

Fritz

RICHARD HUBER is the artist who created this issue's Table of Contents Page logo. My apologies for the lack of a credit.

The World Fantasy Convention is over and although the WHISPERS anthology did not win a Howard, WHISPERS was prominent in the proceedings. Winning the Gahan Wilson Lovecraft sculpture for Best Collection was WHISPERS contributor Hugh B. Cave's MURGUNSTRUUM (featuring WHISPERS #3's "Ladies in Waiting"). WHISPERS's and MURGY's Lee Brown Coye copped the Best Artist award (which I proudly picked up for Lee). WHISPERS's Ramsey Cambell tale, "The Chimney," won the Best Short Fiction award over the highly touted Harlan Ellison gem, "Jefty is Five." Other World Fantasy awards went to Frank Belknap Long for Life Achievement, Fritz Leiber for Best Novel (OHIR LADY OF DARKNESS), Everett F. Bleiler for Special award professional and Bob Weinberg for Special award non-professional. For the first time the convention exercised its option to give a Special World Fantasy award of its own and it deservedly went to Glenn Lord. It was an enjoyable convention and my thanks to Michael Templin and everybody else who made my stay in Fort Worth an enjoyable one!

Murphy's Law basically says anything that can go wrong will go wrong, and I have been Murphied to death of late. It is almost impossible to believe all of the things that have gone wrong with the production of WHISPERS #11-12 and the Whispers Press productions. Starting with Leiber's HEROES AND HORRORS, the typesetting took 35 rather than the promised 15 days and thus the book missed being ready for Fcon. In order to create a special softcover Fcon edition, I did not check over the corrected camera-ready proofs for additional errors introduced during paste up and had the copy mailed by "Express" mail to my printer. The package was lost for 17!!! days. So what happens beside there being no softcover edition for the con was 10 errors slipped into the final text. Now this is no knock on my typesetter. It is my job to check them, but the first book they did for me introduced no errors so I felt confident this would be nearly as flawless. I was Murphied! Then I made sure to reproof STRANGE EONS after its corrections were pasted up. Guess what? No errors introduced. Sigh ... After HEROES was at the printer for a couple of weeks, I got a frantic phone call to let me know that we had cleaned the mill out of the rich coffee-colored buckram cloth I had ordered and if I wanted the entire edition bound in it, there would be an additional five-week wait for a new batch. I said order a substitute lighter brown buckram to finish out the press run. A week or so later he called again stating we had wiped the manufacturer out of that cloth as well. I made a third choice and, laughingly, a fourth as well. I was lucky to have made the fourth choice as the third was totally gone before our order. The book finally was bound this week, but with the Thanksgiving holiday, it sat in their warehouse an extra five days before it will be shipped (pray to Cthulhu) this Monday. Collectors please note, none of the three cloth variants have precedence. Continuing with Murphy's assault on me and mine, WHISPERS #11-12 was totally typeset and proofed and ready to meet the contractual deadlines mentioned in this issue's editorial. When the camera-ready copy was ready to be produced, a computer malfunction erased the ENTIRE issue. It was then reset only to have left out one story and articles by H. Warner Munn and J. Vernon Shea. There was no time to reset them so they were put off until next issue and I did a very inadequate reproofing of #11-12. My apologies to Harold Munn and Vernon Shea for not using their articles as promised and to you, the readers, for having to be jarred by my typos. #11-12 was not yet out of the woods, though, as I suffered through a couple of panic-filled days while the issue's cover was misplaced at the printer. Then the magazine was supposed to be delivered last week but my trucker does not deliver in the rain, and it rained for the first time in two months. The issue, a thousand pounds worth, finally was delivered today, while I was at the hospital being treated for a sprained right elbow. I am typing this with my left hand and it will be interesting to see how I address and colate the mailing with one arm.

There is one piece of good news. Murphy must have slept late one morning or gathered himself out to Pinnacle Books. They were supposed to publish their soft cover edition of Bob Bloch's STRANGE EONS concurrently with mine but due to a scheduling problem at their end, the Whispers Press edition will be an exclusive First Edition. As of now (bite your tongue, Stuart), the book is still on schedule for its 1978 publication.

Don Grant made the Fcon a delight by introducing three new books. Guest of Honor Fritz Leiber saw his Fafhrd and Gray Mouser favorites gathered luxuriously into BAZAAR OF THE BIZARRE (HC, \$20.00, 127 pp., 4 color-plates, all copies with sheet signed by Leiber and artist Stephan Peregrine laid in). Artist Guest of Honor Alicia Austin had her AGE OF DREAMS (HC, 1800 copies, \$25.00, 40 full-color plates, numerous B & W drawings; Signed and slipcased edition, \$40.00, 200 copies, and with a signed print) become an immediate hit as well. The seventh Deluxe Conan volume, QUEEN OF THE BLACK COAST (HC, \$15, 2750 copies, 118 pp., 7 pp. of color art), is illustrated by Michael Hague and is uniform with the previous six books. Between the con and the composition of WHISPERS's news column, Don snuck in THREE other books! Talbot Mundy's KING-OF THE KHYBER RIFLES (HC, \$15.00, 394 pp.) is reprinted for the first time with all of the magnificent B & W line drawings by Joseph Clement Coll. It is fantastic art as is Coll's work in THE MAGIC PEN OF JOSEPH CLEMENT COLL (HC, \$20.00, 750 copies, signed and numbered by compiler Walt Reed). Also not to be missed is Donald Sidney-Fryer's EMPEROR OF DREAMS: A CLARK ASHTON SMITH BIBLIOGRAPHY (HC, \$20.00, 8½ x 11, 303 pp.). Fryer looks at Smith's works from an incredible number of angles and has composed a valuable reference book. The third edition of Howard's RED SHADOWS is essentially out of print as are both Glenn Lord's THE LAST CELT (\$20) and George Barr's UPON THE WINDS OF YESTERDAY (\$25). Don said he would hold some copies for WHISPERS subscribers, but I advise you to hurry!

Gerry de la Ree continues to publish excellent art books featuring much of the magnif-

icent art from his incomparable museum. THE ART OF THE FANTASTIC (HC, \$15.50, 128 pp.) presents an incredible selection of B & W drawings by more than 25 artists ranging from Finlay, Bok, and Cartier to Fabian, Barr, and Kirk. There is a truly fine section by Lynd Ward reproducing his art from the HAUNTED OMNIBUS. Just out from Gerry is also BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS: THE ART OF HANNES BOK (HC, \$15.50, 1200 copies, 128 pp.). It is Hannes Bok at his very best in B & W. It's a must buy.

And more exceptional graphics have been made available to us by Paul Skeeters, the author of MAXFIELD PARRISH: THE EARLY YEARS. His latest endeavor is SIDNEY H. SIME MASTER OF FANTASY (SC, \$9.95, 8 1/2 x 11, 128 pp.; HC, \$50.00, 200 copies). The very best of the legendary Sime's work is reproduced herein from the originals owned by the Lord Dunsany estate. There is an introduction by Ray Bradbury and the hardcover copies are all signed by Bradbury and Skeeters. I can supply these at the list price while they remain in print and highly recommend the Sime art to any unfamiliar with this giant. FANTASMS (SC, \$6.95, 900 copies, 96 pp.; HardC., \$10.95, 100 copies) is an indispensable and excellently compiled bibliography to the works of Jack Vance. The publisher is Underwood-Miller and copies may be ordered from Chuck Miller at: 239 North 4th Street, Columbia, PA 17512. And my thanks to Chuck for putting up with me and son at Philcon! Also available from Chuck is Vance's BIG PLANET (HC, \$15.95, 1000 copies, 236 pp.; special signed edition, \$25.00, 111 copies, OP), an unabridged version of the 1957 edited-edition from Avalon. It is illustrated by Steve Hickman.

Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press has issued two more volumes of interest to collectors and readers. Edward D. Hoch is known in the genre for his Simon Ark stories (recently resurrected in the late STARTLING MYSTERIES magazine by Robert Lowndes) but readers of ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE know him for his most popular series character, Nick Velvet, who will only steal objects of no intrinsic value. THE THEFTS OF NICK VELVET (HC, \$10.00, 216 pp.; Limited edition, 250 copies with signed and numbered special pamphlet, \$20.00) is the first book devoted to this peculiar crook. Also available now is Cornell Woolrich's ANGELS OF DARKNESS (HC, \$10.00, 215 pp.; Limited edition, 250 numbered, signed, and slipcased copies), suspense stories by the late master as introduced by Harlan Ellison (who signed the slipcased copies).

Newcastle Publishing Company does an exceptional job of reprinting important and/or lost fantasies in quality paperback editions with superior color covers and intelligent introductions. Edited by R. Reginald and Douglas Menville, this company deserves our support. Most recent from them is Bram Stoker's first book, UNDER THE SUNSET (SC, \$3.95, 190 pp.), with a stunning Paul Stinson cover and an introduction by Melville. Also out from Newcastle are Kenneth Morris's THE FATES OF THE PRINCESS DYFED (SC, \$3.95, 361 pp., color cover by George Barr), H. Rider Haggard's ALLAN QUATERMAIN (SC, 3.95, 278 pp.) and William Morris's THE HOUSE OF THE WOLFINGS (SC, \$3.95, 200 pp.). Order any of these and ask for a catalog at: Newcastle Publishing Co., Inc., POBox 7589, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

New address for Cliff Bird: 6813 Newcastle Pl., Ft. Worth, Texas 76118.

Dick Spelman has put together several checklists that are worthwhile additions to the shelves of collectors. They are neatly mimioed and cover Arkham House (\$1.00), Avalon Books (\$1.00), Ballantine Books (\$3.00) and Ace Books (\$5.00). Add 75¢ postage and handling for orders under \$5.00 and mail to: POBox 2079, Chicago, IL 60690.

Wayne Warfield edits PHANTASY DIGEST (SC, \$4.00, 66 pp.), a journal featuring fiction, art, and news. Number III features fiction by Andrew Offutt and Michael Shea plus art by Jim Pitts, Clyde Caldwell, and Bruce Conklin. Order at: Box 326, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

One of my favorite authors is David H. Keller and Pat Adkins is doing a great service to me and other Keller fans with his DAVID H. KELLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY. The first booklet in the series is THE LAST MAGICIAN (SC, \$5.00, 1000 copies, 84 pp.), nine of Dr. Keller's stories from WEIRD TALES reproduced in facsimile. Order from: PDA Enterprises, Box 8010, New Orleans, LA 70182.

Fans of Bela Lugosi will find THE CASTLE DRACULA QUARTERLY devoted entirely to him their cup of blood. It has photographs, facts, and much more. Order this (SC, \$2.00, 40 pp.) at: Gordon Guy, Coffin Box 423, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

MYRDDIN FOUR (SC, \$2.00, 48 pp.) strives for a similar audience to WHISPERS and has similar contents. Contributors this time around include H. Warner Munn, Darrell Schweitzer, Jim Pitts, A. B. Cox, and Joseph Payne Brennan. Edited by Lawson Hill, copies may be ordered from: MYRDDIN, 6633 N. Ponchartrain, Chicago, IL 60646.

FANTASY CROSSROADS 14 (SC, \$3.00, 8 1/2 x 11, 42 pp.) starts off with an intriguing Steve Fabian cover based on a Hannes Bok sketch. The issue has much on and by Bok plus a Kenneth Smith portfolio and fiction by Charles Saunders, Darrell Schweitzer, and A. E. Van Vogt. Recommended as always from: Jon Bacon, Box 12428, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212.

George Locke's SCIENCE FICTION FIRST EDITIONS (SC, \$7.50, 500 copies, 96 pp.) is an extremely valuable bibliography that both teaches and entertains. I greatly enjoyed "The Bookcase of Morlock Tomes" and recommend this to serious collectors. Order from: Ferret Fantasy, 27 Beechcroft Rd., Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX England.

TOUCHSTONE (SC, \$5.00, 88 pp.) is a tribute to Fritz Leiber and Ray Bradbury as edited by James Tucker and Erin McKee. There are pieces by Bill Nolan, Bob Bloch, Harry Fischer, Harlan Ellison, and others. Order from: THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER PRESS, 881 1st Avenue, Salt Lake City, UTAH 84103.

Frank Kelly Freas needs no introduction and his ART OF SCIENCE FICTION (SC, \$7.95, numerous color plates, 120 pp.) is just about the best art buy around. He and his delightful wife Polly have started an intelligent and attractive line of quality paperbacks (Starblaze) and sell fine Freas prints. Order ART OF SF and ask for a catalog from: Polly and Kelly Freas, 4216 Blackwater Road, VA. BCH., VA 23457.

Dick Geis won his 10th Hugo recently. Order his SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (\$1.50) and find out why. Order at: SFR, POBox 11408, Portland, OR 97211.