

Jack McKeown

ETHERLINE

THE SCIENCE

FICTION NEWS

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Correspondents:
Capt. Ken Slater
Roger Dard
Charles Anderson
Bob Silverberg
H.J. Campbell
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IN

BALTIMORE

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A REPORT BY ALLEN NEWTON JNR.

Next Issue 30/3/53

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VIEWPOINT.....

You must excuse us patting ourselves on the back now that the first issue of VIEWPOINT has been distributed.

I, personally, think we have filled an urgent need in Australian fandom. True, there are other newzines about but we're proud to say that up to date our's is the only one with a fortnightly cateline, allied with the fact that we have possibly the best news sources of all (witness the Gernsback scoop).

It is our intention to try and keep this standard of news and I can promise the production side will improve when we get the hang of the new duplicator.

There have been a lot of pros and cons regarding the the relative merits of photo-litho and duplicating, so I wish to remind readers that these publications are produced by amateurs, and unless the publishers have a side door into a bank vault, I think it impossible to keep a photo-litho sheet on a definite schedule at a reasonable price.

I can assure you that very shortly we will present a newzine that will be equal to or better than, a photo-litho one. This is a big claim, I know, but if you could see the sample work together with the electronic process of art work (Dick is still in a dream), you would share my enthusiasm.

So I can promise a regular fortnightly newzine, with fresh news and reviews on all sf and fantasy doings.

150.

ARTHUR C. CLARKE IN BALTIMORE -----

A report by ALLEN NEWTON JR., Past President - - -
Baltimore Science Fiction Forum - - -

Arthur C. Clarke, chairman of the British Interplanetary Society, recently addressed an audience of over 200 people in this city.

Speaking in the auditorium of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, he gave a half hour lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on the possibilities of Space Travel. His subject was timely, in view of the current widespread interest in Space travel here in the United States, plus the fact that his recent book, THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE, was chosen a book-of-the-month-club selection in the US.

Mr Clarke touched on the fact that the concept of space flight had existed in literature for several thousands of years, but it is only recently that any work of promising and concrete nature has been accomplished. The V2 rocket of the Germans gave vast impetus to the field, and at present US army rockets have attained heights of over 200 m above the earth's surface, and a photograph taken at this height was shown, clearly indicating the curvature of the earth.

Mr Clarke made it clear that the biggest problem involved in interplanetary travel is in overcoming the gravitational pull of the earth. In his explanation, he likened it to a valley some 4000 miles deep, from which it is necessary to climb out. He described the two methods of applying power which could be used. One by continuous application of power, the other by a sudden burst at take off. The latter is the most economical by present standards, and as such, looks the most promising.

Mr Clarke also stated that the present fuels would demand enormous ships for space flight, and the payload would be very small. He talked on the subject of a landing stage (space station) out in space, which would orbit the earth like the moon, except that it would be much nearer, about 1500 miles out. "Tankers" could load their fuel tanks and a space ship would be able to refuel at such a station. To operate on interplanetary runs with a much larger payload Tankers returning to the earth would need very little power as by braking with their rockets, they would lose orbital velocity, and fall back to earth. Once in the atmosphere, they could glide in to a landing, using the air as a cushion.

Mr Clarke continued on his topic and the more important items I have recorded below:

The moon is our nearest neighbour in space, and the 1st explorers will meet conditions very different than those on earth. There would be no atmosphere, and the difference of temperature between light and shade would be about 400°F. It is feasible that 'moon dozers' excavate chambers in the moon's mountains, and by means of air locks, a permanent moon base could be established.

Mars presents a world where the difference in temperature would not be so great, but the low air pressure and a lack of oxygen would necessitate living under domes-plastic bubbles of large size. Samples of these structures, supported by the air pressure within, have already been shown in England. By means of small pumps and airlocks, it might

be possible to have sizable settlements on Mars; much of the oxygen being obtained from plants and hydroponic gardens.

These developments will probably extend over the next two hundred years, but there is hope that the rapid development of atomic power will give us a new time scale.

The American Rocket Society assembled a panel of experts and they made some comments and questioned a few of Mr Clarke's observations.

Col. J Halberstadt of the USAF led off the proceedings. He remarked that the best positive contribution he could make would be ten minutes of 'classified' silence He did ask where the money was to come from for such a ship described by the speaker. He also stated that such a subject would have great reconnaissance value.

Mr Clarke replied that as soon as the present armament race ended, there would be no problem whatsoever as to finances for such a project.

A man with experience in propulsion as a teacher at the Johns Hopkins University and the Glenn L. Martin Co both of Baltimore, and Mr H. Bonney both stated that the engineering problems to be faced at this point seemed a little bit fantastic. Mentioning that it takes roughly ten years to improve a power plant by 25% and about five years to develop a system capable of handling a 10' change in temperature a minute, whereas the moon's surface would have an instartaneous temperature gradient of 400' he felt that the Columbus of the spaceways would be braving hazards with a minimum of equipment.

Mr Clarke's rebuttal was to the effect that an atomic powered engine might give us entirely new standards of performance, and that the change in temperature would not seem as serious as was indicated. In view of the fact, a proven fact, that there is no atmosphere to generate any heat which might radiate, the differances of temperature would probably only affect limited areas of the ship.

Mr G. L. Bryan Jr. of the Johns Hopkins Aeronautical Faculty took up the problem of the rise in temperature in affecting bodies travelling at great speeds within the atmospheric limits. The temperature rises roughly at the square of the speed, therefore a speed of 800 mph will add 100' to the temperature, and at 1600mph, the rise is

Aluminium alloys begin to lose strength at temperatures in excess of 300°, and rapidly at higher levels. At about 700° the strength of the material would be only 10%.

Steel loses strength at around 1000°, and drops to approximately 10% at 1600°. Hence new materials and/or new refrigeration methods must be found. At present new structural materials are being developed.

Mr K Creutz of the Federal Communication System (US regulatory body) spoke as though the communications men are already prepared to undertake communications on an interplanetary basis. By using equipment already existing, or which may be built in a year or two, we could possibly transmit on A.L. to a distance of 40,000,000 miles, and by switching to wireless telegraphy (code) we could probably increase this figure by a factor of ten. This means that provided no unforeseen obstruction intervenes, we will have equipment capable of transmitting over an area the size of the Solar System. This can be roughly expressed as over a radius of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour at the speed of light.

In conclusion, these men affirmed their belief that the means for space travel are at hand, and merely await the necessary finance.

Allen Newton Jr.

BRISBANE CALLING !!!!

By Bill Veney.

Frank Bryning has announced that an effort will be made to hold regular Thursday night meetings as from the beginning of March. A suitable coffee shop in the centre of the city has been found and the management is quite willing to let Brisban fans meet there. The actual arrangements are in the hands of Harry Brook, who has already held one small meeting to test local conditions, and he has had an opportunity to see Sydney Group in operation during his leave last year, and believes a similar group could be organized quite successfully here in Brisbane.

John Gregor has assumed control of N3F for Australia. He is going into the question of organization in the light of Australian conditions, but does not intend any action for a while. All enquiries regarding the N3F - The National Fantasy Federation - should be directed to John Gregor, South Pine Road, Everton Park, Brisbane, Queensland.

Latest addition to the Brisbane fan circle is H Holthous of the Brisbane Telegraph, The Brisfans were pleased to s-

favourable reviews of stf appearing in the book section of the B T., and when a call was made to thank the reviewer for his sympathetic consideration, he was discovered to be another of those fans who thought they were the only ones in Australia!

Fandom is a family thing up here, with Mr and Mrs F. Bryning, Mr. and Mrs. Sanderman, Mr. and Mrs. Gregor, & no less than three of the Tafe household!

There is some talk of establishing a hereditary monarchy, instead of having a president. Could you imagine Duke Charles of Coolangatta or Baron Brook of Waacol? It has possibilities.

WDV.

FLASH!!!! FAMAUS PRATT - DE CAMP CHARACTER RETURNS!!!

Remember that swashbuckling, devil-may-care adventurer of 'The Incomplete Enchanter', 'The Iron Castle' and numerous other whacky adventures in the late UNKNOWN WORLDS?

That's right, Harold O'Shea, that lovable rascal of numerous fantasy is back with us again. Scheduled for a new story in the second issue of FANTASY Magazine, del Rey's new mag; which beat Gold's BEYOND to the stands by a month, is the first yarn of a completely new series by the incomparable team of Fletcher Pratt and L. Sprague de Camp.

Del Rey promises a whole series of 'O'Shea' stories and I'll bet my last counterfeit tennor that the UNKNOWN fans are drooling in anticipation - in fact I can see Race rushing to place a sub with FANTASY as I write now Must be telepathy or sumpin'..

LJH

DOODLINGS.....

from KEN SLATER.....

A complete BRE of GALAXY appeared from Thorpe & Porter in January. Digest size, the only difference being in the adverts. This was reprinted from the Oct 52 edition and it is stated that the BRE will appear monthly So far the 2rd. issue hasn't..... If it does, it's a bargain at 1/6 stg an issue.....

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION (BRE) from Archer Press London

is also in the digest format, and IS monthly at 1/6. At least it appeared in Jan. and Feb..... Feb. issue is a reprint of the third US issue (Nov 52) and is not complete as the letter dept. and a couple of articles were cut.....

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION Monthly appears in a new format with the 29th issue, and prints - or reprints- a story which was published in Feb 53 OTHER WORLDS - 'Field of Battle' by Will F. Temple. AUTHENTIC call it 'Immortal Playthings' and it was not Temple's best work, I fear..... No 30 features 'Lady of the Flame', a reprint of S.J.Byrns yarn, 'The Naked Goddess' from Oct 52 OTHER WORLDS. If this keeps up, AUTHENTIC will lose a lot of it's American following.....

Latest British book reprint is from Bodley Head, who have issued at 10/6 the anthology edited by Kendall Foster Crossen, ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW. Of the original 15 yarns only two have been cut, and they are Asimov(Christmas on Ganymede) and Moore (Shambleu). That makes it a very good buy as the original edition cost 23/6 stg.....

Guess those are the major points at the moment, so will say adios for the present.....

KFS.

BOOK NEWS

By I.J.C.²

Just out in London is a British edition of A.E.Van Vogt 'The House that Stood Still', published by Geo. Weidenfeld and Nicolson in their Science Fiction Bookshelf.

A new anthology is due early in March compiled by Sonya Orwell titled 'Science Fiction Anthology'.

Already in Melbourne is the new Donald Suddaby, 'The Death of Metal', but this is strictly for the younger set.

'Breaching the Frontier' by Jules Romains is a new tale on time travel. This author has produced some excellent novels on this theme.

A new novel by Elliot O'Donnell, 'The Dead Riders' is an excellent supernatural book. This has already arrived in Melbourne.

All the above are, or will be available from McGill's.

S T A T E S I D E

S T A T I C

from Charles Anderson....

Since my last flash on Gernsback, it has been announced that the second issue of SCIENCE FICTION PLUS will feature stories by Gernsback, Simak, Gallun, Tooker, Long and the cover story by one Grono Gashback. Guess who? Frank Paul does the back cover in color depicting "The Spirit of Science Fiction" and Alex Shomberg does the front cover. With interior illos in color as well, it should be quite a mag.

One of America's most popular fans, Rick Sneary, has informed me that he has resigned from all fanactivity. To quote.. 'I am no longer interested in fandom...I don't sub to any 'zines at all now....'

Rick has also stopped writing for the fanzines...

Long time editor of that excellent fanzine 'The Outlander', official organ of The Outlanders Club, he has now suspended publication of the mag for an indefinite time. The last issue appeared very early last year.

Rick was one of our most loved fans, if it can be said that a fan is 'lovable', and performed invaluable services to the advancement of the amateur publishing field here in the States.

He was recognised for trying to obtain the World Convention for his home town of San Francisco, and famous for his unceasing campaigning cry, 'South Gate in 58'

The field has lost a valuable worker and we can only hope that Rick may one day return to his old love, science fiction and fandom.....

CA.

R E M E M B E R ! ! ! ! ! !

P E R H A P S ! ! ! ! ! !

NEXT ISSUE APRIL 10 TH.....

BRE STARTLING STORIES

'Asylum Earth' is quite a clever piece on intergalactic beings who hated humans so much that they kept a machine buried in the ground so as to keep them permanently insane but unfortunately the earthlings didn't know it. The end is quite terrific - and totally unexpected.....

'The Guided Man' is a gem on thought control, as only L.Sprague de Camp could write it. Personally I liked this better than the lead story. It just goes to show you what an unscrupulous thought controller could let you in for...

SCIENCE FANTASY Autumn 52

This issue contains all shorties and is quite readable. 'Stitch in Time' by J. M'Intosh provides a new twist on time travel, whereas time cannot be broached before the time machine was invented..... Quite neat.....

'Was Not Spoken' by E.E.Evans is a good yarn on telepathic communication, but the ending could be better.....

'Circus' by Peter Hawkins is a tame story on extra-terrestrial animals which escape on a planet.....

'Not As We Are' by E.R.James is very disappointing to my mind, being quite incomprehensible as to James' motives.

'Enemy in Their Midst' by Alan Barclay is an intriguing little story on a colossal bluff played by the Martians...

F I L M N E W S

The first on a new cycle of stf and fantasy films has arrived in Melbourne. It is 'I'll Never Forget You' at the Plaza. More of a romance than anything, it tells of a man falling in love with a woman back in time. Eventually he gets there. Soon to be shown in Melbourne are the following: 'The Man in the White Suit', 'Four Sided Triangle', 'War of the Worlds', and 'Volcano Men'TJC.....

A M E R I C A N M A G A Z I N E S

Subscriptions are now being accepted for American Story Magazines. They are posted to you direct from the publishers, no third party being involved, and the shipping time varies from 3 to 8 weeks, Postage is included in the rates quoted.

<u>MAGAZINE</u>		<u>ISSUES</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Startling Stories	Monthly	12	£2-3-6
Famous Fantastic Mysteries	Bi-mthly	12	£2-6-6
Thrilling Wonder Stories	Bi-mthly	12	£2-3-6
Galaxy Science Fiction	Monthly	12	£2-7-6
Galaxy Story Novels	Bi-monthly	6	£1-10-
Astounding Science Fiction	Monthly	12	£2-19-6
Magazine of Fantasy & Story	Monthly	12	£2-13-0
Planet Stories	Bi-monthly	6	£1-5-0
Weird Tales	Bi-monthly	6	£1-2-6
Amazing Stories	Monthly	12	£1-14-0

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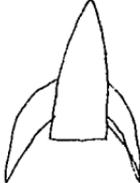
This list is incomplete and if you have any other magazines you would like to take a sub out on, an enquiry to me will let you know whether or not it is available.

Leo J. Harding,
510 Drummond St.,
Carlton, Victoria.

I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO MAKE THIS URGENT, AS THERE IS A LIMITED QUOTA ONLY AVAILABLE.



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Super Science BR	1/6 "	28/- a year
Authentic Science Fiction	2/3 "	29/6 "
New Worlds	3/- bi-monthly	20/- "
Science Fantasy	3/6 qrtly	20/- 6 iss.
American Science Fiction	9d	

Books

Ten Tales of Space and Time	Gerald Heard	16/-
Weapon Shops of Isher	A.J. Van Vogt	14/6
Islands in the Sky	Arthur Clarke	10/6
The Day of the Triffids	John Wyndham	16/-
Beyond the Visible	H.J. Campbell	10/6
Born in Captivity	Brian Berry	10/6
To the Devil a Daughter	Dennis Wheatly	13/6

Pocket Books

Amateurs in Alchemy - Latest Panther Pocket Book	2/3
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CIRCULAR

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THE AMATEUR-FANTASY
PUBLICATIONS OF AUST.

AN OPEN LETTER TO AUSTRALIAN FANDOM

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The appearance of PERIAPS and ETHER-LINE seem to have given rise to some undue scepticism amongst Australian fans, and I think it is about time a statement was made regarding the magazines concerned.

PERIAPS and ETHER-LINE will NOT fold after one issue as most fans seem to think. There is a large organization backing the A.F.P.A, and they will see to it that the magazines do appear regular. Only recently we have purchased a new electronic duplicator for our printing purposes, and I am sure that no person intending to send out a few odd issues of a magazine would outlay £80 on a duplicator.

The latest edition to A.F.P.A. publications is BACCANALIA, a fantasy fan-zine edited by Race Mathews, of which printing is almost completed. Any chance of a badly duplicated issue is non existant, thanks to the new machine. The second issue of PERIAPS is due on April the 10th, and will be greatly improved over the first issue. 40 pages, excellently duplicated, and some superb artwork reproduced on the electronic stencil.

And there you have it. While we do not expect all and sundry to subscribe as a National Duty, a little cash here and there would help immensely, as would contributions for the magazine. It will be going toward a good cause.

Leo J. Harding

President, The Amateur Fantasy
Publications of Australia