

6^D

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Science Fiction Journal.

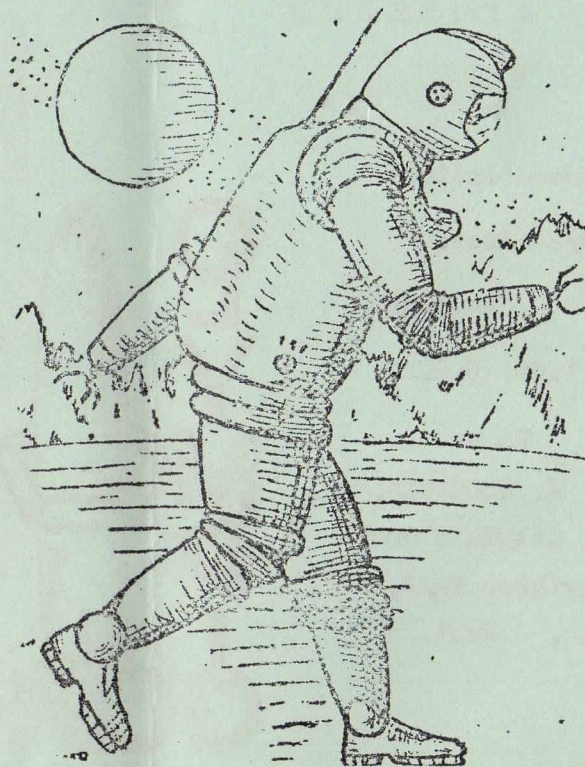
FEATURING...

CAN CON
REPORT

AUTHOR STORY
LISTING.

BOOK
MAGAZINE
FANZINE
REVIEWS

SCI FI FLASHES



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ISSUE No. 68

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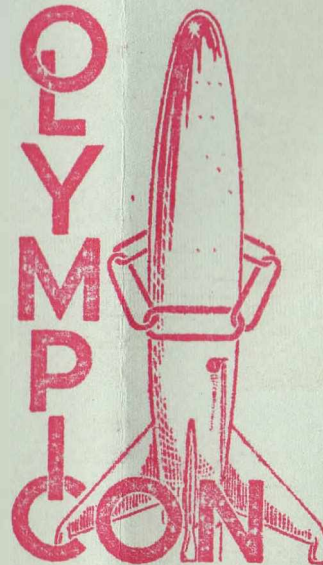
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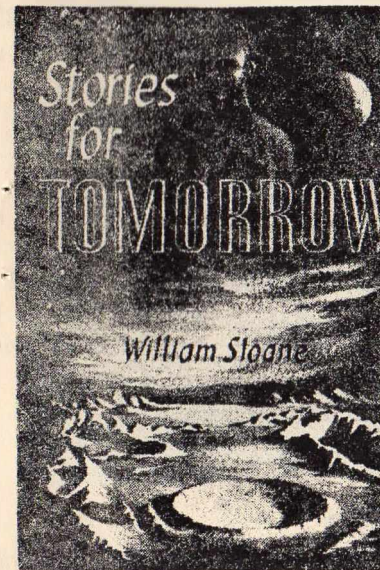
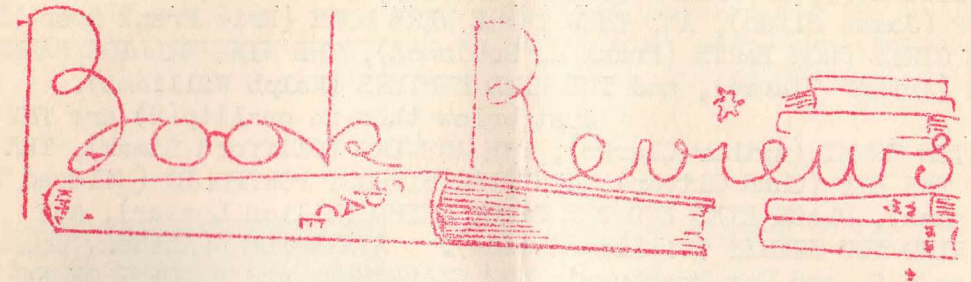
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9th,

1956.

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL



STORIES FOR TOMORROW

Edited by

William Sloane

Published by Eyre & Spottiswoode

Available from McGills at 22/6.

Review copy from publishers.

This is a well presented volume, but rather too pricey for an anthology of anthologies. Practically every story in it has been anthologised at least once before.

It contains 22 stories, each one prefaced by an introduction from the pen of the editor. As he has excused himself for this work of supererogation in his preface (by claiming that the volume is intended only for the tyro in SF), I will not express my opinion of his prefatory notes. I rated thirteen of the stories with an A or A plus - HOMELAND (Mari Wolf), FIRST CONTACT (Murray Leinster), NOISE LEVEL (Raymond Jones), FRANCHISE (Kris Neville), IN VALUE DECEIVED (H. B. Fyfe), SOCRATES (John

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

Christopher), IN HIDING (Wilmar Shiras), BETTYANN (Kris Neville), BEEP (James Blish), AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (Eric Frank Russell), THE GIRLS FROM EARTH (Frank M. Robinson), THE NINE BILLION NAMES OF GOD (Arthur Clarke), and THE HEAD HUNTERS (Ralph Williams).

Just below them in quality(B) are THE FORTGOTTEN ENEMY (Arthur Clarke), THE ANSWERS (Clifford Simak), THE ANT AND THE EYE (Chad Oliver), MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Mildred Clingerman), BLACK EYES AND THE DAILY GRIND (Milton Lesser), and LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY (William Sloane). STARBRIDE (Anthony Boucher) rates a C, and Ray Bradbury's THE WILDERNESS and A SCENT OF SARSAPARILLA rates D minus.

That gives a rating of 13A, 6B, 1C, 2D-. A book full of first class stories, but too well known for the aficionado to purchase.

Bob McCubbin

.....

FEW WERE LEFT by Harold Rein, published by Methuen & Co. Ltd., copy from McGills at 13/3.

This is NOT science fiction! Except for the predicated fact of a holocaust that has wiped out New York (and its cause it not even suggested), the whole story deals with the actions of a group of people trapped in a wrecked subway tunnel. It is also a optemic against dictatorship in any degree.

Good reading.

Bob McCubbin

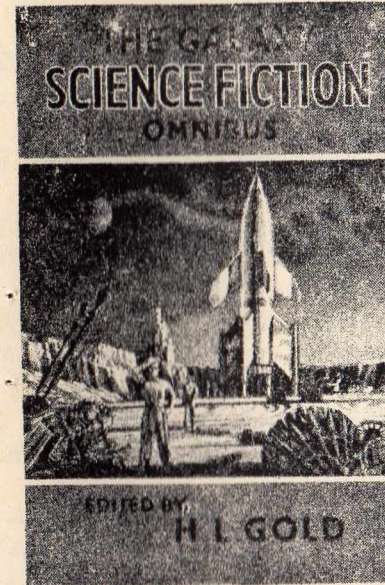
.....

PURSUIT THROUGH TIME by Jonathan Burke, published by Ward Lock & Co. Ltd, copy from McGills at 13/3.

In 1996, Simon Lemuel is a dictator, who started his career as Secretary of a Youth Organization. Clifford Marriott goes back in time to the beginning of the Y.O., in the hopes that he can undermine Lemuel's authority and prevent him becoming dictator. Clifford meets Lemuel's girl friend, who immediately transfers her affections. There is the usual Hitler Youth jackboot brigade, and various people flit madly back and forth through time.

The plot is not nearly so involved as some TT stories I have read - it is understandable at first reading!. Not likely to win an Oscar, but a readable story.

Bob McCubbin.



THE GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION
OMNIBUS

Edited by H. L. Gold.....

Published by Grayson &
Grayson Ltd.,

Copy from McGills at 17/-.

Those who have read all the US GALAXY issues will not want to buy this book, but those whose acquaintance is limited to the British Edition of this topline magazine will find some new reading.

The weakest story in the book is THE MISOGYNIST by James E. Gunn, and it merits a B rating. The other 19 stories are A or A plus. Here's a listing: A BAD DAY FOR SALES (Fritz Leiber), SAUCER OF LONELINESS (Theodore Sturgeon), A GLEEB FOR EARTH (Charles Shafhauser), HALLUCINATION ORBIT (J. T. McIntosh), THE C CHUTE (Isaac Asimov), JUNKYARD (Clifford Simak), PROBLEM ON BALAK (Roger Dee), FOUR IN ONE (Damon Knight), CARETAKER (James Schmitz), LOST MEMORY (Peter Phillips), NOT FIT FOR CHILDREN (Evelyn Smith), STUDENT BODY (F. L. Wallace), STAR

BRIGHT (Mark Clifton), WARM (Robert Sheckley), THE SNOWBALL EFFECT (Katherine MacLean), PILLAR TO POST (John Wyndham), MINIMUM SENTENCE (Ted Cogswell), TEA TRAY IN THE SKY (Evelyn Smith), and A PAIL OF AIR (Fritz Leiber).

Like STORIES FOR TOMORROW, this one is for the newcomer to the art.

Bob McCubbin

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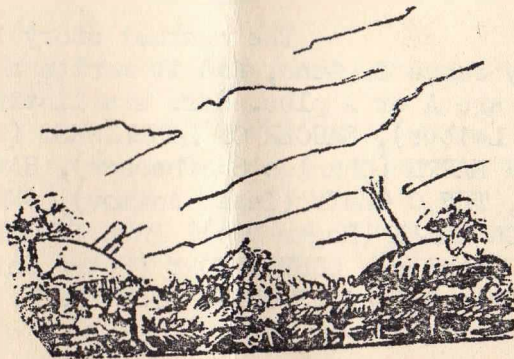
THE YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS (2nd Series) edited by Bleiler & Dikty, published by Grayson & Grayson, copy from McGills at 13/5.

The four novels are THE ENORMOUS ROOM (Gold and Krepps), a roller coaster ride ends in the playroom of giant extra-dimensional child (B); ASSIGNMENT TO ALDEBARAN (Crossen) set a mystery novel reader to catch a thief (A); THE OCEANS ARE WIDE (Robinson) politics and a predict on the last space ship to the stars - a very long story, well worth an A; and finally THE SENTIMENTALISTS (Leinster - you need outside help to break a monopoly - or to invent unusual appliances ! For fantasy (C).

These stories come, in order, from AMAZING, THRILLING WONDER, SCIENCE STORIES and GALAXY. Rating 2A, B, C, making it a good buy.

Bob McCubbin.

.....



AUTHOR STORY LISTING

Number Twenty Eight

ALGIS
BUDRYS.



Compiled by
Donald H,
Tuck.

Next Author : Alan E. Nourse.

.....

One of the most notable post-war writers who has been appearing consistently in the prozines since late 1952.

POCKET BOOK

P1. FALSE NIGHT (Lion 230: N.Y. 1954 127 25c)

STORIES

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. | A.I.D. s | ASF Jan'54 |
| 2. | " s s | FU Mar'55 |
| 3. | Blood on my Jets.n | RS Jul'53 |
| 4. | Citadel.nv | ASF Feb'55 |
| 5. | Congruent People, The.s | AS19 |
| 6. | Deckplate Blues, The.s | FU Mar'54 |
| 7. | Desire No More.s | DSF Jan'54 |

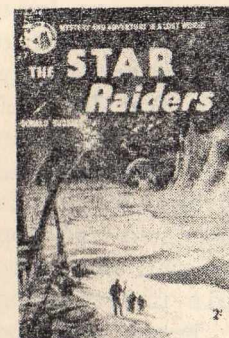
- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8. | Despite all Valor.s | FF Oct'54 |
| 9. | Dream of Victory.nv | AS Aug/Sep'53 |
| 10. | End of Summer, The.nv | ASF Nov'54 |
| 11. | Exotic Dawn.s | JU Jul'54 |
| 12. | False Night.n | P1 (built up from 18) |
| 13. | First to Serve.s | ASF May'54 |
| 14. | Frightened Tree, The.s | AA7 (retitling of GS s. ?) |
| 15. | High Purpose, The.s | ASF Nov'52 |
| 16. | In Clouds of Glory.nv | ASF Jul'55 |
| 17. | In Human Hands.nv | SFS ≠ 2 |
| 18. | Ironclad.nv | GS Mar'54 |
| 19. | Last Stand.n | SFS May'55 |
| 20. | Little Joe.s | ASF Sep'53 |
| 21. | Multifarious.s | ASF May'53 |
| 22. | Pagan.s | ASF Aug'55 |
| 23. | Protective Mimicry.s | GS Feb'53 |
| 24. | Real People, The.nv | BFF Nov'53 |
| 25. | Recessional.s | SFA Mar'53 |
| 26. | Riya's Foundling.s | SFS ≠ 1, AH4 |
| 27. | Scream at Sea.s | Ft Jan/Feb'54 |
| 28. | Shadow on the Stars.nv | FU Nov'54 |
| 29. | Snail's Pace.s | DSF Oct'53 |
| 30. | Stand Watch in the Sky.s | FF Sep'53 |
| 31. | Strange Room, The.s | FU Jan'55 |
| 32. | Strangers, The.nv | If Jun'55 |
| 33. | To Civilize.s | FF Jan'54 |
| 34. | Two Sharp Edges, The.s | SFS Jan'55 |
| 35. | Undiscovered Country, The.s | FU Sep'55 |
| 36. | Walk the World.s | SSF Nov'52, ASFs ≠ 21 |
| 37. | Watch your Step.s | ASF May'55 |
| 38. | We Are Here.nv | CFM Jul'54 |
| 39. | Weebles, The.s | FM Jun'53 |
| 40. | Who ?. s | FU Apr'55. |

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Next Author : ALAN E. NOURSE

POCKET

Book Reviews



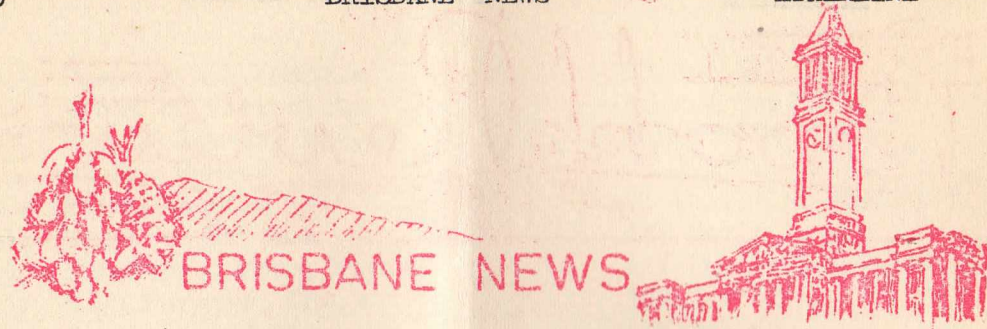
THE STAR RAIDERS by Donald Suddaby, and published in SCOTTIE BOOKS by Reansworld Publishers, U.K. Available at McGills at 3/-.

This is classed as a juvenile, but if such expressions 'rattling ramrods' and sizzling Sam' were deleted, adults would find it most readable.

It is remarkable for the fact that there is no beautiful female scientist in it !!

Meteorites land in England, and strange plants appear in gardens. Nadin, a scientist (we can't do without scientists entirely !) chips his way into a hollow meteorite, and he and his artist friend are whisked off to Venus (a little explanation here would be appreciated). They find the planet covered with white vegetation - some of it is telepathic - and have various odd adventures - particularly when the pot-boy of the 'Three Pigeons' also arrives on the planet.

Finally, Nadin solves the riddle of the propulsion of the meteorite, and they get back to Earth. The Meteorite conveniently finishes up at the bottom of the sea - beyond investigation ! Why did Suddaby call this THE STAR RAIDERS is beyond me. Recommended.



Present at the meeting of the Brisbane Science Fiction Group on March 1 were Iris Girvan (with some new books under her arm), Ken Quinlem, Rick Day, John Gurney, Mike Barry, Frank Bryning, and host and hostess George and Betty Tafe.

We looked in vain for Jack Adams (who was away on vacation), Reg and Val Urquhart, and Fred Drennan.

Frank reported on correspondence with A. Bertram Chandler and Eric North (Bernard Cronin). Bert Chandler has now settled in Sydney. The Brisbane Group had had hopes that he would be in Brisbane early in March, but he did not come beyond Sydney before leaving Shaw Savill. We have his undertaking to get in touch with us when he does come this way. Frank reported that Eric North's story THE MAN WHO WALKED ON THE SKY was to appear in the March issue of THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL.

ETHERLINES were purveyed, the discussions included bodgies, sawn-off shotguns, home made gats, and even science fiction. Chess was tolerated so long as it did not interfere with talk, and the rather quiet evening finished late, with certain members being driven part way home to intercept the last train. (Many thanks, Mike !)

Since the meeting Frank Bryning received a card from Arthur Clarke and Mike Wilson, mailed from Colombo. It contained the following : "We're here for a few months trying to make an underwater movie. I'll be in USA for the Convention in September, and then go on a lecture tour. Hope you're keeping well - all the best. Art & Mike." Those guys sure get around !

WARREGO



At Easter, a gathering of fens was held at the Federal capital, Canberra. This city is about 480 miles from Melbourne and 120 miles from Sydney. Those present at the affair were : Sydneyites Pat Burke, Kevin Dillon, Vol Molesworth and wife Laura, Fred Frederickson, Mike Baldwin, Doug Nicholson, Bill Hubble and Lloyd Fisher. The Melbournians were Barry Salgram, Ian Crozier, Graham Lyell, Don Latimer, Bob McCubbin and wife Molly, Val Morton, Keith McLelland, Mervyn Binns and Jack Keating. Canberra was represented by Geoff Bennett, Ken Jones and Arthur Porter.

The parties met at Bennett's for a cupatea or a glassagrog, then dined downtown. Canberra was planned by a pair of drunkenly amorous spiders, and most of us had some difficulty in finding our quarters because of the steady drizzle and confusing tangle of streets with their ever-changing names. Saturday was devoted to Vol's tape recorder, sight seeing, and elbow bending. Various activities were planned for the evening, but nobody could find anybody else, so the minor groups made their own whoopee.

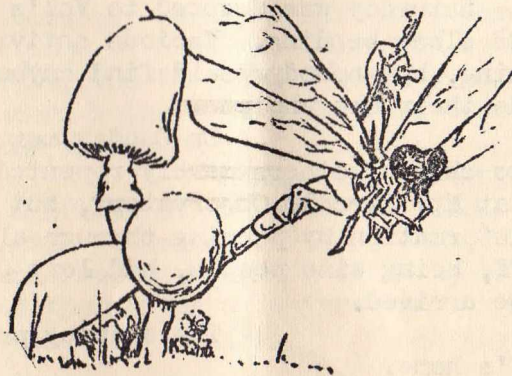
On Sunday morning, some repented by going to church, others merely repented. After lunch, we foregathered at Mt. Stromlo Observatory, but had to satisfy our thirst for information by peering through all the windows in sight - the staff, being wise people, had left Canberra for parts unknown before we arrived.

The evening program was a film showing at Geoff's home.

We express our thanks to Geoff and his wife Betty for their hospitality, and our thanks to Jack, Barry, Keith, Pat, and Vol, for without their cars, the Can-Con would not be possible.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN.....

The Citroen in the ditch at Benalla....
Graham's lapful of steak and eggs at Albury..... Bob's Hihgland
Fling with his pants full of ants at Bobby Burn's statue.....
Eight fans trudging over wet, dark gardens in search of the bar of
the Hotel Canberra..... Various cars going round -- and round
and round in search of each other..... the whopping great hole
about 12 inches deep that the Riley hit at 75 MPH going up.....
and the agonised look on Barry's face as he applied the brakes as
fast as he could, murmuring 'Sump, my sump' !.....
Ian and Pat suffering after sampling some Canberra 'food'.....
Keith and Bob chasing elusive mushrooms. Don climbing a
pole to get a photograph..... Kevin working out details of how
much TNT it would take to neatly shatter the American memorial...
Kevin putting his shoes on on Monday morning..... the search for
comfort stations at various points..... the haggard look on
Doug's and Barry's face after it was all over.....



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A Private Volcano	L. Sievking 13/3

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SCI FI FLASHES

from... Forrest J. Ackerman...

The phone here is running hot ,
with such titles as THE TIME MACHINE, Wilson Tucker's MAN FROM
TOMORROW (which you may have read as WILD TALENT), and DEATH'S
DEPUTY being considered as scifilms of the future.

A space-time spectacle, HELL IN
THE HEAVENS is nearing completion, the special effects footage
currently being shot.

Fletcher Pratt's ASYLUM SATELL-
ITE has been purchased for filming under the title of PROJECT
EXCELSIOR, and Sol (TARZAN) Lesser's organization contacted me
asking how to contact Wilson Tucker regarding the possible film-
ing of WILD TALENT.

A strong possibility exists for
Edmond Hamilton's quarter century old PIGMY ISLAND to finish in
a can as companion feature to English-made K, THE UNKNOWN.

English scifi film THE QUATERMASS
EXPERIMENT has been named by Walt Willis as the best UK scifi film
since THINGS TO COME. It is hoped that a movie sequel will be
made from the radio sequel, QUATERMASS II. The American title
of Quatermass will be SHOCK !!

Followers of this department who
may think that I enthuse about all sfilms had better prepare for
a shock. I DID not like THE FORBIDDEN PLANET. I was ALMOST as
disappointed in it as CONQUEST OF SPACE. We are indebted to a
Czech author, Karel Capek, for the introduction of the word 'ro-
bot' into the English language via his famous stageplay, 'R.U.R.'

Capek being dead, men such as Asimov, Binder, Williamson, Cummings and Hamilton should band together and form a 'Society for the Protection From Cruelty of Robots' and together march on MGM! Among the 'forbidden' things on FORBIDDEN PLANET should have been the 'comic' relief (when do we get relief from these comics?) of Robbie-The-Robot!

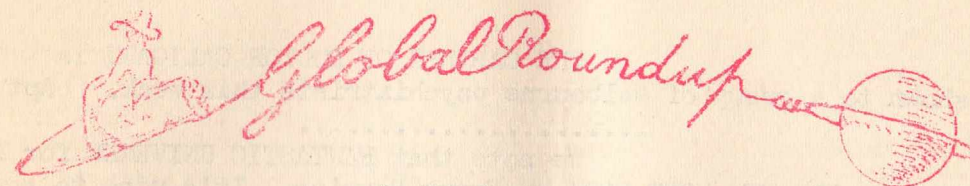
In the 3 million dollars and 3 years in the making super docper extra special (according to the publicity release) epic, the story is as tenuous as the vacuum of outer space. A nubile 19-year old virgin, diaphanously played by Anne Francis, meets in heart-on collision with a saucer-full of Earth-wolves in the 23rd Century, and the next 100 minutes is spent in a poor imitation of a satirical romp 'neath double-moons in a chartreuse sky, interspersed with pedantic utterances from philologist Walter Pidgeon. Only redeeming feature was the sets, which were magnificent to say the least. I only hope the Space Marines of the 23rd Century are not as dull as this lot.

Bear in mind, however, that I saw it at a preview, and I hear that MGM are using the scissors very extensively after reading the preview cards, so the product to be released could be much better. The more Leo discards, the better the final result will be.

At UNIVERSAL, the production schedule includes Curt Siodmak's THE MAN WHO COULD NOT DIE, and a possibility that THE NAKED WORLD (nee THE GREAT GREEN OG) will be reactivated using excess footage from THIS ISLAND EARTH.

Jottings.....THE DAY THE SUN GREW COLD has been scripted by Frank Melford.....IT CONQUERED THE EARTH by Jim Nicholson and Paul Blaisdell will use the monster making talents of artist Blaisdell to create and activate a giant bodiless brain.....Roger Corman has purchased an original screenplay, NOT OF THIS EARTH..... English author Roger Banton has sold THE VANISHED to Lucas Productions.....Ken Darling has scripted ENVOY EARTH..... titles mentioned for future filming include THE GIRL FROM BENEATH THE SEA, THE VOLUNTEER, THE FLOATERS, WINDBLAST, THE TREE MEN, THE SHE CREATURE and THEY LIVED A MILLION YEARS.

Forrest J. Ackerman....



Some new American publications include: CITIZEN IN SPACE by Robert Sheckley from Ballantine; SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES IN MUTATION edited by Groff Conklin, at \$ 3.75 from Vanguard; Ace Double ALIEN FROM ARCTURUS by Gordon R. Dickson and THE ATOM CURTAIN by Nick B. Williams at 35c.; THE DRAGON IN THE SEA by Frank Herbert (serial UNDER PRESSURE from ASF), from Doubleday at \$ 2.95; STAR SHINE by Fredric Brown, at 25c, from Bantam, part of ANGELS & SPACESHIPS; PLAGUE SHIP by Andrew North from Gnome at \$ 2.75, a sequel to SARGASSO OF SPACE; FORBIDDEN PLANET by W. J. Stuart, from picture of same name, at 35c from Bantam; Ace Double THE WORLD JONES MADE by Philip Dick and AGENT OF THE UNKNOWN by Margaret St. Clair at 35c; INTERPLANETARY HUNTER by Arthur K. Barnes from Gnome at \$ 3.00; another Ace Double in CONTRABAND ROCKET by Lee Correy and THE FORGOTTEN PLANET by Murray Leinster at 35c; ALTERNATING CURRENTS by Frederick Pohl from Ballantine at 35c and \$ 2.00; CAVIAR by Theodore Sturgeon from Ballantine at \$ 2.00; TALES OF CONAN by Robert E. Howard and L. Sprague de Camp from Gnome Press at \$ 3.00; THE BEST FROM F&SF 5th series edited by A. Boucher from Doubleday at \$ 3.50.

.....
The radio serial - juvenile SF - at present being aired on station 3DB, is written by Harvey Blanks of the Herald-Sun staff. Should we ask him for a Con sub - or to report the Olympicon?

.....

THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI is being shown to a group of Melbourne psychiatrists this week. Apt !

.....
We note that FANTASTIC UNIVERSE for February has FOR MEN MUST WORK by Frank Bryning. It's nice to see an Australian author making the pro-mag field regularly.

.....
We have been advised by John Carnell, editor of NEW WORLDS, that the report in ETHERLINE 64 anent the financial stability of said magazine is entirely without foundation. We are extremely glad of this fact, and we certainly won't use that source of information again without thorough checking. We hope that there was no damage done in this erroneous report.

.....
Books out in UK include the following: THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES 5th series, EARTHMEN COME HOME, ONE IN THREE HUNDRED, MEN, MARTIANS AND MACHINES, and the Pan edition of CHILDHOOD'S END.

.....
Quite an honor for a science fiction author was recently accorded to Arthur Clarke. A US college textbook has just been issued, on the subject of English literature, full of prose and poetry (Homer, Thurber, Houseman, Saki, Whitman, Stevenson, Capek, Yeats....). Just three authors have each two extracts in it - Dickens, Maugham and guess who ! (Extracts are complete texts of 'Hide and Seek' and 'If I Forget Thee, Oh Earth').

Congratulations, Arthur !

.....
Queensland author Frank Bryning recently sold a story to NEW WORLDS, titled THE PLACE OF THE THROWING STICK with a setting of Woomera. Keep it up, Frank !

IJC

MAGAZINE

Reviews

FATE

March 1956. McGills at 1/6

This issue deals with 'deja vu', precognition, flying saucers, Lady Docker, sensitives, the loss of the R101, Mauna Loa, Chinese and Aztec idols, photography of the soul and various other topics. The range of subject matter is even wider than usual.

Roger McHugh

NEW WORLDS
SCIENCE FICTION

No. 44 Price 3/-

Cover by Bradshaw purports to show the Woomera Rocket range, drawn from imagination of course, 'cos it ain't like that at all ! It may well be in 60 years time.

Lead story THE SOLOMAN PLAN by J.T McIntosh is a spy story not very well written. Please James, I know I praised you once, but don't let it go to your head. You spoiled an interesting idea.

QUESTION OF CRUELTY by James White tells of a stay of execution by aliens due to our kindness to monkeys. A fair yarn. THING FRIDAY by John Brunner is Robinson Crusoe space style, and not bad at all.

THERE IS A TIDE by Brian W. Aldiss is on the Deluge, 21st century style, but is NOT sf. Poor.

THE FALSIFIERS by George Langdon is very reminiscent of Van Vogt's VAULT OF THE BEAST, but not as good.

Articles WHOSE MOON? by Roy Malcolm is on the legal rights of possession of the Moon. So so.

On the whole, this is just a fair issue.

Jack Keating.

Galaxy

SCIENCE FICTION

No. 35. 3/- . McGills

Striking cover by Emsh illustrates THE TIES OF EARTH, a two part serial by James H. Schmitz. Commager, who has psi powers but does not believe in psi. He is warned not to use these powers by a very strange group. So far a good story.

THE SEMANTIC WAR by Bill Clothier is an interesting story, but was more enjoyable as THE GOSTAK AND THE DOSHES by Miles J. Breuer which appeared in AMAZING for March 1930.

Philip K. Dick in AUTOFAC proves that man can always triumph over machines. Always? Well - almost!

CAUSE OF DEATH by Max Tadlock is a cute tale. It is a mistake to go up to the astral plane and leave your body for dead. Robert Sheckley's WARRIOR'S RETURN tells of the limitations of a man who can work miracles.

After reading Charles Satterfield's story, I doubt that I want to be WITH REDFERN ON CAPELLA XII. The

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going seems too tough.

Tony Santos.

INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION February 1956.

Well the 2nd issue has now appeared - a month late, but besides other factors, this was to allow for possible poor sales before Christmas. The cover is quite striking with a lot of black, is by Emsh illustrating the Bulmer story.

I would say that the stories in this issue are not up to standard of the first. There are 2 novelettes, THE BEST OF FENCES by Randall Garrett, well worked on the theme of two races, humans and aliens trying to find each other throughout the reaches of interstellar space with a logical denouement, and QUARRY by Kem Bulmer, one of those invaders of Earth hunt Earthmen stories.

The shorts are TRAUMEREI by Chas Beaumont - in which a man 'dreams' he runs the world; INTERNAL COMBUSTION by L. Sprague de Camp - what happens to old robots; GLOW WORK by Harlan Ellison - last man on Earth in a somewhat different vein; THE FUTILE FLIGHT OF JOHN ARTHUR BENN by E. Halibut - a time travel in which I couldn't see the point; COURSE OF EMPIRE by Richard Wilson - in which Earth itself is colonised; A LIKELY STORY by Damon Knight - recommended humor in which the characters bear the same name as noted sf identities; and THE ENGINEERS by Pohl/Kornbluth - well-written on a slight theme.

Frankly, I thought this issue had too many stories of a 'cute' nature, the only one of note being the Knight item. A Reader's Column appears for the first time while Fanfare gives THE MURKY WAY which describes how flying saucer photos could be faked.

Don Tuck.

Cover by Latimer.

Interiors by McLelland.

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FANZINE

Reviews

ORION No. 14.

Paul Enever, 9 Churchill Ave., Hullington
Middlesex, England. 6 issues for 3/6 stg.

Nice drawings by Arthur Thompson - a new idea in fan mag reviewing - pity it's not pithy - and some good reading, particularly in the letter section. Brevity is the soul of wit - this reviewer is wearing his briefs ! ORION is maintaining a good standard.

Roger McHugh.

CAMBER 5.

This one dodged in from the Chief Dodderer, Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd., Hoddesdon, Herts. UK. May be Hoddesdon herts, (Awk, I didn't mean it !) but this issue of CAMBER doesn't. Nice covers (two of them !) and 68 pages of good duplicating. The material this issue is mainly fanzine reviews and fan letters - Alan is catching up on a year's fan mail. It's good stuff, tho'. Mind you, he will probably need to replace the wornout () on his typer, as he puts all comments in double brackets.

I enjoyed it - you would too, if you could get on the mailing list by contributing some material.

Bob McCubbin

PSI No. 5 from Lyle Amlin, 307 E. Florida St., Hemet, Calif. USA, at 10 cents or trade. Lyle apologises for the failure of his experimental cover. It's a multicolor ditto on thin stock, which is

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but faintly visible through the reverse side of the contents page. The rest is clearly duplicated. Contents are by Amlin, Eberhard, Hoskins, Perew (a female telepath), Bisienkis, and all the folk who wrote letters to Lyle. The artwork is F.A.Q. - to quote the wheat market. It's a good 10 cents worth, though I DON'T LIKE COLORED PAPER.

Bob McCubbin

EXTANT

Plainly labelled 'First 1956 issue' put out of the Irregulars and Galah's SF Drinking Society, and brashly sponsored by Mike Baldwin and Bill Hubble. This one-shot (we HOPE) was forced on the elite of Australian fandom on April 1st (a significant date) at Canberra for one shilling a copy. Some-one, whose identity was hidden behind a glass of 33% O.P. Rum, challenged me to either Read it without Reviewing it, or Review it without Reading it. At the time, my hearing was rather obscured by a bottle of Tokay, so I settled myself firmly on the seat and, as I read each single sided page, filed it carefully in the waters beneath.

This is the result of the challenge.

The Cover depicts the well known Oojah bird, in the guise of a Galah, flying in ever decreasing circles until it gets to its equally well known destination. Inside, the editors refuse to apologise - even for rehashing the abortive peace efforts of ~~saner~~ Sydney fandom, some one explains - in baulky, blanky verse, why men of Mars always bring their own liquid refreshment. Mike Bos writes a short story that is just one page too long, and the other ~~saner~~ are filled with literary doodlings. With the staples removed, and perforations across the middle, this effusion would be worth almost the shilling charged.....!!!!!! Melbourne, of course was not brave enough, or brilliant enough, to put out a crudzine.

Bob McCubbin.

INSIDE No. 13.

From Ron Smith, 611 West 114th St., New York 25, USA. at 25 cents - a photolith job, excellently ex-

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ecuted and produced containing 48 pages. As usual - to my disgust the contents table is on the inside back cover (pun unintentional) The lead story MANUNKIND by David Bunch, runs to 20 pages, well illustrated, but takes reading - this may be due to the solid bloc of typscript and the interlineated chapter heads. There are some odd names in it - but the ideas are familiar. Roger Dard gets a full page in the issue on his favourite subject - censorship (We haven't any here, Roger !) and how it affects juvenile delinquency.

Lin Carter, in addition to artwork, writes reviews - and very nicely too ! Randy Garrett gives forth with a story, MASTERS OF THE METROPOLIS - but why underline so many incosequential words ? The ads - as usual - are informative. I like the sting in the tail of the Putnam ad on EARTHAN COME HOME.

Bob McCubbin

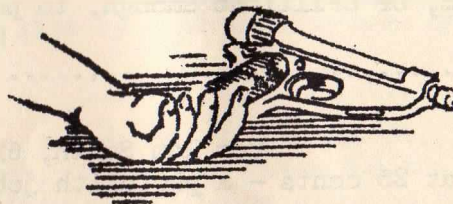
.....

UMBRA 11

John Hitchcock, 15 Arbutus Ave., Baltimore, Md., USA at 10 cents. I like your esoterique cover John, it leaves SO MUCH to the imagination. Editorial is unusually good (or am I in a good humor this Sunday AM ?). George Wetzel infuses a little humor - some rather pointed - into the proceedings. Larry Stark defines a BNF, particularly Lee H....and Jan Jansen gives us pertinent facts on European fandom. Letter column and fanzine reviews as usual.

I wouldn't bewail the lack of illos this issue, John - you've got by all right without them.

Bob McCubbin.



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