

NORSTRILIAN NEWS

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Written by John Foyster, 12 Glangariff Drive, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170, Australia and published by Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183, UK Agent being Mervyn Barrett, 179 Walm Lane, London NW2. FF 180. This issue is free.

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SF MAGAZINE DUSTED BY SPANISH POLICE

In a letter addressed to Gordon R. Dickson, in his capacity as President of the SFWA, which has been copied to many other people, Donald A. Wollheim draws attention to an unpleasant situation in Spain.

On June 26th the Spanish police seized all copies of NUEVA DIMENSION number 14. The publishers have been charged with "offenses against the security of the Spanish State and some other offenses as nonsensical as the first".

The result is that number 14 will be pulped and that the publishers will be gaoled or fined - at any rate the editor-publisher (Sebastian Martinez) estimates that the whole business will cost something like \$5000 which his magazine can't afford.

Mr. Wollheim describes NUEVA DIMENSION in the following terms: "I do not know if you are familiar with this wonderful Spanish magazine. If you are, you may possibly agree with me (and with Harlam Ellison who first called my attention to it) that it is perhaps the most distinguished s-f magazine in the world in typography, selection, world coverage, and artistic taste. The magazine is, to my survey, not remotely political (except insofar as all s-f may be said to have social significance), and has published the works of many of our best American writers, as well as the best of the British and the s-f writers of other lands. The issue No. 14 (which I have not seen) was advertised in the preceding issue as containing work by Galouye, Harrison, Russell, Saberhagen. No. 13, which I have just received, is a beautiful volume containing, among others, work by Sturgeon, Merritt, Wyndham, Boris Vian, H.H. Ewers, Ambrose Bierce, etc."

The story which appears to have given offence is one by "an Argentinian lady, Professor of Mathematics in the University of La Plata, dealing with the Basques and a time machine. It (is) a good humorous story and there was nothing political in it...". Unfortunately, mentioning the word 'Basque' is very dangerous at the moment.....

This is the first time, to my knowledge, that any SF magazine has been suppressed by a government. SF has been published in almost every country in the world, in different forms admittedly, but nothing like this seems to have happened before.

Mr. Wollheim goes on to suggest that the SFWA might write to the Spanish Ambassador in the US and to the US Ambassador in Madrid. In a note he suggests to me that Australian fans might write to the local Spanish envoys and to the Australian consul in Madrid.

I feel that we in Australia know what it is like to be without science fiction magazines better than anyone in an English-speaking country. Over to you.

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There was actually a news overflow even from the expanded NN. Some items can be cleared up in the available space. Eric Burgess, No. 1 member of the British Interplanetary Society was recently in Melbourne. Last February, Christine Moskowitz was in Melbourne (see, we even publish fan history). The other oddments are overlong, but I might mention the

22nd British SF Convention, whose Chairman is Peter Weston. Cost of membership is 10/- stg., and the address is 31 Pinewall Avenue, Birmingham 30, UK. Make it payable to "22nd British SF Convention". I shall run a more detailed report in NN 11, where there will (presumably) be more room. Meanwhile, you might subscribe to 'SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW' through your friendly local agent (who just happens to be me) and remember - it's correct to clip!