

## FANZINES 9

September 2001

By Ted White

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TWINK (E. B. Frohvet, 4716 Dorsey Hall Drive, #506, Ellicott City, MD 20142; published quarterly; available for “the usual” – letters of comment, contributions of material, or trades with other fanzines – no price per copy mentioned, so try a begging note)

*Twink* – a title editor Frohvet is considering changing – is an oddly old-fashioned fanzine, the “main focus” of which “is on science fiction, fantasy and fandom.” Originally mimeographed, *Twink* is now produced by copier but retains its hand-typed look (complete with a broken lower-case ‘m’ which looks like a skinny ‘n’). This anachronistic look makes a good fit with Frohvet’s editorial approach and personality.

Frohvet (whose name almost rhymes with “throw back”) affects the “editorial we” – derived from the “royal we” – and thus opens the issue (on the inside front cover) with “For the second year in a row we’ve had to drastically revise a planned editorial....” This is an affectation one rarely sees in prozines these days, and it has been almost unheard of in fanzines for most of their 70-year history. But it’s part of Frohvet’s idiosyncratic charm – and that of *Twink*, as well. It’s a bit like stepping back fifty years....

Frohvet packs a lot into *Twink*’s 32 pages, although it’s all in double-columned (unjustified) typewriter type. The lead article in issue #22 is Steve Sneyd’s “Other Christs For Other Skies,” a “survey” of the treatment of Christianity in science fiction poetry (most of it in fanzines of the past 25 years). The piece reveals rather exhaustive research on Sneyd’s part, but is largely uncritical and draws few conclusions. (It is notable however for two “Editor’s notes” – brief interjections – which intrude on the article like editorial comments in a published letter of comment, rather than being footnoted. Another sign of Frohvet’s idiosyncratic hand, this is something you can do in a fanzine – but most fanzine editors will avoid it if possible.) There is one other article in the issue, Frohvet’s own “Out There & Unconscious” – dealing with the generic ideas which float around “out there” in science fiction and specifically “stun guns.”

Additionally there is a “feature,” “My Best Moment In Fandom,” with contributions by Lloyd Penney, Harry Warner, Jan Stinson and Lisa Major. This is followed by two pages of book reviews, four pages of fanzine reviews (covering 26 different fanzines – a good guide for those seeking to explore more fanzines) and 14 pages of letters. The last page, titled “Miscellany,” wraps up the issue with news snippets and other oddments.

*Twink* reminds me of the fanzines I used to get in my first years in fandom, half a century ago. Maybe it's nostalgia on my part, but I'm glad there's still a fanzine like *Twink* being produced today.

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In my review of *Wabe*, a couple of months ago, I credited its attractive design and layout to co-editor Jae Leslie Adams. Co-editor Tracy Benton responds to my review: "I fooled you, incidentally! I do all the layout of the fanzine, not Jae. I really enjoy doing it, so I'm pleased you liked the result. (Jae does all the calligraphy, of course.) How nice to be mistaken for a real artist..." I'm happy to admit to my mistake and give credit where it's due.

—Ted White