MEMORY HOLE -- A BRIEF OUTLINE

FANZINES FOR THE FUTURE

The Catalog, September 1996 (big! over 300k)
About the Catalog
E-mail Memory Hole

The **Memory Hole** project began in 1994 to recover unwanted or dormant fanzine collections and redistribute them both to new fanzine readers and to established fans and collectors looking for additions to their active collections.

Far too many fanzines have been irretrievably lost or thrown away, and that's not counting those locked into actual living collections. Probably 75% of the average fanzine's printrun vanishes -- a lot when one considers printruns of only 150-odd copies. And it's a damned peculiar thing that fans, in general collectors and usually aghast at the idea of throwing away any book, especially a rare first edition, often treat fanzines so cavalierly. Some suggest that this is because fanzines are produced for Love rather than Money, given away rather than sold (or if sold, usually at token -- less than cost -- price), and thus don't have the 'value' of, say a first-edition PK Dick novel. This might be right, but is no excuse. Each fanzine, whatever its individual merits (some are genuinely brilliant, and some simply devalue the paper they're printed on) is a potentially rare first edition, and perhaps might be valued more in time to come than it is today. And that value, I submit, is not and should not be financial -- fanzines are produced for Love, and they represent the living culture and history of sf fandom, and should always be passed on freely to anyone who wants genuinely wants them.

It was with those ideas in mind that **Memory Hole** was begun. Since then the project has had a great deal of success. Substantial collections have been passed on by, for example, Walt Willis, and by Beryl Bentcliffe (widow of Eric) and smaller amounts come in from fans who aren't collectors, or collectors weeding their files of duplicates. A considerable amount of material comes from, and goes to, the US, Canada and Australia.

Memory Hole is keen to gather in any unwanted science fiction fanzines (not gaming fanzines, please note, nor single-topic media-based fanzines) from your shed, your attic, from under your bed, the top of your wardrobe. We'll arrange to come and pick up large collections, and will certainly repay any shipping charges as required if you are able to package and mail smaller quantities.

Memory Hole makes no charge whatever for its services (Trading in fanzines is Low and for Worms!) but we do shamelessly accept donations which help to cover the various costs involved, and we certainly do require that those asking for either random bundle or specific issues send money to cover postage. MH may be a public service but it isn't rich!.

Memory Hole also maintains a permanent fanzine collection. This began, based around my own personal collection, when I realised that in the event of a disaster (fire, flood, meteorite) occurring to Vince Clarke's home (site of the only other established fanzine library) there would be no substantial collection of fanzines left anywhere in Western Europe. So the idea of a 'Second Foundation' seemed sensible verging on vital. The 'permacollection' presently contains around 11,000 fanzines -- about 2000 different titles, covering the period from 1934 right up to last week. The collection has been logged on a database and the current version of the bibliographic catalog is now available on request

(free on disc, on paper by arrangement).

The **Memory Hole** permacollection has strong links with both Vince Clarke's Fanlibrary and the SF Foundation at Liverpool. **Memory Hole** provides material to fill their deficiencies, and absorbs their unwanted material for the recycling side of the Memory Hole project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION --

GREG PICKERSGILL / MEMORY HOLE
3 BETHANY ROW
NARBERTH ROAD
HAVERFORDWEST
PEMBROKESHIRE
SA61 2XG
UK

phone 01437-769671
email MH@gostak.demon.co.uk

THE MEMORY HOLE PERMACOLLECTION CATALOG

Version 1 -- September 1996

This is the first edition of the **Memory Hole** Permacollection catalog. It is a straightforward listing of all fanzines held as of September 1996, in the format used for the British Fanzine Bibliography by Peter Roberts and, latterly, Vince Clarke. That format of course is closely allied to that used by RD Swisher and Evans/Pavlat for their groundbreaking works covering the world's fanzines up to 1952.

The emphasis throughout has been on providing identification details of what titles and issues actually exist -- the most important parts of each listing are the title, issue number, and date. To a certain extent all other information entries have been simplified -- so please note as appropriate.

Please note that this catalog represent only what was in the MH permacollection as of September 1996 -- the intention is to issue a listing at least annually, preferably six monthly.

All these fanzines here listed actually exist.

The first three lines are the **TITLE, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, and EDITOR.**

In any given fanzine the **Title** is usually selfevident, and changes of title are indicated in the listing. The **Country of Origin** is usually simple too, though in this catalog no change is indicated for the very few instances where a fanzine has been produced in more than one country during its run; the 'original' country is the one cited in every case. The abbreviations are standard -- UK = the British Isles in general, EUR = any country in Continental Europe, USA = the USA, CAN = Canada, and AUS = Australasia, covering both Australia and New Zealand. There is also WI = the West Indies, and SA = South Africa.

The **Editor** listed is almost always the editor(s) of the fanzine from its inception to cessation, but some changes of editor are shown by a ' / ' rather than the ' & ' used for co-editors. However, for the sake of simplicity in this first edition of the MH catalog not all changes of editor are shown, and usually (E&OE) both the original editor, and in the case of a change, the subsequent editor most closely associated with the fanzine are listed.

The data for each individial issue is presented in up to six columns -- **Issue Number, Date, Format, Size, Pagecount,** and **Note.**

Issue Number -- the first column, is straightforward. The only departures from a simple 1,2,3,4 -- listing are un-numbered issues (obvious) and Volume/Issue numbers, which are shown as ' 2.3 ' for example, the number before the dot being the Volume, the one after the Issue number within the volume. Occasionally you will see entries in the **Note** column reminding you of this.

Dates are given as Month/Year or Season/Year. In the case of issues where more than one month is cited in the colophon (ie Jan/Feb 1995) the first month given is the one listed. In terms of Season, you will find WINter, SUMmer, SPRing, FALl, and AUTumn, and also EASter.

When no Month or Season is apparent in dating the date entry will show simply ' /56 ', for example.

There are of course many undated fanzines that can't be readily pinned down even by reference to other fanzine listings. Usually the closest we can get is to a whole decade, so there are a lot of Date entries showing something like ' /6? ', which shows that the fanzine in question was produced during the Sixties, but with no readily identifiable year. In this version of the catalog I have chosen to leave this element of uncertainty rather than make potentially confusing guesses!

Format -- the third column. The abbreviations here are standard --

- **m** -- mimeograph
- **h** -- ditto, hekto, spirit duplication in all forms
- **L** -- lithography
- **P** -- printed
- **x** -- xerox, photocopied

In every case only one of these options is given. Where more than one method of reproduction has been used (for example mimeo and ditto, or mimeo and litho, or even more than two) the predominant method has been given as the format -- the essential reason for this is to enable the entry to work as a quick identification guide, an assist to properly understanding which issue is which.

Size -- this has been drastically simplified in some cases. It has been assumed that exact size-definition is not important, and that a rough guide is all that is required to make a satisfactory identification.

- **Q** is British Quarto, the once-standard 8 inch by 10 inch page size.
- **AQ** is standard American 8 and a half by 11 paper
- **A4** is the standard metric 8 and one quarter by 11 and one half inch paper
- **A5** (metric 5 and threequarters x 8 and one quarter) and A6 (2 and a half by 4) are used both to identify more recent fanzines of exactly those sizes, and also to provide a rough ID guide to many older fanzines that used unusual small page sizes. In most cases predating 1970 these size guides should not be taken literally, simply as an indication of the size of the fanzines as relative to, say, Quarto or A4.

Page Count -- in almost all cases pagenount has been verified by actual counting -- including, please note, the covers as four pages; ie a fanzine with unnumbered outside cover pages and an internal pagecount of 40 will be listed as 44 pages. As these pagecounts have been verified by hand, so to speak, they sometimes differ from previous listings.

Notes -- these include Changes of Title, mentions of Volume/Issue numbering, some changes of

Editor, amalgamations and so on. In this version of the MH catalog they've been kept to a minimum, but the intention is to expand the Notes later into a more fully descriptive and inclusive form.

COMPUTER STUFF

This catalog is presented in two forms -- as OTTER.DOC, a Winword-processing document, and TINT.TXT, a simple text file. You should be able to load and run one or the other into any wp application.

Note from web assistant: the on-line versions of these are:

- <u>OTTER.ZIP</u> (141k), a PKZIP-compressed archive of the Word document OTTER.DOC.
- <u>TINT.TXT</u> (306k), ASCII text as described above.

(NB -- we have noticed an irritating tendency for copied versions of the TINT.TXT file to shuffle the columns of the 'Issue' information one step to the left. This happens particularly when there is no Issue Number entry, or when the Date entry is less than five characters (ie ' /56 ' instead of, for example, ' JAN/56 '). Frankly, we don't know how to step this at present, its probably obvious but ... . However, you can easily push the columns back into alignment by putting your cursor immediately to the left of the first misplaced column and tabbing once or at most twice until everything lines up. This is tedious, but only has to be done once, as the error does not recur until the file is copied again. Fixing this is essential if you want to print a copy that is easily readable! Sorry!)

The Permacollection catalog is presently on a **Paradox** database. If you would like copies of the Paradox tables (which can also be supplied as **Access** tables) along with a copy of the appropriate data-entry form, please contact MH at the usual address.

Please note -- none of this information is 'copyright' in any sense. Please copy, loan, or otherwise distribute it as you see fit, as computer data or printed paper. All MH asks is a credit, clearly visible, and the inclusion of the **Memory Hole** contact address in every case. <u>Greg Pickersgill.</u>