





THE EYES HAVE EAT! (Or, Whee - the Pupil!) tist Goldstone informs us he has incorporated 49 optic orbs into the cover. Douting Thomases are invited to make their own count. Vom accepts no responsibility, however, if any of the eyes winx

in the Art Dept, we are indebted this ish to Jack Wiedenbeck for his oodles of doodles, several of which were drawn from suggestions by Walt Daugherty.

Refering to our editorial in the 7th Annish we see we said "We enter our 8th yr with 9 nos. to our credit for 144 & a New Yr's Resolution to make that 10 or more in 145. $^{\prime\prime}$ Well, this is the 11th issue this yr, & the Dec no. will round it out with an even dozen.

ginning with our Xmas Issue, an absorbing new feature continued from Acolyte: Perdue's "History of the Future". And, if we can obtain his permission to lift It from a personal etter, an impassiond paragraf by FRANCIS FLAGG on the Atomic Armageddon the world faces.#

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Cover: Goldstone - illustrating "No birds, no bees, no moon, no trees, No-vember!" Art WIDNER: A ward to the wise is mentally deficient....

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #48. Nov 145. 15c, 7/\$. Stf Sgt FjAckerman, Chief Drone, 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 55

time stf dealer, back from the army, mentions an in-An old time stf dealer, back from the army, mentions an interesting matter in conjunction with the submission of an ad. Sez CARL SWANSON: "Jerome Siegel mimeographed the 'Metal Giants' for me doing all the work and furnishing stencils, ink, paper, etc. for \$8.00, but that was long before he discovered 'Superman' and became a millionaire. I just sold a copy of it, and still have well over half of the edition of 200 copies on hand." BACK NUMBER MAGAZINES—OUT OF PRINT BOOKS. We buy, sell & exchange them. What do you have? What do you want? "Metal Giants" (booklet) by Edmond Hamilton, and: 2 issues of Marvel Tales, 50c. "Between Worlds" by Garret Smith, (new), \$1. "Want" list free. Swanson Book Co, Bx 141, Velva, NDak.





WIDNER, one of our stable fans who has been a staple of Vom thruout the years, (wise)cracks under the strain of having misst an issue: Dammit all! I'll be a patient here in this psycho ward instead

of wardmaster if you don't send me that missing #45! How am I going to so something for Vom that I did for FAPA if I don't get that issue & read Warner's letter to find out what it is? I am rapidly becoming a frustrated character. I also want to see that much talked of letter by Youd.

Regarding the future of the U.S. & the world in general I'm inclined to agree with JWC's editorial in Nov. ASF. A culture which has yet to solve the problems presented by steam & electricity is so pitifully inadequate to deal with atomic power that little else than a pessimistic view can be held. SLAN ISLAND may yet prove to be

more practical than even I that it was.

I look for the big flop to come about 1960 & war soon afterward culminating in the wiping out of a good portion of the population. Then will the Atomic Age begin. We are now entering the interregnum. Socialism & liberal thot will make some gains but not enuf. The reactionary Samson will still have enuf strength to pull the temple down about our ears. Look! China, Java, Spain, South America, Palestine, Greece. Signposts along the way..... can they be ignored?

Elsner: What explanation of fandom could you give which Mr Average would not immediately link with screwball: As you say we want intelligent people, but not necessarily technical or scientific in the ordinary sense of the word. My experience has been that 99% of intelligent people will listen to an explanation of fandom & even read fanzines with interest & no jeering, whether they become ultimately interested or not. Many of them express admiration for amateur publishing even if not in sympathy with the content. If they criticize, it's usually on a logical basis & devoid of contempt. "Fan" always implies a "shoutin!" devotee, whereas "imaginist" has quieter & more dignified connotations. It bears the same relation as "philatelist" bears to "stamp collector". The latter can be any kid with a dollar packet & an overflow of saliva. The former refers to the more mature members who pursue the more intellectual & recondite aspects of the hobby.

Idle that: could novas be the result of some races discovering atomic power & sunizing their planets? At stellar distances the added light could be mistaken as coming from the sun itself.

On #47 I don't see much harm in rejecting a misconceived letter, altho I would be strongly tempted to print it just to show up the bum. I never entirely approved the sic style, altho otherwise we'd miss some entertaining, Ludowitz, Cunningham & Sneary gems.

I agree with Speer in the main but can't quite swallow some of his Nash-Kelvinator concepts. In the first place, let's not look back at Europe for standards of comparison & complacently pat ourselves on the national back. & even at that, I'm not so sure that Europe is the sad sack he tries to portray. Economically they're behind, but politically, & particularly esthetically, they're not. & they'd be farther ahead if we'd let them. The leftward swing is height engaged with all the might this strenghald of the might can must be is being opposed with all the might this stronghold of the right can muster.

culture is dominated by a materialistic philosophy, & consequently, so is the thinking of individuals within that culture. Speer doesn't seem to have realized that fully, as indeed very few people have. His letter is colored with that type of thinking. "The tough minded man who gets things done" is the national hero. Nobe stops to consider whether the things "he gets done" are really worthwhile! Nobody

ition keeps people on their toes." It also keeps them on other people's toes.....

Why should the fact that millions in Europe are starving condone the starvation of a single individual in the U.S.?

Show me the man who will "cheerfully sell his home & sink all his money in transporting himself & family & goods to a distant city where he has no definite promise of employment", & I will show you a fool or an exceptionally competent & resourceful individual.

& then there's his astounding statement implying the NAM does <u>not</u> encourage idleness! I think it is pretty well established that big business is only too happy to have a "cheap labor pool" of unemployed to keep the worker from "getting out of hand". I.e. demanding a continually increasing standard of living.

As Karen Horney, & surgeon gen. of the Canadian Army G.B. Chisholm advocate, a complete overhaul & realignment of our morals, traditions, education, & general outlook is necessary if we are to avoid disaster. I don't see how this can be accomplished short of a major upheaval.

I would say that we were already "a race of temporizers....(etc. to) 3 wise monkeys" Our present bourgeois, self-righteous morality stinks. Even on ice it stinks. If you want more details see the article I am writing for the next or the-one-after-that issue of TIME-BINDER.

commend to E. Greenleaf THE TYRANNY OF WORDS by Stuart Chase, if he wants to know what Null-A is. Briefly it's Non-Aristotelianism, if that explains anything. Better read the book. I'm sure every socially-conscious fan would enjoy it. I agree mostly with Laney on thots about the future but my reaction is pessimism rather than despair. Despair leads to unbridled Hedonism which only helps to aggravate the whole condition.

The "selfish" interpretation of altruism is standard psych theory, I believe, but still--only a theory. At any rate it in no way justifies anti-social selfishness. Nor is it any reason to condemn altruism.

The pleas-

ure-pain principle has been modified considerably in recent years (as must all attempts at pat explanations of human conduct) since it leaves several things out. Curiosity, for instance.

I agree about jazz, but disagree on classical music. Personally, I enjoy both. I also enjoy apples & bananas, but comparison is useless except to state individual preference. Neither can jazz & classics be compared or be said to have "value" other than the purely subjective value of entertainment or esthetic pleasure.

In conclusion let me say hooray for Vom! It's back in the old

groove again.

Gung-ho! #



The State of New Hampshire is heard from as Durham's BENSON PERRY of 68 Madbury writes in. Incidently, Egyptian gentleman at the left looks like he was mad at having been buryd. He mustre been quite an egoist—U can see how he's all wrapt up in himself... #47 (begins Ben) has a rather surprising cover to say the least. The character on the skull must have been there quite awhile to have taken not as affectively. have taken root so effectively.

The withheld letter yo mention, sounds interesting. It is dificult to see how a single letter could have such dire results as those you predicted would come about thru publication of the letter. But of course being a new fan, I might not know of past feuds, etc.

Pardon me while I state that Speer seems to be slightly nuts. He says an idealist need not be disillusioned because disillusionment refers to facts and idealism "is a condition of the will". If all the idealism in the world never reaches the factual stage then there seems little reason for the existence of the idealists. Also, "condition of the will" would seem to me to be determined by what goes on in the world. Maybe "condition of the will" needs a definition. As for classics of literature, I never read any outside of scholastic re-

quirements. The worth that one obtains out of involuntary reading is certainly doubtful.

The World of Null-A. Now that was beyond all doubt an interesting story. Mr. Greenleaf, I will frankly admit that I didn't get it. It has been quite a bit more than two days that I have been waiting for a clarion call to sound in my cerebrum that would tie up all the loose ends to the story. It is one of the few really illogical stories that I have read. I cannot believe that Van Vogt put a half the energy into it that he did in SLAN! Moskowitz' review in Fanews shows the feelings that most readers of ASF probably share.

As for Tigrina, it is my opinion that any serious interest she ever had in occultism has been outgrown. It is probably kept up only for the sake of appearance.

Finis. # who got plasterd in Paris, tells of his furlo to "old blighty": The Webster family proved to be wonderful people, and the Rosenblums were right up there battling for the hospitality honors. Doug Webster has the best non-fantasy, non-fiction book collection I've seen, while Rosenblum has more fantasy books than I knew existed. He told me to meet Medhurst in London and see more books, but I got a plane more promptly than I'd expected, so didn't have a chance to meet anybody in London except John Millard for a couple of hours.

My impression of the United Kingdom is a piece of land surrounded by book stores. Bought quite a few items of all sizes and shapes, mostly non-fiction. I did get the first British Edition of Jack London's "Star Rover" which I recommend as a magnificent thing to read.

VOM's 43, 44, and 45 have still not arrived, the I saw them at Rosenblums. How can I write you good letters if I don't get my VOM's? Mayhaps its the mail, things have been snafu'd of late with the mail.

If it hasn't been started already, I'd like to see a discussion in VOM concerning the political implications of atomic energy. Samuel Grafton, the best columnist in America for my money, has been writing the straightest thoughts about it that you can find to read.

It was so obvious from the beginning that atomic energy is not a secret that when talk was started about keeping atomic energy under the United States control, I began to wonder whether our political "leaders" had holes in their heads. Atomic energy has thrown the U.S. into the position of supporting internationalism with one hand (the United Nations) and isolationalism with the other, for exclusive control of atomic energy will surely make the U.S. isolationist.

I hate to be pessimistic, but I don't see anybody moving in the right direction, (Except the Atomic Scientists-who don't count, of course.) HGWells, in "The World Set Free," describes how the world became reasonable, pacifistic, and

full of international good will, setting up a world state in the most lofty menner, as soon as the atomic bomb was used in a war. The fact that this has not taken place brings out more sharply the enormous inertia and plain stupidity of people who are going about their international politics as if atomic energy had never been mentioned.

Maybe before things change we must destroy New York, London, and Paris, as well as Berlin and Tokio. The next war will do it, of course. The worst thing is that nobody wants a war and yet the conditions that cause war are present as clearly as they were before. Still, maybe the fact that nobody wants a war will override the other conditions from now on.

(From backstage comes a Mephisopheles laugh as the scene shifts to the war going on now, Oct 28, 1945, in French Indo China, where England and France are pursuing pre-atomic age imperialism with great vigor.)

Come in, K MARTIN CARLSON, 1028 - 3 Ave S, Moorhead, Minn: #47 Vom at hand and doing fine. Jack Wiedenbeck sure is "sparking"-"VOM". I like the idea of Picturettes. How about one before each fan letter - like tigrina P.8. By the way doesn't she write a smooth-reading article? And choice of words - wow! Hope to read more of her Book Reports in VOM. Would like to steal (with VOM and his permission?) (theft condoned) that furry number on P 10, by Wiedenbeck. Could use it on a printing cut. By the way could that furry number be related to the "wolfan" of recent fame? (ref. Daugherty's LASFS Meets the Wolf Fan in Fanews' Annish) Cover was good as a Halloween ish, but give me Joe Gibson's as per VOM #46. That is more to my liking. Does nice Work, eh? Remember the Picturettes - You need those to break the long stretches of words-wordswords.



Sincerely Yours in N.F.F.F. DONALD WARREN BRATTON RT3c, the Karildex Kid Marken Bratton RT3c, the Karildex Kid RMS, Bks 20, Co 9la, Treasure Island, Cal, discusses the controverserial, "World Mull-A". This story, for me, came to acquire much significance, but with others it has produced a variety of reactions. Campbell says about it in his editorial blurb: "The tale of a great adventure, in an Earth remarked by the Company Markey a rehiller why and a terrible struggle."

molded by the Games Machine, a philosophy -- and a terrible struggle morded by the Games Machine, a philosophy—and a terrible struggle of colossal forces working secretly from beyond the limits of Man's knowledge...." I hear that most of the LA fans failed to appreciate it, registering confusion. Some have claimed it "the stinker of the year". Most readers I've spoken to liked it. Ron Christensen's Ergerzerp #13, reporting on the Westwood Con, says that "Then came a session on Gerry's (de la Ree's) front porch, and /Sam/ Moskowitz revealed the hidden meaning in '/World/ of A', which ran in late

Now what is this hidden meaning in van Vogt's novel? I can assure you that there is one, and I will try to give the clue. Given this key, I think that many of VOM's readers will go out and answer the question fully for themselves.

This is surely

what van Vogt has intended that we do.

J.K.P. van Vogt wrote with a pur-What at first seem fantastic imaginings turn out to be a sugar-coated and cleverly disguised form of the serious writings of another man! Precisely, a Polish mathematician who (as Robert A. Heinlein said) turned his capacities for careful analysis to the problems of general human behavior and as a result produced a world-shaking new 'philosophical' system.

In the past Alfred van Vogt has given us some highly exceptional stories. But in his latest he has turned to a new field, has produced something probably destined to be a unique example of its type--unless he And that is hard to imagine! has more rabbits in his hat.

In short, "World of A" is a fictionalized version of a heavily serious and revolutionary book entitled SCIENCE AND SANITY, by Alfred Korzybski (1879-), a volume of over 700 pages now in its second edition, published by Science Press, Lancaster, Penn. The title page explains it as "an introduction to non-aristotelian systems and general semantics."

We're all familiar with the term 'semantics'. But as it has been treated in many recent works, it doesn't seem to accomplish much. Now don't make the mistake many recent works, it doesn't seem to accomplish much. Now don't make the mistake of associating Science and Sanity with the study-of-words-alone; it isn't. Most present books on semantics which I've examined approach the problem naïvely as a study only of common everyday words, with all their primitive unconscious fundamental assumptions. General semantics is a study of language, the term used in a very broad sense, so that mathematics, and all other symbology, is language. Thus the term epistemology which Heinlein uses is perhaps better applied to Korzybski's work. (Heinlein gave a high reccommendation of SAS in his speech at the Denvention, of which 4e Ackerman has published an excellent transcript.) (Reprint still in print, 25c.) in print, 25c.)

Anything I might try to tell a person about SAS who hasn't yet read it would be incomprehensible, especially considering my stumble-bum type of explanations. So I won't try. The book is unique—there is nothing whatsoever with which to compare it; and at present it is the first and only work in its field. I've got a hunch that the type of person best fitted to comprehend this work of Korzybski's is the mathematically-inclined atheist. Korzybski, having delved deeply in math, builds his system in a mathematical manner. And hard-bitten theists are apt to have strong identifications which would make it difficult for them to digest the system.

Whether "World of A" was written to stand on its own feet as a typical yarn of Astounding or whether it was simply the medium van Vogt chose to present nonaristotelianism to science-fiction readers, it stands that van Vogt has followed the text of Korzybski's work amazingly closely. The quotations sprinkled in the story are mostly from SAS, from which they have been requoted. They represent the statements relative to general semantics made by Bertrand Russell, Altred North Whitehead Cossius I Keyser Korzybski Henri Piéron Hermann Weyl fred North Whitehead, Cassius J. Keyser, Korzybski, Henri Pieron, Hermann Weyl, Charles M. Child, Albert Einstein, William Morton Wheeler, and our friend Eric Temple Bell, in that order. I haven't bothered to count the number of passages which practically quote from the text of SAS, but there are many. For example, take the occurance in the classroom where Gosseyn is conducted in underground Venus, the 'phone call Gosseyn makes (in the 3rd installment) from his hotel room to the library, to get null-A training, and the many other brief interwoven statements in the first installment. And much of these are the straight dope! van Vogt often conceals them well within the fabric of the story.

I didn't experiene a delayed reac-Perhaps Campbell didn't have the background tion to the story; was I supposed to? Perhaps Campbell didn't have the background of Science and Sanity when he read the manuscript. I read SAS inbetween installments of the serial. Perhaps I still don't understand the plot of the story; it was involved enough, and there seem to be loose ends by the handful. But that doesn't matter; I benefitted from the story in the way in which van Vogt desires--I was moved to read SAS. That was more than just compensation. A field new and of extreme interest to me, SAS seemed a thousand times more entertaining than WNA! can't agree with the fans who dub the story "the stinker of the year". And altho Campbell blurbed it as "one of the truly great stories of science fiction", I wo der whether he, as scientifically competent as he is, really knows the true significance of his offering?

Stfanatically Yours. #

broadcasts: Yesterday this city (Milwaukee) was visited the eminent architect, Frank Lloyd Wrong.

I must confess that in my eagerness to interview the great man, I was willing to stoop to any device to gain an audience, however low and vile.

Accordingly I sent my name in to him as "Forry

Ackerman".

Naturally I was admitted at once. Frank Lloyd Wrong stared at me with bewilderment (also with his eyes). "Ackerman:" he said. "But you...you are not Ackerman. I always remember people in terms of architectural construction, and Ackerman is built like a brick --"

I cut in

hastily and admitted my little deception. We both laughed heartily as he tried to kick me downstairs.

"Hey," I said, "I'm here for a reason. Read an article by Harry Warner Jr. about Fandom in the 2nd Annual Fanewscard...he mentioned possibilities of building a postwar Fan City."

"A city for fans?" the architect mused. "Great idea! Suits me to a T-square!"

"Got any suggestions?" I asked.

The genius spoke. "Fan City! I see it now! A community isolated from the rest of the world, in peaceful seculsion! Located for purposes of segregation in some remote spot... such as Dismal Swamp, the Everglades, Death Valley, or the bottom of Grand Canyon.

"Naturally, the individual dwelling units will be adapted to the needs of a typical fan. Let's say a one-room house and two large garages for storing magazines".

"Good," I nodded. (In code, of course)

"A small, efficient home, perhaps, with room for a bed, a stove, a hectograph, a mimeograph, a multigraph, a varityper, a typewriter, a printing press, and other bare necessities.

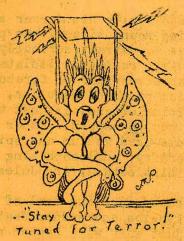
"Plenty of movable walls ...extra space to hang original Finlays and Tigrinas," he suggested.

Tigrina hanging from my wall" I insinuated, coyly.

"Then there will be a huge central clubroom for fights, disputes, the dissolving of organizations, the issuing of ultimatums, denials, retractions; the inception point for law-suits and other such fan activities relevant to the creation of a new and harmonious world plan".

"Right," I nodded. (Try nodding in code sometime. You'll get a stiff neck.)

"Of course, we can't neglect the postoffice," Wrong added. "A community for say, 300 actifans, will need a postoffice housing a force of 5000, capable of handling at least 8,000,000 pieces of mail a day...to say nothing of 1 or 2 copies of a pro magazine. I assume you won't actually BAR the reading of fantasy or s-f in this



"I'd prefer

community?"

"That is up to the Head Foo-rher or Ghu-leuter of the colony," I ex-

"I can see it all," the architect murmured, pacing the floor to and fro and then fro and to. "What opportunities for modern design! Rocket-ships for fans with a built-in juke-box! A vast auction hall ... a tremendous Palace of Mathematics filled with great mechanical calculators to be used for nothing but solving the equasions in ASTOUNDING...a Convention Chamber for the 1,463 Annual Meetings and Conventions and Fan Gatherings..."

"Wonderful!" I exploded, with a loud bang.

"Then you'll take the job?" "Sorry," he sighed. "Can't do it. Material shortage."

"What do you mean?"

"Not enough steel," he explained. "After all, you couldn't hope to build such a city unless you took the necessary safety precaution of enclosing it behind bars."

Hoping you are the same. #

"The Werewolf", by Charles Lee and Co., New York), (287 pgs, the kind of book that I enjoy night. It is essentially a

weird tale, & tells us about it.

Swem (published by A. L. Burt
first publisht 1928) is just
reading before retiring at
mysteryarn, eventually
when reading the book, I never thought of the

night. It is essentially a mysteryarn, eventually solved by detective tactics, and yet when reading the book, I never thought of the story as mere "detective fiction" because, despite the rather prosaic detective angle, it is definitely in the "weird" classification.

The story is written in a simple story is written in a simple story is a simple story.

The story is written in a simple style, in the first person. The situation is one that might be found in almost any grade "B" film dealing with werewolves, and yet this seemingly unpretentious tale builds up to such suspense and bewilderment that it never failed to hold my interest for a moment.

"The Werewolf" concerns a personable young man, one David Lee, who visits his former schoolboy chum, Dick Thistlestane (and incidentally his charming young sister, who provides the romantic interest, but not so much so, praise be, as to detract seriously from the eerie quality of the story), in the latter's old, dark, rambling, isolated ancestral home, Thistlewood. As always with such stories, an atmos-fear of foreboding pervades the place. This environment, plus a household comprised of peculiar, ill-assorted people, headed by the aged, bed-ridden Gregory Thistlestane, is just the setting for bizarre unexplainable things to happen—and they do happen. Other principal characters at Thistlewood are Madame Berrault, middle-aged medium and spiritual adviser to the elderly Gregory Thistlestane; her crafty, philosophizing husband; and Dr. Southworth, eccentric physician of Gregory Thistlestane, and Jules, a half-breed servant.

An old family legend of a curse, the blood-curdling howl of a werewolf, which presages doom for the family, prowling gypsies and sudden death in the dark of night keep the reader on his toes wondering just what will happen next.

At the grande finale, although everything is carefully explained, it still does not seem convincing enough somehow. I find the motives of the various characters a bit exaggerated, and their behaviour under the circumstances a bit unnatural. More I can not say without giving away too much of the story, but read it yourselves and you will see what I mean.

All in all, however, it was a very enjoyable book, and I recommend it for those of you who like the sensation of "icy fingers up n' down your spine". #

LOUIS JOQUEL II. leader of the recently revived FuturEsearch, xtends Congratulations on Vom's Anniversary! Both you and the "Forum of Fandom" seem to have survived the war nicely.

what I'm crawling out of hibernation to write you about this time is the Merritt situation at the Avon Book Company. They've published his seven most famous novels, and a load of thanks to them for that. But—why couldn't they publish "The Metal Monster," the full-length novel which is one of Merritt's most scintillating pieces of writing, even though it's not quite so well known; and then a collection of his short stories in the Avon Monthly series, like they've done with the short stories of Ben Hecht, James Cain, Pearl Buck, and a lot of others. This could include the following: "Through the Dragon Glass,"
"The Drone Man," "Three Lines of Old French", "Rhythm of the Spheres," "The Woman of the Wood" and "The People of the Pit." (Praps the "Moon Pool" & "Face/Abyss" novelets too)

If Avon got

a number of letters from all over the country, urging them to bring out these two volumes, it just might have some effect. The address is: Avon Publications, Inc., 119 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y. #





