



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

OCTOBER 1939



CONTENTS

Editorial.....The Editor.....2

FACT

Ultra News Waves.....Bert Castellari.....3

a chatty, nutty, newsy department

A Science Fiction Review..... ill Veney.....5

and don't the pro mags get theirs

It's Ghoulossal.....A. G. Ghoul.....7

and it is too!

Those Enfantas Terribles.....Harry Warner Jr.....9

an American view of fan mags

Rambling in Science Fiction..The Rambler.....11

but unlike other ramblers he gets somewhere

The Swordsmen of Saturn.....10

explaining its connection with Times Mausoleum

FUN

The RSFTPOTDONTI.....8

a club founded on non-science.

Description of back cover.....10

FICTION

Tyme.....Edward Russell.....6

Ultra- Published irregularly at present, Editor- Eric Russell  
274 Edgecliff Rd; Woollahra, Sydney, N.S.W; Australia-  
Next issue should be out by December 1st or late in N-  
ovember.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES- none at present because of the  
irregularity in publication-single issues 3d (threepee-  
nce) or 5 cents. Overseas readers should subscribe for  
the next issue early subscriptions should reach us at  
the latest by November 1st.

NOTE-No extra charge is made for overseas readers.

Contributions:Can you write good fan artic es - stories poems  
fantasy etc. If so don't hesitate to contribute to ULTRA.



Fans--Let me introduce ULTRA the third (and I hope a successful) attempt to publish an Australian fan mag. The other two (Australian Fan News, Science Fiction Review, & B. Castellari's Space Hounds) although they were not successes were in a sense pioneers, blazing trails that others follow and perhaps get farther and succeed.

Introductions over I'll review the contents briefly Bill Veney reviews the pro mags Bert Castellari contributes his News Waves - Ted (my brother) writes a semi story which although not guaranteed to make your sides burst with spasms of mirth is a good effort for a 12 year old fan - Harry Warner Jr. editor of SPACEWAYS has an article on fan mags generally. The Ramber rambles on..Mr Ghoul contributes a biting article ...a "nut" club is formed..... and so on.....However, I'll go on to say that in the not to distant future ULTRA may be enlarged - we may hektograph it instead of using carbon - there is a chance of inside illustrations - but all these depend on you, the reader. At the present we are greatly in need of fan material- articles - poems - weird - fantasy - etc. The More material you send in the better. You can be pretty certain it will be published.

Another thing, in ULTRA No 2 there will be a readers section -- "Fans Forum". All opinions whether brickbats, bombs, bouquets or mud pies will be thankfully received.

At the 1st World Science Fiction Convention 7 fans were refused admission, and Wolheim, Pohl Tucker, Yerke, "Doc Lo ndes", Madle and Darrow were not mentioned in the review by Weisinger of the Convention as well as other important fans - perhaps - well I'll just leave it at that. Palmer was not there.

Leo Morey, Wesso, Marchioni, Dold, Brown and Thompson were not mentioned. Hack, Krupa, Fuqua, Jackson and Reve were absent also, but from the write-up in Amazing Stories, I gather that they weren't missed.

Is Palmer trying to double cross the fans? He says that a variety of artists will appear in the Amazing October 1939 issue. In it appear Gorey, Barnes, Wolfe, and Kay., Now Bill Veney, Bert Castellari, Ted Russell and myself believe that these names are pseudonyms for Krupa & Fuqua. Palmer is trying to put one over us, and ULTRA will have shown him up as a fraud.

ULTRA news-waves

transmitted by BEPT F. CASTELLARI

According to Ray Palmer "Amazing Stories" circulations have increased by some 5,000 copies per issue since June 1939, and is now beating that of ASTOUNDING. However despite these increased American sales (and perhaps English) Australian sales if anything have decreased, registering the disapproval of it.

Now fans go for ASTOUNDING. Proof of this is easily obtainable, as there are no ASTOUNDINGS left within 24 hours of their release, while "Amazings" (and also other STF mags) can be seen with only a few having been sold from a large pile.

Eventually only "Amazings" are left for sale, which will answer Palmers question re. why Australians are not writing so frequently as they used to. Anyway those who do write only do so to ridicule "A.S." and tell Palmer how LOUZY it is!!!!

Eric Scott recently read a 3-part fantasy story over Radio Station 2UW (2UW is a commercial broadcasting station and Eric Scott a well-known announcer) Ed. This is probably the first fantasy story ever read over this station and hopes are high for more. I believe some are even writing and requesting them.

Where is Doc Sloane these days? We have heard nothing from him since he quit his job as editor of "A.S." and his opinion of the new "Amazing" is sought by many.

Another Australian fan magazine! Vol Molesworth informs me that he intends to publish a new fan magazine ----- FANUS. It is to contain mainly fan fiction and the date of its appearance has not yet been revealed. Furthermore it is probably experimental as V.M. stated that only one issue would come out.

We await its arrival (See you, Ed)

More probable to appear is his proposed quarterly, LUNA. LUNA I am told will contain 12 mimeoed pages. It will consist mainly of fiction, news, comments, on the main science fiction pro mags for the previous 3 months and also readers opinions of these mags. As a matter of fact it is more than just a proposal, and the contents are practically allisted. Molesworth also intends to have a right hand margin.

(Concerning the above--Molesworth is a schizophrenic in that  
(SEE OVER PAGE)



he is himself and "RUDUK VOLSONI". I think "RUDUK" was shanghied to England in one of F.E. Baume's trunks!)

Politics has been utilised to aid science fiction fans who are campaigning against the Ziff-Davis AMAZING STORIES. Or rather it has been tampered with! All telegraph poles and walls in certain districts which wear the small anti-National Register Bills have now a new meaning to these bills. For example such things as "The Anzacs Voted NO! Don't fail them! Boycott Menzies Register! Boycott the Register!" and other similar quotations have become: "The Fans Voted No! Don't fail them! Boycott Palmer's Amazing Stories! Boycott Amazing Stories!" and suchlike. No need to say who is responsible.

That is quite apparent-----!

Attention all inmates of the science fiction nuttery! Be wise! Don't fall for the babble dished out by those half-pint panhandlers of small change clubs! Obtain membership in the best and only sciencefiction organization---The Independent Order for the Prevention of Formation of Other Clubs For the Introduction of New Fangled Ideas by Tucker, Wolheim and Suchlike Entities into Science Fiction Fundom.

The IOFTPOFOCOFTIONFIETWSEISFF (can you beat that one) has 3 official organs, all obtainable at the local city tip or junk heap. Veney's Vehement Volumes give you all the sensational news such as Molesworth's latest. Russell's Rumbling Reactions gives you all the biggest noise--er news. Cactus's Conclusions will give my own deductions (That's if you want them) as to what will happen when Hoy Ping Pong tries to use his chop sticks. Join now or not at all. (Not at all. Ed)

CORRECTIONS:- A little time ago a rumour was going around that Mr. MacLennan had intentions of publishing a fan mag in Melbourne. This has been proved wrong, Mr MacLennan told us that the rumour arose from the fact that an article written by himself for NEW FANDOM stated that a Melbourne magazine BOY'S ADVENTURE WORLD if given sufficient support would publish an occasional S-F yarn. & did publish a 3-part STF story entitled "Mutiny on the Moon" a little while back.

Have you read "The Demigods" an stf book by Alfred Gordon Bennett? SEE ITS PREVIEW IN TALES OF WONDER ---No 7-----

The battle for supremacy on the stf field is undoubtedly becoming more intense. ASTOUNDING appears still to retain the newly acquired title of "The Aristocrat of Science Fiction" but an increasing number of weak-plotted stories are appearing in its pages. In the current (August) issue "Pleasure Trove", "Stowaway" and "Ultimatum from Mars", were hardly worth the paper they were written on, while "The Luck of Ignatz" barely made the grade. The best story appears to be "General Swamp, C.I.C." with "The Blue Giraffe" and "Lifeline" struggling for minor placings. Koll certainly is a welcome addition to the art staff, but--- what has happened to schneeman?

"Fantasy" certainly has improved with its third issue fine cover, reminiscent in many ways of Paul or Morey, splendid fiction and better illustrations make "Fantasy" a contender for the leading position. On the other hand the seventh issue of Tales of Wonder, shows a definite lack of progress but the cover and illustrations lack appeal. With additions to the art staff "Tales of Wonder" could soon challenge the leaders.

A magazine I think will go a long way is Hornig's "Science Fiction". The first issue was terrible but improvement was shown in the 2nd. and third issues. The fourth should be especially good as Neil R. Jones (My favourite author incidentally) has written the "Swordsmen of Saturn". Editor Eric expressed a belief that some connection may exist between the Professor Jameson adventure "Times Mausoleum" and this latest effort. I'm too lazy to check up but I think he may be right. (Now this article is dead certain to be accepted!)(Yore darned tootin' it has. ED)

"Thrilling Wonder Stories" continues its erratic path of flops and spectacular hits. The line up for the October issue seems to indicate a new "High" Campbell Jr, rarely disappoints while Barns and Kuttner should make their "energy Eaters" a fast moving yarn which might easily cap the series. Startling continues merrily along, so don't disturb it!

FLASH:-Concerning the above article-with the release of Science Fiction No 4 a definite connection has been established between "Time's Mausoleum" and "The Swordsmen of Saturn". For further details see page 10 beneath THE MAN FROM MARS article.



It was 2078 A.D!

On the edge of the city of Sydney, a gigantic city of towering buildings, a Professor was living. It was the last place you would expect him to be. But there it was. He was only a little man and loved solitude, away from the city.

Many improvements had been made since 1939. Atomic power had come into being in 1985, and soon all the old firms and manufacturers were put out of business by new ones using atomic power.

His invention was the Time Spray.

He was in one of the buildings' rooms when one of his fellow boarders came creeping into the room.

"Well, well. What's all the coils and condensers for?" he asked looking round the room. "Asking something Prof?"

"It's a great secret" wheezed the Prof. "I'll tell you if you can keep it."

"All right, what's it all about?" enquired Mr. Piper. "You're too darned mysterious".

"You'll find out" said Prof. Smith, "you needn't come in if you don't want to". He pointed to an object remarkably like a camera on the desk.

"My time spray" he announced "That pole of the generator is not connected yet"

"What happens if I press this button" asked Piper.

"Nothing will as there's no power in it" said the Prof. "you can press it."

Piper put out his hand and closed the switch, not the button, and as he did so, knocked a piece, connecting the last pole.

"You idiot!" cried the Prof. "We'll go to the Stone Age or something".

CRUMPH! A flare lit the room & they were dazzled

"Smith, Piper, what are you doing in this lab? Guards take these men to the best padded cell we have."

"Wait on Gaege Washington allowed us to come here said Smith.

"OH!" wasn't that nice of him" said the Warder, "Now come along Julius Ceaser wants to see you in his office"

BRRRRRRR!!!!!!!

"Bring some extra cushions you man" he said.

"Fancy blowing up the Principal's generator".

Yowie! Yeep!

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has, it seems at last awoken to the needs of Australian fantasy fans. First we get "R.U.R." "An Experiment in Accoustics" an actuality Broadcast on Mars from Mr. Hingle (Govt. Astronomer in S-ydney) --There are Three Sisters, and now a weird tale above the average by authoress Catherine Shepherd- "Rescue" Here is the preview description of it given in "W.W.". This play is the story of occult powers controlling the lives of human beings with their frailty of understanding. It is hard to say anything of the plot which would illuminate it for the prospective listener, for such a play depends on effectiveness on its subtle shades of meaning and emotion. But to ask certain questions is to hint at the type of theme a type in the treatment of which Miss Shepherd has shown peculiar inward understanding. What is this peculiar understanding? What is the mysterious evil influence that has possessed the girl Valerie? Exactly how does destiny work? Why was it necessary for the poetically-sensitive maddin to die in order to release Valerie? It is such questions the play asks us to think about. A good eerily fascinating weird play.....

Continuing on: Why does Palmer still stick to that punk artist Jay Jackson, reason probably to save his own face. Harold W. MacCauley is a swell artist and Palmer is quite justified in giving him the September cover of Fantastic Adventures. But puzzle find the story the cover represents?? Here's a slap at ye ed. When that guy wrote Sinister Barrier there was one hack, now his namesake edits this fan mag--- there's two. Ed having recovered his editorial dignity I'll proceed. Fuqua's cover for the Sept A.S. (gutter rat of S-F) was another mess of mistakes which characterise this--- ahem---artist. Krupa is a native of Poland-will he quit AS and fight for his country or will he continue to force his straight line horrors on poor readers? Vive la Poland! The very POLE must stick to his Post! (Have you heard what the Poles are doing in Poland? --Holding up the overhead wires of course. ED)

HOT NEWS! Wireless Weekly a radio paper- printed a semi-stf story by Darcy Niland recently, called The Thought Detector- Idea not new but new way in presentation makes

(SEE OVER PAGE)



8.

## ULTRA-It's Ghoulossal

up for it.

Story: Thornton Blake and Professor Emmanuel Zarkell have co-operatively written a book exposing the Cammorra and many other Italian secret societies. Zarkell has invented a thought detector-very small- and the two go out to experiment by listening to the thoughts of people in the streets. Zarkell tells Blake that the detector will only receive thoughts from people within 18 yards of him and in sight. After a while they hear the thoughts of a number of people and then comes the thoughts of two persons who seem to be watching them. The silent pair are Cammorra spies! Getting hurriedly into their car and losing no time they have just started when one of the silent pair leaps on to the running board and throws a phial of hydrocyanic acid into the car -----Zarkell slumps onto the dashboard and the car smashes into a shop window. The Cammorra is avenged.

U.S.A. take note- The head of the California Institute of Technology, Dr R. A. Milikan will visit Australia and give several radio talks. I'll report them in ULTRA.

Well I guess that concludes my-ahem-article, you may not think much of it - but I reckon It's Ghoulossal!

A.G.G.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### The RSFTPOTDOETI

How many times has Earth been saved by our big hearted authors, how many times have the poor "alien invaders" been driven back. I've taken a pity on the poor fellows- whose minds being blotted out by a swarm of tenlegged Martians or robots controlled by the Mind, at the back of the Cosmic Hiss or being trodden into serfdom by those poor overworked, Alpha Centaurans. So join a society which I have formed. Its called The Royal Society for the Prevention of the defeat of Extra-Terrestrial Invaders, who try to conquer Earth. The Extra-Terrestrial invaders were so pleased with my proposal that they have offered to equip every RSFTPOTDOETI member with atomo-sono-prono-smackemdown-andkeepemdown disintegraters. These little weapons are guaranteed for 5 years and cost 5/- or 1 dollar American currency..... When the invaders do come the society members will not be killed-ahem-trea-

(continued on page 12)



9

ULTRA--Those Enfants Terribles  
by Harry Warner Jr.

Undoubtedly many dozens of Australians who have never before seen a fan magazine will receive this issue of ULTRA. It is to these that this article is primarily addressed, in the hope of imparting a little information about these outlets of fandom.

Forst of all, the main thing to remember is, that a fan magazine never makes money; it is not intended to and any editor who expects financial gains is sure to be disappointed. Therefore, all these magazines are put out merely as a pastime, usually in spare time, and not too much should be expected for this reason. Luckily the editors are in the fortunate position of being able to do what they please with their mags; something the pro high factotums cannot.

A typical American fan magazine runs something like this, at the present time. It is usually anywhere from twelve to twenty pages--some smaller, some larger--and almost invariably sells for 10c American money. Almost without exception the means of production is mimeoing; at the present there is not a printed fan mag, and only a very few hektoed ones. It's contents may vary in many ways, though at the present the trend is away from fiction, and towards articles & poetry, it seems. For the most part, the contents are written by fan authors (and too often by the editor under a dozen or so pseudonyms!) with here and there a scattering of professional writers who take the time to do a favour. (In case anyone is still unaware of the fact, only once or twice in history has a fan mag paid for material!)

In England, the situation is somewhat different. There quite a few of the magazines--or at least several--are printed on a press and on the whole the British pubs have a more professional and neater appearance. But to us Americans the majority of the material included in them is extremely hackneyed and uninteresting; the feeling is probably mutual vice versa. There are of course, exceptions to every rule.

In no other country has there ever been an honest-to-goodness fan magazine. Now Australia joins the ranks, and I have a hunch that Canada will follow suit before long. You may get disgusted a dozen times with fan magazines, but nevertheless they are things which are almost unique in the field of literature in any form.

Give them a break! They all deserve it.

THE-END



10.  
ULTRA---The Swordsmen of Saturn

After writing the worst story in years (Kiss of Death) Neil R. Jones returns with what may be called a Jameson story. But you will say, 21MM392 isn't even mentioned in it but if you're a "real" fan, you'll look back your ARISTOCRATS of S-F (pre June '38 AS) till December 1933 wherein is Time's Mausoleum, the first small size Jameson story. Skip through the story until you come to the part where Professor Jameson and the other Zoromes in the Time Bubble 1-s viewing Earth from the date when he died (1950). After the conquest of space a space-ship visits one of the moons of Saturn and the space-travellers meet strange men-like people with one arm ending in a sword-like protuberance, r he above description which is something like that in ----- Times Mausoleum, describes the Swordsmen of Saturn exactly as they are in the current issue of Science Fiction. (No. 4.) This story also puts paid to Palmers hopes, (if any) of securing the first Jameson story.

Explaining our Back Cover

Which incidentally is pencilled in graphite by Hank Ah Porl

Life on Mars would be necessarily alive - otherwise there would be no life.

The Martians body would have to be big because all the other Martians would be big and if it came to a fight a little Martian would be too small.

He would also need a big heavy body to counteract the light gravity of Mars - because if a gale blew up he might get blown away and that would be alright for then there would be no Martians left and they would not be able to invade Earth - and then poor Ed Hamilton would have to look at Venus - but then the people on Venus are Venusian-cas -- ahem.

The hair around the Martians wrists would be the result of evolution - back in 1509 BC a martian barber let a drop of hair restorer fall on his customer's wrists and so.....

In the drawing you will notice that the Martians feet are not shown ...The feet of all the Martians are neverseen because the Martians never take their shoes off They fear catching the disease SMOG.



ULTRA--Rambling in Science Fiction  
by the Rambler

---

I have noticed with much concern the tendency of certain present day stf madazines to broaden out on their type of stpry plot. Now please don't misinterpret that statement! I'm just as staunch an advocator of new ideas and methods of plot-construction as the next fellow, but what I'm hitting out at is the tendency to subordinate a story's fantastic theme in favour of (to us) less important themes. We see nowadays mushy romance rearing its ugly head and some authors I could mention have made their stories revolve around that unwelcome element to such a degree that they have ceased to be science fiction, and merely become love stories in unusual surroundings. Last year we had "Avengers of Space", and "Time Trap". The ideas behind these yarns could have been developed into minor classics, but by being written in a sloppy unnatural style, they became farces and a discredit to stf. We fans cannot let this continue. Studies of human nature — yes! But mush — NO!

An interesting article on future rocket flight appeared in the 26th. August, 1939, issue of "Smith's Weekly". Many problems confronting the rocket pilots were reviewed by the author, H. C. McKay, who also made repeated referneces to scientific romance writers. However he has a poor knowledge of stfbecause he is baffled by, or avoids, several arguments which authors have now pounded out. (Meteorites, return journey, etc.)

Flashes!....Well known author, DR David H. Keller, writing in a certain health magazine made several references to "Forecasts of science-fictionists"....."Adventure Trails", for Feb 1939, printed "Warriors of Space" by Robert Moore Williams and illustrated by Wesso....."Adventure Novels", printed "Skies of 1945" by an hitherto unknown author..Radio serial, "Ten Years Hence, what?" was originally scheduled for two parts, but proved so popular that it was to be extended on for two further installments....."The World of Doom" (2FC Childrens Session) is becoming increasingly scientific..... A certain US fan commention on Sam (firebrand) Moskowitz, ---- "It isn't a question of when that guy's in a fight, it's when he goes through a day without becoming involved in a potential lawsuit that the news is really made.....A film c-

(Continued on next page)



Rambling in Science Fiction (Continued from page 11)

-ompany is reputed to be contemplating "The Return of the Invisible Man".....Fantasy films;"The Wizard of Oz", and "Invasion" should soon be shown in Australia.....Munsey publications have issues "Famous Fantastic Mysteries" containing reprints of "The Moon Pool" and "The Girl in the Golden Atom" in the first issue..... The mystery of the Australian science-fiction mag has finally been tracked down by our arch-sleuth, Bert Castellari, who says the whole thing has been a misunderstanding of Mr. MacLennan's article in "New Fandom".....This is the rambler rambling off.

The RSPTPOTDORTI (Continued from page 8)

-ted very well.

They'll only have to work 25 hours a day-24 hours a day on Earth and 1 hr. in the 32nd. dimension So join now.. Write to:-

The Half Wit Mental Home,  
Box 2X2,  
N.S.W.; Australia.

#### DEATH NOTICE

Since Chapter No. 27 of the old Gernsback Science Fiction League died out in 1936 there has been no club, no magazine until May 1938 when an attempt to publish an Australian science-fiction magazine was made. The magazine was Australian Fan News and after a very belated and much delayed appearance it passed away. The main trouble was its size The Editors realized foolscap was too large. And so another fan mag falls. We also regret the passing of the Science Fiction Review.

#### ADVERTISING SECTION

The Rising Moon: Following Australian Fan News, having the same size and format, comes Vol Molesworth's new fanmag Luna. It contains 12 pages, has a front cover by a well-known newspaper artist and 1/2 the back page for postage. This issue contains articles by Richard A. Taire, Bert Castellari, Eric Russell, and A. Ghutney Ghoul, and fiction by Don Lawson and Bert Castellari. Other departments are "Some Other Views" & "Meet the Man in the Moon". Appearing quarterly No 1 will appear on Dec. 1st. So order it now. Write to:- 11 Northumberland St; Clovelly, Sydney, N.S.W.; Australia.....





# The Man from Mars



Porl.