



SPECULATION:DATA

Inc. Reader Service

SPECULATION:DATA is a new magazine with an old purpose - to spread information about science fiction. That includes news, book information and other items that aren't normally found in SPECULATION. This magazine will be distributed from time to time with SPECULATION at no extra charge to subscribers.

Editor: Peter R. Weston, 81 Trescott Road, Northfield, Birmingham, 31. UK.

NEBULA AWARDS: The winners of the 3rd Annual Nebula Awards were announced on March 16th by the Science Fiction Writers of America:

THE EINSTEIN INTERSECTION by Samuel R. Delany (best novel)

BEHOLD, THE MAN by Michael Moorcock (Best Novella)

GONNA ROLL THE BONES by Fritz Leiber (Best Novelette)

AYE, AND GOMORRAH by Samuel R. Delany (Best Short Story)

It will now be interesting to see how these choices compare with the Hugo Award titles in September.

LONDON MINICON 1968

Information is given on Page 8 of the Easter convention, 1969. There will be a one-day 'mini-con', Guest of Honour James White, in London on 23rd November 1968. It will be held at the Main Hall, Wm. Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW6. Cost will be £1.0.0 inc. lunch & tea. Further details & tickets are available from Keith Otter, 34 The Albany, 69 Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.

BY NOW the Brighton Festival of the Arts will have taken place (May 12th, ending). This included a weekend on science fiction, 4-5 May, films plus a conference, Chairman Asa Briggs, panellists inc. John Brunner, Brian Aldiss

NEW RELEASES from Ballantine include Larry Niven's first collection, under the title of the lead story, NEUTRON STAR. This would appear to include many of Niven's recent short stories from If & Galaxy and for me personally is not to be missed.

Another spectacular release is a 4-book series from William Tenn. All scheduled for June, the books are in a uniform format at 75¢ each. There are 3 collections of Tenn stories, many of them being minor classics and well-known to most readers. There is also a novel, OF MEN AND MONSTERS, which is the expanded version of "The Men in The Walls", from Galaxy a few years back. A handsome set of fine science fiction.

MAGAZINE NEWS:

With the disappearance of Worlds of Tomorrow, Galaxy is to go monthly from June issue onwards. A new magazine Worlds of Fantasy will be issued by the Galaxy Group, one issue only being at present planned. // Persistent rumours circulate about a new British SF magazine // Harry Harrison leaves the editorial chair of the Amazing/Fantastic duo, to be replaced by Barry Malzberg of Escapade magazine. // New Worlds yet again escapes disaster and with a renewal of the Arts Council grant, continues publication for the immediate future. No. 181 is now out.

What's new

WHAT'S NEW IN SCIENCE FICTION ?

No-one knows and you won't find the answer here. However you will find what is new in SF criticism and comment from the magazines.

1. Algis Budrys (Galaxy, April 1968.)

"If you are wondering how it is possible to write more and more about less and less, Farmer can show you how to pile it higher and higher.... ('Riders of the Purple Wage')...this satire on the father figure in Heinlein's stories or this satire on Philip Jose Farmer, is the kind of exercise in self-indulgence you are going to get from some of the rebellious writers in our community if you tell them that all judgement will be suspended this one time." (on the collection DANGEROUS VISIONS)

2. Graham Charnock (Phile, April 68)

"Disch's faux pas 'Camp Concentration' typically represents the inconsistency of the immature writer chewing on too big a mouthful; what commences with intimations of being an intellectual tour de force degenerates into the worst of hack scientific concepts and deus ex machina endings."

3. Harlan Ellison (Psychotic, Jan 68)

"One knows one should read van Vogt's WORLD OF NULL-A; Doc Smith's Lensman series; Huxley's BRAVE NEW WORLD; J.T. McIntosh's ONE IN THREE HUNDRED OR Poul Anderson's first van Rijn novel, WAR OF THE WING-MEN.

But the reader coming to these books already having been convinced they are 'important' is opening himself wide to a paralysing shock of realisation. These are not only unimportant books, they are--frequently--badly-written books, ineptly conceived books characterless books, little more than polemics or problem postulations and -- most unforgiveable of all -- they are dull and boring books."

4. Tony Sudbery (Vector, February 1968)

"Certainly the economic and social ideas at the beginning of BEYOND THIS HORIZON are sounder than most of Heinlein's, but they get no development whatsoever. The following intrigue and adventure is inconclusive and only mildly interesting; the final section is irrelevant, unoriginal, and inconsequential. The only Heinlein book that is not readable, this has nothing to offer Heinlein fans or anyone else!"

5. Rick Norwood (Yandro, February)

"In 'Handicap' Larry Niven does what he does best. Like Poul Anderson, Niven uses characters who give lectures. This is a real weakness but it does not spoil the story. First, the story is about the same thing as the lecture. The action and the ideas are not artificially combined. Next, Niven's lectures are original and speculative while Anderson's are not. And as a final point, Anderson is obviously not doing his best ('Outpost of Empire') while Niven puts everything he's got into a story. If you have read a fair sampling of Niven's work, you know the quality of his ideas. If not, this story is a good showcase for them." (on Galaxy, December 1967).

WHAT'S NEW is a feature to bring you snippets and excerpts of criticism which has appeared outside the pages of SPECULATION. The full text should preferably be read in each case. More quotes + sources on Page 5.

THE MULTI-MAN REVIEW *****

THE MULTI-MAN; a biographic and bibliographic study of the late John Russell Fearn, by PHILLIP HARBOTTLE. Price 15/- post free, available from the author at 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland, England.

Review by David Redd.

We'll start with the first section of the volume, the biography. This is prepared along the lines of an essay by Sam Moskowitz, but in much more detail. It makes fascinating reading.

John Russell Fearn began his professional career in the thirties and broke into the American market immediately. His output steadily increased. Under various names he had three stories in the January 1938 Astounding, and he reached his peak with four in the May 1942 Amazing. During the war he started writing hardcover detective novels under pseudonyms. These books sold well and received good reviews from papers such as the Observer and the Yorkshire Evening Post. After the war he was very active in the struggles to form a British SF market, both as a fan and as a writer. There were six Fearn stories in the first two issues of New Worlds. When these early efforts failed, Fearn had to obtain money quickly and so started hacking out Westerns. Then came the Vargo Statten affair.

THE KUTTNER SYNDROME

You all know the story. In the early fifties, British SF publishers released a flood of appallingly bad paperbacks, most of which were SF in name only. Easily the best-selling author of this period was Fearn, writing under the name Vargo Statten. Other exotic pseudonyms abounded

including Astron del Martia, King Lang, Volsted Gridban, Vector Magroon..... remember the Kuttner Syndrome? The late Henry Kuttner had so many pen-names that every new SF author was thought to be Kuttner in a new disguise. Over here, the same thing happened to Fearn. He didn't write all of these bad, bad, books!

Fearn is remembered today, if he is remembered at all, as Vargo Statten, the man who brought British SF to its lowest-ever point in both reputation and quality. Now, Vargo Statten was just one pseudonym; many of Fearn's others were unknown to SF readers. Unknown until now, that is; Phil Harbottle has spent nine years painstakingly tracking them down. The results of his incredible labours are made public in THE MULTI-MAN. This unique book shows that a reassessment of the work of John Russell Fearn is long overdue.

THOSE BOOM YEARS

Before 'Vargo Statten' arrived, Fearn was a well-established author. His hardcover books provided both money and prestige - the Daily Herald compared his first detective novel to the work of Agatha Christie, although this was possibly too generous. His SF output was diminishing rapidly, however his western and detective publishers sometimes found themselves printing SF, rather to their surprise.

5th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE October '68

Five years of publication in October: 20 issues to choose from for a special anniversary give-away issue. Material by Poul Anderson, H. Beam Piper, Fritz Leiber etc.

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One such publisher suddenly realised he had an SF author on his list, and Vargo Statten was born. Did Fearn deserve the reputation he received during those boom years ?

Consider 1,000-YEAR VOYAGE (1954) one of the last and worst Vargo Statten books. A dozen political prisoners are put in an automatic spaceship and sent off on a voyage of no return. Writing, characterisation and development were all atrocious, and the only interest comes from wondering how the author will keep the story going after the massacre of the entire original cast. Yet the book does have one good point, the excellent basic situation. The idea is good but the resulting book is dreadful. This combination of good ideas and poor writing is common to much of Fearn's SF.

The reason for this is obvious; Fearn had discovered years ago that he could sell more stories by writing that way. It was more profitable to spend a month on two mediocre stories rather than on one carefully-written story.

VARGO STATTEN CONTROVERSY

Generally speaking, the Vargo Statten books were well below the standard of the then-modern SF, which was improving following the appearance of Galaxy and F&SF. Fearn made no attempt to sell to this changing adult market. His best work, appearing under pseudonyms or in his favourite Canadian market, was never seen by SF readers in this country. Was their condemnation of him too hasty ?

The answer cannot be given here; this is only a brief outline of one of the issues raised by THE MULTI-MAN. The book may not change your mind about Vargo Statten, but you can now base your opinion upon the complete evidence. And the Vargo Statten controversy occupies only a small part of the book. This is the story of the man's entire literary career

There are fascinating glimpses of a bygone age of SF, and interesting sidelights on the methods of a commercial author. There is a survey of his work which covers his sources, influences, and themes, and shows how his subject-matter varied over the years. All this and the bibliography as well.

NOT DULL READING

Incidentally, this bibliography deserves a few words to itself. It is a monument to the tireless industry of both John Russell Fearn and Phil Harbottle. It covers all areas of Fearn's work, not only the SF portion. Each story listing is followed by a descriptive sentence or two - usually an editor's blurb - to give you an idea of what the story was about. The additional notes and cross-references fill out the picture. For instance, you can see just how many Vargo Statten books were taken from Fearn's early work in the American magazines. Bibliographies normally make dull reading, to say the least, but this is a very welcome exception.

Finally there is the factor which makes the book so important to the historian of SF in general. Like Schachner, Coblenz and Campbell, Fearn was one of the pre-war writers who laid the groundwork for modern authors. Without this early work there would have been no SF field to attract craftsmen such as Heinlein, Russell, Sturgeon, and the rest. In those pre-war stories the themes of modern SF were developed and refined by trial and error. Unfortunately these pioneers have been largely ignored (for example, Moskowitz has dealt only with Weinbaum, Campbell and a few others). THE MULTI-MAN is a step towards repairing this omission. Buy it, because this is a book to go straight into your reference library.

David Redd, 1968.

WHAT'S NEW ? (continued)

6. Terry Carr (Lighthouse, August 67)

"It seems to me there's an awful lot of the fake kind of SF appearing today, and I for one find it pretty boring. ... these aren't trivial criticisms I'm making, but absolutely basic ones. If a story could take place in the here-and-now without losing any of its impact, then it should be told as a contemporary story and published as such - because obviously it must not have the one ingredient which separates science fiction, whether good or bad, from the mainstream; sense of wonder.

A background does not produce the sense of wonder; the effect of a background does. If the characters in a story aren't influenced by the otherworld in which they live, then how in hell can anyone expect the reader to be affected ? "

7. Graham Boak (Mor-Farch April 1968)

"...As Delany improved, Zelazny declined. His short stories (or at least several of them) have become literary in-jokes. His latest novel, LORD OF LIGHT, has received poor reviews and largely deservedly so, though it is far from being a failure. Episodic and at times disjointed it has a colour and flair absent from the majority of its contemporaries yet typical of the works of these two authors. The theme is magnificent, breath-taking in its treatment. The story and characters suffer in comparison. The resulting novel is too short for its subject, too long for its treatment."

8. Lee Harding (Australian Science Fiction Review, Dec 67)

"I think that Moorcock has devised a magazine in which the independent writer may speak out on these changing patterns (of our world) I think that he is right to encourage people like Tom Disch and Brian Aldiss to discard their old magazine images and thrash around for new ones. I think that he

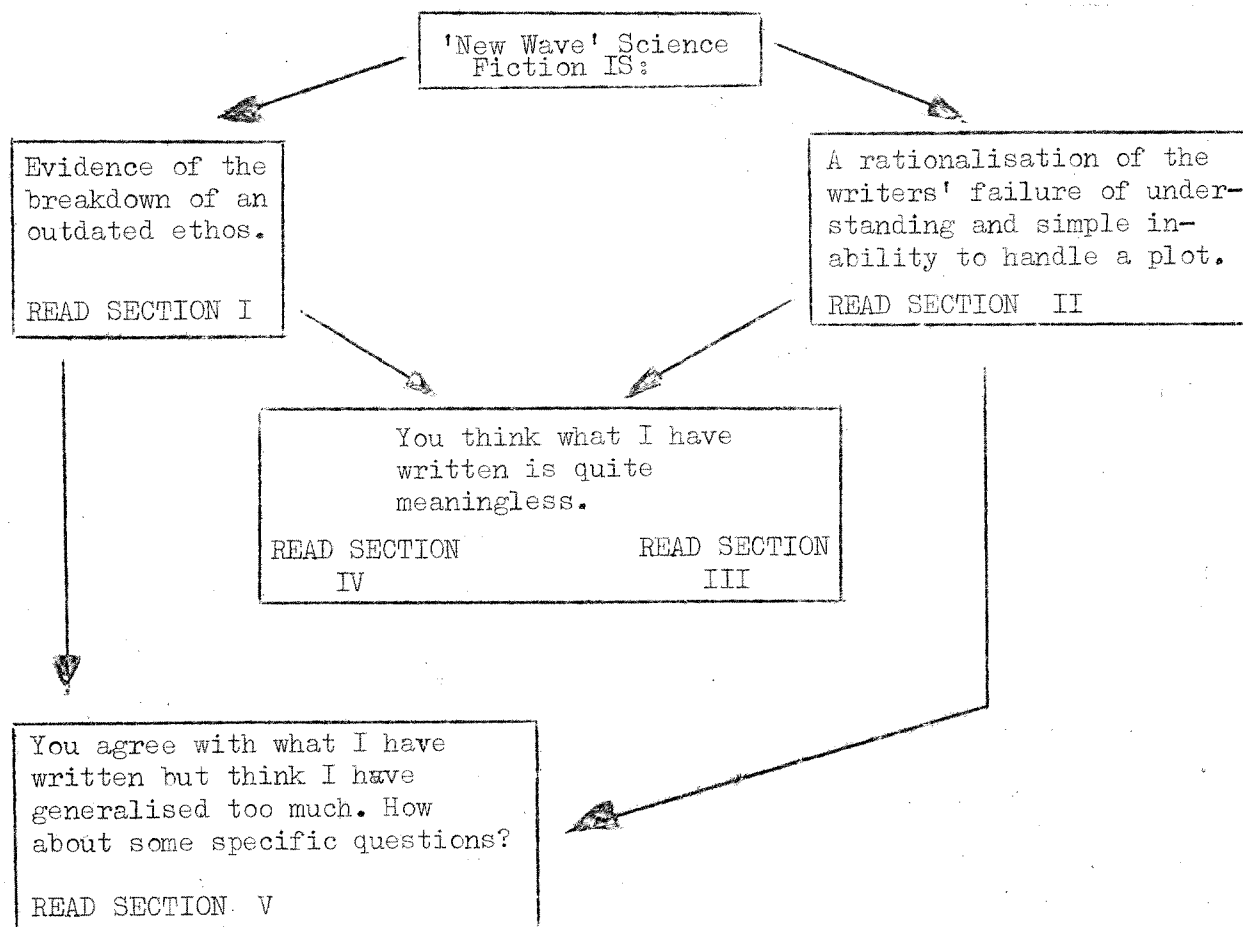
is right to encourage the struggling new writer with something new to say. I think perhaps he may have gone too far with his tub-thumping for Ballard, but when all is said and done, the man is a vivid, dynamic editor, and in this day of wishy-washy editing of the sort the Fermans foist upon us... it is stimulating to watch a genuine editor at work, a man with something to say and the will to work with his writers to see that they get their say, also."

THE MAGAZINES from which the above quotations are taken may be obtained as follows:-

1. Galaxy, 60¢, monthly, (professional)
2. Phile, 2/-, from Graham Charnock, 1 Eden Close, Alperton, Wembley, Mx.
3. Psychotic, 25¢, trade, contrib. from Richard Geis, 5 Westminster Avenue, Venice, California 90291, USA.
4. Vector, official organ of the British Science Fiction Association. Available to members only. (Present editorial address; Tony Sudbery, 14 Botolph Lane, Cambridge, UK).
5. Yandro, 40¢, 3/-; from Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City Indiana 47348, USA. UK; Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts.
6. Lighthouse, 50¢, from Terry Carr, 35 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, USA
7. Mor-Farch, 1/6, from Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol 4, UK.
8. Australian SF Review, 40¢, 3/-, from John Bangsund, 11 Wilson Street, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156, Australia. UK:- Graham M Hall, 79 Teystock Road, Notting Hill, London.

BAYCON, Oakland/Berkeley, California. 29 August-2nd Sept. 1968. Memberships \$1 Overseas, \$2 Supporting, \$3 Attending. Make cheques payable to:- J. Ben Stark, BAYCON, P.O. Box 261, Fairmont Station, El Cerrito, California 94530, USA. Overseas members will receive convention literature and can vote for the Hugo presentations.

"READERS START HERE" by George Hay. / Schematic chart - refer to text.



SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS, MAGAZINES, FOR SALE.

Peter Weston, 81 Trescott Road, Birmingham 31. Send no money until receipt of order. Postage charged extra. One copy of each title only.

THE SANDS OF MARS, Arthur C Clarke, Gnome Press '52, fine in d/j...25s
AGAINST THE FALL OF NIGHT, Clarke, Gnome Press '53, fine in d/j....30s
NEBULAW AWARD STORIES II (ed Aldiss, Harrison) Gollancz 67, 25s....17.6
THE FREDERIK POHL OMNIBUS, Gollancz 1967, 320pp, (25s).....17.6
THE STAR FOX by Poul Anderson, US SFBC edition, fine, d/j.....10.0
A CLASH OF CYMBALS, James Blish, Faber 67 (reissue) mint, d/j.....12.6

— a great many other new hardcover books available —

Galaxy, If, great many issues available, fine condition, particularly early issues of If. Paperbacks, most current titles.

SEND FOR FULL LIST OF ITEMS FOR SALE

Readers start here

GEO. HAY

READERS START HERE... an article by George Hay for readers about writing.

**** SECTION ONE ****

You are tired of looking at life through the goggles provided by a Benevolent Paternalistic Society — particularly since, when it comes to the crunch, the Benevolence evaporates smartly, revealing a substratum of basalt brutality.

Your problem is that, to make any major breakthrough you must be prepared to give up the one great advantage that any Establishment always offers to those whom it oppresses; the presence of an enemy clearly locatable and indictable. Any clearly successful move to dislodge this enemy leaves the revolutionary with the buck stopped squarely in front of him. This, of course, is why there is always room at the top, and why there are always more critiques of Masterpieces — and indeed critiques of critiques — than there are Masterpieces.

If anyone wants to write bestsellers, he can. If you doubt this, study the careers of Zane Gray and E.R. Burroughs. If anyone wants to take his chance of the Neglected Masterpiece bit he can — see Fitzgeralds 'RUBYAT' and the verse of Francis Thompson, publishing histories of.

If anyone wants to introduce startling and seminal new concepts to the world, he can. All he needs to do is to observe and to think. These two

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activities are, of course, the hardest in the world to do with any consistency — which is precisely why they are so rewarding and rewarded.

**** SECTION TWO ****

You are only half-right. And you can't satisfy your artistic conscience by writing-off the age you live in. Spengler's greatest point was that, precisely because we live in the age of quantity and mass, rather than that of 'art' and quality, we must come to terms with this fact, and work with the modes we have. Our best artefacts he pointed out — and this in 1917! — were those made by engineers for purely functional purposes. Mock Art-Nouveau is sweet in itself and does no harm, but it's not us.

If you think the art of the rattling good yarn is being lost — then write some rattling good yarns yourself. Remember, though, the cat is out of the bag, and the moral and aesthetic issues, so long repressed, are bursting through into contemporary writing, irreversibly so. A lot of time has been wasted on psychedelics and pseudo-mysticism; still, the forces underlying these movements will not be denied by any barriers, however disciplined. They can be channelled but not blocked. Remember Freud's amazing outburst to Jung about the 'filth' of superstition? If the Old Man had been willing to believe in fairies, perhaps he would never have died of cancer....

Think on't.

**** SECTION THREE ****

You will become increasingly confident that your diagnosis has been correct. Your field of action will shrink, but your control over that field will improve. If you are a writer, and work hard at it, you may, with luck, evoke that famous 'sense of magic' in others. You yourself

however, are not likely to recapture it. The Muse is a jealous creature, and it takes ill to being slighted.

**** SECTION FOUR ****

Life will astonish you by its continued unfairness. In compensation you will retain to your death a capacity for receiving unexpected and unmerited moments of pure joy.

**** SECTION FIVE ****

You live in an age that is appallingly superficial. It prefers opinions to facts, problems to solutions, the dramatic to the constructive. I am not being bitchy, nor am I a pessimist I deal in facts. If you doubt what I have said, do the rounds of the antique bookshops and read any random selection of novels, biographies and travel books from as recently as fifty years ago. You will be astonished.

All this can be turned to advantage. Your aim, we can assume from your reactions, is to contribute something new and vital to the throbbing life-stream of SF. There are two ways — at least — of getting hold of such concepts (we may safely assume you have none to hand, otherwise you'd be writing them down now instead of reading this).

1. Spend three weeks reading politics and philosophy from books written no later than 1900. You will emerge, dusty but triumphant, with a whole clutch of concepts of which you can be sure very few other people have ever heard. Adapt them as needful, and start writing.

Go on, —do it. Do you think Hegel will sue?

2. Write out, on filing-cards, one per card, as many contemporary concepts as you can. Vary this by throwing in a few random concretes and classes of names. Add a few verbs

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Pick these up in small groups, shuffle and deal. You will find you get something like this — FRICTIONLESS DRIVE TO EAT THE OPPRESSED. Or, — MINIATURISED SPY HELPS SEXUAL LIBERATION.

Expand to story or novel length. Get a good agent.

Keep writing, repeat, keep writing.

You'll make it.

George Hay, 1968.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES ! This is being compiled by Gerald Bishop, 10 Marlborough Road, Exeter. He would appreciate details of lists and any other help.

ALSO INTERESTED IN CHECKLISTS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, etc, is Tim Scott, White Place, River Road, Taplow, Bucks.

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION Details from Hon. Sec., Mrs Doreen Parker, 38 Millfield Rd, Deeping St. James, Peterborough, NORTHANTS. 30/-p.a

THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB: Details from; 10-13 Bedford St, London WC2.

EASTER CONVENTION, 1969. (London area) Details & preliminary registration (10/-) from Jean Muggoch, 15 Balcombe House, Taunton Place, London NW1.

SF FILM EVENINGS. The North London Film Theatre has been arranging these events during 1968. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE HORROR MOVIE was shown on May 18th, introduced by Dr. Chris Evans, science editor of New Worlds. Details of any future performances may be available from;— SF/FILMS, Mountview Theatre Club 104 Crouch Hill, London N8 (Geo Hay).

SF TIMES; invaluable news-publication. P.O. Box 216, Syracuse, N.Y. 13209, USA \$4.00 per annum (sent airmail to UK).

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY. Serious SF criticism. Leland Sapiro, Box 40, University Station, Regina, Canada. \$1.50 yearly.



SPECULATION READER SERVICE

One of the most important functions of SPECULATION is to tell you what SF is available. This section tells you how and where to get it.

Several publishers were asked whether they sent out lists or supplied books overseas;-

GOLLANCZ (John Bush, chairman):

"So far as Europe is concerned, any of our books can be ordered through any bookseller. If in difficulty (& USA) we are always pleased to post a book if we receive an International Money Order to cover the published price, plus 1/- postage."

Full lists available on request.
Victor Gollancz Ltd, 14 Henrietta St.
Covent Garden, London W.C.2.

FABER & FABER (John Talbot, sales):

"If subscribers have any difficulty in ordering through bookshops they can of course order books direct. The best way of paying is by International Money Order. Please add 1s 3d to the cost of the first copy, for postage, and 9d on each subsequent title ordered at one time to cover postage costs! Catalogues are available on request.
Faber & Faber Ltd., 24 Russell Square
London WC1.

DOBSON BOOKS LTD (Alan England)

Books are normally available by post. An International Money Order should be sent with 1/3d postage costs added to the price of the book. Lists and catalogues are available on request.
Dobson Books Ltd., 80 Kensington Church Street, London W.8.

PANTHER BOOKS LTD: 3 Upper James St., Golden Square, London W1. Lists are available on request.

OTHER PUBLISHERS INFORMATION:

SIDGWICK & JACKSON LTD: Lists and catalogues available on request.

1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1. All Orders to:- The Book Centre, North Circular Road, Neasden, London N.W.10. European Agent:- Dennis Payne, Via Jacopo Della Quercia 15, Milan, Italy. Agent in Canada:- Ambassador Books Ltd., 10 Vulcan St., Rexdale, Ontario.

NEW WORLDS Issues at 5/- (inc back issues) from:- 11 Goodge Street, London W.1.

GALAXY \$7.00 for 12 issues, foreign. Galaxy Publishing Corp. 421 Hudson St. New York, N.Y. 10014.

ADVENT PUBLISHERS: P.O. Box 9228, Chicago, Illinois 60690. (critical works on science fiction, etc). Lists on request.

US TITLES: Obtain from a speciality bookseller; K.F. Slater, 75 Norfolk St Wisbech, Cambs. Catalogues on request.

F&SF Book Co, P.O. Box 415, Staten Is. New York, 10302. USA. Catalogue on req.

SOME SF FROM SIDGWICK & JACKSON

AN ALFRED BESTER OMNIBUS: 2 novels, Tiger, Tiger; Demolished Man, plus Dark Side of Earth (stories) 30s.

AN ARTHUR CLARKE OMNIBUS: 2 novels Childhood's End; Prelude to Space; + (stories) Expedition to Earth. 30s.

A ROBERT HEINLEIN OMNIBUS, 3 novels; Green Hills of Earth; Man Who Sold The Moon, Beyond this Horizon. 30s.

A VAN VOGT OMNIBUS (3 novels - BOOK OF PTATH: THE BEAST: PLANETS FOR SALE.

AN ISAAC ASIMOV OMNIBUS - the 3 novels 'Foundation', 'Foundation & Empire', 'Second Foundation', 30s.

A SENSE OF WONDER. Three stories edited by Sam Moskowitz. Wyndham, Leinster, Williamson, 16s.

THE SPACE SWIMMERS (juvenile novel) by Gordon R Dickson. 18s.

SPECULATION BACK ISSUES SERVICE.

Any of the issues below may be ordered. If out-of-print your remittance will be credited towards your subscription for future issues.

SPECULATION-16. Report on the Easter 67 British convention;- 'The New Fiction', talk/article by Michael Moorcock; PRO-PANEL Discussion between 6 authors. Review of Emshwiller's film RELATIVITY: G-o-H Speech by John Brunner, reviews, etc. Still available, 2/6d (35p)

SPECULATION-17. THE MIND PARASITES, review of Colin Wilson's novel. THE PLOW IS A HARSH MISTRESS (column, Buz Busby); Hayden Howard on THE ESKIMO INVASION: Bob Rickard reviews Ellison's I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM. Other reviews (LORD OF LIGHT, etc), features - THE SPECULATOR, MELTING POT, OPINION, etc. Still available, 2/6d (35p)

SPECULATION-18. DISCH & THE FAUSTUS THEME: G-o-H Speech 68, Kenneth Bulmer; OPINION, CRITICAL FRONT (reviews - IRON THORN, EINSTEIN INTERSECTION, etc), features, other material. Now Available, 2/6d (35p) inc. 'DATA'.

Back Issues;-

Those above are the only issues still available. The column below is offered FREE OF CHARGE to help fill your wants. The readers listed below either want particular issues or have them for sale. Get in touch with the appropriate address if you wish to buy/sell. Please contact the Editor if you wish your name and wants/surplus issues to appear in this column:-

WANTED Spec. issues before 15. John Bangsund, 11 Wilson St, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156, Australia.

WANTED Spec (Zenith) issues 5 & 10: Vic Curtis, 23 Scampton Ave, Hartsholme, Lincoln, Lincs.

WANTED Spec issues before 13. John Hutchinson, 18 Windsor Terrace, Whitby, Yorks

WANTED Spec issues before 14: Glenn Lord, P.O. Box 775, Pasadena, Texas 77501, USA

FOR SALE: ISSUES of Zenith (Speculation) 2,3,4,5,6,9,10. Good condition. Sale or exchange. Enquiries;- Colin Steele, 1a Summerhill Rd, Summertown, Oxford.

WANTED Spec Issue 13; David M Massaro, 3338 W. 94th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44102

WANTED Spec Issues 11,12,13: Norm Metcalf, PO Box 336, Berkeley, Calif.

WANTED Spec Issues 10,11,12; Stephen F Schultheis, 511 Drexel Dr., Santa Barbara California 93103, USA

WANTED, Spec issues before 15: Anthony Sudbery, 14 Botolph Lane, Cambridge.

WANTED, Spec. issues before 13: Edward A Wilson, 64 Auckland Ave, Faverdale, Darlington, Co Durham.

WANTED, Spec 1-4, 7-9, 12. Franz Rottensteiner, 2762 Ortmann, Austria.

WANTED; The British Museum are probably wondering just what did happen to their copy of Zenith Speculation No.12. I don't know either, but I would like to send them a replacement. It doesn't pay to fall out with the government! Does anyone have an issue of No.12 that they would sell back to me? Or a generous exchange of books, if you prefer. Any replies to Pete Weston, usual address.

FOR SALE (just unearthed) Three copies of Zenith-6. It's pretty crude, but of historical interest, perhaps (?). 2/6d each, write to editorial address.

FOR SALE:

200 SF magazines (British & American) plus 75 SF paperbacks (again, US & UK). The vast majority of these items are in either very good or mint condition. I will accept £15 for the lot (or nearest offer). I will pay postage. The first 'Yes' secures this offer. I will forward a full list of items on request;- Write to;- Bob Charlesworth, Flat 1, Over 1 Duke St Congleton, Cheshire.

FOR SALE

SF Paperbacks & other items. Gollancz, SFBC, etc. List will be sent on request. R.H. Starling, 120 Hayes Lane Bromley, Kent.

THE CUTTINGS FRONT

Recent newspaper and magazine cuttings about Michael Moorcock and New Worlds indicate that someone has been remarkably successful in 'ginning-up' the press and securing editorial mentions.

From Penthouse, a long article was published in February 1968 (approx).

From Town, December 1967:-

"As America drains off all those British scientists there is a small but significant flow of talent in the opposite direction. It has been marked by Judith Merrill, grande dame of science fiction, its leading editor and anthologist, in her latest book published in New York.

Says she, 'All roads lead eventually to Mike Moorcock's Ladbroke Grove flat and office.. Some centre somehow always accompanies a literary quantum-jump. Moorcock's living-room/office is the place in London now.'

Certainly, the steady trickle of American writers attracted to Ladbroke Grove is becoming a flood. Miss Merrill herself has been presiding nearby in a houseful of American writers. Novelist Robert Sheckley is the latest to want to move to England.

The place in London now is a cluttered manuscript-strewn room muddled by a neurotic sheepdog that barks at the telephone and a collection of 'icons' that includes a figure of Christ in one of those glass bubbles that creates a snowstorm when you shake it, and a head of Disraeli encased in glass -- 'he was an ancestor of mine' says Moorcock, big bearded, exuberant, wearing a peacock feather tie.

He enjoys the American acclaim but was distressed to find that one of his fictional heroes, Elric the Sorcerer-King, is also a cult over there. 'He appeals to repressed, emotionally-retarded adults. I killed him and his entire world off after two books so I couldn't ever write another,' says he."

SALES BAN ON 'RUDE' MAGAZINE said the Daily Mirror on March 14th, when it was announced that W.H. Smith had withdrawn New Worlds from sale. Other national dailies carried the same story.

"GALACTIC GANGSTERS MUST GO" says Hugh Herbert in The Guardian, April 25th. This was a long article on New Worlds:-

"Like SF magazines in the United States, New Worlds hobbles along on an almost zero budget. Moorcock, 28 and editor for four years, has subsidised it in the past by writing hack novels -- 50,000 words in three days, until he wearied; then they took 10 days. An Arts Council grant of £150 per issue saved it last year, and again when W.H. Smith (who handle almost half of its 8000 circulation) nearly killed the magazine by withdrawing its March issue from the bookstalls. The Council smartly extended the grant -- due for renewal anyway -- for a further four issues to tide it over. Crisis over, for the moment.

Unlike the American magazines, New Worlds is not really concerned with science fiction in the popular definition. Nor is it now content with the later conventions of the genre, which simply took old, crude moral problems and dumped them in the future.

Beyond all this, Moorcock believes he is trying, through the magazine, to work out what sort of ethic will be needed in the future. To do this, New Worlds is after writing that is professional, in the sense of being purposeful; and is therefore against self-indulgent wallowing. Though for this new reader's taste there's a lot of that too in Spinrad's 'Bug Jack Barron', the serialised novel that caused the sneak-out at Smith's. But Moorcock is looking less for rebellious words on the surface than for deep structural change in the writing of times to come. His pages offer freedom of manoeuvre. "We had stories we wanted to do," says James Sallis, "and if it had not been for New Worlds, we could never have written them that way."

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United Kingdom 3 issues for 7/6d, 2/6d per issue.
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New Worlds (cont/d)

Sallis is 23, born in Arkansas, one
of the new writers Moorcock has encour-
aged. He is now associate editor. "The
irony," Moorcock will tell you, since

the 'New Wave' was rejecting the US brand
of goods, "is that 75% of the most inter-
esting stuff comes from America!"
(this article was continued)