

FORTNIGHTLY

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ETHERLINE

THE

SCIENCE FICTION

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 6

1 / 6 / 53

FILMS.....

FANDOM.....

BOOKS.....

MAGAZINES..

PUBLISHING.

EDITING....

ALL.....

THE.....

LATEST....

NEWS.....

FROM.....

OVERSEAS...



the collector.

No 1 OF "SF. FANS WE KNOW."

EXCLUSIVE !!!!!!!!!

AUGUST DERLETH CONDEMNS AUSTRALIAN CENSORS

In a statement on the banning of the works of A. Merritt and John W. Campbell's "Thing From Another World", August W. Derleth, world famous writer, editor, anthologist of the supernatural, and the publisher of the world renowned Arkham House books stated :

"The censorship situation in Australia would seem to be completely out of hand. There is always one prospect, however, that sooner or later it becomes so ridiculous that the censor is laughed out of business.

From time to time we have had outbursts in this country, but they seldom lasted for long, or succeeded for even a while, because there is such an outcry that they are beaten back before they have fairly begun. A good thing too. Censorship is always ridiculous. We do hold that if the people are given the facts of any matter, the majority of them will come to the correct conclusion in any controversy."

While ~~DERLETH~~ does not hold with Mr Derleth's optimistic belief that the censors will be laughed out of business, we do appreciate his concern for Aussie fandom. ~~DERLETH~~ reciprocates by offering our warm congratulations to Mr Derleth and his lovely bride-to-be, Miss Sandra Winters.

LJH.

DOUG. NICHOLSON IN BALLARAT.

Doug. Nicholson, the publisher of ~~FORERUNNER~~, has taken a post in Ballarat, and wishes us to inform all his friends and correspondents that his new temporary address is care of the Post Office, Ballarat.

We feel that while the move is a loss to Sydney, it a definite gain to Melbourne, as Doug will be down quite a lot over the weekends, and will try to make a few of the Thursday night meetings if transport can be found back. If you know of any way he can get back to Ballarat late on a Thursday night, let us know.

MELBOURNE GROUP MEETINGS16/4/53

The meeting was called to order at 8.30 PM., at the Oddfellows Hall, top of Latrobe St. Bob McCubbin was in the chair and explained that there was a desire for an initial controlled period at the weekly meetings to introduce guest speakers, new members and other items of interest. The idea was favourably received, and Bob was elected chairman pro-tem.

A. Bertram Chandler, popular English science-fantasy author was introduced, and described the start of the famous White Horse Circle in London, the meeting place of writers, artists, and publishers of the London sf field. He then volunteered to answer questions, and got plenty ! He also promised an article for PERHAPS.

Leo Harding produced a "camera" and proceeded to take photos for inclusion in ETHERLINE--'perhaps' the light wasn't good enough. Leo's antics were worthy of a movie camera !

Neil Merrilles, ex-serviceman, of 311 Carlisle St., St. Kilda, was introduced to the group, and Neil expressed his non-interest in space opera.

Bill Dolby donated some hard cover books to the library. Thanks Bill.

The meeting closed with the usual free-for-all trading session and gab-fest.

24/4/53

This weeks meeting was called to order by the chairman, who asked for a minutes silence in respect of Mrs. Crozier, Ian's mother, who died on 17/4/53.

Two newcomers were introduced, Jim Webster of McGill's who will take over Mervyn Binn's job while he is in the National Circus, and Eric Cohen of 98 Whitehall St., Footscray. It was pointed out that the group has no ties, the meetings are held and those interested may attend or stay away just as they wish. It is NOT a stag party, nor just for frantic teenagers. Married couples who are interested in sf are invited, and any young ladies may also attend, and will be equally welcome.

There were 13 contributors to the hat.

MELBOURNE GROUP MEETINGS contd.21/5/53

Bob McCubbin opened the business session at 8.30 PM. To tighten control of the library, a group of three, Race Mathews, Leo Harding and Ian Crozier were appointed.

Dick Jenssen was confirmed in his position of Librarian. Duplicated material will be auctioned or otherwise disposed of, and the proceeds used to buy more stock.

Once again we are discussing moving. Many of our members feel that they cannot deliberate on an empty stomach - so the hunt for premises supplying food is on again. Results will be notified by the next meeting.

In future, an attendance book will be signed by all members attending.

Armak.

NEWS BRIEFS

From ROGER DARD

NEW FB COMPANY PUBLISHING SCIENCE FICTION

Ballantine Books, publishers of STAR SCIENCE FICTION, the hard and paper covered editions of sf yarns mentioned in issue no 4, will shortly publish a collection of original stories by Arthur Clarke.

NEW MAGAZINE

VORTEX SCIENCE FICTION, a proposed magazine shelved these many months, will finally appear, but using only short short material.

Groff Conklin, in his series of editing collections based on a theme in science fiction, has recently put together one dealing with the theory of time travel and parallel worlds.

Should be interesting to see how it turns out, and if as good as his previous ventures.

DOODLINGS

From KEN SLATER.

FLOOD OF NEW STATESIDE MAGS CONTINUES

UNIVERSE, a new digest sized 128 paged magazine appeared this month from Century Publications, and the date was June, priced at 35c. Fiction fair, two colour illos, edited by George Bell.

del Rey's mag changes its title to FANTASY FICTION from FANTASY MAGAZINE. Featured is a Harold Shea novella by Pratt and de Camp, and another Bok cover.

SAM MERWIN RETURNS

Coming out of his literary retirement, to his typer Sam Merwin Jr., ex editor of the Thrilling Mags, returns to edit FANTASTIC UNIVERSE, a mammoth 192 ** paged slightly over digest size magazine, selling for 50c!!!! It's due in May.

Rumor has it that James A. Williams, chairman of the Philadelphia Convention Committee, has died, and Milton Rothman has stepped into his shoes as head man.

Regal Books of Manchester are planning to issue (again) S. Fowler Wright's "Island of Captain Sparrow", and "The Screaming Lake".

Wright recently did a fantasy novel aimed at a stateside publication, which was consequently refused by one publisher as being too "communistic" - and was Wright amazed !! He can think of no reason for the action and if the book has any political views, they are of an "individual" nature.

BEYOND FANTASTIC FICTION, Gold's fantasy fellow to GALAXY, was due to appear this May. Also due to be released shortly is SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, 256 pages selling for 50c and edited by Lester del Rey.

The rise in prices bodes ill for fans, who will have to delve deeper into their pockets to keep up with the flood.

Kayeffess.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION REPORT.

From Vol Molesworth.

Wally Judd has been appointed Organizer of the Third Australian Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Sydney over the Easter weekend in 1954. Mr. Judd will be assisted by a committee of three, made up of Mrs. Laura Molesworth and Messrs Rex Meyer and Jack Leggett. Mr Meyer will be chairman of the con., Mr Leggett will act as Treasurer, and Mrs. Molesworth will be in charge of Social activities.

Mr Judd will co-opt various fans to perform a few specialised jobs. Already he has appointed Lyell Crane to handle Australian publicity, Graham B Stone is to carry out Overseas publicity, and Miss Rosemary Simmons will handle press publicity.

The Convention will again be a three day affair with the cocktail party probably held at the close.

Mr Judd was appointed at the 190th meeting of the Futurian Society, and was in accordance with the resolution passed at the second convention.

Final figures show that 84 fans attended over a period of two days, while 42 went along to Chiswick Gardens for the cocktail party. The Official Report is nearly ready and will be distributed to every fan who attended.

Vol Molesworth.

EXTRA!!!

NEWS FLASH!!!

Australia is to have TWO professional sf magazines !!!!!!!!! I have seen the first issues, & they are quite good. Titles are POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION and FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION. The distributors have arranged for me to interview the publishers, who are seeking advice on what Australian fans want. More information as it comes to hand.

Vol Molesworth.

VENEY GOES TO PLANET X

+

With Frank Bryning.

Presumably because he was travelling between states at the time of it's showing in Melbourne (?) and Sydney, Bill Veney didn't see THE MAN FROM PLANET X. So when it was billed at Kelvin Grove, I took him along. I warned him it was corn of the ripest variety, and that he would have to endure a musical titled WITH A SONG IN MY HEART as well. But a strong minded science fiction connoisseur, critic, controversialist and fanzine editor/publisher with a duty to his public is not easily deterred from properly covering his field (you know Bill Veney).

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART did not daunt him. He just loved it !! "A-a-ah" he emoted as Jane Froman sang "I'll Walk Alone". "Ah! that brings back memories". (I then had the thought that maybe he is human. Humanoid at least!)

THE MAN FROM PLANET X, however, curdled Veney's ice-cream in its cone from the start. In him the devotee of good science fiction (whom he shyly hides behind that exuberant boyish manner) writhed and squirmed as the picture teetered from one strained situation to another, from anti-climax to pathos. At any rate, Veney writhed, squirmed and wriggled from whatever cause. And he laughed in all the wrong places.

"Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!" he gave forth with that booming Bill Veney udulation, when everyone else was silent and awe-struck at the sight of the outworlder's space ship.

"S'matter?" he queried anxiously, looking about the theatre as if for a rat or a snake, when women shrieked at first glimpse of the face of the man from Planet X. He hadn't even noticed anything faintly BEM-like on the screen.

"This I cannot stand!" he lamented, when the hero propounded the novel ideas of defending Earth and all mankind from the Planet X-ians. He'd heard that line of talk somewhere else, he thought.

Finally, when Planet X swung down from the sky, as menacing as a toy balloon, to graze the Earth and swing away in a few seconds, Veney could contain himself no longer.

"UGH! UGH! UGH!" he boomed roariously.
 Which interfered with the aesthetic appreciation
 of the lady behind him. In a loud stage whisper to her
 companion, she summed up William D. (Lowbrow) Veney;
 "Trouble with him, no imagination!"

MOVIE PREVIEWS.

RED PLANET MARS.

Stars: Peter Graves and Andrea King.

A supporting film, billed as "red BLOODED
 action", RED PLANET MARS follows the usual recipe for
 inferior pulp stuff:

"Take one gin-soaked mad scientist, one sane
 ditto, 2 identical radar-radio gimmicks, United States
 top brass, Russian ditto and fake messages from Mars
 creating economic havoc. Mix to an uneven consistency
 with US propaganda, garnish with "the voice of God",
 throw in a lab scene culminating in the destruction of
 the scientists. Spread thinly over thousands of feet of
 celluloid film, and put in a hot projector for 90 min-
 utes!"

Resulting dish was served at Hoyt's ESQUIRES.
 Consumer reaction:

Children faintly puzzled, adults faintly sick.
 Women found it lacking in love interest, men found it
 lacking in action, and I found it lacking.

The impact of the Voice of God was done far
 better some years ago.

ARMAK

A. BERTRAM CHANDLER'S LATEST SALES

While in Melbourne recently, Mr Chandler told
 us he had just sold two more stories to American mags.

GATEWAY has been sold to STAR SCIENCE FICTION,
 while A MATTER OF TIMING was sold at the same time to
 UNIVERSE, the magazine which has just started.

Mr Chandler has proved himself to be one of
 the most popular of British authors, and we wish him
 the best in the future

ARMAK

B.O.O.K. N.O.T.E.S

By IJC.

Since my last issue of news, quite a number of books have made their appearance.

First off, the cut edition of GALAXY READER has arrived. Only 13 stories appear, some good, mostly fair.

The Hall/Flint opus, THE BLIND SPOT has also made its appearance, together with George Goodchild's first go at stf, DR ZILS EXPERIMENTS. This, by the way, received a very good review in London.

Book editions of Brian Berry's FROM WHAT FAR STAR & TRO THE LIFE GIVER by Jon J. Deegan, concurrently with the pocket book editions.

Van Vogt's DESTINATION UNIVERSE also hit the stands and this is worth getting. Even better than the original US edition, both in quality and price, this is complete.

Just out (not projected) in London are the following YEARS BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, edited by Bleiler and Dikty at 9/6 stg.

THE SHADOW GIRL by Ray Cummings at 5/- stg.
THE DARK HOUR by Alan Kennington at 10/6 stg.
TIME AND SPACE and BEYOND THESE SUNS by Randolph Page at 5/- stg. each.
SHIPS OF VERO by Brian Shaw at 5/- stg.

Projected British publications are as follows:
BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES 3rd Series.
STAR SCIENCE FICTION edited by Frederick Pohl.
THE GOLDEN AMAZON RETURNS, THE AMAZON'S DIAMOND QUEST, THE AMAZON STRIKES AGAIN, and TWIN OF THE AMAZON, all by John Russell Fearn. This is a reissue of the complete Amazon series.
THE BRAIN by M. Harrison.
KIDNAPPERS OF SPACE by M. E. Patchett.

EXTRA. PLAYER PIANO by Kurt Vonnegut has arrived here in Melbourne. Already out in London is Festus Pragnell's THE MACHINE GOD LAUGHS.

Watch for further details next issue, and a new feature commencing soon, giving all stf books obtainable here in Melbourne.

Advt.

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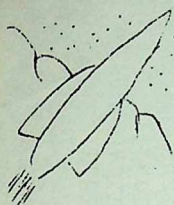
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186 ELIZABETH ST. MELBOURNE

BOOKS:

Galaxy Reader of Science Fiction	Gold	12/-
Beyond the Visible	Campbell	10/9
Born in Captivity	Berry	10/9
Islands in the Sky	Clarke	10/9
Destination Universe	Van Vogt	12/-
Adventures in Time and Space	Healy	13/6
Earth Abides	Stewart	7/6
Men of Other Planets	Heuer	16/-
Dr Zils Experiments	Goodchild	12/-
The Blind Spot	Hall & Flint	13/6
The Day of the Triffids	Wyndham	13/6

MAGAZINES:

Space Science Fiction No 4	2/3
Science Fantasy No 6	3/-
Authentic Science Fiction No 30	2/3
New Worlds Nos. 12 & 18	3/-

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