FANZINES IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE

Collected articles 1976-1982 by D.WEST

180 pages A4 duplicated. Publication date: February 1984

Price until Jan 31st 1984: £3 (USA $10); from Feb 1st 1984 £4 (USA $15)

There are three real reasons for a fanwriter to publish his own Collected Works: vanity, greed, and the usual lust for self-aggrandizement.

That's if he does the job himself. If he chickens out and gets someone else to do the dirty work he acquieses in the pretence that the whole business is somehow a purely altruistic effort to Raise Standards, give Helpful Hints, and generally provide a Shining Example to those less supernaturally talented than himself.

Well, to hell with all of that crap. I'm doing this for my benefit. I like the articles, I need the cash (not one penny of which will go to any damn Fan Fund) and I wouldn't mind being a little more famous. So there's no need to pretend I'm peddling something you should buy because it's Important or Significant. What you're being offered for your money is entertainment -- or something to think about, at least.

Most previous collections of fanwriting have come from fans who were dead or who were treated as if they were dead. In other words: the work was presented not as a part of an active and continuing process but as something complete and finished. But FANZINES IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE is not any sort of Ancient History -- it's the immediate background to the present, directly relevant to what's going on in fandom today. Most of the people mentioned are still around and active. I am still around and active. This is just a repeat of parts of a serial which is still running, and these past performances are presented simply as trailers for the future.

Yes, you aint seen nothing yet...

This collection doesn't contain every fanzine article I've ever written -- or even everything I wrote between 1976 and 1982 -- but it does include all the longer work and a varied selection of the shorter pieces. There's a fair amount of personal scandal, a good deal of critical venom, much general scurrility, and even some straightforward Sci-Fi Lit Crit. The total may not provide all the answers, but it certainly includes most of the questions.

You're being asked to put up your money now rather than later for the simple reason that with only five copies coming out of a ream I need cash in advance just to buy enough paper. I also need to have some idea of how many copies to print, since even a small overrun would be an expensive mistake. I have no desire to be surrounded by mounds of unsold sheets, and I don't intend to lay down any stocks for future generations, or even the year after next. So buy NOW -- the price will never be lower, and later you may not have the chance at all.

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