

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Science Fiction Times

No. 462 January 1969

News From Japan Some Notes On REH

The 7th Japan Science Fiction Convention (Token-4) was held in Tokyo on August 31 and September 1. Some 250 attendees gathered for the main assembly on the second day where they discussed the usefulness (or uselessness) of fandom, and enjoyed the film ALGONAUTS and a slide show from 2001.

Since returning from my TOFF trip, I was ill during October. The smog in Tokyo was much worse than the famed Los Angeles smog, and hurt my throat. I regret that I am behind in the many things I have to do for both Japanese and American fandom. I wrote a short report on Baycon for our prozine, SF-Magazine, and am writing a detailed report of our travel in the US in my fanzine, Uchujin.

On November 9 and 10 I made a trip to the western part of Japan and showed the slides from my travel in the US at the meetings of the imagineer-Club, and Tentacles-Club. On the 14th, some 20 enthusiasts in Tokyo gathered and I showed all slides I took in the US, taking about 5 hours.

The 8th Japan SF Convention will be sponsored by the Tentacles-Club in Kyushu-district. The consite will be a spa place near Fukuoka. This is the third Japanese con held outside Tokyo. (The 3rd was in Osaka, and the 5th in Nagoya-City.) Date is not set, but is expected to be the last or next to last weekend of August, 1969.

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY closed after a far shorter period than expected because of little sale. (This in spite of the fact that there are only two cinerama theaters in Japan: one in Tokyo and another in Osaka) They are now showing BEN HUR again.

Hayakawa-Shobo Co., publisher of our only prozine SF-Magazine, has started their new sf series. Its English title is not fixed but the translation of the Japanese title means "World's SF Series" (Continued on page 3)

In the letter to H.P. Lovecraft that is printed as the introduction to the Robert E. Howard collection Wolfshead (Lancer, 1968), Robert E. Howard states that he began writing at the age of 15 and first sold when he was 18. In the period that remains until his suicide in 1936, he emerged as an important contributor to Weird Tales and several western magazines, as well as a respected contributor to several other pulps. What he achieved is full status as a professional writer, a difficult goal in itself, made the more difficult since Howard was demonstrably passionately fond of fantasy.

Earlier this year I entered into a project that has been both entertaining and educational. With the blessing of Howard estate literary agent and longtime fan Glenn Lord, I undertook to complete a number of unrelated Robert E. Howard stories. At this writing five have been completed and a sixth is underway. Where, or even if, they will appear, is not known at this writing. But whether they sell now or later or never, the project has had an interesting by-product for me. It has made me realize just how much of a professional writer Robert E. Howard was.

Howard was, as I said, passionately fond of fantasy. It was his forte. Perhaps no other writer could write so purely entertaining a fantasy adventure tale. In the past few months I've read or re-read close to eighty of his tales, including a couple of novels. (As well as some excellent stories by L. Sprague de Camp, Lin Carter and Bjorn Nyberg, based on Howard material.) This has helped to show me a bit of how Howard thought about plots and phrasing and constructing stories -- which was a lot of help with the stories I did, not only in giving me a grasp of the atmosphere Howard created, but to aid me in constructing Howardian plots to complete fragments for which there was no plot

outline. But all of this -- the reading and the writing -- have shown me the extent to which Howard was a very practical man indeed.

Howard had only one real fantasy market in his lifetime: Weird Tales. Strange Tales existed briefly during the early 30's, and to a lesser extent there was the companion magazine to WT, Oriental Stories and Magic Carpet. But essentially, during Howard's lifetime, his only reliable and consistent market was Weird Tales. It's true there were lots of pulps around and it's true Howard sold to them. But outside of fantasy he wrote westerns, sports, and adventure. Good as he was, he never really made the big adventure markets. The sports fiction markets dried up in the early 30's. He did only a few mystery stories and those fantasy tinged. Westerns he was successful with, placing a number of exceedingly well written humorous western stories in some of the top western magazines. (It was primarily humorous westerns which he sold to Argosy.) Thus, as far as the bread and butter was concerned, Howard's pocket-book was concerned with fantasy and westerns. And his westerns, when you get right down to it, are more related to the folk-lore tales of Pecos Bill than anything else.

Howard's imagination perhaps would permit him to write nothing other than fantasies. I do not propose to go into any arguments to prove that his sports and adventure stories were fantasies just because they were larger than life. After all, the definitions of fiction and fantasy merge at significant points.

But imagine the situation. You're a writer whose greatest successes are fantasy adventure. Even the westerns which you do so well are outrageous folk tales, whose protagonists are physically similar to Conan (though not as bright) and about as subtle. You have a good market for westerns. But the bulk of your success is fantasy -- and you have exactly one magazine year in and year out in which to appear.

Well, Howard's solutions were quite practical.

In the first place, he hit those markets available to him as consistently as he could. This is very practical as it means money. This also includes those less reliable markets, such as sports, mystery, and various adventure magazines. After all, while never strong markets, they were still markets.

But that still leaves a problem. What do you do with stories that fail to sell?

Well, Robert E. Howard, as I have stated before, was a very practical man indeed. His first solution to the problem of stories that don't sell was simple: he turned failures into successes.

Take for example some of the Conan

stories:

Now Conan was Howard's most successful series. Kull never really made a good impression -- at least not one good enough to keep the stories selling regularly to Farnsworth Wright, the editor of Weird Tales. My theory as to why this is so is that the stories were frequently almost straight adventures -- at least those which appeared in the King Kull collection (Lancer, 1967) frequently had only a small fantasy content. Farnsworth Wright may have seen it otherwise, of course, as some of the rejected short stories were very pure fantasies. There is also the possibility REH may never have submitted all the Kull stories to WT, being unhappy with the tale. I discount this as unlikely, however. The recent Solomon Kane collection (Red Shadows, Don Grant 1968) indicates that Howard had the same problem. Some of the Kane stories are not fantasies. There is also an indication that Howard first tried selling the stories to Adventure or Argosy.

But then came Conan. Conan was so vivid and overwhelming a character that it was possible for him not to appear until relatively late in the story -- and still carry the story on the strength of his personality. With Conan, Howard had a tremendous character and he could literally get away with the kind of sly tricks that mark the professional writer from the amateur.

For example: the first published Conan story was "Phoenix on the Sword" (WT, Dec. 1932; Skullface and Others, 1946; King Conan, 1953; Conan the Usurper, 1967). In King Kull there is a previously unpublished story called "By This Axe I Rule!" which is quite similar to "Phoenix on the Sword" -- some passages are verbatim. "Axe" was apparently written first, but never published in Howard's lifetime. Ergo, "Phoenix" is a re-write. And the character of Conan plus some added fantasy elements, makes "Phoenix" a better story and one that sold to WT.

If this was not the first Conan story Howard wrote, it was certainly one of the first. In this light, it is interesting to note that Conan's world is a world of very unusual variety. For it suggests that Howard realized the commercial possibilities of Conan from the first. Conan lives in a world that is so pliable that Howard was able to take almost any background and build it into the Conan mythos.

Years after Howard's death, L. Sprague de Camp was able to take several of Howard's unpublished adventure stories -- each set in a definite historical period -- and rewrite them as Conan stories, indicating further that Howard had deliberately created the Hyborean Age for this purpose.

But of course the most important

piece of supporting evidence lies in the stories themselves. It is not difficult to imagine that some of Conan's adventures as a desert warrior are re-writes of historical tales; nor is it difficult to imagine that some previous Howard character had sailed as a pirate in some yarn that ended with Conan drenching the deck of his ship with blood. And it is difficult, in reading the stories of Conan's battles with the Picts, not to imagine that Howard wrote some straight Indian-fighting yarns influenced by James Fenimore Cooper and Robert Chambers.

This is not to suggest that none of the Conan stories were ever begun as Conan stories. Quite a few of them could have begun as nothing else. But it does suggest that Howard had discovered a way of turning failure into success. And I can't help wondering, in view of the collapse of the sports fiction markets in the middle 30's if it might not have occurred to him that Conan would definitely make a good heavy-weight champion of the Hyborean Age.

--Jerry Page

BRADBURY ASCENDS!

On January 11, if the flight went off according to schedule, notorious nonflyer Ray Bradbury went up in the air for the first time! With, among other notables, Col. Lindbergh! No, it was not in the Spirit of St. Louis, recreating the flight to Paris, but in one of America's last 2 operating zeps, the Goodyear blimp. Flight was in the spirit of Herman Melville & Moby Dick, if anything, for the purpose was to fly up the coast of California observing whales "do their thing" for a Jacques Cousteau TV show.

Bradbury has thus at long last relinquished the crown of Anti-Fly Guy #1 to the custody of eye-on-the-sky-but-feet-on-the-ground Isaac Asimov.

DELL BUYS DIAL

Dial Press, a majority-owned subsidiary of Dell Publishing Co., Inc. since 1963, is now a wholly-owned subsidiary. Dial will remain a separate and distinct publishing house, and will also continue to offer the reprint rights of its books on the open market to all paperback houses. Dell now owns Dial Press; Delacorte Press founded in 1963; Noble and Noble, Inc. textbook house, a wholly-owned subsidiary acquired in 1965. Dell's many lines of paperbacks include Dell Books, Laurel Editions, Laurel Leaf Library, and Yearling Books. This puts Dell in the enviable position of being able to publish for every age group and in every conceivable price and format for all distribution channels.

NEWS FROM JAPAN cont. from p.1

ies." About 35 books are expected with such authors as Wells, Verne, Doyle, Gernsback, Taine, Wylie, Stapledon, Asimov, Clarke, Sturgeon, Blish, Simak, Pohl, Van Vogt, Farmer, Aldiss, Ballard Wyndham, Heinlein, etc. as well as some Japanese and Russian authors.

--Takumi Shibano

FROM FRANCE

The private broadcasting station, Europe Nr 1, will soon have an sf program each Tuesday and Friday. It will be produced with the collaboration of Michel Demuth, Jacques Goimard and Alain Doremieux, three good sf-authors.

For collectors, Yves Cariou (2 rue Scaliero, 06 Nice, France) can research and sell books of sf, fantasy, comics, movies, etc.

The cover of Mystere-Magazine 250 (Dec. 1968) has a beautiful photo of Jane Fonda as Barbarella. The covers of Galaxie 55 and Fiction 180 are also erotic. I wonder if Editions OPTA are trying to raise the circulation. The stories are a generally bad quality, so they don't sell for that reason.

--J.P. Cronimus

ROD STEIGER TO VISIT SYRACUSE

Film star Rod Steiger will visit Syracuse University early in February during a week-long retrospective of his work. It is hoped that Steiger's new film, THE ILLUSTRATED MAN can be shown at that time. Following his visit to Syracuse, Mr. Steiger will leave for a year abroad during which he will play Napoleon in the de Laurentiis film WATERLOO.

HAYDEN PLANETARIUM NEWS

The current sky show at the American Museum's Hayden Planetarium in New York is "To the Edge of the Universe." Running January 3-March 3, it demonstrates the nature of galaxies, nebulae, globular clusters and other celestial phenomena. The show seeks to "dramatize the theme of where we earthlings are in the vastness of space and our relationship to other worlds without end.

Beginning January 1, there are no more public evening performances at the planetarium. Evening shows will be given only by special reservation for social, business and professional groups.

Also at the planetarium is a lunar landscape mural, painted by Robert Kane of the American Museum of Natural History. This new mural, 34 x 13½ feet, is a scientifically accurate representation of Moon terrain, with the Earth seen above.

by Morris Chapnick

The day after Boris Karloff celebrated his 81st birthday, 71 friends joined Forry Ackerman in celebrating his 52nd. Forty-nine first went together in a theater party to see the film of the near future, THE SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN, after which the party grew at a dinner at a nearby smorgasbord. After dinner Forry was moved to do something which he had only done once before in his life, at the time of a testimonial dinner for him upon his return in 1951 from London where he was the Guest of Honor at the First International Science Fiction Convention: he walked around the table, pausing beside each friend present, and extemporaneously explained to the group what each person meant to him. Party finally wound up at the "Ackermansion." Among those present were Robt. & Elly Bloch, A.E. van Vogt & wife E. Mayne Hull, Stu Byrne & wife, Mr. & Mrs. Neville, Florence Marley, the Pinckards, the Moffatts, Walt Daugherty, Walt Liebscher, Horace Gold & wife, Prof. Donald Reed (President of the Count Dracula Soc'y), Sam & Florence Russell and many others. A thrilling telegram for Forry was received from New York from Fritz Lang, director of his favorite film: The citizens of METROPOLIS wish you 3 times all that you wish for yourself.

VENTURE REVIVED

Venture Science Fiction Magazine, companion to F&SF is being revived. Edited by Edward Ferman, the first issue will be out sometime in the spring. Each issue will feature a complete short novel of 30-40,000 words, short stories and a couple of features. Ferman plans to use all original work, and will continue the old numbering.

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING

BOSKONE VI - Advertising is being accepted for the Boskone program book, which will be completely offset this year. Deadline for ads is Feb.15. For further info write to: Leslie J. Turek, Convention Chairman, NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch Sta., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

ST. LOUISCON - Andy Porter is professional advertising salesman for the St. Louiscon (program book only). He is mailing out a flyer to publishers with rates, etc. For further info on professional program book advertising, write to: 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

For other St. Louiscon advertising write to Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Park, St. Louis, Mo. 63108. Deadlines for ad copy for progress reports are Feb.1 and June 1. Program book deadline is July 15.

Harlan Ellison has purchased an original by A.E. van Vogt, "Future Value," for Again, Dangerous Visions.

Wm. Nolan's anthology, Sea of Space will be published by Bantam.

A Nebula nomination is expected for Hank Stine's original \$1.95 paperback, Season of the Witch, with Afterword by Harlan Ellison, said to be one of the most brilliant essays Ellison has ever done. Night of the Zodiac will be Stine's second from Essex House, and he has just turned in the first 10,000 words and outline of Starbreed to his agent, Forrest J Ackerman.

Theodore Sturgeon, for an undisclosed but "splendid" sum, is scripting the adaptation of his own prize-winning novel, More Than Human, for filming overseas and release by Universal Studios.

Noel Loomis has scheduled A. E. van Vogt as a speaker at a San Diego university in the summer at the annual writers course addressed last year by Don Wollheim and Harry Harrison, among others.

Dennis Etchison has been commissioned to write the screenplay for Ray Bradbury's time-chase suspense story, "The Fox and the Forest."

Forrest J Ackerman has collaborated with A. E. van Vogt on a story, "Laugh, Clone, Laugh," scheduled for paperback publication in former's collection, The Sci-Fi Worlds of Forrest J Ackerman and Friends.

The Count Dracula Society's Board of Governors has made its selection for Ann Radcliffe Awards (for Gothic excellence) to be tendered the recipients at the society's 6th annual banquet, to be held in April. Last year around 200 at the occasion saw Geo. Pal, Robt. Bloch, A. E. van Vogt and several others receive "Radcliffes," while special President's Awards were given Walter J. Daugherty & Forrest J Ackerman. Winners for '69 include Robt. Bloch (for literature, previously for TV), the TV series Journey to the Unknown, John Carradine for films, and a special award to Boris Karloff "for his entire distinguished career in motion pictures of the Gothic genre."

Larry Niven & David "Trouble with Tribbles" Gerrold have collaborated on a science fiction story.

Ray Russell has done the screen adaptation DUNWICH from HPLovecraft's "Dunwich Horror."

Harry Harrison will feature A.E. van Vogt's "Heir Unapparent" in his second collection of authors' favorites. Horace Gold has also been invited to contribute.

The late E. Everett Evans' weird tale "The Shed" will be published in a

collection by Betty Owen (Frank Owen's widow?) called The Oblong Box and Other Stories of the Unknown for Teen Age Book Club (paperback).

The 3d annual conclave of The Praed Street Irregulars was held in Hollywood toward year's end at a banquet presided over by Sir Alvin Germeshausen. Evening's principal speakers were A.E. van Vogt ("The Adventure of the Pastiche Craftsman"), Robt. Bloch (in absentia; his greetings to the members were read, concluding: "Due to the inspiration of the PSI, I decided to take a correspondence school course in detection. Three more lessons and I will be a full-fledged private detective. Actually, I'm working on a case right now, and I'm down to the last bottle"); Fritz Leiber & FJ Ackerman. Among those receiving investitures as new members were John (IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT) Ball, David (Man from Uncle paperbacks) McDaniel, Horace Gold and, in absentia, Edmond Hamilton & David Kyle. Among those receiving the Praed Penny Award "for distinguished service in advancing the cause of Solar Pons" were van Vogt, Leiber, Ackerman, Philip Jose Farmer, Dr. Donald Corbett and the publisher of Xenon, a new fanzine, who had flown in from New Orleans for the occasion. Also present were old time fans Fred Shroyer & Roy Squires, the Pinckards, the Russells, Dr. Reed & Walt Daugherty.

Philip Jose Farmer is at work on the sequel to The Image of the Beast (Essex original), tentatively titled Sketches Among the Ruins of My Mind. FJA, as himself, will play an increasingly larger role in this and the third in the trilogy.

Wm. Nolan is doing an s.f. anthology for Sherbourne Press, A Wilderness of Stars.

Forrest J Ackerman is doing an anthology for Follett, tentatively titled Here There Be Dinosaurs.

Harper & Row, in a textbook "for disadvantaged 8th grade students," is using a simplified version of Albert Hernhuter's "Texas Week," originally published in Fantastic Universe, later anthologized in Asimov & Conklin's 50 Short Science Fiction Tales.

Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc was recently paid a flying visit by Sam Moskowitz, researching ERB for a new project. Moskowitz, the brief time he was in LA, was able to spend an evening with Robt Bloch & Forry Ackerman. He obtained the second issue of Weird Tales and other rare duplicates from Ackerman on a trade involving a number of mint copies of Spider magazine and several other old semi-sci-fi & fantasy pulps.

A.E. van Vogt's latest sf manuscript is "A Stage of Kings."

David Gerrold has sold a "dangerous vision" to Harlan Ellison for his sequel volume to DV.

The birthday of Prof. Reed, head of the Dracula Soc'y, was celebrated in the Ackermansion with van Vogt, Sir Alvin Germeshausen, Bill & Bev'y Warren and about 40 in all in attendance.

Wendayne Ackerman was surprised by 62 friends with a birthday in her honor at which Celia Lovsky (Peter Lorre's first wife), the Blochs, Nevilles, van Vogts, Pinckards, Walt Daugherty, Warrens, Russells, Farmers, Golds, Tigrina and many others, including Fritz Lang. Wendayne has completed translation of 120,000 words of Perry Rhodan adventures for Ace.

Universal Studios put on a luncheon for 30 members of the Dracula Soc'y in conjunction with Studio's local release of DRACULA & FRANKENSTEIN. After lunch, members were treated to a showing of new prints of the vintage vampire & horror s-f classics. Those in attendance (almost all wearing tuxedos & capes or in makeup as the Frankenstein monster) included President Donald Reed; Oscar-winning cameraman Karl Freund who photographed METROPOLIS and DRACULA and directed THE MUMMY and MAD LOVE; Walt Daugherty; Forry Ackerman in original Dracula dress suit & cape worn by Bela Lugosi; A.E. van Vogt, etc. The event was covered on 5 TV newscasts.

Chas. Nuetzel will probably appear in the 2d issue of the newly revived Spaceway with "The Nova Incident;" Forrest J Ackerman definitely with an updated version of "Earth's Lucky Day," originally written in collaboration with Francis Flagg; and Andre Norton very likely with a previously unpublished short. There will be a new "Letter from Mr. Sci-Fi" and cover by Morris Scott Dollens.

Dick Geis has sold an original s.f. novel to Essex House.

Beckbar paperbacks, a new line of 75¢ pocketbooks, will soon blossom out on the stands with s.f. material supplied by the Ackerman Agency. They will also inaugurate a detective series with a team of telepaths, some of the novels to be written by LA-based authors represented by Ackerman.

E. Mayne Hull's "The Wellwisher," once purchased by John Campbell and scheduled for the 40th issue of Unknown Worlds, will be added to Out of the Unknown when it is published in pocketbook form in Feb. by Powell Sci-Fi, the new So. California paperback outfit.

A.E. van Vogt recently spent the day from 8 to 3 at the Sunny Hill High School in the nearby town of Fullerton (near Disneyland), lecturing to no less than 6 classes where Science Fiction is being studied. The day before his visit, one of his stories had been read aloud from The Far-Out Worlds of A. E. van Vogt and Moskowitz' essay on him had been discussed by the 3 teachers giving the courses. Pocketbook copies of Fahrenheit 451 and 2001 and titles

by van Vogt were in evidence in the classroom. Accompanied by his agent, Mr. van Vogt said, "Since Mr. Ackerman gets 10% of everything I earn, I think it only fair he should do 10% of the talking," and FJA in turn introduced AEV, reminiscing about how the status of s.f. had been when he was a high school student from 1929 to 1932, and how the manuscript of Slan had once been lost by a New York agent for three years. (A screen treatment of SLAN has been written by Allen & Betty Guest, an outstanding Canadian TV team.) FJA was invited back to the campus for 2 talks of 55 minutes duration each to 3 classes at a time in the school auditorium, late in Jan., on the history of science fiction "From Ralph 124C41 to Space Odyssey: 2001."

Ray Harryhausen, world's #1 model maker & animator of cinema creatures such as the Ymir of 20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH, the 7 skeletons of 7th VOYAGE OF SINBAD, the caterpillar of FIRST MEN IN THE MOON, giant bee of MYSTERIOUS ISLAND, etc. (he worked on the Oscar-winning MIGHTY JOE YOUNG)--Ray Harryhausen returned from London to the city of his youth, LA, for the Xmas holidays, and was feted by about 30 of his fans in the "Ackermuseum" from 9 in the evening till 1 in the morning. His next fantasy film to be released will be based on a script, GWANGI, by the late Willis O'Brien, his inspirator, and is called THE VALLEY THAT TIME FORGOT.

Marcel Delgado (builder of the 49 dinosaurs in the silent LOST WORLD), Ray Harryhausen, Ray Bradbury & Forrest Ackerman were introduced from their seats to the audience at a revival of the Conan Doyle prehistoric classic in Hollywood in mid-Dec.

And, to end the column in a blinding burst of significance with not one but 2 announcements of staggeringly stellar importance: Russell John Elder has painted the original artwork for the movie poster of THE GREAT GORGA and Tony Tierney has created the masks for THE MUMMY MEETS THE WERE-JACKAL. I'll bet even JFA didn't know that! Remember, you read it here first.

NFFF NEWS

Joanne Burger is now head of the Tape Bureau and is looking for tape recordings of convention talks and panels. Write to her at 55 Blue Bonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, Tex. 77566.

Richard Delap won the first prize in the 1968 Short Story Contest, and Fred Pohl says if rewritten he would consider publishing it.

Gary Labowitz will continue as editor of the club's letterzine, Tightbeam. And Wally Weber will take over as editor of the official organ, The National Fantasy Fan. --Stan Woolston

On TV

A SCI-FI LAUGH-IN
by Chris Steinbrunner

The "Kraft Music Hall" TV show, which each Wednesday presents a different variety special, tried to mix science fiction with humor last November 13 with an hour called COMEDY 2001 - GIVE OR TAKE A FEW WEEKS. Steve Allen was host -- a perceptive and intelligent man and a some-time writer of science fiction of sorts. But this investigation of laughter in the year two thousand fizzled out before it left the launching pad.

The first sketch, in which two distraught parents (Allen and Julie Harris) cope with the "mixed" marriage of their daughter to a robot (Lynn Kellogg, Shelley Berman), ran a very predictable course...ending with the robot totally disintegrating before its bride. The show worsened with a dull, laughless Bill Dana monologue about astronaut Jose Jimenez III, many years in space. The girl he has stashed away in his capsule was supposed to be a final-curtain surprise...and made the routine seem as old as burlesque. Allen then interviewed a multi-transplant hospital patient and man revived after a thirty-year freeze...not many laughs there. The final skit, in which performers in the wall-sized television of the future jump right into your living room, made very little sense but tried harder.

What was very effective visually -- especially in color -- were the astronomical animations used as transitions between the acts. These lasted only a few seconds apiece, but very pleasing to see. Also pleasing, and stunning, was Lynn Kellogg, dressed completely in pliable aluminum sheeting and her own flowing blond hair, singing "If I Lose This Dream" in an other-dimensional type setting. The most memorable -- and surprising -- musical spot, however, was Julie Harris singing "Lost in the Stars." This love ballad from a South African play, seemed completely at home against its new landscape -- Julie moving ethereally across a lunar crater.

At one point Steve Allen trotted out one of those machines that "sings" by imitating human voice-ranges electronically; together they go into a chorus of some simple little tune, much as one might with Hal 9000 in 2001. In the end, though, the machines did Steve and the show in: COMEDY 2001 was one of the lowest-rated Kraft Music Halls of the season.

SF FORECASTS cont. from p.9

Texas. April. \$4.95
Spinrad, Norman. Bug Jack Barron. April. \$5.95

Calendar of Events

January

- 3 WSFA Meeting at home of Alexis Gilliland, 2126 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20032, at 8pm
- 3 Little Men Meeting at home of member at 8pm. For info: Alva Rogers, 5967 Greenridge Rd, Castro Valley, Calif.
- 4 MASF Meeting at home of member. For info: Jack Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21207
- 5 ESFA Meeting at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St, Newark, N.J., at 3pm. Speaker: Joanna Russ
- 5 Houston SF Society Meeting at home of member. For info: Beth Halphen, 2521 Westgate, Houston, Tex. 77019
- 5 Albuquerque SF Group Meeting at home of member. For info: Gordon Benson, Jr, P.O. Box 8124, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 10 PSFS Meeting at Central YMCA, 15th & Arch Sts, Philadelphia, at 8pm
- 10 Nameless Ones Meeting at home of member at 8:30pm. For info: Wally Weber, Box 267, 507 3rd Ave, Seattle Wash. 98104
- 10 ValSFA Meeting at home of member. For info: Dwain Kaiser, 1397 N. 2nd Ave, Upland, Calif. 91786
- 11 Cincinnati Fantasy Group Meeting at home of member. For info: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. John's Terr, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
- 11 PenSFA Meeting at home of member, at 8:30pm. For info: Mike Ward, Box 45 Mountain View, Calif. 94040
- 11 Minn-STF Meeting at home of Walter Schwartz, 4138 Wentworth Ave.S, Minneapolis, Minn. 55409, at 12 noon. For info: Frank Stodolka, 1325 W. 27th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55408
- 12 NESFA Meeting at home of member. For info: NESFA, P. O. Box G, MIT Branch Sta, Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- 17 FISTFA Meeting at home of John Boardman, 592 - 16th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
- 17 WSFA Meeting, see Jan. 3
- 17 Little Men Meeting, see Jan. 3
- 17-19 CONFERENCE ON FANTASY, DREAMS, AND MYTHS at the University of California. For info: Letters and Science Extension, Univ. of Calif., 2223 Fulton St, Berkeley, Calif. 94720
- 18 MASF Meeting, see Jan. 4
- 18 Lunarian Meeting at home of Frank Dietz, 655 Orchard St., Oradell, NJ, at 9pm. Guests of members
- 18 Chicago SF League Meeting at home of George Price, 1439 W. North Shore Ave, Chicago, Ill. 60626 at 8pm
- 19 Houston SF Soc. Meeting, see Jan. 5
- 21 Fanatics Meeting at home of Quinn Yarbrow, 369 Colusa, Berkeley, Calif. at 7:30pm
- 24 ValSFA Meeting, see Jan. 10
- 25 Omicron Ceti Three Meeting at home of Estelle Sanders, 131 Edmuntson Dr, N.Babylon, L.I., Apt.G-11, at 8:30pm
- 25 Cincinnati Fantasy Group, see Jan.11

- 25 PenSFA Meeting, see Jan. 11
- 25 Minn-STF Meeting, see Jan. 11
- 26 NESFA Meeting, see Jan. 12
- 26 OSFA Meeting in Auditorium of the Central St. Louis Library, St. Louis Mo. at 2pm. For info: Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Pk, St. Louis, Mo.63108
- 26 OSFiC Meeting in Toronto. For info: Peter Gill, 18 Glen Manor Dr., Toronto 13, Canada
- 31 FISTFA Meeting, see Jan. 17
- 31 WSFA Meeting at home of member. For info: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, Md. 20906
- 31 Little Men Meeting, see Jan. 3

February

- 7-8 BALTICONFERENCE 3. For info: Jack Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21207
- 7-9 CONFERENCE ON LITERATURE AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT at the Univ. of Calif. For info: Letters and Science Extension, Univ. of Calif., 2223 Fulton St, Berkeley, Calif.94720

March

- 1 CONFERENCE ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCIENCE FICTION at Harkness Theater, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. For info: Fred Lerner, 98-B The Boulevard, E. Paterson, N.J. 07407
- 2 OPEN ESFA at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St Newark, N. J., at 3pm. Featured speaker: L. Sprague de Camp
- 22-23 BOSKONE VI, at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Boston. GoH: Jack Gaughan. Reg. fee: \$2.00. For info: Leslie Turek, NESFA, P.O. Box G, MIT Branch Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- 29-30 MARCON 4, at Holiday Inn East, 4701 Broad St, Columbus, Ohio 43227. GoH: Terry Carr. For info: Dannie Plachta, 9147 Roselawn, Detroit.

April

- 4-6 BRITISH SF CONVENTION, at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford. GoH: Judith Merril. Reg. fee: \$1 overseas. US. agent: Sam Russell, 1351 Tremaine Ave, Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
- 4-6 MINICON II, at Andrews Hotel, 4th St & Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, Minn 55401. Membership: \$2. Send to: Minicon Registration, c/o Jim Young, 1948 Ulysses St.NE, Minneapolis, Minn 55418. Checks payable to Mrs. Margaret Lessinger
- 11-13 LUNACON/EASTERCON, at the Hotel McAlpin, Herald Sq., New York. GoH: Robert A.W. Lowndes. Advance membership \$2.00. Progress rept. #1 from: Frank Dietz, 655 Orchard St, Oradell N.J. 07649

May

- 9-11 DISCLAVE, at the Skyline Inn, S. Capitol St., Washington, D.C. GoH:

Lester Del Rey. Registration \$1.50 in advance, \$2.00 at door. For info: Jack Haldeman, 1244 Woodbourne Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21212

31-June 2 LUCON in Lund, Sweden. For info: Mr. Bertil Martensson, Magistratsvägen 55 U:101, 222 44 Lund, Sweden

June

6-8 PgHLANGE at the Allegheny Motor Inn 1464 Beers School Rd, Coraopolis, Pa 15108. GoH: Robert Silverberg. Adv. reg: \$1.50, \$2.00 at door. For info Peter Hays, 1421 Wightman, Pittsburgh Pa. 15217

28-29 MIDWESTCON at the North Plaza Motel, 7911 Reading Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237. For info: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. Johns Terr, Cincinnati, Ohio

July

4-6 WESTERCON/FUNCON II at the Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica, Calif. GoH: Randall Garrett; Fan GoH: Roy Tackett. Membership \$3 attending, \$1 supporting. Send to: Ken Rudolph, Box 1, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

Meetings held every week:

Colorado Fantasy Society
Sat. at homes of various members, Denver area. For info: Caz, Box 550 Evergreen, Colo. 80439 (ph.674-4246, local from Denver)

C/SFS
Sat. at homes of various members, at 7pm. For info: Bob Gaines, 336 Olentangy St., Columbus, Ohio 43202

Fellowship of the Purple Tongue
Sat. at home of Phil Walker, Apt.3, 1308 Boissevain Ave, Norfolk, Va. 23510, at 2pm

LASFS
Thurs. at home of Tom Digby, 330 S. Berendo, Los Angeles, Calif. at 8pm.

MoSFA
Mon. in Brady Commons, Univ. of Missouri at Columbia campus, at 7:30pm.

University of Chicago SF Society
Tues. at Ida Noyes Hall on the Univ. of Chicago campus, at 7:30pm. For info: Mike Bradley, 5400 Harper, Apt 1204, Chicago, Ill. (ph.312-324-3565)

Western Pennsylvania SF Association
Sun at 2pm. For info: Peter Hays, 1421 Wightman, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

Have You Read?

Dahl, Roald. "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" Family Circle, Jan., p.78-81+

Greenbaum, Abraham R. Oscar, the Cross Eyed Lion (illus. by Bjo Trimble) Vantage Press, 1969.

"Utah Holds a Conference & Readers Meet Author," pt.II (includes sf bibliog) Top of the News, Jan., p.194-203

Zimmerman, Paul D. "Beauty Under Siege" (Mood Indigo) Newsweek, Dec.30,p.56

Fanzines

BEABOHEMA 2. Frank Lunney, 212 Juniper St., Quakertown, Pa. 18951. 25¢ ea. Irreg.

BSFA BULLETIN 20. Archie Mercer, 10 Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's, Bristol BS2 8BA, Great Britain

EXTRAPOLATION v.10 no.1. Tom Claeson, Dept. of English, College of Wooster Wooster, Ohio. 2x/year. 75¢ ea, \$1.25/year. Scholarly

FANTASY COLLECTOR 120. Camille Cazessus, P.O. Box 550, Evergreen, Col 80439. Monthly. Rate varies according to mailing. Advertisements

GORE CREATURES 14. Gary Svehla, 5906 Kavon Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21206. Irreg. 30¢ ea. Monsters

GREEN DRAGON 5. Tolkien Society of America, Belknap College, Center Harbor, N.H. 03226. Irreg. 10¢ ea, free to members. Tolkien news.

ICENI 3. Bob Roehm, 316 E. Maple St., Jeffersonville, Ind. 47130. Bimonthly. 25¢ ea, 5/\$1.00.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FANTASY ART EXHIBITION BULLETIN 3. Bjo Trimble, 417 N. Kenmore Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004.

THE LEGAL RULES. Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Dr., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534 10¢ ea or 2-6¢ stamps. Rules of the World Science Fiction Society.

LIAISON BIBLIOPHILIQUE & ARTISTIQUE 30. Revue LBA 3, Rue de Casablanca, Paris XV, France. 4Fr50 ea. 3x/year

LOCUS 16. Charlie & Marsha Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10457. Bi-weekly. 8/\$1, 16/\$2. News

MANDALA 3. Tim Hildebrand, 818 Terry Pl., Madison, Wis. 53711. Literary

NEWFANGLES 17. Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricke Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060. Monthly. 10¢ ea. Comics news.

OSFAN 43. Hank Luttrell, 2936 Barrett Sta. Rd., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122. Monthly. 15¢ ea, 12/\$1.50. News.

PEGASUS 3. Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, Tex. 77566. Irreg. General & bibliog

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW 28 (formerly PSYCHOTIC). Dick Geis, P. O. Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403. Bimonthly. 50¢ ea, \$3/year

SLAN 13. Peter Skodzik, 1 Berlin 19, Bernburgstrasse 17, W. Germany. Weekly (in German)

SYNCOM 3. Jeff Evans, 11290 SW 43rd Lane, Miami, Fla. 33165

TNFF v.28 no.5. Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906. Monthly. N3F o/o

TOMORROW AND... v.1 no.3. Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Dr., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534. 8x/year. 50¢ ea, 8/\$3.50. Univ. of Chicago SF Society

WSFA JOURNAL 62. Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906. Monthly 35¢ ea, 3/\$1, 7/\$2, 12/\$3. WSFA o/o

S F Forecasts

FAMOUS SCIENCE FICTION -- Spring 1969

Novelettes

THE FORGOTTEN PLANET by Sewell Peaslee Wright

THE DERELICT OF SPACE by Ray Cummings

Short Stories

A GLANCE AHEAD by John Kendrick Bangs

SPACE STORM by Harl Vincent

DEATH FROM THE STARS by A. Rowley Hilliard

Features

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS, FORGOTTEN MASTER by Richard A. Lupoff

THE BORDERS OF "SCIENCE FICTION" by Robert A.W. Lowndes (editorial)

F&SF -- March 1969

Novelettes

CALLIOPE AND GHERKIN AND THE YANKEE

DOODLE THING by Evelyn E. Smith

THE DAY THE WIND DIED by Peter Tate

Short Stories

PARTY NIGHT by R. Bretnor

AFTER ENFER by Philip Latham

THE LEFTOVERS by Sterling E. Lanier

AN AFFAIR WITH GENIUS by Joseph Green

BENJI'S PENCIL by Bruce McAllister

Science

JUST RIGHT by Isaac Asimov

Cover by WALOTSKY for "Calliope and Gherkin and the Yankee Doodle Thing"

GALAXY -- February 1969

Novelettes

TO JORSEEM by Robert Silverberg

GOLDEN QUICKSAND by J.R. Klugh

KENDY'S WORLD by Hayden Howard

Short Stories

NOW HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD by Algis Budrys

THE WAR WITH THE FNOOLS by Philip K. Dick

OUR BINARY BROTHERS by James Blish

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IF -- February 1969

Serial

SIX GATES TO LIMBO by J.T. McIntosh

Complete Short Novel

TRIAL BY FIRE by James E. Gunn

Novelette

BESIDE THE WALKING MOUNTAIN by Burt Filer

Short Stories

PRAISEWORTHY SAUR by Harry Harrison

THE DEFENDANT EARTH by Andrew J. Offutt

THE FIRE EGG by Roger F. Burlingame

Features

GUEST EDITORIAL: The "Hoax" Story by H.L. Gold

AT BAY WITH THE BAYCON: Convention report by Robert Bloch

AUTHORGRAPHS: Interview with Harry

Harrison

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MAGAZINE OF HORROR -- May 1969

Serial

THE DEVIL'S BRIDE by Seabury Quinn

Stories

SPAWN OF INFERNO by Hugh B. Cave

THE SWORD AND THE EAGLE by David H. Keller MD.

THE HORROR OUT OF LOVECRAFT by Donald A. Wollheim

THE LAST WORK OF PIETRO OF APONO by Steffan B. Aletti

AT THE END OF DAYS by Robert Silverberg

Cover by FINLAY

FEBRUARY ACE RELEASES

Brunner, John. The Jagged Orbit. 38120 95¢

Brunner, John. Meeting at Infinity. 52400. 60¢

Chandler, A. Bertram. The Rim Gods/Laurence M. Janifer & S.F. Treibich. The High Hex. 72400. 60¢

Van Vogt, A.E. The Silkie. 76500. 60¢

Verne, Jules. For the Flag. 24800. 60¢

JANUARY PAPERBACK LIBRARY RELEASES

Adler, Allen. Terror on Planet Ionus. (reissue) 63-048. 60¢

Ready, William. Understanding Tolkien and The Lord of the Rings (reprint) 64-036. 75¢

Ross, Marilyn. The Secret of Barnabas Collins (Dark Shadows) 62-039. 50¢

Tubb, E.C. S.T.A.R. Flight. 62-009. 50¢

JANUARY PYRAMID RELEASES

Ballinger, Bill S. The Lopsided Man. X1938. 60¢

Tabori, Paul. The Cleft. X1940. 60¢

Tabori, Paul. The Green Rain (re-issue) X1941. 60¢

COMING FROM WALKER

Creasey, John. The Flood (reprint) Jan \$4.50

Brunner, John. The Whole Man. Jan. \$4.50

White, James. The Watch Below (reprint) Jan. \$4.50

Wyndham, John. The Midwich Cuckoos (reprint) Jan. \$4.50

Pohl, Frederik and C.M. Kornbluth. The Space Merchants (reprint) Feb. \$4.50

Anderson, Poul. Brain Wave (reprint) Feb. \$4.50

McCaffrey, Anne. Dragonflight (reprint) Feb. \$4.95

Blish, James. A Case of Conscience (reprint) March. \$4.50

Silverberg, Robert. Thorns (reprint) March. \$4.95

Leiber, Fritz. A Specter Is Haunting (Continued on page 6)

Bibliomania

NEW HARDCOVERS

- Blair, Peter. Coming of Pout (juv fty)
Little Brown, Jan. \$4.50
- Brande, Marlie. Nicholas (juv fty, tr)
Follett, Sept. 1968. \$3.50
- Clement, Hal. Small Changes (coll)
Doubleday, Jan. \$4.95
- Dickson, Gordon R. Spacepaw (juv)
Putnam, Feb. \$3.75
- Earley, George W., ed. Encounters With
Aliens: UFOs and Alien Beings in
Science Fiction. Sherbourne, Nov.
1968. \$4.95
- Halacy, D.S. Jr. Century 21: Your Life
in the Year 2001 and Beyond (juv nf)
Macrae Smith, Nov. 1968. \$3.95
- Mazzeo, Henry ed. Hauntings: Tales of
the Supernatural (juv) Doubleday,
Nov. 1968. \$4.50
- Walters, Hugh. The Mohole Menace (juv,
reprint, orig: Mohole Mystery) Cri-
terion, Jan. \$3.95

NEW PAPERBACKS

- Alter, Robert E. Path to Savagery.
Avon S380, Dec. 60¢
- Asimov, Isaac. Foundation and Empire
(reissue) Avon V2236, Dec. 75¢
- Boardman, Tom Jr., ed. ABC of Science
Fiction (reprint) Avon V2258, Dec.
75¢
- Budrys, Algis. Who? (reprint) Lancer
73-810, Dec. 60¢
- Creasey, John. The Depths (Dr. Palfrey
sf, reprint) Berkley Medallion X1613
Dec. 60¢
- The Terror (Dr. Palfrey sf, reprint)
Berkley X1639, Dec. 60¢
- Crispin, Edmund. Buried for Pleasure
(fty mystery, reprint) Pyramid X1937
Dec. 60¢
- DeCamp, L. Sprague. Goblin Tower. Pyr-
amid X1927, Dec. 60¢
- DeCamp, L. Sprague and Fletcher Pratt.
The Incomplete Enchanter (fty, re-
issue) Pyramid X1928, Dec. 60¢
- Gaskell, Jane. The City (fty, reprint)
Paperback Library 64-019, Nov. 75¢
- Hamilton, Edmond. Starwolf #3: World
of the Starwolves. Ace G766, Dec.
50¢
- Harrison, Harry. The Technicolor Time
Machine (reprint) Berkley X1640.
Dec. 60¢
- Heinlein, Robert A. Waldo and Magic,
Inc (reprint) Signet T3690, Dec. 75¢
- Laumer, Keith. It's a Mad, Mad, Mad
Galaxy (coll) Berkley X1641, Dec.
60¢
- Leinster, Murray. Land of the Giants
#2. Pyramid X1921, Dec. 60¢
- Lupoff, Richard A. Edgar Rice Burr-
oughs: Master of Adventure (reprint)
Ace N6, Dec. 95¢
- Lurie, Alison. Imaginary Friends (re-
print) Avon N191. 95¢
- Petaja, Emil. And Flights of Angels

- (nf, Hannes Bok) Bokanalia Memorial
Foundation, 1968. \$5.00
- Plato. The Republic (Utopia) Airmont
Classic Ser. CL172, 1968. 95¢
- Reynolds, Mack. Code Duello / John M.
Faucette. Age of Ruin. Ace H103,
Dec. 60¢
- Robeson, Kenneth. The Annihilist (Doc
Savage 31) Bantam F3885, Dec. 50¢
- Saberhagen, Fred. Brother Assassin
Ballantine, Jan. 75¢
- Schmitz, James H. Demon Breed (orig:
The Tuvela) Ace H105, Dec. 60¢
- Smith, Edward E. Subspace Explorers
(reprint) Ace H102, Dec. 60¢
- Van Vogt, A. E. Wizard of Linn (re-
print) Macfadden 60-366, Dec. 60¢
- Sorgensen, Ivar. Whom the Gods Would
Slay. Belmont B50-849, Dec. 50¢
- Wilson, Colin. The Mind Parasites (re-
print) Bantam F3905, Dec. 50¢

A GROUP FOR SERIOUS COLLECTORS

Fans who are specialists and/or collectors (Tolkien, Cabell, Mundy, etc) may be interested in joining the Private Libraries Association, an international book collecting group. The Association is mainly collectors of old books and books about books, private presses are strongly represented. Book dealers, mainly British, send one all sorts of interesting things. The general fan wouldn't want to join but if one is a serious collector in any field it's worth it -- it's a friendly group and every now and again one gets word that something one collects has been found in a collection of books on gardening and would one be interested in an old Algernon Blackwood, paying postage of course. The journal is dull most of the time only because most of the members are the silent sort. A readable article on sf would not be rejected if it concentrated on bibliography.

Membership is \$8.00 per year. Write to: Gp. Capt. R. D. Pratt (Rtd), Flt 3, 58 Beach Rd., Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, England.

--J.B. Post

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NEEDED: The address, or agent, of Phyllis Sterling Smith. Contact George W. Earley, 9 Hiram Lane, Bloomfield, Conn. 06002

WHAT IS THE SF NEW WAVE? With great respect to SFT's own comments, you can find most of the answers in SPECULATION. Moorcock, Aldiss, Disch and others give their view (with the inside on New Worlds), and it's British, by god! 3 for \$1.00 from Peter Weston, 81 Trescott Road, Birmingham 31, UK

TANSTAAFL BUTTONS FOR SALE: 25¢ each, plus 6¢ per order for postage. SFT, Box 216, Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

They Sought Adventure

by Richard Brisson

THE JEWELS OF APTOR by Samuel R. Delany
Ace G706, 1968. 159 p. 50¢

DRAGONFLIGHT by Anne McCaffrey. Ballantine U6124, July. 309 p. 75¢

SWORDS IN THE MIST by Fritz Leiber. Ace H90, Sept. 190 p. 60¢

Swords from the north, south, and west. Three novels, from three writers about three very different worlds. Two of the novels are borderline cases, akin to the science-fantasy of Jack Vance's The Dying Earth; and as such I feel justified in reviewing them here.

If Sam Delany is going to write a s&s novel, as I've read elsewhere, he will have to go some to better his recently expanded quest for The Jewels of Aptor. The heroes of the book are Geo and Urson, undoubtedly direct descendants of Fafhrd and the Mouser -- Geo being small, lithe, a wit, scholar, and poet; Urson, huge and brawling, a sailor and swordsman. There is also Snake, a four-armed mutant, one of the freaky people that seem to thread their way through all of Delany's books.

The time is 1500 years in the future after the Great Fire, a nuclear disaster which destroyed much of civilization; gave rise to mutants, necrophages, Lovecraftian sea-beasts, and other exotic creatures; left science in decay, to flower and flourish again as wizardry; and reverted civilization's ruins to a Greco-Roman era.

The quest of the trio is to steal the third jewel of Aptor and rescue Argo Incarnate. Their travels take them from the civilized continent of Leptar to the jungle depths of Aptor, where most of their escapades take place.

This was Delany's first book, and the rawness of youth shows through at times. Some of the dialog is trite and cute, some passages are overly melodramatic, there is a tinge of van Vogtian complexity from overreaching his talents. However, there is also rich prose, thick with lush beauty, deftly drawn characters; a book filled with crude power. It will be very interesting indeed to see the fruits of Delany's talents should he write a s&s novel!

The second novel on hand was sired by a strange parent -- the patent office perfection of the pages of Analog. It seems that Campbell's sense of wonder didn't die when Unknown folded in the forties. Dragonflight by Anne McCaffrey is divided into four parts; the first, "Weyr Search," won a Hugo at the Baycon, and the last three originally appeared in Analog as "Dragonrider."

The action takes place on Pern, a distant world originally colonized by Earthman, now long forgotten. The Dragonmen are the protectors of Pern which is periodically ravaged by spores from a planet which approaches Pern every 200 Turns. It has been 400 Turns since the last ravaging and Dragonkind has fallen into disrepute. The story deals with F'lar and Lessa's attempts to prepare the planet to meet the challenge of the coming menace.

Sounds interesting on the surface, but even so the novel fails to stand on its own. The style is cut and dried in most places; the author is too interested in the little things her characters do and neglects the sweep and grandeur her novel should possess. The book is too long and could have been trimmed considerably. Cutting out the excess could have made for a tighter, more closely knit story. McCaffrey's characters are two-dimensional, look at them sideways and they disappear. The liveliest aspect of the book is the dragons who are telepathic and possess the ability to go between, a form of teleportation through hyperspace. Mnemeth, F'lar's gigantic bronze is the most captivating of the species; he proves himself quite a wit, the only one with wits it seems.

I've saved the best for last. Swords in the Mist, the latest volume on the Nehwonian highjinks of Fritz Leiber's heroic duo, Fafhrd and Mouser, is upon us like a fantastic whirling dervish. The saga continues its way through five stories and a short novel that span two worlds -- demon-fraught Nehwon and legend-filled Midgard. The stories deal with the twain's encounter with a sect of devil worshipers, a bout with the many and insidious ways of organized religion, and a wild romp 'neath the sea.

The shorts, however, are mere teasers, a veiled look at the sorceries and enchantments that follow in Adept's Gambit. Each re-reading of this marvelously complex novel reveals more of the skill and mastery Leiber exhibits over the King's English. A tireless taskmaster, Leiber chooses each word with care, blending them into subtle hints, shaded nuances, and colorful dialog, which make these tales so enjoyable.

There is a fairy tale atmosphere which permeates the wanderings of the Mouser and Fafhrd that wistfully recalls childhood dreams of glorious sword fights, dragon slayings, and high adventure. Each episode is a skillfully wrought tapestry -- embroidered with misty sorceries and dream quests, lavished with the detail and beauty of classic myths, and laced with acerbic wit and finesse. By Odin's one eye and Ningauble's seventh, get it!

Lilliputia

by Marylou Hewitt

With the holiday season finally over, I find I am much behind in my reviewing. Since my choices had to be narrowed down a great deal, I have finally chosen these four for your consideration.

THE HOUSE OF THE NIGHTMARE AND OTHER EERIE TALES

Edited by Kathleen Lines
Farrar, Straus, 1968 (orig: Bodley Head, 1967)
239 p. \$3.95 26 stories
Age level: 12-16

The House of the Nightmare is a good collection of ghost stories selected from the literature of the last half-century. Although the majority of stories are products of each author's imagination, there are seven real tales of people who have experienced the supernatural. Kathleen Lines has done an excellent job of selecting the stories and has truly given us a book which is hard to put down.

THE NIGHT THEY STOLE THE ALPHABET

By Sesyl Joslin
Illus. by Enrico Arno
Harcourt Brace, Sept. 1968
190 p. \$3.95
Age level: 8-12

The adventures of Victoria in pursuit of three robbers who stole the letters of the alphabet from her bedroom wallpaper and the pages of her books are strangely reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland but will never measure up to that great classic. The search for the missing letters takes her to a strange land inside a mountain where she meets up with many characters, some of whom speak with a Cockney accent. Although written with much intended humor, I somehow feel it will escape the children for whom it was intended.

THE REBEL OF RHADA

By Robert Cham Gilman
Harcourt Brace, 1968
192 p. \$3.75
Age level: 12-16

The Rebel of Rhada is an excellent beginning to a proposed trilogy set 10,000 years in the future. Kier, a star king from the outer edges of the universe, answers a summons to Earth and the presence of the Galacton, or emperor. Here he finds treachery, treason and the plotted downfall of the Second Stellar Empire. The restoration of peace to this curious civilization where space travel is a religion based on ritual but without knowledge, and scientific curiosity is equated with sin, makes exciting reading for teen-

agers and adult fans too.

THE OWL'S NEST

By Dorothy Gladys Spicer
Illus. by Alice Wadowski-Bok
Coward McCann, 1968
128 p. 7 stories \$3.86
Age level: 8-12

The Owl's Nest is an excellent collection of folktales from Friesland, the most northerly and colorful province of Holland. Mrs. Spicer has visited this little known land and recorded in her own way stories which have been passed down by word of mouth for many generations. Elves, wishes to be made and encounters with the devil are only part of the seven legends which definitely should not be missed.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR REVIEWERS

by J.B. Post

The purpose of a review is to enable the reader of the review to decide whether the book reviewed is worth an attempt at reading. No review is ever a substitute for reading the book. A reviewer should answer the following questions, not necessarily in this order:

what is the story about?
what did I like about the book?
why?
what didn't I like about the book?
why?

It does no good to speak of the smooth flowing prose that swings with poetic rhythm unless one also mentions that the story in question concerns Joe Doaks, wealthy & handsome explorer, who discovers a race of green dwarves in caves under the Tarim Basin. Most readers are more interested in knowing that Clutz, the Barbarian, again defies Hotep-Ra, the Swillerian magician; than in knowing how the story is constructed from a literary viewpoint. Don't neglect to mention that the author, Giovanni Schwartz, is semi-literate, however. A review is not to show how clever the reviewer is, though this can be done after the essentials are out of the way. There is also a very strong temptation, when one is impressed with a story, to ramble on about how great the story is. Please: tell the reader why it is great. And don't forget that a book worth buying in paperback may not be worth buying in hard covers. Durability of the binding and readability of the type are worth a mention only if they are unusually good or unusually bad. Illustrations are worth noting.

Before submitting a review, read it over. It is an acceptable review only if someone who has not read the book can tell generally if they would or would not care to read the book.

Reviews

ASYLUM EARTH by Bruce Elliott. Belmont 50-819, April, 1968. 160 p. 50¢

There is no single thing that goes into making a book bad writing, but rather a combination of things like stilted dialogue, having characters explain in several dull pages why the world is the way it is. In short it is just like Heinlein without any of the Heinlein imagination.

To top that off, he writes his entire book in an inferior imitation of Heinlein; and then at the end puts in a little twist that makes the whole book totally meaningless. If the author had left off the ending, it could have been merely a bad piece of work. But as it comes out, it is a total waste of time. Any excitement the book does manage to generate (not much) is brought to a shuddering halt by an ending in which the rest of the book is totally frivolous. After reading it I wonder how the people at Belmont select their books -- certainly not on the basis of consistency. --D.T. Malone

MEN WHO DIE TWICE by Peter Heath. Lancer 73-783, Sept. 160 p. 60¢

Peter Heath has two previous Lancer books to his credit, Assassins From Tomorrow and The Mind Brothers. On reconsideration, however, "credit" is not the correct word, for his previous appearances were bombs. So, with two strikes against him, the redoubtable Mr. Heath tries again.

The time is today and strange things are happening. There are mysterious disappearances, the threat of a worldwide biological extermination, sinister characters plotting against our welfare and only one, repeat one, man who can save the situation...

Well, sports fans, with a count of one and two, Heath...strikes out. --D.C. Paskow

THE PEOPLE TRAP by Robert Sheckley. Dell 6881, Dec. 204 p. 60¢

This is the first collection of stories by Robert Sheckley to appear in a while and features as the lead story what is probably the depiction of the terrors of overpopulation in the short story form: "The People Trap."

Most of the stories in this volume are at least ten years old, being taken for the most part from Galaxy. Of the 14 stories, "The People Trap," "Victim From Space," "Odor of Thought," "Shall We Have a Little Talk?" and "Diplomatic Immunity" are fine indeed, with the others ranging from very good to fair.

In all, a nice little package.

--D.C. Paskow

INVADERS FROM EARTH by Robert Silverberg. Avon S365, July. 142 p. 60¢

This is not, repeat not, a new story by Robert Silverberg. It is, instead, a reprint of a 1958 Ace paperback (D286) and why Avon has resurrected it is a mystery to me.

In the not too distant future Earthmen have extended their interests outward to other planets. Society is corrupt and conscience is old-fashioned if not altogether obsolete. Man's motivations, however impure, are "sold" to the general public by professionals, super ad-men. Ted Kennedy is one of these professionals. Unfortunately, Kennedy is not as aloof as his fellow ad-men and, when a truly monstrous act is in the works, an act which would involve a program of species genocide, Kennedy balks and is caught between two hells.

Silverberg is always competent in portrayals of ultra-cynical societies and this novel is no exception. It does, however, show signs of age and, in my opinion, was better read in 1958.

--D.C. Paskow

STAR WELL by Alexei Panshin. Ace G756, Oct. 157 p. 50¢

THE THURB REVOLUTION by Alexei Panshin. Ace G762, Nov. 159 p. 50¢

These are the first in a promised series of Anthony Villiers adventures by the versatile Mr. Panshin, whose Rite of Passage was an astonishingly good first novel.

Anthony Villiers is a rogue who might well be a futuristic combination Simon Templar/John Mannering/Travis McGee. With his companion Torve the Trog ("bulge-eyed alien, illegal wanderer, vegetarian by principle") Villiers manages to find trouble with little difficulty.

In Star Well ("Crossroads of the Flammarian Rift") Villiers is knee-deep in intrigues not of his own making but which threaten to be the death of him. Panshin has populated Star Well with enough interesting characters for a dozen novels, each of them with a secret all his (its?) own, and their interaction with Villiers makes this a fun book.

The Thurb Revolution continues the adventures of Villiers and his faithful Torve on the planet Pewamo. This time, however, it is Villiers himself who may be his own undoing. Someone is out to kill Villiers and not even Torve ("riding his speedy red tricycle on obscure missions") may be able to prevent the assassin in Villier's mysterious army from succeeding in his mission... Boy!

Coming soon: Anthony Villiers #3: Mask World. --D.C. Paskow

MYSTERY UNDER THE SEA by Kenneth Robeson (Doc Savage 27) Bantam F3755, Aug. 120 p. 50¢

THE DEADLY DWARF by Kenneth Robeson. (Doc Savage 28) Bantam F3877, Oct. 119 p. 50¢

THE OTHER WORLD by Kenneth Robeson. (Doc Savage 29) Bantam F3877, Oct. 119 p. 50¢

THE FLAMING FALCONS by Kenneth Robeson. (Doc Savage 30) Bantam F3897, Nov. 118 p. 50¢

"To the world at large, Doc Savage is a strange, mysterious figure of glistening bronze skin and golden eyes. To his amazing co-adventurers -- the five greatest brains ever assembled in one group -- he is a man of superhuman strength and protean genius whose life is dedicated to the destruction of evil-doers."

So much for the question of who Doc Savage is. As for his "amazing co-adventurers," they are:

William Harper Littlejohn, "The bespectacled scientist who was the world's greatest living expert on geology and archeology."

Colonel John Renwick, "Renny, his favorite sport was pounding his massive fists through heavy, paneled doors."

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Blodgett Mayfair, "Monk, only a few inches over five feet tall, and yet over 260 pounds. His brutish exterior concealed the mind of a great scientist."

Major Thomas J. Roberts, "Long Tom was the physical weakling of the crowd, but a genius at electricity."

Brigadier General Theodore Marley Brooks, "Slender and waspy, he was never without his ominous, black sword cane."

And there, straight from the Bantam Rooster's mouth, you have Doc Savage and his amazing crew. The good doctor romped through 181 issues of his own magazine, his adventures dating from March 1933 to the summer of 1949. Shortly after the Tarzan revival proved popular, Bantam decided to take the plunge and issued a package of three Doc Savage novels. Another trio followed and obviously met with no small measure of success, for Bantam has been issuing one Doc Savage novel a month since that time and now there is even a boxed set of eight Doc Savage novels available as well as a full color poster

To the novels. Mystery Under the Sea concerns the adventures of Doc and Company as they attempt to unravel the mystery surrounding Captain Flamingo, a mean, wicked, evil, bad and nasty sort who holds them captive lest they solve "the bloody enigma of TAZ." The Deadly Dwarf is Cadwiler Olden and he gives Doc a run for his money as Doc tries to defeat him before the entire world is

brought to its knees by Olden and his giants and the "massive, devastating energy force" REPEL (and just try to guess what that does). The Other World is where Decimo Tercio apparently comes from. At first he is merely an oddity; soon, however, his "gifts" threaten world security as Doc is lured "into the most nightmarish escapade of his danger-studded career." The Flaming Falcons are the "blood birds of Indo-China" who prefer human flesh to bird seed. They seem to come from nowhere and disappear "in a searing flash of white flame." Their behavior is a no-no in polite society, hence Doc Savage and Company to the rescue.

To read Doc Savage is to give one's "willing suspension of disbelief" a brutal trial. Those willing to put their cultured literary tastes aside will discover, as I did, a fun time with the amazing adventures of Doc Savage and his crew.

--D.C. Paskow

DIMENSION OF MIRACLES by Robert Sheckley. Dell 1940, June. 190 p. 50¢

The madness present in most of Robert Sheckley's stories (Mindswap, The Tenth Victim) is again present in this current offering. I may as well state now that this is not an impartial review: I find almost all of Sheckley's characters fascinating.

A portion of this novel (odyssey?) appeared in the March 1968 issue of F&SF as "Budget Planet." The novel itself is more of an exercise for Sheckley's creative abilities than a straight story, despite what the cover blurbs would have you believe. To best enjoy Dimension of Miracles, just sit back, accept Tom Carmody, The Doctor and The Prize (among others) for what they are and/or pretend to be, and enjoy, enjoy!

--D.C. Paskow

THE PEACEMAKERS by Curtis W. Casewit. Macfadden 60-321, June. 143 p. 60¢

A reprint of an Avalon hardback of some years back, The Peacemakers was then, and is now, a bomb.

You see, there are these two serums, sympathone and tabun. Now sympathone is a nice serum and will bring happiness and tranquility to all people. Tabun, however, is a bad serum that does bad things to people.

Now the plan is to give everyone sympathone and make everyone happy; and there is this scientist who wants to give sympathone to everybody so no one will fight and there will be peace. This scientist wants peace. He wants everybody to take sympathone and he wants this so much that he'll kill anyone who doesn't. And he does kill, and kill...and kill...

The Peacemakers?

--D.C. Paskow

THE EARTH IS MINE by Luther Cox: Expd-
sition Press, 1968. 171 p. \$6.00

Damon Knight once said, "At least once a year, somewhere in the U. S., a writer rushes to the typewriter with this brand-new, brilliant idea." What idea? Well, John Norman used it in The Tarnsman of Gor...still don't know? The planet hidden behind the sun, of course! Shame on you.

It seems that many people are taken with the notion that if they can scribble one word after the other, then the next step is to sit down and write a book. Cox happens to be one of these self-styled literary half-wits. Where he ever got the impression that he could write seems doomed to be one of the unanswered mysteries of the universe. The back cover has a picture of Cox leafing through flying saucer books -- that could be a hint.

Briefly, the story goes the way of much trash: several civilizations have previously existed on Earth, each destroyed by a nuclear holocaust. The last however was more fortunate. A colony was founded on Xplotayos, nurtured, grew, and eventually evolved a race of supermen. To help us avoid their fate they sent us sweetness and light in the form of Jesus Christ. Jumping ahead to the present we find that Prof. Woody Evans is exposing his class to this theory. Coincidentally, one of his students has a relative that was whisked off to this planet, a reunion and a trip to the Planet X, a kindergarten utopia, ensue.

This type of stuff is fine -- in its place -- and you might even enjoy it if you're gullible and prone to this stuff. Anyone having been exposed to the Shaver stories should get quite a chuckle out of this. Cox is enthralled with his theory and the book is just a podium to expound on. He's dragged in just about every cliché possible, mixed and muddled them, and come up with stuff that even John Boardman wouldn't touch with his eleven foot pole.

--R. Brisson

DRAGONFLIGHT by Anne McCaffrey. Ball-
antine U6124, July. 309 p. 75¢

This is Anne McCaffrey's second novel, and while it is not, in my opinion quite up to her Restoree, it is still a very entertaining work.

Dragonflight has been made into a novel from pieces originating in Analog (October 1967, "Weyr Search" and the two part "Dragonrider" in the December 1967 and January 1968 issues). The action occurs on Pern, where the intelligent life forms happen to be fire-breathing dragons; telepathic, tele-
porting, fire breathing dragons! For mutual survival, Man and Dragon have

formed a symbiotic relationship. Of course, one of the requisites for this relationship is the ability to "ride" the dragons of Pern.

Man and Dragon have a common enemy: the Threads. The Threads were a recurrent enemy for the inhabitants of Pern. Unfortunately, the crisis occurs so infrequently that its deadliness is forgotten in the intervals. In this case the interval had been four hundred years and the Dragons of Pern, the Weyrs and the Holds were quite unprepared. Another problem was the constant petty rivalries of various factions on Pern, who continued to feud in the face of impending doom.

A well written, highly imaginative novel. --D.C. Paskow

THE BROKEN LANDS by Fred Saberhagen.
Ace G740, Sept. 191 p. 50¢

Fred Saberhagen, who has won well-deserved recognition for his "Berserker" series in IF, turns in this novel to a future, devastated Earth. Catastrophes have left the planet nearly barren, the ground itself torn apart into the "broken lands" of the title. A pseudo-feudalistic civilization exists with alien lords ruling, or attempting to rule the remnants of our planet's peoples.

In a world of alien "magic" one courageous rebel revolts, determined to solve the riddle surrounding "the Elephant." No one knew what "the Elephant" was, but earth hunted people were certain that, whatever it was, "the Elephant" was the answer to their woes. Rolf, the rebel, was determined to provide that answer by finding and riding the Elephant.

The Broken Lands is part science fiction, part sword and sorcery (the better parts of both) and all enjoyable --D.C. Paskow

THE AVENGERS #7: THE GOLD BOMB by Keith
Laumer. Berkley X1592, Sept. 128 p. 60¢

I realize it must sound pretty repetitious by now but...this is still another competent novelization from the extremely popular ABC Teleseries (which has now been awarded a starting position in ABC's 1968-69 schedule) by Keith Laumer.

The 'bomb' of the title is not all glittery for, if the reports reaching agents Steed and King are correct, it is atomic. The obvious question is who would want to build himself an atomic bomb, especially in England? I mean, surely England is not that dull.

Answers notwithstanding, Steed and King must move with all deliberate speed before some maniac sees to it that England really swings.

Laumer scores again!

--D.C. Paskow

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