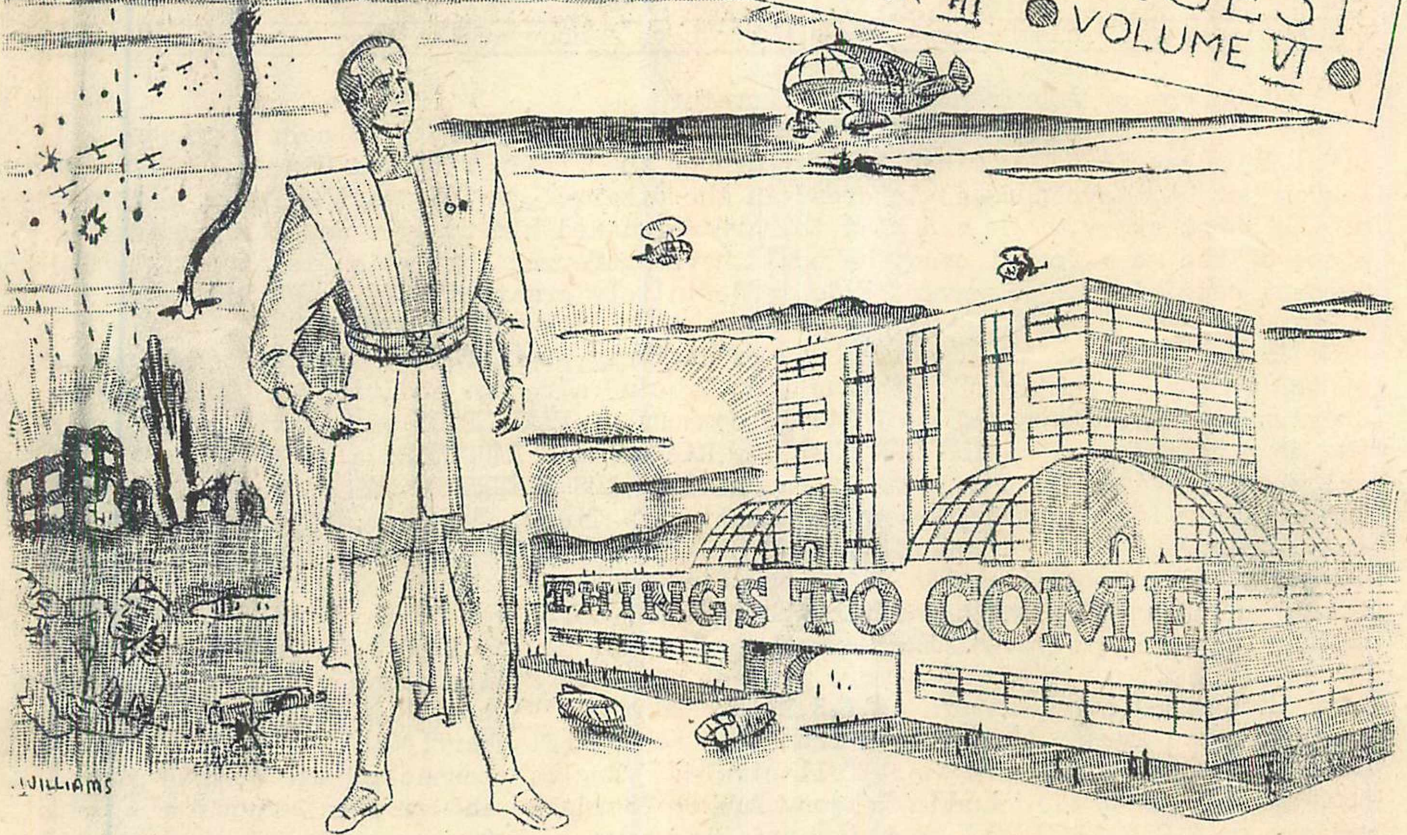


AUGUST 1944

# FUTURIAN

WAR  
NUMBER III • DIGEST  
VOLUME VI •



## FEDERATION'S ON AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL

Some while ago, when American fandom began to get involved in world war, a certain amount of thought was given to the disposal of some of the more noted collections of fantasy material, in the unhappy event of any fan failing to return. Notable was the Ackerman plan for a Science Fiction Institute, to be initially financed by an insurance policy on Ackerman's life. Just recently thoughts are again turning in the same direction with the probable demise of Paul Brechafer.

Whilst the same general long-range problem is in existence also in Britain, we now have an immediate problem which may give us the nucleus of a solution to the other. As most readers will be aware, there are in existence these islands, three major non-privately owned fantasy libraries -- those of the Science Fiction Association, the British Fantasy Society and the Cosmos Club. The librarians of the BFS are also Cosmos Club members and the library reposes at Teddington in close association with that of the Cosmos Club. Recently there was a suggestion that the library of the SFA, which has been "frozen" during the war, ought to be available in some form to fandom, and the SFA librarian, Harry Kay, is in favour of such action.

To this end, therefore, D.R. Smith favours the merging of the three collections, to be administered as one, for the time being at least. He suggests that control should be vested in a Board of six trustees, nominated by the organisations concerned. The matter is open for discussion and suggestion on all sides of which possibly will evolve some sort of permanent body capable of looking after this side of fandom. Possibly DRS will say more in the Bulletin.



f u t u r i a n  
w a r d i g e s t  
vol.III-----no.6

Again the typewriter taps & out comes the August 1944 Fido.  
Stencilled by Doug Webster, duplicated by George Ellis & slung  
together by J. Michael Rosenblum, 4 Grange Terrace, Leeds 7.  
Issued bimonthly at 3d. per copy. At one time a "litter" of  
sheets put out by other people was attached but these seem to have disappeared of late  
pitw! And so till October . . . .  
Suggestions, criticisms, news items, birthdays & congratulations all welcome. /& subs

### A Survey of American Fantasy Literature

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--- by --- Malcolm Ferguson.

((Mr. Ferguson is an American literateur now in Britain with the US Army. He is new  
fandom but has developed an interest in the bizarre & weird, particularly in the form  
of the short story. We are glad to have persuaded him to type out these notes, in  
place of the more formal essay he would have preferred but which is impossible under  
present conditions. However, Fido is definitely ersatz itself. ---JR))

In New England, the fanciful was extensively pioneered by Nathaniel Hawthorne,  
of the old Salem family of Hawthorne (the W being a recent addition). Most of his  
stories are well-known and need little comment. FEATHERTOP was particularly good, and  
the more fantastic THE BLUE CARPETROLL. RAFFAELI'S DAUGHTER, a bizarre piece, con-  
tributed the title to the poems of Baudelaire, LES FLEURS DU MAL - Hawthorne is follow-  
ing a strain found in the German romanticists - Tieck, Chamisso, et al. - but none do  
it so wondrous well as Baudelaire and his French colleagues of a later date. Inter-  
national exchange of ideas is quite complicated here. Consider for a moment - Haw-  
thorne and Poe (along with Carlyle who was much more iron-fisted ideologically) saw  
much by the dying light of the German romanticism of the 1790s. Poe was translated  
by Baudelaire into prose even more perfect and less stilted than his. Baudelaire in  
turn influenced such writers as T.S. Eliot, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Clark Ashton Smith  
and others. French translation from this school (Flaubert, Gautier, et al.) by  
Lafcadio Hearn brings the wheel full circle. English connections with this strain  
come with Oscar Wilde, Austin Dobson, Aubrey Beardsley and various other fin de siècle  
writers on THE YELLOW BOOK magazine and elsewhere. Here is a colorful skein to un-  
ravel: it is the favorite example of Robert Willyer, the New England poet . . . .  
\*\*\*\*\*

Prior to Hawthorne is the poet, Philip Freneau, in the bizarre tradition. But it  
is of the later spate of writers in New England, from 1860 onwards, that I would write.  
It is this period that Van Wyck Brooks writes of in NEW ENGLAND: INDIAN SUMMER. Re-  
cently, H. Brooks has been taken to task for the intimation that New England has  
come to an autumn of brown leaves and brown studies; I am not particularly alarmed  
by Mr. Brooks' assertions of this nature (nor is he, for it is exaggerated by profes-  
sional jealousy at his writings), and it seems to be rather a device to accentuate a  
transition that need in no way be permanent, and a transition which brought in itself  
a second harvest of considerable interest. I recommend the book to you.

As elsewhere, so in New England, the paradox of the commonplace was being found.  
Confining ourselves to the weird will be difficult, as Emily Dickinson's images have  
Pudish eyes, and Sarah Orne Jewett's writing portrays people growing old in towns  
that are unruffled by the outside life, and how they are made strange thereby. Much  
like Hawthorne. While Sarah was partially an invalid, she studied widely and knew  
the writings of Flaubert and others.

The bottom suddenly drops out of the ordinary, everyday life in the writings of  
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, whose prosaic stories are stranger than those of Sarah Orne  
Jewett, but they do not suffer to any extent by thus being unreal. Miss Jewett is  
more consummate artist, but there is certainly truth in the premises of Miss Wilkins'  
writing. From its well-chosen title, THE WEED IN THE ROSEBUSH, which appeared in  
the 1900s, illustrated by Peter Newell, one goes directly into stories depicting strange  
hinted-at stavisms, repressions, things that the backwash of a country village leaves  
accidentally uncovered. The skeleton in chains kept in the woodshed, strange, morbid

traits, such as those of the spinster whose season-long spring cleanings even delved under the parlor floor-boards, which were kept loose for that express purpose. Strange fruit, this. Miss Williams has other books which I have yet to read (A HUMBLE ROMANCE, A NEW ENGLAND NUN, PEOPLE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD), but her thesis is with this strange nother microcosm.

The violent social changes, the westward surge has passed, and its stagnant pools have reestablished contact with the sea, or in some cases have died out. But the violence and the vacuum is less noticed. Remember, this is only one phase of writing, one that interests one as deftly hitting a minor key. The doldrums are limited in time and extent both.

Some stories along these lines can be found in other writers, although I haven't yet read all of them myself. Edith Wharton's TALES OF MEN AND GHOSTS, perhaps Grace Livingston Hill's THE SUGARBOUL OF HORROR STORIES, Ralph Adams Cram's BLACK SPIRITS AND WHITE, F. Marion Crawford's volume that includes THE SCREAMING SKULL, THE HAUNTED STATEROOM, and others. Last but by no means least, H. P. Lovecraft of Providence, Rhode Island, whose THE OUTSIDER AND OTHERS was an excellent bibliography of this genre - probably the best. WHO'D THE WALL OF SLEEP confirms Lovecraft's scholarship as well as his master-craftsmanship.

England knows as well as America the middlewesterner, Robert W. Chambers, whose bizarre THE KING IN YELLOW added much of its own to the multicolored patches of Poe and Bierce to make a strange robe indeed. Lovecraft, of course, used some of his ideas. While Chambers wrote many love stories that seem quite insipid, THE KING IN YELLOW is of quite a different calibre. Whether IN SEARCH OF THE UNKNOWN, THE SLAYER OF SOULS, or THE MASTER OF MOONS achieve some of the former's distinction I do not know.

In California, the writings of Ambrose Bierce was to start a school. Many of his writings are more accessible in England than America. His complete works were issued, but they contain much dross, a good deal of poor poetry, and are not re-issued as well as in other editions. I have CAN SUCH THINGS BE, IN THE MIDST OF LIFE, THE HOME AND THE HANGMAN'S DAUGHTER, FANTASTIC FABLES, and THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY. The Travellers' Library has THE HOME --, with some of the FANTASTIC FABLES, but not all of the good ones. Vincent Starrett has done bibliographical work on him.

If I remember correctly, only four or five of his stories came out in THE OVERLAND MONTHLY, with which he is frequently associated. As Algernon Blackwood visited America, so Bierce visited England, and some of his work appeared in periodicals and humorous magazines here. In fact, most of his writing was to appear in news-papers, magazines throughout the West and Mexico. His disappearance at the time of Villa's insurrection in Mexico is puzzling - he apparently jumped into a hole and pulled the hole in after him.

Though a poor poet himself, he inspired his junior, Sterling, whose THE WINE OF WINTER is a heady poem. Sterling refused to compromise with tradition - his Miltonic writing is admirable, but out of season. Sterling lived at the Players Club in San Francisco, and died after writing the preface to the Modern Library edition of Bierce's IN THE MIDST OF LIFE.

Against this background, at an early age Clark Ashton Smith began his writing, with which you are no doubt familiar.

In the South there was Poe, who was born on the wrong side of the tracks to New England bluebloods, and there was flouting - although Hawthorne and he recognized their kinship. Well worth reading are Poe's essays, although they're headstrong and opinionated. Conspicuous among Southern writers are Lafcadio Hearn, who catches the richness of New Orleans at Mardi Gras; Irvin S. Cobb, whose recent death was widely mourned; his short stories included FISHELD, a tale of inbreeding, which is, I believe, contained in FAITH, HOPE, AND CLARITY - it has often appeared in anthologies; and there is William Faulkner, whose necrophiliac study, A ROSE FOR EMILY, describes a spinster in a lushly decadent Southern city.



INTRODUCING --- another American, none other than Corporal Norman "Gus" Willmorth, who says .....

WHO, ME?

--- Gus

First, due entirely to natural causes I was born. Way out west where men are men and fantasy fans grow. Being a precocious child, I learned to read at an early date and have been at it since. Having cut my eye tooth on fairy tales of the type foisted on to children, I cannot give the exact date at which I began to enjoy the Exalted Literature, but I can remember THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES OF NILS as well as selected portions of Grimm's and Andersen. I would say that it was in the early thirties that I, situated more or less in the backwoods away from the general civilization of the world, encountered my first science fiction magazine. Enflamed by this chance reading I more or less forsook the classics in my search for more of this consuming what of Wells, Verne, Poe et al, that I was able to lay a hand to. From about '34 on my reading of S-F mags was more or less steady--the diet consisting of Astoundings because that was the only mag other than Argosy that was sold at my particular newsstand (there was only one in the town). About the time Wonder became thrilling, we moved to Chelam, Wash., where in the course of time I became familiar with and collected others of the fantasy family. Here I organized a small fan club--The Lake Chelan Fantasy Fictioneers, with myself as nominal head. And my magazine collection spread over the whole of the county.

Came 1939, I yearned for the New York Convention; in '40 for Chicago; in '41 I made it to Denver to meet the galaxy of star fantasy fans gathered there. I picked up my first originals there--a Paul cover, some Horvys, and several stories. Later that year I moved to California and to Los Angeles for the first time, to stay.

Soon a member of the LISTS, my political life began. I was first chosen Secretary of the Club, then, when Mrs. Wain resigned her position of Director, I succeeded her. As and while director I edited my first and only fulfilled attempt at a fanzine--several issues of Henri-L'Affaire. To live a life in Paradise while things went along lovelier and lovelier.

Then the army intervened and I moved from active fandom into active service. Little from a short period in which I was stationed in Los Angeles proper, I have been more or less out of touch with fan activity in the United States since that time. However, arriving upon these English shores, I pitched in for some serious fanning, grasping as it were the fleeting hand of opportunity as it was raised to knock. Here I've been several places and did several things. I cannot claim to have been the most active figure in the islands, but I tried to keep up with the hurly burly of the rest of the crowd anyway. And shall some more, I'm willing.

"ASTOUNDING" Q12 Selected from questions posed by lunatics during Whitman, at Avalon, Highcroft: answers later.

- (1) Have two planets which have a single satellite apiece?
- (2) Which EESmith story had a cover picture on ASTOUNDING but was not published by ASTOUNDING?
- (3) What is Origimulus? [It that's wrong, I'm sorry, people: JER's writing goes (all to hell at operative points.--DW)]
- (4) Who reached the South Pole first?
- (5) What is Eboracum?
- (6) Can you say which were the latest two planets to be discovered?
- (7) What is Psychometry? [What is psychometrics? --DW]
- (8) What does a rocket-propelled spaceship push against?
- (9) Which is the lightest metal known?
- (10) Who was Phaeton?
- (11) What is thought to be the cause of the Aurora?
- (12) What is usually accepted as the reason for the building of the Venusian Canals?
- (13) If you walk round a tree in a circle radius 4 feet, & I walk round it in the same direction on the same radius extended 2' further, have I walked round you or not? (No answer supplied: I had 3 lines to fill up! --DW)

If you dislike the whole idea of this column - me, talking about books - make your complaints to Michael, who not only suggested it but laid down the terms of reference contained in the title. If you have something to say yourself, within the general framework, write to me by all means.

§ § § § § §  
The great wave of popular enthusiasm for it in the United States, more or less crude, more or less adolescent, frequently very baldly sexy, has produced its academic counterpart in the American College. The Americans (like the British - see any issue of THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT) seem to have a considerable capacity for solemn scholarship even when applied to the trivialities of very inferior hacks.

But let us not be bitter. What started this train of thought was the remarkably erudite and painstaking work of Dr. (or Professor?) Philip Barbour Love, THE IMAGINARY VOYAGE IN PROSE FICTION (New York, Columbia University Press, 1941). Apart from the actual reprinting of early scientific fiction (THE MAN IN THE MOON, THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW WORLD, A VOYAGE TO CACHOVALILLA) this is the most valuable contribution that has so far appeared from the American Colleges. After an interesting introduction in the way of "A History of the Civilization of the Imaginary Voyage" comes the meat of the book, consisting of a minutely detailed check list of no less than 315 "imaginary voyages" between 1700 and 1800, arranged chronologically. "A TRIP TO THE MOON. By Dr. Hartagh McDermot. Containing Some Observations and Reflections, made by him during his Stay in that Planet . . . Printed at Dublin: And Reprinted at London . . . MDCCXXVIII." looks an automatic item - and permanency - on one's Wants List. And what in the world is Thomas Norton's VISIONS OF PLANETS, OR A SKETCH OF THE MANNERS AND MANNERS OF MANAR . . . 1791?

§ § § § § §  
Remarkably little scientific fiction has been written posthumously. Consequently, special interest attaches to the last volume of short stories ever to appear under the name of Frank R. Stockton. Entitled THE RETURN OF FRANK R. STOCKTON . . . the book was put out in 1915 by the Knickerbocker Publishing & Book Supply Co. of New York and William Rider of London (printed in U.S.A.). The medium was Miss Etta de Camp, as attractive a young lady as any deceased author could wish to write through. Stockton, in an apologetic foreword, says "I present this work to the public trusting it will overlook any crudeness, due to the great difficulties under which it was written . . . " However, death does not seem to have impaired this author's powers to the extent that one frequently finds (see, e.g., the posthumous writings of Oscar Wilde or Jack London). The stories are unconvincingly good and the style very recognisable. Two - WHAT BECAME OF THE GHOST OF THE O'FLYNN and THE MAN WHO ALWAYS TURNED UP - are ghost stories, and THE WIDOW HE LOST, perhaps the poorest in the collection, is a stilted tale concerning an ancient Roman survival, complete with Queen, in a catacomb under Rome.

§ § § § § §  
Does anyone know the complete list of J.B. Haldane's scientific fantasy? All I am aware of are THE LAST JUDGMENT, an account "broadcast to infants on the Planet Venus some forty million years hence" of the breakup of the Moon and the migration to Venus (in POSSIBLE WORLDS, 1927, reprinted in Evergreen Books series, price 1/4, in 1940), THE GOLD MINES, an excellent short story concerning the solving of the wave-equations for gold, the consequent discovery of a method of extracting it cheaply from sea water, and the impact of this on capitalist industry (1932, reprinted in Pelican Books, price 3d., in 1937), and a passage on the future of biology in DEADLINES: OR, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE - "Today and Tomorrow Series, 1925, price 2/6.

Bob Gibson talks of at least one more such short story - possibly in another book of essays, though he isn't sure just what.



MODERN READING Nos. 8 and 9 (edited by Reginald Moore - Big Ben Books, 9d.) both contain a stiff short story. N.8 has THE COLONISTS by Norman Nicholson, a rather obvious tale of a future tribesman in the ruins of a modern city who re-discovers machinery and is wisely slain by an Elder and better tribesman. It also has a very good fantasy called CHANGELING by an UNKNOWN author Dorothy K. Haynes. Neil Bell contributes to No.9 THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL, which is particularly nicely done. It is an account of what seems to me a fool-proof method of finishing off this war. [Open up and give out, George: I for one should like to know that method. --DW]

§ § § § § §

Delvings into the Weird and Imaginative - III

— Jack Banks  
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#### VISUAL IMAGERY

There is an edition of Dante's FURGATORY and PARADISE, published in 1893 by Cassell, that is illustrated by sixty engravings by Gustave Dore. As pictorial expressions of the morbid, some of these are well worth study, but the eighteen illustrations to the section containing PARADISE have little to distinguish them, in treatment from those reverent pictures of angels and the other hosts of heaven, that abound in the pages of 19th. Century bibles, and religious books for children.

It is from among the illustrations to FURGATORY that one can single out for special attention several interesting examples of detailed imaginative work. The treatment of natural scenery, however, is somewhat conventional in some instances, although precipitous cliffs and rocky crags are imposingly drawn. Darkness and shadow is the key-note of the majority of these pictures; dispirited beings lie in postures of despair or indolence, peering with dull eyes at the poet and his companion, or oblivious of their presence, carrying out their eternal tasks. Perhaps the best example is the illustration to Canto XXIV, lines 4-7:—

The shadowy forms,  
That seem'd things dead and dead again, drew in  
At their deep-delved orbs rare wonder of me,  
Perceiving I had life.

In regarding these pictures purely as examples of imaginative art, it is well to remember that the original verses on which they are based were often complexes of symbolism, referring to events of Biblical and later history, or illustrative of human thoughts and desires. The same consideration might be taken into account in other, more recent attempts to translate symbolic conceptions into visual forms. Roger Manvell, in FILM (Pelican), writes, "Mixed with a spurious religious content came films like DANTE'S INFERNO. .... With that dash of puerility which seems to lurk in the most sophisticated film executive, you may at any time find yourself affronted with the primitive vision of religious mania dictated between telegrams into a dictaphone."

The Pelican volume mentioned above, while not strictly confirming to our theme of the "weird and imaginative", will nevertheless be of interest to those who see in the cinema an instrument for the expression of the imaginative in its widest sense. With 192 reproductions of film "stills", it represents the best value, in price, at least, for books of this type.

Some amusing sidelights on the production of sound effects for radio horror plays were given in an article in the READER'S DIGEST. The programmes put on the air by Orson Welles called for various sound effects, some of them needing the utmost ingenuity to produce. DRACULA required a hollow laugh, for the Count, so Welles almost suffocated in a wooden box, attempting to perfect the sound. When the script called for the noise of a stake being driven through a vampire's heart, the CBS sound man brought out a cabbage and sharpened broom-stick. Welles' verdict after rehearsal





this book sells well, the same publisher (Farrar & Rinehart) will publish two other anthologies which Derleth will also edit, of ghost & horror stories - the latter taken largely from WEIRD TALES. Incidentally J.O. Bailey's TRAVELLERS IN TIME & SPACE (the history & bibliography of stf previously mentioned in Fido) has not yet been published (it was scheduled for February 1944).

#### JUNE Forces Fans:

JUNE Letter card from Roland Forster dated June 17th., which arrived on June 27th., informs us that he is no longer in England but "over there". He says (censor permitting): "It all happened fairly quickly in the end & more or less as I expected - a move at short notice to a \_\_\_\_\_ area, \_\_\_\_\_ news of "D-Day", move to a \_\_\_\_\_ thence to the \_\_\_\_\_ point, a short sea trip & there we were." Yes, Roland, we follow exactly. Roland & pals made a dry landing without any interference from Jerry, & so far all is well. Roland is anxious to know if he is the first fan to set foot in Europe with the liberating armies - he landed on June \_\_\_\_ [We believe that Eric Russell went abroad about the same time: presumably also to France. There may be some chance, eventually, of contact being established. ---DW]

After experiencing the salubrious attractions of Formby near Liverpool, Peter Hawkins passes on to the next phase of his military career at Catterick Camp, J Yorkshire, whence comes a despairing cry that without fan succour he will go mad, amid the dreary wastes. Knowing Catterick, we sympathise, and hope that he & Johnny Millard some 12-15 miles away near Thirsk will be able to get together, & if possible, Peter will get as far south as Leeds!

From Italy comes another airgraph from Bill Temple with news & notes of books; he notices that the critics are not taking Stapledon's new work "siriusly". Quah!

American fan, bibliophile & bibliographer A. Langley Searles of New York City has been deferred from the draft, thus enabling those of us collecting his bibliographical sheets to heave a sigh of relief.

Edwin Macdonald airgraphs from Moss Bank, Saskatchewan, to say all is well so far, Canada is a great country, he hasn't met any fans over there as yet but is still hoping.

Welcome visitors to Grange Terrace during the month have been George Ellis, who helped Ken Chadwick & I [tush! ---DW] get out the last issue of Fido & is duplicating & mailing this issue; Maurice Hanson who has slipped in a couple of times, dashing over from Liversedge, Yorks; and Frank Parker, who spent a long weekend in & around the city on business.

Did anyone else hear Margaret Lockwood in a "Monday Night at Eight" radio programme say she was engaged at present in the production of a film based on A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN, Osbert Sitwell's well-known ghost stories? Most people are aware that Hollywood has filmed THE UNDYING LOUSTER by James Douglas Kerruish. Several other fantasy films are projected or under way, including, we believe, a version of Fritz Lieber Jr.'s CONJURE WIFE: the epic UNWOUND yarn.

John Frederick Burke of Pen-y-bryn Hall, nr. Ruabon, North Wales, will have a short story in the second issue of the new Collins magazine COLVOY. This is good news --- congratulations to Johnny.

From the new secretary of the "National Fantasy Fan Federation" - Walter Dunkelberger - comes a letter to your editor informing him that he has been elected an Honorary Member of the NFFF. May I take this opportunity of thanking all concerned for the honour, which is deeply appreciated.

Incidentally the revived NFFF has great plans & may get going in a worthy manner in the very near future. E.E. Evans has taken over the helm again & is issuing BONFIRE, the official organ. A "Plancom" or planning committee & a "Welcom" or welcoming committee are in operation, & several interesting schemes are suggested. [No US fan organization, apparently, is complete without its planning committee; one wonders why some enterprising souls don't get together to form a Plancom & enjoy themselves, dispensing with the need for any other organization at all. I trust the w/b regrdd z n "interesting scheme" by th NSF Plancom. ---DW] Walter Daugherty is to issue a regular "Directory" & be in



charge of looking after the ever-varying addresses of fans. Dr. R.D. Swisher is to form a 'copyright bureau' for the 'patenting' of fanzine & column titles. A 36 page explanatory booklet on fandom is already under construction with articles by Milton Rothman, Harry Warner, DA Wollheim, Al Ashley, Bob Tucker & PJ Ackerman.

Anyone who was interested in the machinations of American fandom during the 1930-1940 era will be interested if not astonished to note that Sam Moskowitz, New Fandom's belligerent head, has met amicably the leading New York Futurians - DA Wollheim, Elric Butler (Mrs. Wollheim) & John B. Michel. Handshakes all round & promises of cooperation in the future. Sam, by the way, spent some months in the tough "tank busters" section of the American army but was recently discharged: & the blighter now scoops me with an announcement of the post-war science-fiction magazine Walter H. Gillings is now working on. You were going to let me have an article on it, Wally; what happened?

We note with disapproval that a gentleman fairly new to fandom, Russ Wilsey of Bellerside, NY, has issued a single sheet magazine entitled FELIX, followed immediately by a heckling parody from Al Weinstein of NYC, even newer to fandom, entitled WIDO. Horrors! And possibly there are one or two people not aware that a recent ASTOUNDING included a story with that title. [How true: neither I nor Winston S. Churchill knew that. --DW] (Can you prove that last statement? JMR)

JULY ..... and assorted oddments of news as it comes in.

NOTINGS Your editor is having quite a pleasant time of it. The first weekend in July was enlivened by the company of E. Frank Parker. On the second, George Ellis & Ron Lane popped over from Manchester. For the third Maurice K. Hanson arrived back just outside Leeds at Woodlesford, & on the 23rd. I go over to Manchester for final details & instruction to our heroic duplicator & mailer this issue - George Ellis - take your hats off gentlemen! As yet I am not aware as to whether the promised Leicester meet at Bank Holiday will eventuate, but if it does I am likely to be there. Frank Parker, by the by, now tours England, Scotland & Wales as part of his job, so people in the larger towns at least are quite likely to see him sometime or another. In August 'twill be the Midlands, with Lancashire & South Wales to follow when they can be fitted in.

The Webster is due for a trip southwards & will probably insert details such as are known immediately following. All highly uncertain. Hope to be wandering through England during Bank Holiday week, & to be in London perhaps Aug 9-13, chez Arnold; anyone who can contrive to be in Town at that time will be very welcome, & no doubt Frank will stand them a beer. --DW

News item from Bob Chittock of Norwich, now with the R.F. in the C.M.F. -- "Have exchanged several literary efforts with Les Johnson, & imagine my surprise when I found him in a "tiffin" queue next to me. I was with a fellow who used to be on the same squadron as Les & the latter was standing right behind me. Of course I didn't have an ASTOUNDING under each arm, nor did he, so it was extremely lucky that this fellow recognised Les & an introduction rapidly followed. Needless to say, we had a two-man Convention in the evening."

Announcement:- Anno Domini MCMXLIV circa horam nonam - ante diem quintum Idus Martias (Mensis Martii die III) filia nata est: Sandra Ley - Willy and Olga Ley. (FFF)

Latest news from USA is of another unfortunate loss to fandom in PFC Blaine R. Dunmire. U.S. Army Air Corps. Dunmire was on a ship sunk with all aboard in the Mediterranean about the beginning of May. He was comparatively new to fandom, was Assistant Director of the Western Penna Science Fictioneers, & put out two short-lived fanzines, STARR TALKS and THE GHOUL. Another Amerifan of whom the worst was feared when all our communications were being returned, has been located safe & sound. He is Emrys H. Taylor, still in the Pacific, where he took part in the battles of Guadalcanal & the Fijis. Sergeant Eric C. Hopkins airmails from Prince Edward Island, Canada. His main news is of three days spent with Canada's greatest (in all senses) fan, Leslie A. Groulx at Parry Sound, Ontario, & he knows not when, if ever, he is likely to return to England.

Jack Gibson announces a new address at "Linden Lea", Palmer Road, Poole. And Ron



Lane asks all correspondents to communicate with him at his home address only - 23 Beresford Road, Longsight, Manchester 13. Although still coalmining at Feigh, he is home each weekend.

A mysterious 4-page list, emanating from Anchorage, Kentucky, with the name of D.C. Richardson on the envelope - a name new to me at least - gives complete data on the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs up to May 1944. It gives magazine appearances & details of book publication if any. Most interesting points to me were: SEVEN WORLDS TO CONQUER in AMAZING Jan/42 has seen book publication as BACK TO THE STONE AGE; & 3 AMAZING yarns, PETRIFIED TO PELLUCIDAR, MEN OF THE BRONZE AGE, and TIGER GIRL go together to form the book LAND OF TERROR. These two were published in April/44 as the 5th. and 6th. volumes in the Pellucidar series. Listed are 25 Tarzan books, 3 Venus & 9 Martian, besides oddments.

Further details of the Lovecraft reprint work mentioned earlier. A new company Bart House are publishing it at 35 cents as their fourth release, & it is to contain the following 5 Lovecraft tales -- SHADOW OVER INNSMOUTH, HE, THE WHISPER ~~WHISPERER?~~ IN DARKNESS; THE OUTSIDER; and THE FESTIVAL.

And we hear of another Anglofan who has at last crashed the pro field with two stories accepted. We can't say who it is, just now, but this is just to let you know that we know. We don't want to be scooped again on information we have been asked not to publish.

ARKHAM HOUSE Although this issue already contains information from Paul J. Seales on the subject, as we go to press we have a communique from August Derleth which is well worth printing: - "Since you use my letter in the last issue of your magazine, I think it is only just that I pass along the most recent developments on the fantasy-weird front over here. First and foremost, Arkham House will publish Donald Wandrei's THE EYE AND THE FINGER in October, \$3.00 the copy. Secondly, Arkham House will publish in January, H. P. Lovecraft's MARGINALIA -- containing a ghost-written piece, three revisions, 9 prose fragments, 8 essays, photographs of HPL's study, script, drawings, some appreciations etc., at \$3.00 the copy, uniform with books by Smith and Wandrei, and not an essential part of the HPL trilogy. Thirdly, Farrar and Rinehart will publish sometime this Fall or Winter my anthology of out of print horror tales, SLEEP NO MORE! Represented are Lovecraft, Shiel, Robert Bloch, Robert E. Howard, Clark Ashton Smith, Hazel Heald, Maurice Level, Chambers, Blackwood, James, Henry S. Whitehead, Thomas Burke, John Collier, W. B. Talman, Howard Wandrei, Carl Jacobi, Wakefield and Alfred Hayes -- 8 tales have never before been published in book form, 10 have, though not all in America. Of the 10, only 3 are currently in print elsewhere, only one in any other anthology of such tales. If SLEEP NO MORE! succeeds, it will be followed by an anthology of utterly strange tale and by another anthology of out of print ghost stories (WHO KNOCKS?). ... Among other publications in the field here these are outstanding: GREAT TALES OF TERROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL, 52 tales, 1000 pages, edited by Herbert A. Wise and Phyllis Fraser, Random House, New York, \$2.95 the copy; BEST GHOST STORIES OF M. R. JAMES, and two anthologies of weird tales edited by Boris Karloff, all three published by World Publishing Company, Cleveland, Ohio, at \$.49 each."

LAST MINUTE NEWS Canadian Al Godfrey in Normandy... John Millard to spend weekend July 29-30 in Leeds... Terry Overton now in convalescent home at Bradford, will get to Leeds at same time... possibly Maurice Hanson too fine. Backcover with resumed JMR Booklist supplied by Bob Tucker, reprint of contents page of first Unknown .. 'nostalgia' .. Jack Banks at home, not going back to IVSE in London .. WHGillings, 15 Shere Rd, Ilford Essex will swap 20 issues Weird Tales '36-39, & 18 Modern Wonder, No 9 onwards for US wartime prozines .. RWBusby 40 Brooklands Rd, Birmingham 28 has Lavender Dragon - Phillpotts 1/9, Last Man - Moyes 1/9, Stormaker - Stapledon 1/6, 25th Hour - Best 1/9, One Jump Back - Bell 1/9 Dr Nikola's Expt - Boothby 9d. for sale.