

**NEW**

# THE NEW AVENGERS





# "The Avengers"/Patrick Macnee Fan Network Newsletter

Issue 4 July/August

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\*This issue is dedicated to\*

My guy, Kerry Krause, who puts up with all my fannish insanities. This one's for you, luv!

Deadline for contributions to be included in issue #5 is August 10, 1978.

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## Ramblings

As of June 10th our membership stands at 47. With the new series coming out I expect that interest will increase quite a bit, so keep a lookout for prospective new members and let people know that the Fan Network is around! I plan to run a couple of small ads in some media magazines as finances permit so that may find us a few new people. Remember that the more members we have the more information, clippings and such we have coming in to be distributed. We all benefit from new sources!

I have been trying to come up with some system of reimbursement for contributors to the Newsletter. There have been a few people inquire about free contributors' copies. Please believe me - I am terribly appreciative of anyone who assists me in this effort, but I'm afraid that I just can't afford to give out free copies to anyone who LOCs. I considered sending out credits of 25¢ to 75¢ for contributions, depending on content, but it appears that idea isn't going to work out; mainly because I can't afford it. As it is, I may have to hock my guitar and darkroom to feed this project for the rest of the year! I am hoping that members will be willing to help out with the Newsletter for the sake of seeing it continue. As you will note from this issue we have had excellent response so far. It's hard to believe that we are only 6 months old and that this is the fourth issue we have put out. My sincerest thanks to everyone who has offered a helping hand!

You may have noticed that this issue is printed on white paper. (No kidding?) I'm very new to the publishing game and am learning tidbits all the time. Last issue I learned that photographs do not print well on gold paper. It's a shame since the shot of Steed was much nicer than it appeared. But when you don't find out until after 100 copies are already printed... From now on the interior will be white or a slightly off-white, no colors.



# A Sense Of History

"The Avengers" began back in March of 1961 as the live action TV series, "Police Surgeon" starring Ian Hendry as Dr. David Keel and Patrick Macnee as his assistant, Steed. The series ran for a year before going off the air. In September of 1962 it was reinstated with the new title and with a new partner for Patrick. John Steed, who was a rather obscure character in the original show not even having a first name, was given a job working for the British Ministry and his personality was expanded. Joining him in his fight against crime was another Ministry agent, Cathy Gale, played by Honor Blackman. The two were a popular team and "The Avengers" prospered.

After three years with the show Honor left to fight evil with another British agent, James Bond, in the film "Goldfinger". Viewers in England were upset by the exit of Steed's leather-clad, karate-chopping colleague and many doubted that anyone could successfully replace her. However, the new entry, Emma Peel, portrayed by Diana Rigg, showed promise and soon captured the hearts of "Avengers" viewers.

At this time the series was exported to several countries world-wide and its following in those markets made it one of the most watched shows ever. The United States imported the show in the mid-60's ensuring its financial success. Then other fields called and Diana Rigg left to be replaced by young Linda Thorson playing the part of Tara King, Steed's fourth partner.

Whereas the other female leads had been played as highly efficient, strong characters with no overt sexual ties to Steed, Tara's personality was fashioned to lean in the exact opposite direction. The drastic change did not set well for some reason and Tara King never gained the following that Cathy Gale and Emma Peel had. Production on the show ended.

Still, "The Avengers" continued to run in syndication and still do to this day, having shown in over 120 countries around the world. Viewers are loyal and an adherent audience has caused the show to be dubbed as somewhat of a cult.

# A New Beginning

The last Avenger girl, Linda Thorson, was an immense success in France, contrary to how she was received in other markets. A French producer, Rudolf Roffi, was making a champagne commercial for TV with Linda and Patrick Macnee in their Avenger roles when he met the show's producer, Brian Clemens. When Roffi learned that the series was no longer being produced he was amazed and inquired into the possibility of bringing it back. Within two weeks he had raised the necessary 1,000,000 Pounds for financing and plans were underway for "The New Avengers"!

"The New Avengers" is similar to the old series in that it retains the same high quality scripts, subtle humor and distinctive style that characterized the original "Avengers". Brian Clemens is back to ensure that the new series lives up to its predecessor's example.

Although John Steed has returned and the character is basically unchanged his surroundings have been shifted a bit to reflect the changing times. Steed still retains his flat in London, but now also has a country mansion where he raises horses and entertains guests. Alas, the vintage Bentley and Rolls are gone, having been replaced by a customized Jaguar 5.3 Litre XJ12C which is nicknamed 'The Big Cat'. I much preferred to see Steed sitting in the old Bentley; it matched his character so well. But I don't suppose that it could match the 200 mph which his Jaguar is capable of!

Gareth Hunt and Joanna Lumley went through extensive training to ready themselves for their roles as Mike Gambit and Purdey. Special gymnasiums were set up for them to learn and practice the skills which they would be using in the series. Both Gareth and Joanna do most of their own stunts and fight sequences. The finished product is well worth the effort!

There are no references made to the old series since many "New Avengers" viewers will not have seen



the original "Avengers". However, in one episode entitled "House of Cards" Steed refers to photos of Cathy Gale, Emma Peel and Tara King. For those familiar with the old series it is a reminder of his past partners. At the same time those new to the show will view them as simply various ladies in Steed's history without knowing who they are!

## Meet "The New Avengers"...

John Steed is back as the dashing head man of the New Avengers team, disarming enemies with his amiable personality while knocking them flat with a well placed blow from his steel-lined bowler. Steed runs his division with the knowlege and skill gained during his many years in the field and, although he is more involved with planning and directing other agents now, he is often found in the heat of the action quite able to take care of adversaries!

The latest in a line of Steed's female assistants is Purdey. Purdey was born in India and traveled extensively with her father who was a Brigadier in the British Army. Tall and blonde, the ex-ballerina specializes in a form of unarmed combat employing an abundance of fancy (and lethal) footwork. She is also quite knowledgeable when it comes to handling most any firearm. Purdey has a flair for fashion and her good looks coupled with a lovely wardrobe have persuaded many a villain to underestimate her abilities with devastating results!

Steed's next partner is Mike Gambit. A preference for the active life and adventure was strengthened during his early years when Gambit served in the Army and as a Mercenary Soldier in Africa. The skills learned during that time have been an invaluable aid to him since joining the Avengers team. An expert shot with a hand gun, he is also quite deadly with the bow and arrow. Like any good agent Mike Gambit is well trained in unarmed combat and he specializes in judo and karate holding a black belt as proof of his accomplishments.

## ...And The Players

Patrick Macnee was born February 6th, 1922 in London. Son of famous horse trainer "Shrimp" Macnee, Patrick's early ambition was to become a jockey. However, his growth toward a present height of some 6' thwarted those plans and Patrick's interest turned to acting while attending school at Eton. There he played the first role of his career when he portrayed Queen Victoria in the annual school play. From that dubious beginning Patrick proceeded to make himself known in such films as "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp", "The Elusive Pimpernel", "The Battle of the River Platte" and "Les Girls". His stage credits include "Little Women", "Softly, Goldfish Mating", "The Secretary Bird", "Sleuth" and "Absurd Person Singular". Patrick has also appeared in several television shows besides "The Avengers". The list includes "Affair at Assino", "The Moonstone", "The Skin Game", "Columbo", "The Virginian", "Mr. Jerico" and a guest spot on "Diana" which starred ex-Avenger Diana Rigg.

Patrick has been married twice, first to actress Barbara Douglas whom he met while touring in "Little Women" and next to Catherine Woodville who had a short part in the very first "Avengers" episode. (Short because her character was killed early on in the show. In case you had ever wondered, it is her death that Steed and his succession of partners have been trying to "avenge" all these years!) Patrick now lives alone and calls California "home". He visits there whenever his schedule allows.

Steed's new female partner is ably played by actress Joanna Lumley. Joanna was born in Kashmir, India where her father was a Major in the Gurkha Regiment. The early part of her life was spent travelling around India, Japan and Malaya as her father was moved from one post to another. Joanna's family finally settled in England where she attended school until the age of 17. Failing at her attempts to enter drama school Joanna took up modeling instead and made a living at that until she secured



a small part in the film "Some Girls Do". From there she stepped into a James Bond film, "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" which starred Diana Rigg, a past partner of John Steed's. Other small bits in films and television followed although there was never a real break for Joanna until "The New Avengers" was born. She auditioned with over 1,000 other actresses before coming away with the prize role. She has proven herself to be an excellent choice for the part taking very well to the stunts and fight sequences, most of which she does herself.

Joanna has been married once and has a son, James. She enjoys sports and is an excellent driver, all of which add to her role in "The New Avengers".

Gareth Hunt was born in London some thirty-odd years ago and insists that he had a rather normal childhood. His public schooling proved ineffectual where math and spelling were concerned, but he did quite well in science and drama, sports being another strong point. At 15 Gareth joined the Merchant Navy and stayed with it until the age of 28 - except for a short time, about 3 months, when he and two buddies jumped ship in New Zealand. They did odd jobs for a short time but were eventually sought out and held in jail until the next ship to Britain arrived. It was also during his seafaring days that Gareth experienced a terrifying storm while aboard ship in the Bay of Biscay. The experience was frightening and he still remembers it with fear.

After leaving the Merchant Navy Gareth worked at a variety of jobs including road work and selling door-to-door. He spent his nights acting with the Mount View Theatre Club until he was able to attend drama school. Several stage roles followed including stints at the Ipswich Arts Theatre, The Bristol Old Vic and The Royal Court Theatre. Eventually he joined The Royal Shakespeare Company and The National Theatre. Before becoming a part of the New Avengers team Gareth portrayed Frederick the Footman in "Upstairs, Downstairs" which brought him fame in many countries around the world. Now that he is appearing in "The New Avengers" it would seem that the dark, rugged face of Gareth Hunt will soon be quickly recognized by millions the world over.

## Network News

You may have noticed a short mention in the June 3rd TV Guide ("TV Teletype: Hollywood") of the upcoming "Evening in Byzantium" which co-stars Glenn Ford, Shirley Jones, Eddie Albert, Vince Edwards and Patrick Macnee. We now have a little more information on the show which is being filmed at Universal by Glen Larson Productions.

"Evening in Byzantium" was written by Irwin Shaw whose best seller, "Rich Man, Poor Man" became a successful TV mini-series not long ago. It will be shown as a 4-hour movie on two nights; two 2-hour segments. TV Guide listed the airdate as being sometime in late July. However, when I called Glen Larson Productions the show's producer told me that it wouldn't be broadcast until August. The exact airdate has not been set. One way or another it looks as though we will be allowed a glimpse of Patrick before "The New Avengers" debuts in the Fall. I'm looking forward to it!

"Evening in Byzantium" is being filmed for 'Operation Prime Time' and will be shown on many independent stations around the US. (I'm not certain about plans for export to other countries.) Watch your local listings for something definite. You might want to contact the independent station in your area to find out if they will be showing the program.

As for the show itself - I'm told that it does not stick to Shaw's book a great deal, so you needn't hurry and read the published form to find out what the movie will be like. Patrick Macnee portrays a character named Ian Wadley which, the producer tells me, is not even in the book version. You'll just have to catch the performance to meet Ian!

I've had several members ask about the late time slot for "The New Avengers". Since I was also a bit puzzled by the decision I called CBS for an explanation. The reasoning that they presented to me is that the show was purchased after the Fall



schedule was planned and sponsors were set for all the prime time shows. The choice was to purchase "The New Avengers" and stick it wherever possible, in this case at 11:30 PM, or not to buy it at all. There is the possibility that independent stations may carry it at an earlier time or that it may be switched to prime time by CBS later in the season.

We have a couple of new Pen-Pals to list.

ANNE-MARIE LUBNER. 2333 E. Glenn St. #201, Tucson, AZ 85719. Birthdate: 2/2/48. Interests: Sci/Fi (especially "Star Wars", "Logan's Run" and "Space: 1999"), "Avengers", UNCLE, and "Mission: Impossible". Other TV shows - "Emergency" and "CHiPS". Hobbies: pen-pals, reading sci/fi and mysteries, arts & crafts, needlework, collecting advertising buttons and matchbook covers.

LEAMOND A. ALLEN. 2249 Gator Dr. #408, Orlando, FL 32807. Age 22. Brown eyes, curly black hair. Interests: Sci/Fi, fantasy and swashbuckler adventures (Dumas). Fond of Macnee and Thorson, music, "Space: 1999", "Star Trek", the British Isles, horror films, "The Prisoner", UNCLE, "Two Ronnies", Chinua Achebe. Like to hear from those with the same interests, especially ladies. Write soon.

That brings the number on our list to 9 persons; 1 full page. Other pen-pals are listed in issues #2 and #3 of the Newsletter, or you may obtain the list for 10¢ and a SASE.

I recently obtained a supply of small publicity photos of Patrick Macnee and of the New Avengers together. There should be a couple of them enclosed with this Newsletter. Additional copies are free while supplies last. I only ask that you limit your requests to 3 or 4 photos so that everyone will get some. To obtain photos jot me a note and enclose a SASE.

We have a new article clipping supplement typed which lists 45 new additions to our file! Price for Supplement #3 alone is 51¢ (71¢ overseas), or you can order the entire clipping list for \$1.45 (\$2.25 overseas). Prices are to cover copying and postage.

I have an extra copy of the book "John Steed: Jealous in Honour" which I could sell to someone if interested. The price is \$15, my cost from J. Barnicoat in England. (If you want to send a little extra to cover postage that's fine, too.) I only have the one copy, so it will go to the first person who writes about it. Please send along a SASE in case it is already gone so I can return your money.

While on the subject of books - Berkley Publishing Corporation in New York now has the rights to the "New Avengers" paperback series, as well as the "John Steed" biography by Tim Heald, and plans to be bringing them out in this country soon. At present there are three paperbacks scheduled for release beginning this Fall. "House of Cards" by Peter Cave will be out in October, "Eagle's Nest" by John Carter will show up sometime in November and "To Catch a Rat" by Walter Harris is proposed for December. This is only a tentative schedule at the moment and I have been instructed to check back in a month or so for something more definite. It is uncertain when the "John Steed" book will be released, but I am told that it will probably not be until after December. You might want to write to the publisher and let them know that you would enjoy seeing the other paperback titles released here, too. Maybe we can light a fire under them and get the "John Steed" book out sooner.... Berkley Publishing Corporation, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

For you UNCLE fans out there - "UNCLE Headquarters" is located at the following address: Pat Munson (that's Ms.), PSC Box 7565, FE Warren AFB, WY 82001, USA. Pat has a fan organization of some sort, but I'm afraid I don't know exactly what it's all about. You might write (SASE) for more info... and tell her I said "Hi".



# Garage Sale

Derann Film Services in England have three "Avengers" episodes for sale. The films are Super-8mm with sound and are in full color. (see comments by Bill Bradshaw in "LOCs of Gold" section.) The three are:

RETURN OF THE CYBERNAUTS: with Peter Cushing

THE LIVING DEAD: with Julian Glover

POSITIVE-NEGATIVE MAN: with Michael Latimer

All three have Patrick Macnee and Diana Rigg in them. It says here on the flyer that the films are "sold for private and domestic exhibition only, public performance, broadcasting or copying of this film or any part thereof is strictly prohibited." So that will tell you what you can do with the thing once you have purchased it! And that is another matter: I suggest that you see your banker before seriously considering to buy one. The full-length version is 72 Pounds plus 5% Surface Mail, 10% Air Mail. That works out to about \$138 if by sea and \$145 if by air. Oh, and payment must be made via a London bank or by an International Money Order.

Now, those prices are for the full-length versions, as I mentioned, which are on three 400' spools. Each film is an entire episode with credits and everything, uncut. However, they also have "featurette" versions of each film which cover only one 400' spool. These shorties are edited, but the price is a bit more affordable: 24 Pounds each, or \$46 Surface, \$48 Airmail. You might want to check the current exchange rate before ordering since it fluctuates. Your banker can help you figure the exact price in American Dollars (or whatever your national currency is). Happy viewing!

Derann Film Services, Film House, 171 Stourbridge Rd., Dudley, West Midlands, England, DY1 2EQ.

We now have another choice of mail order firms from which to purchase "Avengers" photos. George Schwartz, 3 Woodland Ave., Keansburg, NJ 07734, USA has a good collection of "Avengers" shots and the quality is excellent. Black and white photos are

printed on Kodak paper with obvious care and with attention to detail (at least the ones I have were). For what you get the price is pretty good, too - \$1.25 per photo plus 50¢ postage for 6 or less photos, \$1.00 postage on 7 photos or more. Also, there is a 10% discount on orders of \$15 or more. My orders were filled with reasonable speed and were sent well protected.

George has each category of photos listed on a separate catalog sheet which includes reduced samples of each shot along with its order number. This is extremely helpful when you already have some photos and don't want to hassle with duplications. You can see exactly what shot you will be getting. Catalog sheets can be obtained for 5¢ each (minimum 15¢). The ones with "Avengers" photos listed are #3 and #300. Send a SASE for the complete list of catalog sheets available.

For those of you who are as fond of Steed's Bentley as I am there is good news! A company in England manufactures plastic model kits of a 1930 4½ Litre Bentley which is quite similar to the one Steed drove in the series. The kit is 1/12 scale and contains 278 parts. Features include rubber molded tyres, removable bonnet with a very detailed engine and the directions say that the model can be motorized with an optional kit. The company which makes the model is called Airfix Co. and most good hobby stores will have their catalog. There is also an American company which distributes the model. It is the same item, but MPC Co. packs it in a box of their own and, I am told, lowers the price drastically!

The 'Agents' issue of "Moonbeam" is nearing completion now. A price has been set at \$3.00 which includes 1st Class postage. The issue is 100 pages or so, photo-reduced offset with a silkscreened back cover. The front cover is by Yours Truly (blush) and they may print the cover from our third Newsletter inside! For more information (send a SASE) or to order: Deb Walsh, 5 Lamson St. #2, East Boston, MA 02128, USA.



# Midnight Meanderings



JOHN STEED

John Steed is a universal character. Peoples of all lands have the same basic emotions and dreams. Therefore, a character that fulfills the dreams and/or fantasies of any one group of people will have an appeal to all peoples. Patrick Macnee has made John Steed into just this sort of character.

Steed has those elements we all would like to make a part of our lives. He has that certain class that so few ever attain. His very demeanor bespeaks of elegance and a sense of confidence that are seen only too rarely.

His life is one of action, excitement and change. His daily round consists of partaking of the sweet nectar of life that is known as variety. We all long for an escape from our mundane existence and John Steed has found that escape route and is living the life of the adventurer.

There is a constant challenge to his life. In any field one likes to know how well they compare with others in that field. Steed has the opportunity to constantly test his ability by pitting himself against his opponents. It is easily seen how he can defeat his adversary with neary a hair on his head falling out of place. How often we dream of performing such acts of daring-do and coming out the victor. Steed is the perfect embodiment of that daydream desire.

He is a gentle James Bond. 007 tended to be harsh and uncaring and Steed is neither. He is a man of great refinement. One can picture him as being quite at home in a more chivalrous age. He has all the talents James Bond ever possessed, yet he is quite simply a gentleman.

Here is a man of talent, taste and temperment divine who lives a life of action, adventure and change - how could all peoples not find his character to their liking!

by Sally Syrjala

## "THE NEW AVENGERS" IN ENGLAND

The return of suave adventurer John Steed to our TV screens in October 1976 was something I'd awaited for over 5 years (since, in fact, the last "Avengers" re-runs in early 1971). Ready as I was for any kind of show with Pat in it, however, I did have a few misgivings because TV "resurrections" are so rarely successful, and I was desperate that the legend of Steed and his past helpers shouldn't be 'tainted' by some awful updating. Worse - the



word was that Pat would be playing our hero as a "kindly Uncle Steed" type who would be rather in the background!!

I needn't have worried! From the beginning the stories, scripts, characterisations - hell, everything - were up to and above the level of the 60's shows, and the production values were marvellous. (The show did seem a little more based in reality than before, but then the 1960's were an unusual and unique time and it showed through in the adventure series of the time - style was the operative word.)

The premiere episode, "The Eagle's Nest", had our heroes uncovering a plot to revive a frozen Adolf Hitler by ex-Nazis disguised as monks on a remote Scottish island. (Brian Clemens had lost none of his flair for wild ideas.) And subsequent stories involved men whose touch meant death, giant rats in London sewers, the return of those indestructible Cybernauts and mind stealing machines as well as mercenary commandoes in the British Army. In "Sleeper", London was even put completely to sleep by some ambitious bank robbers!

Besides Brian Clemens, old hands like Sidney Hayers, Terence Feely, Dennis Spooner, Ray Austin, John Hough and Laurie Johnson were still involved in the show, and Pat had clearly slipped back into his role with typical ease - looking even more immaculate than before. That extra weight he'd put on in the interim 7 years had gone altogether by the second series! But, all eyes were really on Steed's new assistants - Purdey, played by Joanna Lumley, who was lovely, cool, deadly and untouchable (yet, unlike Mrs. Peel, for instance, able to be touched emotionally), and Mike Gambit (Gareth Hunt), also lethal, but rather brash and rough-edged, and constantly being put down by his two companions. They had some marvellous witty exchanges to begin with, and their characters developed well. Then, in the second series, apart from the episode "Obsession" (in which Purdey was involved with an ex-lover whom Gambit eventually had to kill), they had little to do other than be biting to one another occasionally. Gambit, in fact, was positively neglected! Ah, well, this did have the advantage that Steed was given more and more to do and

any ideas of "Uncle Steed" were soon dismissed! John Steed will still be spinning his bowler while Gambit is stuck behind a desk in Whitehall and Purdey is typing his letters!

by Bill Bradshaw

#### "THE NEW AVENGERS: THREE HANDED GAME"

I was on vacation in Canada and found "The New Avengers" on at 8:30 on Channel 5, Thursday night. I tuned in.

Patrick Macnee is still the dashing and debonair John Steed. He still has the steel plated bowler and the umbrella handle sword. Joanna Lumley made a fan the moment I saw her. She's an excellent actress and has the character of Purdey down pat. I had seen Gareth Hunt in "Upstairs, Downstairs", but his character of Mike Gambit can hardly be labeled as "Frederick the Footman". Gambit is sort of a mirror image of Steed, but twenty years his junior. Not to confuse you: Mike Gambit is no John Steed. He holds some of Steed's characteristics, but is his own man and Gareth Hunt's own character.

In this "New Avengers" episode a scientist by the name of Professor Meroff (Terry Wood) accidentally invents a device that can steal the thoughts from one person and transform them into the mind of another. Unfortunately for the Professor he has a crooked assistant, Juventor (Stephen Grief) who kills him and steals the device for his own use.

Juventor's first victim is a tap dancer by the name of Ranson (David Wood). Juventor transfers the skills of Ranson into the mind of his stooge, Ivan (Tony Vogel). Ivan comes away a professional dancer and Juventor is convinced of the power of the machine

Juventor's next "project" is to capture the minds of three agents in the Avengers Network. These three agents comprise the "Three Handed Game". Each carries a piece of strategic information that insures the peace of all the major powers. Juventor wants this information to sell to the highest bidder. The New Avengers are a step ahead of him and have been assigned to protect each of the concerned agents.



Purdey is the first to encounter Juventor. Since both are skilled in dancing there is a beautifully choreographed sequence where the "fight" takes place with Steed and Gambit applauding from the rafters.

by Steve Eramo

Suggested topic for next issue: The New Avengers' "boss" is referred to by the codename 'Mother' but is not seen in any episode. Do you think that the show is more effective with only occasional references to 'Mother' or should the character be an integral part of the show as during the Tara King episodes?



## LOCs of Gold

MANDI SCHULTZ: ROCHESTER, MI - #3's a very nice issue - I personally like  $\frac{1}{2}$  page (or double column) format. The comments about Tara were interesting albeit a little 2D. I don't think people broadened their reactions enough. Replace Mrs. Peel? Utter nonsense. And Linda wisely made no attempt to be a carbon copy of her. (Ahem - Most US fans don't seem to put much on the fact that the elegant Emma was also a replacement and undoubtedly hoardes of fans throughout GB groaned "Replace Cathy Gale? Never!") It would've been ridiculous for her to try. She brought us Tara, a fresh face and outlook and a whole new foil for Steed on a personal level. Mind you, I was prepared to hate the poor woman sight unseen and, once seen, tried very hard to - especially in the blonde wig. But I found I liked her a lot and after all these years of reruns have decided that while some of the episodes fell short of the Rigg/Macnee quality I liked Tara one hell of a lot more than I ever did Emma. ...How can anyone blame Tara for having a crush on Steed? There is more than one kind of person. Sure, Emma was a dominant personality and Tara wasn't - wouldn't be a very comfortable world if we were all dominant personalities. If she needed to be directed to "steer a straight course", well fine, some people are like that. They give the more aggressive people purpose. ...Emma wasn't that much of a mystery - her life was depicted very concisely in "House that Jack Built" and then "Forget-Me-Knot". For her to inherit Knight Industries from her father she must have been an only child (one would doubt that a British father, industrial giant would overlook a son as heir unless said son was a total imbecile). She undoubtedly was very close to her father since she was able to step right in and take over. She had to be strong or a multi-million dollar (or pound) business was going to go down the porcelain convenience. One can safely assume that this tempering and forging of character would carry over into all aspects of



her personality.

However, in "Knot" she gave up her entire "new" life - the adventure, excitement and mystery - and Steed - to return to being Peter Peel's wife. To me that said a lot about her.

I can not help but feel sorry for Linda and all the criticism she's taken and is still taking. I'm sure she tried her best. It must have been extremely painful for an actress just achieving popularity to pick up papers and magazines and see people berate her for not being another Emma when that was probably her intention from the start; to be a softer, more old-fashioned, feminine character.

Why is Steed so popular? Mercy, how many days do we have? He's the Renaissance Man - one got the feeling Steed could do anything. Wasn't he the quintessential man? He was so attractive, so charming, so diversified, and he knew just how to be all that without being overbearing or becoming a caricature. Isn't he every female's dream - the perfect man who wasn't insufferable in his perfection?

Oh, Fafhrd and The Grey Mouser is a fantasy series - Fritz Leiber, I believe.

SALLY SYRJALA: CENTERVILLE, MA - I'm glad to hear that "The New Avengers" has been signed for the fall season. However, how come an 11:30 pm time slot? Would seem it would attract far more people at an earlier viewing time. But beggars can't be choosers, right? ...Did like that little photo and remark about Steed in "Southern Star #4" ((A "Star Trek" fanzine)). What was it - "Steed lives, or else we would have need to invent him"? Anyhow, it was something like that and I quite enjoyed it.

PATRICK SANSANO: MONTE LIMAR, FRANCE - You will see French actors and actresses like Christine Delaroche and Pierre Vernier in the new serial of "New Avengers" because the series is now co-produced by TFI (France) and IDTV (England). We have in France seen 13 films of November 1976 to March 1977, and a second series of "The New Avengers" was made last summer, but not broadcast in France at this day.

STEVE ERAMO: STONEHAM, MA - Thanks for your recent letter and those fantastic article copies. I had always wanted copies of the old TV Guide articles - thanks to you I have them. The Article Clipping Service was a great idea.

I wrote to CBS last week so hopefully might get some information back. At least it seems like they're cooperating, which is always a good sign.

Did you order those "New Avengers" paperbacks from England yet? I finally had time to sit down and read one (The Cybernauts) last night. I can't wait for this series! The story was great - I want to see the episode now!

BILL BRADSHAW: ENGLAND - By now you'll probably know when CBS are scheduling "The New Avengers". Does the season start in April? Over here, with the first two series, rehearsals have begun in April and the finished programmes have gone out in the September/October until around Christmas time. And we don't get the benefit of repeats (re-runs) like I understand you will be doing! \*Sigh\* It's a hard life being a TV fan over here! Our local ITV stations take as little notice of letters from myself and others asking for more Steed as your ABC-TV seems to do of your regular missives.

Still no news on filming of "New Avengers" shows, I'm afraid. However, Pat did a beautiful 30 second TV commercial for British Leyland cars last month. He was obviously Steed in his black suit, bowler and pink carnation in his buttonhole. He extolled the virtues of all the new models, as well as revealing the name of his shapely, Purdey-like chauffeur to be "George"! Sadly, it's only been shown on TV the once!

As to those Super-8 mm movies of the shows ((note: see the "Garage Sale" section of prices and ordering instructions. ed)); there are currently three episodes available over here. They're all from the 1967-68 Di Rigg season. Each one is a complete 55 minute episode, in sound and colour, with full beginning/end credits and titles. Only commercial break credits are missing. The colour and sound quality are really excellent and the only thing



against them is the fact that they cost around 76 Pounds each!

"John Steed - Jealous in Honour" is Volume 1. It takes Steed from his birth in 1922 up to his first meeting with Cathy Gale in 1946. So you see, there is scope for at least two - maybe three or four other books to come right up to 1978!! Please, God, that Volume 1 is a success...

JACKIE EDWARDS: OMAHA, NE - Tried to call you and congratulate you on #3 but you weren't home. It's great! Many more! I was rather surprised to see that Tara has friends, but that's nice. Also, was thrilled about the slides, being the picture fiend that I am! I'm glad to finally find some good "Avengers" slides. Also, the zine on "The Prisoner" - surprise!

Great to hear about "The New Avengers" coming. Since I can't get to see the old ones I'm anxious to see dear Steed again. It's been such a long time!

ANNE-MARIE LUBNER: TUCSON, AZ - If the 11:30 time slot is for Eastern Standard time then the show will be on at 10:30 Central and Mountain Time and that would be great. But if the show is on locally at 11:30 I probably won't watch unless it's on Friday or Saturday. The 11:30 time slot is just too late for nights preceeding a working day.

I was unaware that so many people hated Tara. When Diana Rigg decided to leave the series I just assumed that everyone felt as I did: "Thankgoodness the series isn't being cancelled!" Tara King wasn't meant to be another Mrs. Peel so why does everyone expect her to be so?

M. DIANE LIND, PRESIDENT: PATRICK MACNEE FAN CLUB, OMAHA, NE - I took some spare moments out to drop a few lines to some of my club members, as well as ex-members, who have moved away. So far, I haven't had time to receive answers. By way of explanation I might mention that our club was always a very informal group. We started out as just a few local school friends and then, one by one, a few interested persons would come to our gatherings which were picnics or parties, sometimes most impromptu, but

always at least once a week. We always exchanged ideas and articles or pictures, etc., and nearly always saw a show or listened to a tape recording. Many times we wrote letters or discussed activities that were connected with the club or Pat in some way. We never did any advertising nor did we publish a paper or record, etc., as we never charged any fees. The club was for pure enjoyment and most of the meetings were held at our home and all at our expense. The only real profit we made was Pat's friendship, and that we truly value.

Incidentally, did you happen to catch "Sherlock Holmes in New York"? I really enjoyed it. Roger Moore and Pat did a terrific job with each of their parts. You might want to check out the paperback book under the same title. It was from the TV film, written by Alvin Sapinsley and adapted by D.R. Bensen. The book (#25571) is available through Ballantine Books in New York. The price is \$1.50.

Now that CBS has decided to add "The New Avengers" to its Fall schedule any photos or information pertaining to the show or to its stars should be a lot easier to obtain. I am sorry, though, that the hour set for the show is so late as local stations have a habit of either preempting or delaying those late-hour shows. At least that is what our local CBS affiliate does with the CBS Late Movie and it really makes me angry.

HENRY C. CHMIELEFSKI: GLENOLDON, PA - Now for my statement on the Diana Rigg/Linda Thorson controversy: Why is there one? First consider; how many years have the "Avengers" been around? From 1961 to 1969, and then there's the new series. Ms. Rigg only starred in two (American) years out of the entire years. If the Honor Blackmen episodes ever appeared would the fans turn themselves off to them too because Diana didn't appear? I consider "The Avengers" as a series; it makes no difference who starred with Patrick Macnee. I am only interested in the stories themselves. This nonsense is like saying, "I didn't like year two of "Space: 1999" because Barry Morse wasn't in them" or "I never watch any year 3 "Star Trek" because some reeked."



or even "I don't watch any new James Bond movies because Sean Connery doesn't star any more." To me, that's stupid! People like that aren't "Avengers" fans, they're Diana Rigg freaks. So don't watch - you're missing out on some great stuff!

CAROL FINGER: BUFFALO, NY - You'll never guess who I saw last night! My mother dropped this little charmer into the conversation:

"Oh, the "New Avengers" are on at 10:00 tonight."

"What channel?!" I jumped up in the air.

"Channel 9"

End of conversation. Channel 9 is CFTO-TV, Toronto, Canada. At first I thought it might be repeats, but it was announced on the show's title, "The New Avengers in Canada". Lo and Behold: 13 of the new episodes!

The title of #1 was "Complex" and British Intelligence is looking for SCAPINA who is working for the Russians. Our Avengers can't make contact with any of their agents overseas, they keep getting murdered. So they get a call from double agent X-41 in Canada and fly to Toronto to meet him. The Canadian-British Intelligence Building is where they go. It is ultra-security and run by a computer. Purdey is trapped in the building and the computer tries to kill her. With help from Steed and Gambit she escapes. ((There is a neat twist to the ending which Carol included. However, I'm not going to tell you the surprise! You'll just have to see the episode when it's on. Heh, heh, heh...)) It was a very good episode, well written as usual by the same group. They are still grinding out good stories after all these years.

CAROL CRUNK: MOBILE, AL - I found it very interesting that Emma Peel was Steed's third partner. I now know Cathy Gale was his second partner. Who was the first? ((see page 2))

As you can tell, I am really getting interested in "The Avengers". I did like the show and am now looking forward to seeing the new series.

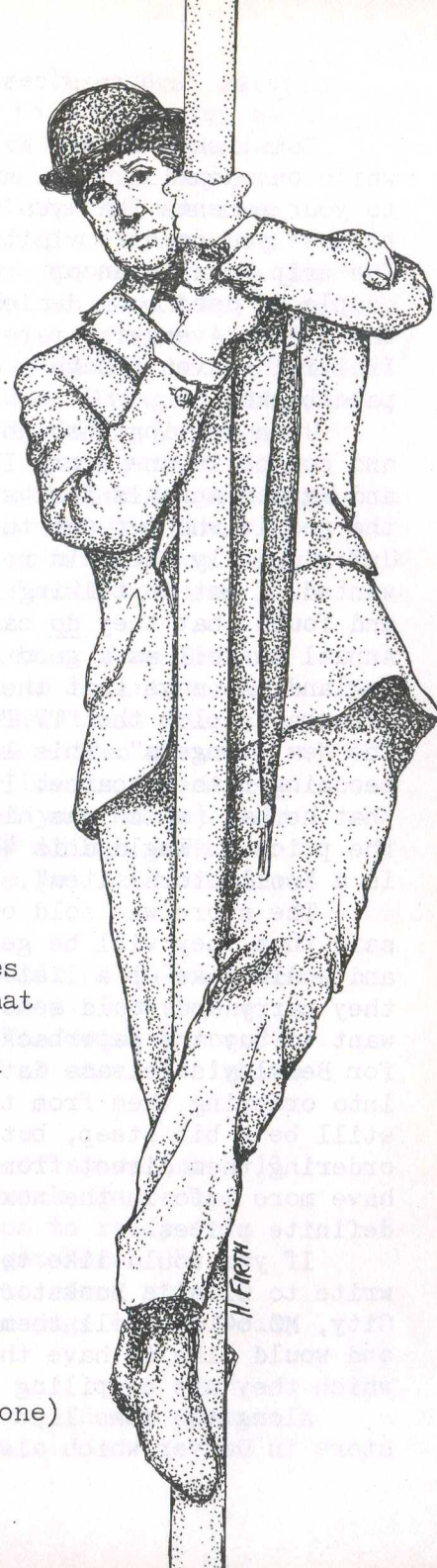
You forgot to mention something - when they started "The New Avengers" did they even try and get

Diana Rigg back? I doubt if they did, but it would be interesting to know if they tried.

GARY ADLER;  
LYNBROOK, NY - While going over an old issue of "Warped Space" I found a notice for your fan organization concerning "The Avengers". After seeing so many other series get their respective fandoms I am happy that someone is starting an organization for one of my favorite television series.

I watch "The Avengers" because it is an excellent series and the only ever to really treat women fairly. I am talking about Emma Peel, of course, rather than Tara King. The latter type of woman is more palatable to the minds of American television executives than the former. I believe that had there not been American influence the producers would have chosen a woman in the class of Diana Rigg or Honor Blackman, with better characterisations and scripts to match.

Thanks to everyone else who wrote me. A full mailbox is a happy mailbox. (Even the Post Awful agrees with me on that one)





etcetera...

This issue of the Newsletter is being typed while on vacation in Kansas City. Ever try to explain to your parents that you're not completely bonkers because you come to visit with typewriter in hand? The trip gave me an opportunity to visit with a couple of used book dealers in the area (looking for the older "Avengers" paperbacks) and that proved fruitful - even though I didn't find any of the paperbacks.

Upon sorting through a few odd assorted books and comics in one store I came across several Brown and Watson Annuals for various TV shows. These are the people who put out the "New Avengers" Annual. Unfortunately they did not have the one that I wanted. I got to talking with the clerk, however, and found that they do carry the "New Avengers" Annual as well as a good deal of other items from England. He says that they carry the "New Avengers" paperbacks plus the "TV Times Souvenir Extra featuring The New Avengers". This last is a hot item and becoming rather scarce. I grabbed the last issue that he had (which was hidden in the back) at \$5.00. The price in England is 40p, but I'm told that this is a "collectors' item".

The store was sold out of paperbacks but they said that they will be getting in more before long and would make up a list of "Avengers" items that they carry and would send me a copy. For those who want to buy the paperbacks and don't wish to wait for Berkley's release date you might want to look into ordering them from this place. The cost will still be a bit steep, but it might be less so than ordering them direct from England. Hopefully I will have more info in the next issue along with some definite prices.

If you would like to contact the store direct write to Clint's Bookstore, 3943 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Tell them you're with the Network and would like to have the list of "Avengers" books which they are compiling for me.

Along the same line - Clint's put me onto a store in Denver which also imports a great deal from

England and will probably have "Avengers" material. If so, then we might be able to arrange for me to purchase a few books at a time and send them out to interested Network members. In this way you would only be charged for the cost of the item and what it costs for me to ship it to you, no "dealer's handling" tacked on. Anyway, that's just an idea and we'll have to wait to see if anything comes of it.

You might want to check specialty book stores in your area to see if they have "Avengers" items. Try science fiction bookstores which also carry other material or shops which specify that they import or have collectors' books. And if you happen onto a copy of the "TV Times Souvenir Extra" I would suggest that you latch onto it. From the reports that I have it is difficult to find.

I received a very nice letter from Brian Clemens recently and he seems to be interested in the Fan Network and our Newsletter. There is a possibility that we may have copies of some "New Avengers" script through him in the near future. Nothing definite, mind you, so put your tongue back into your head! If things work out and we are fortunate enough to get said treasures I will let you know.

Linda Thorson is in a couple of films which are showing around the nation now. Did anyone catch her in "Valentino" or "The Greek Tycoon"? If so, would you like to tell us about it in the next Newsletter?

I seem to be running out of space, so I'll sign off now, do a little artwork, paste-up, proofreading, erasing and so on to ready this thing for the printer when I get home. Oh, my thanks to Bill Bradshaw for the cover artwork and for the beautiful piece on page 12, as well as some excellent writing!

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