



VOL. 2 NO

mi Magazine, one publication that makes no attempt to make each issue bigger (or, some would say, better), is perpetrated by ERIC BENTCLIFFE, 51, Thorn Grove, (where the weeds are as high as an elephant's thigh) Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire. Free to readers of that excellent periodical SKYRACK. Obtainable otherwise in exchange for a suitably sized s.a.e., but if you subscribe to SKYRACK this makes life easier. No material is wanted for this magazine, but letters of comment and complaint are welcomed, as are publications for review. All opinions expressed are those of the Editor, who is not responsible.....

#### CONTACT WITH ALPHA

Your mi reporter and family recently returned from a very enjoyable two-week vacation in sunny-Belgium, where they stayed at Ostend on the Costa Pils. Of fannish interest is that little time was lost in contacting Jan Jansen, former editor and publisher of CONTACT and ALPHA. Restraining ourselves with little difficulty from dashing out a one-shot we lay back in the sun and drank the local nectar whilst talking of things past. Like when Terry Jeeves, Jan and myself made haste to Amsterdam to welcome American Worldcon attendees in '57, and then dashed back to Antwerp to welcome them all over again. Oh, but we were dashing young men in those days! Jan has changed little in the six-years since we last met, and it was very pleasant to meet again with him and wife Rosa, and daughter Sonja. Since he hadn't produced anything fanwise we could bring back with us, we brought another type of Jansen production - Sonja, who will be staying at this address for several weeks in an attempt to improve her English. By the time she goes home we'll most probably all be speaking Flemish!

#### THE NORTHERN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY GROUP

Has been formed by Harry Nadler and sundry Alien entities, to rally s-f fans in the Manchester/Salford area, and to cook 'roast bread and boiled beans for the Liverpool Gang'. And very worthy aims they are too. Harry has sent me a copy of the Groups duplicated programme of events for June, and whilst I'd greatly love to attend them all, I shall, alas, be weeding the garden instead. Amongst other goodies, the Group are having a film show at almost every one of their thrice weekly meetings. And they are showing Three-Dimensional films in 2D...top that, then.

#### THROUGH THE LETTER BOX

In answer to my appeal for mi stimulation, have come sundry interesting packages, and the only reason I haven't acknowledged any of them is the aforementioned vacation. This is being typed the day after returning which exhibits more fannish verve than I've had for quite a while - even tho' the actual reason is that I don't want to go out in the garden and get my suntan washed off! ZENITH No.5 (Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Cres, Northfield, Birmingham 31.) is a magazine I'm quite pleased to have. This issue has a very-fine Eddie Jones front cover, which will be a strong contender for the Best Fanzine Cover of the year. The contents are of interest to anyone who is interested in s-f, and as I am, I enjoyed just about everything in the mag. I can't, these days, afford to buy all the s-f that appears but I'm still interested in what is appearing and what it's all about. ZENITH informs one quite ably in this respect. The reproduction and layout are uniformly neat and good, the artwork well reproduced. This is one of the best fanzines to appear in the U.K. for quite some time, and I'd particularly like to applaud the reprinting of the NASOPODS. The reprinting of suitably fannish items from the world outside is little indulged in these days, and I'd like to see more of it in current fanzines.

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GESTALT No. 8 (Jim Marshall, 32, Millway, Sherriff Hill, GATESHEAD 9.) CESTALT is a revival of the magazine of the same name, published by a revived N.E. Fandom - Fandom has its cycles, and seemingly most of them begin and end with convention time. This year's convention seems to have had a revitalizing effect on a goodly number of fans, maybe this year is a good vintage, Norman. This issue is noteworthy for a rather sensible article about 'old fen' by Phillip Harbottle stemming from a visit he had from Walt Willis. 'old fans', please note, are just that, old fans, they've been around for quite a while and gotten a little blasé about some of the things that seem vitally important to the younger fans, they've also, generally, got a lot more responsibilities and mundane worries than the younger fans, and less time. They don't want to be put on pedestals or viewed as relics of a past age, just to be treated as the individuals they are - and if they always seem to be with others of their own age at conventions, this is because convention time is quite often the only time they see one another. But.....to GESTAMP. The front and back covers are nicely photographed from original paintings by Ken McIntyre, and Ken's paintings being much superior to his usual b&w these are good. There's an amusing fan-tale by John Berry, an almost equally entertaining one 'LAWFAN' by the editor, and a reprint 'Head Cases' from the 'X'mas '55 issue of GESTAMP which is about as unfunny now as when it was originally published. There's also 'Bushy Hedge', a person who prefers to hide his blinding light under a pseudonym of chlorophyllic nature, personally I think he should try chloroform instead! BH obviously writes with the intent to 'stir things up a little', personally I've never cared for this type of column. But, it's nice to see GESTAMP back.

MBIN OMP-F is Colin Freeman's Ompazine, and since Colin is an entertaining writer it's an entertaining magazine. It's a pity that there seems to be little chance of Colin attending a convention, and I might moot that here would be a very valid excuse for a special fan fund where it possible that this should enable Colin to be brought to a convention. Ron ??? (Colin's address is Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital Ripley Rd, Knaresborough, Yorks.) SWEFANAC (Carl Brandon, Sällskapsvägen 7, Stockholm 48, Sweden.) This one is a monthly run-down on the happenings in Swedish fandom, it would have been of more interest to me in my active days than it is as of now, when I can hardly keep up to date with British fandom, but it's nice to know that Swedish Fandom is still there, still publishing fanzines and holding conventions. One of these days I hope to visit Sweden and visit one or two of the tong-curling names mentioned in Swefanac.

#### CONGRATULATIONS ARTHUR THOMSON

As a former TAFF-winner I know just how much it means to win what must be fandom's supreme accolade. Prepare yourself for days of exceptional enjoyment each one with at least twenty-four hours in it and no time for sleep....be prepared to find American fans as likable in person as they are in print. Look out for the First Fandomers with their snowy-white-beards, the beatnik fans with their dirty-black-ones, and the filk-singers with their raspy stubble! Visit the Empire State, Climb Don Ford, for a view of Cincy, take a Subway with Ted White and a Freeway with Bob Pavlat, find out what colour Indian Lake is now and have a countdown on the Tucker kinderen. Hoog, I wish I was going with you, Arthur. Hard luck, Phil....another year, I hope.

#### MARQUARTSTEINBURGERS PLEASE NOTE

Jan Jansen suspects he may see some of you either on route to, or staggering back from, the German convention - in fact, this is the probable reason he's sent Sonja to England! - note that his address is Alfons Schnoiederlaan 46, Dourne, Antwerp; his phone number, Antwerp 36-26-95, and that he'd like some intimation of where and when.

..... Eric Bentcliffe 28/6/64