

A SPANIARD AT THE (SF) WORKS

Barcelona, April 1966

No. 1

This is being sent, instead of a letter, to all the fan addresses I have been able to muster. If you aren't in my waiting list, just write.

I have known of you by-

_getting an old number of your fanzine
 _corresponding with you
 _because you are a famous BEM, MAN, DOG
 _reading your name in a fanzine/prozine
 _mediation of a Elder God
 _sorry, I don't know you at all.

Quite the only objective of this fanzine is to beg, yes, to humbly beg you to send me fanzines. I would like to have the best fanzine collection in Spain. And, if you collaborate, I don't think it will be too difficult, because, the re are, unfortunately, very few fen in this country, and consequently, very few collections.

So, please, send me your fanzines, gemzines, newszines, cultzines, sapszines, fapazines, napazines, zinczines or hellwhatisthiszines. Also, if you like so, you can send girlic magazines, I wouldn't protest.

Now, a policy statement, even if "A Spaniard at the (SF) works" is only at present a letter substitute, I would like to make it a real fanzine, but this is up to you, I only can make it if you send me some material. So get your pens and draw, take your typewriters and write, I will be waiting.

A final remark: all the critics to my poor English should be addressed to the nearest Berlitz School, They said it was good!

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THE SPANISH FANDOM

Until now there has been little movement in the Spanish Fandom, and a total ignorance between fen. So much, that all I know about them I have learnt through a French fanzine!

Up to now, in the story of the Spanish Fandom, only two fanzines have been published. All during 1966, both in Spanish, and by the same editor: me. They are "Dronte" and "The friendly BEM" (first number out, second in preparation in both of them).

Fortunately this deplorable situation seems to come to an end. The fanzine "Cuenta Atrás" is going to appear in Madrid, and there are reports of another one. If so, with this one you have in your hands, we arrive at the grand total of FIVE Spanish fanzines, not too bad a beginning.

As beforesaid, this fanzine is sent instead of a letter, so the most important item will be a commentary, on received fanzines, called:

THE MONSTER'S PREYS

I have a little monster
who will eat anythin'
it's my post box, brother
waitin' for your fanzin'

ATLANTA No. 2 Nouvelle Série
Michaël Grayn
28, rue du Curé
Moxhe-Ciplet (Liège)
BELGIUM

60 pages
bimonthly
6 for 200 F. B. (5 \$)
exchange proposed

My friend Jacques Ferron says: "We have won a prozine and lost a fanzine". I, too, miss the old personality of the fanzine, which, I think, has disappeared in the new series.

In this number two, only 9 pages out of 60 were of my liking. Very good the Thomas Owen "Cérémonial nocturne" and good also "La poupée de Barbara" by Suzanne Malaval. The rest is not worth of mention.

Bad, horribly bad the drawings. When is the Continental Fandom going to learn to draw?. Modern art isn't bad art, Mistfers!

JARDIN SIDERAL No. 21
Jacques Ferron
rue Max de Vars
19- Brive
FRANCE

60 pages
bimonthly
3 Francs

The best fanzine from the French speaking countries. In this number I have liked best "Asphalte" by Carlos Buiza, a terrific tale about indifference in our times. Next Riccardo Leveghi's "La solution finale", in which is explained who was the first astronaut... and it was not this Russian. Also good "Un flic de coeur" written by Philippe Sidney: SF with a ending twist. There is also a serial, but it's my custom to wait for the last installment and then read them without interruption, so no commentary by now. Some of the drawings are in my line, specially the humorous. Not so the cover. But, Jacques I like your fanzine very much, so keep it coming.

ASPIDISTRA No. 3
Riccardo Lovoghi
Via Grazioli 85
Trento
ITALY

36 pages
monthly
200 L. It.

What a cover!, like in number 2 the best thing is the Editor's drawings, so please, Riccardo, more art. I would like also to see some interior illustrations, as in the past issue.

The rest of the fanzine are news, is quite a newszine. The Italian Fandom has had its first Convention in Florence, it's a good sign. When shall we have one in Spain?. We have to recognize that Italian fen are going ahead. They have many books and prozines, and the fanzines are growing also. But, let's go back to Aspidistra. I don't like the fiction in this issue. From the first it was possible to foretell the end of Ugo Rota's "Errore di calcolo", and I recognize not to understand "Alla ricerca di Francis" by Leveghi. Perhaps my Italian knowledge betrays me?

Nevertheless, there is the base for a good zine. I only would enlarge the fiction share, and, if possible, improve the printing. Watch your stencils!

INTERPLOT Gennaio
Sandro Sandrelli
via Dardanelli 20
Lido di Venezia
ITALY

20 pages
monthly

This number is typewritten!, yes, not multicopied, but each number made individually. Oh boy, what a work!. Sandro, you are truly a fan. Very good Claude Seignolle's "L'uomo con la falce". It's about the meeting of a man with Death (in his traditional role as a sickleman) and it has an unusual outcome. This story valorizes this issue. Funny, also, "Trio" by Massimo Pandolfi. The articles "Panorami" by Gianfranco De Turreis and Sebastiano Fusco, and "Cinema" by Domenico Colella are informative and solid. A good number this one.

LUNATIQUE No. 20
Jacqueline H. Osterrath
5929 Sassmannshausen
GERMANY

52 pages
monthly
6 for 10 Marks

As I can't read German, this fanzine, published in French, is the only one I know in Germany. And it's a sound zine. Number twenty, consecrated to ghost tales, has an uneven performance. Some of its stories are good, like Janine Golle's "Maria-Calina" and, truly the best, "Terminus" by Anne & Claude Salez. This narrative is about a subway, and what can happen if you fall asleep in it. Not a pleasant thing, says us the author. Some days ago I read in a British paperback, Best Science Fiction 4, a novel called "A subway named Möbius" by A. J. Deutsch, another underground railway story with a quite bad conclusion. And I take the subway four times a day!. I'm beginning to wonder... The other tales are bad or with too much used plots. I like the cover, and the interior illustration is intrascendent, but the backcover is, ugh!, another thing. I think some drawings would be better left in the paper basket than printed. Many, and very interesting, the informative texts.

AMRA No. 30
Dick Eney
417 Ft. Hunt Rd.
Alexandria, Va. 22307
U.S.A.

20 pages
a-periodical
10 for 2\$

I received your specimen copy Dick, and I want very much to be in your waiting list. If possible, I would like to subscribe to many fanzines, but my means are limited. So, I'm sending A Spaniard hoping to receive some zines in exchange. And yours is one of those I desire most to have. Very good illos, specially the cover. Now, this is artwork!, many Continental fon could learn from it to illustrate their zines. A letter from Robert E. Howard to August Derleth constitutes the backbone of this number, its subject: Texas indians. Not a true swordplay & sorcery theme, but it makes good reading. I have appreciated "Reminiscence" by Sighvat Thordhanson. It's a pity I can't understand Swedish, because I would like to read more of this author. Perhaps it would be possible to secure some more Poul Anderson translation?. I hope so. Can you do it Dick?. A last question. What is that about the Terminus, Owlswick & Ft Mudge Electric St Railway?. One of my best Spanish friends is an ardent Street Cars' fan, specialized in American old-timers, and has asked me to make this question.

FANXIETY No. 1
Gregg Wolford
9001 Joyelle
Garden Grove, Calif. 92640
U.S.A.

25 pages
bimonthly
25 cents or
trades, letters, old fanzines

I have liked most the "shocking expose" by Nate Bucklin "Trial of the Nameless" well, now I can see that some other fanzine editors have more problems than I. Three cheers for you, Natel. I don't know if I would have your courage. Can somebody give me the address of Trial Press?, I would like to send this fanzine to him.

Having not read yet Stranger in a Strange Land I can't compare my opinion with those given at the symposium, but they have given me a desire of knowing soon Heinlein's last book.

I don't like to see three and half pages wasted reviewing Ranch Romances, and a Game is no good when you don't know almost any of its answers. I think those pages could have been used better.

To end I must say that a great part, at least of my copy, was illegible. Was it one of the last left, Gregg?. If you send me some other zine, please see if it can be read. As a Spanish slogan says there are "two eyes for the whole life", and I want to preserve mines.

SON OF NOTHINGBURGER No. 2
Gregg Wolford
address as above

10 pages
tri-yearly (?)

This is a zine which speaks about me, thanks Gregg!. Unfortunately your appeal has had no echo. I haven't received any fanzines but yours, so I'm here, typing this, if it won't have a result either, I think I will drop out fanzine publishing and retire to read Ian Fleming's works, which is as good a form of suicide as any other.

I didn't compart your opinion about weird places. What's weird in a city of two and half million inhabitants, with more than two thousand five hundred years of history, in one of the best known Countries of Europe?.

As for the rest, the zine is a printed LoC, something like what I intend in A Spaniard, but, hell!, what I don't like is to read so many commentaries on fanzines without having read any of them.

ERB-DOM No. 15
Camille Cazedossus
3145 Craft Way
Westminster, Colo. 80030
U.S.A.

16 pages
quarterly
5 for \$2

The first fanzine which I received, a long time ago, was ERB-dom, and since then always has been welcomed to my post box.

It's a cultzine, dedicated to Edgar Rice Burroughs, and the only thing I can say about it is that, although I'm not a true ERB fan (yes, I like to read his books, but not to the point to make a cult of it) I think that ERB-dom is the best fanzine I know.

My opinion is based in two reasons: 1- the printing is the most neat I have seen in an amateur publication. 2- the artwork is just superb, I can't find the proper adjective to qualify it. Many prozines are much worse in those two aspects.

In this number I most admire the cover, a beautiful full color reproduction of a drawing by Reed Crandall, about a scene from At the Earth's Core.

Good also "Pellucidar, the perfect paradox" by John F. Roy and likewise Peter Ogden's "Before Pellucidar" and Mike Resnick's "The problems of timelessness" But, who needs a glossary?, it's a pity you publish so many.

Well Caz, I sure like ERB-dom, and want to receive it in the future, what I'm sorry about is that you don't make a genzine too. It would be the perfect zine for me.

LAST QUINTET

- 1- In Asia
The last man on Earth reached for his gun. And it was not in his holster!. Somebody had stolen it while he was sleeping..
- 2- In America
The last woman on Earth shuddered. The cataclysm had happened five years ago. And now she was pregnant!...
- 3- In Europe
The last dog on Earth yelped. Why was his tail glowing in the dark?...
- 4- In Africa
The last plant on Earth shrugged. Removed its roots and started to walk...
- 5- In Oceania
The last fish on Earth arrived at the beach, and wearily began to crawl through the sand. The water was so cold now...

At last!, at closing time arrived Cuenta Atrás. Welcome Carlos!. Truly I'm happy to be no more the only fanzine publisher in Spain. As one of our sentences says: "Cuanto más seamos, más reiremos", or, as I think it goes in English, The more, the merrier. In the next issue, gladly, I will review your zine.

FIREFLIES

The ships leave,
fireflies in the black Space,
hopes hurled to the Infinite
casting away the old home
radioactive now.

A world, another, and another:
Too hot!
Too cold!
Radiation. Epidemics. Famine.
Death.

The ships return
far away a world, once green
waits.
It's the light which attracts the fireflies...
to burn them,

(Translated from The friendly BEM)

This fanzine has been written and published by Luis Vigil, with the wonderful cooperation of Christel Becker, helping in the translation, and Maria Pons, multicopying
Barcelona April 22, 1966