nd mailing.

The chances are good that a professional American stiff mag will soon have a far-  
zine review column. If it comes out, you will probably hear of it in this mailing.  
Here's hoping we too will get another break!

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