

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 --

Another crowded issue, with "The Bookshelf", "On the Move", "S.F. Parade", "Tidbits", "The Con Game", "Dateline:SF" squeezed out again (and then there're those features which appeared lastish). Back to normal as soon as Delap catches up with his column.

Please don't forget to return the questionnaires sent out with #72 (and distributed at WSFA meeting of 17 Nov.). We need the feedback badly.

We are very reluctant to combine TWJ and SOTWJ; SOTWJ is so flexible.... We are considering other alternatives; comments/suggestions appreciated. One possibility is to key subs on SOTWJ rather than TWJ, with people subbing to SOTWJ and automatically receiving TWJ when it comes out as part of their SOTWJ sub (one issue of TWJ counting "X" number of issues of SOTWJ, depending upon size). Comments? Or should we keep the two 'zines entirely separate, putting out SOTWJ on a regular schedule, and letting TWJ's fall where they may?

Next WSFA meeting 1 Dec. at 8 p.m., at home of Dave Halterman (1306 Geranium St., N.W., Wash., D.C. (ph. 291-2218)); following meeting annual "Tree Trimming" affair at home of Doll & Alexis Gilliland, 2126 Penna. Ave., N.W. (3rd floor), Wash., D.C. (ph. FE7-3759)). January meetings will return to usual rotation: 1st Friday, at the Gillilands'; 3rd Friday, at Halterman's. (Oops. Should have noted that "Tree Trimming" meeting is on Fri., Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.)

New U.K. Agent urgently needed. (Also, new Australian Agent.)

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 still delayed by publishing, etc. problems; something out by end of '72. For names of remaining Overseas Agents, Advertising rates (flyers/ads in SOTWJ only), & airmail rates, write the ed. Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; E, Club Exchange; H, Honorary WSFA Member (thru month shown); K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; L, WSFA Life Member; M, WSFA Regular member (thru month shown); N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W, Subber via 1st-class mail (thru # shown); X, Last issue, unless...; Y, Subber via 3rd-class mail (thru # shown).

-- DLM

THE WSFA JOURNAL (Supplement)

D. Miller  
12315 Judson Road  
Wheaton, Maryland  
U.S.A. 20906

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MYRKEWOOD'S GRAND FALL TOURNAMENT  
by William Berg

Myrkewood's Fall Tournament was held on November 11, 1972, at Patapsco State Park near Baltimore, Maryland. It had been raining in the morning, but had cleared up by noon; it was cloudy but dry the remainder of the afternoon. Approximately 40 Lords and Ladies were in attendance; considering the lateness in the year, this really wasn't such a poor turnout.

I arrived about 12:20 p.m., being delayed somewhat by the inclement weather; the barony's tent was already set up. The co-autocrats were the Lady Sita, Begum of Oudh (Irene Reddick) and the Dlle. Anne of Narnia (Betty Berg). With the help of members of my Household and Vlad the Impaler (Doug. Scheffler) of the Midgard Militia and the S.C.A., my tent was set up. Although there was no S.C.A. Equerries table, the Midgard contingent provided us with theirs.

The participants at this Tournament consisted mostly of members of the Barony of Myrkewood, the Midgard Medieval Mercenary Militia, the Long Ship Company, and the Black Watch. We also had esteemed and honored guests from the New York and New Haven areas. Our most esteemed guest was King Jehan. Also in attendance were the Dlle. Aravis Del Clare (Mary Radich), Foreign Minister of the East Kingdom, and Karina of the Grand Dragon (Karina Girs-dansky). Frank Roberts arrived about 3 p.m. with his ever-present recorder.

Before the Grand March, there was much picture-taking and interviews (with King Jehan, myself, and others) by reporters from the BALTIMORE SUN newspaper.

Activities, other than the combats, which ensued were an archery contest won by Thomas ap Thomas (Jim Thomas) and a knife-throwing contest in which several of the knives were broken.

The Grand March, although scheduled for 12:00 noon, actually got underway about 2:30 p.m. The introduction of the various Lords and Ladies by the acting Pursuivant, Vlad the Impaler, went as usual.

After the Grand March, it was ordered that the combats begin. First the combat field was outlined with banners. Then the field was blessed by our own Necromancer, Lord Owain the Traitor (Mark Owings). After a few grudge matches, the Tournament of the day was begun. Entering the lists were: King Jehan (John Leland); Sir Finvar de Taahe (Steve Muhlberger); his new Squire, one John Giles; Alain du Rocher (Dave Halterman); Patrick the Baker (Pat Kelly); Wilhelm Graycloak (Bill Marlow); Vlad the Impaler; and Kinfalch (Phil Parsons). The winner of the elimination contest was our own good King Jehan. Marshalling of the Tournament was done by Sir Finvar, King Jehan, and Alain du Rocher. Sir Finvar gave some of the newer fighters advice on their fighting techniques. The main Tournament was followed by a few more grudge matches.

As the time reached 5 p.m., dusk was fast-approaching. Taking down tents and banners and stowing away armour and weapons consumed the next half-hour. By 5:30 p.m. it was dark and everyone was ready to depart.

Everyone seemed to be a friendly and helpful mood all day, which seemed to make the Tournament even more enjoyable than usual.

-- Wilhelm of Bothnia, Chancellor of the Ex-  
chequer of the East Kingdom & the Barony  
of Myrkewood of the Society for Creative  
Anachronism.

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Eastern Kingdom members, remember Ye Grande Twelfth Night Dinner & Revel, starting at 7 p.m., on 6 January 1973, in the Basement hall of St. Joseph's Monastery, 3800 Frederick Ave., Baltimore, MD. Full details later this or in #74, as space allows.

(dissecting)

^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:  
Magazines for August, 1972

Operational Procedures  
Supervised by  
Richard Delap

With only a few exceptions, most of the stories this month are not only below-par, but are just outright poor and, in my opinion, not of publishable quality. I have never personally had the opportunity to wade professionally through a slush pile, but surely the editors can't be this desperate. Even F&SF, which usually avoids the really dreadful junk, comes up with one this issue, but overall it still manages to make the best showing. Ted White has a very interesting history of his magazines in his FANTASTIC editorial, and he continues to publish the Panshins' fascinatingly idiosyncratic account of science fiction as a genre, making his magazines at least the most wide-ranging and stimulating home for non-fiction. (Isaac Asimov's column for F&SF doesn't count; he's in a class by himself.) After complaining about last month's covers, I'm happy to say all of them are nice this time, with Gaughan's IF the best this man has done in months, and Leo and Diane Dillon making a rare appearance to sell Ellison's F&SF story.

FANTASTIC -- August:

Serial:

The Forges of Nainland Are Cold (part one) -- Avram Davidson.

Novelette:

The Witch of the Mists -- L. Sprague de Camp & Lin Carter.

Even in the Conan saga--which is not known for its fine examples of literary craftsmanship and intelligent plotting--there is simply no excuse for the shoddiness which makes this story an agony (or a laugh, depending on your point of view) to read. While both de Camp and Carter are credited, I suspect Carter's hand was the heaviest since the story is marked by the longest string of clichés since Carter's debut novels. This one has Conan rescuing his son, Conn, from the evil witch-queen of Pohiola, with all the usual brawn and brainless lack of plot content. We open with a "clammy tendrils of vapor slithered like wandering ghosts . . . foggy clearing . . . mist-cloaked clearing . . . gloomy forest(s) /twice/", and such repetitious nonsense pervades every page. Even to Conan fans (who seem to have a high tolerance for idiocy) it will be tedious; to non-fans, it is undeserved torture. Very poor.

Short Stories:

Forever to a Hudson Bay Blanket -- James Tiptree, Jr.

The trouble with this story is not its plot, which is a neat employment of the time-travel-paradox theme, but rather with the treatment, which draws its characters in stereotype strokes. At a Canadian retreat a young man makes love to a naked, virginal girl who appears from nowhere. The affair is not so simple as it looks, for the young girl turns out to be an old woman who will bear his child from the young body she inhabits during the affair. Had the characters been explored in depth, the reader might react to the tragedy of their doomed love; as it is the story reads like a Harold Robbins version of Romeo and Juliet, and is much below the expected Tiptree standards.

Allowances -- Barry N. Malzberg.

A strange man appears at the racetrack and asks trackside observers (each of whom records the encounter for a later investigation of an undisclosed nature) to give him a winner. None complies with his demands, and the man threatens to destroy the world. Since Malzberg is very careful to leave everything hazy and enigmatic, the reader can choose to interpret as he pleases. I find the style too literal and the purpose too vague. Fair.

The Brink -- Bob Shaw.

A slight but seriously-intentioned fable, Shaw's story looks to the near future in which a new weapon--a Sundog, "a nuclear device which yield/s/ its energy over a period of years instead of microseconds"--whistles an insistent warning to the pilot of the Icarus that his delivery to Cambodia is much more than an ordinary mission. Shaw's purpose is explicit despite the moody suggestions of his plot, but the mood is pervading and imparts a wraparound aura of unease. Interesting.

Agony and Remorse of Rhesus IX -- Ova Hamlet /Richard A. Lupoff/.

The latest of the Hamlet spoofs turns its guns on the inexplicable intricacies of Philip K. Dick, and while it may be amusing to Dick's incurable fans it will leave others completely in the dark. C.M. Peck, eking out a meager existence at a desk job on Rhesus IX, finds his world getting stranger and stranger until finally he becomes a victim of it, none of which is explained in the slightest. The best thing about the story is the bizarre sense of humor which pervades throughout in the true spirit of Dick. Ok of kind.

Article:

SF in Dimension: Mastery of Space and Time (1926-1939) -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.

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ANALOG -- August:Serial:

The Pritcher Mass (part one) -- Gordon R. Dickson.

Novelette:

Nanda -- Gary Alan Ruse.

At some future date a South American "Federation" has been formed and its leader, President Nanda, has survived repeated assassinations by a never-ending stream of rebels because his mind is automatically transferred from the fresh corpse to an identical "bio-chem" body. If the general populace is unaware of the ego-mania and greed underlying the President's seeming benevolent dictatorship, however, the rebels have a well-organized spy network which keeps them aware of the truth. When the Captain of the President's secret service gets too nosy, the rebels take him into their confidence and gain a needed ally. There are a few good moments at the opening of this story, but it runs progressively downhill until by the end Ruse discards his earlier accent on reasonable characterization in favor of hammering home a boring and oversimplistic message that is only molded to a ritual form. Had Ruse kept his characters consistently intelligent, he might have had a much better story.

Short Stories:

Budnip -- Jack Wodhams.

Starting a new colony on another world can be rife with dangers, the worst of which will probably be human. So proposes Wodhams as he develops a situation with a maniac who refuses to revive the colonists (except for a few women with whom to while away the time) who would end his total authority. The scheme is so absurd that one keeps looking for a hidden sense of humor. All that's found, however, is stock melodrama and extremely poor writing. Really dreadful.

Power to the People -- Wade Curtis.

At the site of a nuclear industrial complex, built in the midst of an African desert wasteland, Curtis attempts to condense the religious, political, ecological, financial and racial crosscurrents which make any efforts toward a worthwhile social cause a veritable maze of problems. But the best he can do is bring in Bill Adams--a real he-man; he smokes Camels--representing the sponsor company, Nuclear General, and reducing power motives to such remarks as "Infiltration's one thing, open war's quite another." Silly and boring.

Three-Tour Man -- Joseph Green.

Green creates a slightly improbable detective and a mildly improbable mystery but emerges with a highly readable story that makes up for most of its deficiencies in notable good pacing. The man of the title is a technician who

has signed up for a third term aboard the one orbiting space station in use during the 1990's, an occurrence so rare that the psychologists suspect (and rightly) that he is plotting a neat rip-off of illegal profits. Green also gambles a moral bet that is resolved, if not morally, at least realistically and soundly within the bounds of the character who places it. As I said, none too probable but quite entertaining anyway. Good.

Long Shot -- Vernor Vinge.

Most of us are now familiar with stories which take us into the "mind" of a machine, but Vinge uses his tale to study the limitations as well as the power of the mechanical mind and manages to make Ilse, the thinking ship sent by a doomed Earth on a long-shot mission to Alpha Centauri, a very engaging "character" indeed. The plot is perhaps a shade too predictable in outcome, but Ilse's trip is quite interesting and Vinge tells the story well. Nice.

Science:

The Computer Was a Fish -- George R.R. Martin.

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#### FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- August:

Serial:

The Brave Free Men (conclusion) -- Jack Vance.

Novelette:

To Gild a Unicorn -- William Lee.

A very frustrating story, this one, in which humans and alien Droogs implement a series of minor battles on the planet Licorne, each using the horned humanoid natives, "Unicorns", as battle pieces. The Unicorns are puzzling-- they switch sides indiscriminately, they die willingly, they respond to radio transmission (through their horns) but seem too dense for anything more than easy tasks of low intellectual content. Lee keeps his story moving but at the end answers only a portion of the questions he's brought up. It's an enjoyable read but not as satisfying as it should be and confusing as to its real purpose.

Short Stories:

Basilisk -- Harlan Ellison.

Ellison is obsessed with the greed and revenge and, most notably, fear that drive people to horrifying judgments against their fellow man. And while there are emotionally powerful moments in this story of a man who becomes a controversial scapegoat for the ills springing from an ugly war, the majority of them are, like the mythical creature of the title, hatched from an egg of a different species. There is too much dependence on casting the characters into cliché concepts of black and white, with all the greys isolated in an omnipotent god who hovers in the background. Ellison makes the fatal mistake of doom-saying without touching the motives or reasons for people's misconceptions, making his story a stacked deck of destruction. No, Harlan, we couldn't have reached this far if that were completely true, so while I find this story forceful in spots I cannot condone its lopsided view and feel most readers will find it unsatisfying. An interesting failure.

Engineer to the Gods by R\*bert H\*nl\*\*n -- John Sladek.

Sladek manages to synthesize and satirize the long road Heinlein has traversed, from the sprightly "juveniles" of yesteryear to the "liberated" recent novels, and somehow finds them all cut from the same mold, which may surprise those who have been cringing from the "new" Heinlein. What's most appealing in this amusing tale about the super-successful Jeremiah Lashard is Sladek's insight into Heinlein's ability to get away with dramatic corn that would have other authors slaughtered by readers and critics alike. This one's fun.

Jelna -- Jerry Sohl.

Marriages between human and alien, even if biologically compatible, may be littered with psychological (and resulting physical) pitfalls. Sohl's story of such a marriage and its tragic results is an idea that sounds good but ob-

viously is demanding of convincing detail to put it across with success. Sohl fails to make even a moment of it ring true. His dialogue is forced and stilted; he assumes his readers are dolts, explaining the obvious terminology but refusing to elaborate on the cause of the marriage's troubles; his characters are flat, depthless, proscribed mannikens used only as puppets. In short, it's a disaster.

Gigolo -- Ron Goulart.

"Cuckold" seems a more suitable title than what Goulart has used, but such is a very minor quibble for this lighthearted look at a future where androids are employed as surrogate husbands for lonely housewives whose real husbands travel extensively. There is a grabbag of insane Goulart items of humor--the best one here being a case of "toc-discs" that break into speech or song at very inopportune moments--that keep the reader chuckling while a desperate husband tries to win his wife back from the charms of his substitute. Amusing. "If At First You Don't Succeed, To Hell With It!" -- Charles E. Fritch.

By far the best work I have ever seen from Fritch, this short series of letters, between the editor and assistant of the Magazine of Fantasy and an author trying to sell pact-with-the-devil stories (which the editor detests!), is an hilarious and sparkling tale that is so simple that it is simply very good. Much fun.

Science:

Doctor, Doctor, Cut My Throat -- Isaac Asimov.

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IF -- July-August:

Serial:

The Book of Rack the Healer (part one) -- Zach Hughes.

Novella:

The Merchants of Venus -- Frederik Pohl.

As with his recent "Gold at the Starbow's End" Pohl once more crosses the "old" and "new" waves, combining the best of both to emerge with an intelligent offworld story that makes excellent use of scientific extrapolation from known facts about the surface of Venus but doesn't cringe from exploring the inside track of characterization. Plotwise the story is almost pure adventure. Audee Walthers scrounges his existence on Venus by guiding wealthy tourists among the unearthed tunnels left by the alien Heechees millennia before. The aliens didn't leave much but tourists are eager to strike it rich by lucking onto a valuable find, as is Audee himself. Audee's technical know-how in exploration gives Pohl a chance to shine in applying touches of science that shine with realism and create a very believable mood for the human drama that unfolds. Audee latches onto a rich old man and his young female companion, from whom he hopes to earn the money he immediately needs to save him from a fast-approaching death from liver disease. The millionaire's boredom is revealed to be something else entirely; Audee's response to bad luck is heartening and determined but never, never mindlessly optimistic; and the young lady stands up to emotional torments in believable fashion, without once resorting to "female hysteria" or over-masculinity. Pohl continually underplays the life-and-death bravura that often undermines such tales, and his story emerges triumphant. Very well done.

Short Stories:

Last Train from Earth -- Doris Piserchia.

But for one stubborn old man, all Earth's people have fled their ravaged and dying world through the "tunnel of time", a hazily-explained exit to other worlds. The man's solitary vigil is interrupted by the arrival of a ship from the stars bearing humans who will replenish the Earth, but it takes the man a very long time to comprehend their plan while the bored reader can only fume at the author's clumsy handling of her idealistic and baselessly hopeful notion. Blah!

Comet, Cairn and Capsule -- Duncan Lunan.

Give Lunan credit for taking a potentially good drama of exploration--three astronauts land on a passing comet and discover a cairn of technological instruments left by unknown galactic races--and giving it an untimely death and burial in a coffin of technical jargon. Such paraphernalia may do wonders for proving the author's knowledgeableness, but when it squeezes the story to a dying gasp it becomes a rubbishy litter. Awful.

Hard Sell -- Piers Anthony.

A glib salesman gives his pitch to a middle-aged, moderately well-to-do man who, while not interested in investing in Martian real estate, finds himself more intrigued as he thinks he perceives the salesman's method. The story moves like lightning, like any good sales pitch, but it's still too slow to keep the reader from seeing exactly where it's going. Readable, maybe, but not very worthwhile.

The Men at Kappa -- William Lee.

Mr. Lee's story unfortunately reverses gears in the middle and doesn't heed the terrible grinding sounds that ensue. It opens as a problem tale with two men trying to cross to safety over the deadly slug-infested surface of Midor III. With only "each of them had something to hide" as opening warning, the plot suddenly switches from struggle to survive to revelation of character background, none of which has much bearing on the cross-planet trek. The pages of explanatory dialogue are both ineffectual and gratingly inopportune, weakening the story at all levels.

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THE CLUB CIRCUIT: Clubzines Received 1-15 Nov. '72

INSTANT MESSAGE #113 (23 Oct '72) (The Newsletter of the New England SF Assoc., Inc. (NESFA); free to members, no sub rates given for others; membership rates: \$10/yr. Regular; \$5/yr. Associate; \$4/yr. Corresponding; bi-weekly; mimeo; from: NESFA, POBox G, MIT Branch Station, Cambridge, MA 02139) -- 6 pp.; report on "Other" (non-Business) meeting of 22 Oct.; list of upcoming events; NESFA roster; misc. NESFA notes/announcements.

M-ANATION VII:11 (Nov. '72) (Official Organ of Baltimore Chapter of MENSA; ed. by Don Laughery, 112 W. Second Ave., Baltimore, MD 21225; Membership Chairman (no rates given), Fred Davis, Jr., 5307 Carriage Ct., Baltimore, MD 21229; monthly; mimeo; free to members, not avail. to others via sub) -- 6 pp.; Membership Chairman's Report; announcement re acquisition of permanent meeting place for group (Community Room of Town & Country West Apts. near Normandy Shopping Center; 8 p.m., 2nd Wednesday of ea. month); Letter on "What's wrong with Mensa?", by Kyle Sherrill; "Puzzle Corner"; announcement re Winetasting event; President's Corner; misc. notes/announcements.

OMPagress 2 (Progress Report #2 for OMPACON '73, the British National Convention, to be held 20-23 April, 1973, in Bristol (Grand Hotel); offset; 5 3/4" x 8 1/4"; from: Fred Hemmings, 20, Beech Rd., Slough, SL3 7DQ, Bucks, England) -- 8 pp. incl. cover, 4-pg. Booking Form/questionnaire & supporting membership form; Full Memberships are £2, Associate (supporting) Memberships are 50p (\$2 abroad) (many thanks to whoever took out an Associate membership in our name); exact prices for banquet and rooms/meals uncertain at this time because of unstable currency situation; membership 158 as of 1 Sept '72.

SON OF GRAFAN #20 (19 Oct '72) (Newsletter of the Graphic Fantasy & SF Society :: of St. Louis; free to members (\$4/yr., \$2/6 mos.), 25¢ ea. to others; monthly; mimeo; from: Walt Stumper, 8764 N. Hampshire, St. Louis, MO 63123) -- 14 pp.; notes/announcements; local news; misc. news; fanzine reviews by Walt Jaschek; book reviews, by Dev Hanke; lettercolumn. #1111 Lots of news; give it a look.

((Reviewers--both local & out-of-town (and potential reviewers--more needed)--please check titles below & let us know, ASAP, which you'd like to review. --ed.))

#### HARDBOUND ---

Artery of Fire, by Thomas N. Scortia (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; rel. date 1 Dec.; 181 pp.; d.j. by Richard Schneider; \$4.95) -- "The Artery of Fire is a beam of pure energy bounced across the galaxy from the rich ores of Pluto--earth's only source of power in the twenty-first century. ## "A crucial breakdown, perhaps caused by sabotage, triggers panic on earth and a strange re-orientation in time. Suddenly, men from both the past and the future appear in the present. ## "What really caused the breakdown, how it affects such diverse matters as love, death and freedom for the people most intimately involved, why seemingly perfect 'advances' may not be the best solutions to man's problems--these are some of the fascinating elements in this story of a very-possible future." ##### Orig. pub. as novella in THE ORIGINAL SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, March, 1960 issue.

The ASTOUNDING-ANALOG Reader (Vol. One), edited by Harry Harrison & Brian W. Aldiss (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; rel. date 8 Dec.; 530 / xvi pp.; d.j. by Gary Friedman; \$7.95) -- The first volume of a "definitive historical anthology of the very first stories published in /ASTOUNDING/ANALOG/". Contents: "Forgetfulness", by Don A. Stuart ('37); "Seeds of the Dusk", by Raymond Z. Gallun ('38); "Farewell to the Master", by Harry Bates ('40); "Trouble on Tantalus", by P. Schuyler Miller ('41); "Time Wants a Skeleton", by Ross Rocklynne ('41); "Nightfall", by Isaac Asimov ('41); "By His Bootstraps", by Anson MacDonald ('41); "The Push of a Finger", by Alfred Bester ('42); "Clash by Night", by Lawrence O'Donnell ('43); "The Storm", by A.E. van Vogt ('43); "City", by Clifford D. Simak ('44); "First Contact", by Murray Leinster ('45); "Giant Killer", by A. Bertram Chandler ('45); "Vintage Season", by Lawrence O'Donnell ('46); "Placet is a Crazy Place", by Fredric Brown ('46).

The Day the Sun Stood Still: Three Original Novellas of Science Fiction (Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville & N.Y.; Doubleday SFBook Club Ed.; 209 / x pp.; d.j. by Karl Wurzer) -- Introduction; Foreword, by Lester del Rey; "A Chapter of Revelation", by Poul Anderson; "Thomas the Proclaimer", by Robert Silverberg; "Things Which Are Caesar's", by Gordon R. Dickson. ##### "Faith wasn't enough. -- Maybe it should have been, but it wasn't. And when science didn't find any reason to suppose the world was more than atoms and chance, humanity started slipping back into chaos. The world needed a sign--scientific proof, the only sign it could accept--that God lived. Then suddenly, as in biblical times, the sign was there: '...for a day and a night...the earth moved not around the Sun, neither did it rotate.' ## "What happened the day the sun stood still? ## "Three outstanding science-fiction authors explore that theme, probing the reaction of modern man when confronted with a miracle, in three entirely different but equally absorbing stories, never before published . . . In doing so, they answer the question posed by . . . Lester del Rey in his foreword: 'What kind of world might exist where the basis of faith is replaced by certain knowledge?'"

New Dimensions II: Eleven Original Science Fiction Stories, edited by Robert Silverberg (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; rel. date 17 Nov '72; 229 / viii pp.; d.j. by Dickran Palulian; \$5.95) -- Contents: Introduction, by Robert Silverberg; "Nobody's Home", by Joanna Russ; "Filomena & Greg & Rikki-Tikki & Barlow & The Alien", by James Tiptree, Jr.; "Out from Ganymede", by Barry N. Malzberg; "No. 2 Plain Tank", by Edward Bryant; "Rurema's Dam", by R.A. Lafferty; "King Harvest", by Gardner R. Dozois; "Take a Match", by Isaac Asimov; "f(x) = (11/15/67)", by Geo. Alec Effinger; "White Summer in Memphis", by Gordon Eklund; "Lazarus II", by Miriam Allen deFord; "The Men Inside", by Barry N. Malzberg.

The Pastel City, by M. John Harrison (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY; 1972; rel. date 8 Dec. '72; 158 pp.; d.j. by Wendell Minor; \$4.95) -- "An intriguing fantasy in which past and future blend uniquely on an Earth far different from any known to man. ## "There, in the Empire of Viriconium, a world of chivalry, of magic and strange powers, two Queens clash in bloody warfare for control of the Pastel City and all its domains. The armies of the defender, Queen Methret, are led by Lord tegeus-Cromis and the rest of a legendary band of knights, while their attackers are the vicious and cunning Northmen who serve the rival Queen Moidart. ## "More is involved than a struggle for a throne however, for in their lust for victory the forces of Queen Moidart have unleashed creatures from Earth's dim past whose terrible potential they little realize until too late. And as Lord Cromis and the rest of his band seek to meet the challenge of these nightmare apparitions, their quest leads them on a perilous journey across many weird lands to a deadly climax in a buried city where a solution is revealed that is as old as time itself."

The Sheep Look Up, by John Brunner (Harper & Row, Publishers, NY, etc.: 1972; Doubleday SFBook Club Ed.; 426 pp.; d.j. by Mark Rubin & Irving Freeman) -- "This angry novel of the future is John Brunner's sequel to his award-winning story of overpopulation, Stand on Zanzibar. ## "In a brilliant and savage attack on our suicidal complacency in the face of an undeniable truth--that we are killing this planet and all that lives on it with chemicals, drugs, indifference, stupidity, and greed--the author leads us from a Europe where the Mediterranean is stagnant and dead to the Rocky Mountain West where the water supply has been flooded with poisonous gas. In chilling detail he tells of the people who live on earth and their attempts to come to terms with their environment. . . ."

#### PAPERBACK --

Best SF: 1971, ed. Harry Harrison & Brian W. Aldiss (Berkley Medallion Book #2263; NY; Orig. pub. 1972 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 11/72; cover not credited; 287 pp.; 95¢) -- Introduction, by Harry Harrison; "Doctor Zombie and His Furry Little Friends", by Robert Sheckley (from Can You Feel Anything When I Do This?, '71); "Conquest" & "Gehenna", by Barry N. Malzberg (latter GALAXY '71; former from New Dimensions 1, '71); "A Meeting with Medusa", by Arthur C. Clarke (PLAY-BOY, '71); "The Genius", by Donald Barthelme (THE NEW YORKER, '71); "Angouleme", by Thomas M. Disch (from New Worlds 1, '71); "If 'Hair' Were Revived in 2016", by Arnold M. Auerbach (NEW YORK TIMES, '71); "Statistician's Day", by James Blish (from Science Against Man, '70); "The Science Fiction Horror Movie Pocket Computer", by Gahan Wilson (NATIONAL LAMPOON, '71); "The Hunter at His Ease", by Brian W. Aldiss (from Science Against Man, '70); "The Cohen Dog Exclusion Act", by Steven Schrader (from Eco-Fiction, '71); "Gantlet", by Richard E. Peck (from Orbit 10, '72); Three Poems: "Report", by Kingsley Amis (NEW STATESMAN, '71); "Fisherman", by Lawrence Sail (NEW STATESMAN, '71); "The Ideal Police State", by Charles Baxter (THE LITTLE MAGAZINE, '71); "The Pagan Rabbi", by Cynthia Ozick (from The Pagan Rabbi and Other Stories, '66 & '71); untitled story, by Tommaso Landolfi (no credits); "An Uneven Evening", by Steve Herbst (CLARION, '71); "Ornithanthropus", by B. Alan Burhoe (WORLDS OF IF, '71); "No Direction Home", by Norman Spinrad (from New Worlds 2, '71); Afterword: "A Day in the Life-Style of...", by Brian W. Aldiss.

Gray Matters, by William Hjortsberg (Pocket Books #78242; NY; 12/72 (orig. pub. 10/71 by Simon & Schuster; 159 pp.; \$1.25; cover by Gene Szafran) -- "On an undisclosed date in the early 1970's a living human brain was successfully removed from the cranium of a 12-year-old boy and preserved alive. The operation was performed by Dr. Frank Sayre, Jr., a NASA engineer employed in secret space research. It marked the beginning of a new era, more sinister than anything man had previously known."

Humor, Horror, and the Supernatural: 22 Stories by Saki (H.H. Munro) -- Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., etc.; 1/72 (7th prtnng.); orig. pub. by Viking Press; 156

po.; cover by Janet & Alex D'Amato; #T599; 50¢) -- Contents: "Gabriel-Ernest"; "The Bag"; "Tobermory"; "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger"; "Sredni Vashtar"; "The Easter Egg"; "Filboid Studge"; "Laura"; "The Open Window"; "The Schartz-Matterklume Method"; "A Holiday Task"; "The Storyteller"; "The Name Day"; "The Lumber Room"; "The Disappearance of Crispina Umberleigh"; "The Wolves of Cernogratz"; "The Guests"; "The Penance"; "The Interlopers"; "The Mapped Life"; "The Seven Cream Jugs"; "The Gala Programme".

Magellan, by Colin Anderson (Berkley Medallion Book #S2262; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '70 by Walker & Co.; 158 pp.; cover not credited; 75¢) -- "Magellan is the last city-state on earth--a society where perfection is being rapidly approached. It is the Eve of Eternity--the day when the great computer complex Chronophage will assume dominion over the earth and grant every man his wish. . . ."

The Naked Sun, by Isaac Asimov (Fawcett Crest Book #M1759; Greenwich, CT; 11/72; orig. pub. in hardbound in '57 by Doubleday & Co., Inc.; pub. in ASTOUNDING in '56 as serial; SFBBook Club selection 5/71; 223 pp.; cover not credited; 95¢) -- "Mystery and Murder on a far-distant planet", starring "Earth's most famous detective, Elijah Baley".

Silent Running, by Harlan Thompson (Scholastic Book Services #TK2227; NY, etc.; 9/72; 116 pp.; cover photo by Universal Pictures; 75¢; based on the screen story and the screenplay by Mike Cimino, Deric Washburn, & Steven Bochco; with a 12-pg. insert of photos from the Universal movie) -- "The great ship plunges on through the tides of space. Inside, an anguished man ponders what to do. Unless he murders his friends, the children of Earth are doomed to an eternity of sterile dust. Never again will flowers bud and blossom. Never again will arching trees shade and shelter. And if he kills his shipmates, what then? Marooned in outer space, will there be a future for him or the forest?"

#### Non-Science Fiction Titles Received For Review --

All Together Now, by Bob Vicky (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2259; NY; 11/72; 190 pp.; \$1.25) -- Sex novel.

The Chandler Policy, by Doris Miles Disney (Berkley Medallion Book #S2261; NY; 11/72 (orig. pub. '71 by G.P. Putnam's Sons); 222 pp. (Large-Type Ed.); 75¢) -- Mystery.

A Footfall in the Mist, by Veronica Black (Berkley Medallion Book #S2260; 75¢; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '71 by Lenex Hill Press; 192 pp.; Large-Type Ed.) -- "Gothic".

The Games Children Play, by A.H. Chapman, M.D. (Berkley Medallion Book #N2254; 11/72; orig. pub. '71 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 256 pp.; 95¢) -- "A noted psychiatrist clarifies the emotional strategies children use on each other--and their parents."

Geronimo, by Alexander B. Adams (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2253; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '71 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 352 pp.; \$1.25) -- "The gripping saga of the legendary leader who held the U.S. Army at bay for 40 years."

The New Diet Does It, by Gayelord Hauser (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2257; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '44 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 288 pp.; \$1.25) -- Eating better....

The Occult Explosion, by Nat Freedland (Berkley Medallion Book #N2283; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '72 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 319 pp.; 95¢) -- A survey of the "historical and current occult scene" in America.

The Quiet Gentleman, by Georgette Meyer (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2256; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '52 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 382 pp.; Large-Type Ed.; \$1.25) -- Regency Love Story.

Sprig Muslin, by Georgette Meyer (Berkley Medallion Book #Z2255; NY; 11/72; orig. pub. '56 by G.P. Putnam's Sons; 351 pp.; Large-Type Ed.; \$1.25) -- Regency Love Story.

Wanted: Wildcat O'Shea, by Jeff Clinton (Berkley Medallion Book #S2264; NY; 11/72; orig. Berkley ed. 11/66; 190 pp.; Large-Type Ed.; 75¢) -- Western.

Winter Blood, by John Roc (Pocket Books #78248; NY; 12/72; orig. pub. 11/71 by Trident Press; cover by Michael Leonard; 441 pp.; \$1.25) -- "Bitter, bawdy, beautiful--the powerful novel of mysticism and evil."