

FANZINES 29

By Ted White

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EASTER WINE – *A Fanthology for Seacon 03* (Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, editors; published by Seacon '03, 8 The Orchard, Tonwell, Hertfordshire SG12 0HR, United Kingdom; no price, but I suggest at least a couple of dollars to cover mailing costs)

I'm only recently returned from Corflu, the fanzine convention, held this year in late April, in Madison, Wisconsin. As usual, I had a great time, and also as usual I returned with a big batch of fanzines I'd been given there.

One of the most impressive is *Easter Wine*. It was published for the members of this year's British national SF convention, the Eastercon. (Each Eastercon, like each Worldcon, also has an individual name. This year's Eastercon was "Seacon," but since this name has been used before – most notably for the 1979 Worldcon in Brighton – the "03" has been appended for clarity.) Co-editor Mark Plummer was passing out extra copies at Corflu, and I was pleased to get one.

The basic idea behind *Easter Wine* was to reprint some of the best (or most appropriate) material from fanzines which had been written by Eastercon Guests of Honor. The purpose was twofold: to give an idea *why* these people had been so honored, and to expose convention attendees to some of the fanwriting of the past and in so doing to the idea that Good Stuff could be found in old fanzines.

The result is a publication which exemplifies the purpose of this column. Here is some of the cream of fanwriting, skimmed from fanzines, the oldest of which was published 50 years ago. That fanzine was Bob Silverberg's *Spaceship #22*, which was published in July, 1953. And the reprinted piece, "The Wrong Slant," is a portion of Silverberg's editorial, written when he was 18. As Robert Silverberg he has gained fame as an author of SF, but even as a teenager Silverberg was acute: in this short piece he identifies the origins of the subsequent bloating of SF conventions.

Most of the 28 contributions to this fanthology (not counting the editorial bookends) are reprinted from much more recently – typically from the 1970s, '80s and '90s, with a couple from the current century – and one, by Ian Watson, is new. While the majority of the contributions are articles, four artists – Jim Barker, Pete Lyon, Rob Hansen and Chris Baker ("Fangorn") are represented with reprints of some of their fanzine-published art.

Both fans and professionals are included (as the editors note, in some cases the people in question are *both*). They are (in order of appearance): Ken Slater, Ethel Lindsay, Peter Weston, Peter Roberts, Robert Silverberg, Leroy Kettle, Graham Charnock, Jim Barker, Dave Langford, Ian Watson, Avedon Carol, James White, Christopher Priest, Greg Benford, Linda Krawecka, John Jarrold, Pete Lyon, Greg Pickersgill, Rob Hansen, Pam Wells, Roger Robinson, Colin Greenland, Paul Kincaid, Maureen Kincaid Speller, Martin Tudor, Chris Evans, Mary Gentle and Chris Baker ("Fangorn").

Since another criterion in the selection process was that these pieces had not been previously republished in a fanthology, this volume is guaranteed to contain material you've not read before – unless, of course, you read the original fanzines. I recommend it highly for everyone who wants to find out what the shouting has been about.

—Ted White