

Scitishne



21st Year
of Publication

Scottishe

Issue 69

March 1975

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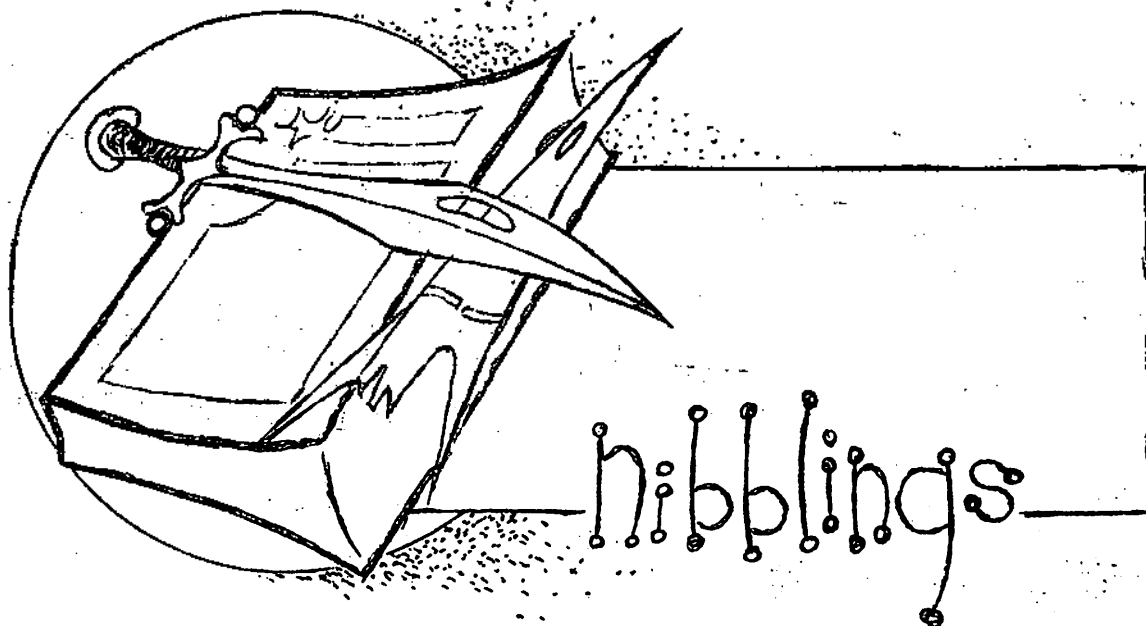
All Artwork by ATOM

Published by Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6QL. UK
American Agent: Andrew Porter, Box No 4175, New York, N.Y. 1001. USA

Twice yearly. Spring and Autumn

2 for 40p or \$1

Note price increase..all old subs honoured, at old rate



THE BEST OF A.E.VAN VOGT. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.50. 13 stories chosen from 1940-1968, chosen by the author himself, he gives a brief introduction which is quite enlightening. A fine collection, worthy of keeping. My favourite is HAND OF THE GODS, but then I always thought the Linn stories the best of his work.

THE BEST OF FRITZ LEIBER: Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.50. Again chosen by the author from 1944-1970, another brief introduction, less explanation of why he chose these particular stories. Both these volumes have useful bibliographies which should save indexers a lot of work. This one gives the full range of Leiber's ability to produce science-fantasy of a high order.

ONE-EYE by Stuart Gordon. Sidgwick & Jackson. £2.50. This has a future in which the mutants being born are in a society that rejects them. With the birth of the baby One-Eye The Company sets off to help the child's arrival at a destination they do not understand. Well told fantasy whose pace never sags.

ORBIT UNLIMITED by Poul Anderson. Sidgwick & Jackson. £2.50. A tale of colonists on a new planet and how they react to the various stresses. The pull between the farmers and the entrepreneurs is well brought out. The difficulty of settling down on a new world is shown through the search for a lost child.

THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL ANTHOLOGY. Edited by Harry Harrison. Sidgwick & Jackson. £2.95. Introduction by Asimov. Each author also gives a short memoir of JWC, started by Poul Anderson who gives a Nicholas van Rijn story...which shows him getting old! Asimov amuses with a twist of his "thiotimoline". Bester has a real quirky story told with aplomb about an animated satellite. Another I liked was Gordon Dickson's "BROTHERS" as it is a part of the Dorsai stories. Other authors are De Camp, Simak, Sturgeon... Harry Harrison himself produces a Deathworld story. He also explains that the authors produced the kind of story they knew JWC would like. And it makes a fine collection to keep.

A THUNDER OF STARS by Dan Morgan & John Kippax. Pan SF. 40p. Tom Bruce of the Space Corp is the hero of a time when Earth has colonised among the stars and is just beginning to realise there is an alien race inimical to man. It also tells of Helen, also of the Corp but without Tom's single-minded devotion. Plenty scope for action.

SEEDS OF THE STARS: by Dan Morgan & John Kippax. Continues the story of Tom and Helen who head for a planet peopled by colonists of Japanese descent - and another horrific look at alien interference.

Nibblings 2

THE PARASAURIANS by Robert Wells. Sidgwick & Jackson. £2.40p. The 22nd century and the age of leisure is in full swing..to men like Ross that means there are too many people out game-hunting and he contents himself with target practise. So he is highly intrigued when he is approached by a firm that specialises in the hunting of parasaURIANS-robot analogs of extinct dinosaurs. A good idea but told in rather a pedestrian fashion at times.

THE LION OF BOAZ-JACHIN AND JACHIN-BOAZ by Russell Hoban. Picador pb. Fantasy of a father and son in a time when there are no lions left. When the father leaves home and the son becomes obsessed with thoughts of a lion-a lion appears to the father -and very threateningly at that! Original and imaginative, oddly humorous told much more crisply than is usual in fantasy.

DAW BOOKS- all at 95p unless otherwise stated.

No 105: THE FALL OF CHRONOPOLIS by Barrington Bayley. A Time War is used to rework a biblical theme, but I admit I was well into the book before I had that figured out. Ingenious and enjoyable except the torture scenes which I skipped.

No 106 THE METALLIC MUSE by Lloyd Biggle Jr. Seven sf stories having music as a theme. All very good with THE TUNESMITH as best because of its irony.

No 107 FLUX by Ron Goulart. Full of the usual Goulart gadgetry, but more a string of incidents than a plot..amusing though.

No 108 ALL TIMES POSSIBLE by Gordon Eklund. The story of Tommy..who dies twice. I kept reading to try and figure it all out. The author darts around so, I am by no means sure that I did!

No 109 THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES. Series 2. Edited by Richard Davies. Foreword by Christopher Lee who believes that because people like to escape into another time, horror isn't played out yet. Bloch naturally runs away with the horror stakes with THE ANIMAL FAIR..but the others are of the calibre that I'd suggest you do not read them all at once. \$1.25

No 110 BY THE LIGHT OF THE GREEN STAR by Lin Carter. For the fantasy fan only.

No 111 THE PARADISE GAME by Brian M. Stableford. A Grainger story where he meets a planet which enforces Paradise in the strangest way. What do you think paradise would be like? No hate, no anger, no death? Interesting theory of what the human reaction might be.

No 112 GIVE WARNING TO THE WORLD. by John Brunner. Very grisly beginning with a young girl in a nightmare situation and the puzzle of how she got there. Works up smartly to a logical ending though.

No 113 MANHOOUNDS OF ANTARES by Alan Burt Akers. Dray Prescott's further adventures at the command of the Star Lords. I can't say I am much entranced by them..Burrough's-type fantasy. \$1.25

No 114 THE MAN WITH A THOUSAND NAMES By A.E. Van Vogt. It's original told at breathless rate and has so much packed in you keep forgetting to check up on details. Unputdownable though. The central character is the spoiled son of the world's richest man, and he gets the reader completely caught up.

No 115 ZENYA: DUMAREST OF TERA No 11. by E.C. Tubb. In his search for Earth, Dumarest once again becomes embroiled in a planetary adventure. Swift moving plot with a few more clues to the end of his search. One can't help but begin to wonder what he will find when he does get back to Earth!

No 116 THE STAR ROAD by Gordon Dickson. \$1.25. A collection of stories which although quite separate seem to have a connecting theme. On reflection, probably due to the author's overall imaginative view of the future.

Nibblings 3

No 117 TO DIE IN INITIALBAR by Roger Zelazny. I read this twice and enjoyed it much more the second time around. It mainly concerns H-the man who has the power to heal at certain times - but at others is a carrier of diseases and gives death to all he touches. Our old friend Sandow makes a brief appearance at the end. Rich and well worth re-reading.

No 118 TRIPLE DETENTE by Piers Anthony. An ingenious idea of how alien encounters alien and uses this to ruthlessly prune and cull the populations. Survival of the fittest to the 9th degree... might enrage you!

No 119 THE SPELL SWORD by Marion Z. Bradley. A Darkover novel told with her usual verve plus a short explanation of the chronology of these stories.

No 120 MONITOR SOUND IN ORBIT by Michael Coney. Collection of 9 stories. Starts with a cynically logical extension of the 'fair shares for all' philosophy. I also admired the MIND PRISON, a good study of a closed environment being shaken apart. Good writing, some rather gruesome or pessimistic.

No 121 HERE ABIDE MONSTERS by Andre Norton. \$1.25. Thoroughly enjoyed this, even though I am not a fantasy-lover. However the firm identification with the hero who disappears into an alternate world got me hooked.

No 122 TWO-EYES by Stuart Gordon. \$1.25 I didn't like this fantasy so much. I wonder sometimes if it is the names that puts me off!

No 123 THE MIND NET by Herbert W. Franke. Interesting to see European work being translated-as here. Explorer seemingly caught in alien mind-net. Lots of plot ramifications and intriguing.

No 124 A TOUCH OF INFINITY by Howard Fast. 13 stories which are impressively well-written. The author uses SF to give his viewpoints of life and death. Some sad and some happy but all told in a refreshing way.

THE DREAM MILLENNIUM by James White. Ballantine. \$1.25. The idea of a starship filled with deep-frozen colonists and crew has been given a new twist here. For the crew member who is awakened at intervals discovers he has been dreaming - and all his dreams have been nightmares. This has been so bad that at one point he finds another crew member has committed suicide. To unravel the puzzle of why this is happening keeps him busy during the 1,000 years trip!

RENDEVOUS WITH RAMA by Arthur C. Clarke. Pan pb 50p. Winner of the HUGO award. Undoubtedly a great concept. RAMA with a whole world inside can certainly stir the imagination. Though I would like to see the US edition which has a

cut-out giving the feeling of looking into RAMA. The interest has all to be there- in visualising RAMA, for the characters are very perfunctory. The ending makes me wonder if there will be a sequel.

IRISH ROSE by Patrick Wyatt. Michael Joseph. £3.75. I haven't read a book like this since THE JUDGMENT OF EVE. Probably because the central character is a woman, and at the end the author leaves us to guess her decision. The start really holds the reader, trying to figure out how this future came about. A future where all the men are mostly coffee-coloured, where all the women are only kept as breeders, and why Irish Rose is called this because she is white. About my only complaint would be that the careful and fascinating beginning is rather rushed at the end. But a book to remember, and one I would well recommend.

TO LIVE AGAIN by Robert Silverberg. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.25. This is set in a future where, if you are very wealthy, you can have your "soul" recorded so that it can be transplanted alongside another after your death. Among the wealthy and powerful the death of one of them starts off intrigue to gain the 'transplant'. A fruitful area for machinations among diverse characters and Silverberg uses the lot! Strong characters catch and keep the interest.

IMAGINATIVE SEX by John Norman. DAW Books 1.95. This, as says, consists of 53 scenarios for sexual fantasies are presented here. They are to be worked out by willing partners. Lots of times its very hilarious particularly the bits where the author solemnly gives out warnings to prevent anyone actually getting hurt. The 53 it seems to me, the 53 could easily be reduced to two - man enslaves woman or women enslaves man. The author certainly gives both but it is easy to see the former is where his heart lies. He is, of course the author of the GOR stories. I began to skip bits towards the end as it is very repetitious.

DAW BOOKS: No 129 ARENA OF ANTARES by Alan Burt Akers. \$1.25. Continuing the saga of Dray Prescott, in fact this is the seventh in the series. More monsters another wicked queen, and as always the inscrutable Star Lords in the background.

THE FENRIS DEVICE by Brian M Stableford. DAW. No 130.95¢ This time Grainger has to take his spacecraft down onto terrible planet, in an effort to find an abandoned warship reputed to have the Fenris weapon. With the help of his parasite 'wind' he manages to triumph over quite a lot of difficulties! On the whole moderately exciting

CONSCIENCE INTERPLANETARY by Joseph Green. DAW No 131. \$1.25. Allen is a member of the Philosopher Corps, and it is his job to find out if there is intelligence among the aliens encountered by man in space. This tells of four of his decisions and also of the fight between his Corps and the men who would ruthlessly ignore such an ethical way of life. Sympathetically told. Lovely Kelly Freas cover

THE STONE THAT NEVER CAME DOWN by John Brunner. DAW No 133. \$1.25. I do feel that John takes a very gloomy view of the future! Logically developing the rise of inflation and unemployment, he paints a dark future with the Army called out to deal with strikers. Into this is dropped a cure which has a very dramatic effect. Told through a series of interesting characters, highly readable as is all the work of this author.

THE MOTE IN TIME'S EYE. DAW No 134. \$1.25. Adventurous tale of the Captain of a starliner whose vessel is involved in a war of the future. This is a translation from the French. It is interesting to contrast the different styles, now that we are seeing more European SF. Certainly the Captain is no routine characterisation.

THE WARRIORS OF DAWN by M.A. Foster. DAW No 135. \$1.25. A new writer who is content to take his time to tell his story. Man has experimented in forced evolution and produced a new species - the ler. Hans the human sets off on an expedition with a female ler and in the course of their adventures we learn of how this new species has created their own culture, quite diverse from the human one. It is told in leisurely fashion and with great detail. The ler culture is fascinating to follow; and the diverse situations in which the protagonists find themselves, shows that the author has a vivid imagination and is well able to project to the reader the fruits of it. Highly recommended.

THE BOOK OF SABERHAGEN by Fred Saberhagen. DAW No 136. 10 stories. A fine selection, I thought the best was a future way of treating the insane, a big improvement on our own. \$1.25

ENTRY TO ELSEWHEN by John Brunner. DAW. UY1154. An alternate world story - a rather nasty world at that - and bent upon invading our world. comes under the heading of a 'rattling good yarn'.

THE NEUTRAL STARS by Dan Morgan & John Kippax. Pan SF. 40p. Third book in this interesting series in which we follow the varying fortunes of Tom Bruce and his starship.. and the family of Niebohr. The latter, although 'agin' the hero, is equally intriguing.

SPACETIME DIARY

No 2

by Gerry Webb

Thursday, 3rd October, 1974

Being crushed to near-suffocation amongst a hundred novice 'sercon' fans at the large, shabby bar of the ONE TUN, my thoughts wistfully drift back to June.....I had been prophetic indeed. Hearing that the apocalyptic visit of Asimov to the British Isles was about to take place and that we were going to arrange one last meeting at the GLOBE tavern in Hatton Garden in his honour before it was pulled down for redevelopment, I gaily quipped: "So, it's after Asimov -the deluge". Fool that I was! I should have realised that I was tempting fate.

However at the ONE TUN fate is acting in a mysterious way. Instead of being swept away in some gigantic and sudden biblical-style cataclysm, the remnant of the LONDON CIRCLE (which is what we old hands like to call ourselves) looks far from being squeezed out of life by a welter of humanity, in a scene reminiscent of those in SOLENT GREEN. This is a suitable simile for the occasion because present at the meeting is Harry Harrison. Not having seen him since SOLENT GREEN was released, I cut down the acolytes around him and cleared up a point or two about it that had been bothering me..incidentally showing the newcomers how it is done. "Goshwow! Boyohboy! Mr Harrison, is it true that...etc"

The reason for the milling crowd around us is SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY, that women's lib answer to the enclave of chauvenist SF editors, has been for several months mentioning where and when the meetings take place. Gone forever is the intimate and stimulating gathering of writers, publishers, professional scientists, and just plain fans meeting for reassurance that it is indeed the rest of the world, and not themselves, that needs changing. After Asimov it was indeed a deluge.

SPACE TIME DIARY.NO 2.

This is not to say of course, that the Good Doctor is in any way responsible for the changes that have taken place at the Thursday night meetings, indeed, my comment was occasioned more by his renowned reluctance to depart his adopted country than by any surprise that he was heralding the doom. On his visit to Britain he was installed as Honorary Vice President of International Mensa. Not noted for his reticence about his abilities, he is reputed to have begun his speech to a Mensa meeting with the words "It is a pleasure to at last have an audience with an I.Q. equivalent of mine. Sum total that is!" A remark such as this can readily be forgiven in a man whose output of books has now reached the phenomenal level of averaging one per month and yet still manages to maintain a consistent and high level. One example of his prodigious output that I can particularly recommend is OUR WORLD IN SPACE, a book that charts the possible pattern of our world's progress outwards into space, in the next few decades and beyond. In this book, Asimov collaborates with Robert McCall, the Art Director of 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY, and official artist to NASA. The production is in an elaborate and handsome 'coffee table' style, which in the main succeeds very well. A disparity which probably will not be noticed by the coffee-time browsers for which this book is intended, occurs between the text, which is crisply composed in a unit of six chapters, and the six batches of admittedly magnificent paintings which are drawn from a period of McCall's output that obviously predates the plan for this book. The illustrations are appropriate in many instances, particularly in the first four chapters where Asimov discusses general rocket principals and the possibilities of the Moon and Mars for colonization. But there is a noticeable divergence between text and pictures for the last two chapters, where Asimov discusses man's eventual exploration and settlement of the outer solar system and his ultimate journey to the stars. This criticism is only of minor importance. Both text and paintings provoke many hours of entertaining speculation. To give just one example, Asimov proposes that it will be 'men' from the low gravity environment of the outer solar system that will be colonizing the universe by 2200 A.D., rather than the physiologically and psychologically unprepared stay-at-homes on the high gravity mother planet, Earth.

Asimov has countered those who chide him on his lack of willingness to travel with the comment "I am perfectly content to sit at home and let my mind wander. And wander it does...very effectively. In the course of the books I have written, it has wandered from the dawn of the Universe to its end and from here to the farthest star. It has wandered almost over every field of human endeavour without ever growing footsore".

As I crouch in the bar of the ONE TUN, attempting to extract ash from my beer, I deeply regret not having adopted the Good Doctor's policy.

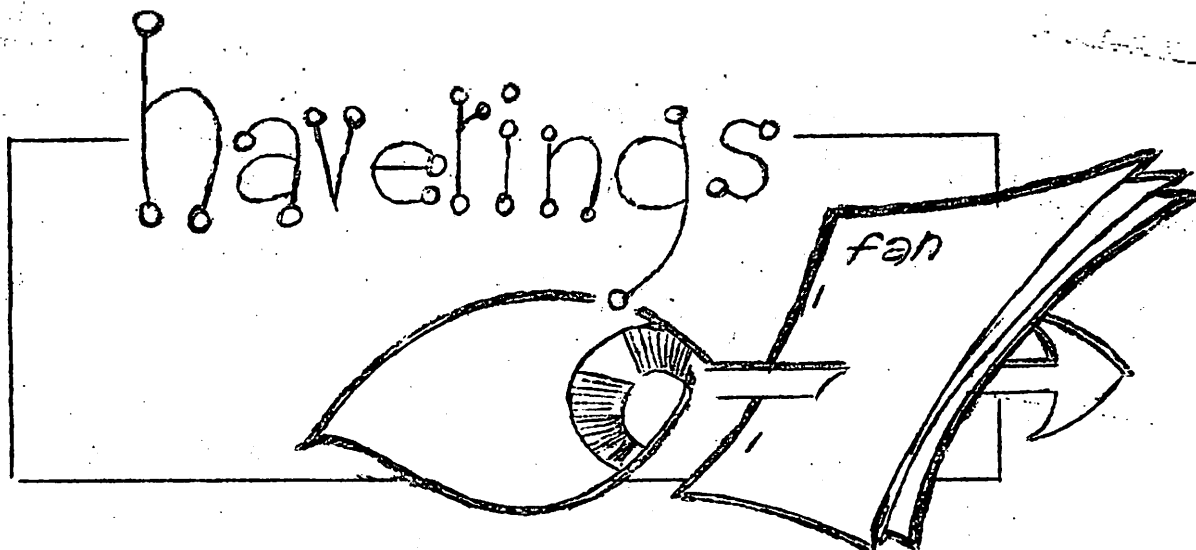
Gerry Webb

OUR WORLD IN SPACE by Robert McColl and Isaac Asimov.

Foreword by Edwin E. Aldering, Jr.

Published by Patrick Stevens Ltd. Cambridge. June 1974

pp 176 72 colour pages £6.95



Comments upon fanzines received.....

TABEULIAN: Nos 15 & 16: From: Mardee Sue Jenrette, Box 330874, Grove, Miami, FL 33133. \$3. Dave returns briefly to the subject of how we learn. Lots of this amuses me a lot, such as Mardee's story in English-English..and the promise of an English-American dictionary later. Dave writes on their trip to England -and shows a picture of Alan Dodds! His trip report is just the kind I like - informative and enlightening on how England appears to visitors. Alan Dodd is agent if you wish to see this small but original zine.

PREHENSILE: Nos 13 & 13.5: From: Mike Glyer, 319 Pike St. Bowling Green OH 43403 and Milt Stevens, 143535 Saticoy, No 105, Van Nuys, CA. Trades please send to both editors. This issue commemorates the 40th anniversary of LASFS. Milt mentions having been a member for 14 years, and gives an admirably compressed history. T. Bruce Yerke carries on with more memories. Harry Warner writes on LA zines in a way to make you lick your lips at the thought of his next publication after ALL OUR YESTERDAYS. Ted Johnstone carries on the good work of memoirs and has a good tale about Ray Bradbury. There is also a history of Apa-L. In Discussion of the fanzine HUGO in the light of enormous Worldcons is mulled over by Milt. He sounds very resigned to the big cons and the way it may change the voting for fanzine HUGOS. There are then lots of good letters but towards the end I found the small print hard on the eyes till I had the happy thought to take and use my Bishop-Harmon specs..meant for examining eyes..not for preserving them! These issues a must for anyone contemplating fandom's history.

KARASS Nos 7, 8 & 9.: From: Linda E. Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave. Prospect Park, PA. 19076. 4/\$1 or trade etc. Linda describes DISCON with its over 4000 attendees and lists the disadvantages of this briskly. Linda lists some interesting statistics-particularly that only 40-odd people attended the Business Meeting at which a new Constitution was born. In No 9 she goes on to discuss the future of Worldcons, and also prints the new Constitution. Her statistics present the problem..126 entries for the Costume competition, 1150 at the banquet! I think I would be frightened to attend such large cons, so I view with sympathy Linda's suggestion of a return to a con for written SF. She says.. "We shouldn't deny anyone the right to attend, but by emphasizing written SF we can discourage fringe fan.fan attendance". I like her clear concise style.

CHECKPOINT: Nos 54 & 55 & 56: From: Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford Huntingdon, PE18 7SU. 10/60p. Free sample on request. Excellent coverage of

Maverings 2

news both from home and abroad. There are handy con dates and other listings. The zine reviews are short and informative.

TILL THE COWS COME HOME: Nos 2&3: From: Elke & Alan Stewart, 6 Frankfurt am Main 1, Eschenheimer Anlage 2, Fed. Rep. of Germany. For trade etc. No money. Fiction I usually skip but as this was by Jim Linwood I stopped to read. Very pessimistic view of the future, and terribly 'black and white'. I was surprised at Jim. More to my taste is his article on unsolved mysteries. Still finding its feet this one, but shows promise. Less fiction though would help.

WARK: Nos 1&2: From: Rosemary Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon, PE18 7SU 20p or trade etc. The aim here is to review fanzines, mainly the ones that are interested in fantasy, although others are included. Rosemary is also willing to print articles about fanzines. No 2 for instance, has a very good history of the fanzine LES SPINCE. A very welcome development if it is continued.

MAYA: No 6: From: Ian Maule, 13 Weardale Ave, Forest Hall, Newcastle-on Tyne, NE12 0HX Best item is a reprint from SLANT of Bob Shaw and Vin Clarke's notion of how to make a printing press from a bicycle. I see Terry Jeeves is doing the selection for this series, and he has a good fanzine file to choose from. Next I enjoyed Darrell Schweitzer's tale of a visit to a fan-nicely judged to tickle my sense of humour. An awful lot of letters, not all of interest.

NEWS FROM BREE: No 13: From: Hartley Patterson, 'Finches', 7 Cambridge Rd, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1HW. Mixed contents, but the transcript of the interview with Tolkien gives the interesting fact that he remembers as a child of 3 his move from S. Africa to a Warwickshire village. Explains a lot in his loving description of the Shires.

EGG: No 8: From: Peter Roberts, Flat 4, 6 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2. For trade etc. I keep sniffing at fan fiction, yet every now and then I try again and this time A BOY AND HIS SCARF by Gray Boak caught my eye. As I read it I was thinking "this is faan fiction, but my how it has changed over the years" and then I came to the last line and had to laugh out loud. That was clever! John Brosnan entertained me with his hunt for Good Old Days before he got too old - apparently the 30s are creeping up on him. Waldemar Kummig writes on the trouble caused when politics, as wielded by zealots, tangles with fandom. I had another good laugh at Peter's reply to an American fan. The letter did beg for a sarcastic reply but Peter treated it with humour as well.

BIG SCAB: No 3: From: John Brosnan, Flat 1, 62 Elsham Rd, Kensington, London W.14. Thank goodness for Mervyn Barrett, at least his letter lets me know that the 'feud' between John and Malcolm Edwards is rooted in reality. But I have to agree with him that the word 'feud' is being used wrongly here. At least when I think of some of the feuds I've lived through, this one seems more like a bit of pish and tush. John writes well which is the main ingredient for this zine's success.

SON OF NEW FUTURIAN: No 7: From: Howard Rosenblum, 46 Morey Rd, London N4 3LG. 10p or trade etc. Howard has done a review of SF MONTHLY and has resisted the temptation to tear it to bits, he is nicely objective, in fact. The remainder consists of fiction and book reviews, and the whole appearance is much improved.

MALFUNCTION: No 6: From: Pete Presford, 10 Dalkeith Rd, S. Reddish, Stockport, SK5 7EY Starts badly in disjointed style, and Pete appears to completely misunderstand something written by Rosemary Pardoe, so making himself appear silly. Andrew Stephenson writes sensibly on the difficulties of finding a con hotel at Easter Personally, as the con attendee numbers mount, my admiration for committees mounts also. Pete then writes much better in describing a plan to hold the con in a University. I attend the International Ophthalmic Nurses Association

and last year we met at the University in Canterbury. This was such a success and so cheap, that this year we go to the University in Edinburgh. I'd say try it once and if it is popular the hotel problem would be solved. This zine would profit from a few headings.

CYPHER: No 12: From: James Goddard, Floggers Barrow, School Rd, Nomansland, Salisbury, Wilts.

I had to put on my magnifier glasses again, I could never have read this small print without them. An interview with Edmund Cooper was enlightening, particularly in his remarks of his job in reviewing SF for the Sunday Times. John Brady has a helpful article on the new SF films. The book reviews are of a high standard and there is a particularly intelligent discussion of the book THE WORLD OF FANZINES. The production and content of this puts it in the 'quality' zine class, it is a pity the type has to be quite so small. 25p

SF TIMES: No 1 and FANZINE FAN-TIQUE (2 copies, no numbers) From: Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd, Lancaster, Lancs. SF TIMES is primarily concerned with an alternative to the BSFA, although it is not suggested by Keith, but discussed by him. He welcomes other comments. My own feeling is that we would be better to keep what we have. All the BSFA needs is some active fans to work for it..there is nothing wrong with the organisation as an organisation. In his other publication Keith concentrates on reviews of fanzines. It is, alas, very illegible in spots, I say alas for his object is good and his handling of the reviews fair and informative. In spite of the illegibility I was able to make out that he thinks SCOTTISHE is very English-which proves that he does have his daft moments. He mentions faneds should donate to the Fanzine Foundation, but doesn't give details which would have been useful. A PURIST LOOKS AT CONVENTIONS - comes from Gray Boak, who has the idea that we should hold a wintercon without a programme, as a get-together for fans who just wish to meet socially. He is looking at Blackpool. It certainly sounds like a good idea, and I'm sure it could be a great success. As Worldcons grew bigger in the US Regional cons grew too and I guess the same will happen here.

FANXINDEX: From: Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Rd, Lancaster. The start of a large project..the listing of all British fanzines. This is the main title index, from which Keith hopes for additional information. It costs 15p. The full index will be issued in parts, each costing 10p(though surely inflation will push this up!). A special offer for £1 you are entitled to receive the lot. This is a very welcome project and deserves support. I hope

though that Keith will publish in quarto, not this irritating foolscap size. THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE: No 19: From: Len & June Moffatt, Box 4456, Downey, CA. 90241 USA. 50¢. Devoted to the works of John D. MacDonald. Len promises this yearly and I enjoyed his chatty editorial, as he explains to newcomers how they and JDM himself, would dislike the normal fan-club type of thing. There are two articles which bear this out for one does some research into the old DOG Savage Magazine, and the others uses the McGee philosophy to discuss current law-making. There is also a highly readable letter-column.

STEFANTASY: No ? : From William M. Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, Pa. 16374. Its not like Bill to forget his masthead! This has another colourful wraparound cover gifted by the HORSELESS CARRIAGE GAZETTE in which Bill ca's his satiric gaze on modern life. He has acquired a new contributor, Randall Gould, who for many years was editor of an American newspaper in Shanghai. I look forward to more tales from him, I should think he had an exciting time.

Haverings 4

THE SF ECHO: No 21: From: Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, Ill. 61604. USA. \$1. The binding of this book-for-zine improves with every issue and makes it a pleasure to read. It stays open better than the majority of paperbacks. Paul has been attempting to interview Aldiss by correspondence and reproduces the result which ranged over two years. Paul hands out some real tough questions which Brian has answered very fairly and honestly. Michael Shoemaker takes on the formidable task of taking 5 anthologies and putting them in order of merit. Paul has a good stable of reviewers. The letter column is good and well-edited. Editing a letter column is an art in itself, and I notice that a good one always attracts the good writers of fandom and the SF world.

STARLING: No 29: From: Hank & Lesleigh Luttrell, 525 W. Main, Madison, WI 53703. 50¢ Rick Dey has a book called THE PLOT GENIE by Wycliffe A. Hill from which he has found out how to dial-a-plot. Rick shows ingenuity in weaving together the rather weird elements he receives from the dialling. made me want to read the book. but as it came out in 1931 the chance is remote. There is as much discussion of mystery fiction here as of sf, so I had a fine time with the letter column. Lesleigh has a terrific article on Hollywood early musicals, and it revived fond memories for me. I also liked Juanita Coulson's column about music, for in telling of her own musical preferences she gives a good history, and I too think that Bette Davis singing THEY ARE EITHER TOO YOUNG OR TOO OLD was one of the most marvellous things to come out of the time Juanita covers.

VORPAL: No 3: From: Richard Brandt, 4013 Sierra Drive, Mobile, AL 36609. 35¢. For those who saw and were interested in THE EXORCIST there is an article about some of the technical effects by the director. Some other film reviews are quite good, but that's about it!

GUYING GYRE: No 1: From: Gil Gaier, 1016 Beech Ave. Torrance, Calif. 90501. 50¢. It occurs to me that the prices for zines is widely fluctuating these days. This one is written by a teacher who has a class studying Science Fiction, and here he describes his course and the student reactions. Considering that there has been, in America, real apprehension as to what might come out of these study courses, the fact that one teacher has taken the trouble to write about what he is doing is reassuring. This one, at least, is teaching a subject he loves.

GODLESS: No 8: From: SP5 Bruce D. Arthurs, 57th Trans. Co. Fort Lee, VA 23801. 75¢ or trades etc. Having read here and there remarks about Roger Elwood the new editor in SF, I welcomed this article about him to find out more. After reading this I think it will probably all settle down in time. I skipped an article on astrology, on some things I have a closed mind, I admit.

XENIUM: 2-4: From: Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6P 2S3. Goes through FAPA. Andy Offutt speech at a con is reproduced..and in it Andy is talking about fandom and why fans sometimes seem to want to hurt others. He picks on shyness as one reason, with its accompanying defensiveness but is not very profound in his recipe for dealing with it..turn the other cheek first and if that doesn't work use an elephant gun! Mike writes a little about his visit to London, but not nearly enough to be really enlightening.

GRANFALLOON No 18: From: Linda E. Bushyager, address as before. \$1. A lovely piece by Mae Strelkov on her missionary childhood in China, I could read reams of this. Jodie Offutt has some recipes but I am stumped right at the start..what would bisquits be? Art portfolio by Terry Austin..but too much emphasis on the muscles for my liking, reminded me of anatomy lectures. There is an interview with Roger Elwood..but I feel I now know enough about him to satisfy me!

MOTA: No 7: From: Terry Hughes, 866 N. Fredrick St. Arlington, VA. 22205. 50¢. a light blue ink on yellow paper, and not too well reproduced. Mainly a personal-zine but there is a piece of vintage Burbee and an Arnie Katz reprint that was not worth reprinting, Arnie has done much better than this. Rather slight this one.

Haverings 5

YANDRO: Nos 228 & 229: From Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. 50¢ or 20p. British Agent: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd. Hoddesdon, Herts. Main item in the first issue is fiction THE INNIESKA INCIDENT by Glenn & Philip Balman; I suppose you would have to like Lovecraft to appreciate this..to me it wavered too uneasily into parody. Buck takes on the rest with his book and zine reviews, excellent as always. In the next issue they are mentioning con-going. Juanita always tells of a filk-singing event, which made me wonder why this has never started up over here. Of course She can sing..and I can't think of anyone over here who has demonstrated an ability to do that. Bruce announces that he has given up the title of 'the young Harlan Ellison'. I've read his column ever since they started and this is the first I've heard of his having the title..I guess he doesn't tell everything! Sandra Maeel has a humorous piece of fiction which I enjoyed. This zine always gets read the day it arrives.

TANDSTIKKERZEITUNG: No 8: From: Don Markstein, Box 53112, New Orleans, La. 70153, USA. An apazine and personalzine. He is talking of the idea of a World Faan Convention, the 4000 attendees at the last one and the growing numbers over here seem to have put that idea in a few heads. No publicity and just a socialising con. Well, when a lot of different people come up with the same idea it is bound to come to fruition, I should think.

DYNATHON: No 60: From: Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd. NW, Albuquerque, N. Mexico. 87107. For: trade or a show of interest. And this is its 14th annish which makes it one of the longer-lived zines. It is always a pleasant zine to receive, and this time rather a shocking one to me personally..Roy mentions his daughter now being 21yrs old. What! that little kid who showed me how to throw horse-shoes! He has a nice circle of letter-writers who know just how to josh him and keep the good humour going.

TRIODE: No 20: From: Eric Bentcliffe, 17 Riverside Cresc. Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 7NR. 3 for £1 or \$2.50. Old Fanzines Never Die..they just come back again years later. Pity the poor fanindexer! Mike Moorcock has a tale which proves that no-one can send up an author better than that author himself! I wish I could laugh as easily at Archie Mercer's postal tale, but charges went up again since he wrote this. All in all, welcome back TRIODE, its nice to see a good-natured fanzine sent out for fun, and a little time-binding.

ALGOL: No 23: From: Andrew Porter, P.O. Box 4175, New York, NY 10017. 6 for \$5 or £2. I am British Agent..and very proud of the fact that ALGOL won this years HUGO in conjunction with THE ALIEN CRITIC. If possible, this issue looks even more professional than ever with an excellent cover by Ron Miller. This issue devotes itself to Arthur C. Clarke with articles on three different aspects and the transcript of a speech made by Clarke. Lupoff's Book Week continues well, and the letter column appears to have grown. One must add that the artwork is superb throughout.

THE ALIEN CRITIC: No 11: From: Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box 11408, Portland, OR. 97211. \$2 for 6. And here is the other half of the HUGO winners. From the reproduction point of view it is not so fine, the print being very small. However it is also packed with goodies. Mostly by Dick himself who conducts a running review of the books he is reading, with letters interspersed. The list of the books he receives runs to 8pp. There is an interview with Avram Davidson in which he says he has trouble finding work, which sounds odd he is such a good writer. John Alderton literally pulls to bits the FOUNDATION series, but he omits to say it makes good reading. For those of you who have been able to watch that TV show THE CHANGES -I've spotted the Peter Dickinson book from which it is derived—here in TAC. It is THE WEATHERMONGER. . .

Haverings 6

OUTWORLDS: 1/22: Double Issue: From: Bill Bowers, Box 2521, North Canton, Ohio... 44720.. 1.50. \$A 50.00. Again I have to use my magnifier glasses, I hope this craze passes soon. I find that reading this way makes my eyes real sore. So, although this is full of meat with contributors like Paul Anderson, Bob Tucker, Susan Wood, I found myself hurrying to get finished. I was amused by Jodie Offutt's article on how to acquire charisma. The second part is devoted to letters—Opp of them! This time OUTWORLDS comes in newspaper and is rather attractive. The artwork comes out very well too.

SIMON: No 1: From: Sue & Ron Clarke, 2/159 Herring Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113. Australia. In this Sue tells the incredible story of a woman having her house compulsarily purchased whilst on holiday and returning to find it bulldozed contents and all. What a to-do that would cause over here! Also enlivened by Mike Glicksohn's account of having the universe against him. Nicely chatty from Sue..not a word from Ron.

FORERUNNER: No 34: From: Sue again..who edits it for the Sydney SF Foundation, so it is a clubzine. Articles and poems by members, none as good as Sue herself. SF Commentary: Nos 38 and 40: From: Bruce R. Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia. Practically the whole of the first zine is devoted to a refutation of Lem's article A HOPELESS CASE, first by George Turner and then by John Foyster..which seems like a case of over-kill! Ballard's novel CRASH is also dissected. No 40 is a kind of a non-trip report of his journey to the US con. Bruce mentions travel-fatigue and how it affected him, which seems to be a hazard travelling fans do not always take sufficiently into consideration, when planning where to go. Fan hosts..bear it in mind! 60¢

CHAO: No 15: From: John J. Alderson, Havelock Vic. 3465, Australia. 50p or \$1.25 per copy..they have got inflation there too. There is a conspiracy against my eyesight..here it is green ink on green paper! John has an original mind, so all his writings are thought-provoking and sometimes just provoking. Which leads to a great letter column. In the course of his description of his locale he itemises the birds this time. He has the knack of enticing interest in the way of good teachers.

GEGENSCHWEIN: No 17: From: Eric B. Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave. Faulconbridge, NSW 2776 Australia. A30/US40/UK 20p. It would have helped a lot if Eric had underlined the titles of the zines he reviews, that way they would not seem to run into one another. Letters also, quite entertaining.

PHILOSOPHICAL GAS: Nos 27 & 28: From: John Bangsund, Pareragon Books, Box 357 Kingston ACT 2604, Australia. Fapazine. A\$2 per year. Some of the best writers in fan-zines these days are Australian; don't know why we don't see their names coming up in the Hugos lists. For instance, here is a brilliant piece by George Turner on historical fiction—even as he professes to know nothing about the subject. A. Bertram Chandler is also effortlessly entertaining. Of course the editor himself can turn a pretty phrase—such as this quote —"I shall ignore the suggestion with the ignore it deserves". John can move easily from subject to subject as if he were sitting in the armchair beside you; and he loves to play with words.

GLIMPSE: No 1: From Paul Hudson, 102 Valley Road, Rickmansworth, Herts. A printed zine using only one side of the paper, I'd dearly love to know how much that cost. Double-spaced too! So the production is very nice and kind to the artwork. The editor has tried to mix his material well and, although nothing is outstanding, it is quite good for a first issue. However, if I were Paul I would be in no hurry to label my zine 'sercon' or anything else. Present the material and let the readers categorise is the safest policy.

Haverings 7

XENOPHILE: No 7: From: Nils Hardin, PO Box 9660, St Louis, MO 63122. US. Sample copy \$1. Mainly devoted to ads for the collector but rounded out with articles of interest to the collector, such as one on the character of Dr Syn. Very good value for both the collector and advertiser.

DE PROFUNDIS: Nos 71-74: From Barry & Lee Gold, 2471 Oak St. Santa Monica, Calif. 90405. \$3 per year. Newsletter of the Los Angeles SF Society which chronicles their myriad activities. Having left their 40th anniversary behind them they look well-set for another 40. As a group they are much to be envied.

THE GAMESLETTER: From: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd. Wheaton, Maryland. 20906. 10¢ for \$2. For all those who wish to play games by correspondence.

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL: Nos 145-166: From Don Miller, address as above. The most efficient of newszines and worth every penny.

THE WSFA JOURNAL: No 80: From Don Miller, again, address as above. \$2. 150pp of articles, bibliografia, con reports, fiction, art folios, letters, movie reports, book and magazine reviews and fanzine reviews. Impossible to cover it all, but I liked the report on the Nebula Awards meeting by Jay Kay Klein who has just the right gossipy touch, the letter column, and the artwork. Still one ends with a feeling of awe at the work involved here.

ASTRAL: From: G. Marciano, Casella Postale Aperta 90126 Villagrazia. In Italian. In Italian, I can only make out that it costs \$1.50.

EAST AFRICA SPECULATIVE FICTION: From: Gian Filippo Pizzo, c.so Calatafimi, 207. 90129 Palermo 6. Again in Italian. Both these are obviously looking for trade trades and foreign contacts. Fanneds please note.

REQUEM: No 2: From: 455 Saint Jean Longueuil, Quebec. J4H 2Z3. Canada. The first French-speaking fan to send to me. 75¢. Comes from a group. Very well produced in French. Umm.. I should have said the first to send from Canadian-French speaking fandom.

YUENSE: No 10: From Alain le Bussy, 12 Avenue des Ormes 4050. Esneux (Mery) Belgique. Again in a language I cannot read, but perhaps some of you may be able to trade with this one. Very handsome.

SKYRACK FANTASY TRADER: From: Ron Bennett, 36 Harlow Park Crescent, Harrogate. HG2 6 for 50p. Catalogue for books, mags, and comics for sale.

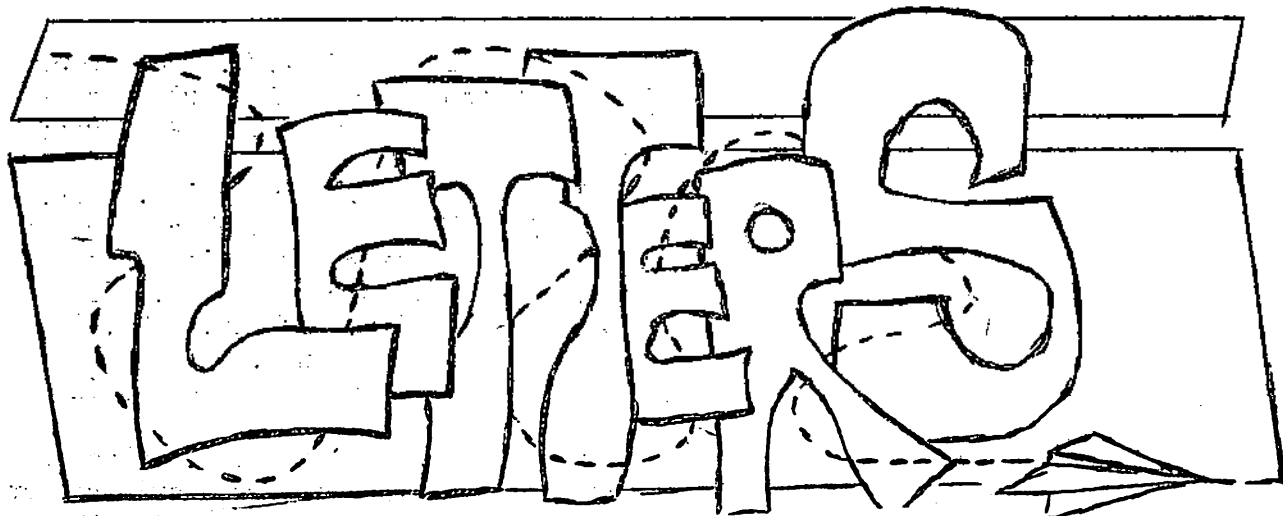
ANDROMEDA: From: Roger Peyton, 57 Summer Row, Birmingham. B3 1JJ. Again, sf books and mags for sale. Both these have comprehensive listings.

THE SPANG BLAH: No 4: From: Jan Howard Finder, PSC Box 614, APO New York. 09293 Jan's intent is to furnish news to Americans living in Europe and he has an excellent news round-up from all over Europe.

Lastly..

BRITAIN IN SEVENTY-NINE: Progress Report 01: The bidding committee of Malcolm Edwards, Peter Roberts, and Peter Weston are to be congratulated on getting out a handsome production which should help their bid a lot. They are taking pre-supporting memberships. These are intended to help finance the bid. The cost is 40p. Should the bid be successful this would be deducted from the membership charge. Send it to -
19 Rammoor Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex. HA1 1UQ.
The Report itself as an abbreviated history of British fandom and some discussion of the bid. The committee still have their sense of humour intact as is seen in their explanation of why using UK is OK.

Ethel Lindsay



Sam Long

Box 4946

Patrick AFB
Fla. 32925, USA

"I met Farmer last spring and found him a fascinating man and a gracious host. You could make yourself blessed among femfen by PJF if you should find a copy of a turn-of-the-century Bradshaw's such as occasionally appear as reprints. Mr Farmer needs something of the sort to get details correct on one of his Holmes pastiches. Peter Spec Weston tells me he has a great idea for something completely different in Con programming: getting a member of the Royal Family to open the convention. You can't top that! Brian Hampton, Robin Johnson and Pate Weston have taken me up on my offer of a rocket launch, as well as a couple of American fen; and dirtypro Joe Green...."

"O' a' the fanzines in the world,

I tell ye, there is not

A single ane that can compare

Wi' Ethel Lindsay's SCOT

So therefore trufans, be ye warn'd

And hark as I admonish ye:

Ye'll no find a better zine to read

Than Ethel Lindsay's SCOTTISHE."

I'll outdo McGonnagall yet. "You might even have the poet(sic) whirling in his grave. Doubt if I will find the Bradshaw, but ssome reader might***"

Jhin Linwood

125 Twickenham Rd

Isleworth

Middsx.

"Unfortunatelt Gerry's article was disappointing, I say

unfortunate because it lacked the wit and articulation

that he shows in conversation. When fan parties are at

a low ebb, usually one in the morning, Gerry always seems

to enliven things with his tales of the Bachelor's Club or how he lost religion; he manages to hold forth for a couple of hours before Anne drags him off. At the last Kitten meeting he told us in hushed terms of mankind's ultimate destiny in the Universe as the next step in the evolutionary ladder, we all listened agape expecting the opening passage of Also Sprach Zarathustra to burst forth and Gerry slowly rise into orbit to take his rightful place in the Universe!"

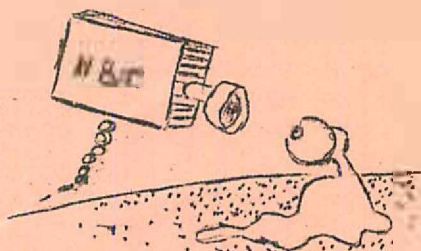
Letters 2

Jean Berman,
76B West End Ln
London, NW6

the One Tun, and have been rather put off by them. It's not just that they are so crowded, but that there doesn't seem to be anyplace to get away to, where one could have a quieter conversation. What with the crowd and the din, I've had some trouble meeting people. ~~and~~ I didn't go upstairs at the One Tun, but I wonder if the pub keeper might let the upstairs room for a meeting. And then too, since I basically don't drink, it seems peculiar to go to meetings in a pub. It would be rather like spending the whole of a con in the hotel bar. ^{*}It's all a matter of tradition, you see, it is an English SF gathering, and the Englishman has always made the pub his social centre. Anyway, you don't have to drink, I have sat all night with just a shandy. ^{***}

Roy Tackett

915 Green Valley Rd. NW
Albuquerque
N. Mexico. 87107



"One hopes there will be another Riverworld book from Farmer. The mystery of the Riverworld remains unsolved and Farmer has left us just enough clues to make it all the more puzzling. Archie Mercer's ideas for a confrontation of real and fictional characters is interesting but I don't think I'd appreciate Farmer doing it with the Riverworld series. Although, I really don't know why not--the whole thing is utterly

preposterous anyway..but fun. Farmer has been doing some peculiar things lately...Mention of Sagan..there was a documentary about the Mars lander on TV a while back which he narrated. It appears the people connected with the program are very optimistic about finding life of some sort and have half a dozen experiments going to check it out including, of course, a tv camera because if "a silicone-based lifeform happened to wander by we wouldn't be able to detect it by any of our experiments" Those chaps have been reading too much science fiction."

Harry Warner

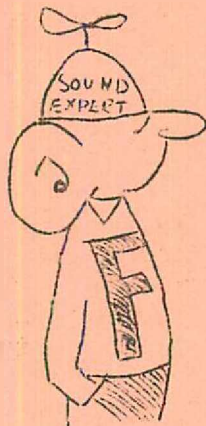
423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown.
Maryland. 21740



"Riverworld..The most annoying aspect for me was the way the resurrected characters showed some of the characteristics they possessed in their actual lives, but differed from their original selves in so many other ways. I think I read somewhere Farmer's explanation why this should be so but I didn't agree: either a lot of homework so the characters could behave in character or using just the names and nothing else would seem to be better courses of action for the author. But one odd thing has occurred in fanzine comments on the Farmer stories. Archie hints at it. No fan woul' take the time to read a tract on what life will be like in Heaven. Yet for all intents and

purposes, Farmer has written a story about heaven. Apparently he has even borrowed some theological concepts for his Riverworld. There's no difference in general effect between "Terrestrial history comes to a full stop in 2008 A.D" and the Christian notion of a judgement day. There doesn't seem to be any second planet in the Farmer scheme of things which would equate to hell, but hell doesn't get much play in the Bible, either. I know Ray Palmer used to persuade his authors to turn westerns into space operas, -but- this is the first time I've heard of anyone converting the Sunday school version of heavenly life into science fiction."

Rick Sneary
2962 Santa Ana St
South Gate
Calif. 90280



"Barrett's opinions on Cons is interesting, but I am surprised that anyone around as long as Merv would make such naive suggestions about putting on a con. His suggestion that a knowledgeable person check out film and sound facilities in advance is a good one. It was suggested to a committee I was on at least ten years ago. The problem is finding (a) an expert (b) willing to, (c) who will at the right time, and (d) a hotel that will let him. As for assigning a different member of the committee to handle each item on the program, any con-com with more than four members who are dependable, co-operative and able to carry out duties without prodding, is remarkably lucky. Most fans don't know how to put on a con till after they have done it. Some never learn and most never give it a second go. From a sometime insiders view, I think it remarkable that most cons do come off as well as they do..and only the co-operating of friendly and helpful attendees makes it possible, at times. It is

also clear that Merv and I don't agree on programs. While I agree that academics can present material more interestingly than fans, I am not interested in listening. I don't want to spend time at the con, doing what I could do elsewhere, and I would rather read those serious thoughts than hear them..just as I don't spend time in films or playing cards, when I could be talking to live fans. It is my opinion that talks/panels must effectively touch the individual listener to be effective; via information he personally could use (why panels on how to edit fanzines fail); that he finds amusing or controversial. I find the idea of a real row over a debate on how to run a convention, or "Should fanzines make a profit?" more relevant to the community interest., than a serious talk on Man in the Atomic Age, no matter how profound. Fandom, even in Britain, is large enough now that you don't need to advertise it outside of Fandom, or cater to the non-fans..Fans put it on, and they should stop trying to please the mob. Here is an idea, though, for new fans. Find some way of mixing them with other dinner groups. One of the best chances to talk at any con is while waiting for dinner to be served. Large tables, with empty chairs filling as fast as they appear, might be something new, and create new friends and exciting enemies!"

Robert Coulson
address as
before



"Gothics are becoming sophisticated. I usually check the ones locally by reading the last page or so, to see if there is any humor evident (or any writing ability for that matter). So, yesterday I looked at one where at the end the heroine tells her two swains that "only in trashy novels" do girls have to get married at the end of the story, and goes off by herself. (Dropping hints to both of them that she might change her mind if they behave themselves, and deciding smugly that the next few years will be fun. Finding Women's Lib gothic is sort of clogging.) The letter is being interrupted by occasional screams from Juanita, who is watching "Solomon and Sheba" on tv. So far she's been outraged by stirrups on the horses, Lollobrigida's bra, Solomon wearing the Star of David, and use of a menorah, which commemorates the Maccabees. (I'm no expert on Biblical history, but I do

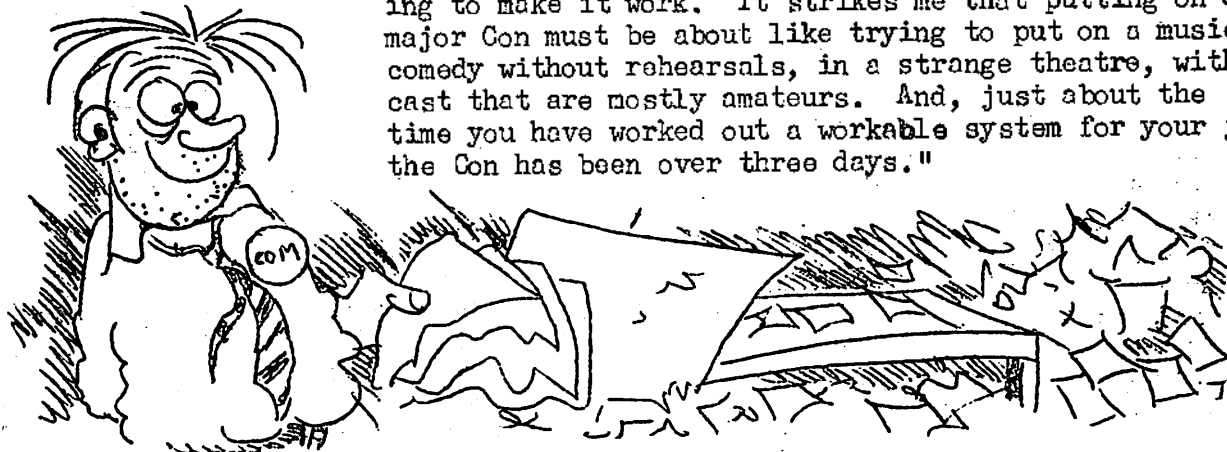
know that the Maccabees were several centuries after Solomon). The most recent was an anguished cry of "palominos?" Other inaccuracies occasion mutters and grumbings that I can't always make out. I don't know why she's watching it. ~~ugh~~ she wanted to raise her blood pressure".

Archie Mercer,
21 Trenethick Parc
Helston, Cornwall
TR18 8LH

"McGonagall now. A few months ago I noticed an omnibus volume of his verse in the public library. It contained three books called Poetic Gems, More Poetic Gems and Last Poetic Gems. They also include slices of McGonagall prose-autobiographical sketches and the like. I had to take it a bit at a time, and found it rewarding. Beryl couldn't take it at all. The thing that both of us agreed upon is that McGonagall writes as one not completely human-as if he was an alien, disguised as Homo Sapiens and trying to behave like one but not quite making it. He appears to be utterly humourless for one thing, and can't see when he's simply making an ass of himself instead of being clever. Mind you, the people around him don't always come out of it well-not only the ones who deliberately try to make a fool of him, but also those who for religious or other reasons encourage him in his absurd opinions of himself. He's thoroughly pathetic, really. And, I agree (Beryl doesn't), the result can be utterly hilarious, particularly when he so ludicrously juxtaposes the truly poetic with the completely mundane it's like walking across a cloud in a pair of gumboots. And there's a lot of social history waving at one from between the lines, too."***I agree with you in your condemnation of many of the folks who surrounded McGonagall..but I reckon he had the last laugh. There is something very stickily adhesive in many of the words he wrote-and you would be surprised how many people can still quote him. I know I can never pass over the bridges on the River Tay without murmuring the words I quoted last issue..they just stick!***

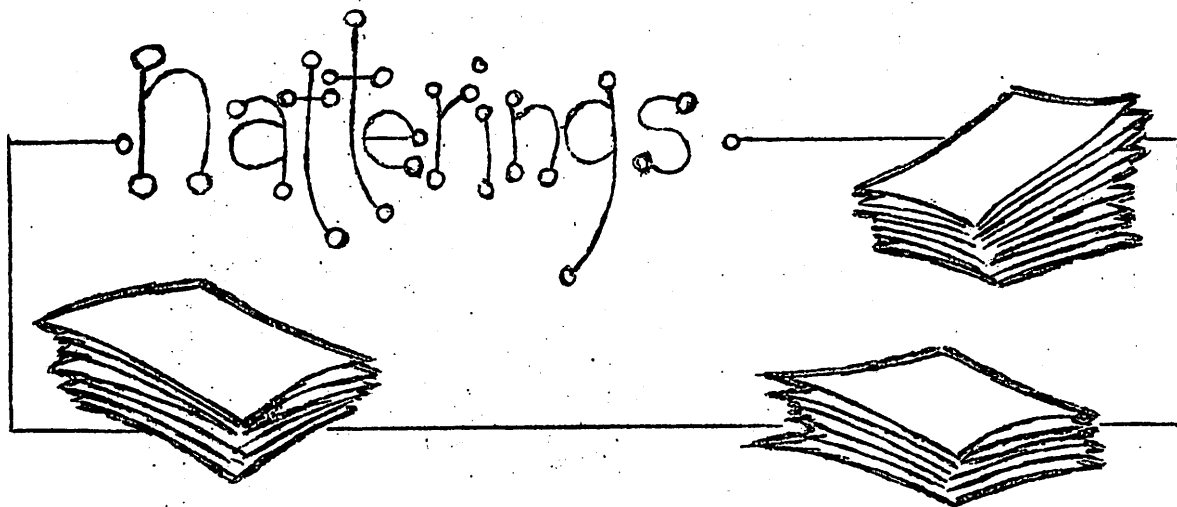
Rick Sneary
2962 Santa Ana St
South Gate,
Calif. 90280

"I am mildly amused and much in agreement with the LOC who take Mervyn to task for his remarks about Con programming. They are right, you really can't understand how hard it is, untill you have been on the inside, trying to make it work. It strikes me that putting on a major Con must be about like trying to put on a musical comedy without rehearsals, in a strange theatre, with a cast that are mostly amateurs. And, just about the time you have worked out a workable system for your job, the Con has been over three days."



We also heard from and wish to thank...Sid Birchby, Eric Hayer, Robert Coulson, Dave Rowe, Mary Legg, and Mervyn Barrett.

Ethel.



I have just been all round Kingston-upon-Thames hunting after paper; and the cheapest duplicating paper I could find was £1.25p per ream..about \$3 I reckon. Had the coming rise in postal charges not decided me to cut back this would have, but it certainly puts the lid on my decision. Something has to go! Last year I ran off three zines..SCOTTISHE..HAVERINGS..and THE MYSTERY TRADER. What to cut out? I didn't want to stop SCOT, it has been a part of my life for so long; and one that has brought me great returns. Yet I didn't want to discontinue HAVER for that is where I comment upon the fanzines I receive. After years of this I am constitutionally unable to refrain from replying in some way to a fanzine sent to me. HAVER is full of comments however, not reviews, they are in lieu of a letter of comment and if some new fans find them useful for their shopping list..this is a bonus. Few fans do write asking so I try to remember to give enough information to help them. Sometimes I get mixed up, but who's perfect?

THE MYSTERY TRADER is a comparatively new venture for the mystery fan. This I could not stop, there are so few in the field. I get so many letters and articles, it is obviously useful and could become more so.

In the end I decided to continue SCOT and make HAVER into a column inside it, also to cut the publishing schedule to twice a year, Spring and Autumn. That way I ought to survive a little longer. All subs to both SCOT and HAVER will be honoured.

Mulling over things like this I naturally thought of the criticism that has been directed at HAVER. Rosemary Pardoe, for instance, said she did not think I should write about all the fanzines I receive, but only the ones that really interested me. Well, when I first started HAVER it was because I could not keep up writing letters of comment to all the fanzines I received. At that time I did think of a fanzine column for SCOT but there were quite a few around then. I felt critical of most of them precisely because they picked and chose around. That way only the best of the zines received reviews, and you would see the same zine reviewed everywhere. The less good never had a mention. That, I thought, was unfair and I still think this way.

Reviewing is something I have been thinking about too. I am well aware of the difference between a review and a critique. The latter takes a lot of time and hard work! Reviews of a book designed to tell the reader whether this is something he would like to buy or not is a different kettle of fish, I know the kind I dislike- where the reviewer is more concerned with showing

Natterings 2

his literary knowledge or his own writing ability than in telling you the book is about. When it comes to SF reviews I have to be careful to be fair. A great deal of SF is aimed at the male audience and often a young male audience. I think, by now, I can figure out when the author has succeeded in his aim. Fortunately there are others whose aim is more widespread and these I can enjoy for myself.

Lots of you have been kind enough to enquire whether my plans to move back to Scotland are progressing. Some folks thought I'd already moved! Well, the best-laid schemes etc. Last November the Nursing Profession got a rise - a substantial one, and I found myself wondering if it was daft to think of retiring before collecting a few years of what to me seems like 'big money'. It would be hard, after working all your life for little money, to stop just as the money dramatically improves. Still, if inflation had not reared its ugly head I doubt if I would have weighed this much. So I am still sitting, and keeping my options open.

At work a new interest has appeared-I am now on a Planning Team to plan for the building of a new ophthalmic out-patients department. We sit with a bulky book in which each room is itemised and there is a preliminary plan. One can see there is going to be some fierce fighting over the exact position of each room. We are all agreed on the number and use of each room it is where they are to be situated that will be the bone of contention. We haven't really got down to the nitty-gritty yet. Our first meeting concentrated on what would be the usage of the rooms used by the medical staff. My part comes later and my first battle will be to have the 'loos' situated where every waiting patient can see them clearly. In fact the basic walking pattern of the patients is my main concern. Most are elderly, often frail, with poor eyesight, they wouldn't be attending if not troubled by the latter. I confidently predict that there will be a few more planning maps before all agree!

I apologise that the duplication is less than my usual standard. A few stencils have not survived as well as I had hoped. In fact I've had more trouble this time than for quite a long while, by trying to be economical! As I wrestled with the duper this time I had a thought. If Walt were active these days I suppose he'd be writing THE ENCHANTED PHOTO COPIER. It doesn't somehow, have the same ring as THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR!

Ethel.

Revised
Revised

Jan Howard Finder
PSC Box 614, US Air Base 33081
Aviano
ITALY

