

with Complaints
of Littering




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156

APRIL

1963

APRIL FOOL ?



In VECTOR, Number 18, I, your publisher, dear readers, stated quite blithely that it was hoped and intended to have the next issue of our grandeloquent magazine in your no doubt lily-white hands at or before the CONVENTION. But it is not so, beloved friends. You have instead an entirely ersatz Vector in this little Newsletter.

It became obvious that the necessary preliminary work could not be completed in time. It is also essential to get the Chairman's Report into print, together with the sordid financial details of the last year's working, and so available for discussion and what-have-you at the shindig at Peterborough.

You will find these included herein. Also incorporated is an introduction to the British Amateur Scientific Research Association, which I have taken the liberty of deeming to be of interest to many B.S.F.A. members.

I trust that I shall be seeing and talking to many of you in just over one weeks time from the date of typing at the aforementioned Convention. That is if there is a room available for Betty and myself, because we haven't heard a word since sending off the well-thought-out and comprehensive booking form Ken Slater circulated. So there is no point in filling good paper with mere idle chatter. Come up and say 'hello' to me in person in Peterboro' and we'll have the idle chatter there.

Points to mention -- Don't forget Ethel Lindsay's TAFF Report anent which a circular is enclosed. -- Voting for the Doc. Weir Award doesn't close until the Saturday night at the Con. Get that grey matter working before then if you want to have your say in this very pleasant gesture. -- The second B.S.F.A. Round Robin has now started operating - any members wishing to put their monikers down for further Robins, please contact the Secretary. A Round Robin group consists of 6 members who circulate a packet of 6 letters around the group - each member removes his old letter and substitutes a new one each time the packet comes round to him - or her; no sex distinctions here.

Chairman's Report

The BSFA Year now drawing to a close, has been slightly on the hectic side for all concerned. No sooner has one problem been overcome, than another has appeared on the horizon. Because of this it has been unavoidable that replies to queries and general correspondence may have been delayed from time to time. If this has happened to you, please bear with us. Everyone has worked hard to avoid these things, but accidents will happen...and here is what we've been doing.

The proposed liaison with the N3F which seemed so easy in theory, caused considerable delay in practise. The N3F were eager and so were we. Our proposal to exchange honorary memberships of Committee members, and news items in the respective O-Os was accepted happily..until we found that the N3F Constitution had some sort of a bar against Honorary members. However, this was circumvented, and the liaison is more or less complete.

Another crisis, was the resignation of Peter Mabey.. our gallant, hard-working, and underpraised librarian. Peter has worked hard and long with little or no thanks, since the BSFA Library first went to Cheltenham, and on accepting a new post in Kingston, he was forced to relinquish his library duties. Interim offers were made by several members, but sad to say, for various reasons, these could not be implemented, and the pending closure of the Cheltenham club room made it imperative to find a new home for the Library. At our darkest hour, two Liverpool members bravely stepped into the breach, and the Library is now happily ensconced with Messrs. Nash and Navin. Praise be on their collective heads.

The resignation for personal reasons, of our Stateside representative Dale R. Smith, leaves us temporarily without a US rep.. and one of those administrative snafus left this hanging...so if we have a volunteer to contact the Treasurer ???

The resignation from the editorial chair, of Ella Parker, was another severe blow, but as most of you know, Ella had been sitting packed and waiting to go, while the ICC sat and counted its fingers. In the circumstances, Ella was almost at the stage of having to unpack her writing pad each time she wrote a letter. This made BSFA work next door to impossible, and Ella did the grand job of talking Jimm Groves into completing the Editorial year on her behalf... a job which Jim has done magnificently. In the background of this effort, has been Michael Rosenblum, who has done stalwart work in producing and distributing Vector.

So much for the difficulties..now, what has been accomplished ?

Quite a lot, considering the above trials and tribulations.

First of all, the Doc Weir Award has been set into operation. Our Treasurer, Jill Adams, gallantly walked the streets of Southampton in search

of a suitable trophy...she found one, and you'll be seeing it for the first time in Peterboro...Incidentally, have you cast YOUR vote yet ? A permanent Certificate to be awarded to the winner, has been designed by Eddie Jones, and at the time of writing, this is in the capable (and helpful) hands of Ted Carnell, who is obtaining a quotation for the litho production of 60 copies...the illo is too good for stencil.

The first B.S.F.A. Round Robin letter is now operating successfully, and I have already got several names towards the second one. If you are interested, then by all means drop me a line, and I'll add your name to the list. Briefly, the RR operates with a group of six and is designed to stimulate correspondence and discussion among members.

Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, we have taken a further leaf from the N3F book, and formed a Wecommittee to write letters to new members as they join the BSFA....Here again, further volunteers are called for.

Your President, Brian Aldiss, has also been operative in several ways. First of all, he has been working on the idea of the BSFA anthology mentioned at the Harrogate Convention, but so far, nothing has been settled.

Brian has also managed to promote a first stage around the Committee for a BSFA badge..having found a manufacturer who quoted something like 500 badges for 7/6..metal, no less. The manufacturer repeated this quote on Brian checking ...Alas, it proved too good to be true, and our grandiose schemes for Convention badges, Soggy badges and give-away badges faded into dust...the manufacturer found an error in his quote...he had meant 500 badges for 50 QUID.

Brian is also currently trying to find if the BSFA is succeeding in its aims....letters of comment would be appreciated on this....to the editor pleaseand how about YOUR suggestions.

Then of course, there is the recent introduction (as an experiment) of the leaflet distribution service to enable members to circulate their leaflets at reduced prices...that 7/6 is also an experiment, and will be reduced if Michael or his successor finds it practical, and we find the service is one w which members find useful.

In conclusion, I would like to give my thanks to all the members of your Committee, current and retired, who have worked so hard this year (as in all previous years) to ensure that the BSFA continues to serve its members.

All in all, it's been a good year

sincerely,

TERRY JEEVES.

ADVERT -- The B.S.F.A. Library has books for sale, and anyone interested should contact "BSFA Library; c/o Joe Navin; 77 College Road North; Blundellsands, Liverpool 23.

WANTED: "Der Sand Läuft Falsh Im Stundenglas" by Fred Hildenbrand; Union Verlag Stuttgart, Germany :: or any translation, if there is one. The English title would be (translated) "The Sand Runs Wrong in the Hourglass" Write to Jean Graman; 7 Wayside, East Sheen, London, S. W. 14. PRO.0514.

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

1962 ACCOUNTS

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions	125.	3.	9.
Library	114.	16.	0.
Magazine Chain	25.	8.	10.
Sales	4.	19.	3.
Donations	1.	11.	3.
Dr. Weir Award	5.	15.	10.
	£ 277.	14.	11.

PAYMENTS

Sundries	98.	1.	1.
Stationary	29.	4.	3.
Postage	56.	4.	11.
	183.	10.	3.
Surplus	94.	4.	8.
	£ 277.	14.	11.

B A L A N C E S H E E T

As at 31/12/1961

Treasurer	72.	12.	7.
Library & Mag.Chain	29.	15.	8.
Convention Comm.1961	1.	0.	0.
Convention Comm.1962	10.	1.	2.
	113.	9.	5.
Surplus	94.	4.	8.
	£ 207.	14.	1.

As at 31/12/1962

Treasurer	138.	18.	1.
Library	51.	14.	2.
Magazine Chain	16.	1.	10.
Convention 1961	1.	0.	0.
	£ 207.	14.	1.

	GENERAL	PUBLICATIONS	LIBRARY	MAGAZINE	Dr.WEIR	TOTAL
				CHAIN	AWARD.	
POSTAGE	8.15. 6.	15.10. 4.	29. 3. 4.	2.15. 9.		56. 4.11.
SUNDRIES	14. 3. 1.	2. 2.	51. 1. 1.	11.14. 9.	15. 0. 0.	93. 1. 1.
STATIONERY	6. 9. 7.	14. 6. 7.	8. 2. 9.	5. 4.		29. 4. 3.
TOTAL	29. 8. 2.	29.19. 1.	94. 7. 2.	14. 5.10.	15. 0. 0.	183.10. 3.

1962 C O N V E N T I O N A C C O U N T

Income		Expenses	
1961 Convention	10. 1. 2.	Postage	7. 6. 6.
Registration Fees	76. 2. 6.	Stationery	14. 14. 3.
Auctions	39. 11. 9.	T.A.F.F.	19. 15. 10.
Advertisements	4. 18. 6.	Hotel	15. 2. 0.
Sundries	4. 1. 0.	Prizes	15. 18. 11.
		Guest of Honour	15. 12. 6.
		Film and Band	25. 14. 5.
		Sundries	20. 10. 6.
	£ 134. 14. 11.		£ 134. 14. 11.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- I hope you will find the new layout easy to follow.
The reason for the change ? I find it easier to do
and to understand when I've done it.

Just a couple of points. Easter is the latest date for renewing your
subscription. After that it will mean rejoining. And PLEASE let me have all
changes of address, - if you don't you won't be likely to receive your News-
letters and Vectors.

I hope to see you all at the Convention, or at least as many of you
as can get there.

INTRODUCING

B.A.S.R.A.

by Jim England.

Psychologists tell us that the "exploratory drive" is a motivation common to both Man and the lower animals. Rats placed in a maze will often explore it out of curiosity, even though tempted to leave by the smell of food. Cats and human children are notoriously curious, and curiosity, fully developed in the human adult, leads to "scientific research".

In view of this it is surprising that the majority of people regard research not as a "natural" activity, but as something exceptional, suited only to exceptional individuals. It is equally surprising that, as writers such as Norbert Wiener have pointed out, feelings of suspicion and distrust of persons engaged on scientific research are widespread; along with "anti-scientific" attitudes, and the tendency to regard science as something applicable only to a limited number of fields. It is obvious that this state of affairs is undesirable in any nation which hopes to progress. Mental and physical well-being are dependant on science, and the nation which undervalues it must fall behind.

One of the causes of "anti-science" is undoubtedly the fact that the average man is not conditioned to regard scientific research as something in which he can participate. But the "Age of Leisure" on whose threshold we are no longer standing will offer opportunities for the pursuit of many hobbies, and amateur scientific research is surely the most fascinating of them. Nevertheless nearly all scientific research nowadays is done by professionals, and not since the day when all scientists were amateurs has any large organisation existed in a country with the object of scientific research by amateurs.

That there exist large numbers of people - not professional scientists - who enjoy intellectual activity is obvious from the popularity of puzzles and quizzes of all kinds in the mass entertainment media; And the sales of popular books on science. Moreover, whilst industry calls for increasing numbers of scientists, those already in industry are wastefully employed, (often to a shocking extent), and scientists so employed very readily turn their interests elsewhere. Some of this interest could be canalised into amateur research.

One argument in support of amateur research is the following:- It is an implicit assumption in professional science, (e.g. in universities where only the "better" students are allowed to proceed from B.Sc. to Ph.D.) that the more intelligent and the more adept at absorbing large numbers of facts a man is, the more likely he is to be capable of creative work. But this is a false assumption. Intelligence is not always associated with creativity, nor is the ability to absorb facts. In the past many brilliant and highly educated men have been uncreative, whilst amateurs with little education and only moderate IQ have made great discoveries.

Again, it can be argued that the large number of facts committed to memory by the professional scientist may, in some circumstances, actually hinder him in the pursuit of new knowledge. Some supposedly known facts are not facts, and a superstructure built upon them is of little value.

An amateur may, in his ignorance, or out of disregard for "Authority", question supposedly known facts and prove them to be wrong. A professional scientist is far more likely to stick to "safe" lines of research, and would be loth to pursue lines of research which seem unlikely to bear fruit. And which would be frowned upon by "Authority". Further, a professional scientist engaged in research almost invariably has to specialise rather intensely, and is obliged to ignore fields outside his speciality. An amateur is often familiar with several apparently unconnected fields, and if a scientific advance requires a simultaneous knowledge of these fields, the amateur is potentially the more capable of making it.

Finally, the thing of paramount importance in all research is an enthusiasm for, or a love of, one's subject. The amateur, by definition, (the word derives from the Latin for "love"), possesses this. Professional scientists, it is true, often share this characteristic, but nowadays it is not uncommon for people to take Ph.D. degrees and spend some time doing research for reasons other than love of their subject.

Assuming then that the above arguments show amateur research to be worthwhile, the question may be asked;— In what fields can and ought amateur research to be done? Science today is a vast field and many people may regard it as a "closed shop". Huge sums are spent on research connected with "defence" (e.g. in nuclear physics and aeronautics). It would be wrong to suggest that this is unprofitable, or the very elaborate apparatus unnecessary. But not very long ago scientists like J.J. Thompson, Joliot, and Rutherford, were able to make world-shaking discoveries with "string and sealing-wax" apparatus. So even in fields seemingly barred to amateurs because of the expense of standard apparatus, there is no reason why he should not see if he can construct his own, follow the work of the professionals, and perhaps make discoveries for himself.

Then again, some fields require no apparatus than pencil and paper, and among these fields are the most fundamental things. The speculations of Einstein are of such a nature, and, most valuable today, the social sciences.

In all these, with no-one to please but himself, the amateur may work. But too often his work is never circulated where others may see and hear of it. It is for this purpose that the British Amateur Scientific Research Association has been founded. Any study in a science, any theory, can be put forward for criticism and discussion. Professional qualifications are cited in publications as a courtesy, but do not rank their holder any higher in the body of the membership, (Unless by common recognition by all of them). At the moment the work of the association is merely keeping in touch, but it is hoped that the future will see the formation of branches in all areas.

This then is B.A.S.R.A. Open to all who wish to work as amateurs for the advancement of science. Sample copies of the B.A.S.R.A. Journal can be obtained (2/- each) from;—

Jim England, 64, Ridge Road,
Kingswinford, Staffs.

Yours sincerely,

Jim England,
Secretary, B.A.S.R.A.

The following B.R.E.'s and British Magazines are required by my son for the completion of sets for binding. As the Auctions are coming along and it is possible that some members may come across duplicates etc. in bundles that they buy, I should be glad if they would let me know if they have any of the following to spare :

Astounding/Analog. 1956. Jan / Feb / March
1957. Feb / May / Jun / July / Sept / December
1958. Feb / Mar / Aug / Sept / Oct.
1959. May / Sept / Oct. / Nov / December
1960. Mar / Nove / Dec. 1961. August

Galaxy. Nos. 32/33/35/41/46/53/56/59/62/63/78/79/83/84/89/90/93/95 ---

New Worlds. Nos. 42/43/44/45/47/51/58/59/60/62/64/67/72/74/77/80/84/90/92/97
100/102/106/112/114/116 ---

Nebula. Nos. 11/14/21/22/23/25/28/30/31/41 --- Science Fantasy 17/22/25/26/
28/29/31/33/37/38/39/47/51 --- Science Fiction Adventures 1/3/5/7/11/16/22/24/26.

M 210; John Gunn, The Queen's Head Hotel, The Bridge, Matlock, Derbyshire.

WANTED X FOR CASH == BACK ISSUES OF "MIRAGE" - The Fanzine of Fantasy
Ian Peters, 88 Newquay Road, London, S.E. 6.

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Complete Collection of American Edition of G A L A X Y M A G A Z I N E ...
October 1950 -to- December 1960

Offers to:- A. I. A. Wilson, 4a Chalmers Road, Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland.
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@ @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@ @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
Charles E. Smith;; 61, The Avenue, Ealing, London W.13;; says, Send S.A.E.
for list of various S.F. items, Ace, Bantam, P.Bs. Pre 1948 British Astoundings
- for sale or swop ... -

CHANGES OF ADDRESS -- M.169 T. Walsh - 86 Chelsea Gardens, London S.W.1.
M.28 K. Freeman - 971 Spring Bank West, Hull.

NEW MEMBERS -- O.360 J. R. Goodrich, 7 Third St, Somerville, New Jersey.
A.361. P. Prettyman, 6 Fore Street, Tynwardreath, Par, Cornwall
M.363 G. W. Wilcox, 105 Wyley Road, Redford, Coventry.
M.364 P. E. Reed, 645c Holloway Road, London N.14.

to whom a warm welcome is extended. But what happened to 361, Jill ?

Some more CHANGES OF ADDRESS - Roy Sheppard, 212 Commonwealth Way
Ken McIntyre, 212 Commonwealth Way, Abbey Wood, London S.E.2.
Roy Sheppard, Flat 6; 21 Bycullan Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
Ella Parker, Flat 43, William Dunbar House, Albert Road, W. Kilburn
London N.W.6

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Well, fellow-citizens, that seems to cover everything I have on hand for recital to the assembled membership. The reverse side is occupied by the last illustration that was still available. All concerned with the publications side would be grateful for contributions for forthcoming issues of Vector, both literary and artistic. If there are a few stencils of pretty pictures in the file, it is of great assistance to me in planning out each issue whilst Jim Groves is anxious to have plenty of articles on hand. Published by J.M. Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Leeds 7; for the British Science Fiction Association.

