

DLIEN

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine - - - - - 5th July, 1973 Issue (#99)
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller - - - - - 25¢ per copy, 10/\$2.00

In This Issue --

IN THIS ISSUE; IN BRIEF (misc. notes/comments); COLOPHON pg 1
 MAGAZINARAMA: VERTEX 8/73, WEIRD TALES F/73; contents: of W.T. W/73 ... pg 2
 DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER: Reviews of May '73 Prozines, by
 Richard Delap (ANALOG, F&SF, GALAXY) pp 3-6
 ON THE MOVE: Changes-of-address pg 6
 THE AMATEUR PRESS: U.S. Fanzines Received pp 7,8
 MYRKEWOOD'S SECOND SPRING TOURNAMENT: Report, by Wilhelm of Bothnia .. pp 9,10
 THE MYSTERY NOOK: Book Review, by George Fergus (The XYY Man, and The
 Concrete Boot, by Kenneth Royce); Gleanings from the Press (Book
 Reviews) pg 10

In Brief --

TWJ Status Report: Good news, for a change--the missing stencils for TWJ #82 have turned up! (The doorbell rang last night, and when we answered it we found no one there--but the package of stencils was leaning against the wall. Whoever it was who returned them, we thank you....) So, as soon as Alexis returns from his vacation in August, we'll give them to him for the artwork--and as soon as he returns them and Bob Pavlat returns the pages from the 20 stencils we're giving him to run off at the 20 July WSFA meeting, #82 will be in business! It may even beat #80.... (Now, we hope Brian Burley will drop the other shoe by delivering the completed #80 some time soon.) We feel good enough right now that there may even be a #83 some day....

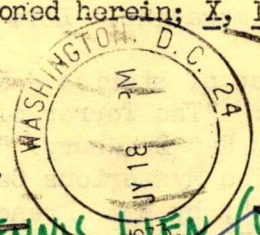
Changed our mind re #100, and decided to make it a little bit special, anyway--it has been typed, and is a "general" issue, with a fine Gilliland article ('tho it's not about SF), a lettercolumn, book review section, and mystery section. The second catch-up issue will have to wait until #101 or later.

We have several boxes full of duplicates for sale--fanzines, books (hard and soft), pulps, digest-size prozines, mystery, occult, etc.--including lots of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS from the '20's and other odds and ends. And we may soon start selling some of our first-string collection (whole thing is still for sale for \$5,000--and we still have 15-20 10-ream boxes full of fanzines for 3¢ per fanzine if you buy the lot (thrown in if you buy the prozines for \$5,000....). If you want to buy the duplicates or look at the other stuff, write or call (301-933-5417) for appointment.

We also have a pile of trivia (flyers, etc.) which you can have for \$1 / postage. We need the space.... (Lots of TWJ and SOTWJ back-issues still for sale, cheap.)

SOTWJ is at least bi-weekly; subs: 25¢ (10p) ea., 10/\$2 (UK: 10/80p) or multiples thereof; all subs incl. any issue(s) of THE WSFA JOURNAL (at least thru #82) pubbed during sub (count as 2 or more ish on sub., dep. on length). For info on airmail, "Collector's" (3d-class) subs, ads, Overseas Agents (list in #95), etc., write ed. For Address Code meaning, see #95 (but note that K, Something of Yours Mentioned/Reviewed herein; N, You are mentioned herein; X, Last issue you'll receive, unless....

TWJ/SOTWJ
 % D. Miller
 12315 Judson Road
 Wheaton, Maryland
 U.S.A. 20906



TO: JENNIS LIEN (D412)
 1102 E. 24th St - down
 Minneapolis, MN 55404
 2408 So DuPont
 55405 apt I

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

423P

This revived feature will include only descriptions of new and non-subscription Prozines, the "tried-and-true" magazines (ANALOG, F&SF, GALAXY, IF, AMAZING and FANTASTIC) already receiving adequate coverage elsewhere (and already being subscribed to by most SF fans with any interest in this column).

VERTEX MAGAZINE -- August, 1973 (Vol. I, No. 3) (Mankind Pub. Co., 8060 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; edited by Lawrence Neal (change from Donald Pfiel); bi-monthly; "slick", 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 11"; \$1.50 ea., \$6/yr. (Canada, \$7; overseas, \$8)) -- 100 pp., incl. covers (wraparound cover illo by Tom Newsom); illos by Jack Gaughan, Tom Newsom, Alicia Austin, Tim Kirk, Jon Dahlstrom, Monte Rogers, and a couple of uncredited artists. Editorial; Novelette: "All the Bridges Rusting", by Larry Niven; Other Fiction: "Experiment", by William Carlson; "Future Perfect", by A.E. van Vogt; "Confrontation", by Herman Wrede"; "2001 $\frac{1}{2}$ --A Spaced Oddity", by F.M. Busby; "Weed of Time", by Norman Spinrad"; "Adamant Eve", by Charles Fritch; "Brave Arms, Strong Arms", by Greg Joy; "The Victim", by Scott Edelstein; "Alas, Poor Tidy Toidy Girl", by Rachael Payes; Feature Articles: "Weightlessness", by Gregory Benford; "The Apollo/Soyuz Mission", by Igor Bohassian; "Black Hole Mines in the Asteroid Belt", by Jerry Pournelle; Other Features: "An Interview with Poul Anderson", by Paul Turner; "Moment in History" (Crab Nebula); "News and Reviews" (lots of short news items (science & technology), 15 short book reviews); "Science Fiction Art Gallery: The Art of Josh Kirby" (art folio). ## Like its predecessors, impressive in appearance (we'll leave it up to Delap to review the fiction in his column); however, we have one strong complaint: we received a defective issue (we subscribe), with page 81 blank, page 21 illegible, and the printing bad on several other pages. We're going to try to obtain a replacement copy; will let you know the results. (The only prozine from which we've failed to receive a response when we wrote requesting a replacement for a missing or damaged issue was ANALOG.)

WEIRD TALES -- Fall, 1973 (Vol. 47, No. 2) (Weird Tales, 8230 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048; Publisher, Leo Marguiles; Editor, Sam Moskowitz; quarterly; "pulp", 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "; 75¢ ea.) -- 96 pp. / covers; cover by Hannes Bok; illos not credited; Fiction: "Eloi Eloi Lama Sabachthani", by William Hope Hodgson (repr. NASH'S WEEKLY, 17/9/19, as "The Baumoff Explosion"); "The Clash of Dishes", by Ian Maclaren (repr. THE WINDSOR MAGAZINE, 5/03); "Eternal Rediffusion", by Eric Frank Russell & Leslie J. Johnson; "Sword in the Snow", by E.C. Tubb; "Funeral in Another Town", by Jerry Jacobson; "The Man in the Bottle", by Gustav Meyrink (repr. The Lock and Key Library, ed. Julian Hawthorne, 1912); "The Smiling People", by Ray Bradbury (repr. WEIRD TALES, 5/46); "The Man on the Ground", by Robert E. Howard (repr. WEIRD TALES, 7/33); "The Utmost Abomination", by Clark Ashton Smith & Lin Carter; "The Buried Paradise", by Felix Marti-Ibanez, M.D.; "The Fate of the 'Senegambian Queen'", by Wardon Allan Curtis (repr. THE BLACK CAT, 11/00); Verse: "Atlantis", by Stanton A. Coblenz; "Song for Wood Horns", by A. Merritt; "Great Ashtoreth", by Frank Belknap Long; Misc. Features/Articles: Editorial: "Reaching Our Audience"; "Supernatural Horror in Literature", by H.P. Lovecraft ("The Unpublished 1936 Condensed Final Revision"; Introd. by Willis Conover); "William Hope Hodgson--Novelist", by Sam Moskowitz (part 2 of 3); Virgil Finlay Art Folio; "The Eyrie" (lettercolumn). ## Our thanks to Sam Moskowitz for this advance copy of a welcome revival of a fine magazine. Lots of interesting material here.

We also thank Sam for sending us list of stories scheduled for WEIRD TALES 47:3 (he notes a few may be crowded out): "The Terror of the Water Tank", by William Hope Hodgson; "The October Game", by Ray Bradbury; "The Sea Curse", by Robert E. Howard; "The Mysterious Card" and "The Mysterious Card Revealed", by Cleveland Moffett; "The Dramatic in My Destiny", by Emma Frances Dawson; "The Haunted Burglar", by W.C. Morrow"; "The Cats of Rome", by Miriam Alled deFord; "The Splendid Apparition", by Robert W. Chambers; "The Lost Elixir", by George Griffith; "Chicken Soup", by Katherine Maclean & Mary Kornbluth; a new C.A. Smith/Lin Carter collaboration; article: "How We Fought Circe", by A. Merrit; & final part of Sam Moskowitz's biography, "William Hope Hodgson--The Final Years".

(dissecting)

^ THE HEART OF THE MATTER:
Magazines for May, 1973

Operational Procedures
Supervised by
Richard Delap

AMAZING has moved its cover date forward one month, leaving us with only three magazines dated May and some extra time to cram in one or two bad novels from the endless paperbacks that pile up in the corner month after month. A few good items here and there this month, but generally the magazines still aren't noticeably strong on good short fiction and all are serializing novels at present (which is no surprise since, as I write this, nearly a dozen anthologies of new stories have been published so far in 1973). Many book readers don't read the magazines but most magazine readers do read books, and I think this intense competition is already strangling magazine circulation unmercifully and forcing the editors to try every trick to increase sales (witness Jakobsson's ultra-sexy covers a few months back). Yet with all these problems one new magazine has already hit the stands, with another scheduled to appear next month. Don't ask me to explain it--I think all publishers are crazy!

ANALOG -- May:

Serial:

Sword and Scepter (part one) -- Jerry Pournelle.

Novelettes:

Naked to the Invisible Eye -- Geo. Alec Effinger.

It's not often we get a sports story in the SF genre, most probably because using a gimmick to alter the outcome of a sports event is pigeonholed a success or failure from the outset and therefore is too proscribed to offer much interest. But in Effinger's story, Rudy Ramirez, a young Venezuelan baseball pitcher speaking no English, becomes an engaging character whose talent and motives catch the reader's attention as totally as they do that of Marenholtz, the minor league manager who sees personal glory and profit in this strange little foreigner. Ramirez's special talent is an extraordinary mental ability which he uses to confuse the opposing team so that he may pitch perfect winning games; and Marenholtz's problem is to use that talent to advantage without arousing suspicion. Not the most original plot, to be sure, but clever characterizations and a snappy elan about baseball make it an unexpectedly engaging piece of fiction. Enjoyable.

Survivability -- William Tuning.

A research group of humans on the planet Flannigan is determined to use their superior knowledge of biology and genetics to help the local natives. Their plan is to improve (by biologically re-engineering) the Yeep, animals which provide the natives with food, clothing and barter. The plans are not working, however, and it takes one man with determination and talent to venture beyond the rulebook laws to find an answer. Tuning might have made a breezy short story from this simple idea, which is especially suited to a humorous treatment; but instead he drags it out too long, letting his characters flatten the potential laughs with monotone monologues and stock reactions. Had Tuning been a little more nimble with words and pace, he could have saved this one. Tsk, tsk.

Short Stories:

How I Lost the Second World War and Helped Turn Back the German Invasion -- Gene Wolfe.

Wolfe has proved nearly unlimited in his storytelling range but seems to have a penchant for tour de force short stories. Now even ANALOG has fallen under his spell with this amusing spoof that brings Hitler and Churchill face to face in a battle that both precedes and parallels World War II (not to men-
(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

tion a famed American whose role in the battle is humorously and incautiously underplayed, and the faceless Japanese who make a career of getting underfoot). To top it off, the plot even manages to pull in a scientific device (transistors) and thereby poke fun at standard ANALOG fare. This one's a hell of a lot of fun.

With Morning Comes Mistfall -- George R. R. Martin.

With experience Martin is improving story by story, and in this one he suits his style to his plot with a soft romantic tone, sad and somewhat wistful. It is the story of a planet named Wraithworld, where over the years human disappearances have been attributed to native "wraiths", often seen but never captured. A reporter watches the growing enmity between the local hotel owner, who profits by the tourists hoping to catch sight of a mysterious wraith, and the visiting scientist who hopes to disprove the "legend" as nonsense with his ordered probes. The Point Martin makes is that the romance of mystery may be as important as the knowledge of truth, and that man's expansion into the universe is the determined step to keep that necessary romance part of our existence. A nice story.

An Agent in Place -- Laurence M. Janifer.

A Special Agent for Central Intelligence isn't at all enthused about his latest assignment, which is to disguise himself as a beer-drinking panhandler, wandering over the Bowery and waiting for the signal words to be spoken that will send him into a flurry of action. The SF element in this tale is some unexplained jazz about predicting (and preventing) a probable future, but Janifer doesn't put any suspense or mystery into the proceedings and his story is merely slow and stale.

The Great American Economy -- L. E. Modesitt, Jr.

An economist can really have a problem keeping track of money, especially in the near-future when all accounts are recorded by and traceable only through the printouts of the computer system. And when something suspicious is going on--in this case, the appearance of money which shouldn't exist in the first place--tracking down the cause can be one big headache. The trouble with this oddly-slanted mystery is that the solution is all, the characters and incidentals no more than superfluous trim. Routine.

Science:

Minicomputers -- Stephen A. Kallis, Jr.

* * * *

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- May:

Serial:

The Asutra (part one) -- Jack Vance.

Novelette:

A Paper Twist of Khorlo Crystals -- Herbie Brennan.

Gorham is the Planetary Governor of Kyisi and has built good will between the humans and the native humanoids, the Dhakestri. But, like all men, he carries his burden of personal sorrow, kept in check until he is introduced to khorlo crystals, a native "drug" used in religious ceremonies; and then he finds his desire to recapture the more pleasant moments of his life not only possible but irresistible. For the crystals have the unique power to transport him to the finer moments of his earlier life--"to disengage the spirit and temporarily reverse its flow along one's life line," as the native High Priest warns him. Brennan textures his background beautifully and his story is compulsive reading for this alone; but his plot is never able to maintain the depth needed to give his characters the needed life and backs them into a cul-de-sac from which the only escape is a dependence on uninspired melodrama. What a shame....

Short Stories:

Meddy -- Paul Darcy Boles.

(Cont. next page)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

The advertising racket has always been a good area for very American satire, and Boles packs a good deal of barbed humor into this darkly lighthearted glance at a rush-rush business that almost cuts its own throat before realizing the danger. That danger is a dark-eyed, very mysterious woman hired to do a detergent commercial, a woman whose powers of persuasion turn out to be beyond the realm of the normal. Tongue-in-cheek and fun-silly (not stupid-silly), it's an amusing tale.

Androids Don't Cry -- Edward Wellen.

An android stops by to visit Mrs. Boesman and her young son, explaining to the widow that he worked with her husband at one time and feels the need to explain the manner of his death. In only four pages Wellen very neatly depicts the somewhat strained relations between human and android society, packing it all very unobtrusively into a plot which works from a worthy psychological understanding. Good.

Rite of Encounter -- Russell Bates.

That Mr. Bates is a full-blood Kiowa perhaps gives him a biased philosophical viewpoint as he tells the story of Singing-owl, a young Kiowa who, alone on a ritual fast, meets the mysterious stranger, Black Smallpox. Singing-owl struggles valiantly to keep the evil stranger from his people, but in the end the author's prejudice takes precedence over the fantasy, destroying the subtle flavor of a glimpse into Indian thought with the numbing moralistic tone of the narrative. Fair.

The Second Short Shortest Fantasy Ever Ever Published -- Barry N. Malzberg.

Short-shorts are extremely difficult to write well, dependent as they are on a strong zinger ending and expert compression. Malzberg's glimpse of a suicide at the moment of death has both the zinger and tight compression--unfortunately it doesn't have any sense.

Family Album -- Michael Goldberg & Laurence M. Janifer.

If your aunt and uncle came to visit and if, being a camera bug, you snapped their photos only to discover they weren't human but were some sort of horrible alien monsters--what would you do? Laugh? cry? scream? One might be much happier if one could do any of these things here, but this effort isn't funny enough to laugh at, isn't frightening enough to scream at, and isn't sad enough to cry at. Hmm, well, thinking about it carefully now, it is pretty sad (not enough to bring tears, but enough to elicit that very human response, the good 'ole raspberry). Routine.

Murder in the Transcontinental Tunnel -- Miriam Allen de Ford.

In front of a trainload of witnesses, a man commits murder on the coast-to-coast commuter train of the future, a murder so bold and unexpected that he easily escapes and cannot be tracked down by World Security. Who can solve such a crime?--who but someone familiar with extravagant extrapolation, an SF editor! De Ford has fun with this one and gives the reader a jolly good ride, imbibing the proceedings with a lively sense of humor and a rather smartaleck but clever solution. Good of kind.

Science:

By the Numbers -- Isaac Asimov.

* * * *

GALAXY -- May-June:

Serial:

The Doomsday Game (part one) -- John Boyd.

Novelettes:

On the Account -- A. Bertram Chandler.

Commodore Grimes and wife Sonya are off once again for yet one more improbable adventure, this time in an attempt to ferret out pirates who are specializing in FTL starships. Leave it to Grimes/Chandler to turn the simple adventure into an overlengthy account of adapting old methods to new uses, here including "a reversion to the very earliest days of firearms." As usual there are endless

(Over)

DISSECTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER (Continued) --

descriptions of ships in space paralleling ships at sea, with just enough dialogue and the barest minimum of plot to get the story very slowly to the big climactic battle. The Grimes stories could really be so much fun but so seldom are, more's the pity.

Girl Saturday -- Robert F. Young.

"The theory" proposed that the collective unconscious is tied in with the space-time continuum and that where any given race memory becomes firmly enough established it materializes in the form of a 'place-time' on the so-called surface of the so-called temporal sea"--or so Young explains his five-dimensional ISLE, upon which shore lands Robinson Feeney, pulled away from his excursion ship on Earth by a time-storm. ISLE consists of a dozen bits of materialized collected unconscious--from an Amerindian Forest (500 A.D.) to Minos (2000 B.C.) to Generous George's Used-car Lot (1974 A.D.)--and Feeney adventures in all of them in his attempt to return home the kidnapped daughter of King Croesus. What makes this freewheeling romp so pleasurable is Young's joyous humor (very reminiscent of the deCamp/Pratt stories of Harold Shea) which encompasses both the characters and their situation in one merry spiel. It's the very sort of comedy that is as difficult to describe as it is difficult to write, and the only way to really appreciate it is to read it, so do. Very entertaining.

Short Stories:

Parthen -- R. A. Lafferty.

Lafferty sometimes gets full of nasty ideas and decides to let them go with a laugh and a holler, and here it looks as if Women's Lib, apathetic attitudes and science fiction have been dumped into the electric mixer of Lafferty's mind and come out all twisted up into something a bit on the vinegary side. Of course there is the author's usual high good stylistic humor and wacky plotting--the alien invaders are beautiful women who will "make obsolete one-half of mankind and make servants of the other half"--and the solid kick he delivers to those with preconceptions almost makes bearable the unhealthy concept which lurks beneath.

In This Dark Sky -- Frances Chapman.

On the sandy beach of Aloth, a planet of a double sun and one of expanding humanity's newer settlements, a mother watches her young child whose adaptations to this world draw him away from her in an unexpected method. Chapman writes well enough, and she compresses both information and emotion into a small but smoothly molded space. Storywise, however, she lets intermingling moody and inexplicit tones of mysticism and science get out of hand so that the lack of clarity keeps her work a hair's breadth beyond the involvement the reader needs. Almost, but not quite....

Future Forbidden -- Philip Latham /Robert S. Richardson/.

This sequel to "Jeannette's Hands" (F&SF, January) again takes a look at Dr. Robert Archer, astronomer, and his wife Dagny, an occultist who has been named Official Witch of California. The first story had a problem which this story (about a comet Archer discovers will soon collide with Earth) still finds troublesome--the plot (to use that word very loosely) is fluff-and-nonsense while Latham's style is ponderously heavy-handed. Despite Archer's penchant for astronomical lectures and his wife's obvious talents as a witch, their characterizations leave them as dull as any ordinary middle-class suburbanites. Mediocre.

ON THE MOVE (Changes-of-Address) --

Allan, James -- 10 Kingsgrove Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M8X 1N3, Canada.

Brown, Charles & Dena -- Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119.

Effinger, Geo. Alec -- 4217 Prytania St., Apt. 304, New Orleans, LA 70115.

Kline, J. K. -- RD #1, Box 166, Bridgeport, NY 13030.

Stever, David -- 1610 Worcester Rd., Apt. 433 A, Framingham, MA 01701.

THE AMATEUR PRESS: U.S. Fanzines Received

THE GALACTIC LENS ("Monthly output from members of the Galactic League, a science fiction writers' workshop operated like an apa. Each mailing contains parts of members' sf stories, articles . . ., business, comments, and some criticism both formal and informal"; Official Collator, Mike Glycer (14974 Osceola St., Sylmar, CA 91342; Chief Arbitrator, Elliot Weinstein, 7001 Park Manor Ave., N.Hollywood, CA, 91605; dues, \$1 (assessed as needed after initial \$1 payment); back-issues avail. for free (while they last) to members; minimum activity required: three pp. every two months; ditto help avail. from Elliot, mimeo help from Mike) -- Dec. '72: 23 pp. / cover (by Kees Van Toorn; xerox); mimeo & ditto; business sections by Glycer & Weinstein; article by Weinstein; fiction by Tom Digby, Lee Gold, Robert Hollander, Jack Harness; article by Dan Goodman; commentary by Jack Harness, Dan Goodman. ## Jan '73: 30 pp. / cover (by Bill Rotsler, xerox); mimeo & ditto; business section by Glycer & Weinstein; fiction by Richard Wadholm, Kees Van Toorn, Tom Digby, Lee Gold; commentary by Jack Harness, Richard Wadholm. ### Looks like a worthy enterprise--something like the N3F Writer's Bureau. **If you aspire to writing greatness (or simply want to improve your writing skills), you should give the Galactic League a further look.**

GORBETT 4 (June '73) (David & Beth Gorman, 3515 Lauriston Dr., New Castle, IN 47362; irregular; mimeo (offset covers); 50¢ ea., 5/\$2; formerly S F WAVES) -- 60 pp. / covers (by Margaret Dominick (DEA)); interior illos by Bill Rotsler (all reprints); editorial (incl. a couple of brief LoC's); "Donnybrook #1: The Ellison of Byronism", by Sheryl Smith; Andrew Offutt letter/column; "James Tiptree, Jr.: Wise to the Why of Pain", by Cy Chauvin; brief pop music column by Dave Burton, followed by commentary on previous column, by David Gorman; "Race-Death in S.F.", by David Pringle (repr. MAYA #2); James Suhrer Dorr column; announcements; long (26 pp.) lettercolumn. ## Continues to seek its own direction, and does a good job of it. Reminds us in many ways of OUTWORLDS a year or two ago. Give it a try.

HYPERION IV:3 (Spring '73) (Lion Periodicals, Box 250, St. John's College, Annapolis, MD 21404; quarterly; offset; ed. Mark Jenkins; no sub rate given; thish 25¢) -- "A rock fanzine"; cover by Bruce Townley; Bruce Townley on S.F. Fans & Fanzines; "Rock on TV", by Rainer Karasz; short fiction by Paul McArthur; book review by Mark Jenkins; several pgs. of record reviews; misc. short material.

INWORLDS (Bill Bowers, Box 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281; mimeo; monthly "fanzine about fanzines"; 25¢ ea., 4/\$1, 12/\$2.50; Aussie Agent: Dennis Stocks, Box 2268 GPO, Brisbane, Queensland 4001, Australia (5/A\$1; airmail, 3/A\$1); UK Agent: Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd., Sheffield S11 9FE, UK (5/40p; airmail, 3/40p)) -- #5 (May '73): 10 pp.; illo by Tom Foster; Mae Strelkov's Friends section (news and some auction listings for fund designed to bring Mae to the '74 Worldcon from her home in Argentina; send money or donated auction material to Joan Bowers at above address); editorial notes/announcements; fanzine reviews/ratings; lettercolumn. ## #6 (June '73): 6 pp.; illo by James Shull; capsule fanzine reviews/ratings; Mae Strelkov's Friends news section (\$428.30 raised out of the necessary \$700 as of 9 June '73!); book reviews; notes/announcements (note, Bill, that raise in book rate was postponed because of price "freeze"). ## A "must" item for anyone interested in keeping up with fanzine publishing in the U.S. (effectively replaces the fmz reviews which used to appear in LOCUS).

IT COMES IN THE MAIL #4 (undated) (Ned Brooks, 713 Paul St., Newport News, VA 23605; no price or schedule given; mimeo (ditto cover); SFFPA 'zine) -- 18 pp., inco. cover (by Greg Spagnola); poem by Don Marquis; rest just what the title says--a day-by-day account of things rec'd in the mails, with commentary/reviews by Ned. ## Very informative, and well worth getting (just send Ned something, so he'll comment on it and send you the issue with his commentary when it appears).

(Over)

THE AMATEUR PRESS (Continued) --

MAYBE 28 (July '73) (Irvin Koch, % 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402; approx. bi-monthly; mimeo(?) & offset; 50¢ ea., 6/\$2.50) -- Cover by Jackie Franke (looks just like Irene Reddick....); interior illos by Sheryl Birkhead, Bill Guy, David Shank, John Neal, John D. Berry, Steve Rasnic, Pat Barnwell, Alex Gilliland; 17 pp. of fanzine reviews and ratings, broken down into a detailed system of classification; editorial page; paid ad. ~~##~~ Another "must" for fanzine connoisseurs and collectors--has wide-ranging coverage and good repro. 20 pp.

OM MARKSTEIN SKLUM STU #13 (undated) (Don Markstein, 2425 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115; mimeo (offset cover); apa-'zine) -- 12 pp. / cover (by Alan Hutchinson); editorial chatter/comments; "The Wit and Wisdom of Scrooge McDuck"; Comments on 103rd and 104th Mailings (of "K-a", whatever that is).

OUTWORLDS (Bill & Joan Bowers, address on pg. 7; approx. quarterly; mimeo (w/ offset covers & art); 75¢ ea., 3/\$2, 5/\$3) -- #15 (Jan '73; 3rd Annish): art by Grant Canfield, Derck Carter, Jim Cawthorn, Paul Docherty, Steve Fabian, Freff, Dany Frolich, Mike Gilbert, Terry Jeeves, Tim Kirk, Jim McLeod, Bill Rotsler, Walt Simonson, Dan Steffan, James Shull; fiction by J.R. Christopher; Andy Offutt writes about the U.S. Postal Service; "Complete 'Bound-In' Book" ("The Lizard Speaks"), by Bill Wolfenbarger (30 pp. of poetry, fiction, and columns by B.W.); "The Astrological Cast of Science Fiction Writers (by Joni Stopa; ill. Alex Eisenstein); poetry by J.R. Christopher; Fantasy Art Folio: "Four More Years", by Carleton Palmer; lettercolumn; editorial pages; Poul Anderson column; Greg Benford column; column by Robert A.W. Lowmes. ~~##~~ #16 (June '73): 44 pp. / covers; both covers (outside and inside, front & back) and all illos by Steve Fabian; "The Gafiated World", by Carl Brandon; Bill Wolfenbarger column; poem by Ben Brigham; column by Robert A.W. Lowmes; lettercolumn; "The Nazgul's Song", by Alexis Gilliland; editirial by Steve Fabian. Plus 2-pg. flyer: Mae Strelkov's Friends Auction Sheet. ~~##~~ Overlooked above: Aussie Agent, Dennis Stocks (A50¢/ea.); UKAgent, Terry Jeeves (25p ea.); see under INWORLDS for addresses. ~~####~~ The fanzine that dares to be different--and succeeds, admirably. No review can really catch its flavor--subscribe, and see it for yourself....

SCIENCE FICTION ECHO (MOEBIUS TRIP LIBRARY #17) (May '73) (Edward C. Connor, 1805 N.Gale, Peoria, IL 61604; 75¢ ea., 5/\$3; mimeo; 4½" x 7"; bound as a book (soft covers)) -- 198 pp. / covers (front cover by Ed Connor; bacover by Eddie Jones); interior illos by Bill Rotsler, Mike Scott, Jeff Schalles, D.E.A., Andrew Stephenson, Jackie Franke, Sheryl Birkhead, Shayne McCormack; preface; Jeff Schalles talks of Grove City; Paul Walker's column (thish, "Walker's Unofficial Popularity Poll"); Donn Brazier column; Sam Long on Cape Canaveral (formerly Cape Kennedy, having reverted back to its original name); Don Ayres on Velikovsky; "Blatant Blatty: The Exorcist Defrocked", by Mae Strelkov; Bill Wolfenbarger column; Mike Shoemaker reviews a pair of Biggle books; "Of Peter Haining and Beyond the Curtain of the Dark", by Ken Faig, Jr.; "A Quaff of Arthur Machen"; "A Movie, Mr. Moskowitz and Me", by Mervyn Barrett; Ben Indick reviews Walt Lee's Reference Guide to Fantastic Films; Book Reviews, by Don Ayres, Ed Connor, Cy Chauvin, Eddy Bertain, Angus Taylor; short reviews of Recent New Fanzines; editorial notes; long lettercolumn. ~~##~~ MOEBIUS STRIP's new format makes it easier to read--altho by the time we had flipped thru it to prepare this review, our copy began falling apart. However, the contents are, as usual, excellent reading, so give it a try.

STARSHIP TRIPE #3 (July '73) (Michael Gorra, 199 Great Neck Rd., Waterford, CT 06385; 20¢ ea.; approx. monthly; mimeo) -- 12 pp. / covers (front cover by Tim Egan); editorial; Aljo Svoboda column; "The Orestes Theme in Dune and Dune Messiah"; Book Review (Heinlein's Time Enough for Love); fanzine reviews; more editorial natterings; lettercolumn. ~~##~~ Still getting off the ground. Mostly editor-written, needs contributions for future issues.

MYRKEWOOD'S SECOND SPRING TOURNAMENT
by Wilhelm of Bothnia

Myrkewood's Second Spring Tournament was held on June 9, 1973, at Patapsco State Park near Baltimore, Maryland. It was a hot and sunny day, with the temperature near 90 most of the day. Approximately 70 Lords and Ladies were in attendance. The Maryland Militia was also there.

I arrived about 12:00 noon. My daughter, the Dlle. Anne of Narnia had arrived before me, bringing with her most of my equipment. She had seen to it that my tent was set up, that the banners outlining the field of combat were in place and that everything was generally in order. My tent was used as the Royal Pavilion. There was an Equerries table-- although, during the Tournament, they dispensed mainly cold drinks; this was probably because of the hot weather. The Co-Autocrats of this affair were the Dlles. Anne of Narnia and Karina of Telmar Below the Mountains.

The participants consisted of members of the Barony of Myrkewood, many guests from other lands, and the Maryland Militia (which kept together in a group). Myrkewood's most esteemed guests were King Finnvarr and Queen Cay'vearn, the King and Queen of the East Kingdom. King Finnvarr is a member of Myrkewood and Queen Cay'vearn is from the Middle Kingdom. We were also honored by the presence of the Tanist of the Middle Kingdom, Sir Merowald and his Lady, the Princess Gwendolyn.

For the Grand March, the Royal Pavilion was occupied by the King, the Queen, the Prince, the Princess, and the Baron of Myrkewood, Lord William of Jutland. The introductions of the various Lords and Ladies were made by a substitute Herald, Lord Alain du Rocher being late in arriving. The Grand March, although scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m., actually started at 1:30 p.m.

The King then requested Myrkewood's Necromancer, Lord Owain the Traitor, to bless that strange object called a "Funnel Ball" which was situated near the Royal Pavilion. This "Funnel Ball" has been present at all Myrkewood Tournaments held at Patapsco State Park for lo these many years. I think the Lord Owain put a curse on any evil demons that might lurk within the "Funnel Ball". The Lord Owain also blessed the field of combat.

King Finnvarr then presented an Orb of Friendship to Prince Merowald of the Middle Kingdom. This was followed by Baron William of Jutland chartering the Myrkewood Potter's Guild, naming Lord Szeven za Daemon as Guild Master and Lord Kinfalch as Deputy Guild Master. The suthor, being the Head of the Household of the Mountains, then presented the Baron with a ceramic gift from the Potter's Guild; it was a ceramic egg inside of which was a stone designed to be worn about the neck.

The author then presented Attila, First Warlord of the Markland Confederation a Medalion in honor of his being Head of the Longship Company. This was a token of friendship between the Barony of Myrkewood and the Markland Confederation. It was given in the name of the Barony of Myrkewood, the Potter's Guild, the Household of the Mountains, and Lord Szeven za Daemon (who made the Medalion).

Lord Lockenvar of the Lions, who has the title of "Reegh", then presented the King with a petition asking that his group, having the name of the "Shire of the Shining Waters", be accepted as a Shire of the East Kingdom and the Barony of Myrkewood. The King and Baron accepted the Shire of the Shining Waters as a Shire. The Seneschal of this Shire is Lord Jason Silvertongue; it was formed in February of 1973 and is based around Towson State College, Maryland; it is craft-oriented.

It was then pronounced time for the tug-of-war. There were, of course, two teams. One was composed of S.C.A.'ers and the other of Maryland Militiamen; there were 10 men on each side. The S.C.A.'ers won the first contest. The Militiamen then asked for a best two-out-of-three contest, so a second tug-of-war was conducted, this time with eight men on each side.

(Over)

MYRKEWOOD'S SECOND SPRING TOURNAMENT (Continued) --

The S.C.A.'ers again won. So, it may be concluded that the S.C.A.'ers were better at tug-of-war than were the Militiamen.

The King then requested that the combats begin. It was a single elimination contest, the victor to be the new Champion of Myrkewood. King Finnvarr had been the previous Champion of Myrkewood. The winner of the combats was Sir Asbjorn; however, because of a technicality, Sir Asbjorn is not permitted to be Champion. This left the Championship to the two runners-up, namely Lord Hrolf (Chip Setze) and Lord Shinawasse Magnuson (Bob Steele). It was announced that the Champion of Myrkewood would be decided between these two at the Inter-Baronial War at the Cloisters, New York City on June 23.

It was 5:30 p.m., and the Equerries were prepared to provide an organized picnic for supper at a nominal fee. Most partook of the supper. It consisted of beef stew, cheese, bread, a drink, and an apple turnover; it was very tasty. This lasted until about 7:30 p.m. After this, the dismantling of tents and stowing of other equipment began. By 8:30 p.m., almost everything was down. At this time the author departed, having enjoyed a very delightful afternoon, even tho he acquired a considerable sun-burn, as did many others.

P.S.: At the Inter-Baronial War, on June 23rd, Lord Shinawasse was victorious and was proclaimed the new Champion of Myrkewood. Incidentally, the outcome of the Inter-Baronial War was that the great warriors of Ostgardr were victorious over those of the Barony Beyond the Mountains.

THE MYSTERY NOOK

BOOK REVIEW (Reviewer, George Fergus) --

The XYY Man, by Kenneth Royce (Avon, Feb. '73; from a 1970 hardcover).

The Concrete Boot, by Kenneth Royce (Avon, March '73; from a 1971 hardcover).

Another series about a crook turned government agent by a new British writer. "Spider" Scott is supposedly drawn to a life of crime by his extra Y chromosome, but after two stretches in prison is loathe to resume his cat-burgling career. His background making it difficult for him to obtain honest employment, he agrees in the first book to do a small job for Britain's D.I.5 (successor to M.I.5; all military activities now being euphemistically labeled "defense")--which really lands him in trouble. He is batted back and forth by British, Russian, and Chinese agents, while being hunted by the police. In the second book, he had problems with his old circle of friends and acquaintances, who are still engaged in unlawful activities and seem determined to draw him back in whether he likes it or not.

These books are very well-plotted, the hero is a nice guy, the author has a sense of humor, and the British slang is cute. Recommended.

GLEANINGS FROM THE PRESS --

BOOK REVIEWS -- By Day Thorpe (WASH STAR): A Maigret Trio: Maigret's Failure, Maigret in Society, Maigret and the Lazy Burglar, by Georges Simenon (Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich; \$6.95; 1st pub. in U.S.; orig. pub., resp., 1956, 1960, and 1961; reviewer states that he is reading Maigret novels in order, has finished 51st but not yet reached earliest of three under review; however, his wife, "a Maigret connoisseur no less dependable than I am, says that all three novels are A-1, particularly Maigret in Society"; most of review is spent introducing Maigret). In an earlier column, Thorpe introduces the Maigret series (he recently sent to Simenon's publisher in Lausanne, Switzerland, for the first 200 novels, and wrote his column after reading the first nine (M. Gallet, Deceased (Sum '30) thru At the Rendez-Vous-des-Terre-Neuvas (7/31)); about them he says, "I haven't had as much fun in years." We heartily second his enthusiasm for the delightful Maigret books.