

Paradox

By Anthony Hoch

Editor: Christopher M. Cevalco

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Web Address: <http://home.nyc.rr.com/paradoxmag/>

What they publish: Historical fiction and speculative fiction w/ historical themes

Submission Guidelines: Accepts up to 15,000 words (2,000 to 9,000 preferred). Send manuscript and SASE to Christopher M. Cevalco, Editor, *Paradox*, P.O. Box 22897, Brooklyn, NY 11202-2897. Use standard manuscript format (double spaced, 12-point Courier, etc). Title page (name, address, e-mail, word-count). No simultaneous submissions. No multiple submissions.

Description of Publication: Semiannual. Magazine format (3 cols. p/pg).

Amount of Prose Published Annually: 14

Prose Reviews:

A Tear Like a Rainbow by Meredith Simmons A realistic tale set behind the Confederate Army line in Richmond. A leak in a cartography balloon results in the selection of Pim, a slave of small stature, to man the basket and survey the Union camp. Once aloft, Pim is filled with temporary sense of freedom. On a second ascent he acts to make his freedom permanent by cutting the rope that tethers the balloon to the ground.

Having a fairly basic plot, this story succeeds by its use of language. An early mention of a torn dictionary page, from which Pim's mother fostered, becomes the key to Pim's escape. Through the subtle use of words found on that page, the reader witnesses the change in Pim. At first he is inconspicuous whenever possible, and always ingratiating, never indolent. While in the balloon he thinks of his mother (indomitable) and father (incorrigible), and it occurs to him that the rope is not indescribable. And after cutting the rope he is what he cries out: independent.

Taste of Ashes by Ilsa J. Bick. A speculative epistolary narrative told with a macabre style, this tale concerns itself with a Doctor's action in WWI and its repercussion. While awaiting death in a German prison in 1933, an unnamed doctor recounts his days serving in a military psychiatric ward. After being attacked by a mysterious stranger the doctor contrives a method for treating his savior, a private from Austria who suffers from hysterical blindness. After curing the private the doctor discovers that his attacker had been sent back in time to prevent the private's treatment. The private's name: Adolph Hitler.

Much of this story's success is dependant on its opening. In the first paragraph the narrator states that he will likely be dead soon, and worse, driven by his captures to commit the act himself. Before he dies though, he must tell the story of a monster he created. As his story unfolds the preceding knowledge supplies a persistent tension throughout. The only failing of the piece lies in the private's description; too early his identity becomes clear.

Rating: 7 out of 10. Good place to start. Solid pay rate (3 to 5 cents per word) willingness to publish previously unpublished authors. However, some may find historical requirement off-putting.