

FOCAL POINT GOES TO THE LONDON (by Ted White): Your humble reporter must admit that a) yes, indeed, he went to London a fully accredited FOCAL POINT representative, and b) he pretty well goofed on the job and can indeed be considered Responsible for this's delay.

I promised Mike a cable with the details on Hugo winners and the winning consite bid, but to my horror, I found I had neglected to take his address with me, and indeed, lacked the addresses of any NYC fans, all of whom I know too well in person to think of writing letters to, most of the time, or indeed, all of the time, except, of course, for situations such as this.

By now, you will have heard that ANALOG, Davy, Ballantine Books, "Soldier Ask Not," YANDRO, and Dr. Strangelove won Hugos, and the news of the Tricon win will be old hat. You read it all in RATATOSK or SKYRACK. I would like to say that, instead, I will give you the Background, the Full Picture -- but when I started writing a Complete Report, I was embarrassed to discover that I had accumulated twelve pages without having arrived at the official opening of the convention. Clearly, this would be a little long for FOCAL POINT.

So let me give you a few snippets, anyway. To begin with, the hotel was in most respects an excellent one, albeit overpriced from the British point of view. The convention facilities were excellent, having just been done over, and indeed only completed the day the convention officially opened. There were some fine speeches, the best by John Brunner (this makes the second convention in a row that John has highlighted -- I think it's time someone considered him for Guest of Honor). Harry Harrison and I took opposing points of view on the New Wave in British sf in speeches which somehow failed to come into direct opposition. Brian Aldis gave an excellent talk at the Banquet, as did Bloch, who had been told beforehand that this was one con where he'd not be asked to perform, and then at the last minute was told he was the Mystery Speaker. "I made my speech with God two weeks ago," Bloch told us. "He surrendered."

The big question of the con was the consite bidding, and Dave Kyle had been handing out "Fair Play For Syracuse" pins to all who'd accept them, while Cleveland-Tricon threw a lavish party and handed out something like fifty cowboy hats with a campaign slogan attached. I tried one on; it was too big.

General consensus was that it would be only fair to let Syracuse bid, but that Tricon should get the con. When I arrived at the hall 10:00 am Monday morning for the business session, there were about seven people there. Ella Parker spent over half an hour looking for her purse, a move I considered a clever delaying tactic; it turned out she really had misplaced it. Finally, almost an hour later, when about fifty people had shown up, we started. Ella conducted the session as informally as she could, and I joined Ben Jason and Dick Ency on one side of the stage, while Ron Ellik and Dave Kyle flanked Ella on the opposite side.

The first order of business was to be the vote on whether to allow Syracuse to bid. Dave Kyle rose and delivered himself of a passionate plea for fair play. He made one very solid point: a vote to allow the Syracuse bid would not be a vote for Syracuse as a consite, but if Syracuse was not allowed to bid, Cleveland would be automatically awarded the bid. However, Dave continued along the lines of "Why won't Cleveland allow us to be heard?" delivered in a plaintive voice.

Ben Jason and I had discussed the general feelings of the con membership, and we'd agreed that no good could come of opposing the Syracuse entry into the final voting sweepstakes. So Ben rose, and said, "Dave, I have a surprise for you. We have no objection to Syracuse bidding." He set down to a stunned silence and then applause.

We then moved to the main election. Tricon's name was drawn from a hat, so we presented our side first. Ben had told me beforehand, "I'm no speaker, and

I've observed that in the past Dave has talked for ten, twenty minutes, and lost his audience. I'm going to be brief." He was. Dick Eny seconded him in verse, and I gave the wrapup second by suggesting that if Dave is in favor of competition that Tricon be given the con this year, allowing Dave to bid for Syracuse again next year in competition with New York, Baltimore, and Boston.

Kyle then gave an excellent, detailed presentation which was just this side of too long (I'm really not impressed by Letters From The Mayor), and Ron Ellik seconded him briefly. The vote followed. Ella called for a show of hands, and Dave requested secret ballot ("That's the way we've always done it."). When the ballots were in, it was Syracuse 49, Tricon 60, and a few odd protest votes. Later when I talked with Tricon supporters and friends, they'd said that Dave's presentation was much more convincing than Ben's, and that this probably accounted for Syracuse's strong showing.

So much for the Inside Details. The best part of the convention is always the parties, and this con was no exception. There were some rousing parties every night, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet so many fine people, many of whom had been familiar names, but no more, since my days in OMPA, ten years ago. I also had the opportunity to meet several of the Gorman fans, Rolf Gindorf, Burkhard Blumm, and Tom Schluck. I enjoyed talking with them all, and I found myself joining the growing movement to boost Tom Schluck for TAFF. Indeed, I hope you'll all vote for him; I want to get another chance to see and talk with him.

After the con it was off to Ireland, and a delightful week with the Willisos and Belfast fandom. But the story of that trip will have to wait for my full-length report.

- Ted White

IRONS IN THE FIRE... and Jack Chalker seems to be connected with a good many of them. He reports that HPL's Dark Brotherhood & Other Pieces (which includes Jack's complete HPL biblio) is delayed by Arkham House until February '66, because Derleth doesn't have enough space to store the books. MIRAGE ON LOVECRAFT, a minor chapbook he put out, has turned into a best seller; not all copies have been bound yet and only 65 copies remain for sale. Also, INDEX TO SCIENCE-FANTASY PUBLISHERS, while momentarily delayed (a big job, a big book), will be out soon or soon; in this, most of the research was done by Mark Owings, though the idea was Jack's. For further information on any of these, you might try writing Jack: that's Jack L. Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, Maryland, 21207. :: Bill Pettit (c/o Control Data, 2109 W. Clinton Blg., Huntsville, Alabama, 38505) is preparing a publication in memory of Bob Farnham, who died December 30. It will probably feature some of Bob's writings, including four pages of a CHIGGER PATCH OF FANDOM, which are at the moment on unrun stencils, just as Bob left them in 1961. Fans who knew Bob well enough to add something to the publication should write to Bill. Rich Mann (327-B, Walsh Hall, Grand Forks, North Dakota, 58202) reports that he has "received permission and sanction from Lloyd D Broyles to take over publication of his WHO'S WHO IN SF FANDOM, which saw one edition in 1962. Tentative plans are to issue questionnaires by the end of this year, to be returned by Spring. The volume will then be prepared and published during the summer, and will see initial circulation at the Tricon next Labor Day." He adds that this year's volume will be mimeoed, not offset as Broyles' edition was; it was the cost of offsetting the material that finally killed off the proposed 1963 and 1964 editions. Rich would also like to buy a copy of the '62 edition for his own. Suggestions and ideas for the volume, he says, will be happily accepted and are definitely encouraged. The questionnaire will be distributed with FOCAL POINT, as well as other places.

THE WIGGLEMIGGLE RECKONER
fanzine reviews by Frank Wilimczyk

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY #4; May-June 1965 (quarterly) 35¢, 4/\$1.25. (56pp; 5½ x 8½")
Leland Sapiro, Box 82, University Station, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada.

The appearance of the first chapter of Alexei Panshin's HEINLEIN IN DIMENSION makes this issue of Riverside Quarterly something of a fannish literary event. Though it dominates the issue, there are other goodies, notably Barbara Floyd's critique of The Once and Future King, which is smoothly written, and offers some nice commentary along with a synoptic review of The Sword in the Stone. There are also paperback reviews by Jim Harmon, a good though brief letter column (I like letter columns, by gum!), a Schneeman drawing, plus some abstractly- or surrealistically illustrated poetry.

This first part of Panshin's study covers the years 1939-1942, a clearly demarcated period of Heinlein's development; it also includes a bibliography of the stories published during these years, with pen-names and dates of publication. Chapter 2, incidentally, will appear in Tom Perry's Quark (25¢; 4018 Laurel Ave., Omaha, Nebraska, 68111), and the last four chapters in Riverside Quarterly.

It is necessary, I think, to view this study from two different angles. First, it must be considered as a fanzine article, standing by itself, which in effect is what it is. As such, it is first-rate, a serious examination of an important period of Heinlein's development. Panshin's approach to the stories is primarily structural, a valid one, and he is flexible enough not to adhere to it rigidly. Panshin's research is as thorough as you'd like, and I don't believe that if suffers seriously from the lack of cooperation from Heinlein which he had hoped to have. One footnote -- I do not recall finding it here -- as I remember, Lifeline's one tie-in with the Future History series is in Methuselah's Children, when Lazarus Long mentions having gone to Pinero for a reading.

There's a second aspect to this article -- it is, in inception, the first chapter of a manuscript intended for book publication. Perhaps it's outside the purview of this column to offer any comment, but wothehell. Since Panshin made a point in Yandro of his being a "professional writer," it comes as a surprise that this chapter is thoroughly unprofessional. In fact, the very qualities that make it fannish would make a copy editor wince. There are personal asides, references that would have Harold Ross merrily writing "who he?" in the margin, and loose, colloquial constructions which just wouldn't do in a serious work of criticism. Above all, a critic must be omniscient -- or at least pretend to omniscience. He is the guy who weeds out hidden meanings, symbolism, and obscure references. Panshin, when he admits to having had to do research to discover the origin of the title My Object All Sublime, is surprising in his limitation in background; but in his admission of it, he's unforgivable. In my review of the last RQ, I admitted to some discomfort at what I considered the over-formalism of some of its material. Now I find myself in the position of wishing that some of that formalism had rubbed off on Panshin -- it would have been all to the good.

Rather than end this review on a down-beat, let me repeat that the publication of this article is a fannish literary event, and I urge you to rush out and get a copy as quickly as you can.

DOUBLEBILL #12, April-May 1965 (irregular) 25¢, LoCs, trade, contribs (42pp).
Bill Bowers & Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron, Ohio, 44313.

Of most interest in this issue is Ted White's article on the writing of Invasion from 2500. Besides the inside scoop on who did what in the collaboration

(with Terry Carr, under the pen-name of Norman Edwards, in case you're not a regular reader of Focal Point), Ted rounds things out with background on literary agenting and paperback publishing. One of these days, I imagine, someone will compile a substantial-sized anthology of Carr & White on their joint and separate writing in the pro SF field. # Robert Coulson's fanzine review column is devoted to the first mailing of APA 45, which goes back a while, but is a cute idea. It's interesting to read mailing comments which don't assume that you've seen the mailing, and are not directly addressed to a member of the APA. I don't imagine, though, that Buck would be much interested in making a continuing thing of this. # There are well-done reviews of Pangborn's Davy, and H. Rider Haggard novel, When The World Shook, and L. Charbonneau's Psychedelic-40.

--Frank Wilimczyk

LA PLATA FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION CLUB is the unassuming name of a new science fiction club in South America. The Organizer-Secretary, Oswald Elliff (Calle 2 n° 270, 2° La Plata (BA, Argentina, South America) informs us that it is the second club in the area, the first having been in existence in Buenos Aires since 1960. They've published three issues of their club fanzine, "BOLETIN DEL CLUB DE FANTASIA Y CIENCIA FICCION DE LA PLATA," and they're interested in obtaining fanzines, prozines and books for their library. Interested parties can write Elliff about pertinent details at the above address. :: Back issues dept.: we don't have any. In fact, we don't have any in our own files. A couple of FP subscribers have somehow embarrassingly not received some issues; Bob Brown is looking for a copy of #7 and Bob Tucker for #11. We'll award six free issues to the first two fans who are willing to give up their copies of those issues, or thirteen to the first one to give up both. rich brown wants issues #3-10, which will give you some idea of how we run things around here. :: Send your Focal Point Poll in now: if you don't have a ballot, a reasonable facsimile will be accepted. The categories are for the year 1964, with five places each for Best Publication, Best Fan Artist, Best Fan Writer, and three places each for Best New Fan and Best Single Publication. The deadline is November 1, 1965; send your ballots to rich brown. :: Calvin Demmon, contrary to a rumor we printed in FP #10, will not be coming to New York. He will, however, be reviving GRUNT, which will be a rider with FOCAL POINT; it will be published on QWERTYUIOPress, though he will send his stencils to rich brown. We are sure Calvin will be as surprised to hear this as most FOCAL POINT readers. The rider will go to all FP subscribers and to the rest of you as copies allow.

CON & NON-CONS: The East Coast NonCon, or Fusion Con as it was called by some, was held at Harriet Kolchak's home in Philadelphia; the program was exceptionally good for such a small con (attendance was around 24-27), with a nice speech by GOH Robert W. Lowndes, a rousing panel discussion, movies, words from the cities bidding for a worldcon in '67 (New York, Baltimore & Boston), and -- the most important ingredient -- fun parties. The kudos go to Steve & Harriet Kolchak and, not at all begrudgingly, the Baltimore contingent. It was a swell con. :: We have also heard -- we were not able to attend -- that the Boston conclave was a success, too, with an extremely fine program, including talks by Hal Clement and Isaac Asimov. We are sorry we missed it. :: Tarzan buffs gathered in Chicago on the same weekend (the week-end of Sept. 5) as the Boston at the Grand Hilton to hold a Day-Dan, this' s... they reported three columns in the Sun Times. There is a faint possibility that the Burroughs Bibliophobes, headed by Jack Chalker, will have a Smart-Smart at Tricon. :: Twenty-eight New York fans, including YHOSS, attended a preview performance of Ray Bradbury's THE WORLD OF RAY BRADBURY October 2nd; a party was held at Mike McInerney's, a few blocks away, afterward.

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NEWSGAGGLE CAUGHT-UP WITH: The August 3 New York Post quotes Romanian critic Stefan Popa who claims Secret Agent 007, James Bond, is a dirty reactionary racist. Well, two of his villains have been "colored" anyway-- the Negro master criminal and agent of Smersh known as Mr. Big and the Cuban Man With The Golden Gun. Or does Dr. No count? :: NYTimes, Aug. 20, announces that Dial Press will issue "The Great Comic Book Heroes," an anthology of illustrated full-color episodes reproduced from the leading comics of the '30s and '40s, in November. Jules Feiffer edits. :: Kurt Vonnegut Jr castigates and praises science fiction, with emphasis on castigation, in a near-full page article in the Sept. 5 NYTimes Book Review. "whatever it knows about science was fully revealed in Popular Mechanics by 1933. whatever it knows about politics and economics and history can be found in the Information Please Almanac for 1941. whatever it knows about the relationships between men and women derives mainly from the clean and the pornographic versions of 'Maggie and Jiggs.'" On that happy note we'll leave you; maybe next time we'll really get 'caught up' with Newsgaggle.

Maybe you'll keep receiving this until issue #P, if in doubt, Make Sure.

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