



“And what do you make of *this*, Sherlock(s)?”

Altogether: “The Zine Dump 57!’ Teach your granny to suck eggs, Watson!”

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When Rosy and I first ventured into the wilds of London on our excursion there last year, our first stop was obvious. “221B Baker Street!” I told the cabby. And there we went.



Those interested can find my account of the visit in the second part of my zine about our travels, *The Iconic Route*, available like most written fanac these days on eFanzines.com. The rooms were far too small for the adventures recounted in Dr. Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes canon, but were perfectly appointed. Sherlock’s Persian slipper, in which he kept his tobacco, was poised on a mantle. The bullet-begotten initials of the house’s master were framed upon a wall. Dr. Watson’s medical kit was laid out on a table in his room. On the highest floor, mannequins were clad and arranged to represent characters in the Holmes saga, most notably Jabez

Wilson of “The Red-Headed League” and the un-good Professor himself, “all dried off,” as I wrote, “from Reichenbach Falls.”

At the “real” 221B Baker Street, you can’t imagine Sebastian Moran taking potshots at the bust of Caesar from across the way – it’s quite a posh neighborhood, no “Empty Houses.” But the Museum is a neat attraction, the gift shoppe is replete with good story editions, and recalling it gives me the excuse to run the portraits of various Holmes incarnations (Gillette, Rathbone, Cushing, Plummer, Caine, Brett, Downey, Cumberbatch) atop my opening page. Still, you shouldn’t find Sherlock mentioned in the zine reviews that follow. We do *science fiction* fanzines, as you see.

As for my logo: decades ago, I performed a similar stunt on a zine for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, and a request from FANAC’s Joe Siclari for a translation reminded me of this silly idea. Sherlockians among our readers will realize that though “The Adventure of the Dancing Men” provided most of the letters in my cryptic logo, Conan Doyle did not utilize “z” or “u” in his cipher, nor any numerals. A creative fan named **Aage Rieck Sørensen** filled in the blanks; his symbols have been generally accepted and are borrowed here.

Come, then. The game’s afoot.

(**The Zine Dump** is a zine about zines, by for and about amateur magazines in the science fiction field. We want to see every *generally distributed* publication devoted to SF and its fandom published in English. Most of the listed productions are available at eFanzines.com or through the editors. Please report all errors to me ASAP. *Italicized zines* are absent this time. Range: Autumn 2022 through February 2023. Next issue: this summer.)

Alexiad Vol. 21 No. 6, December 2022 | Joe and Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville KY 40204-2040 | jtmajor@iglou.com | Despite medical issues – gee, what are those? – *Alexiad* carries on, but not without regrets. While Lisa’s opening editorial deals with the digitalization of her favorite books, Joe’s laments the fading fanzine form and the dearth of review copies sent out to fan editors for review. He only received two books; hey, they send *me* none at all. A big mistake when it comes to *Alexiad*: Major is a fine reviewer, as proven by the inviting notices given here: a book of Tolkien stories, an account of German espionage, and (typical for Joe) a memoir from an Arctic (and Antarctic, *and* Himalayan explorer called – appropriately enough – *Cold*. A light load of book reviews for most issues of *Alexiad*, but Rodford Edmiston steps in with an excellent article on King Arthur and a truly exceptional lettercol from the Chorus. We note Joe’s dismay at the death of Martin Morse Wooster, and join in it.

Ansible 427 (Feb. 2023) | David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, U.K. | news.ansible.uk | The word I keep applying to Dave’s monthly newszine is “indispensable,” but “entertaining” and “iconoclastic” apply just as well. Every month we get “As Others See Us,” bizarre perspectives of SF and fandom from outside the community, “Thog’s Masterclass,” linguistic horrors that somehow managed to find professional print, and, alas, far too many “R.I.P.”s for those with connection to the genre, this time ranging from Gina Lollobrigida (for work on an Italian *Pinocchio*) to Sal Piro (president of the *Rocky Horror* fan club). Langford’s sprightly anarchistic style hasn’t subsided one bit in the many years of *Ansible* publication. His website also contains link upon link to items of interest to the field. Indispensable, entertaining, iconoclastic. Subscribe at [ansible-news+subscribe](https://www.google.com/search?q=ansible-news+subscribe) [at] [googlegroups.com](https://www.google.com/search?q=ansible-news+subscribe).

Askance | John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station TX 77845 | askance73@gmail.com |

The Balobius issue the tense | Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Ave. Apt. 2111, Toronto Ontario, M6K 1S6, Can | (416) 531-8974, Taral@bell.net | Taral changes his perzine title

every once in a while and that while is up for *Baloobius*. This is the last issue, but, he assures us, he will “pub his ish until the end.” Fronted with one of his delightful “furry” illos, the tenth *Baloobius* talks about recent events in Taral’s life – the visit of two old buds, reconnecting with another, opining on *Picard* (I admit I’ve never seen an episode), a crackpot Canadian politico, local crime, a cool coin show, and turning to his admitted obsession, *Fraggle Rock*. Yes, goodbye *Baloobius*, he says, but hello *Dark Toys*, coming soon.

Banana Wings | Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES, U.K. / fishlifter@gmail.com | You won’t find this fannish classic on eFanzines; the editors explain why: “**Banana Wings** is a [science fiction fanzine](#) published since 1996. It has been appearing quarterly since late 2004, and remains resolutely a paper publication. Contact fishlifter at gmail dot com for more information about that.” Don’t wait too long; Claire and Mark will be Fan Guests of Honor at the 2024 Glasgow Worldcon and they’ll be busy.

Beam | Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted St, Las Vegas, NV 89142, USA, fareynic@gmail.com and Ulrika O’Brien, 418 Hazel Avenue N., Kent, WA 98030, USA, ulrika.obrien@gmail.com

better | Steve Swartz, 2222 NE 152nd Ave. #403, Redmond WA 98052 | stevesw@live.com |

Brooklyn! #119 | Fred Argoff, Penthouse L, 1120 Ocean Pkwy, Brooklyn NY 11230-4060 | subs 4 issues /\$10 *cash*. Quarterly | There is nothing quite so evocative and fascinating as an abandoned house or vehicle. And there are few places more fascinating than the New York borough of Brooklyn, nor any amateur publications combining the two – except Fred Argoff’s *Brooklyn!* This is apparently his sixth issue devoted to forsaken sites around the-city-within-a-city, and as can be expected, it is *cool*. Each of the empty windows and rusted hulks has a story behind it – and even if it can never be known, it is stimulating to wonder, and imagine ... Why is it deserted? Who left it to decay, and why? Brooklyn is a place of miracles, and *Brooklyn!* Has ably evoked it for decades. Give us more, Fred! There will always be more to see.

Captain Flashback #50 | Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 | fanmailaph@aol.com | “*Captain Flashback* is devoted to old fanzines, crusader kings, Christian amazons, and other fascinating phenomena of the 12th Century.” Also, *horror movie hosts* from TV stations around the country. Andy dates the surge in such creatures to the release, by Screen Gems, of an enormous package of horror movies to TV stations in 1958 – I’m so old I remember 1958 – and here propounds on two from Indianapolis, “Selwin” and “Sammy Terry.” (“Say it fast,” sez Andy.) Hooper, a superb historian of pop culture (especially fandom), tells their stories in vivid, engrossing detail. As *Flashback* is an apazine, Andy next indulges in commentary of the previous mailing of Turbo-Apa, where topics such as the film *Babel* and therapy (his mother was a therapist) are bandied about, and then a delightful lettercol. There Mark Plummer of *Banana Wings* graces *Flashback* with a fine epigram: “I do still fall on fanzines, whether they come through the letterbox or through the ether. Perhaps it’s that each one is a confirmation that a dying art is not yet dead.” Hooper wonders how neofans can even discover fanzines these days. Through the journal you gaze on now? He seems to doubt it.

Christian New Age Quarterly Vol. 25 No. 4 | Catherine Groves, PO Box 276, Clifton NJ 07015-0276 | info@christiannewage.com | There should be a division mark after the “4”; I don’t know what that’s supposed to mean. It’s hard to believe that C*NAQ has been around for 40 years, but Catherine reprints an article from that Mesozoic era here, and in her editorial wonders how the author’s tone, style and point of view may have changed in the

interim. This leads to wise thoughts on the possibility of objectivity – that nothing can be seen as itself and not as we perceive it. She asks if this makes true communication impossible, since communication requires mutual acceptance of a common ground. It's a powerful piece of writing, thoughtful in the fashion that make this zine unique.

Claims Department (no issue given) | Chris Garcia, see *Journey Planet* | Splendid art in this pub in praise of Talking Heads, with articles on Byrne's videos, concerts – even the band's album covers. Except for watching a couple of videos in years past, and hearing how the band's founder tried to ego his way into a convention art show (“Don't you know who I am?") I'm not familiar with the Heads, and I see from *CD* what I've missed.

CyberCozen Vol. XXXV No. 1-2 | Leybl Botwinik, leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com | Monthly pub of the Israeli Society for SF and Fantasy; these are the first issues of '23. The main article in No. 1, a tribute to Ursula LeGuin on the fifth anniversary of her death, is nicely wrought – Yoel Matveyev focuses on her fiction's “empathy” for Jews. The piece is rendered in both English and Yiddish, a treat for those impressed by the elegant forms of that written language. Brief reviews of Israeli SF – “Zion's fiction,” hoo-hah – and inviting links to scientific and SFnal subjects close matters. The February issue sports a fun piece in the changes in *Star Trek* and “Chapter F” in a fun serial by the editor, again rendered in both English and Yiddish,

DASFax January-February 2023 | Jeanne Jackson, 31 Rangeview Drive, Wheat Ridge CO 80215 | DASFAEditor@gmail.com NEW ADDRESS | The Denver SF club has been publishing *DASFax* for many years, certainly since I've been churning out *The Zine Dump*. They're still meeting on-line, but alternate meetings pop up at members' homes, a hopeful sign. I've never seen an issue without an essay on something fannish by the editor; in January it's a happy review of *Bixelstrasse*, a history of LASFS (see *De Profundis*, below) in the 1940s, edited by Rob Hansen. I wish I'd been there. The February issue is sprightly and optimistic, reporting increased membership, well-attended game days and alternate parties. Sourdough's essay deals with Kristine Rusch's spoofy *Ten Little Fen*. The new e-dress gave the club some trouble, hopefully well-settled by now.

De Profundis 582 | LASFS, Heath Row, 4367 Globe Avenue, Culver City CA 90230 | kalel@moon.com | Lookit here! *De Prof* – the newsletter of the Los Angeles SF Society – is back. Heath, taking over from Marty Cantor, produces a zine replete with names, numbers, info of all kinds – including the “Condensed Cream of Menace” minutes of the LASFS meetings, always informative, and *reams* of cons, events, and game days. It's L.A.; a *lot* is going on, and Heath – to judge by his rampant activity in a slew of apas – has the enthusiasm to capture it. Could the revival of *De Prof* signal a like revival for LASFS?

The Drink Tank #444 | Chris Garcia, see *Journey Planet* | I've never watched an episode of *Lucifer* and after reading this spiffy issue of Chris' unique zine, I admit I many have been offbase. I assumed, quite stupidly, that a series about the Devil coming to Earth and solving crimes would be as silly and offensive as it sounds; I have a Miltonian view of Satan, adopting the Catholic view of Morningstar as the Prince of Darkness who wishes humanity misery and, in that service, tells only lies. I've always resented depictions of the Devil as cute or liberating and the idea behind the TV show impressed me as more of that nauseating same. Garcia and his talented co-editors go a long way, in this zine, in convincing me otherwise. Articles make thematic sense of the show's concept. The characters are depicted as complex and far more interesting than the insipid pretty people I imagined. A neat piece on the Devil in comics and a remarkable diorama, of all things,

highlight the fun behind the show as the articles underscore its deeper meanings. And Lucifer's relationship with his literally angelic brother, Amenadiel strikes me as fascinating. Okay, peeps, you win. I'll give *Lucifer* a go. But the bastard still has flies to answer for.

Ethel the Aardvark | LynC c/o Melbourne Science Fiction Club, P.O. Box 110, Moonee Vale VIC 3055 Australia | melbsfclub@yahoo.com.au |

Fanac Fan History Project Newsletter 20 | Joe Siclari and Edie Stern, FANAC.org | jsiclari@gmail.com, estern7770@gmail.com | Their fanzine archival project has already earned Joe and Edie a Fan Guest of Honorship – along with squiring Worldcons (who can ever forget MagiCon?), editing souvenir/program books (theirs for L.A.Con rivals Tom Reamy's for MidAmeriCon '76, considered the best ever), and hosting superb ZOOM conferences on various subjects, and a thousand other contributions to the Life Fannish. This project *ought* to bring them an honorary Hugo one of these. This end-of-2022 update tells of fanzines collected and scanned since the last issue, for a total approaching 350,000 pages of fanac from 20,000 distinct fanzines. These include apa mailings – Rich Lynch is given righteous credit for his scans of SFPazines – and convention materials. Available for research? Indeed. Links abound. Subscribe at the FANAC.org home page.

FanActivity Gazette Vol. 2 No. 9 | George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester MA 01609 | phillies@4liberty.net | The February issue of N3F's gossip-oriented zine centered on fan news. Thin issue George blames on a lack of contributors this time. Be that as it may, Mindy Hunt lists a slew of cons, in-person and virtual, around the globe (no addresses for the events, though), March birthdays are given (including at least two Southerners who passed on some years ago), followed by a brief profile of Elayne Pelz and an informative – and attractive – page on *Weird Tales*.

For the Clerisy no. 92 | Brant Kresovich, P.O. Box 404, Getzville NY 14068-0404 | kungbairn@yahoo.com | Brant's reviewzine of any and every type of tome arrived with his Christmas card, and was his only zine of 2022. He pledges better production in '23. As the Kresovich reviews are literate and perceptive, this is a promise I hope he keeps. Books touched on this time include *The Lady in the Lake*, *Thank You*, *Jeeves*, *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu* (Japanese puppet theatre of the 19th Century) and *The American Plague* (yellow fever). Told you there was variety here. Brant also discusses the last season of Raymond Burr's *Perry Mason*, and now I've got that theme music cycling again and again through my head. Fortunately, I've always loved it.

The Fossil | *The Fossils*, c/o Tom Parson, 157 S. Logan St., Denver CO 80209 | As Dale Speirs describes it, "Clubzine of a group interested in the history of zines since the formation of the first amateur press association in 1876." \$10 for a year's sub. Do they include SF fanzines in their research?

Ibid no. 361 | Gary Brown, 6306 Tall Cypress Circle, Greenacres FL 33463 | garybrown@bellsouth.net | CAPA-Alpha, or K-a, the apa devoted to comics, celebrated its 700th mailing in February, and Gary – its longtime Central Mailer and, incidentally, a bro in the Southern Fandom Press Alliance – marks the occasion with a spectacular look back over the years. He relates his history with K-a, tied with his great friend and cover artist Alan Hutchinson, showcasing many of his covers, some original pieces by comics pros (a friend to *Little Archie* artist Bob Bolling, Gary is now handling Bolling's affairs). He shows us "Intergalactic Engineer", a dittoed comic he wrote in his youth, illustrated by Dwight

Decker, savior of *Perry Rhodan* and a good friend I miss a lot. Gary caps the zine with photos from the 1980 San Diego con – who *are* these kids? K-a was and is a wonderful outlet for fans of the graphic arts; I was a member for several years (my zine’s disgusting name: *Worm Chowder*), I cringe in shame that I didn’t submit a special zine for K-a 700, but I certainly couldn’t do anything to match an *Ibid*.

Instant Message #s 993-994 | NESFA. PO Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 | info@nesfa.org | 2022 ends and 2023 begins with issues showing that whatever the year, SF’s premiere fan organization plows on. The minutes, printed here, of both Boskone and regular business meetings betokens the wide scope of NESFA’s interests: The publishing house and the convention are front and center, of course, but there is much more: I wish I’d read the December issue more carefully and spotted the reference to a short story contest. A little “fable” of mine got an Honorable Mention from the N3F competition; I could have tried its luck there. In the meantime, I eye the activities in which NESFA is involved – and, I admit, the treasuries – and all but weep.

Intermission #129 | Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com | Let’s let Ahrvid describe this fanzine for himself: “So, what’s up for this issue? Connecting to the *UFO Sweden* movie from lastish, I cover the Archive for the Unexplained that was featured in that film. I have some unexpected information about Hugo Gernsback’s Other Magazines, hackwriter Möller, Super-Man in 1930s, and more – in the History Corner. I ration the nuggets from the Royal Library (some are still in store), but I find sf/fandom history elsewhere too (if in English, advantage is no need to translate it).” Good enough, but I find the true delight in *Intermission* to be Engholm’s attitude. This is fundamental fannish enthusiasm at its moist agreeable. Even his righteous outrage against the ’22 Worldcon for their contrition for the term “Spanish Inquisition” – apologizing not to Spaniards but to those inquisited [*sic*] against in a historical purge that **ended in 1834** – is a happy read, although that might be because I agree with him so wholeheartedly. “We must stop this trend that anyone, who states feeling ‘uncomfortable’ with what others say, have the right to silence them.” Turning to fan history, he writes on ... well, you read his own account above. Let me add that this zine is funny, informative, passionate (as you see) and right-the-~~&~~#\$@# on.

Ionisphere 2023 | John Thiel, see *Pablo Lennis* | The N3F Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau must have something against the letter combination “ti.” The colorful fireworks cover proclaims this to be a “Publicaon of the Naonal Fantasy Fan Federaon Fan-Pro Coordinang Bureau,” and the typo is repeated here&there throughout the zine. Too bad, because the content – solid interviews with authors Graham Darling and Michael Butterworth and fan John Grayshaw, plus poetry by several and very nice artwork – doesn’t deserve such a distraction (or should that be “distrakon?”). A photo of Jeff Redmond accompanies a plea from Thiel that fandom get to know him and other N3Fers; “perhaps we would [then] get along better,” a reference to a scandal or fracas I know little about.

JenZine #3 | J. L. Farey, fareygen@gmail.com | Published in December, Jen’s perzine opens its third issue with Christmas traditions from her childhood and enviable photos of her son seated on Santa’s lap. I have such a picture of myself taken ca. 1953. I wear a *faux* buckskin jacket and an expression of raw fear – Santa gave me the willies. On subsequent pages, she offers a short-short crime story that gives me willies *now* – that’s a compliment – followed by an appreciation of the hyper-cool crime series *Inside Man* and a jolly report on the Vancouver Corflu. I have happy memories of Vancouver and have always wanted to get to Corflu, so the piece is doubly welcome. Make that “triply,” because Jen’s smooth and

happy publication is a charmer – and I don't mean the Chalmette variety! (That's a New Orleans joke.)

Journal of Mind Pollution 46 | Rich Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr., #302, Alexandria VA 22306 | richd22426@aol.com | Looking back on his employment as a federal librarian, Rich – a brother SFPAn – regales fandom with seven pithy articles about his job. It's personal but good reading. The vital PACE exam and, scoring > 90, secures a job ... confers with the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture – I wonder where *that* position fits in the line of presidential succession – and researches a speech for his boss' boss. He tries to find an affordable copy of the classic CBS documentary *Harvest of Shame*. All in a day's work. LOCs from Joy Smith, absent from the Chorus of late, and William Breiding of *Portable Storage* mark the lettercol.

Journey Planet #69 | James Bacon, Chris Garcia, journeyplanet@gmail.com | Hugo-winning fanzine, always varied (as one should expect from Garcia), often taken on by guest editors. Every issue sports a special theme, this time the Disney+ streaming prequel series to *Star War: Rogue One*, *Andor*. The input is manifold, well-writ and well-presented. I'm S.O.L. – we don't get Disney+. This show, which will be limited, it seems, to two seasons; its concept– the birth of the Resistance to the Empire – is cool, I must say, and *Journey Planet* does its usual whizbang job teaching me and the other *ignorati* in fandom all about it.

Lofgeornost #149-150 | Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 | fred@fredlerner.org | Since the blessed event(s) took place at the end of September, and *Lofg* #149 appeared near Thanksgiving, celebration may seem ludicrously late, but ... Fred's a grandfather! His daughter's twins, nicknamed Tad and Razzle, made their debut on 29 September; they are old ladies of 5 months by March 1 '23. Belated congrats to all concerned. (Fred plans to read *Beowulf* to the new family members, just as he did to and for their mother. In the original, no doubt.) Elsewhere in this combination per-and FAPAzine, Lerner propounds on a mysterious character in Kipling's *Kim*, suggesting that the man may have been Sherlock Holmes in disguise! (This puts the lie to my assertion that no one will mention Holmes in this *TZD*. It figures it would be Fred.) The terrific lettercol includes thoughts by Bob Jennings on Fred's COVID-wracked cruise around the British Isles, Dick Nelson on favored authors (surprisingly, Fred has never cared to read Dickens), John Hertz on Nabokov, Sue Thomason on keeping her fellow villagers warm in this ghastly winter, and so on. The 150th issue celebrates Fred's 60 years in fandom with the tale of his introduction to this kookiness and joyful praise for the community. He writes, "I have found in Fandom an ethos that prizes both intelligence and creativity and rejoices in the infinite variety of creation." Demonstrating his point, he brings forth a neat essay on "prehistoric voyaging" and another grand lettercol, the Chorus at its best. A joy to read, *Lofg*.

Mark Time 143 | Mark Strickert, P.O. Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377 | busnrial@yahoo.com | Once before, Mark abandoned his usual detailed travelogs to list – with nostalgic regret – closed restaurant chains. Here is a sad update, quite extensive (30 8x14 pages), filled with eateries of his experience which have given up the ghost. Some are familiar to yhos – that's a chain I remember, Your Host – like Dairy Queen (our local outlet just shut down), and some survive – Arby's is still around ("We have the *meats!*"), as is Five Guys – I went by one in London! But I miss the local Applebee's and their Fiesta Lime Chicken.

The Megaloscope #5 | David R. Grigg, eFanzines | Grigg's ANZAPazine of reviews of SF and other fiction is probably the most elaborate self-analysis I've ever seen, with not only lists of his favorite 2022 reads, breaking them down by genre, but *pie charts* demonstrating how his reading time has broken down. The written reviews that accompany such diagrams are very well-turned. He also names some novels he's *hoping* to read, a preview of future issues. Turning his attention to the big screen, he discusses Ridley Scott's three *Alien* films, a unique focus in my experience, and most illuminating; I particularly like his paragraphs on Ian Holm's evil robot, Ash. (I'm sorry he didn't expand his article to include *Aliens*, the 2nd, and most satisfying film, and delighted that *Alien3* is given the silence it deserves. BRING BACK NEWT.) I disagree with his confused reaction to the superb Brit spy series *Slow Horses*, which Rosy and I love, and can't echo his enthusiasm for *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, which I find silly and sloppy. But his friendly exchanges with readers are heartening. And the artwork, computer generated, is attractive.

MT Void Vol. 41, No. 31, Whole Number 2260 | Evelyn Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net | available by subscription | Reviews and thoughts on SF in whatever form, books, films, cave carvings – you can expect almost anything from Evelyn and Mark, energetic and entertaining. This issue – latest as of the end of February; there will have been more – gives the results of the Online Critics Movie Awards, which – like many other critics' groups -- went ape over *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. (I prefer *Tar* and the new version of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, but who cares what I think?) More to the fannish point, Evelyn takes on problems she sees with the Chengdu Worldcon, and there are plenty, and they are not trivial. I commend her for voicing them, and recommend this weekly e-zine wholeheartedly.

My Back Pages | Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 | rw_lynch@yahoo.com |

The N3F Review of Books January 2023 | George Phillies, see National Fantasy Fan | A strong selection of books, evaluated by many, some new to the task. The volumes touched upon are, except for Stephen King's *The Institute*, unfamiliar here; the reviews are pretty sharp. Advice on writing follows, as does a strong editorial by Chris Nuttall on the renaming of the Campbell Award, which this reader, me, I, find to be SFnal "wokeness" at close to its most repulsive. I'm not just saying this because John W. Campbell, Jr. once slept in the very room in which I write; Nuttall makes the necessary points quite well.

The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 82 #1 | George Phillies, see *FanActivity Gazette* | The business end of the N3F, listing and describing their many bureaus, many with their own zines. (Alas, *Films Fantastic*, last edited by Justin Busch, has been suspended with his death.) The 2023 Short Story Contest is announced. (My "Candlestick Maker" won an Honorary Mention" and a very nice letter from Jefferson Swycaffer in 2022.) Jon Swartz, an N3F mainstay, contributes a piece on the *Flash Gordon* radio serial – I never knew that Lucille Ball's frequent foil Gale Gordon voiced Flash for that show – and Angela Scott contributes some nice art. There's also a nice mini-lettercol where new members introduce themselves. I recommend N3F to neofans. It needs to trim its reliance on pseudo-bureaucracy and concentrate its resources on one or two publications, but it's a good gateway to the wider expanse of conventioning, fan communication, and further appreciation of science fiction.

Nice Distinctions 34 | Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers NY 10704-1814 | hlavaty@panix.com | \$1@ print version within USA, twice that overseas, or the usual |

OASFiS Event Horizon issue 420 | Juan Sanmiguel, 1421 Pon Pon Court, Orlando, FL 32825 | sanmiguel@earthlink.net | Distributed online, this latest zine for the Orlando SF club combines various lists of Best Novels of 2022 and reviews one (*Neom* by Lavie Tidhar), plus gives the nominees for the Philip K. Dick Award and some of the many genre candidates for this year's Oscars. Look for *Everything Everywhere All at Once* to score big, although I'd prefer to see *Tar* honored, or the new version of *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Juan, is there any talk of reviving Oasis, Orlando's fun convention? I'll buy a huckster's table!

The Obdurate Eye #23-24 | Garth Spencer, 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 3X5 Canada | garth.van.spencer@gmail.com | (I have no idea if the street where Garth lives was named for Perry Middlemiss.) **#23:** Apparently Garth has reached a Certain Age, as he refers to himself as a "senior." If that means the same in Canada as it does here, then he's turned 65: apparently inspired and perhaps dismayed by the event, he laments in his editorial the "misconceptions and delusions" of the world and how his "true will and passions – and gifts, and talents" were sublimated by mentors to others. It's a strangely bitter, but refreshingly candid, but such honesty is one of the virtues of a good perzine. His brief lettercol touches on the propriety of a Chinese Worldcon and other controversies. It's welcome. I've found bloody little talk about general fannish issues in this present crop of zines. **#24:** This issue – which arrived just after I wrote the above comment – was supposed "to have been built around letters of comment to other fanzines, in an attempt to represent the jigsaw puzzle of fandom [Garth] is assembling." He was thwarted, he says, by the lack of commentability in many zines. (I never let that stop me.) Maintaining the openness and honesty of the previous issue, Spencer laments his loneliness. A remarkable sentence: "[U]nlike *real people* [my emphasis], I have continuing trouble making and maintaining close relationships. ... I am just no good with women." First of all, it appears that Garth is an android, since he admits to not being a real person. As for being "no good with women," who the hell is? (A fascinating topic ... I feel a special issue of *Challenger* coming on – perhaps this next one, themed on *The Bride of Frankenstein*.) Speaking of fannish projects, the editor refers to his ongoing history of Canadian fandom, and gives much info on the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF), forthcoming regional conventions, and some exciting grants for Canadian SF writers. After a long list of forthcoming books, he lists fanzines he's received. One or two are needed in *TZD*!

Opuntia #543 | Dale Speirs, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; opuntia57@hotmail.coes | Every issue of this incredibly prolific zine is an encyclopedia, demonstrating again and again the breadth of the editor's interests and knowledge. For example, this issue. Opening with a gorgeous color photo spread of Calgary's winter festival – who could dream that girls could look as sexy in parkas as bikinis? – we have Part 7 of a series on old-time radio, Part 17 of another ongoing series on a similar topic, the second Part of an article on cozy mysteries starring cats, and a boggling section on recent scientific breakthroughs in a number of disciplines, "Basal Primatomorphs colonized Ellesmere Island during the hyperthermal conditions of the early Eocene climactic optimum" among the most thrilling. ("No, the book on sauropods is better!" "I said *among* the most thrilling!") Not enough? Wait a few minutes. Another *Opuntia* is growing now.

Origin 60 | c/o John Thiel, see *Pablo Lennis*, below. | Once again, the colorful cover to one of Thiel's N3F zines is spoiled by weird typos – again, the "ti" is missing in the description of *Origin* as the "Ocial Publicaon of the Naonal Fantasy Fan Federaon's History and Research Bureau". (Oops – the "ffi" in "Official" isn't there either.) Come on, John! After an

editorial pledging fealty to fantasy, Jon Swartz pens a factual piece on the life and career of Jack Williamson, undoubtedly valuable to new SF readers, Martin Lock looks over a strange 1933 pulp and some issues of *Galaxy* from the 50's, and Judy Carroll offers some solid advice on the art of *listening*. Following up on Judy's point, Thiel ends matters by asking "Is anyone listening to *me*?" Copyedit your covers and be assured, John.

Pablo Lennis #421 | John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904 | kinethiel@mymetro-net.net | Beneath an evocative cover by "Esmiralda" (crude, but *attractive* – something's *there*) John offers his usual anthology of fan-writ fiction, on which I don't comment as a matter of *TZD* policy and an editorial item requiring comment. This is a review of my *Challenger* #43, possibly only the second I've seen. Granting that John's statement that the issue is 35 years overdue must be a joke – try about *three* years – he laments that #43 isn't the special Theodore Sturgeon issue I'm planning. True enough; as I've explained, I have a lot to read and collect before I feel I can do the gentle genius justice. The issue *will* happen if I survive long enough, and yes John, your piece will be in it. In the meantime, everybody think *Bride of Frankenstein* and thanks to John for the generous review of an interim issue.

Perryscope 30 | Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122 | perry@middlemiss.org | Perzines tend to be the most consistent publications we see, at least in form – Perry's publication could be a model for this fact. As in almost every earlier issue, #30 opens with a portrait of the editor – an impressive sketch by "Chong" – lists the books he's read of recent, broken down by genre and ordered by his qualitative judgment, discusses his latest "Two Chairs Talking" podcast, reviews recent books read, shows watched, films attended, and provides a lettercol. Editorials sneak in here and there. But consistency is not dull, in this case. Everything here is well-written and well-considered. I single out his review of *The Banshees of Inisherin* and his response to LOCs.

Portable Storage | William Breiding, 3507 N. Santa Rita Ave. #1, Tucson AZ 85719 (last known address) | portablezine@gmail.com

Purrsonal Mewsings | R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 | Laurraine@ma.com |

Ray XX-Rayer #169 | Ray Palm, Boxholder, PO Box 2, Plattsburgh NY 12901-0002 | raypalmx@gmail.com | Ray's Christmas perzine (I haven't seen a later issue) opens with a *Peanuts* parody savaging Q-Anon, a zinger *this* libtard enjoys immensely. "Why bother with science fiction when there's Q-Anon?" Ray asks, and when presented with beliefs such as Bill Gates using COVID inoculations to turn Americans into tuna fish, I have no answer. Such natter – typical for the *XX-Rayer* – inspires like responses here from the readership Chorus, Bob Jennings and Fred Wright among them. Keep publishing, Ray; can't let Q get ahead of U, alphabet or not.

Scientifiction 4Q2022, New Series #74 | John L. Coker, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando FL 32808 | jlcoker3@bellsouth.net | The recent loss of Robert Madle, last surviving founder of First Fandom, gives the journal of that venerable group its substance and its purpose. Memorials to the gentleman from Gay Haldeman and others, plus a bio and many photos provide the substance; the purpose is served by a questionnaire Editor Coker includes. John asks the membership if, and how, First Fandom should go on. This associate member screams Yes to the first question and pledges support to the new First Fandom Foundation, John's answer to the second. By all means, study of and appreciation for the

founders of our fandom should continue; theirs was a tremendous contribution to the genre and we need to carry it on. Also in this excellent publication, memorials for Justin Busch, Alexei Panshin, Ray Nelson and others, and a moving study of *Far Journeys*, Justin Busch's sercon fanzine. By the way, Rich Lynch has suggested that I published Busch's last fan writing in *Challenger* #43. A sad honor, but an honor nonetheless.

SF Commentary | Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, Vic 1088 Australia | <https://efanzines.com/SFC/index.html#sfc105> to download. | *The heights*.

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin | SFC c/o Randy Cleary, 8000 Madison Blvd. Suite D102 PMB 173, Madison AL 35758 | <http://www.southernfandom.com> |

This Here ... no. 61 | Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted St., Las Vegas NV 89142 | fareynic@gmail.com | "Bollocks to January," begins this latest perzine from the great Farey. He means the cold, a problem one doesn't usually associate with Las Vegas, and also bureaucratic problems with his various licenses. *And* he has medical issues, on which he is silent. His silence evaporates when he discusses jazz trombonist Rico Rodriguez and the FAAn Awards, specifically the balloting period; I've already responded to his cry to "Get the ballots in!" He reviews *Suspicion*, a Brit TV series (we just binged on *Slow Horses*, a fine show from the same source), contrasting it subtly with an American cop movie, then surrenders his pages to David Hodson for another nifty article on British "Footy", but he too is distracted by the cold – this time in London. In the superb lettercol, Bob Jennings calls on Nic to enlist me, among others, in assembling a Year's Best listing of movies; just let me know when you crave my input, Nic. It's 70 degrees here.

Tightbeam 341 (February 2023) | George Phillies, see *National Fantasy Fan*; Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com | Probably N3F's best zine. "Issue slightly delayed," George writes. "Ice storm near Jon Swartz." Funny; we don't have that problem here! Tiffanie Grey's fine cover appropriately depicts a fierce storm. (Good bacover by Jose Sanchez, who did a fine illo for my latest *Challenger*.) Opening with info on how to join N3F, *Tightbeam* memorializes the late Ray Nelson with a biblio and a most interesting interview by the thawed-out Swartz. Reviews include a long piece on anime – educational for me – a She-Ra video, and a movie called *The Osiris Child* I haven't heard of before. There's just *too much SF!* But *Tightbeam* shows no mercy: Cedar Sanderson creates and relates a recipe for a stew to read with a favored novel! It sounds delicious.

Vanamonde nos. 1435-39; 1523-27 | John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 406, Los Angeles CA 90057 | And what gems out of the treasury of his interests do John share with us in this batch of weekly Apa-L zines? You never know ... it could be anything. The older zines include a lesson in billiards and thoughts on Black History, it being that time, the newer ones concentrate on Chicon VIII. I wish we could have made it to last year's Worldcon, to see Hertz and other friends of a fannish lifetime if nothing else, but these one-page publications are fair substitutes.

Vita Transplantare now VT No. 286 | John Nielsen Hall, johnsila32@gmail.com | "A journal of opinion, reviews and diatribes as pertaining to the thought process of [the editor]," Hall has shortened the title between issues. In the first of his numbers under the new name, he recounts the tribulations of moving to a new, seaside address o'erlooking the eastern Atlantic, followed by a terrible tale of a header he took while loading groceries. I identify" a very similar mishap occurred here recently – though John's black eye looks worse than my bloodied chin. Following a terrific lettercol featuring many fine fan-eds, Hall

offers an apology for being unable to publish monthly in the future. No need. After a clout like he's suffered, he can be forgiven! And I'm sure that his new relationship and the incredible view from the new digs make all worthwhile.

Warp | Danny Sichel, dsichel@gmail.com | c/o Montreal SFF Assoc., 125 Leonard, Chateauguay, QC 16K 1N9 Canada | www.monsffa.ca | http://www.monsffa.ca/?page_id=20361 |

Wild Ideas #31-32 | Henry Grynnssten, grynnssten@hotmail.com | Each issue of Grynnssten's journal seems to boast two qualities: a truly beautiful cover and a literate essay on a truly wild idea. Topics in the past have included the difference between *homo sapiens* and Man, 2001, *Mona Lisa's* smile, precognitive dreams ... on and on. This time Henry takes on "Biological denialism," which seems to translate out to fear of aging, or "animality," or sex. Or death, the overwhelming subject of issue #32. Through the lens of Andy Warhol's life and other prisms, the answer to death seems almost obvious from the text. I had trouble getting into *Wild Ideas* for a while, so absurd did the early ideas seem, but when Grynnssten writes with such passion, he wins you over.

WOOF #47 (2022) | Chris Garcia, eFanzines | Medical problems kept Editor Chris Garcia from sending forth the latest disty of the Worldcon Order of Fan-Eds as quickly as he wanted, but here's the PDF version. Late and all, it's WOOF at its best. Fanzine editors from across the hemispheres contribute – Israel, Australia, England, the Czech Republic, New Zealand (in spirit, by Rigel Rowe), and even the United States. Their – our – zines *throb* with variety (Rich Lynch memorializes classic fan-ed Bill Danner; Juan Sanmiguel includes cool cosplay photos from Orlando's anime festival; Garcia himself runs an amazing *Claims Department* filled with "public art", I spice up my mailing comments with photos from last April's European trip, add a previous *Zine Dump*; and so on). Newbies share credit with WOOF veterans like Alan Stewart, Laurraine Tutihasi and Roger Hill (*someone* please find copies of WOOF 6 and 30, so Roger can complete his collection!). WOOF is always a winner. Who's editing 2023?

You're Still on My Mind #1 | Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 | rw_lynch@yahoo.com | Rich, a devotee of fan history, turns his historian's perspective inward to his remarkable collection of travel and con reports, *My Back Pages*. The lad just can't help re-re-reliving epic moments, and who can blame him? Lynch's travels have taken him to Earth's farthest reaches, and his articles and essays on his discoveries have been some of the best written fanzines we have seen in the past umpteen years. This zine serves as a guide to those exceptional accounts.

Okay, that is that. Any late-arriving or missed zines or LOCs will be handled in the February *Spartacus*. Again, I'm looking for articles on *Bride of Frankenstein* for my next *Challenger*, which I hope to heave into the ether this summer, and material on Theodore Sturgeon for the eventual *Chall*, due ... whenever it shows. We good?

