

You probably read about them in David Gerrold's book THE WORLD OF STAR TREK. Fanzines, that is, amateur magazine publications about Star Trek.

WHY a STAR TREK fanzine?

Because. . .

The years that Star Trek has been off the television as a live action show, aside from syndication, have not taken the edge off many fans' appetite for more new stories about the familiar heroes of the Starship Enterprise. The written versions of the scripts by James Blish, while nice to have, didn't quite capture the characters who had so endeared themselves to fannish hearts. Besides, we all knew what had happened in those stories. What fans wanted were more NEW adventures. Of course the animated shows have given us some, but a great deal of the warmth and personalities of the characters had to be curtailed by the exigencies of the ½-hour cartoon-show format.

The Star Trek fan-produced magazines (hereafter referred to as fanzines or merely 'zines') began before the show entered its 2nd season. Spockanalia was one of the earliest fanzines and is generally conceded to be one of the best. The first issue of Spockanalia was sold at NYCON III.* Like most of the early zines, it was filled with very short stories involving someone of the crew of the Enterprise, articles on aspects of ideas from the show, and poetry. Reports on meeting the actors or seeing the show filmed were also popular fanzine material back then. It really wasn't until 1969 that the present tendency to write long stories using the Star Trek universe began to grow towards its present proportions.

*NYCON III - an abbreviation for the 25th World Science Fiction Convention which was held in New York City in 1967. It was one of the earliest to have any Star Trek involvement.



On occasion, he may have had to defend his half-human heredity...



Fans were putting Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and the whole Star Trek universe through their paces for fannish amusement long before the "Save Star Trek" campaigns brought the isolated cliques of fans together with the knowledge that there were other people just like themselves out there in the world somewhere.... ST fans thought up all manner of stories, many starting with just day dreams of being aboard the Enterprise.

Star Trek was popular among college students and young adults. These fans were usually quite literate and had the time to indulge their fancies and fantasies on paper. Some had the beginning of talent - undeveloped talent which might never have been awakened if some driving force had not come along. Long nights in the dorms with other Star Trek fans began to mean talking about Star Trek and telling their own script and plain story ideas to one another. Many fans acquired the taste for such stories.

Some of these fans were science fiction fans also who knew about such things as amateur magazines (which have been a flourishing part of SF fan activity for decades). The fanzines were first written and published by these people who drew on their knowledge of SF fanzines and adopted those techniques to new purposes. Spockanalia, ST Phile, Plak-Tow, Triskelion, were all influenced by organized science fiction fandom. They published articles, stories, poetry, and news but with the difference that the zines were devoted to Star Trek rather than just science fiction in general. The idea spread slowly, through dorms, actors' fan-club bulletins, word-of-mouth, a literal osmosis.

The letter-writing campaigns that 'saved Star Trek' for its third season and helped put it back on now, involved not only thousands of isolated fans of the show protesting the network's and studio's action in canceling the series, but the campaign brought together ST fans from all over the country. They exchanged letters and addresses of other people who were fans of the show. The existence of the fanzines and strictly Star Trek clubs filtered down to fans who had been completely unaware of these aspects of involvement in the show. The normal fan clubs for the various actors had little monthly or yearly newsletters for their members. Among the accounts of "I met William Shatner in Chicago" and news of recent appearances ads showed up. Innocent little things like as ad for Galileo 7 or Overload. The hunger was there and the little fanzines spread the infection.

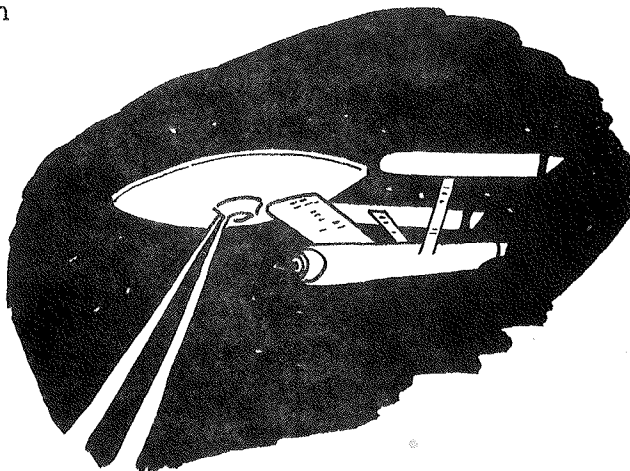
The earliest conventions for Star Trek fans were science fiction conventions (shortened to 'con'). They have been a going concern for years; and since Star Trek and science fiction bear some relation to one another, the Star Trek fans began to flock to science fiction cons in increasing numbers. NYCON III in 1967 was aghast at having a record-breaking 1500 members! The bulk of the new fans came because of Star Trek. The science fiction people put up with the 'Trekkies', thinking it just a passing fad which would soon run its course. Meanwhile it did add to science fiction coffers... Trekkies were paying customers too, so why not?

They didn't go away. More and more conventions were finding it worth their while to include a little Star Trek in their programming. Then some East-Coast fans got the bright idea that maybe a STAR TREK CONVENTION could be a success. The first one was held. Small. One afternoon of some talks, a slide show, and everyone went home saying "Next year we'll...." The annual Star Trek cons now-days have memberships in the thousands.

The conventions were widely advertised, and many new fans came to the conventions to see some ST cast member in the flesh. They strayed to the huckster room and saw the fanzines. They talked to the deeply involved fans and were hooked! Now those once-new fans are in the huckster rooms of other conventions selling their own fanzines; telling other strays of the intricacies of Kraith, the events which transpired AFTER the delegates arrived at the conference on Babel, what happened the next time Kirk and Kang met... or when Spock taught Scotty to read Vulcan.

yes, yes, but why a Star Trek FANZINE?
to print Star Trek stories of course!

It's a disease or an obsession perhaps. Why do people feel compelled to write Star Trek fiction? There isn't any good answer yet. Writing is supposed to be a form of therapy like finger-painting, a little more demanding, but it serves some of the same purpose. But then why Star Trek? Maybe because Star Trek tends to be an optimistic format oftentimes. Whatever the reason, people write it. People read it.



On board the Enterprise we saw little of the daily activities of the crew. For a TV show this is necessary. The general viewing audience doesn't care about the long, boring intervals between the adventures or the little details of everyday life (What crew members do during some of those truly lengthy red alerts? Did Capt. Kirk brush his teeth in the mornings when the ship was carrying the Babel delegates? Was a coffee break on the bridge a regular event as in "Mantrap," or a special occasion?)

The shows left many loose ends. Like-

Whatever happened to Yeoman Janice Rand? Well, Ruth Berman wrote a story in which Kirk meets her again some time after she had left the Enterprise, ("The Yeoman's Captain" in T-Negative #11.)



Then there are Sarek and Amanda, Spock's parents. Just WHY was it so terribly logical for Sarek to pick out Amanda to marry? The number of logical reasons for Sarek to marry Amanda increases each year within fandom. One fan author thought it was to help increase understanding between the two races and aid in persuading T'Pol that the Federation was a worthwhile organization for Vulcan to join. ("Let Me Count The Ways" by Judith Brownlee in Eridani Triad #2). The Sarek-and-Amanda question is such a popular one that there is one story about it among the four reprinted in this fanzine. There is no one official answer, so all manner of such meetings and reasons may be assumed.

Miranda Jones, the blind telepath who appeared in "Is There In Truth No Beauty?" had a life before she boarded the Enterprise. We didn't see it of course, but she must have had a past beyond the vague generality of 'school on Vulcan.' A fan writer wrote a beautiful story about Miranda's childhood. ("Miranda" by S.L. Anderson in Impulse #1.) Nothing official you understand, but satisfying.

Star Trek-fan authors can be long winded. They seem prone to this..A magnificent obsession turns into novels. Some are good, some are bad, some have the seeds of greatness. Among these, several large projects have been the result. Most are collections of stories following a variety histories of the Star Trek characters. Also, one tremendous reference work has been published.

ALTERNATE UNIVERSE IV

This is a short novel about Captain Kirk which was written by Shirley Maiewski, Anna Mary Hall, and Virginia Tilley. The premise is that even if the events taking place in the story did not happen in the official Star Trek universe - as witnessed in the episode "Mirror, Mirror," there are an infinite series of alternate universes, each a little different from the official one.

The story has Kirk lose his command as a result of a court-martial and follows him through the aftermath of that long-feared and inglorious end of a promising career, until he finds himself and a place for himself again. The narrative is done with a deep sympathy and feeling for the character of James T. Kirk; it also ties up a few loose threads from some of the broadcast episodes.

EPILOGUE

This is another novel in the making, and is quite possibly the best of the lot. Jean Lorrah begins in the years following a long and destructive war between the Federation and the Romulan-Klingon alliance. Various familiar figures take turns telling Admiral James T. Kirk, retired, about their own experiences during the war.

FEDERATION AND EMPIRE

There are many stories about the mirror universe of the episode "Mirror, Mirror." This is a series that is becoming a novel too. Once again the obsession has taken hold of an author and brought forth a powerful and complex novel. Laura Basta has filled the briefly glimpsed alternate universe with a variety of new characters as well as mirrored many of the familiar ones. According to this series, the mirror Spock was Sarek's bastard. Logical, most logical.

KRAITH

Jacqueline Lichtenberg, another fan, has created through her stories and articles an elaborate view of the Vulcans and Vulcan philosophy. The stories have come to the point of defining an entire alternate Star Trek universe in which their originator sets further stories herself and for which a writer's guide is available so that other fans may write stories within that selfsame universe.

Even if you don't agree with Lichtenberg's view of the Vulcans, you have to stand back in awe of the amount of detail and work that has been poured into the Kraith background. Fans tend to either forcefully agree or violently disagree with the Kraith viewpoints. However, there can be little doubt about the tremendous impact which this series has had on Star Trek fandom.

STAR TREK CONCORDANCE

This is THE reference work on the television series. The 'Concordance' is a complete encyclopedia in two volumes, listing everyone and everything in all the 78 episodes of live action Star Trek. It is immense, detailed, and profusely illustrated.

WHO works on Star Trek fanzines?

the editor's FRIENDS.

If the writers must write, and the artists must draw, then the editors must edit and publish them. There is no profit in fanzines. The writers and artists get a free copy of the zine in return for being allowed to print the material.

The fanzines which are sold by an editor rarely bring enough return to cover the costs of printing and mailing the zines. The only return an editor receives is the satisfaction of having done something also. Of course, parts of fanzine publishing have their attractions, else there would not be as many around as there obviously are.

Most zines start out printing the editor's own works. So, fanzines get started sometimes as a vanity press - seeing one's work in print, or even mimeographed is quite satisfying. That is why so many zines state that they are one-shots (the editors are only going to do one issue) and wind up reflecting on their hasty statement in the 5th issue editorial.

Meantime, contributions of material begin to come in from outside in increasing amounts depending upon how well received the previous issues were.

The better the quality of the initial issue, the better is the material which is submitted to the editor for consideration. The quality of the zine depends on two things. Contents and reproduction. If the material printed was of high literary or artistic quality, the zine will get good results in orders and submissions. If the method of reproduction was of good quality, the material printed looks a little better than if printed by a poor-quality method. As a result, there is a level of printing competence which must be first be reached before the zine can be successful as a rule. There are three tried-and-true methods of reproduction available - spirit duplicator (ditto, is a trade name), mimeograph, and offset.* Good repro-

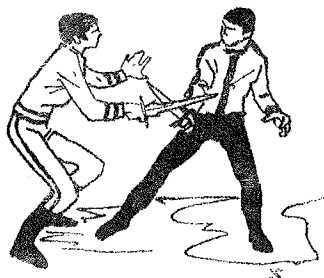
* There are examples of each of the three printing processes in this fanzine. Pages 1-6 are offset. The last two are ditto. All the rest of this zine were printed on my trusty mimeograph.

duction can be obtained on all three processes. However, the best ditto printing is not equal to well done offset printing or good mimeograph. Offset, is indeed, the best, clearest, and most EXPENSIVE type of reproduction. Ditto is the cheapest. Mimeograph is somewhere in between. All fan editors have to face the problem of how much cash outlay they can afford in order to get the zine printed. Some editors must sell advance subscriptions to a fanzine in order to get the money necessary to print it. The budget plays a large part in editorial decisions about fanzines. Each editor must select artwork on the basis of how much and by what process he can afford to print it. How many pages total can he afford? Would he rather publish one long story or several short ones? The editor tries to get the highest quality of material possible, but knows that a bad printing job will spoil much of the effect of the work and cause authors and artists to be more reticent about sending their better work to his zine. So, editors put out as good a fanzine as possible, for no profit, and at considerable expense to themselves.*

Star Trek fanzines are works of love. The editors try to keep up with publication promises but the trouble with the printer, or the typewriter, or getting the money for the paper, or for the printer who just raised his prices the day you came in with your zine - THINGS HAPPEN!

Most times you will receive your copy of a fanzine within a month to six weeks. But don't think the editor has skipped the country if it takes up to a year for it to come. That is a little extreme, but very possible, especially with newer zines. Many editors become swamped with orders and publishing, besides having their own private lives to lead. Remember a fanzine is a work of love; if things pile up and endless complaints come in, it can be a nuisance. That causes many good editors to finally stop publishing their fanzines.

Don't throw ST fanzines away. Many times other fans will want to buy old fanzines they missed getting copies of.



* If you are interested in how fanzines are edited, published, and marketed, there is a booklet put out by ST Welcommittee -
STW's Zine Publishing Information Booklet @35¢
 - write Sharon Ferraro
 1309½ South Westnedge Ave.
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

There are roughly three types of Star Trek fanzines. The most prominent throughout this essay are the fiction-zines. These are full of stories, articles, poetry, and artwork for the most part.

Then there are the club zines. This type is put out by some Star Trek oriented club and consists of news and items of interest to members of that organization usually. The club zine tends to be a place for members of the club to write their thoughts on club matters and a display of the talent within the club.



News zines are small publications put out by individuals or in association with clubs. They differ from club zines in that the news is of interest to more than the small group which may be involved in publishing the news zine. The news is of events which affect ST fans in general.

Isn't Star Trek fiction awfully LIMITED?

I haven't noticed it!

One could say the same thing for Gothic novels, detective stories, and Greek tragedy. It's all in what you want. The Sarek-meets-Amanda story is subject to endless variations. The theme is ancient. Male meets and courts female. How many novels use that central plot with variations?

The question is really why should Sarek (or Vulcans in general) be such a fascinating protagonist? Love stories bloom for every era. Regency romances abound as do medieval ones; Roman, etc. The only field which has a lack of romance is the field of science fiction. The SF stories usually revolve around a man-against-machine or man-against-society theme. The alien lover hasn't been handled very well until lately. First off, the aliens tend to be either physically repulsive or plainly not used in the sexual theme. The bug-eyed-monster used to be bent on recreating the Sabine rape, but the rescued damsels fell in love with the human heroes who rescued them. Once in awhile an author, trying to do something different would give the plot a twist and have the girl in love with the alien, but even these didn't have the ring of truth. Identification with the girl was somewhat lacking. The aliens never came across as attractive either. Oh, the author may have said they were 'attractive,' but

the feeling wasn't there.

Amanda-meets-Sarek is the most obvious example in Star Trek writing of this theme (Spock, after all, is half human), and a great deal of ST fiction is written by women, about women, for women.

"What happens when a Terran husband kisses his wife? Sarek, I am not sure I know what you mean.... I have never been married, so I can only suppose that they touch lips.... Well, then you will have to explain what you mean.... Oh, well, no; we are not telepaths. There is no touching of minds during a kiss. Love? I'm not even going to try to explain that to you...."

"So, Vulcans touch fingers when they kiss? How unusual. I don't think it would be as much fun.... You are willing to demonstrate ...? Of -of course I'm not offended.... How do you...? Oh, like that...I see. It is a very lovely gesture.... Oh! So that is why Vulcans do not kiss Earth-fashion.... Sarek I wish you hadn't.... If you hadn't caught me off guard, I wouldn't have let you know. Well, I'm sure it isn't logical, but.... Yes, I am in love with you."

That excerpt was from Sharon Emily's story "The Misfit," in Star Trek Showcase #1, page 38.

On the other hand there is a fine murder mystery on board the Enterprise (and not the one of Ambassador Gav on the way to Babel). "Murder Trip" is by Theodore B. Peak in Grup #2.

Plain science fiction, philosophical stories, all types of fiction are possible in the limits of ST writing.

The following four Star Trek stories are reprinted in this fanzine with the kind permission of their authors. Though they have appeared in print before, they are good examples of some of the better and more popular ST themes.

Do not expect any continuity among these tales. Each author has her own private view of the ST universe which she is sharing with us. What one writer assumes as being true will not affect any stories but her own. If Kirk becomes an admiral in one story, that is true only within the context of that single story.