

# SCIENCE-FANTASY

No. 12

REVIEW.

DEC '39

## FANS PREDICT FUTURE

WHAT FOLLOWS WAR ?

Several of the letters in this issue ON THE SOAPBOX discuss what the future of the world is to be, and the writers mostly plump for Federal Union. As s-f fans we all have ideas as to what may come to pass when the present strife is over. What we want to know is, what are these ideas of yours?

How about you writing and letting us know? The other fellows plan is always as interesting as our own even though we do think it a rotten one. Moreover only by discussing these things will we get a clear conception of the type of future we aspire to as a society rather than as a conglomeration of individuals.

Will we have Federal Union, is it any good, will fascism succeed or communism or plain democracy? There are plenty of themes for futurists to dwell on and we look forward to receiving a whole heap of epistles on this subject. And when we print them we hope you who do not agree with the writers will crack back.

### ODDMENTS

A new fan-mag entitled 'STUNNING SCIENTIFAN' has been issued which runs to 42 pages large size. Quoted as 'Going to be the best in Fandom' (haven't we heard that before?) further particulars will be published as received.

CAPT. FUTURE NO.1 starts in serial form the reprinting of 'The Human Termites' by David H. Keller. This is one reprint readers will not mind.

## FAN-MAG CATALOGUE.

For those readers who desire details of other fan-mags we append a list of some of the mags still in circulation.

SATELLITE: J.F. Burgo, 74, Beauchamp Drive, Liverpool 15.

FANTASY, C.S. Youd, 244, Desborough Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

POSTAL PREVIEW, E.J. Carnell, 17, Burwash Road, Plumstead, S.E. 18.

FUTURIAN, J.M. ROSENBLUM, 4, Grange Terrace, Leeds 7.

If any fan has details of other mags in publication in England we shall be pleased to publish them on receipt. Support of these efforts by our readers will be appreciated.

### TALES OF WONDER BRITAIN'S LAST HOPE

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All s-f enthusiasts should do all possible to ensure success of the next issue of T o W due out end of December. Like all other publications it has been hit by the war but we must not allow it to go out. And we can best ensure that by giving it all the support we can.

In addition to contents stated in our last, editor W. Gillings says Coutts Brisbane is back again with 'The Planet Wrecker' also A.G. Bennett has an article about insects ruling the Earth in the far future, entitled 'THE INSECT THREAT.'

Readers speculations regarding 'Life on Mars' will be featured, while the next SEARCH FOR IDEAS will be based on 'WAR IN THE FUTURE'. Coutts Brisbane and Murray Leinster contribute to Authors Corner.

Rally round fans.



## SCIENCE-FANTASY REVIEW

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VIEWS expressed by contributors are  
not necessarily those of the eds.

## O N T H E S O A P B O X

WILLIAM F. TEMPLE, London.

This is just a note from a penitent reader of SFR, who has derived enjoyment from every issue since its inception, and who has been too lazy &/or thoughtless to write and express his gratitude and appreciation. As a late (usually very late) co-editor of Novae Terrae, I know what it is to work hard to please readers who do not even acknowledge your efforts. At least one London fan's eyes brighten when he sees SF R once more on his breakfast table, and even opens it before he opens his mouth. I extend my overdue thanks.

The Nov. issue is upto the stand - ard of previous issues. Ron's 'Gleanings' was the most attractive page because he crowded so much information into it in an entertaining way. Ditto spelling mistakes.

Am afraid 'war is Waste' is just something that everyone knows already - not that knowing seems to make much difference, though. Mr. Silver says that fascism must go, but makes no suggestion as to what should replace it. I advise him to read the new Penguin Special 'The Case for Federal Union' by W.B. Curry, and thus learn exactly the practical way out of war - the only practical way. Which, by the way, H.G. Wells has been preaching this 'ere forty year to an indifferent or stupid or antagonistic public.

Bill Temple (contd)

I wish you had room for a larger Soapbox. I'd prefer a whole crate of Reader's letter, because next to the hot news they are the most interesting part of every fan-mag.

Cheerio for now, and Keep the Holmes Fires Burning.

(More letters are coming in. Peculiarly enough they seem to have been encouraged by the non s-f article by B.S. We encourage readers to write to us on such topics.

Bob Silver states Federal Union is only a partial answer to today's problems and has promised us an article on it, if fans would like to have it printed.)

H.J. ELLIS, Barrow-in-Furness

Thank goodness the was hasn't stopped you-yet. Every time I got an issue I feel much better. Anyhow, you're getting along quite well, apparently nothing to grumble at. The new colour is an improvement.

Now to business. There are several items I'd like to write about. On page 1 I definitely feel that MOST of the pro-mags from America are not worth the price for current or subscription copies. In fact, the only really consistently good mags are 'Astounding' and 'Unknown'. Of course, some aren't too bad, like 'Amazing' & 'TWS' and one or two others, but on the average they are definitely poor. The covers and illustrations are even worse than the stories.

Page 2, the editorial, I'm afraid I can't do much about that as I don't know one real s-f fan in Barrow. I'll do my best though.

Bob Silver's article. Elementary, my dear Watson. Every sensible person will agree with you. He your last paragraph, however, I think that if you looked up the history of post-war Europe, you would find that a good deal of the blame must be borne by our so-called statesmen. If fascism must go what comes afterwards? I say Federal Union. I shall write more about that later. (Please do, that'll please



## Gleanings.

Garnered by Ron. Holmes.

Recent letters have asked me to keep "Gleanings" more formal. I will comply with this request and I ask readers to give their opinions of this new style. After all, its you who miss the wise-cracks.

Fredrick Pohl, the prominent fan and authors agent in New York has recently accepted the post of Editor of a Stfn mag to 'Fictioneers Inc'. I do not know the title of this new mag yet, but I do know it is well under way and will appear on the US newsstands on Dec. 22nd.

C.D.Hornig, has left his old haunts and has taken up a new Editorship, of "Planet Stories" which is published by 'Fiction House' N.Y. The change of Editorship will probably mean the death of "Science Fiction" and "Future Fiction". Also of the proposed Quarterly.

"Planet Comics" is another mag. which is finding its way in. It is one of those US childrens comics which is entirely devoted to Stfn, I gather that more of this type is to follow. This magazine will soon print a review of "Planet Stories".  
(Correction- Ed of "Planet Stories")

"Marvel Tales" has arrived and is on an even lower plane than I thought possible for a mag to sink to. Although the stories are Stfn, the sex angle is laid on thick and heavy. "Marvel" is now catering for an entirely new public, and I bequeath it to them, this mag is not worth the paper its printed on:  
(is Malcolm Reiss - more anon.)

"Capt Future" will appear NIXXX monthly in future. The next issue (Dec) will contain a book length novel by E Hamilton entitled 'Calling Capt Future', while the following issue will contain even more adventures of this new character and his three companions. Finally, has anyone a spare copy of No. 10 S-FR? I find that I have not got one.

## CAPTAIN FUTURE.

This new magazine which has appeared with the very puzzling date Winter 1940, has apparently traveled in time to reach us.

The cover of this mag depicts Capt Future with Otho and Grag against the background of falling Skyscrapers. All are firing ray-guns and looking fierce in the usual Stfn manner, but apparently nothing whatsoever. The cover is by Rozen, and depicts Capt F. with a very remarkable resemblance to Larry (Flash Gordon) Crabb. While the inside illustrations depict him as the image of Carry Grant.

The setup of the mag is 'A la Startling' and illustrated by Wesso. The story runs of how Capt Future and his three companions, Otho the synthetic man, Grag the intelligent robot and Simon Wright, the living brain, are called to assist the entire solar system to stamp out a disease on Saturn which makes men retreat along their path of evolution. They find it is not a disease however but the work of a criminal, "The Space Emperor", and put paid to his account.

The story is told as only E Hamilton could have told it, packed with blood and thunder from cover to cover. It includes every sort of pseudo-scientific invention ever thought of, and winds up by giving you a map of Saturn, so you may follow our heroes wanderings.

Although this can be compared only with E.R. Burroughs works, I can recommend it as a really interesting yarn, but only as light reading.

The supporting story by E.F. Russell is entitled "Invisible" and is the same story which appeared in No. 2 "Fantasy". The other short was by O Sazri entitled "Aroung Infinity", quite a good yarn about a one world dimention. Quite a good issue of a new magazine, but it will probably pall as it goes on.



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(((  WANDERINGS BY "WAYFARER".  )))
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Even in these troublouse times I still manage to pick up odd fantasy yarns when I have time to do so.

Here are several of my more recent "finds".

THE WONDERFULL CITY by J.S. Fletcher  
(T.S. Nelson & Sons, 1894). Yarn of  
a party of explorers who discover a  
lost Civilisation in S. America.

With frontispiece in the approved  
Stfn manner - quite a good novel.

THE FLIGHT OF ICARUS by Henry Byatt  
(Sisley's Ltd., 1907). Skimming

through the pages I note that the theme seems to be about a future world Civilisation in which the Jews play a prominent part. Appears to be rather mystical, but I think it must be classed as Stfn.

THE CITY OF WONDER by E. Charles.  
Vivian (Hutchinson), sometime in the  
'20's.) A rattling good yarn of a  
lost Civilisation in N. Borneo.

FIELDS OF SLEEP by E. C. Vivian.

Another Lost Civilisation yarn, by the same author and printed somewhere about the same time-a splendid adventure yarn.

THE WORLD BELOW by S. Fowler-Wright (Collins, 1929). What a yarn! One of the best future stories ever.

5000,000 years ahead, told as only  
SFW can. Beg, borrow or steal a  
copy of this book, fans, it's great.

THE POISON BELT by A. Conan. Doyle.  
(Hodder & Sloughton.) The author of  
the stupendous "Lost World" presents  
the picture of the Earth engulfed  
by a poison cloud in space. One  
of the earliest of its type, written  
I think, before the Great War of  
1914-18.

You may manage to obtain any of these at your Public Library - take it from me - they're worth getting hold of.

Au revoir, fans, till next time!

"WAYFARER"

His ~~X~~ Mark.

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((((      BOOK REVIEW.      ))))
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AND WARS SHALL CEASE by Carl Marsh.  
(Broadway Pub. Co. 7/6.)

A Secret Brotherhood, pledged to preserve peace, and possessing the power to project thought and disintegrate matter, demonstrates its resources to the British Cabinet by spiriting away Cleopatra's Needle, and reducing Battersea Power Station to dust in a few seconds. Impressed, the Premier allows the thought projectors to go ahead and halt a war of four nations.

Having not read this we cannot advise readers of its quality, but the idea seems to be antediluvian to old Stfn fans. Anyway, see if you can purchase a copy, or get it from a Library - its just out!!

Famous Fantastic Mysteries.

It seems more doubtful that F.F.M. will ever come into England, unless it is received by fans through the post, few have been received by this method so far. With this in mind we give a short review of the Nov. issue - Vol.I. No.2. Line up is as follows, "The World in the Balance" by J.P. Marshall, The Moon metal by G.P. Serviss, The Man with the Glass Heart'by G.A. England, "Almost Immortal" by A. Hall, "Fruit of the Forbidden Tree"by L.B. Blades, "The Radiant Enemies"by R.F. Starzl, and "The Conquest on the Moon Pool" by A. Merritt-in 6pts. The issue contains three superb illustrations by Finlay.

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