

MIRAGE

The Monthly Small Press Review

NOVEMBER 1998 - #11

Available **FREE** from: Ian Redman, 61 Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4AW

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Editors Bit

Firstly I would like to apologise for the very late delivery of #10. Unfortunately I had some quite drastic computer/printing problems, which held up production of until about the 27th of October. I managed to send out a few early copies with Zest before the world collapsed around me, but for the most of you this is the first time you'll see it. I'm very sorry for the delay. Any annoying remarks and blatant outrage should be directed to number 10 Downing Street, London. Most of you should find a copy of issue #10 alongside this issue.

Apologies to everyone,

Ian Redman

The * Dark * Fantasy * Newsletter

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Magazines

Altair (#1) US\$20 for 2

The new international Science Fiction magazine from Australia. In this first issue it contains fiction from Brendon Carson, Ian Watson, Mary Soon Lee, Ben Jeapes, Kurt Von Trojan, Brendon Carson, Jean-Claude Dunyach, Dylan Otto Krider, Loren W. Cooper, Warren Lapine, Michael Morgan, James A. Hartley, Robert Black and Leonid Reznick. Articles by Simon Brown & Sean Williams, Joe Haldeman, Charles de Lint, Steven C. Raine, Robert J. Sawyer and David Bischoff. To get your copy write to: Robert N Stephenson. Ed. Altair Magazine/ Altair Publishing, PO Box 475, Blackwood. 5051 South Australia, Australia.

This magazine is a bit of a heavy weight, just look at everything they cram in! From the colour glossy card cover this magazine manifests quality. The features we all interesting and informative giving varying views of SF writing and the fiction. The fiction is great. Out of the 14 stories it would be impossible to decide upon a favourite. Yes, I liked some better than others, in a magazine this thick who wouldn't, but picking a favourite is a completely different matter. All I can say is if you can get a copy, then do. It's a worth while investment.

☆☆☆☆☆

Esoteric (#1) £2 +S.A.E.

The new Horror, Science Fiction and Fantasy magazine brought to you from Chris Bull. This issue includes fiction by Chris Sumberg, Curtis Dewar, George H. Lafferty, Chris Bull, Rebecca Chase and Iain Grant. Poetry is by A.C. Evans and Steve Sneyd. Artwork by Desmond Knight.

This is a good first issue, particularly for a cross-genre magazine. It's got just enough of everything to keep everyone happy. The fiction is well written, and the artwork, as you come to expect from Des, is highly intriguing. For my favourite story of this issue my views agree with those of the editor. 'The Dealmaker' by Iain Grant, a kind of fantasy/horror story about the underworld, and one which kind of reminds me of the Spice Girls. Good stuff. The only problem I found was the use of three columns per page, for an A5 magazine it's just to many. Other than that, for £2 you get 40 pages of good reading.

☆☆☆☆½

Tales Of The Grotesque & Arabesque (#3) £1.25

This Horror magazine features fiction by John B. Ford, Paul Finch, Paul Bradshaw, Mark R. Ritchie, Simon Bestwick, DF Lewis, Catherine J. Gardner, Peter Tennant, David Cowdall and John Saxton. Also includes artwork by Wendy Down, Steve Lines, Desmond Knight and Iain Maynard. Also comes with 'Yellowed Pages' which features reviews and readers letters. Available from: David Price, 11 Craig Wen, Morganstown, Cardiff, CF4 8LH.

Content wise this magazine's getting better, most of the fiction was too my liking. In fact the only bit of the magazine I didn't like was the editorial, but then it's his magazine so I guess he can do what he likes! As I said, all the fiction is good, the best being 'The Flickering Flame' by Catherine J. Gardner, a short tale, not really original but told with pace and fear. Brilliant. Overall this is a good all round horror magazine, well laid out with good fiction. And for just £1.25 it's 40 A4 pp are a bargain!

☆☆☆☆

ZEST

A Zest For Science Fiction

"A Magazine that deserves to live with the best." ZENE

For your copy simply send £2 or £7 for 4 to:
Ian Redman, 61 Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Somerset,
BA21 4AW. Cheques payable to **'I. Redman'**.

Magazines

The Asphalt Jungle (#1) £1.20 / £4 for four

The Asphalt Jungle is a magazine about Cities, Crime, Noir, Urban Horror and anything else that seems to fit in with that schedule. This issue sees work from John Light, Christian Saunders, DF Lewis, Richard Reeve, Rhys Hughes and Patricia Tyrrell. Available from: The Asphalt Jungle, 85 Western Road, Leicester, LE3 0GE.

This is an interesting magazine, with interesting work in it. Over all the magazine is much improved upon the last time I gave it a review in these pages, it's now 28 A5 pp with a colour cover. I think the work in here is either stuff you'll love, or you'll hate, depending on what mood your in. Still good for £1.20.

☆☆☆

The Third Alternative (#17) £3 / £11 for four

The Third Alternative is the slipstream magazine. This issue features fiction by Steve Rasnic Tem, Conrad Williams, Jeff Vandermeer, Roberta Murphy, Joel Lane, Alexander Glass and Jason Frowley. features included the third part on Slipstream Cinema, Twisted Obsessions, Profile of Kurt Vonnegut, The Unquiet Soal, Overdose and an interview with Christopher Priest. Artwork by the unknown artist and Wendy Down Available from: TTA Press, 5 Martins Lane, Witcham, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2LB.

TTA is a good magazine, it's layout is fantastic, the fiction is great, even the features are good. Out of the 7 stories presented this issue the best is 'The Aspect' by Conrad Williams, he's fast becoming one of my favourite reads and when he produces work like this can you really wonder why? If you like your fiction a little bit different, a little bit weird then you'll love TTA, go get it.

☆☆☆☆½

Zene (#17) £12 for 6

Zene is **the** definite, all in one guide to the independent press around the word. This issue includes News, Letters, contributors guidelines for magazines in Britain, Ireland, Italy, Canada, and the USA. Also includes information on several Competitions, the World Wide Web, two features and lots, and I mean lots of reviews! Available from: TTA Press, 5 Martins Lane, Witcham, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2LB. Please make cheques payable to 'TTA Press'.

If you want to find out about a independent press magazine then Zene is the best, most up to date publication the U.K. has. The reviews are all clear, informative and well written. The guidelines, are well set out and available for every market you could possibly think of. Nobody can claim to be a writer without it. Brilliant, just brilliant.

☆☆☆☆☆

Guidelines

Monomyth

We have published stories in the Fantasy (humorous and serious), Horror/Dark Fantasy, Cyberpunk and Science-Fiction genres, as well as poetry. We also include reviews and are willing to consider any non-fiction that may be of interest to those interested in fantasy fiction. Our main aim is to promote and further fiction, especially by publishing first-time writers, and to this end we will not publish erotica or any thing too gratuitous. We are willing to consider stories of any length (including two-part or longer tales), but serials are by commission only - if you have an idea for one please send an outline of genre, content and length. We will endeavour to read all outlines but limited space prevents us from guaranteeing the series will be published. Monomyth reserves the rights to amend any submissions for length or taste, though we hope not to.

We are willing to accept clear black and white artwork of A4 or smaller size. Cover art is by commission only, but if you are interested send us some examples of your work. We are also happy to receive any queries or comments you may have and these will be returned with a reply as soon as possible.

Please note: We do not pay for stories or artwork. Only by doing so can we keep the prices down. You will however receive the issue in which your contribution, if it is accepted is published, free of charge.

Send MS to either:

Richard Burman, 99 Sandringham Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2UG, or David Tyrer, 38 Pierrot Steps, Southend-on-sea, Essex, SS12UY.

Guidelines

New Earth

We welcome, with open arms, submissions with a strong SF element and enquiries about non-fiction. We are after submissions between 2000 and 5000 words and will look at anything except romance or crime. Non-fiction should take the form of reviews, articals and interviews on popular SF authors. Artwork is also welcomed, but please do not sent original work, as we cannot take responsibility for it. Always enclose SAE and we will endeavour to reply within two month. I am also looking for reviews - regardless of background - so if you think you've got what it takes and are at all interested please contact me soon.

Send all work to:

Russell Chambers, 54 Hollicondane Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7PH

Zest

Zest is happy to take submissions from anyone at any time. Due to the cost of producing this magazine, the only payment that I can currently offer is by way of a free copy of the magazine that the submission appears in, to whoever wrote or drew the submission. With all submissions, please enclose a SAE with appropriate postage so I can reply to you.

Artwork: All art work should be no bigger than A4 and in Black or Gray's only. Pencil drawings will not normally be accepted unless they are drawn with a 2B or darker pencil as they will not scan very well. Pen is the preferred choice. In the first instant please only sent photocopies as I cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage.

Stories: Stories can be on any subject of Science Fiction (Hard SF will be given preference), but not Horror. The stories can include some Fantasy as long as it is not the focus of the story, I want SF stories not Fantasy stories.

All the stories that I am sent will be read. Stories should generally be under 10,000 words long and sent with a covering letter stating any past writing experience etc. A word count would be greatly appreciated and would enhance your chances of acceptance.

Reviews: Any reviews would be appreciated of books, films, or anyother SF media. Please include a Star Rating out of five, can include half marks.

Poems: Any SF poems would be greatly received, please send poems no longer than 25 lines, you can send as many as you want, but generally 2-5 works best and will get you a quicker responce.

Send all submissions to:

Ian Redman, 61 Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4AW.

Next issue of *Mirage* should be available from the 15th of December.

Mirage #11 - © I.D.R.

Listing in *Mirage* is free, if you would like you magazine listed, just send the details, if a review copy is sent I will also add a star rating and comment to the listing.

Advertising rates are available on request.

Please write in with change of addresses, price increases (decreases!) etc and I will gladly inform my readers.

Extra copies are available for distribution, send a large SAE and I will send you as many as you require, (or the postie allows).

If there is any other information you require about *Mirage*, then please write to the editorial address.

