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☆ COSMOS ☆  
 ☆ NUMBER FIVE ☆  
 (NEW SERIES)

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 \*DUPLICATOR & \*  
 \*DISTRIBUTOR :-\*  
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"May Hilaire Belloc Forgive Me"

Do you remember the Days  
 Pal?  
 Do you remember the Days?  
 And the sprockets and the Rockets  
 And the buldging eye-sockets,  
 And the Hells and the "Bells" as pictured by Wells  
 And the wonderful visions of Smith?  
 And the Moons and Balloons and the Great Wahoons  
 And the People who lived in a myth:  
 Do you remember the Days, pal?  
 Do you remember the Days?  
 And the Moons and Balloons and the Great Wahoons  
 Who lived on Mars  
 Way up in the stars  
 Of Pablos and Deimos in faze?  
 And the Scandals  
 And the Vandals  
 Of the Void, the Android.  
 Of tales of wonder,  
 Plunder,  
 Thunder,  
 All torn asunder  
 'Till you must gaze,  
 Through a haze  
 At the world which exists.  
 Do you remember the Days, Pal?  
 Do you remember the Daze?



By R\*O\*N\*N\*H\*O\*L\*M\*E\*S

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 \*BOB GIBSON comments on FANTASIA.  
 \*"I had the good fortune to see  
 \* FANTASIA while on my last leave  
 \* and am unable to praise most of  
 \* it highly enough. The Silly  
 \* Symphony effect in the "Dance  
 \* of the Hours" struck me as be-  
 \* ing out of spirit with the rest  
 \* but that is a small kick. The  
 \* Evolution sequence was not st-  
 \* rictly scientific, perhaps, but  
 \* no-one should miss it. If none  
 \* of the rest of it was any good  
 \* at all the views of gaseous...  
 \* nebulae would be worth the pr-  
 \* ice of admission!  
 \* This saddens my heart more  
 \* than ever, when I hear that the  
 \* Evolution sequence is not going  
 \* to be shown in the provinces.  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*I have not as yet, received the  
 \*SPACEWAYS Annish back. I have  
 \*traced it to Harry Syms so far  
 \*and if anyone got it after him  
 \*please let me know. IN THE MEAN-  
 \*TIME I DEMAND ITS RETURN TO ME.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Will pay cost price, postage, and a bonus of 3d per mag. to anyone sending me the following :- AMAZING - Dec. '38, March, Apr., and May '39; Feb. '40 BRE of ASF; UNKNOWN - May, June, July '39 and BRE March '40; MARVEL TALES Dec. '39. Write before sending to the Editorial address. Here's your chance to get some dough for nothing Also wanted cheap are Stapledon's - ODD JOHN, STAR MAKER, & LAST & FIRST MEN IN LONDON. Second hand copies are preferable; again write before sending, and I will pay cost price, postage, and a bonus of 1/- for the three. THESE ARE WANTED VERY BADLY.

EDITORIAL :- Thanks to all the guys who have sent me material and comments on the last issue of "CONIE", and who, with their kind co-operation are enabling YOU to see this sheet every month. Still more material is needed though, so why not spend that odd half hour writing a short story or article for me? Or better still a LONG one! There may not be a Dec. issue of "CONIE", or if there is it will probably be very small, as I have an exam. coming up about the middle of Dec., and as much as I'd sooner be issuing "CONIE", I'll have to get down to some swotting. However

"C" will be back again in full force in February. Will correspondents please note.. that from Dec. 1st onwards my correspondence is liable to become somewhat erratic and may even cease altogether for a time. However 'tis only momentary. I was thinking the other day that it might be a nice thing to find out who Britain's top fan was, so how about a Fan Poll to find Britain's Number one fan?? Let me know what you think of the idea when you write, and if the majority agree, I can give you full details in the next full sized issue. Just to finish up with, if any US fan sends me any mags., and doesn't get an acknowledgment of their receipt from me within a reasonable time, he may take it that either the mags., or my acknowledg-ment have been sunk, and can act accordingly. I always acknowledge receipt of anything as soon as possible, so if you don't get a reply within a reasonable time, drop me a line, and I'll investigate. With that we'll close this "Renny says" editorial for this issue, and here's hoping you enjoy "C" as much as I've enjoyed... preparing it for you. Keep Smiling.

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I title this, "Syd Birchky Says....."

I like fan-mags. Sometimes they run intelligent articles, and one can see that.. someone's been thinking, or they have a little genuine humour, and artistic merit and that makes up for the loads of guff and cross-talk, or the private jokes and recondite allusions to obscure events.\*\*\*\*\*Even worse are the magazines edited by people who have but one God, Science-Fiction, a deity to be worshipped to exclusion, studied in every whim, and copied in speech, manner and thought to the... last degree. Those ghastly little shorts that appear from nowhere and whose career resembles that of a deflating balloon, you know the kind of things I mean.\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*And I accuse you of betraying the present high level of "COSMOS" and your own good judgment by seeking to emulate these fizz-bangs. When you say, in asking for contributions, that you want no controversies started, except about science-fiction pure and simple, you strike a body blow at the thinking section of fandom.\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*Controversies, provided they are good-natured ones, are the lifeblood of fandom, just as of any social activity. Of course, I don't say that we should indulge in mud-slinging or personal abuse.\*\*\*\*\*But to stipulate that "COSMOS" must restrict itself to arguments over the relative merits of Wells and Weinbaum is the surest way of having a fan-foud start, due to sheer boredom.\*\*\*\*\*If fans want to talk politics, let them, subject to the usual war-time restrictions on free speech, and if they want to tilt against society's beloved twin windmills, Religion and Sex, then why not, for in England at least, most fans capable of provoking such a controversy may be trusted not to offend against manners and good taste.\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*Semantically speaking science fiction 'pure and simple' cannot be controversial, because it is not either pure or simple. It is a literary form expressive of and catering to humanity's wonder at life and its possibilities, this wonder having... been brought nearer to tangibility by what is loosely called 'the industrial revolution', which therefore biasses the literature toward 'science' in its strict sense of the physical sciences. It is quite conceivable that society might have received its impetus from something other than industrialisation, shall we say, applied ethics (it would have done if Christ's teachings had prevailed, and did, in fact, do so until the Renaissance - to some extent). Society would have then pinned their hopes for progress on psychology, morals and spiritual growth, and should express it by what may be called 'ethic-fiction', as opposed to 'science-fiction'.\*\*\*\*\*In passing, such an 'ethic-fiction' did once exist, of which Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is the type.\*\*\*\*\*One should not, therefore, consider science-fiction as a self-sufficient unity. There is no irrelevancy in the... fact that a mentality that reads sfm. also reads, and reads with care, books on music and religion, or radical politics. It would not be true to the context of the sfm. movement if it did not.\*\*\*\*\*Now, let's start a controversy about con-  
-troversies

The policy of "CONNIE" is to please the majority. Real fans, I think, constitute only about 40% of "FIDO'S" readers, and of these 'real fans' about 20% are fairly new to the field (as I am). These new fans are sfn. fans (as the 'old guard' were a number of years ago), and their God at the moment is sfn.. Maybe in another two or three years they will be as you are now, but we are dealing with the present. The majority of letters that I have received commend me on my present policy, and it is the majority that counts. The minority (for let us assume for the moment.. that you and your kind are in the minority) will not like "C", but as you know, it is impossible to please everybody. My policy is one that has been well thought.. out in the light of the above facts, and until the majority demand otherwise that policy will remain unchanged. We have BIBLIOPHAN which caters for the desires of the minority, and any time you want I am certain that Messrs. Webster and Medhurst will allow you to discuss politics etc. there. The fact that sheets such as BIB are not popular with the majority, is proved beyond all doubt by the failure of... OSY(s WAR BULL some time back. However I am willing to feature all sides in this matter, and should the MAJORITY demand it, "C"ll drop its pure sfn. policy. So it is up to you now. To meet the demands of the minority half way, I will feature one article of a controversial nature each issue - provided it is reasonably sensible and constructive. So it's up to you again to write the articles if you want them featured. I don't think "CONNIE"'s career is going to resemble that of a deflating balloon (not from the letters of praise I have so far received at any rate), and I don't think it's a fizz bang. I produce it for pleasure purely and simply - entirely for my own pleasure - and it exists at my whim. But, I do try to please the majority, and that is where you always win in the long run.\*\*\*\*\*

\*I agree with you that good-natured controversies are the life-blood of fandom, but there are not many political controversies etc. which are good-natured. They all seem to end up in that "mud-slinging and abuse" that you do not want. As to religion and politics the above idea of featuring one article per issue applies, but I WILL NEVER FEATURE SEX IN THIS SHEET! Sex cannot, in any way, be argued into.. sfn., as religion and politics can. In the latter cases I am willing to give you the benefit of the doubt, but in the former case I do not, and never will, agree. Sex, featured in "FIDO", is dangerous to its very existence, and so to quote Mike, "I do think the sex angle is completely out of place - besides being dangerous to the continuance of "FIDO" - if the police start thinking things". That is from a source that can over-ride anything I may feature here, and refuse to print it. He is right, so if you don't like "FIDO" start asking for sex, and get it banned. As for the majority of fans not offending against good taste, I say that that's driven pure and simple. In the heat of a feud, most fans do not bother about 'good taste', and a lot of their remarks are most offensive to the majority of readers. Thus I hope I have answered you fully, and put up a good defence. The decision.. now rests with YOU, & YOU, & YOU, and until I hear the majority telling me I'm in the wrong - CONNIE WILL REMAIN A SCIENCE FICTION SHEET. Thank you.

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IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT.....

1. The Dec. '41 F.F.M. has an excellent Finley cover for the third of the DARKNESS & DAWN trilogy - THE AFTERGLOW by George Allan England. The really remarkable humanness of Finley's humans is a thing to marvel at. THE AFTERGLOW is illustrated by Paul in the interior, and he has done some really excellent pictures. It is for Beatrice and Allan to create a new world for mankind against the sub-human anthropoids, and they have many things to conquer before the world can again become the free place it was. There are two short stories :- THE LOST GARDEN by



Firstly we come to our old friend S I D B I R C H B Y. "Youth he, " Welcome back to the miasmal swamp of fandom, and may it be many long months before you sink under the goo". (Well according to my horoscope "CONNIE" 'll last until the March issue, when she will retire for the summer months, so that she may at last reap a reward for her labours. She will be back next October, if she manages to pass a rather difficult exam.)

Now R O B E R T J . S I L B U R N has his say, "Congrats. on putting out "CONNIE", and for refusing to print overlibellous stuff. Also for reviewing Yank prozines. Re the latter, don't forget to refer to the cover, and its artist; and tell the reviewer to get another adjective besides "smashing". (Thankee very much, oh comrade, and I have seriously reprimanded myself for using "smashing" too much. Incidentally, the reviews seem to have been the best feature of the issue, and thus more space is given to 'em this time)

Canadian Bob G I B S O N drops us a line, "Sullivan's "AFTER '39, THIS?" indicates that fans can laugh at themselves. (So do lots of other things - and it's a healthy symptom).

Our ink-bedaubed (?) duplicator J . M I C H A E L R O S E N B L U M crushes the following into a rushed letter (Do you ever get any time for yourself, Miko?), welcome to "COSMOS" again - welcome indeed, as the number of sheets is dwindling rather ominously. People getting called-up and similar catastrophes - too too bad... (We still have "STAR PARADE" though). About "CONNIE", very nice. Recommend prozine reviews. Would be very grateful if you take over and tackle reviewing fanzines. (Editors please note that I now have official sanction - so in future you know where to send your mags! Will also take over personal notices from "Fido," so fans please note)

D E R E K W . G A R D I N E R comments, "The review of "FANTASIA" I found very interesting, and when I read further back in "Fido" that they were cutting the evolution sequence altogether it made my blood boil (Minc's still over heated). It's strange how good it makes you feel to see reviews although probably you will never even get a small of half of them.

A R T W I L L I A M S in a vain attempt to catch up with his correspondence says, "CONNIE" is swell! (Thank you for your exhaustive criticism Art, and I hope you will continue to review "C" as fully as above throughout the Winter!!)

Next we get our old friend, and one of our best writers, R O N H O L M E S, who complains for once, "C" was a bit of a mess. (Right) You were far too anxious to get it out. You should be like Ken, he uses his brain. (Ken, please note... that someone thinks you have a brain!!) No good material - no "S.P.". Then you can't say "S.P." is falling into a rut. (Ah, but we have some good material now, THOUGH WE STILL WANT MORE, including a swell story by Don Doughty entitled "ACCIDENT". It is definitely excellent.)

And now for the sailor himself, D O N J . D O U G H T Y - still at sea (ugh!!), "CONNIE" 4 has been read and duly digested (How you feeling after it? - I wouldn't really enjoy the paper myself, but there's no accounting for tastes!) Enjoyed... Art's review of "FANTASIA" - tho' he hardly seems to have written it with enough care for it to be meant for an article - letter excerpt? (Right) Review good, but rather adjectival. Reprint poetry excellent. Editorial inviting (to what?) Do you mean to quote letters at all in future? (Yes, if I have space, and don't feel too tired and fed up). Considering the lack of material and necessity to reprint it's an encouraging re-start (and it won't finish like last time, we hope!).

D O N H O U S T O N says, "I did like "C", and am looking forward to an 8 pager. However what about a change in name? (Sorry, but no dice).

Lastly J A C K G I B S O N (that grand SFX guy) says, "Glad you're carrying on the Heinlein discuss., likewise reviews. "C" fills gap left by "TT". (Oh yeah???)

If, as Doug Webster says in TT 8, Heinlein's psychology is that of a tiro, then the sooner we get a few tiro psychologists at the Ministry of Information the better. \*\*\*\*\*To support his contention, DW cites the character CALHOUN in SIXTH COLUMN, saying that for this person to go crazy and imagine himself the god MOTA was against what little small amount of character CALHOUN had been given. Was it? I don't think so. Those who have read the story will remember that CALHOUN was represented as being an irascible but brilliant scientist who is a little resentful of ARDMORE's usurpation of command. As the story progresses this resentment increases in a quite logical manner and for reasons which are obvious. From the... character which Heinlein has given CALHOUN it is perfectly safe to assume that such a person would brood over any wrongs which he fancies have been done to him. Methinks the Webster will agree that brooding and self pity are short cuts to mental derangement, and who knows what form that derangement may take? Maybe DW is competent to predict what course it will take. Is that a subtle crack trying to... get past my censorship of libel policy?? I'm not.\*\*\*\*\*One example does not prove a case however. What of the very excellent psychology that is abundantly... evident in "IF THIS GOES ON", "UNIVERSE" & "COMMON SENSE"? Hardly that of a tiro eh Doug?

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WHY "THANK HEAVEN FOR HEINLEIN"? by Frank Mills (anyone know who he is?)

I too, do not take to Heinlein, so according to you, Ted, I am one of the minority. But maybe I am not a minority speaker. If some people read a story and cannot understand it, but feel that there is something about it that ought to make it a swell yarn, they will put a "very good" comment alongside it, even though they, not having caught the point of the yarn, have not really enjoyed it. This deliberate falsity of comments, is, no doubt, induced by the fact that everyone says ASF is the best mag., and features the only really good authors in the sf. field. As a result of this, and the fact that JWC raves over all of Heinlein's stories, a poor bewildered guy reading ASF (the normal average reader) will not want to write to JWC and tell him that Heinlein stinks, because he (the reader) could not understand the story. No, he won't have the nerve. He'll take the easy path and run with the crowd, praising Heinlein to the skies, though he knows that what he says is false. No, ted, if some of Heinlein's stories are too deep for you (a veteran fan) there will be many, many average readers who will not understand them. In this case the above will apply, and thus I've tried to prove to you that the mind of man works in such a way that though Heinlein may be rated high, it may be fear, and not psychology that puts him in that high place.

==C==O==S==M==O==S== ==C==O==S==M==O==S== ==C==O==S==M==O==S==



THE LATEST FANTASY FLICKER.



Though somewhat old to most of you, THE DEVIL BAT with Bela Lugosi has just arrived in Blackburn. The ads. said it was spine chilling, horrific, and would women please not scream. I went hoping for one of the best horror films I'd ever have seen, but alas, alack, I was not in the least moved as the victims went to their.. deaths and gave hoarse yells and screams. No, if you like detective pics., don't miss this, but if you want horror, save your money, sucker. Brother Lugosi is once more a mad scientist, trying to revenge himself on some persons who he thinks have cheated him. He develops a large bat (with the appropriate flashes of intricate electrical apparatus) and some lotion that it hates. He gives the lotion to his victims to rub on their necks as shaving lotion, then sets the bat loose, and it.. attacks the person with the lotion on them. He is defeated at last by a reporter