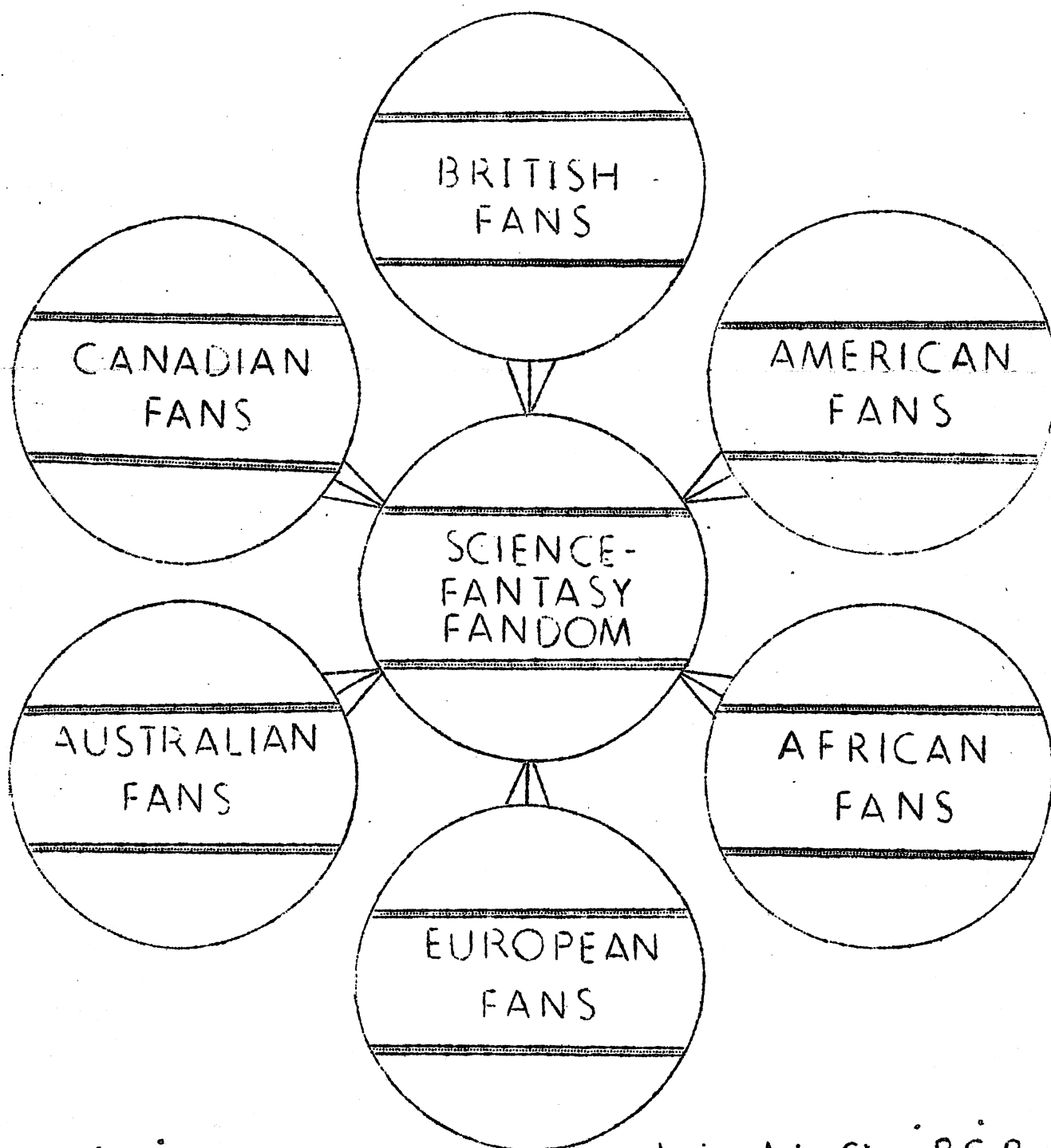


# INTERIM NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SCIENCE FICTION INTERNATIONAL - April, 1950 - No. 4



designed by Chas. R.G. Rowe



INTERIM NEWSLETTER  
Official Organ  
of  
SCIENCE FICTION INTERNATIONAL

Published Bi-monthly

James E. Love - Secretary  
1005 Idlewild Ave. Newark, Ohio  
United States of America.  
Copies distributed free to the  
membership

Printed by K. Martin Carlson  
1028 Third Ave South. Moorhead,  
Minn. U.S.A.

PHILOSOPHIZING

by  
Acting Editor Lyell Crane

It will interest members to know that the third issue has been sent to sixty one addresses outside North America which include the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Eire, British Malaya and Sweden.

These addresses were collected from various sources, largely from the letter columns of the sf magazines and from the files of our members.

We are following the practice of sending a few free consecutive issues to these addresses. A letter from those fans who have so far remained silent would be appreciated stating their opinion of SFI and whether they wish to receive further issues.

Now to business. Encouragement on the poetry page edited by Bob Carson has been received from Peggy Scott, Addie Huddleston and Evan Appelman.

An event of importance to SFI has occurred in Australia. Roger N. Dard of 232 James St.

Perth, WA. Australia has kindly agreed to direct our operations in that area. Australian fans would receive quicker answers to their questions by writing to Perth for preliminary inquiries so that they will know what questions to ask when writing to Toronto concerning final membership arrangements. We are hoping to establish a similar official contact in South Africa shortly.

Free sample copies of Ken Slater's fanzine "Operation Fantast" are still obtainable from the acting editor; a postcard (2¢ from the US) will get you one.

Chas R. G. Rowe reports that he is withdrawing from fandom because his new job takes him all over the country and leaves little time for correspondence.

Pearle Appleford of Durban, South Africa writes that the November and February issue of the Newsletter arrived almost together and that this publication should have the effect of bringing world sf fans closer together.

We hope of course that it will do just that. Our success as an international society is not to be measured by the fuss we stir up in our home base but the interest we promote in localities isolated from science fiction literature.

We have just received the first issue of "The Fantasy Attic", a fanzine produced by Walter A. Coslet, Box 6, Helena, Montana. USA. This publication is a trade-zine and contains mainly lists of sf mags, books and fanzines for sale or exchange. It is free and contains 14 foolscap pages of offerings covering a very large field.

Then there were the two



atomic scientists .crossing the laboratory with cadmium rods over their shoulders. One said to the other: "Come on Claude, let's go fission." Oops! How did that creep in.

That's all from your acting editor this issue except to remind you to check James Love's changed address which was listed incorrectly on the back page of the last issue. This corrected address and the editorial address are shown on the back page.

---

#### Letters to the Editor

Evan Hugh Appelman of 195 Laurel Ave., Highland Park, Ill. USA writes:

Your poetry section appears promising. Particularly the type of poem represented by the first piece.

I would like to answer Landis Shepherd's letter at some length. What I am going to say has probably been said many times before, but I think it's important enough to be said again.

In the first place, let's take the opposition to stf literature. The principal claim is that fantasy and science fiction represents escapism. To this I reply: what fictional field of literature does not do so. Stop and think for a moment. When you pick up a novel, aren't you doing so to escape from the drab, everyday world about you?

So what's wrong with escapism? Stf enthusiasts will spend thousands of words arguing that stfantasy is not mere escapism, that it has a "cosmic purpose." Nonsense! Stf is a form of fiction and as such does represent escapism. There is certainly nothing to be ashamed of in this.

People in general do not like it when someone claims to be something special. If fans would be proud of stf as it stands, instead of trying to rationalize it into something that it is not, stfantasy would be much more readily accepted as unobjectionable literature.

---

L. L. Shepherd of Box 100, Litchfield, Ill. USA without knowledge of Evan Appelman's comments on his first note writes:

#### IS SCIENCE FICTION NECESSARY?

A great deal of present day reading and educational facilities concern themselves with maintaining the status quo. They tend to gloss over the fact that Human Society is based on the willing association of free, autonomous beings, capable of living outside that society. Most of the popular literature of this age does not stress the role of the individual mind. It stresses the role of the "society" of Humanity. The average person of today fails to see the comparison of this Society to the modern calculating machine.

However, those of us who have been able to appreciate science fiction see this comparison very well. The ability to see, in stf, something other than "escapist" reading makes us capable of using our minds in something other than the "accepted" channels of thought. We can see that Human Society and the modern calculating machine are alike in this respect.

Men built calculating machines to solve their problems. No matter how perfect the machines, they will never think. They will only answer the problems propounded by men. So it is with our Human societies: they can only

give us back what we, the individuals, are willing to put into them

Individuals that can see and understand the type of thinking necessary to read and write stf never have to be reminded that man is not a cog but a free being. I imagine that the tailor in the following anecdote could be a writer, or at least a reader of science fiction.

A man ordered a pair of trousers from his tailor who took six months to complete them. The man was furious and exclaimed: "It took only six days to make the world, but you take six months to make one pair of pants."

"That's right," replied the tailor, "but look at the world and then look at these pants."

---

#### EVER SEE A \$2 BILL?

Canada has a \$2 bill; similar to the others but a brown orange colour

---

#### PHILATELY AND ALL THAT

It costs no more to buy a quantity of every special issue stamp that appears at the post office but it may give pleasure to the recipient, his son, his father or uncle if any of them happen to be stamp collectors; especially so for international correspondence.

---

#### FANZINE REVIEW COLUMN

Fanzines for review in this column may be sent to the Editor.

NORWESCON PROGRESS REPORT, Box 8517, Portland 7, Ore. USA. Subtitled "Confidential Progress Report on 8th World Science Fiction Convention", this first official

publication of the Norwescon is indicative, we're afraid, of a trend. Chairman John de Courcy gallumphs his merry, if somewhat leaden-footed, way along the labyrinthine ways of the PSFS brand of humorous exposé. The report is taken up with thick-smears satire on management of convention funds, sniping by Courcy at his playmates, occasional lonely scraps of information; most prominent among the latter is the news that the con will be held in Portland. Devotees of the both-feet-in-the-trough school of wit will be convulsed by the Courcian sallies, but we hope that a little serious information will leak out of Portland before Labor Day, if only for the reason that the wives and families of the conventioners will want to know where the bodies can be found.

THE NEKROMANTIKON, Vol 1, No 1; 1905 Spruce Ave., Kansas City 1, Mo. USA; published quarterly, 25¢ per issue. Manly Banister, Editor. One of the most intelligent and handsomely put together fanzines to come out of the United States in many months. Weird and fantasy short stories, ranging from the shivery "Haunt", to the really delightful "Green Thing" who had long skinny arms and snatched at Jonathan from dark doorways. Poems, articles by Banister and Eva Firestone, and linocuts by Banister round out the issue nicely. If you like your fantasy crisp and Unknown-flavored, try this. We don't think you'll be disappointed.

STF TRADER, Vol.1. No.8; c/o K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Ave. South, Moorhead, Minn. USA. 5¢ per issue; Jack Irwin, Editor. Still one of the top tradezines. If you're looking for bargains, or have material for quick sale, this is your best bet.



## A "WORLD" SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

This summer, the Eighth Annual World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA. At this gathering, known to the fans as the "Norwescon", there will be representatives of all phases of science fiction.

There will be fans, writers, publishers, magazine editors, artists and all the other groups which go to make science fiction the seething cauldron of conflicting opinions.

Representatives of each group will be given an opportunity to address the meeting and air their particular problems. Open discussions and debates will be held and small groups of individuals will continue, long into the night, to thrash out their own personal preferences over liquid refreshment in smoke filled rooms.

Towards the end of the session will come the time to decide on the site of the next convention. The bidding will be keen as each local group desires to enhance its reputation in the fan world.

It is interesting to note that all "WORLD" stf conventions to date have been held on the North American continent; and six of the seven have been held in USA and one in Canada.

This state of affairs is not difficult to understand when one realises that the majority of stf stories are produced and are only readily available in the US; but although understandable, it is not necessarily desirable.

At the last convention Ted Carnell, an English fan made the trip to the US to be present, and there is no doubt that many others from England and other parts of

the world would have attended were it not for the currency restrictions.

To those who think that the rest of the world can go hang, consider that not only are there a very large number of fans scattered throughout the world, but the difficulties that these fans have to contend with to get any stf literature at all provide a natural selection which eliminates the adolescent and the unenterprising.

What's to be done? The obvious suggestion is to pick some Sterling area centre with sufficient fans to act as hosts and then arrange for the attendance of as many US fans as possible.

Only one place, at the moment will qualify on all counts and that is London, England, which is centrally located to many hundreds of very active UK fans. It is not so very far in terms of time and money from the east coast of North America; it is in the sterling area and it is already the site of a local annual convention.

To have a world convention in England would boost the morale of the sterling area fans and demonstrate to the world that stf is not limited by national boundaries. Fans from Europe and nearby countries could attend unhindered by currency restrictions, thereby giving the meeting a truly world flavour.

So much for the political side of the thing; there are other advantages to be considered. US fans visiting England would be spending sterling money during their stay, and this sterling money could be supplied by UK fandom in exchange for the equivalent amount in US dollars at some mutually agreeable exchange rate.

In this way, the visitors  
(See lower RH. column page 7)

# THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

CQ EUROPE....From Ken Slater we receive news that he is prepared to act as temporary overseas funds handler for SFI; this means that Sterling area associates may become full active members by forwarding 10/- (UK funds) to him.

The SFI ad in German is strictly an experiment, aimed at attracting non-English speaking fantasists into the society. In the future, we may attempt to put news items into German, and possibly French.....Speaking of German, does anyone know whether Zukunftromanliteratur is a word? Or does Zukunftroman take care of it?.....I am anxious to contact German fantasy fans interested in discussing fantasy in Europe; correspond in either English or German.

MAY BASKETS....to Astounding Science Fiction for the third installment of Wilmar Shiras' wonderful novel. But I can't help thinking that its continuity would have been preserved if Campbell had presented it in consecutive issues rather than five and eleven-month intervals!.....to Walter Willis' fanmag SLANT, featuring hectic Gaelic wit and some pleasant short stories....to BANTAM and PERMA, publishers of pocketbooks, for two new collections of science fiction - remarkable in that neither contained a single ASF tale. O tempora!

DISALLUSIONMENT.....Landis Shepherd says we readers of stf, as champions of something worthwhile, have a responsibility to humanity. After the beating stf has taken from so-called literateurs, I think the reverse is probably truer.

## EINE EINLADUNG

Schwärmer der Zukunftroman sind hiermit eingeladen, Mitglieder dieses Vereins--die Science Fiction International---zu werden. Dieser Klub ist mit der Absicht gegründet, dieselbigen zu vereinigen, welche in gleichartige Literatur interessiert sind. Sollten Sie interessiert sein, diesem Klub anzugehören, unsere Zeitschriften zu bekommen, in Buchwechsel oder Buchkauf mitmachen, bitte lassen Sie uns baldig von Ihnen hören.

## THE PRESIDENT

Julian C. May  
2334N 76th Court  
Elmwood Park, Ill. USA.

## UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE

Capt. Ken F. Slater  
13 Gp. RPC. BAOR 23.  
c/o. GPO. ENGLAND.

("World" con from page 6.)  
would get the advantage of the depreciated currency and the UK fans would have an opportunity to build up a substantial dollar balance to spend on US magazine subscriptions.

At this point the defense rests. It is not suggested that a bid should be made at the "Norwescon" for the 1951 convention as enough pressure could not be brought to bear at such short notice but there is no reason why some plans should not be considered by UK fans for a truly international gathering in 1952 to promote science fiction on a "World" scale.



# I'VE GOT SIXPENCE

SFI is an international society and the more we get to know about other countries the better. Now take money for example: a necessary evil, you will admit - "Not so evil," you say. OK; so let's just say it's necessary; any objections to that?

It has come to light that some fans in the dollar area do not seem to have a very firm grasp on the different monetary systems of other countries, more particularly that amazing system of pounds, shillings and pence which is used in England, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Fiji and a number of other places.

In an international society such as ours it is nothing less than bad manners not to be acquainted with the more essential things in the countries of fellow members and this article is intended to enlighten readers on the way of writing and saying amounts of money on the pounds, shillings and pence system.

First of all, be it known that the basis of calculation of money is not the same for all countries using this system. For example, the English pound is officially worth a little over three dollars while the Australian pound is officially worth a little over two dollars but more of that some other time.

The pound is divided into twenty shillings and the shillings are divided into twelve pence. The pence are divided into two half-pence (Pronounced something like "Ha'penny") and these half-pennies are divided into two farthings. However, the farthing is

pretty much obsolete these days.

The symbol for the pound is "£" and precedes the figures so that one hundred pounds would be written "£100." The symbol for the shilling is "s" but it very seldom appears in this form unless it is shown at the top of a column of figures. Should this occur it will appear only in conjunction with the pounds and pence sign and the whole thing will appear as £ s d. The usual way of writing, for example, ten shillings is "10/-."

The symbol for pence is the letter "d" and this usually appears after the figures. Thus, six pence would be written as "6d." However, there are variations of these symbols, and such sums as "nine shillings and six pence" (Referred to as "nine and six") would be written as "9/6." Further variations are "½d" for one "half-penny," "9/11½" for "nine shillings and eleven pence half-penny," etc. Sums of money involving all three forms would be written as "£10-10-4½," "£100-0-0," "£23-19-11½," etc.

People growing up under such a system come to accept it without question and the need for change is not as apparent to them as it would be to people who have grown up under the decimal system of coinage. There has been no sign that any change is contemplated by these countries so the best that members of SFI can do is to make themselves familiar with the monetary systems of the countries they contact and by understanding they will help themselves as well as command more attention from their correspondents.



# THE MUSE & STF FANTASY

Members desiring to submit poetry manuscripts for this department should address all correspondence to the acting editor. News concerning the future of this page will be published in the next issue.

## INCANDESCENCE: AGE TWO

### I

He sat on the sand by the light of the moon  
While hypnotizing things.  
My heart went pitter-pat because  
He had three purple wings.

### II

The Findlewerp came swacing by  
Beating a tune with his Bolo.  
He played so low I could not hear  
Because he played it solo.

### III

A little tapeworm danced with glee  
to hear the merry din.  
And one old Lac bug shook his head  
Because it was a sin.

### IV

I was a sponge (but no one knew)  
And I was fain to tell.  
The Lac bug nodded eagerly  
And said: "You do dance well!"

### V

I only tell you now because  
I have in mind a moral:  
That is to say that purple wings  
look well with sponge and coral.

Melita Lynch

# INTERIM NEWSLETTER

SCIENCE FICTION INTERNATIONAL  
AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR READERS  
of  
SCIENCE AND FANTASY FICTION

Invites inquiries from serious readers in all parts of the world.

If you reside in the United  
States write to:-

James E. Love  
1005 Idlewild Ave.  
Newark, Ohio.  
U . S . A

If you reside outside the United  
States write to:-

Iyell Crane  
23 Surrey Place  
Toronto 5. Ont.  
C A N A D A .

## INTERIM NEWSLETTER

(Printed matter only)

RETURN ADDRESS LISTED ON BACK.

RETURN to Newark address if posted  
in USA or Toronto address if posted  
in CANADA.

(RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED)

10

W. Paul Ganley  
119 Ward Road  
North Tonawanda, New York

