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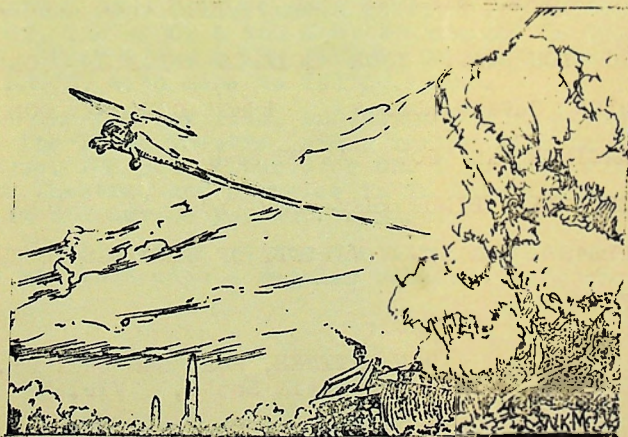
THE LATEST IN
SCIENCE FICTION

32

ISSUE NUMBER THIRTY TWO

HEADLINES:

REVIEW OF 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T. -- NEW FILMS
BOOK NEWS -- BOOK REVIEWS -- OVERSEAS NEWS
MAGAZINE REVIEWS --- ADELAIDE NEWS --ARE.F&SF



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VIEWPOINT

Once more we are a week out of schedule, and this will continue for the next two or three issues, owing to pressure of other interests.

AFPA has lost the services of Kevin Heelan, editor of QUESTION MARK, for the reasons quoted above. Kevin, as you probably know, is doing an Arts course at the University, and finds that he cannot devote as much time to affairs of fandom. As a result, QUESTION MARK will be on a quarterly schedule until a new arrangement is made.

AFPA has purchased BACCHANALIA from Race Matthews, and this one will be coming out in about three months time, and thereafter on a yearly basis.

Arrivals in Melbourne this period include the following magazines: AMAZING 4, F&SF 9, SPACEWAYS 1, FANTASTIC 4, NEBULA 8, SCIENCE FANTASY 8, AUTHENTIC 45, NEW WORLDS 24. Books include THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH, FLYING SAUCERS FROM OUTER SPACE, BEACHHEADS OF SPACE, ANIMAL FARM (Illustrated edition), ASTOUNDING ANTHOLOGY, THE ROBOT & THE MAN, NIGHTMARES OF EMINENT PERSONS, LUCKY STARR & THE PIRATES OF THE ASTEROIDS, SEETEE SHOCK, with more to follow later.

The fantasy film, DECAMERON NIGHTS is at present at the Plaza Theatre, and a review will be in the next issue. THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T is next into the Majestic Theatre, and a review is in this issue. This is a film I'd advise you NOT to miss.

That's about it for the time, with the hope that we get back onto a regular schedule very shortly.

IJC

Global Round Up

It has been reliably reported that an Australian edition of FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION will be out very shortly. A contract has been signed, but the Australian publishers are as yet unknown. Congress ?..

Books out in UK are as follows:

FURY by Henry Kuttner from Dennis Dobson on 27/5.
 DRAGON'S ISLAND by Williamson from Museum on 9/6.
 GREEN AND RED PLANET by Strughold from Sidgewick and Jackson on 14/6

SELF ANALYSIS IN DIANETICS by Hubbard from Philosophical Press in May at 12/6 stg.

Cheap edition of THE BRAZEN BULLS by Kersh, from Heinemann on May 7th at 6/- stg..

Cheap edition of DR. ZILS EXPERIMENTS by Goodchild from Ward Loch on 18/5 at 6/- stg.

Books out in the States include:

HUMAN ? edited by Judith Merrill, an original collection of stories from Lion Books at 25 c.

LOST CONTINENTS by L. Sprague de Camp from Gnome, at \$ 5.00.

COSMIC MANHUNT by de Camp and RING AROUND THE SUN by Simak, from Ace Double Books in June at 35 c.

BEYOND HUMAN KEN edited by Judith Merrill, from Pennant Books at 35 c in June.

BRAIN WAVE by Poul Anderson, in paper at 35 c and hard covers at \$ 2.50 from Ballantine.

DARK DOMINION by David Duncan, from Ballantine, in paper at 35 c and hard covers at \$ 2.50 in May.

EYELESS IN GAZA by Aldous Huxley, from Bantam, at 50 c, in June.

OUTSIDERS - CHILDREN OF WONDER (formerly CHILDREN OF WONDER) by William Tenn from Permabooks at 35c, in June.

OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS by William Tenn, an origi-

nal book, from Ballantines at 35c, no hard covers.

BEYOND INFINITY by Robert Spencer Carr, from Dell, at 25 c, in June.

A new series of pocket books, launched by Atlantic Book Co., London, has appeared at 1/6 stg.; the first offering being INVASION FROM SPACE by M. Bradford.

A persistent rumor current at the present is doing the rounds, namely that a new Aussie promag is expected shortly from the Herald group. Enquiries are being made.

Now, a couple of corrections. In issue 28, it was reported that ORBIT S-F and SPACEWAYS had folded in the States. Apparently this was incorrect, as the June copies of both have been sighted. Possibly the best news of all is that F&SF is now OK, and will be with us for a long time to come.

VARGO STATTEN 4 is out, in format similar to to NEBULA, from Scion Distributors Ltd. Stories are by Statten, Gridban, Tubb, Anthony Armstrong, J. Barrington Bayley. Proposal to form a VS SF Fan Club, good editorial, several interesting Articles.

Third volume in Future History series, REVOLT IN 2000 by Robert Heinlein, is out from Shasta. From Heinlein's own introduction one learns that some of the yarns labelled "tales to be told" will now never be told, including THE STONE PILLOWS, SOUND OF HIS WINGS, which deal with the rise of Nehemiah Scudder, and the founding of the Prophet Incarnate dynasty.

News from Ken Slater and Ben Stark.

IJC

Cover by McLelland

Interiors by Jenssen and
McLelland.

STCIBRIANE

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

SPACEWAYS STORIES OF THE FUTURE BRE Vol 1, No. 1.

The best thing about SPACEWAYS is Mel Hunter's cover, which is reasonably good. The interior illustrations match the paper, and the paper matches the stories. All poor quality.

Arthur J. Burks starts a serial in three parts, THE OSILANS about sinister albinos coming from the ocean bed. It could improve, and it needs to.

SLAVES OF THE SYSTEM a fair invasion story - in reverse. Clyde Beck's RE-EMPIRANT is a trap about a time-trap. SPACEWAYS TO VENUS by Charles Eric Maine was apparently written with a second thought. It could be worse - if it were written by someone else. But it should be much better. FREDERICK by Atlantis Hallam is fair. THE GLAD SEASON by Gene Hunter is reasonable. There may be excuses for printing poor stories by young hopefuls, but there can be none for dredging the slush piles for THE REVOLT OF THE SCARLET LUNES by Coblentz.

Summing up, 31 fairly good pages, 36 fair, and 61 of sheer crud. Save your money..

Tony Santos

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GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION BRE 13.

Cover by Emsh. Like too many of the recent Galaxy covers, this is competent, adequate - and that is all. WATCH YOUR SHAPE by Robert Sheckley is an amusing slice of nothing substantial. Michael Shaara's THE BOOK shows how a lack of stars and constant meteoric bombardment can influence a planet's religion and science. UNBEGOTTEN CHILD by Winston Marks gives a new but equally unconvincing explanation of a virgin birth. Asimov's CAVES OF STEEL progresses well, but is not equal to his best writing.

Major complaints dept. Then will the publishers find good printers ? Apart from the usual multitude of spelling errors and misprints, there are three glaring errors in the makeup of the magazine. See pages 51, 65 and 67.

Tony Santos

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ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION BRE May 1954

A fair only reproduction of Van Dongen's cover illo for HIDE, HIDE WITCH ! In the US edition, this cover was terrific. The story, by Clifton and Apostolides is as good as is Kelly Edward's COUNTER-SPY. Both show the perils of this scientific era.

ILL WIND by Lee Correy is a fair only 'entrepreneur flies rocket' story. Tom Godwin's MOTHER OF INVENTION has the usual stock characters who, when in a tight spot, ponder for a moment and invent an anti-gravity device. Don't fail to read Asimov's article, THE MICROPSYCHIATRIC APPLICATIONS OF THIOTIMOLENE, a chemical which dissolves in water 1.2 seconds prior to the addition of same.

Tony Santos

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THRILLING WONDER STORIES BRE 103

Cover by Jack Coggins - not his best I fear!

SECOND LANDING by Murray Leinster, explorers land on a world where life was wiped out by interplanetary warfare 8,000 years ago - and becomes embroiled with humans ! DAUGHTER (Philip Jose Farmer). Mother drives out her daughters - one survives! Shades of Three Little Pigs ! THE DREAMERS (Lu Kella, whoever he, she or it may be!) Misfit on the Moon takes a dream tour of whistle-worthy wenchies - and goes back to his own so-so sort. MOON DUST (Oliver Saari). An easy way to place your name on the roll of Fame -- moon dust and bull ditto ! Not a bad issue, really.

Bob McCubbin

BOOK REVIEWS

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION ANTHOLOGY, edited by John W. Campbell, Jr., from Grayson & Grayson, London.

This is a selection of seven stories from the American edition which contains 22, but would cost you 42/6. The stories are taken from ASTOUNDINGS at least 5 years old - some up to 10 years back.

I would rate five of them as A, the other two just fail to make that grade. The A stories are BLOWUPS HAPPEN (Heinlein), HOB YIST (Russell), FIRST CONTACT (Leinster), THUNDER AND ROSES (Sturgeon), and INVARIANT (Pierce). The other two are THE WITCHES OF KARRES (Schmitz) and CHILD'S PLAY (Tenn). To the new reader in the field, I would class this one as a "must"

McGills, 12/-.

Bob McCubbin

=====

FUTURE TENSE, edited by by Kendall Foster Crossen, at 12/-, from McGills.

This collection of seven does not rate quite so highly as the ASTOUNDING anthology. These come from STARTLING, NEW WORLDS etc., and are all well known names. I would rate them in the following order: PLAGIARIST (Phillips), DREAM'S END (Kuttner), BEAN-STALK (Blish), THE AMBASSADORS (Boucher), INCUBATOR, (McDonald), THINGS OF DISTINCTION (Crossen), and the last THROWBACK (De Ford). If you disagree, I will not cavil! Your reviewer does not buy anthologies these days, but again, I can recommend this one to the new fan.

Bob McCubbin

=====

BEACHHEADS OF SPACE edited by August Derleth, published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London.

As usual, there is a wide range of plot and

writing, some stories being mediocre. I feel that anthologists must be coming frustrated - some anthologised stories are practically still on the bookstalls in their original magazines. Here is a list of contents - I'll leave it to you to do the assessing. Again we have the mystic seven - are British publishers bound to restrict their publications to this number? (No, a little thing called copyright. Ed.) Five recent stories first - BEACHHEAD (Simak), THE YEARS DRAW NIGH, (del Rey), METAMORPHOSIS (Russell), BREEDS THERE A MAN - (Asimov), and AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN (Syndham). If you have been reading for 20 years, you may remember Wandrei's BLINDING SHADOWS and Clark Ashton Smith's METAMORPHOSIS OF EARTH with nostalgia. The younger fans will find them boring or amusing --

McGills at 12/-

Bob McCubbin.

=====

GATEWAY TO TOMORROW edited by John Carnell, published by Museum Press at 12/- . Copy from McGills

Ten stories in this one, a change from the usual seven. All British in authorship, and most fairly recent. DUMB MARTIAN and THE DROP by Christopher, OF THOSE WHO CAME (Longden), HIDE AND SEEK (Clarke), EMERGENCY WORKING (James), LOST MEMORY (Phillips), LIFE CYCLE (Hawkins), BLISS OF SOLITUDE (McIntosh), HOME IS THE HERO (Tubb), and FINISHING TOUCH (Chandler).

~This is money's worth for the new fan.

Bob McCubbin.

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FURY by Henry Kuttner, published by Dennis Dobson.

Do you remember CLASH BY NIGHT, written under the pen-name of Lawrence O'Donnell? This continues the story of the undersea Keeps, their immortal leaders and the struggle and intrigue that was designed to force the colonists of Venus to move to the open air again. A good, swift moving story, recommended to those who like red-blooded yarns.

Bob McCubbin

ETHEL LINE

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FILM NEWS

THIS ISLAND EARTH by Raymond F. Jones is in production at Universal-International studios, starring Jeff Morrow, Faith Domergue, Bart Roberts, Lance Fuller and Russell Johnson, directed by Joe Newman & produced by William Alland. It is a wide screen process.

A new British fil, UNKNOWN WORLD, has commenced its run in UK, starring Bruce Kellogg, Otto Waldis, Jim Bannon and Marilyn Nash, produced by Rabin & Block and directed by T. O. Morse, from an original screenplay by Millard Kaufman.

CAT WOMEN OF THE MOON went into general release in the States in April 4th, with four of the Hollywood Cover Girls in the film making p.a's in connection with the opening dates. Sonny Tufts, who co-starred, will appear on stage and TV to assist in the opening. The co-producers, who are distributing the film in 3-D, wide screen and flat, are planning MISS RUBIN HOOD, another s-f film, to start shortly.

Leon Stone.

POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

EXILES IN TIME. (Jon J. Deegan). Another in the Corridors Of Time series. This time, our hero burrows down behind the Time Doors, and gets jerked into an era reminiscent of King Arthur and Merlin. Again, he gets back to his own time triumphantly Fair. 2/3.

=====

TWILIGHT OR REASON (Jonathan Burke) This one reeks of THE PUPPET MASTERS, but F. C. Rayer would like the ending. A crystalline virus becomes a malignant, intelligent rider when it settles on a human being. The virus wants to bring its "Controller" from the stars.

Stalemate at the end of this one - it could be the first of a series. It's worth reading. McGills2/3..

Bob McCubbin

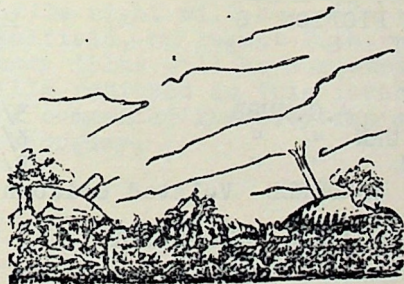
FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

The second film evening organized by the Futurian Society of Canberra was held on 18th June, when 23 persons attended a screening of documentary films of varied interest.

The most popular film was the "Story Of Palomar". This film, which is in color, is held by the United States Information Service, and has been withdrawn from circulation, owing to wear and tear. It was made available to the Society by special request. If you can get a loan of it, do so -- it's really worth seeing for the astronomical shots alone. Also screened were "The History of the Helicopter", a Shell film, and the Canadian experimental film by Norman MacLaren, strongly recommended by ETHERLINE, after seeing it at the Convention. We agree with the opinion of ETHERLINE. "Stars and Stripes", another of the same type, was also screened.

Next film evening will be at Arthur Porter's mansion, when "Metropolis" will be screened.

Geoff. Bennett.



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THE ROBOT AND THE MAN Martin Greenberg	12/-
GATEWAY TO TOMORROW John Carnell	12/-
KEMLO & THE ZONES OF SILENCE E. C. Elliot	6/6
KEMLO & THE CRAZY PLANET E. C. Elliot	6/6
THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON H. G. Wells	7/6

MAGAZINES

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION May	2/3
AMAZING STORIES BRE 3 & 4	2/6
AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 45	2/-
BEYOND FANTASY FICTION BRE 1, 2 & 3	2/3
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION BRE 3, 7, 8 & 9	2/6
FANTASTIC BRE 1, 2, 3, & 4	2/6
GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION 13	2/3
IF BRE 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7	2/3
NEW WORLDS 22, 23 & 24	2/6
NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION 8	2/10
SCIENCE FANTASY 8	2/5

POCKET BOOKS

HELL PLANET F.C. TUBB	3/6
CITY OF NO RETURN " "	3/6
STEELAR LEGION " "	3/6
I CAME-I SAW-I WONDERED Volsted Gridban	2/3

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MELBOURNE GROUP REPORT

24/6/54.

Bob McCubbin in the chair, fourteen present. It was decided to hold the chess evening at the home of the chairman on July 10th. The auction was very quiet - most items fetching the reserve only.

Grant Warden finds that his job is interfering with his fanactivities - you've heard the answer to that one Grant !

ARMAK

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1/7/54.

As usual, Bob McCubbin in the chair, twelve present. Numbers seemed to be affected by the miserable weather and the incidence of influenza.

The auction was successful, though the bidding was not really brisk. Eleven more parcels have been landed through the Customs - no trouble as usual.

ARMAK

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8/7/54.

Sixteen present, chair vacant owing to Bob McCubbin's absence.

The most successful auction yet was conducted with over twenty magazines bringing over £5.

The chess match will be held next Saturday, night of course, at the chairman's home.

Next film night will be at Crozier's, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield, on August 20th, when a selection of astronomy films will be screened.

The film reviewed in this issue, THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T commenced its city run at the Majestic Theatre last Thursday.

ARMAK

ETHERLINE

Melbourne Science Fiction Library

Over the past twelve months, the Melbourne Science Fiction Library has steadily grown, but it now suffering from growing pains owing to lack of space. To obviate this, most of the BRE and pocket books will be moved to 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston. A catalogue will be produced as soon as possible, and inserted in the then current issue of ETHERLINE. All members will be able to obtain items not at the club-rooms from the catalogue. The postal members will also be able to choose exactly what they want.

Information about joining can be obtained from the Librarian, Mervyn Binns, 4 Myrtle Gr. Preston.

A raffle with the proceeds going to the library is being held, with LANDS BEYOND by I. Soragude Camp and Willy Ley as the prize. Tickets may be obtained from the Librarian.

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Random Notes

Two more books have been announced by T. V. Boardman & Co. Ltd., London, for early publication. Titles: THE CAVES OF STEEL by Isaac Asimov and CON-AN THE CONQUEROR by Robert E. Howard. Prices etc., as soon as they come to hand.

A new fantasy announced by MacMillans for publication in August is LOST ISLAND by Graham McInnes, priced at 12/6 stg.

The dates for the 4th Australian Convention have been announced as 18th and 19th March, 1955. I feel that they will not get much support from interstate fans with dates like these. Should be a holiday weekend.

IJC

Adelaide Group News

Or May 19th, the constitution of the Futurian Society of Canberra was adopted slightly modified to suit local conditions. The following officers were elected:

President: Ron Gum.
 V.-Pres. : J. Johnson.
 Secretary: J. Joyce.
 Librarian: J. Joyce.
 Treasurer: J. Joyce.
 Financial
 Officer: M. Downes.
 Asst Librarians:
 D. Walsh.
 O. D. Denton.

23/5/54. Chairman: Ron Gum. 11 members present. Some discussion was made on the subject of the proposed celebration on August 1st. It was decided that the no alcohol rule would be lifted for this occasion.

The library will have been opened 12 months on the following day. All members are cordially invited to be present. A work party was formed for Wednesday, May 26th. A vote of thanks was tendered to a number of members for donations to the library, and to Ray Nash for printing a number of small advertisement slips. The attention of members was drawn to an article in the SUNDAY MAIL.

6/6/54. Chairman: Ron Gum. 11 members present, and 6 guests also attended. After opening the meeting, and welcoming the guests, a motion of sympathy was made. The Secretary reported the death of Mr. L Ellard of Glenelg, who was killed in an accident on May 26th. Sympathy was expressed to his parents, and a condolence card sent. Mr. J. Zeigler received a motion of sympathy for the unfortunate death of his father. The following were thanked for their donations to the Library: H. Nicholson, Mr. Headon, J. Zeigler, D. Walsh, P. Cornelius. J. Joyce.

FILM REVIEW

THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T.. A Stanley Kramer film, starring Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy. Technicolor.

When, thanks to Columbia Films very generous offer to view THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR. T, I went to the New Windsor Theatre along with two other members of the Melbourne Group, I was prepared for anything, be it good or bad. I find only one word can describe the film - SUPERB! Except for STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN, it is the BEST film I have ever seen. The Technicolor is excellent, the choreography unbeatable, the orchestration magnificent, the sets breathtaking, and the presentation wonderful.

It pokes fun at a/. The Desert Song, b/. Rhapsody in Blue, c/. Hamlet's "Alas, Poor Yorick" speech, d/. Ballet scene from "American In Paris", etc., etc.

The detail in the background is painstaking, clever, very funny, and, at times, reminiscent of Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge comics. (\$ signs on the safe, Do, re, me... on Dr. T's books, etc.)

The plot is simple: Boy hates music teacher, likes plumber, who, presumably loves boy's widowed mother. Boy dreams up a fantastic world where Dr. Merwhilliker is the villain, "Loathsome and nauseating", who forces 500 boys (5000 fingers) to play on huge piano. Boy has many wonderful and scary adventures before he wakes up. Space does not permit me to list any of the wonderful scenes, but it is, I feel, a film which one must see many times before the full impact of the satire is fully felt. I only hope Columbia will present more such films.

Don't miss this film. See it at least twice or, as I intend to do, once a week during its season. It's well worth it.

Dick Jenssen.

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