

FUTURIAN

WAR DIGEST



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"The Martians are Coming"

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-----Editor? J. Michael Rosenblum

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other sheets distributed in the same mailing. Reciprocal exchange welcome
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LONDON Stationed in London now is author and Fortean, Eric Frank Russell,
LETTER on an R.A.F. course. Here for four months, can be reached at
C/O 38 Hillmorton Rd., N. 7. --- Home for a week's leave
last week was Eric Hopkins. Says the R.A.F. is silly and is thinking
of asking for his cards. --- Met at L.P.O. concert by R.G.L. and self:
science-fictionist Joyce Fairbairn, who reveals existence of hitherto
unknown science-fiction club at her firm.

We Get Around Dept

Henry Chibbett's fire-watching nights have by now become a synonym
for S.F.A. meetings. Last week a motlet audience listened to Eric Frank
Russell's salacious adventures and the horrors of Forteanism. Among other
things, we learnt with regret of the first rationing casualty, namely,
author Maurice Hugi's stomach. Gone the sobriquet "Tubby"; there's room
for 2 Hugi inside his suit. --- Wearing a black band (round the
neck) to mourn the call-up of Ken Bulmer, we dolefully greeted his side-
kick, Art Williams, but cheered considerably to receive "Unique" 2
from him, complete with glossy cover, and a first-rate one, Free advt.

--- The day before we had gone with Eric Hopkins and seen a movie-
tone "Magic Camera" travelogue about S. America. Now this magic camera
is a telephoto lens job, and what should it discover, in a sequence of
aerial shots of the Andes, but a hidden plateau, as inaccessible as Ever-
est, covered with criss-cross markings like swaths and lines, ob-
viously artificial, but also inexplicable. We saw and were impressed.

Any explanations, readers?

NATIONAL FANTASY By a three to one majority, the NFFF advisory board,
FAN FEDERATION which governs the matter of membership applications,
has decided that membership should not be confined to
Americans only. The test application which caused this decision was that
of your editor, who is now therefore, a proud member of this organisat-
ion. Advisory-board chairman Milton Rothman is now wondering whether it
could be International Fantasy Fan Federation; "not", says he, "one single
organisation for England and America, but I thought that we might have
one organisation in name, with independently-operating sections in each
country. There could be a President at the head of each section, while
the international officer would be called the Co-ordinator" This is more
or less the general feeling expressed over here when a proposed British
fan organisation was mentioned so it would appear that we can go right
ahead.

Incidentally a shape-of-things-as-they-might-be has already been
provided by the formation of a "Midwest Fantasy Fan Federation" with the
Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio Fantasy Fan Federations (Four of 'em)
as constituent bodies. Each has some sort of chief of staff, provisional
officers being respectively Bob Tucker, E.E. Evans, C.L. Barrett and Claude
Degler; with EEE as co-ordinator. All this was decided at the First Ann-
ual Michifan Conference held at Jackson, Mich. on November 18th when a-
bout thirty fans foregathered and held a complete miniature convention.

"SCIENCE FICTION EXCHANGE" BULLETIN

Probably many of you are wondering why there has been no supplementary list since November 1941. The main reason for this is that additions have been so few that to issue a list just wasn't worth the ~~extra~~ trouble. That is also the reason why you do not receive the complete list No five, which would normally accompany this issue of FIDO. Items which are not listed on L.4 are as follows

AST Jan 1942; FFI Feb 1942; "The Hyborean Age" - Robert Howard; "Strange Conflict" - Dennis Wheatley; "The Land That Time Forgot" - E.R. Burroughs; "He Who Sees" - N.R. Jax; "Lady of the Shroud" - Ian Stoker.

Jack Gibson

7 Belmont Road, Parkstone

Dorset Dorset

PHILATELIC EXPORT & IMPORT CONTROL.

Government Regulations prohibit the sending of stamps or items of philatelic interest from or into this country unless the exporter or importer here has obtained prior permission from this Control to despatch or receive the same

At the present time it is not permissible to export stamps to North or South America as gifts; they must be paid for by one of the approved methods; neither is it permissible to import stamps from these countries.

On this occasion your letter and stamps are returned to you. British Philatelic Association. 3 Berners Street, LONDON. W.1..England.

The above is a transcription of the note enclosed in a letter returned to me, in which I had attempted to send some stamps to Johnny Cunningham. A pity it can't be done, but I was ignorant of the fact when I sent. I was treated quite fairly though. The post office people returned my airmail fees less 2d to cover ordinary handling. Dennis Tucker.

CALL-UPS AGAIN.

WE learn that John Frederick Burke is now in the RAF, stationed for ~~Shaenfive~~ year Boston, Lines. John has been an active fan for some five years and took a prominent part in the formation and proceedings of the Liverpool branch of the Science Fiction Association. He was responsible for the editing of The SATELLITE (Sally) during its entire career, until merged with FANTAST. With Dave McIlwain and a non-stf. drummer friend, clarinetist Burke formed a swing trio; although he is also interested in classical music. Some months ago, he and the trio's croonerette, Joan, entered into married bliss.

Another to go in the very near future is Andrew Salmond of Glasgow, another SFA stalwart, who is expecting his RAF call-up sometime in February. All sympathies and salutations to you both in your new careers!!

VISITS Signalman Eric Moss looked in on us during a recent leave, all well and as happy as can be expected, though very short of reading matter in the wilds of Somerset. Another welcome visitor was Signalman (how many fans are now getting shoved into this Corps?) John Morgan once of Johnstone, Refrewhshire, Scotland. John is just at Dewsbury, at the moment, as mentioned in a previous FIDO, and hopes to slip over regularly whilst he is still stationed there.

LATEST WIDNER POLL

Airmail letter from FJA to Douglas Webster contained the up-to-date results of Arthur Widner's perpetual polls. And here they are; -
AUTHORS (39 votes) 1, Heinlein; 2, Smith; 3, Campbell-Stuart; 4, de Camp; 5, Merritt; 6, Hubbard; 7, Van Vogt; 8, Wilson; 9, Asimov; 10, Lovecraft. PROZINES (36 votes) 1 Astounding; 2 Unknown; 3 FFI; 4 Weird 5 Super Science; 6 Astounding; 7 TWS; 8 Startling; 9 Cosmic; 10 Future. FANZINES (31 votes) 1 Spaceways; 2 Fantasite; 3 Le Zombie; 4 VOM; 5 Southern Star; 6 Fantasia; 7 FFI; 8 Eclipse; 9 Fan-Atic tied Starlite; 10 Nova. FANS (34 votes) 1 Ackerman; 2 Tucker; 3 Warner; 4 Lowndes; 5 Gilbert; 6 Rothman; 7 Chauvenet; 8 Bronson; 9 Unger; 10 Evans. And that's that.

An American fan says hello to FIDO, and tells us something about himself, as E. Everett Evans writes us an introductory letter

"Have not been an ACTIVE fan very long, just since the Chicon in 1940, in fact, but have been a reader since "way back when", and since I have started working actively in Fandom have really made it my sole hobby, and have, I believe I can say without boasting, achieved some worthwhile things in my short career. I was one of the founders and first secretary of The Galactic Roamers (we call our President the "Chief Pilot", while the secretary is "Chief Communications Officer".) Also was one of the main instigators of the Michigan Fantasy Fan Federation and am Director of it. Then the four state Federations - Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio - gathered themselves into a Mid-West Federation, and I am Co-Ordinator of that. Also I am Chairman of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's Long-Range Planning Committee, which I was instrumental in having formed. Then I am sort of financial backer of Bob Tucker's LE ZOMBIE, and of the new NOVA, which is published here in Battle Creek by Mr and Mrs Alfred Ashley and Jack Wiedenbeck and myself. So I guess you could now ~~xx~~ call me a FAN!"

A wonderful record indeed, especially for a "new" fan but what you forgot to mention, Everett, was your age. That is given away in EEE's FAPA publication which says "he is 48 years old, more or less well-read and semi-intelligent". And we could do with some more like you!

"---"---"---"---"---"

PROZINE HAVE you seen AMAZING Stories Lately? Amazing isn't it? While NOTES Campbell has been pushing out blurb about enlarging Astounding, Palmer slips a quick one over him and enlarges Amazing. You can't complain about quantity and the strange thing is that quality has gone up correspondingly. The last issue with that tongue-in-the-cheek Pellucidar story by Burroughs is quite good. I liked the town-planning story for obvious reasons and was very intrigued as to what caused a hack pulp writer in America to choose such a theme - not only that but showing such uncanny perception." Abstracted from a letter of JOHN CRAIG's.

Actually both the January and February 1942 issues of Amazing contain 240 of the ordinary small-size pages instead of the normal 144. This method has apparently been chosen in preference to a large-size format which failed so disastrously with Fantastic Adventures. But there is more to come. Mark Heinsberg states in Le Zombie, "Palmer is going to run a fan page in Amazing with me doing the editing. This will be a monthly feature if the fan-letter response is high enough. I can print just about anything I want to, including photographs."

Stirling Science Stories is resuming publication as a monthly, beginning first of January and Wolheim is now busy with it. 1st of new issues will be dated March. Magazine will be large-size, instead of small, but will not suffer any loss of material either in quality or quantity. Price will remain at 15 cents. New publisher is Manhattan Fiction Publications. For the time being the cover will remain in the style used in the past, but it is expected to go to full color after a few issues. At the moment they are overstocked with material as they are using a batch of stories from Cosmic Stories which has been discontinued. courtesy "LIGHT"

FANZINES Most noticeable feature in the latest batch of American fanzines to reach us is the prevalence therein of photographs. We noted that out of nine mags, Le Zombie had a picture of the Michigan Conference in session - which included Doc Smith; and the resuscitated Fantascience Digest, which has popped up after a year or two of hibernation has a photo of four of Art Widner's Denvention group - Widner, Rothman, Unger & Bob Madle - taken in the Rocky Mountains. The new printed Sunspots contains no less than three blocks of, respectively, Futurians Wolheim, Kornbluth and Lowndes; Gerry de la Ree and his two co-editors; and authors Monly Wade Wellman and Binder. And Southern Star includes the same page of Denvention pictures as we have opposite.



The Hunchback of Notre Dame



Ende Korshak
John B. Welch
Damon Knight
& J. B.



Mongo the Aklha



Robert Hudson Henden
(Eleanor Daughter Tip)



Gerke, Mongo, Wolkheim
Edwin Counts, Chet Cohen



Henden (Class, Last)
Evans



Front: Mongo, Walt Liebscher,
Julie Unger, Asd, Back: John
Wilhard, Phil Bronson &
Damon J. Knight



Damon the Demon
as 'Gno Star'

Come into the library for a few minutes, and lets talk about books ...

Firstly --- A BOOK REVIEW

"The Purple Sapphire" by John Taine; published by A.L.Burt, 1924, USA.

Remember those fine stories published under this pseudonym some ten years or so ago, in Amazing? Well, John Taine - who is really Eric Temple Bell, an eminent mathematician at the California Institute of Technology - is also responsible for at least eight published books of a fantasy nature. This is one of 'em, and a good example too. In prehistoric times a Great Race lived somewhere in the north of India and built up a very advanced civilisation. Due to tampering with forces beyond their control they became reduced to a meagre remnant inhabiting an isolated district of Tibet and shunning the outside world throughout the passing centuries. In search of a missing girl and lured by the sight of some miraculous-looking gems, a party of 3 adventurers strike into this region. They dimly realise the past greatness of the Race and are tremendously interested in the fragmentary data of a dead and gone science, particularly the apparent solving of the question of atomic power. After the usual sort of vicissitudes their objectives are accomplished though they only just manage to escape a duplication of the original catastrophe.

Does anybody know anything about a book called "What Dreams May Come" by J. D. Beresford? Apparently published quite recently I am told that it deals with a young fellow, who in pursuance of his ideals, decides to stand as a conscientious objector in the present war. In some way he has an accident, becoming unconscious, and in his supposed dreams visits an Utopia - which fulfils all his longings for a better world. Regaining his senses in this world of ours he becomes bitterly disappointed and dispirited. After a brief interval he "dies" ... but does he really, or has he got back once more to that beloved Utopia?

Note to RGM in particular .. have obtained a copy of "The Immortals" by Harold E. Scarborough (Unwin 1924) and discovered that it bears no relationship whatsoever to the Argosyarn of the same title by Ralph Milne Farley. Hence the vague suspicion that Scarborough might be another pen-name of R.M. Farley (or Roger Sherman Hoar, to be more accurate) is evidently incorrect. Q.E.D.

Books to dispose of - due to tidying operations and the discovery of a new source of supply, sundry stf books are available to the first applicant. They include "Blind Mouths" - Tweed (new) 2/6; "Blind Circle" Renard & Jean 2/-; "Number 87", Hext 1/6; "News From Nowhere" Morris 2/-; "Land Under England" O'Neill 2/3; "Day of Wrath" O'Neill 2/-; "Glass Centipede" Painter & Laing 2/-; "The Coming Race" Lord Lytton 1/-; "Memoirs of Satan" Gerhardt & Lunn 2/-; "Crystal City Under the Sea" Laurie 2/-. All postfree

THIS ISSUE, as can be very easily observed, is another "American" issue, on paper sent accross by Forrest J. Ackerman. Special thanks are due for the photographs taken at the Denver S. F. Convention by Milt Rothman and lithographed by FJA. The captions are self explanatory, after a little thought on the subject though the fancy dress pictures at the top are somewhat shocking at first glance. The cover, minus the printing was also supplied "readymade". We thank you Forry.

Three newcomers to the FIDO circle are Frederick V. Giles of Barking, Essex; Douglas Slack of Looe, Cornwall and John W. Holland of Leighton Buzzard, Beds. A hearty welcome to you all.

Subscriptions expiring with this issue are those of F.D. Wilson & J. W. Banks and R. Fishwick. We would be grateful for speedy renewal.

TALES OF WONDER Latest news from editor Walter H. Gillings is that "Tales of Wonder" has had a very narrow squeak indeed. "In the midst of preparing the issue" says Wally, "I heard from World's Work that it was quite possible it would never appear; it seems they wanted to transfer the paper they're allowed for it, and that for their other two quarterlies, over to the monthly "Short Stories", but they first had to get the consent of the Paper Control -- and this was not, fortunately for us, forthcoming." So No. 16 will be appearing on March the 13th, to be followed in due course, all being well, by No 17. Complete list of contents is: "The Earth Shall Die" by Benson Herbert, "Flight Through Time" by Clark Aston Smith, "Breath of Utopia" by Miles J. Breuer and "Beast of the Crates" by Marion F. Eadie. "Science Fantasy Forum" will be included although pressure on space forces "Readers Reactions" to be omitted entirely, as well as several other items Wally was hoping to include. Tentative plans for the issue after include John Beynon's "Exiles of Asperus", and the first story of John F. Burke -- "Before the Flood". There may be another by Marion Eadie too.

COSMOS The first issue of "Renny" Rennison's fanzine duly appeared during the month, and apparently took up all Renny's energies so that no Supplement was available to include with this mailing. 'Tis a nice little magazine of 18 half-folioscap pages, well-illustrated by Dennis Tucker and plentifully and charmingly embellished with Arthur Williams inimitable little pictures. Stories by Ron Holmes, Don Doughty and Don Houston are of a surprisingly high standard for fan fiction and articles by Messrs Silburn, Gibson, Bulmer and Gardner, whilst not reaching quite the same standard, are thoroughly enjoyable. Renny says that maybe there will be another issue some day; we sincerely hope so. Oh, address for those interested is J. E. Rennison, 82 Hamscreeve Drive, Blackburn, Lancs.

RETIREDMENT Arthur Williams, London's livewire enthusiast, writes to us to tell us that he is dropping most of his science fictional activities in the near future. This is due to preoccupation with other affairs, leaving him no time to spare. 'Tis a great pity, and we all convey our condolences to Arthur and hope he will be back, taking an active part in fandom, in the not-so-very-distant future. Incidentally this means the discontinuance of UNIQUE which now follows its sister publication FANTASY POST into oblivion.

ON THE MOVE As per usual our Forces friends are on with their perpetual peripatations and are scattered far and wide. Here are some of the latest moves. After a very long stay indeed at Okehampton, Devon Maurice K. Hanson has now arrived in Swansea, South Wales. John F. Burke, now in the RAF is at Boston, Lincs. Kenneth Bulmer of the Royal Corps of Signals writes from Hendon -- apparently getting nearer home than the wilds of the Yorkshire moors around Catterick where we last heard of him. Sidney Bouds, once of Kingston-on-Thames is now at Slough, Bucks, he is another RAfer. Whilst L/Cdr. Carnell E. J. sends us "Sands of Time" from his new station at Tiverton, Devon; having prepared the issue under awkward circumstances.

VIA "RENNY" There is a Canadian edition of ASTONISHING out, Vol.1, No. 1, being the Nov '44 issue. The cover has an added pic by an unknown Canadian artist. Canada's UNCANNY has gone bi-monthly. I met Ron Lane at Manchester last Monday, and we spent a pleasant (if short) evening chatting. May be meeting Ron Bradbury on the 23rd -- not confirmed as yet. JER.

XMAS CARDS This year I had decided not to send any cards, and was therefore all the more gratified to receive some and wish to convey my sincere thanks rather belatedly; I admit, to Adele Beasley, "Eleanor Walt and Forry", W.S. Sykora, Harry Warner, Sid Birchby, Doug Webster, Dave McIlwain, Jack Gibson Don Doughty, L.J. Johnson, R. Johnson. And Alicia Feather.

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