

Hi John. Here's an article if you have room. (I hope to get a BCSFAzines OF YORE article to you by early Saturday morning, if not earlier. Also maybe an updated UPCOMING CONS):

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## ARCHIVES REPORT #2

by R. Graeme Cameron

Just finished sorting and bagging the Canadian zine portion of the archive. There are about 118 titles for a total of about 600 zines (not counting BCSFAzine, which would add another 275 issues). This means, as the Canadian zines are but a fraction of the archive, that I must revise the total number of zines in the archive upward to 5,000 or more.

So what's included in the Canadian section? The Canadian club scene of course. Not just 92 issues of the OSFS STATEMENT (Ottawa) and 24 issues of WARP (Montreal) which reflect the current club scene, but zines from defunct clubs, such as 25 issues of NEOLOGY (Edmonton), 10 issues of XENOFIL (Calgary) and 25 issues of publications from the Ontario SF group (INPUT OUTPUT, ISHUE, GATEWAY & LUNA AND BEYOND).

(Bear in mind the number of issues does not refer to the complete run of a given zine, but only to the number of issues preserved in the WCSFA archive.)

The interests of Fandom historians like myself are further served by samplings of zines known in their time for covering the CanFan scene: NEW CANADIAN FANDOM (8 issues - 1981 to 1985), Garth Spencer's MAPLE LEAF RAG (24 issues - 1983 to 1987), and MLR (10 issues - 1987 to 1989).

Then there's assorted multi-topic genzines such as: Tara Wayne's DNQ (17 issues - 1978 to 1981), Robert Runte's & Dave Vereschagrin's THE MONTHLY MONTHLY (13 issues - 1979 to 1980), Lari Davidson's POTBOILER (5 issues - 1980 to 1984), Michael Hall's SCHMAGG (2 issues - 1978 to 1984), Victoria Vayne's SIMULACRUM (5 issues - 1976 to 1978), and Steve George's ZOSMA (8 issues - 1978 to 1981).

(It should be noted that virtually all zines dating prior to 1980 were donated to the club by the estate of Susan Wood, the Hugo-winning fan writer who was a strong supporter of BCSFA and V-Con. She moved to

Vancouver in 1973 where she taught at UBC till her premature death in November of 1980.)

Zines of more recent vintage still going strong include Dale Speir's OPUNTIA (60 issues - 1991 to date), John Herbert's & Karl Johanson's Aurora-winning UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (9 issues, 1992 to date), and Scott Patri's THE ZERO-G LAVATORY (6 issues - 1994 to date).

I haven't even mentioned WEIRD TAILS or WHIZ FUNNIES, have I?

The local scene is well represented. There's Daniel Say (Co-Chair of the first 2 V-Cons....not called V-Con till the 3rd con, you remember) and his SF3 NEWSLETTER (16 issues - 1971 to 1976, donated by Fran Skene, Vera Johnson and myself), Susan Wood's perzine AMOR (11 issues - 1975 to 1979), Jim Welch's SFA DIGEST (7 issues - 1982 to 1985), Allan Cadogan's GENRE PLAT (6 issues - 1977 to 1985), and Vaughn Fraser's FANTARAMA (10 issues - 1977 to 1979).

I should mention I've had some second thoughts about 'donating' all of 'my' zines (such as Sf3's sent to me as a subscriber, or zines sent in trade for SPACE CADET), I'd rather think of them as being on 'permanent loan'. If and when the archive is transferred to the hands of another, or placed in a secure institution, I'll make my decision then.

In the meantime the archive will be.... what? Just a bunch of zines sitting in my apt? Well, first of all I hope to profile some of them in future BCSFAzines, quoting funny bits, etc, so they'll provide some ongoing amusement for club members who find them of interest. Second, I'll be actively researching fannish history articles, mostly for FHAPA, the Fan Historical APA of the Timebinders group, but also for BCSFAzine. Third, I'll be lending zines to other Fhistorians (like Garth Spencer) for research purposes. Fourth, I'll be displaying zines in fanrooms at V-Cons, and at club meetings on occasion. Fifth, at some point the exec will work out a lending policy concerning the general membership (I suggest: up to five zines for up to 4 weeks, providing a \$1,000 deposit is put down..... I'm joking!....Mind you, some of the older zines are too fragile to lend out, let that be my call as archivist). And Sixth, the fact that they're in my active care, and that I intend to seal each and every one in firm plastic bags, means that they will be preserved (stewing in their own acid) for future generations of Cdn. Fhistorians (there must be, say, 3 or 4 Fhistorians in Canada currently, including Garth & myself....). That's the purpose of an archive after all, to preserve 'stuff' for future generations.

For example, the archive contains 21 issues of REQUIEM (1974 to 1979) and 27 later issues when it changed its name to SOLARIS (1979 to 1994). We no longer trade because we had to drop a lot of trades to save on expenses. Besides, no one in the club ever read REQUIEM-SOLARIS because, being Quebec's most important SF zine, it's entirely in French, and I don't know of any members who can read French, certainly I can't. (Though I keep thinking of dragging out my FRANCAIS VIVANT highschool text book in order to translate that article on Lovecraft!). The point is, from the perspective of Cdn Fhistory, REQUIEM-SOLARIS is extremely important. Therefore, as long as I am archivist, room will be found to preserve the 48 issues we possess. Someday, somebody will make use of them.

This article is pretty dry, but gives you an idea of some of what is preserved in the Cdn zine section of the archive. My next step, and it will take months, is to catalogue the US zines. Meanwhile, I intend to write somewhat more interesting articles on individual zines in the future.