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WSFA JOURNAL Supplement: News/Book Reviews - - - - - 1st May, 1971 issue (#20)

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In Brief --

At the rate things are going, we could put SOTWJ out weekly, and still not be able to fit everything in.... (Maybe we should combine SOTWJ & TGL, and TWJ & TG, so we have only two publications, both coming out quite frequently....)

Well, anyway...reviewers please note: Just received Operation Chaos, by Poul Anderson (Doubleday), and Hell's Pavement, by Damon Knight (Fawcett); details on both in SOTWJ 22 (21 will be another all-reviews issue), unless they are grabbed up for review by that time.

And we have just found more info received from Doll Gilliland: Beagle Books is at 101 5th Ave., N.Y., NY, 10003. And she lists another Lovecraft title as received: The Tomb and Other Tales (95¢). On the same sheet of paper, we have noted three titles by Peter Saxon: The Unfeeling Sky, The Enemy Sky, and The Warring Sky (but don't know if these are Beagle releases or not). Finally, Doll recommends The Third Half, by Mildred Davis, a "Gothic/Mystery" (from Ace!), which she says "is quite good for a Gothic".

Better send for TWJ/SOTWJ back-issue list now (6¢); prices go up shortly....

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SOTWJ is approx. bi-weekly. Subs (via 1st-class mail): 20¢ ea., 6/\$1, 12/\$1.75. Free to contributors, traders, & to WSFA members if picked up at WSFA meetings. Also avail. as part of pkg. incl. THE WSFA JOURNAL, in bi-monthly Mailings at 75¢/Mailing, 4/\$2.50, 8/\$4.50 (UK: 30p ea., 4/112½p, 8/200p). TWJ also avail. w/o SOTWJ (write ed. for rates). Lone TWJ's & Mailings sent 3rd-class. For names & addresses of Overseas Agents, Air-mail rates, or trades, write the ed. ~~###~~ Address Code: A, Overseas Agent; C, Contributor; E, Club Exchange; H, Honorary Member of WSFA; K, Something of yours is mentioned/reviewed herein; L, WSFA Life member; M, WSFA Regular member (thru month shown); N, You are mentioned herein; R, For Review; S, Sample; T, Trade; W, Subscriber (thru # shown)(1st-class mail); X, Last issue, unless....; Y, Subber via 3rd-class Mailings. ~~###~~ Receipt d-line for #22: May 14.

-- DLM

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## THE BOOKSHELF -- New Releases

ACE BOOKS, 1120 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y., 10036 (May, 1971) --  
Space Cadet, by Robert A. Heinlein (#77730; 95¢) -- "I swear to uphold the peace of the Solar System... the words of cadets being sworn in at rocket ship training school. What will interplanetary communication mean in a thousand years? An exciting projection into space adventures of the future!"

World's Best Science Fiction 1971, ed. Donald A. Wollheim & Terry Carr (95¢; #91358) -- "A generous sampling of the best imaginative stories published anywhere in the past year. . . ."

The Sea Is Boiling Hot, by George Bamber (#75690; 75¢) -- "Men are living in cities under giant bubbles to keep from strangling in the outside air; thermal pollution has killed all ocean life; human extinction is coming closer. Can one scientist reverse the process? An eerie account of the not-very-distant future."

Planet of Exile, by Ursula K. LeGuin. (#66951; 60¢) -- "The Earth colony was stranded on distant Eltan for years, yet their neighbors feared them. But unless they joined forces, a common enemy would surely annihilate them both. . . ."

The Dark Dimensions, by A. Bertram Chandler (#13785; 75¢) -- "An alien storehouse of knowledge awaits the finder at the rim of the galaxy--but the test set by the Outsiders may prove beyond the capacity of all civilized races!" and

Alternate Orbits, by A. Bertram Chandler -- "Four adventures in space-time experienced by the only space captain to meet his own creator!"

Devilday, by Angus Hall (#14283; 75¢) -- "This high-tension thriller is a truly unique novel of Black Magic and Gothic suspense."

Plus: The Voice of the Dolls, by Dorothy Eden (#86600; 75¢; suspense); The Shrouded Walls, by Susan Howatch (#76291; 75¢; Gothic); The Dark Gondola, by Virginia Coffman (#13791; 75¢; Gothic); A Wicked Pack of Cards, by Rosemary Harris (#88660; 75¢; Gothic); Day of the Arrow, by Philip Loraine (#13995; 75¢; mystery); Bath Tangle, by Georgette Heyer (#704832; 95¢; historical romance).

DOUBLEDAY SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB, Garden City, N.Y. (Spring, 1971) --

Down in the Black Gang, by Philip José Farmer (Member's Ed., \$1.49) -- "In seven short stories and a novelette, the unique talents of Philip José Farmer have produced a collection sure to delight with its diversity and originality. . . ." (Includes "Prometheus", "Down in the Black Gang", "A Bowl Bigger than Earth", "The Shadow of Space", "Riverworld", and two others not named in ad.)

The Ice People, by René Barjavel (Publisher's Ed., \$5.95; Member's Ed., \$1.49) -- The ruins of an ancient city are discovered deep beneath the Antarctic ice. In the ruins is discovered a large, golden sphere, in which are a man and woman of the ancient civilization, frozen in suspended animation. The woman is revived....

#### "The Ice People, an award-winning best seller in France, builds to a startling and unforgettable climax as the story of the ancient civilization's downfall is revealed. Ingenious and masterfully written, it poses crucial questions about man's ability to survive."

Doll Gilliland reports the following books recently received from BEAGLE BOOKS:

At the Mountains of Madness and Other Tales of Horror, by H.P. Lovecraft (95¢).

The Lurking Fear and Other Stories, by H.P. Lovecraft (95¢; 12 tales).

Special Wonder, Vol. I, ed. by J. Francis McComas (95¢; first half of Boucher Memorial collection).

Special Wonder, Vol. II, ed. by J. Francis McComas (95¢; second half of Boucher Memorial collection).

The Lurker at the Threshold, by H.P. Lovecraft (95¢).

Doll also reports that (Capt.) George Henderson, of the Capt. George's Whizzbang organization, is publishing a new fantasy magazine: THE BLACK CAT. The first issue was all reprints. From: Mamory Lane Pubs., 594 Markham St., Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada.

## MAGAZINARAMA: Contents of Recent Proazines

ANALOG SCIENCE FICTION/SCIENCE FACT -- May, 1971 (Vol. 87, No. 3) -- Serial: "The Outposter" (Part 1 of 3 parts), by Gordon R. Dickson; Novelettes: "Company Planet", by James H. Schmitz (Teizéy novelette); "Culture Shock", by Perry A. Chapdelaine; "Peace with Honor", by Jerry Pournelle; Short Story: "Not Stupid Enough", by G.H. Scithers. Features: Science Fact Article ("Men to Mars"), by Walter B. Hendrickson, Jr.; Editorial ("Pollution Paranoia"), by John W. Campbell; "Brass Tacks" (lettercolumn); "The Reference Library" (book reviews, by P. Schulyer Miller, of: More Issues at Hand, by William Atheling, Jr.; The Universe Makers, by Donald Wollheim; The Pulp: Fifty Years of American Pop Culture, by Tony Goodstone; Tower of Glass, by Robert Silverberg; Mutants, by Gordon R. Dickson; Nebula Award Stories Five, ed. James Blish; Index to the Science Fiction Magazines, 1969, comp. by Tony Lewis; Beyond the Walls of Terra, by Philip José Farmer; Aliens 4, by Theodore Sturgeon). Front cover by Kelly Freas (illust. "The Outposter"); interior illos by Kelly Freas, David Cook, Leo Summers. 178 pp., digest-size; 60¢ (30p) ea.; \$6/yr., \$10/2 yrs., \$13/3 yrs., U.S. & Canada; elsewhere, \$8/yr., \$16/2 yrs. From: Box 5205, Boulder, Colo., 80302. Ed. by John W. Campbell. Monthly.

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY STORIES -- June, 1971 (Vol. 20, No. 5) -- Serial: "The Byworlder" (Part 1 of 2), by Poul Anderson; Short Stories: "War of the Doom Zombies", by Ova Hamlet (as told to Dick Lupoff); "No Exit", by Hank Stine & Larry Niven; "The Man Who Faded Away", by Richard Peck; "The Lurker in the Locked Bedroom", by Ed Bryant; Reprint: "War of Human Cats", by Festus Pragnell (1940). Features: Column: "Literary Swordsmen and Sorcerers" ("Skald in the Post"), by L. Sprague de Camp; Editorial, by Ted White; "...According to You" (lettercolumn); Column: "S.F. in Dimension" ("New Perspective"), by Alexei Panshin. Front cover by Dan Adkins; interior illos by Mike Hinge, Bill Graham, Steve Harper, Jeff Jones, Michael Wm. Kaluta, Jan Jackson. 130 pp., digest-size; 60¢ ea., 6/3 U.S.; \$6/3.50 Canada & Pan Am Union countries; 6/4 elsewhere. From: Ultimate Pub. Co., Inc., Box 7, Oakland Gdns., Flushing, N.Y., 11364. Edited by Ted White. Bi-monthly.

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- June, 1971 (Vol. 40, No. 6; Whole #241) -- Novelettes: "They Fly at Ciron", by Samuel R. Delany & James Sallis; "The Butterflies of Beauty", by Joseph Green (Alan Odgaard novelette); Short Stories: "There's A Wolf in My Time Machine", by Larry Niven (Hanville Svez story); "The Day They Had the War", by Richard Wilson; "The Man Trainers", by Stephen Barr; "The Man Who Collected 'The Shadow'", by Bill Pronzini; "A Tapestry of Little Murders", by Michael Bishop. Features: Cartoon, by Gahan Wilson; Science Article ("The Eureka Phenomenon"), by Isaac Asimov; Book Reviews, by Harlan Ellison, of: A Pride of Monsters, by James H. Schmitz; Mutants, by Gordon R. Dickson; Anywhen, by James Blish; Film Review, by Baird Searles, of The Andromeda Strain (Universal). Front cover by David A. Hardy; no interior illos. 130 pp., digest-size; 60¢ (25p) ea., 12/7 U.S., 12/7.50 Canada & Mexico, 12/8 elsewhere. From: Box 56, Cornwall, Conn., 06753. Edited by Edward L. Ferman. Monthly.

WORLDS OF IF SCIENCE FICTION -- March-April, 1971 (Vol. 20, No. 10; Whole #153) -- Novella: "Star Crossing", by Greg Benford & Donald Franson; Novelettes: "Retief, Insider", by Keith Laumer; "Space Slick", by Gerard Rajskind; "One-Generation New World", by W. MacFarlane; Short Stories: "Gambler's Choice" (labelled "novelette" inside 'zine); "Slaves of Silver", by Gene Wolfe; "Casey's Transfer", by Lee Saye. Features: "Hue and Cry" (lettercolumn); "SF Calendar"; "Reading Room" (Book reviews, by Ester del Rey, of: Ringworld, by Larry Niven; The Stone God Awakens, by Philip José Farmer; Children of Tomorrow, by A.E. Van Vogt; The Glass Teat, by Harlan Ellison; The Universe Makers, by Donald Wollheim; Nightmare Age, ed. Frederik Pohl. Front cover by Jack Gaughan (illust. "One-Generation New World"); interior illos. not credited (assume all by Gaughan). 192 pp., digest-size; 75¢ ea.; 12/7.50 U.S., 12/8.50 elsewhere. From: 235 East 45th St., N.Y., N.Y., 10017. Edited by Ejler Jakobsson. Bi-Monthly.

## THE STEADY STREAM....

A listing, sometimes with brief comment, of books and fanzines recently received; most of the books and some of the fanzines listed will be loaned out to various persons for review; some were purchased by the editor (and we'd like these back!); others were sent specifically for review. Items sent directly to our reviewers are excluded. #### Reviewers, please note books listed herein, and get the ones you'd like to review from the Editor at the next WSFA meeting (or call him as soon as you get this). If possible, all reviews should be turned in within two to four weeks so they can receive timely publication. #### More reviewers needed.

Books (Hardbound) --

Holding Wonder, by Zenna Henderson (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY, 1971 (rel. date 14 May 1971); 302 pp., d.j. by Judith Turner (typography) & Nick Aristovoulos (collage); \$5.95) -- Collection of Short Stories; Contents: "The Indelible Kind" (F&SF, 12/68); "J-Line to Nowhere" (F&SF, 9/69); "You Know What, Teacher?" (ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 9/54); "The Effectives" (WORLDS OF TOMORROW, 5/65); "Loo Ree" (F&SF, 2/53); "The Closest School" (FANTASTIC, 4/60); "Three-Cornered and Secure"; "The Taste of Aunt Sophronia"; "The Believing Child" (F&SF, 6/70); "Through a Glass-Darkly" (F&SF, 10/70); "As Simple As That"; "Swept and Garnished"; "One of Them"; "Sharing Time"; "Ad Astra"; "Incident After"; "The Walls"; "Crowning Glory"; "Boona on Scancia", "Love Every Third Stir".

The House in November, by Keith Laumer (G.P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y., 1970; Doubleday S.F. Book Club Ed.; shorter version appeared in IF 10, 11, 12/69 as "The Seeds of Gonyl"; 186 pp., d.j. by Richard Powers) -- "Jeff Mallory woke up one morning to discover that during what he thought was a night's sleep he had aged by months--and that his whole world had changed. . . . Mallory escaped from the town which had changed so dreadfully, only to discover that the world outside seemed to have gone mad as well. . . . Mallory understood none of it--but he could not resist the feeling that there was an answer, and that it lay in the 'old house' toward which an inner voice was impelling him..."

Books (Paperbound) --

Earth Abides, by George R. Stewart (Fawcett Crest Book M1551; 95¢; May, 1971 (pub. date 13 April '71); orig. pub. 1969, by Houghton Mifflin Co.; 317 pp.) -- ". . . unforgettable story about the aftermath of a catastrophe that has wiped out almost the entire population of America . . ." International Fantasy Award winner.

Farnham's Freehold, by Robert A. Heinlein (Berkley Medallion Book Z1981; \$1.25; April, 1971; orig. pub. 1964, by G.P. Putnam's Sons, Inc.; 320 pp.) -- ". . . a powerful and prophetic novel about what happens after a massive nuclear attack to one American family who survive to face a strange, harrowing, and all-too-possible future..."

The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. LeGuin (Ace 47800; 95¢; 1971 (orig. pub. 1969); 286 pp.; cover by Leo & Diane Dillon; an "Ace Science Fiction Special") -- ". . . a novel of exotic adventure on a far planet whose people are completely human but for one thing: they are all of the same sex. . . . As you see this world through the eyes of Earth's first envoy, caught up in subtle intrigues among the nations of Winter, battling across immense and forbidding ice-fields in a desperate bid for survival, you'll come to understand gradually and with wonder what it is to be an alien being...and what it is to be human." Winner of Hugo award and Nebula award for Best Science Fiction Novel of the year.

Never in This World, compiled by Idella Purnell Stone (Fawcett Gold Medal Book T2406; 75¢; April, 1971 (pub. date 30 March '71); 253 pp.) -- Contents: "The Ambulance Made Two Trips", by Murray Leinster (ASTOUNDING, 4/60); "Dodger Fan", by Will Stanton (F&SF, 6/57); "Look Out! Duck!", by Randall Garrett (ASTOUNDING, 9/57);

"A Prize for Edie", by J.F. Bone (ANALOG, 4/61); "Little Anton", by R. Bretnor (New Tales of Space and Time, 1951); "Dreamworld", by Isaac Asimov (1955); "Make Mine Homogenized", by Rick Raphael (ASTOUNDING, 4/60); "Through Time and Space With Ferdinand Feghoot", by Grendel Briarton (F&SF, 3/59); "Rebel", by Ward Moore (F&SF, 2/62); "Senhor Zumbreira's Leg", by Félix Martí-Ibañez (F&SF, 12/62); "Or Else", by Henry Kuttner & C.L. Moore (AMAZING, 8-9/53); "Critique of Impure Reason", by Poul Anderson (WORLDS OF IF, 1962).

Night of the Saucers, by Eando Binder (Belmont Book B75-2116; 75¢; April '71; 156 pp.) -- "It was Earth's darkest hour. Weak, backward, prey to attack, it could only be saved by the Vigilantes. Sci-fi writer Thane Smith and his beautiful, adored wife Miribel, had the task of discrediting UFO stories. But how could they after they ran up against a playboy-monster who could only have been created by an alien race?"

This Perfect Day, by Ira Levin (Fawcett Crest Book P1536; \$1.25; March '71 (rel. date Mar. 11); orig. pub. 1970 by Random House, Inc.; 320 pp.) -- "The author of Rosemary's Baby . . . has now written a novel about the nightmarish future--equally compelling, and even more terrifyingly real."

Time for the Stars, by Robert A. Heinlein (Ace Book 81125; 95¢; 1971; orig. pub. 1956 by Charles Scribner's Sons; 188 pp.; cover by Steele Savage) -- ". . . epic 70 year voyage of the space ship Lewis and Clark . . ."

Vermilion Sands, by J.G. Ballard (Berkley Medallion Book S1980; 75¢; April, 1971; 192 pp.) -- ". . . embodies the languid decay of a tawdry dream. A desert resort designed to fulfill the most exotic whims of the sated rich, it now moulders in sleazy dilapidation, a haven for the remittance men of the artistic and literary world, and for the human lampreys that prey upon them . . . an elegant nightmare of decadence, a portrait of a future Gomorrah where a Nero might have played an automated violin." ##### Contents: "Prima Belladonna" ('56), "The Thousand Dreams of Stellavista" ('62); "Cry Hope, Cry Fury!" ('66); "Venus Smiles" ('67); "Studio 5, The Stars" ('71); "The Cloud-Sculptors of Coral D" ('67); "Say Goodbye to the Wind" ('70); "The Screen Game" ('62).

#### Non-Science Fiction Books Received for Review --

A Flock of Ships, by Brian Callison (Berkley Medallion Book N1992; Apr. '71; 95¢) -- War story.

A Year in the Dark, by Renata Adler (Berkley Medallion Book D1977; Apr. '71; \$1.50) -- "A Year in the Life of a Film Critic 1968-1969" (film reviews).

The Antibodies, by Peter Baker (Berkley Medallion Book N1978; Apr. '71; 95¢)-- Medical novel.

Brat Farrar, by Josephine Tey (Berkley Medallion Book N1984; 95¢; Apr. '71) -- Mystery.

G-8 and His Battle Aces #4: Bombs From the Murder Wolves, by Robert J. Hogan (Berkley Medallion Book X2002; 60¢; Apr. '71) -- "A Novel of War Wings."

The Kites of War, by Derek Lambert (Berkley Medallion Book N1965; Apr. '71; 95¢) -- War story/romance/adventure.

Till Death Do Us Part, by John Dickson Carr (Berkley Medallion Book S1979; Apr. '71; 75¢) -- "Dr. Gideon Fell Mystery."

Wildcat's Claim to Fame, by Jeff Clinton (Berkley Medallion Book X1983; 60¢; Apr. '71) -- "A Wildcat O'Shea Western."

#### Fanzines --

CANTICEES FROM LABOWITZ #7 (Gary Labowitz, 1100 Betzwood Dr., Norristown, PA, 19401; irregular; mimeo, with offset (?) cover; 40¢ ea.) -- Thish 33 pp., / cover. Fiction by Ray Nelson, Darrell Schweitzer, William Harrold; poetry by John Gardner, Ray Nelson; short article by Jack Robins; book reviews by: Ted Pauls (Breakthrough, by Richard Cowper), Yale Edeiken (Where Is the Bird of Fire?, by Thomas Burnett Swann; A Wizard of Earthsea, by Ursula K. LeGuin; Hell's Gate and The Dark Symphony, by Dean R. Koontz); lettercolumn. Front cover by Derek Carter;

interior art by Joe Staton, Gary Labowitz, Grant Canfield, Andy Porter, William Rotsler, Alexis Gilliland, Jim McLeod. ##### Very good repro; an interesting 'zine. But we do have one bone to pick: the Breakthrough review first appeared (verbatim) in TWJ 72-1. ##### Insert: THE PLANETEER, March '36 (Vol. 1, No. 5); eds. James Blish, William Miller, Jr. 12 pp., mimeo, plus covers; 7"x8½"; 1971 reprint edition.

DIASPAR (FAPA. Terry Carr, 35 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Irregular; xerox).

#12 (Nov. '69) -- 10 pp.; illos. by Jack Gaughan, George Metzger. Consists mainly of "The Decline and Fall of Love", by Bill Collins (re Haight-Ashbury).

#13 (Nov. '70) -- 24 pp., 4 covers. Front cover by Cynthia Goldstone; back cover by Van Splawn; interior illos. by Arthur Thomson, Cynthia Goldstone. Art folio, "William Rotsler Meets Harlan Ellison"; Trip Report: "After the Heicon" (Part I), by Terry Carr.

#14 (Feb '71) -- 23 pp., 4 covers. Front cover by Vaughan Bodé; back cover by R. Nelson. Interior illos. by Arthur Thomson, Colin Cameron. Trip Report: "After the Heicon" (Part II), by Terry Carr.

DYNATRON #43 (Feb. '71) (Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Rd., N.W., Albuquerque, NM, 87107. Quarterly. FAPA, et al. Mimeo.) -- 17 pp., incl. cover. Says inside that it's issue #44 (well, at least it is Feb'71....). Roytac on Five Fates; short lettercol; misc. bits and pieces here and there, mostly humorous. A bit too frivolous compared with previous issues.

MAYBE #11 (Apr.-May'71) (Irvin Koch, Apt. 45, 614 Hill Ave., S.W., Knoxville, TN, 37902. Bi-monthly; mimeo. Two/\$1 or 6/\$2.50.) -- Cover & many of the interior illos. by unknown artists; other illos. by Jeff Schalles, John Ayotte, Bill Guy, Lowenstein, Dan Osterman, Bill Rotsler. Fiction by John Steele, Janet Fox; column by Hank Davis; Hank Davis on the ANALOG/TWJ Best Short Story Poll; something by Darrell Schweitzer; letters scattered here and there. Only wish the table of contents hadn't gotten squeezed out.... Could use some formatting.

MOEBIUS TRIP #7 (Jan.-Feb. '71) (Edward C. Connor, 1805 N. Gale, Peoria, IL, 61604. Bi-monthly(?); mimeo. 35¢ ea., 3/\$1.) -- 36 pp., incl. cover. Front cover by Bill Rotsler; interior illos. by Bill Rotsler, Jeff Schalles, Mike Gilbert, Alexis Gilliland, Terry Jeeves. Short Book Reviews by Bill Wolfenbarger; reviews by Ted Pauls (The Ships of Durostorum, by Kenneth Bulmer; The Twilight Man, by Michael Moorcock); "Tiptoeing Through the Trilogies", by Roger Bryant (on works by Avram Davidson, Katherine Kurtz, William Morris, James Blish); "That Impossible Feeling" (Part I), by Joseph Pumilia; "S.F.W.A. Comments", by Perry A. Chapdelaine; short articles(?) by Leon Taylor and Bill Wolfenbarger; long lettercolumn. Lots of interesting material here.

SCHAMOOB #9 (Frank C. Johnson, 3836 Washington, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45229. Irregular; mimeo & offset. 25¢ ea., 4/\$1.) -- 16 pp. 4 2 half-size pages; illos. by Ron Miller, Brad Balfour, Frank Johnson. Article: "Conan: Return to Sword and Sorcery", by James Stattmiller; Record Reviews by Joel D. Zakem; Frank Lunney's comments on music; Fanzine Reviews by Frank Johnson; Editorial; Book Reviews; by Ted Pauls (The Languages of Pao, by Jack Vance), Joel D. Zakem (Science Against Man, ed. by Anthony Cheetham). Somewhat confused formatting, particularly with the half-cover; and the mixing of mimeo (electro-stencil) and offset wasn't too successful--would prefer one or the other.

TWENTIETH CENTURY UNLIMITED (6 Feb. '71) (FAPA. Andy Porter, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Ditto, w/offset(?) cover.) -- "Special Steam Issue." Editorial ramblings, mailing comments, "Steam and Subway News". Cover is photo of steam engine. 6 pp., plus covers. Back cover by Alex Eisenstein.

((No more room thish. Will cover remaining U.S. fanzines & misc. fan publications, plus any more books we receive and as many of the foreign fanzines as possible in SOTWJ #21. --ed.))

## S. F. PARADE: Book Reviews

Broke Down Engine and Other Troubles with Machines: Thirteen science fiction stories by Ron Goulart (The Macmillan Company; 192 pp.; \$5.95).

Biting wit characterizes this collection. Mr. Goulart has an acerbated sense of the sublimely ridiculous that strikes close to the core of our machine-oriented complacency. The resultant irritation is so subtle, however, that we can only chuckle self-consciously, glance around surreptitiously, and fervently hope no one asks why so they won't find out we do anthropomorphize the gadgetry on which our affluence rests.

Although androidal characters abound in Broke Down Engine, Mr. Goulart's occasional treatment of non-lifelike automation produces greater cultural shock. Most of us can visualize a man-shaped machine with a malfunction somewhere in its circuitry. But how about a functional-form garbage disposal that rejects inputs? The trauma that situation produces in a family element of an overpopulated society of the future is nothing short of horrendously hilarious under the sharp point of the Goulart pen.

These are hard-hitting, thought-provoking, generally-fun-to-read stories. What more can we ask of an author?

-- James R. Newton

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Ice Crown, by Andre Norton (Viking; Book Club Edition).

Once again, the prolific Miss Norton spins a tale of adventure on a far-flung world of the future. She is an extremely consistent storyteller, whose published efforts neither fall below a certain level of smooth competence nor rise substantially above it. (Her language sometimes rises above this standard--e.g., some of the first-person narrative in Dark Piper--but not her stories or her essential technique.) I believe it would be agreed by most readers and reviewers that, in her particular bailiwick, she has no peer (Marion Zimmer Bradley comes nearest, on occasion); what she does, she does better than anybody else. One of the reasons for this, I feel, is Andre Norton's ability to infuse her stories with a certain characteristic "atmosphere", a texture, as it were, which engages the reader on a more emotional level than does a simple narrative. This quality is most often found in fantasy: Tolkien, Leiber's Fafhrd/Grey Mouser series, LeGuin's A Wizard of Earthsea, and so on, ad infinitum. When a major writer employs it in a work of science fiction, the result can be brilliant (The Left Hand of Darkness and Pavane are the examples that most readily come to mind). When a storyteller employs it for that variety of science fiction that might best be termed "science fantasy", the result is adventure stories with an added element that makes them far more alive and far more memorable than the vast majority of their ilk. Norton and Bradley are the two contemporary sf adventure story writers who best manage to incorporate this quality in their work, and Norton is more consistent.

The atmosphere of Ice Crown is virtually built-in, because the author chose as her setting and basic plot a medieval society and its palace intrigue. There is no more reliable atmosphere-producing device in literature than the complex of manners, titles, language and emotion of a medieval nobility, and Andre Norton knows well how to use this complex of elements. This particular novel, though, is not among her most entertaining, because there is a certain lack of smoothness in the way in which its sf elements are joined to what is essentially a simple and rather pleasant story of medieval adventure. The lead character is a young girl named Roane, who with her uncle and cousin has come from a more advanced civilization in search of Forerunner artifacts. The medieval culture is one that had been planted centuries ago by the tyrants who then ruled the Terran empire, and the people of this planet are being manipulated and held in their con-

ditioned patterns of existence by a cave full of mysterious machines. The problem with this novel is that the story of Princess Ludorica's ascension to the throne of Reveny and her conflict with Duke Reddick is far more interesting than the thoughts and feelings of the rather drab and dull Roane, who spends the entire 200-plus pages of Ice Crown agonizing over conflicting desires and loyalties, and then finally decides to do what the reader knew all along she was going to do. I frequently became impatient with her and longed to return to what I (though probably not the author) considered the main story line.

A well-written adventure story, in any case, with some nicely-done atmosphere. I can't help feeling, though, that in this science fiction novel there is a marvelous fantasy novella struggling to get out.

-- Ted Pauls

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The Day After Judgment: A fantasy novel by James Blish (Doubleday & Co.; 166 pages; \$4.95).

This novel is sequel to Black Easter (Doubleday, 1968), and with it forms the second volume of a trilogy titled After Such Knowledge. The first volume, Doctor Mirabilis, was published in England in 1964, while the last volume, A Case of Conscience, appeared as a Ballantine paperback in 1958 (and won the Hugo Award for best science fiction novel of that year) and in hardback edition (Walker and Co.) in 1969.

Confused by this muddled publishing schedule? Reading The Day After Judgment will do little to brighten the picture. It's allegorical, that much is pretty certain. Perhaps an effective one for readers to whom the ultimate in anything has some meaning. For me, the Ultimate Evil, central antagonist here, is as lacking in true meaning as using  $10^{20}$  in an attempt to quantify something. My mind boggles at this sort of infinite expression.

The whole point of this volume (and, I suspect, the entire trilogy) can be extracted from two segments of the final free-verse soliloquy Blish attributes to Satan Mekratrig himself:

"...You, and onely /sic/ you,  
You alone, alone can God become,  
As always He intended...."

And finally Satan utters what may well be an Ultimate Truth:

"...That at last I know  
I never wanted to be God at all;  
And so, by winning all, All have I lost."

Draw your own conclusions.

-- James R. Newton

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Escape!, by Ben Bova (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1970; \$2.95; 122 pp.).

One of HR&W's "Pacesetter" books for young people, Bova's novel concerns the character development of a sixteen-year-old juvenile delinquent sentenced to serve a term of confinement in a new prison, one without bars or guards but supposedly escape-proof under the all-seeing eye of SPECS (Special Computer System). Young Danny Romano schemes from the first day, however, with one hope in his young heart: to escape!

The judgment against Danny appears like the cards in a stacked deck--items: 1) Danny is prejudiced against blacks; 2) Danny dislikes reading; 3) Danny's first escape attempt fails miserably; 4) Danny suffers from an asthmatic condition. These little failings seem intended to put a bit of blood into our strawboy hero, but it won't take readers long to discover that all the embellishments are detachable and disposable--i.e., contrived hohum that has nothing at all to do with the boy's character but are part and parcel set-ups for moral



decisions-to-come. Anyone under the age of five is bound to be impressed...even if they wonder why duckie-wuckie isn't in this one.

Danny continues to wait and work and plan, dreaming of Laurie, the girl he left behind. He cobbles together tapes of the prison director's voice and uses them to make SPECS deactivate the alarm systems, then has a bout of minor hysterics when back-up alarms warn the director, Dr. Tenny, of this second escape attempt. Soon it's back to classes and perhaps his next plan (to knock out all the electrical power) is what inspires him to improve in his studies--it's already obvious that the boy ain't got much natcheral smarts.

One soon discovers that the real sneak is Dr. Tenny, who takes Danny home with him for an evening of wholesome Greek songs, dances, and a long heartfelt explanation of how much concerned care and work it took to build the prison. Next day brings more emotional hearttugs as Danny is taken to see Laurie, whom Tenny has interested in returning to school, while an ill-defined slum societal background is shouldered with a good deal of the blame for the youngsters' troubles: "[they] drove down narrow streets where the buildings cut off any hope of sunshine." (p.80). As Bova dims the light on the slum, one assumes in deference to sun-dwelling, sensitive, suburban-child readers, the light may yet dawn on these readers that this author doesn't know what the hell he's talking about. It's an optimistic thought, but one never likes to give up hope that some children may develop intelligent perspective in spite of America's educational and commercial programs to destroy it.

But Danny is not yet to be put off. He continues to question SPECS and elicits so much information that the machine is either most carelessly programmed or is an independently blabbering fool--take your pick. Even when dearest Laurie threatens to break up their serious but pure-as-the-driven-snow relationship if he attempts another escape, Danny gets involved with a group of prison youngster stereotypes and the final Big Break seems on the way.

Danny is aware of a chance for a good education, a girl who will wait for him, and a buddy-buddy in Dr. Tenny--if only he will follow the conformist method, they tell him, he'll come out on top! The stacked deck gets higher and higher, so don't expect any last-minute irony; Bova's been polishing that halo for over twenty chapters now and he's ready to put it in place.

I could forgive the mediocre characterizations; I could even forgive the lean and lifeless prose that deadens the story when it even hints at becoming interesting; but I cannot and I will not forgive an author for setting up a situation which forces his hero to look like a blithering idiot should he react in any but a proscribed, blatantly sterile pattern.

Don't allow any "young person" to read this trash; it'll warp his mind.

-- Richard Delap

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Vector For Seven, by Josephine Saxton (Doubleday & Co.; 238 pages; \$4.95).

Mrs. Saxton's literary constructs display laudatory lexical ability. In fact, they're the most interesting things about this fantasy (for despite its issuance under a Doubleday science fiction label, this is a fantasy). But she dissects the seven personalities appearing in this phantasmagoria too finely to leave any meaning or sense of aliveness whatsoever as she pushes them titubatingly along purely allegorical peregrinations.

Which means you can ascribe any moral that suits your fancy. If you like open-ended work, this is for you. For me, that quality permits anything like purpose to drain out along with my interest.

What Mrs. Saxton, who is a British lecturer in psychology and creative writing at North Staffordshire Polytechnic, has created in her linguistic eversion is too much of a good thing.

-- James R. Newton

## THE CLUB CIRCUIT: News &amp; Minutes (ESFA)

ESFA (EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION) meets informally on the 1st Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m., in the YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey.

Minutes of ESFA Meeting of 4 April 1971 --

The meeting was opened by Director Mark Owings at 3:22 p.m. with 17 persons in attendance. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were given and accepted.

Sam Moskowitz reported that Manfred B. Lee, one-half of the Ellery Queen writing team has just died, April 3. Mark Owings gave information on several up-coming regional conventions. Radio WBAI-FM would begin weekday serial readings from 11:30 to noon of The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole. Sam Moskowitz spoke of indications of hard times in the publishing industry, and reported that WORLDS OF FANTASY and WORLDS OF TOMORROW had folded, and GALAXY was returning to bi-monthly. Reports from AMAZING and FANTASTIC were not encouraging, and Ultimate was cutting back on its output of reprint specials. The third issue of the digest-size ADVENTURE may be its last. It has an sf story by William Sambrot. TIME of March 29, had an illustrated article on sf by R.Z. Sheppard in its book section. The article admits that sf is a legitimate literary form, producing work of lasting quality. It mentions Herbert's Dune, Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land, and Miller's Canticle for Leibowitz.

Paul Herkart reported the Nebula Award Dinner had an attendance of 80. Isaac Asimov presented the awards as follows: Best Novel, Ringworld (by Larry Niven); Best Novella, "Ill Met in Lankhmar" (by Fritz Leiber); Best Novelette, "Slow Sculpture" (by Theodore Sturgeon); Best Short Story, No Award.

Les Mayer said that Ira Levin's The Perfect Day was another bad example of a mainstream author doing sf. Mark Owings reported that Doubleday is in financial difficulties and is for sale. They are losing money on their bookstores. The Virgil Finlay book from Grandon Press will be \$15.00, and will include an article on Finlay by Sam Moskowitz. If sales are good they may do another, as well as one on Frank R. Paul.

Sam Moskowitz said that Kelly Freas has agreed to be GoH at the October Open meeting, on Oct. 9 and 10. Discussion turned to the supporting program, with various sf personages mentioned as possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

-- Allan Howard, Secretary, ESFA

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THE CON GAME: May, 1971

((Full list appeared in SOTWJ #14; details are still needed on all cons for remainder of year. --ed.))

20-23 -- Gothcon 71 (Swedish National Convention #16). In Gothenburg, Sweden. Combination SF/Tolkien program. For further info: Soren Cardfelt, Dan Brostromsgatan (or Bregstromsgatan; we've seen it both ways) 8, S-681 00, Kristineham, Sweden, or Arne Andreasson, %Karlsson, Dahlstromsgatan 10, 414 65 Göteborg, Sweden.

28-31 -- Disclave '71. At Shoreham Hotel, Connecticut Ave. & Calvert St., N.W., Wash., D.C., 20008. GoH: Terry Carr. Advance membership, \$2.50 (\$3.50 at door). For info, hotel registration cards, etc.: Jay Haldeman, 405 Southway, Baltimore, Md., 21218. For art show info: Jackie Harper, 5203 Shires Ct., Clinton, Md., 20735. We'll have info (hopefully) on program by SOTWJ #21.

28-31 -- Symposium '71. At Edgewater Hyatt House, Long Beach, Calif. GoH: Larry Niven; Toastmaster: Dave McDaniel. Registration \$1.50 until 27 May, \$2 at door. For info: Barry Gold, 11969 Iowa Ave., #6, Los Angeles, Cal., 90025.

28-31 -- Norwestercon. In Portland, Oregon, if it comes off. No further info.

And remember, above all, it's D.C. IN '74!