

No. 5
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THE FUTURIAN.

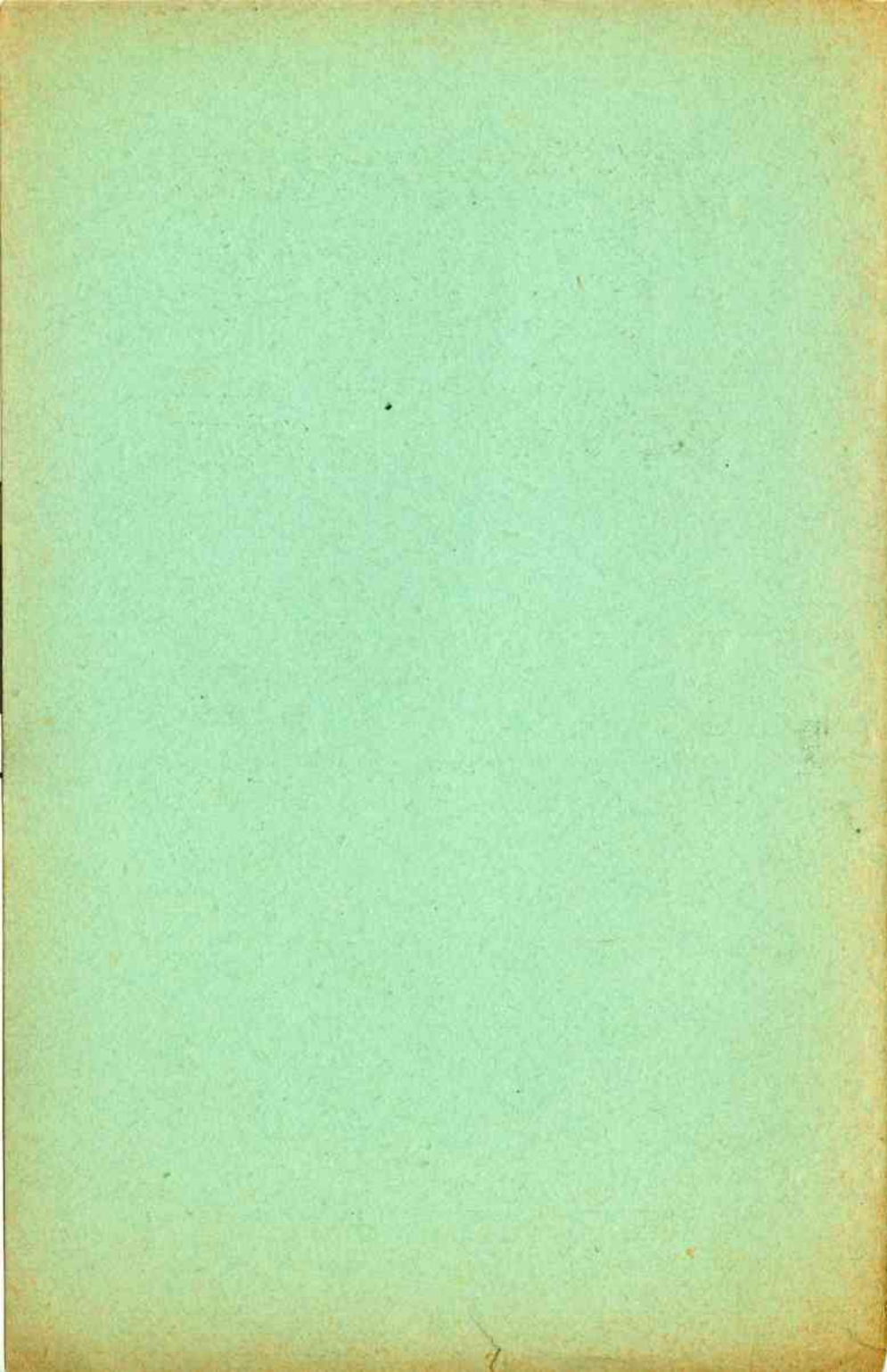
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A GREEN JESTER PUBLICATION





THE FUTURIAN

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VOL. 2 S U M M E R 1939 NO. 5

An Amateur Magazine Published Quarterly
 Subscription rates are 4d. per copy, postfree, four issues
 for one shilling. In America 10 & 30 cents respectively.
 Reciprocal exchange with similar publications welcome.

A Banner With A Strange Device!

- Excelsior, the poet claimed it to be, and another version says that it was Upidee. But there must be many banners borne onward 'amid the snow and ice', banners of progress, passing beyond the indifference of the common run of mankind.

And we too, carry a banner. It is labelled Fantasy, science fiction, futurist fiction, or some other variation on the same theme. We too try to blaze a trail and light a path leading onwards - ever onwards . .

For we don't like this world of today very much. Some of us only wish to escape to a realm of faery, back to the days when the world was young and anything was possible, or even to enter into a horrid fantasy - to escape with the sweat of fear bedewing the brow.

Yet there are many who see in fantasy a brave new world - who live in thought, as their grandchildren may do in reality. There are those who wish to fight the fight of the coming pioneers - in space, in the ultra small, in the newer potentialities of mankind.

There is enough room for all; for there must be a great common denominator cutting us off from (dare we say it?) the more stupid masses of mankind, who dare not let themselves adventure into fantasy.

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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. Gattiffe and E. Moss. Cuts by J. V. Taurasi.

Printed by the Green Jester Press

## Ballade des Gens du Voyage

The sea stopped us time after time,

A barrier of spray,

It barred us from a warmer clime

And ordered us to stay.

But mankind has another way

To order his campaign -

Our ships sail eastwards to Bombay . . . .

Dreamers may rest again.

The air, our challenger sublime,

Bid welcome to the fray;

We laughed at all his pantomime,

For dreams know no dismay.

Some set to work, and some to pray

And neither were quite sane,

Our planes soar high and there they stay . . . .

Dreamers may rest again.

The stars topped mankind's upwards climb,

We toiled with flame and ray;

A challenged world - race in its prime,

It's dreams could find a way

To storm that glittering array.

We stand on Vegas plain

Our space-ships everywhere hold sway ---

Dreamers may rest again.

### ENVOI

Prince, we have left Earth far away,

For conquest has its pain;

Now at last we are home to stay,

Dreamers may rest again.

HAROLD GOTTLIFEE

# Pathetic Fallacies

BY

JOHN F. BURKE

I realise that in writing this article I am running the risk of being accused of trying to raise a commotion by vulgar sensationalism, but with my usual fearlessness I shall say what I have to say, and that is - wake up and shatter some of your illusions!

Science fiction fans claim to be a shade higher intellectually than most mortals, judging by their writings, yet they have more illusions and superstitions about their beloved literature (?) than any other species of lunatic.

The first story you have read always lingers, doesn't it - and everyone is inclined to worship that first introduction to the realms of science-fiction above all else. Hence the popularity of a certain 'Skylark of Space', which, had it been written today as a new story under a name that we knew not, would have been panned as it fully deserved to be. But that story was for many people one of the first fantasy tales they read in American magazines, and since then it has been set on a pedestal apart from all the rest, when the most common or garden writer could turn out equal quality which would be ignored by prejudiced masses.

Then again, who says Weinbaum was a genius? A little reflection and study of his work will show that he was headed for a career of hack writing if ever a man was; had he been alive today he would have joined the 'turn it out by the yard' brigade. In fact, just before his death he was really entering that phase, and only his decease ensured his immortality in the Halls of Stf. fame.

What about Paul? A superb atmosphere creator,

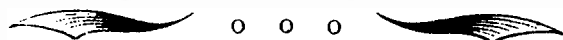
granted, but hardly an artist in the true sense of the word. As an artist he could not compare with Fin'ay, Dold, or even Wesso, bad as the latter is. Yet because he illustrated the first magazines you ever read . . . Remember Jack Darrow? Yes, we mean you, Mr. Darrow - writing to every magazine, time after time, demanding Paul, so that we came to look out for your letters clamouring for that gentleman. You didn't really want Paul - you just had a curious feeling that you ought to want him, that it was the right thing to do.

Let's break up the illusion that science fiction is anything more than entertainment, with possibly a mind-broadening influence on some people. I said some people; very few, alas! You claim that science fiction makes one more broadminded, more willing to visualise the marvels of the future, and makes one less dogmatic. Yet the most dogmatic of all individuals are those professed fans who write long letters to editors when some scientific 'law' is contravened by some author with a little more imagination than a potato, who realises that his job is to construct an interesting story, not to write a little summary of a scientific textbook which will probably be proved inaccurate in the next decade or so.

You know, when one comes to think of it, there are a lot of things about this science fiction business needing debunking. What about the overwhelming conceit of some fans . . . fans who mean nothing to the world at large, but work off their repressed ego by making a big name for themselves among a small circle of idiots who like to think they're engaged in the pursuit of something rather exclusive, something new. These fans babble about

'making the world better', fight furious feuds in columns devoted to their ravings in professional magazines over peculiar societies they have formed, and talk about one another in the manner of one mighty dictator declaring war on another.

Wake up - look what a mess fandom is in, scattered with conceited egotists and political fanatics. Do something - but for heaven's sake don't do it too enthusiastically, or you will become like one of the rest of the lunatics - like me.



#### Some Queer Books -

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| The Afterlife         | L. Burns         |
| Dangerous Experiments | Don Trisket      |
| Writing for Magazines | I. N. Devor      |
| Astronomy             | U. C. Starrs     |
| Falling through Space | Eileen Dover     |
| Cannibal Island       | Henrietta Mann   |
| Rocket Experiments    | Willie Getbetter |
| Looking Forward       | D. Reemer        |



A new venture in fandom will start in August with the publication of the first number of "Macabre"; the bi-monthly review of weird fiction'. This magazine will attempt a rather higher standard than is usual, will be priced at 4d., and can be obtained from J. Rathbone, 24 Heriot Place, Edinburgh 3, Scotland.



RALPH MILNE FARLEY

## ' Love For A Robot '

( written especially for The Futurian )

War! War! Our country was at war. Democracy must be protected at any cost -- even at the cost of sacrificing Democracy itself.

And so our beneficent dictator decreed that all robots must be turned in, to be turned into fighting men.

Now, in our city there lived a nice old lady named Sophronisba Gaunt. She lived alone with one robot servant, whom she had had since the day when he came fresh from the factory of the Homoid Corporation on Beaver Island. She had trained him from the start - - everything he knew, she had taught him. She loved him with that same deep mother-love which she would have bestowed upon a human son.

And so, she determined to defy the dictator. Her robot boy should not be scrapped, for conversion into a fighter.

She did not raise her boy to be a soldier!

T h e E n d

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## B o o k N e w s

We have been fortunate in persuading Mr. Bert Lewis to deal with this department from now on.

Here we present his first article.

Science fiction has not predominated in the recent publications, only two of note are available to date.

'The Man in Steel' by J. Storer Clouston (Jarrolds 7s6d.)

This author is not new to fantasy as most of you will be

aware. In this book he gives us a taste of time - travel. The subject is a Scottish clergyman. Suspecting his wife of flirting with the local doctor, he leaves his manse - vicarage to you. In his walk along the country lane he sees a strange flower, stoops to pluck it and is instantly transported in time to the age of the Vikings. The book deals with his adventures amongst them.

'The Demigods' by A. G. Bennett is the only other book of recent date. It concerns a race of giant ants in the heart of Africa, but so intelligent that they have conquered space travel, even to colonising Mars and Venus. Their plan to subjugate the earth is foiled by an American scientist, the foiling making a ripping stf. yarn. (Jarrolds 8s. 6d.) Two books were published late last year which very few seem to have heard of. Just in case you may be interested here they are; 'The Machinations of Dr. Grue' by H.M. Raleigh, described as an imaginative romance based on a new and deadly invention called XZ99 (Bles 7s. 6d.) The other is 'Already Walks Tomorrow' by A. G. Street (Faber 8s. 6d.)

FLASH! News has just arrived from America of the long awaited 'omnibus' volume of H. P. Lovecrafts works. The title is to be 'The Outsider and others', publication is expected early in December at 5 dollars; but if ordered and paid for previously \$ 3. 50. The volume contains, with but a few minor exceptions, all the stories of Lovecraft, together with his complete and recently - revised 'Supernatural Horror in Literature and an introductory biographical sketch of Lovecraft. This book will be worth every cent of the money, especially to collectors. Further particulars can be obtained from myself or this magazine.

# R e m i n i s c e n c e s

More Memories From JULIUS UNCLIR

It was after the dissection of the 'Scienceers' in late 1929, and as a result of the disappointment thereof, that my interest in scientifiction activities began to wane. Altho' I followed the doings of the various fan clubs that spread in the next few years, from the original Scienceers, by paying desultory visits to some of their headquarters; it was never with the same relish or thrilling excitement that such a meeting used to produce. I can still (after 10 years) remember the excited hubbub and delirious discussions that permeated through our every meeting. We used to meet each Saturday night; not once a month as they do now. There were always thirty or more fans down to each and every meeting. I can still remember the names of some of our members, some are still active in scientifiction whilst others have dropped by the wayside. There was Nathan Greenfeld, Allan Glasser, Mortimer Weisinger, Isidore Margou, Maurice Z. Ingher and James Fitzgerald - our president. Weisinger today is editor of Thrilling Wonder and Startling, Ingher became editor of 'The Time Traveller', one of the earliest fan magazines ever put out, Fitzgerald became an active member of The American Interplanetary Society, Glasser lost his good name by some shady deals: and God alone knows what became of the other twenty-five members, as I have tried for years to contact them with no success.

This period of indifference, on my part towards fan activity in scientifiction, lasted for exactly a decade. What jolted me out of my lassitude I must leave for a future issue.

## 'Tales of Wonder' & Reprints

- being an interview by our roving reporter with Walter H. Gillings, of Ilford, prominent fan; also instigator and editor of 'Tales Of Wonder', Britains first scientifiction magazine. He was tackled on the question of reprints and here is an authoritative answer to the controversy still raging.

Question, Do you propose continuing reprints?

Ans, Yes, they are absolutely necessary and desirable.

Q, Why are they necessary?

A, Because there are insufficient new stories being turned out of the type we require.

Other magazines seem to get them - why can't you?

Because other magazines have not the same requirements as ours: we are trying to interest the ordinary reader as well as the science fiction fan; therefore, we must print stories of a type that can be appreciated by both sides. We find it difficult to get new stories to fill the bill, partly because there are so few authors to write them - and those that can, mostly seem to lack the inclination.

Oh!

Though, of course, we are managing to encourage an increasing number of new authors, who are enthusiastic enough to try and give me what we require. We have had Temple, Hall, Forster, Walsby & there are others to come along. But the number of stories which are suitable from every point of view are comparatively few.

Meanwhile, we have got to put up with reprints to fill

the gap?

I'm afraid so. I admit that it must be annoying to well-read fans to find that they have read many of our stories before, but they must remember that the vast majority of our readers - the ordinary readers whom we are trying to attract to science fiction - have never had the opportunity to do so. Nor, in fact have many of the fans who have been attracted to sciencefiction since these stories were first printed. And the simple fact is that those stories are admirably suited to both types of reader - so we are reprinting them, until we are able to get enough new stories to make these reprints unnecessary.

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SCIENCE FICTION RARITIES or our  
MUSEUM CORNER

The Great Stone of Sardis by Frank R. Stockton

Written in 1898 this is an American work, and more important, a fine example of early science fiction. Our hero is a young scientific genius, who not only makes possible a journey to the North Pole by submarine, the first to reach that desolate spot (remember when the book was written!), and the progress of which expedition is carefully narated; but who makes an astounding discovery about this world of ours. By means of a shaft 14 miles deep, produced by another wonderful invention, he finds that the centre of the earth is nothing more nor less than a huge diamond. Also a rather surprising theory on the origin of the earth is expressed! Plus a fearsome villain, a luvrly romance, and as choc-ful of incident as possible, this novel is a surprising experience to the most jaded fan.

## Fan Parade No. 4.

In order to answer some of those carping critics, who continually demand to know more of us in Leeds - the poor misguided saps - we managed to get Mr. Cohen into a quiet corner, and by judicious manipulation of a somewhat unwieldy bludgeon, prevailed on him to tell us of his dark and murky past. A rather condensed but printable version follows

### COHEN, BERNARD H.

Born: Yes, but definitely. The momentous event occurred on November 7th 1916, exactly one year before the editor (thus he had nothing to do with it at all).

Went through elementary and secondary school, where I graduated with honours in general misconduct.

Am now running my fathers business of hosiery factors for him (he doesn't seem to realise it, though.)

Have had no close contact with the police as yet, but expect my crimes will catch up with me someday.

Started reading science fiction about 1928 with novels from local libraries. Met the American brand in '32 Single but willing (Advt.)

Chief Hobbies: beer drinking, geography, pubcrawling, Egyptology and archeology generally - tombs and all that, bottle opening, astronomy, science fiction when more or less drunk (always, Ed.) and beer drinking.

Favourite authors: Wells, Stapledon,

Favourite book: 'Men Like Gods'

Character; quite good - perhaps!!!

Ambitions; Censored! Editor.

# Science Fiction -- And You !

BY JAMES RATHBONE

There is no doubt that science fiction has helped astronautics into the light of public notice. This is recognised by all of us who have seen some of the beginnings and can glimpse much of the outcome of science fiction in the future. But there is something about stf. that is significant, considering the seeming trend of modern human values - and this is, that the science fiction story is the integration of science and imagination - and that stf. is becoming more and more popular as the true value of science in relation to progress becomes more and more apparent. One result of the long struggle between truth and ignorance is the appearance of a remarkable series of books on education and sociology by one now famous in the ordinary world as a thinker and a writer - Mr. H. G. Wells. It is well-known that Mr. Wells wrote many of the stf. classics. What conclusions, then, are we to draw from the gradually accumulating data to support the contention that science fantasy is more important than we give it credit for?

Surely this; that in the ages to come, stf. will represent the most advanced form of aspirative thought; it will be a shining light to the research worker, a beacon to aid the space navigator. It will dispel the effect of those terrible days of doubt, when Man seems nothing and his hopes vain. And perhaps it will again, as it has done before, kindle a fire within the eager heart of some one thereafter designated 'genius' who will make the world wonder and humbly follow.

Surely that is an ideal every reader of science fiction

would wish his favourite literature to attain. To be both readable and imaginative - a little power in the world - a something instead of a nothing; yes it could be that, if the separate organisations came together, if the readers, the fans stopped growling over little arguments and agreed to work as one . . . . . What about you?

T h e E n d

## THE NOTICE BOARD.

This space is available to all members of the Leeds SFL for any reasonable announcements, queries, requests etc.

Miss Sybil Cowan, of 48 Gaythorne Terrace, Harehills, Leeds 8, would like penfriends about her own age (19) interested in films, dancing, sport, etc.

We are now able to publish somewhat longer articles etc. and following this policy our next issue will include an illustrated article on the B.I.S. rocket by A.C. Clarke and a short story by Leslie Crouch of Canada.

For Sale, Green Man of Kilsona - Festus Pragnell Invasion from the Air - McIlraith & Connolly, 50 cents each (2s.). I urn Witch Eurn - Merritt, 25 cents (1s.) all in new condition. Or would exchange for American sf. books by Taine, Kline Cummings etc.

J. M. Rosenblum, 4 Grange Terr., Leeds 7. England.

Have you got anything to put in this column?



# Fan Gossip

as heard by

U. Ortamakeanoteovit



We get worse with our 'orrible puns, don't we, but you must blame ye Ed, for this scorcher . . first item is to congratulate Bert Lewis, whom you ought to know by now, on the narrow escape his wife and he had, when returning from their holidays. Their coach was only saved from a 20ft. drop by a tree which it hit, and Bert himself suffered some nasty cuts . . . New York World's Fair Convention, we hear, went off in a blaze of glory as was only to be expected. About 200 fans attended. But what is this we hear about Wolheim and Co. being refused admission? This reflects very badly on someone, however unorthodox his views, he had every reason to come in. . . . Perhaps this kind of petty dictatorship helped lead to a rather derogatory account in the American 'Time' of the convention. Too bad! . . . . Roland Forster, fan from Hexham in Northumberland recently visited us in Leeds, or those of us who were here when he came . . . Watch out for stories by 'Michael North' in the pro-mags, and see if you can tell who the gentleman is, our info. says that he doesn't live 100 miles from Blackpool . . . Our editor looked in at Grays Inn Rd. menagerie on his recent visit to London, saw Messrs. Medhurst, Birchly, Clarke and Temple. A hilaricus evening was had by all . . . Apologies for the unavoidable absence of our readers section in this issue, due to Mr. Gottliffe's ill-health. We hope for better luck next time! And we had such a dandy lot of letters ready. Ah well (sigh!)

## SOME RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LEEDS S F L LIBRARY

The Scarlet Vampire                      Norah Burke  
after future war, rise and fall of east-European dictator

Impregnable City                      Max Pemberton  
an attempt at a strange utopia, which fails miserably.

Voyage to Purilia                      Elmer Rice  
satire on film world in form of visit to another planet.

Cassandra                      Reginald Berkeley  
man of today, in future life excavates site of London

Wild Harbour                      Ian Macpherson  
a young couple try to survive the next war, and fail.

The Moon Terror                      A. G. Birch  
the world is threatened by the moon doom, unless . . .

Beyond the Kim                      S. F. Wright  
discovery of survivors of puritan emigrants in antartic.

Go Home Unicorn                      Donald Macpherson  
experiments in biology have extremely astounding results

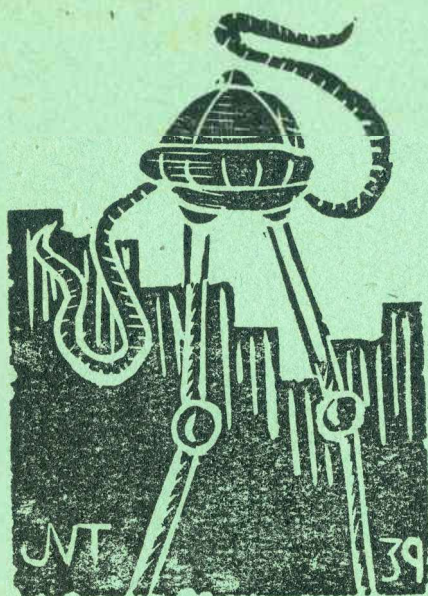
Harilek                      Ganpat  
Wrexham's Romance                      ..

well-written blood and thunder stories of an unknown  
land north of India.

Maza of the Moon                      O. A. Kline  
first visit to the moon, high adventure and love & so on

Loona, A Strange Tail                      Norman Walker  
queer adventures with mermaid with whom hero is in love

further details of these books will gladly be given  
to anyone interested, though we would appreciate the  
courtesy of a stamped, addressed envelope.



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'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.

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