

B.R.O.W.S.I.N.G. : Published for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association 116
: and his own amusement by John Michael Roenblum, of 28
Sixth Issue : 4 Grange Terrace, Chapeltown, Leeds 7 England. Gratis C

Anyone wanting copies of Russell's "Sinister Barrier" better speak soon

BIBLIOGRAPHY Some of you with good memories, or an interest in books, will remember that some issues ago of this ponderous publication a scheme for the gradual production of an alabrate bibliography was enunciated. At long last I've managed to start things off at this end, though I am in hopes that something is being done simultaneously at the other side of the Atlantic. However, the last page of this browsing does contain the available data on, and a review of a fantasy work. The format is an attempt at a standard format, but not necessarily the last word. One of the problems attached you will remember, was the difference in the American and British quartos, but through the assistance of George Ellis of Manchester, that little awkwardness is at least temporarily solved for me. So besides the full quota of pages for EC, I've run off a hundred copies of the page on US sized quarto paper, to be put aside till the distribution of such sheets has been properly organised, a matter which I hope something is being done about, in the States. Who'll tackle the job - Liebscher, Searles, Warner are suggestions I would put forward. And I hope that other people will get on with the job of producing similar sheets, so that a decent bibliography can be gradually accumulated.

DECEMBER 43 MAILING Undoubtedly the single item I appreciated most was Langley Searles "Fantasy Commentator", and I'm looking forward with zest to further issues. Incidentally, quite recently, there were a number of copies of E.F. Benson's "Spook Stories" available in Leeds, so if anyone wants one, lemme know. 'Twas the leatherbound edition of the Booklovers Library, which Langley priced at 3/6. But since 1939 the price of books has steadily risen and neat little stickers are periodically attached to all books in stock at bookshpps, raising the printed price by amounts of 3d. or 6d. "including extra war costs". This way the pre-war 3/6 has now reached 5/-! "Tyke" is not quite the Yorkshire for dog - it is a dog, but implies rather a nondescript mongrel type of canine. In fact the term is of the humorous derogative type and has also come to be used for Yorkshiremen as well as Yorkshire dogs though it wouldn't be so used in formal conversation. Ah'm a tyke myself, 'e knows. Re Speer and titles for scientific fantasy enthusiasts, Steffist and stefnist sound horrible. No for Heavens sake not those. Well, Leeds considered this matter six years ago, and produced the word Futurism. And lock how our proposed meaning of the word got altered. I'd still vote for it tho, against Steffist, Slan, Cosman or the ubiquitous and horrible Fan. Lynn Bridges wants to discuss the actual teachings of Christ. This is by way of being a favourite topic of mine, as several people know to their cost. But I can't resist just a comment on how few people who are supposed to follow Christ know anything at all about the times and conditions he lived in, contemporary thought and the idiom of the language he used. How many have even heard of the Essene school of Jewish philosophy then current, with its rite of baptism, communal living with no private property, wandering ministeries, and teaching of love to all. Sound at all familiar? And the interesting fact that the Early Christians called themselves Nazarenes - a Hebrew word, nothing to do with the place Nazareth - kept the Jewish laws & the Coptic Christians still do) and were legislated for by the Romans and martyred as, - Jews. Till a Roman Emperor had a vision of Christ as a god of war, adopted the creed and decided what was "true" Christianity. The ECs were Pacifist too.

Page the second, therein ye perpetrator discourseseth randomly on books...

Quite recently a small brochure by Benson Herbert was published by Lloyd Cole Ltd, entitled "The Hand of Glory". The action centred around a small public house called by that name situate in the wilder parts of Yorkshire, and the name derives from one of the old legends about the somewhat gruesome necromancers aid of the name. But the title had previously been used for a book, actually a collections of such legends and superstitions in the North Riding of Yorkshire. The full title is "The Hand of Glory; and further Grandfathers Tales; and legends of Highwaymen and Others" Collected by the late R. Blakeborough, Edited by J. Fairfax-Blakeborough, M.C. (Grant Richards 1924 7/6). I found it a most interesting volume, containing besides fairly recent tales of the gentry of the road, some intriguing legendry of unknown origin and antiquity about giants, elves, witchcraft and hauntings...over at the other side are reviewed two books in which the events and personalities in a land of make believe are related in an up-to-date and sophisticated manner, rather reminiscent of Sprague de Camp's adventures in other frames of reference. They are "The Ill-made Knight" and "The Pack of Pieces". Since that side was stencilled I've read, and again thoroughly enjoyed, two more books falling into the same general classification. One was the forerunner to the Ill-made Knight - who incidentally is Sir Lancelot - and is entitled "The Witch in the Wood" (Collins), dealing with the life and character of Queen Morgause of Orkney, half-sister to King Arthur. The other is situate in neither the Arthurian legendry or the pure fairy tale...of Pack of Pieces, but goes back to ancient Greek times. It is entitled "The Marble Bed on Olympus", and we learn all about the private life of... Quite a few of the well-known stories are presented from a different viewpoint, particularly the of Iphigeneia and Eurydice. For pure... all these works are highly recommended...not in the same mood... is "A Mirror for Witches/in which is reflected/the Life/Machinations and Death/of Famous/Doll Bilby/who with a more than feminine perversity, preferred a Demon to a Mortal lover/Here is also told/How and Why a most Angel and Righteous/Judgment/befel her, destroying both corporeal/Body and Immortal Soul written by Esther Forbes (Heinemann 1928). This is tale of a witch in New England of the early settlers, a maid who... believes she is chosen by setan, and acts accordingly, and the... of her neighbours. But oh, the subtle sarcasm! How funny it is that... people adjudged most holy at the time, would be quite likely nowadays... make the acquaintance of a psychologist, and the clergyman she "loves" is the only decent human soul in the book...another witch story, even... poles apart is "Lolly Willows; or the loving "untsman" by Sylvia Townsend-Arnold and Warner (Chatto and Windus 1926). We learn of the life of a minor aristocrat spinster, and how finally, she becomes an accredited disciple of a peculiarly gentle and understanding Devil, and this today...another Warner writes fantasy in "The Bridge of Time; A Romance" by William Henry Warner (Evelyn Nash 1920) wherein an Egyptian of ancient Thebes is sent across the ages to discover what will become of the glories of his land. His reactions to the world of 1914 in which he finds himself are quite interesting...another strange viewpoint is given in "His Monkey Wife; or Married to a Chimp" by John Collier (Peter Davies 1930). A pet female chimpanzee of a teacher educating the natives of wilder Africa, attends her masters classes, absorbs his teachings, reads his books, and when he returns to England to get married, comes with him and helps to throw a monkey wrench into the proceedings. And as she is more intelligent and more affectionate than the actual fiancee, we do not weep too much... Listed in the Searles Bibliography is "Mervyn Clitheroe" by William Harrison Ainsworth, which your scribe has obtained and read. But he cannot consider it as fantasy despite several fortune-tellings by gypsies, and two fake seances by a fake necromancer. There is no actual occultism in the book though anyone just looking through would be given that idea.

BROWSING THROUGH BOOKS READ RECENTLY

It is probable that "What they are about" will be incorporated in the new fanzine "Chanticleer" to be put out in the near future by Walter Liebsher, and moreover I have discovered that one page or so per three months is hardly sufficient to deal adequately with the various volumes of fantasy interest which I manage to get through in the time. Hence a much briefer type of review is to be given in future.

"The Isle of Lies" by M. P. Shiel (T. Werner Laurie) -- a mild superman story; boy brought up under the belief that mankind is far superior than its present stage of evolution automatically develops superior faculties both mental and physical. Adventures when he meets the world at nineteen.

"THE Intelligence Gigantic" by John Russell Fearn (World's Work 1943 5/4) Laboratory creation of artificial creature with super intellectual processes. Takes over and runs world to disadvantage of humanity. Defeated by original creator with help of super race on Mars. YouknowFearn.

"See Bodies for Old" by Maurice Renard (US edition Macaulay 1923) -- fundamental unity of all life allows transplantation from vegetable to animal, then transference of brains betwixt species, and finally transference of personality-plus-brain between man and animals.

"All Souls Night: A Book of Stories" by Hugh Walpole (Macmillan 1933) -- reviewed in Tide not so long ago. Quite a good collection of short tales of the Unknown variety; hideous ghosts werewolves etc. Very nice.

"Heliende: or Adventures in the Sun" by Sydney Whiting - 1st ed. an-n. (Cassan & Hall 1855) also reviewed in Tide. Elaborate story of social organisation and physical conditions of inhabited portions of suns surface - sunspots as continents - type of Utopia.

"The Ill-made Knight" by T. H. White (Collins 1941) -- third of a series about King Arthur's Round Table and the accompanying fauna. This one is about Sir Lancelot and is written in a rather amusing matter of fact manner and quite an amount of sympathetic psychological insight. Good.

"The Pack of Pieces" by Anthony Armstrong (Michael Joseph) -- a collection of fairy stories, but not for children! Some of the old traditional tales retold in an ultra-sophisticated way with man asides and wisecracks. Good.

"A Voyage to the Island of the Articles" by Andre Maurois (Cape) -- a practically unknown island in the Pacific, on which literary stilted people set up own civilisation dependent on the reality of art, and the consequent unimportance of life. Everything is subservient to the creation of art forms.

"Andra" by C. S. Lewis (John Lane 1943 8/6) Although this story can be read on its own, it is more or less a sequel to the same author's "Out of the Silent Planet". The same hero is sent to Venus, there to strive against the "evil one" in a struggle for the souls of the Venusian Adam and Eve, in an up-to-date parable for the godly. Fans will be intrigued by the fact that the villain was "obsessed with the idea which is at this moment circulating all over our planet in obscure works of 'scientific fiction', in little Interplanetary Societies and Rocketry Clubs, and between the covers of monstrous magazines, ignored or mocked by the intellectuals" ... And this from a man who puts war into God's scheme of things and reveals his own intellectual pettyness repeatedly! Pah.

"My Talks with Dean Spanley" by Lord Dunsany (Heinemann 1936 5/-)

In his last incarnation the Reverend Dean had been a dog, a large rough farmhouse dog, and when in a state of mild intoxication, would answer questions and give reminiscences of his canine career. Quite amusing.

Type; Interplanetary
 Class. _____
 Code; _____

Author;
 (Pseud.)

"A TRIP TO VENUS"

Title;

Subtitling;

Pub.; London Jarrod & Sons Date; 1897 Price; _____ Pages. _____

illus. by;

Further Information;

Synopsis. Construction of first interplanetary vehicle and use of same to visit planets Venus and Mercury, adventures and difficulties.

Review. The story begins with a brilliant light visible on Mars, near the terminator. The narrator and his astronomer friend find that it varies in spectrum from one metal to another - all alkalis or alkaline earth metals - with equal periods of about five minutes for each. They discuss the possibility of a spectral telegraph for interplanetary communication with the properties of elements giving analogies whose meanings could be deduced by beings on another world.

They also discuss means of reaching other worlds. Space travel derived from Verne's, guns with multiple successive chambers of powder or compressed air, guns that discharge guns that discharge the projectiles, and rockets are seriously discussed, and the possibility of developing an engine to utilize etheric energy touched on. This discussion is published as a speculative essay and the man who had developed an engine utilizing etheric energy writes to them.

They construct the machine - like a squat boiler, with a chimney around its middle, an observatory in the top and the engine room in the base. They test it, and decide, the narrator, the astronomer, the inventor and his - of course - daughter; to go to Venus.

The narrator forgot to close his window when they left the atmosphere, otherwise they had no excitement on the trip. Venus was a world of oceans and archipelagoes. In a ring-crater island they found a race of human beings who led a practically ideal life. The narrator fell in love with and married the High Priestess, whose term of office was expiring, and when he found that continuing with the party to Mercury would be going to Earth before he could get to Venus again, he decided to stay there. The rest kidnapped him while he slept. He awoke on Mercury, the Solar gravity giving the car extra speed. It is a hot, volcanic, monster-ridden place, and a huge winged monster flew off with the inventor's daughter. She was rescued in the act of being fed to its young. The astronomer, in the excitement, broke down and proposed. They start for home but the engines seize up from the heat, leaving them just way enough to drift into the Sol-Mercury gravitational deadpoint. They break loose by the use of reaction - the wrong way. Mercury's excentric orbit has taken it farther from the sun and left them in the solar clutches. They saved the engine by releasing oxygen from pressure over it and returned to Earth, where the narrator decides to stay while the astronomer marries, but no longer.