

DLEN

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 4th Mar. '74 Issue -- (Vol. 23, #1; Whole #133)
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller ----- WSFA Issue #13 ----- 25¢ per copy, 9/\$2.00

In This Issue --

IN THIS ISSUE; IN BRIEF (misc. notes/comments); COLOPHON pg 1

TIDBITS: The Local Scene (WSFA Notes; Smithsonian Associates Events; Media Notes (all re WAMU-FM)) pg 2

BOOKWORLD: Book Reviews (SF/Fantasy, by DON D'AMMASSA, HAL HALL, WARREN JOHNSON, DAVID STEVER); Mystery/Suspense/Gothic, by DON D'AMMASSA); Books Announced (Ballantine Books, Gerry de la Ree, Warner Paperback Library); Books Received (SF/Fantasy; Mystery/Suspense/Gothic) pp 3-6

THE CLUB CIRCUIT: ESFA Report (Minutes for 3/3/74), by ALLAN HOWARD . pg 7

EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn (TOM COBB, WARREN JOHNSON, DON D'AMMASSA, DENIS QUANE, REG SMITH, STEPHEN GREGG) pg 8

THE AMATEUR PRESS: Fanzine Reviews/Contents Listings (thish, U.S. & Foreign (Australia, Austria, Germany, U.K.) Genzines) pg 9-10

In Brief --

Sorry about end-of-page goof on bottom of pg. 10 in #132--we had intended continuing the fanzine reviews on pg. 1, but there was a break before pg. 1 was typed, and we forgot. We'll pick up CHECKPOINT #41 and on next time we cover newszines.

Also, we left out address for WYRD in #130 (Al Cockrell, Box 125, Bronson, MI 49028), and MOONRIGGER in #131 (Univ. of Fla. S.F. Soc., %Box 18-0316, Univ. of Fla., Gainesville, FL 32612; attn: Editor, MOONRIGGER). Sorry....

WAMU-FM will present a 5-hour "Big Broadcast" in April, focusing on William N. Robeson ("Suspense", etc.). We'll have more details by end of month.

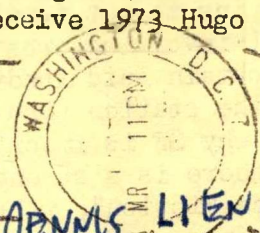
George Hay sent the first issue of a new British prozine, SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY. Published by the New English Library, and edited by Patricia Hornsey, this 11 1/4" x 16" publication has to be seen to be believed. It is £3.60/yr. anywhere in the world, from: Subscriptions Dept., NEL, Barnard's Inn, Holborn, London EC1N 2JR, England. We'll have contents and a fuller description in next installment of "Magazinarama". About it, George writes: "Would that I could be enthusiastic about it--I can't. The artwork is fine, and if NEL can sell it on that basis alone, then good for them. But the remaining contents just don't jell...Ah, well. . . ."

TWJ #83 should be wrapped up in a week to 10 days; no more word on #80. We still need lots of material for #84 (esp. 1973 retrospective articles and Borges material); and don't forget material for Asimov special (and Jenkins special?).

Note esp. Dru Campbell request on pg. 2 and Moskowitz news on pg. 7, this issue.

SOTWJ is pubbed too often (at least weekly); subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 9/\$2 (12/L1) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL pubbed during sub (count as 3 or more issues, dep. on length); "Collector's" (3rd-class) subs are now 8/\$2. For info on airmail subs, Trade-Subs, Overseas Agents, Ads, etc., write editor. Address Code meaning in #134 or #132 (note may be attached to pg. 3). Subbers since #131 will receive 1973 Hugo Nomination Ballot with this issue.

TWJ/SOTWJ
% D. Miller
12315 Judson Road
Wheaton, Maryland
U.S.A. 20906



TO: DENNIS LIEN (w/11)
2406 Dupont Ave. South
Apt. #1
Minneapolis, MN 55405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Local Scene --

WSFA Notes: Next meeting 15 Mar., at home of Jim & Jackie Harper (5203 Shires Ct., Clinton, MD 20735; ph. 868-2448); 5th Friday Party at apt. of Jim Landau & Pat Kelly (5353 Columbia Pike, Apt. 312, Arlington, VA 22204; ph. unknown); 1st April meeting 5 Apr. (Party meeting was 29 Mar.), at home of Doll & Alexis Gilliland (2126 Penna. Ave., N.W., Suite #3, Wash., DC 20037; ph. FE7-3759). Remember Annual Meeting (elections, etc.) 1st Fri. in May (at the Gillilands'). New WSFA Regular members so far this quarter (Mar.-May): Joe Mayhew, 6002 67th Ave., Apt. 5, E. Riverdale, MD 20840; James G. Dana, Apt. 2A, McCoydull, 3401 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210; Ron Woltz, 15210 Allan Dr., Laurel, MD 20810; Larry Propp, 3127 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61604; Michael E. Dobson, 2346 Sun Valley Circle, Wheaton, MD 20906. Welcome, all!

The Smithsonian Associates has sent us the March '74 edition of their newsletter. It has the following events of possible interest to SF/fantasy fans: Adult Lecture Class: Spaced Out: A Survey of Science Fiction, by Jaromir Stephany, Ted White, Jack Chalker, & Roger Zelazny (Mondays at 8:10 p.m.; 1½ hours/session; 6 weeks, beginning April 15; \$25 members, \$35 non-members; ". . . topics include the origins of contemporary science fiction, themes and great heroes of science fiction, films, illustrations, and the new wave of science fiction"); ALC: Mysticism, Magic, and Esoteric Teachings, by Harold Isen (Tues. at 6:30 p.m.; 1½ hrs/session; 10 weeks, beginning Apr. 16; members, \$40; non-members, \$55; "A view of the various movements and teachings of Eastern and Western esoteric disciplines and occult sciences from ancient Egypt to the present. . . Discussion focuses on the inner structures of the subjects presented as reflections of psychological, philosophical, and scientific concepts, both past and present. Areas of discussion include: the Kabbala, Mandalas, astrology, witchcraft, taro, Atlantis, the Egyptian pyramids, signs and symbols, and the Bermuda Triangle"); ALC: The Cosmic Connection, by Richard Berendzen (Thurs., 6:30 p.m.; 1½ hrs.; 10 wks. beginning 18 Apr.; \$40 members, \$55 non-members; includes such topics as: "origin and structure of the universe; birth, life, and death of stars; nature of planets; origin of terrestrial life and search for extraterrestrial life; potential modes of communication with extraterrestrial beings, including space travel, UFO's, and radio waves . . ."); Lecture: The Cosmic Saga, by Richard Berendzen (Thurs., Mar. 21, 8 p.m.; auditorium, Nat. Mus. of History & Technology; \$2 members, \$3 non-members; on extraterrestrial communication, etc.); Film: Whoosh, or An Outline of H.G. Wells (Wed. & Thurs., Mar. 13-14, 12:30 p.m., Nat. Mus. of H&T Aud.; "explores the life of this many-faceted writer and exuberant individualist"; free); there is also a series of lectures on various Lost Cities.

Media Notes -- Rec'd March Program Notes from radio station WAMU-FM (88.5); essentially the same schedule as we published a couple of SOTWJ's back--but remember, in particular, "Recollections" Sun. Mar. 25 (Adventure night, w/I Love A Mystery, etc.; 7 p.m.), "The Sealed Beam" Mar. 20 (Superman & Capt. Midnight), and "X Minus One" (every Fri. at 9:30 p.m.; the orig. 1950's series from NBC); also, remember Dru Campbell's SF readings every Sun. at 6:30 p.m. (Joanne Burger, pls. note; tapes of these programs would be ideal for the "Tapes for the Blind" program...). Fans may also find Expo Lecture on Mar. 15 (10:30 a.m.), "Cosmology: Enduring and Changing Features", of interest. ## A phone call to WAMU-FM's Business Secretary, revealed the following: Station is trying to get funding for a 20-part series, a history and critical analysis of SF ("involving creative use of the media and lots of written material"); to help them obtain said funding, they have asked SOTWJ to ask its readers to write letters to the station (Dru Campbell, WAMU-FM, The American University, Wash., DC 20016) telling why SF is important--especially at the college and high school ages. In addition, there is a strong possibility that their recently-concluded series, "Speaking of Science Fiction", will be rebroadcast at the more easily accessible time of 6 p.m., Sundays; a few letters from local listeners would help to insure that this will, in fact, take place. Finally, the station would like advance notice of any visit to the area of SF personalities (they would like to build SF programs around such visits), and would like to talk with someone from the Disclave and Discon II Committees. (More on pg. 1, if space permits.)

BOOK REVIEWS -- SF/Fantasy:

Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA:

(Fiction)

Happy Birthday, Wanda June, by Kurt Vonnegut (Delta Books) -- Vonnegut's first play is essentially the Odysseus legend, told from the point of view of Penelope, set in the present. In his introduction, the author points out that Odysseus' heroism was not entirely praiseworthy. The play is meant to illustrate that true heroism is not necessarily physical. Vonnegut writes well, and there are some extremely funny situations, but the play seems awkward at times, contrived at others, and really isn't up to the high quality of his novels.

Twilight of the Basilisks, by Jacob Transue (Berkley Books) -- This first novel is blurbed as "a Berkley Science Fiction Discovery" for no discernable reason. To escape pollution, mankind now lives below the ground, fifty billion strong, in all-too-familiar dystopia. Lacking any originality of approach, such as was found in Bass' Half Past Human, Galouye's Dark Universe, or Phil Dick's The Penultimate Truth, this is a tedious, unimaginative, and unexciting story peopled with colorless characters and stock situations.

Walk to the End of the World, by Suzy McKee Charnas (Ballantine) -- This is one SF novel which I am glad will never be a bestseller, because it might damage the steadily improving position of the Feminist movement in America. Ms. Charnas has written an angry, post-catastrophe novel in which men have decided to blame women for all of man's faults. Women have been reduced to breeding animals, kept penned, and treated brutally. A reasonable theme for a novel, and one that might have had much to say about our present society. But Ms. Charnas reduces an interesting concept to utter crap. Exaggeration in satire is acceptable, but not to the point where the book's society and characters defy belief. The depravity of the men, the level of degradation of the women, the flimsy rationalization of the societal set-up, all lack credibility. The plot is lethargic and the characters neurotically incapable of action. As with Michael Coney, who is on the opposite side of the Feminist question, Ms. Charnas allows her ax grinding to polarize her characterization to the point where it is impossible to accept her conclusions, because her villains are all straw men. Better luck next time.

Winter of Madness, by David Walker (Pocket Books) -- The author of The Lord's Pink Ocean mixes SF and humor in this satirical tale set in the British Isles. A mysterious American named Gilpin rents a cottage, and begins buying enormous quantities of electronic equipment. His landlord, learning of Gilpin's one-time contacts with Herman Goehring, requests the presence of James Bond, but is sent special agent Tiger Clyde instead. A mishmash filled with secret passages, robots, and the Mafia ensues, with occasional moments of humor, but not enough to justify the novel as a whole.

Reviewer, HAL HALL:

(Non-Fiction)

Science Fiction Today and Tomorrow, ed. by Reginald Bretnor (Harper; NY; '74; 342 pp.; \$8.95) -- As with his 1953 trailblazer, Modern Science Fiction, Its Meaning and Its Future, Bretnor has assembled an excellent anthology about science fiction. It is not a critical book, but rather a state-of-the-art review of the situation in 1974. Of particular interest (to me, at least) were Pohl's survey of publishing, Sturgeon's "SF, Morals, & Religion", and McCaffrey's "Romance & Glamour in SF", but virtually all the articles are interesting and informative. It is a book everyone can dip into and get something of value. If you don't want to buy a copy, at least get it in the local library.

Reviewer, WARREN JOHNSON:

(Non-Fiction)

The World of Fanzines, by Fredric Wertham, M.D. (S.Ill. U. Press, \$10) -- Dr. Wertham, the famous author of Seduction of the Innocent, his 1950's attack on comic books, returns with a book that is becoming as well known in fandom as its ignominious predecessor. However, in contrast with his condemnation of the comics--with their supposed overemphasis on violence--Wertham believes that fanzines are

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

good, healthy, and--most important of all--non-violent expressions of personality in print in this age of depersonalized mass communications. Fanzines, Wertham believes, although often lacking in literary merit, are worthy of consideration because of the message they contain from their editors and writers: We want to be heard! ## Starting out with a history of SF, fantasy and comics, Wertham evaluates the position of fanzines in the total spectrum of communication. Because of their limited circulations, fanzines never have been--and, most likely, never will be--of great influence in the world, but their purpose more than makes up for this. Fanzines are a product of the society in which they are produced; however, they are also a reaction against this society--frequently expressing a liberal attitude and rebelling against the censorship and nonentityship apparently inherent in the mass media. ## All this sounds pretty good to us, the fanzine fans and readers. And most of it is--but Wertham does make several mistakes, probably the most serious of them being his repeated non-distinction between comics fanzines and their SF counterparts. He does tell us that the average comics fan is younger than the SF fan (possibly leading the non-SF-fan reader of his book to believe that the latter comes from the former, which, as we know, is not always--or even usually--the case). Also, Wertham gives a somewhat biased view of the actual content of fanzines, repeatedly emphasizing their personalness. While this is of course true to some extent, fanzines--especially the out-and-out sercon ones--do not consist of that much personal material. This does not run true to Wertham's thesis about fanzines being a personal expression--which is perhaps why Wertham didn't tell us about the serious fanzines. ## Overall, this is certainly an important document--not only to the fanzine world, but also to the entire SF and (yuk!) comics community. The price may be a bit steep, and I wouldn't count on your local library getting it. Perhaps you could borrow a copy from another fan who has one, as I did.

Reviewer, DAVID STEVER:

(Fiction)

The Godwhale, by T.J. Bass (Ballantine Books) -- This is a book that makes wading through the hundreds of volumes of crap on the bookstore shelves worthwhile. It is the sequel to the earlier Half Past Human, and in it Thomas Bassler takes us back to the world of the Hive, and those gross little four-toed nebishes. The story is firstly of Larry Dover. Larry lived in an earlier age, and was caught in a mechanism in such a way that his lower body had to be amputated. He was given a mannequin, and a new set of legs--but he wished to sleep, and when he awoke, he was in the Hive. The second element is a plankton-picking mech, Roqual Maru. Her seas are dead, but she'll look one more time for calories she can give to the Hive. The third is an escapee from the Chucker Squad. And the fourth is a clone child of Larry's who is sent to fight him and his friends outside the Hive. ## These stories of the Hive are the most exciting stories being written in the field today. They have the ability to lift you into the world in which they take place, and make it totally real. The Godwhale is the first Hugo contender for 1975.

The Quincunx of Time, by James Blish (Dell Books) -- Mr. Blish has thoughtfully added a preface entitled: "To Be Skipped by Friends of Fiction". Dell has even more thoughtfully printed his preface (which is something I wouldn't have done--but that is neither here nor there). I did buy the book, which is an extended novelette. While it is interesting, I should point out that you are paying 95¢ for 114 pages of fiction. You have been warned....

Mystery/Suspense/Gothic:

(All Fiction; Reviewer, DON D'AMMASSA)

The Shadow Guest, by Hillary Waugh (Dell Books) -- The son of the late Evelyn Waugh has produced an absolutely first-rate murder mystery which Dell has insultingly disguised as a gothic. An American engineer in England suffers a heart attack, and agrees to live with his wife for several months in an isolated part of England. But shortly after they arrive, inexplicable things begin to happen. Laughter echoes through the house at night, someone turns on the attic light when no one is in the house, his wife is drawn mysteriously to a shrouded figure

(Cont. next page).

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

who appears at night in the distance, and they are awakened by automobile crashes which occurred years before. This is not a ghost story, despite the above, but a remarkably well-executed mystery with one of the most surprising endings ever. Search for it.

The Case of the Crumpled Knave, by Anthony Boucher (Pyramid) -- I wish I could say that this 1939 murder mystery was an overlooked gem, but I can't. Fergus O'Brien's first appearance is a poor imitation of the style of John Dickson Carr. Who poisoned the domineering man whose passion was the history of playing cards? The high point of the novel is the ramblings of one of the major characters, Theodore Rand, a retired career soldier, who feels that he has become obsolete as World War II becomes imminent.

BOOKS ANNOUNCED (Announcements Received by SOTWJ) --

BALLANTINE BOOKS (201 E. 50th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10022) -- March '74:

Icerigger, by Alan Dean Foster (\$1.25; SF Original) -- "In this science fiction novel, a party of humans is stranded on the frigid planet of Tran-ky-ky. An ill-assorted group, they are intent upon cutting each other's throats until they are 'rescued' by a company of tran--the local inhabitants--and escorted through many hairbreadth adventures. . . ."

Under Pressure, by Frank Herbert (\$1.25) -- ". . . Set in the 21st century after the big atomic war, all Europe is radioactive and uninhabitable except for certain Eastern zones from which the enemy still operates. The United States, running short of oil, has invented a submarine that could tap the enemy's oil supply, and sends four men on this mission. One of these four is a spy, and an expert is placed aboard the sub to discover the espionage agent. . . ." Orig. published in 1955.

GERRY DE LA REE (7 Cedarwood Lane, Saddle River, NJ 07458) --

Letters Lovecraftian, by Stephen Fabian (\$5; limited edition of 400 numbered copies) -- An alphabet of illuminated letters, based on the works of H.P. Lovecraft; includes a background story on artist Fabian, by de la Ree, a previously unpublished photo of Lovecraft, and a poem by HPL orig. pub. in 1917 and not included in Arkham's Collected Poems. Portfolio-type production, 8½" x 11".

Klarkash-Ton and Monstro Ligriv, by Clark Ashton Smith & Virgil Finlay (\$4; 500-copy limited, numbered ed.) -- Paperbound book with 11 drawings & sketches by Finlay, two poems by Finlay & five by Smith, one drawing by Smith; three long letters from Smith to Finlay in '37 after the death of their mutual friend, H.P. Lovecraft; and photos of Finlay & Smith. All material is previously unpublished.

The Normal Lovecraft (\$7.50; 600-copy limited ed.; 8½" x 11", in heavy paper covers) -- HPL memoir by his friend, Wilfred B. Talman; article on Lovecraft and his wife, by L. Sprague de Camp; previously unpublished quotes from letters written by Sonia Davis (Lovecraft's wife?); five Lovecraftian drawings by Tim Kirk; other artwork by Finlay, Mahlon Blaine, C.A. Smith & others; several photos of HPL.

WARNER PAPERBACK LIBRARY (75 Rockefeller Plaza, N.Y., NY 10019) -- Feb. '74:

The Avenger #21: The Happy Killers, by Kenneth Robeson (#75-480-6; 95¢) -- "A secret formula, with the power to turn men into murderers with no sense of pain, has been stolen. The Avenger is off to recapture it . . ."

Also non-SF titles Al Jaffee's MAD Monstrosities, written & illust. by MAD's Al Jaffee (#74-099-7; 75¢); Don Martin Drops Thirteen Stories, written & illust. by MAD's Don Martin (#74-115-1; 75¢); This Side of Parodies, by Editors of NATIONAL LAMPOON (#78-428-9; \$1.50); Edgar Cayce on Dreams, by Harmon H. Bro (#76-485-3; \$1.25); Island of Bitter Memory, by Dorothy Daniels (#75-474-9; 95¢; Gothic); The Curse of Deepwater, by Christine Randell (#75-409-5; 95¢); Alice and Me, by William Judson (#78-311-7; \$1.50; suspense/humor/crime); McQ, by Alexander Edwards (#76-494-5; \$1.25; mystery/adventure; novel of John Wayne film); Adrano/for Hire #1: The Corsican Cross (#76-269-4; \$1.25; crime/adventure); The Very Breath of Hell, by George Beare (#76-372-3; \$1.25; adventure/suspense w/Vic Stal-lard); The Three Worlds of Johnny Handsome, by John Godey (#76-487-9; \$1.25; crime/suspense); Israel Potter: His Fifty Years of Exile, by Herman Melville (#59-287-9; \$1.75; tale of "romantic war"; in Rediscovery Series); and many others.

(Over)

BOOKWORLD (Continued) --

BOOKS RECEIVED (Reviewers & Potential Reviewers, please note) --

SF/Fantasy:

Icerigger, by Alan Dean Foster (Ballantine; NY; #23836; 3/74; \$1.25; 313 pp.; pb; wraparound cover by Dean Ellis) -- See "Books Announced" for description; a novel.

Kingdom Come, by Gwen Davis (Berkley Pub. Corp.; NY; #02530; 3/74; orig. pub. '73 by G.P. Putnam's; \$1.25; 160 pp.; cover not credited; pb) -- Novel about two lovers who are killed in an accident, go to "separate parts", and are eventually reunited.

An excellent example of an unwelcome trend in the paperback business--the novelette which is padded by double-spacing, large type, etc. to take up more than twice as many pages as it should have. This one, e.g., should have run for no more than 40 pages--with less than 30 minutes' of reading (at our slow rate of speed)--and at \$1.25, yet! Contrast this with Icerigger, above--313 pp. of small type, for the same price (more than three hours' reading....) At the very least, publishers who pad should consider the paper shortage, and all the paper they are wasting....

The Oak and the Ram, by Michael Moorcock (Berkley; NY; #02534; 3/74; 160 pp.; pb; 75¢; cover by David M. Johnson) -- Novel of heroic fantasy, #5 in the chronicles of Corum of the Scarlet Robe, and part two of the three-part trilogy of Prince Corum and the Silver Hand. First three novels were the trilogy of Corum and the Sword Rulers (The Knight of the Swords, The King of the Swords, The Queen of the Swords); the present trilogy began with The Bull and the Spear, and will end with The Sword and the Stallion. Colorful cover. (Glad to see Berkley crediting most cover art.)

Cyborg #2: Operation Nuke, by Martin Caidin (Warner Paperback Library; NY; 3/74; #76-061; \$1.25; pb; orig. pub. '73 by Arbor House Pub. Co., Inc.; 175 pp.; cover by John Mello) -- Steve Austin, TV's "Six Million Dollar Man", ". . . battles a syndicate that offers nuclear destruction for sale!"

Orbit #12, ed. Damon Knight (Berkley; NY; #02409; 3/74; orig. pub. '73 by Putnam's; pb; 240 pp.; 95¢; cover by Paul Lehr) -- Original anthology. Contents: "Shark!", by Edward Bryant; "Direction of the Road", by Ursula K. Le Guin; "The Windows in Dante's Hell", by Michael Bishop; Four Stories by Brian W. Aldiss ("Serpent Burning on an Altar", "Woman in Sunlight with Mandoline", "The Young Soldier's Horoscope", "Castle Scene with Penitents"); "The Red Canary", by Kate Wilhelm; "What's the Matter with Herbie?", by Mel Gilden; "Pinup", by Edward Bryant; "The Genius Freaks", by Vonda N. McIntyre; "Burger Creature", by Steve Chapman; "Half the Kingdom", by Doris Piserchia; "Continuing Westward", by Gene Wolfe; section by Damon Knight ("Arcs and Secants") about the authors appearing within the anthology.

Under Pressure, by Frank Herbert (Ballantine; NY; #23835; 3/74; orig. serialized in ASTOUNDING 11/55-1/56; appeared in book form in 1956 as "The Dragon in the Sea"; 220 pp.; wraparound cover by John Berkey; \$1.25; pb) -- See "Books Announced".

Worms of the Earth, by Robert E. Howard (Donald M. Grant, Publisher; W.Kingston, RI; '74; 233 pp.; hb; d.j. by David Ireland; four full-page illos by Ireland; 5 1/8" x 7 3/4"; \$6) -- Collection of the Pict stories of Howard; formerly collected in the Dell 1969 paperback edition, Bran Mak Morn, now oop. Contents: Foreword, by Howard; "The Lost Race" (WEIRD TALES, 1/27); "Men of the Shadows" (Always Comes Evening, '57); "Kings of the Night" (W.T., 11/30); "A Song of the Race" (Bran Mak Morn, '69); "Worms of the Earth" (W.T., 11/32); "Fragment"; "The Dark Man" (W.T., 12/31). ## As always with Don Grant books, a handsome edition!

Mystery/Suspense/Crime/Gothic:

(all Berkley; NY; pb)

Chase, by Norman Daniels (#02553; 1/74 (2nd prtng); 95¢; 160 pp.; adapted from Stephen Cannell's TV pilot, Chase), ## Flight from Eden Key, by Dorinne Moore (#02531; 3/74; 75¢; 192 pp.; Large-Type ed.; Gothic). ## The Lone Wolf #5: Havana Hit, by Mike Barry (#02527; 3/74; 95¢; 192 pp.; Burt Wulff "pursues the Network into the torrid jungle of Castro's Cuba"). ## The Stone Maiden, by Alexandra Manners (#02524; 3/74; orig. pub. '73 by Putnam's; \$1.25; 303 pp.; "romantic suspense" novel set in Scottish highlands "in tradition of" Daphne du Maurier, Mary Stewart, & Victoria Holt). ## This Year's Death, by John Godey (#02538; 3/74; orig. pub. '53 by Doubleday; 95¢; 176 pp.; crime/suspense novel).

THE CLUB CIRCUIT

ESFA REPORT -- Minutes of the Eastern S.F. Assoc. Meeting of 3 March '74:

The meeting was opened by the Secretary at 3:07 p.m. There was an eventual attendance of 11 persons. The minutes were read and accepted. The Treasurer's report indicated \$89.37 cash on hand.

There being no scheduled speaker, the meeting consisted of general discussion, news notes, and items of interest. Someone commenting on the rising prices of paperbacks brought on the observation that they may be pricing themselves out of the market. Sam Moskowitz said that this may be reflected in the present alight rise in the circulation of SF magazines. He finds the average quality of the paperbacks is lower than that of the magazines, and this coupled with rising prices may revive both SF and mystery magazines. The doomsayers for the magazines may have sounded the death knell prematurely. Joe Wrzos said the high cost of hardcover books is causing trouble for the smaller public libraries, whose book-buying budgets are shrinking.

Several persons commented on the poor quality of stories in the expensive magazine VERTEX. Sam Moskowitz said he has cancelled his subscription because his copies are coming through with mailing labels on the covers. Edith Ogutsch, visiting from California, said that Ross Rocklynne is not writing at the moment, but a lot of his older stories are being reprinted. Rocklynne has a request from Isaac Asimov to submit to an original anthology he is doing. Mike Fogaris said that the SF Book Club has picked up Asimov's anthology, Before the Golden Age.

Sam Moskowitz brought copies of the fourth issue of WEIRD TALES to sell to the members. Work is going forward on #5, although SaM is no longer editor. His job as Asst. Publisher of QUICK FROZEN FOODS, as well as other urgent SF projects, leaves him no time to do WT. He has received no word as yet to his reply to Publisher Leo Marquies' request for suggestions for a new editor.

Moskowitz received a letter from the editor of SAVAGE TALES, which folded with the third issue. Sales reports now indicate it was a fabulous success, and it will be published again. SaM's book, The Crystal Man, by Edward Page Mitchell, has been receiving good reaction and reviews. A thirty-day sales report shows that it sold 4,000 copies. A follow-up book by Moskowitz, with an even more exciting discovery of an unknown writer, will be submitted to the same publisher. Moskowitz reported that advance orders have covered all costs on the thirty books being published by Hyperion Press, with orders still coming in. All titles are selling equally well, with some, such as Darkness and Dawn, A Martian Odyssey, Darkness and Light, and The Metal Monster in danger of going out of print. SaM has been asked to select another set of titles, some originals, for future publication.

SaM reported that R. Alain Kirsch, alias R. Alain Everts, who has allegedly stolen Lovecraft material from Brown University, is being held by the police of Madison, Wisconsin. He has also allegedly obtained material from the University of Wisconsin, and from individuals about the country, under false pretenses. In addition, he has allegedly claimed to represent the estate of William Hope Hodgson, and published Lovecraft and Hodgson material in fanzines, copyrighting it in his own name. The police, who are holding Lovecraft material, would like to hear from the rightful owners.

Moskowitz also read an unpublished review that he has done on Jack Williamson's H. G. Wells: Critic of Progress. SaM is critical of the work on the grounds that Williamson didn't do any original research. Williamson didn't disclose a single fact that has not already been known, seemingly merely rounding up other books on Wells, and rehashing. His bibliography doesn't list any first publications, and Williamson doesn't seem to be aware that Wells continually changed and revised his stories through their different publications. Moskowitz finds that most of the opinions are those of others than Williamson, and that when he does give an opinion, it reveals how little he knows about Wells. SaM concludes that the book is a product of shallow research and ignorance.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

-- ALLAN HCWARD, Secretary, ESFA

Tom Cobb, 3520 Burlingdell Ave., Dallas, TX 75211 (22 Feb. '74)

. . . I thought I might add something to the information you've already printed on The Night Stalker. It's a direct quote of an exchange that appeared in Lianne Carlin's MYSTERY READERS' NEWSLETTER (Vol. VI, No. 1), p. 20. Don Livingstone: "In addition, I wonder if any readers noticed the plot similarity of the recent TV movie, The Night Stalker, to Leslie Whitten's excellent novel, Progeny of the Adder? The TV movie was from an 'unpublished' story by someone whose name I cannot remember. The similarities were so strong that I wonder if a bit of plagiarism was involved, on the part of the TV movie that is." ## Carlin's reply: "Several others (including myself) did note the glaring 'steal' (almost scene-by-scene) on the part of The Night Stalker movie. A letter to Mr. Whitten brought this reply regarding that situation: 'I, too, feel that the writer of Night Stalker must have had a look at Progeny before he sat down to his typewriter. But since I sold Progeny to a movie company a year before, I felt it was up to them to act on it legally, if they wanted to. For all I know, they may have sold their rights to the maker of Night Stalker. Alors.' ## There it is for what it's worth. Makes interesting reading, no? In addition, Whitten also wrote the entertaining Moon of the Wolf, which was turned into a sloppily produced and poorly written TV movie.

Warren Johnson, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134 (21 Feb. '74)

Normally I don't have anything to say about SOTWJ or the book reviews in there, but once in a while somebody comes out and starts talking nonsense. Don D'Amassa, much as I respect him as a fan critic, has done just that. ## The review that has upset me is his analysis of Cage a Man. First of all, the first part of the novel was published in F&SF, not AMAZING. It is definitely not superior to the second half...while the former has some good scenes, describing the protagonist's condition in the jail in which the aliens keep him and so forth, it is only in the second part that the theme is made clear--that of the man struggling to retain his sanity after his torture in the hands of the aliens. The reason the escape scene is so simpleminded, as Don points out, is that a critical paragraph of the novel was left out in this scene, as Buz explains in his letter to Mike Gorra's BANSHEE #6. I don't recall the other points he mentions specifically, such as the plot being unbelievable, since it's been a while since I read the book, but back then I found it fairly plausible. Since Don messed up a couple of other points, and gave the book a negative review which it didn't deserve, I don't know how to take his other gripes. (There are some more interesting points about Cage discussed in DYNATRON #57, if anyone's interested. I thought the novel was very good, and perhaps even worthy of a Hugo.)

Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell Dr., E.Providence, RI 02914 (Undated)

. . . George Fergus is absolutely correct. Reduction in Arms was about suspected bacteriological research, not nuclear. Unforgivable goof on my part. ## Also detected a goof in my review of Cage a Man by F.M. Busby. I did not mean that it appeared in AMAZING; it appeared in F&SF. My mind must be going. ## . . . I second Richard Delap. Watch Catholics when it is rerun.

We Also Heard From (excerpts from subscription renewal letters, etc.):

Denis Quane -- "With regard to the discussion of your questionnaire in #127 & 128, I hope that whatever your plans for your two 'zines may turn out to be that they will include some element of the frequent publication of SOTWJ. . . . Don't drop the prozine indexes. They are the only available source to fill the gap before publication of the NESFA indexes."

Reg Smith -- "I'd generally prefer all issues of SOTWJ to be mailed first class and would agree to pay more for this service."

Stephen Gregg -- "My comment on 3rd class issues is YES, GO AHEAD, especially for items such as the INDEX, survey results, & ads . . ."

And many others, all with kind words (and dollars) of encouragement.

THE AMATEUR PRESS

GENZINES -- U.S.:

THE ALIEN CRITIC #8 (Feb. '74) ("An Informal Science Fiction & Fantasy Journal"; Ed. Richard E. Geis, P.O. Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211; quarterly; mimeo (offset covers); \$1 ea., \$4/yr., \$7/2 yrs. in U.S. (Canada: US\$4.50/yr., US\$8/2 yrs.); AussieAgent: John Foyster, 6 Clowes St., S.Yarra, Victoria, Australia 3141; UK Agent: Wm. Dawson & Sons, Ltd., Cannon House, Folkstone, Kent, U.K. (Aust.: A\$3.15/yr., A\$5.60/2 yrs.; UK: £1.98/yr., £3.43/2 yrs.; elsewhere, US\$4.50/yr., US\$8/2 yrs.)-- Cover by Tim Kirk; Editorial notes/comments; "Tomorrow's Libido: Sex and Science Fiction", by Richard Delap; "Robert Bloch's Banquet Speech at the 1973 World Science Fiction Convention at Toronto"; John Brunner's column ("Flash: John Brunner Vs. The Meddling Moron"); Ted White's column (on Harry Harrison); classified ads; Ace Books flyers; misc. ads; Book Reviews; lots of letters; Books & Magazines Received (w/contents listings & Publishers' Addresses). ## Looking (and reading) more and more like SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW with each issue...which is as good a recommendation as any! ## Almost forgot--49 pp. / covers & flyers.

DON-O-SAUR #29 (Feb. '74) (Don Thompson, 7498 Canosa Ct., Westminster, CO 80030; monthly; mimeo; 25¢ ea., 12/\$2.50) -- Cover by Russell Parkhurst; illos by Parkhurst & Gail Barton; 12 pp. / cover; Editorial; Fanzine Reviews (largely a discussion of whether ALGOL is a fanzine or a prozine). ## More of a personalzine than a genzine, but well-written.

NOTES FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT #3 (Feb. '74) (Denis Quane, Box CC, ET Sta., Commerce, TX 75428; mimeo; monthly; so far ('tho its ed. says it is "irregular" in the colophon); 30¢ ea.) -- 14 pp.; illos by Moses Attrep, Joe Pumilia, Nancy Wallace; Al Jackson on Andre Alice Norton; review extract; "Assigned Reading" (short book reviews, by Denis); Book Reviews, by Tony Cvetko and William Rupp; Notes on Le Guin's "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"; lettercolumn; more Hugo suggestions. ## Like the two preceding issues, good reading. One of the more promising new fanzines.

TITLE #24 (Mar. '74) (Donn Brazier, 1455 Fawnvalley Dr., St.Louis, MO 63131; monthly; mimeo; 25¢ ea. or (preferably) an LoC) -- 38 pp., incl. covers; front cover by Magenta Hayes; bacover by Bruce Townley; illos by Mike Kranefuss, Bruce Townley; largely letters, some whole, some fractured and rearranged by subject or whatever category Donn chooses; also list of names & addresses of contributors; summary of TITLE's first two years; Ben Indick on "Porn"; Pauline Palmer on "The Case of the Incurable Computer"; Gary Grady puns around; poem by Andrew Darlington; response to Paul Walker's "Fans--What Irks Me!" in #20; "Shaver's Caves--Found", by Eldon K. Everett; "Yin & Yang", by Dr. Fredric Wertham; Don Blyly on Future Shock; "The Babble Business", by Richard S. Shaver; Randall Larson on "Neo-Fans"; Fanzine Reviews, by Warren Johnson; misc. news clippings; editorial commentary; news/announcements; miscellany. ## Lots and lots of material crammed into TITLE--all of it enjoyable. One of the top fanzines being published today.

YANDRO #225 (Feb. '74) (Bob & Juanita Coulson, Rt. 3, Hartford City, IN 47348; irregular; mimeo; 50¢ ea., 4/\$1.80, 12/\$5; UKAgent, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts., U.K. (20p ea., 4/70p, 12/£1.80)) -- 46 pp. / cover (by DEA) and flyers (DUFF '74, 1974 TAFF Ballot, Hugo Nomination Ballot); illos by Jackie Franke, Juanita, Freff, Dave Locke, Alexis Gilliland, Jim Cawthorn, Dave Jenrette, Bjo Trimble, Sheryl Birkhead, Richard Delap, Richard Flinchbaugh; Editorials by Bob and Juanita; Bruce Coulson's column; Dave Locke's column ("Dave in Toyland"); on miscellany rec'd in the mail; "Everyone's Instant Loc (Helpful Hints)"; by Bob Tucker; "I Have No Nose and I Must Sneeze", by "Alan Harlison"; "The Herd My Oyster", by Michael Coney; Book Reviews and Fanzine Reviews, by Bob; long lettercolumn. ## One of the best issues to appear in quite some time of one of the best--and most reliable--zines around. Always good reading, always informative.

U.S. and AUSTRALIA:

KWALHIOQUA #11 (Nov. '73) and S F COMMENTARY #40 (Dec. '73) (Ed Cagle, Rt. #1, Leon, KS 67074, and Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vict. 3001, Australia). (Over)

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --

lia; according to Mike Shoemaker, KWALHIOQUA has folded; SFC is as close to monthly as Bruce can make it, and is A60¢ or \$1 ea.; mimeo) -- 39 pp.; two uncredited illos; Bruce's Non-Trip Report (Part II); Gillespie editorial comments; "National Alf & Veg", by John Bangsund; misc. humor; Book Reviews: Richard Delap reviews Again, Dangerous Visions; several by Bruce Gillespie reprinted from RATS. ## A bit mixed up (like, at the end of the Delap review it says, "The illustrations for this review and the cover were done by Richard Delap.", only there was no cover and there were no illos with the review...), Nevertheless, the reviews were, as usual with SFC, quite good; and KWAL's humor will be missed....

AUSTRIA:

QUARTIER MERKUR #36 (Dec. '73) (Franz Rottensteiner, A-2762 Ortman, Felsenstr. 20, Austria; quarterly; mimeo (offset covers); 8 1/4" x 11 5/8"; DM 2 (S 15) ea., 4/DM 8 (S 60); in German) -- 90 pp. / covers (both by Hannes Bok) and booklet on Stanislaw Lem and his works (with photos, an interview, a biographical note, a bibliography, etc.); Editorial; "Die notwendigen Zufälle Stanislaw Lems", by Leszek Szaruga; "Die hermetische Welt des J.G. Ballard", by Jörg Krichbaum; "Science Fiction und Phantastik", by László Urban; "Die Helden der fernen Regenbögen", by Ariadna Gromowa; "Die Zeitmaschine als Strukturmodell für die Science Fiction: Eine Grammatik der Form und eine Kritik der Wirklichkeit", by Darko Suvin; "Science Fiction ist eine Ware", by Dieter Hasselblatt; "Nachtrag zur Jean-Ray-Bibliographie", by R.A. Zondergeld; "Science Fiction in Italien" (Part 4: "Teil und Schluss"), by Gianfranco de Turris; "Die phantastische Literatur und das Wissen", by Uwe Japp; 30 pp. of Book Reviews, by Michael Rumpf, Wilfried Rumpf, Eddy C. Bertin, artisjus, & Franz Rottensteiner. ## QM has some of the best "sercon" material around--all we need now is a German translator who can help us to make some of it available to English-speaking fans....

UNITED KINGDOM:

LES SPINGE #31 (Jan. '74) (Darroll & Rosemary Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon PE18 7SU, England; no schedule given; offset; 5 3/4" x 8 1/4"; no subs--avail. only "for a show of interest, such as a letter of comment or trade") -- 12 pp., incl. cover (from Diatterlin's Architectura); illos by Dave Rowe; Editorial chatter (on Le Mont-Dore, feeding birds in winter, Horatio Hornblower, etc.); lettercolumn. ## A personalized genzine; pleasant and relaxed reading.

SCOTTISHE #67 (undated) (Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6QL, England; 2/40p or 3/\$1; no schedule given; mimeo; 8" x 10") -- 24 pp., incl. cover (by ATom); illos by ATom; short book reviews, by Ethel; lettercolumn; Ompacon '73 report, by Mervyn Barrett; Capt. Samuel Long on launching a (meteorological) rocket from the Cape; Editorial natterings. ## After an unusually long delay, Ethel's back! As with "Old Reliable" YANDRO, SCOTTISHE is always good reading, always informative, and a welcome arrival in the mailbox.

GERMANY:

DÄMON (Martin Eisele, 7332 Eislingen/Fils, Schillerstrasse 20, W.GERMANY; in German; offset; am not sure of schedule; 1,20 DM ea., 5/5 DM) -- #1 (Oct. '73): 30 pp., incl. cover (by Martin); illos by Martin; two stories (or chapters-- am uncertain of translation of "Folge" in context used here) of heroic fantasy, both by Martin, about a Conan-like superhero named Akem. ## #2 (Oct. '73): 15 pp., incl. cover (by Martin, as are illos); tale? (Folge) #3 of Akem...ah, here's an explanation: they are separate stories; in DÄMON #1 (priced at 2 DM) we had "Der letzte Tag" and "Wolfe auf der Spur"; in #2, we had "Die Pestkrieger" (price 1,40 DM); in #3, "Der Tausch" (1,40 DM); in #4, "Der wiesse Tod" (1,20 DM from here on out); in #5, will appear "Das magische Tor"; issues 1-5 are 7 DM for the lot; after #5, sub rate is 5/5 DM (#6 will be, apparently, a volume of short fantasy stories; #7 will contain another AKEM story, "Akems Rückkehr"); now, back to the issues rec'd to date.... ## #3 (undated): 14 pp., incl. cover (by Martin, as are illos); Akem tale, as noted above. ## #4 (undated): 15 pp., incl. cover (by Martin, as are illos); Akem tale, as noted above. ## All issues incl. map of Akem's world.