

FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST

VOL. IV No. 1

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'MOTHER NORCON ? or HOW ABOUT THIS NEW YEAR ?

Plans are again being laid for a New Year Meet, somewhere in the North of England. An ad hoc committee has more or less appointed itself to explore the possibilities and create plans, consisting of Messrs R.R. Johns, Lane and Ellis, Holmes and Art Williams, Ken Chadwick and JMR. As for place the three possibilities are Leicester, Manchester or Leeds and tentative plans are being considered at each. So far both Leeds and Manchester have two votes each so that expression of opinion of probable attendees will help to definitely decide. Full details will be included in the next issue of FIDO due out December 1st though it is possible a special sheet will be issued previously.

In any case, will all people who hope to come (including forces fans) please drop a line to JMR, and be sure to include: whether almost definite; attending, what accommodation is required, vote re place, and suggestions for programme etc. If held in Leeds two suggestions are a visit to a local pantomime, and a tour round the world-famous Quarry Hill flats in Leeds. The usual talks, brains trust, auction and quiz will of course be included. And the date is December 29th (Friday) to January 1st (Monday)

(Cover illustration by Bob Gibson)

FUTURIAN
WAR DIGEST
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This is none other than the scholarly, erudite & highly literary periodical publication, known vulgarly as FIDO, dealing with & devoted to fantasy fiction: produced at great expense & loss of life by J. Michael Rosenblum, & Grange Terrace, Leeds 7, stencilled by Douglas Webster in his more sober episodes, & flung to the four winds of heaven by whoever can be cajoled or bullied into helping. Copies can be exchanged against coin of the realm to the extent of six (6) helpence, or one (1) shilling and six (6) pence per annum. Comments & articles from HG Wells, W. Olaf Stapledon & others quite welcome if they reach our standard.

If I didn't write something here, Webster would, so I'd better, so there, JMR.

A Forgotten Science Fiction Author

by Reg Stevens with editorial embellishments.

NOTE:

The gist of this article was published in one of the early issues of THE FUTURIAN just after the death of Mr. Stevens, Londoner & fantasy bibliophile. As that was some six years ago we feel republication may interest the majority of our clientele who did not have the opportunity of seeing it then.

Sometime around the end of last century & the beginning of this one, a certain George Griffith wrote a good many books of science fiction type.

One has to assume that they were not really good books, because, while contemporary works of HG Wells are still famous, Griffiths appears to be almost unknown today, even to the science fiction fraternity. His books, however, may still be discovered by the diligent searcher, and had wide publication in their day, even to the extent of somewhat shortened paper backed editions of several issued at sixpence. From his writing style & popularity of the moment he might be defined as an early Dennis Wheatley, or will that infuriate too many Wheatley admirers, if such there are in fandom.

About twenty years ago I happened upon a dozen or more Griffiths novels in a local circulating library. And these lively, vigorous accounts of war & adventure against a background of airships, submarines & high-speed motorships suited a science-crazy schoolboy down to the ground.

It seems queer in retrospect, that I enjoyed war stories in 1917 (dear shade of Reg Stevens, some of us read them in 1944!). But these scraps were different to the one actually in progress, and of course one knew that the Germans & Russians (how Griffiths did hate Russians, to be sure!) would be duly squashed at the finish. Most of these books contained more or less of warfare. THE WORLD PERIL OF 1919 had a narrow shave from a cometary collision, as well as a war. In OLGA ROMANOFF - OR THE SIREN OF THE SKIES humanity is actually wiped out, bar the inevitable nucleus of a new race, by war & a "fiery nebula". The last mentioned book is a sequel to THE ANGEL OF THE REVOLUTION - a fine jamboree of dirigibles and helicopters, Socialism & Down with Russia (Tsarist version, please note).

Griffith wrote one interplanetary, A NOON IN SPACE, which I have not read. Your editor however has looked through its earlier publication in PEARSONS MAGAZINE as STORIES OF OTHER WORLDS and notes that it is a first trip through space with visits to our moon & the major planets by a pair of newly-weds. A book with a clumsy alliterative title LESS MARMION & THE MUMMY first introduced me to the mysterious Fourth Dimension. In THE LANE OF GOLD we find benevolent scientists, with aircraft & motor ships smashing the power of Capitalism, whilst THE GREAT WEATHER SYNDICATE dealt with my pet subject, weather control. It's a great pity, but writers can only think of one use for controlled weather: to make war.

Griffith was rather fond of a sort of force-broadcast (he didn't call it a ray), which disabled all electrical gear & took the strength out of metal. Very similar to the Venusian rays in Cloukey's SWORDSMAN OF SARVON, this device is used in THE WORLD-MASTERS, THE LORD OF LABOUR and THE GREAT PERATE SYNDICATE. Like Wells, Griffith seems to have had a shot at most types of fantasy plots for in addition to the foregoing, VALDAR, THE OPTORN is a longliver type of yarn in which the hero sleeps for periods of hundreds of years, refreshed anew at each awakening; ROMANCE OF GOLDEN

STAR deals with the resuscitation of a pair of Laca nummica, DENVER'S DOUBLE, the psychological affinity between twins with radically opposite upbringings, plus the use of hypnotism: THE GOIDEVANDER with a machine attuned to the wavelengths of varying metals, and so on.

I assume that Griffith was an Englishman, but many of his scientists & practically all of his heroines, were American! And his villains, almost without exception, Russian!

The various sea- and air-craft of a wonderful description in these books were usually driven by engines which utilised "the full power of coal." Was the author thinking of a sort of solid-fuel Diesel of 100% thermal efficiency, or could he have been dreaming of atomic power 40 years ago?

I read several more books by Griffith but could not class them as scientific. The list includes NELTON OR BOER?, THE MANTAR NEGOTIAN and A CRIMINAL CROZSUS.

---Reg Stevens.

[Excata: I trust readers will forgive the slip of the finger which led me to stencil "Griffiths" several times in the 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. paragraphs. ---DV]

Some Notes on the Fantastic Poetry of Coleridge

*** *****

In 1793, Hazlitt met S. T. Coleridge. His excitement in meeting a man whom he had long admired gives us a picture, in his essay ON MY FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE POETS, of the author of probably the most widely read fantastic poem in English - THE ANCIENT MARINER. And yet, as we cannot reproduce that picture here for lack of space, perhaps the most descriptive thing that can be said of him was that he was "extraordinary". "Extraordinary" is the operative word.

Hazlitt, who knew him better than any other man, wrote of him, "He talked on forever, and you wished him to talk on forever. His thoughts did not seem to come with labor and effort, but as if borne on the gusts of genius, and as if the wings of imagination lifted him off his feet." Surely this is a picture of the ideal Fantasy poet!

It was in this year of meeting Hazlitt that Coleridge wrote all the poems that have made him famous: most interesting to us being THE ANCIENT MARINER, KUBLA KHAN and CHRISTMASEL. He wrote them in his new house of Nether Stovey in Somersetshire, where he was joined by Wordsworth and his sister later on. Wordsworth suggested the albatross in THE ANCIENT MARINER, and aided in a few things. But perhaps the greatest charm of Coleridge's poem is the ballad metre variant he uses, that suggests so much of magic and fantasy that is not conveyed in the words and their content. It seems as if a veil is drawn between us and the real world as we read the poem --- indeed --- as we read all his poems. It is this element of incantation, of song, that thwarts any attempt at fantasy in modern poetry - fantasy, that is, of the visual kind.

How much Coleridge's habit of taking drugs influenced his work it is difficult to say, but KUBLA KHAN, which was composed during a dream, does suggest the kind of vision induced by drugs. But I deplore this modern habit of stripping geniuses to the skin and exposing them for sale in the public market-place. For in this case the poet is not the man as he is, but the man that he appears to be.

---James Farquhar Rathbone.

REVERIE

..... by The Staggerer

H. Ken Bulmer.

High hopes are held out to the masses by visionaries, even hard-headed & ambitious politicians ((especially hard-headed & ambitious politicians - at least till it looks as though they may have to bring them to pass --- Ed.)) of a new, shiny, & somehow vaguely inhuman post war world. Very nice. Possibly a proportion of science-fiction fans will take some partially active part in bringing the desired millenium to fruition as things stand at the moment, but that must remain in the hands of our more ardent Futurists & revolutionaries. The ranks of active fandom have not only thinned, they have almost ~~completely~~ changed, young blood replacing old sacrifices to the God of War. ((However, a fair proportion of the "new blood" consists of older, more mature but hitherto inactive readers. ---Ed.)) The ~~unwounded~~ are eager, keen & although maybe

lacking judicial experience they are making the best of the impoverished means at their disposal to being fandom further impetus along its thorny path. One deplors the gauche & rather hideously pathetic fanzines ((is this liddle referring to our well-beloved Fido? ---Ed.)) which are flung together ((it would seem so ---Ed.)), flung at fandom ((yes - Ed.)) --- then flung away ((ah no, apparently not! ---Ed.)). But they serve a purpose, they are like the first feeble mummings from a baby, before it learns to master its vocal instruments & produce coherent speech. They are the roots of a new & better class of fanzines to follow. These fans cut off from science-fiction, serving on the high seas or in foreign lands, what are their reactions to the changing conditions surrounding every aspect of present-day life? As is generally the case proverbs can be quoted to conflict. "Absense makes the heart grow fonder" - very true when the lack of science-fiction causes a wide noticeable void. "Out of sight out of mind" - very true when other, newer subjects obliterate thoughts of pre-war days. No one of us is not becoming older. Who, after having seen men living and fighting in the shadow of doom, and of witnessing comrades shockingly jerked by death's skeletal and rapacious claws into oblivion, can bring their minds back to consider as a serious feature of life the literature termed "Science-Fiction"? Adjustments, violent upheav-ald of everyday behaviour must take place to enable these men even to exist normally, to fit into the complex matrix of civilisation, postwar. And that brings us back to the beginning. Will these men, these erstwhile Science Fiction fans, take up with the old enthusiasm the life-absorbing hobby, call it that if you will, of Science-Fiction fanning? In view of their rough handling in the world at war, the - however much one may object in natural revulsion - consensuing influences at work, the harsh reality of a mercenary world thrust in on them, breaking down the mental barriers of introspect and dream imaginings inherent in the mental makeup of the Science-Fiction fan; in view of all this, how can anyone predict a certain, stable future for fandom among all the chaos following the Noise and Shouting? Can fandom stay on its own legs and triumphantly conquer other, mundane interests each fighting for supremacy? Can it do this when the very mundane things of life have bruised the sensitivity of its followers, has shown them in lurid perspective life, life as it is lived, stark and raw, tearing away the illusion veils built up by their untrammled imaginations and fostered by Science-Fiction? It may well be that fandom will gain adherents, fleeing from this too realistic world of pain, persons seeking to forget earthly things and cover themselves with this "escapist" literature. Yes, fandom will welcome them, but they are not of the stuff of which true fans are made. Science Fiction enthralled but a pitiful handful prior to the 20th. Century. Until the "popular" brand was first made easily available in 1926, interest grew. Then the literature caught on and swiftly blossomed with ups and downs of fortune until at the present it has assumed its greatest significance. Science Fiction has the power to captivate a man, make him a fan and use much of his energy to the furtherance of Science Fiction and its corollary Fandom. We in Fandom have come to love the literature, we attempt to reconcile it with our everyday lives, because unless we do it becomes a devouring flame and Fanning is our be-all and end-all. But Science Fiction has this great power, and in the post-war world its call will be as great, even greater than in the past. And the Fans will come back to the fold, bruised and buffeted by the winds of the world, they will find a fierce peace and yearning solace in Fandom and will be renewed in strength to face the harsh and ugly world and bend it to the pattern of their dreams.

Yes, I think you will find Science Fiction Fans strong in the ranks of those planning and building our post war world, a world where fans will live easily and with contentment because it is the world of their dreams.

[O death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling, O grave, thy victoree?

The bells of hell ring ting-a-ling-a-ling, for you but not for me. ---DW]

Philosophical Philler

Bear met Algy
 Bear et Algy
 Bear was bulgy
 Bulge was Algy

Author unknown: prob. 20th. Century A.D.

Somebody, sometime, might do a survey of the stuff put out by the house of Arthur H. Stockwell, if he has nothing better to do. These gentlemen, an Old Established Publishing Firm, tend to put out things which are more or less financed by the enthusiastic authors - presumably after the works in question have gone around the more famous publishers. You may guess at the resulting quality of books bearing the Stockwell imprint. I have just purchased *METHODS FROM MARS* by L. A. Mawson, published by Stockwell in 1915 at 5/6. It concerns a Martian (or "Marsonian") with a "beautiful pinky-white" complexion and an Aryan cast of feature. I wonder why Mr. Mawson and his kindred persist in talking about doings "in" Mars?

Can nothing be done to stop bibliographers listing *THE MIGHTY ATOM* as science-fiction?

The *TALES AND ROMANCES* of Tacophile Gautier, well-known for his *ROMANCE OF A MUMMY* (The London Press Company, undated), which I picked up the other day in Richmond, are quite impressive in a highly-coloured way. They are full of women dark and pale, with heavy voluptuous eyes, wearing robes (or sometimes tunics) which fall in two superb curves from the peaks of splendid bosoms (Mr. Ackerman please note). And they always have bare arms which are cold as the skin of a serpent or the marble of a tomb. *ARRIA MARCELLA* is a nicely-written tale of an Italian youth who recreates ruined Pompeii through the force of Love - what is described as "an amorous invocation". Gautier says, with Mr. J. W. Dunne,

"In effect, nothing dies; all things are eternal. No power can annihilate that which once had being. Every action, every word, every thought which has fallen into the universal ocean of being, therein creates circles which travel, and increase in travelling, even to the confines of eternity. To vulgar eyes only do natural forms disappear, and the spectres which have thence detached themselves people Infinity. Paris, in some unknown region of space, continues to carry off Helen. The galley of Cleopatra still floats down with swelling sails of silk upon the azure current of an ideal Cydnus. A few passionate and powerful minds have been able to recall before them ages apparently long passed away, and to restore to life personages dead to all the world beside."

I feel that a page in *THE NEW YORKER* for July 11th, 1943 deserves to be more highly known. The caption is "The Reading Public", and the picture over it shows a brace of American parents thrusting their faces ecstatically and vacantly into the health-giving spaces, from the end of a sailing boat. In the foreground two offspring hang wide-eyed over an illustrated magazine. The text is:

"Zostra and Professor Dimitroff have been marooned on the Planet Xion by the Octopus, who plans to DESTROY them with his Remote-Control Atom-Smasher."

"Jim Randall learns of the Octopus's scheme by means of Queen Duna's Hypnotic Thought Recorder and starts to the rescue in his Solar-Energy Stratosphere Ship, promising to keep in touch with her by means of the Cosmic Cable. But Queen Duna's Prime Minister, Zarcos, has secretly removed the Helicopter Space Rudder and substituted a powerful MAGNET."

"Suddenly, Jim Randall realizes that the Solar Energy Stratosphere Ship is being irresistably drawn towards the mineral deposits of the dread Planet Kaal, where there is no AIR to BREATHE"

Every now and then one of the American bibliophiles announces that Jules Verne's *THE CHASE OF THE GOLDEN METEOR* has never been translated (see a Question and Answer department in one of Wollheim's prozines, for example). Ever eager to spread light and wisdom, I declare that I have in my possession a translation of this novel made by Frederick Lawton and published by Grant Richards in 1909. This edition is profusely illustrated, a very effective frontispiece showing the meteor flaming over a city.

This story of a meteor of gold and the eccentric genius who brought it to earth, while not altogether on the same level as the best of Verne, is extremely readable. M. Zephyrin Kirdal, with his room piled high with stacks of paper, each scrap an account of a revolutionary discovery or invention, is one of Verne's characteristic "originals"

Speaking of Verne, I should be very grateful if anyone could supply me with a MASTER OF THE WORLD, in good condition.

One of the better late-Victorian sci. novelists, in the school of George Griffith and Robert Cromie and William Holt-White, was J. B. Harris-Burland. His name, on the title page of DACOBRA: OR THE WHITE PRIESTS OF AHRIMAN (Everett, 1903) is written simply as Harris Burland, and, as with William Holt-White, one tends to find his books scattered in two halves in library catalogues. DACOBRA is filled with white monkeys and White Priests of Evil and an old gentleman hunting feverishly for the Secret of Life.

Myself, I like very much more his DOCTOR SILEX (Ward Lock, 1905), which is an elaborate tale of the Kingdom of Asturria, a survival of the Middle Ages at the North Pole. Rather annoyingly, I bought THE PRINCESS THORA (Boston - Little, Brown & Co., 1904) under the impression that it might be a sequel, but it turns out to be the American edition of the same book.

A third Harris-Burland fantasy is THE GOLD WORSHIPERS (Greening, 1907). It concerns a metallic sphere which has the property of transmating lower into higher metals. Compared with Conan Doyle's DOINGS OF RAFFLES HAW, which has the same theme, THE GOLD WORSHIPERS seems crude and blood-and-thunder.

THE UNSPEAKABLE THING, mentioned in the title page of DACOBRA, looks as though it might interest us sci. scavengers, but I'm afraid I have no data on it.

INTRODUCING

Maurice K. Hanson

Born 1918, went to the same school as D. R. Smith. Lived in the Midlands until 1937 & then migrated to London. After the chance acquisition in 1932 of a Clayton ASTOUNDING, by 1936 had accumulated about 90% of the magazines published since 1926 & ever since then have felt that I had enough to be going on with. Started publishing fan-magazine NOVLE TERRALE in 1936, which after a chequered career (including a threatened libel suit by John Russell Fearn!) eventually passed on the torch to NEW WORLDS after 29 issues. In London spent happy days at the Gray's Inn Road flat with Bill Temple & Arthur Clarke, being a civil servant by day, & attending BIS & SEA meetings, concerts, repertory cinemas & listening to other people's gramophone records by night. Came July 1959, call-up into the militia & the beginning of a (to date) five year peregrination which via France & Orkney has at the moment landed me within reach of JMR's 1000 volume collection. (Am firm supporter of first-in, first-out demobilization.)

First youthful glow of enthusiasm for science-fiction has worn off by now but a more solid respect remains which fits into a better perspective with a liking for George Eliot, Jane Austen, Arnold Bennett, P. G. Wodehouse & the NEW YORKER. Other interests - orchestral music, America (the America of THE GRAPES OF WRATH, fraternities, Frank Sinatra, & Huey Long), & the machinations of our politicians as recorded by the NEW STATESMAN.

Malcolm Ferguson seems to want to start a discussion on

THE WEIRD & GROTESQUE IN ART

Here are a few of my favorites that I would look for in a collection on the subject:

Martin Schongauer's print - THE TEMPTATION OF ST. ANTHONY. Schongauer was not as adept as his contemporary, Albrecht Dürer, but more in this genre. A two vol.

INTERPLANETARY COMMUNICATION

--- A brief outline of the "Mars" experiments carried out by Arthur H. Bird, G6AAQ, Radio Experimental Station, Nunhead, London.

Research experiments in this subject have been made and recorded from time to time since 1921.

Originated as the result of an accidental discovery whilst using H.F. Tubes (i.e. High-Frequency) in a circuit for secret radio telephony. Mysterious flashes of light as distinct dots and dashes apparently in Morse code were observed. A note was made of this at the time.

Later, I improved the apparatus and was able to receive G.N.F., G.F.A., and other Stations. Owing to the impossibility of employing the usual tuning methods, signals were frequently jammed. After months of experiment & further discovery was made. By opening out the air-gap in the Receiver beyond normal sparking distance of the H.F. coil signals resembling slow Morse were received: quite unlike the signals received in the ordinary way. Thinking this might be due to the charging and discharging of a condenser in the circuit the condenser was removed. Signals, however, remained unaffected.

The Receiver in use before Amateur transmission was forbidden due to the war, consisted of a source of High-frequency (Intensity Coil) and a series of Geissler tubes in conjunction with air-gap resistances. The detecting medium being the subject of a signed agreement cannot be divulged. No Aerial or Earth connections are required. It is really a delicately-balanced resistance circuit. The signals, when received, destroy this balance, pass across the air-gaps and are then read either in flashes of light in a reading tube, or elongated sparks via a special spark-gap. The adjustment is known as "condition C", condition A being normal and condition B is necessary to receive ordinary Morse signals.

With reference to "Condition C", these series of flashes are received only at long intervals and may be absent for hours, or during the whole time of any particular test.

A Mrs. A. M. B. St. Vincent-Jaxon of New Zealand (since deceased) claimed to be able to read the signals and did in fact translate same in several cases. She stated that the Martians had an alphabet, similar to our own and explained the meaning of certain markings which appear occasionally on the surface of Mars, many of which have been photographed.

With the information I have I gather that only certain persons will be able to enter into communication with Mars and these are the persons named in the messages of whom the lady referred to is one and I am presumed to be another.

In 1943 I decided to try out a new type of Receiver using Neon Valves or Lamps in place of H.F. tubes, &c. This led to a third and more important discovery. The original signals can still be received but in addition "thought waves" can be picked up. Tests with highly concentrated thought have been successfully carried out between London and Barnsley, Yorkshire, with this apparatus. It is a joint invention of G. D. Dixon of Barnsley and myself and we call it the BIRDIX equipment. It is hoped to continue these interesting experiments as soon as the war is over.

I understand the Martians employ thought-projection or transference and not radio. As thought waves are of electric origin there is really nothing remarkable about it.

The present experiments only relate to the Planet Mars, but there is reason to believe other planets are trying to communicate with us. The different type of signals received indicate this. In my opinion, all "stars" are worlds and, probably, life in some form exists on them. The Martian controversy as to whether or no life existed on Mars arose in 1877 and the question has never been decided.

I have learned that the efforts of the Martians to establish contact with us, or rather with certain few, is due to their endeavours to complete experiments begun in Ancient Egypt over 5,000 years ago with the object of proving the survival of the soul of man; in other words, that after what we term "death" has occurred we live again. Many of the Mummies of Egypt bear identification marks or brands and these marked people

fans who will be able to grasp an inkling of the amazing implications Mr. Bird holds out. --JMR)) [And might I add a word, as one accustomed to the credulities & incredulities of stf fans and one who knows Mr. Bird perhaps a little more intimately than does Michael? First, I'd like to emphasise all JMR says: the unexplained assumptions always found in Mr. Bird's work, the experimental difficulties & secrecy which prevents him from giving much corroboration, & the fact that this is only one condensed section of a much wider scope of work which, taken together, gives it much greater cogency. Second, I'd like to say that I for one have been quite unable to make up my mind about it all. Third, that a great deal of work has been done by the PROBE in this wider scope, by (to name a few familiar names) Messrs. Chibbett, Russell, Johnson, Birchby et al., and many others as well. For all sorts of reasons this larger investigation can't be made public; readers will just have to bear with Mr. Bird as aborigines would bear with the missionary who tried to convince them that such a thing as a car axle exists, without being able to produce the car. Or di I use an injudicious simile? --DW]

Delvings into the Weird and Imaginative---iv.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Some explanation is due concerning the item below. I do not wish to make a feature of film reviews, certainly not in the manner of some fan-magazine writers, who give a series of scattered remarks in a clipped style resembling a sports commentary. My aim, and I hope I can keep within its bounds, is to comment upon aspects of the weird and imaginative, and in a serious manner. Any divergence is purely accidental.

* * * * *

THE UNINVITED is one of the best of the recent attempts at putting the supernatural theme on the screen. Although marred in places by a flippant touch, it presents the ghostly as something that really exists. No reliance is placed on the usual "spooky" manifestations of horrible grinning faces or clutching hands. The emphasis is on the happenings resulting from the unseen presence of haunting spirits. The only actual physical "sign" is the odour of mimosa. There is a resemblance in some ways to the story REBECCA, in that the influence is of female origin (that is, if the distinctions of sex are carried into the other world). Here, there is the struggle of opposing forces, one benevolent and the other malevolent, at work upon the mind of a living person. Something that adds to the interest is that the distinction is not plain as to "who is who", but to say more on that subject might be revealing too much to those who may not have seen the film yet.

* * * * *

ARE WEIRD READERS MATERIALIST?

I feel tempted to ask that question, after reviewing my own attitude to the strictly supernatural aspects of imaginative fiction. I have no religious beliefs, in the usual sense of the term, and might claim to be an agnostic, yet when reading a story, I am disappointed if a purely natural explanation is given to any phenomena. That statement implies that if I possessed religious beliefs, then it would be logical to assume the existence of ghosts and other influences of that nature. Some persons would say that that conclusion does not follow. But, choosing to be rash, I would answer that it must do. The person who believes in "God" should also believe in "ghouls and ghosties, and things that go bump in the night." Perhaps he or she does, the only difference being that the intensive readers of weird fiction are serious about it, at least within the confines of the written or spoken word, and for the purpose of argument, whether they be agnostics or otherwise, will accept the existence of the thing they are talking about. When discussing a particular story, they do not say, "I don't believe in ghosts and similar phenomena, therefore it's useless to talk further about this story, which I only read for amusement." That attitude does appear among those supposedly intelligent readers of fiction, the book critics of the national newspapers. Occasionally one finds a sentence like the follow-

are said to have died sacrificed in order to prove at their reincarnation that the soul survives death. The "shadowy" faces which appear in photographs of Mars also bear identification marks and only people so marked will be able to establish true communication with the planet. The mark in the eye (i.e. "identification" mark) is sometimes visible on a small dark circle reflected in the back of the eye and appearing in outline when the eyes are opened and closed several times in rapid succession. The mark is only visible when the eyes are open. It may appear thus: . In my own eye it is: . In this connection it may be noted that we often have impressions of a former life or existence. Inherited memory would be a natural consequence of reincarnation.

In 1924 a film was made of Mars during its opposition with the Earth by some American scientists. Investigations are now going on to trace this film or a copy. So far the quest has not proved successful.

A Scientific Society of which I am a Member called THE PROBE have taken up the matter with me and investigations so far go to show that there is something deeper in all this. We find the symbol of an arrow runs through the messages received and replies, not only at my home but at Catford and East Ham and there is definitely some connection between these districts.

FURTHER NOTES ON THOUGHT-WAVES

I believe that all bodies, animate and inanimate give off some form of radiation, normally invisible, much in the same way as a magnet or electrified coil of wire throws out lines of force to form an "electric field" weakening in intensity with distance. The scent of a flower is of this nature. These lines of force proceed in all directions but the human senses cannot follow beyond a certain point where all trace is lost.

The electrical energy proceeding from the finger-tips varies greatly in power. It can be tested by suspending a flat boxwood rule by a silken thread from a hook raised about 6 inches above a wooden table. Allow the rule to become stationary. Then approach the first finger of the right hand to one end of the rule, being careful not to touch it. The rule will be either attracted or repelled - generally the latter. The force is increased if the operator can concentrate his thoughts solely upon the experiment.

Concentration is an art only acquired by long practice. Try to "think" of a single object to the exclusion of all else and thus become oblivious of surroundings. The slightest noise, even a clock chime is often sufficient to break the chain of thought and spoil the experiment.

A word of warning: It is inadvisable to attempt thought concentration for long periods owing to the strain it imposes on the brain and nervous system. If found to cause head pains the experiment should be at once discontinued.

Colour is produced by vibrations or radiations. A red hot power gives off both colour and heat waves in decreasing force as it cools. The colour waves fade until the eye can no longer detect them, yet the invisible heat waves continue for some time afterwards - they may be detected by our senses of feeling.

We frequently experience a special attraction toward some persons whilst in other cases it is repulsion. Our respective wavelengths (or electrical emanations) are out of tune and interfere with one another in such cases.

There is an immense field for serious scientific study into these things.

Arthur H. Bird, G6AQ

Hon. Secretary for Gt. Britain (and Ireland)
THE WORLD FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF RADIO AMATEURS (U.S.A.)

((Editorial note: The results of these experiments & his conclusions as related by Mr. Bird may seem somewhat dogmatic & appear to include several assumptions without giving their bases. However, this is a mere summary of the results of 22 years experimenting, & several hundred pages of notes; & is moreover affected by government regulations re radio transmitting & necessary experimental secrecy. The matter is quite serious & well worked out; astonishing as it may seem, even to science-fiction

(Poll, continued). Magazine authors; Van Vogt 178, Heinlein 168, Campbell (& Stuart) 163, EBSmith 132, Kuttner (including Padgett) 120, de Camp 109, Weinbaum 108, Merritt 93, Williamson 92, CIMOore 87. etc

Book authors; Stapledon 88, Wells 75, Burroughs 40, Taine 39, Thorne Smith 30, Merritt, de Camp (& Pratt) MacArthur, Lewis Carroll, S. P. Wright. 15 ~~xxx~~ others named once each.

Ten stories; Slan 111, Last & First Men 77, OddJohn 75, Final Black-out 67, Sinister Barrier 60, Ship of Ishtar 55, Dwellers in Mirage 54, Minsky were the Borogroves 48, Spacehounds of IPC 46, Methusalahs Children 45. 12 others named twice or more, 51 mentioned once.

Artists; Finlay 100, Paul 66, Bok 62, Schneeman 46, Bold 31.

Worst steffnist; Degler 40, Schmarje 16, Russ Wood 14.

poll

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To other fanzine editors; I want to continue to receive your papers so if you feel I ought to subscribe, tell me & I will do so.

Avon pocketbooks who are steadily working through the novels of Abe

Merritt, announce their latest offering as "Dwellers in the Mirage", at

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Published in May 1944 by the American "Penguin Books" at 25 c. is an

extremely good anthology of sheer fantasy - stories really out of this

world. The authors range from Lord Dunsany to Nelson Bond but are the upper

bracket of fantasy writers - Galt, John Collier, Eric Knight, Stephen Vin-

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to pure fantasy. It is comparable with the Tolkien pocketbook's similar

function in regard to science fiction.

Killed by a shellburst whilst serving as correspondent for "Harpers"

in Italy was Frederick Schiller Faust at the age of 61. Not known to you?

Well Faust, otherwise "King of the Pulps" was also Max Brand, David Manning

George Owen Baxter, Eben Ewen, Nicholas Silver, Hugh Owen, Frank Austin,

George Chaffin, Walter C. Butler, John Frederick, Peter Henry Wenzel, Joe

Boyd, Dennis Lawson, Frederick Frost. He started writing at 25, as Max Br-

and selling his first story to Argosy and is responsible for some 50

ten words - 115 published books & at least 350 stories. Faust topped the

combined output of Oppenheim, Edgar Wallace, J.S. Fletcher and "Black Cowboy"

in the incredible literary career.

Current president of the Authors Club of New York is our old friend

Pletcher Pratt, and a member of the Executive Committee is G. Edward Ben-

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Widet, brother of Donald, wrote for the Tremaine astoundings under the

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(Poll, continued). Magazine authors; Van Vogt 178, Heinlein 168, Campbell (& Stuart) 163, Smith 152, Kuttner (including Padgett) 120, de Camp 109, Weinbaum 108, Merritt 93, Williamson 92, Cilleore 87, etc.

Book authors; Stapledon 88, Wells 75, Burroughs 40, Taine 39, Thorne Smith 30, Merritt, de Camp (& Pratt) MacArthur, Lewis Carroll, S. P. Wright. 15 ~~xxxx~~ others named once each.

Ten stories; Star 111, Last & First Men 97, Old John 75, Final Black-out 67, Sinister Barrier 60, Ship of Lichten 55, Dwellers in Mirage 54, Mimsy were the Borgrover 48, Spacebonds of IPC 46, Methusalaha Children 45. 12 others named twice or more, 51 mentioned once.

Artists; Finlay 100, Paul 66, Eck 63, Selmsman 46, Dold 31.

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To other fanzine editors; I want to continue to receive your papers so if you feel I ought to subscribe, tell me & I will do so.

And this, dear readers is actually the fourth anniversary issue of FIDO, with which we enter into our fifth year of publication. Hardly seems as if though the cis mag has been running for four years, does it. Anyrate we've made no fuss about the matter, but somehow or another something in the nature of a gala issue has managed to create itself. Thanks are due to all our contributors who are doing a lot these days to raise the general and literary standard of FIDO rather above the level it has wavered around for so long. Prospects for the December issue too are good, Messrs Medhurst, Banks, Ferguson, Burke and Arthur Clarke having offerings at hand.

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Announcements:- Frank Parker of Teddington wants to let people know that due to the very heavy demands his new job is making on him, he has had to make a temporary exit from the ranks of the actifans, and he hopes in God's good time to reply to all those patient fellows who are wondering whether he ever received their last letters.

Terence Overton, 107 Thomas St, Abertridwr, Cardiff wants Canadian stf, fantasy and weird. Offers US prozines, various dates, also books etc.

And from JMR; From the present issue (No 9) of my Papa publication BROWSING, it is available to non-members at a price of 2d per copy postfree. The magazine is a six or more page publication devoted mainly to fantasy in book form and includes book reviews, chatter and notes. Persons co-operating in various ventures will continue to receive free copies though. The idea of this departure is to ensure that anyone who is interested in the zine will be able to obtain it, instead of the whole thing being left more or less to chance as previously.

I also want to hear as soon as possible from anybody who wishes to be placed on the list to receive copies of the page-per-book Bibliography now being commenced. This will never be "finished" but distribution of sheets to date will take place from time to time. Financial obligations will depend on the number of sheets distributed, generosity of publishers etc, but are likely to be small if not negligible. Speak now or for ever hold your peace, as when the scheme is actually under way numbers of sheets will be limited and unlikely to be enlarged.

A new "chain" available to BFS members and already in existence will circulate American fan magazines round fandom here. The first batch contains 4 issues of VOOM, two of ACOLYTE, one each of Celtauri, TOWARD TOMORROW, and BUAP together with the "Polaris" announcement of the death of Freehafer. Apply to JMR for inclusion. Only obligation one way postage and punctuality

New juvenile stf book recently published is "Mariners of Space" by Errol Collins (Lutterworth Press 1944) - Story deals with contact of civilisations on Venus, Mars and the Moon with a World Federation on Earth, mysterious attacks on Earth, spaceship duels, clash between good and evil and so on.

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MORE POTPOURRI Back in Britain is Eric Hopkins, Sergeant RAF, and temporarily at Harrogate. When the BBC broadcast Conan Doyle's "The Poison Cloud" they omitted from the last episode the description of the drive to London by the five survivors in the world of dead. Was this because of the "Mars" panic in USA some years ago? Would anyone just hearing this part of the broadcast, and its description of devastation, have applied it to the flying bombs business? We wonder. Will Sykora inform that three of his fan friends are now in England, namely Mario Racis who used to do the radio notes in Fantasy News, Thomas Whiteside and Raymond van Houten. Johnny Burke asks, "Did you know that Walt Disney has bought the film rights of "The Ill-Made Knight" by T. H. White, for production after the war?". It ought to make a grand cartoon film, but why this and not "Sword in the Stone" and "Witch in the Wood" by the same author, which I should have considered even more suitable. All three books are highly recommended to all.

Malcom Ferguson presents an addendum to his article on The Weird and Grotesque in Art, and emphasizes a point in modern psychology; "I wish you'd add the name of Pieter Brueghel to my art article - somewhere near that of his predecessor, Martin Schongauer. His "Luxuria" is a satiric, wanton demon revel of detailed licentiousness - a hellfire sermon of an unpopular type. Romanticism in the moonlight is dandy, but a well-rounded diet seems to need one type or another of realism. That of the Russians like Dostoevsky is lifelike and vivid; that of the Victorian era dire, sordid but often vague, hiding under taboo such matters as venereal diseases; further back is the grim, specific realism of Hogarth, Defoe, Swift and the earlier Butler (the latter two particularly were not above scatology to drive a point home). We have today idealised in such pretty pictures as the Petty girls a pleasant phase of the pleasures of female company, have overlooked many cozier complications. There are times to remember; if only to allocate one's "mad money" and general resources, and to catch sight of what is let loose at nightfall. The unwillingness to pay the piper is a form of ter diversation in present life that the army a "trades"

Change of Address Mr and Mrs W. R. Gardiner and their proxy, daughter Anne and son Derek (now in India) announce their new home address as 96 Lavinton Road, Worthing.

Final Frenzy of bits and pieces; Thanks are due to George Ellis and Ken Chadwick for their assistance in assembling and preparing this Fide for the mails .. other visitors here have been Terry Overton for a third time, F/O Allan Miles, we've lost count of the number of visits but he's very welcome and Maurice Hanson for an evening... September 30th we hope to be in Manchester where with luck we shall see Frank Parker, Benson Herbert, Mancunian Lane, Bradbury and Ellis, just possibly Art Williams and Ron Holmes. Sort of sudden conventionette .. Add to acknowledgement of magazines sent by John M Cunningham to DRS, made in the "Beefstull", the safe arrival here of a further three packages of assorted prozines "for the fighting soldier" these will be distributed as occasion offers .. Wanted particularly by J. Rosenblum:- the fantasy works of William Hope Hodgson, especially "House on the Borderland" "Boats of the Glen Carrig" "The Lightland"; also copy of the first FFM Finlay Portfolio. .. In production at the moment is an anthology of fan poetry, being put out by Messrs Ron Holmes and Arthur Williams. No further details known yet. Incidentally Arthur is in Liverpool at the moment; last known address being 236 Al Fourth Road, Highth, Liverpool .. Wally Gillings is doing quite a spot of writing just now, recently published were an article on postwar transatlantic rocket-travel in ANSWERS and one on weapons of the next war in WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, whilst coming up in LONDON LIFE (of all magazines) is a short stf. tale written and illustrated by himself. And - the scene of literary success - Wally has an article coming up in the next issue of FIDO .. During the month we learned of the death of the "stamp-edging and string genius" W. Heath Robinson; Britains premier exponent of whacky machinery ,, Johnny Millard has spent a leave up in Aberdeen with Dou Webster .. Back cover this issue formed the front of Phil Bronson's fanzine "Fantasite", and the BPS Bulletin shares a sheet with a lithographed interior illustration from "Fan Slants" .. At long last Dennis Tucker has found it impossible to continue with the production of a Directory of British Fandom, which he undertook on behalf of the British Fantasy Society, so all papers have been turned over to JM Rosenblum (me!) and I shall try to get the thing out as soon as possible. Also, in conjunction with Arthur Hillman, Director of the BPS Weird Section, I hope to put out in the near future, a "file" of discussions on weird and horror fiction.