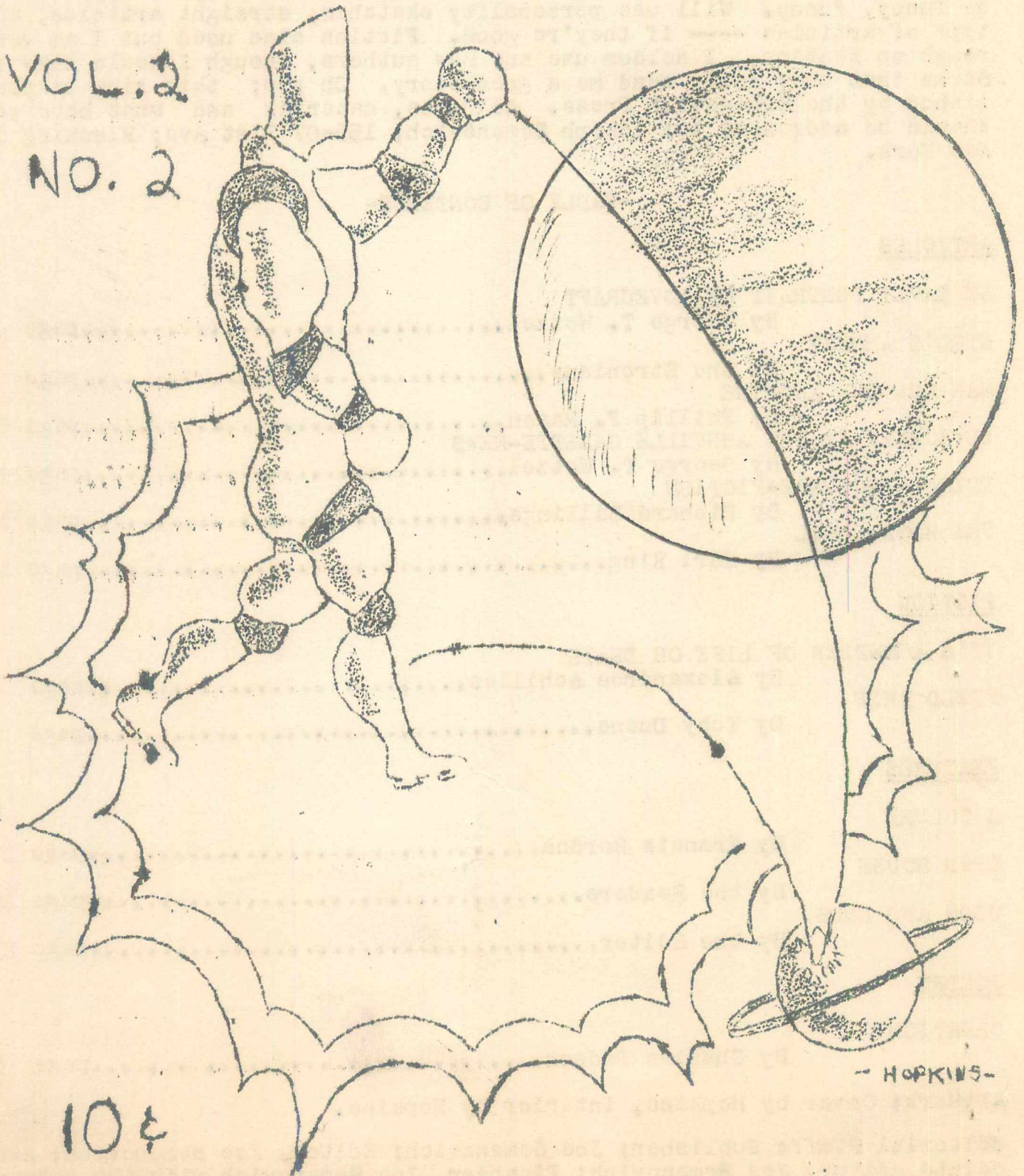


RENAISSANCE

VOL. 2

NO. 2

9. "I see that Wilks' has broken another record!"
 10. "I noticed that Calline was talking to Kyle across the hall."
 11.



- HOPKINS -

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RENAISSANCE, March, 1953, Volume 2, Number 2; 10 cents per single issue and three of them for a quarter. Suggest you suscribe as it will be a great help to the editor in getting the next issue out. It is always a good thing to know that someone is reading your zine. Might add that I am in dreadful need of articles; serious, unserious, whatever you like to write, I'll use, if I like it. Must add too, that I'm very hard to please, so make your articles interesting, and if they're supposed to be funny, funny. Will use personality sketches, straight articles, any type of articles ---- if they're good. Fiction also used but I am very rough on fiction. I seldom use any new authors, though I would like to. Seems that they never send me a good story. Oh yes; this zine is published by the Semenovich Press. All subs, material and what have you should be addressed to: Joseph Semenovich, 155-07 71st Ave; Flshing 67 New York.

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-AN EARLY PORTRAIT OF LOVECRAFT-
-By George T. Wetzel-

Much biographic literature anent Lovecraft has been written in the past, of length and of probing analysis. Still much of his early beginnings in the Amateur Press of World War I days remains, unnoted, and perhaps inaccessible in ephemeral and limited members of amateur journals of that time. Fortunately I have been able to retrieve such data which itself, though adjudged now of small import, may help a future biographer to round out his personality. Here then, is a portrait of Lovecraft, sketched by quotation from his friends and contemporaries and, in one instance, himself.

Lovecraft, along with a goodly number of other amateur journalists that found it impossible to attend the national convention of the National Amateur Press Association /the opposition group/ in Cleveland, decided to hold a splinter affair of their own---which they did in July 1920 in Boston, Mass. Aside from the usual convention business, a number of conventioners held after-hours-social gatherings of their own. An account of one such week during the convention was printed in a one-shot, slick magazine, "Eggephi" in September, 1920 by W. Paul Cook. Much was written therein by various anonymous hands, none apparently by Lovecraft concerning the activities of notable amateur journalists of that now totally forgotten gathering/written in almost flippant style as will shortly be seen/. Only remarks relating to Lovecraft will be quoted:

"Eggephi", pages 6-7: "Miss Alice Hamlet and H. P. Lovecraft went to Dorchester, chaperoned by Mrs. Thompson and escorted by Mr. White... Dawned Tuesday, with an excursion to City Point, Castle Island, South Boston, and a lunch... It was an extraordinary, forcefully enjoyed by Chest-erfield-Lovecraft. His comments at a later hour, while playfully he brushed stuff from his gold brocade waistcoat.....bear expugeration."

So did likewise some of the above biography --- which I expugera-ted myself as it tended very close to ridicule Lovecraft.

Ibid, page 22: "The very first thing they phoned over to Dorchest-er and the man who is in a class by himself//referring to HPL--Wetzel// was up and ready for more fun, so they left the house, he was assuring Oija he 'was quite willing to be a regular Hooligan --- for a day', and I guess he was..I seem to remember the next day was awful hot, and they kept me company some of the time, only going out for lunch, and to see a graveyard and to a Bahai meetng....I understand it was such a cheerful day that they were even able to listen to a reading of one of Mr. Love-craft's stories -- that one about a likely boy who grew up looking into a tomb....."

Ibid, page 21: "Mrs. Thompson and her niece, Miss Hamlet, took Mr. Lovecraft home with them to Dorchester, 'cause he said he's just got to have a quiet room to himself', and there was no such here."

The following year -- on July 2, 1921 -- the National Amateur Press Association held its 46th Convention in Boston --- not the splinter convention of the year past. An account of it and the after-hours-social gatherings was in the following amateur journal:

"National Tribute#, August 1921, page 18, by George Houtain; "The time will never be when I will the less enjoy the splendodness of Hoard Lovecraft. He is a big man in every way. Much to my delight, he has proven himself to be the most human of documents. He possess a sense of humor that is astounding, because one would doubt he possessed the gift. He is also a man with a deep sense of honor and can always be tr-

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usted. He is a modest man and great was my joy when I arranged with our official vamp Sonia Green to steal upon him suddenly, get a half-nelson clutch on his august form so that I could Brownie number 2A him -- which I did. Then the fun that followed with Lovecraft burlesquing himself as a victim of a blackmailing gang and accusing Sonia and me of being in cohorts ---- which we were."

Ibid. page 22: "...Howard Lovecraft read a little red book. He also smoked imaginary cigarettes or imagined he was smoking cigarettes, which created considerable fun."

Ibid. page 24: "We all journeyed to Rivers Beach.....Here Howard Lovecraft and Albert Sandusky did the 85 foot drop switch-back three times in concussion and complained bitterly to the tameness of it all... Picture if you will the philosophical form of one Henry Paget-Lowe, Edward Softly, Theobald, Jr, H.P.L., popping out and bounding toward us."

Other unknown facts of biography appear in the following:...."H. P. Lovecraft recently added \$25.00 to his bank account by capturing a prize of that amount offered by Fays Theatre, Providence, R.I. for the best criticism of the Phot Play, 'The Image Maker of Thebus' #.

It would be interesting to have seen this contest essay of Lovecraft's, but obviously it had been discarded immediately after the contest.

"Tryout", Vol 3-5, April 1917: "News Notes" by Helene Hoffman Cole: ".....The amateur fraternity will regret to learn that Howard P. Lovecraft has, through eye trouble, been compelled to give up all literary work. It is hoped that the trouble will be of short duration, and that he will soon be able to resume his writing, which means so much to him."

To my knowledge no biography or memoir of Lovecraft has ever mentioned his wearing of glasses and how long and when he used them. However, from photographs of Lovecraft I have twice seen him using them:-

The first photo appears in "Silver Clarion", Vol. 3-1, Oct. 1921, along his article, "Nietscheism and Realism"/This article itself, incidentally, was not a public document originally, but was taken by the Editorress, Sonia Green, from a letter of Lovecraft's --- GW/.

Besides showing Lovecraft wearing glasses, both of these two photographs reveal habitual introspective pose.

But despite such outward humourless signs, Lovecraft had a secret sense of humour ---- almost straight face one could say. He spoofed himself occasionally as the following quotation will show. The column in which he did this was one he rather consecutively wrote wherein he received current amateur journals in a studied manner:-

"United Amateur", Vol 15-9, April 1916, "Dept. of Public Criticism" by H. P. Lovecraft:-
"Providence Amateur"

"...To Charlie of the Comics is a harmless parody on our Laureate's excellent poem 'To Mary of the Movies', which appeared sometime ago in 'The Piper'. In 'The Bride of Sea', Mr. Lewis Theobald, Jr., presents a rather weird piece of romantic sentimentality of the sort afforded by bards of the early 19th century. The metre is regular, and no flagrant violations of grammatical or rhetorical precepts are to be discerned, yet the whole effort lacks clearness, dignity, inspiration and poetic spontaneity. The word printed 'enhanc'd' is the sixth stanza is properly 'entranc'd'."

Lewis Theobald was, of course, an alias of Lovecraft's.

Lovecraft wrote a prose piece entitled "The Street" which appeared initially in "The Wolverine", Dec. 1920; and later in "National Amateur," Vol 44-3, Jan., 1922. In which latter zine it took second prize in an essay contest therein. The curious thing about "The Street" is that it

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reads as a story /influenced by Dunsany/ rather than as an essay; and the matter is not clarified a bit by Lovecraft's letter of thanks for the essay medal he won:

598 Angell St. Providence
November 4, 1921

"My dear Mr. Hems:-

Permit me to thank you most sincerely for the attractive silver medal which your association has been so kind as to award me. The honourable mention is as gratifying as any ordinary laureatship, since my superior is none less person than James F. Morton, Jr./etc, etc/

H. P. Lovecraft."

The above letter is more extensive; but, as it is laudatory, presentation of it entirely would add nothing of interest whatsoever. The part printed is sufficient to show that Lovecraft himself accepted a fictional-like ms. to be considered as an essay.

Speaking of his fiction brings up a repeated question I have been asked: does any of HPL's amateur journal printed prose and poetry differ materially when sold years later to Weird Tales? To that I answer authoratively, "no". In only one case -- "Beyond the Wall of Sleep" have I ever discovered revision --- and slight in that.

"Beyond the Wall of Sleep" appeared in "Pine Cones", 1919. Years later, -- 1938 -- it appeared in "Weird Tales" with only the following phrase inserted: "---Freud to the contrary with his puerile symbolism."

Many such tiny grains of biographic and prose sidelights on Lovecraft exist unfound in those amateur journals. Though seemingly of slight importance they assist in rounding out a flesh and blood portrait of Lovecraft, and not the black and white picture thus far drawn by others only along the line of his supernatural literature.

-George T. Wetzel-

CREATION

-By Charles Podson-

Oh! mother dear, asked little Mac,
 ▲ comely lass of three;

"Who made me with my pretty curls;
 They're cute, as cute can be."

"Why darling dear, it was the Lord;
 God made you with a nod."

"Yes mother dear, that's very nice ---
 But tell me: WHO MADE GOD?"

-Veni Vidi-

-IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH-

-By Alexandre Achilles-

"Operator, give me the Police Department, please!"

"Hold the wire, please."

"Hurry up! It's a matter of life or death."

"Here is your connection, lady."

"Hello. This is the Police Department."

"I want to report a murder."

"Who was murdered?"

"No one; not yet anyway."

"Who will be killed?"

"Me. Tonight I will be murdered."

"Who informed you?"

"No one. I feel it in my bones."

The police operator was annoyed now. This always seemed to happen to him. He always got the crackpots.

"What is your address?" he asked. This was just to make the caller feel happy.

"699 Riverside Drive, apartment 5e. My name is Mrs. Hampton."

"Your house will be guarded tonight, Mrs. Hampton." With that stated, the operator violently switched off the connection.

"What happened now?" the companion who operated the other switchboard inquired.

"I got another luney," he replied, "says she 'feels it in her bones' that someone is going to kill her tonight."

"Another one of those?" the friend was amused. "If we paid attention to those calls the whole Department would be guarding homes. What irks me though, is they all say the same thing; they feel it in their bones."

"It can drive a guy crazy.....Hell!"

The next day:

"Operator, give me the Police Department."

"Hold the wire, please."

"Hurry up. It's a matter of life or death."

"Here is your number, madame."

"Hello. This is the Police Department."

"I want to report a murder."

"Who was killed?"

"No one, not yet anyway."

"Who will be murdered?" Oh no, not this again. Wait, that voice sounded very familiar.

"Me; tonight I will be murdered."

"By any chance does your name happen to be Mrs. Hampton?"

"Why yes."

"You called up yesterday and told me you were going to be killed?"

"Something went wrong." the voice sounded very desperate.

The operator was thoroughly bored. "What went wrong?"

"I don't know. Something did."

"Well," exclaimed the operator, "call me up when you do get killed"

And then he ripped out the connection.

That night:

"Give me the Police Department."

"Hold the wire lady. Here's your connection."

"Hello. This is the Police Department."

"I want to report a murder."

Oh no, please God, not this, again. "Who was murdered?"

"I was!"

Dear Editors;

Your literary stones have been hailing down upon ETRO, but have fallen far wide of the mark.

Despite the poor aim of the jabs taken at ETRO, we shall wield the journalistic sword for our organization, and, while parrying your every thrust, shall make no attempt to draw your blood.

This is what we have to say about the article concerning ETRO which appeared in issue six of RENAISSANCE.

You are tilting imaginary dragons.

The points which you seem to have were not the ones which have true critical value. ETRO has its short comings, but none of them are those which you mentioned in the article. If you want to know the real faults of the organization, I suggest you read the chronology of ETRO which appears in a recent issue of SCIENCE-FANTASY BULLETIN.

In it are stated our true failings!

However, I will try to show you what errors were made in your article.

"Farce," says Noah Webster, is, "ridiculous or empty parade".....a pretense.

ETRO is not making any attempt at parade; nor is it offering any pretense of being something it is not. There is nothing false about the purposes of ETRO. By the very definition of the word, ETRO is not a "farce". All the falsity connected with ETRO is the meanings and purposes, which others assign to it, and which have never been stated by the organization.

You had no way of knowing this, but dues are no longer \$3.00 yearly. One year's participation in the ETRO program costs \$1.25....the cost of five issues of ETRON.

ETRO still uses the working theory that the discs are interplanetary, and still not because we are science-fiction fans. Many persons in ETRO have no interest in science fiction. The organization was established, and adopted the interplanetary theory, before any of the priginal members knew of the existence of fandom.

We have never stated that we could prove anything. Where that idea of proof originated, we don't know, but it is a big mistake. ETRO operates using the working theory that the discs are from extraterrestrial sources because evidence thus far gathered supports this theory.

The photographs that were taken by a member of ETRO were never sent to nay officer of the organization for inspection. The only things stated by ETRO were that a member claimed to have a photograph, and that he claimed the photograph showed a flying saucer. We never called the photo "proof" of anything.

Yes, we are making attempts to contact the extraterrestrials, and are willing to use any plausible method in doing so. This is bad?

But there is no program of "constantly trying to intercept messages from the saucers" And if some few members believe themselves to have telepathic tendencies, are we to scoff at them and curse them fools?

You must admit that it is possible, and that does not say probable.

Behold the history of government on earth. Is it so wild to include the possibility of extraterrestrials not wishing to contact a government? Id the "aliens", as you call them, did have such an attitude, why not at least provide the opportunity to contact individuals, if that is their desire?

We did not say that we will contact the discs, but we shall give

them the opportunity if they want to take it. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained" is not a meaningless phrase.

".....they scoff at Shaver." Correct that to, "Schreiber doesn't accept the ideas of the Shaver Mystery Club because he hasn't studied their ideas to decide either way.

"....they laugh hard as hell at the Forteans." And so would Fort! ETRO is not in the least way Fortean in nature, and more than is Caltech because it studies the Fitzgerald Contraction. Both groups are trying to learn the truth about a previously unexplained phenomenon, and both are using the scientific approach. If you know anything about Fort, you know that he was no staunch supporter of science.

ETRO is!

Participation in ETRO'S program will broaden a person's mind. This is not saying that it will make a narrow minded person broad minded, or that no other group can broaden the mind. We merely expressed the idea that the concepts a person gets in ETRO will broaden an individual's mental horizons.

"How can such a small organization hope to accomplish anything-wile competing with nations!".....you say.

Let us ask you this. "How can such a small fanzine hope to compete with professionals?"

The answer is that each has an entirely different purpose, and are not in competition.

The purpose of ETRO is to provide a method whereby individuals-interested in flying discs can exchange information, to increase the facilities with which to gather such information, and to apply such information to those practical ways which present themselves.

So nations do this?

If you want to find some real points on which ETRO is not up to par you should study the failures of the organization to accomplish those, our major ends. And there are, as with any organization, such failures. True, Schreiber says that it is possible that we are being hypnotized by the "aliens." You say it is "not very probable."

So does Schreiber.

In regard to your comments about Schreiber being "as intelligent as they come"....that is the most remarkable error in the entire article!

In stating that, you have missed the basic weakness of ETRO! He is the cause of the numerous shortcomings of the organization, because he failed to organize it in an efficient manner.

For that reason the entire organization had to be reconstructed after one year of inefficiency....but that is a different story,

Sorry, but we'll have to refuse your advise. We do take the work of ETRO seriously, and will continue to do so. ETRO is not a joke to its participants.....the topic isn't very funny.

-Staff of Directors --ETRO

ed note:/ Has anyone anything else to say about? Before we close shop we have one or two things to mention. First, the article implies that the governments of the world are wild. Now what makes you think so. Is there anything that you can base your "scientific" thinking to? Can you compare our Earth to anyother Earth? No, you cannot, thus making your thought a mere assumption. How do you know that this isn't the regular course of a civilization? Perhaps you flew in a flying saucer and saw another Earth ---- and it was in better condition? And concerning the members who are telephats. You say that it is possible ----- well quite a number of things are possible. Supposing I told everyone I was God ---- it is possible, you know. It's even possible that this isn't really a world ---- oh yes, a lot of things are possible. But you are supposed to use scientific procedure ---- that is based on logic. I assure that if someone claimed to be a telephat to a scientist, that latter would exclaim: "You have pebbles in your brain!"./

-FIELD TRIP-

-By Toby Duane-

The gnarled fingers of a gnarled old maid named Destiny reached and grappled for a planet. The wind on this planet was clear and fine and cold and fresh, and she made it turbid and sickly. The rain on this planet was soft and glistening, and pattered gently on the tress and flowers, and she took it and poured it full of filth. The sun on this planet was cheery and warm, and would gladly let you bathe in it and get a clear brown tan, and she took it and hid it behind clouds of muck.

Drought is not the name for what happened to this planet. When-- you think of that word, you think of the Dust Bowl and the western farmer who fought the wilderness of the American continent and sometimes won, sometimes lost, sometimes with courage, sometimes without; but this that happened here was happening in a time f a r r e m o v e d from anything called Texas and American and Earth and Solar System. It was not, strictly speaking, happening to men.

The tilled fields grew into disuse; the utensils molded and rusted away in the sheds that the weather had sagged. Noses breathed in the sickly air and breathed it out again, quickly, in order to keep it for as short a time as possible. Mouths ate, eyes saw, hands moved, all no more than necessity demanded.

Things spawned in the foulness, things not planned by this planet's first evolution, not understood by the poor creatures who shuddered from the wrath of a too cruel nature.

* * *

The student had asked why there were no more field trips in the Planetary Investigation course. Other students had asked, and the procedure of answer had been worked out. The spaceship whirred in from the blackness of outer space and settled on the planet.

"Carelessness," said the Professor of Biology to his class, "A micro-organism of sorts got loose. One of our common and harm less bacteria. This is what it did to this world."

The class examined the garbage heap that had once been a planet. They understood why no more field trips were allowed. Sadly, wisely, they pulled back into the spaceship and went home. After summer vacation began, they scattered, some going home to Antares, some to Centaurus, two even as far as the second galaxy, and one to a planet called earth.

They knew, now, what carelessness caused.

Soon they were even to know an even greater lesson. The planet had begun a second evolution. Strange things had spawned in the foulness of the nature. And harmless micro-organisms have been known to mutate, in time, and produce.....

* * *

The old maid called Destiny smiled hungrily, as she reached out for a whole universe. This time you could think of it as drought, if you wanted to. Because this time, it did include a place called Texas and a place called America, and a place called Earth.

-Toby Duane-

-10-
-MAN AND THE MACHINE-
-By Phillip P. Mason-

"Man, who created the machine, first with his mind, than with his hands, and finally with lip-service, became its dupe." So read a sentence of Raymond Palmer's, THE MAN FROM TOMORROW in the January 1953 issue of his magazine, OTHER WORLDS. It infuriated me, to tell the truth, as does most of Palmer's absurd and sensational statements. It reminded me of a child who had somehow strayed away from his companions in a huge forest and now was angry at them because they had not strayed along with him. It reminded me of a pessimist, a narrow minded person, and most of all, it reminded me of a fool. A fool because of the way he had phrased that sentence. A fool, because to him, the Machine was a frightening thing which man must lay aside if he wishes to survive.

Mr. Palmer, unfortunately, is not the only person with such thoughts. I have heard the same thing numerous times prior to my reading of THE MAN FROM TOMORROW: Man made the Machine, they all say, and now Man is subject to it. He is the slave instead of the master; he is the slave, because to survive, he depends on it. We must get rid of the Machine.

And with that said, he already contradicts himself. He says, the pessimist, to survive Man must depend on the Machine, and then he goes on to say, if man wants to survive, he must get rid of the Machine. Now which is it to be?

I whole heartedly agree with: Man made the Machine and now he is subject to it. True, man does depend on the Machine, and to survive, he must act slave to it. But when I say slave, I do not mean it in the sense that if we are bad little children, the Machine will whip us. For not only does Man depend on the Machine, but so does the Machine depend on Man. And if it wants to exist, it must be good, and if Man wants to exist, it also must be good. Thus, if Man will be good, so will the Machine be good. And to me, both Man and Machine are good.

When Mr. Palmer states that Man is slave to the Machine he fails to recall that Man has always been slave to something. Ever since he existed, he has been a slave, more or less, and till the end of time, he will be a slave. In the Dawn of Man, he had to survive. He had to kill the animals that hunted him, so he used his hands. He was successful up to a certain extent, but he soon discovered that he could not kill all the animals with his hands. He had to have something else, so he made himself a spear, and he lived in closed areas where animals could not get in. Already he became a slave to the spear and to his home. To survive, he had to sleep in his cave, to kill for food, he had to use his spear.

And then he discovered agriculture. He planted fruit and other vegetables, and when there was a bad hunting season, he had food on hand. So he became a slave to the earth and what it bore.

And then came the Ice Ages. Prior to it, let us say that Man did not need clothing. But now the weather was changing, and if he wanted to keep warm, he needed fur. So he depended on the skins of animals to keep warm, and to get these skins, he needed a knife. So once again he became a slave ----- to the fur of animals and to the knife which he needed to cut the fur. But this was not enough, he soon discovered, to keep himself warm, that he had to have something else -- fire. And in his cave, the fire would burn all day because he knew to make a fire meant a long time twirling twigs or chipping stones so that they let out sparks. Thus he became slave to the fire --- he needed it to exist.

Man soon discovered that there were other men that existed. There

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were huge tribes of men that roamed the forests and the hills and stole wives from other tribes. So to protect himself, Man grouped together, and formed larger tribes which in turn grew into cities. Man became slave to organization for the common welfare. And to kill these men that stole wives, they made better weapons. A bow was invented, an arrow, so man depended on the bow, and the stone that he chisled to a point and the twine that fastened the chisled stone to a piece of wood.

Due to the great rise in population, Machines were made --- just as was the bow and arrow, the spear ----- to accomidate the mass of people. To work these Machines, one needed workers. The mass depended on the workers who in turn depended on the Machine who in turn depended on the workers who in turn depended on the mass because the mass supplied them with a living. A never ending cycle which is neither vicious nor wonderful.

Man is the most dependent animal on Earth. He is a parasite; and so is everything else a parasite. To exist, all things must depend on someone or something else. To drop this dependency would mean total extinction. That is the way nature is made; for one cell to depend on another cell; for an organism to depend on another organism.

Let us imagine tomorrow morning, Man will lay aside the Machine. The first thing that would happen would be that millions would die of starvation while others froze to death. The world would go mad, and at the end, only a few survive the catastrophe. For an example I will say one hundred survive the outcome /which is impossible, of course/ But now what will happen? Quite simple. Man will plant seeds and become dependent on the crop; he will make a spear to kill for food. And again the endless cycle comes which you cannot escape after awhile---progress

To progress one naturally needs a higher standard of living. For a higher standard of living you need machines to do the work for they -- are more effecient. You simply cannot escape it.

Man is only afraid of things he does not understand. And many do not understand the Machine. Thus, they are afraid of it and condemn it saying that it will ruin mankind. A radio mechanic is not frightened to fix a radio while the electricity is on; he understands it. While, on the other hand, an average layman is afraid to fix a radio while the current is on ----- he may get an electric shock.

Truly, it is a shame that we have such a large group of people that are pessamists. They cause others to follow their suit, and so on. And how will any progress ever be made if everyone is afraid of this, doesn't want to touch that because if he does, he'll get a shock. You have to experiment, you have to learn, and what you learn you must teach so others can learn. You must also look at the brighter side of life, not only the sad side. True, machines have done harm, but true too, machines have done good ----- far more good than harm.

One can always come up with, what about the A-bomb? What good is it going to bring us. Quite a lot of good; it's going to protect you from the enemy, and in all probability, a counter weapon will soon be found that will make it almost obsolete. One merely has to look back in history to see that for every weapon invented, a counter weapon was found, or at least, the protecting device made the weapon less effective.

So Man is slave to the Machine. So what! He's always been a slave and always will be a slave ----- his master is envirenment!

-Phillip P. Mason-

-LOVECRAFT IN THE ASHVILLE GAZETTE-NEWS-

BY

-GEORGE T. WETZEL-

In Ray Zorn's, The Lovecraft Collector #2, May 1949, I came across a terse article entitled The Ashville [REDACTED] -In this article information was given that on Feb. 16, 1915, Lovecraft began a series of articles called, Mysteries of the Heavens Revealed by Astronomy in the Ashville Gazette-News; fourteen parts were announced, but the reference assistant librarian at the Park Memorial Public Library, Ashville, N.C., could trace only twelve. No more information was given; no checklist of parts' titles or dates.

I obtained the above data the last part of November, 1952. So the first of December, I traveled to the Library of Congress to research the Ashville paper myself, compile a checklist and read the Lovecraft articles ---- of which I had time to go through 3/4's of them.

The articles themselves I found and made a listing of, except for part 14 which I could not find though I checked every day's paper of the Gazette-News from May 18, 1915/Tuesday/ to June 30th, 1915/Wednesday/. I would also like to mention that part 13, Telescope and Observatories, which was printed into two sections on two separate days, undoubtedly had a third and final section as Monday, May 17, 1915 section had at the bottom of the column in parenthesis, "to be continued." It is my belief, then, the concluding section of part 13 plus 14 may yet be found.

The reader will note that some days' printing of Lovecraft's column contained no part number, while other parts overlapped one another.

As to the articles themselves, one does not find prose stamped with Lovecraft's idiom. Run of the mill Astronomy texts contain the same material. Only occasionally was anything of interest to even the most rabid HPL collector found, and then it was usually but a sentence long. The style of the articles are what is termed "journalistic". Some of them do merit reproduction beyond mere curiosity as they are eminent discussion of astronomical subjects, especially the article on Mars.

* * *

Checklist of Lovecraft in the Ashville Gazette-News:

THE MYSTERIES OF THE HEAVENS

Feb. 16, 1915, Vol 20-4, Part One: THE SKY AND ITS CONTENTS

Nature of the heavenly bodies, the aspect of the heavens.

Feb. 20, Vol 20-8; Part Two: THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Apparent motions of the planets, motions of the planets amongst the stars, the zodiac.

Feb. 23, Vol 20-10; Part Three: THE SUN

Feb. 27, Vol 20-14; Part Four: THE INFERIOR PLANETS

Mercury and Venus

- March 2, Vol 20-16; Part Five: ECLIPSES
- March 6, Vol 20-20; Part Six: THE EARTH AND ITS MOON
The earth, the moon, harvest and hunter's moon, appearance of the moon.
- March 9, Vol 20-22; Part Seven: MARS AND THE ASTEROIDS
Mars, satellites of Mars, the Asteroids.
- March 13, Vol 20-26; Part Eight: THE OUTER PLANETS
Jupiter, satellites of Jupiter, Saturn.
- March 16, Vol 20-28; Part Nine: COMETS AND METEORS
Comets, nature of comets, periodic comets, famous comets.
- March 20, Vol 20-32; Part Ten: THE STARS
- March 23, Vol 20-34 /no part no./ THE STARS /cont./
Double & multiple stars, variable stars.
- March 27, Vol 20-38 /no part no./ THE RINGS OF SATURN
Satellites of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
- March 30, Vol 20-40; Part Ten; COMETS & METEORS/cont./
Meteors, the Zodiacal light.
- April 3, Vol 20-44; Part Eleven: CLUSTERS & NEBULAE
The Milky Way, nebulae, the Magellanic clouds, structure of the universe.
- April 27, Vol 20-64; Part Twelve: THE CONSTELLATIONS
The Circumpolar Constellations, the spring groups,
- May 1, Vol 20-68; /no part no./;
The Summer stars, the stars of autumn, the winter constellations.
- May 11, Vol 20-76; Part Thirteen: TELESCOPE & OBSERVATORIES
Mounting of telescopes.
- May 17, Vol 20-81 /no part no./
Magnifying power, great telescopes, observatories.

Any Lovecraft collector, desiring copies of the above articles, can write the Photo-Duplicating Service, Library of Congress, Wash., D.C.; and giving all relevant data listed above can get a photostat of individual articles for a nominal sum.

-TOYS IN SCIENCE-FICTION-

-By Richard Billings-

The speaker was a salesman at the recent World's Toy Fair, where annually, the newest trends in children's toys are noted, displayed, and commented upon. He held a spaceship in one hand, a box of plastic rock-ot men in the other.

"Watch this space-stuff," he advised the salesmen gathered before him, "It's the newest thing. A few years back our stock-in-trade was the cowboy suit and the six-shooter; today it's the spaceship and the atom-gun. Watch this space-stuff!"

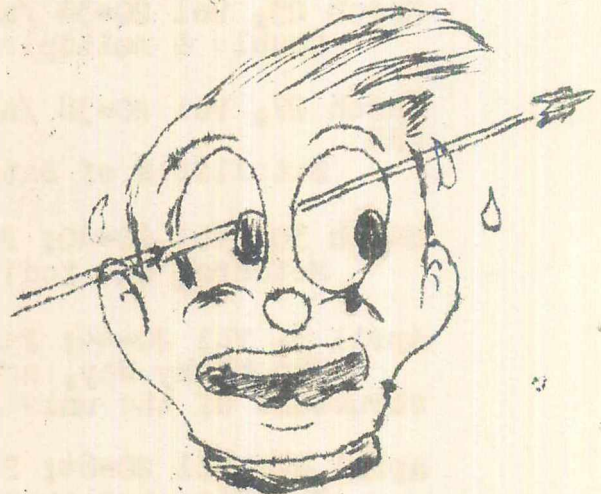
This was just another incident in the rapidly advancing tide of science-fiction. Its influence is becoming more and more noticed in the lives of the people about us. But perhaps most of all, science-fiction has changed the lives of our children. Television programs like Space Cadet, which is now leading Kulka, Fran, and Ollic in popularity, and the comics have played a great part in this change.

The best seller in toys today is a ray gun that generates a beam of light in three colors and produces a "high frequency" buzz that can be felt. Among the myriad other space toys are space-goggles with one way vision; rocket ships of many designs including one with a water pistol inside; atomic headgear of every description complete with bells, atomic rays, and jets; space wings which feature a compass in case you become lost in space; plastic space-men in all sizes; and even a jet automobile which emits a stream of sparks as it glides along the floor.

The Wall Street Journal recently commented on the craze, stating that toy manufacturers are "trying to cope with a glut of orders for scientific toys."

What effect will this have on science-fiction as a whole? Well, just take a look at the past trends in the publishing field as compared with trends in the toy business. Back during the 1930's there was a great demand for G-Men badges, toy automatics, and other detective toys. As a result, there was a flood of mystery books and magazines that had only recently shown signs of abating. Cowboy suits and six-shooters have, of course, always been popular hence the large amount of Western fiction produced. Now that the space craze is on in the toy business, you can look for sciencefiction to reach new heights of popularity never before dreamed possible.

If you ever visit the home of fan Lynn Hickman, one of the first things you'll see is a shelf full of small rocketmen gathered realistically about a spaceship which supposedly has just landed on a distant planet. This toy set is being offered nationally by mail as well as featured on almost every toy counter. It makes a very fine sf display.



-HOPKINS-

-Richard Billings-

never die, they just moon away.

"We're getting close to the moon now. Fasten your do-hinkies again. There's gravity there. We're going to come in over the fan colony so keep your o yes open. What son? You didn't know that the man in the moon was Pogo? Shades of Shed Sloggs! Don't they teach anything in school anymore? We went Pogo 25 years ago!

"Hold your space-helmets! Ther's the colony now. See the huge glass-mimco? That's in honor of all the old time fans who died cranking theirs. They died with their stencils on.....And look over there, see that barb-wire enclosed orator? That's the moon division of GCF, that black building is quarters for its president, Fuss Whatins. And there, beneath that up cropping of rock is offices of Cosrag and SF Digest --- moon editions of course. Sirswail's kids and MacFalloy's kids still put out the earth zinc. And there's the City Hall, beautiful, isn't it with all those copies of Rhoda Digest roofing it? And, I think I see Mos Cole on top fixing a leak with the latest issue. And, of course, you recognize the news building? There's Gon Balc and Lame Loracy waving copies of Fantasy Times at us.

"Well, that's all we have time for this trip. Landing in five minutes. Moonport, moonport! All off for moonport and connections to Mars, Venus, and universal points.

"But lady, I told you a dozen time I -----."

-Karl King-

A note by George Wetzel:

In issue six of RENAISSANCE, I discussed Edmund Wilson's assno attacks on weird prose by H.P. Lovecraft. Now it appears that Lovecraft anticipated Edmund Wilson's attack years ago in the past. The following is excerpted from Lovecraft's, "President's Report", National Amateur, Volume 45, No. 6, July 1923.

"....The important thing is to ensue a critical bureau so impartial that no writer may find himself condemned or ridiculed merely for following a tradition at variance with that of his reviewer. Individual differences of opinion are inevitable and desirable, but we must if possible, discourage the dogmatic arrogance which impels a critic of one particular school to judge by his own narrow values the authors who follow other schools, and to deal out supercilious censure or condescending shreds of feint praise on the puerile and grandiloquent assumption that these other schools have no background, standing or authentic existence.....

"....What we must seek to destroy is the clownish snickering - of the half-educated at the products of both conservative and radical --- a snickering which, if not checked will end by discouraging sincere artistic effort of any kind."

* * * *

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-A COLUMN?-

-By Francis Bordna-

It seems that quite a number of people think that I am an ardent follower of Raymond A. Palmer, editor of OTHER WORLDS. And they have good enough reason for their thoughts. After all, I did ballyhoo him a few issues ago, acclaimed him ~~as~~ more or less ----- as one of the best editors in science-fiction, and stated that he did more good to fandom than harm. Well, I'm withdrawing my statements ---- I was wrong and I hope fans will forget that I ever said what I did. Perhaps it was my neophyte impressions that urged me.

My thoughts anent Palmer have thoroughly changed. He is no more, my "hero". Quite on the contrary for I have grown a certain dislike toward him. I now find him to be nothing more than a "sensationalist". His editorials prove this as does his two columns, A MAN FROM TOMORROW, and NEBULOUSITIES. They are nothing but a cheap way of getting a larger circulation. But I doubt if this will even help him now ----- many fans and non fans alike are just getting tired of his "sensationalism".

And even if he does draw any new readers, they will drop his magazine after a few months. They, too, will get tired of his juvenile statements. And if they donot, they will merely read his magazine for the sole purpose of studying a neurotic who has the obsession that he can foretell the future ----- for I believe, he actually does BELIEVE that he has contacted a man from the future.

As for his NEBULOUSITIES ----- they intrigue me for I find them to have the most idiotic theories I have ever had the displeasure to read. An example: "Why can't scientists refrain from drawing conclusions from their experiments?" Now what in the world is he trying to say? That science is merely a load of bull? You figure it out for your self. I'm getting sick.

The above quotation was taken from the January issue of OW. There was more idiocy floating therein. It seems that Palmer has a certain dislike for people with degrees ----- that's the most anyone could get out of his article. He ridicules scientists, declaim in g them, and saying, more or less, that the only thing which makes them scientists, is the diploma stating thus. He goes on to point out some of the mistakes they've made --- which, I agree, were many -- but fails to tell of their accomplishments. In all probability, the only reason why he is yelling off his big mouth is that the scientists declaim his ---- Palmer's ----- theory that A-bombs effect weather. He mentions nothing of the sort in NEBULOUSITIES, but in previous issues that is all he has been shouting about: Atomic Radiation effects the weather? So what if it does? So it killed your small garden. What are we supposed to do? But does he have evidence to prove his statements? He surely has not other than a few statistics which state that in such and such a place no rain fell. But yet he bases his assumptions on the Abomb. Okay Ray, we know you accepted SO SHALL YE REAP. But that was fiction, Rap, just fiction.

Another annoying fact in his MAN FROM TOMORROW; some of his predictions are most amazing. Do you realize that we are going to have a civil war? Do you know that we are going to have a war with Canada? But do you know that in his predictions, he has forgotten to include one thing....a thing which you cannot leave out.....and that is Russia. What is Russia going to do while we have our civil war? Twiddle its thumbs? That's what Mr. Palmer believes.

We are also going to have a religious war --- or anyway, the Catholic Church is going to control the nation. Yes, this is going to happen within the space of two years. And New Yorkers! Beware! A large
-concluded, next page-

portion of New York City is going to be destroyed by fire this year! And Truman will be our next president! Oh, forgot, Eisenhower won --- Truman didn't even run.

The above, of course, was the most stupidest prediction anyone could make. Mr. Palmer, of course, then admitted that he had made a mistake-- and that it had been a prediction of his own accord. His thought waves from the man from the future did not come clear enough and he misunderstood the man. We are sorry for you, Mr. Palmer.

Grass will grow in the desert. Every desert, infact. Well, most probably this will be true. Infact, I even think it is correct ---- even prior to his statement. Most deserts have oasis, haven't they?

The above is a generalization which is a numerous tendency with Mr. Palmer concerning predictions. He doesn't claim that grass will be grown in the whole desert nor does he say that it will be grown in a small portion of the desert. He doesn't say a thing other than GRASS WILL GROW IN THE DESERT! Now we all know that some improvements have been made in desolate arid areas with irrigation. They have to be made for fertile land is loosing its richness. I have even heard of experim - ents were being made trying to enrichen the soil of the deserts.

His favorite subject seems to be temperature. He has made an abundant amount of prophecies concerning weather conditions around the world. He has even gone as far to claim once that he had been correct in one of said predictions, then later refuting his statement as someone caught him. The excuse ran something like he had read the wrong figures.

Dealing with his weather predictions. They are quite simple to make as a number of records are broken each year anent temperatures. And anyway, who in the world wants to take time out to check wether he is right or whther he is wrong concerning weather --- hah, a pun. Most of us haven't the time or energy to look up these records and since they're made a year in advance, we forget about them when the time comes.

Mr. Palmer, of course, know this.

He has the belief that Shaver and Phillips have tremendous concepts. I doubt it; they are average writers; nothing to rave about nor nothing to sob about. Occasionally Phillips turns out a good yarn, while seldom does Shaver do the same. But his biggest mistake dealing with Shaver was that once he claimed Shaver to be a great author ----- another time, in the last issue I believe, he claimed that Shaver was a horrible writer and the only reason why he published him was because of his great concepts? Now which is to be, Ray? If you don't know.....

I'm wondering when Palmer is going to get back to Earth. Know his new theory; the flying saucers are actual beings that inhabit our atmosphere! But I recall at a time when he said that this was only Arnold's theory /Arnold collaborated with him in authoring a book summarizing the existence of the saucers/ and not his. Please make up your mind!

A most amazing thing. Palmer sounds off as if he has a lot to say in his editorials, yet when one meets him in person, he is the most gentle being you have ever met. He even seems afraid to open his mouth. You receive the idea that he is a thinker ---- but after reading his editorials, you get a wholly different picture.

It is my theory that when alone the devos take control of Mr. Palmer's brain and thus cause him to write what he does ---- hogwash. But when in company, they leave him alone for some unkown reason. Undoubtedly a case of dere on the brain.

Mr. Palmer has at least enticed me to write this issue's column so I must thank him. Must also add that I don't buy OW as the stands anymore. Wait until it comes to the second hand bookshop. And, might I add, that I am not criticizing Mr. Palmer's personality or character --I am merely criticizing his actions in OW. What I've heard, Palmer is a right guy ---- out of OW. But when it's time for OW ---- you know.....

--Fran Bordna--

George Wetzel:

This is, more or less, intended to clarify a few things about my "Edmund Wilson" article. Mr. Watkins says the "Bible does not foster superstition." Well, I am not a great bible student or a passable one. Yet certainly, most people know of Soul and the Witch of Endor. If by "superstition" Mr. Watkins understands that word to mean anything "erroneous", would not the spurious science of magic and witchcraft be "erroneous?" All Bible students I have encountered have told me the "Bible is true from cover to cover." When I asked them about Soul and the Witch of Endor, they say the account is true. This does not mean the "Bible caters to devil worship nor any other magic group" as Mr. Watkins thinks I have interpreted it. I do state that the Bible contains such instances of magic as a record but I do not believe it teaches belief in them consciously. Yet if one accepts the idea all the Bible is bonafide, he also must believe the text therein that states such and such a magical practise occurred. The Reverend Baring-Gould, in one of his books, essays upon "foundation sacrifices" as practised and recorded by the Jews in the Bible. My story "Church Ghost" which appeared in Destiny #2 contains a certain number of Bible Text quotations there from and was based upon that horribly mode of sanctifying some edifice. Look at the remarks in Scripture about the Devil and the Hordes of Evil Spirits. I certainly donot believe either. But I can't see an infernal place of torment at the center of our earth as clergymen used to preach of. I recall my early Sunday School days and the remarks of spooks the Bible spoke of. I have seen this belief and consequent fear of spooks terror-fy small children. I have heard a preacher express belief in spooks. If someone would ask me if ghosts exist, I would answer no. But if you can show me one under laboratory conditions I am prepared to consider its presence real.

I certainly agree the Bible teaches ethical and moral ideas of which there are a lack nowadays. The moral teachings of the Bible have helped bring order out of a anarchistic chaos. But I think it should have all references to spooks and magical practises deleted -- at least if it is to be taught as verity. The Salem witchcraft panic of 1692 was instigated by the trickery of some juvenile. But the Clergy quoted Scripture then, when trying and hunting the supposedly witches. And what about that queerish fantasism known in history as the Inquisition wherein the Sacred Word was quoted as proof of witchcraft ---- did not the Bible say such existed?

What about the demons driven out of the swine by Christ? Is that true? If so, demons must still be about us, as I have read no where in history where they were "put down" as the English say. If Mr. Watkins believes that there are demens here, perhaps we should have the government order out the militia or scientists or someone and give the demons a beating and make them promise to leave us alone. Or maybe on the metropolitan level, I should call a cop the next time one of them grabs me in the dark. "Assault," I can charge them with. What I've said, may sound sarcastic; it is not meant that way. I do mean it to sound foolish, though, because that is what belief in spooks is.

Mr. Watkins generally writes intelligent letters. His present one is much the same. But I can't see how he overlooks the obvious I pointed out above. 5 Playfield Street; Dundalk 22, Maryland

RUSS WATKINS: Thanks for another ish of Ren. Say, where is my item, I thought it was scheduled for #7. Oh, yes, I seem to remember something about you saying that it would probably be pushed out and that it would appear in #8. I did another little item for you but it would probably be outdated by the time you printed it so I sent it to another zine./Oh this is personal ----- gulp, sorry to print this, Russ. Ed/

This ish of Ren is muchly better printed than have past issues. Ah ha, I knew that if I typed you a letter you would not ignore it. So you printed it just as I predicted. Gosh, I didn't know my handwriting was that bad.

Your own article ---- come one, I know it was you ---- was very good and quite interesting. But the Buffalo con is really old now so your item was dated a little. "Mind Over Matter" was another good piece of fiction by Paul. Just who is this fellow, anyway? He has been writing some nice fanfiction lately. Any kin to the artist? I thought not. Just another writer, huh? Seriously, he's good. Let's see more of him.

Toby raises an interesting question. I believe he is right. Browne doesn't care for anything else except selling his mags. And if he can make detective story readers out of sf readers, all well and good as far as he is concerned. And if he can make sf story readers out of detective fans then well and good again. Either way he sells more mags and that is what he wants.

If Martin liked Bradbury so well I don't see why he waited until the book came out in a twenty-five cents reprint before buying it and reviewing it. What's the matter Stanley, isn't Ray Bradbury worth \$2.75 of the original book in hard covers? I waited and bought the twenty-five cents one too, but then I'm no great lover of Bradbury. I should think that one of his such ardent fans as Stan would pay anything to get ahold of his latest works.

Redd Boggs has some great ideas for fmz article there. I wish some one would write them. Of course all the other fans are wishing some other fan would write them, too, so they'll never get written. Most fans are too lazy to do any research and write a deep convincing article. Ed Wood has said this before and he is absolutely right. Fans are more concerned with what boob drank what kind of booze in what roadside inn or hotel room number than writing serious constructively articles for fmz. Why don't I? I'm in the service and don't have access to the necessary materials nor time to do so. Check the fanz's and see how many serious thought provoking articles you'll find. That is precisely why fandom is going to pot.

Guess that is enough for this time. 155 West 34th Street; Savannah, Georgia.

/Ed. Glad you liked Paul. I like the chap, too. Probably one of my best friends other than myself. And we will have some material from him in future issues. Infact, I have a story beside me now entitled "Wer-Room" which he wrote with the aid of George T. Wetzal. It's a straight fantasy ----- I liked it and perhaps you'll like it. In all probability it will be used in #10, but this is very doubtful since I have a number of other good fiction pieces lined up for the future. There's something by Toby Duane, Fred Chappell, and Elmer R. Kirk in my drawer. They are all good amateur fiction. I donot claim them to be anything else. If they were professional, as some fanzine editors claim their fiction to be, it would be printed by a professional magazine./

HARLAN ELLISON: I am taken aback at the quality of crud you permit to grace what could be a most entertaining fanzine. I must start with Fr-
-continued, next page-

ancis Bordna who, I hasten to state, does a creditable job of column-
ing as I've seen in the last few months, but whose column is so be-
riddled with errors that I feel I must comment in order of appearance:
1/ she tells the date of the mag on which Bergey cover illustrates
OUTLAW WORLD --- but not which magazine! /all right, so that's minor,
there's more/ 2/she states that, "This showing that either Startling
Stories has the largest circulation, or is trying for it. The former,
however, seems most likely." I happen to have here with me now the
figures of what each science-fiction magazine sells..and I can heart-
ily assure you that SS is nowhere near the top. Brown's FANTASTIC
---so ably panned by Duana/leads with its first ish selling approxi-
mately 170,000 copies and the Spillane issue, #3, selling.....got
this, it'll flatten you...250,000 copies or the entire stock they pr-
inted! Next comes GALAXY with AMAZING a very close third.....
and so on down the line. The reason SS can do so much and so many pro-
gressive steps taken, is that they are members of a long chain of pulps
and pocket books that make money hand over foots and allow a laggard
in the bunch to get on its feet riding on the profits of others for a
time. It is reprehensible that you allow Miss /Mrs. ?/ Bordna to say
anything she wants without verification. However, this is again, a
column of opinion and as such it is good. I just thought I'd
bring facts up to date for you as it is interesting. 3/ the mag that
Fran erroneously titled Science Fiction and Fantasy, is called T H E
AVON READER OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY/or, more accurately, THE AV-
ON SF & FANTASY READER, pardon me/. And contrary to what most folks
think, they are no using all new stories. The stories passed off
in the first issue as new that are in reality reprints are ONE -MAN
GOD by F. Owen which was first run back in 1951 in the Avon Fantasy
Reader & FORGOTTEN ENEMY by Clarke which was printed a number of years
ago in a British - anthology/ as far as I can ascertain.....but it
was definitely printed in England previously/.4/she tells about TCSF-
AB which has one extra letter, the title of the book is actually: TWO
COMPLETE SCIENCE-ADVENTURE BOOKS. 5/On your last page /Odds and Ends/
you say that the whole mag was stencilled before Thanksgiving, which in-
dicates that you had Bordna's column previous to that. Thus, when she
says that SPACE SF was two weeks late, she was mistaken. For up to ab-
out seventeen days before that/Thanksgiving/SPACE SF was out, and if
she didn't have it, it was because of negligence at the newsstand. But
she was right about SF ADVENTURES being late. 6/GREAT GOD IN HEAVEN!!
SF ADVENTURES is not edited by a different house. It's the same outfit
that Lester del Rey does Space Sf for and in addition, the editor ---
Phillip St. John --- is a del Rey pen name. How naive can you get,
girl!.....and that's all I can find wrong in Fran's column this time .
A little more propartation on either her part or your part, Joe, wou-
ld make for a more sound column.

MEMOIRS OD A FAN: useless piece of pre-convention slush that has
very little point. It gives no useful or amusing info about the Buff-
alo con. In fact, it fails to mention once the Buffaloon and if the
reader didn't know it as such, he'd think, What in hell is going on
around here, who cares who he got stewed with? At least from my an-
gle that's what I thought.

SURE CONVERTS etc.: not bad....at least readable. But not up to
Toby's usual stuff, if you get what I mean./Try reading REASEARCHLAB
in a forthcoming issue of SCIENCE FANTASY BULLITEN....a novelette/.

AN ARTICLE FOR YOU: excellent piece of work. Enjoyably lucid even if the grammar and the right hand justifying atrocious.

STF IN HOLLYWOOD: could have been better, might make a novel feature is not handled in such a ponderous heavy-handed manner and if remembered the title in the last few paragraphs. That's Hollywood, boy, Hollywood, remember? 12701 Shaker Blvd.; Cleveland 20, Ohio

Ed/ I have no need to comment on the letter. My readers, I am sure, are capable of doing so. Pointing out the many mistakes he himself made in his letter concerning RENAISSANCE will cause him to become angry at us. We are not looking for enemies ---- and after all, he did write an article for us. What have you got to say concerning this issue, Harlan? We are holding our heads./

HAL SHAPIRO: Rodd Boggs is always interesting and didn't sink below par on this thing. Infact, I found this item extremely interesting. Even gave me some ideas for more prozine rejects.

Oh yes, if you will, I'd like you to print the fact that I am not a Fortean. I merely admire that man's wit and humor to dupe people.

Then Russ Watkins says, "The Bible promotes only good and goodness; cleanliness and righteousness; loyalty and love; faithfulness and high morals of mankind." Well, Russ, I don't want to take up the entire letter column with refutation, so I'll just list a few refutations in abbreviated form.

Moses orders his officers to kill captive women and children, but to keep the virgins alive for themselves. Num. 31:17-8 ## Abraham debauches his maidservant. Gen. 16:4. And then turns her out into the wilderness. Gen. 21: 14 ## Isaac lies, denying his wife. Gen. 26:7 ## Jacob defrauds his brother. Gen. 27:19 ## Lot offers his daughters to a mob. Gen. 19:8.

David, god's favorite, tortures prisoners /2 Sam. 12:31/, Slays 200 Philistines for their foreskins which he buys a wife /1 Sam. 11/. And dies demanding the death of two men /1 Kings 2:5 - 9.

Even god establishes slavery /Lev. 25:44-6 and Ex. 21:2-6/ He orders slave capturing expeditions. /Dout. 21:20-1/.

Well, I could go on and list passages dealing with Witchcraft, polygamy, Intolerance, Cruelty, Barbarities, Tyranny, Cannibalism, et al.

But, if you're interested in improper literature, Russ, suggest that you look up the following passages yourself:

Gen. 16, 26, 29, 30, 34, and 39; Num. 31; Sam. 25; 2 Sam. 11 and 13; and Judges 19. Ruth, Esther, and the songs of Solomon are more entertaining than moral, Christians would probably denounce these chapters and books if found outside the bible. You might also read: Lev. 15; 16-33; Isa. 36:12; and Ezek. 4:12-15.

And Russ, I'd like a few questions answered for my own edification. Can your God be universally good if endless punishment is meted out to a single soul? Can good men worship a being who has created millions for endless torture? Can we trust the creator of Hell? If your god made all things; if he made the devil, knowing that the devil would lead mankind astray, would this god be just in punishing mankind for going astray? Would not a being who would do this be as bad or worse than the devil? If god created endless hell, must he not have created some men for endless misery? If god created endless hell, was it included in the works he pronounced "very good?" I could go on for pages, but why? Answer those questions for me, Russ, and still see if you believe as I do. 790th --

AC/W Squadron; Kirksville, Missouri

/Ed. Well, I knew it was bound to happen. Anymore on the subject? My hands are holding my head ----- I'm not too bright on said subject, so I retreat to the sidelines.

-ODDS AND ENDS--
-an editorial-

Something new has been added. Yes, the paper. As you can already see, it is far thicker than previous paper, and it takes the mimeo ink much better. I like it, I know you like it, but does my pocket-book like it? The answer is no, of course, as this paper ----- 28 pd. ----- is about twice as much as previous papers. Paper for the last issue cost me approximately \$1.50 per ream; this cost me exactly \$2.50 per ream. Quite a jump in price.

But as you can also see, the price was hiked back down to a dime. The reason why this was done was that I was figuring on getting the regular paper, thus when stencilling the cover, I marked ten cents. And so the price, once again, is ten cents. But I doubt if this will last long. It seems that I haven't any tremendous circulation. I am not like one Harlan Ellison who claims to have 300 paid subscriptions. To tell the truth ending with this issue, /since about twenty subs expire/ I have only twenty subscriptions. Isn't much, is it? Not enough to finance the zine, not enough of anything other than buying me a pack of cigarettes weekly. So if there is no tremendous lift in circulation figures --- paid, that is ----- expect the price to get to fifteen cents again.

Starting with this issue there will be contests held, or something similar to contests. The article or fiction piece which takes first place in a poll, will cause the author to get 4 free issues of RENAISSANCE. Second best, two issues, and the remainder, the customary issue. This is in hope that some fans will contribute articles to get more than one issue of my zine.

As you can see, it isn't an outstanding contest. After all, one merely gets thirty-five cents in zines if he wins first place. But still, it's better than nothing. I don't seem to see any other fanzines doing the same thing. And who knows, it may cause some of my readers to write me an article.

I enjoyed putting this issue out. The material is fair, and if you're a Lovecraft fan, it's a treasure. If you aren't a Lovecraft fan, there's still enjoyment for you ----- other than the Ashville-Gazette article -- with the article dealing with Lovecraft's personality. It's an excellent piece of work, and I must congratulate one George T. Wetzel for being its author. And, as it has already been proven to me, an issue which contains material about HPL is always one that is asked for the most. I'm nearly sold out for issue #6 which contained the Edmund Wilson article.

My circulation figures are seventy-five copies distributed, then about another twenty-five are left over. These are sold gradually, but manage to get distributed. However, even though the zine has no great circulation figure, I still believe that one gets a more than average presentation of one's work. Starting with this issue, anyway. It contains margins, neat mimeography ----- I should say, fair mimeography, etc.,.

Another plea. I would greatly appreciate it if every reader would PLEASE SEND ME A LETTER about my zine. Really, I would like to know what people think of it. I only get letters from a few, so I'm thanking them now. And to judge which articles were liked best for the "contest", I need more letters. So howabout it, huh?

-Joseph Semenovich-

This is a sample copy.

You are a subscriber.

This issue is to be reviewed.

You are a contributor

This is your last issue

RENAISSANCE

care/of Joseph Semenovich
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Flushing 67, New York

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Printed matter only



Richard Bergern
R.F.D. #1
Newport, Vermont

TO ALL WHO RECEIVE THIS ISSUE:

I apologize for using such thin paper. When bought, the stationary dealer assured me that the paper would take the ink well. I believed ---- the result, though not bad ----- this issue of RENAISSANCE. I would like to mention, if the paper had been thicker, the mimeography would have been wonderfully clear. As it is now, you merely have to look harder in certain spots. And because of this, we have no cover this issue.

Next issue thick paper will be bought ---- and we have some wonderful material lined up for you. There's a beautiful short by Fred Chappell, a long article by Charles Smith that will cause you to sit up and take notice, another article by Harlan Ellison and an exceptional horror story penned by Steven R. Paul and George T. Wetzel combined! Also other articles and regular features.

THIS IS A POLL WHICH I HOPE WILL CALL ALL MY READERS TO WRITE ME CONCERNING RENAISSANCE. Ratings are, bad ---- /1/; readable --/2/; good ----/3/; excellent -----/4/ exceptional -----/5/.

Early Portrait of Lovecraft, Wetzel _____; Etro's Answer, _____; Man & Machine, Mason _____; Lovecraft in the Asheville Gazette-News, Wetzel _____; Toys in Stf, Billings _____; The Moon Local, King _____; It's A Matter of Life or Death, Achilles _____; Field Trip, Duane _____; A Column, Bordna _____; Letter Column _____; Creation /a poem/, Podsen _____.

Comments

Dear Joe;

Yours truly,

