



Issue Number 6

November-December

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Fan Network Membership Count: 81

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Heather Firth, Chairperson.

Ramblings

I would like to thank CTV Television Network Ltd for their help in supplying the Fan Network with an assortment of promotional material on "The New Avengers". The information and photos which they sent will be most useful and I'm sure all our readers will enjoy seeing the material in this and future issues of the Newsletter.

Issue #5 caused a bit of a misunderstanding between myself and one member whose letter I printed. It seems that the letter was not intended for publication and my printing it caused some upsets and hard feelings. I apologize. Please let me state again that all correspondence sent to me is subject to inclusion in the letter column if I feel it would be of interest to members. Of course, I will not print something which I think will embarrass, anger or cause problems for the writer in any way. It's up to an editor to use judgement in such matters. However, judgement can fail or be lacking at times so I ask that you please tell me if something you send is not to be printed! (Pretty please?) If you want to relieve my ulcers even more you can include a note in your letter stating that said correspondence is available for printing if I wish. Hopefully such precautions will prevent future misunderstandings. Thanks!

Let me remind everyone that the Newsletter is available for your comments. If you would like to say something in response to anything printed in this Newsletter please feel free to send me a letter of comment. I will try to present all sides of any issue if you feel there is more to be said. Letters of comment and "Midnight Meanderings" from members may be edited for consistency or due to lack of space. If you have a special article which you would like me to consider printing let me know. I would like to have as much variety in each issue as possible!

"Rule Britannia", indeed!

Network News

We have a couple of new Pen-Pals for listing:

CINDY PHARES: PO Box 267, Nederland, TX 77627. I'm 21, like "The Avengers", "The Prisoner", James Bond - Roger Moore. Big fan of Patrick Macnee and Patrick McGoochan. I take pictures from "Avengers" episodes as a hobby. Like both Diana Rigg and Linda Thorson. I would like to hear from anyone interested in the same. (Also like Sci/Fi and Burt Reynolds.)

BOB RICCI: 9 Pierce Street, Hyde Park, MA 02136. Birthday September 14th. Interests - I'm a fan of "Star Trek", "Star Wars", "Battlestar Galactica", "Voyage", "Lost in Space", "Fantastic Journey", "Space: 1999" and "The Avengers". I have an abundance of "Avengers" 8x10 photos for sale.

Anyone else wishing to be included on our Pen-Pal list should send a description to be printed.

Sharon Polsemen recently sent a collection of small clippings from "Variety" and "The Washington Post" which tell of current projects that some of the "Avengers" stars are involved in:

Diana Rigg and Alec Guinness are set to appear in the 7-part BBC version of John LeCarre's "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy". I wonder who they are considering to play the "spy"?

Diana Rigg will also be seen in "The Oresteia", a Greek classic by Aeschylus. The trilogy is adapted by Frederic Raphael and Kenneth McLeish and also stars Claire Bloom, Billie Whitelaw and Sian Phillips, among others.

Gareth Hunt stars with Nick Tate, Fiona Curzon, Geoffrey Keen and Gary Hope in the Lindsay Shonteff production of "Licensed to Love and Kill". The story takes place in London and was produced and directed by Lindsay Shonteff.

There have been 24 one-hour episodes filmed of a new series, "Return of The Saint". Replacing Roger Moore in the title role is actor Ian Ogilvy. Linda Thorson stars opposite Ogilvy in one Italian segment. Negotiations are underway to bring the series to a U.S. network.

Joanna Lumley has been cast along with Richard Harris, Richard Roundtree and Barbara Kellerman to film "Game of Vultures". "Vultures" deals with the Rhodesian rebel conflict and will be filmed in South Africa. Hazel Adair and Philip Baird are co-producers and "Vultures" was scripted from a novel by Michael Hartmann.

Patrick Macnee appeared in the October 15th episode of "Hardy Boys" telecast by ABC-TV. Hopefully everyone was able to catch the show. I would have contacted members about the appearance but I didn't know about it myself until a few days before it aired. Turn to page 28 of the Newsletter for an account of that program.

I received a selection of promotional material on "Evening in Byzantium" after the last Newsletter was published. Following are several news "shorts" on the program which were supplied by Operation Prime Time/MCA TV:

Patrick Macnee, who was never out of a suit in his hit series "The Avengers", is condemned to wear similar attire in MCA TV/Universal's Operation Prime Time presentation of Irwin Shaw's "Evening in Byzantium". He jokes that his ultimate goal is to act in sports clothes.

Patrick Macnee compares the character he plays in "Evening in Byzantium" as somewhat like F. Scott Fitzgerald. "Ian Wadleigh, my character, was once a great novelist who has become a dissipated alcoholic and is now forced to write screenplays for 'B' movies in order to survive. He is a bitter has-been talent and is his own worst enemy - very much like F. Scott Fitzgerald in his last years."

Patrick Macnee gets to do one of the few death scenes in his career when he dies in Glenn Fird's arms in "Evening in Byzantium". "Death scenes are very difficult for an actor" says Macnee. "It is easy to go too far and ham it up. You really have to use self control when you 'die'."

Patrick Macnee has a mixed attitude towards the help given to him by Glenn Ford during Patrick's

death scene in MCA TV/Universal's Operation Prime Time presentation of "Evening in Byzantium". The script called for Ford to cradle Macnee as the latter died from a bullet wound. To help Patrick feel pain, Ford would give him a slight karate chop to the neck before the cameras turned so that Macnee was definately in pain.

The make-up man on "Evening in Byzantium" had to do a "whitening" job on guest-star Patrick Macnee. Macnee, who sports a great tan from living in Palm Springs, plays an alcoholic, dissipated writer and was supposed to look pale and sickly for his scenes. Thus, Macnee was made up to look much paler than his natural healthy self.

Donna Hutt is compiling articles, stories, artwork and so on for a special issue of her fanzine "Flippin'". Donna is especially in need of "Avengers" material and asks that anyone with something they'd like to have considered should contact her. Write Donna at 41410 Whittier, Hemet, CA 92343. Donna also runs a club called "The United Friends of David Banner" (("Incredible Hulk" vintage, I would imagine. ed.)). You can send her a SASE for more info on that group.

Deb Walsh and "Moonbeam" #4 'Agents Special' are alive and well, thank you. I received my copies of the 'zine on the 10th of October with a promise that all other orders will be shipped soon. Those who ordered this issue should have their copies by the time this reaches you. Deb apologizes for the delay and explains that she has been forced to move and switch printers four times in the last year which has caused quite a hassle in getting the 'Agents' special out. If you have not received your copy of #4 by now try writing to Deb at her work office: c/o DurEco Corporation, 240 Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02109. Deb asks that you write her office and not try contacting her elsewhere since she plans to be moving yet again in the near future. Everyone is thanked for their patience in awaiting the 'Agents' issue.

I might add that Deb is planning a second 'Agents' special for "Moonbeam" #8 and will probably be looking for contributions to print.



Artwork by Bill Bradshaw

I've come across yet another "Avengers" paperback which you can be keeping an eye out for. However, I doubt that you'll have much luck finding extra copies if this one. "The Avengers" by Douglas Enefer was published by Consul Books in 1963 and was available only in England. This is a novel based on the series starring Patrick Macnee as Steed and Honor Blackman as Cathy Gale. Being a U.S. fan who has never seen the earliest episodes with Honor Blackman I found this story to be very interesting reading. Highly recommended - if you happen to find it!

It seems that CBS-TV doesn't intend to herald the arrival of "The New Avengers" by passing out information and promotional material on the show. It's rather strange that a first-run series of such quality (and expense) would be purchased by a major network and then stuffed into a dark corner. Very little information is available yet and, as a result, there has been scant mention of the series by the press. "TV Guide" doesn't even list episode titles!

If you would like to see more information on the show printed I suggest that you don't sit around and wait for it. Write letters, make phone calls, show interest! Get in touch with local newspapers and request that they print something about the show and stars. It might be necessary to point out the fact that there is an excellent first-run series on the CBS late-night schedule which no one is printing information about. Most papers will have some sort of question-and-answer section. Write and ask them if they know anything about "The New Avengers" or its stars. If there is a certain reporter who handles entertainment news for the paper get in touch with them and suggest a write-up on the series. There's always the possibility that your letter will go into the round file, but if enough interest is shown they might take notice!

Publications which do print material on the show should be encouraged. Write and tell them that you appreciate the information and would like to see more. If you don't feel like writing let me know about the article and who published it. I'll send off a note to them.

If you would like to get in touch with CBS-TV to

let them know that you enjoy the show try writing Audience Services, CBS Television Network, 51 West 52nd St., New York, NY 10019.

An idea is under consideration which would make the Fan Network into more of a "club" type of group for members. I now present the plan to you for comments. Firstly, we will remain as basically an information dispensing and gathering organization. The Newsletter and services will remain the same and members are not required to take part in this new project if they wish not to.

Under the new structure the Fan Network will become "Headquarters" for MI5 Special Security and members will be invited to apply as "Agents". In order to qualify as an agent you must complete a written form (which will be supplied for a SASE) and decide on a code-name which you will be known by. Return the form to Headquarters along with \$2.00 (\$3.00 overseas) and a small photo of yourself, if one is available. Upon approval Agents will receive a Security Identification Card and 25 sheets of Special Security stationery. If a suitable photo is supplied with your application it will be included as positive identification on your Security ID. Please send a photo which you don't need back.

This new program is not definite yet, so please don't send money now. I'm only presenting the idea for consideration and comments. If enough people are interested in joining the MI5 Special Security section of the Fan Network we will go ahead with the idea. I'm sure that it would be fun and that we could come up with additional projects in the future without affecting the basic premise of the original Fan Network.

One note on code-name selection: no one will be allowed to choose a name which has been used previously in "The Avengers". Obviously we can't have 4 or 5 John Steeds or Purdeys running around, can we?

The \$2.00 (\$3.00) fee would go to cover the cost of printing ID cards and stationery for Agents. Any remaining money will go towards helping to pay the cost of Newsletter printing and mailing.

CTV Television Network Ltd in Canada has supplied us with a selection of plot vignettes from Avengers Film and TV Enterprises for 13 of the "New Avengers" episodes along with accompanying photos. Beginning with this issue of the Newsletter I plan to print the synopsis for one episode in each issue. The following is for the "New Avengers" episode "Dead Men Are Dangerous".

"Dead Men Are Dangerous"

by Brian Clemens

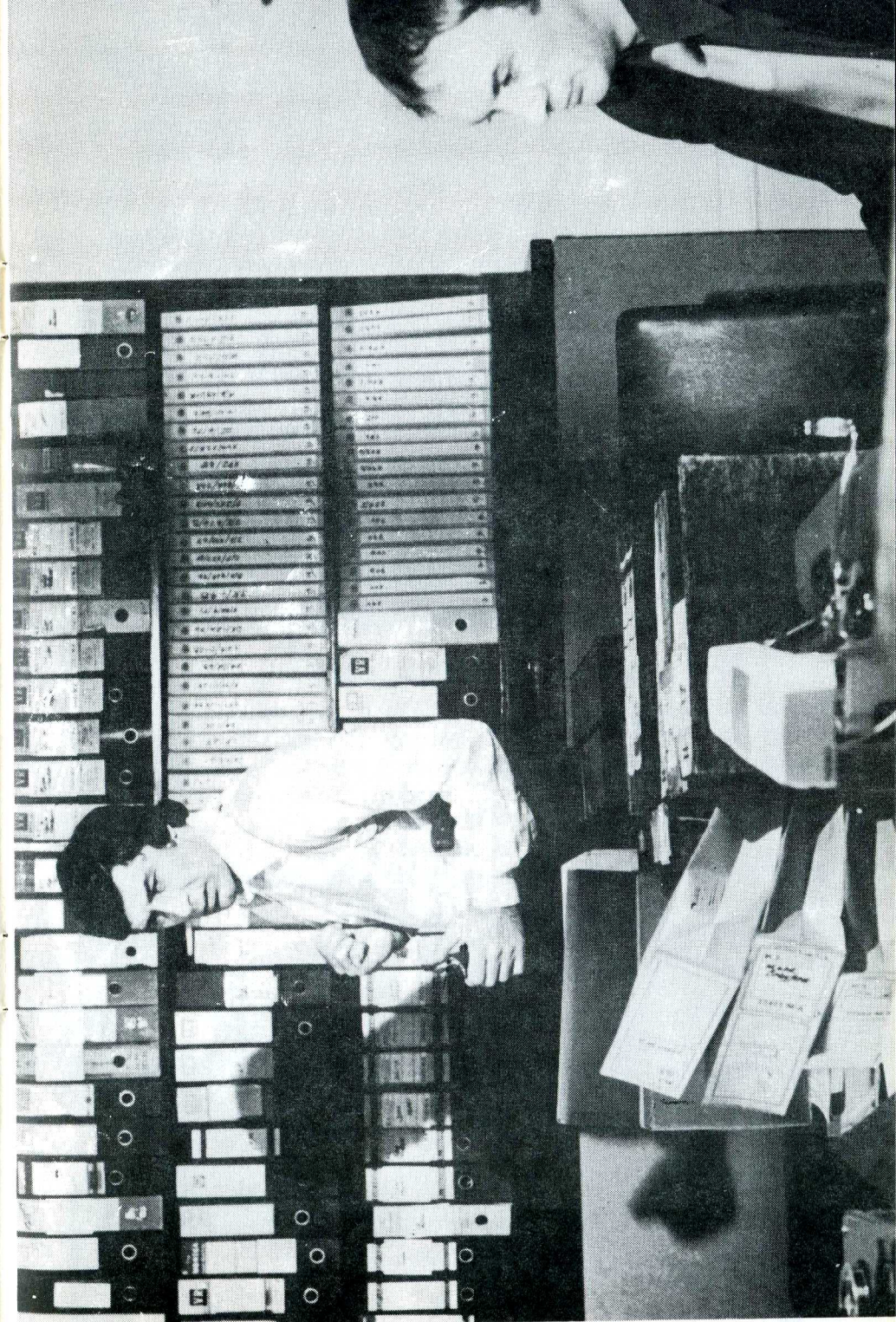
Directed by Sidney Hayers

Ten years ago John Steed had been involved in an East/West border mission that had gone wrong. Agent Mark Crayford, an old school-friend nursing a bitter personal grudge against Steed, had seen the chance to shine on the 'other side'. Steed tried to prevent Crayford's defection. Shots were exchanged as Crayford fled across no-man's land... Steed's bullet lodged in Crayford's heart. Over the intervening years the bullet moved nearly an inch bringing Crayford close to death.

John Steed and Purdey returned from dinner intending to round the evening off with a nightcap at Steed's place. As they arrived it was obvious the place had been broken into - no ordinary burglary - rooms had been vandalized, paintings slashed, valuable porcelain smashed and heaped in the fireplace, twisted mementos of Steed's schooldays. While Gambit was digging into Steed's past for clues, a bomb exploded in Steed's garage writing off his beloved Bentley. Purdey suggested a woman could be involved.

It was becoming clear that all the things Steed really cared about were gradually being destroyed. And then a coffin was delivered bearing the plate JOHN STEED R.I.P.

Leaving Steed to dig deep into his memory, Purdey begins to sift through his old files. Gambit, intrigued by Steed's early life, interviewed his old sports master, Perry, who lived in retirement devoting his life to a great collection of goldfish. Perry remembered Steed's prowess on the sports field - how he always came first. Just as Gambit was about to



leave, they discovered all Perry's fish had been killed.

Someone visited Steed's old school and smashed up the trophy case - other nasty things happened. Someone burnt Steed's name off a cricket commemoration board. It was as though someone was trying to deny Steed's existence. Wipe him out of their lives forever.

It rang a bell with Steed. He sent Purdey to check out the defector, Mark Crayford alias Comrade Commissar Bukovski. She soon discovered that he was officially dead. Yet Steed felt it was Crayford out there somewhere.

Steed was gunned down by sniper fire. A minor injury. Someone was closing in on Steed. Again he was gunned down in hospital... by one of the best shots going. Whoever it was had made sure Steed was not killed.

A man who had visited the school was recognized by Perry in an old school photograph, the teacher who Gambit had befriended. Gambit knew for certain it was Mark Crayford... a man who knew Steed better than anybody... how his mind worked. He was also a Class A1 plus, a top man, efficient, trained to kill - ruthless.

While Gambit was hunting for clues in Crayford's taped psychological interview Steed was called by Crayford. He had captured Purdey and wanted to torture Steed. He'd left an alarm clock at Steed's house and when it rang he would kill Purdey, followed by Steed.

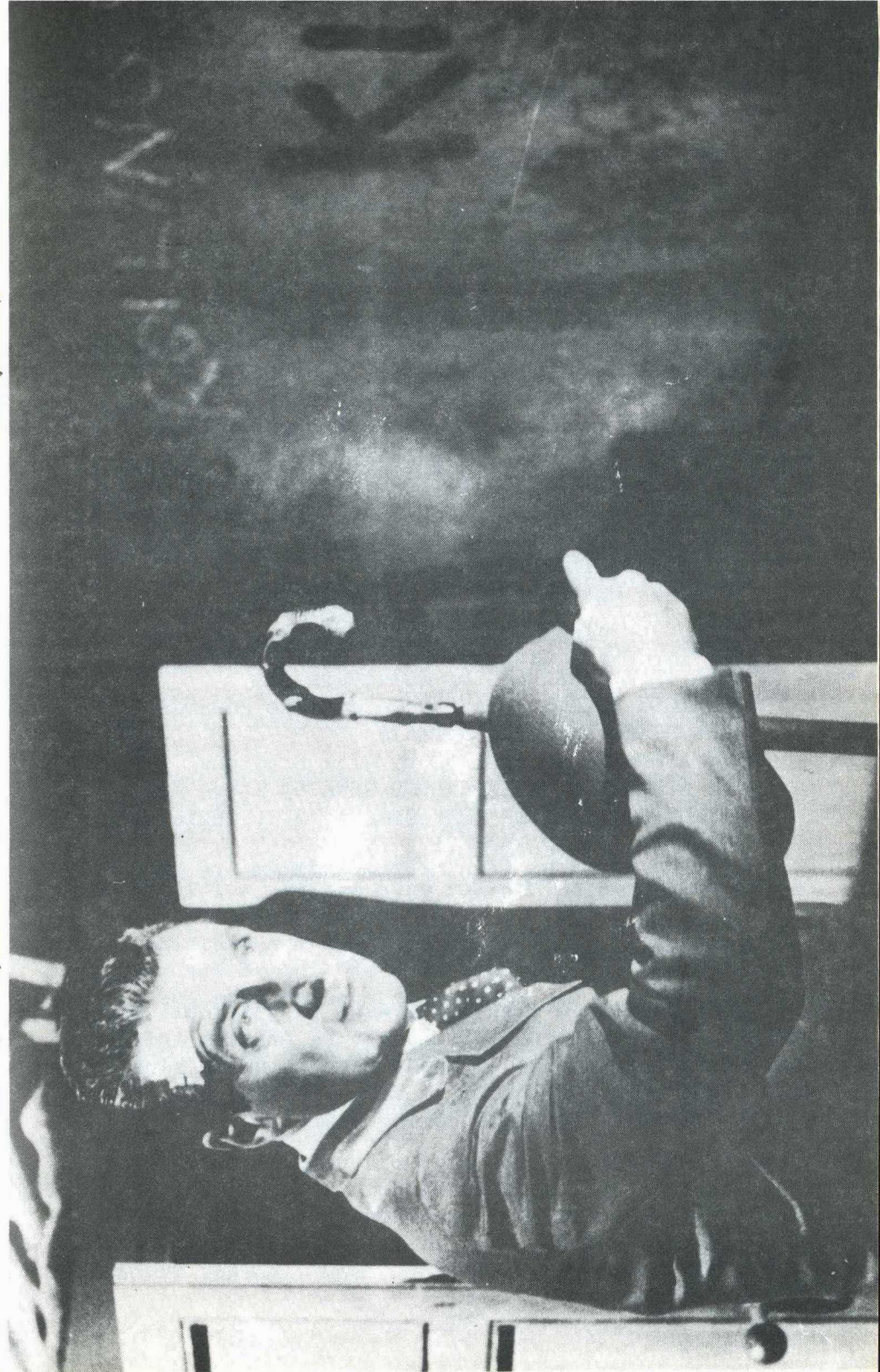
Where was Crayford? The clock was ticking... time was fast running out. Steed and Gambit had to find him. Crayford knew he would soon die. Was there a clue from Steed's past?

CHARACTER

Steed
Purdey
Gambit
Mark
Perry
Hara
Dr. Culver
Sandy
Headmaster
Russian Doctor

ARTIST

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
Clive Revill
Richard Murdoch
Terry Taplin
Michael Turner
Trevor Adams
Roger Avon
Gabor Vernon



Midnight Meanderings

This is the last issue of the year and, as promised in #3, it is now time for readers to vote on their favorite "Midnight Meandering" from the past issues. You must have ordered at least 2 issues in the past year (not including issue #1) to be eligible to vote. On a separate piece of paper send your name and address, which issues of the Newsletter you have ordered and vote on your favorite and second favorite "Midnight Meandering" from issues #2 through #6. The winner will receive a year subscription to the Newsletter free of charge plus 4 8x10 B&W "Avengers" photos. Runner-up will receive 3 8x10 B&W "Avengers" photos or a $\frac{1}{2}$ year subscription to the Newsletter free of charge. Winners will be announced in issue #7 of the Newsletter. All votes must be received by December 1, 1978. Please vote only once. The choices are:

MIDNIGHT MEANDERINGS by Sally Syrjala
TARA KING by Jacqueline Edwards
AN OLD SERIES - REVISITED by Steve Eramo
EMMA PEEL/TARA KING by Sally Syrjala
SHERLOCK HOLMES IN NY by Jacqueline Edwards
JOHN STEED by Sally Syrjala
NEW AVENGERS IN ENGLAND by Bill Bradshaw
NEW AVENGERS: THREE HANDED GAME by Steve Eramo
AVENGING IS BETTER THAN EVER by H.C. Chmielefski
MOTHER by Sally Syrjala
VILLAGE GREEN ENGLAND OF THE AVENGERS by Gene Davidson
AVENGERDOM by Sally Syrjala
LINDA THORSON by Gene Davidson

That's quite a line-up! I want to thank all these members for submitting articles to be printed in the last year. Thanks also to those members whose submissions didn't get printed. I hope to have the same high quality material for this coming year!

AVENGERDOM

by Sally A. Syrjala

"Why does 'The Avengers' retain such a devoted following and why are you a fan of the show?" Seems that question could be asked of "Star Trek" or any of the other so-called "cult" shows. The answer would be basically the same in each case.

To tackle the last portion first; perhaps we are still fans of the show simply because such programs are not that common. When you find a series that offers all the right elements you grab hold and never want to let go.

What are those elements? Perhaps the most important has to be the human relationships portrayed within. We have caring people who are out to protect the world from evil. These people have their partners who help them in this noble endeavor. Together we are able to glimpse some of the camaraderie that these people share.

We see them cease to become individuals, but to merge into a team. That team works as one. Could this yearning to find someone with whom we can form such an alliance be part of the magnetism that attracts us?

Then we have the forces of good winning out over the forces of evil. This is basically what "Star Wars" portrayed. Steed and crew do battle against all forms of evil threatening to snare humanity for its own dire goals. The hero must arise to defeat these forces.

A grand and glorious adult fairy tale. All the facets are intact. We have the good and the evil. We have the good being attacked and not counter attacking until it is necessary for the survival of its kind. Even then, we have it done in a merciful way. The fight may be fought fully, but people are still considered as people and never more force than is necessary is implemented.

The moral runs true. The good is always triumphant and the evil always trounced. Yet not so soundly trounced that we do not know it still lurks out there just waiting for the vigil to be broken before it asserts its ugly head once more.

The Walter Mitty within us is taken to an action/adventure yarn. We can imagine ourselves as being a part of the scene. We can follow an alter ego through all sorts of interesting ventures, yet never risk any harm to our beings.

Material of this sort is not easy to produce. When a show appears that has all the special elements intact it is to be savoured. People are reluctant to let such an experience escape them. It is what spurs us on to seek the next star and find out what is over the horizon. That is what these vehicles showed us - Human spirit intact and undefeatable. The anti-hero does not exist in these people. It is the hero that emerges in all his full glory. Why should a show with all this within its framework not be embraced tightly? There are too few series which embodied all these characteristics and when one is found, such as "The Avengers", it is only logical that it should find itself a permanent spot within our hearts.

LINDA THORSON

by Gene Davidson

It is easy to understand why so many "Avengers" fans prefer Diana Rigg over Linda Thorson. After all, Diana came first. But ask yourself this question: If Linda had been there first, what would you have thought about Diana replacing her? I always thought that Linda Thorson did an excellent job in her role as Tara King. She was chosen from over 200 actresses for the part, so apparently the talent coordinators for the studio thought she was a good choice too.

Linda was born Linda Robinson in Toronto, Ontario on June 18th, 1947. She grew up in Ontario and frequented the Lake O' Bays area and was a juvenile ice skating champion at age 10. Her father is a teacher and her mother is busy at the farm which the family owns in a remote portion of Ontario.

In 1965 Linda came to Britain and entered the famous Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. She left in April, 1967 with an honour diploma. Her name of Thorson was actually shortened from her married name of Bergthornson. She married Harry Bergthornson, a TV

cameraman, when she was only 16 back in Canada. But the marriage did not last. Linda entered "The Avengers" in the fall of 1967 and lasted through 30 episodes until March of 1969. "The Avengers" brought much fame to Linda during the late 60's. She was idolized, especially in France where the series was doing incredibly well. The Macnee/Thorson team was awarded an equivalent of our American "Emmy" there in France. Owing to her success, Linda recorded a 45 rpm record in 1968 called "Here I Am" which was issued on the Ember label in England and France.

After "The Avengers" was finished Linda found her career headed towards doing plays in England and also entertaining her French fans on stage. In 1971-72 Linda was busy doing a play "No Sex Please - We're British" in London. Next, Linda went on to do another play called "The Provoked Wife". Between the plays Linda appeared in one of Brian Clemen's great late-night thriller plays called "Lady Killer". She played opposite actor Robert Powell. Among some of Linda's TV work in the 70's thus far has been her appearance in the BBC play "Caucasian Chalk Circle". She stage managed a late-night and lunch-time theatre group in London. And then in the last couple of years she has appeared in the two movies: "Valentino" and "The Greek Tycoon". Recently Linda was scheduled to appear at the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake Canada which was cancelled at the last minute. Instead, Linda chose to stay in England and do a play called "Misalliance".

The suggested topic for next issue of the Newsletter is one that everyone should have an opinion on: What is your favorite "Avengers" episode and why? Please try to limit your article or letter of comment to 500 words or less. I tend to be running a tad short of room in the Newsletter lately. Thanks for everyone's response!

Garage Sale

The Collectors' Closet has available the Movie Edition Book of Diana Rigg's film "The Assassination Bureau". I believe that there is only one available (in "good" condition, it says here) but there may be more. The price is \$1.75 including postage. If you're interested write Harry J. McDevitt, 434 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale, NJ 07642. Do not send cash. Make check or money order payable to Harry McDevitt.

Movie Star News, 212 East 14th St., New York, NY 10003 has 33 misc. photos from "The Avengers" @ \$2.00 each, postpaid. Send a SASE with your request if you wish additional information since they did not say if the photos are B&W or what size they are.

A Fan Network member recently called Jerry Ohlinger's Movie Material Store for updated info on the "New Avengers" photos which they have available. Thanks to Diane Lind for the following:

8 B&W 8x10 - 1 of Steed, 7 of New Avengers together, but mainly of Purdey.

3 Color 8x10 - 1 Purdey, 1 Purdey and Gambit, 1 Steed and Purdey.

B&W are \$1.50 each, Color are \$4.00 each. Add \$1.00 per order for postage. Diane also says that JOMMS has copies of the "TV Times Souvenir Extra: Featuring The New Avengers" for \$6.00 each plus \$1.00 postage. For more information or to order write to 120 W. 3rd St., New York, NY 10012. Phone is 212-260-7545.

I have several duplicate copies of books which I would like to sell. If anyone is interested in the books listed below you can order from the address at the front of this Newsletter. First-come, first-served and payment must accompany order (money order is best). Please enclose a SASE with your order in case the item is already sold so that I may return your money...

Avengers #8 - THE MAGNETIC MAN 75¢

New Avengers #3 - TO CATCH A RAT \$2.75

New Avengers #5 - THE CYBERNAUTS \$2.75

New Avengers #6 - HOSTAGE \$2.75

JOHN STEED; JEALOUS IN HONOUR (hardback) \$15
TV TIMES SOUVENIR EXTRA: FEATURING THE NEW
AVENGERS \$6.00

T&R THE AVENGERS (a fanzine published many years ago. Fair condition) \$3.00

Back issues of the Newsletter #2, #3, #4 and #5 - \$1.40 each or 3/\$4.00.

All sales are to benefit the Fan Network. Prices are for sales within the U.S. and Canada and include postage.

Diane Lind is selling slides from "Evening in Byzantium" taken off the TV screen. Diane is offering these duplicate slides at her cost as a service to members and is not collecting profits from the sales. For ordering instructions and a description of each slide available send a SASE and 30¢ to Diane at 5433 North Oaks Blvd., Omaha, NE 68134. There is a deadline for orders so inquire soon. All slides are full-frame color 35mm and in plastic mounts. Price is 50¢ each plus postage.

Mandi Schultz has several reel-to-reel tapes with "Avengers" episodes recorded that she wants to sell. Following is a description of what is on each tape:

"Abelard and Heloise" with Diana Rigg recorded in LA - on 8" reel

"Avengers" #1 - "Bird Who Knew Too Much",

"Correct Way to Kill", "Dead Man's Treasure"

"Avengers" #2 - "Death's Door", "Epic"

"Avengers" #3 - "Escape In Time", "Fear Merchants", "£50,000 Breakfast"

3B - "Man-Eater of Surrey Green", "Murder Market", "Sense of History", "Silent Dust" (partial)

4B - "Silent Dust" (conclusion), "Small Game For Big Hunters", "A Surfeit of H₂O"

Note: 3B and 4B must be sold together

5B - "13th Hole", "Danger Makers", "Death at Bargain Prices"

6B - "Dial a Deadly Number", "Girl From AUNTIE", "How to Succeed at Murder"

7B - "A Touch of Brimstone", "Town of No Return", "Two's a Crowd"

8B - "What the Butler Saw", "Masterminds",
"Quick, Quick Slow Death", "Room Without
a View"

#4 - "From Venus With Love", "A Funny Thing
Happened...", "Hidden Tiger", "The Joker"
"Mission: Highly Improbable", "Murdersville"

#5 - "Never, Never Say Die", "Positive, Negative
Man", "Return of the Cybernauts", "See-Thru
Man", "Something Nasty in the Nursery",
"Superlative Seven", "Who's Who"

#6 - "Winged Avenger", "You Have Just Been
Murdered", "Forget-Me-Knot"

1B - "Castle DeAth", "Cybernauts", "Gravediggers",
"Honey For the Prince" (partial)

2B - "Honey For the Prince" (conclusion), "Hour
That Never Was", "House That Jack Built",
"Too Many Christmas Trees"

Note: 1B and 2B must be sold together.

Mandi also has tapes of the series "Secret Agent"
with Patrick McGoohan if anyone is interested.

If you would like to order any of the above
tapes drop Mandi a line and enclose a SASE. The tapes
are various lengths so prices will vary. Payment may
be made by money order only. The address is 1649
Longfellow Court., Rochester, MI 48063.



LOCs of Gold

BILL BRADSHAW, Network Representative, England:

Thanks for the news clipping from Nebraska -
it's a nice little article, isn't it? Where did
Patrick get the idea about 3 fan club members,
though? If he's kidding people might still think
he isn't and get the wrong idea! Oh, by the way,
how was "Evening in Byzantium"?

Today is Thursday ((September 14th)) and on
Tuesday evening I went to the Haymarket Theatre in
Leicester to see Linda Thorson starring in Bernard
Shaw's "Misalliance". The play was unfamiliar to me
and I am far from an avid theatregoer (two visits
to see Peter O'Toole and Ian Hendry are all I can
lay claim to, apart from this latest trip), but it
was a marvellous evening out for me and everyone in
the audience. I'm not going to outline the story or
attempt a "critical breakdown" - the former is in
any library, the latter would be a bit pseud on my
part! - but the atmosphere of the production was so
happy and the performances of all the nine players
so strong it would be difficult to know where to
start anyway. However, Linda was obviously the
standout for me and her fiercely liberated Polish
acrobat-cum-pilot, Lena, was an incredible creation -
a mixture of high camp and high sex with a voice and
accent that was a cross between Greta Garbo and Bela
Lugosi. Honest, she was beautiful!

After the show I went to wait outside what I
thought was the dressing-room to possibly snatch a
word and an autograph with Linda, but I was (naturally)
outside the wrong door and missed her altogether. So
I went back the next night and (I'm sure) made quite
a nuisance of myself to a very friendly and tolerant
stage doorkeeper who finally saw the back of me when
Linda left the theatre after the show and came up to
me. I'd expected a quick autograph as I knew she was
commuting every day and was in a hurry, but when I
flashed my Network card and Newsletters at her she
said that this was marvellous - she'd been wanting
to get in touch after your letter but it was difficult
to liase with the USA on a regular basis and that she

was really interested in what we were doing! She said she was just off to visit the guy who was the President of the Linda Thorson Fan Club (so she really does appreciate the fan element of showbiz, I'm glad to say, as I wasn't sure how she'd react to begin with!).

In part I of the 2-part story "K is for Kill" (1977) Mrs. Peel is shown in flashback to a case she and Steed came up against in 1965. It was never solved, but then crops up again in 1977. We then see Steed (1977) getting a phone call from Emma re the old case. The producers inserted a film shot from about 1967 of Diana saying "Hello Steed" on the phone and then used a double's voice over the phone for the duration of the conversation. Clever, eh? At the end of their chat Mrs. Peel says "Oh, and by the way, my name's not Mrs. Peel any more." Steed says "I know, but you'll always be Mrs. Peel to me. Good bye." Nice touch, that!

M. DIANE LIND, President: The Patrick Macnee Fan Club, Omaha, NE:

((In reference to a local article about Patrick Macnee's part in "Evening in Byzantium":)) I was particularly amused at the part about Glenn Ford chopping Pat sharply in the neck because he didn't express enough pain on his face for the "death"



scene. Apparently Mr. Ford just didn't realize that Pat has had years of acting experience and could have easily done it without any help. But I did notice the "tears" in Pat's eyes and the scene was just terrific. I've seen Pat play many parts; each of them better than the one before, but I've never seen him do a scene quite so emotionally charged as this one was. My only regret was that

I wish the part could have been either longer or more like the character in the book. But, as you said, if it had followed Shaw's novel more closely Pat would not have had the opportunity to show off his acting talent in such a terrific scene. Also, the TV version leaves the audience with some food for thought.

STEVE ERAMO, Stoneham, MA:

I saw Diana Rigg recently in "A Little Night Music". She was excellent. In my opinion she stole the show from Elizabeth Taylor. She had the opportunity to sing and dance as well as get in some very funny lines.

In the way of products: an Emma Peel doll has been released in England as well as a 45 recording of the "New Avengers" theme song. It would be nice if both these items made it to the U.S. Also, from what the publisher told me there have been no further NA paperbacks released. However, there has been a 1979 Annual released in England.

The next time the "Space: 1999" episode "The Guardian of Piri" comes to your area turn it on. Near the end when all the Alphans are evacuating the disintegrating Piri notice the pilot who jumps into the seat of an Eagle. Gareth Hunt is that pilot. And since I am a big fan of "Space: 1999", besides seeing the episode at least 7 times, I even got his line: "Main motors." If you're a very loyal Gareth Hunt fan tune in, but watch closely. He is on the screen a total of about 7 seconds!

DERWIN MAK, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada:

When I first saw "The New Avengers" on CTV there was a teaser. The end of the teaser was a freeze frame, then a jump (or smash) cut to the main title: the red, white and black lion separates into three colours. The red forms an animated Steed, the black Gambit and the white Purdey. The colours then merge back into the lion. After the main title, the story was continued from the freeze frame, this time with the title superimposed.

On CBS a new main title is inserted. It shows various scenes of the Avengers with titles superimposed.

The teaser and act one are spliced together. The action resumes right after the jump cut and title.

The one episode I have seen on both CBS and CTV is "Angels of Death". CTV used the animated main title, CBS used another main title and spliced the teaser to act one.

Which is the main title used in Britain?

Unfortunately, "The Avengers" disappeared from this part of Canada years ago. It was forgotten until "The New Avengers" was aired by CTV. Some episodes of "The New Avengers" were filmed in Toronto (they stayed at the Harbour Castle, a Hilton. It's a big hotel). Still, the old series hasn't returned in syndication though the new series runs in prime time here.

One week a CTV channel would show "The New Avengers" on prime time Friday. At late-night Friday CBS would show another episode. The next night yet another CTV station would show another episode. ((That settles it, gang. Let's all pack up and head for Kitchener!! ed.))

CATHERINE STRAND, Leavenworth, KS:

I am sure you have been getting several inquiries about this, but I still would like to add mine... Is that Patrick Macnee's voice in the beginning of "Battlestar Galactica", right before the music, etc. and as the voice of the supreme commander (Cylon) in the three-hour pilot? I also have my suspicions that Lucifer's voice is Johnathan Harris, but neither of them is listed in the credits. Do you know? Would appreciate verification as it is driving me nuts!!!

CAROL CRUNK, Mobile, AL:

I saw the first episode of "The New Avengers". It's shown Sunday night here. I enjoyed seeing Patrick again. At first I didn't think I would like Purdey, but by the end of the show I began to appreciate the character. However, Gambit is another thing. I kept waiting for him to do something that would make me like him. He never did. He came off as a typical cold-hearted, sex-oriented spy. I say sex-oriented because of the bedroom scene with Purdey where he more or less said he was just waiting for the day she would succumb to his charms and say "Yes". What charms? I never saw

anything that showed Gambit was really any different from the 'bad guys' - he just worked for our side. The character of Gambit really needs to be developed more. As he is now he might as well be a robot.

As for Patrick and Steed; I would love to have seen more of him. It's a shame the producers apparently feel they need a younger male character (Gambit) and therefore take away a lot of Steed's potential.

SALLY SYRJALA, Centerville, MA:

Did you see the piece about the actor who portrayed 'Mother' in one of those Sunday supplements? Think it appeared months and months ago. Anyhow, it got into the fact that the actor had lost weight like crazy and now was quite 'normal' in that department. Since shedding the pounds he has been having difficulty in locating work.

Charity. The David Hedison group sponsors a foster child. Think that might be a little much for this grouping right now. But it is a suggestion and one that shows tangible results. One thing about the foster children is that you get letters from the child you sponsor and you can see what your gift is doing. Like enabling him/her to attend school beyond the first few years so that something can be made of the life later on. Is also nice to see the letter from the child who has graduated from your support saying "Thanks. Now I have a scholarship and can go on to the university or whatever." All in all a very good feeling.

On the PTA and violence: To me it all smacks too much of censorship. Parents are the people who should be determining what junior does and does not watch. It is the home influence that is the primary molding element in a person's existence. When outside agencies start telling us what we can and can not do/watch/read it all gets too totalitarian for my blood. Now people are telling us what can be viewed by adults in the privacy of their own homes. When does the book banning begin?

We can ask the question "Does violence on TV help to curb personal violence?" Perhaps the subliminal venting of aggressive tendencies through this medium does more good than we know. All questions to ponder.

An answer to them might be nice before personal freedoms are completely eradicated.

Got my latest copy of "Starlog" in the mail yesterday. Issue 17 again has mention of Pat Macnee. It concerns his movie "King Solomon's Mines". Does seem that magazine has taken to Pat. It is just a little blurb, but is as follows:

"Also unknown, at this point, is the progress being made on a host of upcoming science-fiction films targeted for release in 1978-79. Among the more interesting titles are... "King Solomon's Mines" (Patrick Macnee vs. dinosaurs)..."

GAIL PARADIS, Johnston, RI:

I'm so glad you are dealing with the "New" Avengers as well as the old. I have to admit that even after watching the old series I prefer the style of the new! I think it is because I can identify with the characters more in this series.

Did you happen to see last week's episode ("Angels of Death")? I really did enjoy the scene where Steed is very distraught over the death of one of his closest friends. They seem to be bringing out the HUMAN feelings more in these characters than they ever did in the old. Also, Steed was not his usual "dapper" self when he was in the maze. His fight was to survive - loved it!

Gareth Hunt has made a movie over in England with a very good friend of his named Nick Tate. It is called "Licensed to Love and Kill" and from what Nick told us in his speech at the convention it should be one fun movie to see. Gareth plays a character called Charles Bind. Just hope we get to see it over here in the States!

VIC GRYNIEWICZ, Chicago, IL:

I loved your Newsletter #5. It's always great to see a professional looking fanzine, but may I suggest more photos and also a title on the cover!

"The New Avengers" is a success in my book. Finally there's a watchable suspense/drama on the boob tube. Ah, it's the return of the 60's with British spies running through your house - headed no less than by Patrick Macnee. My only beefs with the

series so far are that the scripts are not yet as creative or humorous as the old series. Also, Purdey is not as subtle as Mrs. Peel was. Mrs. Peel could be powerfully suggestive in her leather body suits, but there was never a need in the series to have her blouse buttons ripped off by fishing tackle or to have her strip down to a body stocking before a fight. However, I firmly believe that the series is going to improve with age and it will become a hit on the CBS Network (despite what the local Chicago outlet has done to it).

LISA RUBIN, Washington, D.C.:

I suppose I shall start by introducing myself to you. I am #2 in an organization I started known as "The Villagers - The Prisoner Appreciation Society". I just received a letter from a friend of mine and member of our society, Jim Holub. He informed me that you mentioned our society in your most recent Newsletter.

Our dues are \$10 per year for which you receive the newsletter (which is actually more of a fanzine/newsletter), pictures from the series, a button with your own assigned number and other privileges such as seeing videotapes of the series and meeting for discussion groups. We have members all over the country. I do hope you asked members to enclose a SASE when writing us as we are unable to continue to put out for the cost of mailing the flyer and information.

"The New Avengers" is being aired tonight for the first time here in D.C. I can't wait to see it, although I, as I am sure many others feel, don't think there's any comparison of any of the others to the team of Emma Peel and John Steed.

GENE DAVIDSON, Berea, OH:

"The Avengers" were very big in France and Germany especially. In France they referred to them as "Les Revenchards". In Germany it was called "Mit Shirme, Charme and Melone" which translated means "With Umbrella, Charm and Top Hat"! It would be so easy for "The New Avengers" to be the next TV phenomenon in America.

ANNE-MARIE LUBNER, Tucson, AZ:

To comment on "Evening in Byzantium"... I sure hope someone can enlighten me as to what in the world the title had to do with the movie. As for Patrick's performance, I thought it was excellent considering what he had to work with! I was so disappointed with the tiny part he had - two miniscule scenes in Part I. His part was a bit bigger in Part II. Loved the hostage scene in the theatre where he complains about not being able to get a drink! The death scene between Patrick and Glenn Ford was beautifully done and very moving.

I started watching "The Avengers" when in high school. One of my friends would tell me about the episodes each week so I finally had to give in and try watching it just to find out what she was talking about. First of all it was different because, being a British show, the cities and countryside were different from the American scenery we grew up with. Also, at the time the English accents were fascinating (this being just about the time of the English rock invasion so we weren't quite used to the accents then as we are now).

More importantly, though, were the excellent scripts and the relationship between Steed and Mrs. Peel. Their work was performed with precision and their friendship was warm and caring...sometimes comical. They had such wonderful lines, and what facial reactions to those lines (especially Mrs. Peel)!

Steed was always dressed so smartly, so dashing and debonair. And those vintage cars were such an appropriate touch - fit him like a glove. Yet the modern Mrs. Peel fit in perfectly, too, with her mod little sports car and her exquisite clothes. She was always so feminine and alluring whether in evening clothes or a smart pantsuit and even when flinging bad guys around!

To summarize, it had to be a combination of the well-written scripts and the fine acting talents of Macnee and Rigg, with just a dash of credit to their clothes designer.

I must mention here that by the time Mrs. Peel departed I was a true blue fan and, as such, accepted her replacement although reluctantly at first. But in time I came to care for Tara as much as (but differently than) I cared for Mrs. Peel.



Diana Rigg in "A Little Night Music"

etcetera...

As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter, Patrick Macnee was in a recent episode of "The Hardy Boys" TV show. After seeing the program I feel prompted to print a few comments.

The write-up in "TV Guide" described the episode thus:

"In London, Frank and Fenton are kidnaped by renegade British Secret Service agents who plan to rob the Tower of London"

The character played by Patrick Macnee was called "S". My first impression upon reading the description was that Patrick would most likely be one of the 'renegade' agents... what with a name like "S". However, a few moments into the show, realization dawned on me. This was not to be simply a guest appearance by Patrick on someone else's program!

We first see a shot of a beautifully decorated flat. In the foreground is a chess board with game in progress. Slightly out of focus in the background, but still quite prominent in the picture, hangs a curly-brim bowler hat. A hand reaches to the chess board and moves a piece. The camera changes angles to reveal more of the room as Patrick Macnee walks to the other side of the board and congratulates 'himself' on a brilliant move. The dress and mannerisms are startlingly familiar to any "Avengers" fan and it is soon apparent that "S" is suspiciously similar to another Briton whom we know.

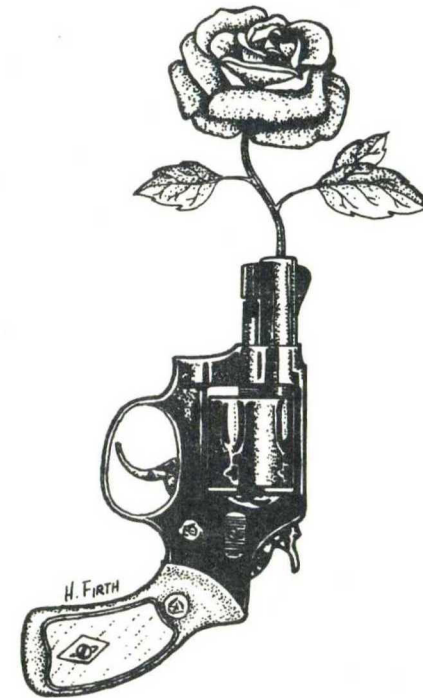
As the show progresses the coincidences mount. "S" turns out to be an agent working on the side of Her Majesty. He is described as being "one of the top agents in the service" and dubbed by the villain as "our friend with the umbrella". Indeed, Patrick turns up with a neatly furred brolly and wearing a single-button, velvet-collared suit, no breast pockets, please. He places the aforementioned bowler hat in place and taps it with a ritual flourish.

"S" is never called by name, but John Steed is written all over him. I was constantly expecting him to drive by in a 1929 Bentley! The character was an unexpected surprise and the obvious "Avengers" take-off was sheer joy to watch. Of course, Steed... ... er, I mean "S" foils the baddies in the end

with a flip of his bowler and he prevents the head of the group from fleeing by hooking him with the brolly handle. Well done!

The crowning touch came toward the end of the show when "S" is bidding farewell to his American counterparts. Patrick notices an "old friend" walking through the airport and excuses himself for a moment. A woman is seen from behind as she strolls down the corridor, fashionable clothes well tailored to her slim figure. Medium length auburn hair is topped by a stylish hat. There is something quite familiar about her, although we never see her face. "S" chases after her calling out "Ah, Mrs." but the last words are lost in the crowd.

Déjà Vu, anyone?



Back cover photograph is from the "Avengers" episode "Too Many Christmas Trees" - appropriate for this time of year. Have a nice Holiday season filled with love. See ya' next year!



NOTICE to members of "The Avengers"/Patrick Macnee Fan Network:

Members who wish to have Christmas cards sent to Patrick Macnee, Linda Thorson, or producer Brian Clemens are invited to send them in care of the Fan Network to insure that they reach their destination. Please keep the weight of cards to a minimum since they will be shipped Airmail to England - no packages, please. CARDS MUST REACH ME BY DECEMBER 10th, 1978. Be sure to mark on the outside of the envelope who the card goes to. (Sorry, but I can't forward to anyone besides the persons listed above.) Send to 1925 Terry #7, Longmont, CO 80501, USA.