

FOCAL POINT # 7 a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited and published by Mike McInerney (Apt. 7, 326 E. 13th St., NYC, New York, 10003) and Rich Brown (180 E. 88th St., NYC, New York). Published biweekly on the Piebald Plonker Press (and subsidiaries), available for news, trades, comments or 3/25¢. Our Overseas Agent is still Peter Singleton (Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Near Preston, Lancashire, England) and subs thru him are 10 for 7/-. Circulation: 325. April 23, 1965. EasterCon is or was; TRICON IN '66 and NEW YORK IN '67!

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DON FORD DEAD

Friday, April 2nd, 11 PM, science fiction fandom lost a tireless worker and a true friend. Don Ford died of cancer at the age of 44 on that date, leaving behind a wife, Margaret, and three children. Discovery of the cancer and subsequent operation by Doc Barrett were too late.

Don Ford was a tall man, big in accomplishments; he was active in practically every phase of fandom: collecting, club, fanzine and convention fandom. His collection was one of the largest in the world and his applebox shelved basement was a topic of fannish conversation. He was one of the leading lights of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group and the founding member of First Fandom. He was a member of the Off-Trail Magazine Publisher's Association, for which he published POOKA, since 1955. He attended many conventions, beginning with the TorCon in 1948; he was chairman of the 1949 Worldcon and founder of the now-famous MidwestCon. He was a co-chairman of the TriCon '66 Committee. With Walt Willis, he pulled TAFF through its period of teething; he served as the first U.S. administrator of TAFF, becoming the only fan to do so without having actually made the trip himself. Finally, in 1960, Don was rewarded with a TAFF trip of his own to the Easter London Convention.

Now he is gone, and we cannot even begin to find the words to say how sorely he will be missed by all of us.

MORE PEOPLE ARE NEEDED for the Group Flight for London if it is to succeed. Sign Up Now! This is the cheapest and best method of getting to London. The Price: \$326.00; includes single roundtrip plane ticket and seat only. No cancellations accepted after ticket distribution. If necessary, you must replace yourself with a qualified Con member or forfeit ticket price. Should the group fall short of minimum required by law, checks will be returned. The flight departs Thursday, August 26, 8:30 p.m. (all times given here are local) Kennedy Airport; arrives Friday, August 27, 9:30 a.m.; dinner and breakfast on plane. Departs again Tuesday, September 14, 1965, 1:15 p.m., London airport. NO CHANGE OF DATES POSSIBLE. Please send membership number (deadline for checks is May 30, 1965). If interested, contact Judy Blish, 202 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10025. DO IT NOW.

REDD BOGGS TELLS US that "Charlie (Brown) Artman, sometime letterhack to Kipple, and no relation to New York's Charlie Brown, was one of those arrested lately in the four-letter-word controversy on the Berkeley campus of the University of California."

SHAME ON US: In getting out the past few issues of FP, we've neglected to mention that New York Fandom has had several visitors recently: Tom Armistead, Jay Kay Kline, John Koning, Larry McCombs, Charles Wells and Paul Williams

CONGRATS ARE IN ORDER to John and Perdita Boardman; John offhandedly mentioned in the last APA-F mailing that Perdita is five months along. We saw John and Perdita at the last Lunarians meeting and both seem to be getting along just fine.

the wigglemiggle remembrancer....fanzine reviews by....Frank Wilimczyk....

SAM #12; Jan. Feb. 65 (irregular) 50pp (20¢, trade, LoC) Steve Stiles, 207 W. 80th St., New York, New York.

If you haven't noticed by now, I'm interested in the appearance of a fanzine almost as much as its content. Not that it's my chief concern -- a fanzine, after all, is most often something to read -- but in approaching a fanzine, I find my attitude colored by its format. And I find that it's seldom that a well-designed fanzine is a poor one -- or, as the Philosophy of Art people are wont to say, Form Follows Content. Which is a roundabout way of getting around to saying that SAM has both form and content. Steve Stiles gets more out of Ditto (a process I'm personally addicted to) than anyone else around, and if there are several pages in this issue which are not 100% perfect, that doesn't take anything away from the overall effect. # The highlight this issue is Dick Lupoff's "A Con Report For Steve Stiles," the con being, of course, last year's Pacificon. This is an "edited down" version, running to only 27 pages, and is one Anotable Anecdote after another (my favorite is Tom Condit's wedding), and in all is the best con report of recent years. # Rounding out the issue are Les Gerber's column (short but clever), a sociological/humorous piece by John Koning, and a letter column, which this issue is concerned mostly with Ayn Rand, and an article about her which appeared in SAM 11. There are also, happily, many Steve Stiles headings and spots, which are not mentioned last as an indication of lesser quality; it's just that I sort of take them for granted, though perhaps I shouldn't.

ZENITH Speculation #7; Dec. 64 (no schedule listed) 70pp (20¢, trade, contribution) Peter R. Weston, 9, Porlock Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham 31, England (US Agent, Al Lewis, 1825 Greenfield Avenue, Los Angeles 25, California)

If you dig sercon fanzines (and I most emphatically do), then ZENITH is for you. Aside from narrow margins (matter-of-course for paper-shy Britons), ZENITH is a top-notch publication in every respect. To begin with, there is as jumping a letter section as you can find anywhere: Terry Jeeves, who has a regular prozine review column, is feuding with (or being feuded by) several English pros who object to his rating system (ABCDE), and rather seriously at that. I'm on the side of the antis, since, and I quote Terry Jeeves here, I believe that "there is no guarantee that a story getting B in January is superior to one that gets C in the following month." I have avoided using a rating system precisely for that reason, and assume that the tone of my review will serve as a rating indicator. Which is not to say that I don't like Terry's reviews, just that in this specific I disagree with him. Anyway, there are 13 pages of fine LoC's, not entirely devoted to the Jeeves controversy by any means. # You'd expect that Walt Willis would provide a note of levity into a fanzine devoted otherwise to a serious examination of SF, but such is not the case. Or, at least, not entirely. Walt's column, ostensibly a fanzine review, really takes a fanzine as a jumping-off point for his own observations. Here he is mostly concerned with the Science of Punstering, and provides an essay which will probably, one of these days, appear in an anthology gathered by some enterprising fan, of Willis On Punnery. Like most humorists, Walt has a rather serious approach to the subject, and provides some thoughtful observations as well as some of the renowned Willis wit. # John Boston follows with a brief article on Edgar Pangborn -- a tribute, I should say. My evaluation of an SF writer is generally based on one question: would I recommend him to my mundane friends? Pangborn is one of the few

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of whom I'd answer affirmatively to that question. That Pangborn has created less of a stir in fandom than other authors seems to me answerable, but space precludes extended discussion. # Alan Dodd's summary of Baron Corvo's HADRIAN VII is good, but doesn't move me to comment. # Dodd follows with another short article about Robert Bloch's Hollywood output, which is appended by a letter from Bloch Himself replying to some points made in the article. Whether you agree with Bloch or not (and in the last few days I noted some comments by a prominent Broadway playwright which jibed with Bloch's position), his approach to scripting has validity. # Joe Patrizio is next with a rundown on STARSHIP TROOPERS, admittedly a look-back for newer fans, and a good one. Particularly since Patrizio quotes one of my very favorite poems, Wilfred Owen's DULCE ET DECORUM EST... # Next are book reviews by Beryl Henly, Weston, and W.T. Webb, which in any other context would merit more than a nod of acknowledgement, but that's all I can allow here. # Feature of the issue is an article by Al Lewis on FARNHAM'S FREEHOLD (by Robert Heinlein, in case you're not an SF fan). When "Farnham's Freehold" started out as a serial in IF, I was, for the first time in many years, taken up with a Heinlein novel, primarily, I think, because it seemed to be a reversion to the Heinlein of the '50's (with a few minor exceptions); I started to keep a running notebook of my reactions to the story, with the end in mind of publishing a long article on the novel, together with a pair of dissents by fans whom I'd lined up for this project. This, of course, never jelled, because by the time I'd finished the story, the sense of wonder (or nostalgia) had worn off. Nevertheless, I'd read the story critically, and knew pretty accurately what I intended to say in my own critique. In reading Al Lewis's evaluation, I found myself, time after time, thinking, "A very good point, but there's a little more to it than that." Then, a few sentences later, I'd find Lewis tying it up very neatly, bringing in the very additions I'd thought he'd overlooked. Though I think FF is the best thing Heinlein's done in years, its shortcomings are summed up admirably in one of Lewis's comments: "each of the major plot sequences is stopped short of its logical consequences." # In sum, read every word of every page of ZENITH.

--Frank Wilimczyk

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FANS ARE REMINDED that if they want their fanzines reviewed in "The Wigglemiggle Remembrancer," they should send review copies to Frank Wilimczyk, 447 Tenth Avenue, New York, New York.

WE ARE SORRY for the poor reproduction through part of this issue; it is being rushed out on the night before the Eastercon and the multi is on the blitz -- either we stick to mimeo, next issue, or we get the multi licked once and for all.

NEXT ISSUE we start to trim the mailing-list. It seems we've been saying that in almost every issue since #2 -- but this time we mean it. We hope to have circulation down to a nice, neat 150 by the ninth issue, and if that means dropping a few non-subscribers before their "last" issue, that's what it will have to mean. Pipple who have done something, even if it's only a pocsarcd of comment, don't have to worry; it's the free-riders we're aiming at here. Postage costs are too high; seven issues without so much as a word means we've wasted 35¢ on some of you, and why should we throw good money after bad? Anyway, if this applies to you, you've been warned.

focal point: four

C O A

Robert Bloch, 2111 Sunset Crest Dr., Los Angeles, California
Terry Carr, 35 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, New York, 11201
Marlin Frenzel, 31 W. 76th St., New York, New York, 10023
Andy & Barbara Main, c/o Ted White, 339 49th St, Brooklyn, New York
Robin Hood Wood, 375 Day St., San Francisco, California, 95601

SAM MOSKOWITZ has two new books coming up from World Publishers. Seekers of Tomorrow, the 'sequel' to Explorers of the Infinite, is scheduled for June publication. It has 256 pages, with an index, and costs \$5.95. Seekers of Tomorrow is a series of biographies of current science fiction writers. There will be a companion volume to it, entitled Modern Masterpieces of Science Fiction, also scheduled in June, also with a cost of \$5.95, but with 350 pages. It will contain 21 stories by the writers discussed in Seekers of Tomorrow.

GRANDPA BLOCH apologizes for being remiss: "But since the last six months have involved such items as marrying, honeymooning in Tahiti, furnishing a complete house, moving (cf. new address), writing several teleplays plus a complete screenplay, etc., etc., the time at my disposal has been limited." (He then compliments us on being comprehensive and concise in our news items.) He then goes on: "The English producers who bought my story, THE SKULL OF THE MARQUIS DE SADE, and are currently filming it as THE SKULL, have now commissioned me to do an original screenplay -- and, to this end, I am finally bowing to the inevitable and getting a secretary so that I can dictate and thus have a little more time and energy left for other things." I suppose we'll pass on other items as they come in. He ends with: "The fact that Willis has at last been evicted comes as no surprise to me; I am, however, somewhat baffled by Tucker's belated 1940 Chicon report...was he still active that recently?"

ROCK&ROLL FANDOM, ARISE: Lenny Kaye mentions to us that he is now playing in an R&R Group that calls itself "The Vandals" (this is a typical name for such a group, Harry Warner); Lenny plays electric guitar or something. :: Barbara & The Bohemians will pretty soon cease to be, since Andy and Barbara (Main) will be going back to California soon or Sooon. We will miss them, but perhaps it is for the best; I do not think the world, atomic bombs and all, is quite prepared for us yet.

You will receive Focal Point up to issue # P. The Sneaky Reason for this is:
You sent us \$21,317.23 for a life-time subscription, you mad impetuous fool!
You sent a regular Subscription. X M.R.#Z Code: 7731. You sent news. You sent comment. We trade. I had one grunch, but the eggplant. You are Dave Van Arnam and You Are In APA-F. You're not Dave Van Arnam, but you're in APA-F, so whathell. We are cutting you off the mailing-list as-of last issue. You had a grunch, but the eggplant. X We're not sure, but we think so.

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