

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

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine - - - - - 4th July, 1973 Issue (#98)
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In Brief --

Forgot to mention it in #97, but pp. 11 & 12 were half-pages in order to get the 'zine out under one ounce (so it could still go 1st-class @6¢).

Note to subscribers: Be sure to renew before your sub expires, if you want to be sure of not missing any issues. All future subs/renewals will pick up with current issue, and will not be back-dated unless specific request is made. In the past, we have back-dated renewals where only a few issues have been missed; this has meant that we have to keep a large stock of back-issues. As we are running out of storage space (and want to keep our expenses down), we are cutting our future "over-runs" in half (from 40 to 20, and possibly even 15), so we can not guarantee that back-issues will be available if you let your sub lapse. We are determining the print-run for each issue by the number of subbers at the time the issue is published. So be forewarned....

TWJ Status Report: Brian Burley is waiting for paper supply; when it arrives, publication of TWJ #80 will start. #82 remains hung up over missing 22 stencils (we are running off stencils typed to date, but if we have to retype missing stencils, it will add 1-2 months to time it takes to get issue out--and we won't know whether 22 stencils are gone for good until mid-August. No word from WSFA on whether or not they will take over future issues of TWJ.

SOTWJ #99 completed (just got Delap's May column, so cranked it into #99), and am typing #100 (nothing special--mostly a catch-up issue with material squeezed out of #99 by Delap column; will include lettercol, among other things).

SOTWJ is at least bi-weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/\$2 (UK: 10/80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL (at least thru #82) pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more issues on sub., dep. on length). For info on air-mail, "Collector's" (3rd-class) subs, ads, addresses of Overseas Agents (see #95), etc., write ed. For Address Code meaning, see #95 (but note that K, Something of Yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; X, Last issue you will receive, unless....).

-- DLM

TWJ/SOTWJ

% D. Miller

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Wheaton, Maryland

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TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Looking Backward, From the Year 2000, by Mack Reynolds (Ace).

Someone once observed that the writer of Utopian novels was a cheater--it's easy to describe a working Utopia; the difficulty is in describing how mankind could develop one. The latter makes an interesting story, the former a dull one. Mack Reynolds' novel is also a dull one.

Patterned after Edward Bellamy's novel, Reynolds uses the rejuvenated citizen of 1970 to observe the world thirty years from now. Some of his innovations are logical--decentralization of cities, technological advances, increase of specialization, and even the replacement of cash with credit cards.

Some of the changes are possible, but Reynolds provides insufficient evidence for me to accept it. Examples would be: smoking has become nonexistent, highways are all underground.

Many of the aspects of Reynolds' future seem totally incredible within a timespan of thirty years. Marriage is an anachronism, English has been replaced by Interlingua, there is world peace, the profit motive is gone, and racial prejudice has been eradicated. Reynolds quotes Clarke saying that most predictions err on the side of conservatism, but I read Clarke's context as dealing with physical, not social, sciences. Such advances in the social fields may, in fact, be possible, but Reynolds fails totally to convince the reader that his future is plausible.

-- DON D'AMASSA

The Anome, by Jack Vance (Dell Books; 95¢).

Here is yet another more-than-welcome world created by the varicolored onks of John Holbrook Vance: Durdane. The author's standard loner character--this time known as Gastel Etzwane, is here with his driving inner emotions hidden by a cool exterior. In this story, Vance's hero searches for the identity of his world's ruler--the Anome, or Faceless Man, who enforces his command through metal bands, called torcs, around the necks of his subjects. These bands are equipped with radio-signaled explosives that discourage disobedience. Etzwane is aided by an Earthman, who shows him how to disengage his torc and pursue the truth about his strange world of Durdane.

Within the novel--which is the first of a trilogy condensed in the MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION--are the familiar strengths and weaknesses of Jack Vance that somehow complement each other and serve to form a writing style unique in or out of the science fiction field.

The characters are wooden, but of a lustrous, fascinating mahogany. They mouth artificial sentences, yet in a manner that communicates an alien speech that highlights the familiar ambient alien atmosphere Vance is so justly famous for. And with this novel he merely outlines a world that he intends, no doubt, to detail more fully in the remaining two novels. Yet the "outline" is more vivid than most otherworldly science fiction I can think of.

Most important is the fact that this is an immensely readable piece of fiction that poses a mystery interesting enough to make this reader look forward to the remaining two novels.

-- JEREMY FREDRICK

Dracula Returns, by Robert Lory (Pinnacle Books).

Robert Lory, who is capable of writing fine stories, often doesn't. Dracula Returns, the first of a projected series, is not one of his successes. Two ex-policemen dig up Dracula (who is one of the last survivors of Atlantis), install a wooden pacemaker in his heart, and bring him to the United States. There they use him as their unwilling super-weapon against the Mafia. Dracula makes several unsuccessful attempts to escape their control. Unfortunately for the reader, he is foiled each time, which means all of Lory's dull characters will be back in Volume 2.

-- DON D'AMASSA

(dissecting)
 ^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:
 Magazines for Apr., 1973

Operational Procedures
 Supervised by
 Richard Delap

The center of interest for April is the launching of a new SF magazine, VERTEX, a bi-monthly publication from California which presents a radically different approach to SF publishing from current standards. In the first place the magazine is a large-sized, quality-paper "slick", overpriced at \$1.50 an issue, with emphasis on non-fiction articles and features as much as on the fiction. The stories themselves are plumped out with three reprints from various recent anthologies, and the original fiction is decidedly on the weak side. Donald J. Pfeil is editor, explaining in his editorial that this premiere issue was a 33-day rush job. For the present the magazine must stand on its visual appeal (of which it has plenty, including excellent illustrations by well-known fan-pros like George Barr and Alicia Austin), but to survive it will surely have to meet the demands of its outrageous asking price by supplying readers with commensurate quality. It will be very interesting to see if this gamble can pay off, both for the company and for the interested audience.

FANTASTIC -- April:

Serial:

The Son of Black Morca (part one) -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.

Novelette:

The Ravages of Spring -- John Gardner.

Mr. Gardner's delight in language is quite obvious in this story--for those who haven't already discovered the fact in his fantasy novels, Grendel and The Sunlight Dialogues-- but one may occasionally wonder if perhaps the author's enthusiasm isn't a bit overbrimming, his love for a clever turn-of-phrase sometimes intrusive on the flow of the story. This narrative of a country doctor (very erudite for a Midwesterner) opens with the remark, "Life... is preposterous," from which we are led into what appears to be a ghost story with Wellsian SF overtones. With a thunderstorm raging outside an isolated mansion (in the best Gothic tradition), inside which stands a laboratory with the secrets of the first successful experiment in cloning, the confused but ever-so-rational doctor cautiously concludes that rolling with the punches is the sanest course. Occasionally prattling but almost always colorful and mysterious and often quite funny, it should satisfy those who desire something just a touch different from the usual fantasy fare. Okay of kind.

Short Stories:

But the Other Old Man Stopped Playing -- C.L. Grant.

An old Greek, living in isolation with a small herd of sheep, is troubled as his sheep disappear one by one. He believes he's the only man left alive following some vague but disastrous war, and his mind wanders through half-lighted paths of memory as he guards his flock. Grant seems to find pleasure in a haze of mythological symbolism, but the reader is not given much to ponder and must settle for Grant's moody death symbols. It's just a bit too thin to really work.

Rags -- Jack Dann.

Like the preceding story, Dann also deals with one person in the aftermath of a large-scale catastrophe--in this case, apparently some sort of deadly plague--but here every fact is filtered through the eyes of madness so that one simply does not know what is real and what is not. A girl, Joama, wanders the streets of a near-deserted city and eventually struggles to gain mastery over another girl and her cat, both of whom seem more real than the background or the protagonist herself but cannot be more than psychotic delusions if pos-

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

sessed of the powers they display to Joanna. What it's all about I've little clue, but it's a creepy puzzle of illusions that manages to hold the attention in spite of its inexplicit purpose.

Bird-Song -- Wilmar H. Shiras.

Mrs. Tokkin is once more spinning tales for her interested friends, this time telling of the Professor's experiment in which his "mind" is transferred into the body of a bird as he spends a week singing and flying and engaging in negligible acts of no interest to those in search of a plot. These stories have a light but matter-of-fact air that, to me, reads with an incessant aggravating drone, and the needed humor simply isn't forthcoming from such a deadpan approach to fantasy. Tiresome.

Once Upon a Unicorn -- F.M. Busby.

Busby does well evoking the jaded sophistication of the Hollywood scene--what with the casual slams at the gullible public and the film colony's manipulated images of its profitable stars--but the narrative of Wendine Thories, 16-year-old veteran of this kinky milieu, is far too independent of the story, which is nothing more than an elaboration of an unfunny joke. It's very short, easy to read, but ultimately lacking the point which would give it cutting power. Fair.

Article:

SF in Dimension: The Search for Mystery (1958-1967) -- Alexei & Cory Panshin.

* * * *

ANALOG -- April:

Serial:

The People of the Wind (conclusion) -- Poul Anderson.

Novelette:

Earthquake -- William E. Cochrane.

Here's a tale which can be faulted in a dozen different ways yet somehow manages to overcome them all and become compulsively readable. An EDT (Earthquake Detection Telometry) team is on the planet Canis IV, trying to pinpoint the time and intensity of a probable quake but hampered by the fact that they are the first team to study the area and must rely on probabilities. The team's warnings are consistently ignored by General Derrick, who is unimpressed by "probable" dangers and far more interested in completing his nearby construction projects. Cochrane's plot is crammed with sudden crisis points, much like an old-time movie serial and just as melodramatic; and while his characters' conversations tend to drag on too long with too little actual content, they do manage to impart a mood of realism that works to keep the melodrama from getting out of control. The little touches of character insight (such as one woman's ability to reach for conversational laughs, with a full understanding of the psychological principle behind it) are just enough to offset the dry tone that tends to creep into characterizations dealing with professional people. The plot, though singularly lacking in the unexpected, rattles right along to its predestined conclusion and pulls the reader along easily. Passably good.

Short Stories:

Moon Rocks -- Tom Purdom.

This one concerns military maneuvers on the moon between the Americans and the Europeans, both seeking gold ore which will give them economic stability and superior bargaining powers on Earth. An American, Major Cavino, is depending on the success of his current mission to keep him on moon duty and to avoid return to his uncomfortable, polluted homeworld, but the gravity of his possible failure is never quite dramatic enough to excuse the rather dreary formula of military tactics and special moon ethics. Routine.

Not Polluted Enough -- G.H. Scithers.

Here's another in the ANALOG mold of "humorous" stories--i.e., weave a minor plot in which the characters jump around and do silly things for a bit while the author makes an unexpected point. In this case, it's a group of humans dickering
(Cont. next page)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

with a shipload of aliens who want to eat them, while Scithers makes a case for the desirability of DDT in our bodies. As if that weren't bad enough, it's told as a story-within-a-story, discussed in idle chatter by a group of bridge-players. Needless to say, only those amused by the weekly fodder of television "comedy" will respond to this sort of drivel. Poor.

Polimander's Man-Thing -- Pat de Graw.

De Graw tries very hard to portray an utterly alien group of beings, their physical strangeness, their social order, and their telepathic communication. The story is so short, however, that there is simply no way to explain away the uneasy concentration of coincidence--the alien child who lacks the "Unity" of telepathy and the mechanical objects of nearby human explorers which are brought into miraculous use by the aliens to overcome the problem of a "crippled" child. The story is much too literal to accept symbolically, and much too contrived to accept literally.

Science:

Paraphysics and Parapsychology -- James Benjamin Beal.

* * *

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- April:

Novellettes:

Icarus Descending -- Gregory Benford.

This brief tale--a short story rather than novelette, in my estimation--tells of a huge, mile-wide chunk of rock barrelling in for a collision with Earth that will snuff out millions of human lives, and of the two NASA astronauts who will make a rendezvous with it in space. One of the men lands on the rock itself, and his discovery there brings up a question that splits social conscience down the middle by asking: which human lives really hang in the balance and which human lives are the most important? Benford presents the thought in such a way that any choice must bring a measure of guilt, and his characters react in a believable, all-too-human way. Not a pleasant story, perhaps not even a totally satisfying one, but it is thought-provoking and honest. Worth reading.

Psimed -- C.S. Claremont.

If this story is any indication, Claremont has a brilliant future before him as an SF writer; if it is only a successful fluke, we can yet be grateful for its powerful and intense drama. It projects a future in which psis are subject to stern controls, both for the danger they present--at a certain stage they are intensely suicidal--and the help they can offer by entering other minds. This story of an old woman, Petra, who is imprisoned in her hospital job and under constant surveillance for suicidal tendencies, is a depressing but not entirely downbeat look at where emerging psi powers may take us in the future. Rather than offering the usual props of forged importance, Claremont gives a continuation of the world we know as it adjusts to a new development. The adjustment is painful, the outlook rather bleak (but not hopeless!), the human characters impassioned and very real. A fine, fine story--read it.

The City on the Sand -- Geo. Alec Effinger.

This story seems to classify more as surrealism than fantasy, despite the brief hints at an alternate world, and it may be just a smidgen too softly focused to appeal to the majority of magazine readers. But this tale of a lonely man seeking oblivion from the world and, perhaps, discovery of the self in a desert city of outcasts, refugees and the idle rich, is occasionally illuminated with glittering psychological lights, like stars in the night sky, blinking in a moving prism yet locked in a timeless moment. It's an odd mixture which reflects tone and moods--a lot of Durrell, a touch of Kafka, a streak of *Lampodusa*, all distilled into an oddly shaped wineglass--and while its taste may be strange and a bit bitter, it's a taste that lingers. Interesting.

Short Stories:

The Alarming Letters From Scottsdale -- Warner Law.

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

As a series of letters, Law tells the strange story of a popular but aging mystery novelist and his sudden captivation with a stray dog. The writer informs his publisher that he's involved in a new project, namely the autobiography of his dog, Dash. To explain any more at this point would be to give away too much of this weirdly unsettling story, which seems for the most part amusing fluff but turns suddenly to sinister shades of fantastic madness. A catchy little item.

Arclight -- David Drake.

Mr. Drake's old-fashioned horror story takes on a very modern aura from its setting--the Cambodian jungles in the midst of the recent Indochina conflict. An American troop uncovers an underground temple of a sinister god, a stench-filled room littered with human bones, and their desecration follows them in the form of invisible horror as the men die ghastly deaths. While the plot is an unmemorable as the hundreds of similar items, Drake gives it a notable stylistic twist that nicely blends realism and supernaturalism into an appealing mixture. Good of kind.

Too Many Goblins -- William Lee.

Called upon to handle the problems of troublesome wood goblins (who are gobbling the turnip crop, much to the distress of turnip farmers), the U.S. Bureau of Demonology decides to import goblin-eating trolls from Norway and then encounters a problem with them as well. This might have been a very amusing story (can you imagine what Kuttner would have done with it? wow!), but Lee has some trouble keeping his touch light and his dialogue witty enough to make the jaunt funny. Instead, it merely plods along, skirting true humor and settling quietly into blandness.

Robustus Revisited -- Joseph Green.

On the Planet Arcadia, a biologist and his wife are distressed to learn that the WorldTec governing board has ordered the native herbivores, the Thumesin, to be taught weaponry and adjusted to an omnivorous diet. The order is a protective one, since another humanoid group, the Cardi, are carnivores, advancing rapidly enough to soon leave their native continent and invade the Thumesin homeland. The biologists reject the proposal but find themselves in great personal danger from the invaders, as Green winds up his story on a heartening note that logically sidesteps the assumption that violent omnivores must be superior. Laced with exotica and emotion--the local telepathic pets, the Protectors, are especially nice--the story nicely balances its action with solid evolutionary thought. Very well done.

Remnants of Things Past -- Robert F. Young.

A man enters a doorway into a room lined with the "remnants" of the title--shelved items (an unfinished book, pipes, etc.) from random moments of his life; miniatures of acquaintances, friends, and family; recordings of key moments of speech and conversation. The man takes it all in, bit by bit, at last realizing (as the reader has much earlier) what the room actually means. If the story holds no surprise (which, incidentally, is not its purpose), it offers a brief and rather telling dissection of the kind of American life which is so common, and so empty. Sad and thoughtful, and an engaging read.

Science:

The Cindarella Compound -- Isaac Asimov.

WORLDS OF IF -- March-April:

Serial:

The Wizard of Anharitte (conclusion) -- Colin Kapp.

Novella:

Doomship -- Frederik Pohl & Jack Williamson.

The population of Sun One includes members of many diverse races from all over the galaxy, including one of the newest, humanity. Ben Pertin seems an

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

ordinary human having an ordinary romance with a nice lady, but he is soon doomed to die--or rather, a tachyon-transport copy of Pertin will be placed aboard a ship in space (while the "original" remains behind to proceed with his love affair), and that copy of Pertin will die--either murdered by his crazed ship-mates or succumbing to a deadly dose of ionizing radiation. The mission: to record information about a mysterious object far off in space, an object which defies all known scientific laws. The majority of the story occurs aboard the ship of the title, but for all the promise of excitement and suspense very little entertainment emerges. The characters spend much of their time crawling in and out of protective cocoons (against intermittent accelerations) and spend most of the rest in battling each other and filling in the empty spots between with lectures or idle chatter, both of which make the thin story sound even thinner. What little excitement is generated is usually watered down to dullness by trite, thoughtless passages of endless explanation, much of it repeated several times over. For two writers of enviable reputation to churn out over-stuffed and underconceived mundanity such as this is a shameful waste of talent and of a reader's time.

Novelette:A Woman and Her Friend -- Michael G. Coney.

Coney has been unable to make his series of stories about future brain transplants--in which adult brains are imbedded in children's bodies and lives are carried out again and again--any more than a flimsy, overly contrived concept. The desperation of brains stored in boxes while awaiting body transfer, the fear of humans who know that a single unlawful act can doom them to Total Death, is the emphasis Coney uses to detract from his implausible background. In this story, as before, the characters are lifeless, spouting mediocre, often disastrously clumsy dialogue that relates only to the machinations of plot and not at all to the people involved in it. The author's efforts to create suspense are hurried and ill-planned, the characters are too superficial, the plot gears too obvious, the total effect bothersomely inept and tiresome. Dull.

Short Stories:Next Time -- David Magil.

A planet of people decide to put themselves in suspension, hoping that their transmissions for help beamed into space will be answered by intelligences who will arrive with the power to save them. Their danger and reason for suspense is that they have turned themselves into living bombs which will explode and destroy millions at the first incident of aggression or crime. Magil has a thoughtful philosophical point to make, but unfortunately he is unable to present it in valid dramatic form and satisfies himself with a step-by-step structured lecture. The reader will not likely be so easily appeased.

Call Me Proteus -- Edward Wellen.

The first-person narrative of the "thinking" spaceship that Wellen creates here perhaps has a more personal touch than Anne McCaffrey's third-person "Helva" stories, but Helva has a personality while Proteus is somewhat of a blank (perhaps because Proteus springs "out of an electronic fog" rather than from cyborg existence). Anyhow, his adventures with a young human stowaway and an exiled wheeler-dealer would be right at home in the SF pulps of twenty years or more ago--today, it's all too corny and a bit of a bore.

* * *

VERTEX -- April:Short Stories:Paths -- Ed Bryant.

A visitor from the future speaks with a newsman, warning him of the coming fate of the world because of the current ecological imbalance. The visitor admits his warning "sounds rather melodramatic", and one is forced to conclude that Bryant himself isn't much enthused over bringing any life to such a trite plot. What he does is reach for the surprise twist at the end, which may sur-

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DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

prise a few of the newest SF readers but will leave most wondering how writers manage to sell this stale old stuff.

The Deadly Invasion -- Larry Holden.

And here's one more example of mid-Fifties schlock, a silly and hasty blob of nonsense of the kind that has been filling magazines for too many years. A man is suspicious of his neighbors who spend all of every day sunning in their yard, and concluding they must be alien "invaders" sets out to solve the mystery. The (ho-hum) surprise conclusion is a total failure since Holden has ignored the myriad inconsistencies that destroy the believability of the neighbors' deep secret. Quite a poor item.

We Ate the Whole Thing -- Harry Harrison

Harrison has looked at the polluted future before (most notably in his fine novel, Make Room! Make Room!), and this look at the world "eighteen wars later" than VietNam has a hard-edged, caustic bleakness with a saving touch of satire. Here he examines the underworld ploys used by corporations to continue their self-profitting, world-destroying industry, and looks at the attitudes of the people of the time to reveal to us now how we encourage cultural suicide. It's a clever, quick story shot through with dark visions of probability extrapolated from the world in which we now live.

Kessler -- Herman Wrede.

A series of short paragraphs reveal incident after incident in which a man tortures, maims and kills his murderous enemy, Kessler. None of the events makes much sense until one reaches the final paragraph and finds the whole thing is some sort of unexplained experiment (it doesn't make much more sense then, either). Lacking an explanation the story is little more than an unsavory, ugly look at vicious wish-fulfillment and has little to recommend it since most readers are already well aware of the Jekyll-Hyde syndrome.

Bleeding Stones -- Harlan Ellison.

Ellison becomes a victim of his own condemnation in this story which has mankind's apathy towards reality and slavering respect for the outward appearances of religion turning against him in a grisly way as pollutants bring life to cathedral gargoyles. The problem here is that Ellison delights too much in the description of human disemboweling and slaughter as the gargoyles attack and feast--the horror of his criticism is destroyed by the horror of his over-emphasis on blood-letting and degradation. The screams of outrage drown out the pleas for help. Too bad.

Reprints:Patron of the Arts -- William Rotsler.

/from: Universe 2, edited by Terry Carr; Acc, 1972/

The Dance of the Changer and the Three -- Terry Carr.

/from: The Farthest Reaches, edited by Joseph Elder; Trident Press, 1968/

Caught in the Organ Draft -- Robert Silverberg.

/from: And Walk Now Gently Through the Fire, ed. Roger Elwood; Chilton, '72/

Articles:The 2001 Hypothesis -- Gregory Benford.The Truck That Flies -- James Sutherland.You Are In My Power, You Will Do What I Tell You -- Ed Bryant.The Theory and Practice of Time Travel -- Larry Niven.

/reprint -- from: All the Myriad Ways; Ballantine, 1971/

Features:An Interview with Ray Bradbury -- Paul Turner & Dorothy Simon.Heinlein on Science Fiction -- /transcript of 1941 speech by Robert Heinlein/.ON THE MOVE (A couple of Changes-of-Address) --

Tony Waters, 1115 Jones Tower, 101 Curl Dr., OSU, Columbus, OH 43210.

Albert Gechter, POBox 60547, Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

Tom Cobb, 3520 Burlingdell Ave., Dallas, TX 75211.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

FANZINES RECEIVED --HUNGARY --

SF TÁJÉKOZTATO, Nov. '72 ("The Periodical of the SF Work Committee of the Hungarian Writers Association"; 3x/year; Ed., Péter Kuczka, Budapest, I. Attilia u. 35. Hungary; Assoc.'s address: Budapest, VI. Bajza u. 18. Hungary; offset; 8" x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; in Hungarian, with contents page also in German, Russian, English, and French) -- 88 pp. / wraparound cover; "A Hard Field", by Peter Foldes (re 14 Hungarian SF novels published last two years); "Evaluation of the Last Two Years' Crop of SF Short Stories", by Mária Szepes; "Eurocon I-Trieste 1972", by Péter Kuczka; "The Linguistical Problems of Science Fiction", by Dr. György Szepes; "The Ancestors of Hungarian Science Fiction", by Pál Pándi; "Science Fiction in France", by Pierre Guilianna; "The Other Side of Realism", by Thomas D. Clareson; René Barjavel's Preface to J.P. Andreuon's Today, Tomorrow and Then; "The Father of Science Fiction", by Isaac Asimov (re J.W. Campbell); "A Triumphant Verne-Follower", by D.A. Wollheim; "Quarks and Who Survive Them", by Dr. György Marx; "Fantastic Art" by Marcel Brion, by Otto Mozei; "On the Pretext of 'Atleontisz'", by András Bognár; "Mirror-Symmetrical Counter-Utopia", by László Szörenyi.

NETHERLANDS --

NETHERPAPERS #2 (undated) (Annemarie & Leo Kindt, Mispelstraat 29, Den Haag 2025, Nederland; mimeo; no price or schedule given; in English) -- 6 pp.; editorial by Annemarie; "Publishing Houses and SF in the Netherlands"; summary of contents of HOLLAND SF #'s 6/6 & 7/1; Annemarie on Eurocon controversy; short lettercolumn.

SOUTH AFRICA --

PROBE (official organ of SFSA (S.African S.F. Assoc.); bi-monthly; free to SFSA members, 30¢ (15p) ea. to others; ed., Tex Cooper, 1208 Carter Ave., Queenswood, Pretoria, S.Africa; mimeo; 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8") -- III:4 (8/72): 52 pp. / covers; Editorial; book reviews; news page; fiction by Petre Jackson and Claude Nunes; "S.F. in Afrikaans", by Dave Bendelstein; poetry by Rhoda Nunes and 'Joe' Mc.; Overseas Bureau Report, by Dorothy Jones; "Copyright in South Africa"; lettercolumn; quiz & crossword puzzle; capsule fanzine reviews, by Nick Shears; Who's Who. ## III:4 (assume above should have been III:3) (Nov. '72): 60 pp. / covers; covers & illos by Johan Kritzing; editorial; "Aspects of Pollution", by Pat Ball; book reviews; fiction by Pagan Black, Peter Jackson, Dee Harvey; Who's Who (The Olde Eddo's in this one); Nick Shears reviews fanzines; "Isaac Asimov", by Andrew Darlington; Dorothy Jones' Overseas Bureau Report; misc. news/announcements; lettercolumn. ## III:5 (Jan '73): 32 pp. / covers; front cover by Kevin MacDonnell; editorial; fiction by C. Waddington, Marilyn Walsh, T.M. Kirwan (1st three placers in S.A. Short Story Contest); "Black Holes in Space"; book reviews; news page; Nick Shears reviews fanzines; lettercolumn. ## Also received Minutes for meetings of 15/7/72, 21/10/72, 9/12/72.

UNITED KINGDOM --

Andromeda Book Co. Catalogues (Postal address: 131, Gillhurst Rd., Harbourne, Birmingham B17 8PG, England; Shop address: 38, Roddal Hill Rd., Old Hill, Warley, Worcs., England; irregular; offset; 5 3/4" x 8 1/4") -- #13 (1/72): 8 pp.; magazines & paperbacks for sale; Author Checklist #7 (Philip K. Dick); #19 (10/72): 12 pp.; paperbacks & hardcovers for sale; 1972 Hugo Results; #21 (4/73): 12 pp.; paperbacks, hardcovers, & magazines for sale; Checklist #15 (Arthur C. Clarke). ## Especially valuable for the author checklists & misc. news in most issues. Prices reasonable.

CHEMPOINT (News/reviews 'zine; Patre Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol, BSH 5DZ, England; bi-weekly; 10/40p (2nd-class & Europe), 6/51, 8/41, 8/R1 (foreign airmail); US Agents: Charlie & Dena Brown, Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119; Australian Agent: Robin Johnson, Box 4039, Melbourne, Vic. 3001; S.African Agent: Nick

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THE FOREIGN SCENE (FANZINES RECEIVED) -- Continued.

Shears, 52 Garden Way, Northcliff 4, Johannesburg, Transvaal; mimeo; 8" x 10") -- #34 (24/3/73): 4 pp. / MI 3:6 (2 pp.; Eric Bentcliffe, 17 Riverside Cresc., Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW6 7NR, England; misc. editorial chatter) / list of 1973 Hugo Nominations (1 pg.); Boskone X Report; fanzine reviews; misc. news. ## #35 (7/4/73): 4 pp. / 2-pg. flyer for Newcastle in '74; Nebula Award Nominees; fanzine reviews; book news; forthcoming UK and U.S. book news; misc. news. ## #36 (21/4/73): 13 pp.; 2nd annish; Results of 1972-73 CHECKPOINT Fan Poll (Best UK Fanzine, EGG; Best UK Fanwriter, Ian Williams; Best UK Fanartist, Harry Bell; Best UK Fanz Article/column, Ian Williams' "Coblin Towers" (MAYA 4 & 5); etc.; reports on various UK fan groups/clubs. A most useful/informative issue (Dave Bischoff, get this!).

EGG #7 (16/3/73) (Peter Roberts, address on pg.9; no schedule given; mimeo; 35¢, 15p, or A30¢ ea.; Australian Agent: Robin Johnson (address on pg.9); USAgent: Seth McEvoy, Box 268, E.Lansing, MI 48823) -- 26 pp., incl. cover (by John Richardson); interior illos by Harry Bell, John D. Berry, Terry Jeeves, Alistair Noyle, Dave Rowe, Andrew Stephenson; Editorial; on "Gray Boak" Hoax; Eric Bentcliffe column; Ian Williams trip report; John Brosnan column; lettercolumn. ## Relaxed and enjoyable fanzine.

HAVERING (Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5QL, England; USAgent: Andy Porter, 55 Pineapple St., Apt. 3-J, Brooklyn, NY 11201; 40p or \$1/six issues; bi-monthly; mimeo; 8 1/4" x 11 3/4") -- #54 (9/1/73): 8 pp.; fanzine reviews. ## #55 (30/4/73): fanzine reviews; 8 pp. ## Among the best and most comprehensive (in # of 'zines covered) fanzine reviews being published today.

SCOTTISHE #64 (Ethel Lindsay, address above; quarterly; mimeo; 8 1/4" x 11 3/4"; USAgent: Andy Porter (address above); 15p ea., 3/\$1) -- 23 pp. / cover; cover & illos by ATom; short book reviews; "Lowdown on Liftoff", by Ella Parker Apollo 16 launch); "Travels with a Roof Rack", by Machia Varley; lettercolumn; editorial chatter. Dec. '72. ## Another relaxed & enjoyable genzine.

SPECULATION #32 (Spr. '73) (Peter Weston, 31 Pinewall Ave., Kings Norton, Birmingham 30, England; irregular; mimeo (offset covers); 8" x 10"; 20p (50¢) ea., 5/\$1 (overseas, 4/\$2; cash only)) -- 68 pp. / covers; Editorial; "Happiness is a Warm Rejection Slip", by John Brosnan; "Postscript to 'The Compleat Silverberg'", by Brian M. Stableford; "To Criticize the Critic", by Tony Sudbury; "Alternatives to Worlds", by Larry Niven (CHESSMANCON GoH Speech); Book Reviews; lettercolumn; Speculation Book Guide; "View of Suburbia", by Chris Priest; short items. ## Very worthwhile and informative; a "must" for those with serious interest in SF.

VECTOR (official journal of British S.F. Assoc., Inc. (BSFA); free to members (\$1.50/yr., from Mrs. G.T. Adams, 54 Cobden Ave., Bitterne Park, Southampton SO2 4PT, England); to others, 30p (60¢) ea., 10/\$6; ed. by Malcolm Edwards, 75A Harrow View, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1RF, England; bi-monthly; offset; 5 7/8" x 8 1/4") -- #63 (Jan-Feb '73): 40 pp., incl. covers; front cover by Dave Rowe; bacover by Jon Harvey; interior illos by Rowe, Andrew Stephenson; Editorial; "To Barsoom and Beyond", by Brian W. Aldiss; "From the Easy Chair", by Harry Harrison; James Bligh on Item Forty-Three, Brian W. Aldiss: A Bibliography 1954-1962, comp. Margaret Manson; Philip Strick on Report on Probability A, by Brian Aldiss; short book reviews/notes; "Author's Choice: Keeping Ahead of Barefoot in the Head", by Brian W. Aldiss; BSFA News page, ed. Archie Mercer; short material. (This issue, if you haven't already guessed, is the "Special Brian Aldiss Issue.") ## #64 (Mar-Apr '73): 39 pp. / cover (by Ames); Editorial; "The Android and the Human", by Philip K. Dick; "The Extraordinary Behavior of Ordinary Materials", by Bob Shaw (repr. ENERGIUMEN); "Author's Choice" (Poul Anderson on People of the Wind); Peter Roberts reviews fanzines; BSFA News page, ed. Archie Mercer; Book Reviews, by George Zebrowski, John Bowles, David Compton, Tony Sudbery, Malcolm Edwards, Chris Morgan, Rob Holdstock. ## Also rec'd: Agenda for Annual BSFA General Meeting; BSFA Award & Doc Weir Award Ballots; "New British Science Fiction & Fantasy Books Published During October, 1972", by Gerald Bishop (1 pg.); "An Open Letter to BSFA Members from Their Very Puzzled Chairman" (1 pg.; from John Brunner); Fantasy Centre ad/flyer.