

A fan-sheet devoted to ASTOUNDING Science-Fiction: concocted by Don J. Doughty at 31, Bexwell Road, Downham Market, Norfolk: duplicated and distributed by JM Rosenblum

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INTRODUCTION: Howdy fellows; sit down and make yourselves at home, and have a look at this latest addition to the FIDO litter, and then - Go To It! Get out your tools - pencil, pen and ink, or typer - and write to me (or should it be us?) at the address given above. Write anything and everything you like about any ASF, past, present, or future, American or BRE, complimentary or otherwise, about authors, artwork, editors, correspondents, or anything else that you can think of, but please (just a moment while I place a cushion to kneel on) WRITE!!

RAMBLINGS: 'Fraid you'll have to put up with a great deal of my blurb this month, although I'm including snippets from the few letters so far received.

Most important item (at least to me it is), is the disappearance of the December '40 issue of ASTOUNDING. As yet I have heard of no one who has received a copy. A word or two from Ted Carnell on this subject: "I had a vivid recollection of it going down to a watery grave!" and later: "I still haven't received my Dec. AST, so we can count on it having gone under". When you write you might just mention whether or no you have received yours - if you are one of those very fortunate people who obtain the original copies direct from the States. What an issue for the Hun to sink! It's left me in a half-nutty condition wondering about the fate of Jommy Cross. Now someone tell me that they didn't like "Slan"! A few more words of wisdom from Gnr. Ted, "Farewell To the Master" is one of my favorites, and as for 'The Stars Look Down! --- well, I still get boiled up whenever I think of it. Just a simple little story, yet what a punch it packed; and so very near to the real thing when it comes off. Don't you think that the cover for that yarn is the finest that has ever been on the front of ASTOUNDING?" You're right there, it'll take some beating.

Among other things Edward Rennison has a comment to make on these covers: "In my opinion ASF has become a really excellent mag. and the definite leader of the field. It has improved, and is still improving, which is a lot to say for any mag. now that there are so many on the market. In appearance it has greatly improved, although now the interior illustrations are again deteriorating from the high standard that they had reached. Rogers' work on the covers has been superb, and there is hardly anything to choose between him and.....Paul. (Is anyone willing to help me back up Rogers against this Frank R. Paul?)

The stories are on the upgrade, and L. Ron Hubbard and Robert Heinlein are both extremely good writers.....Campbell has worked wonders with ASTOUNDING, and if he continues maybe the good old classic days will return. This interior illustration business seems to be the only grouse against ASF that is general - I'd like to hear some of your opinions on this subject, i.e. who do you think is the best artist on the inside of ASF to-day, the worst, why? Who would you like to see turfed out, and who brought in? Give us your views, lads! Personally, I would like to see Rogers on the inside more often, also Schneeman revert entirely to his own style, and the return of Dold. I think that all the present artists are far too erratic, they've all turned out good work - and bad - but they can't maintain any standard they set --- high or low.

Douglas Webster: " I see it thus - that you might have reviews of latest issues, comparisons between US & BRE issues, moralisings (as Rennison's) on whether the level of stories has gone up or down, and plain reminiscences etc. on the past. Well to my mind the last two have been done to death years ago, mostly in American fanmags, which is another way, I suppose, of saying that I personally am not interested in them, having seen that sort of stuff a thousand times, others will differ, of course. As to the others, I get the current US editions and even though I don't normally read half the stories I could attempt something in the line of critiques and forecasts." Thanks Doug, anything in that line will be very welcome. A later 150-word postcard from the same source contains: "TIN TACKS -- I seem to gather from various JMR-letters there'll be an ish next month. (Well, it's here - such as it is - you mustn't be too hard on a first issue!) I had meant to give you a disquisition, at as great a length as you wish, on the Campbell-McConn question, since that's the only thing I know about AST, 'twould seem. OK?" OK, pal, the length as you wish.

THE J. F. Burke says: "I'd like to do something on ASTOUNDING for you, but I'm darned if I can think of anything. (Unusual?) The only thing I can remember about that mag. of late is the grim coincidence of the British reprint edition with the cover story "Coventry" appearing on the newsstands just after the blitz on the actual town of that name. Why not have an ASTOUNDING QUIZ in every issue of your mag? Questions such as - Which issue of AST featured three stories by the same author, and which author was it? (Anyone know that one? - I'll admit I don't - tell me, please, Johnny) How many cover artists were featured in 1939? One eminent US fanmag slipped up on this one, and as yet I have not seen anyone who has corrected them. (Any offers?) It's not a new idea, but it might be interesting, and I think there's plenty of material available. If I think of anything a trifle more lengthly and more interesting, I'll post it off to you." Thanks John. What do you fellows think of that idea? If you like it let me know, and if you can think up any questions, well, send them along - and don't forget to send the answers too!

/REVIEW/ -----January 1941  
"Fraid this department is not going to interest youse guys who get the mag. direct from the States. Have to do Jan. ish, as Feb. hasn't 'rived yet, s'pose it will day after I cut this stencil. Suggested by JMR  
Cover - another Rogers superlative, for Anson MacDonald's "Sixth Column". This serial shows promise, one of the active type - of which "If This Goes On -" was another example. America, again crushed by the "Pan-Asians", to be saved by six men and a gadget. British author Maurice Hugi has a novelette "The Mechanical Mico" - a new plot on me, all about a robot mother, and not badly written. (This is "Ticking Terror" forecast by Ron Holmes in FIDO3) Harry Walton's annual (a nov- olet this time) is "Doom Ship", the plot - a purposely lost spacer - is very much like Wollman's short "Lost Rocket". Best short of the ish is a literary gem, EAGrosser's "Opportunists" - about an ideal that didn't work. Von Rachen's swell series continues with "The Traitor"; but the peacemaking short, "The Day We Celebrate", by Bond, is not so hot. Kramor and Schneeman (specially his bj for "6th Column", and "Doom Ship") up to standard; Orban - so-so; Eron - take it away! Articles OK. JWC's editorial "Invention" - excellent, as per. Heinlein in the Feb. lineup.

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FOOTNOTE: Must first thank JMR for doing all the hard work in the pro- duction of this shoot. Please accept usual apology about first stencil- cutting. Remember - No. 2 depends on YOUR support.

NEWS - FFF forecast ASTOUNDING Annual on Dec. 7th, no details.