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ETHERLINE

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 11

20/8/53

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FANDOM.....

BOOKS.....

MAGAZINES..

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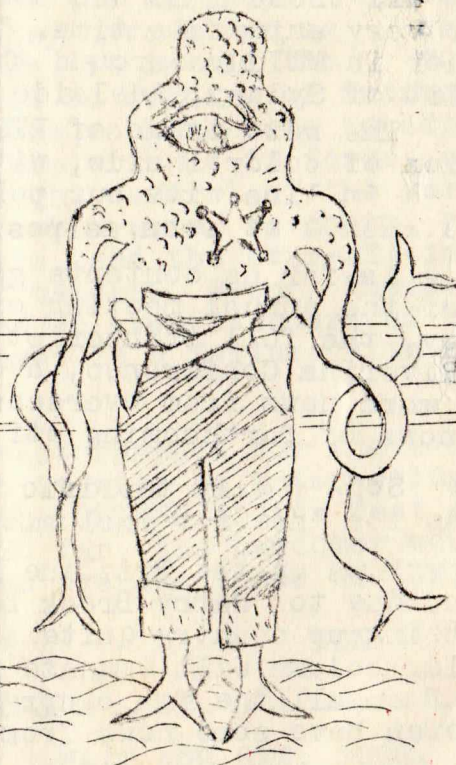
OVERSEAS...

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INTERSTATE.

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VIEWPOINT

By I. J. Crozier.

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Since the reorganization which has taken place within AFPA, it has been decided that in future book and magazine reviews which normally appeared in TER-HAPS will be included in ETHERLINE. Fiction and other material will appear in the new QUESTION MARK, which will be on a monthly schedule. BACCHANALIA, of course will continue to feature fantasy and allied subjects.

On behalf of Ivell Crane, the Organizer of the recently completed Riverina Conference, I would like to thank all those fans who attended, and, by the way, had a very enjoyable time. We are thinking of holding another in Mildura around the end of January, for the benefit of Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne fandom.

The next issue of ETHERLINE will see the introduction of color inside, with possibly a colored cover. This is in line with our policy to introduce as many improvements as soon as possible.

As far as contents go, we have lined up a report of the annual meeting of the Futurian Society of Sydney, the full transcript of Bob McCubbin's report to the Riverina Conference, a column from Sydney, possibly some more news from overseas, depending on the mails, and news of forthcoming stf films to Melbourne.

Some really terrific book news has arrived, but it was too late for inclusion in this issue.

News on the Brisbane front has been very sparsely, due to Harry Brook being in Korea, and Bill Vene being up country quite a lot. Still, we hope that a regular column will emanate from there soon, as we want news from all the fan centres in Australia. Possibly we may even have some news from Adelaide. Who knows!

That's about it till the next issue.

IJC

A REVIEW OF

BEYOND

THE NEW FANTASY MAGAZINE

By Doug Nicholson.

Somewhat behind schedule, just like a fanzine, BEYOND is now with us. Over the past year, a couple of American magazine publishers have been led by the success of their science fiction magazines into launching magazines devoted to more or less "pure" fantasy. This despite severe lessons in the past that readers of the one cannot always be relied upon to buy the other.

Though none of the current fantasy magazines has approached the quality of the already almost-legendary UNKNOWN WORLDS, they have given us some fine stories. Because of this, it is all the more regrettable that there should be nothing of interest in BEYOND's first issue. Names we have come to expect on GALAXY's contents page, are with us in force, and the quality of writing is high. Several of the yarns contain passages of considerable power or charm, but not one of them gets anywhere, and the over-all impression is of mis-directed talent. Even Theodore Sturgeon, who has maintained an even standard of brilliance for years, has turned in a failure with his lead-off novella.

GALAXY has given us vast respect for the editorial ability of H.L. Gold; it will be interesting to see if it is equal to getting BEYOND on its feet after this disappointing start. So far, the newcomer would suffer by comparison with an average issue of WEIRD TALES.

RDN

WHAT IS QUESTION MARK ? WAIT AND SEE, SOON.

B O O K N E W S

By I. J. C.

The second Colliers article, CONQUEST OF THE MOON, will be reprinted by Sidgewick & Jackson later on this year. Edited by Cornelius Ryan, it will sell for 21/-.

LOVE AMONG THE RUINS by Evelyn Waugh is available in Melbourne at most booksellers, priced at 7/6. It is a tale of the near future, on the brave New World style. Announced in London for early publication is a collection of Gerald Kersh's fantasy short stories. Title as yet unknown. Further information when available.

Among the arrivals in Melbourne this last few days was THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert Heinlein, and priced at 12/3. Published by Sidgewick & Jackson, this is the first volume in the Future History series, and rumor has it that these publishers will do the whole set of the Heinlein classics.

By some devious method, the American edition of SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES IN DIMENSION, edited by Groff Conklin, has found its way to Melbourne. Priced at 31/9, this series punishes the time travel theme to death, but Conklin, probably the most prolific anthologist in the literary business anywhere, chooses his stories with care and the result is an evenly balanced collection.

ATOMS AT SPITHEAD has appeared in Melbourne bookshops at last. This thriller by David Divine has a vague stf theme running through it.

THE EARTHQUAKE by Heinz Risse is a new fantasy on sale in London. The central character is a schizophrenic who thinks he is God on earth, and suspects the psychiatrist who is treating him, is an agent of regime that dominates the earth. Priced at 12/6 stg., it is pubbed by Secker and Warburg.

THE IMPRISONED SPLENDOR by Raynor C. Johnson is

another book on the mysteries of man and the Universe. Published by Hodderand Stoughton, it is priced at 21/- stg.

The first book in the new MASTER SCIENCE FICTION series, published by Worlds Work, is a new Golden Amazon tale, THE GOLDEN AMAZON RETURNS by, of course, John Russell Fearn. This has arrived in Melbourne. The 2nd selection due shortly is DAVID S ARH-SPACE RANGER, by Paul French. Slightly juvenile by the sound of it.

The current issue of LILLIPUT is featuring A. E. Van Vogt's DEAR PEN PAL. I've lost count of how many times this story has been reprinted, and, although it is a fine yarn, the continued repetition of it is beginning to make me think there are no other good stf stories. LOVE AMONG THE RUINS by Evelyn Waugh, which has appeared out here recently in book form, was run in the June-July issue of LILLIPUT. This magazine has run some very fine stf and fantasy material over the past year or two, and, like ARGOSY, is worth looking into each time it appears.

IJC.

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REPORT ON THE RIVERINA CONFERENCE

By I. J. Crozier.

Attendees: Loralie Giles, M. McGuiness, G. Stone, B. Finch, N. Solnsteff, L. Crane, Geraldine McKeown, Race Mathews, M. Binns, R. McCubbin, I. J. Crozier, and John O'Shaugnessy a very able host.

Things were taken easy on Saturday morning to recover from the harrowing train journey of the previous night. We met the balance of the Sydney contingent on the 7 AM train, and spent the rest of the morning seeing Albury. Don Lawson was to have attended, but the last seen of him was on Strathfield Station waiting for the Albury Express to stop. It didn't. At the last minute, Rex Meyer and Jack Leggett were forced to cancel plans owing to pressure of business.

The meeting really got under way around 2 PM, at John O'Shaugnessy's home, which he had kindly thrown open for the occasion. Lyell Crane assumed the dubious role of chairman, and called on the first speaker, Bob McCubbin, to deliver his report. Bob spoke of the foundation and growth of the Melbourne group, and his address will be printed in full at a later date. He paid tribute to the help given him by Marsh McLennan and Warwick Hockley. Questions were invited, and Graham Stone remarked that the attendance was excellent, considering the number known to the Group. Race Mathews commented that unfortunately this figure was not a true indication of the attendance, and the main reason for the small figures was the lack of a big attraction to hold the members together.

Next speaker was Race Mathews who reported on the activities of AFPA. It is now 6 months old, and we hope moves into a new plane of existence. The editorial board hopes that in future regular schedules and high standards of both material and production will be maintained. The organization has been through a period of

re-arrangement, and the line-up of mags at present in production numbers three. ETHERLINE, now in its 11th issue, is the oldest, and is an up-to-the-minute newzine, maintaining a high standard of news & comment. BACCHANALIA, the second member, is the only mag in Australia whose policy calls for all fantasy fiction, but unfortunately the unavailability of quality material has prevented this policy being put into full operation. QUESTION MARK, the first issue of which will be out shortly, is intended to mobilise the non-fan group of amateur writers, and much can be expected of this mag. It is intended to put out a poetry zine titled XANADU, but it is not yet finalized.

Graham Stone reported of the Futurian Society of Sydney. It was formed some 15 years ago, but it lapsed during the war years. Revived again after the war, it conducted weekly meetings for some time. The enrolling of new members was pushed forward, and all names passed onto the Sydney Group. After reviving interest in the library, and making it known overseas that fans were active here, it again lapsed due to the lack of interest in organized clubs. When fandom began to expand again, it was once more revived in 1951. It was decided to stir up some interest in stf, mainly by the holding of the 1952 Convention. This was such a success it was resolved to hold them annually. (The 2nd Convention was reported in full in ETHERLINE 5. Ed.) At the present, it appears to be quite healthy, and the next convention should see the start of a boom in stf. The membership is around 27, of which half are recent members. Graham pointed out that the number of fans is greater in proportion than the American group, & it was up to us to try and reach the balance of the readers in Australia.

Brian Finch, a comparative newcomer in fandom, stated that a new post had been created by the FGS, that of Public Relations Officer. Brian was elected to this position, which entailed keeping in touch

with fanzine editors, the press and anyone connected with the publicity side of things. He has taken over the FSS News, and this will appear after each meeting.

Mike McGuinness, on behalf of Don Lawson, told of the formation of the Sydney Imaginative Film Society, which was started to bring all fantasy and sf films to the notice of fans.

Lyell Crane reported on progress to date on the publicity for the next Convention. Lyell stressed to all of us the need for support from the fan clubs & groups, telling of the plans to increase the tempo of publicity within the next few months. He would like to see as many interstate fans as possible in Sydney at Easter.

Lastly, Lyell formally closed the session, and asked for a vote of thanks be given to John O'Shaughnessy, without whose valuable help the Riverina Conference would not have been the success it was.

IJC.

Advt.

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D O O D L I N G S

From Ken Slater.....

AMAZING STORIES digest will drop the two color illos with the Oct/Nov issue, and has gone down to 148 pages on the same issue. The new WEIRD TALES in the now familiar digest format has retained the same cover logo, with 148 pages, priced at 35 c. NEBULA No. 4 now out, with GALAXY BRE also with us. SPACE BRE V/2 No. 1 is out, after being overdue for some time. GALAXY BRE No. 6 is well overdue. Atlas are discontinuing publication of THRILLING WONDER, Summer '53 being the last.

Regal Books, of Manchester, will issue 2/- PE editions of "Fantasy Classics", starting with Sydney Fowler Wright's THE ISLAND OF CAPTAIN SPARROW, and THE SCREAMING LAKE as the first two titles in Sept.

OTHER WORLDS has not folded, contrary to rumor. It has cut Other Worlds from the title, leaving only SCIENCE STORIES, and it will appear bi-monthly. Palmer has taken over UNIVERSE S-F, which will appear alternate months with SCIENCE STORIES.

British Convention for 1954 will be held in Manchester at Whitsun, sponsored by the Nor'West S-F Club. Peter Hamilton, editor of NEBULA, will probably be chairman. Coming from Grayson & Grayson:

BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, 3rd Series.

TWENTY SECOND CENTURY, a collection of John Christopher stories. Dates, prices and pages not yet announced. Bob Tucker's SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER will have two more issues, Nos. 30 & 31, and finally finish. Bob threatened to finish it last year, but kept going after all. This time it's definite. Arthur C. Clarke married on June 15th in New York City Hall to Miss Marilyn Torgeson ----- not yet confirmed by Clarke tho.

fantastically yours....

Kayeffess.

MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP MEETINGS

30/7/53

There were ten present - Bob McCubbin appeared briefly after attending another meeting.

Owing to the small attendance, there was no official business transacted, but covers for the new PERHAPS were sighted and discussed.

Mervyn Binns should be back in circulation next Tuesday, and will join the gang for Albury.

6/8/53

Another very quiet night, only ten fans present. Final arrangements were made for the Riverinacon.

If this should meet the eye of Gordon Walker--den, will he please remember a friend in Melbourne who sorrows for some Galaxy novels?

Does anyone want any magazines bound? Don Latimer has considerable talent in this direction. If you are interested, contact the Group or the Editor of ETHERLINE.

13/8/53

Bob McCubbin was in the chair, Ian Crozier was late in attending, as he met Doug Nicholson's train at Spencer St. Attendance tonight was 14. Eric La Motte flashes through before the chairman arrives, I doubt if he would be recognised by most of our members.

It has been decided that the collection be raised to 2/- per night - the balance on each night to be paid into a bank account for future use.

Bob McCubbin addressed the meeting, detailing the lighter side of the Riverina Convention - the more serious side will be found elsewhere in this issue. This item will ease the minds of IJC and RM.

Race Mathews brought along his chessboard. We thought it fell out of his overcoat pocket in Albury.

ARMAK

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