

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

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In Brief --

Yet another "catch-up" issue...and haven't even hit the pile of fanzines yet! Next issue will have the latest installment received of Richard Delap's prozine review column, and the one following that should contain the TWJ/SOTWJ Questionnaire results/analysis. There may be one more issue in January, and there should be at least four in February.

TWJ Status Report--Nothing new on TWJ #80; most of sections A and B have been run off and delivered to us, but we've heard nothing recently concerning the rest. Maybe the 1972 Disclave issue will be out by the 1974 Disclave???? ~~##~~ As for #83, we've typed all but the most recent letters (big column this time), the fiction/poetry section (small one), an Index to TWJ's 73-78, and part of Mark Owings' latest installment of "The Electric Bibliograph". The rest of the magazine is being prepared for offset reproduction (a few articles and a rather large number of long and interesting reviews). We'll give a quick contents-listing sometime soon, along with the highlights of #80. We expect #83 will be out in Feb., with #84 out in May (we need lots of material, especially overviews of various SF/Fantasy-related fields in 1973).

We need more responses to the two polls announced in SOTWJ's 113 & 119. The Hugo-nominee suggestions will be cut off 31 Jan., but we expect to extend the other poll indefinitely, making it an ongoing thing for the benefit of future SOTWJ readers. Responses received by Jan. 31 will be printed in Feb. (thus, we still have a deadline, of sorts), but we hope these will inspire others to join in. Remember...Name the five stories (more, if you wish; less, if you can't think of five), SF or otherwise (preferably SF), which have had the greatest effect on you (or have been the most significant for you), & add a few sentences or short paragraph for ea. explaining why (films, TV shows, plays, etc. also acceptable). (Don't pass this by as "trivial"; we can all but guarantee that if you give it a serious effort, you'll be surprised by the results--and will find that the experience has been one well worth having.)

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-- DLM

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THE CLUB CIRCUIT

ESFA Report (Minutes for 6 Jan. '74 meeting of the Eastern S.F. Assoc.):

The meeting was called to order by the Director at 2:50 p.m. There was an attendance of 15 persons. The Secretary's minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer being absent, the Secretary collected dues for 1974.

Sam Moskowitz reported that Ian Ballantine would not be available as GoH at the March meeting, because of a previously made ski engagement. There was discussion, and proposals were made for an alternate main speaker and program. On motion by Moskowitz it was voted to have a regular meeting in March, and to hold in abeyance the idea of an open luncheon meeting until--possibly--May.

Sam Moskowitz, aided by Fred Pohl, gave information that Frank Robinson and Tom Scortia had sold an outline of a Doubleday book to the movies for \$400,000. With a title something like Tower of Fire, it concerns a group of persons trapped by fire in a modern skyscraper. At the same time, two other writers had sold an almost identical story to another company. The two stories will be combined for filming. In addition, Robinson and Scortia have sold another story to the films for \$200,000.

Moskowitz is assembling an illustrated history of SF, with a chronological narrative typescript to go along with it. It will have fifty four-color and five-hundred black-and-white illustrations, and will sell for about \$20.00. He is also supplying illustrations for a pictorial history of automobiles dealing with how SF writers fifty and more years ago thought autos would look in 1973.

The Director introduced Frederik Pohl, SF author and editor of Bantam Books. Commenting on the number of histories of SF published already and soon to be published, Pohl said that what is lacking, and is long overdue, is a history that will let people know who has done what. As the writing of SF is a growing process, and a continual borrowing of ideas from each other by the writers, it is difficult to know who may be the innovator. He said that maybe none of us owns any ideas anymore, since we borrow so much from each other. Accordingly, Pohl has given some thought to the writers he considers to have contributed the most to SF in this century, in English, and who have been true innovators:

(1) H.G. Wells, who seems to have originated most types of SF, and contributed the basic foundations that made SF what it is. Because of its prolific use of him, Gernsback's AMAZING might not have gotten off the ground without Wells.

(2) Edgar Rice Burroughs, who strongly influenced the field, and without whom it might be vastly different. Pohl sees Burroughs as the first of the hard-SF writers, in that he was writing about Mars as it was known to the scientists of his day. He was also writing about organ transplants long before most other SF writers.

(3) E.E. Smith, whom Pohl considers the writer to whom SF owes the most. He opened up the universe, and made it possible for readers to know it was something which could be dealt with.

(4) Stanley G. Weinbaum, who was the first to show non-human creatures as persons, rather than as symbols of either good or evil.

(5) John W. Campbell, both as a writer in his Don A. Stuart phase, and as an editor, took SF and turned it completely around. Pohl rates him as the greatest SF editor ever.

In answer to questions, Pohl said he did not consider Jules Verne an innovator. He wrote adventure stories, relying on guide books and science texts, but did not assimilate, transform or add to his research material. Pohl also said that he is not hostile to "New Wave" as such, only insofar as it tends to become a religion. "New Wave" as an incident in history has done a lot for SF. It has opened up new dimensions and given writers more choices in the way they write SF. He sees SF continuing pretty much as it has, and working a little more closely with futurology.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA.

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA:

The Griffin and the Minor Canon, by Frank R. Stockton (Holt Owllet Books) -- The last griffin in the world visits a village to see a statue of himself in this recent paperback edition of a 19th century fairy tale. The only person in the village with the courage to confront the griffin is a minor canon in the local church. This is the second of Stockton's fairy tales to appear in paperback recently. Both were illustrated by the controversial author of Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak. Sendak is apparently the man responsible for their reappearance, and his illustrations are excellent. The text is even more so.

The World Wreckers, by Marion Zimmer Bradley (Ace Books) -- Ms. Bradley has by now written the Darkover series to death. The freshness and invention of Sword of Aldones and the earlier novels has entirely dissipated in this tiring, depressing novel of ecological upheaval. Evil men decide to ruin the culture of Darkover for their own purposes. Pure melodrama.

Lucky Starr and the Moons of Jupiter, by Isaac Asimov (Signet) -- Lucky Starr's fifth adventure involves an information leak from a base on one of Jupiter's moons. The Sirian enemy, which appeared briefly in two previous volumes, has been mysteriously acquiring secrets from an antigravity project. After the usual hijinks, Lucky unmasks a cleverly disguised robot. Characterization is either sketchy or wildly exaggerated, as in the case of Bigman Jones, but otherwise this is a well done juvenile, with a clever problem solved in a believable manner.

End of the Dream, by Philip Wylie (DAW Books) -- Wylie's last novel is a great disappointment. While I am in total sympathy with his ecological concerns and share his view of humanity in general, I find this novel--and much of Wylie's recent work--far too pedantic. The careful enumeration of various ecological disasters from the 1960's and 1970's is interesting and informative, but it does not make for a very fluid novel. File this as interesting non-fiction, not SF.

The Haunted Mountain, by Mollie Hunter (Harper Trophy Books) -- This is a familiar fairy tale set in Scotland. A young man defies the Little Folk by planting barley on land that was set aside for their exclusive use. The fairies, or sidhe, seek revenge, and the hero seeks to outwit them. The outcome is never in doubt, but the adventures along the way are entertaining and well thought out and executed. Mollie Hunter is not an untalented writer, and it is surprising that she enjoys so little reputation in this country.

Reviewer, KEN OZANNE:

Rogue Queen, by L. Sprague de Camp (Signet, '72; orig. '51) -- A very good story indeed. In the far future, Terran explorers land on a planet whose "natives" are very like Earthmen except that they have fully fledged hive communities. And I mean just that. There are unfertile female workers, a class of male drones and a single functional female queen in each community. ## The hives make war on one another, and the looming war between the hive that is the home of the native characters and another is a constant factor. There are rogue "drones" outside the hives, who have fled from the hive law that all males beyond a certain age must die. ## But the rogue queen of the title is a new thing. There has never before been a functional female outside the hives apart from swarming. ## Intrigued? I hope so, because this is well worth the reading. Very highly recommended.

The Menace from Earth, by Robert A. Heinlein (Signet '62, but stories date back to '41) -- Another example of ripoff packaging. Again, you could easily take it for a novel by the cover. I had most of the stories in this elsewhere, but I'd buy anything that had a Heinlein story that I didn't already own. ## "The Year of the Jackpot" (Slight story about the end of the world.); "By His Bootstraps" (Great time travel classic. This is the one about the Time Gate and Diktor. Remember?); "Columbus Was a Dope" (Short and delightful and I don't know how to describe it.); "The Menace from Earth" (Boy meets girl on the moon. The "menace" is an Earthgirl who comes between. Did you know you could fly to the moon in a
(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

big enough chamber and with suitable wings to tie to your arms?); "Sky Lift" (Urgent message to get through, trip will kill pilot, call for volunteers... Has been done many times, but this is one of the best.); "Goldfish Bowl" (Again, much reprinted. This is the one about the two mysterious waterspouts.); "Project Nightmare" (Espers have to keep A bombs from exploding all over the U.S. as others frantically search for them.); "Water is for Washing" (The San Andreas fault goes. And water comes!). ## If you have missed any of the great ones, you need this. Otherwise not.

Phoenix, by Richard Cowper (Ballantine '72 (British); 1st publication '67(?)) -- Frozen sleep fails in its purpose as technology is lost. But one sleeper awakens when his completely automated cell is ruptured by primitive mining operations in a distant future. ## The book is basically an account of his reaction to the new society (an isolated pocket of it) and its reaction to him. Not a new concept, but quite decently handled. ## Mildly recommended.

Reviewer, DAVID STEVER:

Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life, by Philip José Farmer (Doubleday) -- I really can't believe that there is a market for books like Farmer's Tarzan Alive, but if Doubleday is willing to buy two of them, then who am I to argue? In the first book, Lord Greystoke's biography was put down, and a family tree of sorts--relating him to just about every fictional hero from The Scarlet Pimpernel to Sherlock Holmes--was laid out. The volume would have to be the penultimate of Farmer's fascination with Tarzan, which has spawned many Tarzan-like characters in his fiction. ## In the aforementioned chart, it was "proved" that Doc Savage was a first cousin of Tarzan's, and the author has taken time to extend himself further into the field of "biography" to give us this new book on the life of Doc (and his five assistants as well). As in the first volume, the inconsistencies have been ironed out, and we are given a fairly straightforward look at "The Bronze Knight of the Running Board" (please try to keep a straight face!). Farmer has read all 181 Doc Savage adventures for this project, and he has come up with what must be some rare data on Lester Dent, author of most of the stories. For the bibliographer, there is a chronology of Doc's life from his birth to Nov. 12, 1948, when he fought the minions of the Devil; there is also a list of all the stories published, incl. info on whether or not Bantam has reprinted them yet. ## If you like Doc Savage--if you at one time liked Savage, or even if you want to find out how the famous(?) Science Fiction writer Kilgore Trout fits into that family tree of Farmer's--try the book. I doubt if any of you will be disappointed by what you find.

Misc. Fiction:

North Cape, by Joe Poyer (Pyramid 10/73; from a '69 hardcover) /GEORGE FERGUS, Reviewer/ -- One-time SF writer Joe Poyer continues to skirt the frontiers of technology (as in Operation Malacca) with this novel of the most advanced airplane in the world, capable of a sustained speed of mach 6 at any altitude via an engine that switches from turbojet to ramjet to rocket motor as required. A computer monitor intravenously hypes the pilot up and down using amphetamines and LSD derivatives to increase alertness, reaction time, and data-handling capability when required, and barbiturates to put him to sleep the rest of the time. Most of the detail is pretty interesting, but what are plane and pilot used for? To spy on Russia and China without being caught. Furthermore, Poyer has the pilot witnessing the Chinese using bacteriological weapons in the Sino-Soviet border dispute! (Poyer must be another of these ex-CIA types like Jerry Pournelle and E. Howard Hunt.) ## The second half of the book is a fairly standard story concerning the rescue of the pilot after he is more or less shot down by the Russians over the North Cape of Norway because of their development of a new visual tracking system. The blurb quotes Alistair MacLean as saying "This is a brilliant book. The best adventure story I have read in years!" Recommended to ANALOG fans.

(Cont. next page)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

Flatland, by E.A. Abbott (Barnes & Noble, '69; quality paperback; but this has seen many editions, incl. Dover qpb) /KEN OZANNE, Reviewer/ -- This is not really a story as such, but a description of an imaginary world of only two dimensions. At no stage is there a willing suspension of disbelief, and one does not really imagine that the author expects that. ## In Flatland a woman is a line, the lower classes are isosceles triangles, the middle class equilateral triangles and then squares, regular pentagons, hexagons and so on are an ascending aristocracy. ## Overall, this is an odd conceit, difficult to classify in any way. If you try to rate it as a story then it must rate abysmally low. I suppose you could say it takes the notion of "idea as story" to an extreme. ## I won't make a recommendation on this one, mostly because it needs to be rated on a completely different scale from regular works of fiction and yet is not non-fiction. Certainly you can live without it.

Non-Fiction:

1066 and All That, by W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman (Methuen (London), hb, '63; 43rd edition!) /KEN OZANNE, Reviewer/ -- No, I didn't just discover this classic. I reread it after searching out some others by the same authors (reviewed soon). ## 1066 contains all the history an Englishman needs to know, and is unashamedly chauvanistic. Let me quote a passage:

RICHARD I. A WILD KING

Richard I was a hairy King with a Lion's Heart; he went roaring about the Desert making ferocious attacks on the Saladins and the Paladins, and thus was a very romantic King...He had a sword of enormous dimensions with which he used to practise cutting iron bars and anvils in half, whereas the Saladins had very sharp swords which were only useful for cutting cushions in half.

There have only been a very few really funny things ever written. This is one of them. In particular, the test papers are the best ever devised in any subject. ## If you haven't read this, I just did you a big favour. Read it!

The Faber Book of Twentieth Century Verse (Faber, '55) /KEN OZANNE, Reviewer/ -- Should be titled "British" verse--all U.S. poets and all poets working outside England are excluded. ## Basically, I think this is a very poor selection. True, there are a number of worthwhile individual poems, but there are many more that are not. Not recommended.

BOOKS RECEIVED -- Paperback:Mystery/Spy/Gothic Novels:

Bimini Run, by E. Howard Hunt (Berkley #02482; 12/73; orig. copyright '49; 175 pp.; 95¢) -- "... compelling narrative of violence and sex in the Caribbean".

The Caverns of Falkenhorst, by Dorinne Moore (Berkley #02456; 11/73; 176 pp.; 75¢; "Large-Type" Ed.) -- Gothic. Marion Emory "in a house of depthless terror and danger", the massive and foreboding Falkenhorst Castle.

Courier to Peking, by June Goodfield (Pocket Books #78354; 1/74; orig. pub. '73 by E.P. Dutton; 255 pp.; \$1.25) -- Spy thriller in which apologetic scientist Andrew Tanyard is used, without his knowledge, as a courier by the CIA.

The Hubschmann Effect, by Thomas Patrick McMahon (Pocket Books #78403; 2/74; orig. pub. '73 by Simon & Schuster; 157 pp.; \$1.25) -- "A terrifying novel of a new drug, six strange children, and sudden violence in a small town."

Serpent in the Shadows, by Ann Forman Barron (Berkley #02477; 12/73; 176 pp.; 75¢) -- Gothic. Nicole's childhood home of Oak Shadows was engulfed by greed, which "hovered around" its inhabitants filling them with gloom and fear.

The Violent World of Parker -- #5, Killtown (Berkley #02457; 11/73; orig. pub. '64; 158 pp.; 75¢), & #6, Run Lethal (Berkley #02479; 12/73; orig. pub. '66; 159 pp.; 75¢), both by Richard Stark. Series was reviewed by G.Fergus in SOTWJ #122.

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

Mystery Collection:

I See You, by Charlotte Armstrong (Berkley #02472; 12/73; orig. pub. '66(?) by Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.; "Large-Type" Ed.; 192 pp.; 75¢) -- Contents: "At the Circus", "The World Turned Upside Down", "The Enemy", "Miss Murphy", "Motto Day", "The Weight of the Word", "The Conformers", "How They Met"; "I See You".

Other Fiction:

(All novels unless otherwise noted)

The Best of Friends, by Joy Fielding (Berkley #02470; 12/73; orig. '72 by Putnam's; 191 pp.; \$1.25) -- "Love, sexuality, and the mystery of identity . . .".

Flash Flood, by Gil Martin (Berkley #02487; '73; orig. '68; 144 pp.; 75¢) -- Western.

The Inner Room, by Vera Randal (Berkley #02480; 12/73; orig. '64; 175 pp.; 95¢) -- Stories of four women who struggle for sanity and escape from the "inner room of A Prayer for the Ship, by Douglas Reeman (Berkley #02465; 11/73; orig. '58; 254 pp.; \$1.25) -- War story re motor torpedo boats.

Queen of Romantic Fiction -- #1, Harbor Lights (Berkley #02453; 11/73; orig. '53; 288 pp.; 95¢) & #2, The Grand Duchess (Berkley #02460; 11/73; orig. '54; 288 pp.; 95¢), both by Anne Duffield (and both "Large-Type" Eds) -- Romances.

The Roommates, by Robin Rossi (Berkley #02461; 11/73; 271 pp.; \$1.25) -- Three girls share a room in New York. "They were attractive--and vulnerable."

Trail of the Damned, by Gil Martin (Berkley #02463; 11/73; orig. '66; 144 pp.; 75¢) -- Western.

The Twelve-Cylinder Screamer, by James McM. Douglas (Berkley Highland #02474; 12/73; orig. '70 by Putnam's; 144 pp.; 75¢) -- Auto-racing and love.

Non-Fiction:

Adolf Hitler, by Colin Cross (Berkley #02473; 12/73; orig. by Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd.; 384 pp.; \$1.50) -- "Revealing new biography based on new research that shatters old myths." With photos and map.

Champaigne Living on a Beer Budget, by Marilyn & Mike Ferguson (Berkley #02464; 11/73; orig. '69; 226 pp., 7 1/4" x 5 5/8"; \$1.95) -- "The Updated Insiders' Guide to Living Better for Less." Full of facts, tips, and information.

The Dogged Victims of Inexorable Fate, by Dan Jenkins (Berkley #02486; 12/73; orig. '70 Little, Brown & Co.; 286 pp.; \$1.25) -- "Love-hate celebration of golf Edgar Cayce's Story of the Origin and Destiny of Man, by Lytle /and golfers." Robinson (Berkley #02452; 11/73; orig. '72 Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.; 224 pp.; \$1.25) -- "Comprehensive Volume of the Great Psychic's Visions of Man's Unknown History and Future." Material on Atlantis, "The Lost Peoples of America", and "1998 and Beyond"; w/Appendix and Selected Bibliography.

Hypoglycemia Control Cookery, by Dorothy Revel (Berkley #02424; 11/73; orig. Royal Pubs., Inc.; 192 pp.; \$1.25) -- "A cookbook for coping with low blood sugar."

Inveighing We Will Go, by William F. Buckley, Jr. (Berkley #02466; 11/73; 398 pp.; \$1.75) -- Witty & entertaining commentary on just about everything....

The Last Fix, by Ellen Russell (Berkley #02462; 11/73; orig. '71, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.; 208 pp.; 95¢) -- About the death of her son from heroin overdose.

Spirit, by Carlton Stowers (Berkley #02485; 11/73; 189 pp.; 95¢) -- "The Inside Story of Texas High School Football . . ."

Spirit Magic, by Alice Wellman (Berkley #02478; 12/73; 192 pp.; 95¢) -- ". . . documents the travels of many famous anthropologists . . . and shares their findings with you . . ." With Bibliography.

The New Woman's Survival Catalog, ed. Kirsten Grimstad & Susan Rennie ("A Woman-Made Book") (Berkley & Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc.; #02450; 10 3/4" x 14 1/2"; 223 pp. / covers; \$5) -- Contents: Introduction; Sections on: "Communications", "Art", "Self-Health", "Children", "Learning", "Self-Defense", "Work and Money", "Getting Justice", and "Building the Movement"; and chapter on "Making the Book".

((Ah, that cleans us out--except for a couple quality pb's and a new SF pb.))

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#117	5th Nov. 1973 Issue	10	A,C,N,P
#118 (WSFA #6)	1st Dec. 1973 Issue	20 / a	A,C,G,H,R,T,W
#119 (WSFA #7)	1st Jan. 1974 Issue	10	A,C,E,G,H,P,R,T,W
#120	2nd Jan. 1974 Issue	10	A,B,G,T

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