

SIRIUS

Nr.

41



THE NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

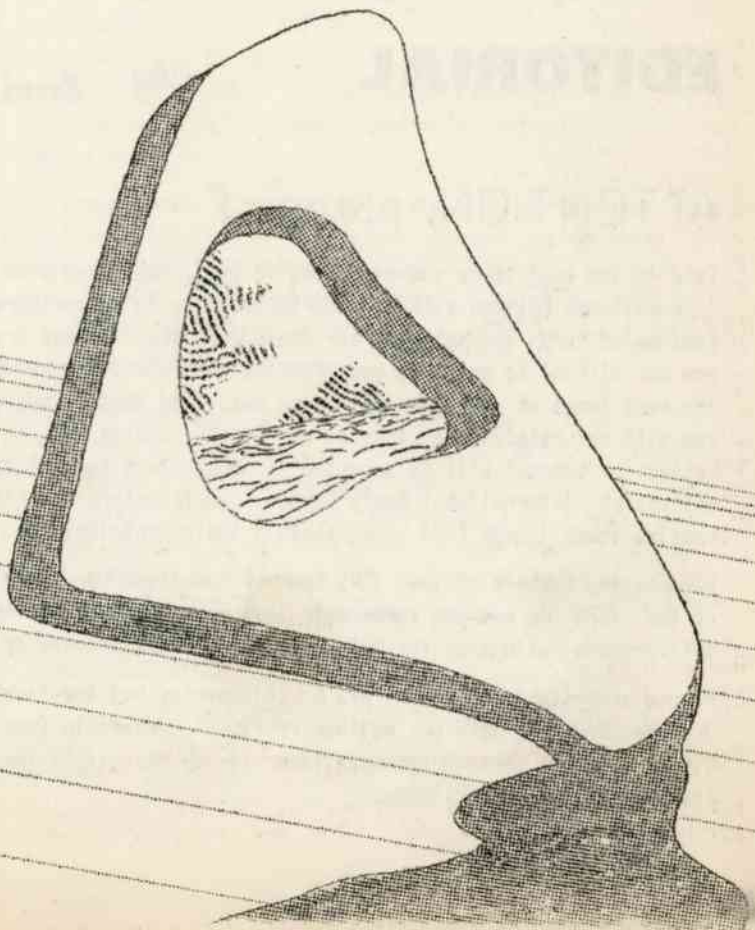
of the

ISFS

INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

DECEMBER 1960



PIERRE VERSINS



EDITORIAL

by Erwin Scudla

ATTENTION, please !

This is the last issue you will receive free. Beginning with No. 51 SIRIUS International Edition will be distributed only to subscribers and to other fanzine editors in exchange for their fanzines. Please drop us a line if you are willing to exchange your fanzine with ours, for we don't know when the next issue of your zine will come out, and thus it could happen that you will not receive the issues of SIRIUS coming out in the meantime. Letters of comment will be accepted as equivalent for SIRIUS only if they enclose an International Reply Coupon. Contributors to this fanzine will receive those issues free which contain their contributions.

Because the members of the ISFS Central Committee or other institutions of the ISFS do not pay membership fees or other duties, these terms of delivery are valid also for all members and functionaries of the ISFS.

Please understand that these are no chicaneries but inevitable necessities. Just because the ISFS CO neither receives membership fees nor are dues diverted by the branch organizations it is impossible for us to desist from these terms of delivery.

THE NEXT STEP


by Vic Ryan, Illinois, U.S.A.

While fans are notable for certain types of ingenuity (such as in the construction of fannish terms), they are singularly slow in applying new ideas to their fanzines. Even innovations such as the calendar-like "Inchmery Fan Diary" in APORRHETA are few and far between, since the thirty plus years of fanzine publishing have eliminated most possibilities of anything "new"; and if column and feature innovations are rare, fanzine changes are even more so.

But an international fanzine is another thing indeed -- a new proposal, and, I hope, more than an idle "Daugherty Project", or an idea which evaporates before being brought into existence. The appearance of this article indicates that, at least, Erwin Scudla has published one issue. I could speculate on the support Erwin will receive; I could calculate and predict how further issues will be received; or just how "international" this carefully unnamed (at the time of this writing) fanzine will be. Instead, however, I'll adopt the rather rude procedure of "one-upping" Erwin and think of the next step.

You see, since fans are somewhat slannish, and quite prone to speculation, they generally cannot help thinking of future developments; therefore, I can't help but wonder, "what next?" If thirty years of fanzine publishing has failed to produce a truly international fanzine (even such greats as FANTASY REVIEW and OPERATION FANTAST fell short), will the next score and a half produce an interPLANETARY fanzine?

I think not, and despite the exotic possibilities of such a fanzine, the idea is basically impractical. There will be colonization of other planets than Earth; that's evident. Yet, the number of space colonists, in relation to the number of inhabitants of Terra, would make such a small percentage as to eliminate the idea of an interplanetary mailing list as impractical. However, assuming that a faneditor of the future DOES wish to mail his fan magazine to another planet, or planet-system, he is confronted by several problems; even on Earth, mundane activity plays havoc with

 **ATTENTION**

the available time of most fans, but the problem would be multiplied many times over when applied to the space colonists. The schedule of observation, construction, exploration, etc., would be such that a colonist would have little or no time for any social activity, let alone fan activity, such as reading and commenting upon fanzines.

But the biggest problem would be that of mail. Where mail sent by air, on Earth, is roughly twice the cost of surface mail, the cost of mailing even a postcard to a fan on Alpha Centauri would be, appropriately enough, "astronomical", due to the premium of space on a supply ship.

The time lag would be, understandably, quite frustrating; your opus, sent to Joe Fann on Cygni II, would first travel by ordinary mail (which might be, at that time, jet or rocket) to a spaceport which would be dispatching a supply ship to Cygni. There it would wait either until the next ship left, or, more unluckily, until the ship after next, when room could be made. Then the long journey, via spaceship, to Cygni, and the subsequent unloading. Perhaps your fan in question would be a worker or official at the spaceport and would, therefore, be in a position to receive the fanzine soon after delivery; on the other hand, he might be an explorer, a cartographer, a miner, and therefore not in the habit of journeying to the port too often -- perhaps only after intervals of months. More wait, then the fan writes his letter of comment, mails it, and the process repeats itself.

In this situation, it's entirely possible that a faneditor might have gone GAFIA before his first interplanetary letter of comment ever reached his home.

Even if the hearty faneditor would be willing to undergo the loss of time and the disappointment that is likely, all for the possibility of hearing from a fan on a far-distant world, there is one question. WILL there be any fans on colonized worlds? I think the answer to this question is also "no", for fans are, to a large extent, sedentary, and not exactly physically applicable to colonization. A great number of fannish males are also taller than the normal man, so I imagine it'll be some years before people of even 6'1", like myself, would be able to undergo the journey, to say nothing of the taller-type fans: Don Ford, Bill Donaho, Bill Rickhardt, Bob Lichtman, and so on.

There are a number of other reasons which are likely to contribute to keeping fandom Earthbound: fans occasionally come into contact with objectionable printed matter (objectionable to federal authorities) which

would eliminate their possibilities during a preliminary investigation; naturally, this is unfair, since most fans aren't active anarchists or revolutionists, as some of the mail they receive might indicate.

Also, fans are generally introverted and against the "sameness" which colonists would have to submit to, in order to maintain any degree of order and safety.

So, with the absence of a fanzine fandom between Earth and her colonies, and the unlikely occurrence of a true "Galacticon", it seems that fandom will remain "earthbound", assuming, of course, that fandom SURVIVES the next thirty-odd years and the likely severe decline of science fiction.



THE FANNISH WAY

seen by Roar Ringdahl, Norway



The **NFFF** seen with EUROPEAN eyes by Erwin Scudla

As a member of the American National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF or also N3F), I think it could be interesting for our readers to see a European's opinion about this remarkable organization. Yes, exactly it is excellent organization which is setting off the NFFF from other American SF clubs. The structure of the NFFF is similar to that of the American national and local governments.

Prisoner on an alien world

That is: it has its "legislative" and "executive" branches, each of which have their own specific powers and duties, and act as a check on each other. In the contrary to European associations, there is no "Judicial" branch. Any questions which might require legal adjudication would go into the regular civil courts. As to the Legislative Branch there is more ado and great fuss about elections than an European will understand. That's the same as with all political elections in USA generally. But the most remarkable of the NFFF is its Executive Branch with its lots of departments and committees, such as Membership Activities Dept., Recruiting Bureau, Wel-committee, Round Robin Committee, Overseas Bureau, Internal Affairs Dept., Follow up Committee, Manuscript Bureau, Public Relations & Neffan News, Publications Dept., Fanzine Clearing House, Neffer Amateur Press Alliance, Fanzine Advice and possibly still more. An European Fan is not in the habit of such an activity by an American club, although it might be usual for European clubs. Once a fan said that the NFFF has more Bureaus than members. That's excessive, of course, but it shows clearly what I want to explain. The NFFF has 198 members at the moment, 21 of them outside the USA. The latter was the reason why there were tendencies to change the NFFF's

name into International Fantasy Fan Federation. For Europeans a foreign membership of 10,6 % seems much too little for real "Internationality". The NFFF is publishing a regular official organ, "The National Fantasy Fan" (TNFF) and a letterzine called "Tightbeam". Maybe there are more fanzines, but I don't know them. It is very interesting that the organization and activity of the NFFF reminds in many points the organization and activity of the ISFS. In any case I think that the NFFF is the most important, most serious and most active American SF association - at least to European eyes. I am proud to be a member of it.


"THE SILENT STAR"

reviewed by
Hans Reuter, Austria
(English by Erwin Scudla)

About one and a half years ago SIRIUS 11 reported as first fanzine about a science fiction film being produced at that time by DEFA Studios, Eastern Germany. The cover photo of SIRIUS 11 showed the female film star Yoko Tani from Japan in a scene of this film.

After this German-Polish co-production in Eastman Color and Cinemascope was finished this summer it was on the screen in Austria during November. We saw a lot of SF films here - mostly American - but it is to say that only very few reached the quality of "The Silent Star" and only one excelled it. The action is based on Stanislas Lem's novel "Astronauci", one of Poland's SF classics. The cast is truly international (Germans, Poles, Russians, Africans and one Japanese), and the decorations and tricks were magnificent.

The action shows the start of a spaceship with an international crew to the planet Venus because a message had been found which a Venusian spaceship must have lost in 1908 over the Gobi Desert. After a dangerous landing on Venus the crew find a devastated planet with remains of gigantic technical buildings. They discover tiny insects of metal which turn out to be a form of archive. After having deciphered some of them it is clear that all is a giant machinery of war, destined to destroy the Earth. They find the centre of control and by an accident the whole machinery begins to work. An extremely thrilling film without any political sidelines!

The picture on page 9 is copied by Erwin Scudla from an old prozine. It was also used as cover photo of the German Fanzine "NOVA" (ed. Klauy Eylmann, Hamburg 39, Maria-Louisenstieg 23, Germany) two years ago. 

Handbook of SF and FANTASY

reported by Graham B. Stone,
New South Wales, Australia

Undoubtedly the most useful single project ever completed in SF activities is the Handbook of Science Fiction and Fantasy compiled by Donald H. Tuck. Every serious reader of Science Fiction should have it; most of you certainly will have heard of it, if only from P. Schuyler Miller's policy of plugging it at every opportunity. Even the original edition of 1954 was of tremendous value, but the 1959 revision is more than three times the size --- 396 closely typed foolscap pages. It has brief biographies of hundreds of SF writers with information on their main works; publishing histories of hundreds of books, with details on all those changes of title; a particularly complete listing of pocketbooks; checklists of issues of all the magazines, with details of changes of editor, size, etc; identities of pseudonyms, the most complete list published -- and lots more. There is some sort of an answer to practically any important or general question, and plenty of minor points as well. As the title suggests, its scope is not confined to SF, but takes in all kinds of other interests, some of them relevant and some not. Another drawback is the over-use of abbreviations and special symbols which may help to fit in a little more information but certainly make it less easy reading. You can get the book direct from Mr. Tuck at 139 East Risdon Road, Lindisfarne, Tasmania. The price is £A 3/-/- (£ 2/8/-, or about \$ 6.60).

THE SCREAMING SKULL

reviewed by Alan Dodd, England

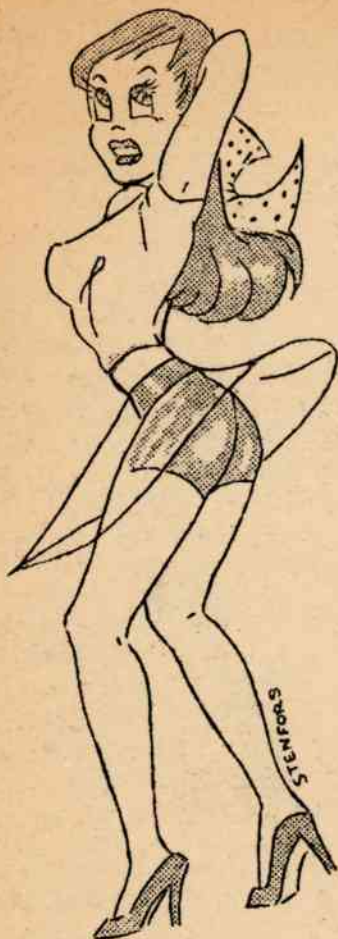
Those of you familiar with the themes of MACABRE or LES DIABOLIQUES or several other horror stories of the same ilk will recall that the leading characters were always trying to frighten to death or drive insane wives or near relatives in order to inherit their money. A similar theme comes up in THE SCREAMING SKULL.

The hero has already killed one wife, making it look like an

continued page 10



Merry X-mas and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1961
to all of our readers
from the editorial staff of SIRIUS



accident, and is now in the process of driving the second one insane by a skull he keeps placing around the house and moving about.

He himself is something of an eccentric owning a fancy foreign sports car whose doors open up into the roof, an aged house with no furniture, two screaming peacocks in the garden and an idiot, shambling gardener, played by formerly immaculate blonde actor Alex Nichol who hasn't visited the barber in years. This is not surprising since he seems to work on at the old house without wages or food and just dreams of the former wife who drowned in his garden pool.

Thus the plot is formed and really it is little more than an excuse for shapely Peggy Webber to stroll around the old house in the middle of the night clad in the flimsiest of negligees and transparent nightgowns. Whatever husband would have wanted to kill her for her money alone when he could have had both, her and the money, anyway must have really been off his nut.

At the end too when the skulls and the screams and the water come to get HIM, you know he is . . .

It's an interesting point to notice by the way that the director of this film is also Alex Nichol who plays the idiot gardener, quite an achievement in itself. The story is slow and not half as horrifying as others of the same theme but the heroine doesn't wear too much and I suppose we must be grateful for small mercies -- without her there'd not only be a Screaming Skull -- there'd be a Screaming Audience too !!

* * * * * T H E E N D * * * * *

THE FEDERATION of EAST & WEST

by Peter Campbell, D.Litt., England

The F.E.W. is "an international community designed to promote the common welfare of all Life". As it is affiliated to the ISFS, and serves as the ISFS Branch Office for Non-Fan Contacts, SIRIUS readers may be interested in some information about it.

At the time of writing, we have some 2 200 members in about a hundred countries. The Federation includes mainly researchers in metaphysics, psionics, E.S.P., telepathy, teleportation and other branches of para-psychology, UFOlogy, social reform and other "frontier" sciences which made Science Fiction possible finally. It naturally also includes internationalists and people working for world-Federation, pen-pals and stamp-collectors. Science Fiction F A N S are a minority group within the Federation whose members usually prefer to occupy themselves seriously with problems the SF FANS are only talking and writing about.

The President, myself at present, is the nominal head of the F.E.W.; there is also the Federal Council, a postally organised committee, which makes policy decisions. There are about 20 Representatives on this Council, including Erwin Scudla, Prof. I.W.S.Jezierski (Poland), Prince Om Lind Schernrezig (resident in Cuba, but of Central European origin), and others from all continents - Hindu, Buddhist, Moslem, Baha'i and Christian. Four fans serve on the Federal Council, so it can be said that fandom is well represented.

Our primary objective is to expand membership as rapidly as possible, so as to get everybody individually into a single direct-membership organisation of about 3 000 000 000 members. We are quite serious about this, fantastic as it may seem at first sight - and I firmly believe it can be achieved! By doubling or more than doubling membership every year, we should reach this target in 18 years or less.

We hope all fans will support us in this peaceful drive for world unity. The day of separate sovereign states is over now, and civilisation will only continue if ALL men everywhere CO-OPERATE!

F. E. W., Birkdale Cottage, Brantfell, Windermere, ENGLAND.

SEE ALSO our news item on page 15!

INTERNATIONAL SF-NEWS



AUSTRIA

NEW AUSTROTOPIA COMMITTEE

After Eberhard Gromes retired from the Austrotopia Board new elections were held. New President became Johann Winter, Vienna XX, Stromstraße 19/24, Austria, very popular Austrian SF fan. We want to congratulate him on behalf of the ISFS. Vice - Presidents became sufficiently known Dieter Braeg and Eduard Lukschandl.

FRITZ NACHAZEL TO BE DIVORCED ?

It has been said that Fritz Nachazel, well-known as Austrian BNF but also as "moral tramp", will be divorced. We hope that this rumour, spread by evil-minded "friends", is untrue, because he has a very nice wife and an enchanting little daughter.

GERMANY

DEVELOPMENT OF GERFANDOM

Heinz Bingenheimer, well-known German BNF and owner of the SF book-club TRANSGALAXIS, prophesied that the division of German-language SF fandom into smaller and smaller groups will continue until the fandom will be carried by the fan edit-

ors solely.

WALTER ERNSTING TO EMIGRATE ?

It is said that Walter Ernsting, Germany's BNF No. 1, has in mind to emigrate to Salzburg, Austria.

I T A L Y

SCIENCE FICTION PRIZE

A new contest for science fiction writers is the "Grand-Prix International du Roman de Science-Fiction" which will be awarded during Xmas Night, in Novara (Italy). Winner will be published on a world-wide scale.

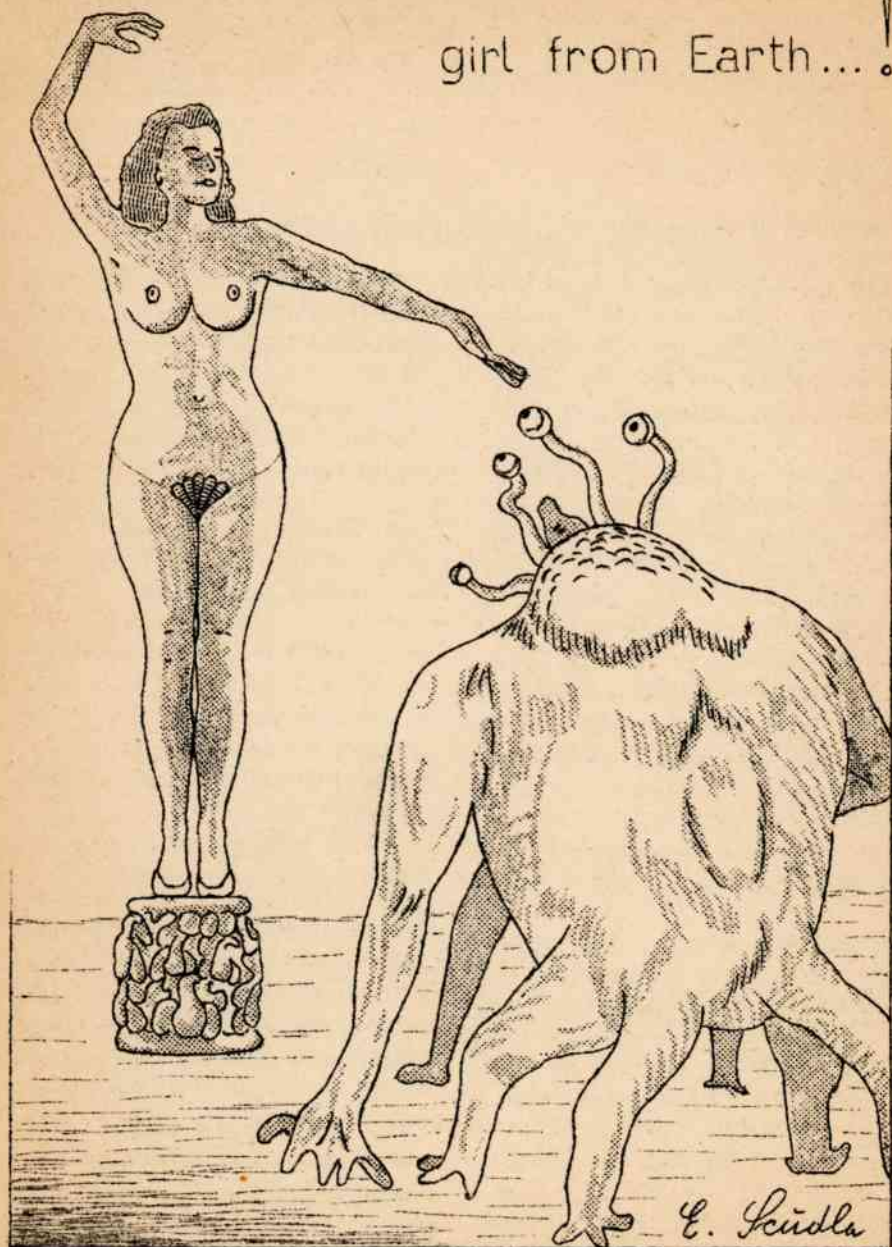
F R A N C E

NEW FRENCH SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

"Cercle Littéraire d'Anticipation" is the name of a new French SF club for pros and semi-pros which already has nominated Pierre Versins and Erwin Scudla as Honorary Members. Founder and "Directeur littéraire" is Jacques FERRON, 24 Cité Jean-Maunoury, Lucé (Eure-&-Loir), France. Date of foundation: July 14th, 1960. Clubzine: "Jardin Sidéral", first issue published on October 13th.

More news on page 14

Dance,
girl from Earth...!



THE GREAT OLD ONES

AILLEURS has published (November 15th) a French anonymous science fiction novel dating back from 1723. Something like "At the Mountains of Madness" and no less ...

ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY

Three out of six French fan editors are members of the FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association).

PORTUGAL

NEW SF CLUB IN PORTUGAL

On July 8th, 1960, the CLUBE DE FICÇÃO CIENTÍFICA was founded, developing from the CLP. As Chairman and General Secretary have been elected D.C.L. Joel Lima (address see last page) and Carlos António Schwab de Macedo, Av. Almirante Reis, 204-49-Esqd., Lisbon 1, Portugal. Erwin Scudla has been nominated as first Honorary Member of the CFC.

SWEDEN

STOCKON 3 in '61

Sweden's 4th SF con will be held the last weekend of August 1961 at Stockholm. Its nickname will be STOCKON 3. It will be managed by the ISFS Swedish Branch Office and Sture Sedolin will be con chairman.

SWEDISH SF AWARD

A Science Fiction award has been founded in Sweden recently. It has

been named ALVAR after one of Sweden's greatest BNFs and member of the ISFS CC, Alvar Appeltofft. The award has the shape of a little green Rotsler monster and will be given to 5 fans and pros at every SF con - the first time at the STOCKON 3 in 1961.

DENIS LINDBOHN AGAIN FATHER

Denis Lindbohm, well-known Swedish BNF (one of the founders of Sweden's fandom) got his third child recently. It was a girl, named Ann Kristin. About the same time he has become a strictly teetotaler, after having been one of Sweden's leading alcohol fiends. Fans in Sweden guess that this won't last long.

SWEDISH BOOK-LIST

Sam J. Lundwall and Kjell Hjalmarsson are working on a complete list of Swedish SF and fantasy books, prozines and fanzines. It contains already 600 titles and will be ready in summer 1961.

FANZINE REVIEWS IN A PROZINE

HÄPNA, the only Swedish prozine at present, started again with reviews of Swedish fanzines after a long pause. These reviews by Sam J. Lundwall will come in every second issue. Maybe that also foreign fanzines will be reviewed in future.

SORRY, no place for more news. The rest will be published in SIRIUS 51.



NEWS

from the

ISFS

THE ISFS TO BE REORGANIZED !

With regard to numerous proposals moved by members and functionaries of the ISFS, the ISFS is to be reorganized. The next issue of SIRIUS will be devoted to this occurrence solely or at least mainly.

PETER CAMPBELL DOCTOR !

Peter Campbell, founder-president of the FEW and active functionary of the ISFS, has recently been awarded a DOCTORATE by the Ministerial Training College, Sheffield, in recognition of his work on F.E.W. Congratulations to D.Litt. Peter Campbell !

UNION OF ISFS NBO AND SFSF

The notice of SIRIUS 3i, saying that the NBO is going to unite with SFSF, caused an unexpected response from Sweden. We received some letters, all saying that the SFSF is not as carefully administred as Roar Ringdahl thought. It is said that it is even worde than earlier Swedish SF societies, having large debts, only a few members, sparsely frequented and poor meetings and a rather bad reputation with the public.

SCREEN PLATE FOR SIRIUS

As you can see by Erwin Scudla's first attempts on page 6, 9 and 13 of this issue, he bought a screen-plate and wheel stylus for drawing on stencils.

ISFS SBO TO BE REORGANIZED

Sture Sedelin, Box 9040, Boden 19, Sweden, believes that time has come to reorganize the ISFS Swedish Branch Office. He will found more "Local groups" (two at present), edit SIRIUS Swedish Edition bi-monthly with 4 pages in offset and hold an ISFS con every year. The new Secretary of the SBO is Robert Johansson, Källvägen 8, Enskede; Treasurer is Yngwe K. Lundblad, Sedelvägen 19, Hågersten 1, Sweden.

ISFS ABO GROWING AGAIN

After Eberhard Gromes has become the ABO's new Foreman and Hans R. Reuter its manager and cashier, the ABO is slowly recovering from the damage Dieter Braeg did to it. The membership fee was determined with öS 10.-- (about 40 ø) a month. SIRIUS Austrian Edition No. 4 will be published still in December 1960.

From:



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