



THE 'PSEUDO ~ FUTURIAN!'

Or, one of the Horrors of War

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Well, friends and fellow fiends -- sorry, fans, here we pop up again. Pseudo-Futurian is beginning to take some sort of form, although in all probability, the wretched thing will never assume a definite definable type of format and contents. Everything will be merely according to the material available and the sort of mood I might happen to be in. If a lot of stuff crops up and I happen to feel generous, you might even get an extra page or so! Incidentally, we could do with a short nickname; the lone suggestion so far, apart from initials P-F, is "Psutu" coming from Will Temple, but I'm sorry Will, it just doesn't seem to click home. How about some other ideas? And don't anyone suggest "Funny".88

XXX The last letter from Roland Forster contained quite a lot of information which might be of interest to youse guys (pardon) :-

"In the last 'Futurian' John Craig mentions two Argosy noels by Jack Mann - 'The Ninth Life' and 'Maker of Shadows' - and, after praising the letter, says he hopes it will appear in book form. You can tell John that he is behind the times. 'Maker of Shadows' was published by Wrihtt and Brown in 1938 and 'The Ninth Life' in 1939. I've read 'Maker of Shadows' and find it very good. However, I am not so sure that, as John suggests, it should go down as a fantasy 'classic'. The real classics in occult fantasy are written by people who have some strong interest in the subject. Merritt, as you know, has made a study of Demonology, etc., and Dion Fortune (yes, I know I tend to rave about Dion, but to me she is the writer par excellence of mystic fantasy) is herself an occultist and author of at least one non-fiction work on the subject. I may be wrong, but Jack Mann gives me the impression that he is merely a competent thriller writer who occasionally turns to a field that is slightly 'different'. Nevertheless, in that 'different' field he seems to lose none of his competence and to such collectors as ourselves his fantasy novels should be welcome enough - if we can find 'em. I myself have ~~in~~ his 'Nightmare Farm' a novel with the same 'hero' as in 'Maker of Shadows'. So far I haven't read it, but I intend to remedy that omission forthwith. Yet another predecessor of 'Maker of Shadows' is 'Grey Shapes', and there may be others."

Thanks a lot, Roland, for your help. And James Rathbone wants to say, "would all fans who have written for 'Macabre' before, or wished to, send in contributions to the above address (J.P.Rathbone(957) c/o Mrs Parkes, 2 Belmont Road, Belmont, Sutton, Surrey) as the stencils have been accidentally destroyed in a spring-clean, which were formerly to be used?"

Sounds a bit mixed to me, but I gather that we may yet see that very illusive second issue of "Mac" - and possibly even more. Moreover, in

spite of appearances I hear that both "Sally" and "Fay" are not yet 'suspended' but may both appear in the near future. And we are waiting for "Gargoyle" too, Dave Mollwain, - at least put us out of our misery one way or t'other.

Fanews - a brief bulletin from London via Will Temple ...

"At the moment I am awaiting with interest the outcome of a race between 3 events, any one of which is due to come about any day now:-

- 1/ The arrival of "Bran" (so called because Joan and I don't know yet whether it will be a "Brian" or an "Anne". Or both!)
- 2/ The arrival of my Army call-up papers
- 3/ The arrival of Hitler & Co

Wonder which'll win?

Arthur Clarke, after trying to get into the R.A.F. as a navigator was rejected on a/c of wearing glasses. Instead the authorities recommended him for the Pay Corps. Arthur's office said: "Dammit, no! we can make better use than that of him here," and promised to apply for his exemption. Probably they'll get it.

Ron Holmes & George Madhurst came to tea here last week - or recently anyway. We went bookhunting in Wembley together. You should have heard Ron yell when George picked up a copy of "Ship of Ishtar" from under Ron's nose in perfect condition (the book, i.e., not Ron's nose) for 4d.

And I would have yelled too - I would an' all, to use a native Yorkshireism. Ronnie has been doing a fair amount of running about of late, but that's nothing to his pet idea for after the war - he wants to get on to an Atlantic liner, and attempt to keep in touch with fandon, both in the United States and in this country. What a fine idea Ron, maybe you'll find some more of us joining you, if it comes off. And, talking of Mr. Holmes, here is a paragraph culled from an epistle of his: "Les Johnson, (tho' still a C.O.) has joined the R.A.F. as a radio mechanic. Eric Frank Russell has volunteered as a pilot officer. H.O. Dickenson (Liverpool s-f author) is making shells in London. Maurice Hanson was in Chester several weeks ago but is now moved to South Wales. L.(D)V. Heald has joined the Local Defence Volunteers. So, fandon marches on --- foo."

Other fan-news, in very brief snatches

Eric Moss is now near, if not actually in London in an "Air Formation Signals" whatever that may be.

Osmond Robb of Edinburgh won his school essay prize

Price of Famous Fantastic Mysteries is likely to be dropped to 10 cents, and both that magazine and Fantastic Novels may become monthly after September. Oh, what we are missing!

Recently read three allegorical fantasies all in a row, namely "Ball & the Cross"-G.K. Chesterton (Wells, Gardner) where the Devil tries to conquer the world; "Marigold"-Edith Allenby (Greening & Co) which deals with a mythical country and the play between good and bad forces for the soul of a man - all being fairly easily identifiable written in 1905 and now fairly rare it is a sequel to "Jewel Sowers". And, finally "The Way of Eben"-James Branch Cabell (Bodley Head) where once again you can make the characters represent what you like.

Incidentally "Jurgen" by J.B. Cabell is now available at 6d. in the Penguin series. It is definitely fantasy, but not meant for children!

That is just about all there is room for this time tho' there were a few other items I wanted to mention. And if there is an "X2" at the side here, I want some S.A. envelopes from you.