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THE

SCIENCE FICTION

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 14

1/8/53.

FILMS.....
FANDOM.....
BOOKS.....
MAGAZINES.....
PUBLISHING.....
ALL.....
THE.....
LATEST.....
NEWS.....
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O P E R A T I O N F A N T A S T

WEEKLY Doodlings 035 313
 From Ken Slater.....

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION Novel No. 16 prints for 35c. THE WARRIORS OF DAY, a yarn by James Blish which appeared in TWO COMPLETE SCIENCE ADVENTURE NOVELS under the title of SWORD OF XOTA. TCSAB cost 25c, and the other yarn was approximately the same length. Make your own comment.....

9d Pocket Books now appearing in U.K. From C. Arthur Pearson comes (Sep.) THE HELL FRUIT, by Lawrence F. Rose; (Oct.) COSMIS EXODUS by Conrad G. Holt; (Nov.) DOOMED NATION OF THE SKIES by Steve Riture; (Dec.) THE STAR SEEKERS by F. G. Rayer. 5 " by 7 1/4" approx, 64 pages.

Another house issued late August ADVENTURES ON THE PLANETS by Simon Querry, No. 1 "Fantastic Science Thriller", at 9d. This one definitely stinks. The Pearson offerings may be fairly good.

The W. H. Allen Burroughs pocket book series will publish in London on Oct 30th TAMAR OF PELLUCIDAR and THE ETERNAL LOVERS.

Due now is SPACEWAYS, a 35¢ digest mag from FPCI, 160 pages. If FPCI run this like FANTASY BOOK it should belousy!

Ballentine Books have issued CHILDHOOD'S END by Arthur C. Clarke, 35¢ and \$ 2.00; and Perma Books latest is SHADOW OF TOMORROW, an anthology edited by Frederick Pohl, 17 yarns in 379 pages at 35¢.

SCIENCE FANTASY 7 and NEW WORLDS 22, and NOV-AL 2 are not out yet. These seem to be delayed, but no news as yet.

Another new mag to reach me is ORBIT S-F, a digest size 35¢ 130 pages edited by Jules Saltman.

Fantastically Yours, Kayeffess

BOOK REVIEW

LIMBO '90 by Bernard Wolfe. Secker and Warburg,, London. My copy from Peter Piper, 18/9.

A long novel needing a fairly comprehensive knowledge of semantics, synthetics, prosthetics, diabetics, cybernetics and sexual antics before it can be understood. A surgeon specialising in pre-frontal lobotomies goes underground for 18 years to dodge a computer-controlled war.

When he returns to what is left of civilization, (still USA and USSR) he finds that his satiric outbursts have been taken for the basis of a new Earth religion, the high priests of which are those who have amputated the most limbs (hence the name Limbo).

The missing limbs are replaced by replaceable synthetic, prosthetic members functionally designed. Finally, the surgeon again goes underground taking with him Theo, an early brain operation patient and leader of the vol-amps. Very good writing - verbal gymnastics rather over-done. Worth a second reading.

ARMAK

HAVE YOU READ QUESTION MARK YET ?

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE UNLUCKY ONES,
SECURE YOUR COPY IMMEDIATELY, AS THE
STOCKS WON'T LAST FOREVER. THE NEXT
ISSUE WILL REALLY OPEN YOUR EYES,
SO RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW !!!!!

Sydney: D. Cohen. Melb; McGills.
Brisbane: W. D. Veney.

A FAN IN KOREA.....
or HOW TO GO NUTS IN ONE EASY LESSON

Incorporating the History of "UNITED NATIONS
SCIENCEFICTION TOPERS, IMBECILES and NUTS
OF KOREA" hereinafter called UNSTINK.

Translated from the Martian.

* * * * *

When the first Martian expedition landed on Terra some 5000 years ago, it was discovered that there were probably no more uninhabitable regions on this peculiar planet than the peninsula known to the natives as "The Land of the Morning Calm". It was assumed that as soon as Terrans reached a reasonable degree of civilization, this land mass would be permanently evacuated.

When the recent Martian task-force returned to home base and announced that not only was this part more densely populated than before, but that these peculiar Terrans were even fighting over it, it was found necessary to revise our standard of Human intelligence rating quite considerably.

Korea consists of a series of hills which are separated by muddy paddy-fields and here and there, are dotted ramshackle dwellings made of cardboard, straw and pieces of timber bearing the peculiar legend: Asahi Beer, NAFFI/EPI. Our code-experts are still trying to make sense out of these letters. According to our meteorologists, the weather is either too hot, too cold, too wet or too windy, and the incredible tenacity of these Terrans will bear further investigations.

For the last few weeks, the combustion of the chemical explosives has been severely curtailed, and it is thought that there may possibly be some hope for the Human race after all.

Probably the most heartening sign of progress is the establishment of a Science Fiction group in the southern half of the country. This group, which calls itself UNSTINK, will embrace all SF fans who are serving or did serve with the United Nations. The founder of UNSTINK, Cpl. Harry Brook, is making a nationwide appeal for a copy of AMAZING printed in Korean, as the M.O's houseboy has evinced some interest in an old cover which depicts a blonde female Terran being held at bay by a dashing young Martian with 27 tentacles. It is expected that by the time the next expedition makes its survey in another 4735 years, the Ziff-Davis Corporation will be in full production of KRE (Korean Reprint Editions). Otherwise we fear that Terra must be written off as one of the Galactic failures.

Harry Brook

ADVT.

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All enquiries to : John Gregor, Newhaven St.,
Everton Park, Brisbane, Q'land

QUEENSLAND FANDOM

Impressions from Lyell Crane.....

In a recent visit to the sunshine state from Sydney, I drove up what is laughingly called the Pacific Highway, and returned via the much more satisfactory New England Highway.

The first Queensland stop was just across the border in Coolangatta, where I spent the night with Chas Mustchin and family, and examined his huge collection.

The next three days were spent enjoying the hospitality of the Brisbane fan Group, both by visiting their homes, and attending their Thursday night meeting.

Contact point for the group is FRANK BRYNING, 96 HERSTON Rd., KELVIN GROVE, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND. Frank also writes a number of stories. The library is run by John Gregor, and the Thursday Night Group is run informally in a milk bar in the city.

Attendance at the Thursday Night gathering is around a dozen fans, and the usual magazines and fan topics are tossed, while newcomers are always made welcome.

With such a nucleus of fans to coordinate fan-activity in Brisbane, we can expect much from them in the future as new fans contact the group and avail themselves of the facilities provided.

Lyell Crane.

WHAT IS QUESTION MARK ? READ IT AND FIND
OUT

B O O K L I S T I N G
* * * * * * * * * * *

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Price</u>
Destination Universe	Van Vogt	Stf	13/6
Four Sided Triangle	Temple	Fan	8/3
Men of Other Planets	Heuer	Fan	16/-
Moon Ahead	Greener	Stf	12/-
The Sands of Mars	Clarke	Stf	12/9
Supernatural Omnibus	Summers	Wrd	17/9
Riddle of Flying Saucers	Heard	Factual	16/-
Earth Abides	Stewart	Stf	7/6
Short Stories	Wells	Stf	25/6
Dr. Zils Experiment	Goodchild	Stf	12/-
John Silence	Blackwood	Wrd	9/6
The Empty House	Blackwood	Wrd	9/3
Fearful Pleasures	Coppard	Wrd	19/6
Years Best Stf Novels	Bleiler & Dikty	Stf	12/-
The Devil That Failed	Samuel	Fan	15/6
After Many A Summer	Huxley	Fan	6/3
Man Who Lived Backwards	Ross	Fan	4/6
Collected Ghost Stories	James	Wrd	17/9
Tales of the Uncanny	Blackwood	Wrd	22/6
The Devil Rides Out	Wheatley	Wrd	8/3
Strange Conflict	Wheatley	Wrd	8/3
The Golden Amazon's Triumph	Fearn	Fan	10/9
In The Wet	Shute	Fan	13/6
Love Among The Ruins	Waugh	Fan	7/6
City at World's End	Hamilton	Stf	12/-
Prelude to Space	Clarke	Stf	12/-
Miss Shumway Waves a Wand	Chase	Fan	7/6
The Great Wash	Kersh	Fan	16/-
The Brain	Harrison	Fan	13/3
House That Stood Still	Van Vogt	Stf	12/-
New Tales of Space and Time	Healy	Stf	13/6
Adventures in Tomorrow	Crossen	Stf	13/6
Eyeless in Gaza	Huxley	Fan	14/6

Global Round Up

By I. J. Crozier.

Fantasy at its best is presented in SCHEHARZADE, a collection of stories from 1001 NIGHTS, due to be published on September 20th by Allen and Unwin in London.

C. S. Lewis' VOYAGE TO VENUS was issued last month by Pan Books in a 2/- pocket book. This, by the way, is also available in hard covers under the title of PEREILANDRA.

Out in America on July 20th was AHEAD OF TIME by Henry Kuttner, published by Ballantyne Books in the usual 35¢ and \$ 2.00 editions. A new Gerald Kersh, THE SECRET MASTERS is also available in the States at \$ 2.00, published also by Ballantyne Books. It is probably one of his earlier books issued in the States under another name.

DOOMSDAY by Warwick Scott is published at 25¢ by Lion Books, and is about a super super Hydrogen bomb soon to be exploded in Central Australia. A prophesy?

The book announced in a previous issue coming from Cassell and Co, GREAT STORIES OF SCIENCE FICTION is edited by Murray Leinster, and is not made up of new stories as stated. 320 pages, it is priced at 15-

New books out in the States soon include the following: ISLANDS OF SPACE by J. W. Campbell; THE METAL MAN by J. Williamson; DEEP SPACE by Eric Frank Russell; POSSIBLE ANSWER by Robt. Heinlein; 3000 YEARS by McClary; and TIME CONQUERORS by Lloyd Eshbach, all from Fantasy Press. Polaris Press, a small specialist group are to issue THE ABYSS OF WONDER by Perley Sheehan, a collection of rare fantasy in a limited edition.

Rinehart are to issue THE TRANSCENDANT MAN by Jerry Sohl, and THE TIME CHEATERS by Bob Tucker.

Shasta will publish THE LOVERS & MOTH and RUST by Philip Jose Farmer. A new anthology edited by Mack Reynolds and Frederic Brown is SCIENCE FICTION CARNIVAL, while M. J. Breuer and Jack Williamson combine for THE BIRTH OF A NEW REPUBLIC.

Now for some news from the States. Perhaps the biggest item of interest is that Lester del Rey has been sacked from his position as editor of SPACE and FANTASY FICTION. No announcement on the new editor, nor on the future of the mags.

Manly Banister has just sold a 15000 worder to WEIRD TALES, (you remember his NEKROMANTIKON and the early were-wolf stories in WEIRD TALES).

SCIENCE FICTION PLUS has run into financial difficulties, and it may be discontinued.

DYNAMIC and FUTURE may go pocket size if the Columbia chain's one shot, SCIENCE FICTION STORIES is a seller.

THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS, a Ray Bradbury story, is on top of the heap as a movie success. It is now playing to the drive-in theatres. His IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE in 3D is also a big hit. Newest stf craze, brought on by the TV serials, is candy shaped like ray-guns, rocket ships, BEM's, spacemen, etc.

On the subject of del Rey and SPACE, word has just come through that Harry Harrison, editor of ROCKET STORIES has taken over the position of editor of the SPACE chain of mags.

Sam Merwin has given up his position of editor of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE to take over from Jerry Bixby as asst. editor of the GALAXY group. Dave Cooke has taken over from Merwin.

The BRE of WEIRD TALES is now in the same format as the American edition, the now familiar digest size, selling at 1/6 stg.

I. J. C.

ON THE MAGAZINE FRONT.....

By Mervyn Binns.....

Publishers in all categories are swiftly realising the interest in science fiction, fantasy, and scientific subjects such as rocket travel and astronomy. Many popular magazines such as ARGOSY, SATURDAY EVENING POST, COLLIERS, A.M., periodically print stories and articles of interest to sf fans. The 1/8/53 issue of SATURDAY EVENING POST has a story by Harry Sinclair, "The Incredible Experiment", an original type of story about a man who has been to the moon & back, but nobody except the scientist who sent him there will believe him.

A.M. has published some quite good stories in the past, both science fiction and fantasy, by such authors as Gerald Kersh, Nelson Bond, and Aussie fan Frank Bryning, whose "Alarm Reaction" and "Jettison or Die" are both about space travel in the near future.

ARGOSY, the English magazine has included some definitely top-line sf and fantasy like "More Spinned Against" by John Wyndham and quite a number by Ray Bradbury, "April Witch" and "The Murderer". Bradbury has also material published in COLLIERS, SATURDAY EVENING POST, and ESQUIRE. His "A Piece of Wood" is in the September issue of PAGEANT.

The U.S. magazine COLLIERS must receive the most praise for the articles on space travel, which so far, has resulted in the book, "Across the Space Frontier". The latest article is by Werner von Braun titled "The Baby Space Station", an experimental rocket loaded with monkeys and a television set to study their reactions.

A regular series titled "The World We Live In" is appearing in LIFE magazine. Up to date, 5 chapters have appeared.

M.B.

ADVT.

B O O K B I N D I N G

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BY EXPERTS

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ADVT.

THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

wishes to advise all interested people that
weekly meetings are held in the Oddfellows Hall,
30 Latrobe St., Melbourne, just past the T.A.A.
Freight dept. Starting around 8 PM ., it is
held in the lodge room in the basement, and all
new members are made very welcome. Film shows
are held at frequent intervals, and the Library
is at the service of all fans at a nominal fee,
REMEMBER, THURSDAY NIGHT AT EIGHT !!!

DEFINITELY THE LAST "LAST MAN" STORY

***** *** **** ***** **** *****

A BOOK REVIEW BY K. WHEELAHAN

'The Last Adam' by Ronald Duncan. 93 pp. Dennis Dobson Ltd. London.

It is possible that all of us have now read a "Last Man" story. Usually the last man is placed in his unhappy position as a result of catastrophe arising from the mis-use of science or, by the effect of one of nature's greatest scourges, disease.

Ronald Duncan does not deviate from the norm. His hero (Ronald Duncan) awakens from anaesthesia to find himself on a table in an operating theatre staffed by dead doctors and nurses. Unwilling to accept his position as reality he leaves the theatre, and the hospital, and wanders through the streets naked until the time comes for him to accept the position. After discovering that the Hydrogen bomb was dropped at the time of his operation, he theorises that the bomb destroyed the oxygen content of the lower atmospheric strata. This, he reasons, accounts for the wind coming directly from above and so replenishing the lower oxygen supply. His scientific reasoning, in this respect, is not good..

It occurs to him that he may not be the last man alive and so, after much childish speculation concerning his outright ownership of the treasures & objects d'art remaining in London, he sets out across the continent in search of human companionship. It is in this part that Duncan becomes a little childish (or snobbish), again. He decides that submarine crews could have lived through the catastrophe but then, on making port, would have been so shocked that they, immediately, would proceed to drink themselves to death, in order to escape reality.

They would not, OF COURSE, have the mental stability of Ronald Duncan.

Believe it or not, Duncan's egotism is the only thing which saves this book from collapsing into a tedious recital of the last Adam's adventures. Evidently he identified himself with his hero both in name and character. However, the closing scenes arr-ives.

Adam finds his Eve. This chapter, definitely the best, provides the surprise ending and is sure to have a profound emotional effect on the reader, especially when he reads the LAST line.

Read it, but don't start sticking pins through my wax effigy.

FORERUNNER

The Australian Science Fiction Magazine

Announces a third issue in preparation. Our first and second numbers were accepted overseas as being well up to professional standards, and the material we have on hand is better than anything in our earlier issues. Also, since we no longer are attempting to meet a quarterly dateline, there will be no more serials!

The third FORERUNNER, however, will not appear until early 1954, and its size and nature have not yet been settled. We are inviting interested fans to back a printed issue. If the money to make this possible can not be raised, the magazine will be duplicated.

Correspondence and manuscripts should be addressed to R.D.Nicholson,
24 Warren Road,
Double Bay, N.S.W.

PUBLICITY DRIVE -IN- MELBOURNE

***** ** *****

Thanks to the effort of Kevin Wheelahan and Bob McCubbin, Science Fiction has reached the news in this city. We quote the Melb. SUN NEWS PICTORIAL 15/8/53.

"Incidentally, these science fiction fiction magazines are not nonsense. They are written mostly by professors who know the physics of the business. Which is why science fiction fell off during the war - the authors were busy in the back room making you-know-what to drop on you know-who (whom?).

and again on 16/8/53.

"Sixty men of Melbourne forgather every week to check on the latest on space ships, bug-eyed monsters living on the moon, and whether Martians might attack the earth this year.

They are serious about this.

They read their science fiction magazines, and discuss trends in inter-planetary movement.

Mr E. J. Cubbin formed the group in 1948. Similar groups have been talking star-travel in America for 30 years. "

Even the newspapers can make typos. See the AUSTRALASIAN POST early in October, which will have a big coverage. Melbourne is certainly becoming science fiction concious - a good thing too.

ARMAK.

"W A N T" S E C T I O N
* * * * *

A free service to collectors who read ETHERLINE. Your wants, name and address forwarded to Ian Crozier, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield. Vic., will be published in this section.

If you want to buy, sell or swap, send all the details. If you can help, write DIRECT TO THE ADVERTISER not to ETHERLINE.

* * * * *

Bob McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East Victoria, wants SKYLARK 3 by E. E. Smith, ASTOUNDING Science Fiction BRE editions, dated January, May, June, July 1940, March, 1941. Must be in reasonable condition.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BRING OUT A FANZINE, CHECKLIST OR SIMILAR PUBLICATION. THEN GET IN TOUCH WITH A. F. P. A. FOR A REASONABLE DUPLICATING QUOTE. WE WILL SUPPLY PAPER AND EVEN TYPE THE STENCILS IF NECESSARY. GUARANTEED FULL NUMBER OF COPIES ASKED FOR. KEEP THE FAN MATERIAL WITHIN THE FAN ORGANIZATION. WRITE FOR FULL DETAILS: A.F.P.A, 6 Bramerton Road, Caulfield, S. E. 8., Victoria, Australia

MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

17/9/53.

The big publicity drive is bearing fruit. On the 15th, Kevin Wheelahan, Ian Crozier, Bob McCubbin, Mervyn Binns and Harry Williams spent some of their lunch hour at McGill's Newsagency posing for press photographs.

A special thank-you to Kevin for supplying transport. He may not be absolutely punctual, but boy does he make that 'mobile mixmaster' buzz!

We welcome A. Sallows, 41 Stabell St., Coburg, another fan to join the ever-growing ranks.

There were 11 present tonight. Chess was conspicuous by its absence. Tony Santos is experimenting with illustrations - we are hoping for the best.

- - - - -

24/9/53.

Owing to the absence of the Chairman, Bob McCubbin, Ian Crozier accepted the chair, although very reluctantly.

A new member, Fred Cohen of 342 Beaconsfield Parade St. Kilda, was welcomed.

Apparently the Royal Show wasn't a very big counter attraction, as 12 fans turned up.

We had the yearly gathering of what appeared to be the Old Colonists Home in the main Hall, and they made more noise than all the Square dancers I have ever struck.

Mervyn Binns spent a very busy evening repairing the library, after a few months at the hands of the fans, the mags are not in very good condition.

We expect a reorganization of affairs very shortly.

ARMAK

S Y D N E Y J O T T I N G S

* * * * *

From Brian Finch.

Possibly the news of most general interest at the moment concerns the two Stf magazines put out by Frew Publications, FUTURE and POPULAR. At the last Futurian Society meeting, it was learnt that the future of these two mags was in jeopardy. If the first issue of FUTURE did not sell 10,000 copies after three months, there would be no further issues of either.

This week Sydneysiders learnt that this quota had been reached, and FUTURE 2 is now on sale. This issue appears in quite a presentable cover, and has a good selection of stories, as well as "Fandom's Corner" by Vol Molesworth. If 10,000 copies are sold in three months, the next issue of POPULAR will come out and Australian contributions for it will be welcome.

47 fans took over the Molesworth establishment on the evening of the cocktail party, avidly bent on enjoying themselves. They succeeded. The evening was an unqualified success - financially as well as socially - £15-19-0 was added to the Convention funds.

Talking of the Convention, I feel I might be in a position shortly to announce some details on the Convention site, so listen in next issue, same time, same stationery."

Brian Finch.

F O R E C A S T

* * * * *

Next issue it looks as if you will have to put up with VIEWPOINT, as the overseas correspondents are either asleep, dead or lazy. Apart from this, we will have the usual from Sydney, a book review, the Global Roundup, Mervyn Binns and Race Mathews, who, I'm sorry to say, couldn't make it this issue, and the features.

ADVT.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS FROM MCGILLS

The August BRE of ASTOUNDING (1/3) with the concluding part of "Null A.B.C. by H. Beam Piper and J. J. McGuire, and "Thou Good and faithful" by John Loxmith arrived this week, and is now available.

NEBULA No. 4 (2/10) will be on sale later on this week, and the 5th issue of GALAXY BRE should'nt be very far away.

We still have copies of SPACE BRE No. Vol 2 No. 1 (2/3) & THRILLING WONDER STORIES, Summer Ed. at 1/3, and NEBULA No. 3 at 2/10.

NOVA NOVEL No. 1 is still on sale at 2/-.

Amongst the pocket books we have SPACE ON MY HANDS by Frederic Brown (3/-), THE VENOM SEEKERS by Brian Berry at 2/3, MAN IN DUPLICATE by Vargo Statten at 2/3, ULTRA SPECTRUM by Volsted Gridban at 2/3.

Books include DAVID STARR, SPACE RANGER by Paul French, (10/9); THE GOLDEN AMAZONS TRIUMPHS by John Russell Fearn, (10/9), both in the Master Science Fiction series. The Werner Laurie SPACE ANNUAL at 9/6 is also available, while the IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS by Philip Reynolds (12/-) is still available. SLAN by A. E. Van Vogt (13/3) and the two Hutchinson offerings, SON OF THE STARS by Raymond Jones and the del Rey opus, MAROONED ON MARS are both available at 10/9.

Any back numbers of magazines or books can be secured for you if you write to me care of:

MCGILLS NEWSAGENCY, 183 ELIZABETH ST., MELB.

Mervyn Binns.

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America: \$ 2.00 per 26 issues
\$ 1.00 per 13 issues

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6/- per 13 issues

(To Capt. Ken Slater, Op. Fant.)

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