

# Etherline.

## Science Fiction Journal.

FEATURING...

CONCLUDING  
OUR SERIAL

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SATELLITE  
MAKES  
HISTORY

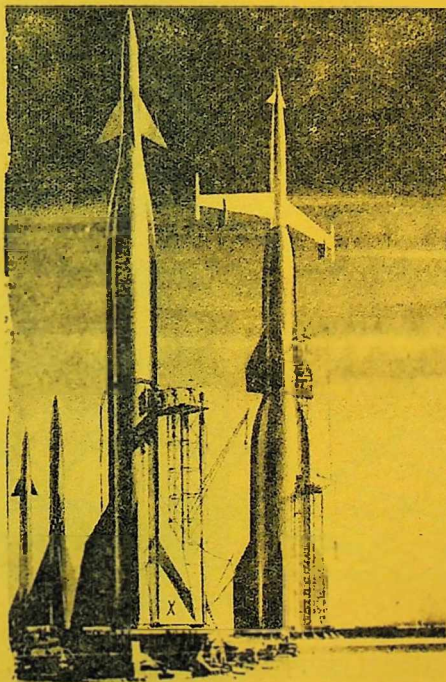
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BOOK AND  
MAGAZINE  
REVIEWS

x x x x

AUTHOR STORY  
LISTING:

RAY BRADBURY



Published by AFPA

ISSUE No.

31-10-57

91

# Etchell's

Chronic Fiction Journal



10

# Book Reviews

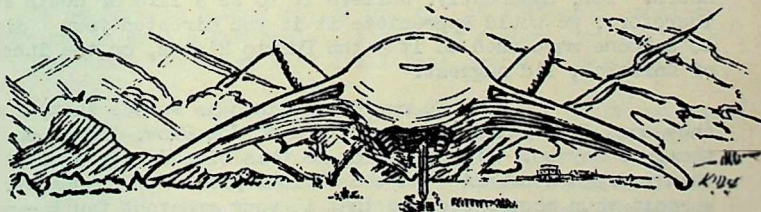
THE FALLEN STAR by James Blish, published by Faber & Faber, London, review copy from publishers. Available at McGills.

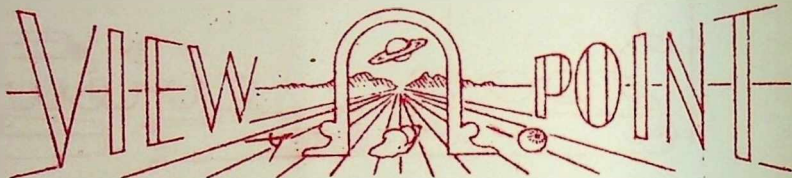
This, the latest of Blish's novels, has his most human character to date in Julian Cole. It also has a great deal of topical interest in that it concerns, among other things, the I.G.Y. and satellites. Although this would appear to have sufficient elements for a plot, Blish tosses in a glamorous movie star, an extrovert explorer, a drunken scientist, the North Pole and a possible Martian.

Altogether a trifle too much of a good thing.

Good reading.

Tony Santos.





AN OPEN LETTER

TO: A certain section of American fandom (if the cap fits.....)  
FROM: Ian J. Crozier, editor, ETHERLINE.  
RE: Certain 'fan' activities.

Dear 'Fans',

I have reason to believe that, due to a review appearing in issue 81, ETHERLINE has been catapulted into one of your asinine feuds. Frankly, we don't give a tinker's curse, but we do object to the dictatorial denunciations directed to by certain of your witch-hunting colleagues.

Australia is not yet the 49th state, and we don't intend it to be. Out here, we take our fan activities as they should be taken - a form of relaxation to wile away the spare hours. You, apparently, believe it to be a life or death struggle. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you directed your dictating to someone more used to it - the Puerto Ricans, or the inhabitants of Eniwetok, I'd suggest.

We review fanzines as we see them, whether they come from Dwight D. Eisenhower or Joe Blow. If we don't like them, we say so. If you object to this biased method of reviewing then you can stuff it - in the obvious place. Personally, I'd suggest your mouth, because that is your greatest fault - you talk

too much, whether it be in fan activities or anything else. You generally manages to talk yourself into a hole. Well, one of these days, someone is going to fill that hole up before you can do much about it. Remember, silence is golden.

We come now to some points raised in a unnecessary letter from one of your number. He talks of 'faux pas' committed by McCubbin in the said review. Well, that's a matter of opinion. What if you received a fanzine from Australia castigating a section of Australian fandom ON PURELY PERSONAL GROUNDS? You'd review it exactly as McCubbin did, if you had any pretensions to being sane.

Any way, why the necessity of airing purely personal arguments in a fanzine, anyway? If I have an argument with John Smith, I'm not going to take a full page in the local paper to answer him.

Secondly, I thought witch-hunting died out with Joe McCarthy? Apparently not, for this letter drags out all the old cliches beloved by McCarthy and his cohorts which, judging on reports, would include one Orval Faubus. You know the ones I mean - 'subversive', 'smear', 'disloyal', 'red', etc, words which, up until now, had a certain meaning in the English language. Hell, how silly can you get and still stay clear of an asylum?

The writer announces his intentions of organising a boycott of ETHERLINE. Well, my advice is: go to it, son. If we have to pander to the whines of obviously unbalanced morons to sell a few copies, then we'd rather stop publishing altogether. At least we'd still have our self respect.

He also castigates us for our stand on segregation. What stand? There certainly hasn't been any mention of segregation in these pages. This is a SCIENCE FICTION journal, remember? He tells us how the white 65% live in fear of the Negro 35%. Has he ever stopped to think that maybe the



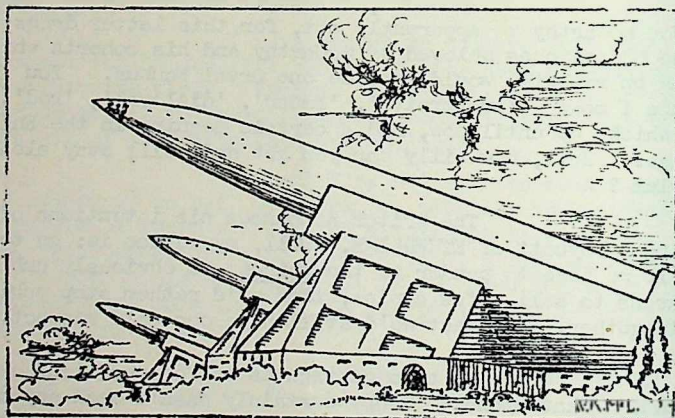
Negro 35% think the same of the white 65% ?

No, Mr. C., as you say, we don't have race troubles here, nor do we have racketeers running the unions, graft, corruption, fear of airing our political views, ineffectual government, fear of losing our jobs every time the other party gets in, and..... mad SF fans. So before you start organising my backyard, get your own in order.

I suggest, therefore, that next time you open your mouth, you put your foot all the way in.

Ian J. Crozier.....

## NOTABLE COVERS



N<sup>o</sup> 8

W.K. McLELLAND

ETHERLINE 42



## AUTHOR STORY LISTING



Number Forty Nine

RAY BRADBURY

Compiled by

Donald H. Tuck

This prominent author received world acclaim after the publication of his first books; he was originally a fan making his professional debut in 1941, but it was not until 1943 that he became a regular contributor to the field. Some of his stories have appeared in anthologies outside the field - Martha Foley's THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES (1946, 1948 etc.), but

is now comparatively unknown to the new magazine reader as his main writings are for the slick magazines (he won the Benjamin Franklin Award for the best short story in 1954) and the films, where he has scripted, amongst others, MOBY DICK and THE BEAST OF 20,000 FATHOMS.

Compilers Note: Bradbury is one of the most difficult writers to catalogue bibliographically due to title changes on stories, differences between US and British editions of his works, and his many stories appearing in magazines outside the field.

This is an attempt to cover his science fiction and fantasy only, but if more is wanted, the reader is suggested to check the RAY BRADBURY REVIEW edited by William Nolan (1951); his new writings in the field since then are comparatively few.

### BOOKS

- B1 ~~FIREFIRE~~ 451 (Ballantine: N.Y. 1953 199 \$ 2.50)  
 Also contains 2s: 2a, 103  
 (Hart Davis: London 1954 158 9/6)(SF Book Club (S.J.)  
 1955 4/6)  
 Enlargement of THE FIREMAN (36)

### Juvenile

- J1 Switch on the Night (Pantheon: N.Y. 1955 111 \$ 2.50)(Hart -  
 Davis: London 1955 111 8/6)(McLelland: Toronto \$ 2.95

### COLLECTIONS

- C1 DARK CARNIVAL (Arkham: Wisc 1947 313 \$ 5.00 Jac-Burrows)  
 C of 27s: 53, 121, 65, 69, 76, 133, 124, 30, 139,  
 122, 17, 110, 49, 143, 61, 64, 115, 72,  
 140, 149, 89, 132, 78, 91, 14, 88.  
 (H. Hamilton: London 1948 271 9/-; 1951 5/-)  
 20s: omitting from above - 76, 110, 143, 61, 64,  
 115, 91.



- C2 THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN (Doubleday: N.Y. 1953 250 \$ 3.)  
22S: 7, 99, 4, 148, 40, 62, 37, 86, 44, 56, 29, 7a, 125,  
45, 105, 31, 130, 82, 42, 44a, 48, 43.  
(Hart-Davis:London 1953 192 10/6)  
20s: omitting from above: 7a, 44a.
- C3 THE ILLUSTRATED MAN (Doubleday: N.Y. 1951 256 \$ 3.50)  
18s: 152, 67, 96, 51, 77, 19, 111, 60, 70, 32, 93, 39,  
152, 15, 79, 108, 154, 97.  
(Hart-Davis:London 1952 192 12/6)  
16s: omitting from above 111, 60, 32, 15 and adding 11,  
103.
- C4 THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES(Doubleday: N.Y. 1950 222 \$2.50)(Doubleday SF Book Club 1952)  
26s and interims (which are given) : Rocket Summer, 153,  
126, 27, The Taxpayer, 80, 2, The Settlers, 47, The Locusts, 90, The Shore, Interim, The Musicians, 146,  
The Naming of Names, 11, The Old Ones, 81, The Luggage Store, 94, The Watchers, 119, 26, 133, 83.  
(The Silver Locusts Hart Davis:London 1951 232 12/6)  
As above only omits 11 and includes 60  
(SF Book Club (S&J) 1953 6/-)  
As above only omits 1s (unknown) and includes 148.
- C5 THE OCTOBER COUNTRY (Ballentine: N.Y. 1955 306 \$ 3.50)(Hart Davis:London 1956 306 15/-)  
19s:25, 88, 145, 121, 65, 69, 30, 138, 122, 17, 64, 115,  
140, 149, 78, 132, 14, 53, 151.

THE SILVER LOCUSTS      see      THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

#### POCKET BOOKS

- P1 FAHRNHEIT 451 (Ballentine 41: N.Y. 1953 199 35c)  
Identical with B1  
(Transworld CORGI T389: London 1957 2/- . Same as Brit B1

- P2 THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN (Bantam A1241: N.Y. 1954 200 35c)  
Contents same as C2  
(Transworld CORGI 1241: London 1956 189 2/-)  
Contents probably same as Brit C2
- P3 THE ILLUSTRATED MAN (Bantam 991: N.Y. 1952 246 25c; 2nd ed.  
1282 1954 186 25c)(Transworld CORGI 1282: London 1955 246  
2/-)  
Contents same as C3; difference of US and Brit eds unknw)
- P4 THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES (Bantam 886: N.Y. 1951 200 25c; 2nd .  
ed No. 1261 1954 181 25c)  
Contents same as C4  
(Transworld CORGI 886: London as THE SILVER LOCUSTS 1956  
256 2/-) Contents same as C4 - Brit ed.
- P5 THE OCTOBER COUNTRY (Ballentine F139: N.Y. 1955 306 50c)  
Identical with C5

THE SILVER LOCUSTS see THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES.

### ANTHOLOGIES (PB)

- AC13 THE CIRCUS OF DR. LAO and other improbable stories (Bant-  
am A1519 : N.Y. 1956 210 35c)  
12s.
- AT9 TIMELESS STORIES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW (Bantam A944: N.Y.  
1952 306 35c.)  
26s.

### STORIES

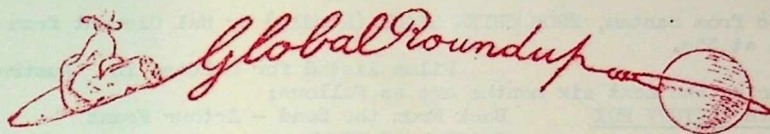
- 1 under pseud. Brett Sterling
- 2 with Leigh Brackett
- 3 with H. Hasse

- <sup>4</sup> under pseud Leonard Spaulding  
 x not in Brit Ed.  
 y in Brit ed only.

1. All Summer in a Day.s MF Mar'54, AB25
2. .. And the Moon Be Still as Bright.s  
TWS Jun'48, C4, P4, AS6, AB7
- 2a. And The Rock Cried Out.s B1<sup>x</sup>
3. And Watch th Fountains Play.s (Prob. Zero)  
ASF Sep'43
4. April Witch, The.s C2, P2
5. Asleep in Armageddon.s PS Win'48, AFR~~4~~11, ACF May'53,  
AP7.
6. Bang ! You're Dead.s WT Sep'44
7. Beast from 20,000 Fathoms, The.s  
SEP 23/6/51, The Fog Horn C2,  
P2, Arg Brit. Aug'51.
- 7a. Big Black and White Game, The.s C2<sup>x</sup>
8. Black Ferris, The.s WT May'48
9. Blade of Grass, A.s TWS Dec'49, Arg. Brit Jun'54
10. Candle, The.s WT Nov'42
11. Carnival of Madness.s TWS Apr'50, Usher II C4<sup>x</sup>, P4,  
C3<sup>v</sup>; The Immortality of Horror  
Esquire Nov'51; The Second House  
of Usher Brit Arg Nov'50
12. Changeling.s SuS Jul'49
13. Chrysalis.s AS Jul'46
- Circumstantial Evidence see Mars is Heaven
14. Cistern.s Mademoiselle May'47, C1, C5,  
P5.
- City, The. see Purpose
- Coffin, The see Wake for the Dead
15. Concrete Mixer, The.s TWS Apr'49, C3<sup>x</sup>, P3
16. Creatures That Time Forgot, The.nv  
PS Fal'46

17. Crowd, The.s WT May'43, Br. Arg May'49, C1, C5, P5, AT18  
 Danger Wears Three Faces see The Earth Men  
 or The Spring Night
18. Dead Man, The.s WT Jul'45, C1
19. Death by Rain.s PS Sum'50; The Long Rain C3, P3
20. Death Wish.s PS Fal'50
31. Defense Mech.s PS Fal'46
22. Doodad.s ASF Sep'43
23. Dragon, The.s MF Mar'56
24. Ducker, The.s WT Nov'43
25. Dwarf, The.s Ft Jan/Feb'54, C5, P5
26. Dwellers in Silence.s PS Spr'49, ASFs # 20, AB8<sup>x</sup>, AS6 The Long Years C4, P4, Br Arg Mar'48, McLeans Mag 15/9/48.
27. Earth Men, The.s TWS Aug'48, C4, P4, A02; with The Spring Night as THE GREAT HALLUCINATION Esquire Nov'50; with The Spring Night as DANGER WEARS THREE FACES Br Arg. Feb'51
28. Eat, Drink and be Wary.s (Prob Zero). ASF JUL'42
29. Embroidery.s MS Nov'51, C2, P2
30. Emissary, The.s New Story Jul'51, C1, C5, P5
31. En La Noche.s C2, P2; Price of Silence Br Arg Nov'53
- Escape see The Fox in the Forest
32. Exiles, The.s MF Win/Spr'50, C3<sup>x</sup>, P3, AB15, The Mad Wizards of Mars McLeans Mag 15/9/49
33. Fahrenheit 451.n enlargement of 36, B1, P1, Pl-ayboy sr3 Mar'54.
34. Fever Dream.s WT Dec'48
- 35, Final Victim.s AS Feb'46 3
- Fire Ballbons, The. sec In This Sign

Continued in the next issue



Only new pocket book listed as coming out in U.K. during September is THE ROBOT BRAINS by S. J. Bounds from Digit at 2/- stg. Others available include THE CITY AND THE STARS by A. C. Clarke from Corgi at 3/6 stg., and THE TRANSPROED MAN by Dwight V. Swain. Books published during September included: FALLEN STAR by James Blish, from Faber at 15/- stg., HIS MONKEY WIFE by John Collier from Hart Davis at 13/6 stg., THE MIDWICH CUCKOO by John Wyndham from Josephs at 13/6 stg., PRESENTING MOONSHINE by John Collier from Hart Davis at 13/6 stg., and two books of marginal interest, SAM SMALL THE FLYING YORKSHIRE - MAN by Eric Knight, from Spearman at 11/6 stg., and ROCKETS GALORE by Compton Mackenzie from Chatto & Windus at 15/6 stg.

Penguin Australia will issue the juvenile MOON AHEAD by Leslie Greener at 4/- this month.

First reports on the recently concluded World Con in London are filtering through, and apparently a good time was had by all. Amongst those present were: John W. Campbell & wife, Bob Silverberg and wife, Sam Moskowitz, Bob Madle, George Raybin, David Kyle and wife, Forry Ackerman, H. Beam Piper, Arthur Clarke, Mike Wilson, Dan Morgan, S. J. Bounds, John Wyndham, Ted Tubb and John Brunner. What a line up !

New material from the American front include PB editions of SF CARNIVAL edited by Brown & Reynolds at



35c from Bantan, FROM OUTER SPACE (Needle) by Hal Clement from Avon at 35c.

Films listed for release in Australia during the next six months are as follows:

20th CENTURY FOX

Back From the Dead - Arthur Franz

Kronos - Jeff Morrow

The Unknown Terror - John Howard

COLUMBIA

Night of the Demon - Dana Andrews

UNITED ARTISTS

The Vampire - John Beal

Monster that Challenged the World

Voodoo Island - Boris Karloff

Birth of a Monster (Quatermass II)

WARNER BROS.

Curse of Frankenstein - Peter Cushing

Story of Mankind

Satellite in the Sky

Black Scorpion

EROS

The Trollenberg Terror - Forrest Tucker

ASTRA FILMS

Fire Maidens from Outer Space

I.F.D.

Four Sided Triangle ( Again !)

M.G.M.

The Invisible Boy

RAY FILMS

The Undead

Voodoo Woman

I Was a Teenage Werewolf

R.K.O.

X The Unknown

Fantasia

Quite a formidable lineup - if they ever get here. It seems to me that 4 Sided Triangle has been listed as coming for years.

IJC

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

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PUBLISHERS' REPRESENTATIVES

BOOKS: 183-185, 218 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.

Deep Range	A.C.Clarke	17/-
Three to Conquer	E.F.Russell	15/6
Operation Outer Space	Murray Leinster	13/3
No Refuge	John Boland	15/6
Brother Bear	Guy Richards	15/6
The Twenty Seventh Day	John Mantley	15/6
Seven Days to Never	Pat Frank	18/9
The Insurgents	Vercors	18/9
On the Beach	Nevil Shute	15/6
Out of the Silence	Erle Cox	10/6
The Black Cloud	Fred Hoyle	18/9
* Fallen Star	James Blish	18/9

### POCKET BOOKS:

The Robot Brains	Sydney J. Bounds	3/-
Return to Tomorrow	L.Ron Hubbard	3/-
Mister Adam	Pat Frank	3/-
Earthlight	A.C.Clarke	3/-
City and the Stars	..	5/3
Men, Martians and Machines	Eric Frank Russell	3/9
The Body Snatchers	Jack Finney	3/-
White August	John Boland	3/9
Private Volcano	Lance Sievert	3/9
The Day the Moon Died	Richard Savage	3/-
The Science Book of Space Travel	Leland Goodwin	4/9

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL





# THE AMERICAN SCENE

by CALVIN T. BECK.

SFantasy in Films: If the overall tabulation of movies circulated at present is even roughly approximate in leading film trade mags, then hold on to your pin heads and water pistol ray guns: an average of one out of four movies distributed in the USA happens to be SFantasy (or at least strong SFantasy interest) at the present time! Science fiction/fantasy is here to stay this time as far as the opinion of the movie moguls stand. A recent conference with a Warner Bros upper echelon exec revealed that as US distributors of the British made CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN, box office receipts more than satisfied them -- in fact, rarely even BTV (Before T.V.) days, were many movies known to gross so well. Warners as well as many others definitely agree that anything of SFantasy nature, or even barely resembling it, is the 'best and trustworthiest staplebox office item today...greater even than Westerns insofar as classified or typed material stands'.

The regrettable factor however is, as 4e Ackerman lately indicated, that people scripting SFantasy movies are usually utterly unfamiliar with the genre, while writers who are veterans at SFantasy are mainly unemployed most of the time. The results are mediocrity in too many cases to be taken lightly. Though it pains me to say it, after some 20 years of SFantasy reading etc., it's safe to say that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of these films aren't worth seeing where indoctrinated and seasoned fans are concerned, while the remainder is divided up between mildly interesting and very good. At least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all the movies of the genre however,

give the whole field a terrible impression where the uninitiated 'normal' public stand. Indeed, some of - perhaps most of - Movie-land's worst crimes today are made in the name of SFantasy.

Impressive though it was, even THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN had some unforgiveable flaws. Fortunately they were only technical, i.e., the 'science' was spotty and quite unscientific, unconvincing where the creation of the Monster came in - -- even lower grade high school students with only one year of science and biology noticed these things quickly. Otherwise, CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN will rank as one of the best SFantasy films ever made, despite being a very low budget production; and the scripting was far more adult than most multi million dollar spectaculars even if the writer(s)'s scientific know-how left much to be desired. Whatever inconsistencies there were in this tremendously dramatic, well acted production, there is strong reason to believe that most of the mistakes and much margin for error took place in the film cutting room and no where else (I have recently learned that the 83 minute version shown all over the country was a pared down version of the original film which ran for 105 minutes). This may not excuse the 'mistakes', but it does make one wonder.....

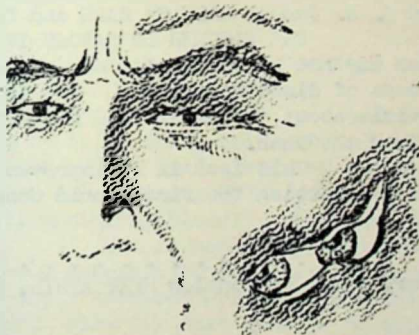
Following is a comprehensive listing of SFilms currently making the US rounds (not all are 'pure' SF, but those listed are nevertheless of major interest to most SFans); and not all were made this year, of course - however, despite the age of some, the quantity of SFantasy and marginal material being distributed deserves some serious attention as an important trend:

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. ABBOT & COSTELLO GO TO MARS | 11. DEADLY MANTIS                 |
| 2. A. & C. MEET JEKYLL & HYDE  | 12. GIANT CLAW                    |
| 3. A. & C. MEET THE HUMMY      | 13. GREEN BUDDHA                  |
| 4. AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS | 14. I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF      |
| 5. ATTACK OF THE CRAB MONSTERS | 15. INVASION OF THE SAUCER<br>MEN |
| 6. BEAUTY & THE DEVIL          |                                   |
| 7. CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN       | 16. KRONOS                        |
| 8. DELETRIUS & THE GLADIATORS  | 17. LAND OF THE PHAROS            |
| 9. BEGINNING OF THE END        | 18. THE LAND UNKNOWN.             |
| 10. DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL  | 19. THE LIVING IDOL               |

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20. HELEN OF TROY            | 32. TARZAN & LOST SAFARI        |
| 21. LA SORCIERE (French)     | 33. TEN COMMANDMENTS            |
| 22. MAN OF 1,000 FACES       | 34. THREE FACES OF EVE          |
| 23. MIGHTY JOE YOUNG         | 35. THE THING                   |
| 24. NIGHT THE WORLD EXPLODED | 36. 1,000 YEARS FROM NOW        |
| 25. NOT OF THIS EARTH        | 37. THE 27TH DAY                |
| 26. OEDIPUS REX              | 38. 20,000,000 MILES FROM EARTH |
| 27. OMAR KHAYYAM             | 39. THE UNDEAD                  |
| 28. THE RED BALLOON          | 40. THE UNEARTHLY               |
| 29. SEARCH FOR BRIDEY MURPHY | 41. VODOO WOMAN                 |
| 30. SIGN OF THE PAGAN        | 42. X, THE UNKNOWN              |
| 31. SPOOK CHASERS            |                                 |

Add to the above some two dozen or more made within the last three years, and anyone can get a fair idea of the impact SFantasy has made on the public....Add this in spite of much abominable trash and mediocrity unpalatable even for any 12 year old. Things like DESTINATION MOON and THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN are amongst the biggest money makers; and Hollywood is aware that better written and produced SFantasy will pack more into movie houses.

Cal T. Beck....



MAGAZINE

Reviews

NEW WORLDS  
SCIENCE FICTION

No. 63

Cover by Terry symbolising World Science Fiction Society. Part 2 of Dan Morgan's THE UNINHIBITED unrolls further with interest in this story of extra Terran telepaths.

MISSION ONE HUNDRED is a good space opera by Ken Bulmer, who is steadily increasing his reputation.

Bert Chandler's SISTER UNDER THE SKIN is a typical Chandler on how to kill an alien.

What was it ?? Gravity nullifier or time machine ? Read E. R. James' MADE ON MARS and find out.

THE WATCHER ON SARGAN IV by Peter Hawkins reports that Man may not be welcome on other worlds, and they have numerous ways of discouraging us. The IGY comes into mention with an article about the Sun titled POWER IN THE SKY, by the knowledgeable Kenneth Johns.

This issue is an improvement on the last, with John Carnell reporting the final World Convention news in his editorial.

Val Morton.

.....  
don't forget our convention NEXT APRIL, the 5th to be exact.

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

## Authentic

No. 84

Cover by Kirby from AND THE GLORY, by Bert Chandler, a very nice short story.

Ken Bulmer's AMBIGUOUS ASSIGNMENT is a very good story, telling of how assassination becomes a semi-legit business, with the hero forced to play both sides.

SECOND FROM THE SUN by Ron Lowan is also very good, telling of a secret mission to Venus. LINDA by J. Evans proves that one shouldn't jump to conclusions.

ANCIENT ENEMY by Philip E. High will keep you guessing and your interest to rocket pitch in this threat to mankind. INTERRUPTED VIEW by Robert Presslie falls a little short of the mark, as does MUSIC SOOTHES THE THROOLY by R. J. Tilley.

On the whole, one of the best I've read in a long time.

Val Morton

## POCKET BOOK REVIEW

THE TRANSPOSED MAN by Dwight V. Swain, a Panther Book from Hamilton & Co., available from McGills at 3/-.

This contains two stories, the other being THE PREDATORS by E. C. Tubb, both of which have been magazine publication before. The title tells of the struggle between the Mechanist and the human Humanity for control. The hero changes bodies at will, confusing himself, the enemy and the reader.

The second story dissects advertising, a theme which has been done better before. The advertisers win a legal battle which loses them membership in the Galactis Federation, but who cares? The G.F. must succumb to successful advertising soon. Both just reading matter.

Bob McCubbin



Concluding our serial.....

# THE LENTIFERS

By Nigel Jackson.....

The whip whistled in the hot air, and just nicked the girl's legs. The first blow in the game of cat and mouse. The whip was raised once more above the screaming girl. Farmondsby struggled uselessly with his captors, the crowd tense, hating.

"STOP !"

It was one small word, but it halted the Prince's stroke instantly.

A young man, previously unnoticed, had stepped from the ranks of the passengers. He was amazingly tall and powerfully built, dressed in a peculiar red uniform of blouse and pants. About his waist was a black buckle with a gold clasp in the form of a capital L, and his soft leather shoes shone with similar, smaller clasps. His whole appearance was that of a god in human form, and he bore himself proudly, as though he owned the universe. Yet in his stance there was nothing of arrogance or of brash bravado, as in that of the Crown Prince; instead there was fearless power, power which held the Prince motionless and silent, and even the guards themselves dared not go too near.

The crowd was murmuring and gesticulating excitedly.

"Who the devil's that, Forr?" asked the Third.  
"Not one off our lot ?"

"Good grief, no !"

"Then where's he come from ?"

In the meantime the young man was moving slowly forward under the careful surveillance of the guards. He held no weapon, but a crimson holster hung from his belt. Fearlessly he

came up to the Prince , a giant beside a dwarf, and stood before him, hands on hips. His face was hard and stern. It was the Prince who broke the silence.

"Well ?" It was a one word slap.

"You are grievously injuring that girl. You will cease immediately or pay the consequences. Release her."

For a moment, the Prince's poise was shaken by the quite confidence of the man before him. Then he recovered.

"Guards ! Take him !"

The young man was savagely pinioned, and yet his face showed no concern. Von Rasselov pointed imperiously.

"Kill him !"

"WAIT !" This time the guards received his one word of command and, like the Prince, obeyed it.

The young man spoke, and his words rang in the ears of the crowd, echoing off the metal tail fins and filling the air with sound.

"Listen and pay heed, Von Rasselov. I whom you see am Barlin, first of the Lentifers, who come to restore freedom and love to all the peoples of the Galaxy. Our power is boundless and our purpose indestructable Kill me, and you kill yourself; the penalty or killing a Lentifer is instant and immediate death. So it will always be. Now, tell your men. to release me, or die."

Wherever they appeared, the Lentifers displayed the same brilliant strategy and perfect planning, Here, as their first incident, an example was required to form a legend, a martyr to symbolise their purpose. And Barlin's words fulfilled their task completely. Von Rasselov was goaded to a maddened, senseless rage.

"I know not who you are, nor do I care. Your vaunted threats are like the shaking hoof of a fettered horse. Guards, destroy him !"

The guards faltered nervously.

"Kill him !"

Still they hesitated. The Prince could stand it no longer, and drew a shiny, silver boltgun from his pocket and fired at the guards and captive indiscriminately. They fell to the sand in a bloody, smoking ruin. Triumphantly, Von Rasselov replaced his weapon and again turned to the girl..... to stare straight into the eyes of another of the red-garbed men. And suddenly all around him, the passengers were shrieking and fainting, as fifty of the Lentifers appeared from nowhere to hold the guards at bay, these armed with monstrous yellow tubes which made the guards guns look like toys.

The Prince turned yellow-green, and fell upon his knees, inarticulate whines pouring from his lips as the man who faced him lifted his gun and spoke the immortal words:

"You murdered a Lentifer, and so must die. Go tell your ancestors their sins may thrive no more."

The Yellow tube spat once, and as the Blood poured from Von Rasselov's throat, the legend of the Lentifers was born, and the first small skirmish won.

The Lentifer turned to the guards who pinioned Farmondsby, and gestured.

"Let him go."

Ashen faced, they complied. Farmondsby came slowly across, and the Lentifer walked to meet him, holding out a hand. As though in a dream, the old man took it. It was firm and warm.

"Captain Farmondsby, you have shown yourself more than worthy of your high office, and we offer our respects to you. Soon we shall depart. You must then return these girls to their homes. The guards will be imprisoned for four years in the city. You will find no opposition there, as we have already attended to the Prince's retinue, and others who might have threatened harm. Only after that will you take the vessel home, and tell all what you have seen. "

He spoke but once more, voice strong and resonant, and this time to the crowd.

"To whom you see before you call ourselves the Lentifers. Why, you need not know. Know instead that we have come to restore peace and freedom to your peoples, and that we shall not cease till we have crushed those tyrants who oppress you. We are unconquerable, and shall always win in the struggle. Take this news and tell it to your friends until it has been heard from Hemel to Arcturus. And be of good courage and firm heart as you speak."

Out of the intense heat came a cheer, then another and as the crowd took up the cheering, the strangers vanished as they had come and were gone.

The new day had dawned.

Nigel Jackson

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## ETHERLINE ENTITIES

Number five in the entourage is known as...

### DON LATIMER

Don is well over 6 feet tall, blonde and good looking, with an attractive wife, Za, to match. He has two children, and was in the RAAF during the war. To earn a crust, he assists his father in his book binding business. Before he built his own home, he was an active fan, but now his main interests are his home, his family and his television set, not necessarily in that order !

Don is always ready to help with binding and trimming special issues, and he has done some good illustrations. Most Australian collectors have had their special items bound by Latimer.

Melbournian

# MELBOURNE SF CLUB REPORT

Why didn't someone tell me Remo Parlanti has been married six months, has bought a house at Springvale and is looking very healthy and happy ? Our belated congratulations and best wishes, Remo.

All Melbourne fans are developing stiff necks from watching Sputnik, and stiff tongues from saying, 'I told you so!'. The project has caused a great upsurge of interest in SF - the Melbourne newspaper even disturbed McCubbin at work to get material for an article.

The said McCubbin has found himself on the fringes of a feud - one of his reviews managed to arouse some ire in Maryland ! He is only too thankful that America hasn't flattened all the kinks in their ICBM !

Convention registrations are coming in, slowly, but the two score mark has been passed.

A very enjoyable film night was held on Friday, October 25th, when fans and friends witnessed the CONQUEST OF EVEREST. All present acclaimed it as a very fine film, well worth seeing. The next film night will be held on Friday, November 29th, when we hope to witness THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS, the Ray Bradbury yarn. If you wish to attend, then see Merv. Binns at McGills. Seating is limited, so get in early.

MELBOURNIAN





D. Acton, 499 St. Kilda Rd., Melbourne, wants: WEIRD TALES between 1930 - 1944, also hard cover US SF and Fantasy. Send list to above.

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Wanted by THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION LIBRARY : Books - please send list.

ILLUSTRATED MAN - Bradbury - Corgi Ed.

Mallian Press items - The Unknown

The Irrationals

Nine Worlds West

Is there anyone stateside interested in exchanging US books and PBs for subs to British magazines , books , SF or otherwise, or pocket books ??

Also willing to trade Australian new stamps.

Write to : Mervyn R. Binns,  
4 Myrtle Grove,  
Preston, Vic. Aust.

.....

F. Jefferson, 41 Mary St., Longueville, N.S.W. wants Burroughs PBs, Mars and Venus series. Will pay up to 1/9 if in good condition. Send list.

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FANZINE

Reviews

CRIFANAC 5 This was once Orville Mosher, is now mainly Tom Reamy 4332 Avondale, Dallas, Texas at 25c a copy.

This is well photo offset by the Mosher Printery Service. Many good illos by Reamy, reasonable fiction (though not to everyone's taste) from Reamy, Ray Thompson and Leif Ayen.

The features and departments are good, though we are promised an improvement in No. 6.

Bob McGubbin.

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OMEGA No. 3 from Rod Frye, 408 Alleghany Rd., Hampton, Virginia at 3 issues for 25 c.

Omega continues to improve. I like the small size, a la ETHERLINE, but with cut, not folded pages, 38 of them. The cover is done in 3 colors and shows Little Abner's sea monster attacking a moter boat.

This issue has 4 pieces of average fan fiction, Janie Lamb writes of NSF, there are letters and reviews.

A likeable little fanzine.

Bob McCubbin

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YOU MUST ATTEND THE CONVENTION AT EASTER NEXT YEAR !!!

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL



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