



THE 'PSEUDO ~ FUTURIAN!'

Or, one of the Horrors of War

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News of the month

Letter received from Harold Gottliffe states he is safe, at the moment of writing in Birkenhead where he has visited Liverpool's Holmes, McIlwain and Leslie Johnson... Roland Forster has had his medical examination for military service, and has been accepted as a wireless operator for the RAF. Will Temple likewise has had his medical examination... Walter H. Gillings registered as a C.O. & in consequence was discharged from the newspaper on which he has spent the whole of his working life. Says Wally; "My heaven, haven't they got the wind-up, these people who are so certain of our cowardice?" with which I heartily concur. P.S. If you are in the Forces you miss that last sentence out... Douglas Webster, Aberdeen University student fan, recently obtained exemption from military service conditional on doing work in agriculture, forestry or land reclamation. Welcome brother!

Only fan-mag received is Science Fantasy Review's War Digest, containing usual news and blethering, and book reviews. Incidentally, may I state ~~emphatically~~ that I am NOT Wayfarer - who is spreading this idea around? When George Ledhurst met me in London at Easter, practically the first coherent remark he made was an accusation to this effect. And apparently we write rather similarly too - nor do I know who the gentleman really is; tho I have my suspicions

The last mail from USA arrived some five or six weeks ago and I am wondering ... so no US fanmags to mention. Now just to prove me a liar, since I wrote that out, I have received a batch of stuff from the States, which includes an issue of "Van Houten Says" and 3 of "Fantasy News". From the latter is culled; - Farnsworth Wright died about the middle of June, after an operation; Henry Kuttner and C.L. Moore were married recently in New York; rather a pity that there is no birth also announced!

For book fiends. - would be grateful for a list of any rare stf books published in this country of which you may be aware. Just titles and authors will do and if any further details are wanted I'll let you know. Keep off the usual ones though, for I have those listed already - to the tune of some 500 odd. And only science fiction please, no weird or 'pure' fantasy.

I promised you reviews so here is one to start off with, a review of the first issue of FANTASTIC NOVELS; new companion magazine to FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES which is itself companion to ARGOSY.

Consists of 144 pages, 141 of which are devoted deservedly to that classic fantasy tale "The Blind Spot" by Austin Hall and Homer Eon Flint. Now, if you were at all worried by Russell's "Sinister Barrier" don't read this. The story gets more, rather than less mystifying as it continues and concludes by putting several minor and one major riddle to the reader, and that riddle is only, do we exist? One can't read this story with any - sent

attention and still possess a complacent unruffled mentality afterwards; after all - no enquirer should have such a thing in any case. A short story, "Monsieur De Guise" by Perley Poore Sheehan is not so good. With Finlay illustrations, including the cover, which is one of the finest I have ever seen, this magazine has character and certainly charm as well!

Post Mortem Dept.

We know YOU had your own opinion, be it complimentary or otherwise, on Jimmy Rathbone's poem "Futura" in the last issue of the "Futurian"; but here are the ideas of some other people. Who would envy an editor?

For; Rathbone is one of those rare fupoets(?) - nice work and commendable illustration - more please. Julian Parr (Stoke-on-Trent)

Against; First the poem. Clank. What awful bunk and plunk such awfully constructed erraticismic verbiage oh stop me stop me from biting chunks corrugated chunks from my archaic typewriter type type and hold me up hold me up and hold me back and blow me down. Cosh. I didn't like Jimmy's poem at all. Manchesters Eric Needham, who is not an aesthete.

For; I quite enjoyed Rathbone's little poem which seemed to possess a certain technical skill, in addition to the interesting picture of the future city he presents, and going back on a former vow of mine, I will give him 9. D. R. Smith (Nuneaton)

Against; I put Rathbone's poem in a low category. John Craig (Caterham)

For; Futura is rather good & the way it is put on paper is very good but I cannot make out the lines behind it - Eric Moss (late of Leeds) - shame on you Eric, that's my luvverly picture of the city-to-be.

Undetermined; Rathbone's poem certainly conveyed the feeling of Utopia or rather, the Brave-New-World-To-Be, that fuzzy vision which hangs and waits hopefully at the back of most S-F fans' minds. Will Temple (Wembley)

Opinions on another item next month.

May I recommend "Stolen March" by Dornford Yates as a most unexpected and interesting fantasy? Cheapest edition is at 3/6 and it is published by Ward Lock and Co., but you will no doubt be able to find it in any decent library. It is the author's only dip into fantasy, - and what fantasy! Four travellers find the original nursery rhyme land and from then the queerest things possible occur. Not recommended to those who only like science fiction, but to all others.

Random thoughts to fill up space

Wonder if anybody else would like to put out a similar sort of sheet to this. If so we ought to mail them together and save a good deal of the expence in that way. I would even be prepared to do the duplicating for someone wanting to co-operate in this manner, if they will cut the xx stencils.

I must apologise for the very poor quality of the typing this issue, its even worse than usual. Afraid I am still a rotten typist, and the conditions under which I have this stencil to cut are by means the best that could be obtained. I am in a fairly busy office, being constantly interrupted, and with other people talking all the time.

If there is anyone you think may be interested in this little x why not pass a copy on to them? And ~~XXXX~~ I'll appreciate any news etc. being passed on to me. Am a little bit short this month as for some unknown reason letters have been few and far between.

And, finally; if you are not receiving P.F. regularly, send me some stamped addressed envelopes (1d. stamp).