

## FANZINES 22

By Ted White

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LITTLEBROOK #1, August 2002 (Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, editors & publishers; available for “the usual” (letters of comment, contributions, or fanzines in trade) or \$2 a copy; 3522 N.E. 123rd St., Seattle WA 98125; e-mail to [jakaufman@aol.com](mailto:jakaufman@aol.com) or [suzlet@aol.com](mailto:suzlet@aol.com))

Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins are well-known in fandom for their long-running genzine, *Mainstream*, the final issue of which appeared a few years ago. *Mainstream*, like entirely too many good genzines, had a publishing schedule which had deteriorated to one issue every several years or so – and it would not have surprised me if yet another issue was first rumored and then eventually appeared in another year or two.

Instead, Jerry and Suzle have launched a new smaller fanzine: “here’s the plan for *Littlebrook*: smaller issues, a little more frequently published....” The first issue runs 12 pages, double-columned, and consists of three pieces. “Bewitched, Bothered and Bemildred” is Jerry’s editorial column and includes, in addition to the usual editorial natter about the issue, four complete smaller articles/essays which remind me of what a good fanwriter Jerry has become over the years. Andy Hooper contributes “Sausage Time,” subtitled “a column about contemporary fanzines.” Hooper explains that since he stopped putting out a small frequent fanzine five years ago he’s gradually lost contact with the current fanzine scene – and then provides insightful commentary on four current fanzines anyway. The issue finishes with a slightly augmented version of Moshe Feder’s Guest of Honor speech at this year’s Corflu (where the GoH’s name is drawn from a hat and the Lucky Winner has a day to come up with his or her speech or presentation). Moshe proved himself equal to the challenge, as has always been the case with Corflu GoHs.

A surprisingly solid issue, despite consisting of only a dozen pages.

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FLOSS! #2, May 2002 (Lilian Edwards, 39 Viewforth, Edinburgh EH10 4JE, Scotland; [L.Edwards@ed.ac.uk](mailto:L.Edwards@ed.ac.uk), available by editorial whim, so ask)

Lilian Edwards has been putting out fanzines for around 20 years by now and has it down to a fine art. *Floss!* is the successor to *Gloss*, a fanzine which had managed three somewhat contentious issues. This issue focuses on British conventions, covering Damn Fine Con (a *Memento*-ish chronologically-reversed report by the eponymous Max), Helicon II (by Juliette Woods and, separately, by Tanya Brown), Novacon (by Tony Keen) and Corflu (by Randy Byers). In addition, Lilian contributes “Indefinite Articles” (a disguised editorial about the joys of the internet’s Live Journal) and “I Went To IKEA” (where she did not find bliss), Jae Leslie Adams gives us “Barbie the Feminist,” and there are four pages of letters. *Floss!* has 33 pages of single-columned text, illuminated by photos from the various conventions and cartoons by Dave Hicks, and a great (color) cover depicting a fannish version of the game Clue.

*Floss!* exemplifies the better, less formal, British fanzines of the day. It’s full of in-jokes that depend on knowing who the people referred to are, but not to the point of obscurity – you can pick it up as you go along, and the spirited writing will ease that task.

—Ted White