

No 2

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MONTHLY

A monthly natter-zine published by Eric Bentcliffe from 47, Alldis St, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire.

Last time around, you may recall, I started in on answering a questionnaire received from Lynn Hickman. In the interim I've been to a LaSF-as Party and a mundane-type party on successive nights, stencilled ten pages for TRIODE 18, received (amongst other things) a 1960 Pin-up Ghouls Calendar from Betty Kujawa, and finished stocktaking at work.....

But Meanwhile Back In The Vestry

Questionnaire Answer Pt.2. 16) Do you attend science fiction movies? Extremely rarely, these days...having become rather disgusted with the Horror-type films which pass themselves off as s-f I need to work up a great deal of courage to go to see any s-f film. Last one I saw was quite some months ago, and that I'd seen already - "Forbidden Planet" - one of the few real s-f films in that it was made from a science-fiction premise and no concessions were made for mundane-people. 17) Do you watch science-fiction TV performances? I don't know about the standard of s-f on TV in the States (although I gather that it isn't very high), but as regards the BBC output I'd hand out a Bouquet of Jupiter Roses. As far as BBC TV is concerned, I'm an unashamed square-eyed monster. The Quatermass Series were exceptionally well done (and should not be confused with the film, which was not), and the general production of any s-f theme has been intelligently handled. One production which I was rather surprised to see didn't get a write-up in any of the fmz, and which I considered to be particularly good, was Marghanita Laski's "The Offshore Island"; Miss Laski was on TV in an interview-program the same evening the play was shown and proved herself to be a staunch supporter of s-f. (I wonder if she could be inveigled into speaking at a UK Convention?) Incidentally, mention of Quatermass brings to mind that Penguin have just published "The Quatermass Experiment" (the first of the series) in pocket-book form, I have a hankering to try and do a version of this on tape (the pb is in script-form) sometime, but please don't tell the BBC. 18) Do you read S-F Books? Hardcover? PB's? How many a year? It's rarely that I buy a hardcover s-f title these days - mainly because of the cost - but I do manage to acquire most of the original pocket-books which appear. By original, I mean those that haven't previously been serialised in a magazine in my collection, or are not a collection of stories I've already read. I seem to average out at about 4 to 6 a month of these. This month's reading so far; The Sirens of Titan, by Kurt Vonnegut (which is a sort of humorous C.S.Lewis type story, and rather pointless). The Star of Life, by Edmond Hamilton, being unadulterated Space Opera and quite enjoyable. We Who Survived...The Fifth ice age, by Sterling Noel, a fairly well written novel on the surface but with a not very convincing background. Deadly Image, by Edmund Cooper, A Sleeper - Humans Vs Androids - and need more be said....but it was well written. Apart from s-f, the yarn I've most enjoyed reading this month (for the second time) is Ian Fleming's From Russia With Love. If you like Hurstmonceaux and Faversham you'll like Fleming!

19) Do you subscribe to any fanzines regularly? I trade with most fmz, but have subbed to one or two which come out more frequently than TRIODE - rather reluctantly, for I'm one of those types who think that fmz should be traded on a fmz basis, rather than issue for issue. Naturally, I exclude FANAC and SKYRACK and S-F Times from this, I think any newzine should legitimately charge subs to everyone. 20) What major changes would you advocate in fanzines? None, really. I would though, like to see a couple of fmz devoted to s-f rather than fandom, in the mould of NUFu. And I would like to see a little more tact and less abandon by one or two fan'ed's in quoting from letters. 21) What major changes would you advocate in S-F Conventions? I'd like to see them all held at Kettering, with all fen made to attend no matter how far they had to travel from equidistant points! I'd revise the English licensing laws! Connive the British Council into giving free passage over (for Cultural Purposes) to all Stateside fen! Put Norman Shorrocks in charge of all Drinking Arrangements. Oh yes, and have NGW on the reception-desk to deal with any mundane-type enquiries! But seriously, I don't think any changes in British conventions are necessary, I've never yet failed to enjoy one. 22) Do you believe that fandom has improved or deteriorated since you became a fan? It's had its ups and downs, but I've found both of interest. I'm not a follower of 'the old gray mare...' so I'd say that fandom is just as interesting today as it ever was...fandom is what you make it! 23a) Do you believe that fanzine fans are more important in holding fandom together than convention fans, or vice versa? This is rather a ticklish one to answer. Individually, I don't think that it matters two hoots to a deaf owl whether a fan's main interests are in fanzines or convention going, but certainly I think it's fairly true to say that fanzine fandom as an entity, provides fandom with a continuity and cohesiveness that it would not have without that entity. In the U.K. there doesn't seem to be the same sort of schism betwixt convention-going fans and fanzine-fans that exists in the States, which is definitely a Good Thing, for the two factions are complimentary rather than antagonistic. Or should be.

24a) Do you have any suggestions on how to hold a group together after they have been drained putting on a convention? Chains?

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Which ends the questionnaire.... Whilst it's somewhat unlikely that mi will ever have a letter-column, due to its size, comments are invited and if quoteworthy will be quoted in essence. The only direct reaction I've had so far has been favourable, and as I'm rather enjoying putting out something which needs little preparation mi may continue almost indefinitely. To correct one slight misconception which number one gave a couple of fen, the contents of mi will not be solely about me - just topical natter for the main, but I thought the questionnaire a good way to start the thing off.

CONGRATULATIONS DON FORD..
Bring a Glass with you, mate.

TRIODE 17 still due any day.

Join the Hugo Winterhalter Record
Boiling Society...

January Ninth, as you'll see from the attached issue of SKYRACK (!!!), saw a fine fannish party at the Shorrocks residence...37 fen were present including Pete Daniels and trumpet. One item you probably will not see in SKYRACK is that Ron Bennett was too tired to play Brag on the Sunday morning, he insisted on sleeping so we used him as a card-table!