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Fortnightly

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# ETHERLINE

THE LATEST IN  
SCIENCE FICTION

ISSUE NO. 26

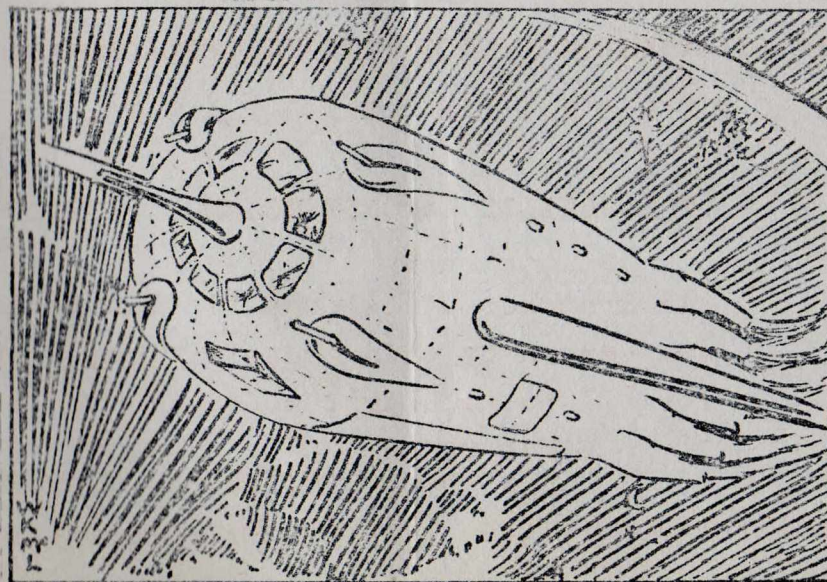
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HEADLINES

REVIEW OF "PHANTOM FROM SPACE"  
FINAL INSTALLMENT OF W.F. TEMPLE..  
MAGAZINE REVIEWS...NEW BOOKS...  
FANZINE REVIEWS....BOOK REVIEWS..



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# How To Write A Science Fiction Serial

William F Temple.

## Final Installment

The leaves of one of the lettuces suddenly part, and a crowd of men come rushing out, brandishing ray-guns, and blast the other lettuces out of existence. Their own lettuce was merely an imitation one, so that they could creep up within ray-gun range of the real carnivorous ones. In short, their plant was a plant.

These newcomers dig up their own kind and dust them off. Clarke III and Temple III break out of their ship, and their resuers are surprised, but friendly. The leader of the men looks at them curiously, and asks: "Ooway arey y ooyay ?"

Clarke and Temple are amazed. English back-

They're conducted to a Martian city. Clarke III is told that he's to be interviewed personally by the Master. He's led into a long hall and left alone with the Master, who's sitting on a throne at the far end of the hall. He approaches. The figure on the throne is quite bald but has a long white beard.

Here we have a fine chance to steal a bit from the film LOST HORIZON.

Clarke looks at the old man and sees coy-  
ly peeping from under the beard is.... a frost bitten  
foot !

In awe, he drops to his knees and says :  
"You are old Father William -- I mean Grandfather. It's  
incredible. You are still alive after 100 years."

Then old Arthur Clarke tells his story. He has difficulty in speaking straightforward English. He





has a tendency to slip into backslang. It appears that when he rotated the rocket-ship and journeyed through the fourth dimension, he and Temple got their speech-centres reversed in hyper-space. Also, not being able to count, he miscalculated and rotated the ship only twice instead of three times, and it was flung through hyper-space at Mars instead of the Moon.

They'd found the Martian people friendly, when they'd dug up a few and taught them their new idea of English. They also found that these men and women

were being grown by the lettuces for the purposes of being eaten, and the lettuces were so greedy that there were not too many of the people left. So Temple gave them a little talk on the facts of life and told them that they were silly to allow themselves to be grown by others, and that it was much more fun growing themselves. So they tried it -- and liked it.

And Clarke and Temple took over the burden of reviving this vanishing race of humanoids, and when they had sufficient numbers, they declared war on the tyrannical lettuces and liberated their own kind.

"But the building of a great race from a handful of people is a colossal task," says old Clarke to his grandson, "and Temple died from exhaustion I've been carrying on alone, extending my life with faith, hope and an elixer. But my day is almost done my son. In your hands I must place the future of Shangi La. Here is the key of the production room."

He gets up, trips over his beard, and dies. Clarke III walks sadly and soberly away,

carrying the key.

Temple III is waiting anxiously in the ante-room. "Well," he says, "is he going to let us have the porters?"

In a quiet hushed voice, Clarke tells him the story of their grandfathers. And he adds: "An immense responsibility now rests on us. We must dedicate ourselves to this task of spreading seeds of mankind over Mars."

And Temple says gravely: "Yes. Our duty lies clearly before us. We must not shirk it. The third door on the right, did you say?"

They square their shoulders resolutely, and set out to fulfill their momentous destiny.

THE END

THE END

You'll notice that the final climax lifts the entire story on to a nobler, more inspiring plane than the previous smaller climaxes, which were only sensational in essence. And that is as it should be.

Well, I hope you've now gotten some idea how to construct a stf serial. And if there is any editor, who is sufficiently interested to commission me to write this one -- well, he can always contact me at the bar.

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The above, and the previous three episodes appearing in issues 23/5, were reprinted from RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST, No.17, by kind permission of the publishers, Don and Gladys Fabun, to whom we give our grateful thanks.

WATCH FOR IT -----

THREE WEEKS FROM NOW -----

THE CONVENTION ISSUE OF -----

----- E T H E R L I N E -----

## MAGAZINE REVIEWS

BEYOND BRE Vol 1. No. 1. Cover identical with U.S. edition. Fake surrealistic stuff. T. L. Sherred's name appears on the cover, although his "Eye For Iniquity" has been dropped.

Sturgeon's novella "And My Fear Is Great" is slickly written, but the slight plot disappears in a mass of verbiage. There are two prime stinkers, "The Wedding" by Richard Matheson and "All Of Me" by James McConn - all.

Frank M. Robinson's "The Day The World Ended" is mildly amusing and both "Babel II" by Damon Knight and Jerome Bixby's "Share Alike" are fair. The only good item in the issue is "The Springbird" by Roger Dee.

If this is a fair sample of the magazine which, to quote Gold "will have the same impact on fantasy as Galaxy has had on science fiction", then I fear that the impact on me was a somewhat soggy 'plop'.

Tony Santos

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION BRE 5.. Starting inside is "Three Hearts and Three Lions", a two part serial by Poul Anderson, which is merely a grown-up fairy-tale, something in the De Camp and Pratt vein. Fair only. Highlight of the issue is Seabright/St. Clair's "Brightness Falls From The Air", which is an extra -- ordinary piece of mood-writing - excellent.

Also excellent but overshadowed by the previous item is "Time is the Traitor" by Alfred Bester, which is fantasy. Good items are "Silenzia" by Alan Nelson, and "The Warning" by Peter Phillips, which should be read more than once. Also good is "Available Data" by Lion Miller. Other stories range from fair to poor. A

fairly good issue on the whole spoiled by 1. a serial and 2. the cover, which is a horrible botch of the original US edition.

Dick Jenssen

WEIRD TALES BRE 1. Maybe I'm prejudiced, but in this issue I could only find one good item - "I Loved Her With My Soul" by Everill Worrell about, of all things, a big, bad, wicked witch - fair to good. Fair yarns are "Tatcher Awakes" by Keith Shaw, a yarn about the revival of a mummified guardian of a tomb. "The Beetle" by Garnet Radcliffe, "Man Who Walked On Air" by Michael Avalone (this is not about ESP, but a certain kind of faith), and "Ebony Stick" by Derleth, who, for once, has written a readable yarn. The other four stories range from weak to downright putrid. Interior illos are on the whole good, and cover (by fan artist Jan Arfstrom) is pretty awful. Production on the whole is good. This issue is definitely not worth buying unless you're a horror-fantasy fan, and even then it's no bargain

Dick Jenssen

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### GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION BRE 10

For the third successive month, the BRE has omitted an item of the corresponding US edition. The novella "Mind Alone" by J. T. McIntosh does credit to Galaxy. It tells of a girl who discovers that citizens of Murrane are about to revolt. The methods used in discovering the whys and wherefores make a very good story.

Short Stories are "We're Civilized" by Clifton and Apostolides - up to Galaxy standard. "The Trap" by Betsy Curtis - poor. "Minimum Sentence" by Theodore Cogswell - very poor. The other novelet, "Diplomatic Immunity" by Robert Sheckley is very good. So we have an average issue of Galaxy.

Dick Jenssen

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Cover Illustration by Keith McLelland

Interior Illustrations by

Keith McLelland



## FANZINE REVIEW

PEON January, 1954. Editor: Charles Lee Riddle, 108 Dunham St., Norwich, Connecticut, USA. 15 issues for 7/- from John Gregor, Newhaven St., Everton Park, Brisbane, Queensland. 32 pages, pulp size.

Well duplicated and illustrated. The lead story is "The Mickey" by Jerome Bixby. Both my wife and myself considered this adolescently brutal, and the type of writing that bring fanzines unfavorable comment. Dick Clarkson in "Kumquat" tries to explain how to write for publication. Vernon McCain tears a few strips off John W. Campbell, ASTOUNDING Hal Clement and various types of material. A well developed thesis, Vernon, but ..... "judge not.....".

Jim Harmon writes pages on professional snobbery, misdirection by publishing houses, etc. "Harmony" he calls it. Ye Gods !!!!! Robert Bloch writes an appreciation of Ted Sturgeon, a well done essay on a good subject. Mrs. E. E. Smith tells how it feels to be the wife of "Skylark" Smith. "Fantastuff" by Terry Carr is informative, particularly to Australian fans. Altogether, a better than average fanzine, and well up to PEON's usual standard.

Bob McCubbin.

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## FILM REVIEW

PHANTOM FROM SPACE Starring Ted Cooper.

Save your money to buy a copy of Thrills Inc. This one stinks - absolutely ! Story deals with an invisible being unfortunately stranded on Earth. He is attacked by hysterical Earth people. He kills a couple and then is forced to take off his space suit to elude his pursuers. He needs the helmet to supply methane for his metabolism, so he goes to the lab where it is obtainable. He terrifies a pretty fem, who realises that the monster means no harm. Unfor-

Cont. Page 9

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## Book Review

THE DEVIL THAT FAILED. by Maurice Samuel. Victor Gollancz Ltd, London. Price 12/6.

This is what the New York Herald-Tribune Literary Critic had to say about this first work by Maurice Samuel:- "A striking and stimulating novel, remarkably exciting and suspenseful, the sort of ghostly thriller H. G. Wells used to write at his best. A story that entertains and entrances the reader as it skilfully leads him to one of those rare climaxes that combine surprise and inevitability."

Again an American exaggeration. In no way can I or any other truthful person say that this work is remarkable exciting. As for comparing it with the best works of H. G. Wells - well, it is too ludicrous for words !

Admittedly the plot and the literary style are quite good, but that is as far as it goes. If the work had been condensed, say by half, then perhaps it would have deserved the descriptive adjective "Classic" placed before it.

Yes, like the devil, this work certainly has failed ! Fantasy readers would be well advised to lay off.

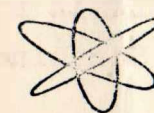
Bruce F. Heron

\* \* \* \* \*  
Contd from Page 8.

Unfortunately he dies in the end - really tragic! The whole film takes place at night and everything is enveloped in a dark murk - only it was not dark enough, as you can still see something.

Avoid this one at all costs.

Dick Jenssen



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# Global Round Up

On the new book front, a new Jorkens collection has been published by Michael Joseph, London. It was issued on February 8th, and, of course, written by Lord Dunsany.

The second GALAXY READER OF SCIENCE FICTION, edited by H. L. Gold, and published by Crown Publishers, will be issued this month, priced at \$3.50.

An American edition of SPACE TRAVEL by Gatland and Kunesch, was issued by Philosophical Library in December, priced at \$4.50, which makes the original edition at 17/6 a good buy.

A factual book, DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE by Fritz Kahn, will be published in April by Crown Publishers priced at \$5.00.

A new publishing house, Chamberlain Press, has entered the sf field with BORN OF MAN AND WOMAN, a collection of stories by Richard Matheson. Priced at \$3.00, this house has as its executive vice-president Alan E. Nourse, so it looks as if we shall be getting some good books from them.

On the film front, Walt Disney's FANTASIA is to be reissued in CinemaScope. Whacko!

A new Columbia film MAN FROM SPACE has been completed and will be issued shortly, as will GORILLA AT LARGE, from 20th Century Fox. Another Kong?

In the horror field, Columbia came good with MAD MAGICIAN. The latest Carlson epic, GOG, is about an electronic robot, and is supposed to be quite viewable.

A fantasy, BORDERLINE by Vercours, was issued by MacMillans on January 29th, priced at 11/6s. It is about a race of apes discovered in New Guinea, and their near-human appearance, and the effect this has on the expedition. Should be good.

Fabers announce a new Neil Gunn, THE OTHER LANDSCAPE, which is something after the style of

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SINISTER BARRIER. Priced at 12/6 stg, it should be available here shortly.

A new issue of THE GREATER TRUMPS by Charles Williams was issued by Faber last month, priced at 10/6. It needs no introduction.

Of interest to ESP enthusiasts will be MODERN EXPERIMENTS IN TELEPATHY by Soal & Bateman, and published by Faber, priced at 30/- stg. Also from Faber is PHYSICS OF THE PLANET MARS by Gerard de Vaucouleurs, the expert on Mars at present attached to Mt. Stromlo, Canberra. This one may be considered a sequel to his THE PLANET MARS. It is sub-titled AN INTRODUCTION TO AREOPHYSICS. Priced at 42/-s, it should be of interest to most sf readers.

That's about it for this issue.

I.J.C.

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## ADELAIDE CALLING

There were 14 present at the meeting held on Sunday, February 28th, and we welcomed a guest, Mr. Hal Nicholson from Sydney. We welcome to the club J. Zeigler and M. Downes of Norwood and K. Kershaw of South Payneham and we hope to see them regularly.

The Library now has 757 items for loan, and 25 members. Donations were made by R. Gum, J. Brooks, D. Walsh, J. Johnson, J. Joyce, K. Thiselton, and I. Edwards.

The possibility of getting a library catalogue duplicated is under discussion and quotes are being sought. The Library has in addition to those items above 24 on temporary loan from members.

New shelves for the Library are urgently needed as the seven at present in use are full.

The guessing game was won by C. A. Henschke.

J. Joyce

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NEWSAGENCY

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The Golden Apples of the Sun	Bradbury	13/3

MCGILLS NEWSAGENCY

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## IN MELBOURNE TOWN

Latest arrivals in Melbourne include CITY, by Clifford Simak, and THE WEAPON MAKERS by A. E. Van Vogt, both priced at 12/- each, and published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson. STRANGE TRAVELS IN SCIENCE FICTION, a collection of stories selected by Groff Conklin from his OMNIBUS OF SCIENCE FICTION, and published by Grayson & Grayson, is also available at 12/-. These three books have the best stf covers I have ever seen. The Grayson offering is so completely different to their usual standard that I thought it was not theirs. CITY has a terrific symbolic cover on it and the Van Vogt item has a cover reminiscent of THE HOUSE THAT STOOD STILL, a previous Weidenfeld & Nicholson offering.

The next two items from this house, AHEAD OF TIME by Henry Kuttner, and THE TITAN by P. Schuyler Miller, are both out in UK., and shouldn't be so far off.

THE GRIM TOMORROW by Mary Richmond, and published by Wright & Brown, is now on sale at Melbourne bookseller, priced at 10/9.

On the magazine front, FUTURE Stf and DYNAMIC Stf. both BRE's of American mags, are on sale, priced at 2/- each. After the disappearance of the pulp sized FANTASTIC and AMAZING, I had thought that we might get a respite from this type of stf, but it appears that I was wrong. Avoid buying these two.

I've been informed that the Observatory trip is now complete for the 12th April, with a few vacancies left on the 7th April. To get to the Observatory, take the St. Kilda Rd. Tram, and get off at the Shrine. It's at the back of this edifice. In case you want to come, then contact Bob McCubbin at TB 3739 as soon as possible.

There will be no Melbourne Group reports in this issue, but they will be back as usual next time.

IJC

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# POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

COSMIC EXODUS (Conrad G. Holt - whoever he may be!)  
The second TitBits Library Lightweight  
at 1/3. All about a spaceship exodus to Uranus - not  
at all bad.

VALLEY OF FEAR. (Russell Rey)

Fantasy, particularly this type, is not  
my dish. This one deals with time and space element-  
als, and turns ordinary space men into supermen. The  
writing is nearly as awful as the cover. McGills 2/3

DOOMED NATION OF THE SKIES. (Steve Future)

The 3rd TitBits Library issue. Cover  
reminiscent of "Ring Around The Sun". Briefly, flying  
saucer takes young couple to Mars to act as guinea  
pigs in genetic experiments. Love comes to Mars, so  
does ambition! Fairly good writing, but I wish they  
had used larger type. McGills, 1/3.

IONIC BARRIER. (Von Kellar)

Secret rocket experimental stations and  
captured scientists plus double crossings! - just a  
waste of paper and ink. McGills. 2/3.

THE DWELLERS (S. Fowler Wright)

Reprint of famous fantasy, first publi-  
shed many years ago, and since available in many edi-  
tions. Needs no introduction to the average fan, but  
is recommended reading for the new readers. 2/3.

DARK ANDROMEDA. (A. J. Merak)

First full length story by this author,  
previously known for the amount of crud under his na-  
me in the Spencer mags. Galactic trouble shooters pr-  
event war with Earth by acting as agents provocateur.  
Plenty of action McGills 2/3.

BEYOND THE FOURTH DOOR. (Deegan)

A sort of sequel to CORRIDORS OF TIME,  
and deals with search through time and lands for  
a radio-active jewel. Panther is steadily improving in

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its output.

McGills 2/3

SPACE TIME TASK FORCE. (Yorke)

Earth, divided into Primitives and Scien-  
tists, is attacked by a Galactic enemy which can co-  
ntrol time. It remains, as usual, for the poor B...  
infantry to conquer when mechanization fails. Very  
confusing Space Time concepts make it hard reading in  
places. Fair McGills 2/3

THE INTERLOPER. (Statten)

Struggle between the goodies and an arms  
magnate fomenting a tri-planetary war. Races in spa-  
ce, inflator guns, macrocosmic universe - mob massa-  
cres magnate. Fair McGills 2/3

WORLDS AWAY. (Cragg Boemish - if you can believe it)

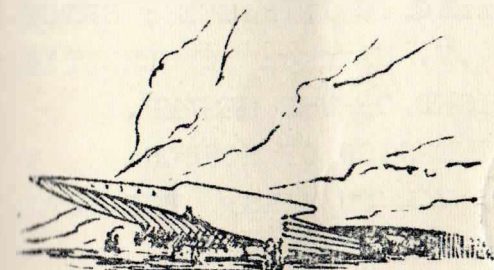
First rocket ship off the Earth gets into  
trouble with electrical inhabitants of Space. If that  
isn't enough, they have a whistle worthy female sci-  
entist among ten men and a radio reporter. Nuff said.  
Technical Book Store. 2/3

PIRATES OF CEREBUS. (Bengo Mistral ?)

Scientific Space pirates using spells and  
assorted wizardry in a hotch-potch of inconsistencies.  
One of the outworld planets is called "Urinal" (page  
127, line 27). The author must have realised the pr-  
oper place for crud! Technical Book Store 2/3

Bob McCubbin

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## SPECIAL P.B. OFFER

In association with O.F., AFPA offer the following pocket books, now mostly out of print, to the science fiction fan. All are priced at 2/- Aust., and are posted direct to you from U.K.. To orders over 10, we will add one free copy of any PB selected.

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GIVER; THE GREAT ONES; AMATEURS IN  
ALCHEMY.

Rolf Garner: THE IMMORTALS; RESURGENT DUST.

Brian Barry: DREAD VISITOR; FROM WHAT FAR STAR ?  
THE VENOM SEEKERS.

S. Fowler Wright: THE WORLD BELOW; THE DWELLERS.

H.J. Campbell: ANOTHER SPACE, ANOTHER TIME; THE  
RED PLANET; BRAIN ULTIMATE.

H. K. Bulmer: EMPIRE OF CHAOS; THE STARS ARE OURS;  
GALACTIC INTRIGUE ; SPACE SALVAGE.

H. K. Bulmer & A .V. Clarke: CYBERNETIC CONTROLLER.

George Hay : \*FLIGHT OF THE HESPER.

S. J. Bounds: DIMENSION OF HORROR.

E. C. Tubb : ATOM WAR ON MARS; THE MUTANTS REBEL.

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### Advt.

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### Advt

THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP  
wishes to advise all those interested persons  
that weekly meetings are held every Thursday  
at the Oddfellows Hall, Latrobe St., below the  
TAA Freight Depot, commencing at 8 PM. A  
large library is available to those interested  
and film and social evenings are held at fre-  
quent intervals.

All visitors are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\* KEEP THURSDAY NIGHT FREE \*\*\*\*\*