
Summer 7-15-1969

World of Fanzines

Bernie Zuber

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore>



Part of the [Children's and Young Adult Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Zuber, Bernie (1969) "World of Fanzines," *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*: Vol. 1: No. 3, Article 12.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol1/iss3/12>

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by the Mythopoeic Society at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature* by an authorized editor of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

To join the Mythopoeic Society go to:
<http://www.mythsoc.org/join.htm>



Online Summer Seminar 2023

August 5-6, 2023: Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts

<https://mythsoc.org/oms/oms-2023.htm>



World of Fanzines

World of Fanzines

by Bernie Zuber

This is the time of year when the nominations for Hugo awards of 1968 are in and those who have joined the upcoming Worldcon in St. Louis will soon receive the final voting ballots. The nominations I want to mention here are for two categories: Best Amateur Magazine (Fanzines) and Best Fan Artist. Here are the nominees for best fanzine: RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY, a fanzine published in Canada and which I've unfortunately never read. Its advertisements claim that it is full of serious book reviews and articles by renowned writers so it should be worthwhile. SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (formerly PSYCHOTIC) published in Santa Monica. This one I have read and it contains very interesting reviews of books, magazines, and films, and a letter column where writers and fans trade insults. SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES (SHAGGY for short) published by members of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS). This also has good reviews but the pace is more relaxed and informal. A more "fannish" fanzine with personal viewpoints on life. TRUMPET, the Texan fanzine, so beautifully designed and printed that it puts the professional of magazines to shame. The articles and reviews are interesting, but it is the visual aspects that stand out. WARHOON, published in New York is the one among the nominees that I have seen which has impressed me the least. The articles are good but the issue I read put too much emphasis on the writings of Big Name Fans. The layout and art is done singlehandedly by the editor and, although he's a good artist, the result is somewhat monotonous. S.F. REVIEW, SHAGGY and TRUMPET feature a great variety of fan artists which make them much more attractive.

The nominees for Best Fan Artists of 1968 are George Barr, Vaughn Bode, Tim Kirk, Doug Lovenstein and Bill Rotzler. George and Tim are familiar to readers of MYTHLORE, of course, but I would like to point out that both are quite prolific because their art work appears in many fanzines throughout the country. Vaughn Bode is an artist whose wild imagination has created whole worlds in comic-strip form. Although his work still shows up in fanzines, Vaughn has moved on to other fields since last year. Doug Lovenstein's work is not as familiar to me but I have enjoyed his cartoons in S.F. REVIEW. Bill Rotzler's humorous contributions to fanzines go back many years. His cartoon style is very simple but very clever and he's so prolific that he even draws all over the mailing envelopes. By next year, there will probably be newer names in this category. Better reproduction in fanzines has attracted many good artists.

For the balance of this column I want to focus on two publications of interest to readers of MYTHLORE and Tolkien fans in particular.

CARANDAITH is the fanzine of the Australian Tolkien Society. Where in Australia is it published? Would you believe Eugene, Oregon? Yes, it's published in this country by Alpajpuri. Now that you've been puzzled by the location, how does the name grab you? This does require a bit of explanation. Alpajpuri is a Persian name (or so I'm told) adopted by Paul Novitski, who is currently the Sheriff of the Smials of the Tolkien Society of America. Paul, or Paj, as he likes to be called, travelled to Australia in 1967 and got the Australian Tolkien Society started. When he went back to Oregon, he found himself still publishing the ATS fanzine. The first issue came out in July of '68 and was reprinted in March of this year.

It contains a Tengwar alphabet as applied to English, a translation of the West-Gate inscription, a review of the Tolkien record album reprinted from a music magazine, an introduction to the Conan books by Michael O'Brien (the co-editor in Australia) and a book review by AlpaJPuri. The second issue (Feb. '69) contains the article I found most interesting. It is an interview with Professor Tolkien written by Daphne Castell which first appeared in 1966 in NEW WORLDS, a British sf magazine. I would say this is the best Tolkien interview I've read. Isn't it strange that the best article in a fanzine is a prozine reprint and one of the best articles in a prozine (FANTASTIC) is from an old fanzine? There's a message there somewhere. CARANDAITH #2 also has Elvish translations and an article on Perception Expansion by Paj, an editorial by O'Brien, more book reviews and a letter column. The most unusual of the two covers is that of the second issue by John Ingham, an Australian. It's done in the hippy neo-Art Nouveau style favored by underground papers. John also has some good art in that issue. The other art and Elvish and Arabic (?) lettering are by Paj. A final point of interest...Paj promises to reprint back issues if they are in demand. It's something I wish more fanzine editors could do.

I find myself in the awkward position of reviewing a publication which is not really a fanzine and yet is of interest to Tolkien fans. ORCRIST is the Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin Tolkien Society. It is a collegiate publication consisting mainly of papers on Tolkien and therefore doesn't have the informal atmosphere of a true fanzine. Nor does it have any art work to embellish it, except the covers. The editorials are somewhat relaxed and there is satire in both issues but these "hobbits and friends of hobbits", as they call themselves, appear quite removed from fandom. They'd probably prefer it that way. A lack of space and time forbids me to go into details but I must say that the articles in both issues are worthwhile for serious students of Tolkien. Richard West, one of two editors, has compiled an extensive annotated bibliography of Tolkien's work. He also writes of C. S. Lewis' letters where they mention Tolkien's and discusses the effect of Tolkien on three contemporary writers. James Robinson, the other editor, contributed an article showing the similarity between Saruman and corrupt politicians. Written music based on Tolkien can also be found in both issues. The first issue has already been reprinted but the second issue was limited to 200 copies. I would suggest you write to the address listed below for further information.

Here is a checklist of fanzines I mentioned in this column and in "Across the Brandywine". AMRA (Box 0, Eatontown, N. J. 07724. 50¢ or 10 for 3) CARANDAITH (AlpaJPuri, 1690 E. 26 Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97403. 50¢ or 4 for 2) ORCRIST (Richard West, 614 Langdon St., Madison, Wis. 53703. 1.25 ea.) RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY (Box 40, University Station, Regina, Canada. 50¢ or 4 for 2) SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (Box 3116, Santa Monica, Ca. 90403. 50¢ bi-monthly or 3 a year) SHAGGY (Ken Rudolph, 745 N. Spaulding, L. A., Ca. 90046. 50¢ or 4 for 2) TRUMPET (Tom Reamy, Box 523, Richardson, Texas 75080. 75¢ or 5 for 3.50) WARHOON (Dick Bergeron, 11 E. 68, New York, N. Y. 10021. 60¢ ea.) Most fanzines are also available for contributions, letters or trade.

ᠠᠶᠢᠨ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ ᠠᠨᠢ