

## FANZINES 20

August 2002

By Ted White

::

A MIMOSA FANTHOLOGY (MIMOSA 28), June, 2002 (Nicki & Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885; copies available for \$5 (\$8 outside North America) or “a printed fanzine in trade;” e-mail to [fiawol@cpcug.org](mailto:fiawol@cpcug.org) or visit the website at <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa/>)

Until now I’ve refrained from reviewing subsequent issues of fanzines already reviewed in this column – in order to cover as many different fanzines as I can – but rules (even self-imposed rules) are made to be broken. And *A Mimosa Fanthology* offers a special case in any event.

Mimosa has been published since 1982, and is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the publication of two “fanthologies” and after that will cease publication with a final issue – #30. (There is an old tradition in fandom that few fanzines make it past their 30th issue and the Lynches are adhering to this tradition.) So #28 is the first “fanthology” issue.

Most “fanthologies” are year’s-best collections, drawn from a wide variety of fanzines (and in recent years have been published in cooperation with and the sponsorship of the annual fanzine fans’ convention, Corflu) – but *A Mimosa Fanthology* is drawn solely from the first 16 issues of *Mimosa*. (The second *Mimosa Fanthology*, *Mimosa* #29, will be taken from issues 17-27.) So this volume (which contains 106 pages plus a wraparound cover) is the “best,” or at least the editors’ choice, from issues published between 1982 and 1994. There are 29 pieces, plus the Lynches’ opening editorial and a connective narration which introduces each piece and places it in context. The material is presented chronologically, starting with a minor anecdote (less than a page long) from #1. Many, but not all, of the covers of these issues are also reproduced as thumbnails.

*Mimosa* evolved into a fanzine about fanhistory – publishing the anecdotes and memoirs of a number of older fans, going back to Forry Ackerman (the self-proclaimed *first* fan). But this is less obvious in the material from early issues, which is oriented more towards localized fandoms and personal reminiscences. But by *Mimosa* #5 and Dal Coger’s “The Degler Legend” (about fandom’s first Major Crackpot, back in the ’40s), the die is cast.

Mimosa has won several Hugo Awards for Best Fanzine, and the reasons for those awards can be found, in part, in this volume. And no doubt more will be found in #29, which the Lynches hope to publish “by the end of 2002.” Frankly, I’m more interested in the final issue – #30 – just to see how they wrap everything up, since I’ve already read the material which will appear in #29, but these two *Mimosa Fanthologies* offer those of you who are new to fanzines an unparalleled opportunity to skim the cream from a Hugo-winning fanzine.

—Ted White