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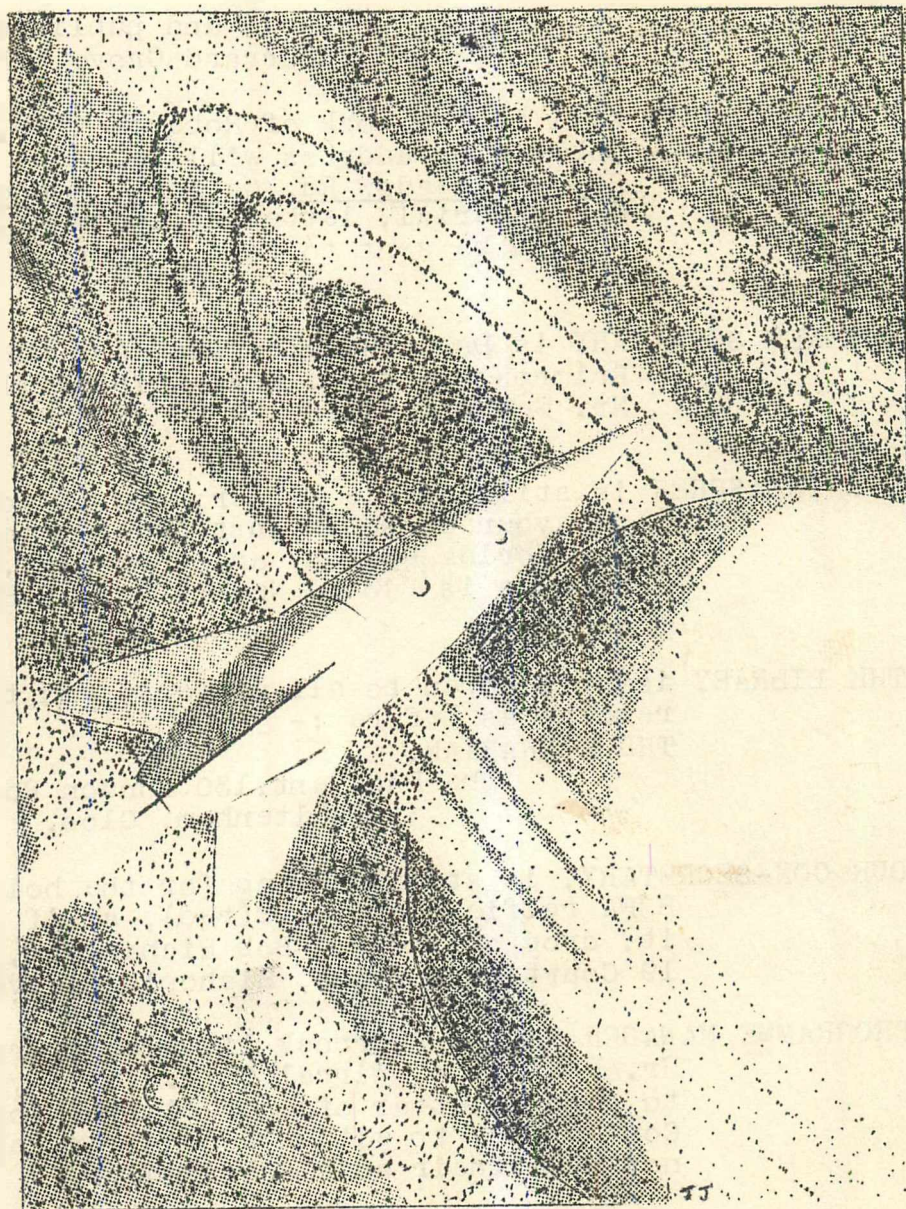
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THIS ISSUE OF VECTOR

was edited, produced and published from
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FUTURE ISSUES will be the work of Roberta Wild, and the
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All material, letters of comment, etc.,
should be sent to this address.

OUR NEW SECRETARY is Dr. A.R.Weir, DSc, and the address,
Primrose Cottage, Westonbirt Village,
Nr. Tetbury, GLOS.

THE TREASURER is still Archie Mercer, and if you want to
pay your dues, or just order a copy of the
New Worlds History and Checklist, his
address is 434/4 Newark Rd., N.Hykeham,
Lincs

THE LIBRARY is still open to all members, and the address
remains as before :-

THE LIBRARIAN,

The Basement,130 London Rd.
Cheltenham, Glos.

OUR CON-SECRETARY, is still looking for the holder of
BSFA raffle ticket 122(red), so if you have
it, drop a line to Bob Richardson,
19 Courtier(s Drive, Bishop's Cleeve, Chelt.

PROGRAMME MANAGER Norman Shorrocks lives at 2 Arnot Way,
Hr. Bebington, Wirral Ches. so if you wish
to send a letter of appreciation for the
Convention, to either Norman, or Bob..you
now have their addresses handy.

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VECTOR No.4.

Spring. '59

VECTOR

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION
Spring.1959

No.4

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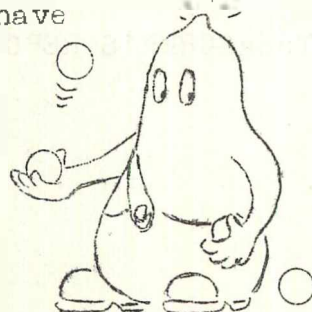
EDITORIAL

Unhappily, the first B.S.F.A. Convention is now a thing of the past. However, those who were present certainly enjoyed it. Credit for this, is due entirely to two people...they had helpers, true. They were good and willing helpers, but even they will agree, that without the magnificent work done by Con-Sec Bob Richardson, and Programme "anager, Norman Shorrocks, there would have been no Convention. Let us not blind our eyes to the obvious fact that the Con arrangements had been made in a hurry. Bob and Norman had to start from scratch, find a new hotel in a strange city. A hotel willing to cope with hell and high water...and then they had to lay on a programme suitable for all tastes..all this in a very short time. They did it, and so well that with more time to prepare for 1960, our next Convention should get off to a really good start. I only hope we can coax Norman and Bob into helping with that one.

As Chairman of the Convention, I would like to make one little point clear....I don't profess to be an expert at the job (very obviously), this was my first attempt. But Norman and Bob had to work fast..they asked me to help out with the job, there was no time to hunt up a really suitable character, so I stepped in. My apologies to anyone for any unwitting errors I may have made.

The Business meeting brought several changes to the Association, and as these will be detailed more fully by the Secretary, I would merely like to mention them here. Familiar to these pages, is Dr. A.R.Weir Dsc, who is now our new secretary. Ex Worldcon Secretary, Roberta Wild will take over the Editorial chair starting with V-5. and Ken Slater has also agreed to help everyone in an advisory capacity. Archie Mercer, has kindly agreed to continue in office as Treasurer. I have little doubt that the new Committee will find him as competent, helpful and keen to help the Association as he has been throughout the first year....

..Personally, I will be sorry to leave Vector, but other commitments made it imperative. I have been elected Treasurer of the Sheffield Tape Society. My number has come up in OMPA, and Triode has become in need of a blood transfusion. However, I know that in Bobbie Wild, we need have no need to fear for the future of Vector...but it might help her a lot, if you deluged her with manuscripts and other material for Vector.



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One other job inherited by Bobbie, is the Index to Galaxy magazine. Compiled by Karl Dollner, and typed out by Keith Freeman, this project runs to 50+ stencils. H.L.Gold has written a short introduction, and the whole Index is now ready for duplication. Here rises a snag. The material is on Gestetner stencils, but Bobbie can't run them on her machine. Therefore, if any member is willing and able to help out with this task, a letter to Bobbie would be greatly appreciated (and save the BSFA the cost of a professional job).

Bob Madle has offered to supply us with a fanzine review column for each issue, but as I didn't get many comments on this idea after the last issue, I'll leave it to your new editor to make a decision on that..Here again, a letter would be appreciated. Speaking about letters, this is a good place for me to apologise to anyone who feels that I owe them a letter. In many cases, I do. Vector has taken so much time however, that in general, I have only been able to answer such letters as actually needed a reply. My apologies to those who were missed out, and I'll try to catch up in the future. This also applies to incoming fanzines.

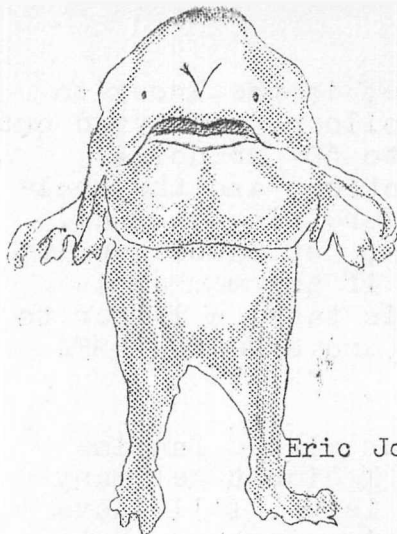
Now, a word about this issue. The cover is another experiment...to see how close to a pen drawing, one can get using ordinary stencil methods. The Planetarium article was held over from the last issue, but should prove of great general interest. 'Bloke in the Corner' should provide some argument, and the addition of a spot of light fiction in the shape of 'The Answer' is an attempt to see if you want this in Vector...to forestall any queries, I didn't write it. You can blame me for reprinting my own 'Capsule' piece, but as explained on the heading, this was an emergency measure, so if you don't like it....send in your nomination. At the time of writing, Eric Jones has not sent in his Convention report, but I have no doubt that you'll find it here, and that you'll enjoy it.

One other item was raised at the Convention..it was pointed out that the financial year should end BEFORE the Convention, this would enable the Treasurer to present a full financial report, rather than an interim balance. The change is being made, and Archie will no doubt explain further on in the magazine, just how and why the new scheme will work.

With that, I'll say cheerio to all the new friends I have made through VECTOR, and trust we can continue via ordinary channels. It's been a good year, and I hope you've enjoyed it as much as I have.

Best wishes,

The Editor.



CONVENTION

By

Eric Jones,

Frank Herbert,

Keith Freeman.

Convention reports by one person usually means that some detail is lost in limbo, so, for the first B.S.F.A. Convention, we have amalgamated and condensed somewhat all the happenings over Easter weekend at the Imperial Hotel in Birmingham. As Terry Jeeves didn't warn us of his requirements until the Saturday evening, some frantic recalling of events had to take place before this could be written.....even now, we are bound to have missed something!

For us the Convention began at about 2.55 p.m. on Saturday afternoon - we had just arrived. Conveniently missing the Chairman's speech we entered the "Connaught Room" during the "Science-Fiction 20 Questions" where Quizmaster Terry Jeeves was aiming to confound each new panel as it appeared. His system of Panel selection was extremely reminiscent of Service days...."You", "you" and "you".... consequently Keith and Eric found themselves included in the last panel of the session. After finding the answer relating to 'an abstract' - which on the 17th question turned out to be "The other side of the Moon", the team were rewarded with pocket-books from Ken Slater's display. Ina Shorrocks was kept busy during this session, conveying the answers to the audience alone by means of cards.

At 3.30 p.m. , Norman Shorrocks started off an informal tape recording session. The main purpose of this was to send greetings from individual fans, or collective groups, to DETROIT, where the WORLD S-F CONVENTION will be held in September. Elsewhere in the Hall at this time, preparations were being made for the Grand International Tea Drinking Contest (British Chapter),a large thermo-urn filled with tea, dozens of cups and saucers, and a large bowl of sugar were laid out on a table. Among the contestants were Norman Shorrocks, Bob Richardson, Les Childs and the winner Peter Davies. Exactly how many cups of tea Peter consumed escapes us, but the Judges presented him with a silver chalice, duly inscribed "Champion Tea Drinker, Birmingham 1959".

Strangely enough, there was then an adjournment for TEA - until 7.30 p.m! This gave us an opportunity to view the displays around the hall. Ken Slater (Fantast Medway, Ltd.) had secured a corner for his book and magazine stand, whilst at the side of

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the stand was his cover competition. For this competition one had to state the magazine title, year and month or number of issue - all these of course had either been cut out or otherwise defaced. Next to Ken's stand, on the wall, was the yearly Convention Cartoon, by Ken McIntyre. This covered a space some five feet long by three feet high and was auctioned on Sunday and bought by Norman Shorrock for the Liverpool S-F Society's clubroom. Moving down the hall another few feet we came to the "S-F Art Exhibition". There were many entries by Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves, Ken McIntyre, Jack Wilson and Bob Richardson in poster paint, oils, and line drawings. On the other wall of the Convention Hall, there were many original cover paintings which were later to be raffled in aid of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. Last, but not least was an advertisement by the Cheltenham S-F Circle for their film "The Test", with still photo's of film sequences. This film was to be shown on the Sunday evening.

At 7.30 p.m. Ron Bennett gave an illustrated talk, with 35mm. colour stills, on his trip to the U.S.A. as Fan-delegate from Great Britain in 1958. Due to a faulty camera many of his early shots were lost, but among the most memorable were those of the Grand Canyon, the Meteor Crater in Arizona, and a number of catastrophes that seemed to occur wherever he was, including an overturned gasoline truck and a department store fire.

With the end of this session we reversed seats to face the other end of the hall where the femme fans of the London Circle were to present their playlet. Although faced with the prospect of performing it without a stage they made a very gallant effort...don't ask us the name of the item- we can't recall it, but the whole point of the play terminated with Brian Burgess (as the occupant of a flying saucer) appearing and requesting fuel for his saucer in the form of a cup of Tea.....Brian liked his disguise (green face and pipe-cleaner antennae) so much that he walked around in it for the remainder of the evening, and a barmaid was heard to say "I think he's collecting for charity".

9 o'clock and the auction started. Chief Auctioneer - Bob Richardson. Magazines, old and new, went for a song, and certainly helped the B.S.F.A. funds, as far as the Convention was concerned. Doc Hammett of Stafford put in a brief appearance at this point, purchased a telescope and magazines and then proceeded to Aldermaston for the route march to London....At the close of the Auction a panel of judges for the art work was set up. Two paintings, one by Terry Jeeves, the other by Eddie Jones, and one line drawing by Bob Richardson, were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively (the line drawing was actually composed of thousands of dots) They were titled "Power Failure"; "Lunar Encounter"; and "Enchantment".

Meanwhile preparations were going ahead for the Fancy Dress party. Sandy Hall as "The Girl From Altain" won the prize for her convincing portrayal, and, as is usual at Conventions, the party continued well into the early hours of the morning....

We went to bed at 4 a.m.....

Sunday morning began with Alka-Seltzers and a mad rush to breakfast before it finished at 10 a.m. (We made it!). This was followed by a short walk in the rain to find a cigarette shop - an entirely unsuccessful venture I might add - then back to the Convention Hall to survey the debris left by last night's revellers and to fill in our entries for Ken Slater's Cover Competition. The official programme began at 11.30 a.m. with the A.G.M. of the B.S.F.A.

We will not attempt to cover this item fully, for a comprehensive report will either be in this, or the next issue of Vector, however, a brief run-over of the important points will now be given.

After a congratulatory telegram had been read - from Dick Eney - and extracts from a letter by Bob Madle (Kt.S.F.), who wished the first B.S.F.A. Convention well, Eric Bentcliffe gave the assembly his report of the year's progress since the inception of the organisation at Kettering last year. He said that between 500 to 1000 members would be needed before the Association became an effective force in Science Fiction. Up until the Convention membership stood at 112 (we may be in slight error here). Archie Mercer gave us a breakdown on expenses over the nine months; 11% of which was devoted to advertising, mainly in New Worlds and Flying Review. During the discussion later, Ken Slater suggested coding the advertisements in order to ascertain their effectiveness. Terry Jeeves gave his report on B.S.F.A. Publications, and the New Worlds Index was on sale to members at the Con. The Galaxy Checklist (or Index) will be forthcoming soon.

Then came the Election of Officers for 1959-60. This culminated in the following: Ken Slater - Chairman. Dr. Arthur R. Weir - Secretary. Archie Mercer - Treasurer. Roberta Wild - Publications (assisted by Sandra Hall).

Bob Richardson(for the Convention Committee) stated that the profits of the convention(up until that time) stood at £8. (At the end of the Convention this was amended to £12 for the whole Con.) This would be handed over to the Con Committee for next year as a 'float', but on the understanding that the TAFF Delegates Hotel Expenses (B & B) would be paid for by that Committee (this was after a proposition by Ron Bennett to that effect).

Proposed Convention Site for 1960 was Harrogate, unless any other offers were forthcoming. Then the voting began for the Magazines. The Best British S-F Mag - NEW WORLDS. Best American Magazine - ASTOUNDING S-F. Best British Fanzine - TRIODE, and by unanimous vote ALL the past year's S-F FILMS fell into the category of "The Worst S-F Film of the Year".

After lunch there was a talk by Doc. Weir. This had, for its subject, the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis, and when Terry Jeeves said at the end of the discussion that he had been changed from a sceptic to a believer, he just about summed up the feelings of the majority of Doc Weir's audience.

'Doc' Weir himself, however, began his talk with a disclaimer - he said that there was not an atom of real proof that Atlantis ever existed at all, and that it was his personal opinion that it did not - however, he continued by presenting an entertaining theory which left us all wondering whether there was, after all, something in the old legend.

He said that the first mention of Atlantis appeared in the writings of Plato, and Plato got the story second-hand from an early Greek Historian who had flourished 200 years before. This historian (whose name escapes us) had heard the legend from the Egyptians who had told him that 'it all happened 2000 years ago'.....This meant that Atlantis had existed around 6000 B.C., and at the time of Plato ' had been situated West of the Pillars of Hercules'.

It has been (until now) commonly accepted that the Pillars of Hercules were the Straits of Gibraltar, but 'Doc' now has substantial evidence that the 'Pillars' were, in fact, the Straits of Messina (between Sicily and the Italian mainland) and this would therefore place Atlantis in the West Mediterranean and not in the Atlantic as heretofore! The breaking of the land bridge at the Straits of Gibraltar by the rising waters of the receding Ice Age and the subsequent inundation and filling of the Mediterranean (which was at that time a fertile plain) are more logical explanations than the 'accepted' theories. Did any of the Atlanteans escape the waters? Well, Doc thinks that the Basques might have descended from them.....

Doc's talk was followed by Fantasy Free, when tapes were played of a talk given by Eric Jones on S-F to the International Friendship League in Cheltenham, and Liverpool's famed 'Last and First Fen'. Then the raffle tickets were drawn and various prizes distributed (we seem to have lost the list of who won what on this), then after tea the evening session began.

This was the final auction, preceded by the award, for Ken Slater's Cover Competition, of WITCHES THREE to Eric Jones who managed by some weird stroke of luck to get the highest percentage of answers right. During the auction, equipment was being set up for the film show which commenced at 8.30. pm. with Ted Carnell's film of the "15th WorldCon", this was followed by the almost completed Cheltenham Film "The Test" which had a temporary sound-track. Then followed the Liverpool Film of the Brussels Exhibition, again not finally edited. These were the three new films of the Year and were followed by the films shown at the 15th WorldConLiverpool's "May We Have The Pleasure?", Cheltenham's "Kingdom of St Fantony" and Liverpool's "Fanzapoppin". The programme went on longer than had been anticipated, but as soon as the equipment had been dismantled it was replaced by bottles and a Party was On... Which brings us to the end of a highly successful Convention...Long may they flourish...And we are sure that all you members who didn't come WILL be there next year, now that you know What Goes On.....

THE BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION.....BALANCE SHEET

<u>INCOME</u>	£...s...d		
Membership and entrance fee..(40 @ 5/-).....	10	0	0
Membership and entrance fee..(18 @ 12/6)....	11	5	0
B.S.F.A. Raffle	4	2	6
Loan from BSFA funds.....	3	0	0
First Auction	8	16	0
Second Auction	4	15	2
TOTAL	£ 41	18	8

<u>EXPENSES</u>	£...s...d		
Membership cards		3	6
Publicity & other BSFA Committee expenses...	1	7	8
Programme booklet (after deduction of ads.)	4	1	0
Connaught Room (2 days at sp. reduced rate).	6	6	0
Art Exhibition Prize	1	0	0
Fancy Dress Prize.....		19	7
30/- (Urn of tea for T.D.Contest, less 15/- regained on sale of tea)		15	0
Prizes for 20 Questions Panel		15	0
Cleaning of Connaught Room		10	0
Refund to members who cancelled bookings ...		10	0
Con-sec expenses (postage, stationery, 'phone badges, raffle tickets, etc.)	4	16	10
Programme Organiser's expenses (hire of projector, & booklets to be mailed out ((approx 80)) to BSFA members	3	5	9
Return of BSFA loan.....	3	0	0
SURPLUS TO BSFA FUNDS FOR NEXT CONVENTION...	14	8	4
TOTAL	£ 41	18	8

OUTSTANDING ITEM...

Would the holder of the BSFA raffle ticket.. 122 (Red) please contact the Con-Sec, so that his prize may be forwarded to him.

EVEN MORE OUTSTANDING....

We would like to extend our thanks to the Official Photographers...Eddie Jones and Les Childs...for their work in photographing all that went on at the Convention

THE PERFECT ANSWER

by
Fred
Burd

"I cannot emphasise too strongly," said the Inventor, "the absolute harmlessness of these rays. In this, they're strictly comparable to - say - radio waves." (H'm - radio waves - yes," muttered the Prime Minister under his breath.) "Stringent laboratory tests have proved conclusively that they have no effect whatsoever on living tissue, whether plant or animal, or upon air, water or soil. They're quite safe - and they'll render harmless all atomic and nuclear missiles that may venture within their influence."

"But how much will all this cost?" asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Defence Minister spoke up. "As far as the apparatus itself is concerned, my experts are satisfied that it can be easily manufactured from existing stores using only forces manpower. Therefore, the only thing that'll cost money until it's actually functioning will be the purchase of suitable sites and erection of quarters for the operating personnel."

"As far as the acquisition of sites goes," put in the Minister of Agriculture, "that can easily be handled by my Department. And I think my colleague -" (he nodded towards the Minister of Works, who grunted his assent.) "- could handle the building side of it without further appropriations."

"Of course," the Prime Minister leaned forward and addressed the Inventor, "we'll have to be satisfied that your invention will work on a somewhat larger scale than that provided by your laboratory."

The Defence Minister chose to answer this himself. "I have already laid provisional plans for it to be tested at Christmas Island in the near future."

"What about the Irish Republic?" the Foreign Secretary asked. "If we're going to blanket the country with a safety margin all round, part of their territory's going to be affected too."

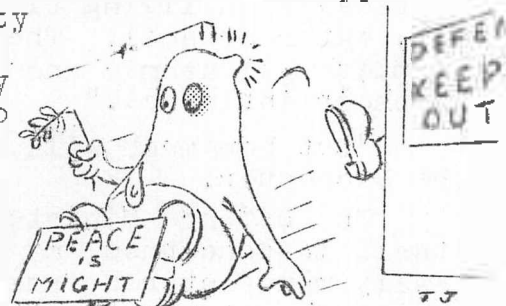
"I've been thinking about that myself," the War Minister admitted. "Personally, I don't see why we shouldn't cover the whole of Ireland while we're about it - I understand it can be done easily enough from British territory, and it would be a humanitarian gesture."

"Hear-hear," said the Secretary for Scotland - who was of course, a Welshman.

"Well, gentlemen," the Prime Minister summed up. "The business certainly has its awkward angles, there's going to be a certain amount of unemployment as a result; to say nothing of the general upheaval, but as I see it, our duty is clear - if we were to reject this scheme out of hand, we would do nothing less than betray the trust placed in us by our fellow citizens. I therefore propose that we go ahead at once with the preliminary arrangements, pending confirmation of the Christmas Island tests. Are we agreed, gentlemen?"

Assent was unanimous.

So the work went ahead. Up and down Great Britain, as well as in Northern Ireland and the further-flung islands of the British archipelago, sites were requisitioned and the Ministry of works moved in to lay out roads and buildings. Steady progress was maintained, despite active hostility on the part of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear Warfare. Their misapprehension was entirely pardonable - authority was extremely reticent as to the exact purpose of the sites, and one naturally tended in the absence of information to the contrary, to equate "defence" with "the same as the other lot has, only we hope to use ours first." The Christmas Island tests were a complete success - so much so, that the rest of the world could only deduce that the British had perfected an absolutely undetectable nuclear bomb, and the Geneva Conference on the suspension of tests, broke up in confusion. But the British Cabinet didn't worry - the way was now clear, and the soldiers moved into the sites and began erecting the apparatus itself that was to free the country - and shortly afterwards, one hoped, the world - from its greatest nightmare.



At last everything was ready. And so it came to pass that one morning the nation woke up to find that its wireless sets were out of action. Those who tried to 'phone up to ask what was wrong, found that their 'phones wouldn't work either. Then the morning papers arrived, and the explanation was blazoned before them. A typical front page began :-

ALL BRITAIN NOW SAFE FROM THE H-BOMB

We have Ultimate Answer says Premier

At twelve midnight last night, the Prime Minister

pressed a button that brought into action a chain of stations, now blanketing the entire British Isles with their radiations. As a result, any nuclear missile venturing within a prescribed radius of our coastline, will be automatically rendered harmless.

The Prime Minister, in an interview with the press, stated that.....etc. etc. etc.

: : : :

They hanged the Prime Minister from the top of Big Ben, and his cabinet, from the lamp-posts all round Parliament Square. The Inventor was scientifically disposed of by his outraged colleagues, and all his records destroyed. Up and down the country, the ray-broadcasting apparatus was wrecked beyond repair by the soldiers who had just built it, officers and other ranks alike combining in their indignation to destroy this monstrous abortion in their midst. Then everybody went quietly home leaving the remaining politicians to clear up the mess, like the decent law-abiding citizens they were at heart.....

.....Just so long as nobody tried to interfere with their telly.

FINIS

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LAST-MINUTE LETTER.....

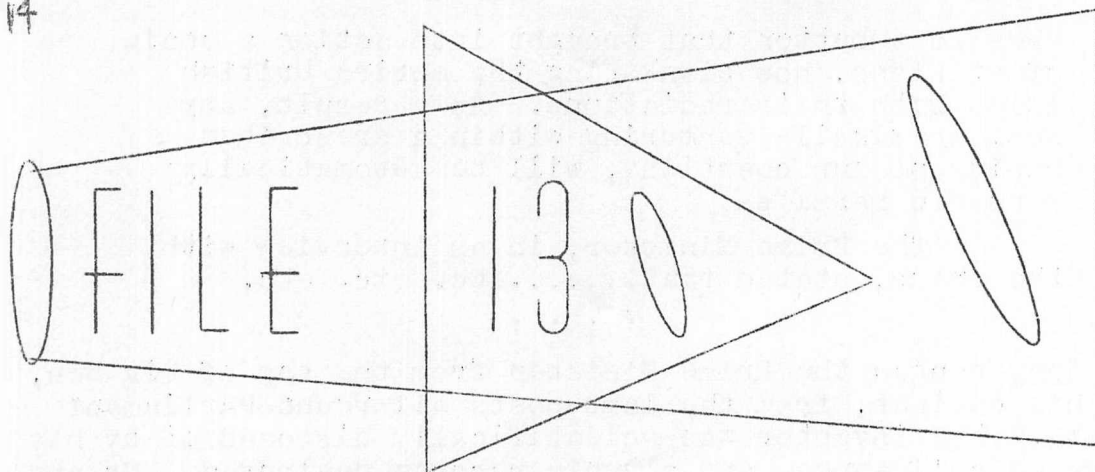
Peter Singleton, 10 Emily St., Burnley, Lancs.

"I found V-3 very enjoyable. It is packed with variety. Everything in fact, but one thing - a fanzine column. But, as you state in your editorial; the problem is to get someone willing to do the job - no easy task. ((You said it!))

The cover illo. is very good; and I like the layout of both the cover and the rest of the 'zine in general. Contents are of a high quality, but I have my favourites, which are as follows - Bow Bells..H.Ken Bulmer, Magazine Reviews..Wild and Jeeves, General Chuntering..K.F.Slater. Particular mention must go to A.R.Weir for his extremely interesting, 'How Green Was My Notion' I rate this absolute tops.

I haven't mentioned all the departments, but they were all interesting and I am looking forward to V-4, next quarter.

((Thanks very much for the comments Peter, and I hope V-4 pleases you as much. I'm hoping that your example in writing to us so soon after joining (M-110) will lead others to follow your example. Only in that way, can we be sure of getting the kind of material you all want.)).



It is with somewhat mixed feelings that I type this final FILE 13, for whilst I have enjoyed being instrumental in the founding of the B.S.F.A., I have also had to neglect a number of my other interests to do so - there is a faint aura of expectancy hovering over the pile of unanswered letters and tapes which have piled up at this address now. Principle reasons for my not standing for re-election at convention time were personal ones and I don't intend to go into them here; suffice it to say that I shall not have the free time available to me in the future that I have had in the past. And the B.S.F.A. needs a secretary who is able to devote a large amount of time to the job.

Prior to the election held at Birmingham I must admit that I was somewhat worried over the forthcoming vacancy created by my inability to stand again, and the apparent lack of a suitable candidate for this office. I'm pleased to say that I consider that both my worries, and those of the BSFA are over - Doc' Weir will, I'm quite sure, make a very excellent secretary. In fact, I'm pretty sure that he will make a better one than I, for he is more interested in science-fiction basically than I am. Whilst s-f has remained a basic reading enjoyment to me for quite a number of years now (and I expect it to remain so), I can no longer find it in me to work up a mood of righteous wrath when some critic attacks the genre - most times I nod my greying head sagely and mutter into my beard, 'and damn it, he's right!'.

How then, you ask, could you act as secretary of the BSFA ? Well, I think the principle reason that both Terry and I took office in the Association, was that we felt we owed a debt of gratitude to science-fiction, and fandom, for providing us with a very pleasant hobby. And, more important still, enabling us to meet and contact with a lot of very nice people. This we thought, would help to repay that debt - by helping others to find the same enjoyment and entertainment we have found.

In the convention program-booklet which you all will have received by now, I wrote a brief resume of the years accomplishments and disappointments. I don't intend to repeat this here, but I would like to round off my year as secretary by commenting briefly on the events which took place at the Convention. The first B.S.F.A. Convention - let there be many more.

I'm not going to make a convention-report of this, for that is a feature which you should find elsewhere in the issue, but I would like to give a few statistics - slightly embellished.

The total membership at the Convention was 60, and 56 people actually attended the con. These were not the sort of numbers we were hoping for, but they were comparative with recent British conventions. It is hoped that next year more of you will be able to attend - you will certainly find the Association more interesting subsequently if you do, for when you've met other members (and fans outside the BSFA) you begin to take a more personal interest in things.

The convention was a financial, and social success - even I, with the threat of having to make a speech on the Sunday morning hanging over my head, enjoyed myself! The success of the convention is due in no small part to the efforts of Bob Richardson as Chairman, Auctioneer, and Head Worrier; and Norman Sherrock as Program Chief and Bartender Par Excellence. Friends of Mr. Sherrock may be interested to know that in his search for bigger-and-better-hangovers, he discovered a new and strangely powerful rocket-fuel whilst attempting to mix a Pimm's 99.... it is hoped to sell this to the American Government.

You'll find a statement regarding the financial aspects of the Convention in our Treasurers report. (Probably the first which has ever been published after a British Convention.) The profit made at this convention will be held in a special fund by the BSFA and will be used to finance future conventions held under the auspices of the Association.

So much for the convention, forwhilst I could write several pages on the topic I don't wish to duplicate other material in this issue.

Change of subject. Pierre Versins who runs the CLUB FUTOPIA, the only French-reading club for science-fiction fans, has kindly offered to send copies of AILLEURS the club journal to any members of the BSFA who can read French. Completists please don't apply - only those who can read French and will be willing to send an occasional letter of comment. AILLEURS is an exceptionally good magazine, and anyone interested in receiving it should write to Pierre at 'Primrose 38, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Revolution seems to be in the air in German Fandom - a new club, the Science Fiction Union Europa, has come into being with the former President of the SFC(lub)E, Walter Ernsting, as President. So far nowone has been assassinated, but things do seem to be in something of a turmoil over there. Now you know where to send your outworn zap-guns!

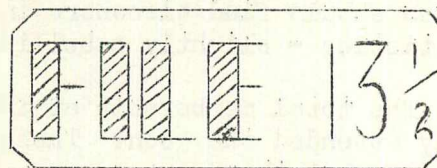
And that seems to be about all there is room for on this stencil, except to say that I wish the new Committee well in their strivings to make the Association a bigger and better organization...I'll be cheering them on from the sidelines.

My best wishes too, to all you people I've had the pleasure of corresponding with over the past year.

.....Eric Bentcliffe

The NEW Secretary's Page

It is a hard job for anyone to follow in the footsteps of Eric Bentcliffe's FILE 13, and I do not propose to do so. For one thing, it requires somebody who knows personally most of the prominent people in S-F, and for another somebody who is continually pretty closely in touch with them. Neither of these things applies to me, but since the Con. has chosen to elect me as Secretary, you will have to put up with it.



by

A. R. Weir D.Sc.

In consequence of what was said at the Con., it has been definitely decided to start the Association's financial year from January 1st., in future. This will greatly simplify many things for both Treasurer and Secretary. Accordingly, as the first year of the BSFA, ends on June 30th, please send in to the Treasurer a subscription of ten shillings only (or pro rata, for Associate "embers).

All our thanks to Terry Jeeves, both as Con Chairman and also for his splendid work in bringing out in a remarkable state of **technical** perfection the last three numbers of Vector. Just how much this work can mean, I fancy most of you don't know, but the covers and chapter headings have been done with a care and neatness that speaks of many hours of patient trying and inky labour. How he has found time also to review the U.S. S-F magazines as well, I really do not see.

Reviewing, however, seems to go with magazine production, since Roberta Wild, who reviewed the British magazines for us, has now valiantly taken on the editorship of Vector.

One of my offspring, aged thirteen, enquired of me, on my return from Birmingham: "What sort of people are these bods who read S-F anyhow?" Realising that I did not yet know myself, I did a little ad hoc research, and found the results so interesting that I am passing them on. Here are the occupations of the members of the BSFA, as stated by themselves on the application forms.

ADVERTISEMENT ARTIST, ACCOUNTANT, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AUTHOR, BANK CASHIER, BARMAID, BOOKSELLER, BOOK-SHOP MANAGER, BUS CONDUCTOR, CHEMIST, CIVIL ENGINEER, CIVIL SERVANT, CLERK, COMPANY DIRECTOR, COMPUTER PROGRAMMER, COOK, COTTON MILL WORKER, DENTAL MECHANIC,

DRAUGHTSMAN, EDITOR, ELECTRICIAN, ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, ENGINEER, ESTATE AGENT, FACTORY WORKER, FILM CAMERAMAN, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, FUEL ENGINEER, HARDWARE BUYER, HOUSEWIFE, INSURANCE AGENT, JOURNALIST, LABORATORY EQUIPMENT ENGINEER, LABORATORY TECHNICIAN, MACHINIST, MAITRE D'HOTEL, MARKET RESEARCH SPECIALIST, MASTER WINDOW CLEANER, MECHANICAL ENGINEER, NUCLEAR ENERGY ENGINEER, NURSING SISTER, PERSONNEL RESEARCH WORKER, PHARMACIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIST, POSTAL EMPLOYEE, PRINTER, RADIO MECHANIC, RAILWAY EMPLOYEE, RESEARCH WORKER, ROYAL AIR FORCE SALESMAN, SCHOOLBOY, SCHOOLMASTER, S-F FAN (I hope he makes a good living out of it !) SHORTHAND TYPIST, SIGNWRITER, STAMP DEALER, STATISTICIAN, STRESS ANALYST, STUDENT, SUPPLIES OFFICER, SURVEYOR, TEACHER, WELDER, WRITER.

Bit mixed, aren't we ? In the next Vector, I hope to have a similar breakdown of their various hobbies and spare time occupations - and from what I've seen I can promise you that these are much more varied and surprising than their professions !

..... Doc.

HISTORICAL PROJECT

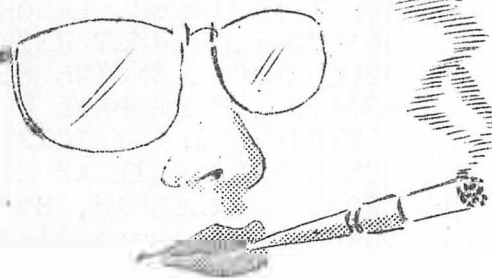
Our Treasurer, Archie Mercer, (434/4 Newark Rd., North Hykeham, Lincs) has offered to do the spade work of sifting and collating all reports.

WHICH REPORTS ? Well, the idea was broached at the Birmingham Convention, that it would be a good idea to get every member to write their memoirs of the Convention...how they saw it, how they found it, what they thought, and what happened to them. Therefore, Archie requests that you all submit your reports to him...as many pages as you like, but in duplicate, and written on one side of the paper only....preferably, though not essential, they should be typewritten. The whole affair will be collated, compiled and produced for members, by Archie.....BUT, if you want to see this monumental work, make sure it appears, by contributing YOUR report.

STOP PRESS...Owing to pressure of work (mainly OMPA), Bobbie Wild regrets that she is unable to have her U.K. magazine reviews ready for this issue. . Next time huh ?

The BLOKE IN THE CORNER

This title is a shameless pinch from Doris Harrison, and I'm not in the least ashamed to admit it. It all started because I was to do a column for Orion under this title, and since no one knows what is going to happen to 'O', Terry is letting me put some London Circle news in here.



We've seen quite a list of overseas visitors this year. Julie Jardine came accompanied by her aunt - a lively lady, apparently in her fifties, who could put many a teenage to shame. Further visitors included Wynne and Laurel Whiteford, two charming Australians. Wynne has had work published frequently in both Australia and the U.S., while the extremely attractive Laurel is trained in both Dianetics and orthodox psychiatry.

by
LAURENCE SANLFIELD

Ken Slater's deliberately provocative article in 'Thrice In A Blue Moon' has given us some debating material in the Globe. Ken's statement that the majority of the UNKNOWN fantasies were pure crud, has taken some hard knocks. Without disturbing my jealously guarded wartime B.R.E's, let's see how I can do :-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Mathematics of Magic | 7. The Castle of Iron |
| 2. Darker Than You Think | 8. The Roaring Trumpet |
| 3. The Devil Makes the Law | 9. Shottle Bop |
| 4. The Bleak Shore | 10. Etaoin Shrdlu |
| 5. The Ultimate Adventure | 11. The Mislaid Charm |
| 6. Slaves of Sleep. | 12. The Ultimate Egoist |

That's with only one pause for thought. Yet all the Unknowns I ever read, with but two exceptions, were war-time B.R.E's. Therefore, I probably missed a number of yarns which no doubt other fen will recall with great glee. It's quite an interesting reflection, that while Unknown's titles were phrases, Asf was going through a period of single word titles.....who'd like to see how many of these he can remember ?

DEPARTMENT OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC EYESTRAIN.

The film, 'Femmes de Paris' came round our way, so as resident Satyr, I had to go and see it. Being non-French speaking, and unable to remember things written in a foreign language, I just naturally can't give any star names. There was however, a comedian who was quite literally, the life of the film. A small sallow man, with a shocking looking moustache; he has the art of mime in the Chaplin tradition. When expressing that almost divine rage which seems the prerogative of clowns, he coupled 'shooing' gestures, with the sound of an angry hen, and made me roll up. His use of mime quite overrode the language barrier, which made the episode with the pianist a wonderful thing. The

comedian cannot stand the sound of an imitation musician, and distracts his attention by banging the keyboard with his fist. While the musician looks around, the comedian writes a trill into the score, and the result is excruciating. Finally, driven right up the wall, the musician runs off, leaving the comic in charge. What happens next, beggars description, but it includes a water soaked tenor, a rainstorm, a parade of nudes wearing transparent plastic raincoats, and a lovely jam-session. If the comedian was the pianist, then he's some Jazzman. If it was 'ghosted', then let me be haunted by that spectre.

SURVEYING 1958.

All in all, 1958 has been quite a year. At the Globe, we've seen such stalwarts as Sid Birchby, Margaret and Eric Jones, the latter being fandom's electronic expert. Sandy Cutrell, John Wyndham, and a fortnight before writing, Arthur Clarke dropped in with Mike Wilson's latest book..(His first) Arthur had some pictures of Luna taken with a newly acquired camera. On one of them, she stood in the centre of really black space and seemed about to fall out of the picture into my hand.

Mike Wilson himself has been in, with wounds to prove that someone tried to murder him. He brought pictures of his bride, but the wise man had left the lady somewhere else.

The two most remarkable things about 1958, have been the formation of the BSFA, and the publication of aporrheta. Another remarkable thing, is the emergence of Ella Parker, from wherever new fen come. Ella is both vital and trenchant. The other night, Gerard Black, a non-fan who visits the Globe, broke in on Ella to ask if she was an Australian as seemed to be indicated by her accent and language. I had to laugh, Ella is a Scot. Then there's Sandra Hall, whose cultured voice brings Sandra Laurence to mind. Sandra is quite an asset...nd to think I thought she was from Cheltenham. These conventions.

All in all, 1958 hasn't been a bad year.

+++++

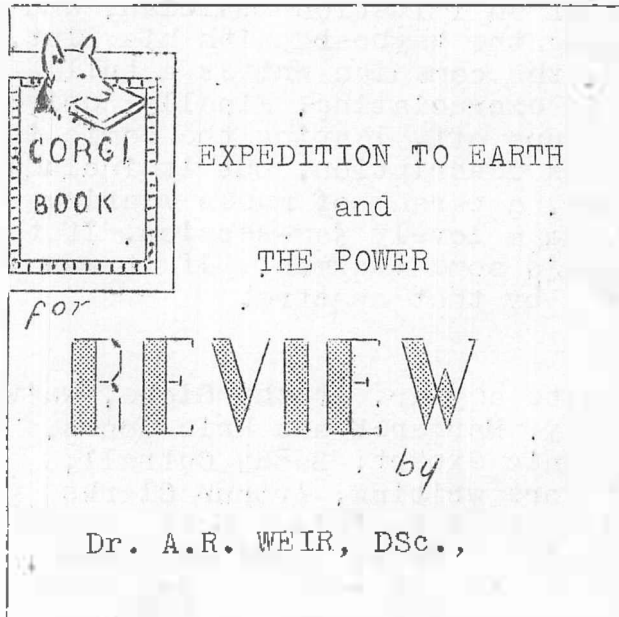
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Apparently everyone is fully stocked at the moment, as we have no 'ads' to hand. Of course, if you just forgot to write, and there is something you want....be it book, pocket book, or a magazine... ~~new~~ or old....then you'll probably get it from Ken Slater.

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CORGI BOOKS can usually be relied upon to find worthwhile titles for their S-F Section, and they have certainly found a pair of beauties for the early Spring; Arthur C. Clarke's EXPEDITION TO EARTH, for February, and Frank M. Robinson's THE POWER for March. Both are, as usual, neat, well-printed, but with rather small margins, and reasonably striking, not too offensive covers.

A.C. Clarke needs no introduction, and these are of his best, but a mystery appears on the first page (as also in the hard-cover Sidgwick and Jackson edition); "Inheritance" appeared not only post-war in New Worlds, but also in the pre-war 1938 FANTASY. "The Sentinel", which also appeared in New Worlds is not mentioned at all, and neither is "Hide and Seek" which appeared in ASTOUNDING. Why this conspiracy of suppression ?

Anyhow here they all are : my own favourite, "Second Dawn" of the beginnings of a symbiotic civilisation achieved jointly by the Atheleni with their magnificent brains and helpless clumsy forehoofs, and the dextrous stupid Phileni, born craftsmen, but "of dim, poor head" ; the heartaching "If I Forget Thee, Oh Earth" ; and "Breaking Strain" in which two spacemen, faced with an emergency that leaves them air for one only, agree to take the civilised way out. Then "Expedition To Earth" in which Venerian archaeologists try to reconstruct the civilisation of Earth from what they can never realise is entirely earthly, but grossly misleading evidence (its punchline ending beats most).

"Encounter in the Dawn" and "Loophole" are the weakest in my judgement, but "Hide and Seek" shows up beautifully the weaknesses of the spaceship in practical tactics. "The Sentinel" gives voice and form to a nervousness we have probably all felt at one time or another, while "Inheritance" shows how a dream can both come true and not come true at the same time (and these space pilots aren't heroes : they're nervous, just as you or I would be !)

I wonder how many people realise that "Superiority" in which a war is won by the enemy's inferior science, actually came true in the last war ? If Hitler had not wasted Germany's

21
resources in building V-2's and tried prematurely, to get a rocket Messerschmitt fighter into production, he might have won the war - - if those factories had been turned into producing standard engine-driven fighters, we might never have commanded the air superiority that alone made VE day possible.

THE POWER is the tale of the man who suspected that one of his research group at the University had psi powers, and tried to find out who ; but the owner of the power preferred to remain anonymous, and used all his powers to keep his secret, with devastating results (what can you do when people with whom you've dealt all your life, fail to recognise you, and their records show no trace of your existence ?) The ending is a double twist - the "power" isn't who the seeker thought he was, and the seeker isn't what the "Power" thought he was either ! Highly commended but it just doesn't make the topmost rank - quite,

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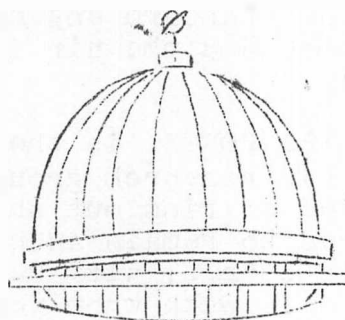
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THE LONDON PLANETARIUM



In the early 1930s the public heard for the first time that Karl Jansky had picked up radio waves which came from outer space. These waves, Jansky found, came from the direction of the Milky Way, but in the excitement that followed this feature was often overlooked. He received numerous letters in which he was reprimanded for missing the "really significant" part of his research. The waves, he was told, had nothing to do with the Milky Way or with astrophysics. Instead, they were messages sent by intelligent beings within and perhaps outside the solar system. Some writers suggested that the messages came from spirits of the dead, others requested him to stop meddling with things from which no good could come.

We experienced a similar situation when in March last The London Planetarium opened its doors to the general public. There was again a minority who could make neither head nor tail of matters scientific. Several folk were at a loss to know how they could see stars in the Planetarium when the daytime sky outside was completely overcast. Some thought that the emblem of the planet Saturn on top of the dome had something to do with it, some regarded the dome's copper facing as being highly significant. One person came expecting to receive messages from the planet Mars, another declared that the project would hasten an atomic war, quite a few expected to look through a large telescope of new and advanced design. Some thought that the dome itself revolved, thereby carrying the star images with it, others thought that it was an open-air affair, a kind of de-luxe star-spotting club.

Fortunately we had the majority, now several hundreds of thousands in number, which has appreciated and been thrilled by the presentations given in The London Planetarium. All have seen something of the ever-changing panorama of the starry skies and had the opportunity of having its mysteries explained in the simplest possible terms.

When night falls in The London Planetarium, spectators beneath its great dome see the night sky in all its beauty. Some two to three thousand stars shine out overhead, and as dusk deepens into night, the Milky Way like an arch of pearly light stretch across the vault of heaven. At the touch of a switch the star-studded sky turns slowly to bring into view more stars, while others dip below the western skyline. Perhaps the Moon and some of the five naked-eye planets appear, perhaps meteors

flash past in brief trails of light or polar lights flicker in the north. Yet in a matter of minutes night can give place to the first blush of day, and the Sun mounts high in the blue sky to extinguish all but the brightest stars.

These and many other extraordinary and beautiful effects are produced by the projection of optical images from a £70,000 dumb-bell shaped instrument made by the Zeiss works at Oberkochen in Western Germany. Within its body lie concealed nearly 200 optical projectors which can be turned, singly or together, by a number of electric motors. As these motors operate the appropriate sets of gears and mechanical links, the projectors reproduce on the white-painted inner dome surface not only the general march of the stars across the face of the sky but also the apparent motions of the Sun, Moon, and planets as seen from the Earth. As the dumb-bell moves slowly and silently upon its supports, the spectator sees unfolded what is tantamount to a moving picture of the starry heavens. So realistic are the effects produced that he feels that he is sitting outdoors on the clearest of nights, looking at the natural canopy of stars overhead.

So great is the versatility of the Zeiss projector that it can faithfully reproduce the starry sky as seen from any place on earth, and for any time past, present or future. While for Londoners the home-skies offer perhaps the greatest interest, it is exciting indeed to be transported to southern skies as if by a magic carpet. Few of us have seen the full beauty of the stars of winter's frosty skies, if only because of the glare of city lights. Fewer by far have stood beneath the Southern Cross and Clouds of Magellan, or travelled in the lands of the Midnight Sun. With the earth as a footstool and time at command, the effects of the passage of thousands of years can be compressed into minutes. One can see, for example, the night skies of 14,000 A.D. when for the northern hemisphere the bright star Vega serves as the Pole Star. Alternatively the centuries can be bridged to show the stars familiar to Abraham when from the ramparts of Ur he gazed across the plains of Chaldea. The London Planetarium is unique in several ways. It is, for instance, the first large-scale planetarium of its type in the British Commonwealth. It is also one of the first planetariums to cater for the general public and not specifically for special groups requiring comparatively advanced lectures. Its presentations are so planned as to have the widest possible appeal; they certainly do not take the form of lectures. For the ordinary visitor the auditorium is transformed into a "theatre of the skies" where the sun, moon, planets and stars are the actors, and the vault of heaven is the stage. In this setting the lecturer, who from his console arranges and describes the various effects in the planetarium sky, acts as guide and narrator, sharing with his audience his love of the stars in a way which dispels the mystery but retains the majesty.

Standing at his console to the north side of the auditorium, the lecturer has some 2,000 different switch combinations at his disposal. In addition he has full control over sound reproduction, general lighting and the special colour effects in the planetarium sky. The last form a completely new feature and are obtained from three rings of cold-cathode tubes in red, green and blue which lie concealed between the dome surface and the wooden cut-out of the London skyline. Through the dimming devices of this system it is possible to obtain quite striking and yet realistic horizon glow effects.

The auditorium seats 550 spectators and undergoes a complete change of air at a maximal rate of eight changes an hour. In the interests of first-class optical projection a strict "No-smoking" ban is imposed, and the greater part of the incoming air is thoroughly filtered. Also associated with this aspect is the need for complete absence of unpleasant reverberations and other sound effects. The 674-foot projection dome is therefore made of aluminium sheets perforated with millions of tiny holes. These holes enable sound waves to penetrate the dome, where they are absorbed by a thick layer of rockwool. The holes are so small that they in no way affect even the smallest star images.

The London Planetarium is the 33rd of its kind. It was preceded in 1957 by a similar project at Sao Paulo, Brazil, and comes some 24 years after the erection of the first planetarium at the Zeiss works in Jena. Only three of the original planetaria in Germany are now in full operation, for many suffered heavily from damage during the last war. London has had to wait over thirty years, for the writer well remembers the initial agitation which took place in 1925 but which unfortunately came to nothing. After so long a wait it is indeed encouraging to know that the London project is offering as many as thirty-four presentations a week at times and prices within the reach of everyone.

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review of AMERICAN MAGAZINES

Terry Leeves

Rating. A - E

Quite an assortment of s-f has arrived during the last three months, but perhaps the most interesting, may prove to be the new Amazing serial, so we'll kick off with that magazine.

AMAZING S-F Stories.....March.1959

THE GALAXY PRIMES..(E.E.Smith) Being part 1. of a serial, it will not be reviewed, save to say that not only is a new Smith story an event, but that this one promises to raise quite a large amount of controversy.

MAROOINED OFF VESTA..(Asimov) A reprint from 1939, spacemen wrecked in orbit, manage to get their wreckage to fall safely on Vesta. Question, how do you melt a hole in a water-full tank without it exploding? Rating...D

ANNIVERSARY..(Asimov) Deals with the above spacemen celebrating the anniversary of their escape..and finding they have a fortune on their hands. Once again, it gets a D

MEASURE FOR A LONER..(Harman) Psychological search for a man capable of standing the solitude of space flight....D

THE JUPITER WEAPON..(Fontenay) A man born on Jupiter (and impervious to bullets) returns to settle with the villain, who naturally, has a beautiful and honest assistant....Rating..E

QUESTION OF COMFORT..(Collins) Re-creating for Disneyland, a set of scenes found on the planets...complete with sights, smells and temperatures...and the guiding genius.? Rating.C

JUBILATION U.S.A... (Vandenburg) Two aliens from Capella visit a gambling town, and have trouble with a one-armed bandit. Exit the aliens. If this is s-f...ugh! Rating E.

Which boils down to one decent story in the issue.

With a record like that, I trust the serial will prove more rewarding when complete.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION.....March.1959

DESPOILERS OF THE GOLDEN EMPIRE..(Gordon) concerns a handful of men, who take over a planet by force of their courage. Poorly transcribed, and sad to say, Editor Campbell tipped the punch line off in his editorial.....Even, so, Rating.C.

INSTINCT..(G.O.Smith) Aliens capture the first man in space, but prove unable to hold him...he develops teleportation. No doubt this esp.gimmick sold the story.....Rating D

THE MAN WHO DID NOT FIT..(Budrys) A prisoner is tested to decide his fitness for further training...he fails, and this bitter pill supposedly spurs him on to greatness.....D

TRANSLATION ERROR..(Silverberg) An alien operator is sent to

sabotage Earth's development. Strange results follow, and a trace of esp. no doubt helped the story. Rating C.

ASTOUNDING Science Fiction.....April.1959

WHEREVER YOU ARE..(Sanders) Castaways on an alien planet, and unable to reach their base, one man and one (Amazonian) girl have trouble with head hunting aliens. Give it C.
NOW INHALE..(Russell) is in line with previous 'dumb' alien yarns. This time the space scout is taken prisoner, and sentenced to play any game of his choosing. When the game finishes, he is to be strangled, win or lose. Rating.B.
SET A THIEF..(Elliott) More aliens, this time penned in a compound on Earth. The problem is how to deal with them. It is solved by a wise old army officer, and his homely secretary....Another C.

THE SIEVE..(Anvil) This yarn shakes my belief in the Anvil-Russell theory. Colonists on some forsaken planet, are losing out to a local drug, which makes them unable to face up to their problems....Those who can abstain, manage to live through it...hence the sieve. Rating D

THE CATCH..(Dickson) The aliens were far too friendly, and far too eager to hand over their planet. The catch turns out to be the 'White Man's Burden'.....Rating D

THE PIRATES OF ERSATZ..(Leinster). This instalment winds up the serial. If you can discount the rattling improbabilities, and the supermanlike never-fail competence of the hero, then you'll enjoy this fast moving yarn. A mixture of Vogt's complexity, G.O.Smith's pace, and E.E.Smith's piling up of new inventions...Worthy of its B rating.

GALAXY Magazine.....April.1959

THE CITY OF FORCE..(Galouye) Some interesting concepts are brought out in this story of a countryman investigating a city of the alien conquerors....plus very plausible ideas as to how the aliens would react when confronted with intelligence where they had not known of its existence.. and an indication that they didn't have things all their own way. Definitely an improvement....Rating B+

KINGLSAYER..(McIntosh) An interesting yarn, describing the escape efforts of a space ship pilot, imprisoned and punished for (accidentally) killing a king...Another.B.

SECURITY PLAN++(Farrell) A time machine is built in the kitchen, and enables the builder to make a pile of money via the local pawn shop, and the stock market.....D

THE BITTEREST PILL..(Pohl) Rich man is visited by the 'old friend' with an invention that increases brain power. Baby swallows a sample, and winds up President.....E.

LOVE CALLED THIS THING..(Davidson & Goforth) A Thing from an asteroid becomes a David, wins a quiz show, marries and has kids...O.K., you read it yourself...Rating E.

CHUNTERING

by

K.F. Slater

The British SF Convention is over - just - and I have stored away my own pet hang-over for another year..... I'm sorry YOU weren't there but maybe we'll see you at the 1960 affair.....I'm very sorry to say that, apart from the news you'll find in the official con-report, it was not a good time for getting any dope on new events in the science fictional

world...the convention was markedly notable for its total lack of "pros" connected with the publishing/writing worldno comment....in the magazine field over the water the magazine position is now: Amazing Stories; Astounding S.F. Fantastic; Fantastic Universe SF; Mag of Fantasy & Science Fiction; Future Science Fiction; Galaxy Science Fiction: Original Science Fiction Stories; Satellite SF; Super S. F.it is reported from a reliable source that the last of these will cease publication with its October 1959 number unless something startling happens to its sales figures.. and we don't mean downwards on the graph....IF was bought out by GALAXY, it seems, and will appear as a companion to that magazine...but at the moment one of my New York correspondents informs me that hardly a week goes by without a new rumour threatening the life of one or other of the remaining magazines.....only ASF and the Ziff-Davis two seem to be considered secure, probably due to the size of the firms publishing them.....a comment from Bob Silverberg.. ..."Who would have dreamed that the honest-to-god coming of the space age would have wreaked such havoc in s-f sales ...?" not me, Bob !April BRE Astounding SF has dropped a story titled "Deadlock" by Robert & Barbara Silverberg and substituted one titled "Guppy" by Stanley Mullen....most of the April BRE if from January USA.... they pulled a good switch on the cover this time....being the number on sale in the US over Xmas, it had the usual slightly off-net or whacky "festive scene" titled "Merry Christmas" and showed a Latin type demonstrating violently that a Christmas crib need some model palm trees as an essential part of its decoration, whilst across the table a red-headed type from a cooler clime (only) is indicating no less violently that that snow and fir or pine tree models are the essence of Christmas. A tentacled alien scratches his head in the background. The BRE'd picture eliminates the palm, pine and crib models and retitles the picture in almost equal appropriateness (give it some thought) 'Conflict'....my compliments to all concerned....good show, chaps....the first BRE of the large size GALAXY shows no

in contents...but this news I hate to break....I have a March 1959 Astounding SF, USA edition, which shows the price as 50¢....164pp including covers....this, by the by, is not an all-over treatment...I also have the same issue with a 35¢ price....but obviously S&S are trying out the higher price on a spot-check system to see if it cuts into sales figures much....Ed Wood completed his survey of the s-f magazines for 1958, American and British, and came up with a total of 170 issues costing \$57.55....the survey excluded "Fate" and "Search" in the US, and "Supernatural Stories" in Britain....the subdivision of US magazines, excluding "Flying Saucers", gave 135 mags from 23 titles at a cost of \$47.40....the dollar price of British mags in the calculation was based on the standard rate of exchange of \$2.80/£1....going down....and down....but judging by the way prices are going UP...next year it will less for more money....Don Tuck's HANDBOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION will probably be available in April or May in Australia....price now fixed at 50/- sterling....two volumes, 400pp approximately...forthcoming from Odhams Press is Harold T. Wilkins' new survey of the weird and wonderful...MYSTERIES SOLVED AND UN-SOLVED, priced at 16/-....this includes the "true" tale of the Mary Celeste (what, again?), the Piltown Skull hoax, the disappearances of Ambrose Bierce and of the body of Lord Kitchener....and other items of interest to the Fortean....Digit title on sale in April...SLIT WORLDS by Tyrone C. Barr, concerns 14 survivors of world holocaust in space station...9 men and 5 women....from Corgi in May comes James Blish's VOR....a good many Ace Doubles sf novels in the US are now out of print...a number of these will become available again at 35¢ each....but only one story instead of a "double" in the book....BOOKGUIDE, that useful little 6d publication, has started a new service of "Books-in-Print" listings....the first of these in the April issue covers "Gardening"....any bets they don't do one on "science fiction" ?....."Technical Bookguide" for April covers "Chemistry & Physics"...interesting note is that the first publication mentioned is a four-language dictionary titled "Atomic Terminology"...languages are English, German, Italian and French....no Russian ?several folk have enquired about THE CAVES OF NIGHT...this is not a science fiction novel.....so far very few folk have responded to my request for snippets of news...please bear this in mind when reading your daily papers or whatever magazines or journals you habitually or casually read.....I've got a small scheme in mind to help European delegates to attend British conventions...a bit different to TAFF...and I'd be appreciative if anyone interested would drop me a line...a rough draft of the general idea is as far as I've got, so far, but I hope to have it finalised by the end of May, and will then circulate all folk interested....I have only one thing more....will YOU please attend the Convention next year ?.....Ta ! and ta-ta for now.....K.F.S.

When the B.S.F.A was founded, it was agreed that the Cheltenham Circle would look after the library; not only because we already had a good collection which would form as a nucleus, but because we had a clubroom in which to store it. Before long, a great flood of books and magazines arrived, thanks to the generosity of many of the members. (Ken Slater, Ted Tubb and Sandy Hall are deserving of particular mention - which is by no means to say the rest are undeserving!) Although this was welcome, it brought its own difficulties, for it was not possible to erect shelving fast enough to keep space with the expansion. Happier days are now with us, and a grant from Association funds, plus a determined effort by a small party of Circle members, (two, with power drills) has resulted in the assembly of enough shelving to enable things to be set out in quite reasonable order.

THE B.S.F.A. LIBRARY

by

Peter Mabey

There are no complicated formalities about borrowing from the library; all that is needed, is a letter or card to the Librarian to request whatever is wanted, and on his next visit to the basement..(as we don't live there, that may mean a slight delay)..the items are found - unless they are already out on loan. They are then booked out to the member, and parcelled up, with a note of how much the charge will be, and then posted. A record is kept of the amount of postage paid, as we have decided to charge the actual cost, rather than make the fee so high that the postage is covered. The latter system being unfair to those who borrow several items at once. If anything is out, a special note is made, and when returned, the item can be sent in the next parcel to the member requesting it. When the books have been read, they are merely returned with a P.O. (NOT crossed, please - such ones have to be sent to the Treasurer, and complicate the book keeping) Stamps - if the amount is less than 2/6..in payment of the amount due.

If you want to read a particular story, but cannot remember where it was published...write anyhow, we may not find it, but we'll do our best for you !

TIME CAPSULE

Being hard pressed to find a fanzine item available for reprint, (and also very big-headed) I have chosen one of my own pieces, which appeared in a 1950 issue of OPERATION FANTAST...which folded soon after....tj,

LAST STAGE

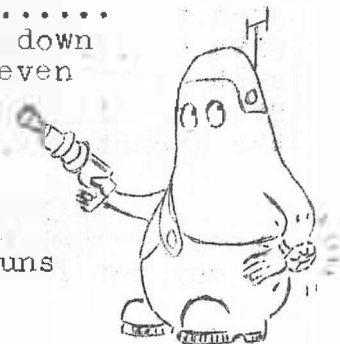
REFLECTORMAN

by
terry jeeves

A hard-driven pentagonic screen protected the planet Drencho III; that screen, powered as it was, by the power of disintegrating xenon atoms and calculated by no lesser brains than those of the Pueruns, had heretofore stopped every beam, bar, or hexagon of energy that the Macromic fleet had been able to bring to bear upon it. But now Reflectorsman Nikkinson was hurtling towards it, away from Puer, at the nigh to inconceivable planetary velocity of his non-cuprous speedster.

He had to penetrate that screen and get back to Terra if the Macromic fleet were to prevail against the terrible weapon even then being forged by the Pueruns. Even now, when scant lightsecs separated him from its deadly energies, he was busily computing his striking angle and cancel-beam energies in order to break through that hellish veil. Seconds later, he flipped over a switch, and from the nose of his speedster there flashed a beam no less powerful than those of the Puerun fort itself. There was a blinding flash as the two forces met, the very fabric of space was torn for an infinitesimal microsecond, then he was through. Even as he went loose and his ship accelerated to inter-stellar-eating speeds, the screen behind him vanished as the Puerun fleet rose after him.

The Pueruns gained, in spite of everything he could do. In the omniplate their stubby hulls grew larger and larger, until at last, out flashed a tugger beam, and his tiny vessel made the instantaneous stop peculiar to loose vessels. Within seconds, he was englobed and they were beaming him with their primes. Nor was Reflectorsman Nikkinson idle; well it was for the Puerun Captains that day, that their screens were xenon driven, for Nikkinson fought..... fought, while his outer screens glowed pink..... fought while they passed from visible light down to infra-red.....fought while they dropped even lower.....still he fought, while they dropped right down to D.C.! And even while he fought, he was frantically reflecting a thought to Port Pilot Aynes, but no thought could get through that madly driven thoughtference generated by the Pueruns



LETTERS

The pages of Vector are open to all members, and we are only too willing to use articles from those who haven't yet joined us. If you are a member who is a little modest about an article, then you can still say your piece in the magazine in the letter column. We may not always agree with what you have to say, but even so, it's a pleasure to have you write in and say it....as witness the following letter.

LAURENCE (SATYR) SANDFIELD, 25 Leighton Rd. London, W.13. "I'd like to say a little about the three stories that open No.3. They were fairly lousy, all three of them. Although TT's had the conviction of the pro', it was not far in advance of the others in narrative power or polish. In your crit you point out quite rightly that the two stories submitted did not deal with the subject matter of the competition, and how right you were...((Not me, TED TUBB wrote the comments accompanying the stories..TJ))..However, Ted's didn't either. Being a pro', he manages to kid us at the first reading that it does. 'Point of View' not only failed on this account, but also in a manner not mentioned. In any short story, the action must take place through the eyes of the angle character. This is a rule that all successful writers invariably apply. Ted applied it in his yarn. It is even more important in vignettes such as these. They were all too short to be called stories, and as a story must have a plot, and these didn't, they cannot be called stories. In 'Point of View', the final action - what there was of it, was seen through the eyes of a couple of cardboard automats who might just as well have been robots.

Those members who say they desire to meet other members, will surely have their opportunity at the Easter Con. How many I wonder, will take advantage of it? Any members who are in London on the first Thursday of any month, can come to the Globe Tavern, Hatton Garden, and make themselves known to me. I will introduce them to such as Ken Bulmer, Ethel Lindsay or any of the other London members who are there at the time. That will be at least one way in which BSFA members can meet."

((You throw a few mean punches there, Satyr, but they express your opinion. One point though. Whether you liked the entries or not..you must admit that those members had a try. Where were you hiding? Thanks also, for the offer to introduce members aroundT.J.)

JAMES GROVES.29 Latham Rd., East Ham, London E.6

"The cover looks like somebody's night mare (or perhaps everybody's) Ted Tubb's story certainly shows how stories should be written. ((What can an editor do?...tj)) Incidentally was the link up between that story, the cover, and the editorial

comment about Strontium-90 accidental or deliberate? ((Yes. tj))
 Let's have more articles on psionics as information becomes available. I liked the article 'Western Approaches', because as a neofan, I am always interested in hearing about other fans.

Mr. Patrizio's point about fantasy, I hope its included too, in fact if it isn't I'd like to know who would be daring enough to draw the borderline between SF and fantasy. I certainly wouldn't like to try. I think I'm right in saying that 'Lord Of The Rings' was published in '55, so I assume that when he says the 'Book of the Year', he means the one you came across in '58, and liked the best..not necessarily one published in 1958. If this is the case, I find it hard to decide, as '58 was the year I came across the Conan series, as well as C.L. Moore's 'Jirel of Joiry' and N.V. Smith books."

((Normally, the 'Best of any year' tag, is used for books either published in that year, or else for books which have seen a new edition in that year.....T.J.))

JIM CAWTHORN...whose address is not given, as Jim is not a member....however, he did write in about Vector.

"Thanks for Vector.3. In some ways, I prefer the reproduction to my original drawing. As for the mag itself, my imagination boggles at the sight of so much fannish organisation. The Cheltenham article was rather depressing, after reading of all the effort and hard work expended on building up a suite of clubrooms, to find the membership is dwindling.

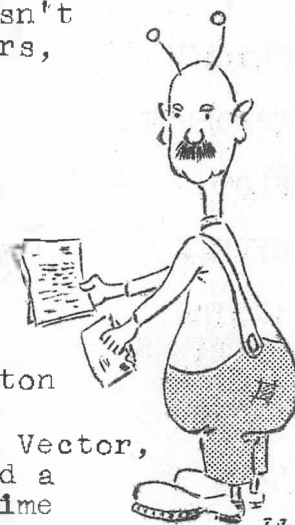
In general, I found Vector extremely interesting ; I enjoyed the pro-mag and film reviews, particularly the news that S-F Adventures is to continue with original material. I hope Sid doesn't mind my symbolic cover too much."

((Many thanks for taking the trouble to write in, Jim. I don't think Sid Birchby has objected to the cover..if he has, then it wasn't to me. In any case, Sid doesn't object to symbolic work, if, like yours, it is good.))

With which, we come to the end of the letters of comment on V.3..(all three of 'em). I had one or two casual mentions in other correspondence, but nothing specific. Ethel Lindsay, however, came through with a letter which is probably of considerable interest to our newer members, so I make no apology for printing it here.

ETHEL LINDSAY, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton Surrey.

"Glad to see you are still keeping on with Vector, a very good issue. In the last issue, I suggested a column of fanzine reviews. I must plead lack of time



in not being able to carry this out myself, but perhaps I could start the ball rolling with a new fans guide to the fanzines...

Starting with the British 'zines, the new fan would be well advised to begin by subbing to the 'NEW FUTURIAN'. In this, he will find the type of articles on S-F for which he is looking, and they will be well written. The editor is a long-time S-F fan, a great collector himself; he has associations with all the beginnings of fandom. He is currently running a series of fan reminiscences by Walter Gillings.

The American equivalent of this, is 'SF TIMES', which is devoted to news of the SF world, new books published, magazines reviewed, and all the data you could wish.

To learn about fandom as a whole, I would recommend the British 'TRIODE' and 'PLOY' as two good general 'zines. 'Hyphen', as a more esoteric affair, well worthy of any study necessary to pick up the references. At that, it is not nearly so esoteric as many people make it out to be. Lastly, for another 'zine to give you a glimpse into how fandom lives, I would recommend 'APPORHETA'.

To find out more about fandom in the States, the newszine 'FANAC' would be the most useful. The two best zines (my opinion) are 'GRUE' and 'OOPSLA', but I cannot guarantee that their editors will have copies to spare. A nice letter of enquiry might get you a copy. Another good 'zine, which can be subbed to, is 'INSIDE'.

Should you want to wander further afield, there are 'zines from New Zealand, France, Germany, Sweden, and all over to explore! You may end up a Truefan, or you may decide to go no further than Vector and your own SF reading. Either way,..the best of luck!

FANZINES MENTIONED

NEW FUTURIAN.	Mike Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Chapel Allerton. Leeds.7. Price, 1/- a copy.
TRIODE	Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis St., Greatmoor Stockport, Ches. Sample, 1/-
APPORHETA	H.P.Sanderson, "Inchmery", 236 Queens Rd., London S.E.14. Price 1/-
PLOY	Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthur's Ave., Harrogate, Yorks. Price. 1/-
HYPHEN	W.A.Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Rd., Belfast. N.Ireland. Price 1/-
INSIDE	Alan Hunter
SF TIMES	From. K.F.Slater, 75 Norfolk St., Wisbech Cambs.
FANAC	From A. Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd. North Hykeham, Lincs
GRUE	Dean Grennell, 402 Maple Ave., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
OOPSLA	Gregg Calkins, 1039 Third Avenue, Salt Lake City.3. USA.

NEW MEMBERS

35

- O.80 LeR.B.Haugsrud; 118 West 33rd St, Minneapolis 8, Minn, USA
- M.94 M. Munro (Miss); 6 Lynnwood Av, Newcastle upon Tyne 4, N'd
- A.95 D.P.J. Speck; 46 Guernsey Rd, Liverpool 13, Lancs
- M.96 P. Hamilton; 101 Greenhead St, Glasgow S.E., Scotland
- M.97 G.J. Balsillie; 9 Collingwood Cresc, Barnhill, Dundee, Scot.
- M.98 M.L.B.R. Sheppard; 49 Abbotsbury Rd, Westham, Weymouth, Dorset
- M.99 Helen Leyton; 109 Oxford Av, Southampton
- M.100 E. Jones; 72 Antonio St, Bootle 20, Lancs
- O.101 Thea Grade; Wiesb-Kastel, Hochheimerstr. 1, Germany
- M.102 J. Cawthorn; 4 Wolseley St, Gateshead 8, Co. Durham
- M.103 D. Matthews; 90 Amhurst Park, London N.16
- M.104 G.W. Locke; 85 Chelsea Gdns, Chelsea Bridge Rd, London SW.1
- M.105 D.J. Mace (5053821 SAC Mace), Tent F3, Equipment Sec, RAF,
BFP0.170
- M.106 C. Thompson; Equipment Sec, RAF, BFP0.170
- M.107 D. McIntosh; 216 Windsor St, Wolverton, Bucks
- M.108 J. McGovern; 35 Lothian St, Edinburgh 8, Scotland
- O.109 G.T. Richards; Smeaton Rd, Clunes, Victoria, Australia
- M.110 P. Singleton; 10 Emily St, Burnley, Lancs
- A.111 T.G. Porter; 8 Lindfield Av, Blakelaw, Newcastle upon Tyne 5
- M.112 R.M. Bennett; 7 Southway, Arthur's Av, Harrogate, Yorks
- M.113 S. Nuttall; 3 Melwood Drive, Liverpool 2
- M.114 P. Hammerton; 20 Boultham Av, Lincoln
- M.115 D.A. Hardy; 44 Griffins Brook Lane, Bournville, Birmingham 30
- M.116 B. Burgess; 138A Kenley Rd, Merton Park, London SW.19
- M.117 D. Creedy; 395 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancs
- M.118 K.M.P. Cheslin; 18 New Farm Rd, Stourbridge, Worcs
- M.119 P.M. Davies; 12 Shepherds Brook Rd, Lye, Stourbridge, Worcs
- M.120 M.K. Kilvert; 12 Palfrey Rd, Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcs
- M.121 F. Hunter; 13 Freefield Rd, Lerwick, Shetland Isles, Scot.

ERRATUM. In the list of new members in VECTOR 3, the name of member no. M.71 is P.S. Gooch. Your Hon. Treasurer has been given to understand that his handwriting was at fault, so this time he's typing the list himself.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- M.24 B. Lewington; now at 219 Cowley Rd, Oxford
- M.6 K.F. Slater; now at 75 Norfolk St, Wisbech, Cambs
- M.22 P. Chappell; now c/o above
- M.20 J.P. Rogers; now at 5 First Avenue, Burrington X-Rds,
Scunthorpe, Lincs
- M.75 Miss S. Hall; now at 41 Northend House, FitzJames Av,
London W.14

Treasurer's Report

INTERIM ACCOUNTS COVERING THREE MONTHS TO 31ST OF MARCH 1959

1. FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

Receipts etc			Outgoings etc		
	£	s	d		
Balance b/f	1.18.	8		Payments as analysed	
from prev.	14.	0		below	37 9 0
acct (incl. reserves)	7.13.	7		Overpayments refunded:	
	10	6	3	Mem Subs	2.10. 0
Membership subscrip- tions	17	0	0	H/Index	1. 0
				Conv. fees	10. 0
Crossed PO ex Library		2	0		3 1 0
Sale of "History & Index of NEW WORLDS"	2	2	6	Bal in hand at Lib'y:	
				From prev.	
Sale of VECTOR		1	0	a/c	4. 0
				Refunded	
Convention income (not including loan of £3 ex BSFA funds)	38	18	8	per contra	2. 0
				Reserve for overpayments not refunded	1 14 0
				Reserve for 1960 Convention	14 8 4
				Unreserved balance in hands of Treasurer	11 12 1
	£ 68	10	5		£ 68 10 5

- NOTES. 1. In addition to the above, the sum of 75/- has been reported as having been received by your North American representative, and remains as an extra balance in hand.
2. The Librarian's quarterly summary of library receipts and expenditure has not been received in time to be incorporated in the above account.
3. The general funds of the B.S.F.A. have actually increased during early April, owing to further sales of the "NEW WORLDS History & Index".

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JULY 1959

To: A.H. Mercer (Hon Treasurer, B.S.F.A.)
434/4 Newark Road
North Hykeham
Lincoln (England)

I enclose my subscription to the British Science Fiction Association for the period July-December 1959 (January-December 1960 can also be paid at the same time if desired).

(please indicate which item is applicable)

10/- for full membership - half year July-December 1959

£1.10.0 for full membership - July 1959 to December 1960

5/- for Associate membership (under 18 on 1 July 1959) July-Dec '59

15/- for Associate membership (under 18 on 1 Jan 1960) July 1959 to
December 1960

£1.5.0 for Associate membership July-December 1959 and full membership January-December 1960

(applicable only in the case of those who attain their 18th birthday between 1 July and 31 December 1959)

(NOTE: existing Associate members who will have attained their 18th birthday prior to the 1st of July 1959 should of course renew at full membership rates)

5/- (five shillings) for Overseas membership July-December 1959

15/- (fifteen shillings) for Overseas membership July 1959 to
December 1960

NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERS (EXCEPT WHERE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE)

To: Dale R. Smith
3001 Kyle Avenue
Minneapolis 22
Minnesota, USA.

I enclose my subscription to the British Science Fiction Association as indicated below.

75¢ for Overseas membership - half year July-December 1959

\$2.25 for Overseas membership - July 1959 to December 1960

Name of Member Membership No.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

1. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

2. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

3. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

4. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

5. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

6. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

7. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

8. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

9. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

10. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

11. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

By J. H. HARRIS, M.D.,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

12. The Effect of the Diet on the Course of the Disease in the Case of the Patient with Diabetes Mellitus. (Continued from page 1000)

	VECTOR			LIBRARY			GALAXY INDEX		NEW WLDS INDEX		CONVENTION			GENERAL		TOTALS	
Staty	3	0	10						3	18	9	8	4	4	(2 1)	15	1 10
Post	2	3	3	1	8	7	2	0	10	8	3	0	7	Int 10 Ext 1 13	3 6	9	8 10
Sund						6					12	15	5		2 5	12	18 4
	5	4	1	1	9	1	2	0	4	9	5	24	0	4	2 4 1	37	9 0

- NOTES. 1. The analysis of Convention expenditure between the three categories of "postage", "stationery" and "sundries" is only approximate.
2. The two-and-a-penny in brackets is due to some stationery that was originally assumed to be for general purposes subsequently discovered to have been used for the NEW WORLDS History & Index.
3. The main item of library expense ^{shown} was a refund of postage for material donated.

Which appears to be sufficient for the accounts this time. In VECTOR 5, of course, there should be two sets of accounts; one set covering the three months to 30th June 1959, and the other set covering the entire period from the foundation of the B.S.F.A. to that date.

Which brings up the interlinked questions of

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CALENDAR REFORM

As will doubtless have been noted, all subscriptions to the B.S.F.A. are due for renewal on the 1st of July 1959.

The situation is, however, complicated by the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting over easter to alter the Association's financial year so as to coincide with the calendar year as from the 1st of January 1960.

Originally, the B.S.F.A. year was scheduled to run from the 1st of July in any year to the 30th of June in the following year, it being considered that those dates would prove administratively convenient. It was, however, overlooked that the Annual General Meeting of the Association is pretty well bound to occur at either easter or whitsun, when the annual science-fiction convention is held, which means that the meeting has (under the original arrangement) to be held shortly BEFORE the end of the Association year. Whereas, to be of maximum use, the meeting should be held not too long after the end of the Association year.

Therefore, it was decided, the B.S.F.A. year should be altered to run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, starting with 1960. That should give the Committee time to prepare a hard-and-fast account of the year's activities for presentation at the Annual General Meeting, without either having to rush things unduly or to delay things until they're too far out of date to be of much use.

The current B.S.F.A. year, which started with the commencement of the Association's activities, will still finish on the 30th of June 1959 as already arranged, and the next complete B.S.F.A. year will start on the 1st of January 1960. This leaves a period of six months, namely July to December 1959, which is being "intercalated" as a special "independent" half-year, during which half-subscriptions will be payable. Then, on the 1st of January 1960, an ordinary full year commences - which puts the system back on the rails again.

For convenience (mainly mine - as Treasurer, I'd otherwise have to book all of you in twice during the next twelve months) arrangements have been made to accept subscriptions for either the six months to December '59 only, or for the eighteen months to December 1960 in one go. A form is enclosed giving details of the subscriptions payable by the various classes of membership for either the six months or the eighteen months. Those overseas members on whose account money is already held will be individually notified how they stand.

Cheques and postal orders should be crossed, and made payable to the BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION. (North American residents, other than those who have made special arrangements, should send their subscriptions to the Association's North American agent, whose address is on the renewals form, and payable to him personally).

I look forward to being swamped with the stuff. Thank you.

As the only survivor of the "Ancien Regime" still on the Committee, I would like to pay public tribute to the work put into the Association during the past year by Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves. Indeed, they haven't quite finished even yet - Eric is now in process of handing over the secretaryship to his successor, while Terry is handing over as soon as he's got this VECTOR off his hands. Working in collaboration with them as I have been, I think I have a better idea than most of just how much work they have actually put into the B.S.F.A. - I should tend to say that the success of the B.S.F.A. to date has been at least 75% due to the two of them, probably more. If anybody's earned a rest, those two have.

A.H. Mercer
(A.H. Mercer)

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