

SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 1st Jan. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 20, #5; Whole #119)
 Editor & Publisher: Don Miller ----- WSFA Issue #7 ----- 25¢ per copy, 10/2.00

In This Issue --

IN THIS ISSUE: IN BRIEF (misc. notes/comments); COLOPHON	pg 1
THE LOCAL SCENE (New Book Store; Media Notes: Radio, TV, Movies)	pg 2
S.F. PARADE: Book Reviews, by: DON D'AMMASSA (Out of the Mouth of the Dragon, by Mark Gaston; Assignment: Nor'Dyren, by Sydney van Scyoc; David Starr: Space Ranger, by Isaac Asimov; Half Past Human, by T.J. Bass; Nets of Space, by Emil Petaja), KEN OZANNE (Night of Light, by Philip José Farmer; Analysis of Surge, by J. Pickford), DAVID STEVER (A Choice of Gods, by Clifford D. Simak; The Hero of Downways, by Michael G. Coney)	pg 3-4
EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn (Jim Goldfrank, George Fergus; WAHF's Williams, D'Amassa, Willis, Wollheim, Lien, Lewis, Freeman)	pg 5-8
SOTWJ MAIL EFFICIENCY SURVEY RESULTS	pg 8
THE NATIONAL SCENE: The Club Circuit (ESFA Report: Minutes for 2/12/73 Meeting, by ALLAN HOWARD; Clubzines Received)	pg 9
S.F. MART: Classified Ads	pg 10
CRIME & PUNISHMENT: Book Reviews, by MIKE BLAKE (Whose Body?, by Dorothy L. Sayers), DON D'AMMASSA (Death Has Many Doors and We All Killed Grandma, by Fred Brown)	pg 10

In Brief --

We're back again! After a one-month layoff because of our Dec. eye surgery, SOTWJ is rolling once more (although we will have to take it easy for the next couple of months, at least, and so will have to limit it to a max. of once a week for a while....). Lots of things on hand for next few issues.

TWJ Status Report: Most of Section A and all of B back from Brian Burley; no word yet on rest of #80. #83 being worked on again; we anticipate late Jan. publication, in a mixture of mimeo & offset, with 60-80 pages. Please start sending material for #84 (especially needed are surveys/reports on various phases of SF & Fantasy during 1973).

Please return your TWJ/SOTWJ Questionnaire promptly if you've not already done so; we'll hold publication of results until after Jan. 15.

Also, please respond to the two polls announced in SOTWJ #113: (1) Name the five stories (or less, if you can't think of five), SF or otherwise (preferably SF), which have had the greatest effect on you, & add a few sentences or short paragraph for ea. explaining why (films, TV shows, plays, etc., also acceptable). (2) List five books which you think should be nominated for 1974 Hugo, and give a short explanation of why ea. was included. Deadline for both polls: 31 Jan. '74.

Thanks to Geo. Fergus for suggesting name-change for "The Mystery Nook". Question: Should we keep mystery material separate, or include all book reviews in single review section (itself to be under "Bookworld")? "SF Parade" includes more than just SF books, so this title will be dropped w/#121.

No room for COLOPHON; see #118 or #120 for details (see above for sub rate).

-- DLM

TWJ/SOTWJ

Don Miller

12315 Judson Road

Wheaton, Maryland

U.S.A. 20906

TO: MICHAEL RESNICK (W-6)

Ab. 1, Box 26

St. Mary's Road

Libertyville, IL 60048

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE LOCAL SCENE

New Book Store -- The unnamed new Wheaton book store we mentioned in SOTWJ #118 is the Wit's End Book Store (apparently one of a growing chain--we ran across another with the same name and an identical advertising flyer in Frostburg, MD last summer), and its address is 2406 University Blvd., West, Wheaton, MD. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. thru Sat., & 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. It sells both hardbacks and paperbacks (the latter always at $\frac{1}{2}$ -price), and gives 15¢ credit on paperbacks brought in. It is, of course, a used book store.

Media Notes --

Radio: WTOP-Radio, the all-news station, will, as announced in SOTWJ #118 (this is just a reminder), will begin broadcasting the new CBS Radio Mystery Theater on Sun., Jan. 6. The series will "emphasize the macabre and unexplained rather than pure mystery and detection", will be narrated by E.G. Marshall, and will feature star-quality acting talent (Agnes Moorehead, Richard Widmark, Zero Mostel, Kim Hunter, Van Heflin, Celeste Holm, etc.), most of them appearing at the 1959 radio rate of \$100 (it's the low cost of doing such shows in the medium of radio which makes such a series possible--and which makes it probable that this may be just the first in a welcome revival of new radio dramatic shows). Producer is Himan Brown, creator of such radio classics as The Thin Man, Inner Sanctum, Grand Central Station, and Bulldog Drummond. The series will be broadcast nightly, seven days a week, from 11:07 p.m. to midnight; each episode will open with the creaking door of the old Inner Sanctum series. Write-ups on Brown and the series appeared in THE WASHINGTON POST (Jean M. White; 26/12/73) and THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS (Louise Lague; 18/12/73). We hope to get on the mailing list for the weekly schedules published by the CBS Radio Drama Network, and will pass this info along in SOTWJ. The first two shows in the series are "Old Ones Are Hard to Kill" (w/Agnes Moorehead), and "Return of the Morsebys". ## WETA-FM (90.9) will revive its contemporary radio drama series, "Farplay", starting Sun. Jan. 6 (8-8:30 p.m.) with Conrad Bromberg's "Transfers" (a radio reporter finds himself covering his own hold-up) and Megan Terry's "An American Wedding Ritual Monitored/Transmitted by the Planet Jupiter"; other Jan. shows: 13, Julie Bovasso's "Strangers in an Autumn Twilight"; 20, Mavor Moore's "Customs"; 27, Norman Kline's "Introduction to a Prune Danish" and Stephen Greco's "I Miss Them All". "Radio Revisited" will continue weekdays at 8 p.m., with "The Great Gildersleeve" replacing "Finner McQue & Molly" on Tues., and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Sir John Gielgud as Holmes and Sir Ralph Richardson as Watson) will replace "The Lone Ranger" on Wed.; in the Friday timeslot will be: 4, "Escape" ("Three Skeleton Key"--outstanding!); 11, "Life with Luigi"; 18, "Quiet Please" ("Thing on Fourble Board"--very good!); 25, "The Aldrich Family". ## WEJC (91.5) still has "Sounds Like Yesterday" weekdays 7-8 p.m.; a few highlights: 2, "Suspense" ("Murder by the Book"); 9, "Secrets of Scotland Yard"; 16, "Creaking Door" ("Haunted Hangman"); 23, "Quiet Please" ("Thing on the Fourble Board"); 24, "X Minus One" ("The Time Machine"); 30, "Haunting Hour" ("Homicide House"). ## WAMU-FM (88.5) is still presenting $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour "Speaking of Science Fiction" series Mondays at 10:25 a.m.: 7, "Themes & Ideas"; 14, "Sixty Years of Science Fiction"; 21, "Symac Romances"; 28, "Science Fiction Films". Norman Corwin fans should tune in on "Recollections" on 11 Jan. at 9:30 p.m. ## WOTS-FM (91.9) will feature "Suspense" on its 19 Jan. show (Sats., 11:30 p.m.). ## Six-week course, "Writing for Broadcasting", will be given by N.Va. Community College starting 16 Jan. (Wed., 7 to 10 p.m.; tuition, \$18); for info: call 323-3168/69.

TV: Les Mayer reports that Silent Running will be on TV in Feb.; more details next SOTWJ. Lee Majors' The Six Million Dollar Man will be a weekly series starting later this month (Jan. 18?). G.K. Chesterton's Father Brown will have its own one-hour weekly series on British TV; Kenneth More will play the title role. (Cops! This wasn't local news, was it?....)

Movies: The Day of the Dolphin at Loew's Embassy; Don't Look Now at the Apex; The Exorcist at the Cinema; Fantastic Planet (a "must") at the Janus 1 & the Cerberus 3; Sleeper (Woody Allen in 2173) at the Avalon 1; Westworld at the Hillside Drive-In. And you just missed the delightful 2,000 Fingers of Dr. T at the AFI.

Out of the Mouth of the Dragon, by Mark Geston (Ace Books). /DON D'AMMASSA/

Knowing Donald Wollheim's aversion to experimental fiction, I was pleasantly surprised to find him publishing Mark Geston's second novel. After the mediocre Lords of the Starship, I would never have expected Geston to produce such a fine novel. Dragon is primarily a mood piece, designed to drive home to the reader the utter hopelessness and uselessness of war. This is by no means a masterpiece, and cannot be considered pleasant reading. But war is not a pleasant subject. Neither is it an easy book to read. But if the reader recognizes Geston's purpose, and approaches the novel as an allegory, he will be more than rewarded.

Night of Light, by Philip Jose Farmer (Berkley, '72; repr.; shorter version F&SF 6/57 (Full marks to Berkley for indicating that!)). /Reviewer, KEN OZANNE/

I guess this was probably written before the Carmody stories I mentioned a couple of SOTWJ's back. Chronologically, they fit into the middle of this one.

This is a story of religion--a religion that threatens to supplant Christianity. It has all the trappings--a living god; genuine, indubitable miracles; etc. Somehow it didn't take fire for me. This was one of the comparatively few books that I didn't finish at a single sitting. (It may have been because of this very fact, but the jump of 27 years a-way through was a bit sudden for me. It's a dangerous technique, and I don't think Farmer had the skill for it back then.)

Altogether, this is a very disappointing book. It's close to being really good, but isn't. (Warning: I tend to get more upset by a below-average book from a major talent than by a downright poor book from someone from whom I expect less.)

It's not really a bad book, but I don't recommend it. Read one of the "River-world" series or the "Pocket Universe" series instead.

Assignment: Nor'Dyren, by Sydney van Scyoc (Avon Books). /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/

This second novel shows definite improvement over the author's earlier Salt-flower, but it still falls short of success. Earthman Tol Bailey journeys to Nor'Dyren to investigate that planet's automation. He discovers that the three distinct alien races who inhabit the planet have become so stratified and role-oriented, their culture is disintegrating. The mystery of their recent decline is transparent to the reader far before it becomes obvious to the hero. The alien culture itself is so far from believable, the entire story falls apart. The trend is up, but this author still has a long way to go.

A Choice of Gods, by Clifford D. Simak (Berkley Books). /Reviewer, DAVID STEVER/

"One day," the blurb tells us, "Mankind disappeared. . ." When it did, a planetary population of eight billion was dropped to a bare handful of people and the robots that had been built. In trying to survive, the people suddenly found themselves with century-spanning lives, and a power which allowed them to travel between the stars. What little civilization is left consists of an Indian tribe, a band of former farm workers, a family, and the robots. They share the planet for thousands of years, until one of the star travellers returns with the news that the rest of humanity has been found, and is returning to Earth.

This is a finely honed example of a Cliff Simak pastoral novel (finely honed like an old plow?), and while the characters and plot move at the sure steady pace of a farm horse towards a satisfying conclusion, I can't for the life of me figure how it made the Hugo nomination list last year. (This, by the way, must be the first time a publisher has advertized that the book in hand has been nominated for a Hugo; normally, only the winners get a notation that a "Hugo Award" was given. That must say something about the publisher or the award, but I don't know what....)

David Starr: Space Ranger, by Isaac Asimov (Signet Books). /DON D'AMMASSA/

Asimov did himself a great disservice when he turned his hand to juveniles. Everything that is dissatisfying and most open to criticism is present in the open-
(Over)

S.F. PARADE (Continued) --

ing volume of the Lucky Starr series. The hero is perfect, a leading brain in the human government and a musclemann, despite the fact that he is barely out of his teens. The villains are clearly defined as such. The book is obviously written down, with flowery speech and a rapid pace. It is practically a parody of an adult SF novel, an inexcusable lapse on Asimov's part. ((This should have appeared before the review of the second book in the series a couple of SOTWJ's back; it was overlooked at that time. Sorry. --ed.))

Analysis of Surge, by J. Pickford (Macmillan, London '69). /KEN OZANNE/

This is one of Macmillan's series in hydraulics--a series I do not know well. Pickford is from the Civil Engineering department of the Loughborough University of Technology, but I can't find reference to his actual position.

Frankly, I was disappointed in this book. I was hoping for a good deal more in the way of straight theoretical discussion than is actually presented. As it is, there is a fair amount of emphasis on graphical analysis, some discussion of finite difference techniques and of iterative procedures. In other words, it appears that the book is written more for the practical engineer than the applied mathematician, and one certainly can't fault it for that.

But one can fault the book for its lack of emphasis on the use of computers on the heavily numerically oriented material. Granted, there are odd flow charts shown, and even some discussion of the application of analog machines to some of the work. But digital machines might almost not exist--there are precisely two references to them in the whole book. On this ground alone, the book has the air of something published in the early, not the late, sixties.

Not recommended unless you already have some expertise in the field, and only then if you are very familiar with the use of computers in this general area.

Half Past Human, by T.J. Bass (Ballantine Books). /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/

The world of the nebbishes is one of the most fully realized settings to appear in a SF novel in many years. Bass has created a repulsive but realistic culture of the far future, when man has evolved into a hivelike creature without individuality or personal courage. Into this culture he introduces an atavism to earlier, aggressive humanity, and then he sits back and allows the forces to resolve themselves. This is not a nice story, but it makes an excellent novel.

The Hero of Downways, by Michael G. Concy (DAW Books). /DAVID STEVER/

This is Concy's fourth novel, and it shows signs of his development as a writing talent, and marks him as a person to watch in the future. Downways is a world of underground tunnels and chambers inhabited by a large tribe of seeming human beings, who live off the grubs and blackfurs with whom they share this existence, while they try to avoid the Oddlies (the mutants that were placed in deep passages to die) and the mighty daggertooth (a killer that at certain times attacks and brings much destruction to the people of Downways). The last time a Daggertooth came into Downways, a Hero slew it, only to die himself as a result of the wounds he suffered. A piece of this hero was placed in a cloning vat which belongs to the people, and when the time comes that they need another Hero, they will simply grow one. In this novel, the time has come, as a Daggertooth has been spotted, but the Hero that they grow--John-A--proves to be a disruptive force, and pretty much a bastard, before he can prove himself in combat with the Daggertooth.

This is an excellent book, deserving of consideration come Hugo nomination time, but I still can't decide why Chapter twenty exists, at the end of such a fine work. The story that the author had been telling us ended with Chapter nineteen, and this last Chapter is totally superfluous to that story. *Sigh* Some people just don't know when to stop a good thing....

Nets of Space, by Emil Petaja (Berkley Books). /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/

The hero of this novel dreams a lot, mostly of being eaten by giant intelligent crabs who don't realize men are intelligent. Then one day he wakes up and finds out it's true. This book is every bit as ghastly as I hope I made it sound.

EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn

Jim Goldfrank, 10516 Edgemont Dr., Adelphi, MD 20783

(9/12/73)

. . . I very much enjoyed your media comments, and resolved not to miss Vampyr. I didn't enjoy Vampyr as much. My ho-hum attitude was because of the fact that most of the time I really didn't know what was going on. . . partly because of the lateness of the hour, the fact that I have become a baking freak (I missed some of the movie while working on some bread), and the misty photography. . .

I very much enjoyed the book reviews. A good resume saves me not only buying a book that gets a poor review, but also good books with subject matter which is not particularly to my taste.

I have been amazed to find recently how good my local library is on titles which have not appeared in paperback, or which I might have missed. I feel no shame in picking books out of the young adult section of the bookmobile.

I would recommend Star Brat by William Morrissey. At young Del's (full name is deliverance from the void) coming of age he finds that he was taken from the wreck of an escape craft as an infant. Then he is taken by a slaver, and he starts his career as a gladiator. The book traces his course through a planet whose inhabitants live according to Norse myths, an encounter with a future Ulysses whose Penelope leaves something to be desired, a computer planet, to the captaincy of his own star ship, and finally the kingship of a planet whose people have forgotten how to fight (even to protect themselves against the slavers). Good space opera in the PLANET STORIES tradition. (Incidentally, one of my girls (an 11-year-old) is turning on to science fiction, and enjoyed the book as much as I did. . . She also very much enjoyed Tombs of Atuan, which I took out at the same time. I now mean to start her on Wizard of Earthsea.)

I am convinced of the importance of "turning kids on to SF". It is indeed mind-expanding. They become more able to try on unfamiliar concepts, increase their interest in current scientific events, widen their horizons, learn to think in terms of long-term optimism--the long view--and finally tend to dwell less in the small world of prejudice. We fans have a responsibility to them to expose them to good science fiction and fantasy--not to force it on them if it is not their taste, but to spark and encourage their interest. We just may be developing better people....

One of your reviewers referred to the "dismal Starlost". Let me say a word or two about SF series on TV. Man Into Space circa 1958 or 9 was almost documentary and very good. Invaders wasn't too bad. Land of the Giants and Lost in Space I dismiss as comic-strip level, and I don't share in some of my fellow fans' admiration for comix. The incomparable Star Trek was great because it threw in a lot of good concepts. For example, humanity is as humanity does. You can look completely human, and be beastly. You can have a completely different form, and be human. Sure, Star Trek was a lot of good clean fun, but the concepts, and occasional sermons, came so subliminally that they might slip in under people's prejudices and defenses. "If an alien creature can act like a human, then maybe the black or yellow man I meet isn't so bad, huh?" In addition, instead of just a few stars, the actors were a good team, and played to each other in rapport. . . . As for Starlost, it is not that bad. It combines the oft-imitated theme of Heinlein's Universe with a parallel of Burroughs' Mart or Venus. Instead of many different countries furnishing a smorgasbord of backgrounds, we have all the biospheres. And it slips a few mind-broadening concepts to the kiddies, who enjoy it. . . .

Besides, if the fans don't support even the halfway decent SF series, who will? The idiot TV networks might turn off the faucet completely, God forbid. (I think I forgot to mention Wild Wild West. Besides being a well-acted adventure, it started, at least, as if it were science fiction being written back in the 1890's. To mention a few items, the breathing mask which Artemus Gordon thought might be useful for breathing under water, which saved West from suffocating at a critical moment; the late, great Michael Dunn as the sinister Dr.

(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

Lovelace who had all sorts of gadgets including phonographs, radio, and loud speakers; the demented scientist played by Burgess Meredith, who could cause earthquakes.)

Did I also omit Twilight Zone and Night Gallery? Some shows were great, such as James Whitmore's character portrayal of a captain losing his reason for being, cracking up when the people who depended upon him for leadership on a desert asteroid were being rescued and no longer needed him. Then there was Carl Reiner, who named the Cthulhu pantheon, described them, and proved conclusively that they were utter rubbish--only to turn into something better left buried. Some of the others were pure potboilers.

Just recently Frankenstein, the True Story gave us a remarkably sensitive treatment, and good acting. Most striking was the comparison between the essential goodness of the ugly monster, and the essential evil of beautiful Prima, Frankenstein's second creation. Maybe there is some hope for TV. . . .

((You also forgot to mention Cutter Limits, which in its last year produced some of the finest SF-related shows we have seen to date on TV. And Time Tunnel (which probably deserves to be forgotten) and the very early Science Fiction Theatre, which was probably something like Man Into Space (which we never saw). We also enjoyed those episodes of Dr. Who which we managed to see. ~~##~~ Our 12-year-old daughter has shown some interest in SF-related shows and stories (she liked Star Trek and avidly watches the "Apos" films, but doesn't like Starlost), but our son has no interest in it at all. --ed.))

George Fergus, 3341 W.Cullom Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

(22/12/73)

Regarding how long it takes the post office to deliver SOTWJ: It has always arrived in exactly three days if mailed on Mon., Tues., or Wed., but has varied from 2 to 5 days if mailed on Thurs. or Fri. Since you mention that you now have enough statistical data, I won't bother to report individual dates of receipt.

You could retitile a combined TWJ/SOTWJ TAPEWORM, thus providing an excuse for your use of the editorial "we". THE SF RECORD really doesn't have much going for it. How about THE SF 8-TRACK TAPE? Or, since Dick Geis is no longer using it (and stole it from Robert W. Franson's defunct zine in the first place), why not use SF REVIEW? Think Big.

David Stever's review of Right-Handed Wilderness in #114 erroneously states that it is Robert Wells' first book. Berkley has published two previous novels by Wells: The Parasaurians and Candle in the Sun. "Half Breed", the Asimov story from ASTONISHING mentioned by Ken Ozanne in his review of The Space Magicians in #118 has been reprinted in The Early Asimov, along with its sequel and several other stories that should perhaps have remained in oblivion, including the "stinker he had in the next issue". (For contents list see SOTWJ #65). Isaac's commentary on each item, however, should make the forthcoming paperback worth getting. Ken does good book reviews--keep them coming! But I'm not familiar with the term "faq" which he's used twice. What does it mean?

Contrary to what you state in #115, the Bantam edition of Frank Herbert's Hellstrom's Hive has not come out in 1973. I tend to think that the blurb you quoted for The Night Stalker by Jeff Rice ("The novel on which the TV screenplay of the same name by Richard Matheson was based.") is a blatant lie, since the book is an original paperback copyright 1973. Nor do I recall anyone but Matheson being mentioned in the film credits.

I note your description of The Temple of the Ten by H. Bedford-Jones & W.C. Robertson: "Oriental tale of the mystic and maniacal telepath, Esrun." This is obviously a nurse novel in disguise! I never heard of SMASHING NOVELS MAGAZINE, but it's certainly got a nifty title.

Re your prozine index, I don't see any reason to go thru the trouble of individual page numbers for each book review, as Hal Hall suggested. Book review

(Cont. next page):

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

columns are not typically so long as to make photocopying the entire column unreasonable. . . .

((He concludes with a short paragraph on TWJ #82, which will appear in the TWJ #83 lettercolumn, and also includes a bunch of non-SF reviews (mystery and adventure), which will appear in future SOTWJ's. ## Re the title: No decision has been made yet on combining the two 'zines; hopefully, this matter will be settled by the end of January. But TAPEWORM is the name of Jay Haldeman's pet (fanzine); and S F REVIEW would be appropriate, except we dislike using used titles (results in a lot of confusion, particularly for libraries and others who rely on those trade journals and indexes which are usually two to three years behind (and are probably still listing SF REVIEW as an active publication--they were still listing YE FAERIE CHESSEMAN several years after it was combined with THE GAMESMAN, and apparently still are overseas (we just got a query on it from a firm in Malaysia)....). We don't particularly like "THE SF RECORD", but threw it out as a suggestion on the basis of those fan-eds who have been calling SOTWJ "the record book of science fiction". And we're not sure we should give "SF" too much prominence in the title if we continue to--as we expect--provide coverage on non-SF subjects such as mysteries, adventure books/films, old-time radio, and the like. But this will be discussed in more detail after we print the Survey results later this month. ## We don't have The Night Stalker at hand (it's out for review), but its sequel, The Night Strangler, contains a blurb which states: "Not long ago, Jeff Rice wrote a chilling novel of the supernatural called The Night Stalker, which inspired a motion picture seen by more television viewers than any other feature film made for TV . . .". ## We never heard of SMASHING NOVELS MAGAZINE either, but that's what Don Grant's flyer says. Received a review copy of The Temple of the Ten. It's not a very big book, but, like all of Grant's books we've seen, it's quite handsome, and a worthy collector's item. --ed.))

We Also Heard From:

Martin Williams: "Re the likes and dislikes of the SOTWJ features: I like the book reviews, the lettercolumn, In Brief, etc.; as for my dislikes, I could agree without exception with the comments by George Fergus, and add that the issues with the prozine reviews are usually a total waste of time for me. Despite this I do consider SOTWJ well worth reading. . . ."

Don D'Amassa: "You might mention at some time that Dave Stever erred in referring to Right Handed Wilderness as Robert Wells' first novel. It is at least his third, and may even precede Inheritance, currently being serialized in IF." Also, in another note: "Ken Ozanne mentions in #118 in his review of Space Magicians that he thought he had read "The Bitter End" by Russell elsewhere. It appeared in SF: The Great Years edited by the Pohl, and in the SF Hall of Fame, but both were after its appearance in the Moskowitz anthology." Finally, in a third letter, "You might find it interesting to hear that we founded recently the Rhode Island SF Association and decided to put out a newsletter of some sort. So naturally the title that immediately came to everyone's lips was RISFA JOURNAL."

Paul Willis (INFO Secretary), who in mentioning our publication of the details of the INFO conference some time back, states that "The only incorrect detail was that the name of our quarterly is the INFO JOURNAL. 'Science and the Unknown' is a sub-title."

Elsie Wollheim (DAW Books): "I loved The Lord's Pink Ocean. Why do you bother when your reviews are pessimistic? I certainly won't quote them."

Dennis Lien, who sent a bunch of things, including a copy of a book biblio "done by me at my library job for local sf writers" (Science Fiction Writers of the Twin Cities, 12 pp., incl. cover, mimeo; prepared for a library exhibit during the months of Nov. & Dec. '73; two pp. of biographical data and eight pp. of bibliographical info on the seven writers featured in the exhibit, all of whom

(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

live or have lived in the Twin Cities area (Poul Anderson, Ruth Berman, Charles V. De Vet, Gordon R. Dickson, Carl Jacobi, Clifford D. Simak, Donald Wandrei); the bibliographic section lists all books and magazine serials written by the seven featured authors and published in the U.S., plus other titles announced for publication in '73). The accompanying letter to us states: "I will supply single copies of the Science Fiction Writers of the Twin Cities free to anyone who requests one and sends me a self-addressed legal size envelope with sixteen cents postage on it. Requests could be sent to the work address given in the biblio, but I would prefer they be sent to my home address: 2408 Dupont Ave. S. (Apt. 1), Minneapolis, MN 55405."

Steve Lewis, who sends a partial list of radio shows he has for sale or trade (Supplement No. 8; 3 op., ditto, tape reels #T310 thru T335; he trades at value of \$1/hr. on Shamrock tape, or sells with that as basic price; his address, in case any of you other radio buffs are interested: 62 Chestnut Rd., Newington, CT 06111), and also states: "I hope the CBS Mystery-Suspense series-to-be is a success, that some stations pick it up. Washington is apparently a good town for radio, seems like some station will carry it. I understand CBS will sell it to any other station after local affiliate turns it down. . . ." ## "As far as I know the NBC Monitor X Minus One shows are repeats of the original old show. Another outfit was making brand new programs, of which I have one, but rumor has it that NBC owned copyright to name and stole the idea back again. ## "As long as I am writing, I enjoy the book reviews very much, especially as you and YANDRO are about my only contact with sf fandom recently. What with pulps and old radio shows taking my hobby time. Wish you could find someone to do mystery books of various kinds. I'd do it myself if only I had time to read. ## "As your ex-German translator I wish I could help with Rottensteiner's QUARBER MERKUR, but it has been so long since I read German, any attempt would be pitifully sad indeed. It would be worth the effort I think to translate and reprint entirely, from list of contents and Franz' reputation. Thirty pages of book reviews!"

Keith Freeman sends an LoC on TWJ #82 with starts with a short comment on SOTWJ (which will appear in #83 with his #82 comments), and ends with a P.S.: "If I can add a little to Eric Bentcliffe's letter in 108: I know not who 'previously announced' me as a candidate for TAFF but, although it was suggested I run (in itself an honour) I was not in a forward enough position to withdraw! If I had been, I'll add, I might well have withdrawn in favour of PETER ROBERTS. My vote's been cast, I hope you've done so too? (Not you, Don, but all your readers!)"

SOTWJ MAIL EFFICIENCY SURVEY RESULTS

- #107 -- Mailed 9 Oct. Rec'd: 11/10 (Cheshire, VA; Howard, NJ); 12/10 (Gillam, NY; Abel, KS; Fritter, CA; Waters, OH; McGirr, MA); 13/10 (Hall, TX; Wolfe, IL; Smith, CA; Keifer, OH; Hochberg, NY); 15/10 (Bowie-Reed, CANADA); 10/11 (Freeman, ENGLAND).
- #108 -- Mailed 11 Oct. Rec'd: 13/10 (Gillam, McGirr, Waters); 15/10 (Fritter, Smith, Keifer, Francon(CA)); 16/10 (Bowie-Reed); 12/11 (Freeman).
- #109 -- Mailed 18 Oct. Rec'd: 20/10 (Waters, Gillam, Stith(CO)); 22/10 (Quane (TX)); 23/10 (Smith).
- #110 -- Mailed 23 Oct. Rec'd: 24/10 (Cheshire); 25/10 (Waters, Gillam, McGirr); 26/10 (Quane, Hall, Stith).
- #111 -- Mailed 29 Oct. Rec'd: 31/10 (Quane, Gillam, Cheshire, McGirr); 1/11 (Hall, Stith, Williams(WA)).
- #112 -- Mailed 31 Oct. Rec'd: 1/11 (Gillam, Cheshire); 2/11 (Quane, McGirr, Stith, Williams); 5/11 (Slick(CA)); 7/11 (Barry(Asmara, ETHIOPIA, via APO)).
- Survey ended with #112, but #113 (mailed 6/11) was rec'd 7/11 (Cheshire), 8/11 (Gillam, Rozman(MD)), 10/11 (Williams); #114 (mailed 8/11) was rec'd 9/11 (Cheshire, Rozman), 10/11 (Gillam), 12/11 (Williams); #115 (mailed 13/11) was rec'd 14/11 (Cheshire), 15/11 (McGirr--who rec'd #114 13/11), 17/11 (Williams). Thank for help!

THE NATIONAL SCENE

THE CLUB CIRCUIT --ESFA REPORT (Minutes for 2 Dec. '73 meeting of the Eastern S.F. Assoc.):

The meeting was opened at 3:15 p.m. by the Secretary, with an attendance of 13. The Secretary's minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer was absent.

Mark Owings mentioned a series of booklets from a New England source on pioneers of SF. The first three will deal with biographies of Erle Cox, Garrett P. Serviss, and Robert W. Chambers. The third issue of SAVAGE TALES has a story by Ray Garcia Capella, originally published in AMRA. There seems to be some question on copyright ownership.

Sam Moskowitz reports Isaac Asimov has done an article on Cyrano de Bergerac for TV GUIDE in connection with a TV program, or series, on the Frenchman. Relying heavily on Sam's Cyrano article in Explorers of the Infinite, Asimov will pay with a reference to the book in the piece. The second issue of CHARLIE CHAN MAGAZINE is out, with better distribution than the first. MIKE SHAYNE MYSTERY MAGAZINE has another of Sam's "Detective by Gaslight" series. Sam has been trying to sell this series as a book since 1962. The first issue of WEIRD TALES sold 18,000 out of 74,000 copies. The fourth issue is completed, but its publication will depend on a pickup in sales for #2. The sales report for the second issue is due in January. Sam also gave a rundown on the 28 titles due from Hyperion Press in December and January.

The Secretary asked for feelings on the proposed March luncheon meeting, in view of the energy crisis and the possibility that the gasoline shortage might affect attendance. Moskowitz pointed out that the proposed location, Downtowner Gateway Motor Lodge, is adjacent to and connected by an enclosed walkway to Penn Station, the terminus of all rail and bus lines into Newark. Moskowitz will contact the GoH before the next meeting.

Moskowitz introduced John J. Pierce, who read excerpts from an essay, Fantastika, Born of Revolution, by R. Nudelman, adapted from the Russian by John W. Andrews. This was originally published in 1966 in Fantastika, an anthology of Soviet SF. It is a review and detailed history of a considerable body of Soviet SF that first appeared in the 1920's, mostly in magazines. The Andrews translation will appear serially in Pierce's RENAISSANCE, published monthly at \$5 a year, and available from Samuel E. Konkin III, 635 E. 111th St., Apt. 24, New York, NY 10009.

Moskowitz reported briefly on The World of Fanzines by Frederic Wertham, M.D., published by So. Illinois University Press. Like most SF fans, Sam was prepared for a vicious attack on fanzine publishing and SF fandom in general. Instead he found Wertham, who cites some 225 titles in his study, favorably impressed. He has little to criticize and much to praise. Wertham approves of fanzines as a truly particular and personal form of communication, as opposed to a world of mass communication that tends to minimize the individual voice. The imprimatur of a Wertham, who was able to damage the comics industry, could have far-reaching consequences for the fanzine movement.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA

CLUBZINES RECEIVED --

INSTANT MESSAGE (New England S.F. Assoc., Inc., Box G, MIT Branch P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139; ed. Jill Eastlake; bi-weekly; mimeo; \$4/yr. (for Corr. membership, which also incl. sub to PROPER BOSKONIAN)) -- #138 (18/11/73): 10 pp.; report on 18/11 "Other Meeting"; Oct. Treas. report; NESFA roster, committee list; misc. news; calendar of upcoming local events. ## #139 (3/12/73): 8 pp.; minutes of 2/12 Business meeting; announcements, etc.; calendar of upcoming local events. ## #140 (16/12/73): 4 pp. / Boskone 11 Flyer; Other Meeting report; CoA's; notes/announcements; calendar.

YE MOUNTAIN STREAM II:1 (Aug. '73)(Bill Berg, 2131 Keating St., S.E., Hillcrest Heights, MD 20031; xerox; no price given): 29 pp. / cover & contents page; a compilation of Bill's reports on Myrkwewood (SCA) activities from 8/72 thru 8/73.

WANTED TO BUY: Complete sets of the Science Fiction Book Club's IN TIMES TO COME prior to 1971. Would like to buy large sets if possible, will otherwise go year by year. Like to hear from you. DAVID STEVER, 1610 Worcester Rd., Apt. 433A, Framingham, MA 01701.

WANTED TO BUY: Kirk art for A Guide to Middle Earth without printing; Mis-cationic U. mug. GENE WOLFE, Box 69, Barrington, IL 60010.

WANTED: Any used but unbroken hockey equipment--for use in volunteer hockey program. Write or send to: EAST END HOCKEY ASSOCIATION: %JACK COLLINS, #4A, 916 Third Ave., NYC, NY 10022.

Classified ads are free for SOTWJ subscribers & traders up to 10 35-character lines; 2¢/line thereafter. Ads are 2¢/line (minimum 25¢) to others. Prepared flyers are \$1.50/printed side (200 copies needed). No ads in TWJ.

WANTED: I want to buy or trade old Ace double books (or other Ace "D" series paperbacks). Send list of dups, wants, prices to: DEAN S. ABEL, 1332 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

WANTED: Will pay \$8 apiece for issues #5 and #8 of THE HOWARD COLLECTOR. Also want Ellison's Dangerous Visions (orig. pub. ed. only). FLOYD PEILL, Box 238, Morse, Sask., Canada S0H 3C0.

WANTED: Issues 4 & 5 of SOTWJ. Will pay \$1 for the two, if in good condition. ALEX EISENSTEIN, 2061 W. Birchwood, Chicago, IL 60645.

WANTED: NEW WORLDS #'s 175 & 176; THE NEW CAPT. GEORGE'S WHIZZBANG #1; THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE (most issues); UNKNOWN Jul. '39; mystery, detective, jungle, occult, etc. mags (US & UK); Chess books & 'zines; "monster", comix, movie, "nostalgia" mags & books. DON MILLER, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, MD.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT (formerly THE MYSTERY NOOK): Book Reviews

Whose Body?, by Dorothy L. Sayers (Avon Books). (Reviewer, MIKE BLAKE)

This, the first of the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries, is neither the best written or most ingenious of the series, but still is better than the current output of some of the more popular mystery writers of today. If you have not yet discovered the exploits of England's sleuthing peer, I suggest you rectify that mistake immediately. The Wimsey stories are some of the most highly regarded mystery novels ever written, classics in the genre. Whose Body? concerns a hideously clever method of disposing of a murdered corpse, and goes into detail about one of the most important facets of Lord Peter's life, the traumatic nightmares he suffers from during periods of great emotional strain as a result of his experiences as an army officer in World War I.

Death Has Many Doors, by Fred Brown (Bantam Books). (Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA)

Detective Ed Hunter becomes involved in one of the strangest cases in his short career when a young girl asks him to protect her from Martian assassins. Hunter attempts to persuade her to seek psychiatric help, but his equanimity is rocked when she is murdered in his presence. The murdered girl's sister insists that the Martians are a hallucination, but that her prescient fear of imminent violence is real. Again Hunter looks on helplessly as a young girl is murdered in his presence, despite all he can do to prevent it. Although Brown's resolution is unsatisfactory in this novel, this is easily one of his most suspenseful novels.

We All Killed Grandma, by Fred Brown (Bantam Books). (Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA)

Fred Brown uses the old ploy of an amnesiac seeking to discover whether or not he is a murderer in this competent but rather conventional mystery. His characters are less vivid than usual, his situations practically clichés, and most of his revelations telegraphed.