

THE

GODZILLA

fan #1
letter

GODZILLATORIAL

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Vice President is Wayne Smith.
Dave Milner is our advisor from
New York. Contributions by
DESKS, GODZILLA, and the giants
from Japan. All characters are
copyrighted by Toho. This issue
is dedicated to Forrest J.
Ackerman, founder of FM.

Welcome to the very first issue of The Godzilla Fan Letter. Hope it is what you were expecting. My thanks to all you members who subscribed and made this all possible. Hopefully this Letter will meet your approval, and become as famous as the big G. himself. Our regular features debut this issue-our editorial, letters, trade corner, new news, and our cartoon strip by Wayne Smith. Now I would like to make an apology or two: Sorry to all fans who expected a "free" membership kit, the one that never materialized; and also sorry for all the many mistakes made this issue. The bad spelling, the typos, the whole bit. But I am an amateur, and this is my first attempt, so consider this, please. I would also like to say hello to Roy Burris and Bruce Sussman, but I forget just why. I also wish to thank Darren Smith, for giving me this idea. Hope you all like this issue and, even if you don't, I welcome your letters. Don't forget that issue #2 will be in your mailbox in a mere 60 days, or so. Also would like to remind anybody who wants to contribute art to use black ink on white paper, and make 'em small as possible. That's all. See you in April with issue #2, until then, be good to each other. Peace.

Richard

FILE: GODZILLA THRU THE AGES!

This will be part one of an extensive article looking at all the movies that Godzilla made. It is more or less written to point out the titles of the films, because we plan to do film-books on all his films in future issues-but very brief plots do appear. Part two, probably the conclusion, will be in next letter.

It was 1954. That was the year when Toho Ltd., a Japanese film company, released a film about a giant reptile. They called him GOJIRA. They had no way of knowing that this was the start of a series of films to feature the most famous monster of all, GODZILLA. The 1954 GOJIRA film came to America two years later (1956) as GODZILLA, THE KING OF THE MONSTERS. The film was



shot in black and white, with scenes added by Jewel/Embassy of Raymond Burr. Burr played a reporter from America called Steve Martin. The big G really looked different in this film. He had big floppy ears, and his mouth was too big. In fact, Godzills's suit changes from film to film, ever so slightly. Godzilla was awakened by an atomic explosion from his eon-old resting place, sleeping in the ocean near Oto Island. He first appears here, where his huge 500 foot body and radioactive fire breath totals most of the local natives. Here, you must remember, that in these early films, Godzilla was the "villian" monster. I believe he acted evil at first because he was confused at the new world. As time went on, he realized that the earth was his home, too, and he must fight to keep it. If earth was destroyed, he loses his home, too. After the army failed at destroying Godzilla, he decided to go to Japan to cause havoc. Trains, homes, buildings, and towers were leveled by Godzilla. Millions were killed. Steve Martin, the reporter, is injured when the big G smashes down the building he is in. Godzi-

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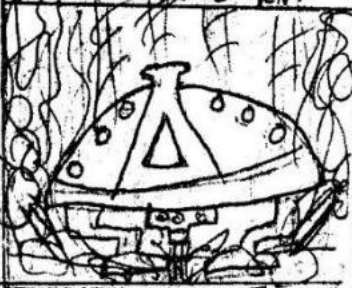
BEGINNING: A SOBBING COMIC STRIP STARRING THE GREATEST OF ALL MONSTERS...

GODZILLA (AND DON'T CRITICIZE THE ARTWORK UNLESS YOU CAN DO BETTER!)

MONSTER ISLAND: LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC OFF THE JAPANESE COAST, IT IS HOME TO GIANTIC CREATURES WHO HAVE BOTH PROTECTED AND MENACED HUMANKIND.....



...AND TODAY IT IS THE LANDING SITE FOR AN ODD ALIEN SPACECRAFT..



(continued from page one).

illa leaves, leaving a wasteland behind him. Steve recovers and phones the story into his publisher. While Godzilla sleeps at the bottom of the sea, a Professor Sarizawa decides to use his invention, the oxygen destroyer, to destroy Godzilla. It is used and Godzilla dies, his body already disintegrating. Sarizawa also kills himself with the oxygen destroyer, because his fiancée had dumped him. That's life, pal. The next film in the series was called GIGANTIS THE FIRE MONSTER. In Japan, it was known as GODZILLA'S COUNTERATTACK, GODZILLA RAIDERS AGAIN, and THE VOLCANO MONSTERS. Toho made GIGANTIS in 1955, it was released in the USA in 1959. This is a troublesome film, because I have never seen it. I am relying on other monster mags for my info, especially MONSTERS OF MOVIES #5. (If my info is wrong, please correct me, eagle-eyed ones). In the Japanese version, it is the real Godzilla who mysteriously comes back, on a deserted island. Here, he is engaged in combat with a giant armadillo, ANULIS. Their fight concludes in Tokyo itself, where Godzilla beats Anulis. Then the big G himself gets caught in an avalanche of snow and ice. The American version featured the same plot, except they made Godzilla into GIGANTIS—same suit, different name. Oh, yes—and Gigantis is a FEMALE. Any additional info is welcomed.

ARTICLE CONTINUES IN ISSUE 2!

THE GODZILLA ENCYCLOPEDIA, PART ONE.

This will be part one of a listing of all the monsters that have encountered the big G. In alphabetical order.

A

ANULIS: a giant armadillo, with huge spikes on his back. Also called ANZILLA, ANGURUS, and ANGILIS. First appeared in 1959 in GIGANTIS, THE FIRE MONSTER. Here, he was the enemy of Godzilla's. When he next appeared in DESTROY ALL MONSTERS in 1968, he was a friend of the big G's. In 1969 he put in a cameo shot in GODZILLA'S REVENGE; was then in GODZILLA VERSUS GIGAN (1972); A brief role in GODZILLA VERSUS MEGALON (1973), before the credits role; and then was in 1974's GODZILLA VERSUS THE BIONIC MONSTER. One of the most popular members of the MONSTER ISLAND team.

B

BARAGON: A back-skinned creature, who first appeared to fight the Toho Frankenstein Monster in 1965 in FRANKENSTEIN CONQUERS THE WORLD. The underground monster next appeared in DESTROY ALL MONSTERS in 1968. This friend of Godzilla's has not been heard of since.

BAMBI: The cute little deer from BAMBI MEETS GODZILLA. In this animated 30 seconds short, Godzilla's huge foot comes down and crushes little Bambi to pulp. Odd.

BROWN GARGANTUA: the good guy from 1968's THE WAR OF THE GARGANTUAS. He has never met the big G, but the GIANT OCTOPUS in the film was also in KING KONG VERSUS GODZILLA (1962). Thus, the Gargantuas are part of the Godzilla Universe. In the film, Brown Gargantua fought his evil "brother", who was green, to the death. Neither ever came back.

Our Encyclopedia continues next issue, #2. Winging your way next April, or early March.



LETTERS.

Membership:

This rather small space will be used to print your letters and comments. Due to small space, of course, not all letters can be printed. But we'll do our best. Natch, no comments yet, so we'll use this space to start a poll. A poll for you members. Write in and tell me what you think about these 4 questions: 1) What film do you like best? 2) What film do you hate most? 3) What film monster do you like best? and 4) What film monster do you hate the most? After I've tallied up all the results I will print the winners in a near issue. Add one more question to it: 5) What feature do you like best about Godzilla? This poll will tell us all what the majority of us think about monsters. Don't have to be Jap. films. So WRITE.

CASE FILE: THE POWERS OF GODZILLA.

Article by Steve Luscalzo, corrections made by R. Campbell.

Data on Godzilla:
Height: 500 feet tall.
Weight: One ton.
Eyes: red.
Fingers: Four.
Toes: Three.
Species: Tyrannosaurus Rex-Stegosaurus.
Parents: Parents dead in earth upheavals of the prehistoric eras. The unusual mating of his parents (father a Tyrannosaurus, Mother a stegosaurus) was never explained.

TRADE CORNER.

This regular feature will be set up so that fans can trade or sell items with each other. To start it off: I am looking for one copy of a THE MONSTER TIMES SPECIAL issue, which features sci-fi on television. The cover is a pic from STAR TREK. I will buy it- but will NOT pay more than \$2.00 for it. My address is: Rich Campbell
520 Weldon Street
Latrobe, PA 15650
Please, if anyone has a copy for sale, write soon. I may also trade for this, send me a list of what you may want. I am looking also to correspond with any fan who has seen the film HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. Also need any info on KING KONG ESCAPES.



The energy for Godzilla's atomic mist comes from an organ in his chest which uses solar energy as a power source, and draws from it. Many scientists argue that the big G. has a pea sized brain, but this can't be true, because he could not have lived since prehistoric times if

NEW NEWS DEPARTMENT.

"The Big D", Dave Milner, tells us that Cinema Shares is the American Company that has bought GODZILLA VERSUS MECHAGODZILLA. The 1974 Toho flick will be called in America as GODZILLA VERSUS THE BIONIC MONSTER. Probably to cash in on the current bionic boom on TV. Dave tells us the film will be released in early Spring, though other sources say the film is already in release. Either way, look for it to come soon.

..Still no news on 1972's GODZILLA VERSUS GIGAN.....

Toho has finished up work on their new Godzilla epic, which is called MECHAGODZILLA'S REVENGE. It features the return of the Bionic Monster, Godzilla, and introduces a new creature, called CHITTANOSAURUS. It was Darren Smith who told me about Chittannosaurus.....

One last thing: The mighty Marvel Comics Group has prepared a new color comic book, which will be called, believe it or not, GODZILLA. This 30 cents comic will be written by Doug Moench or Val Mayerick, and will be drawn by Happy Herb Trimpe. So, the big G has hit the comics media, and Marvel is the BEST in this field. First issue goes on sale in April, probably.....

And QUEEN KONG is coming, so is KING KONG PART TWO.....

he were stupid. Godzilla has one son, named Minya. He is 150 ft. tall. Godzilla also has special EYE powers, perhaps X-ray eyes. Did you ever notice when he looks at a foe he seems to be examining him inside? The big G. can also fly, as he did in THE SMOG MONSTER, when he gets tired. Godzilla lives on MONSTER ISLAND, with his son, Minya. Other "good" monsters live here too. Godzilla is also very strong, and can swim very fast. He also understands the languages of monsters, cyborgs, and humans.

These are the powers and other facts on Godzilla. The very nice pic on this page is also courtesy of Steve Luscalzo.

FAN ART



This issue's fan art gallery spots
Godzilla flying backwards, as he did
in GODZILLA VERSUS THE SMOG MONSTER,
Back in 1972. It is drawn by an
amateur artist named
PAUL ROCHE. Thanks, pal.