

PULP RACK



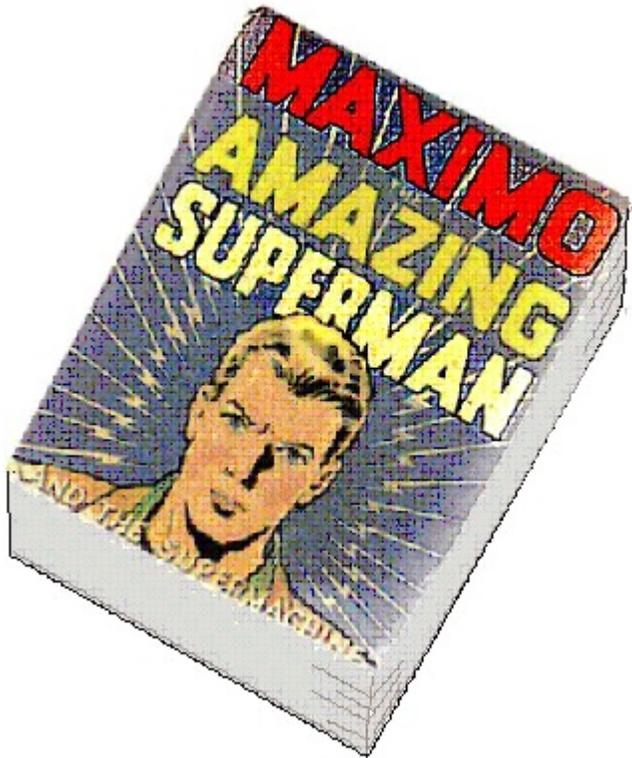
R. R. Winterbotham

Shelby Vick



Any collector of old SF pulps is familiar with the name, Russell R Winterbotham (born at Salina, Kansas August 1, 1904 and died at Bay Village, Ohio June 9, 1971) who also used the name J. Harvey Bond and Franklin Hadley. But did you know he wrote "Chris Welkin - Planeteer" (comic strip, 1952-1964)? Did you know he was a bridge expert, and did a column on bridge for many years? Did you know he wrote instructional pamphlets, and many Big Little Books? (For those few who aren't aware of it, Big Little Books were about 1 ½ inches thick,

[hence the 'Big'] and 3 ½ by 4 ½ (hence the 'Little'.)



Winterbotham and his wife, Nadine, had one child, Ann. Nadine served 40 years with the Red Cross. There were 3 grandchildren, Gary, (the youngest), Becky (deceased) and Russell (the oldest).

There's a lot more about Winterbotham, but I would first like to give credit to Art 'Buddy' Lorte for a lot of research and thanks to Jerry Page for his aid. In addition, Winterbotham's daughter, Ann Jones and a grandson, Gary Jones, have been most cooperative. Many thanks to Bud Webster who speaks of the author in his book, Past Masters and Other Natterings at: http://www.merryblacksmith.com/?page_id=783

Where he says:

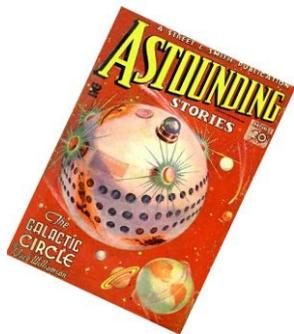
Russ Winterbotham, Jonathan Lethem. One wrote pot-boiler SF and comic books, the other is one of the most

successful writers on the literary scene today. Is there a connection? I'll get to it, don't worry.

Planet Big Zero was a paper-back original published by Monarch (The American International of paperback houses) in 1964, written by Winterbotham under the pseudonym Franklin Hadley. The delightfully-named hero, Ted Narly, lieutenant in the Terran Defense Corps, is captured by the Deotions and taken to their titular headquarters, a black nebula with but a single entrance: a funnel with a curtain of fire at the end.

Now, it would be easy to make fun of this one, but I won't. It's absolutely enjoyable, and if Winterbotham/Hadley isn't Cordwainer Smith, so what? As space opera goes, it's not quite Doc Smith, but it certainly comes close to Hamiltonian standards. I recall enjoying it when I was a kid, and re-reading it brought back warm memories of long bus rides home from school. It doesn't promise anything it doesn't deliver, unlike many of its contemporaries, and Winterbotham was nothing if not a professional writer. It pushes no envelopes and teeters not on the cutting edge, but any kid who won't put down his Game Boy to read this pulpy adventure of Lt. Narly in his fight against the Deotions is missing some good fun.

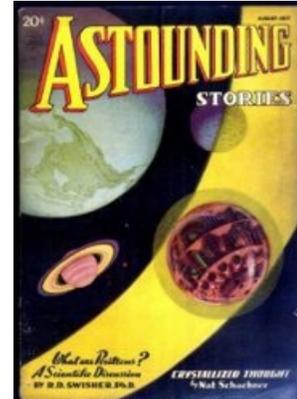
And that connection between an old newspaper guy and his literary opposite? Well, Lethem used Winterbotham's title for his own terrific story; it was just too good not to use again.



Winterbotham was a circulation manager in Girard, Kansas for Haldeman-Julius, in 1929, and later became a fiction editor for Scripps-Howard, NEA, so it was only natural that he turned to other forms of writing to increase his income. He started at the top, as his first published story was "The Star That Would Not Behave" Astounding Stories - August 1935.

he was a junior at the University of Kansas, an essay he wrote titled "The Three Most Important Elements of Advertising" won a \$15 prize.

Sales included several other pulp magazines, as well as additional sales to Astounding, one of which was "Specialization", which appeared in Astounding Stories, August, 1937



<http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?1197> will get you to a list of his published work.

Chris Welkin, Planeteer, was drawn by Art Sansom, as you will see by his name in the strip below.



Art Lortie gave me a tinyurl link to his site about Chris Welkin. You can get there with this link: <http://tinyurl.com/lk3r8j6>

Winterbotham wasn't the only multi-talented author in the pulp days; it wasn't unusual to find a scifi author in a Western magazine, or a detective magazine or comics, but how many went as far afield as being a bridge expert, or a writer of instructional pamphlets?