



Shagrath

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Published for the Cult and others by:

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This typewriter seems to have done something to the SHAGRAT spacing arrangements. It'll be interesting to see where all this prints.

Χαίρε

Haven't gotten together enough energy for Cultac for the past six weeks and it doesn't look as if things will improve too much before Xmas. It's not that I find it at all dull, quite the contrary ---- I just don't want to get involved!

Reviews and Comments

Dick Lupoff: His first novel, *One Million Centuries*, is now on the stands in various odd and assorted places. I say this because I had bought it, read it, and sent him a letter of comment before it was out in New York City. Locally, so far, it has only appeared in the smaller places ---- about the same distribution that Lancer's Conan books and *King Kull* had; but other Lancer books have been in the big department stores!!!??? ¶ The book is high adventure with the addition of a well-developed plot and realistic characters. The device of introducing a current day American to an alien culture has been often used, by Burroughs and others; but as this type of 'frame' for a story presents an infinite number of character and cultural interplay-possibilities, its use seems likely to continue in favor for both author and reader. Lupoff's use of a Negro hero is perhaps the first time a modern-American Negro *has* been the lead character in a major science fiction novel. The cover painting is one of Jack Gaughn's best; the bacover blurb is, well, misleading.

Robert Graves: *Collected Poems 1966* is out in paperback [Doubleday Anchor, \$1.75]. This represents Graves' latest culling out of the older poems and the addition of selected newer poems from the years 1960 through 1966. My only complaint is the dropping of "The Worms of History" ["On the eighth day God died; -."]. Also out in recent months is *Hebrew Myths: The Book of Genesis* [McGraw-Hill Paperbacks, \$2.75] by Robert Graves and Raphael Patai. Presentation and organization of the material follows Graves' earlier *The Greek Myths*. Sources include various versions of *The Bible*, both canonical and apocryphal, material from The Dead Sea Scrolls, a host of *midrashim* [Jewish commentaries and explanatory notes on the Scriptures], and comparative material from other mythologies: Greek, Roman, Irish, Arab, and others.

Agent 0008: 17. *The Sin Funnel*

This is the first Clyde Allison book out since last May, or thereabouts, at least under his own (?) name. This one is a pretty neat burlesque of time travel

story as well as the usual takeoff on the sex novel. The incidental background this time includes "Take The Last Train To Clarksville" ---- yes, the Monkees' song. I am beginning to think this guy is a fairly good writer. ¶ *Gorgonzola, Won't You Please Come Home?* [Lancer, \$.60] by "Clyde Ames" is almost certainly by Allison. I was told that this was to be the start of a series, but have no evidence thereof at this point.

Captain Hornblower: C.S. Forester's *Hornblower During the Crisis* is out in hardcover [Little, Brown & Co., \$4.95]. This includes the title story, a partially completed Hornblower novel printed earlier in *The Saturday Evening Post*, and two short stories ---- "Hornblower's Temptation" and "The Last Encounter". "Encounter" was previously published, in *Argosy* I think, but I had not read "Temptation" before. The unfinished novel is, to put it mildly, somewhat frustrating. "The Last Encounter" does well enough for a windup to the Hornblower saga. "Hornblower's Temptation" is a typical adventure. The events here are referred to in *Hornblower and The Hotspur*. I could have wished that the stories were in chronological sequence but the publishers chose not to and that's that. I still think I remember reading that Forester had written the story of Hornblower's death and laid it aside to be published after his own death.

Various other items of interest from the current reading pile include the Berkley paperback of Jack Vance' *The Palace of Love*. This is the third, of five hopefully, in his Demon Prince series. The book has been expanded from the magazine version, at least as I remember it [the issues of *Galaxy* involved being lost in the Morass of The Great Unfiled]. Some of Navarth's poems are included here including a neat take-off on William Dunbar (late 15th Century), "Tim R. Mortiss". The original, "Lament for the Makaris: quhen he was seik", is used as a dirge for King Gorice XI in *The Horn Ouroboros*. ¶ *Lawrence Durrell & Henry Miller: A Private Correspondence*, edited by George Wickes, has been most enjoyable. I had been familiar with Durrell through his *Alexandria Quartet* and therefrom to his other works, but had never developed much of an interest in Miller. I think I'll probably be re-reading Durrell and reading some of Miller's stuff now. ¶ Poul Anderson's *Ensign Flandry* is out in paperback by Lancer. Enjoyable! The blurb compares Flandry to Hornblower but I'll have to meditate on that one. A side note: this book, published by Lancer as was Lupoff's, has appeared only in the biggest local bookstore!! ¶ Ace has brought out Leigh Brackett's *The Coming of The Terrans*. I was going to say that the short stories collected here go back to the Good Old Days but note that two of the five were written in the '60s. The stories are introduced with a chronology giving their dates. Those interested might want to hunt up a recent (?) issue of Peter Ogden's ERBANIA which had an article on the early Brackett tales. ¶ Anne McCaffrey's rather interesting saga of Pern is continued with "Dragonrider", a two-part serial beginning in the December *Analog*. I think this is the second story. Would appreciate correction if I am wrong.

The Jefferson Airplane appeared in Rochester a couple of weeks back. Hearing them was quite an experience. I'm not sure I'd really recommend third row seats as the sound from there was rather overwhelming. I found the concert enjoyable not only from the aesthetic point of view but also from the technical interest of watching how they get some of the effects. I'm not going to say I got high from all this because some of the purists would object, but ¶ Last Saturday we got Buffy Sainte-Marie, first time I've seen her in person. A most beautiful performance. I found her stage personality much warmer than I would have expected. The audience loved her. The local critic, who didn't know quite what to make of The Jefferson Airplane, didn't even bother to cover this one. ¶ Remind's me: has anyone heard a TV singing commercial for Log Cabin maple syrup? A friend of mine and I both decided that it must be Pete Seeger, unlikely though this sounds.

Locally, the electioneering is getting somewhat fierce. It's apparently a rather important election, but I don't think I've ever heard (and seen) so much political ad-



JEFFERSON AIRPLANE

vertising in an off year election; and maybe not even in a Presidential one. ¶ This page marks the restart of typing after some 10 days of problems and dawdling. The election results seemed generally Good, the people of Boston have more sense than I gave them credit for (I can remember the Curley era, you see).

Also since I started this, well ---- it's a cliffhanger now for sure, Sherry and I drove down to the Phillycon, driving expenses courtesy of a job interview I was foresighted enough to setup. It was a rather good con, though the speakers weren't too particular about sticking to the "Space Flight" theme of the conference. I got to the Friday night PSFS meeting and in general met all sorts of old friends. Haven't caught up on my sleep yet.

Tolkien: *The Road Goes Ever On: a song cycle* with words by J.R.R. Tolkien and music by Donald Swan is out. The book [\$3.95 by Houghton Mifflin] is most attractive. In addition to the songs themselves, there is a wealth of the Elvish script, and notes on the songs and histories by Professor Tolkien. It is a little disappointing that two of the seven settings duplicate (unauthorized, of course) work done by fans. [I should say at least two----] ¶ A companion to the book is the record, *Poems And Songs of Middle Earth* [Caedmon TC 1231, \$5.95] with Professor Tolkien reading poems from *Tom Bombadil* and William Elvin singing the songs from *The Road Goes Ever On*. I've got the record on order, but haven't seen it yet. ¶ The book is definitely a neat package and well worth the price. I would like to defer commenting on the musical settings until I have heard the record. ¶ Also in the record line is Chuck Rein's 45 RPM of "In Western Lands" and his own "Oh, The Planets We've Seen". Available at \$1.10 from Fantasy Record Co., 1011 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, Md. (and apparently at \$.89 if you can see any of the principles in person.) A very nice sound from Chuck, although some of the enthusiasm heard at fan party singing may be missing.

Cultic Comments

HOT AXE NO. 3 (d/o 203.267) {Rogers} [With HOW WE WON {Donaho} as a rider]: I found these two rather informative. There has been enough derogatory remarks made about the Baycon bid, inside the Cult and out, that some kind of answer was warranted. The objections seem to reflect the same kind of provincialism that objected to bringing European (and other non-North American) bidders in under the Rotation Plan. In this case, dirty neos, dirty Easterners, and dirty fandom-as-a-whole all ganged up to screw up the bidding. Ha!

CULT PSYCHOTIC (FR 204) {Geis}

Geis: Can't imagine what you didn't like about the IBM Selectric. I've been sort of waiting to get one for the last four years or more. Of course, compared to the 40-year old mother I was using, anything would look good; but in addition to that, it adds a certain flavor to pubbing. ¶ Keep your artist!

Scithers: Oddly enough, the Post Office is being fairly nice to me recently. After, mislaying *Wright's* FR, the next two arrived on Wednesday, two days after they were pubbed. I thought the increase in mail rates was to pay for more nosy inspectors! ¶ Being as it's mentioned in this here 'zine; let me come on in favor of applicants to the iwl having artwork published instead of a letter. It seems to me that one takes just about as much time and shows just about the same amount of interest as the other. Besides which, artwork brightens up Cultzines and perpetrators of same should be encouraged. Also, I sort of think it's unfair that letter-writers get credit whether or not their efforts are published, while artists do not.

Snider: The recent Supreme Court decisions should not only protect the right of individuals, but should discourage the police from picking up the first unsavoury looking individual they can lay their hands on, beating a confession out of him, and marking the case "Closed". I believe the New York City police had gotten a "confession" out of a suspect in the rape-murders of the Wiley girl and her roommate, only to find out that the guy was innocent. ¶ Of course it is easy to pick up specific cases where a guilty man was released on the public "on a technicality". However, is it the fault of the Supreme Court for introducing technicalities, or the fault of the police for deciding not to bother about them? I don't see any reason why the police shouldn't have to obey the law just like the rest of us.

Wright: I finally did get to hear the Doors' "The End". It is impressive, although not as much as some others I've heard; I'm thinking of Dylan in particular. One problem I have is that as I hear most of my r&r for the first time on rather lo-fi equipment (car radios and such), I tend to get the most out of the musical end of the arrangement rather than the words. As a side note: Sherry and I heard "The End" on an AM r&r station, but the damned disk jockey was in a playful mood and had decided to intersperse another record through the whole playing!!! ¶ Have you listened to The Herds' "From The Underworld"? I was rather impressed with this one.

Tapscott: Obviously, anybody who has to ask how to get into the Cult should be told to write his letter, but as long as the waiver exists, recent Cultists in particular are going to think they are well known enough to get in under it. As long as the waiver exists, I think we're stuck with notifying people who didn't make it under that clause. The situation is even worse when the applicant writes his letter to a mini-pubbing FReditor who doesn't publish it. After this happened to me, I went for some months wondering when someone was going to object, as I really don't think I am a well known fan.

MUSKY 1 (FR 205) {Crayne}

Dian: I never did find out what the Infamous Hannifen Cult Fractional was. You got some nice effects with the artwork-on-mat. Haven't even seen a mat for about eight years; I used to design forms on them.

Hulan: By all means give us a ring when you're in Rochester. Who do you visit here, Bausch & Lomb? I probably did overdo the different type faces; but I always have been given to a rather free use of underlining and nobody ever complained before I replaced the underlines with italics. But where would a Victorian lady get the italics to use?

Donaho: Things can't be all that dead for Labor Day weekends judging from the number of Worldcons I've been to that had some sort of non-fan gathering to plague us. However, you're no doubt right in principle.

Seithers: Your memory is failing you. Back in VERIFAXED VILLIFICATION you asked if I would care to join you in a petition reinstating Metcalf. I don't deny your right to change your mind, but this doesn't make your former offer non-existent. My (Crayne's) ammendment was written to cover protested waivers, not special correspondence requirements or notices of expulsion. It *does* permit notice by f/r, and I'm not all that much in favour of notification by private letter or postcard. At any rate, I'm still in favour of it.

Katz: Hello again and welcome to the Greater Upstate New York Metropolitan Area (Gaaah!) We'll give you a ring when next we make Buffalo. Have you discovered The Cedars of Lebanon yet? Or perhaps you don't like Middle Eastern food.

Nelson: I still tend to think of Diplomacy fandom as an offshoot of sf fandom. Just for the hell of it, I sent SHAGRAT #Ψ and HYBORIAN TIMES through our two Diplomacy games and got back a couple of "sorry but I'm not a sf fan" responses. On the other hand, I did pick up a couple of subs for HYBORIAN TIMES which was the main idea anyhow. ¶ I had already dug back through my Cultish files, specifically to FR 202 (to which you addressed your comment) and it (and you) still don't make to much sense.

Rogers: Thanks again for answering my questions (in HOT AXE NO.3) before they were asked (in CULT PSYCHOTIC). It seems as if there is some kind of move for regional autonomy in the bidding (Though nobody has phrased it quite this way). How would it be if, every fourth year, the West Coast Worldcon was voted on at the Westcon 15 months before (with similar arrangements made for the other Regions of course). I don't really favour this idea myself, but it seems worthwhile discussing as long as so many other proposals are in the wind. At any rate, I'll be at the Baycon if I can possibly make it.

Jacobs: A couple of years ago we had a rock group around here who called themselves The Holy Therns. I was rather fascinated by it all but never got to talk to any of the members. I nevr heard them, only saw the name on posters.

Geis: Well, the only alternate to shooting fleeing suspects is letting the fast ones get away. Also, where there are two fleeing suspects, the cop can't chase them in two different directions. I would think that driving around in a stolen car was a pretty solid reason to be stopped and questioned. What's your suggestion, open season for stealing cars?

Wright: Yes, but I didn't mention either "hoax" or "Tapscott" in SHAGRAT #Ψ. Is it

My fault you draw these wierd conclusions? You're not real, are you? ¶ As far as the Metcalf Reinstatement Petition is concerned, if he had been interested, it would have saved some time. As he isn't, nobody will vote for it (or even cosign it) so there's no harm done. We all have our bags; I propose Petitions while you doubt existences. ¶ I'll probably pick up the Doors' *Strange Days* eventually. I'm a little behind in my record buying right now.

REARIS ON THE INS & OUTS (f/r 204.3908) {Fitch}

It looks like you're a bit too late to meet *Margaret* this trip. She has left The Hill for Rochester; a move I really can't understand, especially at this cold time of the year. No, not all of the interesting stuff came from Covina; we're still well supplied here.

CELE RED DEVIL (f/r 205¹/₃) {Scithers}

In addition to my obvious Yes vote for the Crayne-Heap ammendment, I vote No on the Wright-Patten-Eklund petition deleting the waiver altogether and Yes on the OAFish change to Art III para 3 (h). Hopefully, I will repeat all this in a letter to *Fitch* (FR 207), but there's no telling about my lactivity.

FINIAL EVIAL

Well, I've run out of comments on the Cult. Here's a few more items that have come up since I started. ¶ Lin Carter's *Thongor Against The Gods* (third of this series) is out; by Paperback Library this time. ¶ *The Truthful Harp*, the second of the two younger children's books preceding Lloyd Alexander's Taran series was published last month [Holt, Rinehart, and Winston - \$3.50]. ¶ Fans of the late TV series, "The Avengers", might like *THE RIGGER DIGGER*; available for 40¢ (loc, trade, or contribution) from Richard Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit, Mich., 48234. Among the other interesting items is the one concerning "Avengers" films on hand at the network. It seems likely that they may be back again this Winter, as a replacement for one of the poorer shows!!!

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