

the official clubzine of the Star Blazers Fan Club

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the Star Blazers Fandom Report

Reporting on the who, what, where, when, why & how of Star Blazers

Issue 14, Number 2 of Volume 4

A publication of the Star Blazers Fan Club

News-

L.A. Con 11, the forty-second World Science Fiction Convention kept the tradition of Japanese animation up. Held in the Anaheim Convention Center from August 30th till September 3rd, the Worldcon made a profit, unlike last year's Worldcon ConStellation. During the entire convention the "Japanese SF Environment Room" featured SF book jackets, SF toys and models, movie and television posters. Also in the video room there was an assortment of Japanese animation. Included on the program was episodes of Tekkaman, the Space Knight, which will be on TV this fall.

Also shown was the American premiere of "Space Fortress Macross" - "Volume 1: Booby Trap" - this 70 minute feature was in English. This translation features the first three episodes of Macross combined and translated. In Japan this series is currently being made into a feature film with new animation.

Legendman made its American movie premiere, being shown in 35mm at this year's Worldcon. This animated feature is an adaptation of the famous series by E.E. Smith, Ph.D. It was shown on the main film program on Sunday.

On Monday the convention featured "the Animation World of Yoshiyuki Tomino" which was an illustrated presentation by Y. Tomino. His work goes back to 1963 when he worked on Astro Boy. He has worked on other series like Zambot 3, Daitan 3, Mobile Suit Gundam, Space Runway Ideon, Xabungle, and Dunbine. He spoke about his films, and showed samples. A complete episode of Dunbine was shown with sub-titles.

It was a good Worldcon for Japanese animation. Atlanta won for it's bid for the 1986 Worldcon, beating out New York, and Philadelphia. The convention also featured a day at Disney Land (also famous for animation), and the usual Worldcon agenda (panels, a huge art show, dealers room, parties, masquerade, meetings, Hugo awards, Star Wars marathon, a huge program book, and many other events.) In addition episodes of Star Blazers were shown in the video room.

A new service has opened to the Star Blazers Fan Club. Any member who would like a pen pal from Japan, now can. If you wish a Japanese pen pal, send a self addressed stamped envelope, with your interests, and if you would like a male or female pen pal to Barbara Edmunds,

Credit for this goes to Barbara Edmunds who wrote into a animation magazine in Japan, thus opening a line of communications between fans from both nations.

Space Cobra will be on the Playboy network in English. All 11 episodes series was done by Tokyo Movie Shinsha and Nippon TV. It deals with the adventures of Cobra, and has a good bit of sex, violence and crime in the plot. In addition to this the animation is top notch. Uncensored Japanese animation will make it to America at last.

Star Blazers is now on the air in Denver, Colorado. It is on station KDVR (Channel 31, an independent station). It got on the air thanks to the letters of fans in that area. Thanks again to Barbara Edmunds for this bit of news.

Going to fanzines, things seem to be getting interesting. Fred Kopetz has announced the resumption of Space Cruiser Log. This was one of the first fanzines devoted to Star Blazers, and ran two issues. Issue #3 will be coming out. It will be 25-35 pages and feature an offset cover. Price will be \$4 an issue. Former subscribers should write the editor. The deadline for contributions will be Sept. 20th, and the fanzine should be out in early October. For more information send a self addressed stamped envelope to Fred Kopetz,

Animato #4 is out. This fanzine features a cover by Frank Strom, articles on Steve Segal's Futuropolis, Jungle Book and Bob Clampett. There is also a column on Japanese animation. For a copy send \$1.50 to Animato!, c/o Mike Ventrella,

A collection on the last issue. Final Stop Andromeda is not a fanzine, it's a newsletter. So please don't write them expecting thick issues.

Highly Animated #2 will be out for Philcon in November. With issue #2 they will be covering other animation besides Yamato. For more information send a S.A.S.E. to Highly Animated,

Invidia #2 is now out, and is an improvement over the first issue. This issue features a good translation of the Yamato III mangas. It also features the continuation of a Final Yamato parody. For more information send a S.A.S.E. to Steve Cicala,

Trelaina the official apa of the Star Blazers Fan Club continues to grow. For information on collation #10 write Brian Cirulnick,

For spec copies send \$1.

Editorial

The Star Blazers Fan Club now stands at a unique point in it's existence. When the club first started in 1980 things were different. We were a small club fighting to get Star Blazers back on the air in New York City. We are no longer that same club. A lot of things have changed in these past years, the club has changed, and so have we. Due to the lower cost of VTR's, more fans get Japanese animation in their homes, when they want, then ever before. The club has also grown in size and coverage. We are no longer (for the most part) that small group of fans gasping for that bit of Star Blazers on TV.

The reason why I write this is because the changes made in the Star Blazers Fan Club aren't caused by the actions by a few, but by the entire club as a whole. This means you. The club goes as

continued on next page

EDITORIAL

the majority of it's membership goes. The reason for this editorial is because I would like to ask you the member, where you want this club to go.

First lets look at the current situation. Right now as a fan of Star Blazers you have several options open today that you never had before. If you don't live in one of the cities that carries Star Blazers, you can watch it on video tape. If you can't afford a video machine, then you can get the next best thing - the animation comes - in English. Why should todays fan write a letter to a TV station to get Star Blazers on the air when they can watch it on video tape any time they want?

Also it use to be that the only shows that made it to America were Yamato and Gatchaman (that is if you don't count the older shows like Speed Racer and Kimba). A lot more Japanese SF animation seems to be coming over translated these days. Due to new shows that are coming over like Macross, Space Cobra and Voltron interest is no longer limited to just Star Blazers, even with the die hard fans. This even shows up in the club's newsletter - we have articles on Technoboyagers and My Youth in Arcadia. Now many of you folks have played Cliff Hanger? It's not that we no longer like Star Blazers, but it's hard to keep interest in the same old two seasons with all this other stuff around.

This places the Star Blazers Fan Club in a rather interesting position. Right now the club can go and expand in several different directions, or every direction. We have a number of choices, and I would like to get the clubs answer to these choices.

One choice is to limit ourselves to Star Blazers. We can ignore everything else and just stick to one show. However I don't favor this. After all how many newsletters can we put out that talk about nothing but Star Blazers? How much can we write about the show till we get mundane?

The second choice is the one I like better. The goal of the club should become to be to bring over high quality science fiction animation into English. The main center of the club should still be Star Blazers (otherwise how could we call ourselves the Star Blazers Fan Club?), but we could still give equal coverage to other shows that show us the same high levels of quality.

The other choices involve how we go about these choices. Right now the one thing every member of the club gets is the club's newsletter. While it may be the center of the club, it is not the club. In addition we have chapters, an apa which is growing, convention activity and the like. Maybe we should start to go in new directions. For example we can have a national letter writing campaign to get Star Blazers on a national network? But currently it seems that the future of the show seems to be in the hand of the Japanese. Maybe we should all right the Japanese?

Another problem is that we should avoid becoming another Cartoon/Fantasy Organization, (it would be like re-inventing the wheel). I think that the club should still strive to be unique, and not a cheap carbon copy.

In any case this club is at the cross roads of it's existance, (not at it's end). Right now there are several ways we can go. We can become a strickly Matsumoto club, or be centered on animated space opera. In any case I would like to hear what the members of this club think through mail, in person, or in Trellina. I would also like to hear what you think of the newsletter, the extras like the flipbook, the bookmark and this month a sticker. What direction should the club go? The choice is up to you.....

In the next issue of the SBFR we will have the rest of Ardith Carlton's Final Yamato article.

Fan Activity by Brian Cirulnick

In doing the research for this long awaited collections article, I came across some interesting items, one of which was that some people really had no idea of what it was that they were collecting - if it looked like Japanese animation, or if they recognized the characters of some show, they bought it and eagerly consumed the color pages.

In an attempt to rectify that situation, I will list what it is that everyone is collecting, along with a description of it.

ROMAN ALBUMS - Everyone that has communicated with me has at least one these. These books are roughly magazine sized, soft covered, sporting glossy color pages in the forward section, followed by b/w character and mechanical designs. There are also several other names for this type of publication, like "This is Animation", "Anime Graph" and "Anime Mook".

ANIME COMICS - Usually split into two or more volumes, these small (7" high by 5" wide) books focus on a particular film or series, and are like American photovels.

MANGAS - The same format as anime comics, but in black and white. These can run to 200 pages or less. Cheaper than anime comics.

SOUNDTRACK ALBUMS - These are background music records, each from a different film or series. However there are dialogue records, complete with music and sound effects - much like hearing the film. This may prove difficult unless you know Japanese.

CELS - These are the actual animation drawings used in the making of the animated program or film. Do not confuse these with cel collection books. Those offer cel reprints and are not the same as owning an original. No two cels are ever alike.

Not needing an explanation are posters, toys, models and videotapes.

A Roman Album was, without doubt, the number one collected item, followed by posters, toys and models, anime comics, videotapes, sound track albums, mangas and cels, in that order. The only surprise was that more people had Mobile Suit Gundam Anime Comics than Yamato Anime Comics. Most indicated that they purchased the merchandise at local conventions, while others were forced to mail order.

So, no matter what facet of Japanese animation appeals to you, there is sure to be something in the merchandising that is just right for you. If you can get some enjoyment out of what you have purchased, then the expenditure is meaningless-besides, it's a fan activity! Happy Collecting!

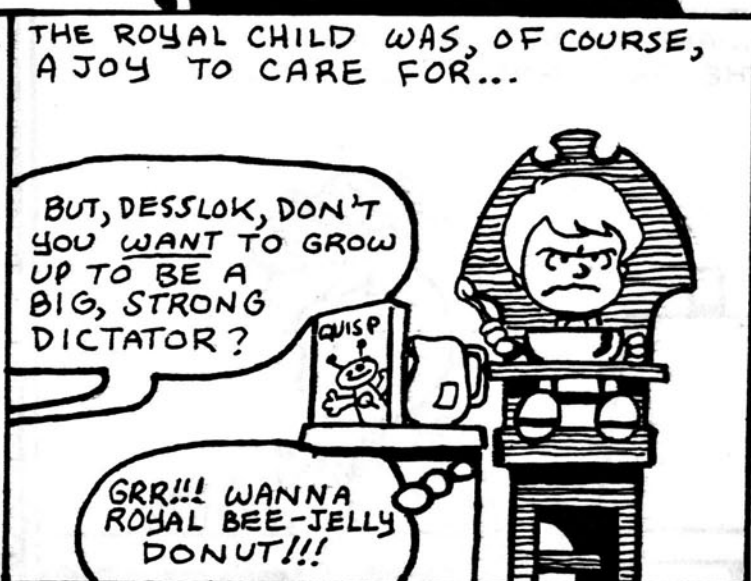
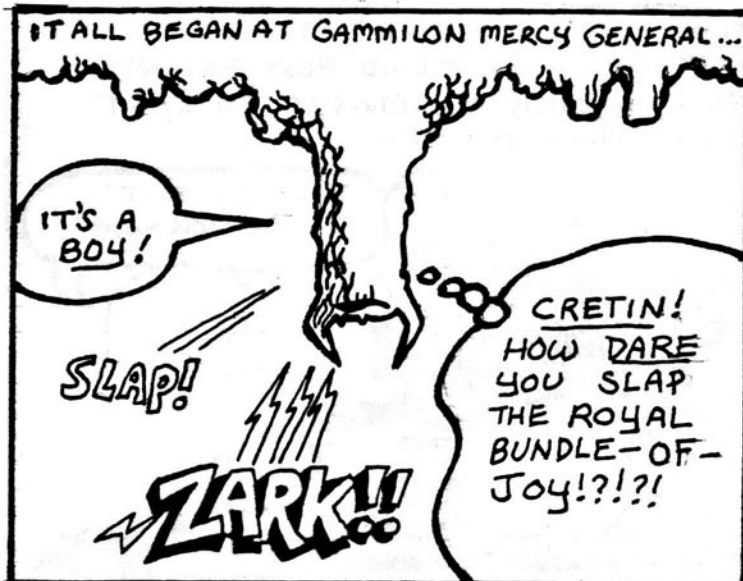
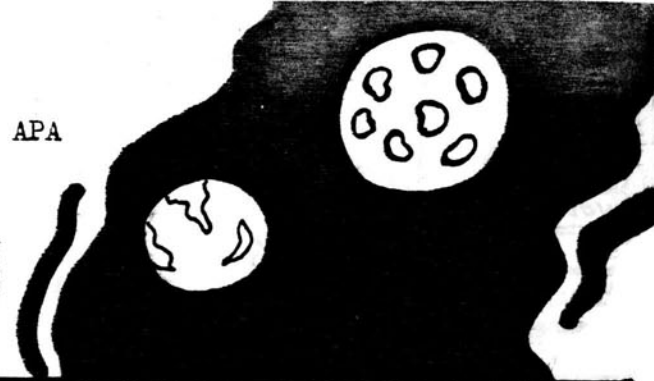
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Staff - Michael Pinto, Brian Cirulnick, Frank Strom, Mike Kanterovich, and Colleen Winters.

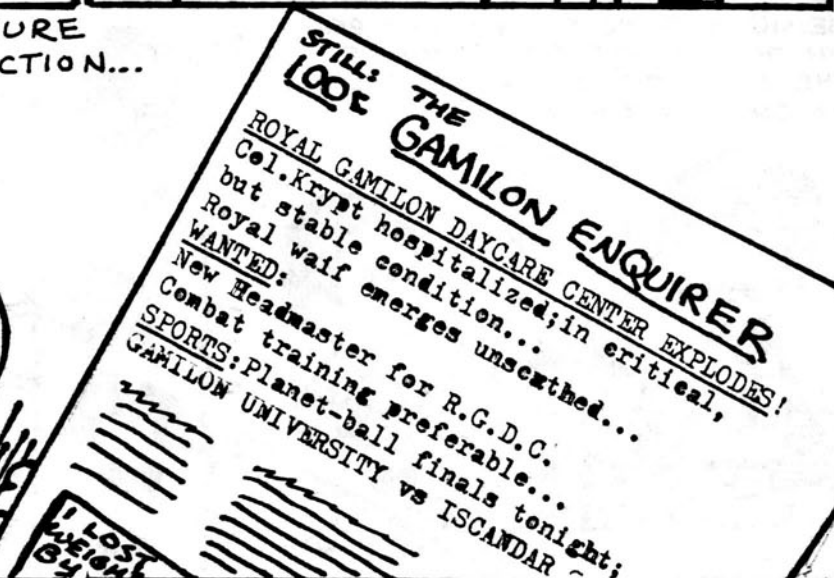
the Desslok Story

*By Frank Strom and Mike Kanterovich

*First published in the Trelaina APA



EARLY ON, THE NATIONAL TREASURE DISPLAYED A TALENT FOR DESTRUCTION...



EVEN EARLY ON, HE WAS AWARE
OF HIS
IMPORTANCE...



... AND KEENLY INTERESTED IN
THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.



BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON
ON THE PLANET DIDN'T MAKE
THE LAD IMMUNE TO LIFE'S LITTLE
INCONVENIENCES...



**B
L
A
M!**

GOOD GREIF!



SOON, THE ROYAL PRODIGY WAS MADE
READY FOR ANOTHER MILESTONE: HIS
FIRST DAY AT GAMILON
PUBLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL...

SEND OUT
THE
"DESSLOK-
LUNCHBOX"!!



LITTLE DID THE
YOUTHFUL MONARCH
SUSPECT, THAT
LITERALLY A WORLD
AWAY, EVENTS
WERE TAKING
PLACE THAT
WOULD CHANGE
HIS LIFE
FOREVER!!



Dear Diary;
My bathtub armada conquered three
new galaxies today...This is far too
easy. Tomorrow I'll set out to dominate
the back yard...then, maybe the rest of
the neighborhood. After that, all of
known space should quickly follow...

SOON, THE LITTLE TYKE INVENTED
ECTO-GAS: HIS SECOND BEST FRIEND,
AND THE ONLY DESSLOK-PET TO LAST
MORE THAN A WEEK...



CHAPTER TWO:
"FAST TIMES AT GAMILON HIGH"

LATER...

PRINCIPAL
KRYPT
-OFFICE-

SHIGH! CALL
THE DESSLOK-MOM!

WOW!
A BLONDE !!

WHO'S THAT, TALAN??

HM? OH, THAT'S
STARSHA — AN
EXCHANGE
STUDENT
FROM
ISKANDAR.

SIGH

STARSHA
!! ♥ !!

♪ GOTTA LOOK GOOD ♪
♪ LIKE A GAMILON
♪ SHOULD... ♪

HEY POP! CAN I BORROW THE
KEYS TO THE FAMILY
SPACE CRAFT,
TONIGHT?

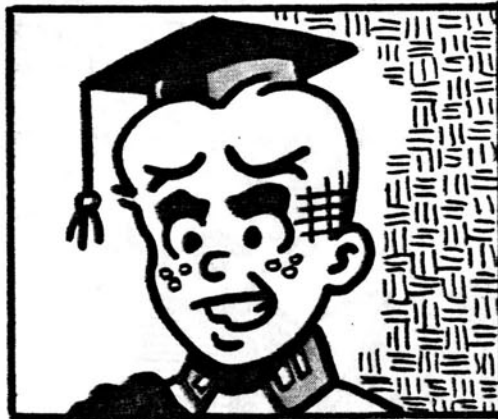
AFTER THAT, THE
YEARS FLEW BY...



ME AND THE GANG AT THE BEACH.



KING AND QUEEN OF
THE SENIOR PROM.



LEADER DESSLOK

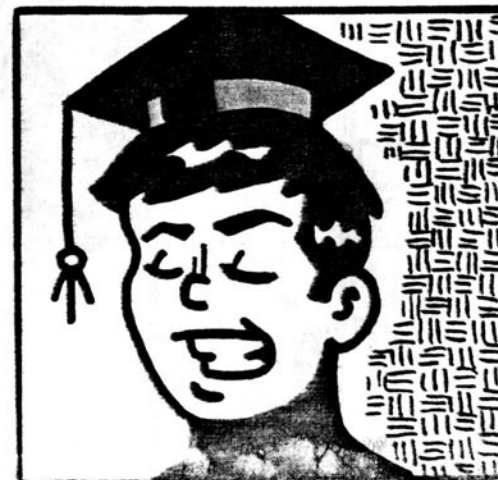
VALADICTIONIAN
DEBATING TEAM
PROPAGANDA SQUAD
CHESS CHAMP
WARGAME SOCIETY
CHEMISTRY CLUB
MAGNA CUM TYRRANIS

"I CAME, I SAW,
I DESTROYED."



TALAN

VOTED
MOST LIKELY TO
FOLLOW DESSLOK.



LYSIS

VOTED
MOST LIKELY TO
GET HIMSELF
KILLED.

CHAPTER THREE: "THE VAPOR CHASE"

AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, DESSLOK WENT ON TO STUDY AT GAMILON UNIVERSITY, AND STARSHA RETURNED TO THE PLANET OF HER BIRTH. HE NEVER FORGOT HER, AND WOULD REGULARLY COMPOSE MESSAGE-CAPSULES...

...from the desk of LEADER DESSLOK,
of the Royal House of Gamilon,
1st in line for the throne,
and master of all he surveys

Dearest Starsha:

How are you? I am fine. The weather is fine. I just invented another powerful new explosive...they're still trying to put the chem lab back together. The medics tell me that Dean Krypt should be up and around in a matter of months. The Gamilon Yacht Club went down for the third time yesterday...so much for water sports this season. Also, I must apologize for Lysis' inexcusable

behavior at the planet-ball finals last month--just because we were losing was no excuse for him to assassinate your entire team. Still, it was funny, and we did win. By the way, I'm saddened to hear that everyone else on your planet died last week: tough break. Later this year, I plan to step out and do some serious conquering...hope to see you soon!

P.S.: I'm enclosing an 8x10 glossy of myself, in case you lost the other ones.

Love&Kisses,

Desslok
Desslok of Gamilon



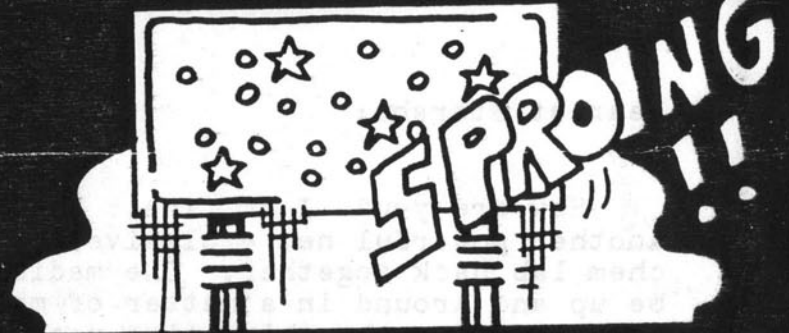
PILOQUE:

IN TIME, DESSLOK
CAME INTO HIS
FULL INHERITANCE,
AND SET OUT TO
MAKE THE UNIVERSE
MARCH TO THE
BEAT OF HIS OWN
GAMILON HEART.

GAD, I'M BORED!
I WONDER WHAT
I SHOULD
BLOW UP TODAY?



≡SIGH≡. BRING UP THE
DESSLOK-DARTBOARD!



"... NO MATTER.
I'M SURE
DESTROYING IT
WILL BE NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL..."

ZAP!

(SOL-3)
• EARTH

THUK!

200

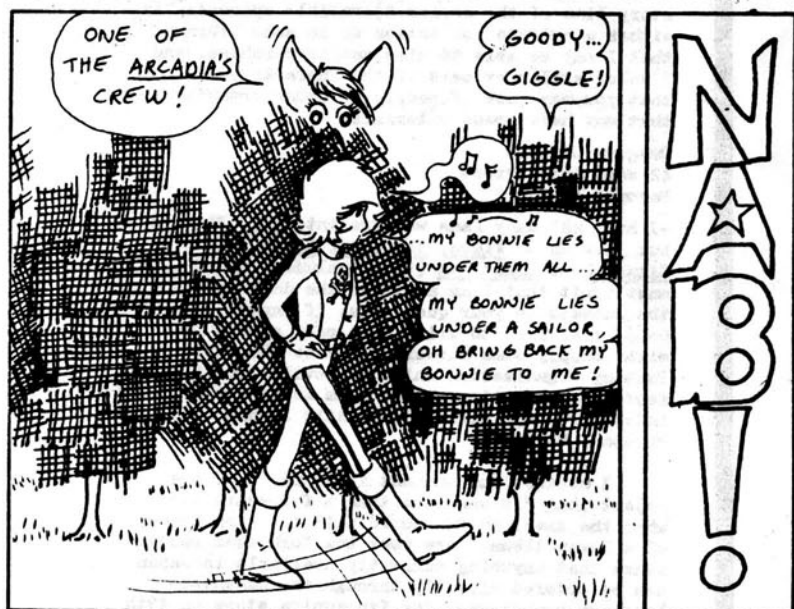
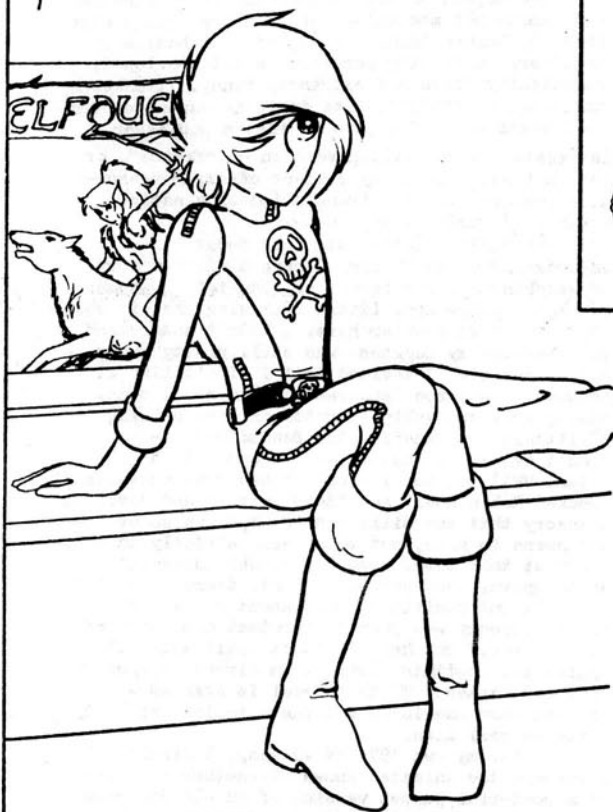
AHA! THE EARTH!...
NEVER HEARD OF IT...
OH WELL...



Tadashi and the Bambioids

by C. WINTERS

1983



BAMBIIDS ©1983 JERRY COLLINS
HARLOCK CHARACTERS ©1983 L. MATSUMOTO



communications

Letters to the editor are welcomed from all members of the Star Blazers Fan Club. We want all your ideas and opinions. Write to - Star Blazers Fan Club, Communications,

Although your organization seems to be centered around the Star Blazers series, I am writing you to see if you can lend help in finding information about another Japanese animated series. The series I'm alluding to is Kimba, the White Lion ("Jungulu Taitei" or Jungle Emperor in Japan) which was released here in 1966, and televised through syndication in the late 60's and early 70's (I had last seen it here in New York in '71). What I'm interested in is 1)written material about characters and the story line of the series 2)available episodes, in either a private collection or in some library, that I may be able to view and/or purchase, and 3)color stills or cels of the characters. I hope that you may know of people or other organizations that may have these materials.

Gregory Giacobe

-I have met many fans who are into Star Blazers, but grew up on Kimba, Astroboy, Speed Racer, Gigantor or Eight Men (this includes myself). I must admit that I am a bit in the dark as to the answers to your questions. If anyone can help, feel free to write. The only source that might supply some answers would be the Cartoon/Fantasy Organisation which is devoted to all fantastic animation, write them at (for membership info) C/FO, c/o Alex Potter,

I noticed the comment in issue 13 of the Report that "it was less than a few years ago when the American fan would kill for a photocopy of a Roman Album." Are your New York area readers aware that anything currently available in Japan can be ordered directly through the Japanese-language bookstores? The Kinokuniya store on 49th Street is my favorite, but the Zen Book Store on 5th Ave. is another possibility. They both have large selections of comic and animation material in stock, too.....

OSALEJAL & LEO © 1983 OSAMU TEZUKA

by C. Winters



The object of all this effort in my case is not Yamato but something called "From Eroica with Love" by Yasuko Aoi - an international spy thriller/comedy with perverse sexual overtones, beautifully drawn and extremely funny. It makes the years of study it took to learn Japanese seem well worthwhile. I'd love to find a publisher

interested in an English version of "Eroica", or for that matter, in any project offering reasonable remuneration for translation by a native speaker of English. Any ideas?

The "militaristic Asiatics" debate is interesting to me because I have a vague memory of watching a few episodes of "Yamato" in Japan about ten years ago, little realising that it would some day be so popular here. I didn't understand much because my Japanese was still pretty shaky, but at the time I decided that I didn't like it because it was too Japanese chauvinist. I mean, naming your spaceship "Yamato" is like calling it "Brittania" or "America the Beautiful" - and I didn't even know that it was supposed to be the actual WWII Yamato. I also watched some episodes of "Rocket Robin Hood" and "Zero Tester" and developed a theory that the militaristic urges which everyone seems to have, but which were strictly taboo in Japan at that time, were being sublimated into space opera. Lest anyone suspect, there were alot of "militant pacifist" lines about how all that nifty weaponry was just to "protect the peace of outer space." But hey - isn't sublimation of aggressive instincts better than direct expression of them? Japanese TV in general is even more violent than American, but there is less violent crime in real life.

As for my own 1974 TV viewing, I finally abandoned the animated shows altogether in favor of a wonderful puppet version of an old Japanese sword-and-sorcery fantasy. I rediscovered the joys of Japanese animation years later when "Captain Harlock" was playing in New York. (I'd always liked Japanese comics, but I didn't get really hopelessly hooked until I happened to pick up "Eroica" on a quick trip to Tokyo in 1981). It's been fascinating to watch the growth of American fandom.

Sarah E. Thompson

.....the whole message of Well's War of the Worlds was bound up in the ironic effect of the technically/militarily superior Martians being laid low by "the humblest of God's creatures", a germ. As for the military element in so much of the rest of science fiction, the prevalence of the cliché of virtue triumphing at phaser point or with the destruction of the Death Star simply underlines the philosophical simplistness and moral poverty of so much SF today. When SF deals with war, it is at its best when it displays its awareness that war is a desperate solution to the world's problems, seldom the right one, and almost never the best one, as it does in Haldeman's The Forever War, some of David Drake's fiction, and maybe in my own The Shattered Stars (shameless plug).

Richard S. McEnroe
MV "Gully J"