

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

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 4th Jan. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 21, #2; Whole #122)
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In Brief --

Still catching up from one-month post-surgery layoff. Have just returned to work, so we expect future SOTWJ's will come out a bit slower....

Re this issue: The Review Extracts on pg. 2 are from new monthly "Gothics" review column in STAR; does anyone find the quotes useful? (Gothics vary so widely in type and setting that one practically needs to quote an entire review to get a proper perspective on the book....) ## Should we break out juveniles from the rest of the SF/Fantasy under "Bookworld", or leave it there? ## Barry Malzberg is responding to receipt of a bunch of (mostly) old SOTWJ's we recently sent him; we finally got a current address for him...SOTWJ's bounced back from earlier ones.

We hope the addresses are legible; since the operation, we've had trouble coordinating hand and eye movements, and our writing is hence even worse than usual.

Thanks to you all for your good wishes re our operation, and for your Christmas greetings. They were much appreciated.

As announced inside, sub rates will not be increased until Feb. 28 (at which time we expect rate to be 9/\$2). Complete details later.

Don't forget to respond to two polls announced in SOTWJ #'s 113 & 119.

Mimeo seems to be working okay now; ditto has not yet arrived (being mailed from Calif.), and we have not yet learned how to use offset...may do so tonight....

No recent info on TWJ #80; #83 still being typed (it's grown so large, we may have to split it in two; post-#83 issues will be smaller and more frequent).

SOTWJ is approx. weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/\$2 (80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more issues of SOTWJ, dep. on length). For info on airmail, "Collector's" (3rd-class) subs, ads, Overseas Agents, etc., write ed. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; H, L, or M, WSFA Honorary, Life, or Regular member, resp. (# = # of WSFA issues left on sub); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade (Trade Sub details in #89); W or Y, Subber via 1st- or 3rd-class mail, resp. (# = # of issues left on sub); X, Last issue you will receive, unless you do something....

-- DLM

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TV REVIEW (or, "From Out of the Fog Came Light (?)"), by ERIC BENTCLIFFE:

Last night (Dec. 16th) BBC-TV presented a fifty-minute show on science fiction featuring several well-known fans and writers, and a couple or so Galactic Imbeciles! The program could have been a good one; it was filmed in such diverse places as New York, Los Angeles, Cape Kennedy, London, and Forry Ackerman's Third Garage. It featured Isaac Asimov, J.G. Ballard, Brian Aldiss, Harlan Ellison, Damon Knight, Ray Bradbury, Fred Pohl, Kurt Vonnegut and Fritz Lang, all of whom had something interesting and relevant to say about science fiction (mutually contradictory, of course, but interesting). However, the program was too over-concerned with the clever things the BBC-TV cameramen and editors could do with interspersed film clips to have any real cohesion or to really say anything. Isaac, for instance, was talking about his robotics laws and trying to give an intelligent rundown on how modern SF started in the Gernsback era, and developed via JWC, Jr., but once he'd mentioned Robots that was it! Cue in Robbie and all the other clumsy creatures that the unfannish amongst us equate with SF. This was the pattern of the program as a whole, an author would be allowed to say only a couple of sentences and then the hoary old film-clips would appear...including, of course, Metropolis, hence the appearance of Fritz Lang. I suspect, indeed, that some trendy limp-wristed cameraman fell in love with the film and Fritz had to be included so they had an excuse to show the shots that every con-goer must now love to hate. However, despite the faults of the program, which I would say did nothing either good or bad for the genre (it was too incoherent), I enjoyed it for the shots of Forry at home, and of Harlan at play--and I'll say one thing for Harlan, he had the BBC-TV team worried; his was the one spiel uninterrupted by old film-clips...in his case they included out-of-sequence shots of Harlan and environs. Did you know that Harlan has a no-smoking sign in gaelic over his den door? That he has Jimminy (Gemini?) Cricket in his freezer? This, at least, we learned from BBC-TV's first serious program on science fiction. And there were some nice shots of early AMAZING and WONDER STORIES cover art--from Forry's collection, I presume.

It could have been worse, I suppose--at least they didn't over-accentuate the authors' words into any form of ridicule, and the overall message was probably that if you are a writer today, you must write science fiction--it is the only meaningful form of literature.

Scanning the Newspapers:

Miscellany -- Martin Williams, in the WASHINGTON POST (5/1/74), discusses Edgar Rice Burroughs "as the center of a literary cult which produces and publishes enough research and scholarship to fill five current publications and to make your average PhD in English jungle green with envy". In his article, he briefly discusses the ERB fanzines ERB-DOM, BARSOOMIAN, ERBIANA, JASOOMIAN, and GRIDLEY WAVE, as well as Tarzan in the movies and on TV (with brief mention of Gabe Essoe's book, Tarzan of the Movies (Citadel)).

Review Extracts -- GOTHICS (by Jeanne Hines, WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS); 11/11/73: The Stone Maiden, by Alexandra Manners (Putnam's; 285 pp.; \$6.95; ". . . Rich lovely descriptions, nice chilling moments. . . Pleasant reading."); The Woman from the Glen, by Chloe Gartner (Wm. Morrow & Co.; 318 pp.; \$6.95; ". . . More of an adventure story than a Gothic, more of a character study of one fierce woman than a picture of an age . . . set in Scotland at the time of Bonnie Prince Charlie); Call in the Night, by Susan Howatch (Stein & Day; 239 pp.; \$6.95; "Pleasant little suspense story set in London, Paris and New York. . . ."); 6/1/74: The House of the Brandersons, by Raymond Rudorff (Arbor House; 307 pp.; \$7.95; ". . . a story of possession--not in the usual stylish sense--but of some deep underground evil which permeates a family and brings disaster and death to all with whom they come in contact . . . should be intensely enjoyed by those who revel in gore, unearthly demented cries and crashes in the night . . ."); A Candle in the Wind, by Mozelle Richardson (Wm. Morrow; 186 pp.; \$5.95; ". . . The story wanders on and on, with long blasts of Gaelic, but the kindest thing that could be said about it is that it's blarney.").

BOOKWORLD

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

Traitor to the Living, by Philip José Farmer (Ballantine) -- MEDIUM is an electronic device that enables men to communicate with the souls of the dead. Or is it? Gordon Carfax suspects that those entities are actually alien beings posing as the departed. He also suspects that the ownership of MEDIUM was acquired through murder and larceny. As he investigates, he uncovers a plot to steal bodies through possession, ensuring immortality for a chosen few. Farmer is one of the best SF writers, but Traitor to the Living never becomes completely credible. The background is too sketchy, the characters too vague. The heroine is an ineffectual bit of fluff, the chief villain is offstage for almost the entire novel, and the hero's transformation from mild-mannered college professor to casual killer is unconvincing.

The Tin Angel, by Ron Goulart (DAW Books) -- This is the latest of Goulart's zany books set in a fragmented world "After things fell apart". This time the cast of characters features a cyborg dog entertainer, his agent, and a wide variety of guerilla soldiers and double-agents. For this reader, the zaniness no longer works. Goulart has used the same gimmicks so many times, they no longer amuse. The stupidity of his characters and the idiocy of their situations culminates in 140 unmemorable pages.

Lucky Starr and the Big Sun of Mercury, by Isaac Asimov (Signet Books) -- The fourth Lucky Starr adventure borrows substantially from Asimov's adult fiction. The Sirian culture as described is a carbon copy of the world Solaria in The Naked Sun. A positronic robot figures in the solution of the mystery. Someone is sabotaging a research project on Mercury, and Lucky Starr must discover who and how. Unlike the previous three volumes, this story is intelligently plotted and maturely resolved. Bigman Jones, Starr's sidekick, continues to be as repulsive and overexaggerated as ever, however, flawing an otherwise excellent juvenile.

The Truthful Harp, by Lloyd Alexander (Holt Owllet Books) -- Lloyd Alexander's Prydain pentology won him instant acclaim in the fantasy genre, and in the field of children's literature. This short paperback, set in Prydain, chronicles the adventures of a young king who desires to be a wandering minstrel. With him he carries a magical harp, upon which a string breaks whenever he tells a lie. This is a short, light book, designed for younger readers, without the depth and detail of the earlier Prydain books.

Planet of the Voles, by Charles Platt (Berkley) -- Charles Platt is not a bad writer. There are sections of this space opera that hang together quite well. Unfortunately the novel is pointless and the end of the book leaves the reader hanging. The human-Vole rivalry is never adequately justified, and the hero's relationship to the Vole female is dangled enticingly in our faces, then terminated without explanation. Pass this up.

The Inferno, by Fred & Geoffrey Hoyle (Harper & Row) -- This is a dreary book by the Hoyles, similar but vastly inferior to the earlier Black Cloud by Fred alone. A quasar erupts in our galaxy and destroys human civilization in the usual fashion. The Hoyles provide us with diagrams, equations, and astronomical shop talk, but little originality of concept or approach. The central character is a disagreeable type intent on securing the existence of an independent Scotland. Avoid the paperback if you can; avoid the hardcover at all costs.

Reviewer, KEN OZANNE:

Baphomet's Meteor, by P. Barbet (DAW, '72; trans. from the French by B. Kay) -- I hope this sells well--I'd like to see more of Barbet's novels in English. This one is the story of the successful crusades after the semi-immortal alien, Baphomet, organized the order of Knights Templar in 1118. Historical details are (Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

fairly well handled, though the brief mention of Bayan jars. It just isn't right to pass over one of the great men of all time thusly--I suspect that Barbet did not realize his true historical significance. (Okay, you ignoramuses. Bayan was Kublai Khan's great general. Oh come now! Look up Kublai Khan for yourselves!) ## There is a story within a story, for we are aware that Baphomet is directing the Knights Templar towards his own ends. The resolution of the problem presented by the aliens' designs, unfortunately, is the weakest part of the book. ## Recommended.

The Man Who Sold the Moon and Other Stories, by Robert A. Heinlein (Pan '63, but has had many editions and dates back to the early '50's, perhaps earlier) -- I bought this because my copy was pretty tattered. Actually, I bought two copies because I forgot I bought a replacement. Anyway, with three copies of it about the place, it is no wonder I happened to reread it. ## These are stories from Heinlein's famous Future History series, covering the years from around the 1960's to the 1980's. (1960 was future when the stories were written, remember.): "Life-line" (Care to know when you are going to die?); "Let There be Light" (Cheap power from the sun--and those who stand to lose by it.); "The Roads Must Roll" (A strike among the technicians of the automatic roadways and the ruthless steps that must be taken to end it. But surely you've read this one?); "Blowups Happen" (The tension of working on an atomic power station that can't be done without and can't be kept stable. Another much-reprinted story.); "The Man Who Sold the Moon" (An advertising man decides that Earth must conquer and exploit the moon. A story that never could have been, now, but nonetheless good for that. (Sorry--for "advertising man" read "business man". I was thinking of another story. But I bet Pohl & Kornbluth had read this one.)); "Requiem" (Really the end of the previous story. And a fitting end, too.). ## If you don't own it, buy it. (I have a copy or two for sale....)

Breakthrough, by R. Cowper (Ballantine, '69(?) (British)) -- It will be difficult to describe this one without making it sound ghastly. It isn't, though it isn't a great book either. ## A man and a girl each have disturbing dreams--which turn out to be the same disturbing dreams. And then the girl turns out to produce incredibly high scores with Rhine cards (as does the man, but only when she is at hand). ## The gradual unfolding of the significance of the dreams is the story. But it is very largely talk and very little action. This doesn't mean that there is no feeling of movement in the story. It might mean that it could have been done better. ## This one is as much fantasy as SF. And I don't think Cowper really cares a great deal for either, as such. ## No recommendation. I enjoyed it, but I could easily imagine someone finding it an absolute stinker.

Entry to Elsewhere, by John Brunner (DAW, '72; but stories date back to '50's) -- "Host Age" (Novella about a plague from the future and why men of that time deliberately sent it. Originally in NEW WORLDS in '55; it has not dated.); "Lungfish" (Novelette about the events on a starship as it approaches its destination. The shipborn have very different ideas from those of the people born on Earth. This from SCIENCE FANTASY '57.); "No Other Gods But Me" (Novella about the evil denizens of an alternate world and their attempt to conquer this one. Stale story with a copout ending. Maybe less stale in '56.). ## Quite reasonable stuff, but you don't desperately need it. ## A thing that bugs me about this book is that it is packaged exactly as if it were a novel. And "A DAW BOOKS ORIGINAL" on the back does not help much. Don Wollheim, do you have to stoop to this?

Reviewer, DAVID STEVER:

The Time Masters, by Wilson Tucker (Lancer Books) -- A ship blew up, long, long ago, raining Earth with people escaping the wreckage. Some became gods of the primitive people with whom they came in contact, and lived rather nicely. Over the years, they died, in spite of their longer lifetimes, and now only two remain. ## Gilbert Nash is approached by Gregg Hodgkins, about the disappearance of his

(Cont. next page)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

wife. Nash runs a detective agency in Knoxville, and Hodgkins--a worker at the Oak Ridge Labs--tells him about his strange wife, Caroline. While Gil soon realizes that she is one of his people, national security people are looking into the way that he suddenly appeared one day in 1940, with no background. When Hodgkins kills himself, the investigation is expanded to take in Mrs. Hodgkins, who also has no background. ## This book is oddly paced--perhaps because it's twenty years old, and was updated last year. Maybe it's the style of the period; in any case, the book has an easy pace, not unlike the pace of Gilbert Nash's life, now that he has resigned himself to living and dying among the savages of Earth. ## Worthy reading.

Testament XXI, by Guy Snyder (DAW Books) -- This book is obviously a fine sample of the English World Cataclysm school of fiction. It doesn't matter what Don Wollheim says in the blurb--it is obviously a 15-year-old book. It was dug out of a trunk, this story of post-holocaust America, and after some New Wave trappings like one-word interlineations and cute paragraph structure were added, it was sold to DAW. Such a hackneyed story line needs more life breathed into it than this book offers to the readers. To its publisher, I offer the following advice: Writers like a Mark Geston are found, not grown.

Mysteries:

One Down, by Anders Bodelsen (Popular Library) /Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA/ -- This is a trivial, overly long, boring novel of a man who attempts to escape detection after running another man down with his car. Shortly after he covers his tracks, a blackmailer contacts him, for the usual purposes. Bodelsen's treatment is pedestrian. Translation from the Danish may account for the awkward language of the novel, but the author must take the blame for the mediocrity of the plot.

Slayground, Point Blank, The Black Ice Score, The Outfit, Killtown, Run Lethal, all by Richard Stark (Berkley 6,9,11,12/73) /Reviewer, GEORGE FERGUS/ -- These are numbers 1-6 of the new "Parker" series. Parker is a freelance professional bank robber and occasional thorn in the side of The Mafia/Syndicate/Organization/Company/Outfit. The series started out in 1962 as a bunch of paperback originals from Pocket Books. Every time a movie is made from one of them, tho, a new publisher decides to get into the act. Last time it was Gold Medal, which reprinted The Hunter as Point Blank! (a movie with Lee Marvin as Parker) and The Seventh as The Split (featuring Jim Brown as Parker), and then went on to publish several originals. Now with the appearance of a film of The Outfit (starring Robert Duvall), Berkley has started reprinting them, but in the wrong order and under different titles, with no notice whatsoever given of the original title! (This may not be Berkley's fault. Random House has been reprinting many of the original pbs as hardcovers under new titles, and may be the culprit in failing to give notice of the old.) For those who may have some of the original Pocket Books, Killtown is a reprint of The Score, and Run Lethal was originally titled The Handle. These two novels also feature Alan Grofield, who is the hero of a separate series by Stark from MacMillan. Slayground, a Parker novel, is in fact a direct sequel to The Blackbird, a Grofield novel. In case this is getting confusing, I might mention that Alan Grofield is probably a pseudonym of Alan Greenwood, who appeared in the comedy thriller The Hot Rock, by Donald E. Westlake, who nowadays writes all his serious suspense novels under the pseudonym Richard Stark. But to get back to the subject not that all that is cleared up, you might try the first one, Point Blank!, if you think you might like stories about a clever crook who is definitely not a nice guy but who at least believes in honor among thieves.

BOOKS RECEIVED -- Softbound:SF/Fantasy Novels:

Beyond Apollo, by Barry N. Malzberg (Pocket Books, NY; 1/74; orig. pub. '72 by Random House; 156 pp.; cover by Charles Moll; 95¢) -- Harry M. Evans, lone survivor
(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

of the first Venus expedition, returns to Earth with the knowledge of the fate of the expedition locked in his brain, and is pressured to tell all. The 1972 John Campbell Award winner for the Year's Best S.F. Novel. (#77687)

The Destruction of the Temple, by Barry N. Malzberg (Pocket Books, NY; #77696; 2/72; 159 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢; an original) -- "The year is 2015, and President Kennedy is being murdered--again and again and again..."

Into the Aether, by Richard A. Lupoff (Dell Books, NY; 1/74; 220 pp.; cover by Frank Frazetta; #3830; 95¢; original) -- "Being the Adventures of Professor Thint-whistle and His Incredible Aether Flyer on the Moon." Delightful tale of adventure aboard the Chester A. Arthur, "the world's first and only coal/steam/paddlewheel-propelled spaceship", in the year 1884.

The Man Who Liked Women, by Marc Brandel (Pocket Books, NY; #78626; 1/74; orig. pub. '72 by Simon & Schuster; 307 pp.; cover not credited; \$1.50) -- Venus, the Goddess of Love, 1½-inches tall but "delectably formed and growing larger every day", visits Earth and stays with Bascombe Fletcher, the "man who liked women".

The Night Strangler, by Jeff Rice (Pocket Books, NY; #78352; 1/74; original; 160 pp.; cover photo from ABC; \$1.25) -- Sequel to The Night Stalker. Reporter Carl Kolchak "in search of a man who has learned to conquer death by inflicting it on others". Original screenplay by Richard Matheson.

The People of the Mist, by H. Rider Haggard (Ballantine #23660; 12/73; orig. pub. in England in 1894; last U.S. printing 8/15; 365 / xii pp.; wraparound cover by Dean Ellis; \$1.25; in Adult Fantasy series, ed. Lin Carter) -- Introduction, "Lost Races, Forgotten Cities", by Lin Carter. Adventure tale of a "lost culture in the heart of the ancient, savage Africa that Haggard knew and loved so well".

The Stainless Steel Rat Saves the World, by Harry Harrison (Berkley Pub. Corp., NY; #425-02475; 12/73; orig. pub. '72 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 160 pp.; cover not credited; 75¢) -- "The climactic adventure of science fiction's greatest rogue, James Bolivar di Griz."

Twilight of the Basilisks, by Jacob Transue (Berkley, NY; #425-02476; 12/73; 175 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢) -- The twilight of Earth....

The Z Effect, by Marshall Laurens (Pocket Books, NY; #78357; 2/74; 192 pp.; cover by Alan Magee; \$1.25; original) -- Crazy scientist Dr. Luis Rivera, discoverer of the all-powerful Z effect, gives the world seven days to submit to his rule or be destroyed.

SF/Fantasy Anthologies:

Jupiter, ed. Carol & Frederik Pohl (Ballantine, NY; 12/73; orig. anthologization; 265 pp.; cover by John Berkey (wraparound); \$1.25) -- Nine stories about the planet Jupiter, anthologized in conjunction with the Pioneer space probe. Contents: Introduction: "Jupiter the Giant", by Isaac Asimov; Preface: "Jupiter at Last", by the Pohls; "Bridge", by James Blish ('52); "Victory Unintentional", by Isaac Asimov ('42); "Desertion", by Clifford D. Simak ('44); "The Mad Moon", by Stanley G. Weinbaum ('34); "Heavyplanet", by Milton A. Rothman ('39); "The Lotus-Engine", by Raymond Z. Gallun ('40); "Call Me Joe", by Poul Anderson ('57); "Habit", by Lester del Rey ('39); "A Meeting with Medusa", by Arthur C. Clarke ('71). (#23662)

Two Views of Wonder, ed. Thomas N. Scortia & Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Ballantine, NY; #23713; 12/73; original; 274 / xi pp.; cover by Mati Klarwein; \$1.25) -- Teams of writers--one male, one female per team--each cover a given theme. Contents: Introduction: "'Vive la quelle difference?'" by the eds.; "Faulty Register", by Joe Gores, & "Lone Warrior", by Miriam Allen de Ford; "IMI", by Pamela Sargent, & "Small World", by Michael Kurland; "When Petals Fall", by Sydney J. Van Scyoc, & "Papa Schimmelhorn and the S.O.D.O.M. Serum", by R. Bretnor; "Rope of Glass", by George Zebrowski, & "The Quality of Mercy", by Tamsin Ashe; "Un Bel Di", by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, & "Kiss of Fire", by Harlan Ellison; "A Personage of Royal Blood", by Willo Davis Roberts, & "Thou Good and Faithful", by Thomas N. Scortia; plus Appendix of Themes.

THE CLUB CIRCUIT

MINN-STF REPORT -- Minn-STF Business Meeting Minutes:

Meeting of 17/11/73, at home of Dennis Lien --

Meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m.

With some nudging from President Chuck Holst, places for the next three meetings were lined up (in a somewhat ragged line...). Meeting of December 1st will be at the Hobbitat; meeting of December 15 will probably be at Martin Schafer's; if not, it will be at Sharon Campeao's. Meeting of December 29th or thereabouts will be at the Holst and Swanson apartments, or possibly at the Lessingers; probably this last will consist of an afternoon meeting and evening New Year's party. Since no provision was made for Minneapa collation at the last meeting to be held at the Holst apartment, Denny Lien pointed out that his place would once again be available for collation on December 29th if needed. ## Caryl Bucklin suggested the Dec. 29 party be moved to New Year's Eve. Dick Tatge objected that a sauna party was already scheduled for that date.

Chuck Holst asked that people please print or write legibly . . . when putting their addresses on the sign-in sheets. ## Chuck Holst and Don Blyly tried to recruit riders to Chabanacon, with no luck. In an effort to assist, or possibly to just be difficult, Mark Hanselo moved that the Minn-STF treasury offer a bribe of \$5 to anyone going as Official Minn-STF Representative. Died for want of a second.

Denny Lien announced that the exhibit on "Science Fiction Writers of the Twin Cities" is now up in the Periodical Room of Wilson Library at the Univ. of Minnesota, and that the accompanying bibliographic handouts were at the meeting and could be taken by anyone who would not already be receiving one through Minneapa. ## Frank Stodolka announced upcoming movies of SF interest: The Six Million Dollar Man, The Andromeda Strain, and a talk at the Univ. on special effects by a King Kong, etc. spfx man. Mark Hanselo plugged Keaton's The General, upcoming at Xanadu--not SF, but good. ## Don Blyly had two announcements: (1) The MINNESOTA TECHNOLOG is again offering a \$50 award for the best new SF story under 2,000 words. (2) Ken Fletcher returns from Delaware to Minneapolis as of 6:20 p.m. Sunday 18 Nov. '73. Gather at Chuck's around 5 p.m. to make posters and write the welcome song: leave from there to the Great Northern Station; party follows.

(At this point, Secretary Denny's dog did not need to be walked, as it did last time, but Secretary Denny did. He thus turned the official Minute-taking over to Don Blyly, who took this minute with a few seconds in change: "B. Swanson--wants helpers to assemble RUNE. Next Saturday; starting around 10 a.m." Return of usual Secretary, as usual, followed.)

Dick Tatge asked for an estimate of the cost of photoscreening for RUNE. Caryl Bucklin noted that we had \$500 to \$600 in the treasury and were hence wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice. Bev Swanson asked for new and exciting artwork in black ink. (For RUNE, not for herself.) ## Don Blyly spoke on the upcoming Minicon. We have a choice of the Andrews, Hyatt, or Dyckman hotels, and he as co-chairperson strongly recommends the Dyckman, which came to us and asked if we would be interested, offering free goodies, etc. The Hyatt has had a change of management and they have been impossible to work with since, going back on previous agreements, etc. Their huckster-art room is also too small, considering that our pro GoH is Frank Kelly Freas. There was general agreement that the Dyckman should be chosen. Don also noted that registration had been raised to \$3 attending in advance, \$4 at the door, because of rise in costs, travel contribution to GoH, etc.

Denny Lien reminded everyone to sign the sign-in sheets. ## Caryl Bucklin told Don that he should call a Secret Masters of Minicon meeting for the various committee chairpeople to get together. ## Frank Stodolka said that there is an increasing interest among local organizations in obtaining people who can talk on SF; if interested, talk to Frank. Don Blyly is teaching a night course on SF at Southeast Alternative School, starting January. ## Mike Wood announced that he had received a letter from Elst Weinstein concerning the compilation of a fannish

(Over)

THE CLUB CIRCUIT (Continued) --

dictionary. Elst wants information on local fannish slang, convention names, etc. Nate Bucklin remarked that he had seen a similar dictionary some ten to eleven years ago and still has a copy somewhere; Frank Stodolka asked to photocopy it. Tucker's Neofan's Guide and a recent Irvin Koch glossary of fannish terms were also mentioned.

Chuck Holst moved and everyone else seconded adjournment; meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

-- DENNIS LIEN, Usual Secretary

OPEN LETTERS (Extracts)

ELLIOT "Elst" WEINSTEIN, 7001 Park Manor Ave., N.Hollywood, CA 91605 (undated) --

. . . This is to inform you about a project I will be doing. This is a Fannish Dictionary. I intend this to be a useful reference guide that fans all over the US and Canada and even fan centers abroad will appreciate. As such, I am trying to obtain fannish vocabulary that exists on both local and national levels. To do this, I am sending letters to fanzine editors and local fanclub leaders in the US, Canada, Australia, UK, and several others in Europe. . . . ## To make things easier for listing, I would appreciate all words submitted to follow this format: Word(Name of person first coining this word, year done so):Definition(s) (Locality or Nation of Origin). Please include any other information that might be important (such as why such a word came into use, etc.). If possible, try to include an illustration that might clarify the meaning of the word. The term "word" as used above means both single words and phrases. (Including acronyms, such as TANSTAAFL, There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch.) An example of a word submitted would be: Paleo(Elst Weinstein, 1972): 1. A person who has been in fandom so long that he knows "everything". 2. A fan to whom nothing is new. 3. Usually refers to someone who is "anti-neo". (Los Angeles, CA).. This word arose in APA-L conversation where a term was needed to describe certain hot-headed oldtimers. ## Please include as words: Names of Conventions, Awards, Clubs, Fannish Religions, Local Slangage, etc. Any word is appropriate. If a particular piece of requested information is not known, just leave it blank. ## All people contributing definitions and/or artwork will receive a free copy. If you do not care to contribute, but wish to reserve a copy, please send \$1.00 US or the equivalent in stamps. Extra copies are also \$1.00/piece. (Or even a whole one.) I hope to have this out within 6 months. However, if it appears that I will not make it within 6-8 months I will send out another letter to all contributors and subscribers. I will return all money if publication has to be cancelled.

BILL BOWERS, POBox 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281 (12/12/73) -- MAE STRELKOV's Friends: As of 1 December, the savings account stood at \$1351.65! The auction is over, but there are still a couple of things "outstanding". . . There is no way to ever thank, or probably even name, everyone who made this happen; but somehow the Bowers & the Glicksohns will get something out to show their heartfelt thanks/. . . In the meantime, please no more auction items or donations. It's a success. (And even if NIXONomics continue, there should be enough not only to bring Mae up, but to allow her some travelling while here. Details, as they become available, will be reported thru this Syndicated Service, as well as through my own fleet of publications.) ## We urge that you support, by voting and participating, with the same generosity and dedication, the Established Fan Fund, TAFF, and the not-yet-firmly-established DUFF. Vote for whomever you wish...but vote. ## And join us in DC to greet not only Mae, but the TAFF & DUFF winners! /Bill then goes on to talk about his latest publishing ventures. OUTWORLDS & INWORLDS are merging...and splitting in Three, ea. of which will come out 3X in '74: a "fancy, pretentious, offset" OUTWORLDS, a "fanzine about fanzines", and a review/news/plugin/adverts catchall. The basic "sample" rate is \$1, for all three (one time ea.). Full details in INWORLDS 10, which will be sent (while they last) on request./

EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn

MIKE BLAKE, 71 South Bend St., Pawtucket, RI 02860.

(undated)

I disagree with George Fergus (SOTWJ #119) on the matter of Jeff Rice's The Night Stalker; as I recall the credits said "Screenplay by Richard Matheson" and, in smaller letters at the bottom of the screen, "Based on a story by Jeff Rice". It is my own theory that Matheson wrote the script after Rice's (then) unpublished novel, the market for non-gothic modern-day vampire novels being rather minute before the filming of the book and its subsequent success.

Re a possible title change: since TWJ stands for "The Washington Science Fiction Association Journal", why not lop off the "Washington . . . Association" part and call it THE SF JOURNAL, abbreviated as TSFJ. Thus you would have a SON OF THE SF JOURNAL, or SOTSFJ. Or have you thought of it already? It seemed the simplest alternative.

I would tend to say the mystery reviews should be kept separate from the Bookworld section. The trouble with the title S.F. Parade was that the department also contained science fact, fantasy, and borderline mainstream novels; mystery and detective fiction is much easier to define.

Issue #119, postmarked Jan. 5, arrived Jan. 7. Things seem to have sped up a bit with the Christmas rush over. It occurs to me this might be the last SOTWJ before the rate hike (which is scheduled for Jan. 31, isn't it?)...

Pickford's Analysis of Surge has an interesting title, but reviews of advanced texts in hydraulics? I could see a general book for interested laymen, but when the reviewer's complaint is that it's not theoretical enough, I wonder what the heck the review is doing in an SF fanzine. Is Ken Ozanne reviewing every single thing he happens to read?

In your discussion of SF on television, both you and Jim Goldfrank forgot to mention World of Giants (not to be confused with Land of the Giants). It starred Marshall Thompson (of Daktari and Around the World Under the Sea) as an American secret agent who, while working undercover behind the Iron Curtain, was caught in the radioactive exhaust of an experimental atomic rocket and shrank to a height of six inches. The plots of the series were for the most part routine cold war spy stories, with the added factor of the hero being in fear of his life from barking dogs and ill-tempered pussycats as well as enemy agents. However, I remember at least one episode in which the mini-spy's adversary was an equally pint-sized Russian scientist (cut down to size by the very same rocket) bent on using his height advantage to steal the U.S.'s vital nuclear secrets and (naturally) conquer the world. The ideas, if not the techniques with which they were used, were definitely SF.

Do I assume correctly that when Elsie Wollhoim asks "Why do you bother when your reviews are so pessimistic?" she means why do you continue to send her SOTWJ? Why do you? Well, at least it was interesting to hear what DAW (or EW, in this case) thinks of Don D'Amassa, Richard Delap, etc.

I hope you realize #119 was the second time you printed that excerpt from Don's letter about the RISFA JOURNAL. The title wasn't really on everyone's lips; maybe three or four at the most (that being about how many RISFA'ns get SOTWJ), but if WSFA does decide to take their name away from you, perhaps we will call our genzine THE RISFA JOURNAL...then we could call our club newszine THE SON OF, etc.

Just kidding, though. . . .

((We'll check the credits closely in tomorrow night's repeat of The Night Stalker, and will pass along what we discover.... ## Thanks for title suggestion; we'll hold our discussion of this until we print the results (and accompanying comments) of the TWJ/SOTWJ Questionnaire. ## Your comments re keeping the mysteries out of Bookworld came a bit too late; the change has already been made. Of course, they can always be broken back out--we are simply trying to group like material in like sections, and cut down on the number of different section titles. Makes indexing (and, we hope, reading) a lot easier. (You were the only one who re-
(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

sponded to our request for comments on the proposed merger; if anyone else cares, let's hear from you by the close of Vol. #21 (i.e., SOTWJ #126).) ## Since the subscription rate increase was predicated upon the combination of sharp rises in cost of mimeo supplies and the new postal rate hike, the rate increase for SOTWJ has been deferred from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28. We expect new rate will be 9/\$2.00; we'll set final rate when we receive bill for paper just ordered so we can compute our exact costs. ## Don't know whether Ken is reviewing everything he reads, or just trying different types of books to see how they go over in SOTWJ. Ken? ## Never heard of World of Giants; perhaps this was on TV while we were overseas? Or maybe it never made the D.C. area? Anyone? (We also forgot to mention Sixth Sense, The Prisoner, Dark Shadows, and a host of super-spy borderline-SF series like The Avengers, The Man from U.N.C.L.E., etc. Would be interesting to compile a complete list of all SF-related TV series to date....) ## We got the same meaning as you from Elsie's note. Why do we continue to send her SOTWJ? Because we try to send SOTWJ and TWJ to all publishers whose books are reviewed within, as well as as many authors whose works are reviewed as we can find addresses for. Someday, maybe DAW will publish a book which the reviewers like, and Elsie will be happy. (We should note, strangely enough, that DAW has quoted from a SOTWJ or TWJ review (or so we are told; we haven't seen it). We should also note that DAW has yet to send us a review copy of any of their books; all reviews received to date of DAW books have been "free-lanced". Review copies received by the editor are available to a wider number of reviewers, and thus a wider number of opinions. However, review copies do not mean favorable reviews--it still takes a good book to get a good review....) ## No, didn't realize it was second printing for Don's comment; the break in publishing also meant a break in memory.... Sorry! --ed.))

BARRY N. MALZBERG, Teaneck, NJ.

(10 Jan '74)

Thanks for the issues of the supplement containing reviews of Beyond Apollo and Revelations and the minutes of the ESFA meeting years ago at which I was guest speaker. Delap understands Apollo without liking it (which is miles from not understanding and not liking or for that matter not understanding and liking) and I appreciate this; the review of Revelations, you should know, is the only one of the book I've seen in the fifteen months since publication. I don't quite know why this is so; perhaps it has something to do with poor distribution, perhaps with the fact that the book, labelled as "suspense" was simply unavailable to the SF audience. It wasn't "suspense" of course; it was bought, written, contracted as SF but Paperback Library had temporarily shelved their program and this was the only way to do it. Your reviewers are competent; I appreciate what they have to say and your courtesy in making sure these caught up with me, finally.

I understand that the published minutes of that ESFA meeting drove J.J. Pierce into a rage so many years ago (he thought my then seven-year-old falling-apart Cadillac was evidence of my partnership with the exploiting class) but I don't hear much of J.J. Pierce nowadays and my '64 Cadillac lost its transmission, requiescat pacum on 2/22/72 so life must go on.

We Also Heard From:

DON D'AMASSA: In #118, Dennis Lien says that he cannot understand why I could be insulted by the revival of an old fantasy novel, and implied that I should be glad to see it become available again. I most emphatically deny both statements. There are far better stories unavailable than Dian of the Lost Land, and to choose to reprint that and not something more worthwhile is an insult to all readers, including reviewers. The novel in question deserves the limbo into which it had slipped; resurrection was unwarranted. Of course, all of this depends on subjective judgment, but that's all reviews are, after all--subjective judgments.

RICHARD DELAP -- Whose remarks re Brian Moore's Catholics will either appear under "Media Morgue" in this issue or in the next installment of "En Passant".