

# The Explorer

FEB. 1952

"Ad Stellas"



- SATURNIAN  
B.E.M.

\* THE EXPLORER \*

Published by and For the International  
Science-Fiction Correspondence  
Club

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EXPLORER is edited, perpetrated, slapped together, mimeo'd, and such by Ed and Jo Noble, with the aid of such stalwarts as Larry Gage, Bea Glass, Larry Kiehlbauch, and all you nice people who send in your material for publishing.

We have an ad rate for those who would carry ads with us, it being \$1.50 per page; 75¢ half-page; and 50¢ for a quarter page.

"AD STELLAS"  
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it is also a reminder to a lot of you that renewals to the magazine will be due soon, some of y'all with this issue. Remember that we have a new address, and that Box 49, Girard, Penna. is NOT the right one. It is NOW: RFD # 1, TOWNLINE ROAD, ERIE, PENNA.

Read ISFCC Fanzines -- All of These Are Published by Members of the ISFCC --  
QUANDRY -- S-F NEWSSCOPE -- AD-O-ZINE -- OPUS -- FAN-FARE -- WASTEBASKET --  
SOL -- SLANT -- OOPSLA --- MAD -- and we think you'll like them.

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THE EXPLORER

Its New Address Repeated: - RFD # 1, Townline Road, Erie, Pennsylvania

FROM US

Well, here we are, less than one week installed in the new domicile, and it is very easily discernible to all of you in ISFCC that EXPLORER is gonna be even later than usual...to those of you who've gone through the chaos of moving it will be realized what a general mess accrues in such an event....by the number of the magazines that have bounced by reason of not having the correct address I have a notion that a number of you have had the experience of moving...why not let us in on the secret when you change addresses?

For awhile it almost looked like Pres. Lynn Hickman would manage to get together with the editors of this 'zine and with Basil Wells in December, when he was en route to Statesville from Napoleon, but winter weather, generally lousy driving conditions and such items kept him from making it up this way.

From both of us, our many thanks to all of you who sent Christmas cards -- it was not oversight that kept us from sending out cards to everybody, but a general lack of time.

Speakin' of Christmas cards, may it not be said that s-ficionados come out with some of the most original ideas in greeting cards? Walter Willis of the incomparable SLANT, Lee Hoffman, Dave Ish, and many others came through with some fine holiday cards that are to be kept and re-read time and again.

Back to things s-f -- the publishing of our s-f crossword puzzle brought out quite a few remarks, all complimentary. It also has brought us a couple more of them, and they shall be in future issues and perhaps, if time allows, in this particular issue.

This is the start of a new year ---



January - February 1952

"Ad Stellas"

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LIL OL' DAN SCORES ANOTHER --

That well known archer, Daniel Q-pid, returned recently from another sojourn in the field and announced that he had made another bulls-eye. The Master Monster of the Little Monsters of America, also known as the President of the International Science-Fiction Correspondence Club, our fraternal Lynn Hickman has been enough heart-wounded that it's bratted about there'll be wedding bells this June. In his card announcement Lynn sorta forgot to mention the gal's name, but it just shows to go you that there's camaraderie in s-f -- she's a fan, too -- 'nough said, no?

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HEY, YOU LETTER AND MAG SWAPPERS -- !

Just got a letter in the mail t'other day from R. C. Unsworth, L 106, Mafulira in Northern Rhodesia, Africa that he'd like to pick up some correspondents in the states, and who'd like it a lot if some of us who have some spare mags could send some his way -- like all parts of the empire, Northern Rhodesia is pretty well under the 'austerity' program and subbing to magazines is one of the 'tabu' items -- how 'bout lending an s-ficionado a hand. Unsworth is 29, works in a copper mine, and has been in Africa about six years after serving a hitch in the Navy -- sounds like there'd be an interesting correspondent for a number of y'all --

cc00cc

UNIVERSAL MUSKETEERS Starts Back --

Ron Friedman, who's been one of the stormier petrels (or it has been attributed to him in some such manner), sends in a letter that he is back in circulation again to resume activity in the s-f field, and says that he would like to make it known that the U-M is to be re-awakened.

Friedman writes: "New Enterprise Publications" will again publish on schedule. It shall begin in the early part of March with all its publications and continue regularly after that. In case I am activated into service, this time I have a couple of fans to take over for me....I hope that I can gain my face back among fans, and also my reputation."

For those interested in the long dormant Universal Musketeers, Ron's address is: Ronald S. Friedman, 1980 E. 8th St., Brooklyn 23, N. Y.

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SATURNIAN "BEM" --

Copy to accompany cover pic on mag:-

SPECIAL to Saturn City Sentinel-Star

Monster captured by members of Our Imperial Majesty's Solar Craft.

Third satellite from Sun inhabited, but infested with creatures such as these. Specimen captured to be on display when expedition returns to home base. Not recommended for those with high-strung nerves or weak hearts.

... ooo 000

S-F In Slicks -

Current issue of PAGRANT has an article concerning the first inhabitants of the Americas -- or at least they were the earliest known peoples to have been in this area -- interesting stuff for those who like archaeology and such -

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How about Sending in Your Renewal to EXP ... this is not for those who are new subscribers -- just a reminder to regulars who have renewals coming up - OK?

**EXPLORER Looks At its Contemporaries ---**

The usual number of top-notch fan-mags found their respective and various ways to this desk, either by the old address or the new. It seems months since we went at the job of looking over the fan mail (it has been months...let's get on the ball!).

From those two MAD-men of MAD, Ryan and Lippincott, 224 Broad St., Newark, O., comes word that their 'zine will go quarterly so its respective editors can have time to read their letters, other fan-mags, and pro-mags. The third issue arrives with such information, and contains a fine cover by La Hoffman and inside illus by David English, along with material by Kosher, Len Craig, Richards, and Jan Rommoff. Mineo work is very good...one of the up-and-coming 'zines.

Lee Hoffman's QUANDRY, 101 Wagner St., Savannah, Georgia, features the usual sterling quality (from Willis in the UK) and other articles, even unto the certification which makes W.A.W. an honorary swamp critter...the one and only Q comes out bi-monthly and is right there with about all that a fan-mag oughta have .. some of the illus are taking on a little Page touch.

Improving with every issue is David Ish's SOL, the Drill Press Boring Publication. Send a dime for a copy to 914 Hammond Rd., Ridgewood, New Jersey -- contains copy by such as Leo Hoffman, Shel Vick, Gibbs, Kelly, and Carr -- cover by Richard Hirs.

The initial issue of OPUS arrived some time ago and it looks real nice...OPUS is the outlet for W. Max Keasler since he and Venable dropped FAN-VARIETY ... Max has a lot of artistic talent and really comes through with some good material. It's to be hoped that OPUS rates a much better future than FY -- it should. Contact Max at Box 24, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Bulletin of the BSFF, Baltimore S-F Forum, arrived, listing the future meetings of the club. A ten page bulletin, it contains book reviews, letters, verse, and general odds and ends that make it an interesting club-zine. For folks living in or around Baltimore, the BSFF should be one of the interesting s-f highlights. Anyone interested should contact Allen Newton, 114 E 25th St., Baltimore or Ray Sienkiewicz, 302 W 35th St., Baltimore, Maryland.

Ken Krauger's ABORTIONS or ABBY, looks better and better...severe critics should find less fault with this March issue...Ken looks for material and writers...ABBY is one of those 'zines printed on legal-size paper, which means there's a lot on a page. Send a dime to Ken Krauger at 11 Pearl Place, Buffalo, NY for a copy.

We have undoubtedly left some out again .. this time it's 'cause we moved ...the Girard address is holding all second class matter until we get out there to pick it up. There are a lot of dogged good fan-mags worth looking at .. how about trying Bill Butts' AD-O-ZINE, 2088 E. Atlantic St., Philadelphia, for a means of locating that book or magazine you've been wanting. Also forgot to mention SCIENCE and CULTURE, which is now being elegantly put out by Stan Crouch, Sterling, Virginia...

**Solution to last month's Cross-word Puzzle**

NOVA AT  
ELITE TO  
LANCELOT  
SF LLAMA  
R. L  
APART  
ROCKET  
BENEFIT

Crossword puzzles are a lot of fun to make up -- they're also a headache to make up when you start getting stuck ... as long as you send in cross-words we'll print 'em. OK. Next month one by Charles Brusard.



# "The ISFCC Story" by Paul Ganley

(In the preceding installment, Paul Ganley covered the beginnings of the ISFCC, with the difficulties involved in maintaining an organization, and the first efforts in getting the club magazine started. The history continues with the point where he (Ganley) contacted Martin Woomer of Allentown---)

In all, I wrote four letters in a month to Martin Woomer, three of which concerned the inclusion of an ISFCC department in his magazine. It was finally agreed that Woomer would carry an "EXPLORER" department of five pages in length in each issue of the magazine, and I was given the job of editing the EXPLORER section.

This department appeared in the fourth issue of Woomer's magazine, which was a well-edited mimeographed job. First, members were listed, state by state, and listed under sponsors. Later, in the middle of July of 1949 a supplement to the June issue appeared. The June issue itself had not yet come out, and Woomer mentioned that it would be quite late. It was quite late. It was extraordinarily late. As of now it is about thirty months late. An excellent magazine dropped from the picture.

However, one consolation -- in that supplementary June issue the first -- and last -- EXPLORER department did appear. It contained an explanation by Woomer, and this blurb: "This is the EXPLORER, a Department dedicated to new trails, those to be blazed on this planet, on others, and especially the new trails blazed in men's minds." If new members have wondered about the significance of the title EXPLORER, this quote should be self-explanatory. The department also included our motto: "Ad Stellas"... "To the Stars" and this little idea: "The stars...as ages we ignored them; as men, we study them--and as gods we shall reach them."

In a short editorial column entitled Vox Editoris, I explained our tentative plans for future departments, requested candidates for elections, and reviewed present contents. We published the ISFCC Charter, which was never actually submitted for approval by members. This procedure in regard to the Charter was followed because the Charter was completely democratic. It is the same CHARTER, sworn to by Richard Abbott before Wilson Coon, that each member of the ISFCC has seen or is supposed to have seen. (Editorial butting in:-- It is doubtful that every member has seen a copy of the Constitution and Charter, because it was printed in an early issue of the magazine---there are a number of copies here (Bris) and those who may want a copy, please send in your request -- a stamp would be appreciated..)

The column also contained a listing of the ISFCC membership, then 60 members; and concluded with an official ISFCC application blank written by Abbott. At this time there was no payment asked of members for membership.

That was that....some time later the mail brought a handwritten missive from Woomer to the effect that the magazine had folded. I tried to contact him at his post-office box, but got no answer.

And, except for the fact that perhaps our membership morale had been lifted for a short time, we were right back here we started.

With one exception: -- Richard Abbott reported that his physician had forbidden any further correspondence because his eyes had gone back on him. He could not continue to direct the ISFCC!

When Dick's eyes went bad it might have been thought a great blow to the club,  
(cont. on page 8)

# Erie Book Store

We Don't Claim to Have Every Science Fiction or Fantasy Book That is in Circulation, but we can Do Our Best to Supply Your Needs in Books -- If You are Looking For a Certain Book or If You're Making Collections of Specific Authors Maybe We Have Some of the Ones You Want in Our Stocks --

The Erie Book Store Has The Largest Stock That's In Northwestern Pennsylvania, in New and Second-Hand Books.

Send Us a Card or a Letter Listing the Books or Authors You'd Like to Get and We'll Be Glad to Supply Information on Prices. (and they are reasonable.)

(Personal Plug: - I don't think Basil Wells will object too highly if I mention his name as well as mine in being a frequent "haunter" of the interesting stacks of books -- Wells and I frequent the Erie Book Store almost every time we're in town... if you're after good books that are not out of reach, try the Erie Book Store -

Ye ed, Ed )

*Jarzan*

THE ERIE BOOK STORE  
17 E. 8th St  
ERIE, PENN.

*Adventure*

*off-trail*

*Martians*

*Fantasy*





Trading Manager - Larry Gage, Route 4, Paris, Texas.

This department is for all members of the ISFCC. If you have magazines or books you want to swap, sell, buy, or what have you, send in your lists to Larry Gage and he'll see to it that they are listed in the coming issues of EXPLORER. Have you got certain items for which you are looking? Go through these listings and you may find just what you want. OK? OK!

RICHARD BERGERON, RFD # 1, Newport, Vermont - WANTS: - Issues # 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 of Fanscient, also any issues of the FF, Mekronantikon, Rhodonagnetic Digest, Orb, Slant, Fan-Fare, Dawn, Odd, FanVariety, Journal of Space Flight, Cosmag, Spaceship, Space Magazine, Spacowarp, Magrab, Valhalla, and Quandry. Must be in good to fair condition. Also wants up-to-date rosters of the Fantasy Artists, FAPA, and S.F.S.

Has for Trade: - Copies of OM, ASF, FFM, FM, SS, Fate, and one ASQ. Also US and foreign stamps, coins, paper money, curios from China and Japan, 20 mysteries by Queen, Gardner, etc.

TED SERRILL, RFD # 1, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - Wants: Old issues of SF mags Will trade stamps from his collection of about 3000. Send a list of your mags and your wants and he'll try to arrange a suitable swap.

MATTHEW STAVOLA, 567 S. Quaker Lane, West Hartford, Conn. - Wants to buy the first two years of PLANET, and wants to know the date of Vol. 1, No. 1 -- also wants all copies of Operator 5, early Terror Tales, and Horror Stories. Wants to acquire and fill files depleted from moving, so he must buy them, with nothing to trade.

ROGER DARD, 232 James St., Perth, Western Australia - Wants Fantasy Comics:- Adv. into the Unknown, all issue 1-17; Weird Adv. -- 1-9; Jet - # 2, Strange Worlds #2 and #3; Strange Adv.-1,2,3, and 5; all issues of WeirdSci, Weird Fantasy, The Haunt of Fear, Crypt of Terror, and Web of Mystery.

Will give in good trade:- List what you'd like from things s-f.

HONEY WOOD, 1880 Garfield, East Cleveland, Ohio - Wants to trade stamps with other members.

THOMAS M. MORLARTY, 57933 (That's 57-33) 160th St., Flushing 65, N. Y. - wants most H. Rider Haggard books

Has to trade: Wells' "Men Like Gods" and "Invisible Man"; Deroloh's "The Sleeping and the Dead", "Sleep No More", "Who Knocks", and "Darkness Falls" - plus a couple hundred more in good or mint condition.

GAVIN BROWN, 47 Ganseside St., Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland - Wants back issues of EXPLORER (!!!!!) and also wants to correspond and/or swap mags with US fan.

There you have TRADE WINDS for this time. Innumerable apologies for all the tripe-typing errors, but they're made by yed ed, Ed, in a haste to get out a stencil. Start sending in those wants and swap lists and such to Larry -- the address again is: Larry Gage, Route 4, Paris, Texas. OK? Good deal!

## The ISFCC Story - continued.

however, it<sup>was</sup> started in the actual beginning of the organization as it was meant to be run."

Abbott signed over his charter to me, and I did something that Abbott might not have done. I was too lazy to write everybody, too miserly to spend dollars on postage, and sick and tired of ISFCC failures. I typed up sixty ballots (using carbon paper) and sent them out to the 60-odd members. This was the only way I could think of to sneak out from under the responsibility.

Like a dog thrown into a river, ISFCC had to sink or swim ... it swam.

Acting in his last capacity of the ISFCC, Abbott tabulated the ballots for the election, which, since I was running for secretary, I did not like to do. Election ballots were sent out in September; they took the form of a letter-sized page, with the regulations and directions occupying a single paragraph at the top. Elected officials were to take office on October 18, 1949, for a half-year term ending April 17, 1950. The rest of the sheet was the ballot proper plus a notice to members about the folding of the Woomer-tag. Running for President was Lawrence Kichlbauch, unopposed; for vice-president were Edward Dickson and Rick Sneary; for correspondence manager were Ed Noble and Stanley Crouch; for trading manager were Rich Elsherry and W. C. Butts; for secretary, W. Paul Ganley unopposed; and for Treasurer, Mrs. Bea Glass, unopposed.

The voting deadline was midnight of September 31st, and I received a postal card from Abbott, postmarked 2 pm. of October 1st, announcing the elected: Kichlbauch; Sneary by three; Noble by withdrawal of Crouch; Elsherry by 5; Ganley, and Glass.

A mimeographed postal card postmarked Oct. 19th terminated correspondence between this scribe and Abbott because of the optical condition. With that Rich dropped out of ISFCC as a member. (He's back -- not actively....)

In October of 1949 another notable event occurred, started by Rich Elsherry. He instigated a round-robin series of letters among the six officers, and these letters I have attempted to keep on file as Secretary. They tell a significant tale of the evolution of the ISFCC. From here on we really progressed.

The crowning touch was the birth of EXPLORER in its present form. Ed Noble knew a fellow who had a mimeograph; thus came issue number one. In order to put out the first issue each of the officers contributed a dollar and an eight page free issue was circulated. Later on Noble purchased the mimeo that was used for publishing the magazine, then sold that one and bought the machine which he now uses for putting out the EXPLORER.

Another pleasant surprise to be encountered by those who attempted to get ISFCC on its feet and going was to find that the imposition of financial payment, the subscription to EXPLORER, had a minor effect on the number of members. The roster did drop for awhile, but then it rose to fuller proportions than ever before.

It seemed as though the ISFCC was finally launched and afloat.

## End of Part II

(Should our able secretary find the opportunities to snatch a few hours of study time from the University of Buffalo, there may be more of the ISFCC Story -- he wrote that this was the first batch of material, so it may be assumed there is more to come.)

"And Stellas"

Little Old Oddities That Fill Up Space When There are a Few Lines Left:-

To those of you who draw a paycheck on Friday, this month of February 1952 has five pay-days in it, a rarity which occurs each twenty eight years, or three times in this century.

There'll be a partial eclipse of the moon on Feb. 10th visible in most of the states. A total eclipse of the sun visible generally in Europe on Feb. 25th.



Ex-SOL III Book-notes

by I. Allen Newton

THE ROMANTIC AGONY - Mario Praz, Oxford University Press, \$7.00, 2nd ed. 1951

In this volume Dr. Mario Praz has undertaken a survey of the emergence of the horror theme in the literature of the past century. Confining himself to French, Italian, and English works, he states that the centers of emergence and development were basically London and Paris.

Mr. Praz treats of this development as being an open admission of sadism in literature which ultimately developed into the period of decadence in European writing.

This erudite volume contains copious quotations and exhaustive references. All references are to standard works and those of the prolific Anon. and ephemeral popular interest are ignored. Hence many of the references presumably may be found in large libraries and with dealers in curiosa and erotica.

It is claimed that this is the only volume surveying this aspect of literature on the market. To a serious student of the growth of the outtro genre it might be of interest. To one in search of bibliographical material not normally found in Sunday school journals this book might be invaluable.....L&N

SEP FANTASY STORIES .. 30¢ postpd Avon Pub Co, 575 Madison Ave., NY 22, NY or at most p-b dealers for two-bits -- this one is one of the best buys in many a moon. The Saturday Evening Post is reputed to pay high rates and hence can demand a degree of writing competence from its authors. Fortunately the p-b omits the oft-repeated Hoinlein classics which first appeared in Post so most of the tales will probably be new to the average fan - and all will possess a degree of "adult" writing.

REACH OF THE MIND - Rhine - Penguin Books...this volume dealing with extra-sensory perception and telekinesis is available through the British Penguin Books at 1/5, or somewhere around 25¢. There is no low-price edition of this volume available by a state-side publisher. Reach of the Mind was first reviewed in EXP some two years ago in the first issue of the magazine.

Hardly worth the Seeing:- UNKNOWN WORLD -- preview of this showed a thing like a high-speed streamlined racer plus a boring tool and other assorted odds and ends drilling into the earth to locate what must have been Burreugh's PELLUCIDAR.

Adventure Movie Fans - They're bringing back some of the Dumas' thrillers as double-features in some of the second-run houses...brought together are The Count of Monte Cristo and Son of Monte Cristo, the latter not being a Dumas' tale but a Graustarkian theme dreamed up by Hollywood writers. Second brace is The Three Musketeers and The Man in the Iron Mask.

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PLANETARY PUZZLE - Fill This one out if you know your planets - sent in by Hillel Handloff of Atlantic City, N. J.

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## VISION IN ANIMALS

by

D. Earl Gates

At a recent meeting of the Panama Canal Natural History Society held in Panama City, Dr. Lorus J. Milne, of the faculty of the University of New Hampshire, lectured on how and what animals - from the lowly blind amoeba to the horse - see, or more correctly, sense. Surprisingly enough, the amoeba is not blind; and horses have better sight than humans, principally because they have the largest eyes and best vision of the terrestrial vertebrates.

The sigale called amoeba, the simplest form of animate life, has been found to be sensitive to light to the extent that it will move away from a bright light that is directed upon it, and is even capable of distinguishing between colored lights. Many other 'eyeless' animals have been found to be highly sensitive to light and to be able to detect variations in the quantity to an amazingly accurate degree. Dr. Milne cited, as an example, a test run with a sea urchin, a small, eyeless, spine-covered animal from the sea floor. A checkerboard pattern of ten 100 watt bulbs was placed above the tank containing the creature. When any one of the ten bulbs was turned out the animal turned all its spines to point to the darkened area, definitely proving that this sightless animal could detect the darkening of one bulb among nine others, totalling nine hundred watts.

Other tests uncovered the fact that crayfish, lobsters, and certain other crustaceans and animals equipped with compound, multi-lens eyes also have a highly developed light sensitivity, called "dermal light sense", in the skin of parts of the body. In the crayfish and lobster this sensitivity was found in the skin of the abdomen where there is no eye -- only nerve ganglia.

In the part of his lecture dealing with what animals can see in color, Dr. Milne brought out several little known facts revealed by tests conducted by himself and other research scientists. For instance, man's best friend, the dog, is color blind. However, a dog can distinguish between shades of grey. The honeybee, which spends so much time in and around brightly colored flowers, sees best in the ultraviolet part of the spectrum. And here is a note for those of you who are fishing enthusiasts and like to go hunting night-crawlers with a flashlight. That earthworm you're after is sensitive to blue and white light, but not to red, so try putting some red cellophane over the light and see if your luck improves.

During wartime research for the Army, Dr. Milne discovered that infra-red light, such as that used in the famed "snoper-scope", becomes visible to the unaided human eye when powerful enough. Unfortunately this requires a tremendous amount of power. It was also found that with the lens removed from the human eye, ultraviolet light becomes visible as violet.

Dr. Milne gave no indication of being a science-fiction or fantasy fan, nor did he carry any of the aspects of his subject into that field. However, it isn't difficult to see that the subject of vision in animals is threaded all through s-f and fantasy. Every reader is familiar with the good old B&M, the frog men of Venus, the intelligent but octopus-like other-world being, the insect men of Zyxlu, the extra terrestrial with eye stalks, and others too numerous to mention-- all alien life-forms - all having a vision of some sort. With very few exceptions the strange, animate life-forms and intelligent other world beings encountered in the pages of s-f have some type of vision. To the skeptical many of these forms of vision are fanciful and fantastic. Fantastic they may be, but many of them exist right here on this spinning globe of ours, and similarities to most of the others can be found. For instance, the land crab found in Central America and other parts of the world, has eyes projecting from its body on stalks; the octopus, squid, and



certain octopod vertebrates have eyes almost identical to human eyes; apes, monkeys, day active birds, reptiles, and some fish and insects have color vision; and the highly developed light sensitivity of some of the lower forms of animate life has already been discussed in this article. If these various forms of vision and light sensitivity have developed in the wide variety of animal life here on Earth it certainly seems possible, even probably, that on other planets in this and other galaxies life evolving under different climactic and atmospheric conditions would have developed many other types of vision in a bewildering variety of life forms.

Bring on those B E N s!

D. E. Gates, Pedro Miguel, Panama  
Canal Zone

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Mostly Stuff Like Dat Dere --

Like it was mentioned in the editorial, this is the first issue of EXPLORER in its new home ... and it's a pretty harum-scarum sort of an issue, what with looking in this box or that crate and such for copy that was jammed into the tunnel of packing ... the above article came in from Don Gates, who's one of the more interesting members of ISFCC who's just starting to let the wraps off his writing ability -- lives at Pedro Miguel, the first of the locks going one or the other directions on the canal ... hope to get more of his work one of these days.... from Joe Fillinger comes this leaflet publicizing the BUFFLOCON, sponsored by the Buffalo Fantasy League, to be held on the week-end of May 2, 3, and 4 .... you can see some of the better known Buffalo area fans there, including our own Paul Ganley, Ken Kreuzer, Fillinger, and several others who make up the Buffalo Fantasy League...plans are not too definite yet, but they're being formulated as the days go by .... a few fancy hunks of applause should go to the Balceiferum, the s-f club in Baltimore, that's having some top-notch meetings ... trips to such spots as the Naval Observatory .. lectures on stuff that's scientific even ... they're putting out their own bulletin, and Baltimore area fans would do well to look in on some of their gatherings ... for information contact Allen Newton, 114 E. 25th St., Baltimore 18, Md....and Barclay D. Johnson ("Bark" to you) of 878 Oak St., Winnetka, Illinois is compiling a listing of about forty of the top clubs in the s-f field ... for any information about it, would suggest that you send a note to Bark ... the stuff he has to say about ISFCC and EXPLORER reads good to those eyes ... there'll be an article on special lines, entitled PROXYTOO, Unltd., along with some "Li'l Pecul" dreamed up by the author, Bark, himself...it ought to be interesting ... then, again, another is starting a project, a booklet on "How To Form a Science Fiction Club"....this is being done by Orville Hoshier, 1728 Mayfair, of Emporia, Kansas --- he's to be aided and abetted by Shelby Vick, who's capable of doing some pretty nice caricatures ...

Some of you have written in suggesting that excerpts of letters written in be incorporated as part of the magazine --- so, if enough letters roll in which are of club-wise interest, we'll start that next issue -- OK? We had that one time. ...right now there isn't too much more to gab about, and the inclination is not too great 'cause Jo is sittin' here mixing up a batch of chocolate chip cookies and they'll be ready pretty soon -- see you next issue ---

" \* " \* " \* " \* "

It'll be the CHI-CON in '52

Playing a Return Engagement

It's getting to be a tradition!

You don't know what you're missing!

## FRIENDS OF THE LETTER

A Department Conducted By Our First Past-President, Larry Kiehlbauch, and Devoted To Encouraging the Exchange of Letters.

Our first column in the last issue had fairly gratifying results, and we hope that this one and the ones to follow shall be of at least equal interest and even of greater interest. Remember, folks, if you're in the mood to swap letters and would like to pick up a correspondent or two or three or more, write in to me, Lawrence Kiehlbauch, 1516 Tenth St. W., Billings, Montana, giving what information you'd like to have printed -- type of correspondent you'd like, topics you'd like to discuss, and whatever else you'd like to have listed. Here we go with this list, and it's a good one:-

HAROLD HOSHTETLER, Box 163, Cairabrook, Penna. - Harold's age is 18; six feet tall; weighs 150 pounds more or less - red hair - wears glasses - sorta on the good-lookin' side. Has hopes of becoming a pro stuf writer and would welcome correspond-ence, particularly with some pro writers.

SHELDON DEBERTCHIN, 1234 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 3, N.Y. - Sheldon wants a mixed group of ages fifteen to twenty five to correspond with. Sheldon is also starting his own correspondence club, and for any information on this, contact him. No specific number of members is wanted, so everybody who writes will get a reply. This also applies to any who write to Hal Hestetler, who is in on the idea, too, and who joined ISFCC at Sheldon's suggestion.

BOB KEYES, 364 W. Main St., Waukesha, Wisconsin - Says he will correspond with both guys and gals, anywhere from 14 to 25, or older if interested. Bob's a college student, 18 years old. Reads ASF, Galaxy, Mag of F&SF, and Galaxy Novels - prefers s-f to fantasy.

MRS. ALLEN KOLF, 905 Summit Ave., Bronx 52, N. Y. - Larry prefers women for her correspondence. No particular age group and no limit to the number of pen-pals, as she will answer all that are interesting. She's 30 years old, black hair, brown eyes and 5 ft. 4½ inches tall. Has three children, and superintendent of an apartment building is her job -- will swap pictures -- likes s-f, corresponding, crochet work, quilting, and almost all house work.

JOHN C. BLANCHURN, Box 584, Shelley, Idaho - John writes that he will exchange letters with any and all age groups. Tops the six foot mark by an inch, weighs 180, and wears specs to make him look more 'scholarly' - brown eyes - dark hair --

MATTHEW J. STAVOLA, 5 Henry St., Rocky Hill, Connecticut -- Is anxious to make contact with fans anywhere, follas or gals. Interests are many and varied. He's 27, does some charcoal and pencil drawing - and a little water color. Likes chess, illustrating, classical records, poetry, archery, and astronomy. Also collects s-f mags.

MRS. HENRY ORVIS, Rt. 1, Seneca, Illinois -- Does not have time for more than 5 pen pals, and would like about four women and one fellow. Esther is the first name, and she's 28, 5' 6", brown hair and blue eyes - would like correspondents about her own age if possible. Has no hobbies other than reading almost everything in the s-f line.

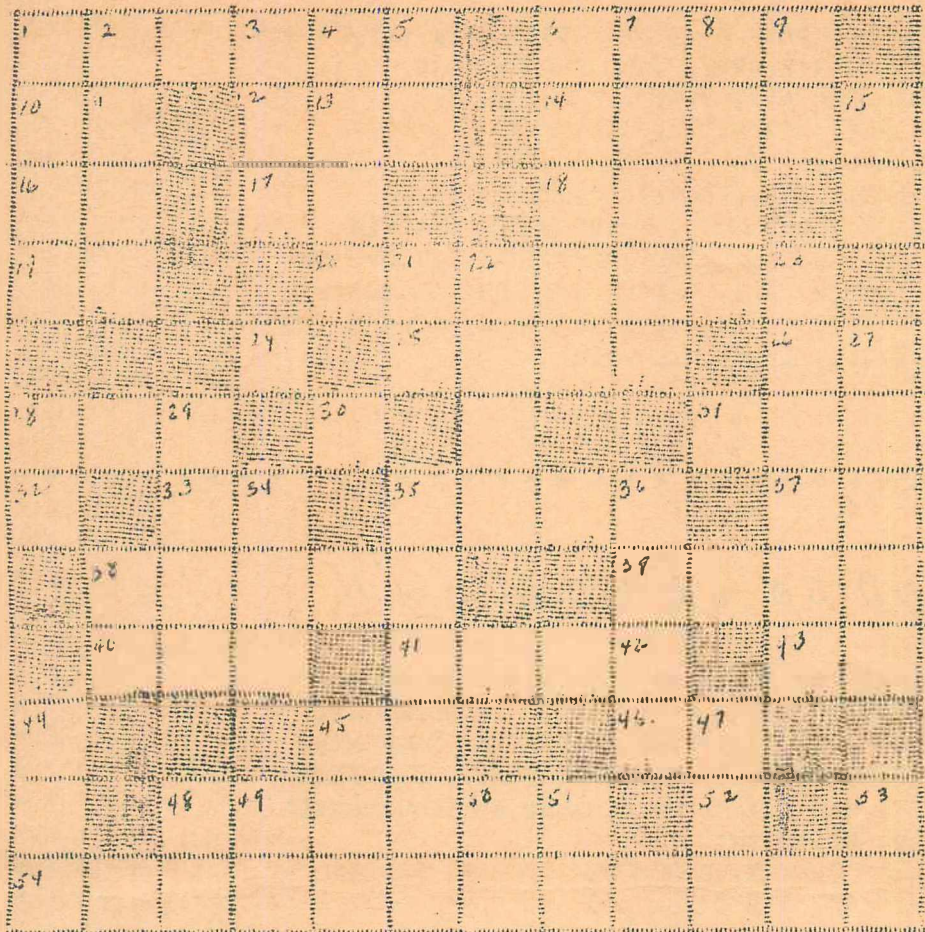
MIMI JOHNSTON, 433 Askin Blvd., Windsor, Ontario, Canada - "I'm 18 years old, in college, and heading for the forestry service, and a member of the Canadian Science Fiction Association, if it hasn't expired again. Chiefly interested in arguing, talking, and reading."

There you have the second installment of the Pen-Pal Department -- Friends of the Letter, let us hear from you if your voice has been silent and your pen has been in need of being dipped in ink for schreibing some friefo -- there's a lot of fun in swapping letters and battning the breeze about things s-f and fantastic -- let's make 1952 a banner year -- remember it only costs a penny more to send a letter now because a postal card is 2¢ and a first class letter is 3¢ --

Larry



By Gregg Calkins



DOWN

1. 2nd word in #1 across.
2. A planetoid.
3. Sturgeon's nick name. (1st)
4. Letter "E" plus a short rest.
5. Noble's first name.
6. What you are.
7. Good old home.
8. Antares - Alderbaran Rocketry, Inc.
9. What the trans-continental rocket will soon make obsolete.
10. Science-fiction
21. The last two letters in our sun's name.
22. What women do to men.
23. Last name of ex-Pres. of NSF
24. See #24 across
30. See #30 across this time.
32. As opposite as night from \_\_\_\_\_
35. Mars' second moon.

ACROSS

28. Co-editor of Exp

29. Where all good Devas are

1. First word in book title by W. Stewart
6. Antares, Sirius, etc.
10. First initial of AS editor, and 2nd letter in his last name.
12. Not in the beginning
14. They were golden in Merritt's "Face in the Abyss"
16. Second satellite of Jupiter.
17. District Attorney (This is S-F?)
18. Ackerman's first initial, Hubbard's middle initial and Dard's 1st initial.
19. Abbrev. for mag. Name - also post-script.
20. Our pole star.
24. Abbrev. for Gravity
26. Satellite of Sol's third planet
28. Not affirmative
29. Initials of editor of ASF
30. 1st initial of Leo Hoffman's frnz.
31. What it takes to put sex in s-f.
32. Exclamation
33. Latin word in ISFCC motto
35. Detrimental robot
52. See #2 across. 54. German rocket term for "burnt out" of fuel.
36. Kubaiyat of \_\_\_\_\_
38. Elevated train. (See! S-F)
44. Author of Tarzan
45. A Greek 'pot'
47. Not me.
48. "Doc" Smith's initials
49. Spanish for "one"
50. Privileged character.
51. What you say before "choo"
53. Los Colo's "Mrs."

ACROSS

37. \_ \_ \_ Dick, the frnz.'s friend
38. Keep away from
39. Reg Phillips' wife's first name
40. Last name of US rocket expert
41. Inter-Galactic Resources Administ.
43. ??? Figure it out
45. Mumbled statement
46. Nevis star named "Bob Old"
48. Jupiter's third satellite





Last year we carried Indices to a number of the s-f magazines, done by our Correspondence Manager, Bob Hoskins. Bob, engrossed in studies at Albany State, is a rather busy fella, so Anthony Lauria, another plenty ambitious ISFCC'er, has taken over with the idea. This is the first of the Indices, and we look forward to more of 'em in the coming issues.

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- ANDERSON, Poul - World of the Mad - short - 8000 - Feb.  
 Annas, Hal - Maid -- to Order - short - 6000 - Feb.  
     The Longnozzle Event - short - 6500 - April  
 Archer, Jules - The Mistake of Christopher Columbus - short - 2300 - Sept.  
 Ashby, Richard - Master Race - short - 4100 - Sept.  
 BLISH, James - The Void Is My Coffin - short - 4200 - June  
 Bloch, Robert - The Hungry House - novelet - 7200 - April  
     Hell's Angel - short novel - 23,000 - June  
 Bradbury, Ray - In This Sign - short - 6500 - April  
 CROUTCH, Leslie A. - Playmate - short - 4000 - Nov.  
 DeCamp, L. Sprague - The Owl and the Ape - short - 6000 - Nov.  
 FURTH, Carlton - We're Off to Mars - short - 5000 - Sept.  
 GAULT, William Campbell - I'll See You in My Dreams - novelet - 9000 - Sept.  
 HOLDEN, Fox B. - The Builders - short - 4000 - Feb.  
 LANG, Allen K. - An Eel By The Tail - short - 4800 - April  
 Lesser, Milton - The Old Way - novelet - 10,000 - Nov.  
 LATHESON, Richard - Drink My Red Blood - short - 2500 - April  
 McGreevey, John - Perfect Companion - short - 4000 - June  
 Myers, Charles F. - The Vengeance of Toffee - short novel - 26,000 - Feb.  
     Double Identity - novelet - 16,000 - June  
 NEVILLE, Kris - Hold Back Tomorrow - short - 4000 - Sept.  
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 PETLJA, Emil - The Answer - short - 2000 - Sept.  
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     The Martians and the Coys - short - 4500 - June  
 Robinson - Frank - Beyond the Ultra-violet - short - 4200 - June  
 Rocklynno, Ross - Revolt of the Devil Star - novelet - 10,000 - Feb.  
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 St. Reynard, Geoff - Beyond the Fearful Forest - short novel - 25,000 - April  
     Beware - the Usurpers! - novel - 35,000 - Nov.  
 Sturgeon, Theodore - Shadow, Shadow, on the Wall - short - 3100 - Feb.  
 Sturgis, Melvin - The Gift - short - 3000 - Nov.  
 Swain, Dwight V. - Cry Chaos - novel - 35,000 - Sept.  
 WALTON, Bryce - The Barrier - short - 2500 - Feb.

\* \* \* \*

whoops - Add to New Members

RENTZ, Ronald - 130 Vera St., West Hartford 7, Connecticut

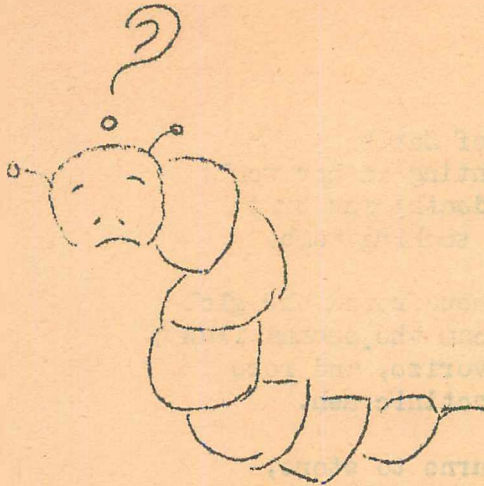
Add to Reviews of fnz. -

The first issue of a controversially titled, but otherwise elegantly done job arrived t'other day, Joe Fillinger's GHOUL. -- Vol 1, # 1 at ten cents a copy -- cover is one of the tops in fan-mag covers in years and done by Charles Konberger. Verse by Raymond Clancy and a top-notch article for Burroughs' fans -- send for a copy by a dime to Joe M. Fillinger, 148 Landon St., Buffalo 8, N. Y.





JOVIAN LIFE



This month the planetary life series of straight-faced satire is by guest contributor Sheldon Dorechin. Shel is one of the more active members of ISFCC and is currently struggling through these preliminaries of starting a correspondence club. THE VARIANTS are doing better, from what I gather from Ganley's ISFCC STORY, than ISFCC when it was first started. Drop Shel a line about the club at 1234 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 60, N. Y. Fred Chappell

The creatures on Jupiter have bodies that look something like armored caterpillars supported on two stumpy legs for each armored segment. (The critter is segmented for flexibility, limited, of course.)

Jupiter's inhabitant would be about eight feet long and three feet high and about three feet in cross-section. It does not breathe, but eats the ice that covers the planet's surface and extracts the oxygen. It combines the hydrogen left over with the methane in the atmosphere and/or the ammonia to form its food. It does this by a process similar to Terran photosynthesis.

Each of its legs has a fringe of claws around the pad in order to provide traction in extremely slippery places. The pads of the feet are extremely rough to provide traction on the ice-covered terrain.

Jupiter's inhabitant is intelligent. It has tentacles growing out of the front and rear segments, the tips of which are shaped like various tools, but they use other than corporeally constructed tools whenever possible.

It sees by means of a natural radar embodied in its physiognomy.

These creatures are gregarious and all things are done according to the common mind, telepathic, of course, although individual thought is encouraged.

We have been referring to the Jovian as "it"...perhaps we should refer to the Jovian as "they" ... the Jovian is bi-sexual and reproduces by breaking off at the juncture of the segments.

(That's it for this time. Maybe Sheldon shoulda taken lessons from Weinbaum, or vice-versa. Next issue we'll take the next planet out from the Sun ... lessee, that must be the one with the rings .. Saturn, no? Fred C.)

ADD to the New Members -

Jim Harmon, 427 East 8th St., Mt. Carmel, Illinois

Two More Clubs Proposed --

Mark Johnston, 433 ~~Kirkcaldy~~ Askin Blvd. in Windsor, Ontario writes in that he is working on the idea of an s-f club for the Windsor area. This should be a good spot for a club, being so close to Detroit, something like a hop, skip, and jump across the river. Both he and Ronald Rontz of 130 Vera St., West Hartford Connecticut have ideas of clubs, and would like to have any assistance in helping get these under way -- advice -- other disa and data. How 'bout it, guys and gals?

## EARTH DIES

In spastic agony the throes of Earth  
 scream at the scorpions fighting in her womb;  
 her last convulsions vomit death; for birth  
 shatters her child-led to a smoldering tomb.

A leaping scarf of flame sweeps round the globe;  
 through rolling banks of steam the oceans flash;  
 Earth's blazing forests pulverize, and rebo  
 her corpse in coronants of actinic ash.

Slowly the candent coffin turns to stone,  
 and hungry fissures cleave its crystal crust,  
 Upthrusting rocks, fire-bleached and stark as bone,  
 stab the unfathomed wilderness of dust.

The pyromorphous planet weaves its flight  
 with fading lustre on the loom of space,  
 until the winding-sheet of endless night  
 shrouds the oncaustic pattern of its face.

And now for centuries no foot has tread  
 the aching deserts of a naked land.  
 Across the wind-scarred waste the tears of God  
 are stalagmitic monuments of sand.

....JAMES ANGELL

## More EX-SOL III Book Notes - I. Allen Newton

S-F for a dime yet! Dell Pub. Co. @ 261 Fifth Ave., NY 16, NY, has put out a 10¢ edition of Robert Heinlein's UNIVERSE...tale deals with a space ship whose passengers have forgotten from whence they came and whither they were going. So, since man is a rationalising critter, they built up a complete cosmology within the framework of reference of the narrow confines of the ship. But man is also a curious critter and rediscovery of the flight dock blasted the old concepts and gave promise of putting the ship on the beam again...one of the better s-f tales, and you can't go wrong for a dime. Buy it! Buy it for your friends!

Craig Browning's, I hear Reg Phillips', long-announced and postponed WORLD OF IF, has made its appearance for some time in the paper back edition, pubbed at 35¢ from Horit Books @ 129 Clark St., Chicago 2, Illinois -- the book is not so hot on s-f...it is mostly occupied with a description of the U.S. under the Iron Heel of the Despotie Russian Conqueror...S-F is slung into the plot by means of a gizmo that causes our hero to plunge into a possible alternate world.

S-F IN SLIX - CATHOLIC DIGEST of Nov. '51 has "Your Trip Into Space" condensed from the book, MEN OF OTHER PLANETS by Kenneth Heur and pubbed by Pellegrini and Cudahy. article is serious and discusses possibilities of life in solar system. Copernicus would be astounded.



Ex-Sol III cont.

SatVeeFest - Dec 1st '51 - Rear Admiral Dan Gallery gives us a good football story in THE GREAT UPSET with applied electronics helping Navy score over the ARMY... good reading... light, of course.

AVON has reissued Merritt's BURN WEEPE BURN and has announced a reissue of DWELLERS IN THE MIDGE sometime early in '52... these Avon Merritt titles are probably the best selling fantasy ever put in p-b format.

SFILIS - Lippert's production of MOST CONTINENT is sad attempt to cash in on s-f vogue... guided missile drops in Pacific area... searchers not only find it, but also a Devonian world... uranium deposits cause atmosphere to be green... Triceratops and Brontosauri threaten our heroes whilst overhead sounds the booming of the Pterodactyls and the sun sinks greenly in the east... our heroes get essential data from yo ge-bussed rocket and leave just in time to miss inundation of the island by seismic activity. Specific criticism:- Our heroes, when forced down, do not send SOS 'cause they are to keep radio silence until they locate rocket. (One plane carrying the chief designers look for the missile! One of the banana republics could do better air-sea search than this. Hence film slightly under-rates Uncle Sam's Navy. Perhaps 30 years ago I would have thought this film good.

: : : :

HEY, How 'Bout That MIDWEST FAN CONFERENCE???

They're gonna do it again -- that means the Midwest Fan Conference will be at Boatley's On-the-Lake Hotel and they've got the whole place reserved for the 10th and 11th of May reserved exclusively for fans. All this takes place, as it has for the past couple of years, at Russell's Point, Indian Lake, Ohio...

Lotsa mid-west fans'll be there... The Fords, the Lavonders, Dec, and many others. Last year everybody had a good time... for reservations or information about this big fan gab-fest contact Dan Ford, 129 Maple Ave., Sharonville, Ohio or just write to Box 132, Delaware, Ohio...

.. Kind of a Questionnaire -- Its Results

Several months ago Nelson Bridwell of 120 Nw 29th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma started a poll of the best liked s-f novels, asking fans (via OW or MIDGE) to send in their ballots... response was to the extent of several hundred titles, with the following tabulated results, in case you'd like to know how s-fandom tends on its preferences.

- #1 Spot - Tied at 10 total - Merritt's SHIP of ISHTAR and vV's SLAN
- #2 " - DRACULA by Bram Stoker
- #3 " .. DWELLERS IN THE MIDGE - Merritt
- #4 " .. Four way tie: Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN, Weinbaum's MARTIAN ODYSSEY, Hubbard's MARR, and Hubbard's FINAL BLACKOUT
- #5 " - Ten way tie: - Blackwood's WILLOWS, Wells' WAR OF THE WORLDS, Merritt's SEVEN FOOTPRINTS TO SOLAN, Stapledon's LAST AND FIRST MEN, Lewis' OUT OF THIS SILVER PLANET, Haggard's SHE, Doyle's LOST WORLD, Heinlein's JERUSALEM'S CHILDREN, Hubbard's TO THE STARS, and Merritt's THE MOON POOL.

Erge, it just sorta looks like a. Merritt, who's almost strictly fantasy, takes a big leg out into the first spot as far as fan-reading preference may go --- and Elron doing a quick second. Br/or Bridwell wishes to extend his thanks to all who joined in on the poll.

Well, guys and gals, at long last we are coming to the last stencil of the 'zine for this time....it has been a tough struggle to get it finished because of lots of additional odds and ends of things that intruded ... we're hoping that all of these odds and ends will get themselves cleared up quickly because none of them have been overly pleasant.

We'll try to get started on the next issue as quickly as possible to try to regain the schedule .. there's some material on hand .. some material just did not make this particular issue because it did not arrive, such as Lynn's letter. Boim' an engaged individual, he's probably sorta speechless ... having gone through a siege of cloud-wandering for many a month, this one might see it in that light.

What's coming up for next issue? For certain, there's an anacrostic by Larry Gage and another crossword puzzle by Chuck Brusard ... there may be some of the "History of the Ancient Faces" if you think you can stand it ... or we may delve into the Culture of the Belts if it'll be OK by the author ... the Belts seek to prove that Pericles was really P. J. Riley, etc....these should prove interesting for those who have read that epic (really) of "Irish Wisdom in the Pyramids" - a book-length treatise which points out that the Irish are responsible for all that is cultural ...

But I shaddap for this time --- though you've had to wait for this issue, we hope you like it ... we'll await your comments or criticisms ... don't forget our now address.

This is the February  
Issue of "EXPLORER"-  
RFD # 1, Towline Rd.  
Erie, Pennsylvania

To: Paul Gausling  
119 Ward Rd.  
North Tonawanda N.Y.

Exp Feb '52

