

WINNIE

Published twice monthly by
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MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA
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WINNIE is the newsletter of state-of-the-art science fiction, with special emphasis given to news of the western half of the U.S. WINNIE comes out every two or three weeks, and you all really ought to subscribe. Special thanks to Geoffrey Mayer, who sent in fifteen dollars, and is now a sustaining subscriber, paid up through issue 96.

Subscribe! Six issues for a dollar. Your subscription ends with the number typed on your address label. If no number, you get the next issue, and possibly the one after that. Trades are indicated (as usual) by "T".

VOL. 4 NO. 7

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176-167 likes prunes.
--Carl Barks

You are invited to participate in the next gala PENSFA meeting/WINNIE fest. Place & time are 2404C Gabriel, Mountain View, & 1:00 PM. Further information by dialing 415-968-7732.



SFWA CONSPIRACY 14 MARCH

The fifth annual Science Fiction Writers of America West Coast Nebula Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, March 14, 1970, at the Claremont Hotel (site of the 1968 Baycon) in Berkeley, California. It will be held in conjunction with the third annual SFWA West Coast Conference, and the combined program will run from 8:30 AM until late that night.

Anyone may attend the conference and the banquet, but only SFWA members may participate in the SFWA business meeting. Admission to the conference will be \$2.00 to SFWA members (\$3.00 to nonmembers), and tickets to the banquet will be \$7.00 per person. Please make reservations for the banquet before March 7 if possible, although reservations will be accepted as late as March 12.

When you make your banquet reservation, please indicate if you are planning to attend the conference also, and include your conference fee with your banquet check. You may also register for the conference at the door, though not, of course, for the banquet. Checks should be made out to ALVA ROGERS, and sent to Alva Rogers, 5967 Greenridge Rd., Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Anyone wishing to stay at the hotel should communicate directly with the Reservation Desk, Hotel Claremont, Ashby & Claremont Ave., Berkeley, California (Tel. 415-843-3000) There is a \$10.00 deposit charged for room reservations, refundable with three days notice of cancellation.

The program at the conference will begin with a keynote speech by Poul Anderson, who originated the conference idea in 1968. Other items include an explosive talk by Harry Harrison on "Book Contracts", a panel/discussion on "Science Fiction and the Literary Scene" with Ursula LeGuin, Hank Stine, and one or two others, and a panel/discussion with Greg Benford moderating on "Agents and Marketing", with Norman Spinrad (formerly with



Mr. Ward wishes to
thank Mr. Mayer.

Scott Meredith), Michael Kurland, and Vernor Vinge. There will be a lunch break of an hour or hour & $\frac{1}{2}$. Following the lunch break the balance of the afternoon will be devoted to a business session of the SFWA presided over by Greg Benford.

Robert Bloch will serve as Toastmaster for the Banquet, and will have the happy task of announcing the Nebula winners and presenting the awards to those winners present. The west coast is almost certain to cop awards in at least two categories, and it is not inconceivable that west coast writers could make a clean sweep of the awards this year.

The conference & banquet are privileged to have as featured speaker at the banquet two-time Nebula winner Samuel R. Delany.

There will be a no-host cocktail party in the Terrace Lounge before the banquet, at 7:30 PM. The banquet will be held in the Pavilion Room, with seating at round tables for eight, and the dinner will be a buffet from the adjacent Garden Room. Included with the dinner will be all the wine one cares to drink.

To cap the day's activities, there will be a private party in the conference suite for all banquet attendees, following the banquet.

Alva requests all reservations be made as early as possible.

STANFORD SF INSTITUTE

The following information is taken from a preprint of the Summer Session catalog listing of the multidisciplinary Institute for Science Fiction and Fantasy that will be held this summer at Stanford University:

Institute for Science Fiction and Fantasy

Arthur Hastings, Director and Assistant Professor of Public Address and Small Group Communication (Speech and Drama)

H. Bruce Franklin, Associate Professor of English

Phillip Klass (Pennsylvania State University), Visiting Assistant Professor

A. Berkley Driessel, Lecturer in General Studies

Frank Herbert, Visiting Lecturer in General Studies

Science Fiction is not only a literary genre, but also a medium for speculation on science, alternative social systems and the nature of being human. Science fiction may chronicle a history of the future or a revised history of the past. It may characterize humans in non-human cultures or non-humans in human cultures. It may present humans coping with likely or even unlikely realities. To explore these dimensions of science fiction, the Institute will present a summer program of courses, films, lectures, and discussions. The program will run through the regular eight-week summer session and is open to Stanford graduate and undergraduate students and visiting students who apply for admission to the Institute. (See below.)

COURSES. Four courses in various aspects of science fiction will be taught by Stanford University faculty drawn from several disciplines, and will be coordinated with other events sponsored by the Institute. Students will be enrolled in the regular Stanford Summer Session, for a minimum of eight units, and will be expected to take at least two of the courses offered by the Institute. Students can take further Institute courses

on the "sociology and psychology" of fandom--new or re-print—and would like furnish cartoons to go along with it. He plans to publish a symposium on the subject. // John Ingham (24743 Valley St., Newhall CA 91321) is doing an article on rock songs with SF themes, and would like to compare lists and descriptions with others interested in the subject. He'd like information on the Byrds' and Pink Floyd specifically, and I think he'd appreciate notes on most songs recorded before 1968. (LOCUS is a nationally-oriented newszine, and it is RECOMMENDED. Five for a dollar from Charlie Brown, 1078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, NY 10457).

MISCELLANEA: The official tapes from the Baycon (1968 World SF Convention) are being transcribed, and Advent still plans to issue them in book form sometime in the early seventies. Alva Rogers (address given earlier) requests that anybody who has moved since the convention send him his change of address, for further information on the Proceedings. // Hide! Bill Collins is back in town! // Hide! George Senda is back in town! // The next Little Men's meeting will show two Apollo 12 films, including one not yet released to the public, obtained through the good offices (or whatever they were he obtained them from) of Paul Healy. // Alva Rogers for TAFF? We'll know when the East Coast responds // Felice Rolfe for TAFF? Talk her into it before the SFCO, at which she is the fan GoH // Anybody else for TAFF? Nominations close at the end of February // Dave Rike, well-known Bay Area fan of the late fifties, had his house broken into a couple of weeks back. Dave was out of town, and the only occupants were a couple of friends, who were rudely interrupted by a trio of masked female bandits. There has been some interesting speculation on the identities of the bandits, who ripped off a collection of guns that Dave has been accumulating for reasons which cannot be gone into at this time. The story made all the local papers, which went into some detail on the unusual circumstances of the robbery. // Bjo Trimble's mother mother is in the hospital after a bad automobile accident. She suffered several broken bones after running into a piece of machinery, that had fallen off a truck in front of her (it had not been lashed into place), at 55 mph. She has always had a fear of being rear-ended in a collision, so the rear of her car is covered with stickers and reflectors. Furthermore, at the time of the accident, she was in the middle lane of the three, and there was not other traffic. Nevertheless, she was smashed into at 65 mph by a man whose license had expired two months ago. She is recovering, and the man is in deep trouble // SFCO has over 100 members paid up and pre-registered //

Yet More Miscellanea: The LASFS has elected two new members of the Board of Directors to fill out the unexpired terms of Forrest J Ackerman and Walter J Daugherty, both of whom had to resign due to press of business and concomittant inability to attend Board meetings on a regular basis. New Directors are George Barr and David Gerrold // LASFS Building Fund reached \$9561.00 on Feb. 1, and it appears the goal of



\$10,000 will be reached before the end of March. Discussion is now centering on using this sum for a down payment on a building in the 25 to 30-thousand dollar range //PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY notes several science fiction stories slated for filming, mentioning that MARCOONED is out already, and THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN is heading for the screen. Also in prospect is THE AGE OF THE PUSSYFOOT, based on Fred Pohl's novel of the same name (with the possible subtitle, "Project MAC in the 25th century..."). PW also mentions options and rights taken out on a number of juveniles // I am now completely in the dark as to what new features the re-release of FANTASIA is claiming. I assume they are back in stereophonic sound and 70mm is new, but nobody seems to be sure. Can somebody clear this up for once and for all? // Larry Niven has finished RINGWORLD, and Betty Ballantine says she will try to fit it in for October. A British movie company, based on Malta, has made an offer on a six-months option (extendable for another year) on A GIFT FROM EARTH. The same book is now out from Walker (in their reprints of PB series), his first US hardcover sale (though he's had some in England). He also has a story called "Leviathan" coming up soon in Playboy, described by Fuzzy Pink as another Svez time-travel adventure // Stanley Kubrick will write, produce, and direct Anthony Burgess's A CLOCKWORK ORANGE for Warner Brothers. He is currently finishing the screenplay; production begins this summer in London. LA Times Movie critic Charles Champlin is predicting a near-future mass discovery of Anthony Burgess a la Kurt Vonnegut. ((Information from Fred Patten, Rick Sneary, Fuzzy Pink Niven, and John (sorry; Jonh) Ingham)).

Even More Miscellanea: The New England SFA is printing up its listing of the science fiction magazines published in 1969 (supplements to the Index to the SF Magazines, for 1966, 67, and 68 are available at \$1 each). There were four IBM cards for Forry Ackerman and out of a total of hundreds all four, and only those four, got stuck in the keypunch. // Isaac Asimov has donated his (recently removed) kidney stone to be auctioned off at the Boskone this March. // Isaac has finished work on his first TV special. The show is called THE UNSEEN WORLD, and is scheduled to be shown May 3 // ((From INSTANT MESSAGE 55; from NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, MA 02139)) George Lucas is directing THX-1138, a new SF film, a fantasy view of an underground, drug-ridden future. The film is being produced by Francis Ford Coppola from a script written by Lucas, and filming is taking place in settings like a warehouse in LA and the BART tunnels in the Bay Area // Rick Norwood, Charlie Brown (of Peanuts) at the St. Louiscon continues to demonstrate that Life is an imitation of Art. At a recent NOSFA meeting he was crapped on by Mary Doucet's new pet anteater. // Poul Anderson's "Operation..."

stories ("Operation Afreet" etc.) are being collected in book form, and will be published under the title OPERATION CHAOS, to be published by Doubleday.

// New Officers for the Nameless (Seattle) are as follows:

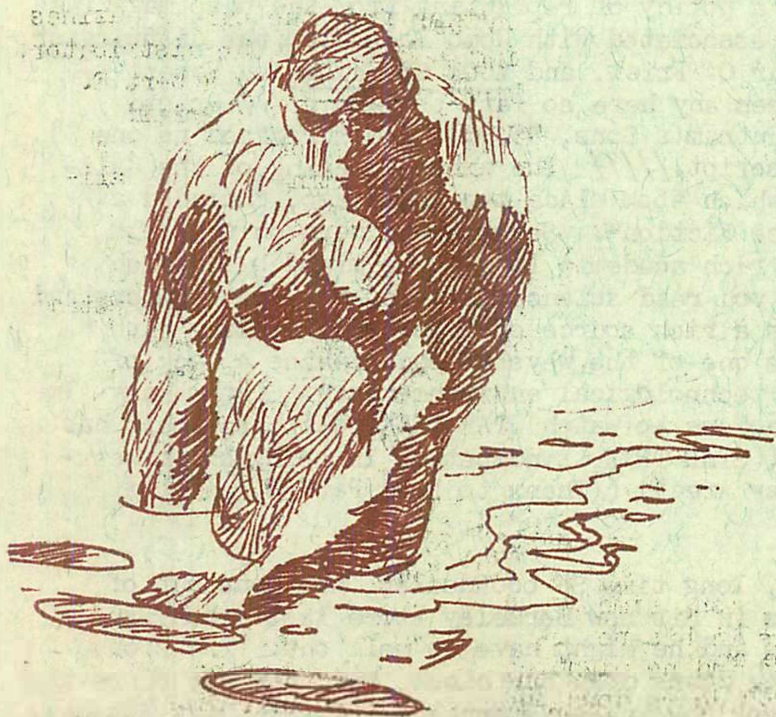
President: Jari Wood

V P: Pat Priest

Sec-Treas: Wally W Weber

Official BEM: Maurice

The list contains five or six more titles & names, but these are the real ones. Vera Heminger asks if there is another club with as many useless offices, but of course she's never seen the organizational chart of the MLTSFS, with its Star Chamber and Primary thru Quaternary levels of officers. There are usually 150 members or so, with an office for everybody who wants one. No contest, I'm afraid; they've even added some new ones since I left in 1967.



winnie seven/page six

The Portland (Oregon) Society of Strangers now has something like 200 members, and is publishing a quasi-Underground newspaper devoted to SF & Fantasy, the Occult, with an occasional straight comic strip. It's sort of mind-boggling to open up something that looks like the GOOD TIMES (It reminds me strongly of the old Boston AvA AVATAR) and see a center spread advertisement, "Portland, City of Wonder and Light--For WORLDCON '72. The paper is STRANGE, price is 30¢ outside of Portland, editor and apparent chief honcho is Mike Zaharakis (10 issues for \$2, checks payable to Mike)(at 1326 SE 14th, Portland OR 97214). // As for the Portland bid, the con hotel would be the downtown Hilton, in Portland. The Society will be sending a member to Heicon to make the bid. // The Society seems to be spinning off high-school SF clubs, and a local APA--the RAP, or Rather Amateur Press. In addition, Dan Lyssy and Mike Zaharakis will be moderating a program on Science Fiction and Fantasy in the modern culture in KBOO, FM radio in Portland beginning at the end of February. // Regular meeting nights are: Saturday, at members home (call 232-8409 for information); Wednesday, at the Charix Coffee House; Thursday, the Occult Studies & Blake Session at the Aletheia Book Store (24 & NE Sandy); Friday, married couples' at the Zaharakis residence. // New officers for the reorganized Society are
Chairman: M. G. Zaharakis // Vice-Chair: Gary D. Page
Secretary: Linda Wilcox

((Information from Mike Zaharakis, and from Gary Page (1450 SW Jefferson #1, 92701).))
OOOPS! More officers: Occult Studies: Dan Lyssy // Games Bureau: Glen TenEyck
Member at Large: Duane Snider // Washington High SOS Rep: Dave Jensen
Program and Planning: Stewart (Tik) Hunt

Miscellanea Goes Ever On: Ed Bryant writes that he has sold a story to Chip Delany's new magazine, WARP, due specifically to having seen it mentioned in WINNIE 5. // Mike Zaharakis has been elected Chairman of the Directorate of the NFFF. // Arthur Clarke's novel CHILDHOOD'S END is being made into a movie by Universal. And Clarke has more movies in the works; Scott Meredith, his agent, has sold two short stories; "Death and the Senator" was bought by producer Richard J. Schorr, and "Dial F for Frankenstein", which was first published in PLAYBOY, will be filmed by Playboy Productions, the new motion picture arm of PLAYBOY magazine. // Don Grant and Charles M. Collins have formed a new paperback house, Centaur Press, Inc, and will be publishing fantasy, SF, and adventure books, with what I assume will be a policy of reprinting from the pulp magazines such as ADVENTURE, ARGOSY, etc. Collins is associated with Como Sales Co., the distributor. First titles are THE PATHLESS TRAIL by Arthur O. Friel, and MOON OF SKULLS by Robert E. Howard, scheduled for January. I haven't seen any here so far, though. // Brigid Brophy has a new book out, IN TRANSIT (G P Putnam's Sons, \$5.95) I'm surprised no one stole her typewriter, typing paper, or manuscript. // The annual meeting of the California Association of Teachers of English, which took place two weeks ago, included a workshop entitled "Teaching a Unit of Science Fiction". Several teachers on the high school and college level discussed SF as "a rich academic lode to be mined by English teachers", with comments including, "unless you read science fiction, you won't understand what's happening today," "science fiction is a rich source of literature dealing with social values" and "science fiction provides one of the ways we can examine a lack of humanism and a lack of love in increasingly technological environments." Sister Mary Alma of the University of San Francisco urged teachers to watch STAR TREK, which she said has captured the interest of young audiences. ((STAR TREK, syndicated, is being shown weekdays at 6:00 PM on channel 2, here in the Bay Area)) ((Thanx to Fred Patten, and the San Francisco Chronicle for Feb. 8, 1970))

My God! More Miscellanea: Bradford M. Day, long time SF bookdealer, has gone out of business. I was in his new Berkeley store last month, and he was commenting that business was terrible and he might have to sell out. The books were bought by Serendipity, a bookstore three doors down the block, and they are currently in escrow awaiting shipment to the Holmes Book Co. in San Francisco ((Thanx, Dick Rawson))

winnie seven/page seven

Long-time Birmingham, Alabama, fan Alfred McCoy Andrews is dead. Al, a member of SFPA (the southern APA) had been an invalid most of his life, and never recovered from a fall he suffered around Christmas. ((info from Ned Brooks))

APA-L distribution #246 had 59 pages from 32-odd people. Distribution #247 had 69 pages, again from 32 people, some of them even odder than the first batch. And Distribution #248 contained 49 pages from 28 people, some of them certainly the oddest of all. There's a new 13-member monthly APA, called SLAN-APA, started by Bob Vardeman and Ed Smith. Minac is one page, and maxac is two. I'm still waiting for Louis Morra to send out the bundles for REAP, though he claims in a letter that his typewriter is broken and that's what's holding it up. I wrote back suggesting that he do his zine longhand. No answer, so far. The 130th FAPA Mailing contained 36 zines for a total of 390 pages. The waiting list now has 39 members. The 90th SAPS Mailing contained 26 zines for a total of 175 pages; waiting list is only 7, so now is the time to get on it (send \$1 to F M Busby, 2852 14th Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119).

Stolen from LUNA MONTHLY 9: The filming of Ray Bradbury's SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES has fallen through, though "The Small Assassin" should be filmed, and his TV special "The Halloween Tree" produced, within the next year. John Christopher's NO BLADE OF GRASS will be filmed by Cornel Wilde for MGM. Wendayne Ackerman is translating the legendary German Book TARZAN THE GERMAN EATER for private press publication by Darrell C. Richardson. Phil Farmer will be doing an original, DEATH'S DUMB TRUMPET, for Avon. Berkley-Putnam will publish his first Riverworld novel, TO YOUR SCATTERED BONES GO. ((I have heard that the stories published in Wot were new stories, written especially for the magazine, rather than the original Riverworld MS that languished unpublished forseven or eight years. Perhaps someone can clear this up.)) Wm. Crawford reports the possibility of a fourth issue of the revived SPACEWAY magazine. Robert Bloch is reported talking with Irwin Allen about an adult SF TV show. I'll believe that when I see it on the air, no sooner. Arch Oboler's radio series, "Lights Out" has been dusted off and sent back into syndication, with 61 stations around the country carrying it, all because of the success of his new (rather, first) novel, HOUSE ON FIRE. Olga Ley is collecting material for a biography of her late husband, Willy, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has letters or other material about him. All contributions will be xeroxed and returned to the sender. Her address is 37-26 77th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372 The Count Dracula Society will present the following awards at its 8th Annual Awards Dinner in April:

Mrs. Ann Radcliffe Awards:

Cinema: Fritz Lang, for his whole career

Literature: Fritz Leiber, for his whole career

TV: Dan Curtis, Producer of DARK SHADOWS

Special Awards: Peter Cushing for his career in Gothic films

Morris Scott Dollens, science fiction artist

Katherine Stubergh Keller, for her wax works

Horace Walpole Gold Medal: Dr. Devendra P Varma, author of THE GOTHIC FLAME: A HISTORY OF THE GOTHIC NOVEL IN ENGLAND

((LUNA MONTHLY, \$3.00 per year (3rd class) from Ann Dietz, 655 Orchard St., Oradell New Jersey, 07649))

CoA: Bill Denholm, 113 Sierra Vista, Apt. H., Mountain View, CA 94040
Lon Atkins, 12615 Pacific Ave., Apt 7, Mar Vista, CA 90066
Ed Bryant, c/o Ellison, 3484 Coy Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

COMING EVENTS

14 March: SFWA CONFERENCE & BANQUET, described earlier in great detail.

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- 27-29 March: SFCON '70, new western regional, at the Hilton Inn, near San Francisco International Airport. I have copies of Progress Report #2, sent out with the last issue of WINNIE, but look around you and your knowledge shall grow.
- 29-31 May: NORWESTERCON, at the Heathman Hotel, Portland Oregon. Frank Herbert will be pro guest of honor, and Stan Woolston will be fan guest of honor. Special guest: Ursula K. LeGuin. \$2 pre-registered, \$3 at the door; information & tickets from Gary Page, 1450 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201
- 3-5 July: WESTERCON 23, the time-honored western regional convention, at the Francisco Torres, Santa Barbara, CA. Information from P O Box 4456, Downey, CA 90241
- Labor Day Weekend: Mythcon 1, sponsored by the Mythopoeic Society, will include the annual Tolkien Conference for 1970; place will be one of the Claremont Colleges in Southern CA. Advance memberships, \$3, and information from David Ring, 1510 N. Euclid, Upland CA 91768.

MEETINGS

- PENSFA: Next meeting is March 8, same place as last one: 2404C Gabriel Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040 (Tel. 415-968-7732) Following meeting probably March 22 at the same address. Meeting time is 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM.
- LITTLE MEN: February 27, March 13 at J. Ben Stark's, 113 Ardmore Rd, Berkeley CA (415-525-2693) Feb. 27 meeting will include the yet-unreleased Apollo 12 films. March 13 meeting not yet scheduled. Meeting time: 8-8:30 PM
- FANATICS: I have no new information, so assume we're back to the regular schedule, which means: March 3 at The Rectory, 195 Alhambra, San Francisco (921-2927) and March 17 at Quinn Yarbro & Don Simpson s, 977 Kains, Albany CA (524-9502) Meeting time: 7:30-8:00 PM

This is the last time I'm going to type eight stencils at one sitting. I still haven't typed the FRIED HAT REVIEW, which adds a couple more.... BUT--No more 12¢ postage. Next time I run over eight pages total, it goes out third class. My post office is unhappy about my box being full of mail, and lately they've begun charging postage due on overweight letters received. So you can imagine what they'd do with 250 copies of an overweight fanzine. Hmmm. My slide rule says 6 sheets of 20 lb paper equals only 0.96 oz. I may need a new scale.

GODDAM MIMEO!

THE FRIED HAT REVIEW

an occasional supplement to WINNIE, the fried hat review offers discussion, investigation, obfuscation, and the secret wisdom of the ages; whatever it may or may not contain or not contain, it is published on a highly irregular schedule by Michael Ward, he of P O Box 45, Mountain View, CA 94040

PART 1: ANTHONY VILLIERS CONTINUED

In the fourth issue of FRIED HAT REVIEW I demonstrated that Alexei Panshin's third Anthony Villiers adventure, MASQUE WORLD, was not the minor bit of light reading most reviewers took it to be, but instead was an involved allegory of the second coming of Christ. This analysis was based largely on the third book itself, but did use certain facts taken from the first two books in the series, STAR WELL and THE THURB REVOLUTION. Religious themes appear in all three of the books, but in the third come to dominate the story to the point where no review of MASQUE WORLD can make any pretense of analysis without treating the religious aspects of the story in some detail. Nevertheless, in the three or four published reviews I have run across, the stories are categorized as "mere fluff, very interesting reading for an idle hour or two, but not to be taken seriously" and the like.

The review called forth a postcard from Alexei, and a return postcard elicited a letter commenting on both the postcards, and the review. They are reproduced below,

Dear Mike,

The Villiers books are, in an explicit way, both religious in spirit and about religion--though it is only one element in them. They are in no way, shape, or form an allegory, let alone a Christian allegory. Of the evidence you cite, the only relevant pieces are Claude the plonk, and Dodd the Christian historian. The rest do not have a specifically religious character.

Allegorical interpretations can be made of anything. Because of the religious concerns and trappings of the Villiers books (most of the non-Christian of which may have passed you unnoticed), they perhaps lend themselves even more readily to allegorical interpretation, but it isn't my point in writing them.

Yours,
Alexei Panshin

P.S. I do appreciate the interest shown by the review.

I responded with a postcard saying essentially,

Dear Alexei,

So little SF is written on a specifically Christian theme (CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ stands out) that the Villiers series has to be discussed from that viewpoint. // Yes, I note the reference to Mithraism, earlier. // But the key to the Christian interpretation is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the tongues of fire/cones of light, and I can't believe that was unintentional.

Yours,
Michael Ward

Alexei responded with a letter,

Dear Mike,

You say "So little SF is on a specifically Christian theme...that Villiers series has to be discussed from that viewpoint." I agree on the first part--little SF is specifically Christian, or even concerned at all with religion. But the Villiers books are not "specifically Christian". The characters are not specifically Christian. The themes are not specifically Christian. The references are not specifically Christian.

As far as Biblical references go, the ones that occur to me as ones I have used are Old Testament rather than New. Dodd is a Christian historian. Daisy Bell Smetana was raised to be a Christian. But, as you say, there is a reference in STAR WELL to Mithraism. Smetana in ThR is a religious Jew. The Monists are religious, but not Christian. There are extensive quotations from THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS and the KAMA SUTRA. Claude the plonk is not a Christian style god--in fact he talks in the words of Deuteronomy and Micah, which may be a reflection of contact with Smetana.

But the direction of the Villiers books is not specifically Christian--not exclusively Christian. If it were, I would have limited myself to Christian references and made my parallels explicit. If I had meant to invoke the Holy Spirit--well, I think I do, though not as you suggest or in terms of Christian dogma--I would have used the words, or deliberately evoked them. Which I didn't do. If you want an explanation of the brighter light cone over Villiers' head, you might say that it was a reflection of the relatively greater interest of the company in him than in anyone else--this is certainly consistent with what is said in the book, as for instance on the top of page 86. And to be orthodox (ou) is not to be necessarily an orthodox Christian--wouldn't it be more reasonable to take it that Orthodoxos were named that because they love regulation?

All that I have said so far is that you are wrong, which may not be any particular help to you. I wish I could tell you exactly what I think I am doing and what everything means and how everything will turn out, but I don't feel myself able to. That's what the remaining four books are for. I don't want to give them away or undercut them--and to say adequately what I do have in mind will take the full four books. Still, quite a lot of it all should fall into place in the next book.

Be well,
Alexei Panshin

Further discussion, then. My first statement simply means that any work of science fiction that appears to have some Christian (or generally religious) theme should be discussed from the standpoint of its religious theme, and that this is doubly important because so little SF is written on either a Christian or a "religious" theme in the first place. In the case of MASQUE WORLD, a number of interesting facts seemed to fall into place when I looked at it as a Christian allegory. One point you did not make is that Christian themes so permeate our culture that any literary product of the culture is in great danger of becoming a Christian allegory, intentional or not.

Miller's CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ stands out because it asks why man insists on destroying himself, and implies that this is the meaning of Original Sin. The framework of an established church (the monastic Catholic church) is used more for historical reasons than for any reasons of doctrinal relevancy, and the person of the wandering Jew allows the author to make necessary comments from time to time on the world's progress

or lack of it. Blish's A CASE OF CONSCIENCE asks explicitly if Original Sin is confined to the race of Man (a question Catholic theologians were asking in the early post-Sputnik era) and if so, why. There is, of course, Blish's more recent BLACK EASTER, which investigates precisely that point of doctrinal difference that most noticeably separates liberal protestantism from modern catholicism, and does it badly.

While some of my conclusions may be based on a misreading of Panshin's intentions, he has not yet explained the evocation of the Holy Spirit, which I earlier called the key to a Christian interpretation of the novel. Further, the distinctions made between the Old Testament, and the Old plus New Testaments, are much less pronounced in MASQUE WORLD than Alexei implies in his letter. Slyne and McBe are described in the review as members of the Jewish theocratic establishment at the time of Christ, as Pharisee and as scribe, and I indeed took Slyne's Orthodox nature to an orthodoxy (lower case) in the rules and laws of his religion. The real nature of the Nashuite Empire remains somewhat vague, though what central governing body there is seems to be a British-style bureaucracy. Comparisons with the Roman Empire might be worth making, in addition. The government on Delbalso, however, has little, if any, similarity to the theocratic regime necessary for an extended allegory, and makes for one of the weak points in the argument. Yet Slyne's main concern is with the laws themselves, to a degree quite plainly religious (this is made clear in the first sections of the book), and although he might be a Canon lawyer, the temptation is overwhelming to bring him into line with the Christ motif and the Jewish state.

McBe is nearly as important a character as Slyne, but I have less to say about him. I place him in whatever convenient cubbyhole I can reach, and the post of a minor theocrat seems about right.

The grafting of the Greek Mysteries and Druidic teachings onto the Old Testament and the revelations of Christ and the Apostles was complete by the end of the first millenium AD (except in such isolated places as South and Central America, where the process of incorporation into the existing body of Indian religion is still going on today) and the anachronistic intermingling of Jewish, Christian, and Judeo-Christian concepts in one book should not cause too many raised eyebrows. Alexei himself alludes to this process in STAR WELL, with his discussion of the date of birth of Mithra.

Obviously, there's a lot more to be said on the questions pointed up in these discussions. To go further at this point, however, would be to try to anticipate the creative act, a procedure that is sometimes useful (see, for example, Mark Walsted's analysis of Jack Vance's Demon Princes stories in NIEKAS 18) but generally proves futile. The conclusion will have to wait for the next four books in the series, and I suspect, from the mail I've gotten on the review, that there will be several other people waiting for the books to come out.

PART 2: THE SNOW WOMEN and THE TWO BEST THIEVES

This is basically a discussion of another work in progress, and like the Villiers series, the stories of Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser are being published in paperback form for the first time. Unlike the Villiers stories, however, the Leiber series dates back in some cases to the late thirties, and Leiber has traced the origin of the series back even further, to a number of letters to a friend, written in the mid thirties.

Much of the popularity of the series, laid in the space-time universe of Newhon, can be traced to the companionship of the two dissimilar figures, Fafhrd the northern barbarian I with all that implied in the WEIRD TALES school of the thirties) and Grey Mouser, the small, silent deadly sneak-thief and gut-slicer.

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The Sword and Sorcery genre has for some time been under attack for its repressed homosexuality (or, in the case of certain amateur comic strips, its not-so-repressed homosexuality) and Leiber has previously chosen to deal with the problem by ignoring its existence. His two characters are "just good friends", and from time to time have whatever heterosexual experiences he can get published in the magazines. In "The Two Best Thieves of Lankhmar", however, he introduces homosexuality, female, to be sure.

The story is as follows: Our two heroes have just returned from a successful expedition, bringing with them the hard-won loot. They congratulate themselves on being the two best thieves in Lankhmar. As the story unfolds, however, each of our heroes is diddled out of his share of the proceeds by a wily woman, and towards the end of the story they are forced to set out on another task. The two women, we learn, are lesbian lovers, and it is they, we realize, who are the two best thieves in Lankhmar.

The symmetry is too perfect to be ignored. However, we might ignore the implications were it not for the most recent story, "The Snow Women" (Fantastic, April 1970. The earlier story was published in Fantastic for August 1968) in which we learn something about Fafhrd's childhood. We learn that he grew up in a strongly matriarchal society, where the strength of the men was emasculated by their fear of the women's magic. The fact that their magic is based on the use of cold in an arctic tribe, and Fafhrd's deep fear that his mother was responsible for the death of his father while climbing a mountain, combine to send Fafhrd south toward the warm lands and the cities.

Having been brought up in an emasculating society, he's certainly going to have some strange ideas about women. To be fair about it, Leiber draws him as a horny enough character, and one of the reasons he runs away is to get away from his wife-to-be and unborn child, finally running off with an exotic dancer from a troupe of traveling entertainers.

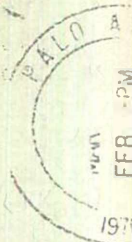
Again, we'll have to wait for further stories to find out for sure. We still know nothing of Grey Mouser (other than the slight references in the earlier stories) and we still haven't seen the two meet for the first time (though there is an obscure reference to a hedge wizard in "Snow Women"). The story is very good, by the way; read it, and write letters to Fritz Leiber asking for the rest of the series.

I'm sending a copy of this to Dr. Wertham. I hope he doesn't try to have FANTASTIC censored. Wonder if he's ever seen VIMPIRELLA...

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