

6<sup>D</sup>

# *Etherline.*

*Science Fiction Journal.*

FEATURING...

AUTHOR  
STORY  
LISTING  
W.F. TEMPLE  
x x x x

POCKET BOOK  
AND BOOK  
REVIEWS  
x x x x

GLOBAL  
ROUND UP  
x x x x

MELBOURNE  
GROUP NEWS

Published by AFPA

ISSUE No.



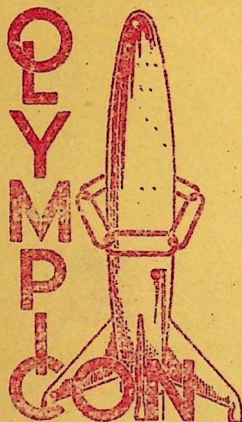
# 5th AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION MELBOURNE

RICHMOND TOWN HALL, DECEMBER 8th and 9th, 1956.

Subscriptions: 10/- Aust.; 7/6 stg.; \$ 1.00 U.S. to :

R. J. McCubbin,  
90 Lilydale Grove,  
Hawthorn East,  
Vic. Australia.

THE  
BIGGEST  
CONVENTION  
TO  
BE  
HELD  
IN

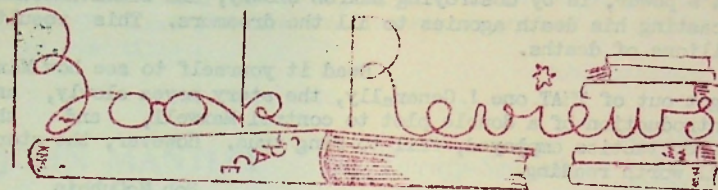


YOU  
MUST  
NOT  
MISS  
IT

AUSTRALIA !

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

BLUE CENTAU  
BOOK CO.



**Charles Eric Maine**  
**ESCAPEMENT**

published by Hodder & Stoughton,  
London, available from McGills ,  
priced at 15/6.

'Escapement' is that part of a horologe that regulates its speed, and the term is used as a title because the invention which is the core of the story is intended to regulate human life. The hero (a rather negative type), John Maxwell, having had a head injury that did fantastic things to his way of life, poses as a doctor so that he can use his knowledge of electronics to delve into the workings of the brain.

His intention is to find a cure for his own mental disability, but he finds a method of transferring complete sensation from one brain to another.

Zakron, a movie maggot -- sorry, magnate) sees the possibility of complete control of the world by first using the new brain recorder for its entertainment value, and secondly, by consolidating from thereon. There is a fantastic philosophy called 'Unlife - the Absolute Escape' - can you see the fallacy ?

Maxwell kills Zakron's wife his girl friend and his muscle man, but in doing so, puts himself in a coma for 9 years. He finds that most of the world's population are in dream cells. He sees the only chance of breaking



Zakron's power, is by destroying Zakron slowly, and simultaneously broadcasting his death agonies to all the dreamers. This results in millions of deaths.

Read it yourself to see how Maxwell got out of THAT one ! Generally, the story moves slowly, and the introduction of a double plot to control Maxwell, and the standover tactics employed, fail to ring true. However, the story is well worth reading.

Bob McCubbin

.....

Published by Herbert Jenkins at  
13/3. Available from McGills.



Jet Morgan leaves the moon for the first journey to Mars, with one space cruiser and a flock of freighters. In space, one freighter hand begins to act strangely - and his history is even stranger.

After various odd occurrences, the land and reach a Martian city, where they find that the 'flying saucers' which have been seen over Earth, have kidnapped humans and made them into willing slaves by deep hypnosis. Finding that the Martians plan to invade Earth, they escape and warn the authorities.

My only comment is, if the broadcast had no more sparkle than the book, I'm glad I didn't listen to it. It has too much padding, and is written

as though the author was trying to fill an allotted number of pages. A 'B' class juvenile - not nearly as good as an earlier PB of the same title .

Bob McCubbin

.....

JOHN MANTLEY

*The Twenty-Seventh  
Day*

published  
by  
Michael  
Joseph  
Ltd.

Available from McGills at 15/6. Review copy from publishers.

I understand that the film rights have been sold, and providing Hollywood's hacks don't kack it about too much, it should make an enjoyable film.

Aliens from a Galactic Federation kidnap an American, a Briton, a German, a Russian and a Chinese, and give each of them an invincible weapon, which, if not used in 27 days, will be useless, but, if used, will decimate humanity and leave the planet empty for the homeless aliens.

The Chinese girl suicides, the English girl throws her 'present' into the sea, the Russian hands his to a power mad dictator, the two others refuse to disclose the secret.

The aliens broadcast the facts, causing world panic. Are the weapons used -? And if so, what is the result? Read the book and find out. In spite of obvious Russo-phobia, the book is well worth reading.

Bob McCubbin

.....

C U IN DECEMBER

**JOHN CHRISTOPHER***The Death of Grass*published by  
Michael  
Joseph  
Ltd.

Available from McGills at 15/6. Review copy from publishers.

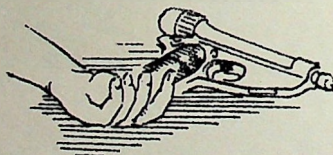
This is a grim story, with absolutely no light relief anywhere. It opens with English people discussing, in a detached impersonal way, a famine in China caused by a virus which attacks the rice crops. An antiviral spreads the infection to all grass and grass crops, and the whole world is infected.

A future on fish and root crops faces the world, and the Prime Minister decides to halve the population of England, by A- and H- bombing the major population centres. John Custance decides to go to his brother's farm in Blind Gill, Westmoreland - and easily defended box canyon. He enlists the aid of Pirrie - a cold blooded gunsmith.

By dint of murder and robbery, they finally reach their objective only to be refused admittance. During the ensuing battle, both Pirrie and David Custance are shot dead. Query - does John now bear the mark of Cain? We are not told the rest of the story - is there going to be a sequel?

The characters are believable, with the exception of Pirrie, but the grim picture of England given over to murder, rape, arson and robbery is difficult to visualise. A powerful piece of writing, and well worth reading, particularly by folk who believe 'it couldn't happen here'.

Bob McCubbin







## AUTHOR STORY LISTING...



Number

Thirty Seven

WILLIAM . F.

TEMPLE

Compiled by

Donald H. Tuck



This noted British author has been one-time editor of THE BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY JOURNAL. He is noted for his short story, THE SMILE OF THE SPHINX which appeared in 'Tales of Wonder' (Aut '38). His book, 'Four Sided Triangle' had quite a pre-publishing history, the 1st draft being lost in the Middle East, the 2nd stolen in Italy, while the 3rd took quite a bit of selling, owing to Britain's post war paper shortage.

BOOKS

- B1 FOUR SIDED TRIANGLE, THE (J. Long: U.K. 1949 240 9/6; 1952 6/  
(Fell: N.Y. 1951 240 \$ 2.75)(McLeod: Toronto \$ 3.75)  
( 'Le Triangle a quatre Cotes' Hachett: Paris 1952)

Juvenile

- J1 MARTIN MAGNUS ON VENUS (Muller: London 1955 176 7/6)  
Sequel to J2
- J2 MARTIN MAGNUS, PLANET ROVER (Muller: London 1954 167 7/6)  
Sequel is J1

Nonfiction

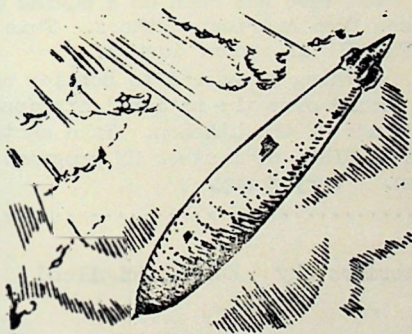
- THE TRUE BOOK ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL (Muller: London 1954 144 ill  
6/-)( 'The Prentice-Hall Book about Space Travel - P-H ,  
N.Y. 1955 142 ill \$ 2.75)

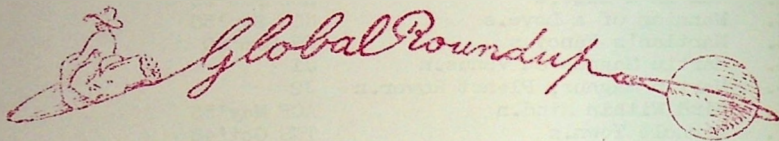
STORIES

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Better Than we Know.s       | SFQ Aug'55            |
| 2. Bone of Contention, The.s   | TWS Oct'50            |
| 3. Brain Beast, The.nv         | SuS Jul'49            |
| 4. Conditioned Reflex.s        | OW Jan'51             |
| 5. Counter-Transference.nv     | TWS Apr'42, AB11      |
| 6. Date to Remember, A.s       | TWS Aug'49, AI3       |
| 7. Destiny is my Enemy.nv      | NSF Sep'53            |
| 8. Double Trouble.s            | SY Win'51/52          |
| 9. Errand of Mercy.s           | ACF Mar'54            |
| 10. Eternal Duffer, The.s      | SEP ?, AS1            |
| 11. Eternity.s                 | SY ≠ 12               |
| 12. Experiment in Genius.s     | TW Sum'40, FF Nov'51  |
| 13. Field of Battle.n          | OW Feb'53.            |
| 14. For Each Man Kills.s       | AS Mar'50             |
| 15. Forget-Me-Not.nv           | OW Sep'50, AB9        |
| 16. Four Sided Triangle, The.n | AS Nov'39, B1, GN ≠ 9 |
| 17. Immortal's Playthings.n    | ACF Jan'53            |
| 18. Limbo.nv                   | NSF Sum'53            |
| 19. Lonely, The.s              | I Jul'55              |



- |     |                                     |                                 |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20. | Lunar Lilliput.nv                   | TW # 2 '38                      |
| 21. | Man in a Mage.s                     | ACF Feb'55                      |
| 22. | Mansion of a Love.s                 | NSF Sep'55                      |
| 23. | Martian's Fancy.s                   | NW Sum'50                       |
| 24. | Martin Magnus on Venus.n            | J1                              |
| 25. | Martin Magnus, Planet Rover.n       | J2                              |
| 26. | Mind Within Mind.n                  | ACF May'53                      |
| 27. | Miracle Town.s                      | TWS Oct'48                      |
| 28. | Mr. Craddock's Amazing Experience.s | AS Feb'39                       |
| 29. | Monster on the Border, The.s        | SuS Nov'40                      |
| 30. | Pawn in Revolt.nv                   | NSF Aut'53                      |
| 31. | Pilot's Hands.n                     | NSF Feb'54                      |
| 32. | Smile of the Sphinx, The.s          | TW Aut'38, WB Dec'50            |
| 33. | Three Pylons, The.s                 | NW # 1'46                       |
| 34. | Two Shadows, The.s                  | SS Mar'51, ASFs # 21, AB12, AN7 |
| 35. | Uncle Buno.s                        | SY # 16                         |
| 36. | Way of Escape.s                     | TWS Jun'48, AS3                 |
| 37. | Whispering Gallery, The.nv          | FU Oct/Nov'53                   |
| 38. | Wisher Tales All.s                  | OW Jul'50                       |
| 39. | 'You Can't See Me !'.s              | EA Jun'51                       |





Eric Burgess has another factual book upcoming from Hodder & Stoughton, titled AN INTRODUCTION TO ROCKETS AND SPACEFLIGHT, priced at 12/6 stg, illustrated. Next book from Charles Eric Maine, also from Hodders, will be THE ISOTOPE MAN at 11/6 stg while Captain W. E. Johns rides the sf trail for children with NOW TO THE STARS, at 7/6 stg, also from Hodders.

On Tuesday, 24th September, H. P. Lovecraft's excellent story, THE DUNWICH HORROR was featured in the radio series 'Tension', over 3KZ. Starring Harp Maguire, it was very well done, and close to the story.

Roger Corman's next production will be THE UNDEAD, an original about a woman who has been dead for 1000 years.

Ted Tubb has been on a buying splurge, with no less than 3 purchases from American authors. This continues the upward trend on AUTHENTIC in recent issues.

Nothing is sacred to Bentley and Edwards. In TAKE IT FROM HERE, heard over the national stations of Sunday, Sep 30th, SF got the rounds of the kitchen. In a sketch, loosely based on Wells' THE TIME MACHINE, with other SF programs thrown in, they really went to town. Very funny.

.....IJC

Interiors by Keith McLelland

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ETHERLINE

# *tomorrow*

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THE WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION

Editor: L. J. HARDING

Editorial Office: 4 MYRTLE GROVE  
PRESTON VIC.  
AUSTRALIA

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

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### BOOKS:

|  |                  |      |
|--|------------------|------|
| City and the Stars                         | A.C. Clarke      | 17/- |
| Twenty Seventh Day                         | John Mantley     | 15/6 |
| Death of Grass                             | John Christopher | 13/3 |
| * Tiger, Tiger                             | Alfred Bester    | 15/6 |
| October Country                            | Ray Bradbury     | 18/9 |
| Time Transfer                              | Arthur Sellings  | 15/6 |
| Body Snatchers                             | Jack Finney      | 13/3 |
| World of Chance                            | P.K. Dick        | 12/- |
| Other Side of the Moon                     | August Derleth   | 13/3 |
| Crossroads to Nowhere                      | Raymond Stark    | 13/3 |
| Another Tree in Eden                       | David Duncan     | 15/6 |
| One in Three Hundred                       | J.T. McIntosh    | 13/3 |
| * The Red Planet                           | Charles Chilton  | 13/3 |
| (Story of ABC serial "Journey into Space") |                  |      |

### POCKET BOOKS:

|                                  |                 |     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| The Green Hills of Earth         | Robert Heinlein | 3/- |
| Forbidden Planet                 | W.J. Stuart     | 3/- |
| Silver Locusts                   | Ray Bradbury    | 3/- |
| Illustrated Man                  | .. ..           | 3/- |
| * Golden Apples of the Sun       | .. ..           | 3/- |
| Flight into Space                | J.N. Leonard    | 3/- |
| The Science Book of Space Travel | H.L. Goodwin    | 4/9 |

### MAGAZINES:

|                    |       |                    |     |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-----|
| ASTounding Feb-Aug | 2/6   | Galaxy 39-40       | 2/9 |
| Fantasy and SF     | 9 2/- | Science Fantasy 19 | 3/- |
| S.F. Monthly 11-14 | 2/-   | New Worlds 50      | 3/- |

\* Due soon

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

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ETHERLINE

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# BACCHANALIA



an AEPA publication

Publication date : December 8th.

'The Best in Fantasy Fiction'

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

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# MELBOURNE GROUP REPORT

Some members of the Group had a very time lately. On September 10th, a party of 8 went to the Observatory. On the previous Thursday, there were 17 acceptances for a party of 12, but, when the weather was so bad, the number of withdrawals saved the bother of a ballot. However, in spite of the overcast sky, we had glimpses of Mars, Saturn and the Moon. The evening concluded with a lantern lecture on Nebulae. The trip was more successful than anticipated.

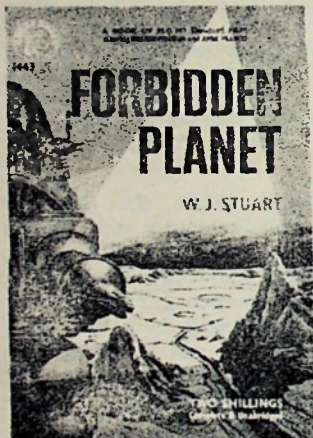
On Wednesday, September 12th, Ian Crozier picked up Mervyn Binns, Barry Salgram and Bob McCubbin and drove them out to Keith McLelland's home. There we transferred to his car, and took off for a visit to the Mountain District Group. It's a 20 mile trip to Upwey, and, after sending search parties along the narrow, winding mountain road, we finally found Jack Bristow's home, perched on the face of a precipitous slope. The Mountain Group meets in Jack's spacious lounge, and is something new in SF meetings. The members bring their wives and children, and play darts, table tennis and hookey, as well as discuss SF.

The Melbourne Group, doubtless due to the foreign field, couldn't take a trick in the parlour sports, but they made their presence felt at supper. We collected twelve Con subscriptions, and a Booklet ad - a valiant effort and much appreciated. I wish to thank Ian and Keith for transport, and Jack Flossie and Olive for the perfect hospitality. We of the MG would like to model our meetings on theirs, but..... accomodation!

Bob McCubbin.

POCKET

## Book Reviews



FORBIDDEN PLANET by W. J. Stuart, from the script of the film by Cyril Hume and based on a story by Irving Block and Allen Adler, published by Corgi, at 3/-.

Some of the Group saw a sneak preview of this film, and thoroughly enjoyed it. The review will appear when the film is released in Melbourne.

Briefly, the first expedition to Altair 4 has failed to return. Twenty years later, a second ship sets off to seek the first. The story is told by three of the main characters, Dr. Morbius, John Adams and Major Ostrow.

Expedition two is warned not to land, lands, and is met by Robby the Robot, who takes them to the sole survivors of Ex-One, Dr. Morbius and his daughter, Altaira.

Altaira survives several passes by a lecherous First Mate, but falls for Adams. Altair has been the home of the Krell, highly civilized people wiped out by God for daring to

create life. Morbius has fallen heir to their power and knowledge, but his evil ID goes on the rampage, and, though invisible and intangible, murders spacemen and leaves footprints.

Dr. Morbius finally sees the light, and explodes the planet and himself. The philosophy or what have you, of materialized subconsciousness, is rather hard to swallow but the rest of the story is quite good. I must see the film -- Robby should be worth seeing.

Bob McCubbin

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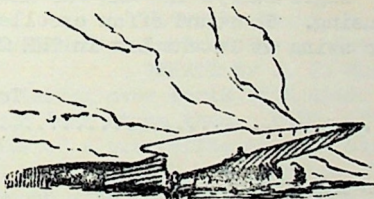
TIME TRAP by Rog Phillips, from Atlas Publications Pty. Ltd., in SCIENCE FICTION LIBRARY series.

My system has broken down, I can't trace this one ! Ray Bradley builds a time travelling telephone, and gets a call from Nelva, who tells him how to build a time traveller. He goes fifty years into the future, to find Earth dominated by a three-eyed race with prophetic vision.

They are not aliens, but come from the Murian time 400,000 years ago. There is the usual confusing time experiences, but a new one has been introduced. A time traveller CAN affect himself and his actions at an earlier period, within limits. All ends well for the virtuous four, and the Vargs go back to Mu. Readable.

Bob McCubbin

.....





MAGAZINE

Reviews

*Surrounding*  
SCIENCE FICTION

BRE. September 1956. 2/6

Cover by Freas again illustrates DOUBLE STAR by Robert Heinlein, which concludes in this issue. It ends well, although the climax was not entirely unexpected. This should be out in hard covers soon.

This is certainly a 'name' issue - the novel-ettes are by Asimov - THE DEAD PAST and Eric Frank Russell - LEGWORK.

The Asimov story is rather neat - a meek little professor of history who changes the world very much for the worse.

LEGWORK just tells of that substitute for genius - plodding - but sometimes it is better to be a plodder.

Algis Budrys THE MAN WHO ALWAYS KNEW is a short short, but amusing. To round off an excellent issue Leonard Lockhard has another swing at Patent Law in THE CURIOUS PROFESSOR - ION.

Tony Santos.

.....  
Cover illustration by BINNSTHE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

# Galaxy

## SCIENCE FICTION

BRE. No. 41 2/9

The covers and contents of **GALAXY** have now descended to the B+ class from the A rating they used to carry.

An amusing, if involved, future civilization is detailed in **MEZZEROW LOVES COMPANY** by F. L. Wallace In **THE VENUS TRAP** by Evelyn E. Smith, one mans worst enemy would be a dog. Alan Cogan proves that the moving finger uses permanent blue black in **IN THE CARDS**.

The short by Ned Lang **DEATH WISH** has a most disconcerting sting in its tail. **THE SCAPEGOAT** by Richard Maples was fair only as also was **THE MORALIST** by Jack Taylor.

Tony Santos.

.....

**NEW WORLDS**  
SCIENCE FICTION

No. 50. 3/-

Cover by Terry is again well done, an impression of construction work on Mars. Very like a Quinn.

**EMPATH** by J. T. McIntosh has a new type of supermen taking over Earth with their special brand of telepathy, but our 'ero stops them. Fair. **THE WARRIORS** by Arthur Sellings tells of a quarreling man and his missus starting a peaceful race on the road to belligerence. Fair. **THE LITTLE FLEET** by Dan Morgan - he preferred his model spaceships to the

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

real thing. ERROR POTENTIAL by F. G. Rayer - super speed poses the problem of a built up charge making a landing suicidal. Fair.

THE THING IN COMMON by Alan Barclay is the conclusion and solution to the 'Jacko' series. It is up to the standard of the previous 5 or 6, but has 5 words too many in the ending !

Articles by Kenneth Johns and John Newman are both well written, tho the subject matter is not new.

Altogether, a good issue with Quinn and Hutchings ( he's improved ! ) interiors.

Jack Keating.

.....

## Authentic

No. 71 2/9

Who dood the cover ? It says Mortimer, and contents page lists Blandford. Anyway, it's just fair.

J. T. McIntosh's THE LITTLE CORPORAL is just a misunderstood benefactor. So so. POINT OF VIEW by Douglas West has cannibals on another world. Phew !

James Causey's EXPLOITER'S END is just that.

HARVEST by John Arkwright has aliens stealing our best brains - literally ! So so. They made the ultimate machine, according to Carl Moulton in WISHPUL THINKING, but it was no good. Fair.

Frank Winnard's MISPLACED PERSON - the alien was an amnesiac robot. Fair. THE GREAT JUDGE is one of Van Vogt's poorer efforts. He must have needed some beer money.

YOU DO TAKE IT WITH YOU by Stella Ann Wood -- murder in space with a new gimmick. Fair.

Two articles are about on a par with the rest of the issue. Interior illo by Mortimer/Blandford is not bad.

On the whole, this slips back to the bad old days.

Jack Keating.



## SCIENCE FICTION Monthly No. 14. 2/6

Price was hiked, apparently as an afterthought. Cover is quite good, but I don't recognise it. More reprints from PLANET and others, but some of them should never have been even considered for reprinting.

I won't bother to comment on the stories, as I think that most of them will be familiar to the general reader, and those who haven't read them may enjoy them.

Graham Stone's SCIENCE FICTION SCENE has been cut to 16 pages, and could have been cut more, as most of the Book reviews are rather out of date. If he can't obtain advance copies of books as they are published, he may as well not review them at all. A fine commendation, however, to the Science Fiction Book Club. He gets a bit nostalgic about SF 20-30 years ago.

I think the editor could exercise a bit more care over the selection of material for reprinting, if he's going to continue the rather bad habit.

What about giving the locals - Bryning, Hemming, Nicholson, Whiteford, Vile etc. a go?

Jack Keating.

.....

## NEBULA

No. 17 2/10

Cover by Stark is fair, but somewhat illogical.

John Brunner's BY THE NAME OF MAN is a rather thoughtful piece. Recommended. By contrast, Ken Bulner's PROJECT PSEUDOMAN is a rather juvenile effort on robot building.

CRY WOLF by Arthur Sellings is the fairy story brought up to date, with an alien instead of a wolf. Poor. Phillip High's WRATH OF THE GODS is a fair idea, but suffers from

too much wordage. Ted Tubb's INTO THE EMPTY DARK is one of his short gems of psychological writing. Good.

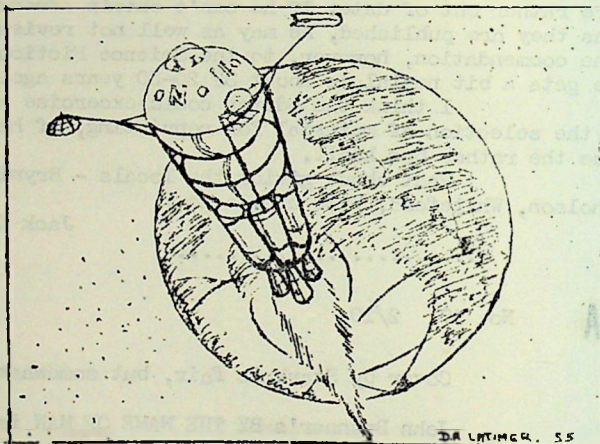
Eric Russell's STORM WARNING is another version of 'Time Gentlemen Please'. Fair.

Hunter's back cover is rather good, while the interiors by Turner, McKeown and Thompson are fair to middling.

This, except for PROJECT PSEUDOMAN and CRY WOLF, is a good issue. More of those, please Ted Tubb!

Jack Keating.

.....



Number

NOTABLE COVERS

Three

From ETHERLINE 50.

By Don Latimer

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and edited by Ian J. Crozier, production by Mervyn R. Binns. All material for publication to be forwarded to 6 Bramerton Road, Caulfield, S.E.8, Victoria, Australia. All Subscriptions to AFFA, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East, Victoria.

Subscription rates as follows:—

Australia: 15/- per 26 issues; 7/6 per 13 issues.

U.K.: 12/- per 26 issues; 6/- per 13 issues.

U.S.A.: \$2 per 26 issues; \$1 per 13 issues.

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