

SCIENCE & FANTASY

# FAN REPORTER

NO.  
25

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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## AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE- FICTION BOOK OUT.

As far as we know, it was Eric Russell who first discovered what might be termed the first of Australia's sf publications.

This is a sixpenny booklet, called "The Living Dead" and written by J.W. Hering. Currawong Publications, of 32 Jamieson Street, Sydney, are the publishers. Size is 80 small pages, and it is illustrated by a coloured cover, which, although not a masterpiece, is a fairly accurate representation of a scene in the story.

Story is that of a mad (of course) scientist, Dr. von Steiff, who dreams of producing a perfect race by replacing diseased organs with healthy ones.

Here Fred West dies on page 1 of consumption, is renovated by the doctor and returns to life. He becomes chief assistant, but is prisoner on doctor's island.

Next corpse arrives for rejuvenating, and is found to be a woman (you guessed it). West and Demon (a sub-human servant) kidnap a girl so as to get healthy organs for the operation.

Description of the operation lasts until the middle of the book is reached. From there on, science is replaced by adventure, and the story ends with Demon and the doctor killing each other.

Although the story is crude and the science is neglected towards the end, it is science-fiction, and thus raises hopes, though not very great, of other and better publications to follow.

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SYDNEY.TWO MORE FANS IN CAMP.

Bert Castellari and Bill Veney have gone into camp and so for the time being are lost to fandom.

They are both in the same camp, in a machine-gun regiment, but their location, so Eric Russell tells us, is a military secret.

According to report Futurian Observer, which at the time of the Conference Bert was considering handing over entirely to Hon Levy, will now be suspended. Last issue was the second anniversary one, which came out a week or two ago.

With this issue, too, your editor reaches military age, which may tend to make Reporter's future indefinite. For the present, though, there will not be any changes.

INQUIRY EVIDENCE COMPLETE.

Vol Molesworth now has tabulated all the evidence from the Futurian Court of Inquiry, and this will be ready for presentation at the next FSS meeting, if Vol can attend.

The Court was held one month ago, and Molesworth and Castellari took shorthand notes. These had to be compared and expanded before the evidence could be presented.

The next FSS meeting will be held at the Russells' home next Sunday afternoon.

BOOKS OUT IN SYDNEY.

The June 1941 reprint Astounding is now out in Sydney, though the May issue is still missing. There are no signs of any Unknowns.

Also out, as announced on front page, is J.W. Homing's "The Living Dead".

And talking of books, although Bert Castellari is now in camp, he has not sold his collection.

As far as we can make out, no fans have received any overseas parcels lately, although Graham Stone got some fanmags a couple of weeks back.

FILES.

The Devil Commanda is now doing the rounds of Sydney's suburbs. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is scheduled to start shortly in town.

No. 6. STORIESPOSITIONS CLOSE UP. "WHO GOES THERE?" STILL IN LEAD.

Although only one vote was received during the third week of this poll, this vote made leading positions very close, and consequently adds a lot more interest to the poll.

Stuart's "Who Goes There?" still held its lead, but there are three stories only one point behind, and almost a score two points behind. Only one new story was added this week, so the other stories, of course, bunched up considerably.

Present positions of leading stories are:

Number of Votes...9.

4 points - Who Goes There?

3 points - By Jove!; Professor Jameson Series; Last Darkness Fall.

2 points - Black Flame; Child of Power; Cometeers; Council of Drones; Final Blackout; Gray Lensman; Green Man of Graypec; Grsta, Queen of Queens; Into the Darkness; Life Everlasting; Liners of Time; Second Deluge; Shadow Out of Time; Sinister Barrier; Skylark of Space; Trends; Uncertainty; Zagibud.

1 point - Paradise and Iron, All others were listed last week.

Next week, if another vote comes in, the poll will close, double figures being reached. Ten votes would be a fairly good total under present conditions, but it could be better. So if anybody reading this has not voted, he would be doing me a great favour if he were to send his ten favourite stories in.

FUTURE OF THE POLLS.

As you know, the two polls previous to this one were flops. The present poll looks as if it will just make it. And what with fans being called up, and finding very little time for fan activities, it looks as though the number of votes may drop even lower -- although it won't if I can help it. This would mean, of course, the finish for the polls. So keep up your vote each time, and if you happen to meet a casual who does not take very much interest as a rule, grab his vote, too.... And I still want suggestions for fan polls!

Seven weeks ago I wrote an editorial explaining why editorials were necessary. Since then I have not written any more. Not because I had changed my opinion but because there was no room. Now there is room, so here is the editorial back again.

The six editorial-less issues contained a lot of news that did not coincide with my opinion. Had there been room for an editorial I would have stated my opinion. But there wasn't, so I couldn't, and hence the news had to go in without comment. But this, you will agree, is a hard thing to do, so perhaps opinions crept in in some places. And since my aim when I started the magazine was to keep opinions out of the news, here is another very good reason for the continuance of the editorials. They act as "Safety-valves"; while they are in, the news is more likely to be news, and less likely to be my opinion of the news. However, if people still disagree, I would welcome letters from them.

As there are only ten or so lines left, there is no room to begin another topic. I wanted to discuss the fannag position in Australia, but that will have to be left until later. However, if you are in a serious mood, just think about it for yourself. At present it is not very bright. I know the war has hit fandom, and we must help just like everyone else, but just the same the position should be better. But I'll leave the discussion for some other time.

One last word on magazines, though. I won't say anything definite yet, as I am not sure, but there is a possibility that soon there will be another Sanfan Publication...

Colin Roden, EDITOR.

Science and Fantasy Fan Reporter is issued weekly by Sanfan Publications, edited by Colin Roden, from 115 Bondi Road, Bondi, N.S.W.

Subs: 1½d. per issue up to 3 months, which is 13 for 1/6. Postage extra on less than 3 copies.

Next issue out February 3.  
Melbourne Agent--W.HOCKLEY.  
Robert Agent----DON TUCK..  
Vol. 1.No.25....27/1/42...

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