

BELLATRIX. A fanzine of report and comment published for the 25th N'APA mailing by Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107, USofA. A Marinated Publication.

XX

AND THEN I READ

WORLDS OF WEIRD edited by Leo Margulies, introduction and notes by Sam Moskowitz, illustrations by Finlay. Pyramid Books #R-1125, 1965, 50¢.

This is the second anthology of yarns culled from the old WEIRD TALES by Leo Margulies and I (and you should be) am happy to see it. If we can no longer have WEIRD TALES we can at least have these reprints of the yarns that were included between its covers. I hope that Margulies and Pyramid continue this series and, indeed, dig for some of the real oldies.

This volume contains seven tales of varying quality including a couple that are, perhaps, near classics. The longest entry is Seabury Quinn's "Roads" and this is one of the near classics. It draws on Christian mythology for the theme and is a very fine Christmas story. Worth 50¢ all by itself--and then some.

"The Sapphire Goddess" by Nictzin Dyalhis is mediocre sword and sorcery illustrated by an old style Finlay (lots of lubbles).

As expected Robert E. Howard set "Valley of the Worm" in pre-history when legends and myths were born. Fair.

"He That Hath Wings". Ed Hamilton is always at his best in writing mood pieces of this type. Luverly, luverly. The story of David Rand--a radiation-caused mutant. And this one is from 1938.

A typical Clark Ashton Smith piece is "Mother of Toads". A story of witchcraft and black magic. Enjoyable.

David H. Keller is represented here by "The Thing in the Cellar" (from 1932) and is a small masterpiece in its own way. Rather typical Keller by ghu, but old Doc did some pretty good work.

Frank Belknap Long has "Blants in the Sky". A midget in the book.

I am always bitching about N'APAns who do not do reviews in depth but I'm one of the greatest offenders of that sort. The "review" of WORLDS OF WEIRD is a fine example of how not to review a book. Go thou and do better.

-----  
Personally, I prefer the old gods.  
-----

FUTURIAN COMMENTATOR

BYZANTIUM 2 (PATRICK & KUSSKE): Patrick: I am happy to see that you have decided to do a few mailing comments. An apa is a smallish club and it is pleasant (sometimes) if we get to know each other better. Or maybe not. Must you pontificate? Sigh. I suppose you must. Titles yet. In many cases they add a continuity and in some cases they describe. Fanzine titles, however, are liable to consist of almost anything and there is little accounting for them. Ah, but does BYZANTIUM indicate that the zine contains something of the odd and fanciful? Not to me. I should expect it to contain treatises on the Eastern Roman Empire--not, mighod, by any means the Arabian Nights. If you wanted to create that impression you should have selected Baghdad as your title. Go thou and study the Byzantine Empire before you fling it around like that. Byzantium was Greek and Orthodox Christian. Byzantium was the

name of an ancient village on the site of which Constantinople was built. The Byzantine Empire is a modern designation--the people of the empire called themselves Romans and considered that their realm was the Roman Empire.

Ah, David K., you don't like pictures of nekkid women on fanzines. I object, too, but for different reasons than you. Like, I object because the pictures are usually rather poorly done while you seem to object simply because they are nekkid women.

I wonder if Stine really gave any thought to his cover for GOLDEN JUG? As a devotee of Rand he must surely have great faith in the capitalist system and its symbols (\$) and yet the illustration of a woman (symbolizing what? beauty? civilization? humanity?) crucified on a dollar sign is highly anti-capitalistic.

If well done, however, I have no objections at all to pictures of nekkid women on fanzines. A fantasy connotation helps, of course.

Kusske: You should devote more space to "Poundation" if you're going to continue with it. A fragment such as this one is most unsatisfying.

ROMANN 4 (R O MANN): Pretty good Staton cover there. He's improving with practice.

Sam Long doesn't sound particularly fannish but Long Sam does (and does anybody know if that particular strip is still being published? Bruce?)

Ummmm. You're right, of course, Rich, the N3F does not really do much after all. Except serve as sort of a meeting place for new fans. The main trouble with the N3F is that it has become a sort of self-perpetuating bureaucracy. The bureaus are so busy organizing and making out reports that they have no time to really accomplish anything. Not all, of course, there are a few exceptions. Alma Hill's writer's thing seems to be of some use for those interested (Alma just fainted) but I should guess that at least half the bureaus could be eliminated and no one would miss them. Well, almost no one. TNFF is seldom worth reading containing as it does mostly a lot of boring and meaningless bureau reports. I'm hoping that Weber will institute some changes in the zine now that he is in full charge of it. Too many of the N3F officials tend to forget that most of the members (the deadwood, Creath) are s-f and fantasy fans and are not really interested in an over-organized bureaucratic mess such as the club now is. Those who are active in club affairs are more concerned with their petty jealousies and political infighting than with actually doing anything constructive. As one of the Directorate I've been trying to institute some changes but I have little hope of success.

F&SF is improving since the departure of Davidson. I should think White has had a hand in that for he does know good stf when he sees it. I had hoped that Doc Lowndes would have been given the editorship when Davidson left but no such luck. Damned fine editor, Lowndes.

ROY TACKETT