



is a publication emanating from Eric Bentcliffe of 47 Alldis St, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, England.

Probably as a reaction to the amount of inactivity I put in during the earlier part of this year (which in turn, was probably a reaction from a spurge of activity whilst I was BSFA Sec.), I feel the urge to indulge in a spot or two of sustained fanatic. Hence mi - which Terry Jeeves has kindly offered to duplicate, and Ron Bennett to distribute, with SKYRACK.

People who see mi as having some connection with the BENTCLIFFE FOR TAFF campaign can be informed that this this is not published with the aim of gaining votes - but rather, to provide more evidence for folk to base their voting judgement on, regarding me. All of which is quite enough on general policy and like that.

I recently received an interesting Questionnaire from Lynn Hickman (together with an interesting issue of JD-ARGASSY), and it strikes me that as good a way as any of starting this publication off on the right lines, would be to answer this Questionnaire herein. Particularly so, since the questionnaire touches on many of the topics beloved by fen....and requires an outline of the fillec's background in fandom, also. I would like to make it clear that I probably will not quote the Q in full, principally for reasons of length, and that anyone interested in spending a half-hour or so answering a well thought out questionnaire should write to Lynn (at 304 N. 11th, Mt. Vernon, Illinois) for a copy.

1) What year did you start reading s-f ? In magazine form, 1939, but I had read Verne, Wells and Haggard et al prior to then. And I'd most eagerly read any s-f I could find in the 'tuppenny bloods' from about the age of eight on. Recall that one of my favourites was a serial called "ROCKET TO VENUS" which ran in HOTSPUR for a large number of issues. 2) What is your present age ? 32. But I don't feel it apart from the morning-after attending a LaSFaS Party. 3) What is your occupation ? Sad to say, I've never been a Foreign Legionaire, a Bartender, Bum, or Boxer; a Cross-Bow Tester at Fort William or anything in the least romantic. I'm a buyer of hardware for a departmental store - a job which has its share of headaches and laughs (such as the time when a female customer for a bottle of rust-remover wanted to know '...and will it do on wood, as well ?'). 3a) Were you handicapped as a child at sports etcetra, and thus became interested in reading ? Nope, but I was lazy and much preferred lying in the grass reading a book to kicking a ball around. Come to think of it I still am lazy, but not when there's something I particularly want to do. I've been interested in reading ever since I learned to read! 4) What s-f mag did you first read ? The December '39 issue of Astounding.

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British reprint issue, of course...and I still think that that was one of the best single issues of any s-f magazine. Gray Lensman was running as the serial, and vV's Discord in Scarlet was the lead story. It certainly sold me on magazine s-f. 5) What s-f book did you first read? Verne's 'Journey to the Moon and a Trip Around It', I think, though my memory is a little hazy on this one. I can recall getting this title out of the school library and being fined for keeping it too long - think I was tryin, to memorize it! 7) When did you first contact a fan? In '49 I contacted Wally Gillings (to subscribe to S-F Review), and Ken Slater (to join Operation Fantast) at about the same time. Shortly afterwards I ~~and~~ a letter in AMAZING STORIES (not because it was my favourite mag, but because I thought it the easiest to get a letter in!) and resulting from this I contacted quite a number of fans - including Dale R. Smith, my good friend in Minneapolis, with whom I've been trading letters, s-f, and tapes ever since. I'm glad I wrote that letter. 8) When did you first meet a fan? This was around late '50, when Dave Cohen, Taffy Williams, Frank Richards and myself met for the first time in Manchester and founded the late Nor'west Science Fantasy Club. Personal contacts came fairly fast and furious after that as I became addicted to the habit of convention going. I met Terry Jeeves around that time, and that's another contact I'm grateful to fandom for. A Good Man, Terry, and generous...even when sober! 9a) Did your original group break up? If so why? Spontaneous combustion...would probably be the kindest explanation. And after-conventionitus. But I think that the principal reason was that British fandom was passing from a stage where it was s-f club centred to being fanzine-centred.

11) What are your other hobbies? Tape-recording, Women, Dancing, Travel, shove'apenny - not necessarily in that order! 12) Why do s-f fans meet, correspond, publish and have conventions etc., when readers of detective, love, western stories. (with minor exceptions), do not? Because there is a fandom, today....but I think it most probably all started because s-f was a most scoffed at literary media and the readers just had to get out of their own parish to find people with whom they could discuss s-f without 'the pursed lip and vaguely pitying eye'. The readers of thrillers, westerns, and love stories didn't meet with quite the same opposition from their immediate friends. 13) How many magazines do you buy regularly? Names? New Worlds - Science Fantasy - S-F Adventures (UK), and I also get Astounding, F&SF, Galaxy, and IF through Dale. I find New Worlds to be about the most enjoyable of the bunch, at the moment. 14) How many do you read regularly? All of 'em - time allowing. I'm a science-fiction faaan! Or is that a contradiction? 15) What magazines other than s-f do you read? Punch - Playboy - Tape-recording Mags - plus various trade publications devoted to my job.

-----TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.

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DUE NEXT MONTH..

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Eric Bentcliffe.