

Scotti's



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Nov. 1977

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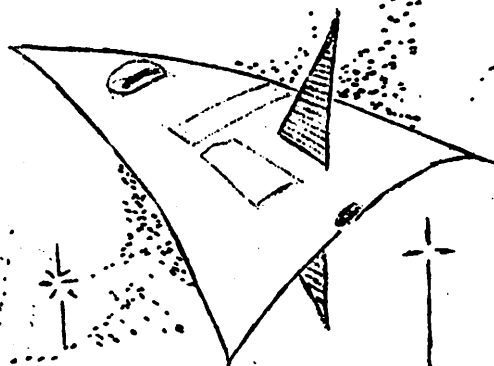
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Nibblings



STARBURST by Alfred Bester. Pan SF 60p. 11 short stories. Mostly ironic, sometimes amusingly so as in TRAVEL DIARY, but quite a few with a real downbeat ending. To be read at separate times unless you want to get into a caustic mood.

THE SIMULACRA by Philip K. Dick. Methuen .75p. The world of the 21st century as seen by Dick certainly is a fearsome place. People live in large blocks and never mix with other blocks, they are continually annoyed by fly-sized commercials they are ruled by Der Alte and Nicolle the White House First Lady. Der Alte may change but the First Lady has ruled for nearly a century. It is a depressing book but then, I think it is meant to be. The future is doomed says Dick. I cannot (or is it will not) agree with him; but I have to admit that he is very clever at extrapolating from some of the worst features of our present.

THE 1977 ANNUAL WORLD'S BEST SF: Edited by Donald A. Wollheim. DAW. \$1.75. 10 stories. In the introduction the editor discusses the current state of SF and speculates on whether this 'boom' will last. The writers chosen are: Aldiss with a taut story of a museum visited by a Seeker who fears he has found the secret of man's existence. Varley who produces the idea of a man lost in a computer. Coney who has a story of nostalgia for old spaceships that has an ironic ending. Cowper who adds a clever postscript to THE TIME MACHINE. Del Ray has the most optimistic note of what man could do in the future. Asimov shows that he can still produce a new robotic twist. B.J. Bayley ponders over the problem of identity, I found this the least readable. Russ -her story of MY BOAT is the shortest and most intriguing. Tiptree has one of the longest and saddest where men of the past encounter women of the future. Finally, Damon Knight comes up with an invention that would put an end to privacy..the only one that made me squirm at the thought of it. Good value. EARTHCHILD by Doris Piserchia. DAW. \$1.50. Reece is the last human on earth--all other humans have fled to Mars. She shares the planet with two aliens. Indigo..who is a protoplasmic ocean gobbling up everything, and Emeroo who looks after Reece. The story spans centuries and is one of the strangest I have read. The personality of Reece is fascinating, she is tough, objective, yet sometimes childish. Highly recommended for its strange originality.

HAVEN OF DARKNESS by E.C. Tubb. Dumarest of Terra No 16. DAW. \$1.50. Of all the odd worlds that Dumarest has encountered Zakym is one of the oddest. A place where the dead walk! A place where the inhabitants have a Pact with an unseen species ..and a place where once again the Cyclan are after Dumarest. No lack of new ideas in this series!

THE BARBARIAN OF WORLD'S END by Lin Carter. DAW. \$1.50. Fourth book in the Gándwane epic. Continues the story of Ganelon Silvermane the genetically designed superhero who, this time, becomes hostage to a barbarian.

THE BEST OF JOHN JAKES by John Jakes. DAW \$1.75. 10 stories plus bibliography. This ranges from his first ingenious story MACHINE, takes in an excerpt from his novel ON WHEELS, to the 1968 HERE IS THY STING. This last treats the idea of death in a novel fashion that sets one thinking. All stories of high standard.

THE VANISHING TOWER by Michael Moorcock. DAW \$1.25. 4th novel of Elric of Melni-boné. All these Moorcock books are properly edited by the author..this not having been the case in the past. So these are the definitive editions for Moorcock fans.

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BENEATH THE SHATTERED MOONS by Michael Bishop.DAW.\$1.50.12,000 years in the future the human race is surviving on the island of Ongladred. They have survived two civilisation-destructions and are uneasily awaiting a third. We see this culture through the story of Ingram who is one of the ruling class-shaken to his core by having to associate with Gabriel who stands out from the society around him. The characters are real, but the story has a haunting effect. Very effective.

THE WILDINGS OF WESTRON by David J.Lake.DAW.\$1.50. A delightful tale of the planet Dextron where humans and fauns unite to overthrow tyranny. Unusual and original sf in spite of my mentions of fauns!

DRAGONSINGER by Anne McGaffrey.Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.95. If you have read,, as I have the other books about Pern, then you will also be glad to see another in the series. In this we follow Menolly arriving at Harper Craft Hall with her 9 fire lizards, and the confusion they cause and the trouble they cause gets this story off to a fine start. Things are not simple at the Hall and Menolly has to try to understand people who bewilder her with their different manners. She makes a very sympathetic character -to engross any reader. I really loved this. THE HEALER by F.Paul Wilson.Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.50. Immortality is always an interesting theme-which this novel takes with gusto. Dalt's immortality comes from acquiring a symbiotic partner. Together they face the difficulties - and become the Healer. The Healer becomes the only one who can combat the "horrors" a psychological plague which appears on every planet. In the end Dalt finds that this plague comes from an intelligence even older than himself-and he alone can oppose it. Well constructed plot.

THE WAR FOR THE LOT by Sterling E.LanierSidgwick & Jackson.£3.50. The Lot is a piece of woodland in New England where young Alec comes to stay in a near-by house with his Grandfather. The Lot is full of animals - but they are full of fear because they know that an enemy horde is planning on invading the Lot. The animals need a young human with whom they can communicate to help them plan, so they talk to Alec. The relationships between Alec and the various animals is very well depicted and the story holds a fine line of excitement as it comes up to the big battle. Suitable for all ages! One thing badly missing.some interior illustrations, this story cries out for them!

THE BEST OF ROBERT SILVERBERG. Sidgwick & Jackson.£4.95 From his first tough story of cannibalism in the future these 10 stories chosen by the author himself prove strong entertainment.They start in 1954 and finish with the 1971 GOOD NEWS FROM THE VATICAN. It is always rewarding to see what an author chooses as his own best work, as opposed to the critic choosing. There are a higher number of stories with a sombre theme than I would have expected.

THE BEST OF ARTHUR C.CLARKE.Vol.1. Sidgwick & Jackson. £3.95. 1937-1952. The first three were published first in amateur magazines(ZENITH:1942!)and show skill even then. 11 stories plus bibliography.

THE BEST OF ARTHUR C.CLARKE.Vol.2.Sidgwick & Jackson.£3.95.1956-1972.7 stories this time and it is easy to see how the prose has become more effortless in appearance. Although the majority of all the stories are based on hard science and future speculation, the story I liked best was about a man and is called DEATH AND THE SENATOR. Both these books are for the serious sf collector.

THE TESTAMENT OF ANDROS by James Blish.Arrow pb. 60p. 9 short stories which contain some vivid pictures of various futures. Most grim is of a polluted and dying Earth as in WE ALL DIE NAKED. Most fascinating describes man -genetically altered to microscopic size. Very vintage Blish.

EYE AMONG THE BLIND by Robert Holdstock.Pam SF 70p. As a first novel, this is very impressive. The author has made a serious attempt to depict the alien Ree'hd whose world now has an expanding human colony. Zeitman is a scientist who, as the book begins,is returning to Ree'hdworld to find his estranged wife is trying to become an alien. His own attempts to understand the aliens leads to a surprising conclusion. A well-written and thoughtful book.

GALACTIC MEDAL OF HONOUR by Mack Reynolds. Magnum Books 70p. Donal is a one-man space-pilot in the defence ring around Earth to alert any sign of the Kraden. He is approached by unscrupulous men proposing that he obtain the Medal of Honour by pretending to knock out a Kraden Cruiser. The holder of the medal can do no wrong, and can have whatever he wants. This tale is told with gusto, particularly of his intial spree. Don makes a believable non-hero!

ANCIENT WISDOM: by Geoffrey Ashe. Macmillan. £4.95. The author is well-known for his research into the story of Arthur (THE QUEST FOR ARTHUR'S BRITAIN). From years of such research he became interested in the many claims for Ancient Wisdom. He starts off with a search into why seven is such a persistent symbol and traces this back through many religions to the constellation of stars known as "the starry bears" Ursa Major and Ursa Minor; and how it was thought of as "perpetually there--relevant to human needs". On this point, at least, he had me convinced. Because Ursa Major has 7 stars - seven became a magic number. He covers a vast amount of ground ranging from the theories of Blavatsky to Jung. He also traces the movements of religion back to the region of the Altai Mountains in Siberia. Does he prove that there is an Ancient Wisdom? Well, not to me, but I was very impressed by the cool and logical methods he uses.

TWO DOZEN DRAGON EGGS. by Don Wollheim. Dennis Dobson. £3.95 The author is better known as an editor, but he has always done some writing too..which is probably why he is a good editor. Here are 24 stories which are very varied and which show many an original twist. Mostly they stem from an idea that struck him and kept at him till he had written it down. One was even inspired by its title..THE EGG FROM CENTAURI. The majority have shock endings - so no peeping!

MESSENGER OF ZHUVASTOU. by Andrew J. Offutt. Methuen Paperbacks. 80p. Keniston is an Earthman who arrives on the planet SOVOLD - a primitive place full of violence. There is plenty of swashbuckling romance, lots of it tongue-in-cheek. There is, however, an underlying seriousness. On the whole this should appeal to both those who like adventuresome SF and those who like SF exploring different cultural values.

SPECTRE OF A FORGOTTEN SUN: by E.C. Tubb. DAW SF \$1.29 Dumarest of Terra No 15. This adventure takes Dumarest to a step nearer finding Earth when he finds a star chart. First though he has to act as a champion to a lady who needs a lot of protecting! Little sign of the Cyclan in this one, otherwise your money's worth as usual.

THE REALMS OF TARTARUS by Brian Stableford. For ten thousand years mankind strove to build a platform that covered the whole world where they now live in sunshine, whilst below there was only the lamp-light of the platform. At first this one seemed a very wild idea, but the detail of life underneath has a very persuasive reality. A third of the way through I was hooked and ended quite full of admiration. 448pp of a highly original work.

THE SWORD OF THE DAWN by Michael Moorcock. DAW SF. \$1.25. 173pp. Third volume in the History of the Runestaff. This is a revised edition by the author. Moorcock must be very pleased to at last have these tales back in the original.

THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES. Series V. Edited by Gerald W. Page. DAW SF. \$1.50 237pp. 14 stories. I turned to the Bloch one first-A MOST UNUSUAL MURDER..it could easily get into a Best Mystery collection too! There is also a good one from Harlan Ellison describing the predicament of a man who telephones his flat and is answered by himself. On the whole more originality and less gruesome than many a horror collection.

VOLKHAVAAR. by Tanith Lee. DAW SF. \$1.50. 192pp. Fantasy with flair! It traces the lives of the slave girl Shaina and of Volk who discovers the way to evil power. The thread between them is witchcraft but they end up on opposite sides. Powerfully imaginative, particularly in telling the story of the boy who became an evil force and terrorises a whole land.

HUNTER OF WORLDS by C.J. Cherryh. DAW SF. \$1.75. 254pp. To be honest, I think I would have to read this one twice to absorb it all! We see most of the action through Aiela who is abducted to serve the iduve clan-ship ASHANOME. The iduve

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are the most advanced race who live in giant space-going vessels. They are humanoid, but predators incapable of human emotions. Just to absorb the background of them is quite something; but there is also a huge range of action in which many characters work out their destiny. I became really caught up in trying to figure it all out. Powerful and engrossing.

WARLORD OF GHANDOR: by Del DowDel. DAW SF. \$1.50. 253pp. In the tradition of John Carter, but this is an Irishman who on his way to fight Cromwell's invasion of Ireland, lands in a different Earth -and has a different battle on his hands.

THE BANE OF THE BLACK SWORD: by Michael Moorcock. DAW SF. \$1.25. 157pp. The 5th novel of Elric of Melniboné. This revised edition contains a section never previously published in chronological sequence.

THE GRAND WHEEL by Barrington J. Bayley. DAW SF. \$1.50. 176pp. Just the book for any compulsive gamblers among you..for in this future everything turns on gambling. Scarne is a gambler who finally made it into the Grand Wheel, the ultimate syndicate..and who then found himself selected to play for all of humanity. Ironic and amusing.

GREEN PHOENIX by Thomas Burnett Swan: DAW SF. \$1.25. 141pp. For a change some pre-history, of the days when other intelligent creatures, such as dryads, are threatened by extinction by humanity. Delightful fantasy in a gentle mood.

APPROACHING OBLIVION by Harlan Ellison. PAN SF. 60p. 164pp. 11 stories. They are all highly original and extremely well written. They are also written with passion and conviction. I didn't like them though, I cannot share his harsh view of humanity.

FLIGHT TO OPAR by Philip José Farmer. METHUEN PAPERBACKS. 75p. 223pp. This is the second novel which features Hadon and is of the pre-history genre. Opar lies in Africa in the time when there was an inland sea and many cities. In this one Hadon is being hunted by a tyrant as he tries to establish his claim to a throne.

JOG RUMMAGE by Grahame Wright. PAN. 70p. 204pp. A very unusual fantasy, it has been compared to Tolkien..certainly the writing is as good but I found the story-line confusing at times. Jogs live a quiet life only now and then troubled by the Rat nation..but then Rummage finds his way out into another world. Not the usual triumphant ending..but rather a sad one. I found it fascinating and yet really weird!

ANALOG 9: Edited by Ben Bova. DOBSON SF. £3.95. 249pp. 6 stories. Selected from stories published between 1970 and 1972. Bova's introduction contains a tribute to John W. Campbell, this being the first collection since his death. Barbara Paul starts off with a gentle tale of a poetry-speaking computer. The largest is HERO by Joe Haldeman which is easily the best picture of what it would be like to be caught up in an inter-stellar war. The most satisfying one was THE PLAGUE by Keith Laumer, it is always good to read of someone getting their comeuppance. The other authors represented are Fred Pohl, Howard L. Myers and Katherine MacLean. A goodly selection.

now for a couple of block-busters..

SCIENCE FICTION SPECIAL No 21. Three books in one bargain volume. ENCHANTED PILGRIMAGE by Clifford D. Simak. THE PORTALS by Edward Andrew Mann. THE MAN WITH A THOUSAND NAMES by A.E. Van Vogt. Sidwick & Jackson. £4.95. 581pp. The Simak book is for the fantasy fan, not I. The bulk is taken up by a journey made by Mark the scholar, Gib the marshman, Hal of the Hollow tree, plus a goblin and a gnome. They are in a world where magic works and cultures are merging. There is a nicely worked-out puzzle. In THE PORTALS there is a leisurely told story of scientists dying mysteriously whilst trying to decipher an ancient book. Not a psychic story. Very good though ending rather rushed. Van Vogt entertains as ever. Steven is the spoiled son of the richest man and he moves in a complex plot with a dizzying exchange of bodies. His character, ruthless and selfish, both appals and intrigues the reader.

SCIENCE FICTION SPECIAL No 22. Three books in one bargain volume. TO LIVE AGAIN by Robert Silverberg. CEMETARY WORLD by Clifford D. Simak. MULTIFACE by Mark Adlard. Sigwick & Jackson. £4.95. 606pp. In CEMETARY WORLD Earth is only a cemetery which Fletcher arrives to explore beyond the actual rows and rows of graves. He meets the usual weird assortment of characters that can be dreamed up so easily by Simak. Highly entertaining. MULTIFACE shows England in the 22nd century when all basic needs are furnished free. The people are crammed into walled cities ruled over by a genetically improved executive class. An experiment by them to re-introduce work puts the whole workethic under the author's scrutiny which is thought-provoking to the reader. The Silverberg novel introduces the Scheffing process whereby (if you can afford it) the persona of someone who has died is available to be absorbed within you. The intricacies of this are convoluted enough - but when two powerful men set out to obtain the same persona - I almost lost the place! Very absorbing.

THE THORBURN ENTERPRISE by John Rankine. Dobson SF £3.95. 184pp. This is a space adventure yarn with a very nautical flavour. Commander Foreman has to find out why a powerfully rich man is heading an expedition into alien territory. Rather a clever description of how an insect culture could arise.

OPERATION ARES by Gene Wolfe. Dobson SF. £3.95. 208pp. I found this one, set in the not too distant future, rather hard to swallow. It starts with an America which has been slipping downwards, turning its back on technology and with a repressive government. The abandoned Martian colony wants to help but finds this difficult. Then there are the Russian and Chinese "helpers" too. Castle is the hero but, as the author rarely explains his thinking, I found him a very plastic character.

THE BARONS OF BEHAVIOUR by Tom Purdom. Dobson SF. £3.95. 189pp. In this America psych-technique is highly advanced. Enough so that Ralph, a psycho-therapist discovers that a whole county is being controlled by a political machine using these techniques. The only way he can counter this is to build a better machine himself. Some vivid descriptions of how this just might work..but a typical American nightmare for all that!

WORLDS FOR THE GRABBING by Brenda Pearce. Dobson SF. £3.95. 222pp. A very scientific SF story describing the puzzles that appear as expeditions try to use first Mercury, then Pluto, Venus, and lastly Saturn. Although the main characters stay the same these are really short stories strung together. I found it rather dry and the characters emotions appeared contrived. However one that Gerry Webb would love, for instance!

MISTER JUSTICE by Doris Piserchia. Dobson SF. £3.95. 176pp. Mr Justice appears as a superman who can move in time and who enforces his own justice on evil-doers. However there is another mutant in the world-Bingle who uses his power to produce chaos and degradation. Many of the scenes are gruesome and told with a wealth of detail. The story line jerks in a confusing fashion but does have a gripping quality, and the writer shows a powerful imagination.

TIME THIEVES by Dean R. Koontz. £3.75. 109pp. Rather short but very neat. We meet Mullion as he returns from what seems like a spell of amnesia. However he soon begins to realise that more than this has happened to him, and soon he becomes aware of telepathic ability and the fact that aliens have been tampering with his life. The ending is harsh but logical and Mullion engages the reader's sympathy. Yes, very neat!

UNIVERSE THREE edited by Terry Carr. Dobson SF. £3.95. 209pp. 7 stories plus an introduction by Terry. From Gene Wolfe there is the tale of a psychiatric island and its weird patients which I found intriguing. Geo Effinger has an original idea of a future for writers. Then there is Silverberg with a go-back-in-time-and-kill-your-grandfather twist that is quite dizzying!

Ross Rocklynn thinks up a good psychological trick to deal with hating, though it does sound too good to be true. Edgar Pangborn shows the face of tyranny and perhaps an end to it—an age-old theme that echoes the recent I CLAUDIUS series. An enjoyable selection.

THE MANY WORLDS OF MAGNUS RIDOLPH by Jack Vance. Dobson SF. £3.95. 146pp. Marcus is an interstellar trouble-shooter, and as such is to be found where such a person is badly needed. Some of his adventures are amusing and all are entertaining. The tales about him here are often very ingenious.

UNIVERSE FOUR: Edited by Terry Carr. Dobson SF. £3.95. 241pp. 8 stories. Jack Vance tells of the meeting of a superior woman with two rascals—and shows a rather shuddery future. Silverberg is foreseeing a new type of psychotherapy, but I did not find it very believable. Lafferty—whose off-beat vision is never better shown than here with his theory that history is compressed. MY SWEET LADY JOE is an ironic tale of how frozen sleep travel can really mix up lives. Goulart next, who seems to improve in the short story form; his gadgets seem more real and are just as amusing as in the novels. The last three by Pamela Sargent, Gordon Eklund with Greg Benford, and Alexei Panshi are more bizarre, less easy to describe. At all events — not routine SF, and well worth reading.

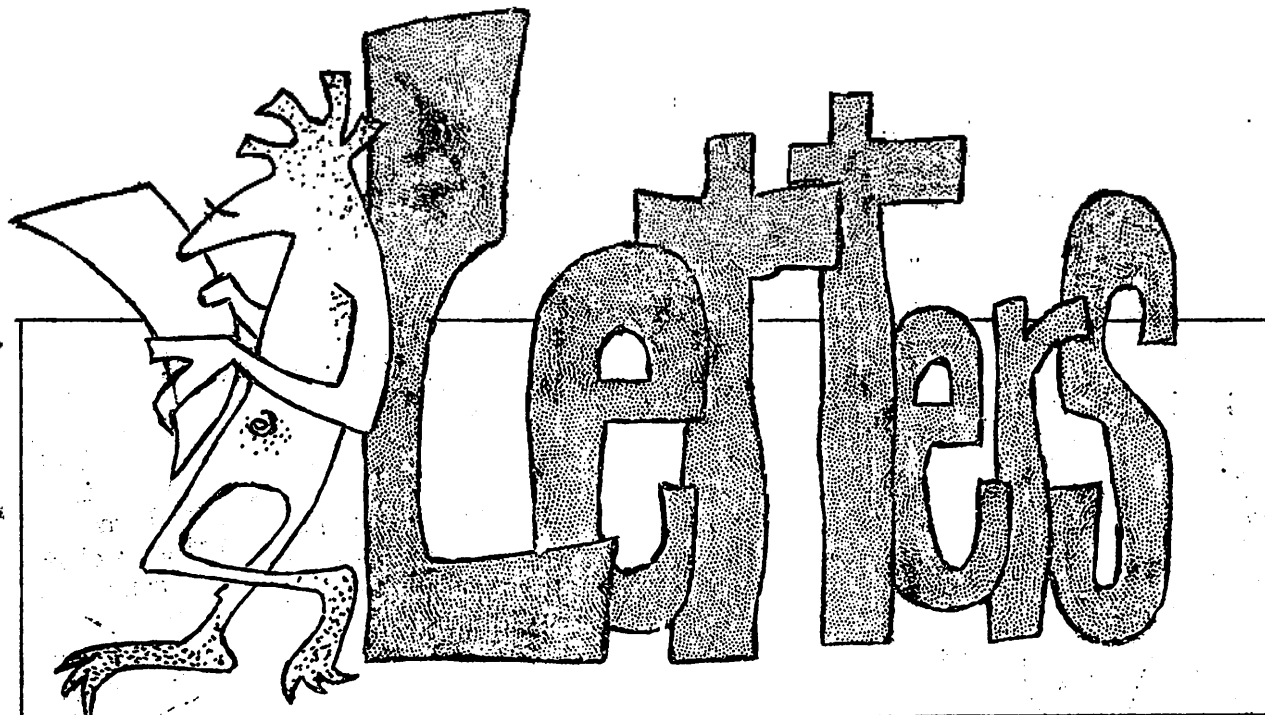
ARRIVE AT EASTERWINE. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A KTISTEC MACHINE as conveyed to R.A. Lafferty. Dobson SF. £3.95. 216pp. According to Lafferty, this book was written by a creative machine (that's what Ktistec means) and it is the journal of its birth and its education by the humans of the Institute where he was born. It is a very, very odd book, much odder than anything Lafferty has done before. I usually enjoy his books but I can't say the same about this one. I found it too incomprehensible and more bother than it was worth to try and comprehend it.

Well—that was a big splash from Dobson SF—can't remember when I have had so many before. He is a publisher who is very faithful to SF. However..now back to the paperbacks..

DR BLOODMONEY or HOW WE GOT ALONG AFTER THE BOMB. by Philip K. Dick. Arrow Books. 80p. 290pp. Of all the nuclear aftermath stories this is one of the most absorbing. The vision of a stranded astronaut endlessly circling the earth with the ability to transmit down and use the million miles of tape he has to entertain and help the people below is fascinating. And the people below are equally so as some strange mutants appear. The conflict and suspense comes with one of the mutants deciding to cut off the astronaut and take his place. The action takes place in a small town outside San Francisco and Dick really makes it all seem very real, and one becomes involved with the characters who try to live there as best as may be in a shattered world.

BRONTOMEK! by Michael Coney. Pan SF. 70p. 223pp. Coney is always an author to whom one can look forward to reading, whatever the variation of plot, at least you know the writing will be good. There are two scenes of real horror and the book opens with one of them. Arcadia has a human colony which is gradually giving up—the opening horror scene being one reason why. Then the Hetherington Organisation offers them a five year plan to bring the planet back to prosperity. On agreement the Arcadians find being unloaded brontomeks—giant robot machines, and amorphs who are capable of moulding themselves into human form. I don't know why he chose brontomek for the title, for the heart of the story concerns the impact of the amorphs. On reflection, the end of the story is foreseeable, but I was too busy reading to see what would happen next to foresee! The elements of this story deserve a much longer critique, and I hope to read it in SF Commentary one day. I content myself with recommending it very highly.

OFF CENTRE by Damon Knight. Magnum Books. 70p. 192pp. 8 stories. A very good title for the kind of stories that are presented here..the man who can bend the past, the man who discovers we are all inhabited by the dead, the policeman who almost caught a Martian...a good mixture of the weird, wonderful and sometimes grim.



Alan J. Freeman:



books published so far have all been re-titled at least once each and what with separate 'story expansion' novelets floating around it gets rather confusing to say the least. Your NATTERINGS were varied and interesting as usual but some of those puns...oh dear! Also I can't get that tsk tsk right however hard I try, I end up spitting everywhere which I am sure can't be right."

Roy Tackett:

Up the
Big
Yin

"Fans in Scotland? A convention in Glasgow might be favorably looked on from this side. Although we didn't get to Glasgow we got farther north to Inverness. We felt right at home there...a delightful town. We took the service bus out towards Whitebridge, got off a couple of miles from Foyers and walked over to the Loch. The bus driver gave us vast amounts of Scottish history in the couple of hours we were with him. Service bus, yes. He delivered mail, packages, papers, milk and a few passengers. We had a light lunch in one town which I paid for with a fiver and received my change with the comment that it was all good Scots money—not an English note in the lot. There were Scots Nats posters everywhere. Isn't it wonderful what oil can do? Lots of complaints, too, that the unemployment rate in Scotland is/was higher than in England. We have to

come to something like the NHS. Medical costs over here are getting to the place where only the very rich or the very poor can afford to get sick. Rene

Letters 2

had her tonsils out this past March and the bill came to over \$950 which was absolutely ridiculous. Most of it (75%) fortunately, was paid by CHAMPUS which is one of the benefits old retired warriors still have at the moment although the economy drives of Mr Carter's administration are threatening to make that more costly for us"

Bob Shaw:

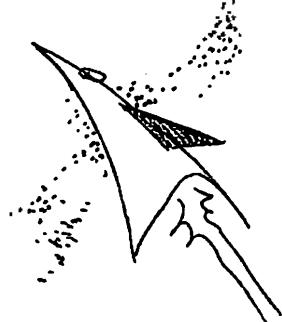


"Mervyn Barrett's letter in this issue reminds me of your comment in the previous issue about Gerry Webb being one of the few good-looking men in fandom. I hadn't realised there were two Gerry Webbs in the fannish microcosm, and I look forward to meeting the handsome one. The one I know is a nice bloke who resembles a genial candy apple, and who spends a lot of time up near the North Pole firing rockets up into the sky. That's what causes all those strange shifting lights you can see in the northern sky of a winter's night. Looking over the collection of quotes you publish, I suddenly realise why I didn't enjoy my food too much at the Eastercon banquet, though I think the pun of mine about the bison isn't bad for an off-the-cup job. (I, too, noticed that Donald Malcolm dipped his roll into his soup when he thought nobody was looking, but it was a bit harsh of you to expose his little foible by christening

him Dunkin' Malcolm.) Talking about exposing little foibles, I think you're right when you say people should be cool and contemptous when confronted by a flasher. That's what I'm going to do if it ever happens to me. One of those gents has been hanging around the grounds of the local hospital lately trying to frighten the nurses. Trouble was he was so small the nurses kept frightening him, so he took to working as a team with a large yokel from these parts. Unfortunately for them, the first night they tried working as a pair they picked on two laboratory assistants who were carrying a jar of powerful skin anaesthetic and a canister of liquid oxygen. The girls soused the offenders in the appropriate places and drove them off. The police said afterwards that they were looking for a massive bumpkin with a passive pumpkin, and a frigid midget with a right digit." ***If I were you, Bob, I'd blame those puns on Willis—all those years of living near him was bound to have some effect!***

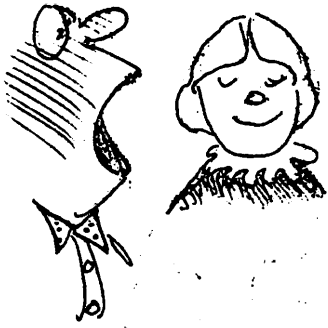
Jan Howard Finder: " Your 'natterings' brought fond memories of doing those horrible puns at the banquet. Quote cards are not found here, to the loss of all involved. I plan to introduce this fine custom at the first opportunity. Luv, I'm involved in several projects which you may be able to help. 1) The Tucker Transfer. All I need to say is in the last issue of SB. 2) The Terry Jeeves Special Fund. First Fandom, over here, and the Knights of St. Fanthony, over there, are working to bring Terry to SUNCON. We need money. 3) The Winter 78 issue of SB will be an all woman issue. I'm looking for Good articles. Deadline is Dec. 1st." *** I am afraid that by the time this is published most of

your Projects will have been completed one way or another! So hope they worked out for you.***



Letters 2

Harry Warner:



"It has been a hard day, starting with an interview with a 92-year-old woman at whom I was forced to yell violently, at a time when my throat wasn't in the best of condition to begin with, and continuing with efforts to coax a plumber to come to the house. I'm not sure there is anything wrong with the plumbing, despite the way things are leaking and running. Newspapers have been publishing so much about corrupt politicians that I am forced to suspect that the real trouble is inferior water while some authority or other is pocketing the good water. In short, my theory is that the municipal water is being diluted while the public is being charged for full strength water. This obviously would cause the thinner water to seep through valves and washers which the full

strength, normally thick water couldn't penetrate. As soon as I write a series of articles on this, I'm sure the Pulitzer Prize for journalism lies within reach." *** Well, I know there are no puns in that lot, but I am wondering if you have ever had dealings with Shaw and Willis? ***

Darroll Pardoe:



"I can't resist joining in with some comments on the Doc Weir Award. It does seem a pity that it should be the cause of some ill-feeling, but that's partly the result of the direction the Award has been taking of recent years. There is an impression, rightly or wrongly, that the Award usually goes to someone prominent in BSFA affairs. Since the BSFA isn't tied in with fandom in general anything like so closely as it used to be in the days when the Award was set up, such an impression has to react unfavourably on the Award itself, especially when, as happens now and then, the BSFA gets itself into a mess. When the Award was first set up voting was by members of the current Eastercon, and that system worked very well. The downhill path began when all BSFA members were allowed

to vote, whether they joined the convention or not. One big problem is of apathy. I would guess that most people who are eligible to vote do not do so. There appears to be little attempt made to publicise the award or to make it seem worth while to potential voters that they should actually cast their vote. It would seem to require rather more than just an ad in the con programme book to bring in the votes, but no one seems to be trying all that hard. At the 10th anniversary of Doc Weir's death in 1971 no mention was made of the fact by the Award administrators(whoever they are: I've never been sure of who it is runs the Award), and I suspect it had never occurred to them that it was the 10th anniversary. I tried to revive Doc's memory by printing up a collection of Doc Weir's writings from fanzines and handing out 300 copies of it at the Worcester con; but reactions were virtually zero. So, apathy. The main problem, Ethel, is that most fans nowadays see the Award as totally irrelevant to fandom or anything else. It is a great shame that it should be so, but what is there that can be done to change it? It's probably too late. It's a lot easier to get a bad reputation(deserved or not)than to shed it once it's acquired." *** Well-perhaps we could find out who are the Administrators; I confess I do not know either. Any change would be for the better if it will stop hurtful remarks being made about the winners.***

Letters 4

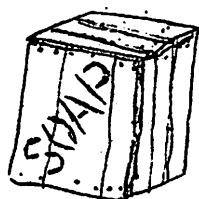
Pamela Boal:



"Your objection to John Norman does seem to imply that you think less intelligent uneducated women do enjoy the slavery that their more fortunate sisters reject. I was taught that a lady makes a gentleman and a slave makes a master. It's a sad fact of life that People discriminate against People. For the majority of our generation it is too late to change the expected roles, but for the young things are much better. My 12yr old nephew came top of the sewing class and his twin sister did very well in metal work no one thought it was odd. I think your fellow-panellist, Gerry Webb was right when he said that the majority of women will not choose to do the jobs traditionally done by men. As long as they have a definite choice this is fine. All we need to do is keep a watching brief to ensure that individuals are free to maintain the role that suits their personalities.

It really isn't so long ago that women wanted to identify with the swooning maiden carried off into the desert by Rudolph Valentino. People like ourselves were born ahead of our time in wanting heroines with intelligent thinking and independent minds. As there are now many more of us, authors like Anne McCaffrey arise to give us heroines. It's the same for boys, not so long ago they preferred to identify with heroes who solved problems with their muscles, now they want heroes who solve problems with their brains. That in fact is the reason for Tr Who's popularity. Come to think of it this change discriminates against more people. Female chauvenism causes far more discontented and unhappy women, than male chauvenism. Because we aspire to a certain life style we should not denigrate the achievements of others. Why should any woman be made to feel ashamed because she wants to run a comfortable home and raise happy healthy children? Personally I have no desire to out gross anyone male or female, but thank goodness for the climate that allows writers to create heroines who do. I only hope that climate does not squeeze out women like my friend who makes delicious home-made jam or create more young women who walk around looking as though soap or needle and thread had never been invented!"

Richard J. Smith:



"I support your reasons for short book reviews, but when a major novel is released like IMPERIAL EARTH more comment would be welcome. As for the letters, I am glad to see politics are creeping in, even if only halfheartedly. The lack of political activity among fans is distressing. There is no excuse for political apathy among British fans at a time when our government relies on an uneasy Lib-Lab pact, and the Tories and National Front increase their votes. The political structure of the UK is being threatened by the rise of the nationalist parties, which is a much more serious matter than Roger Waddington seems to

think. We are living in a period of inflation rapidly eroding the £ in our pocket. Germany showed in the 20s and 30s what that could lead to."***Well, I have published your letter but I am very wary of political arguments in fandom. It caused a lot of trouble in German fandom! Anyway I don't think fans are any more apathetic than others..they just have more interesting things to write about in their zines.***

Letters 5

Graham England:



"Thank you for printing my letter. That makes my first LOC published in UK. Is it a record to learn of UK fandom via Leigh Edmonds, Don G. Thompson of Denver, and ALGOL? SCOT and MAYA have provided my way to the One Tun, where a few people were willing to talk to me. Mike Glicksohn describes the Neo's plight in MAYA very well, but does not reproduce the contempt felt by many for Neo's. Greg Pickersgill is apparently known for some forthright comments. Dave Langford has hassified some fans by those Greg has no time for....after listening to him talking to Roger Peyton about an award it might be better to keep out of his way in the future....Your comments on feminism follow some of my own feelings, however there are things about it that still bother me. The militant

feminists I've met have always been colourless and boring. A tableau at Oxford University: A friend invited me to dinner at All Soul's, next to us was an earnest Postgraduate and his worshipping girlfriend. He was lecturing her on a Penguin about feminism, which he regarded as very sound." ***Please do not worry too much about the expression 'neo', it is all a lot of tosh really, and don't listen to what somebody says somebody else is like..find out for yourself --go ahead and talk to people and make your own judgements!***

James White:

If You don't
like Japanese
Not Balls
Why DID
you order
them - - -



"My first reaction on seeing that cover was that Sector General had gone bionic --but I like it and all the other ATOM interiors as well. You are very lucky, you know, that he is within reach and that you are expert in the location and treatment of pressure points -- a hammerlock here, a thumb jabbed into the funny-bone there, and another ATOM illo. comes out to the desired shape, size and humorous consistency. I liked the words as well as the pictures, of course, and especially your ~~potted~~ potted reviews, which is why I approve of VECTOR and the rest of the BSFA blockbuster mailing. But the item which really shook me was the news that you would be leaving Courage House next year. I always think of you and your address in the same breath, if you know what I mean, and

when you change it will be much harder than learning to write 1978 after 1977 has been used up. This must be the first loc I've written you, because I prefer the warm intimacy of mumbling into your ear when I'm phoning Ella Parker, and you are there. But time is running out, 1978 is half-way here, and I just had to write to SCOTTISHE. I feel sad. All the nice accents are leaving England.

PS In case you don't already know, my short story Custom Fitting has made the Hugo ballot - according to Rob Jackson it is the only UK story to be nominated. I feel proud and kinda humble and my hat won't fit." *** Come on now, James, you are joshing ~~up~~..you know perfectly well you havn't got a hat! ***

Terry Jeeves:



"again, a good ATOM cover. Presumably the attendant robot is a member of the NHS, and not one of those blackleg doctors? In cold figures what we pay may seem a lot..and of course it is..but the security and peace of mind it brings is worth a heck of a lot. For my own case, although I have a few minor quibbles..I would have been sunk without a trace financially, physically and probably mentally, had I lived in the USA. I had my own seven years of crippling, disabling asthma, the final alleviation to a controllable level (NOT a cure of course) being brought about by a course of three capsules a day which my chemist assures me cost around £8 a can of 50..

and I get a can every two weeks. Picture my charges on that lot. Set against

Letters 6

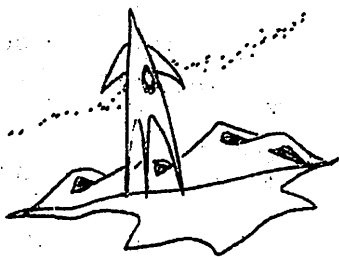
that, a lousy doctor who had NO IDEA what to do about my asthma..and three lots of specialists. I changed doctors, was sent elsewhere..and bang, on the road to normalcy in a few weeks. Can I coax you into a brief piece for ERG on the lines of "How I encountered fandom" or if that doesn't grab you ..maybe, a bit on the difficulties of fanpubbing from a nurse's angle." ****The difficulties of fanpubbing from this nurses' angle is that these days I come off duty too used up to do anything but flop. It takes me all my time to bring SCOT and THE MYSTERY TRADER out twice a year! Try me again when I retire...One of the nicest things I saw at this year's con was Val and yourself up dancing..it did me good to watch you!****

Sid Birchby:



"Looking through your book reviews, I was struck by the number of parallel-world themes. A reviewer in the Sunday Times recently commented that it seemed to be a trend at present. Not surprising, perhaps, in view of the mess the world is in. Surely there must be a better one somewhere! Anyone like to name the first paratime story? I don't mean H. Beam Piper's series which popularised the term, but the first story in which the idea of branched-time was stated and developed. The first I know is Murray Lenister's SIDEWISE IN TIME (Astounding, June 1934). Before that, only fantasies such as Cabell's JURGEN, 1921, in which the theme obviously hasn't arrived. And of course, straight TT stories all stemming from Wells's TIME MACHINE of 1895. Next question: what's the first TT story of any sort, linear or branched? Something odd here. Wells was the first. Before him, a few fantasies in which TT was merely a device for pointing a moral. Again, the idea hadn't arrived. Main example, Dickens's CHRISTMAS CAROL, 1843, and this is almost the first. Suddenly about 1895, the idea arrived. Jules Verne (1828-1905) missed it completely, for some reason. Maybe he was too old by that time. SF authors have usually been quick to pick the implications from the latest work of scientists. Wells said that he got his idea for THE TIME MACHINE after going to a lecture on the Fourth Dimension in 1887. It was his first book, apart from a textbook, and what a debut! Single-handed he invented Time Travel. Unless anyone knows differently. There is a lot of theory to support the existence of paratime travel, and these words are chosen with care, meaning to say that it is both possible and being practiced. See, for instance, an ANALOG fact-article, December 1976. Any comments appreciated. Someone I know is doing a thesis on the growth of the TT idea, and any new facts will be passed on to her. Also I am writing "An Introduction to Paratemporal Physics".

Keith Freeman:

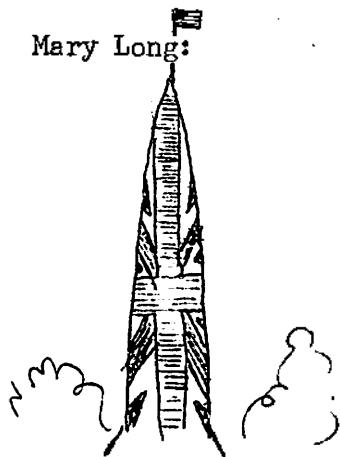


"Doc Weir Award. I realise, as the latest holder, my views are biased. I have not agreed, in the past, with the people who've won it - nor with the 'politicking' that's gone on - but this is true of any/every award and, as far as I know, the Doc Weir Award is not especially prone to being awarded to the wrong person. Several people have suggested St Fanthony should rise once more - to culminate in a ceremony at the '79 Worldcon. My feelings are mixed. What do you think? Lastly, may I add my pennyworth on the subject of your book reviews - the style you adopt is the kind I prefer; it gives me enough information to put the book into one of three categories - must read, maybe,

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or "I shan't worry about that one". Would agree, however, that the number of pages would be useful ***** St. Fanthony was invented to amuse the Americans at the first World Loncon..so I suppose it might be appropriate. However, when I think of all this talk of Establishment nowadays..I feel the ceremony should only be held at the direct invitation of a con committee. It was invented to make a colourful programme item and have a bit of fun..and unless it is received in that spirit - it would cause more ill-feeling than it would be worth. On the other hand if we are never to have another what do I do with this outfit which includes a snazzy red velvet cloak?*****

Mary Long:



"I'd wondered about the ATOM illos, and am rather pleased to learn how it works. It's not everyone who (except the loccers to your mag) who get an ATOM illo specially drawn for them! I did like mine...Okefenoke was a bit south from IHB. Ah, the Union Jack..did you know that if I had one and flew it here, I should have to fly it under the American flag! Surely we don't say the same thing in England? I remember reading that a chap, a Canadian, flew his flag and someone reported him to the cops for not flying it under an American one. Recently an uncle (nearly 80) came back north. He was the original rolling stone, never married but every few years would pop up, stay a few days, and then disappear again. He was ill when he came home

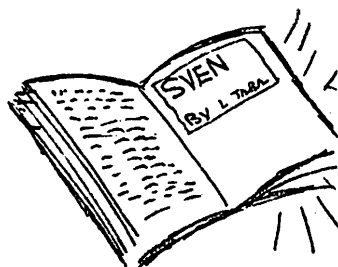
and was sent into hospital at South Shields. Mum was going down from Gateshead every night-its about 30 miles-by bus (being retired though, she goes free) Well, the uncle went into a rapid decline, and when the hospital saw how it was, they sent a taxi to Mum, free, and fetched her. Gave her a meal too when she got there. He died, anyhow, although as Mum said, at least he came home and did not die alone in the south. I was incredibly impressed at the hospital so I wrote and said how grateful we were. They wrote back and thanked me for my letter - that the staff concerned were grateful for the letter. What do you think of that?" ***Letters like that get stuck up where everyone can see them, and they do cheer up those who read them! ***

Warren Silvera:



"Hope you and ATOM are like Johnny Walker! Still going strong. My long silence due to illness and hospitalisation. Now quite better except for old age..now 85 years old. All the best to both of you." ***Which must make you my oldest reader and therefore glad to know you are feeling better..and please act like Johnny Walker yourself! ***

Roy Lavendar:



"Your comments on kidney machines..there are loud noises in some of our papers on the subject of the Right to Die.. and when is a person legally dead? My own viewpoint, if there is no hope of ever returning to life free of the machines, then pull the plug. Your comment about the Doc Weir Award--con committees run their own con. Even the World cons and the mass of rules that are supposed to apply--are run according to the con committee. Reminds me of a Midwestcon at which Lou Tabakow received a Hugo for the Best Unpublished Story. It was a gag, of course, based on his story SVEN, which got a cover and a listing in OTHER WORLDS, but didn't get printed. His Hugo was real and the many letters of congratulation from a dozen or so main writers were real. Lou wrote a letter replying to

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each one of those letters and in every case, managed to top the first letter. John Alderson's letter...There's a movement back to the country going on in this country. Something like 130 leaving the cities for every 100 moving in. Of course the real effect is to make everything city, since most are unwilling to leave the more civilised touches behind, like indoor toilets, running water and the corner supermarket. During the fifteen years that we've been in southern California the area from Long Beach to San Diego has become almost all city. San Marino county up there has a severe water problem that is setting very tight limits on the growth of the area. As for the nationwide water shortage, the Ralph M Parsons company, some twelve or thirteen years ago, proposed the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) which would have brought Alaskan water now running into the Arctic Ocean down to Canada, the USA and Mexico. Nothing happened then. Now it is being revived and waved about again. Again, nothing new to be invented--all the engineering knowhow was ready the first time around. All it requires is cooperation of three countries, about thirty states of the USA, all the provinces of Canada and the three northern states of Mexico. Give you three guesses on its chances."

Andrew Porter:



View of E. Lindsay's Retirement cottage, Neptune. AP

Sincere thanks to all who wrote..you are the ones who keep me going!
The above illo is the only one not done by ATOM. I ventured to translate it to stencil myself.

Ethel.

PS. A postcard from John Brunner informs me that the word Fortlaget is the Norwegian for "publishing house".



Comments on fanzines received.....and this time I will start with some foreign language zines:
OCTAZINE No 4 & No 8:From:Claude Dumont, S.F.Club de Namur B.P. 294 Namur 2. Belgique. The first is mainly advertising Beneluxcon 5, but No 8 has more solidity to it. It is well-produced with a very nice coloured cover. It is packed with articles and letters. I wish I could read the article that appears to have a quote from THE STORY OF O at its head! Among the fanzine reviews is one on SCOT with a line in English just for me...a very handsome gesture. I also received the con booklet from BENELUXCON 5 but this has also English translations. Bob Shaw was Guest of Honour, and Waldemar Kunning Fan Guest of honour. There is a good write-up of both plus articles about the principal speakers.

REQUEM:No 16:From:Norbert Spehner,1085, Rue St-Jean,Longueuil,Quebec,J4H 2Z3 Canada. \$1. If it is possible, the production is even better, the artwork presented with care, and they are particularly good at reproducing sf covers. There are plenty of reviews and articles, most of the recent sf is covered.

ZEALOT:No 1:From:Ragnar ????, Bactrianus Publishing Co.Solliveien 37 N 1370 Asker. NORWAY. This consists solely of letters received after a previous issue. Rather confusing as Ragnar frequently interrupts with long interjections. It is quite amusing in spots though, and Ragnar's command of the English language is enough to allow him to indulge in jokes. However if it were not for the letter-writers I would not know his name for it is never mentioned in full.

MARK:No 2.8.From:John Mansfield,410-240 Brittany Ave,Ottawa,Ontario,Canada.K1K 0R7. A personal newszine..and still in English...Rather a mixture..starts off with lots about wargaming and then goes on to the subject of TV. He gives the news of the cancellation of the film STAR TREK but no more knows the reason than anyone else.

MAE STRELKOV, CC 55; 5220 Jesus Maria,Cordoba,Argentina has sent me a letter saying that she is finding it harder to keep publishing. She includes two of her lovely colour prints- I know I would be quite happy to trade for even one of them!

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Now for some British zines;

HESSEN: From: Graham England, 55 Colbrook Ave. Hayes, Middx. UB3 1TQ. 20p or trade etc. Fiction by Harry Less sees a future completely computerised..sounded real deadly to me. Having studied a little German however, I found the next piece by Graham on German usage very, very funny. On the other hand I could make nothing of the article about a Structured Program Design..it left me with a question though. What does 'software' mean?

ME ANNALS: From: Mike Hamilton, 16 Madeira Ave. Whitley Bay, Northumberland. NE26 1SF. It looks as if the use of "ish" for issue is going to stay with us, I wonder why I dislike it so! This is a pretty rough first issue; with lots of typos (well I call my spelling mistakes typos) and double-spacing that always makes thin material look thinner. Still, he does tell us something about himself -why not write about the marine engineering you are studying, Mike? This could be of real interest.

SCAB TREK: From??? though Brosnah Fact & Fiction Ltd are mentioned. I would guess it was done at some weekend gathering of fans -some of it is funny and some of it is witty and a lot of it is tosh.

ARENA: No 6: From: Geoff Rippington, 15 Queens Ave. Canterbury. Kent. CT2 8AY. 40p/\$1. As STAR WARS is not yet out, Geoff says he cannot review it; so he describes it and recommends it, but mind you he doesn't review it. I guess anyone who has seen it just cannot resist writing about it. The front cover of this zine has some excellent stills from it. There is an interview with Robert Shockey followed by a critique of his work by David Wingrove, both done with competence. Andrew Sawyer has an article on SF. I am indebted to him for the information that Peter Dickinson wrote three books on his "CHANGES" theme. I have THE WEATHERMONGER, does anyone know if the other two are in paperback? The letter column here is particularly good-drawing some very cogent thoughts about a previous George Hay article. This is a zine really worth getting.

NEWS FROM BREE: No 22: From: Hartley Patterson, 7 Cambridge Rd. Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 1HW. 30p/60p. A very well produced fanzine devoted to SF and Fantasy Games. Clear listings of the various games that can be bought with comments about their value. I see, also by a listing, that the number of Gameszines are increasing all the time. Good value.

TWILL DHU: Nos 8&9: From: Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave. Reading Berks. RG2 7PW. No 8 has fan fiction, have not seen this for quite a while..a bit different though nowadays..no plot! On the other hand No 9 has a really funny comment on the winning of the Worldcon for Brighton. After that a few letters and a final chuckle.. "BRITAIN IS FINE IN '79..And it's too late to do anything about it now". Well..I thought it was funny.

DAISNAID: No 5: From: D. West, 48 Norman St. Bingley West, Yorks. BD16 4JT. I guess you could call this a gossip-zine, there are certainly plenty names mentioned, who are well-known in fandom. I didn't find this one funny though...rather strained humour.

CHAIRLIPS AND CANDELABRAS: No 2: From: Richard McMahon, 287 South Lane, New Malden, Surrey. A personal-type zine containing a few letters and a lot of comment from the editor -which is a good basis for expansion.

TRIODE: No 25: From: Eric Bentcliffe, 17 Riverside Crescent, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 7NR. 50p/\$1. Nice to see a well-illustrated zine again with a fine Jim Cawthorne cover, and plenty of Rotsler and Jeeves cartoons. After some sensible remarks by Eric about the publishing of a fanzine there is a real treat..an article by Mal Ashworth (I wonder how Eric managed that!) By the first paragraph I am laughing already, in fact I laughed all the way through..and sighed and wished we had more around like him. Eric had put out a questionnaire on 'Fan Humour' and got enough answers to make fascinating reading. Naturally the best definition of fan humour came from Walt Willis. Best issue of T yet.

Haverings 3

FANZINE FANATIQUE: Nos 26 & 27: From: Keith & Rosemary Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Querr- With the last issue I see a distinct improvement in the duplicating..which is good as I like this round-up of fanzine reviews. They are very comprehensive over the whole range of zines. Very handy too for the editor who wants some addresses for trading.

STOP BREAKING DOWN: No 5: From: Greg Pickersgill & Simone Walsh, 7A Lawrence Rd. 30p in postage stamps or trade etc. Greg starts and seems to talk himself in and out of fandom and in again in 2pp...but he has a good list of reasons why people leave. He mentions next going to hunt for SF in Tooting! When George Locke lives there, just about the most dedicated book-hunter around. (If you do not believe me, ask his wife!) D. West writes a con-report which does not report the con but rambles on in a rather self-conscious way. Eric Bentcliffe has an article on TAFF suggesting some needed reforms, I am pleased to see Gregg.. agreeing with him. Peter Roberts is now the British administrator so I hope he takes this to heart. I liked Simone's column and wished she had written more about her psychiatrist employer. Most of active British fandom is featured in the letter column..lots of trenchant opinions! A real good issue.

SIDDHARTHA: No 8: From: Ian Williams, 6 Grot. Terr. Chester Rd. Sunderland. SR4 7RD. This is the best personal-type zine so far - it runs on for months and covers a wedding, parties, fan weekends, the Eastercon and a holiday in Brittany. Ian takes the trouble to describe all that he sees. Highly enjoyable.

MAFUNCTION: From: Pete Presford, 'Ty Gwyn', Maxwell Close, Buckley, Clwyd, Cymru. A letter-zine with lots of comments by the editor, not very well separated. Some nice bits about his move to Wales, but could have done with more.

EGLADIL: No 5: From: Stuart & Rosie Clark, 14 Guston Rd. Vinter's Park, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 5QL. Given for show of interest only and aim is clearly stated.. "Our principal business is the serious matter of having fun, with the Fantasy genre". 18p or 50p. Major item is THE IMPORTANCE OF FANTASY by Elizabeth Horrocks which I found interesting. The fiction I found too derivative and unbelievable. The best item was a poem by Vera Chapman..fantasy and sense twined together!

ATROPOS: No 4: From: Dave Cockfield, 57 Wilson Ct. Hebburn, Tyne & Wear. A good genzine with a range of material. I was most interested, naturally, in the Dave Langford piece about his stay in hospital. I also found useful the column about SF films. No reason for Dave to be the mite defensive he is in the editorial.

ERG: No 60: From: Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd. Sheffield S11 9FE. 6 for £1.7/51. Another genzine with plenty of book and zine reviews. Main event is a question and answer article with Don Malcolm. Don mentions Ted Carnell, which makes me think it is odd that no one has really written an article about the man who was our Mr Science Fiction. Now how about that Terry?

LOGO: No 4: From: Kevin Easthope, 6 Ipsley Grove, Erdington, Birmingham. B23 7SY. For trade etc. Kevin tells of suffering from a piece of malicious gossip. Well, I always knew that men were the greatest gossips of all! However Kevin does rather over-react. Gosh, at times I feel I am re-reading THE IMMORTAL STORM! On the other hand here is Tom Perry poking gentle fun at fan editors, a quite delightful piece. The reproduction from the past this time is from HYPHEN and by a George Spencer. Kevin asks if anyone knows who he was..well I have a card (you can see I rarely throw things away) for George..he was in ONPA once, lived in Maryland and moved to Berkley. A lot of fans disappeared after they moved to Berkley! I can remember twitting Redd Boggs about it, and he never wrote to me again. This zine got me thinking we fans often forget the difference between the written and the spoken word when it comes to joshing folks.

CHECKPOINT: No 82: From: Peter Roberts, 38 Oakland Drv. Dawlish, Devon.. 5/50p 6/51 Still the best British newszine as up to date as anyone could wish. I am very pleased, for instance, to read that Rotsler has won DUFF, I'd sure like to read his comments on Australia.

NOTE..ERROR ABOVE..To complete address for Greg add S.Ealing. London W5

HAVERINGS 4

MAYA: No 14: From: Rob Jackson, 71 King John St. Heaton, Newcastle-upon Tyne. NE6 5XR 50p/\$1. Rob's opening remarks on his entry into fandom leads him to thoughts on fandom as a whole - is a model of an editorial. Brian Aldiss writes about British SF, it is a theme he has written before.. British is Best. I really think one should substitute the word 'English' - for this has that modest English arrogance that drives other nationals wild. Bob Shaw's talk THE BERMONDSEY TRIANGLE MYSTERY is given here and reads as funny as it was funny when listening.. not always the case. Mike Gillicksohn writes about the difference between British and American cons, and this is very timely before the two lots meet at Brighton. The letter column debates a lot over the Weston article on Platt in the previous issue. It's interesting to see people trying to make judgements about Platt who only know about him from this article. Some of them are very revealing. However I thought the best letter was by Marion Zimmer Bradley who comments on a previous article about being a writer. What a sensible woman she is! Well, yes, no doubt at all.. this is the best fanzine in Britain right now.

VECTOR: Nos 81&82: Edited by Christopher Fowler, 72 Kenilworth Ave. Southcote, Reading. RG3 3DN. Journal of the British SF Association. 75p is you are not a member. Here you come for serious discussion of sf, and in 81 I particularly liked Cy Chauvin's dispassionate review of British SF. 82 has stills from STAR WARS for the covers. I wonder if the heroine's hairstyle will catch on with all the publicity that is being generated! There is a great deal of in-depth reporting on the film here, and certainly it will answer all your technical questions. The stills make nice souvenirs too. There is a good reply to Cy Chauvin from Mark Adlard.. it's a nice little argument - the difference between British and American sf if you want to get into it. With these comes the BSFA YEARBOOK 1977. edited by Dave Lewis, 8 Aldis Ave. Stowmarket, Suffolk.. some of the summings-up in this are better than others.. now isn't that a horrid sentence? PAPERBACK PARLOUR.. does just that.. takes all the pbs into the parlour and gives you short reviews of them. With these comes two other magazines.. NEXUS which is a reviews supplement and MATRIX which is a sort of junior VECTOR. At least a new fan nowadays gets a pretty fair view of what's happening in fandom from the BSFA nowadays.

As I turn to the American fanzines, it is appropriate that I start with the American equivalent of the BSFA.. or perhaps I should say it the other way round as The N3F is a much older organisation -

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN: Vol. 37. No 3: From: Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct. Lake Jackson, TX 77566. This is the official organ and in it one can see that the N3F have different Bureaus which range from Collectors to Tape. They also have a Welcommittee to welcome new members. It is very much geared to fans who are mainly correspondants. A lot of dedicated people have been working for it for years. There is an Overseas Bureau if folks over here are interested.

YANDRO: No 240: From: Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN 47348. USA 45p/75p. British Agent; Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd. Hoddesdon, Herts. This issue has something unusual.. Bill Danner writing other than in his own zine. A neat little piece too. Buck's book reviews are good value as usual, and often more entertaining than the books he is reviewing.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW: Nos 21&22: From: Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211. \$1.50. I always read MONOLOG first, as Dick's views on current affairs are always provocative. I am also interested in his efforts with wood-produced heat, so that he can save on oil costs. I bought a calor-gas stove with the same aim in mind. Mixed in, of course, are letters and comments on the SF read by Dick. This leads to such exchanges as between George Warren and himself about the use of plots taking the novel SHANE as an example. There are two marvellous interviews here - in 21 it is Leigh Brackett and Ed Hamilton and 22 has John Varley. To me though, the best in both issues was the article by Marion Zimmer Bradley in ..

describes her attempts to write about women in sf..particularly rewarding to read alongside her DARKOVER novels. There is of course a great deal of sf discussion and reviews which, frankly, makes the reading of SFR something not lightly undertaken. Personally-I laid an evening aside for it, and I am a very quick reader....there are too many good things in this to be browsed over.

KARASS:Nos 30,31,32 from Linda E.Bushyager,1614 Evans Ave.Propect Park,Pa. 19076. \$2/5 issues,one for one trade. This combines a highly efficiet newzine with discussion of topical subjects in fandom. I admire Linda who has the courage to take an unpopular stand and stick with it. Not that she isn't open to other arguments,..sheis scrupulously fair in producing them. Undoubtedly if the vexed question of 'what is an amateur zine' is ever resolved it will be very largely due to Linda' s persistance.

THE SF & F JOURNAL:Nos 88&89:From:Don Miller,12315 Judson Rd.Wheaton,MD 20906. \$1.50.Don's publications are excellent for bibliopgraphy-here there is a listing for the SF Book Club.He also has lists of books for sale. There is a large number of good book reviews. With this comes THE SF&F NEWSLETTER a very regular newzine which lists all cons,books,magazines,club news..you nameit, and it is here.This costs 30¢ and is monthly...also the most useful zine I receive. A newish venture is FANZINE RICASSEE which is also 30¢. Not merely a fanzine reviewzine, but each issue has its contents itemised. Should be very handy for future fanzine historians. Goodness..I wish I had just half Don's energy!

PLACEBO:No5:From:Moshe Feder,142-34 Booth Memorial Ave.Flushing,NY 11355. \$1 and trade etc. This starts with a tribute to the late Barry Smotroff and makes the valid point that the death of a young fan seems to make an unusual impact. Now on his own Moshe produces a handsome genzine whose highlight is an excellent article on the Disney films by David Emerson. There is also a good column by Hank Davis, particularly in his description of his cat 'up a tree'.

PROFANITY:No 13:From:Bruce Pelz,15931 Kalisher St.Granada Hills,Calif.91344. 50¢ or trade etc. The LASFAS have a Newsletter, but Bruce gives a much more comprehensive picture of thefanactivity of the LA area. His description of a typical club meeting satisfied my curiosity completely. I really admire LA fans, not content with haveing bought one clubhouse-they are now on to their second and larger house! Elayne Pelz also interested me with her stories of 'UCLA Hospital only I could have done with more than just one page of this! In this too, Bruce gives the text of two GOH speeches. Very good value this zine

JANUS:Vol.3.No 2:From:Janice Bogstad & Jeanne Gomoll. Write Janus c/o SF3,Box 1624,Madison,WI,53701. 75¢. A feminist-orientated genzine which is produced in an excellent fashion-good layout and art, but sometimes rather small print. A varied selection is offered..intelligent article by Lesleigh Luttrellon the difference between fanzine fans and convention fans...unusually good film reviews and a letter column that thoroughly discusses sf and sexism. Extra good value in the letter column is Marion Zimmer Bradley and Walter Breen whose letters are extremely enlightening on how in the Darkover series Marion refused to write only wish fulfilment stories. Lots of thought-provoking discussion of women's role in our present culture..and as seen in SF. I got very interested in the talk about a book WALK TO THE END OF THE WORLD which I do hope gets published over here as it is being classed as a 'radical' book. That sounds like really something..a radical, feminist SF book!

STEFANTASY:No 80:From:William M.Danner,R.D.1, Kennerdell,PA.16374. An article by 'Tailgunner' has so many technical and slang expressions I cannot understand it..although I easily get the anti-establishment sentiments! There is another selection from the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of the 18 s ..talk of manufactured 'grease butter'..the early German names for the telephone..and a note dated 1896 about burns noticed in those using X-rays. I am real sorry to hear of the death of Dick Radl, a regular contributor to this most original and unusual fanzine.

STARLING:No 36:From:Lesleigh & Hank Luttrell,525 W.Main St.Madison.WI 53703
50¢. Has a highly amusing cover and some very good interior illos. This one has been described as a "popular culture fanzine" and it does describe it better than the more common 'genzine'. It does cover a wider range -other zines have certainly had music columns..but not many embrace the mystery as well as SF genre as is easily done here. Tom Perry has a good article on the art of editorship ..I took a few notes! I also liked Michael Carlson listing of his best reading for the year as he stayed well outside SF and I was able to jot down some titles John J.Alderson would get the attention of any of you, as he is writing about book collections and I do not know one fan who is not concerned with this. Bob Vardeman is enlightening on the joys of writing for a 'series' character. The letter column covers music and comics impartially. Very worthwhile

MOTA:No 22:From:Terry Hughes,4739 Washington Blvd,Arlington,Virginia,22205.\$1.
Terry starts off by admitting to a leetle paranoia due to little things like someone ringing him up wanting to talk to a Terry Hughes, a woman, who also lives in Arlington. I hope I do not add to this when I say his address always makes me think of the cemetery there, and wonder what the people who live there think about it! There is a breezy tale by John Brosnan of his dealings with the medical profession which I thought very, very funny. Then there is a wry sort of report from Mike Glicksohn about this divorce. Somehow not quite so brilliant this time round - but still top-notch.

TABEULIAN BEACHCOMBER:No 33:From:Mardee & Dave Jenrette,Box 680741,Miami,FL 33168. \$3 for 12. The editors ask will you please specify if you want 12 different issues! This magazine is full of sharp wit and humour of a broad spectrum. Considering how small it is, it is amazing the number of subjects that are covered. I particularly enjoy their way of making you want to read some book they have discovered. They planned a Mooncon - a beach affair held where they live at the Florida Keys, and this issue has the program. Fair turned me green with envy. However I can look forward to the next issue which, I hope, will describe it all

SF COMMENTARY:No 52:From:Bruce Gillespie,GPO Box No 5195AA,Melbourne.Victoria 3001,Australia.\$1Aust./or equivalent.This is the 8th year of an excellent magazine of sf criticism and it has now gone offset, so that the artwork and layout is immensely improved. Very small type though. Andrew Whitmore has an article on D.G.Compton that I found very enlightening, this is the kind of criticism that any author should treasure. Writer's Workshops have always intrigued me, but George Turner's article on one not only describes it but also criticises the general format, making this doubly useful. Bruce is blessed with a large number of readers who write long thoughtful letters about SF authors and their books. With this came SUPERSONIC SNAIL No 4 in which I was very interested to read the letters that resulted from Bruce's 1977 AS I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE. His own frankness evoked this in some of the letter-writers and many of the remarks must have helped Bruce to see that he is not so very 'different' after all. The other thing that pleased me were some film reviews by Barry Gillen whose enthusiasm for his subject was very catching. The SNail was bigger than SF Commentary this time..but both have oodles of good reading.

THE SPANG BLAH:No 14:From:Jan Howard Finder,PO Box 2038,Fort Riley,KS 66442. 75¢. As an international newszine this continues to be a big success, and the production and artwork improve with every issue. Reports come from all around the world of cons and clubs and fans. There is a good report on the past Eastercon by a visiting American -Bobbi Armbruster,she had me in full sympathy with her description of the maitre'd...a horrid snob of a man! I liked the MZ Bradley piece on the question writer's are asked most often(guess!)Jan has a contest for the best illos for the Dragon books of Pern..and has some very good drawings for examples..so good, I cut them out!

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DAGON: Nos 147-157: From John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St. Brooklyn, New York, 11226. An APA-Q zine published every second Friday with all sorts of interesting things, such as sidelights on Lovecraft, the con that tried to stop pot-smoking, what John thinks of 'ecologists', the news that Andy Main is now living in a Zen monastery (do you remember Andy Main..you are an oold fan), and John's comments on the political topics of the day. Fabulous! John also sent me TIME MACHINE No 67 in which he publishes reprints from former zines. Lee Hoffman this time with a dialogue between Herod and Pilate which sounds very convincing.

ZEALOT: No 1: From: Sopwith von Angel, Solliveion 37, N1370, Asker, NORWAY. The editor not only produces this in English but he even makes a pun! It is rather scrappy but cheerful and there is a article about Norwegian fandom that is a useful introduction. It has a small reviewzine attached by Morten Harry Olsen, Kikegt. 10 A 8500 Narvik, Norway - who writes about SF and the zines he has received from England. Very admirable efforts..send them your zines.

POZITRON NEWSLETTER: No 1: From: TIT Tudományos Fantasztikus Klub, H-1113 Budapest Bocskay u 37, HUNGARY. Which produces news of sf fandom in Hungary and shows that it is a growing thing. Special notice to those who have been in correspondance with Hungarian fans..write to them at this address as personal letters have gone astray. To their great credit..this is all in English.

OCTAZINE-INFO: No 5: From: Science Fiction club de Namur BP. 29 à Namur 2, Belgique. The Director is Claude Dumont. Another newszine, but I cannot read the language.

FANTASY CENTRE: Publish a monthly catalogue..address is 43 Station Rd, Harlesden, London 10 4UP..sf primarily in hard-cover, pb and mags..but I spot fantasy and even some mystery stories among the offers. Prices reasonable.

FERRET FANTASY LTD: From George Locke, 27 Beechcroft Rd, Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX. Regular catalogues, concentrates on early SF and rare books, takes in the off-beat. Sometimes expensive but these are rare books. FF now has a bookstore at 30 Sackville St, Open 12-6pm Tues-Fri. No connection with the late Einstein thingammy. The latest publishing venture from FF is SCIENCE FICTION: FIRST

EDITIONS. A Select Bibliography and Notes For Collectors. £3 or \$7.50. Last piece of news from this is news for congratulations on the addition of Andrew weighing in at 8lb 5oz.

THE SKYRACK FANTASY TRADER: No 20: From Ron Bennett, 36 Harlow Park Crescent, Harrogate, HG2 0AW, N. Yorkshire. 60p/6. and this one has pulp mags, pbs, hard-covers, Tarzania, comics, and film material. I got a nice edition of SCIENCE FICTION MOVIES from this. Prices reasonable.

DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED, 9-12 St Annes Court off Wardour St, London W1. Apart from sf there is quite a listing of tv and film related material here. Again, prices are reasonable.

You can also buy FRANK KELLY FREAS THE ART OF SF from The Donning Co/Publishers 253 West Bute St, Norfolk, Virginia 23510. Looks good but pricey..\$29.95.

Lastly....Richard Bergeron is on the last lap of his mammoth THE WALT WILLIS BIBLIOGRAPHY. He tells me the page count is reaching 600. More about this in the next issue.

A late arrival....REQUIEM No 17, address as before..still in French, I do wish I could read the article LES FEMMES ET LAS SCIENCE FICTION!

It is now the 10th November..so anything after this must wait till the next issue.

Ethel.

Diary

There has been quite a lot of publicity lately about the film STAR WARS. It must not be reviewed here until it is on general release in December. Yet I have been reading such a lot about it in many places; and apparently one way to get around 'reviewing' the film is to give a description of it! So I am not about to tell you the plot - but about going to see a 'special showing' of the film. This happened in July and in fact made a very good start to my summer holiday. My invitation came from 20th Century Fox, but without any indication as to why. When I arrived at the cinema there were crowds of people enetering but-scanning their faces- I did not see one I recognised. I'd dearly love to know how they were all chosen. Inside I did spot Bram Stokes but away down in front of where I had picked out a seat. As for the film, I will content myself by saying-not very originally, I'm afraid - that I had the most fun I'd had in years. I hope to see it again when I take a friend as a Xmas treat. The audience seemed enraptured and also very knowledgeable. At the end the majority stayed on to applaud the cast and credits. A long cast of technical crews was shown and there were urgent bursts of applause for such as the stunt coordinator, optical photography coordinator, model builders, spacecraft designers, the minature and optical effects unit, etc. I hope some of the technical crews were there to hear such applause.

I had a really good holiday this year, thanks to good friends. First I visited Frances and Brian Varley who are now in the lovely countryside of Yorkshire. As usual, they had been working very hard on their garden with gorgeous results. I was there to watch the arrival of their new pride and joy - a greenhouse! I loved their view from the large living-room window with nothing moving but a herd of cows and it was so peaceful...I soon unwound and relaxed just the way a cat does when it stretches and purrs! This had been a stressful year at work and I really needed that rest.

In my second week I was collected by Doreen and Phil Rogers and this was to be the slightly more adventuresome part. We had hired a boat to go on the Lancaster canal, we picked it up at Carnforth. The boat was well equipped...stove, frig, shower, and even central heating! We set off towards Lancaster with Phil at the wheel. It was an ideal canal for beginners -no locks although quite a lot of bridges. I tried my hand for a spell but tended to think I was driving a car and so headed for the bank at unexpected intervals so that Phil had to dive to the rescue. I also did not try going through the bridges, although Doreen managed this quite well on her first try at being the Captain.

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Then we had a spot of trouble - Doreen fell as she jumped off the boat to the bank. At first we thought it would not be too bad - but when she was unable to put her weight on the leg - we headed for Lancaster. Here we were lucky - the Lancaster Royal Infirmary was exactly opposite the mooring. So I was back into a hospital again but this time as an interested observer. A wheel-chair was quickly provided and after Casualty I wheeled Doreen round to X-Ray. I left her there (naturally she had brought a book to read) whilst I went off thinking about wheel-chairs. When I came back she had the X-Ray result...a hairline fracture of her leg but fortunately without any displacement. Nevertheless this meant plaster of paris over her whole leg. On the hunt for a wheel-chair I eventually consulted the porters (who always know everything) and they directed me to a Surgical Appliances Officer.

She was able to lend me a folding wheel-chair for as long as we stayed at Lancaster. It was one of the modern light type too worth about £70. What surprised me a little, I must admit, was that we did not have to even pay a deposit. Yet when we got Doreen out we discovered a snag...her leg stuck out and required support. I had to admire Phil's ingenuity - he had us down quickly to a Do-It-Yourself shop where he had wood cut to fit in the chair and support the leg...and even found foam rubber to make the seat comfortable! We went off shopping round Lancaster and were agreeably surprised to find out how much provision is made nowadays for wheel-chairs.

So what did I think of the NHS from another angle? I was really impressed by the lady doctor who took the time to explain to Doreen about her injury - she even showed her the X-Ray and pointed out the faint line that showed her fracture. Then there was the cheerful guy who applied the plaster. Must confess I was not much taken with the few nurses we saw; but I may have been influenced by frowning at so many of them wearing ear-rings! However, all that care without a penny to pay sure is very reassuring.

This accident you might think would have spoiled our holiday-but not really. We had not planned a hectic time, our idea was to potter around the boat, putter slowly along the canal a little and read lots. This we were still able to do. In no time Doreen was sitting at the table cutting up the ingredients for a gorgeous stew. Both Phil and Doreen are good cooks and with a bottle of Phil's wine every night we sure dined well! What with the Varley meals...where the potatoes are dug out of the ground about five minutes before they are cooked...and the Rogers cuisine...I was afraid to weigh myself when I got home. I guess about the only hard thing was that Doreen might expect to get as much laughter as sympathy!

I suppose folks might think - what else could we expect gadding off on a boat when we are 'not so young as we once were'. However we found the boat people we met on the canal very friendly and they assured us it was the type of accident that could happen to even veterans at the game...and cited us cases. These people we met were not only friendly but always helpful. There was one young man who was extra helpful and I had to admire the way he hopped around the boats - then we discovered he was on leave from the Navy! Boat people are definately obsessional about their hobby, just like SF fans you might say.

I have been getting the Progress Booklets from Suncon and am slightly stunned at the opulence of them. On reading them I am impressed by the amount of work and organisation that is required from the fans who put on these now giant-sized worldcons. Just the thought of having to cater for all these people would give me heart-failure I am sure. It does seem though as if no detail was overlooked in the effort to entertain the thousands who attend. What I would like to do is to be a behind-the-scenes-observer for a Worldcon like this; to report on just what is really involved. I do not think this has really been done - the actual workers themselves have no time to chronicle it all. When someone does attempt it they

often have to admit that large chunks of time have disappeared in a haze of activity. Someone who didn't have to do anything but watch and report might enlighten the numerous fans who have no real idea of the work involved.

I have a plan for 1981 when I reach the age of 60 and have some endowments due out. I would like to take some of the money and make a trip to the USA. I want to see the bits I missed last time - Washington, Boston, New Orleans...but I would also like to visit that year's Worldcon and if possible, cram in a few regionals. There were stacks of bidders for 1980 in the Suncon booklets but err..who is bidding for 1981? I am waiting with some eagerness for con reports from the British fans who went to Florida, I hope there is at least one who will attempt to write it all up. We have not really had a British view of the US Worldcons since they started creeping up into the thousands. I was very disappointed that Pete Weston did not write up his trip, though I have listened with fascination to him talking about it.

I have run off these stencils now - only this to finish off. I ran the stencils off to the music of the NUTCRACKER SUITE. This move came as a result of watching the Bolshoi Ballet perform on TV this week. I had not seen this ballet danced since years ago at the Festival Hall. The music is as gorgeous as ever and the stage decor of the Bolshoi Theatre was breath-taking, but the choreography had been changed a bit. The Chinese dance is now more Siamese-interesting but not any better. Two clowns now dance what I remember as a delicious set - a line of figures with a little one bobbing up and down trying to get in line. I felt quite disgruntled that this had been changed..that's the worst of the Russians, they can't leave well enough alone!

As I gradually got ink up to my ears(why does this happen whenever I go even near the duplicator,) I mused over the fact that I used to have Arnold Haskell's BALLETOMANIA. I gave it to Ron Ellick who was the only fan I knew also interested in ballet--are there anymore of you? I had read recently that this book is being reissued with additional material. Think I'll give myself a Xmas present and buy a copy. Of course I need another book like I need a hole in the head. Haskell maintains that all Ballet fans are mad - he should meet book collectors!

I have always loved to dance as far back as I can remember. My parents often played their collection of records and I danced to them all. It was in Haskell's book that I read with interest, that this is the way most great dancers start "improvisation in the home as a child". Now and then I have wondered what would have happened had my parents been able to afford dancing lessons for me. Well--no doubt I would have joined the hundreds of children who set off confidently and are lucky if they end up in the chorus line. A dancers life is a hard one.

Still when I think of the times when I have been truly happy; I must include those hours spent dancing unselfconsciously to the music of that old gramophone. I really mourn the fact that there is a whole generation who do not know the joy of disciplined dancing. As they all are busy weaving to the music, I long to tell them that there is so much more.

See you in the Spring..when I should have firm news of my move from here.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.....

ETHEL.