

S O N   O F   T H E   W S F A   J O U R N A L

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 7th Oct. '73 Issue -- (Vol. 19, #4; Whole #112)  
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller - - - - - 25¢ per copy, 10/12.00

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In Brief --

With luck, this issue will hit the mails noon, 31 Oct. We'll take another breather after this issue, so #113 will be out in 7-14 days; we still need articles, essay-type reviews, and bibliographia for TWJ #83--to keep that issue from being delayed by our waiting for material which may never come, we'll set a deadline of 15 Nov. for all material for #83; what's not in by that date will have to wait for #84, and we'll go with what's on hand, even if the issue is lacking in some departments (mostly letters on hand to date). No more word on TWJ #80, but we're still expecting it to be out in Nov. Material on the SF scene in 1973 needed for TWJ #84. And remember to let us know when you received this issue.

Index for Vol. 18 will probably be in #113.

We're still working on that list of duplicate fanzines, books, & magazines, so please be patient a while longer.

Remember, anyone receiving SOTWJ by sub or trade may run a max. of 10 lines (35 characters ea.) of classified advertizing in any issue of SOTWJ (2¢ per line over 10). And we'll run a max. of one flyer with any issue (\$1 if printed on one side only, \$2 if printed on both sides, to subbers/traders; 200 copies needed).

All subscribers and Trade-Subbers receive TGL singly, as published, via 1st-class mail (except Collector's subs, which go 2-at-a-time, in envelopes, 3rd-class, and overseas subbers; which go singly, via surface mail). The few all-for-all SOTWJ trades we have go 2-at-a-time, 3rd-class. TWJ is still available for trade, all-for-all, provided traders don't mind its highly irregular schedule.

SOTWJ is approx. bi-weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/12 (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" subs, ads, Overseas Agents (list in #95 & TWJ #82), etc., write ed. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; H, L, or M, WSFA Honorary, Life, or Regular Member, resp. (# indicates # of WSFA issues remaining on sub); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade (see #89 for Trade-Sub details); W or Y, Subber via 1st- or 3rd-class mail, resp. (# indicates # of issues left on sub); X, Last issue, unless....

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BOOKS ANNOUNCED (Announcements Received by SOTWJ) --

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB, Garden City, NY: (Nov. '73)

Hellstrom's Hive, by Frank Herbert (\$1.69): Follow-up to film, The Hellstrom Chronicle. Dr. Nils Hellstrom, using the huge income from the highly successful film to establish a colony of human insects in a secluded area of Oregon. Special agent Carlos Depeaux investigates, and stumbles across Project Forty--"an unconquerable super-weapon that could vaporize whole cities in seconds". . . .

Universe 3, ed. Terry Carr (\$1.49): Original anthology, with stories by George Eklund, Gene Wolfe, Ross Rocklynne, Robert Silverberg, Edgar Pangborn, Edward Bryant, and others.

Alternates: Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Vol. Two B, ed. Ben Bova (\$3.50); Forerunner Foray, by Andre Norton (\$1.49); Childhood's End, by Arthur C. Clarke (\$1.49); The Year 2000, ed. Harry Harrison (\$1.49); Flashing Swords! #1, ed. Lin Carter (\$1.49); Alone Against Tomorrow, by Harlan Ellison (\$1.69); Alph, by Charles Eric Maine (\$1.49); The Robot Novels, by Isaac Asimov (\$2.49) (The Caves of Steel and The Naked Sun).

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC., 180 Varick St., N.Y., NY 10014: (Dec. '73)

Best Ghost Stories of Algernon Blackwood, by Algernon Blackwood (Paperback; tent. \$4.50; 5 3/8" x 8 1/2"; 396 pp.; introd. by E.F. Bleiler): Collection of 14 tales of supernatural fiction, incl. "The Willows", "probably the best ghost story ever written".

NOTE: The Lovecraft book announced as pub. in Nov. in SOTWJ #109 was pub. in Jul.

MOVIE BOOK CLUB, 220 Fifth Ave., N.Y., NY 10001: (Recent releases)

The Detective in Film, by William K. Everson (\$6.95; regularly \$9.95): "A pictorial treasury of the screen sleuth from 1903 to the present--with over 450 fabulous photographs and thrilling action scenes".

Faces, Forms, Films: The Artistry of Lon Chaney, by Robert G. Anderson (\$6.50).

In Search of Dracula, by Raymond T. McNally & Radu Florescu ("A true history of Dracula and vampire legends."; 223 pp.; 60 illus.; \$6.50 (reg. \$8.95)).

To Be Continued..., by Ken Weiss & Ed Goodgold (\$6.95; reg. \$9.95): "A complete guide to motion picture serials--231 all-time great serials"; 400+ photographs.

The Cinema of Stanley Kubrick, by Norman Kagan (\$6.95; reg. \$7.95): "A provocative, illustrated survey of the work of today's most talented film-maker."

Film Fantasy Scrapbook, by Ray Harryhausen (\$9.95; reg. \$15): Special effects genius and monster-maker Harryhausen tells you how he did it.

Karloff, by Peter Underwood (\$4.95; reg. \$5.95): Boris Karloff biography.

The Films of Kirk Douglas, by Tony Thomas (\$6.95/\$9.95); Edward Muybridge:

The Man Who Invented the Moving Picture, by Kevin MacDonnell (\$9.95/\$12.50);

Clown Princes and Court Jesters, by Kalton Lahue (\$6.50/\$8.50; 50 great comics

of the silent screen); Hollywood at Sunset, by Charles Higham (\$5.95/\$6.95; de-

cline and fall of the Hollywood empire); Fifty Classic Motion Pictures, by David

Zinman (\$6.95/\$9.95); James Bond in the Cinema, by John Brosan (\$4.95/\$5.95);

A Pictorial History of Westerns, by Michael Parkinson & Clyde Jeavons (\$5.95/\$10);

Screening the Sexes: Homosexuality in the Movies, by Parker Tyler (\$7.95; \$10);

Gotta Sing Gotta Dance, by John Kobal (\$5.95/\$10; "A Pictorial History of Film

Musicals"); D.W. Griffith: His Life and Work, by Robert M. Henderson (\$8.95/

\$10.95); Seventy Years of Cinema, by Peter Cowie (\$9.95/\$15); The Academy Awards:

A Pictorial History, by Paul Michael (\$6.50/\$7.95); Joan Crawford: My Way of Life

(\$4.50/\$7.50); Marion Davies, by Fred L. Guiles (\$6.95/\$8.95). More in future

SOTWJ's. (We'll be glad to order any of the above for anyone who's interested.)

WALKER &amp; CO., 720 Fifth Ave., N.Y., NY 10019: (Nov. '73)

The Shining Strangers, by Ben Bova (\$3.95; juvenile, grades 3-5; 64 pp.).

The Toff and the Terrified Taxman, by John Croasey (\$5.95; 192 pp.; mystery).

A Wicked Way to Die, by J.G. Jeffreys (\$5.95; 256 pp.; mystery set in 1800 London, featuring Bow Street Runner Jeremy Sturrock).



(dissecting)

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^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:  
Magazines for July, 1973

Operational Procedures  
Supervised by  
Richard Delap

F&SF has quite an impressive line-up of fiction this month, and the remaining magazines are the usual mixture of the good and not-so-good. Alexei and Cory Panshin polish off their "SF in Dimension" series of articles in FANTASTIC, but the series has stretched over such a long period that I have some trouble assessing the total value--perhaps later book publication (as The World Beyond the Hill) will give me a chance to put it all together.

The "original" anthologies are sprouting up so rapidly that for one person to cover them all eats away an incredible amount of reading time, and I have an unfortunate tendency to delay the magazines to last on a long list of material. I am, of course, falling behind in schedule, having recently taken on a regularly published newspaper column, working a 40-hour week, and yelling at a lovely but frustrated young lady that I haven't got time for fun, I've got to write!

There ~~is~~ still some worthwhile fiction in the magazines, and I'm always delighted to find and report it. So please, editors and readers, forgive my tardiness. I'm not really lazy, just busy sweating my way into a nervous breakdown. So speak to me softly. I carry a big stick. And I bite, too.

FANTASTIC -- July:

Serial:

The Son of Black Morca (part two) -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.

Novellette:

Black Sphinx of Nebthu -- L. Sprague de Camp & Lin Carter.

"CONAN IS BACK!" blurbs the cover, and White's editorial admits that Conan seems to boost sales incredibly. Fine, let him boost sales, and let readers who dote on such fiction cater to their whim. Those who want fiction to involve them at more than a level of mindless action will surely find this drive as boring as most of the empty stories in this series. Here Conan is again on the trail of the evil sorcerer, Thoth-Amon, assisted by Diviatix, the drunken but powerful druid of Pictland who will aid Conan with his "white" powers. The story follows the established pattern to the letter--gory battles, laughably corny dialogue and descriptions, and a final battle with a horrible monster. For all his bravery and heroism, Conan doesn't need half the strength the reader will need to battle his way through a monstrous mountain of adjectives. Is there really any reason s&s must be written with such lack of imagination and style? I'd say no, and I say to this story: Fic on thee, Oh Monstrous Drek. Poor.

Short Stories:

Iron Mountain -- Gordon Eklund.

An 80-year-old Chinese man cowers in his room, surrounded by an empty San Francisco deserted as pollution becomes a threat to human life. Forced into the streets by hunger, he meets a young woman who offers food and kindness, which seems doubly meaningful in the midst of a death-ridden city. While Eklund deals well with the old man's fears and emotional turmoil, his plot is quite thin, more a mood-piece than a story of resolution and intensity. Vaguely interesting but not really very good.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation -- Jack C. Haldeman II.

A strange, surrealistic look at violence and the fantasies of the human mind, Haldeman's story doesn't always seem to make sense--well, is surrealism supposed to?--but holds the attention with a string of vivid, abrupt images that really do pull the reader into the fantasy flight of another mind. The conclusion dawdles off into an uneasy mixture of humorous irony and horror, but it's just quirky enough to hold the attention without toppling over into directionless abstracts.

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --Article:SF in Dimension: The Search for Renewal -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.Art Portfolio /reprint/:Invaders from the Infinite by John W. Campbell, Jr. -- Wesso.

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ANALOG -- July:Novolettes:A Bridle for Pegasus -- Anne McCaffrey.

McCaffrey's stories about a special center maintained to find and train psi talents has hobbled along with no direction for several years now, and this latest addition (and, one hopes, the last) is no better than its tired predecessors. This one concerns a young singer who is especially talented in the psi category, able to channel and transmit emotions on a grand scale with the help of her lover. Such talent is fraught with dangers, too, as a political agitator seeks to channel it to his own ends and the Parapsychological Center is determined to protect and put her talent to better use. Unfortunately McCaffrey's characters are goody-good automatons of absolutely no human import, and the author's concept of real emotion is weepy, schmaltzy scenes of love that sweat with sentiment: "he embraced her, pressing her slender body against him, so she'd 'feel' all he couldn't express." The plot wallows in naivete over political power and crowd psychology, in a ferocious adherence to clumsy writing techniques. Ah, and so, one more SF writer sells out....

The City of Ul Chalan -- Richard K. Lyon.

A female CIA agent, a CIA contact in a Tibetan monastery, and a Chinese major are tumbled together in a secret-world adventure that takes them to a hidden, mysterious city in Tibet. All Chinese efforts to invade the city have failed--troops, tanks, even nuclear weapons have all been unexplainedly deflected--but at last these three people make their way into Ul Chalan and discover a place of miraculous beauty, sudden terror, and the dying remnants of a once-great Martian culture. Lyon has written a story of the kind which would seem to have died out some years ago when it appeared there were no truly unexplored (or, at least, un-understood) regions of Earth. What is especially appealing is Lyon's adventurous and lustful imagination coupled with a dry, sardonic wit that gives his characters real "character". Entertaining.

Short Stories:Peace Probe -- Roy L. Prosterman.

Maintenance of world peace after World War III, even with psychoprobes and strict U.S. control of all nuclear and biological weapons, is no bed of roses for anyone. In fact, it's as dirty a business as maintaining a society at war since the methods, as given here, are similarly despicable. Prosterman's story of U.S. power and threat, as Buenos Aires inches its way toward doom at one man's call, gets a bit desperate near the end but has a point to make that should give readers a chance to reassess their thoughts about the meaning of "peace". A bit crude, perhaps, but not without interest.

Young Beaker -- J. T. Lamberty, Jr.

In a future where all mathematics are handled by the computer programmers and children are taught to use the computer to solve even the simplest problems, the teachers are dumbfounded when confronted by a child who does math in his head and can beat the computer for both accuracy and speed. While the basic idea is mildly amusing, Lamberty milks it like an amateur and comes up with only a watery solution of little taste and no food value. Such a waste....

Godsend -- Edward Wellen.

Ugly and misshapen, abandoned by his guilt-ridden mother, a newborn babe is found and raised by a blind old man who lives alone in the jungle. As the baby grows to manhood he sorrows at his isolation from the rest of humanity, and on the old man's death devises a plan to make men accept him despite their horror

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

at his appearance. Wellen's irony is gentle, perhaps too gentle, for his story is never quite able to overcome its contrivances and take on the emotional power it strives to achieve. Fair.

Science:

Rarefied Atmospheres -- Gary E. Myers.

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- July:

Novella:

The White Otters of Childhood -- Michael Bishop.

Bishop plunges the reader into the future, "the Year of Our Lost Lord 5309", and into a world where man numbers two million, secluded in the Antilles after varied holocausts have left him a mixture of dying normals and growing mutants. The ruling Navarch of Windfall Last is a cruel, seemingly ageless master, yet under his rule the human empire, if not flourishing, at least abides. The remainder of the world is given over to the mysterious and unexplained Parfects, "who have inherited the earth" and who strangely embody much of the religious symbolism of this story without ever becoming in themselves direct symbols. Bishop slides his tale smoothly through some misleading melodramatics of political intrigue, rape, and infanticide, punctuated with some incongruous speech patterns and odd similes; and while it occasionally gets slightly out of hand it never can dispel the conviction of the first-person narrative of Markerier Rains, whose fall from grace is perhaps one of the most convincing examples of true character and true symbol composed with precise measurement. It is not a pleasant story, shot through as it is with disheartenment and stark terrors. Neither is it a particularly "downbeat" story, however, for it is laced with the beauty of enlightenment and instruction, with moral guidance that never shames itself in sermonizing rhetoric. Like several of Bishop's previous stories, it bears a share of weaknesses that are noticeable but not really bothersome, and it is now quite obvious that Bishop's growth as a writer is progressing not by degrees but by quantum jumps. Very much worth reading.

Short Stories:

Come Dance with Me on My Pony's Grave -- C. L. Grant.

Aaron Jackson is an ex-soldier, whose adopted foreign son, David, has adapted to American life very well...or has he? The plot seems to run a quite general course over the familiar territory of horror, as a callous neighbor shoots the boy's horse and David exerts a gruesome revenge; but Grant develops a slowly mounting terror, through excellent characterizations and fine writing, to achieve a remarkable mix of realism and fantasy. His descriptions of the Dakota November are superb and add just the right chill to his examination of the tragedy of cultural influences that shape people and sometimes block their attempts to form deep relationships. Grant has uncovered horror on many levels here, both stark and subtle, and his work is masterful. Excellent.

Film Buff -- Edward Wellen.

Editor Forman calls this one "fresh and amusing", but one finds the humor is a drug to ease the pain of a startlingly frank look at the danger of fantasy. Wellen tells of a boy with an ability to project his fantasies like a motion picture film, leading to some embarrassing moments in the shocked reactions of onlookers, but eventually proving a dead-end escape from maturity. It is a small but bitter tragedy that gives a stinging perspective on the human mind and how it works. Good.

The Computer and the Oriental -- Gregg Williams.

TABROT (Tactical Army Base Research Outfit No. Two) is a grouping of the Army's scientific "misfits", who are as interested in human experimentation as in technical research. But in their playfulness, wherein they manage to cross the analytical computer with the I Ching, they stumble across some results that give their research a strange bent. Williams treats his subject lightly, and

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

while his situational comedic approach isn't really hilarious, it produces a few chuckles here and there.

The Bridge on the Scraw -- Michael G. Coney.

The second in Coney's Finistello series, this story may leave those who missed the first one ("The Manya", March '73) feeling that the adventures of Donald Lackland among the primitively sophisticated tribes of the future are none too well backgrounded. While Coney's humor is simple farce and may not appeal to more sophisticated readers, it certainly has a lot of verve to make up for its lack of intellectual appeal, and the antagonism of the opposed Poli and Breda tribes occasionally tosses out some funny one-liners of dialogue.

Okay of kind.

Having It -- Barbara Stearns.

We've already has a few stories which smack of Women's Lib, but perhaps nothing so directly bold as this amusing tale of a middle-aged woman named Eleanor Rigby, who battles her husband, her doctor, and the whole super-expensive, automated system of modern America to reach her goal of "having it". And if you can't figure out what "it" is, then you're most definitely not a liberation sympathizer, most probably a male chauvinist pig, and deserve to remain ignorant. Funny, in a stark sort of way.

The Giantess -- Robert F. Young.

Once more Young presents another story in his series about other-world giants created from the superstitions of each planet's people, who believe in their myths so totally that the myth becomes reality. Norman Hill is an agent sent to destroy one such myth, a giantess who delights in games of torture and agony, and his capture and degradation at the hands of his prey reveals Young's cunning in capturing the feel of masochism. In making us realize that Hill "is not alone" in his aberration (by making him a real person of emotion rather than a straw man of perversity), Young brings us close to an experience-in-excess that is unsettling but is certainly educational and (dare I say it?) exciting. Very well done.

Feature:

Invitation to a Cruise -- Al B. Perlman.

Science:

The Cruise and I -- Isaac Asimov.

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GALAXY -- July-August:

Serial:

The Doomsday Gene (conclusion) -- John Boyd.

Novella:

Luna One -- Ernest Taves.

Luna One, the first permanent moon colony, is a continuation of the story that was begun with Taves' very interesting (and so far much too neglected) "Mayflower" series. As before, it is a story of human rebellion--or, rather, of human nature struggling against committed directives that fail to take into account the emotional drives that make man (and woman!) creatures of wonderful variety. In this instance the Luna One stelement finds their isolation from Earth goading them into decision-making of their own device, as the women ignore the rules set up by the Earth-based Project Design and proceed to abandon contraception and the rules for population maintenance by getting pregnant. The rebellion is not limited to the women, however, and Taves gives some fine examples of how men and women work in unison (and, as some may think, a startling concept as to which sex is the initiator). Taves handles social concepts around like ping pong balls, but his game is a serious and carefully structured one, full of surprising twists and thoughtful stratagems. One day soon a smart book publisher will gather these stories into a book, and if the series so far is any indication, it will be a fine book indeed.

(Cont. next page)



## Novelette:

Frank Merriwell in the White House -- Ward Moore.

"Once there was a political boss in love with the daughter of a mad scientist"--and so with the first sentence Moore tells the reader to sit back, relax, and prepare for a lighthearted romp. But Steve Woolsey's love for Aurelie van Ten Bosch is only one of many problems, all of which are tied to the mad scientist's "mechanical man", Frank Merriwell, whose political rise to top government position is hastened by his definitive statement: "I am opposed to all progress." With this goal as his platform, Merriwell easily sidesteps his opposition and changes the face of civilization (while the love-story subplot makes several remarkable turns as well along the way). Moore's humor is broad, riding on guffaws, but some of the political snipes are as sharp and penetrating as a 21-gauge needle. Perhaps a bit overlong and at times uneven, the story nevertheless is entertaining, with a high rating in humor. Good of kind.

## Short Stories:

Just a Matter of Time -- Jeffrey Perrin.

Perrin's device for letting a man move freely through a moment of "quantized" time while the rest of the world freezes motionless is nothing new to SF. There is, however, a rather clever use of the device to point out the dangers and problems in taking advantage of it--here with a business executive prodded (by some too obvious contrivances, I might add) to thievery. While the situation is set up too easily, the concluding backfire is neatly handled. Okay of kind.

A Voice and Bitter Weeping -- Buddy Saunders & Howard Waldrop.

The 21st century has dawned on a world of radioactive rubble and crippled nations still battling in purposeless wars, and this story, an incident accentuating the sorry state of the future Earth, follows the exploits of a group of Israeli mercenaries in Texas. Unfortunately in seeking to render a view of a society where "blood-lust [is] stronger than sex, stronger than love", the authors have overwritten their clichés into a block, ill-balanced, and rather senseless glop of crafty humor and craftless horror. The writers seem convinced their conclusions are revelatory, but I think only readers predisposed to defeatism will agree.

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THE MYSTERY NOOK

## BOOK REVIEW (reviewer, George Fergus) --

Fear is the Key, by Alistair MacLean (Fawcett Crest; new ed. of a 1961 hardcover & 1963 Pocket Book) -- Here's a switch. This time the hero is a government agent pretending to be a crook. And not an ordinary felon, but a desperate killer on the run from a police dragnet. It takes most of the book to find out why, but in between is an excellent story of adventure and suspense that is among the best MacLean has done, and also his only novel set in the U.S. Recommended if you can still find a copy available.

## REVIEW EXTRACTS (gleanings from the press) --

THE WASHINGTON POST (BOOKWORLD) 16/9/73, reviewer Jean M. White: The Riverside Villas Murder, by Kingsley Amis (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; \$6.95) (Goes "beyond the conventional mystery with a subtle, understanding portrayal of an adolescent boy feeling the first stirrings of sex . . . [its] real charms . . . lie in the novel's evocation of the 1930's and in the cast of characters"; "sly, sophisticated satire"). ## The Thirteenth Trick, by Russell Braddon (Norton; \$5.95) ("A brilliantly clever novel of psychological suspense"). ## Final Notice, by Joe Gores (Random House; \$4.95) ("a gutsy, deftly plotted mystery in the best tradition of the private-eye school"; a DKA novel). ## A Hard Man to Kill, by Ritchie Perry (Houghton Mifflin; \$5.95) (A "spy thriller", "escape reading with breakneck action and daring exploits . . . The action explodes in all directions, shattering any orderly plot outline"). ## Maigret and the Bum, by Georges Simenon (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; \$5.95) ("a touching story of human relationships").

## THE AMATEUR PRESS: U.S. Fanzines Received

FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION (FAPA) MAILING #144 (Aug. '73): THE FANTASY AMATEUR 364 (Aug. '73) (12 pp.; the FAPA official organ, with addresses, FAPA Constitution, officers' reports; ed. Official Editor Gregg Calkins, 150 Las Juntas Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; membership is 65, waiting list has 33 names; to get on w.l., send \$1 to Bill Evans, 14100 Canterbury Lane, Rockville, MD 20853, along with your credentials (i.e., info on your recent fanpublishing activities)). A FANZINE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TWENTIFIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF ED COX INTO THE FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION 1:1 (Feb. '73) (Ed Cox; 4 pp.; misc. editorial chatter). A PROPOS DE RIEN 144 (Jim Caughran; 4 pp.; ditto; mostly comments on Mailing #142). BETE NOIRE #25 (Sum '73) (Redd Boggs; 18 pp.; essays inspired by material in FAPA Mailings; review-essay on Delights and Prejudices, by James Beard). CHRONICLE #2 (30/7/73) (Andy Porter; 2-pg. offset newszine already reviewed in earlier SOTWJ). DESCANT #22 (Aug. '73) (Gina & Norm Clarke; 13 pp. / cover; offset; Norm on jazz & other subjects; FAPA Mailing #143 mailing comments; trip report by Gina). THE DEVIL'S WORK #24 (Dec. '72) (Norm Metcalf; 5 pp., offset; FAPA m.c.'s); #26 (May '73) (2 pp.; m.c.'s). DOCUMENTS FOR THE DEFENSE (Milton Stevens; 1 pg., offset; re LACON financial controversy). DYNATRON #52 (Feb. '73) (Roy Tackett; genzine; 25¢ ea.; 16 pp.; already reviewed in SOTWJ #103). ESDACYOS #22 (Aug. '73) (Ed Cox; 28 pp. / cover; offset(?); Editorial chatter; Charles Burbee short story; Larry Shaw on Flash Gordon; more material by Burbee and Cox, plus piece on Cox by Dave Locke). THE FIRST CORDS SONGBOOK (Dick Eney; 28 pp., incl. cover (digest-size); 10 songs, w/notes, composed by members of CORDS). GRUE #37 (Aug. '73) (Dean Grenell; 8 pp., offset; Dean on Doc Savage & other subjects). HORIZONS #135 (Aug. '73) (Harry Warner, Jr.; 24 pp.; m.c.'s; Hagerstown Journal; on Julie Andrews; poem). MOON-SHINE (Aug. '73) (The Moffatts, Rick Sneary, Stan Woolston; 18 pp. / cover; the Moffatts on TAFF & other subjects; m.c.'s by Stan; miscellany by Stan (where's Rick?)). ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE #1 (Louis Morra & Bill Schelly; 6 pp. / cover; ditto; "The Positive Benefits of Solitude"; m.c.'s; miscellany). PARADOX 9a (Bruce Robbins; 8 offset pages from PARADOX #9 (#9 was reviewed in SOTWJ #111), / xerox cover letter). PURPLE FROM ORANGE (Dave Hulan; 4 pp., ditto; Editorial chatter). THE RAMBLING FAP (Aug. '73) (Gregg Calkins; 11 pp. / cover; Editorial ramblings; FAPA #143 m.c.'s). REVOLTING TALES OF SEX AND SUPER-SCIENCE #2 (Jul. '73) (John Bangsund; 2 pp., offset; cover / editorial). SKIFFLE #3 (Steve Stiles; 8 pp.; Editorial; m.c.'s). SLOW DJINN #2 (Dave Locke; 6 pp.; m.c.'s). SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL #97 (no need to describe this). SYNAPSE (Jack Speer; 12 pp.; m.c.'s on FAPA #143; miscellany). TWENTIETH CENTURY UNLIMITED #8 (Andy Porter; 2 pp., offset; m.c.'s & miscellany). ~~####~~ Practically nothing in the way of genzines in this smaller-than-usual 246-pg., 24-magazine Mailing. Mimeo unless otherwise noted above.

KYBEN #5 (Sep. '73) (Jeff Smith, 4102-301 Potter St., Baltimore, MD 21229; no schedule given; mimeo (offset covers (or are they electrostencilled?); 35¢ ea., 3/\$1; Aussie Agent Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd., Hawthorndene, S.A.) -- 26 pp. / covers (by Dan Steffan); interior illos by Mike Archibald, Grant Canfield, Bill Rotsler, Bob Smith, Dan Steffan; Editorial natterings on numerous subjects; "Theta Worship in Private Catholic Highschools", by Darrell Schweitzer; "Book Reports" by Jeff; lettercolumn. ## Relaxed and entertaining--the best issue to date.

ORACLE #11 (Oct. '73) (Al Cockrell & Leo Wagner; 15¢ ea., 10/\$1, from Al at Box 125, Bronson, MI 49028; offset(?); no schedule given) -- 8 pp.; illo by R. Holmberg; Ted Kriner reports on TORCON II; editors' notes; lettercolumn.

TABEBUIAN #8 (Dec. '73) (David & Mardee Jenrette, Box 374, Coconut Grove, Miami, FL 33133; 10¢ ea., 6/\$1 (that's what it says!); no schedule given; offset) -- 8 pp. incl. cover; 4 1/4" x 7"; lettercolumn; short essays on "Singles", Clarko's Rendezvous with Rama, and "Education: Mediocrity". ## Smaller and less varied than usual, but still interesting and entertaining. (They sent three extra copies; anyone want one? If so, send SAE; if not, they go to WSFA Library.)



THE CLUB CIRCUIT --

ESFA REPORT (Minutes of the 7 Oct. '73 meeting of the Eastern S.F. Assoc. (ESFA), which meets informally on the 1st Sunday of the month, at 3 p.m., in the YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m., with an attendance of 15 persons. The minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer's report projected a small surplus of cash on hand by year's end. There was no old business.

Under new business Director Hodgens asked for comment on a possible Open Meeting in March. He explained that he couldn't contribute much in the way of work to organize a program this year. The Treasurer remarked that the purpose of an Open Meeting was to publicize the club, generate interest to get new members, and, incidentally, to make a little money. Little of this was accomplished by the last two Open Meetings. Alex Osheroff suggested a dinner meeting, open to anyone willing to purchase a ticket. Sam Moskowitz gave some reasons why a dinner meeting might be desirable, and discussed the possible format. This would include an award to the GoH. Various names were proposed. Moskowitz will contact a possible guest, and Sam Boltax will check dinner prices at Newark's Gateway Motor Inn.

Various items of interest were mentioned, including the fact that WEIRD TALES #3 has been printed. None of the members, including Editor Moskowitz, has yet seen a copy. Lancer Books is out of business, and their stock is being remaindered. Fred Pohl has bought Sam Delany's 300,000-word novel for Bantam. Ballantine has a new Raymond Z. Gallun book, and a new edition of Stanley G. Weinbaum.

Joe Wrzos read his introduction to Hyperion Press's forthcoming edition of The Second Deluge by Garrett P. Serviss. Joe cited previous flood stories by Mark Twain and Edward Page Mitchell, and gave biographical background on Serviss. He was a journalist, astronomer, and lecturer, and was thoroughly familiar with the SF of his day. In his book Serviss gave a rationalistic and scientific explanation for the flood, postulating a watery nebula as the origin of all that water. Serviss also used the story as a vehicle to express his discontent with his own times. Wrzos credits Serviss with foresight on the genius level.

Richard Hodgens read a paper by him that finds certain similarities between Melville's Typee and Wells' The Time Machine, involving such elements as cannibalism and decadence. Both are stories of travel, descriptions of alien societies, and escape. Hodgens claims nothing at the moment but possible coincidence. Moskowitz commented that in addition to similarity in narrative development, both stories present a picture of an apparent paradise, but with a note of horror in the background. Melville was a well-known and best-selling author of his day. The possibility is strong that Wells read Melville.

Sam Moskowitz called the club's attention to William Wallace Cook, another neglected early SF writer. Starting with dime novels in 1890, Cook wrote into the early '30's, and was the earliest important SF writer developed by ARGOSY. He had at least six novels and a short story between 1903 and 1907, and was reprinted in paperback. His themes included time travel, suspended animation, one of the earliest dystopias, and a 1902 story of a robot world-takeover. If his stories had appeared in hardcover, robots might now be known as "muglugs". One of his characters may have been the genesis of The Shadow. He also devised a plot-making game called Plotto.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA  
(Over)

THE NATIONAL SCENE: The Club Circuit (Continued) --U.S. CLUBZINES RECEIVED --

INSTANT MESSAGE #135 (15/10/73) (Bi-weekly newsletter of the New England S.F. Assoc. (NESFA), Inc., POBox G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA 02139; ed. Jill Eastlake; mimeo; \$4/yr. (for Corresponding Membership, which also incl. any issues of NESFA genzine, THE PROPER BOSKONIAN, which come out during year)) -- 10 pp.; minutes of meeting of 14/10/73 (note that nominations (from NESFA members) are now open for nominations for 1974 Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction ("Skylark" award), to be given at Boskone 11; past winners: 1966, Fred Pohl; 1967, Isaac Asimov; 1968, John Campbell; 1969, Hal Clement; 1970, Judy-Lynn Benjamin; 1971, no award; 1972, Lester de Rey; 1973, Larry Niven); CoA's; calendar of upcoming (area) events.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN 33:5 (Oct. '73) (Official organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (NEFF); dues \$2/yr. from Janie Lamb, Rt. 1, P. 364, Heiskell, TN 37754 (Jan.-Dec.); ed. by Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, TX 77566; mimeo; bi-monthly) -- 4 pp. / 2-pg. Ballot for annual election of officers and changes to Constitution & By-Laws; very short Bureau reports; addresses & misc. info on new members & renewals; N.F.F.F. Trader column (free ads for members). ## Much shorter-than-usual issue, purpose of which is to get out election ballot as quickly as possible.

SOG (SON OF GRAFAN) #25 (July '73) (Walt Stumper, 8764 New Hampshire, St. Louis, MO 63123; official organ of GRAFAN (Graphic Fantasy & S.F. Soc. of St. Louis); free to members (\$4/yr., incl. SON OF SOG and COSMIC BONES); \$2.50/yr. or 25¢ ea. to non-members; monthly; mimeo) -- 16 pp.; editorial notes; "Fandom Report", by Michael McFadden; Film & TV reviews, by Paul Daly; Comics column, by Don Secrease; list of recently-published books; short fanzine reviews, by Walt; lettercolumn. ## Am not sure this is still being published, as none have been rec'd since July.

TWILIGHT ZINE #27 (undated) (MIT S.F. Society (MITSFS), %Jourcomm, MITSFS, W20-421, MIT, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139; offset(?); irregular; 25¢ ea.) -- 40 pp. / flyer, cover (Apollo launch photo), and special supplement: The Science-Fiction Magazine Checklist 1961-1972, ed. William H. Desmond (Archival Press, '73; offset; 5 1/2" x 8 1/2"; avail. (price not given) directly from Bill at 803 5th St., S. Boston, MA 02127; an updating of Brad Day's The Complete Checklist to Science-Fiction Magazines; will be revised and expanded as The Complete Science-Fiction Magazine Checklist 1895-1975; 16 pp. / covers); Editorials, by Jonathan Fox & Gregory Ruffa; lettercolumn; "Tomm Swift and His Electric Chair" (Concluding Chapters, "by Victor Appletrae, as edited by Irwin T. Lapeer"; condensed minutes from past MITSFS meetings; "Flash Gordon" (Episode 4), by Jonathan Fox; MITSFS magazine Want-List; short story by Balmer Lyman; twisted SF titles by Doug Hoylman. ## Enjoyable issue of a magazine which appears all-too-infrequently. The 1961-1972 Checklist should prove especially valuable to collectors.

UMBRA #6 (Apr. '73) (ASSFS, Box 530 DD SUNYA, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222; ed. John Robinson; mimeo; "quarterly" (Feb., Apr., Oct., Dec.); 40¢ ea., 3/\$1) -- 24 pp.; Editorial; Boskone report; "Do Priests Have Altar Egos?", by Aljo Svoboda; "One God--One Bible--One Fandom!", by Rev. Anal Roberts; fiction by Sidney Glutz; "Mr. Spock is Jewish", by Steve Scheiber; book reviews; fanzine reviews. ## Not bad--except that it is put together from back to front, with the last eight pages upside down. It took us 15 minutes just to find out where to start reading it.... Which is why we took so long to review it--the format put us off, as we're sure it will most readers. We suggest that nothing is gained by this sort of thing....

MISCELLANY --

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION re: THE ART SHOW AT TORCON 2, by Susan Lewis, with reply from Bjo Trimble, plus ART SHOW NEWS NOTES (all from THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FANTASY ART EXHIBITION, POBox 74866, Los Angeles, CA 90004). ## Letter from Gail S. Abend re formation of Boston Star Trek Assoc. (See our review of WARPED MIND in SOTWJ #110 for info on the B.S.T.A.)