

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 --

All recipients of thish please complete and return the small questionnaire which is enclosed (and append your name--we forgot to leave a space for it) as soon as possible (we need this info to help us in determining what changes are to be made when we revamp (combine?) TWJ and SOTWJ at year's end).

Just rec'd Delap columns for July & Aug. (with Sept. & Oct. promised shortly), so will be pubbing SOTWJ as fast as columns are received--which means that next few issues will have usual features staggered from issue to issue (missing thish, but in nextish, e.g., are such as "The Steady Stream", "The Club Circuit", "On the Move", "The Con Game", "The Bookshelf", "Tidbits"). So, to complete the questionnaire, refer to a few of the back issues for question 5.

Still no artwork for TWJ from Chalker--and we have not yet received SOTWJ #69 from Jay Haldeman--so thish and possibly #73 will be out before #69. And we are about ready to give up and bypass the missing artwork--which means that the material for which the artwork must be present will be pulled out of #'s 80 and 81, and the remaining material distributed between the two issues--with some of the more dated material probably published in SOTWJ to keep it from dating still more. So, if our equipment holds up (permanent publisher still needed urgently), we'll be running off TWJ a few pages at a time, and hope to get the long-delayed issues out by year's end or thereabouts. After that, probably a monthly combined TWJ/SOTWJ.

SOTWJ is pubbed every 1-2 weeks. Subs (1st-class): 20¢ ea., 6/\$1.10, 12/\$2; via 3rd-class (2 at time), 12/\$1.75 (12/70p UK). THE WSFA JOURNAL is 60¢ ea., 4/\$2 U.S., Canada & Mexico; 25p ea., 5/£1 UK; 60¢ ea., 5/\$2.50 elsewhere. Yearly combined rate (TWJ & SOTWJ): \$10 (deposit, for continuing subs to ea.; balance refundable or applied to next year's sub, as requested). New UK & Australian Agents needed. For advertising info (ads/flyers in SOTWJ only), air-mail rates, etc. write ed. For Address Code meaning, see #66 or #73 (but note that N = You are mentioned herein, K = Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein).

-- DLM

THE WSFA JOURNAL (Supplement)

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UNITED KINGDOM --

EGG 6 (June '72) (Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol, BS4 5DZ, England; irregular; mimeo; 8" x 10"; 15p ea., 4/50p (or 3/\$1 U.S. & Australia); USAGent, Seth McEvoy, Box 268, E.Lansing, MI 48823; Australian Agent, David Grigg, Box 100, Carlton South, Victoria 3053, Australia) -- 34 pp., incl. cover; cover by Dave Rowe; interior illos by Harry Bell, John D. Berry, Terry Jeeves, Alistair Noyle, Bob Rickard (bacoover), Dave Rowe. Editorial; "A Very Fannish Career", by Ian Williams; "North Sea Nog" (column), by John Brosnan; "An Australian National Fannish Song", by Sam Long; column: "Kaleidoscope", by Gray Boak; letter-columns. ##### One of the more relaxed and fannish fanzines to come out of the UK.

THE TURNING WORM 3 (31 Aug '72) (John Piggott, Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL; mimeo; no schedule given; 40p (\$1) ea.; 8 1/4" x 11 3/4" -- 42 pp. / blank cover ("The State of British Fandom"); no interior illos; Editorial (oops!--see here that intended schedule is quarterly) (on Diplomacy, BSFA, & misc.); "The Bar's My Destination" (column), by Brian Temple; "How to Produce a Fanzine", by Ian Maule; "The Grooving Garnets" (interview with Ian Williams and Thom Penman); fanzine reviews (at length), by John; long lettercolumn; "Towards a More Bootiful Fan Art" (column), by Dave Rowe. ##### Another "fannish" sort of fanzine; we found the most useful part to be the fanzine reviews; otherwise 'zine is composed mostly of letters and columns--somewhat overpriced at \$1 a copy. But perhaps our regular reviewer might have more to say. Mike?

S. F. PARADE: Book Review

Good Neighbors and Other Strangers, by Edgar Pangborn (Macmillan; 195 pp.; \$5.95).

Pangborn has whelped an imaginative and fanciful litter of beasties, although several of the inclusions stop just short of being "cute" in treatment and style. Quite obviously, he had fun writing each, and when high spirits leak from an author's pen to the printed page, a good many possible criticisms seem to become nit-picks not worth remarking.

Nagging at the back of every mind which contemplates the almost certain probability that Man will head for the stars in the not-too-distant future is the question, "What will the first contact with an alien race bring?"

We have no answer, of course, but Pangborn considers in Good Neighbors some of the mystical, mysterious, blood-curdling, and consternating factors that contact will--or could--bring. He also considers--and attests to--Man's ability to cope with the unexpected. And in so attesting, illuminates a few of the quirks that make Man human.

No BEM's (in the early pulp science fiction vein of Bug-Eyed Monsters) roam the pages of Good Neighbors. What do inhabit these lively tales are: a half-mile-long stray from an alien livestock herd; ten-legged blue bugs that induce dreams--or nightmares; shadow-monkeys from who-knows-where that become visible consciences; the "wrens" hatched in Grandpa's beard when he was 106; and assorted other oddities.

Intriguing? Absolutely! And although some of the stories are more accurate--ky fantasy rather than science fiction, the craftsmanship readers of GALAXY and FANTASY SCIENCE FICTION magazines--to which Pangborn is a regular contributor--have come to expect characterizes all ten of the Good Neighbors and Other Strangers presented in this book.

ALGOL 19 (November, 1972) (Andrew Porter, POBox 4175, New York, NY 10017; "A Magazine About Science Fiction"; offset; pubbed twice yearly, in May & Nov.; 75¢ ea., 4/83; UKAgent, Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6QL, UK (4/41.25); Australian Agent, John Bangsund, POBox 357, Kingston, A.C.T., Australia (4/3A2.80)) -- 44 pp., incl. covers; wraparound cover (in magenta) by Vincent DiFate; interior art by Terry Austin, Grant Canfield, Dany Frolich, Dian Girard, C. Lee Healy, Eddie Jones, Jim McLeod, Walt Simonson, Joe Staton, Steve Stiles. Editorial; "Experiment Perilous: The Art and Science of Anguish in Science Fiction", by Marion Z. Bradley; "On a Book Burning", by Ray Bradbury; "Science Fiction as Social Comment", by Frederik Pohl; "Traveling Giant", by Robert Silverberg (more on their S.American vacation; thish, Guyana); "The Overseas Scene: An Australian Viewpoint", by George Turner; "ALGOL's People" (George Turner autobiography; photos of all contributors thish); book reviews, by Dick Lupoff (The Sheep Look Up, by John Brunner; Tunnel Through the Deep, by Harry Harrison; Master of Villainy, by Cay Van Ash & Elizabeth Sax Rohmer; Beyond Apollo, by Barry Malzberg; Driftglass, by Samuel R. Delany; brief notes on five others); Ted White's column (thish, "Magazines which don't make money, can't spend money"); lettercolumn. ##### A handsome 'zine, with excellent contents. Don't pass it by.

DYNATRON 50 (September, 1972) (Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd., N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87107; quarterly; mimeo; 12th Annish; 25¢ ea.) -- 36 pp., incl. cover; cover by Harry Morris; interior illos by Doug Lovenstein. "What Am I Doing Here?", by Len Moffatt (Mis Westercon XXV Fan CoH speech); "A Fan-Annish Carol (Filksong?)", by Bob Vardeman; "Tokyo File", by Takumi Shibano (newsnotes from Japan); "Kinnison", by René Tackett (full-page illo); "E.E. Smith's Literary Offenses", by Mike Glycer; "The Arisian Connection", by Alexis Gilliland; "Damn the Beanies! Full Speed Ahead!", by Aljo Svoboda; lettercolumn; Editorial notes. ##### Another fine issue of an enjoyable (and very readable) fanzine..

THE LESSER TYPEWRITER #1 (November, 1972) (P. Howard Lyons, POBox 561, Adelaide PO, Toronto, Ont., Canada; postmailing to FAPA Mailing 140; xerox) -- 8 pp.; personal notes; comments on FAPA Mailing 140; exchange of correspondence between Lyons & Henry Morgan (Radio Station CKFM); more editorial chatter.

LOCUS (Charlie & Dena Brown, 3400 Ulloa St., San Francisco, CA 94116; bi-weekly newszine; mimeo; 12/83, 26/86 N.America; 12/84, 26/87 Central & S.America (air-mail); 10/83.50, 26/88 Europe (airmail); 10/83.50, 26/88 S.Africa (airmail); 10/83.50, 26/88 Australia & Asia (airmail)) -- #125 (27 Oct '72) -- 10 pp.; spot illos by George Barr, Grant Canfield, Bill Rotsler, ATom; news of all kinds, incl. sections on "More Markets", "New SF Magazine News", "People", "News from PUBLISHERS WEEKLY", "SF Book Club", "Conventions", "Magazine Contents"; Tony Lewis reviews Nov. Proazines; short book reviews, by Charlie Brown, David Hartwell, Tony Lewis, Fred Patten, Greg Feeley. ## #126 (4 Nov '72) -- 8 pp.; spot illos by Helmut. Pesch, Bill Rotsler, ATom; misc. news & sections on: "SF on Radio", "Markets", "People", "Politics", "Magazine News"; listing of fanzines recently received; "Instant Karma", by Terry Carr (on LACon, plus newsnotes from the past); "A Brief Summary of the Magazines" (July & Aug '72), by Tony Lewis. ##### Still the #1 SF newszine, and, as such, an absolute "must".

NOSTALGIA NEWS #17 (undated) (Ed., Larry Herndon; 6/82.50, from: NOSTALGIA NEWS, POBox 34305; Dallas, TX 75234; bi-monthly; offset (on newsprint)) -- 40 pp., incl. covers; newsnotes; book reviews, by Tom Herricks, Jim Long, S.E. Smith; classified ads; column: "Frankie Larkins Hollywood Arc Light"; movie reviews, by Al Jackson, Raymond Powell; TV Review; column: "Ama-Filmmakers of Fandom" (thish, Tri-State Productions, by Tom Flynn); "The Movie Villains", by Gary Levinson (ch. 3); lots of stills and full-page ads. ##### A "must" for all "nostalgia" fans.

the sunset), or perhaps we're just supposed to enjoy the itsy-cutsy-poo humor. Well, if that's your bag...it doesn't much appeal to me because it's much too cute to be truly funny.

Woman's Rib -- Thomas N. Scortia.

An ageing female scientist has fame, a young and handsome and devoted husband, many respected and respectful friends--her life and happiness seem, in fact, remarkably secure. But she is troubled and her thoughts dwell on her mortality. Scortia offers an intriguing plot twist involving cloning, but his story gains wondrous strength from his care to keep the story out of the "shock" category and instead to examine the emotional content. It could easily have been a horrendous mess of sentiment and trivia; that it is a short but powerful human drama is a delightful surprise. Give Scortia an "A" for one of the year's better shorts.

MAGAZINARAMA: Prozines Received 1-15 November 1972 :

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY STORIES -- December, 1972 (22:2): (Ultimate Pub. Co., Inc.; bi-monthly; 60¢ ea. (UK: 25p; Canada: 75¢), 6/\$3 (6/\$3.50 Canada & Pan Am Union countries, 6/\$4 elsewhere); from: Box 7, Oakland Gardens, Flushing, NY 11364; 5 1/8" x 7 5/8"; ed. by Ted White) -- 132 pp., incl. covers; cover by Douglas Chaffee; interior illos by Mike Kaluta, Billy Graham, Dave Cockrum. Serial: "The Fallible Fiend" (Part 1 of 2 parts); by L. Sprague de Camp ("... de Camp's first new fantasy novel to be serialized in more than twenty years ... introduces us to the lands of Novaria and that most memorable demon, Zdim-Akh's son ..."); Short Stories: "Dark of the Storm", by Vincent Perkins ("I took a mythological legend, wove into it humanistic figures and wrote it into a science-fiction background"); "The Good War", by David R. Bunch ("... a story set in Moderan, where the inhabitants are more metal than flesh, and war flourishes endlessly ..."); "Who's Afraid", by Calvin Demmon; "A fine night to be Alive", by Alexei Panshin; "The Real World", by F.M. Busby ("vignette"). Features: Editorial, by Ted White; Art Portfolio (Frank R. Paul's illos for "The Sunken World", by Stanton A. Coblentz); Columns: "Literary Swordsmen & Sorcerers: Pratt and His Parallel Worlds", by L. Sprague de Camp; "SF in Dimension: The Domestication of the Future (1936-1946)", by Alexei & Cory Panshin; lettercolumn; classified ads.

WORLDS OF IF SCIENCE FICTION -- November-December, 1972 (21:8; #163) (UPD Pub. Corp.; 75¢ ea., 12/\$9 U.S.; in U.K., Universal-Tandem Pub. Co., Ltd. (14 Gloucester Rd., London SW7 4RD), 25p ea., 12/\$3.60; elsewhere, 12/\$10; bi-monthly; in U.S., from: 235 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017; 5 1/4" x 7 5/8"; ed. by Ejler Jakobsson) -- 180 pp., incl. covers; cover by Brian Boyle, illust. "The Wizard of Anharitte"; interior illos by Jack Gaughan (not credited). Serial: "The Wizard of Anharitte" (Part 1 of 2), by Colin Kapp ("What set him apart from other men was that he could not lose!"); Novelettes: "Teratohippus", by Robert L. Davis ("Destroy or die...is that always the choice?"); "Hurdle", by Piers Anthony ("Nothing, Fisk Centers found, can be as dangerous as staying alive!"); Short Stories: "Whom the Gods Love", by Robert F. Young ("He dared to worship deities who did not dare to let him live!"); "Nine", by David Nagil ("The most terrifying life form in the universe was--himself!"); "Shausta", by David Lewis ("The alien gave him a game to play--and one chance to win!"); "The Executive Rat", by Larry Eisenberg ("Research can be painful. In fact, at times it's downright sickening!"); "Empty Eden", by Doris Piserchia ("The earth creature brought truth to these symbiotic aliens. Yet life and love depended on a lie!"). Features: "SF Calendar" (coming cons); lettercolumn; classified ads; book reviews, by Lester del Rey (Space Skimmer, by David Gerrold; Yesterday's Children, by David Gerrold; When Harlie Was One, by David Gerrold; The Outposter, by Gordon R. Dickson; The Gold at the Starbow's End, by Frederik Pohl; Cloak of Aesir, by John W. Campbell; The Time Stream, by John Taine; Cybernetics, by F.H. George; Electronics, by W.P. Jolly).

a new lease on beauty, but finds himself drawn to Dr. Josephine Striker, the beauty surgeon who herself is anything but lovely. The attraction becomes an affair as doomed and enigmatic as the misguided and tragic desire for perfected beauty. Avoiding both mawkishness and sermonizing, Bongianini effects a short but solid drama with style and welcome good taste. Very good.

Shaffery Among the Immortals -- Frederik Pohl.

Jeremy Shaffery is the ultimate example of total failure. Scrounging a living for himself and his faithless wife at a low-class astronomical observatory in the Caribbean, he dreams of making a scientific discovery that will insure his historic immortality but has succeeded only in racking up a record of the most embarrassing failures ever to plague the scientific community. Pohl uses Shaffery's ironic eventual success as a snap ending, but the story's best moments come earlier as he explores Shaffery's efforts with some of the funniest bitter satire we've seen around here in a long time. Very good.

Science:

The Tragedy of the Moon -- Isaac Asimov.

* * * *

GALAXY -- July-August:

Serial:

Dying Inside (part one) -- Robert Silverberg.

Novella:

Seventy Years of Decpop -- Philip José Farmer.

After several years of artistically bland "erotic" novels and several so-so sf efforts, Farmer is getting back to better things (among them the fine novelizations of the Riverworld stories). This low-keyed look at the world as it adjusts to Decpop (decreasing population)--created by an aerosol loosed to the winds by a man who decides to cure the population crush by creating world-wide, near-total sterility--is a very entertaining juggle of ideas about human adjustment. The reader watches the changes from the viewpoint of an "adaptable" man, Jackson Canute, as he moves from head of a doomed baby-food company to a well-paid Government position managing the affairs of his midwestern home city. What keeps the story a continual delight is Farmer's refusal to concentrate on world adjustment to the detriment of Jackson's personal history (or vice versa); there is an intricate intertwining of both that gives one a real and involved feeling in the wideranging events of a world-shaking seventy years. The balanced bits of cynicism and optimism add a sheen of realism even when the flashes of healthy satire threaten (but never succeed) to spill over into absurdity. It's really a very fine story and one of Farmer's best in some time. Read this one.

Novelette:

For G.O.D.'s Sake -- David Gerrold.

According to an editorial note this story has been "adapted" from the novel version of the Harlie stories, meaning I suppose that it's been cobbled into some semblance of independent story form from material intended otherwise. The result is a tangle of pieces that doesn't even resemble a story. Initially a tale of the effort to hide the expense of Harlie from company stockholders and to prevent his--yes, "his", for Harlie is as close to human as a machine can get--dismantling, the story sidetracks into a dinner conversation that has no bearing in the plot at all but only pads the story's length. All stuffing and no sofa--just plain messy.

Short Stories:

Farewell to the Artifacts -- Sandy Fisher.

Can you imagine a houseful of appliances that are suddenly endowed with "life"?--I mean, running to the neighbors because your goofy vacuum cleaner is trying to hump their sewing machine, paddling the coffeepot because it likes to sit in the sink under a running faucet, etc., etc., etc. Perhaps Fisher has a message to deliver (at the end, all the machines traipse happily off into

dangers arising from ignorance. Here it's a man, genetically adapted to work in the reservoir, who becomes the "monster" to a deluded public. Why there is such secrecy about the man remains a mystery, and the very notion is as poorly calculated as Gillette's impossible details and childish melodrama. Unfair Trade -- Patrick Welch.

Three catlike aliens make a journey to trade native furs with an Earthman who is willing to give them just about anything (that doesn't exceed their cultural bounds) to gain the furs that will bring him a fortune offworld. But the aliens' sudden demand for weapons forces the Earthman to struggle with his own greed and gives him a sticky fate. Welch's explanation is too pat to work as a grabber ending, and it's one of those rare stories which might have worked much better if lengthened and carefully structured to mislead the reader.

Science:

The Future of Automotive Power Plants -- R. G. Cleveland.

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- July:

Serial:

The Brave Free Men (part one) -- Jack Vance.

Short Stories:

A Practical Invention -- Leonard Tushnet.

A man of "practical" intelligence serves as a guiding mind to his two sons, who together invent the solid holograph and make a tidy little profit selling holographic coins and jewels as novelty items. They eventually discover the destructive power in their invention as Tushnet settles for a clean, neat ending that is appropriate to his nicey-nice characters but much too cloying and predictable to be of much interest. Routine.

3-OK -- Ruth Berman.

A husband plots to make his wife pregnant by substituting a fake for her birth-control pill, hoping for a third and, by government ruling, illegal child. While I can hardly get very excited over Berman's use of a very tired plotline, she should be credited at least for embellishing it with some brief but penetrating insight into character that lifts it a notch above its slightly banal motif.

For a While There, Herbert Marcuse, I Thought You Were Maybe Right About Alienation and Eros -- Robin Scott Wilson.

Harley Jacobs' young life is already a closing circle--he can't relate to the establishment, to the anti-establishment, to girls (or, for that matter, boys), to school, family, or any of the myriad examples of integration into life. Via criminal route he alters his electronically-filed "number" personality at school, finding his needs automatically sustained by computer stupidity but sadly having moved only from one rut to another. Wilson slips in a happy ending on the sly and gives his story immense zest with extremely clever writing laced with zany witticisms. Yet the story's real power comes from a merciless and slightly depressing insight into the pseudo-loopholes of the alienation stigma, a streak of pessimism which gives this fantasy real body. Very good.

A Sense of the Future -- Stephen Barr.

Traveling back in time can offer all sorts of problems, not the least of which may be the knotty one of proving to the people one meets the truth of your origins. Prediction?--yes, of big events which can be proved only after a relatively long wait, but who knows about the little day by day events? The story offers good opportunity for humor and/or pathos, yet Barr uses neither to much effect and comes up with a shapeless lump of unfulfilled notions. Fair.

A New and Happy Woman -- Wayne Bongiammi.

A new author here, and an intelligent and compassionate one if this bitter-sweet story of love vs. the new technology is any indication. Mr. Howard is uneasy as his wife prepares for surgery to give her 32-year-old face and body

cause increased mental disorders, then uses most of his limited space to explain this setup, settling for a weak punch ending totally devoid of punch. Very bad.

Art Portfolio [reprint]:

Ralph 124C 41/ by Hugo Gernsback -- Frank R. Paul.

* * * *

ANALOG -- July:

Novelettes:

Collision Course -- S. Kye Boulton.

The Interesting world Boulton depicts in this story is one of granite islands (crustals), powered and driven over a world of molten magma. With such a colorful background to hold the attention, a writer would have to be a total dunce to let it go to waste. Boulton is a total dunce. While making the reader constantly aware of the background through the pivotal situation, the collision of two crustals, it is continually reduced to tired dialogue about temperature rises and falls and magma waves--dialogue so stilted that the characters might as well be talking about homecooking rather than a death-dealing collision. To lend some plot Boulton makes the collision the first step in an invasion that is crushed but never explained--not unlike watching one of those old Italian sandal epics with everybody fighting everybody else as the audience drifts away in boredom because it can't figure out who's doing what to whom. Likely one of the dumbest writers ANALOG has ever unearthed, Boulton should be hidden away permanently and forgotten. Poor.

Count Down -- Laurence M. Janifer.

If you want to do something which doesn't meet the approval of superstitious citizens, then you just have to find a way to make them approve. Call it deception, chicanery or manipulation, whatever you call it you will usually find a place to stand and call--which is what Janifer fails to do. His story of an attempt to sustain a Mars colony with supplies from Earth jumps up and down in a mire of political skullduggery and sturdily idiotic barriers of public opinion, reaching a quite obvious solution by way of one of the most convoluted methods of yak-yak-yak I can ever remember seeing. Either Janifer has a very odd sense of humor or just doesn't write very well; but whichever, I don't think the effort is worth the trouble it takes to read.

The Mercenary -- Jerry Pournelle.

A small group of mercenaries arrive on the planet Hadley to try and bring about some form of order to the mess that internal political squabbles and raw material shortage have engendered. The situation seems unsolvable with the military tactics the mercenaries' leader wants to use, but it eventually becomes clear that such methods won't work because they are applied sparingly, and only the use of all-out force and concentrated slaughter can provide the needed immediate solution. Pournelle's plot is a little too orderly to be entirely convincing, paying little heed to possible random factors, but the story manages to chug right along its own immoral little path with little concern for the niceties of subtlety. It's not the kind of thing I like much, but if this is your cup of tea it should satisfy well enough.

Short Stories:

Man Off a White Horse -- Howard L. Myers.

Myers' light handling of this story of a kidnap victim in the near future is an odd but successful way to lead into a climax that uncovers some dark and sinister thoughts about public image and private maneuverings. In this case the victim turns the tables on his kidnapper, but in a way that leaves the reader sympathizing with the "criminal" and fearing the plot of the "victim". An interesting idea, well handled.

Monster in the Waterhole -- Glenn L. Gillette.

An underground reservoir, one of a series built to keep cities supplied with fresh water, is the scene for this short tale which strives to show the

(dissecting)
^ THE HEART OF THE MATTEROperational Procedures
Supervised by
Richard Delap

Agh! What can you say month after month about the same magazines when they refuse to be innovative? Now if they'd switch to bedsheet size once again, include a centerfold of a nude alien, scent their pages with essence du cosmique, or any of a dozen minor things I could find something to blab over for a few paragraphs. As it is, AMAZING and ANALOG reflect the summer heat with bright red covers over cold blue interior material, while GALAXY and F&SF both sport dreary covers over mixed but occasionally sizzling stories. Shaw, Vance and Silverberg all have new novels being serialized, and those three names alone should be enough to get the sf addict off his duff for a quick trip to the bookstore...that is if he can stand to get away from the air conditioner for a few minutes....

AMAZING STORIES -- July:

Serial:

Other Days, Other Eyes (conclusion) -- Bob Shaw.

Novelettes:

The Unknown -- Christopher Anvil.

Here Anvil deals with a group of slick con-men out to relieve some colony planets of their riches by pretending to cure illnesses but actually hooking them on drugs which only they will supply. Their plans are foiled by the Interstellar Patrol, who with the use of dust-mote spy eyes and a supercomputer are so near omnipotence that the poor criminals don't stand a chance. So much for drama or suspense. The plot is silly and the characterization nonexistent, so you can chalk this up as another plastic relic for the junkheap. (White lists this as a "novella", which is not stretching the truth but is simply an out and out lie. Ya better stop that, White....)

Freedom Across the River -- Robert Taylor.

Taylor's first story, "Idiot's Mate", was a fine debut item that received far too little attention. His new story occasionally displays some of the concise and effective descriptions that enhanced that first effort, but his intent this time is nearly crushed beneath a heavy-handedness that weakens the purposely emotional content. Heisk is a rebel who tries to flee the oligarchy on Titan with a brilliant scientist unwillingly (because of brainwashing) in tow. But he is possessively troubled by a nagging question: "How many have you sacrificed in freedom's name?" All moral decisions are left open-ended, except the crucial one of brainwashing which Taylor obviously hopes will be horrible enough to frighten readers into ignoring the rest. Sorry, Taylor, it ain't enough.

There's a Special Kind Needed Out There -- William Rotsler.

Rotsler's love story about a "scarred-up old miner of thirty-three and a Company whore of twenty-five" is a transplanted western, with the miner working the rock fields in the outer orbits of the solar system and the whore doing what whores do anywhere. It is unadulterated schmaltz, trying to prove that clichés transcend time and space, but Rotsler's "special kind" suffer from not being special at all. As in a B-movie, the audience may get a certain kind of satisfaction from knowing exactly what's going to happen from moment to moment, but at the end it remains indistinguishable from its similar brethren and is nothing more than a very routine and slightly dull diversion.

Short Story:

Smileaway -- Bruce Paley.

Paley kills off this short-short with a ruthless disregard of its form. he sets up a sleepless world in which illegal sleeping pills, "Smileaways",

of the Exchequer position and asked him if he could recommend a replacement. In answer, the Lord El beckoned to me, and I came forward. First, I asked of the King that He put me in His fealty for Chancellor of the Exchequer in His fief. Then, kneeling on one knee, I placed my hands in the King's, and entered into His homage and became the King's man. Arising, I placed my right hand on the sacred relic of Myrkewood and pronounced the Oath of Fealty to the King. The oath included my asking the King for a fee and my promising to perform my services as Chancellor of the Exchequer in good faith and without deceit. In response to this, the King presented me with a leather pouch, thus signifying His acceptance of me as Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Eastern Kingdom. Thus ended the ceremony of my installation as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Then, with the King's permission, I made two appointments of my own. I first appointed Lord Owain the Traitor (Mark Owings) as Assistant Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mark is a member of my Household and lives in the New York area where most of the business of the East Kingdom is conducted. However, I see Mark two or three times a month in the local area.

I also appointed Lord Karl of Colfax (Carl Gause) as Official Auditor of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Carl lives in Philadelphia and is soon to graduate as an accountant.

Following this, Sir Finvar (Steve Muhlberger) was appointed by the King to be Myrkewood's Knight Marshal. The Great Helm was passed and we returned to the singing by the various groups of entertainers.

There followed dancing. Under the direction of Duke Cariadoc, his Lady Dian, and Frank Roberts, most of us attempted to learn to dance to the "Washer Woman's Brawl". Another Brawl was subsequently taught by Rupert, who is from the Midgard Militia. Later, Rupert and his Lady demonstrated still another dance for us. After this, a general folk sing developed, including the singing of such songs as "Waltzing Attila" (something like "Waltzing Matilda"), etc.

Thereafter, the Midgard Militia announced advancements in its ranks. Karina of the G.D. and Wilhelm of Bothnia were appointed to the rank of Franklin, while Patrick the Baker was raised to Yeoman. We were then presented with a rendition by the Dlle. Danielle de Gian (Lee Smoire) and Jason Silvertongue of "Captain Woodstock's Courtship" (they really rendered it!).

Towards the end of the evening, we were serenaded by a combination of S.C.A.'ers and Dupont Circle Consortium members.

At midnight, the Revel was brought to a close by the singing of "Bannockburn" (there being more Scotsmen than Englishmen present; it seems the Englishmen would have preferred "God Save the Queen").

After the Revel broke up, we stayed to help clean up. We finally left about 1:30 a.m. After depositing passengers at their homes, I arrived at my home in Washington about 3 a.m.

I, Wilhelm of Bothnia, again wish to express my appreciation to the good Fathers of St. Joseph's Monastery for the use of their hall and its facilities. On behalf of Myrkewood and the S.C.A., in general, I would like to say that we thank you very much.

-- Your Humble Servant,
 Wilhelm of Bothnia,
 Chancellor of the Exchequer of the
 Barony of Myrkewood and the
 Eastern Kingdom of the S.C.A.

A few coming S.C.A. Eastern Kingdom events (from PIKESTAFF #2): Dec. 9, Masked Ball (Carolingia); Jan. 6, Twelfth Night Revel (Myrkewood); Feb. 10, St. Valentine's Revel (Carolingia); Mar. 3, Medieval University (Carolingia).

MYRKEWOOD'S GRAND AUTUMNAL REVEL: A Report
by William B. Berg

Myrkewood's Grand Autumnal Revel was held on the evening of October 21, 1972 at the Basement Hall of St. Joseph's Monastery, Baltimore, Maryland. The affair was co-autocrated by the Lady Sita, Begum of Oudh (Irene Reddick) and Patrick the Baker (Pat Kelly).

After picking up and transporting props, costumes, crowns, shields and music stands (belonging to Frank Roberts), I arrived at the Hall about 4:30 p.m. Several others had arrived ahead of me and were in the process of setting things up.

The Equerries had for sale such items as apples, cheese, bread and several types of drinks.

The Revel started at about 8:30 p.m. Many belonging to the Barony of Myrke-wood were present. We were honored by the presence of the Lord Jehan de la Marche, King of the Eastern Kingdom of the S.C.A.

Esteemed guests from the New York area included the Lord El of the Two Knives (Elliot Shorter), Seneschal of the East and his Lady Cassandra of Beth'lem (Sandra Parker), Duke Cariadoc of the Bow (Dave Friedman) and his Lady Duchess Dian Elaine (Diana Friedman), the Dlle. Aravis del Clare (Mary Radich), Lady Perdita of Brook Lynne (Perdita Boardman), and the Dlle. Karina of the G.D. (Karina Girsdansky). From Philadelphia, we were graced with the presence of Lord Karl of Colfax (Carl Gause) and his Lady.

Also present were various members of the Maryland Medieval Mercenary Militia, the Midgard Medieval Mercenary Militia, and the Long Ship Company. A total of about 70 attended the Revel.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Dupont Circle Consortium under Frank Roberts, the Allen-a-Dale Singers, and certain members of Myrkewood and the Militias.

The Revel started with the Grand March of King Jehan of the East Kingdom accompanied by the Lady Sita, the Seneschal of Myrkewood, to the Royal Table, where they were seated.

The entertainment then began. The first entertainers were a group of Allen-a-Dale singers. This was followed by a mock battle between two Militiamen. One, known as Banjo, was armed with shield and mace; the other was armed with sword and shield. After much hacking and slashing, the match was called a draw.

There then ensued a bare-handed melee of six or seven Militiamen. After most of them were on the floor, the melee ended when Myrkewood's Herald, Alain du Rocher (Dave Halterman) fell on top of the melee. Then followed more music.

At this point the Militia entertained us with a dance and an ensemble consisting of two recorders and a tambourine. During lulls in the festivities, music was provided by the Dupont Circle Consortium. At one time, it was observed that some of the young children present were sliding on the floor.

We were returned (momentarily) to serious business, when Duke Cariadoc announced his fealty to King Jehan during the King's reign.

A late arrival, one Jason Silvertongue (Jason Rein) then serenaded us with his voice and musical instrument, doing several somewhat bawdy ballads, as he called them. More singing ensued, followed by the presentation of a magical trick for the King by Banjo of the Midgard Militia.

It was then time for more serious business. I, Wilhelm of Bothnia, was installed as Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Eastern Kingdom of the S.C.A. The ceremony was as follows: The Lord El of the Two Knives asked the King for relief from his position as Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Eastern Kingdom, saying that since the Kingdom now contained six baronies, the position of Seneschal occupied most of his time. The King then released the Lord El from his Chancellor