

DOLL'S HOUSE: Fanzine Reviews
by Doll Gilliland

AMRA (Box 9120, Chicago, Ill., 60690. July 1965-Sept. 1966. Artwork, stories, articles, and especially limericks; 35¢; 8/\$2, at least at that time. English agent: Archie Mercer, 1st floor flat, "Rosehill", 2 Cotham Park South, Bristol 6, England; 2/- copy; 14/- for 8). Copyrighted by The Terminus, Owlswick, & Ft. Mudge Electrick St Railway Gazette. (Would love to know where that comes from.) AMRA -- Conan called himself thus when he was a pirate with the Kush corsairs -- is R.E. Howard- and Conan-oriented; swordplay and sorcery (heroic fantasy, if you will) is its bag; its feel and format are more pro than most zines, but so are its contributors, and it is no less enjoyable. Lavishly illustrated, it averages about 20 pp. per issue and appeared fairly regularly, at least during the period covered.

Vol. 2, #35 (July 1965). Poetic cover by D.N. Smith (whom I've never run across before, more's the pity). Contents page features a delightful old trolley towed by two native centaurs -- a Gray Morrow creation. Editorial page covers the now defunct Mjölner trophy (bronze hammer) for the "Heroic Fantasy" art award, and a limerick by Larry Breed. Fritz Leiber's article points out that most h-f writers are copycats: drawing on Plutarch, Shakespeare popularized the Julius Caesar-Cleopatra era as thematic material; Robert Graves (of I Claudius and Count Belisarius) added the Justinian era of the early Caesars and Theodora; and L. Sprague de Camp is the trail-blazer of the Hellenic Period. Fritz reviews de Camp's The Arrows of Hercules, which he feels superior to An Elephant for Aristotle, The Dragon of the Ishtar Gate, and The Bronze God of Rhodes. (I read the last and loved it; shall have to look into these others. Speaking of Rhodes, I heard on a newscast that the island is considering reconstruction of the Colossus, and I believe has a competition going for the design.) This article is delightfully illo'd by Domingo Orejudos. Leiber also reviews James Branch Cabell's The Cream of the Jest (copyrighted 1917 by the author), accompanied by Jim Cawthorn illos, discussing the symbolic meaning, and comparing the conclusion with Lovecraft's The Silver Key.

Archie Mercer submits a bit on "Derivatives of the Damned", and gives something to muse upon: What is the comparative form? (I suppose the easy way out would be "more damned", but that means the superlative would be "most damned", but we all know that the "est" suffix is used, which brings us back to his article. Think I'll quit while I'm ahead.)

The format of "Pratt's Parallel Worlds" is so very reminiscent of ERBDOM, with a map (by Rafael Palacio), illos (by Roy Krenkel), and article (by L. Sprague de Camp). A friend and collaborator, de Camp discusses in depth Pratt's The Well of the Unicorn and The Blue Star. Bacover notes Ruth Berman's find of an earlier version of the poison-trap box than cited in a previous ish, in Dr. John Watson's "The Adventure of the Dying Detective", first appearing in 1913 in STRAND, and then in His Last Bow in 1917, same year as The Hand of Fu Manchu.

#36 (Sept. 1965). A winsome cover by Krenkel. Sam Grainger draws an Arabian trolley drawn by a dashing Saracentaure. Editorial touches on what happens to s-f and fantasy critics, especially those who concern themselves with ERB. A letter from Robert E. Howard to Clark Ashton Smith, written in 1934 and printed herein, explains his aversion to snakes (which accounts for the Jim Cawthorn illo). Roy Krenkel's full-page illo faces de Camp's sonnet "Tikal". John Brunner adds "On Standing On One's Own Feet", wherein he discusses the survival of limited techniques where the original technology is lost, and the problem of human knowledge playing catch-up with borrowed technology. (Just recently a Campbell editorial touched on scientists playing catch-up with gadgeteers, so you really don't have to go out of this world to run into this factor. Or perhaps, the subject is really apochryphal.) Nice illos by Jeff Jones. Comes an article by Robert Coulson on Howard's Almuric, inspired by the reaction to his review of the book in YANDRO. He agrees

that a second draft would have improved the book "if only because it couldn't possibly have damaged it..." and goes on to make a good case. Krenkel's illo of Building the Parthenon leads us to Leiber's critique of The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales by Richard Garnett, of which there have been no editions since 1926 as far as he knows. (My only complaint about Leiber is that he arouses my interest, and there's the problem of finding the books, the time, etc.) Archie Mercer reviews Lin Carter's The Wizard of Lemuria, with kind words for some of the author's verse fragments and the author's style, but hardly the book. Harry Harrison, on the same topic, is far less kind (see Art Thomson's cartoon). An early Cawthorn illo of Eowyn and the Nazgul adorns the back cover.

#37 (Jan. 1966). I like Ray Garcia-Capella's illo for the contents page; they should use it regularly. Krenkel's trolley, centaur, cat, and rat displays surprising whimsy for that artist. L. Sprague de Camp, taking his cue from Dick Luff (who believes that Edwin L. Arnold's Lieutenant Gulliver Jones: His Vacation of 1905 inspired ERB's Martian novels) reviews that book (Ace title Gulliver of Mars), contrasts the two authors, and draws a somewhat different conclusion. LoC comments on AMRA contents come from Norm Metcalf, George Scithers, L. Sprague de Camp, Jim Cawthorn, Harry Warner, Jr., and Fritz Leiber (On Criticism, quoting Damon Knight: "The critical method is to take things apart. The Critic uses the same sharp-edged tools on all stories, but good stories resist; the bad ones come to pieces.") "Titled Romances" is Leiber on Cabell's Jurgen. I have yet to find anyone who writes as well on this author; others talk of, but Leiber manages to convey, Cabell's charm. The ish closes with Conan limericks by John Boardman.

#38 (Feb. 1966). Garcia-Capella cover illo. Leiber discourses knowingly on T.H. White's The Once and Future King and Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. Also White's revision in O&FK of The Sword in the Stone, Witch in the Wood, and Ill-Made Knight, published almost 20 years previous. Concludes with the suggestion to read the original Sword in the Stone, and then the rest in The Once and Future King. Cawthorn's illos are as delightful as the article, and differ somewhat from his usual style. L. Sprague de Camp visits Robert E. Howard's hometown, talks to people who knew him, and tells us about him. ("The drunken brawls and wenching that Howard's letters hint at were, my informants agreed, mostly or wholly imaginary." Considering that REH's hometown comprised some 1,500 people, the info furnished can be considered probably as authoritative as the best.) The details surrounding REH's death are peculiarly poignant. Once again the ish concludes with Conan limericks by Boardman.

#39 (March 1966). B.B. Sams' dinosaur decorates the cover. Contents page tells of an otherwise unknown Conan story, whose 17th and last page has been found, and appeals for the rest of the ms.; also the Fanzine Index, edited by Bob Pavlat and Bill Evans, republished by Harold Palmer Piser. Editorial page bears another version of Jim Cawthorn's Eowyn and the Nazgul illo, and discusses the Lord of the Rings' lost copyright episode, pointing out that it was the original hard-cover publishers, and not Tolkien, with whom Ace had been dickering futilely and who lost the U.S. copyright in the first place. And that apparently it was the original publishers who kept the flap alive so diligently. Thus, Ace's direct offer to Tolkien of an honorarium should not be decried out-of-hand.

Lin Carter contributes Sonnets XV-XXI of "Dreams from R'lyeh". More letters from E.R. Howard to C.A. Smith (thanks to Glenn Lord). Krenkel's illos reflect the excitement of the author's works, providing a welcome backdrop for his letters which are considerably less so but have their moments. (Here he describes his concept of Conan.) Archie Potts writes on the use of the Pike (weapon, not fish) from the Spartans to the 20th-century British. And de Camp, on the buckler and its disappearance.

#40 (June 1966). Cawthorn's Strider makes the cover this ish. Other Cawthorn illos accompany Lin Carter's "Diombar's Song of the Last Battle", excerpts of which

he included in Wizard of Lemuria, and a reprint of an article by David Hall on the humor in REH's Conan stories. Hall is no leiber, and the reader is obliged to take his word that Conan is humorous. (I find him hilarious, actually, but then I'm no fan.) Joe Gibson's Street Railway Centaur appears twice, and I do believe that's Mr. Toad of Wind in the Willows whom he is accosting on page 3. Lin Carter reviews L. Sprague and Catherine de Camp's Spirits, Stars, and Spells: the Profits and Perils of Magic, observing that occultism fascinates him because it is "non-fiction fantasy", with real wizards poring over old musty tomes, etc. He points out that the authors are scrupulously detached in their approach (reporting both spectacular successes and flops), witty, entertaining, etc., and adds a few corrective comments. De Camp reviews Stormbringer by Mike Moorcock and puts his discerning finger on the something that bothers me when reading some heroic fantasy -- and that is when the sorcery is so mighty as to make the sword aspect ridiculous. B.B. Sams' fine brooding illos adorn the pages of Ben Solon's article on Howard's Cthuloid Tales, which Solon admits are not the greatest, but gave him a chance to smooth out his writing technique. Bacover contains an Index to AMRA Vol. 2, #'s 31-40.

#41 (July 1966). An exquisitely wrought cover by George Barr. Roy Krenkel lavishly illo's Lin Carter's tale "The Gods of Neol-Shendis. The fascinating (Philip Theophrastus Aureolus Bombast von Hohenheim) Paracelsus, 1493-1541, is the subject of an article by C.C. Hebron, whose discussion of sorcery as distinguished from witchcraft is far more definitive than his discussion of P. as a sorcerer. L. Sprague de Camp reviews Gerfalcon, Joris of the Rock, and Shy Leopardess, a medieval trilogy by Leslie Barringer which borders on heroic fantasy. Also LoC's.

#42 (Sept. 1966). A Pellucidar cover dashed off by Roy Krenkel, whose illos accompany two articles, book reviews, and a page of limericks and poetry. George Barr offers a magnificent Amazon of a centaur, a limerick, and a thoroughly entertaining film review of "Tarzan and the Valley of Gold" (he thinks Mike Henry would make a magnificent Conan), with his usual fine illos.

The Hyborian Legion is identified herein as a "collection of swordsmen, sorcerers, and deserving apprentices" who usually muster at Worldcons, and whose other duties are "to fight fiercely and divvy up the loot afterwards". Memberships and certificates are available upon application to the Royal Executioner, Box 9120, Chicago, Ill., 60690, accompanied by a \$ bribe, your Hyborian as well as your regular name, and Hyborian occupation (if any), but no titles since they are conferred by Legion vote for sword-and-sorcery deeds of note. (The poesy is mine.)

De Camp furnishes info on material for six unpublished Conan stories, and does brief reviews of Edward P. Bradbury's Warrior of Mars, Blades of Mars, and Barbarians of Mars (direct Burroughs derivatives); Lin Carter's Thongor of Lemuria (Burroughs plus Howard, as is true of) Howard Cory's The Sword of Lankor; children figure in Alan Garner's The Weirdstone of Brisingamen and Jane Gaskell's Atlan; and R.E. Howard's A Gent from Bear Creek, a collection of Breckenridge Elkins stories. (This one sounds like real fun.) Andre Norton's Year of the Unicorn gets the nod. Concludes with C.A. Smith's Tales of Science and Sorcery. Oh, yes, Glenn Lord found the missing Conan ms. (see #39), and there is news of a Mexican comicbook series depicting the adventures of Conan and Belit.

Frank Braun, hero of Hans Heinz Ewers' The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Alraune, and Vampire, is masterfully presented by Fritz Leiber, who follows his ventures thru the three books. FL also discusses the prophetic character of the writing and the strange character, the writer. Dick Lupoff responds to de Camp's remarks on Edwin Arnold and ERB (see #37), followed by a wondrous LoC from E. Hoffman Price on ERB, with a wondrously conceived Jim Cawthorn illo.

#44 (Oct. '67). Jeff Jones furnished the suave Conan cover, John Chambers the hoof-polishing Centaur. Roy Krenkel illos Dick Lupoff's article on Fritz Leiber and Tarzan.

and the Valley of Gold. A sonnet to the Rhinoceros by L. Sprague de Camp. Uniform byrules to The Hyborean Legion's membership laws, and a report on the Legion's annual muster at the NYCon, including the election of Fritz Leiber to Royal Navigator and Lin Carter to Royal Necromancer. Harry Harrison offers an illod article on improved weaponry for fictional hand-to-hand space battling. L. Sprague de Camp reviews several books, among the, Lloyd Alexander's The Book of Three, The Black Cauldron, and The Castle of Llyr (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston -- medieval "juveniles-that-adults-too-will-enjoy"), R.E. Howard's The Pride of Bear Creek (West Kingston, R.I.: Donald M. Grant -- "another collection of broadly hilarious Westerns about Breckenridge Elkins..."), Ursula Le Guin's Rocannon's World and Planet of Exile (Ace -- "bear rather close comparison to Andre Norton's Witchworld stories"), and Rosemary Sutcliffe's The Shield Ring (Dell -- Norsemen vs. Normans, "head and shoulders above most of the swashbucklers one sees on the pb stands." I have seen several complimentary comments on this author in several fanzines; will have to look for her.). Entertaining art by Jim Cawthorn, Poul Anderson, and Roy Krenkel (who also did the bacover) accompany the entertaining and educational letter column, e.g., Fred Cook on Sword Manufacturing, Jim Pobst on the pike-bow, L. Sprague de Camp & Prof. Chas. Hapgood on the latter's book which was reviewed earlier by the former.

#46, April '68, contains a delightful article by L. Sprague de Camp with illos by Johnny Chambers on L. Ron Hubbard's fantasy novels. Ted White tells how he came to write Phoenix Prime and what's in store in the books of Qar, followed by Archie and Beryl Mercer's reviews of Phoenix and Lin Carter on The Sorceress of Qar. Among the letters is a progress report from Fritz Leiber on Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser. Also, limericks by John Boardman, Lin Carter, Jim Cawthorn, Seth McEvoy, and John F. Roy. Cover and numerous interior illos, including a beauty on p. 16, by Roy Krenkel; charming Strycentaur by Tim Kirk, Easter card by Jim Cawthorne, etc. 20 pp.

#47, early Aug. '68. Krenkel cover illo; Jack Gaughan does thish's street railway centaur. Fabulous George Barr illos accompany a scintillating review by Robert E. Howard (courtesy of Glenn Lord) of J.B. Cabell's Something About Eve. "lower case request" by Steve Johnson sports an apt T. Kirk illo. Fine fanciful poetry -- L. Sprague de Camp muses on naval warfare in "Ghost Ships", illo by Johnny Chambers; with Part IV, "Dreams from R'Lyeh", Lin Carter concludes this extended sonnet sequence (from the library of Miskatonic U.) -- Jim Cawthorn illoing; "What Really Happened" by C.C. Hebron is exquisite both in style and content, and Krenkel's poetic rendering of the man with the lyre is suitably lovely. George Barr's magnificent portraits adorn the book reviews by de Camp, who recommends Fletcher Pratt's The Well of the Unicorn (Lancer), Mike Moorcock's The Jewel in the Skull (Lancer), R.F. Tapsell's The Year of the Horsetails (Knopf), Dupre Jones' The Adventures of Gremlin (J.B. Lippincott Co.), Lloyd Alexander's tales of Taran -- there are five, the last two being Taran Wanderer and The High King (Holt, Rinehart & Winston), and Fritz Leiber's Swords of Lankmar (Ace). 20 pp.

#48, mid-August '68. Cover by Robert Barrett, railway centaur by Dennis Smith. There is a report on the Society for Creative Anachronism and medieval weapon techniques with illos by Paul Gerrior. L. Sprague de Camp writes on editing Conan, illos by George Barr. Jack Vance's work is reviewed by Lin Carter, with special emphasis on The Eyes of the Overworld (Ace). John Boardman looks at the old pulp fiction superhero, while Isaac Scher contemplates the handling of short heroes (illo by Tim Kirk). JB also makes a sizeable contrib to thish's "Limericks". Other contributors include Sid Cochran, Jr., Dmitri Rotov, Griffin Mitchell III, and Poul Anderson (on "2001"). Magnificent centerfold by Roy Krenkel, who also does most of the interior artwork thish, except where noted. 20 pp.

#49, late August '68. Cover illo by Krenkel, unique railway centaress cartoon by Bill Rotsler. Since Pratt's Well of the Unicorn and Eddison's The Worm Ouroboros recently appeared in pb, making them once again of current interest, AMRA reprints from PELF Dave Hulan's well-written "Of Worms and Unicorns". Lin Carter contributes a few

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hand-held space weapons to Harry Harrison's armory. He also announces the formation of SAGA (Swordsmen & Sorcerer's Guild of America, Ltd.) for pro sword-and-sorcery writers who have had some 80,000 words pubbed. John Boardman pens a poem on "The Slag Heaps of Meroe" and de Camp comes up with a drily witty sonnettype "New Year's Eve In Baghdad", illo by Gray Morrow. Satyr centerfold and illos thruout by Roy Krenkel. LoC's. Editorial announces a half-year hiatus to catch their breath and some material. Artwork fabulous but not usually in such abundance as the last three ish. 20 pp.

((Reviews of #'s 35-42 constituted a "series" review which was typed quite some time ago but not published. Reviews of #'s 44 and 46 were typed separately, later, and reviews of #'s 47-49 were just prepared. Reviews of #'s 43 and 45 appeared separately in earlier issues of the JOURNAL. Note that the price of AMRA is now 50¢/copy, 10/\$3. Archie Mercer's address is 10 Lower Church Lane, Bristol BS2 8BA, England. No sterling price quoted in #49, but figure it at 12¢=1 shilling, and you'll be close. --ed.))

HOLLAND SF, April '68 (NCSF pub. Leo Kindt, Heilostaat 206, 's Gravenhage, Nederland. Trade or 30¢. Heading the Foreign Bureau, he can handle Dutch, English, German, French, Latin, and ancient Greek. Editor-in-chief is Theo de Vries, and the fanzine is in Dutch -- I think -- that is -- oh well!) NCSF stands for Nederlands Contact-centrum voor SF (Dutch Contacting Center for SF). de Vries was looking for a prozine publisher but didn't have the money to underwrite such a venture, hence the 14-month interval between ish. NCSF is evidently somewhat similar to our N3F (altho the members don't remember that), and urges organization of local activities. Their second SF convention was slated for Amsterdam last April. Thish contains a report of the First National Dutch SF Convention held Oct. 1966, and it sounds delightful...besides speeches, films, panels, and banquet, they also included a boat trip thru Amsterdam and a visit to the local observatory.

Dave Kyle has an article in there on the techniques employed in filming "2001". There is a listing by Hein Jansen of new Dutch SF releases. And N. Oosterbaan recounts the early days, or as he puts it, "Pre-History of SF in the Netherlands", reminiscing on the early '50's, his introduction to SF and fandom, 'zine exchanges with foreign clubs, British conventions he attended, and the slow demise of Dutch/Flemish fan groups after '55. Also, meeting minutes, names and addresses of the NCSF Committee and editor of HOLLAND SF. 20 pp.

No, I'm not that good a linguist. Am merely abstracting from a two-page English summary that accompanies the 'zine. I thought it interesting.

CINDER #9 (Jim Ashe, P.O. Box 343, Petersburg, N.H., 03458. 20¢, 6/\$1, contrib, LoC.) A personalzine, Jim reports on his new job as Technical Editor of 73 MAGAZINE, an amateur-radio-oriented pub. 2 pp.

HYPERMODERN (Allan B. Calhamer, Avenida Mirabel 8, Santiago, Republica Dominicana, 5/\$5 -- boy, is he an optimist!) This is a 19-page mimeo'd "magazine of new ideas", intended to be neither a research nor a crusading pub, merely tossing out new ideas.

#1 (Apr. '68): Applying Thought to Large-Scale Problems; On Strategy and the Viet-Nam War; Is Any Issue Appealable from a State Court, Even If Not Raised at the Original Hearing?; Is a Doctor Liable for Concealing the Truth from a Dying Patient?; Kids as Fanatics.

#2 (June). The main topic is the American Farm Policy, with subsidiary themes Why Are Welfare Workers Not Chosen from Among Welfare Applicants?, On the Naming of British Monarchs, The Problem of Disloyal Lawyers, and ultimately a rather pleasant little thing on Hippies, Forty-Niners, and the Stock Exchange.

The fellow writes well; his ideas may not be new but they are interesting (depending, of course, on whether you're interested), but \$1 for 19 pages! A kind of philosopherzine.

ID, first (James Reuss, 304 South Belt West, Belleville, Ill., 62221. Printed contrib or LoC, trade, 25¢. Next ish due sometime between Oct. and Jan.) Cover by Dick Flinchbaugh, bacover by R.E. Gilbert. (I would have expected them in reverse positions, but this is Jim's ID.) Editorial discusses genzine pubbing, etc.; official editorial policy: "St. Louiscon in 1969"...or was that an ad? John D. Berry, returning to NY for the summer, reminisces on his previous visits this year (and how the Fanoclasts came to be, and Lee Hoffman's QUANDRY). Poetry by Jim Reuss and Joyce Fisher.

Mike Novak reports on a Cream concert at St. Louis' Kiel Auditorium. I had not fully appreciated just how subjectively impressionistic these reviews are until I read: "The fierce white lights were suddenly dimmed by merciful technicians. An expanding hue of blackness overwhelmed, smothered, and engulfed the aggressive shades of red, the mellow browns, and every other color as a formless, amoeba-like sea monster might devour nearby creatures or floundering algae. This blackness submerged everyone beneath a ubiquitous blanket of serenity. Each member of the audience seemed to inevitably yet willingly relinquish his personal identity in order to merge with the group consciousness. Now they were of one mind, one soul, and one intent. The audience stared intently at the closed curtains, awaiting with religious fervor the miraculous appearance of Cream." It had to be something akin to religious fervor; otherwise this passage would have read: "The houselights dimmed -- a hush fell upon the audience."

Jim reviews "Planet of the Apes" and "2001: A Space Odyssey". The Fieldhammers, Mike and Keith, have a go at several books, some of which are SF: Author's Choice, ed. by Harry Harrison (Berkley -- with fore or afterwords by the individual author), Robert Sheckley's Dimension of Miracles (Dell -- "a delightful romp thru a wonder-filled galaxy"), M.J. Joseph's The Hole in the Zero (E.P. Dutton & Co. -- a two-word review: "Oh, Wow!"), and Apeman, Spaceman: Anthropological Science Fiction, ed. by Harry Harrison (Doubleday -- stories, poems, essays, and cartoon. 22 pp. Bears watching.

STARLING 12, June '68 (Hank Luttrell, 2936 Barrett Station Rd., Kirkwood, Mo., 63122, & Lesleigh Couch, Rt. 2, Box 889, Arnold, Mo., 63010. Trade, contrib, LoC, 25¢ -- except Baycon ish: 50¢.) Pleasant cover by R.E. Gilbert, bacover by Carl Bobke. Interior illos by Lovenstein, Seward, Foster, Dogramajian, etc. Hank expounds on "2001: A Space Odyssey", his publishing history, and fanzine pubbing in general. Lesleigh provides her nicely-worded view of the femme fan, illo'd by Hank. Joe Sanders goes to work on Harlan Ellison's From the Land of Fear (Belmont) and I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream (Pyramid). Poetry by Jim Reuss, a fine bit of fiction by W.G. Bliss, a column by Hank on pop music, and LoC's round out the 30-page issue.

AMPHIPOXI (Billy H. Pettit, Control Data Ltd., 22A St. James Sq., London SW1, England. Trade, LoC.)

Vol. 2, #2. Fanzines, fanzine collecting, and fan history are the principal concerns. Ed points out that YANDRO is now the oldest regularly-pubbed genzine and has the longest scheduled run (15 years) of any genzine, gives a bit of background, and then reprints an article by Juanita Coulson from the January 1955 issue of EISFA (YANDRO's maiden name) recounting its birth, growth, and development over the preceding two years. A listing of the four ALAapa contents by mailings and by fanzine (reprinted from REPRISE #2). Also, a fanzine checklist for 1931 and 1932. John McCallum offers congrats, praise, and historical data on the Diplomacy 'zine WILD 'N WOOLY's 100th ish (reprinted from BROBDINGNAG #67). John Berry discusses fandom and fanzines: "Very few fanzines have personalities these days...most are about as intimate as a half-constructed oil tanker....However...the average fanzine sets a higher standard as regards appearance...." (ODD -- "the sheer visual impact...suggests perfection" -- and prospective neo faneds would just give up, feeling it's no use competing against it), but little in today's 'zines about fans or faans. Also, Part I of his introduction to and experiences with Irish fandom, i.e., Walt and Madelaine Willis, Bob Shaw, James White, and George Charters. Berry is fine, fine, fine. Good cover and bacover by Jerry Burge. 23 pp.

#8 (Vol. 3, #1), July '68. Dick Flinchbaugh cover, Doug Lovenstein bacover. Billy has traveled extensively in Europe because of his work, and in so doing has grown a bit, gaining new insight and better perspective; his editorial is intriguing. Prewar fanzines in Australia are discussed by W.D. Veney (reprinted from ETHERLINE #46). From Ireland comes John Berry's "One Man's Fandom". LoC's. Excellent repro, handsome format. 31 pp. Farewell issue, I fear.

PLAK-TOW #8, June 30 '68 (Shirley Meech, Apt. B-8, 260 Elkton Rd., Newark, Del., 19711. 5/\$1. Usual plea for ST support, news re ST-books, fanclubs, and fanzines, other appearances by Star Trek cast members, next year's schedule, records, and bibliog. Also, an article on Mark Lenard by Ruth Berman and Dorothy Jones, with Mark Lenard illos by Alicia Austin. The performance described in this article is Lenard as Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Can't you picture the man afterwards, when he responds to a knock on his dressing-room door and hears: "Mr. Lenard, we are Star Trek fans. We have seen you on Star Trek and other shows, and have longed greatly to see you in person. Now that we have seen you, we are very glad." Ruth reports: "He was startled at this avalanche of unknown admirers, and became more so as his polite questions brought out...that three of them had traveled from the Bay Area (a good 450 miles) for the show. Within a few minutes he was totally bewildered, a good deal amused, but pleased nonetheless." I don't doubt it. 13 pp.

QUARK #7 (SuperQuark) (Apal45. Lesleigh & Chris Couch, Rte 2, Box 889, Arnold, Mo., 63010. LoC, contrib, or similar show of interest.) Not only are there comprehensive record reviews by Hank Luttrell & Ed Smith, but in addition Lesleigh bares the St. Louis music scene, and Ted White is a real pleasure on his Village ambling to hear B.B. King and His Band, and Big Brother and the Holding Company. Jim Reuss not only pens some moving poetry, but also contributes a well-written article on computers, complete with diagrams. Mike Novak describes his experiences in the Soviet Union, and Lesleigh tells of her experiences at the Midwestcon. Jerry Kaufman is in excellent form as he discusses matter transmission, the soul, the poetry and poets in Samuel R. Delany's books, the basic underlying philosophy of Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land, etc. Poetry by Jim Schumacher; illos by Lovenstein, Luttrell, Greg Shank, Chris Couch, Steve Chapman, Seth Dogramajian, etc., and George Foster's delightful squibs; interesting LoC's; and mc's by Chris and Lesleigh. 69 pp. Truly a Super Quark!

VOICE OF COMICDOM, Comicdom's First Newspaper (Rudy Franke, 3413 Mt. St. Helena Dr., San Jose, Cal., 95127. 25¢, 5/\$1.)

#12, June '68. Six-page Special Walt Disney Issue. "Walt Disney simply dreamed up a better mouse..." begins Bill Dubay's fine comprehensive portrait of the man, with excerpts repro'd from a Disney scrapbook. Also, seven comic strips varying in style and subject matter: There's Dan McKee & Steve Keleg's space western "High Moon" (need I say more), Johnny Chambers' "Little Green Dinosaur", "Johnny Doom" (crime-fighter), Bob Cardozo's "Universal Conquest" (Repto: half-man, half-reptile), Metzger's "In the Lower Depths" (horror), Stellar Agent 429 ("Monsters Rule" by Richard Corben), and McCaughan & Sanders' Tarzan-type "Arthane".

#13, June. Special Alex Raymond Issue. Rudy Franke does the biographical sketch and checklist, but his prose is hardly as successful as Dubay's, whose excellent article on Flash Gordon is reprinted from VofC #4. Excerpts from several early episodes -- Flash Gordon, Secret Agent X-9, and Rip Kirby are reproduced. Sam Sherman does the honors Flash Gordon-movie-wise. Gary Nelson reports on the International Convention of Comic Art in N.Y. Comicstripwise, "Monster Rule" continues (shaping up like "Planet of the Apes"), as does "High Moon" (he must be kidding), "In the Lower Depths" (the art-style seems too insubstantial for the message), and the "Little Green Dinosaur". 12 pp. Quite good in its own way.

TOMORROW AND... 2 (U. of Chicago SF Society pub. Jerry Lapidus, 54 Clearview Dr., Pittsford, N.Y., 14534, & Mike Bradley, 5400 Harper, Apt. 1204, Chicago, Ill., 60637. Trade, contrib, LoC, 25¢.) Quiz dept. fun-clues scattered thruout the ish. Editorial

guesses at the Hugo nominees (he did pretty well) and discusses the Hugo awards per se, putting forth some sound suggestions. Roger Ebert's excellent coverage of "2001" -- first and second viewings -- review and comment on both the film and audience reaction, is reprinted from the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES and certainly merits the added exposure. The Heinlein "militarism" controversy moves a step further -- TA furnishes background, reprints a bit of Ben Solon's NIEKAS 18 article, Nancy Lambert's GRAN-FALLOON article, and Mike Bradley's well-reasoned response and rebuttal. A fine idea. Speaking of Bradley, Pat B. does right by Isaac Asimov's Mysteries and Pat's "2001" poems are gently chiding (just like HAL), Steve Herbst pens a charming tale of a computer, "Zoftic", and Mark Aronson a quickie "How We Won the War". Fanzine reviews and LoC's. Mike Jump's interior illos rather fun. 58 pp.

WRR, Vol. 4, #1, July '68 (Otto Pfeifer & Wallace Weber, Box 267, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle, Wash., 98104. LoC's, contris in the humorous vein -- art, articles, fiction, trades.) Evidently there was a slight lapse of six years since the last issue, but here it is again, 17½ pp., with a winning cover by Pat Pfeifer, a column by Wally Weber who is preparing WRR's special service for fans (anyone bothered by what he considers to be an error in a story, movie, or whatever, submit it to WRR, whose committee of experts will explain what's wrong with your criticism), and three gems from a fine writer of humorous sketches, Ireland's John Berry. One deals with a meeting of the Belmont Astronomical Society last April and the total eclipse of the moon over Northern Ireland; the second, a delectable short short; and finally his adventure with the Ballycuddymarlin SF Circle. Delightful. This is usually true of Berry's writing. Bears watching.

Texas A&M students enter the scene with TRISKELION #1, Sept. '68 (P.O. Box 3923, Bryan, Texas, 77801. Ed.: D.E. Dabbs. They paid \$50 in prize money for the best SF short story, short short, article, and cartoon -- all appearing in this; have to get their funds from somewhere but no price listed; try 50¢.) Cover portrait of Gene Roddenberry is by Jane R. Miller. Star Trek-slanted material includes Linda Stanley's ecstatic visit to the ST set; Carol Lee's cartoons of some ingenious usage of spare tribbles and a ST Trivia Quiz; Sherna Comerford Burley's well-metered "Jabbertrekky"; an article by Adrien Spectra on Vulcan Ethnography; a denunciation by Paula Dobrovolsky of Spock's analogy between the Genesis story and the story in "The Apple"; Jean Lorrain's prizewinning "Nuts" -- a gem of a pun; and J.C. Forehand's ruminations on the factuality of the Enterprise's computer.

Interplanetary currency problems are touched on by Russell Bradley; Estelle Sanders delineates interplanetary postal methods and procedures; Gail Abend ponders on man in the future; and J.A.D. tackles the problem of communication with aliens, with some thought-provoking comment on the feasibility of direct thought-transference. Entertainment-wise, S.A. Wolfe's stylized poem "Night in Faerie" is somewhat more successful than her fiction, altho the accompanying illo is a puzzlement. "Excedrin Headache No. 9,482,663,011" is Jim Geiss' award-winning cartoon. Unquestionably the highpoint of the ish is Philip Jachem's "Chronical for an Unknown Race" -- superb, almost exalted prose. Also three pages of FUNcon fotos. A promising 69-page first issue. ((My copy disappeared at Baycon. Sob. --ed.))

FISTULA (Jon White, 90 Riverside Dr., NY, NY, 10024.) An odd little digest-size 'zine of some 12 pp. Fine cover by Bob Stewart, a comic-strip bacover by Ron & Cindy Smith. Review of Beatles' album "Magic Mystery Tour", some intriguing inserts, a period playmate centerfold by S. Anderson, a questionable tale of univacs and unicorns, a curious editorial. Well, it was free at Baycon.

ODD #19, Summer '68 (Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Park, St. Louis, Mo., 63018. 75¢; 4/\$2.) Already a Hugo-contender, ODD is still improving. Good taste is reflected thruout; witness the first page -- a black-bordered memorial statement by Robert Bloch on Ron Ellik, and Johnny Chambers' tribute to Martin Luther King which appears later in the issue. "Odd's People" finds Jack Gaughan front and center, with two fine illos in contrasting styles flanking his autobiographical sketch, not to mention his work on

the cover, inner and outer bacover, and joint illos within. Ray's editorial comments on the negativism of "New Wave" writing, and Ted White discusses the New Wave ("The so-called New Wave is a packaging phenomena.") and NEW WORLDS. Fictionwise, there's a nice little tale by Roger Zelazny, ornamented by Joe Staton illos. Bob Tucker provides a fascinating look at what appears to be a fascinating book, Dr. Hugh J. Schonfield's The Passover Plot (Bantam). A glimpse of Vietnam thru the eyes of one G.I. Joe Haldeman. England in 1972 is speculated upon by Dick Gordon in this's installment of "Britain (Ob)Scene & (Ob)Served", as well as today's record scene and a recent UFO sighting -- with the witty artwork of Bernie Zuber. Harry Warner looks at the two great Ring epics of Tolkien and Wagner in "From Wagner with Love". Mike Gilbert's illos accompany Arnie Katz on fanzines in general and two in particular, COSIGN #14 and ARGH #1 (complete with a brief essay on humor). Vaughn Bode introduces "Gline", an extraordinary comic strip with usual dialogue, inviting reader comment on same. (Me? I'm having fun going back to it again and again to see what else suggests itself.) Other artists appearing include R. Edwards Jennings (marvelous fantasy), George Metsgar (his full-pager on p. 47 is something else), Mickey Rhodes (Oh Wow!), Kalergy, DEA, Flinchbaugh, etc. There are ODDS and ends from Ray and Joyce, a brooding poem "Vampire" by Joyce, and Random Troll's trip. Stimulating LoC's -- Ted White, Roy Tackett, Norman Spinrad, Ray Nelson (with illos), Lee Carson, Harry Warner, Doug Lovenstein (cartoon and all), Greg Shaw, etc. 96 pp. Recommended.

THE PROPER BOSKONIAN #2 (NESFA pub. Cory Seidman, 20 Ware St., Cambridge, Mass., 02138. Art, articles, etc.; 30 or 35¢ an ish; \$2.50 subscribing membership.) Fanciful DEA cover, fantastic Fabian bacover; interior illos by Ashe, Comerford (now Burley), Gaughan, Gilliland (Alexis, that is), Klein, Langsam, Schlager, and Symes. Cory enlarges on Charlie, Marsha, and Sheila's BROWN STUDY #7 happenings. Delle Seidman furnishes an SF crostic. From the pages of the April 12 HARVARD CRIMSON comes an excellent critique of Kubrick's "2001" by Tim Hunter and friends. Unique contribution from Dainis Bisenieks, his translation of an introduction to a Latvian translation of Es, Robots, by Aizeks Asimovs, followed by Bisenieks' brief comments and Ike's reaction. Some extraneous suggestions for a more effective bidding procedure for determining worldcon sites, quickie fanzine reviews by Cory S. and Tony Lewis, and a warm, friendly, oftentimes witty LoColumn. A charmer. 43 pp.

ARIOCH #3, June '68 (Doug Lovenstein, 425 Coolville Ridge, Athens, Ohio, 45701. Light articles, art, old fanzines, substantial LoC, trade, possibly fiction & poetry, or 2/75¢.) Bergeron's cover is a delight, and then there's that fantastic bacover by R.E. Jennings. Lots of lovely interior art by Luv and Jack Gaughan, with an assist from George Foster, and a gasp or so by Bergeron and Gene Klein. Enjoyable rambling editorial on Luv and policy and Hugos and the rise in fanzine quality, etc. Talk about a lineup, there's Juanita Coulson reminiscing on the old radio show "Quiet, Please"; Ted White ruminating on the "science fiction movie" label and "2001", Clarke's article on the movie in the April 8th issue of NEW YORK, and the term "sci-fi"; and W.G. Bliss, utilizing a review column for an ingenious glimpse of 26th fandom....

A unique poetry section -- with Joyce Fisher coming out ahead. Jack Gaughan is Jack Gaughan, and he is always a pleasure to read (He brings up an interesting point in passing -- Hugo awards are for the best novel, short story, what have you -- not the best author, so why the best artist? Why not the best painting? best drawing(s)?) -- here it is advice to a young neo-artist. Books reviewed by Doug (& Chris Couch) range from a Robert E. Howard collection, The Dark Man (Arkham House) to a Harlan Ellison collection, From the Land of Fear (Belmont), with a brief pause at Burt Hirschfield's Bonnie & Clyde (Lancer -- "A truly stinking book"). Walt Willis' delightful column is reprinted from the April 1961 WARHOON. Arnie Katz writes on and for neofen and publishing. Roy Tackett marinates (hey, what a great interliner!) on 1968 contenders for the Hugo drama award (he felt '67 a bust), Ellison's Dangerous Visions, etc. LoC's. 65 pp. Keep your eye on this one; it's moving up fast.

NIMROD #11, June '68 (Dwain Kaiser, 1397 N. Second Ave., Upland, Cal., 91786 -- LoC's; Al Snider, 1021 Donna Beth, W. Covina, Cal., 91790 -- contribs, trades, 50¢.) Cover by DEA; interior illos by "Lord Triffid III", Liska, Schumacher, Romine, etc. Al's editorial decries John Boardman's irrational wild-swinging political ravings in his LEFTOVERS, and having seen the particular ish to which he refers, I must agree wholeheartedly. "Change" seems to be the theme of the ish, and the approach and presentation is good. Ted White writes well on the changes in worldcons; Ted Johnstone's LASFS Fanquet speech is on changing traditions; Dwain editorializes on changes in fandom; I Ching (or Book of Changes) is entertainingly discussed by Jim Keith; changes in beer-can-tower technology are pointed up by Tom Digby; John Lanctot writes on conceptual changes under the influence of mescaline; changes in SF cinema inspire Duane Greeley on Kubrick's inspired "2001". Also, good fanzine reviews and LoC's. 48 pp.

SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES #74 (LASFS off. pub. Ken Rudolph, 745 N. Spaulding Ave., Los Angeles, Cal., 90046. Contribs, prearranged trades, LoC's, 50¢...altho #75 will cost 75¢.). Delightful wraparound cover by Tim Kirk; delightful interior illos by Kirk, Vaughn Bodé, Bjo Trimble, Kathy Cribbs, Larry Dopp, Dick Glass, R.E. Gilbert, Bill Rotsler, Rick Seward, and Bernie Zuber. Delightful FUNcon word-collage by Ken Rudolph, Barry Weissman, John & Bjo Trimble, Fred Hollander, Jim Schumacher, Jerry Poindexter (Smith), and Sally Crayne. Sally does a great word thing on a great Sunday evening. Earl Evers views "2001" during the latter stages of an acid trip. (A kind of acid test?). Vaughn Bodé concludes "Cobalt 60", a comic tragedy. I like the sweep of Don Simpson's art style but, unfortunately, not his art, at least as represented in the eight-page art folio.

Perceptive book reviews -- Dave Hulan on Panshin's Rite of Passage (Ace), Bill Glass on Ellison's Love Ain't Nothing But Sex Misspelled (Trident Press), and Bill Mallardi on Worlds to Come, ed. by Damon Knight (Fawcett). Glass also glances at serialized novels, with a more detailed look at Leiber's A Spectre is Haunting Texas, and Panshin's Sos the Rope, as well as a couple of short stories by Perry Chapdelaine, Sr. and Dean Koontz. Jack Gaughan illos accompany Jim Keith's odd little tale "Fate of Pathan". A Faanish Double-Crostic by Bruce Pelz and a fascinating LoColumn (I refer you to Alexis', especially. What a vision!). 67 pp. Fine format, visually interesting due not only to the illos but imaginative use of changing typeface and layout.

THE CAVORTING BEASTIE #4 (N'APA. Ed.: Michael Gilbert, Warlock Ltd., 1419 W. Donald St., Waterloo, Iowa, 50703. Trade, contrib, LoC, 20¢.) Mostly bad poetry, except for Greg Meyers. As for Frank Lunney's pun -- oof! Fanzine reviews. Lisa Tuttle's letter speculatively interesting. 12 pp.

SPOCKANALIA 3 (Sherna Burley, 1480 Rt. #46, Apt. 123A, Parsippany, N.J., 07054, and Devra Langsam, 250 Crum St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11225 -- prearranged trade, 75¢ or 50¢ and four 6¢ stamps.) This fanzine never ceases to amaze. You'd think that after all these Star Trek-oriented pages, they'd run out of intelligent material. But no! The contributors are as ingenious as ever: Vulcanwise -- a structural study of the Vulcan language by Dorothy Jones; Tom Bulmer on Vulcan nutrition; Lee Burwasser on reforms in Vulcan history; Sherna B. & Dorothy J. diagram the Vulcan heart and circulatory system; the place of art in Vulcan culture pondered by Sue Lewis (very nice); Deborah Langsam reveals some exercises from The Young Vulcan's Handbook of Emotional Control. Space-shipwise -- a quartermaster briefing by Juanita Coulson (very clever); terms and conditions of residence aboard a starship class vessel prescribed by Joyce Yasner. Add reportorial accounts -- Allan Asherman on "The Most Unforgettable Humanoid I've Ever Met", Vulcan and Enterprise Graffiti by Sherna (contribs welcome), excerpts by Jane Peyton from the on-board newsheet "The Free Enterprise". ##### There is an exceptional article by John Boardman wherein he turns to Cabell's works to speculate on the possibility of Dom Manuel being of Vulcan-Earth parentage but brought up on Earth. The fiction is entertaining, especially "Visit to a Weird Planet" by Jean Lorrah & Willard Hunt, and "The Menace" by Sherna. The poetry is effective, especially Jane Peyton's "A lament for the unsung dead". The artwork is commendable -- Allan Asherman, Alicia Austin, Kathy Bushman, DEA, Gilliland, Terry Romine, etc. A creditable 103-page issue.