



JULIAN KERNES

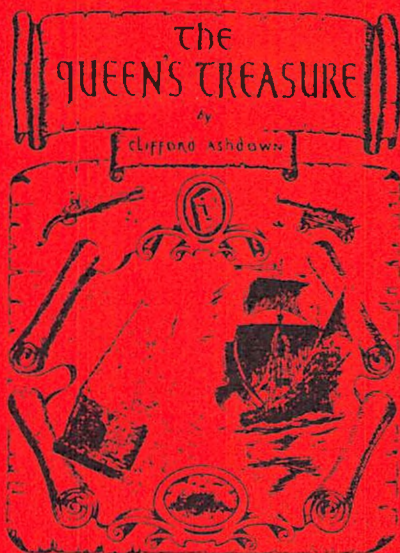
The Adventures
of
Romney
Pringle



MARTIN HEWIT
INVESTIGATOR



BY
ARTHUR HARRISON



Further
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RANDOLPH MASON



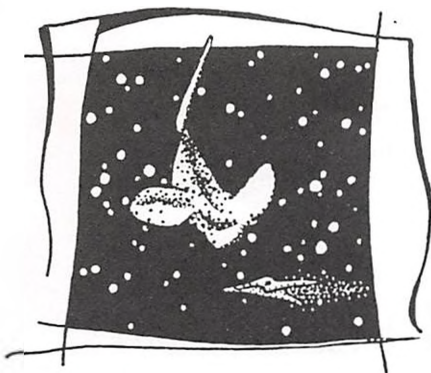
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Nearly ready: FROM A SURGEON'S DIARY by Clifford Ashdown--six short stories, with illustrations by William Dixon (of our own PSFS).

And in preparation, to be issued in 1977 ALIEN FLESH, Seabury Quinn's last full length novel. Never before published! illustrated by William Dixon.

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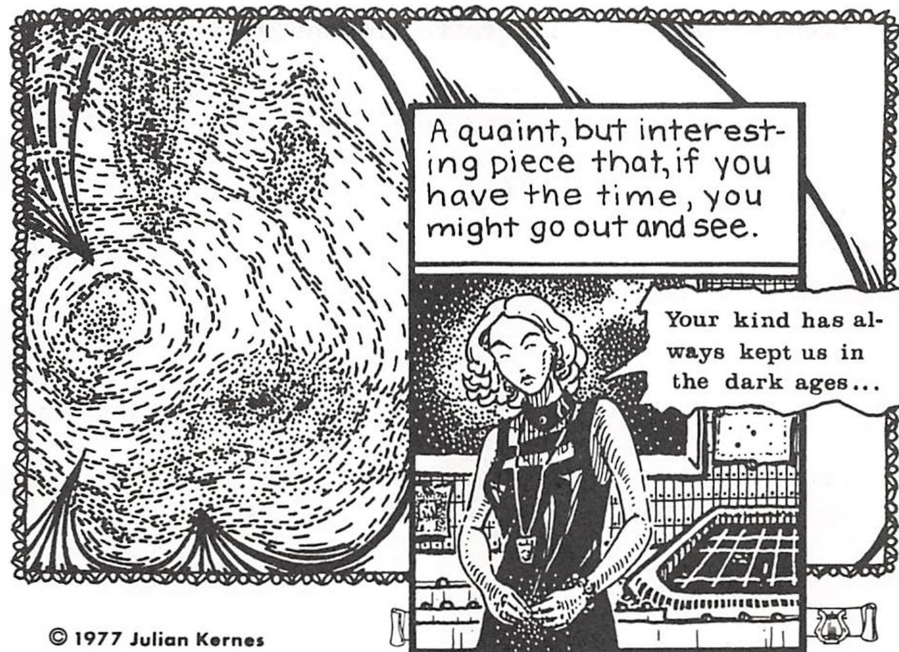


Maintaining the Gault tradition of innovative art (for art's sake), observe Domini Waite's "HALO of FLIES" ... in first mode.

Miss Waite may be noted best for her developmental studies in Kirlian and magnetic photography, and her display later of eerie prints in '37.



"HALO of FLIES", her most recent piece, is a "glass-blown" dwarf star, utilizing the energies of a blue-white giant for the torching. The piece is suspended in a huge scannerbox, depicting the radiative fields. She calls this the second and proper mode for it.



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JOHN VARLEY

-- an appreciation

Editors are generally a shifty breed, and it's rare for any of us to commit ourselves without hedging like mad, but I'm going to go out on a limb here, in cold, long-lasting type, and make a flat-out prediction: within five years (and probably a lot sooner), John Varley will be one of the Biggest Names in SF, and almost certainly will have collected at least one Nebula and/or Hugo Award.

To be frank, at this point some of you will probably say: Who's John Varley? And at this point in time, it's a fair question. Although Varley's audience is widening rapidly, you may not have heard of him if you are not a steady reader of the SF magazines -- the shock wave of excitement generated by Varley's work is sweeping through the SF world at a very rapid pace, however, and if you still haven't heard of him a year from now at this time, you will have only yourself to blame for your ignorance.

Last year Terry Carr's *Best Science Fiction of the Year*, #5, reprinted two of Varley's stories, and this year *all three* of the "Best of the Year" anthologies (Carr's, Wollheim's, and mine) will re-print stories by John Varley, a different story in each case. Varley has also been nominated for the 1976 Nebula Award (and has, in my opinion, a good chance of winning), and new stories by him will be coming out all over the place in 1977: *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Amazing*, *Orbit*, and elsewhere. In fact, one of the clearest indications of the excitement

that Varley's writing is capable of stirring up is that editors as diverse in their editorial tastes as Isaac Asimov, Terry Carr, Don Wollheim, Ed Ferman, George Scithers, Damon Knight, Ben Bova, Ted White, David G. Hartwell, and I all seem to be in agreement that John Varley is one of the hottest new writers in SF.

Varley has a wild but well-disciplined imagination, a flair for extrapolation and incisive characterization, and manages to be both colorful and scientifically rigorous. The main reason for Varley's popularity, though, is that he is one hell of a storyteller. You don't put down a Varley story because it won't *let* you. In this, and in the deceptively "natural" style of his prose, he reminds me strongly of Heinlein, although his concerns and sensibilities are those of the 70's. I have also heard him called "the new Larry Niven". Varley, however, is not the "new" anything else: he is John Varley, and in his fiction he is unequivocally his own man.

Ah, but *who* is John Varley?

John Varley was born in Texas, went to MIT and Michigan State for a while, got caught in the four-day traffic jam at Woodstock without ever getting within five miles of the stage, and describes himself as "an introverted kid who reads a lot, likes science, and follows the space program religiously." He now lives in Eugene, Oregon, with his wife, Anet Mconel, and their three boys, 9, 13, and 16. He is "nearly 29 years old", and since he started writing in 1973 he has sold over twenty stories, plus a novel called *Ophiuchi Hotline*, which will be coming out in both hard- and soft-cover from Dial Press and Dell. Dial/Dell are also doing

his first short-story collection. He is a full-time writer, and says that "if things keep going as well as they have, I may never have to do another lick of work in my life. I can't stand jobs with regular hours. I don't have any hobbies other than reading; writing and imagining take up all my spare time."

This is only his second convention, and his very first contact with East Coast fandom; and I think it would be nice if we all did our best to make him feel at home here.

He likes for his friends to call him "Herb", and he is the Principal Speaker at this year's PhilCon.

-- Gardner Dozois

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JOHN VARLEY -- A BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Picnic on Nearside" (*F&SF*, Aug 1974)
"Scoreboard" (*Vertex* Vol 2 #3, Aug 1974)
"A Choice of Enemies" (*Vertex* Vol 3 #2)
"Retrograde Summer" (*F&SF* Feb 1975, reprinted in
Carr's *Best Science Fiction of the
Year*, #5)
"The Black Hole Passes" (*F&SF* Jun 1975)
"In The Bowl" (*F&SF* Dec 1975, reprinted in
Carr's *Best Science Fiction of the
Year*, #5; also a finalist for the
1976 Nebula Award)
"Manikins" (*Amazing* Jan 1976)
"The Phantom of Kansas" (*Galaxy* Feb 1976, to be
reprinted in Carr's *Best Science Fiction
of the Year*, #6)
"Overdrawn at the Memory Bank" (*Galaxy* May 1976,
to be reprinted in Wollheim's *The 1977
Annual World's Best SF*)
"Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" (*Galaxy* Jul 1976)
"The M&M, Seen as a Low-Yield Thermonuclear
Device" (*Orbit 18*, edited by Damon Knight)
"Bagatelle" (*Galaxy* Oct 1976)
"The Funhouse Effect" (*F&SF* Dec 1976)
"Good-Bye, Robinson Crusoe" (*Isaac Asimov's
Science Fiction Magazine* Vol 1 #1,
Spring 1977, to be reprinted in Dozois's
Best Science Fiction Stories of the Year)
"In the Hall of the Martian Kings" (*F&SF*
Feb 1977)

FORTHCOMING:

- "Lollipop and the Tar Baby" (*Orbit*)
"Equinoctial" (as yet untitled David Gerrold
anthology)
"The Persistence of Vision" (*F&SF*)
Ophiuchi Hotline (a novel -- Dial Press)
A short story collection, as yet untitled, from
Dial Press and Dell

Who is the Chief Boo Hoo and why is he saying those crazy things?

I define a "bad trip" as one in which one emerges in a less agreeable condition than one possessed on entering, even if one spent the whole time frolicking with angels. Or, even if you were gobbled by demons (considered very groovy in Tibet), if you came out better than you went in, I consider it a good trip. - from The Boo Hoo Bible

It is all an illusion - but it is an illusion maintained with all the power of the universe and the mind, which are one. To live in this truth is an all but unbearable ecstasy which cannot yet be endured for more than a few hours every now and then, but one may live close by in peace and happiness. The instrument for demonstrating the truth of these assertions is readily available and may be purchased for about \$5 or 5% of your fear of death from Spanish Eddy around the block. - from Millbrook

As for my philosophy (really believing that life is a "dream" and acting accordingly), Tord [Svenson], once he caught on, didn't want to hear any more about it. "I know what you think, Art," he would say, "but I just can't buy it. Don't you realize that it's completely insane?"

Certainly. If "ideas of reference" aren't "insane," what is? - from Millbrook

"What about me?" Dick asked. "I have a life of my own, don't I?"

"I haven't figured that out yet," I replied. - from Millbrook

Magical people (those who make things happen around them) obviously have more fun than people who are not magical people; therefore, everyone who recognizes the difference wants to be magical. In the past, the easiest ways to become magical were to be beautiful or rich or a warrior or criminal. Getting stoned must now be inserted in that list. Where would you place it?

Enlightenment is like a rattlesnake -- it usually gives some warning before it strikes. - both selections from Sayings Of The Chief Boo Hoo - Snazzm, Fazzm And A Little McPozzm

If this world is an illusion, then this book is an illusion. I wrote it but you made it up. You have to assume that if you want to follow me...What seems to be the external world is your "unconscious" mind. This book is not a reflection, or a symbol, or an abstraction. Repression and manifestation are exactly the same thing, only held apart by an abstract system of categorization you keep trying to hang on to. There is nothing hydraulic about it. Nothing is pushed down or brought out. It's all right in front of your nose, all of it, always. - from Millbrook

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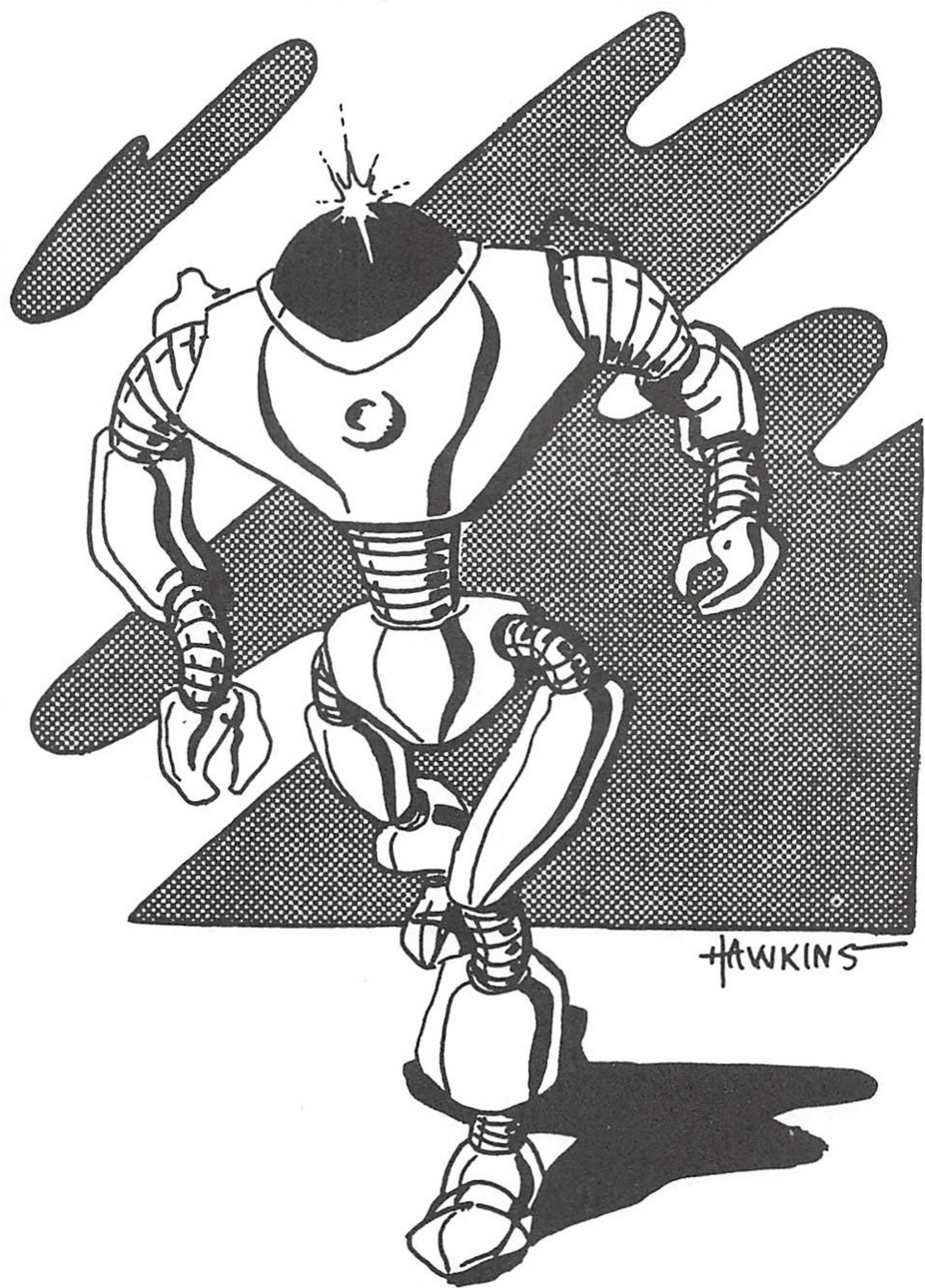
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