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SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 1st Nov. '73 Issue -- (Vol. 19, #5; Whole #113)  
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In Brief --

This issue was typed Nov. 3 & 4; it will be mailed Nov. 6. Issue #114 should follow (mailed Nov. 8). TWJ status: It is now virtually certain that TWJ #80 will be picked up at Philcon--which means it should be in the mails approx. two weeks later (allowing time for collating, addressing, etc.) And remember, deadline for TWJ #83 is 15 Nov. 1973 (articles, essay-type reviews especially needed). TWJ #84 needs all types of material, but especially material on the SF scene in '73.

All who receive this issue are asked to note Dave Stever's letter on pg. 6, and our comments which follow. If you publish a fanzine, pls. give a bit of space to this poll. If you belong to a club, announce it at a meeting or in the clubzine. And regardless of your status in fandom, spread the word to your friends (and be sure to send in your own choices). The poll will begin Dec. 1 1973, and will close Jan. 31, 1974. Entries will be printed in SOTWJ as they are received, and complete results will be published in SOTWJ in Feb. and in TWJ #84.

And speaking of polls, we have one other, which can be responded to at the same time as the one proposed by Dave Stever. This one: Name the five stories (or less, if you can't think of five), SF or otherwise (preferably SF), which have had the greatest effect on you, and add a few sentences or short paragraph for each explaining how/why. (E.g., Heinlein's "The Year of the Jackpot" would go on our list; after reading it, we were in a depressed mental state for two days.) We will also accept films, TV shows, plays, etc.

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TWJ/SOTWJ

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1973 Mystery Writers of America "Edgar" Awards: [with thanks to Bob Briney]

Best Mystery Novel of 1972: The Lingala Code, by Warren Kiefer (Random House).  
**Other** nominees: Canto for a Gypsy, by Martin Smith (Putnam); Five Pieces of Jade, by John Ball (Little, Brown); The Shooting Gallery, by Hugh C. Rae (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan); Tied Up in Tinsel, by Ngaio Marsh (Little, Brown).

Best First Mystery Novel: Squaw Point, by R.H. Shimer (Harper & Row). Other nominees: Box 100, Frank Leonard (Harper & Row); The Dead of Winter, by William H. Hallahan (Bobbs-Merrill); The Heart of the Dog, by Thomas A. Roberts (Random House); A Person Shouldn't Die Like That, by Arthur Goldstein (Random House).

Best Mystery Short Story of 1972: "The Purple Shroud", by Joyce Harrington (ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE). Other nominees: "Celestine", by George Bradshaw (LADIES' HOME JOURNAL); "Frightened Lady", by C.B. Gilford (ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE); "Hijack", by Robert L. Fish (PLAYBOY); "Island of Bright Birds", by John Christopher (EQMM).

Best Juvenile Mystery of 1972: Deathwatch, by Robb White (Doubleday). Other nominees: Catch a Killer, by George A. Woods (Harper & Row); Elizabeth's Tower, by A.C. Stewart (S.G. Phillips); Uncle Robert's Secret, by Wylly Folk St. John (Viking).

Best Fact Crime Book of 1972: Hoax, by Stephen Fay, Lewis Chester & Magnus Linkletter (Viking). Other nominees: The Santa Claus Bank Robbery, by A.C. Greene (Alfred A. Knopf); Shipwreck, by Gordon Thomas & Max Morgan Witts (Stein & Day); They Got to Find Mee Guilty Yet, by T.P. Slattery (Doubleday).

Best Paperback: The Invader, by Richard Wormser (Gold Medal). Other nominees: Not Dead Yet, by Daniel Banko (Gold Medal); Power Kill, by Charles Runyon (Gold Medal); The Smith Conspiracy, by Richard Neely (Signet).

Best Screenplay: Sleuth, by Anthony Shaffer (Palomar Pictures International). Other nominees: The Carey Treatment, by James P. Bonner (Belasco Productions); Frenzy, by Anthony Shaffer (Alfred Hitchcock Productions); The Hot Rock, by William Goldman (Hal Landers & Bobby Roberts Productions); Travels With My Aunt, by Jay Presson Allen & Hugh Wheeler (MGM).

Best Teleplay: The Night Stalker, by Richard Matheson (ABC). Other nominees: Lt. Schuster's Wife, by Bernie Kukoff & Steven Bochco (ABC); When Michael Calls, by James Bridges (ABC); Your Money or Your Wife, by J.P. Miller (CBS).

Best Teleplay (Series; the above was for Specials): McCloud: "The New Mexico Connection" (NBC). Other nominees: Banyon: "A Date With Death" (NBC); Hawaii Five-O: "Bait Once, Bait Twice" (CBS); Mannix: "The Crimson Halo" (CBS); Owen Marshall, Counsellor-at-Law: "Victim in Shadow" (ABC). Writers (resp.): Glenn A. Larson; Mort Fine & Milton S. Gelman; Will Lorin; Shimon Wincelberg; Richard Bluel.

Best Bookjackets: Hardcover: Dead Skip (Random House). Other nominees: The Erection Set (E.P. Dutton); Mrs. Knox's Profession (McKay); Tricks of the Trade (Putnam's). Softcover: Winner unknown; nominees: Death Can Be Beautiful (Dell); Fetish Murders (Ace); Rolling Gravestones (Dell).

Grand Master Awards: Judson Phillips (Hugh Pentecost), "for distinction in the novel and in the short story"; Alfred A. Hitchcock, distinction in the motion picture.

Special Awards: Julian Symons, for Mortal Consequences, A History From the Detective Story to the Crime Novel (Harper & Row); Jeanine Larmoth & Charlotte Turgeon, for Murder on the Menu (Scribner's); BBC-TV for The Moonstone.

#### REVIEW EXTRACTS (gleanings from the press) --

THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS 23/9/73, reviewer Betty James: The Dolorosa Deal, by Blaine Littell (Saturday Review Press; 222 pp.; \$5.95) (Black State Dept. spy Samuel Webster flies to Jerusalem to uncover plot to sabotage peace talks. "Before he's finished, this witty, fast-moving spy finds enough action for two men."). ## Troublecross, by Jessica Mann (McKay-Washburn; 189 pp.; \$4.95) (Archaeologist Thea Crawford finds a modern body among ancient bones. ". . . a slow book but a pleasant one. The characters are intelligently and sharply perceived, the writing is smooth, and the plot believable."). ## He Who Digs a Grave, by David Delman (Doubleday; 176 pp.; \$4.95) (N.Y. police Lt. Horowitz in the rural Midwest).

## S. F. PARADE: Book Reviews

One-Eye, by Stuart Gordon (DAW Books). [Reviewer, DON D'AMASSA]

Stuart Gordon's second novel for DAW is unable to decide whether it is fantasy or science fiction. Set in a post-catastrophe society full of mutants, infanticide of deviates, and the like. Gordon's society and all of his characters are repulsive, probably intentionally so. The novel is a long chronicle of war, hatred, revenge, corruption, insanity, treachery, and ugliness. A small group of humans flee across this hostile landscape to save a one-eyed baby from execution. The nobility of their flight is soiled by their selfishness, constant internal bickering, and the essential inhumanity of the child, whose evil nature is obvious long before the author openly reveals it. This is by no means a great book, but under all the ugliness there is sound writing and a creative imagination. If Gordon can discipline his imagination and develop a tighter story line, with more internal consistency, he may well become one of SF's more popular writers.

Bodé's Cartoon Concert, by Vaughn Bodé (Dell). [Reviewer, BARRY GILLAM]

Bodé's Cartoon Concert contains 20 "strips" that appeared in CAVALIER in 1970 and 1971. A few are stinal, but Bodé's characters are much the same on any world. They are obsessed by two, and only two, activities: sex and war. Sometimes one is clearly a substitute for the other and sometimes they are combined, but just as often they are confused with each other. For Bodé, as for Lafferty, women are innately more sensual and nonverbal than men. The male characters, diminutive potato-elf selves, deliver ranting monologues full of discursive dialect. One is reminded of the crows in Dumbo, on which, appropriately, Walt Kelly is supposed to have worked. Bodé can use his language skillfully, as when he epitomizes the absurdity of aristocratic codes of conduct in today's world in a title like "Da Duel". But although his work has a sort of funky life, I find it just a bit too purposely unsophisticated. It's no accident that the eponymous "Self" in one strip is a child. Even though Bodé's version of Disney's Wynken, Blynken and Nod is entitled "Space Bed", it still exhibits a child's delight in the purely tactile, which Bodé translates into his women: plush, busty pleasure cushions. For his women, like his wars, are adolescent daydreams.

Revelations, by Barry Malzberg (Warner Paperback Library). [DON D'AMASSA]

Barry Malzberg is one of the few authors who could write a novel about the process of choosing a participant for a TV interview show and make it successful. Walter Monaghan--the prospective interviewee--is an ex-astronaut who plans to reveal that the U.S. space program was all an elaborate fraud, staged in underground TV studios. Or was it? Blurbed as a paranoid novel of suspense, it is indeed that, with plots and counterplots and imaginary plots galore. Malzberg's fluent, intricate style is fascinating to follow, but the lack of a clear story line will unfortunately discourage casual readers.

Protector, by Larry Niven (Ballantine Books). [Reviewer, DAVID STEVER]

Phssthpok left his home some 34,000 years ago, in search of a group of lost breeders--members of his Pak race that had left millions of years before. Their last messages had said that their Protectors were dying. Phssthpok was himself a Protector, and the colony of lost breeders for which he is looking is Earth. When he enters the Solar System, he is detected by almost the entire Belter population, and the race is on to contact the unknown outsider. Eventually the Belters, and even the U.N. on Earth, realize that a smuggler, who is trying to slip into Earth undetected, would be the man to first contact the alien--and what Phssthpok does to Jack Brennan will change Human history, and end Pak history, forever.

This is supposed to be the last major work in Niven's Known Space Universe, but as part of a larger work, it asks more questions than it answers about the Universe According to Larry Niven. It seemed to me to read something like the early World of Ptaavs, but it remains a fine book. Should earn a Hugo nomination, but don't count on its being able to win.

(Over)

S.F. PARADE (Continued) --

Breed to Come, by Andre Norton (Ace Books). [Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA]

This fast-moving adventure story is Andre Norton's thank-you note to her cats. As a result of an unexplained disease, mankind has disappeared from the earth. Various lower animals--dogs, cats, rats, etc.--have subsequently attained intelligence and a primitive civilization, in which context they carry on constant wars among themselves. A group of extremely highly evolved cats attempt to unite these disparate groups against the imminent return of humans from the stars. As a light adventure story, it is admirable. But it has glaring faults. First, there is no significant difference between the animals' civilization and that of man. Second, although the author is stressing that animals may have the opportunity to avoid mankind's mistakes, the fact of their nearly constant warfare contradicts this possibility. Third, the plot itself depends on a fantastically long string of coincidences.

A Bevy of Books by T.B. Costain [Reviewer, KEN OZANNE]

The Silver Chalice (Doubleday) -- Costain's most famous, though not his best book. (That is The Tontine.) This was a rereading for me, which should be some indication of quality. The plot is too complex to summarize easily. Suffice it to say that we follow the life of "Basil of Antioch", who is supposed to have made a decorative surround for the cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper. Set in the time of Nero, mostly outside Rome. ## For me, the Christian religion is accepted rather too uncritically for comfort in this book. But most of the novels of early Christians are much worse. ## Recommended for those who like historical fiction. (As are his other books which follow.)

The Black Rose (Doubleday) -- Set in the time of Edward 1st of England, Roger Bacon and the great conqueror, Bayan of the hundred eyes, who conquered China for Kublai Khan. All of them come on stage as seen through the eyes of an Englishman, "Walter of Gurnie", who became a great traveller. ## I'm always most fascinated by historical works which explore the byways of history and bring to life the characters often neglected in standard histories. This book succeeds admirably in that regard. ## Highly recommended. (With the usual proviso.)

The Darkness and the Dawn (Doubleday) -- This one is set at the time of Attila, the Scourge of God. The viewpoint character is one of the Hun's principal lieutenants, himself a man of Western Europe and therefore not wholly in sympathy with either the Huns or Rome. ## Recommended.

High Towers (Doubleday) -- Here we meet the Le Moyne family, the greatest family in French Canada in the year 1700. The book tells of the struggle of (originally) ten brothers who strive to make North America, west of the Mississippi, French territory. Among their deeds was the settlement of Louisiana and the founding of the city of New Orleans. ## Recommended.

Son of a Hundred Kings (Doubleday) -- Canada, in the 1890's. This novel has no major characters who were historical personages, and it is as much like a contemporary novel as an historical one. The major conflict of the story is provided by two brothers who are the wealthiest citizens of "Balfour". (Which is portrayed well enough to make me surprised to discover that it is not a real town--at least not in my Rand-McNally.) ## Mildly recommended.

The Lord's Pink Ocean, by David Walker (DAW Books). [Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA]

Pessimism doesn't necessarily make a bad book. Stand on Zanzibar is pessimistic, but is a very good book; The Sheep Look Up is pessimistic, and is a rather bad book. The Lord's Pink Ocean, however, is so pointlessly pessimistic, it is a terrible book. Briefly, the novel deals with two families in an isolated valley after most life on Earth has been destroyed by mutated algae. The book is highlighted by ax murders, patricide, racism, nuclear warfare, and Puritannical missionaries. Walker is apparently saying that no matter what happens to humanity, we'll never change. He offers no hope for salvation, no explanation of our damnation, and very little entertainment along the way.

ROBERT E. BRINEY, 4 Forest Ave., Salem, MA 01970

(13 Oct '73)

Thanks for printing the plug for Multiplying Villainies by Anthony Boucher. We have sold more than 100 copies of the book so far, just through word-of-mouth advertising.

Bouchercon IV itself was quite successful. Total membership of 105, of whom 80 actually attended the convention. The program items--on Nick Carter, Cornell Woolrich, Rex Stout, Jose Luis Borges, Anthony Boucher, SF and mysteries, and mystery films--were well received, and the film program was popular. (The latter consisted of The Laurel and Hardy Murder Case, And Then There Were None, The Hound of the Baskervilles (Rathbone version), and Chapter I of Drums of Fu Manchu. The films were procured, projected, and commented on by Chris Steinbrunner, to whom all credit is due.) Next year the Bouchercon moves back to California--either San Francisco or Los Angeles--but we hope to have it back in Boston in 1975.

As for the 1973 MWA awards . . . I enclose a page from the MWA ANNUAL, listing all the nominees /with the winners marked/. . . The only one I missed was the award for best cover design on a paperback; I think it was one of the Dell titles, but I'm not sure. . . . ((See "The Mystery Nook" on pg. 2 of this for list.--ed.))

The book jacket award is not too well handled, in any case. The award is invariably presented to, and accepted by, the publisher or the publisher's art director. The artist who did the cover is sometimes not even mentioned!

I was pleased to see the favorable review of John Ball's The First Team in SOTWJ. This book has been all but ignored by SF reviewers in the past, and unjustly so. . . .

DOUGLAS E. DRUMMOND, 5100 Carriage Way Dr., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. (13/10/73)

Comment on Starlost and Mike Shoemaker's review in SOTWJ #106: I think he is insulting the soaps and high school actors by mentioning them in the same breath as Starlost. In fact, I would have to rate the series, on the whole, a bit lower than Lost in Space. On the other hand, the animated ST has made an excellent transition to the new medium--using the ability for additional special effects and non-humanoid characters without destroying the original format. The half-hour time slot keeps up the pace but unfortunately does cause some loss of drama and suspense. The artwork could be a bit better--hard to recognize Kirk and McCoy--but this may be as much the necessarily simple linework as anything else. I liked very much the "Written By" in its old place in the opening credits--hopefully indicating that the old Star Trek attitude still holds.

. . . With respect to SF drama, I saw the Harrad Experiment since writing the above. It just shows what can be done with a low budget and some creativity. Harrad Experiment is certainly science fiction by John W. Campbell's definition, even though the only future element was that Harrad College, as such, has not yet happened. (And probably will never occur, since the need will have passed by the time such becomes possible or generally desirable.)

Comment on SOTWJ #108 & Editorial: As I am no longer an East-coast fan, the controversy is irrelevant as far as I am concerned. In the past, I worried about the future of TWJ and SOTWJ while you were solving the various personal and logistical problems. Now I am very glad to be getting timely copies of SOTWJ--especially since Charlie Brown & LOCUS are on the West coast, and having their own problems. It is never good to hassle volunteers--the Civil Air Patrol tried raising their "dues" 40%, and then wondered why so many quit. . . .

#### WE ALSO HEARD FROM:

NORM HOCHBERG: . . . I'm encouraging everyone I know to read (if not buy) Those Who Can: A Science Fiction Reader, edited by Robin Scott Wilson (Mentor Signet, \$1.50). It's a collection of 12 stories by a dozen top SF authors, with essays following each story describing how each was written. The thrust of the essays varies from personal recountings to detailed literary analysis, but all

(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

are fascinating. I wonder whether any book can teach writing, but this one (and several of the essays from Clarion I and Clarion II) make a good case for an affirmative answer. . . .

DAVID STEVER: . . . Why not have all of your reviewers come up with a list of five books that they think should be nominated for next year's Hugo. This would blend in with Discon's wanting people to bring books to the attention of others, and it just might spark some controversy among your readers. ## You could ask for five books from all of us, and have us do a maximum of two sentences of explanation of why we nominated each one. . . . ((A good idea--only let's make that explanation "a few sentences" or "a short explanation" rather than limiting it to only two sentences. Also, why limit it to just "reviewers"? If we want a broad range of suggestions, let's open it to all TWJ/SOTWJ readers. In fact, let's publicize it through other fanzines and by word-of-mouth and ask as many SF/fantasy readers as possible to participate. So--SOTWJ/TWJ readers and reviewers, and fanzine publishers, pls. take note--send us your suggestions--and publicize this poll as much as possible in your club or fanzine and to your friends. --ed.))

GARY TESSER, who sends us a copy of a Tolkien-related essay which appeared in TIME of 17/9/73, plus a copy of a review of The Goon Show Scripts by Spike Milligan which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW of 30/9/73, for our information and for possible reprinting in TWJ or SOTWJ. Both are quite good, and will be reprinted if we can get permission. Otherwise, look them up in your local library and read them. (And we encourage more of our readers to send us copies or notice of items of possible interest to SOTWJ readers which they may run across from time to time in the general press.)

TONY WATERS: Some time ago you helped me come up with the name of a certain movie that I had forgotten (belated thanks to John Stith and Fred Lerner, who sent post cards). I am in a position to initiate another soul into Science Fiction if I can come up with some social science SF. I am told the whole idea "sounds silly". I have a few things in mind, but I am sure that others can come up with more. ((So send him some suggestions; his address: 1119 Jones Tower, 101 Carl Dr., OSU, Columbus, OH 43210; or send them to us for publication in SOTWJ. --ed.))

DON D'AMASSA: I would appreciate it if you would note that David Stever erred when he corrected my review of E.C. Tubb's Mayenne. It is the 9th book, not the 8th. The 8th was Verucchia which, because of Ace's strange publication schedule, was not released until after Mayenne.

KEN FAIG, JR.: I want to correct a mistake I made in my letter to you of September 24, 1973, published in part in SOTWJ 108. The price of Basil Copper's From Evil's Pillow is \$6, not \$5 as I stated. I regret making this mistake in my letter to you. Joseph Payne Brennan's Stories of Darkness and Dread (\$6) has now been published and is a most handsome volume. . . .

LARRY HERNDON, who notes that Nostalgia, Inc., has just acquired the reprint rights to several more old comic strips for NOSTALGIA NEWS: Big Ben Bolt, Red Ryder, Buz Sawyer, and others.

ALEXIS GILLILAND, who states (re "Flux de Mots" in SOTWJ #108): The WSFA's Motion 1 is clear whether you agree with it or not. There are to be no further issues of THE WSFA JOURNAL without the express prior approval of the WSFA on an issue-by-issue basis. The WSFA has retained the title of THE WSFA JOURNAL for use as its once and future official organ. . . . ((Our argument is with WSFA's right to appropriate a title for its own use which wasn't its to begin with. --ed.))

DAVE BISCHOFF, who writes that "all I've been reading in my European travels have been Travis McGee books and the little brass name and title plates on the bottom of Great Art Masterpieces. . . It's been a great trip through the Continent, but my heart is still in England. Why did you ever leave it? . . ." ((Sometimes we ask ourself the same question.... --ed.))

GEORGE FERGUS, whose letter is apparently in the wrong folder; and all of you who have appended a sentence or two to your renewals, etc. (to whom we give thanks).

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