

SCIENCE & FANTASY

FAN REPORTER

NO.
19

ISSUED WEEKLY.

DEC.
16.

CONFERENCE PLANS STOP. WAR CAUSES HOLDUP.

First thing to be directly affected by the war in the Pacific is the Third Sydney Conference, planned to be held early next January. Plans are now in the same position as they were two weeks ago, and no change is likely to take place unless the Pacific situation alters considerably in the next fortnight.

Bill Veney's idea of holding the Conference is unchanged. He still has hopes of fans getting together for a general discussion, to find out on what matters they are in unanimous agreement. The room he has been promised is still open to him. He knows that enough fans to make the Conference a success have promised to turn up. He also knows that the Court of Inquiry will not interfere with his plans, being fixed for a week earlier. So as far as fandom itself is concerned there will be nothing to stop the Conference. Also, Bill's mother is back on the road to health, so from this angle the Conference is also all right.

There is only one thing that can stop it; the war. The future actions of many fans will be doubtful. Although most Sydney fans are just under military age, in the event of a national emergency all thoughts of fan activities must be put aside until such time as we can take them up from where we left off.

It is less than three weeks to the Conference. The possibility of any drastic changes in that time might seem unlikely, but we cannot say for certain where we will be when those three weeks are up. Still, plans for the Conference are ready. As far as fandom is concerned, it will be held. However, we must wait and see. Time will tell.

POLLS.No.5..COVERS.OLD AND NEW COVERS EQUALLY LIKED.

Votes in our fifth (and for the time being) second last pro poll are coming in, although slowly, and the various covers so far received cover a very wide area as regards both time and magazine.

As only four covers have received more than one, it would be impossible to record all the covers in this issue. However, top positions at present are as follows:

Number of votes received.....	4
ASTOUNDING, FEB. 39, ROGERS, CRUCIBLE OF POWER..	3
ASTOUNDING, APR. 39, SCHNEEMAN (ASTRON.).....	3
UNKNOWN, JUN. 40, CARTIER, BUT WITHOUT HORNS...	2
AMAZING, OCT. 35, MOREY, ANOTHER DIMENSION:.....	1

The February 39 Astounding cover was Rogers' first effort, and depicts the crash of the space-ship in Williamson's "Crucible of Power."

The April 39 Astounding cover shows Saturn as seen from Japetus, and has been praised by others than stf fans and readers.

The June 40 cover on Unknown, by Cartier, illustrates, or rather symbolises, Page's "But Without Horns"

The October 35 cover on Amazing is by Loo Morey, who has had more covers voted for so far than any other artist.

As regards the number of covers submitted, out of the four votes, fourteen different covers have been received. Of these four are by Morey, two by Paul, 2 by Cartier, two by Rogers, one each by Schneeman, Mick Finlay and Dold.

Eight covers are less than three years old, and four are over ten years old. Covers off seven magazines are included, and so far we have only received four votes!

By next week, when the poll should close, we hope to have most Sydney Votes. Whether interstate votes come or not is doubtful at the present moment. So we appeal to you fans down South. When you read this send in your vote straight away. How can we have a record of Australian fan opinions, if only half of them vote?

FANDOM AT RANDOM.

Melbournnews by Wog Hockley.

TED RUSSELL BACK IN FANDOM.

It was nearly three months ago that Ted Russell announced that he would have to resign from the F.S.S and drop fan activities because of school and exam work. Now his exams are over, and he intends to re-enter into fandom.

He has signified his intention of coming to the next F.S.S. meeting to stand re-election, and members have no objections to this. His application will be considered on the spot. He was forced to resign by necessity, not of his own free will, hence he will not be considered an ordinary guest, and the "two meeting" rule will not apply.

LAST LOOK AT SAWYER.

Bruce Sawyer unexpectedly turned up at the Russells' last weekend. It was a sort of farewell tour, being probably the last time he would be seeing fans for a long time. Incidentally, Bruce mentioned that he will not be going overseas.

I think I speak for all fandom when I wish Bruce the very best of luck, and a quick and safe return.

F.S.S. DOINGS.

Next meeting of the FSS is now definitely set down for Friday December 19, at Eric and Ted Russells home, commencing at 7.30.

The false news about the blackout, appearing in last week's paper, caused some doubt to be thrown on the meeting for a while. Now, all going well, it will definitely be held. As with last meeting, two guests have been invited.

Talking of Bruce Sawyer reminds us that his competition will close in two week's time, and then voting will commence to determine the pick of Australian fan material over the last four months.

FILMS.

"The Secret Seven," shown in Sydney some time ago, has now been shown in Melbourne.

FANDOM AT RANDOM. (cont.)
ASTOUNDING GOES LARGE SIZE.

In the past we have stuck solely to Australian news. However, this announcement is so important that it finds a place in this issue.

Astounding Science Fiction is to go large size.

The change will commence with the January 1942 issue, when Astounding will become the same size as Unknown Worlds is at present. That is, 128 pages, which means one and a half times the size of the smaller magazine. Price will be raised to twenty five cents.

Did we hear someone say "Just like the good old days."

SMITH CALLED UP.

Ralph Smith has been called up, and should go into camp shortly.

FROM THE PAPERS.

These items are a little stale, but there has been no room for them before.

Ghosts, or rather, a ghost, was reported to be haunting a house at Waterloo of late. A taxi-driver said he drove it out to the main road, and when he looked around, it had disappeared.

Sydney's Daily Mirror recently ran an article on the evolution of the horse.

IN THE PAPERS.

Sunday Sun had a paragraph on the price of eggs. 'Twas written by Vol Molesworth.

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STOP PRESS.