

# SCIENCE FICTION PARADE

"South Gate in '58!"

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Number Three

November-December, 1956

CONFETTI

Our Readers On Parade

((Editorial commentary enclosed thusly-ljm))

Isaac Asimov, West Newton, Massachusetts: Thank you for sending me...SFP. I enjoyed Ron Ellick's personal impressions of the 14th World Science Fiction Convention, but write in order to correct what I am afraid is a false impression he gave at one point.

He states that people who did not pay for the Banquet "did not hear Al Capp or Isaac Asimov speak."

That is not quite so. To be sure, Al Capp's speech was restricted to the actual banqueters. There is justification for this. Mr. Capp is a professional entertainer of great renown who commands a very high price for his talents. He is worth spending money to hear.

Isaac Asimov, however, is nothing more than an s.f. writer and more or less one of the boys at the Convention. I did not speak until after the doors were thrown open to the general public. No one suggested that my talk be restricted to those with \$7.10, nor would I have agreed to that if the suggestion had been made.

No one paid one solitary cent for any banquet to hear me. If Mr. Ellick did not hear me, it was because he was late getting there. He may not have missed much to be sure but had he gotten there earlier he would have heard me for free.

One other point, by the way. John Campbell may sound fierce when defending his opinions but he holds no grudges against those who disagree with him. I say this from personal knowledge.

((Thank you for the correction! Mr. Ellick tells me that he was misinformed by one of the hotel employees, and regrets missing your speech. He says his remarks re Mr. Campbell were intended as humor, and is sorry if anyone took them seriously. -ljm))

Redd Boggs, Minneapolis, Minnesota: ...Ellick's Nycon report was sufficient, although it didn't bring the con very close. He was right in ending up with "...and I was there." He hardly caused us to feel that we were present, too, hence couldn't claim that "you were there." The last paragraph almost persuades me that Ellick has a spark of talent after all, even if it is only a talent for mildly clever burlesque. That's the only talent, come to think of it, that Ray Bradbury ever showed as a fan, so maybe there's hope for Ron Ellick. I almost despaired of him during the past couple of years.

Gene Hunter's tribute to the late Bela Lugosi was fascinating for the information about Lugosi's wife: "as a little girl--lonely and unloved--she had fallen in love with Lugosi's weird screen characterizations." I wonder what Krafft-Ebing would think about this? This is almost as incomprehensible as what some teenagers see in Elvis Presley, or some plump matrons see in Liberace. Come to think of it, I guess I'd prefer Bela Lugosi myself.

Richard Sneary's fanzine reviews were easily the most enjoyable thing in the issue.

The funniest thing in the issue was the announcement

CONFETTI (continued)

of a time capsule that is to contain science fiction. I hope Laney hears about it. If he realizes that there are still plenty of fuggheads in fandom, maybe he will come back to the field.

((We'll let the President of Twentieth Century Fandom answer this one--as follows: "Dear Redd: Of all people I'd expect to be prejudiced, you're about the fourth from last. Of course, I've known Redd Boggs to stick his neck out before, but never far enough for someone to use a hatchet on. I'd advise a little less jumping the gun on your part. The announcement couldn't give all the details, and even if it could they weren't entirely worked out. We had to get the thing rolling. To make it perfectly clear--no, we aren't going to bury it. Yes, we would like to bury Laney. The Time Capsule is really an award, the first from the Science Fiction Fan Award Association. You can redeem yourself by sending in your list of ten novels and the quarter, right now--or wait for the ballot to appear in Fantasy Times. CK? --George W. Fields))

G. M. Carr, Seattle, Washington: Thanks for SFP--especially for the elegy to Bela Lugosi.....My opinion is that people--including a lot of fans--are getting a little tired of science fiction. Tired of spaceships, alien menace, mad scientists, etc. Tired of time travel, space warps, planet-destroying catastrophe. And oh so tired of Psying, Esping, and What-Have-You-ing by super-brainy mutants. It seems to me that stf editors are engaged in a production race of some kind, each trying to outdo the others with ultra-ultra, slam-bang, space-adventure and all they are succeeding in doing is building up a feverish race against crud. Surely it isn't an accident that prozine reviewers are usually bewailing "Let's face it, Galaxy isn't what it used to be..." or "Astounding for August contains no especially outstanding stories..."

I don't think we need blame the movies (although the stuff they offer under the title of "Science Fiction" is pretty awful, sometimes) nor TV (which occasionally comes up with some excellent stf but usually offered as "fantasy" or "literature") for the decline of stf. I think the real trouble lies in the fight between the editors for the readers' dough. If they happen across one good idea, they milk it for everything it is worth, until the readers are so tired of it they wouldn't like another revision if it were written in letters of gold on platinum paper...

I think you have a wonderful chance of indeed getting a flood of fans piling into South Gate in '58. London is a long (and expensive) way off, and I doubt very much that anybody would be able to hitch-hike or hop in an old jalopy on a share-the-expense basis to get there. ((Except maybe Ron Ellik--ljm)) Consequently, there'll be a two-year period of advertising and getting ready and fans that can't make it to London will probably be twice as anxious to get to LA. By all means keep on talking it up--after ten years or so of "South Gate in '58" anybody and everybody that IS a fan will want to try and make it... Thanks again for SFP. But I am curious about one thing--how did you happen to send it to me? ((Any reason why we shouldn't?--ljm))

Ron Ellik, Long Beach, California: Hey--Burbee says that out of the entire issue the only thing he remembered was my con report. And Wilson also says it was good reading. Neither of them is likely to write you a letter, so I figured I'd better inform you that not EVERYBODY has poor literary taste like Redd Boggs. Remember--Charles Burbee is a Living Legend. Can Boggs top that??? ((I always thought that Boggs was a Living Legend--ljm)) Cox is threatening to start spelling his name Edd Cox, in imitatio of the great Boggs. I believe this will be the final blow...

CONFETTI (continued)

Eph Konigsberg, Pasadena, California: You weasled. This way any logical fantasy becomes "borderline stf." What is borderline stf? Show me one element of science in Lord of the Rings! ((See Editorial by Anna Sinclare, this issue. -ljm))

Jerry C. Merrill, Boulder City, Nevada: Yes, it's me again, and in a better mood. When I wrote that first letter, I was mad at the world in general and fandom in particular. I was sort of letting off steam, and being more fuggheaded than I called you in that letter. Much more. Such is life, asi es la vida, que sera sera, dammit. ((I beg your pardon?--ljm)).....Rick still hasn't mastered his system, and I have given it up for good. ((Tried girls, eh?--ljm)) I will leave this gentle hint with you, don't cut up the letters with your comments. I consider this one of the worst fannish evils. I did for one issue, and was rebuked so strongly, that I had to give it up. ((You give up too easily.-ljm)) Rick tells me that SFP is printed on a \$7.50 mimeo. I find this hard to believe, considering the quality of the repro. ((Rick Sneary is always a man of truth.-ljm))

Kent Moomaw, Cincinnati, Ohio: Rick Sneary still writes one of the best fanzine review columns around...London's gain of the '57 bid was greeted with great joy on Bramble Avenue, for they truly deserve the con. Bets on the proposition that the '57 World Con will be one of the best ever, anyone?

Bob Silverberg, 915 West End Ave., New York 25, N.Y.: I'd appreciate it if you'd give some publicity to my new address....South Gate in '58 -- ! Gaw, after all these years you were really serious! Well, I'll go along with it. I've always wanted to make a trip to California, and sf cons are tax deductible for us vile professionals, y'know. ((I know now.-ljm))

Steve Tolliver, Montebello, California: Thanks to Gene Hunter...for writing Tribute to a Badman. I feel that this was the highpoint of the whole zine.... I noticed in Fanclubs on Parade that only one fanclub showed up for the parade. Hello out there!...

Harry Warner, Jr., Hagerstown, Maryland: I always feel a fondness to any fanzine that appears with a convention report only a few weeks after the thing has happened, and until this issue came, I knew only a couple of bare facts...about the site for '57...I did write to the \$64,000 Question about a science fiction category, the first time that I've ever written to a radio program or television program in my long, livelong, long life. Unfortunately, I can't think of anyone who really knows enough about science fiction to stand a chance at appearing on the program. All of the experts would be disqualified by reason of having professional connections with the field in one way or another, as far as I can see, except for some members of the older generation who are probably not up to date on the events of the past decade or two.

You...ask for opinions on '58. Well, I haven't formed very strong ones yet, on the theory that it probably won't arrive for more than a year. I think that I'll be upset at '58 because I'll be forced to make some strikeovers in writing dates, because I'll be so habituated to writing 1957 by that time. Matter of fact, the other day I caught myself writing a letter with a date as the start: 1946. I've never heard of anyone growing so used to the former decade that he took more than six years to become accustomed to typing the new one, so maybe it was just a mechanical slip of the finger.

((Leggo my leg,

Harry! -ljm))

Walter A. Willis, Belfast, N. Ireland: I meant to write you after SFP#1 to say how glad I was to see your light shining in fandom again, but at the time I was so busy rubbing my own damp sticks together that I didn't get round to it. However, here I am now spluttering fitfully. Hi Len, nice to have you back.

Ellik's conreport was competent and illuminating in patches, and the reviews interesting and well written. It's difficult for me to say much more about them, not having seen many of the items concerned, I mean I don't know whether they're discriminating and intelligent, or whether they disagree with my opinions.

Seriously though, it's nice to have Rick's fmz reviews back in a place where I can read them. I was never sent FOR BEMS ONLY, though John Berry was, and of course I was desolate about it because I'm just as much a bem as he is. Unfair discrimination against us old has-BNFs, that's what it is. One thing that puzzles me about Rick's column is his statement that the paper on which NOW & THEN is printed looks like it came from the West German capital. What subtle witticism is this? Paper for wrapping bonbons? For lighting bonnfires? Bonnf? I give up. ((Bond paper...-ljm))

Now the readers' section. I don't like the sight of blood, but after I'd got used to picking my way through the dismembered portions of Jerry Merrill I found I was beginning to enjoy it with a horrible sort of lustful glee, like spectators at a bullfight. It was a sort of bullfight, this duel of yours with the unfortunate Jerry. And while you knew the poor creature hadn't a chance, you were reconciled to the slaughter by the utter beauty of the matador's exquisitely calculated lunges. "Did you read it in the dark?... They just walked round being specific...Try girls..." Ooooh! As the poor blood-sodden hulk is dragged from the arena we toss bouquets to the victor, breathless in admiration. Could you not persuade Jerry to write you a nice long helpful letter of comment like this for every issue? It would be a sensational feature.

That's a nice idea of Harry Warner's, to copyright the name 21st Century Fox, but why wait till then. Could we not copyright, say, 1957? I mean the name of the year. Then nobody would be able to use it without our permission; think what we'd get from calender manufacturers alone! ((Free Marilyn Monroe calenders? I'd prefer a Joan Collins...ljm)) Of course they might decide to skip 1957 altogether ((and the poses in the same?-ljm)) and go straight into 1958, which would put both the London Worldcon Committee and the South Gate Shadow Committee in a very awkward position.

Well, it was a very lively letter section, and I'd like to see even more of you in it. Do you realise you got away without writing a proper editorial. Tch tch. ((We prefer to write improper editorials--ljm))

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OUR THANKS to Mary Dziechowski, Lou Goldstone, R.J.Horrocks(Auckland Space Club, New Zealand), Billy Meyers, Charles Lee Riddle, Sandy Sanderson, The Tulleys, Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Williams, Don Wollheim, et alii for their nice letters and cards of comment.

WE HOPE to distribute 150 copies of this issue. However, starting with the next issue we will produce and distribute only 100 copies (or less)--depending on the number of persons who send us letters or cards of comment, and/or answer the SFP Poll. Letters, cards and ballots must be in our hands by JANUARY 30, 1957.

Due to a lack of money and time (especially--time!), SFP is going quarterly. Our fourth issue should be ready sometime in February, 1957. This will give us more time to work on each issue, and might even increase the number of pages per issue, as well as the quality of the material. As always, time will tell....  
WAW & WIFE TO THE GATE IN '58! --ljm



Dictionary Definitions: Science-An organized body of knowledge.  
Pure Science-A science based upon self evident truths,  
as opposed to natural science based upon observation and experimentation.

Lords of the Ring: science fiction.

Major precept: Good and Evil are natural forces.

Minor precept: All things can be affected by natural forces.

Conclusion: All things can be affected by Good and Evil. (This may not be in your philosophy--it isn't in mine--but many generations have founded their Sciences upon this conclusion. It doesn't have to be true to be scientific--merely systematic, well-organized and acceptable to students as "knowledge.")

To go on with the "Knowledge" on which Tolkien bases his story... Truism: All things can be affected by Good and Evil. If you can use Good and Evil, you can affect all things in the same degree. In Lords of the Ring all beings and things are consistant within these postulations; they are manifest of Good and Evil, and affected by Good and Evil. Their actions are based upon the degree of their abilities to use these "natural forces". They have organized a body of knowledge, and utilize its precepts to build machines \* and develop attitudes to use Good and Evil to affect each other and their environment.

Lords of the Ring is as validly science fiction as any of the interstellar or interdimensional stories, which are based on the precept that all intelligent beings can change their place of environment--to move from one place to another. One place is here or there and another place is in another dimension, galaxy or solar system. Any intelligent being can move to another galaxy, solar system or dimension. These stories never give operable descriptions of how either.

Len called Lords of the Ring borderline s-f, because he doesn't consider the story to have unlimited reality. By unlimited reality I mean--not absolute truth--but rather apparancy beyond the confines of the story. If the characters and lands appear to exist and have interaction between themselves, and the story is only a chronicle of particular actions and effects resulting from their innate natures, and if these chronicles are consistant and relate happenings soundly based upon the precepts of these beings, then the story has disciplined imagination and unlimited reality, and may be catagorized as science fiction.

I had hoped my truism would be self-evident and would eliminate these interminable articles upon what constitutes science fiction.

-AS

\*Such as Rings of Power which distort mental processes, impenthrable armor made of metal of unknown base-whose qualities suggested to me an alloy of platinum and aluminum plus particular sensitive trace elements, swords and daggers with various side benefits like glowing in the presence of certain undesirable elements (Evil Forces).

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ANNOUNCING: The Where and When of...WESTERCON X!

The Tenth Annual West Coast Science Fiction Conference will be held at the Hotel Knickerbocker --in Hollywood, California on July 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1957.

JOIN NOW--for 4 crazy days of fun and frolic, by sending one dollar to: Lew Kovner, 1113 N. Myers, Burbank, Calif. (Note: No program scheduled for July 5. Just visit with your fellow-fans and pros, put in an appearance at your job, or tour Hollywood...)

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Prozines On Parade

-conducted by George W. Fields

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Please note that I'm using the Sneary Rating System.(1-10;10 is tops)

SERIALS A LA CARTE:

"The Stars My Destination" by Alfred Bester. (Galaxy, Oct.on) This promises to be another classic of s-f by Bester. Set in the fantastic, but with living characters and realistic (though bizarre) action, Bester proceeds to develop a much neglected theme. Although there are holes scientifically that cannot be overlooked due to their simplicity, the brilliance lies in subjects which are presented with incredible effect--such as the description of an A bomb blast in infra-red. Powerful in some sequences, light in others, with the antics of a certain Fourmyle providing some upbeat. Implications as to the possible ending is definitely upbeat, since Bester's world is rather grim due to the misuse of science (which could very well happen, might as well face it), and the forced extremes. Each of the fascinating characters represent a kind of person you could meet today, and being as perceptive and emotionally violent as it is, it is truly one of the great novels of our time. Rate--10.

"The Door Into Summer" by Robert A. Heinlein. (Fantasy & Science Fiction, Oct.on). Here Heinlein examines a future in such perfect objective and with such brilliant extrapolation that one wonders why it is so short. This is the only thing against this novel--it is much too short for what it set out to do. Nevertheless, it is his best job of writing and subtly hinted deep thought about an engineer--inside out. No superlative ever described Heinlein. Stunning is an under-rating. This novel is possibly Heinlein's most drastic mistake--in not writing to the length it deserves about this future world in which he actually realizes a true society. Rate--10.

"The Naked Sun" by Isaac Asimov (Astounding SF, Oct.on). A mystery with s-f giving it real life and dimension. But as sequels go, the characters of Lije Baley and R.Daneel were far too weak even in the original novel to support another. It lacks this depth of characterization to make it a good mystery and since a mystery depends so much on this (even the new characters are nothing short of cardboard, and they get murdered as fast as they appear), I consider it a 150% flop. Nothing like I expected as a sequel, though the last part may prove to change my views. Rate--7.

--GWF

THE SHOWCASE: Fantasy & Science Fiction. With several good short stories accompanying the fascinating second part of "The Door Into Summer", the November issue is well above average, even for F&SF. "Gimmicks Three: A Triptych" shows what happens when three good writers take on a combination of three old plot gimmicks, combine them, and come up with something new. "Zeepsday" and "The Hero Comes" are just ringing new changes on old ideas, but "Lullaby for a Changeling" is almost worthy of Lovecraft. Article, "The Truth of the Matter" is an entertaining item about rockets.

--TAJ

Satellite SF. The most beautifully packaged NOTHING in existence. Rate--3.

--GWF

Science Fiction Adventures. Another new mag of the Imagination, Amazing, Fantastic, and Other Worlds type. You can expect about the same level of fiction, though more pyrotechniques are evident! Rate--2. --GWF

FEATURE REVIEW: Galaxy Science Fiction (covering last three months of 1956)

There has been more discussion of this s-f mag than any other. Perhaps its controversy lies in its extreme progression into the psychological story or human

Prozines On Parade (cont'd,)

angle. Some don't realize that Galaxy is one magazine among all the literary outlets that has gone so far. If you can tell me one thing wrong with this, you're more narrow-minded than I thought anyone could be. The trouble with Galaxy is its sometimes poor writing, which tends to give a dull effect. It is improving of late, mainly because it has ignored a few people--including H. L. Gold. The same as all magazines that have very slanted policies, you know what you're going to read when you pick it up, perhaps more than any other s-f mag. It will be, to a fairly consistant degree, a psychological, human story with the accent on science's effect on man. Too much is expected from this type of story. You have to consider them en masse. And a psychological story is one of the toughest to write. No one can be blamed if they all don't come off too well. Often they are too subtle. And this is the word for Galaxy--subtle. General Rate--8.

"Jackpot" by Simak.(Oct) is a wonderfully refreshing story with a well thought out and fresh theme. 8.

"The Man Who Ate The World" by Pohl (Nov) isn't as profoundly executed as many Pohl social-logical themes, but strangely intriguing. 7.

"Dead Ringer" is an example of how poor Galaxy can be. Pure hack. Cliches having no place in serious fiction, this is an outright copy of the newspaperman who finds that the Martians are among us, and need I say more? 3.

"Vigil" by E.C.Tubb(Nov) is a mysterious little story with a very disturbing ending. 7.

"Double Dare" by Silverberg(Nov) is a fairly well written, yet illogically ended story. 6.

"The Native Problem" by Sheckley(Dec)...nicely executed situation, but runs away out of reach at the end. 7.

"Rattle OK" by Harry Warner, Jr.(Nov) is a clever, but not evenly developed story producing a new dilemma. 7.

"Of All Possible Worlds" by Tenn(Dec) is one of the neatest, ironic time paradox stories ever written flick! written flick! written flick!

"You Go" by Tubb(Dec) neglects to explain itself well, but ends with a subtly devastating horror, at which Tubb is rapidly becoming a specialist. 6.

Covers on Galaxy have improved as they have been trying desperately to pull away from the cartoon trend. Emsh's finest painting appeared on the Oct. issue, and is one I would certainly like to own--truly a masterpiece. Down the next month with a gaudy Emsh resembling one on a recent Astounding in atmosphere. Finley's best to date is a striking symbolic, but lacks the detail Finley's work usually stresses.

(Feature Review,  
next issue--IF: Worlds of Science Fiction.)

--GWF

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THE SOUTH GATE IN '58 PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Anna Sinclare Moffatt, Chairlady  
Lew Kevner, Corresponding Secretary      Forry Ackerman, Pro Public Relations Agent  
George W. Fields, Fan Public Relations Agent      Rick Sneary, Treasurer  
Len Moffatt, Recording Secretary      Art Thompson, British Public Relations  
Walt Willis, Irish Public Relations

YOU WILL BE HEARING FROM US!

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A Report On The National Fantasy Fan Federation

-by Stan Woolston

During the last year the NFFF has proven that fans will cooperate, if they are asked sincerely to help. This is contrary to an old theory that fans are too anarchistic to work together. Every member has been asked to send in news and reviews for the club magazine, The National Fantasy Fan. While a hundred percent participation did not result, the magazine has been filled with news and other material. The Nycon II Memory Book, now ready for sale (\$1.00: Kaymar Carlson, 1028 Third Avenue South, Moorhead, Minnesota), has over 160 pages of material, including an authoritative article on the first Nycon, and a collection of individual fanzines grouped together in a "Combozine".

As yet incompleated, the Yearbook has many sections including history of fandom for the last 2 years, material on prozines, results of a Fan Activity and Laureate Poll, and it is intended to include a Fanclub Checklist. The latter item will require the help of members and non-members alike, and will provide publicity for everyone. Send me the name of your fan-group, an explanation of its purpose, rate of dues, name of clubzine and its subscription rate, etc. and we'll include this information in the Checklist.

During 1956 there has been more NFFF activity, percentage-wise, than in any other period I can remember. Still "in print" are the Pseudonyms List and Fanspeak (fannish dictionary). Among the projects forthcoming is the club letterzine, Postie, with Jerry Merrill as editor.

A membership campaign, designed to attract active members as much as possible, is the work of Henry Wood Graham, 1207 Nevin, Richmond, California. Dues are \$1.60, and membership starts January 1st.

At this writing, the election of officers for 1957 is in the campaign stage. The five directorate candidates and three presidential candidates have had past experiance with the NFFF and are familiar with the inner workings of the club. This combination tends to guarantee that activities next year will be steady, and aimed at heading NFFF in policies aligned to the Constitutional aim of bettering science fiction. The results of this election will be announced in the next issue of SFP. -SW

Stan Woolston      12832 West Avenue      Garden Grove, California      U.S.A

LASFS CELEBRATES 1000th MEETING      -condensed from notes by Ron Ellik & ljm

There was SRC at Freehafer Hall, when over 100 persons attended the gala 1000th Meeting of The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Thursday evening, October 25, 1956.

Highlights of the special program included informal talks by Forry Ackerman, Ray Bradbury and Kriss Neville, a "Twenty Minute One Night Stand" by Pike Pickens, the Galaxy's Greatest Entertainer, and--of course--the serving of Refreshments.

A note of hilarity climaxed the three hour meeting, when a little old lady interrupted Pike's act by peering curiously into the club room window, and Bradbury rushed to the window, shouting: "These are science fiction people and I am Moby Dick!"

A Reading--by Anna Sinclare Moffatt--of the Minutes of the Last 1000 Meetings was met with joyous approval by the audience, even those who were attending a LASFS meeting for the first time. Actually it was a selection from all of the Old Minutes available, and Mr. Ellik seems to be the only person in attendance who did not approve of the selections.

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Fanzines On Parade . . . . . by Rick Sneary. . . . .  
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- ALICE: Kent Corey, Box 64, Enid, Oklahoma. 24 pages. Multa-lithed. Irregular.  
25¢ each(?) Rate--6.  
FOR BEMS ONLY,#4: Jerry Merrill, 632 Avenue "H", Boulder City, Nevada. 34 pages.  
Hectoed. Free for comment. Rate--4.  
GRUE,# 28: Dean Grennell, 402 Maple Ave., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. 50 pages.  
Mimeod. Quarterly. 25¢ each. Rate--9.  
HYPHEN,#16: Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownard Rd., Belfast, N. Ireland. 30 pages.  
Mimeod. 15¢ each. Rate--10.  
INSIDE,#16: Ron Smith, Box 356, Times Square Station, New York 36, N.Y. 74 pages.  
Litho. Bi-monthly. 5 for \$1.00 Rate--9.  
MANA,#2: Bill Courval, 4215 Cherokee Ave., San Diego 4, California. 20 pages,  
Mimeo. Quarterly. Free for comment. Rate--5.  
MEUTH, Sept.: Jean Linard, 24 rue petit, Vesoul, Hte Sne, France. 68 pages. Ditto.(?)  
Bi-monthly. 10¢ or letters. Rate--5.  
O (Omicron),#2: Gary Labowitz, 7234 Baltimore, Kansas City 14, Missouri. 8 pages.  
Mimeo. Irregularly. 10¢ each. Rate--4.  
PEON,#37: Charles Lee Riddle, PNC, USN, U.S.S. CASCADE(AD-16), Fleet P.O., New York,  
N.Y. 22 pages. Mimeo. Bi-monthly. 15¢ each. Rate--8.  
UMBRA,#15: John Hitchcock, 300 E. University Pkwy., Baltimore 18, Maryland. 28 Pages.  
Ditto. 7/yearly. 10¢ each. Rate--7.  
VOID,#8: Jim & Greg Benford, c/o Lt. Col. J.A. Benford, G-4 Section Hq, V Corps, APO 79,  
New York, N.Y. 28 pages, Mimeo. Irregular. 15¢ each. Rate--7.

By an irregular rule of thumb I would recommend any rating 9 or better to anyone, those rated 6 or better for actifans-who want to be in the know, and all others for completists, beginning writers, and special interest groups.

Fanzines are better than ever--this issue. HYPHEN, for which the rating 10 was created, is back in all its glory. The last couple issues seemed to lack some of its old sparkle. Hardly Harris' fault; fans just didn't write as well. But in this special Irish issue, the names that made "-" great are back, and as great as ever. Willis (with the aid of a picture) and James White try to explain the truth about the Wheels of Irish Fandom, while John Berry goes on giving the other side, and who can say who does it better? Wild George Charters tells his side of how it all started. And don't miss Bob Shaw' account of his trip to Canada. Don't try to read it aloud, you'll never make it.

GRUE, the American answer to "-", is beautifully Gesstetnerred ((the editor doesn't know how to spell it either--ljm)), and contains the overflow cream of English fandom, as well as much of our own. It's harder to review, being large, and made up of many small sparkles. 12 pages of high class letters is the biggest item, but also articles by Dave Jenrette, Bloch, Ms Cole, C.Harris, Grennell...fiction by Geo. Spencer, and lots of other stuff...

INSIDE refuses to fit any class, be it fanzine, little magazine, or semi-pro. It reads like a promag made up for fans. There are enough pros in it at least, including Larry Shaw, Derleth, Ed Hamilton, not to mention millions-of-words Silverberg. The mag is good reading, and one you will want to keep on your reference shelf to refer to again.

PEON is welcome back after a long absence. It has always had a high standard of quality, due largely to the careful selection of its contributors and staff. Like GRUE, PEON reads very informally, but fans like Jim Harmon, Joe Gibson and Bob Tucker (to name a few) have more to say in an informal article than ten Wetzels layed on formal end. Riddle shows renewed interest in continuing PEON, so I recommend you send off a sub soon.

Fanzine On Parade (cont'd.)

UMBRA's editorial indicates the editor is in a state of flux, having suddenly realized that it was turning into something other than planned, and a lot of work. So what future issues will look like is in doubt. This one is very good, with some fine thoughty stuff by A.Young and J.Jansen, and the usual load of very good letters. Due to its frequency, UMBRA has had one of the best letter columns in the field. I hope this isn't changed.

While I personally feel that the editors of VOID are down on too many people, they turn out a very enjoyable zine. Items by John Berry, Terry Jeeves, and Ron Bennet are especially good. Letters and reviews agreeable, with the exception of one on jazz records. I wonder why jazz fans are so militant about their interest?

MEUH is both fascinating and fantastic. At last I have found a kindred soul. For years (and much to my distress) fandom has gotten a kind of enjoyment out of the way I misspell words. Now Linard comes along from France to do the same thing to the whole English language--and as far as I can judge, with the same effect. While not rated high, I would still recommend it to you. And don't worry, there are over 25 pages of letters, as well as items by Ellik, Dodd, Jeeves, Mercer and other more experienced assassins of the Queen's English.

ALICE says that it is in its 4th year of publication, but--like THE OUTLANDER--it hasn't been very regular of late. So don't send long term subs. Looks good though; there is nothing like working in a print shop to spruce up a fanzine. Corey, like Hitchcock, has been twisting himself into editorial knots, trying to please both himself and his readers, and has also decided to edit the kind of zine he likes. This issue he likes having a poem by and a biography of Bloch, fillers and his letter column, plus his usual sprinkling of nude drawings...

FOR BEMS ONLY keeps getting bigger, and having better material. The issue is kept down by its wretched hectoing. Not that, as the editor says, there are any pages you can't read, but at first glance you would swear there were. But I am informed that Merrill has gotten a mimeo, so the future looks better. Book reviews by K. Moomaw and an article by Ellik are very good, with the rest of the letters, features and fiction showing the same improvement.

O looks like Labowitz's 8 pages of activity requirements, so I don't know how regular it will be. A 3½ page fictional (I hope, for Bob Farnham's sake) con report is double-spaced, which next to mimeoing on only one side of a sheet causes my Scottish ancestry the most pain. The rest is interesting comment by The Lobley(?) and readers. Still rather thinnish issue.

To recap types of content: For serious articles I would recommend Inside, Peon, Grue and (he'll hate me) Umbra, in that order. For fiction about fannish doings--Hyphen, Grue, Void. Fanzines with good letter departments--Meuh, Grue, Umbra, Hyphen, and to some extent, Alice and the Bems. And to go way out on a limb, and saw it off, I'll say the best editors are Grennell, Smith, Willis, Riddle and Hitchcock.

-RS

LONDON IN '57!

SOUTH GATE  
IN '58!

The Editors and Staff of Science Fiction Parade recommend that YOU give your support to The 15th World Science Fiction Convention---which will be held in London, England---September 6, 7 and 8, 1957.

JOIN the LONCON by sending 7/6

(I think that's around one dollar in U. S. currency) to:

Charlie Duncombe  
6 Albert Square  
Stratford E. 15, ENGLAND

LONDONINFIFTYSEVENSOUTHGATEINFIFTYEIGHTLONDONINFIFTYSEVENSOUTHGATEINFIFTYEIGHT

Tailgate Ramblings

-by ljm

November 25, 1956: Last night we attended the first edition of the Forry Ackerman's two-edition party, celebrating his 40th Birthday. 150 persons were invited, 75 to attend last night and 75 tonight. We didn't count noses but there must have been more than 75 there last night. The Ackermansion is a sizable house, and it was quite crowded with people of assorted shapes, sizes, colors, ages and interests.

Among the notables present were Ray Bradbury, A.E. van Vogt, Sam Merwin, Jr., Charlie Hornig, Kris Neville, Ed M. Clinton, Jr., Rick Sneary, Stan Woolston, George W. Fields, Miss Germany of 19(56?57?), Lee Jacobs, Anna Sinclare, and several other s-f fans and pros, as well as a goodly number of cinematic people.

Refreshments served by Hostess Wendayne, consisted of lemonade, coffee, and a delicious buffet spread of delicatessen delights.

(A few persons brought their own bottles of "hard stuff" to supplement the non-carbonated liquids...)

The most interesting event of the evening (from where we were sitting) was the pow-wow of floor-sitters in the back den. This happy group included Merwin(with bottle), van Vogt(with intellectual smile), Neville(with growing thirst;I think the bottle was empty before he arrived), Clinton(with newly-grown beard), and Helen Urban (with ready wit and penetrating smile).

The crowd began to thin out about midnight, with the die-hards departing at around two o'clock this morning.

We noticed congratulatory wires from Walt Willis and Editor Santesson as well as numerous greeting cards from others. SFP joins them in wishing Forry a Happy Fortieth--and may he have 400 more!

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR SINCERE THANKS

to Ron Ellik...Howard Miller...and Stan Woolston  
for their

assistance in mimeographing this issue of SFP.

Both the Turner and Woolston

mimeographs were used.

-ljm

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(11)



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 Co-editors; Anna Sinclare, Rick Sneary, Stan Woolston. Staff; George W. Fields,  
 Ted Johnstone. Mimeography, courtesy of Paul Turner. YOUR CARD, LETTER OR  
BALLOT MUST BE IN OUR HANDS BY JANUARY 30, 1957 IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF GETTING  
THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE!

\*\*\*\*\*

SCIENCE FICTION PARADE'S ANNUAL AWARDS POLL...WHO WERE THE BEST IN 1956?

The Professionals

Magazine Editor _____	Hardcover Novel _____
Magazine _____	Hardcover Collection _____
Cover Artist _____	Hardcover Anthology _____
Interior Artist _____	Paperback Novel _____
Mag novel (or serial) _____	Paperback Collection _____
Novellette _____	Paperback Anthology _____
Short Story _____	
Article _____	Motion Picture _____
Column or Dept _____	Individual TV Program _____
Fiction Writer _____	Individual Radio Program _____
Fact Writer _____	
Reviewer _____	

Fandom

Fanzine Editor _____	National or International
Fanzine _____	Fan Organization _____
Fan Fiction Writer _____	
Article Writer _____	New Fan _____
Column _____	
Dept _____	Fan of the Year _____
Artist _____	
Cartoonist _____	
Post _____	
Humorist _____	

QUESTIONS

Are you in favor of holding the 1958 World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles, under the "South Gate in '58!" banner? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If your answer is No----Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE; Vote only in those catagories with which you are familiar. You need not vote on every item listed in order to participate. DO NOT VOTE FOR SCIENCE FICTION PARADE IN THE BEST FANZINE CATAGORY. DO NOT VOTE FOR LEN MOFFATT IN THE BEST FANZINE EDITOR CATAGORY. Otherwise, no restrictions.

A duplicate copy of this ballot will be enclosed (loose) with each copy of this issue, so you need not mutilate the mag by tearing out this page. Mail your ballot to address listed above. Thank you for your kind attention--whatever kind it may have been.....

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Received of the Treasurer of the State of New York the sum of \$100.00 for the year 1900.

For the year 1900

By the Treasurer

For the year 1901

By the Treasurer

For the year 1902

By the Treasurer

For the year 1903

By the Treasurer

For the year 1904

By the Treasurer

For the year 1905

By the Treasurer

For the year 1906

By the Treasurer

For the year 1907

By the Treasurer

For the year 1908

By the Treasurer