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SECOND ISSUE!



## C O N T E N T S

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## KIBITZINGS

SOL IS PUBLISHED (?) WHENEVER YEDITOR HAS THE TIME AND MATERIAL. WE HAVE THE TIME, YOU HAVE THE MATERIAL. LETS GET TOGETHER AND PUT OUT A FANZINE. THIS IS A DRILL PRESS PUBLICATION AT 914 HAMMOND ROAD, RIDGEWOOD, N.J. YEDITOR IS DAVID ISH WHO IS RUNNING OUT OF SPACE AND CORN. FOR MORE OF BOTH SEE YEDITORIAL.

Hoorah! We did publish a second issue. We even surprised ourselves. To date one (count it!) person has kicked in an actual 10¢ for a copy. All the rest that have gone out, have gone in trade, and we were pleased to receive trades (or at least an answer) from every fan except Paul W. Ganley and FANFARE. Maybe it got lost in the mail or something.

Huzzah! 10th world science fiction convention will be held at Chicago. Double huzzah! I shall attend if it is the last thing I'll do. We hope to earn money caddying at a country club this summer, and with said dough, we shall go to the Chicon. We have realtives just outside of Chicago, and we shall board there for the three days of the con. At least everybody says I'll do that, but if con's lastas late at night as they're supposed to, I have vision's of spending the night in the gutter. We also hope to set a science fiction record of some sort at the con. We think we will be the youngest fan to ever attend a convention. When the Chicon comes this fall, we shall be a mere 14 years of age, at least a little older than our present 13.

GERAY DE LA REE, mentioned by Leo Hoffman as a "critic" of Quandry, has become a regular part of SOL. He has an article, two fiction pieces, and a letter in this issue. He is the same to us as Paul W. Fairman is to Amazing, only not quite as hacky. For instance "From the mountain," which appears in this issue is the best piece of fan fiction we've read. We aren't just fooling either. If you don't believe it you can read it for your self. Almost poetry. Gorrry refers to them as



The drawing by [unclear]

"Prose Pastels." Infact he once printed a book of them That was in 1945, and that's where "From the Mountain", appeared. You should send Gerry about 25¢ and get the booklet. Really worth the money just being printed If you notice the filler which follows "From the Mountain," that is also by Gerry. Just thought I'd give him credit as it doesn't have a byline.

BOOK REVIEWS were skipped this issue but will be resumed with the next issue. Reason: Reviewer did an article in its place.

PRO MAG REVIEWS have been dropped in place of a column. Two reasons it has been dropped are: 1. We think you'll like a column better, 2. Romanoff reviews promags for two other fanzines, and can't think up anything witty to say about a promag after he uses it up in Rhodo and Time Stream. We both thought you'd like a column.

WE HAVE TWO other columnists you'll probably like. One is Shelby Vick who we feel has out done Wilky Konner in saying nothing and using a vast amount of space. We have him as a permanent columnist, and we're waiting to see how much space he will use before he says something. The other columnist is Robert Roman. His column hasn't come in yet, and we hope it isn't too late to miss this issue. He says in a letter to me that he'll do a column for me if I don't get any fancy ideas about going monthly. That brings up a good question.

SOL will come out bi-monthly if we can swing it. But we must have a deadline. Deadline for the December issue is November 15. On that day we start putting out the fanzine if the only thing we've got for material is the editorial. Anything received after that will not be published until the fourth issue. We're going to keep a deadline if it ruins the fanzine. That's the only way we can get the 'zine out on a regular schedule.

COVERS OF THE THIRD and fourth issues will be silk-screened and photo-effect. Both will be by fan artist Richalex Kirs and NOT by yeditor. We hope it



Will improve the outside a little. Those hector covers are/were horrible.

I think we are sounding too much like H.L. (buy-Galaxy-we-are-God) Gold. talking so damn much about this crudzine. On to better things.

Here ~~is~~ a bit of ~~news~~ about Gold, Galaxy, ASF, and Campbell not many people know about.

In 1937 when Orlin F. Tremaine came back from vacation and found himself without a job, ASF needed a new editor. Street and Smith interviewed Gold, and in no uncertain terms told Gold that the job was his. Somehow Campbell, who at the time was assistant editor of ASF got the job. Gold was justifiably mad as hell. Just the same I'm glad Campbell got the job.

After that Gold was inducted in the army and came out with a mental psychosis. He is afraid to leave his apartment and has set up headquarters for editing Galaxy from there. He never leaves it except when absolutely necessary. Maybe he's afraid he'll meet Campbell! I think Gold's present "We-are-God" attitude is due to the fact that he is trying to prove to himself and the public that he is a better editor than Campbell will ever be. Personally, I'm glad Gold is trying to prove something. It makes for better stories in Galaxy.

Gold's publishers have lost interest in Galaxy, and he is switching over to other publishers. He says that the size will remain the same. This I feel, aside from the fact that Gold is Galaxy's editor, is the worst thing to do to the magazine. If only Gold and some other editor's would see that a large size (large not pulp) magazine would give them a better display on the newsstand's, circulation figures would go way up. By large size I mean 8½" by 11½" which Astounding used in 1942. In my opinion this is the ideal size for a stf magazine.

In case any of you don't know about Suspense Magazine, I'd better tell you. It's now in it's third issue and is devoted to printing stories of "high tension".. It has at least one stf story each issue. Story in the third issue was by Gold. Get a copy.

Yeditor

Jan Romanoff Presents-

## NOTHING MUCH

Well, as of this issue, my review is no more. Dave, your most esteemed ed, (my boss) has asked me to grind out a column instead. So, if you can put up with it, I guess I can too. Oh yes, all the fallacies, lies, insults and slander found in this column can be attributed to yours truly and not Dave, who wouldn't hurt a fly.

My nomination for the trashiest, most revoltingly written story of the month goes to (you guessed it) Amazing for "A World He Never Made" in the Sept. mistake. This is typically amazing, so don't expect much more; (((How much can you expect from a Shaver pen name? -Yed)))) you'll be disappointed.

## STOP THE PRESS DEPARTMENT

Guess what? Better publications (SE, TWS, WSA, FSM) has at last used a cover artist other than (shudder) Bergoy. The cover is one by Schonburg, and is on the Fall "Fantastic Story Magazine". This new artists style is very similar to Bergoy's, but his covers don't hit you in the face quite as hard. Certainly an improvement.

Here's an interesting little item. Remember in the April Galaxy when Gold announced that his magazine (Galaxy) was to raise its price to 35¢? He also said, in effect, that Galaxy's companion magazine (Galaxy Novels) would remain at the same price, 25¢. You know, I must have received a defective copy (The Alien-Jones) because when I bought mine the dealer charged me - 35¢. It seems to me that Gold is soaking up some of ASF's sneaky tricks. (((Research work isn't pulling sneaky tricks! - indignant Yed))))

Well known writer Rog Phillips and wife Mari recently left New York in favor of the west coast. Rog had seriously considered settling in Taos N.M. writers colony, but I guess that Reynolds' (and Dave there also) goats scared him off. They were supposed to arrive

in Los Angeles near the latter part of their trip. wonder if they made it.

As a sidelight this column will also review other fanzines. (there ARE others you know). So if any of you fan eds want your fanzine torn down, send them to: Jan Romanoff, 26601 South Western, Apt 341, Longita, California.

One fanzine that just arrived is Quandry (#14) which can be had for one t' in (very) dime from Lee Hoffman, 101 1/2 Cedar St., Savannah, Ga. This is probably (slant with SLANT) the funniest fanzine published. You will find the editor of the fan crop in 1950. It is probably the most interesting fanzine in the world. It is edited by Walt Willis (editor of Slant) Richard Elsberry, Bob Silverberg, and Wilkie Kerner. (who uses up a lot of space and says amazingly little). Lee Hoffman, the ed, was recently voted (NEFF) the best fan-ed of 1950.

The next and last fanzine for review is a new one, SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST, and can be had by simply writing (it wouldn't hurt to include a dime though). It's put out by: Mr. Harry Burwell Jr., 459 Sterling Ave., N.E. Atlanta Georgia. This contains reprints of all fan writings that ever amounted to anything, and is one of the neatest mimeed jobs I've ever seen.

I have received some very interesting information on AS&FA through the mails today. They're even worse off than I had previously thought. Two authors, not more than three are responsible for more than 80% to 90% off the total contents in around 8 out of every ten issues. (((Easy Jan, I'm sending this to Rog Phillips and AS Don't go overboard. -Yed))) One author is Rog Phillip's, who has filled up an issue with up to 75% of his stuff. ((( NO NO JAN! STOP! STOP! THINK OF THE REVIEW PHILLIPS WILL GIVE US! -Yed))) under various names. The other two writers who hack stories out regularly for Z-D are, ((( (SHRIEK! STOP IT! PHILLIPS WILL RUN ME! GASP, BLUBBER BLUBBER -Yed))) William F. McGivern and Robert Moore Williams. Now aren't you glad you read AS & F.?



would like to see FA made into something, but I don't  
give a tinker's damn about AS. (JAN, MY REVIEW!! -Yed)

-30-

(Apologies for add libbing all over Jan's column and I  
promise not to do it again. But Jan, please, next time  
don't pan my bread and butter!

## FROM THE MOUNTAIN

By Gerry de la Rue

I am the mountain - a thing of dirt and stone. I  
am the father of trees, of grass, and shrubs. I have  
seen the sun rise and set for countless milleniums; I  
have watched the moon and its phases for eons beyond  
conception.

I was here before the moon was born -- before the  
Earth cast off its lone satellite -- when the waters lay  
still and quiet, untroubled by the swelling tides. I  
was here before the first living creature trod upon this  
world.

The evolution of Man I witnessed; his struggle for  
survival - the birth and death of more creatures than  
there are seconds in a thousand centuries.

I have seen the rise and fall of nations; the  
building of cities and their ultimate destruction. And  
I have stood while man-made structures molded, crum-  
bled, and returned to the dust from whence they were  
born, their comparatively brief existence ended.

I have viewed a thousand wars and their vain cli-  
maxes. I have observed man in his futility, devising  
and destroying, creating and crushing. I have seen man  
pledge his allegiance to one group, and then combine  
with other men to annihilate it.

I have reared my rocky peak into the cool, moist  
clouds and gazed at the azure blue sky; I have felt the  
burning rays of the great sun and the raging fury of  
flood and fire.

7

I have felt upon my surface the presence of man and his structures of wood and metal; and each time I have outlasted their endurance. I have seen the fertile valleys turned into vast wastelands by nature's own hand - by the torrid heat, the frigid cold, and the grasping fingers of hungry fire.

And I have seen the instigation and destruction of more tyrants than one can imagine. I was here when the Pharaohs - Khafu and Khafra - extinguished the lives of countless slaves to have constructed the great pyramids; when Cyrus and Darius of Persia reached out to conquer Babylon and Egypt; when the Persians under Xerxes met defeat at Marathon and Platea.

I remember well the assassination of Phillip of Macedonia, the rise of Alexander the Great and his dream of world conquest.

I was here when Hannibal, son of Hamilcar, crossed the towering Alps with pachyderms and armies to invade Rome, only to meet disaster and exile; when lived Julius Caesar, Gaius Marius, Lucius Sulla, Gnaeus Pompeius, Marcus Cicero, and the other great Romans. Well I remember the Idea of March - Brutus and his fellow murderers - and of the rise of Octavian. And I remember A.D. 476, and the climax of the Roman Empire.

I watched the far east ravaged by the great Jenghis Khan; the universal decay of the middle ages; the renaissance and discovery of a new world in the west.

I was here when the diminutive one, Napoleon Bonaparte, ruled a continent, met ultimate defeat at Waterloo, and ended his life in exile on a small island in the Atlantic. I saw wars and more wars - two great world conflagrations; I saw the Kaiser and the Fuhrer; Nazis, Fascists, and Communists; democracies, republics, dictatorships. Mere words. All have come and all will go.

Witness to the world I have been: to the futile fighting of man and beast. From the crushing blow of a clinched fist to the most advanced weapon of science -

that is the culmination of generations of culture.

"Thou shall not kill," was the command, but from the hills and valleys of Earth has always come back but one echo -- Kill, kill, kill!

Tyrants, conquerors, dictators -- all were men, mere machines of flesh, sinew, and bone, vulnerable to the relentless, clinging bond of time.

So it has always been. I have lasted thus far, and through the coming eons I shall continue to stand. For I am the mountain -- an indestructible thing of dirt and stone.

Copyright, 1945.

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#### FRAGMENTS FROM AN INTROVERT

There was a fence -- and all the people on the earth stood on one side, -- and I on the other. They understood me not, nor I them. We were to each other alien beings. It seemed not to bother them, for they were many and I was but one.

Thus it was that it troubled me. I thought much and wondered more. Vainly I sought to understand their viewpoints, but they failed to even listen to mine. I know I was right, but they were many, and therefore needed not to be right.

However, despite our separate paths, time was no kinder to one than the other. As they grow older, I grow older. Life flow by at its usual pace, seemingly more rapid to some, but actually the same for all. . .

---

April 25, 1946.

POGO!

See Next Issue For An Article

9

S H E L B Y   V I C K

"Nothing."

" - Or meaningless somethings."

That's what he tells me -- and that's what he'll  
get.

So now you know gentle reader, and are warned. And  
so is David Ish. If he publishes this it will be with  
knowledge aforethought. And if you read it, you can blame  
yourself.

\*

I did not set fire to my tent.

\*

Why shouldn't I name the column after me? I'm in  
it strictly for the egoboo.

\*

Do you read Pogo?

Hummm?

-- You don't?

If not, your in the minority. I didn't meet a fan  
at the nolacon who was not -- if not an ardent fan --at  
least a regular read of Pogo Possum.

It is said that Pogo is replacing science fiction.  
This is not entirely true. Rather, Pogo is a higher  
form of literature to which we evolve.

\*

WAF with the crew in fifty-two!



Are you an avoidist? An advocate of Roger Price? A victim of Wrong Thinkers? Is the world against you?

You must cope with them!

If you are copeful, you show promise. If copeless...

Tch.

An avoidist, naturally, is one who avoids. there are several stages -- the first, or simple stage when you avoid things like your mother-in-law, ar maraschine cherries in your breakfast coffee. Then there is the practical avoidist, who avoids practical things. The practical avoidist spreads the word (he doesn't avoid that. Anyone who suggests he does is a wrong thinker, and should be put away.) He publicizes avoidism by actively avoiding. For instance, when actively avoiding phoneing someone, he dials the operator and ~~states~~ in no uncertain terms, "I will NOT phone CHeesecake 1008928364!"

Then there is the last stage, the Ultimate Avoidist. He is the one who avoids things like eating and breathing.

\*

Please don't disturb the lemon.

\*

I'm in favor of short columns, but

we

must

fill

up

space.

Happy St. Grosniks Day!

## COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

Two of the most sought after collectors' magazines in the science fiction field are MARVEL TALES and UNUSUAL STORIES, both published during the mid-thirties by Fantasy Publications of Everett, Pa., with William Crawford as editor.

While never attaining the reputation of a professional magazine, it is hard to classify these two publications as pure fan ventures. Semi-pro seems the more appropriate term.

MARVEL lasted five issues and UNUSUAL two. All were printed.

Although Crawford announced the forthcoming appearance of UNUSUAL as early as 1933, MARVEL was the first of the two to be published, the initial issue bearing the date of May, 1934. It was a 40-page issue containing stories by L. A. Eshbach, August Derleth, H.P. Lovecraft, and David H. Keller, all names familiar to the science fiction fan.

The initial issue was "pocket size", corresponding to the present day ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. The particular issue I have was printed on a fairly heavy stock in what appears to be 9 point type. There are two illustrations in this issue, one on the cover, and another for Lovecraft's "Cephephais".

The second issue jumped to 60 pages, but was about one half inch shorter than the initial number. Pages 2 and 3 in my issue are printed upside down. This issue has several illustrations by Robert E. Howard.

Number three carried 70 pages and started P. Schuyler Miller's 4 part serial, "The Titan." Unfortunately MARVEL folded before the final installment appeared. It had originally been scheduled for appearance in Crawford's

The fourth issue of MARVEL was the most ambitious of the lot with 108 pages and the start of a second serial, "The Nebula of Death" by George Allan England. This issue also carried Clifford Simak's "The Creator" and Lovecraft's "Doom that come to Sarnath." While MARVEL'S circulation has been reported as being around 200 copies an issue, Crawford evidently published surplus copies of this fourth issue. One New York book store seems to have an inexhaustable supply of them.

The final issue of MARVEL was large size, spoiling any possibility of having all five copies bound. Aside from the continuation of the two serials, both of which were to remain uncompleted, and the presence of stories by Miles J. Brewer and Ralph Milne Farley, the fifth issue was undistinguished. It was a come down from the fourth.

The only thing nice one can say about UNUSUAL is that both issues were the same size. The first issue was dated Winter 1935 and the second May-June of the same year. Neither issue had illustrations. The covers were uniform with the name of the magazine, the price, and titles of the stories.

Why Crawford went ahead with UNUSUAL when MARVEL was far from being a success is hard to understand. It's a typical fan move, however. It appears now that Crawford would have done better to bring out two more issues of MARVEL and complete the series he had started rather than to sink additional cash and time into UNUSUAL which was really MARVEL under another title.

## MARVEL TALES

MAY 1934

Vol. No. 1

THE MAN WITH THE HOUR GLASS  
ANTARES  
THE GOSSAKS RIDE HARD  
CELEPHNIS  
BINDING DELUXE

L. A. Eschbach.....SS  
Natalie H. Woolley....P  
August Derleth.....SS  
H.P. Lovecraft.....SS  
David N. Keller.....SS

JULY-AUGUST 1934

Vol 1, No. 2

THE DARK BEASTS  
THE GARDEN OF FEAR  
FROM THE LOG OF THE  
SPACE SHIP FLAMMARIA  
ANTIDOTE  
THE TORCH OF LIFE  
A HORROR IN PROFILE  
CONQUEST

Frank Belkap Long....SS  
Harl Vincent.....SS  
Manly Wade Wellman...P  
Robert M. Hyatt.....SS  
Joe W. Skidmore.....SS  
Wilferd Blanch Teller...SS  
H. Donald Spatz.....P

WINTER 1935

Vol 1, No. 3

THE SECOND STEP  
THE FERRY IN  
LILLIES  
ON BOARD THE SPACE SHIP  
TERRA  
THE GOLDEN BOUGH  
THE TITAN (Part 1)

Orris M. Kallier.....SS  
Timothy H. Loft.....P  
Robert Bloch.....SS  
L. A. Eshbach.....SS  
David H. Keller.....SS  
P. Schuyler Miller...N

MARCH-APRIL 1935

Vol 1, No. 4

THE CREATOR  
THE TIAN (part 2)  
THE NEBULA OF DEATH (part 1)  
THE DOOM THAT CAME TO  
SARNATH  
THE CATHEDRAL CRYPT  
MASTERS OF MATTER  
HAUNTED HOUSE  
SANCTUARY

Clifford D. Simak....SS  
P. Schuyler Miller...N  
George Allan England..N  
H.P. Lovecraft.....SS  
John Benyon Harris...SS  
Amelia Renyolds Long..SS  
Lovell Hart.....P  
Natalie R. Wooley....P

SUMMER, 1935

Vol 1, No. 5

MARS COLINIZES  
MEN FROM MALASSAR  
THE TITAN (part 3)  
ANABEL RIVES  
THE ELFIN LIGHTS  
THE NEBULA OF DEATH (part 2)  
WITCH'S BERCURSE

Miles J. Breuer.....SS  
Carl Jacobi.....SS  
P. Schuyler Miller...N  
Ralph Milne Farley...SS  
Anders J. Drake.....SS  
George Allan England..N  
Emil Pataja.....P



# UNUSUAL STORIES

MAY-JUNE 1935

Vol. 1, No. 1

WAXING MOON  
A RESUME OF RAYS  
THE JEWELS OF CHARLOTTE  
TIE EXPERIMENT  
DANN-SHAPES  
THE WHITE GULLS CRY

Rober A. Wait.....SS  
Forrest J. Ackerman.....P  
Duane W. Rimel.....SS  
R.H. Barlow.....SS  
Kenrad Loister.....P  
P. Schuyler Miller.....SS

WINTER 1935

Vol. 1, No. 2

THE DIAMOND ASTEROID  
THE BLACK LOTUS  
THE RIVER DWELLERS  
THE TWO DOORS  
DERELICT

Lowell H. Morrow.....SS  
Robert Bloch.....SS  
Lionell Dilbeck.....SS  
E. Theodore Pino.....SS  
Robert W. Lowndes.....P

... AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS  
(A column devoted to whatever I have on my mind at the moment)

by Harvey Gibbs

Every so often I am struck by the influence displayed by one man alone. When this man is of the stature of Gandhi or Bernard Shaw it is perhaps understandable, but when a broken down general can come home, casually mention some long forgotten (and with good reason) blud and wake up the next morning to find all the record compaines in creation fallin' over each other to be the first to introduce that song to the eagerly waiting public.....

Of course this great store of influence can (once in a while) prove to manifest itself in a healthy and beneficent manner; such, I think, is the case of Walt Disney and his latest creation, "Alice in Wonderland". By choosing to film this whimsical classic of fantasy, Mr. Disney has stimulated interest in Carrolliana that rivals last year's F. Scott Fitzgerald revival. The presses have rolled out newer and cheaper editions of the old favorite (The most notable: PocketBooks 25¢ edition) and of course the dime stores are littered with Alice

dolls, Alice-paintbooks, Alice story-books (including at least three funnybook versions), Alice cut-outs, etc., etc. -- insuring at least that he will by a rare member of the next generation who is not well-aquainted with W. Rabbit and the Cheshire Cat.

Now to the inspiration for all this interest in Carroll's classic: the film as a whole was rather disappointing. It is probably true that, (with the exception of FANTASIA.) Disney has never been able to equal his initial SNOW-WHITE triumph. In this case, it is unfortunate that he seems to deem it necessary to meddle with Carroll's faultless story (even his poetry! You'll hardly recognize "The Walrus and the Carpenter") to the extent of omitting and adding scenes and characters, (To say nothing of lines) quite indiscriminately as well as (what I consider to be his cardinal sin) cluttering the picture with stupid little songs that neither please nor amuse - in short, Disniffing it so that the flavor of the original story is almost completely lost. One has the feeling that Disney got so carried away with his splashes of color and music that he forgets at times the story he's telling.

Anyway, the choice of Richard Hayden for the voice of hookah-puffing caterpillar is an excellent one. Ed Wynn and Jerry Colona are rather amusing as the hatter and the hare. (But it's too bad Mel Blanc isn't on the Disney payroll!) and do take the kids along to see it, if you can. While not living up to expectations, it's still head and shoulders over the Hopalong Cassidy stuff that passes for children's fare nowadays; Disney reigns supreme in his field.

Oh, well. If we have lost the creative genius of Lewis Carroll, we have gained another. As the local Turtle says (or rather sings): "The further off from England the nearer is to France."

Editor's Note- We wish to express our apologies to both Hewitt Renau and Harvey Gibbs, for giving Hewitt's name for Harvey's column. It is a case of typing with our eyes closed, a habit that has become all-too-frequent of late. Besides straightening things out, this makes a dandy filler, don't you think?

## THE CIRCULAR FILE

We don't have very many letters this issue, only six and a card from Lee Hoffman. However some are rather long and may stretch the column out slightly. The best letter as far as criticism goes, was written by Gerry de la Rue. Having nothing better to do, we'll use his letter first.

Gerry de la Rue  
277 Howland Avenue  
River Edge, N.J.

Dear Dave:

I've read over the first issue of SOL and am enclosing that dupe copy you gave me. I've marked some of the errors of com~~pos~~ across, most of them spelling mistakes.

All-in-all it wasn't a bad job when everything is taken into consideration. I'm quite certain I couldn't have done as well a job at 13 years of age. I started fanzine publishing at 15 or 16 and made as many, if not more, mistakes as you. My main advice would be for you to have someone check your dummies for errors before you finally stencil the stuff. The use of correction fluid in the future will eliminate those strike-overs that do so much to mar the format of your magazine.

The material wasn't too bad. I know the trouble you had rounding it up. You'd probably have done better to hold off a little longer until you had some better stuff but I guess you have to start sometime.

A column such as Romanoff's "Off the Press" is always worth including, as long as the boy's going to read all the preface, tho, why not let him go into a little more and perhaps rate each story in the issue?

I especially enjoyed reading Hogland's piece on science fiction on T.V. Sorry I can't say the same for Rog Phillips' hard-to-classify piece. Not many pro authors would have the lack of brains to put such childish

nonsense on paper. (((SHRIEK I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD! How  
Phillips' haters. Rog, if your reading this, don't hate  
me. It's not my fault what other people think, I like  
you, really I do. Don't let those mean fellows prejudice  
your review. please)))--Yod.

Your own article on an attempt to convert a gal to  
atf. proved amusing. Few years from now you'll try the  
same thing and be accused of seduction. Better not lock  
that door next time!

Well, that's about all. Note the corrections I've  
made and check with a dictionary to see how the words  
should have been spelled. I probably missed a few, but  
I believe I've caught the majority. Lots of luck.

Sincerely,

Gerry

(((Thank much for your letter Gerry, but we feel we  
should come to the defense of Rog Phillips. We very  
neatly trapped him into doing the article, and it was-  
n't written just for that use. It was part of a letter  
that Rog sent us, and we asked him if we could reprint  
it. He graciously consented, and that's why the article  
sounded so cut up. #Thank again for the ogoboo-Yod))))))

---

ED NOBLE

Box 49

Girard, Penna.

Greetings and stuff like dat dere

Under separate mailing is a copy of Explorer---  
Haven't had to uch opportunity to look through all of  
SOL but have gone through two-three sections such as the  
one about trying to make a fan out of anotherwise suppos-  
edly normal individual.--- and some of the promag reviews  
--- I take it yoy are not a particularly avid Galaxy sup-  
porter --- there seem to be two of us then -- I am taken



appart by others when I observe that I don't think ALLXY  
is any better'n the rest of them.--'tis a sort of treason

Also looks like you have a wide carriage typer to do  
stencils --- most IFPC'ors seem to prefer the full  
size pages instead of bulletin size, so I keep the reg-  
ular size --- sometime maybe I might join FAPA or SAPS  
and do a bulliten size job ---

Want I should give a review of SOL in the coming Explor-  
er? Am getting it readed now for the coming August-Sept-  
ember issue.

At the present I am on vacation, and if you wer on  
vacation and y' fiancée were also on vacation and with-  
in but a few feet of your typetyper, would you bother  
typing letters to anybody? I shaddup ---

S-Fictionally

Ed

Ed Noble

Editor, Explorer

(( o liked our review in Explorer, Ed. To tell the truth  
we don't have a long carriage typer. Just a junior mince  
and stencils -Yed))))

---

CHARLES LEE RIDDLE

Fleet all weather Training Unit, Pacific  
c/o Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California.

Dear Dave:

Thanks for the copy of SOL. I've placed you on my  
list for exchanges: and hope to get more copies of  
SOL from you in the future. Don't give up hope and quit  
publishing if fans don't react the way you expect them  
to--I've had four years of publishing PEOPLE now and still  
am waiting to be acclaimed the best!

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Incidentally Dave, your 'zine will be reviewed in the June con out next week. Don't be discouraged by the review-- it's not done by me, but by a friend out here and is done in the spirit of constructive criticism. Since

Leo  
Charles Lee Riddle  
ISI, US..

(Thank Lee; still haven't gotten that EON yet)

---

JAN ROMANOFF  
26601 So. Western  
Apt. 341 Lomita,  
California

Dear Dave:

Thank muchly for my copy of SOL. The reason I'm pestering you with this is that I thought you might like my opinions on it.

Naturally a first issue of any fan-zine isn't going to become popular over - night. It's bound to have a few mistakes which can, invariably, be ironed out in later issues. I believe you made a wise choice in selecting a Half-regular size format for your first issue. Saves money as well as time.

A little more care will have to be taken in regard to proofreading and spacing. These seem to be about the only real faults I can find.

If possible, I think it would be to your advantage to keep away from fan fiction and give SOL sort of a humorous fannish slant. i.e. "Quandry" "Orb", "Wastebasket" et al.

de la Ree's book review, in my opinion, is really an asset to SOL. As a rule, reviews of this kind tend

to be dull, but de la Ree seems to have that "little something" that makes it interesting.

That "Video" article was alright, but again in my opinion, this is the type of thing you should steer clear of.

Well, I guess that about covers it.

Yours ,

Jan.

((((Many many thanx for your letter Jan. We don't intend to run any more fan fiction unless it's by Gerry who writes about the best fan fiction we've read. We've got a couple of columns as you can see, and we've changed to colored paper. We also hope you'll like the cover this issue, we've got some rather unkind remarks about last issue's job. And we'll really have to crack down on that spelling before too long. Hope you like our improvements -- Yod:)))

---

NALT WILLIS

170 Upper Newtownards Road,  
Belfast, Ireland

Dear Dave,

Hello there. I'm sorry I just don't have a copy of the last SLANT, but I'll send you one of the next and be happy to exchange subs. I feel I'm in on the birth of what is going to be an important fanzine, and I'd like to see it grow. The mimeoing is pretty bad and so are some of the contents, but no worse than most first issues and the editorial matter is promising.

Less said about the cover the better. Thing below the contents is funny, especially the bit about back issues. This is worthy of Lee Hoffman. Editorial is OK, though I don't like to see cynicism in young editors.

Tch, tch. You should be full of thoughts of Twent  
Anniversary Issues with circulations in the hundred  
thousands and Street and Smith beggin you to take over  
from JWC, Prozine reviews interesting. Are they still  
publisging those things? I must start reading them again  
sometime. Liked your article about converting, or  
rather, not converting, the young lady. Maybe you're  
too modest, but did it not occur to you that your failure  
may have been due to the fact that she was expecting  
somxthing else when you took her into your den? Maybe  
she felt like the girl went up to see some etchings and  
saw some etchings. How'd you get the material from Phillips?  
Good too. Do you know something about him that Mari Wolf  
doesn't?

'Bye for now, and don't forget to send me the next  
issue. SLANT 6 will be along in a month or so. By the  
way I've inserted a tiny plug for you in FAN VARIETY  
Number 11.

Cordially,

Walt

Walt Willis

((( I'm not being modest about the girl in my den,  
Walt. The fact is she was a friend of my mother's!)) Yed.

---

(((( Here is a post card from Lee Hoffman. She was  
gracious enough to trade me the Laundry annish for SOL.  
I have a feeling I got my money's worth!- Yed. )))))))

LEE HOFFMAN  
101 Wagner St.  
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Dave,

Okay, I'll trade 1 for SOL ((( Underlining was  
done by Lee, not me - Yed))) . Looks good, reminds me of  
some of the "good old days" fmz. Like Slix!

Lee

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ROG PHILLIPS PLEASE READ THIS LETTER. THE EGOROC IS TPR.

((The following letter is slightly cut to fit into the SAICOLAR FILE. Part of it is personal, and much of it concerns SO. If the letter sounds a little but, you'll know why -Yed))))

HEFLIT R24U  
1041 Cayuga Street  
Santa Cruz, Calif.

Hi Dave -

We were more than pleased with our copy of SO. In the first place, the size is what we think is just about right for a fanzine. (We expect our next issue to be about that size)

Congratulations are in order on your talking Rog Phillips into doing that very amusing article for you. We've always liked Rog - as a matter of fact it was a story of his ("The Mutants" appearing July 1946) that introduced us to the field of modern science fiction. Of course I had been brought up on Oz books, the Tom Swift series, Doctor Dolittle, Grimm's, Anderson's and the rest, but when I read this year along with Shaver's "Cult of the Witch Woo," in the same issue I was sold on science fiction. Since then with classics like "The Defilers" (certainly the best thing he ever wrote) and "So Shall Ye Reap", he has proved himself to be one of science fiction's top authors - as well as one of the most prolific. He probably is the only remaining Fordard of Amazing Stories today. (I haven't noticed any Don Wilson lately) At any rate, it was a very pleasant surprise to see him on your content page.

Of the two short stories we preferred "The Dark Curse" - really quite well written, and besides we're always a sucker for those surprise-ending stories. That one sure had us fooled.

"It's a Long Way" we know what you mean. It almost seems that some people are born to read science fiction and some just are not, and there's not a damn thing you can do about it.

OR



Your departments were all excellent -- book and movie reviews always seem to be the best sections of any fanzine. Your reviewers seem to know what they are talking about, and that's alot more than I can say for most of them.

We haven't quite figured out just what that unidentified object on the cover is. Although it says "SOL" right above it, we don't see how it could possibly be that. ((You want us to run a you-name it contest like MARVEL? -Yed)) But we could be wrong.

Best wishes for a long and prosperous publishing life for a very promising ~~zine~~zine--

Sincerely,  
Hewitt Ronau  
(for as always the  
Torquasions)))

(Hewitt has a very nice 'zine himself, that you should all try. Send a quarter to the address at the top of the letter for a copy of the TORQUASION TIMES. "The Plutoocrat of Science Fiction -Yed")))

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### BALOGNA

BALOGNA is the last word. I will appear on the inside cover (back) of every issue except this one. It will be hectoed, but as we can't get use of hecto until the end of the week, we are cramming this in at the bottom of the letter section. # Next issue will be out Dec. 1st or thereabouts and will contain our usual three columnists plus a new columnist Lee Hoffman. She will run a column similar to Warner's in Fv. (All our Yesterdays) There will also be an article on Pogo, and a cover by Rickalex Kirs. A fiction Piece by Gorry de la Ree, by the name of "Exile" Very cute idea. It originally appeared in Vampire and it is a reprint. Would like a large letter section next issue, so get those things in! We will accept all article's up to Nov. 15th for publication. Could use some good fiction. All you complainers notice: WE CAN'T GO LARGE SIZE! This issue is dedicated to Lee Hoffman for several good reasons too numerous to list.



Your Getting this in:

TRADE

REVIEW

SAMPLE

CASH

CONTRIBUTER



Lee Hoffman

101 Wagner Street,

Savannah,

Georgia

SOL

IS

A DRILL PRESS PUB

YOU

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