## SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 5th Oct. '73 Issue -- (Vol. 19, #2; Whole #110) Editor & Publisher: Don Miller -- -- -- -- -- per copy, 10/\$2.00

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In Brief --

Finally got to the p.o. to get some stamps, so now we'll be running off SOTWJ's

110-113 as fast as our eye trouble will permit.

We now have a co-editor for THE WSFA JOURNAL: Bill Hixon. More details as things jell. There is also a strong possibility of offset repro, starting with #85. No further word at the moment on #80, which is still being run off as far as we can tell. We're still typing #83, and have started gathering material for #84 (as this will be the first issue in 1974, we would like to lean heavily upon articles, reviews, and surveys dealing with the SF scene in 1973; we'll be contacting various people for specific items, but any suggestions in this area from our readers are welcome). And we still need material for #83: articles and long, essay-type reviews are especially in short supply, but we also need more of almost everything (and don't forget those LoC's on #83--keep 'em coming!).

This issue will be mailed on Monday, Oct. 22. Pls. note date of receipt, as usual. Les Mayer reports: Forrie Ackerman is serializing Cosmos, the almost-legendary round-robin novel by leading authors (A. Merritt, E.E. Smith, etc.) of the mid-1930's, in PERRY RHODAN. Forrie has turned P.R. into sort of a pb. magazine, which is now published twice a month by Ace. The first installment of Cosmos appears in PERRY RHODAN #32 (the P.R. novel in #32 is "Challenge of the Unknown", by Clark Darlton). Cosmos was copyrighted 1933 by Arra Printers, for SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST, and is a real collector's item. (It's too bad Cosmos hasn't been picked up

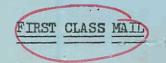
by some publisher and printed at one time, in its entirety ....)

SOTWJ is approx. bi-weekly: subs: 25c (10p) ea., 10/32 (80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more issues, dep. on length). For info on airmail, "collector's" (3rd-class) subs, ads, Overseas Agents (list in #95 & TWJ #82), etc., write ed. For Address Code meaning, see #109 (Trade/Sub details in #89). Check pg. 3 for informational slips of paper.

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THE CLUB CIRCUIT: Clubzinos Received (U.S.) --

COSMEP NEWSLETTER IV:12 (Sep. '73) (COSMEP, Inc., POBox 703, San Francisco, CA 94101; offset; apparently monthly / special is sues; free to members (\$15/yr.), not avail. to others) -- 8 pp. / 1-pg. form-letter inviting us to join COMSEP; notes/announcements; COSMEP Board Report #3, by Joseph Bruchac; "A Special Report on 'Wind/Midwest' for SCSMEP Members", by Paul Foreman ("Wind/Midwest" was apparently a distribution scheme that went awry); "Prison Project Proposal", by Joseph Bruchac; Book Review (The Publish-It-Yourself Handbook, ed. Bill Henderson); lettercolumn; listing of Publications Received. ## The accompanying letter notes that dues paid now will cover the rest of 1973 plus all of 1974--a bonus of several months' membership. It goes on to say that COSMEP is "a grant-supported association of about 500 magazines and presses. Membership is open to any magazine, press or newspaper of limited circulation." Members receive the COSMEP NEWSLETTER, plus such other publications as bookstore and library lists, The Small Publisher's Book, and the COSMEP Bookstore Survey. The organization also holds regional and national conferences and workshops on such topics as distribution and printing and production techniques. Members can write in to COSMEP office when they need advice or information, and may draw on the COSMEP Technical Information Pool when necessary. The NEWSLETTER presents info on such subjects as distribution, grants, review media, etc. #### Sounds like a worthwhile organization for dodicated fanzine editors.

FANTASIAE I:6 (Sep. '73) (Monthly Newsletter of the Fantasy Assoc., POBox 24560, Los Angeles, CA 90024; offset; 12/83 (incl. annual membership); forcign subs: add \$1.25; ed. Ian M. Slater) -- 14 pp.; illos by George Barr, Alicia Austin; Editorial/ Tolkien Obit (incl. "Lament for the Makaris: Qwhen He Was Seik", by William Dunbar); President's Memo; Convention News; Recent Fantasy Books (listing); Part II of Phil Rose's essay on A Voyage to Arcturus; short review by Phil of Antioch College film A Voyage to Arcturus; news on Association's forthcoming quarterly journal (to be named THE EILDON TREE); Reviews of WEIRD TALES Fall '73, WITCHCRAFT & SORCERY #9, THE SHAW REVIEW XVI:2; misc. book and fanzine reviews; lettercolumn. ## Full of news/reviews/general information on the fantasy scene, and a must for all fantasy fans. (Can't wait to see their journal -- should be full of good things....)

NFFF NEWS SPECIAL (Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, TX 77566: mimeo) -- 1 pg. of misc. news items for which there was no room in the NFFF o-o, TNFF, plus. a 2-pg. TORCON 2 flyer with Hugo Results, the Monday program, and misc. notes and announcements.

INSTANT MESSAGE (NESFA, Inc., POBox G, MIT Branch Sta., Cambridge, MA 02139; the newsletter of the New England S.F. Assoc.; bi-weekly; mimeo; ed. Jill Eastlake) #133 (18/9/73): 8 pp.; minutes of 16/9/73 meeting; CoAls; calendar of upcoming events of local interest; club business/announcements. ## #134 (1/10/73): 4 pp. plus flyers ("Of Films and NESFA": a 2-pg. discussion and questionnaire on film programs at NESFA; 2-pg. 1974 TAFF Ballot); CoA's; club business/announcements; calendar of upcoming events. ## Corresponding membership in NESFA (includes oneyear sub to INSTANT MESSAGE & club genzine, PROPER BOSKONIAN) is \$4.00.

M-ANATION VIII:10 (Oct. '73) (Newsletter of the Baltimore Mensa group; temp. % Lawrence Bowen, Apt. E, 8469 Town & Country Blvd., Ellicott City, MD 21043 (former ed. Don Laughery has resigned, & they're seeking a replacement); free to members, not avail. to others (for membership info, write: Fred Davis, Jr., 5307 Carriage Ct., Baltimore, MD 21229); monthly; mimeo) -- 4 pp.; Scpt. Meeting report; notes/ announcements (incl. calendar of coming events, which we'll include in upcoming installments of "The Con Gamo"); President's report. ## Ah -- local dues are \$3/ yr., 1/10/73-30/9/74, from: Ed Swoboda, 7218 Fairbrook Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207.

WARPED MIND #1 (Monthly Newsletter of the Boston Star Trek Assoc., 27 Michael Rd., Randolph, MA 02368; ed. not named; meets tri-wockly; also publishes fanzine, ONE TREK MIND, three times/yr.; membership: Executive, \$10; Regular, \$5; Supporting, 33; all receive WM; Supporting members Jan. issue of OTM only; offset) -- 6 pp.; President's Message, by Gail Abend; notes/announcements; minutes of meetings of 12/8/73 & 26/8/73; Table of Organization; poem by Ed Dunn; cartoon.

The Way of All Flesh, by S. Butler

(KEN OZANNE, reviewer)

Famous novel. Basically the story of the first thirty years of the life of Ernest Pontifex. But it begins with his great grandfather and works on down, spending more time on each successive generation.

Finished in 1884, the book was not published until 1902. It reads like a book published in 1884. Don't get me wrong—there is no doubt that this is a worthwhile book and well worth publishing today. But a modern publisher would insist on the book being pruned by probably a quarter and it would be better for that. Too often the author comes between us and his characters.

Recommended, but you have to be prepared to work at it.

The Hero of Downways, by Michael G. Coney (DAW Books). (DON D'AMMASSA, reviewer) The self-proclaimed Bobby Riggs of SF has written another novel. Downways is a warren of tunnels under the earth's surface inhabited by the remnants of humanity, driven there by the Bomb. Except that, in the last chapter, we find out it isn't really Earth after all. Gee whiz. Naturally, mutant children are expelled from the community and lurk on its outskirts, and equally naturally they are not really evil after all. Then there are the giant rats, except they're not really giant after all. It seems that mankind has shrunk, or been shrunken actually, as the result of genetic engineering. The central character, Shirl, is Coney's first sympathetic female character, but don't be fooled. The book still sneaks in its little digs, e.g.: "They're all the same, women are. It comes with being dispensible." "No woman's blood has diluted his courage in yourself." The internal logic of the novel is equally deficient. The "normal" humans of Downways are so terrified of violence that they often cannot summon sufficient courage to butcher the harmless animals they cat. But whon the mutants decide to attack, they resort to subterfuge rather than an open takeover, and naturally the humans meet them in bloody combat anyway, contradicting their very nature. Coney also attempts to adopt some of the characters from "Universe" with noteworthy lack of success. There are copious blind leads with no real point. The dialogue is virtually non-existent: everyone talks in speeches and soliloguies. The story ends on a stomach-churning overdose of blood and gore as Concy kills off almost all of his characters. As bad a novel as I've seen in years.

For My Great Folly, by T.B. Costain (Putnam's). (KEN OZANNE, reviewer)

This is the story of John Ward, the semi-piratical Englishman who was largely responsible for keeping England credible as a sea power during the reign of James I. Of course there is an imaginary hero and a strong plot, but the real fascination for me is in the byways of history. Did you know that England was without a single servicable naval vessel well within living memory of the Armada?

For anyone who hasn't come across him, Costain is a first-rate historical writer. And, in nearly 500 pages, he has room to write a real novel, not the glorified novellas that we dignify by that name in our genre. As a novel, this is so far above what we accept that the difference is not furny. (Sometime I will try to explain whay I can say that and still read more SF than anything else.)

Recommended if you want to read historical fiction.

The Flight of the Horse, by Larry Niven (Ballantine). (DAVID STEVER, reviewer)

Svetz the time traveller never did get what he started out to retrieve, but half the time he get semething better--and the other half, he never knew the difference. In any case, the reader always gets what he wants: a fine story, and a little comedy. In the five stories, Svetz seeks out horses, whales, automobiles, welves, and a ghost, but what he brings back to the Institute for Temporal Research makes for good reading. Two other stories are also collected: "What Good is a Glass Dagger?", the sequel to the earlier, "Not Long Before the End", and one of Larry's rare non-hard-science stories; and a rare story that, I suspect, not many people have seen--"Flash Crowd". "Flash" was first published earlier

S.F. PARADE (Continued) --

this year in the Silverberg book, Three Trips in Time and Space, and is part of that same new universe of Niven's as the two stories of his published to date in VERTEX. In a world where one can go 'round the world by stepping into a booth and punching a number, Jerryberry Jensen, a stringer for a TV news organization, films an incident in a shopping mall which, as it is being seen on the air, mush-rooms as people come streaming into the mall via the booths, and a shoplifting case develops into a three-day riot of major proportions. Niven has extrapolated his background to a great depth, and the effect that Jumpshift, Inc. has had on the world has changed it, for better or worse... Excellent story, good collection.

Nine Princes in Amber, by R. Zelazny (Avon pb.). (KEN OZANNE, reviewer)

I had thought Zelazny's work bogged down, but determined to read this after

seeing some good reviews. I'm very glad I did.

The device of a man struggling to regain his memory as a way of leading the reader in to a strange world is far from new, but Zelazny handles it well. To a large extent, this book does no more than set the scene for what promises to be at least a trilogy. Even so, there is action enough.

The world of Amber is as pleasant a concept as I have seen lately, rather reminiscent of Farmer's pocket-universes in a way. Amber is the one true city on the one true Earth of which all others (including ours) are but shadow copies even if they share some reality.

Strongly recommended.

Fistful of Digits, by Christopher Hodder-Williams (Hodder & Stoughton).

(DON D'AMMASSA, reviewer)

I am not among those who feel that anti-technologists whould not write SF. Their concern is legitimate, if somewhat exaggerated, and SF is the ideal vehicle for its expression and propagandization. Science generally is in fact misused to a greater or lesser extent, and it is worthwhile to point this out. Hodder-Williams, a British adventure novelist, has written three stories of technology out of control. Two of them (The Main Experiment and The Egg-Shaped Thing) are entertaining and thought-provoking. His latest, Fistful of Digits, is not. This time, message has overwhelmed story and logic. A group of computer technicians and other technocrats has created a secret international network of computers which is rapidly taking control of the world, chiefly through the use of individual mind control. The symbolic loss of identity and masculinity by the conspirators is heavy-handed, and the hero's pristine refusal to abandon his presuppositions becomes irritating early in the novel. The sense of menace that is essential to nevels of this type is completely absent. Definitely a book worth avoiding.

The Dream Master, by Roger Zelazny (Panther pb.). (KEN OZANNE, reviewer)
This is the Zelazny I had been avoiding, and I was right. This is a poor book, though there are flashes of good writing. Basically the book reads as if it had been put together by the Van Vogt technique in 200-word segments without serious attempt to join them together.

Charles Bender is a neuroparticipant therapist, a specialized psychiatrist who works by literally sharing the mental worlds of his patients. The work is dangerous, for the therapist may be sucked into the fantasy world and become insane himself. The story, insofar as there is one, is just that.

Not recommended,

Out of the Mouth of the Dragon, by M. Coston (Sphere pb.). (KEN OZANNE, reviewer)
In more than twenty years of reading at least 1,000 books per year, there
have been exactly three that I couldn't finish. This has been one of them.
Not recommended for anybody.

((Reviews needed. Shorter ones generally go into SOTWJ, and longer ones (essay-type especially wanted) in TWJ. Mysteries, SF, Fantasy, Adventure, Weird, etc.--ed.))

AMRA II:60 (Sept. 173) (George Scithers, Box 82h3, Philadelphia, PA 19101; 50¢ ea., 10/54; irregular; offset; 7" x 10"; UKAgent Archie Mercer, 21 Trenethick Parc, Helston, Cornwall TR13 8LH, U.K.) -- 24 pp., incl. cover (by Roy Krenkel); interior illos by Paty, Tim Powers, Tim Kirk, Roy G. Krenkel, Ray Capella; Limericks, by John Brunner, F.C. Adams, John Boardman, Lee Burwasser, George Barr, Robert Grant, W. Paul Ganley, Yale F. Edeikon; Verse by Rudyard Kipling, John Myers Myers; Valdis A. Agustkalns reviews Selma Lagerlöf's Nils Holgersson; Lin Carter reviews Master of Middle Earth: The Fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien, by Paul H. Kocher; Book Reviews by L. Sprague de Camp, Bert Duch, Al Nofi, etc.; Editorial note; Index to II:51-60. ## As usual, a "must" for all Sword-&-Sorcery fans, and well worth looking into for the rest of us. Top-notch repro and writing. ECCE II:1 (#2) (Spr. '73) (The Index Co., POBox 351, Platteville, WI 53818; ed. Roger D. Sween; offset(?);  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ "; quarterly;  $75\phi$  ea., 33/yr.) -- 36 pp.  $\phi$  covers and  $\phi$  covers and  $\phi$  insert, SPECULATIVE LITERATURE BIBLICGRAPHY #1 ("Speculative Literature Used in U.S. Academic Courses"; introduction / list (alphabetical, by author; 514 titles, incl. # of courses in which required, # in which recommended, and (where known) publisher, date/year, and price; BIBLICGRAPHY also avail. by separate subscription: 50¢ ea., \$2/yr.)); Editorial; "The Index Company: Behind the 'apparently pretentious front'"; "And Then I Joined: Committee of Small Magazine Editors and Publishers" (re COSMEP); about his Speculative Literature Index; story by Hrothgar; Interview with Carinthia Julia Westlake Williams; Media Reviews; notes/announcements; LoC's. ## An excellent little magazine, of particular interest to those (like us) with a bibliographic bent. (The "Speculative Literature Bibliography" was especially interesting; the books which were required in the largest number of courses were: Clarke's Childhood's End (33 courses); Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land (29); Miller's Canticle for Leibowitz (28); Wells' The Time Machine (28); Herbert's Dune (23); Bradbury's Martian Chronicles (22); Huxley's Brave New World (21); Tolkien's Lord of the Rings (21); Lewis' Out of the Silent Planet (20).)

FORTHCOMING SF BOOKS #15 (Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, TX 77566; bi-monthly; mimeo; 6/\$1.50 U.S. & Canada, 2/\$1 overseas (airmail)) -- 7 pp.; dtd. 8/9/73; listings of book titles announced for August, Sept., Oct., and Nov. '73. ## An invaluable service! Each list covers a period of four months except the December issue, which covers the entire next year. (Note that you are missing the Dover titles, Joanne; they'll send you their announcements on request.)

THE GLASS OF THE FIVE JAHS #9 (undated) (Arthur Motzger, 1171 Neeb Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238; no price or schedule given; offset; published for 20th Mailing of APANAGE) -- 4 pp. / cover (by Michael H. Rhodes); editorial notes/announcements; Mailing Comments; reviews of Paul Biegel's The King of the Copper Mountains and Norton Juster's Alberic the Wise and Other Journeys (both children's books). ## Fantasy fans should give this one a try.

POST OFFICE BOX C #2 (undated) (Dale Donaldson, POBox C, Bellevue, WA 98009; irregular; mimeo; 55 ea., 4/\$1; 20/\$5; no exchanges; an overflow of MOONBROTH) -- 4 pp.; rundown on mail received between 4/8/73 and 14/8/73. ## This sort of thing has become quite popular recently (Geis, you started something!)--and, frankly, we like it! (We said above it was mimeo--it may be offset; sometimes, it's hard to tell.)

REMEMBER WHEN #10 (Jan '73) (Nostalgia, Inc., 1830 Highland Dr., Carrollton, TX 75006; ed., Larry Herndon; 4/\$2.50, 8/\$4.50 (we seem to remember something about prices changing, but can't find the reference, and haven't rec'd an issue in some time so can't check this out; Larry?); UKAgent Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., England (4/51); offset (on newspulp); 8 1/2" x 10 3/4"; 65¢ ea.) -- 32 pp. incl. covers; short lettercolumn; classified ads; "Lone Ranger Still Packs 'Em In", by Doug Domeier; short article on Neil Hamilton (ABC-TV's Batman); "Reminiscences of: Rex Bell & Tim Holt", by Buck Rainey; "Radio Cornucopta", by Allan Williams; Flash Gordon: Episode 5. "The Destroying Ray" (text & photos from the serial); Episode 6, "Flaming Torture"; "The Green Hornet Unmasked?", by Britt B.

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --Rogers: numerous ads, most full-page; plus many photos and stills. ## In addition to those reviewed in previous SOTWJ's, we have also purchased the following back-issues, all of which should still be available (because space is short, we will not cover ca. issue in its entirety, but will only spotlight its highpoints): #1 (undated) (24 pp.; spotlight on Tex Ritter; Steven Utley on comic books of the 140's); #2 (undated) (24 pp.; spotlight on Fred Allen; Larry on TV program Soldiers of Fortune; Margaret Gemignani on The Doll Man); #3 (undated) (32 pp.; chock full of short articles, the longest ones on Fibber McGoe and on the early 1930's struggle between radio and films for star talent); #7 /# s 4-6 in SOTWJ #85/ (Aug. 172) (32) pp.; Salute to John Wayne (incl. text for Winds of the Wasteland); Allan Williams! "Radio Cornucopia"; Flash Gordon Episode 2, "The Tunnel of Terror"; articles on Clyde Beatty and Beetle Bailey) #8 (Sep. '72) (32 pp.; Flash Gordon Episode 3, "Captured by Shark Men"; articles on Little Orphan Annie, Bob Steele, The Black Hood (Part I); Williams' "Radio Cornucopia"); #9 (Nov. '72) (32 pp.; text/stills for The Mark of the Vampire; Britt Rogers on Capt. America; Flash Gordon Episode 4, "Battling the Sea Beast"; text/stills for Werewolf of London), with An excellent magazine (really enjoy the text/stills and the old radio material), highly recommended to all nostalgia buffs; only wish it would come out more frequently....

TITLE #19 (Oct. '73) (Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr., St. Louis, MO 63131; mimeo; monthly; don't see a price anywhere) -- 32 pp., incl. cover (by Bruce D. Arthurs); illos by Shari Hulse, Arthurs, Bill Breiding, Mike Kranefuss, Jackie Franke; editorial/notes/announcements; fake movie review by Arthurs; Bill Bliss on "Reality and Contraptions"; "The Secret Literary Life of E. Howard Hunt", by Roger D. Sween; "My Favorite 50 SF Stories of All Time", by Michael T. Shoemaker; "Names Matter", by Richard S. Shaver; short fanzine notes/reviews; how s, and Loc extracts arranged by subject-matter; misc. humorous odds and ends. ## One of the most interesting and enjoyable issues to date of this unique fanzine. Try it! YANDRO (Robert & Juanita Coulson, Rt. 3, Hartford City, IN 47348; irregular; mimeo; 50 ea., 4/31.80, 12/35; UKAgent Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., England (20p ca., 4/70p, 12/11.80)) -- #221 (Jul. '73): 42 pp / cover (by Bo Stenfors); interior illos by Jackie Franke, Juanita Coulson, Jim Cawthorn, Dan Adkins, Robert Gilbert, Bjo Trimble, Dave Piper, Dick Flinchbaugh, Sheryl Birkhead, Alexis Gilliland; Editorials; Bruce Coulson column; column by Davo Locke; articles by Jodic Offutt ("The Bitch Hour"), J.K. Christopher ("Sex in the Early Heinlein"); humor: "Hard, Ain't it Hard? Or: How to Write a Book to Please Buck Coulson", by Ed Cagle; short book reviews and fanzine reviews by Buck; lettercolumn.

##222 (Aug. '73): 36 pp. / cover (by Alexis Gilliland); interior illos by Jim Cawthorn, Jackie Franke, Juanita Coulson, Robert E. Gilbert, Bjo Trimble, Richard Flinchbaugh, Dave Jenrette, Alexis Gilliland, Dave Piper; Editorials; columns by Bruce Coulson, Dave Locke, and Liz Fishman; clippings/notes/announcements; short book reviews by Buck; lettercolumn. #### The most consistently readable (and reliable) fanzine being published today (not to mention valuable as a source of information on books and fanzines). Highly recommended.

MISCELLANY --

DISCLAVE '73 FILKSONGS (mimeo; no price given; compiled by Pat Kelly, Jr., Jim Landau, and someone whose name we can't make out) -- 12 pp. / cover (by Alexis Gilliland); contents: "'Specting Matlida", "Around Her Hair She Wore a Yellow Ribbon", "Cadence Counts", "The Engineer's Song", "The Ents' Marching Song", "The HAL 9000 Song", "Marching Through Georgia", "I've Been Working on the Fanzine", "The Yellow Rose of Luna", "The Alcoholics Anonymous Song", "The Witch King of Angmar", "Men of Harlech".

OUTSIDE OBSERVER (Peter Schoonrok,  $282\frac{1}{2}$  6th St., Jersey City, NY 073'2; offset) -- 2 pp. / ltr. dtd. 20/4/73; "I Am Not Your Brother", by Peter. ## Don't know why we get these things.... In this one. Peter says that as of 25/4/73 he will "not shake hands with killers (my definition)", and says that his definition includes "all followers of Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism; all Jehovah's Witnesses; all patriots, all flag-saluters; most of the 200 million civilians in the United States

. . . and on and on. He must be pretty lonely out there by himself ....

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