

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 6th Feb. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 22, #3; Whole #129)
 Editor & Publisher: Don Miller ----- 25¢ ea., 10/\$2.00

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IN BRIEF/TIDBITS REVISITED (Misc. Notes & Announcements) --

Flyers with this issue: Back-Issue Pricelist SF74-A (note special prices, good until Feb. 26; better hurry....) and additional list of duplicate fmz from our collec.

We have decided, after much consideration, upon a two-step price increase for SOTWJ and TWJ: Eff. 1 March '74, SOTWJ will be 9/\$2 (thus making the unit price for back-issue purchases, TWJ prices, etc., 22½¢ rather than the current 20¢). We will, later this year (we'll hold off until it becomes absolutely necessary), drop the other shoe and complete the price-rise (8/\$2; unit price 25¢). As it stands now, we will lose a bit at the 9/\$2 price, but we hope to offset this by the occasional double-issue. We will elaborate in one of the 3rd-class issues and in TWJ #83. For now, all subs postmarked before Mar. 1 will be honored at 10/\$2 rate, subs sent after that date will be 9/\$2. TWJ #83 will probably be four units; we'll have a firm rate by March 1. TWJ #80 will probably be five units.

This issue will be mailed two days before the 3rd-class, double-issue #127-128; we want to get the material in this issue to you as quickly as possible, while we were careful to put in #127-128 material of a less pressing nature timewise.

Issue #130 will be out in about a week; TWJ #83 should be out, barring last-minute complications, weekend of March 1. TWJ #80 still at publisher's.

Fanzine editors, please note: Geo. Alec Effinger, 4217 Prytania St., Apt. 304, New Orleans, LA 70115, would like to see samples of your publications. Also, remember to send samples to Frank Flügge, 5868 Letmathe, Eichendorffweg 16, W.Germany, or to us to forward to him. And remember to send spare copies to us to bundle up and send to prospective new fans/subbers via the Fanzine Clearing House.

In addition to the 1973 wrap-ups on various phases of SF which we need for TWJ #84, we also need material on Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges (reviews of his books/stories/poems, bibliographic/biographical on him, etc.; we especially need copies of English-language material on or by him (some appeared in early issues of AMERICAS magazine)--we'll return anything you'd care to lend us for the article), and we are looking for someone who will do an article on SF/Fantasy/Horror films, with especial reference to the literature (books, magazines, fanzines--many of which we can furnish from our library)--and someone who will do regular reviews of books and fanzines in this field (again, we receive quite a few). And, also for #84, we need in-depth reviews of Asimov's recent collections of his F&SF articles and his short articles from other publications.

Gene Wolfe writes that Jackie Franke is raising a fund to pay Bob Tucker's way to Australia for the '75 Worldcon (which he would otherwise be unable to attend). She needs cash contributions and items for an auction. Send money & auction items to: TUCKER FUND, %J. Franke, Box 51-A RR 2, Beecher, IL 60401. (She also plans to put out a fundzine, TUCKER BAG.) More details as they are received.

X Minus One will be broadcast weekly by WAMU-FM (88.5) starting March 1 (Fri., 9:30-10:00 p.m.). Recollections will move to Sun., 7-7:30 p.m., replacing Gunsmoke.

No more room. S.C.A. Mar. calendar in SOTWJ #130; Colophon on fanzine flyer.

TIDBITS

FYI -- The new postage rates to be eff. 2 March '74 are as follows:

U.S. -- 1st-class: Letters, 10¢/oz. or fraction 12oz. or less; post cards, 8¢. Airmail: Letters under 9 oz., 13¢/oz. or fraction; p.cards, 11¢. 3rd-class: 8¢ for ea. 2 oz. or fraction thereof (w/a minimum rate of 10¢/piece--e.g., 2-oz. piece is 10¢, but 3- or 4-oz. piece would pay 2 8¢ rates, or 16¢). Book-rate: 18¢ 1st pound, 8¢ ea. lb. thereafter.

Canada & Mexico -- Surface: Letters, 10¢/oz. up to 12 oz.; p.cards, 8¢; printed matter, 8¢ ea. 2 oz. up to 16 oz (minimum charge 10¢); 85¢ over 1 lb., not over 2 lbs.; \$1.16 over 2 lbs., not over 4 lbs.; 58¢ ea. add'l 2 lbs. over 4 lbs.; small packet, same as printed matter (maximum 2 lbs. Mexico, 1 lb. Canada; over these limits, must go via parcel post); parcel post, \$1.40 1st 2 lbs., 40¢ ea. add'l lb. or fraction; book-rate, 20¢ 1 lb. & under; 2 lbs. 34¢; 4 lbs. 57¢; 29¢ ea. add'l 2 lbs. (4 oz. or under, via printed-matter rate) (for Canada; for Mexico, rates are same up to 1 lb.; after that: 28¢/2 lbs., 48¢/3 lbs.; 24¢ ea. 2 lbs. thereafter). Airmail: Letters, 13¢/oz.; p.cards, 11¢.

Elsewhere -- Surface: Letters, 18¢ 1 oz. & under; 2 oz., 31¢; 4 oz., 41¢; 8 oz., 92¢; 1 lb., \$1.74; 2 lbs., \$2.89; 4 lbs., \$4.62; Printed matter, 10¢ 2 oz. & under, 16¢ 4 oz., 32¢ 8 oz., 56¢ 1 lb., 85¢ 2 lbs., \$1.16 4 lbs., 58¢ ea. add'l 2 lbs.; small packets, 18¢ 4 oz. & under, 35¢ 8 oz., 58¢ 1 lb., \$1.04 2 lbs. (maximum); parcel post, \$1.40 1st 2 lbs., 30¢ ea. add'l lb. or fraction (C. America & Caribbean), \$1.55 1st 2 lbs., 45¢ ea. add'l lb. or fraction (elsewhere) (use small packet rate under 2 lbs.); book-rate, same as Mexico for Cent. & S.America (20¢ 1 lb. & under, 28¢ 2 lbs., 48¢ 4 lbs., 24¢ ea. add'l 2 lbs.), same as Canada elsewhere (20¢ 1 lb. & under, 34¢ 2 lbs., 57¢ 4 lbs., 29¢ ea. add'l 2 lbs.). Airmail: Letters, 21¢/½ oz. up to & incl. 2 oz., 17¢ ea. add'l ½ oz. (C. & S.America & Caribbean Islands), 26¢/½ oz. up to & incl. 2 oz., 21¢ ea. add'l ½ oz. (elsewhere); aérogrammes, air post & p.cards, 18¢.

Gets more complicated each time rates go up--no wonder the postal clerks have so much trouble in charging the correct amounts....

The Con Game -- April, 1974:

(Sources given in brackets)

6 -- Tournament, Myrewood (SCA); no further details at this time. /PIKESTAFF/

12-14 -- EQUICON '74: Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles, CA; GoH: Dorothy Fontana; Special Guests: Gene & Majel Roddenberry; regis.: \$10 'til April 1, \$15 thereafter & at door; A Star Trek Con; for info: Equicon '74, POBox 23127, Los Angeles, CA 90023. /FANTASIAE II:1/

12-14 -- LUNACON: Statler-Hilton Hotel, N.Y. City; GoH: Forrie Ackerman; regis., \$3 adv.; for info: Walt Cole, 1171 E.8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11230. /KARASS, LUNA MO.7

12-14 -- MINICON 8: Hotel Dyckman, 27 S.6th St., Minneapolis, MN; Pro GoH: Kelly Freas; Fan G-H: Bob Tucker; Regis. \$3 adv., \$4 at door; room rates: \$13 singles, \$17.75 doubles, \$19 twins; \$4/extra person; Banquet, \$5; auction; art show; hucksters area; memberships from: Bev Swanson (checks payable to "Minicon"), 2301 Elliot Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404; info from: Don Blyly or Jim Young, 343 E. 19th St., Apt. 5B, Minneapolis, MN 55404 (ph: 612-333-3820). /PROGRESS REPORT #1 (4 pp., offset; 5½" x 8½"; cover by Fletcher, 2 pp. info., 1 address pg.)

12-15 -- Tynecon '74: Royal Sta. Hotel, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Eng.; Pro GoH: Bob Shaw; Fan GoH: Peter Weston; regis.: 50p supporting, to: Ian Williams, 6 Greta Ter., Chester Rd., Sunderland, County Durham, SR4 7RD, England. /LUNA MONTHLY/

March Revisited (additions to calendar published in SOTWJ #124):

9 -- CAL TECH SF SEMINAR: 4 p.m., Cal. Tech., Pasadena, CA; Harry Harrison, Bob Silverberg, Jerry Pournelle; film "Lunch with John W. Campbell". For info: Dr. John R. Pierce, Prof. of Elec. Engineering, Cal Tech, Pasadena, CA 91109. (On 8 Mar., Leo Smit will perform music for October the First is Too Late, and Fred Hoyle will speak.) /LOCUS/

30 -- SO. VIRGINIA CON I: Longwood College, Farmville, VA; films, exhibits, hucksters. For info: So. VA SF Assoc., Rt.1, Box 399, Charlotte Courthouse, VA 23923. /L/

See pg. 1, this issue, for S.G.A. events during March.

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

Catholics, by Brian Moore (Pocket Books) -- Although the author's propaganda shows through occasionally in a rather heavy-handed manner, for the most part this novel of the conflict between progress and tradition within the Roman Catholic Church is deeply moving. Although it may have deeper meaning for members of that faith, the conflict itself is important to all of us, because it is not confined to Catholicism, or even religion. It is well written, moves quickly, and the author's involvement with his subject matter is a definite plus.

They Shall Have Stars, by James Blish (Avon Books) -- This is the precursor to Blish's Cities in Flight series, also published as Year 2018. The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have grown so much alike, they are virtually the same society, characterized by witch hunts, persecution, and erosion of civil liberties. Senator Wagoner uses a project to build an enormous bridge on the surface of Jupiter as a screen whereby he develops immortality and interstellar flight via antigravity. If you can accept that those two discoveries could be made in such a short period of time, the novel is fairly interesting.

The Thirty-First Floor, by Peter Wahloo (Bantam Books) -- This Swedish SF novel slipped by me originally because it is packaged as a mystery novel. And mystery it is, but set in an undisclosed European country in the near future. Conformity has increased to such an extent that all aggressive impulses have been virtually weeded out of the population and only alcoholism remains as an obvious social evil. Then someone begins sending anonymous threats to the executives of the country's largest business. There are some nice ideas in this novel, but a combination of unreal atmosphere and the apparent lethargy of the characters result in a colorless, slow-moving novel that never quite gets off the ground.

Cage a Man, by F.M. Busby (Doubleday) -- The first half of this first novel first appeared in AMAZING under the same title. It is by far the superior half of the book. An Earthman is kidnapped by the Demu, lobsterlike aliens who operate on their captives to remold their bodies in the Demu image. Busby does his characterizations rather well, but the novel fails almost everywhere else. The hero's escape is absurdly simpleminded. His ability to pilot an interstellar ship home to Earth is totally implausible. Busby fails to adequately explain the motivations of the Demu. There is good enough writing in Cage a Man to make me look forward to more Busby, but there is not enough to make me want to re-read his first novel.

Reviewer, JIM GOLDFRANK:

Into the Aether, by Richard A. Lupoff (Dell; '74) -- A Scientific Romance of the 1880's. Written in the style of prose of that era, the writing is so flowery, verbose and moralizing that it makes you want to put the book down unread. Lupoff lays it on much too thick. If you can get past the style, you may enjoy the gentle fun Lupoff pokes at scientific and cultural prejudices of that time and our own day.

The adventures of Prof. Thintwhistle and his steam-propelled, paddle-wheel flyer, across the Aethereal Oceans to the Moon and less likely places, form a spun-sugar fluff whose plot elements appear and are discarded, and never really hang together. They can be appreciated on their own terms, but only if you are willing to take the trouble.

Note: A BEAUTIFUL cover by Frazetta.

Reviewer, WARREN JOHNSON:

Unfamiliar Territory, by Robert Silverberg (Scribner's; '73; \$5.95) -- Robert Silverberg has one of the most talented and prolific minds in SF today, and shows it in this latest collection of his recent short stories. Opening the book is "Caught in the Organ Draft", which some have considered for a Hugo. It is the story of a young man who is faced with an organ draft, where the government could call him for one of his organs--whether it's a vital organ or not, he doesn't

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

know--and the decision he has to make whether to try and chance it, or to remain and take what comes. His realization that you cannot run away from reality is not only his triumph, but something we can all relate to: there is no escape, and the best course is to try and face reality as squarely as possible. Following this story, which I think is probably one of the most important in the book, are some like "Now /n, Now -n", the take of a man who can communicate with both his past and future selves, and who uses this communication to make it rich on the stock market--until.... There are other pieces too, of course, ranging from the "heavy" such as "In Entropy's Jaws" to the light and almost frivolous, such as "Good News from the Vatican". They are all entertaining, though, and very much recommended.

Reviewer, STEVE LEWIS: (Actually, he was just calling it to our attention)

Flame Tree Planet: an Anthology of Religious Science Fantasy, ed. Roger Elwood (Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118; \$1.46, incl. postage) -- A good quality paperback from what appears to be a small religious press. Contents: "Flame Tree Planet", by George H. Smith; "Poverello", by Raylyn Moore; "The Sinless Child", by Dean R. Koontz; "Apostle", by Roger Lovin; "A Matter of Freedoms", by Clancy O'Brien; "How Bright the Stars", by Leigh Brackett; "The Lions of Rome", by Raymond F. Jones; "Many Mansions", by Gail Kimberly; "Bearing Witness", by Barry N. Malzberg; "Tarrying", by Thomas N. Scortia. 159 pp., introduction by Roger Lovin. "As many stories as you read, so many praises to God will you find."

Reviewer, ERIC LINDSAY:

The Deep Gods, by David Mason (Lancer 6/73; 192 pp.; \$1.25) -- This is one of the few examples of heroic fantasy set in the past that I have enjoyed. Daniel, a man from the present, finds himself in the body of Egon, an inhabitant of the Earth of before recorded history. This device is used only because it allows Daniel/Egon to introduce various modern inventions like gunpowder into a non-mechanized world that is declining from ancient glory. We learn little of Daniel's past, and indeed little of his present thoughts, but this is of little importance to the movement of the plot.

In the past world several animals have greater intelligence than now, and Daniel finds he has been brought back by the "Ancient One", a giant water-bound animal, to free it from the land-locked Black Sea by breaching a dam across the Straits of Gibraltar. The first intelligent animals that Daniel contacts are the People of the Sea, who fear that freeing the Ancient One will lead to their destruction, and Daniel comes to agree. However, through the story runs the idea that if Daniel does not break the dam his world will never be produced, and thus he will cease to exist. Excellent quality in an adventure novel.

Reviewer, KEN OZANNE:

Pavane, by Keith Roberts (Panther, '70) -- This is the story of an alternative universe where Elizabeth I of England was assassinated, the Spanish Armada conquered England and the world was Spanish and Catholic.

The main burden of the book is to tell of events that led up to an abortive revolt in the west of England, itself the precursor of a general breaking of the popish power. It is rich in character and incident and in invention. Best of all are the road locomotives--the steam trains that rule the roads. I think you will like the men who drive them, too.

There are flaws in the work--no justification is given for the survival of the Inquisition into the 20th century, for instance. (Yes, I know it survived in our world, too, but there were very few burnings of heretics in this century or even the last.) And the Renaissance happened more so in the Catholic countries than in the Protestant. But, as far as I know, this was Roberts' first book. As such, it is a tour-de-force.

Recommended, maybe highly recommended.

(Cont. next page)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

Islands in the Sky, by Arthur C. Clarke (Signet '62, but this is 16th printing; stories go back to 1952 or earlier) -- This is an early Clarke juvenile and pretty good of its kind. We see a sixteen-year-old boy win a contest which (after some skulduggery) takes him to the innermost of Earth's satellites. Events there lead him almost to the moon as well as to two of the outer satellites.

The story moves right along--but, looking back, there isn't a lot of plot. It's a trip around Earth's system of satellites and pretty good at that. Ideal as a gentle introduction to SF for an intelligent ten-year-old.

Mildly recommended, but be sure what you are getting. There certainly isn't any sex in this one....

Evil is Live Spelled Backwards, by Andy Offutt (Paperback Library; '70) -- Revolt against a future tyranny. Done in a slightly sexier way than usual, but this theme has been done to death and Andy doesn't help much. Oh, it's quite readable, and may appeal to the younger fan who hasn't seen so many books like it.

Skip this one, and get The Castle Keeps [which Ken reviews in 'TWJ #83'. --ed7].

Mystery/Suspense/Gothic:

The Alchemy Deception, by Hanz Holzer (Award Books) /Reviewer, MIKE BLAKE7 -- A UFO explodes over an isolated farm in western Massachusetts. The only debris it leaves is a piece of gleaming metal harder than any alloy known to modern science. It is taken by a mad scientist who just happens to be passing by, and who immediately plans to use it to build an army of invincible robots or sell it to the Russians (whichever pays better). A frantic U.S. government calls in occult detective Randy Knowles, who uses his ESP to track the villain to his secret castle in Austria, and has a showdown with him in the medieval torture chamber hidden in the castle dungeon. In this novel self-styled occult expert Hans Holzer attempts to create his own invincible adventure hero. Give him credit, he certainly has managed to revive the worst attributes of the pulps accurately.

Bluebeard's Daughter, by Marion Zimmer Bradley (Lancer) /Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA7 -- This 1968 Lancer novel was Bradley's third pseudogothic. A young orphaned girl agrees to marry an older man whose wife has died. Before long, it is revealed that there is a deep, dark secret in his past, which has affected his sanity. The heroine is menaced and ultimately saved. Of its type, Bluebeard's Daughter is reasonably well executed, but the narrow restrictions in this sub-genre prevent it from escaping triviality.

The Procane Chronicle, by Oliver Bleeck (Pocket Books 10/73, from '72 hc) /Reviewer, GEORGE FERGUS7 -- The third in a series about Philip St. Ives, a professional go-between when something is to be ransomed. This time one criminal (a master thief) has a plan for heisting a million dollars from a second bunch of criminals (heroin smugglers), which is stolen by a third criminal (a common burglar). Then some fourth person starts murdering the people involved. I don't know why Ross Thomas is so ashamed of these books that he uses a pseudonym. They're fairly good. This one is mildly recommended.

BOOKS ANNOUNCED --

BALLANTINE BOOKS (201 E. 50th St., N.Y., NY 10022) -- Feb. '74:

Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat, by Ernest Bramah (Adult Fantasy orig.; \$1.25) -- ". . . delicate, yet earthy stories of enchantment set in a Far Eastern land of imagination featuring Kai Lung, that witty and wily teller of tales."

Walk to the End of the World, by Suzy McKee Charnas (SF Orig.; \$1.25) -- ". . . the story of a post-holocaust world in which men totally dominate society and women are its scapegoats . . ." To be followed by a sequel.

DONALD M. GRANT (Publisher/Bookseller, W.Kingston, RI 02892) --

At the Mountains of Murkiness (\$4.50; 5 3/4" x 8 7/8"; laminated, illust. card cover; 1,000-cy. ed., w/9 full-page illos) -- Collection of parodies: A.C. Clarke's 1940 parody of Lovecraft's "At the Mountains of Madness" (title story), plus parodies (Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

of: Fergus Hume's 19th-century detective novel, "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab"; Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes; Arthur Machen et al; Arthur Machen's "The Great God Pan"; H. Rider Haggard's "She"; H.G. Wells; Jules Verne; etc. Sounds like fun!

DOUBLEDAY S.F. BOOK CLUB (Garden City, NY) -- May '74:

Wandering Stars, ed. Jack Dann (\$1.98) -- 13 stories (4 written esp. for this collection), ea. with introduction by editor--"a showpiece of Jewish wit, culture and lore, of that special blend of humor and sadness, cynicism and faith, that makes up the Jewish literary experience." Incl. stories by Geo. Alec Effinger, Robert Silverberg, William Tenn, Harlan Ellison (the four originals); Avram Davidson (two stories), Carol Carr, Bernard Malamud, Horace L. Gold, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Robert Sheckley, and an unnamed author; introduction by Isaac Asimov.

The Stone That Never Came Down, by John Brunner (\$1.49) -- Story of "moral pollution", which "takes you into a world on the brink of destruction where a lone drug, called VC, may be the key to man's survival or the spectre of deadly horror. . ."

Plus alternates: Dune, by Frank Herbert (\$2.49); Clone, by Richard Cowper (\$1.49); The Second Trip, by Robert Silverberg (\$1.49); The Metallic Muse, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (\$1.49); Orbit 12, ed. Damon Knight (\$1.49); The Third Ear, by Curt Siodmak (\$1.49); Sturgeon is Alive and Well..., by Theodore Sturgeon (\$1.49); Thuvia, Maid of Mars & The Chessmen of Mars, by Edgar Rice Burroughs (\$2.98; d.j. by Frazetta).

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC. (180 Varick St., N.Y., NY 10014) --

The Discoverie of Witchcraft, by Reginald Scot (\$3.50; unabridged repub. of the John Rodkin (1930) ed.; Historical Introd. by Montague Summers; 17 ill.; paperback; 283 / xxxvii pp.) -- Compilation of everything Scot could discover about Witchcraft and the Black Arts in 1584--a "Source Book of 16th-Century Witchmongery" and "Source Book to the Real Black Arts of the Time".

The Mollie Maguires and the Detectives, by Allan Pinkerton (\$5; reprint of 1877 ed.; 43 illos; 552 / xii pp.; pb) -- Relates "the adventures of James McParlan who went as an undercover agent among the Mollie Maguires in the 1870's." Probably a combination of fiction and history; prepared by Pinkerton from field reports.

Danish Fairy Tales, by Svendt Grundtvig (\$2.50; unabridg. repub. of orig. Eng. (1912) ed.; trans. from the Danish by J. Grant Cramer, w/Translator's Preface; 14 new full-page illos by contemporary artist Drew van Heusen; 115 / vii pp.; 8 1/8" x 11"; pb) -- Stories gathered from every corner of Denmark by philologist Grundtvig; they sound fascinating--and the illos are strongly reminiscent of Beardsley. Buy it for the illos--and be pleasantly surprised by the tales themselves.

FAWCETT (1515 Broadway, N.Y., NY 10036) -- Feb. '74:

Wondermakers II, ed. Robert Hoskins (\$1.25) -- 19 stories spanning the last two decades, by: Poul Anderson, Ward Moore, Isaac Asimov, Robert Sheckley, Frederik Pohl, William F. Nolan, William Tenn, John Brunner, Roger Zelazny, Gordon Dickson, Harry Harrison, Dean Koontz, Samuel Delany, Manly Wade Wellman & Wade Wellman, Barry Malzberg, Bill Pronzini & Jeffrey Wellman, Ray Russell, Ursula LeGuin, and Robert Silverberg.

FAX COLLECTOR'S EDITIONS (POBox 106, Naperville, IL 60540) --

The Checklist of Fantastic Literature, ed. Everett F. Bleiler (\$10; hardcover; d/w) -- Biblio. of SF, fantasy, & weird books in the English language.

The Moon Metal, by Garrett P. Serviss (\$3.95; hc) -- Facsimile of 1900 classic.

Through the Earth, by Clement Fezandie (\$2.50; pb) -- Facsimile of magazine serial; Earth tunnel theme, with 17 illust.

Valdar the Oft-Born, by George Griffith (\$4.50; hc) -- S&S novel about an "eternal hero who is reborn in different ages"; wild and violent action.

Plus many other titles announced several months ago but apparently not yet out.

KALEIDOSCOPE BOOKS (POBox 108, Watertown, MA 02172) -- Catalogue #25 (Sum/F '73) is 48 pp. / covers; offset; 6" x 8"; 423 "Fantastica, etc." titles, L-Z; 177 "Mystery-Detective" titles; 2 pp. photos of books. ## Cat. #26 (Xmas '73) is 40 pp. / covers; 253 "Fantastics, etc." (Fantasy-Utopian-SF) titles, A-H; 180 "Mystery-Detective" titles; 4 pp. book photos; classified want-ads. ## Lots of rare books.

THE CLUB CIRCUIT

ESFA Report: Minutes of the 3 Feb. '74 Meeting of the Eastern S.F. Assoc. --

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by Director Hodgens, with an attendance of 10 persons. The Secretary's minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer was absent. Under old business there has been no further action taken on the idea of an Open Meeting.

Mark Owings reported that Vol. 1 of Advent's Encyclopedia of SF is at the bindery. It will sell for about \$20.00. Further volumes will appear at two-year intervals. Sam Moskowitz said he was informed in a telephone conversation with Lloyd Arthur Eshbach that contrary to the information in Hyperion Press's catalog, William Wallace Cook's Round Trip to the Year 2000 was published in a "Gold Medal" edition in 1908, along with six other of his books. Eshbach also said that he has been holding two John W. Campbell super-science novels since Fantasy Press folded. They will soon be issued by another publisher. Moskowitz reported that WEIRD TALES will have a fourth issue, and will be continued, even though sales reports show that the second issue sold 16,000, down 2,000 from #1. Distribution will be improved with #4. Moskowitz, who has returned as editor of QUICK FROZEN FOODS, will be unable to continue on WF past #4. There is no word on who the new editor will be. Art Saha passed out leaflets for Lunacon '74, April 12-14, at New York's Statler-Hilton Hotel. Saha said rumor has it that Ejler Jakobsson has resigned from UPD Publishing Corp.

Robert A.W. Lowndes was introduced by the Director. Lowndes read from an article to be published in OUTWORLDS #19. This is in effect an answer to a letter he received asking for suggestions on interpreting H.P. Lovecraft. His immediate reaction was: why interpret Lovecraft at all? Lowndes recalled that as a 15-year-old, reading Lovecraft for the first time, and knowing nothing about the man, he could read him with interest, and had no trouble in understanding what he read. Although Lowndes found Lovecraft fascinating to read, and to read about, what he has since learned doesn't make the enjoyment of HPL either more or less. No amount of interpretation will make Lovecraft more enjoyable if you are not already favorably disposed to the type of story he wrote. If you read Lovecraft and don't like him, then reading about him won't make his stories more interesting. What you read in his fiction may have something to do with the man, although it is not necessarily so. Although an intensive reading may make Lovecraft's faults apparent, including repetition of themes and situations, Lowndes considers him a fine craftsman and storyteller, within a narrow range. Lowndes does not agree with HPL, who--when comparing himself with others--found himself wanting. Lowndes concludes that if you are interested in biographies, then interpret, but this has nothing to do with literature. A story is good, or not so good, on its own terms, and has nothing to do with the author's life and times. If a story needs interpretation, it is not a good story.

Adjournment came at 5:45 p.m.

-- ALLAN HOWARD, Secretary, ESFA

Minn-STF Report: Minutes of Meeting of 29 Dec. '73, at home of Chuck Holst --

Business meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chuck Holst.

Mark Hanson asked for deletions and corrections to previous minutes, but was ignored. ## Dick Tatge and Frank Stodolka reported that Minn-STF had received several Christmas cards this year, none of which they had remembered to bring along to the meeting. ## Chuck Holst announced that (1) we had received a card from Bob Bloch, and (2) several of the Univ. of Kansas SF films were being shown in town soon; check the Minn-STF bulletin board for details. ## Frank Stodolka announced that we now had a Minn-STF calendar.

Mark Hanson got the floor again and moved that Secretary Denny Lien be impeached. Denny Lien seconded. Someone called for a speedy trial, but was ignored. Chuck Holst announced that under an ancient and honorable Minn-STF tradition which he had just invented, anyone calling for and succeeding in the impeachment of an officer had to take over the job. Someone else suggested that Lien be impeached, (Over)

THE CLUB CIRCUIT (Continued) --

tried, and convicted; then renominated and reappointed--he or she was ignored. (There was a lot of ignoring going around.) Mark Hanson explained why: in the previous minutes, Lien had twice referred to Mark Hanson as "Mark Hanselo", thereby insulting both himself and Bruce Hanselo. Furthermore, Lien had listed a movie upcoming as at Walker Art Center as being shown instead at Xanadu Film Society, possibly causing hordes of Buster Keaton fans to be trapped into watching Buster Crabbe instead. Also, he doesn't spell go good sometimes. Dick Tatge, ignoring the whole mess, suggested that we form a theatre party to go see Sleeper, and Frank Stodolka cautioned us that he had seen it and thought it only fair. Mark Hansonelo, noting himself again being ignored, cried out that there was a motion on the floor and stamped his foot to gain attention. Al Kuhfield then pointed out that he had just accidentally squooshed the motion with said foot and that Lien would have to remain secretary. So it goes.

Stuart Rosen announced that he is writing and directing an SF play, Jumpday, which he feels will be good SF as well as good theatre. Auditions are January 6-7-8 at Lowry Hill Theatre in Trinity Community Church . . . Production will probably run March 1-2-3 and 8-9-10, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday either an afternoon or evening show. Theatre phone number is 374-2760, and a \$1.00 suggested donation may be contributed at the door. More SF plays may be in the works, and Jumpday may also be shown elsewhere in the area, etc. Minn-SF might be interested in a theatre party and/or special presentation; Dick Tatge suggested that we might think about scheduling it for Minicon.

Denny Lien (1) asked that people sign the sign-in sheets; and (2) said that he had now compiled figures from past sign-up sheets, so that if anyone wished to know if he/she had attended enough meetings to vote, etc., just ask. Chuck Holst said that he had already compiled figures from the sheets, and Lien mumbled something about checks and balances.

Don Blyly had a number of announcements: (1) He had taken over as editor of RUNE from fufiating Bev Swanson. The next issue of RUNE will be the 6th anniversary issue; it should be out in mid-January. (2) Blyly is huckstering Twilltone from Waseca at \$1.40 a ream. According to a man in Waseca, the price of paper will be raised at least .30 a ream around the end of January. Buy now. (3) The local magazine INSIDER is interviewing Blyly re the upcoming Minicon and other SF events in the Twin Cities. (4) Blyly will accept money (surprise) for Minicon registrations today; low numbers are still available, for the pleasure of low-number freaks. (5) The Hotel Dyckman is being very cooperative. (6) We are expecting around 225 attendees--could be many more or somewhat less, depending on fuel situation by Easter.

Chuck Holst hoisted the donation cup and asked for an offering. Denny Lien suggested that we sing a hymn first. Al Kuhfield asked if there were a virgin in the house. Chuck Holst pointed out that "singing a hymn" is sexist and Lien amended to a request that we sing a person.

Mark Hanson moved and Denny Lien seconded adjournment. ## Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

-- DENNY LIEN, Unsquooshed Secretary
(Better luck next time, Mark...)

FYI -- A few items of possible interest which appeared in various magazines during the past couple of years: "The Ultimate Speed Limit", by Isaac Asimov (SATURDAY REVIEW OF SCIENCE 8/7/72, pp. 53-56; "For decades science fiction writers have broken the celestial speed limit, the speed of light, by sending their spaceships into 'hyperspace'. Does this region beyond space exist? Is there, in fact, an ultimate speed limit?"); "Physicists Probe the Ultimate Source of Energy", by Ben Bova (SMITHSONIAN 12/72; on ionized gases in the upper atmosphere); "Phantoms and Far Out Phenomena" (AMERICAN MOTORIST 10/73, pp. 16-17 (Bova article was pp. 38-45); a few Pennsylvania ghost stories--truth, or folk-tales?).

GENZINES -- U.S.:

BREAKTHROUGH #3 (Apr. '74) (Henry Bitman, POBox 968, Azusa, CA 91702; mimeo, w/ offset cover; published every four months; no price or sub rate given (they pay for art, fiction, etc., however....)) -- 24 pp. / cover & contents page; cover by Sheryl Birkhead; no interior illos; Article: "Invisible Kafka's Lost Weekend on a Time Machine to the Future (of Science Fiction)"; Fiction by Bitman(?) and Rick Stoker; short book reviews; fanzine reviews; lettercolumn; editor's notes. ## Nice. cover, excellent repro, nice assortment of thoughtful and reasonably well-written material. Would like to see more of this new (it's the first issue we've seen, i.e.) 'zine.

CRINKUM-CRANKUM #1 (undated) (Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134; mimeo; 25¢; no schedule given (is probably a one-shot)) -- 10 pp., incl. cover (by "Al Satian"); editorial; non-column by Aljo Svoboda (re a neo at a typer); Johnson reviews Roddenberry's Genesis II; fiction by Brett Cox; letters. Plus a 2-page editorial addendum sheet (C-C may have a second issue, after all). ## Sort of a semi-genzine--a continuation, says Warren, of his personalzine, WARREN J. JOHNSON.

DYNATRON #57 (Jan. '74) (Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd., N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87107; mimeo; 25¢ ea.; irregular) -- 22 pp.; editorial notes; article/review of book by George S. Thommen (Is This Your Day?), on the subject of biorhythm, by Arthur H. Rapp; "The Origins of Der Heapo", by Alexis Gilliland; "Nineteen Eighty-Faan", by Darrell Schweitzer; Pauline Palmer on The Energy Crisis, by Lawrence Rocks & Richard P. Runyon; lettercolumn. ## As usual, good reading--one of the more enjoyable (and unpredictable--this issue breaks tradition and includes two pieces of fiction (Gilliland & Schweitzer)) fanzines around.

KYBEN #6 (Jan. '74) (Jeff Smith, 4102-301 Potter St., Baltimore, MD 21229; 35¢ ea., 3/\$1; Aussie Agent: Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd., Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051; no schedules given; mimeo) -- 26 pp. / covers (both by Dan Osterman); spot illos by Paula Marmor, Ron Miller, Grant Canfield, Bob Smith; lettercolumn; misc. editorial natterings (on recreation, Xmas, '73 Philcon, TV show The Girl Most Likely To..., his favorite '73 recordings, etc.); book reviews (with a few mystery and prozine reviews mixed in). Plus an unofficial ballot for 1973 Hugo nominations (KYBEN's own survey). ## Started as a personalzine, but is developing into a personalized genzine. Good reading.

LOCOMOTIVE #3 (undated) (Brett Cox, Box 542, Tabor City, NC 28463, & Ken Gammage, Jr., 7865 E. Roseland Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037; mimeo; irregular; 25¢ ea.) -- 25 pp. / cover (by Sheryl Birkhead) & Hyperion Press flyer; Editorial; Four-Way Debate between Kevin Williams, Warren Johnson, Brett Cox, & Ken Gammage re "Modern Science Fiction Gone Up in Flames/The New Wave Dead"; second editorial; lettercolumn; cartoon by Warren Johnson. ## Devoted almost entirely to LoC's, and thus virtually impossible to review; but write 'em an LoC, and join in the fun....

MAYBE #36 (Irvin Koch, % 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402; 50¢ ea., 6/\$2.50; offset; irregular) -- 16 pp., incl. covers; very handsome cover (in color, yet--would like to get several copies of this one--by "SJT" (Irvin would like to find out who "SJT" is--can anyone help him?)); back cover by David Rains; illos by Rains and Dave Jenrette; editorial notes; 8 pp. of reviews of fanzines, news extracted from same, and misc. catalogues, etc., arranged by Irvin's own classification system; letter from Bjo Trimble; N3F Membership Activities Bureau section; misc. notes/announcements. ## MAYBE continues to improve, both in appearance and quality of contents. It's also one of the most useful and informative fanzines we receive nowadays.

THE S.F. ECHO (MOEBIUS TRIP LIBRARY) #19 (Jan. '74) (Edward G. Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL 61604; no schedule given; mimeo; 75¢ ea., 3/\$2, 5/\$3; a "Fantome", bound and arranged as a book (size 4 1/4" x 7")) -- 160 pp. / covers (front cover by DEA, bacover not credited); interior illos by Terry Jeeves, Sheryl Birkhead, Bill Rotsler, Jeff Schalles, DEA, Dave Rowe; Preface; Paul Walker interviews Brian W. Aldiss; Walt Liebscher's column; "Walker's Unofficial Unpopularity Poll", by Paul (Over)

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --

Walker; Torcon Report, by Don Ayres; Philip José Farmer reviews Heinlein's Time Enough for Love; Book Reviews, by Ed Connor, Don Ayres, Eddy C. Bertin, Michael Kalen Smith, Angus Taylor; reviews of recent new fanzines; editorial notes/announcements; lettercolumn. (Note: Pagination excludes four full-page illos.)
 ## Before it became a "Fantome", MOEBIUS STRIP was one of the best fanzines around--always good, well-written material, and a pleasure to read. In its book-like format, it may well be #1 now.... Highly recommended.

STARLING #27 (Jan. '74) (Hank & Lesleigh Luttrell, 525 W. Main, Madison, WI 53703; quarterly(?); 75¢ ea., 5/\$2; proceeds of this issue (price is usually 50¢) will go to DUFF; mimeo, w/offset cover) -- 44 pp., incl. covers (front cover by Joe Staton, bacover by Tim Boxell & Ken Fletcher; illos by Brad Balfour, John Berry, Grant Canfield, Doug Lovenstein, Joe Pearson, Bill Rotsler, James Shull, Dan Steffan; 10th Anniversary Issue. Contents: Editorials; lettercolumn; Richard Gordon looks back at 1973; Joe Sanders reviews Dan Marlowe's Operation Whiplash and Larry Niven's The Flight of the Horse; Bob Tucker writes of his days as a movie projectionist; Angus Taylor as "G.J. Mallard"; "The Battered Beanie", by Terry Hughes; "Haber is Destroyed on The Lathe of Heaven", by Jerry Kaufman. ##
 A relaxed, somewhat personalized genzine that's always a pleasure to read.

TABEBUIAN (Dave & Mardee Jenrette, Box 374--Grove, Miami, FL 33133; 19¢ ea. (w/#11; #10 was 10¢ if handed to recipient), 12/\$2 (#10 was 6/\$1--same difference); UKAgent, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Herts., U.K.; AussieAgent, Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia; monthly(?); offset; 4 1/4" x 7") -- #10 (Feb. '74): 16 pp., incl. cover (by Sheryl Birkhead); illos by Dave & John Jenrette; editorial notes/announcements; Mardee on student-teacher feedback; The Tabebuian Society "Annual Report"; Dean Grennell on Heinlein's Time Enough for Love; ads/announcements; "Tab News"; Don DeFler on cycling; "Education: Dishonesty"; miscellany by John Jenrette and Dave Jenrette. ## #9 (Jan. '74): 8 pp. (should have been before #10, but it was stuck inside #10....); poem by Greg Benford; "How to Make Them Obey!"; review of Martin Gardner's first novel, The Flight of Peter Fromm; "35 Ways to Cop Out!", by Mardee; oh, yes: cover by Dave. ## #11 (Mar. '74): 16 pp., incl. cover; illos by Carol Stockwell, Bruce Tornley, David Shank; Editor's Page; short lettercolumn; "Why I'm Not in SFWA", by Dave; poem by Damien Denahy; and short bits and pieces, incl. one on the Jenrette's new sailboat. ## One of the most unpredictable fanzines around--lots of fun, with moments of seriousness mixed in....

TITLE (Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr., St. Louis, MO 63131; monthly; mimeo; sample copy 25¢; no subs--by LoC, contrib, or trade only) -- #21 (Dec. '73): 34 pp., incl. cover (by John Carl); Editorial ramblings; Bruce Gillespie on what SF readers will like in the future; illo by Bruce Townley; Donn on Comet Kohoutek; LoC's on TITLE #20; Donn interviews Bruce Gillespie; "What Oiks Me", by Hezekiah P.R.E. Hensile; Mike Shoemaker's "Favorite Things"; Jackie Franke replies to Denis Quane; poem by Bill Breiding; Randall Larson reviews Fredric Wertham's The World of Fanzines; Proposal by Paul Walker; "Quick Quotz" from TITLE readers; Listing of Fanzines rec'd 16/10-16/11, / a few reviews; John Robinson on TITLE's Fanzine Editor's Checklist; more letter extracts; Tim Marion's "Favorite Things"; still more letter extracts; "Quotes from the Novel The Muller-Fokker Effect by John Sladek", by James Hall; "Pioneer 10" Contest; "I Hate 'Em", by Richard S. Shaver; plus items by John Robinson, Loren MacGregor, & info on Elst Weinstein's project. ## #22 (Jan. '74): 10 pp., incl. cover (by ?); Jeff May on Milehicon 5; letter extracts; "Physics and Parapsychology" (abridged talk); Brazier reviews The World of Fanzines; selections from Mike Shoemaker letters; Tackett replies to Walker; Fanzines Rec'd; short bit by Joe Woodard. ## #23 (Feb. '74): 30 pp.; letter extracts, editorial commentary, Pioneer 10 Contest replies, Fanzines Received, misc. short bits and pieces by various people. ## Another fanzine which is "doing its own thing", and doing it well. Issues are mostly put together from letters which are dissected and spread throughout the 'zine by category or subject matter. Try it--you'll like it!

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Many other SF fanzines, prozines, books, etc. avail.; also game books & 'zines.

A few more fanzines for sale (from our duplicates box):

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SPACE MAGAZINE (American Rocketry Assoc.) #1 (Wint/49), \$1; #2 (Spr/50), \$1.

SPACE TIMES (Eric Bentcliffe & Eric Jones) II:6 (Jun/53), 75¢.

SPACE TRAILS (M.J. Krueger) #1 (Sum/47), \$1 (w/"Prison Planet", by Wilson Tucker).

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-- DLM

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