Etherline.

Science Fiction Journal.

FEATURING...

FORREST J. ACKERMAN

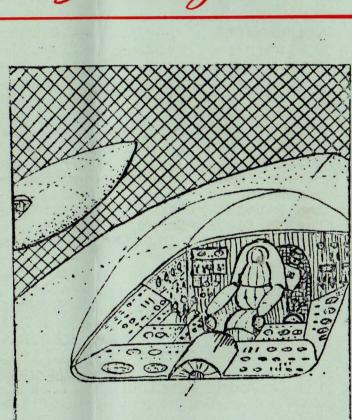
BOOK MAGAZINE FANZINE REVIEWS



PART ONE OF THE LONELY YEARS BY JOHN A. VILE

ISSUE No.





by AFPA for Melbourne Science Fiction Group.

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MAGAZINES

Astounding Oct 2/3; Authentic 60; 2/-; GAlaxy 28,29,30, 2/9; Science Fantasy 15 New Worlds 39,40 3/-

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

MIMMY Mars

By John A. Vile.....

Illustrated by Keith McLelland

ETHERLINE

Henry Thomas gulped his morning cup of coffee and glanced at the headlines in the p per. He muttered something about 'bloody Commos', and then turned to the feature pages.

A headline caught his eye. It read: IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS? EMINENT SCIENTIST SAYS THERE COULD BE.

Henry snorted righteously. He smiled smugly when he saw that the writer of the article had treated his subject flippantly.

He looked at his watch, gasped, downed the rest of the coffee and mumbled: "G'bye dear....got to hurry."

He slammed the door behind him and almost ran to the corner bus stop.....

"And if I catch you reading that trash again, I'll belt you from one end of the house to the other!"

The well dressed, and

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

middle aged woman sniffed loudly at the young man seated opposite her in the train.

He did not look up from the magazine he was reading. Depicted on its cover were a man and a woman, clad in spacesuits, standing out sharply against a weird landscape.

The fact that the woman was deccrously and sensibly clad for interplanetary climates did nothing to lessen the middle-aged woman's disapproval. Indeed, it seemed to heighten it.....

"Say Harry. whaddya think of this guy what reckons we'll get to the moon next year?"

H rry squinted down the billiard cue. "Nuts !" he said succinctly, throwing away his cigarette butt and spitting neatly into a corner of the smoky room ...

Don Sterling stood at the edge of the tarmac and gazed steadily, lovingly, at the rocket on the other side of the field.

A slight breeze ruffled his fair hair. For a moment, he thought that the wind would topple the rocket, so fragile did it look as it glinted in the sunlight.

"Wish I could go with you, Don," said a soft voice. He turned and saw his wife standing beside him.

"So do I Alison," he said and put his arm around her gently, drawing her close to him.

"That's enough of that.

Sterling."

The couple whirled and

faced the serious, faintly smiling face of Ken Turner.

"Hullo, Ken," Don said,

"You're rather early."

FTHERLINE

"You can't be too early to get to the moon," Turner said lightly, but his face was grave as he looked up at the dirty white three-quarter moon.

Sterling looked sympathetically at him. A close friend, he was one of the few people who knew the brilliant scientist's story.

Turner had been born in a tiny bush mining town, the son of a drunken father and a illiterate mother.

How he escaped that past, which had been full of misery and terror, had always been a source of wonder to his close friends.

He had managed to complete a university course with the help of some distant relatives, and he had majored in physics. An appointment as a lecturer had led him to the project he had always been interested in . ---- that of interplanetary travel.

"Do you think we'll find any other life in this system. Ken ?" asked Alison Sterling.

He turned to her. and said slowly, "I don't know, Alison, but I hope we do. Mars and Venus seem to offer the best chances for life similar to us. but there may be other life forms, inconcievable to us at pres ent, which inhabit the other planets."

"It must be about time to meet the others," Don said, "I wonder where they are." "Probably in the

conference room," Turner replied.

Sterling and his wife turned to leave. Turner said suddenly, "Don, if you don't mind --- I think I'll go to the ship now."

"Of course not," the

other replied.

He and his wife watched the physicist walking across the windswept field, a lonely figure, overshadowed by the huge rocket

They blasted off that night. The rocket shot up through the dark clouds with a soft . sighing sound.

Inside, Sterling watched Turner's face, then looked into the screen which showed the shrinking blue-green globe of their home planet.

Old Mother Earth, Sterling thought, and a lump rose in his throat.

He glanced into the screen which gave a forward view of the ship.

> The stars were pinholes in a black sheet, the far off galaxies mere trails of powder, scattered carelessly across the ebony cloth.

> My God, Sterling said to himself, and it was part exclamation and part question, what shall we find out here.

> Sterling walked slowly up the tree lined driveway to the hospital entrance. He had felt rather gloomy on leaving home, but now, in such pleasant surroundings, he began to feel a little more cheerful.

> > He went into the cool

shadowy room, where Turner lay. "Hullo, Don," he said, "any news yet ?"

Sterling "Yes Ken."

said. "They're back."

ETHERLINE

Turner was quiet for a moment, then he said softly. "Did they find anything?"

"Yes."

"They did? What was it?"

Sterling said. after a moment's hesitation . "They dien't find life of any sort. But they found a something which may be more interesting. A tower, built of nickel and silver."

"What was inside ?"

"Nothing," Sterling said, "It was perfect-

ly empty."

Turner lay back on the pillows. Sterling could not see his face, as the blinds were almost completely drawn.

After a long pause, Turner said, "Well, that clears Pluto. Next stop, Alpha Centauri. Only I shan't be here: to see that."

"Oh, come now," Sterling protested, "'Anyone would think you were an old man."

"No Don," he said, "I'm not kidding myself . I'll never leave this hospital alive. It's getting worse every day."

Sterling made no reply. He stared at the floor, thinking bitterly of Man's conquest of space. Within 15 years of setting foot on the moon, he had reached all the planets in the solar system.

Sterling thought of the lives the voyages had taken and the condition of the man lying beside him, the man who knew that he would not live much longer.

Turner had been on the Venus expedition, which had followed the futile trip to Mars. He had fallen into a

ETHERLINE

swamp and weeks later had become violently ill.

He had caught some germ from Earth's sister planet, the only other planet which possessed even such low orders of life.

For the past few years, he had been recovering but now it seemed that he was once more sinking back into the mad delirium which he had suffered once before.

Now, in the darkened room, Sterling asked himself why the voyages had been made. No life had been found, except extremely primal kinds on Venus. None of the planets had proved useful in any way, except as launching bases for trips to the next.

Sterling was waiting now for the question which Turner was struggling not to ask.

Finally it came. "Who do you think built the tower?"

"I don't know, nor does anyone knows. At a guess, I'd say some extra-solar race."

"Then there may still be life other than ours," Turner said quietly, "That was always my dream, to contact other beings. I used to read science fiction and that was the theme which fascinated me most, the contact with some other intelligence in the universe. I don't know why it drew me so much, instead of other themes, like time travel and other universes. Perhaps I thought they would understand us and..." his voice trailed off.

For more than half an hour, the two men sat in an easy silence, the silence of men who have known each other for a long time.

"Well, Don, what about the Alpha . Centauri

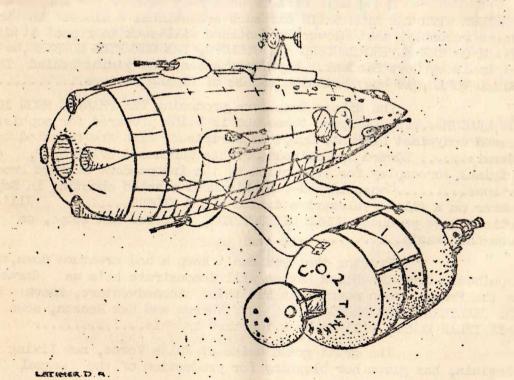
trip ?"

You bloody fool! Sterling thought heatedly, isn't your life great enough sacrifice for this crazy chase around the universe? Aloud, he said, "I don't know. We must must have another means of propulsion first."

"What about Lamson's drive? I read where he said that he had nearly completed it?"

"I didn't see that," the other replied shortly. He was thinking of his wife, Alison, who had died from malnutrition on the Ganymede trip. She now lay buried there, in the satellite's cold sands, dominated by the huge, mottled face of the planet Jupiter.

To be concluded



10

ETHERLINE

A Japanese version of the famous TARZAN series will roll shortly, when an almond eyed Oriental takes the boards as THE BROOBA....

The double bill IT CAME FROM BENEATH THE SEA. CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN did such sensational business in the States recently, that Clover Productions will seek to repeat it with ATTACK OF THE FLYING SAUCERS and CYCLOPS, THE ONE EYED MONSTER, both originals by Curt Siodmak. Ray Harryhausen, the genius behind THE ANIMAL WORLD, is busy building models of flying saucers.....

The Milner Bros. are producing THE PHANTOM FROM 10. 000 LEAGUES..... A space tease act is being prepared for sophisticated ecdysiast Lili St. Cyr. the stripteuse with the educated epidermis..... Edward G. Robinson Jr. has purchased SPACE SHIP. an original screenplay for production by the independent Rexford Productions......Consolidated-Tele Pictures started shooting in September on a filmed teleseries titled SPACE RIDERS..... Artists have produced WORLD WITHOUT END, in color and scope, on a hush-hush basis.....

Proving that you can't keep a bad creature down, the amphibeast from the Black Lagoon will demonstrate he's as durable as the Frankenstein monster in his third cinemadventure, known as THE CREATURE WALKS AMONGST US. Jeff Morrow and Rex Reason, seen in THIS ISLAN EARTH, will be back together in this.....

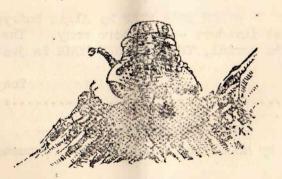
The great grand neice of Jules Verne, now living in Virginia, has given her blessing for production of the sequel to Disney's smash 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA. Brian Foy, who . years ago did a followup to another scientifilm, will producd this one, titled THE MASTERIOUS ISLAND.....

NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT, successfully presented on Science Fiction Theatre by Ivan Tors, has served as the basis for an expanded filmic version. Teleplay concerned the development of a nutrient to replace food, with scientist creating super size and strength in the process.....

TOWARD THE UNKNOWN, about experimental planes of the future, will be a top-budget Warner Bros. product.... Milt Luban and Ken Crossen have a hot treatment in BARRIER TO THE STARS......Yvonne de Carlo has script, will travel. to star herself inGREEN PLANET SRAM..... A Central American producer knock d on Ray Bradbury's door and told him he wanted to film his "Esquire" short THE DRAGON. A campus film club at the University of California, Westwood, Calif., will film Bradbury's OUTCAST OF THE STARS. And John Eppolito and associates are in the art-and-architecture planning stage of capturing Bradbury's SOFT RAINS on celluloid.

Otherwise, sci-fi filmaking seems to be in the doldrum's. Nothing much doing. Very little to report.

Forrest J. Ackerman....



SCIENCE FICTION

B.R.E. October, 1955 Aust. Price: 2/3

Photo cover this month. A scene from CONQUEST OF SPACE - quite effective.

In MILLENIUM, Everett B. Cole's Philosophical Corp are busy - they not only track down lost weapons, they also rearrange the feudal system. Eric Frank Russell shows that hon - esty still pays in ALLAMAGOOSA.

Isaac Asimov points out some flaws in robots in

RISK.

WTACH YOUR STEP by Algis Budrys tells of a sure defence against invaders - just bore away. The second part of Poul Anderson's serial, THE LONG WAY HOME is just as good as the start.

Tony Santos.

Cover by Latimer.....

Interiors by McLelland, Latimer and Jenssen....

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AUTHOR STORY LISTING

STORY

No. 20 Lester del Rey

Compiled by Donald H. Tuck

One of J. W. Campbell's finds for ASTOUNDING and to a lesser extent, UNKNOWN, del Rey entered the editorial field in 1952 with SPACE SCIENCE FICTION and FANTASY MAGAZINE, and their companion magazines, SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES and ROCKET STORIES as Philip St. John, but he remained with them for only a short period.

All of his novels (some under pseudonymis) have appeared in the juvenile Winston 'Adventures in Science Fiction' series.

BOOKS

- J1 ATTACK FROM ATLANTIS (John C. Winston: Phil. 1953 207 \$2)
- J2 BATTLE ON MERCURY (Winston: Phil. 1953 207 \$ 2) (Under pseudonym Erik van Lhin)
- J3 MAROONED ON MARS (Winston: Phil. 1952 210 \$2) (Hutchinson: London 1954 220 7/6)
- J4 ROCKET JOCKEY (Winston: Phil. 1952 207 \$2)('Rocket Pilot'
 Hutchinson: London 1955 7/6)
 (Under pseudonym Philip St. John)
- ROCKET TO NOWHERE (Winston: Phil. 1954 \$2)

 (Under pseudonym Philip St. John)

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

STEP TO THE STARS (Winston: Phil. 1954 210 \$2) .76

COLLECTION.

.....AND SOME WERE HUMAN (Prime: Phil. 1948, 331, \$3.00) C1 C of 12s: 24, 13, 21, 10, 37, 17, 12, 23, 64, 57,

ANTHOLOGY

THE YEAR AFTER TOMORROW AY1

STORIES

15.

as Philip St. John 2 as Erik van Ihin

Absolutely no Paradox.s Adventure in Time.s Alien. s And it Comes out Here.s And There was Light.s 5. Anything.s 6. Attack From Atlantis.n Battle on Mercury.n Battleground.s 9. Coppersmith. The.s 10. Cross of Fire.s 11. 12. Dark Mission.s Day is Done, The.s 13. Deadliest Female, The.s. 14. Done Without Eagles ! s

16. Doubled in Brass.s Faithful, The.s 17. Fool's Errand.s 18. For I Am a Jealous People.n 19.

ASF's≠ 11¹ AS 34. NW Aug'55 GS Feb'51, AS3 FF Jul'51 U Oct'391, U '481 J1 J2² FU Jul'54 U Sep'39, C1 WT May'39 ASF Jul'40, C1, AT15 ASF May 39, C1, A06 WB Feb 51 ASF Aug'401 U Jan'40 ASF Apr'50, C1 SFQ Nov'51, ASFs \$131

AS33

SFQ May'51, FSF(Aust)3

ETHERLINE

Forgive Us Our Debts.s 20. Forsaking All Others.s 21. Habit.s 23. Helen O'Lov.s Hereafter. Inc. s I Am Tomorrow.nv 26. Idealists.s "If Ye Have Faith". nv 27. 28. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 38. 39. 40. 41. 43. 44. 46.

Imitation of Death.s In the Still Waters.nv Instinct.s Into Thy Hands, nv Kindness.s Last Lunacy, The.s Last Spaceman. The.s Let 'Em Breathe Space.n Life Watch, The.nv Luck of Ignatz, The nv Lunar Landing. nv Marooned on Mars. n Mind of Tomorrow.s Monster, The. s Moon-Blind. nv My Name is Legion.s Nerves.n No Head for my Bier.s No Place Like Home.s 47. No Strings Attached.s Old Order. The. 48. 49. Operation Distress.s 50. Over the Top.s 51.

Omega and the Wolf Girl.s One-Eyed Man, The.s.

52. Pipes of Pan. The.s Police Your Planet.n 53.

FF May'52 U Aug' 39, C1 ASF Nov 39

ASF Dec'38, C1, AA7, AB13

U Dec'41, C1 DSF Dec'52

AS 18, NW Jun'54

OW May'51 FF May/Jun'50 FU Jun'55

ASF Jan'52, AO1 ASF Aug'45, AL1, AR1

ASF Oct'44, AY1

FF Mar'51

MS Feb'51, 'The Old Order' AS10

SSF Jul'53 FU Sep'54

ASF Aug'39, C1, AY1

ASF Oct 42

J3

FF May'51

Argosy '51, AT11 SSF Sep'522, ASFs \$142

ASF Jun'42

ASF Sep'42, C1, AA1

FA Sep'45 ASF Aug'52 If Jun'54

see The Last Spaceman

00 Jul'50 ASF May 451 GS Aug'51 ASF Nov'49, AA4

U May 40, A03 sr4SFA Mar'532

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

20

SSF May'52 ASF Apr'40 Reincarnate.nv 56. Renegade. The.s 57.

AUTHOR

Rocket Jockey.n Rocket Pilot.n

Rocket to Nowhere.n 59. Shadows of Empire.s 60. Smallest God. The.nv 61.

32. Stability.s Stacked Deck.s 63.

Stars Look Down. The.nv 64.

Step to the Stars.n-65.

66. Superstition.nv

Though Dreamers Die.s

Though Poppies Grow.nv 68. Uneasy Lies the Head.s 69.

70. Unreasonable Facsimile.s

Unto Him That Hath.nv 71. When the World Tottered.n

Whom the Gods Love.s 73.

Wind Between the Worlds, The.nv GS Mar'51, AA8 74.

Wings of Night, The.s 75. 'Years Draw Nigh. The'. s 76.

AS19, MY Sep'54

J41 (Br.Ed ROCKET PILOT)

ETHERLINE

see ROCKET JOCKEY

.751

STORY LISTING

MF Jul/Aug'50 ASF Jan' 40 VSF ≠ 1 AS Nov'52

ASF Aug'40, C1

J6

ASF Aug'54

ASF Feb 44. AR1 U Aug'42

TS Spr'51 FF Jul'52 SSF Nov'52 FA Dec'50

ASF Jun'43

ASF Mar'42, C1, AB16

ASF Oct'51. AB1

Next Author : Philip K. Dick



lobal Toundup

Upcoming from Weidenfeld & Nicholson in January are cheap editions of FOUNDATION by Asimov, INVADERS OF EARTH edited by Conklin, SLAN by van Vogt, STRANGER FROM SPACE by Adair and Marriot, and PRIZE STORIES OF SPACE & TIME edited by Wollheim, all priced at 5/- stg (7/6 A).

Recently published items in the States include : ADDRESS CENTAURI by F. L. Wallace, from Gnome at \$3.00; . a reprint in FLATLAND by Edwin A. Abbott, from Dover at \$1.00 : FAR AND AWAY, a collection by Anthony Boucher, from Ballantine at 35c; NO WORLD OF THEIR OWN by Asimov and THE THOUSAND YEAR PLAN by Anderson, from Ace Double at 35c; NOT THIS AUGUST by C. Kornbluth from Doubleday at \$2.95; THE END OF ETERNITY by Asimov from Doubleday at \$2.95: ELEVATOR TO THE MOON by Stanley Widney from Wilcox & Follett at \$2.50; BEAST THAT WALKS LIKE MAN by Harold McCracken from Hanover at \$4.00: CARDS OF IDENTITY by Nigel Dennis from Vanguard at \$3.75; THE FLYING SAUCER CONSPIRACY by Donald Keyhoe from Holt at \$3.50; JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE by Lillian Everts from Farrar at \$3.00: LONG TOMORROW by Leigh Brackett from Doubleday at \$2.95; MARS by Franklyn M. Branley from Crowell at \$2.50; THE MIGHTY ATOM by John Lewellen from Knopf at \$2.00; THE TUNNEL IN THE SKY by Robert Heinlein from Scribners at \$2.50: THE ROCKET MAN by Lee Correy from Holt at \$2.75; RACES AND PEOPLE by Asimov and Boyd from Abelard Schumann at \$2.75; SCIENCE FICTION MUTATIONS edited Conklin from Vanguard at \$3.75: SCREAMING GHOST

ETHERLINE

ETHERLINE

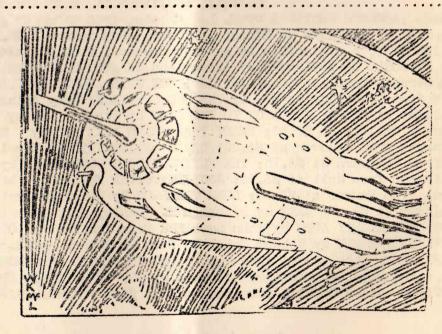
and other stories by Carl Carmer from Knopf at \$3.00.

......

Larry T. Shaw, will issue a new SF magazine titled INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION, digest, 128 pages, 35c, first issue due out November. Schedule will be bi-monthly.

OTHER WORLDS, Ray Palmer's undernourished farragazine, will go pulp size commencing with the November issue . Of 96 pages, trimmed edges and costing 35s, it will feature full colour front and back covers.

The 30th Anniversary issue of AMAZING STORIES will contain in the digest format 260 pages, due to come out on a dateline of April 1956. Price will be 50c. Should be a bit hard to open!



2000 Reviews

BORN LEADER by J. T. McIntosh, published by Museum Press at 12/-

This story concerns two 'last' flights from a doomed planet Earth. The Democrats land on Mundis, and relew the youth-age conflict, the militarists land on Secundis. and continue a military government set-up. The Secundians land on Mundis in expectation of an easy conquest, but are finally absorbed. Good writing, a smooth plot, of high believability, and well worth reading.

Bob McCubbin

THE MINDWORM by C. M. Kornbluth, published by Michael Joseph at 15/6.

The titles included are GOMEZ, (worth the price of the book alone), THE MINDWORM, THE ROCKET OF 1955, THE ALTAR AT MIDNIGHT, THIRTEIN O'CLOCK, THE GOODLY CREAT-URES, FRIEND TO MAN, WITH THESE HANDS and THAT SHARE OF GLORY.

Most of these have appeared in the top magazines in the past, an earnest of their quality. This anthology is worthy of a place on anyone's shelves.

Recommended.

Bob McCubbin

All books reviewed in this section were proof copies by kind favour of the various publishers.

THE CHRYSALIDS by John Wyndham, published by Michael Joseph at 15/6

This latest effort by the author of THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is a powerful piece of writing. Scattered remnants of civilization are left after the final atomic war. Normalcy is a religion, mutations are purged by fire, whether human, animal, or vegetable. But - what about mental mutations?

A group of telepaths, hounded down by their own relations, finally find sanctuary with an organized community of telepaths - the new race. This is another of the Joseph winners, and available at McGills at 15/6.

Highly recommended.

Bob McCubbin.

A PRIVATE VOLCANO by Lance Sieveking, published by Ward Lock at 12/-

Hilary Barrington and Martin Kade go treasure hunting on the Ladrones. A volcano crupts on their island, throwing up a catalyst that converts metal to gold. Barrington is after worldly position, Kade links up pro-Peace Youth Movements, and then outlaws war by sabotaging all war weapons with his catalyst.

The resulting economic and industrial upheaval is dismissed casually in three paragraphs. To my mind, the book is a juvenile adventure story, rather tame in the writing - the author missed his chance. Imagine the possibilities - a world without and steel or iron, but with unlimited gold! You might like it --- I felt it was a waste of time.

Bob McCubbin

WHEN THE MOON DIED by Richard Savage, published by Ward Lock & Co at 12/-.

In the far future, a man named Karsh becomes possessed of a crystal which will convert an interpreter machine into a time recorder. He records history which showed that scie-

ntists had prevented a world war by detonating the moon. After this demonstration of power, the scientists take over the world government, and produce the regimented economy under which Karsh lives. The numbers in the various social classes are regulated by deep freezing, pre-frontal lobotomy orsome other form of conditioning. Karsh sees in Xonos an instrument to break the power of the scientists by fomenting a world revellion. A power hungry police chief tries to get in first, and isolate Karsh and Xonos. To this point, the story is plausible, but Karsh then tries to overthrow a police state by the aid of swarms of newly awakened, untrained, Sleepers. However, the weak ending does not detract greatly from the interest of the book.

Recommended.

Bob McCubbin

LEST DARNAESS FALLS by L. Sprague de Camp, published by William Heinemann Ltd. at 12/-

This truly wacky fantasy is, in my opinion, the best book to come from UK publishers this year. de Camp has really let himself go in this one, and the adventures of Martin Padway, a 20th Century man transported to the time of Ancient Rome, makes for delightful reading.

There are no profound scientific postulations, dreary pessimistic observations on the way the world is heading in this, but pure entertainment from start to finish.

Definitely highly recommended.

Ian J. Crozier

Arrived in Melbourne, but a bit too late for review were CALAXY 30, containing the 1st part of the new serial, PREFERRED RISK by Edson McCann, and NEW WORLDS, No. 40. A nice cover on the latter. Reviews next issue.



THE ACTIFAN. June 1955

This emanates from M. Lubin, 14 Jones St., Worcester, Mass. Carefully drawn cover, with interior illos, Juanita, Dennis, Bob and Maurice (not bad either !).. Columns by yours truly, Segal, Lubin, Murphy, and Gordon are balanced by a fair cartoon folio drawn by Lubin. The duplicating is still imp-roving, but I like my way of spelling 'feud'. Of course, I'll admit that I'm old-fashioned with regard to spelling and syntax. However, this is a good effort.

Bob McCubbin

THE NEW FUTURIAN 5 from J. M. Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Leeds 7 U.K. at 9d or 15c. The amount of material that John Michael can lay his hands on, and the consistent quality, astounds me ! I appreciated the subtly (?) gibe at Arthur Clarke in the cartoon on page 8. I note that Thyril Ladd, like me, thinks that Hodgson did write some topnotch weird stuff - why no mention of Carnacki D.C.O. Cargunka? This issue is rather nostalgic in tone, though Graham B. Stone, as ever, casts a mean stone at fandom in general. Oh well, casting somes may be the only exercise that G.B.S. (Jnr.) gets. A likeable fanmag and well worth the money. Bob McCubbin



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