

FANZINES 2

February 2001

By Ted White

MIMOSA (Nicki & Richard Lynch, P.O.Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885; e-mail to fiawol@cpcug.org; website at <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa>; available for \$4.00 a copy, Letters of Comment, or a fanzine sent in trade)

Mimosa is a Hugo-winning “genzine” (general fanzine) which is available in two formats: the printed copy, and the website version. When each new issue is uploaded to the Lynches’ website it joins the prior published issues there. And that means that anyone with a computer can effortlessly sample much of this fanzine’s long run.

The current issue is #26 and its 56 double-columned pages contain a wealth of material, ranging from Forrest J. Ackerman’s serialized memoirs (now up to Part 11) and Dave Kyle’s reminiscences of the ’30s and ’40s (a series of different articles, this one about his attempts to become a professional science fiction illustrator) to tributes to the late Joe Mayhew (two-time Hugo-winning fan artist) and looks back at earlier Chicago Worldcons in the wake of last year’s Chicon 2000. But that’s not all! SF author Mike Resnick has an article about his days as the head of a rather sleazy fiction-factory, John Hertz explains the fannish fascination with Georgette Heyer’s Regency England, and Ron Bennett remembers the British Eastercons of the ’50s. The Lynches themselves provide a lengthy editorial introduction to the issue, and close it out with 12 pages of letters.

As may be inferred from that brief rundown, *Mimosa* is a fanzine which concerns itself with fandom’s past, serving to document the events and people of fandom’s rich history as a “fanzine of record.” It’s rather like hearing old family stories, some of them fascinating and all of them invaluable to anyone just beginning to explore fandom and curious about its past.

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TIGHTBEAM (Janine G. Stinson, P.O.Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314; e-mail to tropicsf@aol.com; published for The National Fantasy Fan Federation; inquire about availability outside the N3F)

The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) is the longest-surviving “national” club (its membership is international) in fandom, having been established in the 1940s. It has been the target of criticism over the years for its relative insularity from fandom at large, but a wide variety of prominent fans have passed through it – usually early in their fan careers. *Tightbeam* is the club’s “correspondence zine,” dedicated to carrying letters from club members, and is published quarterly. The most recent is #225. The issue is a bit thin, carrying only two letters, 7 book reviews, a brief article, a puzzle and an editorial. In that editorial Jan describes her efforts to generate new members for the N3F

by giving away copies of Tightbeam at a local convention, and she has been sending copies to others who requested it. If you're looking for a quiet spot in which to get your toes wet in the world of fanzines, Tightbeam (and the N3F) might be just for you.

That's all the space I have this issue, but I'll be reviewing more fanzines here in issues to come.

--Ted White