

FORTNIGHTLY

PRICE 6<sup>2</sup>

# ETHERLINE

THE

SCIENCE FICTION

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 7

14/6/53.

FILMS.....

FANDOM.....

BOOKS.....

MAGAZINES...

PUBLISHING..

EDITING.....

ALL.....

THE.....

LATEST.....

NEWS.....

FROM .....

OVERSEAS....

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## S T A T E S I D E

## S T A T I C

From CHARLES ANDERSON.

LOWNDES TO VIE WITH MINES AS TOP PULP  
EDITOR ?

Ex fan Robert W. Lowndes seems to be taking over the rank of leading pulp editor, a place formerly held by Sam Mines of Thrilling Pubs., and previously by Sam Merwin of the same company.

His magazines, FUTURE S-F, S-F QUARTERLY, and DYNAMIC S-F have shown remarkable improvement lately. While the authors aren't the best available with the funds he has, Lowndes manages to obtain many good stories.

Of the many numerous features, the book reviews are the most interesting, while of the others, there is one dealing with science fiction itself, and not with a connected phase of it, as is most often the case.

-In DYNAMIC, well known fan Robert Madle discusses STF in the frank manner you would expect in a fan mag. News of other competitive publishers is freely given, thereby breaking an old editorial taboo.

In S-F QUARTERLY, equally well known fan Calvin Thomas Beck handles the fanzine reviews. His style is a little rough at the moment, but as it was his first attempt, given a little time his column may well turn into one equally as famous as Rog Phillips much lamented Club House in the old AMAZING.

With these and other radical changes, Lowndes truly deserves the full support of fandom, and if the Double Action pulps allowed him a larger expense account, the resulting better typography and fiction to be seen would send the magazines sky-rocketing to the top.

THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN is the title of Ray Bradbury's new hard cover book, a collection of his stories from the "slick" magazines. The price is

but if it proves to be as successful as his best sellers, it will no doubt appear in pocket book within a few months.

GROFF CONKLIN, in his series of anthologies based "Themes" in sf, has come out with one featuring time and the theory of parallel worlds.

ANTHONY DOUCHER & J. FRANCIS McCOMAS, editors of world renowned MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION compiled their second anthology taken from their magazine.

Look out, Horace and Johnny !

Charles Anderson.

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### MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP MEETING

28/5/53

The chairman advised that he had investigated the possibility of hiring the Caris Club for meetings. On being informed that the room would cost £2 per night, was available on Tuesdays only, and that supper ( sandwiches and coffee ) would cost an additional 2/6 a head, plus a charge for the services of a waitress, the meeting decided to ask members to make individual investigations, and report back if any other premises appeared suitable.

Two new members were welcomed,

Eric La Motte, 695 Malvern Rd., Toorak.

Bruce Heron, 2 Bretonneux Sq., East Malvern.

A welcoming committee, consisting of Eddie Hunt, Neil Merrilees and Bob McCubbin was appointed.

Some new material has just arrived from overseas and has been added to the library.

Rex Meyer called in to see us --- Sydney fans will soon know the worst about Melbourne.

4/6/53.

Owing to many of our members being out of the city, the attendance was not up to standard. No further news of new premises at the moment, but the search is still



4.  
continuing. A new member, David Smith, of Highett, was welcomed. Film Shows should re-commence on the 18 June, provided nothing unforeseen happens. The projector is again available, thanks to the generosity of D Bicknell, and an application is before the Film Board.

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11/6/53.

Bob McCubbin in the chair - Fifteen present.

A film showing has been arranged for the 18 th of this month.

Race Mathews auctioned some stf material- best bid was 13/- for 3 consecutive GALAXY's.

Mrs. Garbutt, our only female fan, was in an auto accident last Saturday evening. She was taken to hospital, no further information available. We wish you a speedy recovery, Betty.

ARMAK.

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### G U E S S   T H O   ?   ?

George Fan, our youngest member, is only four, but has been reading science fiction for seven years. Joined the group in 1872 and is a staunch advocate of Prevention of Cruelty to BEM's. Writes reams of letters and is known for his biting sarcasm in dealing with Shaver fans.

At present is Australian representative for Astounding and Galaxy, besides being on the advisory staff of 17 other prozines. Has the only complete set of Horrific Science Narrations on the north side of Latrobe St., bounded by the Yarra River, the Fitzroy Gardens ( excluding the keepers house ) and Newcastle ( excluding Albury and Tagga ).

VENEY

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P E R H A P S

Out Now !!!    2/- each

BACCHANALIA

Out Now !!!    2/6 each.

Since prehistoric times we humans have indulged in hero-worship. It is, of course, quite in order to honour the brave, the wise and the strong, as by doing so we are satisfying our very basic urge of acknowledging the ones we think greater than ourselves.

Unfortunately, our object of veneration invariably possesses feet of clay, and those who fail to recognise this anatomical eccentricity sooner or later regrets their blindness.

There is no harm in a mild adulation, but when the devotees overlook all the Great One's faults, and class each utterance as something spoken ex cathedra, it's time to call a halt.

It is a pity that in Australia, owing to an unwillingness of fans as a whole to accept responsibility, a few individuals have managed to assume the position of high-priests, with a proportionate inflation to their ego.

Fans pride themselves as belonging to the thinking part of the population. They, more than any other group, should be aware of the dangers of unquestioned authority.

Discussions at the Second Australian Science Fiction Convention have shown that we in this country still have yet a long way to go before we can achieve function as a democratic, decentralized organization on an inter-state level. As things stand at present, we are forced to accept the actions and opinions of a few autocrats.

lest we disintegrate, we must soon establish ourselves on a nationwide basis within an organization which is run for the benefit of fans by fans as a whole, instead of being pushed around by people whose only reason for fanactivity is arrogance and egocentricity.

Harry Brook.

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Corporal Harry Brook, author of the above article, is now on his way to Japan. I feel sure his transfer will be a great loss to the ranks of the Brisbane Science Fiction Group, as he was a powerful driving force in almost every activity held in Bananaland.

Let us hope that he returns soon.

IJC.

## ABOUT NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

By Lyell Crane.

The attendance at the recent Australian Science Fiction Convention held in Sydney (around 85), while being an improvement on the attendance at last year's gathering (around 60), is nothing like the number which could be collected around the banner of science fiction in Australia. In addition, the small number of interstate guests (five) gave a rather thin representation for the fans outside the Sydney area.

The next Australian Convention site is again in Sydney, as decided by the attendees of the recent gathering. The reason for choosing Sydney for the 3rd time being that there were no other fan groups large enough to take on the job of entertaining fifty to a hundred fans over a three day period. However, both Brisbane and Melbourne may probably be putting in a claim for the convention in 1955, if their numbers continue to grow as they have in the past year.

New fans may be curious as to what goes on at a science fiction convention. Perhaps the main attraction is that one gets a chance to meet, or at least see in action, the more prominent fans who will make a speech, or in some way contribute to the gathering.

At the stf conventions in the States, the programme is composed of professional and amateur displays of art work, magazines, books, fanzines, etc., which are exhibited usually at the opening session.

The Americans are lucky in the matter of speakers, in that they have hundreds of topline stf writers, editors, artists, agents, etc. to choose from, many of whom are accomplished speakers in addition to being prominent in the field. The speakers are sometimes serious, sometimes hilarious. Short plays or skits are presented, films are shown; in fact anything which will instruct or entertain, and provide an opportunity for the audience to see coming & well known fans in action. Then of course, there is the



uction, which forms a part of every stf gathering; in which original illustrations, magazines, books and stf oddities are bidden for, and even the occasional fan had better be careful as he could get accidentally sold off.

In the UK the conventions always seem to be held in London, as contrasted to the US practice of holding it in a different city each year. The UK conventions are a lot more staid, and would appear to be more under control of the professional section of stf, rather than the fan section.

In Australia, there is an open slather for future programmes in that there is no established tradition to follow. While in Australia there are a few stf authors selling locally and to the States, and there are a number of prominent fans of long standing; there is just not a vast number to choose from.

The need at future conventions will be for sneakers and presentations of general interest, well prepared and delivered which will appeal to newcomers and established fans alike. Against this background the more prominent fans and organizations can present their reports, air their views and carry through the necessary business meanwhile consolidating the contacts between organized fandom and the newly discovered reader of science fiction.

Lyell Crane.

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S Y D N E Y      C H A T T E R

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The 2nd issue of FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION, the new Aussie mag will be as follows : "The Faceless Man" by Arthur Leo Zagat; "The Luckiest Man Alive" by W. Morrison; and "Forbidden Voyage" by Rene Lafayette. The cover will be based on the Startling, Nov. 52 cover.

Contents for FUTURE No. 2 are "Moonwalk" by H.B. Fyfe; "Filterable Virus" by Oscar J. Friend; "The Invader" by Alfred Coppel; "Sail On" by Phillip Jose Farmer; "Evacuee" by Royce Williams; and "Fandom's Corner" by V. Molesworth. Cover is a reproduction of SPACE, Nov. 52.

Vol Molesworth.

## OLD HASH RE-SERVED

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John Russell Fearn - Vargo Statten to you -has just re-issued his sequel to "Liners of Time" as a Scion pocket book. It was originally titled "Zagribud" and ran as a serial in Feb, Mar., and April, 1938 Amazing Stories. It is now titled "Science Metropolis", but is still a poorly written story founded on a basic improbability. The finale smacks of E.E.Smith - using stray planets in opposed orbits as nutcrackers.

Brother, it smells.

ARMAK.

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### AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION TITLES

Malian Press, publishers of "American Science Fiction", have informed us that the next two titles to appear will be:

FIRES OF FOREVER by Chad Oliver

MOONWALK by H.B. Hyde.

IJC

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IT'S ON AGAIN !!!!

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EXTRACT FROM AN ARIZONA NEWSPAPER.

"YUMA REPORTS FLYING SAUCER RAID. 20 TELL  
STORY OF SKY SIES "

The Air Force admitted that several officers had seen "what looked like flying saucers" hovering around the Air Defense Command gunnery school..... "It looks as if someone from another planet is spying on our gunnery meet", Captain Hiaring said, "Te're trying to pin it down".

Hiaring said a formation of a dozen or so disc-shaped objects was seen at a high altitude .

Natch, it was the Russkies !!

Charles Anderson.



## B O O K       N E W S .....

By IJC.

Quite a few new books have appeared or have been announced in London. Among them is a British edition of Jones' SON OF THE STARS, a new edition of John Keir Cross' THE ANGRY PLANET, a macabre thriller, SLAVES OF THE GOLDEN CALF by Maurice Dekobra, David Divine's AT SPLITHEAD, set in the current Naval Review at Spithead, Heinlein's THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON, a new collection of short stories by Gerald Kersh, THE BRIGHTON MONSTER and OTHERS,.

LAURIES SPACE ANNUAL, announced in an earlier ish will be published in August.

The best news of the current announcements is that Judith Merrill's BEYOND HUMAN KEN will be done by a British house in the near future.

Philip Reynold's IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS has already appeared out here, and is worth getting.

THE DEVIL THAT FAILED by Maurice Samuel is a very good yarn of a modern Gulliver who awakes to find he has grown to over 13 feet tall, and weighing 160 stone..

Curtis continue to issue their FB's in hard cover editions. The latest are:

DARK BOUNDARIES, TWO WORLDS, and ZENITH D  
by Paul Lorraine.

BLACK INFINITY, and COSMIC ECHELON  
by Berl Cameron.

BLUE CORDON by Dee Carter.

Also due out shortly is a British edition of del Rey's MAROONED ON MARS. Like SON OF THE STARS, this is strictly juvenile.

A hot tip from Cassal's has it that they will be shortly issuing a science fiction anthology of ORIGINAL! never-before-published stories of, at the moment, unknown origin, to sell at around 20/- stg. This will mean that it will be of extra large size. Watch for further news.

IJC.

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Advt.

# MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

YOUR PRESENCE WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED  
AT THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP  
MEETINGS HELD EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT  
8PM IN THE ODDFELLOWS HALL, LATROBE ST  
MELBOURNE.....

FILM SHOWS  
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LARGE LIBRARY  
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AMERICAN MAGS  
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AUCTIONS  
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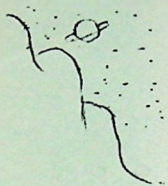
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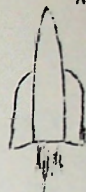
## OPERATION

## FANTAST



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The House That Stood Still	Van Vogt	12/-
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Moon Ahead	Greener	12/-
I, Robot	Asimov	10/9
Destination Universe	Van Vogt	12/-
Earth Abides	Stewart	7/6
The Blind Spot	Hall & Flint	13/6
Adventures in Time & Space	Healy	13/6
Born in Captivity	Berry	5/-
Beyond the Visible	Campbell	5/-
Galaxy Reader of Science Fiction	Gold	12/-
Islands in the Sky	Clarke	10/9
Dr Zils Experiments	Goodchild	12/-
The Flying Saucer	Newman	4/6
Man Who Lived Backwards	Ross	4/6
Player Piano	Vonnegut	15/6

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Published fortnightly by AMATEUR FANTASY PUBLICATIONS  
OF AUSTRALIA at the registered office, 510 Drummond St.  
Carlton, Victoria, Australia. Arranged and Edited by Ian  
J. Crozier. Assisted by Leo J. Harding. Artwork by Dick  
Jenssen. Editorial address: 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield,  
Vic., Aust. All communications to that address. The  
Subscription rate is : 10/6 per 26 issues; 5/3 per 13  
issues. Advertising Rates : 15/- per page; 7/6 per  $\frac{1}{2}$   
page.

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