

N°1

CONTACT

Dec 1972

THIRTEEN AT A TIME

Antwerp Feb 7
 Three intrepids from Antwerp and Ghent risked November fog and British traffic to make their way to Novacon II at Birmingham earlier this month. For one of them, it was more of a pilgrimage, meeting up again with several fans active in the fifties, who have managed to hold on to fame all this time, and were there to welcome him and make him feel at home in which they succeeded to such an extent that Jan Jansen promised to be back for Orpacou next Easter.

Signor Jankes and Andre De Rycke, accompanying fans, have expressed equal willingness to revisit British conventions.

Since you will undoubtedly find a full conreport in Checkpoint, enclosed with this magazine, may we express our thanks and appreciation to the convention committee who gave us the incentive to visit, and to spend a memorable weekend.

RAASVELD'S POLLY

Toboken Nov 15

Thinking to try and break the monopoly of Info-Span as locally Flemish fanzine in Belgium, or whether to draw other fan in the maze of Isaac, Julien Raasveld states that a second ish of THEEN EN WANDER will soon be forthcoming, containing the first part of fanhistorical writings or Belgian fanlore, along with other fanish, rather than pure SF/fantasy material. We have been unable to ascertain what kind of welcome the first issue received, if indeed it was not utterly ignored by said recipients. PARALLAX, Julien's regular fanzine switched to English language because of lack of local response, which seems to ring a bell, looking back 26 years. Parallax, on the other hand, was included in the mailing of PAPA (no, not pornographic) to new Belgian SFs, with a limit of 20 numbers, and published in three languages (so far). Only Julien knows whether the membership roll is complete or whether there is room for more.

GROWING UP

Antwerp Nov 9

Info-Span 20 (out already) has an article by Terry Jacew on space warfare (from arg), along with short stories from the yearly contest, like the usual features and book reviews. It is the club magazine of SEB, the Flemish fan organisation and contrary to what in particular may be had in trace. Just please pay our most and understated thanks. The editors must please I once fan learning the language. Best of all is the ability then to carry on a conversation with Ross.

MAKING ROOM FOR FANS

Goboken Feb 14

We don't know whether Birmingham is in any way responsible by offering foreign fans a chance to exorcise holding babies, but pleased that Ross, incited by requests to come along and have a good time, will for the first time break down and join a fangetting to be held in Ghent, november 25th.

This opens perspectives for future trips to other conventions. Read CONTACT for more details: Will Jansen be able to persuade me to edit the Journal? Will Ross give in to his depressing demands? Will support from will active honorary fans help to change our previous attitude to convention-visiting? to be continued

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THE PUBLISHER
 VIKS BILDERING

THIS PAGE FROM A
 DIFFERENT PUBLICATION

SECOND GENERATION
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 VIKS BILDERING

CHECKPOINT 27

18th November 1972

Checkpoint is a fortnightly news and reviews zine published by Peterborough, 87 West Loan Lane, Bristol, BS4 5LL, UK. Subs are 10/40p (2nd class & Europe) and 5/6p or 8/8p (foreign airmail). Sample copy free.

Agents: (USA) Charles & Dana Brown, 8400 Elmer St, San Francisco, Ca. 94116; (Aus) David Briggs, Box 102, Carleton South, Vic. 3058; (USA) Mick Shiers, 12 Garden Way, Northcliff 4, Johannesburg, Transvaal.

New this issue from: Gerald Bishop, Susan Clickmann, Barry Bell, Alan Jackson, Mick Shiers, and Keith Walker.

Contact 1 is a filler with this issue. Reprinted Press Pub. 71.

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ADVERTS BY TASSI I take note in Issue mentions that Len & June Woffatt have won this year's race for the Trans-Atlantic Pan Fund and will therefore attend the British Gamecon in Bristol next year. No further news is available at the moment, but contactable later anyway.

THE WITCHES RECENT ISSUE FROM THE WARD: (Gerald Bishop) "Trolling along a tube station the other day, my eye fell upon a poster: 'A new magazine of Speed & Screech, Horror & Gf'. Seeing that it was published by New English Library, and as I was heading in that direction anyway, I called in to find out more about it. Leaving with copies of the first two issues, I had no spare time on the journey and reading them.

"This issue is 22 pages long, on large format (10" x 9") good quality paper, with full colour plates throughout. Includes the adventures of Jolly, a Conan-type hero battling, among others, followed by Sir Leo, who does the same thing, in 19th century, and a serial in style, if comes from the world of Warner during volume 100 of Apocalypse, a German horror magazine from the 1930s, with a mainly historical story about a woman or other.

"It appears that this is an English version of a popular series, since it is printed in Spain and has Spanish copyright. The English editor and writer is Lawrence Sanders (aka's Si writer), and the artwork, according to the signatures, is by Arvid, de la, Seamus, and Mark etc.

"On the whole it's better than Belmont, more stimulating than Sideman, and more terrifying than The Hulk. As the poster says ISSUE - 15, from your comments or baskets."

AMERICA 2, BRITAIN 1: The first issue of Doc Pfohl's plush (and expensive) new prozine, Vortex, will be out in February; artwork by Barr, Austin, & Di Pace, interview of Bradbury, fiction by Carr, Harrison, Silverberg, Retalier, etc. // Marvel are financing a horror prozine (not a comic) edited by Gerry Conway - no title yet. (Locus 127)

BOOK NEWS FOR SF FOLKS: (A column from Gerald Bishop, noting recent sf books published in Britain):

NOVEMBER: Hardback: PBC: Landings (Dickinson & Lamplugh); Cape: Catholics (Moore), Devil Paddy (Blackburn); Faber: A Clash Of Civilisations (Bliss), Jack Of Shadows (Zelazny); Gollancz: Nebula Awards 7 (ed. Biggle), Spaceworld (Anderson); Hale: Thirteen O'Clock & Other Zero Hours (Korbutov, ed. Elish); Hodder: The Year Art (Lynington); S&J: The Art Of John D. Campbell, Voices (Adlard), One-Eyed Monsters (ed. Shectman); Stacey: Carnegie; The Great Finger (Anderson), Master of Villainy (Ash & Elizabeth Sax Rosner).

Paperback: Arrow: Creature Of Light & Darkness (Zelazny); Corbi: Star Trek I, II, & III (Bliss); Mayflower: The Space Factor (Corliss); The Dragon Masters (Vance); NEL: Quest For The Masters, The Human Masters (Van Vogt); Pan: The Preserving Machine (Dick); Panther: The Space-Time Journal (ed. Merril), Grey Legion (Smith), A Killing Thing (Wilhelm); Penguin: Faust Apeh Maul (Bliss), Aspen, Space Man (ed. Harrison & Stever); Spring: StarMaker, Last & First Man with Last Man In London (Stapledon), The Ordeal of Gilbert Pindick (Waugh), War Of The Worlds (Wells); Sphere: Little Red's Day (Story), SI Hall Of Fame I (ed. Silverberg - 2 volumes!); Tandem: Laraman, Monads, Priest-Kings Of Ger (German).

US Imports: Ballantine: The World's Desire (Haggard & Lang), Invader (MacDonald).

SFBC Selection: Interface (Adlard).

PAPERBACKS RECOMMEND: The paperback reprinting of Phil Dick novels in Britain is irritatingly haphazard; at least five different companies have published a variety of his books in no discernible order and most Dick fans buy the American paperbacks rather than wait for a delayed and by no means certain publication over here. Pan, however, have just brought out one of his best novels, The Galactic Pot-Healer, and I therefore recommend this if you haven't already bought the American version. Although The Long Migration of Palmer Eldritch remains, in my opinion, the best of Dick's works, The Galactic Pot-Healer with its complex layers of reality, its anarchist humour, and its sudden grotesqueries, should be placed dead near the top. The Preserving Machine (Pan - 35p) has also just appeared over here, it's a good collection of early Phil Dick stories (from 1952 to '60) - nothing famous or exceptional, but nonetheless recommended.

Less creditworthy than these Phil Dick books is Panther's first U.K. publication of Doc Smith's Laraman series; Grey Legion (Panther - 35p) is the latest in these abominable 'classics'. I found myself in fits of laughter throughout the first chapter - however, it soon wears off and becomes merely tedious. Doc Smith's hackwork should have been left in the mould. On the brighter side, there's a Judith Merril anthology, The Space-Time Journal (Panther - 30p), which surveys 'new wave' sf and is mostly culled from New Worlds. There are some fine stories inside - Salvador's 'You and me and the continuum' is outstanding and Lang Jones'

geographical areas. 'The World of the Magazines' is also exceptional. Other pieces by Adams, Keith Roberts, and Michael Butterworth are worth mentioning, though the balance is too made up with facile and rather insignificant oddments which pull the level down to the patchy and mediocre. It's still one of the best anthologies I've ever come across - (I'm just a bit of a piece and eternally disappointed with the breed in general.

Finally, there's a couple of horror books: The Mischief Reader (Pam - 30p) edited by Peteraining, is a selection of stories by some of the big names of SF (Sturgeon, Bradbury, and superb Bloch). Unsettling, though Keith Roberts' 'Timothy' appears within. The first Lovecraft collection, The Hunter of the Dark (Pam - 35p), has just been re-issued. If you like this writer, and for some reason I do, then this is a collection of some of his greatest stories, including 'The Dunwich Horror', 'The Outsider', 'The Hound in the Walls', 'The Call of Cthulhu', and so on. They're rather like gargoyles - fascinating, and almost amusing.

Peter Roberts.

JOHN CAMPBELL AWARD. (John Williamson) "The John Campbell Award for Best New Writer in the SF field has been announced by analog editor, Ken Bova. It will be sponsored by Comed West Publications Inc. in recognition of John Campbell's contributions to the SF field.

"Eligible for this award will be similar to those used for the Hugo Awards. Writers eligible for the 1973 award must have had their first story published no later than 1971. Any member of LACON or TORCON will be able to make nominations for the 1973 award, but only members of TORCON will be eligible to vote. Nominations forms will be mailed with TORCON Progress Report 3, and voting ballots with PR 4. The award will be presented at the 1973 Hugo Awards banquet.

"TORCON's British agent is Peter Warton, 31 Linwell Av, Birmingham, B20 1LJ - contact him for membership information. Memberships are £1.20 or 90p (Conciliar) supporting, after December 1st."

SAFARI SF ZINE: (Rick O'Connell) "SAFARI is born! The first South African zine will have its first mailing in January and an English one will have to get on the ground floor (there's a limited roster) should write to me at address in colophon and say so immediately. To make sure, I suggest they release their six month's membership fee (50p) - mailings will be monthly, with a required minimum of three pages every three months. Contributions to the first mailing should be on a4 paper, 22 copies, to arrive by January 15th. Postmailings will not be recognized and each mailing will be stapled together as a booklet.

"The SPSA Short Story Competition, judged by writer & broadcaster, Michael McCabe, has all its prizes won by non-members... And McCabe described the standards as disappointingly low. Bam."

RANDOM NOVELISTS: Brian Temple, 76 Blandford Rd, Chirton Grange, Kershaw, Leeds, West-riding, LE6S 8LX.

Keith J. Hill, Burnley School of Nursing, Burnley General Hosp., Lancs. New Road, Burnley, BB10 1PQ, Lancs.

Andrew Strachan, 1010 Pro Bank, Mount Eden, Hill Wycombe, Bucks.

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Last issue if crossed or marked 'S' (sample). A number indicates the issue to which you have paid up.

REPAIRS: It hardly needed a microscope to detect the crudiness of last issue's duplicating. After wasting two evenings and a whole lot of paper, I armed myself with a screwdriver and spent a messy Sunday in search of the trouble, the result was the painful cranking out of a sub-standard Checkpoint and a subsequent trip to Gostetners to replace a 14 bottom roller. Judging by Contact, this seems to have solved the problem, though I may be speaking too soon. This meant not only delayed the last issue, but also the previous one, since they were to be posted together straight after Novacon. Heigh-ho - all is well now, I hope...

SOCIOSCOPIC PANDORA: (news from the North-East from a letter from Harry Bell) "Pandora's box as such is a very loose association; indeed, I'm not sure what really holds it together at The Gannet. There was some talk a while ago of moving a) to someone's house or b) to another pub. Gannetians are not particularly fanatical, as a matter of fact - more social. Pandora itself gets discussed more on a Friday night in Newcastle in a pub called The Post Office - Ian Mule, Brian Temple, Henry Pigeon, Robert Jackson, and so mainly; kind of neo-education night, but not a substitute for Gannetfraden, more a supplement.

"Ian Williams is now supposed to be producing a personal line of his own (about 1000) and Ian Mule, of course, is bringing out Mule's Mail and has applied to join Gannetians with it. Even Gravel will be fully in the picture next night."

WILD TALES: Jan Baker mentions that Mike Macdonald turned up on the last night of the Novacon. // Keith Walker was the recipient of the BSA's Wildlife Foundation; after the whole sale auctioning, all at Chester there is, says Keith, "various little bits." // Phil, Paine, Longwood, 15 Silchester Ln, Epsom, Surrey, is the new UK Agent for the sub-dominant Int, Granfalloon.

THE EDITOR - News next issue

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CHECKOUT BY 27

From

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ARE YOU ON THE NEWVOTERS LISTS?

