

Hamilton, Kuttner and Schachner <sup>4</sup> Richard Seaton<sup>5</sup> is just a name to him, and he thinks Hawk Carse<sup>6</sup> was a dealer in second-hand Fords

On the mantelshelf stand two of his proudest possessions autographed photos of Eleanor Powell and Douglas Fairbanks (Sen) In the middle, H G Wells sits on top of my midget radio, and hops about in a most un-Wellsian manner when the six pips come through All attempts to make Bill remove these photos (which lower the moral tone of our establishment) have so far failed We admit the necessity for Wells, even if he does look as if that diabetes is coming on again, but Miss Powell and Doug Fairbanks (Sen) -- I mean to say!

I've mentioned that he's very interested in films, he has a projector (of sorts) and once ran through some Fairbanks (Sen) films before we put a stop to it One of his six or seven ambitions is to be as film director, so we may yet see "The Smile of the Sphinx" screened under the title "Enough to Make a Cat Laugh" <sup>7</sup> He's also very interested in Astronautics, and as Publicity Director of the British Interplanetary Society writes screeds to the BBC and anyone else who's likely to help the good cause

I had better hurry up and finish this, as I hear him coming back again, rolling the dustbin down the stairs One thing I've forgotten to tell you about him is his habit of getting up 5 minutes before he is due to leave for work in the morning, and his miserable habit of constant pessimism, his excruciating whistle and neurotic

(Editor's Note - The above MS. was discovered among the literary effects of the late Arthur C. Clarke, who was found battered to death with a carpet sweeper in his flat some weeks ago. We publish these last words from his brilliant and versatile pen as an indication of the great loss that has been suffered by the worlds of literature, art, science, etc, etc, and etc. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum....* )

*Real editor's note (i.e. Sandra): Temple went on to become a good if not prolific author of SF, though never as celebrated as Clarke; he died a few years ago. NOVAE TERRAE, meantime, was translated after the war into NEW WORLDS and started publishing professionally under the editorship of Ted Carnell, and later Michael Moorcock, who did some very controversial things with it indeed which led to questions being asked in Parliament about "public money" (i.e. its Arts Council grant) being used to subsidise filth (i.e. Norman Spinrad's avant-garde novel Bug Jack Barron. From little oaks great acorns grow, or summat*

*I'll fill the page with an extract from the letter column, showing that though the zine may be fifty years removed from today people still got sarcastic in letter columns even then:*

FROM JOHN F BURKE<sup>8</sup>, LIVERPOOL: If Mr D R Smith cannot find out anything more about the subject of swing music that what he seems to know -- or rather, not to know -- he should steer clear of the subject altogether I realise that the columns of N T are no place to carry out a musical war, but in all fairness it should be pointed out that Rudy Vallee's band never approaches the subject of swing

However, let me quote Leo M Sowerby, one of America's most eminent musicians -- "The jitterbug antics of American youth are not indications of a mass insanity, but are, rather, just manifestations of a healthy exuberance, and completely sane " And I cannot help thinking of an eminent jazz critic who once pointed out that in this civilised world, where the nations were building bigger and better bombing planes and the main rhythmic appeal was in the sound of marching feet, it was nice to be interested in something that the general public derided as "uncivilised"

<sup>4</sup>Ed Earl Repp, Edmond Hamilton, Henry Kuttner and Nat Schachner were all pre-war SF writers generally regarded as practitioners of inferior space opera (though it was later found that Kuttner's quality writing appeared under pseudonyms)

<sup>5</sup>Hero of E E 'Doc' Smith's primitive *Skylark of Space* series

<sup>6</sup>Another space-operative hero from the mould of Buck Rogers

<sup>7</sup>After the war, Temple's best known story *The Four-sided Triangle* was excruciatingly filmed, but they did at least have the decency to retain the original title

<sup>8</sup>This chap too became a professional writer, mostly of hack novelisations of films

# SELF EXPLANATORY

## *a rather terse one from John Wilman*

*What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning?* I look at the clock  
*What was the first fanzine you received?* Mr Gladgrind (John Miller).  
*Which book do you wish you had written?* Gormenghast (Mervyn Peake)  
*What zine do you most wish you had produced?* Apart from my own, Watch Your Back? Ode  
*What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?* Take 30mg of Seroxat every day  
*What is your most treasured material possession?* My stereo system  
*Who was the last person you slept with?* I'm a serial monogamist [[Just the facts, sir!]]  
*What do you think of the weather?*  
Weakening of the prevailing westerlies is in itself significant, but may be just a foretaste of much greater climatic changes  
*When did you last cry and why?* When my cat died  
*What characteristics do you think you've inherited from your parents?* Anxiety and thrift  
*What's the biggest myth about fame?* That people don't enjoy it  
*What are you like when you're drunk?* I don't remember (literally)  
*Who would you have play you in a film?* Julie Sawalha, as Cassandra in a Greek tragedy  
*Pick five words to describe yourself.* Large, ugly, drunk, myopic, loyal  
*Is there one piece of criticism that sticks in your mind?* I was once accused of having too little imagination  
*What's your most unpleasant characteristic?* Bullying  
*What is your greatest fear?* Death by drowning  
*What ambitions do you still have to fulfil?* Recognition of my achievements (if any)  
*Are you afraid of failure?* No, I expect it  
*What do you never leave home without?* My wallet, my keys and clean handkerchiefs  
*Who is your best male and best female friend?*  
My best friend is always a woman I have several at present I don't trust men  
*Who would you most like to meet?* Sheri Tepper, Whoopi Goldberg  
*What are the last three books you read?*  
Alan Clark's Diaries, Garfield, Life and Times, Barchester Echoes (The Archers)  
*What are the last three records you played?* Sgt Pepper, The Red Shoes, The Planets (Holst)  
*What music would you have played at your funeral?* Janacek's Glagolitic Mass  
*When you look in the mirror what do you see?* Apart from the flab. "You can still do it"

## THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

game end summaries

### CACTUS (Railway Rivals map OX)

ISIS (Steve Guest, 1st) Well, for once I don't have an awful lot to say I pretty much got the line I wanted (though it would have been nice to have stretched to Witney), even though it took some considerable gritting of teeth to plough through Oxford and out the other side I figured virtually whatever the cost it would be worth it I also picked up a lot of points on the 2 northern specials -- it's always far too easy to forget the specials I like this map -- it deserves much more play I think David was right to switch (on my advice!) the Arncott start to Bicester as it was potentially far too strong. I'm still not convinced the starts are balanced for a 4 or 5 player game though Anyhow, thanks to all for the game

BRASENOSE (Sandra Bond, 6th) I should have done better but was too disorganised -- you'd think it impossible to NMR in my own zine, but it proved surprisingly easy. I was very impressed with the map and I think David Oya should go and sell it to Rostherne immediately