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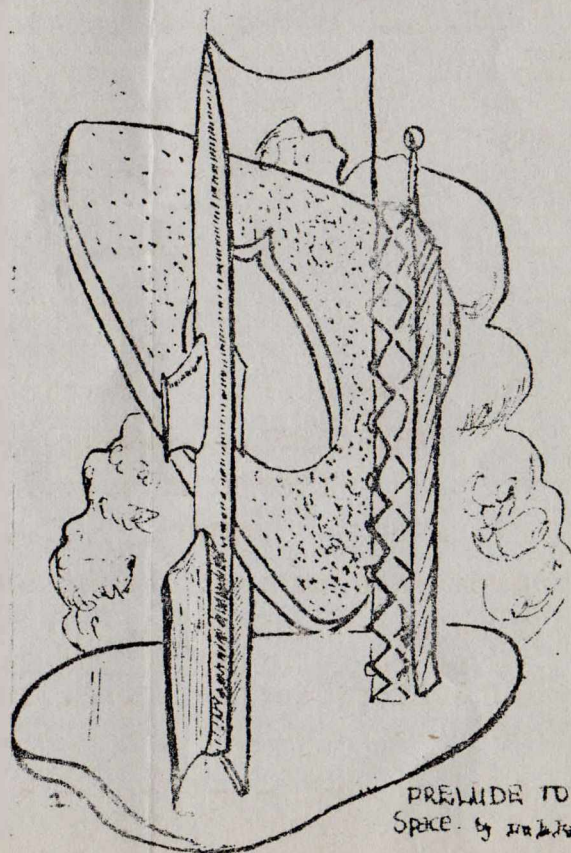
I S S U E N O.
T H I R T Y
T H R E E
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HEADLINE

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HIT MELB.....
WANT SECTION...
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FANZINE REVIEWS
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* * * * *

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FILM NEWS

Another new American film recently completed is THE ROCKET MAN, produced by Leonard Goldstein, directed by Oscar Rudolph from a story by G. W. George & G. F. Slevin. Released by 20th Century Fox for the panoramic screen, it stars Charles Coburn, Spring Byington, George "Foghorn" Winslow, Anne Francis and John Agar. As is indicated by the cast, it is a family film. Story is briefly: Space opera fan Winslow, lined up at orphanage for gifts from TV producer, and when gifts run out, mysterious space man gives hero futuristic space gun with magic powers, which he uses to stop political boss from running over child. From here on in, it's warm, unpretentious comedy with a strong touch of fantasy.

In an article in the current issue of SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST, George Pal, the producer of WAR OF THE WORLDS, DESTINATION MOON, THE NAKED JUNGLE and the forthcoming CONQUEST OF SPACE points out that the future of science fiction on film is unlimited because it deals with the world of tomorrow, with tomorrow sometimes becoming today before the picture is released.

The present trend in science fiction film production will continue to the extent that eventually science fiction will take the place of westerns as the "old reliables" at the boxoffice.

Pal anticipates the same budget distinctions in the science fiction field that now mark the difference between what are called "oaters" and the big, outdoor sagas in the western category. "In this case it will be the "space operas" replacing the quickie oaters," he said, "with distinguished science fiction writers turning out the screenplays for the truly fine, big scale science fiction epics."

Leon Stone.

FANZINES

FEMIZINE No. 1. First issue - experimental by English and Scottish femme fans. 20 pages, mimeoed, mainly of light fiction, poems, etc. Quite good for a first issue - and that is not male condescension. It is intended to be quarterly. 9d. sterling per issue, or 2/6 per annum. Subscriptions to: Frances Evans, School House Teignmouth St., Collyhurst, M/c 9, England. Mss to E.. Lindsay, 126 West Regent St., Glasgow, Scotland. Fan letters etc. to Sgt. J. W. Carr (WRAC), PAPC Sgt's Mess, Maida Camp, M.E.L.F. 17. U.K.

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STARLANES. April 1954. A fan anthology edited by Orma McCormick, 1558 W. Hazelhurst St., Ferndale 20, Michigan, U.S.A. \$ 1.50 p.a. or 40 c per copy. As a school teacher, I cannot class much of the material as poetry, and about the same amount as science fiction. "Star Child" (Wanita Morris) succeeds, but in the rest the descent to doggerel is swift.

Bob McCubbin

POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

THE DARK GATEWAY (Jonathan Burke). A gateway to another dimension is found in the Welsh mountains. In a conflict between Black adepts and White adepts (wizards to you). White wins in three moves. Fair. Tech Book.

=====

CITY OF NO RETURN. A scion by E. C. Tubb. Adventurers enter a forbidden Martian city, and find it to be a space ship holding a gateway to Heaven - remember the "City Of Singing Flame"? Fair. McGills, 2/3

HELL PLANET (E. C. Tubb) Companion volume to CITY OF NO RETURN - it even has the same cover! Wonder if the artist was paid twice! A story of sentient force forms on Mercury. Quite readable. McGills 2/3

=====

I CAME - I SAW - I WONDERED (Volsted Gridban) A martian lands on Earth - examines our habits, finds he cannot return to Mars and marries an Earthwoman.

Only fair McGills 2/3

=====

THE STELLAR LEGION (E. C. Tubb) Out of work Admiral tries to build a Galactic dictatorship around army built from criminals on a penal planet. Good until extra-galactic invaders are dragged in to help out the plot.

McGills 2/3

=====

TIME DRUG (Miles Casson) Another saga of surgery somewhat like FROZEN LIMIT. New anaesthetic sends the patients off this mundane sphere into a timeless dimension. Might interest those morbidly curious about operating theatres, but definitely NOT the SF fans.

McGills 2/3

=====

Bob McCubbin

In Melbourne Town.

There was a flood of magazines in Melbourne in the last week. NEW WORLDS 24, GALAXY 14 & 15 together, IF 8, PLANET 10, STARTLING 18, FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION 9, SCIENCE FANTASY 8, Australian FUTURE 4 and the latest Malian Press item.

The new TITBITS LIBRARY story, MISSION TO THE STARS by Philip Kent was a new arrival, as was AUTHENTIC 45. All are available at McGills.

Not many new books arrived. I noticed FURY by Henry Kuttner at 12/-, a reprint of THE BURNING COUNTRY Contd Page 8

BOOK REVIEWS

ONE by David Karp. Published by Victor Gollancz, priced at 15/6 at McGills

Reading this, one is struck by the similarity of the plot to that of George Orwell's 1984. Once again, the Welfare State endeavours to press an individual into the accepted mould, using hypnotic and psychiatric techniques to eradicate the original character, and to substitute a completely conforming identity. In 1984 they succeed, but Karp shows, even in the execution of his hero, that individual freedom of opinion is greater than State dictatorship.

The writing style is fluent and easy to read. Unlike Orwell, Karp practically ignores the sexual angle. This is a polished piece of propaganda against Socialism, and though not likely to appeal to the adolescent blood drinkers, is a well worth reading piece of adult writing.

Bob McCubbin

=====

UNBORN TOMORROW by Gilbert Frankau, published by McDonalds, copy from McGills at 15/6

This too is an excursion into the future, but diametrically opposed in atmosphere to Karp's ONE.

The hero, tossed by his horse in the hunting field, is catapulted among his descendants in the far future. Owing to the use of a Beam which detonates all explosives, culture is back to the days of swords, bows, knee breeches, ruffles, love sonnets and duels. The Church in Rome is the only Government, everyone is so painfully honest, there are no taxes and no police.

Pedarasts, Lesbians and Narcissists are segregated, and are the only persons interested in art of any kind. Our hero falls in love with his 'cousin', 20 centuries removed, and finally comes back to his own time per medium of a sword thrust from her other suitor. The last chapters are concerned with his re-orientation to the present era. I enjoyed it, the so-

ETHERLINE

ciological angles being deftly hidden by seductive curves. Recommended

Bob McCubbin

=====

SEETEE SHOCK by Will Stewart, published by World's Work, at McGills at 9/6

Briefly, an altruistic engineer is trying to harness the power of the complete annihilation of contra - terrene matter. Various pressure groups, -- political and interplanetary - try to get the invention to themselves, and the action soon speeds up from a very slow beginning. Quite a good job as it is but unfortunately, I have read SEETEE SHIP, and this is merely a sequel, dressed up to resemble a completely new novel. If you haven't read either part before, I think that you will enjoy SEETEE SHOCK.

Bob McCubbin

=====

HOLE IN HEAVEN by F. Dubrez Fawcett.

A British Science Fiction Library book from Sidgwick & Jackson. 244 pages. Three men trapped in a chemical factory fire - three souls struggling to get into the one body which is still alive, though practically burnt to a cinder - another entity comes through a 'hole in heaven' - and takes over the carcase. From then on, the entity develops into a superman, who has marvellous mental and bodily powers, and develops the usual world ruler complex. After disposing of some imagined enemies, he is filled with lead by the police, and the intruding ego cannot cope with the added load, changes back to the burned condition and dies. The writing is competent, and the characters are live and believable in the main. The action speeds up as it nears the climax. The book is good, but would not appeal to the lover of fast action. My copy from McGill's at 12/-.

Bob McCubbin

ETHERLINE

BRISBANE NEWS

MEETING OF THURSDAY, 1st July, 1954.

Nine fans braved a sudden rain storm to attend the monthly meeting of the BSFG. Present were Iris Girvan, Jill Giles, Betty Tafe, Frank Bryning, George Tafe, Sid Patterson, John Adams, John Gregor and Bill Veney.

ETHERLINE 30 & 31 and PERHAPS 3 were distributed by John Gregor. Librarian Betty Tafe covered a table near the front of the room with her books and proceeded to extract finance with bland impartiality. Frank Bryning distributed advance publicity on the 4th (1955) Convention and keen interest was expressed. Bill Veney reported meetings with Chas Mustchin (Coolangatta), Max Francis (Gympie) and a new fan, J. Hogan (Goondiwindi).

Discussions ranged over many subjects starting with the science fiction professional magazines, Australian fandom - with particular regard to Sydney - , politics flying saucers, and finally ended on Dianetics. Before the meeting broke up, members were reminded of the August meeting which would fall during the Queensland Show week and as country fans were expected to be in attendance, it was hoped that there would be a good attendance of local members.

WARREGO

From Page 5.

RT by John Dickson Carr, a fine historical fantasy and a reprint of Ayn Rand's ANTHEM, a horrifying vision of the future.

I have it on good authority that RIDERS TO THE STARS will commence here very shortly. I hope they don't put it into one of the Bourke St. houses.

Next issue of ETHERLINE will see the review section cut down, and a story or article in each issue. In addition, book reviews will be featured in QUESTION M.

TRADING SECTION

L. Stone, 28 Elgin St., Gordon, NSW wants copies of Walt Willis' SLANT, No. 1/6. Will swap two American prozines for each copy. These are wanted for the library of Australian Library Amateur Journalism.

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J. Eyre, 50 Wilcox St., Preston, Vic. wants ASTOUNDING BRE anything before December 1950, except February. 1950.

=====

Bob McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East, Vic. wants US ASTOUNDING Dec 1948; Aug, Sep, Oct 1945; BRE ASTOUNDING March 1941; US GALAXY March 1953; GALAXY NOVELS 13, 15, 16, 19; BRE IF 5; BRE PLANET 5; BRE STARTLING 7, 8, 9.

=====

V. Morton, 24 Lucerne St., Ashburton, Vic. wants the LEGION OF SPACE in Galaxy Novels (No. 2); BRE TWS, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; US FANTASTIC Vol 4, No. 1.

=====

M. R. Binns, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston, Vic. wants the Cherrytree edition of SINISTER BARRIER; SCIENCE FICTION PIUS 5; Panther editions of THE WORLD BELOW and THE DWELLERS by S. Fowler Wright.

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The Melbourne Science Fiction Library, c/o M. R. Binns wants BRE SUPER SCIENCE 1 & 9; Malian Press editions of ADVENTURE IN TIME, MOONWALK and DEAD KNOWLEDGE; TYPEWRITER IN THE SKY in Cherrytree Edition and OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET by C. S. Lewis.

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John Gregor, Newhaven St., Everton Park, Brisbane, Q. wants copies of THRILLS, and will trade the latest American pocket books in excellent condition.

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MELBOURNE CHATTER

15/7/54. Bob McCubbin in the chair - quite recovered! 9 present. Owing to a heavy fog, the evening at Bob's place on the 10th was poorly attended, only 5 fans being in attendance. They had a very sociable evening.

Next party is a film showing at Crozier's, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield on August 20th at 8 PM.

There was a successful auction of American mags.

=====

22/7/54. Bob McCubbin in the chair, 10 paying members present. There was discussion on Graham Stones report that there will be no Convention in Sydney in 1955. Has the North Shore seceded, or been sunk without a trace? We Melbourne fans have had no intimation that the NSFS have found their commitments too heavy. Graham, I hope this is not a sabotage attempt!

Attempts are being made to obtain details of an alleged proposal to start a promag here, but to date, there is no confirmation.

There was some good chess, McLelland, Santos, Tyrell and Latimer being concerned in some fine games.

Dr. Neil Merrilees will be going to Seattle, U.S.A. next year - I believe to examine electron microscopes for the Melbourne University.

There was no auction, although much material available. The reason was the lack of funds amongst the fans present.

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29/7/54.

The usual fellow in the chair - only nine in attendance. The weather seems to be to blame.

There was a certain amount of trading - no auction - and the inevitable chess!

ARMAK

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New Worlds 24	2/6	Startling 18		1/3
Thrilling Wonder 103	1/3	Vargo Statten 4		2/3

POCKET BOOKS;

Mission to the Stars Phillip Kent	(Tit Bits)	1/3
Never Trust a Martian P. J. Farman	(M.P.)	9
I Spy; A Time Appointed, and I Came I Saw		
I Wondered Vargo Statten		2/3 ea
Hell Planet & City of No Return E.C. Tubbs		3/- ea
The Lonely Astronomer Volsted Gridban		2/3

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C U

IN

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MAGAZINE REVIEWS

NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION. Vol 2. No. 4

The cover by McIntyre could have been good, but NEBULA is having a competition -- write a story around the cover ! So a Bem is shown chomping mouthfuls from a space ship. Eric Frank Russell's FLY AWAY PETER has a fair plot, but like most of Russell's work for British magazines, seems to be a first draft without corrections or revisions. EPISODE by E. C. Tubb is a well - written yarn. What happens when your radiation shield breaks down 15 days before planet-fall ? Lots of unpleasant things. WEATHER STATION by Sydney J. Bounds is a good humoured man vs. robot space opera story. Kenneth Potter's WIND ALONG THE WASTE is a breath of Bradbury, but quite well done. BLAZE OF GLORY by E. R. James is interesting , but unconvincing. A fair issue.

Tony Santos

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SCIENCE FANTASY 8.

Interesting cover by Quinn. Wilson Tacker's amusing guest editorial points out some common errors in s-f plots. Some of the mistakes can be found in this issue.

TOMORROW by E. C. Tubb gives a gruesome picture of future society. A new writer, Margaret Lowe tells of exotic Venusian flora, mainly carnivorous and of dragons which are harmless unless they step on your foot while begging for chocolate in THE SHIMMERING TREE. SPACE PRIZE by F. G. Rayer is another amusing episode in the battle between Jock MacTavish and the scoundrelly Captain Kennedy. Johnathan F. Burke's ONCE UPON A TIME is not a very good alternative future story. P. W. Cutler's excellent TAKE A LETTER shows that even Civil servants have their uses. Not

to be missed. DAWN OF PEACE ETERNAL by John Ashcroft is only fair. Ian Wright's THE CONQUERERS has another rabbit-out-of-hat hero. Earth is almost defeated. Our hero is opposed by 15 million aliens. Presto -triumphant. In all a good issue.

Tony Santos

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AMAZING STORIES 4.

Art:- Cover and interior illo's fair. Port-folio by Ralph Castenir, LEONARDO IN WAR AND PEACE is unfortunately so much better in the American issue.

DEATH OF A SPACEMAN by Walter M. Miller Jnr., is very well done. THE DOUBLE SPY by Dan T. Moore is a most amusing trifle. Robert Arthur's RING ONCE FOR DEATH was not even a good fantasy and as such should not have been placed in AMAZING. Bixby's THE DRAW is only fair, but -- were psychologists known in the time of Billy the Kid. OPERATION LORELIE by William P Salton is a well written but repulsive item. Fred Brown's KEEP OUT is rather poor. SORRY WRONG DIMENSION by R. Rocklynne. Baby has a pet monster and the man wants to see the license for it. John Pollard's CALL HIM SAVAGE is poor. Give the U.S. back to the redskins, but what if the Indians refuse the offer? THE CUCKOO CLOCK by Wesley Barefoot. Ever heard of Little Wittle? APPOINTMENT AT NOON by Eric Frank Russell. There are some appointments which must be kept.

Tony Santos

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IF WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION 7.

The cover undoubtedly pleased the artist, but that joy was not mine. CHECKMATE by Walter Miller Jnr shows that security and McCarthyism has the U.S. so has-ridden that the Soviet Union almost becomes a democracy. Rory Magill's THE LAST GENTLEMAN - God administers the coup-de-grace to a long suffering humanity. YE OF LITTLE FAITH by Rog Phillips. This universe is most improbable. Rather a weary SUCCESS STORY by

ETHERLINE

Robert Turner. Doesn't anyone like the human race? No one seems to hold out much hope for us. Alfred Coppel's THE PEACEMAKER. I had suffered before. It is no better on second reading. THE STATUE by Mari Wolf. A poor man's Ray Bradbury. Lynn Venable's hero in TIME ENOUGH AT LAST can ignore the destruction of his wife, friends and possibly the rest of mankind. But something more horrible awaits him. THE ANGLERS OF ARE by Roger Dee. You may decide against use of live bait after reading this.

Tony Santos

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FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION BRE June 1954.

THE SHORT HAPPY LIFE OF THE BROWN OXFORD is an amusing story by Philip K. Dick concerning an animated shoe which becomes lonely and animates a female shoe. Poul Anderson presents a very real problem. Humanity has ever expected a 3-D technicolor miracle to herald the unusual. Stubborn disbelief meets two visitors to Earth until they resort to the fantastic physical appearance expected of planet beings, titled WHEN HALF GODS GO. A story of simple faith by W. Norbert, THE MIRACLE OF THE BROOM CLOSET creates a miracle.

A cautionary tale by Mack Reynolds, ATTITUDES shows how 'quick-thinkin' & law-abiding' gets a sheriff his man even if he finds it necessary to travel through time. It is always amusing to see a bully deflated. THE LIBERATOR in this story by Arthur Porges shows how this is done by a worthy opponent, to a supposedly infallible conqueror. Most entertaining. Adam of CALL ME ADAM by Winston Marks is an educated amoeba which assumes - amongst others - a human shape. Quite interesting. ARRANGEMENT IN GREEN by Doris Gilbert harks back to gaining the whole world and losing one's soul. Naturally, the hero, an unrecognised but talented artist who makes an arrangement with a female deputy from below, realises that 'he's just no good'. Curtain.

ETHERLINE

In spite of his great sensitivity, **THE HURKLE IS A HAPPY BEAST**. He causes considerable discomfort. None the less he is quite adorable. Theodore Sturgeon dreamed him. Mr. Burdy is a most precise little man who stumbles into a time rift and is transported into the future. He returns by special permission, but has no desire to remain. **THE FRESH START** by Roger Dee is quite charming.

If you don't object to irritating children, you may enjoy **PLAYGROUND** by William Morrison. It tells of space travel and giants on another planet. **NINE FINGER JACK** is a most enjoyable story written by Anthony Boucher, giving clues on how to dispose of Venusians. The only thing in the comparable US edition is the cover, and this is not a good reproduction.

Marjorie Santos

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FANTASTIC 4.

A warning ! Don't look for the portfolio. It isn't ! **THE LETTER** by Doris E. Kaye is a story about John Jones whose suspicions are aroused re his wife's fidelity after receiving an anonymous letter. Many and varied are the results of his distrust. Robert Bloch tells a rather confusing tale of Mr. Steinway, a piano whose owner loves him. The piano eventually murders him.

A family of were-wolves migrate to America in order to turn over a new leaf. The young son and his new-found friend nearly ruin the plans by staying out after moon-rise. **THE YOUNG ONE** by Jerome Bixby.

William Gresham sets out to prove that one can step into a different century in his story, **ONE FOOT IN YESTERDAY**.

THE FURY BEWARE. Beware the fury. Theodore Sturgeon does not shine at space opera. **THE MOON AND NONSENSE** is just that. An amusing trifle **ANYTHING TO DECLARE** concerns little green men who strike customs trouble when they land their flying saucer on Eire.

Marjorie Santos

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 45.

A gentle hint might be given Davis that since Triton's atmosphere would be perpetually frozen, it is highly unlikely that it would show prominent red streaks.

SOME OTHER TIME by Kenneth Bulmer. Science can adapt people to life on Mars - but not cure T.B. **DEATH DEFERRED** by E.C. Tubb. Radio-activity outside - a corpse in the shelter and no preservatives. Very nasty situation. **THIRD HAND** by George Paul Mann. Another head or four hands can be so useful to adapt - able types. **DIMENSIONAL DESTINY** by Graham Winslow. Ugh !

Both **ETHERLINE** and **QUESTION MARK** are given a favourable mention in the Fanzine section. **SCIENCE FICTION NEWS** is also mentioned.

There seems to be a lack of balance between fiction and non-fiction. 105 pages of fiction to 47 pages of articles, reviews and advertising. Seven articles to four stories. Do articles come cheaper, maybe ?

Tony Santos

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NEW WORLDS 24. Cover by Quinn - rather a mess I'm afraid. Contents :- **THE CONSPIRITORS** (White) rather reminiscent of Chandler's **GIANT KILLER**, in that the animals on a spaceship become mutated and take over a life-rocket, but this one does not end in immolation. **IDEALIST** by del Rey is reprinted from **Star Space Stories** - last man on a space station decides Earth is not fit to live in. **ALL GLORY FORGOTTEN** (Bulmer) .. Pallas IV at war with Earth - gallant old spaceman is doomed by disease and becomes a hero on both worlds.

ESCAPE ROUTE (John Christopher) . The bright brains who planned to leave a ruined Earth are compelled to remain and help in rehabilitation of the stricken planet. **JERRY BUILT** (Dan Morgan). Android test pilot finds out that he is a guinea pig, tries to escape with the rocket and finds out something

else about himself. FIRE (Burgess Browne). "H" Bomb test causes chain reaction - Earth wiped out. TAKE-OFF (Kornbluth). Final instalment of a 3 part serial about a Fan club being used as cover for a Government spaceship project - I'm glad it's finished. On the whole, a better than average issue.

Bob McCubbin

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FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION 4.

Graham Stone takes the inside covers with an article on technology and science fiction during the last twenty years - quite a good essay.

CURTAIN CALL (Len J. Moffatt). Song & dance man kills alien entities by going into his song and dance act - ye gods, what a stinker!

THIS WORLD MUST DIE (H. B. Fyfe). Author's name is spelled 'Fife' in this mag. Four killers in a pacifist world are sent out to destroy a plague infected spaceship and its crew.

THE DRY SPELL (Chas. E. Fritch). Author builds machine to write s-f. Hack work palls & machine goes on strike.

MARTIAN GESTURE (A.M. Phillips). Martian scientists arrive on Earth in the last stages of the final atomic war. A fair issue. McGills 1/6

Bob McCubbin.

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LATE ARRIVALS.

A pocket book edition of NEWBURY IN ORM, the slightly juvenile flying Saucer thriller by Islwyn Williams is available at 2/3. The latest in the flying saucer flood, FLYING SAUCERS FROM OUTER SPACE by Donald Keyhoe, priced at 13/3; LANDS BEYOND by Willy Ley and L. Sprague de Camp at 34/9; THE ROBOT & THE MAN edited by Martin Greenberg at 12/-; are all new arrivals in Melbourne.

Also available is MEANJIN with the articles on science fiction. A full report next issue

VIEWPOINT

An interesting document arrived in the mail last night from Sydney. Titled THE STONE REPORT: NO SYDNEY CONVENTION IN 1955.

Now this fascinates me. As far as I can remember, it was moved and carried 22 to 14 votes that the North Shore Futurian Society was to be responsible for the organization of the 1955 Convention. Of course, I may be mistaken in this assumption, so I checked with the other Melbourne fans who were present, and, strangely enough, they had the same feeling. According to this document, it was felt that too much time was being taken up in the Organization of Conventions, and the Futurian Society of Sydney would like to devote a year or so to the benefit of said Society. If my memory serves me correct, it was stated by a member of the Convention committee that the organization of the 1954 Con took up no time of the FSS, it being on the shoulders of Mr. Judd. Of course, again I might be wrong.....

The theme throughout this document seems to be against conventions. Why, it doesn't state.....

Then further on, it's all for Conventions, as long as they are not in Sydney. We interstate fans are flattered by the charming remarks made about us, but I'm sure we will all agree that at the moment, Sydney is the only centre in Australia with the numbers and active fans enough to run a Convention. Of course, if they DON'T want to sociable about it, then we'll leave them to their eternal bickering. It seems to me that the oldest centre of fandom is suffering from senile decay.

In the last paragraph of this extremely interesting document, it was intimated that Melbourne did not want a Convention in 1955. This couldn't be further from the facts. Don't bring us into your quarrels. We like it peaceful.

