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FUTURIAN.

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# FUTURIAN



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# W A N T E D !

## A B r i t i s h F a n d o m .

Dear Friends, - across the great Atlantic a movement (that's about the only polite name) made its appearance some 15 years ago. The object behind it was to appreciate science fantasy; in fact to revel in the stuff. Its devotees (fans they call themselves) read volumes of it, write lots of letters about it and some even publish their own little idolatrous magazines.

Then, even in England some far seeing and super intelligent individuals began to show interest. Some wrote to the magazines; some went so far as to send stories of their own concoction. Later still the British fans started to get together and things looked as though they might begin to happen.

Now there are two (2) professional magazines appearing at mystic and esoteric intervals. Moreover, there are fan mags., you are holding one at the moment.

But where are the supporters? Take away some half a dozen names and see what is left! We want fan writers, fan subscribers, fan critics! List ye, O followers of this accursed cult. Take heed and hearken! Write unto us, for we hunger; yea even for YOU,

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We are always pleased to receive poems, short stories and articles connected with Fantasy: contributors get free copy of magazine, but no monetary reward.

Editor: J. Michael Rosenblum, 4 Grange Terrace,  
Leeds 7. England. Associates: H. Gottliffe, E. Moss

Cuts by J. V. Taurasi.

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## Fan Parade No. 3.

We have great pleasure in presenting the third in our series of introductions. Still moving northwards here is a brief self - portrait of one of Britain's foremost Sciencefictional Bibliophiles.

BERT LEWIS

Carthoris, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs.

Born: 7th May 1906. Don't remember much about it, was very young and irresponsible at the time, (not so young now, but still very irresponsible!) Educated in the potteries, 'graduated' to Preston at the age of 13, still graduating (very slowly).

First found Fantasy in childhood, favourite tale was 'Tim Pippin in Giantland' (Boy! How he slew 'em).

Still believe in Fairies - but they usually wear clogs.

Employment: 'Telegraph Maintenance', Post Office Engineering Department.

Pet Likes: Science fiction and weird fiction, Flower-gardening, Music (Symphony to Swing), I am a guitarist myself!

Pet Dislikes: Crooners, cadgers, shellfish & Pacifism

Hobbies; Music and collecting s.f. and w.f. - of course!

Favourite Authors; Cox, Hope - Hodgson, A. Merritt and Edgar Rice Burroughs.

Favourite Books 'Out of the Silence'  
'The Ghost Pirates'

Ambitions; To make good in Life.

To read all my collection - present and future - at least twice.

# How Professionals write Stf.

Elucidated by ALAN ROBERTS

We are extremely pleased to welcome this young Australian to our pages, and also hope that others who may hold views on this topic will let us know.

What is the best fantasy story written by a non-fantasy author? Should you have any acquaintance with such yarns, you will know that most of them are hack work of an unmentionable quality; but there are a number which could easily be accepted by the Big Three.

Balmer and Wylie, in my opinion and, I think, of most fans; are the best writers appearing in Blue Book. Their 'Collide' stories stressed the human element very well indeed, and were perfect in style and development though the final anti-Soviet propaganda was in bad taste.

Science-fiction was used for propaganda purposes in Argosy recently: 'Invasion of America' by Frederick C. Painton being the story. The horrors of Fascism are luridly described, with a lack of restraint that comes close to melodrama.

Max Brand has, of course, written S. F., for he has authored detective, romantic, western, gangster and all other forms of fiction; but his entire S.F. production so far has been a short story called 'Fifteen Hundred Million' in the July, Aug. issue of All-American Fiction. And I hereby nominate that six page yarn as one of the best ten, no five, s.f. yarns in a non s.f. magazine. It clicks!

Joel Rodgers, another example of versatility, committed a thing called 'Beyond Space & Time' in the same magazine (Feb. 38). Read it if you can stand the

...don't laugh too loudly.

Cornell Woolrich and H. Bedford Jones have had weird tales in the same magazine. The former span intricate thrillers around weird ideas, the latter wrote on a strange museum and told tales about its exhibits. Both were distinguished by excellent writing, and indeed were thoroughly enjoyable.

'Thriller' writers have made some unfortunate attempts at science fiction. Edgar Wallace made a mistake in 'Planetoid 127', Seamark erred with 'The Avenging Ray' and Sapper perpetrated a Bulldog Drummond story with poison - gas trimmings. The latter, however, also a yarn entitled 'One Second' which amply compensates for the shortcomings of his other work.

And then there is Wonder Stories 'Waltz of Death'. It was good because P. B. Maxon did not allow science to ruin the story, as he might easily have done.

Arthur Guy Empey must plead guilty of writing 'O'Learys War Birds'. The shortlived Terence X. puts Howards Conan in the shade; at a rough calculation he slew at least 200 Purple Warriors in the opening pages of the June 35 issue. Flash Gordon has nothing on him!

However, I have no hesitation at all in naming the author who, in my opinion, is the best of the brigade. He is George Bruce; and if you have not read 'It May be Tomorrow' and 'Scream of the Condor', you sure have missed something! If you possess any regard for characterization, assured writing, drama, plausibility & realism, then beg, borrow or steal these stories.

And will dissenters please step forward?

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## 'Which We Shall Never Know'

There may be a fairy in yonder wood,  
Deep in an ivied dell,  
Guarding a burning treasure of gold  
Whose wealth no tongue can tell.  
And she may be fairer than roses, -  
Her lips may be redder than roses, -  
And the gown which herself encloses  
Be greener than leaves in the dell,  
Alas, we cannot tell.

There may be a wealth of wonder  
In the years that the earth must see,  
The ripple of words and the thunder  
Of the battles yet to be.  
But though we may think and wonder -  
We poets must picture and wonder -  
And though our words are the thunder  
Of an angry and beautiful sea;  
Alas, we may not see.

. . . . .

There may be a god in the vastness,  
Whose hands are turned to us,  
Far out in eternal silence  
He may watch over us.  
But all that we see is the wreckage,  
The ruin of beauty and love,  
And all that we know is the black despair  
Of meaningless space above,  
And death, waiting for us . . . . .

C. S. YOUNG

# A Dissertation On Utopias

by J. MICHAEL ROSENBLUM (Cont.)

So far we have discoursed somewhat restrictedly on the various Utopias propounded previous to our present era and now we stand at the threshold of the 20th century and gaze upon the bigger and better - but oh! so similar - plans which progress has brought forth

Round about this time, ideas were being produced in wholesale quantities by an English schoolmaster called Herbert George Wells. All science fiction devotees are familiar in some detail with his books, both fantasy and sociological, so it is hardly necessary to elucidate them or say what magnificently conceived works they are.

Another great literary figure showed us his views on reforming mankind when G. B. Shaw gave us 'Back To Methuselah'. Perhaps this is not intended to be taken seriously, but the wild Irishman can be left out of anything.

Another work that I cannot feel is really serious is 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley; which with its hideous cacophony of sex misplaced efficiency and sex is a caricature of possible results of some present tendencies.

But on more serious grounds, there is a representative array of the genius of modern thinkers. Olaf Stapledon has his world of the Last Men on Neptune provocatively glimpsed through the veils of time, a world where man has conquered his environment only to be beaten finally by the awful vastness, yet still hoping . . . Opposed in many ways is 'The Lost Children' by H. H. Chilton, a quiet little tale where we have a naturalist agrarian civilisation, perfect sociologically but purposely rudimentary in mechanical advance. A similar sort of society is envis-



aged by W. H. Hudson in 'Crystal Age' but one simple rather because of knowledge than of innocence.

Michael Arlen finds some flaws in his future world in 'Mans Mortality', but the work is still a brave hope. Both 'Wide White Page' - Cunningham & 'And a New Earth' - Jacomb deal with attempts at a deliberately conceived new order starting from a nucleus of the chosen. And Ella Scrymeour has to destroy the earth and reach Jupiter before her characters find 'The Perfect World', which however does not seem quite so perfect to me.

I do not intend, indeed could not, deal in anything like adequate measure, with the prolific outpourings of Yankee ingenuity produced in the various magazines; which may appertain to my theme. But I ought to pick one representative from across the Atlantic, and have chosen Garret Smiths idea of Venus in 'Between Worlds' where there is no compulsion and all are super-civilised. From France comes a curious work, 'Underground Man' by Gabriel Tarde where mankind, burrowing to escape a forthcoming ice - age, produces a life of artistry and amour in caverns beneath the earth with nothing more solid to make it a little fuller.

Here endeth my brief survey of possible worlds, but in reality the subject is far deeper than this article can do justice to. So please don't write and tell me that I have missed some books, for I know that is true; but the ones that are included are those that first sprang to my mind. Nor have I included the numerous 'last survivor(s) in a destroyed world' stories for they deserve an article to themselves as they are only on the fringes of this one.

T h e E n d

# Americanews

As Sent By **FREDERIK POHL.**

The Futurian Society of New York, mentioned in my previous column, is now blossoming forth as a fullfledged international organisation with the formation of the Futurian Federation of the World. It will publish a fortnightly news-magazine called 'The Futurian Review', first issue appearing on April 7th. . . . There are now seven regular Science fiction magazines in the United States, with persistently recurring rumors that two more will appear soon. This, along with the British ones, & also the new French magazine, marks an all-time high in science fiction. The caliber of most of the magazines is surprisingly high, too; new authors seem to spring from every crevice to fill their pages. There has also been an up-turn in the collateral semi-stf. and fantasy field with the appearance of UNKNOWN STRANGE STORIES, and a few others . . . . The First World Science Fiction Convention has been finally fixed for the first four days of July. D. A. Wolheim may assert his right as chairman of the original committee, to call a special fan conclave about that time. No such purely fan gathering has so far been announced and it is felt that one should certainly be included . . . . It might be a narcissistic gesture, but to insure that no scoops are scored on me I take the opportunity of announcing through this column the forthcoming nuptials of myself and Leslie Perri, science fiction artist and one of the very few female fans extant. The glad event will occur the 11th May, 1939. (Please omit flowers.)



# Fan Gossip

Collated and reccounted by  
WATT A. NOALL



Congratulations go to our energetic Director, Mr. Gottliffe on the publication of a number of his poems by a London firm . . . . we hear that two new British fan mags. may appear shortly; one entitled 'Macabre', and devoted to weird fantasy from Edinburgh, and the other from the wilds of Hants . . . . Vernon W. Harry, ex-Los Angeles fan, after globe trotting for some time, has settled down in Bremerton, Washington . . . near him is Henry Hasse, late of Indianapolis. . They may both return to active fandom in the near future . . . . latest news of the world stf. convention is that the old stf. film 'Metropolis' will be shown to the assembled hordes - we seem to have heard of the idea before, in fact we seem to remember the film being shown to fans in Liverpool, London, Leeds, Preston and Manchester . . . . so far some six special convention publications have been announced . . . the Los Angeles SFL plan to show films in aid of club funds . . . the latest B.I.S. Journal has apparently stirred the news - hounds up somewhat, quite a few magazines and newspapers have devoted columns to the society and its aims . . . . The Bizarre Series are considering reprinting A. Merritts famous novel, 'The Moon Pool' . . . . for the edification of those fans who have written to ask us, and also for anyone else at all interested, we have no connection with the Futurian Society of New York; apart from the usual friendly (we hope) relations.

## Book News

Once again we have pleasure in reording quite a number of Fantasy books published in this country; they include - The Hopkins Manuscript R. C. Sherriff

This gifted author gives us the story of the return of the moon to its parent earth, as contained in a journal, found amid the ruins of London by exploring Abyssinian scientists of a thousand years hence. Gollanz. 7s. 6d.

Over the Mountain Ruthven Todd

The young hero wanders over the hills in the style of Butlers 'Erewhon' to find a fantasy state and also to leave the reader wondering if it is really real. Harrap. 7s. 6d.

The Hand of Kornelius Voyt Oliver Onions  
Domination mentally by a deaf-mute scientist of a boy so that the whole personality is transferred. Hamilton. 7s 6d.

Three Men Make a World Andrew Marvell  
the successor to 'Minimum Man' deals with three men who, by the application of a new discovery, change this entire world of ours. Gollanz. 7s. 6d.

Films of Time H. W. Nevinson  
12 fantasies in which the author rolls back the film reels of the past and identifies himself with historical characters and situations. Routledge. 10s. 5d.

And still they come - three new sixpenny reprint books just out are 'Back to Methuselah', G. B. Shaw; & 'Can Such Things Be', Ambrose Bierce (Penguin Books) and 'The Devil Rides Out', D. Wheatly (Hutchinson).

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if you will, but why look backward? Rather let us all try to work for a more united fan field, and watch scientific fiction soar to as yet undreamed-of heights!

# DON'T Look Back!

Says **HARRY WARNER Jr**

Fans, it seems, are wont to bemoan the fact that the 'good old days' have gone for ever. Perhaps they have some grounds for so doing, But I believe that, if facts are squarely faced, these fans would find that today stf. is more healthy and prosperous than ever before.

Just what, from the older days, is to be desired? In the last three years the shining haze of misty glory has been pretty well dissipated from the brow of Gernsback, and he has been shown in his true light. Fans - myself included - have at last realised that O'Connor Sloane was much too old a man to edit a stf. magazine; and similarly, almost every yearned for thing of the past becomes rather tinny under the cold light of day. The same is true of fan activities; there were every bit as many petty squabbles five years ago as now, in proportion to the number of fans then active.

Of course, stf. has its faults today. There are too many magazines being published - but I contend that there is just as much good stf. being written now as before; only it is lost among the poorer stories. Fandom is looking up rapidly. Professional magazines have at last acknowledged the existence of fans and their efforts. Such organisations as New Fandom, the FAPA, and Cosmic Publications, and numerous others just as fine, have come into being. The Science Fiction League may have lost some prestige - but what actual good did it ever do? There are today less than half a dozen active chapters, but these are more active than the entire league several years ago! On all sides new and fine fan mags. are popping up. Collect old magazines

( Continued on opposite page )

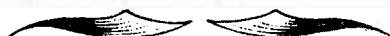
SCIENCE FICTION RARITIES ; or our  
MUSEUM CORNER

'Up Above'

by John N. Raphael

- being a record of the doings of the 'Shadow People' in the year of grace 1915, as recorded by witnesses & more especially by John Rawlinson, confidential secretary to Professor Henry Tellurin of the Meteorological Institute. The book was written in nineteen thirteen and based on an idea in 'Le Peril Bleu' by Maurice Renard. It is surprisingly mature science fiction, with a fully developed central theme and scientifically reasonably plausible. Beings above the atmosphere trawl our world and place their discoveries in a museum situate in the stratosphere finally developing a 'subaerine' which threatens London and which is destroyed by the usual intrepid scientist.

Jemini.



'SPACEWAYS' is definitely the leader of its class, and probably the best all-round American fan mag. Its list of contributors reads like fandom's Who's Who! 24 large size, well mimeoed pages; stories, articles and reviews! Priced at 10 cents an issue or three for 25 cents. Editor H. Warner Jr., 311 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Md., U.S.

If you want to keep 'au fait' with the fantasy world, then you cannot do better than subscribe to the weekly Stf. paper FANTASY NEWS, and learn what is happening while it is still news. 3 issues - 10 cents, Britain, - 6 for one shilling, or trade for British stf.. From J. V. Taurasi 137-07 32nd. Avenue, Flushing, New York, U. S. A..

# Argumentative?

In our short life we have at times felt the necessity for some sort of readers forum. Therefore we inaugurate this feature, in which we intend to print the suggestions made concerning our magazine; criticisms re past issues; and any disagreements with the articles etc.. We must, however, ask all who write to be as brief as possible.

Thanks for your copy of the Futurian. I always find these literary children most interesting, because it shows the hopes of our young men and women concerning the future . D.H.Keller, Stroudsburg, Pa. . . . . More suggestions: run a series like Madge's 'Ressurrection'. Review such books as 'Station X' 'Honeymoon in Space' 'Moonpool' . have a service dept. for questions - print them so that your readers can answer them . A. Roberts, Brisbane . . . . F., by the bye, is improving rapidly. About all that it needs now is an informal discussion column, along the lines of the late lamented Imagination . F.Pohl, Brooklyn . . . . I havn't yet congratulated you on the last issue, its very good indeed, & if you'll tell me what to contribute I will contribute something if you still want material . Sidney L. Birchly, London. (It is always very welcome - Editor)

## HAVE YOU MET SALLY?

- 'The Satellite', the brightest of all fanmags. Recent contributors include Wm. F. Temple, Leslie J. Johnson E. C. Williams, M. K. Hanson & Co.. Price, 1s.6d. for six months (40 cents) postfree. Published monthly at 57 Beauchair Drive, Liverpool 15, England.

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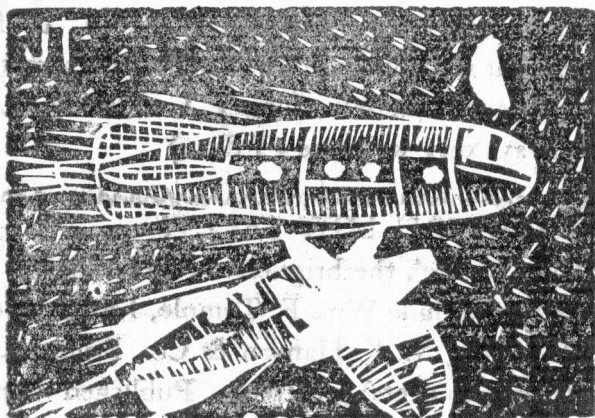
This space will be available to all members of the Leeds S.F.L. for any reasonable announcements etc. Requests for any information appertaining to science fiction will also be dealt with here.

Corresponding members may obtain supplies of the society's notepaper on application to headquarters. Price is 4d. for 25, or 6d. for 50 sheets, postfree.

Alan P. Roberts would like to hear from would-be fantasy writers anywhere. Address is 67 Thistle Street, Lutwyche N3, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Anyone intirested in the 'Futurian Federation' is asked to get into touch with Fred Pohl, at 280 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A..

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Leslie Perri and Fred Pohl on the occasion of their marriage, and we wish the happy couple all the best in their future life.



F I N I S



