

MARCH
1965
OMPA



WHATSIT IO

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1914



NOT SO MUCH

A HOBBY —

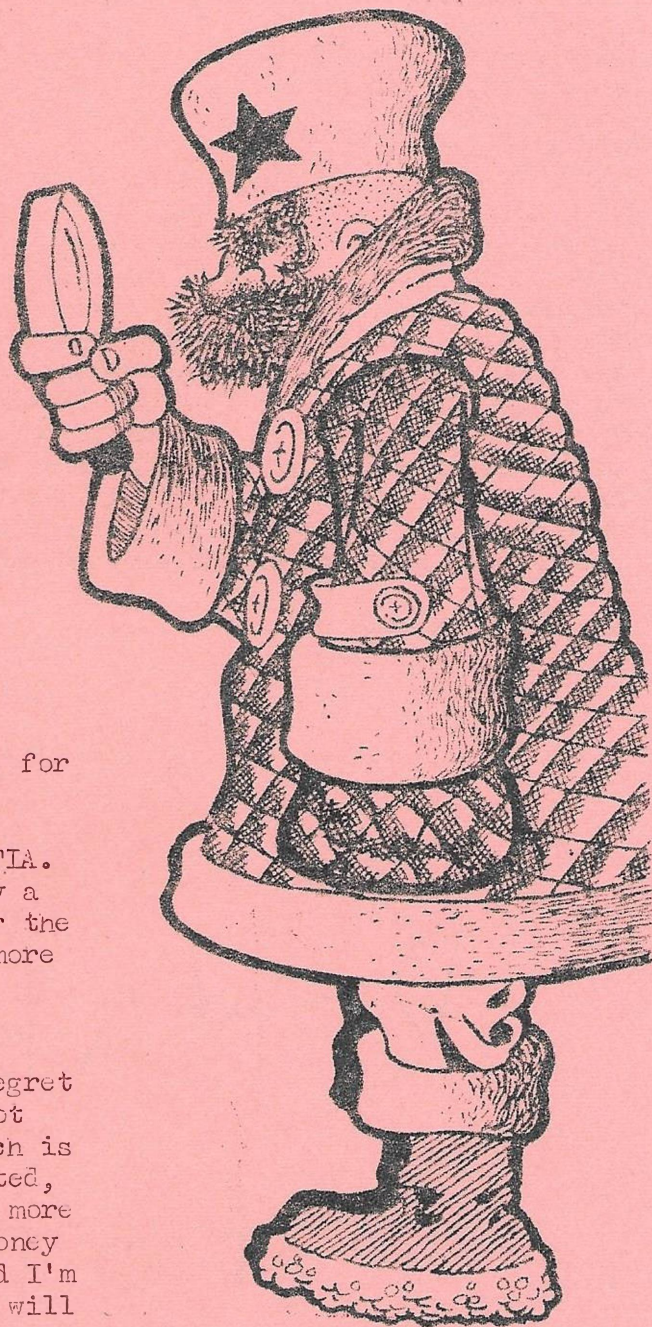
.....MORE A WAY OF LIFE".

is how the quote finishes. and of fandom I have found this is very true, for me at any rate.

This is more or less a notice of GAFIA. Not perhaps complete GAFIA, but certainly a cut down on what I have been doing. After the Convention at Easter I'm going to do no more fanzines, no more BSFA work, practically vanish from the fan scene in fact.

O.M.P.A. is, I think, the thing I regret most. And I'm afraid even O.M.P.A. has not the power to interest/hold me. Hmm. which is a bad way to put it....I'm still interested, but I've got other things to do that are more important. I can't afford the time or money to participate in OMPA that I'd like, and I'm not going to hang onto a membership that will be a dead loss to the rest of you ... and I don't really wish to keep up with OMPA because its too much effort...yes, even every 3 months.

Its only now that I'm pulling out that I begin to see what Fandom, and that means OMPA to a great extent over the past couple of years, has been to me. I would never do a Laney and decry fandom...my fandom is/was never like his. My fandom was a good place, most of the people I liked, most of the people are good sorts. The trouble with fandom, from my point of view, is that it was a warm and friendly place, too warm and friendly for me to look for anything else. Its true, you know, in our little world, our goddamned hobby, there are empires built and cities raised, Names that rise and inspire awe...or terror. All the news and opinions whirl around our



little world...and have the significance of great events...which is as it should be...I've been happy in fandom, so comfortable that its hard to disentangle. I'm starting by dropping Spinge and OMPA, and after that, I don't know yet.

I feel I'd like to take (fan) life easy for a while, maybe go to a convention now and then, keep up with a few corespondents...but for the moment at least, nothing more active. Ah, I can hear you say, "another one gone to the wall", it amuses me somehow...I've often thought, when some face vanishes, "I wonder why?". Unlike some detractors I still have affection for fandom...and for most fans, but fandom can be a lotus land. It depends on the fan. Its not hard to be noticed, not hard to achieve some sort of identity, some individuality, in fandom. Easier than in mundania, and thats the rub. For you have to live in mundania, and work there if you are to eat.. the danger is in regarding fandom as more than a damn good hobby. And you can do that so easilly, without realising it. Oh well. I don't suppose I make much sense, I seldom do. I'm just rambling on about me actually. Which is what it all comes to in the end. Fandom and me are going to try a separation

Gee, but its cold outside.....

Ken Cheslin,
February 1965.

.....

DONAHO
for
T.A.F.F.

cover.....stolen from Dave Hales editorial in the latest Spinge,
backcover lifted from the latest SHUDDER, which Mike Higgs publishes.
mik-illo...from the files... my "Not so much" illo from my own
editorial in the last Spinge..... and the rest from SPINGE, SHUDDER,
and OMPazines....just for the hell of it.

A CRINGEBINDER PUBLICATION!.....kmpc.....

HAVE AT YOU!



MIK

HAVE AT YOU!

ALL ACTIVITY IN THIS WHATSIT I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO DON STUDEBAKER. A COLUMN SUFFICIENT TO MAKE UP HIS ACTIVITY LACK ARRIVED ON FEB 15th OR SO BUT I'VE HAD NO TIME TO CUT IT.

))

This time just a quick skim through the mailing. I'll explain by saying that this is my last mailing.

The trouble is that I just can't afford the time and money. And if I can only do minimum activity, then I feel I'm cheating OMPA, my formal resignation goes to Ethel with my bundle.

UL 16. Metcalf. was good, very good, I enjoyed every line of it. I'm a history bug myself and anything like this gets me. I was only thinking that I hope I could do something like this, if I get in, for an essay in TTC. One OMPazine I'll keep in a special place.

Phenotype Eney... I suppose other Anglo-fans will explain what you want, re English habits, customs, climate...so. not much I can add...or have time to...I'll miss you too Dick.

NEXUS Weston...one of our local Brummies (Hi Pete), Hmm its an interesting zine, but I don't want to start any conversations at this time...Terry's right enough, too much subjective hogwash, not enough realllll criticism...fanzines seem to be particularly prone to attract this type of reviewer...hmm, and the letters... Me, I'm a Heinlein fan, I like to read his stuff, the philosophy that it is a sane policy "if you want peace, prepare for war" appeals to me. ...liked it Pete.

AMBLE 20. Mercer. I didn't know there were no churches or clergy in Scandinavian countries, do tedl?, well goshwow. My political aims thing (I expressed surprise that Kennedy was assassinated because I was under the impression that the States might have outgrown the need for violence to achieve political aims) well, maybe I'm too civilised. Anyway, I wouldn't call being forced into a defensive war "achieving political aims through violence". I know that British polititions have been murdered in the past. (some need it now, he says darkly) but I feel that it would be a very un-British thing to do...hmm, thats the trouble with the world, y'know all these damn foreigners, it would never happen if they were decently British. Ah, its a wicked world...I despair when I think of all the blood and lives, all the corruption...etc., Archie, why do you have to remind me...(actually, people aren't reminded often enough...I'm sorry CND seems to have died, at least it showed that somebody cared.)

Your famous Freds are fab. (as I've said so often before...how about Freddie of Freddie and the Dreamers?...Fred Astaire,...

Oh, in (NORWAY?) yes Norway, there is King Olaf, (bless his knitted stell underwear, Saint Olaf is the patron saint, and the biggest, (or chief) cathedral is.....St.Olafs. They're on my side I tell you, my side,!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ta.

BINARY Patrizio.....a very pleasant zine...(he says, thinking of "A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME" and thevdoggy bit)... I thought that the quote about Ella's household gods was a.....hmm, interesting....makes me wonder if.... but it can't be.

ERB Jeeves. before I open Erg I know there's bound to be something of interest inside...I wasn't wrong this time either, (he says smugly). One thing I do like is that Labour are doing something about fags and lung cancer... I think they're cutting a lot of revenue off, but morally they're right...but I do wish they had kept the 2/- on prescriptions....if it was for the benefit of those who couldn't afford the 2/-...not very many people in this day...they could have had it so pensioners get free prescriptions if they show their pension book, or like that. I think the cutting out of the 2/- will mean more wasted time in doctors surgerys, and a loss of revenue too. ... note to teacher..always funny....my prospective main-law is a teacher, keeps me amused for hours with tales of school life....the mad things that go on..sheesh.

OH...and the SOGGY....I love the Soggy sagas, its completely nutty,..nmmm. this maybe explains why I like it. I'd guess that the Fid Def means that Castro is hard of hearing.....

HEX Wells. personally I am interested in other peoples ways of holding elections etc., Its a pity that no-one will ever have the sense to do a survey to determine the best way, (in a given country) What I mean is that I like the idea of proportional representation, and would like to see it introduced here. If it could be worked....on the other hand it might be that you lot could learn something from us...in attitudes to politics anyway.

RING Wraith...Bailes. well, its a case of hello and goodbye I'm afraid, (Ah, once I was a young, happy, un-dissilusioned (?) noofan.... I still am at heart I guess.....I don't like this hairy American paper...but then I never have.

THE SCARR Charters. ever since you blossomed out into your own zine I've liked them..(and you a Max Brand fan too...I used to be, long, long ago, when I still had time to read anything..).. Bob Shaw was, as usual, hilarious...and Ian McAulcy.

AUTHENTIC CHECKLIST Burgess.good, I'll keep this where I can find it...I think I'm short of one or two....Actually AUTHENTIC was never one of my favourite magazines...it has always had a..shoddy...sort of image in my mind..as if I bought it because I thought I would occasionally find something good in it... I don't know why I have this image...I recall that I liked the Planet series of covers..hmm..I have the impression that AUTHENTIC was a cross between a weird mag, and a maiden aunt...(don't ask me why, I don't know.)..anyway...I got them so's I wouldn't miss anything... And I still think I'm justified...the trouble is that if you only read book, hb,pb and anthologies, you're bound to miss some little gems that just haven't gotten into print outside the zines... maybe its a matter of taste, but a lot of anthologies ((quite apart from that sinful practice of duplication of choices)) have stories in I don't like..and lots of stories I like have never, to my knowlege, been re-printed...

thanks Brian.

SHEITA THARI l ENEY...noted.....yes, ain't life...people...~~1/1/1/1~~ interesting?.

LEFNUI Patten. just a note...a pity that I must leave just as you are getting into the swing, I'd have been interested to see what you produce....Jim, illos, Jim who? very unusual, likeable in a way.

TOMCHATS etc., Schuluck.... interesting....I like formal gardens, when I feel in the proper mood...but it has to be the right time...strange to see, to my mind, the organisation of nature..I think that this is what holds my attention. Mostly I prefer not to see cultivated and overplanned gardens, prefer the wild. (er..not too wild, keep your Black Forest, I'll take Kinver....(subscriptions are invited to enable me to raise the necessary millions to buy Kinver, announcements will be made as soon as the first million --Sterling-- has been received. Thank you)..yccccch.) oh well. Hey, tell OMPA about the effect on Germany of the 30 years war, and the population law that was rescinded in 1938.....was nattering to a bod about it the other day, fascinating.

Haggis..Peters. can't get stuck into your comments Ian, too much meat to deal with...you write interestingly and provide plenty of scope for conversation..I like that. Unfortunately there's not much you can do about injustice, except talk or write. If you do anything likely to cause a disturbance of the status quo you get jailed...or killed. Just think, by an accident of birth you're white. Some poor devil was born black, and got lumbered with the dirty end of the stick.. The trouble is that most people cannot imagine themselves to be other than they are, or the situation to be other than it is. I've talked to people and said words to the effect, "what if you'd been born black", and gotten the answer "Ah. but I wasn't" along with a satisfied smirk that showed he though he was the epitomy of wit...etc., People just don't think like that..like, "what if I" "There but for the grace of god go I". It will be a long time before they do...a very long time.

PANETHON 2 Blum...."beautiful English language", ahem...also, goshwow. Oh well, ...Billy Goodness, heh heh... It would be interesting if someone ...possibly Rolf Gindorf (hint, hint) did a survey of Gorfandom to find out just what it consists of, what makes it tick, what the activities are, how many know (or care) about Angloamerican fandon..etc., etc.,

BURP! Bennett. the old Horror of Harrogate himself. Hiya keed. Found Cecil a suitable plot yet..hmm, or have you had to move him out of the house now you've had this addition. (ordinary folks have children, teachers have additions....hmm...and watchmakers have offspring, goats have kids...too much, the mind boggles).. You must have a complete file on OMPA (it figures) to be able to research this...(did I point out last time that my activity was misleading because of outside contribs...like Studebaker, who got less credit than he has actually produced.). very interesting...I spent more time poring over this zine, page for page, than all but about 2 others.

THE BNF OF IZ was great...the writing was excellent, and the whole thing reflected, in fannish terms, the OZ story to a tee...although it was unnecessarily crude in one or two parts..the Rosebud bit...which in anything else would not have been so noticable, here marred the effect...but all in all, ruddy marvelous.

CRIME STALKS THE FAN WORLD didn't appeal to me at all...was tedious to read and I couldn't enjoy it....sorry, but no like.

ENTROPY 1 Carr. I guess a lot of this is beyond me, but I liked the LUPIN MAN..... and Dean Grennal...yes, I always seem to like what he writes..

COGNATE 6. Hickey.... my idea of a holiday is to do as little as possible... to slop around in scruffy clothes...thats my idea of a holiday...but. For instance the last time we went, down to Sandersfoot in South Wales, we did slop around for a bit...we happily (ahem...) made sand dikes and canals on the beach..we hunted, with a terrible ferocity, for black prawns uner all the rocks in a thousand pools, (I was attacked by this HUGH green crab...well, it was pretty huge...well, it did shuffle towards me in a rather nasty manner..and me with onlt pumps on.) These pumps, (I don't know what you furriners call them) we wore all the time, they protected your feet from the rocks when out in the sea....we waded out chest deep. (I can't swim) trawling for shrimps..caught hundreds of the little beggars when we learned the trick, too. (oh I had a grand time) As I was saying, after a week we got ambitious and hired this 18ft boat, (only an outboard motor) and did some trawling along the coast..ah, keed; it was fab...I wasn't very interested in fishing.. Tony was..we stayed out all day...we lost one line when it caught the weeds on the bottom...(we thought it must be a shark, or at least a whopping great crab) we got the line tangled in the prop and had to anchor while Tony got it untangled....We tried to get across to Caldy Island, but we became a bit timid after being splashed by huge gray seas...we had a bad time then, as we turned back a wave nearly "pooped" us (which is, I believe, the technical term for "came in over the back end of the boat").... the next day, (mad fools) we had her out again and trawled for miles along the coast. We caught some queer fish too...a couple of Macarel, a horrible bottom-dweller like a blood-red catfish, called a Gurnet, and..nm, what was it?, ah, a Silver Bass...

this year I'll not be so energetic....he says doubtfully....

RURITANIA. McDaniel.. noted...I'll collect all these one day and go through them. That way I would get a better picture. At present its a bit confusing...oh well.

A FANZINE FOR ATOM/ROTSLER Johnstone... it figures. not tremendous, but rather amusing..hmm. on reading through it again, maybe even very good.

UL 17.OUPs World Classics series are good. I'll keep an eye open for EGIL'S SAGA. I'm always on the watch for reading material... although I have a lot of un-read stuff lying around...and I don't buy too much now,, only what I really like..

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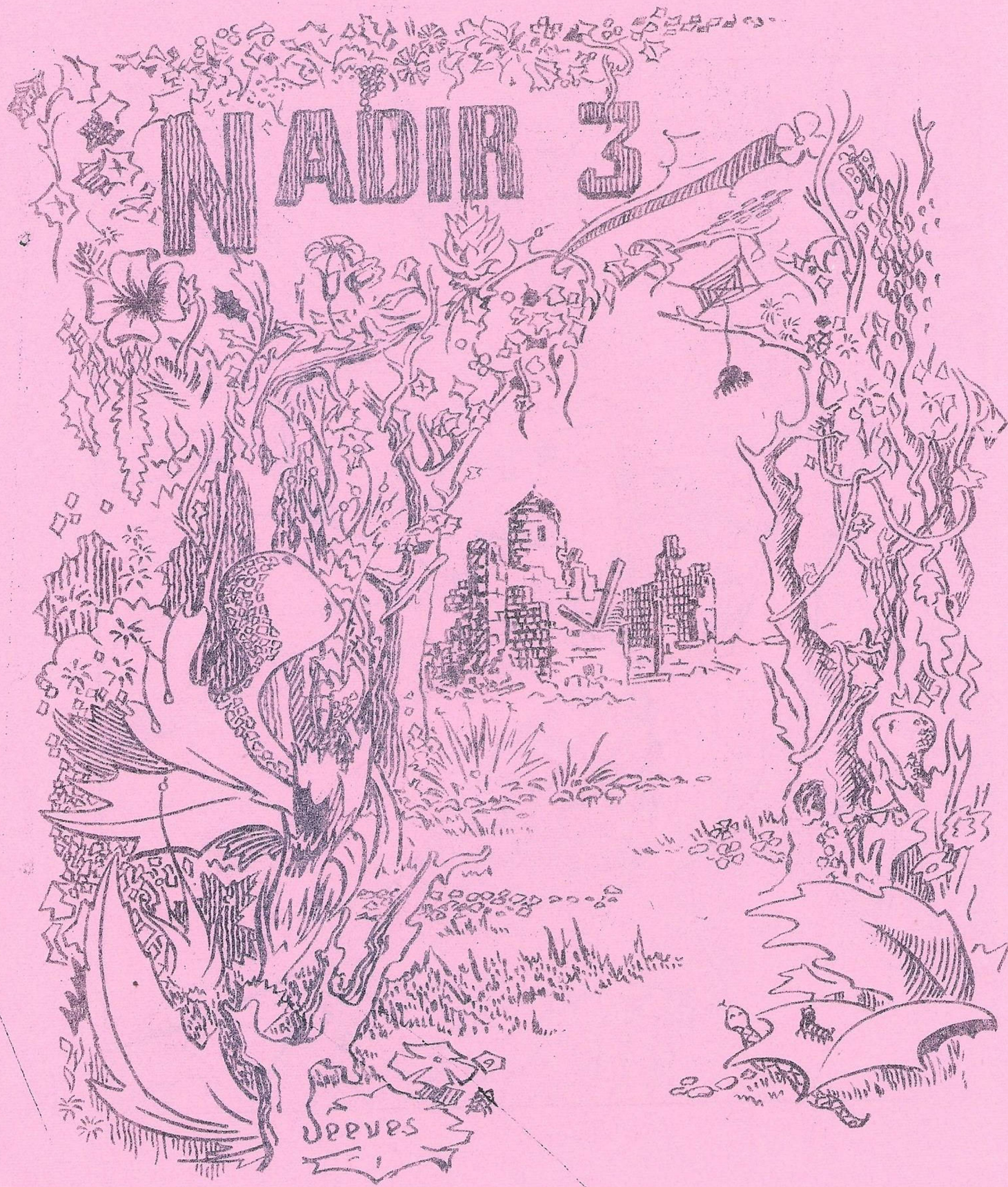
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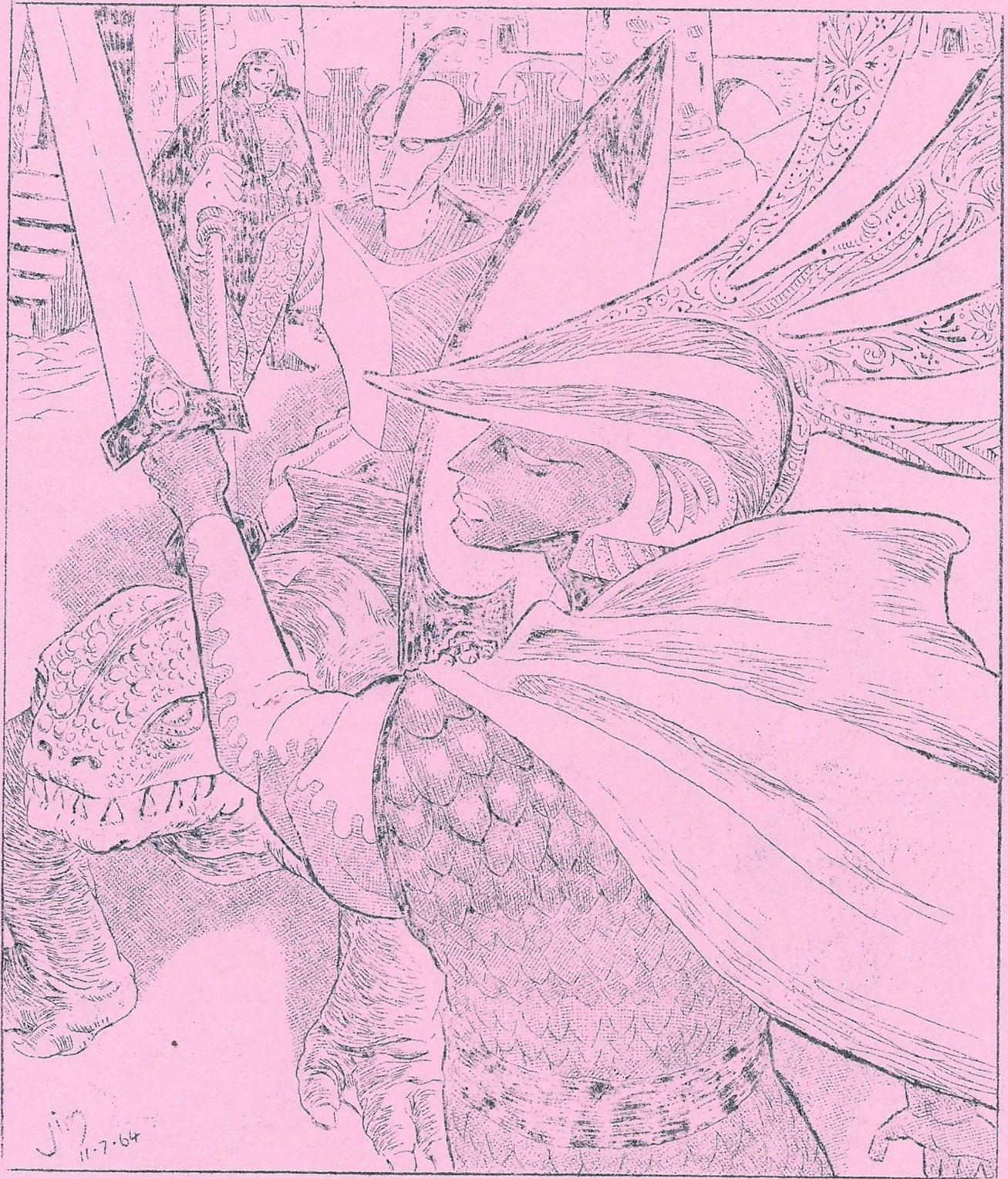
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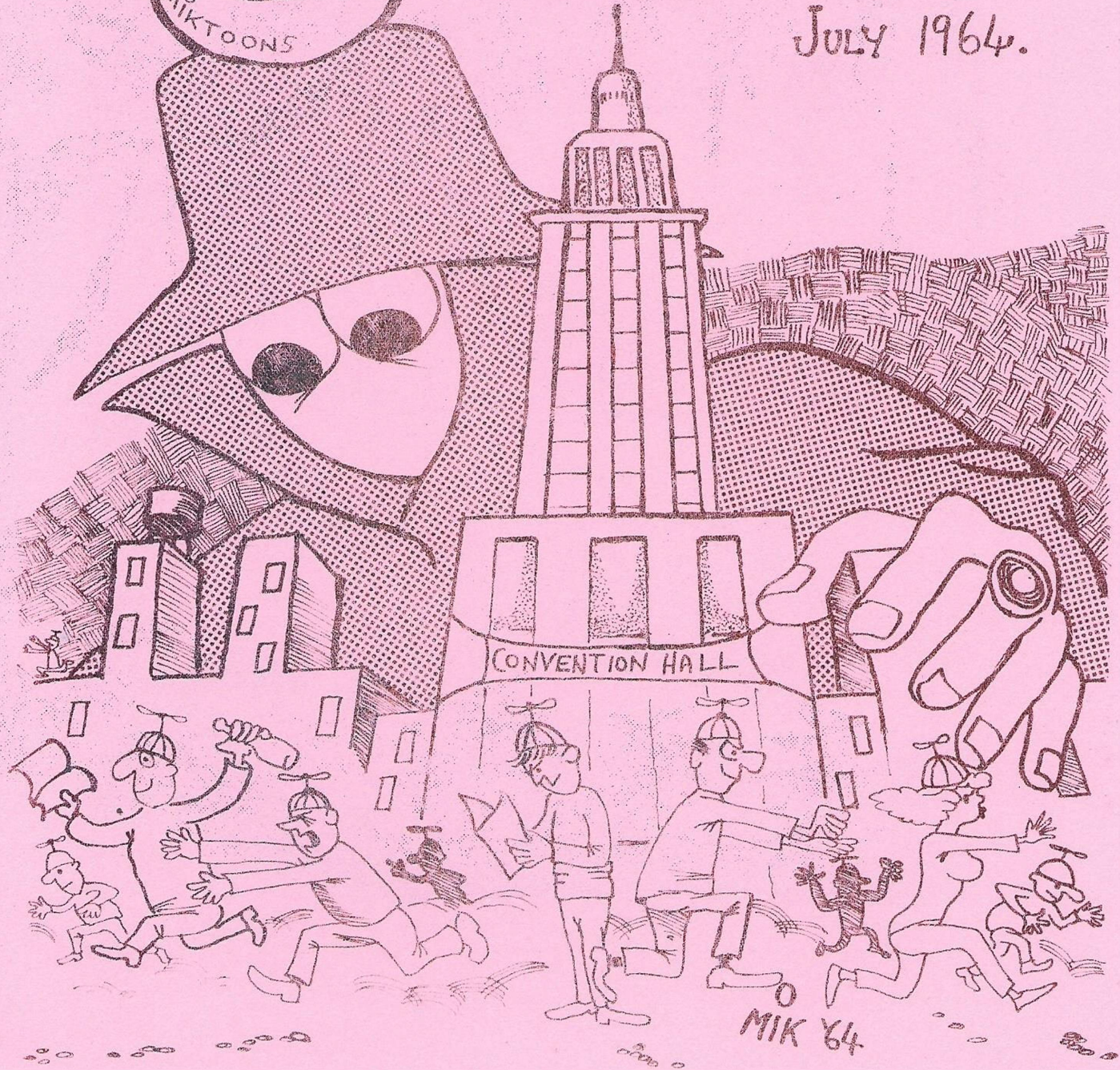
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Shudder

FANZINE

JULY 1964.

MIKTOONS

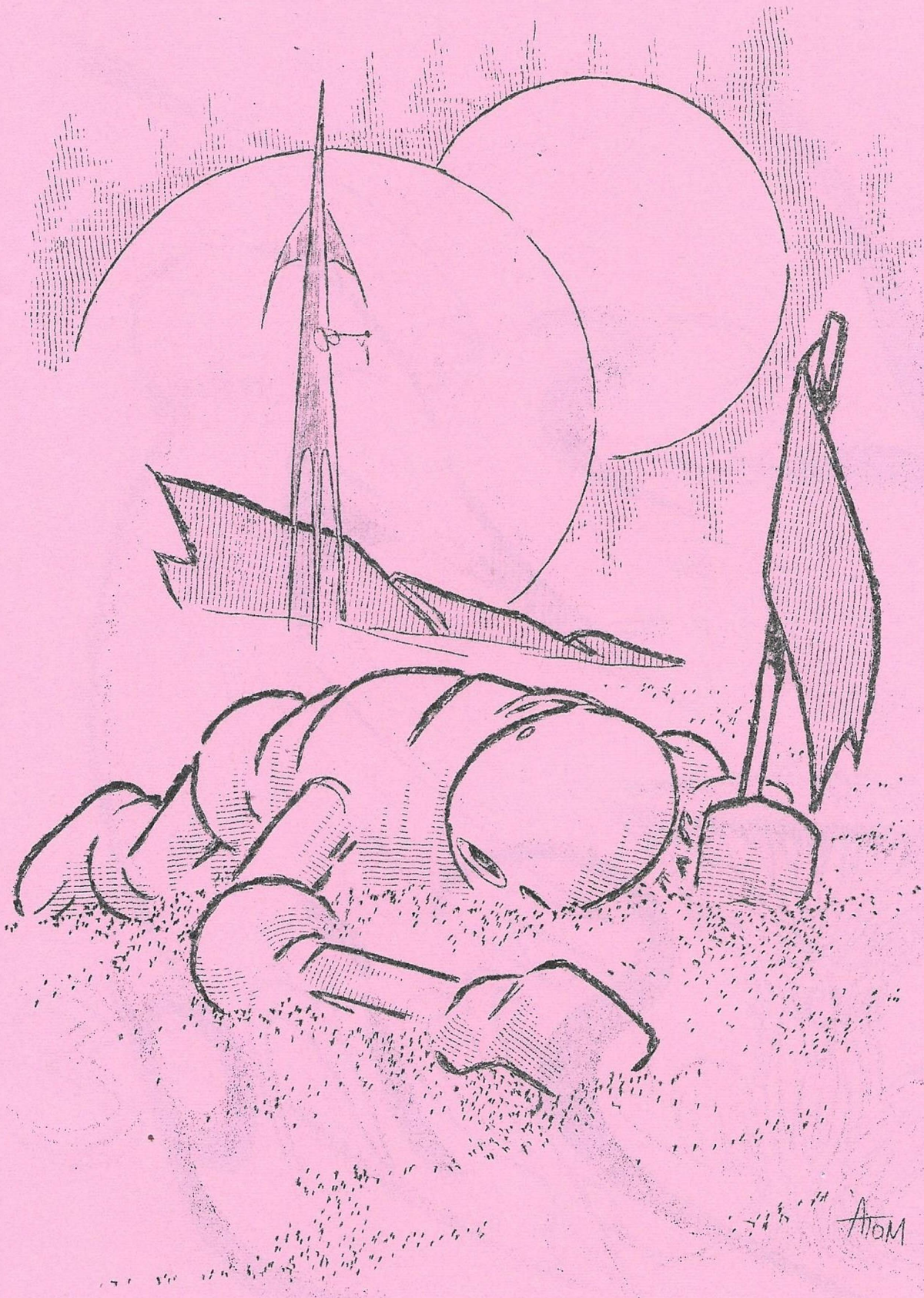


MIK '64



Jim 21-3-63





ATOM

LES SPINGE



AN UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL

Rod Milner. ---- Pete Weston.

February the 2nd. 1965.

About this time last year the B.S.F.A. was relatively dormant. The idea that even one person would volunteer for a committee post was mildly ludicrous. Contrast that peaceful scene with the present quite ruthless efforts being made to obtain control of the B.S.F.A's official organ, VECTOR.

Beginning from the solid foundations laid by Archie Mercer, Roger Peyton has developed VECTOR into a magazine that reflects the tastes of a majority of the Membership. Some critics have implied that VECTOR is dull: a mere tedious listing of science fiction books, and information. But consider how admirably suited the present policy is to the embryo fans, who comprise the bulk of the Membership. They want a complete and up-to-date survey of present science fiction literature and events. These are the very things they are interested in --- they are not yet ready for deeper immersion into fandom.

In seven bulky issues of VECTOR Rog Peyton has demonstrated his dedication and enthusiasm. VECTOR is a full-time occupation for him, but even so he has managed to publish an entirely different magazine, TANGENT, again reflecting the tastes and needs of the B.S.F.A. Membership.

Now that the spadework is done and the magazine is bearing fruit surely Rog should be allowed to reap the harvest?.

Rog's opponent proposes to scrap all of Rog's and Archie's hard work: his ambitious and somewhat questionable plans seem likely to gain the approval of a small minority, but may well alienate many, especially in view of his previous remarkable success in causing offence.

It is commendable that Charles Platt can spare a whole year of his valuable time, but in view of his present commitments it is interesting to speculate just how much like BEYOND this "new" VECTOR will be.

The present arrangement seems so satisfactory that it would be a great shame if an assured future was lost in such a dubious exchange.

This platform has been issued entirely on our own initiative, without any thought of personal gain, and we must emphasise the fact that Rog does not prompt the publication of this, or any other, circular of support.

signed..... Rod Milner,
Pete Weston.

4-2-65.

stenciled in great glee by Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road,
Stourbridge, Worcs.,

KEN CHESLIN.....Feb 6th 1965.

the reverse of this was sent to me by Pete Weston....because, I suppose, he knows that I have little love of Platt. Well, that's perfectly true, I don't like Platt, and in fact I wrote 4 steaming pages against him. But on second thoughts I won't print what I originally wrote. 1, because how I feel personally about Platt has nothing to do with the issue at hand, 2. Platt is just not worth getting steamed up about. OH?

CHARLES PLATT as an officer of the BSFA.

I will confine myself to what is said in the circular passed out by Gray Hall, and for the moment assume that he speaks for himself, and not for Platt.

Firstly, I agree that Platt has produced a good zine...marred only by himself, but would like you to prove that it is the "most literate and widely-read British fanzine today"

As to Platts effectivness in getting the age limit for committee membership lowered to 18, and for his "continual encouragement for the popular Jimmy Groves" I would remind you that onw swallow does not make a summer, and I personally doubt that even the persistant Platt could have single-handedly achieved what you claim for him.

PADS. correction. The policy of PADS might be to produce 8 fanzines 4 times a year. But has it, and will it continue to do so?.

Platts dictionary of Fannish terms is not original by any means, NFFF brought one out as recently as a couple of years ago. They also had the double advantages of comprehensivness (as compared with Platts) and accuracy.

I hereby deny Platts "dynamic personality and ability". So, now the not deneyed-ness is a fallacy, think up a new term to describe his genius.

I think you did a dirty trick by underlining "punctual" in your line "and a truly regular, and punctual publication schedule.". If you have any moans about the way VECTOR is run, or any complaints about the schedule, come out and state you case, don't hide behind snide phases,

The BSFA needs Charles Platt like a bear needs a sore....head.

Substitute "restless and shiftless" for "Mobile and nomadic" and you may have a point...you might also mention how he will manage to produce these fabulous VECTORS if he's always moving around. As for the "more Convenient" claims YOU say are made for Birmingham. Fagh! also Pshaw! I personally believe, and I said this in '62 when I was Secretary, that its best if the committee members were all within easy distance of each other...and I did suggest then that a local group should stand, en-masse, for office...but nothing ever came of it. The fact that Brum is the home of most of the committee this year I look on as a happy accident....and the idea works so well that I am loth to see it break up...but nbt just Brum, ANY grouping of the committee would do.....and you miss the whole point...

My dear Gray, you miss the whole point of this, you say that Charles Platt "willing to attend important committee meetings wherever is mutually convenient for the other officers". This does not "effectively quashing any claims that it is "more convenient" to have the BSFA based in Birmingham".

First of all, you must have a down on the Brummies, if you are power mad let me tell you that they are not. (include me, I got drummed into the Chair, and only filled it because I was persuaded it would help the BSFA). As I said, Brum, London, Manchester, anywhere, it doesn't matter so long as 3 or 4 of the committee are in easy reach of each other. You must envisage a vicious struggle for power, My God! what strange ambitions you must have, to think of a BSFA post as a position of power....

Anyway, secondly, you obviously don't see the point. In former committees people gathered occasionally for important meeting, so the (apparently) commendable mobility of Platt is less important than you would imagine.

The real importance of easy communication between the Officers is that they can meet to settle ordinary, routine bussiness.

Ask anyone, Gray, who has ever been on a committee, ask them just how much toil the trivia of administration is...and how wonderful it is to be able to meet the other members and to talk out in a couple of hours bussiness that would have otherwise consumed weeks of question-and-answers correspondence, of taking committee decisions by a mere show of hands, instead of the time wasting circularising of the proposals and the totaling of vote. All the BSFA bussiness is not over at the AGM, my innocent friend, its then that the real work begins.

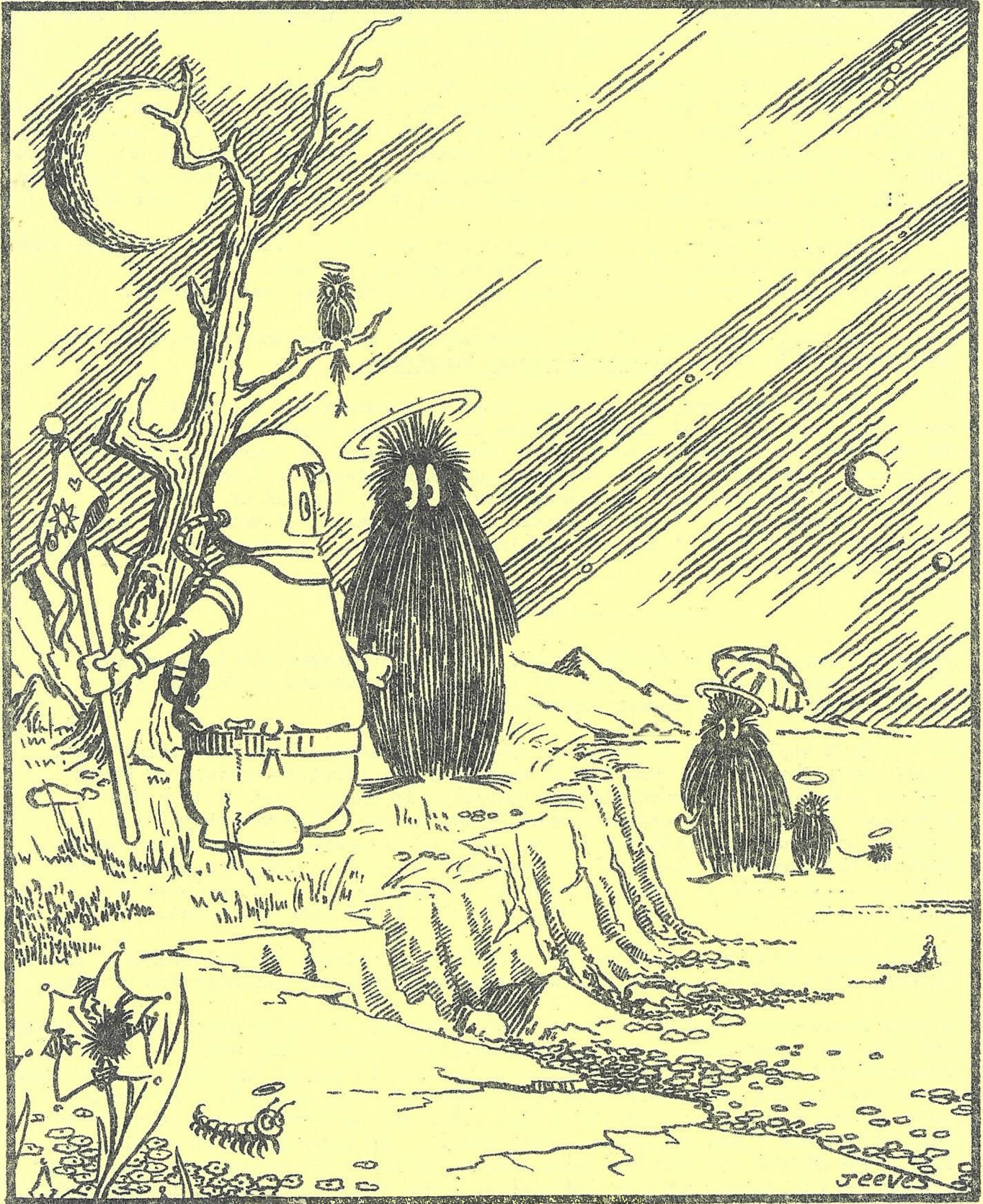
Platt is unsuitable for VECTOR editor, you have condemned him in your own circular when you state, "Devote all his time and talents to VECTOR. His plans include.....more lively and controversial".

Do I really need to tell you what Platt's idea of "controversial" is?. I tell you, I shuddered when I read that....I had horrible visions of Platt writing something "contraversially" insulting in VECTOR, and getting THE BSFA sued for it.... I envision that Platts brand of "controversy" will consist of arguments initiated for the sake of argument, insults slung around just to "stir up some interest" to "enliven" the BSFA. And, the material he will use...ah...can we expect that to be "controversial"... I hesitate to think what he might consider contraversial. But I fear the worst.

I have heard that Charles is pretty confident of getting the Editorship, and is even now collecting material, submitted to BEYOND, in anticipation of this.

A word about Roger Peyton. I think he's an idiot. He works damn hard on VECTOR, and gets you, Gray Hall, slinging insinuations at him. You, you f, wouldn't know a decent editor if he came up and bit you in the leg. I know that Roger worries and works over VECTOR, too much I'd say, and I know he was not going to run for editor again this year...but the news of Platts intention to seek office has given him qualms about this. If Roger is still willing to look after VECTOR you have the best reasons in the world to support him, he has proved his competence and enthusiasm. One thing is certain. I won't vote for Platt, I'm frightened what harm he might do VECTOR and the BSFA.

5
6th february.1965. K.M.P.Cheslin.



"Welcome to Saturn"