FOREIGN COMICS: U.S. COMPETITION

BY BILL WILSON

Currently, there has been much controversy concerning possible competition in comic books and strips from foreign publishing companies. Many foreign comic characters, such as Barbarella, Diabolik, and Criminal, have made their way into motion pictures, books, magazines, novelties, etc., and may very well be threatening the U.S.'s present "king of the comics" reputation it has established since the 1930s.

England has been said to be the largest and most widely-circulated comic book & strip publishing center, next only to the United States. The quality of most of their material is usually very good to excellent. Think that over for a minute. I bet you were thinking "The quality of their material ought to be good, they reprint all of our material", but, in a sense, you were correct. True, most of England's industry IS the reprinting of the oldest of the U.S.'s original comic book & strip material, but just look at a copy of Fantastic or Terrific sometimes. The covers, although possibly slightly thinner to a drawing on the original cover of the main U.K. hero in the mag, is done by an English artist and NOT copied or traced from a U.S. piece, but drawn by the artist himself, in his own original style. The covers of the above-mentioned magazines are greatly enjoyed by yours truly, and also highly rated and enjoyed by almost every other fan who had the chance to see a copy, so that should give you some idea of how the covers look.

England's other branches include original text & comic stories written on & about our own characters. World Distributors, in agreement with Western Printing and Lithographing Company (Whitman) publish small, pocket-sized, illustrated text story-written magazines on such characters as Batman, Superman, Phantom, Mandrake, Flash Gordon, and The Man from U.N.C.L.E. The stories and illustrations in these magazines are all purely original in every sense of the word, and all are, in my opinion, excellent collector's items.

Other magazines which feature original stories on some of our own characters are the more expensive, hardbound editions printed on extra-heavy paper. These huge annuals sell for as much as $10.00 here in the U.S., but the actual value is estimated at about $3 to $5. These also have excellent art and text.

Portion of a FANTASTIC cover material, and are worthy editions to any fan's collection.

Next, we come to the magazines that feature reprinted U.S. AND original British-English material. Among these are such magazines as FOY, SMASH, WHAM, FANTASTIC, and TERRIFIC. Most of these magazines feature a reprint of the cover or strip of one of the reprinted characters featured inside. Fantastic and Terrific feature ORIGINAL front covers of Marvel heroes and also original pin-ups of Marvel heroes or villains on the. Among the original characters featured in these magazines are Superman, Johnny Rocket, Smokesnake, The Tiddlers, plus many, many others too numerous to mention.

bill w., editor (who else?)
Now we come to the comics published in other foreign areas. In my collection, I have only one comic from Greece, and it is entitled MIKY NAGOYE (Say that fast. It sounds like Mickey Mouse, right?), which features such Walt Disney characters as Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Uncle Scrooge, Donald Duck, and most of the other Disney characters. It is a small, pocket-sized, 4 3/4 x 7 1/2" edition published, extraordinarily (because most foreign mags are B&W inside), in full color throughout the entire book. It is very enjoyable, but the only handicap is that I can't read or speak Greek. A copy or two of any Greek comic would, however, be a worthy addition to your collection.

The Turkish comics from my collection include Bucur, Fotos, and Superman. Bucur is, I presume, an original comic strip dealing with humorous portrayals of pirates. It, as are all other Turkish comics, B&W inside, with frequent color pages also inside. Fotos means, probably, "Blondie"; as it features high-quality reprints of this strip. Superman is a book which reprints old Superman daily strips in black & white. The interesting thing about this book is that Superman wears a suit of blue cape, trunks, and boots; orange shirt and Long Johns (Long Johns???). The "S" insignia is yellow with a blue background. The boots have two large slits on both sides, instead of the design on the boots of our Superman. And, of course, the book is entitled "Superman" instead of "Superman", which I don't understand. All three of these or other Turkish comic magazines would be worth acquiring for your collection.

One comic I acquired from Israel reprints Little Lulu adventures. The unique point about this comic is that it reads from back to front; that is, the front cover is where our comic's back cover is, and vice versa. The first story begins on the page before the inside back cover (inside front cover for this comic) and the stories continue on so that the reader must read from right to left.

The final area which will be covered in this article will be Australian comics. The comic I will review will be Catman 17. (See above reproduction). This comic, as most other foreign comics, is printed with a full color cover and black & white interior pages. The entire issue is in English, which is a great relief from the long line of unreadable comics in a foreign language. The story and art are both excellent, and are much better than most foreign comics. I am sorry to say that, to my knowledge, these comics are no longer published; as they contributed much to the world of comic art.

Well, there you have my opinions on U.S. and foreign comics. I hope that preceding comments will help you decide for yourself whether or not foreign comics are giving U.S. comics competition. I understand that I did not cover ALL foreign comics, as I know I would not have enough space, and that I did not go into as much detail as I could have, because of the same reason. However, I hope this article provided enjoyment & knowledge, for if it didn't it was useless.

FOREIGN COMICS: U.S. COMPETITION? Maybe!

SOLD OUT BACK ISSUES
Issues #1, #8, & #9 of "The Collector" are sold out, and no extra copies will be printed. Copies of issues #2 and #3 are going fast. (#2 is 15c; #3 is 30c). Copies of numbers 5, 6, 7, & 10 (with cover by Fantochio) are fairly numerous, but they, too, are going fast. (#5 is 30c; #6 is 15c; #10 is 25c). All copies are sent flat in sturdy manilla envelopes. Order today to avoid delay or disappointment.

ADVERTISING RATES
Due to increases in print run, costs, time, and quality, advertising rates for TC just had to be increased also. Copies of TC will stay the same (25c per issue; TWO-ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION: 50c) but ad rates for BOTH classified AND display ads (from this issue for #12-on) will be: $2.00 per full page (8 1/2 x 11), $1.00 per half page (5 1/2 x 8 1/2), and 50c per fourth page (2 3/4 x 8 1/2). All ads must be typed, printed, or drawn as DARKLY as possible. Please follow the above specifications, and include full payment. See pgs. 2, or 9 for editorial address.

THE RED SKULL
Quick as the Flash, Ken ripped off his clothes to reveal the red and blue costume of...

SWOOPERBOY. "You can't take her" he yelled. "Look who I am." Bob squinted. "Can't seem to make out. You a clown?"

"No I'm not," said Ken.

"No," cried Lannie in triumph. "He's finally admitted he's Swooperboy!"

"No I'm not," said Ken. "I just have this on for the masquerade party tonight."

"But," said Lannie, "there isn't one tonight."

"Then I'll have one. My place, 8:00. Come as Lady Godiva," he turned to Connie and Bob.

"Don't you know who I am?" he screamed in anguish. "I'm on TV."

"Is it as good as a past?" asked a hippie.

"TV, huh?" said Bob. "A cousin of mine had that, so I give a dime every year to the Easter Seals..."

"Not TB, Bob," corrected Connie. "TV. Where we do the Pontiac commercials."

Bob hefted his Tommy gun. "I've got a better idea. Run like heck. He tore off the door and threw it aside.


The three leaped into the Firebird standing at the curb and took off down the hot, dusty, routine street. Swooperboy stared dumbly after them for a second, then decided that since he had his union suit on, he might as well get in some time and a half. He leaped into the air and flew after them.

Meanwhile, on Earth #7, a parallel world so much like our own it's completely different, the armored Doctor Zoom has captured Red Devil, intending to transfer his personality into the superhero's body. Already Red Devil stood solid in the glass, waiting for Zoom to press that fateful button that would make the terrible transfer. Zoom looked over the control board, thinking. "Should I press the red button, then the green button and finally the blue, or is it red, green, blue, or is it blue, red, green or... what? Ahh, do I need to be on the control board."

THOOM! POW, ZAP, FLOOY, KA-TING-GO, BOOM, FAMM, KERSHUG, FOOSH, GUROLLE, GURGLE, BLAM, BLOOP.

"Strange... nothing happened."

Doctor Zoom crawled painfully out of a pile of twisted steel girders and avoided falling into a hole in the floor. He pushed some electronic debris out of the way and waved a hole in the smoke with an armored glove. "Strange," he thought. "Nothing happened."

But back on Earth #7 1/4, something did happen.

Bob
CRITICISMS

LOCs FROM THE READERS

Send all correspondence to:

CRITICISMS: c/o Bill Wilson; 1535 Oneida Drive; Clairton, Pa.
15025. PLEASE write or print or type as neatly as possible when expressing your opinions on an issue or issues of "The Collector." ALL letters of comment must be as long as possible and, if possible, fairly long. Write today.

Last issue, we started this column off with a short, but interesting & intelligent LOC from Roy R. Russell. Again, this issue, we are starting off with another LOC from Roy

Dear Bill:
John Fantacchio drew an excellent cover for "The Collector" #10. Duffy Vohland's column was very good. On Fanzines, Steven Carberg was interesting, but it was almost impossible to read in some places, due to poor reproduction. Tom Christopher did a very capable job on Flash Gordon. Legionaire's artwork is rapidly improving and he's developing into a good artist. News and Views by the editor was very informative and interesting. Fred Hembeck's artwork, although not bad, was much below the quality of the artwork of the rest of your magazine. All in all, a very good issue. (I have enclosed 25c for "The Collector" #11)

Roy R. Russell
2175 Avenue Road, Suite 103/Toronto 12, Ontario

"Well, readers, what do YOU think? Thanks for your kind LOC, Roy. I'm always glad to hear from readers like you not only because you are so pleased with an issue of TC, but because when you write letters of comment, you express your opinions intelligently and understandably. Dig? Now, send your LOC on this issue; #11; OK? — Bill W."

Dear Bill:
Just got my copy of "The Collector" #10. Happy Anniversary! (If I was our 1st anniversary, I would have had all the readers who have SCI-FI interests and [censored] the same, but..."


CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE COLLECTOR are always accepted for publication if they are of worthy quality. If you have talent, send your samples to: The Collector; Bill Wilson — editor; 1535 Oneida Drive, Clairton, Pa. 15025.
"On Fanzines" was good, but that written type just doesn't seem right to me. The Flash Gordon article sounded like an extension of the Alex Raymond article of last ish. Those illos were fab. Surprised to see my letter printed, but thanks just the same. Thanks for fitting me into the News and Views col. also. See ya next ish? Oh yes; enclosed is 25c in coin for "The Collector" #11. I'll be expecting it.

Robert Kowalski
3872 Garvin St./Detroit, Michigan 48212

(Thanks for another LOC, Rob. Now, how about sending one on this ish? --Bill!)

Dear Bill:

"The Collector" #10 is the best ish so far. I didn't think a lot of NEW, though. Maybe because I have all the Deadman stories. (So do I; and I enjoyed it.--Bill!) ON FANZINES was very good. Steven Carlberg knows what he's talking about. I'm glad I finally found out about the A.P.A.S. I'm going to write them soon. My P.G. illa came out very poorly (my fault, not the printer's) but thought I did a decent job on the article. John Fantucchio's Ming illa was the best in the issue. The NEWS & VIEWS was good, but for the most part, a little late. I'm glad you dropped the Oddities section, as they were little more than coloring mistakes. T.C. has come a long way from the little newsletter-type zine issued a year ago. For the most part, the articles are good, and well written. The art, though, is only average. Out side of John Fantucchio, your best artist is Paul Lograsso, Jr. The one thing that disturbs me about his art is that every panel is a swi-e, and every one is easy to spot. In order (in TC #10) they are: Infantino, Adams, & Wood. However, Paul is a very good copyer, and better than most fan artists. Also, the letter page is very good. PLEASE DON'T DROP IT.

Tom Christie
842 Northridge/ Glendora, Calif. 91740

(Thanks for your elaborate opinions on TC #11, Tom. I hope you approve of the way I'm using your illos in this issue. Thanks again. Now, send in your criticisms on this ish. --Bill Wilson, editor)

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THIS MAGAZINE WAS DESIGNED, EDITED AND PRINTED BY

BILL WILSON, ASSISTANT TO MR. J. E. PRINCE

OF

PRINCE PRINTING
538 MILLER AVENUE
CLAIRTON, PA. 15025

SEE US FOR YOUR NEXT PRINTING JOB
Dear Bill:

My comments on TC #97 are as follows: Your cover to Tarzan was not as exciting as the previous one. In fact, it was quite disappointing. The only thing that made it worth reading was the art by Frank Frazetta, which was excellent as always.

However, the rest of the comic was not up to par. The story was forgettable, and the artwork was not as good as I expected. The only saving grace was the lettering, which was clear and easy to read.

In general, I would say that this issue was a bit of a letdown compared to the previous one. I hope that for the next issue you can bring back some of the excitement that was missing in this one.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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CRITICISMS, continued

With all the tremendous response I’ve been getting regarding TC #10, I felt it only right to include another page of letters. If response keeps up like this, I can promise at least three pages of letters each issue. —Bill Wilson, editor

Dear Bill:

I received the Collector #10 this week, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. The cover by John Fantucchio was superb! I am enclosing 25c for a copy of the Collector #11.

Thank you.

Gary Via
Route 1 Box 93, Mechanicsville, Va. 23111

Dear Bill:

Thanks for using my letter, and for the copy of the Collector #10. I’m sending some more art, which is enclosed. Hope you can use it. (I’ll be in #12 and possibly #13; besides the illo of Lady Luck this ish.—Bill))

In regard to the Collector #10: The covers and the inside illus of Ming by John Fantucchio were fantastic! This is some of the best fan work ever done. (You mean PRO work; John is a PRO—Bill!) I’m interested in buying the originals. If you have them, let me know the price. (Sorry, but John has all the originals of his work for this and all other illos his work appears in.—Bill)) I’m in favor of keeping “NEW” by Duffy Vohld, but how about making it longer and covering up to 5 different subjects instead of just 1? (You’ll have to speak to Duffy about that). “On Fanzines” was interesting. The different type of type is a pleasant change. “Flash Gordon” was also interesting: and the rundown on the King comics was informative to me, as I’ve missed the last 5 issues.

That’s about it. I guess. I hope to hear from you soon.

Bud Fern
115 David Drive/Palatine, Illinois 60067

Dear Bill:

I just got TC #10. It was great! The Flash Gordon cover was something else! The Deadman article was good. Ditto the art. Steve Carberg’s “On Fanzines” was good also, but it was hard to read because of the light print. Tom Christopher’s “Flash Gordon” was good—er—great! But he left out one point about the Flash Gordon comics—didn’t mention the Gold Key one-shots that were put out 3 years ago. All in all, I think this was the best TC yet.

Thomas Sciaccia
2505 Olliver Avenue/Bronx, N.Y. 10467

Why, even John Fantucchio commented: “I would definitely say that this was the best one—and your knowledge of layout is exceptionally good.” Wow! Don’t think TC readers didn’t like TC #10. I wonder how they’ll like this ish? Send in your LOCs so I can find out! The suspense is killing me! Jeffersonville, Ind.

SWORD AND SORCERY...

is a new fanzine and we need YOUR help. To make $55 a success we need YOUR contributions.

ARTISTS: Send us a sample of your work. We are mainly interested in sci-fi, horror, and fantasy.

WRITERS: Send us articles and text stories along the same lines. Why not try?

Send all contributions to:
Marc Isaacs, 350 Quiltwood Drive, San Rafael, California 94903

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Christopher/?
HYPERMAN

In this time of poverty and war, the world finds a need for a champion of law and order, one that would help in time of need, no matter what the risk or circumstances. The world has waited for the day that such a champion would come, and finally, on a fateful day, such a champion, a super champion, appears, one that would soon be known the world over in... A HERO IS BORN.

Richard Harris, famed scientist, has been commissioned by the United States to carry out plans for a top secret project, which is being threatened by communist agents.

Harris' friend and associate, Bartholomew Parker, is giving him a briefing.

Security guards are being posted in the area of your laboratory rich; just to make sure there's no...

Suddenly...

AN EXPLOSION!!!
News & Views

by Bill Wilson and Mark Dillman

"The column for showcasing news for the uninforméd and opinions for the criticism-based reader of comics, etc."

Recommended Reading

Comics (with the current comics appearing every day), I will showcase only a few of the more current issues.

Hawk and the Dove #1 is a very good example of DC's current stride to gain its goal of #1 comic Industry. The script is by Steve Skeates and it is a story that truly merits Ditko artwork. (Now Mark Dillman on the current DC scene, for those of you who are uninformed) DC is really changing, but you don't argue believe this if you haven't already heard it: Spectre, Doom Patrol, Inferior Five, Bomba, and Blackhawk are all being dropped! Isn't it very unlike DC to go on a discontinuing spree? DC SPECIAL is a 64 page, quarterly comic that is devoted to one artist or writer each issue. #1 will reprint Infinito's greatest works. Mark Dillman. Captain America goes wild (!) when he meets his exact duplicate in #108 of his mag. The Thing becomes Ben Grimm just as the sinister Wizard strikes; and complications occur with Sue's condition in Fantastic Four #78.

Scorpio's return and passes as Fury, while Fury faces the tests of a M.D. in S.H.I.E.L.D. The Marvel Super Heroes #16 headlines the debut of The Phantom Eagle, a WWII flying ace in a spectacular war story. Paperbacks: The 23rd doc Savage paperback, Fortress of Solitude, is now available; another great classic by Kenneth Robeson. The Bantam Captain America paperback, after about a year's wait, is finally out. The title is "The Great Gold Stoat", and all I can say is that it was worth waiting for. And, in my opinion, better than the Avengers paperback of last year. Sports: Ganzannis.

Concussion #2; 30¢ in manila envelope from: Mike Roberts/The Route #1 Box 95 Maple Valley, Washington 98038. Comic Crusader #2; 25¢ folded from: Martin G. Greene/Buck 12, Des Moines, Massachusetts 02226. New Era #2; 30¢ from: Tom Christopher/284 Northridge/Glendora, California 91740. Comic Book #3; 60¢ from: Alan Hanley/1940 W. Wilson Ave./Chicago, Illinois 60640.

Scoop (1) from Mark Dillman: "His Name is Savage" has apparently been sued by Bantam (who put out the Doc Savage paperbacks) and by a movie company for using Lee Marvin's face on the cover of #1. Bart Bush told me this at the CAF con last month. Now I understand it will be made into a sci-fi type thing which should be out any day now (maybe).

Recommended Viewing

Barbarella based on the popular French comic strip. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (picture above). This movie should, in my opinion, be a classic in years to come. The photography is excellent, and the interweaving plots make the movie much more interesting. Certainly worth it to see this outstanding movie at the local cinema. Remember way back in TCF2 that I said that plans were being made for a Doc Savage movie? Well, whether you believe me or not, IT'S TRUE! It is being filmed now, and should possibly be released sometime in 1969. Also, better than that, there are plans for a Doc Savage weekly TV show! I'm not sure who is filming this, but maybe I'll have more details next issue. ADDED COMMENT: To the left of you, you find a small autographed photo of Robin, from the Batman TV series, right? Well, I'd like to explain this, if I may. On July 4th of this year, our amusement park in Duquesne, Kennywood, advertised the boy wonder as being there for two shows that day. Lucky enough to have been in the area, we went to see the shows, and I met a Shocker hands with Bert Ward; and he autographed the photograph personally.

What does the future hold for Hyperman? What is his strange secret? And who is the mysterious figure cloaked in black? To find out, read the next exciting episode of Hyperman, in a future issue of "The Collector."
IT'S THOSE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT

What is the difference between a crud-zine and a quality zine? Oh yes, of course, there are the usual things, the basic things: good articles and art. But the really high class publications have that extra polish that others lack. We, the editors and staff of SENSE OF WONDER take special pride in assuring SSEN's readability; we make sure that the layout is clear and extremely well done. We take the time to correct our typographical errors. To number our pages, and to give Sense of Wonder the sterling appearance that has earned it these esteem. SSEN deserves the support of all of Fandom.

There are few zines that offer more entertainment value per penny. -- Larry Herron, Editor of The Student and Chairman of the 1968 SOUTHEASTERN CON. The cover couldn't have been much better." -- Ron Rose, former editor of Alter Ego and Spectator. To put it clearly, SSEN actually is beginning to bring out a sense of wonder! -- Dave Bibby, writer REEB, Sense of Wonder, in my opinion, is the best what's been put out, and I'm sure many fans agree with me." -- John Clark "In no other zine have I seen color utilized or applied so well." -- Gordon Ryder Jr. "No one should ever miss it -- it's quickly becoming a Fandom classic." -- Larry Welckz. In fact, and this is not particularly important, SSEN placed in two categories in the 1967 ALWY AWARDS. Our contributors: Ronn Foss, D. Bruce Berry, Doug Potter, Dick Trizarre, Jim Shooter, Mark Savage, Vawilson, Steve Nelson, Al Gordon, Al Schenobar, Alan Hatchikian, Earl Blair Jr., Alan Hemeny, Richard Buckler, Bobbi Kochergas, Bobbi Sebbensky, Tom Fisher, Raymond Miller, Dave Bibby, and Stephen Stanley. Most of these are pros or semi-pros, and all are acknowledged "top-names" in Fandom. As for the physical characteristics, it is 55 pages long, with quality covers and beautiful interiors. Each issue is mailed in the same condition in a sturdy envelope. If I have completely sold out, so the current issue you'll want is $5, for 35% per copy. 95 - 7 are $1.00; 95 - 16 (average of $1.95) is $2.00. If it has articles, satire, bonanza, fiction, strips, and more. This SSEN OF WONDER ANALYSIS costs 50c for 60 pages of new and old material ... for most of you, it's like a normal issue, only longer. That's ...
NEW ERA #2 OUT NOW!!!
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JOHN CHECCHARICK'S NEW CAPT. STAR TEXT, A HISTORY OF THE
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A 1967, A HISTORY OF SEVEN SEAS COMICS, THE TRIP, A GREAT NEW
S.F. STORY, A WILD DETECTIVE STORY, ANOTHER CHAPTER OF BRUNO
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QUESTIONNAIRE

"How should "The Collector" improve?"

Please mark all boxes with an X in the box beside the answer you choose, and PLEASE return all questionnaires to the address at the bottom of this page, before Aug. 10th Answer briefly.

1.) What type of articles, comic strips, and other features on other media besides comics would you like to see in future issues of "The Collector"?

2.) Should ads be featured in with "The Collector", as they have been since #2? YES NO

3.) Should ads be featured in a small, fanzine-type supplement, such as Mike Robertson's ADZE, which accompanied Concussion #7? YES NO

4.) Should TC carry NO ads at all? YES NO

5.) Would you like to see interviews with pros and comic dealers in future issues? YES NO

6.) Do you think TC should carry humorous or adventure text stories AND/OR comic strips? YES NO

7.) Why, or why not?

8.) Specify which you prefer: STRIPS TEXT

9.) Would you like to see more panoramic front & back covers by John Fantucchio or other artists? (as with #10) YES NO

10.) If TC were to run a subscription drive with free benefits for the readers who get the most subs, or such, would you be able to take part in this and try to get TC more readers? YES NO

11.) Do you think your answers will be helpful to me, the editor? YES NO

You need not answer all questions, but please try to answer as many as possible. SEND ALL QUESTIONNAIRES TO:
Bill Wilson/editor/1535 Oneida Drive/Clairton, Pennsylvania 15025