

T H E  
FUTURIAN

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An Amateur magazine published in England  
in the interests of Fantasy enthusiasts  
throughout the world.



MEMBER      F. A. P. A.



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# T H E F U T U R I A N

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## E D I T O R I A L

With this issue, we have again enlarged our magazine and inaugurate a separate Leeds SFL section which, until better printing facilities are available will perforce be duplicated. We would like to take this opportunity of emphasising that 'The FUTURIAN' is published by The Green Jester Press: not by the LSFL, tho' the reports of the latter are incorporated, thus allowing the magazine to be completely independent: and to publish without fear or favour.

A word re subscribers - we are most gratified by the reception of our publication in U.S.A., but here in Britain there appears to be a deepset apathy. We would very much like to reduce the cost of our magazine, and could do so if we had more subscribers. So its up to ycu, dear readers!

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Editor; J. Michael Rosenblum, 4 Grange Terrace, Leeds 7, England. Business Manager; H. Gottliffe. Published by 'The Green Jester Press' and printed for them by J. M. Rosenblum. Associate; Eric Moss.

All views expressed herein are those of the writers.

Poems, short stories and articles connected in any way with Fantasy are welcome. Contributors receive free copy of magazine but no monetary reward. We offer a free forum for all to express their ideas.

# A Dissertation On Utopias

by J. MICHAEL ROSENBLUM

Perhaps more than any other form of fantasy, the Utopia story expresses the yearning of the science-fiction fan to change the current of human affairs: and shows his desire for a different and better world. But others too, feel this; and throughout the ages seers have produced epics of mental inspiration and exploration.

We must, of course, commence with the book that gave our article its name. 'Utopia' by Sir Thomas More was written in - and typifies - the early Renaissance, contains idealistic desires, not fulfilled in the authors own behaviour. His is a communistic state, with a patriarchal family life; based on an agricultural system, everyone has to learn husbandry and some craft. The book is rather difficult to read owing to its archaic English and curious grammatical construction.

Shortly afterwards, the famous Sir Francis Bacon, as well as writing (or not writing) Shakespeare's plays, also produced 'The New Atlantis'. This is a Christian state which has assimilated European culture but has remained apart, picking and choosing what to take. It is a monarchy based on the family, with an aristocracy, craftsmen and peasants. Scientifically advanced, his Bensalemites invent but do not exploit their discoveries; which are carefully preserved in museums. About the same time Campanella in Italy, wrote his 'City of the Sun' which describes a sordid communistic pagan state, hardly an Utopia.

For 'Nova Solyma' by Samuel Gott written in 1648 we go to the Bible for inspiration, and have produced a patriarchal Theocracy ruled over by the House of David.

John Milton is sometimes accused of perpetrating this!

Then we jump ahead to 'L'an 2440' when Mercier, a Frenchman, prophesies the future greatness of France and England in a democratic internationalism; and the progress of mankind to a sublimated late Renaissance France, complete with all institutions of that date.

Cabet wrote 'Icaria' - first of the machine Utopias, where everybody is pure, efficient and modest; with an English lord as hero, and most work done mechanically - a sort of etherialised pulp conception. The antithesis was soon provided by the pro-mediaeval William Morris in his 'News from Nowhere', with a handicraft civilisation run on community lines in an England of the future. This is one of the books which have profoundly influenced the thought of their time.

Two eminent Victorians produced their ideas as to how to make this world a better place. Lord Lytton wrote his 'Coming Race' where a civilisation in the centre of the earth possesses revolutionary ideas of social life, including retirement at the age of 21; and have anticipated and improved on our use of electricity which they term Vril - the life-force. Samuel Butler, the master of satire shows us our absurdities in 'Erewhon' besides his own ideals.

In 1890 came a most remarkable book 'Freiland' by the Viennese economist Theodore Hertzka. Carefully thought out, it deals with the establishment of a progressive modern state in the uplands of Kenya: the whole reading like Times despatches on an actual venture. In fact a movement was started to carry out the authors ideas.

( This article will be concluded in our next issue )

## Fan Parade No. 2.

### SMITH, DONALD RAYMOND

Our second introduction is that of the Nuneaton sage, whose contributions to fandom's own literature are particularly outstanding. Perhaps especially so, are Mr. Smith's series of Cosmic Cases in *Nova Terrae*.

Born 1917. Obtained first introduction to scientific fiction in 'The Modern Boy', soon after being introduced to Yankee scientifiction, by a remainder copy of a very early Astounding, the third of the Clayton series. Flung it derisively on to the fire. Some months later purchased a copy of *Amazing*; containing the 2'nd instalment of 'Skylark 3': it fully converted me, so that scientifiction became my favourite form of reading.

In 1935, shortly after commencing work as an apprentice engineer I tried to ride through a rapidly approaching bus on my cycle. Whilst laid up with the resultant broken wrist heard of Nuneaton chapter of the S. F. L. Penned laboriously, with my left hand, a joking note to a member of it. Maurice K. Hanson replied and thus brought me into the ranks of stf. fans, amongst whom I have since blundered happily along.

Am a jig-and-tool draughtsman at present.

Hobbies; reading, writing and rockclimbing. Interests many, including music, engineering, (chiefly mechanical) science (all kinds), and many others. Do not smoke, drink, or swear (much). Pet abominations, - female crooners and all variety of human cranks.

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### HAVE YOU READ THESE ?

The Fantasy Fan  
Discussions  
White Elephants

I. Mustapha Mag  
Hugo Wild  
S. F. Collector

# HELEN OF TROY

HELEN of Troy, you are not dead.  
Only one of you loved in Troy.

Millions of Helens have lived since then,  
Capturing men by their sweet deploy.

We ask release from your restrain;  
Give us the right to be free again.

AGES ago old Homer wrote;

Dreams of your face seduced his pen,

Since then we launched a thousand ships:

Wrecked are the ships and dead the men,

Who, searching your beauty, sailed the sea,

To fail in their quest for love and Thee.

WAX in our ears and ropes to the mast:

Useless our efforts when blue eyes gleam.

We would forget you, but at long last,

Backward we drift in our helpless dream.

Better to die in Neptune's arms.

Than live imprisoned in your charms.

HELEN of Troy! We ask release,

Long you have held us in your heart.

Hopeless and helpless when you smile

Now is the time when we should part.

Surely the Huntress tires of the quest,

Loosen our chains and give us our rest.

DAVID H. KELLER M.D.

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# KAREL CAPEC

## An Appreciation

WE are extremely sorry to have to report the death of KAREL CAPEC; world-famous author, play-wright and diarist; Pacifist and sociologist. He died in Prague, on the 25th of December last, of pneumonia.

Forty-eight years old, he has had an amazingly versatile career as a writer. He attended Prague university, after passing through the local secondary school, later completing his education in Germany and France. Noted as a lifelong Angliophile, it is very fitting that he should enrich our language with the now (to us especially) over-worked term 'Robot', the Czech for worker.

This comes from probably his best known work - 'R.U.R.'. Others of his plays include: The Insect Play, and Power and the Glory. Capek's memoirs, travel books and book on gardening also occupy high places in the regard of literary connoisseurs.

But to we science fiction fans, his works are of great and manifold interest; and novels which we particularly admire include War with the Newts - the uprising of a domesticated and intelligent animal, Krakatit - the story of a chemist who has to make explosives against his will, The Absolute at Large, where his karburettors release the Deity in the making of atomic energy, and also finally The Macropulos Secret.

All his works seem to be tinged both with a slightly savage satire on humanity as it now is; and with hope for its future: and he has had, and will have, a truly enormous influence on both public opinion in his part of the world, and on the development of fantasy and futuristic literature in general.

J.M. Rosenblum

## COLLECTORS ITEMS (for the more avid fan)

We are proud to have the honour of announcing that David H. Keller M. D. of Underwood, Stroudsburg Pa. U. S. A., is publishing an original novel of his own, entitled 'The Sign of the Burning Hart'. We have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending this book to our more discerning readers, though it may not be true stuff. It is a tale of the life of Christopher Wren, in Avalon, on the road from Paris to Madrid; a hard town to find on the map as it is in never-never land. The author proclaims it as a miniature pastel of life rather than a panorama, presenting differing facets to various readers.

The novel comprises 163 pages in a clear type, each copy is autographed by the author and only 70 are for sale. Price is two dollars.

A 'Cosmic Library Booklet' now under preparation is 'In the Days of the Giants' by Thos. S. Garener. This is the third in a series of stories; the two previous ones, 'The Insect World' and 'The World of the Singing Crystals' having been published in WONDER STORIES. A mimeographed production, octavo size, and will have about 16 pages. Further details from J. V. Taurasi.

Fantasy Collectors may be interested in a 36 page well-produced brochure issued by the Friends' Book Centre, Euston Road, London: at 1s. It consists of a reprint of 'The Fantastic Battle' by R.C. Burns: one of the most successful radio plays broadcast in this country, also in U.S. France & Holland. It deals with the invasion of a mythical little country by two major powers at war with each other, the entire population offering purely moral resistance successfully. A very fine tale!



# F a n G o s s i p

Collected and recounted by  
'AVYA ERDIT'



The Beck family have given up the publication of their Science Fiction Critic, concluding in a blaze of glory with a special final number; and announcing the sale of brother Claire's collection - too bad! ... congratulations to Will Temple in getting a short accepted by RAP of Amazing. The Queens, N.Y., SFL, has been re-formed with Jimmy Taurasi as director, now has over a dozen members. . . We hear that he-man E.F. Russell will write articles for a U.S. fanmag, very good, but don't forget us please . . . far-away fan De Woronin ( in Rhodesia ) is submitting some of his mss. to Weird Tales, and Marvel Science . here's wishing him luck! . . . the former mag is now banned in Australia. . . . Bert Lewis of Preston is visiting London in search of further knowledge, & mixing it with our London friends . . . Australia is to issue a new fanmag, claimed as its first but we seem to have heard of a previous (are we right Mr. Cannell?) . . . Jack Speer, famed fan of fascistic feelings, is visiting Washington; object a prelaw course. Hear he had an auto smash to celebrate his arrival . . . only 13 replies received to recent questionnaire in Novae Terrae . . . radio play recently broadcast by B.B.C. featured an anti-gravity machine as used by hikers and mountain - climbers . . . Editor Campbell of Astounding spoke over U.S. radio on Dec. 29th . . . Rough-neck Russell intends to visit U.S.A. for the 1939 convention, afterwards motoring across the country to Frisco . . . the Los Angeles fanmag Imagination has ceased publication due to pre-occupation of producer ~~of~~ ( Ackerman to you ) its a great pity isn't it ? . . .

C. B. Cochran's 'Flashbacks' - film showing development of movies - contains snippets of two early stf. films, a trip to the moon, and an invisible man epic! . . . . we hear that Will Temple doesn't like his popular humorous articles - we do tho'. Incidentally his menage with Ego Clarke has now been joined by Maurice K. Hanson . . . new fanmag recently published in U. S. is D'journal, a humorous effort put out by Bob Tucker . . . . another new mag. but of a different type is Spaceways, edited by Harry Warner . . . and Taurasi's Fantasy News now has a British Edition.



## B o o k N e w s

During the last three months several new scientfiction books have been published. These include:

Out of the Sil ent Planet                      C. S. Lewis

- a fantasy about a visit to Mars, an excellent piece of descriptive writing wherein the author transports one to a world of strange creatures.                      Bodley Head 7s. 6d.

Air Reprisal                                      Capt. O. A. Pollard

A thrilling and terrible story of the next war, with London bombed.                                      Hutchinson 7s. 6d.

Traitor's Way                                      Bruce Hamilton

in an England of the future, trembling on the brink of Fascis m, hero foils dastardly plot.                      Cresset Press 7s. 6s.

Two new additions to the range of 5d. paper-backed editions now available, are 'Phantoms of the Dawn' and 'The House of the Other World', both dealing with psychic subjects and both by Violet Tweedale.

Published John Long Ltd.

E.M.

## 50 Years Ahead

Many of our contemporaries produce extracts from their files of bygone years! We go one better however, and here is an extract from an issue of ours of Fifty Years AHEAD!

Unfortunately the magazine will then be printed in 'Omniuniversalanguage' the Tung of Tomoro; so we have had to have a special rendition of it into our speech by ultramenirecontralinguaphone, but apparently some words are untranslatable. However here goes . . . and don't blame us for mistakes.

Vague details of a deplorable affair at Xvlyt, Mars have been reported to us. It appears that doring a vleta broadcast of a galanio or Martian mindplay, very vivid representations of fictional infred mentional invaders out of a fifth dimension were pictured showing great detail. Some of the more uncivilised Nrl who read not, became strick-paniked as they thot of their legend monsters. So some sought to save sivilisation avec telepathic deathrays welch they aimed at die sause of the transmission. It si lucky very indeed that actors were wearing genuin protection helmets so that only earthian stationstaff sucumbed and then only four dised. Indescribable scenes of terror were witnessed in Hij and Tegjyh where umdh thot the end of mars was came xld jyas and wrhot weae . . . . . (Editors note - from here the record was undecipherable)



FLASH - two more new science fiction books are:

Plague over London by Thurlow Craig

'a unique and terrible thriller of a deadly bombardment of cholera germs over England' Hutchinson 7s. 6d.

The Last Man Alive A. S. Neill

Mankind annihilated, except for inevitable remnant, by being turned into stone, H. Jenkins 5s.

# Fantasy

First issue a success!

## SECOND NUMBER DUE OUT IN MARCH

Messrs. Newnes Ltd. have been sufficiently satisfied with the response they received to their experimental first issue of FANTASY, the second science fiction magazine to be published in Britain. The magazine is therefore to be continued and the second issue will be published on March 15th 1939.

Mr. Bramhope Sprigg who as editor, is guiding the destinies of this publication tells us that he cannot as yet give us a full list of contents, as details are not yet finally settled. However, contributors will definitely include Dr. Halliday Sutherland, and such well-known British science fiction authors as Eric Frank Russell and John Beynon, also in all probability John Russell Fearn. The price of the issue will be one shilling as before, and the magazine will again be extensively illustrated.

Another possibility is the inauguration of a readers' letter section; partially, at least due to requests received from many supporters.

We certainly wish Mr. Sprigg well, and hope that the next few years, providing that no militaristic madman decides to set Europe alight, will see a fantasy fandom in Britain comparable to that in U.S.A.

George Bernard Shaw's 'Back to Methuselah' is to be published in March by Penguin Books Ltd. at 6d.

SCIENCE FICTION RARITIES or  
MUSEUM CORNER

We start this series with a practically unknown work by that famous author A. Conan-Doyle. Published in 1897 by A. Constable 'The Parasite' appears to be more on the lines of an experimental treatise than a regular literary creation. In it one can trace signs of the writer's later intense interest in the more occult forces which affect our lives, for the story deals with the dominating, under hypnotic influence, of a materialistic professor by a harpy. Under the guise of objective experimentation, with this mysterious science the vile creature gains absolute control over her sceptic subject, so that he attempts to harm his fiancé, and destroy his own reputation. Naturally he is saved at the eleventh hour, in this case by the death of his tormentress.

'Jemini'

'SPACEWAYS' - a grade A fanmag! 24 well-mimeoed large size pages with even margins. Coming contributors include Lovecraft, Mason, Taurasi, Carnell, Williamson, Stone, Rosenblum, Farsaci, Gillespie, Andrews and many others. Price - 10 cents an issue or 3 for 25 cents From H. Warner Jr., 311 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Md., U.S.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY! - 'FANTASY NEWS'  
a COSMIC publication, now has special British Edition large size pages, frequent supplements and gives the news while it is news. 3 issues - 10 cents (British 6 for 1s. int. money order or trade for British stf.). Write to the editor J.V.Taurasi, 137-07 32nd Ave., Flushing, N.Y., U.S.A.



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