

FORTNIGHTLY

PRICE 6<sup>d</sup>

# ETHERLINE

THE  
SCIENCE FICTION  
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 21

7 / 1 / 54.

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SPECIAL TO  
READERS OF  
ETHERLINE :

A "TRUE"  
FANZINE ,  
"GHOS-THOW"

SEE IT  
INSIDE

\*\*\*\*\*

REVIEW OF  
SADKO, USSR  
FANTASY FILM

\*\*\*\*\*



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AFPA is a non-profit making organization devoted to the service of the science fiction fan. President, K. Wheelahan Secretary/Treasurer, Mervyn R. Binns. Publisher, I.J. Crozier. Art-Director, Keith McLelland. Chief Reviewer, Tony Santos. Book Reviewer, Bob McCubbin.

ADVT.

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OF CLUB OF  
OF All branches of Science Fiction Pandom are OF  
OF catered for, and a letter to the Australian OF  
OF Agent will bring a prompt reply. OF  
OF DAVID COHEN, OF  
OF Box 4788, GPO, Sydney. NSW. OF  
OF OF

ETHERLINE

## V I E W P O I N T

[illegible]

Well, I hope you are all capable of reading this issue of ETHERLINE. Taking a line through the festivities in one particular place, I would doubt it.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ray Schaffer, Jnr., who is one of the best-known American fanzine columnists. Ray's column will be as regular as the mails allow, and will deal with nothing in particular and everything in general.

I spent a very enjoyable evening at the GROSVENOR THEATRE in Melbourne seeing the delightful Russian fantasy, SADKO. This has to be seen to be believed, as the photography is really something, and the trick sequences are almost impossible to pick. Highly recommended.

The Cover illustration this issue is by Keith McLelland, AFPA's Art Editor, who presents a new twist on an old joke. Interior illustration is by Bryan Roberts, a promising stf artist here in Melbourne.

Over the past twelve months, the publishing of science fiction IN UK has reached a new height, with many good reprints of top American mags and books ... and, unfortunately, some utter rubbish. Still, I think that on the whole, the stf fan has been catered for in an excellent manner, and we can only hope that this year will be even better. The promises of reprints of IF and BEYOND certainly leads one to believe that this will be the case. Only black cloud on the horizon was the strange non-appearance of the NOVA group of mags, with no explanation from the publishers. One hopes that they have not finished, as the cessation of ANY mag will have a long reaching effect on the balance of publishers. The startling rise of AUTHENTIC to one of the top places was very gratifying. Keep it up, AUTHENTIC. IJC

ETHERLINE



# M A G A Z I N E     R E V I E W S

=====

## SCIENCE FICTION PLUS.....Oct., 1953.

Weep your tears of bitterness, my friends , for the Gernsback gem is no longer a slick. With this issue, the mag increases in bulk with the introduction of a heavy paper. But, as editor Moskowitz hastens to inform us, it is a book paper, and that any good printer will tell you (us) that it actually costs more than the coated stock. Hmm. Anyone want to take him up on that ? The reason for the change , avers Mr. Moskowitz, is that the previous stock tended to give an illusion (?) of slenderness to the mag, but the new paper will give it bulk, and , so seem to be more value. Hmm, again. Too bad, though . No half tones, now. (Of course, Mr. Moskowitz assures us that line work techniques are better adapted to stf illustrating than half tone.....Nertz.)

Paul has a really magnificent eye-catching cover this issue, illustrating Menzel's article, "Our Atomic Sun" , and, boy, that sun sure looks atomic !

Lead novelette is "The Celestial Brake" by Thomas Calvert (Rebirth) McLary. This one would have done well in a 31 AMAZING, but.....so help me, I just can't comparing it to the old time Gernsback mag!... in this day and age, it's real hoary. The gimmick is a field of energy, without any weight, size, density or such approaching Earth, and causing it to slow on it's axis. I needn't tell you what that means. Tidal waves and such have a real time before our Hero saves the day, but not the Earth, so to speak. The characterization is creaky, and so is the writing. Pleasant reading, though.

Philip Jose Farmer has another biological short novel, "Strange Compulsion" and it is first rate stf. Some magnificent Finlay illos highlight it,

ETHERLINE

but don't reproduce too good on the new paper. Two of them are actually spoiled by being buried under print washes of green and red. What price "color" illos? Stick to the line stuff Sam, so that readers can SEE the illos.

Roger Dee's short, "Worlds Within Worlds" has another hoary plot, but handled competently. Eric Frank Russell has a whimsical short "Postscript" that carries a "message" , but as usual, one that will be ignored. Jack Williamson offers the "typical" gadget yarn - "Operation Gravity" , but does so competently. In a thumbnail sketch, we are informed that Jack's "The Humanoids" is being made into a movie. Good luck Jack, if handled well, it should be worth seeing, as the book was worth reading.

A short-short by Anne McCaffery will turn a few stomachs, or a few eyeballs, as the case may be.

Leo J. Harding.

ADVT - - - - -

YES, IT'S ON AT EASTER !!!!!

AUSTRALIAN FANDOM'S BIGGEST SHOW !!!!!!!!!!!!!

THE THIRD AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

TO BE HELD AT :

FEDERATION HALL,

PHILLIP STREET,

SYDNEY

ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,

APRIL 17th AND 18th APRIL, 1954

BE IN IT AND HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIVES

ETHERLINE

# MOVIE REVIEW

=====

SADKO a Sovexportfilm in Sovacolor, starring S. Stolyarov as Sadko, and A. Lareonova as Lyubova. Directed by A. Pkuskilo. Music by Rimsky-Korsakov.

This exquisite film is based on a musical fantasy by Rimsky-Korsakov. Broadly, the story is as follows:

Sadko, an adventurer, lands at his home town of Novgorod, and, after seeing the unhappiness on the faces of his kinsmen, decides to sail off to seek the bird of happiness. The catch is that he has no ships so he approaches the merchants, who rebuff him. He wanders down to the bank of the river, where he meets the daughter of the Tsar of the Ocean. Here the first amazing scene comes, when the girl rises out of the sea. I defy anyone to pick the trick.

Next day, Sadko tells the merchants that he will catch a gold finned fish. They bet him their stock that he will not, but with the help of the girl he catches the fishes, and promptly gives all the poor people clothes. Through the night he realizes that he is no closer to the ships required than before, but the princess comes to his aid once more, filling the small boat he has with gold.

Leaving Lyubova, his sweetheart, he sails off into the unknown, in search of the Bird of Happiness. First landfall is the land of the Vikings, an unhappy looking crew, who promptly attack Sadko and his men.

After thrashing the Vikings, he journeys on to the hotter regions of the middle east, where he hears about the Phoenix, in the possession of the local Prince. He wins the bird in a game of chess, & goes to take it back with him. In the creature's den he discovers it has the body of an eagle and the head of a beautiful woman, who tries to put them to sleep.

He overcomes her, and attempts to leave the palace. But the prince tries to stop them, but the Phoenix puts them all to sleep.

On the way back, a terrific storm comes up, and as the Tsar of the Ocean requires a human sacrifice, Sadko leaps overboard. He is transported to the throne of the Tsar, where he meets the Princess, who promises to help him escape. He does so, and returns to his Lyubova, just as the remnants of his fleet is coming in, downhearted.

On being asked where the Bird of Happiness is, he informs the populace that happiness is found in the hearts of men, and not as a solid artifact that one can see.

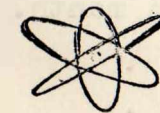
That, then, is the story. Now on to the presentation. I have never seen colouring like Sovacolor. Where Technicolor is garish, Cinecolor is washy, this is the most natural I've ever seen. The photography is absolutely terrific, and gives full scope to the beautiful coloring. In a couple of scenes of the storm, it doesn't need Cinemascope or 3D to give you the feeling of being tossed around like a cork.

The trick sequences are faultless. I defy anyone to pick the dubbing. The English subtitles are unnecessary, in my opinion. They are superfluous to the viewing, as one can follow the story quite easily without them.

I urge everyone to grab some money and race off to the nearest theatre screening this film, and I'm sure it won't be the last time you'll see it.

You know Don, it would be a great thing if it could be obtained for the Con.....

Once again, don't miss it. It's GREAT.



IJC



## EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

On the next 8 pages, we have a very amusing item on the typical fanzine, reprinted with the kind permission of the publishers of RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we did. To quote from the preamble in RHODO :

For some time we of the Rhodomagnetic Digest have smarted under the accusation that not only is the Digest not a "fanzine" but that we wouldn't know how to put out a fanzine if we tried. To stop all this nonsense, we are publishing here a real honest-to-goodness fanzine, our personal candidate for the FAPA and SAPS annual award.

And so say all of us.

\*\*\*\*\*

A faux-pas committed by my humble self was my remark last issue anent the apparent demise of S.F. REVIEW. Since then, I have received the 9th issue. I apologise, Rex.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next issue should see the return to normality, as the news will start coming in. In addition, the first column by Ray Schaffer Jnr. will appear.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our felicitations to Race Mathews, who left on Tuesday, 5th January, for a period in the Army National Service. Don't worry Race, it won't be long. The next issue of BACCHANALIA will come out early next month under the AFPA imprint. Your turn next, Dick.

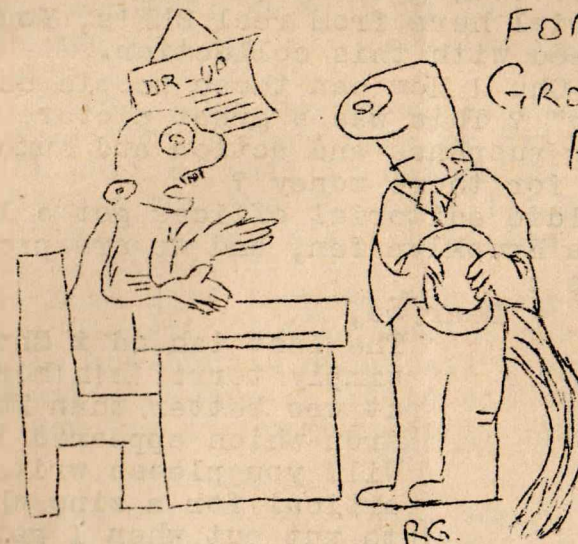
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The new, redesigned QUESTION MARK will be out about the middle of the month.

IJC

# Ghosh-Whow!!!

THE ZINE  
FOR  
GROWN-UP  
FEN!



Wichy Goodklay

AND JUST WHAT  
MAKES YOU THINK  
YOU'RE A WEREWOLF?

In this ish!!

elmer zilch  
miriam slimmer  
Crisson marshes



This is Ghosh-Whow, the zine for grown-up fen, published and edited by me, the editor, on the DAFIA (Dashing-Away-From-It-All) Press at 2524 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, California.

HoorayfortheN3FHoorayfortheN3FHoorayfortheN3FHoorayfo

### Editorial

Well, here it is time to put out another ish of G-W, and I've (Pardon me, I'm composing this directly on to the stencils and I've run out of correcting fluid!!!!!!!!!!!!) got a great mag here. Boy!!!! We have some material here from real BNF's, You're old ed is sure pleased with this collection.

Great Ghu ! How can these people complain about "The Thing" ? This was a great picture !!!!! It had everything suspense and action and humour. What do they want for their money ?

The oldde editorial offices got a letter the other day from a Brooklyn fan, and we are proud to run it right here :

Dear Ed,

The last ish of Ghosh-Whow was simply terrific!h!h!h!h Ghu knows it was better than Mhikro Mikhrotron which appeared 14 years ago!h! Will you please write a 500 page article for a zine which I am going to put out when I get through college. I am now in grammar school.

Phantastically yours

Amy Camus,

Brooklyn.

Boy!!!! All that egoboo and for little old me ! And I certainly will start to work on that 500 page article. Amy. You can expect to get it about the middle of next week. Second, thoughts, better wait till the week after. I've got to do an article for Gregg Paulkins first.

Well, I guess you fen aren't reading this to read just what your old ed has to say!! Oh no. So, here we go !!! Our own special review of the fanzines we got in the old offices.

Heffalump : noted.

Ich!h!h!h!h: Not bad for a new-comer ! Keep the good work up. Your cover good, but could use some work and improvement. Ask Crotchler to do some for you !!!!

HeavenWarp: Awww Art, you say the nicest things about me!!!! Now, you ~~xxx~~ know the Warpzines have always been my favourites. Glad to hear about the good news! Rom Comics: Myrt G. Bus is another newcomer, but I like her stuff! That department, "A Rose By Any Other Name" is sure ~~well~~!!!!!! Sure glad to hear about the good news !!!!!!

Incline: Sure ~~well~~!!!! I like Walt's stuff, I sure do! 'Course Walt, wouldn't know 'bout lil ole me - he's a real BNF - and Incline is a subzine, and a foreign one, but I sure like it !!!!!

Puzzlement: I sure like ~~thisxxx~~ lil ole peepul, Dee. And I roared at "Don't Carp Once or Twice" But what if if they don't want to call it Chicon II ? That's their business, they're running the con !!!!! But I guess I do agree with you, after all!!!!!! And we fen will call it what we like!!!!!!!!

MHU: Noted. Sure glad to hear the good news!!!!!!

Rhodomagnetic Digest: Lot of magazine--- 60 pages-- for the \$0.25 but that's about all I can see. I guess their articles are a little bit too "highbrow" for me. But you try it, maybe you'll like it!!!!

---oooo0oooo-

Well, that sure does it!!!! If I've skipped anybody, send a letter of complaint to me. Let me know, huh ?

And remember, send me some material!!! I won't be able to put out a good mag, as good as it has been unless you fen support me. So, C'mon, get that stuff to me.

See yah next month!!!!!!

Ye Oldde Editor!!!!

Attend Chicon II Attend Chicon II Attend Chicon II Attend

Do You Believe In Humans ?

LOVECRAFT

by  
Elmer Zilch.

FANTASY

OR

FICTION

I  
first met Lovecraft in 1921, when I was not yet born.  
He was waiting on my mother, which can be very try-  
ing as best shown by this quote:

"Ere the dark bowl of Walpugis  
Night  
Fell on the horroe.....  
Ia! Ia! Ia!

Tall  
and sparse, his beetle brows crossed in an effort of  
reaction. And somehow I knew things would go from  
better to Miskatonic U. (in '92) This can be shown  
by the quote from the "Lurker On The Threshold".

"Slathful Yddgrisil, horror and  
stench arose from the black filth which  
squatted on the doorstep. The air was  
heavy with a black, filthy, horrible  
stench, and I recoiled in horror!!!!"

I  
(and my mother) left the corner grocery knowing that  
as long as this country was in the hands of such  
philosophers as Homer P. Lovecraft, we were internally  
secure!!!!!!

GAAAH!!!

YE ED'S MAILBOX

Dear Ed,

You are wrong in your article "I Love  
Stan Kenton" in saying that the 1892 Ford was  
the first automobile. Most authorities agree that  
the first, a four wheel vehicle powered by an  
internal combustion engine was built in Austria  
by Seigfried Marcus in 1875.

Sincerely Yours,  
Denner W. Mildew.

oooo0000oooo  
Whew!!!! If you say so, Denner!!!!  
Ye Ed.

oooo0000oooo

Dear Ed,

Note: Your article, 'I Love Stan Kenton'  
human beings, like all higher animals, multiply  
by the union of the two sexes; but marriage must  
be given the hallmark of social approval by being  
concluded in a public and solemn manner receiving  
as a sacrament, the blessings of religion.

Sincerely Yours,  
Myrt G. Bus.

oooo0000oooo  
Boy2!!!! What a neat idea!!!!!!  
Ye Ed

oooo0000oooo

Dear Ed,

I enjoyed your article "I Love Stan  
Kenton" very much, but you are nuts, my dear  
friend. E. E. Smith is a pseudonym for Thorne  
Smith; however, Sam Moskowitz does not exist

Yours sincerely,  
EEE

oooo0000oooo  
Whew!!!! If you say so, EEE !!!!!!!  
Ye Ed

oooo0000oooo



oooo0000oooo

Dear Ed.

You made a mistake in your article, "I Love Stan Kenton". You are wrong in saying that the use of teak as structural timber in Mosques is recent.

Among the ruins of the old city of Vijayanagar, on the banks of the Tungabhadra in Southern India, and in the old cave temples if Salsetto in Western India, and in Persia, and other places too numerous to mention, pieces of teak have been found in good preservation ranging in age from 500-2000 years.

Sincerely yours,  
Pester & Fester  
Embers.

oooo0000oooo

Whew!!! If you say so, Embers!!!!

Ye Ed

oooo0000oooo

Dear Ed,

I sure got a bang out of your "I Love Stan Kenton", but I guess most of it was too deep for me. How about writing a short article for my zine, Amazing?

Sincerely Yours,  
HB.

oooo0000oooo

Boy, what a neat idea!!!!!!

Ye Ed.

oooo0000oooo

Dear Ed,

Wouldn't it have been better in your article, "I Love Stan Kenton" to have stated the first electromagnetic equation as

$$\frac{e a E}{c} + \frac{4 \pi \sigma}{c} E = \text{curl } H$$

Sincerely yours,  
Max Messler.

oooo0000oooo

oooo0000oooo

You sure have a swell idea there, Miriam!!!!  
Let's sure get on the ball and start it rolling.  
I sent a copy of this letter to Marshes and here is his answer. I sure think you have a swell idea there, Miriam!!!!

oooo0000oooo

Miriam Z. Stimmer.

Now honestly, ED I maybe I'm being picky about this, but frankly it stinks. It doesn't rhyme, the meter keeps changing, there is no sense to it, and WORST of all, it doesn't scan. Poetry should be sensible and readable, and really, I know you agree with me and I think we should start a campaign against INCOMPREHENSIBLE POETRY IN FAN ZINES.

is CONFOUNDED!

My psyche gyrates, genuflects,

A jug of Baal's mad lotion,  
A bottle fly's emotion,

MARNOON!

Gauntlets of grimiest ersatz

DEAD!

Cacophony serene

The man-things exploded, erupted, screamed  
Dying thousands; the black crystals  
Moths: praying ebony, enveloped the moon--  
Things furred, antennae straining.....

A pantheon of motion,  
A marathon of notion,  
The cosmos whirls, dies, is REBORN!

GREEN!

Legs of mankind's horror

UPI

Soaring hindward

REFLECTIONS ON SCIENTIFIC MATERIALISM

Ullie ran this poem in her zine, maybe you remember it. Anyway, here it is again.

Dear Ed,

ANOTHER FEUD BEGINS ? ? ?



Your criticism, Miriam, is unwarranted and out-  
moded. A poem should appeal not to the intellect  
but to the senses, and its manner of appeal, if  
successful, is of no import. A given poem which  
might seem highly significant to me might be mea-  
ningless to you. I feel that, in the poem which  
you cite, the author has thrillingly conveyed  
the majesty, wonder, and great sense of achieve-  
ment which finally dawns with the sex fulfill-  
ment of marriage. Can you ask more of a poem?  
Crimson Marshes.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Sample Copy \_\_\_\_\_ Subscription copy \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
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Vic, Australia

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The FAN'S Convention !!!!!

ADVT

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That's right. I've just secured a sturdy  
standard model, and have a Remington Portable  
as new condition and just completely over-  
hauled, for disposal. On the off chance  
that some fan may be wanting a typewriter  
for some purpose, and would like to secure  
an excellent job at the reasonable cost of  
£30. If desired, a small deposit and small  
monthly payments from then on. If anyone is  
interested, then contact me by letter to  
arrange an appointment.

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This offer expires 10 days after the appearance  
of this ad.

ADVT

WHAT AM I OFFERED FOR AN EARLY (UNDATED)  
COPY OF H. G. WELL'S "THE SLEEPER AWAKES" ?

Good condition, no dust jacket.  
Published by Collins, London. The introduction  
is written in 1920, which is about as far as  
any date goes. Send your offer to:

M. G. Pettingill,  
Box 276, Millicent Road,  
Mount Gambier. S.A.

## POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

.....

I FIGHT FOR MARS. (Grey) Space pilot released from gaol, is contacted by underground association of Martian colonists. Finds that he is running arms being used to overthrow the military government of the colony, which is also menaced by synthetic crustaceans, made by a vegetable 'brain'. You can guess the rest. READABLE. The original cover of this is in the possession of the Melbourne Group, having been sent out by Milestone Publications.

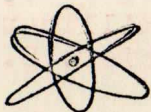
DAWN OF THE HALF GODS (La Salle) Venus Ship No. 2, loaded to the gills with fissionables, returns to find Earth controlled by mutant children. Hero solves problem by sending Homo Sap to Venus, while he destroys Homo Sup, by allowing V.S.No. 2's cargo to attain critical mass. Poor old Earth! Once again, Homo Sup does not display much intelligence. - FAIR.

CHAOS IN ARCTURAS (Zeigfried) Spaceship lost in a cosmic storm crashes on a planet of Arcturas. Human race dominated by foxes, is led in revolt by Earth-men. I would suggest that Karl Zeigfried is a house name, and that this yarn was written by a member of the first form at St. Trinians, who is afraid of dialogue. A poor effort.

Bob McCubbin

Owing to the Melbourne Science Fiction Group being in recess until January 7th, there is no report in this issue of ETHERLINE.

However, all features will recommence next issue, with a full coverage of all Group meetings, we hope!



The Editor.

ADVT

## SCIENCE FICTION NEWS FROM MCGILLS

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Don't miss THE DEMOLISHED MAN by Alfred Bester, 12/-, from GALAXY, and selected as the best science fiction novel for 1953 at the last World Convention. BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, 3rd Edition, edited by Bleiler & Dikty, is the best yet, and is selling rapidly at 12/-. Other new books include THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN by Ray Bradbury at 13/3, EXPLORATIONS IN SCIENCE by Waldemar Kaemffert at 17/6, and further supplies of FOUNDATION by Isaac Asimov, and INVADERS OF EARTH edited by Groff Conklin, both at 13/3. THE WORLD AT BAY by Paul Capon is another new arrival at 12/-.

All the current Spencer pocket books are available, including FUTURISTIC 13, WORLDS OF FANTASY 11, WONDERS OF THE SPACEWAYS 8, TALES OF TOMORROW 9, stories in CHAOS IN ARCTURAS, DAWN OF THE HALF-GODS & THE URANIUM SEEKERS, all at 2/3. Other pocket books at 2/3 include I FIGHT FOR MARS by Charles Grey, THE PLANETOID PERIL, THE MYSTERY PLANET, THE CURSE OF PLANET CUZ, and THEY FOUND ATLANTIS by Dennis Wheatley at 3/-.

New magazines include GALAXY 8, ASTOUNDING November, both at 2/3. A few copies of AMAZING and FANTASTIC 23 are available at 2/- each. Don't miss the latest AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER MAGAZINE, November, 2/-, QUESTION MARK 4 at 1/-, and PERHAPS 3 at 1/6.

We still have copies of BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, edited by Bleiler & Dikty, priced at 12/-, THE PUPPET MASTERS by Robert Heinlein, 12/-, ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE edited by R. J. Healy & J. McComas priced at 13/6, SPACEWAYS by Charles Eric Maine, 13/3.

Yours,  
McGILLS.



Advt

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

AMERICAN MAGAZINES IN ANY CONDITION !  
 SEND LIST STATING PRICE AND CONDITION !!!  
 OR SEND YOUR MAGAZINES TO ME FOR A  
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POSTAGE PAID BOTH WAYS

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 Swift Street,  
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BOOK  
 REVIEW

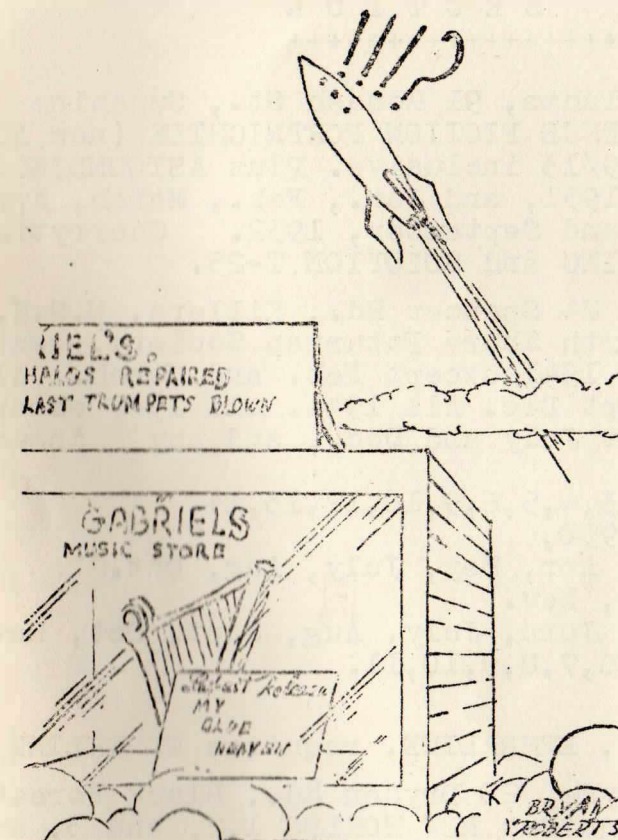
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THE CRUCIBLE OF  
 POWER. Edited by  
 Martin Greenburg.

Contains three so-  
 called novels as  
 follows:

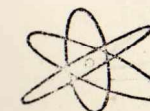
The Crucible Of  
 Power by Jack Will-  
 iamson. Earth vs.  
 Mars- a struggle  
 for a power source.  
 Merciless magnate  
 takes Martian pow-  
 er, then atones by  
 saving both plan-  
 ets from an epid-  
 emic - only FAIR.

But Without Horns  
 by Norvell W. Page  
 Three FBI types in  
 a fight with a su-  
 erman who takes  
 over a city by mind  
 control. They



track him to his lair and - an unusual ending. A  
 good story.

Crisis in Utopia by Norman L. Knight. Mad scientist  
 (again!) tries to use test-tube Tritons to conquer  
 the world. He can make earthquakes, too, he thinks.  
 Some people may like it. On the whole, a fair coll-  
 ection, but not the best I have ever read.



Bob McCubbin

## WANT SECTION

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Kevin Wheelahan, 91 Monash St., Sunshine, Victoria. wants SCIENCE FICTION FORTNIGHTLY (now AUTHENTIC) nos. 1/5, 9/13 inclusive. Plus ASTOUNDING BRE, all 1950, all 1951, and Jan., Feb., March, Apr, June, July, August and September, 1952. Cherrytree editions of: THE THING and SOLUTION T-25.

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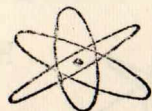
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