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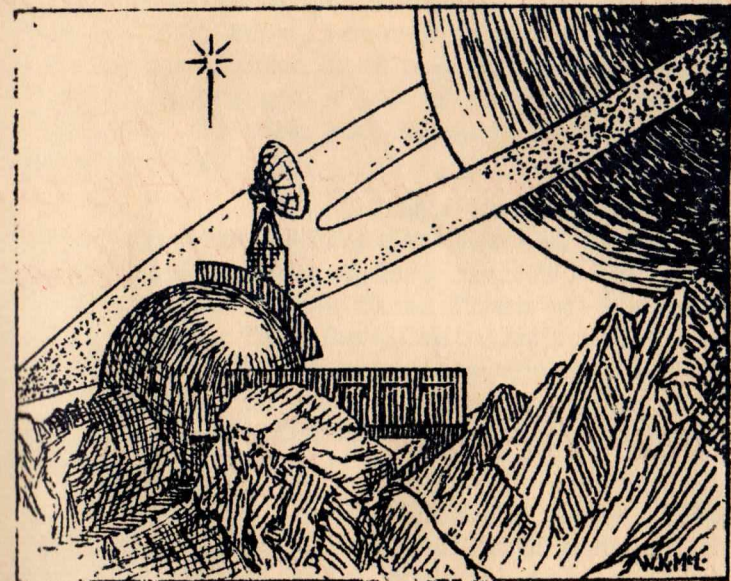
Fortnightly

Price 6d.

ETHERLINE

THE LATEST IN
SCIENCE FICTION

NUMBER FORTY SIX



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CONVENTION ISSUE

AN AFPA PUBLICATION

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To.....

"ETHERLINE"

HEADLINES

SURPRISES IN BRITISH SPRING
ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUTHOR STORY LISTING: HEINLEIN

PREWAR FANZINES IN AUSTRALIA
W. D. VENEY

FULL REVIEW SECTION

ADELAIDE + BRISBANE NEWS

Prewar Fanzines In Australia . . . W. D. VENEY

Every now and again you will read an article by one of the deep thinkers in our ranks on the subject of amateur publishing. One such writer will say fanzines are a fine thing and help fandom a lot. Immediately some equally deep thinker will jump to the nearest typewriter and say fanzines are a bad thing, and cause no end of trouble. I'm not going to buy in on that fight. I do know, however, that a large percentage of the Australian fan population read and enjoy fanzines. I also know that fanzine editors get a lot of enjoyment out of producing their brainchildren. I think you'll agree fandom would be a very dull place without them.

Perhaps the first Australian attempt to produce an amateur publication devoted to science fiction took place at Randwick School, Sydney in 1937. Several of the students were caught up in the first flush of discovering the US professional magazines. Two, Bert Castellari and I, had been on the staff of the regular class magazines and decided to try a private one of our own. It wasn't intended to be anything more than an outlet for our writing and illustrating efforts, but that didn't quite work out.

SPACEHOUNDS, as we called our magazine, was a handprinted weekly journal with a circulation of one. Bert Castellari was editor, and I was associate editor. It was intended to be handed around for general reading under the watchful eye of one or other of the editors. We didn't think more than a handful of other students would be interested.

Within a couple of weeks it had a following far beyond anything visualised by either of us. As soon as each issue appeared, it started on a round of readers that often took three or four days to complete before getting back into our anxious hands. By the seventh or eighth issue, it received official recognition by going into the staff room. (The recognition, by the way, took the form of congratulation to Bert for his energy, and severe criticism to me for my spelling.)

SPACEHOUNDS lasted 10 weekly issues, and a 'quarterly' before falling victim to examinations. However, it had a profound effect on the thinking of the science fiction circle and made us realise quite a lot of people could be reached by medium of even a small periodical. We were agreed that this wasn't the end of our publishing efforts.

1938 was final examination year for the Randwick readers so there wasn't time for any more experimenting. There was much talk about magazines, particularly after Eric Russell and his brother, Ted, became known to us as fans. I had known both of them for many years, but only introduced them to science fiction about this time. It wasn't exactly my fault. Both contributed many good ideas and entered into the spirit of fandom. We laid plans for 1939 and letters sent to AMAZING so as to appear on the Australian market when we were over the examination hurdle.

In January 1939, we had our first contact with U.S. fandom. Harry Warner Jr., prominent fan at the time and editor of SPACEWAYS, noticed Bert's name in the reader's columns of one of the professional magazines and dropped him a letter. Shortly afterwards he sent a copy of SPACEWAYS. The impression it created when it arrived was terrific. We'd never imagined an amateur publication had such possibilities and our thoughts turned to how we could emulate it.

Our opportunity came when Frank Flaherty, a non-fan, offered to do our typing and duplicating. The three most active readers, Bert, Eric and I, were to do the collecting of material and general editorial work. For juniors on

junior pay, it was a big job, but we went about it as efficiently as we could under the circumstances. We didn't have a clear idea what we wanted other than a name - AUSTRALIAN FAN NEWS.

Before we could get started, John Gregor of Adelaide brought out his SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. The first information we had about John was an announcement appearing in the Science Fiction League section of TWS. This also carried the information that John was the editor of Australia's first fan magazine. Eric Russell made contact with him and John later entered into a short but furious correspondence with several Sydney fans.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW eventually arrived in Sydney. It was a sixteen page octave effort done by hand and produced on a hektograph. It didn't impress us very much at all. We lost touch with John after this as he joined the Army. To add to the confusion and make locating him even more difficult, he had used the pen-name of 'John Deverne'. Years later, when I was in Adelaide, I spent many fruitless hours going through the South Australian electoral roll looking for the name 'Deverne'. I thought that he probably had some relations who could help me.

After a lot of trouble AUSTRALIAN FAN NEWS finally appeared. The first issue was dated May, but it didn't get in the mails until August. It was to have been a twelve page foolscap bi-monthly. The problems involved made us realise we had attempted too much, so our further activities were to be much more limited. This didn't apply only to AFN. We were trying to organize a national club and a local club, as well as maintaining contact with America and bringing out the magazine. A mighty effort when you remember our oldest fan was only 16.

Even before AFN posted, we decided on our next step. Eric, Ted, Bert and I, had a serious discussion on fandom generally. Eric wanted to try a small magazine that wouldn't cost too much or be too much trouble to produce. I wanted to get started on organising a local club. We weighed

everything and agreed that the best thing to do would be to try one thing at a time. Eric had the clearest idea of what was wanted so we marshalled our efforts behind him.

Eric and Ted went to work and in October the first issue of ULTRA appeared. It was a carbon copied twelve page typed magazine featuring articles, fiction and general news. Circulation was about thirty. The whole thing was produced on a shoestring and looked it. We were very proud of it, mainly because we had kept faith with our overseas friends. Also, the cheapness of production ensured that we - or rather the Russell brothers -- could produce a second issue.

Vol Molesworth had become known to us in the early part of that year and gradually gravitated into our circle. He was a ball of energy and couldn't quite see the reason for our slowness in many matters. To his credit, he swung into line with the rest of us and helped with our various projects, particularly the very pressing problem of keeping contact with America. However, when ULTRA appeared and the local club had been established, he started making plans of his own.

His LUNA appeared in December. It was almost a second issue of AFN in many ways and had the same format. There were improvements in layout and a more fanish approach to the subject of science fiction. Also, Vol was able to display his natural journalistic ability giving LUNA a sense of continuity no other fan publication had achieved until that time.

December also saw the second issue of ULTRA. It appeared in much the same form as number one, but vastly improved in layout. Eric had already made plans for the third issue to be duplicated so this was the last of the carbon copied issues. He announced that a new fan, Ralph Smith, had joined the staff as art editor and we could expect illustrations as soon as duplicating details were finalised.

Bert Castellari had watched the developments during this period without taking a leading part. He had

helped Eric Russell with ULTRA, Vol Molesworth with LUNA and had been a tower of strength to me in getting the club going. Even before the end of 1939 he started making plans of his own. Without telling anybody what he had in mind, he studied the U.S. fan publishing field, and discussed the subject with several American fans. Late in December, he took me aside and outlined his plan for FUTURIAN OBSERVER. It was to be a single foolscap sheet duplicated on both sides and appearing every two weeks. Bert thought that the most important thing about a magazine of this type was that it appeared on time. Eric Russell was aiming for perfection with ULTRA and Bert would aim for regularity with OBS. I suggested to Bert that it would be almost impossible to keep up a regular fortnightly schedule because of non-fan matters, but he was determined to go ahead. After a great deal of discussion I agreed to join him as co-editor. We told Eric Russell and Vol Molesworth what we had in mind and both said they would help us all they could.

The first issue of FUTURIAN OBSERVER appeared during January 1940. From then on until February, 1941, we never missed an issue. There was much criticism on bad duplicating, typing errors, grammatical errors, spelling errors, and general untidiness, but it didn't worry either of us. We made regularity the watchword and if it was the difference between a deadline and a dictionary, the deadline always won. We brought out OBS for our own satisfaction and it was more by good luck than good management that other fans liked it. Eric and Vol stood by us in the teething stage, both with material and know-how.

So the first quarter saw the fan publishers of Sydney getting out on their respective tracks. LUNA went through some startling changes and numbers two and three appeared in a quarto format with only eight pages. ULTRA appeared in February in a nice new quarto format complete with illustrations. FUTURIAN OBSERVER, presenting its version of the news and preaching the cause of the local club, rounded off the picture. We were all justifiably proud with our mags.

In the second quarter of 1940, there were some more startling changes. Vol dropped LUNA and brought out a new one, COSMOS. Now, in looking for copy, he stumbled on one of the periodic storms-in-a-teacup that have continuously dotted fan progress and dressed it up into a full scale feud between Eric and me. He reported it as the event of the year. This was moonshine. We certainly had spat words at each other, but both regarded the whole thing as a private disagreement. Castellari was still on the best of terms with Eric, and I still managed to get along with Ted Russell. No word of the disagreement appeared in either ULTRA or OBS. Both Eric and I wrote to Vol to deny the report.

The outcome of it all was that COSMOS started out under a cloud. Vol had intended it to be a letter mag in the tradition of the American IMAGINATION but never managed to dispel the suspicion that he had some deeper motive. There certainly was a need for a magazine of this type to let Australian fans get to know each other better. Vol's slick journalism and good natured digs made Eric and I overlook the earlier mistake, but we never quite relaxed when writing for him.

COSMOS started out as a six page tri -- weekly, reduced itself to a two page bi-weekly and finally blossomed out into a 'LUNA-ised' version with anything up to sixteen or so pages. It didn't stick to any set editorial policy (in fact it even changed editors for a couple of weeks !) despite periodic statements by Vol. COSMOS had a rather unique reputation amongst the Sydney fans, It was the only fan publication that successfully managed to tread on the toes of everybody.

It was about the middle of the year we saw AUSTRA FANTASY, the Melbourne fan magazine. Warwick Hockley, its editor, was unknown to any of us and we were very surprised when we first heard about it. The first issue, a small carbon copied one with an undisclosed circulation. Wog, as Warwick was then known to us, never did let on how many he distributed. It had the usual fan fiction, articles and news. We were very enthusiastic, mainly because it opened up a new field of fan activity. The fact

that it was sloppy in comparison with the Sydney publications was discreetly overlooked. When the wheel turned and some Sydney mags were sloppy in comparison with his, Wog was equally discreet in overlooking our shortcomings. The enthusiasm in Wog's letters made us realise we had located a fan of the most active type. Being outside the centre of fan activity didn't affect AUSTRA FANTASY very much. Wog suffered the usual difficulty any fan editor in getting material at first, but gradually he managed to get a back log of both articles and fiction. Once he had this, he was in a position to demand a certain standard from his contributors. This in turn made the contributors spend more time in polishing their material and the whole magazine improved in quality.

AUSTRA FANTASY will always be remembered for its climb to the top of the fan popularity ladder. The second issue appeared in September. It was hektographed. The third issue was dated December and was duplicated with the usual black on white. The fifth issue was a blaze of colour with four or five coloured inks being used in the duplicating process. Even the most conservative fan could find little fault in the Melbourne magazine.

In August 1940, six Sydney fans combined their talents to produce ZEUS! This was to be the 'balanced' magazine, giving equal prominence to both fan and professional activities. The first issue was a sixteen page one, and immediately threw out a strong challenge to the leading magazine of the day, Eric Russell's ULTRA. However, the fact that it had six very interested fans on the editorial committee proved a hindrance rather than a help. ZEUS! had the unusual experience of having no less than two second issues! Two of the editors brought out an issue which was duplicated and immediately dubbed 'official', and another two came out with their version, which was hektographed, and dubbed 'pseudo'. This state of affairs existed until the fourth issue. The 'pseudo' folded up and its editors assisted with the official, although never actually coming on to the editorial staff.

The final publishing venture of the year was again from Melbourne when Wog Hockley produced his MELBOURNE BULLETIN. This was an 'all sorts' with no set policy or publishing date. When some fan in Sydney became frantic with worry over the impending collapse of something or other, then he generally dashed a short article or letter off to Wog to see if anyone else was losing sleep.

ULTRA continued to appear on a bi-monthly basis all through 1940 and was recognised as being Australia's No. 1 fan publication. It was duplicated from February onwards. Many of the best known fans had their first published works in Eric's magazine. Chas. Mustchin wrote an article that ran for three issues, Colin Roden submitted the first of his dry, humorous stories, Bruce Sawyer, under his pen name of L. Vague De Damp, appeared as both artist and author, and David Evans and Wog Hockley, and others also contributed. In addition to the better known fans such as Vol Molesworth and Ralph Smith developed their talents under the watchful eye of Editor Russell and before the critical audience that constituted ULTRA's readers. The anniversary issue in October ran to thirty odd pages and presented material from just about every well known fan.

By the beginning of 1941, American and British fandom had realised that Australian fan publications were here to stay. The encouraging but condescending reviews that appeared in overseas publications turned to unqualified praise as the tiny Australian fan community continued to expand and improve their magazines. The regular FUTURIAN OBSERVER showed we had stability, the controversial COSMOS showed we were much the same as fans in the rest of the world, whilst the bigger magazines, particularly ULTRA, but also AUSTRAL FANTASY and ZEUS! showed we aspired to greater and higher things. MELBOURNE BULLETIN hadn't made any impression, but it was later to fill the gap between FUTURIAN OBSERVER and COSMOS.

Time out for an explanation. As I said before, I don't want to buy into any fights, but it has always been my contention that the reason fans produce these magazines was for

the satisfaction of sitting the editorial board (if such existed) and having some say in the production. I do not believe power was the prime motive. Rather I'd say a desire for recognition, an outlet for energy, but mainly a great big hunk of ego boo. It was the fun of being editor, rather than the lust for being dictator, that started these magazines going and the pride in the work turned out, that kept them going.

The first half of 1941 opened up very well. ULTRA developed a style that set the standard for the rest of Australia. ZEUS! came through its difficulties and under the capable editorship of Ron Levy and Bert Castellari started to concentrate on fan fiction. Noel Dwyer and David Evans contributed the outstanding items of a serious nature, whilst Bruce Sawyer, under his tag of L. Vague De Damp, gave us some good belly laughs besides keeping the egos of the would-be great in a suitably deflated condition. FUTURIAN OBSERVER had a change when Ron Levy replaced me on the staff and it became 'irregular' instead of bi-monthly. Vol Molesworth seemed to be in doubt and after attempting a new venture called TELEFAN, abandoned the publishing field altogether. In Melbourne, Wog Hockley quietly but systematically improved AUSTRAL FANTASY besides turning out MELBOURNE BULLETIN.

Don Tuck of Hobart had been known to us all for some time, and had contributed to both Sydney and Melbourne magazines. We all knew Don was an enthusiastic collector, but nobody ever thought he had plans for entering the publishing side. Therefore, it was with very great surprise that it was learnt in Sydney that Don, with the assistance of several of the Hobart readers, had plans for a magazine. Within a week of the news reaching Sydney, Don's magazine PROFAN had turned up. The speed and efficiency of the Tasmanians quite took our breath away even though we learnt that Wog Hockley had been helping in an advisory capacity. The first issue was favourably received everywhere.

PROFAN - meaning 'pro' and 'fan',

not 'for fan' - lasted three issues and featured the usual articles and fiction. Coming into the field at the time of so many other fan magazines, Don had much difficulty in getting good material. He kept at the mainlanders however, till he received his share of the quality efforts being turned out at the time. Each issue was an improvement on the last, so it is difficult to see just where PROFAN would have ended up if it hadn't been for the war cutting short its career. As it was, Don and his Hobart Helpers did a great job under the circumstances.

The highwater mark of fan publishing in Australia occurred during the second half of 1941. necessary 'firm base' had been provided by the comparative newcomer, Colin Roden, who taught us older fans a thing or two with his SCIENCE AND FANTASY FAN REPORTER which appeared as a regular weekly for 34 weeks -- and never missed an issue! He presented news and views on both fan and professional matters in such a way that even the most touchy couldn't take offence. He 'scooped' all the other magazines in such a gentlemanly way that the other editors actually enjoyed seeing the news appear first in Colin's magazine.

The second anniversary of ULTRA appeared in October with fifty pages, including printed inserts. As with the first anniversary issue, just about every fan in Australia was represented but the improvement in quality of the material made this the show-piece of Australian fandom. Everyone expected the effort would exhaust the Russell brothers but the December issue appeared, although late, and showed the dependable team would still set the standard.

AUSTRA FANTASY appeared on an irregular schedule, but roughly quarterly. Wog, practically alone in Melbourne, was doing a tremendous job and every issue was a blaze of colour. His art work was undoubtedly the best in Australia. Artists Ralph Smith, Bruce Sawyer and Ted Russell all submitted their best work to Wog, and he certainly showed it to advantage. MELBOURNE BULLETIN was overshadowed by its bigger companion, but was still widely read and enjoyed.

ZEUS! aimed at the fan fiction market all through 1941. However, it did blot its copybook by printing the FSS minutes. Both editors had resigned from the FSS, and it was in particularly bad taste to dig into the muddled and murky past of that organization to find copy. (An odd aspect of this incident was that active Futurian Vol Molesworth called for action against Ron Levy and Bert Castellari, yet continued to support them with material. Ex-Futurian Foundation Director myself, refused to contribute any material for ZEUS!, but maintained the most cordial relations with both editors). ZEUS! was at its best during the latter part of 1941.

FUTURIAN OBSERVER, after a long absence, came back to the fold. The editorial attitude also went through a dramatic change. Instead of being 'anti-fandom' in outlook, Ron Levy and Bert Castellari jumped on the band wagon of cooperation and supported the Third Sydney Science Fiction Conference which looked like being the best gathering ever attempted in the Southern Hemisphere. It was, however, still very anti -- FSS. The Hobart magazine, PROFAN was finding its feet and a place for itself in the scheme of things.

Then came Pearl Harbour. The entry of Japan into the war destroyed Australian fandom and with it, fan publishing. There was a sense of anti-climax in the manner in which one fan publication the other in closing down its activities. Within a couple of months, ULTRA, FUTURIAN OBSERVER, AUSTRA FANTASY, ZEUS!, MELBOURNE BULLETIN, SCIENCE AND FANTASY FAN REPORTER and PROFAN were nothing more than pleasant memories. It was all so sudden. It just didn't seem right.

In summing up, the effects of the fan publications had a tremendous effect on the expansion of Australian fandom. They made mistakes and lots of them. However, they were brought out for personal enjoyment and the enthusiasm of all concerned should make even the most critical observers view them with tolerance. They contributed a vital part to that youthful period we now call pre-war fandom.

W. D. Veney

BRISBANE NEWS

Meeting of Thursday, February 3rd, 1955.

The February meeting of the Brisbane Science Fiction Group was a small one. Probably some members thought the rainy season had begun. Present were host and hostess George and Betty Tafe, Rick Day (first there as usual), John Adams, Iris Givan, John Gurney and Frank Bryning.

Library business and distribution of ETHERLINE was over early. George Tafe and John Gurney played a few games of chess. The rest browsed amongst George's own SF collection. One sacrilegious member, who shall be nameless, fell asleep over a story -- but was forgiven owing to having had to work day and night for the previous week.

A copy of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE for January 1955 was produced by Frank Bryning, in which was one of his stories reprinted. Another is announced for the February issue.

Frank also reported on correspondence from Arthur Clarke, who is expected to reach Brisbane at the end of the month. Plans to meet and entertain him were discussed.

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STOP PRESS !!!!!

BRISBANE GROUP MEMBER WINS STATE SHOT PUTT CHAMPIONSHIP

Mighty-man John Adams, of Brisbane Science Fiction Group, height 6 ft. 5½ in., weight 17 stone (all muscle) became the Queensland Shot Putt title holder on Saturday, February 12th. John's strong right arm put (putt or putted) the shot 41 ft. 7 in. He has been for some years title holder in Discus and Hammer Throwing, and this time took the Shot Putt from the holder, since 1938, of the title. Congratulations, Champ !

WARREGO

OVERSEAS NEWS

The Spring lists have been released by most of the British publishing houses, and we shall list all their expected publications. Some of these have been mentioned in these pages before, and some are new.

- William Heinemann Ltd.: MESSIAH by Gore Vidal, 12/6 stg, Feb.
TIME AND AGAIN by Clifford D. Simak.
LEST DARKNESS FALL by L. S. de Camp.
(J) PHOBOS THE ROBOT PLANET by Paul Capon.
DARK DOMINION by Davis Duncan. Feb.
UTOPIA 239 by Rex Gordon. Feb.
- Ward Lock & Co. Ltd.: CONDITIONED FOR SPACE by Allan Ash.
SALAMANDER WAR by Charles Carr.
A PRIVATE VOLCANO by Lance Sieveking.
WHEN THE MOON DIED by Richard Savage.
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE by Robert Conquest.
DEEP DOMINION by Giles Cooper.
PURSUIT THROUGH TIME by Jonathan Burke.
- Weidenfeld & Nicholson : WORLDS OF TOMORROW edited A. Derleth.
9 TALES OF SPACE & TIME edited R. Healy
- T. V. Boardman & Co.Ltd.: STAR SCIENCE FICTION 2 edited Pohl.
THIS ISLAND EARTH by R. F. Jones. Feb.
THE CURRENTS OF SPACE by Asimov. Mar.
ALIEN DUST by E. C. Tubb. Apr.
CATEGORY PHOENIX edited Blieler & Dikty
ANGELO'S MOON by Alec Brown. May.
THE SKY BLOCK by Steve Frazer. March.
HELLFLOWER by G. O. Smith. May.
- Hodder & Stoughton : TIMELINES by C. E. Maine. Jan.
INVISIBLE BARRIER by C. E. Maine. Oct.

Messrs Michael Joseph Ltd., will publish science fiction under the colophon of NOVELS OF TOMORROW, edited by Clemence Dane, veteran English novelist. They plan to issue 7 novels for the balance of 1955. Titles are :

- BRIGHT PHOENIX by Harold Mead.
 YEAR OF THE COMET by John Christopher.
 WHITE AUGUST by John Boland.
 WILD TALENT by Wilson Tucker.
 THE CHRYSALIDS by John Wyndham.
 UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS by Robert Sheckley.
 THE MINDWORM by C. Kornbluth.
 to be published in that order.
- Wright & Brown: WORLD WITHOUT END by N. Mackenzie. Feb.
 Wingate: THE INHABITED UNIVERSE by K. Gatland. Tech.
 Peter Nevill: SPIDER'S WAR by S. Fowler Wright.
 SCIENCE FICTION HANDBOOK by L. S. de Camp.
 N. Spearman: TOMORROW REVEALED by John Atkins. May.
 BURN, WITCH BURN by A. Merritt. May
 Penguin Books. AFTER MANY A SUMMER by Huxley 2/6 stg.
 BRAVE NEW WORLD by Huxley. 2/6 stg.
 EYELESS IN GAZA by Huxley. 3/6 stg. All May.
 Graysons. GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION OMNIBUS edited Gold.
 YEARS BEST SF NOVELS edited Bleiler & Dikty.
 Nelson. KIMLO & THE CRATERS OF THE MOON by Elliot (J)
 KIMLO & THE SPACE LANES by Elliot. (J)
 Jonathan Cape Ltd. VALLEY BEYOND TIME by V. Wilkins 12/6 stg.
 J. Murray. THE DEVIL TAKES A HOLIDAY by Alfred Noyes. 10/6
 Longmans Green & Co. Ltd. COLD WAR IN HELL by Harry Blamires, a sequel to that recommended novel, THE DEVILS HUNTING GROUND
 Chatto & Windus: WINTER IN THE AIR by Sylvia Warner. S/S.
 Peter Owen. SUPERNATURAL STORIES edited Vernon Lee. 15/- s.
 CHILDREN OF THE VOID by W. Dexter. Apr. 10/6 s.
 Allen & Unwin. THE ROBOT ERA by P. A. Cleator. 15/- s. Tech.
 J. Barrie THE 3rd GHOST BOOK edited C. Asquith.

- Arco.
 Hutchinsons.
 Lutterworth.
 F. Muller Ltd. (J)
 Weidenfeld & Nicholson.
 Chapman & Hall.
 Museum Press.
 Robert Hale.
 Faber & Faber.
 Cressett Press.
 Rich & Cowan.
 Putnam.
 Methuen & Co. Ltd.
- THE ROBOTS ARE AMONG US by R. Strehl.
 ROCKET PILOT by P. St. John (J)
 EARTHBOUND by M. Lesser. (J)
 THE UNEXPECTED ISLAND by Lin Yutang.
 DESTINATION LUNA by P. Moore. (J)
 ESCAPE FROM GRAVITY by P. Briggs.
 MARTIN MAGNUS ON VENUS by W. F. Temple.
 COMMONSENSE & FLYING SAUCERS by W. Girvan. Tech.
 MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE by H. Wilkins. Tech.
 EARTHLIGHT by Arthur C. Clarke. 10/6 s
 A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS by E. Pangborn.
 THE MEN BEHIND THE SPACE ROCKETS. by Dr. Gartmann. Tech. May. 16/- stg.
 FRONTIER TO SPACE by Eric Burgess. (T).
 WORLD OUT OF MIND by McIntosh. Feb.
 ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY by Heinlein. Feb.
 GATEWAY TO THE STARS edited Carnell.
 ALIEN LANDSCAPES by Burke. April.
 MISSION OF GRAVITY by Hal Clement. 9/6.
 BEST S F STORIES edited Crispin. Feb.
 HERO'S WALK by R. Crane.
 SEEDS OF LIFE by John Taine. Mar. 9/6.
 THE MAN WITH ABSOLUTE MOTION by Silas Waters. May. 9/6 stg.
 THE CONQUORED PLACE by Robert Schafer.
 MONSTRE GAI & MALIGN FIESTA by Wyndham Lewis. This is the last two parts of a trilogy started 28 years ago with THE CHILDREMASS. Story is wandering through Heaven and Hell.

The George Orwell story, 1984, was heard over the Lux Radio Theatre on Sunday, February 27th, with Vincent Price in the starring part of Winston Smith. I predict a flood of letters over this. Another point of interest to sf fans is

the fact that the series are produced by Stirling Macaboy, one of the early Sydney fans.

A forthcoming production from 20th Century Fox will be SPACE MEDICINE, due to start production in April under producer William Bloom. It has not been announced whether this film will be in CinemaScope or not. Further details as they come to our notice.

British SF film, DEVIL GIRL FROM MARS, recently seen in Melbourne, will be shown in the States after all. Distribution will be handled by DCA.

Columbia start production shortly of a little epic titled JUNGLE MOON MEN Aaaaah! Save me! Save me!

Two awards made recently by trade magazine in UK, FILMS AND FILMING were of interest to sf fans. Most exciting film of year was THEM. Highly commended: THE 5000 FINGERS OF DR.T.

New Columbia film is in front of lens at the moment, produced by Sam Katzman and directed by Ed. Kahn, title is CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN. Another juvenile by the sound of it.

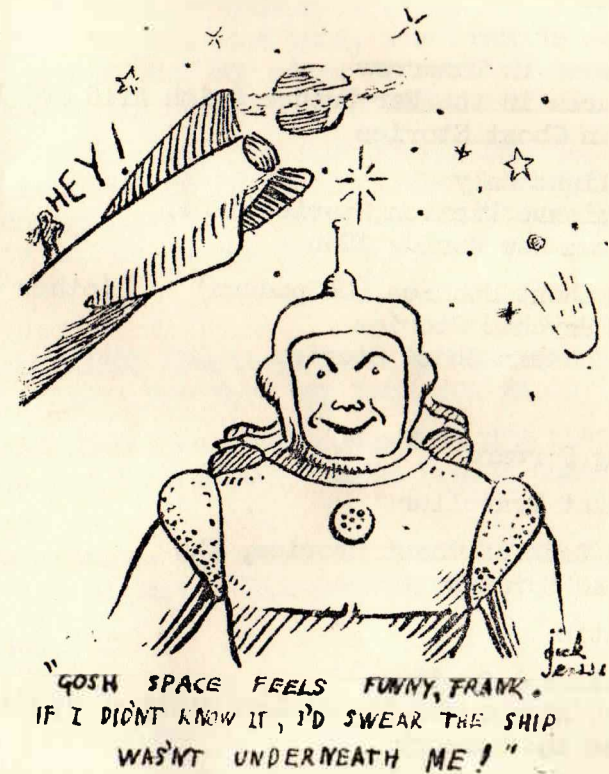
Upcoming from 20th Century Fox is THE DAY THE CENTURY ENDED, to be produced by Buddy Adler. This producer has 4 films in front of this one, so it is not known when it will commence casting.

Latest magazine to suffer page cuts is GALAXY, which has been cut to 144 from the January issue. This leaves only ASTOUNDING and, if it appears, SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES at the old 160 pages.

Guest of honour at the next, the 13th, American Science Fiction Convention, will be Isaac Asimov. Con will be held in Cleveland. The Melbourne Group, by the way, are sending a number of parcels over in appreciation of those received from the 12th Convention late last year.

IJC

COVER BY
Keith McLelland



Interiors by
Jenssen and McLelland

ANTHOLOGY CHECKLIST

AMENDMENT No. 2.

- AA6 At Close of Eve
 AA7 Assignment in Tomorrow
 AA8 Adventures in the Far Future (with AT16 Ace Double PB)
 AA9 American Ghost Stories
 AB19 By Daylight Only
 AB20 Best Science Fiction Stories 1954.
 AB21 Best From New Worlds 1955
 AF11 Famous Ghost Stories (McSpadden) (other was Cerf's)
 AF12 Famous Psychic Stories
 AF13 Famous Modern Ghost Stories
 AH4 Human
 AL1 Looking Forward
 AM13 Moonlight Traveller
 AP11 Pocket Book of Ghost Stories, The
 AP12 Peturbed Spirits
 AQ2 Quadratic
 AS28 Supernatural Omnibus
 AS31 Strange Adventures in Science Fiction (part of A01)
 AS32 Science and Sorcery
 AT16 Tales of Outer Space (with AA8 Ace Double PB)
 AT17 Tales To Be Told in the Dark
 AU3 Uncanny Stories
 AU4 Ultimate Invader & Others, The (1/2 Ace Double PB)

The Checklist appeared in ETHERLINE 37/8, amendment 1 in 41.

DONALD A. TUCK'S

AUTHOR STORY LISTING

No. 8 :- Robert A. Heinlein.

Particular coding is given herewith whilst the Anthology Coding, always preceded by A, was given in ETHERLINE, Nos. 37/8, amended by 41 and 46; other abbreviations are common usage or else given in my HANDBOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Heinlein's juvenile ROCKET SHIP GALILEO was the basis of the film DESTINATION MOON. His recent STAR LUMINOX, (or MP) is apparently rated as a juvenile, as it has just appeared from Scribner's in the annual juvenile series.

BOOKS - Novels

- B1 BEYOND THIS HORIZON (Fantasy: Reading USA 1948 242 \$3.00)
 (Grosset Dunlap: New York USA 1952 192 \$1.00)
 B2 THE PUPPET MASTERS (Doubleday: New York USA 1951 219 \$2.75
 Doubleday: New York \$1.00; Museum Press: London 1953 191
 9/6)
 B3 SIXTH COLUMN (Gnome: New York USA 1949 256 \$2.50 Jac-Cartier.) French Edition - SIXIEME COLUMN.

Collections

- C1 ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY (Fantasy: Reading USA 1953 256 \$3.)
 (Museum: London 1955 9/-) C of 4s: 18, 13, 26, 21
 C2 THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH (Shasta Chicago USA 1951 256 ill,
 \$3.00)(Sidgwick Jackson: London 1954 224 9/6)
 C of 10s: 11, 45, 5, 15, 31, 20, 17, 52, 24, 25.
 2nd of Future History series.
 C3 THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON (Shasta Chicago USA 1950 299 \$3.
 (Sidgwick Jackson: London 1953 256 9/6)

C of 6s: 23, 22, 38, 6, 27, 37.
1st in Future History series.

- C4 REVOLT IN 2100 (Shast: Chicago USA 1954 317 \$3.50.)
C of 3s: 19, 10, 29.
3rd in Future History series.

- C5 WALDO & MAGIC, INC. (Doubleday: New York USA 1950 219 \$2.50)
C of 2s: 51, 12.

Juveniles

- JB1 BETWEEN PLANETS (Scribner: New York USA 1951 222 ill \$2.50)
5th juvenile.
- JB2 FARMER IN THE SKY (Scribner: New York USA 1950 216 ill \$2.50)
4th juvenile
- JB3 THE RED PLANET (Scribner: New York USA 1949 211 ill \$ 2.50)
3rd juvenile. French ed. LA PLANETTE ROUGE.
German ed. DER ROTE PLANET
- JB4 ROCKET-SHIP GALILEO (Scribner: New York USA 1947 212 ill
\$ 2.50) 1st juvenile. German ed ENDSTRATION MOND.
- JB5 THE ROLLING STONE (Scribner: New York USA 1952 276 \$2.50)
6th juvenile
- JB6 SPACE CADET (Scribner: New York USA 1948 242 ill \$2.50)
2nd juvenile
- JB7 THE STAR BEAST (Scribner: New York USA 1954 \$2.50)
8th juvenile.
- JB8 STARMEN JONES (Scribner: New York USA 1953 305 ill \$2.50)
(Sidgwick Jackson: London 1954 7/6)
7th juvenile.

Anthology

- AT11 TOMORROW THE STARS (Doubleday: New York USA 1951 249 \$2.95)

POCKET BOOKS

Novels

- P1 THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (Signet 832 New York 1951 160 25c)
(Retitled from B3)
- P2 THE PUPPET MASTERS (Signet 980: New York 1953 175 35 c)
- P3 Universe (Dell 36: New York 1951 64 10c)

Collections

- P4 THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH (Signet 943: New York 1952 176
25 c) (Contents same as C2)
- P5 THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON (Signet 847: New York 1951 167
25 c)(C of 4s: 22, 38, 27, 37.) (2 less than C3)

Anthology

- AT11 TOMORROW THE STARS (Signet 1044: New York 1953 207 25c)

STORIES

- 1 under pseudonym Anson MacDonald
- 2 " " Lyle Monroe
- 3 " " John Riverside
- 4 " " Caleb Saunders
- 5 with Elma Wentz Y in British '1st Ast.
Anth.'
- x not in British Ed of same title
- SEP = Saturday Evening Post

1. ...And He Built a Crooked House.s ASF Feb'41, FFM Dec'51,
AP4
2. Between Planets.n JB1
3. Beyond Doubt. s AsS Apr'41, AB14
4. Beyond This Horizon. n sr2ASF Apr'42, abr TC Win
52, B1,

5. Black Pits of Luna, The. s SEP 10/1/48, C2, P4, AP7^x
6. Blowups Happen. nv ASF Sep'40, C3, AA4^y, AB6
7. By His Bootstraps. nv ASF Oct'41¹, AA1^{1x}, AG5,
8. Columbus Was A Dope. s SS May'47
9. Common Sense. n ASF Oct'41
10. Coventry. nv ASF Jul'40, C4, AS12
- Day After Tomorrow, The. See 'Sixth Column
11. Delilah and the Space Rigger.s C2, P4
12. Devil Makes The Law, The. n U Sep'40, 'Magic, Inc' C5
- Elsewhen. See 'Elsewhere'
13. Elsewhere. nv ASF Sep'41⁴, as 'Elsewhen' C1
14. Farmer in the Sky. n JB2, orig abr as 'Satellite Scout' in Boy's Life Mag.
15. Gentlemen, Be Seated ! s C2, P4, FFM Jun'52, AS11
16. Goldfish Bowl. nv ASF Mar'42¹, AB6¹
17. Green Hills of Earth, The. s SEP 8/2/47, C2, P4, AI4, AM9, AS22
18. Gulf. n sr2 ASF Nov'49, C1
19. If This Goes On... n sr2 ASF Feb'40, C4
20. It's Great To Be Back. s SEP 26/7/47, C2, P4, AT13
21. Jerry Is A Man. s TWS Oct'47, as 'Jerry Was A Man', C1
- Jerry Was A Man. SEE 'Jerry Is A Man'
22. Let There Be Light. s SuS May'40², C3, P5
23. Life-Line. s ASF Aug'39, C3
24. Logic of Empire. n ASF Mar'41, C2, P4
25. Long Watch, The. s C2, P4, AB15
- Lost Legacy. See 'Lost Legion'
26. Lost Legion. n SuS Nov'41, as 'Lost Legacy' C1
- Magic Inc. See 'The Devil Makes The Law'
27. Man Who Sold The Moon, The. n C3, P5, ASFs ≠ 3
28. Methuselah's Children. n sr3 ASF Jul'41
29. Misfit. s ASF Nov'39, C4
30. 'My Ordeal All Sublime'. s FF Feb'42²

31. Ordeal in Space. nv C2, P4, ACF Aug'54
32. Our Fair City. s WT Jan'49, AB13
33. Pied Piper. s AsS Mar'42²
34. Project Nightmare. s AS Apr/May'53
35. Puppet Masters, The. n sr3 GS Sep'51, B2, P2
36. Red Planet, The. n JB3
37. Requiem. s ASF Jan'40, C3, P5, AA1^x
38. Roads Must Roll, The. nv ASF Jun'40, C3, P5, AA1
39. Rocket-Ship Galileo. n JB4
40. Rolling Stones, The. n JB5
41. Sixth Column. n sr3 ASF Jan'41¹, B3, as 'Day After Tomorrow', P1
42. Sky Lift. nv I Nov'53
43. Solution Unsatisfactory. nv ASF May'41¹, AB6¹
44. Space Cadet. n JB6
45. Space Jockey. s SEP 26/4/47, C2, P4
- Star Beast, The See STAR LUMMOX
46. Star LummoX. n sr3 MF May'54, 'The Star Beast' JB7
47. Starman Jones. n JB8
48. They. s U Apr'41, AW3
49. Universe. nv ASF May'41, P3, AB6
50. Unpleasant Profession of Jonathan Hoag, The. n U Oct'42³, ASF Aug'42¹, C5
51. Waldo. n ASF Jul'41, C2, P4
52. '...We Also Walk Dogs'. s GS Mar'52, AS8, AS10
53. Year of the Jackpot, The. s

Connected Stories, Sequels, etc.

'Future History' Series Books: C3, C2, C4
 This series as originally forecasted was to be 'The Man Who Sold The Moon' (C3), 'The Green Hills of Earth' (C4) 'If This Goes On' (Retitled 'Revolt in 2100') (C4), plus 'Methuselah's Children' and 'The Endless Frontier'; probably the 4th will appear but the last will be problematical.

A story listing of this series would be rather hard to arrange, but the following is of note : 19 and 10. Another set is : 49 and 9

Next Author : Horace B. Fyfe

ADVT.

OLYMPICON 1956

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'THEM' a Warner Bros film, starring James Whitmore, Edmund Gwenn, Joan Weldon and James Arness

This is, in my opinion, one of the best to appear --- as far as acting goes. It is a great pity that the story does not do the performers credit.

The story, briefly, is this :

After the first atomic test, the radiations apparently mutate the desert ants, with the result that, several years later, a giant ant appears in the desert, creating havoc and death. This brings in the local police, in the person of James Whitmore. After some fruitless investigation, the police decide to call in the FBI, (James Arness) and scientists of the Agriculture Dept (Edmund Gwenn and Joan Weldon).

Thus the plot develops. The ants are destroyed, but two queens and their attendants fly off (yes, they suddenly develop wings !), and the hunt is on.

Six months pass, and the hunt centres on a West Coast city (I think it was Los Angeles), where 'strange things have been happening'. This time, the ants decide to take hostages, in the form of two small children.

The Army is called out, and the ants are traced to the sewers. (I don't think you could drive jeeps in our sewers !) They take to vehicles, and move in. Finally cornered, the ants are wiped out by flame throwers.

The story is weak in places, and the action is too drawn out. But the acting is very good, especially on the part of James Whitmore. I hope we see more of this actor in stf films, as he doesn't give the impression that he is constantly apologising to the audience for appearing in films of this type.

I
J
C

MCGILLS

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City in the Sea	Tucker	3/-
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Late PANTHER, DRAGON and TITBITS as published.

Books in Stock, or shortly due.⁺

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Report From Adelaide

Sunday nights most Adelaide inhabitants stay indoors, as the sf femmes and Bems hit the road and head to - wards Space Station 1, in other words, the HQ and residence of all activities.

Routine was altered recently when a surprise party for popular Hal Nicholson, a lad from the land of the Sandgroper, turned 21. The age to turn the key (whose key?) and cast a vote at the next election of space travellers. Hal nearly pranged when his antennae quivered and threw out red and blue sparks as he arrived on his hot rod and spied the gang hiding in the lounge. The evening went with a swing and fizzed out when each fan charged a glass of bubbly and drank his health. Popular Joyce, our hostess, worked all day to make the party a success. Hopalong couldn't get a look in that day. (Max, Joyce's husband, just loves cowboys and injuns) !!!

Was hoping to meet two folk who were recently married...was interested to find out if rumour that they took a whole heap of sf on their honeymoon was true....(he reads sf to his wife in bed)...everyone knows that sf and sex don't mix.

A bearded bloke called Walsh (who he is hiding from I have not found out..yet) and pal auto-scooter owner called Kent (Norm if you like) weaved a merry way home (unfortunately, my radar broke down, and I lost track of them).

Enthusiastic soul Phil Cornelius missed out on the do...I guess there must be something about all those continental films at the Curzon after all.

My very keen globe-trotting self rolled along to meet Hal for the first time...it was a relief to be back in Aussie particularly after meeting the London Circle...sf to them

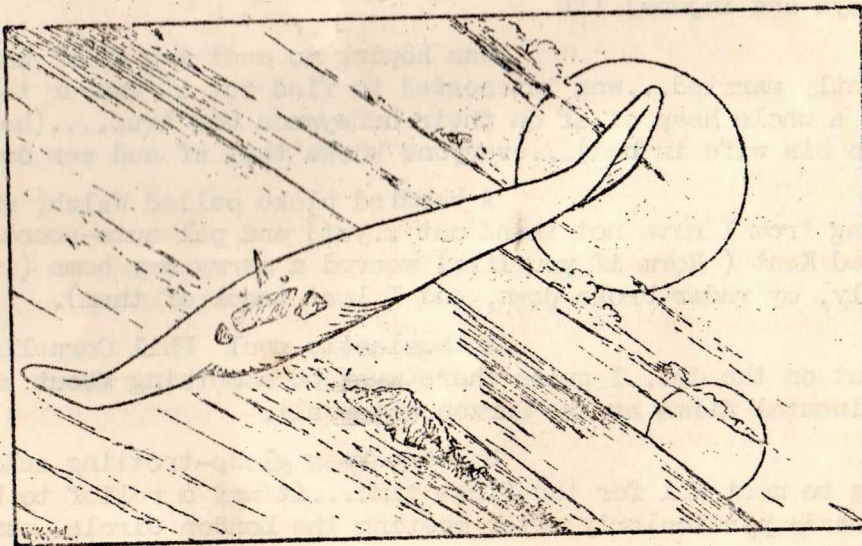
is all beer (wot ! no skittles !), even hospitality at Manches -
ter was amber coloured...fortunately I never gave them my real name

Classical records are very much to the fore, in fact, if sf ever goes bung, we can always change our name to the Companionable Classical Club. Hal brought along several of his humorous recordings by way of a change which are causing a riot (no wonder Max Joyce spends all the week in the ceiling repairing it !!!).

Reporting to the femme fans... there is a shortage over here...one male member quoted "they are all married or something." (Where do I come in...they all disappeared when I arrived).

Oh well, we are different from some place where it rains rain... here it rain sf.

Margaret Finch



MAGAZINE REVIEWS

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION BRE 21.

What has happened to GALAXY ? This issue is one of the most disappointing for some time. The two novelets, both by 'name' authors, are below average. Sheckley's A THIEF IN TIME is a rather confused and pointless time-travel story. GREEN THUMB by Simak, though it features an engaging type of alien, is nothing like his best.

R. E. Banks gives us THIS SIDE UP, and leads us to believe it is funny - but that is his opinion. A fair effort is FELONY by James Causy.

All the above are average or below average. The second installment of the Pohl-Kornbluth serial A GLADIATOR AT LAW, is the only worthwhile part of the contents. By the way, for the sake of whisky drinkers, it is to be hoped that we never see water the colour Mel Hunter portrays it.

Tony Santos

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION February 1954.

The Kelly Freas cover can hardly be called beautiful but it's a perfect illustration to Fredric Brown's MARTIANS, GO HOME ! No matter how wild your imagination, you can never visualize Martians like Brown. Most amusing.

MISTER PINSCHUR, a short by Maurice Ogden and Betty Fuller is a rather peculiar effort, but the question posed at the end is one worth thought.

Roger Dee's THE INTERLOPERS has to do with the nature of man - whether he is suited to rule over the

galaxy.

In Oscar A Boch's THE EASY WAY, a pair of bright kids have some wild ideas which work.

The Clifton and Riley serial, THEY'D RATHER BE RIGHT moves into high gear in the second part.

For those who are still with him, Gott hard Gunther winds up his article ACHILLES AND THE TORTOISE, with the thought that, in the future, the stars may be as near as we wish them.

A good issue with Fred Brown's story first place.

Tony Santos

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 52.

Cover by Davis, Jupiter a la Bonestell is as usual very good. It's a good winter cover, as the illusion of heat is well done.

STAR HAVEN by E. C. Tubb, a rather worn theme of a vanishing colony - fair. CLEANSING FIRES by Morgan has a mad ambassador who thinks he has a date with the past - poor.

S. J. Bound's JOHN BROWN'S BODY paints a picture of 21st century press gangs - poor. The articles, as has been the case lately, are more interesting than the stories.

Inside illos by newcomer Mortimer are much better than Mendoza.

Jack Keating

NEW WORLDS 31.

Cover by Quinn, no relation to content but it's rather good.

FAIR EXCHANGE by Lan Wright. He did

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dirty on the rivals. Fair. KILL ME THIS MAN by F. G. Rayer has an interplanetary executioner with no one to kill, only he does not know it. Fair. SHORT CIRCUIT by Neal. Jail break future style. Fair.

PRISONER IN THE SKULL by C. Dye, part 2. A lot more gadgets, only this time, he also gets a lot of corpses, and discovers who the villain of the piece is. Fair.

Inside illos by Quinn and Hunter are only fair. A slight improvement on last month's issue. I hope this continues.

Jack Keating.

FATE BRE 4 Review copy from Publishers, Press Books Ltd., U.K.

This issue has a Virgil Finlay cover ---- in color! Articles on ESP in animals, Modern Spiritualism, The Abominable Snowman, Clairvoyance, Flying Saucers, Telepathy, Time Travel and Dowsing fill a compact and far ranging magazine. It is available from McGill's at 1/3.

Roger McHugh

NEBULA 11.

Cover by Rattigan apparently depicts Saturn as seen from one of the inner moons. Rather lurid, but otherwise not bad.

THE YUPE by C. E. Maine. They went and met his nibs, and came back, but they would not say where it was. It is not bad. BOOMERANG by E. F. Russell. A robot executioner who did kill his maker. Fair. UJUTJO by H. Warner. Mechanised money yet. Poor.

TALENT by J. Christopher. The three card trick makes good in the future. Just fair. A WORLD IN EXILE by C. Myrescough. A rather harsh examination of us, by us. Not bad.

OPERATION MARS by E. C. Tubb. The title

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is self-explanatory, but the story is rather good.

This magazine conducted a poll and strangely enough, it came first. When one considers that only the readers of NEBULA took part in the poll, it would be strange, to say the least if NEBULA didn't top the poll. This is not too good an issue.

Jack Keating.

ROCKET BOOK REVIEWS

NINE WORLDS WEST (Malian Press). By Paul W. Fairman. This deals with an appeal by a bewcheous damsel to a grounded space pilot, to 'Save my Father'. The pilot has a Greek pal with two Martian Leopards. The men are captured, the damsel and the leopards escape, and become the deities of a local tribe. You take it from there.

The cover illo is good - this lad Pitt can draw. May I suggest a further refinement. So far, Malian Press have published over 30 issues - it would be nice if a number appeared on the cover, as a guide to collectors. Well worth 9d. from any space opera fan.

Bob McCubbin

HOME IS THE MARTIAN (Philip Kent). A TitBits Novel from McGills, at 1/3. Space Ranger Conroy captures a Druvan space scout, lands on Druva, finds that Druvans and Solarians are both descended from the old Martians and an armistice is arranged. As is usual with TitBits, this one is well worth the money.

Bob McCubbin

CITY IN THE SEA by Wilson Tucker

One of the new English Nova Novels from McGills at 3/-. An attractive cover over the story of the outposts of a

matriachy confronted with a very masculine mutant. He leads a detachment through various vicissitudes until they reach an unexpected denouement at the City in the Sea. If you haven't got the Galaxy Novel, get this. It's well worth the money.

Bob McCubbin

THE WEAPON SHOPS OF TUDOR by A. E. Van Vogt. Another of the new Nova Novels from McGills at 3/-. Again a well designed cover. The world of the future is ruled by a Queen and a corrupt nobility. They are kept in check by an association - calling themselves the Weapon Shops - who can control space, time and energy & whose motto is 'The right to carry a weapon is the right to be free'. Typically involved Vv plotting, but it is well worth the reading again.

Bob McCubbin

CLAY VILLAGE by Robert Brown-Smith. A Guild Original, and a compact and well-produced book. The story itself is unconvincing, and very dull save for possibly three or four pages toward the conclusion. Each character is treated most generously to a great deal of description and explanation and each is worked hard, but with one exception, none of them live. This one is 'Bessie' of whom we hear little. She hovers on the outskirts of this gathering of stiff villagers and is the only touch of vermillion in a muddy brown canyon.

Marjorie Santos



BOOK REVIEWS

THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY by G. Abetti. Review copy from publishers Sidgwick & Jackson, London.

This is a very comprehensive coverage of the field of astronomy, from the days of the Phoenicians, up to present day, with full biographies of all the great astronomers since man has studied the stars.

It is well and profusely illustrated. Illustrations coupled with the text as a whole and also with the biographies.

The book is very well written, showing the result of a monumental effort of research, and attention to detail which is the mark of a great historian, and should be of interest to those who have wondered what those lights up there really are.

Jack Keating

.....
ATLANTIS by John Cowper Powys. Published by MacDonald & Co. London obtainable from Whitcomb & Tombs at 18/9.

Don't be misled by the title - Atlantis has a very minor role in this one. 462 pages of words, words, words!

It is probably the first novel which has taken me a week to read! Briefly, the author takes the characters of the Odyssey of Homer, and projects a future for them. Odysseus wants to build a ship to go to sunken Atlantis, the Olympians battle over the dominance of the sexes, and flies, moths, clubs, trees, and stone philosophise solo and in company. Neither sf or fantasy - in fact it's unclassifiable - and nearly unreadable.

Bob McCubbin

.....
STARTLING STORIES compiled by Samuel Mines. Cassell & Co. Ltd. London. Available from McGills at 15/6.

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After an introduction from Robert Heinlein comes THE WAGES OF SYNERGY (Sturgeon) - a new discovery is not allowed to be used by a would-be dictator. THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN (McGregor) - female castaway too virginal to imagine a complete man. MOMENT WITHOUT TIME (Rogers) - what can be done when you are the only person mobile in a static world, and would it make any difference? THE NAMING OF NAMES (Bradbury) - Mars continues though humans die. NO LAND OF NOD (Springer) - harks back to the incestuous origin of the tribes of Moab and Ammon. WHO'S CRIBBING (Lewis) - ancestral plagiarists, yet! THIRTY SECONDS - THIRTY DAYS (Clarke) - Two men in a space ship with oxygen for one. NOISE (Vance) - Humanity makes a hell of a row. WHAT'S IT LIKE OUT THERE (Hamilton) - returned spacer finds that every one uses the quotation for their own ego-boost. DORMANT (Van Vogt) - a sentient A bomb. DARK HOSPITAL (Locke) new bodies for old and a new Aladdin. A good collection.

Bob McCubbin

THANKS !!

Owing to the splendid work by Mervyn R. Binns, several of the major British publishing houses intend to send proof copies of all SF they publish to AFPA, who will pass them on to the the Helbourne Group Library after reviewing.

We wish to thank the following houses: Frederick Muller Ltd., T. V. Boardman & Co. Ltd.; Sidgwick and Jackson; Museum Press Ltd.; Ward Lock & Co. Ltd.; and Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

Keep your eye on ETHERLINE for the best in English publishing.

Bob McCubbin

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

MELBOURNE GROUP REPORT

24/2/55.

There were 11 paying customers present, with Bob McCubbin in the chair. Copies of Sydney's newsletter SCANSION were handed around, and Doug Nicholson's sane, well balanced appeal for mutual tolerance between the Sydney groups came in for some favourable comment. Thanks for the bouquet for AFPA, Doug, the boys appreciated it.

The Chairman advised that the Richmond Council is still discussing our application for the use of the Town Hall in 1956. Ian Crozier reported that the prospect of getting a meeting room is again brightening.

Melbourne's report to the Sydney Con was approved, and the Chairman's action in forwarding a copy for inclusion in the Convention report was endorsed.

The evening concluded with chess and the lifting of a few seals - not a circus act however!

Roger McHugh.

.....

3/3/55

There was a good attendance, with Bob McCubbin in the chair as usual.

There was some discussion about our delegation to the Sydney Convention, and Ian Crozier collected some subs from members present.

We are wondering if the present disastrous floods have affected the Hunter River group. We imagined red Butt clinging with one hand to a church steeple, and with the other to the latest SF magazine.

Our film officials are now Bob McCubbin, Val Morton and Dan Bicknell. The next screening will be at the home of Harry Williams, 30 Loch St., St. Kilda on April 1st. Don't be

misled by the date - but bring yourselves, friends, food and the necessary lubricating fluid. Astronomical films will be shown, and a collection taken up for the Olympicon funds.

We hear that Race Mathews is very happy at Yinnar South, but that Geraldine McKeown is having difficulties with numbers and languages at Newborough.

The evening finished with chess.

AHMAK

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10/3/55.

A very quiet evening - only eleven present. The Chairman announced that the Richmond City Council are expected to ratify the Hall Committee's approval next Monday - we have a Hall for the Olympicon. However, the Olympic Committee advise that the only holiday is likely at the moment - Thursday, 22/11/56, the opening day of the Games. The date for the Olympicon therefore, has not yet been finalised.

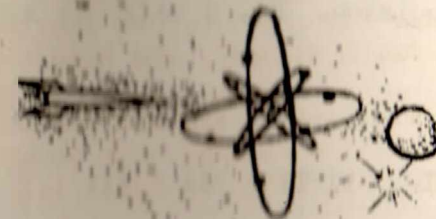
Merv. Blinn will be missing for 3 meetings - one for Johnny Ray and two for the Army.

Dick Davison introduced Miss McQueen to the Group - nice work, Dick.

The evening was concluded as usual with chess, and there was an experiment conducted by Tony Santos on the covering power of a fluid.

ARMAK

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Editorial Ramblings

There is only one thing I, personally, would like to see happen immediately after the conclusion of this Convention, and that is the issue within a week or so of an official report. I attended the last two Sydney Conventions, and up to the present, I haven't seen a report of either. Mind, I'm not saying that they haven't been issued, but I have my doubts.

The next issue of ETHERLINE will be out on the 28th March - 1 week after the Convention is over. Interstate copies will be available on the Thursday as usual. The following issue will be out 3 weeks later - 16th April.

The site of the 1956 Olympicon has been confirmed as the Richmond Town Hall, and after consultation with Olympic officials, the date will be announced, possibly in the next issue. After the date has been announced, I would urge all intending visitors to make accommodation bookings immediately, as the position is acute even now.

I hope the Sydney weather is a bit kinder than it has been these past few months.

QUESTION MARK will cease after the issue of the next - No. 6. Pressure of work, plus poor reception and lack of material has forced this decision. No. 6 will be out within the next 2 months.

IJC

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C. U. IN FIFTY SIX !!!