

# SCIENCE FICTION PARADE

## "South Gate in '58!"

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Number Seven

Quarter, 1957

"...AND ON THE FOURTH DAY..." By Arthur Thomson & Walt Willis

((Concluding SFF's LONCON Reports--o What Happend On The Fourth Day, A Twice Told Tale by ATOM & WAM. The Fourth Day of The 15th World Science Fiction Convention, that is, held in London, England, Sept. 6 thru Sept. 9, 1957.))

The Third Evening & The Fourth Day

BY ARTHUR THOMSON

On Sunday night Ellis Mills threw a room party, originally intended for Ompa members, but by the time it got going most people at the con had drifted in--at one time or another. Ellis had gotten hold of a plentiful supply of canned beer and several bottles of whiskey, all from the PX, I believe. Of course there were other room parties too, which accounts for the lack of conventioners around on the following morning.

A few herdy souls were still on their feet after the dawn, but from the glazed look in their eyes they might just as well have been in bed. Several had not even seen their beds since the con started, and they looked a little like the proverbial Zombies. They walked and they talked, but both actions were disjointed and somewhat sluggish. Around nine and ten o'clock, people who had grabbed a few hours sleep started appearing. By eleven most people who were still at the con had come down from their rooms. Quite a few had booked out on Sunday, mostly British fans who had to be at work on Monday.

The main item on the morning programme was the 1958 convention bid, which took place in the convention hall to a surprisingly small number of fans. I think that it had become an accepted fact that South Gate would get the bid, and thus there wasn't the tension or excitement that would have attended a fight for the '58 con site. As was thought, the only bid was for South Gate, and the vote was given unanimously. It had become a reality! After ten years and a lonely dream, South Gate in '58 had grown to become something that fate had decreed must be. Those who took the bid to the platform, Forry, Walt, and Rory felt that Rick and the SG crew should have been there to hear it accepted and become fact.

After dinner the programme started up once more, with Forry, Bob Madle and Sam Moskowitz on the platform in an informal question and answer quiz on Science Fiction and fandom. The hall was crowded once more and the three experts really went to town, showing just how deep their knowledge went on the subjects. One of the questions, from Bob to Sam, I believe, was on a story of John W. Campbell's, which appeared as a serial in some early sfzine, and was given a different title each issue it appeared. From the body of the hall, Campbell gave a bit more light on the story, then slung a question on non-de-plumes to the platform. It was answered correctly by Sam and Bob, who threw another straight back to Campbell which stumped him completely, and he retired to lean nonchalantly against a wall and pretend he hadn't heard.

After the quiz, Sam Moskowitz stayed on the platform to talk an absorbing thirty minutes on a survey of science fiction readers and magazines that he had undertaken--showing that the magazines being published

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LONDON: 4th DAY (continued)

today were in actual fact supported by the hard core of regular readers who, in the main, were also fans, and that if they all stopped taking any one mag regularly, it would fold in a month or two. (I'm a bit hazy on all this, and it would take several pages to give all the facts as they were stated.) He said that the survey showed the average reader's age was a lot lower than was thought, including ASF readership.

Campbell, who was due to speak next on psionics, had to leave the hall during Sam's report, and thus disappointed those who thought he might answer some of Sam's points. Instead he came back after Sam had finished and gave his scheduled talk on psionics. Afterwards, tea groups settled down in the various lounges and the talk rolled around every subject that is usually covered.

Then the final auction took place with, I think, the committee and auctioneers reasonably satisfied with the sale. The parties started up again that evening in the various rooms. Frank & Belle Dietz threw one, which for a time crowded out one of the downstairs lounges. It finally broke up late--or early, the next morning, depending on how long one had stayed the course, and degenerated into small individual room get-togethers of two or three persons and a couple of bottles. Towards dawn a sort of awed hush descended on the Kings Court Hotel as we realised the 15th World Science Fiction Convention was over. A final word of praise to Bobbie Wild and the convention committee and to Dave Neuman and the program committee! -ATOM

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The Fourth Day & After

BY WALTER A. WILLIS

Proceedings opened with the business session, the only program item scheduled for the morning. Presumably on that account it was sparsely attended. A few minor amendments were made to the WSFS rules, and Belle Dietz and Dave Newman (the latter a stalwart of the Liverpool Group and tower of strength of the Convention) were elected to vacant directorships. The meeting then went on to the real business, the selection of the site for the next convention. A sense of destiny seemed to pervade the air as the great moment drew nearer. Chairman Ted Carnoll announced that there was only one bid but that as a matter of form brief nominating and seconding speeches would be made. Those were made briefly and eloquently by Forry Ackerman and Rory Faulkner, and the Chairman called on those in favor to raise their hands. Everywhere hands shot into the air with an audible whoosh. There was no need to ask for contrary votes--it was obvious that everyone had at least one hand up, many had two, and I thought I saw someone with three... As I felt, and other fans said to me afterwards, it was a great and moving experience to sit in a convention hall and actually vote for South Gate in '58--awe-inspiring, as if one were living in a legend. It seemed somehow wonderfully fitting that after all these years and 6000 miles away, it should be here in London that the dream of South Gate should come to life, because London is a city of tradition and South Gate is very much a matter of tradition, as hallowed in the history of fandom as any in that of the mundane world.

The afternoon sessions began with a sf quiz panel in which Forry Ackerman, Bob Madle and Sam Moskowitz fought for supremacy as foremost expert on the lore of sf and fandom. The standard of answers was evidence of either superhuman powers or recall or of prior collusion, but it was fine entertainment and enlivened by several witty asides, principally from Forry.

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LONCON (concluded)

After this Sam Moskowitz delivered a remarkable speech summarising the results of a professional market survey of sf readers, one of the most startling conclusions of which was that the field is in effect supported by a hard core of a few thousand multiple buyers of magazines--i.e., fans. According to the statistics 9.8% buy 32 of all copies sold; if these reduced their purchasing to the average only five magazines could continue to exist. It was unfortunate that John W. Campbell was called out of the hall during this speech for a press interview, because many people felt he would have felt bound to deal with these disclosures instead of psionics. As it was however, the psionics session went on as scheduled and lasted for several interesting hours. One of the questioners and subsequent speakers from the floor of the hall was Eric Frank Russell, who made an unexpected and welcome visit to the convention, the first he had attended for many years.

As the end grew nearer the convention seemed to get better and better, for during the evening Ted Tubb took over the auction. He had been scheduled to auctioneer previously but had been unable to attend because of domestic difficulties and many people had been very disappointed, especially those British fans who, like me, had lauded Ted as one of the major attractions of an English Convention. However, he made a last minute appearance and at once struck his highest form. Word went round the lounges like a bush telegram and the Convention Hall filled rapidly. The inspired Tubb...so inspired that he frequently went on selling items after they had been bought and had to be assisted by Ken Slater to deal with the actual crude commercial side of the auction...was hastily recorded on tape, some of the official business being erased to make room.

Everything ended late that evening and people drifted away to various points in England and the Continent. In the week subsequent to the LONCON, many North American fans have been travelling around the country to fan centres from Belfast to Bad Homburg, cementing new friendships made at the convention. To British fandom, by far the greatest thing about the convention was the transatlantic fans, who made a very fine impression. We'll miss them.

The results of the BEC film made the night of the masquerade ball were shown on the TV program TONIGHT the following Monday...interviews with Rory Faulkner, Ted Carnell, the Dietzes and Kyles, John Brunner, John W. Campbell, Jean Bogert, etc. The program was sensible and sympathetic, though humorous in a wacky fanish way. For instance, the program terminated with Ruth Landis Kyle pulling a zapgun on the interviewer, who disappeared through a neat piece of camera trickery. -WAW

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IT ISN'T TOO LATE....  
to obtain your copy of....  
The Selected Writings of Rick Sneary  
(13 years of the wit & wisdom of the  
Sage of South Gate)  
Just send 25¢ or more (please, no stamps  
or postcards) to:  
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Downey California U.S.A.

(Overseas science fictionists:  
See Note at right.....)

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Note: Money collected in exchange for  
the Sneary booklet will be used to help  
bring WAW & WIFE TO THE GATE IN '58!  
If--Foo forbid!--Walt & Madelein cannot  
attend the SOLACON, the money will be  
divided between the TransAtlantic Fan  
Fund and the SOLACON treasury.  
Fans & Pros in sterling areas may send  
equivilent sum to: Horrocks, 18 Hazel-  
mere Rd., Mt. Albert, Auckland S.W.1,  
NEW ZEALAND, or to: Thomson, 17 Brockham  
House, Brockham Dr. London S.W.2, ENGLAND.

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The following fanzines have arrived since the last issue of SFP. Due to ill-health I have not read all of them, and therefore the ratings this time will only be on general appearance. This is a sloppy way to run a review column. The only thing that can be said for my column is that it has covered more fanzines than anyone else's....

- APOLLO PLAY #2. Ray Schaffer, 4541 Third St. N.W., Canton 8, Ohio.  
Mimeod. 18pp. To OMFA & friends. Rate: 5
- BEILLIG #9. Lars Bourne, 2436 Portland St., Eugene, Oregon.  
Mimeod. 27pp. 15¢. Rate: 6
- CAMBER #3. Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts., ENGLAND  
Mimeod. 28pp. 15¢. Rate: 7
- cfm #4. Pierre Versins, Primerose 38, Lausanne, SWITZERLAND.  
Mimeod. 12 3x12 pages. Price? Rate: 5
- FLAFAN # 1. Sylvia Deas, PO Box 4082, Mallory Hall, University of Florida,  
Gainesville, Florida. Dittod. 31pp. 20¢. Rate: 5
- FOCUS #5. Mervyn Barrett, 6 Doctors Commons, Wellington C.4., NEW ZEALAND  
Mimeod. 27pp. Price 1/-. Rate: 5
- INSIDE SF #52. Ron Smith, Box 356, Times Square Stn, New York 36, N. Y.  
Litho. 63pp. 30¢. Rate: 8
- MEADE #2. David M. McCarroll, 644 Avenue C, Boulder City, Nevada  
Hecto. 16pp. 15¢ or letters. Rate: 3
- MEUH #3. Jean Linard, 24 rue Petit, Vesoul, H.S., FRANCE  
Ditto. 73pp. 25¢ or Pogo Comics. Rate: 8
- THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN, Vol.16, No.4. Walter A. Coslet, Box 6, Helena, Montana  
Dittod. 22pp. Free to NFFF members. Write for info. Rate: 5
- COPSLA #22. Gregg Calkins, 1068 Third St., Salt Lake City 3, Utah.  
Mimeod. 20pp. 15¢. Rate: 9
- POLARITY #1. F.M. & E. Busby, 2852 14th West, Seattle 99, Washington  
Dittoed. 21pp. 15¢. Rate: 6
- RETRIBUTION #8. John Berry & Arthur Thomson, c/o 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive,  
London, S.W.2, ENGLAND. Mimeod. 33pp. 15¢. Rate: 9
- SFAIRA #4. Lars Helander, Lohegaton 11, Eskilstuna 3, SWEDEN.  
Mimeod. 16pp. Price? Rate: 7
- SCIENCE FICTION NEWS #18. G. B. Stone, Box 4440, G.F.O., Sydney, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA  
Litho. 8pp. 12 issues 7/6d. Rate: 7
- SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES #280. Fandom House, PO Box 2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey  
Mimeod. 10pp. 10¢. Rate: 7
- SHANGRI-LA #?. c/c George W. Fields, 3607 Pomona Blvd., Montebello, California  
Mimeod. 15pp. 15¢. Rate: 7
- SIGBO #4. Jerry DeMuth, 3223 Ernst St., Franklin Park, Illinois  
Dittoed(?) 30pp. 15¢. Rate: 6
- SLANDER #2. Jan Sadler Penney, 51-B McAlister Place, New Orleans 18, Louisiana  
Dittoed. 20pp. 20¢. Rate: 6
- SPACE DIVERSIONS #9. c/o John Roles, 26 Pine Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool 2,  
ENGLAND. Mimeod. 28pp. Exchanged. Rate: 6
- SPECTRE #1. Bill Meyers, 4301 Shawnee Circle, Chattanooga 11, Tennessee  
Dittoed. 45pp. 15¢. Rate: 6
- STELLAR #12. Ted White, 1014 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Virginia  
Mimeod. 52pp(of fiction) 15¢. Rate: 6

FANZINES (continued)

THICE IN A BLUE MOON. c/o Dave Cohen, 32 Larch Street, Hightown, Manchester 8,  
Lancs., ENGLAND. Mimeod. 35pp. Exchanged. Rate: 7  
VARIOSO 15. John Magnus, Jr., 6 So. Franklinton Rd., Baltimore 23, Maryland  
Mimeod. 20pp. Price? Rate: 6  
(Editor's Note: See list of additional fanzines at end of this column.-ljm)

Looking back at the fanzines of the past year I seriously feel that there were too many, and too irregular. We have reviewed over a hundred different ones, and there are more we never saw. Yet few of them saw three issues in a year.

There have been sporadic cries against the crud-zines. And while it is true that there were a lot of poor quality zines turned out, the majority were good to excellent--or at least, in parts. And that is the greatest trouble. There are lots of good writers in fandom today. But there are even more fanzines, and they cannot appear in them all. But they try, they try.. The result is you find old friends in this zine or that... A Berry story here, a Warner article there, a McLeod review, Hither and yon... The average fan cannot get all the fanzines that come out. He wouldn't have time to read them if he did. The result: no one can keep up with the field.

But, if this multitude of titles was not enough, now we are beset by readers demanding conformity. Probably three-fourths of the zines reviewed follow the same general format. An editorial, an article or two, a bit of fan fiction, a couple of reviews and a letter department. A little something for everyone. A new fannish swear-word is seemingly "esoteric". Don't print anything your newest reader cannot understand... Everyone says HYPHEN is the best in the field, yet Willis has had to explain things to his readers or they complain. He has to conform to his readers, not his own likes. Though "his own likes" made HYPHEN what it is! Are we on the verge of the era of the Common FAN?

what I would like to see is 13 to 15 good quality, quarterly, generalzines. Fanzines like ALPHA, HYPHEN, OCPSLA, TACTUM, etc. With this limited number everyone could subscribe to them all. With staggered, regular appearance all news and opinions could be passed on in a very short time. Not just anything could see print, so fans would have to try harder to turn out good material. And as everyone would know what was being said publically, fandom would become closer knit. Of course that will never happen. But I do think it is a mistake for so many fanzines to follow the same format to the exclusion of almost every other kind of zine. There is only one fanzine in this country that concerns itself with news. There are no letter-zines, no reprint zines, no poetry-zines. No fanzine primarily of reviews and criticism other than SKYHOOK. These are a few types that come readily to mind. As it is we can be grateful to fanzines such as ffm, BRILLIG, MEUM, ROT, SFAIRA and a few others that are primarily expressions of their editors' personalities, rather than a copy of some one else's.

As this is the last ish of SFP for the year (and for some time), it might be appropriate to make a final list of those fanzines I would recommend, ones that I especially enjoyed getting and reading--and ones that represent the best of what cross-section we have.

Of course HYPHEN is by far my favorite. Its wit is of a kind no doubt blessed by the Little People. Its serious articles and editorials carry as much weight as any in fandom. But mainly it is the wonderful friendliness of "—" and its people. It paints a wonderful picture of a world where harsh words are spoken only in jest, where a deadline is the greatest worry there is, and where there is always a grand adventure around the next

(continued, next page):

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FANZINES (continued)

turn of the tea pot, or fall of the ghoddmitten bat. (From: Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast, N. IRELAND. 15¢.)

We recommend with only slightly less enthusiasm, RETRIBUTION. RET follows the "F" school of fanzines, but has its own personality. Originally it dealt with the fictional adventures of the fannish Goon Detective Agency, which has become a part of fan-mythology. Now, yielding to demands of its readers, it has a more general format, which places it closer to "F". (See List)

Just returned to the field, after a lamented absence, is SKYHOOK. This is the fanzine for serious, well-written material about the s-f field. I suspect Boggs of being one of the few in fandom who actually do edit, rather than merely ~~put-together~~ their fanzines. And the wonder is that SKYHOOK is never dry the way Fantasy Commentator was. (From: Redd Boggs, 2209 Highland Pl. N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. 20¢.)

Somewhat less serious but regularly featuring some of the biggest names in the field is OOPSLA. This is just about the perfect generalzine. I think it is safe to say that anyone interested in fandom will enjoy it. (See List)

We would like to recommend the L. Shaw Ltd. zine, EXCELSIOR, with the same praise, but understand that it will fold after its fourth issue. Which only proves the truth of that old fannish saying, that a fanzine that doesn't get passed its fifth issue doesn't last very long.

As mentioned before, SCIENCE FICTION TIMES is the only news-zine in this country. It tries to keep tab on the doings in the Pro world; review outstanding films and books; and cover the major events in fandom. S.F. NEWS from Australia tries to do the same. Very good, despite the unavoidable time lag in both cases. (See List)

INSIDE SCIENCE FICTION is so well put together and well reproduced that it is sort of in between a prozine and a fanzine. Easily understood by the reader making the transition into fandom. (See List)

And a special word for MEUH. It may be the only English(?)-spoken fanzine from France today, but it makes up for all the rest. It is a huge and delightful potpourri of things, viewed from a slightly different angle. Be ye neo-fan or actifan, read MEUH. Its only fault is, one tends to "dip into it" rather than read it straight through. And you never know when you have finished, and the pages keep changing... (See List)

These fanzines were recommended because of their excellence, and because their editors' reputations indicate that the magazines will keep on appearing long enough for you to subscribe. A few zines I'd recommend--if these haven't been enough for you--that you might like to try a copy of, if they are still around: BRILLIG, CAMBER, ffn, SPAIRA, SPACE DIVERSIONS, INNUEUDO, THE NEW FUTURIAN, ~~Fanzine~~ in, ROT, TACITUM, YANDRO, MANA, UMBRA, and ALPHA. We regret that there were no issues of GRUE or OBLIQUE this year, as they were two of the best of last year.

So that is the end of a year of reviewing. We had fun and hope you found them interesting. They have not been as detailed as I would like, but this was the embarrassment of riches. Well, now this Richard is off to richer things, counting the money as the memberships pour into the SOLACON Treasury. See you all in South Gate in--August--'58!

-RS

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MORE FANZINES!

Following is a list of fanzines rec'd by Ljm--other than those listed in Sneary's column--as of November 23, 1957:

- MOTLEY #1. Michael Gates, c/o Lt.Col.J.R.Gates, Headquarters, NACOM, APO 757, N.Y.
- OMNIVORE #1. Bob Ross, Box 773, Cary Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
- THE REJECT BULLETIN #1. Peter F. Skeberdis, 606 Grapo St., Flint 3, Michigan
- SCIENCE FICTION FIFTY YEARLY! Bobs Bloch & Tucker, Box 702, Bloomington, Illinois
- SIGMA OCTANTIS #7. John Mussells, 4 Curve St., Wakefield, Massachusetts
- SKYHOOK #25. Redd Boggs, 2400 Highland Place N.E., Minneapolis 21, Minnesota
- SPHERE #7. Larry Thornlyke, P.O.Box 196, Cantonment, Florida
- SUN OF VAMPIRES #1. Stuart Barnes, Rt.1, Box 1102, Grants Pass, Oregon
- THE TRADING POST #2. Fred Linton, 99 Auburn St., Haverhill, Massachusetts

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ROBERT E. HOWARD FANS! YOU MAY NOW ORDER YOUR COPY OF The Collected Poems of Robert E. Howard, the famous fantasy author, creator of "Conan"...

This large, beautiful, deluxe volume, printed and issued by August Derleth as an Arkham House publication, represents the combined efforts of several Howard fans: Glenn Lord, Dale Hart, Don Wollheim, Larry Farsace, August Derleth, George Heap, Dr. Havins of Howard Payne College, and Norris Chambers of Fort Worth. It will be a limited edition, jacket by Utapel, ready by end of the year. Advance orders may be placed now. Send \$3.00 to reserve your copy to:

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WHAT DOES TAFF MEAN TO US? TAFF means that we can bring at least one other fan (other than WAW & WIFE) to the Gate in '58! (Of course we hope that many more overseas fans can come to the SOLACON!)

WHAT DOES TAFF MEAN TO YOU? TAFF means that YOU can help bring an overseas fan to the SOLACON by donating to THE TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND, and you can help decide who the lucky fan will be--for your donation entitles you to vote for your favorite candidate. For information regarding TAFF, write to:

BOB MADLE 7720 OXMAN ROAD HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

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SOUTHWESTERNCON VI (formerly Oklacon) will be in DALLAS, TEXAS over the JULY 4th WEEKEND, 1958! Y'all can join it now. By sending \$1.00 to: Tom Reamy, 4243 Buena Vista, Dallas, Texas.

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WHERE WILL THE 1959 WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION BE HELD? According to the WSF3, Inc. Constitution it must be held in the "Central" portion of North America. Already two groups from that particular area have announced their intention to bid for the 1959 site--namely, DETROIT, MICHIGAN and DALLAS, TEXAS. (For further info on these two lively groups read next page) If your club or group is in the Central area and you want to bid for the '59 site, send your written intention to Bid with name of site, name of group and list of proposed committee's names & addresses to: Jan Moffatt, Sec'y-SOLACON, 10202 Eschbar, Downey, Calif. This info must be in the Secretary's hand 30 days before the SOLACON business meeting.

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Once again our sincere thanx to those of you who wrote re last ish, with special thanx to those who sent in money for the Sneary booklet and for memberships in the SOLACON!....Speaking of the SOLACON, it looks like we'll have an interesting business meeting at the '58 Convention, with Texas, Michigan and who knows who else bidding for the '59site...Both Detroit and Dallas are arranging travel-together-to-South Gate plans, and we have put them in touch with our special travel committee, headed by Frank & Belle Dietz. (See ad, last page) However, fans & pros in the Texas area can get info re the Dallas group's plan for a chartered bus by contacting: JIM HITT, 2432 Hillglenn, Dallas 28, Texas, and fans & pros in the Michigan area can get info re the Detroit group's plan for a Road Rally to Los Angeles by contacting: GEORGE H. YOUNG, 11630 Washburn St., Detroit 4, Michigan. Of course if you don't live in either of these areas, your best bet is to write Frank & Belle Dietz, who are acting as a kind of "clearing house" and as co-ordinators for folks who want to share rides, charter a plane, train, bus or wothavia. We'll be looking forward to seeing all of you nice people at the SOLACON in '58!....Naturally the Willis/Faulkner LONCON REPORTS were the best liked items in last ish of SFP, tho there weren't too many complaints about the other material either. We have grown a lil' proud of this mag, and hate to suspend it for a year, but that's the way it has to be. Next issue, Number 8, will come out sometime after the SOLACON, featuring a report on same by Walt Willis, if all goes well.... And, as I've said before, after that--who knows? Anyway, if you want to receive the next ish, your letter or card must be in my hands on or before...hmm, let's see now...well, let's say August 1st, 1958. Best you write now--before you forget... We want to thank the fanzine reviewers for honoring our request and not reviewing SFP in their columns. Once again, we ask the same thing. PLEASE DO NOT REVIEW THIS ISSUE OF SFP--unless you are fonching to pan it! Thank you. This issue is coming out later than I had planned due to a chronic lack of time & money. Reviews of previous issues are still bringing in requests for SFP, and each additional request adds to the cost and steals more of our time....Of course if all of you also join the SOLACON and support the WAW TO THE GATE drive, and support TAFF...in short, if you all support all of our favorite interests, we will feel more than repaid for our efforts!....So, instead of reviewing SFP, use the space to boost the SOLACON, etc. For that's why we started SFP in the first place, as we've said before. Again, many thanx, and now let's let a few of our readers have their say:

Charles Burbee, Whittier, Calif. Well, yes, when I said have a jazz band at the Convention I meant a fannish jazz band. After all there must be enough musicians among the fan-type people to make up a fan jazz orch. Of course when I say jazz I mean Dixieland jazz. ((We mean Dixieland jazz too. Several readers have offered us all sorts of advice and warnings--but no one to date has offered to play, except Ron Bennett who plays kazoo and string-bass. Others say we will get in trouble with the Union if we have a band of amateurs, but one reader has suggested that we ask the Union to donate services of jazz-playing members, some of whom just might be fans. Seems like what we need are a bunch of jazz-playing fans who are union members and have the sanction of their locals, etc. to play for free at the SOLACON. is it possible? -ljm)) Why not offer \$100 prize to the best fan movie shown at the Con? I'm sure Walter J Daugherty would be glad to promise the \$100. I've written Rotsler suggesting he make a fannish movie. It would be a fascinating sidelight to the convention I think if several of the attendees brought home-made films. Where else in the world could a home-made stf-type movie get such a big semi-interested audience? Why, I'm almost carried away myself at the thought of it. Right this very minute if I had a camera and the film I'd go out and shoot



c o n f e t t i

(continued)

a picture before bedtime. ((Don't you dare! -ljm))

Colin Cameron, San Diego, Calif. The "skeffer" group Rory Faulkner reported hearing at the convention was probably not a recording. It may have been a group comprised of Ray Nelson (guitar), Pete Taylor (washboard), John MacDonald (bass), and Mike Moorcock (kazoo). ((Do they play Dixieland jazz? -ljm))

Brad Daigle, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Milwaukee for Worldcon in '59!! Ray Palmer as guest of honor(?) ((Submit your Intention to Bid in writing, etc.,etc...-ljm))

John Morton, Wyncraft, Pennsylvania "The Sense of Wonder" is a lot of bunk. Recently I've read several old SF novels which were supposedly prized with this so-called "Sense of Wonder" and strangely enough--they were just regular SF novels --nothing new or different at all--so there! ((Don't holler on me. I didn't say it, SaM did! I think SaM means that today's sf rarely contains something "new and different". When SaM and us other "old fans" read those old stories they were new and the stuff in them was new and different then. So there! -ljm))

Harry B. Warner, Jr., Hagerstown, Maryland Burbee says he's going to learn to play the banjo in time to take part in a South Gate dixieland band, so you'd better count on having one. If more fans had proper facilities for it, I would suggest a tape to circulate during the coming months among fandom's musicians, each recipient adding his own instrument to the contents, thus building up by the time of the convention a complete band on the tape. Unfortunately, hardly anyone has access to the two tape recorders or the mixer that would be required for such a process. ((I got the mixer if you got the gin.-ljm)) .....I hope that you and the other L.A. area fans continue to exist after next September. It is chilling to realize that some cities like Denver and Chicago are still fannish deserts, a decade after they were decimated by conventions. ((Brrrrr! -ljm))

Robin Wood, Amador City, California Just how many fans like Dixieland, anyhow? I was under the impression that Dixieland was a dying animal. ((How dare you, sir! Dixieland jazz fans, stand up and be counted! Why, there's me, and there's Burbee, and there's Ackerman, and there's....stand up, men, stand up! -ljm)) Personally, I can't stand the stuff, prefer progressive and that type stuff greatly. ((Aaaaagh! -ljm))

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SCIENCE FICTION PARADE. Number Seven. Fourth Quarter, 1957.  
(To remain on SFP's Mailing List, send a card or letter before August 1st, 1958 to the Editor. Next issue will be published sometime after the SOLACON in 1958.)  
Editor: Len J. Moffatt, 10202 Belcher, Downey, California, U. S. A.  
Co-editors: Rick Sneary & Stan Woolston. Diagrapher: Anna Sinclair  
Staff: George W. Fields, Roger J. Herrocks, Ted Johnstone, Bill Meyers, Arthur Thomson, Steve Tolliver.

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waw to the gate in '58  
so he can write that report  
for sfp number 8

besides bob bloch wants to meet mrs waw (9)

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PROZINES ON PARADE  
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The Big Three: 1957 By George W. Fields & Ted Johnstone

Perhaps characteristic of this year in science fiction mags is the great distinction between the top three and the immediate array of mediocrity. Either a standard was kept or an attempt made to excell a standard (although little more) by ASF, GALAXY and F&SF. At first glance there would appear to be a very substantial amount of evidence in favor of a small boom. Or is it merely a state of placidness?

Art has been smeared from one magazine to another in thin layers, but the big three managed to crop up some nice ones.

If it weren't for the new mags popping up to replace the deceased, the field would be nothing short of newstand chaos.

ASTOUNDING: In serials we found the dull insignificance of a "Get Out of My Sky" by James Blish and an unwanted extension of a series in a second serial, "The Dawning Light" by Robert Randall (those two seem more and more replacements for the good authors ASF hasn't been getting). Finally we have Heinlein's "Citizen of the Galaxy". It says little more in the mass of words it expends than in the title. (Heinlein seems to be thinking up titles and writing stories around them.) I did like the novel for its fine display of characters, but it's hardly saved completely when building up to nothing and then doing nothing. The main trouble is that Heinlein is copying himself now--the novel is a rehash of everything he has written (ideas derived from stories in that far and golden past). The telling test is to replace the settings with that of ancient Bagdad, stir in some magic, use caravans for the space ship culture, and need I go on? Surely you can find exact parallels in such a world. Science did nothing for this novel and this novel did nothing for science--sociological or otherwise. The story revolves around a boy who finds his true niche in the stellar picture--a picture with too many set ups which are left in catagories, meaning very little. Heinlein just didn't try to get the lumps out of his watery batter. Hemingway should have written it.

"Omnilingual" proved to be the best novelette of the year and H. Beam Piper's best story. Though not written perfectly, it nevertheless conveys an atmosphere and tells a story with scientific suspense and motivation, but foremost is a group of live characters. It has a marked quality of design from accident as well as purpose.

No outstanding short story; the policy seeming to be to keep a solid foundation of standard shorts.

Covers: The cover illo for "Omnilingual" by Kelly Freas succeeds in being simply composed and penetrating in carrying over the scholarly attitude of the story.

Features have become rather in a rut.

-GWF

GALAXY: "Wolfbane" was the serial this year by Fredrik Pohl & C.M. Kornbluth. However well done their past efforts have been this is nothing but imperfect. There is nothing really convincing about this novel. The plot is distilled, characters are dolls, concept rather uncertain. Insipid.

Theodore Sturgeon's "The Pod in the Barrier" needn't be fully reviewed after such a short lapse from that month, but it is GALAXY's best novelette of the year. A very tightly worked out story extrapolating from Psychiatrics rather than from another science. Sturgeon has done away with false sentimentalities and gotten on a running horse more suited to his skill as a writer.

### PROZINES (continued)

Best single issue was in February with "My Lady Greensleeves" by Fred Pohl, "I Am a Nucleus" by Stephen Barr (a slightly hysterical situation comedy with a scientific explanation), "Advanced Agent" by Christopher Anvil (novelty piece well done) and Thomas N. Scortia's short, "The Bomb in the Bathtub". The latter is the best short in GALAXY this year. I've waited for a series to develop from this universe destroying plot--and the detective is definitely series material. Fascinating satire; a bit inconsistent in its wit, but succeeding in raising audible laughter from this reviewer with little effort on the part of the dialogue, which flowed along tossing wit here and there.

In covers, Kirberger's painting on the March issue displays a knowledge of color and perspective in great clarity and atmosphere holding this artist's high rank. General cover quality is mixed, inconsistent; going from worst to best in many years of GALAXY. Fortified with Finlay, however, the interiors are greatly improved with even Gaughan's work used with good taste. Wood and Martin of MAD fame seem to have found a perfect place for their work and Gold succeeds in using it properly.

As to the mag in general, from all I've said about it and from all others who have commented, I now have a little list. I put down all the fuggheads who speak before they put their foot in their mouths and burn it each Sunday.

-GWF

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION (October '56 to October '57): F&SF has had a year which ranged from excellent to rather poor. Sex has been rearing its lovely head on the covers with increasing frequency, and the quality of the artwork has covered about the same range as the contents of the mag. In four consecutive issues (June, July, August, September) I found very few really good stories and none of sufficient quality to earn a mention in the coverage of the year.

Naturally a few words should be devoted to Heinlein's "Door Into Summer". (10/11/12/56) This time-travel/detective/romance/humor story hangs together as well as usual and gets a personal rating of 8 1/2.

The short stories deserving of mention ate (in 11/56) "Gimmicks Three" by Asimov, deFord and Cagwell. This/these are hard to classify as a short story. I guess the best term would be a vest-pocket trilogy. Then in Feb. '57 came one of the best issues it has ever been my privilege to read. Containing one short, "Old Devlins Was A-waitin'" by Manly Wade Wellman, one short-short, "Expedition" by (who else?) Fredric Brown, and one short-short-short, "Through Time and Space with Ferdinand Feghoot" (No.1) by Grendel Briarton, each of which is deserving of dying a happy death in uncountable anthologies. Wonder of wonders, this excellent issue was immediately followed by another of about equal quality. In March '57 came Richard Matheson with "The Splendid Source", Gore Vidal with "Visit to a Small Planet" (from TV and Broadway), and a gem of an offbeat last-page vignette of a new idea in Universe Ending called "Last", written by Fritz Lieber. Then the quality started down. April had two stories worth remembering: "Master of the Metropolis" by Randall Garrett & Lin Carter, a masterpiece of pastich/satire on the Coshwow-look-isn't-it-wonderful school of sf with Ralph 124C41/4 guiding their hands. "Didn't He Ramble" (Chad Oliver), a story which even jazz-haters will like and jazz-lovers will be in ecstasy over. The last really memorable story I found (I didn't get the September issue so if there are some good ones there don't hold it against me) was in the May '57 issue. This was another Hoka story from the combined pens of Poul Anderson & Gordon K. Dickson, and was one of the best of the series. Titled "Undiplomatic Immunity", it mixed the Literary World, the Secret Service/C-2 World, and a few others in a glorious hodge-

PROZINES (continued)

podge with Foreign Agents (from that Country which shall Remain Nameless in These Chronicles), Stolen Plans, cloak-and-dagger work with real cloaks and daggers, and all like that there.

Back in the issue dated December '56, only one thing stood out: Charles Beaumont's quarterly column, The Science Screen. It has been said that a critic can do no better than to go to work reviewing science fiction films, for the simple reasons that (a) one can have so much fun tearing them apart, (b) there are no twinges of conscience afterwards because they really do deserve it, and (c) nobody will call you nasty names afterwards because they know they deserve it. As my favorite cinareview column, The Science Screen rivals the Cinema section in TIME.

One other piece from the year deserves to be remembered, as much as or possibly more than the rest--this was James Blish's poem, "In Memoriam - Fletcher Pratt". This stood out head and shoulders above the rest of the January issue and is, I think, the finest eulogy any man could hope for.

The year in toto? Let's hope they can re-attain the level they had at the beginning and try to avoid levels like the last half.

-Taj

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BRITISH PROZINES

By Roger J. Horrocks

According to Hyphen, the legendary figure of Antigoon may be none other than "Ghood Ol' Ted Carnell fighting off the forces of evil with his rolled umbrella!" Be this as it may, Mr. Carnell (editor of NEW WORLDS and SCIENCE FANTASY) has certainly had a busy year of umbrella-waving. There was the SOW gripes business, and 'the coming superiority of British SF'. Then he started devoting his editorials to some commendable advertising for the LONCON, and things quietened down considerably. But now he is back on the battlefield again with a startling editorial in NW 62 entitled "Traditions..." To quote: "Art work in the digest-size magazines is as out of date as a coal fire... The trend is for the cameo-type illustration one sees in journals like THE READER'S DIGEST. In particular, art work in SF magazines is a hangover from the days of the large-size pulps..." This latter is a tradition which is "dying hard - but nevertheless dying." Ergo, no more illustrations in Carnell's magazines. Now in my opinion it will be a sorry day when SF prozines adopt those tiny cameos in favour of decent digest-sizers. I was disappointed when pulp size artwork (the wonderful illos of Cartier, Vestal & Co.) went out of fashion, and - die hard ol' conservative that I am - I shall most certainly oppose any further diminution. As for having no illos at all, I can imagine nothing more dull and uninteresting than wading thru page after page of unrelieved type. (It's not so bad with F&SF because there the stories are so good; but it makes a heck of a lot of difference to the Br. mags.) Now, Carnell's main excuse for jettisoning illos is that good artwork is unobtainable in England. If this is true, then I suppose the poor quality of drawings in Br. SF mags can be excused. But is it true? Surely there'd be at least two or three good SF artists in a population the size of England's. This does seem to imply other reasons for the shortage--bad rates of pay, perhaps? But before anybody starts making sweeping and possibly unjust statements, I have an idea for finding out definitely one way or the other. Why doesn't Carnell - or one of the other Br. editors - run a competition for SF artists? Let good prizes be offered for the best cover and interior illos submitted. It would be a good idea to have one section for amateurs and another for pros. Provided the contest was given good publicity (maybe local faneds would help on this?) then I'm sure that those 'promising new artists' would come to light.

BRITISH PROZINES (concluded)

Though Carnell's editorials are by far the most decisive of any Br. SF magazine, you can't help noticing the ones by Peter Hamilton. Generally they're uninteresting affairs which describe How Much NEBULA Is Doing For SF. His latest editorial is on the same theme (e.g.: "Our magazine will shortly be one of the largest sellers anywhere on Earth"; "Others did not stand the test of time but this one did... It's name was NEBULA": "I do not intend to bore you with lengthy and repetitive details of our progress...for the simple reason that our astonishing advancement is self-evident...") --but for once, it's mighty interesting. It includes a complete analysis of the 24 issues of NEBULA to date. For example, here are two of the statistics: only 7.3% of NEBULA's total wordage has been by American writers, and only 3.2% of total wordage has been in the form of reprints. I'd very much like to see similar analyses of the other Br. promags.

While I'm on the subject of NEBULA, I might stick my neck out and say that it's the best Br.SF magazine on the go. And its superiority is due in no small measure to the interesting features by Kenneth Johns, 4sj, and Walt Willis.

There's one old gal I feel really sorry for, because she's been treated rather badly in recent months. I'm referring to the British Edition of GALAXY. Until No.52 it was printed in Holland by De Arbeiderspers, but now (because the publishers have been granted British rights?) it is being done in Basingstoke by Messers. S R Verstage & Sons. The result has been a much lower standard of printing in the latest issues. Parts of Nos. 52 & 53 can only be described - in the terminology of Sneary - as Un. Spines have suffered severely from 'printer's constipation', and the covers of the BRE have been as heavily creased as an editor's brow. (Whether this is due to the printers or the distributors, I do not know.) Point is: if the same treatment continues, the BRE GALAXY will lose most of its readers.

Re Bruce's comments on my comments on Anna's comments: the young male English reader means, to me, someone between the ages of 16 and 21. You ask for evidence? Well, I could cite a number of examples. Just take the most recent case I've witnessed: several days ago I got a ring from a young man who wanted to sell me his collection of Br. SF. When I went round to see him I asked him why he'd given up reading the stuff. He told me that several years ago he'd been crazy about it, but now he was 21 - well, he found it just a little too boring. The only mag he still bought regularly was the BRE ASTOUNDING.... Personally this hardened reviewer has never liked Br. SF, but as I've just turned 16.... Hmmm, should be interesting to watch developments!

-RJH

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Tailgate Ramblings from Len's Den . //

Seems we should repeat a few facts for the benefit of a few confused and/or misinformed persons. First of all, Walt & Madeleine Willis want to come to the SOLACON. Walt was afraid that the WAW Fund Drive might be considered in competition with the TAFF Drive, but most fans do not agree with him on this point. Feeling that there is room in fandom for both worthy causes in one year, we are asking fans and pros to give their support to both of'em. We have considered all possibilities. For instance--what if WAW&WIFE cannot come to the SOLACON? Let's say that the money we raise plus their money is enough for them to make the round trip, but that for some practical reason they cannot leave home. Then the money collected for the WAW fund would be divided between the TAFF and the SOLACON. So no matter how much or how little you donate, it will be used for a

(continued, bottom of next page)

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING ABOUT The Selected Writings of Rick Sneary. . . . .  
. . . . . A FEW UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS. . . . .

DAINIS BISENIEKS, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: "...the thrown-together writings of Rick Sneary, which should have stood in bed. I would gladly give my money to the fund-- do you have to waste good paper on such an uninteresting, dead mess of words?"

ROBERT BLOCH, WEYAUWEGA, WISCONSIN: "I halve just redd SOLECTED WRITTINGS OF RICK SNEERY and it maid a grate impresson on me. I licked it a lot, especaily speling. Sneery is suburb. N closed is a chick...tords the BRING WALT WILISS TWO SUOTH GATE IN '58 AND DROWND HIM IN THE PACIFIC O CAEN FUNND.....You tel Sneery he is influenzaing my work. And ass for you, Muffot, you are a goodd man to M barck on this noble cause. Sinsneary yours, Bob"

TERRY CARR, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: "'Care & Feeding of Young Fans' was the best thing...really an excellent article, with many telling observations despite its tone of levity. I particularly liked the 'mirror-fan' term, which deserves fandom-wide recognition and use."

ED CONNOR, PEORIA, ILLINOIS: "You are to be commended for your choice of selections . . . . .The hardest part about picking over old stuff for the humor (mainly) that might be in it is (I've found) in running across two or three absolute 'gems' that tend to make the rest of the stuff seem tame and the difficulty in filling out the required space grows in proportion. But in this instance the 'second-class padding'--if I might use the term--which you included is so good, almost without exception, that you've produced the best reprint fanzine ever outed."

RON ELLIK, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: "There should be more publications like this!"

BOB TUCKER, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS: ((who demanded two copies)) "...I am most pleased with same....You surely realize what I'm going to do with my second copy. I shall hold it for a number of years and then turn profiteer..."

Are YOU going to let DIRTY OLD PRO Tucker get away with this??? STOP HIM NOW by donating 25¢ (or more) to the WAW TO THE GATE Fund and thus obtain YOUR OWN COPY of Selected Writings of Rick Sneary NOW, WHILE THEY LAST...

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Len & Anna Moffatt, 10202 Belcher, Downey, California, U. S. A.

Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London S.W.2, ENGLAND

Roger J. Horrocks, 18 Hazelmore Road, Mt. Albert, Auckland, S.W.1., NEW ZEALAND

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Tailgate Ramblings (concluded)

good fannish cause. That's the story, short, simple, fair and square. After all, Willis has been and is a strong supporter of both the TAPP and "South Gate in '58!"

Seccondly, all you have to do to join the SOLACON is send a buck to Rick Sneary. If you plan to attend, you can send two bucks (the 2nd buck for your Registration or Attendance fee) or wait and pay your 2nd dollar upon your arrival at the convention. (See ad next page) The first issue of the SOLACON JOURNAL is ready and available to those who join now, so why wait? It's a litho'd progress report containing a variety of interesting, useful and even entertaining information.

Best Wishes and See You at the SOLACON in '58!

-ljm

# SOLACON

Our name for The 16th World Science Fiction Convention combined with The Annual West Coast Science Fiction Conference (Westcon XI) is THE SOLACON—derived from our slogan, "South Gate in '58!" and, of course, Los Angeles, in sunny California, the site of the SOLACON.

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