

FORTNIGHTLY

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# ETHEL LINE

THE SCIENCE

FICTION NEWZINE

- AN -

- A. F. P. A. -

- PUBLICATION -

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Published fortnightly SPECTACULAR CHANGES IN NOVA MAGAZINES  
by A. F. P. A.

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Classified Ad Rate...

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Next Issue .....

13/4/53.

John Carnell has announced that the May issue of NEW WORLDS will change its format to the US ASTOUNDING size, 120pp giving 60,000 words, at least 10-15,000 more than previous issues, and selling at 1/6d sterling, a reduction of 25% on its old price.

The associate publication, SCIENCE-FANTASY will also convert to this format Carnell plans to introduce many changes including new artists, but no indication is given as to his policy regarding US work.

Nova Publications are also introducing NOVA SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, (shades of Galaxy!) - complete unabridged pocket books of stf stories priced at 1/6 stg.

First issue due April 16th is John Beynon's classic, "STOWAWAY TO MARS", a long sought after collectors item, which has been out of print for many years...

No. 2 will feature "BULLARD OF THE SPACE PATROL" by Malcolm Jameson.

Carnell's second hard cover venture in the anthology field will appear soon from Museum Press, and is titled -- "GATEWAY TO TOMORROW"

If its anything like his first, it should prove to be a sure seller.

Don Tuck.

PRICE: 6<sup>d</sup>

V I E W P O I N T .

We are out to confound our many critics, and one of the first steps in the 'master plan' is the introduction of color. This is, we believe, the FIRST newsletter in color, and we can assure you that the news side will not be forgotten in our haste to improve the layout side.

The most severest criticism has been levelled towards the reproduction of the zine and we again point out that we could not hope for a good looking sheet with the bad duplicator used in the first issue.

I think we have the hang of things now, and it will start to please everybody, including ourselves.

To allay any doubts as to whether this and other publications of AFPA will fold after a few issues, we state that they will continue as long as is humanly possible, and the money holds out. This second item will be taken care of if you, the fan, will continue to support us by buying the mags we publish.

As far as the first issue of PERHAPS is concerned, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it was put out under great difficulties, and I think, was an admirable effort except for the printing. The second is due out early in April and will meet with your approval.

In the meantime, BACCHANALIA will be presented to you next week, and as it is published under better conditions than PERHAPS, should be really something to see.

It has been brought to my notice that for some obscure reason or other, Aussie fans are very slow on the presenting of material for PERHAPS.

Perhaps you may not know it, but PERHAPS was billed as an Aussie magazine, and up to date they are conspicuous by their absence.

Surely there are some of you who would like to see their name in print

Overseas fans are flooding us with material, but we want some with an Aussie byline.

Could it be that they consider their work too good? Please let us be the judge of that.

What about it ????

ABOUT NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.....

by Lyell Crane.'

.....So I hear from the editor. "Take a subject," he says; "any subject you like - furnish or not as you please the important thing being that it is screamingly funny."

"Such as what", I reply.

Editors aren't tough people to get along with - just as long as you do just as you're told, and at once. Be funny he says and be funny you must. Not tomorrow or next week, but right now.

So he suggests that I do a rib tickler on 'Osmosis in the Lower Intestine', or perhaps lay them in the aisles with my brilliance in describing 'Flora and Fauna of the Upper Nile'. Then he informs me that there is the field of archaeology lying as untouched as the proverbial virgin, as far as its exploitation for slapstick comedy goes.

Now I ask you, what in the hell could one find to laugh at in ancient Egypt say at the time of the Pharaohs. To begin with, unemployment was terribly rife, and while government projects like the pyramids were in full swing, union activity was very disorganized, the salary lousy, & the death rate terrific. Usually reliable sources place the average working life of the conscripted labour at about 10 months, four and a half days, and some odd minutes. Not the sort of thing one would readily embrace as a career.

Sex I am led to believe was as rampant then as it is now; with the slight difference that you could have as many wives as your bank book would stand. Just imagine the average fan, who's bank balance (if he has one) seldom is out of the shillings and pence columns, and is more often than not liberally marked up with red pencil.

So I ask you, is it fair? All the guy does is to pour out time, money, energy and the sweat off his brow... He neglects his wives and starving children, he takes days off from work, he stays up nights addressing envelopes etc.

Not satisfied with all the trouble he causes, he looks up for a moment from his ink stained labours...." Be funny" he says, "in 300 words. Any subject you like, but make 'em die laughing".....

The End (Thank God)

## BOOK NEWS

Slan is back !!!

This much hackneyed catchcry will again be heard when the British edition of A.E. Van Vogt's immortal classic is published early this coming month by Geo. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. These publishers are issuing some very fine sf novels and seem to be concentrating on Van Vogt, as no less than three of their four books are by this author. Still, we should complain!

Messrs. MacMillan's announce the publication in March of Kurt Vonnegut's "PLAYER PIANO", adjudged the best of its type in America last year. Worth looking forward to.

Another variation on the last-man-on-earth theme is a good book titled "THE LAST ADAM" by David Duncan, which is published in London by Dennis Dobson.

T. Werner Laurie have announced a "SCIENCE FICTION ANNUAL" to be priced at 7/6 stg. At this price, it sounds to me as though it might be slanted toward the juvenile reader.

A cheap 4/6d edition of Philip Wylie's "DISAPPEARANCE" and George R. Stewart's "EARTH ABIDES" has been announced by Victor Gollancz. "EARTH ABIDES", by the way, is the first of Sidgwick and Jackson's science fiction Book-Club.... Rather bad planning somewhere....

Reprints due shortly include the following:

"Ship of Destiny" by Henry J. Slater.

"Four Sided Triangle" by W. F. Temple.

"Looking Backwards" By Edward Bellamy.

Touching on the subject of magazines, I hear that the third Nova Novel will be RENAISSANCE by Raymond F. Jones

The new format of NEW WORLDS is a pity in a way, as it means another mag is following the Americans in design, and all it needs now is NEBULA to do the same, and we'll be giving an even better imitation of a flock of sheep!

The old format stamped the mags as British publications but now they'll probably finish up as a BRE.

First of the new issue will have a cover by Quinn, and depicting the Twilight Side of Mercury. Carnell promises some sensational art work in this and succeeding issues. We can only wait and see.

NATION WIDE PUBLICITY FOR MELBOURNE FANDOM UNDER WAY

Long awaited plans are finally being put into top gear in the little village known as Melbourne. At the present time arrangements are being made with a prominent weekly magazine to feature a full write up on the Melfans, plus a full spread of photographs. Guy in charge is Leo Harding, and developments are expected in three to four weeks.

Information has also been received from other fans and plans to feature a full spread on the whole of Aussie fandom is projected. Interested persons get in touch with Leo soon as possible.

I J C

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OF BOOKS AND SUCH.....

By E. J. Carnell.....

Plans are at present being made for a BRE of the Dorleth anthology, BEACHHEADS IN SPACE. Williamson's THE HUMANOIDS is scheduled for the next from Museum Press.

NEW WORLDS NO 20 has a Clothier cover, which you will not like, but I can promise you something great on 21, and on the new pocket books!

Some fans have been attacking me on the occasional poor quality of the lead novelists we run. Well, the reason for the few 'duds' that crop up is that few writers are turning out the 15,000-20,000 worders these days. They either do 8,000 word shorts, or jump up to 35,000 for the second rate p-b's. When they do hit my feature length, weaknesses are apparent. However, there aren't any on hand for you to complain about.

Leo seems to have hit the jackpot - I've consented to cover the Corocon to be held in London in July this year in PERHAPS, and as I will be Chairman, I shall be able to see all that is going on.

IMAGINATION UNLIMITED and MEN OF SPACE AND TIME, two of the Bleiler and Dikty books are to be reprinted in UK by the Bodley Head early in September.

. EJCarnell

By Dick Jenssen.

NEBULA Science Fiction Autumn 52

Lead novel - and I mean novel - is 'Thou Pasture Us' by F.G.Rayer. Here is the ever-present alien invasion, but -- this is one of the most profound pieces of Brit. stf ever written. The first half will have you gasping for breath, wondering what is going to happen next. Yet in retrospect, the plot was transparent and telegraphed itself. It is a tribute to Rayer's skill that each new turn in the plot was totally unexpected. I'll not tell the plot as it would spoil your enjoyment of this story the best thing Rayer has done since TOMORROW SOMETIMES COMES.

Three shorts fill up the remaining pages - Rayer's takes up 90 of them - by Tubb, Brunner and Ackerman... Tubb's "Dark Solution" is an excellent effort with a terrific punchline. It deals with the colonization and conquest of Venus by the sadistic Earthmen, and is in Tubb's bitter, biting style.

Brunner's yarn, "Brainpower" is fair, but as for the Ackerman opus; to put it plainly, it stinks !!! Ackerman can - I hope - do much better than this. I really don't know why NEB bought the thing, perhaps on a sense of obligation as Forry has some good film news in his column. Also present is Walt Willis and his Electric Fan.

On the whole, NEB presents a challenge to AUTHENTIC and NEW WORLDS, who had better pull their socks up --- but quick !

GALAXY (US Ed) FEB 53.

Best story in this issue is, without a doubt, "Four In One" by Damon Knight. As Gold says, it deals with the innocent scientist becoming absorbed in his work ---but what goes on from there ! Knight combines humor & horror with remarkable skill and restraint, Ashman's illustrations are superb, quite the best I've seen him do. Fact is, the whole issue is terrific as far as illos go with the possible exception of Sibley's for "Ring Around

The Sun". The cover is very unusual - it shows the departure of a rocket ship from a space port- by a new artist, Hunter.

"Ring Around the Sun" draws to its finale with an ending I had anticipated in it's first instalment. Nevertheless, it makes absorbing can't - put - it - down - till - it's - read when - is - the - next - issue type. "Watchbird" by Robert Sheckly is all about a mechanical 'tec which stops crime before it happens. Well written, but -- only saving feature is the Ed Alexander Emshwiller illics. Wash yet ! !

"Saucer of Lonliness" by Ted Sturgeon has some superb descriptive passages of lyric, yet the story itself is inconsequential and slight. The other two shorts are quite up to the usual GSF standard. All in all a very good issue.....

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. FEB. 53

Astounding barely manages to struggle past the level of mediocrity it has set with it's recent issues. Still, as a contemporary has quoted, it's a HIGH standard of mediocrity.

A two part serial - "Null ABC" by H. Beam Piper and John J. McGuire starts. It's about a future where 'Book learnin'' is held to be responsible for wars - consequently everyone, except a chosen few are illiterate. A very good yarn. The only other story worth mentioning is Alan Nourse's 'Nightmare Brother' - where the brother is imaginary and the nightmares are not ! An ingenious solution comes of this and thus 'Man Reaches The Stars'

Heading the other three stories - all poor - is W. Miller with "Crucifixus Ethiam" . Nuff said ! Ditto for "Safety Valve" by R. De Mille, Cecil's son and "For the Glory Of Agon" by Irving Cox Jr.

The lettering ASTOUNDING on the cover has undergone some changes and is more elaborate and distinctive.

JUST ARRIVED AT MCGILL'S

Adventures In Tomorrow	by Kendall Foster Crossen		13/6
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Purple Islands	by Dee Carter	---	2/3

Advt.

The present story of Australia's fandom is not always a smooth co-ordinated development of a single minded enthusiasm that one would like to believe. A glance at the present fan clubs and publications is all that is needed to show that the theme is faction against faction, against clique.

Bill Veney and Harry Brook do not try to 'cover up' the present. They present an uncompromisingly objective picture of the agonising pains of organised Australian fandom.

Sometimes the screams of pain become too much to bear and the editors must rush out to the nearest bar.

It is awful.

It is tragic.

Only people with very strong stomachs and a grim determination to learn the horrible facts of fandom should ever read the reviews, let alone writing to Bill Veney, "Yale" Upper Edward St., Brisbane Queensland for information.

UGH!!

Advt

# OPERATION FANTAS

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BRANCH)

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS NOW :

DAVID COHEN,

BOX 4940

SYDNEY

Address all enquiries to the above concerning O F

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MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP PLEASE NOTE !!

It has been decided by the original convenors to invite all interested parties along to a special meeting to be held at the Oddfellows Hall, 30 Latrobe Street at 8 PM on Thursday, 16th April 1953.

It has been felt for some time that the meetings lately conducted have been too loose and that many items of general interest are being lost in the hubbub.

The proposal is to elect a chairman to take some vestige of control in the following manner:

- 1: To call the meeting to order.
- 2: To decide on priorities for speaking.
- 3: To introduce syllabus items.
- 4: And generally exercise supervision over the conduct of the meeting and the affairs of the group.

Shortly there will be available due to our liason & participation with the reorganised Australian Fantasy Foundation library many additional books and magazines for the use of our own library members.

Now that the State Film Centre has reopened after a long break, the film shows will be recommenced as soon as possible.

Please roll up and show your interest. If any further information is required, ring one of the undermentioned

Bob McCubbin      W B 3735  
Race Mathews      X W 4419  
Dick Jensen



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- nebula No. 2 3/-
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### Pocket Books

- Amateurs in Alchemy by Jon J. Deegan 2/3
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Any Science Fiction fan who contacts M.Binns at McGills can be assured of the best of attention regarding wants and new issues.

Remember, McGills are the "SCIENCE FICTION HEADQUARTERS" in Melbourne for all in the reading line.

### MAIL ORDERS BY RETURN POST.

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1/- per book and 6d per extra copy.  
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— STOP PRESS —

Bob McCubbin wishes to thank those people who commiserated with him on the state of his health, and wishes to advise them that, although he and the old grey mare have much in common, it is pressure of other and much more essential interests, that has caused his temporary - retirement from fandon's fanfares and fandangoes.

Thank You  
Bob.

TD: