

# MELBOURNE

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NO. 8.

## b l a h

Noticeable in this issue, of course, is the absence of a cover, or to be more specific, a cover drawing. Please note but us, dear reader. The we had no actual cover, we did have an excellent large cartoon by B-M, onto which we intended to incorporate some printing. But economics and lethargy (business to you, ignoramus!) soon! Well----Smith has been doing Latin for about the past five years, hence the editorial "we" has some faint ideas about Latin plurals () (You'll notice we've half-inked B-T's use of the double parenthesis) influenced us. Laziness is understandable in these days days, but economics may n.o.d. some explanation. Here we go. Deep breath. For the past five months we've been using two types of stencil. The ordinary 6d COMMERCIAL for all typing; and another type, kindly donated by Mr. Taylor (ET's poppa), too thin for typing on, but perfect for pen cutting, for illustrations. Originally we had some 12 dozen of the latter, but now there remain but about 18. Hence we have to go easy. What's wrong for the (oops!--should be "with the") COMMERCIAL for illustrations, you askin'? They are about ten times too thick for tracing the drawings. But we have lately been planning to get one of those glass-lidded, electric-light boxes that artists (them) use. Still, if anyone knows of a cheap, fairly transparent brand of stencil, we'd be glad if they'd let us know about them. H-B will be without covers until we get said box, as we want to conserve the thin ones for A-F. Also missing, is of course, the foto. One of these days, just to surprise you, we'll keep a promise.

H-B undergoes a radical change in policy this issue, too. Instead of monthly, we are now appearing irregularly, when we get the time, energy and cash. Also, it is going smaller number of pages. These changes aren't due to financial difficulties or loss of interest, or anything, but the small amount of spare time we have these days. We'll try and be at least monthly-and-a-half, and will also try and grow larger once more. (Cont. P. 2.)

## bulletin

BLAH, etc., continued from page 1.

A-F- this will be out in about a month's time, a bit late, perhaps. The following is what we expect will be the firmlinesup:  
 Cover: R.A.S - Breevers: BCB - Inside: Recovery: BBR ---- Inside-BFRS T-T article, as yet untitled - One of Neal Dwyer's short: "Overlooked" - Colin Redon's "Telegrapher", which in view of our new policy has been crowded out of this issue - David R. Bruce' "Victory" - Another article: "Death" by Donald Duck - and "Fantasy on the Screen" written jointly by Joel and myself. Four pages of it, illustrated with 4 or 5 photos, as well as a still from "Dr. Cyclops" - all the usual features, with a rather big Yours truly, I fancy. The quiz (just like last issue's) will be accompanied by a full quiz. Issue will be in the region of 35 to 40 pages.

A few days ago I received a letter from English fan Harold Gottliffe, posted on the incredible date of May 14th. He is now in military hospital in Egypt, and asked me if I'd send him some fan mags. I sent him a parcel of book issues of A-F & M-B, as well as some spare copies of other mags I had. I urge other editors to do likewise. His address is: 7519116 Sgt. H. Gottliffe R.A.M.C., G/C R.A.M.C. Base Depot, M.E.F.

Also got a note from Doug Webster, who is taking over FANTASY-AF, and asks all Australian fanzies to send him their pub's in exchange. Least of you know his address but--- "Idlewild", Pennytinall Road, Aberdeen.

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MELBOURNE BULLETIN published irregularly from 183 Domain Road, South Yarra, 3141, MELBOURNE. Vol. 1., No. 8. About August 1st. Altho nobody has bought this for ages we'll say that this issue is priced at 2d, in view of its small number of pages, and not at the regular price of 3d. Yanks who want it---- in view of the difficulty of sending subs, drop us a line and U can have it for nix. This offer does not apply to AUSTRALIA-FANTASY

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TO FILL UP THE PAGE: We have got copy of A-F No.1., two of No.2, about four or No.3., none of No.4., and about one of No.5. (last issue) M-B- none of No.1., about a dozen of No.2., two or three of No.3., four or five of No.4., about one of No.5., none of No.6 and about a dozen of No.7. (No fotos in book nos.) If you want any of them send in aqph. Ad for A-F, and 1d for M-B. (By the way if you want additional prints of the fotos that have so far appeared in L-B for an album or something, you can have them at one penny each.)

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No, M-B will not appear in red again!

## SCIENCE FICTION FAN, ME SAY...

(No pretty title out this issue!)

ROB DOWLER: "Thanks for explaining why McBride's story didn't appear. (See a-f No. 2.) I was wondering. So he's Buttner the second, but Personally I liked most of Buttner's stuff, that is of course, the ones where he didn't let himself go. In fact I liked the "Time Trap" (one that the name - it appeared in 2nd Marvel S.F.) a great deal, and if the silly fool had left all that sexy stuff out it would have been a classic. If Pete can initiate his other work and leave out, as you say, 'the inevitable female and the inevitable consequences', he should turn out some decent stuff."

I want your honest opinion Warwick, and I'd like to get other fans too, if I could. Here it is: "Should a fan writer weave into his stories a plot about a girl - and the usual plot & blish about love etc.?" (leaving out the Henry Buttner stuff of course!) I've noticed that in every fan effort in Australia so far except one, (The Iron Planet) that fans have avoided even mentioning a girl in their stories. Now think of all the stories that have been written!! We have to remember that we aren't children anymore, and that some fans are getting on for 18, 19 etc.. Is the female taboo in s-f or fantasy? (Because you mean fan efforts Mag!) To prove that wrong I'm going to write a s-f love story. But before I did so I wanted your opinion on the subject. (OK - I say definitely YES in favor of a mild sex element in our fan work. We mustn't start throwing off our fanlikeistic traits.) You may not be in agreement with my opinions because I know when Ralph wrote "The Iron Planet", Eric almost had a willy when he read that ending about the chap's arm, and he was months deciding whether he would leave it in or not. As a result I noticed that it must have gone over quite favorably or there would have been a lot of comment on it.

So as you say, if Mac's story is any good after you censor it, print it by all means and tell him if he wants to write a printable story and wants to mention a girl - well let him mention a girl - if he wants a bit of mild love - let him have a bit of mild love - but for Foo's sake let it be mild and not violent thus spoiling a good story." (We want other opinions on this.)

John Hollesworth advises: "Buy 'Among Mystics and Magicians in Tibet' in the Penguin series. 10d. 280 pages. Plenty of mystic stuff and MIND SCIENCE. I suspect they got a lotta stuff out of its first edition for the BISHOP SWOT. Damn good." (Say, John.... Do I still love ya?? Marshall do you think, you hear-a-tiful thing you. P.S. What do you think of that insert in Vol. 7???)

Michael Rosenblum, all the way from "the old Country": "Nice to hear from Australia again. You know, I think Aussie and British fandom ought to get together more than we do - we have a great deal in common just now, both being more or less thrown back on our own resources. The there is a great deal of difference too. For one thing, you people haven't the "distractions" we are enjoying over here - blackout at nights, air raids & alarms & this fire-watching business that occupies one or more evenings a week.

Besides that, there appears to be a difference in type; at least between the pre-this-war Britisher and you people. We are, on the whole much older and (dare I say it) more adult in thought, manner and behaviour. I don't want to sound like an elderly uncle, but Australian fandom squanders far too much of its energy on internecine squabbles - which fact you print out in your letters. Now how can you achieve anything if that is what happens? Thank Gnu, we are now co-operating as never before and practically all British fandom is now one organic whole. In fact we are getting better organised than before the war. Wonder to what extent this is due to the undisputed fact that the people left in each group - Leeds, Liverpool & London in particular - are pacifists - and therefore far more likely to help each other, and other people, and to trust one another.

Many thanks for the extra copies of AURORA-FANTASY and KILL-BILL - both undoubtedly improving wonderfully. Copies of both are circulating now, and if I get any comments I'll send them on to you sometime."

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England again--or rather Scotland. Doug. Webster: "Now I'm ----  
thinking something more attractive. It illustrates the vast superiority of green ink for clarity & attractiveness. Why don't you use it on the other side? (In your ad you've probably found out by now.) Cover indistinct and badly drawn, but the rest very good. Naturally the headings, which are very well stencilled, help the effect enormously. There was nothing special in the material except that letter from Edna Bisselby, which seemed to me written in a neat, racy style, with several nice touches in the phrasing. Whodunit? Yourself? That's my insult!!!!)

Thank 'ee kindly then. I suppose 'twas in exchange for that other Gent? (Uh-huh.) If so it was very decent of you and I hope I can pay you back to the extent of a couple of quid in the flicks, or a mug of beer, or whatever it is you aspire to. I'm stopping the Gent with the next (July) issue - things just got complicated. No need to explain, & anyway, probably you don't fully comprehend the mentality of blitzed fandom over here just now - we take politics and other such things fairly seriously, & think of causes and effects.'

Funny having a few long letters for a change!!! Help!!!

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