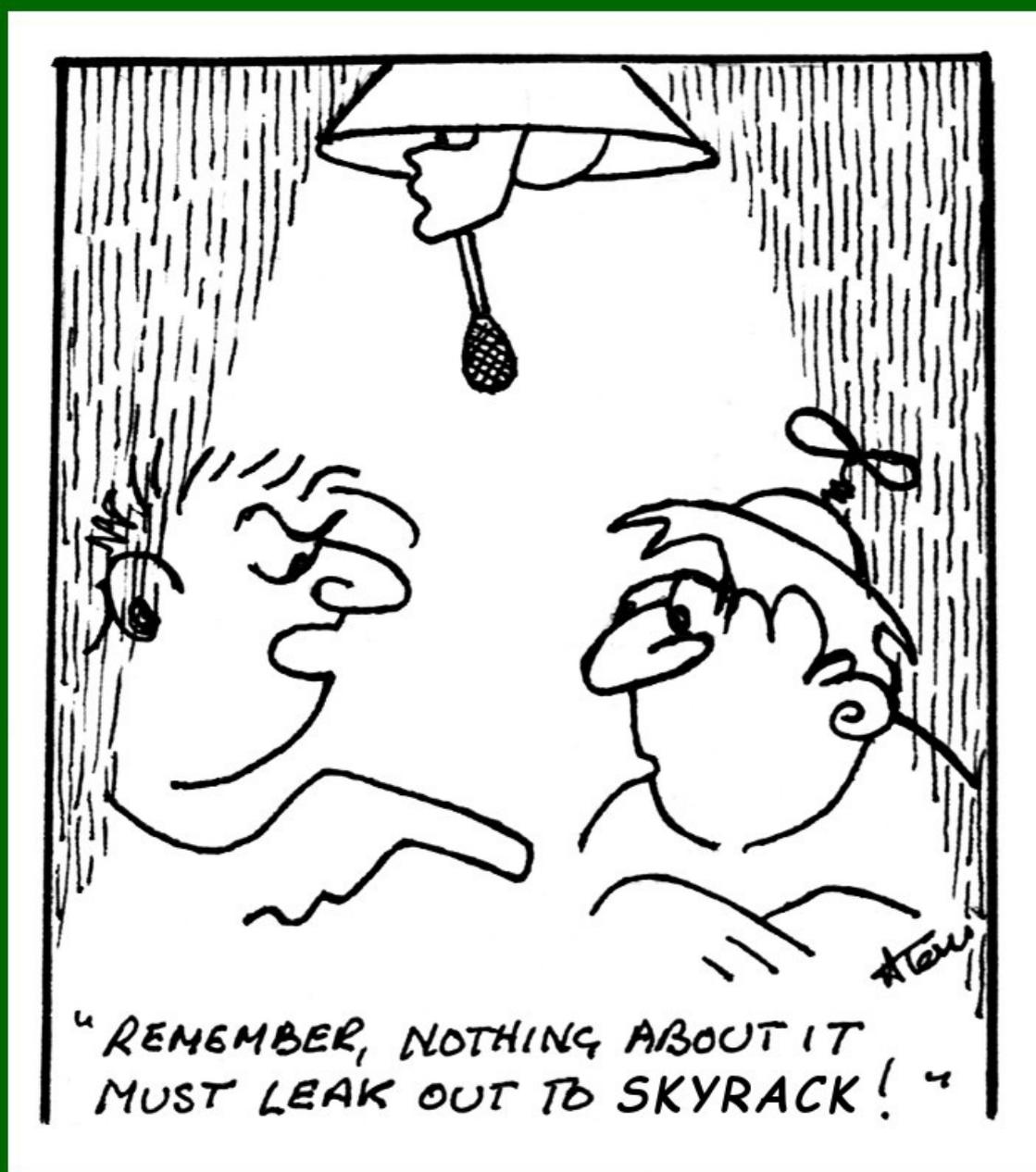


# THE COMPLETE SKYRACK



RON BENNETT

# **The Complete *Skyrack***

**Edited by Ron Bennett**

*Published by*

Ansible Editions

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[ae.ansible.uk](http://ae.ansible.uk)

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Bennett.

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*Cover artwork: Skyrack* masthead logo created in 1959 by Eddie Jones and used from *Skyrack* #2 (May 1959) onward. Cartoon by Atom/Arthur Thomson from *Twill-Ddu* 20 (March 1983); the original caption was “Remember, nothing about it must leak out to *Ansible!*” rather than “... to *Skyrack!*”

Interior [photo](#) of Ron Bennett taken by Terry Jeeves.

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# Foreword

## Rob Hansen

If you're going to embark on a research project as huge and daunting as *Then*, my account of the first half-century of fannish activity in the UK, you need access to a collection of fanzines that cover the period, of course. What you also need is a solid starting point, some sort of way into the material. For me, that way in turned out to be the British newszines. Fanzine bibliographies let me know what had come out when, which was crucial, but newszines provided context, a framework in which to fit all the stuff I was unearthing, and a guide as to what had been considered the important events by the fans of the time. These days *Ansible* fills that position. It followed on from *Checkpoint* of the 1970s, which followed Ron Bennett's *Skyrack* of the 1960s, which was preceded by Jan Jansen's short-lived *Contact*. In the early 1950s, the Vince Clarke-edited *Science Fantasy News* had been the main newszine of its day, while during World War II, Mike Rosenblum's *Futurian War Digest* had filled that position. All of these were utterly indispensable.

While my chief researcher Vince Clarke and I each had a few issues of *Skyrack*, we were missing most of them. So we went straight to the source himself, its editor Ron Bennett. Though it's now a book, *Then* was originally published in fanzine form with the first issue covering the 1930s and 1940s, and the second the 1950s. The third issue would be devoted to the 1960s. Ron had of course been one of those I'd sent copies of the earlier issues, but if memory serves it was Vince who contacted him. Ron responded enthusiastically to our request for copies of the missing issues, and over the next few months a steady stream of bundles of photocopies of *Skyracks* arrived in the mail. As well as providing me with the information I needed, these were also a fine read in their own right. It requires enthusiasm and energy to publish a newszine, but without wit and a light touch they can be dull affairs. This was not a problem with *Skyrack*. Like Peter Roberts and Dave Langford after him, Ron Bennett made doing a newszine look effortless.

Ron sometimes scrawled annotations on the photocopies. For instance, on that of the 1962 *British Science Fiction Association Convention Newsletter* #1 (which went out with *Skyrack* #41), he wrote:

“Just proving that it was *never* known as the Roncon until years later when Keith Freeman listed it as such in a con list he drew up for some BSFA publication.”

On my copy of *Skyrack* #45, which contained the 1962 Hugo results, he wrote:

“Published the *day* after the Hugo ceremonies – thanks to a coded (for economy) telegram sent by Bob Pavlat.”

Ron also sent copies of the “alternate” front pages for #29 and #43. The one for #29 read:

## **ELLA PARKER FOR SEACON**

As Ron wrote to me:

“This was a spoof. Ella confided in me on a strictly DNQ basis that she would be attending SeaCon but didn’t want fandom to know as she felt that a fund might be set up to help her. Her copy of *Skyrack* bore this cover. Ella immediately sent me a letter deploring the fact that I’d broken her trust and calling me various unsavoury names. When she phoned Ethel Lindsay later in the day (Ethel also knew Ella was going to Seattle) and referred to *Skyrack*, Ethel, who had received her copy with the real ‘Amis’ cover, didn’t know what Ella was talking about (I’d have loved to have heard that conversation). Ella, realising that she’d been had, sent me a terse telegram (which was to become her constant greeting to me): ‘BENNETT, YOU BASTARD!’ ”

The alternate front page for *Skyrack* #43 read:

## **IT’S EDDIE**

Ron again:

“Another spoof cover. The only copy went to poor Ethel who immediately rang Eddie to congratulate him, just as he was going to the phone to congratulate *her*. Needless to say, both covers were prepared before the results came through.”

A final minor anecdote. In the 1980s, my work took me all over the country. On one occasion it took me to Leeds. Knowing that Ron had a

science fiction and comics shop there I sought it out, finding it in a shopping arcade. Unfortunately, it was closed that day, but that was OK because what I saw still made me grin. I'd only ever seen a single issue of *Skyrack* at that point, but it meant that I recognised the logo the fanzine had used most of its entire run. And there it was as the store sign, picked out in foot-high plastic letters.



SKYRACK

I wonder if any other fanzine logo was ever so prominently displayed?

*Rob Hansen, November 2017*

# Introduction to the Website

## Greg Pickersgill

Inspired by the Dave Langford-led [Checkpoint project](#), some people became overenthusiastic and undertook a similar plan to web all of the late Ron Bennett's really quite legendary newszine *Skyrack*. Yes, all 96 issues of it, from its start in April 1959 to the absolute end in July 1971. OK, not an enormous project, simply hours of scanning and OCR and some incredibly fast and accurate copy-typing from Ms Brialey.

Fandom's little Stakhanovites in this instance were Greg Pickersgill, Jim Linwood and Claire Brialey. With invaluable proofreading by Bill Burns and some original text courtesy of the Robert Lichtman Fanzine Collection, and essential guidance with html and graphics by Catherine Pickersgill.

If you haven't the slightest idea of what *Skyrack* was, or why you should (most certainly!) be interested, see [this article](#) by Ron Bennett his own self, courtesy of the excellent fanzine *Mimosa*.

You will also find much related information [here](#) at this instance of *Then*, Rob Hansen's extremely useful (indispensable, even!) history of British sf fandom. Chapters [2.3 to 3.2](#) cover the years of *Skyrack*'s highest activity.

More very entertaining information can be got from Peter Weston's really superb autobiography of a science fiction fan, *With Stars in My Eyes*, from [NESFA Press](#), very much recommended, and see also this webbed [supplement](#) to the book, which includes some photographs of persons and events mentioned.

If you (yes *you...*) have any personal memories or anecdotes or retrospective observations that relate to *Skyrack*, its times, personalities and events, please contact me at [gregory@gostak.wales](mailto:gregory@gostak.wales) with a view to having material included on this site. I do know you're using [this site](#), you know. A bit of feedback would make all the effort worthwhile.

*Greg Pickersgill, 2006*  
*Obsolete email address updated*

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Next to no feedback of any kind received as of February 2015, nearly 10

years after this site was first webbed. Well, then.

*Greg Pickersgill, 2015*

# Publisher's Note

Thanks to Greg Pickersgill for organizing the original *Skyrack* online archive as described in his [Introduction to the Website](#) and allowing me to make free with the results. Further grovelling appreciation to the helpers he names. Yet more thanks to Rob Hansen for contributing the [Foreword](#), scanning the *Skyrack* logo at high resolution, supplying scans of the hoax and parody issues, and checking several queried readings against the original copies and photocopies sent to him by the late great Ron Bennett.

With a very few exceptions, *Skyrack*'s on-stencil artwork has been omitted throughout. It doesn't work at all well on ebook readers or smaller devices such as phones, with the crucial captions being generally unreadable. See [Greg Pickersgill's online archive](#) for scans. The exceptions are the big masthead logo by Eddie Jones – which appears not only on the cover but at the beginning of each year of *Skyrack* in this ebook – Jim Cawthorn's header for [A Memorial Fund](#), and the *Skyhack* and *Skyreck* parody logos.

The ebook follows the website text fairly closely, with many typos (some of them Ron Bennett's own, no doubt) and OCR errors fixed, a few spellings regularized (Tom Schlück also appeared as Tom Schluck and Schlueck, and hardly anyone could spell the fanzine title *Aporrheta*), and book, fanzine, film, magazine and newspaper titles italicized – though it seemed too much effort to sort out all the mentions of short fiction and fanzine articles, sometimes given in quotes and sometimes not. I've added a very few footnotes (signed *DRL*) on cryptic allusions and outright errors. The [Glossary](#) at the end spells out some of the fannish abbreviations used.

Now read on....

*David Langford, November 2017*

*Update:* Following a typo fix suggested by the estimable Mark Plummer, I have tried my best to compare the *Skyrack* text with the scanned originals at Fanac.org (which now has a complete set) and repaired many more failures of OCR. These included fractions, which tended to vanish; underlining for emphasis in ordinary text (i.e. not in book or film titles), restored throughout; occasional missing words or paragraphs; a few *Skyrack* supplements and addenda not included in the Greg Pickersgill archive; and some extracts from *Skyrack European Fantasy Trader*, which was mainly a sales catalogue for books, comics and magazines but

included occasional news snippets in the *Skyrack* vein.

*David Langford, September 2025*

**1959**

# SKYRACK



*Ron Bennett feeding Cecil, his imaginary elephant pet. Cecil was mentioned a few times in S kyrack – in particular when the Skyhack parody by other hands was bylined “Cecil Bennett”.*

# ***Skyrack* #1, 4 April 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 1** and is dated **April 4th 1959**. *Skyrack* is published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Cost is 6d per copy, 6 for half-a-crown. U.S.A. subscribers should send money to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. 6 for 35¢. News of interest to fandom gratefully accepted. Illo on the left by Bill Rotsler, captioned by John Owen.

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## **I Too Would Be a Publishing Giant**

About three years ago, Jan Jansen came up with the idea of producing a regular and frequent newszine. This idea was nothing new in itself, but Jan also put forward that the newszine should pay for itself. He put out *Contact* which ran to over half a dozen issues before slipping away into limbo after Jan had broken a collarbone in a road accident. The surprising thing was that fandom didn't object to paying out for a newszine, but instead seemed to welcome the innovation.

Since that time, I've been in half a mind about putting out such a newszine myself. A year ago, I wrote to Jan asking if I might take over *Contact* but received no reply. About the same time, *Fanac* came on the scene. For the very few uninitiated, *Fanac* is a newszine put out by Terry Carr and Ron Ellick over in California.

*Fanac* has filled the gap left by *Contact*'s departure very satisfactorily, but deals primarily with Stateside news. Recently Archie Mercer attempted to balance this bias, by issuing a newszine called *Anglofanac*. This is to be infrequent.

In the hope of balancing *Fanac*'s Stateside slant even further I am hoping to produce *Skyrack* at regular intervals of a month. If there is enough news to merit more frequent issues, then I'll produce such issues. However, I have no intentions of stepping on Archie's toes, especially as *Anglofanac* is free and is distributed along with *Fanac*. When Archie is preparing an issue, I'll merely turn my news over to him and skip an issue.

All issues of *Skyrack* will be charged for. No trades. News items, whether of science fiction or a more social nature, will merit the sender a free copy

of the issue in which said news item appears.

## **Brumcon 59**

Last weekend, the first British convention to be held under the auspices of the British Science Fiction Association took place at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham. Attendees included such wellknown fans as Eric Bentcliffe, Terry Jeeves, Archie Mercer, Bob Richardson, Norman and Ina Shorrocks, Eddie Jones, Bobbie Wild, Sandra Hall, Ella Parker, Eric Jones, Ken McIntyre, John M. Roles, Dave Cohen, Frank Simpson and Jack Wilson. Guest of Honour was Kenneth F. Slater who spent a small fortune buying coffee for late and all-night revellers. The gathering quickly recovered its feet after an early setback concerning drinking hours and the informal and friendly atmosphere was reminiscent of early days at Kettering. The programme was well attended and there was always something of interest to the audience. Several items lacked the polish of say Frank Simpson's deadpan talk at the 1954 SuperManCon, but this tended to add informality to the already informal proceedings. At the very least the convention was a financial and social success and all those who worked so hard on its organisation are to be congratulated. No doubt fuller accounts will appear in various fanzines shortly. The souvenir programme booklet deserves special mention, however; an impeccable production.

## **BSFA Officers**

As one of the British Science Fiction Association's staunchest critics since its inception at Kettering a year ago, I think it only fair to mention that while I contested the Association's implication that British fandom needed such an organisation in order to survive, I do congratulate the BSFA on the way it has gone about achieving its aims. There were several new faces present at the BrumCon, all of whom have been brought into fandom by the BSFA. Nor were these newcomers, as might have been expected, stuffy. They fitted in well and were most interesting to talk to. It would be interesting to learn their views on the Convention. The BSFA itself elected new officers for the coming year. Roberta Wild took over as Publications officer and Editress of *Vector*. Sandra Hall was appointed Assistant. Doctor Arthur R. Weir (Primrose Cottage, Westonbirt Village, Near Tetbury, Glos) was elected Secretary. Archie Mercer held his post as Treasurer and subscriptions of £1 per annum should be sent to him at

434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincs.

## TAFF

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund is now in full swing with over £30 in the British Treasury. Have you voted yet? Ballot forms will be sent on application.

**Dave Newman** didn't show up at the BrumCon but he did send carbon copy letters to members of the BSFA Committee. Dave tells of his bad luck since moving from Liverpool to Bournemouth. First he suffered a breakdown in health because of overwork and had to drop out of fandom as well as giving up his honorary posts with the Hoylake, Cheshire rugby and sailing clubs. Later when things were pulling round, Dave was put into hospital after a cycling accident. It is hoped that his recovery is soon complete and that he is soon back with us.

**Holiday Plans** are being made by various British fans. There is, on the cards, a Liverpool party at Whitsun, whilst at the same time several London fans are planning to swoop on Cheltenham. Fans from both Liverpool and Cheltenham are planning to visit the Mediterranean regions during the summer, perhaps to search for Atlantis. It is with cheerful alacrity that I have accepted an invitation to stay at Inchmery with the Clarkes and Sandy Sanderson during my own summer vacation.

**A Bas 11** (25¢; Boyd Raeburn, 9 Glenvalley Drive, Toronto 15, Canada) is notable for an outstanding report by Boyd on his travels to and from the SolaCon. Trailing not very far behind is a four and a half page article by Walt Willis on the differences between the purely fanzine fans and the purely convention fans. While this viewpoint is presented in conversation form it is gratifying to see that Walt keeps his arguments straight-forward and readable but does not fall into the trap of using his chosen medium to confuse the issue and shoot off a few snide remarks at the different personalities concerned. Highly recommended. Note, incidentally, Boyd's new postal district.

**Bill Rickhardt** who struck me as being surprisingly mature when I met him in the States has now come up with another surprise and one which is nowhere near as pleasant. Having kept right out of the New York feuds simply because a) I'm not interested and b) both sides have participants who are good friends of mine, I'm now rushing in headlong to take Bill to task on a piece he's recently published in *Flip*. Here Bill attacks the

Dietzes and George Raybin. Whatever Belle, Frank and George have said to incur the Rickhardt wrath, Bill cannot be justified when he begins to be extremely personal or when he speaks for fandom as a whole. Snide snipings at physical features have no place in a logical argument. Note also William that Belle and George are highly thought of in Britain by those who are not in the least concerned in WSFS wrangles and who have memories of the work put in by Belle, Frank and George at the London World Convention in 1957.

*Aporrheta* should be here any day now. Sandy has delayed the March issue in order to get back on a regular monthly schedule and we can look forward to a double offering. *Retribution* and *Hyphen* are also expected shortly.

**Future Fan Gatherings** are always in the news. This year's World Convention is to take place in Detroit, and British fans can join by sending me seven shillings. Plans are already being formulated for the 1960 Convention and it must be put on record that the entire editorial staff of *Skyrack* (at home and abroad) is totally in support of WASHINGTON IN 1960. At the same time, British fandom must look to its own future. Having stood up at the BrumCon in order to suggest that the 1960 national convention is held in Harrogate, I'd like to learn the views of fans who might want to attend, particularly the viewpoints of fans living in the south. Remembering that hotel prices are generally rising (even the Kettering George now charges 22/6 and 25/- for bed and breakfast) I'd like to hear what fandom has to say about a Harrogate hotel with a night's charge of 30/-. (80 rooms, 3 star AA rating), which is centrally situated. There is also an alternative of 95 rooms which is not so central. A further alternative is that the Convention is held sixteen miles to the south, in Leeds. There are two centrally situated commercial two-star hotels, each with over seventy rooms and charging only 25/- per night. What's that? No, I'm not thinking of making bookings. I'm merely scouting round for opinion. Wherever the 1960 Con is held, I'll attend, so that if somebody plumps for a convention in a southern centre, then that's fine with me.

*The Directory of Science Fiction Fandom 1958* sold like hot cakes at the BrumCon but there are still a few copies left. Those may be obtained either from me, or from Bob Pavlat, at 1/9d or 25¢ per copy.

**The London Circle** has organised itself and hopes to put local fandom on a par with its fellow bodies in London and Cheltenham. Subscriptions to the London O are 5/- per annum pro tempore. The Chairman is Ted Tubb.

Charlie Duncombe is Treasurer and Sandra Hall is Secretary. Ken Bulmer, Vinç Clarke, Pete Taylor and Ella Parker make up the General Committee. Over forty fans have already joined. Ken Bulmer, interviewed by long-distance phone, sounds reasonably enthusiastic and says a news sheet is planned.

## ***Skyrack* #2, 1 May 1959**

This is *Skyrack* No. 2, dated **May 1st 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Cost is 6d per copy, six issues for half-a-crown. USA subscribers should send money to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Six issues for 35¢. News of interest to fandom, whether of a science fiction or a more social nature, gratefully accepted. Illustration on the left by Eddie Jones

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### **Hugo Ballot Forms**

Distributed with this issue of *Skyrack* are copies of the ballot forms for the “Hugo” awards for the best achievements and contributions to the Science Fiction field. The awards will be presented at the Detention, the Detroit World Convention in September. These ballot forms, kindly supplied with a readily addressed envelope by Archie Mercer, a man without whom no fandom should leave itself, should be returned to me by May 15th. Get cracking and vote!

As the ballot form points out, you can obtain membership to the Detention by sending me 7 shillings. Why not join the Detention at the same time as sending in the Hugo ballot?

### **European Fan Grant**

At the International Kettering convention in 1956 Ken Slater raised the possibility of running a fan fund on the lines of TAFF with the idea of bringing a Continental fan to a British Convention. It was pointed out at the time that this fund might tend to rival TAFF and that it wasn't really necessary as expenses were relatively small. Now read on:

Ken has been having second thoughts on this matter and has come up with the idea of having a continental fan attending each British convention with the aid of a set grant of say £5 or £10. Ken has put on to a circular all the main points for and against the idea, and hopes to hear some discussion on the matter. All correspondence dealing with this grant should be sent to “Eurofangrant” c/o Ken Slater, 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs,

England. Copies of the circular mentioned above can also be obtained from Ken.

To summarise some of the points raised by Ken: Amount of grant, number of persons to benefit, qualifications for nominators, a sliding scale of representatives per country according to fan strength, contributions to the fund, currency payments, qualifications for voters, administration and language difficulties.

## **TAFF**

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund is moving along smoothly with over £30 in the British Treasury. Voting forms for those who have not yet voted may be obtained from either myself, or such sterling people as Dick Ellington, PO Box 14, Cooper Station, New York 3, NY. While you're giving over those few minutes to filling in/out Hugo ballots, joining the Detention, writing Ken Slater about the Eurofangrant and subscribing to *Skyrack*, why not further confuse your income tax inspector by voting in and contributing to TAFF??

## **Change of Address**

Jill Adams, heroine of the 1958 Kettering brag party in room 12, informs us that her address is now 54 Cobden Avenue, Bitterne Park, Southampton, Hampshire.

## **Consite 1960**

Ken Slater has come up with a novel "best fanzine produced at the con" idea and is announcing that he'll be at the Harrogate convention next year. In a private letter Ken says, "I'm in favour of Harrogate for the Con '60. Leeds is too flipping big. But of course financial considerations are of great importance. I think if you can get going early and get the names and reservations in, you might be able to get a reduction from a hotel. Always worth a try..."

Terry Jeeves writes "Bob Richardson seems to favour Kettering, but for my money, I don't care whether it is there, or in Harrogate. Harrogate might present a nice change, but a central hotel, please."

John Berry writes, "I'm all for Harrogate for '60. I shall definitely be there."

Norman Shorrock thinks we should steer clear of cities and also of towns of appreciable size.

There is news, too, of would-be convention activity in other centres. Some London Circlites are plugging a home-town convention, whilst from Dr. Arthur R. Weir, the Secretary of the British Science Fiction Association, comes this snippet:

"Incidentally, Eric Jones has come up with the interesting fact that the Belle Vue hotel in Cheltenham has accommodation for no less than 150 guests, with a conference hall that can be hired 'for about 6 guineas for 60 people' and charging 25/- per head B&B..."

Where shall it be then, Harrogate, Cheltenham, London or.....? It only remains for me to repeat that I'll attend the convention wherever it is held. And you too, I hope.

There are still copies left of *The Directory of Science Fiction Fandom 1958* which may be obtained either from me, or from Bob Pavlat, 1/9d or 25¢ per copy.

**Orion 22** is expected this month, as is another issue of Sandy Sanderson's *Aporrheta*. Work on *Perihelion* and *Triode* has begun and editors Barry Hall and Eric Bentcliffe are wanting material.

**Aporrheta 9 & 10** (1/6 or 20¢, 8/- (\$1) for six, 15/- (\$2) for twelve; Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queen's Road, New Cross, London SE 14, England) both arrived towards the beginning of the month and proved to be well worth waiting for. These two issues are entirely devoted to the popular "Inchmery Fan Diary" broken up by articles by outside contributors in the order of their arrival at Inchmery. Contributors include myself, Joy Clarke, George Locke, John Berry and the enigmatic Penelope Fandergaste. Impeccably duplicated in royal blue ink, with illustrations by Arthur Thomson, Don Allen and Bjo Wells, these issues are highly recommended.

**Fanac** (25¢ for 4 issues, 50¢ for 9; Ron Ellik and Terry Carr, Apt 7, 2444 Virginia Street, Berkeley 4, California, USA; 2/- for 4 issues from Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln, England) is fandom's leading news and commentary fanzine. Number 36 dated 4th April and mailed 7th April arrived here 16 days after posting, showing that the Berkeley Publishing Giants can not only scoop fans on events before

those fans know about those events themselves, but have allies in the Postal Department. This issue covers the death of Lester Dent, news on American regional conventions and the sad notice of the Falascas' separation.

**Hyphen 22** (Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland; 15¢ or 1/-) arrived the same morning as the two copies of *Aporrheta* so that Erle Stanley Gardner was pushed well back in my reading time. William Temple writes about Arthur C. Clarke, Bob Leman puts new edges on old saws, Vin¢ Clarke contributes his usual excellent Grinch column, whilst in case one becomes bored or dissatisfied with these minor names, there is also Bob Shaw's regular column, "The Glass Bushel". Ten pages of letters, the usual bacover quotes and chuckle-raising Atom cartoons complete the issue. Fans read *Hyphen*.

**Retribution 13** (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast, N. Ireland) proves the fallacy in the rumour that wRETch has folded. Whilst this issue is slightly marred by the absence of Arthur Thomson illustrations and the inclusion of a somewhat scrappy crossword, the rest of the issue is well up to standard – except of course that I can't pass an opinion on my own item "Southgate Confidential", a G.D.A. story based on last year's World Convention. Other contributors are Donald Franson, Bob Shaw, Archie Mercer, Bjo Wells and Penelope Fandergaste.

**The British Science Fiction Association**, whose official organ *Vector* is due within the next few days, is looking for some worthy to review British promags for them. Willing horses should contact Doc Weir at Primrose Cottage, Westonbirt Village, near Tetbury, Glos.

**Eric Bentcliffe** adds comment to *Skyrack*'s holiday piece by announcing plans to visit Italy this summer.

**Nebula Science Fiction** has gone gafia for a couple of months. Archie Mercer sends a letter circularised to subscribers. It reads, "We regret that owing to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be able to publish an issue of *Nebula* for either March or April this year.

"We are extremely sorry for any disappointment which this may cause our regular readers, and hope to have our magazine back in regular publication again very soon."

**The London Circle's Newssheet** will be edited by George Locke, who will in turn be edited by assistant Ivor Mayne.

**Jean Linard** is casting around for someone to send him Moomin strips

from local papers. As this delightful series appears daily in Yorkshire, Liverpool and London papers, I should be able to keep him well supplied. I mention this item with the thought that overseas fans may be reading a different Moomin adventure (The Nibbling one) and/or may be able to pick up for Jean copies of any Moomin collection. (Jean Linard, 24 rue petit, Vesoul, Haute Seone, France). Jean also asks whether I've seen a copy of Ray Nelson's petizine, *Le Marche Aux Puces Fantastique*. You can get this piece of Nelsonia en francais from Ray at 51 Avenue Pasteur, Bellevue-Echenez, Vesoul.

**Anne Lubell**, ex-fringe beat generationist of New York fandom, tells me that she'll be visiting Europe this summer with a group of fellow graduates from college. She sails on the *Ascania* and arrives in Southampton on July 12th. Anne's address for those interested (Jill?), is 305 Avenue F, Brooklyn, New York, USA. I'm not sure about the postal district. Anne addressed her letter as Brooklyn 18, the envelope gave the return address Brooklyn 10 and the postmark bore a Brooklyn 9 frank.

## ***Skyrack* #3, 1 June 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 3** dated **June 1st 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Ave., Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for half-a-crown. Interested parties in the USA and Canada should send 35¢ for six issues to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to fandom, whether of a science-fiction or a more social nature gratefully accepted. Cartoon by Vin¢ Clarke

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### **London in 1960**

**The London Circle** descended on Cheltenham for the Whit weekend (16th/18th May) and Archie Mercer, who went along to confer with the other BSFA Committee members, reports that a good time was had by all. Reports show that those who made the trip were Pam and Ken Bulmer, Peter West, Mike Moorcock, Peter Taylor, Archie, Ted Tubb, Jim Rattigan, Ella Parker, Sandy Sandfield, Barry Bayley, Ivor Mayne, George Locke, Bobbie Wild and Sandra Hall. Travel was by train, bus (Archie) and Ted Tubb's car which George Locke reports had trouble with traffic jams, punctures, a break-down and several cases of the hub caps coming off the wheels. Well, no-one tried to shoot them! A fancy dress parade paid homage at the Shrine of St. Fantony and later Ted Tubb and Sandra Hall were admitted to the select company of Knights and Ladies of this ancient fannish order. I'm told that Eric and Margaret Jones, Frank Herbert, Doc Weir, Les Childs, Bill Gray, Keith Freeman and Audrey Eversfield of the Cheltenham Circle made merry with the visitors. The BSFA Committee discussed Convention sites for next Easter. In view of the enthusiasm shown by the London O, who made a bid for the site, it was decided to let the London O arrange the Easter National Convention, to be run once again under the auspices of the BSFA. I'm naturally disappointed that Harrogate was not chosen, but at the very least, we do know where London is.

**Alan Rispin**, 35 Lyndhurst Avenue, Higher Irlam, Manchester, is interested in contacting fans who would be willing to form a Manchester S.F. Circle to meet Saturday nights.

**People Are Fans Dept.** I recently attended an engagement party in Leeds

– nonfannish friends of the family. About 60 guests rolled up to the house. There was naturally much drinking. Attendees ranged in age from 11 to 60 plus. Bennett and five others were soon playing brag... on the front lawn. Daughter of the host provided blankets to sit on as the evening drew in; host himself set about spraying insecticide around the players. The kitty mounted on one hand when I sat tight with a pile of queens. Someone else held aces. I tell you – just like a con.

**George Locke** writes to say that his previously announced fanzine will be called *Smoke* and that it's hardly an official organ of the London O although I gather that material will mainly be slanted that way. George also tells me that Ivor Mayne is hardly his assistant, but that the zine will be run off by Ivor.

**Eddie Jones** has had to cut down on fanac because of a pro-contract to produce all the new SF and Fantasy titles this summer for Badger Books. He'll be busy. That's the kind of FAFIA we like to hear.

**Sture Sedolin**, PO Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden, sends a copy of his newszine *SF-Fronten* which is published in Swedish. Sture also asks if he can have the Swedish reprint rights from *Skyrack*. Granted, with awe and pleasure. Sture also sends his fanzine *Cactus* (1/- from Alan Dodd) which is, I believe, the first all-English Swedish fanzine. It is very well produced and has some excellent illustrations and pleasant items, but so far this is hardly another *Alpha*. Of special note, however, is a photopage (these things were popular about three years ago – what happened then?) which gives us a first glimpse of such wellknown fans as Sture himself, Cato Lindberg and Roar Ringdahl who looks amazingly like Larry Shaw.

Talking of Larry reminds me that while it's not my policy to use American news items which will surely be covered in *Fanac* there are enough British fans interested enough to warrant my mentioning that Larry and Leeh were recently divorced. This news comes from Bob Pavlat who writes a good account on the Disclavette held in Washington on 16th May. Bob says, "Dave Kyle... was taking pictures of the lot of us and got his shoe stuck in the mud. Really stuck. Tremendous pulling managed to get his foot out of his shoe. He laid down his camera, tugged on the shoe with both hands and finally it came free – suddenly. Dave did as neat a flip as I've ever seen. Luckily the ground was dry except for the small puddle where his shoe stuck." Bob also mentions that *he* should have had the camera.

**Lack of Storage Space** means that I'm selling fanzines grab-bag fashion. 10 for 3/6 (50¢, 25 for a dollar (7/-). (Av.30pp. Postfree.)

**Vector 4** arrived at the beginning of the month. This is the official organ of the year-old British Science Fiction Association which may be joined by sending Archie Mercer (434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln) £1 for a year's membership. This issue, produced by Terry Jeeves, maintains the constant improvement in the magazine's standard. Apart from the thorough BSFA reports there is here a Birmingham convention report, some excellent prozine reviews by Terry and an assortment of contributions from fen like Bob Richardson, Doc Weir, Eric Bentcliffe and Ken Slater. The next issue will be produced by Bobbie Wild, 204 Wellmeadow Road, Catford, London SE6, who is no doubt looking for contributions.

Archie Mercer writes: "*Ploy 14*. This represents a welcome return to currency of one of my favourite fanzines. A pretty good issue, though unfortunately only in a second-hand sort of way, because about half of the main contents are actually reprints from other fanzines. The excuse for this is that this is supposed to be a Bob Tucker Appreciation Issue and the reprinted items are either by or about Tucker. Still, they're good, as too are the original contents, particularly an ingenious theory by Bob Coulson. The lettercol, too, is of interest despite the year's gap between issues. The duplicating – at least on my show copy – is good to excellent throughout, and the artwork is a joy, particularly the cover and the Owen-captioned Rotslers. And my name isn't mentioned once throughout, either." This is no hoax. *Ploy 14*, the Bob Tucker Appreciation Issue, is indeed out. Available from either Bob Pavlat or myself, Ron Bennett, at 1/9d or 25¢. To modify Archie's comments, I should say that of the eight feature items, two are reprints, a tribute to Tuck by Bob Bloch and an article by Tucker himself. The original items are by Bob Tucker, Gregg Calkins, Bob Coulson, "Phoenix", Sandy Sanderson and myself (part seven of *Colonial Excursion*). Bill Harry drew the cover. Rotsler, Atom and Barry Hall contributed the artwork.

**Femizine 11** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 1/- or 15¢. 30pp). Paying a very welcome visit to the zinescene is the Woman's Viewpoint, ably put together in fanzine form by Ethel Lindsay. Sandy Sanderson inaugurated the zine in the guise of Joan W. Carr and Pamela Bulmer who took over from him as editor has now passed the zine on to Ethel. Ethel has already put out one issue under the title of *Distaff* but because of public feeling *Femizine* has now reverted to its original and highly-esteemed title. The duplication is not of the highest standard, being mostly blue print on coloured paper – I don't mind

coloured paper, but blue on blue or green! – nor is the layout; where are the Atoms and Ted Whites of Femmefandom? “*Fez*” is however an informal and entertaining piece of reading with contributions by Ethel, Pat Ellington, Bobbie Wild, Betty Kujawa, Joy Clarke, Christine Moskowitz, Elinor Busby (on G.M. Carr) and Frances Evans. Of special interest are articles by Miriam Carr and Pamela Bulmer, whose column is a neatly presented London report.

**Bob Madle and Don Ford** announce the formation of a new fan club, FIRST FANDOM, a non-profit organisation with dues of one dollar per annum. “Most of the money,” they say, “will be expended in a club bulletin which will maintain an up to date roster of members... allowing them to get in touch with old friends they’ve been wanting to contact for years.” If you had some contact with S.F. and/or fandom before 1st Jan. 1938 you might contact Don at Box 19-T, RR2, Loveland, Ohio, USA.

**Alan Dodd** says that he is holidaying in Spain this summer. KEN CHESLIN sends a clipping from the *Sunday Dispatch* which puts forward the theory that Phobos and Deimos, the moons of Mars, are in fact “man-made artificial satellites.” Seventeen British fans voted in the Detention Hugo Award nomination polls. This strikes me as being an extremely enthusiastic way of showing Archie Mercer who ran off the voting forms for *Skyrack* and *Vector* that he’s wasting his time. We’ll see whether we can’t do better next time, huh? The final voting forms will be circulated shortly, again courtesy Archie. Talk of Archie reminds me that one day a couple of weeks ago the Harrogate SFS paid him a surprise visit (courtesy hitch hiking, Ron). He was out.

**Walt Willis** has moved. His new address is 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast. Walt gave a nice writeup on Oblique House in *Fanac*, a rival newszine of minor import. Presumably Walt wanted to be encouraging.... No news has been forthcoming from Liverpool as to how the LaSFaS spent its Whitsun holiday. You people trying to drive me out of business or sumpn?

**Phil Rogers** has also moved. New address is 5 First Avenue, Burringham X-Rds, Scunthorpe, Lines.

Because Sandy Sanderson has been crowded with office work, *Aporrheta* 11 has not yet appeared, but Sandy tells me that it will be mailed this weekend, shortly to be followed by No 12 which contains material by Grennell, Bloch, Warner, etc.

## ***Skyrack* #4, 1 July 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* No 4** dated **1st July 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, Maryland. News of interest to SF fans gratefully accepted. Cartoon by Archie Mercer. The typed number on the back page shows the issue your subscription expires. This issue is being circulated to members of The Off-Trail Magazine Publishers Association as a Postmailing to the June 1959 (OMPA 20) Mailing. Subscribers in OMPA will have their subscription extended, naturally. Note that *Skyrack* is the only Yorkshire newspaper not affected by the present deadlock. Fandom comes through!

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**London It Is!!!!**  
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As reported in the previous issue of *Skyrack*, London will stage the 1960 British Convention. The original announcement took some London fans by surprise for it was realised that the party which travelled to Cheltenham at Whitsun “had no power to conclude a final agreement” (Ken Bulmer). Rumours of a split in the London Circle because of this misunderstanding followed, but it is pleasing to note that the breach has been healed, and that enthusiasm has not been impaired.

Ken Bulmer tells me by phone that the last London Circle business meeting at the White Horse the decision was reached to accept the offer of the British Science Fiction Association and that London will hold the Convention in conjunction with the BSFA. No hotel has as yet been booked, nor has a Convention Committee been elected. It is expected that the Committee will be formed shortly, while a search for a suitable hotel is already in progress. The Convention will take place at Whitsun.

Ken also announces that the London Circle will hold a one day convention, a *Conversazione*, sometime in the latter half of September. Details will be announced later.

**Peter Davies** of the newly formed STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT S.F.

CIRCLE wrote to say that the group plans a fanzine and also sent me a card from Devon where he is holidaying. Also on holiday are members of the Liverpool SFS. John Roles is in Belfast and along with Audrey Eversfield and Keith Freeman of the Cheltenham Circle, Norman and Ina Shorrocks, Jeff Collins, Nancy Pooley, Bill Harrison and Stan Nuttall are spending a fortnight in Iviza, the westernmost of the Balearic Islands. Eddie Jones is in Jersey and reports that beer and cigarettes are half the price charged at home. Before you begin to pack with the thought of rushing off and joining Eddie, save some more pennies in the piggy-bank. The Iviza Liverpoolians report that vodka is selling at 7/6 a bottle and that cigarettes are 20 for 3d. Of course, they don't say what brand of cigarettes!

**Keith Freeman**, the same Knight of St. Fantasy mentioned above, reports that as it is a 90% probability that London will hold the Con at Whitsun next year, Ken Slater is considering organising an Easter convention.

**Vincent Clarke**, one of the Big Three who founded OMPA, has resigned from the Association because of lack of time. For much the same reason, Sandy Sanderson has resigned from FAPA.

**Sandra Hall** has moved to 41 North End. House, Fitzjames Avenue, London W14. Ernest Sterne has moved to 43 Roper Avenue, Leeds 8, Yorkshire; telephone 663409.

**Lyn Berman**, Ted Carnell's Girl Friday, is spending a year or thereabouts in the "Dark Continent" and writes to say that she is now employed as Assistant Shipping Manager with a South African head office (in Cape Town) of an English firm. She sends her regards to fans over here and in the States and especially mentions Norman and Ina Shorrocks and Lynn Hickman.

**Anne Lubell** of Brooklyn writes to say that while she may, after all be in England in July, it is far more likely that she'll hit these shores during November. Sounds like a foggy, foggy do.

**Ken Bulmer** who has just returned from a holiday in Italy with Pamela, kindly sends a copy of the first London Circle Bulletin which states "Meetings of the London Circle are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Globe and on the third Friday of every month at the White Horse. The Globe meetings are social occasions. So are the White Horse gatherings but in addition we have taken a private room at the White Horse and any business that may arise can then be discussed privately among the assembled fen without aside distractions. So the White Horse meetings are

the official business meetings of the LO – and you are kindly asked to take downstairs all your empty bottles and glasses at the end of the evening.” Next Globe meetings are 2nd July and 6th August. Next meetings at the White Horse are 17th July and 21st August. Note that the *August Skyrack* will be published in London.

***Aporrheta* 11**, May-June 1959 (Sandy Sanderson, “Inchmery”, 236 Queen’s Road, New Cross, London SE 11; 50 pages, 1/6 or 15¢ per copy, 6 for 8/- or \$1, 12 for 15/- or \$2) With this issue Sandy has really gone off his original monthly schedule but is hard to see how a magazine of both quality and quantity, which *Ape* certainly is, could be produced at such short regular intervals. With this issue too, Sandy reverts to his original layout and the popular Inchmery Fan Diary feature is complete in itself rather than containing the columns which are an integral part of *Ape*. Sandy lampoons the idea of a focal point for fandom and is supported by Atom with a funny but biting cartoon advert. There are columns by myself and Joy Clarke and a rather longer than usual offering from Penelope Fandergaste, which is also somewhat better than the columns we have seen from this mystery character of late. Recommended of course.

***Orion* 22** (Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6; 52 pages; 1/- or 15¢). This issue comes in two parts, 40 pages of fanzine-proper, and a supplementary 12 pages of You Said. It, readers’ letters. Ken Bulmer contributes two items which fact in itself makes *Orion* a Collector’s Piece. One article by Ken deals with a write-up on the London Circle and the other is one of Ken’s entertaining TAFF tales (entertaining but a little bitty compared to others Ken has written). There are also two BrumCon reports, by Brian Jordan and Ivor Mayne, which show that fandom is not lacking richness in new writings after all. John Berry contributes another in his series of popular Sergeant tales. Well up to the standard of other recent British fanzines.

***The Best of Fandom 1958*** has appeared and may be obtained from its publisher, Guy E. Terwilleger, 1412 Albright St. Boise, Idaho USA at 75¢ a copy. I can’t speak too highly of his record of all that’s good in fandom, a record which does not ignore British fanzines. In addition to the anthology of published articles there are an art section, a summary of the year’s news by Ron Ellik and an excellent introduction by Bob Madle. Should be in every home.

***Oopslas* 26 and 27** (Gregg Calkins, 1484 East 17th South, Salt Lake City 5, Utah, USA) and *Shangri-L’Affaires* 42 (Al Lewis 2548 West 12th

Street, Los Angeles 6, California, USA) have also appeared during the past month and are mentioned here because they contain, respectively, parts 4, 8 and 13 of my widely distributed *Colonial Excursion* report of my last summer's TAFF trip to the Solacon. I understand that *Innuendo* has also appeared within the last couple of weeks, but this has not yet reached Britain. This latest issue contains the 12th chapter of *Colonial Excursion*, which is a report on the Solacon itself. Don't say I don't warn you.

***The Directory of SF Fandom 1958*** has now sold out as have all back issues of *Skyrack*. There are however, still several copies of *Ploy* 14 left. These may be obtained for 1/9d or 25¢ from myself or Bob Pavlat. This is the Bob Tucker Appreciation issue and contains material by Bob himself, Gregg Calkins, "Phoenix", Sandy Sanderson, myself, Bob Coulson and Bob Bloch. There are Owen-captioned Rotsler illos and artwork by Atom, Bill Harry and Barry Hall. And me, too.

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** is still moving along smoothly, but in order to ensure that a North American delegate will attend the Convention over here next year, more cash is needed. Both contributions and the votes themselves (nominated are Terry Carr, Don Ford and Bjo Wells) will be gratefully accepted by either myself or Bob Madle, 3608 Caroline, Indianapolis 18, Indiana, USA. I am also British representative for the Detention, the Detroit Convention to be held in September. Subscriptions cost 7/-.

**Eric Bentcliffe** comes up with the idea that as "there just isn't enough happening in UK fandom to provide a monthly mag with copy...." I might include with *Skyrack* a report, a review or a discussion stencilled by other fen. I'd temper that point with the offer to distribute with copies of *Skyrack* readily duplicated copies of rider sheets as *Fanac* has been doing with *Gyre* and *RUR*. I believe this practice first began with the Futurian War Digest, which brings the scheme nearer home. I must insist, however, that I have the right to veto any such rider sheets. I hardly think that anyone who might take advantage of this offer will object if I say that I will *not* distribute riders which possess the lack of quality seen in the recent *Flip*, published by Bill Rickhardt as a rider to a Ted White magazine. Let's have freedom of speech by all means, but let's respect that freedom. If anyone is interested in circulating sheets with *Skyrack* could they first write me so that we can discuss circulation...?

**Archie Mercer**, who should surely be mentioned in every issue of *Skyrack* as a matter of principle, reports that 20th June saw a three man Minicon at

the Mercertorial Caravan, with Archie being visited by Jhim Linwood and Ivor Mayne. Archie writes that the pair were there “about eight hours or so. All the time we played records and they read *Mad* and *Panic*. Better than playing brag, anyhow.” I trust the last remark will shock science fiction fans the world over.

# ***Skyrack* #5, 28 July 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 5**, dated **28th July 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England.

**Note Additional Temporary Address:** "Inchmery", 236 Queen's Road, New Cross, London S.E.14

6d per copy, six issues 2/6d. 35 cents for 6 issues in USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave., Hyattville, Maryland. News of interest to SF fans gratefully accepted. Heading by Sandy Sanderson, cartoon by Joy Clarke.

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## **Hugo Ballots**

This issue of *Skyrack* is being produced a week early in order to circulate the final ballot forms for the Hugo Awards which will be presented at the Detention. British readers will find a form enclosed. It is hoped that British fandom will voice its opinions in order to make the Awards as truly representative of fandom as a whole as is possible. Note that the forms should be returned to me by Wednesday, 5th August. 2d postage if mailed in an open envelope.

Note that membership in the Detention, the Detroit convention, can be obtained by sending me seven shillings. Why not join the Detention at the same time as sending in the ballot form? This is probably your last chance to support a worthwhile fannish cause. It is hoped that with the circulation of these forms with *Skyrack* and through the BSFA that more fans will vote than the low number of seventeen who voiced opinions on the initial nomination ballots.

**Rainer Eisfeld**, who will be remembered for his outstanding speech at the London World Convention two years ago, writes to give notice that the Science Fiction Club Europa will sponsor what is described as the "first European convention" at the Weisser Wind Hotel, Zurich, on August 22/23. Notwithstanding the fact that the 1952 London Convention at the Royal was also similarly labelled – I remember that *Planeet* editor Nic Oosterbaan attended – this SFCE project sounds worthwhile of support and it is hoped that any British fans who might be holidaying on the

Continent will attend the convention. Whilst the main language spoken at formal sessions will be German, it will be a three language convention. A French delegation, headed by Pierre Versins, has already agreed to attend.

**Alan Rispin** sends a circular “postcard for non-squares” to report that the Newcastle S.F. Club has recently been formed by Don Allen, Jim Cawthorne, Tom Porter and Mary Munro. Following the Stourbridge and District Circle this is the second new Club to be formed since the Birmingham Convention.

**Two Rumours** have reached Harrogate and are noted here as being newsworthy items if there’s any truth in them; This is how to run a newszine? WALT WILLIS, I hear, is now back at 170 Upper Newtownards and it is also reported that whilst travelling to the Westercon Bjo Wells and Djinn Fame suffered injuries. Evidently their car ran off the road. Djinn I understand sustained a twisted back while Bjo suffered a broken jaw.

Following the congratulation-worthy news that Larry Shaw and Noreen Falasca were married in New York on July 17th, Bobbie Wild, OMPA-Editor and BSFA Committeewoman, announces her engagement to Bill Gray of the Cheltenham Circle. Mazeltov.

**Norman Shorrocks, Ina Shorrocks, Janet Shorrocks, Roy Shorrocks and Linda Shorrocks** were the hosts July 11/12 when Harrogate fandom travelled over to Liverpool and the Wirral to look up old familiar places and faces. Smoking Havana cigars and Ideales cigarettes the audience watched the premier showing of the colour films taken during the LaSFaS holiday in Ibiza last month. Eddie Jones and John Roles showed up on the Sunday in time to play brag. 2 Arnot Way has been having its share of fannish visitors lately. Other recent visitors have been Eric and Margaret Jones and Eric Bentcliffe.

**Anne Lubell**, previously reported as a November visitor to these shores, showed how wrong one can be by landing at Southampton July 12th. Following a few days’ stay in London and a speedy jaunt through Wales, Anne dropped in at 7 Southway en route to Edinburgh, a nice gesture on her part which was greatly appreciated. A great pity the visit was such a short one.

**Photographs** taken at the Birmingham convention at Easter are now being circulated throughout British fandom in round robin fashion. If you haven’t yet received the proofs, a large selection are to be sold at 8d each,

you might write Les Childs, 10 Lygon Walk, Arle, Cheltenham, Glos.\*

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\* Owing to duplicator fade, some words at line ends were added by hand. Variations include “are” for “are now” and “round robin form” for “round robin fashion”. – DRL.

**Ken Slater**, man of many ideas, has written me to point out that as the London convention next year will be held at Whitsun, it might be possible to hold an additional convention in the north at Easter. Talking this point over with Norman Shorrocks, Norman and I agreed that ideally there should be one convention at Easter. The choice of Whitsun for the London convention is no doubt an enterprising attempt at pleasing the fans who have been unable to attend gatherings at Easter, and after all, Easter has had priority since 1955 when the first of four Kettering conventions was held. Easter does add a day to a convention for most fans, however as Good Friday is a holiday, and as Ken Slater points out it might be difficult for fans in the north to travel down to a Whitsun convention in London, especially in view of the shorter weekend. Hence his idea for the additional convention in the north at Easter. Ken has suggested Harrogate as a possible site and I have already been in touch with the Manager of a central hotel here. We are now awaiting a decision from the BSFA which we hope will sponsor the convention. More news, favourable we hope, as it comes through. And what do you say to all this, James Caughran, esquire?

It hasn't been a fruitful month for British fanzines. The heralded *Aporrheta* 12 which contains material by such names as Leman, Warner, Bloch, and Grennell hasn't yet appeared but should, by all accounts, be at your breakfast table almost as soon as this issue of *Skyrack*. The one fanzine on hand is *Smoke* (1/- or 15¢; George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road London S.W.1.; 35 pages). This is the first issue of what started out as being the official organ of the London Circle. Editorial energy has been diverted somewhere along the way and this is now a general subzine, described as being “Guaranteed completely and absolutely unofficial.” George has a nice but somewhat subdued sense of humour and his “editorial personality” is not overdeveloped, a fact which should please Bob Coulson. John Berry contributes Honey Sore Key Mally Pence and suggests fannish coats of arms, Ken Bulmer writes on the recent London Circle visit to Cheltenham and Bob Richardson contributes the Cheltenham viewpoint of the same event. Penelope Fandergaste reviews recent non-sf books by science fiction writers, Vin¢ Clarke branches out with a sister (?) column to his Grunch series in *Hyphen*, entitled Eggplant,

and Ivor Mayne reviews recent fanzines. Altogether a bright new star on the British zinescene.

**The London Circle's Conversazione** announced in the previous issue has now been renamed SYMPOSIUM. Ella Parker writes to say that this intriguing sounding get together will be held on Saturday October 3rd. The price of admission, covering *all* food and drink, will be twenty-one shillings. There will be no extra charges. A programme of interest to all is being arranged. Activities will continue well into the night. The Symposium is scheduled to begin at 4pm Saturday and will finish when the last fan leaves on the Sunday morning. Bookings, which should enclose cash, should be made through Sandra Hall, 41 Northend House, FitzJames Avenue, London W.14. Come prepared to stay all night.

**Larry Shaw and George Metzger** deserve thanks for sending me, respectively, two Emsh illustrations from *Infinity* and a fine pen and ink illustration measuring 20" x 17". But why?

**Ella Parker** reports that the London Circle now has the YOUNGEST paid up member of any science fiction club. Nicola Belle Clarke was formally admitted to membership at the White Horse on Friday 17th July. Unfortunately, says Ella, she is too young to vote.

**London Circle's** next meetings will be 6th August at the Globe and 21st August at the White Horse. I have hopes of attending both. About the time that British fans will be reading this I shall be making my way south to take up residence with Inchmery fandom for a period of about five weeks. Mail can reach me there direct, or if sent to 7 Southway, will be forwarded. Inchmery fandom will be moving north for a fortnight, residing at the Sanderson country villa at 90 Beresford Road, Longsight, Manchester 13 from August 8th-23rd inclusive. Food and drink in abundance is promised to any fans who attend the party to be held at Beresford Road August 8/9th.

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** is still moving along smoothly, but in order to ensure that a North American delegate will attend the convention next year, more cash is needed. Both contributions and the votes themselves (nominated are Terry Carr, Don Ford and Bjo Wells) will be gratefully accepted by either myself or Bob Madle, 3608 Caroline, Indianapolis 18, Indiana, USA. British and European fans who have already voted are: Norman Ashfield, Karl Dollner, James Groves, Terry Jeeves, Keith Freeman, Michael Rosenblum, Ella Parker, Ken Slater, D.L. Fawcett, Eric Bentcliffe, Barry Hall, Dave Cohen, Eddie Jones, Frank

Simpson, Phil Rogers, Phil Sless, Norman Weedall, Bob Richardson, Archie Mercer, Ted Carnell, Jim Linwood, Doc Weir, Jean and Annie Linard, George Locke, Ethel Lindsay, Ken McIntyre, Pierre and Martine Versins, and John Roles.

# ***Skyrack* #6, 18 August 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 6**, dated the **18th August, 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England at “Inchmery”, 236, Queens Road, New Cross, London S.E.14, which is an additional temporary address good until September. *Skyrack* costs 6d per copy, 6 issues 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd, Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, USA. News of interest to SF fans gratefully accepted. Cartoon headings urgently required as you can probably tell from this one which was drawn by yours truly from an idea by Daphne Buckmaster.

Although *Skyrack* is officially a monthly, this is an additional issue and the next issue is scheduled for early September.

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## **Berry Fund Successful**

The private fund inaugurated last year by the Falascas in order to “Bring Berry to Detroit” has proved a success. John, the man behind the Goon Defective Agency and editor of *Retribution* will leave Belfast for the U.S.A. on August 25th. He is expected to visit several American fans during his three weeks’ stay, in addition to attending the Detention. John is due back in Belfast September 17th. It is understood that he will travel to the convention with Bob Pavlat and Barbara Lex.

### **Eric Needham Wed**

Following the news last issue of Bobbie Wild’s engagement to Bill Gray of Cheltenham, it is learned that further fannish congratulations are in order. Norman Shorrocks reports that Eric Needham, ex-co-editor of *Now and Then*, has finally done it. Eric and his bride have set up home at 23 Canton Street, Weaste, Salford 5, Lancs.

**Inchmery Fandom** are staying at Sandy Sanderson’s home (90 Beresford Road, Longsight, Manchester 13) for a fortnight. Their holiday began with an open night’s party 8th/9th August on which Sandy reports: “After a shaky start the Inchmerycon turned out to be quite successful. We missed the train from London and had to catch a later one, involving a change at Crewe. We arrived in Manchester about 4.30a.m. and got to sleep about

5.30. A second disaster was that our bulk order of provisions hadn't come through which meant that the morning and afternoon had to be spent running around shopping. The first fans, Alan Rispin and Jim Linwood, arrived shortly after midday. Brian Jordan joined them shortly afterwards and Klaus Eylmann who had just arrived in England from Hamburg journeyed up to be the fourth arrival. The party proper got under way with the arrival of the Liverpool convoy, two cars bringing Jeff Collins, Nancy Pooley, John Roles, Norman and Ina Shorrocks, John Owen and two recently new Club members named Joan and Kitty.\* Sid Birchby, Mr and Mrs Dave Cohen and Terry Jeeves (and Joyce) and Eric Bentcliffe (and Beryl) made up the later arrivals.. The first shock for most arrivals was the sight of Ron Bennett, waving a pack of playing cards. Although temporary custodian of Inchmery, London, he had travelled down with us and on the train introduced us to the game of Hearts – which he lost – also helping with the luggage. Nicki Clarke enjoyed herself thoroughly making eyes at all the fen and finally deigned to go to bed about midnight. Meanwhile, back in the kitchen, Norman, head punch mixer in chief – was brewing up a lethal concoction which was promptly handed round, its lethal qualities being well hidden under a lethal exterior. The party was somewhat crowded at first until Bennett succeeded in starting a brag school in one of the other rooms. This eventually provided his fare to Harrogate and back to London. The general merriment went on until about six a.m., when breakfast was started ((You mean like the thought of food made us cry or sumpn? RB)). Occasional departures throughout the morning occurred until the last fan left about midday. Among other mementoes of the party was a present by John Roles to Joy of a book she had wanted. A considerable number of photos were taken. It is highly probable that the distribution of the majority will be strictly limited to the guilty parties.”

Ron Bennett adds: \* denotes the omission of Stan Nuttall and Eddie Jones, sorry. Sandy leaves out the trip to the Anson Hotel where Jeff Collins wagered a local mundane type that he couldn't go behind the bar and draw Jeff a drink. The mundane type did so, and later showed us his cellars – he was the hotel's manager. There was also the trying out of Sandy's new camera. While Sandy slept photographs were taken of Sandy. Altogether a darn good party and well worth the trip.

I've been in London a fortnight renewing friendships with London fans who have dropped in at Inchmery. I've ridden on Arthur Thomson's motorbike to the Bulmers', have seen BBC What Do You Know Recordings with Ella Parker and George Locke, have seen *Aporrheta*

produced on my bed and have been over to Clacton to see Barry Hall and Bryan Welham. They were both out.

**Alan Rispin** spent the best part of a week in London and showed up at the Globe along with Jim Linwood. Other out of town visitors were Bob Richardson of Cheltenham and Tea, Tripod and Spinge of Stourbridge. “Tea”, Peter Davies reports that they looked up the Globe on the Tuesday evening on arrival in London and later took in the sights, making a special trip to see Regents Park Zoo and a couple of sociable vultures.

**Aporrheta 12** (H.P. Sanderson, “Inchmery”, 236, Queen’s Road, New Cross, London S.E.14 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 6 for 8/- or \$1, 12 for 15/- of \$2.) With the coming of the long-awaited issue of *Ape*, Sandy tells us that the title means “esoteric doctrines”. Except that this is primarily a fanzine for fanzine fans – there is little esoterica in this issue and there is not a page which is not entertaining. Up and coming George Locke continues to fulfil promise with a neat “Cover Story”, Penelope Fandergaste discusses *Ape* as fandom’s focal point, Sid Birchby discusses Penelope Fandergaste, and Joy Clarke columnises on *Fantasy & Science Fiction* and a campaign for nuclear disarmament. Bob Bloch answers burning questions of the moment and Dean Grennell reviews books by Bloch, Russell, Kornbluth and knight. Bob Leman got crowded out by minor items like the Atom A-Z series and his several cartoons in the twentyfour page long Inchmery Fan Diary Once again highly recommended

**Alan Dodd** is in Tangier. Betty Kujawa reports receiving a card reading, “Dear Betty, Leave your husband. Come wiz me to the Casbah. Love, Pepe.”

**The Sun Tanned Giants** of Los Angeles held a Secret Surprise Birthday Party in honour of TAFF Candidate Betty Jo Wells. August 15th was declared Bjo’s Day. Ghu, it is said, has taken whosoever profaned it. A nice touch was that all invited were asked to park their modes of transportation (“auto, carpet, Gryphon, etc)” away from the Forrie Ackermansion where the party was held. No doubt *Fanac* will cover the event in detail.

**Ian Macaulay** is in London, on holiday. He showed up at the Globe, Thursday 13th. Highlight of the evening was a slanging match between Ian and Ella Parker, the editor of *Orion*, which went on *all* evening.

**Les Childs** is also in London, after a holiday in Ireland. Les sent a card from Antrim and said that not only had he been to Dublin and Cork but

that he'd met John Berry. Les arrived in London late evening Friday, 14th and was met by Welcoming Committee, George Locke, the editor of *Smoke* and Ella Parker, the editor of *Orion* (who shall receive my bill with her copy).

**Ella A. Parker**, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N.W.6. is acting as British agent for Bob Tucker's revised and soon to be published *Neo Fan's Guide*. No price stated. # Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queens Rd, New Cross, London SE 14, is British agent for *Fancylopaedia II*, to be published by Dick Eney on 1st September. This almost 200 pages thick giant project has been five years in the making, bringing up to date Jack Speer's original *Fancylopaedia*. The price is 5/6d (\$1.25) with a special pre-publication reduction at 7/- (\$1). # It is understood that the proposed Fanthology entitled *The Willis Papers* has now been taken over by Ted Johnstone and that Arthur Thomson will act as British agent.

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund**, is still moving along smoothly but in order to ensure that a North American delegate will attend the Convention next year, more cash is needed. I can not only supply voting forms, I carry copies in my wallet. Stop me on the street! Both contributions and votes will be gratefully accepted by either myself or Bob Madle, 5608 Caroline, Indianapolis 18, Indiana, USA. In addition to the list of British and European fans published in the previous issue, Sandy Sandfield, Mike Moorcock and Derek Oldham have also voted. Have you?

**Members of the London Circle** kindly note that the August business meeting will take place next Friday, 21st, at the White Horse, Fetter Lane. In at the side door and straight up the stairs.

**L. Ron Hubbard** hit the newspapers recently. We're told that his new house in Sussex has 20 principal rooms and stands in 30 acres, with a lake and swimming pool. Hubbard is reported as saying that H.A.S.I. (The Hubbard Association of Scientologist International) "has had to apologise to many people for inviting them to buy shares in a company which did not exist." The sad tale of an s-f writer gone gafia.

**Don Allen** is in the middle of a house moving project and the proposed August/September is thus being held up until he gets settled in. Until 1st September his mail should go c/o 26 Sidney Grove, Gateshead 8, Co Durham. Address after 1st September will be 12 Briar Edge, Forest Hall Newcastle on Tyne, Northumberland. 4

**Thirty Six Fans** in Europe voted on the final ballot for the Hugo Awards to be presented at the Detention. This World Convention is to be held at the Pick Fort Shelby Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, September 5th-7th. Even if you are unable to attend, you can join the convention's membership by sending me 7/-. The latest Progress Report shows that Isaac Asimov will be Toastmaster and Poul Anderson Guest of Honour. The Report also contains news on the banquet, proposed programme items and auctions, and souvenir playing cards.

**The First Full Scale Convention** to be held in Continental Europe is all lined up for August 22nd/23rd at the Hotel Weisser Wind in Zurich. Rainer Eisfeld tells me that latest news of attending delegations is that The Club Nova will travel from Paris and that Joel Lima of the Clube de Literature de Policiaria will attend from Portugal. # Nearer home I see that money is pouring in for the Symposium, to be held by the London Circle, overnight October 3rd. Price of admission is 21/- and bookings should be made through Sandra Hall, 41 Northend House, Fitzjames Avenue, London W14. The guinea covers all food and drink. # Sandra incidentally, has just returned from a holiday in Moscow (she sends a card suggesting The Kremlin for the next consite... sorry dear; no lift, all Steppes, Also it's too tzar.) and reports that Doctor A.R. Weir is having to give up the Secretaryship of the BSFA and that she, Sandra, takes over from him on 1st September.

# ***Skyrack* #7, 9 September 1959**

This is *Skyrack* Number 7, dated 9th September 1959 and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d. per copy six issues 2/6. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave, Hyattsville, Md. News gratefully accepted. Cartoon: Arthur Thomson. Contributors: Bob Pavlat, Mike Moorcock, Ella Parker, Sandy Sanderson, George Locke, Atom, Howard DeVore. A cross on the back page means your sub. expired.

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**Stop Press:** *Triode* 16 is out. Perfect duplicating – 1/6 from Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Gt Moor, Stockport, Cheshire – items by Hurstmonceaux & Faversham, Birchby, Jeeves, Part 10 *Colonial Excursion*.

## **Pittsburgh Takes 1960 Con Hugo for British Author U.S. Fans for London Bob Madle Moves Berry: GDA Meets FBI**

**Mike Moorcock** who has recently sold his first story to Nova (this is a five thousand worder “Peace on Earth” which will appear in *New Worlds* under the by-line “Michael Barrington.”) asks me to run this open letter: “There have been a lot of rumours circulating lately stating that a certain femme and myself are at present living together. If it were not for the bad taste associated with this rumour, it would be laughable but as it is I am disgusted that people could be petty minded enough to entertain the idea. The rumour is baseless – there is, no truth in it at all. But if anyone in fandom wants to talk about it – let ’em come and say it to my face. They can consider that a warning. Denying this relationship, I know, will have little effect in discrediting it in the dirty minds of people who should know better. However, I have stated the facts as they are and hope that people who have not yet heard this rumour will know that it is entirely untrue.” – Mike Moorcock, 30 Benhill Wood Road, Sutton, Surrey.

**The Twenty First OMPA Mailing** was posted Saturday 5th September. This mailing was produced under unusual circumstances in that all three officials, President Joy Clarke, Treasurer Sandy Sanderson and Editor yours truly were sharing the same roof at the time of the mailing. During the concerted drive at Inchmery a young German fan, Juergen vom Scheidt, stayed over night. Juergen had visited Ken Slater and his guest Terry Jeeves in Wisbech and was travelling on to Cardiff to look up Peter West. Practically as soon as Juergen had left, Dorothy Hartwell dropped in with Jim Linwood who was in London for the weekend. I spent a very pleasant evening with Ina and Norman Shorrocks who came to town the same day en route from Southampton to a flying visit to Paris. This meeting was arranged by long distance phone from Southampton to the boiler making firm for whom I was working at the time.

**Stateside Fans** who have not yet voted in the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund note that American Administrator Bob Madle has moved from Indianapolis and that forms should now be sent to him at his new address, 672 Ripley Street, Brookville, Alexandria, Virginia. On this side of the Atlantic further votes have come from Ian McAulay, Arthur Thomson, Ted Tubb, Bobbie Wild, Pete Taylor, Sandra Hall, Charlie Duncombe and Frank Arnold. In addition Sid Birchby and Ron Hall have contributed but have not voted. Further contributions and votes will be gratefully accepted by either Bob Madle or myself.

**It Has Been a Lean Month** for British fanzines. Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N.W.6. promises that *Orion* 23 will be published within the next fortnight. The price as usual will be one shilling and contributors will include George Locke, Jim Linwood, Dorothy Hartwell and Ken Bulmer. Understandably, says Ella, there will be no John Berry Sergeant story but to balance this there will be an even longer than usual letter column. # Dick Eney's *Fancylopaedia II* is now being distributed. This monumental work which contains close on 200 pages may be bought from Dick himself or from his British agent Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery" 236 Queens Road, London. SE 14, at 8/6d per copy.

**Nebula** is to produce its last issue with number 42. It is understood that the demise of this popular magazine is due to the combination of ill health on the part of editor Peter Hamilton, the recent printing dispute, and an unsuccessful attempt to distribute in the U.S.A. This will not mean however that fandom will be lacking a representative column in the professional field, for Belle Dietz has sold Hans Steffan Santesson on the

idea of a fanzine review column for his magazine *Fantastic Universe*, which was recently bought by Great American Publishers from King Size Publications. From September the magazine will appear bi-monthly in a larger sized edition corresponding roughly to the size of *Popular Mechanics*. Belle's first column is scheduled for the October issue and will thereafter continue as a regular feature. Fanzines for review should be sent to Belle at 1721. Grand Avenue, Bronx 53, New York, USA.

**Belle and Frank Dietz & Detention Films for Symposium.** The London Circle is holding a one day convention, the Symposium at 65 South Audley Street London W.1. (this parallels Park Lane) from 4pm on October 3rd, and through the night. The all-in cost is one guinea This should be sent to Charlie Duncombe, 82 Albert Square, London E.15. There will be a programme but exact details are not yet known. There will also be food and drink. World Convention films, covering London (1957), South Gate (1958) and Detroit (1959) will be shown. The Detention films, incidentally, will be given their "World Premiere" at the Symposium. It is hoped that Norman Shorrock will be on hand with his projector, though failing his attendance Ted Carnell has promised to step into the breach. The Detention films are being brought over by Belle and Frank Dietz who expect to land at London airport for a fortnight's holiday on September 26th. After having had their holidays pushed back further and further they decided that it would be as easy to come to England as holiday in the States. They will be staying at Inchmery whilst in London and are hoping to renew acquaintances made two years ago at the London Worldcon. The Symposium should provide the opportunity.

**The First European SF Convention** was held in Zurich August 22/23 and is reported as having been a resounding success. Covered by radio, press and news reel cameramen from Switzerland and Germany, the convention boasted an attendance of 130 with representatives from Germany, Switzerland, Portugal and France. Guest of Honour was German author Freder van Holk who lectured on Research and Fiction. Amongst other speakers was Pierre Versins who spoke on French science-fiction. Karl-Herbert Scheer was awarded a Hugo for his novel, *Octavian III*, and awards were also made to other German writers and to the makers of *Forbidden Planet*, *The War of the Worlds*, *This Island Earth* and *The Fly*.

**Arthur Thomson** is acting as British agent for *The Collected Works of Walter A. Willis*. The first volume should appear during Autumn published by Ted Johnstone, 1503 Rollin Street, South Pasadena California. The ordinary edition sells at 5/- with a deluxe edition @ 7/-. Arthur Thomson,

17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, S.W.2.

**The Seventeenth World Science Fiction Convention** was held in Detroit, Michigan over the weekend. Sincere congratulations are offered to the American newszine *Fanac*, its editors Ron Ellik and Terry Carr, and to other HUGO winners. This year the HUGO awards went as follows:

BEST NOVEL: *A Case of Conscience* by James Blish (Ballantine).

BEST NOVELETTE: Big Front Yard by Clifford Simak (*Astounding*)

BEST SHORT STORY: That Hellbound Train by Bob Bloch (*F&SF*)

BEST PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE: *Fantasy & Science Fiction*.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Frank Kelly Freas

BEST FANZINE: *Fanac*.

BEST NEW AUTHOR: Brian W. Aldiss.

There was no award this year in the category of Best SF Film, *The Fly*, *Dracula*, and *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* having been nominated for the award. Kelly Freas and *The Mag of F&SF* carry off HUGOs in their respective categories for the second year in succession. H

**Howard Devore** of the Detention Committee writes, “Wish you could be here – I’d type you out an authorization as Chairman then go off and get drunk for a couple of weeks.” Well after all you did *want* the convention, didn’t you? Welcome to the select band of Never Again Brothers.

**Dick Eney** reports, “John Berry arrived ok at Idlewild Airport, New York. Larry Shaw unfurled a banner saying ‘WELCOME GOON!’ And the police chased us off. It turned out later that what they objected to was the lifesize nude photo of Marilyn Monroe in the center of the banner....”

**Three Hundred and Fifty** attended the Detention.

**Pittsburgh** defeated Washington in a straight vote for the 1960 Con site. The voting took place during the Sunday business session. I had money on Washington, too! O.K., Sandy, give Joy the 6d you’re holding....

# ***Skyrack* #8, 30 October 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 8**, dated **30th October 1959** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues 2/6. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA subscription to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave Md., USA. News gratefully accepted. Cartoon: Arthur (Atom) Thomson. Contributors: Dick Schultz, Bob Pavlat, Norman Shorrocks, Keith Freeman, Les Childs, Bjo, John Berry, Sid Birchby, Brian Burgess, Joe Patrizio and Eddie Jones. A cross on back page – your sub expired.

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## **The London Symposium**

Harrogate fandom fought sickness in the form of a throat virus to travel down to London on Saturday 3rd October for the overnight convention and party, the Symposium, held at the Mayfair Restaurant, 65 South Audley Street, W.1. Attendees included Stateside Guests of Honour Belle and Frank Dietz and fans from London and all parts of the country in Mike Moorcock, Ted Tubb, Sandra Hall, Frank Arnold, Pamela and Ken Bulmer, Ethel Lindsay, surprise visitor Walter Gillings, Joy and Vinç Clarke, Harry Clements, Charlie Duncombe, Jim Groves, Pete Taylor, Derek Oldham, Mike Kilvert, Peter Tea Davies, Ken Cheslin, Ella Parker, George Locke, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Eric Jones, Audrey Eversfield, Norman Shorrocks, Brian Burgess, Les Childs, Archie Mercer, Peter West, Keith Freeman, Daphne and Ron Buckmaster, Sandy Sanderson, newly-weds Bobbie and Bill Gray, Tikwis Hall, and Tony Klein.

Frank Arnold and Ted Tubb greeted the gathering with introductory speeches and Wally Gillings compared the Symposium with the first British convention held in Leeds in 1937. Films brought from the US and made by Belle and Frank Dietz, covering the London, South Gate and Detroit Worldcons were shown (each with an excellent covering commentary by Belle) as were Alan E. Nourse's film adaptation, *Born of Man and Woman* and the Los Angeles film, *The Genie*. Brag and pontoon were played. Excursions were made into the night for cups of coffee. An auction was held. A fanzine editors panel was announced but didn't take

place. An announced critics panel on the film *World, Flesh and the Devil* also did not take place. Ella Parker and Vinç Clarke resigned from the London Circle Committee.

**Dick Schultz** sent word of the Detention: “Everyone said that this was the most wonderful fabulous totally disorganised convention ever. John Berry arrived in Detroit in Dick Eney’s ‘Cannonball Express’. Wally Weber observed *everything* for the *Cry*’s monster con issue; Toskey just had fun. Wally’s beanie is now fannish history. Philadelphia produced the con’s only newssheet. John W. Campbell Jr. spent two hours of heated debate defending psionics. A piece of lasting history was written on the Sunday night. What started out as a fanzine publishers’ panel became three and a half hour long discussion of where is fandom headed. Harlan Ellison asked why isn’t fandom helping SF any more. Ed Wood asked why isn’t new blood coming in. The panel rallied and defended fandom and fanzines as they are now. Hans Santesson told us to support the prozines. Heated discussion flew over the room. Why don’t we appreciate *any* professionals? Where are the Ray Bradburys of the future? Get SF out of the sex, psychology and psionics rut and back to science-fiction instead of extrapolations of the present. ‘All fanzines now discuss is the last con or monster movie,’ said Ellison. Why are there no sercon discussions of SF or fandom? All this was fabulous. Every speaker that night held the stage and had the magnetism and vitality and audience communication of an Adolf Hitler or Trotsky in his prime. Not even the Detroit group’s Beer Bust next door drew many away. We all just sat there and listened to fanaticism. # The masquerade ball was great, but the Karen Anderson bat costume didn’t show up. A play, *Monday 7th*, lampooned the prozines. # Ed Emshwiller showed his film, *Dance Chromatic*. There are no words to describe this. Berry, Bloch and Freas have told me that they too believe that this film should be at least *nominated* for next year’s Hugo. It really is great. # Roger Sims took Mabel Young, Virginia Schultheis, and John Berry over to Canada on the Monday morning. We almost lost John to the Canadian customs. We had a breakfast-lunch ((brunch)) of ale and chocolate bars...”

**Bob Pavlat** reported on the fanzine panel as follows: “Sunday evening came with one of the most surprising things I’ve ever heard of at a convention. The fanzine editors’ panel which had been delayed from the first day finally went on at 11:30 p.m. At midnight or so I became entirely disgusted and walked out. Up until then such questions as ‘how did you come to choose the name of your fanzine’ had been asked by the

moderator of each one of the seven or so panel members – talk about dull! Shortly after I left, Harlan Ellison took the floor and said some words – about what I don't know since I wasn't there, and others followed. Dave Kyle talked for close to half an hour. Doc Barrett held forth for ten or twenty minutes. And there were others, on every topic under the sun (centred on sf and the fan's role in sf). This was the evening of the beer party and beer was brought in from the adjoining room to keep the panel and members on the floor in speaking trim. The session closed at 3:30 a.m., and from all reports was extremely enjoyable." Bob also mentioned that the figures in the 1960 consite vote were Philadelphia 13, Pittsburgh 134, Washington 71, and went on to say, "The programme was mostly interesting. The auction moved, and there were some good items available. The film presented by Los Angeles was superb. And such few neos as there were turned out to be nice kids – none of the running through the corridors or other antics that helped spoil the New Yorkcon and were some slight bother in Cleveland. One of the best cons I've seen, probably only second to the Solacon in personal enjoyment and definitely better from a programme point of view. Berry somehow got off for Seattle OK. Left the con Sunday."

**Triode 16** (Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire & Terry Jeeves, 58 Sharrard Grove, Sheffield 12, Yorks. (1/6 per copy or 4 issues for 5/- 38pp. USA 20¢ – 6 for \$1 to Dale R. Smith, 3001 :Kyle Avenue, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota). This first issue of *Triode* to appear for an overlong period was delayed because of the editors' BSFA commitments. The duplicating uses a neat and well slip-sheeted blend of red and black inks on buff paper and the layout is worthy of note. Art by Terry Jeeves, Bill Rotsler, Bill Pearson, Eddie Jones, Harry Turner and Arthur Thomson. There is here a first rate Harrison Adventure, proving that this deliberately stilted series has not yet palled. A good letter-column includes a discussion on the filming of *Lord of The Rings*. I finally managed to find a kindly publisher for Part Ten of *Colonial Excursion*, and Terry Jeeves and Sid Birchby ramble on nicely. Definitely recommended without reservation.

*Triode* arrived the day the previous *Skyrack* was published, as also did *Skyhack*, a four page take off of this newsletter. The return address quoted is "Cecil Bennett, 7 Southway etc" but I wish to point out that this is *not* a double ploy and that I have myself been taken in by some fan who I certainly hope was good enough to observe the copyright laws. Apart from one or two minor flaws (It's the Hotel St. George in Harrogate), the style

of the imitation reads much as if it were indeed *Skyrack* and the originators of *Skyhack* are to be congratulated on an excellent parody. Archie Mercer is the leading suspect; although the magazine was posted in Bournemouth, the penned address on Norman Shorrocks's copy has been compared with a postcard Archie sent him and... bingo! About *Skyhack* fans have said "What goes with this *Skyhack* business?" (Keith Freeman), "Many thanks for *Skyhack*" (Ethel Lindsay), "Thanks for *Skyhack* with all its fake-fan news. Like tee-hee." (Sid Birchby). Tee hee yourself. At least I'm pleased to find that someone does consider that it *is* a fake.

**Les Spinge 1** (Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs. & Peter Davies, 12 Shepherds Brook Road, Lye, Stourbridge, Worcs. No price quoted for this initial issue. 24pp). This is the long promised fanzine from the newly formed Stourbridge & District SF Circle (The SADO) and while it is nowhere up to the standard of other fairly recent first issues (*Perihelion* or *Smoke*) it does have its good points and shows promise. Apart from a good report of the club's trip to London, a letter from Bob Tucker and a readable parody of fiction, the material is below average. Still the material is neither better nor worse than the earliest *Orbits* (the Leeds club magazine) and I thought the world of those.

**Orion 23** (Ella A. Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N.W.6. 1/- per copy. 46pp). *Orion* is becoming almost as regular as it was in the days of Paul Enever. The first use of Ella's bargain duplicator leaves much to be desired. Luckily the material makes up for this. Sid Birchby has a wonderful little piece about an Extra-ordinarily Summoned Meeting of the Levenshulme Lo-Fi Group. Sandra Hall and Bobbie Wild contribute yet another report of the London trip to Cheltenham at Whitsun. Ken Bulmer has an excellent chapter of his *TAFF Tales*, his experiences with the Barrett family. George Locke is present with a story about a parallel fandom. By far the best thing in the issue is Atom's fan bems. Letters too. Recommended.

**Department of Broadcasting Fans:** Keith Freeman first gave me the tip to listen to the BBC Midland Home Service at 6.35p.m. Wednesday, 16th September. This I did, to the accompaniment of wheezes and groans from a set whose reception is limited to Northern Home Service. Some voice said something about having contacts the world over and that these were regarded as friends. Keith Freeman reported that the broadcast had been part of a coverage on the Cheltenham Hobbies Exhibition at which the Cheltenham Circle had a stand. Keith said: "The official exhibition was open from 2.10 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th-16th. A lot of

work was put into the preparations. Everybody helped, with Eric Jones working hardest of all. Thanks to Ted Carnell there were 300 specimen copies of *New Worlds* to give away to our ‘customers’, and Ted also lent a lot of Nova front cover originals for display. Our stand was one of the most colourful and also successful stands. The Science Fiction Book Club also helped by sending a load of their leaflets and a dozen of their books for display. On Monday a film unit came round and all they took off our stand (much to our disgust) was a model (?) flying saucer. Also Bill Gray was interviewed for/by the BBC. This interview was later edited by the BBC, I believe. # At the Symposium, Bill told me that he was not pleased with the way the interview had been cut. Evidently, the best bits had been chopped out. # On the Tuesday evening Doc Weir came over and gave his talk ‘Atlantis, a New Theory’ – the same one, more or less, as at the Brumcon. Summing up, I think it was quite a successful exhibition as far as the CBFC was concerned. About a dozen forms were filled up on the stand itself by people who were interested in the circle and others said they were going to post later.” Les Childs also reported the Exhibition, mentioning also that it was a great success as far as the CSFO was concerned. # On Saturday, 26th September, the BBC Light Programme’s *Saturday Club* featured the Merseysippi Jazz Band. Norman Shorrocks had warned me to listen as this is the programme on which players are interviewed, but the programme turned out to be a disappointment. Clinton Ford, the jazz singer who started with the Band and is now being groomed for stardom was featured and the Band presented as little more than background, though they did play one or two numbers like Hiawatha and Jersey Lightning. I wonder if the BBC will ever realise what a personality they have on their doorstep in Pete Daniels.

**Roberta Wild and Bill Gray** were married in London on Saturday 26th September. The Best Man was Les Childs. Following the reception at the home of Sandra Hall – Ella Parker writes of Bobbie in radiant terms – the happy couple honeymooned in Glastonbury, Somerset and returned to London for the Symposium the following weekend. Congratulations, Bobbie and Bill and every good wish for your future happiness. (And thank you very much indeed for the lovely cake).

**Bjo Wells** tells me that the Christmas issue of *Shangri-L’Affaires* will be a bumper “Christmas card” issue and that she is hoping that all fan artists will contribute artwork. “The theme is thrown open,” Bjo writes “to interpretation of a sci-fi, fantasy or fannish Xmas, religious, cartoon or whatever the artist wishes. It would help if the artist would put his own

work on a Gestetner stencil and send it to us quickly, but of course I can put it on stencil if I have to. I'm trying to contact all artists but might miss one that might like to join us. It will be an attractive issue." Artists?...

**John Berry**, who has now returned home from his Stateside trip, wishes to proffer profound and sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Berry Fund, to everyone in America who provided food, transport and other necessities, to everyone who provided comfort, both physical and mental and to, weeeelll, EVERYONE.

John states that the whole trip was like a dream. Everyone kind and generous, and American fandom, when it gets into top gear, is a wonderful institution.

Altogether, says John, he travelled around 3,500 miles by car and about 8,500 miles by air, and Ghod knows how many miles up and down by elevator. He says he had heat exhaustion, fought a pitched battle with cockroaches, was presented with a typewriter, kissed Bloch's boots, chatted with Isaac Asimov and drank 3,500 gallons of home brew.

He adds that this isn't meant to be a blurb, but his adventures *The Goon Goes West* are being published in *Cry of the Nameless* every month and there is a good possibility that a thick book will be out early next year.

He also says "thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you tha....."

**Many Thanks** to the nice fans who sent me souvenir postcards. From Detroit came a card signed by the Youngs, Ellis Mills, Rick Sneary, John Magnus, Bob Pavlat, Bill Donaho, Jim Caughran, the Shaws, Dick Ellington, Fred Prophet and Karen Anderson. # Dick Eney, Jean and Andy Young sent a card from Dixie's roadside restaurant, McLean, Illinois, where Tucker met the Solacon motorcade. The inscription reads "We looked for elephant footprints but couldn't find any." # Card from the Liverpool group on the occasion of the Russians hitting the moon with Lunik II. "02 pm. 63 minutes to go. Does the world end with a bang or a whimper?" "Not with a bang but a hic." "What, me worry," etc etc.

**Movements:** Brian Jordan, 81 Crawford Road, Norton Lees, Sheffield 8, Yorkshire. # Ray Nelson, Makeveien 48, Ulvøya, Oslo, Norway.

**Colonial Excursion** can now be ordered. I'm this month beginning work on the report of my TAFF trip to the SolaCon, chapters of which have already appeared. All profits will go to TAFF. Advance orders paid to either myself or Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave, Md., USA, will run to 7

shillings or one dollar. Advance orders can also be placed for the 1959 *Fan Directory* which will be ready in January. Pre-publication price of 1/6 or 20¢.

**Nebula 42** will not, after all, appear and because of the editor, Peter Hamilton's continued ill-health this light of British science fiction can be taken to have folded. A great pity. # Recently the death was announced of Tiffany Thayer, founder of the Fortean Society. The Society's future is now believed to be somewhat obscure. # On October 12th – that's next week! – Britain will have its own *Mad Magazine*. Strato publications are launching a BRE of the American *Mad*. What, me worry? # At the recent Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama, the Royal Swedish Opera Company presented *Aniara*, an opera which gives its name to a space ship carrying 8,000 refugees to Mars. # In preparation are *Aporrheta* and the Autumn *Femizine*.

**This Is *Skyrack's* First Six Page Issue** and accordingly I think I might be allowed to make the following comments

- 1) Ordinarily I do not use USA news. *Fanac* can cover events like Djinn Faine's marriage (10th October) far better than can I. If such news is of major interest to British fans then, fine, I'll use it.
- 2) Ordinarily I am not interested in scooping the fan field. I was in a happy position with regards to the 1960 Worldcon siting and Hugo awards. To press forward this advantage all Stateside copies of *Skyrack* were sent airmail. I am willing to send issues airmail if the recipient is willing to pay additional postage of 5¢ per copy.
- 3) I will publish announcements or open letters if, like the Berry item this issue, they are regarded as news or items of interest.
- 4) Items of news which depend upon shaky facts and/or which cannot be checked will be published as rumours. It will be realised that at times items of news are presented in good faith which might possibly clash with the wishes of interested parties. I am not interested in malicious gossip.
- 5) I am trying to present facts per se, without passing comment on said facts, This is not a fanzine of opinions, however strongly I might feel on any subject. Limited exceptions might be made in reviewing fanzines. The blatant insertion into the Schultz comments on the Detention is merely to show that I am familiar with the term and that I do not wish to receive letters quoting Somerset Maugham at me. Thank you, we went over all that in an early *Camber*.

**Corrections:** Frank Kelly Freas carried off the artist's Hugo for the *fifth* year in succession. Between 350 and 400 attended the Detention.

**The Swedish *SF Times*** devoted an entire issue last month to reprinting news from *Skyrack*.

**The British Interplanetary Society** is holding a film show at the Leeds City Museum, Sat. 17th October. The programme is High Altitude Research, Exploring Space, Atomic Energy and The German A-4 Rocket.

***The Willis Papers*** are due to appear shortly. Published by Ted Johnstone they can be obtained in Britain from Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW 2. Deluxe edition 7/-. Ordinary edition 5/-.

# ***Skyrack* #9, 1 November 1959**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 9**, dated **1st November 1959**, and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to fandom, whether of a strictly science fiction or a social nature, gratefully accepted. Cartoon: Arthur (Atom) Thomson. Contributors: Harry Turner, Sandy Sanderson, John Berry, Ian McAulay, John Hautz, Peter Davies, Sandra Hall, Joy Clarke, Eric Bentcliffe, Ray Nelson and Alan Rispin.

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## **London Circle Disrupts**

Although it had been hoped that the overnight Symposium held at the beginning of October would strengthen internal relationships, the London Circle was disbanded at its business meeting of Friday, 16th October, following the resignation of Chairman Ted Tubb. It was agreed to revert to the system of seven months ago, social meetings at the Globe and no business meetings at the White Horse. The Globe meetings will continue to take place on the first Thursday of each month. It is still intended to hold the 1960 convention in London and the provisional date has now been changed from Whitsun to Easter.

Some London fans held a meeting in a room made available at Inchmery on Friday, 23rd October, when a new Club – the Science-Fiction Club of London – was formed. Ella Parker was elected Chairwoman and Jim Groves, 29 Latham Road, East Ham, London E6, is Hon. Secretary. Meetings will be held twice a month. The membership is already over the dozen mark and plans include the formation of the first 8mm cine film unit in the London area, and group participation in future conventions with both films and tapes.

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THE DEADLINE for TAFF voting is 31 December. Have *you* voted yet?

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**Manchester-Harrogate Ties Were Strengthened** over the weekend of 17/18th October. On the Saturday, 17th, Harrogate fandom journeyed

across the Pennines to see the first in a series of three Rugby League Test Matches between Great Britain and Australia. The visiting Australian team were winners – a surprise but worthy victory – by 22 points to 14. Eric Bentcliffe showed up after work for a Piccadilly meeting and Sid Birchby skipped a meeting to join us for a drink and a chat. Sunday, 18th, was even more hectic, with fans visiting Harrogate for the Autumn Audio Fair.

**Harrogate Mini-Con.** On Sunday, 18th October, Alan Rispin hitch-hiked over to Harrogate and became the first out of town fan to visit the Spa in 1959. He brought over the first issue, an introductory two pages, of his new fanzine *Hungry* in which he describes himself and the London Symposium with quiet humour. Alan turned up just before I was leaving to meet the Manchester train from which Eric Bentcliffe and Harry Turner joined us for lunch and a brown ale session at the local. After lunch Harry listened to jazz records and Alan, Eric and I played brag. When the money was centralised, we went to the Grand Hotel where the Audio Fair was being held. Eric crossed out the “Admit One” on his ticket and substituted “Admit Four” and we sailed in past the ticket collector. Terry Jeeves had come along with members of the Sheffield Tape Recording Society of which he is the Treasurer and we were due to meet him at the Ferrograph stand at 3.30, but Ferrograph, the favourite firm of fans, were absent and we wandered about in the milling crowds, looking for Terry. We ran across an old school friend of mine who had had a long talk on Ferrograph with Norman Shorrock at last year’s Fair and had come back this year to take Norman’s advice and look over the Ferrograph machines. At this point, Alan and I became separated from Eric and Harry and bumped into Terry and his Sheffield friends. We took them into town to point out local tea-shops and returned to Southway for a natter after Terry had been announcing to all and sundry that one stand was giving away sample tape, and Alan had been greeting strangers as though they were long-lost friends. Later Eric and Harry rang up to say they were at the station waiting for the 7.30 train and Alan and I joined them there. After a cup of coffee we moved on to the platform and waited for a train which didn’t appear. I left them still waiting at eight o’clock and went off to watch the Liverpool play, *No Tram to Lime Street*, on television.

**Letter from Harry Turner.** “Congratulations to yourself as being the first fan to entertain me with a Dave Brubeck track. I would like to let you know that we *did* get to Manchester last night. The 7.30 came chuffing in with great unconcern about 9pm.. We eventually finished up at Victoria about 11.15 after British Railways made sure that all train connections,

buses and cheaper forms of transport were packed up for the night. Eric and I beetled over to London Road and squeezed on to a train packed with Welsh refugees. It stopped at Stockport and Eric got a taxi and I flagged a lift most of the way to Romiley. Next year we shall go to the London Audio Fair. After all, there may be a Ferrograph stand there.” And welcome, Harry Turner, to the ranks of Hitch Hiking Fandom.

**Vector 5** arrived last week. This is the official organ of the British Science Fiction Association, which may be joined by sending the Treasurer (Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincs) £1 for a year’s membership. This issue is produced by Mike Moorcock, Bobbie Gray, Sandra Hall and George Locke. The issue has been delayed because of the illness of Doc Weir and the marriage of Bobbie Wild, and after Bobbie had done the initial work on the issue, Mike and Sandra stepped in to complete the magazine. On the whole the fact that this is a compositely-edited magazine shows, but at the same time the editors can feel pleased with their product. Apart from the expected BSFA news and views there are several items of general interest. Ivor Mayne contributes yet another Cheltenham trip report. Mike Moorcock talks about SF for juniors and mentions that Superman is inferior to Billy Bunter. Ken Slater chunters on books, Ken Bulmer chatters on the ignorance of non-sf types and Bob Richardson plugs London for the 1960 convention. There are letters, illos by Jim Cawthorne and a compact history of the SFCD by Julian Parr.

**New World Tea Drinking Champion.** History was made on Sunday, 18th October at 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, N. Ireland. In an attempt to bring back the coveted tea drinking trophy to Irish shores from the hands of World Champion Don Allen, Ian McAulay and Johnny Hautz of Southern Irish fandom challenged John Berry to a tea drinking contest. Bob Shaw was scorekeeper and Walt Willis was brewer and umpire. A feeling of tenseness is reported to have fallen over the gathering as the score crept higher and higher. Hautz and Berry maintained a cup for cup total until they reached the 20th cup. Johnny Hautz who was obviously in severe physical stress then quickly sank four and half cups to create a new world record of 24 and a half cups, thus beating Don Allen’s 24 cup record, created in Belfast in 1957. Hautz then withdrew from the fray, but John Berry, who had been about to retire was spurred on and during the next quarter of an hour drank another five and a half cups, thus creating a new world record of 25 and a half cups. When interviewed the new champion modestly said, “Blurp.” The contest will be written up in detail for a forthcoming issue of *Cry of the Nameless*. (JB & IM)

**Defeated Contestants Write.** Ian McAulay sends a couple of pictures of the critical stages of the contest and adds, “Regrettably, I had decided on a slow pace as being good tactics and at this stage had only consumed 16 cups. I carried on to 18 and then had to abandon the effort. Somehow I feel that I am not cut (hollowed would perhaps be a better word) out for big-time tea drinking, and in future will compete only for the love of the sport.” Johnny Hautz mentions that a half pound of tea, 3 pints of milk and 3 gallons of tea were consumed and that ghoominton was played, and also that the group discussed the breaking up of London groups following my own stay in London. John says, “I was going strong on the description of a build up of critical mass in London – and its subsequent fission into numerous conflicting masses. Quiet from Walt for a second and then – ‘You might say that the critical L.C. was bombarded by a Bennettron’.”

**Aporrheta** is expected within the next few days. The next issue of *Les Spinge* will not now appear until around next March.

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Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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**Eric Bentcliffe** writes about the Harrogate Audio Fair, “British Railways did their best to sabotage the day. The 7.30 train arrived in Harrogate at 9.05. Harry Turner Esq was last seen walking in the general direction of Romiley at approx 12.30. Still, it was worth it to see the Ferrograph stand!” # **Alan Rispin** writes, “The train was one and three-quarter hours late in Manchester. I hitched from Peel Green and upon alighting from the car, I discovered my right thumb neatly wedged in the door lock. As the car was accelerating just then I decided upon a prudent course of action so I bawled ‘STOP!’ as hard as I could. The car stopped and I recovered my thumb, rather badly bruised, but still attached to my hand. My first hitch accident and about 200 yards from home!”

**John Newman** author and one half of Kenneth Johns, has been ill in the West Middlesex Hospital for some five weeks with severe sinus trouble. **Boyd Raeburn** has also been ill with viral meningitis, but is happily now recovering. From 5th November, his address will be: 89 Maxon Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. # Ray Nelson writes to say that Number One Fan of France, Jean Linard (24 rue petit, Vesoul, Haute Saône, France) is seriously ill and is in hospital for two major operations. Sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, Jean.

**John Brunner**’s new book *The Brink* has been published by Gollancz and has received good reviews from the *Tribune*, *Reynolds News* and the BBC

critics. # I have landed myself a new job, in Harrogate, and shall be leaving my teaching appointment in Leeds at the end of term, in December. # Following the move of Ken and Irene Potter to London – ah! the lure of The Smoke – Harry Hanlon, also of Lancaster, is seeking a job in London, and Mal and Sheila Ashworth, the Yorkshire representatives of Lancaster fandom, are also contemplating the move to London. # Ron Buckmaster is being posted in the New Year to Kirkcudbright, Scotland, a small port with a mere 2,500 population and 27 miles from Dumfries and 50 miles from Gretna Green. Rumour has it that Ron and Daphne will probably be making a house to house search for fans! # Say, Terry Carr, Kid Ory was in Yorkshire this last week. Harrogate fandom enjoyed a masterly display of traditional jazz at Bradford, 27th October.

# **Skyrack #10, 1 December 1959**

This is *Skyrack* No. 10, dated 1st December 1959 and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA, subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of fannish interest gratefully accepted. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson. Contributors: E.J. Carnell, Pam & Ken Bulmer, Ken Slater, Sandy Sanderson, Norman Shorrocks.

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## **TAFF Tries for Two Way Trip! Pittcon Push by Pondfund Planners**

Following an extremely healthy response by SF fans during the past year there is now sufficient money in the TAFF treasury to guarantee the American delegate's London trip at Easter. The Administrators of the Fund have decided to put forward the date of the return trip and have high hopes of seeing a delegate representing British fandom at the World Convention in Pittsburgh next September.

Time is obviously the chief obstacle to the plan and accordingly nominations for candidates are now invited, in spite of the present Fund's continuance, and these must satisfy the following conditions:

1. Each candidate's nomination must be signed by 3 well known fans from Britain and/or the Continent and 2 from North America.
2. The nominators must enclose a bond of good faith of a total of five dollars or thirty-five shillings with their nomination.
3. The chief nominator should provide a hundred word election platform detailing why it is considered his/her candidate should be elected. This platform will be printed on the official ballot.
4. The candidates must sign a declaration showing willingness, barring illness, Act of God, etc., to travel to the 1960 WorldCon.
5. Nominations must be received by either Bob Madle, 672 Ripley St., Brookville, Alexandria, Virginia, USA or Ron Bennett by midnight 15th January, 1960. No late nominations can possibly be considered.

**Fifty Fans** have now voted in the British "half" of the TRANS

ATLANTIC FAN FUND. Whilst the money on hand now guarantees the chosen delegate the trip to London at Easter, it is hoped that fans who have not yet voted will do so before the voting deadline of 31st December. Ballots and money to myself or Bob Madle (addresses on cover).

November 14th dawned bright and early at 10.20 a.m. at the Bennett household in Harrogate to the chimes of the front door bell. On answering the door, I discovered that we had been invaded by Brian Burgess who had set out at one o'clock in the morning to hitchhike north to Leeds to meet Michael and Betty Rosenblum and to take a loo at Mike's collection of ancient fanzines. Brian took a side trip of some forty miles to visit Harrogate before moving on to Grosvenor Park. On November 15th I went over to the Liverpool area to look up Norman and Ina Shorrock and learn about the LaSFaS party which had taken place at the Maghull residence of Pat and Frank Milnes over the weekend of November 7th/8th. At Higher Bebington I met, in addition to Norman and Ina, John Roles, Eddie Jones, Norman Weedall and Alan Rispin who had travelled over from Manchester. We played brag of course, and discovered a new fannish disease in prial-itis, a nervous disorder suffered by lesser beings.

**The Liverpool Party** at Pat and Frank Milnes' celebrated both the Gunpowder Plot and the Liverpool Club's 400th and something meeting. Two mundane and non-fan friends of the hosts – women, too – played brag all night and Norman Weedall disappeared at 3 a.m. After a lengthy search, others present were thinking of calling the police to drag the canal which runs behind Damfield Lane when Norman turned up after having been on a long walk. The party broke up early Sunday morning, a great success. Frank entered hospital 10 am the same morning. Sid Birchby drove over from Manchester mid morning Sunday to find that the birds had flown. The next Liverpool party will take place at the Higher Bebington home of Norman and Ina Shorrock over the weekend of 9th/10th January.

**The Twenty-Second OMPA Mailing** should have been mailed by the end of this week. Some bundles are already on their way to the States. *Morph* from John Roles and a small gift bundle from Bjo Wells are included in the mailing but are not listed on the *Off Trails* cover, having arrived after the deadline and after the stencil was cut and run off. A small fire at Southway, Friday 27th November, destroyed a sheet of wrapping paper but the mailings themselves were saved by prompt action of the Association Editor who, when interviewed by *Skyrack*, said, "No medals. Just send money."

**Pamela and Ken Bulmer** announce that they look forward to the birth of their first offspring in March. Pamela says that she is disgustingly healthy and it is hoped that everything goes well at Tresco, where the baby will be born.

**On Thursday 12Th November** and Saturday 14th, the BBC Home Service broadcast *The End of the Road*, a play by Goronwy Rees. The action of the play is far in the future at the trial of a Dr. Awkwright (played by Kenneth Griffith), a scientist who possesses the ultimate weapon capable of destroying the universe.

**Aporrheta 13**, Sept – Nov 1959 (Sandy Sanderson, “Inchmery”, 236 Queens Road New Cross, London SE 14; 50 pages; 1/6 or 20 per copy, 6 for /- or \$1, 12 for 15/- or \$2) Whilst it is obvious that Sandy is finding it harder and harder to keep to a monthly schedule, it is equally as difficult to pick out any item in this issue which would not gain pride of place in a lesser fanzine. Although the Inchmery Fan Diary is present only in the form of a letter column, the regular columnists Joy Clarke and Penelope Fandergaste are augmented by contributions by Harry Warner (whose “I Remember Napoleon” is distinctly Shavian – BoShavian) and Dean Grennell. Jim Linwood reports on the party Inchmery held in Manchester. One “Cantaloupe Flabbergaste” criticizes the apas, Atom continues his A to Z series of fannish cartoons. Bob Leman and George Locke contribute an excellent trufan story each. A wonderful issue.

**Retribution 14** Nov 1959 (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 27pp; 1/- or 15¢) Whilst an issue of the wRETch is always welcome this issue falls below the high standard set by earlier Berryzines. It is, however, still a bright light on the zinescene and well worth getting. John writes “From the Heart” about his recent trip to the Detention, reports on the latest Tea Drinking Championship held in Belfast in October, poses another Who’d Be a Goon problem and illustrates much of the zine in addition to telling his own tale of two cities, his meetings with the two Ian McAulays of fandom. (As a sideline, John makes the mistake of announcing that only he and Walt Willis have accomplished this feat. Ha.) Walt Willis writes on Fancy II, Bloch reports on the Detention and John Berry scoops fandom by reprinting Poul Anderson’s excellent Detention speech. And this is a below standard *Retribution*?

**Northlight 7** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle 2; 22pp; “People whose conscience tickles should send moneys to TAFF”)

A very individual fanzine, *Northlight* has never been in the top line of British publications, but has continued to improve steadily. Terry Jeeves defends the BSFA against accusations made in the last issue. Alan reports on his Yugoslav holiday. Sandy Sandfield has a nine page column, part of which concerns itself with London O affairs. There is a letter column, some verse, and illustrations by McIntyre.

**Hyphen 23** Nov 1959 (Walt Willis, 170 Upper N'Ards Rd or 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 24pp; 1/- or 15¢) *Hyphen* has been the leading British fanzine for such a long time that it is difficult to find superlatives to describe it which have not been used before. I don't think this issue is up to the standard of *Aporrheta's* latest offering but *Hyphen's* high quality of throw out humour cannot be surpassed. This is the appreciation issue to welcome Bob Shaw back to Ireland. Bob himself writes another chapter of Irish fandom and reports on his trip from Canada back home via the SolaCon. Walt and Vin¢ Clarke contribute in mock-Shavian manner the Quartz Quintal and the Glass Grunch. Ray Nelson and Atom have cartoons. There are also letters, an Atom cover and 29 bacover quotes.

**Cactus 2** Winter 1959-60 (Sture Sedolin, PO Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden; 27 pp; 7/- for 10 issues to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts) The best Swedish fnz printed in English. Contributions from Terry Jeeves, Alan Burns, Clayton Hamlin, Bob Lichtman and Ray Nelson.

**With Issue 89**, dated December and on sale from Nov 27th, the price of *New Worlds* will be increased to 2/6d. This price increase will not affect the Australian Edition. Editor John Carnell writes that the increase is due to the printing strike and the resultant higher wages in print production "Some improvements will be forthcoming however, in the new year, for instance, a better cover paper..." Subscriptions received up to the end of November will be honoured at the old rate. The price increase does not affect other NOVA mags.

**Ken Slater** 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs., is acting as the British Representative for the 18th World SF Convention to be held next September 3/5th in Pittsburgh. Membership costs two dollars in the States, 7/6 to British fans. Advertising data runs from one dollar to a professional rate of 12 dollars and full particulars may be obtained from Ken, from myself, or from Mrs. A.G. Archer, 1453 Barnsdale Street, Pittsburgh 17, Pa, USA.

**Smoke 2** Nov 1959 (George Locke, 85 Chelsea G'dens, London SW 1;

49pp; 1/- or 15¢). This second issue maintains the high promise shown by the first. Belle Dietz contributes a Detention report and Archie Mercer mentions *Skyrack's* accuracy in his report on the London Symposium. Harry Warner and Vinç Clarke look backward. Contributions by Ivor Mayne, Ella Parker, Sid Birchby, Andy Young, Roge Rogers and Vic Ryan make up an issue which has still to be read through completely.

**Walter Gillings** has started a Press Relations Agency to cover the South Essex area. He hopes eventually to start training courses for young journalists. # **Alfred Hitchcock** was recently interviewed on BBC's *Desert Island Discs*. He mentioned *Psycho* and said it is in "the nature of a gentle horror picture." # MGM-British are to make *The Midwich Cuckoos* with George Saunders. # Richard Attenborough and Nigel Patrick are to star in the film *The League of Gentlemen* which sounds much like Boland's mystery.

**1960**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #11, 1 January 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 11**, dated **1st January 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent by air), subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave. Hyattsville, Maryland. News of fannish interest gratefully accepted. Cartoon by Atom. Contributors: Sandra Hall, Eric Bentcliffe, Bruce Burn, F. Dietz, D. Ellington, Roles and Alan Rispin.

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## **Con at Dominion**

The London Convention will take place from Good Friday, 15th April to Easter Monday, 18th April. The Convention hotel is The Dominion, at Lancaster Gate. Bed & Breakfast 35/- with reductions for juniors who would be willing to share rooms in threes or fours. Lunch 10/6. Dinner 15/-. Bookings should be made direct to the Hotel Manager who is reported as being a congenial person who is "convention minded". If bookings are made before the end of January the Manager will place Convention attendees in a block.

There will be two Guests of Honour this year, Ted Carnell (who needs no introduction as the editor of the Nova magazines) and the TAFF delegate, whose name is expected to be announced within the next few days.

The Convention fee will be inclusive for the duration of the Convention and has been set at 15/- (10/- for BSFA members and reduction for juniors). Deposits on Convention fees may be paid to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

To help with Convention work, the BSFA Committee has co-opted an Advisory Committee comprising Terry Jeeves, Eric Bentcliffe, Ken Bulmer, Norman Shorrock and Ron Bennett. Secretary is Sandra Hall, 41 North End House, Fitz-James Avenue, London W.14.

**Bruce Burn** reports from New Zealand. "Roger Horrocks recently broadcast to the nation, a talk which explained the origins of the craters of the moon. There is no truth in the rumour that he advertised the Tower to the Moon experiment during his lecture." Bruce recently bought a motor-

cycle (1952 Velocette MAC) and as the notorious duo of Akatarawa, Toni and Lynette Vondruska have been silent on the fannish scene for some months, Bruce rode up to their “wild territory”. There was no sign of the Vondruska family and Bruce hopes to make another journey in the New Year.

**TAFF.** The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund is now winding up the campaign to bring a delegate from America for the London EasterCon, Said delegate’s name will be published in the next issue of *Skyrack*. Meanwhile the Administrators of the Fund have decided to put forward the date of the return trip and nominations are invited for candidates. These nominations must reach either Bob Madle (672 Ripley Street, Brookville, Alexandria, Virginia USA) or Ron Bennett by midnight, 15th January 1960. No late nominations can be considered, so *GET WEAVING!!!* Nominations must be signed by 5 well known fans (3 from Britain, 2 from North America) and must be accompanied by five dollars or thirty-five shillings. The chief nominator should provide a hundred word election platform on why he considers his candidate should be elected. This platform will be printed on the official ballot. All candidates must sign a declaration showing willingness, barring illness, Act of God, etc., to travel to the 1960 WorldCon in Pittsburgh next September. So far no nominations have been received, but names mentioned in correspondence as possible runners include Arthur Thomson and Eric Bentcliffe.

**Stateside News.** Americans look ahead, as was revealed on 28th November when a Committee was formed in New York with the purpose of running a regional convention in the city to coincide with the New York World’s Fair over the weekend of 4th July, 1964. This Faircon also celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the First World SF Convention. Nominations to the Committee were elected unanimously and the membership now stands as Belle & Frank Dietz, James Taurasi, Hans Santesson, Sam and Christine Moskowitz, George Nims Raybin, Milton Spahn, Joe Casey, Frank Prieto, Wally Cole, Ed Meskys, Harriet Kolchak, Les Gerber, Max and Elaine Phillips with Forry Ackerman as West Coast Advisor. # Dick and Pat Ellington are all set to move to the West Coast. They have bought a second hand car and will travel the northern route in mid month, taking in Seattle, Dick’s home town, en route to Frisco. Dick has made arrangements to have mail forwarded until he settles in, so that his POBox 104, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York address still holds good. # It is reported from Minneapolis (15th Dec) that Redd Boggs was fined \$500 and placed on two years probation on a postal charge.

**British Museum** copyright receipts are going to be rare. The Museum's Copyright Receipt Office have announced that from 1st January "A copyright receipt will be issued for the first number of a periodical, and thenceforth for each completed volume or year."

***Aporrheta* 14**, December 1959 (Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queens Rd., New X, London SE 14; 48pp; 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 6 for 8/- or \$1, 12 for 15/- or \$2). This issue of *Ape* rolled in shortly after I'd reviewed the 13th issue, and its rather a frightening thought that Sandy might be keeping me busy deliberately. This issue is noteworthy for the cleverest terse verse I've ever seen in a fanzine, Sid Birchby's "Cursory Rhymes for Blown-Ups" which tie in nicely with anti-nuclear letters from Paul Hammet and Bill Temple. George Locke has a long fannish story and a couple of pages on Peyote. John Berry writes about "Berth Control at 23000 Feet". Harry Warner continues his last month's column, Dean Grennell writes on other fandoms. Joy Clarke appeals on behalf of the World Refugee Year and Penelope Fandergaste's rambling includes a sf quiz. Sandy skits on fannish take over bids and includes a hodge-podge letter column. Another wonderful issue with Sid's rhymes outstanding.

***Femizine* 12**, Autumn 1959 (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey; 24pp; 1/- or 15¢). Paying another welcome visit to the zinescene is this presentation of the woman's viewpoint. Joy Clarke and Ella Parker collaborate on a wonderful little piece about the fannish spirit of 170 Upper N'Ards. Diane Berry shows deductive brilliance superior to that of her husband. Joy Clarke reviews 30 fan titles. Bjo introduces Djinn Faine with complete a pen-picture seen in fanzines. Pamela Bulmer devotes her "Wig Wam" column to the economics of politics and there are odd spots by Anne Chamberlain and Ethel herself, as well as a good letter column in the old tradition. A well edited issue, with layout and artwork vastly improved.

***Camber* 11** (Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts; 40 pp; 1/- or 15¢). This latest issue contains some excellent artwork by Bill Harry and Jim Cawthorne, but otherwise falls below the high standard people expect those days from British fan editors. The magazine still provides, however, light and entertaining reading with most of the written material being contributed by the editor.

***Eustace* 1** Winter 1959 (Mike Moorcock, 30 Benhillwood Rd, Sutton, Surrey; 30pp; "No subs wanted until further notice.") For his latest fanzine venture, Mike has collected some interesting material though in places the

magazine appears to have been put together hurriedly. Mike writes on odd topics including interesting items on Soho and his experiences with *Tarzan Adventures*. A wellknown fan writing under the house name of "Bob Lumley" gives advice to the neofan. Alan Dodd contributes a film review. Sandra Hall has an all too short piece on her recent visit to Moscow. George Locke browses through the bookshops of Farringdon Road. Sir Robert Richardson begins a serial full of historical pageantry.

**Fanny** is a Swedish fanzine from Anders S. Frøberg, Skolhusallén 1, Sundsvall, Sweden. This issue contains an English section with Mike Deckinger's Film Notes, a Virginia Phillips story, a note on *The World, The Flesh and The Devil* and Clayton Hamlin's "Down With Fanzines". Hmmm.

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Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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**In London** fans can go over to Leicester Square to see Nevil Shute's *On the Beach* which stars Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, and Fred Astaire. Peck was last week interviewed on the BBC and said that he had based his portrayal as the American submarine Commander, Dwight Towers, on the Commander of the *Nautilus*. The weekly *Tit-Bits* for 19th December splashed out with three photos showing Peck chasing Ava Gardner across a beach. Author Nevil Shute is reported as having refused to see the film and a friend of his was quoted in *The News Chronicle* as saying, "The love interest is overplayed and the ending coarsened." # Last issue's mention that *The League of Gentlemen* featuring Nigel Patrick and Richard Attenborough sounded like John Boland's novel has now been verified. The plot concerns the robbery of an actual London bank, based on that bank's real-life time table. Boland is known in the SF field for his first novel *White August*. # On 5th December, Harrogate fandom attended a Leeds showing of *The World, The Flesh and The Devil* and was suitably impressed by the New York scenes.

**Don Durward**, 6033 Garth Ave. Los Angeles 56, California, USA wants *Skyracks* 1-3 to complete his file. I have other back numbers on hand at regular sub rates. Note that for 65¢ for 6 issues Stateside fans can now obtain *Skyrack* sent airmail. A copy sent from Harrogate last month reached California in five days.

**Alan Rispin** announces the formation of the Irlam SF Society with two members. Alan also mentions a day trip down to the Stourbridge fans which took him 7 hours to get there and four hours returning.

**Strange Balls of Light** were seen in the sky over the Yorkshire village of Leyburn on 3rd December. “They were tremendously powerful, like enormous headlights. They made a semi-circular sweep, reaching half way to the zenith before falling away,” said the Rev A.P. Durrant, the retired clergyman who saw the lights. # John Roles mentions that Bill Harry turned up at a Liverpool meeting a couple of weeks ago and said that he had 20 pages of the next *Biped* on stencil. # Eric Bentcliffe, who hopes to include a flyer with the next *Skyrack*, reports that both Frank Milnes and Doc Weir have been in hospital, but are now back in general circulation and on the way to recovery. It is hoped that their recovery is both speedy and complete. # *Triode* 17 will be out this month.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS

# ***Skyrack* #12, 5 January 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 12** dated **5th January 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35 cents for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent by air), subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville Md. News of fannish interest gratefully accepted. Cartoon by Atom. Contributors: Archie Mercer, Bob Madle.

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## **Ford by a Landslide**

**The 1959 TAFF Campaign** closed at midnight, 31st December, with Ohio's Don Ford being elected as America's delegate to the 1960 London Convention by an overwhelming majority. The final figures were:

**Don Ford 499, Terry Carr 331, Bjo Wells 288.**

Don's name has been a fannish byword for many years. A reader since 1930 who used to spend his high school lunch money to buy science fiction magazines, his extensive collection overflows the basement of his country home in Loveland, Ohio, where he, his wife Margaret and their family have lived for the past four years. In addition to having attended major conventions since 1948 (The Toronto Worldcon), Don has been primarily associated with the organisation of the popular and highly successful Midwestcons since their inception in 1950. He has twice raised money to help fans in Britain, and is also known to fans over here as having been an active member of OMPA since 1955.

Don was one of the original administrators of TAFF and many consider that as he has been the only administrator not to have made the journey across the Atlantic, his forthcoming visit to London is long overdue. Fans who have had the advantage of his hospitality know him to be a generous and gracious host and an interesting conversationalist who possesses a wealth of fannish anecdotes. Congratulations, Don.

***The Directory of 1959 Science Fiction Fandom*** (Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire – or Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, USA; 16pp; 1/9d or 25¢). This is the fifth annual listing and contains the up to date whereabouts of over 500

fans the world over, listing addresses, telephone numbers, and tape recorder speeds available. The cover features an excellent Atom illustration, and interior artists are Atom, Don Allen, Vinç Clarke, Terry Jeeves, Archie Mercer, Bill Rotsler and Bjo Wells. *The Directory* will be included in the 90th FAPA mailing (February 1960) and will be issued free to any member of OMPA who requests a copy, while supplies last.

**Archie Mercer** reports on the party held on 19th December at the London home of BSFA Secretary, Sandra Hall. "Total attendance was somewhere in the twenties, drawn from fandom and folk-fandom, including Sandra and Mike Moorcock, Tikki Hall, complete sets of Bulmers and Buckmasters, Ted Tubb, Ella Parker, Tony Klein, Pete Taylor, Alistair Graham (from Gloucestershire for the occasion), Barry Bayley (from Shropshire or somewhere equally impossible – ditto), John Wisdom (*the* John Wisdom), Frank Herbert, Mervyn Ross, Ann, Tom, Barbara, and another Tony (Ann and Marion may possibly be Anne and Marian/ne, etc). A fine fannish and/or folkish time was had by all, to the accompaniment of about four guitars, a banjo, a small mandolin, a balalaika, two mouth organs, a kazoo, a musical box and a record player (NOT all at once, though). Fancy dress was worn for part of the evening, in the course of which an impromptu ceremony was held to proclaim the existence of Sir Lonfan (Or possibly St. Lonfan). Survivors finished the night sleeping on couches and the floor in the living room. Wish you were there." Yes, it sounds quite a party. The next similar event lined up is the Liverpool New Year party at Higher Bebington, 9th January. Harrogate fandom hopes to be there in force.

**Make a Note in That Brand New Diary.** Good Friday 15th April to Easter Monday 18th April. Event – The London Convention organised by the BSFA. The Place – The Dominion Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London W.2. Bed and Breakfast is 35/-, with reductions for juniors who are willing to share rooms. Bookings should be made directly to the hotel manager, and not to BSFA Secretary, Sandra Hall. The Convention fee will be inclusive for the weekend and has been set at 15/- (10/- for BSFA members, with reductions for juniors). Deposits on Convention fees may be paid to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. Guests of honour at the Convention will be Nova Editor, Ted Carnell and TAFF delegate, Don Ford. Suggested programme outline is as follows: Friday – general renewal of fannish acquaintances. Saturday – "light" items, such as twenty questions, cover guessing competitions, etc., with the possibility of an informal banquet in the evening, followed by a dance. Sunday – BSFA

AGM late morning, with the afternoon devoted to more serious items (in contrast to the light items of Saturday, and NOT to the AGM!), with films in the evening. Suggestions from groups willing to fill in the blanks of this outline should be sent to Sandra (41 North End House, Fitz-James Avenue, London W 14) How about you, hmmm?

### **TAFF – An Analysis**

The votes received were split up between the two Administrators as follows –

	Ford Carr Wells		
Received by Bob Madle	399	235	198
Received by Ron Bennett	<u>100</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>90</u>
	499	331	288

It will be seen from this that Don Ford led on both sides of the Atlantic. Though his majority in Britain was a slim one from the time the first vote arrived in Harrogate, he never lost the lead. Returns taken at the first of each month show the following:

1st March 5 voted Ford 13 Wells 8 Carr 5. 1st April 18 voted Ford 39 Wells 34 Carr 28. 1st May 22 voted Ford 48 Wells 35 Carr 30. 1st June 26 voted Ford 52 Wells 45 Carr 34. 1st July 55 voted Ford Wells 46 Carr 40. 1st August 33 voted Ford 64 Wells 58 Carr 48. 1st September 38 voted Ford 74 Wells 62 Carr 55. 1st October 44 voted Ford 89 Wells 71 Carr 64. 1st November 47 voted Ford 92 Wells 80 Carr 67. 1st December 50 voted Ford 99 Wells 83 Carr 72.

These figures are naturally only for Britain. The American figures are not yet to hand (We may have a slick organisation working here, thanks to Western Union, but there are limits!). It was only during the last week of voting that Bjo Wells lost 2nd place in Britain to Terry Carr. In America, Terry Carr took an early lead which he held until April. Don Ford was trailing third but caught up to take the lead. Terry and Bjo interchanged places more than once and at one time were level pegging. All this merely goes to show that the Administrators are as much in the dark as anyone while the voting is taking place.

In Britain, the votes for each candidate were split up as follows:

1st	2nd	3rd	Total
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Don Ford	22	10	14	100.
Terry Carr	21	10	13	96.
Bjo Wells	15	18	9	90.

Several fans voting did not make use of all three spaces. There was one write-in vote giving BOB PAVLAT 3 points.

Those who returned voting papers to Ron Bennett were: Frank Arnold, Norman Ashfield, Mal Ashworth, Mervyn Barrett, Ron Bennett, Eric Bentcliffe, Pamela Bulmer, Ted Carnell, Jim Cawthorne, John Challoner, George Charters, Dave Cohen, Karl Dollner, Charlie Duncombe, DR Fawcett, Keith Freeman, James Groves, Barry Hall, Sandra Hall, Terry Jeeves, Eddie Jones, Eric Jones, Brian Jordan, Jean and Annie Linard, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Linwood, George Locke, Jim McArthur, Ian R. McAulay, Ken McIntyre, Archie Mercer, Mike Moorcock, Ray Nelson, Derek Oldham, Ella Parker, Ken and Irene Potter, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Phil Rogers, John Roles, Michael Rosenblum, Sandy Sandfield, Frank Simpson, Peter Singleton, Ken Slater, Phil Sless, Pete Taylor, Arthur Thomson, Ted Tubb, Norman Weedall, Dr. Arthur Weir, Peter West, James White, Roberta Wild, Walt and Madeleine Willis, Martine and Pierre Versins.

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Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; Next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contributions to TAFF** were as follows: TAFF Auction at Birmingham Convention £4-6-1d. TAFF Raffle at Birmingham Convention £1-14-0d. TAFF Auction at London Circle Symposium £1-8-6d.

Ivor Mayne 30/-, George Locke £1, Michael Rosenblum £1, Archie Mercer 17/6d, Derek Oldham 17/6d, Ray Nelson 13/9d, Anon 10/-, Pamela Bulmer 10/-, Gregg Calkins 10/-, Karl Dollner 10/-, Inchmery Fandom 10/-, Eric Jones 10/-, John Challoner 7/6d. Norman Ashfield 7/2d, "Shaggy" 7/2d, Linards 6/7d each.

Mal Ashworth, Eric Bentcliffe, Jim Cawthorne, Dave Cohen, Barry Hall, Chuck Harris, John Hautz, Terry Jeeves, Brian Jordan, LA 56 Fandom, Ethel Lindsay, Ian R. McAulay, Ken McIntyre, Mike Moorcock, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Sandy Sandfield, Science Fiction Club of London, Peter Singleton, Pierre and Martine Versins – 5/- each.

Arthur Thomson 4/6d, Mervyn Barrett 4/-, Ken and Irene Potter 4/- each, Dr. Arthur Weir 3/9d, Sid Birchby 3/-, Jim Groves 3/-, John Roles 3/-,

Norman Weedall 3/-, “Legion of the Forgotten” 2/10, Ken Slater 2/9d.

Frank Arnold, Ron Bennett, Alan Burns, Ted Carnell, George Charters, Charlie Duncombe, D.R. Fawcett, Keith Freeman, Ron Hall, Sandra Hall, Eddie Jones, Jim Linwood, Jim McArthur, Ella Parker, Phil Rogers, Frank Simpson, Phil Sless, Pete Taylor, Ted Tubb, Peter West, James White, Bobbie Wild, Madeleine Willis, Walt Willis – 2/6d each.

Bruce Pelz 2/-. Boyd Raeburn 1/10d. MOKA feed fund 1/-

These contributions add up to £28-7-2d, which when added to the balance of £17-10s from the 1958 Fund, totals £45-17-2d. In addition Sid Birchby contributed a dime and Dick Schultz contributed the first dollar to the “PittCon Push”. Many thanks indeed to all those generous fans who did contribute to this worthy cause, and that includes contributions of auction and raffle material.

**The TAFF Administrators** invite nominations for candidates to attend the Pittsburgh WorldCon in September. Nominations should be sent to Ron Bennett or Bob Madle (672 Ripley St., Brookville, Alexandria, Va.) to arrive before midnight 15th January. Nominations must be signed by 5 wellknown fans (3 from Britain, 2 N. America). Must be accompanied by 35/-, and election platform of 100 words. It now seems certain that Eric Bentcliffe and Mal Ashworth will stand. More? # Coming free with this *Skyrack* (The 2nd in 3 days!) is *mi*, a flyer from Eric Bentcliffe. # Liverpool party 9th Jan. # Back issues available.

# ***Skyrack* #13, 5 February 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 13**, dated **5th February 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 6 issues for 2/6d. 35 cents in USA (65¢ for 6 issues by air), subscription to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to fandom gratefully accepted. Cartoon Ted Forsyth, Contributors: Ken Slater, Ted Carnell, Eric Bentcliffe, Ella Parker, Dick Schultz, Joy Clarke.

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**Press Release: Science Fiction Club of London.** The 1st Annual General Meeting of the Science Fiction Club of London was held at Inchmery at 5pm on Sunday January 3rd, 1960: The main items on the agenda were the acquiring of club premises: the election of officers – all previous officers were confirmed in their positions: the discussion about a display for the Easter Convention and the production of a combozine for distribution at that Convention. The Combozine will contain new items by all members of the club and will be approximately 30-40 pages in length. Contents will comprise, amongst others, Fan-Bems by Atom, George Locke on certain aspects of book collecting, articles by Paul Enever, Vin¢ Clarke, Ken & Irene Potter, Sandy Sanderson, etc. It will be edited by Ella Parker and will be slanted to be of interest to all types of fan and not solely the “fandom” fan. The funds of the Club are in a gratifyingly healthy state and, as soon as Club premises have been obtained, the intention is to invite more members to join. A search party covered the Waterloo area on Saturday, 9th January and five possible places were discovered. Further research into the matter is being carried out by Vin¢ Clarke.

**TAFF Candidates Line Up for “Pittcon Push”.** Although the TAFF Administrators bowed to fans who thought that not enough was allowed to collect nominations and extended the deadline for nominations accordingly, there were no additional names received after the original deadline of 15th Jan. All three candidates are being supported by 5 wellknown fans, 35/- bonds are in good order and all have signed declarations that they will travel if elected. The fight is on and the candidates line up as  
MAL ASHWORTH, Coeditor of the now defunct *Bem*. Member OMPA and FAPA

ERIC BENTCLIFFE, Co-editor of *Triode*. First Secretary BSFA. Member of OMPA. Knight of St. Fantony. Ex-Chairman Liverpool Science Fiction Society (Honorary)

SANDY SANDERSON. Editor of *Aporrheta*, "Joan W. Carr". Ex-Editrix *Fez*. Treasurer OMPA, Ex-FAPA.

VOTE NOW!!!!!!

**Ken Slater's** January/February book catalogue runs the news from Ed Wood that *Astounding* is moving up into the 50¢ bracket and is thinking about a title change. Keeping the traditional "ASF" the intended title will be *Analog Science Fact Fiction*. A rose by any other and all that jazz. # From TED CARNELL comes the news that Nova are putting *New Worlds* on to the American market. As Ted's letter also mentioned *Skyrack* in capitals, his entire letter follows: "Many thanks for *Skyrack* No. 11 which was interesting as usual. It was nice to see that I had been publicly proclaimed as one of the Guests of Honour! Up to now I hadn't agreed, but now that it is a fait accompli there's nothing I can do about it! I'm sorry that I forgot to send you the big news from Nova in time for *Skyrack*. Commencing in January there will be an American reprint edition of *New Worlds* selling at 25¢, printed and published by Great American Publications Inc. of New York (the same publisher who has also bought *Fantastic Universe*). Four issues were in their hands for printing before Christmas. The American edition will be some months behind the British and will not run serials for the time being. Such American stories as we have published here will be stripped out and earlier British stories substituted." Ah, it's a proud and lonely thing to be a newszine editor. I ran the news about Ted and Don Ford being Guest's of Honour at the Convention in good faith. In addition to Ted's surprise at the announcement, the recent issue of *Vector* made no mention of the fact that TAFF Delegate Don Ford is also Guest of Honour.

**Ted Carnell** has generously sent along five Nova cover originals for TAFF. These will be auctioned at the Easter Convention, but I'm meanwhile accepting postal bids. For those who don't understand this weird system, such a postal bid will take an item if it is not augmented at the Convention. The five covers are all by Brian Lewis and are from *New Worlds* 71, 74, 79 and 82 (Survival Problem) and *Science Fiction Adventures* 11 (Forgotten Knowledge) for which particular painting I'll gladly make the first bid of ten shillings.

**The Liverpool Science Fiction Society's** annual New Year party took

place at the home of Norman and Ina Shorrocks in Higher Bebington, Cheshire during the weekend of 9th/10th January. The party gathered from several meeting points to the Hanover Bar and afterwards moved on for dinner at the Golden Palace Restaurant (which visiting fans have previously known as The Mandarin's Palace). Those visiting the city for the first time were shown the LSFS Clubrooms. At the party headquarters vintage Chaplin films were shown amid general merrymaking and the Shorrocks holiday films were highly applauded. Brag was played by half a dozen hardies throughout the night in the famed brag stadium, the Shorrocks kitchen. Lesser mortals distributed their inert forms about floor (suitably mattressed) and bed. I won't steal the thunder of Eric Bentcliffe who makes an outrageously true statement in *Mi*. Sunday morning saw a round table S&C discussion on the forthcoming convention, during which Harrogate fandom and Alan Rispin had to leave. A great party, during which the brag session realised 18/10d for TAFF. Attendees included Pat & Frank Milnes, Stan Nuttall, John Owen, John Roles, Nancy Pooley, Kitty Dowdall, Jeff Collins, Norman Weedall, Pete Daniels, Les Johnson, Eddie Jones, Alan Rispin, Dave Hall, Ken Cheslin, Mal & Sheila Ashworth, Elizabeth Humbey, Eric and Margaret Jones, Frank Herbert, Audrey Eversfield, Keith Freeman, John Humphries, Peter Mabey, Eric Bentcliffe, Terry Jeeves, Geoff Arnold-Pinchin, Bob Parkinson, Tony Walsh, Wally Johnson and Brother Frank Jaros.

This issue run off whilst listening to *Up Here* (BBC Home, 30th January) and mailed off in nine inches of snow.

**Northlight 8** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle 2; 36 pages). This issue contains a guest editorial by Laurence Sandfield and much of the issue appears to be devoted towards the reopening of the London fan feuds that everyone had hoped were forgotten. Laurence is the latest fan to take arms against Inchmery fandom and speaking personally, I can but deplore the entire business; one of the most pleasant evenings I have spent at Inchmery was on my arrival there for a six week stay last summer – Laurence Sandfield was very much in evidence and it is disheartening, to say the least, to learn of such differences of opinion between people who were friends of each other and most certainly friends of mine. They still *are* friends of mine, of course, which makes it all the more sickening. Also present in the issue is an article by Ted Tubb on fanzine editors (he generalises somewhat but makes several good points), a story by the editor and the usual letters. Art is by Jim Cawthorne and Ken McIntyre. In a column, Laurence Sandfield shows that as regards nuclear

disarmament he can agree with Inchmery on some things.

**Vector 6** (This is the Official Organ of the British Science Fiction Association, which may be joined by sending a year's subscription, one pound, to the Treasurer, Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln). Whilst I don't like to pan a fanzine which has a lot of good points about it, particularly a fanzine produced by the BSFA which has probably had more than its share of criticism during the past 21 months, I must say plainly that the layout of this issue is lousy. There are one or two illustrations from Jim Cawthorne which are up to his usual high standard but otherwise the eye-catching appeal of the issue is not a good advertisement for the Association. Apart from official reports the issue contains an article on de Camp by Mike Moorcock, more first rate analytical reviews by Terry Jeeves on current magazine sf and Doctor Arthur Weir on off trail science fantasy, a short item on sf in Portugal, a film review by Mike Moorcock and an anti-psionics article by Eric Bentcliffe. The issue has its points but it is not up to the standard of previous *Vectors*.

**Orion 24** (Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6; 1/; 42 pages). My, but *O* is rolling in almost as frequently as it did in the Enever days! This issue suffers from overinking in parts (the cover is still wet) and uneven inking in others, but it is still the best of the three fanzines which have so far been produced in British fandom this month. The issue is worth reading for Ella's editorial alone, but there are also present are a Ken Bulmer TAFF tale, a report of a trip to Russia by Keith Elliot, a John Berry Sergeant story, a personal experience recounted by Archie Mercer, short pieces from Rory Faulkner, Paul Enever and Alan Rispin. Arthur Thomson contributes artwork and blossoms as a fanzine reviewer. There are bits and pieces of excellent Ellania and another good letter column.

Distributed with this issue of *Skyrack* are the second issue of Eric Bentcliffe's *mi*, a TAFF voting form and a *Skyrack* ballot form. It will probably be necessary to leave out the voting form from copies travelling airmail. Please bear with me. Please do vote in the *Sky* ballot – the more who vote, the truer the representation of opinion. It will interesting to see how British fandom rates in the *Fanac* poll, also currently being distributed. My thanx to Ella Parker, Eric Bentcliffe and Sandy Sanderson who are also distributing *Sky* forms. # *Triode* ready to mail out any day. *Les Spinge* due 1st March. # The British Museum has a new Principal Keeper of Printed Books, Mr R.A. Wilson. # TAFF voting percentages were Ford 44.65%, Carr 29.60%, Wells 25.75%. # For Eastercon, U.S. fen

are invited to send brief taped messages to Eric Bentcliffe to play back in London (47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) # Miss Elizabeth Humbey, well known attendee of London Symposium and Liverpool New Year party, flew from Manchester 24th Jan to take up residence in USA (c/o Stage Coach Inn, Valrico, Tampa, Florida) # Other moves: Peter Mabey, 10 Wellington Sq., Cheltenham. Phil Rogers, 5 First Ave., Ashfield, Scunthorpe. Terry & Miri Carr c/o Karen Anderson. Rick Dalton, 70 North Lane, Leeds 8. Bill Donaho 1441 8th St., Berkley 10, Calif. Bruce Pelz & John Trimble Apt 2, 970 Marview Dr., LA 12. Ron & Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan St., Kirkcudbright, Scotland. # Ella Parker is compiling an Anthology of ATOM's work. She asks you to nominate your favourite cartoon/series/front cover/or filler. Where possible please send original sketches which will be returned after use. Otherwise name source of item, name of zine, date of issue and name and address of editor concerned. Date of publication and price will be announced later. Ella asks that all fnz copy this notice, please. # Dick Schultz sends along a couple of stills from the film *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* which is now on release in London. Blurb reads "fine performances by James Mason as the good and Thayer David as the mad scientist... and it never lets scientific verisimilitude get in the way of telling a good adventure tale" Gee, all that and Pat Boone too. # Ted Forsyth of Edinburgh will be visiting London shortly. His sidekick Joe Patrizio says there is no likelihood of his doing a Barbara Moore to reach the capital. # Cheltenham party 13th Feb. # *Directory of 1959 SF Fandom* – 500 fan addresses 1/9d or 25¢ from Bennett or Bob Pavlat.

# ***Skyrack* #14, 22 February 1960**

## **Three Page Cheltenham Valcon Reports!**

This is *Skyrack* No. 14 dated 22nd February 1960, thereby resisting a temptation to have itself dated 29th. *Skyrack* is published by Ron M. Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 by air), subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to fandom gratefully received as the cartoon by Arthur Thomson shows. Contributors: Klaus Eylmann, Peter Davies, Ted Forsyth, and Norman Shorrock and Ella Parker both by letter and by phone.

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## **Con Hotel Switch**

Because of the dissatisfaction expressed at the high prices of the Dominion hotel, the site of the BSFA Easter Convention has been switched. Take note, therefore, of the following:

TIME: Remains Good Friday 15th April to Easter Monday 18th Apr.

PLACE: The Sandringham Hotel, 25 Lancaster Gate, London W.2.

BOOKINGS: Bed & Breakfast 30/3d. Double rooms 58/-. Some four bedded rooms @ 22/6d per. Priority for cheaper accommodation to be given to younger fans travelling the greatest distances. *All* bookings (no deposits) to be made by letter through Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6.

The Sandringham is not a licenced hotel but the Manager is agreeable to our bringing in alcohol provided we keep it to our rooms and the lounge provided for us. A night porter will provide tea or coffee. Breakfast is normally from 8-9.30, but as a concession this has been extended to 10.30. If anyone would like to insure articles of value, John Newman, 36 Bulstrode Ave., Hounslow, Middx., will take care of any inquiry. Auction material to Ella Parker. Convention fees to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. These have now been reduced to: BSFA Members 7/6, junior members 5/-; Non BSFA members 10/-, junior nonmembers 7/6d – for the entire convention.

This is a BSFA Convention and is not being organised in conjunction with

the London Circle.

**Klaus Eylmann** writes from Hamburg on fandom in Germany, “There are 3 big SF Organisations. The SFCE with Fanclub SFCD e.V., the SFCD and the SSFI. It is a unique situation in fandom that two different fanclubs have the name SFCD, but no one will give it up, because the very first club which was founded by Walter Ernsting has been the SFCD. Now both clubs, which are calling themselves SFCD are not the original clubs, but both organisations are saying that they are the successors of the original SFCD. There is a terrific feud running between Wolf Detlef Rohr (Rainer Eisfeld) and Walter Ernsting and his SFCD. In a short time a law suit will be filled out in this matter. When a delegation of the SFCE (SFCD e.V) (e.V. means ‘registered Club’) will turn up at the England Convention then please don’t think they are speaking for the majority of German fans. The majority of the German fans are organised in the SSFI (Stellaris Science Fiction Interessen Gemeinschaft) whose membership is increasing rapidly, only they have no such agile and versatile correspondent as the SFCE has in Rainer Eisfeld. Nevertheless Poul A. Pradel, who has been a long time in the U.S. and who attended the world con in San Francisco or New York (I don’t know for sure) is a committee member of the SSFI.”

**The Cheltenham Science Fiction Circle’s Valentine Convention** was held over the weekend 13th/14th February. Out of town attendees made their way to 44 Barbridge Road, home of Margaret and Eric Jones, then proceeded to Ah Chews Restaurant where they were joined by more Cheltenham fans. Stage One Party HQ were the palatial clubrooms in London Road where, before continuing the general merrymaking, discussion ensued on the Easter Convention. The new solution was apparently well received by all. The programme continued with the showing of vintage Chaplin and Hal Roach films, cartoons and some non-vintage fan film shot in Bebington last month. We then returned to Gavagan’s Bar for brag, femmes, vodka, heavy water (!) and general gabfesting. At midnight the party uprooted itself and was transplanted to 14 Bennington Street, home of Bill and Bobbie Gray, finally breaking up around 4-5am. Sleeping arrangements had been well organised and fans scattered to the far flung reaches (it says here) of Cheltenham where they were bedded down and fed by hospitable Cheltfen. A most excellent and enjoyable gathering. Attendees included Eric and Margaret Jones, Wally and Joy Johnson, Paul Briggs, Archie Mercer, Ian Adlem, Mike Chapman, Bob Parkinson, Bob and Barbara Richardson, Bill and Bobbie Gray, Doug Lacey, Keith Freeman, Eric Bentcliffe. Peter Mabey, Tony Walsh, Sandra

Hall, Frank Herbert, Shirley Stevens, John Roles, Norman Weedall, Eddie Jones, John Owen, Ina and Norman Shorrock and **Mersey and Deeside** minibus driver Jeff Collins. (NLS)

**Lynn Hickman** (304 N. 11th., Mt. Vernon, Illinois, USA) reports that the 10th Anniversary issue of *JD-Argassy* will be published in May, a 70 page issue for 50¢, with material by Harry Warner, Dean A. Grennell, Rog Phillips, Bob Tucker, Bob Madle, Sandy Sanderson, John Berry, Earl Kemp and Charles de Vet amongst others. Interested fans in Britain may obtain this argosy by sending British agent Ron Bennett three shillings and sixpence.

**Aporrheta No 15** (Sandy Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queens Road, London SE 14; 50 pp; 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 6 for \$1 or 8/-, 12 for \$2 or 15/-). With the latest *Ape*, Sandy switches back to black ink and conjures up micro elite type for the editorial and as one who suffers from eyestrain, I'm pleased that the use of the small type is indeed limited. 24 pages are given over to a highly interesting Inchmery Fan Diary, but pride of place must go to a competition set by the literary minded Vin¢ Clarke, the funniest fannish idea I've seen produced in a long time. George Spencer contributes a fan story, John Berry writes an American adventure, and Andy Young asks "What's Wrong With SF?" Regular columnists Joy Clarke, Cantaloupe Flabbergaste, Penelope Fandergaste, and Dean Grennell are here in force. Joy's "Li'l Pitcher" concerns itself with general chatter, including a nicely thought out development of Hemingway's having a cash register attached to his typewriter (Ha! Caught you, Joy Clarke! Boucher first used the idea in *Rocket to the Morgue*.). After criticising the Apa, Cantaloupe suggests that the BSFA forms one. PF salutes the Los Angeles group, a worthy sentiment, and quietly tears Ted White to pieces. Grennell coins words (a wonderful piece). Arthur Thomson moves his A to Z from S to W. Sandy provides a TAFF platform for all three candidates. A slightly below standard *Ape*, which is to say merely brilliant.

**Triode 17** (Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire and Terry Jeeves, 58 Sherrard Grove, Sheffield 12, Yorks. 1/6 or 20¢ per copy, 4 for 5/. or 6 for \$1.38pp. U.S. subs to Dale K. Smith, 3001 Kyle Avenue, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota). This issue kicks off with a too short editorial by Eric. John Berry is present with the account of the Berry Two Stage Rocket. Harry Warner pictures the homes of fen from their addresses (I wonder what he made of Donaho's Nunnery!) Terry Jeeves writes for four pages, mostly on the recent LaSFaS party. Penelope

Fandergaste spills over her Mill Stream to discuss dreams and several million BNFs make up the letter column. The artwork and layout once again deserve special mention. It used to be said that *Triode* was too formal and staid, but these days the zine is a quarterly which does not appear too often. Shucks! Almost forgot to mention Doc Weir writing on filming Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* in England and George Locke writing on tiddly winks in fandom – which just goes to show how good the rest of the magazine must be.

**Cactus No. 3** (Sture Sedolin, Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden. 17pp. 7/- for no fewer than 10 issues to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts.) Duplicated entirely in red, this issue maintains the improvement shown in the second issue, and is noteworthy for the pen pictures presented by John Berry which show Inchmery fandom in a deservedly good light. Ray Nelson contributes some good cartoons which are spoiled somewhat by the duplicating. Bob Lichtman reviews fanzines. Terry Carr writes on jazz. Try this one.

**The Cheltenham Valcon** made fannish history by burning itself out in an unusual manner. Archie Mercer reports that the paraffin heater caught fire at Bennington Street. "Eric ('I'll do it – I sell those') the Bent assumed control. Ten minutes or so later he was still in control and the thing was flaming brightly. Man, that was the SMOKE-FILLEDEST room ever," writes Archie. Ha!

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Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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To spread the Cheltenham ValCon mentions over to a third page, Norman Shorrock notes that the specially hired LaSFaS minibus was festooned with outside notices "LaSFaS On Tour" and "M.a.D. Productions on Location."

**Ken Cheslin**, leading light of the Stourbridge group, recently suffered an accident at work, resulting in the loss of three right hand fingers.

**Half a Dozen** fans have already voted in the TAFF's Pittcon Push. If this campaign, to send a British delegate to the September Worldcon, is to be successful, we'll have to do better than that. Move! Meanwhile, America's TAFF delegate to the Eastercon says that he will fly jet to London, arriving April 9th. \*\*\* The TAFF auction at the Eastercon will include 5 Nova covers by Brian Lewis, from *New Worlds* 71, 74, 79 and 82 and *SFA* 11. Postal bids are invited.

***The Directory of 1959 SF Fandom*** (1/9 or 25¢ from Bennett or Pavlat) is still selling. 500 fan addresses, tape and phone listing.

**Ted Forsyth** (139 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh 8) writes on his recent trip to London, “If you read *Skyrack* you’ll have noticed that I had a visit to London coming up. I left Edinburgh early on Wednesday morning, 27th Jan and arrived back on Monday evening, 1st Feb. I spent two nights in Woking with relations and stayed Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at Ella Parker’s. During this time I managed to put faces to quite a few fans who had been only names and in the process enjoyed myself immensely. London looks like the inside of a train, I seldom seemed to spend more than a few minutes on the surface and when I did it was usually at night. On my way home I passed through Harrogate, but I did not see you. Was it something I said?”

**Alan Rispin** hitched over to Harrogate for a brag session Feb 7th and caught the train back. Hmm. \*\*\* Norman Shorrock has had a card from Boyd Raeburn in Puerto Rico. \*\*\* Liverpool University Rag Mag runs photo of Assistant Editor Bill Harry on contents page.

ELEVEN SKYRACK POLL FORMS HaVE BEEN RETURNED  
COMPLETED. AND YOURS?

# ***Skyrack* #15, 14 March 1960**

This is *Skyrack* No. 15, dated 14th March 1960 and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues by air), subscriptions in USA to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to fandom gratefully received. Cartoon heading by Joe Patrizio. Contributors this issue: Ron Ellik, Lynn Hickman and other worthies listed in the following pages.

**Have You Returned Your *Skyrack* Poll... Yet?**

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## **Berry Heads *Fanac* Poll**

**A Complete breakdown on the *Fanac* Poll results** will be made in the Second FANNISH (from Ron Ellik, Terry Carr or Archie Mercer), but meanwhile the results of the poll are as follows:

BEST FANZINE OF 1959: 1. *Fanac* 2. *Cry* 3. *Shaggy* 4. *Aporrheta*.

BEST WRITER OF 1959: 1. Berry 2. Terry Carr 3. Warner 4. Willis.

BEST ARTIST: 1. Barr 2. Adkins 3. Bjo 4. Atom 5. Cawthorn.

BEST CARTOONIST: 1. Atom 2. Bjo 3. Rotsler 4. Nelson. 5= Jones.

BEST COLUMN: 1. = Harp 1= Pemberton 2. Squirrel Cage. 3. Fandom Harvest.

BEST NEW FAN: 1. Nirenberg 2. Locke 3. Lichtman.

FAN FACE: 1. Berry 2. Terry Carr 3. Bjo 4. Ellik 5. Eney.

In the Fanzine poll, *Fanac* rated 729 points, *Cry* 584, *Shaggy* 473 and *Ape* 438. Those were followed by *Oopsla* (416), *Hyphen* (320), *Innuendo* (315), *Yandro* (272), *JD-Argassy* (239), *Twig* (211), *Rot* (206), *A Bas* (188), *Fancy II* (151), *Amra & Void* (133), *Fijagh* (104), *Googie Pubs* (68), *Psi Phi* (67), *Best of Fandom* (58), *Profanity & Spectre* (53) and *Triode* (51).

John Berry headed the writers poll with 276 votes to Terry's 220 and also headed the Fan Face poll with the fantastic lead of 152 votes to Terry's 73.

Berry & Willis were the only British writers in the top ten. Inchmery Fan Diary ran 4th Column.

**Skyhack** has reared its ugly head again. This second parody of Britain's leading SF fandom newszine is ostensibly produced by Cecil, my favourite elephant, at this address. The cartoon heading parodies *Skyrack's* cartoon heading of last issue, and there are humorous comments on extensions into the fantastic of most matters concerning the British fandom of today. Great stuff. To those who still doubt, this is *not* a double ploy and *Skyhack* did not originate in Harrogate. I should, however, apologise to Archie Mercer who was strongly suspected of producing the first *Skyhack*. The efficient organisation behind *Skyhack* asked for a mailing list this time.

**News About the American Edition of *New Worlds*** has been floating in from two or three sources. Whilst Ted Carnell is sending over the material Hans Santesson is acting as editor of the American reprint, and apparently the thought of a USRE is an ironic twist, particularly as Hans' own zine, *Fantastic Universe*, has folded with the March issue, slap in the middle of a Fredric Brown serial. (After those shorts in *Galaxy* a few years ago, that's all he deserves!). The Belle Dietz fan column which was running in *FU* is transferring to the USRE *New Worlds*, an unusual position to say the least.

**Betty Kujawa** sends along a nice postcard from Clearwater, Florida. She and husband Gene flew down in 6 hours in their new plane, a Beechcraft Bonanza. Total cost of the trip itself was twenty bucks, a mere seven pounds, including lunch in Knoxville, Tennessee. Wow!

**Half Edinburgh Fandom Leaves Country** writes Joe Patrizio, commenting on the move by his sidekick, Ted Forsyth, to London. Ted has landed a job in the Smoke, and expects to take up residence this month. Hey ho, the way those Northern fans sell their souls....

**Lynn Hickman** has moved 300 miles N.W. of Mt. Vernon and his new address is 523 S. Dixon Ave., Dixon, Illinois, USA. He's working hard on the 70 page tenth anniversary issue of *JD-Argassy* which will be published in May, with material by Warner, Tucker, Grennell, Phillips, Madle, Sanderson, Berry and others. Interested fans in Britain may obtain a copy by sending 3/6d to Ron Bennett.

**Postcard from Mal Ashworth** last week read, "I don't expect the information to curl your toes and I am not exactly trying to make the *Skyrack* headlines but simply *in case* the news is any use to you and because I have told other people and wouldn't want you to hear secondhand and feel that you should have heard firsthand (pause for breath; gulp), I have bought a Gestetner and am striving to get out an issue

of *Rot* (now a 100% general non apa zine) before the end of March. Concerning the duplicator I have already brought Derek Pickles old joke out of its mothballs and am dishing it out with gay abandon on all sides 'It's a portable duplicator – four men can carry it.' Hoping you are the same, Mal." And you and Sheila.

**Joe Patrizio and Ted Forsyth**, who are mentioned above, probably in red ink, also enter the postcard stakes: "With reference to your latest magazine *Skyrack* 14 and the review therein of that eminent publication *Triode* 17, may we take this opportunity to proffer to you our deepest gratitude for your benevolent gesture in promoting us to the status of BNF. As a mark of our overwhelming appreciation of your graciousness we are cancelling our subscriptions to *Fanac*." Oh, come now gentlemen....

**Nine Fans** have now voted in the TAFF's Pittcon Push from the millions who comprise British fandom. This is hardly enough and it is to be hoped that if a British TAFF delegate is to be sent to the Worldcon this September more fans will vote. \*\*\* Postal bids are invited for TAFF auction material, 5 Nova cover originals donated by Ted Carnell (These are all by Brian Lewis and are from *New Worlds* 71, 74, 79, 82 and *SFA* 11) and on a heap of material donated by Inchmery fandom. These items are original manuscripts and run as follows:

Asimov "The Jokester" *Infinity* Dec 56

"Let's Get Together" *Infinity* Feb 57

Clarke "Publicity Campaign" *Satellite SF* "The Other Side of the Sky" (6 shorts) *Infinity* Sep/Oct 57

Pohl & Kornbluth The Engineer

Hamilton The Starcombers *SFA* Dec 56

Leiber Friends & Enemies *Infinity* April 57

and three shorts by Asimov, Garrett and Ellison from *Infinity* June 57.

**Four Fan Faces** were on view at the home of Michael and Betty Rosenblum on Saturday, 5th March. BSFA Treasurer, Archie Mercer, travelled north from Lincoln to spend the weekend with Michael and Betty and Ron Bennett travelled south all those sixteen miles to join in the fun. Lewis, Rena and Ory records rang out loud and clear, Archie's puns doubled everyone with horror and Betty's vegetarian food was voted the best in fandom (again, Bob Madle). We played Astron and Scrabble, and Michael and Archie drove me back to Harrogate in the early hours. ("If you wake me up to feed me every two hours during the night, I'll shoot you." \*\* "I Threw a Custard in Her Face.") The fourth fannish face on

view? We broke off playing Astron to watch Pete Daniels and the Merseysippi Jazz Band on television's Ken Dodd Show.

**My How These Esoteric Jokes Get Around Dept.** Boyd Raeburn, who sent Norman Shorrock a card from Puerto Rico a couple of months ago, also sent one to Bob Tucker. Tuck returned it to Boyd with a note that he might send it on to me, and Boyd has done so as well as sending a letter on the trip and another couple of cards of the sunny isle. The card to Tucker read "No dusty cornflakes here", which just goes to show that overseas fans do remember the London Worldcon. Boyd mentioned that he stayed at the Virgin Isle Hotel but that whilst it would be a magnificent place to hold a con, few fans would be really happy with the rates, which are high (hamburgers alone are \$1.25). True, Boyd, with the recent fracas over the con rates here, people probably wouldn't be happy. Trust you had a good time.

**Non-Existent Alan Dodd** writes to say that last month he met The Number One Fan of France, Jean Linard, in London. Evidently, Jean was convalescing over here from his recent operation and been here since mid December. He returned to France 17th February, writes Alan, mentioning that he has already written *Fanac* with the news. Thanks a lot, mate; one day I'll tell Bloch the *truth* about you. And you too, Ted White.

**Ray Nelson** has moved... 222 Columbia Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif., USA.

**You've Probably Heard** that there's a Convention in London at Easter. Run by the BSFA, the con is to be held at the Sandringham Hotel, 25 Lancaster Gate, London W.2., from Good Friday 15th April to Easter Monday 18th April. Bed and Breakfast 30/3d, doubles 58/-, some 4-bedded rooms @ 22/6d per. *All* bookings should be made through Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6. Con fees should go to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln and are 7/6 for BSFA members (5/- to juniors), 10/- to non BSFA members (7/6 juniors). Ella writes that she has had a poor response so far from Cheltenham and Liverpool, and after all, what would a con be without them? The Committee is casting round for a 2x2 slide projector, for TAFF delegate Don Ford has promised to bring along a bundle of slides for the con. Having seen some of these, I can most certainly recommend them.... I've also seen some of the prizes Don has won for his photography. BSFA Secretary, Sandra Hall, mentions that there will be a programme booklet once again and that the ad. rates are the same as last year, whatever they were! There will be an art competition once again, too,

and entries should be in the hands of Eric Bentcliffe (47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) by Friday, 8th April. There will also be a discussion panel (“The Heat is On.”) in which the three TAFF candidates, Mal Ashworth, Eric Bentcliffe, and Sandy Sanderson will take part. Questions concerning SF and/or fandom are invited and should be submitted to Ron Bennett, who had to get in the act somewhere, sometime before the convention. Obviously, if you have a really good question you’d like to see thrashed out, a question which might prove enlightening or entertaining to the con audience, please don’t leave it until the last minute before sending it – the list of questions may be full by then. For obvious reasons, all questions should be in writing.

**George Locke** is awaiting call up but would like to have *Smoke* 3 out before he’s swallowed up. \*\*\* Spies say *Hyphen* is about to appear. I hope they’re right. \*\*\* *Fan Directory* 1/9d or 25¢ still available from Bennett or Bob Pavlat. \*\*\* Annish next time round, with the *Sky* poll results. No extra charge. No extra pages!

# ***Skyrack* #16, 5 April 1960**

first anniversary issue

This is ***Skyrack* No 16**, dated **5th April 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, six issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (65¢ for 6 issues by air), subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fandom gratefully received. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson. Contributors: Ron Ellik, Bill Donaho, Joy Clarke, Bruce Pelz, & George Locke.

## **Skyrack Poll Results Inside.**

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**Bjo Trimble and Spring Fever** Ron Ellik and Terry Carr put out a special single sheet edition of *Fanac* to announce the news and their airmailed copy arrived the same post as a nice long letter from Bill Donaho who also gave details. A million or so bachelors in fandom will gnash their teeth to learn that Los Angeles fans Betty Jo Wells and John G. Trimble are engaged to be married. I'm not too sure that I should congratulate Bjo on picking such a lousy brag player, but I certainly do congratulate John on his fine taste. Like wow, and all that jazz.

**And** that isn't all. Fannish newszines are sitting on the news of another fannish engagement, shortly to be announced officially. Watch this space and similar expressions.

**Dave Rike** (750 60th St, Oakland 9, Calif., USA) is reviving the Fanzine Material Pool. \*\*\* There is no truth in the rumour that I will be next BSFA Secretary. I'm not even a member. \*\*\* *Wanted: National Geographics* with articles and photos on transport, The New Mayflower, California and Florida. \*\*\* *The Fannish II*, *Fanac* 53, is a tremendous piece of work, with Trina Castillo *Playboy-Playgirl* type covers. This may be obtained from Ron Ellik (1909 Francisco Street, Berkeley 9, Calif. USA) or through Archie Mercer. (434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln). \*\*\* Lynn Hickman's 10th Anniversary issue of *JD-Argassy* is due next month with all its 70 pages. British subs to me at 3/6d a time. \*\*\* TAFF DELEGATE, Don Ford is due April 9th to be met by Ted Carnell. Special party for Don to meet younger fans duo for pre-con Wednesday.

## The *Skyrack* Poll

As it appears to have become traditional for news magazines in the fannish world to celebrate their birthdays with popularity polls, *Skyrack* poll forms were recently circulated round fandom. Many thanks to the fanzine editors who helped to circulate these forms and to the 35 fans who completed them. The following good people, nay Good People, voted: Jill Adams, Donald W. Anderson, Ron Bennett, Sid Birchby, Eric Bentcliffe, Alan Burns, Miriam Carr, Terry Carr, Jim Caughran, Joy Clarke, Belle Dietz, Frank Dietz, Alan Dodd, Don Durward, Ron Ellik, Ted Forsyth, Les Gerber, Jim Groves, Terry Jeeves, Bob Lichtman, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Linwood, George Locke, Ed Meskys, Mike Moorcock, Ella Parker, Bruce Pelz, Boyd Raeburn, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Sandy Sanderson, Dick Schultz, Norman Shorrocks, Peter Singleton and George Wells.

Several fans made sensible and pertinent comments on the poll and there were some witty replies like Jim Linwood's vote for *The Melody Maker* as best British prozine. On the other hand there was the odd childish attempt like listing Nelson's as the best column. Sorry, bwah, you just haven't got it.

### **The Best British Fan Publications of 1959.**

1. *Aporrheta* (255 points) Sandy Sanderson, 236 Queens Road, New Cross, London SE 14, 1/6 or 20¢.
2. *Hyphen* (211) Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 1/- or 15¢
3. *Orion* (178½) Ella A. Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6. 1/- or 15¢
4. *Triode* (163) Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire & Terry Jeeves, 58 Sharrard Gr., Sheffield 12, Yorkshire. 1/6 or 20¢
5. *The Skyrack Newsletter* (158)
6. *Smoke* (148) George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Rd. London SW 1. 1/- or 15¢
7. *Ploy* (139½)
8. *Retribution* (123½) John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast, N. Ireland.

9. *Femizine* (58) Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 1/- or 15¢.

10. *Camber* (54½) Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts. 1/-

11. *Vector* (33), 12. *Eustace* (30), 13. *Fan Directory* (25), 14= *Waldo* and *Birmingham Convention Programme* (16), 16. *Northlight* (15), 17. *Morph* (14), 18. *Scottishe* (12), 19. *Erg* (9), 20= *Archive*, *Apathy* and *Rot* (9).

Congratulations to Sandy Sanderson on a year of consistent quality in *Ape* and to leading OMPazine publisher, John Roles.

### **Best Individual Item of 1959**

25 different items were listed.

1. *The Goon Goes West* by John Berry in *Cry of the Nameless* (16pts)
2. *The 1959 Directory of Science Fiction Fandom* (7)
3. *Cursery Rhymes for Blown Ups* by Sid Birchby in *Aporrheta* (6)
4. = *Atom's a to Z* by Arthur Thomson in *Aporrheta* (5)  
*Colonial Excursion* by Ron Bennett in – you kidding? (5)

### **Best Column**

1. *Inchmery Fan Diary* by Sandy Sanderson in *Aporrheta* (23 points)
2. *The Old Mill Stream* by Penelope Fandergast in *Aporrheta* (15)
3. *The Harp That Once Or Twice* by Walt Willis in *Oopsla* (11)
4. *Grunch* by Vin¢ Clarke in *Hyphen* (6)
5. *The Li'l Pitcher* by Joy Clarke in *Aporrheta* (4)

### **Best Artist**

1. Arthur Thomson (51½ points)
2. Jim Cawthorn (27½ points)

### **Best Professional Magazine**

1. *New Worlds* (36 points)
2. *Science Fantasy* (24 points)
3. *Nebula* (18 points)

### **Best Fanzine Cover**

1. *Aporrheta* 13 (8 points).

## Best Report

*The Goon Goes West* (11 points).

## Best British Fan Writer of 1959.

1. John Berry (110 points)
2. Walt Willis (58)
3. Vinç Clarke (37)
4. George Locke (33)
5. Ron Bennett (29½)
6. Mal Ashworth (24)
7. Sandy Sanderson (21)
8. Sid Birchby (15)
9. "Penelope Fandergaste" (14½)
10. Archie Mercer (12)

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**Congratulations** appear to be in order left right and centre, so...

Congratulations, Pamela and Ken Bulmer. The first Bulmer offspring, Deborah Louise, weighing 7lbs, made her appearance at 12.30pm on March 7th, dead on the date previously predicted by Pamela in OMPA. Ken writes, "Mother and daughter are thriving and father is recovering from a state of near-exhaustion." # Congratulations to Sheffield's number one fan, Terry Jeeves on his recent engagement (March 18th) to fellow school teacher, Miss Valerie Williams. The honeymoon will probably be on Ibiza in the sunny Mediterranean, after an August wedding. Are you bringing the poor girl to the convention, Terry?

**Cactus 4** (Sture Sedolin, Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden. 20pp. 7/- for 10 issues to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts). After years of producing fanzines in Swedish, with concession sections for fans in the English speaking world, Swedish fans have begun to infiltrate through the language barrier and follow the lead of the Jansens and the Linards in producing a wholly English magazine. *Cactus* is now on a monthly schedule and is printed in red on buff paper. So far it has shown no signs of becoming as popular as *Alpha* or *MEUH* in their heydays, but the standard is improving rapidly, with a nice tone of editorial informality. In

this latest issue, Mike Deckinger writes on New Jersey fandom, Alan Dodd writes on Linard's visit to London, Les Gerber reviews fanzines, and there are the usual odd bits and pieces like illustrations and a letter column. Worth trying.

**Hyphen 24** (March 1960. Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 24pp. 1/- or 15¢) came along, exactly as predicted. Following another of those marvellously detailed Atom covers which must be sheer hell to duplicate – I like the throwout touch of the “GPO” under the title – Walt kicks off the magazine in mellow mood, asking whether *Hyphen* really is going to the dogs, and answering that it's all part of a master plan. Eric Frank Russell contributes a wonderful piece on criticism, some months after *Yandro*, too! Southern Irish fans McAulay and Hautz write on Southern Irish fandom, Mal Ashworth writes on Twist Endings. Bob Shaw's *The Glass Bushel* is present and Vin¢ Clarke's *Grunch* is absent. Letters and Atomcartoons, to say nothing of the bacover quotes make up the issue. I rather like the idea of making a film of British fandom, with Hollywood actors taking the leading roles. Whilst I'm not too sure that Olivier *really* looks like me – I'd have thought Peter Lorre more suitable – there was a Canadian in *Libel* who looked remarkably like Mal.

**Aporrheta 16** (March-April 1960. Sandy Sanderson, Inchmery, 236 Queens Road, New X, London SE 14. 50pp. 1/6 or 20¢ etc) couldn't be far behind and is indeed once again the best of the month's offerings. Sandy uses his new microelite typeface in different parts of the magazine which produces a fine balance of layout. Following the expected Atomcover, Harry Warner leads the contributors with an expanded version of a wonderful piece which originally appeared in his FAPAzine, *Horizons*. Atom's illustrations are brilliant here. Vin¢ Clarke invites entries in another superlative *Apdiascope* competition. Penelope Fandergaste writes on fannish gambling, rambles on odd topics and finishes with another book review. Joy Clarke writes on *important* inventions. ATOM completes his A to Z series. (And now?) Ken Potter writes up his experiences of vacuum cleaner salesmanship in London. There are odd reprints of Dean Grennellisms, and naturally there is Inchmery Fan Diary. All great stuff.

**Retribution 15** (John Berry, 31 Campbell Pk Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 4, N Ireland. 24pp.) Another great Atomcover, a long GDA story by John, a short piece by Les Gerber, cartoons by Dick Schultz and a sheaf of comments on the Poul Anderson speech from the Detention make up the greater part of this issue. Probably the issue is most noteworthy however

for some straight talking (from John) on the present TAFF campaign, in which John puts forward some honest opinions on the worth of the three candidates. One of those days, I'll have to put forward views on what makes an ideal TAFF candidate; I'll probably be run out of fandom! One other point... John, when calling someone presumptuous, try to remember that that person was dealing with a writer whose *admitted* grammatical and typographical errors are legend in fandom.

**Rot 4** (Mal Ashworth, 14 Westgate, Eccleshill, Bradford 2, Yorks. 30 pp) arrived during the week, beating me to the news of the Yorkshire FAPAcon and Terry's engagement. Lacking interior art almost completely, this magazine is chockful of examples of the famous Ashworth humour, and I have to confess, is extremely hard to review in any sort of detail, except to say, perhaps, that this is a commentary on life as seen through the Ashworth eyes. Some of the quotes are *Hyphen*-worthy. Outside contributors include Birchby, Warner, Potter and Rotsler. There is *another* Atomcover. One point... Mal, don't knock 1890 Paris so – were you ever there?. Actually, I suppose we can now expect a series of films with titles like *I Was a Plastic Gorilla in Murky Misty Fogbound 1890 Paris*. Recommended.

**A Dozen Fans** have now voted in the TAFF Pittcon Push. This is hardly enough you British fans, and I'll have a sheaf of voting forms with me at the Convention the week after next or is it next week? *We must* have more cash if the British delegate is to travel to the World Convention in Pittsburgh this September. \*\*\* Meanwhile, there will be a TAFF Auction at the convention and postal bids are invited on five Brian Lewis Nova original cover paintings (*New Worlds* 71, 74, 79, 82 and *SFA* 11) and a pile of original manuscripts donated by Inchmery fandom (Asimov, *The Jokester*, *Infinity* Dec 56; *Let's Get Together*, *Infinity* Feb 57; Clarke, *Publicity Campaign and The Other Side of the Sky*; Pohl & Kornbluth *The Engineer*; Hamilton, *The Starcombers*; Leiber, *Friends & Enemies* and three shorts by Asimov, Garrett and Ellison from *Infinity* June 1957). Peter Francis Skoberdis and Bruce Pelz have put the bids on the covers up to a pound a-piece, and they're cheap at the price, believe me.

**American TAFF Administrator, Bob Madle** has moved. His new address is 4500 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland, USA.

I still have a few copies left of *The Directory of 1959 SF Fandom*. 1/9d or 25¢ per copy from myself or Bob Pavlat. Free on request to members of OMPA.

**For Sale** (Cash and orders to Bennett or Pavlat) All US Editions. 2/- or 30¢ each. Post paid, and yes, I'll certainly bring them to the con if you want to view them there: *ASF*, April 50, Sept 50, Oct 51, Nov 51, Jan 52, Feb 52, Mar 52, May 52, Jul 52, Oct 52, Dec 52, Jan 53, Feb 53, Mar 53, Apr 53, Jul 53 Sep 53, Oct 53, Sep 54; *Amazing* Aug 53, Dec 53, Mar 54. *Future* 28, *Galaxy* Jan 51, May 52, Sep 52, Feb 55, Aug 55, Oct 55, Sep 56, Oct 56; *If Worlds of SF* Jul 53, Apr 56. *Other Worlds* 52, *SFA* Dec 56. *Super Science* Dec 56. *Saint* Mystery Mag (Story by Asimov) June 56.

**First Yorkshire FAPAcon** was held in Harrogate on Sunday, 19th March when Mal and Sheila Ashworth visited Southway. We were thinking of making it a national FAPAcon but Morse, Smith and Wansborough could not be contacted in time. Mal and Sheila picked their way over piles of paper on the floor, mentioned plans for *Rot*, examined my FAPA mailing, discussed TAFF, the convention and goodness knows what else, had the residents rolling with laughter and rushed off to catch the last bus back to Bradford after a quick lemonade at the local inn.

**This Looks Like Being** the last notice you're to receive about the Easter convention. Time: Good Friday 15th April to Easter Monday 18th. Bed & Breakfast 30/3d, doubles 58/-, some 4-bedded rooms @ 22/6d. All bookings made through Ella Parker (Address elsewhere this issue). Con fees to Archie Mercer 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykehan, Lincoln @ 7/6 for BSFA members (5/- to juniors), 10/- to non-BSFA members and 7/6 to juniors. # Questions are invited for the "Heat Is On" panel and should be sent to me before the con. # Advert rates for Conprogramme are 10/- per page, 5/- per half page, 3/- per quarter-page.

**Tolkien Enthusiasts** in the States have come round to forming a FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, writes Bruce Pelz, who says that interested parties should contact Ted Johnstone, 1503 Rollin Street, South Pasadena, California. Ken Cheslin has the option on forming the Brown Council. # EDINBURGH's Ted Forsyth is now in London and can be contacted via Ella Parker, with whom he is staying for the time being. Thanks for phoning, you two. # THE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB OF LONDON is now meeting at Ella's, as West Kilburn is more centrally located than Inchmery at New Cross where previous meetings have been held. The Club hopes to have its special Combozine on sale at the Convention @ 1/- per. Recently the Club held its first film show when films of the Solacon and the London Worldcon were seen by great interest by old and new fans alike. (So there, Joy Clarke. If you think I'm going to use your wording when you write "New fans present found those of great

interest, while older members spent their time happily identifying US fen and odd characters like Ron Bennett”, you’re mistaken.) # Heartfelt sympathies go out to George Locke who is hoping to put out *Smoke 3* in the very near future. Poor George looks like missing the convention. He reports for Military Service 7th April, at Crookham, Hants.

# ***Skyrack* #17, 25 April 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No 17**, dated **25th April 1960** and hurriedly published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, HARROGATE, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 6 issues for 2/6d. Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fandom gratefully received. If plans work out correctly, the cartoon on the left should be by Arthur (Atom) Thomson.

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## **Loncon Highlights**

**The 1960 National Convention** which was held in London from Good Friday, 15th April to Easter Monday, 18th April will take its place in fannish history as a gathering of surprises. Already nicknamed by some as “The Quiet-Con” this convention was a fight against the odds from start to finish, and in so far as the convention was held and an enjoyable time was had by all, it may be safely assumed that fandom won through.

**The First Surprise** was the shattering announcement by the management of the Sandringham Hotel, the advertised meeting place, cancelling the convention on Tuesday, 12th April. Ella Parker and Bobbie Gray who were in charge of booking arrangements were told that the management would not after all allow alcohol on the premises and that frankly we were considered a bunch of rowdies. A state of emergency existed as Ella contacted the local Chamber of Commerce and thence the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, Holborn. As the standard of the Kingsley is automatically taken to be higher than the majority of the hotels in the district in which the Sandringham is situated, it may be that we were done a favour. BSFA members and those non-members who had made bookings at the Sandringham were hurriedly contacted where possible and word was left with a friendly spy at the Sandringham to direct any would-be con goers to the Kingsley.

**The Gathering Convened** on the Friday evening in the convention hall which was reached by trailing through the hotel restaurant. Doctor Arthur R. Weir, who retired from the Secretaryship of the BSFA because of ill-health, chided those present who had helped themselves to large quantities

of hotel notepaper and introduced Guest of Honour, E.J. Carnell, the Editor of the Nova magazines. Ted, in turn, introduced TAFF Delegate, Don Ford, who said that he was indebted to TAFF, that he was not really a “convention fan” and that he deplored the labelling of fans. Don continued by saying that it was a good *Ploy* on the part of the con committee to change hotels when they knew he was in town. He mentioned meeting two of Britain’s leading teddy boys, Ted Carnell and Ted Tubb, and went on to speak of his part in American fandom, mentioning that he has the names of 6000 fans arranged geographically. Whenever Doc Barrett travels the States he looks up names listed. Don went on to talk about the formation of the First Fandom organisation and concluded by presenting Ted Carnell with a bellybutton brush “For the man who has everything.”

**Following Saturday’s Auction** by Ken Slater, Ted Carnell took the platform to speak on the present position of SF and the writer’s part in this situation. First, however, he called the attention of the gathering to the doors at the back of the hall, and announced “Dave Kyle.” And Dave walked in! Amid gasps and applause he walked to the front of the hall and said that he was pleased to be in London once again but that he had already made a speech. “I’ve said everything I have to say, and no-one applauded.” Having drawn blank looks from the audience, he added, “At the Sandringham.”

**Science Fiction As a Name Is Becoming Less Known**, said Carnell, adding that he felt *Astounding’s* change of title to be a bad move, *ASF* having been a household word for over 25 years. Ted said that he was looking for new writers, a 2nd string to be groomed for stardom in two or three years time. This discussion sidetracked to whether fact has caught up with SF prophecy and questions and discussion from the floor in the shape of Dave Kyle, Arthur Thomson and Ted Tubb followed. Kyle said that similar points had been raised in Detroit and at a recent Los Angeles meeting.

**After Tea the Three TAFF Candidates Were Put on Show.** Eric Jones of Cheltenham’s St. Fantony Group moderated a quotations quiz set by Doc Weir. This developed into questions set the candidates by the floor on such topics as “Should fanzines accept anonymous contributions?” and “What does each candidate think is the most outstanding achievement of the other candidates in fandom?”

**Meals at the Hotel** were somewhat highly priced and at mealtimes most fans could be found at the Moulin Rouge Restaurant on Holborn,

practically opposite the restaurant where the original forerunner of the London Circle would meet and people like Bill Temple and Arthur Clarke would discuss SF. The blonde Irish waitress at the Moulin Rouge was run off her feet and was invited to the evening parties by several fans. She declined.

**Don Ford** had made up a slide show and this was presented on the Saturday evening. Don's coverage of subject was extensive, ranging from Ken Bulmer's 1955 TAFF trip to local and previously unknown fans. In addition, Don included shots of Cincinnati by day and by night, the latter prizewinning shots being especially appreciated by the audience.

**Following a Fancy Dress Party** at which Ina Shorrocks and Ethel Lindsay won first prizes, Don Ford was presented with an orange box by Norman Shorrocks on behalf of the Liverpool Group. Don said that being a completist he would now have to try to collect orange boxes from all over the world.

**On the Sunday Morning** Keith Freeman demonstrated to anyone interested that his Brandy For Breakfast slogan is more than an empty one.

**At the Annual General Meeting of the British SF Association**, the legal position re. the Sandringham cancellation was discussed. It transpired that the BSFA has no written record of the transaction but that there is enough evidence to constitute a verbal contract which lays down that neither party could have cancelled the booking within a week of the convention. Accordingly, it was agreed that a solicitor's letter should be sent to the management of the Sandringham, explaining the position.

**A Scheme** introducing postal ballots was discussed and the meeting moved on to the election of new officers for the coming year. Mike Moorcock, ex-editor of the Tarzan Adventures comic magazine, and friend Gerry Mosdell (who had produced the Convention programme booklet) put forward their manifesto towards producing the BSFA's official organ, *Vector*, and Jim Groves, a member of the Science Fiction Club of London, did the same. On the ballot taken, Jim Groves narrowly defeated his rival duo and immediately announced that he was inaugurating a newsletter scheme for members, the first newsletter being scheduled for within a fortnight.

**Ella A. Parker**, editor of *Orion*, was elected as BSFA Secretary, and after appreciation had been expressed for the magnificent job done by Treasurer Archie Mercer, an appreciation echoed even by a non-member present,

Archie was voted into office for the third year in succession. He stated that while he was honoured, he wished to make it clear that this would be his last year as Treasurer.

**The Election of BSFA Chairman** caused some little discussion. Eric Jones and Arthur Thomson both declined nomination and finally Ina Shorrocks beat Doc Weir on a straight vote. Ina is the wife of Liverpool's Norman, a wonderful mother of three wonderful children, a marvellous cook and a hostess par excellence. The moment the BSFA introduces a weekly meeting at the Shorrocks household, I'll be the first to join.

**Brian Aldiss**, who received a plaque from the Detention Committee as Best New Writer of the Year, narrowly defeated veteran H. Ken Bulmer in the ballot for Association President.

**Films Shown** at the Convention were fan films covering recent conventions and taken by Ted Carnell and Dave Kyle, and the profilm of the early fifties, *The Day The Earth Stood Still*, which was chided by hardbitten SF fans for its gimmicks, but was highly rated by a nonfan hotel resident who was invited to the showing.

**Kettering** was suggested as next year's convention site, and fans wishing to express an opinion on this choice are asked to write to Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6.

**During the Entire Weekend** discussion had run free on who was to be the victim for the "This Is Your (Fan) Life" session to be held on the Sunday afternoon. Those "In the know" were told that this was Terry Jeeves, who, visiting relatives of his new fiancée, was to be lured back to the hotel on a pretext. They were further told to spread the word around that said victim was Ted Carnell. When the time came round, Norman Shorrocks was lured on to the platform to look at a "faulty" microphone, finding to his surprise that *he* was the victim! Arranged by Eric Bentcliffe with the help of Liverpool and Cheltenham fans, this exaggerated beautifully Norman's part in fandom.

**The Taff Auction Raised £15** \*\*\* OMPA held a meeting and a party \*\*\* Don Ford held a party, demonstrating remarkable convention technique in palming guests on to Dave Kyle when the management complained at the noise. \*\*\* For three hours hardies played hide and seek with the hotel management – shades of the SuperManCon

# ***Skyrack* #18, 1 May 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 18**, dated **1st May 1960**, and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 6 issues for 2/6d. Subscriptions in USA 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fandom gratefully received, and yes Pam Bulmer, it does mean that you get a contributor's copy. Cartoon on left by Atom. Contributors Eric Bentcliffe, Keith Freeman, Archie Mercer, Lynn Hickman, Jim Linwood.

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## ***S.D. & Triode to Combine***

**The Rather Shattering News** that one of Anglofandom's most dependable fanzines is folding was given me at the convention. Terry Jeeves' recent engagement to Valerie Williams (who was much admired during their brief visit to the Kingsley) has meant that he'll have to drop *Triode* and co-editor Eric Bentcliffe is going into partnership with Liverpool's Norman Shorrock, editor of *Space Diversions*. In effect, then, the two titles are to combine. At the moment it looks as though the combination (with Eric as Editor and Norman as publisher) will wind up their respective magazines and begin their collaboration with a new title, as yet undecided. The final *Triode* is virtually on stencil and will appear during May. The final *SD* is also due, containing lengthy articles on the SolaCon by Terry Carr and Bill Donaho. Subscriptions to both zines will be honoured by the new team and where these overlap will be extended. Quipped Eric, "This will be a good excuse to go over to the Shorrocks' even more often."

This is not all that springs from the Mersey area. The Liverpool SF Society is renouncing its LaSFaS title and within the next two or three months will be known simply as The Liverpool Group. Still maintaining its basic interest in science fiction, the Club will seek to recruit members who are interested in tape recording and cine photography. And, it is hoped, parties in the traditional manner

**Fanac Too!** Following the recent hoax issues of *Skyrack* under the title of *Skyhack*, it was pleasing to note that the long established Hugo winning

newszine, *Fanac*, is not above being parodied. There arrived here the other day a four pager called *Panac* which contains some nice humour and some biting exaggerations of the West Coast scene which is so fully covered by *Fanac*. It will be interesting to see how the Berkeley Publishing Giants react to this one. Er... I take it that it isn't a double ploy, Ron and Terry?

**For Some Odd Reason**, such as forgetfulness, I didn't mention Doc Weir's convention talk on Karel Čapek. Doc is recognised as an authority on the Czech author, but seems to have had a rough deal all round at the convention. His talk was attended by only a handful (still, I suppose these people were *really* interested) and his sixty-question quiz for the TAFF candidates was abandoned after the first set of questions had been posed. In addition, Doc was outvoted for the BSFA Chairmanship. A pity, for Doc is a thoroughly nice and sincere person and one of the most brilliant brains in fandom.

**Also Forgotten** from the convention reporting was the official attendance which ran out at 87 + the two Guests of Honour.

**It Was Great to Be in London Again.** I went down to the Great Metropolis on the Tuesday before the convention, placing Inchmery as my first port of call. It was Vinç Clarke's birthday and I bought him a lollipop. When Vinç came in, I hid in the back room and then sprang out on him as he was talking to Joy, Sandy and his father, who had dropped in. These ploy surprises don't come off with Vinç, however, for he merely took the lollipop and went on with his conversation. \*\*\* At Ella Parker's the same night, I sat up until 7.30 am, teaching Ella and fellow guest Brian Jordan (until you've slept in a single bed with Brian you haven't lived – it's not *too* bad until he takes your head in both hands and beats it against the wall). Needless to say, Miss Parker won the brag session. \*\*\* Bobbie Gray, Brian Jordan and I took Don Ford to the Tower of London where he swapped quips with London post-card sellers and Cockney urchins ("Steal an apple and I'll take your picture.") \*\*\* At the party Ella threw for Don, surprise and welcome guests were Bill Temple and nonexistent Alan Dodd. \*\*\* Who says that in London's crowds one never sees a known face? I sat down on a tube train to find that I was sharing the seat with Mal and Sheila Ashworth and later the same afternoon when Alan Rispin, Sture Sedolin and I were walking down Regent Street on our way to view the latest Cinerama presentation (*South Seas Adventure*) we ran across Leeds fan Ernest Sterne. There is absolutely no truth in the tale that I stop complete strangers on the street and get them to sub to *Skyrack*! \*\*\* Don Ford was in Trafalgar Square shooting the sights, when a kind doorman

took him in to an upstairs window. Don was asked to sign a form relieving the company of all responsibility in case he fell. Don said that it wasn't necessary as he had a good insurance company. "We're not worried about you, it's the people you may fall on," he was told. \*\*\* Quite a turn out at the Globe which has a new look these days. Ech! and like that.

**Femizine Spring 1960** (Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 1/- per copy; 24pp). When so many fanzines are beating one another over the eds trying to become the Focal Point of fandom, it's pleasing to receive a fanzine which possesses such a marked degree of informality. For some reason I'm wildly reminded of Georgina Ellis's *Wendigo*, and it's about time we had another fanzine like that. Ethel is backed up by Bjo Wells (who introduces Elinor Busby, my favourite Fan-I-said-hello-to-but-little-more-to) and Ina Shorrocks (who introduces husband Norman). Janey Johnston writes on cats, Juanita Coulson writes on Charles Eric Maine and Margaret Picken and Sheila Ashworth report on the Liverpool party over New Year. Joy Clarke reviews fanzines in microelite. A short letter column makes up an enjoyable issue.

**Quantum 6** (John Martin Baxter, 29 Gordon Rd., Bowral, NSW, Australia. 22pp) is notable for not being notable, a fact the editor promises to belie in the next issue. There's a piece of fiction by Margaret Duce and an exhaustive listing of Ace sf and fantasy titles by Don Tuck. Fanzine reviews and letters make up the issue which suffers from lack of artwork, poor layout and poor duplicating. John, however, has enthusiasm and the zine should improve.

**Brennschluss 4** (Ken & Irene Potter, 1 Dunsmure Rd., Stamford Hill, London N.16; 35pp; Spring 1960) also suffers from poor duplicating, but this fault can be easily overlooked. Damn it, this is *Brennschluss*, and who amongst us can remember when the previous issue appeared? Printed on rainbow coloured paper, this humourzine makes a welcome re-entry to the Zinescene with material by Mal Ashworth, Dave Wood, George Locke, Ken Potter, Don Geldart (a terrific piece on Japanese life) and Irene Potter. A magazine to be read during an off hour – like, for cheering you up.

**The 1960 Club Combozine of the Science Fiction Club of London** was produced by this newly formed group for the con and is the best shilling's worth to come out of British fandom for a long, long time, The duplicating and layout is little short of perfect, and copies may be obtained by contacting Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6. The material is entirely by members, and what a list of contributors

make up its 52 pages – Ella Parker, Paul Enever, Ethel Lindsay, George Locke, Ken and Irene Potter, Don Geldart, Arthur Thomson, Joy and Vinç Clarke, Jim Groves, Sandy Sanderson and Honorary Member Sid Birchby. Vinç writing on fandom and Sandy writing on fanzines are two items which are especially notable. Recommended enthusiastically.

**The Programme Booklet of the 1960 Convention**, produced by G.W. Mosdell, 106 St Johns Hill, London SW 11, is hardly a fanzine in the true sense of the word, but completists might like to have a copy in their files. This 18 page booklet suffers from poor layout and underinking (the adverts could have been reproduced by Gesterprint) but it has some artwork by Jim Cawthorn which is up to his usual high standard, and it is worth reading for the articles on the convention's two Guests of Honour, Ted Carnell (by Ken Bulmer) and Don Ford (by Ted Carnell).

**Jhim Linwood** writes: "On 3rd April Alan Rispin, Brian Jordan and myself met at Alan's to discuss the forming of a Young Fan Apa, a unanimous decision being reached that no plans were to be made without other opinions, and further discussion was postponed until the con. ((And then? RB)) We went on to discuss things more fannish like sex, Ella Parker's age and to play brag." \*\*\* Jim also reports that the BBC TV Philip Marlowe film of 4th April, entitled *The Hunger* about a psychological killer, was by *Playboy* SF author Chuck Beaumont.

**Keith Freeman** notes that both the April and March issues of the BRE *Astounding* are numbered Vol 16 No 2. \*\*\* Ethel Lindsay asks me to point out that the Eric mentioned in the Mal Ashworth letter of the latest *Fez* is not Eric Bentcliffe, but another Eric who has now left fandom. This needed pointing out? \*\*\* A London taxi driver was quite amazed to have his cab booked at the con – for filming. Surprise attendee took cine shots in the traditional Keystone manner. \*\*\* Congratulations to George Locke who will find his name in a prominent position in the next *Ape*. \*\*\* Terry Jeeves and Valerie Williams will probably wed at the end of July. Latest is that the honeymoon will probably not be on sunny Ibiza after all. \*\*\* The Bulmers will holiday for a month in Belfast this summer. \*\*\* Ella Parker is wondering who left her two boxes of chocolates at the con hotel desk. \*\*\* Rumour has it that the US edition of *New Worlds* has folded, but at the con Ted Carnell was surprised to learn this. \*\*\* BSFA Committee and other interested fans are meeting at Kettering over Whitsun. \*\*\* Mike Moorcock and Sandra Hall are engaged. Congratulations you two. \*\*\* 20 fans went along to the Nuclear Disarmament Rally in Trafalgar Square on Easter Monday. Another 30,000 non-fans were also present. \*\*\* The *This*

*Is Your Fan Life* soundtrack, a 5" reel of Mastertape, has been mislaid by Eric Bentcliffe. Anyone recall seeing it lying around in the con hall? \*\*\*  
Lynn Hickman – I'm still taking 3/6d subs to the *JD* 10th Annish – has moved again. From 1st May address will be 224 S. Dement Ave., Dixon, Illinois.

## ***Skyrack* #19, 28 May 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 19**, dated **28th May 1960**, and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Ave., Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d. per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to SF fans welcomed. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson.

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**No Headline News This Issue**, but bits and pieces, short items and lengthy chatter from all over the place. No fewer than 9 fanzines are reviewed this issue, bursting the theory-bubble that after conventions fans join the winter flies. And not one crudzine among the lot!

**New Fan** Robert Anderson (Box 696, Dade City, Fla., USA) is keen on making contacts this side of the Pond. \*\*\* WSFS Inc drags on – Following report that to dissolve WSFS incorporation cash would have to be paid to Sheriff's Office, I've had sent a copy of a letter from the Sheriff himself (not, Bill Donaho, re speeding on the 66) referring to the matter – *no* cash is due. \*\* Letter from, well, it's signed "G. Clarke, assistant manager" and is typed on Kingsley Hotel notepaper, reading, "Dear Sir, Vast quantities of our hotel stationary [*sic*] have been traced to your address, we hope you found it satisfactory and complacent with the high standard of other hotel facilities." Ha to you, too. \*\*\* Bob & Barbara Silverberg are either in Europe or on their way over here right now. They will celebrate the TAFF deadline of 15th June by spending the evening at the Globe searching out old faces. Take that either way. \*\*\* Ella Parker (151 Canterbury Rd, West Kilburn, London NW 6) is setting up an Arthur (ATOM) Thomson Anthology and she would appreciate nominations of illos for same. Any Atomillos. These will be re-transferred where necessary. Simply name source. \*\*\* Wanted, wanted, wanted copy of *Skyrack* 16. The British Museum is lacking this issue. I'll give 6 issue subscription for same. Now's your chance to see Bennett in jail. \*\*\* Ken Potter arrived at the last SFCL meeting asking where Irene might get a cheap abortion, typical of the man. The Lancaster exiles are infanticipating early 1961. \*\*\* Card from Alan Rispin hitching round Wales: "Luscious scenery – didn't know Wales had it so good." Peasant! Just because Welsh fandom is gafia of late....

**Don Ford in Liverpool.** Alan Rispin covers the weekend following the LonCon when Don Ford was a guest of LaSFaS: “I hitched to Liverpool in a refrigeration van and was deposited deepfrozen in the city. I made my way ferrywise to the Shorrocks’ where Eric Bentcliffe had already arrived. We set out to meet Dave Kyle at the station and ate first at a Chinese Restaurant. A few minutes before the appointed time for Dave’s arrival we went downstairs and into the street... only to bump into Dave Kyle!! Wearing dark glasses and a beret, he was disguising himself so that no one would recognise him as an American. ((Dave Kyle in Liverpool? Have you heard *Last & First Fen*?)). As we went back to the Shorrocks, Don got a few shots of a drunk wandering down the street. He’s going to present them as ‘LaSFaS Aftermath’ – members returning home. Shots were taken of religious speakers on the quayside, with fans gathering round. Dave, who was in L’pool during the war, told of the way he was struck with office workers on the ferry boat decks, taking their morning constitucionals and all WALKING THE SAME WAY ROUND. At 2 Arnot Way, a party quickly developed. Patti Milnes won first prize for a fancy dress costume of tights and headscarf. There was a brag game and Eric recorded a tape to Terry and Miri Carr. In the morning Ina served a much needed breakfast and then John Roles, Don, Dave, Ina, Norman and the children went to the station to see Don off to London and thence Paris. At the station porters were amazed to see Don showered with confetti (torn up bus tickets) to shouts of ‘Don Ford, Go Home!’ He departed in clouds of steam. Eddie Jones nearly jumped on a nearby loco with instructions to ‘Follow that train,’ but it moved away before he could, breaking down just outside the station. All through the proceedings Don had been a fund of information on US fandom and the anecdotes had got better as time went on. Attendees at the party were Norman & Ina, Norman Weedall, Johns Roles and Owen, Stan Nuttall and girl friend, Patti & Frank Milnes, Dave, Don, two Jeffs with wife and girl friend, and myself.”

**The Trans Atlantic Fan Fund.** It’s the usual and done thing for a TAFF Administrator to appeal for Funds and hardly an issue of *Skyrack* has been published without my mentioning here to send votes *and cash*. However, the time has come to Get Down To Business! At the LonCon I let it be known, following the highly successful TAFF Auction, that the Fund was successful and that the delegate’s ticket was virtually assured. This was some £50 from the truth for whilst I started the Fund with cash in hand, the American Treasury was cleaned out last December. Cash is therefore *URGENTLY* needed. Also whilst the number of votes I alone have received runs into the forties, more will not go amiss. This is an extremely

close campaign (the lead actually changed last week!) and your vote will count now as never before. Voting forms enclosed with this *Skyrack* are therefore more than a reminder – it's practically a matter of arm-twisting! Votes and cash either to me, or to Bob Madle at his new address: 4500 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland, USA. It is hoped that the next issue of *Skyrack* will carry the good news that the Fund has been successful, along with the name of the chosen delegate.

Congratulations to Mike and Marjorie Wallace, married 2nd April. New address is 232 Narborough Rd., Leicester.

***Les Spinge 2*** (Ken. Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs; 52pp 1/-). There is still much to criticise about this second offering from the Stourbridge gang, especially the lack of quality artwork, but the enthusiasm and fannish good will is so pronounced as to be practically tangible and this more than outweighs the faults. This is a meaty, interesting fanzine with Archie Mercer reporting on the Lincoln Interplanetary Society, Dorothy Hartwell writing fiction, John Berry reviewing a TV programme, Alan Rispin discussing a fannish type mundane, Rog Phillips writes on the hunger of the soul and readers write letters. If all this were not enough the Stourbridge boys themselves are in evidence with reports of club activities, including the visit to the London Symposium and the visit to Stourbridge of Jim Linwood, which is covered two ways, with Jim's report having the slight edge. A nice, friendly issue.

***Northlight 9*** (Alan Burns; Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle 2; 34pp). Alan Rispin seems to be spreading himself around and pops up here with a short piece on his initial attitude towards fandom. Alan Burns continues his Yugoslavian report. Klaus Eylmann reports on the latest Gerfan feuds. Alan Dodd reviews another SF film. Mike Deckinger writes fiction. And there are letters and fnz reviews. In addition Laurence Sandfield contributes the final instalment of his Fan In The Corner column, a pity, for if these columns were at times somewhat deplored by some fans, they were never uninteresting. A better than usual *Northlight*.

***Vector 7*** (This is the Official Organ of the British Science Fiction Association, which may be joined by sending a year's subscription, one pound, to the Treasurer Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. Spring 1960. 32 6½" x 4.3"pp). This issue of *Vector* is printed by the photolith process and apart from the microprint is much improved in appearance, undoubtedly the best in layout from the now superseded Gray-Moorcock regime. For a fanzine which hopes to reach

the outlying fringes of fandom – and beyond – layout such as this is nothing short of a necessity. Apart from the usual BSFA officialities, Doc Weir writes on Escapism & Fantasy, Terry Jeeves reviews US magazines in his usual thorough manner, “Icarus” writes on present day SF, Ken Slater brings us up to date with the pro field and Gerry Mosdell talks about Art and The Future, a disappointing and sketchy piece which is far more subjective than it need – or should – be. Also from the BSFA comes the first

**BSFA Newsletter** (May 1960. Editor James Groves. 6pp) which represents a between-*Vectors* report on BSFA activities. The idea in itself is nothing short of excellent, tending to bind the interests of BSFA members, and if future issues of the Newsletter are written and presented in this manner then the BSFA can look forward to a future far rosier than its past.

**Dream Quest** (Spring 1960, Peter Mansfield, 14 Whiteford Road, Slough, Bucks;30 fcsp pp). This is a new fanzine, which like the American *Amra*, is devoted to the fantastic element of SF and its field of writers like Howard, Burroughs, Lovecraft, etc. The editor devotes this first issue to Burroughs’ Carson Napier and he includes a glossary of Amtorian terms. A specialist appeal fanzine.

**Last Minute from Vinç Clarke...** Apologies all round. Eric Bentcliffe has stood for TAFF only once previously. Vinç & Ape mistaken.

**Space Diversions** (No. 11. Norman Shorrocks, 2 Arnot Way, Hr. Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire. 55pp.) This final issue of the Liverpool Group’s fanzine is being circulated through OMPA (I’m sitting here typing this immediately prior to the OMPA mailing and I have 54 different copies from which to choose in this review!). Most of the issue is devoted to the America of Happy Fannish Solacon days, with part 6 of my own *Colonial Excursion* (at last!), a four page report by Bill Donaho on the Solacon Motorcade and a 22 page report on the Solacon itself by Terry Carr. In addition to this titbit and its previously mentioned attendants, there is John Owen’s regular Drums Along The Mersey, and further items by Will Jenkins (The Chairman of the Philadelphia chapter of LaSFaS), Pattie Milnes, Bob Richardson, Pete Daniels (the Chairman of the Merseysippi chapter of LaSFaS) and Eric Bentcliffe. Artwork is featured from both Eddie Jones and Arthur Thomson and sputnik stamps are supplied by Liverpool Stamp Sales. As this issue bears the expected Liverpool Hallmark – Quality – it is naturally highly recommended.

**Cactus 5** (Sture Sedolin, Box 403, Vallingby 4, Sweden. May 1960. 76pp.

10 issues for 7/- to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts). This is the first anniversary issue of *Cactus* and it is undoubtedly a fabulous piece of work. Included as a supplement is Lars Helander's *Sfaira* 5, two years or so out of date, but still very interesting. Pride of place in the issue goes to Archie Mercer's LonCon report in which everyone present is at least *mentioned*. Bob Coulson writes on the wild friends he has in fandom. Ray Nelson's stylus creates another Beanie Brigade. Harry Warner writes on European craftsmanship. Alan Dodd writes on a day in London ((You sure that when I spilled water on the stairs, Alan, it wasn't a deliberate attempt to have you slip on them?)). Les Gerber reviews fanzines and Ken Cheslin writes on the evil of the dreaded Peking Tong. There are also short items from Paul Rehorst, Clayton Hamlin, Michel Boulet, George Wells and Alan Rispin, who features with other well known fans on an excellent photocover. Recommended.

**Triode 18** (July 1960. Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street – heck, with *mi 7* a rider to this *Skyrack* you already know this – & Terry Jeeves 58 Sharrard Grove, Sheffield 12, Yorks). As Terry is shortly to be married and will be cutting down his fanning time, this is the last issue of one of Britain's leading fanzines. Eric is going into partnership with Norman Shorrock to produce a new zine called *Bastion*. This final *Triode* is again perfect in layout and presentation, a faultless fanzine. Its 40 pages include another Harrison adventure, a short piece by Terry Carr on his wife (yes, I know *all* the things I *could* have said, but British understatement y'know), two editorials, the usual letters, a hifi piece from "Penelope Fandergaste", illos by Eddie Jones and Atom, wonderfully registered two coloured cover and contents pages and a welcome return of Mal Ashworth's column, Abacchus. High quality stuff. Thank you, Terry and Eric, for the pleasure I've had in the past from *Triode*. I'm sorry that it can't continue.

There are, I understand, still available copies (1/-) of The SFCL's Club Combozine (Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London NW6). This is not a fanzine to be missed. Therefore, why miss it?

**Aporrheta 17** (H.P. Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queens Road, New X, London SE 14; 1/6d or 20¢ a copy, reductions on bulk!; 52pp) With the abundance of micro-elite it is no wonder that Sandy has fallen further away from his originally planned monthly schedule. And who's complaining? This issue boasts an extra length full-of-interest Inchmery Fan Diary (incidentally, Sandy, Eric Bentcliffe has stood for TAFF only once previously, in 1955), a neat listing of theme titles by Bob Tucker (in the Tucker manner), the results and winning entries of the first

Apdiascope competition, a story by George Locke, the usual columns by Dean Grennell, Joy Clarke, Cantaloupe Flabbergaste, and Penelope Fandergaste, to say nothing of short items by Belle Dietz and Don Allen. There are Rotsler illos and an Atom cover, and Les Gerber, this issue is right back on the ball – highly recommended.

**Don Ford in London** Ella Parker writes: “I knew that Don was due back from Paris on the Thursday too late for the Globe and I suggested, via Ted Carnell, that we meet on the Friday for a quiet chat. He was too exhausted to do more than totter into a pub and fall into the nearest chair. We sat until the place closed with me listening (for a change) to his adventures in Paris in search of pictures to take. ‘I don’t want feelthy postcards, I can take better pics myself.’ Later we moved to a cafe where the talk ranged from early personalities in fandom to short descriptive sketches of people who had until then been just names to me. Most of them I feel I’ve met briefly, listening to Don talk. /\*/ It was arranged that Ted Carnell should take Don to the airport terminal at Victoria and I’d meet them there and go out to the airport with him to make sure he left the country. I asked Ted Forsyth to get up early on the Saturday and come with me. He did so in the name of friendship or something equally obscure. When we arrived the first person we saw was Ted Carnell sitting there like a zombie. He requested, ‘Wake me up as you go past, will you?’ Don was at the registration counter with his luggage and when he came over I noticed that he looked positively GREEN! They’d had a farewell do at Ted’s the previous evening and had been drinking gin until Les Flood arrived with a bottle of champagne! They both looked ghastly. We piled into the coach for the airport, with Ted Carnell hopping round looking for a spot from which to take his last pic of Don. The last glimpse I had of him was as he entered the coach to take him over to the plane. Still hugging his precious camera case and still as tall and big as when he’d arrived. So! We didn’t wear him down after all. I hated to see him go. I remembered frantically all the things I meant to ask him and say to him, thinking belatedly of the many things I could perhaps have done to make his visit here more enjoyable. He took his memories back home with him in his camera but I doubt if they are any warmer than mine of a large, tall, guy, quiet-voiced and from Cincinnati – pronounced Concinnatta – a guy who had the gift of making you feel this was the visit of an old and valued friend rather than a first time meeting.”

**Don Ford in America.** The above, no doubt, explains the card I had from Don on his arrival home. It read, “It was a *looong* day at work today!”

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Wake up, your subscription expires this \_\_\_\_\_; Next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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**Third Yorkshire FAPAcon** was held on Sunday 22nd May at the Bradford home of Mal & Sheila Ashworth. Fannish gags were milked to death, fannish gossip gossiped, and fannish games like brag and hearts played (Mal won). Visitor Ron Bennett was hosted with a chicken feast and Irish coffee and loaded down with gifts as he left. And yes, even SF was discussed. Thanks a lot, Mal & Sheila. The time passed all too quickly

**Take That Welcome Home Lyn Berman Sign Down, Ted Carnell.** I had a letter a couple of days after the LonCon from none-other than Lyn, Ted's former girl friday, er Girl Friday. Ted was telling me that he expected Lyn to show up on his doorstep at any day. Lyn sends her regards to anyone who remembers her (ha!) and says that she'll probably be home in October. But, Lyn... I'll be in London during *August...*

**Because of Space Difficulties** and a possible change of address – I'm selling most of my collection of pro- and fanzines. Going @ 1/- per are: *Alpha 5-14, Arcturus 1, Belle Lettre 1, Bem 2-6, Brennschluss 1-3, Burroughsania 7,9-13, Camber 2,3,9, Eye 1,4,5* and various issues of *East and West, Fez, Fhan Focus, Gestalt, Hyphen, Jazz Fan, Kiwifan Meuh, Northlight, Now and Then, Blue Moon, Orion, Perihelion, Phantasmagoria, Retribution, A Bas, Canfan, Caravan, Cry, Devils Motor Boat, Diaspar, Excelsior, Fafhrd, Fanattic, Fandom Harvest, Fan History, Fan Slants, Fantasy Amateur, Fantasy Rotator, Gambit/Gafia, Geezee, Gemzine, Grue, Horizon, Innuendo, Inside JD, Kteic, Muzzy, Oblique, Oopsla, Outre, Peon, Profanity, Shaggy, Skyhook, Spaceship, Spectre, Stellar, Tacitum, Twig, Umbra, Vinegar Worm, Void, Wendigo, Satellite, SD, Space Times, Triode, Veritas, Vector, Yandro* and probably others. Also: US hardbacks: *27th Day (Mantley) 7/-, World of Null A 10/-, All About the Future 15/-, Best from F&sf 4 7/-, SF Carnival 15/-, Far Boundaries 12/6.* Pbs: *Mad Strikes Back, Star SF Stories @ 2/6 per; Who Goes There, Expedition To Earth, SF The Year's Greatest, Shadows in the Sun, After the Rain, Winds of Time, Report on UFO,* all @ 2/- per.

# ***Skyrack* #20, 20 June 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 20**, dated **20th June 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed, for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6003. 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson. News of interest to fans, whether touching on sf or purely fan affairs, is always welcome.

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## **Concerted Effort Ensures Pittcon Trip**

### **Bentcliffe for Pittsburgh**

**TAFF's Pittcon Push** closed at midnight, 15th June, with thirty-two year old bachelor Eric Bentcliffe being elected as Britain's delegate to attend the 1960 World Convention. Deemed the "PittCon", this year's Worldcon will take place in Pittsburgh in September. The final figures were:

**Eric Bentcliffe 377. Mal Ashworth 277. H.P. Sanderson 261.**

Eric has been known in science fiction circles for several years, attending many conventions and editing such internationally well known fanzines as *Space Times* and more recently *Triode*. He gained deserved recognition as the hard working first Secretary of the BSFA, combining his duties with editing the Association's official organ, *Vector*. Honoured in British fan circles as an Honorary Chairman of the Liverpool SFS and a Knight of St. Fantony, Eric will now take over duties as President of the Off-Trail Magazine Publishers' Association, of which body he was a founder member. Whilst Eric's travelling plans are not yet known, it is certain that those renewing acquaintance with him and those meeting him for the first time will be finding in their company one whose knowledge of SF and fandom is second to none, a fan with a puckish (and punnish) sense of humour and a man who combines charm with the warm of friendship. Congratulations, Eric.

#### **TAFF... an analysis.**

The votes received were split up between the two Administrators as follows:

	Bentcliffe	Ashworth	Sanderson
Received	190	126	61
by			
Bennett			
Received	<u>187</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>200</u>
by			
Madle			
	377	277	261

It will be seen that although Sandy topped those votes received by Bob Madle, his British votes were not sufficiently balanced to carry him to the head of the table. Eric never lost the lead on this side of the Atlantic and his supporters were constantly struggling against the nullifying effect of club block votes in the US. Once again this shows that the Administrators themselves are as much in the dark as anyone as to the final result. Early trends are not always consistent. Returns taken at the beginning of each month show the following for the British voting: 1st March 10 voted Bentcliffe 23 Ashworth 18 Sanderson 10. 1st April 14 voted Bentcliffe 33 Ashworth 25 Sanderson 14. 1st May 40 voted Bentcliffe 88 Ashworth 71 Sanderson 39. 1st June 50 voted Bentcliffe 107 Ashworth 68 Sanderson 50.

In Britain, the votes for each candidate were split up as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Eric Bentcliffe	54	10	8	190.
Mal Ashworth	24	24	6	126.
Sandy Sanderson	11	6	16	61.

Several voters did not make use of all three spaces on the ballot forms. Write-in votes recorded points for: Norman Shorrocks 3 points; Sid Birchby, Keith Freeman & Dave Kyle 2 pts each; Archie Mercer and Ruth Kyle 1 pt each. I know that in the States there were recorded write-in votes for Pam Bulmer, Bobbie Gray, Nicki Clarke, Ted Tubb, Clement Atlee, Cantaloupe Flabbergaste and Joan W. Carr! Those who returned voting papers to Ron Bennett were: Jill Adams, Mal & Sheila Ashworth, Eric Bentcliffe, Sid Birchby, Daphne & Ron Buckmaster, Ken & Pam Bulmer, Brian Burgess, Alan Burns, Ted Carnell, Jim Cawthorn, John Challoner, George Charters, Ken Cheslin, Les Childs, Joy Clarke, Jeff Collins, Joyce Collins, Ted Collins, Peter Davies, Marjorie Denton, Alan Dodd, Desmond Emery, Ron Ellik, Dick Ellington, Audrey Eversfield, Frances Evans, Rory

Faulkner, Ted Forsyth, Keith Freeman, Dave Gardner, Bill Gray, Jim Groves, Bill Harrison, LeRoy Haugsrud, Johnny Hautz, Art Hayes, Frank Herbert, Peter B. Hope, Terry Jeeves, Wally Johnson, Eddie Jones, Eric & Margaret Jones, Doug Lacey, Jean Linard, Ethel Lindsay, George Locke, Peter Mabey, Ian McAulay, Archie Mercer, Ellis Mills, Frank & Pat Milnes, Mike Moorcock, Gerry Mosdell, Howard Nichols, Stan Nuttall, John Owen, Ella Parker, Bob Parkinson, Joe Patrizio, Ken & Irene Potter, Boyd Raeburn, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Phil Rogers, Ron Bennett, John Roles, Laurence Sandfield, Sandy Sanderson, Dick Schultz, Sture Sedolin, Bob & Sadie Shaw, Ina & Norman Shorrock, Ken Slater, Dale R. Smith, Juergen Vom Scheidt, Mike Wallace, Tony Walsh, Norman Wansborough, Wally Weber, Norman Weedall, Dr. Arthur Weir, James White, Madeleine & Walt Willis. These forms have been checked – two or three having been thrown out. We're nasty!

**Contributions to TAFF** were as follows: TAFF Auction at London Convention. £15\*. Detroit World Convention Committee £4-18s. Jim Groves £2-10s. Arthur Hayes £1-15-10d. Ashworth Nomination 35/-. Sanderson Nomination 35/-. Bentcliffe Nomination £1-12-6d\* Archie Mercer £1-2-6d. War of Parkinson's Beard £1-1-4d. LaSFaS New Year party brag 18/10d. Anon 17/6d. Cheltenham Circle Auction 12/6d. Peter Davies 12/6d. Ethel Lindsay 11/-. Keith Freeman 10/- Doug Lacey 10/-. Peter Mabey 10/-. Ivor Mayne 10/-. Ellis Mills 10/-. Tony Walsh 10/-. Eric Bentcliffe 8/1d, *Shaggy* 7/10d, Brian Jordan 7/6d, Ken Potter 7/6d, Des Emery 7/2d; Dick Eney, Rory Faulkner, LeRoy Haugsrud, Jean Linard & Boyd Raeburn 7/- each. Dale R. Smith 7/-. Cheltenham-Liverpool Roulette 6/-. Bob Pavlat 5/6d. Jill Adams, Mal & Sheila Ashworth, Sid Birchby, Ken & Pam Bulmer, Les Childs, Joy Clarke, Ted Forsyth, John Hautz, Eric Jones, George Locke, Ian McAulay, Joe Patrizio, Alan Rispin, Sandy Sanderson, Ken Slater, Mike Wallace, Arthur Weir – 5/- each.

Bill Donaho 4/6d. Bruce Pelz 4/d. Ken Cheslin 3/6d. "On Account" 3/6d. Jeff, Joyce & Ted Collins, Marjorie Denton, Dave Gardner, Bill Harrison, Eddie Jones, Frank & Pat Milnes, Stan Nuttall, Maureen O'Rourke, John Owen, Ina & Norman Shorrock, Norman Weedall – 3/4d halfpenny each. Alan Burns 3/3d. John Roles 3/1d. Nick Falasca 3/-. Ron Bennett 2/6d. – Daphne Buckmaster, Ron Buckmaster, Brian Burgess, Ted Carnell, Jim Cawthorn, John Challoner, George Charters, Rick Dalton, Alan Dodd, Dick Ellingsworth, Frances Evans, Audrey Eversfield, Bill Gray, Frank Herbert, Terry Jeeves, Wally Johnson, Margaret Jones, Mike Kilvert, Jim Linwood, Mike Moorcock, Gerry Mosdell, Howard Nichols, Ella Parker,

Bob Parkinson, Irene Potter, Bob Richardson, Phil Rogers, Laurence Sandfield, Sture Sedolin, Bob & Sadie Shaw, Juergen Vom Scheidt, Arthur Thomson, Norman Wansborough, James White, Madeleine & Walt Willis – 2/6d each.

Don Durward 2/2d, George Jennings 1/6d, Fantasy Aspects 1/1d, Dick Bergeron 1/-, Gregg Calkins 1/-Speculative Review 1/-, George Wells 9d.

\* The Taff Auction in London made £18 including £3 which was paid to Madle through postal bidding. Bentcliffe's nomination was paid in two parts, in sterling to Bennett and in dollars to Madle – this is only the sterling contribution. The War of Parkinson's Beard was the auctioning of Bob's beard at the LonCon when he was shaved by Don Ford. Many of the fanzines named above have had amounts donated in their names by subscribers. Several other amounts have been paid in, mostly by Archie Mercer, in the names of other fans – such donations do not allow voting privileges.

These contributions add up to £56-8-3d. There was £45-17-2d in the treasury from the previous fund, of which £19-6s. was paid to-Don Ford as a balance on the amount due to him and paid to him from the American treasury. This leaves a balance on hand of £82-19-5d. Many thanks indeed to all the fen who most generously donated money, artwork, magazines and books to the Fund, thereby ensuring its success.

**Ken, Pamela & Deborah-Louise Bulmer** will be travelling to Belfast next week, staying over in Liverpool 27th. \*\*\* Bruce Burn arrives S'hampton 26th August. Address will then be 9 Temple Sheen Road, East Sheen, London SW 14. \*\*\* Congratulations to Les Childs who is to be married 25th June. Address will be 2 Amberley Court, Goldsmith Rd., Cheltenham. \*\*\* George Locke due to be posted within next ten days. \*\*\* New UK agent for Eney's *Fancy II* is Archie Mercer. 8/6d.

## **A Book an Hour from All Over.... by Kenneth F. Slater**

A much sought series of books, the "Not At Night" items edited by Christine Campbell Thomson for Selwyn & Blount from 1925 to 1936 and largely drawn from *Weird Tales*, are making a long overdue appearance in paperback.... *Not at Night* is No. 586 in the Arrow (Hutchinson) series @ 2/6d. Also from Hutchinson, first issues in September, are a new technical

series, the “Arrow Science Series”, the first four being *Intelligence – Its Evolution and Forms*: Gaston Viaud; *Matter and Antimatter*: Maurice Duquesne, D-es-Sc.; *The Anatomy of Plants*: P. Font Quer; *The Wider Universe*: Paul Couderc, De-s-Sc. Paper editions will be 5/- and full bound editions will also be published @ 10/6d. An October title of interest is Dr. R.L.F. Boyd’s *Space Research by Rocket and Satellite*....

**Orders Are Now Being Taken** by the publishers for Professor J.R.R. Tolkien’s promised new work, provisional title, *The Silmarillion*, which recounts the earlier history of The Ring. The publishers still can’t give a date or a price for the work, but this acceptance of orders is a step forwards. \*\* Publication delays in the Perri Press *Index to the Science Fiction Magazines 1951 to 1957* are in part accounted for by the fact that it will now be “1951 to 1959”, two years being added. There will be no change in the pre-publication prepaid price, but an increase, in the post-publication price is probable. Don B. Day says he hopes the work will be off the presses before the PittCon. \*\* A new low is achieved by the latest Beacon Book (*Galaxy Selection* – or should it be *Salaction?*), Philip Jose Farmer’s *Flesh* which outdoes such things as R.L. Finn’s *Captive on the Flying Saucers* for undisguised pornography and sadism. The additives to some of the reprint Beacon titles have been pretty erotic, but so far as I read this one is pure sexology. The time would seem to be ripe for the much rumoured *Spicy Science Stories*. \*\* *Fantastic Universe* subscribers had their unexpired portions of subs filled with the reprint *New Worlds*. \*\* Can anyone place the cover on the June ’60 ASF BRE? No prizes are offered, but I’m interested in your answers.... K.F.S.

**Doctor Arthur Weir** also has some book news, writing: “Great Discovery! Since Arthur C. Clarke published *Tales from the White Hart* there has been a notable lack of comic SF. Now we really have something at last, and full length at that! Read *What We Did to Father* by Roy Lewis (Hutchinson, 15/-). This is Caveman stuff – but with a slight difference. All *Skyrack* readers should try it.” Thanks, Doc.

Jim Linwood and Alan Rispin recently took part in a CND march at Lincoln (yes, Jhim, I gave out leaflets at an “On The Beach” show, too) and on 12th March they hitched up to Furness in Lancashire to seek out fandom’s Barrow boy, Chris Miller. With a name like that the time is ripe for another LeeH hoax, but the travellers report that they taught Chris brag and that they wrote Ron Bennett a combined letter. Chris, incidentally, lives at 44 Wheatclose Rd., Barrow-in-Furness and will answer all letters.

**Smoke 3** (April 1960. 50pp. 1/-). George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW 1). This issue has been delayed because of George's entry into the armed forces and has finally been published by Ella Parker. George tells of his experience with the Officers' Selection Board, seven pages of the best fanzine editorial in years. Mal Ashworth contributes a short piece in Stairway to the Stars fashion. John Berry "reviews" a book. Vinç Clarke columnises with "Eggplant", mainly about group fanzines. Sid Birchby reports on another meeting of the Levenshulme Lo-Fi Group and Ken Potter writes what might turn out to be a film script of "Carry On, Bus Conductor." There are 17 pages of interesting letters. *Smoke* is the brightest new star on the zinescene and is highly recommended. \*\*\* The only other fanzine to appear from the home isles during the past few weeks was a surprise issue of *Science Fantasy News* (No. 16. June 1960. 4pp. Vinç Clarke. Address on back page) but then, isn't every issue of *SFN* a surprise? This issue covers a round up of book news in the best *SFN* tradition, scoops the field by reporting the recent fire at Nova offices which had to be dealt with by 100 firemen and apologises for a recent *Ape* announcement that Eric Bentcliffe had stood for TAFF two or three times before his current successful campaign. There's also an unusually sour note, which doesn't sound like Vinç, dealing with Dave Kyle's invitation to spend a weekend in Liverpool. On the whole, though, this issue merely proves the point that we could do with more issues of *SFN*.

**We'll Have to Have a Party** so that John Owen will have something to write about, says Eric Bentcliffe, adding: "When I went over to Norman Shorrocks the weekend before Whitsun this seemed as good an excuse as any, so I went over to Liverpool for Whit, as well. We'd tested Norman's latest creation, a blend of 90% proof rum, coke, ice cream and Marsala Creme Cafe and this also seemed a good draw. On Whit Sunday, Beryl and I left Manchester, heading for Freshfields Beach, via Southport. The Liverpool Group were encamped for the day. We spent the day sunbathing, paddling, eating and digging for bottles of assorted alcohol which had been buried in order to keep them cool. At dusk we headed back to Liverpool for some Chinese style Italian food. We then went on to THE OTHER CLUB, which is quite a good name for a club patronised by fans, I think. Dancing and drinking went on until 2 am. and then most of us retired for some rest at Hr. Bebington. We left behind at the club Jeff Collins, John Owen, and Bill Harrison who were almost prevailed to buy the club by the time they were cast out into the streets. Whit Monday was spent largely in getting over Whit Sunday and in playing After Lunch Nap

on The Lawn. ((I rang up about this time, having just arrived in L'pool. I missed seeing Eric, who had to leave coincidence? – but I did get to speak with him on the phone. RB)). Present during the weekend were: Norman & Ina, Frank and Patty Milnes, Stan Nuttall & Marjorie, John Owen, John Roles, *The William Harrison* ((Chris)), Kitty Dowdall, Eddie Jones, Beryl Watkins and myself. R.I.P.” Thanks, Eric.

Jim Linwood (10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts) is forming a young fans group for the 18 to 25 year age group. \*\*\* Programme ideas for the 1961 (MCMLXI) Kettering LeXIcon should be sent to Bob Parkinson, 52 Mead Rd, Cheltenham, Glos. \*\*\* Silverbergs at Globe 16th.

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Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_.

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**As Most Fans Will Know by Now**, Inchmery fandom has split up under extremely sad circumstances. Sandy and Joy are still at Inchmery and hope to emigrate to the States as soon as possible. Nicki and Vinç are currently at 1 Pepys Road, New Cross, London SE 14. Vinç writes that he is settling down in his new flat and is trying to pick up the pieces. He thanks the numerous people who have written letters of encouragement and sympathy, and has been much helped by them; they will be answered as time permits. Vinç says that the future is still pretty dark and whether he will have the time or the inclination to do any more fanning is still an open question, but it is open.

**George Locke** writes on the Whit weekend get together at Kettering: “Alan Rispin and Jim Linwood made a big splash in the Wickstead Park boating lake. The boat sank but was salvaged. Ella Parker was in stitches staples. A local nightspot had us chipping our own ice out of the frig. On the Saturday 6 fen (Ella, Jim, Alan, Bob, Archie and Jhim) went out in one boat, rowing round in circles (except for Ella, who never feuds). We dined at Ivy’s Café. They were disappointed because I’m not in the Royal Army Kettering Corps. The Slaters’ party arrived on Sunday. Various meetings were held by the BSFA, The 1961 Con Committee and the ‘Young Fans’. Attendees were Ella Parker, Archie Mercer, Jim Groves, Jhim Linwood, Alan Rispin, Ted Forsyth, Bob Parkinson, Keith Freeman, Ken & Joyce Slater, Dave Eggleton and George Locke.” \*\*\* Ron Bennett went to Liverpool Whit Monday, just missing an impromptu party. The gang feasted at the traditional Golden Palace, wined at The Swan, and moved on to a would-be night club. Norman & Ina very kindly put me up and even went so far in their hospitality as to prevent the children jumping on me at

7am.

**Many Thanks**, you Disclavette attendees who sent me such a colourful card. That's you, Mike Becker, Bob Madle, Dan Grayson, Harriett Kolchak, Don Studebaker, Will Jenkins, Ted Pauls, Hal Lynch, Dick Eney, Walter Breen, Phyllis Berg, Bill Berg, Billie Madle (hi!), Chick Derry, Sandra Caton and ex-co-travelling giants Sylvia, Ted and Bob. \*\*\* From 19th June Brian Shandy Jordan's address will be 86 Piccadilly Rd Burnley. \*\*\* Ritz, Leicester Sq., showing *Village of the Damned* (*Midwich Cuckoos*).

# ***Skyrack* #21, 25 July 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No. 21**, dated **25th July, 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for six issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson. News of interest to sf fandom is welcomed.

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**Note Additional Temporary Address:**  
151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N.W.6.

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**Science Fiction Club of London Party.** At the invitation of Sister Ethel Lindsay the meeting of the SFCL scheduled for 1st July was held two days later at Courage House. Arthur "Atom" Thomson brought along his wife, Olive, and child, Heather, the latter having brought in her turn her latest new toy, a "biff-bat" which has a ball attached to the bat by a piece of elastic. There was an unofficial competition to see who could hit the ball with the bat most times. The snag was avoiding being hit in the face by the ball on its return trip. I'd love to report that Heather won the contest but in fact Vin¢ Clarke was the victor with at least 98 hits. Ethel provided us with one of those Wobbly balls and we tried our hands (?) at a game of football. When the ball won't travel towards the point at which it is aimed it causes much hilarity and it also provided much needed exercise for us city types. It was a treat to sit out on the terrace in deck chairs to have our teas. Ethel did us proud in the way of refreshments. Those of us who took full advantage of her hospitality were: Ken & Irene Potter, Jimmy Groves, Arthur, Olive and Heather Thomson, Vin¢ and Nicki Clarke, Don Geldart and Ella Parker. Unfortunately, George Locke had to stay in barracks and do some work for a change and Ted Forsyth had left for the north in connection with his job, so he too was absent. We broke up at 9.30, tired and happy, having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. (EAP)

This issue of *Skyrack* has been delayed because of pressure of mundane type work. Most unfannish and apologies all round. From July 26th I'll be staying at Ella Parker's Penitentiary in London until the end of August. Watch out, London. Bennett is with you....

***Sidereal* 4** (Eric Jones, 44 Barbridge Road, Hesters Way, Cheltenham,

Glos. 42pp). SURPRISE! SURPRISE!! Admittedly, this issue, dated 30th June 1956, is a little overdue, but the Cheltenham gang have got in a little gag line about the issue being dead on time! Archie Mercer writes an account of the long Liverpool party weekend of Whitsun 1956. Lan Wright contributes a story. Mike Wallace reports on his 1955 visit to Archie's caravan. There are also letters, items by Terry Jeeves, Ron Bennett and Peter Mabey and a strip cartoon by one "Tex". Whilst the issue is somewhat disappointing in its lack of items by fans who have been on the Cheltenham scene for some little time now the general spirit of the zine makes it one which has been worth waiting the four years to see.

**Yorkshire Fan Meetings** have been swinging. On 3rd July, Eric Bentcliffe, TAFF's travel-elect Delegate, visited Mal and Sheila Ashworth in Bradford and I went along to report on the meeting. After chow-chow (ech!) at Fung Ying's restaurant we moved up to Eccleshill for afternoon nap and several glasses of Sheila's excellent Irish coffee. The four of us also got together in Harrogate on 17th July when we were joined by Alan Rispin. Alan had hitched from Manchester and arrived about three hours after his expected time of arrival. His face when after six hours hard hitch hiking, Eric told him that the return fare to Manchester was only 12/3d.... We had sandwiches, more afternoon nap, sandwiches, brag, sandwiches, substitute Irish coffee, and... anyone want a sandwich?

**Field Marshall Elect George Locke** reports on the Globe evening of 15 June when Bob and Barbara Silverberg hit town: "Locke supposed to be watching sports, but wanting to meet Agbergs at Globe, dodges numerous military police, shells out 2½ days pay in train fare and arrives at Globe hot and tired. Jim Groves, Ella Parker and newcomer Ted Armitage present when John Brunner walks in with Bob and Barbara. John introduces them to Ted but did not introduce them to the rest of us. I could see that they seemed embarrassed." \*\*\* George also writes on a visit to see the film based on Wyndham's *The Midwich Cuckoos*, *The Village of the Damned*: "This is a very nicely, concisely handled film, from the shots showing the police and military investigating the invisible field which throws the village into unconsciousness, through the development of the alien children which are born after the field goes away, to the climax. The children themselves are some of the strangest, most alien, ever created on the screen and the final battle of mental forces between George Sanders and the aliens is very effective."

**Commercial:** Imagine, in a few year's time, a pair of blue, trusting eyes looking into yours, and a small voice asking "What was it like at the

LXICON dad?” and then the trust slowly turning into disappointment as he totters away with slumped shoulders, your reply ringing in his ears, “I – I – I didn’t go to the LXICON, son.”

**King Billy Buried.** Peggy White and her vile pro husband, James, spent the week 20/26th June with Johnny Hautz down in Bray, County Wicklow. Walt and Madeleine Willis followed to spend the weekend with Ian McAulay who reports that fuller details “will no doubt appear in sundry fanzines when the various participants recover.”

*Orion* 16 wanted. 3 issue subscription to *Skyrack* for first copy.

**Orion 25** (Ella A. Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N.W.6. 58 pages. 1/-) I goofed. This magazine should have been reviewed amongst last month’s offerings, but my filing system being infallible.... And *Orion* is too good to let pass by without a recommendation. The issue kicks off with Atom’s cover impression of the LonCon hall and with Ella’s account of the hectic life her household led during the convention week. Any fans who have been urging Ella to write more will be pleased with this eight page editorial. Ken Bulmer remembers New York in his best “Taff Tales” to date. Arthur Thomson reviews fanzines in a humorous manner. Ex-editor Uncle Paul Enever contributes a Conversation Piece, John Berry has another of his popular Sergeant stories. Joe Patrizio graces the Bloodbank section, Len Moffatt poses a problem and Terry Jeeves, Rory Faulkner and George Locke contribute short items. There are also 11 pages of letters in the best *Orion* tradition and a couple of pages of notes on fanzines make up a meaty issue.

**Quantum 7** (John Martin Baxter, 29 Gordon Road, Bowral, N.S.W. Australia 1/-. 30pp) *Quantum* continues to take the eye with a hodge-podge (that’s a compliment) of interesting material. Editor Baxter rambles, Don Tuck reviews *Startling Stories*, Bruce Burn contributes a short story and letters are thrown in for good measure. The issue is worth its price for an outstanding parody of *Etherline* which has the right touches without the take-off being overdone. A thoroughly entertaining zine in the best “let’s have fun” tradition.

**Femzine (Fez) 14.** Summer 1960. (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 1/-... 10pp). *Fez* still continues to possess entertaining touches, but this is not one of Ethel’s best issues. Bjo Wells contributes the best item, a pen portrait of Miri Carr, and other contributors are Janey Johnson, Juanita Coulson and Virginia Schultheis.

**Northlight 10** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, 6 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle on Tyne 2. 26pp). This thickest *Northlight* for some time. Terry Jeeves analyses his favourite sf stories, three German fans write on European fandom and Dick Schultz writes on the American Negro problem. Alan goes through the letters and fanzines in his "In Tray" and also writes a nice but short editorial. Now that *Northlight* has got over its cribbing at Inchmery fandom, it shows a marked improvement.

**Vector 8** (Official Journal of the BSFA. Subscriptions to the Association are £1 yearly to the Hon. Treasurer, Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 36pp). This is the first *Vector* to be edited by Jim Groves. Apart from the comprehensive official reports there are several items of interest. Brian Aldiss contributes a short item on the standard of sf, an item which could have been much better had it been much longer. Mike Moorcock discusses the work of Mervyn Peake. Ian MacLain has a story. Ken Slater brings us up-to-date news on the sf field. Joy Clarke reviews books and there are filler items and letters which fit in neatly. Editor Groves has a straight talking editorial which is as much a credit as is the whole issue. *Vector* is on the up-grade.

Thank you, Archie Mercer Department. BBC Announcer in *Down Your Way* programme of 15th May said, "Certainly the most important building in Newtownards Road is Parliament." Just right for a three line filler.

*American TV Guide* reports Ray Bradbury writing scripts for Shirley Temple! Shirley is M.C. for a fairy tale programme. "Something tells me that Grimm is in for a change," says Steve Stiles. \*\*\* 28th May issue of *Today* magazine ran letter on fire fighting by T. Law, London S.E.14. Wonder how many fans remember *Authentic* these days, Joy. \*\*\* Two fliers included with this *Skyrack*, a neat piece from Mal Ashworth and *mi* No. 9 from Eric Bentcliffe, which includes his travelling plans to and from the States. Ticket booked and paid for. Apologies to Ernest Sterne, Peter Skeberdis and Peter Singleton who missed out on *mi* 8. Three copies short delivered. Completely out of my hands. \*\*\* Sandy Sanderson writes, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those fans who supported me in the recent TAFF campaign, my sponsors, Belle Dietz who gave so much energy to the cause, all those who voted for me and also those who didn't vote for me but who supported the Fund. My grateful thanks to you all. I enjoyed the campaign very much and I feel that it was carried out most fairly by all the candidates and their supporters. I'm sure that in Eric we have a very worthy and interesting delegate and that American fans will thoroughly enjoy meeting him, also that Eric will enjoy his deserved

trip to the States.” \*\*\* 9th July Alan Rispin put in a few more miles in his bid to become a hitch hiking giant by visiting Paul Andrews in Maidstone, Kent. He also managed to look up George Locke and poor suffering Ella Parker. \*\*\* Jim Cawthorn has illustrated Sexton Blake novel *The World Shakers*, a sf slanted story involving flying saucers. Will appear August. \*\*\* MIKE MOORCOCK has moved – 18 Beatrice Avenue, Norbury, London SW 16. \*\*\* Chris Miller has gained Oxford place at Christ Church. \*\*\* From August issue, BRE *Astounding* will be on sale 15th of month, still before cover date. \*\*\* Belle & Frank Dietz have moved to 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx 53, NY. Belle is now acting as “social editor” to *SF Times*, with occasional columns. \*\*\* Young fan Club for under 25s being formed by Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts. \*\*\* Can any fan interested in meeting Kiwi Bruce Burn off the boat at S’hampton 26th August contact yours truly, please? DNQ!! \*\*\* FAPA Editor Andy Young at present in London on a flying visit. No truth in rumour that he is over to study OMPA Constitution.

## ***Skyrack* #22, 12 August 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* No 22**, dated **12th August, 1960** and published by Ron Bennett of 7 Southway, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England, at 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues.

Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for 6 issues (six issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, USA. Cartoon on left by your friend and mine, Arthur “Atom” Thomson. News of interest to sf fans welcomed with open arms. This issue circulated free to members of BSFA.

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**FAPA Editor Beards London Fandom** America’s favourite astronomer, Andy Young, hit London Thursday 21st July in time for a social gathering at which were Arthur Thomson, Jim Groves, Ted Forsyth, George Locke, Joy and Sandy Sanderson, Ken and Irene Potter, Ella Parker, Ivor Mayne and Ulla Boberg. A good time was had by all – within the limits of astrophysical accuracy. The following day saw Andy taken over to the Greenwich Observatory by Vin¢ Clarke and on Tuesday Andy visited the Parker Penitentiary in Kilburn, having the misfortune to meet *Skyrack* editor Ron Bennett. Ted Forsyth, Arthur Thomson and George Locke were also present. Ted and Arthur left 5 am, Andy and George stayed overnight. Andy rushed off early following morning to pick up his bags and move on to Holland where he will be conferencing until 24th. (EAP & RMB)

This issue of *Skyrack* is being produced in London, as you’ll have gathered. Once again I’m down in the *Smoke* for a six week spell and Ella Parker has kindly agreed to put up with me. Fans are dropping in and out continuously. Archie Mercer stayed over last weekend. Ken Cheslin, who is in town, will be here this weekend. Tom Porter of Newcastle and Michael Evans of Monmouthshire have been other recent visitors. Once again I’m working as a typist for the agency which has employed me previously. This time they’ve farmed me out to a firm which looks like keeping me for the entire six weeks, Marplan Ltd, a market research organisation which makes Vance Packard look like a barrow boy. Great fun, and work – they have micro-elite typewriters, and electric duplicators – which appeals to the fan in me.

**BSFA Members**, take note... Ella is now holding open house for all BSFA members every Friday evening. Come along and meet other members. If

you're in the BSFA you're sure of a welcome.

Ella Parker reports that Ron Bennett is growing a beard Bennett denies this rumour, saying it's merely a week since he shaved.

## **A Book a Day from All Over Ken Slater**

The title of this curt column is, of course, wishful thinking. Actually, one doesn't get books (s-f type) from anyone these days One has to get out and dig for 'em. Read Les Flood's review column in *New Worlds* 97 – very restrained references to them ghu-darned publishers, Les, if I may say so. At one time I wrote round a bevy, bunch or grottle of publishers, all with material in the s-f field, asking for review material for *Nebula*. The only one who responded with any regularity was Hodder and Stoughton, who at least sent me copies of Charles Eric Maine's books. The sales manager of Faber and Faber used to send me advance copies of their titles, too, but I was never sure whether this was for review, or in the hopes that F(M)L might invest in about 5,000 copies.

Choice of the Lincolnshire Bird and Monster Watching Society for "Book-of-the-Year" is *Gorgo*, an epic by Carson Bingham published by Monarch Books, 141pp, based on the screenplay by John Loring and David Hyatt, which is based on an original story by Eugene Lourie. I wonder where this stops. I visualise a screen play based on the book by Carson Bingham based on the screen play by... (Incidentally, just to confuse you, the book advises you that Carson Bingham is a pseudonym for Bruce Cassidy.)

\*\*\* Kingsley Amis's book on science-fiction, *New Maps of Hell*, may appear from a British publisher late this year. \*\*\* Recently reprinted by Pergamon Press was *Beyond the Planet Earth*, a translation of Tsiolkovsky's s-f work. At 5/- a worthwhile buy, but to be frank, I've not yet read this myself, although a few copies have come in and gone out. The recommendation comes from Brian Aldiss, who comments that it is "really pleasantly readable". Seems the publishers must send s-f to the *Oxford Mail* for review, even if they don't send it to *New Worlds* \*\*\* Due in August is a new Dennis Wheatley "Black Magic" yarn, *The Satanist* (18/-, Hutchinson), and in November a science-fiction story titled *The Grey Ones*, by Lymington, will be published by Hodder and Stoughton, while John Wyndham's *Trouble with Lichen* is scheduled by M Joseph for September. Methuen will publish *The Papers of Andrew Melmoth* by Hugh

Sykes Davies in October, and although this is not listed as s-f, it certainly sounds like it – the papers are those left by a young scientist who has disappeared. It seems that he has been experimenting with sewer rats and has finally decided that it is more important to explain to the rats the behaviour of humans, than vice versa, with which pleasant thought, I leave you. KFS

**Doctor Arthur R Weir** writes on humour in SF: “The last number of the FANTAST (MEDWAY) catalogue had Velikovski’s *Worlds in Collision* – ‘a very goof copy’ – now was that a typo or *wasn’t* it? \*\*\* Bruce Pelz’s *Glamdring* No 1 had a bacover slogan ‘MORDOR IN ’64’ and *Glamdring* No 2 had ‘LOS ANGELES IN 64’ So now we *really* know what Los Angeles is like, after all those film fakes.”

**Big Things Are in Line for *New Worlds* 100th Issue**, with several of the stories being specially written with a celebration slant. Cover will be by Brian Lewis, illustrating Bill Temple’s “Sitting Duck” The actual cover design will be a new one, and with the issue *New Worlds* experiments in interior artwork (by Arthur Thomson). Continuation depends on reader reaction. Other goodies lined up are a Wyndham “Troon” story, provisionally entitled “The Asteroids”, a short by Jimmy White (“Countercharm”), and stories by Brian Aldiss (“Old Hundredth” – ha!), Colin Kapp (“Glass of Iargo”), John Brunner (“Prerogative”), John Kippax (“Unfinished Symphony”), and Ted Tubb (“Greater Than Infinity” again, ha! I’ve only seen that now). The issue, which will be on sale 28th October, will feature for the only time in its long career a “Profile” of Editor Carnell. And just to round things off on the issue, John Rackham has an article on “The Science Fiction Epic”. Incidentally, *New Worlds* 99, which features Sam Moskowitz in its Profile, will be the first issue distributed in North America by Nova itself.

Micro-elite this [above] page courtesy of Marplan. Sorry, Archie!

**Foop No 1** (Ivor Mayne, 236 Queens Road New Cross London SE14 28pp) Coming along to create almost as much surprise as the recent *Sidereal* is this first offering from Ivor. This initial effort had material solicited for it over a year ago and while it is pleasing to know that Ivor has at last made an entry into the fanzine world as an editor, it is also true to say that the age of some of the contributions shows through rather badly, particularly so in book reviews. On the whole, though, there is a well-balanced line up of material from Vin& Clarke on Fanlandia, “Penelope Fandergaste”, Laurence Sandfield on jazz, John Berry on trans-

Atlantic phone calls (do I add a note here, Terry, to say what happened to me that night?) and Ken Bulmer with a time-capsule piece on the London Circle. *Foop* is worth getting as an historical item; Ivor is shortly amalgamating *Foop* with the Potters' *Brennschluss*.

Also taking us by storm is another newcomer, *Trial* (Dorothy Hartwell, 124 Stanley Road, Hornchurch, Essex), produced by a young lady who has been on the fringes of London fandom for something over a year and who possesses spirit in more ways than one. Not only is this first effort produced on a German spirit duplicator, but Dot has had the courage to do her own artwork. The actual material does not compare with that in *Foop*, but is still of an interesting and most certainly an encouragement-worthy level. Contributors are Archie Mercer, Jim Linwood, Mike Deckinger, Peter Singleton, Alan Rispin and Bruce Kidd.

**Fresh Faces at Freshfields But Rain Stops Play** at the Liverpool Group's party weekend 30 July – 1 August. I had intended to put Ella on the train to Liver pool and to fly up ahead of her, but the service doesn't run on Saturdays, so we went along together by train. We were met at Lime Street by Norman Shorrocks and elder daughter, Janet, Keith Freeman, John Roles and TAFF delegate, Eric Bentcliffe. After a lengthy ferry ride across the Mersey, we arrived at the Shorrocks household to find a barricade forbidding us entry and custodians Ina, Lynda and Roy Shorrocks quite happy about the whole affair. Scattered around were cartoons from Arthur Thomson who was in the middle of a campaign aimed at Ella. A party developed (of course) when other fans, including Audrey Eversfield from Cheltenham, began to arrive. On the Sunday, the entire ensemble transferred the party to Freshfield, where fun was had in the station signal box (how *did* the Glasgow – King's X express get diverted?) before the party moved to the beach in time to be caught in a deluge of hailstones. We dried out by playing cricket and rugby and by dosing ourselves with spirits. Keith Freeman won a competition by wading out the furthest into the Irish Sea (we haven't seen him since) whilst Jim Linwood and Ron Bennett kept up their year's unbeaten record at rugby. Back in Liverpool in the evening the party developed furiously with champagne flowing freely to the drum beats of jiving feet. A few fans went along to see the Merseysippi jazz band at a local club, only to find the boys at a nearby refreshment hostel and that Pete Daniels was absent having had a spike stuck through his foot earlier (hope you're recovering ok, Pete, but how long have you been playing the trumpet with your toes?) Later fans moved over to the Jacaranda Club where John Roles sold

Audrey for 4d to an Indian with whom he conversed for hours in exotic native tongues. We were surprised to run across *Ploy's* ex-art-editor Bill Harry here. After a taxi race back to Higher Bebington Norman Shorrocks showed his acrobatic skill by swinging from the landing banisters. We finally got him put to bed, though, and he recovered in good time to lead the nap game the following day when Audrey returned to Cheltenham and I came back to London. Keith Freeman stayed on until the Tuesday and Ella, lucky devil, was hosted by the Shorrocks until the Wednesday, returning to London an *abnormally* nervous wreck. The Liverpool party to end all Liverpool parties.

Several fans, including Keith Freeman, Ted Forsyth and Jim Linwood have expressed interest in joining the party to travel down to Southampton on 26th August to meet Bruce Burn, from New Zealand, off the boat. Any more? \*\*\* Ken McIntyre was televised 10 August on BBC's *Laugh Line* with a pyramid cartoon, "Cleo says she's changed her mind – she'd like 'em over there". \*\*\* Don Franson reports that Don Day's *Index to the Science Fiction Magazines* will be out next spring and will include 1960. \*\*\* Archie Mercer is now British agent for the Los Angeles clubzine *Shaggy*. *Shaggy* editor John Trimble married last month to fabulous Bjo. Hoog! \*\*\* Dick Eney will be standing for TAFF next time round. Nominations received from Archie Mercer and John Berry. \*\*\* Sandy Sanderson wrote to say that he and Joy will be sailing to New York on the Queen Mary (unless the strike lasts?) 25th August. Sandy and Joy were married at New Cross 25th June. They hope to get to the Pittcon before settling down at their new address, 1750 Walton Avenue, Bronx 55, New York. Provisional arrangements for 236 Queens Road are that Ken and Irene Potter will be moving in there along with Ivor Mayne. Potter and Mayne fnz to combine. \*\*\* George Locke has taken the first step towards becoming that Field Marshal promised last issue. He has been promoted to lance-corporal (acting, unpaid)! \*\*\* Letter in airmail from Bruce Burn in Singapore. He's on his way! \*\*\* Ken, Pamela and Deborah-Louise Bulmer arrived home 1 am Thursday 11th August after a six week holiday with Madeleine and Walt Willis in Belfast. They admit to the weather being wet and the fact that the trip home tired them. No wonder, with a long wait for the car to be unloaded from the ferry, and a day's drive down to London. \*\*\* *Fanac* goofed! British rep for the Pittsburgh Convention (The Pittcon) is Ken Slater, 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs to whom 7/- should be sent for a worthwhile membership. \*\*\* Another commercial from Tony Walsh: "Scene is the reference room in the central library of the Second Galactic Foundation. A student beckons with his fourth arm to

a passing librarian; 'I wish to know', he says, 'the meaning of BC, AD, and AL.' 'Certainly sir. The year of the birth of Christ was considered important enough to be taken as a reference year for historical dating. BC means before Christ and AD (anno domini) means after Christ. The third, still in use today, is of course, After Lexicon.'" \*\*\* Son Michael Evan Shaw born to Noreen, wife of ex-*Infinity* editor Larry Shaw on 20th June \*\*\* Valerie Williams and Terry Jeeves married 26th June. Congratulations to all concerned, particularly to Terry. \*\*\* Andy Young noted advert on London tube for *Magazine of F&SF*... "the magazine of the unusual". \*\*\* Bob Bloch's book, *Psycho*, now butchered into film version by Hitchcock, is in London and has been widely panned. \*\*\* John Kippax had north country play, featuring Wilfred Pickles on TV Tuesday 2nd August. 16th August evening programmes include item on SF films. \*\*\* Address changes effective for some little time but previously unmentioned: Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Road, London SW 4; L/Cpl 25787189 Locke G, 5 Coy, RAMC, Connaught Hospital, Bramshott, Hindhead, Surrey.

# ***Skyrack* #23, 6 September 1960**

This is *Skyrack* No. 23, dated **6th September, 1960** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. Subscriptions in USA @ 35¢ for six issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon on left by Eddie Jones. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed. Try me.

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***Starship Troopers* Takes Hugo. Seattle Fanzine Honoured:** Robert Heinlein's novel *Starship Troopers*, of which a shortened version originally appeared in *F&SF*, was awarded the Hugo for the year's best novel at the Pittsburgh World S.F. Convention held last weekend, 3rd 5th September. The news will surprise many fans as the book deals in part with the controversial subject of nuclear disarmament, apparently glorifying war to the extent where young minds might be influenced. The book has not yet been published in full in Great Britain. The Hugo for the best short fiction went to Daniel Keyes for *Flowers For Algernon*, whilst Rod Serling's *The Twilight Zone* was voted Best Dramatic Work.

For the third year in succession *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* won the Hugo for the best professional magazine. Ed *Emshwiller* broke a long run of successes for Kelly Freas by winning the Hugo for the best professional artist.

In the fanzine field the award for the best amateur magazine went to the monthly *Cry of the Nameless*, edited by The Nameless Ones of Seattle. Congratulations, Buz, Tosk, Blotto Otto and Wee Wally.

(My thanks to Spy "P.")

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**Latest on the Pittcon**, cabled by Our Man On The Spot Bob Pavlat is that Seattle won without opposition the right to put on next year's Worldcon. UK agent will probably be John Berry. Guest of Honour and 1959 Hugo winner James Blish afforded standing ovation. Robert Heinlein was present to receive his Hugo for *Starship Troopers*. TAFF delegate Eric Bentcliffe made wonderful speech and is being extremely well received. 380 attendees present.

Jhim Linwood notes that Bloch's *Psycho* made into a Hitchcock film got

rave notice in *Sunday Times*. Having seen this; I agree it's underrated by most critics, though is not vintage Hitchcock.

**Welcome to England, Bruce Burn**, said the Science Fiction Club of London. On 27th August the SFCL held a party in honour of the arrival in this country of New Zealand's leading fan, Bruce "I'll turn up on time" Burn. Terrain was the Parker Penitentiary. Attendees, were Ella, Ethel Lindsay; Ken & Irene Potter, Tom Porter, Chris Miller, Jhim Linwood, Archie Mercer, Ron Bennett, Ken Cheslin, Ted Forsyth, Jim Groves, Arthur Thomson and Don Geldart. Notable absentee was Bruce Burn. Plans had been in full swing to meet Bruce's ship, the 1,500 passenger, 12,150 ton *Castel Felice* at Southampton early on the morning of Saturday, 27th August, collect Bruce, pull several ploys on him (like having him bump into a complete stranger at Waterloo Station, said stranger driving Bruce out to East Sheen where he is now staying and then appearing at the party to reveal himself as Atom) and take him along to the surprise party at Ella's. On phoning the Sitmar line on the Friday, I was told that the boat was delayed 24 hours! Hurried telegrams to and from. Jill Adams in Southampton and dashes round London to inform the gang. The party was still held. At 2.40 am Mercer, Forsyth, Linwood, Bennett and Geldart endured a wild taxi ride to Waterloo to catch the 3.10 train to Southampton. We arrived at the dock where three days previously Joy and Sandy Sanderson had sailed to the USA and were greeted a) by police who wouldn't allow us on the dock until 7am and b) a cloud burst. We retired to a cafe to drink muddy, slate [stale?] coffee and at seven braved the rain to go on to the dock. Placards drawn up by SFCL signwriter George Locke ("Ban the Burn", and "Go Home Bruce Burn") were displayed at the ship's assembled passengers until we located Bruce. After a further three hours waiting, Bennett and Forsyth chickened out and taxied up to the home of Jill and John Adams where slide photography was discussed (Bennett's new 35mm camera had recently produced a roll of colour slides in which everything had turned out slate blue). At 12.30 there was still no sign of Bruce, so Jill, Bennett and Forsyth shot back to the docks, only to find the place deserted. Back to Jill's and finally a meeting with the Burn himself. We took him up to London, out to East Sheen and then up to Ella's. Jill's two pounds of slate blue sausages never did get eaten, and neither did the six pounds that Ella was toting. During the ensuing week Bruce was taken round London by Don Geldart, met Andy Young and the Bulmers at Ella's and at the Tate Gallery was shown how Picasso was once a disciple of Bennett's slate blue period. (XYZ)

**Andy Young**, one time London Fan, flew back to the States on 31st August. Following his astronomical conference in Holland, Andy had visited Niels Augustin, Jean and Annie Linard, Norman and Ina Shorrock and Walt and Madeleine Willis. A party was held at Ella's on 30th August. Embryofan (self styled) fan Mike Evans reports: "Characters in order of appearance: Biblical style prophet lurking in some undergrowth. By name Andy Young; Pale brown all black, called by his mother Bruce Burn; Bulmers, one of each; Assorted Atom BEMs; Embryofan. Curtain rises on Embryofan staggering up 17 flights of stairs. He starts back in horror as rough, tough door bears plate 'Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here'. Embryofan enters (change to camera 2). Stretched out in corner is full fathom one of Andy Young, hiding behind a beard and having a strong silent contest with Ron Bennett. Bennett is losing beards down. Topiary fans hope for rain. Not far from the snap crackle and pop of rapidly growing whiskers a lad with a friendly crewcut and the jawline of an\* obstreperous coal heaver is trying to get used to walking about on his feet. Several assorted bems chase Ella to take photos of her. Other bems accept Manhattan screwdrivers à la Bennett. Lights flash, glasses clink. E-fan grovels as Bulmers enter, feels that *two* beards a bit much to spring on a lad all of a sudden, and escapes during a lull." ((Oh, Mike, last year Ken Bulmer had a beard, too! RB))

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\* The report was cut off at this point with "(continued back page)"; the rest appeared there, after the "Recent visitors to London..." paragraph below. – DRL.

**Kirkcudbright** is pronounced Kirkoobrie and the town has recently been put on the fannish map with the installation there of the Buckmaster fanzine factory. First from Daphne Buckmaster (8 Buchanan Street, Kirkcudbright, Scotland) comes *Hobo* no 1, a fanzine which will travel yearly through the hands of four different editors. Top fanzines these days seem to be group efforts, and this spreading of the chores attached to fanpubbing should help to maintain regularity. Ken Bulmer, who is the next editor, reviews fanzines, Jim Linwood writes on concrete music, Jimmy Groves discusses antigravity and Daphne throws out several hundred controversial statements. Atom drew the cover. Daphne also throws out more controversial statements in *Esprit* (Vol 2, No 1), the second of the Kirkcudbright recent offerings. The title is well known, having graced Daphne's OMPAzone for some years, but now *Esprit* has become a genzine and is available for 1/3, contribution or comment. Around in this issue are articles on selling and status seeking by Ron and

Daphne, an item on infinite horizons by Sid Birchby and a problem posed by Ron that I've been trying to work out for over a year! Two very neat and readable fnz.

**Bastion 1** (Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire; 1/6 or 4 for 5/-; 42pp) Here is the first issue of the successor to both *Triode* and *Space Diversions*, with Eric as editor and Norman Shorrocks as publisher. Impeccable duplicating and layout are again the order of the day. John Owen is happily present with his Drums Along The Mersey reporting. Sid Birchby writes on coins and singing songs that are worth singing. Mike Moorcock gets to the core of SF. Jim Linwood writes a fan story. Dr. Arthur Weir writes on Haggard and psi. A lengthy letter column and oodles of artwork make up an excellent issue which blends perfectly the best qualities of the two zines it has superseded.

**SFCoL Storms South Coast Society.** Ken Cheslin reports that on Sunday 20th August the following members and hangers-on of the Science Fiction Club of London travelled down to Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex: Ella Parker, Ken & Irene Potter, Ted Forsyth, Jimmy Groves, George Locke, Ethel Lindsay, Don Geldart, Ron Bennett, Ken Cheslin and Bedford 12-seater driver Arthur Thomson with his fan club Olive and Heather. Passing motorists were subjected to a back window sign reading "Annual Outing of the Escaped Prisoners Society" which later gave way to another sign which bore the slogan "National Society for the Abolition of Life: Annual Outing". Middleton is a nice little village, a dwelling place for the idle rich. Fortunately the beach is devoid of "amusements". The tide was in when we arrived and we picnicked before wandering round the high tide mark and the bordering greensward. Jimmy Groves had brought his hammer to collect rock specimens from the locale. Bennett had forgotten the cards – he'd had to get up early – so we didn't play brag. We did play cricket with Groves manufactured equipment. Stars were batsman Groves, Bowler Forsyth and Fieldsman Locke whose catching (he dismissed Bennett's entire side) was worth an England test place. Both the trip out and the return journey were significant for their general merriment, songs and pun-gent conversation. Heartfelt plaudits for Arthur whose idea the trip was and who worked so hard on the project, both with arrangements and with the actual driving.

Recent visitors to London have been Jim Linwood, Archie Mercer, Chris Miller and Joe Patrizio, now in the metropolis job hunting.

Many London fen have been greatly taken with the deadpan antics of

Wally (Mr Peepers) Cox in a recent nightly highly formulated TV series. \*\*\* Ken Cheslin, Ella Parker and Ron Bennett taught Andy Young brag. Young won. \*\*\* Whilst in London Ron Bennett visited the homes of Laurence Sandfield, Ethel Lindsay and George Locke, all for the first time, and thanks everyone concerned for the hospitality. \*\*\* Dick Eney is producing a leaflet of Additions and Corrections to his *Fancy II*. Will cost 20¢ or 1/6d (UK cash to Archie Mercer). Copies of *Fancy II* with the A&C leaflet bound in will cost 10/-. The latest *Speculative Review* is being mailed out – coloured title letters with black-line illustration overprint. \*\*\* Latest known on the TAFF lineup is that standing against Dick Eney are Dick Ellington and Ron Ellik. *Fanac* and fanzines please copy: Ron Bennett URGENTLY requires photos, slides etc which deal with his '58 TAFF trip to the States. Will pay cash. \*\*\* Cheltenham fans recently made up party to see *Merchant of Venice* at Stratford. \*\*\* Chris Miller in London reading British Museum fanzines. \*\*\* Surprise visitor at Globe last Thursday was old time Canadian fan Bob Gibson, over here looking up friends and relatives. Off chance of him visiting you, Ken Slater and hey there you, too, Michael Rosenblum. \*\*\* Ian McAulay is in Belfast for a month. Provisional plans are a move to London for a month from mid-October. \*\*\* Eric Bentcliffe arrived Montreal last Monday. Party in his honour New York Wednesday. To visit Cincinnati Indianapolis, Minneapolis & South Bend after con. \*\*\* We too get letters: "Dear Blackbeard, There's a dirty big X appearing on my copy of *Skyrack* 22. Of course, you *may* have thought you were filling in your pools coupon. Here's half-a-dollar. Get yourself a shave. Chin-chin (and do something about it), Bill Temple." \*\*\* BBC TV coverage on SF films, Tuesday 16th August excellent. \*\*\* Potters and Mayne not taking 236 Queens Road, contrary to note last issue. Deal fell through.

# ***Skyrack* #24, 4 October 1960**

This is *Skyrack* no. 24, dated **4th October** to commemorate the London Symposium. *Sky* is published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. USA subscriptions are 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢), money to be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson.. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed.

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## **Turners in Town**

Visiting fans to this Hagerstown of British fandom are rare and it was with some surprise and alacrity that Harrogate strung out the fairy lights for the 17th September visit of Eleanor and Paul Turner of Los Angeles. Baby daughter Susan was in tow. Paul is a thoroughly interesting talker and described the latest convention and reorganisation of fans in Germany. Much talk on Los Angeles fandom, Ron Ellik for TAFF and the Turners' trip round Britain which will have to be written up somewhere. After all of which, the "Hoyle" version of Hearts was introduced to Harrogate mundane society.

Paul and Eleanor had travelled in their car to Ostend from Germany where Paul is at present stationed in the U.S. Army. After a poor crossing to Dover and an equally poor introduction to London, they got in touch with Ken and Pamela Bulmer and things began to swing. The Turners stayed three days with Ella Parker and then began to tour the country, looking up the Cheltenham fans, the Shorrocks in Liverpool, Ron and Daphne Buckmaster in Kirkcudbright, Don and Dorothy Allen in Newcastle where Alan Burns was also visited and the Harrogate group of one. The Turners hoped to visit Archie Mercer before returning to London where they would again stay with Ella Parker before returning to Germany.

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Fringe embryofan Rick Dalton (70 North Lane, Leeds 8, Yorkshire) wrote asking for Archie Mercer's address (434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln) and Archie wrote to say that subs for *Shaggy* are 1/8d per and 5 for 7/-. Archie is also agenting for Dick Eney's *Fancy II*, to which volume

the additions and corrections addenda will cost 2/- . The complete combined volume will cost 10/- . No further copies of the original 8/6d volume. *Rejected Canons* still 2/- also.

## Leading Article

Being personal editorial comment, an unusual step, probably backwards.

Now that I'm about to hand over the British side of the TAFF administration to Eric Bentcliffe, I feel free to nominate a TAFF candidate of my own. This I have already done. I've nominated. Ron Ellik because I believe his work in fandom proves him worthy of the honour of being chosen as TAFF delegate, because I believe that, should he win the ballot, he'll make an excellent delegate and because he's a thoroughly likeable person. Ron is far more modest than the engineered tone of mock superiority in *Fanac* would have one believe. He's a good mixer and would prove a most popular attendee at any convention.

For those who see *Skyrack* and *Fanac* constantly at one another's throats, I hasten to say that this isn't so. The editorial staff of both newszines, once personal pride is disregarded, admit *Skyrack* to be far superior, he says. There's a sort of unwritten understanding, and a most healthy one, that while we'll each try to scoop the other, we'll see that fandom itself doesn't suffer and news is sent quickly from one zine to the other. For example, last year Ron sent me the results of the *Fanac* poll by air *before* they were actually published in the *Fanac* Anniversary issue.

Whilst I have prided myself in the fact that *Skyrack* does not comment on news, but merely tries to present the facts per se, it would hardly be fair to Ron (the surname Ellik is pronounced Ee-lick) whose nomination I am so heartily supporting if I did not use the facilities of *Skyrack* to shout his worth and glory at every available opportunity. Accordingly, with *Skyrack* from now on, its a banner waving slogan of RON ELLIK, the fan's fan, FOR TAFF.

It might be hair splitting and I'd like to have opinions on the matter, but I'm surprised at a move taken by the Seattle fans who are putting on the 1961 World Convention. In raising the convention fees from two to three dollars, the group have once again kindly reduced the initial convention registration fee to \$1 for overseas fans who wish to join the convention without actually attending. However, should any overseas fans make the trip to the convention, which is extremely unlikely, they will have to pay

the additional \$2. This is not a lot of encouragement to make the trip. Whilst the additional two bucks is only fourteen shillings and a couple of coppers and is not going to break anyone, it puts the initial reduction on a charity basis with a nasty tang behind it. We're not interested in your attending our convention, it implies, but we are out to hook you for your dollar for literature alone; if you can afford to travel to Seattle, then you can afford the extra two dollars. This attitude, implied if not intended, is a far cry from the initial \$2 registration (\$1 to overseas fans) with the additional \$1 for each attendee, whether from home or abroad that might have been expected.

**Ron Bennett.**

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**Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund...** New campaign to bring US fan to 1962 British con. Nomination to Don Ford or Eric Bentcliffe. Closing date 30th November. Ron Ellik and Dick Eney already nominated. Dick Ellington not standing. Bentcliffe takes over administration from Bennett 1st November. \$140 already on hand, a great start. \*\*\* Ford's TAFF report on sale at \$1.25. Madle's TAFF report in preparation. Bentcliffe's report to be published by Norman Shorrock. More details next issue.

***Dream Quest 2*** (Peter Mansfield, 14 Whiteford Road, Slough, Bucks; Summer 1960; 28pp). This zine is of special interest to devotees of Burroughs but is likeable to the lay reader for its light touch. Peter presents his zine complete with dust cover because of a proposed title change. Best items are the editorial and "Who Will Take His Place?" by Frank Vernon Lay. With more attention paid to artwork, *Dream Quest* could become a British *Amra*.

***BSFA Newsletter 3*** (Jimmy Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E6. Free to members of BSFA). This third newsletter contains a little friendly chitchat from Jimmy and Ella Parker, a listing of items added to the BSFA Library and a listing of latest pbs to appear on the market. Riding along with the Newsletter is the first newsletter of the Young Science Fiction Readers Group, which hopes to encourage young fans. Interested youngsters should contact Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts.

***Northlight 11*** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2; undated; 32pp). Much of this issue is given over to well received informal editorial ramblings on a diary basis. It might be surprising to find such a critic of the former Inchmery fandom adopting the

diary format, but *Northlight* is no *Ape*. The issue also contains many interesting letter snippets on a variety of subjects, an article by Dick Schultz full of facts about the Detroit gang, a short piece on Gerfandom and a wonderfully analytical piece on Swedish fandom.

**Bunyip 1** (John Martin Baxter, 29 Gordon Road, Bowral, N.S.W., Australia: 1/- or 15¢; 33pp). The latest offering from Australia's leading light on the zinescene is a replacement in title only for his popular *Quantum*. It's a neat, light zine which reads well and makes for entertainment. Material by the editor (the piece on Blighty cartoons deserves a place in any "Best" anthology), Bruce "Whittington" Burn, Michael Baldwin, Mike Deckinger, Don Tuck and John N. Foyster. Loads of letters and a fanzine review column that describes Ella Parker as being "all sweetness and light."

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**Postcard Dept:** Card from Terry & Valerie Jeeves, S. Remo, Italy, followed by much appreciated wedding cake on their return home. Many thanks. \*\* Card from Neo-Beardnik Alan Rispin recently on hitch tour round Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, France and Austria. \*\* Card from Jugoslavia where 5 Shorrocks, Stan Nuttal, Marjorie Denton, Norman Weedall, Audrey Eversfield and Keith Freeman have been on holiday. One stamp unfranked. Want it back for re-use? \*\* Card from Egypt picturing Rome where sender Sandra Hall suggests we hold next con. \*\* Two cards from Dick Schultz from Pittcon signed by over 100 different fans. Many thanks, Dick.

**Publicity campaign.** Sent as a flier, and naturally free (though money would be appreciated) is 2nd issue of *Scotton Scribble*. Editor Colin Freeman asks for letters of comment, subscriptions, and most certainly contributions. You out there, respond!

For the record, *Skyrack* beat *Fanac* on Pittcon news, thanks to various spies and cables. *Fanac*, dated 4th Sept was mailed 7th, *Skyrack* dated 6th was mailed 5th.

Brian Jordan to be reached at 86 Piccadilly Rd, Burnley, Lancs. His 81 Crawford Rd, Sheffield address now completely invalid.

**News from London:** Ella Parker pleasantly surprised when Joe Patrizio rolled in. Everyone except Ella knew he was due and Ella says she wouldn't be surprised had I had the news on stencil before Joe actually reached London. Well, er... Joe has now begun work in London and is

sharing the flat with Ted Forsyth at 11 Ferndale Rd., SW 4. \* Mal & Sheila Ashworth spent a few days in London with the Potters. \* Bruce Burn has a job with the Graydon Bureau which also employs Ella and survived employing Ron Bennett. \* Sat 10th Sept saw a BSFA Committee meeting with Jim. Groves and Ella present and Archie Mercer and Peter Mabey getting into town. Meeting turned into a party with the arrival of the Potters, the Ashworths, Bruce Burn, Don Geldart, Ted and Joe and John Phillifent. \* Ian McAulay surprised everyone by showing up at Ella's one evening when by rights he should have been in Belfast. Until Xmas his address is c/o Walt Willis. \* Ella has been ill with ear trouble. Now happily recovered. \* Ella, Jimmy, Potters, Don and Brian Burgess went along to first Flying Saucer Convention ever held in Britain (Russell Hotel – ha!) – 24/25th September. Jimmy Groves sends along a programme, various pieces of duplicated literature and a draft editorial for *Vector* on the gathering, which he describes as a “nut cult”. I'll leave it to *Vector* and *Orion* to cover the event more fully. (EAP; JG)

**Archie Mercer** read last issue's account of Bruce Burn meeting and sends a cartoon idea, “You are Mr. Bruce Burn and I claim the *Skyrack* prize.” \*\*\* George Locke at present on holiday in Belfast. \*\*\* John McGovern due to be posted from Weston-super-Mare. Address reverts to c/o Jones, 51 Oxfangs Ave., Colinton, Edinburgh 13. John mentions rising radiation level and says he killed a 3" long spider on the camp last week. Genetic mutation marches on, he says. \*\*\* Ivor Mayne now living in Sweden. Bergviksvagen 45, Bromma, Sverige. \*\*\* Apologies to Arthur Thomson whose name was mistakenly left out of TAFF voting list a couple of issues back. \*\*\* Brian Aldiss now at Priory House, 12 Paradise Sq., Oxford. Mentions new collection, *Best of Gerald Kersh* (Heinemann 16/-), and the *Author's & Writers Who's Who* which lists Aldiss, Clarke, Maine and Asimov and the BSFA.

# ***Skyrack* #25, 31 October 1960**

This is *Skyrack* no. 25, dated 31st October 1960 and edited by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. USA subscriptions are 35¢ for 6 issues (6 issues airmailed for 65¢), money to be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon above is by Michael Evans. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed.

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**Fez Goes Wild.** Ethel Lindsay, fandom's representative at Surbiton's Royal Eye Hospital, has relinquished the editorship of the all femme fan fanzine, *Femazine*. *Fez* will now be in the hands of Bobbie Gray\*, 14 Bennington Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

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\* Née Wild, and hence the headline. – DRL.

**Vargo Statten Dead?** The "Liverpool Echo" recently reported that a Mr J.R. Fearn of South Shore, Blackpool, had collapsed and died suddenly, aged 52, whilst attending chapel. Eric Frank Russell first saw this report and tried to check with Ted Carnell who tells me that the age is about right and that the sf Fearn was a methodist. As things go, the report in the Echo may or may not have referred to our John Russel. Fearn.

**Ken & Irene Potter Have Moved.** And have joined carafandom, it seems. New address is Roydon Mill Caravan Centre, Roydon, Essex. \*\*\* Chris Miller now studying at Oxford. Address until Xmas: Christ Church (Peckwater 4-2), Oxford. That an address or a phone number, Chris?

**Recently, Pete Campbell,** late of the Lakeland. Circle and *Andromeda*. (Wonder how many people remember the "Every Issue Bigger" slogan?) has recently circulated a *Sectional Directory of Members of the Federation of East & West* containing names and addresses of several well known sf fans. I would have it known that I objected in strong terms to being included in this *Directory* and that Pete has apologised handsomely. I have been asked, however, to insert in *Skyrack* a disclaimer to the effect that neither Archie Mercer or Ella Parker beside myself has applied to join the Federation nor has each any intention of doing so.

**And My Apologies, Too!** Both Buz Busby and Boyd Raeburn have written to say that the Seattle group which is promoting the 1961 Worldcon had nothing whatsoever to do with the raising of the confee to

\$3 and that the matter was decided at the PittCon Business Meeting. Both parties, however, miss the point I was trying to make last issue. If anyone from outside the U.S. attends the con the difference to be paid in initial fees (if you like the “attendance fee”) is two dollars as against the dollar paid by Americans. Which doesn’t seem right to me. But, most certainly, apologies to all the Seattle Committee for blaming the cockeyed decision on them.

**A Little Late in Seeing Print** is the report sent by Rolf Gindorf on the August EUROTOPIA Convention, held in Vienna. Amongst attendees were Paul and Eleanor Turner and amongst the conducted business there was the inauguration of the first German-language apa, the Futurian Amateur News. Membership is forty.

**Lynn Hickman** says that there are still copies of the JD-A 10th Annish for sale. 3/6d. in Britain to Ron Bennett.

**There Appear to Be Several One Shots** either coming on the market or due in one way or another. These include four TAFF reports. Bob Madle’s **A FAKEFAN IN LONDON** is well on the way towards completion with Atom illos. Probably for sale at \$1.50 but no orders as yet.

My own report, *Colonial Excursion*, is also (at last) some steps towards seeing daylight in a completed form. Rewritten this will appear before the end the year. Pre-publication price is 5/- or 75¢ (US orders to Bob Pavlat). The kindly trusting souls who have already paid a dollar will have their two bits returned.

The Don Ford report is being mailed out by Don (Box 19-T, RR-2, Wards Corner Rd, Loveland, Ohio) at \$1.25 in two halves. The first half is ready and the 2nd half will be mailed free of charge to those taking the first half. This 2nd portion should be ready late next month.

Eric Bentcliffe is working on his report, which will be published by Norman Shorrock. Further details as they become available.

Dick Eney made a mistake, he writes, in announcing that the additions and corrections addenda to *Fancy II* was 2/-. It is 1/6d and is available from Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Ella Parker is still casting round for Atom illos to appear in the *Atom Anthology*. Rush! This may be your last chance. Much material is already on stencil.

**Femizine 15** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave, Surbiton,

Surrey). With this issue of the all-femmefan fanzine *Fez*, Ethel, who has had a hard time soliciting material of a high enough standard to ensure her own enthusiasm, has decided to retire from the editorial chair. This issue ties up the loose strings with a number of interesting letters but also contains an article on women in fandom by Daphne Buckmaster and an outstandingly worthwhile article by Joyce Slater. Also from Ethel come two issues of a fanzine review substitute, *Haverings*.

**Les Spinge 3** (Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm. Rd, Stourbridge, Worcs. 46pp. 1/-) The organ of the Stourbridge & District Circle seems to have passed entirely into the property box of Ken Cheslin, who makes a pretty good job of this improved issue. There are still many typos and signs of the magazine being flung together without thought of layout but the material is readable and quite entertaining. Worth the price of the zine in itself is the opus by George Locke which combines the post-bomb world of *World, Flesh & the Devil* with the London Symposium of last. If it's late in making an appearance, that is my fault – I sat on the piece for over 6 months before passing it to Ken. Mike Deckinger and Dick Schultz are other outside contributors and Ken writes another episode in the SADO Saga.

**Vector 9** (Jim Groves, 29 Lathom Rd, East Ham, London E.6). This is the September issue of the official organ of the BSFA and once again Jim shows that he is an able editor. Once again the magazine has improved and now ranks with the Bentcliffe-Jeeves *Vectors* for the first time since that pair left the BSFA editorial chair. Apart from official news and reports, this issue contains a news-from-151\* column by Ella Parker, a letter from Joe Patrizio, an item on index compiling by Doc Weir, book news from a Ken Slater who is sadly missed here in *Skyrack*, a reprint of an Arthur Clarke story, book reviews and letters... oh, a real hatful of goodies. (Does one get goodies in a hat, Jim?)

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\* As published many times in *Skyrack*, Ella Parker's street address was 151 Canterbury Road. – DRL.

**Esprit Vol 2 No. 2** (Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan St., Kirkcudbright, Scotland. Oct 60. 42pp. 1/3d). *Esprit* has very quickly stepped into mature spot left vacant by *New Futurian*. In addition to several thoughtful letters on advertising, status seeking, wonder, solitude and intelligence there are also equally thoughtful (and thought provoking) articles on The Future of SF (by John Rackham), History, Fandom & SF, Psychosomatics and the senses. Highly recommended.

I would like, when space allows, to mention an occasional Stateside zine which is worthy of recommendation. First off is the extremely neatly produced *I Palantir*, the official publication of the Fellowship of the Ring. This is edited by Ted Johnstone in the USA and is obtainable in Britain from Ken Cheslin (address above in *Les Spinge* review), 1/9 per issue or 5 for 7/-. Contains material by Doc Weir, Dick Eney, Ted Johnstone & George Heap. Definitely recommended to Tolkein fans. \*\*\* *Speculative Review* has just seen its 4th issue, an up to date listing of the latest in sf with a break down and criticism of each story. Definitely indispensable, obtainable from Dick Eney in the US or by sending 2/- to Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. \*\*\* Also indispensable of course is *Fanac*, now completely in the hands of Terry & Miri Carr. Also obtainable from Archie Mercer. Sub now @ 2/- for 4 before the rates increase.

**London Has Been Reasonably Quiet Lately** but the weekly BSFA social evenings at Ella Parker's have been moving along nicely and there was a SFCL party at the Penitentiary over the weekend 22/23 October to celebrate Fred Parker's birthday. Arthur Thomson brought along a specially written verse-card and Bill Temple brought cigars. Joe Patrizio brought Ted Forsyth and other attendees were Ethel Lindsay, Elizabeth Humbey, Don Geldart, Jim Groves, Bruce Burn, Ron Bennett, George Locke and Brian Burgess. The party broke up about noon on Sunday and needless to say AGTWHBA. \*\*\*\* Other SFCL news is that Brian Burgess, Bruce Burn and Joe Patrizio are new members, that the club has purchased a Gestetner for members' own personal use and that next Easter will see a second club Combozine. Edited by Ethel, this will include items by all members. Honorary members, I'm told, will not be pressed to contribute, but material from them would nevertheless be welcome.

**Tony Klein** recently spent a week and a half demonstrating Tec Tools in a Leeds store. He spent some time at the home of Michael and Betty Rosenblum and I managed to get to see him one evening before I travelled down to the Smoke. These demonstrators are a fandom in themselves. Poor Tony was dead on his feet and we kept his eyes open with beer bottle tops.

**Alan Rispin and Jim Linwood** are still marching in the CND cause. 15th October saw them tramp from Coleby to Lincoln (actually Alan had missed his hitch-hiking connection, writes Archie Mercer, and he joined the march for the last couple of hundred yards. A pity Felix isn't around these days; he'd come in useful. Jhim, incidentally, states that Nottingham

fandom is now three, Bob Parkinson and John Dyke having enrolled at Notts. University. They are meeting every Wednesday at the Bell on King Street.

**Late News** is that Don Franson has also jumped in to champion the It's Not Seattle's Fault cause, so I'll apologise once again. Don also supports the RON ELLIK FOR TAFF cause which makes him a member of the In Group \*\*\* Liverpool group sent card from Italy mentioning that Audrey Eversfield has been sold on the installment plan. Norman Shorrocks has had Croatian flu but this is now clearing.

# ***Skyrack* #26, 26 November 1960**

This is ***Skyrack* no 26**, dated **26th November 1960** and edited by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. USA subscriptions are 35¢ for 6 issues (airmailed for 65¢), to be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fans welcomed.

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**The 1961 LXIcon Site** is announced as The New County Hotel, Southgate Street, Gloucester. This will be the West Country's first convention and the con committee are going great guns in order to put on a balanced and enjoyable programme and series of events. Full details on how to book, convention fees etc are given in the convention's first Newsletter which is included in this little bundle as a flier to *Skyrack*.

**OMPA Ex-Editor Says It's Almost Like Old Times.** There are so many fliers to this issue of *Skyrack* that it's almost impossible to list them all. Somewhere around you should find, the BSFA Convention newsletter mentioned above, the latest *mi* from Eric Bentcliffe and the third *Scribble* from Colin Freeman, who thanks all the fans who wrote and commented on the previous issue. Why not write and tell Colin what you think of this latest offering, hmm? Incidentally, as you may gather, *Skyrack* welcomes fliers. 13 sheets can go out for the same 2d postage rate, so why shouldn't we make use of the hitherto unused weight?

**Ron Bennett** is still looking for photographs taken during his 1958 TAFF trip. He'll pay all costs of course. As you'll see from *mi* Eric is interested in similar photographs.

**Liverpool Fandom** had only a "quiet party" on 5th November, reports Norman Shorrock. Eight fans took Roy Shorrock to his local boy scout bonfire at which cocoa was served as refreshment. Norman had taken vodka along, however, and says that the highlight of the evening was a spectacular display when a lighted banger got itself lodged in a box of unfired fireworks. Norman, incidentally, is now in London on business and is spending the week at the Parker Penitentiary, perhaps even putting out *Orion*, which Ella says is due to be finished this week with its thick letter supplement.

**Doc Weir** writes on recent publications: “Newspaper reviews suggest the following as being of interest:

“*The Papers of Andrew Melmoth* by H. Sykes Davis (Methuen 16/) Melmoth finds the animals that are to succeed mankind as lords of creation – goes to investigate further and disappears. Colleague comments ‘A man can’t go over to *them*, not and *stay* as a man!’ Olaf Stapledon also suggested these ‘successors’ in *Darkness and the Light*, 1942 wasn’t it? ((John Roles?)).

“*Doctors Wear Scarlet* by Simon Raven (Blond 16/-) Bloodthirsty semi-supernatural tale of Wheatley-Lovecraft type. University classical tutor, specializing in decadent religious cults of later Greece tries to put into practice what he has learnt, first in Cambridge, then in Crete. Seemingly something like Meade Faulkner’s *Lost Stradivarius*. Suggest somebody gives them a trial.” Many thanks, Doc.

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### ***Epitaff***

Eric Bentcliffe’s report of his TAFF trip to the PittCon is now in preparation. The Price is 7/- (not 7/6d. as announced last issue) or \$1 Ed Emshwiler has done the cover and Eddie Jones will be illustrating the bulk of the account.

### ***Colonial Excursion***

Ron Bennett’s report of his 1958 TAFF trip to the SolaCon is now in preparation. Pre-publication price is 5/- or 75¢ (U.S. orders to Bob Pavlat) and this 80+ page epic (ha!) will be ready by 1961. Two colour duplicating and photographs yet, we hope, we hope.

### **Order Now!**

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### **Who’s Who in British Fandom No. 1 – George Locke**

If fannish ability counted with military authorities, George Locke would be pushing the rank of field-marshal. In three short years George has sprung to the fore in British fandom and his writings are without doubt an acquisition to any fanzine in which they appear. George, who was born on 9th February 1936 (he stands 5' 10" and weighs just over 12 stones), came into fandom about the time of the London World Convention in 1957 and was content for over a year to sit on the sidelines at Globe meetings in London, merely drinking in the fannish atmosphere and grounding himself

in fannish history. Suddenly, in 1959, he burst forth as an actifan with his own fanzine *Smoke* as well as competing with John Berry in prolific writing. Apart from the 1957 Worldcon he attended the 1959 BrumCon in Birmingham but was prevented by an untimely callup from appearing at this year's LonCon. He was voted one of the best new fans in last year's *Fanac* poll. George possesses a most enviable balance of puckish humour and mature seriousness. His OMPazine *Eyetracks* is devoted in the main to items from his fabulous book collection. A thoroughly nice guy who is an asset to British fandom. – RMB.

**Hyphen 25** (Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd, Belfast 4, N. Ireland; Nov 1960; 26pp; 1/- or 15¢). The Irish green makes an appearance with a special "Homes & Garden Issue." Eight pages are given over to material originally intended for the Turner-Needham *Now & Then* and which has obviously been too good to lie in limbo. The Needham prose, Turner illos and Berry and Bloch items give *Hyphen* a great follow up to the detailed Atom cover (It is, I think, a generally accepted viewpoint in fandom that Atom's cartoons are the best and that Atom's cartoons in *Hyphen* are better!). There's no Grunch this issue, unfortunately, but there is a Glass Bushel from Bob Shaw (who doesn't seem to get out of practice) and of course there are the usual run of high standard letters and bacover quotes. This issue indeed welcomes back to the zine scene after too long an absence the undisputed king of British fanzines. *Skyrack* supports the Ian McAulay project of more *Hyphens*... every month? Highly recommended.

**Smoke 4** (Cpl. George Locke, 3 Co RAMC, Connaught Hospital, Bramshott, Hindhead, Surrey; Nov 1960; 44pp; 1/- or 15¢) This has indeed been a good month for British fanzines, qualitywise, as they say. Perhaps it's good thing that only *Hyphen* and *Smoke* have appeared since the last *Skyrack*, for I'm fast depleting my stock of superlatives. *Smoke* has steadily been improving and this issue is even better than the last. George describes his army job and discusses science fiction in his editorial, LockeJaw. Archie Mercer contributes The Night They Hanged The Sputnik, a light account of a Lincoln Interplanetary Exhibition. John Berry discovers a fannish face in Belfast and Dick Schultz writes further on the Detroit MiSFits. A surprise contribution is that from Ella Parker on a corner of the London scene (Ella should of course, write more for fanzines – yes, so OK, you're busy getting out another bumper issue of *Orion* this week. Jack!). Bob Lichtman writes on the filming of Lee Jacobs' *Ballard Chronicles*. A professional reprint, pages of letters and Cawthorn and

Thomson illos make up the issue. Arthur Thomson drew both front and back covers, George tells us. You see what you'd be missing if you didn't subscribe to *Smoke*?

The above blotchy space is a result of an item being killed at the last minute. My apologies to both *Skyrack*'s readers. And no, you're wrong. I'll play fair and mention the above as soon as I'm allowed to do so. Pcha! The trials and tribulations of newszine editing, and like that.

**Also on Hand** is the 4th issue of the *BSFA Newsletter* from Jim Groves, internal news dealing mainly with postal ballots.

**No**, I didn't forget the cartoon caption, Chris. Chris Miller drew the illo and a 6 issue subscription is offered to the fan contributing the funniest caption. Closing date 31st Dec.

**Buy a Fellow Fan a Christmas Subscription!** 6 issue gift subscription. 2/-. Offer ends 20th December.

Note of Chris Miller reminds me that he visited the SFCL 6th November meeting and says that his Christ Church, Oxford address is good, not until Xmas, but to 5th Dec.

**Changes of Address Are Also Noted For:** Sture Sedolin, P0 Box 9040, Boden 19, Sweden. (Box 403, Vallingby 4 is also good). Julian Parr, 22c Koln-Rodenkirkchen, Hauptstrasse 66, Germany. John T. Phillifent, 103 Clem Attlee Court, London SW 6.

**Northlight** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2) isn't out, but editor Alan has just published an interim apology, *Keeping Posted*, 16 pages (an apology?) of letters and fanzine reviews in a pretty free and easy casual manner which is wholly different and much more acceptable than the more stolid personality of *Northlight*.

### **Letters!**

*Jim Groves*, London. "*Skyrack* 25 has it wrong. We haven't got a Gestetner. It's an Emgee portable (ex-Ethel Lindsay). In fact, at the time you published we hadn't bought it. Consider your knuckles rapped!"  
Ouch! Yes, sir, sorry sir!

*Joe Patrizio*, London. “Ella tells us that you may come down for Christmas. Ted and I are filled with joy at the thought and remembering the gay time we had on your last visit we have decided to go home to Edinburgh for Christmas.” Yes.

# ***Skyrack* #27, 27 December 1960**

This is *Skyrack* 27, dated 27th December 1960 and edited by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. USA subscriptions are 35¢ for 6 issues (65¢ airmail) to be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon by MikEvans.

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## **A Happy 1961 to All Fans Everywhere!**

**Science Fiction Club of London** held its Xmas party Sunday 18th., at the home of Ella and Fred Parker. Bruce Burn brought along a gift laden Xmas tree. George Locke got a whacking great chisel labelled "staple remover". Brian Burgess went to sleep after imbibing large orange juice. Bill Temple was given instruction on how to use an electric Gestetner and the evening was rounded off by a lift home on Bruce's scooter. Food and drink were plentiful and turkey was the main dish of the evening. Present were Ted Tubb, Pam & Ken Bulmer, Sid Bounds, Bill Temple, Bruce Burn, Ted Forsyth, Joe Patrizio, Jim Groves, George Locke, Ethel Lindsay, Ken & Irene Potter, Brian Burgess, Don Geldart.... (EAP)

**Change of Address** Michael Evans, 76 Romney Dr., N. Harrow, Mdx.

**Ex-Leading Lights of British Fandom**, Joy & Sandy Sanderson say that they're withdrawing from active fandom for 6-8 months because of mundane commitments. They are soon to move into their own apartment and Sandy is starting a 4-nights a week school course. *Ape* material which would date is being returned to authors. Resumption of publication intended for later in year.... (HPS)

**Brian Jordan** (86 Piccadilly Rd, Burnley, Lancs) wishes to contact a member of SFBC who doesn't wish to use the chance of taking the Dec bonus *Lord of the Rings*. \*\*\* *BSFA Newsletter* 5 is out, a neat job from Jim Groves. \*\*\* Thanks, Betty Kujawa, for Cinerama card from Pompano Beach, Florida. \*\*\* South African Ellis Fasser due in this country shortly.

**TAFF** The 1961/62 Transatlantic Fan Fund is getting nice and ready to

collect money to bring over an American fan to the 1962 British Convention. Whilst nominations closed at the end of last month, voting forms will not be ready until early in the new year. As far as is known here there are only two candidates, Dick Eney and Ron Ellik (*Skyrack* and Harrogate fandom supports Ellik), which will probably mean that there will be one place only to fill in on the voting form, We'll see next month, no doubt. Meanwhile, 1960 TAFF delegate to the PittCon, Eric Bentcliffe, is pressing on with publishing his trip report, *Epitaff*. Pre-publication orders from Eric at 47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire @ 7/- or \$1. Another report in preparation is my own *Colonial Excursion*. All text is now on stencil and several sheets have been run off. Art work will be by Arthur Thomson and there should be, if plans work out, two colour Gestetner duplicating and photos scattered around the place. Indeed had Kodak not taken over 6 weeks in turning colour slides into b&w negatives, the report would now be ready. Pre-publication price remains @ 5/- or 75¢ (US orders to Bob Pavlat).

**The 1961 LXIcon** will take place over Easter weekend at the New County Hotel, Southgate Street, Gloucester. This is the West Country's first convention and the Cheltenham fans hope that you'll attend. I've already sent *my* booking... how about *you* out there, hmm? Bob Parkinson (52 Mead Rd, Cheltenham, Glos.) announces that the last date for copy for the programme booklet advert is 31st January, so if you're intending to advertise your wares or/and greetings, get cracking on those adverts NOW! Advertising rates are as follows: Full page (10" x 8") 10/-, Full page cut on own stencil 7/6d, Full page, photostencilled 25/-, Half page 5/-, Half page photostencilled 15/-, Quarter page booster ads 2/6d. Keith Freeman asks that when filling in your application form you might indicate whether you're willing to share a room. Costs will be the same, but more fans will be able to put up in the New County (Three other hotels have been provisionally booked to take the overflow of fans expected). Keith, who has recently been promoted to the rank of sergeant adds sorrowfully that he regrets there are no female films stars available. And just to round things off, Eric Jones sends a reminder that whilst Keith's address for convention items is 44 Barbridge Rd., Hesters Way, Cheltenham, Glos (and applications for rooms must be sent to Keith there), other mail for Keith should be sent to him at his RAF posting. Note that Keith's promotion means that his address is now 4187447 Sgt. Freeman K., Sgts Mess, RAF Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts.

**Eric Jones** also slipped in a couple of items to keep us up with the

comings and goings of the St. Fantony home group. “This winter will be a warmer one for Cheltenham members,” Eric writes, “who have until recently been forced to wear overcoats and blankets.” A kindly G.I. sold a Sears Roebuck Oil Burning Heater before he returned home to the States. Heat now supplied to the tune of 250,000 B.T.U. (American rating) (Thinks: A.T.U.?). The CSFC recently had a second outing to Stratford’s Shakespeare Memorial Theatre to see *The Taming of the Shrew*.

**Eldritch Dreamquest 1** (Nov 60; Peter Mansfield, 14 Whiteford Rd., Slough, Bucks.; 1/-; 5/- or \$1 for 5) I’m somewhat in doubt as to why Peter is charging Stateside fen a buck for 5 issues. This is *Dreamquest* with a new title and a new policy. Jim Cawthorn has a cover here and Roy Morgans and Mike Thompson contribute some good straight artwork. Doc Weir writes on Tolkein, Peter writes on Dunsany and Mike Moorcock contributes a short story. If you’re interested in Dunsany, Tolkein or the Conan branch of fantasy, this British *Amra* is obviously for you.

**Les Spinge 4** (Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Rd., Stourbridge, Worcs; 1/;40pp). In this latest offering from the Stourbridge group’s one man show, Doc Weir sets a Jeeves story in Harrogate and Kettering, Rory Faulkner writes on the Mt. Wilson Observatory, Dick Schultz rambles on about Timoshenko, Jhim Linwood reviews fanzines and various readers write letters. This is not vintage Cheslin, who is virtually absent from the issue but the overall atmosphere of wild abandon is refreshing.

**Orion 26** (Ella A Parker, 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London NW 6; 1/; 81pp) is the best of the British bunch to roll along this month, with its excellent balance of fine reporting and worthwhile reading. Layout and duplicating are of the usual high standard, much credit for which is obviously due to Arthur Thomson who produced the headings and the cover for the letter supplement (*Orion* is getting so bulky these days that Ella wears out her staplers and so issues the letters as a special supplement). The magazine cover is by Joe Patrizio, a very worthy first time effort. The zine kicks off with a lengthy Parker editorial, the best piece of writing yet seen from Ella, and one which is faithful in word and spirit to the wild and wonderful fannish summer I experienced in London this year. Here are 12 pages of *meaty* material no fan should be without. Thrown in as bonus material are an article on ants by Jim Groves, a short piece on children by Rory Faulkner, the so far best and most analytical of Ken Bulmer’s TAFF Tales, pages of fnz reviews by Arthur Thomson (who combines sense with a light touch), yet another highly readable Sergeant saga from John Berry, the first part of Andy Young’s “European Pumble”

account, a piece on creative writing by Harry Warner, instruction on how to draw curly monsters from Atom, a lovely piece of reporting by Fred Hunter (*O's man on the spot*) and a column by Sid Birchby. There are millions of letters and needless to say, praise for the zine is virtually boundless. Highest recommendation.

Whilst recommending fanzines, there have been two worthwhile zines in from the States during the past month, namely *Dafoe* (John Koning, Pardee Hall, Box 555, Case Institute of Technology, 10904 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 6, Ohio, USA) which is worth getting hold of for its humorous pokes at life as we knew it (before reading *Dafoe*). *Dafoe*, incidentally, stands for The Decline and Fall of Everything. And *Habakkuk* (Bill Donaho, 1441 8th St., Berkeley 10, California, USA) which runs out at 50¢ a copy and is well worth the expense reaching to 115 pages, the thickest fanzine for years. *Habakkuk* also knocks life, but is a little more serious in tone than *Dafoe*. 115 pages! Gee!

I am still chasing photos taken during my 1958 TAFF trip to the USA. Some of these would fit nicely into the *Colonial Excursion* report. I've twice written to one west coast fan who took photos at the SolaCon, but haven't had a word from him. Anyone else got pictures of Matheson and Donaho at the SolaCon in particular?

I (and one or two other fans) loved that piece about *Skyrack* in a recent issue of Terry and Miri Carr's *Fanac*. Terry writes, "Bennett claims his zine is better than *Fanac*, but admits that he doesn't opionate on the news he prints." Well, I'll break a long standing habit this time and try to explain that there is no "but" about it. That refusal to opionate, Terry, (he says, flicking the ash from his cigar) is precisely *why Sky* is better than *Fanac*. You dig?

**I Aim at the Stars**, with Curt Jurgens playing von Braun, hasn't gone down too well. One paper's review ran, "The wartime purveyor of mass death becomes leader of America's peacetime space programme – to an accompaniment of a few tut-tuts and forgiving cheers. Romance and palm court music complete the atmosphere of phoniness." Pity old Errol Flynn wasn't still with us when it was made.

**Norman Shorrocks** spent a week a month ago with Ella and Fred Parker while down in London on business. Each evening, Norman and Ella went off visiting fans or seeing Cinerama or the like, and every evening the Ferndale Road boys paid a surprise visit. It was the Friday before they eventually got to see Norman. Incidentally, there are two tangential items

leading from this. Bruce Burn has now moved in with Ted Forsyth and Joe Patrizio at 11 Ferndale Rd., London SW 4. And it's noted with pleasure that Norman is now no longer the only fan who gives away stamps with his wares; the Nov. FAPA mailing sent its British members a copy each of the 1957 46th Parliamentary Conference stamp.

**1961**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #28, 29 January 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 28, dated 29th January, 1961 and edited by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d. for 6 issues. USA subscriptions are 35¢ for six issues (65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) to be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd. Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon on left printed, with acknowledgements to "Blighty Parade". Archie Mercer was the farsighted clipping agent concerned.

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**Elder Fan Emigrating \*\*\* George Locke Posted \*\*\* Addition to Potter Family \*\*\* SFCoL's New Chairman \*\*\* New *Fan Directory*, *Smoke*, *Hyphen* \*\*\* *Skyrack* Poll-Time Again \*\*\* Harp That Once Or Twice Revived**

Once again *Skyrack* rides through the post along with a fund of more interesting items. The voting forms for the 1961 TAFF campaign, a straight fight between *Skyrack*'s choice Ron Ellik and Washington's Dick Eney, are included, as are voting forms for the second *Skyrack* poll. A record return in order to assess the true merits of British fandom would be nice. Non-apa zines which appeared from British fans during 1960 were: *Northlight*, *Vector*, *The Fan Directory*, *Orion*, *Aporrheta*, *Triode*, *Skyrack* and *Skyhack*, *Panac*, *Hyphen*, *Retribution*, *Femizine*, *Brennschluss*, *The SFCoL Combozine*, *Space Diversions*, *SFN*, *Les Spinge*, *Dream Quest*, *Smoke*, *Sidereal*, *Foop*, *Trial*, *Hobo*, *Esprit*, and *Bastion*.

Eric Bentcliffe's *mi* is back, as is Colin Freeman's *Scribble*. Colin mentions how much he appreciates letters from fans, To round off the bundle there should also be a sheet from Ella Parker, and who can say whether other fliers will arrive before the bundle is posted?

**Karen Elizabeth Potter** born to Irene Potter (nee Gore), wife of *Brennschluss* editor Ken Potter. 6am 19th Jan in Clapton. 8 lbs 10 oz, length 221". Ethel Lindsay reported to be handing over Fez to London's youngest, newest fan. (AT; BB; EAP; GL)

**Much Admired Elder Fan Paul Enever** is emigrating with wife and family in June. Destination is Adelaide, Australia. Paul of course is the old time fan who reappeared on the fan scene in the early fifties after a lengthy spell of gafia. Under his editorship *Orion* achieved fame in its bimonthly

regularity, its lively letter columns and some of the first Atom illos

**The 2nd Newsletter of the LXIcon Has Appeared**, with a map of the convention district in Gloucester and details of the convention's fancy dress ball, slide show and pro film spots on the programme. Over forty fans have already registered as convention members. Personally, I'd recommend the convention on the value of Don Ford's slides alone. If you haven't already booked, why not write Keith Freeman, c/o 44 Barbridge Road, Hester's Way, Cheltenham, Glos., for details?

**LXIcon Programme Booklet Advert** copy should be with Bob Parkinson, 52 Mead Road, Cheltenham, Glos. by 4th Feb. Rates are 10/- full page or 7/6d if precut on own stencil, half page 7/-, quarter page 2/6d. Photostencilled adverts at 25/- full page, 15/- half page.

**Further on the Con....** The time is Easter weekend, the place The New County Hotel, Gloucester (all bookings, however, through Keith Freeman). Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison are among the famous names who have already registered. Items for auction (mark AUCTION on outside of parcel) should be sent to Bob Parkinson. It is hoped that there will also be a TAFF auction, whilst another TAFF item will be a talk by Eric Bentcliffe on his trip to the World Convention in Pittsburgh last September when he was Britain's delegate. Eric also hopes to repeat his highly successful "This Is Your (Fan) Life" item this year. It could be *your* turn to suffer the fate of victim this year! Doc Weir notes that the New County is practically on the doorstep of the Old County Jail! (ARW; EB)

**In Preparation....** *Epitaff* (7/- or \$1 from Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) and *Colonial Excursion* (prepublication price of 5/- or 75¢ from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat)... two bulky complete reports of two Stateside TAFF trips.

**The England Cricket Team** will be sadly depleted in its test series against Australia this summer, for that outstanding fielder of the Middleton-on-Sea epic game last August; George Locke, has been posted abroad. George, the keen brain behind such outstanding publications as *Smoke*, *Eyetracks*, *Skyhack* and *Panac*, is at present on a fortnight's embarkation leave, reporting on 6th February for a posting to Nairobi, Kenya. George threatens a column called "The Prose of Kilimanjaro", and notes that his Crookham address listed in *Smoke* no longer applies.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** had its AGM on Sunday, 15th January at Courage House, Surbiton. Surprise attendee was country

member Paul Enever, whose proposed emigration is reported on the front page. Chris Miller, at university in Oxford, has joined the Club. At the elections for the new Committee, Ethel Lindsay, well known for her work on *Femizine* and in OMPA, was voted in as Chairman. Ted Forsyth and Jimmy Groves were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Visitors to the meeting were Olive Thomson and former wheels of British fandom Frances Evans and Brian Varley. It is reported that Brian Burgess gained Heather Thomson's vote of confidence – 2½ year old Heather kissed him! (EAP; AT)

***The Directory of 1960 Science Fiction Fandom.*** This is the 6th annual listing and contains the up to date whereabouts of over 500 fans the world over, listing addresses, tape recorder owners and more telephone numbers than ever before. Arthur Thomson contributes another excellent cover. *The Directory* will be included in the 94th (February 1961) FAPA mailing and will be issued free on request, while supplies last, to members of OMPA. 1/6d from Ron Bennett or 25¢ from Bob Pavlat.

***Hyphen 26*** (Jan 61; Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 24pp; 1/- or 15¢) If two months ago British fandom was applauding the welcome return of *Hyphen* further jubilation is obviously now due, for Ian's enthusiasm makes it obvious that *Hyphen* is once again a "regular". This issue, again up to the expected excellent standard, features a Bob Shaw cover cartoon. Ian writes on James White and Jimmy writes an account of a trip to see Ian and Johnny Hautz. Bob Shaw's Glass Bushel deals with aerial combat. There are 9 pages of letters, too. If you don't take *Hyphen*, you should.

**Whilst on the Subject of Walt Willis**, its noteworthy that his Stateside column, "The Harp That Once Or Twice", that legend from the golden days of sixth fandom, has been revived. The lucky magazine is a superbly duplicated 42 page *Warhoon* from Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York 14, N.Y., U.S.A. This zine is circulated through SAPS but is of tremendous interest to all fans, dealing as it does with such a diversity of subjects. The rates are \$1 for 5 issues. No British agent is listed but I dare say that money you sent Walt would find its way to Dick. Walt's column, by the way, is in the main a never-to-be-forgotten piece on... well, why not try it?

***Smoke 5*** (Jan 61; George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW 1; 1/- or 15¢; 52pp) You can't keep a good fan down and George has come up with another issue which rates him in the front

rank of fanzine publishers. Whilst this issue lacks the usual amount of interior artwork, it is full of excellent humour balanced by meaty serious discussion, an example of which is George's own editorial on SF in fanzines. George Spencer contributes fan fiction. John Berry pleases with a party report – a mundane party. Don Geldart wraps corny jokes in a tasty packet (practically professional treatment). The professional reprint department is here, as are cartoons, letters and fanzine reviews. An anonymous column forecasts fandom's 1961 in a brilliant manner that would be outstanding in many a fanzine, but top honours go to a wonderful write up on the wartime fanzine, *Futurian*, by Sid Birchby. Highly recommended, or could you guess?

**Bunyip 2** (John Martin Baxter, 29 Gordon Road, Bowral, NSW, Australia; 1/;31pp) A pleasantly edited fanzine with contributions by Alan Dodd, Mike Deckinger, Don Tuck, John Foyster and Bob Smith. Extremely readable, without being outstanding. Editor John Baxter accuses me of writing charitable reviews, which really isn't true – can I help it if there's so much good material around?

**There Was a Blank Space** in *Skyrack* two issues back when a publicity item was killed at the last minute. This concerned the formation of what is virtually a new apa, the International Publishers' Speculative Organisation, founded by John Berry (who will handle the American contributions) and George Locke. John and George had circularised fandom in order to sound out opinions on the formation of an apa that published its contributions in one combined volume, which discussed a common theme each mailing and which did not provide for mailing comments. Obviously, by their note of secrecy John and George did not sound too confident, but fandom has stilled their fears, and IPSO has been formed, with 28 members, and 2 vacant places at the time of writing. George's posting to Kenya has led to his handing over control to Ted Forsyth and Joe Patrizio (11 Ferndale Road, London SW 4).

**There Was a Liverpool Party Atmosphere** about this month's BSFA Committee meeting at the Higher Bebington home of Norman and Chairman Ina Shorrocks. Apart from officers Ella Parker, Archie Mercer, Peter Mabey and Jimmy Groves, Joe Patrizio and George Locke were neutral observers and Stan Nuttall, John Owen and Eddie Jones also turned up to make the weekend a social occasion. Fan filming was the order of the day, with the ~~monsters~~ children dragging Ella out of the house with unconcealed zeal and enthusiasm. (EAP) The gang sent me a postcard of an Egyptian scene. "Not *that* sort of Egyptian postcard" cracked. Jimmy

Groves.

**Flashes....** Betty Kujawa, patron saint of British fandom, will be on holiday in the Caribbean shortly so don't expect speedy replies to those letters, boys. There is *no* truth in the rumour that she is to seize a Portuguese ship on behalf of TAFF.... Prolific SF writer John Taine (Dr. Eric Temple Bell) died late December in California, report both Jimmy Groves and *Fanac*.... house gate in Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, now features Atom-style layout.... Doc Weir reminds me that the old rule "i before e" applies to Tolkien's name, too.... Sture Sedolin reports on a recent meeting in Stockholm with Ivor Mayne.... *Haverings 3* reviewzine, in from Ethel Lindsay.... Vinç Clarke wishes to thank the anonymous fan who sent Nicki an extraordinarily large, new, toy monkey at Xmas.... Ron Bennett spent another thoroughly enjoyable time in London recently, a fortnight over New Year, thanks to the generosity of Ella Parker.... Eric Bentcliffe due in London for a couple of days shortly.

# ***Skyrack* #29, 27 February 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 29, dated 27th February 1961 and edited by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent by Air) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to SF fans always welcomed. Cartoon by Don Allen.

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## **Amis for LXIcon**

Whilst it has long been known that the Cheltenham gang which is organising this year's Easter Convention (The Gloucester LXIcon) possesses a wealth of originality, enterprise and imagination, it is highly pleasing to note that they are not waiting until the convention itself (Good Friday – Easter Monday) to impress us with these qualities. The first announcement of note and importance, as you'll see from the Newsletter which is included as a flier to this *Skyrack*, is that Kingsley Amis is to be the LXIcon's Guest of Honour. I believe that this is the first time in the history of sf fandom that a main stream writer who has but dabbled in sf has been invited to a convention in this honoured capacity and the move certainly reflects the committee's enterprise.

Brian Jordan reports that Mr. Amis' name is cropping up in other literary journals apart from *Skyrack*... The *Scientific American*, The *Times Literary Supplement*, and it is also noted that following a TV interview early in the month, Mr Amis was interviewed on sound radio (BBC Home) on Sat 25th ("World of Books") re *New Maps of Hell*.

**Other News on the LXIcon** can be gleaned from the enclosed flier. The programme appears to be shaping up nicely... fan films, the Don Ford slide-show, *Forbidden Planet*, Eric Bentcliffe's TAFF talk and "This Is Your (Fan) Life" (It could be *you!*), auctions, the fancy dress ball. Gee, but I'm glad I'm booked in!

There evidently will be three auctions this year in aid of different funds. I've agreed to run the TAFF auction and hope for some original cover art work from Nova publications. Stateside fan, Lynn Hickman, has donated 5

two-year subscriptions for his Hugo-nominated fanzine *JD-Argassy* and I'm now throwing these open to a pre-con postal ballot (The top-price on each subscription will of course then become the reserve price at the convention. If convention bidders fail to meet this reserve, the postal bidder will take the subscription. Stateside fen especially may be interested in this deal?).

**Epitaff** is the name of Eric Bentcliffe's booklet account of his 1960 TAFF trip to the Pittsburgh Worldcon. This production is now almost ready for publication, I've had the pleasure of seeing a sample of this work and I certainly look forward to reading the entire report. 7/- or \$1. All profits to TAFF.

**Colonial Excursion**, my own TAFF trip report, is also nearing completion. While there has been no apparent rivalry between Eric and I, it's surprising the way that our reports have paralleled one another in production. C.E. also sells for 7/- or \$1 with a pre-publication price of 5/- or 75¢.)

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**The Directory of 1960 SF Fandom** containing the addresses of over 500 fans is circulated free to members of OMPA and is included in the February FAPA mailing. Non-OMPAnS and non-FAPAnS may obtain copies from either Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat for 1/6d or 25¢.

**Fliers....** once again *Skyrack* has its share of fliers, the LXIcon report, Eric Bentcliffe's latest *mi*, and two sheets from Archie Mercer on camping and TAFF. This last named sheet has given my sense of ethics a bad shake, for I'm wholly in support of RON ELLIK FOR TAFF and I hope that I'm not drawing support away from him by circulating this sheet for Archie.

**George Locke** is now in Nairobi on his latest army posting. Before leaving England, George came up to Harrogate for the weekend the last *Skyrack* was issued and included a lengthy flier of his own. We looked round all sorts of bookshops and spent a terrific afternoon and evening as guests of Michael and Betty Rosenblum in Leeds. George browsed through Michael's books and files of *The Futurian* and *Spaceways* whilst I played over Michael's latest lp's and drank apricot gin. Howard Rosenblum (age 12 and threequarters) retained his World Astron championship and Betty was once again nominated for the Michelin Guide. George was also introduced during the weekend to Colin Freeman, editor of *Scribble*, who filched a file of back issues of *Smoke* and let

George win 9d at solo.

**Les Spinge 5** (Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Rd, Stourbridge, Worcs. 1/-. 30pp). Ken's latest offering arrived only this morning, making this the quickest reviewing in *Skyrack's* extremely lengthy history. This "wild, abandoned fanzine" now looks a little in format like other fanzines we know and love but is printed in *green* ink throughout. The material is not as mouldy cheese as might be expected though. Harry Douthwaite cuts a neat front cover. Ken editorialises on various subjects from 1960 as a year through de Camp's *Incomplete Enchanter*. George Metzger columnises. Mike Deckinger clears snow. Dave Hale immortalises Linwood and Rispin, Jim Linwood himself contributes a new slant on the stream of consciousness pieces. Alan Dodd writes about *4D Jones*. And Linwood reviews fanzines. Not a top fanzine by any means, but certainly a fun loving effort, and once again showing improvement.

**Esprit Vol 2 No 3** (Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan Street, Kirkcudbright, Scotland; 1/6 or 20¢; 50pp) This queen amongst discussion zines opens with a short article by Ray Nelson on individuality and solitude. Jim Norrie experiences wild talent. John Rackham puts forward a theory that sounds vaguely Fortean. Nan Gerding writes on studying. There are 27 pages of letters and short bits by Les Gerber, Harry Turner and dear old Max Cranium. Highly recommended.

**Vector 10** (The o-o of the BSFA. £1 for year's initial subscription to Archie Mercer 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Edited by James Groves, 2 Lathom Rd, East Ham, London E 6). This 56 page winter *Vector* is another of the same ilk of well laid-out, well duplicated, well edited *Vectors* (It strikes me that the question, "Has there ever been a sercon o-o of the *Vector* quality?" might be worth asking). Apart from the official reports (which make interesting reading in themselves) George Locke shows how sf has been ingrowing into a rut. Pat Kearney writes fiction (I've seen far worse from Fredric Brown). Films are reviewed. Ken Slater shows that he's still alive (where are you, where are you?) by Chuntering. Books are reviewed. Fan and prozines are reviewed. Paul Enever's classic fanzine piece on ants is reprinted. Several pages of letters make up another worthwhile issue.

**Haverings 4** (Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 6d. 10pp). I wasn't too keen originally on this latest project of Ethel's, a slimzine devoted to fanzine reviews, but *Haverings* has made rapid strides and this latest offering shows vividly why Ethel's terse viewpoint has been

so valuable to OMPA over those past five or six years. Apart from the highly individual style, *Haverings* is worth keeping as a record of what is what on the zinescene. Why, it might even come in handy when you're filling in your *Skyrack* ballot form!

**Void 23** (Ted White, 107 Christopher St, New York 14; Available in UK by sending Ron Bennett 1/-; 34pp). As *Void's* UK agent, I suppose I should mention the magazine occasionally, but this particular issue is worth mentioning in its own right, including as it does material from Lee Hoffman, Walt Willis, John Berry, Bob Shaw and being THE WALT WILLIS APPRECIATION ISSUE. One shilling.

changes of address

Brian Jordan, 15 New Cross Drive, Woodhouse, Sheffield.

Terry & Miri Carr, 1818 Hearst St., Berkeley 3, Calif.

Ella Parker reports having a card from George Locke in Tripoli en route for Kenya. "A very touching picture of mother and child... camels.".... Recent visitors to London have included Mike Evans and Dave Hale. Visitor deserving a special mention to herself was Jill Adams who attended a Friday BSFA meeting at Ella's.... *Retribution* 16 (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave, Belfast 4) announces the end of the GDA.... *Camber* 12 (Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts) a big improvement over the previous issue; devoted mainly to the film, *Psycho*. Most horrific fnz cover I've ever seen.... Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts is UK agent for Bill Donaho's giantzine *Habakkuk*. 50¢ or 3/6d per issue.... Bruce Burn and Norman Shorrocks sent cutting from the *Daily Mail* covering the paper's TV 1961 "Get Ahead" programme. Taking part in the 16th Feb programme was old time fan Wally Gillings with a tape magazine for the blind idea.

Rolf Gindorf reports "*The 2nd Niederrhein* (Lower Rhineland) *Con* was held in Dusseldorf on the Jan 14/15 weekend and brought 38 fans from all over Germany together, despite it's announcedly unpolitical, unserconnish and regional character. Highlights were a discussion of the mess German SF is still in, a free-swinging auction with a highly satisfactory result as far as German fan auctions go, and a panel on the respective merits of faanish and conventional (i.e. predominantly SF-slanted) fandoms. This discussion was soon ended for lack of (courage of) supporters of the latter faction. Expected English guest, Ivor Mayne, whose visit had been announced by Swedish fen, failed to turn up. When all was over everybody agreed that they had had wonderful time. Meanwhile, the Hamburg Group, sponsored

by the EUROTOPIA, announced the formation of a Trans-European Fan Fund. TEF is expected to operate like TAF, its aim being to get each year a German fan to a European Con. Most likely places are, of course, England and (possibly) Sweden.”

Next issue will include, it is hoped, results of the *Fanac* (Terry?) and *Skyrack* fan polls. *Skyrack* voters receive a free issue... vote now!

## ***Skyrack* #29 Hoax**

*This alternative front-page story, designed to horrify Ella Parker with the “public” revelation of her well-kept secret, appeared in a print run of one copy dated 29 February 1961 and sent only to her.*

### **ELLA PARKER FOR SEACON**

Yes, news that *Skyrack* has been sitting on for some time has finally leaked out and accordingly, I'm taking this opportunity of presenting the full story in what comprises yet another *Skyrack* scoop. Ella Anderson Parker, timeless editrix of one of Britain's leading fanzines, *Orion*, is due to attend the SeaCon, this September's World S.F. Convention to be held in Seattle. As there is no TAFF campaign to take a British fan to the Seacon, Ella decided to save and scrape in order to get over to the States and have the chance of meeting her friends, the *Cry of the Nameless* gang which is organising the con. She has already booked her ticket and will be flying direct to Seattle in late August. An interesting sidelight to Ella's enterprising jaunt is that she was hoping to take some of the *Cry* gang, in particular Wally Weber, by surprise and had, with the aid of Buz and Elinor Busby, who were in on the secret, booked in as a convention member under the name of Elaine Anderson. Wally can accordingly thank this *Skyrack* scoop for saving his WORLDCON blushes and can settle back and enjoy Ella's company as we in England have been doing these past few years.

# ***Skyrack* #30, 13 March 1961**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter No. 30.**

This is *Skyrack* 30 dated 13th March 1961 and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d. per copy, 2/6d. for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, News of interest to sf fans always welcomed.

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**Death of Doc Weir** Fans everywhere will be shocked and saddened by the news that Dr. Arthur R. Weir, "Doc" to us all, died suddenly in Standish Hospital, Gloucester, at 3 a.m., Saturday, 4th March. Doc, who is understood to have been in his early sixties, came into fandom only two years ago, through the then newly-formed British Science Fiction Association. He attended the 1959 Birmingham Convention where he was voted B.S.F.A. Secretary, a position he later had to relinquish because of increasing ill-health. At last year's London Convention Doc read a paper on the works of Karel Čapek, of whom he had been a devotee and friend. Until only recently he was contributing items of book news to *Skyrack*.

Doc, who taught at a private school in Gloucestershire, was probably the most learned personality on the British fan scene. His writings for the fan press showed a great understanding and literary ability which while expected was nevertheless uncommon.

Despite his constant battle against asthma, Doc was always cheerful and full of an enviable vitality. Only a day before his death he had written to Eric Jones of his convention plans. Doc will be remembered in fan circles for his marked and enthusiastic interest in Čapek, in Tolkien, and in the Atlantis theory he propounded at the Birmingham Convention and in *New Worlds* as well as his qualities of sincerity and mixing socially without being condescending. Without doubt Doc greatly enriched the fan scene during his short stay with us and all fans will mourn his untimely passing.  
– rmb

From Hans Stefan Santesson (Interplanetary Exploration Society, 37 Wall St., New York 5, N.Y., U.S.A.) comes news that the second issue of the Society's *Journal* is ready to go to press, featuring articles by Isaac

Asimov, Lester del Rey, Ivan T. Sanderson and Major George Fielding Eliot. The first issue arrived a short time ago, and featured articles by del Rey, Poul Anderson, and James E. Gunn, with artwork by Hannes Bok, who will also be present in the second issue. Subscription rates to the *Journal* are \$5 for the first four issues.

Lynn Hickman writes that Don Ford's TAFF report is now ready for mailing and that this operation will begin on 15th March. \$1.25 to either Eric Bentcliffe (47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) or Don Ford (Box 19-T, RR 2, Ward's Corner Rd., Loveland, Ohio). All profits to go to TAFF.

***Epitaff*** Eric Bentcliffe's account of his 1960 TAFF trip to the Pittsburgh World Convention has now been published. This is the convention-plus report of Britain's own representative at the Pittcon and is a thoroughly entertaining work, featuring Eric's doings in the States – his flights, his journeys by road and subway, his meetings with Ellison, Tucker, Hickman, the Shaws, the Kyles, Ford, the Smiths and many other American fans – and his views on many facets of American life. Throughout the report there is an overall abundance of the Bentcliffe level headed personality, sprinkled with the inimitable Bentcliffe humour, traits which afforded Eric the 1960 TAFF honour. The pace of writing is fast and interest never flags; *Epitaff* is an outstanding piece of work, layout and presentation are first rate and the report is greatly enhanced by the photographic artwork of Eddie Jones. *Epitaff* is obtainable from Eric (address on front page) at \$1 or 7/-.

***Colonial Excursion*** – my own account of my TAFF journey across the States to the 1958 Los Angeles SolaCon – has also now been published in complete booklet form. Arthur "Atom" Thomson has done the artwork in his usual observant and impish manner. 7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat.

***The Directory of 1960 SF Fandom*** contains the addresses of over 500 fans, a sixth annual listing. This valuable publication is also available from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat @ 1/6d or 25¢.

**There Are Only Three Weeks** to go to the LXICon, the British national convention that promises to be the biggest and best for some five or six years. Held over Easter weekend at the New County Hotel, Gloucester, the LXICon will have as its Guest of Honour the author of *Lucky Jim* and the recently published *New Maps of Hell*, Kingsley Amis. Over 70 fans have now registered as convention members and the latest news on personality

attendees is that Dave and Ruth Kyle, names of long standing (“You can’t sit here”) in New York fandom, will be sailing from the States on 17th March to attend the con. Dave of course was a surprise attendee at last year’s London convention, but neither Dave nor Ruth is unfamiliar with the rigours of British conmanship. Ruth attended the 1957 Worldcon here, whilst Dave attended this and was also over here for the 1956 Kettering convention. The LXICon programme looks to be an entertaining and well balanced one. Known features include fan films, panels, the Don Ford slide show, a special showing of *Forbidden Planet*, Eric Bentcliffe’s TAFF talk and “This is Your (Fan) Life”, auctions and the fancy dress ball. Eric Jones tells me (there’s a phone in Cheltenham, it seems) that there will be a pleasant surprise laid on for this ball.

Incidentally, Lynn Hickman reminds me that subscriptions for his Hugo nominated fanzine *JD-Argassy* are now up to \$2 per year. He has donated 5 two year subscriptions to *JD-A* to the TAFF auction and these are meanwhile open to postal ballot at this address.

This will undoubtedly be the last issue of *Skyrack* to be published before the convention and it is hoped that the next issue will be out shortly after the con, covering the entire weekend in detail.

**The *Skyrack* Poll for 1960:** Although voting forms were distributed with *Skyrack* two issues ago and reminders were printed last issue, the response to this proposed determination of opinion regarding the merits of British fandom in 1960 has frankly been most disappointing. I’m extending the deadline date to *29th March* in the hope that more votes will be returned. All votes should refer to British contributions to the 1960 fan field. Categories in which to vote are Ten Best Fan Publications, Two Best Individual Fnz Contributions, Two Best Columns, Two Best Fan Artists, Two Best Prozines, Two Best Fanzine Covers, Best Fanzine Report and Five Best Fan Writers of 1960. Meanwhile my many thanks to those fans who have already returned ballot forms.

John Martin Baxter (the editor of *Bunyip*) writes to let us have news on recent Australian affairs: “Don Stuefloten, the US fanwriter and semi-active fan (he edited *Shadow Book* and of course we all know about *The Dying Ocean*, even if opinions are divided) was through here last month. He visited with me at Bowral, and is now preparing a trip around the coast of Australia, stopping here and there to earn enough money for the next leg of the journey.... Our latest addition to the ranks of Aussiefandom, Mervyn Barrett, is now working in Melbourne selling plaster gnomes at a

department store. One would have to travel far to find anything more fannish than that. His job is going well and I wouldn't be surprised if another issue of *Focus* mightn't be out shortly.... Pete Jefferson, the Sydney fan, is reviving his fanzine *MC<sup>2</sup>* and the third issue should be out next month. Note also that I've changed my address....”

**Changes of Address:**

John Martin Baxter, P0 Box 39, King St Post Office, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Sgt. Locke G.W., 24 Field Ambulance, B.F.P.O. 10.

Don Goldart, Sgt's Mess, 3rd Carbiniers (POWDG), Aliwal Bks., Tidworth, Hants.

George Gibson, 3 Beech View, Aberford, Nr. Leeds.

**George Locke** has taken another step up the promotion ladder, as is seen from his African forces address above. In a recent letter, George writes: “It's warm down here, even though I'm residing at the Continental Hotel at the Army's expense. (Too small for a convention and the floors are too well polished to allow for midnight zap-gun fights without injury.) There's a good chance of learning to fly cheaper than in England and there's a gliding club about 90 miles away. Then of course there are the snakes, some quite pleasant ones I believe, like the puff adder, spitting cobra, black mamba, python... it almost reminds me of the Penitentiary.” George also says that the book situation in Nairobi is poor but that current U.S. pbs are easily obtainable at 3/6d.

From Norman Shorrock comes an issue of *Pantosfinx*, Liverpool University's Rag Magazine which sports a Bill Harry cover. Bill, ex-art-editor of the virtually forgotten British fanzine *Ploy*, is this year's assistant editor of the Rag zine and his artwork is scattered throughout the magazine's pages, sometimes easily recognisable, sometimes disguised in style and byline.

**Alan Rispin** is still making his periodic jaunts round British fandom. Last week he was down in London and next weekend should be saving me postage on *Colonial Excursion* by collecting his copy in person. There's little news on hand from London, though I doubt whether this is really the Rispin influence. The SCFoL is preparing for the LXIcon by working on its annual Combozine. This will be on sale at the con and will cost 1/6d. Contributors include virtually all SFCoL home county members, Atom, Joe Patrizio, Bruce Burn, Don Geldart, Ken and Irene Potter, Paul Enever, Chris Miller, Jimmy Groves and George Locke. Sounds like quite an array

of talent. There are, however, conflicting reports which seem to indicate that the SFCoL might be considering the publication of its own regular fanzine. London will certainly be seeing new talent shortly, for recent newcomer to BSFA circles, Pat Kearney, who works in a High Holborn bookshop near Chancery Lane station, is working at a new zine of his own. (33 Elizabeth St., London SW 1).

**BSFA** Officials for year Easter 1961-62 have lined up as Ina Shorrock (Chairman), Joe Patrizio (Secretary), Ted Forsyth (Treasurer) and Jimmy Groves (Publications Officer). The position of Vice-Chairman is being decided by ballot and rests between Terry Jeeves and Jill Adams.

**OMPA** Officials for the coming year also look to be settled, though Bruce Burn still has to say yea or nay to being blackmailed into the apa's work hotspot, the Editorial chair. Ron Bennett will again be Treasurer and for the first time in the apa's history there will be a non-British official, for Bob Lichtman is to take over as President.

More news from Germany, where fans seem to be holding conventions every month. The "Euro-Paischer sf kongress, Stellaris Eurotopia" is to be held over the weekend of June 3rd/4th, though plans are going ahead to have informal meetings on 1st & 2nd of the month, in Bad Homburg near Frankfurt/Main (ah, memories of Helmet Gebogen!). Anyone interested in booking rooms should write to Hein Bingenheimer, Friedsrichdorf/Taunus, Postfach 11, Germany. (Burkhard Blüm)

**Bruce Burn** lost his motor scooter on 25th Feb. The machine appears to have been stolen.... The same weekend saw quite a minicon down in Stourbridge when local fen Darroll Pardoe, Dave Hale and Ken Cheslin hosted Jhim Linwood and Alan Rispin. Both Darroll and Dave wrote me on the affair, during which Alan's beard managed to get itself singed. Over twenty public houses were visited during the weekend. Linwood had to be carried home. Darroll mentions phoning me early on the morning of 26th, but no call was received here. I wonder who you got through to boys? Several postcards from the gathering reveal that the bush burning was due to a fanatical Mosley supporter getting angry when CND leaflets were being handed out, or so Ken says. Alan merely states that he got too overheated during a jazz session.... Many thanks, Betty Kujawa, for the card (giant size) from San Juan, Puerto Rico, where husband Gene is getting eye-strain scouring the local scenery.... Last weekend, (4th/5th) saw a vast gathering at the Intake, Sheffield, home of Valerie and Terry Jeeves, the headquarters of the Stockport & Intake Dog & Cake Walking

Society. Norman Shorrocks, Ina Shorrocks, Roy Shorrocks, Janet Shorrocks, Lindie Shorrocks, Eric Bentcliffe and Eddie Jones made much of sampling the local brew, taping, filming and playing football in the park. Terry and Valerie have kindly offered to have me push their car down to Gloucester on Good Friday. See you at the LXIcon...?

# ***Skyrack* #31, 6 April 1961**

## **Second Anniversary Issue**

This is ***Skyrack* 31**, dated **6th April 1961** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d. for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd. Avenue, Hyattsville, Md.

## ***Skyrack* 1960 Poll Results Inside**

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### **LXIcon Lowdown**

**The 1961 National Convention** was held at the New County Hotel, Southgate Street, Gloucester from Good Friday, 31st March to Easter Monday, 3rd April. Probably the two most notable facts to emerge from the gathering were that judging from the large number of new faces present the BSFA recruiting system is extremely successful and that *science-fiction* conventions are back in fashion. The two points are of course probably related, but it is true to say that the bias of the convention was towards the sercon rather than towards the fannish. This is not to say that the fannish element was left uncared for – far from it – but this was a *programmed* convention. Neofans were not left out in the cold but mixed well with the old guard and indeed, a good time was had by all. The trouble with conventions like the LXIcon, as this get-together was termed, is that they are all too short.

**It Looks Like Harrogate in 1962.** At the Sunday BSFA A.G.M. it was decided that next year's con should be held in the north of England. Ron Bennett was asked whether he would be willing to arrange for the con to be held in Harrogate; he announced that already had the names of a tentative con committee. The hotel in Harrogate still has to be approached (no, we have more than *one* hotel... that should read "*the*" hotel) and registration fees worked out. Everyone to whom I spoke about Harrogate as a consite was most enthusiastic. The Convention Committee lines up at the moment as Norman Shorrocks, Phil Rogers, Sid Birchby, Terry Jeeves, Ken Slater (plus Davids Eggleton and Barber) and Ron Bennett.

This is the first issue of *Skyrack* to be put on to stencil in a moving car, driven by Valerie Jeeves en route from Gloucester to London.

**The Con Began on Friday** this year and instead of Friday evening being left blank (programmewise) for fans to mix, the crowded table of events due for the weekend was spilled over into Friday. Four or five short fantasy films were shown, including a badly documented puppet film and an extremely obscure Flemish film, *The Magic Ring* of which the colour photography was plusperfect. Altogether, though, the audience agreed that this showing was a disappointment.

**The Programme Booklet** was once again produced by that master of programme booklets, Norman Shorrock, assisted by Bob Parkinson and Eddie Jones. This superb production included articles on sf by Ken Slater, an obituary to Doc Weir by Eric Jones and a sparkling introduction to Kingsley Amis by Brian Aldiss, as well as some wonderful Eddie Jones artwork. Eddie, incidentally, designed the professional-looking lapel badges which contend admirably with the type of badge favoured by the U.S. Worldcons.

**Saturday's Programme** began in the morning with a tape-play, "Typo", produced by younger fen from Cheltenham and Nottingham University. Some of the humour was extremely juvenile and technique showed inexperience, but on the whole this play showed a good understanding of fannish ingroup jokes and it was well received by its audience.

**Geoff Doherty**, the editor of the 1960 Murray publication *Aspects of Science Fiction*, spoke on Saturday afternoon as "An Alien in the Academy", presenting an outsider's viewpoint of sf as reading matter, and its literary value, especially as regards its place in school. His main point was that while Wells and Verne are accepted by the general public as "respectable" writers modern writers are not. SF has a degraded literary value as an image in the public eye, he said.

**The Don Ford Slide Show** was an item that had been eagerly awaited and this was held on the Saturday afternoon. The projector lamp was a weak one so that the majority of the fine pictures lost some of their brightness, but one could not in any way begin to fault the slides themselves or the excellent taped commentary that Don had provided. The slides showed the 1960 Midwestcon, views round Cincinnati (with a side note to Ella Parker), and the 1960 Pittcon with Eric Bentcliffe greatly in evidence. Thanks, Don.

**Brian Aldiss** introduced the Convention's Guest of Honour, Kingsley Amis, whose latest book "New Maps of Hell" was on sale at the convention, by telling of Amis' "Portrait" mention in a *New Worlds* Aldiss feature and saying that Amis' later success in the literary field was due entirely to him (Aldiss).

**As a Mainstream Writer** who is turning more and more to sf, Kingsley Amis attacked sf on two fronts, the elements of science and the elements of fiction. Too much sf is of the gimmick class, he said, a type of pseudo-science. Time travel, for example, is impossible, but is accepted as near reality by the reader. In so far as sf encourages daydreaming and is a superficial fantastic entertainment this is a bad thing. It is *not* a deplorable aspect of the genre if the reader himself realises the quality of what he is reading, but too often, Amis went on, the reader is happy in his rut of day dream reading. SF should train the reader to discriminate between the levels of depth of thought behind these stories and in so doing should give the reader the taste for better literature. The reader should ask himself whether the gimmick in a story is scientifically possible or impossible without blindly accepting it. This does not prevent the reader from enjoying the story but does teach him to think. Too much sf today suffers said Amis, from a scientific contamination which encourages the thought that everything is possible through science.\*

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\* The speech report was cut off at this point with "(continued page four)"; the rest appeared there, after the *Skyrack* Poll results below. – DRL.

Kingsley Amis then went on to startle his large audience even further by saying that as fiction, SF is not imaginative enough. There are too many old hat ideas, too many accepted themes and descriptions. "Aren't you tired of humanoid aliens?" he asked. It was all too apparent how badly *bad* sf authors write he continued, but is it always realised how badly *good* sf authors write. He quoted from a story by Arthur C. Clarke which he dismissed, probably rightly (judging from the selected extract), as belonging in the field of popular romance. He concluded his thought-provoking talk with an appeal for more balance, particularly in quality, in science fiction.

**Kingsley Amis** was immediately taken up on several points by his audience, an event for which he seemed well prepared and it was obvious that at least a portion of his talk had been presented with the idea in mind of raising comment from his audience. Asked about time travel and psi

phenomena he said “There is no such thing as a thought pattern, I’ve never seen one, show me one,” to which Peter West immediately answered by saying, “I’ve never seen gravity, show me....” Amis however was even quicker to counter-attack thrusts from Ted Tubb who was obviously trying to whip up controversy and comment from the audience. As Ted made each of his points, Amis quickly cut the ground from under his feet on each point so that Ted was left floundering without a solid foundation of fact on which to build. As a result, though, other comment was forthcoming from the audience with interesting points being raised by Ted Carnell, Ken Bulmer and particularly Dave Kyle who brought up the point that originally sf readers had collected sf entirely because it was sf; whether it was good or bad did not matter; one lived for sf and one tried to convert other people to reading sf. Now that sf is accepted by the general public that public should be made aware that there is good sf and bad sf.

**Dave and Ruth Kyle** were welcome visitors to the convention and are based in this country until the end of May. They will probably be taking a side trip over to Continent. Dave was last at a convention in this country only last year but we haven’t seen Ruth since the London WorldCon in 1957. Ruth searched diligently for matzoball soup and Dave showed, at a room party, the cine shots he took at last year’s London Convention, shots which had improved several thousand percent over the films he showed at last year’s con and which are now only 100% perfect.

**The Hotel Management** were inclined to be kind as far as room parties were concerned as long as these took place on the hotel’s first floor. Main party centre each night, however, was the second floor two room suite occupied by ladies of the Science Fiction Club of London, Ethel Lindsay and Ella Parker. At one party Alan Rispin auctioned his hat for TAFF, the top bid being made by a group of thirteen (everyone present at the time) who immediately cut the hat into 13 pieces.

**Apart from the Kingsley Amis Talk** another highlight of the convention also took place on the Saturday. In the evening was staged the Transgalactic Tourists’ Party with some of the best displays of individual and group fancy dress ever seen at British conventions. It was well understandable that the judges had an extremely hard time deciding on a winner, but the first prize was awarded to Liverpool’s Eddie Jones as an Ambassador from Triton. Ina Shorrocks, BSFA Chairman, was second as a birdgirl in a costume that had also been designed by Eddie. Honorable mentions were awarded to Norman Shorrocks, Tony Walsh, Eric Jones, Bob Richardson, Bobbie Gray and Norman Weedall.

**At Sunday Morning's BSFA** Annual General Meeting it was announced that Terry Jeeves had defeated Jill Adams in the straight fight for BSFA vice-Chairman. Terry joins Ina Shorrocks, Joe Patrizio, Ted Forsyth and Jimmy Groves on the new Committee. It was decided to inaugurate a Dr. Arthur Weir Memorial Fund in the name of the Association and this was launched to a good start by the audience present. Donations to this Fund and of course BSFA non-members are also invited to contribute if they so please – should be sent to the retiring Treasurer, Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln. As already announced on the front page, Harrogate was given the honour of hosting the 1962 Convention and further announcements will be made through *Skyrack's* following issues (if I survive the weekend). Several attendees of the LXICon were keen to register as members of the Harrogate convention immediately but I am sure that it will be understood that bookings of any type cannot really be made until more firm plans are made in arrangement with the concerned hotel.

**On the Sunday Afternoon** the Science Fiction Club of London presented a short but well received play, the full text of which will shortly be produced in one of the club's publications.

**Eric Bentcliffe**, Britain's 1960 TAFF Delegate to the PittCon, spoke on his trip and produced another in his "This Is Your Fan Life" series, if anything an improvement on last year's production. Once again the victim's name had been well clothed in secrecy and Eric Jones was eventually spotlighted. The show was well supported by acting from several different fens.

**Various Auctions** were made throughout the weekend, probably the most notable being Sunday's TAFF auctions. Many lots of books and magazines were redonated to the auction by their three shilling (evidently a stock bid) buyers and as time was running short the last lot was an entire tea-chest crammed with books and magazines which raised £2. The entire auction raised £18 to match last year's figure. Eric Bentcliffe ran a TAFF auction on the lines of the SolaCon's "Auction Bloch" at which various professional authors were sold off to the audience. Ken Slater took Brian Aldiss for 22/6d, Norman Shorrocks bought Ken Bulmer for 17/-, Alan Rispin bought Bruce Burn's Bushy Barbarian Beard for 12/6, Ethel Lindsay acquired Walt Willis at the bargain price of £1 and Walt's production, "The Harp Stateside", went for even more than the man himself for 25/- to Peter Mabey. At the conclusion of the Auction Bloch, Kingsley Amis said how much he had enjoyed the convention, asked for

the first membership for next year's Harrogate con, and agreed to be auctioned off himself. A syndicate composed of members of the SFCoL (Don Geldart, Ted Forsyth, Joe Patrizio, Bruce Burn and Ron Bennett) which had been formed in the eventuality of the Guest of Honour's sale, bought Kingsley for £2.10s and are now at a loss as to what to do with him. Readers, do you want to read Kingsley Amis in OMPA? In *Skyrack*?

**More Films Were Shown** on Sunday evening to end the programme as it began, but these were of a far better quality. Two scientific films from the Shell Company thoroughly intrigued the audience. Dave Kyle had brought over the Los Angeles Unicorn production fan film, *The Musquite Kid* starring TAFF candidate Ron Ellik. And finally the professional film, *Forbidden Planet* was shown.

**The Con Hall** itself presented a scene reminiscent of past conventions in its many colourful displays. Ken Slater, who organised an initial quiz, was this year assisted by Dave Barber at his stand and at the SFCoL display and OMPA one-shot session ran virtually continuously throughout the weekend.... OMPA also held a meeting.... A wag in the bar asked Norman Shorrock and Ron Bennett what the conference was about and when being told it was a meeting of communists, asked Bennett to sing the *third* verse of the Red Flag.... Fanzines received during the convention and immediately prior to it will be reviewed next issue.... A terrific convention, of course, and these pages can only cover hurriedly compiled notes. I'm indebted this issue to help provided by Brian Jordan, who duplicated the issue, and Fred Parker who provided the coffee.

## **the 1960 *skyrack* poll....**

Whereas it appears traditional in fandom for news magazines to celebrate their birthdays with popularity polls, it also appears that fans may be becoming sickened with poll-form filling in (or out, depending on birthplace, I suppose) for only 22 fans returned forms this year, as against 35 last year. The twenty-two Good People were: Jill Adams, Ron Bennett, Eric Bentcliffe, Sid Birchby, Redd Boggs, Bruce Burn, Bob Coulson, Ted Forsyth, Colin Freeman, Lynn Hickman, Terry Jeeves, Betty Kujawa, Ethel Lindsay, Jhim Linwood, George Locke, Chris Miller, Ella Parker, Joe Patrizio, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, Norman Shorrock and Arthur Thomson.

### **The Best British Fan Publications of 1960**

1. *Orion* (166 points) Ella A. Parker, 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London N.W.6. 1/- or 15¢. 3rd place last year.
2. *The Skyrack Newsletter* (126) 5th last year.
3. *Smoke* (114) Sgt. George Locke, 24 Field Ambulance, BFPO 10. 1/- or 15¢. 6th place last year.
4. *Hyphen* (92) Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 1/- or 15 / . 2nd last year.
5. *Bastion* (91) Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire & Norman Shorrocks, 2 Arnot Way, Higher Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire. 1/6d.
6. *Aporrheta* (78) Sandy Sanderson, (note new address) 2805 University Ave, Apt 41 Bronx 68, N.Y. USA. First place last year.
7. *Esprit* (69) Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan St., Kirkcudbright, Scotland. 1/6d or 20¢.
8. *Triode* (49) Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves. 4th last year. Now folded.
9. *Retribution* (45) John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 2, N. Ireland. 1/-. 8th last year.
10. *The Fan Directory* (28)
11. *Les Spinge* (27)
12. *Space Diversions* (26)
13. *Vector* (24)
14. *SFCoL Combozine* (23)
15. *Brennschluss* (15)
16. *Rot* (12) & *Femizine* (12)
18. *Northlight* (10)
19. *Eyetracks* (9)
20. *Haverings* and *Scribble* (7).

Sincere congratulations to Ella Parker 1-1 of the SFCoL whose success is not wholly unexpected. And well done, Eric, Norman and Daphne on making the top ten during the first year of genzine publication of *Bastion* and *Esprit*.

### **Best Individual Item of 1960**

17 different items were listed.

1. A tie between *The Goon Goes West* by John Berry in *Cry* (4 points) and *How to Draw Curly Monsters* by Arthur Thomson in *Orion* (4 pts).

### **Best Column**

16 items listed, and another tie:

1. *Inchmery Fan Diary* by Sandy Sanderson in *Aporrheta* (11 points) and

Specs by Ella Parker in *Orion* (11 points).

### **Best Fan Artist**

1. Arthur Thomson (25 points)
2. Eddie Jones (19 points)

### **Best Professional Magazine**

Apart from returns like *Punch*, *The New Statesman* and the *British Association of Colliery Managers' Newsletter* there were only three magazines listed (what? You're surprised?):

1. *New Worlds* (23 points)
2. *Science Fantasy* (16 points)
3. *SFA* (1 point)

### **Best Fanzine Cover**

1. *Bastion* 1 (20 points)

### **Best Report**

1. ARCHIE MERCER in *Cactus* 5, ELLA PARKER in *Orion* 25, and JOHN BERRY's *Goon Goes West* in *Cry* (2 points each).

### **Best British Fan Writer of 1960.**

1. John Berry (47 points) 1st place last year.
2. George Locke (44) 4th last year.
3. Sid. Birchby (31) 8th last year.
4. Walt Willis (25) 2nd. last year.
- =5. Mal Ashworth (13) 6th last year.
- =5. Ron Bennett (13) 5th last year.
- =7. "Hurstmonceaux & Faversham" (8)
- =7. Paul Enever (8)
- =9. Ella Parker (7)
- =9. Archie Mercer (7) 10th last year.

# ***Skyrack* #32, 1 May 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 32, dated 1st May 1961 and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d. per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA. (65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd. Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to SF fans always most welcome. Heading and cartoon by Atom, photo by Bennett.

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## **Ella Parker for Seacon**

Last summer Ella Parker, leading light of London fandom, editor of *Orion* and at that time Secretary of the BSFA and Chairman of the SFCoL, surprised her many visitors by coming up with a workable scheme for attending the 1962 World Convention to be held in Seattle this coming September. This scheme was: “save like mad”. Ella has saved and saved and insisted from the start that the scheme should be kept secret, so that she would not be dependent on fannish charity and so that she could take the *Cry Gang*, in particular Wally Weber, by surprise. Ella will be flying to the West Coast and the news is no longer DNQ as an announcement was made at the LXIcon. Anyone willing/wishing to contribute to the Parker Pond Fund should contact Don Ford, Betty Kujawa (addresses inside) or Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Road, London SW 4. Ella looks forward to meeting in person the many Stateside friends she has made through fandom and we in British fandom envy them their chance to seattle back and enjoy Ella’s company on such an enterprising trip.

Incidentally, *Skyrack* scooped itself with this item, for a special one copy 29th February issue sent only to Ella ran the above news while it was still DNP.

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**Terry Carr Finishes With *Fanac*.** Non-appearance of America’s leading newszine has led to some speculation. Berkeley spy SPQR reports that Terry has, after three years publishing, turned *Fanac* over to Walter Breen. Terry is still working on the *Fannish*. Breen’s first issue should be out by now, said to be 12 pages or more.

***Orion* 27** (Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London NW6;

74pp; 1/6d; US subs to Betty Kujawa, 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Indiana). The latest offering from this year's Stateside visitor kicks off with the usual excellent Atom job, depicting millions of fans of all. Atom also did the headings for the articles and there is enclosed a sample of the work he has done for the forthcoming *Atom Anthology*. Outstanding in this up-to-standard issue of Britain's leading fanzine (*Orion* topped the recent *Skyrack* poll) is the second instalment of the perceptive "European Pumble", Andy Young's lengthy account of his trip to Europe last summer. Regular items like Ken Bulmer's excellent "Taff Tales" and John Berry's latest "Sergeant" story are also present as are items by Jim Norrie, Len Moffatt, George Locke, Don Ford and Rory Faulkner. There are twenty pages of readers' letters and close behind Andy Young's contribution comes the "Specs" editorial which deals with the two recent conventions attended by Ella and the penitentiary inmates. Printed on slick Gestetner paper, this zine is naturally once again unhesitatingly recommended.

There's the tradition that British fanzines are all of a uniform high quality and this month's offerings certainly seem to bear this out. For example the next zine is

***Hyphen* 27** (Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper N'Ards Rd., Belfast 4, N.I; March 1961; 26pp; 1/- or 15¢; 7 for \$1) Right up to the standard of not only British fanzines but of *Hyphen* is this latest... well how does one describe *Hyphen*, pray? Here are the usual line up of contributors, headed by Bob Shaw with "Bowmen in the Gloamin'". John Berry brings Irish Fandom up to date and it's especially pleasing to see young Jeff Wanshel present amongst Atom cartoons, articles by Ian McAulay and Ron Ellik, readers' letters, a couple of book reviews by Walt in his "*Nebula*" mood and a half page of bacover quotes like "Whenever I hear a knock at my door I always think I'm the last man on Earth."

***Esprit* 4** (April 1961; Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan St., Kirkcudbright, Scotland; 34pp; 1/6; US subs @ 20¢ to Don Fitch, 3908 Frijo, Covina, California). In contrast to *Hyphen* in content but not quality is this British readers' forum, discussion zine. John Rackham writes on drugs, Art Rapp conjures up a sense of wonder on Indian relics, Julian Parr brings status seeking up to date, Ray Nelson talks to himself, Nan Gerding does not like IBM testing and dear old Max Cranium is here again. Readers knock down the targets sighted last issue. The letter from Don Smith on supermen is especially notable.

**Vector 11** (Official Organ of the BSFA, edited by James A. Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E.6; 43pp). Once again apart from official business and reporting, *Vector* sets out to be entertaining. Brian Aldiss Simakises, Harry Gilbert writes a story, Doc Weir is present with a piece on Three Dimensional Chess and books and stories are competently reviewed. The fanzine reprint section is a worthy Birchby item and readers' letters make up another good issue with a notable letter coming from John Phillifent on loan from *Esprit*.

**Haverings 5...** thoughtful fanzine reviews from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

**Jetstream** (Bob Parkinson, 52 Mead Rd., Cheltenham, Glos; 10 pp 6d). Odd bits and pieces by Bob, Jhim Linwood and John Dyke.

**The Science Fiction Club of London Club Combozine 1961:** Available from Ella Parker (see *Orion* for address – if you really need it) @ 1/6d, this second annual convention-appearing lengthiest title in British fandom is with us again and is well worth waiting for. If I said that this year's edition was not quite up to the standard of last year's I may possibly be understood – or misunderstood – as meaning that the drop in quality is other than relative. This zine is a *good* one and worthy of adding to anyone's permanent collection. As most of the SFCoL's regular in-town members are present this Combozine would have to be a qualitative affair. Judge for yourself with material by Ethel Lindsay, Ken & Irene Potter, Jimmy Groves, Don Geldart, Chris Miller, Joe Patrizio, George Locke, Bruce Burn, Arthur "Atom" Thomson and no other than Paul Enever.

**Emanation 1** (John M. Foyster, 4 Edward St., Chadstone SE 10, Victoria, Australia. February 1961; 76pp;3/- Australian) From the stronghold of Australian rules football comes a new zine of a sercon type, which, despite its bulk, is not my cup of tea, though it may be yours. Wynne N. Whiteford writes on SF, Donald Tuck considers the foundation of a S.F. library, Nigel Jackson writes a story, John Baxter reviews books, the editor contributes an index to *SF Plus*, Nigel Jackson reviews "The 7th Day" and there are a few other shorts around. The zine lacks personality and suffers from poor lay-out, which is a pity, for the promise is obviously present.

The 2nd newsletter of the Young SF Readers Group formed by Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts., is in and young fans wishing to be added to the growing membership should contact Jim. As there is no information given as to the aims of the group it may be taken that the YSFRG is a pretty informal one.

**Bunyip 4** (John Martin Baxter, PO Box 39, King Street P.O., Sydney, NSW, Australia.) This is another Aussiefanzine in this month and one which, having more issues behind it, shows more balance, personality and straight readability than *Emanation*. John Foyster and Don Tuck are again present and there is also material from Alan Dodd in Spain and Bob Smith in fanzinesville. Letters make up another pleasant issue.

Lots of fanzines mentioned this issue. One of the jobs, I feel, of the fan newsletter is to let fans know what is available, bread and butter items which balance any startling scoops which may crop up from time to time. Therefore, please excuse the following notes of “running” items which have been listed before and which are still available:

**Epitaff** (7/- or \$1 from Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St., Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) One-shot publication of Eric’s 1960 TAFF trip report, handled in an excellent fashion, liberally illustrated by Eddie Jones.

**Colonial Excursion** (7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat). My own 1958 SolaCon TAFF trip report, illustrated by photographs and Atomillos.

**The Directory of 1960 SF Fandom.** Addresses of over 500 fans, a 6th annual listing. 1/6d or 25¢ from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat.

**TAFF:** Voting continues in the campaign to bring over a U.S. representative to next year’s convention. *Skyrack* supports Ron Ellik who has been nominated in a straight fight against Dick Eney. Votes and contributions to Eric Bentcliffe (address above) or Don Ford (Box 19-T, RR2, Wards Corner Road, Loveland, Ohio, USA). Make certain of casting *your* vote by voting *now*!

**The Kilburn Microcon** was held at the Parker Pen the weekend following the LXIcon, 7th/8th April, and is covered fully in *Orion* 27. A party was due to be held and Brian Jordan (with Ron Bennett then resident at 151) suggested holding our own minicon. Brian produced a stencil and had soon run off a programme booklet, made a pile of lapel badges, stuck up signs and spread out a fanzine stall. Attendees were Ella Parker, Brian Jordan, Ron Bennett, Ted Forsyth, Joe Patrizio, Don Geldart, Ken, Irene and Karen Potter, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Groves, Atom, Jim Linwood, Diane Goulding, Alan Rispin, Bruce Burn, Ian Peters and Brian Burgess. Con lasted through two days of merriment and the programme included a discussion on the LXIcon and a repeat performance of the SFCoL playlet. It is hoped that Kilburn Microcons become a firm part of fannish tradition. (The cards Atom had brought along ran such mottos as “I read *Orion*, my

friends read *Orion* – we all read *Orion* in here”, “Why do I like *Orion*? You might well ask”, “*Orion* does things to me – no, I’ve always been bald”, “Ella took *Orion* and made it what it is today”, “I was an *Orion* subber – a story to enliven the mind”, “I tried other fanzines, but *Orion* showed me where I was wrong.”)

**Peter Singleton**, get well schnell. Peter is now in Ward 19, Burnley General Hospital, Burnley, Lancs.... Bruce Burn has moved to 46 Warrington Cres., London W.9. Next to Warwick Avenue station.... Archie Mercer still interested in Tentcon.... Rumoured that *Habakkuk* headed recent *Fanac* fanzine poll.... Willis 10th Anniversary Fund (Willis to States next year) in full swing following invitation acceptance by Walt. Full details next issue.... Bruce Burn holding party 6th May.... SFCoL soon putting out Club genzine.... Third Programme 19th April – Prof. W.T. Williams of S’ot’on University broke off natural history talk to mention SF, quoting Tolkien, Asimov and Sheckley.... *BSFA Newsletter* 7 (April 61) covers LXIcon and Hugo nominations.... Terry Jeeves’s son, Keith, age 12, would like overseas pen-pal – how about it, you fen with offspring around the same age?.... Bob Parkinson corrects *Sky* 31’s note about the tape play *Typo* which was made by the Cheltenham SFC.... Gerfan editor of *Space Times*, 21 yr old Jurgen Molthol killed in car accident 13th March. Great loss to German fandom.... Brian Jordan reports formation of a fan group in Sheffield University – the Sheffield University Union Science Fiction & Fantasy Association.... Beautiful postcard in from Boyd Raeburn in Grand Cayman.... Ron Bennett was in London 22nd April to attend Wembley Amateur Cup Final – with 840 children and 90 other Harrogate teachers!

# ***Skyrack* #32a, 1 May 1961**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter 32a**

**Special Stop Press Section to *Skyrack* 32, 1st May 1961**

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**Tenth Anniversary Willis Fund.** Page four note of *Skyrack* 32 mentioned that more details of the Fund would be given next issue. However, so many bits and pieces have cropped up since the main newsletter stencils were cut that I'm adding this section and can naturally mention this Fund. As many fans will know the leading fan of the time, Walt Willis, was invited to the 1952 ChiCon and a fund set up to take him to the States. The Fund was successful and was virtually the forerunner of TAFF. An Executive Committee has taken it upon itself to raise enough money to ensure that not only Walt, but his long suffering wife, Madeleine, can travel over to the 1962 WorldCon, which certainly looks as though it will be a tenth anniversary affair in Chicago. In reminding fandom that they owe the pleasure of *The Enchanted Duplicator*, *Willis Discovers America*, *Hyphen* and the superlative *The Harp Stateside* to Walt, Committee Treasurer, Larry Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Staten Island 6, N.Y., notes that around \$1000 will be needed if the Fund is to be really successful. Obviously this is the time for fandom to show its appreciation of Walt, the man no fandom can be without. British contributions to the Fund should be sent to Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London S.W.2.

**Liverpool Minicon Tiki.** Jeff Collins, sturdy octopus hunting member of the Liverpool Group, hopes to be sailing the Atlantic next spring. And I *do* mean *sailing*. Jeff has sold his car, packed up, left his job and has been taken on as engineer on a three man sailing venture. With Jeff are two friends, Andrew Herdman and Bill Nolan. Herdman is owner and captain of the 20-ton sloop *Frolic* which is now with the three adventurers in the Isle of Man at the beginning of a sea journey which will take them to Ibiza and Casablanca. After wintering in the Mediterranean, the three sailors hope to ride the spring Trade Winds across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. *Frolic* has an auxiliary 25h.p. engine in addition to 1200 square foot of canvas and Jeff, who is pictured in the 24th April edition of *The Liverpool Echo*, is quoted as saying, "And now off to have a good time for as long as

possible. It's the dream of a lifetime." I'm sure that all fans will wish Jeff and his fellow adventurers well.

**Cactus 6** (Sture Sedolin, Valingby 4, Sweden; 10 for 7/- to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts; 19pp). *Cactus* is somewhat overdue because of editor Sture's service in the army, but Sture laughs this down by quoting that the zine is "yearly" and we must laugh with him, for this is Sweden's leading contribution to the zinescene. John Berry writes on two American fans he has met and shrewdly starts off what promises to be another good Berry series with a typewriter portrait of Dick Eney. Rainer Eisfeld writes from a sercon viewpoint, Ray Nelson contributes cartoons, Sture overrates *Skyrack* and Alan Dodd continues his "Bennett is a louse" campaign in the letter column, thus balancing Sture's review with a soupcon of good sense.

**Participate in Harrogate.** A further step has been made towards holding the 1962 BSFA Convention in Harrogate, Garden Spa of Britain's leading county. The Hotel St. George has been booked for the weekend 20th/23rd April – and that's Easter 1962. All sorts of details on bookings and prices still have to be finalised, so hold off sending cash just yet. Announcements will be made so often in *Skyrack* that you'll be heartily sick of the whole idea before we've finished!

**Seacon Art Show.** Bjo Trimble, 2790 W. 8th St, Los Angeles 5, California, USA, is hoping to put on another convention art show which will beat even that held at last year's Pittcon. Bjo and I see no reason why British artists should not contribute, so how about it, Eddie, Arthur and Jim? Bjo will be only too pleased to let you have details of format etc and to send you the artshow's own fanzine, *PAS-tell*.

**George Locke** (24 Field Ambulance, BFPO 10), now in Nairobi, mentions that his copy of *Colonial Excursion*, sent printed rate arrived two days after posting. Says he is thinking of buying a 1947 MG sports car, "in excellent running order, save for wheels, steering and lack of speedometer, horn, brakes and hood." Is thinking of putting out a limited circulation fanzine, "The Prose of Kilimanjaro" and mentions the rainy season which started on March 15th "the high tides of March." Just like home from home.

**Ron Ellik**, who is being supported for TAFF amongst the elite of fandom, mentions that King Arthur had a lance called Ron and says that he is these days publicity director of N3F, his first job being to spread word of the Writer's Contest. Submissions and requests for information should be sent

to Edward Ludwig, 455 N. Tuxedo Ave, Stockton 4, Calif. Closing date 30 June 1961. First prizes of \$10 will be awarded to stories in each of 3 categories, sf, fantasy and weird. Other prizes for runners up. Special prize for stories less than 1,500 words. Judges will be Marion Bradley, Clayton Hamlin, Ed Ludwig and Ralph Holland.

**Mark Jefferson Turner**, 9lbs, born to Eleanor and Paul Turner who toured British fandom last year. 11.44pm, Saturday. 1st April. Month overdue, reports Ron Ellik.

LXIcon photos 8d each sent on approval – rmb.

**electron! Ellik for TAFF!**

# ***Skyrack* #33, 14 June 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 33, dated **14th June 1961** and published by Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues 35¢ for six issues in USA 65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to SF fans always welcomed. Cartoon by fandom's answer to Giles, Arthur Thomson

**Ellik for TAFF**

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## **TAFF Nominations Invited**

Nominations for a British fan to attend the 1962 American World Convention will be accepted from 1st August – 31st October 1961, writes Eric Bentcliffe before flying off to holiday in San Remo. The usual conditions apply. All candidates must be nominated by three known fans from Britain, plus two from the States, a \$5 or 35/- bond must be posted with one of the TAFF Administrators and the candidates must present a signed declaration of their willingness and intention to make the trip, if elected.

The voting period will be announced later.

This does not mean that the current campaign is over. Indeed, continues Eric, there are still some three months to go to record your vote for either Ron Ellik or Dick Eney. The deadline is 30th September. And, British fans, only 21 votes, a meagre total, have been so far received. VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

This announcement does not mean that either Don or Eric considers the TAFF situation to be sufficiently healthy that they can look ahead to having two fans cross the Atlantic under the auspices of TAFF in 1962. They need your help to do it, of course, (EB & RMB)

**On a More Personal Note**, Eric left for San Remo on 9th June, writing, "As you know Terry and Valerie Jeeves went there on their honeymoon and I've promised to return a few little souvenirs for Terry, like the management are getting low on deck chairs and want the ones back that Terry paid a deposit on." Enjoy your fortnight, Eric

**Re. The Above TAFF Announcement** there is naturally no official news on which worthies we can expect to be nominated for the 1962 campaign, but there is already some speculation being voiced on the grapevine. It is not expected that Arthur Thomson will stand, but names to conjure with are Eddie Jones, Ethel Lindsay and George Locke. It will be interesting to see how the line-up finally pans out

### **Available One-Shots**

**SFCoL Combozine 1961** (1/6d from Ella Parker – address over there by the *Atom Anthology*) Some copies still available. A qualitative affair with material by everyone who is anybody in London fandom

**The Atom Anthology** – Reviewed fully elsewhere this issue

**Epitaff** (7/- or \$1 from Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire) Eric's 1960 TAFF trip report, handled in excellent fashion, liberally illustrated by Eddie Jones

**Colonial Excursion** (7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat) My own 1958 SolaCon TAFF report, illustrated by photographs and Atomillos.

**The Directory of 1960 SF Fandom** Addresses of over 500 fans, a 6th annual listing. 1/6d or 25¢ from Bennett or Pavlat Cover by Atom

### **Running Fan Funds**

**TAFF:** Voting continues in the campaign to bring over a U S representative to next year's convention. *Skyrack* supports Ron Ellik who has been nominated in a straight fight against Dick Eney. Votes and contributions to Eric Bentcliffe (address above) or Don Ford (Box 19-T, RR2, Wards Corner Rd, Loveland, Ohio, USA). Make certain of casting *your* vote by voting *now!*

**The Parker Pond Fund** Ella Parker is attending this year's Seacon and fans everywhere can show their appreciation of Ella's contributions to fandom and their free board and lodging by helping out. Hard cash to Ted Forsyth whose address is given under *The Atom Anthology* and IPSO sections thish.

**The Willis Fund:** A Fund has been inaugurated to send Walt & Madeleine to the 1962 WorldCon, the 10th Anniversary of Walt's initial Stateside trip. Around \$1000 will be needed, notes Larry Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Staten Island, N Y.. British contributions to Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Dr, London SW 2

**Larry & Noreen Shaw** are currently running a newssheet, *Axe*, which is a bi-weekly thermometer of the WAW Fund treasury and which also presents general news in a readable and informal manner. 13th May issue ran a report of the Washington DC DisClave which sounds a gas. Highlight of the annual get-together was when the sky rained cars. These “fell off a truck carrying a load of junkers to the graveyard”, reports *Axe*. Thanks, DisClave attendees for the card. This read “The other day somebody said you were obnoxious but I really stood up for you” on the cover, With the interior follow-up, “I said you couldn’t help it.” Bob Pavlat added that “Standing up was quite a job, too!” and the card was signed by Will J Jenkins, Bob Madle, Martin Moore, Harriett Kolchak, Dick Eney, Bill Berg, George Scithers, Roberta Bradley, Phyllis Berg, Dec Evans, Mike McInerney, George Heap (in technicolor), Hal Lynch, Alan J Lewis, Peggy McKnight, Dick and Pat Lupoff, Les Gerber, Don Studebaker, Bhoob Stewart, Ted and Sylvia White, Fred Bernowitz, Cantaloupe Flabbergaste and about 400 others What, no Alan Dodd?

**OMPA** June Mailing expected this week. Highlight to the bundle will undoubtedly be the Earl Kemp booklet *Why Is a Fan?* containing results of a fan-wide survey. This booklet is perhaps a little disappointing in that most contributors evade the question but the survey is still worthwhile.

***The Prose of Kilimanjaro 1*** (Sgt George W Locke, 24 Field Ambulance, B F P O 10; April 1961; 16pp flscp) Produced on a flatbed from the parklands of East Africa comes this substitute for *Smoke* from London exile George Locke. A few fanzine reviews and a lot of readable chitchat to show that George is still very much with us.

***The Atom Anthology*** (Ella A Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London N W 6; 108 pp; 7/- to Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Rd, London SW 4 or \$1 to Betty Kujawa, 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Indiana, USA) The much publicised, long awaited *Atom Anthology* has appeared at last and has proved worth waiting for. Superbly presented on Gestetner linen faced paper this publication is surely a volume which should be part of every fanzine collection. This is as thorough a representative selection of the work of Arthur “Atom” Thomson as is ever likely to be published, containing as it does 62 cartoons and 63 other illustrations (headings, fillers, semi-serious items and straight artwork), three articles, and several special cameo pages – all by Atom. They’re all here, Arthur’s famous covers from *Hyphen*, “Church, Anybody?” and “Sometimes I wonder why we bother with deadlines”. Arthur’s *Ploy* column, the GDA-slanted series, the A to Z and 8 pages of FAN BEMS. All neatly wrapped up with an

introduction by Walt Willis and a photographic study of Arthur. Michelin rated 999 stars.

**Hyphen 28** (Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper N'Ards Rd, Belfast 4, N Ireland; 26pp; 1/- or 15¢, 7 for \$1; May 1961) Featured in the latest “-” is the LXI con, from Atom’s superlative cover to Ian’s report, one that has been eagerly awaited. “Alldis and Heaven Too” immediately puts Ian into the top line of con reporters with some neat sense of wonder observations in pleasant contrast to the usual line of *Hyphen* wry superiority. Ian is ably supported by Bob Shaw, Jimmy White, Walt, Atom and the usual chuckle-worthy bacover quotes Highly recommended

**Bug Eye 7** (Helmut Klemm, 16 Uhland St, Uffort/Eick, (22a)Krs, Moers, W. Germany; 34pp; March-April 1961; Available for LoCs, trade or review) This all-English fanzine shows an international appeal. Rolf Gindorf writes on the Lower Rhineland Con, Burkhard Blüm discusses Gerfandom, Julian Parr comes out of retirement, Alan Burns masticates, Mike Deckinger throws in gimmick films and Walt Ernsting praises German sf, forgetting that Germany didn’t exactly start from scratch to catch up with the English speaking countries. Letters and fillers round up an issue which has nothing outstanding about it but which is still made up of some extremely interesting froth.

**Ipsa Facto** April 1961 is the first combozine of the new British apa, The International Publishers Speculative Organisation (Ted Forsyth & Joe Patrizio, 11 Ferndale Road, London SW 4) and is made up of analytical comments on fantasy apas. Contributors are Berry, Breen, Burn, Busby, Donaho, Ellik, Lichtman, Lindsay, Locke, Metcalf, Moffatt, Patrizio, Pelz, Rispin, Ryan, Johnstone, Meskys and gee, Ella Parker Quite a line-up!

**BSFA Newsletter 8**, May 1961, from Jimmy Groves, 29 Lathom Rd, East Ham, London E 8. Contains a complete listing of BSFA members.... Card from Bad HomburgCon signed “B.B” – Blum? Burn? It *couldn't* be Brig...? ...We’re still alive, you’ll see. Longest between issues gap caused by lack of newsworthy items and mundanities like school work and watching county cricket. Fourway birthday party thrown 14th May by *Scribble* editor Colin Freeman. Harrogate fandom visited Liverpool 27/28 May. Robin Two Shorrock now World Wrestling Champion.... Chaos with Cringebinders – the Stourbridge Gang seems to have split up. Peter “Tea” Davies appears to have left fandom and is now living in Blackpool. Both he and Dave Hale write to say that the expected *Les Spinge 6* will probably be the last, though there is a slight chance that Dave might take over the

mag from Ken Cheslin.... Many thanks for the \$2 money order, remittance No 2-2, 552,519, but *whom* do I thank?.... Harrogate Con 1962 doesn't look like coming off. Hotel prices are rising and it's extremely difficult to find a hotel of suitable size with all mod convention cons as it were. Leeds and York have already been tried as well as Harrogate. It would seem that the most otherwise-suitable hotels, especially as regards price, are dry. Reactions to holding the con in an unlicensed hotel are solicited.

### **Changes of Address**

Lynn Hickman, 706 Scott St, Napoleon, Ohio, USA

Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Rd, Eccleshall, Sheffield

Brian Aldiss, 24 Marston St, Iffley Rd, Oxford 44747

Brian Jordan, 86 Piccadilly Rd, Burnley, Lancs.

Peter Singleton, 10 Emily St, Burnley, Lancs

Big SFCoL party May 6/7 at Bruce Burn's. Among guests were Brian and Frances Varley, married at Easter.... Dave & Ruth Kyle again in London after tour on Continent and cruise on River Medway with Bert Campbell.... Terry & Val Jeeves expecting baby in October.... *Skyrack* boobed – Bruce Burn lives at 36 Warrington Cres, London W9.... John Campbell has joined Liverpool Group – as *Bastion 2* will reveal.... Ethel Lindsay offering 10/- for sketch for SFCoL to perform at 62 con.... SFCoL planning trip to Paris.... SFCoL new members Ian & Betty Peters both Scots. Scots now number 7 in the Club, The Scottish Fan Club of London says Jimmy Groves.... New pbs on hand are anthology from *Weird Tales*, *The Unexpected* by Leo Margulies (very good), and *Calibre .50* by Sheckley (disappointing Bondish mystery).... First Happy 1962 card in from Val and Terry Jeeves. Thanks, and you too!

# ***Skyrack* #34, 17 July 1961**

This is ***Skyrack* 34**, dated **17th July, 1961** and published by Ron Bennett at old, lovable 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire England 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (6 issues sent airmail for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md News to interest sf fans always welcomed. Cartoon for the end of term by Arthur Thomson

**Electron Ellik for Taff**

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## **Gulf Crisis –**

**George Locke in Kuwait  
Don Geldart Posted**

With a flourish of isn't this just like *Futurian War Digest*, *Skyrack* covers the Kuwait situation. The first indication that fandom was in any way involved in the Persian Gulf crisis was the national press announcement that British troops in Kenya were being moved into Kuwait. Later another note reported that the 24th Field Regiment was one of the concerned units. Bruce Burn writes that Don Geldart has been moved into Cyprus on standby duty, but that George Locke is probably not involved as he, Bruce, recently had lunch with the Locke family and they understood that George was still in Kenya.

However, it is definitely known that George has been transferred to Kuwait with the 24th, but the duration of his stay is not expected to be a lengthy one. George writes, "It's hot here – really hot. There's desert, and more desert and a few desiccated shrubs and more desert for dessert to follow." George flew out on 6th July and looks forward to returning to gliding in Kenya. He has now obtained his "C" certificate for flying solo.

Note that while George is in Kuwait his address will be Sgt G.W. Locke, 24 Field Ambulance, B.F.P.O. 616. No address to hand for Don Geldart.

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**For Sale.** U.S. *If*. Vols 1 & 2. 12 issues complete. & Others. Offers?

**This Month's Big Drive** must be for the Parker Pond Fund for Ella leaves

for the Seacon next month. London fandom will surely go to pieces or alternatively reach new heights while she is away. Contribute to keep her away as long as possible so that we can see really worthwhile results in this matter. Cash to Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Rd, London SW 4. Ted is also the man to send cash to for the superlative collection of Arthur Thomson illustrations, *The Atom Anthology*, selling at \$1 or 7/-.

**Axe** (Larry & Noreen Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Staten Island 6, NY or Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW 2) notes that the Willis 10th Anniversary Fund has reached the half way stage to the \$1000 target.

**TAFF** appears to have taken a temporary back seat, with the Fund to bring over an American delegate (Ron Ellik or Dick Eney) to next year's British convention. Under 100 votes have so far been returned, so get cracking. Cash and votes to Don Ford, Box 19T, RR2, Wards Corner Rd, Loveland, Ohio, or Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire. Eric, who has been holidaying in Italy, reports steady sales of his TAFF trip report, *Epitaff*, which is well worth buying at \$1 or 7/-.

**The Directory of SF Fandom.** Addresses of over 500 fans, a 6th annual listing. 1/6d or 25¢ from Bennett or Pavlat Only a few copies left

**Colonial Excursion** (7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat) Bennett's 1958 SolaCon TAFF report, illustrated by photographs and Atomillos.

### **What Makes You Think Skyrack Doesn't Get Letters Department**

Norman Shorrock sent greetings in the form of twentyone 1841 penny reds – the letters in the lower corners spell out the message (This was actually sent quite a while back – the code has only just been deciphered!)... Bob Pavlat says that the recent MidWestCon was “its usual fine self” and Dave Kyle writes that the Don Ford Slide Show was shown there, while from the North Plaza Motel comes a postcard showing the famous palette (*Axe* says “kidney”) shaped pool and a sheet of headed notepaper bearing the signatures of all the attendees including Bob Madle, the Coulsons, Les Gerber, Bob Pavlat, Hal Lynch, Bob Tucker, Sandy Cutrell, Shel Deretchin, Earl Kemp, Hal “The last of the Big Time Spenders” Shapiro, Don Ford, Lynn Hickman, Dave and Ruth “The matzoball kid” Kyle, the Lupoffs, Fred Prophet and Jim Broderick, Dick Eney and Ron Ellik, the Youngs, the Whites, Howard Devore and Dick Schultz, who kindly sent the two.... Bob Tucker also sent a clipping from some newspaper which depicted the kindly old sunbaked Highway 66 as a “Highway of Terror”, with a listing of murders and rapes that have taken place on the road. One

crime detailed took place near Holbrook, Arizona, the place where poor little fans have guns stuck in their stomachs, and Tuck asks, “Did YOU get back home safely?”.... Letter in from Hackney Public Libraries – or at least sporting their headed paper – asking for *Colonial Excursion*.... Card from Arthur Thomson in Bournemouth who says that he can fix me up with a specially transported con hotel on build it yourself lines. Card shows Stonehenge.... Ted Forsyth & Joe Patrizio have been playing tennis on holiday in Edinburgh Now back in London for a rest.... Neat Pc from Bruce Burn saying that BB pc I’d had from the Continent was naturally from him. Card posted in Germany, though Bruce is in England!.... Card from Burkhard Blüm touring East Germany.... Thanks, all.

**Vector 12** (June 1961, edited by James Groves, 29 Lathom Rd, East Ham, London E6 for the BSFA; 30pp) At the LXIcon’s Business Meeting the point was raised that the BSFA’s Official Organ, *Vector*, does not possess any prestige value, that it looks like an amateur publication, with the widest and lowest possible implications, and that frankly its very appearance is a little “offputting” to use a phrase very much in common use today. This latest issue shows that such criticisms are unfounded... and very much so unfounded. The duplicating is wellnigh perfect and the layout possesses a neat and clean appearance. And the content matter once again succeeds in fulfilling all requirements. Secretary Joe Patrizio criticises criticisms by John Phillifent. There are minutes of the BSFA’s AGM, a useful record. Ken Slater keeps us up to date with current books and magazines. John Phillifent discusses some points on writing SF, possibly in the hope of stirring another controversy. Reviews and letters cover many meaty points, as does the editorial. And there is a fanzine reprint of a Bob Tucker classic which first saw print in Britain in the long-sleeping *Ploy*.

**Northlight 12** (Undated; Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2; 14pp) One of the smaller, less pretentious British zines makes a welcome reappearance. Alan and Dick Schultz contribute the written material, mainly on witches and Michigan fandom (yes, there is a difference) and Ken McIntyre is responsible for the artwork.

**Haverings 6** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 12pp; 6d) This latest listing of recent fanzines brings *Haverings* up to the review standard of Ethel’s once regular column in *Retribution*. Some very neat points brought out.

Worth noting from abroad are:

**Speculative Review May 1961** from Dick Eney, 417 Ft Hunt Rd, Alexandria, Va, USA. 3 for 2/- from Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Very mature reviews of latest in sf. This issue contains analysis by Bill Evans of 35 years of *Amazing Stories*.

**Axe Nos 5 & 6**, the Willis Fund thermometer and newszine, available for donations to the Fund and produced by Larry & Noreen Shaw. Now well-established in 2nd place in fandom's newszine field.

**Fanac 72 & 73**, the first issues of the new Breen administration finally reached the home islands. The news mostly out of date, but valuable for change of address listings.

**Cry 151** from the Nameless Ones, Box 92, 507 3rd Ave, Seattle 4, Washington, USA or 1/9 per copy, 14/- for 12 issues from John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave, Belmont, Belfast 4. All the usual features from fandom's current focal point.

**Shangri L'Affaires 56** edited by Bjo and John Trimble, 2790 W 8th St, LA 5 and available at the rate of 5 for 7/- from Archie Mercer. Still one of fandom's top zines, covering primarily LA doings.

**Gaul 3**, address as for *Shaggy* above. Edited by Larry McCombs, Lyn Hardy and Steve Tolliver. 50 pp of a well laid out zine that is going places

**Xero 5**, Pat & Dick Lupoff, 215 E 73rd St, New York 21. 56 pages. New top ten genzine that can't fail. Very reminiscent of *Innuendo*.

**Esoterique 5**, Bruce Henstell, 815 Tigertail Rd., LA 49. Mainly notable for scripting of recent SF broadcast which featured Bloch, Beaumont and Clifton.

**Ella Parker** notes that the SFCoL has another camera-bug, Al Hoch, a fan from Philadelphia, over here for a year.... Bruce Burn *will* be going on the continent – but next month. Bruce was up in Liverpool this weekend, I understand, viewing the British Grand Prix at Aintree.... Hugo Nomination final listing is out, with voting going only to Seacon members this year. Fanzines listed are all US publications, *Discord*, *Fanac*, *Who Killed Science Fiction*, *Habakkuk*, *Shaggy* and *Yandro*. Deadline for voting is 1st August.... Thomas Schlück reports that he is making up a party to travel to next year's Eastercon.... Ken Cheslin reports that the Stourbridge Circle has not split up but is undergoing a period of change. Ken notes that he was down in Cheltenham last month for a party at which Chris Miller was also present.... Brian Aldiss has finished the last Hothouse story for *F&SF*, he says. Brian sends a clipping covering a recent Oxford exhibition by his

*Canopy of Time* artist, Oscar Mellor.... Lively discussion and offbeat zine, *Vahana*, in from Les Nirenberg. May be had from Joe Patrizio, 11 Ferndale Rd, London SW 2 at 5 for 7/- or 1/9d per. Contains one of year's highlights in cartoons/captioned photographs.... Take your cotton picking hands off my helzel....\* Dave & Ruth Kyle are back home, as it may have been gathered, after their continental trip. Dave sent a card on arrival home, "Howdy podner. Been home a week and we're still unpacking. We rented a power-cruiser for a week and accompanied Bert Campbell and family in his 27' cruiser on an extended pillage of the Kentish countryside. Pictured here is our modest craft". Needless to say, card showed a wonder ship, in this case the *Bremen*, following a signpost to Tunbridge Wells and flying a BSFA flag! Dave also reported that 1962 WorldCon Chairman elect, Earl Kemp, has hopes of getting Kingsley Amis on the programme. Sounds good.... The SFCoL is still awaiting the convention article commissioned via TAFF from Mr Amis at the LXIcon.... No further news on the 62 British consite, and *Skyrack* winds up with a slogan from Brian Aldiss, who evidently has "a thing" about them... You're never alone with a *Skyrack*!

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\* *Sic*: neither Rob Hansen nor I can fathom this jest. – DRL.

ron ellik for taff

# **Skyrack #35, 23 August 1961**

This is *Skyrack* No. 35, dated 23rd August 1961 and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. Six issues for 2/6d or 35¢ in USA (65¢ for six issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon heading by Arthur "Atom" Thomson. News of interest to sf fans always welcome.

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## **Ella Goes**

ELLA PARKER, BIGGEST NAME IN LONDON ACTIFANDOM, FLEW OUT TO THE SEACON ON TUESDAY 22ND, FOLLOWING FAREWELL PARTY THROWN BY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB OF LONDON AT WARRINGTON CRESCENT HOME OF BRUCE BURN AND ALAN RISPIN. THE PARTY BEGAN SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 19TH, AND CONTINUED WELL INTO SUNDAY EVENING WHEN SEVERAL FANS WENT 10 PIN BOWLING. THE PARTY WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS AND ONE OF THE MOST CONVIVIAL I HAVE EVER ATTENDED. DRINK AND FOOD ABOUNDED AND THE PARTY WAS ATTENDED BY BILL TEMPLE, COMPLETE WITH WIFE AND DAUGHTER ANN, JOE PATRIZIO, TED TUBB, TED FORSYTH, ETHEL LINDSAY, PAUL AND MRS ANDREWS, MARJORIE HARRISON, PETER MABEY, BOBBIE AND BILL GRAY, ARCHIE MERCER (COMPLETE WITH BEARD), PAT KEARNEY, FRED PARKER, ARTHUR & OLIVE THOMPSON, ALAN RISPIN, DIANE GOULDING, BRUCE BURN, DOUG LACEY, RON BENNETT, IAN FAIRBROTHER, IAN & BETTY PETERS, JIMMY GROVES, AL "AJAX" HOCH, JILL AND JOHN ADAMS, KEN POTTER AND CHRIS MILLER, AND ELLA PARKER.

WHEN ELLA FLEW OFF SHE WAS SEEN OFF BY A PARTY MADE UP OF FRED PARKER, TED FORSYTH, JOE PATRIZIO, RON BENNETT, ALAN RISPIN, BRUCE BURN AND JIMMY GROVES, TO SAY NOTHING OF ARTHUR THOMSON WHO HAD BROUGHT ALONG A CAR BEDECKED WITH GOOD LUCK ATOM-STYLE NOTICES ("GAGARIN, TITOV AND NOW PARKER"). ARTHUR TOLD AMAZED OFFICIALS THAT WE WERE ALL ELLA'S HUSBANDS AND HAD COME TO SAY GOODBYE TO HER, AND ALSO THAT SHE HAS A THREE WEEK BURLESQUE ENGAGEMENT IN NEVADA. ARTHUR ADMITTED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ILLOS HE HAD GIVEN ELLA TO TAKE WITH HER, THIS FOLLOWING THE THEFT OF THE £140,00 GOYA FROM THE LONDON NATIONAL GALLERY.

DEPARTING ON THE 8.45 PLANE TO IDLEWILD, ELLA WAS DUE TO

CHANGE AIRPORTS IN NEW YORK, SWITCHING TO NEWARK FOR A TW TRIP TO LOS ANGELES WHERE SHE WILL BE THE GUEST OF SOLACON CHAIRMAN ANNA MOFFATT. ELLA WILL FLY UAL TO SEATTLE IN TIME FOR THE SEACON ON 1st SEPTEMBER AND FOLLOWING THE CONVENTION HOPES TO TRAVEL EAST IN THE COMPANY OF BOB PAVLAT WHO PLANS TO VISIT CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS EN ROUTE. ELLA HOPES TO VISIT BETTY KUJAWA, DON FORD, HARRY WARNER AND DAVE & RUTH KYLE BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON SOMETIME PROBABLY MID-OCTOBER.

– RMB

### **Pro-News from The Carnell Literary Agency**

Brian Aldiss' "Hothouse" series is being revised into a novel and should see publication in both USA and the U K as a complete book. Brian also has a new (and so far untitled) fantasy novel coming from Ballantine shortly. Another novel, previously unpublished, has just appeared in the *Galaxy Beacon* series. This is *The Male Response*, and six additional pages of sexy dialogue had to be added to make the book saleable!

Five of the early James White SECTOR GENERAL novelettes have been rewritten into a novel, which will also be coming from Ballantine shortly. Meanwhile, James is at work on a new "Sector" story, a new book-length novel which will probably commence serialisation in the December *New Worlds*. He is also lined up to have a story entitled "Christmas Treason" in the Christmas issue of *F&SF*.

Jim Ballard's first novel, *To Reap the Whirlwind* has just been sold to Berkley Books in New York. A completely different version has been rewritten into a two-part serial for *New Worlds* coming up in August, entitled "Stormwind".

Brian Aldiss again! His novel *Non-Stop* and a short story collection *Galaxies Like Grains of Sand* have just sold in Spain. Meanwhile, Brian has an anthology coming from Penguin Books in the near future. This is titled *Penguin Science Fiction 1*, leaving, perhaps, scope for a 2, 3....

Gerard Quinn returns to Nova art work with covers for both *New Worlds* and *Science Fantasy* shortly. His first *New Worlds* cover will be for the August issue, illustrating a new "Sector General" story.

And Aldiss yet again! His short story, "Old Hundredth", which was specially written for *New Worlds* No 100, has been chosen by Judith Merrill as one of her selections for the next *S-F: The Year's Best* from Dell and Simon & Schuster.

Personal news items: The Larry Shaw “Axe” rumour that Eric Frank Russell had been gathered to his forefathers is happily erroneous, Eric was involved in a car accident recently and this put him in hospital for a short time.

Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett are hoping to be in London sometime in September.

((Many thanks Ted – RMB))

---oooOooo---

**Gulf Crisis Latest:** Don Geldart writes to let everyone know that he, too, is suffering; “I didn’t quite make it to Cyprus, but instead find myself incarcerated in Aden. George Locke’s description of Kuwait fits Aden pretty well, except that there aren’t any bushes, just sand and bare black volcanic hills. I have one advantage over George in that I at least have an air conditioned billet to which I can retire if it gets too hot outside. I flew out here a couple of weeks ago and have since been shifted around from one camp to another. Nobody – least of all me – knows how long my sojourn in the sun is likely to be. If, Ghod forbid, I do the rest of my time out here then I’ll be back in time for the ’64 con. Aden has one good feature in that it is about the cheapest place in the world and so far I’ve bought a transistor radio (price in England between £17 and £20 – price here £7) and am now looking out for a transistor tape-recorder and a typewriter” Don’s address is listed in the CoA section, and I’ve also heard from George Locke, who is still in Kuwait.

***The Bug Eye 8*** (Helmut Klemm, 16 Uhland St, Ufort/Eick, (22a) Krs Moers, W. Germany; Available for trades, letters of comments, and free to members of OMPA. *The Bug Eye*, a leader in international zines, celebrates its first anniversary with this issue. Jack Chalker has an open letter to Gerfandom, which is answered by Rolf Gindorf in a neat manner. John Berry contributes a faan story and other items are by Chris Miller, Mike Deckinger, Alan Burns, Wolf Pippke, and the editor. There’s lots of artwork and several letters. Nothing outstanding but a meaty and readable zine.

***Speculative Review Vol 3 No 3*** (June 61; Dick Eney; 3 for 2/- to good ol’ Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln) This issue of fandom’s most invaluable guide to Good SF Reading is given over to Russian SF, Mervyn Peake’s *Titus Groan* (by David H Keller, no less) and Doyle’s *The Maracot Deep*. Recommended, as always.

**Warhoon 12** (July 61. Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York 14, NY, USA; 50pp) *Wrhn* is undoubtedly one of today's leading fanzines, being one of the most mature and one of the meatiest. There are 14 pages of Bergeron to kick off with – his style reminds me very much of Calkins. And I like Calkins! Columns are Willis' *Harp*, which deals with writing first drafts (and which puts its theory into practice) and Redd Boggs' *File 13* which makes a welcome return after several years in limbo. John Berry and Bob Tucker are also present. Letters, chatter and cartoons make up an issue which is of course highly recommended.

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### **Change of Address**

Sgt Don Geldart, Sgt's Mess, 3rd Carabiniers, Aden Detachment, B F P O 69.

Lynn Hickman, 224 Dement Ave, Dixon, Illinois, USA (this reverts to a previous address)

Bill Morse, 32 Milton Lane, Wookey Hole, Wells, Somerset

Chris Miller, 101 Maney Hill Rd, Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks.

Alan Rispin, 36 Warrington Crescent, London W 9.

Ron Bennett, 13 Westcliffe grove, Harrogate, Yorks.

**Parker Pond Fund:** Last minute contributions before Ella flies to the SeaCon can be sent to Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Rd, London SW 4. Ted is also collecting the subscriptions to the superlative *Atom Anthology* at \$1 or 7/-. A party in Ella's honour will be held, starting 19th, at the London home of Bruce Burn and Alan Rispin.

**TAFF** Votes are still coming in but slowly in the present campaign to bring over a delegate (Dick Eney or Ron Ellik) to next year's British convention. Meanwhile, the nomination period for next year's return trip has been thrown open, and latest rumoured candidates line up as Eddie Jones, Ethel Lindsay and Terry Jeeves.

**Colonial Excursion** (7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat) Bennett's 1958 SolaCon TAFF report, illustrated by photographs and Atomillos.

**Wants? Sales? Trades? Advertise in *Skyrack*.** 6d per line, no charge for name and address.

As indicated in the CoA section, Alan Rispin is now down in London, and is sharing a flat with Bruce Burn. Alan, Brian Jordan and Chris Miller roped in Marcus Wigan and held a recent Irlam Minicon. Dave Hall did the washing up. Alan recently hitched through 5 European countries.

Visited Vesoul but does not mention looking up the Linards.... Chris Miller mentions that the Farmer Hugo nominated novel originally appeared in a 1958 Satellite.... Card from Michael and Betty Rosenblum on holiday in Cornwall and from Dave & Ruth Kyle (every issue?) whose matzoballs are getting bigger and better, and also Bruce Burn in Rheims searching for the greengages. Bruce expected back for the Parker party Aug 19th which will be held at 36 Warrington Crescent whether or not he makes it!.... This page written in London prior to the party by Ron Bennett on his annual London holiday. Front page and issue publication possibly held over for news of Ella's departure to Seattle.... Jhim Linwood has a 3¾" taper and will accept tapes without prior notice.... Archie Mercer is British agent for 7/- *Fanthology*, Terry Carr's *Best of Fandom* replacement.... John Foyster writes John Baxter is folding his promising zine *Bunyip*.... Paul Enever is understood to have already emigrated to Australia.... John Roles writes that Liverpool penthouse clubroom has recently been redecorated.... *Bastion 2* in from Eric Bentcliffe at 11th hour; *Haverings 7* in from Ethel Lindsay at 11½th hour

**Real Deadline Midnight Stuff**, Saturday 19th August: Letter from Terry Jeeves to Ella mentions supporting Eddie Jones for TAFF, thereby suggesting that he himself is not standing. ::: New side interest for SFCoL fans is ten-pin bowling, a craze which is carrying all before it. At time of writing BSFA Secretary Joe Patrizio holds club championship. ::: Brian Burgess recently returned from continental hike. Took trouble to take OMPazines with him so that he could postmail from Hel, Poland. ::: OMPA Editor Bruce Burn arrived back in London 3 days early on Wednesday. ::: Gulf Crisis Extra-Latest: Don Geldart has been moved into Kuwait. Has finally met up with George Locke after Middle East meanderings. From BBC news it seems highly likely that George will be back in Kenya before very long.

Ron Ellik for TAFF.

# ***Skyrack* #36, 5 September 1961**

This is *Skyrack* No 36, dated 5th September 1961 and edited by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy Six issues for 2/6d; USA 35¢ for 6 issues (65¢ airmail) from Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon heading by Chris Miller. News of interest to sf fandom always welcomed.

**First with the News – Again!!**

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## **Hugo For *Who Killed S-F***

Bantam's *A Canticle for Leibowitz* by Walter M Miller Jr was awarded the Hugo for the year's best novel at the Seattle 19th World S F Convention, held last weekend 2nd-4th September. Poul Anderson, whose novel *The High Crusade* was nominated, won through in another award section, his *Analog* story "The Longest Voyage" taking the Hugo for the Best Shorter Work.

*Analog Science Fact & Fiction* broke a lengthy string of *F&SF* successes by winning the Hugo for the best professional magazine. Ed Emshwiller took the Best Artist Hugo for the second year in succession, as did Rod Serling's programme "The Twilight Zone" in the section for best dramatic presentation.

In the fanzine field the award for best amateur publication went to the bulky symposium *Who Killed Science Fiction*. Already a collector's item *WKSF* was last year circulated through SAPS by its producers, Nancy and Earl Kemp.

(Many thanks to our reporter)

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**Very Much Stop Press** :: Just too late to catch more than a mention is a glowing report from Len Moffatt on Ella Parker's meanderings around Los Angeles. :: Bob Pavlat, in a cable from the SeaCon, also reports that Ella is wonderful ::: Further to the SeaCon, late flashes are that Robert Heinlein, 1960 Hugo award winner (novel, *Starship Troopers*) spoke at length about his worries concerning the future of the world. Chicago took the 1962 World Con and 250 attended this year's SeaCon. **Parker in Los Angeles** –

## **Rick Sneary Reports ::: Vote TAFF – Last Chance**

**Ella's in Wonderland** Ella Parker, leading light of London fandom, arrived safely in Los Angeles after her fifteen hour flight from Newark. Ella flew from London Airport on 22nd August and had to switch airlines and airports from Idlewild to Newark for her internal flight to LA by TWA. Ella made the switch by helicopter and reports that she saw the famous skyline and the Statue of Liberty. The plane to LA made up time lost on other stops and arrived ten minutes earlier than scheduled. Ella reports that she was presented with the first copy of *The Willis Papers* which are now out. She was met at the airport by Len and Anna Moffatt and Rick Sneary. She mentions meeting the Los Angeles fans who were delighted with their ATOM-produced SFCoL membership scroll and who presented her with a Parker pen in return. Ella would probably not be known to us stay at homes, it seems, for not only has she bought a pair of shorts, but she is *wearing them!*

Of Ron Ellik, Ella writes that she is still supporting Eney for TAFF, but that “Ellik is a dream of a boy and b——— good fun... he is a lot more handsome (this is for the girls) than his pics would lead you to think.” Ella also mentions being impressed by the cops, the lack of pedestrians, but not at the Los Angeles traffic. These blase Londoners.

**Rick Sneary**, that kind hearted cog-wheel of Los Angeles fandom, was good enough to report on Ella's reception in LA....

29th August: “This proved to be one of the saddest days I've had in some years. All because Len and Anna and I had to see Ella on her plane to Seattle this morning, putting an end to an unbelievably happy visit.... Whilst my regard for one Britisher has gone up, my feeling towards the rest of you, has hit a new low. Everything that I've read to date about the Parker personality has been proven a base slander. Of course, I knew none of you were telling the truth. You're a bunch of nuts who love to, insult each other. It didn't seem likely that you chaps were spending so much time at the Penitentiary just because she made good tea. Even so, it hardly left me prepared to meet quite so wonderful a person.... None of you limies who call her 'Auntie Ella' had better ever come to California. Or I'm apt to blind the other eye, with me fist!

“Ella was due to arrive on Aug 23rd at 9 45pm but she was ten minutes early. We drove her to the Moffatts' where we put on a pot of tea, and Ella relaxed and talked and showed us snaps of English fans (No good shots of you with a beard – were there any?). Ella was taken shopping the

following afternoon and shown round the city and on down to Ackerman's. There she got the standard private tour. From there to the Fan Hilton for a festive dinner. Ron Ellik had to wash up even though he hadn't eaten dinner. There were 40 or so fans at the LASFS meeting, with the Schultheises from out of town. A small group sat around talking until 2am.

"Friday 25th Len and I took Ella to the Hotel Alexandria so she could say she had had a drink in the Solacon Hotel. More sightseeing followed.

"Sat August 26th lunch at the Moffatts', over to Stan Woolston's and finally out to Faulkner's with the day given over to tea drinking, talking and watching TV.

"On Sunday 27th, Len and Anna picked Ella up at Rory's, meeting Ron Ellik and Paul and Ellie Turner. Then on to Disneyland where they met Jack and Julie Jardine. Ron and the Turners took Ella to dinner and\* a tour of their ghost town. Then to Ellik's in Long Beach where she met his mother and was given some moonlight sightseeing.

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\* The report was cut off at this point with "(cont back page)"; the rest appeared there, after the "**Alan Rispin** tells me..." paragraph below. – *DRL*.

"Aug 28th In the morning the Moffatts drove Ella to the Beach so she could wade in the Pacific. In the afternoon we talked and drank root beer and in the evening we sort of realised that this was our last dinner together and that it was something of an occasion. Ella put on a lovely flame coloured frock and we had wine before the meal. I even remembered to help the ladies with their chairs. Then, after washing up, we sat and had a last long talk. Len and I couldn't bear to be parted from Ella any sooner than we had to so we followed her around as she packed things and sorted those things to be mailed. As always with all good things, the last night was the best. There was only one thing to do in the morning, catch the plane – so we talked and talked and the bond between us grew. Damn it all Ron, I guess I take back my earlier remarks about your not saying enough about her. You *can't* put Ella into words."

All this, I should note, is condensed, – extremely condensed – from a detailed four page letter from Rick. On 29th August, Anna, Len, and Rick saw Ella off on the UAL flight to Seattle. The plane was due to stop at San Francisco/Oakland and Portland before hitting Seattle at 4.30pm. Ella had the idea of getting to Seattle a couple of days before the con in order to catch the meeting of the Nameless Ones and surprise Wally Weber. Did

she make it? Well, we'll have to see next time round!

And many, many thanks, Rick, for such a glowing account.

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**Bastion 2** (Eric Bentcliffe & Norman Shorrocks, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire 1/6 per issue, 4 for 5/- 51pp) Running through this latest offering from the Liverpool Group and Satellites are the usual worth-while-having Eddie Jones illustrations and he's given plenty of scope to show what he can do with his stylus. There are three excellent pictorial extracts from *Starship Troopers*. Faversham and Hurstmonceaux contribute another Harrison adventure which is well up to the high standard expected of them. John Owen gives the low down on Merseyside happenings. Eric Bentcliffe sums up the Gloucester LXIcon. Doc Weir is present with an article on historical sf, Avram Davidson's Pittcon speech is reprinted (re-?) in full. Millions of letters, illos by Joni Cornell and Terry Jeeves complete this Harrison Approved publication Get it

**TAFF** We are now in the last month for voting in the campaign to bring over a delegate to next year's National Convention. Dick Eney and Ron Ellik are both good men (*Skyrack* is supporting Ellik) and it is hoped that one of them will get *your* support. If you haven't yet voted, VOTE NOW!!! Meanwhile, even before the present campaign winds up on 30th September, the nomination period for the 1962 return trip has been thrown open. Eddie Jones and Ethel Lindsay have already filed for nomination. Any more? Votes, cash, nominations, etc to Eric Bentcliffe (address above) or Don Ford, RR2, Ward's Corner Road, Loveland, Ohio, USA

**10th Anniversary Willis Fund Nears Minimum Target** *Axe*, that excellent newszine published by Larry & Noreen Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Staten Island 6, New York, reports that over \$880 are already on hand, with a further \$80 plus being guaranteed from postal auction bids. The TAWF is going great guns and it is impossible to see how it can fail. Contributions to Noreen or to Arthur Thomson 17 Brockham House, Brookham Drive, London SW 2

**Sincere Congratulations** to Marjorie and Susan who this coming week marry Stan Nuttall and Chuck Harris. Respectively, I hasten to add. Both events will, I hope, be covered by *Skyrack* reporters.

**Skyrack Americana.** Dick, Pat and Poops Ellington have moved to 1818 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley 3, California. Dick recently lost his job and is thinning out the dole by driving an Oakland hack :: Communal feed for

the Willis Fund at Bill Donaho's place 23rd September :: Miri and Terry Carr have split up after two years' marriage. Terry is now in New York (c/o Graham, 635 East 5th St Apt 8; New York 9, NY) is growing a beard and writing a novel :: Bob Lichtman, George Spencer and Andy Main have all moved up to the Bay Area :: Ted White is pushing a move to change the date of the annual World Cons away from Labor Day Weekend :: "Belle and I have made an amicable separation, pending divorce at a later date," writes Frank Dietz. The word "amicable" does tend to soften the blow but to learn of another couple who are friends of mine splitting up does not exactly give me joy.

**I Wonder If Ella Has Played That Tape Yet?** Bruce Burn, Arthur Thomson, Jimmy Groves, Ted Forsyth and I cooked up a little ploy on tape for Ella Parker at the SeaCon. Reports on how Ella took the news that the Penitentiary has been burnt down would be appreciated.

**Alan Rispin** tells me that Jhim Linwood is shortly to visit Jim Norris and that I have to send this issue to Jhim at Jim's in order to surprise him. Oh yeah? :: Sandra Hall left 1st September for lengthy stay in Egypt.

**Pronews** Ken Slater writes:-

"Difficulties over importing US ACE paperbacks (due to the fact that 'Ace' is imprint of another publishing house in the UK) show no sign of being resolved. Odd copies come through, but A.A. Wyn Co. quite rightfully will not export to UK while the difficulty exists.... Bertram Chandler's *Rim of Space* coming in US ACE soon.... Sep/Oct Doubleday BC selections are *Fifth Galaxy Reader* and Nourse's *Tiger by the Tail*.... E.E. Smith has a new serial in Nov *If*.... Ace pbs up to 40¢ from July.... Harry Harrison in Napoli. Back to Denmark mid-Sept. His *Stainless Steel Rat* coming Nov from Pyramid, and *Sense of Obligation* coming early next year in Bantam.... Penguin have put out Wolfe's *Limbo 90* at 5/-.... Bradbury profile coming October *Amazing*."

Many thanks, Ken.

ron ellik  
for taff

# ***Skyrack* #37, 18 September 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 37, dated **18th September 1961** in time to catch the first day's issue of the new Europa stamps. This issue is edited by Elizabeth Humbey, 17 Belmont Road, Harrogate and is published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Price is 6d per copy. Six issues for 2/6d. 35 cents in USA (65 cents for 6 issues airmailed) from that good man Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave., Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon by Arthur (Atom) Thomson

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**Joe Patrizio Engaged.** Joe Patrizio, present Secretary of the British Science Fiction Association, is to be congratulated on his recent engagement to Miss Ann Temple, daughter of William F. Temple the well-known sf writer. Joe has, in addition to finding himself a fiancée, found himself a new flat and his address is now Flat 5, 11 Grosvenor Road, Watford, Herts.

The Auction Items listed in the supplementary sheet last issue have brought in some interesting bids. Deadline is 1st November and half the total on any lot will be donated to any fannish charity such as TAFF or the TAWF.

Lot 1. Lee Hoffman's *Excelsior* 1-3 complete. 15/- has so far been bid.

Lot 2. Donaho's giant *Habakkuk* 1-6. The bid stands at £6 at the moment.

Lot 3. 7/6d has been bid on numbers 8 and 11 of Terry Carr's *Innuendo*.

Lot 4, Lot 5 No bids to date on *Oblique* 2, 3, 4, 6, or *Psychotic* 19 and 20.

Lot 6. 5/6d has been bid on *The Selected Writings of Rick Snary*.

No bids to date on lots 7 & 8 (FAPA Shadow Mailings or *Sun Trails* Summer 41)

13/6d has been bid on the Rotsler *Tattooed Dragon* series, per item (9 – 11). Various bids have been received on the FAPA mailings, 77 (Nov 56) – 96 (Aug 61)

**The Tenth Anniversary Willis Fund** has already passed its target of \$1000, the sum which guarantees the passage to next year's Chicago Convention of Walt & Madeleine Willis, just ten years after Walt's initial visit. The Willises will also need travel money and eating expenses to say the least and the Fund has not by any means been closed. Donations to this

worthy cause may be sent to Larry & Noreen Shaw, 16 Grant Pl., Staten Island 6, New York, or to Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW 2. Arthur, incidentally, won the Judges Choice Award at the recent SeaCon Art Show. Latest news on the 1962 ChiCon, the Chicago WorldCon, is that the Guest of Honour has already been named – Theodore Sturgeon. Chairman Earl Kemp appears to have most of the con's programme already lined up.

Axe recently announced the death of writer Clark Ashton Smith.

### **Reader's letter**

New York, Thursday 7th September 1961.

Dear Ron: You were fast with the Seacon news, but not first. Axe got here yesterday with even fuller coverage than you had. I must admit I was pleased. I've been a bit irritated in the past at your continual contention that *Skyrack* is the world's number one newszine, first with the news, etc. Surely it must have occurred to you that *Skyrack* has yet to place in the top 20 fanzines on the *Fanac* Poll... and believe me, it's never even come close. Surely you must have noticed that *Fanac*'s been nominated for three Hugos, and got one; *Skyrack* has yet to be nominated.

What really irritated me though, was your contention on the back of the last *Directory of S.F. Fandom* that *Skyrack* had been "First With Every Major News Item of 1960". It so happened, that at the time the *Directory* came Donaho and I were busy culling *Fanac*, *Skyrack*, *Cry*, etc. for news items for a history of the 1960 fanyear. By actual check, then, I can say that not only was *Skyrack* not first with most of the major items, but *it didn't even mention most of them*. You were first with Pittcon news (you'll probably always be first with worldcon news – the P.O. is closed in this country on Labor Day), but as I recall it that was all. Oh yes – the announcement that Amis was to be Briticon GoH was another scoop for you. The rest of them *Fanac* got – the Trimbles' marriage, the Rapps' marriage and many more....

Re. who's first on worldcon news this time: Axe arrived Wednesday in New York, and presumably all over the East Coast; *Skyrack* got here today, Thursday. Since this is intended as a scoop, I assume you sent all copies this time airmail; Axe goes first class. Thus I figure you'll tie in the midwest and actually get the news to the west coast before Axe does... but of course the westcoast fans will know the news, since that's where it happened. Anyhow, you sort of got there first with the news this time, but it was close. If Axe keeps up after the Willis campaign (which it probably

will) then there's your competition for timeliness; Breen is turning *Fanac* into more of a news-magazine of the *Time* variety than a newspaper.

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**The London Scene** Ken & Pamela Bulmer are shortly moving to a new home near Maidstone, Kent. :: Arthur Clarke's story, *A Fall of Moondust*, is being serialised in London's daily *Evening Standard*. Gollancz publish the book today. :: Ted Forsyth and Arthur, Olive and Heather Thomson motored down to the south coast for the day. Ted and Arthur set up a stick in the sand and threw rocks at it. When they had finished they had shifted all the rocks from one side of the beach to the other and knocked down the stick once! :: Copies of *The Atom Anthology* are still available from Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Road, SW 4.

**The Willis Papers** are out and are reported as being "pretty good". May be obtained from Ted Johnstone, 1503 Rollin St., S. Pasadena, California @ \$1.

**John Brunner** is understood to be one of the many CND people who yesterday staged a Ban the Bomb sit down in Trafalgar Square. Although the rally was declared illegal by Home Secretary R.A. Butler, the demonstration went on. Chaos reigned in the Square and squatters were carted away constantly by the police in an attempt to get traffic moving. Well over 600 arrests were made. Not playing the game at all, what! And on Battle of Britain Day!!!

**Wedding Bells for Chuck.** Charles R. (Chuch) Harris and Susan M. Bourne were married at the All Saints Church, Clapham Park, London SW 2 on Saturday 9th September. At 4.15pm, the Bride being ten minutes late. The reception was held at a nearby hall where the ninety guests ate, drank and were merry, dancing to a small band which played popular tunes. Chuch, Co-founder of *Hyphen*; Founder Member of OMPA, pro-writer and letter writer par excellence carried the whole affair off with aplomb. A great many wedding presents included gifts from Walter and Madeleine Willis, and Arthur and Olive Thomson. The Bride wore a beautiful wedding dress in bronze satin with small coronet and white veil. The bridesmaids wore salmon satin dresses and small flowered headdresses, all the dresses being expertly made by the Bride. They were, to quote Olive Thomson, well made and looking beautiful. The Groom wore a grey suit and a great big smile. The happy couple will move, after their honeymoon, into their new home at Brentwood, near Epping Forest, London. (AT)

**Les Spinge 6** (July/August 1961; Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road,

Stourbridge, Worcs.; 52pp). The latest issue of this “wild, abandoned” fanzine sports *Hyphen* style covers in an attempt to lampoon the master that doesn’t quite come off, mainly because the humour is by no means up to *Hyphen* standard. There is lots of good cheer in the body of *Les Spinge*, however, and the issue would not have been out of place in the Xmas season. The seven page editorial deals primarily with Packard’s *Hidden Persuaders* without realising that the advertising techniques covered in the survey are fundamental. John Berry contributes an excellent article showing how murders are solved on TV *and* in real life. John Baxter, Alan Dodd and Dave Hale are also contributors and to make up the issue there are nineteen pages of letters. Oh yes, there is also a candid illustration of a cookie crumbling experiment.

**Taff Baedeker** (Don Ford, Box 19-T, RR2, Ward’s Corner Road, Loveland, Ohio, USA, or Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire; Published at \$1.25 by First Fandom). This TAFF report by Don Ford does not spring from Leipzig but it is an invaluable guide to the procedure a TAFF Delegate should adopt. The humour is a little stilted, a fact which will not fail to surprise those who have met Don, and it does contain some phrases, which whilst supposedly “mature” would be out of place in a family publication. Despite these minor criticisms, however, *Taff Baedeker* should surely find a place in every fan’s permanent collection. The present TAFF campaign, incidentally, is rapidly drawing to its close and any fan who has not already voted for either of the two worthy candidates, Dick Eney and *Skyrack*’s choice, Ron Ellik, should certainly do so before it is too late. Votes and donations to either Don or Eric. The campaign closes 30th September.

**Peter West**, who has asked if anyone has seen anything of his fan photo album which goes back to 1957 and includes colour shots taken in 1960, was recently in Kuwait and Aden. No, not in the forces, but there to film interviews for TV. He didn’t know at the time of the whereabouts of Don Geldart and George Locke and regrets the fact he says. 125° in the shade, reports Peter. George, meanwhile, reports that Don Geldart has now left Kuwait and is either in Aden or on his way back to England. George says that he hopes to be back in Kenya later this month. Let’s hope he’s right.

**Advertise in *Skyrack*.** 6d per line. No charge for name and address.

**Ella Visits Banff:** Ella Parker, London fandom’s leading light who is at present somewhere on the North American Continental landmass, continues to leave behind her a wake of sadness – sadness at having her

leave the fans she has visited; last issue Rick Sneary wept on our shoulders and since then we have also heard from Len Moffatt and that Good Lady, Mrs. Dorothy Faulkner. Rory says that “Ella is a dear, a darling and a living doll,” which goes to show that that old saying about prophets certainly bore some truth – when did we ever say anything nice about Ella over here? Since then we have also heard from Ella. She was thoroughly in her element at the SeaCon and says that Wally Weber will never be the same man again. Last week was travelling East with Bill Evans, Martin Moore Jr., and Bob Pavlat who seems to be making well sure that she is not forgetting to drop *Skyrack* the occasional line. Postcards from Kamloops, British Columbia, were received both here and in London and since then Ella has been managing to continue buying English cigarettes for the caravan (one car, we take it) has been travelling through the Canadian National Parks. Cameras have been clicking and in one day Ella reports having seen bears, moose, deer and elk. Now perhaps she’ll believe the fans who told her to take a *colour* camera! Her travels have taken her through Banff and Babb, to say nothing of Calgary where the RCMP Fort was visited. The tour and scenery is par excellence, says Ella, who might be in the middle of the fannish desert at the moment, but who obviously is having fun and who is looking forward to meeting up with Dean Grennell, who will probably be the first St. Bernard she meets. Keep up the good work, gal.

**Jim Linwood** did indeed go along to meet Jim Norrie in Edinburgh and the following week he went down to London where he attended as big a meeting as has been seen at the Globe for too long a time. Amongst those present was Belfast’s Bob Shaw.

Eric Bentcliffe has had a request for his TAFF trip report, *EpiTAFF*, from Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, the National Library of Wales. Perhaps they think it’s about fishing on the River Taff, quips Eric.

This weekend has seen the Scunthorpe Caravantion at the home of Phil Rogers. No full coverage available to date, though attendees included Archie Mercer and Huddersfield’s Girl of the Printed Name, Irene Boothroyd.

EUROPA STAMPS

DAY OF ISSUE

LAST CHANCE TAFF VOTING. SKYRACK SUPPORTS RON ELLIK.

# ***Skyrack* #38, October 1961**

***Skyrack* 38**; Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Gr, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. USA 35¢ 6 issues, 65¢ 6 issues airmail. US Agent: Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave., Hyattsville, Md..  
Cartoon by Atom.

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## **Ellik Wins TAFF**

*Skyrack*'s choice, California's hitch-hiking and publishing Giant, Ron Ellik (pronounced Ee-lick) has been voted America's TAFF delegate to travel across the Atlantic and attend the 1962 British Eastercon. Final figures are not yet to hand but a next to the last minute count shows Ron with an overwhelming lead over his rival Dick Eney who once again suffers an undeserved defeat. This was undoubtedly a campaign in which most voters had wished that both the worthy candidates could travel.

Ron, an ex-Marine, is the super Squirrel of the many Bjo and Rotsler cartoons. Around six feet tall, fair and bespectacled, Ron wears a husky studious air about him which belies his sense of humour. He is an admirable choice for a TAFF delegate with a mild manner and easy-going disposition. Eric Bentcliffe and I both took to Ron as soon as we met him and we feel certain that everyone he meets in British fandom will feel the same way.

He is probably best known over here as joint publisher of *Fanac*, the Hugo winning fan newspaper which astonished everyone by appearing fortnightly over a lengthy period. He's also been responsible for a large number of entertaining words in many fanzines, *Shaggy's Squirrel Cage* being especially notable. Eric Bentcliffe writes that he'll be pleased to pass on to Ron any invitations to visit *your* Oak tree! Congratulations Ron Ellik!

– Eric Bentcliffe & Ron Bennett.

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Final Figures on the British side, pending adjustment on a check, are:  
ELLIK 33 ENEY 25

## TAFF Analysis

On the British side, Eney took an early lead, but on 1st May it was level pegging and gradually Ellik took the lead. There is £53-11s-0d in the British treasury. No final figures in from Don Ford as yet, but Ellik never lost the lead in the States where the latest figure known shows Ellik leading 87-37. Therefore, Ellik has a known 145-62 lead.

The following fans lodged votes with Eric Bentcliffe; Jill Adams, Mervyn Barrett, Ron Bennett, Brian Burgess, Bruce Burn, John Campbell, John Challoner, George Charters, Ken Cheslin, Jeff Collins, Audrey Eversfield, Ted Forsyth, Don Geldart, Rolf Gindorf, Bill & Bobbie Gray, Jim Groves, Bill Harrison, Art Hayes, Eric and Margaret Jones, Eddie Jones, Brian Jordan, Ruth Kyle, Doug Lacey, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Linwood, George Locke, Ian McAulay, Ken McIntyre, Peter Mabey, Archie Mercer, Chris Miller, Pat & Frank Milnes, Joe Nevin, John Newman, Stan & Marjorie Nuttall, Ella Parker, Joe Patrizio, Ken Potter, Bob Richardson, Alan Rispin, John Roles, Dick Schultz, Bob & Sadie Shaw, Norman & Ina Shorrock, Bob Smith, Arthur Thomson, Tony Walsh, Norman Wansborough, Norman Weedall, Jimmy White and Madeleine and Walt Willis.

Cash came into Eric as follows: LXICon TAFF Auction £18, Auction Bloch £7-5-6d, Mesquite Kid Collection £3-13-6d, Jimmy Groves £3-10s, Ella Parker £1-15s, Peter Mabey £1-9-6d, Ted Forsyth £1, Michael Rosenblum £1, Chris Miller 16/-, Ken Cheslin 15/-, Archie Mercer 14/5d, Art Hayes 14/-, Don Geldart 12/6d, Rispin Hat Auction 12/-. Cecil Knocker Auction, Ethel Lindsay, Bob Richardson, Bob Smith 10/- each.

Norman Shorrock 9/7d, Walt Willis 7/6d, LeRoy Haugrud 7/-, Dick Schultz 7/-, Joe Patrizio 5/6d, Eddie Jones 5/5d.

Jill Adams, Mervyn Barrett, Bruce Burn, Jeff Collins, Bill Harrison, Brian Jordan, Doug Lacey, Ian McAulay, Ken Potter, Ina Shorrock, Tony Walsh 5/- each.

Rolf Gindorf, Bobbie Gray, Eric Jones 4/6d each. George Locke and *Yandro* 4/- each. Keith Freeman and Bill Gray 3/- each.

Ron Bennett, Brian Burgess, John Campbell, John Challoner, George Charters, Audrey Eversfield, Margaret Jones, Ruth Kyle, Jim Linwood, Ken McIntyre, Frank & Pat Milnes, Joe Nevin, John Newman, Marjorie & Stan Nuttall, Alan Rispin, John Roles, Bob & Sadie Shaw, Art Thomson, Norman Wansborough, Norman Weedall, Jimmy White and Madeleine

Willis 2/6d each.

*Quantum* 2/-, *Gemzine* 1/6d, *Dafoe* 1/6d, *Warhoon* 1/-, Liverpool Bank Holiday Nap 8d.

Total £53-11s-0d.

Eric writes that from his angle it was a pretty easy campaign. “It got off to a good start at the LXIcon where everyone was most generous in their donations and auction bids. I’d particularly like to thank Ron Bennett, Alan Rispin, Ina Shorrocks and Ethel Lindsay for their noble assistance at the convention. The monies raised were an all-time high for a British Convention and compare most favourably with the amounts raised at the American World Conventions. After the convention lethargy seemed to have set in as regards actual voting – understandably enough – but towards the end of August votes and contributions once more started coming in. Due in no small part to the efforts of Norman Shorrocks and Eric Jones respectively and their prodding of the Liverpool and Cheltenham Groups.” – EB.

***Hyphen* 29** (Sept 61 Ian McAulay & Walt Willis, 170 Upper N’Ards Rd., Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 26pp; 1/- or 15¢) The real thing this time, with lashings of spry Irish humour and pointed observations on the fan scene. Even though Walt is very much in the background, it is easy to see from this, as any, issue of *H* just why our Stateside friends want him back again for another visit. Ian makes an excellent job of the Inside Coverage editorial and there are the usual high-standard contributions by the old firm, Jimmy White and Bob Shaw. Bob Tucker and Ted White balance the issue nationwide with more good stuff and there are several million interesting letters and Atom illos. Highly recommended, of course.

***Les Spinge* 7** (Sept 61; Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs; 20pp) A new editor, a speedily produced issue and the brew as before. Bob Lichtman writes on home movies, Jim Linwood reviews fanzines and there are a few letters around. Mike Deckinger reports on house moving (mate, you don’t know you’re born; try moving four rooms full of books into two rooms) and Ken Cheslin throws out the threads of an idea about fannish codes which might even develop into something.. I can just see a whole fanzine made up of numbers, 17, 64, 89, 117, just like the old jailhouse gag. If you want to go quietly mad, try this one.

***Esprit* Vol 2 No 5** (Autumn 61; Daphne Buckmaster, 8 Buchanan St.,

Kirkcudbright, Scotland; 1/6d; 37pp). More meaty discussion-worthy controversy in fandom's answer to the Reader's Digest. John Champion backgrounds van Vogt on Thinking Machines. John Rackham writes on the Superman image in literature, and reviews/criticises Amis' *New Maps of Hell* under a by-line. Philip Simpson replies to Julian Parr on rat races and Sid Birchby makes a welcome return to fan writing as does my old friend from The New Futurian and *Ploy*, namely "Phoenix" with another lively "Something & Nothing" column. Max Cranium is still with us and letters make up the issue. Like I said, meaty.

**Oops! 30** (Sept 61; Gregg Calkins, 1484 B 17th S, Salt Lake City 5, Utah, USA) An issue of this perfectly produced top-flight zine is always an occasion for rejoicing, though space precludes a full review. Material is by Gregg, Willis, Grennell, Bloch Warner, and Tucker. Artwork is by Atom, Barr, Rotsler, Calkins, Harness and Bergeron. What more can you want?

**Stan Nuttall Ensnared.** On Saturday, 9th September, well-known Liverpool fan and supertax-payer Stan Nuttall married delightful damson-gin enthusiast Margie Denton. The ceremony featured massed choirs, silver trumpets and none other than WM HARRISON ESQ as Best Man. Much revelry afterwards at reception, with most of the Liverpool Group present. Early am several devotees returned to the Harrison home to sleep on sofas, carpets etc and partake of 3-star breakfasts prepared by the Master's mother Herself. (This should finally dispose of the legend that HE materialised from a wisp of cloud above Mt. Sinai.) Stan and Margie are currently (19/9) honeymooning secretly at the Smugglers Inn, Newquay We all wish them lots of luck and every happiness. (John Owen).

BRUMCON 59; KINGCON 60; LXICON 61; Photos of and around these events wanted. Will arrange prints if nec. Send proofs and prices to Brian Jordan, c/o Cotton, 193 Rustlings Road, Sheffield 11, Yorkshire.

*Colonial Excursion.* Bennett's TAFF report. \$1 or 7/- Pavlat or Bennett.

Brian Jordan, in final year at University, leaving fandom, more or less, for this period. ∴ 24th Sept BBC TV covered half-hour with shots of SF films.

**The Postal Auction**, on which bidding closes 1st November – half cash to Bennett, half to purchaser's favourite fannish charity. *Item 1.* Lee Hoffman's *Excelsior*, 3 issues complete. John Foyster has bid 15/-. *Item 2.* 6 issues of *Habakkuk*. Peter Singleton has bid. £6. *Item 3.* *Innuendo* 8 & 11. 7/6d bid by John Foyster. *Item 4.* *Oblique* 2,3,4 & 6. \$3 bid by Vic

Ryan. No bid as yet on two issues of Geis' *Psychotic* (19 & 20), *Item 5*, so even a low bid might take these. *Item 6. The Selected Writings of Rick Sneary*. 5/6d bid by John Foyster. *Item 7. Shadow Mailings of FAPA*. \$5 bid. by Forry Ackerman. *Item 8 Sun Trails Summer 1941* (with Bradbury illo). No bid as yet. *Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. The 3 Rotsler Tattooed Dragon* publications. £1 the 3 bid by Chris Miller. Note that the Ryan and Ackerman bids might possibly not stand for they were made without full knowledge of the facts of the auction (Axe, you forgot to mention that grasping Bennett takes half the kitty!). Similarly on the FAPA mailings (Nov 56-Aug 61) on which \$2 each has been bid by Dick Bergeron. And so to another item, *Item 12*, on which bids will close on 1st December. Axe recently put up for auction a copy of Ray Bradbury's first fanzine, *Futura Fantasia* No. 1, which has passed the \$20 on bids. OK, fans, what am I bid?

**Ella Parker Meets Fans.** Millions of letters in from Ella Parker, Our Gal in the U.S. Ella is now well out of the interior's fannish desert and has met Chas de Vet and Redd Boggs (whose car broke down), Grennell, Hickman and Vic Ryan. She spent two wonderful weeks (say Ella and Betty Kujawa) at the home of Betty and Gene Kujawa, watching TV on Gene's bed, piloting Gene's plane and drinking vodka gimlets. She has stayed at the Fords' place in Loveland and has explored the basement and well, what else is there to do! She should now be in Washington D.C. before moving on to visit Dave & Ruth Kyle in Postdam, New York. Thinks: And then we get her back?

**Sincere Apologies to Ted White** for linking his name with the proposed move to change the traditional date of the WorldCon weekends. Ted has nothing to do with this move and is, indeed, against the proposal. Bennett goofed.

**Readers Letter** Last issue was by Terry Carr. Apologies for omitting name.

Change of Address: Darroll Pardoe, Downing College, Cambridge.  
first with TAFF result (?)

# ***Skyrack* #39, 3 November 1961**

**This is *Skyrack* 39**, dated **3rd November, 1961** and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (six issues sent airmail for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat 6001 - 43rd. Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson. News of interest to sf fandom always welcomed.

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**The Auction.** Bidding has now closed on most items. *Item 1:* File of Lee Hoffman's *Excelsior*. \$3 has now been bid by Walter Breen, but I'm still waiting to see whether John Foyster will counter this. *Item 2.* Six issues of *Habakkuk* go for £6 to Peter Singleton. *Item 3.* *Innuendo* 8 & 11 go to John Foyster for 7/6d. *Item 4.* Four issues of Cliff Gould's *Oblique* go to Vic Ryan for \$3. *Item 5,* Nos 19 & 20 of Richard Geis' *Psychotic*, no bids have so far been received on this item and accordingly the bidding is carried over if anyone wants to start. *Item 6: The Selected Writings of Rick Sneary.* Dick Schultz and John Foyster are currently fighting this one out. *Item 7.* The FAPA Shadow Mailings go for \$5 to Forry Ackerman. *Item 8: Sun Trails* goes to Dick Schultz for 75¢. *Items 9-11,* the three Rotsler *Tattooed Dragon* booklets are being fought for in a four cornered fight, with Walter Breen's 15/- per magazine topping the list at the moment. *Item 12:* No bids have yet been received on the first issue of Bradbury's *Futura Fantasia*. On the *FAPA mailings*, it should be noted that two of the twenty consecutive mailings are incomplete lacking one item in one instance and two in the other. They still manage to present a wide variety of talented reading matter. These are being fought for in a three cornered fight at the moment. And now! Three new items... *Item 13:* The original *Tattooed Dragon* by William Rotsler. *Item 14:* The 100 page anthology of the writings of Charles Burbee, *The Incompleat Burbee*, and *Item 15:* Dean Grennell's *Grue* 29, 56 pages, Tucker, Boggs, Ballard, Grennell, Berry, Shaw etc. Plus the low down on the Dodd Hoax. Bidding closes 1st Jan 62. ½ cash to Bennett, ½ to the buyer's favourite fannish charity.

**The 62 Eastercon.** Letters of snide criticism are *not* welcome on this subject. Yours truly has not been wholly idle and negotiations are now pending with an excellent North Western hotel. There is no point in mentioning further details now, but it is hoped to release the news by the

end of the month. Watch *Skyrack* and the *BSFA Newsletter*. – rmb.

### **Small ads section**

Baird Duplicator for sale. £15. Includes 32 stencils, carbons and gummed strips, o.n.o. plus transport charges. Instruction book included. Gray, 14 Bennington Street, Cheltenham, Glos.

*Colonial Excursion*. Bennett's TAFF Report. 7/- or \$1. Bennett or Pavlat. *Nebula S.F.* 2/- each. Nos. 1-7, 9-12, 14-18 & others. *Skyrack* box 1.

Small ads. 6d per line. No charge name or address. Boxes postage extra only.

**The Last Lap or Ella in New York.** What has gone before: Ella Parker, leading London fan and editor of *Orion* is visiting the States. She has met West Coast fans and has attended their SeaCon, she rode back east with Bob Pavlat and met Redd Boggs, Charles de Vet, and Dean Grennell before being deposited on Betty & Gene Kujawa. She then moved on to meet Don & Margaret Ford and Harry Warner in Hagerstown. Now read on! Ella stayed 3 days in Hagerstown, thoroughly disrupting Harry's working schedule while she was there. She then moved on to Washington D.C. where she renewed acquaintances with Eney and Pavlat, both of whom showed her around the nation's capital. She has experienced motels and hotels and the DC-NY train run, during which time she sat in the club car in order to smoke. Life in New York is hectic, she says and bears out my opinion that the subway is grimy. She has stayed with the Sandersons and the Shaws and has met all the leading lights on the Manhattan scene, Ted White, Terry Carr, Les Gerber, Dan Adkins, Avram Davidson, George Raybin et al. She has been up the State Building at night and has ridden on the ferries and is evidently becoming quite a shutter-bug. She should by now have moved north to Potsdam to stay awhile with Dave Kyle and his matzoball kid wife, Ruth. Ella was due to sail home Oct 26th but has been persuaded to stay on until 10th November. She expects to arrive in Liverpool around 15th, thereby missing the Liverpool Groups 10th Anniversary party on 11th. Well, you can't have everything!

**Ken Cheslin** was invaded on 1st October by Chris Miller, Darroll Pardoe and Bearded Dave Hale. Lots of talk and record playing. ::: On Sat 16th September (*Skyrack* gets round to *everything*, eventually), the Scunthorpe Caravention took place. Archie Mercer, Phil Rogers and Irene Boothroyd went over to Scunthorpe from their Doncaster meeting point. Food was had and then the con switched to Huddersfield and the Boothroyd household. Lots of talk and record playing here, too, with the Boothroyd daughters providing early morning coffee and Irene demonstrating bop.

Archie and Phil washed up wearing frilly aprons, I'm told. And Phil says they must do it all again sometime. – (CM:PR).

**TAFF.** Unless there are some last minute moves unknown as this is being written, the candidates for the ChiCon trip will line up in a straight fight between Ethel Lindsay and Eddie Jones. Voting forms will be circulated shortly and it is interesting to note that Ron Ellik, TAFF Delegate-elect, is taking over immediately from Don Ford on the American side of the Fund. Don, incidentally, has been kind enough to let me have a complete breakdown of the American side of the recently completed campaign, unfortunately too lengthy a list of names to be printed in *Skyrack*. Ron Ellik will get \$462 to cover NY-UK flight expenses and the balance leaves TAFF in an extremely healthy looking state. Wonderful!

**Northlight 13** (Alan-Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2; 18pp) Once again Alan appears to have run into duplicating difficulties and this issue is as unreadable as *Ploy 2*. To balance this, however, is the welcome informal and more friendly tone than we've hitherto seen in *N*. There's a nice travelogue by the editor and a piece by Alan Dodd who has apparently run out of horror films to review, turning instead to horror comics. In an extremely short piece on Gerfandom, Klaus Eylman promises to come to the EasterCon next year and to stay sober during this, his 2nd visit to England. We'll see....

**Vector 13** (The Official Organ of the BSFA, edited by James A. Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E6) It is noteworthy, but nothing more, that two of the leading members of the zinescene family produce thirteenth issues within days or one another. This 13th *Vector* is another excellent example of how to produce an o-o which caters for all tastes and yet does not lack quality in any item because of that balance. Apart from the usual well compiled official reports there is a reprint (sic) of Geoff Doherty's LXICon address, "An Alien in the Academy". Bert Lewis writes a story and there is the first *Vector* Art Folio, an idea which deserves support. Brian Aldiss and John Phillifent contribute probing book reviews. An early *Orion* piece by Archie Mercer is a good choice for the fanzine reprint department. Letters from happy and contented readers make up the issue.

**Who's Who in SF Fandom** (Lloyd Douglas Broyles, Rt 6, Box 453?, Waco, Texas, – USA; 50¢) It had to happen! Fandom's Blue Book has appeared at last. This neatly produced booklet *must* find its way into every fannish household, containing as it does addresses and comprehensive

backgrounds to hundreds of today's fans. As one who has produced mere address directories, I can appreciate the vast amount of work that has been put into producing this item. There are of course valid criticisms that can be made: modesty is evidently fault in fans – fans like Moskowitz on whom one could fill a volume are merely mentioned; other well-known fans like Ella Parker and George Locke are omitted completely; there are minor ambiguities: which fire did Doctor Bell bring from England, for example. Notwithstanding these quibbles, it must be repeated and emphasised that this volume is a must. It is highly recommended and is probably *the* sercon publication of the year.

### **Changes of Address Section:**

Sgt Keith Freeman, c/o Sgt's Mess, RAF Dishforth, Nr. Thirsk, Yorkshire.

Ron Ellik, 706 San Lorenzo, Santa Monica, Calif.

Bjo & John Trimble, Jack Harness & Ernie Wheatley, Mathom House, 222 South Gramercy Place, Los Angeles 4, Calif.

Daphne & Ron Buckmaster, c/o Sgt's Mess, 27 Command Workshop, REME, Boreham Barracks, Warminster, Wilts.

Chris Miller, 9 Christ Church, Oxford (until Xmas)

Darrell Pardoe, Downing College, Cambridge.

**Ernest Sterne**, contributor to *New Futurian* and Regent Street subscriber to *Skyrack*, switches to his role of philatelic authority on 20th December when he addresses the Harrogate Philatelic Society on "The Holy Land".

::: Hoyle serial "A for Andromeda" currently on BBC TV is generally agreed to be "bitty" and second rate. ::: Congratulations Val and Terry Jeeves on the 8th October birth of a 7lbs daughter, Sandra Mary, and thank you for the neat introductory "Just to let you know" card.

**Joe Patrizio**, BSFA Secretary, marries Ann Temple, daughter of well-known SF writer William F. Temple at Congregational Church, Wembley, Sat 25th. ::: Final TAFF vote count was Ellik 131, Eney 73, reports Don Ford. ::: *The Atlas of The Universe* by Br. Ernst & Tj. E. De Vries has been published in translation by Nelson @ 42/-. This is hardly an atlas, but more of an astronomical encyclopedia. Definitely recommended. ::: Axe 14 reports that Nirenberg's *Que Pasado* and *Vahana* have folded. ::: Burkhard Blüm says that *Plehboi* (Mario Kwiat, Munster/Westfalen, Box 4002 K) should be published at the end of October. ::: As will be seen from the CoA dept, Chris Miller is back at college, Darroll Pardoe has started his term at University and Daphne and Ron Buckmaster have left Kirkcudbright for Wansboroughshire. Keith Freeman moved twice since last issue and his latest address at RAF Dishforth, within reach of

Harrogate, is listed. It should be good until at least February. ::: Ron Bennett meets Rob Bennett! After spending a pleasant evening at the Leeds Grand Theatre for the Thespians' production of *Kiss Me Kate*, *Skyrack's* editor was a backstage guest where he met Ron Bennett, who played Bill Calhoun. And ha! to you, Norman Shorrock. ::: The Liverpool Group celebrates its tenth anniversary within the next few days and if there ever was reason (as distinct from excuse) for a party, this is it, a two for the price of one shindig, which sounds a must.

**Brian Aldiss at Alldis Street.** Eric Bentcliffe reports a welcome visit from Brian and Margaret Aldiss on Sunday 2nd Oct. They had with them a car called The Hooded Terror and mentioned that *Hothouse* has sold in hard covers on both sides of the Pond. Brian says that he is working on a sequel called *Greenhouse, a Novel of the Beet Generation*, though he admits, Ian McAulay, that the final title may be *Doghouse*. (EB)

**Late Lines** Archie Mercer, British rep for *Fanac* sorrowfully announces that 76/77 seem to have been lost in transit, though 78 & Con-rider should be with subscribers by the time they read this. ::: Ted Forsyth quotes a *London Evening News* report that *The Hobbit* has been published by Puffin at 3/6d. Ken Slater reports a sellout of the Aldiss-edited *Penguin SF* and says that a reprint is due.

# ***Skyrack* #40, 6 December 1961**

This is *Skyrack* 40, published on 6th December 1961 by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (six issues sent by air for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fans, whether professional, fanish or just social, is always welcome. Heading and cartoon are this issue by Liverpool's Eddie Jones.

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## DEECEE IN SIXTY-THREE

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It's just ten years since the formation of the Liverpool Science Fiction Association, whose members have been so actively engaged in many social pursuits, whose members have been so prominent at so many national conventions and whose members gave us several excellent issues of *Space Diversions*. On 11th/12th November the Society, now known as the Liverpool Group, celebrated its entry into double figures with a party and slap-up-beano. Some thirty fans representing the country's major groups gathered at the Higher Bebington home of Ina and Norman Shorrocks where coal tea was served before guests piled into cars and on to scooters for a rousing motorcade journey into the metropolis at the Lancashire end of the Mersey Tunnel. A Chinese restaurant was invaded, and subjected to the full treatment. Hats and coats were exchanged as souvenirs and the party moved on to the Group's recently redecorated clubrooms. An auction was held, dances were danced and smooth, smooth drinks (Shorrocks 69's) were served. More and more fans arrived and the pressure was relieved by frequent excursions to the nearby Jacaranda club. The party included sleep on its programme with a move back to Arnot Way, where a more energetic programme was continued on the Sunday morning. The Harrogate contingent returned east by the grace of Phil Rogers who returned to Scunthorpe via Harrogate, Manchester (with Eric Bentcliffe & Beryl) and a safari across the Wirral Peninsula.

**Attendees at the Liverpool 10th Anniversary Party were:** Norman & Ina Shorrocks, Bruce Burn, Ethel Lindsay, Eric & Margaret Jones, Archie Mercer, Jimmy Groves, Pat Kearney, Al Ajax Hoch, Mike Moorcock, Dave Barber, Geoff Winterman, John Humph Humphries, Peter Mabey,

Wally & Joy Johnson, Audrey Eversfield, Ron Bennett, Elizabeth Humbey, Eddie Jones, Norman Weedall, Bob Richardson, Joe Navin, John Roles, Eric Bentcliffe & Beryl, Phil Rogers, Pat & Frank Milnes, Stan & Marjorie Nuttall, Pat & Peggy Denton, John Owen, Les Johnson, Ted and Geoff Collins and a dozen sophisticated beatniks who gatecrashed early ayem.

**But It Wasn't in *Skyrack***, they said when they saw the ring, so to put the records straight condolences are offered Miss Elizabeth Humbey, one time guest attendee of the Washington Science Fiction Association, on the occasion of her engagement to one time guest attendee of the Westminster Salvation Army Hostel, Ron Bennett.

**You're Not Losing a Daughter But Gaining a Fanclub**, Jimmy Groves told Bill Temple when on 25th November, Bill's daughter Anne married BSFA Secretary Joe Patrizio. Fifty people attended the Congregational Church, Wembley. The bride was in white and the four bridesmaids in yellow. Fans present were Ted Forsyth, Jimmy Groves, Ethel Lindsay, Brian Burgess, Fred Parker, Bruce Burn, Alan Rispin, Diane Goulding, Pat Kearney, Betty & Ian Peters, Ken & Irene Potter, Don Geldart, Al Ajax Hoch and of course Joe Patrizio. From Edinburgh came Joe's parents, brother Michael (The Best Man at 16), brother Victor with wife and son, and Victor's mother-in-law. Gus Poll, a friend from Joe's work (Leo Computers) was there and has been inveigled into coming to the next SFCoL meeting. In Church the SFCoL choir was obviously out of practice and Ken Potter reluctantly decided not to overwhelm everyone with his bass profundo, though Victor's son spent most of the time tuning his voice. Outside the church the photographer spent so long taking pictures that the bride almost froze solid. After this ordeal guests made their way to a nearby hotel where the assembled multitude filed past the bride and groom to offer condolences and/or congratulations where appropriate. It was soon obvious which were Joe's friends as they filled the spots at the bar. When everyone was well lubricated the wedding breakfast was served. Champagne followed and Bill Temple began his speech, "Unaccustomed as I am to speaking in public... however...". He said that he was under orders not to say anything as when he opened his mouth he put his foot in it. Disregarding this, however, he sailed gaily on, naturally. He said that Joe combined several of his own interests. Bill had served with an Edinburgh regiment, he liked Italy and hoped to go back again and thirdly there was science fiction. He liked selling science fiction and certainly he likes Scotch (a fact most of us know). In fact, he said, Joe is something

like a combination of Rabbe Burns, Michelangelo and William F. Temple. When someone asked further about SF, Bill turned to the SFCoL saying, "The Science Fiction Group is over there... chained to the table, of course." In view of Joe's job, the best congratulatory telegram read, "May your future programme be well calculated." Joe made a short speech and then the fans drifted back to the bar. Joe and Anne circulated amongst the guests and Bruce Burn and Ken Potter started an impromptu glee club, helped at times by Fred Parker and Irene.

(Ted Forsyth)

Ethel Lindsay adds that after the departure of bride and groom for their secret honeymoon in Golders Green, the majority of SFCoL members went off to see *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*.

**The 62 Eastercon.** A statement was promised for this issue of *Skyrack*, but unfortunately it is not the statement I had hoped to make. A month ago, at the time of the last issue, negotiations were pending with what was quoted as being "an excellent North Western Hotel". This was the Kendal Hotel in Kendal, Westmorland, on the edge of the Lake District. I had spent a day travelling up to the city and looking over the hotel and at that time only final terms had to be arranged. Sad to relate, however, negotiations broke down dramatically and suddenly. We are currently without a convention site – a sad state of affairs, but one which it is hoped will soon be changed.

**Lap of Honour.** Last issue we left our wandering *Orion* Editrix on the last lap of her Stateside tour, all ready to leave New York on 10th November. Ella was eventually persuaded to extend her stay for a further fortnight in order to attend the Philcon (Philadelphia, 18/19 Nov) at which gathering she was looking forward to meeting Harry Warner once again. The only others news to hand about Ella's return trip is that she sailed from New York 24th Nov, on Cunard's *Sylvania* and that she should be back in the U.K. by the time you read this.

**The Auction.** The file of Lee Hoffman's *Excelsior* went to Walter Breen for \$3. The two issues of *Psychotic* were taken by Darroll Pardoe for 8/-. Dick Schultz paid 6/- for *The Selected Writings of Rick Sneary*. The three *Tattooed Dragon* booklets went to Lenny Kaye for \$2.50 per. And the 20 consecutive FAPA mailings are right now in the process of being parcelled off to Dick Bergeron who bid \$40 on as bulky an auction lot as has ever been sold in fandom. Bidding closes 1st Jan on the remaining items, – half cash to Bennett and half to the buyers favourite fannish charity. *Lot 12*.

Dick Schultz has bid 10/- on the first issue of Ray Bradbury's *Futura Fantasia*. Lot 13. The aforementioned Richard Schultz has also bid on the original *Tattooed Dragon* publication by Bill Rotsler, to the tune of 14/-. John Foyster has bid 25/- for the 100 page anthology *The Incomplete Burbee*. Lot 15. Vic Ryan is currently high with a bid of \$2 on DAG's *Grue* 29.

All fans except creditors are asked to note that 7 Southway has now ceased to exist as an alternative address. My parents have moved and any mail sent to Southway will possibly not be seen. Other news on the Harrogate scene – my, how the joint is jumping – is that since the last issue we have been visited by two fans. Keith Freeman, now stationed at nearby (sic) Dishforth, but at present on a short leave, has dropped in for a couple of stencil and flat-minding sessions and Phil Rogers dropped Liz and me off after the Liverpool party, staying long enough to try to convince us to buy a caravan. I hope to see them again here soon, and I'll also take the opportunity of inviting any fan to drop in; If you have your own bedding (li-lo etc) or don't mind trying the armchairs, you can stay over any night. Er, no, despite the first paragraph on this page, the Easter Con will not be held at 13 West Cliffe Grove....

**It Has Been a Blank Month** on the British zinescene but notable from the US have been *Cry* 154 (Box 92, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle 4, Washington) with lots of interesting chitchat, *Panic Button* 6 (Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto 15, Ontario, Canada) with some snide comments on the world in which we live, and a very thick *Warhoon* 13 (Dick Bergeron, 110 Bank St., New York 14) with Walt Willis's Harp outstanding and well backed up by Lowndes, Berry and Blish. From the home fringe quarters comes another roaring *Scribble* from Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital, Knaresborough, Yorks., which is well worth a try for 6d.

**TAFF** – somewhere around you'll probably notice a TAFF voting form. Use it *now*, while you remember. It's not *too* much trouble to fill the form in and address an envelope, at the same time marking on your shopping list a reminder to buy a postal order. The TAFF treasury is, as is well, known, in a fairly healthy state, but the more votes (and cash) the better. The present campaign between Ethel and Eddie looks like being such a close one that EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT. Use yours! *Now!*

**Stop Press!!** Wandering Ella Parker is back with us. Ella docked early Saturday morning (2nd Dec) in Liverpool and rushed over to Arnot Way to drag the Shorrocks out of bed. She says that she had a restful but near

boring voyage across the Pond home, that she wonders who arranged the bad spell of weather for her, that everything looks small and that she thinks our English policemen are wonderful. She'll be back at 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, NW 6 very shortly and the suspended Friday meetings at the Penitentiary will be starting up again 15th December. Any BSFA members who live in London or who will be visiting will be welcome to drop in then.

Congratulations are due to honorary Britfen Dave & Ruth Kyle who have just produced a near 9lb matzoball in the shape of Arthur Chester Kyle III – From Ken Slater: Rushed reprint of the Aldiss *Penguin SF* out tomorrow. Tolkien's *The Silmarillion* out by Allen & Unwin next autumn. – Melbourne SF Club has had to move – may be contacted by writing Mervyn Binns, 90 Spring St. Preston, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. – London summary: Klaus Eylman spent a week in London recently. Visited SFCol members and Alan Dodd... Ian & Betty Peters held a well-attended party Hallowe'en... Don Geldart now back in Britain... Arthur Clarke visited Globe 2nd Nov. ::: Fan gathering 4/5th Nov at Stourbridge where Dave Hale and Ken Cheslin hosted Jhim Linwood, Archie Mercer, Bruce Burn, Ajax and Al and Nell Rispin. Thanks for the card, people. ::: Rolf Gindorf was in London recently too. Attended the above-mentioned Hallowe'en party. ::: Ted White's *Null-F 23* retracts all "crude remarks" he may have at any time uttered in regard to Chris Moskowitz thereby evidently saving New York fandom from another lawsuit. Hey ho. ::: *Bug Eye 9* in from Hel Klemm, 16 Uhland Str., Ufort/Eick, (22a) Krs Moers, Germany. ::: CoAs... Don Geldart, Sgts Mess, 3rd Carabiniers (POWDG), Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants. – Ivor Mayne, Anchorage Farm Caravan Site, Bronllys, S. Wales. ::: *Haverings 8* in from Ethel Lindsay. ::: *The Times* of 18th Nov reported the discovery of fossilised organic matter in a meteorite, giving rise to another life on other planets theory.

***The following sheet was carried as a flyer with Skyrack 40, December 1961***

# **A Memorial Fund**

**for the late ARTHUR ROSE WEIR, D.Sc.,  
A.R.I.C.**

## **A MEMORIAL FUND**

WHEN “DOC” WEIR died earlier this year, SF and fantasy enthusiasts lost one of the most learned of their number. Only having been in touch with fandom at large for a comparatively short time, he had already made his mark amongst us as a critic and commentator of considerable erudition in divers fields, whilst remaining an exceptionally easy person for the less-erudite to talk with. Himself a scientist, he had a particular love for freefantasy, and during his lifetime accumulated a notable collection of fantastic literature of all kinds.

At the Easter convention, the suggestion was made that it would be a worthwhile offering to purchase the relevant portion of Doc’s collection, thus saving it from probable dispersal. Accordingly, a fund was launched with the object of raising sufficient money to offer Mrs Weir a fair price for the items required. These would then be administered by the British Science Fiction Association’s library as a special Memorial Collection. If for any reason the scheme proved impossible, the money would be otherwise used to commemorate Doc in appropriate fashion, probably by the purchase of books from outside sources.

It is estimated that at least £50 (fifty pounds) will be required to bring the project to fruition. Some of this is already in hand, and more has been offered, but further donations are still needed. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the object of the Fund is to provide something of lasting benefit to lovers of the fantastic in literature, if possible by preventing the dissipation of an important collection of the genre.

Archie Mercer, until recently Hon. Treasurer of the B.S.F.A., is now acting in the same capacity for the Fund. Donations should be sent to him at:

434/4 Newark Road, North Hykeham, LINCOLN

Cheques should be made payable to A.H. Mercer, and crossed. Thank you.  
Circular produced by Ken Cheslin and distributed through the good offices  
of sundry worthies. Decorations by Jim Cawthorn. AM December 1961

**1962**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #41, 1 February 1962**

This *Skyrack* 41, published on **1st February 1962** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA, 6 issues sent airmail for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans, whether fannish, professional or simply social, is always welcome. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson, and aptly reprinted from *Skyrack* 16.

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DEECE IN 63 & LONDON IN SIXTY-FIVE  
complete your *Skyrack* Ballot *N-O-W!*

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## **Harrogate It Is!**

For the first time in almost three years, *Skyrack* skipped an issue and followed the example of America's premier newszine, *Axe!* The Big News with which the year is sent under way is, then, the fact that the Easter Convention this year will, after all, be held practically on *Skyrack's* doorstep, in Harrogate.

The search for a suitable hotel in the north of England has been an extensive one. Although Harrogate, a beautiful inland spa town, is a recognised conference centre, all the major hotels are far too large for our requirements and the Convention Committee was obliged to look further afield. At one time, last October, a hotel in Kendal was lined up but the booking fell through at the eleventh hour. Finally, a return was made to Harrogate and we have been fortunate to book *two* neighbouring smaller hotels to house the Convention. The Con itself will be split between the two hotels so that guests in each can have their fair share of the programme. The hotels are the WEST PARK and the CLARENDON.

Inclusive terms, which are, through their economy, becoming more and more popular, have been obtained at only 32/6d at the West Park and 42/6d. at the Clarendon. Both hotels overlook Harrogate's famous Stray, and both are fully licensed.

The first Convention Newsletter and registration forms are being sent out

as fliers to this issue of *Skyrack*. Send your con fee in NOW!

**1962 “Bid-Once” Auction:** 50% of buying price goes to any fannish charity you care to name. Send your ceiling price only. Each lot will be sold to top bidder at 2/6d (35¢) above second highest bid. Each bundle mailed promptly 8th March. *Lot 1.* 40 assorted fanzines. *Umbra* (9 issues), *Speculative Review* (7), *Wendigo* (5) *Parsection* 2-6, *Psi-Phi* 4-7, *Gemzine* 8-13, *Dafoe* 4, *Cry* 147, *Bhismi’llah* 6, *Warhoon* 8. Over one thousand pages. Reserve price £1 (\$2.80). *Lot 2.* 15 assorted fanzines, 2 issues of *Yandro*, one each of *Amra*, *Ancalagon*, *Bhis*, *Conversation*, *Erratic*, *Esoterique*, *Fantoccini*, *JD-A*, *Hocus*, *Safari*, *Shaggy*, *Bane*, *Fanattic*. Over 350 pages. Reserve price. 6/- (84¢), *Lot 3.* 15 assorted fanzines as Lot 2. Over 300 pages. Reserve 5/- (70¢).

***The Directory of 1961 Science Fiction Fandom.*** Yes, the *Directory* is here again. This 7th annual listing contains the up-to-date whereabouts of over 500 fans the world over, listing addresses, tape recorder owners and more telephone numbers than ever before. This is a completely revised listing, with a 50% turn-over of change on last year’s *Directory*. 100 new names have been added, 90 “dead-wood” names omitted and well over 100 other address changes are shown. Arthur Thomson once again has contributed the cover. The *Directory* will be included in the 98th (February) FAPA mailing and will be issued free on request, while supplies last, to members of OMPA. 1/6d from Ron Bennett or 25¢ from Bob Pavlat.

**Up the Poll!** Coming along with this issue of *Skyrack* is a voting form for the third annual poll to assess the merits of British fandom. To obtain a true assessment of the worth of contributions to the British fan field would be a nice thing, so why not vote? Non-apa publications which appeared from British fans during 1961 were: *Hyphen*, *Smoke*, *The Fan Directory*, *Retribution*, *Camber*, *Les Spinge*, *Esprit*, *Vector*, *Haverings*, *Epitaff*, *Colonial Excursion*, *Goudy*, *The LXIcon Programme Booklet*, *SFCoL Combozine*, *Orion*, *Jetstream*, *The Prose of Kilimanjaro*, *Northlight*, *Bastion*, and *The Atom Anthology*. You sort it out!

**News from Germany;** Burkhard Blüm writes that the recently formed German Apa, FAN, is running into teething troubles, with most members publishing only the minimum 2 pages per mailing. The 6th mailing contained the writings of 20 fans and yet totalled only 96 pages. The third NiederrheinCon will be held over 17/18 March in Duisburg, the fan in charge being Rudi Gosejakob, Duisburg, Moltkestrasse 62. Well known

Los Angeles fan Ingrid Fritzsch will be holidaying in her native Hannover around now and mid-January saw her lined-up as Guest of Honour at the city's 3rd Nordwestdeutsche MiniCon. Gerfanzine *Sol* recently ran a one shot of Chuck Devine's SeaCon report and the German *SF Times* hopes to publish a supplementary extra shortly with Robert Heinlein's 1941 Denver speech. Rolf Harder's *Lyra* hopes to reprint *The Atom Anthology* in several instalments.

**Changes of Address:**

Sgt. Keith Freeman, RAF Thorney Island, Emsworth, Hants.

Norman Metcalf, PO Box 336, Berkeley, Calif.

Jean Linard, Simon-Cure, Hopital de St. Alban, Lozere, France.

Alan Rispin, 3 Cantley Mansions, 68 Fairhazel Gardens, London NW 6.  
Tel. MAI 4398.

Tony Walsh, 256 Block B, Berkeley Camp, Berkeley, Glos.

**Congratulations & Best Wishes to You Both!** Taff Administrator Eric Bentcliffe and Miss Beryl Gibson officially announce their engagement.

**Hyphen 30** (December 1961; Walt Willis & Dr. Ian McAulay, 170 Upper N'Ards Rd., Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 1/- or 15¢; 24pp) In this issue, the one with the con searchparty setting out from the famed lighthouse, Walt kicks off with his usual amusing editorial and is immediately followed by a *Hyphen* regular in Bob Shaw whose Glass Bushel column discusses making decisions, Sturgeon and a half dozen other topics. John Berry puns his way around a Scrabble board with an article that should make Betty Rosenblum wish she'd never heard of the game. James White lies with his boots on and Harry Warner recounts his hospital experiences. Brian Aldiss writes on good sf, and the usual, excellent features, like the Atom cover and cartoons, the bacover quotes and the meaty letters make up another king-size, quality-wise *Hyphen*. Recommended. Of course.

**Fandoodle 1** (December 1961; Ken Slater & Dave Barber, 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs.; 11 flscpp) Inadvertently omitted from the eligible fnz for 1961 (in the *Sky* poll listing) is this new venture from Ken Slater. Ken and Dave wrote all the material, varied and readable. Ken writes on CND, Green Fingers and the 62 Con. Dave makes himself a marked man with a page of notes on fans and fandom. There are a few combined articles and a vest pocket Do It Yourself fanzine kit. Neat, zany, and welcome.

**Void 27** (Ted White, 107 Christopher St., New York 14). While this issue contains some really first rate material by Walt Willis, Terry Carr and

Avram Davidson, it contains a pretty sickly piece of rubbish by co-editor Pete Graham, whose lack of forethought for his readers' sensibilities makes me feel ashamed that I'm connected with the zine as its British representative. Sorry, Ted, I know you've got your share of fannish troubles with the recent Moskowitz law-suit fiasco, but the Graham editorial cancelled out completely the excellent material elsewhere in the zine.

**Slime 1** (John & Bjo Trimble, 222: S. Gramercy, Place, Los Angeles 4, Calif; 38pp; December 1961). This is a fan artists' zine, not *of* fan art, but *about* fan art. All excellently done and a great interest to anyone who is even slightly interested in artwork. Of especial interest are the judges' reports on the SeaCon Art Show (I read somewhere that a fault was that these tend to overlap, but I feel that this overlap is far from being a fault; indeed it is all the more interesting to read the different views on the same topic) and Juanita Coulson's advice on stencil cutting. Contributors include Harlan Ellison, Gem Carr, Al Lewis, Dick Eney, Jack Harness and Ron Ellik.

**Orion 28** (Jan 62; Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London NW 6) Well, Ella didn't waste much time after returning from the States, did she? Here's the latest *Orion*, not quite as bulky as recent issues (30 perfectly duplicated pages), but up to the readable standard we have come to expect from Ella and her slaves. Andy Young writes his third part of European Pumble and John Berry contributes his latest Sergeant story. Fred Hunter carries on where he left off in a recent *O.*, and Neville Goldberg escapes from *Scribble*. Honours go to Ella's chatty editorial, particularly on fannish thoughtlessness and TAFF trip reports. I can appreciate this point. I ran off 200 copies of *Colonial Excursion* and though I've been told that the writing therein wasn't exactly poor, I still have over 130 on my hands. As each copy cost me over 5/- to produce, I can't honestly say that I'm happy as to the state of affairs. Ah, well, there's no business like fan business, I guess.

*Skyrack* poll forms a flier to this issue. Vote!

**Congratulations** to Larry & Noreen Shaw on the arrival of a second son and to Ken & Pam Bulmer on the arrival of a second daughter. At the time of writing I'm waiting for a telegram to arrive, telling me of the arrival of either a second son or third daughter to Norman & Ina Shorrocks. ETA is 28th and he/she looks like being a stop press item!

Since last issue of *Skyrack*, Harrogate fandom spent a flying weekend visit

down in London to hear about Ella's Stateside trip from the horses mouth. Liz and I got snowed up New Year's Eve on return trip north. Archie Mercer was in the town the previous weekend and we also just missed the SFCoL Xmas party. The SFCoL have themselves four new members in Ajax Hoch, Errol Pace, and Frances and Brian Varley and a new Committee in Ella Parker (Chairman), Ethel Lindsay (Secretary) and Ian Peters (Treasurer). Three posts to fill and three Scots to fill them! Scottish Fan Club of London appears to be right.

**TAWF's** British Agent, Arthur Thomson, urges that any further donations to this highly successful drive be sent him as soon as possible so that he can turn the cash over to Walt, who can then consolidate what plans he has. ::: Bob Tucker writes that fanzines, *Sky* included, have been reaching him battered and late and wonders if there's some sort of a middleman's strike, en route. Well, since that date, GPO workers here in the UK have been "working to rule" as a protest against the Government's economic policy's "Pay Pause". The pause is pretty ridiculous, says Socialist Bennett, and every good luck to the GPO... but mail *is* being delayed. ::: Ted Forsyth flew home from an Edinburgh holiday Xmas and Ian & Betty Peters were due to fly on the same route about the same time. Ethel Lindsay beat them both by a couple of weeks and became probably the first British fan to fly internally. Anyone claim the record first? ::: The 1961 SFCoL Bowling Championship ended up in hands of Don Geldart, who pipped Ron Bennett in a replay. ::: Len Moffatt sends cutting from *Los Angeles Mirror*, 27 Dec – The SolaCon famed Alexandria at which evidently Edward VII stayed at one time is being pulled down to give way to a 30 storey skyscraper. ::: Archie Mercer reports that Jean & Annie Linard are divorcing and that Jean is again in hospital. ::: London is bidding for the 1965 WorldCon, a considerate bid in view of Stateside rotation system. Last WorldCon outside USA was also in London, in 1957.

# ***Skyrack* #42, 27 April 1962**

## **Third Anniversary Issue 1961 Poll Results Inside**

This is *Skyrack* 42, published amongst the debris of a home-town convention on **27th April 1962** by Rons Ellik and Bennett at 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d. per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (6 issues sent airmail for 65 or 4/6d) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fans is always welcome. Heading and cartoon by Arthur Thomson. Soggy by Terry Jeeves. New subscribers please note that the size of this issue is unusually large!

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DEECEE IN 63 & LONDON IN SIXTY-FIVE!

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### **Harrogate Highlights.**

#### **Peterborough Sweeps In!! Forty-five members already registered!**

The 1962 National British Convention was held in Harrogate from Good Friday, 20th April to Easter Monday, 23rd April. The actual programme was split between the West Park and Clarendon hotels, situated on the edge of the famous Harrogate Stray. It would probably not have mattered if they had been situated two miles underground, however, for the spa's beauty was viewed only through rain coloured spectacles for the greater part of the weekend.

London's well-publicised bid for the 1963 con-site was swept aside when Ken Slater and Dave Barber announced that they were putting in a bid for Peterborough next year. It is a *long* time since Britain had two groups fighting for a consite and the position surely reflects the enthusiasm in British fandom today and also the excellent work of the BSFA in recruiting new blood; many new faces were in evidence during the weekend.

It was a Committee policy to try and give value for money and probably the most expensive prize-range ever was distributed at the convention. As

such, it is possible that the con will lose money. With several bills still to pay there is a small profit, but we are anticipating an unexpected (!) bill from one hotel. Actual attendance, notwithstanding gatecrashers from the nobility and elsewhere, was 94 out of a 105 membership.

Make Humphenschtrumphendorpf the sixty-fourth!! Joni Cornell for T.A.F.F. – rmb

**The Convention Began** for me, writes Ron Bennett, Wednesday, 18th April when the first delegation rolled in. At 8.15 an entire block of flats in which I live was roused by the arrival of the German contingent, consisting of Tom Schlück, Rolf Gindorf, Wolfgang Thadewald, Thea Grade, Horst Margeit and driver Guntram Ohmacht. We had a whale of a time during those two pre-con days, driving out into the Yorkshire dales and visiting the limestone karst country at Malham, source of the River Aire. We climbed the 200' high Gordale Scar and walked mountain roads while Guntram waltzed merrily backward down a one in six gradient trying to take a picture. It was one of those idyllic days in one's life and a wonderful example of international friendliness. The six Gorfans stayed over in Harrogate until the Tuesday (as did Al Hoch) when Wolfgang celebrated his 24th birthday.

**The Hotel Lobbies** were soon crowded out on Good Friday and the programme began in the evening when Ron Bennett introduced various celebrities in the traditional manner. General merry making continued until 3am when the floating card school left the Clarendon where manager Brian Little had tried hard to lose the hotel to Brian Ball and Norman Shorrocks.

**The Saturday Programme** began with a playing of a tape recorded by the BBC and belonging to Brian Aldiss of the Home Service programme *The Realm of Perhaps*, a discussion on sf by Ted Carnell, John Wyndham, Brian Aldiss, Ken Bulmer and others. Following the tape long standing Nova writer E.R. James surveyed the sf scene, defining sf as having a basis of scientific fact explained logically. He claimed that Yoga thought of the concepts of science fiction long before sf did so. James amazed his audience by removing his jacket and standing on his head Yoga fashion. He spoke of the claims of Yoga and the manner in which *Analog* was using stories based on the off-beat sciences, and mentioned how to work even slight scientific concepts into stories. He wound up by reviewing his own sf history and the trends of sf during the last ten years. One major theme, he said, is that of overcrowding and survival. As gets older one

writes better, said James. One has a better insight into human nature and this is all important to writing. A short discussion followed, mainly on Yoga. Harry Harrison refuted the claims of the Eastern mystics, following research by Koestler and Liverpool OMPAn John Roles defended James.

**Brian Aldiss** introduced **Tom Boardman**, the Guest of Honour, mentioning man's first efforts at writing which were possibly on the lines of "mastodons crossing" or "back in ten minutes, lunch in cauldron". The first book was possibly religious (like sf?) and written in cuneiform on baked clay tablets. This would have been difficult to interpret, rather like a fanzine. He spoke of progress made in publishing. Last year there were over 100 sf titles with much old reprint material because there is today a shortage of good SF writers in an age when there are great opportunities for writers who can think for themselves. SF, said Aldiss, is more than ever in the public eye. Only recently there was the Question in the House of Commons on *Skyrack* and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. Actual examples, said Aldiss, included a coverage by *Vogue* and the BBC's *Realm of Perhaps*. John Wyndham is selling regularly on the general market and sales for *The Day of The Triffids* is rivalling that of Agatha Christie. For years we have had to fight for a general acceptance of sf and now this has arrived. This year we had the first pocket books which had covers without the eternal bug eyed monsters chasing glamour girls. These are the Mayflower Sci-Fi series which have as their editor Tom Boardman.

**Tom Boardman**, The Convention's Guest Of Honour, told his audience that surprised though they might be to discover it, publishers are trying to make money. Publishing is their living. He asked why hardcover publishers sold only two thousand copies of a book and yet would repeat the experiment, and answered his question by stating that often they are hoping to sell subsidiary film or reprint rights. Subsidiary rights are very important in the publishing world, said Boardman. He spoke of the rivalry to publish only good sf, though this itself is a danger, he said, to publishers. If more publishers jumped on the bandwagon the cake would be split more ways for buyers such as chain libraries would spread their orders and there would be less cash per publisher. One solution for a publisher appeared to be the paper back field. SF appeared to be a cast iron bet as a steady seller with usually fifteen to twenty thousand copies sold. How different from books like Ted Tubb's *Alien Dust* in the hardcover edition which sold only one thousand. He spoke of his own experiences in editing paper backed SF, mentioning Penguin, Corgi, Panther and finally Mayflower. After his talk Boardman was asked questions on reprints under

different titles, many members of the audience accusing publishers generally of underhand dealings and quoting examples. Boardman spoke of several different legitimate reasons for this common practice and also answered questions on the selection of material and commissioning writers to work to specifications. Altogether a most interesting and entertaining talk.

**There Were Two Auctions** conducted by Ken Slater, one Saturday and one on Sunday. These ran well beyond the allotted time in each instance. On the Saturday it was probably a good thing for the intention had been to allow attendees time to sightsee around the spa but it rained, oh my how it rained! On the Sunday afternoon the programme had to be hurriedly reorganised and the TAFF talk by Ron Ellik was put back until the evening prior to the film show. The two auctions together realised a record sum of £39 11s 9d, 50% of which went to TAFF.

**The Fancy Dress Party** on the Saturday evening, was extremely ably compered by Cheltenham's Eric Jones, supported by music from the specially imported Gerry Poole Trio. With the theme of the fancy dress A.D. 2062 prizes were won by Sector General Nurse Ethel Lindsay, Traffic Warden Wally Johnson, Angel Jill Adams, Mutant Tony Walsh and Hobbit and Strider Ken Cheslin and Susan Slater. Phil Rogers ran a book on a horse racing game which raised hopes of backers and fifteen shillings for the convention and Ron Bennett sidestepped a conga line which spread into the hotel's public bars to down the first glass of sulphur water – rigged of course (I live here) – in the spa-water drinking contest. Contestants were John Roles, Brian Jordan and Horst Margeit. Roles quickly retired and Jordan finally won. It is understood that when he recovers he will inform us as to the quantity drunk.

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The publisher of *Skyrack* apologies for the lengthy gap between issues 41 and 42 and says that he is now recovering nicely from his nervous breakdown.

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**At the BSFA's Annual General Meeting** Ella Parker bid for the 1963 Convention on behalf of London and Ken Slater spoke on behalf of Peterborough. It was suggested that the issue be left until the afternoon when the vote would be taken. Discussion on the point took place informally at lunchtime and after the Professional Panel the vote was taken, the return being Peterborough 39 and London 23. It was generally agreed that poor presentation of a worthwhile scheme for a prestige hotel

swung the favour to the Peterborough backers.

**The BSFA's New Officers** took over at the AGM with Terry Jeeves stepping up to take over as Chairman for the coming year. Bobbie Gray was elected Vice-Chairman and Jill Adams took over as Treasurer from Ted Forsyth. Ken Cheslin was elected Secretary and Jimmy Groves relinquished the post of Publications Officer to Michael Rosenblum and Ella Parker, two experienced publishers who will have the job of putting out *Vector*, and the *BSFA Newsletter*. Peter Mabey continued as Librarian and reported in detail of the Library's standing saying that it is now the largest SF lending library in the world.

**The Dr Arthur R. Weir Memorial Fund** was discussed and it was agreed that the money collected during the past year, some fourteen pounds, should be devoted to a Fan Recognition Award in Doc's name. A British Fantasy Award was also discussed and Tom Boardman offered to publish an anthology to raise funds for this award, on the lines of a similar anthology project already in operation for the mystery writers under his wing.

**Ken Slater** ran a quiz game on the lines of the radio and TV *Take Your Pick* competitions. The top prize of a bottle of Haig went to Jimmy Groves whilst George Locke won a plastic bucket and bowl and Michael Rosenblum found himself owning a pair of cheap earrings. Other prizes during the weekend were awarded to Eddie Jones for his display on *Bastion*, to Bob Parkinson for the highest auction bid (£2), to Phil Rogers for spotting the Con's deliberate poster mistake (directions to the West Park Assembly Room), to Terry Jeeves for the password (This was "Wilson Tucker" and was won when Terry tried to sell Ron Bennett a copy of *The Lincoln Hunters*.) and to several fans for displays in the photo competition. Ethel Lindsay won the "Beautiful Britain" section (with the only entry) and first prize in the "What is It?" section went to Harry Harrison, with Eddie Jones second. Ron Bennett and Eric Bentcliffe won prizes for their pictures of "Fans".

**Michael Rosenblum** gave what was generally agreed to be the most interesting talk of the weekend with informal reflections over the past 25 years. He read from Speer's original *Fancylopedia* and spoke of the days when the Clayton *Astounding* was brought to this country as ballast and could be bought for 3d or 4d a copy. He mentioned Hornig's club for letter hacks and Douglas Mayer's formation of the first foreign chapter of the SFL in Leeds. Other chapters were formed and eventually the first British

convention was held in January 1937. Michael distributed photosheets (originally published in *The New Futurian*) which showed attendees to include Eric Frank Russell, Arthur Clarke, Walter Gillings and Ted Carnell. He spoke of the beginnings of *New Worlds* and the disintegration of British fandom within a fortnight when war broke out in 1939. Fanzines at that time included Liverpool's *Satellite* and *Gargoyle*, he said, and his own *Futurian* which was later combined with Ron Holmes' *Science Fantasy War Digest* to become the *Futurian War Digest*. Michael spoke of the formation of the British Fantasy Society, originally a temporary war organisation, and his own virtual gaffiation until 1953 when a new Leeds group (LSFA) was formed. He was asked questions about the whereabouts of various fans of the last twenty years and also how present day fandom compared with that of 25 years ago. Michael said that both fandoms appeared to contain their thinkers, but whereas the fandom of yesteryear worried about the wrongs of the world and thought that perhaps it could put them right, fandom today worried just as much but was more inclined to live for the joys of the hour. The talk had to be terminated because of the lack of time available.

**The Professional Authors' Panel** was made up of Harry Harrison, Brian Aldiss, Ernest James, James White and Stephen Hall, with Tom Boardman lending moral support to the jug of water that was passed amongst them. They spoke about where they get their ideas and agreed that it wasn't a case of getting ideas but stopping the ideas from coming and in short a case of discrimination. They gave examples, spoke of favourite plots, of what they admired in each other's writings and of the state of sf today.

***A Matter of Life and Death*** was the film shown on the Sunday evening. Perhaps this is not strictly sf but it was agreed to be an entertaining and worthwhile film. Other entertaining shorts were shown at a wine and cheese party thrown in the Clarendon display room by Norman Shorrock and Sid Birchby. A great time was had by all, quipping at ancient Tarzan silents and shooting the hero with blanks. A table collapsed under combined viewing weight and Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison cooked meat pies over a waste-basket fire. The hotel managements were as friendly and as co-operative as any we've ever had and West Park owner Bert Harman and Clarendon manager Brian Little entered into the con spirit and were soon on first name terms with many attendees.

**The Programme Booklet** was a superlative affair and was once again ably produced by Norman Shorrock and Eddie Jones. Many thanks, you Liverpudlians, and thanks too to all who helped make the con a social

success – Ken Slater for his handling of professional advertisers and the auctions, Phil Rogers for his programme planning, Eric Jones for his work on the fancy dress party, Brian Jordan and Chris Miller for their fan and photographic displays, Terry Jeeves for his collecting of auction material and especially to Jill Adams for her work on the registration desk and to Jhim Linwood and his willing hand of supporters for the work involved in moving chairs and facilitating seating.

the sort of chap who thinks Lovecraft is a book on marriage technique (Sid Birchby)... the first time the hotel has not been opposite a church and you deserve the no bell prize (Archie Mercer)... neither one of us knew what we were talking about but I was louder (Ron Ellik).

**Brian Jordan** (86 Piccadilly Road, Burnley, Lancs) would like to be included on the lists of anyone circulating for sale photos taken at the con.

**Con Attending Gorfans** were guests at a bumper BSFA open night at the Parker Pen 27th April. Ted Forsyth reports that Arthur Thomson highlighted the evening with explanations of unprintable puns. Said Gorfans will attend their con as early as next August – the 24th at Unterwossen, Bavaria.

## **the 1961 skyrack poll.....**

21 fans voted in the poll, as against 22 last year. Whilst this number might at first sight be thought to be hardly indicative of the numerical state of fandom today, I think that it can be said that the poll itself reflects a truly representative cross section. The twenty-one Good People were: Gill Adams, Ron Bennett, Eric Bentcliffe, Sid Birchby, Bruce Burn, Buck Coulson, Bill Donaho, Colin Freeman, Keith Freeman, Ted Forsyth, Jim Groves, Dave Hale, Terry Jeeves, Lenny Kaye, Ethel Lindsay, Ed Meskys, Chris Miller, Darroll Pardoe, Ella Parker, Norman Shorrocks, Rick Sneary.

### **The Best British Fan Publication of 1961**

1. *The Atom Anthology* (published by Ella A. Parker 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6. @ 7/- or \$1) 153 points.
2. *Orion* (also published by Ella Parker, but @ 1/- or 15 quarterly) 149 points. 1st place last year.
3. *Hyphen* (Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 1/- or 15¢. Irregular but frequent) 127 points. 4th last year.

4. *Bastion* (Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire & Norman Shorrocks, 2 Arnot Way, Higher Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire. 1/6d) 93 points. 5th last year.
5. *Skyrack* 85 points. 2nd last year.
6. *Colonial Excursion* (published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorks. @ 7/- or \$1). 76 points.
7. *Scottishe* (Published primarily for OMPA by Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey) 57 points. Unplaced last year.
8. *Esprit* (Daphne Buckmaster, address elsewhere this issue @ 1/6 or 20¢) 38 points. 7th last year.
9. *Epitaff* (Eric Bentcliffe @ 7/- or \$1). 35 points.

Equal tenth at 35 points were *Les Spinge* (Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs.), *The Fan Directory* (Ron Bennett – 1/6 or 25¢) and *Vector* (The o-o of the BSFA).

Runners-up were: Equal 13. SFCoL's *Combozine* and *Vagary* (22 points); 15. *Haverings* (19); 16. *Smoke* (17); 17. *The Goon Goes West* and *Northlight* (13); 19. *Retribution* (11); 20. *Camber* and *The LXIcon Programme Booklet* (10).

Congratulations for the 2nd year running to Ella Parker whose CAPress heads the poll, to Arthur Thomson on heading the poll from the viewpoint of material (and what material!) and to Ethel Lindsay on the progress made by *Scottishe*.

### **The Best Individual Fanzine Feature of 1961.**

13 items were listed.

Top place went to Eddie Jones for his How I See It coverage of *Starship Troopers* in *Bastion* 2.

### **The Best Column**

Practically a walk over for The Harp That Once Or Twice by Walt Willis in *Warhoon*.

### **Best Fan Artist**

1. Arthur Thomson (25 points) 2. Eddie Jones (15½ points) Virtually a repeat of last year's voting.

### **Professional Magazine**

*New Worlds* again topped *Science Fantasy* and *Science Fiction Adventures*.

### **Best Fanzine Cover**

*Bastion 1* took last year's vote and this year *Bastion 2* headed the poll.

### **Best Report**

Aldiss & Heaven Too by Ian McAulay in *Hyphen*.

### **Best British Fan Writer of 1961**

1. Walt Willis (53 points) 4th place last year.
2. John Berry (26 points) 1st last year.
3. Bob Shaw (25)
4. Ethel Lindsay (17)
5. George Locke (14) 2nd last year.
6. Ron Bennett (13) 5th last year.
7. James White (12)
8. Ella Parker (11) 9th last year.
9. Ian McAulay and Mal Ashworth (8) Ashworth 5th last year.

The overall quality of Irish Fandom obviously speaks for itself. It is very pleasing to see Walt sweep to his decisive victory in this, his "Tenth Anniversary" year, and all credit to Ian McAulay for his productive prodding, not only with Walt but also the entire *Hyphen* staff.

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### **Fanzines in around contime....**

**Haverings 10** (6d from Ethel Lindsay) Tom Schlück introduces Klaus Eylmann and the rest of the zine is given over to fanzine reviews; this is becoming almost an invaluable listing through its detailed coverage and regularity.

**Orion 29** (1/- from Ella Parker who requests that no review be given this issue because of a wish to prune her bulky mailing list).

The First part of **Parker's Peregrinations**, Ella's Stateside trip report is also out and may be obtained for \$1.50 or 10/-, said sum being the cost of the entire report. Artwork is by Arthur Thomson of course.

**The Skyreck Newslitter** by Colin Freeman & Ethel Lindsay was distributed at the con and the same to both of them.

**Vector 15** (Edited by Jim Groves) Excellent reviews by Aldiss, Doherty and Harrison. Fanzine reprint by Ashworth. Mixed and assorted aspects of the sf scene. This followed quickly on the heels of

**Vector 14** which continued a goodly article by Bob Parkinson on Hal Clement, more excellent book reviews, a Willis reprint and the long-awaited Kingsley Amis viewpoint (donated by the SFCoL Syndicate

which purchased this) on the 1961 LXIcon.

**Address Changes:**

Avram Davidson, 410 W 110, New York 25, NY, USA.

Keith Freeman, 41 Park Road, Hayling, Hayling Is., Hants.

Alan Rispin, 5 Kingdon Road, London NW 6. – Phone Hampstead 8163.

Daphne Buckmaster, 70 Highbury. Hill, London N5

**An Item a Line from Here There and Everywhere:** Congratulations to Eric and Beryl Bentcliffe, married 24th March and to Ian McAulay, recently engaged ::: Archie Mercer changing jobs after 9 years with Malleable. Address still good ::: Congratulations Terry Jeeves, 1st Prize in recent N3F Story Contest ::: What if you want to complain *about* Alan Rispin? ::: Geoff Winterman, Cheltenham, absent from con following road accident. Get well, schnell! ::: First 63Con Newsletter in from Ken Slater. Bull Hotel, Peterborough, booked ::: *Triode* artist Tony Glynn to attend ChiCon in Sept ::: Berndt Ruthstrom, Brahegatan 8, Stockholm, interested in gleaning details of all fanzines for checklist project ::: RACKHAM ART flier should be with issue ::: Hard luck Dave & Ruth Kyle, who sent greetings for Harrogate Con – arrived a day late ::: George Locke out of army. Returned UK March 27 in time for party welcome by SFCoL ::: Ted Johnstone considering *Enchanted Duplicator* reprint ::: Reports indicate that projected German reprint of *Atom Anthology* is completely unauthorised ::: Beautiful postcards from Antigua, Virgin Islands and Nevis sent by holidaying Boyd Raeburn ::: For the record 8lb Alan Kimball Shorrock born 26 Feb. Congratulations Alan on the choice of parents ::: Rotary duplicator auction (cash for TAWF, 50¢ a throw being run with 31st May deadline by Buck Coulson, Rte 3, Wabash, Indiana ::: Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Rd, Stourbridge reports agenting Japanese fanzine ::: Moral of typing this 1st May is never set yourself a three day deadline!

**Les Spinge 8** (Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd, Wollesote, Stourbridge, Worcs) A neat John Berryarn and some pointless discussion on Eichmann – pointless because protagonists Linwood and Dodd evade the point, namely – *why* Israel is acting thusly.

**Void 28** (Ted White. And Co. British agent now Arthur Thomson) Following the poor (in *my* opinion, Rolf) No 27, this one stands out a mile as possibly the best issue to date. Beautifully reproduced and containing much Grade A material.

**Directory of 1961 Fandom.** 500 fan addresses. Some copies left. 1/6 or

25¢ from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat.

## **"Fanac #●●", 27 April 1962**

**April 27, 1962.** This is the what-happened-to-the-good-old-days-of-*Fanac* issue of *Fanac*, perpetrated right following the 1962 British National SF Convention in Harrogate, Yorks., by former *Fanac* co-editor Ron Ellik and current-day *Skyrack* ed Ron Bennett, who have just enough energy left from the con to put out this fanzine, and not hardly enough to try to convince you it is a genuine issue of *Fanac*. And how are things in New York, Mr. Carr?

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### **Meteorological Impossibility**

Oh, we had a rouser of a convention, with all the trimmings of a big American convention – complete programme, from auction to business session – and all the highlights of a small, friendly conference – small hotels, bad food, wild all-night parties, slide shows, and a permanent, week-end long feeling that you knew everyone present. A good show.

But it's over now, and the impossible has happened: after two days in Sheffield I returned to Harrogate to find *the sun shining brightly*.

This is the sort of thing we used to put inside *Fanac* somewhere, but since there isn't any inside to this issue of *Fanac* I thot I'd run it as a headline.

Bennett tells me I've been here the entirety of the Harrogate summer – yesterday, when the sun shone.

### **With Notebook, Camera, and Fine Fannish Mind**

That's how I've been travelling through the British Isles on this TAFF trip, and undoubtedly you want to know where the prose results of this excursion will appear.

To the best of my knowledge, the convention report as a separate entity will appear in a near-future issue of *Shangri-L'Affaires*, the official organ of the Los Angeles SF Society, available for 25¢ from Fred Patten, 222 South Gramercy Place, Los Angeles 4, California, US.

If any more is written – that is, if the rest of my trip takes on a distinct character – its place of publication will be announced in the issue of *Shaggy* with my Harrogate con report. Slides will be shown at all future fangatherings, if I took the lens cover off.

## **TAFF Man in Town**

America's TAFF delegate to the 1962 Harrogate Convention spoke on the many similarities between British and American fandoms. Ella Parker, he said, had also noticed that American fans were like these in her home town – Great Britain, he added.

Ron Ellik, the man in question – if there were any doubt – spoke of TAFF's future plans and outlined the TAFF calendar for the next three years. It is proposed that, while no delegate will cross the Atlantic in 1963, there will be again a double-crossing in 1964, with the strong possibility of Britain's delegate to the 1984 WorldCon bidding for London in 1965. This programme was strongly applauded and some discussion was entered into as regards the possibility of a TAFF Newsletter to be circulated throughout fandom.

Ron himself was in Manchester and Liverpool prior to the Convention and afterwards has visited Sheffield, Harrogate and Belfast. He is due in London on Monday 30th April from which time his programme will be:  
2nd May: To Cheltenham via a flying visit to Oxford to meet Professor Tolkien.

3rd May: Return to London.

5th May: Leave London for USA.

Many thanks, American fandom and TAFF, for sending us this boy of yours. He's a damn good delegate, level headed and witty and a TAFF Delegate of whom you can be proud.

– rmb

*This faux issue of Fanac was apparently sent as a rider to Skyrack #42 and is included in the Fanac.org scan of that issue, so it appears here too as a bonus. – DRL*

# ***Skyrack* #43, 2 June 1962**

This is *Skyrack* 43, published on **2nd June 1962** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for 6 issues. 35 cents for 6 issues in USA (6 issues sent airmail for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Ave, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed. Cartoon and heading by Arthur "Atom" Thomson.

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## **Scotland the Brave**

The midnight 31st May deadline on the Trans-Atlantic Fan-Fund ballot shows that Ethel Lindsay has become the first femme-fan to be voted a TAFF Delegate. Final U.K. figures were ETHEL LINDSAY 41, EDDIE JONES 29. The final Stateside figures are not yet to hand but Eric Bentcliffe informs me that Ethel was leading 68 - 24 last week.

Ethel, an exiled Scot, is past Chairman of the Science Fiction Club of London and a founder member of OMPA in which apa her fanzine *Scottishe* has become increasingly popular over the years. She has served on several convention committees and has worked behind the scenes on most British fan gatherings during the past five years.

Defeated rival Eddie Jones of Liverpool is the first to congratulate Ethel on her victory, writing "Congratulations, Ethel, the best fan won. U.S. Fandom, you're in for quite a pleasant surprise for Ethel possesses an effervescent personality, good humour and a sincere wish to help others. You have one of the wisest exports Britain could hope to make to America. Entertain her. Spare no expense to make her trip a memorable one, but remember to send her back. British fandom would be lost without her."

Ethel says that she can't believe its true and that she's sick with excitement and hopes that she doesn't die of excitement before the trip. She writes, "I would like to thank everyone who supported TAFF and especially Eddie for being such a wonderful companion in the campaign. I have not yet worked out a travel programme, but will do so just as soon as I simmer down a bit from the exhilarating happiness that surrounds me at the

moment.”

CONGRATULATIONS, ETHEL!  
– Ron Bennett.

**Latest “Bid Once” Auction Lots:** 50% of buying price goes to any fannish charity or organisation buyer cares to name. Send your ceiling price only. Each lot sold to top bidder at 2/6d (35¢) above second highest bid. Each bundle mailed promptly Sat 14th July. *Lot 4: Aporrheta*, the British wonder-zine of 1958-59 – 8 issues. Numbers 2 (Lacking cover), 4, 6 – 10. *Lot 5: If – Worlds of SF*. U.S. Edition. First two volumes complete. 12 issues March 1952 - Jan 54. Reserve £1. *Lot 6:* – Early Nova mags, *Science Fantasy* 3, 4, 6, *New Worlds* 4. Four magazines, good condition. *Lot 7:* BRE hardcovers – Steve Frazee: *The Sky Block*; Ward Moore: *Bring the Jubilee*; Heinlein: *The Man Who Sold the Moon*; Bleiler and Dikty: *The Best SF Stories* (First Series). 4 books in d/w.

**Ellik Talks TAFF on BBC.** During his recent TAFF trip to the British Harrogate Convention, Ron Ellik detoured to Cheltenham where he was interviewed on tape by Eric Jones, about science fiction, TAFF, and the BSFA. The tape was sent to the BBC who broadcast the tape on the West Home Service early morning *Today* programme. Newspaper reporters have since been trying to contact Ron for a story. (EJ & KC).

**Ken Slater Reports** that Harry Harrison spent four days in the Aldiss hot-house before returning to Denmark and writes that Digit have brought out (May 30th) the following four pbs at 2/6d per: *The Troglodytes* (Nal Rafcam), *A Planet Named Terra* (Victor Wadey), *The Sea Lady* (Wells) and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde* (Stevenson). Ace American Double F-139 has @ 40¢ Poul Anderson’s *The Makeshift Rocket* (A Bicycle Built for Brew from *Analog* ’58) backed with *Un-Man and Other Novellas* (“Margin of Profit” and “The Live Coward” are the others). From Monarch comes a sexed up version of Russ Winterbotham’s *The Space Egg*, previously of *Amazing* and *Avalon*. Published by the Manchester University Press @ 21/- comes a study of the scientific romances, *The Early H.G. Wells* by Bernard Bergonzi, a 226pp work which is an item of value to the sf addict with more than cursory interest in the history of the modern sf novel. Apart from a serious study of the work of Wells and an excellent bibliography covering many of the uncollected items, the contents also include two stories reprinted from the *Science School Journal* 1887-88, “A Tale of the 20th Century” and “The Chronic Argonauts”. (KFS).

**Gerfan News:** Information on the Unterwossen Con, 24th August, in Bavaria may be had from Fran Ettl, 8211 Unterwossen, Freuhlingstrasse 6. Note that "8211". Many German addresses have recently been given new zone numbers on a national basis. For example, Burkhard Blüm is no longer at 16 Hofheim/Ried but now at 6844 Hofheim. (Jakobstrasse 17). **Fanzine News** Helmut Klemm's *The Bug Eye* is to change its title to *Laune*. Mario Kwiat who published the very successful *Plehboi* last year was recently married; is planning a second edition this year. Fan Directory of Gerfans a la Broyles planned for later this year. Shortened version of *Goon Goes West* also planned for this year with *The Enchanted Duplicator* a possible for 1963. Last three projects in the hands of Tom Schlück. Big split in Gerfandom at the moment. Franz Rottensteiner wrote a series of articles criticising the standard of translations from English and American sf stories and was immediately boycotted by many clubs. Many German club-leaders, it appears, write books for lending libraries and have vested interests in the matter. (TS & BB)

Further on the above: The second *Plehboi* collection will be titled *Babbit*. Out early 1963. DM 2 from Mario Kwiat, 44 Muenster, Box 4002 K, Germany.

**1961 Fan Directory.** 500 addresses. 1/6 or 25¢ from Bennett or Bob Pavlat.

**Bastion 3** (Spring 1962, from Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Gt Moor, Stockport, Cheshire & Norman Shorrocks, 2 Arnot Way, Higher Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire.) Outstanding in this issue of Merseyside's offering to the zinescene is the artwork by Eddie Jones and Jim Cawthorn, excellent stencil studies of serious artwork. Dick Lupoff writes about New York fanzines and Brian Aldiss contributes a survey of literary bombs. Mike Moorcock visits Sweden and Eric Bentcliffe and John Roles take up Drums Along the Mersey where John Owen left off in that brilliant, readable, deadpan style. Good stuff this.

**Hyphen 31** (March 1962 1/-, Walt Willis & Ian McAulay, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd, Belfast 4, N. Ireland.). Carried over from *Skyrack's* last issue.... The usual standard – A melange of material by Jimmy White, Bob Shaw, George Charters Atom and George Spencer. A neat cover and a beautiful bacover with a superb Lighthouse touch.

**The Sol Reader** (1/9; Tom Schlück, Hannover, Altenbekener 10, W. Germany) A selection of the material recently published in the Gerfanzine *Sol*, and specially translated into English. An interesting, if stilted, array,

with one really outstandingly interesting and enthusiastic entertaining item, a meeting with von Braun by Wolfgang Thadewald.

**Focus 3** (January 1962; Mervyn Barrett, 74 Jolimont Street, Jolimont, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia). Interesting but average material by Roger Horrocks and Alan Dodd. (And thanks for the stamps, Merv).

**Shangri-L’Affaires 60** (Jan-Feb 1962; Edited by Fred Patten; 1/8d from Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincoln) A goodly selection of material by John Berry, Jack Harness, Hal Lynch, Dirce Archer, Bjo, Roy Tackett and others.

**Science Fiction Parade** (March 1962; Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake Street, Garden Grove, California, USA) A revival of the newszine inaugurated to spread the gospel of the 1958 SolaCon. This issue devoted to fan- and pro-zine listing and survey.

**Stefantasy** (February 1962; Wm. M. Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, Pa., USA) Professional-type humour presented in a professional manner. Material by J. Poff, Michael Frayn and one Colin Freeman.

**Panic Button 7** (Winter 1962; Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Road, Toronto 15, Ont., Canada). High class captioned photos as the trade mark and material by Len Moffatt, Roy Tackett, Jim Linwood, Walter Breen, Rog Ebert, Norm Clarke and Gary Deindorfer.

**Warhoon 15** (Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York 14; 5 for \$1; April 1962) A 70 pager. Wow! Backed for this year’s Hugo is the latest *Wrhn* with material by Bergeron, Virginia Blish (on *La Dolce Vita*), Redd Boggs (File 13), James Blish, Walt Willis (The Harp That Once or Twice), Robert Lowndes, Brian Aldiss, Nancy Rapp (*Tattooed Dragon* satire), and interesting lengthy-letter-writers.

**The Harrogate Convention** was first reported in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* for Easter Monday. For once the “green monster walking down the street” element was happily absent and the report was a straightforward account quoting seven Germans attending the con, 150 attending in all, Brian Burgess the owner of one of the biggest SF libraries in Britain and the first conference of “the organisation” taking place in Leeds 35 years ago. Ah, well....

Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs., plugs *Uchujin* and says that he’s expecting a tape from the Japanese fans and will willingly lend it to clubs, groups and individuals. Ken himself recently visited Cheltenham fandom and will be visiting his parents in Birmingham early

in June. ::: *BSFA Newsletter* 13 in from the new editor, Ella Parker, full of meat and vastly interesting. ::: Mike Kilvert, con attending founder of the Stourbridge group, marries 2nd June. ::: Many thanks Disclave attendees for the postcard with birthday wishes from Peggy Rae McKnight, Pat Lupoff, Dave & Ruth Kyle, Andy Main, Larry McCombs, Will Jenkins, Mother and Bob Pavlat. ::: Happy Lupoff's Day to you too. ::: Don Ford & Bobbie Gray note – US Service paper *Stars and Stripes* featured Tower of London armour on 14th May linking pressure resistance with that of space suits. ::: Richard W. Calkins, creator of Buck Rogers, died 13 May in Arizona, aged 68. ::: Thanks Tom Schlück, Gerfans, Ian and Betty Peters and Ethel Lindsay for the one-shot produced in Hampton Court Maze. ::: And thank you, Sandra Hall, for the copy of the fanzine with the circulation of 8,000 – a publicity leaflet for the recent Municipal elections, Sandra having stood for the Fulham Borough Council. No news available on the result. Anyone? ::: Recent issue of *Amateur Cine World* ran pic of Les Childs in a still from the Cheltenham film *The Test*.

**Harrogate Convention** final balance sheet held up. Money still to come in from Advertisers and non-attendees who cancelled too late for rooms to be sold. The hotels billed the con for rooms. The Clarendon billed for a table. Two American Embassy posters disappeared, as did some thirty convention pencils which should have been mailed out to non-attending members.

**Late Disclave Card** from Dave & Ruth Kyle who inform that fans were on the roof. Next Stateside national con is the WesterCon June 30th - July 1st at the Alexandria, Los Angeles, followed by the ChiCon, the Chicago Worldcon which will be attended by three British fans at least in Walt Willis (and Madeleine of course), TAFF Delegate Ethel Lindsay and Tony Glynn. That's 31st August - 3rd September.

# **Skyrack #43 Hoax**

*This alternative front-page story appeared in a print run of one copy sent only to the actual Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund winner, Ethel Lindsay.*

## **IT'S EDDIE**

Debonair Liverpool artist Eddie Jones looks like being the man for the TAFF trip this year. The voting between Eddie and Ethel Lindsay, London's candidate, wound up on 31st May with a narrow margin in Eddie's favour and although there will probably be a recount, the votes have been checked already on both sides of the Atlantic. Voting went as follows:

	EDDIE	ETHLE*
UK	41	37
USA	<u>109</u>	<u>106</u>
	150	143

Defeated Ethel Lindsay writes to be the first to congratulate Eddie on his victory: "Congratulations, Eddie. The best fan won. US fandom, you're in for a pleasant surprise for Eddie possesses an effervescent personality, good humour and a sincere wish to help others. You have one of the wisest exports Britain could hope to make to America. Entertain him. Spare no expense to make his visit a memorable one, but send him back, remember, British fandom would be lost without him."

Eddie says that he can't believe it's true and that he's sick with excitement. He wrote that he'd like to thank everyone who supported TAFF and especially Ethel for being such a wonderful rival in this cleanly fought contest. Travel programme to follow. Congratulations there! – RMB.

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\* *Sic*: uncertain whether this is a typo or an intended extra twist of the knife – DRL.

# ***Skyrack* #44, 2 July 1962**

This is **Skyrack 44**, published on **2nd July 1962** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for six issues in USA (six issues sent airmail for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed – and how. Read on, read on, dear friend. Cartoon on the left by Arthur “Atom” Thomson.

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VOTE WORLDCON SITING WASHINGTON DC IN 63

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## **T.V. Goes S.F.**

Gone, it appears, are the days when fans tore off prozine covers so that they could read their purchases in the tube, when convention reports in newspapers began “If you see an alien monster walking down the street next Saturday,” when your colleagues told you they had once read Jules Verne at school. For SF has now attained the ultimate status symbol. TV, after delving condescendingly with the genre for so many years, has finally gone overboard for science fiction. My, I bet you’re proud.

BBC Television has two serials currently running. In *The Big Pull* people are disappearing at an alarming rate and are being changed into other people by some alien force. *The Andromeda Breakthrough* is a sequel series to *A for Andromeda* by our old friend, Fred Hoyle. Let’s hope that the sequel is better than the original series. Last week the Saturday night play featured an adaptation of John Wyndham’s story “Dumb Martian”.

On ITV, the country’s second channel, one can follow a thirteen part “complete in each instalment” series, *Out of This World*, which is introduced by Boris Karloff. Eire ITV seems to have the best of the bargain with *Science Fiction Theatre*, which is understood to have some connection with the Los Angeles fan group, and Rod Serling’s *The Twilight Zone*, which has been awarded Hugos for the past two successive years.

Well, it makes a change from *Z Cars*.

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Do you have any odd pieces of current Continental currency lying around? In view of a proposed Continental holiday this year, this will be accepted, before the end of the month, as *Skyrack* subscriptions, pro rata.

**TAFF Delegate Ethel Lindsay** plans to fly to New York on 20th August. She will be driven up to Chicago by Dick Eney and is due to fly back to Britain on 19th September.

On the British side of the recently wound-up campaign, Ethel took an early lead over Eddie Jones and held the lead throughout. Final figures in the U.K. were 41 – 29 to Ethel, with Ethel also leading in the States 81 – 35. This Ethel's overall victory was reflected in the 122 – 64 victory.

The following fans lodged votes with Eric Bentcliffe: Jill Adams, Brian Aldiss, Harry Ball, Dave Barber, Ron Bennett, Sid Birchby, Ken & Pamela Bulmer, Alan Burns, Jim Cawthorn, George Charters, Ken Cheslin, Jeff Collins, Audrey Eversfield, Ted Forsyth, Colin Freeman, Don Geldart, Rolf Gindorf, Bill and Bobbie Gray, Jim Groves, Dave Hale, Chuck Harris, John Humphries, Fred Hunter, E.R. James, Terry Jeeves, Eddie Jones, Eric Jones, Roy Kay, Pat Kearney, George Locke, Peter Mabey, Ian McAulay, Ken McIntyre, Peter Mansfield, Horst Margeit, Archie Mercer, Frank & Pat Milnes, John Nash, Joe Navin, Marjorie & Stan Nuttall, Guntram Ohmacht, John Owen, Darroll Pardoe, Ella Parker, Betty & Ian Peters, Ken & Irene Potter, Bob Richardson, Phil Rogers, John Roles, Tom Schlück, Bob & Sadie Shaw, Norman & Ina Shorrocks, Joyce and Ken Slater, Wolfgang Thadewald, Arthur Thomson, Ted Tubb, Brian & Frances Varley, Tony Walsh, Norman Weedall, James White, Walt & Madeleine Willis.

Cash came into Eric as follows: 50% Harrogate Auction £19. 15. 10½d, Candidates' Bonds £1. 15s each, Lenny Kaye £1. 6s, Ted Forsyth £1, Rolf Gindorf £1, Dick Schultz 16/1d, Ken Slater 15/-, Jim Cawthorn 12/6d, Vic Ryan 10/6d; Dave Barber, Ken Bulmer, Pam Bulmer, Jeff Collins, Don Geldart, Bill Gray, Bobbie Gray, George Locke, Peter Mabey, Archie Mercer, Archie Mercer (subs to Wanted, *Northlight & Gaul*), Darroll Pardoe, Ella Parker, Phil Rogers, Norman Shorrocks, Ian Shorrocks 10/- each.

Liverpool Group 10th Anniversary Party 9/-, Eric Jones 8/-, Tom Schlück 8/-, Sid Birchby 6/6d.

Jill Adams, Harry Ball, Fred Hunter, Terry Jeeves, Ian McAulay, Ken McIntyre, Peter Mansfield, Stan Nuttall, Joyce Slater, Wolfgang Thadewald, Brian Varley, Francis Varley, Martine Versins, Pierre Versins, Tony Walsh, Madeleine Willis, Walt Willis 5/- each.

Audrey Eversfield, Joe Navin 4/6d each; Ken & Irene Potter 4/- each; Guntram Ohmacht 3/6d, John Nash 3/-.

Brian Aldiss, Ron Bennett, Alan Burns, George Charters, Ken Cheslin, Colin Freeman, Jim Groves, Dave Hale, Chuck Harris, John Humphries, E.R. James, Eddie Jones, Roy Kay, Pat Kearney, Horst Margeit, Pat Milnes, Frank Milnes, Marjorie Nuttall, John Owen, Betty Peters, Ian Peters, Bob Richardson, John Roles, Bob Shaw, Sadie Shaw, Arthur Thomson, Ted Tubb, Norman Weedall, James White 2/6d each.

Total £47.18s.5½d. (E&OE)

Eric Bentcliffe writes: “The total number of voters was 74, of which two were voided because of the voters not being connected with fandom prior to voting. One convention attendee voted twice, once for each candidate, so at least he was fair about it! There is enough money in the TAFF Treasury to ensure Ethel’s return fare, though I’m personally disappointed that British fandom hasn’t donated sufficient to cover the cost of Ethel’s ticket without assistance from the States – *but*, I would like to thank all those of you who voted and donated most sincerely. Thank you for making my job a pleasant and easy one.”

Norman Shorrocks & Eric Bentcliffe scored one write-in vote each. – rmb.

### **Art Castillo**

Bill Donaho reports that Art Castillo died of an intestinal complaint on 19th April, following a fairly lengthy illness. Art, the ex-husband of Playgirl Trina Castillo, was one of the leading writers in Discussion Fandom that was all the rage a year or so ago and his views on Chessman and on beatniks in *Habakkuk* were worth reading. There are all too few thoughtful and precise writers around fandom and Art will surely be missed.

**Church, Anyone?** It has been a long-standing generalisation that Fandom and religion don’t mix, but from California comes the news that The Church of the Brotherhood of the Way has been incorporated according to U.S. law. It aims to spread its Brotherhood to the entire human race, says Patriarch William L. Donaho who is supported by his Council of Elders, Dick Ellington and Danny Curran. This is a bona fide legal church and has

all the privileges of one. It pays no taxes whatsoever on property owned and contributions to the church are tax deductible! The Rev. Robert Lichtman is head of the Los Angeles Church, the Rev. Larry McCombs is busy organising a Church in New England and there is the possibility of a New York Church organised by the Rev. Walter Breen. Council Elder the Rev. Daniel J. Curran has moved to Portland, Oregon, and is now head of the Portland branch of the Church. What next? Well, as a start, Elder Donaho is shortly to perform his first marriage.

**Change of Address:** Joe Patrizio, 22 Eaton Road, St. Albans, Herts.

**Oxfan Orbits – Lands on Mercury.** Brian Aldiss sent a copy of the *Oxford Mail* for Monday, 4th June which ran the front page headline “End of Eights damage – £500.” Celebrations to mark the end of the University inter-college “Eights” (boat races) resulted in £500 damage at Christ Church College, this year’s winners. 400 windows were broken and it took over two hours to sweep up the broken glass. *The Mail* reports, “In the evening one under-graduate, Mr. Christopher Miller, was thrown into Mercury, the pond in the middle of Tom Quad and had to be taken to the Radcliffe Infirmary.” He was discharged the following day. That’s what so wonderful about the varied college life, I guess, even training one for convention parties.

**Change of Address:**

Bob Tucker, Box 478, Heyworth, Illinois, USA.

Brian Jordan, 86 Piccadilly Road, Burnley, Lancs.

**Brian Jordan** graduated from Sheffield University with B.Sc. Honours in Chemistry. Now back home in Burnley. Intends moving back to Sheffield in October. **George Locke** has resigned editorial chair of proposed SFCoL Clubzine, *Eros*, because of pressure of mundac (and gliding). Card in from **Tom Schlück**, visiting the Berlin “wall”. Congratulations to **Terry Carr**, one-time editor of *Innuendo* and *Fanac*. Terry is selling so well to *F&SF* (as the May and June issues show) that the June issue runs a story under the by-line “Carl Brandon”.

Harry Douthwaite reports on *New Worlds*: The recent cover on *NW* 118 (by Enrique) was bought from an agency which handles a number of Spanish artists and on the day after publication Carnell received three phone calls, five letters and two personal callers, all praising the cover. Ted says that he will be buying others and has on hand two completely revolutionary lay-outs. It will be interesting to see the final outcome of this experimentation.

**Westercon XV** took place in Los Angeles this weekend, at the celebrated Alexandria Hotel. Jack Vance GoH and Alva Rogers Fan Guest of Honour.

No bids at all in the latest auction. What gives? You all as broke as I am? 50% of buying price goes to any fannish charity named. Send your ceiling price only. Each lot sold to top bidder at 2/6d (35¢) above second highest bid. *Lot 4*: 8 issues of British wonderzine *Aporrheta*. Numbers 2 (no cover), 4, 6–10. *Lot 5*: US Edition *IF Worlds of SF*. First two volumes complete. 12 issues March 52 – Jan 54. Reserve £1 (\$2.80). *Lot 6*: Early Nova mags. *Science Fantasy* 3, 4, 6. *New Worlds* 4. Four zines, good condition. *Lot 7*: British hardcovers. Frazee *The Sky Block*. Moore *Bring the Jubilee*. Heinlein *The Man Who Sold The Moon*. Bleiler & Dikty *The Best SF Stories* (First series) Four books in d/w.

**Should *Skyrack* Fold?** For the past three and a half years I have been attempting to publish British sf and fan news on as wide a front as possible. Now, a newszine editor cannot live in a vacuum and it should be realised that in Harrogate I am somewhat off the main routes of fannish movements. I haven't seen a fan since Ron Ellik left for Belfast over two months ago. Accordingly, I rely for my news on correspondence. The sparsity of actual meaty news in this issue makes me think that *Skyrack* is not serving any useful purpose, for little news has reached me during the past month and I refuse to believe that fans in the country have not done anything worth writing about. Otherwise, boy! those club meetings in Liverpool, London and Cheltenham must be getting mighty dull. And this says nothing about the isolated fans up and down the country. Accordingly, the only conclusion I can reach is that *Skyrack* does not have sufficient “drawing power” to encourage fans to write on their doings. During *Skyrack*'s life the sheet has had a hardy band of supporters and I would prefer to satisfy their trust by giving them what they pay for – news. Should the present state of affairs continue then I'll fold *Sky* and return the sub money on hand. This is not a “twist your arm” warning. Fans may either be too busy or too disinterested to write, Which adds up to the same thing – that *Skyrack* isn't wanted. And hell, who am I to argue against the majority opinion on the subject? – rmb.

# ***Skyrack* #45, 4 September 1962**

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FIRST, I THINK, WITH THE NEWS. Terry?

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## **Hugo for Hothouse – D.C. in Sixty Three!**

**Congratulations to B.S.F.A. Chairman Brian Aldiss.** His "Hothouse" stories in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* have won the Hugo for the Best Short Fiction in the Annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards presented on Sunday at the 20th World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago.

The Convention was held at the Windy City's Pick-Congress Hotel last weekend, 31st August - 3rd September, and was attended by British TAFF Delegate Ethel Lindsay, the first femme-fan to travel under the Fund, and Walt Willis whose tenth anniversary visit this was to the States – and Chicago. In 1952 Walt had to leave his wife behind in Belfast, but now Madeleine is travelling with him. An Overseas Guest Reception party was thrown at the Con on Saturday afternoon and was well attended.

In addition to the Hothouse award, Hugos were awarded as follows:

Best Novel – *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein.

Best Dramatic Presentation – Rod Serling's *The Twilight Zone*.

Best Professional Artist – Ed Emshwiller.

Best Professional Magazine – *Analog*.

Best Amateur Magazine – Richard Bergeron's *Warhoon*.

Ed Emshwiller took the Best Artist award for the third year in succession, as did Serling's *Twilight Zone* in the Dramatic Presentation category.

*Analog Science Fact & Fiction*'s award was for the second year in succession, while Heinlein's last novel, *Starship Troopers*, won a Hugo two years ago. Brian Aldiss was awarded a Hugo three years ago for "Best New Author".

Washington D.C. will house next year's Worldcon.

Ethel flew to New York Monday 20th August. Was met at airport by Don and Elsie Wollheim. Stayed with Dick & Pat Lupoff who threw party. Driven to Con by Dick Eney. Willises stayed with Larry & Noreen Shaw. Both visiting teams hope to visit West Coast after the Con.

**Pro-News:** Jim Ballard's long novelette *The Drowned World* in *SFA* 22 has been written into a novel which is described as "very powerful" and which will be published about the end of the year by Gollancz, though possibly not as SF. Brian Aldiss and Kingsley Amis have both read it and are tremendously enthusiastic. The American edition will be published by Berkley Books, who are also putting out a second collection of Ballard's entitled *Billenium* (The first collection, *The Voices of Time*, is already on sale).

James White's recent *New Worlds* serial, *Field Hospital*, has been bought by Ballantine Books for publication soon. The British distribution of his earlier *Hospital Station* is planned for late Autumn, with special displays in Belfast, with a projected autographing session in a large departmental store, plus a feature write-up in the local press.

Brian Aldiss has edited a *Best Fantasy Stories* collection for Faber & Faber, coming soon, and John Brunner has sold a collection of shorts to Gollancz, to be called *No Future in It*. Ace Books in New York has just bought a new novel from Ken Bulmer entitled *Professor's Plunder* (as of now). Aldiss has a short murder story coming up in *Rogue* magazine. Panther will shortly be publishing the early Carnell anthology *Gateway to Tomorrow*.

Doubleday Book Club titles for September and October are Garrett's *Unwise Child* and Eric Frank Russell's *The Great Explosion*.

There is a strong possibility that ACE (American) pocket books may be generally imported into this country next year.

Penguin will next year be launching a series of SF reprints. Already appointed as Penguin's Outside SF Editor is (naturally) Brian Aldiss. Projected titles are *Last & First Men*, *Case of Conscience*, *Dragon in the Sea*, *The Day It Rained Forever* and the *Penguin SF II*.

John Hynam (John Kippax) authored the BBC play *Amanda* (4 Aug) and has three more radio plays to come, including a SF piece called *Closed Planet*.

Aussie Fan John Baxter has a Guest Editorial coming up in *New Worlds*, the first fan-commissioned Nova Editorial in four years and is highly regarded in pro circles as an up and coming name. Congratulations, John!

(and thanks to E.J. Carnell, Brian Aldiss and Ken Slater for the above coverage)

**Axe** recently announced the death of John Champion, the young west coast fan who was such a leading light in the fanzine world or five or six years ago. John died in car accident and as one who remembers his thoughtful letters and his fanzine, *Impasse*, to which I contributed, I'm stoned and extremely sorry to learn the news.

On the brighter side... Charles Wells to be married next year... Daughter Elizabeth Ellen born 5th July to Shelby and Suzy Vick... Son Robert Ian born to Bob & Sadie Shaw... One time *Hyphen* contributor Sally Ann Bloch (daughter of one Robert Bloch) married 2 June in Los Angeles... Son Paul, weight 6½lbs, born 19th August to Jimmy and Dorothy Ratigan. Mother and son doing well. Congratulations, all!

Brian Aldiss has been holidaying in Denmark and Sweden, guest of Harry Harrison and meeting Torsten Jungstedt who is responsible for Swedish radio's *Werewolf Hour*. ::: Who goofed? New BSFA printed notepaper lists Hon. Treasurer as Miss G.T. Adams. Do we hear background chuckles from husband John and daughter Penny? ::: Future of BSFA Library, largest SF Lending Library in the World, shadowed by imminent departure from Cheltenham of Librarian Peter Mabey. ::: Peterborough Convention Committeeman Dave Barber recently spent a week in hospital. Trust you're out, about *and* well, now, Dave.

**Headline News in Any Other Newszine:** Arthur C. Clarke left Colombo, Ceylon, Sunday 12th August for Britain to receive treatment for a spine injury. Clarke became ill after knocking his head on a doorway in his Colombo home. The knock injured his spine and he became partly paralysed. He has recovered sufficiently to walk and swim, but intends to see a specialist in London, where he is now staying for five or six weeks. Clarke had a book, *Indian Ocean Adventure*, published 10th August by Arthur Barker, with photos by Mike Wilson. Another book, *Profiles of the Future*, is due to be published in November. Clarke was covered in a *Daily*

*Express* write-up last week which gave prominence to the predictions he has made in the SF field (“In 1945 he accurately predicted Telstar – and no one took a scrap of notice.”) and a similar treatment was afforded the author when he was interviewed in the BBC Radio *Newsreel* programme of 27th August. Rumour has it that Clarke is due to pay a visit to the Globe next Thursday, 6th September.

**Talk of the Globe** reminds that business is looking up for the London Circle’s regular first-Thursday-in-the-month meetings there. Amongst those gathered there on 2nd August I picked out Max Jakubowski, Ted Ball, John Furrer, Ken Potter, Bill Temple, Pat Kearney, Alan Rispin, Diane (Nell) Goulding, Mike Moorcock, Sandra Hall, Peter West, Dick Ellingsworth, Keith Otter, Alan Bale, Pete Taylor, Sid Bounds, Ted Carnell, Bob Presslie, Les Flood, Frank Arnold, Arthur Sellings, Walter Gillings and a psychiatrist friend of Arthur Sellings who was mercilessly ribbed by Arthur Thomson.

**Liverpool Group’s** 11th August Bank Holiday party was a wild success, reports Ella Parker, who tripped up to the west coast port for the occasion. A new card game, switch, was in evidence (Liar’s Poker, played with Italian cards, is the rage in Harrogate these days), and two teams comprising Geoff Collins, Audrey Eversfield, John Roles, Stan and Marjorie Nuttall, Eddie Jones, Ella, Tony Walsh, Norman and Ina Shorrocks and John Humphries went bowling. An early Sunday morning trip out to the river for a Hovercoach sighting ended in some disappointment when bad weather cancelled crossings for the day.

**Fan Gathering** in Wisbech reported. 2nd August get together to discuss formal plans on the Eastercon and gather informally and fannishly. Present were Ken & Joyce Slater, Dave Barber, Chris Miller, Carla Rooney, Mark Ashby and David Eggleton. The Peterborough Convention plans are swinging, it appears. Recorded membership now stands at ninety! Five shillings is all it takes, if you haven’t registered as yet. Write Ken Slater, 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs. Con Newsletter *East Finglian Times* delayed because of duplicator mechanical troubles. A new line in Con adverts, car window stickers are available from Ken on request. Quarter page adverts for the con will appear in Nov, Dec and Jan BRE *Analog* and *F&SF*. Convention room bookings will commence towards the end of October.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** are planning a charter flight weekend in Paris, kicking off Friday 26th October. The price, including

that of the hotel, is £10 per head, with a reduction if the party numbers more than 14. (Sliding scale on rates over this number.) Four more people are still needed to make up this minimum number and anyone interested in what promises to be a wild fannish and darn interesting weekend should contact Ella Parker.

**SFG** now permitted to call itself Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group. New term officials will be Chris Miller (President), Howard Leigh (Secretary), Marcus Wigan (Treasurer) and Howard Nichols (Librarian). Brian Aldiss is the group's only Honorary Member to date.

**Vector 16** (Summer 1962; o-o BSFA; edited by Ella Parker, published by J. Michael Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Leeds 7) Ah, just like old times, JMR publications with crinkly staples! Ella and Michael take up where Jimmy Groves left off, with an interesting melange of official reports, sf news and general chatter. Philip Harbottle surveys in detail the contribution to the genre made by John Russell Fearn.

**Bane 7** (August 1962; Vic Ryan, 2160 Sylvan Road, Springfield, Illinois; 25¢) Another good all-round issue with contributions from Don Thompson, Buck Coulson, Mike Deckinger and Bob Tucker. Some very refreshing, *dateless* material.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** is to sponsor a yearly Art Award for artwork displayed at British Conventions, beginning with next year's Peterborough EasterCon. The Award is an open one, and overseas fans are eligible to enter, as are British fans. The Award will be given for artwork in any form, oils, water colours, sculpture, photography, of a science fiction or fantasy nature. The award itself will take the form of an illuminated certificate, plus 70/- (\$10) worth of art material of the artists choosing. No member of the SFCoL may be eligible for this Award, or take part in the judging.

**TAFF.** Third TAFF Progress Report from Ron Ellik shows that 203 fans voted in the campaign which has sent Ethel Lindsay to the Chicago Worldcon as Britain's delegate. 186 voted either for Ethel (122) or Eddie Jones (64) with various write-ins. The TAFF kitty is healthy with \$400 on hand at the moment. Nominations opened 1st September for candidates to compete for the trip to the 1964 British EasterCon. Write Eric Bentcliffe for details.

**E.J. Carnell**, editor of the Nova chain, noticed that in the last issue Harry Douthwaite inferred that Ted is experimenting with new *art* cover layouts

and so Ted writes: "I'm not. One of the experimental covers was the July one with the Karloff TV photograph. This will be followed from time to time by other photographs, either from films, TV or pictorial articles, when possible. The second cover layout is on the August issue and once again dispenses with cover art. I know that there will be howls from some quarters but I have a strong line of reasoning behind this radical change, primarily that over the years a vast number of ordinary s-f readers (other than regular magazine readers) will not pick up an s-f mag *because* of the cover picture. To date, about 100,000 people have bought *Penguin S.F. 1*, edited by Brian Aldiss and I feel that many of those people will be tempted to purchase *New Worlds* from the bookstands if they see a sedate non-pictorial cover. We shall see. Cover illustrations already on hand for *New Worlds* have been switched to *Science Fiction Adventures*, where I do not contemplate a change of face. This means that at least two Gerard Quinn paintings will appear on that magazine. I have also found another new artist named Singleton – so Spanish artist Enrique is not likely to have anything coming up for a long time, if at all."

**Apologies** are due to everyone out there for the way *Sky* skipped an August issue. In previous years July-September has been *Sky*'s peak period with the editorial offices moved to London to cope with the rush. It would probably have been the same this year, too, had not the *Sky* staff decided to follow Sid Coleman's path to Istanbul. We got sidetracked down the leg of Italy after adventures in Paris, the French Alps and Turin and a week later found ourselves in Foggia after having behaved like tourists in Pisa, Leghorn, Rome, Naples and Pompeii. Anyone want to buy any earthquakes cheap?

***Les Spinge* 9** (July 1962; Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs; 1/- or 15¢; 40pp) Vastly improved layout marks this ninth offering from the wild Worcester Wollescotian ably assisted by Ken Cheslin. John Berry classifies fandom from the future. Mike Deckinger contributes flying experiences and Jim Linwood reviews fanzines. Steve Leon-Paul compares men with insects and Leon Collins compares fans with men. The issue is especially notable for a complete Harrogate EasterCon coverage by editor Hale, Sid Birchby, Ken Cheslin and Brian Jordan. *Les Spinge* continues to entertain when editor Dave wants it to entertain. A serious minded attempted survey of a fannish political situation is marred by lack of facts and much woolly thinking. Thankfully there is more of entertainment value in the zine than the would-be sercon.

***Prose of Kilimanjaro* 3** (Summer 1962, published primarily for SAPS by

George Locke, 85 Chelsea Gardens, London SW1) A highly personalised zine which is well worth the having. Brian Varley writes on fair play and a few modern era sports. Old timer Fred Brown of the London Circle hints on collecting and George himself writes on Pearson's Weekly, on gliding and on a recent radio programme. Recommended, but I wish it had been *Smoke*.

**Haverings** (Unnumbered; 6d from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey) Fandom's leading fanzine reviewzine. In addition to Ethel's thoughtful comments there is another short column by Tom Schlück who should write at greater length.

**Parker's Peregrinations** (Or *The Harpy Stateside*; Ella Parker, 151 Canterbury Road, West Kilburn, London NW6; 10/- or \$1.50) I have previously only mentioned Ella's Stateside trip-report for ten shillings seemed somewhat steep and I delayed in buying a copy. I have to confess that I bought a copy, too, as I'm a report completist but having read this thirty page offering I hasten to recommend *Harpy*. Thirty pages may not seem much for 10/-, but wait! This is only the *first part*. The 120 pence that you pay entitles you to the complete report of course and who can say how bulky it will be, for this 30 page booklet covers only Ella's first few days in the U.S. The report itself is extremely readable; the writing flows so well that it is with some degree of surprise that one finds the last page has been reached. Illustrated by Atom, this is a good buy.

**The Panic Button 9** (Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Road, Toronto 15, Ontario, Canada) Summer issue of fandom's leading Terse Commentary Fanzine. Home fan Colin Freeman analyses the *Daily Express*.

**Obelisk 3** (Lenny Kaye, 418 Hobart Rd., No. Brunswick, N.J., USA) 24 page informal anniversary issue featuring Ella Parker on the Harrogate EasterCon. Ah, those were the days.

**Warhoon 16** (July 1962; 20¢ from Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York 14) Hugo nominated and probably favourite for the award because of its range of subject and depth of viewpoint. Blish, Baxter, Breen and of course another notable Willis Harp column.

**Cry 162** (August 1962; Box 92, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle 4, Washington). Another Hugo-nominated fan zine, focal point (if I may be excused the term?) of faantype fandom. The Busbys, Weber, Berry, Terry Carr. A wonderful WesterCon report by Wally Weber particularly notable.

**Shangri-L'Affaires 61** (June 1962; 25¢ from Al Lewis or Ron Ellik, 1825

Greenfield Av., Los Angeles 25, Calif). How to take pics of Joni Cornell in a bikini.

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Contributor's Copy \_\_\_\_\_; Your subscription expires with No. \_\_\_\_\_. Happy?

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**News a Line from Here There and Ghod Where's the Aspirins?** Recent SFCoL outing to Whipsnade ::: US fans Sid Coleman and Ruth Berman recently in London. ::: Bruce Burn holidayed in Scotland and Ireland. Visited Ken Cheslin, Ron Bennett and Walt Willis (I hear) ::: Jimmy Groves holidayed Shetland Isles, visiting Fred Hunter ::: Betty & Michael Rosenblum holidayed Switzerland, visiting London fan circles on return ::: Peter West recently in Africa. Recently (also) involved in Trafalgar Square Colin Jordan rally, arrested for breaking microphone. Case thrown out of court. ::: Ted Forsyth new SFCoL Chairman. Keith Otter Secretary ::: TAWF Money on UK side totalled £22 and \$3 ::: Brian Burgess spent two weeks in Middle East last month. Had £10 stolen in Istanbul. I'm glad I didn't make it ::: Cheltenham Circle may shortly lose two members ::: Bruce Burn & George Locke spent 10 days in Devonshire retrieving gliders at a rally. ::: Request for *Fan Directory* in from East German State Library! ::: Congratulations Bob Parkinson, newly minted B.Sc ::: Sandra Hall recently featured in *D. Express*. Setting out Sept for Middle East "to search for ancient manuscripts on ancient magic." ::: Les Nirenberg hopes to run 1,000 copies next issue *Panic Button* ::: Congratulations Archie Mercer's beard, one year old 19th June – and thanks for the photos ::: Constantine Fitzgibbon's novel *When The Kissing Had to Stop*, borderline sf, is to be screened in a 2½ hour version on ITV. Let's hope the programme is better than the book, one of the most stilted offerings I've handled for years. ::: Very meaty July-Aug issue of *The Australian SF Newsletter* just in from Mervyn Binns and John Foyster.

**Changes of Address Dept:**

Charles Wells, Rm 12B, Mens Grad Center, Duke Sta., Durham, North Carolina, USA (15 Spt).

Archie Mercer, c/o BSFA Library, (Basement) 130 London Road, Cheltenham, Gloc.

Sgt. Don Geldart, Sgt's Mess, Intelligence Centre, Maresfield Park Camp, Maresfield, Nr. Uckfield, Sussex.

Mervyn Barrett, 1 Egan Street, West Richmond, Melbourne, Vic., Australia.

Archie Mercer has moved from North Hykeham, Lincoln and after a spell in Cheltenham, is now in Bristol. The address listed above is a permanent address for all mail.

# ***Skyrack* #46, 9 October 1962**

This is ***Skyrack* 46**, published **9th October, 1962** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (airmailed for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always welcome. Cartoon and heading by Fandom's Favourite, Arthur "Atom" Thomson.

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**No Real Headline News This Issue**, but space will be filled somehow... Thanks for wild postcard, the Liverpool Group. Recently holidayed on Norfolk Broads – called in on Brian Aldiss who cabled for help ::: Congratulations to Ron Ellik and Peggy Rae McKnight... Recently engaged, and to Mike Moorcock and Hilary Bailey, married 29th September ::: Leading Light Ella Parker may soon be moving her Penitentiary ::: London fandom recently met one Dorothy Westcott who is moving out to Los Angeles to become secretary to 4SJ. ::: Arthur Thomson reports receiving postcard from Walt Willis labelled "Wish you were here." Card showed Alcatraz. ::: Jhim Linwood visited Chris Miller in Sutton Coldfield 8/9 Sept to help dry out Chris who had been almost drowned in Lake District holiday mid-August. Following weekend 15/16 Sept Chris cycled 70 miles to Oxford to meet Brian Aldiss and Ken Slater. Tour of Oxford and viewing of Aldiss' Danish colour slides followed. ::: Same weekend saw gathering in Stourbridge home of Dave Hale, who was visited by Bruce Burn, Nell Goulding and Alan Rispin. ::: Archie Mercer indicates that he has now entered ~~a monas~~ the asphalt business. Thanks, Archie, for the beautiful cartoon, clipped from some national newspaper or magazine. This shows two executives studying a field sales map. Flags in the map show positions of various sales representatives. One line of flags runs out of the map and across the wall in true Bill Holman fashion. Caption reads "Where the devil is Mercer off to now?" ::: The German con towards the end of August at Unterwoessen was attended by some seventy fans including Guntram Ohmacht and Wolfgang Thadewald. Most of programme appeared to be devoted to Gerfan Club politics, with talk of merging two of the country's biggest clubs, the SSFI and the SFCD. ::: Sept 5th BBC Light Programme's *Thirty Minute Theatre* featured Arthur Clarke's story, "The Songs From Distant Earth." Clarke was interviewed last month on the early morning *Today* programme, virtually a repeat of

his earlier Radio Newsreel interview in which he was credited with inventing Telstar. ::: Congratulations Jimmy & Peggy White on the birth of son, Peter. ::: Gregg & Jo Ann Calkins divorced. Gregg now in California. ::: Jean Linard and Charles Lee Riddle contemplating return to actifandom. ::: *Panic Button* 11 plans run of 2000. ::: Phew is.

### PAID ADVERT

THE MORCON COMMITTEE – bidding for L.A. Once More in Sixty-Four – Chairman, Al Lewis Vice-chairman, Ted Johnstone Treasurer, Bruce Pelz Hotel Relations, John Trimble Publicity, Ron Ellik	The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society solicits your vote for the convention of the century – the twenty- second world science-fiction convention, in Los Angeles, California, over Labor Day weekend, 1964. The committee offering to entertain you that weekend combines a scope of experience as convention officials and attendees equalled by few; the third worldcon to be held in Los Angeles will be an extremely memorable event.
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**Fairly Recent Notes** on the topic of *Skyrack* folding through lack of support in reporting news items led to receipt of several letters, from which selection is printed:

**Franklin M Dietz**, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx 53, N.Y., USA: As a publishing giant you should know that statements such as the one you made in *Sky* 44 are definitely slanderous against the organisation and cannot be tolerated.

However, we've taken into consideration that this is your first deviation

from conformity and thus feel that this time we may overlook the discretion. Underlying it, though, we feel a serious weakness in your end of the operation and feel it is about time for you to take all steps to control it before it gets out of hand.

It's time for you to call a conference with your division chiefs and lay it to them on the line. Let a few heads roll if you feel this will shape up the laxness and get in some new blood to show the staff they're not indispensable.

Otherwise, further slips of this sort will mean we'll have to look for a new man to head our English division and you know what this will do to our stock. Even in our current bullish market, adverse news can have a serious bearish effect on particular situations.

So let's get your division back into shape. Profit margins have always been excellent under your management, and we'd like to keep the confidence we have in your guidance.

Looking for the best from your gang... Yours, Frank.

((I'm still wondering whether he wants *Sky* to fold or not.))

**Archie Mercer**, c/o BSFA Library, 130 London Road, Cheltenham, Glos:

You can fold *Cry* while the Gang stands by,  
But Don't Fold *Skyrack*,  
You can fold *Axe* with the New York fax,  
But Don't Fold *Skyrack*.  
For *Skyrack* is the fanzine with news from near and far,  
We find it a necessity, to tell us where we are.  
You can fold *Smoke* now the Locke's gone broke,  
But Don't Fold *Skyrack*,  
For *Skyrack*'s always in the groove.  
But if it's really got to go,  
Keep it another ish or so,  
At least until it's publicised my move.

((Archie at this time had left Lincoln for the south-west))

**Northlight 14** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2. 16pp. Undated) After a lengthy absence this collection of personal comments and views makes a welcome appearance. Whereas no man can supposedly be an island, editor Burns tries hard to make his zine one, steering clear as he does from the more conventional

layout, presentation and type of fannish material. In its time *N.* has ventured into the feud field but now that its editorial policy seems to keep clear of such childishnesses, *N.* is a refreshing addition to the zinescene.

***Babbit*** (Mario Kwiat, box 4002-k, 44 Muenster, Germany. Sept 62. DM2) This 100-plus page anthology of work by Germany's answer to Arthur Thomson bears an English introduction by Tom Schlück and is otherwise a well-blended mixture of the serious and humorous on *Tattooed Dragon* lines. Different types of media are employed and whilst I'm no art critic I'd say that Mario's sense of proportion is occasionally a little out, but that his shading and line work are generally good. Personally, I can't see anyone who is interested in art going without this collection.

***The Bug Eye 11*** (2nd Annish. Sept 62. Hel Klemm, 16 Uhlands St., 413 Rheincamp-Utfort/Eick, Krs. Moers, W. Germany) Very interesting articles on present day trends towards nazism written by Thea Grade and Rolf Gindorf, lengthy letters on similar themes and a dissertation on lifts by Mike Deckinger. 40 pages and all in English. Germany's answer to the "thoughtful" type of zine.

***The Panic Button 10*** (35¢. 46pp. Fall 1962. Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto, Canada). Self-styled "international magazine of humour and opinion", a tag which doesn't leave much room for disagreement. Supposedly a zine which you either love or hate, but I find in it much to interest me and much that I can leave alone. Full of wonderful prods, outrageous yet thoughtful, at all ever held sacred. Outstanding this issue is Nirenberg's Do-it-yourself Dirty Story kit followed closely by penwork (or typescript, I guess) from Harry Warner, Les Gerber, Norm Clarke, Gary Deindorfer, Jerry de Muth and others.

***G2 11*** (April (!) 1962 ((That's what it says)) Joe & Bobbie Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Avenue, El Sobrante, Calif., USA. 3/25¢ or 1/9d). Another "personal" zine with views on all sorts of odd subjects – like sf, for example. G-squared now has a European agent in overworked Colin Freeman. One thing about fanzines that ramble informally – they're *interesting*.

Roy Kay, 91 Craven Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire is planning a new fanzine and mentions various ideas which should meet with general approval. He says that he is on the look-out for material, artwork etc. and would be interested in wandering columns, fannish articles and satire. The resultant collection might even make the zine, *Chaos*, live up to its name.

**Berkeley v Los Angeles.** It looks as though American West Coast groups are going to have quite a tussle up to the time of the 1963 DC Worldcon, for both the Berkeley and LA people are bidding for the 1964 Worldcon siting. Just before the September *Skyrack* went out in all its bulky glory, Bill Donaho mailed an intended flier to me which boosted Berkeley's claims. Unfortunately this was on U.S. quarto and had to be chopped down to a more reasonable *Skyrack* size, a task that could not have been accomplished before the *Sky* in question was mailed. So, accordingly, it was held over until this issue, and you should have it with you right now. Meanwhile, into the picture steps the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society with a paid advert which appears elsewhere in this issue. That the two notices should appear together was and has been completely unplanned and my apologies are extended to any party who might take exception to this state of affairs.

**More on the Church of the Brotherhood of the Way.** Bob Lichtman challenges the report carried in *Sky* 44 and says: "I am *not* the minister of the Church in this area ((L.A.)) mainly because the Church has not been legally incorporated and can appoint/ordain no ministers as yet. If it ever does get incorporated, maybe I will be a minister of it. That remains to be seen. Anyway, as a result of your announcement, I have been written into Coventry by Bruce Pelz and we have received a very far-out letter from a fan with stuff in it like 'The slogan Fans are Slans will become true – fandom will be the fertile soil of the New Mankind' and 'I would like to establish a German branch and lead Germany to The Way.'" Yes, well, we all have our troubles.

**Cadenza 6** just in from Charles Wells, 12B Mens Grad Center, Duke Station, Durham, N.C., U.S.A. with the first ChiConReport to appear, and a jolly fine and interesting one, too. "Oh ho," said Elizabeth, "So that's where your money ends up! So that's where fandom's money goes to... Mrs Heinlein's sideboard."

**Round the Mulberry Bush Dept:** Eric Bentcliffe, 51 Thorn Grove, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire ::: Tony Walsh, 86 Chelsea Gardens, London S.W.1 ::: Peter Mabey, Lurgan Guest House, 54 Wolsey Road, East Molesey, Surrey ::: Brian Jordan, 21 Harcourt Road, Sheffield 10, Yorks.

**From the Above COAs** it can be deduced that Eric and Beryl Bentcliffe have moved into their new house and will welcome fannish visitors; that Tony Walsh has taken a London job and is sharing a flat with George Locke; The BSFA may well be advertising shortly for a new Librarian

and/or Library site.

**Expected Rave Letter** on the ChiCon arrived from Ethel Lindsay shortly after *Sky 45* published. Ethel is now back in England and has taken over UK TAFF administration. Retiring administrator Eric Bentcliffe thanks everyone for their cooperation during his stint in that capacity.

**SF Book Club** selections Sept 1962 – Feb 1963 line up as follows: *Needle* by Hal Clement, *Guardians of Time* by Poul Anderson, *Aliens for Neighbours* by Clifford Simak, *Spectrum* edited by Kingsley Amis and Robert Conquest, *Drunkards Walk* by Frederik Pohl and *The Unexpected Dimension* by Algis Budrys, with *Eight Keys to Eden* by Mark Clifton as a February “extra”.

**The Mulberry Bush (Part II)**. Ian McAulay, married 28th July, has taken a new job south of the border in Dublin and may now be found at Illyria, Sandyford, Co. Dublin, Eire.

# ***Skyrack* #47, 18 November 1962**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 47**, published **18th November 1962** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for six issues. 35 cents for 6 issues in USA (airmailed for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed with open arms. Cartoon and heading by Arthur "Atom" Thomson.

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**London Hallowe'en Party Bewitches Road Traffic ::: TAFF Display for Peterborough Convention ::: Jhim Linwood Joins Rispin & Burn ::: Axe Goes Monthly ::: Ella Sits & Waits ::: Crispin Does an Amis ::: Etc :::**

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## **Crispin – Creator of Fen – Con GOH**

**The Guest of Honour at the Peterborough National Convention** next Easter weekend will be BSFA Member Bruce Montgomery, better known to the world of literature by his pseudonym Edmund Crispin. Crispin is known to the sf world for his Faber published anthologies (*Best SF*) and for his thoughtful analytical essays on sf. He is the second Gentleman of Letters to turn to criticising sf and become a Convention Guest of Honour, following the invitation to Kingsley Amis two years ago. Crispin is also exceedingly well-known and well-read in the world of detective fiction. His popular hero, Gervase Fen, is an unusual character (to say the least... what else would you have with a name like that?) and his plots are liable to take unusually zany turns. In *The Moving Toyshop*, for example, Fen, in his antideluvian car, gives chase after some crooks. He loses them and is undecided whether to turn left or right at a cross road. He chooses left as "publisher Gollancz is sure to favour that direction." And of course he finds his criminals! It will be readily seen that the GoH's speech will be a convention highspot next Easter, and the Peterborough Committee are to be congratulated on an excellent choice.

Further on the Peterborough Convention is news of a TAFF display organised by Administrator Ethel Lindsay. Photographs of previous TAFF

trip highlights, trip reports etc will be on show.

Even further on TAFF is that nominations are now open for the trip to the 1964 British EastCon. No definite nominations have so far been received but rumours show the possibility of both Bill Donaho and Rick Sneary standing which will make it a hard decision and close campaign. And further – still further – on the con is the possibility of writer Mack Reynolds attending.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** held its annual Hallowe'en party (this was the first in the series) over the weekend 3/4 November when most other fans were celebrating a Yorkshireman's attempted revision of parliamentary law. The party was held in the fashionable area of Chelsea close to the Pensioners' Home and actually in the stately Chelsea Bridge Road apartment of neo-professional George Locke, B.F.P.O. Ret. Guests ducked for apples, drank various punches provided by Frank Arnold and George, and danced the twist (which gets its first mention in *Skyrack*). About two in the morning a non-fan flashy sports car provided distraction by knocking over both traffic island bollards and ending up breaching the wall of the Chelsea Royal Hospital opposite the party venue. Nobody was hurt, but it's hard to see why not, I'm told. Party attendees viewed the resultant scene from the third floor windows and offered aid to the driver's girl-friend, going so far as sticking plasters on a slightly cut knee and generally asking if she would like the sprain massaged. Almost immediately the onlookers were treated to a deluge of earth poured on their heads by the aggrieved tenant of the flat above who blamed fandom for disturbing her middle-aged sleep. If all this wasn't enough to make the party a truly memorable one, Brian Burgess distinguished himself, after a series of minor subsidiary accidents caused by broken glass, misdirection of traffic on the part of the authorities and the like, by sweeping the road with George's broom.

From reports by George Locke, Ethel Lindsay and Archie Mercer, the entire list of attendees adds up as: Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker, Jimmy Groves, Ted Forsyth, Alan Rispin, Diane "Nell" Goulding, Bruce Burn, Jim Linwood, Pete Mansfield, Pat Kearney, Brian Burgess, Frank Arnold, Ken and Irene Potter, Keith Otter, Tony Walsh, Simone Horley, Archie Mercer, Peter Mabey, Daphne and Ron Buckmaster, Arthur and Olive Thomson, and Max Jakubowski, a goodly assortment of fabulous fannish names. Tony Walsh, incidentally, is to be congratulated on his engagement that day to Simone, who is described by all reporters as very good looking. (Many thanks, people)

**Pro News.** Avalon have published de Camp's *The Search For Zei* and will follow this with the sequel *The Hand of Zei*. De Camp is working on another historical novel, *The Arrows of Herakles*, but this will not appear for some time yet. Doubleday will publish a collection of de Camp, *A Gun For A Dinosaur & Other Imaginative Tales* in January, and his big opus, non s-f, *The Ancient Engineers*, in February.

Tolkien's *Adventures of Tom Bombadil* is due for publication next week. Harry Harrison has sold his *Stainless Steel Rat* in Italy, and the Italians are reported to be in the market for a Chroma-Vanadium Pussy Cat. (KFS)

The October issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* features "A Kind of Artistry" by Brian Aldiss and the first instalment of a two-part serial, *The Journey of Joenes* by Robert Sheckley, a shortened version of his forthcoming novel, *Journey Beyond Tomorrow*.

The November issue of *F&SF* appears to be a pretty fannish one, with a story by Terry Carr called "Hop-Friend" in which one character is called Mike Deckinger, and with a Karen Anderson story called "Landscape with Sphinxes" in which none of the characters is called Mike Deckinger. (CF)

With jokes like that he could stick to *Scribble*....

**Out of This World**, ITV's SF series is due for a return early next year...

The new Kingsley Amis book, *My Brother's Enemy*, contains "Something Else"\*, an sf story originally printed in *The Spectator* and reprinted in *F&SF* (British Edition) November 1961... SFCoL Paris trip was called off – terms unfavourable.

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\* Actually *My Enemy's Enemy* (1962) containing "Something Strange" – DRL.

**Dafoe 6** (October 1962; John Koning 3188. Belle Vista, Youngstown 9, Ohio, USA 31pp; 3 for \$1). Outstanding in this issue is the account by Rog Ebert of a visit to the household/office/home/fanshack of Bob Tucker, an article that oozes fandom from every word and one which cannot fail to be appreciated by faanish or book fandom alike. The Benford twins come out of their hiding place to contribute a realistic piece of faan fiction. Letters and the editorial make up a good issue. Koning (whose Down With Everything group some four years ago seemed to anticipate the current fannish trend) must be fandom's most underrated humorist. *Dafoe* should be monthly. At least.

**Dynatron 13** (2nd Annish; Roy & Chrystal Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA; 22pp; 8 for \$1). Another

back to the days type of fanzine with a fetching personal slant. A little more restrained than *Dafoe* but very readable. Dave Hulan analyses the de Camp-Pratt Shea stories. Harry Smith runs a story. Len Moffatt writes a column, and what a column. Letters and the editorials again make up an issue. The editorials are concerned with the post ChiCon Highway 66 TJs who visited Roy and Chrystal, particularly Ethel Lindsay whose treatment therein would make Ernie Pyle proud.

***Uchujin*** (Takumi Shibano, 118, O-okayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, Japan. 2/- per or 6 for 12/- from Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs. 25¢ from Roy Tackett in the States) Fandom's first Japanese English language fanzine. I have to confess that when Ken Cheslin first wrote me about this zine, I had vague thoughts of a complicated hoax, but here comes *Uchujin* (pronounced w-CHEW-gin) large as life. Its serious tone, which at times reads like a speech by Sakin, is a leaf out of the book of early Gerfanzines and it is to be hoped that this fan group develops along such lines (with the ultimate outcome of fans like Tom Schlück). A convention report and an article presented as "a conversation piece" are invaluable and interesting background pieces of historical data. Quite readable stories make up the issue, though one story, Timemit, has been better treated by Fredric Brown ("The End"). A very notable achievement, this zine. I'd like to see someone in Britain now produce a fanzine in Japanese. Down, Richard. I said "in Britain."

**The Liverpool Group's Home-Grown Artist** Eddie Jones recently branched out into the world of people who write to the editor. Not of *Skyrack*, but of the national weekly *Today*. Eddie pointed out that an article on an American nineteenth century wagon train (6 October) had been illustrated with a photograph showing African natives on the warpath. The editorial reply was "Sorry, Mr. Jones. They have turned left at Fork River!"

**Sports News.** Neo-BSFA Member, Joe Lynn, ice skating champion of Yorkshire fandom is recuperating from a broken ankle sustained while indulging in the rink sport. Get well, schnell, Joe, and next time stick to liar's poker.

**Award Minded Fans in the States** have for some time been bombarding the mails (mainly to *Axe*) with views towards a definitive set of awards to deserving fans. The upshot of much to-and-fro commenting was quite a squelch of mud-slinging at would-be organisers, but now out of the chaos comes a scheme which has no connection, I'm urged to say, with the

proposed Willick Awards. A group comprising such notables as Betty Kujawa, Charles Wells, Dick Lupoff, Richard Bergeron, John Baxter and Harry Warner is looking into the idea. (CW & RT)

**Daily Express** 8/12 Oct ran five part condensation of the Burdick-Wheeler novel *Fail Safe*, anti-nuclear fringe sf story which anticipated a situation which was pretty near reality with the Cuba crisis so soon to follow. ::: German weekly *Bunte* 24 Oct ran 10 page spread on von Braun, American rockets, satellites and moon probe. Illustrated by “artists impressions” and several colour photos.

**Panic Button 11** (Dec 62. 35 from Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto, Canada. 42pp) Just in and mostly unread, but featuring the mixture as before with provocative, thoughtful and/or humorous material by Colin Freeman, Rolf Gindorf, Cal Demmon, Buz Busby, Dick Schultz et al.

**Maze**, the first 1963 sf calendar, is available from Tom Schlück, 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, Western Germany at 1DM, 2/- or 30¢ per. Looks good.

**Axe**, Stateside fandom’s leading newszine, comes out with the news that its publisher Larry Shaw is shortly moving to Evanston, Illinois where Larry will take up a job with Regency Books. Noreen and the children will follow him as soon as they’ve tied up their Staten Island home. This has led to *Axe* going monthly and it is disturbing to note that the newszine is deploring the current state of affairs in fandom where news just isn’t coming in fast enough, a universal trend it appears. In the same issue *Axe* further disturbs the reader by announcing the separation of Ted and Sylvia White. Having been present during the whirlwind courtship four years ago this news is particularly well ech! to me.

**MENTION OF *Axe*** reminds me that another Stateside newsmagazine, *Science Fiction Times* put out by James Taurasi, 1836 129th St., College Point 56, NY, USA, and covering pronews in detail, is looking for a British Correspondent. Jimmy Groves? John Roles? Geoff Lindsay? Anyone?

The heck with you, Chrystal Tackett, Betty Kujawa should find some reason for coming *here* more often.

**CoA section:**

Jhim Linwood, 5 Kingdom Road, London NW 6.

Bill Donaho, 1526 Arlington Avenue, El Cerrito, Calif., USA.

**Ella Parker**, British fandom's leading light, asks me to mention that the reason her battery has needed recharging of late is because of her forthcoming enforced move. In the crazy mixed up world of tenancies and real-estate Ella has been told that she will shortly be moved. She packed up and sat ready. And waited. And waited. And waited.... She's still waiting and her fanning equipment is still packed up. The move could be at any time. An unenviable position. To be on the safe side, the Friday evening BSFA meetings at the Pen. have been cancelled until further notice. Watch this space!

# ***Skyrack* #48, 17 December 1962**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 48**, edited and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. Six issues 2/6d. Stateside subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland at six issues for 35¢ surface or 65¢ airmailed. News of interest to sf fandom always welcome. Cartoon and heading by Arthur Atom Thomson and contributions from Burkhard Blüm, Larry Crilly, The Shaws, Archie Mercer, George Locke, Dick Lupoff, Ken Slater and *Vector*.

– **17th December 1962.**

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## **Analogistics**

At the meeting of the Eastern S.F. Association held in New Jersey on December 2nd, Sam Moskowitz is reported to have dropped something of a bombshell by announcing that *Analog* is not drawing as much advertising revenue as its publishers desire.

Accordingly, certain changes will take place commencing with the March 1963 issue. *Analog* will revert to a large size format (11 by 8 and a half inches) and will contain 96 pages, the centre 64 of which will be standard stock and the other 32 slick laid paper, split 16 pages in the front and 16 in the back. The price will remain at 50¢ as at present for the 176 paged digest sized

## ***Metropolis* Rides Again**

Legendary convention feature film *Metropolis* will be shown at the Peterborough Convention this coming Easter. The prewar German fantasy, produced by Fritz Lang and scripted by Thea von Harbou, was last shown at a convention ten years ago in London. Because of repeated showings of the film at early postwar British conventions, the tradition sprang up that no convention programme is complete without a screening of *Metropolis* and later Convention Committees have tended to regard the film with no little scorn. The choice is, however, a most worthy one for it must be the vast majority of present day fandom (your editor included) who have not had the opportunity of seeing this historical silent film. In addition to the German production another Continental fantasy classic will be, shown, this being Jean

*Analog*. It is feared that if this move to boost advertising is not successful then the magazine may well cease publication within the year.

Cocteau's *Orphee*, an unusual choice for a convention programme, but one which should certainly appeal to fantasy lovers.

**News from Gerfany**, provided by ace reporter Burkhard Blüm: The promised new apa, RAPE, has in fact now been founded, with the first mailing scheduled for January. Projected apazine titles are *Karezza* (Rolf Gindorf), *Rost* (Rolf Harder), *Ecrases l'inflame* (Franz Rottenst), *Gonadotrop* (Thea Grade), *Exitus* (Hans Rosenbleck), *Bebe* (Burkhard Blüm). There are altogether seven members but to date the name of Mario Kwiat's zine is undecided.

Juergen Nowak (41 Duisburg, Friedrich-Wilhelm-str 24) has published a cloth-bound collection of his reviews on sf publications and films. There were 50 numbered copies, thirty of which were sent free to friends, and there are others for sale, though the price is unknown. There was an introduction by Winnie Scholz, a well-known club fan and sf author in Germany. Title of the book is *Der Bumerang*.

It is so far undecided whether next year's 4th NiederrheinCon will be held at Easter or Whitsun. The Committee are following a British lead by searching for a hotel which will be large enough to house all the attendees.

The greatest German club, SSFI, has been having difficulties with its clubzine. It's some months late, with editor Heinrich Arenz having to do all the work (in Germany's greatest club!). It may even fold completely. For some time there have been plans to combine the SSFI with its zine *Stellaris* with the SFCD and its zine *Andromeda*, but to date nothing has come of this.

Also late is Jurgen Mann's zine *Teleskop* (6 Frankfurt NO 14, Hallgartenstr 71). Jurgen is now the editor of the apa Fan and it seems, as of a year ago, that Jurgen may fold his zine, the reason being lack of time. (BB)

**George Locke**, the latest British fan to turn pro, writes that as the BSFA Friday evening meetings have had to be terminated at the Pen (for reasons of Ella moving house – and at the time of writing poor Miss Parker is still not off the London Council's hook), several of the former regular attendees have banded together to continue the gatherings at their various homes. It not clear just which home a casual visitor to London tries for, but

your editor may have cause to investigate the situation in person around the New Year. George mentions that he has bought a scooter to replace the bike I bought from him three years ago, a symbol undoubtedly of his new status. And to finish on a sad note, George mentions a lack of interest in IPSO at the moment. Don't be surprised if it has to fold altogether, he says, a sign of the times and like that.

**Whilst in London**, SFCoL Secretary Keith Otter chides *Skyrack's* reporter for omitting the names of Ted Ball and Ian and Betty Peters from the list of attendees at the Hallowe'en party, reported last issue. He also adds that one of the main attractions of the confab was when non-smoker George Locke demonstrated the workings of the hookah.

**Rumour Has It** that the Cheltenham Circle has caved in and because of lack of support has even had to move from its excellently fannish clubrooms. Any details anyone? It is understood that John Humphries has moved, as have other former Cheltenham stalwarts, Audrey Eversfield (now in Paris) and Pete Mabey (now in London). Peter's move, of course, meant that BSFA Library, the largest sf and fantasy library in the world, has had to move quarters and the proprietors now are John Nash (5 Whitehedge Road, Garston, Liverpool 19) and Joe Navin (77 College Road North, Blundellsands, Liverpool 23), two young Liverpool Group members. And whilst in the sphere of the BSFA let me remind members that **subscriptions for the renewal of membership are due**.

**Vector 17** (the Official Organ of the British Science Fiction Association. 34pp. Members only.) Another excellently produced issue from ace publishers Ella Parker and Michael Rosenblum, a meaty issue which provides members with the latest internal BSFA news and does not limit itself to that function. Philip Harbottle continues his appraisal of the world of John Russell Fearn. Jimmy Groves and Brian Aldiss review new books. Ken Slater chunters. Ian Aldridge contributes a two-page cartoon and letters from people like Terry Jeeves and Don R. Smith make up the issue.

**Warhoon 17** (October 1962. Richard Bergeron, 110 Bank Street, New York 14, NY, USA. 20¢. 90 pp) This bulky and perfectly produced fanzine appears as the first issue from Bergeron since he won the Hugo at the September ChiCon. If the standard continues throughout the next nine months, he'll probably net another Hugo, which is a pretty sad state of affairs – if you're a fanzine publishers and your name isn't Bergeron. It has of course been suggested that the 1963 Fanzine Hugo will be won by *F&SF*, but this only goes to show how low *Skyrack* will stoop to fill up

space. In this issue of *Wrhn*, Editor Bergeron discusses Picasso, as detailed an analysis of any facet of the field of art ever seen in a fanzine. (A couple of years ago Don Geldart, Chris Miller, Bruce Burn, Ted Forsyth and I spent a morning at the Tate during the Picasso exhibition there, coming up with the conclusions that a) most other visitors were as philistine as we but wouldn't admit it, b) that a larger than expected percentage of the exhibits were below standard and were being lauded merely because of Pablo's magic name). There are a few pages of fascinating letters and a short convention report by Walter Breen, apart from short articles by Charles Wells, John Baxter and James Blish. Look, don't let that description of Breen's conreport throw you. If you like detailed convention reports, this near-perfect blow by blow description of the ChiCon should delight you, no less, all forty odd pages of it. And all for 20¢!

**Award Minded Fans Attention.** Last issue *Skyrack* ran an item about a group of Stateside fen banding together to look into the possibility of annual fan awards. Charles Wells is the chairman of this temporary committee which will initiate the series of awards and I'm grateful to Dick Lupoff for supplying the following item: "Ballots for the 1963 awards, covering fanac of 1962, will be mailed in January. At the same time, polling will be held for a new committee to take over for the coming year. Five members are to be selected. They in turn will elect a chairman from among themselves. To simplify procedure and to save time, the present committee is by-passing any nominating machinery and is asking simply that any fan interested in serving on this committee for a one year term send a note stating his interest, to Dick Lupoff, 210 E 73rd Street, New York 21, N.Y., U.S.A. Deadline is 1st January 1963. There are no firm geographical boundaries on the committee memberships which will be decided by popular vote, but on the preliminary committee it has been thought that it would be desirable to have members representing different regions of the U.S., plus *at least one* overseas member."

**And That's Not All.** Also by-passing any fiddling around with narrowing down nominations is the BSFA Committee which is inaugurating the Doctor Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award to be presented at the Peterborough Eastercon. Anyone can win the award, pro, fan or non-fan even, though voting is open only to Convention members. Write and send your vote now, to Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Road, Sheffield 11. Let us hope that this Award becomes a significant one which is *supported*. *Skyrack* looks forward to the first fanzine which comes out in support, TAFFlike, of one candidate.

### **Changes of Address Section**

Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8

Noreen & Larry Shaw, 1235 Oak Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, USA.

**Further on the Convention** is that hotel bookings will not commence until early in the New Year. Rules for the Art Competition and Fancy Dress Party have now been published in the fourth issue of the Convention's newszine, *East Fanglian Times*. Incidentally, in the bulletin, Brian Aldiss writes on Edmund Crispin, Peterborough's Guest of Honour, and in his article mentions "there is more sf being published now than there was during the boom", a fact which might make John W. Campbell smile wryly.

Request for Fan Directory in from High Commissioner for New Zealand!

From *Daily Mirror*, 8th December: "Seven RIGHT-FOOTED shoes were stolen from a Nottingham shop yesterday."

"Robert A. Henlein is the author of *The Day After Tomorrow* (Mayflower Books). In our September 19 issue he got misprinted as Hieline." (Item in *Punch*, issue of 3rd October 1962. Absolutely no comment about what some magazines will do to raise a laugh).

### **Seasonal Greetings to Both Our Readers**

**1963**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #49, 4 February 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 49**, edited and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 6 issues 2/6d. Stateside subscriptions to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland @ 6 for 35¢ surface or 65¢ airmailed. News of interest to SF fans always welcome. Cartoon & heading by Arthur "Atom" Thomson and contributions from Burkhard Blüm, Larry Crilly, Archie Mercer, George Locke, Ken Slater, Ron Ellik, Ethel Lindsay, Ted Forsyth, Jim Linwood, Chris Miller, Eric Jones and others. 4th February 1963.

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## **No TAFF Candidate Yet... Scithers in Town... Ella Moves... New *Directory* Here**

**With Less Than a Month to Go** to the TAFF nomination deadline of 28th February, no nomination for a candidate to stand in the fight to decide who will travel from the States to this country next year has so far been received by either TAFF Administrator, Ron Ellik or Ethel Lindsay. In so far as Bill Donaho's chief nominator Ken Potter would prefer him to stand for election in the 1965 campaign Bill has declined nomination this year, and another well-fancied runner, that old war horse Rick Sneary has declined to run on health grounds, even though there has been some kindly behind the scenes double dealings in the matter by Joe Gibson and the LASFS bunch. The nomination period may now have to be extended. What are you people waiting for? Get someone nominated pdq!

**Amra's George Scithers** was in the UK last month on a flying visit. The last overseas visitor to the Canterbury Road Penitentiary, he met Ted Forsyth, Peter Mabey, Joe Patrizio and Ella Parker and indulged in a sidetrip up to Durham to visit artist Jim Cawthorn.

***Skyrack* Poll** voting time is here again. More on this inside.

**Ella Parker Moves – at Last.** The London County Council has condescended to move Ella into a new flat after having had her packed and ready for two months. New address on back page. Ken & Irene Potter planning move back to Lancaster.

**Nominations Are Invited** for this year's Hugo Awards. These

nominations are sorted out and the best placings in each category go forward into a final ballot which decides these most worthy Awards. To be eligible to nominate, writes dear old Dick Eney, fans must be members of the DisCon (this year's Washington DC WorldCon) or else have been member of last year's ChiCon. One nomination from each member is invited for *each* of the following categories. Novel, Short Story, Dramatic Production, Best Prozine, Best Pro Artist & Best Fanzine. To be eligible for nomination the item must have appeared (been copyrighted, published/at least one instalment appeared/active) in 1962. Ballots close 15th April and should be sent to Eney at 417 Ft Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va., USA. NOTE UK DISCON MEMBERSHIPS SELL AT \$1 or 7/- (Ethel Lindsay or Ron Bennett).

**If You Feel Left Out from the Labour Party's Vote to Choose a New Leader**, use your energies instead on the ballot form which is included in this issue as a flier. This is the voting form for the fourth annual poll to attempt to assess the merits of British fandom during the past year. To obtain a true assessment of the worth of contributions to the British fan field makes for just a little interest in this apathetic world of ours, so why not vote? This is a carry over from the Good Old Days when everyone, just everyone, was supporting the *Fanac* poll, so let's get with it once again, huh? To help you, the following non-apa publications appeared from British fans during 1962: *Hyphen*, *Fandoodle*, *Orion*, *Scribble*, *Camber*, *Haverings*, *Parker's Peregrinations*, *The Skyrack Newsletter*, *The Skyreck Newslitter*, *Vector*, *The Harrogate Convention Programme Booklet*, *Bastion*, *Les Spinge* and *Northlight*.

***The Directory of 1962 Science Fiction Fandom***. It's *Directory* time once again! This eighth annual listing contains the up-to-date whereabouts of over 500 fans the world over including the addresses of over three hundred Stateside and 120 British fen, as well as representatives of fandom in such widespread areas as Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Eire, Japan, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Tape recorder owners and telephone numbers are included in many cases. This is a completely revised listing – over eighty new names have been added, over a hundred “dead-wood” names omitted and well over a hundred other addresses which have changed in the last year are shown. This is a record 58% turn-over of change on last year's *Directory*. Arthur Thomson once again has contributed a cover which is worth the price of the listing alone. \$1 or 5/- sterling from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat. 1/6d. or 25 to *Skyrack* readers and other accredited SF fans,

past and present. Note that this year's *Directory* will *not* be circulated through either FAPA or OMPA and members may obtain copies, while supplies last, for 3¢ or 2d.

**Special Offer!** Copies of *Colonial Excursion*, the bulky report of my TAFF trip to the USA and the 1958 SolaCon are still available at 7/- or \$1 from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat. Profits ploughed back into TAFF. While supplies last I'll throw in a copy of the new *Fan Directory* to any C.E. customer.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** held its AGM on 20th January and apart from taking out a DisCon membership in the Club's name, conducted its usual switch around of officers. Ted Forsyth switched from Chairman to Chairman, Ian Peters switched from Treasurer to Treasurer and Keith Otter refused to play by dropping out of the Secretary's position which has now been filled by poor over-worked Ethel Lindsay. Where but in *Skyrack* can you read four lines like that? Other news from the SFCoL is that Joe and Anne (Temple) Patrizio are hoping to boost the National Productivity Year with a July infant. (EAP; EMF)

**The Eye View Film Group**, formerly the Magic Eye Group (Hon Sec 154 Bayswater Road, London W.2) a London film society is beginning a season of SF films and is inviting memberships from those interested. One year's subscription is a guinea with a small extra charge for each attendance, reports Ella Parker. George Locke mentions that representatives from the Group recently attended a Thursday evening Globe meeting and asks by way of a postscript thought for today, "If they show the *Lair of the White Worm*, we could call the showing Worm's Eye View," which just goes to show how these professional authors' minds work.

**Chaos 1** (January 1963; Roy Kay, 91 Craven Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire. 18pp. 1/6d). It's quite a time since we had a brand new zine appearing in this country but Roy Kay has set a good example to other would-be publishers with a first issue that follows the better and more persistent traditions of fandom. To begin with Roy has obviously met up with the established fan's reluctance to part with material to a promised but unestablished zine. When that sort of thing happens the would be editor/publisher is put to writing the whole zine himself, and Roy here has had to do just that, in addition to drawing his own cover illustration and interior fillos. The result is that fresh tang of inexperienced quality that is often described – for want of a better word by those who like to sit on the

fence and wait and see – as promising. Roy produces a shoal of interesting writing on correspondence courses, space detection in the outer reaches and other window dressing.

**The Panic Button 12** (Feb 63; Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto, Canada. 40¢ in USA) Number 11 slipped by by arriving bang on *Sky's* publication day and here already is number 12! Now well past its teething troubles in its transition from fanzine to nationally distributed satire mag, *PB* still caters somewhat to fannish tastes in reading matter and draws on fannish contributors. An attempt at realistic **mature** so called poetry by one Barry Lord is pretty feeble but the rest of the issue fairly sparkles with Les' own feature game *Medopoly* taking top honours and other fannish contributions coming from Deindorfer, Norm Clarke, DeMuth, Arioli and a British fan writing under the name of Alan Trogg.

**Shangri-L'Affaires 62** (Nov 62; Al Lewis & Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles 25, California, USA. 5 for 7/- or \$1 from Ron Ellik or from Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Rd., Bristol 8.) Arriving bang slap in the midst of my reading Laney's famous fan memoirs, this official organ of the LASFS shows quite a difference from the atmosphere displayed in the Club by FTL. Fred Patten does the honours with minutes of the meetings and other locals, Bjo, Alva Rogers, John Trimble and Al HaLevy contribute very readable material. Of prime importance and interest, however, is the first instalment of Ron Ellik's report of his 1962 TAFF trip to the UK and the Harrogate Convention.

**News on the Cheltenham Circle** from Eric Jones seems a little happier than the sad string of woes mentioned last issue. Eric points out that the Club's weekly income is only just over six shillings, with a weekly expenditure of over £1. The excellent club rooms will have to go but this does not mean that the Club will fold, only that they will have to revert to meetings in local pubs. Here's wishing you better times, people.

**Apart from the Skyrack Poll** ballot form (vote, you rotten lot, vote) included as a flier, you'll be pleased, Steve Schultheis, with the other bonus sheets afforded you this time around. From Dave Hale (whose latest is out, I understand) comes a sheet canvassing your vote for the Doctor Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award, open to all Peterborough Con Members as voters. Dave urges you to vote for Britain's Miss America 1961, Ella A. Parker. Personally, I'd prefer you to ignore this appeal, and vote as I urge you. To me, there is only one person worthy of this initial award, one person who has done more for British fandom and the BSFA in particular

than any other. That person is Ella Parker. Second, is a TAFF Report order form from Ethel Lindsay who already has my dollar and who asks me to mention that she's working so hard at producing the report that she greatly doubts whether *Haverings* will appear before the end of March. Bear with her.

**Ken Slater & the *Daily Express*** reported late December that ex-fan Kingsley Amis is resigning his fellowship at Cambridge to emigrate and start a fan club in Majorca ::: George Locke is buying a glider ::: Disney is filming T.H. White's *Sword in the Stone*. ::: Jimmy Groves of SFCoL has produced a stefnic game based on territory gains in star systems ::: German NiederrheinCon to be held 23/24 March. Write Rudi Gosejakob, 41 Duisburg, Moltestrasse 62, DBR. ::: Fracas in DC. Cutting from Larry Crilly states that a religious cult, the Founding Church of Scientology is denouncing the government for seizing its teaching equipment, the Hubbard Electrometers, named after founder Ron Hubbard. L. Ron is described in the cutting as "British science fiction writer". ::: Trimble artzine *Pas-tell* has new British agents, Brian & Frances Varley, 47 Tolverne Rd., London SW 20. ::: Norm Metcalf, P0 Box 336, Berkeley 1, Calif, USA is worried because mail for him is still turning up at his old, old Tyndall AFB address ::: "This One Works" reads the heading and thank you very much for the chain letter "started February 1950 and *never broken*." Straight into the fire. ::: Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group's President, Christopher A Miller recently announced his engagement to Miss Jennifer Crowe of Wisbech ::: From TAFFman Ron Ellik come two issues of *Starspinkle*, a new bi-weekly news & chattersheet. Looks as good as *Fanac* in its heyday ::: Ella Parker has resigned as BSFA Publications Officer and previous editor Jimmy Groves has nobly stepped into the vacancy. BSFA Library has now completed its move to Liverpool. ::: Peter Mabey new SFCoL member. He was to have been made a member in December, but Nasty Ted Forsyth pointed out that he would have to pay up a whole year's dues. Peter opted to wait a month. ::: Spalding Guitarist Dan Morgan has been running a course of lectures on jazz, covering the music from Morton to MJQ. Yes, Dan Morgan the SF writer. Remember his guitar at Kettering? ::: Thank you someone for a British Money Order worth 5/- sent 4th December from Hannover 1, DBR. This is a worthless piece of paper until you communicate with me. Write, please. :::

**COA dept:**

Jhim Linwood, 27 Cotleigh Road, Kilburn, London NW 6.

Ivor Mayne, 33 Chadwell Court, Green Lanes, London N.4.  
Ella A Parker, Flat 43, William Dunbar House, West Kilburn, NW6.  
Terry Carr, 41 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn 1, N.Y., USA.

# ***Skyrack* #50, 4 March 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* number 50**, edited and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. Six issues 2/6d. 6 issues for 35¢ in USA (airmailed for 65¢) where subscriptions may be sent to Bob Pavlat, a sadly neglected Good Man who resides at 6001 - 43rd. Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fandom always welcome. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson's Same Day All Round Service. Caption by George Locke. Contributions by Arthur Thomson, Ethel Lindsay, Archie Mercer, *Fanac*, Ken Slater and Colin Freeman.  
— **4th March 1963**

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**Latest News on the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** is that the nomination deadline for the 1964 USA-Great Britain trip has been extended in order to give one or two people time to wind up personal nominating campaigns. Things are happening practically daily, as two letters in two days from Ron Ellick testify, but the latest known is that it seems highly likely that Seattle's Wally Weber will be running in the contest and that he may be rivalled by OMPA President Bob Lichtman and FAPA's ex-Official Editor Marion Zimmer Bradley. It finally looks as though neither of the first approached fans, Bill Donaho or Rick Sneary will be running.

**Sid Bounds and Ted Tubb** attended SFCoL meeting at Courage House on 24th Feb. Tubb gave a greatly appreciated formal talk on the state of sf today, saying that the genre does not pay enough attention to new would-be readers containing as it does so many esoteric references. There should, he argued, be more factual explanation in stories. Other SFCoL news as that TAFF Administrator Ethel Lindsay's 1962 Trip Report is now complete and is on stencil awaiting illustration by Atom.

**First Hyphen for a Year** is due out this month. Features Harrogate Conrep by James White. ::: Tony Walsh married Simone Horley 9th Feb. ::: Rumour has it, Keith Freeman, that SFA is folding. ::: Actifan of 2-3 years ago, Lynn Hickman of Illinois, is resuming publication of *JD-A* with a switch of title to *The Pulp Era*. The five fans who bought subs at the LXIcon (Shorrocks, Mabey, Rogers, Forsyth & Miller) will get their due even if it takes 4 or 5 years, says Lynn. ::: *It Happened Here*, British film about Britain under Nazi occupation 1941-45 is being made in London with the help of extras Jhim Linwood, Bruce Burn and Pat Kearney. ::: Oh,

another CoA: Sgt Keith Freeman, Sgts Mess, RAF Leconfield, Nr Beverley, Yorkshire. ::: *Skyrack* poll! VOTE!!!

**Auction!! Auction!! Auction!!** This has absolutely nothing to do with the new Lana Turner – Dean Martin film called *Who's Got The....*, but recently that Good Man and Guardian Angel of the Strategic Air Command, Sergeant Ellis T. Mills sent over a dozen very worthwhile and highly readable U.S. prozines, which are being auctioned off, 5 all profits (that's proceeds less postage) to TAFF. Highest bid up to and including the Peterborough Convention takes, unless there is a deal of squabbling still going on by then. Let's start off with a reserve of 7/- or \$3., hmm? The twelve prozines are: *Amazing* Nov 58, April 60, May 60; *ASF* Mar 58, April 58, May 58, Jan 59, Apr, July 60; *Fantastic* Jan 59; Jan 61, and *Satellite* Feb 58. Just about as good a collection of varied stories as one could wish for, with authors including McIntosh, Silverberg, Anderson, Bloch, Starkey, Dickson, Russell, Smith, Chandler, McLaughlin, Leinster, Harrison, Clement, Leiber, and Bradley. Bid now! Remember it's for TAFF.

**Also for Auction** are eight issues of the British wonderzine *Aporrheta*, numbers 2 (lacking cover), 4, 6-10. Some very entertaining and thought provoking fan material from 1958-59. 50% to TAFF.

***The Directory of 1962 Science Fiction Fandom.*** This eighth annual listing contains the addresses of over 500 fans around the world and is the most up to date and revised listing ever produced. Arthur Thomson cover. \$1 or 5/- to non-fans from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat. 1/6 or 25¢ to fans, and just the cost of postage to members of FAPA or OMPA.

**Whoops!** Take note you auction bidders! Bids for those items listed up there should be sent to Ron Bennett and definitely not to Ellis Mills who after all has done *his* share in donating the things in the first place.

**We Old Timers Who Have Been Around for Five Or Six Years** (he says with a slight cough) remember the good old days when copies of *Fanac* would drop on our doormats every couple of weeks. Things just aren't the same these days it would appear for *Fanac* numbers 87-89 (July-Nov 62) have just reached us here in the UK sent in a batch by Walt Breen, currently the editor, publisher, proprietor et al, and posted out by *Fanac's* suffering agent Archie Mercer (70 Worrall Rd., Bristol 8) who obviously, very obviously, cares about the present deplorable situation in regards to how Breen is treating his overseas readers. Mercer explains the situation well in a two paged issue of *AngloFanac*, the second issue of

which this is. The first issue was pretty well responsible in sparking off *Skyrack*, a fact which Archie has for some reason never held against me. The point is this; if you should have had *Fanac* and haven't, it's Breen's fault. Not Archie's. Nor Eney's for that matter.

**Main Item of Interest** gleaned from the three above mentioned issues of *Fanac* and not previously published elsewhere to my knowledge is the sad report of the death of Brooklyn fan Shel Deretchin on 22nd October from diabetes. Shel was very well known over here for his zany "Boy Ugh" costume at the 1957 London WorldCon, following which event he made many friends during a visit with other American fans (Bob Madle, Dave Kyle and Steve Schultheis amongst them) to Liverpool. Shel was kind enough to spare much of his time to showing me around Greenwich Village during my stay in New York in 1958 and was furthermore, the first American fan with whom I was ever in correspondence. It is with very deep regret that I learn of his death. At 29 too.

**Vector 18** (official organ of the British Science Fiction Association, edited by James Groves 29 Lathom Rd., London E6, and duplicated and published in and from Leeds by J. Michael Rosenblum) This latest issue contains the third and final part of Philip Harbottle's appraisal of John Russell Fearn who in retrospect appears to have attained a stature he himself probably didn't dream of in the days of the *Vargo Statten Magazine*. It also contains an illustrated story by Ian Aldridge and a story by Robert Presslie, who was one of the personalities at this year's Peterborough Convention. Chit-chat, letters and book reviews as well as an excellent Arthur Thomson cover make up an average issue of *Vector*. Of special interest is the BSFA offer to circulate with the next issue of *Vector* any flier any BSFA member would care to publish. 200 copies to Jimmy Groves, and the cost is only 7/6, a tremendous saving over one's own personal postage rates of 2d or 2½d per sheet.

**Les Spinge 10** (Jan 63, Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs. 1/- per copy. Distributed through OMPA) Letters with a heading of *Cry of the Wild Ghos*, neat multi-coloured duplicating indicate to a marked degree how *LS* has improved during the past few months. The mixture of contents is as before with a reasonably high class story by Mike Deckinger and other material by Ken Cheslin, Colin Freeman, Alan Burns, John Berry, Jhim Linwood and "Steve Leon-Paul". The material is all pretty good, but in practically every case it could have stood a little polishing by either author or editor. Not that Editor Hale isn't trying; the overall tone of this issue compared with previous issues gives

rise to the proof of Dave's much improved attitude and maturity.

**Scribble 11** (Colin Freeman, 41 Mornington Crescent, Harrogate. 6d per copy. 16 pages). If some fanzines cost 1/- then this one is certainly worth 6d. (10¢ in the States to Bob Pavlat) *Scribble* has recently undergone a major change. Much of the writing is either by fans or else is fan slanted while the overall level of humour has decidedly improved. Arthur Thomson contributes headings and a cover with which he very nearly succeeds in excelling himself. Archie Mercer describes the Hokey Cokey and John Berry gets serious about music. Has anyone noticed how John Berry's recent writing have been well up to the high standard of his golden period of 1955-58?

**The Wild Colonial Boy 2** (John Foyster, 4 Edward St., Chadstone SE 10, Victoria, Australia. Distributed through SAPS). This Jan 63 issue is aptly named, a wild collection of stories and SAPS mailing comments, plus a good article by Bertram Chandler.

**Shangri L'Affaires 63** (Jan 63. Edited for LASFS by Steve Tolliver, excellently duplicated and available for 25¢ from Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, LA 25, or 1/8d from Archie Mercer) This month's three star choice with Ron Ellik's Squirrel Cage devoted to the Harrogate Convention. I'm not *such* a good brag player, but there isn't an item here which isn't recommended.

**Inside 1** (Jon White, 90 Riverside Drive, New York 24. 25¢) Actually number 54, this latest issue of *Inside*, the NEW *Inside*, appears some two months late from a new editor, former proprietor Ron Smith having emigrated to Australia. This is a good issue, with an especially worthy article by Bob Bloch on SF criticism. He might just have been writing about this page!

Why haven't you returned your Skyrack poll form? Scared or something?

**Some Fans** evidently missed the notice last issue of Ella Parker's change of address: 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW 6 (substitution of "West Kilburn" for "Albert Road" is apparently just as good).

**Sid Birchby** mentions that his recent CoA did not appear in *Skyrack* and Archie Mercer also makes the same comment. It didn't, which is just another reason why one should buy the 1962 *Fan Directory*, in which the CoA did appear. (40 Parris Wood Avenue, Didsbury, Manchester 20). And a genuine NEW Change of address – Michael Moorcock, Flat 3, 8 Colville

Terrace, London W 11

**Some Historical Facts About SF Fandom** is a N3F sponsored booklet, compiled by Al Lewis & Ron Ellik, from whom it is available @ 20¢ a copy. Full of background facts on world conventions, Hugo winners and TAFF campaigns. Well worth the money.

**March Issue of *F&SF*** contains stories by Harry Harrison, Calvin “Biff” Demmon and Fritz Leiber. ::: Latest issue of Peterborough Con Newsletter, *East-Fanglian Times*, was circulated with hotel booking forms. If you haven’t booked yet do so now. Registrations now top the 130 mark, believed to be a record for a national convention. The Con looks to have a crowded and enjoyable programme with films, panels, discussions, speeches and the fancy dress party, to say nothing of the official BSFA business meeting and any private parties which might just possibly happen (there is always that slight chance). Brag, anyone? ::: Is DENIS a Digital Electronic Number Indicator System? Or what? That’s one of the surprises the Peterborough Committee will have lined up for attendees! ::: A “queer thing making a noise like a goods train and shaped like a rocket” recently seen over Stourbridge. Oh, what *have* you boys been up to now? ::: SFCoL Club meeting on 3rd March was/will be first official fan gathering at new home of Ella Parker. ::: Arthur Thomson mentions in a letter that he hasn’t yet received the art award won by him during last year’s ChiCon, Anyone any idea where it is? ::: Gentlemen of Hannover, I still have not been informed which inhabitant of your fair city is responsible for the five shilling money order sent me late November-early December which I still have sitting here. The post office will not cash it without this notification and obviously someone out there is DM 2.50 in the red and is receiving no benefit from their shelling out. ::: Vote Ella Parker for the Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award. She has organised a con, been BSFA Secretary, hosted out of work fans, thrown parties and meetings, published a highly successful fanzine and has been rude to Bill Temple, Ron Bennett, Arthur Thomson and Ted Tubb! Vote for her. ::: **Skyrack Poll Winds Up 15th March. Join in This Bumper Voting!**

# ***Skyrack* #51, 4 April 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* 51**, published on **April 4th, 1963** by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (6 issues airmailed for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat 6001 - 43rd Ave., Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to SF fans always welcomed. Locally captioned cartoon by Arthur “Atom” Thomson and contributions from Keith Freeman, Peter Singleton, Ethel Lindsay, Jhim Linwood and other worthies.

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**Fourth Anniversary Issue.... *Skyrack* Poll Results Announced Inside**

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## **Temple Talks**

**At the Science Fiction Club of London’s** 3rd March meeting author William F. Temple followed in the footsteps of earlier speakers Ian Peters and E.C. Tubb by telling of some of his experiences in writing science fiction. When he suggested that he spoke on the status of the amateur versus the professional, he was interrupted by shouts that his audience did not wish to hear about his sex life. He told that he had been writing for a fanzine about his early days in the B.I.S. He had mentioned this to Arthur Clarke during the latter’s recent visit to this country and was told that Clarke had also been writing up similar B.I.S. memories and had sold the article to *Holiday Magazine*.

Temple told of one story he had written. He had cut out the first three paragraphs on the advice of Van Vogt who had told him to “get the readers *into* the story”. He was then asked by the editor to cut off the ending, so that he wondered if most of his writing was produced for invisible readers.

He went on to discuss the current fashion for “calamity” novels like *The Kraken Wakes* and ended an excellent talk with an outline of an unpublished story which dealt with an onion-manufactured space ship.

At the same meeting the Club voted to sell its library and several items were auctioned off. The remainder of items will later be advertised for sale. ((If you still have Chandler’s *The Simple Art of Murder*, you have a

customer.)) George Locke and Bruce Burn mentioned that they were nominating OMPA President Bob Lichtman for TAFF and the meeting was attended by Sheila Barnes, a BSFA member and student nurse from Winchester, who was introduced by Ethel Lindsay. (EL)

### **Editorial Comments**

As *Skyrack* strides forth into its fifth year of publication, it is with irony that what has been voted the year's leading fan-publication in this country notes that it is getting a reputation for spite, nastiness, and under hand dealings. This type of reputation has been in the past, and no doubt will be in the future, eagerly sought by certain fans who try to leapfrog up the ladder of fame by pulling those above them down to their own level. It is not, thank you, a reputation which has been, or will be, sought eagerly or otherwise by *Skyrack*.

In the past *Skyrack* has upset its share of fans. Certain British fans were upset from the start when *Skyrack* refused to honour subscriptions paid out to the former Belgian newszine *Contact*. American fans were at one time annoyed at a suggestion made in connection to convention rates for overseas fans, though this suggestion was later acted upon. One American old-time fan and neo-professional was even annoyed when *Skyrack* claimed to be first with a particular news item, a claim which was later proved to be justified.

Now *Skyrack* has succeeded in upsetting two people with one issue, an all time record. Walter Breen, editor of the American newszine *Fanac*, took issue to a note last issue. In noting that *Fanac* had reached this country months late, *Skyrack* mentioned that this delay was not the fault of the British agent, Archie Mercer, but was instead the fault of Walter Breen himself. Mr. Breen has written on this point, outlining the facts which have delayed the distribution of the British copies of *Fanac* and accordingly the remark laying the faults at his feet are withdrawn unhesitatingly and without qualification. I apologise to him and sincerely regret any inconvenience or embarrassment he has suffered as a result of that remark.

An extremely well-known and highly respected S.F. personality took exception to a news item printed last issue. This was the printing of an item of some import as a rumour. The objection is to the publication of rumours per se, although this particular rumour is well understood to be fact. I have heard of rumours being passed off as fact and justified anger resulting but this state of affairs is a new one on me. The news item in question was and is common knowledge in London fan circles and my

reporter passed the news on to me. As only a bare mention was made and as the matter concerned was one which otherwise would have been worthy of “a front page spread” I thought that I would be serving the best interests of all concerned by passing this off as a rumour. The said well known personality objects to this and refuses to qualify *Skyrack*’s statement as the time is apparently not yet ripe to do so, despite, I repeat, the fact that the matter is common knowledge. If he had not wanted any mention of this matter to be revealed in print he should, I feel, have informed me. *Skyrack* has in the past “sat on” news items until the proper time for their publication. An excellent example is the yearly Hugo Awards, whose winners I have been informed of some weeks in advance of their publication date of a World Convention weekend, whilst fans like Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker and Bob Pavlat know that at present I am waiting the release of an item which I am only too eager to publish

However, the fact remains that, because of whatever motives, I have inadvertently succeeded in annoying someone. Accordingly, again I apologise for whatever inconvenience caused that person. Nothing was further from my mind.

– Ron Bennett.

**Latest Flash on TAFF** comes from Ron Ellick’s excellent fortnightly which mentions that Bob Lichtman will not, after all, be standing for TAFF, despite the fact that George Locke and Bruce Burn had nominated him. College commitments would interfere with the trip and he can’t have it both ways. There is, however, still a mighty campaign to run a candidate against *Cry*’s Wally Weber.

**The Same Issue of *Starspinkle*** headlined the news that Los Angeles was dropping out of the bidding for the 1964 World Convention, leaving San Francisco as the only bidder on hand.

**Auction:** Ellis Mills donated a dozen Stateside prozines, proceeds less postage to be donated to TAFF, with sale to the highest bidder up to and including the Peterborough Convention. Reserve of 7/- or \$1. The zines are *Amazing* Nov 58, April 60, May 60; *ASF* Mar 58, April 58, May 58, Jan 59, Apr, July 60; *Fantastic* Jan 59; Jan 61, and *Satellite* Feb 58. Also for Auction are eight issues of *Aporrheta* with an outstanding collection of fan writings and comment. 50% to TAFF and top bid to date is from Terry Overton with 10/-.

**The Directory of SF Fandom 1962.** This eighth annual listing is selling well and contains the addresses of over 500 fans the world over, being the

most up to date and revised listing of this type ever produced. Arthur Thomson cover. \$1 or 5/- to non-fans from Bob Pavlat or Ron Bennett. 1/6 or 25¢ to fans and the cost of the postage to members of OMPA or FAPA.

**The 1963 National Convention** will be held this month – over Easter weekend at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough. Harrogate fandom hopes to be there and will look forward to seeing *you* there also. The Convention's newsletter, *The East Fanglian Times*, announces that Mack Reynolds will be attending, as will Harry Harrison, Brian Aldiss, Ted Carnell and Arthur Thomson. Audrey Eversfield, late of Cheltenham and now of Gay Paree also hopes to be present. The March *E.F.T.* announces a brand new competition in which one has to foresee the 12 book titles Guest of Honour Edmund Crispin would take with him if he were stranded on a desert island. Ted Tubb will conduct the auction. There will be a fancy dress party. Films will be shown. And the winner, the first winner, of the Dr. Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award will be announced. Terry Jeeves is asking you to support former BSFA Librarian Peter Mabey, Eric Bentcliffe is asking you to support Convention Organiser Ken Slater and Ron Bennett is asking you to support former BSFA Secretary and Convention Organiser Ella Parker. The result of the voting will be announced at the Convention and *Skyrack* has hopes of presenting a break down of the voting next issue, which of course will be devoted to reporting the Convention.

**Rot 5** (Mal Ashworth, 14 Westgate, Eccleshill, Bradford 2, Yorks) Making a surprise but very welcome appearance on the zinescene is this up to standard humourzine from gafiante Mal Ashworth. Dated Summer 1961, but with a special up to date section, this contains recommended material by Irene Potter, the late Doc Weir and Mal himself.

**JD-Argassy** (Lynn Hickman, 224 S. Dement Ave., Dixon, Illinois, USA) also bears a long-past dateline (March 1962). and is notable for a Dave Prosser art folio and a wonderfully analytical survey of *The Wild West Weekly* by that past master of this sort of thing, Redd Boggs.

**Other Most Worthy Fanzines** to arrive of late have been *Cadenza* (Chuck Wells, 200 Atlas St., Durham, NC, USA – issue No.7 btw), *Warhoon* (Dick Bergeron's 18th issue. COA on back page) and the *Bane Annish* (Vic Ryan, Box 308, 2309 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois). All thoroughly devoured and enjoyed.

## **The 1962 Skyrack Poll**

26 fans voted in the poll, as against 21 last year and 22 the year before. Whilst this number is doubtlessly meagre, it was surprising to see as ballots rolled in, how certain selections were favoured. On the whole I feel that it may again be said that this year's poll reflects a truly representative cross section of the opinions of fandom as to the merits of British S.F. and fandom per se of 1962. The 25 Good People who voted, apart from myself, were: Sid Birchby, Bruce Burn, Ken Cheslin, Buck Coulson, John Foyster, Colin Freeman, Keith Freeman, Jim Groves, Lynn Hickman, Eddie Jones, Roy Kay, Helmut Klemm, Marion Lansdale, Jim Linwood, Ethel Lindsay, Archie Mercer, Norm Metcalf, Len Moffatt, Terry Overton, Ella Parker, Dick Schutz, Norman Shorrocks (whose vote arrived right on deadline day, as usual. I was waiting for it this time), Peter Singleton, Ken Slater and Arthur Thomson. Surprising how many of these names have featured in former ballot listings. Thank the powers that be for faithful stalwarts! And so, on to the results:

### **The Best British Fan Publication of 1962**

1. *The Skyrack Newsletter*. 171 points. 5th last year.
2. *Hyphen*. (Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 1/- or 15¢. Irregular but frequent) 136 points. 3rd last year.
3. *Bastion*. (Eric Bentcliffe, 51 Thorn Grove, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire & Norman Shorrocks, 2 Arnot Way, Higher Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire. 1/6d) 118 points. 4th last year.
4. *Orion* (Ella Parker, 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Rd., London NW 6. 1/- or 15¢. Somewhat infrequent of late) 116 points. 2nd last year.
5. *Scottishe*. (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey) 107 points. 7th last year.
6. *Les Spinge* (Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs. 1/-). 86 points. 10th last year.
7. *Vector* (Official organ of the BSFA. At present edited by Jimmy Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E 6) 66 points. 10th last year.
8. *Scribble*. (Colin Freeman, 41 Mornington Crescent, Harrogate Yorks. 6d or 10¢ Quarterly) 65 points. Unplaced last year.
9. *Parker's Peregrinations*. (Ella Parker's trip report, part One. 10/- or \$1.50 for the complete account) 43 ~~Wm Du~~ points.
10. *Vagary* (Bobbie Gray, 14 Bennington Street, Cheltenham, for OMPA) 41 points. 13th last year.

(Out of last year's top ten are reports *Epitaff* and *Colonial Excursion*, one-shot *The Atom Anthology* and Daphne Buckmaster's *Esprit*)

Runners up are: 11. *Haverings* (36 points); 12. *Camber* (33); 13. *The Harrogate Convention Booklet* (26); 14. *Outpost* (17); 15. *Pot Pourri*, (14); 16 *The Fan Directory* (13); 17. *Erg* (12); 18. *Focus* (9); Equal 19th @ 7points were *Northlight* and *Enfocado*.

I have always been somewhat doubtful and have felt vaguely cheated when a fan poll has been won by the fanzine conducting that poll and now I feel both guilty and apologetic about this year's first place. Put it down to the fact that the overall standard of British fan publishing has so fallen.  
– rmb.

### **The Best Individual Fanzine Feature of 1962**

13 items were again listed.

Top place went jointly to the Bacover quotes of *Hyphen* and again to Eddie Jones for his How I See It feature in *Bastion 3*, covering Blish's *Jack of Eagles*, and to Ethel Lindsay for her "Natterings" in *Scottishe*.

### **The Best Fan Column of 1962**

Colin Freeman's "Scribblings" in *Scribble* narrowly won over Willis' "Harp That Once or Twice" in *Warhoon*, last year's winner.

### **The Best Fan Artist**

Again virtually a repeat of last year's vote, with first place going to Arthur Thomson (13 points) and second to Eddie Jones (7 points).

### **Best Fanzine Cover**

Following wins for *Bastion* numbers 1 and 2 in previous ballots, the best fanzine cover of 1962 was that by Eddie Jones for *Bastion 3*.

### **The Year's Best Fanzine Report**

1. Ella Parker's *Parker's Peregrinations* Part I.
2. The collaboration *A Canticle For Harrogate* in *Les Spinge*.

### **Best Professional Magazine**

Nova's *New Worlds* once again beat Nova's *Science Fantasy* into second place.

### **The Year's Best Professional Feature**

This proved to be a popular new section, with 14 actual features and stories being listed. On the whole though, the voting showed a runaway victory (2½ times as many votes as its nearest rival) for *New Worlds* Guest Editorials.

### **The Best Professional Writer of 1962**

Is anyone surprised at the announcement that the winner is Brian Aldiss?

Brian polled more votes than did his five rivals together.

### **Fan Personality Of the Year**

This was another popular new category.

1. Ella Parker. 2. Walt Willis.

### **The Best British Fan Writer of 1962**

1. Walt Willis (56 points) Retains his last year's first place.
2. John Berry (42) 2nd last year.
3. Ethel Lindsay (27) 4th last year.
4. Ella Parker (18) 8th last year.
5. Colin Freeman (17)
6. Brian Varley (11)
7. George Locke (13) 5th last year.
8. Bobbie Gray (11)
9. Fred Hunter (10), Archie Mercer (10)

Out of last year's top ten ratings are Bob Shaw, James White, Ian McAulay, Mal Ashworth and Ron Bennett.

That's it for another year. And thanks to all who voted. And thanks too to Arthur Thomson who has designed the certificate which will be sent/presented to all category winners, past and present

**It Has Been the Fashion in Various Circles in the Past** to sell off fanzines in "Grab Bag" fashion. Prices have varied between 10 and 15 zines for 7/- or a dollar. NOW! A selection of surplus zines is being sold, at the all time bargain price of twenty different, very readable zines for that price. Postage free to anyone who takes \$3's worth. Ron Bennett, address on front page.

**Larry & Noreen Shaw** have settled in Evanston and are again publishing their news and review zine, *Axe*. ::: Bruce Burn recently kept up his fannish existence by being evicted. ::: Early March *Daily Express* Poll of Public Opinion designed to investigate Britain's book-reading habits, showed that 7% of reading public prefers SF. ::: Ethel Lindsay's TAFF trip report is all but ready and should show up at Peterborough. ::: TV 23rd March showed the Douglas Fairbanks-Yolande Donlan film *Mr Drake's Duck* about a duck which extracts uranium from the soil. ::: Terry Overton will not be at the con – expects to be in the States instead. ::: Annual Fan Poll ballot sheets, delayed as a result of an accident to Harry Warner, have now been distributed. ::: BRE *Analog* may shortly fold as there is a strong possibility in the near future of the importation of the American issues. :::

George Locke is reviving *Smoke*. ::: Phil Rogers sent copy of his Works paper, *The App-Frod Record*, which features Phil and his proposed trip to the Peterborough Con. Report mentions that last year's Harrogate Convention "was attended by more than 200." Thanks Phil.

**Bruce Burn** threw an eviction party 9th March. Ken & Irene Potter made a farewell appearance before returning north to Lancaster. Jhim Linwood played the drums and Ethel Lindsay, introduced to the game of Monopoly, beat all comers. Following the usual trend in London circles, Bruce revealed a new game which has a board based on *The Enchanted Duplicator*. (EL)

**Changes of Address:**

Dean Grennell, P0 Box 949, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin, USA.

John Foyster, P0 Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia.

Keith Freeman, 971 Spring Bank West, Hull, Yorks. (Stay still can't you?)

Bruce Burn, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW 1.

Jim Linwood, 5 Kingdon Road, London NW 6.

Richard Bergeron, 333 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., USA.

Ken McIntyre, 212 Commonwealth Way, Abbey Wood, London SE 2.

And a correction: Mike Moorcock, Flat 3, 8 Colville Terrace, London W 11.

# ***Skyrack* #52, 6 April 1963**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter**

This is *Skyrack* 52, dated **6th April 1963** and published by Ron Bennett, 13 Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6 for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed. Contributions by Eddie Jones, Bruce Burn etc.

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## **Death of Bob Richardson**

Fans the world over will be saddened and shocked to learn of the sudden death of Cheltenham fan Bob Richardson, who collapsed and died on Monday, 1st April.

Bob, who was forty-two years old, entered fandom in 1956 and had been a leading light in Cheltenham circles, being the Club's Knight Armourer of their Order of St. Fantony and being chiefly responsible for the St. Fantony Ceremonies at Kettering and London Conventions in 1957. As Secretary-Treasurer of the 1959 Birmingham Convention he had a large part to play in the consolidation of the then newly-formed British Science Fiction Association.

A most cheerful and vital personality, Bob was considered by most to be an authority on cigarette cards and traditional armoury and had contributed articles on these subjects to different fanzines as well as an article on theology to a prozine. A naval officer during World War II, Bob had served as a frogman and commando and was holder of the "Dangerous" Certificate for in-fighting and close combat, being in addition a judo expert.

In addition to his work with the BSFA and his activities in the Cheltenham Circle, Bob was an Associate Member of the Liverpool Group and undoubtedly fans the world over will join these groups in mourning his most untimely passing.

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### **London Fan to Emigrate**

Or something. Memories of a night trip down to Southampton three years ago were recalled this week when Bruce Burn, who came to this country in the summer of 1960, announced that he was returning to the Dominion. Bruce has been active in London fan circles since he arrived in this country and was Association Editor of OMPA from 1961-62. Last year he toured the country and besides visiting Harrogate looked up fans in Stourbridge, Liverpool, and Belfast. Bruce will be attending the Peterborough Convention next weekend and says something about buying everyone a drink while he still has the chance.

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### **Lindsay Report Published**

Ethel Lindsay's report of her TAFF trip to ChiCon III – last year's Chicago Convention – is out, folks, complete with a special photo supplement and many fine Atom illustrations. I'm in the middle of reading it and finding it pretty hard going – hard going, that is, to put down! Exceptionally interesting are views on present day American fans and the Stateside fan scene. Seven and six or a dollar. Proceeds to TAFF. Stop Ethel at the Con & buy one.

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An X appearing here means your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_. Or perhaps next issue \_\_\_\_\_. Subscribe at Peterborough and save postage.

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**Hyphen 32** (Mar 63. Walt & Madeleine Willis, 170 Upper N'Ards Rd., Belfast 4, N.Ireland. 15¢ or 1/- to you, but \$1784.60 to Terry Carr – am I being got at? – 28pp) A decidedly up-to-*Hyphen*-standard *Hyphen* with columns by George A.T.W. Charters, Bob Shaw, Walt, and Ted White. Feature article is James White's "The Long Afternoon of Harrogate". A collector's item issue.

**Shangri-L'Affaires 64** (Mar 63. edited by Steve Tolliver, available @ 5 for \$1 or 7/- from Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles 25 or Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8. 28pp) More views and opinions on Harrogate from TAFF TJ Ron Ellik and other contributions by Bjo Trimble and Steve Tolliver. A reasonably slim but very readable issue of *Shaggy*.

***Panic Button* 13** (Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto 15, Ont., Canada. 35. 46pp) Hardly a fanzine these days, but still filled with fannish type humour and opinion. Crammed, but crammed, with reading matter by amongst others, Jerry DeMuth, Greg Benford and Colin Freeman.

***BSFA Newsletter* 15** arrived this morning from J. Michael Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Allerton Hill, Leeds 7, giving up to date BSFA news items, address changes and sales and wants listings.

***East-Fanglian Times* 7** came in during the week, the newsletter of the Peterborough Convention which takes place at the Bull Hotel in that fair city next weekend. This gives directions on how to reach the Bull and we'll try to follow them on Friday to be there in time for tea. If the Convention comes up to the high and meaty standard of the Committee's seven *EFTs*, then we're in for a highly enjoyable weekend.

***Starspinkle***, with its eighth issue from Ron Ellick, reports that *Science Fiction Adventures* will fold with its April issue but that Nova hope to produce *Science Fantasy* on a monthly basis in the very near future.

Marion Zimmer Bradley is definitely running against Wally Weber in this year's TAFF campaign. # Ron Ellick and Peggy Rae McKnight have broken their engagement. # Aldiss' *The Canopy of Time* anthology published by Four Square @ 2/6d this week. # A half-crown subscription is offered to anyone who will part with a copy of *Skyrack* 47 urgently needed for copyright reasons by the British Museum. # Chuck Wells doll... wind it up and it winds up wind up dolls. # Heidi Bruhl for TAFF.

# ***Skyrack #53, 20 April 1963***

This is ***Skyrack 53***, dated **20th April 1963** and published by Ron Bennett, 13 Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (65¢ for six issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon by Arthur "Atom" Thomson, colour by Dave Hale and contributions by Bobbie Gray, Brian Aldiss, Tom Boardman, Ted Forsyth, Tom Schlück and others.

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## ***East Faglian Times to Continue Publication!***

**It Was Convention Time Once Again** when the British National Convention was held at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, Northants., from Good Friday 12th April to Easter Monday 15th April. This was the best attended British Convention to date, with over 130 avid fans gathering to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the British Science Fiction Association. Once again there were many new faces, always a healthy sign, whilst the exceptionally large number of professional writers and editors present was an autograph collector's dream. If the programme itself tended to lag at times (mainly because of the small hall and the inadequacy of the public address system) this was easily overlooked and a darn good time was had by all. The weekend was too short. Conventions like this one should last a month.

**It's Peterborough Again Next Year.** The old-guard fans present declared that it was the end of the world and shook their heads but it was true! The Management of the "Bull" asked us to come back again next year and at an extraordinary meeting on the Sunday evening a Committee was formed and registrations were collected. The number has already reached the sixty mark, a fantastic state of affairs in itself.

**The Convention** was well-covered by the local and national press, radio and television and interviews with professional personalities present were recorded for later use.

**The Convention Was Officially Opened** on the Friday evening by

Committee Chairman Kenneth F. Slater who spoke against a superb backcloth painted by Oxford's Marcus Ashby and depicting a scene from Brian Aldiss' *Hothouse*. Aldiss himself was introduced and he interviewed some of the personalities present.

**The Saturday Morning Programme** opened bright and early at ten with the address given by the Guest of Honour Edmund Crispin. Brian Aldiss introduced him briefly by saying that he was "incredibly handsome". Crispin remarked that he was attending as a member of the BSFA who had been lucky enough to do a few anthologies. After what he had seen the previous night one's life span is shortened if one is a practising member. He moved on to his talk – "Science Fiction: Is It Significant?" – by saying that he had noted five main points, the first of which was that S.F. is rather taken with "the above". Most stories reach out to the stars. More people in this country are writing S.F. than ever before, he said, and this can be a danger in itself. A parallel was drawn between crime fiction of the early thirties and it was noted that there is a strong attempt to "jockey the genre into the mainstream of literature". This led on to the second point which was that S.F. has become more generally recognised because established writers have occasionally produced S.F. He would not comment on these books, he said, as his remarks might lead to an action for slander, but later he did say that *On The Beach* was poor. In the main, established writers have not taken the trouble to acquaint themselves with the conventions and special problems of writing science fiction. The danger to the field is that a non-SF addict may pick up such a book, read it and after seeing that it is bad decide that all S.F. is similarly bad.

Crispin's third point was the influence of "the Telly". On T.V., he said, "there is little differentiation between merit and lack of merit." Anything with spaceships or aliens will do. He moved on to his fourth point which was that people are generally becoming more aware of the "cosmos" which of course has a general association with the S.F. field. He mentioned satellites, projectiles (launched in the general direction of the planets) and the fact that even the Astronomer Royal has stopped saying, "....." His fifth point was that space travel is usually used as a presupposition and not as a theme in itself.

He concluded by saying that S.F. writers are generally underpaid, to which remark Harry Harrison shouted "Hear hear!" Many S.F. writers use novel length ideas for short stories, said Crispin, and noted that thanks to Ken Slater there were 60 titles he could not mention, either favourably or unfavourably, a reference to the Convention's novel competition. He

closed a most stimulating talk with the note that people do not like to be told that Man is unimportant and that S.F. is the major revolution which has occurred in literature since Marlowe and Shakespeare.

In answer to questions Mr Crispin said that he had chosen his pen name from “Crispin” meaning curly haired and “Rufus” meaning red. He did not like “Rufus” so substituted “Edmund” from King Lear. He was once asked to write a SF story and he had sent it to *F&SF* but it had been rejected with “a long, cautious and courteous letter.” He said that because of mainstream writers entering the field the name of SF was becoming debased in the eyes of the general reading public. He deplored the success of that which is bad and also the state of affairs which allows the bad to be successful.

**Harry Harrison** presented some new slants on the old theme of “Sex & Censorship in Science Fiction”. He spoke first on profanity. The hero of his story *Deathworld* struggled and clawed his way through 70,000 words yet the word “damn” was cut from the *Analog* version of the story. Harrison said that Campbell was not aware of this, and mentioned the sub-editing rules and taboos of that magazine. He spoke of the now-famous example of over-riding this censorship when George O. Smith wrote of the original ball-bearing mousetrap machine. He held up a cover from the Regency paperback *Damn It* which appeared on all newsstands. Children can read this word, but readers of *Analog* can't. He quoted further examples from the British and American editions of Aldiss' *Non-Stop*, which dealt differently with a reference to some near-innocent sex-play.

Harrison then went on to talk of chamber pots. As he showed a mention of this utensil is widely accepted in Danish advertisements, but when he attempted to refer to a pot in mature, adult S.F. he again met with this ridiculous censorship. His conclusion, he said, was that although SF was trying to present a mature image it had not as yet thoroughly grown away from the old taboos of its pulp origins.

Ted Carnell said that he himself publishes the word “bastard” which offends him personally but deletes other references which offend him. He said that we were entering a world of sickness and quoted as an example the TV programme *That Was The Week That Was* which depended basically upon sick humour and yet which still receives good reviews. He said that 20% of the stories received by Nova from new or unknown authors were in the “sick” category.

Tom Boardman agreed with Ted Carnell that a publisher *has* to have a set of rules and mentioned that he always changes the profanity “Jesus

Christ!” to “God!” in order to sell a book in Ireland.

Ted Tubb said that S.F. is trying to break away from its association with the pulps and by association is linking itself with mainstream literature but that it still possesses these taboos.

**Peter Hammerton** of the Lincoln Astronomical Society who has attended conventions previously presented a Saturday afternoon slide show called *Journey into Space*. Although the facts it covered were somewhat basic for the old guard fans the coverage was extremely thorough and the slides themselves were excellent.

**A Four Piece Band** and T.V. cameramen were in attendance on the Saturday evening for the Fancy Dress Party. The theme of the fancy dress this year was “After The End” and monsters were certainly in evidence. It was good to see the support given this venture by new convention attendees and Ted Tubb – hardly a newcomer, really, – caused quite a stir by rushing into the hall clothed in a costume made up sheets of manuscripts. Harry Nadler of Salford was adjudged “Best Monster of the Year” and another special prize went to cat girl Janet Shorrocks, whilst Tony Walsh won first prize for his costume which was simplicity personified – a sandwich-board man toting the slogans “Prepare to Meet Your Beginning” and “The Beginning is At Hand”.

**Jack Wilson** won the art competition’s award for best colour work and was also presented with the special award donated by the Science Fiction Club of London. Runner up in the colour section was Terry Jeeves. Eddie Jones won the award for the best black and white work and Terry Jeeves took the cartoon award. Philip Harbottle’s artwork on themes of J.R. Fearn was highly commended and Marcus Ashby’s backdrop was judged to be perfect and greatly contributing to the success of the convention.

**There Was Quite a Good Turn Out** on Sunday morning for the fairly early talk on TAFF by 1962 Delegate and Present Administrator Ethel Lindsay who was supported by Eric Bentcliffe and Ron Bennett. Ethel defined TAFF and said that there was over \$500 in the kitty at the moment. In a general discussion on the Fund Ted Tubb suggested that votes should be able to be bought, 2/6d for the first vote, an additional 5/- for the second, an additional 10/- for the third and so on. Bobbie Gray suggested a limit to the number of votes which could be bought. Ella Parker suggested that the voting fee should be doubled. It was now 2/6d in the UK to 50¢ in the USA. This point had been brought up five years ago, but the time was now probably right to double these fees. A vote was taken

on this suggestion and a majority voted in favour. ((Note that the vote was in favour of this suggestion being made to those controlling the Fund.. No attempt was made at any time during the discussion to dictate to the Administrators.)). Ken Slater suggested that the fund might be liable to income taxation. Archie Mercer said that he was against the open election and that possibly a panel of selectors might be formed to choose the TAFF delegate. Eric Bentcliffe and Frances Varley pointed out that interest in the Fund would so drop and that less money would be collected. Ted Tubb suggested that the host country choose the delegate but Ron Bennett pointed out the differences between American and British fandoms which possibly precluded this suggestion being taken up. Ted Tubb also suggested that it should not be obligatory for a delegate to produce a report. The discussion was cut short by Ken Slater who reminded the gathering that it was time for the BSFA AGM.

**At the Fifth Anniversary Annual General Meeting of the British Science Fiction Association** Chairman Terry Jeeves outlined the schemes inaugurated during the year and mentioned that *Vector*, the official journal, hoped to go on to printed covers shortly. It had been a year of “solid slog”, he said, mentioning the year’s crises when Association Editor Ella Parker had to give up her post and when the BSFA Library had had to be moved to Liverpool. Round-robin letters were being started and there was a scheme in hand for encouraging aspiring writers. Chris Miller asked how new members were being recruited and Brian Aldiss muttered “thumbscrew”. Peterborough was voted in as next year’s convention site and next year’s BSFA Committee was decided upon, as follows: Chairman – Phil Rogers. Vice-chairman – office jointly held by Bobbie Gray & Tony Walsh. Secretary – Maxim Jakubowski. Treasurer – Jill Adams keeps her post. Publications Officers – Archie Mercer & Michael Rosenblum.

**Peter Mabey**, who for personal reasons could not attend the Convention, but who has in the recent past given up much time and devoted much energy to the successful running of the BSFA Library, was the first recipient of the beautiful cup presented in memory of Dr. Arthur R. Weir, the “Doc Weir” Memorial Award. Congratulations, Peter, upon an honour so well deserved.

**Geoff Doherty**, editor of the anthology *Aspects of Science Fiction*, spoke on anthologising SF for schools. Should SF be stuffed down the throats of children, he asked, mentioning that many people had a dislike for the literature they had had forced upon them at school. He did not feel that this criticism applied to SF, however, for the children liked SF – he mentioned

Tom Godwin's "Cold Equations" as a good example – and they even asked for more. Doherty said that writing about human emotional experience is nothing new. This cannot be otherwise for any writing springs from experience either known or imagined. He mentioned SF-type imagery in non-SF, quoting Browning, Bunyan and Milton. Outsiders write material which resembles SF, he said. There is an affinity of manner of thought. Huxley, for example, is moved by a different view of mankind from the accepted and this fits into SF. He spoke of the pattern of mankind in stories since Darwin and said that more and more will write stories which sound like SF and that this has been so since gadgets were impressed as images in the public mind.

**The Pro Panel** was this year organised on novel lines. There were so many professionals present that they appeared in relays. Four speakers answered two or three questions from the audience and then two of these were replaced by two others. A cross section of the session is as follows:

*Question:* "What would you write if you didn't write science fiction?"

*John Brunner:* Old and neglected civilisations. *Brian Aldiss:* Sex. *Mike Moorcock:* Mountain climbing. *Geoff Doherty:* Sex plays.

*Question:* "How do you write?" *Harry Harrison* said he wrote notes when writing a short story but a novel involved long correspondence between himself and his editor. He wrote short letters to John Campbell and got back 4,000 word letters. *Mike Moorcock* said that ideas were often in his mind as long as two years before the stories were written. *Edmund Crispin* said that he attempted to write regular hours when working on a novel, from 9.30 to 12.30. He wrote in long hand on lined paper and usually gave up to go out to the pub at 11.30.

On the question of sequels to stories, *Harry Harrison* said that if a book is written "right" it doesn't need a sequel. *Brian Aldiss* said, "For those in peril on the sequel." *Edmund Crispin* said that there was the occasional exception to the rule about sequels.

The panel agreed that it would be a good thing for authors to receive royalties from lending library sales but that there did not appear to be any working scheme.

*Question:* "Have you ever taken your scenes or characters direct from life?" *Harry Harrison:* Never. *Dan Morgan* agreed that a writer does not use people from life but perhaps uses an amalgam. *Edmund Crispin* said that he had used odd details and agreed with *Kingsley Amis* who said that

he had once put a character directly into a book and that that character had rather liked Amis' interpretation of the type, without recognising himself. Amis said that he felt "I'd failed there."

*Question:* "What was the first SF story ever to make an impression on you?" *Edmund Crispin:* "*The Silver Locusts.*" *Kingsley Amis* said that he remembered two stories, one in which a creature was created in a laboratory – "It grew!" – and one in which there was a moon weed which ran after you. *Dan Morgan* remembered *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and Asimov's *Foundation* stories. *Harry Harrison* spoke of being seven years old and alone in the house reading a story in which the hero had travelled to the Arctic to find himself back in the age of the dinosaurs. He also remembered *A Princess of Mars*.

The panel was asked about Russian SF and *Kingsley Amis* said that it lacked action dependent upon a crisis in the story. "In a well-planned, well-run economy one does not find crises." He told of soviet stories in which aliens are intelligent and therefore socialist. *Max Jakubowski* who is now living in London but who has sold SF in France said that Russian SF "is very heavy". *John Carnell* drew a parallel with the early German SF. *Ken Bulmer* and *Mack Reynolds* who spoke on background in SF also made up the panel which was cut off in full stride – aren't they always? – by lack of time.

**Eric Bentcliffe** presented a fannish slide-show, "The Gafia Show", which included shots of the August 1962 Liverpool party and of visits by himself and Liverpool fans to the Black Sea coast, Yugoslavia, the 1960 Pittcon, New York, Venice and the Lido di Jesso (Archie Mercer: "Take Me to Your Lido.").

**At an Extra-Ordinary Business Meeting** on the Sunday evening in the Wakeford Lounge a goodly proportion of the attendees gathered to discuss plans for holding next year's convention in Peterborough. Ken Slater pointed out that he could not afford the time away from his business to put on next year's convention but was willing to take charge of professional displays. George Locke said that he would be willing to produce the convention's newsletters and Ken Slater said that he would also be willing to look after the hotel bookings. At the end of the meeting Ethel Lindsay staggered out to find herself in charge of the 1964 programme. She was supported (yes, held up) by Tony Walsh who looked shaken himself – he will wake up to find himself Convention Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, a formidable combination. Peter West offered to provide and

put on the films and is asking anyone to suggest titles of both professional and/or amateur SF films they would like to see next year. (Peter West, 12 Riffel Road, London NW 2) How about *The Trouble With Harry*, Peter?

**Eric Jones** spoke on behalf of the Cheltenham Circle and said that the group had recently lost one of their leading members, Bob Richardson. Eric said that Bob had been responsible for starting the Order of St. Fantony and that it had been suggested that members of the Order might wish to show their regard for Bob in some way. It was suggested that the Order (and anyone else who so wishes) presents Bob's daughter, Linda, with some premium bonds. This idea was readily seized upon and several donations and pledges were made on the spot. Eric is to circularise members of the Order within the next few weeks.

**The Official Programme** closed with the traditional film show which this year featured two full length films. The first to be shown was Jean Cocteau's sub-titled fantasy *Orphée* which was reasonably well attended. The hall, however, was packed out for the second film, Fritz Lang's pre-war *Metropolis* which, a British Convention tradition in itself, was last shown in fan circles at the 1951 London Convention at the Royal Hotel. The general SF effects and the depiction of the city of the future were generally fabulous though the silent medium of the film led to outmoded film conventions like overacting. The film was thus viewed on two distinct levels and there were many impromptu remarks from the audience. These frankly made the film even more enjoyable and several convention attendees mentioned that this was the best part of an extremely witty, varied, stimulating and fabulous programme.

**There Were Two Auctions** during the convention with Ken Slater and Ted Tubb taking the hammer. Ted, as most fans probably know, is an entertainment in himself once he gets into full stride. Holding up four magazines he asks for a bid of 2/6, gets it and smoothly asks the bidder for ten shillings. "Oh, yes, two and six," he says, "Each!" He reads extracts from books, improvising wildly. He jokes, he bullies. It's all in good fun for a good cause and he draws the crowd. More Tubb auctions next year, please.

**The Convention Programme Booklet** was again fantastically designed and produced by Eddie Jones and Norman Shorrock who have set, over the past three conventions, a standard it will be hard to live up to. This year a feature was the supplementary section which gave programme items in extremely handy pocket size.

**The Convention Ran a Novel Competition.** Guest of Honour Edmund Crispin chose 12 books which he would like with him were he wrecked on a desert island. The winner with 10 correct (4 entries, 10 correct titles in each entry) was G.M. Webb of Ealing. The 12 Crispin-chosen titles were: *Rogue Moon* by Budrys, *The Silver Locusts* by Bradbury, *More Than Human* by Sturgeon, *The Kraken Wakes* by Wyndham, *The Space Merchants* by Kornbluth & Pohl, *The Dragon in the Sea* by Herbert, *Tomorrow Sometimes Comes* by Rayer, *A Fall of Moondust* by Clarke, *The Syndic* by Kornbluth, The Asimov *Foundation* series, *The Sirens of Titan* by Vonnegut and *Hothouse* by Aldiss.

**The Social Side of the Convention** is not to be ignored. The Hotel staff was extremely friendly and special praise is given to the night lounge waiter who should be employed to travel with conventions. Parties were in abundance of course, with one party thrown by Ella Parker and Ethel Lindsay being of special note. At one time there were 53 people crowded into their bedroom. Harry Harrison made a spectacular entry, being forced almost to the floor by the weight of numbers, yet the drink in his hand remained steady. Brag, poker and solo were the card games in evidence this year. Headline for *Skyrack*: – Bennett lost! The photo competition was won by Jhim Linwood for his picture in the “After The End” section. The Los Angeles SFS sent a cable of good wishes which was scrambled slightly in its passage and was interpreted by Archie Mercer who noted that amongst the names of those who had signed it was Jack Harness twice. The food at the hotel was agreed to be good but expensive and most fans ate out at either the Minster Grill or the definitely favoured Chinese restaurant The Great Wall. The auction for artwork on display brought over £9. “Five teas and send them to bathroom four.” – “You know where it is, don’t you?”

**Tom Boardman** is to publish *SF Horizons*, described as science fiction’s first professional magazine of serious criticism and comment. Published twice yearly, the first issue will be on the stands early June and will include a transcription of a tape conversation between C.S. Lewis and Kingsley Amis, a 10,000 word article on Jack Williamson’s *Legion of Time* by Brian Aldiss and “The Use of Language in SF” by Geoff Doherty as well as material by James Blish and Robert Conquest. Editors will be Harry Harrison and Brian Aldiss and *SF Horizons* will sell at 3/6d.

**Convention Attendees Have Lucky Escape.** Bobbie Gray and Sandra Hall received minor injuries during their drive home from the convention

in Peter West's van. Caught at the end of a traffic jam just over the brow of a steep bridge on the A11 outside Newmarket, Peter's van was stationary when it was rammed in the rear by a motor cycle travelling at high speed. Both the motor cyclist and pillion passenger also received minor injuries but both vehicles are total wrecks and broken glass was scattered through the van. Sandra was badly jarred, Peter got away with a grazed knee and Bobbie sustained a cut shin which required three stitches. All agree that it could have been far worse.

**It Is Understood** that as Atlas will shortly be losing their BRE *Analog* (it is shortly to be imported by another firm) they are contemplating bringing out a magazine called *Venture* which will be made up of stories previously not reprinted in this country and taken from old American issues of *F&SF*.

The paper *Boy's World* is to commence serialisation of Harry Harrison's *Death World* in July. This will run over twenty instalments.

**For the First Time in Two Years**, Germany has its own regular professional sf magazine. The first-issues of the German edition of *F&SF* are on the stands. In pocket book format and featuring a selection from the original American editions. The first issue included stories by Asimov, de Vet, Wyndham, Clarke. / Clarke's novel *A Fall of Moon Dust* has been published in Germany in the Reader's Digest series of book selections nextdoor to A.J. Cronin which seems to bear out something about the image of sf these days.

**The Fourth Niederrhein Con** was held over 23rd/24th March weekend and T.V. coverage invited those present to speak on sf. "Even lines from Shaw and Heinlein about the important traits of literature were quoted," says attendee Tom Schlück, but results were nightmarish with the label "Juvenile scatter-brains" given to the T.V. newscast in which the interviews appeared.

**The May US *F&SF*** is the long-awaited Bradbury appreciation issue (with two new stories by Bradbury, a complete bibliography and an article on Bradbury by William F. Nolan who was responsible some dozen years ago for the Ray Bradbury Review. The May *F&SF* also includes a story by Jim Ballard, Mike.

**Nine Award Winning Shorts** have been collected together by Asimov and will be published by Dobson in July under the title *The Hugo Winners* (18/-). # Penguin are bringing out monthly sf titles, and the long-awaited second Aldiss anthology will appear as the August selection.

**Brian Aldiss** thanked me for the *Skyrack* poll winner's scroll and was even inspired to poetry but lack of space precludes publication of the epic. # Ed Meskys (c/o Norman Metcalf, PO Box 336, Berkeley 3., California) requires copies of *Skyrack* 42 & 47 and also of the Freeman-Lindsay produced *Skyreck*. # One-time London visitor Jim Caughran married 23rd March. # Bruce Pelz now a definite TAFF candidate to run against Marion Bradley and Wally Weber and there is a good chance of a fourth name to come yet. # It looks as though Bill Morse will be emigrating to Canada. / Ethel Lindsay spent two post-con days in Yorkshire visiting Colin Freeman, editor of *Scribble*. # Ella Parker, Ted Forsyth, Jim Linwood, Terry Jeeves and Ken Cheslin sent a con tape.

# ***Skyrack* #54, 20 May 1963**

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## **TAFF Doubles Voting Fee.**

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund Administrators Ethel Lindsay and Ron Ellik have wasted little time in acting upon the suggestion passed by resolution at the recent Peterborough Convention to double to 5/- and \$1 the fee to accompany votes in the recently opened campaign. Voting is now under weigh to decide the delegate to travel from the States to next Easter's Peterborough Convention. Candidates line up as near-veteran Marion Zimmer Bradley, SAPS Editor Bruce Pelz and *Cry* Editor Wally Weber.

The latest TAFF Report and campaign ballot forms are included as fliers to this issue. Because of a typographical error, it will be noted that Bruce Pelz appears to be lacking one nominator. The missing name is that of Walt Willis, the error having been blacked out to avoid embarrassment. Note that it is understood that not more than two points will be allowed any one candidate on any one ballot, which means that filling in the same name in both blanks will not be permitted.

This is the largest slate for some time, with a good cross section of fandom represented in the candidature. It is understood that ballots have already started rolling in and you are urged to waste no time but to add to this total. Vote!

Enthusiasm towards TAFF is running high, a healthy sign, with promises

of nomination later in the year of candidates to make the return trip next year to the west coast Worldcon. It is now certain that Terry Jeeves and Arthur Thomson will contest the election and there are hopes of a third candidate. Watch *Skyrack* for further news!

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**Change of Address:** After 10th June the address of Vic Ryan reverts to 2160 Sylvan Road, Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A.

### **Who's Who in British Fandom No 2 – Jimmy Groves**

One of the leading fan editors in England during the past few years has been Jimmy Groves, a young chemist who came into fandom in the latter part of 1959. The BSFA's tentacles, ably manoeuvred by Ella Parker at the time, soon made Jimmy realise that once in fandom, there is no getting out. Though, to give the lad credit he has made valiant attempts during his numerous rock hunting expeditions to the wilds of England outside London. Frequently he has even combined these trips with fannish visits, such as his 1962 expedition to visit Fred Hunter and the sample-laden Shetland Islands.

Jimmy is a short, solid man of about 23 and he describes himself as a collector; his OMPAazine is even entitled *Packrat*. But his main activity in fandom has been the editorship of the BSFA o-o *Vector* through one of its most successful periods and he has also held offices of one sort or another in the Science Fiction Club of London. Currently, he is even lined up as the money grabber in chief, the Treasurer of the 1965 London Worldcon, if London is successful with her bid. In America he has probably been best known outside OMPA as a *Cry* letter-hack during that golden period of two to three years ago when all sorts of strange Englishmen were invading the sanctity of Wally Weber's domain.

Jimmy is, at first glance, the typical example of a science fiction fan, with the accent both on "science" and "science fiction", if it is possible to do that to the English language. He'll talk about sf at the drop of an author's name – but I must confess that he's easily led astray on to other topics. He'll give you as forceful an argument as any fan in London – and I include femme-fans in that statement. He attends conventions with considerable fervour and has even invented a science fiction game.

Quite a lad.

– George Locke.

((In view of London's intention to bid for the 1965 World Convention, it is

intended to introduce to readers living abroad some of the outstanding personalities of the present day British fan scene. The first pen-picture in this series, which appeared in *Skyrack* as long ago as November 1960, will shortly be reprinted, but meanwhile, contributions to the series will be most welcome.))

---ooOoo---

**The World Today** certainly does possess a keen interest in “the cosmos” as Edmund Crispin pointed out at Peterborough. There was an enthusiastic TV coverage of Major Gordon Cooper’s twenty-two orbit space flight. On May 13th BBC TV showed a play called *The Edge of Discovery* which had a recovered astronaut tangling with an organic growth reminiscent of the original *Quatermass Experiment*. *The Day of the Triffids* was the feature film of the Light Programme’s *Movie-Go-Round* on 12th May and Patrick Moore discussed “Science Fiction and Science Fact” in his BBC TV series *The Sky at Night* on 16th May.

**150% Postal Charge Increase!!** New charges for overseas postal services come into force on 1st July. Small packets, parcels and registration fees are increased but of special interest to fans is the news that the rate on printed papers goes up to be brought in line with the inland rate of 2½d for the first 2oz. And the Canadian Concession rate of 1d is abolished; the new 2½d rate will apply here also.

**The Scarr** (George Charters, 3 Lancaster Avenue, Bangor, N. Ireland). A fan who has been so well known in fan circles as one of the Wheels of I.F. has now branched out into the publishing field. This first issue is dated April 1963 and not has been held over because of space pressure. Full of good cheer, *The Scarr* contains material by Bob Shaw, John Berry, Ian McAulay and George. A slim first-issue, but well worth having.

**Tensor 1** (April 1963; Lang Jones, 36 Winscombe Crescent, Ealing, London W 5. on request) Another first issue, but this time by a neofan who shows extraordinary promise. Wild, gay and uninhibited material by Gerry Webb, Charles Johns, Charles E. Smith and Lang himself.

**Enfocado 2** (Pat Kearney, 33 Elizabeth St., London SW 1) Covers by Eddie Jones, interior artwork by Atom and extremely clean lay out and reproduction send this zine off to an exceptionally good start. Serious discussions and the first appearance in a fanzine of any work by Henry Miller.

**The Amateur Press Associations in Fandom** (by Bob Lichtman. 20¢ from

Ron Ellik 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles 25, Calif., USA) This is the latest NFFF Handbook and covers the history and activity requirements of apas inside and outside fandom. Another very useful reference.

**Omtae 8** (Andy Main & Ardis Waters, 1818 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif., USA. March 1963) This is *Bhismi'llah* under a new name, with material by Cal. Demmon, Avram Davidson and Andy and Ardis. "Avram, Will Travel", on public baths in London is superb.

**Double Bill** (April 1963; No 4; Bills Bowers & Mallardi, 3271 Shelhart Rd., Dayton, Ohio USA.) This new duo turn out a good meaty, interesting and well-mimeoed zine with some good columns and some even better (and well-edited) letters.

---ooOoo---

**Il Festival Internazionale Del Film Di Fantascienza**, The First International Festival of Science Fiction Films, will be held in the Castle of San Giuste Trieste, from 6th-14th July. Gold and silver space ships are being given as awards for the best long and short films. There will also be a sf book exhibition and a round table lasting three days, composed of film makers, scientists and sf writers. Brian Aldiss, Ted Carnell and Kingsley Amis are expected to be present to represent Britain and there are strong possibilities that attendees will also include Ray Bradbury, Frederik Pohl, Isaac Asimov, L. Sprague de Camp (U.S.A.), Walter Ernsting (Germany), Jacques Bergier (France) and two Russian delegates. Sounds fabulous.

**Dr. John R. Pierce**, executive director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories U.S., and better known to the sf field as author J.J. Coupling, gave the Hall Lecture at Oxford University on 15th May on the subject of "Communication Satellites and Human Thought". Dr Pierce looked up Brian Aldiss before returning to the States on 19th May.

**There Were the Usual Postcon London Fan Gatherings.** The BSFA Friday meetings were resumed immediately after the con at the new home of Ella Parker, with fans gathering to say farewell to Bruce Burn who the following week sailed to New Zealand. Ken Cheslin, who was in attendance, drove Ella and Bruce back to Stourbridge for a snap visit over the weekend and the last view of Bruce was his striding on to the Motorway, rucksack flying in the breeze, to hitch his way back to London. At the said BSFA Meeting Peter Mabey was presented with the Dr. Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award and said that he was doubly pleased to be so honoured as the first recipient as he had been a close and personal friend of

Doc.

SCFoL Meeting 12th May was attended by Brian & Frances Varley, Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker, Ted Forsyth, Diane Goulding, Alan Rispin, Dick Ellingsworth, Jhim Linwood, Tony & Simone Walsh, Marion Lansdale, Ken Cheslin, Sheila Barnes, Lang Jones, Ian & Betty Peters, Jim Groves, Keith Otter, Arthur Thomson and Peter Mabey. Highlight of the meeting was a showing of the slides taken at the Peterborough Convention by the Club's various shutterbugs.

A Reminder – Send off that TAFF ballot form NOW, huh? ::: Ethel Lindsay's TAFF trip report is selling like hot cakes and may even go into a second printing. Enthusiasm about Ethel's trip and report has been reflected in recent boom sales of Eric Bentcliffe's *Epitaff* and Ron Bennett's *Colonial Excursion* (C.E. sells @ 7/- or \$1, with a bonus of the latest *Fan Directory* while supplies last. The *Directory* is still available @ 1/6 or 25¢ for SF fans) ::: *Northlight* editor Alan Burns is holidaying in Harrogate and local fandom is looking forward to a meeting. ::: Cheltenham Circle's old and well decorated club rooms are changing hands. Eric Jones wonders at the reaction of the new owners to the decor of the basement! ::: Anglia TV produced *The Monster Makers* on 8th May, featuring Brian Aldiss, Ken Slater, Kingsley Amis, Fred Hoyle and Prof. C.S. Lewis. ::: Bradbury fan Jim Ballard and his wife visited Brunners 4th May and Brian Aldiss the following weekend. ::: Speaker David King-Wood read Bradbury's "There Will Come Soft Rains" on BBC Third, 1st May ::: U.S. Doubleday Book Club has van Vogt's *The Beast* as its May selection, writes Dick Schultz, who also mentions that *Amazing* has put its price up to 50¢ in the Detroit area. ::: Harrogate fandom recently visited the happy scene of Anglo-Germanic cliff climbing, Malham's Goredale Scar... and climbed the side-face of the Scar, two hundred feet of purgatory! ::: Rolf Gindorf writes further on the recent German NiederrheinCon, deploring the excruciating coverage given by local T.V. ::: This year's European Con will be held 1st-3rd June in Bielefeld. ::: Old timer Julian Parr is now resident in London after some few years in Germany. ::: Ken Slater's ex-secretary Pauline Jackson married Roy Shaw 20th April. ::: *Venture*, the magazine which will replace the BRE *Analog*, will see its first issue 20th August, price 2/6, with material by Asimov, Bester, Davidson, Dickinson, Pohl and Zenna Henderson. ::: Forthcoming collection of "Elric" stories by Mike Moorcock, recent N.W. Guest Editor, as *The Stealer of Souls*. ::: Brian Aldiss, who appears to have contributed half the material this issue, mentions a Faber collection *Airs of Earth*, due

September, and the acceptance of a new novel, also by Faber, called *Dark Light Years*. ::: Tucker's *Long Loud Silence* has been taken up on option by actor Laurence Harvey.

# ***Skyrack* #55, 20 June 1963**

***Skyrack* Number 55**, dated **20th June 1963** and published by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d. for 6 issues. 35 cents for 6 issues in USA (70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. Cartoon and heading by Arthur "Atom" Thomson. Contributions by Jill Adams, Jhim Linwood, Keith Freeman, Colin Freeman, Ethel Lindsay, Tom Schlück, Burkhard Blüm, Ian McAulay, Chuck Wells, Charles E Smith, *Axe*, *E.F. Times* and *Starspinkle*. Contributions always welcomed with open arms.

**Note that because of postage increases it has been necessary to raise the price of airmail subscriptions abroad to 70¢ or 5/- sterling.** Existing subscriptions will naturally be honoured at the old rate.

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## **First Fan Poll**

**The First Annual Fan Poll** results have just been published by Pollster Charles Wells, 200 Atlas No. 1, Durham, North Carolina, USA, from whom additional copies are available on request. Briefly, the main places in the ballots were as follows:

**Best Single Publication.** 1. *A Sense of FAPA* (Eney) 74pts. 2. *A Remembrance of Things Past VIII* (Eney) 21. 3. *Xero* 9 (Lupoff) 20. *The Atom Anthology* rated 5 points, *Parker's Peregrinations* 4 points, *The Harrogate Convention Booklet* 2 points.

**Best Fanzine:** 1 *Warhoon* (Bergeron) 356 pts. 2 *Xero* (Lupoffs) 268pts. 3 *Yandro* (Coulsons) 252 pts. *Hyphen* was 8th with 115 pts, *Scottishe* 13th with 6 pts, *Orion* 16th with 57 pts. *Skyrack* rated 20 points, *Pot Pourri* 7, *Scribble* 5, *Parker's Peregrinations* and *Vagary* 4 points each.

Arthur Thomson ran away with two categories, **Best Fan Artist** and **Best Fan Cartoonist**. Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves and Jim Cawthorn were also well placed in these sections.

**Best Column** was Willis' *The Harp That Once or Twice in Warhoon* with (143 points, a tremendous lead over *File 13* (Boggs in *Wrhn*) 2nd with 36pts. Willis' *I Remember Me* in *Scottishe* was 14th with 10 points.

Scribblings – 5pts.

**Best Fan Writer** was Walt Willis with 159 pts. John Berry was 9th with 23.

**Best New Fan of 1962** was Fred Patton with 19 points. Walt Willis was the year's outstanding personality, taking the **Number One Fan Face** section with 64 pts. Ethel Lindsay was second, jointly with Ron Ellik, 15 points each.

The Fan Polls Committee for this year lines up as Dick Eney, Bob Lichtman, Terry Carr, George Scithers and Ron Bennett.

**This Year's European Convention** was held over Whit weekend in Bielefeld. Due to the fact that most Gerfans live in southern Germany, the attendance was somewhat small and around the sixty mark. Tom Schlück writes that with Mario Kwiat, Wolfgang Thadewald, Franz Ettl and others he toured historic places around the consite and on the con notes that there was a reunion between Germany's biggest clubs, Stellaris and the SFCD. There were speeches about literature and electronics and the film shown was 1984. Plans are meanwhile going ahead, as in England, for the 1964 con, which so far appears to be developing on fantastic lines. The locale is near Unterwoessen in Upper Bavaria. An entire castle into be rented to house the convention. Most of the English speaking fans will be present and as the date is early August 1964, this looks to be a wonderful chance for British fans to take a fannish holiday in the Alps. Further details will be given in *Skyrack* as and when they are realised. This one sounds *good!* ::: Tom also says that Guntram Ohmacht, Franz Ettl and Wolfi Thadewald have for some time been selling their own fannish brew, *Vurguzz*, a green and Germanic equivalent of Blog, I gather, which boasts an 80 proof kick. Three hundred bottles have so far been sold. Put me down for a bottle, gentlemen. ::: Other news from Germany is that we can offer congratulations and good wishes to Guntram Ohmacht, Gerfandom's own taxi-driver (to conventions, I hasten to add) and Sabine Brama, engaged on 8th June.

**Auction.** Ellis Mills donated a dozen Stateside prozines for auction for TAFF a short while ago. Sight of these has tended to get lost through recent activity, but because of lack of bids in excess of 7/- or \$1 these were sold at 1/6d each at the Peterborough Convention. All except one, that is. Remaining is a copy of *aSF* April 1958 containing Eric Russell's *Basic Right* and a short by Jon Stopa who recently married Joni Cornell, a market-study selling point in itself. First donation to TAFF over

the 5/- voting minimum which asks for this item of Ethel Lindsay gets it. If two different donations arrive on the same post, the larger of the two takes. If they're both the same did you say? Don't complicate matters!

Eight issues of *Aporrheta* are also for auction with an outstanding collection of fan writings and comment of 1958-59 fandom. This zine won the first *Skyrack* poll and copies are always in demand. Top bid on the eight to date is 10/- from Terry Overton. 50% of the ¢a\$h goes to TAFF. Bidding closes 15th July.

**And How About This?** This is a never to be repeated offer due to a forthcoming move. I'm selling off fanzines in "grab-bag" fashion once again. At 20 different for five shillings! All must go, one way or another. Postage free to all who take over eighty. (Stateside 20 for 70¢)

**Over 100 Copies of *Colonial Excursion***, the bulky report of my TAFF trip to the 1958 Los Angeles SolaCon, have now been sold. Illustrated profusely, by Arthur Thomson, copies are still available from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat @ 7/- or \$1. While supplies last I'm throwing in a bonus of the new *Directory of SF Fandom*.

***The Directory of 1962 Science Fiction Fandom***, an eighth annual listing containing the addresses of over 500 fans around the world, the most up to date and revised listing ever produced, is available at \$1 or 5/- to non fans. With its Arthur Thomson cover, however, fans can obtain it from Ron Bennett or Bob Pavlat at 1/6 or 25¢. Members of FAPA or OMPA rate copies at return postage.

**The Far Reaching *Skyrack* Net.** *Linn's Weekly Stamp Paper* (Sidney, Ohio) 6th May published photo of Wauwatosa Philatelic Society's May exhibition committee. Prominent was one Claude Degler. ::: Liverpool Group's AGM 10th June. John Roles re-elected Chairman, John Humphries takes over as Secretary, Norman Shorrocks & Stan Nuttall joint Treasurers. Meeting attended by guest Ron Bennett. ::: Ian McAulay mentions possibility of sf group forming in Dublin.

***Scribble* 12** (Summer 1963; Colin Freeman, 41 Mornington Crescent, Harrogate, Yorks. 6d or 10¢ to Bob Pavlat; 16pp) Old Gold covers this time and looking even more like a fanzine than ever, with caustic comments on the world scene, a new line for pun addicts and outside material by Fred Hunter, Sid Birchby, John Berry and the late Roger Norris. An even better than usual *Scribble* and of course an excellent sixpennyworth.

**Vector 19** (May 1963; The official organ of the B.S.F.A., edited by Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8) Without doubt, this is the most readable issue of *Vector* ever to be produced, with excellent continuity and chitchat by Editor Archie. The Editorial covers the Peterborough Convention and BSFA services and plans. Ian Peters looks at the windy wild west. James Parkhill-Rathbone puts forward some views on sf, Irene Potter is reprinted on smoky chimneys, Brian Aldiss writes on the reasons behind writing, Ian Aldridge drew the cover and there are interesting letters and three competition ideas. An exceptionally good all-round issue. Also to hand is *The BSFA Newsletter* No. 17 (June 1963) with a breakdown on the NFFF, book reviews, a column by David Sparrow and *news*.

**Pot Pourri 30** (15th July 1963 mailing of SAPS; John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belmont, Belfast 4, N. Ireland) A Speciality Collector's item in that this issue features a 16 page story, "The Return of the Goon". Vintage Berry, this, with an abundance of throw-away humour.

*Inside 2* (June 1963; Jon White, 90 Riverside Drive, New York 24; 25¢, 5 for 10/-, 11 for £1) Right on time is the second of the new series of *Inside*, in the hands of Jon White since Ron & Cindy Smith moved to Australia. 56 pages, digest sized, with material by Fowler Wright, Ashton Smith, George O Smith, Mike Deckinger, Gordon Weaver, Arthur Jean Cox, Art Castillo and Keith Nelson. Of special interest to British fans is That Man Clarke by Bill Temple, which proves how under-rated Bill can often be ((all part of the subscription service, William!)), while George O. Smith's Seven Stages of Authordom takes first place. Highly recommended.

**Going the Rounds at the "Flicks"** are two sf features, *The Damned* and *The Day of the Triffids*. The latter was recently featured on the cover of *New Worlds*, but whilst fandom possesses a certain frondness\* for the book, the enthusiasm does not seem to be shared for the film. Very little is left of the original and its excellent effects are offset by the poor acting and direction. Author John Wyndham attended a special preview in the company of Ted Carnell and Mike Moorcock. His only comment is said to be "I liked the tea." Joseph Losey's *The Damned* is far more intelligent in presentation, without being so well publicised. This film concerns a group of children who are closely guarded by the government because they are immune to radioactivity. Unfortunately for viewers apart from John Ramsey Campbell, the film is being generally bracketed with a typical Hammer offering entitled *Maniac*. (JhL)

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\* *Sic*: whether this was a typo or a plant pun is uncertain. – DRL.

**Burroughsiana Editor** Dick Ellingsworth celebrated his 20th birthday with a three day party which began Friday 10th May and continued until the Sunday morning. Pernod and vodka were in good supply and attendees included Diane Goulding, Alan Rispin, Marion Lansdale, Jim Linwood, Pat Kearney and Brian Burgess, who mentioned a contemplated move to Bournemouth. ((If you do, Brian, LiG have a job for you.)) A typewriter was in evidence and the resultant oneshot is due for publication shortly. Making a first party appearance was new London fan Betty Woodhead who brought along her daughter Wendy.

Congratulations to long-time Globe attendee and bookshop proprietor Alan Bale who last month married London 1960 Con attendee Penny Chandler. ::: OMPA's new officers for the coming year are President Bruce Burn, Editor Ethel Lindsay and Treasurer Ron Bennett. ::: Jim Groves Whitsun guest of Jill & John Adams in S'ot'on.

**Changes of Address Dept:**

Keith & Wendy Freeman, 1a Hamlyn Ave, Anlaby Road, Hull, E. Yorks.  
Tony Walsh, 167 Sydenham Road, Bridgewater, Somerset.

**East Fanglian Times**, volume 2, number 1 has appeared. This, the first newsletter of the 1964 Convention tells that attendance fees have gone up and that the Committee comprises Tony Walsh, Ethel Lindsay, Dave Barber, Ken Slater, George Locke, Peter West, Alan Rispin and Arthur Thomson. A host of prizes will be given, it is reported, for several different categories of fancy dress.

**Washington DisCon Hugo Nominations** include Arthur Clarke's *A Fall of Moondust* in the Best Novel section, *The Day The Earth Caught Fire* in the section on Best Dramatic Production and *Science-Fantasy* for Best Professional Magazine. These are Britain's only representatives. Fanzines nominated are *Xero*, *Yandro*, *Shangri L'Affaires*, *Warhoon* and Jack Chalker's *Mirage*.

**Biggest Recent Talking Point** in world of sf was Thursday 6th June's BBC TV programme *World of the Unknown*, fifty minutes of sf films from *Things To Come* to *The Day The Earth Caught Fire* and *The Damned*. In the main the programme, vague and disjointed at times, seemed to be making the point that man (and sf) was today looking into the mind and not out into space. And just five years after John Campbell's SolaCon talk, too!

**S.F. Book Club** is offering *Larousse Encyclopedia of Astronomy* @ 37/-.

*Films & Filming* (June 1963) ran article on sf films entitled *Out of This World*. Paperback seen on Lime Street Station bookstall, Liverpool: *Pope John XXIII*, *Pastoral Prince* (Monarch Giants 50¢ or 3/6d). Author? Randall Garrett! June *F&SF* features short novel by Poul Anderson, contains verse by Brian Aldiss and a story by Marion Zimmer Bradley & John J. Wells, popularly believed to be Juanita Coulson. July *F&SF* contains a letter column and features 1st part of Heinlein's *Glory Road*. *Today Magazine*, May 25th & June 1st, ran 2 part article on The Men Before Time, mentioning a rise in level of intelligence possibly due to Strontium 90 and super-beings from pre-history, theories advanced in *The Dawn of Magic* (Anthony Gibbs & Phillips, 30s.) by Louis Pauwels & Jacques Bergier. Bergier has been named as a possible attendee at the Trieste film festival next month. *The Perils of Scobie Prilt*, Britain's first sf musical with Mike Sarne opens in London next month. Assistant Editor of Ace Books, Alice Cohen, now in London and staying with Ella Parker.

# ***Skyrack* #56, 16 July 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 56**, dated **16th July 1963** and published for the last time from 13 Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire by Ron Bennett. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues (six issues sent airmail for 70¢) in the USA where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Cartoon and heading by Arthur “Atom” Thomson. Contributions this issue from Dick Schultz, Brian Aldiss, Burkhard Blüm, Tom Schlück, Hel Klemm, Colin Freeman, Ella Parker, Keith Otter. Contributions always welcome.

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## **Harrogate Fandom Leaves Westcliffe Grove on First August. Note Change of Address**

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**Il Festival Internazionale Del Film Di Fantascienza**, The First International Festival of Science Fiction films was held in the Castle of San Giusto, Trieste, from 6th – 14th July. There has been surprisingly little coverage in the national press, but the *Daily Express* gave over half a column to the fact that few *names* appeared to be present. Reporter Peter Chambers asked “Where is Ray Milland? Where is the internationally acclaimed Bradbury?” but at the same time interviewed Kingsley Amis and mentioned meeting Harry Harrison and Brian Aldiss. The main British entry for the Festival was reported to be a children’s serial, *Masters of Venus*. Colin Freeman, who sent the clipping, added the note, “Seems they had more pros at Peterborough.”

**Britain’s First SF Musical**, *The Perils of Scobie Prilt*, starring Mike Sarne, didn’t get off the ground, being closed down a week before the scheduled opening. At the same time comes the news that the programmed Broadway musical, *I Picked A Daisy*, about a girl with esper skills, has been shelved. Alan Lerner and Richard Rodgers are reported as being unable to cope with one another’s methods of working.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** made their annual trip to Whipsnade Zoo on 23rd June. Keith Otter, Dave Barber, Ted Forsyth, Jim Groves, Peter Mabey, Ella Parker, Ian & Betty Peters, Norman Sherlock, Ken & Joyce Slater and Brian and Frances Varley were the lucky trippers. Cameras were much in evidence and the East Anglian capitalists paid to take their cars into the Zoo grounds. Meanwhile, London’s shadow

committee for the 1965 WorldCon has had its first meeting. If this committee is the size of that at the 1957 London WorldCon, this first meeting was probably so that any one member could learn all the names of the others. And I'm asked to ask readers how high you would be willing to go on hotel rates for a London WorldCon. Write Ella Parker or Ethel Lindsay.

**BSFA Newsletter** has breathed its last. Smaller and more frequent *Vectors* from now. Thanks for the card, Ken Cheslin (holidaying in Scotland) and Tom Schlück and Wolfie Thadewald (holidaying on coastal island of Norderney, Germany).

**In Case You Think That *Skyrack* Can't Keep a Secret**, ask Archie Mercer. The fact has leaked out in odd corners of fandom and as a disruption in *Skyrack's* location is imminent, it appears that an official announcement can be made. On March 27th 1962, three weeks or so before the Harrogate Eastercon, Ron Bennett (Editor of *Skyrack*) and Miss Elizabeth Humbey (London Symposium attendee 1959) visited certain people in Knaresborough, Yorks., and returned to Harrogate Mr & Mrs Bennett. In case you didn't read that the first time, Brian Burgess, Elizabeth and I were married secretly some sixteen months ago. My sincere apologies to Good People like Betty Kujawa and Colin Freeman for not informing them of this previously but personal matters which are too lengthy to mention here have precluded a previous announcement. And many and sincere thanks to people like Archie Mercer, Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker, Ron Ellik, Phil Rogers, Michael & Betty Rosenblum and Norman & Ina Shorrocks who went along with our request not to broadcast the news. Certificate produced on request!

**As Mentioned Above**, we're moving. Mail just may be forwarded for a few odd weeks, but 13 Westcliffe Grove will cease to house Harrogate fandom on 1st August. Indeed, after that date, will there *be* a Harrogate fandom? Elizabeth and I take up residence in Liverpool in September and until that date our address will be c/o Ella Parker, 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6. Whilst we have a pretty good idea of what our Liverpool address will be, details of lease etc have not yet been finalised, so watch this space. We'll be moving down to London from here. The Fates help Ella, with *two* Bennetts on her hands now!

**News from Germany.** A new fanzine, *Exitus*, is being published by Helmut Struck, 3 Muelheim, Wallstr 9a @ 5/- per year. This will be in apa

form, with six contributing editors. The much heralded apa RAPE came through its first mailing with banners flying. Six of the seven members contributed 126 pages of which no fewer than 80 came from Rolf Gindorf with *Karezza*, stated as being the only fanzine that Julian Parr will still write for. Rolf is also entering into the news and chatterzine field with *Kot d'Azure*. And many thanks for the postcard, attendees at Germany's big con which was held in Bielefeld over Whitsun weekend. And oh yes! Helmut Klemm is in the throes of moving, too. He's one of eighty (out of over 700 applicants) German students who will be in the USA on exchange for a year. It's ironic though to me that this German actifan will be resident in the middle of the great mid-western (fannish) desert at Columbus, Nebraska.

(BB, TS, HK)

**Stateside Pronews from Eagle Eyed Dick Schultz.** *Best Stories of H G Wells* reprinted for second time by Ballantine @ 75¢. *The Currents of Space* and *The End of Eternity*, both by Asimov, are also out in pb @ 75¢. Keith Woodcott's *New Worlds* serial *The Psionics Menace* is now out in Ace Doubles, backed by a really superb *Captives of the Flame* by Samuel R Delany. Ken Bulmer's *The Wizard of the Starship Poseidon* is also out in Ace, backed by Poul Anderson's *Let The Spacemen Beware*. Reprints have included Pohl's 1954 *Star Short Novels*. The seventh annual *The Year's Best SF* by Judith Merrill is out in pb @ 75¢, as is, from Signet, Fred Hoyle's *Frontiers of Astronomy*. Fredric Brown's *The Lights in the Sky Are Stars* is out from Bantam in a new pb form.

**John Ramsey Campbell** writes from Liverpool that June's *Skyrack* stated that the film *Maniac* was a typical Hammer production but that no mention was made of the fact that *The Damned* was also a Hammer film. John also says "I can see that *Maniac* is sub-standard Hammer, but I still think it's good. *Maniac* is in no sense *typical* Hammer as you suggest. To my knowledge they have made two other 'modern horror' films and around twenty 'Gothic' films, so how can you say that *Maniac* is typical?" A good point, but perhaps we were thinking in terms of quality.

**Hyphen 33** (June 63; 1/- or 15¢; Walt & Madeleine Willis, 170 Upper N'Ards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland) One thing I've often wondered about that *Hyphen* address is whether the post office accepts the abbreviation for the lengthy Newtownards. But of course *Hyphen* is a fanzine for controversy. This particular issue is notable for about four different things, one of which is the appearance of the Adverb Pun which was mentioned in the June *Skyrack* in connection with *Scribble*. As *Hyphen* appeared at

virtually the same moment as the *Skyrack* was being posted it is hard to say just who, Willis or Freeman, is responsible for the initial introduction to fandom of this particular form. The Soaks of Peterborough by Brian Aldiss shows that *Hyphen* can turn out a topical convention report, and a lengthy and good one it is too. In a way, this is a Ken Potter appreciation issue, with a piece by Ken on London art galleries and Bob Shaw's Glass Bushel being devoted to memories of a visit to Ken's home in Lancaster. Letters make up the issue along with Atom cartoons, and the bacover quotes, the Eavesdroppings are contributed by Walter Breen.

**Les Spinge 11** (June 63; 1/- or 15¢; Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs.) Again we are presented with a topical convention report, this time a multiple coverage in the traditional Spinge manner, by Val Purnell, Ken Cheslin and one of the best convention reporters in the country, Archie Mercer. There's a wealth of worthwhile artwork here, including material by the not oft-seen Bill Harry, and articles are by Robert E Gilbert, Mike Moorcock, Jim Linwood and "Leon Collins". There's so much on which to comment in this issue of *LS*, that it is hard to know where to start. Packing and crating several thousand books and fanzines doesn't really give *me* much time to do it, either. There are, incidentally, copies available of the con report in supplement form, at 6d a time, for collectors. Buck?

**Shangri L'Affaires 65** (May 63; 5 for 7/- from Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8) Here is another good issue of the Los Angeles SFS's zine edited by Steve Tolliver. Contributors are Bjo & John Trimble, Al Lewis and Ron Ellik who winds up the report of his last year's TAFF trip to Britain in his usual entertaining manner. Included with this issue is an art folio of original work by Poul Anderson for his forthcoming novel *Three Hearts and Three Lions*. Good stuff.

**Double Bill 5** (June 63; Bill Bowers & Bill Malardi, 3271 Shellhart Rd., Barberton, Ohio, USA 20¢ or 6 for \$1) One of the newer zines and one which is making great strides in presenting something for everyone, fiction, a quiz, articles, columns and letters. Material is by Mike McQuown, Buck Coulson, Clay Hamlin, Mike Shupp and the editors. An excellent meaty fanzine.

**Cry 168** (June 63; Wally Weber & F.M. and Elinor Busby, Box 92, 507 3rd Avenue, Seattle 4, Washington, USA: 5 for \$1 or 25¢ per) The mixture as before, with focal point and Hugo-winning quality material by John Berry, J.E. Pournelle and the editors, to say nothing of several million

letter writers.

**Axe 36** (The second anniversary issue), dated April 1963, rolled in a little late bit is still worth mentioning if only to show that the leading Stateside newszine of two years ago is still appearing, Editors Larry & Noreen Shaw have recently moved back to the environs of New York, which possibly explains their erratic schedule, but we keep our tentacles and trunks crossed for the future. Meanwhile, congratulations on making the Second Birthday.

It occurs to me that some people possibly don't know about *Starspinkle*, a reasonably new newssheet which has just seen its fifteenth issue. Published fortnightly by none less an expert in these matters than Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles 25, California 90025 (new American zip coding zone number) @ 3 for 25¢. Highly priced but worth it. Excellent quality and sent first class airmail.

**Changes of Address Dept...** and I'll try to follow *Starspinkle's* excellent example and list these alphabetically:

Ron & Elizabeth Bennett, c/o Parker, 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Road, West Kilburn, London NW 6 (from 1 Aug)

Walter Breen, c/o Bashlow, 1240 Park Ave., New York 28, NY, USA (to Sept)

Helmut Klemm, c/o Dr Beatty, 2716 – 14th St., Columbus, Nebraska, USA.

Andy Main bem, 333 Ramona Ave., El Cerrito, Calif., USA (old address completely ineffective)

Sam Moskowitz, 361 Roseville Avenue, Newark 7, New Jersey, USA

Larry & Noreen Shaw, 32 Winfield Ave., Mount Vernon, New York, USA.

**The Fifteenth Annual Writers' Summer School** will be held from 17th-23rd August at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire. It is understood that probable attendees will include John Boland, one time sf writer (White August), and one Tom Boardman Jr. *Skyrack's* secret spy at the gathering will be noting the item programmed for the evening of Wednesday 21st August: Short Story Writing, Pleasures & Profits by one Brian W. Aldiss. On the fact that this item is due to followed by informal dancing in the lounge no comment is made.

**Following Jhim Linwood's** recommendation I didn't see *The Damned*, but I did ignore all good advice by going to see *The Day of the Triffids*. It only needed Howard Keel to burst into song to complete the impression

that this was a completely original story. What was all that talk at Peterborough about sf progressing its image in the eye of the general public? Brian Aldiss' recommendation that I see *First Spaceship on Venus* came just too late, but I may follow him up on Ray Milland's *Panic in The Year Zero* which is in Harrogate with Poe's *Tales of Terror*, which he describes as being possibly cribbed from Ward Moore's *Lot*, but which still is a very tense and creditable film.

**Alice Cohen**, of *Ace Books*, *did* meet London fandom. Mike Moorcock, Lang Jones, Ted Tubb, Bill Temple, Jimmy Groves, Brian & Fran Varley, Jim Linwood, Marion Lansdale, George Locke, Ted Forsyth, Keith Otter and Pat Kearney all got along to Ella's to put on their own mini-con, and most on the same night, too (Fri 28). And close on Alice's heels comes Washington fan and DisCon & FAPA Treasurer, Bill Evans, who will be in London 20th July. No details on hand as to length of stay at the moment.

## ***Skyrack* #57, 31 August 1963**

This is *Skyrack* 57, published in honour of the DisCon this American Labor Day Weekend on **31st August 1963** by Ron Bennett at present residing at 43 Wm. Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW 6. 6d per copy and 2/6d. for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (70¢ for six issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fans always most welcome. Heading and cartoon are of course by Arthur "Atom" Thomson who recently took part in the following conversation:

*Ella*: Where on earth have you been?

*Arthur*: I've been for a walk on the moors – he said bleakly.

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### **Hotel Booked..... for Sixty-Five!**

Many fans are already aware that London is bidding for the 1965 World Convention and indeed there have been many slogans in fanzines supporting the campaign. The shadow committee has already met three times and will be continuing to meet monthly, whilst a hotel in London has already been booked, providing of course that London's bid, which will be made in a year's time in America's western seaboard, is successful. The Committee itself lines up as: Chairman – Ella Parker, Secretary – Ethel Lindsay, Treasurer – Jimmy Groves, Publicity – Peter Mabey, Programme – Ron Bennett, Programme Liaison – Keith Otter. Brian & Frances Varley will be in charge of the convention's Project Art Show.

**Axe Axed!** Larry & Noreen Shaw, who recently moved back to New York from their ten-month stay in Illinois, have decided that two thousand-mile moves in under a year would provide too much of a strain on a regular schedule and rather than have an aimless drifting programme they have decided upon a clean-cut end to their excellent newsheet *Axe*. *Axe* will be missed. Appearing originally in April 1961 in support of the Tenth Anniversary Willis Fund, it continued publication after the ChiCon. Noted for its views and comments on the world sf scene, as well as for its news, *Axe* was a fortnightly publication for a lengthy period. Sub money will be returned as soon as possible and arrangements are being made for publishing the remainder of the so-far untitled Willis Report.

Reports are circulating that authors Pohl, de Camp, Neil Jones and Arthur C. Clarke will all be visiting London sometime within the next month.

Running Over from the Page Opposite (How do *you* compose *your* newszine. *Skyrack* is put on to stencil in the following order: pages 3, 2, 4, 1. Oh, you'd noticed?) **Are a Couple of Stateside Fanzines** worthy of note. First is

**Stefantasy** (May 1963; Bill Danner, RD 1, Kennerdell, Pa) This 51st issue has something decidedly new in the way of covers and is full of high standard material throughout, with Colin Freeman looking at America through mildewed sunglasses. Recommended, as always.

You might also try Charles Wells' **Cadenza** 8 (August 1963) or Dave Hulan's **Loki** 6, both of which are building up a steady following.

-ooOoo-

**It's Holiday Time Once Again**, with fans scurrying around, searching for the elusive sun and even more elusive off-the-beaten-track bookshops. Brian Burgess spent a week on the island of Levant, recently featured in the first instalment in *F&SF* of Heinlein's *Glory Road*. Dave Hale looked up Maggie Thompson in Yolly Jugoslavia (thanks for the card, kind people) and Ron and Liz Bennett took off for a week's improvised tour around Belgium. Brugges, Ieper (Ypres) and Antwerp were all visited and it is with great pleasure that we can announce that Jan Jansen is still in fine form. We spent a couple of days with Jan, his wife Rosa (who looks six years *younger*) and his daughter Sonja (who has developed overnight – for me – into a Cliff Richard admiring teenager). I don't know what Jan and Rosa felt about having us descend on them without warning, but we had a whale of a time.

**Fats Waller Had a Song.** "You asked for it, you got it," was the title. When *Skyrack* was first published four and a half years ago several fans argued that subscriptions taken out to *Contact* should be honoured. Well, now, following consultations between Jan Jansen and myself, it has been agreed that subscribers to *Contact* will have the remaining portion of their subscriptions honoured by *Skyrack*. Contact subscribers who already subscribe to *Skyrack* will naturally have their subscriptions extended.

**Harrogate Boy Leaves Home!** In fact he took his wife with him. Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, ceased to house the Bennetts on 2nd August when Ron & Liz moved the *Skyrack* editorial offices to the Palatial Penthouse Penitentiary of Ella & Fred Parker (Fred, Ella's brother, is now

a fully qualified *Cry* Letter Hack, with a membership card as proof) for the sunny southern summer. Mail is still reaching us forwarded from Harrogate, but this happy state of affairs will not go on indefinitely, so please keep a tag on our address changes. Thursday 12th September is the deadline for letters @ Dunbar House for on that day we move north once again, this time for a ten month stay in a well spattered fan area, Liverpool. Watch this space.

**Since Being in London**, life has become an everlasting convention. Meeting fans on every corner (and every seat on the Embankment) has become an everyday occurrence. The Science Fiction Club of London took a river trip down to Greenwich and every Friday evening here is BSFA night. Note that the Open House arrangement is having a slight proviso attached to it for the 6th September Get-together: An informal mini-con party evening is being arranged by Ted Tubb. So many fans will be milling around that there will be an entrance fee of 10/- though those who wish to bring their own bottle (no, not beer this time) may do so. Never in their lives will they have had such a welcome.

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#### **Paid Advert**

Norman Sherlock (5 Dog Lane, London NW 10) would like information on 12-string guitars, the tuning of strings and string spacing.

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**Chaos 2** (June 1963; Roy Kay, 91 Craven Street, Birkenhead., Cheshire; 2 issues for 1/6d.) More worthwhile material from Roy himself and an outside contribution by Archie Mercer at his City Desk. Letters make up the issue, but let us not merely dismiss this virtual newcomer to the fanfield in four lines. This fanzine is developing on the right lines. It will be interesting to see how future issues compare with future issues of

**Tensor 2** (Lang Jones, 36 Winscombe Crescent, Ealing, London W.5. 1/- or 15¢) Lang, like Roy, is suffering from the old faneditor's complaint of having to write most of the material himself, not that these neo-editors are not worth reading (far from it – I'm considering the problem from the editor's viewpoint). Outside contributors here are Val Purnell, the editor's mother and Charles E. Smith, all of whom can write, though Val's verse is a little too rambling even for present day forms. Highlight of this issue is undoubtedly Lang's con report which is surprisingly entertaining for its overall vagueness. Both *Chaos* and *Tensor* appear to be suffering from the general dearth of fan writers. Well?

**Vector 20** (July 1963; The Official Journal of the British Science Fiction.

Association ((Who said I have difficulty filling four pages?)), edited at 70 Worrall Road., Bristol 8 by Archie Mercer and published by Michael Rosenblum in the shadow of the offices of the Northern Rugby League. Once again there are items of official business, fanzine and book reviews, letters and pieces of excellently marshalled editorial gossip from Archie. In addition there are articles by C.P. McKenzie and [A.] C. Clarke, both worth reading, and eight pages of reprinted Ron Bennett. Oh, I like *Vector*.

***The Bug Eye* 12** (July 1963; Rolf Gindorf, 5603 Wulfrath, Hans-Bockler-Str 52, Germany) This issue was put out by Rolf as editor-in-chief Helmut Kleimm is besieged in the fannish desert of mid-western America. Contributions by Rolf, Caesar and Gindorf, pages and pages of chatty letters and a lament by Burkhard Blüm resulting from a notice in *Skyrack* a year last July. Whatever *did* happen to the Brotherhood of the Way?

***Northlight* 15** (Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2) Alan does not take subscriptions for *Northlight* but instead sends issues to those he feels would be interested in receiving them, a worthy attitude. This issue is somewhat more slim than previous issues. Full of stimulating views on odd items like James Baldwin and Yorkshire beer, *Northlight* is fast becoming an English *Wendigo* and the only people to complain about that are those not on the mailing list. Alan's main features this time are accounts of trips made to Sheffield and Harrogate. (Thank you, Alan. We greatly enjoyed having you with us).

***The Panic Button* 14** (Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto 15, Canada; 35¢) I don't know whether to call *TPB* the magazine you either love or hate, or the professional fanzine, for it's both, with the following fans appearing this time round: Alan Dodd, Jerry DeMuth, Walter Breen, Gary Deindorfer, Ted Pauls, Ted White and Norm & Gina Clarke (yes, where is *Wendigo*?). Featured is material you'll either enthuse about or throw away, dependent entirely on taste. A way out production. Personally, I enjoyed it, particularly Les's joke about not having the time to argue with Ted Pauls and then doing so for three columns. But then, I have an immature sense of humour.

Random thought: The police are looking for a James White in connection with the recent Great Mail Train Robbery. The Wiltshire Flying Saucer holes-in-the-ground are now found to have been caused by "a Leeds born student, now in Yorkshire." Need I comment?

**Two Major British Historical Fan Projects** scheduled for publication next year. Brian Burgess' complete checklist of all major British sf and

fantasy magazines which will probably run to some two hundred pages and Walter Gillings' complete history of fandom which scarcely could have a more authoritative writer at its helm.

**Snippets:** £70,000 sf musical *Man in the Moon* will replace the traditional Xmas pantomime at the London Palladium. Star: Charlie Drake. ::: Archie Mercer, UK agent for newszine *Fanac* disclaims all knowledge of issues 90-92 excepting what he has read of their existence in Ron Ellik's *Starspinkle*. ::: Ray Bradbury is screenplaying *The Martian Chronicles* and is taking over the planning of a major exhibit ("Tomorrow Morning" – which deals with the "evolution of the American spirit" – quoted from Ken Beale's excellent *Fantasy News*) for the New York World Fair. ::: *Skyrack* misses out! Two moves in 7 weeks and a Continental holiday have meant that this year there will be no quick-fire coverage of the DisCon's Hugo Awards, Don't wait up. ::: Kingdon Road Fandom, Jim Linwood and the Rispins attended a special premiere recently of Shirley Jackson's fantasy film *The Haunting*. ::: Ted Carnell, Brian Aldiss, Kingsley Amis, Harry Harrison and Jacques Bergier all attended the recent Trieste Film Festival. And a good time etc etc. It is expected that there will [be a] second festival next year:

**Changes of Address:**

Ron & Elizabeth Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road., Penny Lane, Liverpool 15 (from Sept 12)

Jan Jansen, Alfons Schneiderlaan 46, Deurne, Antwerp, Belgium.

**Congratulations** to Andrew Peter Patrizio upon his introduction on 20th July to Anne & Joe Patrizio. 7 lbs 6 oz. ::: It always happens! After years in the fannish wilderness, the Bennetts, in the middle of packing to leave Harrogate, were visited by Phil Rogers and John Roles. John was book buying in the Riding and also looked up Mal Ashworth. Phil was returning home after holidaying with the Shorrocks and looking up Archie Mercer. ::: Bradbury's *The Fruit at The Bottom of the Bowl* was featured by ATV's *Television Playhouse* on 8th August. Scripted by Ilona Ference the play featured Leonard Rossiter as the master polisher. Three Brian Aldiss books out this weekend!

## **Skyrack #58, 2 October 1963**

This is *Skyrack* 58, a September issue published on **2nd October 1963** by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. 6d per copy, 2/6d. for six issues. 35¢ for six issues in the USA (70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. News of interest to sf fans always most welcome. Heading and cartoon are by Coming TAFF Candidate Arthur “Atom” Thomson, the man who told me to say, “‘This is my new address,’ he said movingly.” Contributions by Max Jakubowski, Brian Aldiss, Joan Nicholson, Ethel Lindsay, FAPA, *Starspinkle*, Terry Jeeves, Tony Walsh, Bruce Burn, Harry Harrison, Ella Parker, George Locke, Lynn Hickman & Ted Ball.

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BRIAN FOR ЈУГОСЛАВИЈА?

**There Is a Strong Possibility** that BSFA President Brian Aldiss will miss next year’s Easter Convention at Peterborough. Brian has been commissioned by Faber & Faber to write a travel book on Yugoslavia, which merry little task will require his spending a six-month period in the Baltic country (or wherever Yugoslavia is). He will be travelling through the country as thoroughly as possible and whereas the actual time of departure has not yet been fixed, it seems likely that it will have to be early in March 1964, which means that Brian will in this case miss the Peterborough weekend which starts on Good Friday, March 27th. Nothing is yet definite and we (Brian and I) merely give you the picture as it stands at the moment. Watch this space for further developments. Brian of course was recently much in the news with the coincidental publication in the same week of *Airs of Earth* (a collection of his own shorts), *The Male Response* and the long-awaited anthology *More Penguin Science Fiction* with which publication Penguin gets up to date – the number of the book is 1963.

**For the First Time Skyrack Missed Out on Reporting the Hugo Awards.** Ron Ellik’s *Starspinkle* (9 for 7/6d or 10/- airmail) neatly covered the DisCon and reported that this year Hugos were won by *F&SF*, *The Dragon Masters*, *Man in the High Castle*, artist Roy Krenkel and fanzine *Xero*. (Sincere congratulations you Lupoffs). There was no award

for any drama presentation, but two special awards were made to P. Schuyler Miller and Isaac Asimov. The site for the 1964 WorldCon was won by a walkover by San Francisco and memberships already number nearly 300. Forry Ackerman will be fan Guest of Honour and Guests of Honour will be Ed and Leigh (Brackett) Hamilton. Didn't they write a Dean Martin western not so long ago?

**Nominations for the TAFF Campaign** to take a European fan to San Francisco next year are now invited. Write Ron Ellik or Ethel Lindsay. Arthur Thomson has already been nominated, but expected runner Terry Jeeves has had to withdraw because of ill-health, a sad state of affairs. Next time perhaps, Terry...?

**From the New Address** appearing on the outsides of this issue, it will be realised that we have finally taken up residence in Liverpool for our ten month stay on the west coast. It's back to Harrogate next summer but in the meantime here we are amongst the bubbling Liverpool Group (anyone for brag?) and the new Merseyside sound (leggo copper, you think you're in *Z-Cars* or something?). The honour of being the first visitors to our new home fell to Margaret Manson and Brian Aldiss who looked us up even before we arrived. Fred Hunter, from his Shetland pony, suggested that we form a beat group called The Bentles, or the Lizrons, or even the Skyrackets. One never knows.

**Arthur C. Clarke** was in the *Globe* 5th September, en route to the States where he will receive on 16th October the 1963 Stuart Ballantine Medal of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia for "the early concept of the Communication satellite". Arthur had with him lumps of coral coated bullion salvaged from the coasts of Ceylon and a bag of silver coins from the same source. From Patrick Moore's BBC TV programme on 10th September, we learned from Arthur that men will be circling the moon in all probability by 1968, perhaps to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the October revolution. Man may well be on the moon, prophesied Arthur, by 1970 at the outside, should be orbiting Mars in 20 years and even be on Mars in twenty five.

**The Following Evening Saw the Parker Palatial Penthouse Penitentiary** a little crowded, for this was the Evening of the Tubb, the MiniCon organised – and so very successfully – by Ted. It was possibly the quietest fannish party I've ever been to, with merely *sufficient* drink, no brag and nothing broken or startling. Intriguing conversation flowed like the martinis and personally I had a great time. Amongst those present

were Ted & Iris Tubb, Ron & Liz Bennett, Arthur & Mrs Sellings, Mike Moorcock, Jim Linwood and Marion Lansdale, Jennifer Crowe, Chris Miller, Pat Kearney, George Locke, Peter Mabey, Ted Forsyth, Max Jakubowski, Fred & Ella Parker and several other million worthies whose names I forget. My apologies. I usually make a point of listing names at this sort of gathering but the company was too interesting to break away to hunt a pencil.

**Max Jakubowski**, who has been in this country for the past three years, has suddenly been transferred to some small remote region of continental Europe called Paris. There must be something about the place – John Ramsey Campbell of Liverpool has just spent a week’s holiday there and Pierre Versins is shortly to move there from Switzerland. Max, who will carry on his BSFA work from abroad, has edited the first sf anthology to be published in France. Titled *Loin de Terra* (Denoel 8Frs) this will feature a story by Michael Moorcock and will include material by Harry Harrison, Brian Aldiss, Lee Harding, Ted Tubb, Colin Kapp, Robert Presslie, Jim Ballard, Ken Bulmer and George Locke. And the BRE, Max?

**SF from the Outside** department. Simon Dare Award Winner (“The Sea Pearl”) Joan Nicholson from happy Harrogate attended the August Writers’ Summer School at Swanwick, Derbyshire and reports thusly on the BSFA President: “This year there was a strange animal who stood out even amongst the individualists that make up the annual Writers’ Summer School. He was frequently hunted into corners and talked at earnestly, but he didn’t seem to mind. Actually, he glowed with an electric enthusiasm, legs twisted round on chair, spectacles agleam – was it a B.E.M. or T— B ——— who crouched at his elbow? Brian had a marvellous philosophy to put before his audience of writers – if you can’t get rich by writing, get poor by writing and enjoy it. When he heard what some women’s magazines pay per thousand and had picked himself up from the floor, he still stuck to the creed of St. Brian, gave us chapter and verse and carried us along on a wave of personality.”

**FAPAns Invade!** Lee Jacobs was in England this past week and Boyd Raeburn is now on a lengthy European tour. Lee, by the way, is merely touring the world.

**Hyphen 34** (Sept 63; Walt & Madeleine Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N Ireland; 1/- or 15¢ per; 7 for \$1) The bacover Lighthouse symbol is a strong indication of what you will find in this issue. Printed on American quarto and accordingly there is little surprise to

find the latest chapter, continued from the now defunct and lamented *Axe*, of Walt's report of last year's ChiCon. Of all reports by trans-Atlantic visitors of American conventions, this one ranks second only to that in *The Harp Stateside*. This issue of *Hyphen*, *The Harp Statesize*, is a collector's must.

**Vector 21** (Edited for the British Science Fiction Association by Archie Mercer, and published, without crinkly staples this time, by Michael Rosenblum) September 1963 will probably be remembered as a month of travel reports, for here we find Brian Aldiss reporting on the recent Trieste International Fantasy Film Festival. Philip Harbottle writes on the wonder of the hyper-space concept and there are the usual letters and thorough book reviews.

**The Scarr 2** (Aug 63; George Charters, 3 Lancaster Ave., Bangor, N. Ireland) In this the second issue of his anagrammatical fanzine, George reveals that he recently spent a short time in the USA. Outside contributing punsters this time round are Ian McAulay and John Berry. I think that Ian's piece was written just so that he could palm off the pun about Vassall.

**Dafoe 7** (July-August 1963) comes from John Koning, 318 So. Belle Vista, Youngstown Ohio 44509 "at the ridiculous rate of 4/\$1" with which rate I'm inclined to agree. There are few fanzines around these days whose editors can produce with a *continued* freshness. In a too-short editorial John offers \$100 for a copy of *Ploy 1*, which seems a fair price to me. Len Moffatt writes on Tucker and Gary Deindorfer writes on Koning. Letters and upsidedown fanzine reviews make up a neat issue.

**Stefantasy 52** (Bill Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, Pa) The Reader's Digest of the fan world – well, it's pocket sized and printed. Material by Michael Frayn and Colin Freeman (what a duo there) and oodles of humorous pieces which fit *Stef* into a category of one. More, please.

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**Paid Advert** (6d. per line, address free: Circulation of 175)

**For Sale:** One Emgee Portable Rotary Duplicator in good working condition. Included are one box stencils & one tube Emgee ink. Nearest offer to £6 secures. Ethel Lindsay, Secretary SFCoL, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. (and, Archie and Colin, there is a full stop after the word "secures".)

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**TAFF:** The following donations have been made to the present TAFF

campaign: 1963 Convention Committee £13 0 3d; Peterborough Convention raffle £2 0 6d; Michael Rosenblum £2; Peter Mabey £1 1 3d.; Ted Forsyth £1; Auction, Penitentiary Mini Con 18/9d; Ellis Mills 16/6d; Don Geldart 15/-; Claire Beck, Ken Cheslin 14/- each; Archie Mercer 11/-; Skirt naming competition at 196 3 Convention 11/-; 10/- each from Peter Singleton, Archie Mercer, Anon, Brian Aldiss, Chris Miller, Ella Parker, Dave Barber, Jim Cawthorn, Terry Jeeves, Jimmy Groves, Val Jeeves, Keith Otter, D.G.Small; Ted Carnell 8/-; Ken Slater, Rory Faulkner 7/6 each; Dick Schultz 7/-; SFCoL 5/6d; 5/- each from Bill Banner, Ian McAulay, Ron Bennett, Elizabeth Bennett, E.R. James, Joe Navin, Bruce Burn, Arthur Thomson, Terry Overton; Ellis Mills 2/9d; Anon 2/6 d; Gary Deindorfer 2/-; Pat Kearney 6d; Alan Rispin 2d. The latest TAFF Progress Report is included with this issue of *Skyrack* as a flier. Note that the deadline for votes in the present campaign is drawing close. October 31st is the day on which votes will be counted (at midnight, mind you!) and on their result depends whether we shall see at next Easter's convention Marion Bradley, Bruce Pelz or Wally Weber. If you have not already voted, you are urged to do so as soon as possible. **Voting forms on application!**

#### **Address Changes:**

Ted Ball, 324 Bitterne Road, Southampton (until 13 Dec) Lynn Hickman, 500, North St., Hannibal, Missouri, USA.

Maxim Jakubowski, 22 rue Robert Houdin, Paris 11eme (Seine).

**Snippets:** Tom Boardman appointed sales manager for publishers in the Purnell group. This includes the "suspended-animation" sf firm Grayson & Grayson. ::: Cinerama's *The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm* was scripted by Charles Beaumont ::: Bruce Pelz will pay £a\$h for issues of *Private Eye*. Requires, Jhim & Jonesy, nos 1-4,6,8,9,12,16,30 & 39. ::: Archie Mercer visiting Yorkshire fans shortly ::: A.J. Budrys, ex-editor of Regency Books in Chicago, is now with *Playboy*. ::: Roberta Rambelli (editor of *Galassia*) working on anthology of best European sf. Anyone know of Greek or Hungarian stories? ::: Untouched in USA, Harry Harrison's story from *New Worlds* and *More Penguin SF*, "The Streets of Ashkalon", will be anthologised in Best British sf collections in France and Italy ::: Part 1 of the *Astounding-Analog Index* (1930-39) is now available from Terry Jeeves (30 Thompson Road, Eccleshall, Sheffield) @ 4/6d ::: SFCoL has a new Ten Pin Bowling Champion. Norman Sherlock beat Ted Forsyth into 2nd place in a two game match in which Don Geldart (ex-champion), Alan Rispin and Ron & Liz Bennett also took part.

::: U.S. Travel Service in London is running 15 days of unlimited air travel in the States for £36 ::: Congratulations mothers and fathers! Ken & Pamela Bulmer recently added to their family with an 8¼lb boy. Michael & Hilary Moorcock took heart and immediately produced, on 3rd Sept at 10pm, a 6lb 12 oz girl, Sophie. ::: George “Gordon Walters” Locke recently sold 17,000 words to Ziff-Davies ::: Terry Overton paid 10/- for the copies of *Aporrheta* recently auctioned here. 50% went to TAFF ::: A few copies of *The Fan Directory* remain. As of course do copies of *Colonial Excursion*. Your suggestions on what I do with these latter things would be appreciated. ::: Peterborough 64 registrations now number over 90 ::: Thanks Val & Terry Jeeves for the Eisteddfodcon card. How did the locals enjoy your singing? ::: Strip version of Michael Moorcock’s Elric planned by Fleetway, possibly by Jim Cawthorn ::: SF has hit the bubble gum card world. Wonderful stuff, depicting insects eating people, men burning alive, burning cars falling off the Golden Gate Bridge, men charred by Martians, men crushed to death, giant flies, a tidal wave, removing victims etc etc. All good clean fun. ::: We are greatly indebted to the makers of Cutex Fire Dance nail varnish who provided the stencil correctine for this issue.

# **Skyrack #59, 2 November 1963**

**Skyrack Number 59**, a TAFF result issue published on **2nd November 1963** by Ron Bennett and his Hallowe'en cablegrams at 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail). News of interest to sf fans is naturally always welcomed. Heading, cartoon and interior artwork by Arthur "Atom" Thomson and the pen picture is by Kenneth Cheslin of the Stourbridge Cheslins. Contributions are also by *Starspinkle*, Chris Miller, Bruce Burn, George Locke, Archie Mercer, Ella Parker, Ethel Lindsay, Ted Ball and Tony Walsh.

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**Stop Press;** Further donations to the U.K. TAFF Treasury, received during the past week, have been Walt Willis £4; Eric Jones, Madeleine Willis, George Charters, James White and Bob Shaw 5/- each. Total is now £71.

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## **Welcome Back, Wally!**

All round actifan Wally Weber will pay his second visit to these shores next March when he arrives as America's Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund delegate to the Easter Peterborough convention. Wally, the personality boy of the Seattle Nameless Ones, headed the ballot which closed at midnight 31st October/1st November with the following three cornered contest figures:

	U.K.	U.S.A.	Total
Wally Weber	38	165	203
Marion Z. Bradley	47	118	165
Bruce Pelz	40	89	129

On the British poll there were write in votes for Bob Pavlat and John S. Kennedy.

Wally was Chairman and Treasurer of the 1961 Seattle WorldCon, is secretary-treasurer of the Nameless Ones (of course you've read his reports in *Cry!*), has twice been rated SAPS leading humorist and has been a regular attendee at world and local zone conventions for the past dozen

years. British fans who attended the 1957 London World Convention will remember well this quiet, almost wry beanpole whose rapier interjections had everyone curled up. It's welcome back, Wally, and congratulations!

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Ted White now Assistant Editor at *F&SF*. :: US TAFF Treasury totals \$943.

### **Who's Who in British Fandom Number 3 – Dave Hale**

**Dave Hale**, David J. Hale, stands some six feet six inches in his stocking feet. Well built, he boasts a great bush of brown hair which covers his head from his chin to his crown, from the midst of which a pair of beady bespectacled eyes peer in the best mad scientist manner.

It was an advert in *New Worlds* which led Dave into fandom while he was still at school. As he lived near Ken Cheslin he was soon not only borrowing Ken's fanzines, but was also cutting stencils for *Les Spinge*, and finally when Ken became too busy with BSFA work Dave took over the magazine, dotting on colour changes and justified margins, thusly improving the appearance of the zine greatly. Since then Dave has entered OMPA for which association he produces *Big Deal* with the same care though here he perhaps allows himself a little more room for experimentation. Here we have a pillar of fandom in the making unless gafia gets at him first, for at the moment Dave is studying for a degree in psychology at the University of Manchester. – (KMPC)

**BBC TV** of 9th October featured a fifty minute programme called *The Liverpool Sound*. Apart from one of the currently popular Beatles group saying "we didn't want to look ridiculous", this programme was notable, and notable to fandom, in that it gave viewers a glimpse of former fan and one time *Ploy* art editor, Bill Harry. Two years ago Bill began to publish a small newspaper called *Mersey Beat* which has kept pace with the growth of the popularity of the Merseyside pop groups. The paper now has a circulation of 25,000. Bill, who introduces groups on stage, presents prizes at pop functions and who has a track on a recent long playing record, was interviewed in the TV programme. He mentioned that *Mersey Beat's* editorials had influenced groups towards a more professional outlook. In a *Daily Mail* feature on the trend away from Liverpool of the pop groups (11 Oct), Bill was again in evidence being quoted as saying, "The move from Liverpool is not just bad, it's tragic". The popularity of *The Liverpool Sound* programme, originally televised in the Liverpool and London areas only, has caused the BBC to agree to repeat the programme on a national

basis later this month.

**Wanted**, please. Can anybody oblige me with the current whereabouts of Peter Campbell, Paul Enever, Julian Parr, Dave Rike, Jerry Greene, Bill Rickhardt, Dave MacDonald and Cato Lindberg?

**Hear This**, Terence Bull. At the same time that *Skyrack* was losing its Stateside representative, Ron Ellik's excellent fortnightly *Starspinkle* now has an overseas representative in Ella Parker, 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Road, London N.W.6. 9 issues for 7/6d (10/- Australian) or 9 issues airmail for 10/- (£1 Australian in view of higher airmail rates USA – Australia). Note that the 7/6 gets you the 9 issues sent surface mail and not printed rate. Ellik believes in seeing that his news is kept fresh in transit.

**Vector 22** (October 1963; The Journal of the British Science Fiction Association, published by J. Michael Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Leeds 7 and edited by Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8. Not available to the general public) The mixture, Mercer-style, as before, with official BSFA business, book reviews, and odd bits of interesting chatter. Pride of place goes to Harry Harrison for his interesting, but somewhat rambling, article "The Author's Lot", for which even the general public should make the attempt to borrow the magazine at least (they *could* join the BSFA). The most notable fact to emerge from this issue is that we appear to be again passing through one of those cycles when a lot of new talent is making the effort to express itself in print. And congratulations, *Vector* and artist Terry Jeeves; whilst you may have found yourselves on a schedule whereby you miss the Hugo Awards and the TAFF results by a week, you have at least beaten everyone to the obvious political cartoon.

**Icarus 5** (October 1963; Brian Allport and Dave Wood, 14 Edinburgh Street, Radford. Nottingham; 6d a, copy) From the outer reaches of parallel fandom comes this little-circulated zine with articles and stories from its own immediate ingroup. There is some good artwork and a commendable inclination to make this a general interest zine with a slant towards sf.

**Point of View 1** (Oct/Nov 1963; 9d per copy (first issue free on request) from Charles Platt, 8 Sollershott West, Letchworth, Herts). This Enever-*Orion* sized spirit duplicated fanzine marches into the field with pretty much the same aims and ideals as *Icarus*, with a nicely balanced content of fact, fiction and humour. Also notable is that like *Icarus* (whose editorial makes a strong point of the issue), *Point of View* deplores the fact that many fanzines are too esoteric to be understood by the outsider or the

newcomer. (The obvious answer seems to be to make the attempt to progress away from being an outsider.) *Point of View*, by inviting contributions of a naturally subjective nature, could well fill the gap left by the suspension of *Esprit*.

**The Clocks Have Been Put Back** and November is with us. Or had you noticed? This is the month to put *forward* nominations for the TAFF campaign to send a delegate from Britain or Continental Europe to the 1964 World Convention which will be held next September in San Francisco. Nominations close 30th November. To date but one candidate has been nominated, cartoonist and fan extraordinaire Arthur Thomson. Any more? (Nominations to either Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey or to Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles, California 90025, USA.) Meanwhile, since the publication of *Skyrack* 58, the British half of the TAFF treasury has risen to £65 9s 0d with the following additional donations – Ted Forsythe three guineas; London “Friday Auction” and Tony Glynn £1 each; Clair Beck 14/-; Mervyn Barrett, Peter Singleton, Frances Varley, Brian Varley, Darrell Pardoe, 10/- each; D V. Goodman 8/1d; Rory Faulkner 7/6d; Burkhard Blüm 8/-; Horst Evermann 6/-; 5/- each from Bruce Burn, Terry Overton, Arthur Thomson, Max Jakubowski, Antonio Dupla, Charles Winstone, Guntram Omacht, Audrey Eversfield and Ted Tubb; And, what? 12/7d from Ted Forsyth!

**Liverpool Fandom** have gained three new members this past month (no, they haven’t doubled in size) with the arrival at Liverpool University of Dave Caplow, Brian Allport and Ron Bennett. Recent social outings have included a visit to showings of the Ten Best Amateur Films of the year and the annual dinner of the Merseyside Wine Makers’ Society. And you will be interested (undoubtedly!) to learn that apart from a club auction, the Group has recently replied to a letter from Argentine’s Alberto R. Runge whose treatise “Obstructions to Herencies” was read and ingested. Greatly.

Who voted for Bennett for Secretary-*Treasurer* in the recent FAPA elections?

**Change of Address Dept:**

Brian Allport, 73 Granville Road, Liverpool 15.

Bruce Burn, c/o NZBC Station IZD, Spring St., Tauranga, New Zealand.

Dave Hale, 13 Birch Grove, Rusholme, Manchester 14.

Max Jakubowski, 218bis rue St. Denis, Paris 2, France.

Chris & Jennie Miller, 10 Freegrove Rd., London N.7.

Tony Walsh, 38 Saxon Road, Bridgwater, Somerset.

**Stateside Subscribers Please Note.** It is a sad and lonely thing to be a fan without a Stateside representative. Bob Pavlat, to whom my everlasting thanks and appreciation are due, has handled some hundreds of \$\$\$sars on my behalf in the last 7 years, long before even the inauguration of *Skyrack*, but now with other, non-fannish interests looming on the Alpha Romeotic slopes of mountainous horizons Bob has decided to relinquish the post. Until an equally worthy replacement is found *Skyrack* is sans a dollar-area money minder. In the meantime, subscriptions here please, in bills, sticky quarters, or even small amounts in mint U.S. stamps.

**Snippets:** Tony Walsh points out that he and Simone haven't moved in order to escape 1964 Peterborough Convention responsibilities and that now registrations will be welcomed at Saxon Road ::: Congratulations! Newly qualified Oxford B.A. Christopher A. Miller married to Jennifer Crowe at Wisbech Town Hall 12th October ::: Alan Rispin has left London to take an engineering course at Newcastle University ::: Bruce Burn has landed job as announcer in Bay of Plenty with New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation ::: Roger Horrocks moving Stateside ::: Ed Meskys, Theor. Div. Bld 162, LRL Box 808, Livermore, California 94551, is lacking a copy of *Skyrack* 56 and would appreciate a copy for his files, please ::: Because of the Rispin move to Newcastle, George Locke is now collecting auction material for the PeterCon ::: Stage director Peter Brook of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art is beginning a series of avant-garde experiments in Paris. Amongst others Mr Brook announces that he will direct sf. *The Daily Mail* quoted him as saying, "I have a number of things in mind, but the plays of Ray Bradbury interest me particularly. Science fiction is a comparatively new form for the stage." ::: Archie Mercer recently did the rounds of Yorkshire fandom, visiting Terry & Val Jeeves, Irene Boothroyd, Michael & Betty Rosenblum, Keith and Colin Freeman, Rik Dalton, Joe Lynn and Ernest Sterne. ::: SFCoL members last month went on a specially arranged guided tour of the *Daily Mail*, Lang Jones, Ella Parker, Ted Ball, Arthur Thomson and Ethel Lindsay being honoured by being allowed to play with the linotype machines. Arthur typed out "Yngvi is a louse" for himself and was also seen standing by a gigantic rotary press, making handle-turning motions.

# ***Skyrack* #60, 12 November 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 60**, dated **12th November 1963** by a dislocated Ron Bennett at 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. 6d per copy, 6 issues for 2/6d or 35 cents in the USA. Airmail rates 6 issues for 70¢ USA or 5/- sterling Australia and New Zealand. News of interest to sf fans is always welcome, even if the news is as drastic as that printed below. Contributions are by Ted Carnell, George Locke and Norman Shorrock. Heading and cartoon by that jolly old warhorse, Arthur Thomson.

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## **Nova Bows Out**

A tragic gap will be left in the professional science fiction field next March when Nova magazines *New Worlds* and *Science Fantasy* will follow their late sister magazine *Science Fiction Adventures* into limbo by ceasing publication. The following official news release has been received from the magazines' editor, John Carnell:

“It is with regret that I announce that with the March published issues of *New Worlds Science Fiction* and *Science Fantasy*, these two publications will be discontinued and Nova Publications Ltd. will cease to exist. This decision has been forced upon us by a steady decline in sales during the past few years which stems directly from the lifting of the Import Ban and the subsequent intense competition with the paperback market, both home-produced and foreign-imported.

“Material is still required for the last few issues and authors should continue to submit their material to Nova Publications Ltd., 7 Grape Street, London W.C.2 until January 31st.

“Thereafter my own personal plans are that I shall become a full-time Literary Agent specialising in science fiction, as I have been for the past ten years, but expanding my requirements into general fiction. I shall also be under contract to a major British paperback publisher to produce a new series of science fiction paperbacks containing new short stories only both in the science fiction and weird-fantasy fields. This series is being prepared now but will not appear until Autumn 1964.

“All regularly contributing, authors will be notified individually regarding this new project and all manuscripts should be sent to my home address, 17 Burwash Road, Plumstead, London S.F. 18 for the time being.

“At this early stage it is not possible to reveal my plans publicly but as far as the authors, are concerned, the new project will give them many additional advantages as well as increased revenue.

“Unfortunately, from the point of view of new writers, unless they are already proficient in the art of story writing, it will be far more difficult for them to have stories accepted in the new series but, as in the past, I will continue to help those who show promise.”

– E.J. CARNELL.

### **Editorial Comment**

The last time I made any editorial comment in *Skyrack* was earlier this year when *Nova* was flourishing and my relationship with Mr. Carnell was not. It is ironical that the reverse state of affairs is now the case and personally if it came down to a straight choice I would prefer the former. The closing down of *Nova* is a serious blow to British science fiction on two different counts. From March until the appearance of the new paperback series (and perhaps not even then), Britain will be without a vehicle of any kind for new sf shorts. Also as Mr. Carnell indicates it will henceforth be harder than ever for any new aspirant to break into the limited market. It seems obvious that paperbacks sell by using known names; any story by any new writer will have to be of exceptional quality if it is to see print. There will be no page space for experimentation and no page space which can be devoted to encouraging promising newcomers, possibly the saddest outcome of this announcement.

Let us leave the story of *Nova* itself to the historians, the statisticians and the checklist compilers. But let us briefly remember that here we had a magazine and a tradition started by the sheer tenacity of a group of fans in the late forties, how output was expanded to three magazines with an American edition in the peak period, how dozens if not hundreds of *Nova* stories have been anthologised, how dozens of *Nova*-aided new writers have become known and respected even beyond the field of British science fiction, through to the continued struggle against the rising popularity of the paper backed novel and the resultant final death throes of a recent price increase.

It is to me typical of the man behind *Nova* that he has stayed with the field

through such hard times and is, even now, not turning his back on S.F. Even more so typical is his remark, that he will still, in the face of mounting difficulties, do his utmost to encourage the newcomer wherever possible.

And what of the man himself? Edward John Carnell has been with *New Worlds* since its birth. Fifteen years a professional science fiction editor, this is the man who has stuck with Nova through peak periods and thin times, the man who is Nova, only at last to be thrown on the scrap heap of economic necessity. This is the man who has been chairman of a World Convention, the man whose example initiated the idea of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, the man who has bent over backwards to encourage even the slightest glimpse of latent talent, the man who was criticised at Peterborough for conservative editing and yet who gave us a story no one else would touch in Harry Harrison's "The Streets of Ashkalon", a man to whom British S.F. should say a sincere thank you and in short a man of whom we can be proud.

– Ron Bennett.

**Tension, Apprehension & Dissension** (a supplementary premailing to *Tensor 3*; November 1963, Langdon Jones, 36 Winscombe Crescent, Ealing, London W.5.; free to those on the *Tensor* mailing list, otherwise like *Tensor* itself, this supplement costs 1/- or 15¢) In the main this 33 page fanzine is devoted to letters on *Tensor 2*, many of which are worthy of comment in themselves. Dick Schultz, for example, forwards some neat views on convention reporting, but I can't agree with his summing up that "a person is good for only one or possibly as many as three *good* con reports." Despite Dick's assertion I don't think that I've ever agreed with him on this point, or even discussed with him. It strikes me that this is a sweeping generalisation. Walt Willis, for example, is, I am sure, worthy of writing as many excellent con reports as he may wish to write. The only reason I have kept away from con reporting in general fanzines during the past four years is that I've been covering every convention, under headings, for *Skyrack*. Also in this issue is a Lang Jones Catalogue of Creatures, a Lang Jones listing of heroic fantasy books and Lang Jones writing on cigarettes and smoking, possibly the funniest article to appear from British fandom in six months or more.

**Shangri-L'Affaires 66** (Sept 1963, the o-o of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Copies are available @ 25¢ each or \$1 for 5 from Ron Ellik or in sterling areas @ 1/8d each or 7/- for 5 from Archie Mercer, 70

Worrall Road, Bristol 8) *Shaggy* has been having its troubles of late, with a diminishing of publishing interest by editor Steve Tolliver and his associates. This issue threatens that liquidation might possibly follow. John Berry contributes advice on telling the younger child the facts of life. Fritz Leiber writes on Lovecraft. Bjo Trimble tells how Steve Tolliver found a spirited one armed bandit during a gambling trip to Las Vegas and there are the usual high standard meeting reports, book reviews and a letter column.

**Starspinkle 24** (7 Nov 63; Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90025. 3 for 25¢, or 9 for 7/6d (10/- airmailed) from Ella Parker, 43 Wm Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW 6) Ron Ellik's fortnightly news sheet is still continuing to give excellent coverage of the world scene as it comes up to its first birthday. This issue covers the recent TAFF campaign results (the ballot being headed by Wally Weber who we'll see over here at Peterborough at Easter). Ron very graciously allowed me to get into print first with those results by his cabling Ethel Lindsay his tally. Possibly the counting had tired him out, but, I'm grateful, not only for the first crack but also for the way Ron handled the deal in saving me the cost of a cable. This *Starspinkle* also covers news of the death of New York fan Dave Foley, of the Fan Awards Poll, Harry Warner's fan history project and of the fact that Redd Boggs is the new editor of *Shaggy*. This particular issue is also notable in terms of fan history in that it announces an extension of the dates set by the official committee for the duration of next September's Frisco Worldcon. The hotel is the Leamington at Oakland, California and the dates are officially 4th-7th September, with a 3rd September extension by *Starspinkle* for a ripping evening of fun and games, poker particularly. We'll see what can do in the way of coaching our TAFF Delegate.

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### **Paid Advert Section**

*The Astounding Checklist*, Part I (1930-39), 54 Pages, plastic spine, board covers. 4/6d from Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Road, Sheffield 11, or 65¢ from Leroy B. Haugrud, 118 West 33rd Street, Minneapolis 8, Minnesota, U.S.A. Fan editors please copy.

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**Change of Address Dept**, with British fandom actually kept *still*:  
Art Hayes, 512 College Street, Bathurst, N.B., Canada  
Peggy Rae McKnight, 646 N. Fair Oaks (Apt E), Pasadena, Calif.  
George Scithers (for European fans), European Research Office, 2

Rheingau Alice, Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

#### **Who's Who in British Fandom No.4. – Michael Moorcock**

Mike is one of that small, select group of fans who have bridged the gap between the old London Circle and the new, formless, informal mob who attend the Globe faithfully every first Thursday of the month. In those old days he was notable for a guitar and a petit office from which he dispensed weekly issues of *Tarzan Adventures*. Several fans, Arthur Thomson and Ron Bennett amongst them, contributed to its pages during his editorship.

Mike has been active in most aspects of fan activity, publishing a genzine *Burroughsiana* (which has since passed into the able hands of Dick Ellingsworth) and material for OMPA.

It used to be the habit for well-known fans to graduate from fandom into prodom but lately in this country the neo-Bulmers, Clarkes, Youds and Bradburys have not in the main been appearing. Mike is one of the few who has continued the old habit and he has been noted for his Elric series. The culmination of his successes with Nova Publications is that he has recently become hard-bound – a series of the Elric stories, *The Stealer of Souls* has been published by Neville Spearman, in a format as informally elegant as the author has himself become. Michael now lives in west London with his wife Hilary (who is herself a Nova contributor) and their three month old daughter. His successes have in no ways changed his love for the Good Life of S.F. fandom and we wish him well in his newly acquired professional mantle. – (GL)

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**TAFF.** Nominations for the trip to the Oakland WorldCon close at the end of this month. Arthur Thomson has already been nominated as a candidate in the campaign and it is expected that Phil Rogers, Chairman of the BSFA and Programme Coordinator of the 1962 Harrogate Convention, will also be nominated. Any others? Write Ethel Lindsay or Ron Ellik for details.

In addition to recent listing, the whereabouts are wanted, please, of Wm. D. Stuart, Ralph J. Watts and the Benford twins.

# ***Skyrack* #61, 19 December 1963**

This is ***Skyrack* Number 61**, edited and published by Ron Bennett at 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15 and dated **19th December 1963**. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. USA subscription rates are 35¢ for 6 issues, or 70¢ for six issues sent airmail. The heading, cartoon and interior illustration are by Britain's gift to the Trans-Atlantic Fund Fan Club, the originator of Atomania, Arthur Thomson. The pen picture is by Archie Mercer to whom all our thanks are due and contributions are by Keith Otter, Ted Carnell, Diane Goulding, Alan Dodd, Norman Shorrocks and Colin Freeman.

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**A Merry Xmas & A Happy New Year** to all fans! No fannish Xmas cards will be out from here. Instead, a donation has been made to Oxfam. May we suggest that you consider doing the same?

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## **More About Nova**

**E.J. Carnell**, the editor of the fast-expiring Nova Publications, was a little concerned with a viewpoint I expressed in *Skyrack* 60, that "big names" will be used to sell his forthcoming series of paperback sf, and writes:

"I have been convinced for some time that the future of the s-f short story lies in the expanding paperback field. I think Fred Pohl's *Star* series from Ballantine was unfortunately too early, *but the idea was right*. Now I have an opportunity of proving the theory and I should say that I have the wholehearted support of my next publisher, who thinks the same way as I do. Let me also try and disprove the fallacy by other publishers of always using 'big names'. Newer writers will stand just as much chance in the new series: in fact, the very first story I have selected is by a completely unknown Australian writer. However, because only half the amount of wordage will be used in the new series in the first year, it will be harder for a younger writer to get in – and those who only think in terms of action on alien worlds and general adventures in space are not likely to see an acceptance unless they come up with something really worth while... The new series *will* be a vehicle for new s-f short story writers; in fact, it will

be business as before only with a bright new shiny face – swinging in the groove, in fact, instead of in the rut. Frankly, I am tremendously enthusiastic at the turn of events and could hardly wish it to be otherwise, apart from nostalgia for all the mountains we have climbed in the past.... The writers will certainly benefit by increased payment and a very good chance of picking up extra payment through further editions and even foreign editions. One of our biggest troubles in this country is that we have never been able to pay the authors\* a comparable fee for their work and most of my success as an editor has been largely through the allegiance of authors who have written stories for our fee when they could just have well sold them in America for three times as much. I am hoping that I can now return the compliment.”

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\* The report was cut off at this point with “(continued back page)”; the rest appeared there, after the “Merry Xmas, your subscription expires ...” note below. – DRL.

### **Who’s Who in British Fandom Number Five – Jill Adams**

At the first British world convention, in 1957, the attendees found themselves confronted with something hitherto unprecedented – a girl who was apparently able to go without sleep altogether for several nights on the trot and still look just as fresh as at the beginning. The girl in question was Jill Adams, a young housewife then living in east London, of which parts she is a native.

Jill (or Gillian, to give it in full) continued to grace the fannish social life of the metropolis until husband John was transferred to Southampton and the family (including small daughter Penny) had perforce to leave the bright lights. Jill continued to come to every Con she could manage. She has had to miss approximately every other one, for various reasons – and she was also on hand as hostess for the notorious expedition that met Bruce Burn and his slate blue sausages when his boat docked from New Zealand in August 1960.

In 1962 fandom saw another side of Jill’s talents, when she accepted the post of Hon. Treasurer to the B.S.F.A., of which august body she was one of the earliest members. She is at present in the process of serving out her second year in that office, which she is doing with considerable efficiency. Whichever conventions she misses, one hopes and trusts that she’ll contrive to be present at the 1965 one. All-night fandom needs people like Jill. – (AM)

---ooOoo---

## Editorial Comments

It is ironic that at a time when I was thinking of introducing a monthly link between sf and news of the Big World Outside the world should be so devastated. The news of the demise of Nova Publications last month caused me to think that sf and fannish news is all too often presented in isolation when it could well be linked with news of the social progress (or lack of it) of the world at large. It would be worth mentioning, I felt, some of the events which have occurred in any one month in each issue of *Skyrack*. Three weeks ago, the President of the United States was assassinated. Humanity has been shocked and is speechless; the Press and commercial undertakings have speculated with shockingly raw vulturism. The heinous murder itself still cannot be fully realised; subsequent events have shown that we are, alas, still living in the world's middle ages. There is little pride in living in times like these. – RMB.

**The Castle Con.** Circulated with this issue of *Skyrack* is a flier containing information on next summer's Gerfan convention. Liverpool Group members are showing great interest in the intriguing prospects of a trip to this get together. Watch this space!

**Squeak 1** (Tony Glynn's Xmas offering, 144 Beresford Street, Manchester 14; 40pp) One of the more finely drawn pleasures of fandom is the active reappearance of a well-known name of bygone years, and if all reappearances were of the calibre of the type indulged in by Tony Glynn, one-time *Triode* artist and convention regular, then the pleasure would certainly be intensified. From the 7th and 8th fandom days of fan-pubbing for the sheer hell of it comes this excellently produced publication from fandom's favourite western writer packed with the sheer pleasure of wild exaggeration. The whole zine is well written, well laid out and excellently illustrated. No sub rate is quoted, but I'm sure that Tony will let anyone not already on his mailing list to share the fun if he's asked.

**Vector 23** (Dec 63; the official organ of the BSFA, edited by Archie Mercer and published by J. Michael Rosenblum) This is a slim, 20 page *Vector* in keeping with the policy of regular publication but in all respects it is well up to the high standard of recent issues. Philip Harbottle writes in usual thorough manner on the development of the mutant in sf and there are the usual letters, departments and reviews. *Vector* is not available to non-BSFA members and it is only fair to point out that forthcoming issues of *Vector* promise an article on Edgar Rice Burroughs, Harry Harrison on Heinlein's *Glory Road*, [Eric] Frank Russell on "The Author's Lot" and an

original short story by Ted Tubb.

Also published by the BSFA is the *Library Service Book List* which was promised for some months ago. It is easy to see exactly why the publication of this listing has been delayed for several reasons. This is naturally a bulky listing and few efforts have been spared in its presentation, something most unusual in library listings. The duplication is first rate and there are short articles by Edmund Crispin and Brian Aldiss. Special mention must be made of the Eddie Jones cover illustration, which like its *Vector* counterpart, deserves unlimited praise.

**Zenith 2** (Dec 63; published for the Birmingham SF Group by Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31. 38pp. 1/- per or 6 for 5/-). This really must be National Nostalgia Week, for it is just ten years ago that the Leeds SFA was publishing a wild fanzine called *Orbit* and if there has ever been a fanzine which “brings it all back”, then, yes, it’s the new *Zenith* (new, because many readers will readily think of the Harry Turner superzine of the same name). On the whole, Peter Weston and the Birmingham Group have learned several lessons which we in Leeds, and so many others before and since, have taken far longer to absorb. The layout, particularly in respect to illustrations, and the overall standard of duplication is most praiseworthy, but the writing is somewhat shallow and stilted, speaking in the most general terms. The promise is most certainly here and it is very obvious that there is little wrong with neo-fandom when new fanzines like this appear. It is practically impossible to list here all the items squashed into these 38 pages, but if there ever was an article to warrant a letter of comment from Norman Shorrocks, then it is the one here on space slanted stamps! Possibly the most commendable feature of all is the practice of inserting pen-pictures of the writers; introductions of this type are to be encouraged. As is this new and bubbling group.

**Point of View 2** (Dec 63; Charles Platt, 8 Sollershot West, Letchworth, Herts. 8vo; 34pp; 9d per, 2/6 for 4) Again a virtual newcomer to the field and a zine which is upholding its initial promise. (May I join Terry Jeeves in asking that the Xordvitch Learoyd series be discontinued fifthwith? This series is so far below your overall standard as to be unworthy of you.) Of outstanding merit in this issue is the evaluation of the present situation caused by the demise of Nova.

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Merry Xmas, your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_.  
Contributor \_\_\_\_\_

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**Changes of Address Dept:**

John, Humphries, 42a Alfred Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Chris Miller, 5 Clitheroe Road, London SW 9.

Alan Rispin, 18 Bewick Road, Gateshead 8 (temp. only)

Jack Wilson, 45 Park Avenue, Spalding, Lincs.

**Skyrack Xmas Competition** with apologies to *Punch*. You are invited to compile a list of useful phrases for extraterrestrials who are attending a BSFA Convention. Six phrases extracted from your listing, please. One prize, a year's subscription to *Skyrack*. Deadline for entries 31st January 1964.

**Snippets:** TAFF has kicked off its campaign between fan artist & *Skyrack's* choice Arthur Thomson and BSFA Chairman and *Skyrack's* other reader Phil Rogers. A tough decision and the promise of a riproaring campaign. Forms from Ethel Lindsay or Ron Ellik ::: EFRussell's *Call Him Dead* bought for filming by Associated Producers and Clarke's *A Fall of Moondust* bought by Falcon, who plan to "go lavishly". ::: The deaths announced this past few weeks of Aldous Huxley, C.S. Lewis, Mark Clifton and elephant boy Sabu ::: Alan Dodd: Would you let your wife marry a Beatle? Colin Freeman: I wouldn't even let my Ant marry a Beatle! ::: 71b-15ozs Alastair Ross McAulay born in Co Dublin 28 October and immediately superseded as fandom's youngest on Merseyside as (promised headline) IT'S NAP ACCORDING TO SHORROCK! Gavin Quentin (Conan) Shorrocks, 6lbs 13 ozs, born 11.30 am 22 Nov. Congratulations to all four parents and best wishes to Simone and Tony Walsh who are counting on an addition at any time ::: Diane Goulding birthday party, celebrated in two parts, the first in London 16 Nov by half of London fandom and the second in Liverpool 7 Dec with the visit of ex-Kingdon Road Alan Rispin, to Wavertree and Higher Bebington ::: SFCoL hosted by Ted Tubb recently to discuss formation of a new pro-Tubb religion! ::: Tony Walsh, 38 Saxon Rd., Bridgwater, Somerset invites 3 fans to join @ a mere 5/- preliminary registration fee, the forthcoming EasterCon in order to make up the round hundred ::: The same 100 fen might consider a little £300-per enterprise, too. With the by-passing of the new Commonwealth Cable a small Pacific island paradise (temperatures between 70 and 85, gentle rains, a shark-free lagoon, prim trees etc etc) is up for sale. The name? Fanning Island, of course!

**1964**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #62, 29 January 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* 62**, dated **29th January 1964** and published by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for six (35¢ in USA). Airmail rates: 6 issues for 70¢ or 5/-. Please make overseas money orders payable at Penny Lane Post Office, Liverpool. *Skyrack* needs a Stateside representative and applications for the post are invited. Heading and cartoon are by Liverpool's Eddie Jones and interior illustration is by Brixton's Arthur Thomson. Pen picture by Archie Mercer, nature's answer to GAFIA and news contributions are from: Archie Mercer, Ted Tubb, Colin Freeman, Ella Parker, Charles Platt, Ethel Lindsay, Sid Birchby and Ron Ellick's *Starspinkle* amongst others.

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**With the Peterborough Convention** just eight weeks away, Chairman Tony Walsh has announced that attendance fees will be reduced to conform with last Easter's rates. Several fans had written Tony to the effect that there be appeared to be little justification for raising the fees. Tony is to be congratulated on not letting himself be stampeded on this issue. After looking into the matter from *every* angle, including that of possible convention losses, he has now decided to make this reduction. Not that this will make any difference to anyone actually attending the convention, for with the 100 marker chalked up on the membership some weeks ago, this looks like being the best attended British national convention of all time. If you require details regarding membership, newsletters etc. write Tony at 38 Saxon Road, Bridgwater, Somerset.

**Castle Con 64.** The German Marquartstein Con over the weekend of 1/3 August, held in the thousand year old Bavarian castle, is attracting the attention of various British fans. Already over a dozen Liverpool Group members have forwarded bookings and London and Bristol fans (that's you, Archie) are showing keen interest. Details on holiday conventioning from Tom Schlück, Altonbekener Damm 10, Hannover 3.

**The TAFF Campaign** between Phil Rogers and Arthur Thomson is now in full swing, with four more months before the ballots are counted. Latest donations to the British treasury have been made by Archie Mercer 10/-, Bill Danner 5/-, Gary Deindorfer 2/-, Tony Glynn, Mike Moorcock, Ken Cheslin, Dick Schultz 10/- each, Peter Mabey £1, Keith Otter 15/-, Charles E Smith 11/-, Jim Linwood, Ted Ball, Jimmy Groves 5/- each, Anonymous

and Ted Forsyth £1 each, Terry Jeeves has donated 10 copies of his *Index to Astounding SF* which has to date brought in an extra 13/6d.

Forry Ackerman is understood to have turned film actor ::: Charlie Drake's new London space show opened as planned. Bernard Levin of the *Daily Mail* described Mr Drake as running around in long red gatkis ::: Limmer & Trinidad trade paper *Group News* recently ran photo of Archie Mercer ::: Wearing a tie, yet! ::: VOTE!

### **Who's Who in British Fandom. No. 6. – Byron Terence Jeeves**

Terry Jeeves has probably been continuously active in fandom for longer than any other British fan, certainly for considerably longer than either your scribe or your editor. During those many years he has served fandom well in sundry official posts, including, last year, that of B.S.F.A. Chairman.

From his wartime stint in the R.A.F. he retains a keen interest in the technicalities of both aero- and astronautics, and his tastes in sf run more to the heavy science-based stuff. This serious side of Terry is excellently counterbalanced by a strong sense of humour, expressed both in his fan writings and in his cartoons.

Terry is one of fandom's better artists, whether in the cartoon field or for more serious an approach, and his work on stencil has few equals. His "Soggies", characters originally created to be both distinctive in appearance and easy to draw, have gone pro and their antics appear regularly in a number of professional hobbyist magazines.

As well as writing and drawing, Terry publishes fanzines. He was one of those responsible for the highly successful *Triode*, has edited the B.S.F.A's *Vector* and he is a member of long tenure in OMPA. His skill at producing a neatly gestetnered fanzine is an integral part of his general artistic talent.

A schoolmaster by profession, Terry lives in his native Sheffield with his second wife, Valerie and three assorted Jeeveniles (one of each – a boy, a girl and a baby). There is also a small and friendly mongrel (female branch). Terry and Val never miss a con or similar occasion if they can possibly help it. You'll be pretty well bound to see them there in '65. – (AM)

---oooOooo---

**Beyond 3** (Charles Platt, 8 Sollershott West, Letchworth, Herts) A neat ½ flscp zine, successor to *Point of View*. 36 pages for 9d. In the main the

issue is made up of amateur fiction, about which Mr Platt makes a strong point in his editorial, particularly so as this particular fan fiction actually seems to be readable, extremely so in fact. Reviews and letters make up the issue which should definitely be tried.

I'm in receipt of issues of three favourite American fanzines, *Stefantasy* (Bill Danner, R.D.1, Kennerdell, Pa 16043), *Yandro* (Rbt & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. 25¢ or 1/3 from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts) and *Shangri L'Affaires* (Redd Boggs, 270 S. Bonnie Brae, Los Angeles, Calif 90057. 25¢ or 1/9 from Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8). Unfortunately, space precludes my treating those wonderzines in the way they deserve. And wonderzines they are, each in its own individual manner. *Yandro* for example turns up every month with material better than most fanzines print once in a year. *Shaggy* has a new editor but still possesses a west coast flavour and *Stefantasy's* off beat "For the hell of it" humour comes through as strongly as ever, though in the latest issue it takes second place to some pointed editorial comments about America's new mail service for advertisers, from which system we are also suffering. If you don't take these zines and are interested in either some excellent and entertaining general opinions and reading or in widening your knowledge of fannish lore and viewpoints you could hardly do better than get hold of any or all of these three.

**Election Year.** Great Britain and the United States go to the polls this year in General Elections, and whilst fandom isn't choosing a leader or anything of the sort, how about getting in a little practice on the enclosed flier ballot form for the fifth annual *Skyrack* poll? Once again, an attempt is being made to assess the worth of contributions made by home producers for the world sf market so why not create a little interest and spread a little egoboo along with the rest of us *and vote!* To help you, the following non-apa publications appeared from British fans during 1963: Roy Kay's *Chaos*, the BSFA's *Vector* and *Library List*, Dave Hale's *Les Spinge*, Colin Freeman's *Scribble*, Mal Ashworth's *Rot*, Walt Willis' *Hyphen*, George Charters' *The Scarr*, Lang Jones' *Tensor*, Pat Kearney's *Enfocado*, John Berry's *Pot Pourri*, Alan Burns' *Northlight*, Brian Allport and Dave Wood's *Icarus*, Charles Platt's *Point of View*, Terry Jeeves' *Astounding Checklist*, Phil Harbottle's *Fearn Appreciation*, George Locke's *East Fanglian Times*, the *Peterborough Convention Programme Booklets*, Bennett's *Fan Directory* and *Skyrack*, the Birmingham Group's *Zenith* and Tony Glynn's *Squeak*. Go ahead there, write and tell me any I've missed! But **VOTE!!!**

**Liverpool Mundac** has precluded the publication of a *Fan Directory* this year, but after 8 years of continuous publication tradition cannot be broken completely and now ready is *The Supplement to the Directory of 1962 Science Fiction Fandom*, four solid pages of additions and corrections to last year's listing, with over 70 new names listed and over 100 address changes. This supplement will be circulated to OMPA members as part of the 39th (March) Mailing. It is available to members of FAPA for 3¢ (2½d) and to other SF fans at the bargain price of 6d. Copies of the 1962 *Directory* are still available, at the reduced price of 1/- or 15¢.

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**Paid Advert** (6d per line. Address free. Circulation of 160 plus) **Section John Russell Fearn – an Evaluation**, A complete classified sf story listing, plus comprehensive fanzine and general fiction coverage. Includes, synopsis of nearly 300 novels and stories, illustrators' names, diverse data and notations, a long bio/biblio/graphic essay, letters and illustrations. 30 foolscap pages. 2/- post free. PHILIP HARBOTTLE, 27 CHESHIRE GARDENS, WALLSEND, NORTHUMBERLAND.

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**Les Spinge 12** (Jan 64 Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd. Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs. 1/6 per issue. 55pp) It may be that I'm growing old and am easily irked these days, but I get more and more annoyed by Dave's continued use of the capital I for the figure one and the continued practice of numbering right hand pages with even numbers. I make these points with conviction, for otherwise the unlimited praise deserved by the issue would make for a very unbalanced review here! The trend with LS has been constant improvement, from issue to issue. It will be interesting to read *LS 13* if this improvement is to be maintained, for to improve on *this* issue is going to be difficult. The duplicating and layout are first rate, with an excellent and sensible (and effective) use of coloured paper and coloured duplicating. The same remarks apply also in the main to the artwork, and the written material, from book reviews, through story and columns to the letter column, is always varied and interesting, and in several cases excellent. The "focal" point of the issue is the John Berry Goon story, if, like me, you are a Goon fan. For readers who prefer something a little a little more serious there are Michael Moorcock and John Baxter, to say nothing of surprisingly mature piece of column-writing from Jhim Linwood (surprising because after ten years we thought this standard of writing was never coming after all). And also present are Ken Cheslin, Terry Jeeves, Alan Burns, Roy Kay and the man no good fanzine is ever without, Archie Mercer. A good start to the year in terms of fanzine

publication.

**Change of Address Dept:**

Mervyn Barrett, 64A Clarke St., Prahran, Victoria, Australia

Dave Newman, 195 Millbrook Rd., Freemantle, Southampton.

**Snippets:** Such is Fame Dept. T.H. White died at the age of 57 on Friday 17th Jan. The author of *The Once & Future King*, on which the musical *Camelot* is based, and of *The Sword In The Stone* recently filmed by Disney, rated a six line notice in the *Daily Mail* and suffered a spelling mistake in his name into the bargain ::: Dave Hale, back at Birch Grove, Manchester, asks me to make clear that his permanent address is Stourbridge and that anyone in doubt should write to the latter ::: BBC TV Monday 6th Jan ran an *Adventure* programme featuring Mike Wilson searching for the Treasure of the Great Reef as described in *Skyrack* 58. Programme was written and narrated by Arthur C. Clarke ::: Now that the *Defenders* have been moved from a Monday viewing, the Liverpool Group hopes to have Stan and Marjorie Nuttall in attendance at a more reasonable hours ::: A toy balloon released from Bristol was picked up in San Francisco. Archie Mercer sent the cutting and asks “Any more for a Pacificon flight?” ::: 1st Feb at Pasadena is the time and place for the wedding of LASFSans Bruce Pelz and Dian Girard ::: George Scithers, DisCon Committeeman now in Europe, has recently been in London and has had his brains picked by the London in 65 Committee. See? Nothing worthwhile escapes our net! ::: US Feb *F&SF* includes a *poem* by Harry Harrison and an article on fandom (“The Fan: Myth And Reality”) by Wilson Tucker, the first of a survey which will also include contributions by Bloch and Carr ::: Grania & Avram Davidson and Bjo and John Trimble expect family additions in August and are therefore in excellent company ::: Charles Platt (address in review of *Beyond*) is running a survey on the worth of the BSFA and invites letters outlining grudges against, support for and opinions on the BSFA, a most worthwhile project. Charles also is engaged in a project for putting British fans in contact with American fans. If anyone who reads this would like a fannish correspondent on the other side of the Pond, write to Charles, mentioning side interests. UK to USA airletters cost a mere 6d and take 3-4 days, and don’t smirk Bill Danner. ::: One time-Liverpool SFS Secretary, TAFF nominee and 1957 LonCon PRO Dave Newman came out from the woodwork just before Xmas, visiting Teds Carnell and Tubb in London. Ted Tubb reports that Dave had a brand new wife with him. Well, it’s the current trend. ::: Ladies Anna Steul and Janice Samuels (and anyone else

who is similarly bewildered), last August *Skyrack* took over the subscription list of the long-lamented *Contact* and from issue 57 has been working off the ¢a\$h you paid for that worthy Belgian newsletter. If any issues have failed to reach you, please let me know.

# ***Skyrack* #63, 29 February 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* number 63**, celebrating leap year with a publication date of **29th February 1964** and edited by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues (35¢ in USA). Airmail rates: 6 issues for 5/- or 70¢. Overseas money orders should be made payable at Penny Lane Post Office, Liverpool. Cartoon on the left is by Frank Garnett and contributions this issue are from Ted Carnell, Bill Donaho, Ethel Lindsay and Brian Aldiss. The apostrophe on the back page appears by courtesy of Typographical Error Inc.

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## **Aldiss Leaves Country to Avoid Convention?**

**With Just Four Weeks** to the British SF Convention at Peterborough, British Science Fiction Association President and author extraordinaire Brian Aldiss leaves the U.K. for a seven month tour of Jugoslavia, having been commissioned by Faber & Faber to write a travel book. Margaret Manson and Brian plan to be on the 9 a.m. Dover-Boulogne ferry on Wednesday, 5th March and plan to take about ten days to get over to the border at Maribor, taking in Bavarian baroque, Tiepolo ceilings and the opera and railway museum in Vienna. Fandom's newest Travelling Giants will be on the move for virtually the whole of the seven months and plan to put in sidetrips to Greece and Bulgaria as well as touring such little-travelled areas as Bosnia and Macedonia. For the trip Brian has bought a Land Rover station wagon, which will be loaded to well above the Plimsoll line with full camping gear – tent, camp beds, stove, camping Gaz, supplies and clothing for cold and hot conditions. And, adds Brian, “an eight-man RAF rubber dinghy; fortunately the eight men are not coming with us, so we shall have a suitable boat from which to swim and dive in the Adriatic.” Best wishes, the pair of you, and *gdo je kupatilo*, yourselves!

**Fliers** this month are a TAFF publicity sheet from Ken Cheslin and a Convention auction catalogue from George Locke who should be turning up on the doorstep at any moment to spend a couple of days in Liverpool. He should have been here a couple of weeks ago – when Shetland Isles’

poker-faced brag champion Fred Hunter visited. I tell you, Merseyside is becoming a regular Parker's Penitentiary.

Most issues of *Skyrack* are still available, collectors note. Special clearance offer of 4 issues for 1/- or 15/- for any back issues prior to 1964. ::: BBC late night play ran Philip Levine's *The Disposal of Digby* on 25 Feb – a neat and humorous SF touch. ::: Have you sent in your *Skyrack* Poll yet? ::: Wally Weber, 1964 TAFF delegate lands London 19 March ::: Archie Mercer for the Doc Weir Award.

***New Writings in S-F***. As previously rumoured and now ascertained by Ted Carnell, Nova's ex-editor-elect is moving into the paperback field with a September anthology for Corgi, *New Writings in S-F*, which will have prior publication in hardcovers from Dennis Dobson Ltd. The first of the year's (from Sept) four issues will contain new stories by Brian Aldiss, Joseph Green, Edward Mackin and two new writers, Rankine Mason (British) and Damien Broderick (Australian), reports Mr C., who kindly also informed us on the following paragraph of pro-news snippets.

Aldiss' recent *The Dark Light Years* (Faber) will be published by Signet in USA in July ::: Latest Aldiss novel *Greybeard* is due from Faber in the Autumn and in USA from Harcourt, Brace & World for the same period ::: A further Aldiss (I get a %age for every mention) novel, *Earthworks*, based on the short novel *Skeleton Crew* in *Science Fantasy*, has also been completed and the sale is pending ::: Herbert Jenkins Ltd begin a new series of hardcover sf @ 12/6 in April, the first two books being *Moon Base* by E.C. Tubb (serialised in *New Worlds* as *Window on the Moon*) and a new Bertram Chandler novel, *The Deep Reaches of Space* ::: Dennis Dobson Ltd have bought *The Uncensored Man*, a new novel by Arthur Sellings ::: Gollancz have bought a new Daniel F. Galouye novel, *The Counterfeit Man*, soon to be published in USA by Bantam ::: Brian Aldiss has an anthology, *Introducing S-F*, to younger readers, coming from Faber and has also completed the third Penguin anthology ::: Geoff Doherty has a second *Aspects of S-F* coming from Murray ::: Penguin will publish Harry Harrison's *Death World* later this year. ::: Ted Carnell's first all-British anthology, *Lambda One & Others*, will be published by Berkley Books in New York this month ::: Ballantine have bought a collection of novelettes, *Deadly Litter* by James White ::: Ace, in New York, have bought two new novels by Philip High, *The Prodigal Sun*, just published, and *Occupation Force*, as well as such stories as Ted Tubb's *Moon Base*, Lan Wright's *Dawn's Left Hand*, a new Kenneth Bulmer novel, *The Demons* and Ken's Scarlet Dawn stories from *Science Fiction. Adventures*

::: Brian Ball's first sf novel, *Sundog*, has been bought by Dennis Dobson and John Rackham has two thrillers coming up, a juvenile adventure story, *Watch on Peter*, from Cape, and *The Lonely Man*, a Boardman Bloodhound under his own name. – (Phew! And thanks, Ted.)

**An Insulated Screwdriver-Handle** scotched the possibility of the headline of the year and an odd dead body or two lying about at the Liverpool Group's Bold Street clubrooms recently. Prior to the evening meeting of 17th Feb, barman Eddie Jones visited the clubrooms to stock up with liquid refreshment and discovered that there had been a break-in during the past week. Entry had been forced by way of the adjoining room's roof and there had been a little resultant havoc. The lock on the wines and spirits cupboard had been forced also, and two cans of beer had been opened but not drunk, the visitor(s) ignoring more expensive drinks. A pack of cards had been strewn about the floor (breaking Bennett's heart) and an electricity supply cable had been sawn in two, *with a screwdriver*, the fused and twisted end of which told its own tale.

**Gavin Quentin Conan Shorrock** was duly christened on 23rd February at Christ Church, Bebington, relatives and fans being in attendance. Godmother was/is Marjorie Nuttall and Godfathers were/are Stan Nuttall, John Roles, Ron Bennett, Norman Weedall and Eddie Jones. Don't ask me how; it just works out that way.

Following behind the scenes discussions with their solicitor, the Berkeley Committee for this year's World. Convention, Pacificon, has refused membership to Walter Breen, whose activities in certain areas have been viewed by some fans with an amount of apprehension, an unusual step, but one taken only after lengthy correspondence and consultation it is understood.

### **The Month's Fanzines**

**Zenith 3** (Feb 64. Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31. 1/- per copy. 20¢ in USA. 40pp) The accent here in the Birmingham Group's latest offering is decidedly science fiction, but with an enviable informal slant, which means not that I'm against S.F. thank you very much, but that *Zenith* doesn't clobber the subject to death but brings in tangential items in an interesting and welcome fashion. The feature item is an article by Peterborough GoH, Ted Tubb, on easy padding with a neat and illustrative story, something I'd have preferred to have seen in *Ploy*. Coming closely behind are articles on TV's *Dr Who* and the inspired vanities of John W. Campbell. These articles are well

illustrated by electronic stencils, as is an item on astro-philately (interesting to see you possess the somewhat rare Titov error here, boys). A reprint from *Authentic* on a decade-old Manchester fandom, reviews and letters make up an issue highly reminiscent of the good old McKay-illustrated *Space Diversions*. Highly recommended for people who like getting in on a top zine's run from the beginning.

**Vector 24** (Feb 64. The official organ of the B.S.F.A. Edited by Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8) This is not, as stated in *Zenith*, the promised all-star issue – next time, next time – but it is still both an interesting and entertaining issue, containing a lengthy article on Burroughs by Brian Rolls, a reprint article which must have come from Alberto Runge, reviews, letters and Mercatorial chitchat. The Eddie cover alone is another good reason why one should join the BSFA.

**John Russell Fearn – An Evaluation** (Philip Harbottle, 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend on Tyne, Northumberland. 2/-). This thirty paged foolscap sized checklist is a reference work in itself and is recommended as being both complete and invaluable. All copies have now been sold, but I would guess that from the demand for the Evaluation, it is highly likely that a limited reprint edition will be published, and had I not already obtained a copy I would be making quite sure that my name and money would be firmly entrenched with Mr. Harbottle.

**Haverings 13** (Dec 63-Jan 64. Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 6d) Fanzines reviewed in the Lindsay style while you wait. If you really want to keep up with the fanzine field the easy way, get *Haverings*.

**Galaxy – A Checklist of Cover Artwork** (Peter Weston, address above). A complete – er – coverage of *Galaxy's* cover illos from 1950-1958. 6d per.

**East Fangling Times Vol 2 No 3** (Edited by George Locke, this is the Peterborough Convention's Progress Report series) This issue announces the reduction in registration and attendance fees, the fact that Con membership is now up to 110 (it has since risen to over 140) and more especially the fact that the Guest of Honour this year will be E.C. Tubb. This issue was actually published in time to catch last month's issue of *Skyrack* but a postal mix up found my copy going to a former address in Harrogate. It has not been forwarded, which seems fair indication that 13 Westcliffe Grove is no longer my address and that mail sent there will not be seen by me. Take note, please! Ted, of course, thoroughly deserves this honour, being a man of ideas who has fandom very much at heart. And I

still think that his oft-anthologised “Home is the Hero” is one of the best examples of modern British sf. Here, you people, make Ted’s convention one worthy of him; buy him a drink and don’t win too much from him at poker.

**G2** or *g2* or  $G^2$  or whatever (Joe & Roberta Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Ave., El Sobrante, California 94803, USA. A snip @ 3 for 1/9 from Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks, Knaresborough, Yorkshire). This is a Build-Your-Own-Star-Chart Issue though from my own viewpoint it turned out to be a Structure-Your-Own-Headache issue. But never a dull moment, nevertheless.

**Skyrack Xmas Competition Result.** Competitors were invited to compile six useful phrases for extra-terrestrials who are attending a BSFA Convention. All entries were felt to be well up to standard, the judges being unanimous in deciding that the following was outstanding:

On the first day:

“Are you sure the exchange rate is a million credits to a shilling?”

“Well, actually it’s driven by a defranosined field of elliptical side forces controlled by staphikled trink-grasps based on the modified thrust nova, having a periodic grey frequency and a self-winding, scatter compensated elastic band.”

“You mean to tell me that thing actually stays in orbit?”

Second day at Party:

“Why does everyone scowl when I offer them a piece of this green cheese?”

“I’ll vaporize the next person to call me a damned colonial.”

And on Leaving:

“Thank you for your leader.”

– and thank you, Tony Walsh, to whom a year’s *Skyrack* subscription is awarded.

**Change of Address Department:**

Brian Allport, 26 Coningsby Rd., Liverpool 4.

Burkhard Blüm, G Frankfurt 33, Postlagernd Hbf, W Germany.

Pat Kearney, 47 Burntwood Lane, London, SW 17.

Terry Overton, 25 Templewood Rd., Colchester, Essex.

Cal Demmon, 1002 E 66th St., Inglewood, Calif., USA.

Gordon Eklund, CMR 3, Box 59/49 Travis AFB, Calif., USA.

Dean A Grennell, Rte 2, Box 441, Germantown, Wisconsin 53022, USA.

Len Moffatt, 5612½ E Gage Ave., Bell Gardens, Calif 90202, USA.

**TAFF.** With the campaign between Arthur Thomson and Phil Rogers swinging along nicely, further donations have been: Dave Barber 10/6; 10/- each from Terry Jeeves, Jim Cawthorn, Ella Parker, Ken McIntyre, Darrell Pardoe and Colin Freeman; 7/- each from Wolfie Thadewald and Alma Hill, and 5/- each from Ron Bennett and Charles Platt, most of whom have voted, boosting the UK poll return up to 21, whilst a sale of *Epitaff* brings the kitty up to £86 14s 6d.

Uncertain @ time of writing but if they arrive in time, this *Skyrack* will have fliers from Ken Cheslin, Dick Eney and George Locke in his ConComm capacity, these last named possibly having been delivered by hand by George who is at present (date of publication) visiting Liverpool and environs.

## ***Skyrack* #64, 16 March 1964**

This is, surprisingly enough, *Skyrack* 64, dated **16th March 1964** and edited by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15. 6d per copy. 2/6 for 6 issues (35¢ in USA). Airmail rates six issues for 5/- or 70¢. U.S. subscribers can send their play money (old Ron Ellik type joke) to *Skyrack*'s new representative, Bob Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Ind. 46992. Cartoon by Frank Garnett who is a better artist than my stencil cutting allows him to appear and contributions are by Sid Birchby, Harry Harrison and Mike Moorcock amongst others.

Eleven days to the Peterborough Convention... be seeing you!

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**Science Fiction Fans the World Over** will rejoice at the news that *New Worlds* and *Science Fantasy* have gained an eleventh hour reprieve. *New Worlds*, which has seen some fifteen years of continuous publication, and its sister Nova publication were due to fold this month. Both titles have now been bought by a new publisher, David Warburton of Roberts & Vinter Ltd., and will accordingly continue publication without a break.

As Ted Carnell is, however, committed to other projects, such as the new Corgi anthology announced in *Skyrack* recently, each magazine will be under the guiding hand of a new editor. Stepping into the world of professional sf is Kyril Bonfiglioli, the Oxford antiquarian bookseller, who will be responsible for *Science Fantasy*, whilst in charge at *New Worlds* will be Michael Moorcock who comes to the editorial chair via general fandom, editing *Tarzan Adventures* and the world of Elric. This is undoubtedly the most important elevation to prozine publishing since seventeen year old Charles Hornig was hired as editor to *Wonder Stories* just thirty years ago. Both magazines will have a paperback format but will retain the character of a magazine, with serials and the usual departments.

In previous years the comment has occasionally been made that stories from either *New Worlds* or *Science Fantasy* could be transferred to the sister magazine without any noticeable change in character. Whether or not this has in fact been true, it would appear that the two magazines will each now possess its own individual characteristics and will well complement the *New Writings in Science Fiction* series that Ted Cornell is supervising. *Science Fantasy* will still continue to devote space to stories of the "sword and sorcery" type and will in all probability commence

reprinting occasional stories which have not been available for some time to the general reader. *New Worlds* is likely to build its policy around the radical “breakthrough” type of story, as long as reader response warrants this experimental approach. There is also a good chance of science fact material being run in either or both of the magazines, which, will each be appearing on a bi-monthly basis.

The first of the two looks like being *New Worlds* which will appear in April and which will feature a coloured cover by Jim Cawthorn, The Delta at Sunset, an “inner space” story by J.G. Ballard, I’ll Never Let Go of Your Hand by Brian Aldiss, John Brunner’s The Last Lonely Man and a novelette with a background of galactic intrigue, by Barry Bayley.

Mike Moorcock writes, “Authors wishing to submit material would be best advised to use Ted Carnell’s agency since this will give the chance of submitting to several markets at once. Material specifically intended for me should be marked for my attention. Ted’s address is 17 Burwash Road, Plumstead, London S.E.18. The apathy which had overcome some of our more established writers with the final demise of *Nebula* should now, I hope, be dispelled. Ted, myself and Mr. Bonfiglioli are all keen to encourage new talent and the fact that there are three editors with varying tastes now in the market here should, I feel, spur on the newcomers.” Wonderful news altogether, Mike, and very best wishes for your future success with *New Worlds*

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### **We Too Get Letters from the Uncharted Corners of the World**

department, subtitled “Not only is one Peterborough convention enough for Aldiss but Reynolds and Harrison chicken out also.” Being extracts from a letter, from the U.S. Ambassador to the Rigsdag, Harry Harrison: “It can’t be done. I know that all Britain will weep tears of anguish, but we will be going to New York for three weeks at the beginning of April and I can’t squeeze in the Con as well. Your latest issue was full of facts. Some were wrong. *Deathworld* will not be out later this year, well not *that* later, but shall be published on 26th March, just in time for the Con. And tell your proofreader that that title is one word, not two. Print this correction or I’ll sue! You hear me Bennett? Curses, can’t sue – no money in fandom. Bribery, that’s the way. Hi, there, Bennett, you charming old pocket Beaverbrook, you. Correct the *Deathworld* data and I’ll give you some exclusive news. Even Ted Carnell, who knows everything, didn’t know this until I told him. The 2nd International Festival of SF Films will be held in Trieste this year from July 9th-18th. But, sob, there will be no

roundtable or book exhibition to go with it. It has been decided to have these every *other* year. To save money, I suppose. But there will be better films this year. I'll keep you abreast of further facts. ((See you do or I'll consider printing the parts of this letter I'm omitting now.)) I just got a card from Mack Reynolds who is doing a 6 month world tour on some crummy Yugoslav freighter. The postage stamp is Indian and is cancelled Fort St George. Your guess is as good as mine as to where it was sent from ((I Madras you about this sometime)). The card itself has a photograph of some jokers walking on hot coals, is titled Fire-Walking at Kataragama, is published by Ceylon Pictorials and printed in the U.S.A. Our old Buddy has inscribed it 'Having a time. Wish you were here – instead.' Some people will do *anything* for a penny a word." And thank *you*, Mr Harrison.

**Skyrack** has a new Stateside representative. Robert "Buck" Coulson, editor of the longest appearing regular monthly fanzine, FAPAN and critique extraordinaire, is one of America's best known fans and is welcomed with open arms.

## A Fortnight's Fanzines

**Scottishe** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 25pp; 1/9 or 25¢) Unnumbered and undated, *Scottishe* moves, with its 35th issue, from the limited circulation of OMPA out into the big, big world of the genzine. Much of this issue is devoted to recent remarks about Britain's attitude to the U.S.A., which are well covered in Brian Varley's up to standard article, and also in several readers letters. Ethel natters and Arthur Thomson fills up a page with some excellent illos and a little somewhat disappointing froth. Walt Willis' Warblings is made up of all that is good about fandom, a marvellous item of recommended reading.

**Beyond 4** (Charles Platt, 8 Sollershot West, Letchworth, Herts; 9d per issue, 2/6 for 4; 31pp) Mimeographed for the first time, this is a meaty issue packed with "throw-away" items that should spark a host of readers' letters. Of particular note are the symposium on the BSFA (about which quite a little notice should be taken) and the transcribed interview with Ted Carnell, which could be well be classed as a minor scoop. Not quite a deathless fanzine yet, but a near miss. (Am I *still* being too kind in my fanzine reviews?)

**Chaos 3** (March 1964; Roy Kay, 91 Craven Street, Birkenhead; 9d; 34pp) I get the impression that this is the type of fanzine which can all too easily

slip through a collector's net – it's a quiet fanzine. Or it may be that Birkenhead is, after all, overshadowed by the home of the Beatles, of football pools and of football league champions Everton just across the water. Too little is seen of Roy himself, unfortunately, but John Berry helps out to make up for the loss and there is also material from Ken McIntyre, Terry Bishop and Charles Platt.

**Frap 3** (Bob Lichtman, 6137 S Croft Ave., Los Angeles, California, 90056. 5 for \$1; 13pp; Jan-Feb 1964) A neat and slick issue, presented with care and facility and darn entertaining into the bargain. Ray Nelson contributes illos and a cookbook (!), Len Moffatt writes a script for the *Dick Powell Theatre* (polythene wrapped, vastly entertaining throughout and then leaving one up in the air and feeling... "so?"). Elmer Perdue writes on Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*, Bob himself gives advice on how to avoid traffic tickets and Greg Benford jumps in with a pip of a piece, Meyer. You guys Ed McBain fans? One of the best things to come out of American fandom for all too long.

**Yandro 132** (11th Annish and published by Buck & Juanita Coulson, RR 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. 25¢ or 12 for \$2.50. UK rates 1/3 or 12 for 12/- from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts. 49 pages this issue). The remark about *Frap* being one of the best etc etc is in no way detrimental to either the overall quality of this monthly fanzine or the especial quality of this anniversary issue. With 18 bylined items it is virtually impossible to list them all, so I'll name-drop with Tucker, DeWeese, Hickey, Pilati, Harrell, Dodd and mention the Adkins cover and the Atom illos. Heck, if you're a fan, you know *Yandro* anyway. After all, *eleventh* annish...

**Science Fiction Adventures (British Edition) Checklist.** In three parts – by author, issue and title. 1/6 from Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32.

"Daddy, daddy, come and see Manchester United on T.V."

"Not just now – I'm too busy filling in my *Skyrack* poll ballot form."

**Gerfan Notes.** Slight possibility that Rolf Gindorf will be at Peterborough, We'll know in a fortnight. This could well be Rolf's second Con in a week (an excellent thought) for the fifth Niederrhein Con takes place 21st/22nd March in Duisburg. Fan GOH is Franz Rottensteiner von Quarb of Austria and also expected to attend is George Scithers. It wouldn't surprise me if another D.C. fan dropped in also ::: *Der Spiegel* recently ran a spread on Arthur C. Clarke ::: And meanwhile the tremendous support for the

summer Castle Con in Marquartstein is building up. Held over the weekend of 1/3rd August in the 1000 year old Bavarian castle there, the Castle Con is to be attended by some dozen fans from Liverpool, by Archie Mercer and Ethel Lindsay. George Locke is the latest fan to mention an interest and anyone also out there who is thinking of combining their annual holiday with this fabulous fannish weekend should write Tom Schlück, Altenbeker Damm 10, 3 Hannover, West Germany for details or see Norman Shorrock at the Peterborough Convention.

**Snippets:** The *Skyrack* ballots continue to roll in and this could be the best return ever. Closing date is 31st March and all voting will receive a free issue of the *Skyrack* in which the results appear. If you haven't yet voted, get cracking! ::: Wally Weber, Seattle's 1964 TAFF delegate will arrive this week in London in good time for the PeterCon; Wally will be a member of the Saturday morning panel which, will discuss the question "Does Fandom Need Science Fiction?" Also on the panel will be TAFF candidates Phil Rogers and Arthur Thomson and relative newcomer Terence Bull. Ron Bennett will be chairman and will try to take notes for *Skyrack* at the same time. Hell. ::: *The Soviet Literaturnaya Gazeta* recently ran a feature supporting SF and deploring the attitude of the Union of Writers to the genre ::: NALGO's monthly paper *Public Service* recently took on a new assistant editor, none other than Wally Gillings, who, it appears apt to mention, was one time editor of *Science Fantasy*.

# ***Skyrack* #65, 2 April 1964**

This is *Skyrack* 65, dated **2nd April 1964** and edited by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (6 issues sent airmail for 70¢), where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to science fiction fans always welcomed.

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## **Quote Cards Cards Cards Cards Cards...**

### **The Sixth Annual Convention of the British Science Fiction**

**Association** was held at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, Northants., from Good Friday, March 27th to Easter Monday, March 30th. This was the second successive year that the Annual National had been held at the Bull and virtually the same number of fans attended this year as did last, 125 with a SE<sub>m</sub> of 3 points! Once again there were many new fans present, though this year the professional turn-out was somewhat disappointing, not only when compared with last year's all-time record. Under-programming allowed plenty of time for mixing socially and permitted eating under relaxed conditions. Congratulations and many thanks to organisers Ethel Lindsay and Chairman Tony Walsh for a very fine weekend.

In suspended animation since the early Kettering conventions, the phantom quote card distributor struck again this year. Under every beer-mat, in every toilet roll, along corridors, in sandwiches... there were quotecards. In the main, these fell into three categories: those supporting Phil Rogers in the current TAFF campaign, those featuring a saying or, er – a quote, and those which could be flashed in conversation or could be otherwise be used appropriately in certain naturally-occurring situations. The cards were contrived by the Liverpool Group, illustrated by Eddie Jones, duplicated by Norman Shorrocks and complained about by Alan Rispin. There were some ten thousand cards distributed in all, of which no fewer than one hundred and ninety-four were different. How many did *you* collect?\*

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\* This issue's masthead artwork included several quotes or part-quotes presumably taken from the cards: "crottled greeps... Heinz... Mr. F.Fellini 008½... shut up and deal... What does it push against?... cherry heering with ginger beer... ICTYWYBMAD?... The *new*

hidden persuaders!” – DRL.

**The Convention** was opened a few minutes late on the Friday evening by Tony “I believe in tradition” Walsh who welcomed attendees and introduced his committee. Various notable fans and authors present were interviewed by Ethel Lindsay who found the tables turned when she tried to interview James White. Ken Slater followed by giving an impromptu answer session to snap questions on s-f. This was a little disappointing in that many fans deliberately went out of their merry ways to catch Ken out, though when Ken asked for questions which perhaps posed some problem to the questioners themselves, the session was far more enjoyable and definitely more worth-while. Ask the young lady who discovered for the first time the title of a memorable story which she had come across in a pocket book lacking a cover and title page, namely *The Puppet Masters*.

**The Saturday Morning Programme** opened at ten with a panel discussion on the topic, “Does Fandom Need Science Fiction?” Surprisingly the panelists themselves, Chairman Ron Bennett, Arthur Thomson, Phil Rogers, Terry Bull and TAFF delegate Wally Weber, showed up as being anything but the experts they are reputed to be and decidedly the majority of speeches came from the floor where also the main points were raised. *Phil Rogers* felt that fandom does not need sf. *Terry Bull* pointed out that sf brings fans together but after the initial meeting their interests widen out. *Arthur Thomson* finds that sf needs fans and fans need sf. *Wally Weber* said that fandom needs sf as a recruiting device. *Ken Bulmer* noted that sf editors can run into trouble if they take notice of fans, the shrill minority, which caused *Atom* to note that if fans are the shrill minority then the authors are the skill minority. *George Scithers* who was on the Committee of last year’s Washington D.C. Worldcon (the DisCon) and who is now stationed in Germany, noted that fandom has been a source of providing many professional authors to which *Ken Bulmer* stated “Your innocence has gone forever once you have made a sale.” *Ron Bennett* reminded the audience that one reason for the founding of the BSFA was to recruit fans for fandom. *Jeff Cooper* from Cambridge noted that present day sf lacks the literary elan of the sf of the late thirties and *James White* rightly pointed out that there would be no fandom at all were there no sf to begin with. *Charles Platt* said that fans are boring when they don’t talk about sf. *Phil Rogers* felt that there was more to fandom than this. He enjoys reading westerns but he wouldn’t join a western club, therefore he must have joined a sf club for more than sf. *Ken Bulmer* pointed out that the attitude of a fan who had read much sf is

different from that of a neo who is reading sf for the first time. He asked what the newcomers felt about present day sf. *John Mejer* said that sf fell into different schools but that it was interesting to see the old timers weep every time Gernsback was mentioned. *Jeff Cooper* said that Naomi Mitchison's *Memoirs of a Spacewoman* is banal and abysmal, to which *Ken Cheslin* did not altogether agree. *George Scithers* noted that the con audience did need sf because they were actually talking about it. *Phil Rogers* remembered that old sf employed strange terms. Now that he understands this terminology, something has gone, the golden glow, the mystique... but *Ted Tubb* felt that readers read not to think but for entertainment and that present day sf is trying not too successfully to appeal to a mass audience. *George Scithers* felt that the old terms, cybernetics, moons of Mars, etc, which caused the old golden glow, are now understood by the general public and that fact is catching up sf; there are fewer topics remaining to cause the old satisfaction. *Terry Pratchett* said that good sf is still being written. The discussion eventually ran out of time and was wound up by *Ron Bennett* who felt it had been proved that science fiction needed science fiction.

**Auctioneer This Year** was Ted Forsyth of the SFCoL. With the gavel for the first time at a convention, Ted won plaudits for the brisk manner in which he moved the lots. Together the audience realised £32 10s for Convention funds, a percentage of which will most certainly be going to TAFF.

**Saturday Afternoon's Surprise Item** took the shape of Mr & Mrs Edmond Hamilton answering questions fired by the audience. Ed Hamilton said that the pace of *Battle for the Stars* was much slower than, say, *The Universe Wrecker* because it had been expanded from a short story. Leigh Brackett – yes, Mrs Edmond Hamilton (we, too, have neo-fan readers) – mentioned that *Planet Stories* was thought to be a poor magazine while it was running; the moment it folded people began to praise it. EH said that the pocket book is taking the place of the magazine. Both EH and LB felt that the pulp would never return. Asked about their first interest in sf, Ed said that he began to imitate Merritt's style through admiration and found that it sold. Leigh said that at school she was good at expressive work, tried pro writing at 13, didn't sell for ten years. Ed felt that more factual work will be written. Jim Groves pointed out that more scientists are now writing sf. Ed answered a question from Ethel Lindsay, that his favourite self-written story was "What's It Like Out There?" which was written in 1933 and sold thirty years later. Leigh likes *The Long Tomorrow*. Of each

other's stories, Ed likes Leigh's *The Fall of the Free Winds*\* and Leigh likes Ed's "What's It Like Out There?" and *The Star Kings*. Sid Birchby told of being given a copy of *The Star Kings* by Ted Carnell only to find that the book was the French edition. He bought a French dictionary so that he could read it and had thoroughly enjoyed it! John Roles asked about a Hamilton anthology which had appeared in the UK, *The Horror on the Asteroid*. Ed said that there was no US edition and that the book must be pretty rare by now. This collection of stories from *Weird Tales* had been his first hard cover book, though the royalties had been so small that he had been paid in postage stamps.

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\* Presumably *Follow the Free Wind* (1963). – DRL.

**Saturday Evening** found a bar erected in the con hall with home made brew provided by the Merseyside Winemakers' Society flowing freely for all comers. The fancy dress competition was judged by Leigh Brackett, Edmond Hamilton and Michael Moorcock against the undersea theme backdrop which had been designed by a highly talented twelve year old, namely Ken Slater's son. Susan Slater, Ken's daughter, was determined not to be left out of the honours and carried off the prize for the most beautiful costume. Harry Nadler's monster costume took the prize for the most BEMish costume, this for the second year in succession. The award for the best fantasy costume was won by Ian and Betty Peters for their representation of Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser. Phil Rogers won the prize for the best sf character in his guise as one of Vance's Miracle Masters. Tony Walsh took the Judges' Award but as he was on the Con Committee he felt that he could not really accept this so promptly awarded the prize to the judges! A good swinging fancy dress party.

**At the Sixth Anniversary A.G.M. of the British Science Fiction Association** held on the Sunday morning the new Committee for the forthcoming year was elected as Chairman: Ken Cheslin, Vice-Chairman: Roy Kay, Secretary: Rod Milner, Treasurer: Charles Winstone and Publications Officer: Roger Peyton. Thus for the first time since the formation of the Association a Committee is formed entirely from fans who have entered fandom since that very formation. The age for Committee members to hold office was dropped from 21 to 18. Ken Slater proposed a raise in subscription rates and Terry Jeeves asked whether an instalment system for paying dues might be practicable and might at the same time bring in a little extra money if deferred payments were on a slighter higher rate. The advertising situation was reviewed, as Nova, who have in the past donated adverts free, is no longer continuing and Roberts

& Vinter are not including interior adverts. Ella Parker mentioned that at one time the BSFA was running a London Underground advert, the cost of which was a penny a day. Ken Slater said that he had had more information on books from one issue of *Zenith* than from a year's supply of *Vector*, a point for the consideration of the new committee. Jim Groves, an ex-publications officer, volunteered to run the new information service and finally, the award was made of the annual BSFA trophy, namely the Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award. No one was in the least surprised when the Award winner was announced as the richly deserving *Vector* editor, Archie Mercer, who thanked the audience and spoke of his own and fandom's association with the late "Doc" in a short speech which was probably the weekend's best.

**It Was Silent Sunday** for *Skyrack* editor Ron Bennett when an old throat complaint made an unwelcome reappearance at a most inappropriate time. On Good Friday morning I had woken up with a slight sore throat, but this quickly disappeared during the morning. It reappeared on the Saturday and during the day my voice began to tail off. I woke up on Sunday to find that I could whisper – if I shouted! The sore throat which had now disappeared came back again on the Monday, by which time my voice was beginning to return. On the Tuesday I was running a temperature and could neither talk nor stand. I'm now recovering both strength and voice, thanks, but if you find pillows, sheets, feathers or hot water bottles stapled in with this issue, you'll know why. There are, it has been said, two types of fans, the talkers and the listeners. As it may possibly be said that I fall into the former category, it will probably be understood why this was not a particularly enjoyable convention day for me. Indeed, it was a somewhat disappointing convention as conventions go. Blame this, please, on my throat-coloured outlook and not the Con Committee if you disagree with me, as I'm sure you will.

**The Sore Throat** had its funny side, however, for in the majority of cases when I whispered to someone, *he* would whisper back! At the BSFA AGM, Ken Cheslin bid for next year's convention on behalf of the Birmingham group and Ethel Lindsay bid on behalf of myself for taking the con to Harrogate. This was lack of foresight on my part; I had declined to make a bid through *Skyrack* thinking that a) I'd save space and b) I would be able to put over the advantage of a holiday weekend far better in person. Ha! Voting took place during the day, the result being announced in the evening. Ladies and gentlemen, next year's Easter convention will be held in Birmingham. The Committee and hotel (the Imperial?) will be

announced later, but with over fifty members already registered, you are advised to send your registration fee of 5/- to Ken @ 18 New Farm Rd., Stourbridge, Worcs. as soon as possible.

**In Last Year's *Skyrack*** conreport, I included the short quote, "Five teas and send them to bathroom four" and well, traditions like this have to be kept up! At one point during the weekend (yes, I remember. It was Saturday afternoon), I was playing brag with Norman Weedall, Norman Shorrocks, Eddie Jones and Phil Rogers *in bathroom 4!* Norman S., picked out the appropriate quote card from his stamp wallet and sent down to the desk for...

**Films Were Shown** on the Saturday afternoon, the main feature being the fairly recent *The Day The Earth Caught Fire* which was supported by the very popular Goon vignette *The Running, Jumping & Standing Still Film*. On the Sunday afternoon the "Alien" group from Salford, Manchester, which was attending its second con., put on a show comprising the films made by the group since last year's convention. Now, we've *all* seen amateur films before and we know how overplayed any story can be, how forced any would-be humour can be, etc etc. I'm happy to report that *these* films proved to be the exception to the generalisation. Some of the effects employed by the Group are superb and could well serve as a lesson for many professional companies. When the lights went up at the end of the show, I caught Ella Parker's eye, which wasn't hard because *she* was looking at *me*. We nodded enthusiastically and the upshot is that the Group will be showing some of their works at the London Worldcon in '65, granted of course that our bid goes through. The Group also repeated the show here late at night by unanimous request and added a further item not included in the afternoon showing.

**Lan Wright** took the chair at the professional authors' "Tribute to Nova" which naturally combined itself with a tribute to Ted Carnell. Wright told the audience of the beginnings of *New Worlds* as a fanzine which later became a prozine under Pendulum Publications which handled the first three issues. Of the pre-Nova authors, only William F. Temple is still writing today. With issue number 3 came the first of the Carnell encouraged writers, namely Francis Rayer. The following issue found Ernest James and Bertram Chandler in print for the first time, being followed in turn shortly afterwards by John Christopher and artist Gerard Quinn. Ted Tubb made his first appearance in *New Worlds* 10 with a 4,000 worder called "No Short Cut". Wright himself had first sold with a story in number 13 and issue number 16 had seen the first *New Worlds* serial,

M'Intosh's *S Worlds*\*. Ken Bulmer had first appeared in issue number 23.

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\* *Sic*, but should read *The ESP Worlds*. – DRL.

Ted Tubb spoke of the manner in which Ted Carnell had gained a reputation for giving encouragement to new writers, by which he had gained the loyalty of those writers. Ken Bulmer supported this, saying that Carnell has done more for British fandom than anyone else. Carnell's maxim has always been "Give the boy a chance and he'll improve." Also grateful to Carnell's encouragement was E.R. James, who though unable to be present himself, sent a message for the Appreciation. Mike Moorcock, who has taken over Carnell's *New Worlds* editorial chair after Carnell's recommendation spoke of the strong bond between Carnell and his writers, and also of how Carnell had once written to cheer him about a story he had written; Carnell had said how much he had liked and enjoyed the story which had encouraged Mike immensely. Only later had he discovered that in fact Carnell had not liked the story!

Lan Wright closed the 20 minute tribute with the good wishes for Carnell's future ventures, coupled with success for Michael and *New Worlds*, a sentiment heartily echoed by the gathering.

**Thank You for Convention Greetings** you people who couldn't attend. There were telegrams from Eric & Margaret Jones and from the entire LASFS. In addition Dave & Ruth Kyle phoned from New York, directing their call through Norman Shorrock. They deliberately left their call until 4pm Sunday as they guessed that at that time he would be out of bed.

**Sunday Evening Saw Guest of Honour E.C. Tubb** speak about his writing life and answer questions on the same. Ted said that these days publishers do not need new authors, but merely knock the dust off 20 year old novels and reprint them. He would take up editing again given the chance. There are but few full time sf writers now. Some writers are better when forced to write, some not. Selling a story depends on more than merely quality, Ted said, for example a 2000 worder is virtually a waste of time, however good. Ted told the packed hall that his happiest sf moment was his first sale in 1950 and that he had been translated in several languages. This was quite an informal chat, rather than a "speech" and personally I could have listened all night.

**TAFF Delegate** Wally Weber set a new level in individual mixing. Wherever there was a programme item, a group nattering etc., there was Wally, complete with notebook and/or mini-tape recorder. Unobtrusively

he got around and he ensured that he was not cornered by any one fan or group for too long a time. On two different occasions I saw him refuse to leave both a programme item and a group of neos to go off somewhere or other with bigger names. A very refreshing individual, as we well knew he would be. His report, I understand, will first appear in *Cry*. Wally stayed with Ella Parker and the Willises in Belfast before coming to the con. He followed Ron Ellik's fine example of travelling from the con with Val and Terry Jeeves and it is believed that there is a chance that he will be visiting L'pool.

**The Con Programme Booklet** was quite a fine affair produced by Arthur Thomson. Chinese restaurants were again favoured by the majority of attendees, though the food in the hotel was greatly superior @ the same price. Michael Turner of Birmingham very nicely quipped to me, when the voting for the next year's consite had been decided 27–26 in favour of Brum over H'gate, "I hear you voted 25 times for Birmingham." Eddie Jones carried off the Convention's art award, and the SFCoL art award was presented to Michele Jakubowovicz. Room parties were at a premium, though I did hear of one at which a bed had been moved out into a corridor... Last year much was said about fans who invaded room parties, drank liquor and left when the wine stopped flowing... So! George Locke and I toured corridors for two nights, laden with gin and looking for takers... c'est la guerre!

**Congratulations** to Jhim Linwood who married Marion Lansdale, Wed 25th March in Hampstead. The couple attended the con in quiet style without broadcasting the good news :: And congratulations, too, to Liverpool's 18 year old John Ramsey Campbell, whose \$4.10 story and 207 page anthology *The Inhabitant of the Lake* has just been published by Arkham House.

# ***Skyrack* #66, 4 April 1964**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter – 5th Annish**

This is *Skyrack* number 66, a fifth birthday issue dated 4th April 1964, and published by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35 cents for six issues in the USA (70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to sf fans always welcomed, as is the return of Arthur “Atom” Thomson with the heading and cartoon this issue.

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### **A Tie**

**It's No Use.** I've tried hard, but even after counting the ballot forms three times, I've got to admit that the unlikely event of a tie for first place in the Best Fan Publication section of the *Skyrack* 1963 Poll has indeed occurred. *Skyrack* and *Hyphen* are joint leaders with 191 points each, though I've tried hard to slip in a few extra points for *Sky* here and there!

The actual return was disappointing. 29 worthy fans voted, a slightly larger number than last year, but it should be remembered that over 200 forms were distributed this year, the OMPA mailing being circulated in addition to *Skyrack*'s mailing list of 160 list. The top three fanzines were in the lead from the first ballot papers in, though the actual lead changed hands several times. The 28 good people who voted, apart from myself, were: Brian Aldiss, Jill Adams, John Baxter, Sid Birchby, Redd Boggs, Terry Bull, Ken Cheslin, Buck Coulson, Tony Dupla, John Foyster, Colin Freeman, Keith Freeman, Phil Harbottle, John-Henri Holmberg, Terry Jeeves, Eddie Jones, Ethel Lindsay, Jhim Linwood, Ken McIntyre, Archie Mercer, Michael Moorcock, Ella Parker, John Roles, Dick Schultz, Norman Shorrocks, Peter Singleton, Charles Smith and Desmond Squire. Special thanks are due to Sid Birchby, Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker and Norman Shorrocks whose names have been on this listing for every one of the five *Skyrack* polls.

The actual meagre return forces one to ask the question, “Is there any point

in continuing with the poll in future years?" and opinions are solicited on this matter.

It was the intention, following the clean sweep in former ballots of *Bastion* covers carrying the Best Cover section, to announce that *Bastion* 4 had won the same section this year too, despite the fact that the magazine made no appearance in 1963. The temptation was resisted.

*Skyrack* first appeared on  
4th. April 1959, following the  
BSFA con held in Birmingham.

**The 1963 *Skyrack* Poll**, covering the field of British fan activity during the entire year, January-December, 1963.

### **The Best British Fan Publication of 1963**

1. *Hyphen* (Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. 1/- or 15¢. Irregular) 191 points. 2nd last year.  
*The Skyrack Newsletter*. 191 points. 1st last year.
3. *Les Spinge* (Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs. 1/-. Irregular but frequent) 148 points. 6th last year.
4. *Scottishe* (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey. 1/9 or 25¢. Quarterly) 96 points. 5th last year.
5. *Vector* (Official organ of the BSFA. Edited last year by Jimmy Groves and then by Archie Mercer) 95 points. 7th last year
6. *Scribble* (Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks, Knaresborough, Yorkshire. 6d or 10¢. Infrequent of late) 68 points. 8th last year.
7. *Pot Pourri* (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. Published for SAPS) 64 points. 15th last year.
8. *Zenith* (Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31. 1/- or 20¢. Very frequent). 59 points. Unplaced last year.
9. *Squeak* (Tony Glynn, 144 Beresford Street, Manchester 14. Unpriced. One issue only) 56 points. Unplaced last year.
10. *Tensor* (Lang Jones, 36 Winscombe Crescent, Ealing, London W.5. 1/- or 15¢. Irregular.) 51 points. Unplaced last year.

Out of last year's top ten are Eric Bentcliffe's and Norman Shorrock's *Bastion*, Ella Parker's *Orion* and *Parker's Peregrinations* and Bobbie Gray's *OMPazine*, *Vagary*.

Runners-up this year are: 11. *Astounding Checklist* (Jeeves) and *The Scarr* (Charters) each with 47 points, as is Hunter's *Outpost*, 14. *The Peterborough Convention Booklet* (produced by Eddie Jones) with 35

points, 15. Roy Kay's *Chaos* with 29 points, 16. *Enfocado* (26 points), 17. *Points of View/Beyond* (23 pts), 18. *Rot* (22pts), 19. *The BSFA Library List* (21 pts) and equal 20. *Icarus* and *The John Russell Fearn Appreciation*, each with 15 points.

It is realised that any fanzine which conducts a poll is going to have returns weighted in its favour, and accordingly this poll must be seen to be a moral victory, at the very least, for *Hyphen* whose publishing staff wins everyone's most deserved congratulations.

### **The Best Individual Fanzine Feature of 1963**

For the third year in succession, 13 different items were listed, though this year there was no tie in this section, the Willis convention report *The Harp Stateside* in *Hyphen* winning hands down.

### **The Best Fan Column of 1963**

Now here there was a tie, as in 1960. Brian Varley's "Machiavarley" column tied with Walt Willis' "Warblings", both columns appearing in *Scottishe*.

### **The Best Fan Artist of 1963**

Once again, the big three took the first three places, the section being won for the fifth year in succession by Arthur Thomson (13 points). 2nd was Eddie Jones (8 pts) and third was Jim Cawthorn (6 pts).

### **the best fanzine cover of 1963** (yes, it should be capitalised)

Jim Cawthorn's illustration for the cover of *Les Spinge* 11 won hands down.

### **The Year's Best Fanzine Report**

It should surprise no one to learn that Walt Willis' Chicon report in *Hyphen* came in streets ahead of every other report, polling more votes than all other entries together.

### **The Best Professional Magazine of 1963**

The winner of the previous four polls was here pushed into second place, being beaten by its sister magazine. 1. *Science Fantasy*. 2. *New Worlds*.

### **The Year's Best Professional Feature**

Once again this proved to be a popular section in the poll, with no fewer than eighteen stories and featured being listed. For the second year running, this section was won by the Guest Editorials in *New Worlds*.

### **The Best Professional Writer of 1963**

Brian Aldiss won this section for the second year in succession, polling

twice as many votes as did his nearest rival, J.G. Ballard.

### **Leading Fan Personality of 1963**

Again, hardly a surprise here, with “Doc” Weir Award winner Archie Mercer taking first place to Ethel Lindsay’s second.

### **The Best British Writer of 1963**

1. Walt Willis (75 points) Retains his first place of the last two years
2. John Berry (44 points) Retains his second place of the last two years.
3. Brian Varley (29 points) 5th last year, jointly with Colin Freeman.
4. Colin Freeman (24 points) joint 5th last year with Brian Varley.
5. Archie Mercer (22 points) 9th last year, jointly
6. Fred Hunter (20 points) Joint 9th last year.
- Ethel Lindsay (20 points) 3rd last year.
8. Ron Bennett (11 points) Unplaced last year.
9. George Locke (10 points) 7th last year. That’s what pro-writing does!
10. Philip Harbottle (8 points) Unplaced last year.

Out of last year’s top ten rating are those sadly missed ladies, Ella Parker and Bobbie Gray.

Once again, that’s it for another year. And many thanks indeed to all who voted. Several of you asked for a complete listing of past winners, so briefly, here it is.

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	<b>1959</b>	<b>1960</b>
Fanzine	<i>Aporrheta</i>	<i>Orion</i>
Fan Feature	<i>The Goon Goes West</i>	How To Draw Curly Monsters/T.G.G.W.
Fan Column	Inchmery Fan Diary	Specs/I.F.D.
Fan Artist	Atom	Atom
Fanzine Cover	<i>Aporrheta</i> (AT)	<i>Bastion</i> (EJ)
Fan Report	<i>Goon Goes West</i>	Berry/Parker/Mercer
Pro-mag	<i>New Worlds</i>	<i>New Worlds</i>
Pro-feature	—	—
Pro-writer	—	—
Fan Personality	—	—

Fan Writer	Berry	Berry
	<b>1961</b>	<b>1962</b>
Fanzine	<i>The Atom Anthology</i>	<i>Skyrack</i>
Fan Feature	How I See It	How I See It/Natterings/ <i>Hyphen</i> quotes
Fan Column	The Harp that Once or Twice	Scribblings
Fan Artist	Atom	Atom
Fanzine Cover	<i>Bastion</i> (EJ)	<i>Bastion</i> (EJ)
Fan Report	Aldiss & Heaven Too	<i>Parker's Peregrinations</i>
Pro-mag	<i>New Worlds</i>	<i>New Worlds</i>
Pro-feature	—	<i>New Worlds</i> Guest Editorials
Pro-writer	—	Aldiss
Fan Personality	—	E. Parker
Fan Writer	Willis	Willis
	<b>1963</b>	
Fanzine	<i>Hyphen/Skyrack</i>	
Fan Feature	The Willis Con report	
Fan Column	Machiavarley/Warblings	
Fan Artist	Atom	
Fanzine Cover	<i>Spinge</i> (JC)	
Fan Report	Willis in <i>Hyphen</i>	
Pro-mag	<i>Science Fantasy</i>	
Pro-feature	<i>New Worlds</i> Guest Editorials	
Pro-writer	Aldiss	
Fan Personality	A. Mercer	
Fan Writer	Willis	

**Change of Address:** Jhim & Marion Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts.,

Netherfield, Notts.

**The Fifth Annual Niederrhein Con** was held in Duisburg over weekend (?) 21/22 March. Idealist Dieter Steinseifer was awarded a mock scroll as “Fan of the Year”, but refused to accept and spoke seriously against such “foolish” undertakings as the real scroll was awarded to Rolf Gindorf.

GoH was Franz Rottensteiner and organiser Franz Ettl spoke of plans to hold the first German fancy dress party at Marquarstein’s August Castle Con. Some 45 fans attended the Duisburg con, amongst them Tom Schlück, Rolf Gindorf, Burkhard Blüm, Mario Kwiat, Thea Grade and Wolfgang Thadewald, all of whom: thanks for the cards. A stamp portraying Ringo Bach, indeed! Sounds almost Welsh!

**For the Record**, congratulations to Sarah Marie Walsh, born 18 Dec 63 and weighing 7 lbs 12 oz for possessing such nice parents. Still, can we expect less from convention chairmen?

**Stop Duper:** A full set of RePeterCon Quote Cards can be yours! All 194 without the agony of searching beneath carpets! 5/- or \$1 per set on card. Reduction of 1/6 or 20¢ if 100 cards accompany order. From Norman Shorrocks or Ron Bennett. All profits go to TAFF. Limited card on hand. Buy now.

## ***Skyrack* #67, 5 May 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* 67**, dated **5th May 1964** and published by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15, England. 6d per copy. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (70¢ for six issues sent airmail) where subscriptions may be paid to Sky's new representative, Bob Coulson (yes, he thanks everyone who asked and says that he is recovering slowly), Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to fans always welcomed. Publicity illo over there by Hollywood FAPAn, William Rotsler and contributions by Ella Parker, Ken Slater, George Locke, Bruce Burn, Joe Navin, Alan Rispin, Ethel Lindsay, etc etc.

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**TAFF:** There is less than a month to go in the current TAFF campaign between Phil Rogers and Arthur "Atom" Thomson. As much as I admire Phil and appreciate the great service he has given to fandom (1962 Harrogate Programme Chairman, 1963-64 Chairman of the BSFA etc etc), I am firmly behind Arthur, who is probably the greatest personality per se in the realm of fanzine fandom. But... whichever way you prefer to vote, do just that – VOTE!!! Voting forms, information etc, are obtainable from either Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield, Los Angeles, Calif. 90025, USA or from everyone's sister, Ethel Lindsay, whose address is given elsewhere. Latest donations to the British TAFF treasury have been Walt Willis, Madeleine Willis, Jill Adams, D.G. Small – 10/- each; Joe Navin, Arthur Thomson, Bob Shaw, Betty Peters, Ian Peters, James White, Ian McAulay, Eric Bentcliffe, Wendy Freeman, Keith Freeman – 5/- each. IPSO donated £17. Ken Cheslin sent 16/- and the PeterCon Hum & Sway session organised by Ted Tubb and Ken Bulmer realised £2.14/-, to bring the total up to over £113.

**U.S.A. TAFF Delegate** Wally Wastebasket Weber left the con with Terry & Val Jeeves, later visiting Eric & Beryl Bentcliffe and Ken Cheslin who was supported by a large Midland gathering. Wally then came on to Liverpool, taking in a football match and a ten pin bowling session (yes, Wally won – easily!). From there it was down to London, where he and Ella Parker both produced a random *Cry* and were taken gliding by SFCoL expert George Locke. Wally left London 16 April @ 1.30pm, arriving in Seattle, according to *Starspinkle*, ten minutes later @ 1.40pm. Sheesh! Roll on the '65 London Worldcon when we can have him back with us.

**Alien 8** (April 1964; Harry Nadler, 5 South Mesnefield Road, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs; 1/-) Devoted chiefly to fiction and articles on monster fandom. Tony Edwards writes a factual science article, Harry Nadler re-lives filming experiences and Clive Fowkes reviews *Children of the Damned* from which film are included a quartet of stills. I like the slick, contained approach of *Alien* but it possesses in the main a specialised appeal which does not truly mesh with my own.

**A Child's Garden of Olaf** (Easter 1964; Mike Higgs, 138 Barrows Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham) 60 cartoons featuring Viking Olaf from fandom's latest artistic acquisition. The hurried execution (publication in time for the PeterCon) shows through in places, particularly in grammatical errors in captioning. Olaf would have made more impact, I feel, had he been introduced gradually, spread out over several genzine appearances; as things stand, he strikes one as a poor fan's Andy Capp, in omnibus form. A pity, for artist "Mik" deserves better treatment. # From the same source comes a slim foolscap *The Miktoon Pamphlet*.

**Nadir 2** (March-April 1964; Charles Winstone, 71 George-Road-, Erdington, Birmingham 23) Slim personal fanzine, with limited circulation.

**The Kencon** (Peter Weston, address elsewhere) 6 page, oneshot covering Wally Wastebasket Weber's wild Worcester weekend.

**Science Fiction Adventures – a checklist** (Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Road, Birmingham 32) An excellently produced coverage of SFA BRE's. No price stated, unfortunately.

**E.C. Tubb – an Evaluation** (Philip Harbottle, 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland; 1/6) Article on this year's Convention GoH, a checklist of novels, a pen name listing and a little artwork thrown in for good measure. Not quite as thorough as the compiler's previous project, on J.R. Fearn, but still highly recommended.

**Haverings 14** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 9d) *The Do-it-yourself fanzine checklist*. If you're a fanzine fan who doesn't get *Haverings* you're only half-alive. (Ethel, gal – yes, they're all dead) (Note to readers: this is esoteric humour. Forgive us)

**Scene 1** (Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW 2) 1st issue of the SFCoL's new monthly newszine, being concerned primarily with plugging the 1965 London WorldCon (As though it *needs* plugging. It's almost as pointless as saying "Atom for TAFF" – sit down,

Alan Shorrocks). This first sheet is notable for an excellent one page write up of the Griglin.

**A Note for the New Wave.** Any fanzine is protected by international copyright under the 1891 Act if it is lodged with the British Museum. *Skyrack* is so copyrighted. Whilst there is no copyright on facts themselves, when any facts are reproduced after having been gleaned from *Skyrack* a note to that effect would be appreciated. Items in *Skyrack* are not to be reprinted unless specific permission is given. This does not apply to *Starspinkle* and *Science Fiction Review* who may take items from *Skyrack* and use them as the editors think fit. Well now, Charles Platt?

**Congratulations, Congratulations and Congratulations.** Engaged this past month are Dave Hale and Margaret Thompson, Brian Jordan and Barbary Coast Callard, and Bruce Burn and Eileen Lyster.

**Vector 25** (March 1964; Official organ of the BSFA, edited for the last time by Archie Mercer and published, also for the last time, by Michael Rosenblum, to whom all fandom is grateful for a well done job during the past year). This all star issue is a little disappointing in that, whilst the items in this issue are quite good, they are no better than recent articles by non-star names. For collectors, the names concerned are Ted Tubb, Eric Frank Russell and Harry Harrison. Jean Graman slips in with a piece on Russian sf and there are letters and the usual departments.

**Hyphen 35** (April 1964; Walt and Madeleine – not only do I mention you at times dear lady, but I also take the trouble to spell your name correctly – Willis at 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 1/- or 15¢) American quarto again which naturally signifies another installment of the WTAF Stateside trip. There's 10 pages of it this time, a BoSh Glass Bushel, letters and the back cover quotes. Merely recommended in an offhand manner as a 100% *must*.

**Zenith 4** (Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31; 1/-) Highlight of this neatly produced April-May issue is the range of artwork reproduced by electronic stencil, the Finlay illustration being particularly worthy of note. Alan Dodd looks at Russian aliens, H. Beam Piper makes a surprise appearance to look into the future, John Berry writes a story, Philip Harbottle surveys the sf art of prewar days and there are departments on books and fanzines (including a short bibliography of Corgi sf). Not the best of fanzines but invaluable for its book news.

**Beyond 5** (April 1964; Charles Platt, 8 Sollershott West, Letchworth,

Herts; 1/3) New wave fanzine number two and kicking off with a four page Petercon report. Most of the issue is devoted to fiction but Peter White contributes a good article on J.G. Ballard and the editor writes a good book review article. Editor Platt seems to have modified his approach to fandom somewhat with promising results. (A rider to this is that he'll do even better when he ceases to speak authoritatively for the whole of fandom, his blast at the Delta convention films being a particular case in point)

**Cry 173½** (April 1964; Wally Weber, Box 92, 507 3rd Ave, Seattle, Washington 98104, USA) Produced while Wally was incarcerated at the Parker Penitentiary, about 50% a hoax issue and about 50% genuine for-the-sheer-fun-of-it contributions. The sort of spontaneous ebullience that makes fandom worthwhile.

**Les Spinge 13** (May 1964; Dave Hale & Ken Cheslin, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs this issue 2/3d) A high price, but with 100 pages packed with assorted goodies, who can squawk? Dave reminds me that in my last *LS* review I mentioned that it would be difficult to improve on *LS 12*. This latest melange is decidedly better in its overall standard of writing and of course there is a deal more of it this time. Ken Cheslin contributes a better, more restrained, column, Walt Willis recalls "A Day in San Francisco with Ethel" (the best fanzine article I've read in some four or five years), George Locke recalls Fred Hunter's visit to London, Mike Moorcock reviews books and films, Colin Freeman escapes from *Stefantasy*, Alan Burns writes on punishment, Sheila Barnes is brainwashed by Ella Parker, Archie Mercer goes coy, Charles Smith conreports, John Berry fictionalises, Jim Linwood tears off his rose coloured glasses... etc etc. (One of the etceterae is a brilliantly factual piece by Ian Peters on the North American Indian) and there is artwork by Cawthorn, Jones, Thomson, oh, even Bill Harry. Decidedly a superb issue, and dare I say it? – how are you going to improve on *this* one?

**Change of Address:**

Richard Mann, 131 Belt Road, APO 845, New York, New York 09845, U.S.A.

**Snippets:** Last with the news, in all probability! *Skyrack* will *not* be rushing to print the TAFF results on 1st June. This breaks a long tradition, but while I consider fandom a way of life, exams are a living death and I have a series of finals to look forward to June 3-6. Accordingly, it doesn't matter if the BSFA Library falls on you – there won't be another *Skyrack*

until after 6th June! ::: Bruce Burn marries 30th May in Tauranga – many thanks for the invitation ::: Sheffield party 11th April to celebrate the engagement of 1961 MiniCon planner, Brian Jordan, attended by Alan Rispin, Val & Terry Jeeves, Chris & Jennifer Miller ::: Hugo nominations are closed. Amongst the names and stories listed amongst the final nominees are British prozine *Science-Fantasy*, fanzines *Amra*, *ERBdom*, *Yandro* and *Starspinkle*. Nominated amongst the novels is, of all things, *Glory Road*. ::: Doss in the Schloss. Latest probable attendees for the Marquartstein August Castle Con are Simone & Tony Walsh and Swedish fan Sam Lundwall. ::: Swedish issue of *Fanac* no. 6 in from “Carl Brandon”. ::: Allen & Unwin publish Tolkien’s *Tree & Leaf* on 28th May. Cloth bound @ 10/6 or paperbacked @ 5/-. Contains an essay on Fairy Stories and “a strange, original tale” called “Leaf by Niggle”. ::: Ken Slater reports that Bruce Montgomery spent an interesting two seconds on Easter Sunday breaking his arm ::: Rugby School has formed a Fantasy & S.F. Society. President is Peter Alderson Smith, Jettyfields, Braunston, Nr. Rugby ::: *Sunday Times* 19 April ran verse by R.M. Bennett. *This R.M.B.* is not guilty ::: *New Worlds SF* 142, the first under the Moorcock administration due anytime, pocket book format, and @ a reduced cost of 2/6d ::: International Apa being formed by Kris Carey, 1016 - 2nd St., Wasco, Calif 93280. ::: N3F Short Story contest winner, “The Ticket” by Frances Hall, bought by Pohl for July *If* ::: Allan Lerner (*MFL* and *Camelot*) writing \$5 million film musical based on Dr Dolittle ::: TV: Hitchcock show 12 March featured Bradbury’s “The Jar”, *Detective* 30 March ran Crispin’s *Moving Toyshop* featuring Richard “Victor Caroon” Wordsworth as Gervase Fen, *Dr. Who* is still time travelling and in *The Outer Limits* programme of 23rd April, *It Crawled Out of The Woodwork* (Voodvork?) by *Psycho* screenplay writer Joe Stefano, the villain was called Bloch ::: S.E. Essex Technical College recently banned *Village of the Damned*.

# **Skyrack #68, 12 June 1964**

This is **Skyrack 68**, dated **12th June 1964**, published by Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree, Liverpool 15 and just about the last on the scene with the TAFF results. 6d per copy. 6 issues for 2/6d or 35¢ (70¢ airmail) in the USA where subscriptions should be sent to Rbt. Coulson, RR 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to ye good old sf fandom is always welcomes and the cartoon on the left is by neo-émigré, Arthur “Atom” Thomson, one-time fake fringe fan, of whom further tales will be told.

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## **Atom All the Way**

The second 1964 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund campaign closed at midnight on the 31st May with London’s Arthur Thomson leading Lincolnshire’s Phil Rogers on both sides on the Pond. The final figures, collected and counted by Ron Ellik, Wally Weber and Ethel Lindsay and checked by Al Lewis and Charles Smith, were:

	UK	USA	Total
Arthur Thomson	32	63	95
Phil Rogers	28	13	41

British fans who voted in the campaign were: Jill Adams, Brian Allport, Ted Ball, Dave Barber, Ron Bennett, Eric Bentcliffe, Darrell & Irene Boothroyd, John Ramsey Campbell, Jim Cawthorn, Ken Cheslin, Ted Forsyth, Colin Freeman, Wendy & Keith Freeman, Jimmy Groves, Bill Harrison, John Humphries, Terry Jeeves, Eric Jones, Lang Jones, Jhim Linwood, Ian McAulay, Ken MacIntyre, Peter Mabey, Archie Mercer, Frank & Patti Milnes, Mike Moorcock, Joe Navin, Marge & Stan Nuttall, Keith Otter, John Owen, Darroll Pardoe, Ella Parker, Betty & Ian Peters, Charles Platt, Phil Rogers, John Roles, Bob Shaw, Ina and Norman Shorrocks, Peter Singleton, Chas. Smith, Arthur Thomson, Norman Weedall, Peter Weston, James White, Madeleine & Walt Willis. Sincere congratulations to Arthur, who will travel as TAFF delegate to the 22nd World SF Convention held over Labor Day weekend in September in the sunny west-coastlands of the USA.

**From the Woodwork Out** department: On sale over here are a) *Sex, Spice & The Single Man*, photographed and captioned by Bill Rotsler, and b) *Famous Photographers Photograph Beautiful Women* which includes work by Dave Jenrette. Old time Beard Growing Contestant, Michael Evans, has returned to fannish life, having been resident in Liverpool for the past 10 months. And also raised from the dead is *Skyrack's* onetime regular flier, *mi*, from Eric Bentcliffe, as you can well see.

**Liverpool Fandom Goes Mad** with enough news and socializing to fill a dozen *Skyracks*. The *Alien/Delta* invasion of Higher Bebington on 10th May is well covered in *mi*, and there has also been a return trip eastwards to the Ched Lum home of Beryl & Eric Bentcliffe, a return trip split into two parts, with an advance party on 31st May (the Shorrocks, Norman Weedall and Eddie Jones) preparing the way for the 7th June visit of the Nuttalls & the Bennetts. Eric, Beryl and daughter Lindsay are recovering with a trip to Belgium on Saturday. LiG partied out at Freshfield beach on Whit Sunday, when the Shorrocks, Norman W. and Eddie hosted Wendy & Keith Freeman who also made their scheduled (cough) appearance at the Whit Monday bowling session which was well won by Eddie Jones. At the 8th June LiG AGM, the year's Chairman came through as Auntie Marge Nuttall. Norman Weedall took over as Vice Chairman, John Ramsey Campbell turns his writing talents to secretarial reporting and messrs. Nuttall S. and Shorrocks N. continue as dictatorial treasurers. Split the money before mid-July, fellers. John Humphries, who joined the club on a free transfer from Cheltenham, is to take up residence in the western isles shortly, it is understood, with a proposed move to Belfast.

**Holidays & Conventions.** In addition to Eric & Co visiting Belgium this weekend, another continental traveller is *Camber's* Alan Dodd who is at the moment in the middle of a trip which will take – or is taking – him via Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Transylvania and Bulgaria to Istanbul. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, plans are in full swing for the multi-group visits to the Marquartstein (Bavaria) Castle Con over the weekend of 1st/2nd August, with high season rates of as much as eighteen shillings per night's accommodation being charged! The Liverpool Group and satellites will be there in force and details can be obtained from Tom Schlück whose address appears opposite. And around here somewhere is *Brumble 1*, which covers the 1965 *British* Castlecon.

**The Death** is announced of Cleve Cartmill ::: John Wyndham's *Web*, a new novel, due out autumn ::: TAFF Delegate to the recent Petercon, Wally Weber, has been transferred by his firm to Alabama, and

accordingly, the decision has been taken to fold Seattle's Hugo winning, focal point fanzine *Cry. Starspinkle*, who were first on the scene with the TAFF results, reports that number 174 is the last of the Nameless Ones' zines. (who were... reports... tut!) :: Production has begun on the films of Wyndham's *Chrysalids* and Wells' *When the Sleeper Awakes* :: Join the Langdon B. Jones Amateur Status Preservation Society. Fans the world over are worried enough about this pressing problem and are determined to do something. A meeting will be held at Caxton Hall on Saturday, Mr. Jones presiding. Be there. :: Des Squire sends a token and claims his one-twelfth thousand of a piano. Such claims should be made in person, sir, to 69d Bold Street, Liverpool on any Monday night. Say 3rd August?

**Zenith 5** (June 64; Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Cres., Northfield, Birmingham 31 1/6 or 20¢. 50pp) Articles, fiction, features and departments with the highlight being the capture of the Willis ex-*Nebula* column, *Fanorama*. The Ed. F. James article on James White's *Sector General* stories and the Chris Priest survey of 1963 magazine sf both deserve especially praise as does the complete coverage of newly published sf. For this last-named service alone, this well produced leader of the New Wave is a fan's "must".

**Vector 26** (May 64; The o-o of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Rd., Birmingham 32) As well produced as both the Mercer issues of *Vector* and practically every fanzine which comes out of Birmingham these days. Jimmy Groves covers the PeterCon with words and photographs. Dick Howett writes on flying saucers and the usual departments, including the Peristyle column, make up a good issue.

**The Scarr 4** (April 64; Geo. L. Charters, 3 Lancaster Ave., Bangor, N.Ireland. 22 pp) Slim by present standards, which just goes to show how much we're being spoiled these days. Bob Shaw writes on headlines and Ian McAulay on chips. J.D. Peebles tells a good salesman story and there is verse from Archie McGonagall.

**Camber 14** (Undated; Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts; 2/6 or 25¢; 42pp) A very welcome return of a personal favourite, with the good old Bill Harry illos and coloured Chapmans best. A very good article by Michael Moorcock on the Elric background and some excellent artwork by Cawthorn and Gilbert. Not quite up to the old standard, but this viewpoint is coloured by the rather narrow range of material, which doesn't appeal personally.

**Scene 2** (SFCoL newszine, Arthur Thomson, 17 Brockham House,

Brockham Drive, London SW2; 6d) More LonCon '65 publicity, general chitchat and a listing of available b&w and colour films.

**The Skyhack Newsletter** (35th May 1964) The third and latest *Skyrack* lampoon under this title. Good variety of snide cracks. Own up George and Ella.

**Haverings 15** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey; 9d) Complete and up to date listings, reviews and comments on the zinescene. An invaluable guide to the careful fanzine shopper.

**Satura** (twice a month from John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia. Trade or LoC) Various issues, the bulkiest some 16 sides. General personal comments on fandom and filmdom etc etc from the editor. More typical of the average apazine, which comment also applies to **SLIMY-HO**, a 4 page announcement of the formation of the Rugby School Fantasy & SF Society, whose president and editor is Peter Alderson Smith, Jettyfields, Braunston, Nr. Rugby.

**The Bug Eye 13** (Rolf Gindorf, 5603 Wülfrath, Hans-Bockler-Str, 52, W. Germany) Mainly editorial comment and letters this issue, but some of the letters are article length and the interest is maintained for 28 pages without difficulty. Rightly acclaimed as fandom's only truly international fanzine.

**Sol 38** (April 64; Thomas Schlück and his merry men, 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10) Franz Rottensteiner writes on Blish, fiction, illos, letters and Gerfan news. Interesting throughout. And, yes! *Sol* is printed in English. This issue is the second "English-language enterprise" and accordingly, makes me something of a liar in regards to my statement about *The Bug Eye*.

**Snippets:** Thank you, Alan Rispin, for the "best wishes for the exams" card and you, too, Colin Freeman, for the "Get Well Soon" card which arrived in the middle of examination week :: Note to Ethel Lindsay and other fans slightly annoyed by the "Leon Collins" letter in the latest *Spinge*. I've been asked by the fan who wrote the original Collins stirrer letters that he is in no way responsible for the latest diatribe and that the pseudonym was used without his permission :: David Redd, 66 Augustine Way, Haverfordwest, Pembs. mentions that he has come across an old Moorcock-edited *Tarzan Adventures* and has noted that in a story "translated from the Spanish" there appear the names of Dick Ellington and Lee Hoffman. He pleads for a write up on this happy period of fannish history. Next he'll be wanting to know who was Bob Lumley... but can

anyone oblige? ::: Ethel Lindsay notes the TAFF total in the UK kitty as being £123 9s 0<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d, mentions that D.G. Small and Eddie Jones also voted in addition to the fans listed on page 1, and says that nominations are now open to bring a U.S. TAFF delegate over here to the proposed 1965 London Worldcon. It is understood that there could be a welcome and mammoth slate for this campaign, and there are already whispers of Ted White, Bill Donaho, Bjo, Al Lewis, Dick Eney and Harry Warner being nominated ::: Peter Singleton mentions a recent nightmare in which *New Worlds*, *Science Fantasy* and all the U.S. prozines had succumbed to a take over bid from Badger ::: Harry Harrison (of whom you may have heard), Rortangvej 4, Snekkersten, Denmark desperately requires a copy of *New Worlds* 69 which contains his story "Captain Bedlam" and will pay good money to anyone who can come through. ::: Whilst on the *N.W.* front, it is understood that Alan Dodd is writing film reviews for that august publication. ::: Alan himself reminds me to mention that Hannes Bok died late April and that *The Twilight Zone* has finally made its appearance on TV over here (but not on Merseyside, I'm afraid; BBC 2?) ::: Alma Hill reports a sale to Pohl called "Answering Service", notes a title change for the N3F story contest winner from "The Ticket" to "A for Android" and mentions that the contest's runner-up, "Monster Tracks" by R.E. Margroff, has also been snapped up by Pohl, And lastly, a Change of Address: Charles Wells, 815 Demerius (M-1), Durham, N.C. 27701, USA.

# ***Skyrack* #69, 12 August 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* number 69**, dated **12th August 1964** and published by Big Daddy Ron Bennett now hiding away at 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire. 6d per copy. 6 issues for 2/6d or 35¢ in the USA where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Coulson, RR3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to sf fans always welcome. Cartoon by Arthur "Atom" Thomson who will shortly be travelling to seek his fortune in the fair climes of summertime U.S. & A. Arthur leaves London Airport Sat 22nd to attend the Oakland World Convention, the Pacificon II, as Britain's TAFF Delegate. Yippee and like that. Have fun, Arthur.

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## **Castlecon Capers**

**The 1964 Castlecon** took place in the thousand year old castle of Marquartstein, Bavaria, over the 1st/2nd August weekend, with a hotel proprietor who startled Gerfan attendees with behaviour wilder than the wildest fans. The Convention opened on Friday afternoon 31st July with an official business meeting of the SFCD, followed in the evening by a public dance in the Castle yard. On the Saturday morning Richard Koch spoke on "Cybernetics and SF", coming to the conclusion that robots will eventually take over the world. In the afternoon Dr. H.W. Franke, the Austrian scientist, who has been writing some very interesting novels, discussed the reviewing of the genre by the general public. In the evening the fancy dress party took place, with Archie Olaf Mercer well in evidence with his axe swinging among the twenty or so attendees who dressed up. The letting off of celebratory fireworks led to the traditional visit by the local police. Sunday seemed to be film day, with documentaries shown, as well as a fannish slide show produced and directed by Ethel Lindsay and Eddie Jones. Attendees included Ina, Norman, Janet, Roy, Linda, Alan and Gavin Shorrocks, Eddie Jones, Norman Weedall, John Humphries and John Roles (of LiG, all of whom were holidaying at nearby Konigssee), Archie Mercer (who was first to arrive), Ethel Lindsay, Peter Mabey, Dave Barber, Tony, Simone and Sarah Walsh, George Locke, Wolfgang Thadewald, Tom Schlück, Horst Evermann, Rolf Gindorf, Burkhard Blüm, and George O. Smith. (T.S.)

**Sincere Congratulations** to Honorary Boy Hero Racing Driver, one-time *Skyrack* Stateside rep., Robert K. Pavlat, who was married in Hyattsville, Maryland, on 20th June to leading debutante femme-fan, Peggy Rae McKnight. The social occasion of the season, and every good wish to both of you.

**Even the Least Observant** will have noticed that there has been a gap between issues of *Skyrack*. Plans were well in hand to produce this issue on 12th July, but life has been a little hectic of late. I returned to Liverpool on 9th July from a flying visit to Harrogate to find that I'd been recalled to teaching, beginning 13th July. Accordingly, we packed and left Liverpool hurriedly, only to run into accommodation problems in Harrogate which was packed solid for the Great Yorkshire Show. We spent a couple of weeks in Leeds, during which time Liz spent a week in hospital and I went back to working for a living supply teaching. Finally, we've managed to settle in here in our little stone country cottage on the edge of Harrogate Golf Course. The Newcastle Road and Chandos Terrace addresses will still find us but of course mail will reach us quicker if addressed here.

**Actually Witnessing** the birth of one's son is a tremendous experience which I can heartily recommend. 8lb 1oz Andrew Ralston Bennett made his scheduled appearance at 2.50pm Thursday 6th August. The three of us are doing well and goshwow and gee and like that.

**I Was a Transylvanian Oil-Sheikh for the Aliens.** On 5th July the Delta Film Unit in Salford, comprising in the main Messrs. Nadler, Partington and Edwards, hosted several visiting fen, with the ulterior motive of obtaining cheap labour for their latest 8mm colour epic *Frankenstein & the Revolting Peasants* and we'll leave the obvious gag out of it, shall we? Farmer Eddie Jones, Auntie Nell Gwynn Nuttall, Stan Rochester Nuttall, Rob Roy Roles, Harry Lime Bentcliffe, Grandmother Liz Bennett, Jeff Eric Shipton Cooper and yours truly had a great outing and the sooner Liverpool and Salford are moved nearer Harrogate the better.

**Three Cheers for Peter Weston**, who supplied the following listing of brand new Stateside SF. Knopf's *Sanders* (\$4.95), Carl Jacobi's *Portraits in Moonlight* (\$4. Arkham. Due Sept), Knight's *Century of Short SF Novels* (\$4.95, Dial), Lovecraft's *At the Mountains of Madness* (\$6. Arkham), Ballard's *Burning World* (50¢. Berkeley), Hamilton's *Battle for the Stars* (50¢. PB Library), Hunter Holly's *Tomorrow's Piper* (40¢. Avon. Due Sept), Knight's *French SF* (40¢. Bantam), Irwin Lewis' *To Invade New York* (50¢. Avon), EFR's *The Surly Sullen Bell* (50¢. PB

Library. Due 15th Sept), Jeff Sutton's *Apollo at Go* (Popular Library. Due Sept).

**Ah, Just Dig This Modesty.** Michael J. Moorcock, well known friend of David Redd and Bob Lumley, wrote as long ago as mid-June: "The change over to pb format seems to have done wonders. On a higher print run than Nova's *New Worlds*, we sold out in the first week and have now increased our order to an even higher figure – one more jump and we shall be producing double the figure of the Nova *New Worlds* at the end. This is due, I feel, to the format, mainly to the covers, and perhaps to a more high powered distribution than was available to Ted. I take no personal credit. *Science Fantasy* also sold well on the first new format issue. Encouraging." It is, indeed. Mike also writes that Jenkins have taken the second Elric book, *Stormbringer*, which has been completely revised to form a coherent novel. Great, great.

**Snippets:** Latest out-of-the-woodwork-er is Pete Campbell of "Every Issue Bigger" *Andromeda* (c.1953/4) fame, with a new zine, *Hydra*. Two issues to date, both very slim. Don't let him slip away this time. Write c/o Birkdale Cottage, Brantfell, Windermere, Westmorland ::: Congratulations to Harrogate 62 Con attendee Guntram Ohmacht, safe driving certificate holder and mountaineer extraordinaire, married 31st July to Sabine Brama. Best wishes you two ::: And congratulations, Mario Kwiat on the CastleCon weekend birth of a 6lb daughter, Silke.

**Harlequin** (May 1964; John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belfast 4, N.I. A minimum of 2/6 per copy) This one-shot contains reprints of vintage Berry material, liberally sprinkled with Atom illos. There are over sixty pages of this qualitative melange and the zine is certainly worth the cash for the proceeds go to TAFF. Copies from John Berry or Ella Parker.

**Gestalt 8** (Summer 64; Jim Marshall, 32 Millway, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead 8, Co. Durham; 1/6) From out the woodwork comes the old North Eastern fan group of the mid-fifties, boosted by the vitality of Phil Harbottle, and their fanzine, dear ol' *Gestalt*. The time lag between issues shows through, for obviously missing is the self confidence of an editor who has several issues under his belt. Despite good material by Phil H., and John Berry, and a pleasant little column by a long-missed "Bushy Hedge", the issue is marred by moans at poor quality material in other fanzines, moans which are immediately followed by the worst humour I've seen in fanzines for years. Come on, fellas, we haven't waited all these years for *that!*

**Nexus 1** (June 64; Pete Weston, 9 Porlock Cres., Birmingham 31) Slim,

personal chatterzine which includes outside material by Archie Mercer and up and coming Beryl Henley. Neat illos by Atom and Dick Howett. A very pleasant interim zine, though it's a pity Pete's ability to handle a duplicator isn't matched by an ability to handle his native tongue.

***Alien 9*** (June 64; Harry Nadler, 5 S. Mesnefield Rd., Lower Kersal. Salford 7, Lancs. 1/3) Devoted, as a specialist zine, to sf and horror fantasy. Some well produced stills, film reviews by Alan Dodd, book reviews and a short Peterborough convention report, with photos.

***Nadir 3*** (Jun/July 64; Charles Winstone, 71 George Rd., Birmingham 23; 1/3) Another chatty Brumzine, small and personal with some outside material. The two most interesting articles, on collecting stamps and cigarette cards, both well slanted towards sf, only begin to touch the surface in reader interest.

***Squeak 2*** (Tony Glynn, 144 Beresford St., Manchester 14) Extremely well produced. General ramblings on Dublin and Manchester, wanderings in Japan, a glimpse of the magic world of old films, a visit to Haworth and a look at the first world war. This is a good, highly-talented zine and it is naturally recommended as a must. (Ah, if only our younger and newer fan writers had such a command of English!)

***Northlight*** (July 64; Alan Burns Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2;) A short article on home movie making and an editorial farewell to the zinescene, for this is *Northlight's* last issue. *Northlight*, which has appeared irregularly but frequently for the past six or seven years, has never attained the heights reached by the greats but will be sorely missed for its editor's literate commentaries and particularly some very revealing travelogues.

***Vector 27*** (o-o BSFA, Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Rd., Birmingham 32) Ken Slater's "General Chunterings", sf films, book and magazine reviews, a good column by the latest Dr. Peristyle, letters, comments and opinions. A good issue which contains everything for the do-it-yourself, stay-at-home sf enthusiast.

***The Shudder Fanzine*** (Mike Higgs, 138 Barrow Rd., Birmingham 11; 1/-) Worth more than a 3-line mention, with golden reminiscences of *Authentic S.F.*, Captain Marvel and several old pulps.

**Changes of Address:**

Greg & Jim Benford, Apt 141, Seahorse Inn, 526 Grand Ave., Del Mar, Calif 92014, USA;

Ron & Liz Bennett, 51 Fairways Dr, Harrogate;  
Art Hayes, 540 Bridge St., Bathurst, N.B., Canada;  
Brian Jordan, 25c Brocco Bank, Sheffield 11;  
Alan J. Lewis, 15739 Mulholland Place, L.A., Calif 90024, USA;  
Richard Mann, c/o Maj. E.O. Mann, 46th Bomb Sqdn, Grand Forks AFB,  
No. Dakota, USA;  
Bob & Peggy Rae Pavlat, 9710-47th Pl., College Park, Md., USA;  
Wally (TAFF) Weber, Box 632, Huntsville, Alabama 35804, USA.

**Snippets:** Once again we have pleasure in finding that Eric Bentcliffe's *mi* is flying with us. And my apologies to Eric for the delay in producing this issue. And to Sonia, too, for not having the opportunity of meeting her on her first visit to England. Salford was a near miss ::: Thanks, attendees, for the apt CastleCon card. Hope you didn't drink too much and get schlossed ::: *The Once & Future King*-based *Camelot* finally opens in London next week, with Laurence Harvey taking the Burton role ::: Congratulations Brian Jordan, married 28th July (to whom, Alan?) Alan Rispin best man ::: The Most Noble Order of St Fantony is being revived (cheers both off- and on-stage). All information from Keith Freeman, 1a Hamlyn Ave., Anlaby Road, Hull, Yorkshire ::: The Bob Richardson Memorial Fund wound up with £61's worth of Premium Bonds being handed on to Bob's daughter ::: More congratulations! Cliff Teague engaged to Lesta Holmes and *Zenith's* Pete Weston engaged to Mary Reed ::: Death announced of Donald Suddaby, Worcester juvenile SF author ::: Bill Rotsler is collecting quotes for a column in *Pageant*. Further details on request ::: Card from Ohrid, Jugoslavia, where Brian Aldiss, camping by a lakeful of trout, send greetings to "all the fraternity". ::: Ken Cheslin wants issues of *Les Spinge* 13 ::: John Humphries is not now being transferred to Belfast ::: BSFA have member in Riga, Latvia, USSR ::: *Starspinkle* reports that Betty & Gene Kujawa ditched their car 24th July attempting to avoid an idiot. No bones broken. Get well, schnell, bruises ::: Nominations for the TAFF campaign to bring an American fan to the London 65 Worldcon (if we get the bid – vote London, you Pacificon II attendees) close 31st this month. Two wonderful candidates so far in William Donaho and Terence Carr ::: Loncon 65 hotel announced in *Starspinkle* as the Mount Royal at Marble Arch.

# ***Skyrack* #70, 17 September 1964**

This is *Skyrack* 70, edited and published by Ron Bennett, Kt.St.F, Dip.B.Ed., 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy. 6 issues for 2/6. 6 issues for 35¢ in USA (for 6 issues sent airmail 70¢) where subscriptions may be paid to Rbt Coulson, RR 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to sf fans welcome. Cartoon and heading by LiGs answer to Eddie Jones, Eddie Jones. Contributions from Bill Donaho, Harry Nadler, Keith Freeman, Ethel Lindsay, Burkhard Blüm, John Martin Baxter, Alan Dodd, John Roles, Stan Nuttall, Buck Coulson and Harry Harrison.

**17th Sept. 1964**

## **Hugo for *Amra***

**The 22nd World Science Fiction Convention** – the PacifiCon II took place in Oakland, California, last weekend 4th/7th Sept.

The Hugos, decided by a 274 ballot, were awarded as follows:

Best Novel. *Way Station* by Clifford D. Simak (Published by Doubleday Book Club, and in *Galaxy* Jun-Aug '63 as *Here Gather the Stars*.)

Best Short Fiction. Poul Anderson's "No Truce with Kings" (*F&SF* June 1963)

Best Professional Magazine. *Analog*.

Best Professional Artist. Ed Emshwiller

Best SF Book Publisher. Ace Books.

Best Amateur magazine. George Scithers' *Amra*.

No award was made for a dramatic presentation.

## **Atom Goes TAFF**

Britain's 1964 TAFF delegate, London artist Arthur "Atom" Thomson, flew out to New York Sat 22nd August to be met by a group of NY fans carrying placards reading "Welcome Phil Rogers".

Arthur took a bus to Cleveland, then being driven by that Good Man Nick Falasca to Los Angeles, via Wabash for a Sunday meeting with the Coulsons, and Bloomington Illinois in order to visit the Sage, Bob Tucker. In Los Angeles Arthur has been partied, has met the LASFS and has visited Disneyland, which is understood to have been renamed as a result of the visit. At the time of writing

Arthur should be in Seattle  
with the Busbys, from whence  
he'll be travelling back to  
New York to take in the  
World's Fair.

**London in '65.** We made it! At the PacifiCon attendees voted that the 1965 World Convention will be held in London. The date to jot down on the bedroom ceiling is August bank holiday. Watch this space for further announcements. As you'll note from the dateline and the reference to "last weekend" up there, something went wrong with *Skyrack's* hitherto infallible system. This issue *should* have reached you last week. A prepaid cable, giving details of the London bid, did not arrive. It is a proud and lonely thing to be a newszine editor.

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**Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch.** Home-type news and congratulations to *New Worlds* editor Mike Moorcock and his wife Hilary on the arrival of their 2nd daughter.

**Postal Auction.** Each individual item hereunder to be treated as a single lot. No reserve prices. Best bid by 1st November takes (unless there are last minute fights over any item). 50% to TAFF in all instances: *Aporrheta* 1, *Astroneer* 1, *Bastion* 2, *Bem* 4, *Eye* 3 (160pp Ed. E.C. Tubb, Clarke's Fanderella), *Hyphen* 23, 32, 33, 34, 35; *Orion* 25, 27, 28, 29, *Retribution* 16, *Rot* 5, *Satellite* 6, *SFCoL 1960 Combozine*, *Smoke* 2, *Vector* 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, *Bane* 4, 5, 8, *Cry* 149, 151, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 168, 169, *Double Bill* 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, *Fanac* 50, 69, *JD-A* 58, 59, *New Frontiers* 1, *Outre* 4, *Panic Button* 11, 13, *Shaggy* 46, 55, 57, 58, 59, 50, 77, *Sigbo* 5, 6, *Void* 25, 26, *Warhoon* 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, *Yandro* 77, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136. OMPA Mailings 27, 28 (Lacking "Why Is A Fan"), 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40. FAPA Mailings 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107.

**Many Thanks,** all those kind and gracious fans who wrote us about Andrew's appearance. Archie suggested that we should have called him *Ploy* 15, and said it was a great pity Andrew couldn't have been born in Marquartstein – "just imagine him growing up knowing that he'll never be able to play cricket for Bavaria." Harry Harrison suggested that when he grows up he becomes an sf editor, so that he'll be able to lord it over fans and pros alike, Phil Harbottle suggested that Andrew writes a book review column for *Skyrack* "You can give him the new *Badger* releases. I can just

see it. *Reverse Planet From Out of Void* by R.L. Fanthorpe, ‘Shatzzfloop!’, *Robots of Pluto* by J.E. Muller, ‘Urghhrasp!’”, and Keith Freeman suggested that I sue *Starspinkle* for miss-representation.

**Promising** to come and see us sometime, Archie Mercer, recently returned from the CastleCon wrote, “Well, I’ve never lost a kid in my beard yet. (The Shorrocks kept having to call the muster, mind.) (The mustermind couldn’t come – he was still in Barcelona),” but meanwhile we have seen our first fannish visitor when on the 25th August Charles Platt dropped in on his way to Liverpool and eventually Bristol (which he never reached). We let him hold Andrew, sold him a pile of crud zines at high prices, taught him how to play brag (so *that’s* why he didn’t reach Bristol) and introduced him to Colin Freeman. Naturally, we had to send a card to British Fandom’s Post Card King, Archie, inscribed “Twish you were here.”

**The Liverpool Group** made a second invasion of Salford on 30th August in a further attempt to sabotage the Delta Film Group’s epic *Castle of Terrors* (or *Frankenstein v The Revolting Peasants*). Armed to the teeth with ex-CastleCon weapons were Ina & Norman Shorrocks, Eddie Jones, John Roles, Stan & Auntie Marge Nuttall, John Ramsey Campbell, John Humphries, Norman Weedall and referee Eric Bentcliffe who saw the boarders repelled by Harry Nadler, Chuck Partington, Tony Edwards, Tom Holt, Peter Day, Dave Trengrove, Colin Britch, Bill Burns, Joyce Tarrant and Marjorie Williams, all of whom waved “Ban Quote Card” banners in memory of LiG’s previous visit. With John Roles’ false beard catching alight during filming, the epic looks like being released at next year’s worldcon in a blaze of glory. – (HN).

**TAFF.** Voting forms *should* be going out with this issue of *Sky*. There are three candidates for the ’65 trip over here, Terry Carr, Bill Donaho and Jock Root. A good slate. In order to avoid confusion as the voting period will be in full swing when Atom returns from the USA, the British TAFF Administrator throughout the present campaign will be Ethel Lindsay. British treasury now stands at £23 16 6¾d (ha to you, Norman Shorrocks), with recent donations from Terry Jeeves (10/-), Peterborough Convention £20 18s, Rolf Gindorf 8/-, SCFoI £1 and LiG Quote-cards 6/6d., £120 having been paid on Arthur’s return ticket.

**The Most Noble & Illustrious Order of St Fantony** is most definitely being revived, said revival being in the noble and illustrious hands of Keith Freeman, Kt.St.F., 1a Hamlyn Ave., Anlaby Rd., Hull. Twenty five

knights and ladies will be adding to the ranks of fandom's most colourful body at next year's Worldcon.

**Scottishe 36** (Undated – Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey. 1/9d or 25¢, 5 for 7/- or \$1) A slim *Scottishe*, but an issue which is still packed with fannish quality, with Atom illos, interesting letters, Walt Willis remembering 1952-54 fandom and Brian Varley writes brilliantly on the latest game-craze to sweep British fandom.

**Hydra 3** (Sept 64; Dr. Peter Campbell, Birkdale Cottage, Brantfell, Windermere, Westmorland. 5/- per yr) *Hydra* seems to be developing into another *East & West* (which was not totally to my taste) but possessing a definite sf and fan foundation.

**Zenith 6** (Sept 64; Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31;1/6 or 20¢, 5 for \$1.) Editor Weston is certainly trying hard to present a balance of material for the fans and the sf enthusiasts and he is succeeding, managing in addition to produce some worthwhile and readable items. This issue is largely reprint, little known work by Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber and Arthur C. Clarke, and there are not many fanzines which can boast such a line-up. In addition Walt Willis (ah, these new wave fans) climbs aboard the band wagon, with his well-known *Fanorama* column which is continued from another, now-defunct fanzine (new readers begin here: that was *Nebula*. Now read on...). Colin Kapp is discussed in detail by Ed James and Terry Pratchett, Roger Peyton looks at Penguin Books and there are letters, etc etc. Earlier this year I mentioned that *Zenith* reminded me greatly of the early issues of *Space Diversions*, a viewpoint which still holds good.

**Beyond 6** (July 64; Charles Platt, new address noted overleaf; 1/6) Whilst I have been expressly asked not to review this zine if I cannot afford or accord it more than two or three lines, I have to mention Archie Mercer's excellent article which is recommended reading for any neo-fan (and a few non-neo-fen, also).

For Ivor Latto and one or two other fans, the following zines have reached me over the past two or three months and deserve at least a mention:

**Shangri-L'Affaires 68 & 69** (official organ of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, edited by Redd Boggs, PO Box 57242, L.A., Calif 90057) Recommended reading about and by Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber, Bill Rotsler, Ron Ellik, John Baxter, Al Lewis, August Derleth, Bjo Trimble etc. (7/- for 5 from Archie Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8) :: **Sol 39**

(July 64, Tom Schlück, 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, W. Germany) English edition, fannish flavoured with a good article on Europa. ::: **Stefantasy** (Mar 64; Bill Danner, RD 1, Kennerdell, Pa 16043) Published for the hell of it, up to 120 pages, 8167% milder, and featuring Colin Freeman. If you want a fanzine that is refreshingly different, this is it ::: **Swefanac 2 & 3**, the news in English and Swedish, from “Carl Brandon”, Sallskapsvagen 7, Stockholm 48 ::: **Satura 8** (John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Australia) Slim but regular commentzine. ::: **I Palantir 3** (Official organ of the Fellowship of the Ring; 25/- or 1/9 from Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA, Calif 90024, or Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Rd., Stourbridge, Worcs). ::: **Yandro 137** (Rbt & Juanita Coulson, address front page this *Skyrack*. 30/- per or 12 for \$2.50. 1/3 per or 12 for 12/- from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts) Excellent advice to the neo-writer by *F&SF* Assistant Editor Ted White, and other worthwhile reading. ::: **Gemzine 4/40** (G.M. Carr, 5319 Ballard NJ, Seattle, Washington 98107) Comments and opinions from an individualistic mind. ::: **Zingaro 1** (Mark Irwin, 1747 Elmwood Drive, Highland Park, Illinois 60035) ::: **The Romann 2** (Richard Mann, Bryan Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, from 26th Sept)

#### **Change of Address Dept:**

John Martin Baxter, Box No. 39, Clarence Street Post Office, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Burkhard Blüm, 6 F-Niederrad, Melibocusstr 29, Germany.

Len Moffatt, 5804 East Gage Ave (Apt 5), Bell Gardens, Calif., USA.

Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Avenue, London NW 3.

**Snippets:** One-time Vice President of the SFCDeutschland, Heinz Bingenheimer, died 17th August, aged 40. Bingenheimer was well-known in Gerfan circles for his translations and his founding of the Transgalaxis Book Club. # Also reported is the equally sudden death of old-time Australian fan, Vol Molesworth, on 15th July, aged 39. ::: Just in from Chris Priest, “Cornerways”, Willow Close, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex, is *Con 1*, a new fanzine which features its own printed book matches. And just in from Ethel Lindsay (address in the fanzine reviews) is *Haverings 16*, the fanzine reviewzine. 1/6 or 50¢ for 2 issues. ::: Get well, schnell, Eric Jones, recently in hospital for a varicose vein operation. Undoubtedly he would appreciate (and might even answer!) letters. That’s 44 Barbridge Rd., Hester’s Way, Cheltenham, Glos. ::: Donald Swann, of Swann & Flanders, has written opera around C.S. Lewis’ *Perelandra* ::: J.B. Priestley is working on an sf play, *The Astronauts*, in collaboration

with Fred Hoyle ::: Hoyle has a new sf book, *Fifth Planet* out this month, written in collaboration with his son Geoffrey ::: And Kingsley Amis' son, Martin, is to appear in the film of Richard Hughes' *High Wind in Jamaica*. ::: 4 major TV companies in the USA are making major productions from horror series. *The Munsters* will feature both Frankenstein and Dracula, *Bewitched* will feature Elizabeth Montgomery as a bewitched housewife, Julie Newmar will play a robot in *The Living Doll* (shades of Pat Roc in the *Perfect Woman!*) and *The Addams Family*, based on the famous cartoon series, will feature Carolyn Jones. ::: LiG, eight years at their Bold Street Clubroom, have finally run into landlord trouble. He probably found John Campbell walled up in the Potrzebie. Anyway, he has suddenly doubled the rent. ::: Harry Harrison recently visited Brian Aldiss in Makarska, Jugoslavia, and reports that *SF Horizons* is at last on sale. As is Aldiss' *Yet More Penguin SF* ::: *Deathworld* soon to [be] published in Japanese ::: A reporter named Jerry deMuth is understood to have been injured in a recent Alabama race riot. George Nims Raybin reported to be travelling to South with group of New York lawyers to act as defence counsel for integrationists. ::: This issue dedicated to Jill Adams, Ted Forsyth, Archie Mercer and other slate blue fans.

# ***Skyrack* #71, 20 October 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* number 71**, dated **20th October 1964**, and edited by Ronald M. Bennett, Kt.St.F., 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6 for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (airmail 70¢), where subscriptions of all shapes and sizes may be sent to that sterling man and convention report collector, Rbt. Coulson, RR 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. Heading and cartoon by neo-immigre Arthur Atom Thomson, and the interior illustration by Mike Higgs, to whom is given a warm welcome. Long may he be with us. Contributions this time are from Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Archie Mercer, *Starspinkle*, Jim Linwood, George Locke, Ella Parker, Norman Shorrocks, Pete Weston, Burkhard Blüm, Alma Hill, Pete Weston & Pete Weston.

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**Welcome home, Brian Aldiss!**

**Flash: Labour Win Election. Krushchev Loses Deposit.**

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## **B.S.F.A. Prexy Resigns**

“Yes, yes, I’m back,” writes a Brian Aldiss bubbling with sf news and rakija at his return from his 7 month tour of Jugoslavia, an account of which will shortly be published elsewhere, Says Brian, “I have resigned as BSFA President. I felt very out of touch when I came back and in view of the vast amount of work I found piled up, which meant that I could have been of little help to the BSFA, I thought I’d better vacate the throne.” Brian has been President of the BSFA since 1960 and has done much to ensure that he would be no mere figure-head; a replacement as worthy will be hard to find. His immediate plans are to write his travel book, publish several short stories, compile an anthology for an educational publisher, interview J.B. Priestley for *SF Horizons II*, complete a novel set on Mercury, write a contemporary novel, and write a speech to deliver at the Belfast Arts Festival in November. Brian also reports that *Greybeard* is out, “only 18/- with dust jackets, every page numbered throughout for your convenience,” and that Faber have published Charles Harness’ *The Paradox Men* with an Aldiss introduction.

**New Book Releases** (Pete Weston)

*The Other Man* (from the ITV play) Panther; *Blood Runs Cold* (Bloch, from *Weird Tales*) Corgi; *The Astounding Anthology* and *When They Come from Space* (both Four Square); *Sundog* (Brian Ball) Dobson 16/-; *New Writings in SF 2* (No. 3 due Jan) Dobson; *The Weird Ones* – H.L. Gold edited anthology; *Stranger in a Strange Land* (Heinlein) 4 Square; Judith Merrill's *9th Annual Best SF* is due out in US next month, as is Asimov's long awaited *The Rest of the Robots*. Out this month in paperbacks are Edmond Hamilton's *City at World's End*, reprinted by Crest, and Richard Matheson's *Shock II* from Dell. Forthcoming (Dec) is Popular Library's *Post Reader of SF & Fantasy*.

### **Who's Who in British Fandom – No. 7. Peter Weston**

Joining the Birmingham SF Group in January '63, Pete entered fandom in an unusual way. Not only was he producing his fanzine *Zenith* before anything like acquainted with other zines, he was an active, letter-writing sf fan before he had heard of such fannish terms as BNF, faans, etc. So by the time he found out about true fandom he was half way a fan already. Soon the traditional newcomer's distrust of the Establishment died down, and *Zenith* was transformed from a spirit duplicated piece of crud into an almost too serious science fiction fanzine containing contributions from well known fans and even professional authors, these besides advertisements from book publishers. Now *Zenith* has a circulation around the 300 mark and boasts justified margins, many electro stencilled illos and 3-colour duplicating, even though it only recently reached its 6th issue. This enterprise is characteristic of Pete and the Birmingham group in its early stages of growth. It remains to be seen whether the enthusiasm can be sustained up to the BrumCon next Easter.

An imposing figure in dark-rimmed spectacles Pete is as serious about sf as is his fanzine. His newly-purchased Roneo 350 stands on the stairs while he shares his bedroom with his collection and a younger brother. All typing and fanac is executed on a small portable, while perched on his bed. Pete still possesses a slightly mixed attitude to fandom but I suspect that he is underneath more a true fan than he thinks. Applying for membership of OMPA was significant; now, it seems, only time is needed to mellow Pete and *Zenith* into more typical fan and fanzine respectively. (Charles Platt)

### **Will J. Jenkins**

It is with the deepest regret that the death of Will Jenkins is reported. The thirty-eight oft-times President of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society who was well known and respected in British fan circles had been in poor

health for the past three or four years and finally succumbed to a heart attack on 3rd October. Will, “*The Will Jenkins, not Murray Leinster*”, attended the 1957 London Worldcon and toured the country afterwards making an especial hit in Liverpool in the company of Steve Schultheis, Bob Madle, Boyd Raeburn and the late Shel Deretchin. His untimely death means that a fannish fairy story will not have its happy ending. Will, at the ’57 LonCon, tore in half a pound note, giving one half to Ted Carnell’s then secretary at Nova, Lynn Berman, and keeping the other with the promise that he would someday return for them to spend the note together. Thought by many to be fandom’s leading quiet wit, Will Jenkins will be indeed sorely missed.

“I’m glad it’s ‘Lane’ and not ‘Lawn’,” said Arthur Thomson when he first saw our new address. Whilst in the U.S. on his recent TAFF trip to the Pacificon Arthur hit a new high in TAFF travel experiences, being robbed of almost \$100 and some sterling in hard ¢a\$h, plus his wrist watch.

Wally Gonser and Jim Webbert had prevailed on Arthur not to take the Greyhound from Frisco to Seattle but to travel up by car with them. Auto trouble occurred in New Orleans and the trio spent the night at a motel, during which time the robbery took place, Wally Gonser also losing around \$30. Arthur hopes to recover part, if not all, of his loss through travel insurance and is happy that only hours before the robbery he had sent, through American Express, some \$240, collected at the Pacificon as London Worldcon registration fees, on to London.

Now that he’s back in London he is jigsawing into some order the notes scribbled during the trip and is hoping to write up his report fairly soon. The tentative title is *Atom Abroad* and it is intended that the SFCoL will publish the account. From a recent letter from Arthur are gleaned the following: “The Con was good – I had a terrific time... Los Angeles was fabulous!... New York was smashing!... Enjoyed Seattle immensely... The World Fair is staggering... and noisy... The drive across country with Nick Falasca was absolutely wonderful and hilarious... Disneyland was a wonderful day... I enjoyed meeting and being with all the U.S. fans I met... one way or another...” Sounds as though he had quite a trip.

**More Book News**, by our men at the match, Brian Aldiss, Buck Coulson, Harry Harrison and Pete Weston:

By early next month Brian Aldiss’ *Introducing SF* will be on the market, containing 12 stories on a balanced diet of topics, the idea being to attack the non-sf-reading public, by spoon-feeding them into the field. Also,

Brian's next novel, *Earthworks*, is due from Faber early next year.

Harry Harrison's *Analog* serial, *The Ethical Engineer*, appears from Gollancz next month. In the U.S. Bantam recently reprinted this until the title *Deathworld II*, the first time Bantam have reprinted sf within a month of hardcover publication. The Gollancz version is, incidentally, half as long again as the *Analog* version. Harry's next novel will be *Bill, the Galactic Hero*, a burlesque of Heinlein's *Starship Trooper/Soldier*. An abridged version, *The Starsloggers*, is due to appear in the December *Galaxy*.

Gareth Powell, Managing Director of Four Square, recently went on a buying spree in the States and has acquired British rights on the following titles: Chad Oliver's *Shadows in the Sun*, Mack Reynolds' *The Earth War*, Bob Bloch's *Horror 7*, *The Astounding Anthology* (parts I and II), James White's *Open Prison*, Simak's *City*, Fritz Leiber's Hugo winning *The Big Time*, Brian Aldiss' *The Airs of Earth*, the Conklin-edited *Twisted* and reprints of Bradbury's *October Country* and *The Small Assassin* (the latter probably to be retitled *Tombstone*).

Faber are publishing Kornbluth's *Syndic* with an introduction by Bruce Montgomery, from whom the Faber *Best SF 6* is also on the way.

In the States, Advent have three new books out, reprints of their own *The Science Fiction Novel* and the old Fantasy Press symposium *Of Worlds Beyond*, as well as an expanded version of Alva Rogers' *Requiem for Astounding*, which originally saw print in Bill Donaho's OMPAzone, *Viper*. Ace Books' new releases include Philip Dick's *Simulacra*, Howard's *Almuric*, Tubb's *Moon Base*, Kline's *Port of Peril* and Kuttner's *Valley of Flame*. Lancer are publishing Lovecraft's *Color Out of Space* and Williamson's *Golden Blood* and Pyramid are publishing Leinster's *Time Tunnel* and the Margulies-edited *Weird Tales*.

### **Vote British!**

**May I Stick in a Few Words of My Own?** No? Well then, skip this paragraph! Included in this *Skyrack* "mailing" is a copy of the first Hugo nomination form, from which return the final ballot will be formulated. May I point out, for your consideration, that in the Best Publisher section Penguin Books are worthy of your vote. For some reason (known but not entirely agreed with), Penguin Books are not reviewed in the BSFA journal, *Vector*, which fact might possibly preclude their being considered by many fans. This, I feel, would be shameful, for in recent years Penguin

have published much worthy sf, some of it ironically compiled by the BSFA's now-ex-President Brian Aldiss.

**London 65.** The Science Fiction Club of London's bid for the 1965 WorldCon has, as is well known, been successful and the 23rd World SF Convention will take place in London over the weekend of the next August Bank Holiday, which, please be reminded, has recoiled in horror and has tried to hide itself in the hitherto uncharted reaches of the calendar, namely 27th-30th August 1965. Note the date. Membership fees 15/- or \$2 for non-attending members, one guinea or \$3 for attendees; the difference may be paid at the Convention itself. There are a million and one items of fact and figure about the con and full details may be obtained by either sending your money to Treasurer Jimmy Groves (29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E.6) or by writing Secretary Ethel Lindsay (Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey). The hotel is Oxford Street's plush Mount Royal and the Guest of Honour is to be the hitherto unknown but promising Brian Aldiss, who is mentioned briefly elsewhere in this issue.

**You Can't Keep a Good Man Down**, or a keen fan quiet for very long. Richard H. Eney (417 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria 7, Virginia, USA) has published a bulky thirty-two page report on the results of the 1963 Fan Poll. 93 fans voted, the largest count on any fannish poll apart from the professionally-centred Hugo ballots. Ten U.K. fans voted.

In the "Best Single Publication" section, the Bowers and Mallardi *Double Bill* 7 was well ahead. *Hyphen* 34 ran a good third and other British fan publications to be listed were Ethel Lindsay's *The Lindsay Report* (9th), Terry Jeeves' *ASF Index* (14th), Phil Harbottle's *John Russell Fearn: An Appreciation* (20th).

In the "Best Fanzine" section Robert and Juanita Coulson's *Yandro* came out almost 100 points clear of its nearest rival. *Hyphen* was sixth, *Skyrack* was 14th, *Scottishe* 15th.

Arthur Thomson took the best artwork section, with Eddie Jones 5th and Jim Cawthorn 6th.

Buck Coulson's no nonsense fanzine reviews, "Strange Fruit", in *Yandro* gave him the lead in the "Best Column" section, which result, in the latest *Yandro* Buck describes as ridiculous. Walt Willis' "The Harp That Once or Twice" in *Warhoon* was 4th, Walt Willis' "Warblings" in *Scottishe* 9th and Madeleine Willis' "The DisTAWF Side" in *Speleobem* 10th. They can write, these Willises.

True! And a recognised fact, for Walt cleared the “Best Writer” section, narrowly beating Harry Warner into second place. John Berry was third and the full list of the top seventy or so writers is spattered with the names of British fans (sorry, though, Ivor; I’m afraid you missed out this time).

“Best New Fan” was Arnold Katz. Langdon Jones, 1964’s Best New Professional, was second and Madeleine Willis 4th.

“Number One Fan Face” turned out to be, to nobody’s surprise, Walt Willis. John Berry was 8th, Arthur Thomson 10th.

An excellent publication and commentary on Fandom ’64.

**One-Time Tourists of British Fandom**, Paul and Eleanor Turner have separated, Eleanor having left Los Angeles to work in Arizona. ::: Several copies remain of *Colonial Excursion*, my own Atom illustrated TAFF trip report. 7/- or \$1 and all the bagels you can eat.

**Vector 28** (Sept 64; The Journal of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Rd., Quinton, Birmingham 32; 45pp) Even lacking the enigmatic Doctor Peristyle this is another excellent *Vector* with Ken Slater’s “General Chuntering” and Terry Bull’s analysis of Jack Vance. Edmond Hamilton contributes to “The Author’s Lot” series, there is some excellent artwork and with Jimmy Groves answering questions, Vic Hallett covering film news, magazine and book reviews, and some scintillating letters we have once again a magazine which is a credit to the Association.

**The Scarr 5** (Sept 65; George Charters, 3 Lancaster Ave., Bangor, N. Ireland) Produced primarily for OMPA, this is a slim, qualitative zine with material by Ian McAulay and John Berry, to say nothing of the editor. Contains the beautiful throw-away quotation “Thank God I’m an atheist,” and is actually recommended for far more.

**Doubt 1** (Graham Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos; 24pp) The first of the promised PaDSzines (the BSFA’s publishing and distributing service for members who have not the access to some means of duplication), arrived, showing the promised promise. There is a good article by Archie Mercer on Thorne Smith and allied works (such as the Myers “Toffee” series) and some fiction, including a fantasy by John Ramsey Campbell written while hanging from the Potrzebie rafters and a Bob Bloch reprint. Of especial note is Brian McCabe’s Finlay-like artwork.

**Link 1** (Beryl Henley, 59 The Fearnings, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs; 31pp) The second PaDSzine, produced by Beryl in collaboration with the

crivant extraordinaire Mary Reed of Banbury and the hitherto unknown Anne Campbell of Bicester. Dozens of throw-away points for consideration, discussion and controversy in what can only be described as a wild woman's fanzine.

**Alien 11** (Oct 64; Harry Nadler and his merry men, 5 South Mesnefield Road, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs; 1/3; 42pp) First and foremost in the field of fantasy and the macabre with the mixture as before, ranging in quality from grammatical errors and corny humour to an excellent coverage of the world of sf and fantasy films with printed stills from *The First Men in the Moon*. Some good articles, reviews and news items. *Alien's* best to date.

**Quotecards Anyone?** (Lang Jones, 36 Winscombe Cres., Ealing, London W5; 24pp) A well written Peterborough convention report by British fandom's latest professional recruit. Also available from Lang are the monthly and highly entertaining reports from Group 65.

**Satura 9** (John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia). A slim chatter and personal comment zine. This is an entertaining issue and the best I've seen so far.

**Sol 40** (Oct 64; Tom Schlück, 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, Germany) A bulky convention-and-meeting-report issue, excellently compiled and featuring an Archie Mercer Castlecon report (ably backed by a professionally edited melange of photographs. Jock Root reports the Pacificon II and Harry Updiddle Harrison menus his recent visit to Italy and Jugoslavia. A great issue of tremendous interest to U.K. fandom.

**Scottishe** (Unnumbered and undated; Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; single issues 1/-, 5 issues for 7/6... it says here! 22pp) A slim Scotty with every appearance of having been hurriedly thrown together (very much as is *Skyrack!*). Contains a short article by John Boardman, a slightly below average Walt Willis "Warblings" column, Ethel's Castlecon report (which fades into an apa-like survey of British newspapers) and Brian Varley's standard saving "Machiavarley" column on *SF Horizons*. When we have come to expect so much from *Scottishe* a mere average fanzine like this comes as a great disappointment.

### **Changes of Address:**

Brian Allport, 11 Ivernia Rd., Liverpool 4.

Jim & Marion Linwood, 213a Westdale Court, Westdale Lane, Carlton,

Notts.

Alan Rispin, Flat 7, 5 Henshelwood Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne 2.

**Snippets:** *It Happened Here*, the “Had the Nazis won the war” film, from which scenes were shown at Peterborough last year and in which starred Bruce Burn, Pat Kearney, Jim Linwood and Pete Taylor is to be shown at the Cork Film Festival. The film will be later released in London and has already gained rave reviews, having been also featured in Bamber Gascoigne’s *Cinema* programme on ITV 15th Sept. ::: Gliding expert George Locke visited Harrogate over the first weekend of this month, taking the opportunity to talk to 50 children on aeronautics and also visiting Knaresborough’s Kard King, Kolin Freeman. Whilst George was here LiG made a flying visit in the forms of Ina, Norman and Gavin Shorrocks and Stan & Auntie Marge Nuttall to pay homage to one who had actually travelled so far north and the following weekend George reacclimatised himself in the south by visiting south western fandom in the shapes of Tony & Simone Walsh and Archie Mercer. ::: It is on record that *New Worlds* stands a good chance of going monthly early next year ::: Pat Kearney and Pete Taylor, Cork Film Festival stars recently visited Liverpool a day apart ::: *Skyrack* fanzine auction (50% to TAFF), zines listed last month: Rich Mann has bid 1/6 per for *Hyphens* 23, 32, 33, *Yandro* 77 and any two copies of *Cry* (149-168), 5/- per on any two OMPA mailings and 7/- for FAPA 107. Dave Hale is high on the other FAPA mailings with 5/- per, and George Locke has bid 1/6 each for *Double Bills* 7&8. Bargain basement time all round. Bidding closes 1st Nov. ::: After much lengthy consideration, deliberation and consultation, Ella Parker has decided to close down the Friday evening open Dunbar House sessions for BSFA members and all comers. Meetings will continue up to and including 18th December ::: Helmut Klemm is back in Germany after a year in the States ::: *Munich Round Up* 72 (Waldemar Kumping, 8 München 2, Herzogspitalstr 5) is out with Castlecon pictures ::: Pete Weston, 9 Porlock Cres., Birmingham 31 now has access to a means of producing electrostencils. 9/6d each plus 1/- per order postage, cash in advance. Sounds a good deal. ::: Hugo nominations are now being invited. See the enclosed flier ::: Don Franson, N3F President, is forming a writers’ exchange as a Neffer Service Department. ::: Heinrich Aernz, 6 Frankfurt 1, Schliessfach 5002, Burgstr 33 IV., W. Germany would like British fan correspondents ::: This issue dedicated to Pete Weston, who sends a continuous flow of newsworthy letters.

# ***Skyrack* #72, 27 November 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* number 72**, dated **27th November 1964** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6 for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (6 issues airmailed for 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, back home in Indiana 46992. Although this issue may be a fair example of how to put out a newszine without news, you may be assured that the banner “news of interest to the sf fan always welcome” still applies. Cartoon on the left is by Arthur Meatpaste Thomson and contributions appear by the kind courtesy of Richard Mann, Harry Harrison, Ken Cheslin, *Starspinkle*, Jim Linwood, Dave Kyle, etc etc.

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**1965 Easter Convention will have as its Guest of Honour the renowned author of *Deathworld*, Harry Harrison.**

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***Starspinkle* Folds. *Ratatosk* Its Phoenix.** *Starspinkle's* editor, Ron Ellik, 1962 TAFF delegate to Britain, is being moved by his firm to the D.C. area, and accordingly has decided to fold that extremely popular newszine. The final issue, the fiftieth, appeared only weeks before its second anniversary. Whilst one is naturally sad to see such an experienced news handler leave this select field, all is not lost, for Ron's publisher, Bruce Pelz, has stepped up to fill the breach with a similar paper, *Ratatosk*, whose first issue appeared last week.

**Congratulations** to BSFA Chairman, Ken Cheslin, whose recent engagement to Miss Wendy Raybould is announced. Her father is not losing a daughter but gaining an Association. A case of doing things in Peri style. And to get in on the act, John Nash, BSFA Librarian is getting engaged at Xmas.

Further to the back page, Ron Ellik's new address is: Box 23, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907, USA.

**Brumble 2** is out. This is the progress report series of next Easter's BSFA Convention to be held in Birmingham. Details from Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs.

**London Fandom** is clubbing together to buy a club house, it says here. Financial details are not known but shares in the project may be obtained at £1 minimum from Michael Moorcock, 8 Colville Terrace, London W.11. Could be a Good Thing.

**November the Eighth 1864** Centenary Celebrations were held by Archie Mercer, Ken Cheslin, Beryl Henley, Rog Peyton, Tony & Simone Walsh and others, all of whom inaugurated a significant competition. Details from Archie @ 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8. :: Fannish-English dictionary (9d) available from Charles Platt.

**Skyrack Heads Insularity Poll** No sooner had I mentioned to James Ashe that the letters of comment I usually receive on *Skyrack* are letters of criticism than along comes a note from one who is by no means unknown for his sensible and level headed approach to fandom, ex-BSFA bi-official, Doc Weir Memorial Award winner, etc., etc., Archie Mercer, in which he states that the headline on the Hugo Awards last issue, “‘Vote British!’ displays Deplorable Insularity”. Hard on the heels of this Mercatorial admonishment comes the appreciated recommendation that the final issue of *Starspinkle* which also mentions the fact that *Skyrack* is insular.

There appear to be two points to make here. Firstly, with the exception of *Contact*, the label of insularity could to some degree be attached to every fannish newszine. At the very best (if one takes “insularity” to be a dirty word), there has been a decided local bias. *Starspinkle* reported the doings of Los Angeles fans its overseas readers had never heard of, *Axe* covered the New York professional scene as though it were the centre of the universe, etc etc. It cannot, dear friend, be otherwise. One reports what one knows, what one is in contact with. And one is more likely to be in contact with that closest to one. *Skyrack*, for example has, when it has been published in London devoted almost its entire (entire, ha! with four sides) issue to the doings of London fandom. So, yes, *Skyrack* is insular. From the beginning it has been my deliberate policy to concentrate on British news. Overseas news has not been neglected when it has most decidedly influenced fandom as a whole or when it has been thought to be of especial interest to certain *Skyrack* readers. Hence the coverage on TAFF news, Hugo winners, Worldcon sitings and the like, a coverage which has at times meant going to some lengths to obtain the news quickly and efficiently (as the Western Union offices in Bradford will bear out!). So yes, indeed, *Skyrack* is insular and will remain so. The reports of Oshkosh engagements and the like will be left to others to print.

Archie of course, has a valid point, however. Such insularity as this urging one to vote British in the Hugo nominations is indeed deplorable. My motive, please believe me, was to point out a contender, Penguin Books, as being worthy of consideration. It is true, however, that I am of the opinion that there is much in British SF and fandom to equal the highest standards of the genre and I am also of the opinion that awards have on occasions gone elsewhere because of sheer weight of numbers. I will most certainly vote for Penguin, but this does not mean that I have not considered other publishers, Ace Books amongst them. My nomination, for example, for Hugo-worthy novel will be one published in America, and written by an American living in Denmark.

Aw, the heck with it. Sure I'm insular.

---ooOoo---

Further to the Hugos there's a funny story going the rounds at the moment. Following the example of the Pacificon II, the London Worldcon Committee has decided against presenting an award for a dramatic work, such as a film or TV show. It is understood that a certain Committee member recently suffered a three a.m. phone call from an irate writer who stated that he had spent over \$300 in publicity for his own dramatic work, who asked how could he possibly win a Hugo for this work if one wasn't to be presented and who announced that unless this decision was retracted he *would not join the convention*. I tell you putting on a Worldcon is great *fun*.

There is incidentally some little discussion going on behind the scenes about the manner of balloting for the Hugo awards and there will possibly be a change in the system employed by future conventions. London is employing the old well-tried system, and had agreed to do so before the storm broke over our heads. Some very sensible comments have been made by both sides in this argument which has happily not degenerated to personalities. Let's keep it that way.

**Vector 29** (The official journal of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32, Nov 1964; 52pp) Bulky, well-produced and containing the usual melange for the sf enthusiast. Castlecon photo pages and an excellent Dave Busby cover. Reviews, news, articles, letters. All good stuff and well up to the Grade A standard of recent issues.

**Haverings 17** (Undated; Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley

Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 1/6 or 50¢ for two issues} A ten page slimzine from Ethel, devoted entirely to comments on the present day fanzine field. An absolute must for the devotee.

**Hydra 4** (Oct '64; Pete Campbell, 3 Market Place, Cockermouth, Cumberland; 5/- per year; 20pp) SF and fan-flavoured but still a little too inclined to give over space to the pseudo-sciences. Not fully into its stride as yet, obviously.

**Beyond 7** (Oct '64; Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, London, NW3; 2/3d; 76pp): *Beyond's* first anniversary issue comes in two parts, each half battling the other for pride of place. Notable for an excellent experimental art-folio and an editorial on conformity which is well thought out and if not original, at least sincere. And for a good variety of material on such topics as Marvel Comics, the Peterborough Convention, George Orwell and Bugs Bunny. A good, sound and thoroughly entertaining issue.

**Deadwood 1** (George W. Locke, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, SW1; Produced for FAPA) The latest British fan to join FAPA (bringing the British membership to two) is George Locke, whose initial offering this is. All good stuff, with numerous glimpses of the inner workings of the Locke mind (sic) and with several outside contributions, including a thoughtful look at education by Charles Smith. Write and ask George for a copy; it will be worth your while.

### **And Those Overseas Fanzines?**

**Satura** John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia. Available for trade or comment. Personality slimzine, Aussie fandom ingroup jokes, a good friendly atmosphere. Greatly improved these days over earlier issues.

**Quark 7** Thomas Perry, 4018 Laurel Ave, Omaha 11, Nebraska, USA. 25¢. At present at the cross roads. A move in the right direction could make this one of the all time Big Ones. (Reads like a horoscope, doesn't it?) Especially notable for Walt Willis' "Harp That Once Or Twice" column now in its third rebirth.

**Frap 6** Bob Lichtman, 6137 South Croft Ave., Los Angeles, Calif 90056. 25¢ or trade. Let's show that we're big men, fellers, and use four letter words and write about sex and male prostitutes (thank goodness for Bob Tucker's balanced approach). But for all the teenage attitude which prevails, there is some good material (and better) here.

**Yandro** Rbt & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992, USA. 30¢. 1/3d or 12 for 12/- to Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts. Monthly, with 30 or so meaty pages. Overall standard always good, material always entertaining and interesting. The backbone of fandom, no less. With 140 issues to its credit, in both senses of the word, could it be otherwise?

**Niekas 9** A bulky N'APAzine from Ed Meskys, L71, LRL, Box 808, Livermore, California 94551, USA. Trade or 35¢. Of especially note amongst its 70 pages are a Tolkien glossary, Philip K. Dick on Nazism and the Jews, and Anthony Boucher on a year's SF books.

### **Changes of Address:**

Walter & Marion Breen, 1300 Arch St., Berkeley, Cal, 94708, USA.

Ron Ellik, change of address pending.

4187447 Sgt. Freeman, K.H., Sergeants' Mess, R.A.F. Shinfield Park, Reading, Berkshire (that's Keith & Wendy, good from 1st Dec).

John Humphries, 53 Cromwell, Road, Belfast 7, N. Ireland.

Andy Main, 24 James St., New York, New York 100389, USA

Richard.Mann, B-331 Bryan Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, USA.

Fred Patten, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles, Calif 90025, USA.

**Snippets** Sincere congratulations to three well known fan families. An 8lb 9oz son, Patrick Russell, was born 31st Oct to Walter & Marion Breen. November 4th saw a daughter, Kerry Margaret, weighing in at 7lb 2oz, born to Dave & Ruth Kyle (start her off on matzoballs), and Jim & Marion Linwood gave birth to a daughter, Eleanor Miriam on 14th November. Jhim reports that Eleanor was four weeks premature, weighed 5lb 6oz and had to be rushed from Nottingham up to Sheffield for an emergency operation. Both Marion and the baby are doing well now. ::: The final *Starspinkle* reported that Arthur Thomson, recently returned from his U.S. TAFF tour, was involved the other week in a 3-car pile up in London. The car was a write-off but Atom is ok. ::: APA 45's 1st mailing is out with 222pp of material from its 12 members. Information and spare mailings (\$1 per) from Richie Benyo, Box 229, Walter Hall, State College, Bloomsburg, Pa 17815, USA ::: Knights of St Fantony are spreading a little. John Humphries' on-off move to Ulster has finally come off and is therefore on, and Keith & Wendy Freeman, worthy overseers of the Most Noble & Illustrious Order, are being removed from their beloved Yorkshire pastoral home to be transplanted in the nether regions of Berkshire. Wait until you experience the bus services down there. :::

London Worldcon programme organiser, co-ordinator or what have you, Ron Bennett, requests that anyone who wishes to contribute to the programme contacts him. And, oh yes, auction material to George Locke, for whom an incorrect address was given in the Con's first Progress Report. His correct address appears elsewhere this issue. ::: Plaudits all round to Joe and Anne Patrizio who have recently adopted a bonnie bouncing baby girl. Half-Chinese and named Lisa. ::: This issue dedicated, as its number 72, to my near neighbours of 1955-56 when I was resident at 72 Clavell Road, Liverpool, Frank and Patty Milnes, now in the care of Mr. Higham in Maghull.

# ***Skyrack* #72 Supplement, 27 November 1964**

My apologies, but bear with me a moment... This concerns money.

About two miles from me right now is a hospital. It's a large rambling place situated, about a mile from Old Mother Shipton's Dropping Well at Knaresborough. The hospital is out in the country and fairly isolated. This is a straight appeal on behalf of one of its many patients.

Colin Freeman is in his late twenties. He is a fan of some two or three years' standing. He is an active member of OMPA and apart from contributing to such fanzines as Dave Hale's *Les Spinge* and Bill Danner's *Stefantasy*, Colin has produced some dozen issues of his own humourzine *Scribble*. Those fans who have been in correspondence with Colin and those fans who have undertaken the journey to the hospital to meet him know all too well what a remarkable and forceful personality he possesses.

This in itself is surprising for Colin is an invalid, being confined almost entirely to his bed. Suffering from ankylosis spondylitis, he cannot stand or even sit. His letter writing and stencil cutting are carried out whilst he is flat on his back.

In a recent issue of his *Skyrack* flier, *mi*, that very worthy gentleman, Eric Bentcliffe suggested that it was a pity that Colin could not attend a convention. Which remark started the wheels rolling and turning. George Locke, Ethel Lindsay, Eric and I have studied the position and have come up with the conclusion that it would be possible for Colin to attend the London World Convention next August, providing enough money can be raised.

Money is important here. Not only could Colin, as a National Health patient, not be able to afford the cost of attending the Convention, but he would require special and expert medical attention throughout the weekend, which would have to be paid for. We estimate that between £150 and £200 would have to be raised.

Which is where you come in. Would you care to contribute something please to this cause? Cash, postal orders, cheques, mint stamps – all are acceptable. (Cheques to be made out either to R.M. Bennett or "The Colin Freeman Account".)

All contributions will be acknowledged, probably by a note stuck in a copy of *Skyrack*, and progress reports will also appear from time to time. If, for any reason, for example, lack of sufficient funds or Colin's eventual condition, this Fund does not succeed, then naturally all money will be returned.

Naturally, too, Colin knows nothing whatsoever about this sheet or the Fund (this reverse side of the sale sheet will be blank\* in his *Skyrack*). He will be undoubtedly extremely annoyed at this parading of much of what he considers private and personal, and at the idea of the fund itself. Accordingly, please make no reference of it at all in any correspondence to Colin or in any fanzine which is sent him. We must face the fact that the chances are somewhat against this amount of money being raised and that therefore there is no point in informing Colin of its progress and raising his hopes of a tremendous time in London which would otherwise be entirely closed to him.

– Ron Bennett

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\* Book sales sheet omitted from this ebook. The Colin Freeman initiative continued in the [Skyrack #77 Supplement](#) was ultimately unsuccessful: see [Skyrack #80a](#). – DRL.

# ***Skyrack* #73, 30 December 1964**

This is ***Skyrack* number 73**, dated **30th December 1964** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6 for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (6 issues sent airmail for 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, RR 3, Wabash, Indiana, 46992. News of interest to the science fiction fan always welcome. Cartoon and heading by Arthur “Atom” Thomson, pen portrait by Charles Platt, and contributions are included from Alan Dodd, Ethel Lindsay, Dwain Kaiser, Roger Peyton etc.

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## **A Happy New Year, Fans, Everywhere.**

**Well Known SF Writer** and 1957 London WorldCon attendee H. Beam Piper was found dead in his Altoona, Pennsylvania, home on 9th November. Piper is believed to have committed suicide, using one of the guns from his famous collection, after his recent divorce which gave custody of his children to his ex-wife.

**“Low Grade” Allotted to Science Fiction.** On 26th October a lecture on sf was given at the University of Liverpool by Professor Allott, of the English Department. Commenting on “the sense of wonder” in the genre, Professor Allott said that sf lacked scientific fact and used devices like hyper drive and time travel in order to extrapolate a given situation. The Professor seemed to be basing his sweeping generalisations upon rather meagre knowledge. Asimov, Heinlein and van Vogt were dismissed in a sentence. Arthur C. Clarke was not mentioned and Professor Allott’s examples were Ballard’s *Drowned World*, Amis’s *New Maps of Hell*, Wyndham, Verne, Lewis and Stapledon. In mentioning Fred Hoyle there was a grudging admission that sf does have a little scientific background. H.G. Wells occupied some twenty minutes of the lecture which was attended by some 150 people including several lecturers, and, which was played strictly for laughs, giving the impression of “smartness” rather than worth in the field. The Professor’s views were somewhat reinforced a few days later when his wife, Dr. Allott, presented a talk on the contemporary English novel. When asked, about the state of science fiction, Dr. Allott

said that it was going to be a significant part of “pop culture” in the near future, with startling ideas, but that it was not going to make any real contribution to the field of literature. Whilst there can be no doubt that much in the sf field cannot possibly have any claim towards literary merit, it is strange that such knowledgeable people should single out science fiction from all the fields of writing.. It is even stranger that they cannot recognise that *some* science fiction has indeed every claim to literary worth. Again, as in all fields of writing.

### **Who’s Who in Neofandom... ..Beryl Henley**

Beryl has the distinction of being a neofan at 38, married, with two small children who read fanzines as they do comics... but the story really starts when Beryl joined the Birmingham sf group and the BSFA, discovering fandom but having known sf for years.

Beryl is good testimony to the validity of Scientology; she is both at peace with the world and extremely energetic, finding time to act as host for hordes of fans, correspond actively and at length with many friends, write scripts for the Redditch Revellers, a local comedy acting group, and of course carry on all her duties as a housewife.

Her background of Scientology and columnist on a local paper shows through strongly in her fanzine articles which delight some but infuriate most. The cries of “crackpot” leave her always willing to argue and overwhelmingly friendly, which make disagreement difficult.

The recent appearance of her fanzine *Link*, produced jointly with Mary Reed, will undoubtedly be a major step towards Beryl extending her influence and becoming better known in fandom, for, as many correspondents already know, as a personality she is both valuable and unique, as a fan or as a friend. (CP)

**Quick Quick Get Out the Sackcloth & Ashes** department. A couple of issues ago *Skyrack* published a couple of items gleaned from our Danish correspondent, Rear Red Admiral Harold Harrison, and also ran a couple of items about said Mr. Harrison. Note the word “also”. The items were not the same. Mr. Harrison, who is modest, asked me to point this out, noting in particular that his recent book, *Bill the Galactic Hero* (“The Starsloggers” in the December *Galaxy*) may indeed be a burlesque of *Starship Troopers*, but that this was not his view. Indeed, indeed, indeed, the comparison was made by someone else. Just to show how well organised a newszine *Skyrack* is, Harry’s letter was misplaced and whereas

this disclaimer should have appeared last month it did not. Moreover, matters were made worse by a similar note, which stated that Mr. H. was, is and will be the Guest of Honour at the 1965 Easter BrumCon. Harry did not send that item either. Accordingly, apologies to Mr Harrison. Mi estas granda nitwit.

**Skyrack Annual Competition**, or come home, Tony Walsh. Competitors are invited to devise a programme of six items to be presented at the 2065 Galactic Convention, sf's LonCon XVI. Entries which show originality in siting the convention, as shown in the programme will be regarded favourably. Closing date 15th February 1965. One prize of a year's subscription to *Skyrack* and 3½d in cash.

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** is going full swing in its efforts to bring over an American to the August Bank Holiday London WorldCon. Nominated are Terry Carr, Bill Donaho and Jock Root, three Good Men. Voting forms may be obtained from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. Latest donations to TAFF have been as follows: 1964 Peterborough Convention £22.2s.10d, Kevin Dillon 14/6d, Dave Barber 10/6d, Jim Cawthorn 10/-, Wolfgang Thadewald 8s, Rosemary Hickey 7/-, Charles Platt 7/6d, George Locke 6/0½d, Joe Zajaczkowski 1½d, and 5/- each from Ron Bennett, Keith and Wendy Freeman, Terry and Val Jeeves and Ivor Latto.

The new amateur publishing association, InterApa, ran into a snag recently, even before it was properly off the ground. Founder Kris Carey could not carry on as Official Editor because of school work and the vacancy has been filled by Dwain Kaiser (5321 Mountain View Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada). Membership costs \$2.50 per year, will be limited to thirty. First mailing is due 15th March.

As 1964 draws to its close it is time again to reflect just how old and tired fans are becoming, Or at any rate, how old and tired *this* fan is becoming. Why, I even remember the days when fans produced bumper issues of their fanzines for Christmas! This month's offering is meagre. Purely from a quantitative position I hasten to add....

**Alien 12** (Dec 64; Harry Nadler, 5 South Mesnefield Road, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs., and Charles Partington, 2 Matlock Avenue, Lower Kersal etc etc; 1/3 per issue; 40pp). The mixture as before from this fanzine of the macabre, horror fiction, film reviews. Etc etc. This issue is notable however for one or two "extras", some decided improvements like the consistent high standard in layout, artwork, and photopages, far fewer

spelling errors and a faaanish party report by Charles Platt. Which fact a year ago would have taken a front page headline. But a good issue in which the group's personality is well presented.

**Quark** (Unnumbered): Election Day '64; Thom Perry, 4018 Laurel Avenue, Omaha 11. Nebraska, USA; 25¢) It's one of the saddest thoughts of today – this unnumbered, virtually undated fanzine stands a good chance of being misfiled or even lost. Once a decade fandom is fortunate enough to possess a fanzine with excellent, mature material *and* that golden indefinable spark. *Quandry* had it, *Innuendo* had it, and after that build up it should come as no surprise to read that *Quark* has it, too. This particular issue is slim and it is unfortunate that there exists in *Quark* a little note not exactly in keeping with the best traditions of fannish brothers. There is a disturbing tone present in an instalment of Walt Willis' column, The Harp That Once Or Twice, published in *Quark* as a result of its latest replant (from Richard Bergeron's *Warhoon*). Walt writes about the Peterborough Convention, mentioning a meeting between himself and the *Alien* producing Delta boys from Salford. Well, certainly, the Salford boys may not have been in fandom for long, they may not have been fed on fannish lore like Courtney's boat, B.P's etc etc (though they do make their own – ask LiG about Tom Holt and the Mersey Tunnel), but is this so terrible? Perhaps to Walt it is; he appears to consider a major calamity the fact that Phil Rogers gained only four votes fewer than did Arthur Thomson in the UK count of the recent TAFF campaign. Whilst we can well dismiss Walt's rather narrow opinions (in the same column he expresses the opinion – as though it were fact – that the BSFA was formed because fandom had been worried about the “complete absence of channels of recruit” after the prozine *Nebula* had folded. There are two points to consider here. Firstly, *Nebula*, with its excellent Willis fan column, was by no means considered to be the all important recruiting agent that it is made out to be in the Harp, though no one can deny that it *did* recruit and recruit well. And secondly, the foundation of the BSFA was by no means linked to the demise of *Nebula*. *Nebula* folded late in 1959. The BSFA was formed at Easter in 1958.) as no more or less than narrow opinions, it is sad that one who can rise to such heights in humorous writing should be satisfied with the snide, with being funny (sic) at the expense of others. Especially when at this season there has appeared an example of kindly humorous writing from the Willis camp, namely the annual Willis Xmas card, without which no year would be complete. For all this minor sour note, *Quark* looks like ranking with the all time fannish greats, and yes, you isolationists, you know where my Hugo nomination is

going as far as the fanzine award is concerned.

**Yandro 141** (Nov 64; Rbt & Juanita Coulson, for address see *Skyrack* heading. 30¢ or 1/6 with special subscription rates. UK agent Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts). More goodies, interesting and informative, on sf and fandom, with a Bob Tucker column as the highlight.

As of Xmas Day the Colin Freeman Account stands @ £12. 9s. 2d. This blotted from Colin's copy. DNQ kind people. Full special progress report next issue.

**Change of Address:** Dr. Peter Campbell, 3 Market Place, Cockermouth, Cumberland.

**Snippets:** Wanted – Copies of *Skyrack* numbers 64 & 72 also any issues of *Ploy*. State your price ::: Gold Star Books in the U.S are bringing out a series of Tarzan books, taking Burroughs characters now in public domain and writing new stories about them without crediting or paying tribute to the Burroughs estate ::: BBC Third Programme recently ran a series of popular sf themes ::: And BBC TV's series *Hollywood & The Stars* devoted a programme to monster films which included shots from several early Gothic fantasies ::: And, Norman Shorrocks, another programme in the same series ran scenes from *Intolerance* ::: Another BBC sf feature, the children's programme, *Dr. Who*, is to be censored after complaints that recent episodes have not been "ideal children's viewing." The sadism in these episodes may bring about a title change to *Dr. Wh007.\** ::: Filmed at last – Richard Matheson's *I Am Legend*, under the title *The Last Man on Earth* (brilliantly original) and starring Vincent Price. ::: Expected from Gollancz shortly are: *The Joyous Invasions* (Sturgeon), *The Thirst Quenchers* (Raphael) and *Two Tales And Eight Tomorrows* (Harry Harrison) ::: B.S.F.A. subscription renewals are now due. Treasurer is Charles D. Winstone, 71 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23. ::: Apologies to all fans to whom I owe letters. I'm now engaged in night school work. Mundac is playing havoc with fanac, I'm afraid ::: The last issue ran a story about an author phoning a London WorldCon Committee member in the middle of the night. It is now common knowledge that said author was Harlan Ellison who phoned Ella Parker from New York to complain about the London decision not to award a Hugo for a dramatic presentation. The position has been greatly complicated since then by various fans, Harlan among them, publishing reasons why London should or should not abide by its Committee decision. ::: For Sale. 1/6 each including postage:– *Worlds of Tomorrow* (Derleth), *Look Out Behind You*

(Lewis)/*Not So Evil As Eve* (Creighton) *Ace Double*, *Titan's Daughter* (Blish), *The Haploids* (Sohl), *The Altered Ego* (Sohl), *Green Hills of Earth* (Heinlein), *Star of Ill Omen* (Wheatley), *Foundation & Empire* (Asimov), *Earth Is Room Enough* (Asimov), *World of Chance* (Dick), *Tomorrow Came* (Edmund Cooper), *The Green Suns* (Ward), *Voyage to Venus* (Lewis), *Ride the Nightmare* (Matheson).

\* Rob Hansen points out that James Bond 007 had also been accused of sadism. –  
DRL.

**1965**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #74, 31 January 1965**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter**

This is *Skyrack* number 74, dated 31st January, 1965 and published by Ron Bennett under the sign of the thickening correctine at 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d for 6 issues; 6 issues for 35¢ in the USA (6 issues sent air mail for 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to the man on the spot, Robert Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. Contributions included from Burkhard Blüm, Tom Schlück, Alan Dodd, Peter Weston, Ken Cheslin, Betty Kujawa, Michael Moorcock, Graham Hall and Archie Mercer.

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**News from Compact Books.** From the present month's issues both *New Worlds* and *Science Fantasy* are to be published monthly, indicating that present editorial policies are proving highly successful. In addition, the publishers, Compact Books, will be shortly introducing a special series of science fiction which will cover about six titles per year. The first book in the series, *The Sundered Worlds* by Michael Moorcock, will appear in March and it is probably that this will be followed in May by Philip E. High's *The Prodigal Sun*. *New Worlds* is reported to be now in a position to compete with American publication rates and is accordingly vying for leading American authors. Already accepted has been a new Jack Vance story. In addition the magazine has a good chance of a wide U.S. distribution in the very near future. (MJM)

**Deaths of Old Time Fans.** On 30th November Myrtle Rebecca Douglas Nolan died in California, aged 60. In the late thirties and early forties Los Angeles fandom was greatly dominated by two Esperantists, Forry Ackerman and Myrtle Nolan (Mirta Forsto) who was hyper-active under the name "Morojo", a name to be conjured with in fan history. On 30th December, old-time NFFF member Bob Farnham died in Dalton, Georgia, a week before his 59th birthday. (*Ratatosk*)

***Skyrack* Annual Competition.** A record number of entries have already been received. Competitors are invited to devise a programme of 6 items to be presented at the 2065 Galactic Convention, the LonCon XVI. Entries which show originality in siting the convention, as shown in the

programme will be regarded favourably. Closing date 15th Feb. Prize is a year's subscription to *Skyrack* and 3½d in cash.

**Further to the *Quark* Article Mentioned Overleaf**, a further note from Walt Willis:

“I gather through Arthur that you are printing letters of comment on the last *Skyrack*, so perhaps you would allow me space to say this. I accept that in my phrasing of that sentence in my article in *Quark* I betrayed unconscious conceit about the importance of my fan column in *Nebula*, and to that extent your reproof was fully justified. However, I don't feel you were justified in using that to quibble about my statement of an incontrovertible fact, viz, that the closing of channels of recruitment to fandom by the general cessation of fan columns in prozines was to most established fans the *raison d'être* of the BSFA. Nor to misrepresent as hostile to new fans and to Phil Rogers as a TAFF candidate an honest attempt to explain their existence to people who had never heard of them.”

Archie Mercer's November 8th Centenary Competition was won by Ron Bennett (gee!) :: Betty & Gene Kujawa have been invited to a Feb 23rd Kingston, Jamaica ball in honour of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

**Last Month I Mentioned** that Walt Willis' column in Tom Perry's *Quark* (the Election Day issue, which I believe is number 8) contained a surprisingly narrow opinion of present day fandom as well as a factual inaccuracy on the time the BSFA was formed and the reason for its formation. I have since received a little correspondence on the matter, as follows:

**Arthur Thomson:** You seem a little harsh on Walt. To me fandom in Britain these days isn't the fandom I knew and loved. And certainly I am somewhat “out” of whatever era of fandom is in existence at present in Britain.

**Ethel Lindsay:** I was slightly staggered at your words on Walt. So muddled in layout, that part. I reckon that you wrote it straight on to stencil. I kept losing my way among the brackets. I don't think that Walt was meaning to be snide (I suppose you do know that he will be in agonies over what you've written). He was just honestly reporting the reaction of an older fan to that of a new one. After living through one era of serious-constructive fanzines it must seem weird to him to watch it all happening all over again.

**Archie Mercer:** I agree with you re Walt's article in *Quark* of course. I've written to much the such effect in my l.o.c. What a contrast that article makes to the Willis-Harbottle dialogue in *Gestalt*.

**Walt Willis:** How can you possibly see that *Quark* article as being snide or funny at anyone's expense except my own? I simply came to the rather rueful conclusion that the *Alien* editor was a BNF in another fandom, and implied no more against Phil Rogers. I think a chip on your shoulder must be getting in your line of vision.

And, on a slightly different topic, and with apologies to Messrs. Graham and Carr from whom I filched the idea which resulted in the following, a letter from Mr MICHAEL MOORCOCK: "Thank you for letting me have advance news of your 400 word novel about Father Christmas being mistaken for an alien. Unfortunately, we are stocked up on Father Christmas stories for the next twelve years, and do not anticipate the continuation of the magazine or the world beyond that point. However, if you would care to submit the story, changing the words 'Father Christmas' to 'Easter Bunny' we may just have room for it. Could you do it in three parts of 133 1/3 words?" ((I've tried to do just this, but the Cheslin influence has been too great. The words keep coming out as "Easter Brummy".))

**News from Birmingham** or "Have an official press hand-out", as follows: "The Birmingham SF Group is looking for a clubroom and would like interested parties to take out a 5/- per year subscription, which will be used to finance the clubroom. This will make you a member of the Group; you will be entitled to attend all meetings and programme events if you wish. You will receive a regular bulletin-cum-newsletter if the project comes off, and there will possibly be other advantages. Anyway, we need the support which you can give us. Visiting fans will of course be welcomed to drop in on meeting nights and we hope that the clubroom, *if* we get it, will be an advantage to fandom as a whole. Money is not wanted yet, but we'd be grateful if you could drop Charles Winstone a note to say that you'll be willing to sub if and when you are asked. That's at 71 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23." And, as Pete Weston adds in a personal note, "We have high hopes on this one, Ron, but obviously we need the cash to get the project launched."

**Garbistan 1** (Dec 64; Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Ave., London NW3; a PADS magazine, available for letter of comment) A lively first issue with a novel quotation quiz, articles, fiction and verse. Highlight is a

commentary on the London fan scene viewed with a jaundiced but critical and observant eye. This is by the editor and like much of his writing is somewhat controversial but definitely readable. A good and balanced first issue.

**Link 2** (Nov 64; Another PADSzine from Beryl Henley et cie, 59 The Fearnings, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs; 1/-) A fantastic melange of the way out. Nay, the Way Out. Not quite my own cup of tea, but why should that worry anyone?

**Zenith Speculation 7** (Dec 64; Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31; 70pp; 2/- or 5 for 7/6) Primarily a *science-fiction* fan magazine and an excellently produced one with artwork and criticism of a high professional standard. Articles on Heinlein, Pangborn, Bloch and Farmer, with a bonus of book reviews, letters, excellent fan commentaries from Walt Willis and Ivor Latto. A perfect example of Dick Howett's *Garbistan* comment that magazines like *Zenith* seek originality whilst *Vector* drags.

**Fusion 1** (Jim Grant, 7 Sydney Road, Fairmile, Christchurch, Hants; 18pp) An excellent if somewhat slim (by today's standards) first issue with an article on writing sf by Chris Priest and an appraisal by John Berry on the works of Rbt. Silverberg, amply answered by the author himself. Good stuff this.

**Haverings 18** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey. 1/6 or 50¢(!) for two issues; 10pp). *The* fanzine reviewzine, a must for every Trufan.

**Pot Pourri 34/37** (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 4, N. Ireland) I don't know what I've done to deserve John sending me this bundle of copies of his excellent SAPSzine, but I'm grateful. Comments, opinions and commentary on subjects ranging from the Rolling Stones to fan visits at John's home "Mon Debris". And yes, there's a Goon story thrown in for good measure. About time that *Retribution* was revived. Monthly.

**Les Spinge 14** (Jan 65; Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worcs; Available for trade, contribution or letter of comment; 105pp) A fantastic start to the year's fanzine pile, but how does one review something like *this*? Particularly after editorial comments about my reviewing capabilities. Allow me merely to list some of the contributors (Ted White, John Berry, Terry Jeeves, Beryl Henley, Mike Moorcock, Jim

Linwood, John Baxter, Jim Cawthorn, George O. Smith, Alan Burns, Ian Peters, Charles Platt, Ken Cheslin) and slide quietly away with the remark that a fanzine like this is unfair to lesser editors who must be discouraged even in trying to pick it up.

**The Gryphon 12** (John Foyster – COA in next section) 27 pages of comment of the Australian and world fan scene, with Australian fan history thrown in, as are Mike Baldwin's comments on a world tour (too much covered in too little space here) for good measure.

**Double Bill 11** (2nd anniversary from Bills Bowers & Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron, Ohio 44313. British agent is Charles E. Smith whose new address appears overleaf, I hope) An excellent Stateside zine which needs no boosting from me. Harry Warner on fandom, Judith Merrill on Mark Clifton and much more.

**Yandro 142** (Juanita & Rbt Coulson, address elsewhere. British agent is Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts; 1/6. 4 for 5/- . 12 for 12/-) Monthly – and how *do* they keep it up! The mixture as before – entertaining.

#### **Changes of Address:**

Redd Boggs, P O Box 57242, Los Angeles, Calif 90057, USA.

John Foyster, 4 Edward St., Chadstone SE 10, Victoria, Australia.

Bob Lichtman, Box 1002, Berkeley, Calif 94701, USA (from 10th Feb)

Keith & Wendy Freeman, Flat C, 11 Castle Cres., Reading, Berkshire (to 21st) – from 21st Feb: 2 Walmer Close (Off Severn Way), Tilehurst, Reading.

Chas. E. Smith, The School House, The Village School, Culford, nr. Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

**1965 Gerfan Con** will be held the weekend before the London Worldcon in Oberursel, near Frankfurt. Little settled to date but there hopes that overseas fans will attend. Hotel prices will be around the DM 8 (c.14/6 or \$2) er, mark.

**Snippets:** Burkhard Blüm reports that a German *Why Is a Fan?* may soon appear :: Tom Schlück and Wolfgang Thadewald are planning a trip to the British south coast following attendance at the Worldcon :: Des Small says that the recent Gold Star Tarzan book is terrible :: Birmingham Eastercon Programme Booklet ad. Rates have been fixed as follows: £1 per page; 10/- ½ page; 5/- quarter page for fans. Double these rates for professional. Deadline for copy 14th February, so get busy. Copy to Ken

Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs ::: BBC Home Service 16th Jan ran a special sf critique in the *World of Books* programme with Gerald Leach praising three new anthologies (amongst them Carnell's *New Writings II* and the Aldiss *Introducing SF*), and stating, as a possible answer to Liverpool's hidebound Professor Allott, "Man and his infinite expressions are the main concerns of science fiction as of all literature." ::: The Kujawa holiday was called off because of family illness ::: Phil Davis, reports Bruce Pelz's up and coming *Ratatosk*, who drew the *Mandrake the Magician* strips for 30 years died of a heart attack in December, aged 58 ::: John F. Burke is now writing "book of the film" novels and is story editor for British 20th Century Fox ::: Alan Dodd reports seeing a cartoon called *Split Level Treehouse* about an elephant, says that the story was by one Larz Bourne and wonders whether this is our Eugene Lars ::: Alan also reports that due at the National Film Theatre showing of *King Kong* recently John Ramsey Campbell and Harry Nadler and that the George Pal Company (MGM) has purchased the rights on Stapledon's *Odd John*. M.G.M. have also, it is announced, bought John Christopher's *No Blade of Grass* (*The Death of Grass*). I just print the news as it comes in. Readers of *The New Futurian* will remember the announcement of that very same sale eight years ago. ::: The London fan house project fell through because of lack of support ::: This issue dedicated to Miss Ella A. Parker whose Friday evening BSFA meetings recently came to an end after some four or five years of continuous fabulous history making, a wonderful era in London and British fandom.

# ***Skyrack* #75, 28 February 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 75** published on **28th February 1965** by Ronald M. Bennett at 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6 issues 7 for 2/6d (35¢ in USA; 70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail). United States representative, to whom subscriptions may be sent, is Robert “Buck” Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to sf fans is always most welcome. The cartoon this issue is by the only fan outside Liverpool who played brag with all picture cards wild and who lived to tell the tale. *Skyrack* is very short on sf-slanted cartoons and contributions are invited. Contributions this issue are by George Locke, Alan Dodd, Ethel Lindsay, Des Squire, *Ratatosk*, Gray Hall, Charles Platt, Ken Cheslin and Peter Weston. And yes, the cartoon is by Arthur Thomson.

**Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award –  
Vote for Terry Jeeves**

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## **Chas. Platt Throws Party – Fans Leave London**

**Congratulations Are Due to Alan Rispin**, British fandom’s leading travelling giant, who this week marries miss Linda Crowe in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where Alan, one-time fan representative of High Irlam, Manchester, is at present studying. Close friends of Alan, Bette Woodhead, Don Geldart and George Locke, drove up to Newcastle from London on Saturday 27th February for an impromptu overnight party, calling in to the editorial offices en route before being frightened away by a wild and growling junior Bennett. By sheer coincidence on the same day Charles Platt was throwing a house-warming party in London’s Notting Hill area, all fans everywhere being invited. Which makes the above headline the most deliberately misleading of *Skyrack*’s existence.

**FAPA Used to Be Called** “The place where old fans go to die”. Some members appear to be going to lengths to change this image. Recently Rick Sneary proposed that members and ex-members of the Cult be barred from FAPA, which left many fans wondering whether this was or was not

a joke and which resulted in the Cult (the 13 strong American apa with an editorially rotating fanzine) making all FAPAns honorary members, a very neat touch.

**For Sale.** 2/- each: Penguin Books: *Three to Conquer* (E.F. Russell), *The Outward Urge* (Wyndham & Parkes), *Penguin Science Fiction* (Aldiss): Also Arthur C. Clarke's *The Challenge of the Spaceship* (Ballantine pb, slightly thumbed @ 1/6.

US editions of *Fantasy & SF*, all fairly good to good. June, July, Oct, Dec 63; Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, June, July, Aug 64. 2/- each.

**Skyrack's Annual Competition** produced a record number of entries, listing programme items for the 2065 Galactic SF Convention, the LonCon XVI. The price of a year's subscription to *Skyrack* and 3½d in cash is awarded once again to Tony Walsh whose following entry was judged outstanding by the panel of experts (Colin Freeman and myself):

"The Convention Committee wishes to remind members that they are limited to the top seventy-one stories only of the hotel.

The Second Day's Programme:—

9.30am. *The Cruellest Crater*. A one act play by the Lunar City SF Group.

11.00 am. Presentations of the Doc Weir Award, the Archie Mercer Award, the Ethel Lindsay Seal and the Ron Bennett Cup.

11.30 am. talk. "The New Found Power of the Imagination" by S. Claus.

12.00. Lunch.

12.05 pm. B.S.F.A. A.G.M. (Shareholders only)

2.30 pm. Speech. "One Hundred Years a Fan". by G.O.H. Gavin Shorrock.

3.30 pm. Grand Auction. Items include the collected originals of the forty-seven major works of Brian Aldiss, a dirty bathrobe, one crate of Chateau Shorrock '87, Lang Jones' Typewriter (retaining price 17,500 new crowns).

? Dinner.

8.00 pm. Costume Carnival. This year come as: My Favourite Natural Phenomenon. (Note: Robot substitution forbidden.)"

**And So to This Year's Conventions.** First on the agenda is the BSFA National Convention which will be held over Easter Weekend at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham. Booking forms have now been distributed and copies (and/or further con details) may be obtained from Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs. Single rooms run 52/6 per night (68/- with private bathroom). Double rooms are 90/- per night (117/6 with bath). But, nota bene, there will be a *thirty percent*

reduction on these prices if more than 75 conventioners book. There will be a 10% service charge on top of these rates, and no tipping. Guest of Honour is Harry Deathworld Harrison and it is expected that the programme will include showing of *When Worlds Collide*, *Forbidden Planet* and 12 episodes of a Captain Marvel serial. It is extremely unlikely that the *Skyrack* editorial staff will be present at the Brumcon and in order to give the event the full coverage it deserves volunteer reporters are in urgent demand.

**European Fandom** is expected to be present in force for the World Convention to be held in London over the August bank holiday weekend, the *last* weekend in the month remember – we’d hate you to have to wait four weeks in an empty hotel. Expected attendees are Axel Melhardt and ten fellow travellers from Austria, Tom Schlück, Wolfie Thadewald, Gary Klupfel, Horst Evermann, Waldemar Kuming, Mario Kwiat, Walter Ernsting, Thea Grade and Rolf Gindorf from Germany, from which country will also travel American exiles George Scithers, George O Smith and Dave Samuelson (at present researching on a Fulbright Scholarship) and from Czechoslovakia is expected Dr. Josef Nesvadba who gave at last year’s PacifiCon what was termed by many to be the most interesting talk of the weekend.

Ballot papers are rolling in steadily for the annual assessment, the *Skyrack* poll. If you haven’t already voted then let’s be hearing from you... yes?

**Bumblie 2** (John Barfoot, 212 Scrogg Road, Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 6.) This 17 page PADSzine is entertaining enough with fiction, reviews and an interesting sf quiz.

**Scottishe 38** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey; 23pp; 1/9 or 50¢) I still don’t see why there is this fantastic difference in rates between UK and US subscriptions on single copies (5 copies cost \$1 or 7/6, a slight difference with the favouring working in reverse), but *Scotty* is probably worth the higher price anyway. Outstanding is Brian Varley’s column, an inspiration to lesser fanzine writers in its object lesson of sheer entertainment and a brilliant item if only (but for much more) for the fact that it rates more highly than the very well continued Warblings fan history column by Walt Willis, no easy task. Walt and Brian are well backed up by the good lady Lindsay herself and by Arthur Thomson’s usual qualitative artwork. Now we only need to teach Ethel to spell words like “Existence”, “contributor”, and “its” for us to have a truly focal point.

**Hydra 5** (Nov 64; Peter Campbell, 3 Market Place, Cockermouth, Cumberland; 5/- per year or letters of comment; 20pp) Some interesting and lively letters take pride of place here, with some sensible book reviews by David Orme close behind.

**Con 2** (Christopher M. Priest, "Cornerways", Willow Close, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex; 30pp; Free on request, an unusual state of affairs) When *Con*'s first issue appeared last year I mentioned it but briefly and did not review it, believing that it was possibly kinder not to do so. The first issue, I felt, was competent enough but it was slim and hackneyed a zine. I feel that it is only fair to mention this fact, for no lesser an authority than Walt Willis wrote of the issue in glowing terms when he reviewed it, which proves something. Very probably just how much reliance one can place on subjective judgment. I am certain that we shall agree that there is much that is enjoyable and worthwhile in this latest issue, particularly the very refreshing editorial personality of which we have many glimpses, a good if questionable story by Terry Bishop and excellent artwork by Dick Howett.

**Vector 30** (Jan 65; the official organ of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton). Roger keeps up his attainment record in producing readable and attractive *Vectors* and in addition to the usual official business, reviews and letters, there is a welcome, return column from Ken Slater and an interesting but rather sketchy review of sf concepts. Ed Mackin contributes to the "Author's Lot" series and Dr. Peristyle produces his most mature offering to date. With *Vector* comes:

**Tangent 1**, a fanzine of fiction by fans. Available to non-BSFA members at 1/-. No further comment from me here. When it comes to fan fiction I am prejudiced.

**Alien 12** (Jan 65; Charles Partington, 2 Matlock Ave., and Harry Nadler, 5 South Mesnefield Rd., both addresses being followed by: Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs. 1/3; 6 issues 7/6) The mixture very much as before from this fanzine of horror, the macabre, monster movies and allied subjects. Such, perhaps, as the flying saucers, which appear here both in print and in one of the most fascinating fanzine illustrations seen for years.

**The Gryphon 14** (Dec/Jan; John Foyster. Address overleaf) Some thirty pages of Australian news, views and chitchat in a fanzine which improves steadily issue by issue. With this issue is a 42 page flier, *Canto 1*, edited by ex-fan-turned-pro-turned-ex-pro-turned-fan, Lee Harding, Olinda Rd., The Basin, Victoria, Australia, a fanzine of very varied interests with a good

quality of style and reproduction. Undoubtedly the best fanzine to emerge from Australia for some time.

**Changes of Address:**

Keith and Wendy Freeman, 2 Walmer Close (off Severn Way), Tilehurst, Reading.

John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia.

Bob Lichtman, Box 1226, Berkeley, California 94701, USA.

**Snippets:** John Phillifent has published a non-sf novel, *The Lonely Man*, in the Boardman crime series :: Colin Freeman thinks that I should have been disqualified from the 8th Nov 1964 centenary celebrations competition as I was the only competitor actually *there* on 8th November 1864. Oh, come now; I get enough of *that* gag at school. Surely I'm too young for it to have permeated into fandom? :: Following time lost because of snow, secretary Charles Smith's move to Bury St. Edmund (as George Locke would say, "We come to bury St. Edmund, not to...") and an accident which laid low director Ivor Mayne, the London cine enthusiasts Group '65, have shelved their Worldcon feature film, *Nightworld*. There is the possibility of a shorter epic being made for the Worldcon. This rounds off a fairly ghastly time for the younger London element (younger as an element and not necessarily as individual members, please note), considering their recent ill-fated venture concerning the renting of a club house. Let's trust that their bubbling enthusiasm can be well harnessed to other, more successful, ventures. :: *Ratatosk*, Bruce Pelz's up and coming newszine, recently reported that Dorothy "Rory" Faulkner suffered a stroke on 28th January. She has recovered sufficiently to sit up but parts of her mouth and tongue are paralysed. Her many friends in this country will, I am sure, join in wishing Rory a rapid and complete recovery :: Following the ground-work put in by A.E. van Vogt last mid-summer on the idea of a sf writers' protection society, there now seems to be getting off the ground, reports our inside man Gordon Walters, a body known as the Science Fiction Writers of America. An introductory circular has appeared from Damon Knight informing would be members of a bimonthly bulletin and urging them to join the society. Subs are \$3 per year. :: John F. Burke was interviewed on the BBC's Light Programme *Roundabout* on 10th Feb, revealing that to write a book of the film, of which he has produced several of late, takes him all of a fortnight :: A group flight to the August LonCon II is being planned for those who wish to get together on the project. Heralding the idea is Judy Blish who may be asked from details at 202 Riverside Drive,

New York City 10025. :: This issue is for Rory, a young and zestful femme-fan extraordinaire, who, in 1957, gave us a new slant on life.

# ***Skyrack* #76, 4 March 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 76** published on **4th March 1965** by Ron Bennett at 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6 issues for 2/6. Six issues for 35¢ in the USA (6 issues airmailed for 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to Bob Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. News of interest to sf fans always welcome. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson, captioned by Ron Bennett. Contributions from Ethel Lindsay, Mike Moorcock, George Locke, Phil Harbottle and others.

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## **Terry for TAFF**

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** wound up its latest campaign on 1st March with a clear cut leader in the ballot to bring a Stateside fan across the Pond as official U.S fan delegate to the August World Convention which will be held in London. The final figures, subject to the traditional neutral check, are:

	U.S.A	UK	TOTAL
Terry Carr	168	39	207
Jock Root	95	19	114
Bill Donaho	71	18	89

In addition, there were two write-in votes for Len Moffatt, and one each for Dick Eney, Ben Starke, Bjo Trimble and Wally Weber.

Thus the Fund winds up its latest campaign after a lengthy period of hyper-activity during which it has functioned virtually continuously with Ethel Lindsay at its helm for almost three years. Terry will be the fifth American fan to travel under the Fund's auspices, the others being Bob Madle (1957 London Worldcon), Don Ford (1960 LonCon), Ron Ellick (1962 Harrogate Con) and Wally-Weber (1964 PeterCon II).

Terry is at present employed as an editor with Ace Books, last year's Hugo winner in the Best Publisher category of the Awards, is author of the Ace novel *The Warlord of Kor*, and has had several short stories published by *F&SF*. Following Ken Bulmer (1955), he is the second professional writer to be elected a TAFF delegate and like Ken he wins the honour for his hyper-activity in the fan field. A fan since the age of twelve, Terry is now

most active in FAPA with his excellent fanzine *Lighthouse* but is undoubtedly best known in the field for his work under the “Carl Brandon” by-line (for example, “My Fair Femme Fan”), his brilliant fanzine *Innuendo* and his Hugo Award winning newszine *Fanac*. Absolutely wonderful to know you’re coming, Terry. Congratulations.

**Twenty Nine Fans Lodged Votes** with TAFF administratrix Ethel Lindsay, who will now be handing over the U.K. end of the Fund to last year’s delegate Arthur Thomson after an almost record stint of Fund handling since September 1962. The twenty nine were: Mal Ashworth, Dave Barber, “Carl Brandon Jr.”, George Charters, Jim Cawthorn, Horst Evermann, Keith and Wendy Freeman, Jimmy Groves, John Hautz, Rosemary Hickey, Terry and Val Jeeves, George Locke, Ian McAulay, Peter Mabey, Ella Parker, Charles Platt, Michael Rosenblum, Bob and Sadie Shaw, Peter Singleton, Wolfgang Thadewald, Arthur Thomson, Brian and Frances Varley, James White, Madeleine and Walt Willis.

Donations to the Fund were made as follows: Peterborough Convention £22 2s 10d; Ivor Latto 25/6d; Science Fiction Club of London, Peter Mabey, Michael Rosenblum £1 each; Horst Evermann, Terry Jeeves, Keith Otter, Peter Singleton. 15/- each; Kevin Dillon 14/6d; Dave Barber 10/6d; Jim Cawthorn, Jimmy Groves, Ian McAulay, Brian Varley and Frances Varley 10/- each; Archie Mercer 10/-; Rolf Gindorf and Wolfie Thadewald 8/- each; Charles Platt 7/6d; Rosemary Hickey 7/-; Liverpool Group Quotecards 6/6d; Bill Danner 6/-; George Locke 6/0½d; Ron Bennett 5/1d; Mal Ashworth, Carl Brandon, George Charters, Keith Freeman, Wendy Freeman, John Hautz, Val Jeeves, Ella Parker; Bob Shaw, Sadie Shaw, Arthur Thomson, James White, Madeleine Willis and Walt Willis 5/- each; Terry Carr 2/-; Tom Perry 2/- and Joe Zajackowski 1½d.

**The Ultimate Analysis**, a complete bibliography and estimation of John Russell Fearn, running to 60 foolscap sides with 20 illustrations, is all but finished. Two fanzine articles are urgently wanted before it can be finalised. These are “Concerning Webwork” by Thornton Ayre in *New Worlds* (1940), and “Why Copy the Americans?” by Vargo Statten in *S.F. Satellite* (1954), the first issue of Don Allen’s fanzine. Anyone wishing to sell or merely loan those items will be well rewarded, in addition to receiving free copies of the bibliography. Contact, please, who else but Phil Harbottle, 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland.

**Further on the London Worldcon** this coming August. An excellent savings scheme is in operation. Cash, postal orders, details or what have

you to/from (respectively), Ella Parker, 43 William Dunbar House, Albert Road, London NW 6. Following the list of expected continental attendees last issue, let's balance the scales with the latest list of fans expected to arrive from North America: Dick Eney, Ron Ellik, Al Lewis, Don and Elsie Wollheim, Frank and Elinor Busby, Karen and Poul Anderson, Boyd Raeburn, Forry Ackerman, Anthony Boucher, Leigh Brackett, Wally Cole, Frank Dietz, Harlan Ellison, Edmond Hamilton, Dave and Ruth Kyle, Dick and Pat Lupoff, Ed Meskys, Schuyler Miller, Bob and Barbara Silverberg, George Nims Raybin, Harry Harrison ((from North America? Well, that's what it says here!)).

**More on FAPA.** Following the recent annual FAPA Awards ballot during which was invited the blackballing of waiting listers... the entire waiting list was so blackballed (reports *Focal Point*, a new and very meaty newszine from Rich Brown and Mike McInerney, 268 East 4th Street (apt 4C), New York City, New York). The report continues to say that Bob Pavlat, the FAPA's Secretary-Treasurer, had compensated for this loss of an entire waiting list by inventing his own. It is understood that quite coincidentally the new list resembles the old in many respects.

*Focal Point* also reports that Ace Books are publishing an anthology *World's Best Science Fiction 1965* edited by Don Wollheim and Terry Carr, that Ted White has recently sold novels to Ace, Monarch and Lancer, and that *Analog* is to revert to digest size with its April issue, a change occurring slap in the middle of a five part serial and in the middle of a volume.

**Charles Platt Throws Party – Fans Visit London.** Which seems a fair enough headline to wipe clean the slate of last issue. Fans and other invited guests queued up with gatecrashers to get into the house warming party thrown by *Beyond* editor Charles Platt on Saturday, 27th February. Attendees were first sorted out into different rooms, a good filter plan for ridding the party of the unwanted, the fans being ushered into the Platt bedroom which was strewn with fanzines, lps, clothes, *Playboy* cutouts and the occasional duplicator. On the wall was an impressive sheet headed "Things to prepare for the party", certainly an innovation as far as parties are concerned in fandom. Here Norman Sherlock, who a year or so ago was fast becoming thought of as a one joke man ("Let me tell you about the last Japanese suicide pilot. His name was..." showed how wrong is this tag by cracking *another* joke. In a little while our host, the Twisher himself appeared, said that it was now clear downstairs and would we please move down again as he was worried about the carpet in his room getting messed

up. Following his own recent remarks in a fanzine on such matters this struck us as hilariously funny. Shortly afterwards, after much vibrant conversation we were entertained by our host with, of all things, an electric organ and by Mike Moorcock on an electric guitar. During the evening Charles would rarely be seen in one spot. He kept popping up to fish a bottle from some hiding place and then would disappear to do the same for some other group of fans, The forthcoming BSFA election for the post of publications officer was discussed calmly with the merits of contenders Charles and Roger Peyton viewed most dispassionately. All in all a very good party, or perhaps several good parties, in different rooms, at the same times. Present at some time or other were Archie Mercer, Norman Sherlock, Lang Jones, Pat Kearney, Des Squire, Peter White, Mary Reed, Daphne Sewell, John and Marjorie Brunner, Julia Stone, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Ballard, Mike Moorcock, Cliff Teague, Pete Weston, Graham Hall, and of course Charles the Platt himself. And probably, amongst the milling hordes, Alan Dodd.

**The Middle of February** saw Eric Bentcliffe and Harry Nadler brave the blizzards ranging over Stand Edge and drive over to Harrogate in Harry's Skoda. A very good evening (from my point of view) ensued, with Chateau Shorrock sampled in the Yorkshire air. The temptation to mix it with the natural waters of the spa was resisted. Before returning the visitors set up shop and showed the Delta group's latest epic, the famed *Castle of Terrors*, due to be screened to the public at large in London late in August.

**The Other Party**, continued. It is not every day that *Skyrack* receives a report written by an attendee of an all night party – the day after that very party. But there's always a first time. George Locke writes: "Saturday 27th February. Pre-wedding party to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Alan Rispin and Linda Crowe on 3rd March. Geldart, Locke and Bette Woodhead drove up from London, visiting some neo-fan name of Bennett en route. Party started properly at 10pm with one large beer barrel and a couple of thousand University of Newcastle students complete with cloth caps and depressed areas. Finished about 4 am with a suspected depressed area on a fellow's skull who had a mild contretemps with a door. Visited Fapan Colin Freeman on the way back." Which report smacks of a little arm levering to get Colin to join FAPA. George omits mention of a suction rattle owned by Andrew (John Berry's plonker gun fandom is not dead) which was stuck to his forehead on the Saturday. George returned to Yorkshire on the Sunday afternoon with the mark still plainly visible. Don

Geldart is believed to be running a book on the length of time it takes for the mark to disappear.

**Change of Address:** Charles Platt, 325a Westbourne Park Road, London W. 11.

**Snippets:** Bill Harry, ex-fan and editor of the Liverpool pop music paper, *Mersey Beat* expands the publication this week to include the whole world of pop music. New title for the sheet will be *Music Echo* ::: Lovecraft's "Colour Out of Space" is being filmed under the title *House at the End of the World*. Screenplay by Jerry Sohl. In colour. Will star Karloff, Terence de Marney (how are the Marney fallen) and that refugee from the TV newspaper world Nick Adams ::: Congratulations to Steve Tolliver on his engagement to Sylvia Dees ::: *New Worlds* 150 is coming up with a special all-star issue, with a photo feature of British contributors, a guest editorial by Ted Carnell and stories by Charles Harness, Jack Vance, Ted Tubb, Brian Aldiss, Jim Ballard and John Brunner. NW151 will feature a new style cover, probably in memory of the good old days at 151 in NW 6 ::: Also regarding *New Worlds* comes the news that Penguin will publish the NW anthology *Lambda One and Other Stories* in July ::: Ron Bennett has resigned from the London WorldCon committee. The main body in London just *wouldn't* agree to move to a con site a few miles out of London, to Harrogate, and there was the odd minor reason, like sheer lack of time. Programming has now been taken over by Miss Ella Parker, address elsewhere this. ::: That National Film Theatre showing of *King Kong* mentioned a couple of issues back, was attended by Alan Dodd, Chuck Partington, John Ramsey Campbell and Harry Nadler ::: Coincidence. At the same time as *Ratatosk* announces that Bruce Pelz has for sale 20 copies of the 2nd edition of Walt Willis' *The Enchanted Duplicator* (with Eddie Jones illos), Pete Weston announces that he plans a summertime limited edition of another reprint of the same epic, sporting card covers and Atom illos. The Pelz edition costs 75¢ and the Weston edition will undoubtedly be a sell out at 3/6d ::: This issue is for Ethel Lindsay, a keener worker than whom fandom never possessed.

**Letter Department** William F. Temple, *Skyrack's* Pet Professional, writes: "Herewith arf-a-crown being a renewal of sub. to *Skyrack*, a magazine of a quality hard to beat... for making paper darts. Actually, I've retired from fandom – but I still like to throw paper darts at my wife."

And lastly, a note from Terry Carr's FAPAazine, *Lighthouse*, mentioning that, no, the Larz Bourne of Hollywood cartoon fame is not the Oregon

fannish Lars.

# ***Skyrack* #77, 12 April 1965**

## **The *Skyrack* Newsletter**

This is *Skyrack* 77, dated **12th April 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6 or 35¢ for 6 issues. Airmail: 6 issues for 70¢. U.S. representative is Robert Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

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### **Death of Don Ford**

Fans the world over will be both shocked and saddened at the report that Donald E. Ford, the American Mid-West's "Mr. Science Fiction", died of cancer at the age of forty-four a week last Friday, 2nd April.

Don was a life-long reader of s.f. and possessed one of the largest magazine collections in the world, his applebox shelved basement collection being a talking point by many more fans than those who had gazed enviously at the complete runs of pulps and digest sized prozines.

In addition to being a leading light of many years' standing in the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, Don was Chairman of the 1949 Worldcon, the Cinvention, a photographer of more than local renown, a member of OMPA since December 1955 and a founder member of First Fandom.

He was the only fan to administer the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund without actually having made the trip himself across the Pond. Under the guidance of Don Ford and Walt Willis the Fund came safely through its period of teething troubles and Don was himself finally rewarded with a TAFF trip to the 1960 Easter London Convention at which he made many friends, thrilling the audience with a show of some of his many prize winning colour slides and introducing to British conventions a new technique in party-throwing.

Little Don, all six feet six of the man who lived for science fiction, is no more. On a recent trip to see fellow fan Dr. Charles L. Barrett, Don had mentioned a pain in his groin. Tests showed a malignant knot and a subsequent operation came too late.

Science fiction has lost a tireless worker. Fandom has lost a true friend. The sympathy of fans everywhere will be extended to Margaret, Terry-Ann and the rest of the Ford family.

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**The BSFA Convention** will be held over the forthcoming weekend at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, a weekend which looks to be a feast for SF film fans. *The Conquest of Space*, *Forbidden Planet* and *When Worlds Collide* are three feature films which will be shown. Harry "Deathworld" Harrison will be the Guest of Honour and other feature speakers will include George Scithers and Geoff Doherty. The Con Committee is organising a special fanzine display room, details from Mike Higgs, 138 Barrows Rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham 11. Ted Tubb, Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett and James White are expected to attend the conclave. At the time of writing it is believed that the convention is some 15 members short of the required number for the full 30% discount promised on hotel rates should bookings exceed seventy-five. Let us hope that the Birmingham New Wave enthusiasm is not to be marred by the advent of the August World Convention. Several convention regulars will not be at Brum, amongst them most of the Liverpool Group, Eric Bentcliffe and several London fans.

### **1964 Poll Results**

In the 1964 *Skyrack* poll, the sixth annual assessment of the merits of British sf fandom ended with the following thirty fans having returned ballot forms: Ron Bennett, Sid Birchby, Carl Brandon Jr., Bill Burns, Ken Cheslin, Keith Freeman, Jim Grant, Graham Hall, Alma Hill, Bill Hillan, Dick Howett, Terry Jeeves, Ivor Latto, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Linwood, Archie Mercer, Michael Moorcock, Harry Nadler, Doreen Parker, Chuck Partington, Charles Platt, Chris Priest, Peter Singleton, Rick Sneary, Des Squire, Brian Varley, Frances Varley, Tony Walsh, Walt Willis and Charles Winstone. The results of the voting, which covered the entire British fan field for the period January to December 1964, were:

### **The Best British Fan Publication of 1964**

1. The *Skyrack* Newsletter. 165 points. Joint leader last year.
2. *Zenith* (now *Zenith Speculation*). Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent,

- Northfield, Birmingham 31. 2/- per copy) 147 points. 8th last year.
3. *Les Spinge* (Dave Hale, 12 Belmont Rd., Wollescote, Stourbridge, Worc. Trade, contribution or letter of comment) 136½ points. 3rd. last year.
  4. *Beyond* (Charles Platt, 325A Westbourne Park Rd., London W.11; 2/3d per copy) 84 points. 17th last year.
  5. *Vector* (Official Organ of the B.S.F.A. Edited last year by Archie Mercer and subsequently Roger Peyton) 75½ points. 5th last year.
  6. *Hyphen* (Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast 4, N. Ireland; 15¢ or 1/-) 70 points. Joint leader last year.
  7. *Scottishe* (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey; 1/9d or 25¢) 55 points. 4th last year.
  8. *Camber* (Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts; 2/6 or 25\$) 53 points. Unplaced last year.
  9. *Harlequin* (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast 4, N. Ireland. Published for TAFF at a minimum of 2/6 per copy) 43½ points.
  10. *Alien* (now *Alien Worlds*; Harry Nadler and Charles Partington, 2 Matlock Avenue, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs; 1/3 or 25\$) 40 points. Unplaced last year.

It is naturally appreciated that any fanzine which runs a poll is going to have returns weighted in its favour. Accordingly, the above listing must be taken as a moral victory for Pete Weston's *Zenith* with its excellent all-round, coverage of the sf scene. Out of last year's top ten go Colin Freeman's *Scribble*, John Berry's *Pot Pourri*, Tony Glynn's *Squeak* and Lang Jones' *Tensor*.

Runners-up this year are: 11. *Quote Cards Anyone?* (Lang Jones 38½ pts), 12. *The Scarr* (George Charters 33 pts), 13. *Link* (Beryl Henley 31 pts), 14. *Squeak* (Tony Glynn 30 pts), 15. *A Child's Garden of Olaf* (Ken Cheslin and Mike Higgs 28 pts), 16. *The Shudder Fanzine* (Mike Higgs 25 pts), 17. *Nexus* (Pete Weston 23 pts), 18. *Haverings* (Ethel Lindsay 22½ pts), 19. *Garbistan* (Charles Platt 20 pts) and joint 20's *Con* (Chris Priest) and *East Fanglian Times* (George Locke) 19½ points each.

#### **The Best Individual Fanzine Feature of 1964.**

Once again there were a good many items listed, a bumper crop, in fact, of no fewer than sixteen.

Ken Slater's "General Chunterings" column in *Vector* won narrowly.

#### **The Best Column of 1964**

1. Walt Willis' resurrected "Fanorama" column in *Zenith*.

2. The “Doctor Peristyle” column in *Vector*.

### **The Best Fan Artist of 1964**

It was good to see some new names appearing in this section, with Dick Howett and Brian McCabe being prominent. For the sixth successive year the leading two places went to 1. Arthur Thomson and 2. Eddie Jones. Jim Cawthorn was once again third, though this year he shared this place with Brian McCabe.

### **The Year’s Best Fanzine Report**

In this category there was a tie for leading place between the Lang Jones one-shot *Quotecards, Anyone?* and the Charles Smith Repetercon report in *Les Spinge*.

### **The Best Professional Magazine of 1964**

Despite the claims of two fans that there are only two professional magazines votes were registered for six! Last year’s leader won again, namely *Science Fantasy*.

### **The Year’s Best Professional Feature**

In this section also, choices varied considerably, the result eventually being a tie between:

Period of Gestation by Thom Keyes in *Science Fantasy* 67, and  
*The Blue Monkeys* by T.B. Swann, serialised in *Science Fantasy* 67-69.

### **The Best Professional Writer of 1964**

Brian Aldiss ran away with this section for the third year in succession, polling three times as many votes as his nearest rival, J.G. Ballard.

### **The Best Fanzine Cover of 1964**

It was wonderful to see that the best fannish traditions were being kept up. *Bastion*, which has not appeared for over two years, received two votes! The winner was the Eddie Jones cover on *Zenith* 5.

### **Leading Fan Personality of 1964**

Archie Mercer, short distance quantitative travelling giant, won this category for the second year in succession.

### **The Best British Fan Writer of 1964**

1. Walt Willis (52 points) The leader for the fourth year in succession.
2. Archie Mercer (27 points) 5th last year.
3. John Berry (26 points) 2nd last year.
4. Charles Platt (21 points) Unplaced last year.
5. Ethel Lindsay (20 points) 7th last year.
6. Brian Varley (19 points) 3rd last year.

7. Terry Jeeves (18 points) unplaced last year.
8. Ron Bennett (16 points) 8th last year.
9. Beryl Henley (14 points) Unplaced last year. Bob Shaw (14 points) Unplaced last year.

Out of last year's top ten placings go Colin Freeman, Fred Hunter, George Locke and Phil Harbottle.

That's it until next year. Many thanks indeed to all who voted. – rmb

### **Changes of Address:**

Arthur Hayes, P0 Box 189, Matachewan, Ontario, Canada.

Peter Mabey, 5 The Avenue, Kew, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Ethel Lindsay, Ward C3, Lambeth Hospital, Brook Drive, London SE 11 (temporary).

**William F Temple** is due to go into hospital shortly for a hernia operation. Meanwhile, south of the river, recent TAFF Administratrix and OMPA editor, Ethel Lindsay, is in hospital for treatment of an ulcer. Let's trust that both are back in circulation very soon.

**On Sunday 28th February** the Liverpool Group, from behind a barricade of empty wine casks, turned up in force to defend the Shorrocks homestead against an onslaught of tape recorders, film projectors and sound effects records, borne by Delta members Dave Trengove. Chuck Partington, Tom Holt and Harry Nadler. Target for the invasion, after a welcome and delicious meal, was the Shorrocks den for a very hectic recording session in an attempt to add the sound track to one of the Delta Worldcon films, *The Castle of Terrors*. Ina, Norman and sundry Shorrocks were backed up by Eddie Jones, Stan and Marge Nuttall, John Roles, John Ramsey Campbell and Norman Weedall who supplied werewolf calls, screams, groans, bangs, crashes, thwacks (!) and everything that couldn't be found on record. There is, however, definitely a market for chirping crickets! The following weekend saw the Delta gang arrive at the LiG Clubroom to show the film. In addition there was also shown the very early silent fantasy, *Nosferatu*. During the evening Messrs. Nadler, Partington and Holt were tied by the ears, draped in white robes and sentenced to ordeal by Russian drinking mug for showing *Castle*. Plans were later made for a third visit to re-record the sound track – correctly this time. – (HN).

**Radio Mogul** and New York-London biannual commuter Dave Kyle is in London and is a possible Brumcon Easter weekender. Dave, and his wife Ruth, the matzoball kid, will be at the London WorldCon, not only to have

convention fun, but also to interest British attendees to vote for Syracuse as the site for the 1966 WorldCon. Syracuse puts up a good case but so does Ben Jason of Cleveland. Initially it appears to be a difficult decision and possibly fliers will shortly appear on the matter from either centre. Or both.

**Ziff-Davis**, publishers for many a year of *Amazing* and *Fantastic*, have sold both titles to Sol Cohen, until recently the publisher of *Galaxy*. Mr. Cohen has left *Galaxy* to form a new company. It is not yet known how the change will affect the policy of any of the three magazines concerned.

# **Skyrack #77 Supplement, April 1965**

## **The Colin Freeman Fund April 1965 Progress Report**

The Fund stands at £55 and \$200 in some sort of round figures; Very, very good going. Dave Hulan (Apt 5, 19018 Bryant, Northridge, California 91325) has some \$175 and I have £55. 9s. 8d in sterling and \$37 in Stateside and Canadian currency, a grand total of almost £130 now being in the kitty. Accordingly, from the financial viewpoint the trip looks to be a decided prospect.

I have been trying hard to persuade Colin to think about getting to London for the worldcon and he is considering the matter and trying to work out arrangements whereby his brother, who lives reasonably locally (in Leeds), will hire transport. It would appear from this that the best arrangements can therefore be made through Colin's brother, Stanley. Nearer the actual time of the convention, when we are more certain of Colin's actual state of health, I shall get in touch with Stanley to work out details behind Colin's back, as it were. Meanwhile, Colin's proposed Easter trip to London is off. Instead he is considering what he terms "a trial run" sometime in the near future over to Belle Vue Zoo in Manchester.

With this issue of Skyrack is included a listing of fanzines to be sold by Geoff Wingrove (orders direct to Geoff, please). In addition, other worthies have been donating material to the Fund, and a listing of these items follows. Please take note, buyers, of where to send the cash and orders.

The following sf books\* have been donated by David C. Piper, 102 Abinger Road, Bedford Park, Chiswick, London W.4. All profits to the Fund. Orders direct to Dave, please. Mr. Piper, that is. Mr. Hulan has enough on his plate!

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Books-for-sale lists omitted from this ebook. – DRL

Which is the lot for this time round. A progress report on how the sales

have gone along, plus the latest state of the Fund, in a couple of months' time. Meanwhile, many thanks indeed to all who have donated cash, magazines, time, effort, etc to the Fund. Terrific! Bestest, Ron Bennett.

# ***Skyrack* #78, 9 May 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 78**, dated **9th May 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52, Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (airmail 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to that Grand Old Man of Indiana fandom, Robert Sebastian Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Ind. 46992. Cartoon reprinted from *Skyrack* No. 17 by Arthur “Atom” Thomson. Birmingham convention coverage by Doreen Parker and Christopher Priest with inter-round summaries by J. Barrington Dalby.

Please note that the address is Fairways *Drive*; also that whilst mail has in the past been forwarded from Newcastle Road, Liverpool, that address is now out of date.

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## **Brumcon Highlights**

**The 1965 National Convention** was held under the auspices of the B.S.F.A. in Birmingham during the Easter weekend, from Good Friday, 16th April to Easter Monday 19th April. About seventy fans and professionals attended the Con at the Midland Hotel, New Street, and whilst it was an enjoyable weekend, it was not the most memorable of conventions. Undoubtedly the attendance, small for recent years, was overshadowed by the forthcoming World Convention in August. The Committee at Birmingham worked hard to produce a good convention but the lack of names to draw upon for programme items, in a purely qualitative sense, meant that the variety of the programme items was limited and perhaps in all the programme was somewhat unimaginative.

**The Convention Opened** on the Friday evening with short introductions, appeals to support Great Yarmouth for next year’s consiting, and a brief encounter with a tardy arrival in the shape of Harry Harrison who excused his late coming on the grounds that the opening ceremony had been late, a readily accepted excuse!

**The Remainder of Friday Evening** was devoted to a showing of three cartoon shorts and the feature film *Forbidden Planet* which was last shown to convention audiences in Gloucester at the 1961 LeXIcon.

**Quote Cards** were also prevalent. Though not in the abundance of last year, they appeared from several different sources. Archie Mercer produced a confetti-like series of “do it yourself” cards.

**A Curious Innovation** to the Saturday morning programme was the manner in which breakfast became an auction session, with Phil Rogers acting as auctioneer and Beryl Henley uncovering a plot to lower the gold standard by infiltrating French francs into the auction funds.

**Geoff Doherty**, now a training college lecturer, gave the first talk of the convention, citing definitions like “fantasy is non-statistical fact” and coming to the conclusion, via the opinions that the best sf comes from fantasy and that a good story comes only with the authority of experience, that there is no real difference between sf and fantasy.

**George Scithers**, 1963 DisCon Chairman and Hugo Award winner for his fanzine, *Amra*, then spoke on the reasons behind the TriCon bid for the 1966 Worldcon siting. Ordinarily, the siting of the American worldcons does not play a large part in British fan affairs. This year, however, the British fan is being wooed earnestly for his vote for the voting for the siting of any world con takes place at the previous world con, thus the voting for next year’s siting will take place in London in August. And of course, the audience will undoubtedly be predominantly British. There are two bidders for the 1966 gathering, Syracuse and TriCon. Originally, the TriCon group was made up of rival factions from Cleveland, Detroit and Cincinnati, all of whom have now amalgamated their interests with a provisional convention hotel in Cleveland and with a guest of honour already lined up. The TriCon argument is basically the Rotation Plan, the system under which the worldcon sitings circulate in the USA. Obviously, in a country the size of the U.S. it would be unfair to hold every convention on say, the east coast. Accordingly, the Rotation Plan has been in operation for a number of years. The 1964 Worldcon was held on the west coast of America and by rights, under the system, this year’s convention should be held somewhere in the centre or “mid-west” area. However, London has stepped in and has accordingly put back the rotation plan by one year. It seems to follow, therefore, that if one agrees with the rotation plan then the TriCon bid is the obvious one.

**The Saturday Afternoon** programme was devoted to the showing of two professional films, *The Conquest of Space* and *When Worlds Collide*.

**The Traditional Saturday Night Party** this year sported the title of Mad Raving Saturday Night Shindig. The level of ingenuity and originality was

well up to the standard of recent conventions, with Beryl Henley as the Scarecrow from *The Wizard of Oz* and Brian Burgess as a meat pie. Rumour has it that Alan Dodd was present, disguised as a quote card. Once again the honours went to the Delta group, with Peter Day and Bill Burns taking first prize as – to quote the spokesman for the panel of judges, Ted. Tubb – “The Mad Scientist and his Tame Assistant”. Chuck Partington was second as “The Man with the Head and the Teeth” and Harry Nadler was third as “The Atrocious Monster with a Gun in his Mitt!” By some sort of mutual consent, the party left the con hall to its own devices and moved on to Jimmy Groves’ bedroom where it continued well into the early hours, one of the weekend’s undoubted highlights.

**At the Annual General Meeting** of the BSFA on the Sunday morning it was announced that the association had a paid membership of 269. Roy Kay took over the Chair from the retiring Chairman, Ken Cheslin, and Librarian Joe Navin was elected Vice-Chairman, beating Charles Platt in a straight vote. Graham Bullock resigned as Secretary and Doreen Parker, who had had her car removed during the weekend (it was later found by Ted Tubb not far from the hotel), agreed to step into the breach. Charles Winstone continues as Treasurer and Roger Peyton as Publications Officer.

**Newly Appointed** vice-chairman Joe Navin announced that he would shortly have to surrender his post as Librarian and that the whole Library, the largest purely sf library in the world, would be transferred to the hands of John Nash. Mike Turner agreed to look after the fanzine side of the Library.

**Vector’s** sister magazine *Tangent* was discussed at length, editor Roger Peyton mentioning that he had had over 70 responses to the first issue. It was generally agreed, however, that before a second magazine is consolidated then *Vector* itself should be put on a more professional basis. Comparisons were drawn between *Vector* and the Delta Group’s fanzine *Alien Worlds*, which is now produced in photo-litho. It was pointed out that the expense would probably be prohibitive (it might also have been pointed out that an abortive attempt to produce *Vector* by this method had been made in the past) and the *Alien Worlds* editors were asked whether they would agree to producing *Vector*. They regretfully refused because of other commitments.

**Yarmouth in ’66.** At Peterborough last Easter it was proposed that the 1966 Con be held at Great Yarmouth and now Phil Rogers confirmed that

the hotel had been booked (inclusive price £3 per day). A Guest of Honour had been approached and had accepted the invitation. Registrations are being accepted. Watch this space for further details. Suggestions were made for the 1967 consiting, these causing some amusement until Phil Rogers pointed out that it had taken a full year to finalise the great Yarmouth arrangements (It's taken most people a year to find Great Yarmouth on a map). Brian Burgess proposed that the 67 con be held in Leeds as this would properly mark the 30th. anniversary of the first British convention. Neither Mike Rosenblum nor Ron Bennett was present to boggle at the suggestion, but in any case the suggestion drew no seconder and Tony Walsh, mentioning that he and Simone would soon be moving to Bristol, suggested that Bath might be a suitable site. Somewhere in the West country certainly met with the meeting's favour and the motion was carried.

**The Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award**, presented by the Association each year for tireless devotion to fandom was this year won by Terry Jeeves, ex-editor of *Triode* and one of the Association's first officers, an admirable choice.

**The Guest of Honour's** speech has been widely reported in the national press, an unusual achievement in itself for conventions. But Harry Harrison is an unusual person, a man who lives as distinct from existing and who is the author of many recent and enjoyable works, such as *The Stainless Steel Rat*, *Deathworld*, *The Ethical Engineer (Deathworld II)* and *Planet of the Damned*. The *Manchester Guardian* described the talk thus: "This performance goes on for an hour during which he barracks the Salvation Army band playing outside, throws a meat pie at a friend in the back row, ignores a boy playing with a large, black toy spider in the third-row and makes a few esoteric asides to one or two fellow professional authors." Harry actually began his talk, "SF Confidential", by awarding an original manuscript to Mike Beard for naming the Tom Boardman-published crime series, the Boardman "Bloodhounds" (ah, shades of Brown, Boland and Dewey). He mentioned that various American professionals would be attending the London Worldcon in August and took it upon himself to warn his audience of what they might expect. Poul Anderson, he said, had a name which is consistently mispronounced. He then asked his son to step up and pronounce it correctly. He spoke of Fred Pohl in agenting difficulties and owing a well known professional about \$1,000. The author went to see Pohl about the money and ended up by lending Pohl a further thousand. Talking of his own editing career with

*Rocket Stories* Harry demonstrated the standard of batches of manuscripts he would receive in bulk from a West Coast agent. Eventually the state was reached where Harry was merely bundling up the manuscripts unread and returning them. Few authors escaped these revelations of the previously best kept secrets of American prodom. Blish, Kyle, Shaw, Campbell, Gernsback, Silverberg, Moskowitz, Knight and Ackerman were all attacked and the laws of libel obviously prevent an enlarged report.

**The Professional Panel**, consisting of Tom Boardman, Ted Tubb, Michael Moorcock, Brian Aldiss, Chairman Harry Harrison and James White, spoke on the difference between American and British sf, agreeing generally that there was a difference in authors' rates but not necessarily that the best SF came from America. On the length of time it takes one to write a story the panel agreed that this depended on the story; one might take weeks, another years. Ted Tubb spoke of being under contract and writing a novel in a week. On reviewing, Tom Boardman felt that a review should be limited to publication facts and a general synopsis, whilst Brian Aldiss went a little further, pointing out that whilst there was possibly a difference between a review and a criticism it was not the reviewer's place to make personal attacks upon the author.

**Somewhere Along the Line** the Panel metamorphosed into an auction which was an object lesson in how to sell, with a Poul Anderson book selling at twice its cover price and an empty whisky bottle being sold for 4/6d.

**Dave Kyle** spoke of the Stateside rival bid to the TriCon for the 66 Worldcon. Dave, a radio station owner and practically a regular attendee of British conventions, is backing the Syracuse, New York State, bid. Dave pointed out that even within the legalities of the Rotation Plan, the Syracuse bid is quite proper, that if three quarters of the electorate votes for a siting "out-of turn" as it were, then this is not contrary to the Rotation Plan and that all Syracuse needs therefore is a 75% support (presumably therefore, should the Syracuse bid succeed by between 51% and 74% then the 1966 con still would go to TriCon?). Dave argued that a "one bid" for a convention in an entire area is an unhealthy state of affairs and that competition is desirable. Syracuse is keen and well prepared to hold a convention next year, that if TriCon are to be voted the con; then they will have to show that they deserve it over and above the Syracuse nomination, and that should Syracuse be defeated then they will be back again to bid for 1967, "offering you a choice based upon merit and not by default".

**The Con Programme Booklet** was produced by the Birmingham Group, liberally and ably illustrated by Mike Higgs who was also responsible for the rather smart lapel badges which were a complete break from the tradition of previous years.

# ***Skyrack* #79, 11 May 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 79**, dated **11th May 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d. for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues (airmail 70¢) in the USA where subscriptions may be sent to dear ol' lovable Buck. Coulson, Route 3, Wabash, Indiana 46992. Heading by Eddie Jones, illustration by Arthur "Atom" Thomson, and contributions from Walt Willis, Michael Moorcock, Alan Dodd. News of interest to fans always welcome.

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**Drama Award Reinstated  
*Zenith* Nominated for Hugo.  
Peristyle Goes Pro.**

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## **Oblique House Gets Mundane Slant**

On 6th May the old red brick house at 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, which had been the H.Q. of Irish Fandom for nearly 20 years, finally reverted to the mundane plane of existence. At a house-cooling party the occasion was marked by a simple but moving ceremony attended by all Irish fandom. In the fan attic the last ghoodminton service was solemnly performed by Bob Shaw. Symbolically, it was not returned. Instead the last shuttlecock was picked up by John Berry and reverently removed to its final resting place, a time capsule donated by Sadie Shaw. Also in the glass, cylindrical 2 lb capsule were deposited a copy of *The Enchanted Duplicator* (1st edition), some hyphens in printing type, used for *Slant*, a dollop of duplicating ink, James White's first bow-tie (symbolising the professional element of IF) and signatures of the great fans and good friends who had stayed at Oblique House during the years, including Forry Ackerman, Lee Hoffman, Chuck Harris, Mal Ashworth, Ron Ellik, Larry Shaw, Vin¢ Clarke, Boyd Raeburn, Andy Young, Ken & Irene Potter, Ken & Pamela Bulmer, John Roles, Bea Mahaffey, Rory Faulkner, Evelyn Smith, Sid Birchby, Harry Turner, Sid Coleman, Steve Schultheis and many others. The time capsule was then buried in the front lawn, underneath the cherry tree, in earth with which had been mingled the sacred soil of South Gate, donated by Rick Sneary. A fannish era had ended. Oblique House was one with Nineveh, Tyre and 101 Wagner

Street, Savannah.

The Willises are now living in a wooden shack by the seaside, their furniture in storage, while negotiations proceed for the acquisition of a new stately home for Irish Fandom. Meanwhile, Walt and Madeleine can be reached through their accommodation address, 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast 4.

(An Irish Fandom press release from Walt Willis)

**The Final Ballots** for the 1965 Hugo Awards (to be presented at the London Worldcon in August) have now been distributed. As usual, only Convention members are allowed to participate in this final ballot. Nominations are as follows:

*Best Novel:* Edgar Pangborn's *Davy*, Cordwainer Smith's *The Planet Buyer*, Fritz Leiber's *The Wanderer*, John Brunner's *The Whole Man*. *The Planet Buyer* is published by Pyramid Books, the other three by Ballantine.

*Best Short Story:* Robert F. Young's "Little Dog Gone" in the Feb *Worlds of Tomorrow*, Rick Raphael's "Once a Cop" in the May *Analog*, and Gordon Dickson's "Soldier, Ask Not" in the October *Galaxy*.

*Best Professional Magazine:* *Analog*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Galaxy* and *Worlds of If*.

*Best Fanzine:* Bill Bowers' and Bill Mallardi's *Double Bill*, Robert and Juanita Coulson's *Yandro*, and Peter Weston's *Zenith*.

*Best Artist:* Ed Emshwiller, Frank Frazetta, Jack Gaughan and John Schoenherr.

*Best Publisher:* Ace, Ballantine, Gollancz and Pyramid.

*Best Dramatic Presentation:* *The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao* and *Dr. Strangelove*.

The London Worldcon Committee, which originally followed the lead of last year's Pacificon in dropping the drama award, have bowed before the general feeling prevalent in fandom and have heeded what has been a significant number of write-in nominations regarding this category. The Committee is undoubtedly to be congratulated, not only upon the reversal of its original decision, but upon the admirable manner in which it has conducted itself in the entire matter. Despite obvious provocation from certain sources, the Committee has not responded in kind, resorting to

personalities. Well done, London!

**On the Professional Front.** The recently published *New Worlds* (number 150) is a special all star issue, with a Ted Carnell guest editorial, a photo supplement and stories by Charles Harness, who has begun to write again after an absence from the field of almost ten years, by Jack Vance, Ted Tubb, John Brunner, Brian Aldiss and J.G. Ballard. Harry Douthwaite makes his *New Worlds* debut in number 151 with what is described as “a far out” illustration. Charles Platt contributes the lead story, “Lone Zone”, to number 152 and stories by Brian Aldiss and Mack Reynolds will be featured in number 153 in which issue will also begin the first British serialisation (and the first British appearance) of Harry Harrison’s very well received *Bill, The Galactic Hero*. Also making an appearance in the same issue will be “Dr. Peristyle”, late of *Vector*.

Compact Books are to publish a series of interplanetary romances on the lines of the E.R. Burroughs books. First title is *Warriors of Mars* by E.P. Bradbury. *New Writings in SF* is to be published in U.S. by Bantam. Granada TV have bought Panther Books. Ace Books are publishing the entire *Fellowship of the Ring* @ 75¢. BBC’s 2nd TV channel will screen a series of sf plays in the autumn. Twelve stories have so far been selected, including Colin Kapp’s Lambda 1. Stanley Kubrick will direct Arthur C. Clarke’s *Journey Beyond the Stars* for MGM. Filming begins in August at Borehamwood. Interviews with Jim Ballard and Michael Moorcock appeared in the Charles Greville column of the *Daily Mail* on 14th April.

Several million fanzines have rolled in since mention was last given to the zine-scene in *Skyrack*. Some excellent material contained in many of them and obviously they are deserving of more space than is accorded them below.

**Fusion 2** (April 65; Jim Grant, 7 Sydney Rd, Fairmile, Christchurch, Hants) Personal comments from and articles by the editor. Entertaining and readable but not over noteworthy.

**Yawl-B** (Chris Priest, “Cornerways”, Willow Close, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex) “Something new in fanzines” or at least in titling, the first of a 3 part trilogy. Good review of the continental sf situation by Richard Gordon, interesting questions on writers posed by Beryl Henley.

**Link 3** (March 65; Beryl Henley, 59 The Fearnings, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs) More way out humour and commentary from fandom’s distaff side.

**Beyond 8** (April 65; Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohn Ave., London NW 3.) A very good half-crown's worth with a balance of serious comment and humour. Contains a second survey on the BSFA, good artwork and some very meaty and readable articles. The final issue. Recommended.

Of major importance to the collector is the excellent *Robert Bloch Bibliography* compiled by Graham Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos., very complete and containing a note by Bloch himself.

**Padlock 3** (Dick Howett, 94 Ravensbourne Cres., Harold Wood, Essex) is one of the better produced PADSzines, even with an article on, of all things, naturism. Very good, but far too short, article on Lon Chaney by David Cleveland.

The Delta Group's fanzine, **Alien**, is now large octavo, litho and experienced a title change, namely to **Alien Worlds**. Two issues (14 & 15) are to hand since the changeover. Material still slanted towards fantasy, the macabre and the horror film. Excellent photo art work. 1/3d from Chuck Partington, 2 Matlock Ave., or from Harry Nadler, 5 South Mesnefield Rd., both Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs.

**Zenith Speculation** (no 8. Mar 65. Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Cres., Northfield, Birmingham 31. 2/- per copy. 7/6d for 5 issues, until 1st June) Excellent production and excellent material from Terry Jeeves, Walt Willis, Archie Mercer and Beryl Henley. Highlight an article by Fritz Leiber. Definitely recommended.

**Hyphen 36** (1/-. Walt & Madeleine Willis, 27 Clonlee Dr., Belfast 4) The best five shillings worth in fandom, well up to its traditionally excellent standard. Present this time round are George Locke, Tom Perry and Bob Shaw. If you need these words to be introduced to this fanzine, then boy! you're certainly a newcomer to the field.

Charles Platt, who is folding *Beyond*, has entered upon a new venture, namely **Tomorrowscope**, a monthly reviewzine, two issues of which are to hand. Four issues for 2/6d. Undoubtedly a very worthwhile addition to the fanzine field, with well balanced book and magazine reviews worth collecting as a permanent source of reference.

**Vector 31** (March 65) is the final issue produced for the BSFA by Roger Peyton during his first tenure of office, Mainly devoted this issue to reviews and criticism.

**Nadir 4** (Charles Winstone, 71 George Rd, Erdington, Birmingham 23) The best issue to date, with factual material by John Berry, a strip cartoon

by Charles Winstone and Mike Higgs and other good and readable material by Terry Jeeves, Pete Weston, Archie Mercer and several thousand readers.

From Ethel Lindsay comes the latest unnumbered *Haverings* with two or three very good pointers on subscribing to fanzines and the usual excellent and thorough commentaries on every fanzine in the field. A must for the fanzine fan.

### **Changes of Address:**

Walt & Madeleine Willis, 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast 4.

Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Avenue, London NW 3

Burkhard Blüm, 6 Frankfurt-1, Mertonstr. 28, Studentenhaus.

Richard H. Eney, 6500 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va 22307.

Ken & Irene Potter, 4 Hartington St., Lancaster.

Joe & Anne Patrizio, 14 Pilgrim Close, Park Street, St. Albans, Herts

**Snippets:** George Adamski, author of the 1954 best seller *The Flying Saucers Have Landed* which set back sf possibly some twenty years, has died aged 74, at his Maryland home ::: Nina McDonagh, 12 Pershore Rd., Southdene, Kirkby, Lancs. is trying to form a Kirkby group. If you know anyone who lives on the *Z Cars* estate and who reads sf... :::

Congratulations to the Science Fiction Club of London whose 100th meeting was held at Courage House on 9th May ::: Ethel Lindsay is now out of hospital and back at Courage House and Bill Temple has also now escaped from what he terms “the Twilight Zone”, following his recent operation. Very pleasant to hear you’re both crawling around once again. Especially pleasant is a letter from our Enthusiast Extraordinaire, Rory Faulkner who says that whilst the after effects of her recent serious illness are still bothering her she is making steady progress and is obviously enjoying herself. ::: Greyhound bus company finally settled for a cash payment in the long hunt for luggage belonging to Walt & Madeleine Willis lost during their 1962 Stateside venture. ::: Kingsley Amis recently divorced ::: Eric Bentcliffe, 51 Thorn Gr., Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, is planning a *Bastion* revival, notes that his address list is well out of date and, asks if those who would normally receive a copy would please contact him ::: Bob Tucker reported to be writing a novel about fans and conventions ::: Earl & Nancy Kemp are moving to San Diego ::: March *Natural History* ran an article on scientific hoaxes by Bob Silverberg ::: Rbt Coulson is selling copies of *Jack Vance, Science Fiction Stylist* by Dick Tiedman. 1/9d from U.K. agent, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead. Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts.

## ***Skyrack* #80, 17 June 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 80**, a mere two pages of sf and fan news, dated **17th June 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d for 6 issues. 6 issues for 35¢ (airmail 70¢) in the USA where subscriptions may be sent to Bob Coulson whose new address appears overleaf.

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**The 1966 BSFA Convention** will be held over the Easter weekend at the Royal Hotel, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth. The hotel, which is situated on the sea front, has 60 bedrooms and an assembly hall which seats 100. There is lock-up accommodation for 6 cars and there is a garage within easy walking distance. B&B is from 35/6d to £2 per day, or an all inclusive rate at around 50/- per day. One point to note, is that the Trust House organisation, which owns the hotel, may possibly be increasing their prices later in the year. Watch this space.

Registration fee for the con is 7/6d, deductible from the attendance fees of 17/6d BSFA and £1 non-BSFA., 28 fans have already joined the con and if you would like to join too, then send your 7/6d to the Convention Chairman, Dave Barber, 1 Westfield Road, Wisbech, Cambs. Congratulate him on his very recent engagement at the same time! Other Committee members are Archie Mercer (programme; to be assisted by Don Geldart and George Locke), Phil Rogers (General Worrier & Trouble Shooter), Ken Slater (Professional and Public Relations) and Mrs. Doreen Parker (B.S.F.A. representative).

Guest of Honour will be sf publisher Ronald Whiting.

**Meanwhile Back at the...** It's getting close to the happy time, the last weekend in August, when fans from the scattered continents will gather together at the 23rd World Convention which will be held at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London W.1. Guest of Honour is Britain's own Mr. S.F., Brian W. Aldiss and lined up for the programme are a tremendous 35/- per head beanfeast, a "This is Your (Fan) Life exposé", and showings of the latest Delta films, *Castle of Terrors* and *Breathworld*.

The Convention's Business Meeting will be chaired by Convention Chairman Ella Parker whilst the 1966 Convention site is selected. Thereafter the Convention's Parliamentarian will take the chair to conduct

business relating to committee reports, by-laws etc. Motions for debate should be submitted, in triplicate please, to the Committee by 10th August, two copies to the Convention Secretary, Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, and one copy to George Scithers, USA Research & Development Group, APO New York, NY 09757 or c/o the European Research Office, Theodor Heuss Allee 2, 6 Frankfurt/Main W.13, Germany.

**The New *Amazing Stories*** is now on sale in the States, dated August, with 32 extra pages and stories by Young, Silverberg, Asimov and Bradbury. The September *Fantastic*, also with 32 extra pages, will feature stories by Asimov, Leiber and Sturgeon. Both magazines will appear bimonthly.

**Changes of Address:**

Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348 USA.

Ian & Betty Peters, 292 Southend Lane, London, SE.6.

Walt & Madeleine Willis, "Strathclyde", Warren Road, Donaghadee, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

**Holiday Minicon Season.** Ella Parker visited the new palatial home of Walt & Madeleine Willis over the Whitsun weekend, also meeting James and Peggy White, George Charters and the hitherto elusive John Berry. ::: The Liverpool Group's Shorrocks and Nuttalls, Eddie Jones and John Roles, reinforced by Keith and Wendy Freeman and Phil Rogers, are holidaying in Minorca. ::: Ken, Joyce, Michael and Susan Slater, plus Terry, Val, Keith, Sandra and Pauline Jeeves visited Hunstanton and suggest Sandringham House as a possible convention site (with the Beatles gaining M.B.E.'s, I'd say that there is a good chance). ::: Mike Sharp, Alan Chorley, Mary Reed, Pete Weston and Archie Mercer held the Bristol 1965 Microcon. ::: Harry Nadler, Chuck Partington and Bill Burns visited Harrogate for a brief 3 hour stint. ::: And Eric, Beryl & Lindsay Bentcliffe are in Spain. Many thanks for all the cards and letters, folks.

**Personal Advert Dept.** Is there any fan living within reasonable proximity to Harrogate who is motoring to the London Worldcon and who would be willing to put up with the Bennetts on the journey on a share-expenses basis? ::: Seven shillings or a dollar will still get you a copy of *Colonial Excursion*, the account of my 1958 TAFF trip to the Los Angeles SolaCon. Full of Atomillos. And about time the remaining 93 copies were sold. ::: Orders are now being taken for *The 1965 Directory of SF Fandom*. Several fans have asked me about the possibility of producing another Directory. So, right: Later this year folks. Pre-publication price (fans only) is 2/6d or

35¢.

**Snippets.** Congratulations to Dave Barber, 1966 Convention Chairman and crisp bragfan, on his engagement to Miss Maureen Holmes of Fantast (Medway) Ltd. ::: Tolkien fans please note that importation to and sale in this country of the recent Ace editions are illegal. ::: TAFF delegate Terry Carr is editing Doubleday's *Science Fiction for People who Hate Science Fiction*. ::: *Stefantasy*'s Bill Danner has a high pressure story, "Guarantee Period", in the June *Magazine of Horror*. ::: For Sale: US Edition *Magazine of Horror* June 65. 2/-.

# ***Skyrack* #80a, 30 June 1965**

This is *Skyrack* 80a, dated 30th June 1965 and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (airmail 70¢) where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348

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## **Colin to the Con Bid Fails.**

Just a year ago fandom set itself a £150 target in an attempt to ensure that Colin Freeman, editor of *Scribble*, OMPAn extraordinaire, and permanent patient in a Knaresborough hospital, travelled to the World Convention which will be held in London over the last weekend in August. With over £85 in the British “kitty” and some \$200 in the American “Andy Capp” treasury held by California’s Dave Hulan, the combined amount represents a tremendous drive by fans known and unknown throughout the world.

Despite the earlier raising of hopes that Colin would indeed be well enough to take full advantage of this overwhelming generosity the Fund’s many contributors must now be disappointed. Whilst Colin has been able to partake in recent day trips to Manchester Belle Vue Zoo and to Scarborough on the Yorkshire coast he is not well enough to undertake a more rigorous journey. He will definitely not be able to travel to the Worldcon.

Accordingly, all monies donated to the Fund are being returned forthwith. Bear with me, please, if your donation is not herewith enclosed. If you live abroad there may be a little delay in getting the money to you (in this event a note should be enclosed).

Whilst no information is at the present time available as regards those worthies who donated to the American treasury, the following donations were received by me:

Michael Moorcock £1; Anon £5; Roger Peyton 10/-; Charles Winstone £1; Graham Hall 2/6; Sid Birchby £1; Ethel Lindsay 22/6d; Anon 5/-; Christopher M. Priest 10/-; Edward W. Ball £1; Charles Platt 19/2d; D.G. Small £1; Anon £1; John Willett 2/6d; Tony Walsh £1; Eddie Jones 7/6d; Ethel Lindsay 4/-; Anon £3; Anon 13/-; Ken Slater £1; Chris Priest 3/-;

Des Squire £1; Keith Otter £1. 10s; W. Darroll Pardoe £1; Jhim Linwood 7/6d; Anon 10/-; Brian & Frances Varley 10/-; Anon 3/11d; Irene B. Lillington 21/-; John A. McCallum £5; Peter Day 5/-; Walt Willis £5; Anon 6/-; Ken McIntyre £1; Gerald Kirsch 21/-; Frank O'Neill 10/- J.M. MacGregor £1; Joe Gibson 28/-; Roy Kay £1; Anon 6/-; Roberta Gray 11/-; Anon 6/-; Chris Priest 10/-; Anon 8/-; A. Garbutt 10/-; Anon 6/-; Charles Platt 10/3d; Tom Schlück £1; Charles Platt 5/-; Ivor Latto £2; Harry McGannity £1; Ian McAulay 10/-; Ed Meskys 1/6d; Nina McDonagh 2/6d; Anne Steul £1; George Locke £10; Antonio Dupla 10/-; Ethel Lindsay 16/3d; Group 65 £15.3s; Judi Sephton 1/-; Art Hayes \$3, Anon 50¢; Wally Cole \$1; James V. Taurasi Sr \$1; Frank Prieto Jr \$2; Julius & Naomi Postal \$1; Chris Steinbrunner 50¢; Belle C. Dietz \$1; Allan Howard \$1; Franklin M. Dietz \$2; Anon \$3.60; Anon \$1.40, Stu Hoffman \$2; (shucks) Anon \$10; Bill Danner \$5, Richard H. Eney \$19, Delta films \$1, William Roster \$3.50; Graham Hall 25¢; TriCon \$38.

In addition David Piper was selling books, Geoff Wingrove was selling fanzines, Ian McAulay, Ivor Latto and Judi Sephton donated fanzines.

My apologies to anyone who is any way hurt or annoyed by the publication of the above list, which does not include many fans who pledged money and other support. I feel that possibly such a listing as this one is in many ways unsatisfactory, but bear with me, please. In addition to the extreme disappointment I feel concerning this entire project, a disappointment which will doubtlessly be shared, I have enough on my plate as it were at the moment returning monies and tying up the Fund as quickly as possible.

---oooOooo---

**TAFF.** For the first time for many years fandom is in a position of having no current TAFF campaign. Administrators Wally Weber & Arthur Thomson say: "With the close of the recent campaign, TAFF is taking a breather before opening nominations again. One thing that we do not want is to develop an attitude among fans of 'Ho hum, just another TAFF campaign.' TAFF has been running steadily for the past several years now and the enthusiasm which has been its life blood is bound to be replaced with apathy if elections are scheduled by the calendar rather than by need. It is time to stand back and evaluate this remarkable fannish phenomenon."

**Snippets:** *Ikaria XB I*, the Czech sf film was given a double showing at the National Film Theatre on 4th June. :: Heinlein's co-scripter for *Destination Moon*, Rip Van Ronkel, died recently in Hollywood, aged 57.

::: The *Daily Mail* recently ran an article on Earlybird, stating that Arthur C. Clarke co-ordinated the satellite's orbit some dozen years ago and had he copyrighted it at the time he could now be pulling in a cool £35 million *per year*. ::: Alan Dodd is planning a summer holiday in Poland which includes a visit to the salt mines. ::: Going the rounds at the moment is an epic sf film entitled *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*. Do we laugh or cry? ::: Bobbie Gray recently passed her Diploma in Astrological Studies.

**Fanzines:** Ethel Lindsay's *Haverings* 19 is out, the usual comprehensive survey of the fanzine field. This will be the last issue to published until after the London Worldcon, a not altogether unexpected announcement in view of the fact that Ethel is the Convention Secretary. ::: *Tomorrowscope* 3 (4 issues for 2/6d) is in from Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Ave., London NW 3, an excellent survey of the latest professional sf in hardback, paperback and magazine form. ::: *The Gryphon*, numbers 15 and 16, is published by John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia. The usual views, comments and opinions as seen by well-known members of Australian fandom. Number 16 also contains a lengthy article on jazzman Charlie Parker. Number 15 is outstanding, probably the best fanzine, from the points of view of material and layout, ever to come out of the far colony (Dominion my eye! After the way you beat us at cricket and rugby league... not that anyone in Victoria has ever heard of rugby league) with Lee Harding's excellent article "On Location With Stanley Kramer". Full of professional photopages of stars like Robert Mitchum and Deborah Kerr and accounts of working on *The Sundowners* and *On The Beach*. A Trufan's movie mag, this. :::

# ***Skyrack* #81, 30 July 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 81**, dated **30th July 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Four pages of sf news and fannish chitchat which remain the lowest priced news pages in the field. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ in the USA (70¢ airmail) for 6 issues, also, and subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, holder of many Bob Tucker recommendations, at Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Publishable news always welcome.

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*New Worlds* lines up Convention Special... Inside

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## **Loncon Programme Takes Shape**

**The Programme for the London World Convention** which will be held over, the Bank Holiday weekend at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London W.1 is lining up well, with a good variety of interesting items on the provisional agenda. As well as the official opening ceremony and the usual introductions, the evening of the first day, Friday 27th August, will feature a talk by Harry “*Deathworld*” Harrison, entitled “Science Fiction, the Salvation of the Modern Novel”. During the afternoon of the same day there will be a film show. Other talks lined up for the weekend conference will be delivered by Geoff Doherty, John Brunner, Brian Aldiss (the Guest of Honour), TAFF Delegate Terry Carr, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*’s Ted White and Special Speaker Arthur C. Clarke. Panels will cover such items such as “Science Fiction in Europe”, fan and professional opinions on the sf scene and will feature such names as Walter Ernsting, Josef Nesvadba, Mack Reynolds, Charles Platt, Forry Ackerman, Dave Kyle, James Blish, George O. Smith, Al Lewis, Mike Rosenblum, Tom Schlück, James White, Bob Silverberg, Fred Pohl, Ken Bulmer, Edmund Crispin, Jack Williamson, Poul Anderson, Donald Wollheim, Michael Moorcock and Boyd Raeburn. The Delta Group films will be shown, Tom Boardman Jr will be the Banquet’s Toastmaster, there will be a Knights of St Fantony Ceremony, a fancy dress party compered by Arthur Thomson and auctions conducted by Phil Rogers and Ted Forsyth. There is also a chance of a showing of a special BBC TV film made in New York.

Space only precludes my presenting this provisional programme in full, but from the standpoint of quantity alone it would certainly appear that the above outline listing should kill off the various rumours circulating around fandom that the Worldcon's policy of "under-programming" will leave, empty more time than is actually spent on programme items. The four day programme is, without doubt, as packed with worthy items as *any* previous worldcon. – rmb

**Further on the Worldcon:** The World Convention is the major event of the science fiction calendar. Normally, the convention is held over Labour Day weekend in the United States. One previous convention was held in Canada and there has been one previous convention in the U.K., the 1957 LonCon. The LonCon II Committee is composed of former TAFF delegate Ethel Lindsay, the first winner of the Dr. Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award Peter Mabey, former BSFA Publications Officer James A. Groves and former BSFA Secretary Ella A. Parker, who is the Convention Chairman. Membership fees are 15/- or \$2 for non-attending members and 21/- or \$3 for attending members. The Treasurer is James A. Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E.6.

Hotel rates at the Mount Royal, which include bed and continental breakfast, have been specially reduced for the Convention and are: £3 or \$8.66 for a single room, 55/- or \$7.96 per person for a twin-bedded room and 50/- or \$7.25 per person for a double room. Single rooms are at a premium and it is not unknown for fans to share a twin-bedded room.

**Late Starters to Work** were packed off in an unusual fashion on the morning of Thursday 22nd July, the dulcet voice of Ella Parker ringing in their ears. Ella was interviewed on the BBC Home Service programme, *Today*, on the background of the worldcon. Ella told of the many different types of people with an interest in sf, spoke of authors discussing plots in lounge corners, mentioned collectors and the late Don Ford's apple-box packed cellar (I might mention here that Don's apple boxes contained one of the most comprehensive collections of pulps and paperbacks in the USA), and altogether gave what must undoubtedly be the best and most sensible interview ever recorded by a fan to the general public at large.

**Cringe binder Duplicator for Sale.** The Gestetner which has seen service in producing many well applauded fanzines, *Les Spinge* amongst them, is to be sold. Offering first options to fans, owner Ken Cheslin gives the following information: Gestetner 320 power operated duplicator. One owner. Machine is 4-5 years old and has been well looked after. Includes a

lock up cabinet, 3 ink changes, an automatic slip sheeter and a dozen or so tubes of ink. Cost, about £150 new. £80 o.n.o. Ken Cheslin, 18 New Farm Rd., Stourbridge, Worcs.

**Colin Freeman**, *Scribble* editor and OMPAn extraordinaire is at present fafia. Forced Away From It All by an attack of an unspecified contagious disease. Colin is at present virtually incommunicado, being in an isolation ward at Scotton and having his visiting list cut to his brother Stanley. Colin is still able to receive letters of course but will not be able to answer them for the time being. If you wish to pile up his slush pile, well, his address remains as: Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital, Ripley Road, Knaresborough, Yorks.

**The Latest New Worlds** contains the first part of Harry Harrison's *Bill, The Galactic Hero*, a new Aldiss short and the promised Peristyle column, a good light touch. NW 154, dated September, will be out at the end of August to coincide with the London Worldcon and will be a special Brian Aldiss Appreciation Issue in recognition that he is the Convention's Guest of Honour. The issue will contain Aldiss appreciations by Peter White and Edmund Crispin and two new Aldiss stories as well as the second part of the Harrison serial, a surrealistic Colvin story, a short by a very promising newcomer, David Masson of Leeds and a new story by Bob Silverberg.

**At the U.S. West Coast Convention**, Westercon XVIII, held in Long Beach, Calif., over the first weekend in July, Harlan Ellison mentioned that according to the official sales report, one half of his recent Ace double novel sold some two hundred thousand more copies than the other half.

Briefly, the latest fanzines: A very refreshing newcomer has appeared in *Fankle* (Ivor Latto, 16 Merryton Ave., Glasgow W5; 1/6 per, 4/- for 4) which contains a well laid-out 30 pages comprising a BrumCon report, an insight into London beatnikism, an assessment of Scotland's J.T. M'Intosh and various other interesting pieces. I like the overall *tone* of this zine (as well as recognising the worth of the contents) and eagerly await more. And especially more from the obviously talented editor himself.

A leading contender for this year's fanzine Hugo Award is *Zenith Speculation* and the latest issue, the ninth, is a very fair indication why the magazine has been so nominated. Joe Patrizio discusses the scientific element of sf, Archie Mercer discusses the Blish "Okie" series and Richard Gordon, who is fast becoming recognised as an authority worth recognising, discusses Edmund Cooper. There are reviews, letters and excellent news departments to back up the main contents and as might be

expected the artwork is amongst the field's best. *Zenith* is obtainable from Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31 @ 2/- or 35¢ per copy.

Another fanzine with a decided *science fiction* slant is Charles Platt's *Tomorrowscope* (18E Fitzjohns Ave., London NW3; 4 issues 3/-) of which the 4th issue appeared at the beginning of the month and the fifth is due within a week to ten days. This is a comprehensive and extremely well balanced review magazine which should be at least sampled by any thinking reader.

*Bumblie* 3 comes from John Barfoot, 212 Scrogg Rd., Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 6. A quiz, amateur stories, spelling and grammatical mistakes and a cheery hale and heartiness permeate through this PADSzine. The humour is a little heavy handed.

And even more briefly, the ever growing pile of unmentioned fanzines from overseas: George Scithers' *Con-Committee Chairman's Guide* has been published by Dick Eney, 6500 Ft. Hunt Rd, Alexandria, Va 22307. 50¢. A Do-It-Yourself Guide for anyone crazy enough to contemplate putting on a worldcon. ::: *Nyarlatotep* no. 1 is available for 30¢ from Ben Solon, 3915 N. Southport, Chicago, Ill. Well produced, well laid-out. Some very good book reviews and an excellent article, though a little too extensive for its length, on fantasy films. ::: *Quark*, with its "indefinable spark" and its Willis Harp column, is of course highly recommended. 25¢ from Tom Perry, 4018 Laurel Ave, Omaha, Nebraska 68111. *Quark* didn't make this year's Hugo nominations, but I fail to see why. ::: I have here number 3/4 of the *Argentine SF Review* published by Hector Pessina at Casilla de Correo Central 3869, Buenos Aires, Argentina and available from Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Preston, Lancs. Nothing spectacular but a broadening of the sf horizon and worth a try. ::: Just in is the latest *Stefantasy* from Bill Danner, RD 1, Kennerdell, Pa. This is the leader of the For The Sheer Fun of It fanzines and if you haven't tried *Stef*, then you're missing something. In the June 65 issue Colin Freeman takes a further look at the way the British live, here examining the British gentleman. ::: Published by various Gerfans, *Sol* is available from Tom Schlück, 3 Hannover, Altenbekenerdamm 10, W. Germany. No 41 features the 2nd part of Jock Root's Pacificon II report. ::: Two of the best regularly published American fanzines, each of which has gathered a good following and some very readable material (especially the second) are *G<sup>2</sup>* (Joe & Robbie Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Ave, El Sobrante, Cal 94803. 2 for 1/9d from Colin Freeman, address elsewhere

this) and *Yandro* (Juanita & Buck Coulson, address also elsewhere. 4 for 6/- from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts). If you're wishing to try any Stateside fanzines, these two, as a starter batch, should satisfy anyone.

### **Changes of Address:**

Brian Allport, 2 Bristol Rd., Wavertree, Liverpool 15.

Michael & Hilary Moorcock, 87a Ladbroke Gr., London W.11

Colin Steele, 63 Westbrooke Ave., West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

**Snippets:** "Having wonderful time – wish Liz were here" writes Ron Ellik from Hannover. Ron and sidekick Al Lewis have met up in the UK as promised and are at present touring the Continent. Al was staying with Arthur & Olive Thomson, met Ethel Lindsay, Ted Forsyth, Peter Mabey and Peter Weston and the Chummy Brummies, and then met up with Ron in the Hook of Holland (*this is the UK? Well, could be, could be*) after a flying weekend visit to Ken Slater and Dave Barber in Wisbech. These two are moving around so fast that the difficulty is correlating the reports which roll in. ::: Next TAFF campaign will most probably be set up shortly after the LonCon. ::: Con banquet tickets selling well @ 35/-. ::: Letter from our regular correspondent, Wm Temple: "Thanks for your illicit letter tucked into *Skyrack*. Don't you know I work for the Post Office? How much will you pay to stifle the conscientious employee in me? Was surprised by 2 items in Snippets in no.79, viz., (1) Kingsley Amis recently divorced Eric Bentcliffe, and (2) March *Natural History* ran an article on scientific hoaxes by Bob Silverberg. (I hadn't known Bob was that kind of practical joker.)" Yes, and thank you, Mr. Temple, sir. ::: BSFA are planning the appointment of a P.R.O. The Association is also making inquiries into the possibility of holding a sci-fi film festival during the late summer of 1966. ::: BBC TV went mad last weekend with two programmes of interest to fans. Patrick Moore discussed life on other planets and Fred Hoyle covered the expanding universe. ::: Recent *Sunday Times* colour supplement featured article called Tarzan 66 and quoted Sy Weintraub, owner of all Tarzan film and TV rights, as saying "Let's get a James Bond approach to Tarzan." The article did not mention Burroughs, but quoted Weintraub as adding "In fact, he's really English, the son of a lord, but that's all forgotten now." Correspondent Doug Small adds, disgustedly, "What chance has anybody got against an attitude like that?". ::: Keith Freeman points out that he and Wendy accompanied LiG to Minorca, yet *Skyrack* informed him that he was Eddie Jones. "What do you think you are?" asks Keith, "A national daily?". ::: Mike Sharp, 10

Meggitt Rd., Colcot, Barry, Glamorgan is inviting contributions to his forthcoming fanzine, *Skullduggery*. ::: And yes, I'll try to remember to buy a new bottle of correctine before the next issue.

# ***Skyrack* #82, 24 August 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 82**, published on **24th August 1965** by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England in an attempt to keep fresh the news on hand before it is overwhelmed by the vast array of goodies in store in London within the next seven days. 2/6d for 6 issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (airmail 70¢ for 6 issues) where subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to sf fans always welcome.

Please note: postage rates have recently increased once again, yet *Skyrack* remains at its original 1959 price and is today the lowest priced newszine in the field, *Ratatosk* selling at 3 for 1/9d and *Focal Point* at 10 issues for 7/-. It is possible that the price of *Skyrack* will be raised for number 83; that's one issue only and any increase will depend entirely upon the coverage given to the Worldcon.

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## **New President for B.S.F.A.**

Edmund Crispin, editor of the Faber *Best SF* series, has agreed to fill the British S.F. Association's Presidential vacancy. Since Brian Aldiss resigned from the position upon his return from Yugoslavia last October the B.S.F.A. has been giving serious thought to the matter of a worthy replacement, a man of enthusiasm whose name and talents might be known and respected outside the Association's limited sphere as well as within it. Accordingly, the membership at large should be extremely pleased – and proud – of Mr. Crispin's acceptance of the position. In making this announcement, the Association's Chairman, Roy Kay, writes: "We are particularly proud to have Mr. Crispin's name underneath the 'President' heading on the BSFA notepaper and publications, not only for the prestige his name will lend to the Association, but also because we know that Mr. Crispin will be on hand to give the committee the benefit of his help and advice, to which we shall be all too ready to listen. We believe that the President should take an active part in the affairs of the Association, as did Brian Aldiss, and we are glad to welcome a new President who also shares this view."

Edmund Crispin, Robert (Bruce) Montgomery, is well known in the world

of music as a composer, conductor, arranger and organist, is the author of several Gervase Fen mystery novels, and has been a member of the BSFA for some years, having also been Guest of Honour at the BSFA's 1963 Convention.

### **Changes of Address:**

Charles Platt, 71 Sinclair Road, London W.14.

George H. Scithers, European Research Office, 1G Hochhaus (Zimmer 030), 6 Frankfurt/Main 1, Germany.

**John Russell Fearn, the Ultimate Analysis** is the title of an amazing labour of love by Philip Harbottle (4/- or 10/6 for 3 copies, 27 Cheshire Gardens, Wallsend on Tyne, Northumberland), a 94 paged, foolscap sized compilation of *everything* which can be said about this highly prolific, highly maligned writer. The views are well balanced and lack illogical emotionalism. Undoubtedly, here is one of the major achievements of British fandom for many a long year.

### **FANZINES:**

*Trumpet* 2 (Tom Reamy, 6010 Victor, Dallas, Texas 75214. 50¢. 3/6 or 5 for 14/- from Des Squire, 24 Riggindale Rd., London SW 16), Slick, printed and very professional, both in layout and content: Definitely worth a try. ::: *Vector* 33 (BSFA official organ) full of news and reviews and well up to standard. ::: From Charles Platt (address above; 4 for 3/6d) comes the 5th issue of *Tomorrowscope*, an excellent review/survey magazine of what is new within the sf field. A definite must. ::: *Spot Wobble* 1 (Dick Howett, 94 Ravensbourne Cres., Harold Wood, Havering, Essex) contains a Birmingham Con report by Chris Priest and a good article on the *Daily Mirror's* comic strip, *Garth*, but otherwise one is left with the impression that the editor was hard put to fill the pages.

**If There Is Anyone in the Audience Who Doesn't Already Know...** The largest ever conclave of sf writers, editors, readers and fans will gather this weekend, 27th-30th August, at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London. Come along and join the fun. Better early than late. Many conventioners are already in attendance, expectant with baited breath!

**Snippets:** One time teen age Travelling Giant and only recorded member of Pakistani fandom, Jim Caughran, is touring Britain with his wife Sue. Plans are to drop in on Harrogate fandom on Wednesday. ::: Terry Carr, LonCon TAFF delegate, is planning to take his wife Carol to visit Ireland the week following the con. ::: Ted Forsyth has been touring his estates in Edinburgh and approving Festival arrangements. ::: Ace Books are

bringing out John Rackham's *We The Venusians*, to be backed by Avram Davidson's *Rogue Dragon*, an interesting pairing, Ella, if there ever was one. ::: Brian and Frances Varley are moving north once again. Brian has gained a promoted job in Leeds and the couple plan to move from London mid-September. CoA as soon as I have it. ::: John Campbell – meet John Campbell. The Liverpool Group is looking forward to having their own pet author, John Ramsey Campbell, meet John W. Campbell Jr at the Worldcon (Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London. 27th/30th August), The editor of *Analog* is definitely attending and is expected to participate on the programme. ::: At the end of July BBC 2 TV ran a programme comparing inventions and technological advances with those forecast over the years by sf writers. The programme featured such names as J.J. Pierce, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Hugo Gernsback and Sam Moskowitz. ::: Mike Sharp's projected fanzine is now to be called *Troll*. ::: Boston SF Club is organising a regional convention starting 10th September. ::: The latest *Quark* is in from Tom Perry, 4018 Laurel Ave., Omaha, Nebraska 68111, the usual high grade selection with outstanding material by Walt Willis on the Great Greyhound War and Gina Clarke on George Lincoln Rockwell. ::: I've received, via Liverpool, a British Money Order issued in July at Wien 31, Austria, but have had no word from the sender. Can anyone shed any light on this, please? ::: Congratulations to Steve and Virginia Schultheis, father and mother of twin boys born 24th July. ::: 1964 Pacificon II gave \$100 to the LonCon and have \$200 on hand to give to the next TAFF delegate. ::: See you at the 1965 World SF Convention, at the Mount Royal Hotel.

# ***Skyrack* #83, 6 September 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 83**, published on **6th September 1965** by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 2/6d for 6 issues, 35¢ for 6 (70¢ for 6 issues sent airmail) in USA where subscriptions may be sent, along with congratulations, to neo-Hugo Winner Bob Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. This issue available to non-subscribers @ 1/- or 25¢ (35¢ airmail). Reports by Ron Bennett, Brian McCabe, Ted White, Tony Walsh and Jim Groves. Cartoon by Convention prizewinner Eddie Jones.

TRICON IN '66

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**The Twenty-Third World Science Fiction Convention** took place over the 27th/30th August weekend in the plush and highly priced (£5 for a bottle of gin) surroundings of the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London. Some 350 delegates from many different countries attended the gathering, only the second to be held outside the North American continent.

Cleveland-Cincinnati-Detroit (TriCon) won the right to put on next year's worldcon (see page 11).

Hugo Awards were won by Fritz Leiber, Gordon Dickson, John W. Campbell, John Schoenherr, Peter George, Ballantine Books and Robert & Juanita Coulson. (Full details on page 9).

The Convention's many speakers were excellent, the panels were excellent and the films, with the exception of the professional *Zotz*, shown on the Friday afternoon, were excellent. The Delta films, *The Castle of Terrors* and *Breathworld*, were particularly notable. The Convention Programme Booklet was neatly produced and ably illustrated (of course!) by Arthur Thomson. There were, however, criticisms of two of the advertisements therein.

The eleven pages which follow are devoted to a sketchy and speedily produced report, personal impressions and quickly taken notes, on the weekend. I look forward to reading more reports, each with a better coverage, a coverage well deserved by a weekend's gathering during which feuds and minor irritations were completely forgotten, a convention which can only be described in glowing superlatives and which

represented the very best in the microcosm of science fiction fandom.

**Overheard:** He can't plot his way out of a *wet* paper bag. ::: Room ten at 5.30. ::: I ordered a bottle of gin from room service and they charged bar prices. Did they send up any peanuts? ::: What has John Rae written anyway?

**Loncon II**, the 23rd World Convention, had a rousing send off on the evening of Thursday 26th August, the day prior to the conclave's official opening, when some seventy fans and professionals gathered extemporaneously at the traditional meeting point of London fandom, the Globe in Hatton Gardens. Not since the comparable meeting of 1957 had the City public house enjoyed such a jostling throng composed of such names as Michael Moorcock, Thomas Schlück, Eddie Jones, Bobbie Gray, Peter West, David Redd, Tom Boardman Jr., Langdon Jones, Charles B. Smith, Dick Eney, Pete Taylor, Frank Arnold, Don Geldart, Graham M. Hall, Chris Priest, John and Marjorie Brunner, Arthur and Olive Thomson, Boyd Raeburn, Forry Ackerman, Dave Kyle, Ron Ellik, Terry and Carol Carr, Mack Reynolds, Poul and Karen Anderson, Harry Harrison, Brian Burgess, John and Joni Stopa, Bob and Barbara Silverberg, Fred and Carol Pohl, Sandra Hall, Ted White, Ben Jason, Lois Lavender, Al Lewis, Ken Cheslin, Jean Bogert, Barry Bayley, Ben Stark, Wally Weber, Ted Forsyth, Ella Parker, Jimmy Groves, Peter Mabey, Bob Bloch, Don Wollheim, Fred Prophet and Ethel Lindsay.

Many of the above also attended a party at the new home of Charles Platt, also attended by Michigan's Jim and Susan Caughran amongst others. A very memorable evening, especially notable for the fact that Harry Harrison had his car impounded by the police for illegal parking.

**The Convention Itself** opened on time, at 8 pm. on Friday 27th August as Chairman Ella Parker, looking fresh, pert and spruce despite her working into the early hours of previous nights, welcomed especially the many attendees who had travelled from afar. To a call from the back of the hall that someone could not hear Ella quipped, "You can't hear *me*?" and immediately set the tone of convivial informality that was to prevail throughout the entire weekend. Ella introduced the Convention Committee to the audience (each member appeared from the back of the stage, carrying his own chair. Ella remarked "As you see, this is a Do-It-Yourself convention."); and then called upon first Ron Ellik and later Tom Schlück to help her in introducing other notable attendees. In addition to the many names mentioned in the paragraph above the following were also present

and were introduced: Rolf Gindorf, Walter Ernsting, George Scithers, Guest of Honour Brian Aldiss, Ina and Norman Shorrocks, Michael Rosenblum, Eric Bentcliffe, Ron Bennett, Eric Jones and Judith Merrill.

**Harry Harrison** introduced his talk “SF – The Salvation of the Modern Novel” by promising that he would make no mention of meat pies, immediately ducking as pies were thrown at him by Brian Aldiss and Tom Boardman. Appearing somewhat loath actually to begin his talk Harrison invited Brian Aldiss onto the platform in order to say something serious. Aldiss merely said “*Greybeard* costs 18/-.” Harrison at last got down to stainless steel tacks, postulating that for SF to be the salvation of the modern novel must be a funny idea. But is it? In his opinion modern novelists have driven themselves into a corner. Basically Harrison’s argument was that only in sf, “can an author express the idea he wishes to communicate” as far as really saying *something* is concerned. He cited George Orwell and Nevil Shute as two mainstream writers who have made excursions into the field in order to communicate particular ideas. They could not have written these books outside sf, said Harrison. The modern novel must write of something of *importance*. Sf and sf ideas are important by the very dint of this being a scientific world in which the results of scientific achievement have a definite impact upon *people*. SF alone can point the way, said Harrison, concluding that the modern novel is dead. “Don’t be afraid to say. We are right. They are wrong.” From the audience *Judith Merrill* pointed out that SF comprises modern thinking but not modern literature. Harrison did not altogether agree, pointing out that SF is the harder to write. The SF writer, he said, has to generate a completely new idea and then write well. The modern general writer “has it made.” The world, his setting, is there already for him to use. The SF writer has to formulate entirely a new world. *John W. Campbell* asked whether a writer should concentrate upon the idea to the possible detriment of his writing or whether he should concentrate upon “beautiful prose with lousy ideas” and which should an editor accept, to which point Harrison answered neatly, “You should do as you have been doing.” *Irene Boothroyd* asked how much SF is slanted emotionally at the woman reader, mentioning that in her opinion the amount was not very great. *Campbell* said that this was a matter of basic economic fact. SF’s readership is 95% men, therefore there is a 95% slant towards the male reader. Also men writers far outweighed the number of women writers. *Pete Taylor* suggested that *Campbell* produced his magazine in two sections, one slanted for men and costing 47½¢ and the other for women and costing 2½¢, *Harry Harrison* suggesting that there could be a small space on the back cover for

hermaphrodites! Here the general discussion reverted to the question of whether an editor should concentrate upon good writing or good ideas. *Campbell* said that as he reads personally every story submitted to him he sees all types of stories, with good and poor ideas and good and poor writing. Whilst he could possibly do better he has to try for the optimum in writing style, grammatical construction and story telling in order to choose the best story for the circumstances.

**I'll Apologise** here and now for the lack of detail in the reports which follow and which concern the Saturday programme items. By Saturday the number of attendees had grown considerably and in particular this was a day upon which the majority of one-day attendees dropped into the convention. There were so many old friendships to renew and so many new ones to make that at times it became a definite battle, usually against personal preference, to leave any conversation and fight one's way through the milling groups in the lobby and lounge towards the convention hall. Invariably I just didn't make it!

**Saturday Morning** opened with a short panel discussion, chaired by Brian Aldiss, in which Walter Ernsting, Franz Ettl, Josef Nesvadba and Josef Dolnicar talked on "SF in Europe", mentioning mainly that the majority of sf on the Continent was translated material and that the only British author who had not as yet been translated but who might be well received was John Newington.

**Forry Ackerman** stood in for Geoff Doherty and spoke on SF of thirty years ago.

**All Things to All Fen** was the title of the fan panel, composed of Beryl Henley, Doreen Parker, Irene Boothroyd, Dave Busby and Charles Platt. I was somewhat surprised to learn that I was supposed to be moderating this panel as I had declined the invitation to do so. A panel moderator needs special balanced skill which, as I know from experience of a Peterborough Convention, I simply do not possess. Accordingly, I declined again. Phil Rogers and Ina Shorrocks took over. I was engaged in a hard drinking session in the bar when Charles Winstone came up and said that I was being paged in the hall. I went along, taking my drink with me. Phil Rogers dragged me up on to the stage removing my drink from my hand as he did so. "Just what I need," he announced taking a sip and immediately declaring in injured surprise, "It's only orange juice!" It was, too, and he handed it back. Beryl Henley seized me before I could sit down and presented me with a large toy inflatable plastic elephant and said

something about a token of something I was too confused to catch (or hadn't you noticed? I'm very grateful for the elephant, though. Andrew has fallen upon it like a long lost buddy and it has already become his favourite toy). Mainly, the panel discussed the differing quality of fanzines and how much enjoyment each panel member has gleaned (or in the case of Dave Busby not gleaned!) from reading fanzines, from contributing to fanzines and from the social world of fandom as a whole.

**The Afternoon Programme** opened with a Transatlantic Quiz, the United States team losing to "The Rest of the World". Although ahead 14-12 at the half-way stage, the USA were finally beaten by 26 points to 20, the breakdown on scores being as follows (points awarded here denote clear-cut responses In some half dozen instances more than one team, member answered correctly simultaneously): *United States*: Forry Ackerman 8, George O. Smith 4, Wally Weber 3, James Blish 3. *Rest of the World*: James Groves 13, Sydney Bounds 6, Thomas Schlück 2, Ken Cheslin 2. Terry Carr was in the Chair and Doreen Parker the scorer.

**John Brunner** spoke on "How to Get High Without Going into Orbit", analysing sf in a most erudite fashion throughout a hour long extremely meaty talk. Brunner analysed the elements in sf which are also found outside the field and how and why they are and can be important to sf. Basically, there are the expansive elements of the vast and the exotic and there are the restrictive elements of ordered life and ordered worlds and of wishful thinking. It requires a talent far beyond mine even to report Brunner whose exciting use of vocabulary and whose command of the English language make him a speaker well worth hearing (which is to say nothing of his *ideas*). As Michael Rosenblum remarked, "From listening to John, I get the feeling that one day I'm going to be proud to have known him."

**The Evening Fancy Dress Party** was well attended by many worthwhile costumes, possibly the best and most thoughtful array of sheer creativity it has been my pleasure to see at some dozen conventions. These costumes ranged in standard from the very, very, good down at the bottom of the scale to the prize winners at the top. The prizes were awarded as follows: *Most Beautiful Costume*: John and Joni Stopa as The Elementals; *Most Monstrous Costume*: Tony Walsh as The Delegate from Jupiter; *Most Authentic SF Costume*: Peter Day as Nicholas van Rijn; *Most Authentic Heroic Fantasy Costume*: Ian and Betty Peters as John Carter and Dejah Thoris (This was the Bob Richardson Memorial Award). Heather Thomson, daughter of the mighty Atom, took the prize for the best

costume from a girl under 12 years of age, and Harry Harrison's son, Todd, now a veteran con attendee in his own right took the award for the parallel boy's category. It is notable that a representative of the national press asked Tony Walsh to walk down to a nearby Wimpy Bar in full costume... "But you'll be in the *Daily Express!*" Tony refused.

**Overheard:** I don't know whether or not this is the *best* convention I've ever attended, but it certainly is the *hottest!*

**Dick Eney** chaired the Sunday morning professional panel, "A Robot in the Executive Suite", upon which appeared Judith Merrill, Robert Silverberg, Ken Bulmer, Terry Carr, James White and Poul Anderson. Quickly defining that a robot is but a programmed computer, *Anderson* said that computers could be best employed for work not fit for human beings to do, such as garbage collection, working with radioactive materials or in subscription departments of magazines. *Life Magazine*, he said, employs IBM computers to conduct its subscriptions department. He told the story of a particularly humid New York day upon which one of the *Life* computers got a little out of hand, sending some three thousand subscription renewal notices to one man who happened to be a sheep herder living out in the wilds of Montana. The local post office had to take a special truck out to the sheep herder who was at time out tending his sheep. He returned to find his porch piled high with sacks of letters. He went through them all and then sat down and sent a cheque to the magazine's President with the attached note, "You win!" *Judith Merrill* wondered how a robot would edit a SF magazine and *Ken Bulmer* looked at robots from "the other end of the scale" where experience is the whole point of human existence. Once one has done something, postulated *Bulmer*, this can never be repeated – in terms of experience. A robot, a machine, could tap these experiences with pleasurable experiences fed directly into one's brain. *Anderson* said that the problem concerning machines was not the robots themselves but, as always, Man. If robots ever reached the point where they would try to make us chromeplated replicas of themselves then this would be something that man has done to himself. We should, he reasoned, be careful about the pockets of life into which we introduced them.

*Bob Silverberg* suggested that we should isolate our fear of robots which he claimed was not a fear of robots putting road sweepers out of work – "We've lived with that problem since the Industrial Revolution" – but more a fear of the berserk computer, the computing machine which begins to programme itself, where the control is taken from our hands. *Anderson*

felt that such an occurrence was unlikely, saying that we could always pull out the plug or refuse to read such a machine's silly advice, concluding that a computer's main worth is to give good advice in a complex situation, presenting the optimum way of doing something in a given set of circumstances. He admitted that there are problems impossible for a robot to solve, but felt that a properly functioning robot would manage to get members of a panel into a convention hall on time at 10 a.m., and would ensure that an audience of seventy and a panel of five would function at an optimum level.

**Banquet Tickets for the Thirty-Five Shilling (\$5) Meal** had been sold out by the end of the Convention's first day and with the seating limited to 150 there were reports of tickets being offered for sale by as much as £4, though it is not known whether there were any takers. The menu was: Consommé aux Etoiles; Filet de Sole Sullivan; Contrefilet Rose Perigourdine, Crottled Greeps and Pommes Amandine; Pêche Jules Verne. Coffee and a glass of Père Jean wine (for the traditional toast) rounded off an excellently prepared but sparsely presented meal. Opinions of those approached upon the matter seemed well united, that the proportions were small, that the service was disappointing, that the meal was overpriced and that those who came into the hall for the after-lunch speeches only, had well saved their money. Particularly as the standard of the speeches was in no way comparable with that of the meal.

**Overheard:** Young man, not only have I visited it, but I have dropped unequal weights from the top of it!

**Tom Boardman**, the banquet's Toastmaster, gave the news that the Gemini II spacecraft had finally come to earth, some fifty minutes previously, after its record breaking flight, an announcement heartily applauded by the assembly. It was worthy of reflection, said Boardman, that one attendee had been asked by the same press who would report this fact to appear in a public place in fancy dress. In introducing the Worldcon's Guest of Honour, Brian Aldiss, Boardman said that it was difficult to find something new to say about a writer whom he had first met in 1957, whom he had re-met in Harrogate in 1962 and who was now co-editor of *SF Horizons*, a former Hugo Winner, an ex-President of the BSFA and a writer known to all to stand "hips, trunk, shoulders, arms and head alongside anyone you want to mention."

**Brian Aldiss** first made reference to the passing Boardman, "A nice guy. You'd never know he was a publisher, would you?" He had wondered

what to do and say, continued Aldiss, intending to prepare a feast for the gathering. He had been thinking of admitting to being Kyril Bonfiglioli but then he had turned up, he had thought about giving the low-down on an estimable professional sitting amongst the audience, about what really happened to the old manuscripts submitted to Ted Carnell, how a famous Hollywood monster is to publish the Forry Ackerman Magazine, why Fred Pohl has the British edition of *Galaxy* delivered via the North Pole – in a rowing boat, about Mike Moorcock... “No, I couldn’t tell you about him....”, why Harry Harrison has had to leave Denmark, why Arthur C. Clarke has had to stay in Ceylon... but, said Aldiss, Harry Harrison gave the same talk at Birmingham. Instead Aldiss reviewed the changes in sf since the last London World Convention, in 1957.

At that time, said Aldiss, the dominant mood was still embodied in the paranoiac stories of the type written by A.E. van Vogt, in which the hero is the victim of a worldwide conspiracy, but in the end he licked the lot of them. Asimov was somewhat similar but his hero would undergo a loss of identity and a loss of memory. He would still go on to lick the lot. Orwell reversed this, although his story was still basically that of van Vogt. Here the hero underwent the loss of identity at the end of the story.

Nowadays there are other, perhaps more healthy problems. We have the satire of Vonnegut and the “inner space” of Ballard. The space is objective, said Aldiss, but man is more and more in the centre. These are stories of man reacting upon his environment rather than the environment reacting upon man. Also today, Aldiss continued, we are now in the age of the common spaceman. He parodied a recent earth to satellite conversation in which an astronaut had been talking to his wife. “How are you?” “I’m fine, honey. How are you?” “I’m fine, honey, just fine.” “And how are the kids?” “They’re fine, too.” As you see, Aldiss remarked drily, the age of the *common* spaceman.

He had been, he went on, recently looking up a copy of a 1955 *Galaxy* – which had just arrived in this country – and he quoted a descriptive passage in which stars appear as holes in a black, velvet curtain, commenting that the oratory of ten years ago seems humorous today, “like the works of Henry James – but funny.” This makes for better SF, Aldiss said, for we must change with changing conditions.

All this, he concluded, was the speech he had prepared, which he had been rehearsing naked in front of a full length mirror. However, he now realised that he was unable to give the speech he really had intended to give, for

John Brunner had given it the day before.

**Overheard in a Hotel Lift**, a super-automatic piece of machinery whose every press button seemed to possess a will of its own: This is just like being trapped in pinball machine.

**TAFF Delegate Terry Carr** was introduced by Tom Boardman who explained briefly the organisational workings of the Transatlantic Fan Fund. Terry Carr suggested that a speech should preferably commence, with a humorous anecdote as an audience hook. He had one lined up, he said, and had actually been telling to someone during the afternoon, at which time he had suddenly found that he had forgotten the punchline. This is what the convention was doing to him. A convention, he said, combines the House of Lords, a circus, the Association of Antiquarian Beekeepers – though he had never seen an antiquarian bee – and a Roman orgy. But oh to be in England now that it is worldcon time, he said. He had seen committee members rushing about as though they were going to a meeting with the Red Queen. Ella Parker, he added. He had seen editors looking for new talent, huckster's hawking, neofen talking, old timers sitting in corners and talking of the good old days and Polton Cross, and the Hugo nominees, the Hugonauts, sweating and just waiting to get to the presentation of the awards. He then went on to announce that the nomination period for candidates in the TAFF campaign to send a winner to the 1966 Worldcon was now open and that it would close on 1st December. Voting would then continue until a 13th April deadline

**Arthur C. Clarke** followed, entitling his talk, "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Stanley Kubrick". He had been commissioned to write a book about space for Time-Life and had met Kubrick in New York with the idea of an epic space film on the lines of *How The Solar System Was Won*. Kubrick had bought five of his short stories but had eventually settled upon only one, whereby Clarke immediately bought back the remaining four at a thousand dollars apiece. The provisional title of the film, *Journey Beyond the Stars* had now been changed to *2001 – The Space Odyssey*, with the screenplay by Kubrick and Clarke, based upon a novel by Clarke and Kubrick. It is difficult showing convincing extraterrestrials, said Clarke, and it was not true that Peter Sellers was going to play them all. "Though Peter was willing," he added. The film will be shot in Cinerama and if a month's scheduled shooting takes place as planned next spring, at which time will also appear the book (which is not yet finished), then the film should be released around Christmas 1966. Clarke said that he hoped it would become *the* contemporary space travel

film, the *Destination Moon* of the 1970s. In closing he held up a nail from the *Bounty* and a piece of the heat shield from the Apollo space craft. These were, he explained thoughtfully, two artefacts with less than 200 years between them.

**The Programme's Promised Mystery Speaker** turned out to be Robert Bloch, much to the delight of the assembly. "I'm so pleased to be here today in... er," Bloch began, referring to a card, "London." He said that he was feeling a little drunk – "George O. Smith breathed on me" – and mentioned that he was in London to make a new film, *Mary Poppins Meets the Wolfman*. But it's nice to be here, Bloch said. It's nice to see Karen Anderson, and *What's His Name*. And John Campbell, "whose editorials I've been ghost writing for years." He said that he had had a rough trip over. He hadn't realised just how rough it had been until he saw the captain heave the anchor, and he'd also had an accident with his luggage when the port fell out. He'd seen Westminster Abbey, the poor man's Forest Lawn, and had visited the Tower of London, though there he'd been disappointed. He'd wanted to see a Beefeater and had found himself talking to a vegetarian. Back at the hotel, he said, someone had come up to him and had asked for money to the Willis Fund. "But how can I be sure," he'd asked, "that this money will get to Willis?" "You can be sure of it," he'd been told, "I *am* Willis." Bloch went on to talk about some of his relatives. "Relatives run in my family," he said, "Especially when they see me coming." For example there was his cousin Mildred. "He's a nice fellow," said Bloch, telling of the time Mildred had had his spine removed and had had to be taken home in a bucket. He was, he concluded, very glad that he'd come. "I've made my peace with God," he said. "He surrendered two weeks ago." Quite a talk.

**Forry Ackerman** spoke about the Big Heart Award, saying that after the death of E. Everett Evans certain individuals had got together to honour those who work in fandom is often left unrecognised. He spoke of previous winners, Rick Sneary, Bjo Trimble, James Taurasi and Sam Moskowitz. This year, he said, the award is being made to someone at this side of the Atlantic. Although, Ackerman said, there is no particular fandom in Italy or in France, there is a considerable fandom in Germany and there is one man who has done more than any other for German fandom, a man whose heart is so large that it embraces East Germany as well as West Germany. He called upon the Award's first recipient, Bob Bloch, to make the award to Walter Ernsting, the "Father of German SF". In doing so Bloch said briefly, "Don't do as I did – pawn it." Ernsting said

that he was too overcome with emotion to make a speech. “This is a big surprise,” he said, “and my heart is too full. And when my heart is great, then my mouth is small.” He thanked those presenting the award for recognising German fandom and said that he felt that the Award was given to German fandom rather than to himself personally.

**The Speeches** had at this point been running for exactly one hour, and it was now time to present the Hugo Awards for the best and most able sf, of the past year. Robert Silverberg, who said it was both an honour and a pleasure to have the task of presenting the Hugos then gave one of the most humorous speeches of the weekend, this humour depending entirely upon his manner of delivery. He first spoke of the agonies of Isaac Asimov who two years before had been in a similar position and who at the time had mentioned that he had never won a Hugo. As he had made presentation after presentation Asimov had grown gloomier and gloomier. He had wrestled a little with the Award winners, trying to take from them their statuettes, and as the presentations had progressed Asimov’s anguish had grown and grown. Then finally he had come to the last sealed envelope. He had torn it open and had found his own name.

“I have my Hugo,” Silverberg said. “It is a little smaller than this one here. But it’s a *nice* Hugo. I like my Hugo.” The delivery here, with a pause between each sentence, was perfect. Silverberg’s Hugo, he explained was presented in 1956 for “The Most Promising New Author”. Brian Aldiss had won a similar Award in 1959, but as this category had since been discontinued he supposed that Aldiss was still the most promising author in SF. He remembered, he said, the evening when he was awarded a Hugo, how suspense had mounted and how he could not eat the meal because of his wanting to come to the Awards. He had remembered Arthur Clarke discussing the future history of the world and how his own torment had mounted as Arthur progressed through the 1960s and 1970s. “You can imagine how I felt by the time Arthur reached 2953,” Silverberg said. But, he continued, he would not keep the present award winners in suspense any longer. “I have the names right here in this envelope,” he announced, turning out his pockets one by one as he searched for it. Eventually he found it and waved it about... slowly. The envelope was marked, Silverberg said, “Top secret. Destroy before reading.” Very deliberately, Silverberg opened the envelope. “Here are the winners’ names,” he said. “Oh, that reminds me.” He had asked Ella Parker what he should do if he personally did not approve of the names on the sheet, but he had promised to read them faithfully. Silverberg then made the presentations of the Hugo

Awards, the full details of the voting being as follows:

Best Novel:

*The Wanderer* by Fritz Leiber (Ballantine Books) 52 votes.

*Davy* by Edgar Pangborn (Ballantine Books) 48 votes.

*The Planet Buyer* by Cordwainer Smith (Pyramid Books) 34 votes.

*The Whole Man* by John Brunner (Ballantine Books) 26 votes.

No Award. 14 votes.

Best Short Story:

Soldier Ask Not by Gordon Dickson in *Galaxy*. 60 votes.

Once A Cop by Rick Raphael in *Analog*. 47 votes

Little Dog Gone by Robert F. Young in: *Worlds of Tomorrow*. 27 votes.

No Award. 30 votes.

Best Magazine:

*Analog*. 63 votes.

*Worlds of If*. 35 votes.

*Fantasy & Science Fiction*. 34 votes.

*Galaxy*. 30 votes.

No Award. 12 votes

Best Fanzine:

*Yandro* edited by Robert & Juanita Coulson. 69 votes.

*Zenith* edited by Peter Weston. 35 votes.

*Double Bill* edited by Bill Bowers and Bill Mallardi. 28 votes.

Best Artist:

John Schoenherr 58 votes.

Ed Emshwiller 56 votes.

Frank Frazetta 26 votes.

Jack Gaughan 22 votes.

No Award 12 votes.

Best Publisher:

Ballantine Books 54 votes.

Ace Books 50 votes.

Pyramid Books 33 votes.

Victor Gollancz Ltd. 20 votes.

No Award 11 votes.

Best Dramatic Presentation:

*Dr. Strangelove* 99 votes.

*The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao* 41 votes

No Award 33 votes.

*Mary Poppins* 1 vote (write-in).

Peter George, on whose novel, *Red Alert*, the film *Dr. Strangelove* was based, was awarded the drama Hugo, the only award of this year's seven to remain in this country.

**Overheard:** It was like opening the *Daily Mail* and discovering that Carol Day had run off with Rip Kirby.

**Ted White**, Assistant Editor of *The Magazine of Fantasy & SF* spoke on "How to Plot Your Way Out Of A Paper Bag", saying that his title came from a remark that J.G. Ballard could not plot his way out of a paper bag. There seems to be an element in sf who are simply not able to plot. They are reactionary. Whilst they look to the future they stick to twentieth century writing. We seem to abound in writers who do not know their craft and who seem to be filling especially the British magazines with "stories which start nowhere and go nowhere." White agreed that it is time for a "new look in sf", something exposes the inner consciousness, though he admitted that every time he heard mentioned Ballard's name he thought of Philip K. Dick who has been doing the same thing longer and better, for a lengthy period of time exploring schizophrenia and other realms of unreality. It is nothing new, White suggested, to peg a story upon psychological cases, citing Raymond Chandler as one who was writing such stories at a time when SF was in its infancy. There is a tendency, White continued, for SF to copy mainstream fiction, but mainstream fiction is by its very definition very limited, (White defined mainstream fiction as any which could not otherwise be readily classified, something which did not fit into any category of genre fiction). Mainstream fiction is merely the same story over and over again, the story of John and his wife, both of whom live down the street. White said that he read for entertainment therefore he demanded a good, rousing story. SF could provide entertainment for him if it so wished for it had its root in the adventure of the pulps. And it was adventure that he wanted, White said, adventure in its *broadest* terms, giving as an example Tolkien's sweep and scope. This, he said, is adventure. "Let us not lose sight of the fact," said White, "that we are *story tellers*, not preachers and not psychotherapists."

**From Cradle to Collector** was the title of the Sunday evening panel which featured as Moderator Ted Carnell (the weekend's best co-ordinator of opinion) who was more than ably supported by authors Jack Williamson and Fred Pohl, *Tribune* critic Doug Hill, Mayflower Books buyer John

Watson, reader Chris Priest, publisher Ron Whiting and Penguin Books editor Tony Richardson. The panel mainly discussed various aspects of reviewing and the manner in which reviews affect sales. *Ron Whiting* said that a bad review was not as detrimental as one might think, saying that it was better to be talked about in such a manner than not being talked about at all. He would like to see, however, more than a mere small box at the bottom of a page devoted to sf. He pleaded for more constructive reviewing and asked that a reviewer did not simply seize upon one small bad point and base his review upon that. *Jack Williamson* said that poor reviews could have their compensation. He recalled that one of his books had been panned as “a space comic strip.” He had been immediately contacted and commissioned to write a space comic strip which had run for three years! *Frederik Pohl* said that all SF could expect in most papers was the small boxed reviews and that it was only in the SF magazines that one could hope to meet understanding. He deplored the one word reviews given in most papers and mentioned that he had once seen a box review of a Horace Gold book labeled merely “Good”. The following week the same book had been, because of a lack of memory, reviewed again. This time it had been labelled “Terrible”. *Pohl* also expressed the opinion that too many writers write for other writers and for reviewers rather than for the readers.

*Tony Richardson* said that only rarely do reviews have any effect upon editorial policy for usually he sees material direct from hardcover publishers before the books are published and reviewed. *Richardson* also felt that SF should be reviewed by someone with a special sympathy for the genre. Often, he said, the point of the book was missed completely by a mainstream reviewer. *Chris Priest* said that the fan saw the whole spectrum of reviews, from *Amis* to the fanzines but that the fanzines could not be taken as a true criterion because of one-author prejudices. *Doug Hill* pointed out that a reviewer is not a critic. He spoke of his own approach to reviewing, mentioning that he keeps in mind a picture of a young reader, probably a student, who would wish to get the best value for his two-and-six.

**The Revival Ceremony** of The Most Noble and Illustrious Order of St. Fantony which took place on the Sunday evening suffered somewhat from lack of rehearsal but as this was the first meeting of the Order for some eight years and as Knights and Ladies had gathered from the far flung reaches this was both understandable and excusable. One nominated knight, who shall, in order to avoid embarrassment, remain unnamed,

failed the strict initiation test but the Order was pleased to elevate into its ranks the following honoured worthies: Ethel Lindsay, Ken Bulmer, Ted Carnell, Ken Cheslin, Dick Eney, Harry Nadler, Phil Rogers, Tom Schlück and Tony Walsh. BSFA Librarian Joe Navin was also nominated but was unable to attend the Convention.

**The Official Business Meeting of the Twenty-Third World Science Fiction Convention** began at 10.45 on the Monday morning with only some sixty attendees present, though this number grew somewhat as the meeting proceeded. *Dave Kyle*, the principal speaker on behalf of the Syracuse bid for the 1966 Worldcon, asked the audience to give Syracuse its chance. Was the TriCon (the United three mid-west cities) afraid of competition? he asked. He asked for fair play and a ballot returned on fair competition and not on default. This proposal, for Syracuse to be able to put in a bid, had to be made under the strict terms of the Convention siting's Rotation Plan which otherwise would automatically award the 1966 siting to Tricon, Syracuse bidding, as it were, out of turn. *Ben Jason*, speaking for Tricon, said that he did not wish to oppose the Syracuse bid. Accordingly, both sides were immediately able to state their respective cases and the ballot was taken, resulting in the extremely narrow win for TriCon, as follows: *Tricon* 60 votes, *Syracuse* 49 votes, *The Virgin Islands* 1 vote, *Vienna* 1 vote, *No vote* 1 vote.

The Meeting was then handed over to Parliamentarian George Scithers who, for some two hours, chaired the discussion on suggestions to be made to the Hugo Awards Committee.

Dave Kyle spoke on the First Fandom organisation and paid tribute to founder member Don Ford, who died earlier this year.

**The Man on a White Horse** was the title of the Monday afternoon panel which was moderated by Charles E. Smith and which featured Rolf Gindorf, John W. Campbell Jr., Mike Moorcock, Joe Patrizio and John Brunner. *Campbell* said that every theory man has ever formulated has proved wrong and that the pragmatic view must be taken. We should ask "Will it work?" *Joe Patrizio* asked whether this would reveal the truth. What is true? he asked. Many stories are written, he said, in which man reacts against what is thought to be true. *Campbell* repeated that we must ask "Will it work?" *Brunner* emphatically disagreed, saying that we should ask, "Will it work well?" *Brunner* said that slavery works but that it is very inefficient, also making the point that if man has no more than territorial instinct, as a sparrow chasing others from its nest, then he is not qualified

to be the master of this planet. *Campbell* countered with a plea for unorthodox ideas, saying that orthodox ideas have plenty of opportunities.

**Project Art Show** provided a treat of all types of modern sf and fantasy artwork, the worst items on show being extremely good. Judges Don Wollheim, John Brunner, Ted Forsyth and Tom Schlück awarded the prizes as follows: *Best SF Illustration*: 1. Eddie Jones "At the Tips". 2. Jack Wilson "The Plattner Story". 3. Michel Jakubowicz "The Streets of Ashkalon". *Best Fantasy*: Joni Stopa "Mermaid". 2. Eddie Jones "The Undead". Honorable Mention to Eddie Jones' *Fellowship of the Ring* illustration "A Map For Adventure". *Best Cartoon*: Arthur Thomson's "Ixprl's Acme Repairs", with an honorable mention to Yoshie Ikemndri's "Reverse Limbs Primitive Men". Various Eddie Jones illustrations won the prize for the best entry in the *Astronomical Art* section. *Best Experimental Art*: Cynthia Goldstone's "The Gillgooneys", with an honorable mention to Jean Claude Rault's "Winds" and "Stone Desert". *Children's Fantasy*: Jim Cawthorn's illustrations from stories by Alan Garner, with an honorable mention to Tony Glynn's illustrations from *The Wind in the Willows*. *Most Promising Artwork*: Michel Jakubowicz. *Open Award*: William Rotsler's "Warrior" and "Our Hidden Self". *Judges' Choice*: Eddie Jones "At the Tips", the first time ever that the PAS judges have made their award to the winner of the best SF Illustration section. There were no entries in the photographic section.

**Convention Snippets**: Con membership was c. 650, attendance c. 350 (reported on BBC as 400) ::: Saturday's auction realized £28.17s, Sunday's £51. 17s. 1d ::: Auctioneers were Ted Forsyth, Phil Rogers, Lang Jones, Charles Smith ::: Room parties were the swingingest ever and were often sponsored by groups or given for groups, First Fandom (the Rosenblums), TAFF, St Fantony amongst them. For their party TriCon bought £60's worth of beer. Brag parties were thrown by Dick Eney and Phil Rogers. At one party I saw Joni Stopa drink a whole bottle of whisky in one draught ::: Ted White's talk began 6 minutes *early* ::: Actor Christopher Lee was present and how near the Rolling Stones group came to attending we shall probably never know ::: Press coverage was appalling, the *Sunday Times* naming Miss Fay Parker as Chairman ::: Names from Fandoms Past abounded, amongst them Doug Webster, Julian Parr, James Parkhill Rathbone, Laurence Sandfield, Chuck Harris, Tony Glynn, Tony Klein and Bill Harry ::: This issue is dedicated to the dedicated people, namely the convention committee of Ella Parker, Ethel Lindsay, Jim Groves, Peter Mabey, Keith Otter and George Scithers who

were responsible for such a fabulous weekend. Many, many thanks.

# ***Skyrack* #84, 4 October 1965**

This is ***Skyrack* number 84**, published on **4th October 1965** by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 2/6d or 35¢. Six issues sent airmail 70¢. Subscriptions from U.S. readers may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to sf fans always welcome. Contributors this issue include Brian Aldiss, Bob Tucker, Alan Dodd, Tony Walsh, Peter Campbell and Arthur Thomson. Cartoon by Kris Carey.

Vienna in sixty-six.

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## **Death of E.E. Smith**

Edward Elmer Smith, Ph.D., author of the Skylark and Lensman stories, died on 31st August at Seaside, Oregon, following a heart attack.

“Doc” Smith, who was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1890 held a doctorate in organic chemistry and had worked for the U.S. Bureau of Chemistry and for several private companies with which he had held executive-technical positions. The Skylark series spans his entire writing career, his first published story being *The Skylark of Space* which appeared in 1928 whilst *Skylark Duquesne* has recently appeared in *If*. Doc, – a long-time friend of fandom, will be sorely missed.

### **The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund**

TAFF Administrators, Terry Carr and Arthur Thomson (17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW 2) are now accepting nominations for candidates for the 1966 Campaign to choose a delegate to travel from this side of the Atlantic to the 24th World SF Convention, the Cleveland “TriCon” next August. The campaign is open, say Terry and Arthur in an official news release, to any European fan who is eligible and who is nominated. Closing date for nominations is 1st December, voting then continuing until 13th April 1966.

Following some little discussion, especially in the Stateside fanzines, the voting system this year will be somewhat different from that previously employed. Inaugurated this year will be the Australian Hare system, a vote counting technique which incorporates its own built in run-off count.

Basically, the Hare system works as follows: On the first ballot only first place votes are counted. The lowest scoring candidate is then excluded from any further count and the second choice votes of his supporters become their first place votes, a second count then being taken. This continues until a final ballot between the last two candidates.

When voting one should rank the candidate in the exact order in which one prefers them. If one votes for only one candidate and this candidate is eliminated, further votes are automatically forfeited. Under no circumstances may a fan vote more than once or enter the name of any one candidate more than once on a ballot

Also new this year is the Candidate with the strange name of “Hold over funds”. This choice, which will be on the voting forms, is similar to the “No award” vote in the Hugo ballots, giving the voter the opportunity to express the opinion that no TAFF trip be undertaken in any given year, perhaps because the entire slant of candidates does not whet his appetite or because he feels that TAFF should slow down its programme of fan visits between countries. “Hold over funds” may be listed in any place on the voting form, being then treated as any other candidate entry. If the final, majority, vote in the election is against the sending of any candidate then the TAFF funds will be held over until a fresh election the following year.

Nominations are meanwhile being invited. (AT)

So far known to be running in the forthcoming campaign is a leading figure in international fandom, Hanover’s Tom Schlück, whose nomination machinery is grinding along satisfactorily, and it is understood that there is a chance that Eric Jones will run also. So far the only certainty for the slate is old Dover Funds and personally I’d hate to see *him* win.

### **BaD S.F. Group Formed**

On Saturday 25th September Bristol fandom officially came into being by adopting the title the Bristol & District Science Fiction Group. Fifteen fen, including Peter Mabey, Keith and Wendy Freeman, Beryl Henley, Frank Herbert, and Eric and Margaret Jones, were present at the inaugural meeting which took place at the Walsh’s new residence at 61 Halsbury Road, Bristol. Meetings are scheduled fortnightly on Saturday evenings. Anyone interested in attending/joining should contact Tony Walsh.

### **Cheltenham Festival**

Whilst our minds are focused on the West Country... Cheltenham Arts Festivals Ltd is this week featuring a Festival of Literature which includes

items such as “Folk Song Today”, “Character in the Modern Novel”, “Crime & Literature” and on Friday 8th October at 8pm in the Town Hall, “The Future of Science Fiction” – a discussion with Anthony Burgess, Robert Conquest, Edmund Crispin and Brian Aldiss. Eric Jones mentions that he hopes to attend, with intentions of asking Brian what connection meat pies have with s.f.

### **Harrogate – Centre of the Universe**

Visitors to Harrogate are increasing in direct proportion to the square of the number of years lived here. Following the pre-con visits of Susan and Jim Caughran (who very kindly drove me down to London) and Brian Varley (who attended a local solo drive and won a prize), we’ve had the further pleasurable visits of Iain Ward-Campbell (who drove me down from London), Terry & Valerie Jeeves (who made a flying call to pay Terry’s OMPA subscription) and Phil Rogers and Dave Kyle. Dave stayed on in England for some few weeks after the con, visiting Bert Campbell, Ted Carnell, Norman & Ina Shorrocks, Keith and Wendy Freeman and Phil. Phil drove him to Harrogate so that we could all play brag until the early hours and then departed back to Scunthorpe. And Dave, who stayed on to brave the local weather, left behind him a trail of souvenirs in the shape of a briefcase, shaving cream and a pair of socks. It is understood that he’ll be back to collect them all next Easter.

**Brian Aldiss** informs me that this week’s *Sunday Times* colour supplement contains something of interest :: Colin Freeman is now happily out of isolation and back in circulation and should be answering a three-month pile up of correspondence.

**Vector 34** (Aug 65; the Journal of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton) Another good, sound and very readable issue, with news and reviews and an excellent article by Bob Parkinson on Samuel Beckett, Whatever faults the BSFA may possess, the credit balance is high if reckoned only upon the standard of the present day *Vectors*. In Peyton the BSFA has as fine an editor ever to enter fandom and it will be a sad day when he and *Vector* part company. When one considers how close was that parting earlier this year....

**Garbistan 2** (Charles Platt, 71 Sinclair Road, London W.14) A well-written but very prejudiced Birmingham conreport, a Dave Wood article on *Playboy* ((Actually, the *Playboy* reader is *not* the debonair man about town, but instead is the *would-be* debonair man about town. In effect the magazine was created for a non-existent audience, an excellent example of

putting basic psychology (projection) to work)), a party report and a sheaf of letters make up what could be an excellent issue. Unfortunately, the predominant air of “let’s be snide – it’ll pass for biting humour” places the magazine fairly in the category of Fanzines Best Forgotten Quickly. Platt as a Fan and as a Person possesses so much obvious talent, clearly observed in recent fanzines like *Beyond* and in his professional writings such as the *New Worlds* story Lone Zone, that it is somewhat pathetic to find him wasting his time on such as this.

Whilst on the subject of Charles Platt, his excellent and formerly regular reviewzine, *Tomorrowscope*, is decidedly overdue and it is understood that the zine has folded, a fact to be deplored. Also understood is that objections were being made to the reviews in *Tomorrowscope* by certain publishers, a fact even more to be deplored, for entirely different reasons. To balance to some degree this loss from the fan-field there is the good news that Pete Weston is after all not to fold *Zenith Speculation*.

**A Checklist of Poul Anderson** (A limited edition compiled and published by Roger Peyton, 77 Grayswood Park Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32 @ 3/6d. Also available at 50¢ from Hank Luttrell, Route 13, 2936 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122, USA). Like a dictionary, a checklist lacks a meaty plot which results in people thinking twice before shelling out their hard earned ££\$££’s (the hell with clichés I say) and which results also in little praise and egoboo for the compiler. A pity, for work goes into the compilation and when checklists are as well and as attractively produced as this one, a very thorough and up-to-date listing, then obviously one does not need to think over the matter at all. This is a good buy.

**The “Astounding” Checklist**, part two, the long and eagerly awaited, is available from Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11 @ 4/6d, Those of you who already own part one won’t require the superlatives, merely those two words, “is available.”

Some ten years ago book plating was a very popular feature of collecting sf, and there was some degree of competition amongst artists to produce the best and most reasonably priced book plates. Coming somewhat too late to win any prizes but decidedly worth a purchase are four different designs by Ken McIntyre, 212 Commonwealth Way, Abbey Wood, London SE 2, extremely good value at a mere two shillings per sample packet of one dozen.

Those fans who might be interested in seeing fandom from a completely

new angle, from a standpoint where Hong Kong is mentioned in terms as familiar as, say, the Left Bank, could try *The Gryphon*. Number 17, the June-July issue is undoubtedly the best to date and is definitely recommended for its sheer readability. *The Gryphon* from John Foyster, PO Box 57, Drouin, Victoria, Australia.

### **Changes of Address:**

Brian Aldiss, Jasmine House, Holton, Wheatley, Oxford.

Dave Barber, 1a Walsoken House, Walton Rd., Wisbech, Cambs

Charlie Brown, 2078 Anthony Av., Bronx, New York 10453, USA.

Peter Campbell, 15 Wilson St., Workington, Cumberland.

Betty Kujawa, 508 Sutton Place South Apts, 500 Osceola, Winter Park, Florida, USA (until 31 March 1966)

Dave & Ruth Kyle, Route 2, Potsdam, New York 13676, USA.

Bob Tucker, Box 506, Hayworth, Illinois 61745, USA.

Brian & Frances Varley, 11 Toronto Place, Leeds 7, Yorkshire.

Tony & Simone Walsh, 61 Halsbury Rd., Redland, Bristol 6.

**Snippets:** Shirley Jackson, author of “The Lottery”, “Raising Demons”, etc, died 9th August aged 45. :: *Ratatosk* (Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA, Calif 90024) did a fine job reporting the London Worldcon in its 2nd Sept issue, at the same time scooping the entire field with its speedy publication :: Alan Dodd (77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts) has published a fine account of his recent trip to Poland and would undoubtedly send any interested parties a copy. Alan also sends along a cutting from *Daily Express* 15th Sept which tells the happy tale of *Science Fantasy* editor Kyril Bonfiglioli having last year bought a painting at a country sale for £40. The painting which was subsequently revealed to be a Tintoretto was recently sold for £40,000. There is no truth in the rumour that *Science Fantasy*'s rates are to be increased to 5¢ a word :: 1964 Pacificon gave \$105 to the LonCon for Hugo Awards, a further \$100 to the LonCon itself, \$300 to TriCon, \$200 to Project Art Show, \$200 to TAFF as well as other donations elsewhere :: Now, Rich Mann, is there any chance of your paying me the \$7.60 you've owed me for a year? Indeed, is there any chance of your doing other than merely ignoring my letters? :: *Yandro* 150 has just rolled in and is well up to the standard which won editors Juanita & Bob Coulson this year's Hugo. 1/9d, 4 for 6/- or 12 for 14/- from Alan Dodd :: Various congratulations rolled in on the convention coverage last issue and many thanks to all who wrote. Usually the letters of comment received by a newszine are but critical and it was very pleasant to have such a mail bag full of congratulatory comments ::

Bill Burns is starting a 3-year course at Leeds University ::: Gollancz releases this month include Harry Harrison's *Bill*, *The Galactic Hero* and the Damon Knight edited *A Century of Great Short SF Novels* ::: Harry Bell of Newcastle is bringing out a fanzine called *Grimwab*.

# ***Skyrack* #85, 1 December 1965**

***Skyrack* number 85**, dated **1st December 1965** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 2/6d or 35¢. Six issues airmailed for 5/- or 70¢. Subscriptions may also be sent to good old Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Contributors include Archie Mercer, Tony Walsh, George Locke, Alan Dodd. Heading & illustration by Arthur Thomson.

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## VIENNA IN SIXTY-SIX

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**The Recently Formed Bristol & District S.F. Group** threw its first Fan Fawkes party on 6th November with attendees travelling from Peterborough, London, Manchester and Birmingham and other fan centres. Alan and Linda Rispin travelled all the way from Newcastle for the conclave at which there were some 47 fans crowding through the Walshes' new Bristol home. The party began at six and a firework spectacular was staged at 7.10, after which the drink began to flow freely, though the Phantom Punch Spoiler was present once again. Until about ten o'clock there seemed to be three distinct parties being conducted at the same time. There was the back-room slide and film show, with the now-famous *Breathworld* taking pride of place, the front room philosophisers, and the breakfast room brag school conducted by who else but Phil Rogers. At 1.30 the first fifteen were laid out to sleep in the back room and at three a further fifteen talked themselves to sleep before the stupefying fire built by Tony Walsh in the front room for that very purpose. A few hardies actually tried to sleep in the bedrooms, a false hope as Tony had dismantled all the beds for wall to wall matressing downstairs. The card school continued through the night, almost until the eight o'clock breakfast after which the YarCon committee held a meeting. "There," writes Tony, "is a sense of duty for you." At 11.30 about 20 fans were still present and so an excursion was held down to the Chopstick for an early lunch, the party finally dispersing about 1.30pm.

Also present were: Ethel Lindsay, Diane and Dick Ellingsworth, Peter Mabey, Keith and Wendy Freeman, Harry Nadler, Peter Weston, George Locke, Chris Priest, Doreen Parker, Don Geldart, Bette Woodhead, Archie

Mercer, Beryl Henley, Daphne Sewell, Dave Barber, Jim Groves and Tony and Simone Walsh. George Locke writes that it was an ideal party but for one thing “You should have been there, Ron,” he says. “We wanted a guy to burn in effigy.” (AW & GAL)

### **Convention Party and Fan-Gathering Section**

In addition to the recent B.A.D. Fan Fawkes party, November saw the first Leeds fanclave for some few years when neo-Loiners Brian and Frances Varley and Bill Burns gathered at the home of Michael and Betty Rosenblum. Meanwhile, some six thousand miles away the Los Angeles Halloween party was suffering from knife-pulling and gun-shooting gatecrashers. Upon being thrown out the gatecrashers were involved in a knife incident during which Owen Hannifen was slightly cut. Shortly afterwards someone began to shoot at the house from a passing car, one shot passing between Dian Pelz and Bill Rotsler as they sat side by side, Dian being hit in the face and shoulder by splintered wood.

The TriCon (24th World S.F. Convention), P.O. Box 1372, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 which will take place at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel from 2nd to 5th September next year will have L. Sprague de Camp as its Guest of Honour. Briefly, points to note on the TriCon are as follows: Hotel guests will have free 24 hour parking. Room rates are \$7.85 single, \$13.85 double, \$16.00 twin. All rooms air-conditioned, with bath, radio and TV. The hotel sports 5 speciality restaurants. Ceiling price on the banquet will be \$5. Display tables are available (6' x 3') at \$5 per *additional* table, the first table being free. Registration desk opens 6pm *1st* Sept., to be followed at 8pm by a Warm-Up Party. For the final Farewell Party on 5th (Labor Day), the TriCon Committee is donating a room and free beer to serve in it. Copy deadline for the 2nd Progress Report is 1st March 1966 with rates varying between \$8 the page and \$1 the filler for adverts. Try TriCon in '66.

Over 60 fans have already joined the membership list of the 1966 Great Yarmouth Convention which will be held over the Easter weekend. Details from Chairman Dave Barber, la Walsoken House, Walton Road, Wisbech, Cambs.

Fliers relating to the 1966 Vienna Convention and the proposed coach convention which is being organised by Tony Walsh to travel in orbit to converge with the WienCon are being included for British and European subscribers only. Collectors who desire the fliers for their files may have them on request. Fandom's only News apa....

## Harrison Hits England and Other Professional Pearls

“ENGLAND IS BLESSED, Harrison is here,” writes Mr. Harry Harrison. “All fen in Greater London beware. After a month in Spain, we have returned to these fair and rain-swept shores for an endless visit/stay. Send *Skyrack* so I can laugh, cry, etc. Roll on the con. Bring meat pies and drink. Better, stay at home with meat pies and drink and send wife.” Aw, tourist, go home, and other similar frenzied welcomes.

S.F. had quite a spread in the October 3rd *Sunday Times* Magazine with articles on the Clarke-Kubrick *2001 A Space Odyssey*, Irene Shubik’s *Out of the Unknown* BBC 2 series (which last week featured Bradbury’s “Fox and the Forest”) and on John W. Campbell in an extremely frank manner, Good stuff :: The Science Fiction Writers of America is/are instituting a series of awards for the year’s best SF, selected by members of the SFWA :: A recent note from Ken Slater included the news that the October *F&SF* had not been received by Ken from Atlas (a note to them also not having been answered) whilst the November *F&SF* which has arrived directly from the States shows that the 3/6d imprint which has been appearing both on U.S. and British-distributed copies has been dropped from the cover.

**Zenith Speculation 10** (Pete Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31; Oct 65; 36pp 2/- or 30¢) The first post-Worldcon appearance of Britain’s Hugo contender which thereby puts aside its thoughts of passing from the zinescene. Thank Ghu. *And* Foo-Foo. The editor writes on Christopher Anvil, Joe Patrizio writes on humour in sf and Ian McAulay writes on “The New Establishment” which article contains some excellent points spoiled to some small degree by both generalisations and the fact that the article is altogether too short. There are two very good review sections and several pages of mature letters round off another satisfying and worthy issue.

**Hydra 6** (Nov 65; Peter Campbell, 15 Wilson Street, Workington, Cumberland; 5/- per year) Personal slim-zine, linked in no small way to the Hydra League. Not quite my own cup of tea, but readable.

**Link 4** (Beryl Mercer, 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8; Nov 65 1/6d; 48pp) A very meaty latest issue of the British fanzine which depends greatly for its existence upon the new wave femme-fan. This is the best issue to date, with *Link* cutting its adolescent and forced humour down to a happy

minimum. The best article is Archie Mercer's "Utterly Longrigg" (I take it that you've heard of Al Read?), whilst the letter-column is a fanzine – and a good one – on its own.

**Xeron 1** (Oct 65; John Quattromini and Michael Ashley, 9 Shurland Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent: 52p:10;1/6d). Apart from a sprinkling of names such as Terry Jeeves, Gray Hall and Richard Gordon, this fanzine would appear to have leapt in through the letter box from another dimension. The duplicating and material (mostly fiction) is generally very first-issuish. Of decided value, however, is the checklist of recent sf. John and Michael are undoubtedly keen and would doubtlessly improve with contributions, encouragement, and better reviews than that they are suffering here.

**Vector 35** (Oct 65; The Official Organ of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton). A ½ foolscap printed *Vector* this time, containing all the usual excellent news and review departments (my first professional review, Graham Hall, Thank you). Bob Parkinson takes a further look at obscurity, this time the Fantasies of Jorge Luis Borges, David Sparrow writes a light article and Charles Winstone uses an old *Hyphen* pun for the title of his brief but thorough WorldCon coverage. I never cease to be amazed at the over-all high quality of *Vector*. Riding along with V35 is the 1st issue of the BSFA's new newsletter, four pages entitled *The BSFA Bulletin*. Well produced by Archie Mercer.

Leading the trail of overseas fanzines is, once again, Bob Coulson's *Yandro* of which the 151st issue has appeared (with 152 no doubt being on its way). *Yandro* is available from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts at 1/9d per, 4 for 6/- and 12 for 14/-. Ted White is missing this time but there is much resulting from his recent, and excellent, series of articles on writing. *Yandro* also seems to be becoming a focal point for Tolkien and Raymond Chandler fans ::: Another leading Stateside zine well worth a try is *Niekas*, from Ed Meskys and Felice Rolfe or in the U.K. from Gray Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos. (2/6d), a beautifully produced and very meaty zine ::: Zingaro number 5 from Mark Irwin, 1747 Elmwood Dr., Highland Park, Illinois 60035 is also meaty and worth trying but at 35¢ (2/6d) is probably a little highly priced for the U.K. fan. Some very good Midwestcon photos here, however ::: And of course there is the good ol' regular *G<sup>2</sup>*, monthly and foolscap, published by Joe and Robbie Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Ave., El Sobrante, Calif 94803 @ 2/25¢. British fans can obtain their copies @ 2 for 1/9d, 8 for 7/- from Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks, Knaresborough, Yorks.

**Changes of Address:** Two new addresses for one fan! Bill Burns has a new home address in Manchester and is meanwhile studying in Leeds:  
Bill Burns, 13 Swanage Road, Winton, Eccles, Manchester and 9  
Brudenell Mount, Leeds 6.  
Roje Gilbert, 92 St Fabians Drive, Chelmsford, Essex.  
Harry Galactic Harrison, 68 Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey.  
Beryl Henley, c/o 70 Worrall Road, Bristol 8.

And before the inhabitants of Eccles, Lancashire take up their pens and swords, here are two corrections to previously listed addresses:  
Dave and Ruth Kyle, Route 4, Potsdam, New York 13676, USA.  
George H. Scithers, European Research Office, 1G Hochhaus, Zimmer  
030, 6 Frankfurt am Main 1, W. Germany.

**Snippets:** Apologies to TAFF Administrator Arthur Thomson who sent along the enclosed flier for distribution over a month ago. You may have noticed that *Skyrack* skipped an issue. Not lethargy or apathy, just 46 children and two evening classes ::: Pyramid is slowing down on sf; 1966 publishing schedule will see mostly reprints ::: Oxford's big day, nay BIG DAY, is 11th December when Brian Aldiss and Margaret Manson wed. The best of best wishes to you both ::: Say the Scott Meredith Agency, "We've never sold any book to Simon & Schuster so fast." Novel in question is William F. Temple's *Shoot at the Moon*, slated for a late Spring publication. A \$2,500 advance already paid ::: November Books & Bookmen gave a two page spread to Tom Boardman interviewing Harry Harrison ::: Lowndes' *Magazine of Horror* has bought several R.E. Howard poems and one unpublished short, "King of the Forgotten People" ::: Advent will not publish Harry Warner's Fan History or the revised Tuck Handbook until next year. They hope however to have out *The Many Worlds of E.E. Smith* later this year ::: Enterprise Films are making Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* with Julie Christie ::: New mag on the U.S. stands – Sol Cohen's *Great SF From Amazing*, reprints naturally ::: Roje Gilbert and Brenda Piper plan a new fanzine. Details from Roje ::: Congratulations to Peter and Betty Campbell whose son, Brian Paul (6 lb 11 oz) was born 8th Oct ::: New London pop group is called "The Golden Apples of the Sun" ::: Thomas Schlück for TAFF.

**1966**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #86, 9 February 1966**

This is ***Skyrack* 86**, dated **9th February 1966** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6 issues for 2/6d. 35¢ for 6 issues in the USA (70¢ airmail) where subscriptions may be sent to Buck Coulson, Rte 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Contributors include Lady of St. Fantony, Ethel Lindsay, Jimmy Groves, Alan Dodd, Michael Moorcock, Harry Harrison, Arthur Thomson, Ben Jason and George Locke. John Ramsey Campbell appears by kind permission of Harry Nadler and Hammer Films and the cartoon is by Kris Carey. Vienna in Sixty-Six and Tom Schlück for TAFF.

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**Compact Magazines Alter Format.** Say goodbye to *Science Fantasy*. The March issue, out at the end of February, will see the title changed to *Impulse* with more pages, a slightly larger page size and a price increase to 3/6d. The issue will be an “all-star” affair, with contributions from James Blish, Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, James Ballard, Jack Vance and Richard Wilson. In addition there will be Poul Anderson writing on the theme of “sacrifice”. *New Worlds* 160, out at the same time, will feature similar page size and price changes and will include material by Ballard, Zelazny, Jones, Platt, Masson and the U.S. poet Bill Butler as well as a new Brunner serial. (MJM)

**Fairly Frequently Published Author Marries.** Saturday, 11th December 1965, dawned bright and lovely in Oxford and many and wondrous were the SF notables who assembled there to celebrate with strong drink and mighty oaths the joining in wedlock of Margaret Manson and one Brian Wilson Aldiss. Kyril Bonfiglioli clashed glass with Michael Moorcock, Tom Boardman nibbled sandwiches with your reporter, Kingsley Amis cheered on Jim Ballard who suffered virus or flux and drank but cold water (!) and when the happy newlyweds left for Paris only Harry Harrison and Michael Moorcock were fool enough to throw rose petals and received from BWA the scowl they so richly deserved. Merriment and cheer and drink were the order of the day and I am sure that all *Skyrack* readers and lesser fen join us in wishing the couple all of the very best in the years to come. (HH)

**Pronews.** Jim Ballard’s new novel, *The Crystal World* (Cape, May) has been bought by Panther for a record fee, the highest paid for an sf book.

Panther outbid both Corgi and Penguin (who have published Ballard's other work in pb) for paperback rights.

**Jimmy Groves to Emigrate.** James A. Groves, one-time BSFA Publications Officer and Editor of *Vector*, and the man at present in charge of the Association's Information Service, is to emigrate in the very near future to the United States. With a job lined up in Phillipsburgh, New Jersey, Jimmy, who was the LonCon II Treasurer, should have sailed before the end of December but there has been a delay in putting his papers through the Department of Labour who are somewhat tardy in informing the American Embassy. Meanwhile, Jimmy sits on his packed trunks and chews his nails. Watch this space.

**The Science Fiction Club of London** held its Annual General Meeting at Courage House, Surbiton, on 12th December when Ethel Lindsay was elected Chairman. Ian Peters is the new Treasurer and Keith Otter Secretary. The Club agreed to sponsor a series of open meetings, the first of which has since been held, on Sunday 9th January in the Dunbar House Hall, West Kilburn. Some 25 people turned up to hear guest speaker John Brunner on "The Fiction in Science Fiction", a talk which was immediately snapped up by Michael Moorcock for *New Worlds*. The next meeting is at 4pm, Sunday, 13th February, when Frank Arnold will speak on "Characterisation in SF", and the following meeting will be on 13th March, also at 4pm. A charge of 2/6d will be requested to help with the cost of rent and refreshments. Suggestions for future meetings will be heartily welcomed, as of course will be any would-be attendees. I'm asked to mention that fans who intend going along to either of the two forthcoming Meetings would help greatly if they could notify Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, though of course this should not preclude the attendance of anyone who finds himself at a loose end at the last moment; just take the Bakerloo, Watford Line tube to Queen's Park Station, turn right, cross the bridge and William Dunbar House, Albert Road, is some three and a half inches along on your left. The hall is on the ground floor.

**TAFF.** The Trans-Atlantic Fan-Fund campaign to send a worthy delegate to the Cleveland TriCon in September is now under way and forms should be included as a flier to most copies of this issue. As you'll see, the Candidates are Eric Jones, Peter Weston, Bo Stenfors and the man *Skyrack* is plugging, good ol' Tom Schlück, who certainly deserves a better fate than to have his name misspelled on the Stateside voting forms. As of the beginning of the campaign there was in the British TAFF kitty some £53

made up as follows: £41 carried over from the last Campaign, £4.18.7d from Ken Slater's LonCon midnight auction, £5.10.0d various TAFF bonds, 10/- Carl Brandon Jr., 2/6d Ivor Latto, and 5/- from Rich Mann, Eduard H. Lukschndl, Hubert Strassi, Peter Ripota and Axel Melhardt.

**I've Been Asked to Publish the Following Letter** from Alan Dodd: "In December 1964 I sent Kyril Bonfiglioli a story on behalf of a friend in America and then in January 1965 I sent a further story from the same author. I received no reply for months. I wrote a total of some six letters and cards and never received a single reply. I then wrote a director of the publishers who sent me back a letter stating the longer a story was held the better chance it had of being fitted into magazine issue – a load of twaddle if I ever heard it. Eventually I got a tiny letter from Bon stating he would like to know the titles of the stories sent him. I sent a further three letters, the first two to which I again received no replies. The last I threatened to send him (sic) insulting postcards the longer he kept me waiting. This finally got a reply returning, after one year the first of the stories and a vague promise to try and find the other story. No word of explanation as to what was the reason for refusing to answer all my other letters and I feel that to protect anyone else who may foolishly consider sending anything to *Science Fantasy* should be strongly warned against it, as strongly as possible."

**The Professional Front.** *Reveille* recently published a story by Arthur Clarke ::: The BBC is planning a longer series of sf plays, following the success of their first series, and are at present trying to commission original plays from well-known authors in this country ::: Compact have lined up for publication Arthur Selling's *Time Transfer* for March and James Colvin's *The Deep Fix* for April. February's title, the long awaited Charles Harness book *The Rose*, is due out next week. ::: *New Worlds* 161, out at the end of March, will feature James Ballard's *The Assassination Weapon* which deals with the "false" deaths of such people as Kennedy, Oswald and Malcolm X ::: Gollancz's SF choice for February is *The Worlds of Robert F. Young* – 16 stories and an Avram Davidson introduction for 18/-, whilst the March choice will be Poul Anderson's *The Star Fox*. Between the two, John, will come an 18/- affair called *All Flesh is Grass* by one Clifford Simak ::: *Tarzan* will be a colour TV series in the States later this year :::

Cartoon favourite of many fans, *Batman*, has been dug up in London this last week in the form of a 23 year old film serial of which all the episodes have been joined together to form a feature film. Reviews indicate that the

whole affair has been a great success with new heights reached in audience participation (one day I must learn how to split hyphenated words) ::: Surely they can't be trying to promote sales? London's avant garde bookshop, Better Books, ran an sf panel-discussion in December under the title, "SF – Does it Matter?" Douglas Hill (*Tribune* SF reviewer), Bill Butler, George Hay, John Brunner and Michael Moorcock were the panelists. The tone of the discussion and the questions from the floor ran high and were sympathetic to the genre, but no real conclusions were reached ::: Michael Moorcock (who should be mentioned in *Skyrack* occasionally) and Harry Harrison were due to address University College, London, at the end of January, but no details are to hand as yet.

**Convention News.** A reminder that the 24th World SF Convention, TriCon (P0 Box 1372, Cleveland, Ohio 44103) will take place at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, from 2nd to 5th September with L. Sprague de Camp as Guest of Honour. Copy deadline for the Second Progress Report is 1st March with rates varying between \$1 for fillers and \$8 for full page adverts. *Galaxy* Magazine is sponsoring a futuristic fashion show for which costume designs are invited. One does not necessarily have to be an artist to enter; merely sketch or describe your costume ideas. Deadline is also 1st March. Contact Luise Petti, 601 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif 90005 for details. The TriCon's voting forms for the Hugo Award nominations are now out. Voting forms should appear with the next issue of *Skyrack*.

The coach trip proposed by Tony Walsh to travel to this August's Vienna Convention has fallen through. Despite much initial spade-work, Tony had but five replies to his circulars.

LonCon II has a British Money Order for 21/- sent for a membership from Hannover-Linden 7 but as yet unclaimed. Languishing would-be LonCon member please contact Jimmy Groves, 29 Lathom Road, East Ham, London E6.

Some very good fanzines have arrived since the last issue, fanzines probably worthy of more space than afforded here:

**Vector 37** (Jan 66; BSFA) Another small size, professional looking *Vector* and another issue full of good reading. R. Haldricks analyses Russian sf, Ken Slater chunters on book and magazine news, Vic Hallett looks at sf films, Chris Priest reviews British prozines and Jimmy Groves answers sticky questions. The cover is by Eddie Jones and is well up to his best. As if all this were not enough there is an excellent article on the economics of

writing sf by John Brunner.

**Brennschluss 6** (Ken & Irene Potter, 4 Hartington St, Lancaster) Once upon a time, way back in the murky reaches of the forgotten sixth and the dusty seventh fandoms, there was a fanzine named *Brennschluss*. It was a darn good zine, full of personal Potter gems, big names and esoteric humour. Ah... how are the mighty... keeping up the good work! This is well up to the Potter standard, with homely verbal doodles from Mike Moorcock, Mal and Sheila Ashworth, Nigel Lindsay, Ken and Irene and the far too infrequently published Don Geldart. The duplicating is a little thin at times but the overall atmosphere of, to me, nostalgic, good faanish humour isn't.

**Deadwood 2** (George Locke, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW1) Published for the FAPA's February mailing this is highly readable but a little below the usual high Locke standard. Readable and worth a try, however.

**Pot Pourri** (John Berry, 31 Campbell Park Ave., Belfast 4) Numbers 39 to 43 have arrived in a batch and feature an excellent spectrum of subject matter in an aptly named zine. Again, highly readable; one can only dream of a return of *Retribution* with material like this to whet one's appetite.

**Zenith-Speculation 11** (Jan 66; Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31; 2/-). The latest *Zenith* lives well up to its Hugo nomination reputation with sf, rather than fan news and reviews and excellent appraisals of Ballard and Anvil by Joe Patrizio and Pete Weston respectively. Definitely highly recommended. Were this zine a little more fantasy slanted it could easily be mistaken for a reborn New Futurian.

**Sol 42** (Thomas Schlück – yes, our boy for TAFF – 3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, W. Germany) A large size English language edition, with amongst other goodies, Harry Warner on fan polls (*Ploy*, yet – *Ploy!!!* – what are you doing to me?), Lois Lavender and James White on the London Worldcon and a Mario Kwiat art folio, to say nothing of photo pages from the FranCon and LonCon II. Good stuff all round.

**Fanny Hill** is an extremely bulky art folio, also by Mario Kwiat, decidedly of interest to any fan artist and available also from Tom Schlück.

**Yandro 152 and 153** (1/9 each, 12 for 14/- from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts) are in from Buck & Juanita Coulson. 1965's Hugo winner in fine fettle and full of the Great Ace-Tolkien War. Great, great. When I stay up to 1.30am reading a fanzine it has to be good.

**Niekas 14** (Dec 65; Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif; 2/6 per and worth every penny from Gray Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos) 74 pages of superlative material and featuring a complete printing of John Brunner's "How to Get High Without Going into Orbit" speech which was generally agreed to be the highlight of the London Worldcon programme.

Apologies for the second issue in succession for the fact that there has been a period of about two months between issues, but in addition to a couple of bouts of illness, one the flu epidemic which is going the rounds, I had a slight argument with a car early in December, running into it whilst riding my moped. Nothing serious – the car pulled out from a minor road across my path and did not stop. Hit and run! Gladiator sports!

**Snippets.** *Astounding Checklist* part II from Terry Jeeves, 30 Thompson Road, Sheffield 11 is 5/- not 4/6 as quoted in an earlier *Skyrack*. My apologies to Terry who has lost several pounds because of the errors ::: Colin Steele, 49 St Michael's Road, Liverpool 17 is looking for a copy of the *Zenith* which has in it the review of Heinlein's *Farnham's Freehold* ::: In protest of Ace Books' ethics in printing the Tolkien trilogy, Poul Anderson is refusing to have any more of his work published by Ace ::: Lee Hoffman has sold her first novel, a western, *The Legend of Blackjack Sam*, to Ace ::: Yaron news – the main con hotel, the Royal, is now full except for 6 double rooms. With 95 members on the books this con is quickly heading for its century. Contact Dave Barber, 1a Walsoken House, Walton Rd., Wisbech, Cambs ::: Sutton Breiding, 616-8th Street, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505, is looking for British contacts of about his own age, fifteen ::: New Bristol public house is called The Man in Space, part of the city's preparation for the '67 con, says publicity minded Tony Walsh ::: Help – At the Globe in September, someone asked Dave Kyle for a number of Stateside addresses. Dave (Rte 4, Potsdam, NY 13676) is eager to help but has no record as to the name of the fan concerned. ::: Various German conventions lined up for this year – Eastercon at Marquartstein Castle (which now, incidentally, has a new owner), 1st May FairCon in Hannover to coincide with the annual Hannover Industrial Fair, the VlohCon in Vlotho at Whitsun, the 4th SusiCon (named after Mario Kwiat's charming wife) in October, to say nothing of the August WienCon in Vienna, which is being looked upon by many as a full scale try-out in preparation for a later Worldcon bid, possibly 1970 with Frankfurt as the site. ::: Just in is *Scottishe* 39 from Ethel Lindsay, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, the first issue for just a year – very readable without reaching the heights of the previous half

dozen or so issues. All too short, however, is the three page glimpse into the Willis letter files at gems by Bloch and Ashworth ::: Arthur Clarke on TV, Sunday 6th Feb – in advert for *Daily Express*!

## ***Skyrack* #87, 9 April 1966**

This is ***Skyrack* 87**, dated **9th April 1966** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6 issues for 2/6 or 35¢ (70¢ airmail) Stateside subscriptions may be sent to our own Old Man of the Hills, Buck Coulson, Rte 3, Hartford City, Indiana, 47348. Contributors include Ella Parker, Ethel Lindsay, Brian Aldiss, George Locke, Harry Nadler, Colin Freeman, Joe & Robbie Gibson, Michael Moorcock and – oh, you name 'em, we got 'em. Those amongst you who are wildly interested in this sort of thing may spend a sleepless night reflecting upon the fact that this is *Skyrack*'s seventh-anniversary issue. Fall on the floor in surprise and amazement and mutter audibly, Tom Schlück for TAFF.

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**It's Convention Time Once Again: This Easter Week End** sees the holding of two different sf conventions, some 12,000 miles apart. The 7th Australian SF Convention is being held 8/10th in Melbourne, complete with the taped voice of Brian Aldiss but lacking a full scale model of the Mercury capsule for which the organisers had no room. Nearer home, the British Science Fiction Association is holding its annual gathering at the Royal Hotel, Great Yarmouth. Publisher Ronald Whiting is the Guest of Honour and attendance fees are £1 per head (17/6d for BSFA members). Alas, Harrogate fandom will not be there, so attend and let us know what happens!

***The New Directory of Science Fiction Fandom***, the first-comprehensive of the up to date addresses of over 500 sf fans the world over, is now ready. The addresses, which are so current as to have caused extensive and frequent revision actually during the cutting of stencils are listed in an reference fashion, with ample space provided for one's own up-dating. A limited edition of eighty. \$1 or 7/-. Special reduction for Knights of St Fantony, BSFA members, FAPAnS, OMPAnS and other fans actually listed in the *Directory*: 50¢ or 3/6d. 3 copies for \$1.25 or 8/9d. 10 copies for \$4 or 28/-. Airmailed to any part of the world for \$1 or 7/- per copy, 3 copies for \$2 or 14/-, 10 copies for \$6 or 42/-. *The 1966 Directory of Science Fiction Fandom* has added the addresses of over 270 fans since the previous edition. There are over 150 address changes, some of which have not yet been realized to the general fan press. Over 320 American fans are

listed. There is a gross of British addresses as well as the addresses of fans in Germany, Canada, Belgium, France, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Japan, South Africa, Hong Kong, Italy, Holland, Spain, Austria and the Argentine. *The 1966 Directory*, from Ron Bennett or Buck Coulson.

**Roger Phillips Graham.** It is with the deepest regret that one learns of the untimely death of American West Coast writer, Rog Phillips, who died on 2nd March, a fortnight after his 57th birthday. Rog, who had been under medical care for some six years, entered hospital on 25th February to undergo surgery to replace a defective heart valve, but fell into a coma during the pre-operative period and never recovered. Heartfelt sympathies go out to Rog's many friends and admirers and in particular to his wife, Honey, who kept a cheerful and smiling front for the world during the past six years.

**Trilogy Settlement.** As many fans will know, the Tolkien *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was published by two paperback firms in the States last year. Ballantine ran an "authorised" edition and Ace Books, who discovered that because of a former publisher's oversight the series was not copyrighted in the U.S.A., published what has been termed in some circles as a "pirate" edition. Ballantine, Ace and Tolkien supporters and spokesmen have wrangled often and at length on the position in such fanzines as *Yandro*. Now Ace Books have answered all the cries of "moral piracy" by paying Professor Tolkien over \$9,000, full royalties (instead of the customary quarter royalties paid by American publishing houses to British authors) on sales in 1965, in spite being under no legal obligation to do so. This would appear to be not only a victory of satisfaction for Ace Books but also for the many Tolkien supporters who proclaimed so loudly moral rights. The last word, it is felt, should come from *Yandro* editor Buck Coulson who writes, "Presumably, as an honorable Englishman, TolkiEn will withdraw his statement published on the back cover of the Ballantine editions. Presumably."

**America Invaded!** Brian and Margaret Aldiss were recently in New York for the Annual Banquet of the Science Fiction Writers of America, Brian being presented with the SFWA award for the year's best novelette, "Saliva Tree", which tied for first place with Roger Zelazny's "He Who Shapes". Jimmy Groves, who had tried to emigrate to the Eastern USA some four months ago, is still with us. But meanwhile, back at the ranch, SFWA member Gordon Walters, in the shape of Chelsea fan George Locke (Just for you, George: Monday, 4th April; Leeds United 2 – Chelsea 0), has flown off to the States for a two or three month gliding holiday,

during which he hopes to be making sidetrips to various fannish centres. My regards to everyone in Holdbrook, George.

**Temporary Change of Address.** George W. Locke, c/o Joseph C. Lincoln, MacDonald Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

**The Pro Front.** Brian Aldiss' *Earthworks* has been published by Doubleday and also been accepted by the SFBC in the USA. Faber have reprinted Aldiss' *Canopy of Time*. LA fan, Ted Johnstone, has sold two books to Ace for their Man from Uncle series (now being published over here by 4 Square), namely *The Vampire Affair* and *The Dagger Affair*, both by "David McDaniel".

Due from Gollancz within the next month or so are Harry Harrison's eighteen shilling return to "straight" sf, *The Plague From Space*, the Pohl-edited *Eighth Galaxy Reader* (21/-), the Pohl-penned *A Plague of Pythons* (16/-) and Hal Clement's *Close to Critical* (16/-).

Penguin, who are at present negotiating an anthology on the *nature* of time (as distinct from time travel or time paradox) stories are to reprint the Bester classics *The Demolished Man* and *The Stars My Destination* later this year.

Rupert Hart-Davis, who have hitherto only published Bradbury are venturing further into the sf field with an anthology compiled by Douglas Hill, and Ronald Whiting selected *The Watch Below* by James White (18/-) and Walter Moudy's *No Man on Earth* (18/-) as well as two anthologies *Star Fourteen* and *SF Showcase*.

Lined up by Compact Books are *Time Transfer* by Arthur Sellings (April), *The Symmetrians* by new writer Kenneth Harker (May), *The Deep Fix* by James Colvin (June), *A Planet Called Krishna* by L. Sprague de Camp (July) and the new Moorcock novel, *The Twilight Man* (August).

Philip K. Dick joins Kurt Vonnegut and J.G. Ballard as the only sf writers on the Jonathan Cape list with *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch* to be published later this year.

Tough, John, not a word about Simak.

**Vector 38** (Official organ of the BSFA, edited by Roger Peyton). Another printed issue, with the mixture and high standard as before. Colin Steele leads with a thorough survey of sex in Heinlein's writing and Jim England analyses future societies. News, reviews and letters make up the issue.

**Zenith-Speculation 12** (Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Cres., Birmingham 31

April 66; 2/-) Heinlein is here too, the subject of an article by Alexei Panshin from whose longer, critical and Heinlein-vetoed appraisal this is extracted. Mike Moorcock writes on Ballard. Richard Gordon turns envious eye to Philip K. Dick. Joe Patrizio evaluates John Brunner's *The Squares of the City* and there are the usual departments, not the least interesting being several pages of advertisements. Editor Weston, who is also present with a survey or some of this year's Hugo Award candidates, appears to be trying to make *Z-S* in part a British *Fantasy Collector*, a welcome move. Needless to say, perhaps, *Zenith* cannot be recommended too highly.

**Link 5** (Beryl Mercer First Floor Flat, Rosehill, 2 Cotham Park South, Bristol 6) It has taken five issues but *Link* now seems to be turning to the more welcome type of cool humour, as contrasted with the "if I write wildly and madly, without control or discipline, for a page or two, it will slay everyone" type of humour which has marred the zine in the past. Whereas in the past *Link* has combined OMPA's worst page-filling-at-all-costs qualities with a sheer enthusiasm one hates to restrict, the signs of a brighter future are now with us.

**Xeron 2** (John Quattromini & Mike Ashley, 9 Shurland Ave., Sittingbourne, Kent; Feb 1966; 1/6d). One step up in the ladder of improvement from the first issue, and now reading like an early edition of *Orbit*. Of decided value, however, is the checklist of recent sf.

**Nemesis 1** (Roje Gilbert, 92 St Fabians Dr., Chelmsford, Essex & Brenda Piper, 35 Baxendale St., London E 2). A slim newcomer to the zinescene, which also has its teething problems. One or two jokes read like those left on the cutting room floor of *Scribble* number 1, but greatly enjoyed was the description of the slow player at Mah Jong.

**Haverings 20** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey). fanzine-fanzine *and* numbered this time. Highly recommended for those who like to know what they're buying in fanzines before actually taking the plunge.

**Hydra 7** (Peter Campbell, 15 Wilson St., Workington, Cumberland; 5/- per year). Too slim to make any real impact as a collector's item, but greatly improved as far as perception and humour are concerned.

**The Riverside Quarterly Vol 2 No 1** (Leland Sapiro, Box 82, University Station, Saskatoon, Canada. 2/6d from Graham Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos.) A well produced, balanced and *literary* sf fanzine,

with Alexei Panshin again present with dear old Heinlein and with lengthy notes on writing sf. Good stuff all through.

Also highly recommended from the USA: *Yandro* from Buck & Juanita Coulson 30¢ or from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts @ only 1/9d. No 155 here (with Panshin on Vonnegut) and is as good as anything you'll get elsewhere. *Double Bill* 13. 30¢ or 4 for \$1 from Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave, Akron 44313. High quality throughout. Nay, the *highest* quality throughout.

**Voting Forms Enclosed.** British subscribers will find wrapped herein ballot forms for the Hugo Award Nominations in which selection you are encouraged to voice a British opinion and the same worthies will also find another TAFF voting form. This is not to say that you vote if you have already done so, merely that you are reminded that Big Dee (Deadline Date) is closing upon us *fast* and that you are asked, nay *ordered*, to vote. May I encourage you to vote for Gerfan Tom Schlück who is as good an advert for better international understandings and relationships as one could wish to meet? Tom is a TruFan, a Great Guy and an enthusiastic Liver of Life and to meet him is an enriching experience. Vote for Tom! And if your first place vote is already committed elsewhere, may I ask you to consider Tom for second place? Many thanks – if Tom is elected, I assure you that you will be far from disappointed.

**Lafayette Ron Hubbard** and his dear old Sussex based Scientology were cut to ribbons in a long feature in the 14th February *Daily Mail* which pointed out that “Doctor” Hubbard’s Ph.D degree was awarded by the non-existent Sequoia University. In *The Times* of 8th March Hubbard ran a 15 guinea advert to renounce his bogus doctorate because of “the damage being done in our society with nuclear physics and psychiatry by persons calling themselves ‘doctor’.” Hey ho.

**Snippets.** Harry Harrison and Michael Moorcock addressed London University on sf, as promised, at the end of January. Mike Moorcock says that the result was a somewhat incoherent talk but that they enjoyed the informal sessions before and after the talk. Frank Arnold and John Brunner are also scheduled to speak. ::: Ed Hamilton & Leigh Brackett were in London last month, en route for the middle east. ::: London fan Keith Otter suffered a winter fall during which he splintered a bone in his elbow. The bone has not set correctly and Keith has recently been in hospital for an operation :::

**Congratulation Dept.** Ted White and Robin Postal were married in

Florida 26th Feb. John Foyster married 10th March in Victoria to a young lady called Elizabeth. On 25th March in Los Angeles Fred "Steve Tolliver" Langley married Sylvia Dees. On 2nd April Marie Rothwell married Delta filmman Harry Nadler. The reception is to take place in Gt. Yarmouth this weekend. Dian & Bruce Pelz, whose newszine *Ratatosk* is going great guns, were joined by young Cecy Pelz (6 lb 130z) on 4th March. On 8th March daughter Melissa Kathleen was born to Peggy Rae & Bob Pavlat and on 17th March Rachel Anne joined the Dave & Katya Hulan household. Yes, congratulations all round.

## ***Skyrack* #88, 15 April 1966**

This is *Skyrack* 88, dated **15th April 1966** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 2/6d or 35¢ (70¢ airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to U.S. Representative, Buck Coulson, Rte.3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Yarmouth Convention reporters were Archie and Beryl Mercer, to whom I owe an eternal debt of gratitude. Additional comments by Ethel Lindsay, James White and Eddie Jones.

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### **Yarcon Attendees Break with B.S.F.A.**

The eighth (and technically the last) annual Convention of the British Science Fiction Association was held over the Easter weekend at the Royal Hotel on the sea front at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Atrocious weather helped to offset the effects of the rival “convention” of mods and rockers that was being held simultaneously at the same resort. Contrary to public opinion these non-fan visitors were not plied with Norman Shorrock’s home brew. Over 100 fans were present during the weekend.

The programme began at 8.15pm on Friday, 8th April, with the evening meal for those actually staying at the Royal, full board being part of the weekend arrangement. The seating at this meal was deliberately arranged so as to mix newcomers with older hands and opinions expressed tend to stress the atmosphere of friendliness which pervaded throughout the entire Con; there is little doubt that the Friday evening dinner promoted this right from the start.

The meal was followed by a welcome Session in the Convention hall, at which Dave Kyle briefly introduced the members of the Con Committee and the better-known professionals present, Ron Whiting, James White, Harry Harrison, Brian Aldiss, John Brunner, Ken Bulmer, Ted Tubb, Tom Boardman and John Ramsey Campbell. These worthies then conducted an auction which was followed by a party thrown by the Bristol Group.

The Saturday morning programme opened at 10.30am with a panel of new authors comprising: Dave Busby, John Campbell, James Colvin, Hank Dempsey, Langdon Jones, Paddy O’Halloran, Terry Pratchett and Keith

Woodcott (I'm told that some writers, for instance Harry Harrison, came along under a pseudonym, it's not clear which face fits which tag at the time of writing).

Guest of Honour, Ron Whiting, gave a short but interesting talk on the trials and tribulations of professional publishing to which the authors in the audience alternately moaned in sympathy or groaned in disbelief, according to the degree of their avarice. The called-for questions proved to be so numerous that the session was continued during the afternoon session.

It was found impractical to hold one of the star items of the programme, the Star Debate, intended for the afternoon and accordingly the presentation of the BSFA's new British Fantasy Award was brought forward to 2pm. John Brunner was the deserving recipient this year, although no specific work of his was cited. The Award, in the form of a shield which migrates with the holding of the Award (the holder retaining a miniature replica) was presented by Ron Whiting who then dealt with the questions left over from the morning session.

John Brunner was then brought back to address the audience and was as interesting and articulate as one has come to expect. His theme concerned the trend for authors to make their readers do comparatively "more of the work" as they read. Because of the increasing use of symbolism in today's writings a real mental effort on the part of the reader is required in order to grasp the communication which the writer is trying to convey. In fact over the entire weekend much stress was laid on the contribution of what has been termed the "writer's writer" to the field.

At 4.15 films were shown, the first being a short documentary, *The World of Ray Bradbury*, showing Bradbury lecturing, gathering material for a book and discussing his work, the interest in which was slightly marred by the over-loud sound track. This was followed by the American feature film version of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*.

Another auction session closed the afternoon's proceedings, leaving all clear for the evening's Fancy Dress Party. Out of more than a dozen costumed entrants the prize winners were as follows:

*Most Beautiful Costume:* Ina Shorrocks as The Constellation Andromeda.  
*Most Authentic Costume:* Ethel Lindsay as The Princess of Zambia.  
*Most Original Costume:* Charles Partington as The First BSFA Manned Satellite.

*The Bob Richardson Memorial Award for the Most Heroic Costume* was won by Ted Tubb in villainous space-operatic guise and Susielee Slater won the prize for Best Child's Costume as a Wogglebug from "The Lovers".

Newly-weds Harry and Marie (nee Rothwell) Nadler were presented with a bouquet and a pressure-cooker by the entire gathering. We look forward to seeing the pressure cooker featured in a forthcoming Delta film production.

By now all Convention attendees were sympathetically aware that Ken Slater had lost his voice. Welcome, Ken, to a very exclusive club.

**The Annual Meeting of the B.S.F.A.** was scheduled to start at 9 am on the Sunday. This was referred to as "an unearthly hour" but nevertheless the announcement had the desired effect (more or less) and the A.G.M. actually got under way at 9.50. There were two new Committee members. The contested vacancy for Vice-Chairman saw Ken Slater gaining 30 votes to Peter Weston's 11 and Steve Oakey took over as Publications Officer, an uncontested nomination, following the resignation of Roger Peyton whose sterling work during the past two years has been instrumental in producing so many fine issues of *Vector*. Peter Weston was roped in to fill the newly created non-committee post of BSFA Public Relations Officer, a somewhat thankless task for which he has sympathies in advance. And Dave Kyle, honorary Anglofan, was given the job of blueprinting the future administration and organisation of the British Fantasy Award (which matter had had to be hurried through somewhat in time for this year's Con).

**Perhaps the Most Important Decision** taken at this somewhat confused and sometimes out of hand gathering was that to divorce officially the annual Convention from the BSFA as such. The two will continue to co-exist – and, it is sincerely hoped, to cooperate with each other to the full – but the annual Convention Committee is no longer to be nominally responsible to the BSFA Committee. Instead, a body of two permanent trustees (Dave Barber and Jill Adams) is to preserve Convention continuity from year to year. At one point in the general discussion it was seriously suggested that, in addition, the BSFA should sponsor conferences at other times during the year. Sometimes BSFA Annual General Meetings seem to be stumbling over their own feet.

### **Editorial Comment**

Whilst realising only too well that charges may be levelled at me that I'm

shooting off my typewriter from a distance of some 200 miles as compared with the worthies who were present at the Convention and who actually made the decision, it does appear, to me, that to break away from the umbrella of the BSFA is to jeopardise the chances of entire success of future Conventions.

It would appear that no longer will a Convention Committee be allowed to employ the use of BSFA head notepaper. Whilst this would appear superficially to be a minor point in the argument, I know from experience the tremendous weight of authority carried by the use of such paper in the approach to any hotel, speaker, publisher, etc.

Anyone who has actually organised a convention will, I am sure, agree with me that the main concern is the financial responsibility. It's a constant worry whether or not the Convention will be able to meet its obligations – and please don't come back with the suggestion that proper planning can take care of this end. The unforeseen can and does happen. Older fans can remember a con "being stuck" for a sudden and unexpected £100, for example, and there are numerous other instances of similar occurrences, though admittedly smaller amounts have been involved each time. One reader in particular will undoubtedly feel strongly on this point. One convention, some ten years ago, left him some £30 out of pocket, a sum which has never been recovered. Having myself organised a Convention which summarily suffered a loss, I can but emphasise the relief felt at the taking over the debt incurred by the BSFA. Can future conventions afford to be without this "umbrella?"

Furthermore, is this rather drastic "divorce" at all fair on Tony Walsh and the other members of his 1967 Committee, Tony having contracted into the Convention organising at the Birmingham Convention last year at a time when this BSFA backing was still in existence?

One can but hope that the general membership of the Association reconsiders its decision in the near future, perhaps in the pages of *Vector*.

– Ron Bennett

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**The A.G.M. Also Confirmed** that the 1967 Convention, as had been previously agreed, is to be held in the South-West. New information seemed to indicate that Bath, rather than Bristol, was after all a possibility, but immediate post-convention investigation has since proved this to be a false alarm. Whatever the ultimate location, however, the 7/6d registration fee should be sent to Tony Walsh, 61 Halsbury Road, Redland, Bristol 6.

And in the interim the Salford-based Alien-Delta group is to investigate the possibilities of the Manchester area.

One ray of hope for the future to emerge from this year's A.G.M. is that for such future occasions Phil Rogers has accepted the post of Parliamentarian.

**The Discussion Drive** planned for the Sunday afternoon was strictly an experiment in two-way communication, and although it did not quite work out as planned, those attending seemed to enjoy themselves. (Incidentally, Beryl Mercer, who originally dreamed up the idea of the Discussion Drive, wishes to express her appreciation of the willing and cheerful help she received from the professionals and from others involved.) The Discussion Drive ran without a break into the Round Robin Story, which was taped by Dave Kyle. By the time this broke up at 5.15 some of the professionals present had been talking happily for over three hours.

**At 9.30** promptly on Sunday evening the Grand and Noble Order of St. Fantony took over the Convention hall in order to induct four new Knights, namely Messrs Brian Aldiss, Dave Barber (the Convention Chairman), Harry Harrison and Michael Rosenblum. It is understood that there will be additional ceremonies later in the year at the TriCon and in Vienna at which further new members will be admitted to the Order. The St. Fantony ceremony was followed immediately by the annual presentation of the Doctor Arthur R. Weir Memorial Award, for services to SF fandom, this year to the Association's new Vice President, Ken Slater. The Award was presented by last year's winner, Terry Jeeves, who this year was happily able to be in attendance. Eric Jones, the Grand Master of the Order of St. Fantony, having explained the Order's origins then invited all those present to an open St. Fantony party (where the drinks were dispensed to relays of attendees) where Norman Shorrock presided over the punch bowl. It remained only for Dave Barber to wind up the Convention, expressing his pleasure at his admittance to the Order.

**It Is Understood** that owing to the confused situation prevailing at 4.30 am on Monday morning, James White became engaged to Norman Shorrock. As James is unable to remove the symbolic manacle the whole affair is under legal advisement.

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**The First Convention** of the Horror Club of Great Britain, reports the *Daily Mail*, is being planned for July at Bath. Visitors will see twenty-four films, hold an auction of horror books and go to a fancy dress ball.

***Haverings 21*** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey 6 issues for 2/6d or 359/) is out, with more straight on to stencil reviews and opinions on and about the world's fan press. Highly recommended to those about to take the plunge into the zinescene.

**Snippets:** Many thanks, Eddie Jones, Norman Shorrock and others who sent cards from the YarCon and you, too, Tom Schlück, for the card sent from the Easter gathering at Marquartstein, and again to all who signed it. ::: Congratulations, Eddie Jones, on breaking into the German prozine market with four covers already sold and the promise of more work to come.

# ***Skyrack* #89, 17 April 1966**

This is *Skyrack* 89, dated 17th April 1966 and published by non-stop Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 2/6d or 35¢ (70¢ airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to U.S. Representative, Buck Coulson, Rte 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to Science Fiction Fandom welcomed. Contributors this issue are Arthur Thomson, Tom Schlück, Terry Jeeves and Norman Shorrock.

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## **Tom Takes TAFF**

### **Landslide for Schlück on First Count**

The 1966 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund campaign to send a European delegate to the Cleveland September “TriCon” wound up on 13th April with German Thomas Schlück elected after a hard fight against Eric Jones, Peter Weston and Bo Stenfors. Whilst the final returns have at the time of writing not arrived, it would take some thirteen last minute votes to arrive at the home of American Administrator Terry Carr to make necessary even a second count, Tom having collected well over 50% of the first place votes on the ballot forms already to hand. Provisional figures, which include the final European vote (subject to checking), of the first place votes collected by Terry Carr in the USA and Arthur Thomson in London break down as follows:

	USA	EUROPE	TOTAL
Thomas Schlück	35	48	83
Eric Jones	17	22	39
Peter Weston	15	5	20
Bo Stenfors	2	3	5

“Hold Over Funds” netted 2 votes, and there was one write in vote for Len Moffatt!

Votes were received by Arthur Thomson from: L Anderson, T Auler, Dave

Barber, A Beha, Ron Bennett, K Berger, Tom Boardman Jr., C Boise, E Bolschen, Ken and Pamela Bulmer, A Burkhard, B Dittrich, H Eborom, Franz Ettl, W. Erichstellar, Horst Evermann, Colin Freeman, Keith & Wendy Freeman, A Fritsch, Jimmy Groves, Frank Herbert, Tom Holt, H Hornlien, R Huwig, Terry & Val Jeeves, A V Jineiner, Eric & Margaret Jones, Gary Klupfel, W Kuming, Mario Kwiat, C Kuntara, Dave & Ruth Kyle, P Lange, Ethel Lindsay, Peter Mabey, Axel Melhardt, V Milbe, H Muller, Harry & Marie Nadler, I Nilsson, K Pasch, Darroll Pardoe, Ella Parker, Roger Peyton, Brenda Piper, D Ploger, W Quilitz, W Reinecke, H Reluard, Phil Rogers, F Rottensteiner, Michael Rosenblum, D Sacho, Thomas Schlück, R Schui, Ina and Norman Shorroch, Peter Singleton, Ken Slater, Charles Winstone, Madeleine and Walt Willis and G Zech.

There is over \$400 in the American Treasury and some £83 hold by Arthur Thomson. Arthur's holding is made up as follows: Held over from the last campaign £40; Ken Slater's LonCon midnight auction £4.18.7½d; bonds from nominators of Eric Jones, Bo Stenfors and Thomas Schlück 35/- each (Terry Carr holds Peter Weston's); Thomas Schlück £2; German fans via Ron Bennett 35/-; Phil Rogers and Michael Rosenblum One Guinea each; Peter Mabey £1; L Anderson, Dave Barber, Carl Brandon, Jimmy Groves, Eric Jones, Margaret Jones, Ethel Lindsay, Roger Peyton, Peter Singleton, Charles Winstone 10/- each; Horst Evermann £1; Darroll Pardoe £1; Bruce & Dian Pelz 7/6d; A Bella 7/-; Ron Bennett, Tom Boardman, C Boise, Ken Bulmer, Pamela Bulmer, Ted Forsyth, Colin Freeman, Keith Freeman, Wendy Freeman, Frank Herbert, Tom Holt, Terry Jeeves, Val Jeeves, Dave Kyle, Ruth Kyle, Rich Mann, Harry Nadler, Marie Nadler, I Nilsson, Ella Parker, Brenda Piper, Ina Shorroch, Norman Shorroch, Madeleine Willis and Walt Willis 5/- each; Ivor Latto 2/6d; K Berger, H Hornlien, G Klüpfel, W Reinecke, Ken Slater \$1 each; T Auler, E Bolschen, A Burkhard, H Eborom, W. Erichstellar, F Ettl, A Fritsch, R Huwig, A Jineiner, W Kuming, M Kwiat, C Kuntara, A Melhardt, V Milbe, H Muller, K Paech, D PIAger, W Quilitz, H. Reluard, F Rottensteiner, D Sache, R Schui and G Zech DM 5 each; B Dittrich DM 4. Phew!

Sincere congratulations, then, to you, Herr Schlück, Kt.St.F., upon a very well deserved election. And many thanks to all those worthies who supported in the campaign in its various phases. TriCon attendees will find that their TAFF delegate is a vital personality and a most worthy choice.

**Easter Castlecon.** Quite co-incidentally, in the same post as the TAFF results, there also arrived a letter from Tom Schlück in which he writes, "I

was a little disappointed at *Skyrack* 87 mentioning only two conventions taking place over the Easter weekend. I was attending the first German Eastervention which turned out to be a surprisingly *big* affair – about 80 attendees. The Marquartstein Castle hasn't lost anything of its old flavour, despite the new proprietor and his several changes. It was great again. Good weather and a fairly good programme provided the background for fan happenings in the Castle. Peter Mabey's Worldcon and Castlecon slides were shown and the only half-official programme item consisted of a discussion about Gerfandom's clubzine, *Andromeda*. Another very interesting discussion was an argument between specialists whether or not sf could be graded amongst a form of sub fiction in general comprising westerns, detective or love stories etc. I, particularly, and the Marquartstein Vurguzz Convention in general, were highly delighted to receive a telegram of good wishes from the YarCon attendees."

(My apologies about the omission, Tom)

**Changes of Address (Already)**

Rich Brown, Mike McInerney, 250 W.16th St (Apt 5FW), New York, NY 10011, USA.

Peter Mabey, 110 Russell Lane, London N 20.

Andy Main, PO Box 4602, Santa Barbara, Calif 93103, USA.

**The BSFA Yarcon (continued).** Terry Jeeves and Norman Shorrock each sent items which crossed in the post with the Convention issue. Norman informs us that the Ted Tubb costume, which was awarded the Bob Richardson Memorial Award represented Fu Manchu and that Brian Burgess went swimming. Norman also sent along several thousand examples of the quote cards which were once again distributed. Some great cards – Please, I am a stranger here, can you direct me to the Scientific Fictional Conference?... Read this quickly, then eat it... Crazy Golf?... Something at Reception is asking for you... Once a Knight is enough... Would you care for a little fate worse than death... Did you ever get the feeling that this has all happened before?... and "Look Ron Bennett – Quote Cards!"

# ***Skyrack* #90, 15 June 1966**

## ***Skyrack* Newsletter**

This is ***Skyrack* 90**, dated **15th June 1966** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 2/6d or 35 cents (70 cents airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to U.S. representative, Buck Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to SF fandom welcomed; eventually it might even find itself published. Contributors this issue are Mike Ashley, Sid Birchby, John Foyster, Colin Freeman, Bobbie Gray, Alma Hill, Ethel Lindsay, George Locke, Betty Kujawa, Norman Shorrocks, Colin Steele and Arthur Thomson.

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## **Kujawas for BBC TV Colin Freeman Interview to Be Screened Nationally**

At the beginning of May representatives of BBC TV visited Knaresborough, Yorkshire to scout out the possibility of a programme on Scotton Banks Hospital where patients were asked if there was anybody or anything they would particularly like to see. Eventually five subjects were chosen, amongst them Colin Freeman who requested a film show of American fan Betty Kujawa and her husband Gene. In particular he asked for some shots of Betty and Gene crash-landing their Piper Apache plane. The BBC wrote to Betty in order to verify facts and to obtain her permission for a film to be made. Betty immediately suspected a fan hoax and contacted Manchester fan and pressman Tony Glynn with instructions to check up on the set-up. Tony phoned the TV studios and duly reported back to Betty as to the authenticity of the deal.

Since then Betty has had satisfied a long standing wish to receive a Trans-Atlantic phone call, this from the BBC and she and Gene have been filmed at the Louisville Gun Club in Kentucky where Gene was taking part in a Skeet Shoot. The British end of the filmed contact was shot at Scotton Banks on 6th June. Colin says that he managed a *vague* mention about

fandom to interviewer Keith Macklin and that Betty was on her best behaviour during her talk and that she even gave the impression of being a *nice* person.

The programme is the first to be filmed in what is hoped will be a series of six which will be screened nationally later this summer.

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### **Hugo Awards Final Nominations**

The following items have been nominated for Hugo Awards, these to be presented at the TriCon, the Cleveland World Science Fiction Convention which will be held in September. Only members of the TriCon are eligible to vote on this final ballot:

*Best Novel: And Call me Conrad* by Roger Zelazny, *Dune* by Frank Herbert, *Skylark Duquesne* by E.E. Smith and *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert Heinlein.

*Best Short Fiction: "Repent Harlequin, Said the Ticktockman"* by Harlan Ellison, "Doors of His Face, Lamps of His Mouth" by Roger Zelazny, "Star Dock" by Fritz Leiber, "Marque & Reprisal" by Paul Anderson and "Day of the Great Shout" by Philip Jose Farmer.

*Best Professional Magazine: If, Analog, Galaxy, F&SF and Amazing.*

*Best Professional Artist: Frank Kelly Freas, Gray Morrow, Frank Frazetta, John Schoenherr and Jack Gaughan.*

*Best Dramatic Presentation: No Award.*

*Best Amateur Magazine: Erb-Dom, Double Bill, Niekas, Yandro, Trumpet.*

*Best All-Time Series: Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, Burroughs' Barsoom Series, Asimov's Foundation Series, Smith's Lensmen Series and the Future History Series of Robert Heinlein.*

Note that in all these categories except the Drama Award (here the "No Award" decision was overwhelming) and the Best Novel, there are five nominees. There appears here to be a little confusion. My own press release from the TriCon Committee lists only the four titles given here, whilst Bruce Pelz's *Ratatosk* for 22nd May lists *five* titles, John Brunner *The Squares of the City* being included in addition to the four listed here.

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**The Tricon Says Thank You.** The following letter has been received from the Committee of the 24th World SF Convention, PO Box 1372, Cleveland, Ohio-44103:

Dear Ron: Just as it takes a lot of dedicated people to put on a successful con, so too does it take a number of zealots to promote a con bid. We'd like to take this moment to thank officially everyone who helped us in landing the '66 Worldcon. Without the cooperation and assistance of these many friends, we certainly would have failed. Of the many U.K. fans who helped, the names of several come immediately to mind: Ella Parker and Ethel Lindsay (in totally unofficial capacities of course), Ken Cheslin (who was always in the right place at the right time), Tony Walsh (who kept our party going a little longer with his "cider"), Archie Mercer, and also Sandra Beckett-Tagg (who actually didn't do a damned thing – she may even have been for Syracuse – but she was quite nice to look at, and was, therefore, a terrific morale booster in our camp). Also, special thanks to yourself and Pete Weston. We feel that we owe quite a lot to both of you. To all of these fine people, and to all of the others who shared in our battle, TriCon says "Thank You."

**West Coast News.** The Liverpool Group celebrated its 1956 Whitsun weekend party's tenth anniversary (at the 1956 get together Eric Bentcliffe and Eric Jones were made Honorary Ex-Chairmen of the Liverpool Science Fiction Society and attendees visited the Louis Armstrong concert at the Liverpool Stadium) by a brag and barbecue party which took place in two parts, in Bebington and at Freshfield beach respectively. Three kitty brag is in fashion, Ron Ellik. Steak was cooked, chicken was eaten, Ina Shorrocks and Marie Nadler braved the sea, Babe Partington showed us how to play Salford-style rounders and a darn good time was had by all. Attendees were Stan and Marjorie Nuttall, Les Johnson, Johns Campbell, Roles and Owen, Eddie, Eric and Margaret Jones, Normans Shorrocks and Weedall, Harry and Marie Nadler, Chuck Partington, Tony Edwards, Ron, Liz and Andrew Bennett and Ina, Janet, Roy, Linda, Alan and Gavin Shorrocks.

The Amateur Wine Makers' National Show was held in Harrogate during April. Pre-first fandom fan Sid Birchby attended to report that Norman Shorrocks took two prizes, a very high commendation for Sweet Mead (as served in rooms 104, 120; 204 and 320 at Yarmouth) and the First Prize for Dry Mead.

The Liverpool Group recently lost its long-term battle to continue to meet in its well decorated club rooms at 69d Bold Street and now meet every Monday evening at the Marlborough Hotel nearby.

**Peter George**, creator of Doctor Strangelove, who was awarded a Hugo at

the 1965 London World SF Convention for his novel *Red Alert*, was found dead with head injuries at his home on 26th May. A shotgun lay between his knees.

### Fanzines

**Phile 1** (Graham Charnock, 1 Eden Close, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex; May 66). A story, an article, news and reviews all virtually single handed by the editor make this a competent first issue

**Xeron 3** (May 66; John Quattromini and Mike Ashley, 8/9 Shurland Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent; 1/6) Forty-six neat pages. A good letter section. An excellent checklist of recent sf. A rather confused convention report. A fair-enough and improved issue but the editors still have a long way to go.

**Haverings 22** (May 66; Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surrey; 6 for 2/6d) Comprehensive coverage of the zinescene. Once again this is definitely recommended to anyone who is contemplating subscribing to the many fanzines in the field – if they can put up with Ethel’s spelling.

**Vector 39** (April 66; Official Organ of the BSFA) Somewhat late, but worth the wait. Bob Parkinson on Bradbury, Moorcock on Philip Dick (excellent material), news and reviews. Worth the BSFA subscription on its own.

**Fusion 4** (Feb. 66; Jim Grant, 7 Sydney Rd., Fairmile, Christchurch, Hants; 1/-). A little weighted with fiction but worthwhile for the Wellman checklist and Mike Ashley’s survey of Time Travel in SF.

**Scottishe 40** (April 66; Ethel Lindsay, address above; 4 for 7/6d or \$1) A wonderfully *complete* article on house names by Brian Varley, a model to most would-be-neo-humorists. Letters, Ethel and the all too rarely seen Irene Potter.

**A Spaniard in the Works 1** (April 66; Luis Vigil Garcia, Jose Anselmo Clave 4, 202a Barcelona 2, Spain) A wonderful title from a brand new branch of fanzine fandom. Mainly fanzine reviews this time.

**Newszines:** For some unknown reason – not forgetfulness, nor jealousy (though I have every reason to be jealous) – but possibly because I take it for granted that every fan knows of the existence of the field’s newszines, I have never yet reviewed any of *Skyrack*’s contemporary rivals. Newszines which have arrived since April are:

**Ratatosk** from Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, California 90024 @ 3 for 25¢. Always on time always completely and calmly dependable and a credit to its publisher. UK agent is Archie Mercer, 1st Floor Flat, Rosehill, 2 Cotham Park South, Bristol 6.

**Focal Point**, Mike McInerney & Rich Brown, 250-W 16th St., New York @ 3 for 25¢, with UK agent Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Preston, Lancs. Also dependable, but sometimes just a little hysterical in its presentation of news. Certainly worth the getting, however, especially for its east coast pro-news.

**Speculative Bulletin**, John Boston, 816 South First St., Mayfield, Kentucky 42066. 25¢ or 2/- for 4 issues. UK agent is Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31. Full of pronews and reviews, a worthy successor to *SF Review*. Pete Weston, incidentally, is currently producing a newszine of midland happenings with his *BSFG Newsletter*.

**Early Bird**, Michel Feron, 7 Grand-Place, Hannut, Belgium 12 for \$1 (airmail \$1.60). In English. Two pages of French and other Continental pronews.

**Niekas 15** (Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif 94301 College, and Ed Meskys, Belknap College, Centre Harbor, NH 03226. 35¢ or 3 for \$1. 2/6d from Gray Hall, 57 Church St., Tewkesbury, Glos) Over sixty pages worth of a Hugo contender which is widely tipped to carry the award. *Highly* recommended.

**Stop Press:** New address for Ed Meskys, 723A-45th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220.

**Change of Address:** Richard H. Eney, USAID, AD/PO Vietnam, c/o American Embassy, Saigon; APO, San Francisco, Calif 96243, USA.

**Snippets Section:** Aub Marks, member of the Delta Group in Salford, is in a Manchester hospital following a shooting incident at his home :: The Delta Group's fanzine, *Alien Worlds*, is shortly going professional, Harry Nadler and Charles Partington planning to produce a new prozine for which they have already contracted with a distributor :: *TAFF* – the provisional figures published in *Skyrack* in April were indeed the final figures. Further *TAFF* donations have been received from: Ian McAulay (£3.5s), DM4 from Dieter Braeg and 5/- each from Karin Hende, Lars Olov Strandberg and Joe Patrizio :: *1966 Fan Directory* – There are exactly five copies left to Sell-Out. 3/6d or 50¢ to you fans out there ::

Mike Ashley reports that, following the Golden Apples of the Sun pop group there is now a group called The Clockwork Oranges ::: Mike Sharp, 10 Meggit Rd., Barry, Glamorgan is looking for a copy of the Alien group yearbook ::: N3F is running its annual story contest, with prizes of \$10, \$6 and \$4 and with the Judge being Frederik Pohl there is also the chance that winning stories may be bought – it's happened before. Details from Alma Hill, 463 Park Drive, Boston 15, Mass., USA.

**The 1967 British National Convention** has found a home. Contrary to rumours circulated recently to the effect that the Con next year would be held at the Unicorn in Bristol, news has now been circulated as follows: The 1967 Eastercon will be held at The Hawthorns Hotel, Woodlands Road, Bristol 8. 39/6d per person per night. Private shower 5/- extra per night. Private bath 7/6d extra ditto. Details, memberships, booking forms etc etc from the answer to the Seamen's Strike, Tony Walsh, Kt.St.F., 61 Halsbury Rd., Redland, Bristol 6.

**The Seventh Australian Convention** took place over the Easter weekend, opening at 2pm Good Friday with a short introduction session and a long auction at which \$A2.50 was paid for a first issue of *F&SF*. Saturday saw a discussion end with the siting of the '67 con for Sydney. Tapes from Brian Aldiss and Ted Cornell were played. They spoke on current trends in SF. An author panel of John Baxter, Stephen Cook, Lee Harding and Wynne Whiteford became rather heated at times and ran for an hour and a half. *The Seven Faces of Dr Lao* and some short films were shown. Sunday's programme ran to another auction, a tape compiled by Charles Platt (and including Mike Moorcock and Lang Jones) was played, John Baxter gave an illustrated lecture on "The Horror Film" and *Forbidden Planet* was shown. Average attendance ran to 45. And a month later, on 11th May, Committee man John Foyster's house was completely burned down, resulting in the loss of records, magazines and addresses.

# ***Skyrack* #91, 27 July 1966**

This is ***Skyrack* number 91**, dated **27th July 1966** and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 3/6d or 50¢ (\$1 airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to fandom's own old man of the hills, Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. Contributors to this issue include Ethel Lindsay, Archie Mercer, Dave Kyle, Steve Oakey, Harry Nadler, Charles Partington, Harry Harrison, George Locke and Michael Moorcock. Illustration by will be Arthur "Atom" Thomson.

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## **Bonfiglioli Bows Out**

Harry Harrison, one time professional artist and editor of *Rocket Stories*, who has in more recent years become one of the world's leading sf writers with stories like *The Stainless Steel Rat*, *Deathworld* and *Bill, The Galactic Hero* and who has been accepted as a native Anglo-fan by dint of his British convention attendances, is to take over the editor's chair of *Impulse* (formerly *Science Fantasy*) in the near future. Because of the resignation of Oxford art dealer and antiquarian bookseller Kyril Bonfiglioli due to pressure of other interests, Harry will take over *Impulse* with its eighth (October) issue which will feature the last part of his own *Make Room, Make Room* serial and a story by Fred Pohl. *Impulse* 9 will contain the first part of a new Moorcock serial, *The Ice Schooner*.

As Harry will very shortly be leaving these shores to return to the U.S., his editing of *Impulse* will be something of an experiment. There is no reason why it should not be successful (for some years Tony Boucher successfully edited *F&SF* from the same distance). Keith Roberts, as associate editor will handle British material while Harry will scout for material by U.S. "name" writers, something sadly lacking in the British field of late. Submissions should be sent to *Impulse*, 42-44 Dock Street, London E.1.

Peter Weston's fanzine, *Zenith-Speculation*, has again been nominated for a Hugo Award. *Zenith* takes the place in the original nomination lists of Tom Reamy's *Trumpet* which is not eligible as there were not four issues published during the 1965 qualifying period. (An item from *Ratatosk*,

Bruce Pelz's newszine which may be obtained @ 7/6 for 9 issues from Archie Mercer, First Floor Flat, "Rosehill", 2 Cotham Park South, Bristol 6.)

**John Brunner** will be Guest of Honour at next Easter's Bristol Convention.

**Thorpe & Porter in Hands of Receivers.** Retailers and newsagents who have been distributing U.S. material imported into the U.K. by Thorpe & Porter Ltd. recently received the following letter:

J.D. Spooner, A.C.A., Receiver & Manager  
THORPE & PORTER LIMITED  
Melton Road, Thurmaston, Leicester. 1st July, 1966

Dear Sirs,

This letter is to tell you that, following my appointment as Receiver and Manager on 30th June, the management of the above Company is now in my hands and my representatives will continue to service your account as in the past. Should you have any queries arising from this letter, my Representative will be pleased to clarify them on his next call.

Yours faithfully, James D. Spooner, Receiver and Manager.

### **Do It Yourself Fan Holiday Camp in Somerset.**

What was virtually Anglofandom's first motor rally convened on Barrow Sands on Saturday, 18th June, with eleven fannish vehicles bringing along a complement of some twenty-eight fans, including three small children. (Most of the extra seating is reported to have been taken up by assorted gear, including a Christmas tree.) In the frequent intervals between heavy showers of rain some light-hearted filming was done, history (in the form of sundry tree trunk souvenirs of arboreal vegetation long conspicuous by its absence in the neighbourhood) was assiduously set fire to, and a crazy expedition of ten fen on and around the Walsh car was hastily mounted to rescue the Mercer car from mud in which it had become embedded during driving practice.

Because of the weather and possibly because it was expressly prohibited, plans for a general all-night encampment on the beach were abandoned. Most of the company eventually spent the night back at the Walsh abode, though when the occupants of the last three vehicles to leave discovered that they all had tents this rearguard did indeed pitch them in a nearby field for the night, being later joined by a fourth vehicle whose occupants had second thoughts.

Present were (and many thanks for the card): Tony, Simone and Sarah Walsh, Archie & Beryl Mercer, Brian Hampton, Graham Boak, Bob Franklin, Mea Wentworth, Phil Rogers, Dave Barber, Geoff Winterman, Helen Fortescue, Gerry Webb, Anne Keylock, Steve Oakey, Vic Hallett, Marilyn Williams, Frank, Shirley, Anthony and Stephanie Herbert, Chris Priest, Gray Hall, Peter Mabey, Keith and Wendy Freeman and Tony Underwood. (AM)

**N3F Story Contest.** This was mentioned in last month's *Skyrack* but as has been subsequently revealed, invaluable information was omitted. Entry to this contest, with its cash prizes and its possible lead to prozine publication, may be gained by sending the story and a 7/6d entry fee to Steve Oakey, Rectory Lane, Somersham, Huntingdon. BSFA members, however, need send no money. Entry is *free* to them. Closing date for entry is 7th October. Get writing, folks.

**Just the Thing for a Science Fiction Club of London Meeting,** says Ethel Lindsay, who has recently been offered a charter, half price, membership of the London Playboy Club. That's only 5 guineas a year... plus an initial membership entrance fee of 6 guineas. Yates's Wine Lodge, anyone?

The new British promag mentioned in the June *Skyrack*, Harry Nadler's and Chuck Partington's *Alien Worlds*, is expected any time now, as the following official press release shows! –

***Alien Worlds*** is the new Science Fiction and Fantasy magazine to be published at the end of July this year.

Aimed at brightening the current British SF scene all artwork in *Alien Worlds* is reproduced in full colour offset-litho.

Harry Harrison's "Contact Man" and Ken Bulmer's "Not Human" are both action packed SF stories of the kind we have always enjoyed from these top authors.

J. Ramsey Campbell's fantasy contribution, "The Childish Fear", exudes a growing sense of horror in the true tradition of Lovecraft.

Movie fans will delight in the *Flash Gordon* item, lavishly illustrated by some large rare stills from the classic serial of 1936 with Allan Asherman providing the story line and analysis. The film section also carries latest information on the latest SF films in production.

A column by Ken Slater, one of the best SF book reviewers in the business, provides a guide to the latest in print.

Combine all this with the excellent artwork of Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves

and a newcomer of whom you'll be seeing more, Jack Partington, and you have a magazine that's bright, enjoyable and interesting.

64 pages, eight in full colour. Size: 7" x 4½". Price... 2/6d.

**George Locke**, who still insists that he's virtually out of fandom these days and who is in the States on a gliding expedition, has been taking in places like the Meteor Crater, Tombstone, New Mexico, Los Angeles, Long Beach and Colorado Springs and has been meeting most of the well known fans over there, amongst them the Trimbles, Ron Ellik, Roy Tackett, Bill Rotsler, Fred Patten, Bruce Pelz, Chuck Hansen and Dean Grennell. And Dave Kyle relates this story of George's wanderings! "British fan, Trevor Hearnden, whom I met at the Yarmouth Convention at Easter, left for the States on 19th June, just in time to show up at the MidWestcon in Cincinnati on the weekend of 25-26 June. That Friday morning, at 7.30, Lou Tabakow's phone rang just as he was about to leave for his office. It was Trevor saying he had just arrived at the bus terminal in downtown Cincinnati. ('Good Lord,' said Lou, later explaining the story, 'Another five minutes and communications would have been gone....') So, Lou drove down, picked him up and established Trevor in the Carrousel's the con hotel) neighbouring Schuler's Motel, the Carrousel being sold out. At ten o'clock that morning another Englishman comes along to Lou, saying, 'I'm here. Can you help me to...?' Yes, George Locke! So Lou gets him a room with a readily installed room-mate, another Englishman, Trevor Hearnden... *and* the utterly fascinating punchline to this story is that Lou had the jaw-dropping experience of *introducing* the two English fans to each other!"

**Typed Advertisements.** There appears to be a crying need in certain quarters for a regular and frequent advertising section to circulate fandom and, Charles Kearns, I'll accept them at £1 per page and pro-rata or 10 words for 6d. Samples follow!

***The 1966 Directory of SF Fandom.*** Over 500 addresses of SF fans the world over. Now reprinted following a first run sell-out. 7/- or \$1 (half price to fans). Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England.

**WANTED.** Two copies American *Galaxy* Oct 1950. Ron Bennett. 500 American magazines for sale. Reasonable prices. Post paid. SAE for list. Ron Bennett.

**Change of Address:** Joan & Harry Harrison, c/o Robert P. Mills, 20 E 53rd St., New York, NY 10022, USA.

**Instant Fanzine Reviews.** Fanzines from British publishers have been at a premium during the past five weeks. Beryl Mercer has published *Linklox*, a letter-column zine to follow the final issue of her fanzine, *Link*, and Peter Weston (9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31) has produced the 13th issue of *Zenith-Speculation*, which, at 2/- or 30¢ per copy, is the nearest thing I've ever seen to a regular fanzine being sadly underpriced. Mainly devoted to review, criticism and comment of and on the current sf scene, contributors this time include Ben Solon, both Mercers, Richard Gordon, Martin Pitt, John Boston, Lang Jones, Brian Aldiss, Chris Priest, and one F.M. Busby whose return from limbo is headline news in itself. As usual, this zine is highly recommended.

**Breathworld Commended.** The Salford-based Delta Film Group's 1965 epic, *Breathworld*, has received a Highly Commended Award in the Amateur Movie Magazine's Top Eight Competition. The Judges' comments were as follows: "This very ambitious production owes something to a number of sources, from James Bond, through the western, to science fiction, and it is good to see that the producers have an obvious interest in showmanship. The sets, props and costumes are very elaborate and, on the whole, quite effective, as are the special effects. Particularly impressive are the split screen effects, and the cunning and amusing way in which all the Casino staff in the gambling sequence are played by the same actor. On the whole an enjoyable – though perhaps overlong – romp into the realm of science fantasy, with slapstick thrown in for good measure." Before you applaud and offer congratulations (and like that) note also that Delta's *Frankenstein's Xperiment* received a Diploma of Merit in the recent Scottish Amateur Film Festival. Congratulations! And Delta's new production, a serial in four parts entitled *Doctor Doom & The Annihilation Ray*, is now under way. It is hoped that this will be ready for the Easter Bristol Convention.

Many thanks, Keith Freeman, Dave Barber, Phil Rogers, Steve Oakey, Ken & Joyce Slater, Jim Groves (*Jim Groves!*) et al who sent the card from the Bragcon in Reading this last weekend.

**Snippets:** Mervyn Barrett recently in London :: Bragcon at Wisbech last week – thanks to all the above-mentioned Reading brag players for the card. A *floating* brag school?

# ***Skyrack* #92, 9 September 1966**

## **the *Skyrack* newsletter**

This is *Skyrack* number 92, dated 9th September 1966 and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 3/6d or 50¢ (\$1 airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to U.S. representative, Buck Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to sf fandom welcomed. Contributors to this issue are Thomas Schlück, William F. Temple, Jim Groves and Harry Nadler.

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### **Tricon**

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund Delegate Thomas Schlück, cables from Cleveland:

The Twenty-fourth World Science Fiction Convention was held over the Labor Day Weekend, 2nd/5th September, in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel. The "TriCon" opened unofficially on the Thursday evening with a reception "Warm-up" party and highlights of the programme were the excellent banquet, the highly quotable speech by Guest of Honour, L. Sprague de Camp, the author of *Lest Darkness Fall*, *Rogue Queen*, etc., and the pre-release special showing of the film *Fantastic Voyage*.

Special Big Heart and First Fandom Awards were made posthumously to David H. Keller, whose death at the age of eighty-six occurred in Pennsylvania on 13th July.

At a St Fantony ceremony Grey Mouser Fritz Leiber and Miss Art Show Bjo Trimble were inducted into the Ancient and Noble Order.

Hugo Awards were made as follows:

*Best Novel*: A tie between Roger Zelazny's *And Call Me Conrad* and Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

*Best Short Fiction*: Harlan Ellison's "Repent Harlequin, Said the Ticktockman".

*Best Professional Magazine: If Worlds of Science Fiction.*

*Best Professional Artist: Frank Frazetta.*

*Best Amateur Magazine: Erb-Dom.*

*Best All-Time Series: Isaac Asimov's Foundation series.*

New York won the right to stage the 1967 Worldcon. The parties were wonderful, the Art Show and the huckster displays were big, the hotel was an exceptionally good one and the attendance was in the region of 850, though alas, H.G. Wells was absent this year.

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1965 Worldcon Chairman, Ella Parker, celebrated the 1st anniversary of the LonCon by paying a visit to Harrogate :: The Delta Group's new prozine, *Alien Worlds*, is out, costing 2/6d and fulfilling all promises, particularly on the art side :: *As Amazing* and *Fantastic*, now both entirely reprint magazines, are not paying authors for reprints, Damon Knight is asking members of the Science Fiction Writers of America to submit no manuscripts to these magazines until this policy is changed :: The death is announced, on 6th August, of Dr. Paul Linebarger, known as sf writer Cordwainer Smith, at the age of 53 :: George Locke is back in London following his recent U.S. tour :: Daphne Sewell has also recently visited the States :: Mervyn Barrett is back in England :: Grania Davidson is visiting London :: Ron Hubbard's Scientology cult has been the subject of a recent *Daily Mail* investigation and the Minister of Health has been asked to look into the affair :: Jimmy Groves emigrates on 8th October :: And when Kipchoge Keino ran his 3 mins 34.4 second mile on Saturday 20th August the first to congratulate him was cameraman Peter West.

**Bathcon 66**, yet! The first Science Fiction & Fantasy Film Convention will be held later this month in Bath. Organised by the Horror Film Club of Great Britain the convention will be held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Pultney Road, Bath over the 23rd/25th September weekend. The con's registration fee is one guinea (15/6d to H.F.C.ofG.B. members). Although accommodation is not available at the Royal Oak a list of hotels and full details of the weekend's get-together can be obtained from the Club's President and the Convention's Chairman, Gary R. Parfitt, 10 Dartmouth Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath, Somerset.

The Convention's Guest of Honour will be Ian Scoones the special effects technician of television's *Thunderbirds* series who hopes to bring along models used in the TV production. Films to be shown include *Destination*

*Moon, One Million B.C., The Lost World, Son of Kong* and amateur films from Centurion Film Productions, the Delta Group and from Glenn Sherrard, an American film fan who has made a feature length version of *The Horror of Dracula*.

Hammer Films are offering a prize of a visit to their Bray Studios for a competition and a Fancy Dress Ball will be held on the convention's Saturday evening. In addition to the large number of films to be shown, discussions, auctions and lectures will fill what looks like being a very full programme.

Whilst it is not yet known how well sf fandom will be represented at the convention there will certainly be a northern delegation present. Delta, from Salford, are travelling in force and there are hopes too that John Ramsey Campbell, Liverpool's Lovecraft, will also be present. – (HN)

**Delta's Fifth Annual Hallowe'en Party** is scheduled for Saturday 28th October and anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Group at 369a Oxford Road, Manchester 13, in person on Wednesday or Friday evenings, or by post. Only a limited number will, unfortunately, be able to squeeze in because of the contraction of club room space due to the sets of the Group's latest film, *Doctor Doom*. John Ramsey Campbell, it is whispered, will be sacrificed. Again.

**The Vienna Convention** was held over the first weekend in August, some 120 eager attendees gathering in the Austrian capital. Following introductions by Axel Melhardt who had organised a first rate programme, Viennese scientist, Dr. Kuhn, spoke on developments in Russian sf. The Saturday saw fans gathering in the afternoon for a panel-discussion about SF in Germany which featured fans, authors, agents and translators. This was followed by a slide lecture by Gerhard Richter about a special Viennese school of art which is still active, combining as it does elements of fantasy and surrealism, the Viennese School of Fantastic Realism. The evening turned out to be the convention's highlight with a beat dance and a costume ball. A St. Fantasy Ceremony was held, for the first time partly in German, Walter Ernsting being inducted into the Order. The Sunday's programme was mainly devoted to business affairs, not the least important of which was concerned with German fandom's bid for the 1970 World Convention. Whilst Frankfurt looked to be the proposed centre should the German bid succeed, the meeting came out in support of Heidelberg, a decision which cannot help but strengthen the bid. Altogether an excellent weekend with attendees including Tom Schlück, Polaroid Norman

Weedall, Archie & Beryl Mercer, Eddie Jones, Peter Mabey, John Owen, Gerry Webb, Franz Ettl, Waldemar Kumming and Heinrich Arenz.

**Bob Tucker's *Neo-Fan's Guide*** is being revised – by Mr. Tucker himself – and is to be printed by Buck Coulson very shortly. Indeed, it may even be ready by the time you read this. This is not only a guide to fandom for the newcomer but a pretty pointed, and enjoyable, commentary on fandom. 25¢ or 2/- from Buck or from Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon, Herts.

### **The Zinescene**

**Vector 40** (undated: edited for the BSFA by Publications Officer Steve Oakey, Rectory Lane, Somersham, Hunts) Thirty-two ½flscp pages with the mixture as before, reviews, commentary and news. Germany is well represented this time, with a highly commendable survey of Ballard's writings viewed against a wider backcloth of contemporary sf by Waldemar Kumming (who incidentally writes with a most commendable and enviable command of English, blending very successfully a serious subject with a light and readable tone and choosing exactly the right word every time) and with an appraisal of the current Gerfandom scene by The Man of the Moment, Tom Schlück. Rog Peyton chips in with the information spot vacated by Jimmy Groves, Ken Slater chunters and Chris Priest and Gray Hall review prozines. "Commendable" may be an overworked word in this paragraph, but in this case too it's the right one. Highly recommended.

**Les Spinge 15** (Darroll Pardoe, 38 Perrins Lane, Stourbridge, Worcs; August 1966) A slim *LS* returns to haunt us, the editorship having been taken over from Dave Hale who built up the zine to undreamed of heights, and all that! This issue seems to have been made up of material left over from Dave's regime but it is all worthy of publication and certainly Darroll has a good stepping stone from which to jump, as it were (man, I'm no Waldemar Kumming). There are five pages of outrageous John Berry puns, a Pete Weston column, two pages of Ken Cheslin and one of Geoff Winterman. It's not quite the *LS* of old – not quite so wild and woolly – but the flavour is definitely there in patches.

**Haverings 23** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey; 6 for 2/6 or 35¢; July 1966) Only 6 pages of reviews this time, but again an invaluable survey of the zinescene for those who want to delve further, to dip into the rivulets and tributaries of fandom or to take the plunge wholeheartedly.

**Stateside Fanzines** recently received:

**Zingaro 7** (Mark Irwin, 1747 Elmwood Dr., Highland Park, Illinois 60035) Neil Ruzic's "The Case for Going to the Moon". Fnz & book reviews. Letters.

**Pastell** June 66 (Bjo Trimble, 12002 Lorna St., Garden Grove, Calif 92641) The Art Show Magazine, for all budding and established artists. News and opinion of the Worldcon artshows, survey, advice and opinion on fan and pro artwork, layout, mimeo colourwork, etc etc. Highly recommended.

**G<sup>2</sup>** (Joe & Robbie Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Ave., E1 Sobrante, Calif 94803). A whole pile of those are on hand, an excellent example of a highly personal fanzine with material for the editor rather than for the reader (though in most cases, happily, the same thing). Try it – it's an experience.

**Quip 3** (Arnie Katz and Len Bailes) 98 Patton Blvd, New Hyde Park, NY 11043) National nostalgia week. The fanzine for the established faan. And a darn good one.

**Yandro 160** (Buck & Juanita Coulson, address on *Skyrack* colophon) Still going strong with the usual qualitative and readable material on every aspect of sf & fandom.

**Wizard 2** (Alma Hill, 463 Park Drive, Boston, Mass 02215) Advice and commentary for the budding prowriter, published for the NFFF and interested parties.

**Auslander 3** (Fred Hollander, 1032 Kagawa St., Pacific Palisades, Calif 91109). Promising but not yet quite into its stride. Definitely one to watch.

**Niekas 16** (Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif 94301) 100 pages of superlative material and layout. Were I in fandom a dozen years – and I have been – I could not begin to match this. 2/6d definitely well spent, from Gray Hall, 57 Church St, Tewkesbury, Glos. What are you waiting for?

**Nyarlathotep 3** (Ben Solon, 3933 N. Janssen, Chicago, Illinois 60613) Good stuff, including two golden pages by Hollywood hideaway Bob Bloch.

**Changes of Address:**

Dick Eney, USAID Viet Nam AD/F0, c/o American Embassy-Saigon, APO San Francisco, Calif 96243, USA.

Art Hayes, Box 757, Timmins, Ontario, Canada.

David Redd, Prideaux House, Church Crescent, South Hackney, London E 9 (temp).

Bruce Robbins, 436 S. Stone Ave., La Grane, Illinois 60525, USA.

George H. Scithers, c/o *Amra*, Box 9120, Chicago, Illinois 60690, USA.

### **Letter Dept:**

Dear Ron, The dreaded red cross has appeared on my *Skyrack*, so here's the protection money. And what's this? 3/6d? And from force of Habit, I've bought a 2/6d postal order. Haven't you heard of the Incomes and *Prices* freeze? You'll have to take the balance in stamps. Pretty, aren't they? We printed them in Wembley for the World Cup.... There was quite a party, almost a small convention, at Mike Moorcock's flat on 15th July. Surprised you didn't mention it. Was that because your rival, Charles Greville, had already given it a write-up in the *Daily Mail*...? ((No, it was Yorkshire's own Saint's Day)).... Among those present were Judy Merrill, who is over here to compile an anthology of British sf for U.S. readers, Arthur C. Clarke, who is still working on the Kubrick Cinerama film, Brian Aldiss, William Burroughs (he brought his lunch with him – naked, of course), Arthur and Gladys Sellings (they'd just sold their house and most of their possessions and were flying off to Spain to live the simple life in the sun in a northern village), J.G. Ballard, George MacBeth the poet and BBC producer, Jim McConnell of Ann Arbor, Keith Roberts and myself. – William F. Temple, Wembley, Middlesex.

((Which brings it all back, doesn't it, the old joy of genzine letter columns, a sentiment echoed by Alan Dodd:))

What ever happened to Bill Harry do you suppose? Or Mal Ashworth? Or Con Turner? Or George Gibson? Or Paul Enever? Or Don Allen? Or Jack the Ripper? Or am I getting old? Was it better in those days? Or was it just us?

((You should read *Quip*..))

***Australian SF Review*** is being published by John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote N 16, Melbourne. Whilst this publication is Australia-based, it can by no means be said to concentrate on Australian sf, embracing the entire field in a definitely slick and professional manner, a really outstanding production.

# **Skyrack #93, 26 November 1966**

This, at last, is **Skyrack number 93**, published **26th November 1966** by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways, Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Six issues for 3/6d or 50¢ (\$1 airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent Buck Coulson (who sits neglected, waiting to hear from me somewhere along) Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to sf fandom welcomed – it might even be published some day. Cartoon by Arthur “Atom” Thomson. Contributions by Ethel Lindsay, George Locke, Tom Schlück, Ella Parker, Keith Freeman, John Ramsey Campbell and that ol’ faithful to whom thanks are especially extended, Harry Nadler.

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**Tucker’s Neofan Guide Reprinted.** See page 3.

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## **The Horror Film Club of Great Britain’s First Annual Convention**

took place over the weekend of 23rd/25th September. The programme was scheduled to commence on the Friday evening (23rd) but as projectionist Harry Nadler, complete with films and projector) arrived somewhat belatedly, attendees adjourned to the bar. The representative party of northern fandom, Harry & Marie Nadler, John Ramsey Campbell, Dave Trengrove, Linda Barnes, Dave Britton, Brian Marshall, Bob Holland and Bill Burns were misdirected on their arrival in Bath, the western convention town and spent several hours searching for the main hotel, the White House, discovering only the following morning that The White House was... a white house, only two doors away, from a place where they had made enquiries the evening before.

During the weekend a total of eighteen films and film extracts were shown, amongst them *The Black Lagoon* series, *King Kong*, *The Mummy*, *One Million B.C.*, *The Lost World*, *Return of the Ape Man*, *It Came From Outer Space*, *Nosferatu* and *Destination Moon*.

Auctions of books and film items were highspots of the weekend, with John Ramsey Campbell in fine form as auctioneer, selling “prize items” like Forry Ackerman’s *Famous Monsters of Filmland* for 30/- and a photograph of Boris Karloff for £1. SF books on auction brought long silences from bidders, most of whom were interested only in film material.

The fancy dress party, billed as The Mad Monster Ball, had much the same poor response as have the SF cons of late. TV and press reporters arrived on the scene and apparently based their entire coverage on this one event. David Fletcher of Bradford was awarded first prize as the best Ghoul of the year and along with all entrants left for the bar at Ted Tubb's request.

A handsome silver trophy was awarded to John Ramsey Campbell who just outwitted David Fletcher in the film quiz. This item began with twelve contestants and after some thirty minutes only these two remained. The final questions were *really* tough, getting down to lines of dialogue from sf and horror films and requiring the film titles as answers. Despite John Ramsey's insistence to give all his answers in French at first, he beat his opponent by 6 correct answers to five.

Delta Film Productions gave their usual extraordinary performance and a critics' panel, which kept creeping towards members of the audience who complained of its inaudibility; was held, stimulating within the ranks of the listeners more discussion than attention.

The Convention suffered somewhat from the fluidity of its programme and from the understandable inexperience of its organiser, the excellent Gary Parfitt, who attempted to shoulder the convention single handed and ultimately was left with the responsibility for dinners which were ordered but neither eaten nor paid for, and for the actions of certain people who simply did not pay for their attendance.

Attendees included Ted Tubb, Ken Bulmer, the Delta Doomsters and associates, three local children who huddled together in terror during the Delta film show, Dave Baldock, fanzine editors Ray Fawcett and Bram Stokes. Though fandom was thus represented no room parties were held, attendees being booked into two hotels, one under Salvation Army management.

(HN and JRC)

### **Apologies to Both Our Readers Dept.**

Since *Skyrack* first saw publication in 1959 a monthly schedule has been roughly adhered to. Occasionally an issue has been skipped, and also occasionally issues have tumbled forth one after the other (There was one run of some four or five fortnightly issues and one hectic week during which three issues were run). *Skyrack* 92 appeared at the beginning of September, almost three months ago. It will be evident from the enclosed flier that my activities inside the sf field now extend in other directions and

accordingly *Skyrack*-time is limited, for my professional activities and responsibilities in mundane circles also show no signs of diminishing. Because of already-laid plans which include a possible change of job during 1967, it may well be that *Skyrack* will have to cease publication completely. In the interim period, however, publication will be continued if at all possible. No promises are being made, but the century mark is a target, at least.

**Our Man at the Phillycon...** Former BSFA stalwart, Jim Groves, emigrated to the USA on Saturday, 8th October, after an eight month visa-wait. The Philadelphia convention was held over the weekend of 12/13th November and Jim was there, writing this report: “Charlie and Marsha Brown took me in hand and introduced me around. I met fandom’s photographer, Jay Kay Klein, and Tom Purdom and re-met Frank Dietz and Al Hoch who is now back in the States and has a wife, Barbara. I also met a lot of my favourite authors – Hal Clement, Sprague de Camp, Isaac Asimov – and with my signable books crated up 3,000 miles away! Asimov, brilliant speaker, was Guest of Honour for the convention whose overall theme was “SF & The Two Cultures”. Tom Purdom opened the Saturday session with some extracts from an article he had written for a woman’s magazine, a type of ‘What to do if your child catches SF’ in the course of which he quoted a letter from a librarian who thought that some sf was ‘pure erotica’, thereby occasioning the remark from Asimov, ‘As long as it’s pure....’ A good time was had by all, especially me. I gather that the Convention circuit here begins again in April and runs around until September, so here’s to 1967!” ((Yes, just like Harrogate. Thanks, Jim)).

### **Two Months’ Fanzines, in brief:**

**Phile 2** (Graham Charnock, 1 Eden Close, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex; Aug 66; 1/:-) A good mixture of general articles, sf slanted material and fanzine reviews. The overall tone is light and informal *and* qualitative and one cannot help but feel that with a shade more fannishness this zine could go far. British fandom seems at the moment to be in a transitional stage; the old guard have largely faded from the zinescene and there is definite room for someone to come along and produce a “focal point” fanzine which could take a decided hold on fandom’s imagination. With the right backing and, enthusiasm, this *could* be it.

**Grimwab 3** (Harry Bell, 28 South Hill Rd., Bensham, Gateshead 8, Co Durham). A fair enough issue, with letters taking pride of place. The duplicating and lay-out, however, need far more attention.

**Xeron 4** (Sept 66; John Quattromini & Mike Ashley, 9 and 8 (respectively), Shurland Ave., Sittingbourne, Kent; 1/6d) 60 bulky pages of fair to average articles and stories and once again a most useful and thorough checklist to current sf.

**Les Spinge 16** (Oct 66; Darroll Pardoe, 11 Cheniston Gardens, London W 8) The last remaining bastion (which reminds me, Eric...) of Stourbridge fandom has moved to London. LS is thin, and fair, but not yet up to the standard of former glories.

**Scottishe 41** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey; Sept 66; 4 for 7/6d or \$1) Editorial and informal natter on books by Ethel, Ken Potter reminisces (is there such a word?) on caravan life, Ethel talks on hospitals and those writers no fanzine should be without (have you ever seen any article from them which has not been thorough and entertaining?), Frances and Brian Varley take a long look at Arthur Mee.

**Australian SF Review** (nos 3 & 4, Sept/Oct 66, John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Ave., Northcote N 16, Melbourne, Australia; 6 issues 14/-) With these issues *ASFR* consolidates itself as the leading international *sf* fan magazine. Terrific stuff, with John Foyster taking a lengthy and analytical look at recent editorials in *Analog*.

**The Neo-Fan's Guide to Science Fiction Fandom** is a title which deserves scoring. This is the second edition of the Guide, first published in 1955. The editor is one Bob Tucker. The Guide is available from Buck Coulson (see colophon for address) at 25¢ or 2/- a throw). Get it – the money will be well spent – *and* wasted if you spend it on something, anything, else!

Other zines, even more briefly:

**Yandro 161-163**, Buck Coulson (UK: Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts; 4/6s, 12/15s) This is a fanzine. Recommended.

**Habakkuk Chapter II, verse 2**; Bill Donaho, PO Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif 94701) Available for letters of comment – excellent material, including a lengthy look at sf in the UK by George Locke.

**Quip 3** (Len Bailes & Arnie Katz, 98 Patton Blvd, New Hyde Park, NY 11043; 50¢) High priced but worth every penny. Invaluable to the fan who either yearns for the old days or wonders why others do.

**Focal Point**, Mike McInerney's slightly irregular (I should talk) newszine.

12 for 7/- from Peter Singleton, Ward 6A, Whittingham Hospital, Preston, Lancs.

**Ratatosk**, Bruce Pelz's slightly regular newszine. 3/25¢ or 1s 9d from Archie Mercer. Both these newszines are of course recommended and not only because of a spirit of newszine togetherness!

**Speculation 14** (Oct 66: Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31; 2/-) A slight change of name for *Zenith*. A lengthy look at Heinlein's "middle period" by Alexei Panshin and various departments. Well up to the standard of previous issues in every respect... a magazine with the *Skyrack* mark of approval.

**Change of Address Dept:**

Jim Groves, Room 416, Hotel Lafayette, 4th & Northampton, Easton, Penna 18042, USA.

Ed Wood, 151 Calderon Ave (Apt 341), Mountain View, Calif 94040.

Darroll Pardoe, 11 Cheniston Gardens, London W 8.

Jim Grant, 80 Bargates, Christchurch, Hants.

Archie & Beryl Mercer, 9 Cotswold Rd., Bedminster, Bristol 3.

**Tom Schlück**, who recently returned to Hannover after his successful TAFF tour of the United States wishes to be allowed some little space to express in print his thanks to all of American fandom for "the overwhelming reception" accorded him. "In addition," continues Tom, "my 'thank you' to the fans the world over who, with their contribution to TAFF, made this wonderful trip possible for me. I hope to have a report finished in due time."

**Quick-Fire Snippets:** Fred Pohl interviewed last week on *24 Hours* :: Harlan Ellison in the public eye with "Soldier" on TV's *Outer Limits*, a *Man from UNCLE* programme and an appearance in a *Woman's Mirror* article on Frank Sinatra :: Don Wollheim and Walt & Madeleine Willis recently in London for a week's stay. Ron Bennett also recently in London... for five hours! :: John & Elizabeth Foyster will be leaving Australia early next year, bound for these shores :: Bristol Easter Con membership now way over the 100 mark :: Interesting 2 page leaflet recently circulated round British fandom. Posted in London this was stated to have originated with Ted Tubb, Archie Mercer, Chris Priest, Brian Aldiss, Mike Moorcock, Ken Slater and Pete Weston. The circular discussed the possibility of the BSFA forming regional committees and asked interested parties to send 2/6 to Chris. If you haven't already heard, this was a fake, parties' names being used without their knowledge. Hey

ho, some people need lessons in how to hoax. The main factor is to have those who are hoaxed share in the enjoyment after they've called you the nasty names.

**1967-1968**

**SKYRACK**

## ***Skyrack* #94, 8 August 1967**

This is *Skyrack* (oh, come on now – you remember *Skyrack*) **number 94**, published **8th August 1967** by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Starbeck, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Vive le Starbeck Libre. Six issues for 3/6d or 50¢ (\$1 airmail). Stateside subscriptions may be sent to Bob Coulson who has a house built of *Yandros* along Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348. News of interest to sf fans is still, believe it or not, welcomed. Contributions this issue by Harry Nadler, Michael Moorcock, Ethel Lindsay, *SF Times*, *Ratatosk*, Rob Holdstock, Graham Hall, Stan Nuttall, Keith Freeman and the Ministry of Defence.

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**Bulmer for Buxton** The 1968 British Annual Science Fiction Convention will take place over the Easter weekend, 12th/14th April, at the St. Ann's Hotel, Buxton, the Derbyshire spa. Organised by the Delta Group of Salford, Manchester, the Convention will be titled "The Thirdmancon", and will be the north's first fan gathering for six years.

Convention membership is 7/6d (to Harry Nadler, 5 South Mesnefield Road, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs) and it's interesting to note that amongst the Convention Committee names is that of the old Cheadle Greybeard himself, Eric Bentcliffe, who lines up as Vice Chairman alongside Chairman Harry Nadler, Treasurer Bill Burns and Programme Co-ordinator Chuck Partington.

Ken Bulmer will be the Convention's Guest of Honour, a well-overdue recognition of a sincere and likeable man who has won deserved admiration both in the world of fandom and in the larger world of professional writing in which he has been most prolific and consistently readable. A Knight of St Fantony, Ken was the first TAFF traveller, in 1955.

Peter Day, Flat 4, Beau Manor, Roebuck Lane, Sale, Cheshire, is handling the hotel registrations. Rates are 42/- bed and breakfast, 63/- full board.

Provisional programme plans include fan and professional films, slide shows, lectures, auctions, a St Fantony item, "This is Your Fan Life" and a fancy dress party with music provided by The Merseysippi Jazz Band.

(With thanks to *Meteor*, the Thirdmancon's own news bulletin)

**The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund** campaign to bring a Stateside delegate over to the Thirdmancon is now in full swing. Candidates – three Good Men and True – are Ed Cox, Ted Johnstone and Steve Stiles. Votes and contributions must reach either Terry Carr (35 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, New York 11201, NY) or Tom Schlück (3 Hannover, Altenbekener Damm 10, W. Germany) by 5th January 1968.

**Whereas** certain elements in fandom appear these days to be interested primarily in casting their minds back to their own times of former glory, when events and personalities are viewed with that golden edge of nostalgia, there is something soiled and sordid about publishing stale news, events and items from which the sense of urgency has passed. It is some nine months since the previous issue of *Skyrack*. The following items, fully covered in other publications, are presented with apologies to all concerned.

**Eric Jones**, Grand Master of the Noble Order of St Fantony, died on 8th January. A TAFF candidate last year, Eric represented everything wholesome in fandom and his entire career was a most honoured and honourable one. He had edited and published several fanzines, amongst them *Triode*, *Space Times* and *Sidereal*. He had worked on several conventions and had organised the 1961 LXICon virtually singlehanded. He had even built a working psionics machine which was demonstrated at the London WorldCon of 1957 and which was the subject of a later editorial in *Astounding SF*. Little known about Eric was his constant work for old people's homes and blind societies and it is typical of the man that his last, lengthy and bravely borne illness was known to only a small circle of intimates.

**New Worlds**, Britain's only remaining science fiction magazine, is continuing publication following an Arts Council grant of £1,800. *New Worlds* and its sister publication, *Impulse*, ran into trouble last year following the crash last July of Thorpe & Porter Ltd., one of the country's largest distributors (see *Skyrack* number 91). Compact Books, the magazines' publishers announced that they were to suspend publication both of the magazines and of their sf series of pocketbooks. The Government's official "Freeze" had meant that money was tighter and that credit was limited. Thorpe and Porter who operated largely on a credit and "sale or return" basis went bankrupt and the subsequent drop in distribution crippled the Compact firm's circulation. It was announced that *New Worlds* 170 and *Impulse* 12 would, in all probability, be the last issues of the two magazines.

In March it was announced that *New Worlds* would limp along for two interim issues, with material largely contributed free by the authors, while various worthies, Brian Aldiss, J.B. Priestley, Anthony Burgess, Professor Geoffrey Tillotson and Kenneth Allsop, approached the Arts Council about the possibility of a grant. The result has been £1,800, a reprieve for *New Worlds* (but not *Impulse*) and a new 10¾" x 8¼" 64 page format. The July issue, number 173, features fiction by J.G. Ballard, Thomas Disch, Roger Zelazny and David Masson.

Whilst the magazine's departure from traditionalism will displease those who have in the recent past criticised "the Ballard cult", it must be appreciated that flexibility is desirable, that change is inevitable and that Michael Moorcock's endeavours to ensure the continuation of a market for British science fiction writers are to be entirely applauded.

**Charles Platt** has sold a first novel, *The Garbage World*, to Berkley Books. ::: Belated but sincere congratulations to Ian & Olivia McAulay on the birth of a second son, Gavin (One year old on 1st August – how belated can one get?), to Jim and Sue Caughran on the birth of 9 lb 4 oz David in January and to Harry and Marie Nadler on the birth of Lindsay Marie in March.

As some readers will know I have of late been trying to establish myself as a book and magazine dealer. Because of an impending move which involves a new job working for the Ministry of Defence I hope to be in a position whereby I will be able to obtain material not usually freely circulated in this country, particularly American pulps and older magazines and pocketbooks. If there is any item for which you'd like me to keep an eye open on your behalf do please let me have your want lists. There will of course be no obligation to buy, you'll merely have first refusal on any such material obtained. Meanwhile, I have the following for sale, prices including postage and wrapping: (c.w.o.)\*  
Collections purchased. Trades welcome.

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\* Book sales list omitted from this ebook. – DRL.

**The Last Annual British SF Convention** took place over the Easter at the Hawthorns Hotel, Bristol. The Con opened on the Good Friday evening with Brian Aldiss introducing notable attendees, amongst them authors Ken Bulmer, Charles Platt, Ted Tubb and American Tom Disch. A First and Last Lines Quotation Quiz followed, with book prizes being given away.

The Saturday morning programme featured a professional panel of Tom Disch, John Brunner, Judith Merrill, Brian Aldiss, James White and Michael Moorcock. Asked whether a new writer should concentrate on hack work in order to make money, the alternative being to try to write more qualitative material, in which case he would probably starve, John Brunner advised, "Write for quality," and Judith Merrill advised one not to write at all because it's a badly paid profession. Brian Aldiss sidetracked to his earlier story-telling days when he would tell stories to his dormitory companions at school after lights out. These were long monologues interspersed by Brian asking, "Is anybody awake?" There would be tired replies, "Yes... Go on." When the warden would poke his head into the dormitory to ask who was talking Brian would own up and be dragged off somewhere to be beaten. This, he remarked, was probably his first form of payment.

In the afternoon John Brunner presented the British Fantasy Award to Philip Dick, whose representative, Tom Disch, collected it for him. Michael Moorcock also received an additional award for his services to British SF. John Brunner, who was the Convention's Guest of Honour, spoke briefly about his novel, *The Productions of Time*, which has been somewhat altered by the publishers, Signet Books (so "mutilated", said John, that he is contemplating legal action).

The film show followed, consisting of two very unusual short films, Ed Emshwiller's *Relativity*, which reminded one of an uncensored *Mondo Cane*, and the French fantasy, *La Jetée*, which was generally agreed to be very moving.

At the BSFA AGM on the Sunday morning the Salford group's bid for the 1968 convention, provisionally accepted last year, was confirmed and it was agreed that Cambridge should site the 1969 convention.

In the afternoon a fanzine editors panel seating Mike Ashley, Graham Charnock, Harry Bell, Mary Reed, Darroll Pardoe and Beryl Mercer discussed censorship in fanzines, during which debate one editor mentioned that American fanzines were largely superior to British ones and that this country had a long tradition of poorly produced amateur magazines, at which point Howard Rosenblum stood up in the audience to ask, "What about *New Futurian*?" to which question the editor concerned replied, "What is *New Futurian*?" This panel was followed by a lengthy, rambling speech by Michael Moorcock, who produced from a briefcase a whiskey bottle from which he imbibed frequently. In one of the

convention's highlights, Michael read a speech during which he often disagreed with his printed notes. He followed up by auctioning fanzines and promags, mainly to himself so that he could have the pleasure of tearing them up on the spot.

The Noble Order of St Fantony admitted into its ranks Jill Adams, Wendy Freeman, John Ramsey Campbell and Charles Partington, and Doreen Parker won the Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award for her services to British fandom. Room parties were not greatly in abundance, primarily because the hotel management banned them, but the Rosenblums managed to sneak in one particular humdinger. – (after R.P.H.)

### **Fanzines Received**

***Grimwab* 4** (Harry Bell, 28 S. Hill Rd, Gateshead 8, Co. Durham. 1/-) Modelling itself on the old-style humourzines, this largely succeeds, tho' the humour is wordy and not terse. Notable but very vague convention report by Darroll Pardoe.

***Haverings* 26/27** (Ethel Lindsay, Courage House 96 Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surrey. 2/- or 6 for 7/-) Fanzine reviews at length. Invaluable to neo-fen.

***Foop* 2** (Ivor Mayne, 35 Grosvenor Terr., Cheltenham, Glos – CoA; 1/6). Dustbinned.

***Scottishe* 43/44** (Ethel Lindsay, 4 for 7/-). Highly readable, highly irritable fanzine of wide and varied opinions.

***Thud-F*** (Chris Priest, Cornerways, Willow Close, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex) Some very good comments and fannish chit-chat. I always have the feeling that were Chris's zines monthly rather than every-two-yearly fandom could go a long way towards regaining its former glories.

***Badinage* 1** (Tony Walsh & The Bristol mob, 61 Halsbury Rd, Bristol 6) Good title, good mag. Excellent article – except for one small detail – by Simone Walsh.

***Speculation* 15** (Pete Weston, address back page this *Skyrack*) At 2/6 per or 5 for 10/- this regular commentary on the sf scene must rank as one of the world's two best buys. Leiber and Silverberg are amongst the contributors. (“ors”, Ethel)

***Les Spinge* 17** (Darroll Pardoe, 11 Cheniston Gardens, London W8). Pretty fair going – definitely on the up swing.

**Phile 3** (Graham Charnock, 1 Eden Close, Alperton, Wembley, Middx. 1/-) Special thin issue. Yes. (A pity, too, as there is some sound material here. Good cover, too)

**Nemesis 2** (Brenda Piper, 35 Baxendale St, Bethnal Green, London E2). More, good, sound material. Definitely improved, but seems to be searching for a personality of its own.

**Xeron 5** (John Quattromini/Mike Ashley, 9 Shurland Ave, Sittingbourne, Kent. 1/6) Special macabre issue, containing the best and most sensible editorial ever to appear in a fanzine.

**Australian SF Review** (British agent Gray Hall, 57 Church St, Tewkesbury, Glos. monthly, 27/6 per year). Highly priced – worth every fraction of a penny. The other of the world's best buys. *Excellent* commentary and criticism.

**Odd Magazine 14/16** (Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Park, St Louis, Mo 63108). Very neat, very bulky. Good range of contributors, including Richard Gordon commentating in a somewhat haphazard manner for him on English life. Recommended. (50¢)

**Yandro** (2/- or 12 for 18s; Buck & Juanita Coulson. UK agent Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts.) Monthly. Great diversity of subjects, opinion, contributors. Very mellow these days. 1965 Hugo winner, still up to highest standards.

**Riverside Quarterly** (Lee Shapiro, Box 82 University Station, Saskatoon) Highly literary, just a little precious. Panshin on Heinlein is a must. (50¢)

**The Village Idiot 2/4** (Paul Shingleton, 874 S Walnut St, St Albans, W. Va 25177.) At 1/- per a very good buy. Fair and promising, but Paul needs to work on it rather than letting it simply happen (which of course also applies to *Skyrack*).

**Quip 5** (Arnie Katz & Lon Atkins, 98 Patton Blvd, New Hyde Park, NY 11043-5051). Very bulky. Tries hard – and succeeds admirably – to capture the fun-loving swinging ingroupism of a decade ago. Excellent use of layout space.

**Double Bill** (Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave, Akron, Ohio 44313. 30/.) Another of the really Good ones, as is of course.

**Niekas** (Felice Rolfe & Ed Meskys, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif 94301. 50¢; 5/\$2.) Very bulky, crammed with micro-elite wordage. Available from Gray Hall).

***Hippocampelephantocamelos* 3/5** (Fred Hollander, Lloyd House, Caltech, Pasadena, Calif. 25¢). fair all round zine, with a good snappy title and obviously a favourite with Cecil.

And tell me – how does one do justice to some forty or so fanzines in so limited a space...? Tch!

**Change of Address Department:**

Jim Groves, GPO Box 1884, New York, NY 10001.

Jhim & Marion Linwood, 18 Kew Bridge Court, Kew Bridge, London W4.

Gerry Webb, 69 Shakespeare Rd., Hanwell, London W 7.

Wm F. Temple, "Heathwood", 11 Cherry Garden Ave, Folkestone, Kent.

Cal Demmon, 1600-A Landa St., Los Angeles, Calif 90026.

Bob Leman, 2615 Broad St., Bethel Park, Penna 15102.

Andy Main, 2916 La Combadura, Santa Barbara, Calif 93105.

Charles Wells, 3678 Lindholm Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

Dick Bergeron 11 E 68th St., New York, NY 10021.

Jim & Susan Caughran, c/o Dept of Mathematics, Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

John & Elizabeth Foyster, 6 Clowes St., South Yarra, Victoria, Australia.

Rosemary Hickey, 2082 W Estes, Chicago, Ill 60645.

Lee Jacobs, 4032 Clayton. Ave., Los Angeles, Calif 90027.

Fred Patten, 1704-B South Flowers St., 3 Santa Ana, Calif 92707.

Peter Weston, 81 Trescott Rd., Northfield, Birmingham 31.

John & Bjo Trimble, 243 Santa Rosa Ave. Oakland, Calif 94610.

Len Moffatt, 9826 Paramount Blvd., Downey, Calif 90240.

Wally Weber, 5422 – 16th Ave SW, Seattle, Wash 98106.

T Bruce Yerke, 2832 Prince St., Berkeley, Calif 94705.

Dave & Katya Hulan, Box 1032, Canoga Park, Calif 91304.

Rich Brown, 201 Hamilton Ave U-2, Apt C12, Staten Is., NY 10301.

George Scithers, Box 0, Eatontown, New Jersey 07724.

Julia Stone, 16 Fox Close, Chipping Norton, Oxon.

Sheila Barnes, 20 Trentham Av, Willenhall, Staffs.

**THE TIME HAS COME... FOR SALE OLIVETTI LETTERA,  
GESTETNER DUPLICATOR....**

**Eric Bentcliffe**, who is charge of the Thirdmancon's PhotoContest, asks me to mention that there will be special categories for photographs taken at this year's Bristol con, such as "Funniest" "Most Off-Beat" "Artistic" and "Puzzling". He also asks for slides to be loaned (send list, first please) for the Thirdmancon's Slide Show. Do it now. The next reminder in *Skyrack*

may be too late!

Recent visitors to Fairways Drive: Brag playing Frances Varley, cricket coaching Brian Varley, kibitzing Ethel Lindsay and bewildered Graham Hall and Don West ::: Ron Bennett recently visited kindly aged Ella Parker.

# ***Skyrack* #95, 1 May 1968**

This is ***Skyrack* number 95** dated **1st May 1968** and published by Captain R.M. Bennett (FARELF) simultaneously at 52 Fairways Drive, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England, and 91 Namly Avenue, Shamrock Park, Singapore 10. 6 issues for 8/- or U.S. \$1. American subscriptions may be sent to Robert Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 7348. News of interest to sf fans is not only welcome, but in this fannish outpost eagerly sought. Illustration and heading by Arthur Thomson. Contributions by Thomas Schlück, George Locke, Keith Freeman and Michael Moorcock.

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## **Southeast Asia Edition**

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### **3rd Mancon**

The Annual Convention of the British Science Fiction Association, the “ThirdmanCon”, was held over Easter weekend, 12th/15th April, at the St. Ann’s Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. Registrations hit a 215 peak and the 160 attendees included U.S. TAFF Delegate Steve Stiles, Don Wollheim of Ace Books and Convention Commuter Dave Kyle, as well as a Gerfan contingent of Tom Schlück, Waldemar Kumming, Gary Klupfel, Walter Reinecke, Thea and Hans Auler and Heinrich Arenz.

Organised by the Delta Film Group from Salford, the programme was well weighted towards the cine aspect of sf and the Delta Group showed a number of its own productions. There was also a discussion on horror films. Eric Bentcliffe ran a highly successful fannish slide show and Dave Kyle spoke about the long awaited Arthur Clarke film, *2001 – A Space Odyssey*, which was due to open in London a fortnight after the Convention. Alan Whittaker gave a lecture on Life in the Solar System and Guest of Honour H. Kenneth Bulmer spoke in his humorous fashion on old and new trends in sf.

The Costume Party saw many ingenious fancy dresses, costumes of particular note being worn by Gavin Shorrocks as the Dormouse from *Alice*, Doreen Parker as the girl from Cordwainer Smith’s “Ballad of Lost C’Mell” and Tony Walsh as *The Black Cloud!*

The Noble Order of St. Fantony initiated into its ranks three new members, Beryl Mercer, Doreen Parker and Ken McIntyre. Mary Reed won the Doctor Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award for her services to British fandom.

**Brighton Arts Festival** later this year will have sf as its central theme with Brian Aldiss, Michael Moorcock, John Brunner, Langdon Jones, Charles Platt, Thomas Disch, Judith Merril and Douglas Hill amongst the official delegates and speakers.

**Editorial Time-Binder.** I'm not really sure exactly what we're doing here in Singapore, but at least I would like to re-establish *Skyrack* as a fairly frequent newszine. There are of course attendant difficulties. Since our arrival here last September I've had letters from some half-dozen fans, which automatically means that I'm not in the ideal position to gather news. Costs are high, too. Postage alone is costing me some 10d per copy. So, dear readers, the decision rests with you. Do you need *Skyrack* or have you learnt to live without it? Does *Skyrack* continue or do I return your subscription money?

And, no, Archie Mercer, I do not intend to change the title to *Singaporack*.

**Death of Ron Ellik.** The tragic death in a January car crash of Ron Ellik is still far too close to view impersonally. Good looking and a witty conversationalist, Ron was truly a giant on the international fannish scene. He was connected with numerous conventions during the past twelve years, was a fan of note in FAPA and the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society and had been the editor of two highly successful fannish newszines, *Starspinkle* and the highly acclaimed *Fanac* which won a Hugo for Ron and his co-editor, Terry Carr. Ron was the 1962 TAFF Delegate to my home-town Convention in Harrogate and was our first house guest after our marriage the previous month. A welcome opponent in any brag or poker school, Ron had also been the co-author of the authoritative Advent book, *The Universes of E.E. Smith*, had been the author of the long-running fanzine column, "The Squirrel Cage", and was such a part and parcel of my own fannish existence that even as I write about the death of this twenty-nine year old Golden Boy I am shaking my head in disbelief.

Our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to Ron's fiancée, Lois, to Mrs Ellik, and to Ron's many, many friends around the world.

**Pro-News.** Due to hit the presses later this year is a book titled *Pop-Corn*, written by James Sallis and Michael Moorcock. *Pop-Corn* has been

described as “a fierce attack on the world of pop culture and the cults that surround it.” Tolkien, James Bond and Alfred Hitchcock are just three targets of the way of life some of us hold dear. The book, not yet quite complete, is already scheduled for joint publication by Gollancz and Penguin. It is to be hoped that in attacking superficiality and commercialism the authors do not become entrapped in the slick turn of phrase they themselves decry.

Recently announced were the Science Fiction Writers of America Nebula Awards, won by Michael Moorcock for “Behold the Man” (novelette), Fritz Leiber for “Gonna Roll Them Bones” (novella) and Samuel Delany who did a Zelazny by taking two Nebulae, for “Aye, and Gomorrah” (short story) and *Einstein Intersection* (novel).

*New Worlds* hit a different kind of snag in its recent troubled career when leading newsagency W.H. Smith refused to handle the magazine’s March issue because of “doubtful” material. Following extensive newspaper support which included a notice in the *Times Literary Supplement*, Smith’s relented and will continue to distribute the magazine. Support also came from the Arts Council, which, during the period of the Smith ban, renewed their *New Worlds* grant and noted that they regarded the magazine to be “of extremely high literary merit.”

Due in London this summer are Samuel Delany (who should already be a visitor), Robert Sheckley, Judith Merril, Norman Spinrad, Harlan Ellison, Kate Wilhelm and Damon Knight. Sorry, George Locke, but now that Leeds United won’t be at Wembley it’s doubtful whether I’ll be visiting the U.K. during 1968.

**1968 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund.** This year’s campaign to bring over an American Delegate to the ThirdManCon wound up successfully with Steve Stiles being presented with \$600 towards expenses and Steve himself making a notable hit with the Buxton Convention attendees. The voting campaign was especially notable in itself for the exceptionally light European vote, altogether a disgracefully apathetic showing, and for the fact that for the first time since the idea’s adoption in 1965 the Australian Ballot, with its automatic run-off, was needed. The first ballot ended in a dead heat as follows:

	US	European	Total
	Votes	Votes	
Steve Stiles	45	5	50
Ted	49	1	50

Johnstone			
Ed Cox	32	8	40
Hold Over Funds	1		1
Len Moffatt (write-in)	1		1
Bob Pavlat (write-in)		1	1
<i>Second place votes (where completed) decided the tie, as follows:</i>			
Steve Stiles	61	10	71
Ted Johnstone	58	4	62

Congratulations, Steve, on a well-deserved election and Ted – very hard luck indeed. Next time, perhaps?

On the European front voters were: Heinrich Arenz, Alfred Baha, Harry Bell, Ron Bennett, G.P. Cossato, Eddie Jones, Gary Klüpfel, Waldemar Kumping, Ethel Lindsay, John Owen, Walter Reinecke, Franz Rottensteiner, Jurgen Thadewald, Wolfgang Thadewald and Arthur Thomson. In addition, Ken Bulmer, Hans Alpers, Walter Ernsting, Archie Mercer and Conrad Schaef contributed without voting and the 1967 Bristol Convention donated £40.

At the time of writing there is some \$500 in the TAFF Treasury, virtually – but not quite – sufficient to take a European fan to the 1969 World Convention in the USA. Whilst the nomination period has not yet officially opened, names may be put before the Fund's current administrators, Thomas Schlück, 3 Hannover, Georgswall 5, W. Germany, or Steve Stiles, 1809 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10028, USA.

**Un-Paid Advert Dept.** In passing, it occurs to me that *Skyrack* seems to have become a nine-monthly, with number 93 having been published during November 1966, and number 94 during August 1967. Let's hope (or do you?) that the next issue will appear before next February. In last

August's issue I mentioned that I had been establishing myself as a book and magazine dealer and that because of my new job out in Singapore I hoped to be in a position whereby I would be able to obtain material not normally freely circulated in the U.K., particularly American pulps and older magazines and pocketbooks. One difficulty always experienced by UK dealers is the obtaining of sufficient US dollars as and when they might be required. Well, having denuded Singapore and Western Malaysia of sf, and having bought extensively from the USA, I can now offer the hoped-for range of items, from prewar *Astoundings* to the harder-to-obtain Ace doubles. In addition I have a large selection of American comics, particularly precode issues, which might interest collectors. Also, my prices have not risen because of the sterling devaluation. If you would like to be added to my monthly mailing lists please drop me a line. I'm also interested in obtaining older sf and comics and can offer very attractive trade-in rates for these items.

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An X here means that your subscription expires this issue – Renew at your own risk \_\_\_\_ (It's interesting that I used the same warning last issue – and nobody did!). Your sub has one more issue to go – if there is one more issue \_\_\_\_\_. You are a contributor and the toast of South-East Asian Fandom \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Harry Harrison**, who used to be mentioned weekly in *Skyrack*, even when it was a monthly, has resigned as editor of *Amazing* and *Fantastic* after less than a year with the magazines. Barry Malzberg, late of the Scott Meredith Agency and *Escapade* magazine, is taking over. Malzberg tends to favour the more experimental type of writing and it is interesting to speculate about the type of stories the magazines will now run if publisher Sol Cohen has a hand in deciding policy, a mixture, perhaps, of 1940 reprint space-opera and far-out "New Wave" material.

**Snippets:** Many thanks, Tom Schlück, for the very welcome airmailed postcard from Buxton, signed by Heinrich Arenz, Jean Muggoch, John Newman, Archie & Beryl Mercer, Ted Tubb, Ethel Lindsay, Norman & Ina Shorrocks, Peter Mabey, Eric Bentcliffe, Keith & Wendy Freeman, Waldemar Kummer, Norman Weedall, Dave Kyle, Don Wollheim, Steve Stiles, Ken & Pamela Bulmer, Eddie Jones, John Roles (Selamat!), Alex Eisenstein, Joan Newman and some dozen or so worthies whose names were superimposed by a postmark reading, "Buxton – Send For Guide." So it was that kind of con, hmm? :: Belated congratulations to Brian and

Margaret on the birth last summer of a young Aldiss ::: And congratulations, too, editor Waldemar Kumming whose fanzine, *Munich Round Up* has just reached its hundredth issue. One of the many races *Skyrack* didn't win ::: Our spy in infiltrated territory, Art Wilson, informs me of the sudden and tragic death of long-time FAPAn and West Coast personality, Lee Jacobs. This is a tenth anniversary of Jackpot Year with a vengeance. ::: And to close on a happy note, belated congratulations (these are *Skyrack's* specialities), on their marriage to Frank Dietz and Ann Ashe, two worthies to whom we wish loads of lengthy happiness.

**1971-1972**

**SKYRACK**

# ***Skyrack* #96, 18 July 1971**

This is *Skyrack* 96 dated 18th July 1971 and published by Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive, Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Co-publisher is Terry Jeeves, 23 Bannerdale Road, Sheffield 11, Yorkshire, England whose duplicator and coffee have been co-opted for the occasion. The coffee was drunk and not poured into the duplicator, incidentally.

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## **Derleth Dies – Campbell?**

**August Derleth**, whose name is synonymous in the science-fantasy field with the Wisconsin Arkham House publishing company, died on 4th July at the age of sixty-two. In addition to publishing qualitative fantasy and horror fiction Derleth was himself a most prolific writer and editor, being well-known in the sf field and also in historical research of his own home state.

Arkham House books are amongst the most coveted of collectors-items with such examples as *Dark Carnival* by Ray Bradbury, *Opener of the Way* by Robert Bloch, Robert Howard's *Skullface* and Clark Ashton Smith's *Lost Worlds*. The five-star list of Arkham's authors is equally impressive, including David H. Keller, Donald Wandrei, Carl Jacobi, William Hope Hodgson, more recently our own John Ramsey Campbell and of course Howard Philips Lovecraft who was virtually unknown outside a small *Weird Tales* readership until the Arkham publication of *The Outsider & Others* in 1939.

**An Unconfirmed Report** from a usually very reliable source tells of the sudden death of John W. Campbell on 11th July. Aged about sixty years John Campbell has been a giant amongst giants in the science-fiction world because of his thirty-five year association with *Analog* (formerly *Astounding*). Campbell sold his first story to the magazine in 1934 having already been firmly established as an *Amazing* author since the publication of "When the Atoms Failed" which appeared in the January 1930 issue when Campbell was but nineteen years old. A stream of superlative stories followed, many, like "Who Goes There?" and "Cloak of Aesir" appearing under the Don A Stuart byline, a pseudonym taken from the name of his first wife, Donna Stuart. In September 1937 John Campbell was appointed

editor of *Astounding Stories* in succession to F. Orlin Tremaine, a chair he continued to occupy with distinction.

**1971 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund Wound Up** 10th July with Gerfan candidate Mario Bosnyak emerging as clear winner. Mario will travel to the American World Convention at the Sheraton Hotel, Boston, over Labor Day weekend and will represent not only the Knights of St Fantony but the whole of European fandom. Final first place votes tallied as follows:

	USA	EUROPE	TOTAL
Mario Bosnyak	32	106	138
Peter Weston	51	33	84
Terry Jeeves	44	22	66
Per Insulander	27	20	47

European votes came from UK (48), Germany (52), Italy (46), Sweden (19), Austria (11), Holland (2), Belgium (2), and Turkey (1).

**Chester Way of Life.** This issue of *Skyrack* – the original – accept no substitute – is being produced by two members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and readers will appreciate our fortitude as we pass over the fact that the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, original siting of the 1972 British EasterCon, has been instead booked by the National Union of Teachers, a rival body. Convention Chairman Harry Nadler has had to look elsewhere. The Prospect in Harrogate was considered as a good – er – prospect in order to make it a tenth anniversary return-con for the Yorkshire spa, but the hotel’s conference hall was not suitable to our requirements. Instead The Blossoms Hotel, Chester, has been booked and Harry writes ecstatically about the hotel’s food.

**News Items** thish are gleaned from Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves, Bob Sampson, Harry Nadler and *Locus* 89, Stateside fandom’s premier newszine which is produced by Charles & Dena Brown, 2078 Anthony Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457. *Locus* may be obtained also from UK rep Malcolm Edwards (a quick man with a postage stamp and address label), 28 Kinch Grove, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9TF. 12 for £1.25.

**TAFF Kitty** stands at over \$1,200 with slightly over £180 on hand with European Administrator Eddie Jones (\$450) and roughly \$830 on hand

with American Administrator Elliot Shorter. Individual contributions to the fund ranged from 50¢ to fifty dollars.

**Congratulations on the Victory, Mario**, say Ron Bennett and Terry Jeeves, Terry adding with the traditional stiff upper lip that the European representation is in good hands. “I hope you have a great time, Mario,” he says.

**Following His Motorway Blowout in April** Ron Bennett experienced another high-speed puncture on the Brussels-Ostend Autoroute last month. “Can’t understand it,” he says, “the original tyres on my 1935 Morris look almost new.”

**Terry Carr** has left Ace Books and plans to move back to the West Coast September.

# **From *Skyrack European Fantasy Trader***

*[These substantial issues of 22 to 36 pages were mostly book, comic and magazine sales catalogues but included the following fannish news items. Initially it continued the newszine numbering with #96 (the first issue published from Belgium, where Ron Bennett was now stationed at SHAPE) but soon restarted from #1.]*

## ***Skyrack Trader* #96, October 1970**

**Skyrack News Snippets:** Forry Ackerman recently in Belgium, stopping over after the successful Heidelberg WorldCon to look up members of the newly-formed Antwerp SF Club. Grand Old Man of Belgian fandom (Good grief! What a title!), Jan Jansen, editor of Europe's first non-English English-language fanzine *Alpha* and of *Skyrack*'s forerunner, *Contact*, was there to renew the long-standing friendship :: Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels is devoting October to a three-films-a-day sf festival with a wealth of titles from several different countries. Many thanks, Georges Coune, for the programme and the very kind invitation.

## ***Skyrack Trader* #6, December 1971 – January 1972**

### **Science Fiction Foundation**

A Science Fiction Foundation, believed to be the first of its kind in this country, has been established in association with the Department of Applied Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts at the North East London Polytechnic.

Patron is top science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke (of *2001* fame). Science fiction author James Blish is among the vice-presidents. The Foundation's Board of Management also reflects its literary, scientific and academic associations, with a membership of twelve including publishers and writers as well as representatives of various departments within the

Polytechnic. Chairman of the Board is Charles Barren, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Applied Philosophy and himself an author and science fiction writer.

The aims of the Foundation are first, to collect together in the Polytechnic various existing bibliographies and private libraries together with, wherever possible, original manuscripts and authors' personal papers, and to make this valuable source material available to writers, students and academics. Serious studies of science fiction, selected new texts and some audio-visual material will also be collected.

It is expected that the existence of the Science Fiction foundation will generate a variety of activities – exhibitions, seminars, visiting lectures and research projects – all of which will cut across interdisciplinary boundaries within the Polytechnic.

All the Foundation's activities will of course be linked as closely as possible with parallel ones on an international basis, and approaches from any interested quarters, at home or abroad, will be warmly welcomed.

Patrons Arthur C Clarke. Presidents Dr. G.S. Brosan. Joint Vice-Presidents: George Hay (Executive) James Blish (Advisory) John Brunner (Advisory) Kenneth Bulmer (Advisory). Chairman of the Management Committee: Charles Barren. Hon. Secretary: E R Cook.

## ***Skyrack Trader #7, February 1972***

### **SFANCON III**

Galerij DE ZWARTE  
PANTER

Hoogstraat 70-7 2  
2000 Antwerpen

THE BLACK PANTHER  
GALLERY

70-7 2 Hoogstraat  
B-2000 Antwerp

**The Date:** St George's Day, 23rd April 1972

Write for details to: Paul Torfs, Melkmarkt 33, 2000 Antwerpen

Following two successful, nay, highly successful conventions in 1970 and 1971 SFan, the go-ahead and enterprising Antwerp-based sf club have decided to try for the hat-trick.... The date is

23rd April

and the place is the Black Panther Gallery, a converted historical building

of decided interest in itself, situated in the city centre. The con will swing into being against a background display of the sf paintings of Andre Beguin and will feature talks, discussions, panels, sales, purchases, auctions, film shows and.... You've been to successful conventions... you know what they're made of! A bar, did you mumble? Speak up, speak up... we have that, too.

GUEST OF HONOUR?\* He, too, blends into the background of success and entertainment. You'll see, you'll see. Membership subscription is 40 Belgian francs (£0.35 or US \$0.85)....

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\* The next issue named Michael Moorcock as guest of honour. – DRL

Paul Torfs, Melkmarkt 33, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium.

### **SFANCON III**

It is appreciated of course that it is a little difficult for UK fans to trip out to Antwerp at the drop of a hat for a one-day convention. You might also consider making like a tourist and including sidetrips to Bruges, Brussels, etc. I will be willing to help regarding advice on currency exchange, travel arrangements etc. You can also save postage by including your 35p membership subscription when writing to me....I'll pass it on to Paul, the internationally famous Silent Slave of SFaN. – Ron Bennett.

**Further Notes on SFANCON III** (The date... you didn't forget did you?... is...???)

English-speaking would-be attendees... please don't be put off by any imagined language barrier... at a recent meeting business was conducted in Flemish, English French, Spanish, and Malay!

Meet two SFAN Committee members, Martin Box and Paul Torfs (The Silent Slave), for yourself in Chester at Easter. They'll be willing to discuss SFANCON plans with you (Martin) and sell you memberships (Paul).

## ***Skyrack Trader #9, June 1972***

### **So Make Like an Editor**

Almost twenty years ago, when I discovered that science fiction was something more than an occasional short story in *Argosy* and began reading it with a frenzied happiness, one of the first authors I seized upon was Fredric Brown, the printer who had decided that he could do as well as the type he had to set up, and who certainly proved his point. Fredric

Brown died in mid-March and I simply could not let the opportunity pass of recalling how much pleasure (and frustration) he had given me. I'm probably the only fan I know who didn't like his Mitkey stories and I'm equally probably the only fan I know who religiously re-reads *What Mad Universe* every couple of years and enjoys it at every reading. And I think that the shorts "Knock" and "The Last Martian" are absolutely brilliant. Brown was simply ingenious (Kingsley Amis says so, too), highly inventive and invariably readable; one had the impression that he thoroughly enjoyed writing. I enjoyed his detective novels, too (and his collections of crime shorts), and even drew on a couple of his plots in a couple of fanzine stories I wrote. His laboured explanations of plot incidentals in those novels finally turned me against his creations, the Hunters... but this summer, when I re-read *What Mad Universe* I'll also ease my way through *Space on My Hands*, a small tribute.

Just before Easter one of the giants of science fiction, not only in the U.K., but in the genre as a whole, died and I sit here not really knowing what to write about him, not really knowing how to put feelings into words. John Carnell... Ted Carnell to anyone who had ventured into the field... had been responsible for the first qualitative post-war British sf magazines in *New Worlds* and *Science Fantasy* (and later for a short time *Science Fiction Adventures* which had borrowed its title and its early contents from the American magazine of the same name). He had encouraged new writers to write and older writers to keep writing. He had been friendly and generous, and his readily admitted popularity was deserved. Ted meant a lot to me. He had welcomed me at the Nova offices on several occasions, had discussed accepted but unpublished stories with me, had wisecracked about the way I leaked the secret of *Science Fantasy* folding (I had had it from a third party and had published it in *Skyrack* as an unconfirmed report), and he'd also paid me good money for my first sf reporting assignment. I remember ringing him at his office when I needed a little news to fill a page in *Skyrack*. I was working in London at the time and had in front of me a micro elite faced typewriter. Half an hour later, with Ted still talking, I'd filled the page! In all good writing circles one completes an obituary by either a summary of what has gone before or a good snappy catch phrase... you won't mind, I trust, if I don't?

Last month saw the much-publicised SFANCON in Antwerp, a one-day event which turned out to be more enjoyable and successful than anyone had even dreamed possible. When one remembers that even ten years ago British national conventions were drawing around the 100 mark in

attendees, the success of this small one-day gathering can be readily realised with its 120-plus attendees. The programme itself was virtually entirely a one-man show with Mike Moorcock who had paid his own expenses to travel to the convention and had graciously devoted his time (and his many signatures) answering questions on writing and speaking at length on Ted Carnell's "energy and single-minded devotion." "Authors like Brian Aldiss," said Mike, "would probably have stopped writing" without the prompt payments they could depend on from Ted. No fewer than four different dealers set up shop at the convention and trading was reported to be brisk. The paintings of Andre Beguin were greatly admired (they set the background to the convention), as were also the original cover illustrations of Eddie Jones. The convention continued for me with an impromptu late-evening meeting with Mike Moorcock on the Antwerp-Brussels highway, a further meeting and gabfest with him (and with Jan Jansen) in Brussels in the early hours of the following morning and with a *further* meeting the following day here at SHAPE, the first minicon to take place on any military base anywhere! That was altogether a fine convention with the outstanding memory that of Chairman Simon Joukes insisting, after my explanation of fannish tradition, "I don't care about fannish tradition; I am going to start *this* convention on time." Famous last words...! Would you believe twenty-five minutes? SFAN members tell me that next year's con is going to be even better. I don't believe them. It couldn't be.

– Ron Bennett

## ***Skyrack Trader* #11, December 1972**

### **Instant Mini-Editorial Space Filler**

[...] This issue of *Fantasy Trader* will be late. I just *know* it. Possibly because I'm typing this stencil well after the proposed mailing deadline. All due to a mixture of indolence, SHAPE activities, indolence and overwork. Not, obviously, at the same time. The point is fast arising, however, where we are possibly appearing standoffish and uncaring – if the *Trader* is to appear we just cannot write lengthy letters of chit-chat as much as we'd like to do so. We would, too... some of our correspondents are really amusing, witty, readable, witty and highly appreciated... but please... if we don't write we don't necessarily hate you!

We've been busy since the previous issue with our third and fourth

conventions of the year, and neither here in Belgium. October saw us at the Paris ComiCon which wasn't just surprisingly good... it was fantastic... and in November we attended the SF NovaCon in Birmingham. Wonderful to meet so many old friends again, as ever, and particularly to conduct business while surrounded by so many rivals in the SF and comics fields. The spirit of helpfulness among these worthies – Georges, Phil, Mike, Rog, Ted, Dave, George – is most definitely saluted.

– Ron Bennett.

WHY NOT HOLD A CONVENTION IN A CASINO?

That's what they asked....

WHY NOT, INDEED!!

THE 1975 BELGIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

IS BOOKED FOR THE ANCIENT CITY OF

GENT. YES, AT THE CASINO!!!

THIS IS ONE YOU'LL NOT WANT TO MISS....

Watch the Fan Press for details.

# Appendix

## Spoofs, Afterword and Glossary

*The Skyhack newsletter, parodying Skyrack, first appeared in 1959 “around the time of Skyrack #7” according to a handwritten note by Ron Bennett on the copy he sent to Rob Hansen. In Skyrack #8 Ron reckoned that “Archie Mercer is the leading suspect”, but apologized for this wrong guess in #15. Some time later, in #28, he named George Locke as the culprit, adding Ella Parker as co-conspirator when the third Skyhack appeared in 1964: “Own up George and Ella,” says Skyrack #68.*

*The “Cecil Bennett” editorial byline in Skyhack refers to Ron’s imaginary elephant companion Cecil, apparently a running gag in some of his fanzines – [see photo](#) just before the first issue of Skyrack in this ebook.*

*Another, seemingly independent spoof was Skyreck alias The Skyreck Newslitter, a one-shot apparently published in April 1962 by Colin Freeman and Ethel Lindsay. Unlike Skyhack, Skyreck seems to make it quite clear who its producers were. But it’s possible that this too was part of the joke and that someone else was responsible: when Ron sent a copy of Skyreck to Rob Hansen, he wrote on it: “George Locke is the culprit.” These are deep waters, Watson.*

*The spoof PLAYpress or PLAY PRESS sign-offs are in echo of Ron’s usual credit to his own PLOYpress (or PLOY press), named for his fanzine Ploy. These credits appeared under his address (as sender) in the space for stamp and mailing label at the end of each issue, all omitted in this ebook.*

*Thanks again to Rob Hansen for scanning and OCR-ing the above issues.\* – DRL.*

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\* See also [“Fanac #••”, 27 April 1962](#), not exactly a spoof and so

included in the main run of *Skyrack* issues. – *DRL*.

# **Skyhack #1, 29th August 1959**



This is **Skyhack number 8**, dated the **29th August, 1959**, and published by Cecil Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorks. Winter quarters: Bertram Mills Circus, Olympia, London, News of interest to science fiction fans urgently needed. Social items guaranteed inaccurate. No rumours ignored. This newsletter can be obtained on sub. only. No trades, unless the offer is of high quality hay for personal consumption. This is a monthly publication except when there is an A in the month.

6d. per copy, 6 issues 12/6.

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## **Harrogate Has \* It!**

As you all know, Harrogate got the consite for the Easter 1960 North Regional Convention. Work on the programme is progressing quite nicely. I saw the manager of the St. George's Hotel the other day, and he tells me he is having the hotel redecorated for our visit. This is a very nice gesture on his part. He showed me a little of what has already been done. The walls have been lined with 5/8" nickel-steel armour plating, covered with a thin layer of pastel-shaded plastic. This material, he tells me, will cover the walls of the lounges and bedrooms. He was carrying a number of heavy steel chains: these were for holding the police dogs he is proposing to purchase in the near future. I was particularly interested in the quick-release mechanism on them. The whole of Harrogate is catching the convention fever unusually early. I saw a couple of machine-gun posts cunningly hidden in the yard of one of the pubs, and the Harrogate policeman has developed schizophrenia to enable him to walk around in pairs. One service the Harrogate S-F S. is proposing to lay on requires the co-operation of all fans, This is the organising of our own transport to and from the station. Could any of you inform us where we could obtain a

serviceable howdah cheap? It should have a roof, in case of rain, and a built in bar would be an advantage. Further progress reports in the next issue of *Skyhack*.

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\* At this point, in tiny hard-to-read letters on a slant, there appears the word HAD. – DRL.

**Berry Apprehended in The U.S.A!** It has been reported that John Berry who flew to the States to attend the Detroit Convention, has been arrested by the United States authorities for being in possession of lethal weapons. It seems the Goon – who owns a large armoury – was so foolish as to expose one of his guns (a Globule Projecting Zap) and aim it in the direction of a helicopter, under the mistaken impression brought about by the rotor blades, no doubt – that it was a fan. We understand he is now in Detention. A fund has been started in order to bail him out. Contributions should be sent to: F.B.I., Washington, D.C. Minimum accepted 500 dollars. Another Good Fannish Project. Give it your support.

**Walt Willis** has moved again, this time to 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast. What a ghastly name for a road! Fandom may even ignore Him for this and refuse to remember Him in their prayers. He intends to call it Oblique House, after his old home of renown.

**The Social Meeting** at the Globe on the 6th of August was a fabulous success. You could hardly move in the place. It was wonderful to stand there looking at fans whichever way you turned, listening to the chatter of many voices, catching an odd word here and there from half a dozen different conversations. I stood there just soaking a really fannish atmosphere up. People were coming up to greet me and remarking how ployed they were to see me. The fools: Don't they realise this will only encourage me to make a return visit as soon as possible? Considering we were in a pub, there was remarkably little drinking done. I think it's a bad thing, though, that the laws of the land decree it illegal to gamble in pubs. Anyway, we were all too busy talking far anything else to matter. It seems the reminder at the bottom of page three in *Skyrack* 6 of the London Circle's official meeting at the White Horse (21st August) resulted in nearly everybody staying away. Apparently there couldn't be an official meeting as the committee didn't have a quorum, so, no matter what was discussed, there couldn't be any binding decisions made. None the less, it was interesting. Two boys from Germany dropped in. They took some pictures of us all, and one of them gave a short talk on fandom in Germany.

**The Rumour** has reached me that the army is again thinking of moving Sandy Sanderson to another station. Now that we have successfully managed to send Berry to Detroit, I suggest we make our next fannish project a collection to “BUY SANDERSON OUT OF THE ARMY.” For further details of this scheme, contact the editorial address. At the same time – using the same envelope – why not send in your TAFF contribution and vote. If you have not got a ballot form, one will be provided on application.

**If You** know of anyone who would like to live in a caravan, send them Archie Mercer’s address. He has one to sell. I should mention one snag – it has no bunks in it. Fanzines of sufficiently high quality would be considered as trades, Mercer to be solo judge of quality.

**Archie Mercer** writes: “*Ploy* 15. This came as a surprise – but a very pleasant one indeed. For *Ploy* to come out twice in 1959 gives one the same sort of thrill as one would get if *Fantastic* went fortnightly. This issue was obviously following up the success of the *Ploy* 14 Bob Tucker Appreciation Issue, and is another of the same calibre. It seems Ron asked many BNFs to contribute, and it’s a great shame none were able to do so. This makes the issue very thin, the only solid-weight article being by Ron himself. On my show-copy, the duplicating is so superb that it looks like the original type-written dummy. The artwork – by Ron himself – is a perfect example of pencilled line drawing, which indicates the presence of a great new talent in our midst. The issue will – it says – cost you 1/9d, but I received a neatly folded £5 note with mine. The bacover captions had me in fits, especially: ‘You are receiving this because you *will* review.’ Pity the issue was so slim, but if only for the boundless enthusiasm in Ron’s article for the TAFF winner of 1958, this is a must.”

**In the Middle** of July we had a very congenial visitor at 7 Southway. Apparently, he lives locally. During the conversation it came out that I publish an amateur magazine. In an attempt to interest him in Harrogate Fandom we showed him *Ploy* 14, demonstrated how it was produced, and chuckled conspiratorially over my methods of acquiring paper cheaply and how I’d played truant from school to run it off. He was most interested. As he left, he gave me, for my parents, an official document which required an answer as to why I hadn’t been attending classes.

**Having Re-Read** with more care the Berry proposal for fannish Heraldic emblems and devices, and noting that he has appointed himself Official Keeper of same, it seems to me that surely it would be better if such a

scheme had emanated from the Cheltenham Circle, who are the acknowledged pioneers in this field, and not from one who, until now, had taken no interest in the field. Were I in the same position as the Knights of St. Fantony I would feel inclined to take issue with John for having written the article and with the editor of *Smoke* for having printed it. Had this been published before the London Circle's visit to Cheltenham at Whitsun, I very much doubt whether George Locke's return ticket to London would have been of any use to him. As it is, there is the London Symposium coming up in October and George will naturally be attending. We suggest that this is an opportunity too good to be missed....

**The Members** of Inchmery Fandom made a surprise return to their home on the evening of Friday the 21st of August instead of the Saturday as had been expected. This resulted in some frenzied running around on the part of yours truly in order to get things put to rights before they saw for themselves where I'd been keeping my fodder.

**Bob Shaw**, noted insectophobe, was cycling along when he observed an earwig in his path. On braking, he was thrown over the handle-bars, but managed to retain sufficient sense to avoid landing on the insect. He got to his feet and was seen to lift the earwig gently and place it with great care on the grass verge.

**Barry Hall Is Expecting** to bring out *Perihelion* in the near future. But we seem to have heard the same story with regard to *Triode*, *Hyphen*, and *Ape*. Where are they?

**The Directory of Science Fiction Fandom** has been selling like hot cakes at the Convention in 1944. However, one or two copies are still available from Vin¢ Clarke. Write nicely.

**The Space Below** has been left blank to fill in details of your own topical news, a free service provided by no other newssheet.

\*SKYHACK\* FROM  
Cecil Bennett  
7 Southway

Arthurs Avenue  
Harrogate  
Yorkshire

PRINTED MATTER ONLY  
RETURN POSTAGE GNTD

PLAYpress.

WASHINGTON IN 1960.

# ***Skyhack #2, 30 February 1960***

This is *Skyhack* number [*deliberately illegible*], dated the 30th February 1960, and published by Cecil Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorks. Summer Quarters: Childrens Corner, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park. 1 cwt. hay per copy, 6 issues for 1 ton. US. subs payable in the equivalent weight of corn. Copies sent by ICBM charged extra. News of interest to fans urgently needed. Social items guaranteed inaccurate. No rumours ignored. Cartoon Foosh. Contributors: Bob Tucker, Terry Carr, Ron Ellik and Yngvi. A cross on the back means you have expired.

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## **Sandricon Progress Report**

The 1960 Easter Convention will not be held in Harrogate as previously reported by us, but in the little village of Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh. The organiser, who reveals at this late-date that she has a living to earn, reports that the con hotel is a very comfortable cavern. Although the lighting is not of the brightest, it is eminently suitable for showing films. It is reported that a Guest of Honour has promised to attend.

We went to see the manager, who was reported to be conventionally minded, and found he was under the impression that we retired to our caves at sunset. We told him the facts of life as it is lived at a convention....!

Several well-known Names have been co-opted onto the programme committee. Communications should not be transmitted by crystal ball to convention headquarters, but should be sent to the hotel manager at Much-Binding, preferably on clay tablets. Cave rates are quoted at 35/- per hour. Reductions will be considered in the case of unborn babes who prepared to share a cave with their intending mothers.

**LASFS Party.** Harrogate fandom received a very nice invitation to a party at the LASFS clubrooms two or three weeks ago. Although I had been struggling with fanac, and was pretty well exhausted, I decided it would be unfannish not to accept. Being short of funds, I had no choice but to hitch-hike. It was one of those days. The weather was lousy, foggy and damp. I

trudged for nigh on two hours gazing hopefully at each car as it approached, but the drivers were either over-suspicious or just unfriendly, because not one of them stopped. The fog got thicker; not even Manchester could be this bad. Eventually a large, American-type car stopped and I staggered in. On driving off, it was a nice surprise to find the owner was an American returning from a holiday over here. I began telling him of the good time I'd been shown when I visited America in 1958. I told him I'd been practically all over the States on that trip, but particularly remembered Los Angeles and the LASFS crowd. After talking for some time, I felt drowsy, I remember hearing him asking where I wanted to go, and just had sufficient strength to mutter my reply as I dropped off to sleep. I remember half-waking once and felt the car rocking about violently as if on board an aircraft in a storm. I looked out of the window, saw nothing, and reckoned that the local council should do something about their roads. What felt like days later, but could only have been hours, Bennett, unwashed, unshaven, bleary-eyed and still bemused with sleep, staggered out of the car. I recognised a couple of buildings, and groped my way through the fog to the clubrooms. Hoping I was in good time for the party, though doubting it, I knocked at the door. A familiar face covered with freckles peered out and yelled in surprise: "It's Bennett!" I was equally astonished, and replied: "Hello, Bjo, I thought Don Ford had won TAFF."

**Skyrack Poll.** A slim zine, where the editor – who also edits the *Fan Directory*, reviewed on the next page – has chosen the easy way out in his hunt for material by getting his readers to write their own in the spaces provided. Wish I'd thought of it. Dupering, good with the exception of the heading.

**World Record Shattered!** A few days ago, Harrogate was the scene of one of the greatest contests ever to be held in fandom, where, against strong competition, Cecil Bennett lumbered off in triumph with the World Tea Drinking record. We are tempted to describe the contest, but feel it would only receive justice at the pen of that great master, and erstwhile Tea Drinking Champion, John Berry. The picture of Cecil fighting the urge to depart rapidly from the scene would, I know, delight John's heart, and provide scope for his talent, but your reporter, I fear, is unqualified for this task. As this was a special occasion there were certain alterations made in the rules to suit the peculiar talents of Cecil. He agreed to dispose of one urn of tea as against one pint mug per person. A barrier was built round the urn to prevent Cecil turning the tap on with his feet, thus

disposing unfairly of his share of tea. The contest ended rather abruptly when the winner, drunk with power at downing twenty-seven urns, swiped a mug from one of the losers, with disastrous results. The straw that broke, and all that jazz.

***The Directory of 1959 Fandom.*** Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Ave., Harrogate, Yorks. 16 pages. 1/9 or 15 cents to Bob Pavlat. Free to OMPA and FAPA. The latest zine to flop through the letterbox is a neatly produced but rather slim annual, which appears to be keeping to schedule very well. The cover – by ATom, who else? – has been done in red, and is very effective, with Arthur proving himself a master of detail. This is not a neo-zine, by any means, but shows one or two slightly neo-ish touches, such as the editor apologising for any errors. A new innovation, though, is the inclusion of a few words about the construction of the sentences, explaining the more uncommon terms, such as those referring to tape-recorders and telephones. The illos are stated to be all reprints and frankly, we were disappointed with the selection. The editor is persisting with the unusual arrangement of the contents noted in previous issues, and while we commended him on his originality then, we feel he has not developed it sufficiently. For those who haven't seen the previous issues, Bennett hit upon the idea of collecting the individual sentences in his contents and rearranging them alphabetically. The illos are, in fact, the headings for "A", "B", etc. However, the ineptitude with which he has effected this arrangement makes us wonder why he bothered at all. Under the heading "A", we find the first entry; "Forrest J. Ackerman..." Stylistically, the material – sercon, with few fannish touches – suffers from redundancy, as in the-over frequent use of the words "England" and "USA". We also find an uncomfortable excess of numbers, rather as though Ron had been trying to save a mathematical equation at the same time as publoyshing a fanzine. Still, all in all, an interesting experiment, which, if the editor develops it, should make this zine one of the musts, even though prone to name-dropping to an embarrassing degree.

***Orion Take-Over Bid.*** Inchmery Fandom is in the wars again. Ironically, after they published their take-over bid advert in *Ape* 14, they have themselves become victims of a similar, dastardly plot. However, the only sign so far of Ella Parker's vile deed has been the changing of *Aporrheta* from blue to black ink. Fie on thee, Parker! But all is not lost. The last issue of *Aporrheta* to be published – No 15 – has disclosed that Inchmery did, in fact, have a secret weapon in reserve. This they have now brought into action. What defence has Parker against a micro-elite?

**Secret Hideout Revealed.** It came to our ears that Ballycoarse Grange would bear investigation. We, packed our bags and took off for Eire. On arriving at the grange, we were met by a sinister receptionist. It struck us that we were not permitted to sign the register for ourselves. We immediately scented news, and determined to get a look at the book at the first opportunity. My chance came when the receptionist, who, under the alias of McAulay, was also the owner, took his post-prandial stroll to the local. The names we read there would have gladdened the heart of the police commissioner at Scotland Yard. Here were names such as Sanderson (wanted for lead-swinging while in Her Majesty's forces), Bennett the Card, Hinds, the Prison Houdini, and Willis and Shaw who, after their success at having a story publoyshed in *If*, took steps to evade their tax responsibilities. We handed our information to the appropriate authorities.

**Skyrack Endangered.** For many months, *Skyrack* has been appearing regularly. Harrogate fandom is now forced to announce that unless someone sends items of news to 7 Southway, the newssheet will have to fold. "We have run completely dry of ideas," Ron has been reported as saying, "and it is extremely doubtful, unless some of you respond, that the next issue will appear. We thought at one time we were doing so well, too. We had learned from a reliable source that *Fanac*, struggling hard to keep abreast of us, was reduced to the stature of pygmies when we brought out two issues of *Rack* within a week of each other."

**The Rumour** is going the rounds that *Grub* is to appear, sometime in 1961.

**For Sale:** One can of redundant Heinz Baked Beans, suitable as exhibit for a fannish museum. No reasonable offer refused. Apply to John Berry, 31, Campbell Park Avenue, Belmont, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

SKYHACK FROM  
Cecil Bennett  
7 Southway  
Harrogate

Yorkshire

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# ***Skyhack* #3, 35 May 1964**

This is ***Skyhack* number 3**, dated the **35th May, 1964** and published by Ben Ronnett and the Beattles at 17 Newcastle Road, Arthurs Avenue, Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, Liverpool. News of interest to science fiction fans should be sent D.N.Q. and no rumours will be ignored. First as always with the news. Vote now in the *Skyhack* awards poll and the seasons greetings to both our readers. Price is in money whether it be in sterling dollars new francs or plain green stamps. Where Bennett is concerned just shell out. American representative urgently requested. The cartoon on the left is by Heady Bones who also produced the home made wine.

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## **All Fall Down**

**Science Fiction Fans the World Over** will regret to learn that William Dunbar House collapsed suddenly last Friday. Ella Parker's Palatial Penthouse Palatial Penitentiary Palatial Friday night meeting for members of the British Science Fiction Association had just got under way with a discussion of which channel should be watched. When the usually mild mannered pair, Peter Forsyth and Ted Mabey, stamped their feet in unison and the floor cracked open. The resounding echo of "£\$@&&\$@\$ £)@\$X@H&" from Miss Parker caused the crack to widen even further and in a matter of minutes the entire block of flats was so much match-wood and pebbles. No casualties are reported and rescue attempts are still being carried out for those fans who are still trapped beneath the rubble. When I interviewed Mr. Francis Varley who is in charge of the rescue operations, he said, "Get lost." But I also learned that the fans trapped are alive and well in a small space in what was once the cellar laundry. They are understood to be putting out a one shot fanzine called *Next Time The Tucker Hotel*, and Miss Parker is understood to have asked for several tons of tea to piped down to her; she also asked to be kept informed of the latest happenings in *Z Cars*. (Z.P.)

**Bill Donaho** and Walter Breen have at last settled their differences. Our man on the spot, Edsal McCune, reports that it was something they ate. Big Bill has now moved in with Walter at Box 517, Berkeley 19, California 78609½ and they are reported to be working on a fanzine which

will tell the truth about Ted White. In an exclusive interview, Walter told our reporter, "Get lost. We are just good friends." Big Bill said that it was all due to a DNQ which got out of hand and was a complete misunderstanding. "The typesetter got the name wrong," he said. Meanwhile, Walter, who will be putting out an issue of *Fanac* within the next two or three years, has been asked to serve on the PacifiCon II World Convention Committee in the capacity of Public Relations Officer. And yes, that's typed exactly the way it was *meant* to be typed.

**Following** their successful bid at Peterborough for the 1965 Easter convention, the newly inaugurated Chummy Brummy Science Fiction Society say that their enthusiasm has been the cause of their recent bid to hold the 1965 World Convention in Britain's Central City. "We want the World Con," they say. "We have a hotel that will do just fine. It holds thirty-six people in the bar at one and the same time." Asked whether they thought that the hotel was really big enough, the group's spokeswoman, Mary Reed, told our reporter on the spot, "Get lost. How will anyone come to a Chummy Brummy Con when they won't be able to understand a word we speak anyway!"

**Another New Club** has also run into teething troubles of a different kind. After their successful swamping of the Peterborough convention with 8 m.m. films, probably quote cards, too, the Delta group from Manchester got home to find leaflets in their doors asking them to attend a public meeting organised by the North-Western Science Fiction Society, which was thought to be defunct some six or seven years ago. Dave K. Owen, who chaired the meeting told of plans to revive the old group, put out a fanzine called *The Blue Moon Vargo Statten Magazine*, and hold a convention at Whit weekend. When asked by our reporter whether he thought this might be a retrograde step, Mr. Owen told our reporter, "Get lost. We are the king pins up here."

**The Whole of Liverpool** was in an uproar recently when John Ramsey Campbell escaped from the Potrzebie in which he has been kept caged for the past three or four years. When barman Norman Shorrocks went up to the club room on Monday lunchtime in order to feed the young author who is kept chained to his typewriter in the anteroom (Potrzebie is understood to be Polish for Moxy), he found John gone. Three slates were missing from the roof and a note bearing the cryptic message "From me could you expect other than a 'crypt'-ic message? Get Lost!" was found in his typewriter. The escapee was later found on the local football ground trying to bribe a player to write something for *Space Diversions*.

**The Police Were Also Called In** recently by Phil Rogers of Scunthorpe who had been receiving anonymous phone calls. "I wouldn't have minded but I haven't a phone," said Mr. Rogers. A prowler near Mr. Rogers's home was later believed to be helping police with their inquiries, and was identified as a well known London artist fan. He told our reporter, "Get lost, it was a stylus, not a gun."

**Smoke 17** (George Locke, 85 1/2 Chelsea Bridge Road, London S.W) Now that George's wonderzine on the zinescene has gone weekly and is on the news stands (it is being called the *Panic Button-Mersey Beat* on London fandom by those in the know), George is obviously finding it a little difficult to maintain the all time low standard of recent issues and this contains almost four and a half pages of an overflow column by Dr. Peristyle of *Vector*. Highly recommended if you like this sort of thing.

**Orion 29** (Paul Enever, 8 Pole Hill Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex) Now that Paul has taken over *Orion* once again we can expect to see some regularly appeared issues packed with the usual high class goodies from the new up and coming youngsters. This issue contains verse by Wally Gillings, fanzine reviews by Dennis Tucker and a column called "I Remember NuFu" by Don R. Smith. Just a little too faaaaaanish for my own rather sercon tastes.

**Computer** (Ted Forsyth, 11 Ferndale Road, London S.W.4) This new zine by this rather immature youngster shows promise but lacks both variety and purpose. The feature article this issue is by both Ted and Peter Mabey in a collaboration which covers 17 pages with the first 32 million decimal places of the value of pi.

**Avram's Zine** (subtitled *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*; A. Davidson, 543 West 53rd Avenue, New York 71) We're always glad to have on hand an American fanzine to review, even if this gag isn't exactly up to date. Contents this time include articles by Biff Demmon, Terry Carr, Les Gerber and Andy Main.

**Skyrack 69** (Ron Bennett, 17 Newcastle Road, Wavertree Clock Tower, Liverpool 15) This take-off of Skyhack will not fool anyone and is in fairly bad taste with its up to date news, as compared with our own tasteful rumours. And while we're at it, what *did* happen to *Ploy*?

**Archie Mercer**, Bristol's answer to Pilot Matches, is to stand for TAFF after all. Recently campaigning in Knowle village centre, handing out leaflets to passers-by, Archie told our reporter, Mrs. Cook, "I've changed

my mind, it's true. Why shouldn't I stand for TAFF next year?" When our reporter pointed out that the 1965 TAFF campaign would bring a fan over to attend the London Worldcon, Archie said, "Get Lost," in a polite conversational way and added "Look at the money I'd save the Fund." He seems to have a point there. Meanwhile, Miss Ethel Lindsay reports that the British side of the TAFF treasury now holds 4½d. She wrote to say that she had almost ninety pounds but that she gave it to Ted Tubb who wanted it for another Hum and Sway session to raise money for the Fund. Unfortunately, the products of the ninety pounds appear to have disappeared in the Dunbar House collapse which is reported elsewhere in this issue, probably on page five.

The rumour is going the rounds that

(fill in as required)

If an X appears here you've expired this issue /X/; next issue /X/

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**Changes of Address Department:** No changes of address this time as Alan Rispin, Keith Freeman, Jim Linwood, and Pat Kearney have actually stayed in one place for a reasonable length of time. We hear, however, that Bert will be out any day now.

**Snipe-Its:** Fred Hunter the wandering Viking from the Outer Hebrides, thanks everyone who was so hospitable towards him during his recent tour of British fandom. "I had such a whale of a time and drank so much duty free liquor on the boat home," says Fred, "that I can't remember anything that happened. However, I'll be back again next year as promised and will once again be looking up all OMPAns." ::: Postcard in from Betty Kujawa from Samarai, Papua, "So we took a wrong turning in a cloud bank," which still seems better than taking a wrong turning in a blood bank to us. ::: Charles E. Smith, the London school teacher has shaved off his beard. "I was getting to look too much like the scruffs I teach," he told our reporter Lang Jones when they met at Lang's manicurist's. ::: Ron Bennett has almost sold out his TAFF report, *Colonial Eggscursion*. Only 4,598 copies left. ::: Sid Birchby is standing for the Greater Didsbury area in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. As a Republican. He writes "I am thinking of being a publican again." Apparently he's thought it would be a good idea before. ::: Colin Freeman is reported to be putting out a fake *Skyrack* shortly in time for Ron Bennett's return to Yorkshire. ::: Philip

Harbottle is preparing another 26 paged booklet titled *Terry Pratchett, an Evaluation*. Price 4/6d from Philip. ::: Arthur Thompson's *Atom Anthology* is to be reprinted, illustrations will be by Mike Higgs. ::: OMPA and FAPA are not to combine after all. It's OMPA and the Cult that will combine forces in July. Association editor will be the West Coast Nice Al Lewis, unless we're getting confused with SAPA and N'APS and the West Coast *Nasty Al Lewis*. ::: What happen *Bastion*, Eric?. ::: Pat Kearney is preparing a 26 paged booklet titled *Philip Harbottle, an Evaluation*. Price 4½d from Pat or from Ken Slater. Add 8/9 postage if you order through Ken.

SKYHACK 3 5/8 from  
R. Bennett  
17, Newcastle Rd  
Liverpool, 15.

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RETURN POSTAGE GTD.

PLAY PRESS

# The *Skyreck* Newsletter, 1 April 1962



This is *Skyreck*, published on **1st April, 1962** by Ethel Lindsay Bennett and Colin Freeman Bennett, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey. 17/6d per copy, 24/3d for 29 issues. News of interest to sf fans, whether fannish, professional or simply social has no place whatsoever in this newsletter. Cartoon by Arthur Thomson.

First with the news again.

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## **Skyreck Does It Again**

Sorry folk, but there's still no news. Yes, I realise it's about 25 issues since I had any news for you in *Skyreck*, but what can I do if nothing happens? We must console ourselves with the thought that no news is good news.

### **Small Ads Section**

S-f fandom newsletter for sale. Includes 17 writs for libel, and Goodwill valued at 3½d. Apply Ron Bennett.

For sale. 1864 duplicator – in excellent condition. Screwdriver and sellotape provided, no extra charge. £1,869-12-7d or nearest offer. Apply Ron Bennett.

Small ads. 7/- per word. No charge name or address provided they occupy no more than one sixteenth of a line.

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To find a slogan we must contrive,  
To plug the Loncon in sixty five.

Now five could hardly be any worse,

For making rhyme or putting to verse.

But London Town will not be outdone,  
We want the worldcon in sixty four plus one.

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Your subscription expired 7 issues ago. For goodness sake send some money soon or at least write to tell me that you are dead or something, otherwise I'll be getting a complex about this. You are *Skyreck*'s last subscriber.

### **Fanzine Reviews**

***Haverings*** – from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey. This zine is absolutely stupendous, marvellous, intoxicating, magnificent ——— we are unable to find sufficient superlatives to describe the esteem in which we hold this reviewzine. No fan could possibly fail to subscribe to *Haverings* and still have the audacity to consider himself a true member of fandom.

***Scribble*** – from Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital, Ripley Road, Knaresborough, Yorkshire. This zine has surely gotten as high as it is possible for any fanzine to have gotten. The humour is unbelievable and it is quite likely that if James Thurber should get hold of a copy and see what he is up against he would refuse ever to write another funny word again. If you have lost your sense of wonder obtain a copy of *Scribble* immediately.

– We would like to emphasize that although the editors of *Haverings* and *Scribble* are two and the same as the editors of *Skyreck*, this has in no way prejudiced the above reviews.

***Readers' Digest*** – edited by some little-name fan we've never heard of before – probably a neofan. Good duping and very few typos, but the contents – oh dear! This is the lousiest crudzine ever produced by fandom and. I would advise all faneds *not* to send their own zines for trades. It just isn't worth it. It certainly isn't worthy of a Loc, apart from the fact that they don't run a lettercol. If this zine tries to get into one of the APAs for your own sakes keep it out. Come to think of it, it has a crumby title too.

***Ploy*** – Ron Bennett, 13 Westcliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire. This is undoubtedly the fanzine of the century – and that is roughly how often it is published. We went round to the Bennett residence to discover when the next issue would be vomiting forth. Unfortunately Ron was not at home, but we did speak to his grandfather. At least, we assumed it was his

grandfather. He was a wizened, gaunt-looking, grey-haired, old gentleman who was frantically rushing around making arrangements for some Science-Fiction Unconvention to be held in Harrogate at Easter. We understand from grand-dad that a working model of the Dean Drive will be on display at the con. In appearance it will be something like a fruit machine.

**Changes of Address:** The Science Fiction Club of Scotland,  
151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, London NE6.  
Ron “bushy-tailed” Ellik. S-F Convention,  
Harrogate. He should find plenty of nuts there.

**Poll Results** All the votes are now in for the third annual *Skyreck* poll and by an overwhelming majority, and most deservedly, the award for the best fanzine of the year goes to *Skyreck*. The voting for the best fanzine cover ended in a photo-finish so, the organizers have used their discretion and *Skyreck* receives the award. Well done *Skyreck*.

**Attention Convention Members** On arrival at your hotel. please report to the reception desk where a police officer will be waiting to take your photograph and fingerprints. This is to avoid the farcical events of last year’s con when Alfred Hinds won first prize at the fancy dress ball.

**LONDON IT MUST BE IN LXV**

# Afterword: When the Sky Was the Limit by Ron Bennett

Belgian Big Name Fan, Jan Jansen, first came up with the idea that the fandom of the day needed a newszine and in the mid-fifties turned out the qualitative but short-lived *Contact*.

A year or two later, Terry Carr and Ron Ellick came out with their superb and award-winning *Fanac* but as far as British fandom was concerned *Fanac* didn't quite fill a need, so in 1959 I decided to try putting out a small newszine which would cater primarily for the British fan.

Initially, the name was a problem. I had hoped, in homage to the *Bloomington Newsletter*, to have the name of the Yorkshire town in which I lived in the title, but *The Harrogate Newsletter* didn't sound quite right. Even if the town was the birthplace of Michael Rennie!

As well as being split into the famous three Ridings, the county of Yorkshire, where I've spent most of my life, is divided into various administrative districts, Harrogate being in the Claro Division. *The Claro Newsletter* was given brief consideration, but was soon discarded.

But wait! Fifteen miles south of Harrogate is the reasonably sized city of Leeds, famous for the growth of the wool trade, for ready-made clothing, for Joseph Priestley's experiments with oxygen and, of course (he adds mischievously), the world's first science-fiction convention.

Leeds is in the administrative district of Skyrack.

As a title, *The Skyrack Newsletter* had more of a ring to it. It neatly echoed *Fanac* and there was a nice SF *cachet* about the first syllable, Sky.

Except, of course, that such an interpretation of the name is a complete misnomer.

Way back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons... Vinç will remember... disputes between various villages were sorted out at regular meetings of village elders. They'd vote by holding up their swords or staffs, and a poll of these weapons would be taken. The meetings became known as "Wappontakes", and so did the areas they covered. Leeds was in the Wappontake of Skyrack, for it was at the Skyr-Ack, the Shire Oak, that the meeting took place.

The old tree, then but a gnarled stump – you know the feeling, too, eh? – was finally pulled down in the early forties when it was deemed to be a threat to traffic. Presumably, it had the tendency to leap out at passing trolley cars. There's now only a plaque in the wall and two neighboring public houses, The Original Oak and The Skyrack. And I know that you can't wait to learn that they're just up the road from the Headingley cricket ground where England plays its test matches.

The first issue of *The Skyrack Newsletter*, appeared in April 1959. Its four mimeoed, quarto sides carried a short report of the British EasterCon in Birmingham. It cost six pre-decimal pence (two and a half decimal) and a six issue subscription could be obtained for half-a-crown (2/6d) or 35 cents from my Stateside rep, the now greatly-missed Bob Pavlat of Hyattsville, Maryland. I copied *Fanac's* practice of a masthead cartoon, this initial offering being a John Owen captioned Rotsler illo.

My own favorite from *Skyrack's* lengthy run of cartoons was one by Eddie Jones which was based on the famous Charles Addams picture of the pair of unicorns watching Noah's ark sailing away without them. Eddie's version showed a couple of Atom's typical BEMs watching Arthur leave on his 1964 TAFF trip to PacifiCon II in Oakland.

My intention was to maintain a monthly roll-over schedule, that is to say an issue would appear a month after the previous issue unless some newsworthy item came to hand which would really necessitate an issue prior to that monthly deadline, in which case the following issue would be scheduled for a month after that "interim" issue. This system worked well (for me, anyway) and was adhered to until the newsletter's declining years.

For the second issue (1st May 1959), Eddie Jones produced a masthead "SKYRACK" lettering which I kept throughout the newsletter's life and then slid it into commercial mundania by adopting it for my later book, magazine, and comic selling business.

Issue number 6 was the first of the pre-monthlies, appearing a fortnight after number 5 when I was working temporarily in London, meeting different fans nightly and of course "news" was flooding in from every quarter. Shortly after this there appeared a couple of scurrilous sheets called *Skyhack* and *Skyreck*, hilarious parodies which I suspect were the brain children of Archie Mercer and George Locke, both leading fans and notable humorists of the day. George was at this time appearing regularly in *Amazing* and *Fantastic* under the pseudonym Gordon Walters.

Despite thus having been overshadowed in the humor stakes by these scandalous sheets, I continued to produce the Real McCoy and number 7 warned, naturally enough, “Beware of Imitations.”

This issue also featured a masthead cartoon by dear ol’ Arthur Thomson, the first of many fine cartoons Atom drew, several, for special occasions, straight on to stencil.

So, over the next six years *Skyrack* went on its merry way, appearing on its monthly roll-over schedule, recording British conventions, fan meetings like the London Symposium and, of course, informal meetings and parties. Fanzines were reviewed and changes of address noted. There were fan feuds, too, of course, but at all times I tried to keep the reportage light and entertaining. Mostly, of course, I didn’t have to try; the fans who sent in news accounts and snippets of information were well ahead of me there.

Typical headlines were: “Berry Fund Successful”, “PittCon Push by Pondfund Planners” (Terrible! Definitely my favorite!), “London Circle Disrupts”, “Ford by a Landslide”, “Bentcliffe for Pittsburgh”, “Amis for LXIcon”, “Ella Parker for Seacon”, “Scithers in Town”, “TAFF Doubles Voting Fee”, “Brian for Yugoslavia”, “Welcome Back Wally”, “Nova Bows Out”, “Tom All the Way”, “Atom Goes TAFF”, “Death of Don Ford”, “Oblique House Gets Mundane Slant” and “LonCon Programme Takes Shape”.

Of course, it was fun playing news editor and trying to scoop the rest of fandom with some pieces of news, primarily Hugo winners and TAFF results.

From Stateside WorldCons Bob Pavlat used to send me Western Union cablegrams made up of the names of the Hugo winners, so that, for example, I was able to have ready the last three pages of an issue, printed, addressed and stamped and with the front page awaiting only Bob’s cable from the 1960 PittCon which read “HEINLEIN KEYES SERLING FSF EMSH CRY 380 STANDOV HEINLEIN.” From this I was able to concoct a page-long item announcing the Hugo winners that year as being Heinlein’s *Starship Troopers*, Daniel Keyes’ “Flowers for Algernon”, Serling’s *The Twilight Zone*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, Ed Emshwiller for his artwork, and the Seattle fanzine *Cry of the Nameless*. Heinlein received a standing ovation and there were 380 attendees, nowadays the number of fans who attend a room party. The issue was in the mails within hours and, sent airmail to the States, was awaiting PittCon attendees when they returned home.

I was also grateful to various TAFF officers who helped me in similar circumstances. The British officer would let me know the European count at the deadline and the American officer would send me a similar cable. I'd add together the two sets of figures and again an issue awaiting only the front page would be in the mails as soon as possible after the voting deadline. On a couple of occasions, Atom conjured up mastheads to cover any contingency, so that the issue which finally appeared would have a personalized and highly pertinent cartoon.

Of course, it wouldn't have been me if I'd not taken advantage of the possibilities offered by this situation. The 1962 TAFF race was a straight fight between Ethel Lindsay and Eddie Jones. Atom had provided me with cartoons for either outcome. When the Western Union cablegram rolled in and the combined US and European figures showed Ethel to be the victor, I did what any red-blooded fan editor would have done. I ran off a special one-copy front page especially for the lady. Yes, a special front page announcing that Eddie had been elected TAFF delegate that year. Just for Ethel.

Naturally, the correct version was sent along by the following mail. Ethel and Eddie were on the phone to each other immediately they'd received their copies, each happily and sincerely congratulating the other. Of course Ethel was not left to suffer for very long. Dozens of fans phoned her the same morning offering their congratulations. One of the first had been her close friend, Ella Parker. "Oh!" Ella said. "One of Bennett's jokes."

She had had reason to know. In February 1961, Ella had told me in confidence that she intended attending the Seattle WorldCon later that year. She'd been saving for the trip and with a loan from her brother Fred could just about manage the trip. On no account, Ethel told me, should I breathe a word of her intentions nor mention her plans in *Skyrack*. It should be explained that at that time Ella was undoubtedly British fandom's focal point, not only for her bulky and qualitative fanzine, *Orion*. Ella invariably had out of town fans lodging at her apartment (I spent several school vacations with her and Fred) and Friday evening was open house. The majority of fans who took advantage of Ella's continuous hospitality were on the whole a pretty young bunch. Ella was of the opinion – and I for one didn't disagree – that if it became known that she intended going to Seattle someone was certain to set up a fund to ensure that she visited Seattle and had a fine time there. An Ella for SeaCon Fund was the last thing Ella wanted.

So, sworn to secrecy, *Skyrack* #29 duly made no mention of Ella's intentions. Except, of course, for the copy Ella received. Its headline read "Ella Parker for SeaCon." Ella missed the dateline on her special copy, 29th February 1961, and dashed off a lengthy letter to me which she sent express special delivery and which must have burnt the mailman's fingers. It certainly scorched the paper on which it was written.

After Ella had mailed the letter, she phoned Ethel Lindsay who, naturally enough had no idea about what Ella was complaining. After all, *her* copy's headline read "AMIS FOR LXICON." Ella sent me a cable which read simply, "BENNETT YOU BASTARD." She didn't hold the gag against me and referred to me in similar vein, albeit affectionately, for the remainder of our association.

After mid-1965, the newsletter lost its impetus a little, perhaps because I was struggling with a new mortgage, a new son, teaching evening classes, taking a crack at pro-writing and attempting to run a mail-order second hand book and magazine business, all in addition, of course, to teaching at a local primary school where out-of-school hours were devoted to coaching a successful schoolboy soccer team. *Skyrack* had become a low priority item. And something of a chore. Publication slipped to a bi-monthly and even a quarterly schedule and even with three (!) issues in April 1966, the writing was on the wall. For example, *Skyrack* #93 appeared in November 1966 and #94, with a helpful, "Oh, come on now – you remember *Skyrack*," didn't show up until August 1967 four weeks before I moved to take up a post in Singapore.

The following issue therefore holds the undisputed distinguished record of being the only fan publication to appear from the island republic. So far, anyway.

There was one more issue to come, a meagre offering comprising mostly advertisements, but produced in July 1971 to cover the deaths of John W. Campbell, Jr. and August Derleth. A sad ending to the run.

I don't think that the newsletter very often bubbled to the surface of my thoughts during the next couple of decades until fan historians like Rob Hansen and Richard Lynch began to ask questions about certain documented events. Heavens! Had I had even the slightest intimation that *Skyrack* was to be viewed as some sort of record of the times, I think that I'd have taken more care with that documentation. There always was a tendency to assume that the reader was *au fait* with the background of reported events. I'm certain that today's newszines fall into the same trap,

and I don't really think that it could be otherwise.

For myself, I'm fortunate in possessing a personal memory book of the period, full of incidents and events worth savouring and overflowing with the names of hundreds of people who influenced my outlook and who enriched my life.

*Mimosa* #22, June 1998, edited by Nicki and  
Richard Lynch

# Glossary and Links

A note to explain some of the abbreviations and fan slang used in *Skyrack*. It may also be useful to consult Rob Hansen's *Then*. All italicized titles are fanzines or SF magazines. Some of these terms are lazily copied from the glossary in *A Vince Clarke Treasury* (also available on the TAFF free ebooks page) – DRL.

- “-”: short for *Hyphen*.
- 4SJ: Forrest J Ackerman (leading US fan).
- annish: anniversary issue of a fanzine.
- APA: Amateur Press Association.
- *ASF*: *Astounding Science Fiction*.
- *Ape*: short for *Aporrheta*. Strictly this should be spelt *Apē* with a macron, which was such a bother to type that most fan publishers either ignored it or overtyped the “e” with a slash instead. That’s what *Skyrack* usually did, but the present ebook uses plain *Ape* throughout.
- *ASFR*: *Australian SF Review*.
- Atom/ATOM: pen name of cartoonist Arthur Thomson.
- BEM: Bug Eyed Monster.
- BNF: Big Name Fan.
- B.I.S.: British Interplanetary Society, a largely fan-run organisation in its early days.
- BoSh: Bob Shaw (leading Northern Irish fan and author).
- BRE: British Reprint Edition (usually of a US magazine).
- BSFA: British Science Fiction Association (UK fan club).
- COA: Change of address.
- correctine (also corflu): correction fluid for repairing typos on duplicator stencils.
- CSFC: Cheltenham Science Fiction Circle (UK fan club).
- DNP: Do Not Print.
- DNQ: Do Not Quote.
- *EFT*: *East-Fanglian Times*.
- egoboo: publicity, good review or favourable mention that boosts a fan’s ego.
- faan: a particularly fannish fan with deep devotion to fandom rather than, necessarily, SF. Still further degrees of fannishness may be indicated by the spellings faaan, faaaan, etc.

- FAFIA: Forced Away From It All (leaving or taking a break from SF fandom for real-world reasons).
- F&SF: *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.
- fanac: fan activity, such as publishing fanzines or organizing conventions (see “mundac”).
- FAPA: Fantasy Amateur Press Association (US APA). Hence FAPAzine, a fanzine circulated through FAPA.
- Fez short for *Femizine*.
- FTL: Francis Towner Laney (US fan).
- GAFIA: Getting Away From It All (leaving SF fandom through weariness or apathy).
- GDA: Goon Defective Agency, spoof fannish private-eye outfit in a story sequence by John Berry and others (see *The Goon Omnibus* on the TAFF free ebooks page).
- Globe: pub meeting-place of London fandom 1953-1974.
- GOH: Guest of Honour at a convention.
- IF: Irish Fandom (when not italicized as a magazine title).
- IPSO: International Publishers’ Speculative Organisation (an APA).
- JD-A: *JD-Argassy* (US fanzine).
- LASFS: Los Angeles SF Society (US fan club).
- LiG: Liverpool Group (UK fan club).
- LoC: Letter of Comment to a fanzine.
- London O: London Circle (UK fan club).
- LSFA: Leeds SF Association (UK fan club).
- mundac: mundane activities – real-world distractions from fanac (which see).
- mundane: describes the non-fan world.
- N3F: same as NFFF below.
- NFFF: National Fantasy Fan Federation (US fan club).
- OMPA: Offtrail Magazine Publishers Association (UK APA). Hence OMPAzine, a fanzine circulated through OMPA.
- OO (or O-O or o-o): Official Organ (publication) of a club, society or APA.
- PADS: Printing and Distribution Service, whereby the BSFA produced fanzines for members who lacked the facilities. Hence PADSzine. The print quality was notoriously low.
- qualitative: Ron Bennett persistently used this word (meaning related to or concerned with quality, as opposed to *quantitative*) for the adjectival “quality” or “high-quality”.
- promag, prozine: any professional SF magazine.

- SAPS: Spectator Amateur Press Society (US APA). Hence SAPSzine, a fanzine circulated through SAPS.
- *SFA: Science Fiction Adventures.*
- SFBC: Science Fiction Book Club (US publisher and also unrelated UK publisher).
- SFCL or SFCoL: Science Fiction Club of London (UK fan club).
- SFL: Science Fiction League (US fan club which developed UK branches).
- *Sky* short for *Skyrack*.
- SFCD: Science Fiction Club Deutschland (German fan club).
- SFCE: Science Fiction Club Europa (European fan club).
- *SFN: Science Fantasy News*, the 1948-1960 news fanzine published by Vince Clarke.
- SFS: Science Fantasy Society (UK fan club).
- SFWA: Science Fiction Writers of America (US professionals' club).
- SSFI: Stellaris Science Fiction Interessen Gemeinschaft (German fan club).
- TAFF: Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (see [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk)).
- TAWF: Tenth Anniversary Willis Fund.
- *this*: this issue (of *Skyrack* or any fanzine). Sometimes, though not in this ebook, written *this* to highlight the staggering ingenuity of the wordplay.
- USRE: US Reprint Edition (of a British publication).
- WAW: Walter A. Willis (leading North Irish fan).
- White Horse: pub meeting-place of London fandom 1946-1953.
- *Wrhn: Warhoon.*
- WTAF: Willis Tenth Anniversary Fund (more usually TAWF as above).
- *WKSF: Who Killed Science Fiction?*
- YSFRG: Young SF Readers Group (UK fan club).
- zapguns: water pistols and larger squirters, a fad of 1950s British fandom.

## Ron Bennett Links

- *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*  
[https://sf-encyclopedia.com/entry/bennett\\_ron](https://sf-encyclopedia.com/entry/bennett_ron)
- *Fancylopedia 3*  
<https://fancylopedia.org/ron-bennett>
- Ron Bennett on *Skyrack* in *Mimosa* #22

<http://jophan.org/mimosa/m22/bennett.htm>

## **Skyrack Links**

- Greg Pickersgill's online archive  
<http://gostak.co.uk/skyrack/>
- *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*  
<https://sf-encyclopedia.com/entry/skyrack>
- *Fancyyclopedia 3*  
<https://fancyyclopedia.org/skyrack>

*David Langford, November 2017*

## **The End**

This free ebook version of *The Complete Skyrack* is exclusive to the unofficial TAFF website at [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk). If you enjoy reading it, a donation to TAFF is a fine way to express your appreciation.

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