

THE DEVIL'S WORK  
Volume 1, Number 27  
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from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 1368, Boulder, Colorado  
80302 USA. This is intended for the November, 1973  
mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR #144

I find no listing for The Devil's Work #25, nor any copy in my mailing, yet I recall that it was mailed in the same package as the 24th issue, which is in the mailing.

SYNAPSE (for FAPA 144) - Jack SPEER

I'd say that Campbell was far more influential than was Gernsback. Gernsback diffused himself through a number of titles and over a short number of years with lower-circulation magazines. Aside from Super World Comics his sf magazines were only published from 1926 to 1936 and during 1953. The authors he published were mostly either reprinted, in a dead-end or went to be developed by Campbell. Do you consider A. Hyatt Verrill, David H. Keller, Ed Earl Repp and so on to be more influential than Robert A. Heinlein, A. E. van Vogt, Isaac Asimov, Theodore Sturgeon and so on? Jack Williamson made the transition from Gernsback to Campbell, compare his stories from the two periods. I find Williamson's stories from "Crucible Of Power" onwards to be far better, on the whole, than what he did for Gernsback, Hornig, Wright or Sloane. Perhaps you can justify your position, perhaps mine is off-base since I'm being subjective without even carefully researching the question.

Yes, it would be possible for a sf index to have two-letter abbreviations for all the prozines. But the abbreviations should communicate the title without having themselves to be looked up. That's why I prefer using abbreviations used by the magazines (if they used any), unless they are ambiguous such as Authentic Science Fiction using ASF. But at least I don't alter data to fit the format as one series of so-called indexes has done.

Why do you attribute the sf stories using the Bohr-atom as a cosmological model to Gernsback? [He obviously has influenced you!] The idea seems to have begun in the Cummings stories in the Munsey magazines (though Cummings says his inspiration was the Quaker Oats box). Gernsback was publishing sf at the time and after, but it was certainly no hobby horse of his. And it appeared also in the Tremaine Astounding (Wandrei's "Colossus" and its sequel).

BETE NOIRE #25 - Redd BOGGS

You seem to have used Donald B. Day's incomplete listing of James H. Beard's appearances in Unknown rather than a complete index to Unknown.

GRUE #37 - DEAN A. GRENELL

Thanks for your amusing commentary on Doc Savage. I think Lester Dent was one of the better tongue-in-cheek authors and you've perpetuated the attitude.

DYNATRON #52 - Roy TACKETT

McCraw: For WORST SF I'd nominate David Vern's works, The Manatitlans and a large

segment of the recent output.

HORIZONS #135 - HARRY WARNER, JR.

Removing Hugo winners from competition for three years would make the Hugos even more of a farce than they are now. By this time every fan should realize that if you do something fannish the only reward you can count on is the personal satisfaction of having done it. And the ones who have been most insistent that they win (such as Meskys and Ellison) are often the ones doing the mediocre-to-poor quality work (an inappropriate word that, frictional losses is a better term).

I second your plea for egoboo for living authors. However, some of them are so hypersensitive to egoboo that they don't want any. Some of them don't want the existence of certain stories in the public prints to become a matter of public knowledge. But there are probably far more who would be quite pleased to see a discussion of their work in print.

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----- LETTERS -----  
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from: Ken Faig, Jr., P.O. Box 1228, Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Norm:

I found your mailing comments most interesting... to tell you the truth I have never seen the version of your index which Ben Stark published, but I am very sorry to hear he mauled it... and THREW AWAY your letters index. If anyone ever sets out to do the biographical work on sf writers which ought eventually to be done, a letter index alone would be a gold mine... I know Tom Cockcroft has made one for WT, and I hope he will someday publish it. How about SFRA as a sponsor for your index the way you'd like it to be done? A few years back they were talking of sponsoring publication of important research works dealing with sf. Your index would certainly qualify. I love paging through such things, and am looking forward to Darrell Richardson's index of the weird fiction pulps and Caz's Argosy--All-Story index, which I hear are due sometime in the future. There's a lot more out there in the fiction field to be covered, too. 'Bout the only thing I ever indexed for myself were Lovecraft's newspaper articles on astronomy... should appear in a Lovecraft-oriented fanzine one of these days...

Sincerely,

Ken Faig, Jr.

P.S. THOUSANDS of errors in the NESFA index, you say? I'll have to file a complaint? At that rate, I may have spent 39¢ or something like that just for the errors!

[With all due respect to SFRA I have an arrangement which will eliminate Donald B. Day, J. Ben Stark or Donald M. Grant from ever tampering again with my work. Barring further quirks of fate the next time should do it. As for the NESFA index the omission rate was over 30%, the error-commission rate was worse, so for 39¢ you don't have much.]