

SCIENCE & FANTASY

# FAN REPORTER

NO.  
22

ISSUED WEEKLY.

JBW  
6

## SMALL GROUP AT CONFERENCE. F.F.A. SURPRISE!

The third Sydney Science-fiction Conference was held on Sunday, January 4, at the Y.H.C.A. buildings Pitt and Bathurst Streets. Eight fans turned up. They were William Veney, who planned the Conference, Colin Roden, Eric and Ted Russell, Graham Stone, Bert Castellari, Arthur Duncan, and Jack Hannan. David R. Evans, who was expected, did not turn up, and Vol molesworth could not come owing to his mother being ill. Roden photographed the fans on arrival, also during and after the Conference.

The Conference opened at 2.30, when Veney, as chairman, outlined the aim of the meeting, and asked for suggestions and recommendations that would help fan-don.

Nothing was forthcoming, so Veney suggested planning to have Australia represented at the Pacificon. First it was advised to find out whether there would be a Pacificon, in view of the War situation. Opinion was that although the Los Angeles Convention would be off, a convention might be held elsewhere.

Finally it was favoured that if a convention were held at all, an airmail letter should be sent in June, so as to reach the Convention Committee a few days before the Convention started. Eric Russell promised to take charge of the letter, and to get other fans views.

Bill next suggested that fans should make outings, going over various places of scientific interest.

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CONFERENCE (Contd.)

As an example he pointed out the previous visits that Sydney fans had made to the Observatory, and said that if a large party applied, the Observatory people might be willing to show the fans over. Eric Russell said he would get in touch with Mr. Pinnock to see what the possibilities were.

Trips to Museums were also discussed.

Discussion followed on lectures and debates, and it was suggested that a debate be held in the near future, to try them out.

Matter of girl fans was brought up, but not discussed to any great extent.

Also raised was the question of closer relationship with overseas fans. This was put aside until more details were available on the present position of American fandom.

ARTHUR DUNCAN RESIGNS!

Arthur Duncan, coordinator of the FFA, was to give a speech outlining the activities of the Federation. Instead, he announced his resignation from his position, because according to him he had had so much difficulty in bringing out Spaceward, and the result was so poor, that he felt he was not qualified for the job. Immediately there were objections, and after some discussion, he agreed to carry on under certain conditions.

Discussion followed on the FFA itself, and Voney again objected to the coordinator being elected by the FSS, and not all FFA members themselves. It was agreed, however, to leave the Federation as it is.

JACK HARMAN JOINS FFA.

Before the subject was closed, the purpose of this organisation was explained to Jack Harman, who immediately handed in his name, to join. Address of this new member is 13 The Crescent, Chatswood, N.S.W.

Discussion now turned to stf in general, and Eric Russell remarked "This is the first time I've discussed science-fiction in six months." Graham Stone added "Me, too!"

Following this attempts were made to define a fan. Then a better name was sought for science-fiction than science-fiction. Eric suggested one that Observer will print shortly. ("I don't have room for it.")

A discussion on pressags revealed the fact that Astounding was the most popular. Conference closed 4.30.

POLLSNo. 6. .STORIES.

This, the last pro poll, commences this week. Wanted are ten pre-ban stories, and it would help if you sent the names of the authors as well.

The last two polls have been flops. Horrible, dismal failures. Some people have responded to our request for more votes. Others have not. So I want to say this to both fans AND "collectors." I am doing my best to compile a complete record of Australian opinions and preferences. When they are complete, they can be referred back to at any time. American and other overseas fans will know what we like and what we don't like. There are other minor aspects as well.

But all these things depend on your help. I cannot do it by myself. I know which fans are able to vote. I know, out of these, who are not voting. I would like to know why.

I could easily print the name of those fans who do vote. As a matter of fact, I appreciate their support, and would like to make their names public. But this would show who were not voting. And while most of the latter names deserve to be made public, there are a few fans who have good reasons for not voting. Hence if these names were included in the list, wrong impressions would be caused. So, for the time being, lists are out.

And another thing. Some time ago, I asked for suggestions for future polls. I got them - from some people. So there are others apart from myself who want the polls to be held. If you don't vote, you disappoint not only me, but these other fans as well.

If this appeal makes no impression, then I give up hope. I repeat what I want. Your ten favourite pre-ban stories. Think them up, write them down, check them off, and send them in. And quickly. This especially applies to interstate fans. Postage causes delay, and this time has to be made up.

I will start the poll off by giving my list. They are (not in order) Chapter from the Beginning, Child of Power, Into the Darkness, Moon Pool (not Conquest) The Mysterious, None but Lucifer, Portrait, Smile of the Sphinx, Friends, and Who Goes There? A queer choice, you'll say. I admit it. But they're my favourites, and I want to give them a vote apiece to help them top the list. Other fans should feel the same way.

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FANDOM AT RANDOM  
FANS CALLED UP.

More fans are being affected by the War. Bill Veney has had his medical, and expects to go into camp this week. Bill turned eighteen two months ago.

Bert Castellari will go for his examination this week, and probably it will not be long before he, too, goes into camp.

Colin Roden turns eighteen at the end of January, and will be liable for service until the beginning of June, when he will be exempt. (In view of the last statement, I do not know what will happen to Reporter. It depends on when I go into camp....C.R.)

Castellari says that Ron Levy will probably continue Observer, whose next issue, by the way, marks its entry into its third year.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE CONFERENCE

Latest Observer was handed out during the Conference. Also, latest copy of the Futurian War Digest.

After the Conference, Vauey, who is selling lots of his collection, because of his call-up, sold loads of fannage mostly to Graham Stone. I did not find out what the total price was, but it must have been fairly high.

MOLES WORTH SELLS COLLECTION.

Once again Vol has "separated the milk from the cream." This time it was partly caused by the fact that several magazines were damaged when being trimmed.

One of these days I'll have room for an editorial.

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