

FORTNIGHTLY

PRICE 6⁰⁰

ETHERLINE

THE

SCIENCE FICTION
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 13.

17/9/53.

FILMS.....

FANDOM.....

BOOKS.....

MAGAZINES.....

PUBLISHING.....

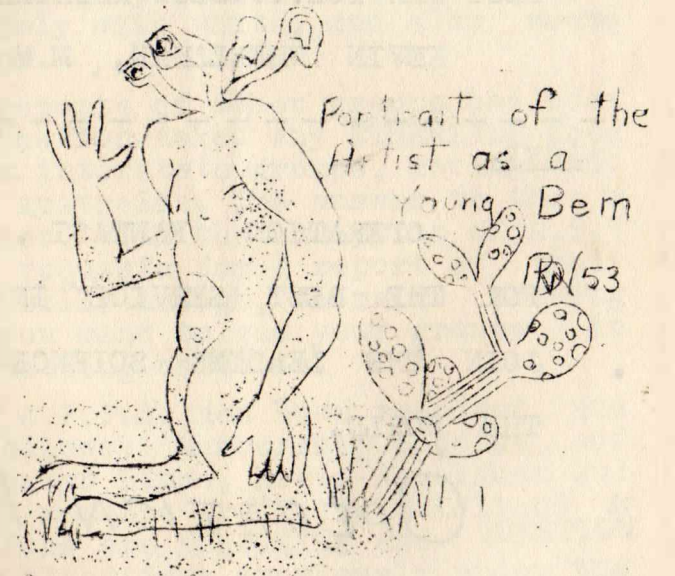
ALL.....

THE.....

LATEST.....

FROM.....

OVERSEAS.....



Portrait of the
Artist as a
Young Bern
17/9/53

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DAVID COHEN, BOX 4940 , SYDNEY, N. S. W.

VIEW POINT

By I. J. Crozier.

Alright ! I freely admit that ETHERLINE 12 was
a bad issue from a production point of view. But I
plead pressure of business, and hope you will over-
look this lapse.

There will be NO more attempts at trying to line
up the red lines, for, as you can see, they are not
successful. However, we will continue with the colour
cover, although not always the same colour. I have had
adverse comments on the present colour chosen, but I
must stress that we shall experiment until we find a
colour which tones nicely with white, and also shows
the red and black cover.

The subject of reports of other groups has been
brought up, and the question asked why ETHERLINE does
not print reports from interstate groups, seeing it
circulates all around Australia. The answer to this is
simple. The other states, with the exception of N.S.W
have ignored repeated requests for a report of their
activities, and , naturally enough, there is nothing
more I can do. So if you want to see your groups in
ETHERLINE, then do something about it.

The position of A.F.P.A. has been resolved, and
the new setup is as follows: Membership consist of
three full members, Mervyn Binns, Kevin Wheelahan and
Ian Crozier. Associate members are Keith McLelland &
Bruce Heron. Publications are ETHERLINE and QUESTION
MARK. All the other publications previously under the
control of AFPA have reverted to the care of their
editors. AFPA will print any fanzine or other mat-
erial which you want, at low charges.

As from this issue, there will be no set limit

on the number of pages contained in ETHERLINE, but before you start climbing the nearest wall, there is NO increase in price. This has been decided upon so as all material on hand when stencilling is commenced will be put in the issue. Therefore, ETHERLINE will contain anything up to 20 pages, but it will never be less than 12.

We are, however, forced to put the sub rate up as from this issue, as with the postage involved, it is not a paying proposition. From now on, a years sub will cost 15/-. All subs in at the moment will carry on as before.

I hope you will continue to give your support to us as you have been doing over the past six months for by doing this, you will be sure of a bigger and better ETHERLINE each issue.

I.J.C.

ADVT

C. E. HURST of

24 SURREY ST.,

EAST BENTLEIGH,

wishes to advise all those interested persons that his services are now available as a professional Dianetics Auditor, and appointments may be made in writing to the above address, or by 'phoning as under:

K. WHEELAHAN,

M M 1691

who will take any messages required.

B O O K L I S T I N G

* * * * *

Book	Author	Type	Price
Best Stf Stories, 1950	Bleiler & Dikty	SF	32/6
Best Stf Stories, 1951	Bleiler & Dikty	SF	32/6
Galaxy Reader of Stf.	Gold	SF	39/6
At Close of Eve	J. Scott	Fan.	3/12
Boys Book of Stf.	Wollheim	SF	27/6
Lost Horizon	James Hilton	Fan	7/6
Gods of Mars	Burroughs	SF	9/6
Princess of Mars	Burroughs	SF	9/6
Tussles with Time	Romains	Fan.	17/-
Pencil of God	The Marcelins	Wrd.	13/6
The Chips are Down	Sartre	Wrd.	10/9
The Iron Heel	London	Fan.	9/6
Voyage of Space Beagle	Van Vogt	SF	10/9
Slan	Van Vogt	SF	13/3
The Smashed World	Slater	Fan.	13/6
The Boy who Saw Tomorrow	Niall	Fan.	16/-
The Devils of Loudan	Huxley	Fan.	22/6
Priv. Life of Helen of Troy	Erskine	Fan.	10/6
Out of the Silence	Cox	Fan.	10/6
What Dreams May Come	Asquith	Wrd.	13/3
Worlds in Collision	Velikovsky	Fan.	22/6
Second Ghost Book	Asquith	Wrd.	15/6
Supernatural in Literature	Pezoldt	Fact	35/6
Creation of the Universe	Gamow	Fact	35/3
The Kraken Awakes	Wyndham	Fan.	13/3
David Starr Space Ranger	French	SF	10/6
Golden Amazons Triumph	Fearn	SF	10/6
The Earthquake	Risse	Fan.	15/6
Atoms at Spithead	Divine	Fan.	13/6
Perelandra	Lewis	Fan.	12/3
The Black Dog	Coppard	Wrd.	12/-
Selected Tales	Coppard	Wrd.	12/-
The Blind Spot	Hall & Flint	SF	13/6

ON THE MAGAZINE FRONT

By Mervyn Binns...

SPACE MEN VERSUS COWBOYS

In the past, the person looking for something to read on the bookstalls usually took home a bundle of of Detective or Westerns. But now the trend is for 'space rangers who are killing off previously indestructable detectives and pushing cowboys off the bookstalls', says the Melbourne Herald correspondent, R. McDonald. Mr. McDonald interviewed Horace L. Gold, editor of Galaxy magazine, who says that the invention of the atomic bomb has made people more receptive to stories of the future. People want to know what the new world will be like, with atomic weapons, and 'some pretty weird creatures- robots and huge grubs with super intelligence'. Mr. Gold admits, however, that many aspects of stf are impossible, such as TT, but interplanetary travel should be with us in a few years.

Science fiction has advanced a lot since the days of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, and, later, the early pulp magazines which showed 'the half dressed heroine fighting off a monster with a blaster'. The characters in Galaxy are more likely to be worrying about finding the money to send their children to Lunar Tech. Some modern stf even runs to satire like the new novel, THE SPACE MERCHANTS, taking America's high pressue salesmanship into the future. Everything is run by private enterprise, even the Services and the Government, with the 'Honorable Member for General Motors and the Senator from Coca Cola'.

Mervyn Binns.

MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

3/9/53

There were 14 present including two new members, Kevin Barnes, Area 8A, Camp Pell, and Tony Santos, 5 Carson St., Kew, who were welcomed by the Chairman, Bob McCubbin and introduced all round.

We have heard from Gordon Walkordon, who is now at 153 South Terrace, Adelaide. Thanks for the Galaxy Novels, Gordon.

Ian Crozier has now become a chess addict, & finished the evening by taking a sound beating from Keith McLelland.

There is a suggestion that the meetings be alternated, one Thursday night at the Oddfellows', and the next at somebody's home. The matter of super is still exercising some minds, instead of exercising stomachs. Perhaps they enjoyed the gathering at Bob McCubbin's last week.

10/9/53.

In spite of the wintry weather, 14 turned out to the weekly meeting.

We were pleased to see Wallace Maynard again after a long absence due to educational activities.

Leo Harding came to light with some copies of the group photo taken at Albury. I intend sending copies to all those present.

Once again, there was a section devoted- and I mean devoted- to chess.

Thanks to Kevin Wheelahan, an advertisement has appeared in the 'Age' on three occasions- he used the telephone to drag me out of bed to tell me about it, but so far, it has been unproductive.

ARMAK.

SPECIAL REVIEW

We are departing from our practice of not reviewing fanzines, because of the receipt of S F alias HYPERSPACE.

"S-F. June, 1953. Editor: John L. Magnus Jr. , Silver Spring, Md., USA. \$ 1 for 8 copies.

50 pages, well mimeographed. Two color silk screen cover, unusual and understandable. Interior drawings and cartoons excellent for a fan-mag. Good mixture of fact, fiction, fun and fan-gossip- some of it too local for Australian comprehension. Thumbnail poetry (?) sketches of well-known pros are good. I like the artistic lettering of column heads, and the use of color. An interesting effort. Keep it going , John .

ARMAK

SYDNEY JOTTINGS

By Brian Finch.

Plans for the 1954 Convention are proceeding smoothly. As part of the campaign for raising funds, a cocktail party is being held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vol Molesworth. Vol, as you know, is the Director of the Futurian Society for 1953-4. Other plans include the holding of Guessing Competitions. A hard cover sf novel is offered as the prize in each competition. A "Christmas Special" competition is about to open. The prize is a years subscription worth £2-10-0 to the Science Fiction Book Club.

Some time ago, a barbeque was held , which was a great success socially, and made a small profit .as well. A chess tournament is now running, organized by

Don Lawson, who also hopes to put on a film show as well very shortly.

Other aspects of Convention planning being undertaken include Convention Membership, the securing of a suitable hall, accomodation for country and interstate visitors, and the planning of a programme.

The Thursday Night Social meeting continues to be a success, and at the last three meetings had 30 or over attendees. The chief feature of these meetings is their informality.

Brian Finch.

We hope to make this column from Sydney a regular event in ETHERLINE, and if Brian Finch will continue to send a report, it will be printed. So keep on Brian's tail, you Sydney readers.

IJC.

. BOOK NEWS

By I. J. Crozier.

The first item of news from overseas comes as a bit of a surprise. Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have entered the ranks of science fiction publishers with SPACEWAYS by Charles Eric Maine. Priced at 10/6 stg., this story tells of the launching of a rocket 17,000 miles into space, and is set against the background of a lonely research station in Nevada . Due for publication early this month.

Just arrived in Melbourne is the second in the Master Science Fiction series, DAVID STARR SPACE RANGER by Paul French, published by World's Work & also the new fantasy by John Wyndham, THE KRAKEN

AWAKES, This is about a deep-sea monster , and, if it is as half as good as THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS, is well worth the 13/3 it costs.

A new 'factual' book on rocket propellant is SPACE TRAVEL by Kenneth Gatland and Anthony Kunesch. 'An exciting and richly illustrated blueprint for the harnessing of the tremendous new propellants , which may make journeys into space a commonplace event on future human life' as one reviewer puts it. Published by Wingates, this book is priced at 15/-.

LIMBO, by Bernard Wolfe is available at all booksellers in Melbourne, priced at 18/9 . It is published by Secker and Warburg, and is on the 1984 theme.

Also available in Melbourne are the two new Weidenfeld and Nicholson offerings, INVADERS OF EARTH , collected by Groff Conklin and the juvenile STRANGERS FROM SPACE by Hazel Adair and Ronald Marriot, based on the B.B.C. serial of the same name. Werner Laurie's SPACE ANNUAL is available at 9/6, and is very similar to the Coggins and Pratt books out previously.

The next American magazine to have a British Edition is the Boucher-McComas MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, which will be issued by Mallett Press, the publishers of ELLERY QUEEN in the United Kingdom. Price is expected to be 1/6 stg, & no announcement as yet regarding whether they will start from the first issue or not. We will inform you as soon as any news becomes available. The significant thing about it is the endorsement that the mag will not be available in Australia or New Zealand, which makes the rumor that ConPress are to do an Australian edition very probable.

I. J. C.

FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

Annual Meeting

By Brian Finch

The Futurian Society of Sydney held its Annual General Meeting on Monday, July 27th, 1953, with an all-time record attendance of nineteen members . Those present included Director Ken Martin, Vice-Director Graham Stone, Treasurer Arthur Haddon, the Secretary, Rosemary Simmons, and members Mrs. Laura Molesworth, Vol Molesworth, Lyell Crane, Rex Meyer, Kevin Dillon, Wally Judd, P. Glick, Les Raethel, Don Lawson, Clive Mellor, Bruce Purdey, Jack Leggett, Pat Burke, Mike McGuinness and yours truly.

The retiring Treasurer, (Mr Haddon) reported that the financial year ended June 30th. had been very successful. After paying all expenses, the Society had a cash balance of more than £35. It was decided to repay the Thursday Night Fund the sum of £15 which had been borrowed to help pay for the 1953 Convention.

Reporting on the Thursday Night Social meeting, of which he is manager, Les Raethel said that the attendance averaged 29 per week, with up to 36 in recent weeks. The Thursday Night group was now firmly established at the Sydney Bridge Club, where the F.S.S. Library was available each week. The Thursday Night meetings had to date raised more than £60, which was set aside in a special fund to provide furniture, etc. for an official clubroom when suitable premises could be found.

The Library itself was in a flourishing position, he said. There was at present 67 borrowers ,

and the Library contained 180 hard cover books, and 465 magazines. A new catalogue was being prepared.

Mr. Glick, who had been appointed to prepare Australian representation at the next US Convention reported that a tape-recording would be made at the Albury Conference (? Ed.). This would be air-mailed to responsible parties for playing at the Con. He had received a considerable amount of cash and material towards a gift of professional and amateur Australian science fiction publications, but the time factor would not allow this to be sent to this year's Convention. Instead, he would build up the size of the gift, and despatch it well in advance for the 1954 Convention.

Mr Wally Judd, organizer of the 1954 Australian Convention, said that arrangements were well in hand. The Social Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Laura Molesworth, had conducted quite a number of raffles and guessing competitions, and these had raised no less than £11-11-0 in just over eight weeks towards the expenses of the Convention. A Barbeque would be held in the near future, and this would draw in more money.

Mr Dillon told the meeting that the Official Report on the 1953 Convention had been sub-edited, and was partly cut on stencil. He proposed to run off 200 copies, which would be distributed free to those who attended the Convention, and sold at 1/- each to other fans.

Mr Lawson reported that the new constitution of the Society was being cut on stencil. He would have 50 copies run off, and these would be available at the next meeting. It was suggested that copies be sent to fans in other states to assist in the setting up of clubs.

In his annual address, Director Martin said the year just past had been a turbulent one, but a great deal had been accomplished. Despite severe handicaps the 1953 Convention had been a success, attracting no less than 84 fans from five states. During the year, we had seen the production of Doug Nicholson's FORERUNNER, and activities had increased in other states. While members might be divided as to the ultimate goal of fan activities, there was one goal at which we could all aim at - the location of our own permanent clubroom in the city, where the library could be installed. At present, we were renting premises for the official club meetings and the Thursday Night social meetings, but ultimately we would want our own headquarters.

Elections for the Executive Council for the 53-54 period were then held. Vol Molesworth was elected Director of the Society unopposed. New fan, Pat Ruke was elected Vice Director. Les Raethel was elected unopposed as Treasurer. Don Lawson was elected the Secretary, winning a ballot against Mike McGuinness. Miss Simmons was elected Assistant Secretary.

The Society has a keen and ambitious Executive Council, which augurs well for the next twelve months. Mr. Molesworth said it was his aim to make the Futurian Society "a fighting force in fandom", and he promised a step-up in public relations work.

The main job which lies ahead of the Futurian Society in the next eight months is the organization of the 1954 Australian Convention. Plans are already well in hand, and funds are being raised. With the co-operation of other states, the Convention should be even more successful than its predecessors, with the hundred mark achieved -- if not passed!

Brian Finch.

FROM HERE AND THERE

By Leo J. Harding.

Crack of the Month:

It happened at a recent Fan-Vet Convention in New York. The "Editor Answers Questions" period was in full swing, and SAM MOSKOWITZ was vigorously defending SCIENCE FICTION PLUS. "Why, we spent 3 million dollars on one cover painting alone!" Quipped a fan from the audience: "If you had spent half that much on the inside instead of the outside, perhaps you'd have a half-way decent mag".

Prescience ?

In the May issue of Riddle's fanmag, PEON, I quote Terry Carr's column, FANTASTUFF :

"SOMETHING FISHY IN CHICAGO. Recently, a new magazine hit the stands called UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION. The editor is listed as 'John Bell', which, to me, sounds like a pseudonym. He claims to be a fan of many years standing, and writes something Palmerish. The backbone to the mag is strikingly similar to that of Palmer's FATE, and Palmer's art editor, Malcolm Smith is also "Bell's" art editor. The address of the magazine is Clark St., What does Ray Palmer call his publishing house fans ? Right! Are you thinking what I am ?."

It appears Carr was right, for the news is that OTHER WORLDS is now bi-monthly and Palmer is "taking over" UNIVERSE.

A case of divine precognition ?

Leo J. Harding.

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE, Sept. 1953.

"Island in the Sky", the feature novel, billed as a classic novel, by Manly Wade Wellman, is a mediocre tale of Post War America, dominated by the survivors of armed forces, namely the "Airmen". Gladiatorial heroics performed by dour hero, feeble coup of Island, no BEM's, no interest. Nuff said.

"Stolen Centuries" by Otis Adelbert Kline is as interesting as the last, only worse.

"Hyperpilosity" by L. Sprague de Camp shows de Camp is capable of much better, but the ending is a bit better than the preceding stories.

"Experiment" by Roscoe Clark is strictly for the juveniles.

An interesting little article in the middle of the mag almost makes the price worthwhile. It deals with the forthcoming film, "It Came From Outer Space" 3D plus Bradbury. What next !!

The remaining shorts are a mixed lot, the best being "Doonstruck" by Clyde D. Smith and "Gadget Baghdad" by R. W. Stockheker.

Cover by Schomberg is fair. Practice of showing titles and authors on outside cover should be followed by more of the better mags.

Harry Williams.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION No. 35

Campbell's mag takes another facelift with the latest issue. John Derricks is listed as "Art Editor" and a new cover series by artist Davis begins. This one shows a three-stage Von Braun type rocket ready for take off. Quite good, too. Following issues will

show the course of the rocket from take-off to the eventual return landing. Interiors are not so fortunate. Rather like a piece of charcoal rubbed across a blank page.

But there's nothing to beef about with the fiction. The "novel" is a reprint from IMAGINATION, Dan Galouye's "Tonight The Sky Will Fall", and a darned good job it is too. Swiftly paced with crisp writing it will hold your attention till the last. Another reprint is Frank Quattrochi's "Sword From The Stars" which appeared in a recent IF. An excellent short, it is well up to par with the novel. Rick Conroy returns with a story that would hit rock bottom in OW. The writing is exceptional, but that plot again..... The title, "Eve Hated Adam" should give the yarn away from the beginning. Skip it. Dan Morgan's "Home is Tomorrow" is very good, and makes up for Conroy.

Brian Berry has a little page article, but he makes little use of it. More fillers of the calibre of Kris Neville's "Passing the Torch" in the previous issue and they'd be worth reading.

In the letter column, "Cry Chaos" takes a real panning. We wonder why? Campbell's made a couple of faux pas, too. He says, for the sake of picking, that Pete Campbell's mag ANDROMEDA sells for sixpence. On our copy, it says one and ninepence. Looks like Pete is in for a shock when those subs start rolling in. Also, "Home is Tomorrow" is NOT Morgan's first and only story to appear in a British mag. Remember one called "Alien Analysis" in New Worlds 13?

Leo J. Harding.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ! ! ! ! !

Tonight (11/9/53) I learnt from Bob McCubbin & Kevin Wheelahan that AUSTRALASIAN POST have contacted them as a result of the ad. in the AGE, and a full

coverage, including photos, will be presented in the next two or three issues of POST. So apparently Bob's pessimism at the end of the Melb report is unjust.

This is what we have been waiting for for a long time, and, if treated right, could give a great boost to science fiction fandom.

I.J.C.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ?

A damning article on stf titled THE BOREDOM OF FANTASY was featured in THE LISTENER, May 28. This was delivered by noted novelist Arthur Koestler, who had apparently just returned from the States. To quote Mr Koestler, "the new craze, a kind of cosmic jitterbug, has crossed the Atlantic". Apparently Mr. Koestler has never heard of the early British science fiction writers, who put the genre on the map.

Something of interest lifts itself out of his derisive chatter, however, and that is some figures on the comparative sales of science fiction and the detective and western books. According to a recent survey, the average sale a western or detective book could expect is around 4000 copies, while science fiction sold over 6000 copies. This is very gratifying, and helps to make the rest of the article more palatable.

Mr Koestler goes on to say "it always expresses in a distorted way, some unconscious need of the time in a crude and fumbling fashion, science fiction is trying to fill this gap,.....some wellknown critics overseas believe that in all earnestness....stf will grow up and one day become the literature of the future. I don't think so. I believe that science fiction is good entertainment and that it will never become good art.....The Martian heroes may have four

eyes, a green skin and an accent stranger than mine, but we could not care less. We are tickled for a few pages, but then because they are too strange to be true, we soon get bored".

Well, I'm sure Mr Koestler is entitled to his opinions, but I'm sure the majority of fandom will definitely not agree.

I. J. C.

Next issue of ETHERLINE will feature some more news from Ken Slater, an amusing little article from Harry Brook in Korea, reviews of two new books that have just arrived in Melbourne, possibly some more news from interstate, the usual Melbourne reports, a column from Mervyn Binns, a new article from Race Mathews.

The usual Book News will be there, plus another issue of odd jotting from Leo Harding.

The cover will be One of the new McLelland illos especially done for ETHERLINE, and which I think you will enjoy immensely.

Look for it, a fortnight today!

D O N L A T I M E R

DO YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOUR SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTION ? WELL, GET THEM BOUND BY A PROFESSIONAL. ALL TYPES OF BINDING AVAILABLE AT CHEAP RATES TO SCIENCE FICTION FANS. CONTACT DON LATIMER AT THE REAR OF 646 BELL STREET, PASCOE VALE SOUTH.....

ADVT.

McGILL'S SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

The last monthly edition of SPACE SF Vol 2 No. 1 (2/3), now bi-monthly, features the concluding part of "Cue for Quiet" by T. Sherred. Other magazines in this week are STARTLING BRE No. 13 (1/3) with Damon Knight's "Double Meaning", AUTHENTIC No. 34 (2/-), & we still have copies available of AMAZING No. 20 at 2/-, THRILLING WONDER STORIES BRE Summer, (1/3), NEW WORLDS no. 21 (2/-), NEBULA No. 3 (2/10), and the Nova Novel, STOWAWAY TO MARS (2/-).

Our range of pocket books at the moment includes SPACE ON MY HANDS by Frederic Brown (3/-), THUVIA MAID OF MARS by Burroughs (3/-), THE GREAT ONES by Jon J. Deegan (2/3), THE VENOM SEEKERS by Brian Barry priced at 2/3, THE MORTALS OF RENI by Von Gruen (2/3) BEYOND ZOROASTER by Neil Charles (2/3), and SOLI GRAVITA by Berl Cameron (2/3).

Three new books came in this week, DAVID STARR SPACE RANGER by Paul Franch priced at 10/9, SPACE TIME TASK FORCE by Preston Yorke, at 7/6, and LAURIES SPACE ANNUAL at 9/6. Next week should see the arrival of INVADERS OF EARTH by Conklin and STRANGER FROM SPACE by Adair and Marriot. Among the other books we have are SLAN by Van Vogt (13/3), THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Heinlein (12/-), THE BLIND SPOT by Hall and Flint (13/6) and IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS by Philip Reynolds (12/-).

Greatly reduced are THE PUPPET MASTERS by Heinlein (8/-), THE HOUSE THAT STOOD STILL by Van Vogt (9/-), THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER (7/6), ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE (8/-).

All the fanzines are available also.

Postage Rates: 6d per magazine.

1/- per book.

Mervyn Binns.

McGills Newsagency, 183 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.