

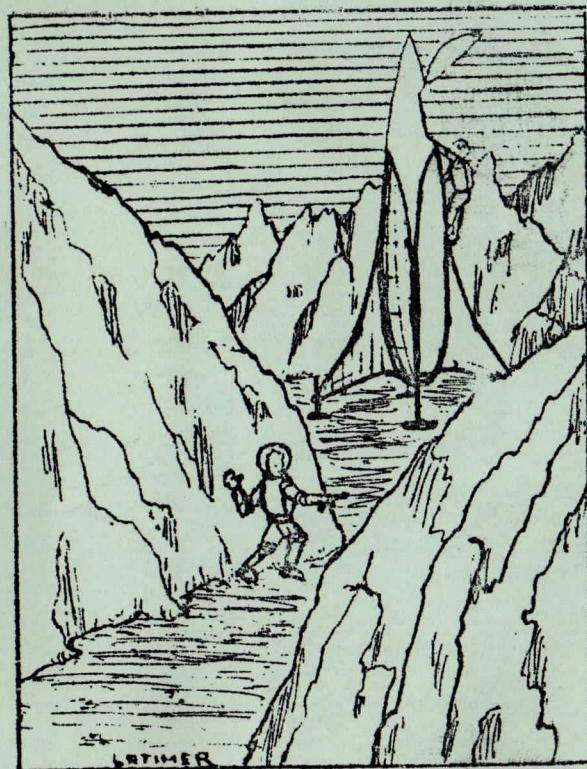
# *Etherline.*

## *Science Fiction Journal.*

FEATURING...

ARTICLE  
By  
KEITH  
DUNSTAN  
...

THE  
MURKY  
YON  
...  
FORREST  
J  
ACKERMAN  
...



Published by AFPA for Melbourne Science Fiction Group.

ISSUE No. 57

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C U IN FIFTY SIX

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## FANS ARE SAYING "I TOLD YOU SO"

By Keith Dunstan,  
 COURIER MAIL Columnist.

While all the rest of us are becoming excited about satellites, the science fiction folk are saying "Everything is happening exactly as we said it would."

After all, the science fiction writer Murray Leinster, more than 25 years ago, wrote a story about a satellite which was launched to circle the earth. It was a good story and it predicted what today shows signs of becoming scientific fact.

It is not the first time this has happened. Hugo Gernsback, the revered father of modern science fiction, way back in 1911, invented a character called 'Ralph 124C41+.

Ralph had an 'actinoscope which in every respect was exactly the same as radar.

And so it was with the atom bomb. ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, which is the 'Times' of SF, in 1944, some 17 months before Hiroshima, had a story about the working of the bomb, which was so realistic that the Manhattan project experts thought there had been a security leak.

SF has its utterly devoted admirers. Every month, the Brisbane Science Fiction Group get together at Ten - eriffe to talk about the universe. There's Frank Bryning, ed-



itor of a magazine, Charles Mustchin, a plumbing contractor, Jack Adams, an electronic engineer, George Tafe, a confectionery manufacturer, just to mention a few.

They aren't starry eyed. They don't expect to meet a Martian next week. They don't expect to travel on a spaceship in their time. But they are convinced their children will. SF has boomed in unbelievable style since the war's end. In the US science fiction books and magazines are selling in the millions and no publisher can afford to ignore them.

Already they are pushing the western to one side, and they are worrying even the topselling who-dunit. The little kids have left their colt .45's for ray guns, their nine-gallon hats for space helmets. Many of the SF magazine have lurid covers. And while we are happy to know that sex will still be alive in the year 10,000, serious fans deplore them.

They say the covers most times depict, close together, two BEM's. One BEM is a Bug Eyed Monster, the other a Beautiful Earth Maiden.

Much of the SF is worthless trash, but those in the cult are interested only in stories which scientifically are quite plausible. That is, they want to read stories which give them a logical and likely view of the future.

It is hardly surprising then, that the best SF stories are written by research scientists, physcists, men like Dr. Werner von Braun and Professor Julian Huxley. Fans collect stories by these men with mad enthusiasm, for after all, fan is an abbreviation of fanatic. Old issues of the twenties fetch high prices, and they are as valuable as old records or old records.

Mr. Charles Mustchin, of Coolangatta, has a fine collection of 2000 SF books and magazines. He has missed barely a worthwhile issue in 30 years.

These stories are gaining a literary quality they never had before. In the old days inhabitants of other planets invariably were monsters and reptiles bent on the destruction of Earth. Now there is a new trend. Often they are treated as being a beautiful people, far superior to us, morally, cultur-

ally, and intellectually, as men who have learned how to master science and combine it with religion.

This type of science fiction points out that we are on the verge of conquering space, but actually we have achieved little and we have not learned to live with the machines we have created. We have none of the confidence of the Victorians.

But I enjoy reading these stories for the fascinating scraps of information they provide. I have here several by Arthur C. Clarke, one of the world's top authors. He was in Queensland recently. For example, Mr. Clarke in one story tells of the pilot of a space ship parking his cup of tea in the air in front of his nose. Apparently you can do that when there is a state of 'free fall' or no gravity.

Unfortunately though, in 'free Fall' you have to drink the tea through a straw, which sounds an awful sacrilege. But he also goes on to say that on the moon, a man would have no difficulty making a leap 30 feet in the air.

Cricket, he says, like tennis, will be out of the question. Bowls and billiards would be possible, but a golfer would hit a ball out of sight and never see it again - providing his club hit the ball.

It will be a long time yet before anyone visits the moon, but SF gives a reasonable idea of what life would be like there.

There are several small Australian magazines, and every so often, the clubs get together for an SF Convention. Next one, the OLYMPICON (SF jargon for the Olympic Convention) will be held in Melbourne during the Olympic Games.

So you see, SF is here to stay. After all, what with Jules Verne, Samuel Butler, Wells, Swift and others, it has been going on for a long time.

SF people will tell you that the first SF story was written by Homer in the Odyssey.

They say it was a beauty.

Keith Dunstan.

We have pleasure in introducing ALAN C. ELMS, our new American columnist, who will entertain you in this and subsequent issues on ETHERLINE via : -

## THE MURKY YON

Alan C. Elms.

An alien space ship recently landed about 50 miles from here, or so say the inhabitants of a farmhouse near Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The ship, described as a sort of flying bucket by some observers, disgorged a number of little green men or 'things' which engaged the family in battle. Two or three of the little green monsters were hit by shotgun blasts, said one of the women in the house; however, the aliens were apparently unhurt.

They disappeared soon afterwards. The enterprising souls who live in the farmhouse were quick to begin charging admission to see their desecrated domicile ;at latest unofficial report however, the Air Force had barred all visitors.

Martians , or maybe moon-rocket midgets ? Quien sabe ? , and I'm not going to try any speculation.

However, one of the local newspaper's columnists, Housewife Hannah by pen-name, strongly suspects that Something Is Going On. Having seen a saucer herself, and being a devoted Keyhoe fan and yes-the-flying-saucers-are-from-outer-space type thinker, she expresses a slight disapproval of actual landings "I cannot be sure I can believe in little 3-foot green men with 1 eye, but I do know I'm not as sceptical as I should be". If they were white, 6 feet tall, and equipped with wavy brown hair and two eyes, it might be a different matter altogether, even though she is happily married and is the mother of eight children. Be that as it may : "If men are coming here from outer space, it is a development that needs close investigation. It would make a great discovery like the atomic bomb a paltry thing." She likes under -

statement, obviously. "I would like to get opinions of the people and publish them regarding unidentified flying objects and little green men. Government and science aren't necessarily any more accurate than the man in the street, history has proven.

"I believe in several things I have never seen. 'But how', I keep asking myself, ' could I believe in little green men ? ' "

I'll leave Hannah to worry over that serious problem, and proceed a bit further into the column with a bit of rhetoric : What do fans really think of flying saucers?

I know what I think : I think there are a heck of a lot of liars and publicity seekers in this world and I also believe there are a few more 'natural' explanations floating around waiting for some enterprising soul to find them and thereby explain the rest of the unidentified flying objects. I also think - rather, know - that if I actually did believe flying saucers were controlled by intelligent beings Not of This Earth, I wouldn't be here fooling with a typewriter.

I'd be out chasing down Congressmen, Air Force brass, and Big men and Little aliens in general.

I'd say the rest of fandom feels the same way, generally : its cynicism concerning the mundane world is doubled when it comes to anything dealing with standard s-f plots - flying saucers, esp and, since the moon-rocket-in-ten - years prediction panned out into a three stage basketball in '58, space travel itself.

There will be disagreement on this point. But I don't see anyone rushing out to try the seemingly very promising mechanical esp experiments described by one T. O. Jothun in the September ASTOUNDING's letter column. Either we are all the sit-back-and-watch type, or we just don't care and don't believe. And it's really something of a pity that we don't do something.

There are brains in fandom, there's no question of that. The brains far outweigh the money of course, but the money spent poking fun at professionals, at other



fans, and at the big puddle of a world outside our door, plus the money spent raising hell at the growing number of yearly conventions, could accomplish quite a bit if turned to say, ESP research.

Either we get a mode of communication which could turn fandom into a smoothly functioning group (shades of NFFT) -- chicken-before-the-egg speculation -- or we prove that there is nothing in ESP.

But why dream? I like to sit back and watch just as well as the next guy.

And a PS: If you do have any opinions regarding 'unidentified flying objects and little green men' my beloved columnist would be glad to get them; just send them to me, Alan C. Elms, Route 1, La Center, Kentucky, USA, and I'll pass them on.

Alan C. Elms

## COMING EVENTS

Next issue, we present an original story by John A. Vile, titled THE LONELY YEARS. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Also, another in Alan Elms fine columns, THE MURKY YON, plus another batch of film news from FORREST J. ACKERMAN.

Plus all the usual ETHERLINE FEATURES that you've come to look forward to.

C U

IN

FIFTY SIX



No. 17. Horace L. Gold.

Well known for his present day editorship of GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION and GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL, which he started in 1950. Gold first appeared as an author in ASF around the mid '30s under the by-line of 'Clyde Crane Campbell'. Prewar he was on the staff of the Standard magazines during which time he created two 'true' detective' magazines.

His written material has appeared under 32 pseudonyms (most of which do not come under the scope of this listing) and overall, he has edited over two dozen magazines in various fields.

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SCIENCE FICTION 12 to 14 @ 2/- ea. WEIRD WORLD No. 1 1/- ea.  
ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION Jan 1954 to June 1955 @ 1/6 each.  
THE BEST FROM NEW WORLDS edited by John Carnell at 2/- each.  
THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robt. E. Heinlein at 2/- each.

## BOOKS :

MESSIAH by Gore Vidal 12/6  
DARK DOMINION by David Duncan 9/6  
THE CURRENTS OF SPACE by Isaac Asimov 9/6  
ALIEN DUST by E. C. Tubb 8/6  
THE SKY BLOCK by Steve Frazee 9/6

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

## MAGAZINE

# Reviews

FATE Sep 1955 from McGills at 1/6

This issue contains the usual assortment of psychic articles on spiritualism, yoga, restless or protective spirits, the subconscious and will power, and much more matter, ranging from true and dream experiences to astrological forecasts.  
Roger McHugh

.....

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION September 1955.

Cover by Freas illustrates a rather colourful character from Poul Anderson's serial THE LONG WAY HOME. This is off to a good start.

THE STUTTERER by R. R. Merliss tells of very human robot. Lee Correy's rocket story THE PLAINS OF SAN AUGUSTINE is his usual neat job. In THE PLAYERS, Everett B. Cole gives us another very good Philosophical Corps yarn.

This month's article THE RIGHT TO BREED by D. Kingsbury is calculated to cause the greatest furor since Winter wrote on dianetics.

Tony Santos

.....

SELECTED SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE 3.

This issue features THE ENORMOUS ROOM by Horace L. Gold & Robert Krepps. An oddly assorted group of people plucked from the roller-coaster at a fun-fair are treated somewhat discourteously by a pack of ant sized BEM's.  
Tony Santos

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL





Out in England are Asimov's CURRENTS OF SPACE and Shephard Mead's BIG BALL OF WAX. Should be available here shortly.

.....

New technical book announced by Harrap is OUR ASTONISHING ATMOSPHERE by J. Gordon Cook, priced at 12/6 stg and to be issued in September. Longmans announce the third in the trilogy authored by Harry Blamires, BLESSING UNBOUNDED. In this, the setting is outside the Pearly Gates, instead of Hell. Priced at 10/6 stg, it will be out in October.

.....

New SF film, THIS ISLAND EARTH, screened already in Perth and Sydney, has received fairly good reviews in both cities. Should be out in Melbourne shortly, as will RIDERS TO THE STARS, the Carlson-Marshall starrer.

.....

Pete Campbell's fanzine, ANDROMEDA, long a standby in UK circles, is to fold after the next, the 15th issue. It was a good one, too. Sorry to see it leave the field.

.....

The Melbourne Group moves into its new clubrooms on Thursday, October 13th. Address is 133 Lennox St., Richmond, on the 1st floor. All Melbourne Groupers, take note.

.....

IJC

# SCI-FI FLASHES

From ... Forrest J. Ackerman ...

For the biggest surprise of the year, hold onto your seats ! I can now reveal a secret told to me on September 29th last year. At that time, it was a fond hope, a wild dream, that one of the Big 3 (the 4th, Sturgeon's MORE THAN HUMAN, has since joined the ranks) would be optioned for filming.

No less a screen personality than Jose Ferrer had 'discovered' one of the International Fantasy Award novels -- EARTH ABIDES, THE DEMOLISHED MAN and CITY -- and was excited by the possibilities. But could it be done, could those law-enforcing mutant men, those mind-reading espers be successfully translated to the screen ?

Apparently these problems were licked, for the word is out - Jose Ferrer has purchased that tour-de-force of the 24th Century, THE DEMOLISHED MAN ! Better news still, is the fact that Alfred Bester himself will adapt for the screen.

.....

The Money Magnates at MGM are opening their vaults for their big SF spectacle, FORBIDDEN PLANET. Rarely has so much pre-production publicity been put out about a Vastern (it takes place Way Out Vast in deep space). Hardly a day goes by but what Hedda Hopper or Milt Luban or Mike Connolly isn't telling us that Anne Francis' wardrobe in the film will be 2D (diaphanous but decent)...dateline of the production will be 500 years in the future...heroine's name is Purity, and she's never had an evil thot in her life (what is this, SF or fantasy ?)... sky will be chartreuse with purple trees...the mechanical man will be played

by Robot Taylor.

Visitors are verboten, but my xenomorphic spy from outer space tells me that MGM have converted one of their biggest interior sets into a background for a sequence showing a flying saucer landing on the volcanic wasteland of another world.

.....

Arthur C. Clarke, currently in your fair land, is the author of an upcoming Dudley Productions film THE NINE BILLION NAMES OF GOD.

.....

A big budget production will be BEYOND THE BARRIERS OF SPACE which has Poul Anderson collaborating on the scenario side, with possibly yours truly as Technical Advisor.

.....

Sci-fi Artist Paul Blaisdell has handled special effects on a modest little shocker named THE BEAST WITH 1,000,000 EYES, a Pacemaker Production under the direction of Roger Corman. I've read the script, and honestly, it's not bad. Brain-stealers from Mars is the theme. There is no truth in the rumor that I've written a sequence into the film justifying the existence of the canals on Mars on the grounds that the hungry cerebrum-subsisting inhabitants require them for brain-washing. Nor that Blaisdell's next assignment will be the creation of a Hollywolf, described as a BEAST WITH 1,000,000 HANDS.

.....

Edgar Allan Poe's GOLD BUG is being converted into a screen vehicle for Lon Chaney Jr. and Victor Jory. Produced by Billy Wilder (Sabrina, etc), it will be titled THE MENFISH, and color by Eastman.

.....

Allied Artists are going all out on FALLOUT, graphically showing the consequences of atomic aftermath.

.....

## FAREWELL FILM SHOW

They had a great time on the barrier reef, Arthur Clarke and Mike Wilson, to judge by the colour films and slides shown in Brisbane on Wednesday evening, August 24th.

Arranged by the collaboration of the Brisbane Underwater Research Group, The Queensland Spear Fisherman's Club and the Wise Men's Club of the YMCA, the show was attended by about 130 people, among whom, as guests, were members of the Brisbane Science Fiction Group.

Arthur Clarke and Mike Wilson were introduced by Mr. Lyle Davis, president of the Brisbane Underwater Research Group and the Queensland Spear Fisherman's Club.

Mike Wilson operated the slide projector, and commented on the still pictures, all in colour. The cream of the stills had been skimmed off and sent to America and England, to illustrate Arthur's new book, THE COAST OF CORAL (look for it in about 9 months time), but what remained were of such interest that it augurs well for what will be in the book.

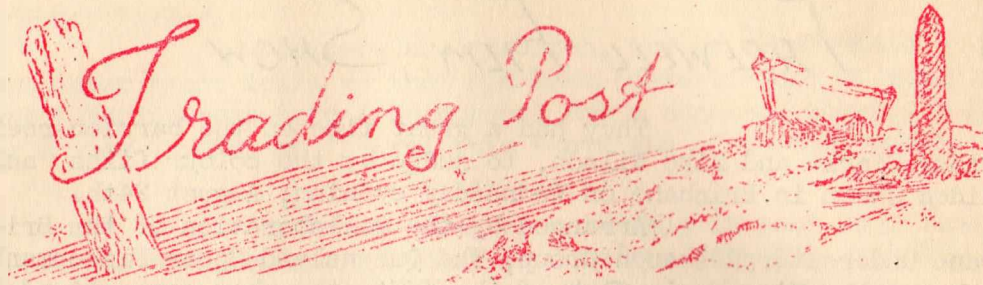
Then the movie film, both above and under water, all in colour, was shown with commentary by Arthur, who explained that the serious work had been done with the stills, and the movie was mainly for fun, and a pictorial record of the trip.

At the conclusion of the showing spontaneous and thunderous applause testified to the appreciation of the audience.

A vote of thanks to Arthur and Mike was moved by prominent Queenslander Sir Raphael Cilento, who was present with Lady Cilento and friends, and seconded by Mr. Bob Davis, immediate past president of the Brisbane Wise Men's Club.

After many private farewells, Arthur and Mike with a few of the BSFG and several Underwater Groupers, had supper together, where final farewells were said.





W. Smithers, 53 Gipps St., Woolongong, NSW, wants  
BRE FANTASTIC 8, NEW WORLDS 34 SPACEWAYS 3, AMAZING 8.

F. W. Frederickson, 23 Richmond St., Ryde, NSW wants  
US editions F&SF all 1950, Nos 1 & 2 1951, all 1952 except 4, Vol.  
4 no. 6, Vol 5, nos 1, 2, & 4.

Will exchange British HC novels (send for list) and  
US Fantastic Universe Vol 2, nos 1,2,3 & 4.

W. O. Miller, 64 Hamilton St., Middle Park, Vic. is  
in need of NEW WORLDS 28.

V. Morton, 24 Lucerne St., Ashburton, Vic wants TWO  
COMPLETE SCIENCE ADVENTURE BOOKS Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Leon Stone, 28 Elgin St., Gordon, NSW wants copies  
of Walt Willis' SLANT Nos. 1 & 3. Will exchange two US prozines  
for each.

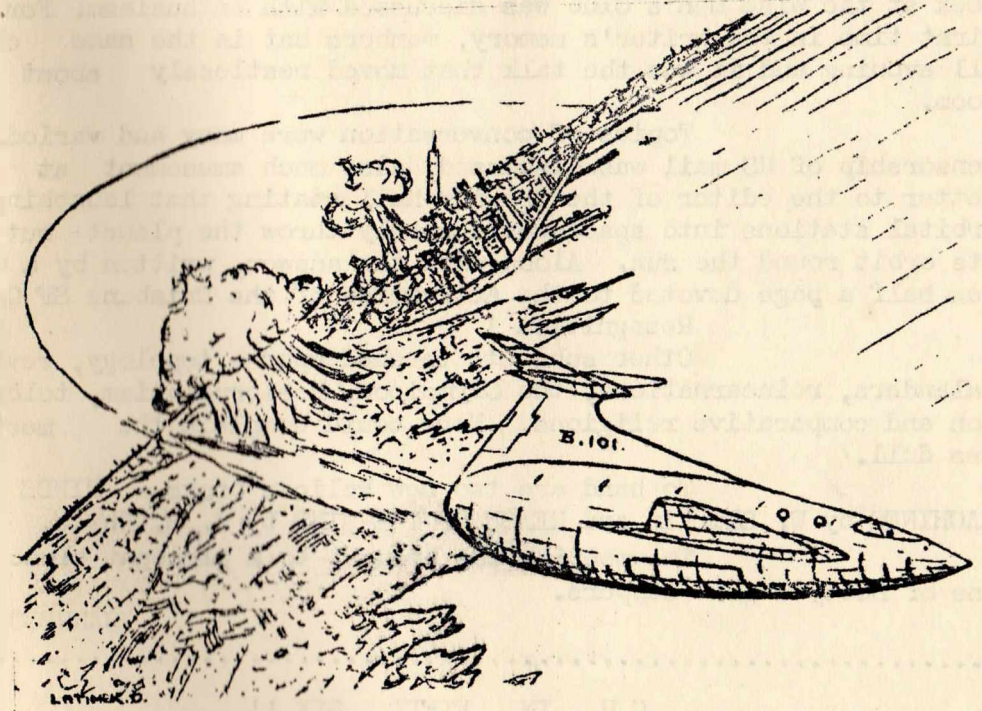
Roger Dard, 22 Arlington Ave., Perth. WA. has for  
sale or exchange US pocketbook editions of THE CURRENTS OF SPACE,  
ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE, PLANET OF THE DREAMERS.

Wants Galaxy Novel 12.

Mervyn Binns, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston, Vic.  
wants AUTHENTIC 56, 57, 58.

Has for sale US editions GALAXY Jan, Feb 54,  
Apr, Jul 53, Sep 52. All at 3/-.

John Gurney, 46 MacDonald St., Norman Park,  
Queensland wants BRE ASTOUNDING Vol 5, Nos 1,2,3,4 & 9; Vol 6, No  
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 10; Vol 7 No. 1.



# BRISBANE NEWS

The meeting of the Group on September 1st, was again held in the Tafe's home at Teneriffe. Present were the host and hostess, Iris Girvan, Ken Quinlan, Fred Drennan, Rick Day, John Gurney and Jack Adams. Also present was a newcomer, Hal Serow, who works with Jack Adams. Welcome Hal! Frank Bryning was absent, being in Melbourne on business, where he hoped to contact the Melbourne Group.

Arthur Clarke's film night, held the previous week at the Wise Men's Club was discussed with enthusiasm. For the first time in the writer's memory, members sat in the same chair all evening and it was the talk that moved restlessly about the room.

Topics of conversation were many and varied.... censorship of US mail was discussed, also much amusement at the letter to the editor of the Courier-Mail stating that launching of orbital stations into space would surely throw the planet out of its orbit round the sun. Along with the answer, written by a M.Sc was half a page devoted to the activities of the Brisbane SF Group.

Recognition!

Other subjects touched upon - topology, revised calanders, reincarnations, the Olympicon, Rosicrucianism, television and comparative religions. None could complain the meeting was dull.

To hand are two new Pelican books - MINDS AND MACHINES by W. Sluckin and REACH OF THE MIND by J. B. Rhine.

The meeting was brought to a pleasant close by one of Betty's fine suppers.

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