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It's been a long time since I last put pen to paper, and so I'll remedy the situation with a review of the recent FOOM mags.

FOOM 9 arrived in July, two months overdue, but it was well worth it. The Buscema cover, inked by Craig Russell (who won the 'Outstanding New Talent' award this year) was a work of artistic genius. The article, "Vision, This is Your Life" was very informative, evoking nostalgic memories, but it also clued me in on future events concerning everybody's favourite android.

The Scarlet Witch article was rather short, but I liked it. Well done David Kraft. The mini item comp was pretty simple, I knew who the characters were at first glance. It's a pity we British Marvelites are unable to enter these comps. The "Behind the Scenes at Cover Sketches" was extremely interesting. I'm always fascinated by the 'whys' and 'wherefores' of how comics are compiled, as I'm sure ALL other Marvelites are. Charley Parker's satire, the Visage, was hilarious, I even laughed once or twice. 'Nuff said?

"Journey to the Centre of the Vision" was excellent! Interviews with Marvel writers and artists in Foom have become more frequent in the last few issues, and who am I to complain? Finally, the "Dept. of Information" has become a very interesting feature. They're printing more covers and future news than ever before!

Then, after one mere month, not one but TWO Foom mags arrived! After the usual exultations, I carefully perused the peerless pages.

The cover of ish 13, featuring Daredevil, whilst not excellent was pretty good. "Through the Eyes of the Beholder" by Naomi Basner and Chris Claremont was excellent although it could have been made even better by devoting a few more pages to it. "The Women in Daredevil's Life" was, on the other hand, too long. This article could have been done in the space of two pages. I especially disliked the picture which headed this article, and it took up too much space. The Buscema's Bullpen was exceptionally pleasing. It showcased some fine talent which might, one day, be working for the Marvel Bullpen. The Department of Information was a bit shorter in this issue, but nevertheless, it was as informative as ever.

Bill Mantle's "Woodgod Wanderings" didn't fit in this issue, and this page could have been devoted to the letters page, which was mysteriously absent in this issue. I don't buy the Kirby "Eternals" comic book, but looking at the special preview page I may just be converted. Then there's the Irving Awards for '76. It's a pity we are unable to participate in these. Interviewing Stan Lee and Marv

Wolfman about ol' fearless was a stroke of genius, and I hope the checklist becomes a regular feature as I find it handy for knowing about future Daredevil stories in upcoming British Marvels. Finally, the article "Spidey, Save the Queen" was very good, although our fellow Americans would have appreciated it more if the guys at Foom included a few other items about our comps etc.

The special fourteenth issue was excellent. Even though the cover was well-detailed by John Buscema it suffered from lack of colour. Still, all the features and articles, such as: "Conan the Cimmerian", "Thomas Speaks", "The Man who Created Conan", "The Conan Checklist", "King Kull Lives", and the article about Archie Goodwin were all excellent.

The next advertised issue will be devoted to Howard the Duck. It may be a bit soon, but what the Heck — he's a very popular guy/duck. 'Nuff said!

Phillip Greenaway, 38 9th Avenue, Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil, S. Wales.

Well, for all you underprivileged ones who've never yet known the thrill of seeing an issue, there it is — All About FOOM, by courtesy of Phil Greenaway. (Where does he find the TIME for it all!)

Dear Gang,

A few weeks ago I bought a copy of Kirby's 2001 Treasury Special, so I thought I'd dash off a few thoughts on it.

First off, it is an adaptation of the greatest film ever made (I've seen it six times). The artwork is definitely the new Kirby style through and through. That is to say it is not all that exciting unless you are an avid Kirby fan, but it is better than his recent demolition of U.S. Captain America. As always, Kirby is at his best drawing machines, and with the exception of the Discovery these are the best drawings in the book. Here I have only one beef, on page 19, frame one, the Aires 3 is given the impression of speed, whereas it should be sinking gently.

In a number of frames photographs are used, and I can safely say that they are used to great effect, particularly when Dave goes after Frank.

When I first picked up the book the thing I was most interested in was seeing just how Kirby handled the space corridor sequence, and I really don't think he did too badly, particularly his three panoramic pictures. In this sequence I would have liked to have seen the descriptive panels omitted, although I realise that they served good purpose.

I would have liked to have seen an all-round reduction of word panels, thoughts and dialogue. Kubrick tried to make his film a purely visual medium and there was no more than half an hour of dialogue in the whole film.

In the whole book I found only two major discrepancies with the film. One was that in the Dawn of Man sequence Kirby had the monolith floating, a monolith which did not appear quite smooth enough, and Kirby had Dave re-entering the ship wearing a helmet.

There were two things that I don't think Kirby put across very well. One was that he didn't capture the way HAL was supposed to sound pathetic as he 'died'; also, Kirby didn't quite manage to put across the overall majesty and perfection of the monolith.

Overall it is quite a good book and I would recommend it to all Kirby fans and all 2001 fans.

D. Harwood, QNS. 2 Binswood Close, Wood End, Coventry.

And that is what could fairly be termed an analysis in depth of the recent Kirby special. We're deeply appreciative of all the trouble you've taken over it, hero. What's more, we're certain that a major segment of Marveldom will be equally appreciative. In short, you've done a grand job!

Dear People,

Having just read and re-read your "2001, a Space Odyssey" I feel compelled to pen these words.

This publication is the first encounter I have had with "2001". I must say you have me impatiently awaiting a showing of the film.

As for Mr. Kirby's artwork, I was surprised at my liking of it as I have always found it repulsive and unenjoyable. It was as brilliant as his fantastic work on the recently-released "Eternals" monthly magazine, and I hope he is allowed to illustrate the forthcoming series mentioned in the book.

The lettering, colouring and inking were beautifully done by Frank Giacoia, John Constanza and Marie Severin. There was also the article about the history of the film, by David Anthony Kract. Remember his beautiful prose about the Scarlet Witch in FOOM ish 12, called "2001: A Space Retrospective", which was superbly thought out and written and was a fitting back-up feature for such an entertaining and enjoyable publication?

Anyone who failed to purchase the "2001: A Space Odyssey Treasury Special" will have missed out on the second best treasury edition, second only to the Superman/Spiderman classic, and I feel nothing but remorse for those unfortunate people.

Stephen Pottinger, 13 James Watt Street, West Bromwich, W. Midlands.

From all corners of the land the tributes come streaming in. Dare we say that Jolly Jack really rung the bell with his recent effort? Well, we've said it, anyway!

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