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“Argent,” by Brad Foster

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On his tenure with G.E.: "A broken-down movie actor named Ronald Reagan was working for the company. He was on the road all the time, lecturing to chambers of commerce and power companies and so on about the evils of socialism. We never met, so I remain a socialist."

—Kurt Vonnegut, introduction to the collection *Bagombo Snuff Box*

THIS ISSUE OF *eI* is in memory of Everett F. Bleiler and his very helpful SF bibliographies.

And, in the exclusively SF world, it is also in memory of Phil Klass.

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As always, everything in this issue of *eI* beneath my byline is part of my in-progress rough-draft memoirs. As such, I would appreciate any corrections, revisions, extensions, anecdotes, photographs, jpegs, or what have you sent to me at earl@earlkemp.com and thank you in advance for all your help.

Bill Burns is *jefe* around here. If it wasn't for him, nothing would get done. He inspires activity. He deserves some really great rewards. It is a privilege and a pleasure to have him working with me to make *eI* whatever it is.

Other than Bill Burns, Dave Locke, and Robert Lichtman, these are the people who made this issue of *eI* possible: Jacques Hamon and Earl Terry Kemp.

ARTWORK: This issue of *eI* features original artwork by Brad Foster and Ditmar.

The big difference between conservatives and liberals is that killing doesn't seem to bother the conservatives at all. The liberals are chickenhearted about people dying. Conservatives thought that the massacre, the killing, of so many people in Panama was okay. I think they're really Darwinians. It's all right that people are starving to death on the streets because that's the nature of work.

—Kurt Vonnegut, *Playboy*, May 1992

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The Official *eI* Letters to the Editor Column

Artwork recycled William Rotsler

By Earl Kemp

We get letters. Some parts of some of them are printable. Your letter of comment is most wanted via email to earl@earlkemp.com or by snail mail to P.O. Box 6642, Kingman, AZ 86402-6642 and thank you.

Also, please note, I observe DNQs and make arbitrary and capricious deletions from these letters in order to remain on topic.

This is the official Letter Column of *eI*, and following are a few quotes from a few of those letters concerning the last issue of *eI*. All this in an effort to get you to write letters of comment to *eI* so you can look for them when they appear here.

Friday June 11, 2010:

Ross Chamberlain: Found *eI50*, glommed my cover with relish (no ketchup), and even actually read great chunks of it as an appetizer... Shot a good bit of the morning that way (yup, I'm smilin', podnuh). As usual, good to see what some folk I've heard about most of my fannish life actually look like, or did at some point. So many interesting things going on behind the scenes (from my perspective) while I was growing up that I had no conception of. Still true, I suppose.

eI is great for catching up on a lot of those things, but it also reminds me of how much I missed, as well. Okay, I'll stop before I go all maudlin on ya.

Fascinated with the *Golden Age of Pulps* databases but will have to wait a bit to invest. I don't have Access; I can get

the Runtime but I wonder if Open Office's Base, which I have (and am still trying to figure out how to use, damnit), will handle it.

Monday July 19, 2010:

Mike Deckinger: I'm writing in response to the reported warning Robert Silverberg was given against using his own name, thus birthing "Calvin M. Knox".

H.L. Gold has written that when he began submitting stories to *Astounding*, Campbell encouraged him to continue, but informed him that his readership could never accept a suspect name like "Horace L. Gold."

Gold responded with the creation of "Clyde Crane Campbell," who enjoyed a healthy run in the magazine. It's significant that John Campbell blamed the name change on his fickle readership, and not any of his own editorial prejudices, that might have swayed him toward gentile sounding names.

I also note that Isaac Asimov never had any trouble entering the line-up, despite the Semitic antecedents he bore.

Tuesday July 20, 2010:

Lloyd Penney: I did it again, missed an issue, so this loc will be about two issues of *eI*, 49 and 50. Both are fairly big issues, so I think this is the work of the day.

49...More marvellous pulps, thanks to Terry. I hope there's plenty of demand for this database, especially for historians and popular culture fans, not to mention SF fans with large collections. It's been a couple of months since this issue came out; what's the response been so far?

My letter...we did not go to Eeriecon this year, but I hope someone did who could tell me if they remembered Ken Krueger. I hope Joe Fillinger did something. Just as well we didn't go; money is tight, and I am job hunting again.

Terry, more great research for the ages, and for our descendants, should they be interested, and I hope they will be. What I said last letter goes again, these great books should be preserved, and if they can't be, may the stories carry on beyond the life of the paper. I seem to recall some of these covers from my trips to the local library when I was a kid. Garrett Serviss's book was republished by Apogee Books, the space publishers from Burlington, Ontario, for the 2003 Worldcon in Toronto. Apogee's owner is also behind Collector's Guide Publishing, Robert Godwin. I have never seen copies of *Witchcraft & Sorcery* before...not exactly the kind of title that shows up at the public library or newsstand.

50...I am not that pleased with Microsoft software either, but it is the most familiar software out there, so I use it. So much software out there, and so little reason to trust much of it.

Goodwill, Salvation Army, Value Village...these are the places where I get most of my books. We hadn't been in a while, so we had a look at all of them, and found that all stores had been cleaned up a lot. And, the book prices had been jacked up a couple of hundred percent, too. Nothing is cheap any more, not even in the second-hand shops.

More from Terry...there's the reason I couldn't collect these great old magazines and books...no space. I know many people locally who would probably do the same that Frank Robinson did, and that was pick over a collection, even that of a friend. I have tried for many years to use MS Access, and never did figure it out.

And with that, and all that great Ditmar artwork, plus Ross Chamberlain, too, I guess I am done. One page for two issues of *eI* is not very good at all, but it may be all I've got in me right now. As summer officially starts, more conventions and events arrive, and I am starting to enjoy my current status of being Hugo nominee. I know how people feel about the fan Hugos these days, but that won't stop from doing a little basking in the spotlight, and accepting kudos from many, especially Canadian fans who didn't know one of them could be nominated for a Hugo. Now that Dave Langford isn't even on the ballot for Best Fan Writer, perhaps we may have a better chance.

Friday, July 30, 2010:

Robert Silverberg: I check out your ezine every time I hear there's a new issue. Your son is doing some terrific

work there. It's a great magazine. And who the hell could have imagined that in the year 2010 you would be publishing an electronic fanzine? How could you have ever imagined, back there in 1962 at the worldcon, the sort of things you would be doing over the next fifty years?

Me neither.

Sunday August 1, 2010:

John Purcell: Well, Earl, it's been a long time since I've loded one of your splendid issues. Did you miss me? I didn't think so. This silence hasn't been for lack of trying, but merely a result of a very hectic life. Been very busy between work and family. That combination doesn't leave much spare time lying around. Well, let's see if there's anything worth commenting on in this particular June 2010 issue.

It sounds like you missed a really good time at the LA Vintage Paperback Show. Since the one-day show is open to the public, I would have loved browsing through the tables. For that matter, the dedicated web site (listed in the article) was fun to check out. My favorite title on the web page is *Satan Was a Lesbian*. Really? I never knew that... At any rate, get there next year, Earl, and tell us all about it. Also, it was neat to see an old Minn-stf friend of mine, Greg Ketter, pictured in the article. Wonder how much he brought back to Minneapolis. Seeing his picture makes me wonder how Dreamhaven Books (his store) is doing. Must still be in business, I guess.

Will Murray's article was enjoyed, albeit brief. He is right in that the history of SF pulps is "reasonably well documented," but there is a need for pre-Gernsback science fiction magazine publishing history, such as *Argosy*, *Munsey's Weekly*, and others. Randy Byers has done a fair amount of rooting about old magazines for stfnal type stories, so he'd be a good source for an article like this.

I really liked the "Two Pieces of Silverberg" article (one of my favorite SF writers) and Earl Terry Kemp's contribution. No real comments to make on them, but they were very enjoyable, and I felt you should know that. Happy?

With that, this is done. It will be good to see you at Corflu in February - plan on making it this time - so take it easy, and keep the fan fires burning. But not too hot; it's summer.

Sunday August 8, 2010:

Justin Marriott: Greatly enjoy reading your zine, and recently Robert Speray's article on the LA Paperback Show.

He mentioned *Paperback Parade* as the only zine dedicated to vintage paperbacks. If he said it was the best, or the most influential, or the longest running, he would be correct. But he isn't correct in stating it's the only. If you look closely at the picture of Dreamhaven Books table, you can see the evidence!

Here in the UK I've just published the 15th issue of *The Paperback Fanatic* which is dedicated to genre fiction of the 1960s and 1970s. Issue 15 included features on *The Baroness* sexy-spy novels, an interview with Warren 'The Destroyer' Murphy and an article on Karl Edward Wagner's Kane novels.

There is also a companion zine called *Men of Violence*, which over two issues to date has documented the men's adventure series.

To me, wanting every habitable planet to be inhabited is like wanting everybody to have athlete's foot.
—Kurt Vonnegut, *Hocus Pocus*

[Copyright material deleted at request of author.]

I was a victim of a series of accidents, as are we all.
—Kurt Vonnegut, *The Space Wanderer*, *Sirens of Titan*



“Threading the Needle,” by Ditmar [Martin James Ditmar Jensen]