

THE ALCHEMIST
1258 RACE ST.
DENVER, COLO.

April 1940

V2NIW5

10c

VOICE of the
MAGI = NATION



Cover by Bok!

A NOVACTOUS PUBLICATION

Table of Contents

COVER- By Bok, a <u>ratsnaik</u> , or infamous science fiction fan --COVER	
Coeditorial.....	1
<u>Eric F Russell</u> : The Secret left him in midair.....	2
<u>Edw Jno Carnell</u> : John Carnell of Mars!	2
<u>Louis Kuslan</u> : The mountain of fanmags couldnt come to him so he went to it. Then the fan world turned topsy turvy!	3
<u>Joe Fortier</u> : The letters reminded him of the Menace of the Mole Men because they started boring.....	3
<u>Ray J Sienkiewicz</u> : There was "Nothing in the Rules".....	3
<u>CSYoud</u> : "Unto Perpetuity!"	3
<u>Louis Kuslan</u> : They called him mad.....	4
<u>Mark Reinsberg</u> : He had to marvel. The idea had almost limit- less possibilitys.....	5
<u>Jos Gilbert</u> : IF--!	6
<u>Milton A Rothman</u> : What made the metal slimy?	7
<u>CLBarrett MD</u> : It was the only ansr.....	8
<u>Harry Warner Jr</u> : "& a little child shall lead them".....	8
<u>Dick Wilson Jr</u> : The taste was bad but-- <u>ersatz</u> !	9
<u>Doc Lowndes</u> : O, Kay!	10
<u>Dale Hart</u> : "Gosh! Wow! Boyohboy!"	10
<u>Norman Holtaway</u> : What was it that caught him unawares?	11
<u>Edw Jno Carnell</u> : By the ton they came! What - were - they? ..	12
<u>Randolph Vickers</u> : Lost, all lost--	12
<u>Arthur L Widner Jr</u> : The Invention would Save him Time!	12
COMING! In Our Very Next Number: "ROBERTS' RETURN" (by young Alan the Aussie)...Arthur L Widner Jr...Leonard Gipson.. J Chapman Miske...Trudy...Lew Martin...Jas Rathbone...Edgar Gil- bert...David McIlwain...Arthur C Clarke...Bill Temple...Ted Carn- ell...& Cast of 1000s!	
VOM: 10c Quarterly from Bx 6475 Metropolitan Sta, Los Angeles Cal	

VOICE OF THE VOICE

Greetings Friend & Welcome Stranger! Broadcasting station V-O-M is on the ether again...as an independent unit! Under our new setup U can expect some really radical changes. Some evident this issue; we've other surprises pland for next.

U may've noticed the Table of Contents? This is presented purely as a gag but is the result of a poison pan letter we rcvd too late to include in this issue but which we nonetheless acted on (& the letter will be publisht in its entirety next number).

Also, this ish, we have acted on the wish of an "outer-circle" fan (we hear so much about the "inner", these days) & tryd to make matters more comprehensible for the uninitiate. We see the newcomer easily could be baffled by the special scientificionalanguage that includes such an outré array of words, symbols, references & such, as stfan, Nycon, Philco, Chicon, fonepole, Ø, Fufu, Moskowitz, &c, & so we have included a number of explanations.

It is the policy of VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, in case U do not noe, to present letters in the order rcvd by the coeds, & in strictly sic style; i.e., we in no way alter the authors' original spelling, punctuation, spacing or any other eccentricity or characteristic. Which incidently makes VOM one the closest proofreading jobs conceivable (to preserve meticulously all those peculiarities) -- once thruout the dummy & 2dly on each stencil.

Our profound appreciation to GLENN TAYLOR of Kansas City Mo., who wrote: "I regret that I was one of those parsimonious souls who took SS at its word and sent you a measly three center for a copy of VOICE, and I hope the \$ bill I inclose for a sub to as far in the indefinite future as it will reach will restore me to your good graces." Glenn, U restore our faith in tankind!

Our Motto: Vom for all & all for Vom!!

AE.

Y Morogon

Like last issue, it hapns we have a letter from the Continent of the Southern Cross with which to open our columns. Sec'y of the Futurian Soc'y of Australia, he stresses fact his middle name is "NOT FRANK". Employing strate edges on his letter, he forces us to do likewise, in adherence to our policy. His adres: 274 Edgecliff Rd, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW, Australia. His name we shall withhold from U no longer:

Eric J. Russell "As soon as I saw VOM I thought (pardon this) that it was SPACEWAYS (No apologies necessary: SPACEWAYS is our favorite mag.) but on a closer look 'th supa clossal VOM' its swell! Bfor I forget what about an exchange between ULTRA and VOM? But when U see U-No 2. I guess y'll think twice! - - its carbon copied!! (Series of steady thuds as bodies fall rapidly in faints - or is it.) (So long as the carbon isnt too faint, we won't.) Anyhow, glad news - With the help of William D. Veney, Edward H. Russell (brother), & Bert Castellari I have been able to share the cost of a mimeo with them-- so U-No 3 will be mimecd, quarto - pica type (Say, what kind of type do you use bsides leet?) (Vague pica) Front cover and scienti ficti fun back cover, and 14 pages (7 - sever leaves) - price 10 cents. ~~~ Material will include fiction by Hoy Ping Pong, William D. Veney, and others include Edward H., Bert Castellari and possibly some more Americans (maybe Hwarnerjr.) ~~~ ULTRA exchanges with LE ZOMBIE and will soon with SPACEWAYS, and if u-say-so VOM. (We'd like to, Vom much!) ~~~ If possible I'd like an article from T. Bruce Yerke on AMAZING & FanHACKle cops- Fantastic, because I entirely agree with him. In fact I've written a couple o f letters telling Palmer to get out and give the chair back to Doc Sloane, and also I demanded the comet-tail back!! Krupa and Fuqua and Jackson, S - T - IN - K so does H. R. Hammond!!&!! ~~~ After reading SPACEWAYS and all about Futuria & that libellious lot who write THE STAR TREADER we decided to form a FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY and its now going in full swing - by the way - It has no connection with and is absolutely independent of Futurian House! Director is W. D. Veney, secretary - self - and we have 3 members so far. Bill Veney, and Bert Castellari are together going to bring out THE FUTURIAN OB SERVER, official organ of the club (LE ZOMBIE in Australia!) -It will be mainly news and one long essay perissue something after the style of SCIENCE FICTION PROGRESS . Price 2d per copy (or US price 4¢ - this price may be changed). ~~~ On a foolscap page - mimecd on both sides , and later it will get a bit larger ~~~ Well I guess thats all now and until Palmer gets some s-f sense I remain yours sincerely, P.S. Could you tell me if Crawfords Marvel TALES has come out again cos I heard sommat about it in LeZ? Or is it M.S.S. under a new name as one Sydney fan said?" (As U noe now, twas the Erisman Marvel & not a revival of Crawford's.)

Ted Carnell
Editor NEW WORLDS


in an airmailletter from 17 Burwash Rd, Plumstead SE18, London, England, "airs" the following: "I have decided against sending letters by air all the way. 'Smatter of fact, I'm convinced that even when paid for as such they only go from New York. Fred Pohl mentions that my last air-mail letter took fourteen days to reach him, which sounds as if it floated across on the tide. ~~~ There seems to be a sad lack of news all round these days, both personal, war and fan. Re the latter, the Chapman's Temple's and Carnells had a re-union recently, in which there was much hearty laughter, wordy bandinage and elbow raising, after which there was a universal creep home in the dark. ~~~ Speaking of the dark, we've only had two really black nights, and only about three perfect evenings when one could really study the stars. And until you've lived in a city devoid of lighting after dark, you'll never know how eerie and creepy things can appear. Some of you...ought to be living here now, it would treble your output of weird and fantastic stories, for the settings are made-to-measure after dark. ~~~ Of no importance -- I had a 'vision' -- the war will end on the 162nd day. It is now the 85th (23 Nov 39). In case you want to scoff (and I'm scoffing myself), I am naturally adapted for telepathy. If I could sit on a 50,000 volt cable long enough I could transmit quite comfortably to Mars or any other planet you would like to visit. ~~~ Getting round to the war again, though it's a subject which doesn't give much scope for conversation, very little has happened since

my last letter. Murder mines and increased air activity, of course, but they are all part of the lethal machinery, but, shut away in this vault of a city, we don't hear or see a thing. In fact, so rare is an aeroplane these days that I got a crick in the neck peering up at a gull rapidly flapping its wings for exercise the other day. Cheerio,"

Esperanto fan "Luisko", or LOUIS KUSLAN, reports his reactions to the stfield after having had to drop participation for awhile & then checking up. He may be reacht at Bx 76, U. of Conn., Storrs, Ct. "I'm willing to bet that you're rather surprised to hear from me, but, anyway, here I am. Just came home over the Christmas holidays, and am brushing up on science-fiction fandom thru looking over the mountain of fan mags which have accumulated during my absence, and also in writing to some of my more fondly remembered correspondents. ~ The only s-f I looked at while at school was Fantasy News and a mailing of the FAPA. So you can see that I was quite out of touch with a great many of the things which have happened and are still happening since last September. It seems to me that the fan world is turning topsy turvy. New fans are pouring into the field in droves. Some of the old familiar names are gone. For instance, Dale Hart. New fan magazines are springing up by the hundreds, seemingly, and dying. Old fans are cutting their activities in half, giving way to younger blood. By the way, some of the fan mags are rather good, but some.....ouch! ~ To return to collitch, The Campus, student paper, gave my stfal activities quite a write-up in a recent issue, and I've interested a few fellows who had previously been reading some s-f in forming, perhaps, a club. This is extremely tentative, of course. ~ Yours for fewer and better pro mags."

"Little / FORTIER (1836 - 39 Ave, Oakland, Cal) whose Smashing Publications recent-ly s-m-Jet-a-s-h-t: "I liked MADGE very much. But the latter letters were a little boring. If there are no mor good letters than that, cut the size down a bit, or put in an editorial of suitable size. One page shud be the least. ~ Spraking of SM's creation Now Fandom, I just got word form Sam. Seem's he's plenty burnt, because I got a little tired of waiting over six months for word of my membership. He mailed me some moth-eaten ms., and all that. Called me several things, like 'Piece of brainless machinery', 'idiotic slow-motion thinker', 'Traitor to NF', etc., but I think that I've colled him off with a word that I'll recall all I said if I get what's coming. Seems that he has a little trouble with the mag, etc., because of lack of finances or something like that-there. ~ That new ASTONISHING is quite good. ~ I have just finished reading THE GALAPURRED FORSENDYKE (Futura Fantasia #2) and can only say that leaves lafter, amazment, and finally stupidity written all over my pan. I'm completely perplexed. What's the big idea. And who wrote ti? Did Forrest? (Nope; initials given were the author's: HVB. But not Howard V Brown, tho he is an artist!) It's good, but entirely out of my class of fantasy! But maybe my brain is getting less adept. ~ Crazier than THE HUNGRY CHIMAERA. ~ So until nextime, Yours till the Martians start invasion,"

RAY J. SIENKIEWICZ, who emphasizes his initial (can't imagine Y), & signs himself "Yours imaginatively," addresses his first letter to Vom, from 312 E Elm St. Scranton, Pa, having this to say: "I meant to send you this subscription to VoM sooner but lent it out (what, the subscription?) and it was just returned to me the other day. ~ The issue I have, the September one, is real good. There aren't many things to comment about but I will say the cover is pretty good. Nice paper, nice lettering, and nice border. ~ I noticed that you have your own way of writing the English language. How come and what are the rules you go by? (We go by ALL the rules.) ~ As for your (club's) reaction to the 'Exclusion Act' at the 'First World Science Fiction Convention' I agree with you. It is an act against the democratic principles which our forefathers fought for and as you say 'Must never be repeated!'"

 C S YOUNG, "Father of Fantast", 244 Desborough Rd, Eastleigh, Hants., England, sez

"VOM: I do like the cover page; ver' nice. ~ Glad to see you come out hot and strong against the Exclusion Act (snappy titling), even tho it got Sam's easily-roused back up. But Sam is an annoying person altogether, and you may tell him so from me. The first STUNNING SCIENTIFAN (wattaname!---) (parenth's Youd's) has a thoroughly obnoxious article by him, in which he casts nasty slights on everyone from Tucker to 4SJ, via Wiggins, and praises himself up to where heaven would be if I weren't in atheistic company. Gentlemen, my considered opinion is --- he has disgraced the name of Samuel and is no longer worthy to be so called! As another Samuel I hereby christen him the Mosk-Rat, so to be named unto perpetuity! ~ Ephless Elmer is---we hope--- a perennial feature in VOM from now on. 'Sfunny that some blokes can be so rib-shatteringly humerus (well---well---well!) in letters while others (comme je) /forgive the francois---I do not know my limitations/ (Sam speaking) can only express idiotic notions in uninspired notes. What, bithway, is that hieroglyph substanding El's letter? Can it be a signature? (Possibly. Of an Arabian Knight. Or is that pun a bit Perduebious? Shāikh, pard: Egypt us. Allah carte. But it was cheap at half the Price.) So we don't get strate edges, uh? After 3/4 year of Fay, I sympathise with your laziness, but that raises an interesting point. Point is--- if it ain't worth the bother to make yor fanmag pretty, is it worth the b. to pub. it at all? I am seriously considering the latter alternative. (Even edges in The Voice are fundamentally impossible due to our unike policy. The majority of our correspondents space twice after a period; a few once; some none; yourself thrice. So we preserve your individual spacings & punctuations as & present as nice an appearance as possible under the circumstances.) I can't comment individually on all the letters, becos, pleasant as that would prove, I haven't the time. I will say that if I had known you published all letters you receive (?) (O, we don't receive any letters: We make 'em up all ourselves!) I wouldn't have added that crack about the Convention (British). Ted (Carnell) took it like the what he is (always at our Service!) but he might have got annoyed with plenty of justification. It doesn't properly represent my feelings on the matter; I realise now that Ted and GKC (Chapman) (even if he still refuses to pass on the British Fans' Merry-Go-Round) made a grand job of conventionneering---and there weren't no excluding!! (No excluding?? Y, how positively unAmerican!) ~ Not much to say further, but I simply can't resist letting you know that I was it who spotted that Miske was Star-Treader without being told by anyone!!! (Star-Treader: Spaceway's formerly anonymous author of column "Stardust".) And if you don't believe me, ask HWJ (Harry Warner Jr, publisher). Dave (McIlwain) speaketh truly when he says he was promptly sat upon for trying to introduce akrmnz into his correspondence. I was one of the sitters so it is even more of a tragedy that I shud now find myself doing likewise. A sorta 'Ackamerican Tragedy', nicht wahr? Alan P. Roberts has hit th nail rite on the head, more comment in FuFa (Futura Fantasia, to which Sam Youd has also submitted a letter). ~ After comparing recent issues of Science Fiction Progress & Fantasy News I wrote the enclosed. (Entitled W A R) You may like it for interest's sake, you may even use it; but whether you do or not, lemme say here and now that the LAers alone redeem American fandom. Carry on with the good work---and please consider at least the prop. set out in my articlette. ~ghuly yours," (Mr Youd's "prop." was LA sponsorship of a new, universal fan organization. He devoted 2 pgs to his reasons for ruling out existing organisations & considering LA alone qualifd as HQs. Considerable discussion was given your prop., believe us, Sam; but it was decided, for reasons as lengthy as your article, such an undertaking woud be inadvisable.)

Comes KUSLAN again, claiming "For FooFoo Is Our Savior!", saying: "Being home from collitch...., I looked over some of the mags that arrived and saw that the Voice had arrived sans comments from Kuslan. I know that I didn't write any anyhow, but I'll make up for it. ~ Well, about the several fellows I've found up at the school who are interested in sf. One of them in particular, Joe Neiman's his name, is a very good writer (member of Pencraft, school literary club) and a real stf reader. I believe that he's subscribed to several fan mags after I argued with him for what seemed like hours. Heh-heh, as I said before, the

school paper, the Campus gave me quite a write up because of my publishing activities. Now I'm known as 'that crazy freshman'. ~ I'd really like to attend the Chicago convention, but I'm afraid it's impossible, since I'll have to work all summer; however, if some kind soul could offer my sister a ride from New York, she could go. (Some hint!) (Some sister!) ~ I see that the 'exclusion act' controversy is still raging. My only hope is that it be forgotten as soon as possible by all. It's over with, and no amount of discussion can ever change it. ~ To briefly comment on FuFa, it's good! (Angeleño editor Bradbury thanx U kindly.) ~ In conclusion, might I say that I enjoyed meeting you at the NYConvention (U myt, if U permit us to say the same), and that I hope to see you again, the sooner the better (ju pli baldaŭ, des pli bona!)."

of the CHICON, says
sour!" & proceeds to

Marky

"MIDWEST" MARKY—Editor Ad Astra & conceiver
"experiment in unique signature that went
present us with another of those strate-edged

letters, the more remarkable that we understand it was written after midnyt! Good nyt! (Reinsberg's adres: 3156 Cambridge Ave, Chi) "Coeds": As usual, I must marvel at the almost perfect mimeographing of VOM and the attractiveness of its general format. Quality mimeo'ing seems to be the common characteristic of all LA publications, dating as far back as #2 MADGE. Before that, I wouldn't know. ~ Atanyrate, #4 VOM at hand, and, surprise!, also the 'Dum-Dum' to that gala issue, sent to me by 4sJ. Although I can't understand why I was honored thus----I presume it is an honor to place such an item in one's collection----you have my needlessly-voiced thanks. The rather unique dummy of VOM #4., with all its weird scribblings, hasty penotes, typed pages and mistakes thereon, and---shall we let the rest go with---'etc', made the published copy infintely more interesting. Perhaps I appreciate the work required to give VOM that 'breezy, informal and highly spontaneous atmosphere', too, more than before. (Beware, Bob Tucker! We have selected U as our 2d victim & soon U shall receive the "Dum-Dum" of this Vom; Vom dummy #6 we'll fix up & send to Harry Warner, s'il tu plait, ami Harree; & after that we'll let our Vomshell dum-dums fall on volunteer victims--in other words, if any of U of the imagi-nation r intrested in owning a dummy "Voice", it's easy to b a ventriloquist: Just throw your voice our way without delay--first come first serve--& we'll send U without charge the make-up edition of Vom.) ~ One thing is apparent from reading my published letter in #4, and that is: he who writes letters in Ackermanese..and knows not how to effectively use the aforesaid, makes one big fool of self! And things get more lethal when writer says nothing particularly intelligent, anyhow. So there! Never again will I use 'Ack-ese' publicly. It's plenty OK to drivel it in some il-advised letter to an understanding pen-pal.....but to the un-understanding world, not until I know how!

~ This afternoon, I met Elmer Perdue, VOM-writer famed for the 'ephless typewriter'. He was passing east en route to Washington D.C., to take a government job there. Strangely, I was the first fan he had met, and Richard Meyer, who put in an appearance at his hotel room, also, is No. 2. Speer or Rothman will be #3. ~ Came upon a cute idea for really unique science fiction correspondence. May not be original.. or practical...but, it's good enough to pass along to anyfan who wants to try the gala scheme, himself. Idea thusly: Get access to a Dicta- or Edi-phone. Record your voice-message on the wax roller. Send recorded-roller to vocal-correspondent with access also to the same type affairs. Correspondent transcribes message on his ..or her, or their..Dicta-phone, scrapes same roller with message on it, for repeat use. Then he, in turn, records his vocal letter and sends it to original correspondent. And so it will progress. ~ But the glamour of the whole idea lies in the almost limitless possibilites of such an exchange correspondence. A group in one city could prepare a clever 'broadcast', with all the prominent fans participating vocally, and send it to another active group, who would reciprocate. Cost to send a roll through the mail safely shouldn't run above a dime or so. And the cost of one wax recording roll is about sixty cents. Such rolls can be used arund fifty times, scraped at each end, after the message has been transcribed. Dicta-phones can be obtained for hourly use on a rental basis, so the problem of the machine shouldn't

be prohibitive. ~~~ I have an Edi-phone in the family with some partially used recording rolls, so I could furnish the original experimental roll. Also willing to send first message. There is the whole thing in a VOM-shell. Now, who wants to try it? (This is quite an Edi-fying idea. Dicta-tors espeshly shoud take to it! VOICE of the Imagi-nation..!) ~~~ Ex-LA fan George Tullis (hi, Tully!), now residing here in Chicago and attending CCSPL meetings, traded me, among many other fan mags...some MADGE's my files lacked...#1 MADGE... So, with IMAGINATION finally complete after all this time, I'm content. ~~~ Mite rite again for #5 VOM, if you'll have me. ~~~ 'Tis 1 A.M. & I'm pretty bleary. Hope this letter is coherent. Happy '40's to U!!" (Have U? We want U, Marky! Your letters always welcome. —Morojo & Forry)

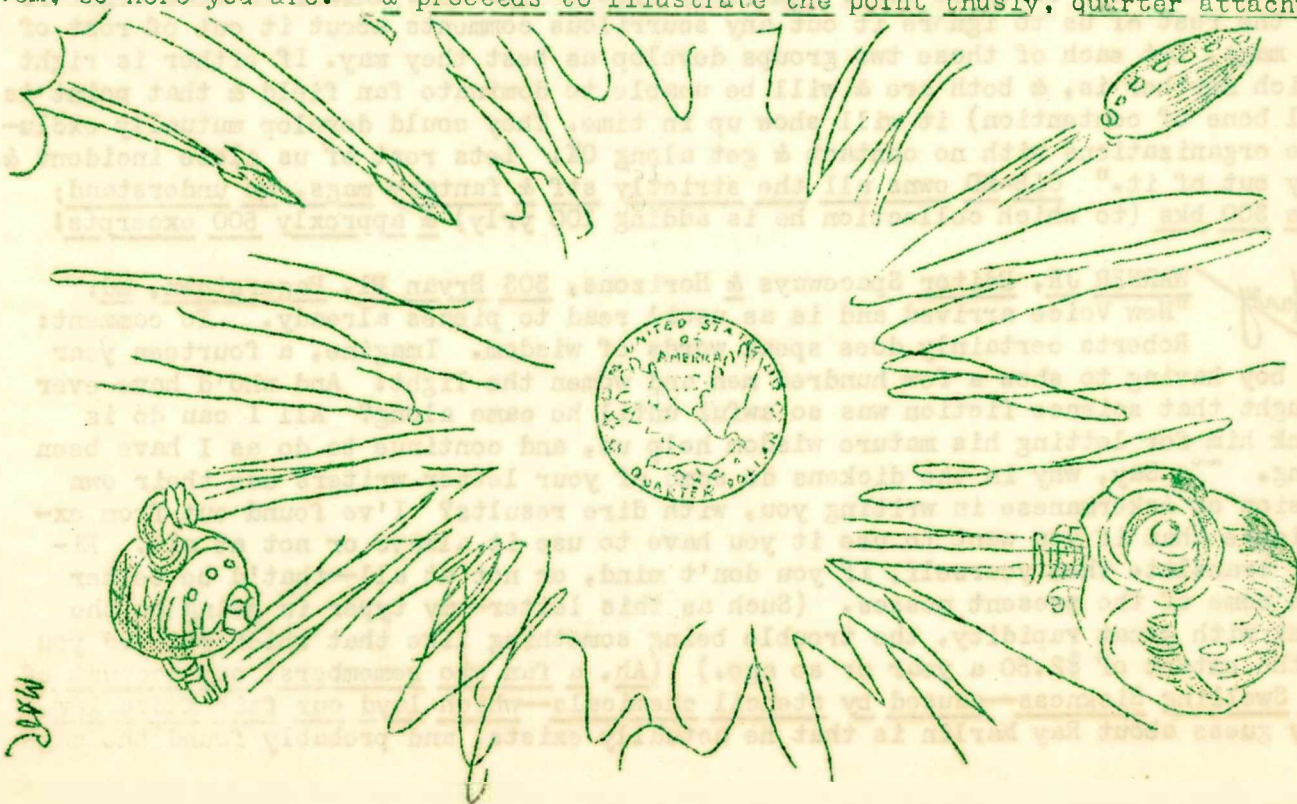
Joseph P. Miller of 3805 1/2 Pk, Columbia, S Car, devoted a portion of New Yr's Day to adresing the Imagi-nation, having this to say: "My opinion, stand, and final statement on the so-called exclusion act. ~~~ If, the behavior of the soapbox boys had been merely within the bounds of decency, then any exclusion because of differences of opinon, personal dislike, or anything of that sort, would not have happened. The entire thing was entirely unpremeditated, where the New Fandom lads are concerned, I sincerely believe. But the behavior of the futuries was obvicus deliberately designed towards sabotage. They were out to stir up trouble, and they were going to stir up trouble, whether they permitted to enter or not. They've stirred up enough outside now, what they would have done inside is a matter of conjecture. It wouldn't have been pleasant I know. ~~~ There isn't anything subtle about the above, but the time has long gone by for subtlety. If anyone has any doubts left as to the intentions of the futuries, then I invite their attention to the Philly Con. ~~~ Then too, while all this childish uproar over fair play, was going on, what behalood guardian, of the righteous, thought to ask Sam for his side of the affair? Not one damn person. That was a beautiful example of fair-mindedness, wasn't it? No wonder Sam was so mad in that piece in the Collector (39 Aug). One of the bluntest, most stinging articles I have ever read. It wasn't entirely unjustified either. No more unjustified than this entire affair has been. ~~~ Well--- here's 1940, with prosperity still gamboling somewhere around that famous corner, and war walloping the stuffings loose from the boys accros the delightfully broad ocean. We are in the midst of the things Wells said would come. If we don't forget silly, petty, unjustified, matters like this in fandom, then there may not be any fandom to forget in, soon. Let's call this thing even, and forget it, gents, and make a resolution that there will be fewer things like it in this shining new year. What say, eh? ~~~ I don't, contrary to the accusation of gibberish in me last letter have any objection to Ackermaneese. What I do object to is Trudy's unholy mixture of Ackermaneese, deliberately-rotten grammer, and (Ouch!) dialect. But then I think that Bob Hope is lousy, and Cantor stinks. Perhaps, some like that sort of thing. I am nct one. ~~~ On the other hand, Ackermaneese is an expression of an evolving, growing language. As Esperanto may someday be the language of the entire world; Ackermaneese may eventually become, in a modified form, the language of all America. Forry, old boy, you're making history! ~~~ Did you notice that in my last letter I said that I read TWS every month, and that at that time it had't gone monthly? Well, it did so one month later. Maybe I should be a prophet, but then I hear there no prophet in it. (That rustling sound you hear, is Mr. Joseph Miller rotating in his grave.) ~~~ It's always a pleasure to hear from friend Wilson. I've been intending to subscribe to Escape ever since I received a sample copy in my batch of convention mags. Now that I have a spare dime, I won't keep him in suspense any longer. I would imagine that the vampire is in congenial company right now, if you know what I mean. (Heh, hoh, subtle ain't I?) ~~~ Two humorists in one issue. My goodness(what there is of it) I'm still weak from the strain. Tucker's got me in the doghouse. The result of several rather juvenilean letters I lavished upon him, when yrs truly was just entering fandom. Can't say that I blame him. ~~~ Hail Reinsberg! Most exalted, high putter-together of Ad Astra, organizer of the greatest convention ever to be held, steersman of the IFF, and a

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION

dam' nice guy. My favorite fan, incidently . ~~~ The fruit of the peanut bush to the beloved Mr. Wolheim. Individuals are what make history. Men like Napoleon, Alexander, Ceasar. They set the 'trends and forces of social and world currents' going or guided them into the proper channels. World history is almost a succession of biographies. This individual did this, which in turn caused that individual to do something else, and so it went. And of all organizations stf., the fan circle that is. is the most individualistic. Individuals decide the fate of the fan circle. Individuals such as, unfortunately, Donald, Wolheim. God-sit down Mr. Shroyer, this is my clambake—knows what things would have been without Don's amiable brotherly love. But the trend would not have been downward, at any rate. ~~~ 'Ray Marlin.' Hah! (See Lowndes' letter, pg 10) There was a chap named Bristol. Remember? ~~~ As for Speer, I can only say that I want a second part to that splendid history. Maybe at the chicon. ~~~ And speaking of fanhistory, it seems to me that the fan circle just entering 1940 is at the same time entering a new and tremendous decade at the same time. I don't know what lies ahead, but it will I believe be the greatest in the history of all fandom. That is if the war doesn't end everything. But don't mind me. I'm a most uncouth conglomeration of incurable pessimist and Wellsian idealist, and the combination often has a rather peculiar effect. I'm keeping my fingers crossed and looking forward, though. Judging from 'Stardust' ("—the magazine Unique", fandom's printed semipro, 20c a throw from 2609 Argyle, Chicago) which arrived this morn- and floored me there's going to be a lot to look forward to. ~~~ Dime for VoM enclosed of course. I think it's about time to close up now. So without further key slugging, I do so. S'long!"

Milton A. Rothman
DC

(DC standing for Disappointed Cynic, sez Milt) writes from the Capital (2020 F NW):
"VoM: You win. Here is your slimy 2 bits. I presume that will bring me 3 issues of VoM, or its equivalent in ink spattered cellulose. And it had better be good. It is a phenomenon when Rothman actually subscribes to a fan mag. In fact, it hasn't been done since the time of Fantasy. He gets all his stuff free by writing articles for them, or by reading over other people's shoulders. But you can't write articles for VoM, so here you are." & proceeds to illustrate the point thusly, quarter attacht:



"The travel bug has bit me hard"—MAR continues. "Traveling 230 miles to the N'Yawk convention was a mere nothing. So I look forward with the greatest of pleasure to the trek towards Chicago this fall. But Chicago -- only one third of the way across the continent. More -- more -- mein wanderlust commands me. So I would not be in the slightest surprised (life being kind to me and the fates selling a novel or so of mine) to see me in Los Angeles the following year, if the LASFL would see fit to hold their convention then and there. ~~~ So it takes a guy from Washington, D.C., to throw the hat into the ring for the Califunians. Do you accept the challenge? (LA is not prepared to say at this time.) ~~~ I go so far as to propose a greater challenge. So far I have attended every major convention: Philadelphia, New York, Philadelphia, Newark, Philadelphia, and New York. And now Chicago and perhaps Los Angeles. I propose to continue this tradition. From now on, where the conventions go, so go my vacations. ~~~ I just thrill with anticipation. ~~~ It always is more fun to anticipate things than to do them, to remove a leaf from the philosophy of None but Lucifer. ~~~ Speaking of philosophy, it would be well for all to take to heart the words which closed the X-act-final-word: 'Don't be too intense about things.' With three wars going on our quibbles seem rather silly. ~~~ Don't look now, but Daw, Lowndes, et al, are liable to get lovely martyr complexes at a moments notice. ~~~ And so to conclude chaos with further disorder, two final thoughts which ye olde brain monster has thunk: (1)Some of the letters published in VoM would do well to say something instead of to merely jabber. (Milt! U split an infinitive!) (2)Make no rules and cast no slogans; judge every individual case by every individual circumstance. Thus the problem of economics is settled. It is not: socialism is the only solution; technocracy is the true answer; revolution is the only way out. It is: in this case, taking into consideration the economic and social level of the country and the peculiar psychology of the people -- this is the logical thing to do. And the best thing. ~~~ But try and do it."

From the Desk of CHAS

L BARRETT MD, 119 S Madriver St, Bellefontaine, O: "Let N.Y. stew in its own grease. Give em crosscut saws a. la. Andrew Jackson & let em duel it out.--About the time we begin to advance cooperate & get some recognition that N.Y. scrap pops up in most disgusting fashion. Those two groups could not get along together even in a Wells Utopia so lets limit fight to N.Y. alone. Millions for defense but not one cent for the city slickers (?-or dumbells) fight.--The only answer to that fight is for the rest of us to ignore it out any scurrilous comments about it out of rest of fan mags. Let each of those two groups develop as best they may. If either is right (which neither is, & both are & will be unable to dominate fan field & that point is real bone of contention) it will show up in time. They could develop mutually exclusive organizations with no contact & get along OK. Lets rest of us close incident & stay out of it." CLB-MD owns all the strictly stf & fantasy mags, we understand; some 300 bks (to which collection he is adding 100 yrly) & approxly 500 excerpts!

WARNER JR, Editor Spaceways & Horizons, 303 Bryan Pl, Hagerstown, Md:

Harry "New Voice arrived and is as usual read to pieces already. To comment: Roberts certainly does speak words of wisdom. Imagine, a fourteen year old boy having to show a few hundred men and women the light! And who'd have ever thought that science fiction was so awful until he came along? All I can do is thank him for letting his mature wisdom help us, and continue to do as I have been doing. ~~~ Say, why in the dickens do some of your letter writers use their own version of Ackermanese in writing you, with dire results? I've found out from experience that if you want to use it you have to use it always or not at all. Either translate them yourself, if you don't mind, or not at all--that'd be better than some of the present messes. (Such as this letter--my typer is going on the blink with great rapidity, the trouble being something like that which plagued you to the extent of \$2.50 a year or so ago.) (Ah, a fun who remembers! our account of the Swelling Sickness--caused by stencil chemicals--which layd our fair Madge low.) My guess about Ray Marlin is that he actually exists, and probably found the mags

in the style mentioned. And also that the mags belong to Lowndes, and that RLW wrote the letter for him. ~~~ Runs in my mind that Norman Holtaway's name isn't that. At least in two letters recently to him I wrote Hollaway...or maybe it was Holloway... and didn't get bawled out. If I'm right and you're wrong, he'll undoubtedly Hollaway and mow you down. (Don't get it? I didn't think so. Sorry I brought it up.) (4e, the fumigator! That pun I have to Holtaway from my nose—but far! --Morojo) (4give us, Norman; we noe not wut we do. —4e) ~~~ Your worries about back issues are not entirely your own—you are not alone. But I solved the problem fairly neatly. The first couple that came in to me—which arrived before I'd got the issue of Startling that did the damage—got sample, because I thought they'd merely misunderstood or something. At the time I didn't know SS had offered the samples. Then the thing started to get serious. I was low on copies, and saw it would be impossible to send them all. So I broke down a few copies into sections of three and four sheets, and mailed those together with little hektoed slips explaining the situation. They took only 1 l-2c postage, so actually I lost very little on the business—took in six cents on each copy split up. However, when the did the latest S, I printed up a coupla dozen extras of the most interesting pages, and shall keep them back for another landslide. Which, I fear, may come when the next Startling appears. ~~~ Why can't you get votl out a little more often? Four or five months is a long, long time. If memory serves, I seem to recall getting the first issue last winter, before Christmas of 1938. If I'm right, and I believe I am, you haven't even come close to quarterly publication. But I suppose you're busy enough. (Supposition sustained.) One last thing—I still like the old type cover the best—the illustration was all right, but I'm a firm traditionalist, or something."

Dick Wilson - whom we love very dearly - typs from the Ivory Tower, 2574 Bedford Av, Bklyn, NY: "It is bad taste, I know, to mail your correspondents carbon copies of letters, but in this case it's for your own good. The ribbon...is about to give up—I'm practically typing in the dark, as far as visibility's concerned—and the Royal has an annoying habit of not pushing the original up the platen as far as the carbon when spacing; and no one has any money, especially me, who'm saving up my shekels for license plates for the Oldsmobile—Baby's successor. The '29 Olds is the vehicle that, with Dave Kyle's brother's Plymouth, transported a dozen or so New Yorkers to the Philly conf, with Dave and this chauffeur driving at 80 per down the highway, neither of us having had six hours sleep in the past 48. (Time for a Tucker-plug:) Remember, Bob, our mad race on wheels thru Phila.'s narrow, trafficky streets from La Maison Baltadonis to the Conference Hall? (End of plug.) The zombie cheated, tho; he went the wrong way down a one-way street—and even at that he lost. ~~~ Forry may be interested to know that the apartment house in Inwood (not the Bronx, stoutly maintains Cyril) where dwells Kornbluth the Red boasts an Ackerman—and opposite the name is the apt #: 4 E ! ...interruption... ladynextdoor just banged on the door: 'Wanna seeya fish? Over on Flatbush Avenya. Bank's burnin' up. C'mon up onna roof witha resta vus.' I inform the Futurians in the kitchen, who are fiddling with the makings of supper. 'Bank of Manhattan's on fire.' 'Who started it?' queries Don. 'Probably National City,' quip I. (Laughter.) Enough of that. ~~~ Supper is over. For me, anyway. I have taken my piece of pie and glass of milk in here by the typewriter. The others are still eating the main course, consisting, for the most part, of fishcakes. Not so much because of Friday, but because of their being fishcakes. ~~~ Doc says it's Kay Marlin. Now he's saying 'Ooooooh!' ...But it's not about the mysterious Marlin, as I thought. He's found Joseph Gilbert's letter. Joe recently wrote me a letter full of points, which he read. Points 2 & 3 are: 'I don't like Michealism' and 'I detest Wolheim.' I'm the only one in the apt who likes Mr Gilbert, obviously. ~~~ Must go. 'Stime for me to weild a dishtowel, providing someone has done the washing of dishes, which I doubt."

Doc LOWNDES, also of the Ivory Tower, kaj kiun ni amas tre kare ankaŭ, skribas: "To start things off by giving my little words of wisdom anent one Marlin upon whom you wish votes -- I cannot tell you anything definite, but from consultation with R. W. Wood, who is the Arch-deacon and Ghardinal of New Canaan, Overlord of the Eyeless Cats, Keeper of the Sacred Virgins (New England Branch) and various & sundry other gholly offices pertaining to our lord Ghu Ghu I gather that aforementioned 'Marlin' is not a 'Ray' but a 'Kay'. That signature does look something like an 'R' (we herewith reproduce it from #4) but Dick (Wood) says that Kay always signs her name that way -- supposed *Kay* to be a small 'k'. Also, the lady's full name is apparently Mrs Nicholas & Marlin. Outside of that I can tell you nothing. The gal may exist, y'know, but that still doesn't prove she wrote that letter. At any rate, it's a most interesting letter-personality, and I, for one, hope that, phoney or no, 'kay' writes you some more. Yes, as Dick mentions, I found Joe Gilbert's letter. By the by, it's really customary, Msieu Gilbert, to type one space after a comma and two after periods. Incidentally, I obtained many a chuckle over the latter part of your letter. Being in constant touch with Wollheim (two l's please) I've as yet failed to note any outstanding symptoms of that 'bitter, rankling' etc that is supposed to seethe within him. Also, there must be one hell of a lot of unpleasant memories if the innumerable enjoyable experiences in fandom he and I alone have shared are going to be overbalanced properly as you describe in your letter Joe. By the way, if you could have seen the broad grins on all of our faces when we read Speer's accounts of the Wollheimosities you might have slightly different ideas on the subject. We all agree that Jack's 'Up to Now' is a superb bit of fan-fiction. Don thanks you for your sorrow, by the by. While you're at it, shed a few tears for Fojak -- we understand that he's had a tough time of it since Moskowitz drove him out of fandom. (Vide Fantasy-News after Jan. '40.) As for Michael -- who is he? I've heard of a bloke named John B. Michel, of course -- who hasn't. But Michael is a new one to me. As for Pohl, he just got a richly deserved boot in the posterior and now is out of fandom -- yes, Fred's an editor now. The moral is obvious, what? Pardon me, Joe, while I widen my sleeves for a bit of plain and fancy laughing up. Anent the Wollheim feuds -- all I can add to Don's letter is that, back in 1936 when I first met the gang, Will Sykora was the accepted leader and that was that. It wasn't until Will resigned abruptly from the ISA (Internat'l Scientific Assn) that Don began to take the lead. Might add that the notes about Don being a YCLer way back in 1936 or 37 is so much bull and Jack has made an ass of himself by giving the W communist motives before he had them. Fact is that DAW and I joined the YCL the same night -- in March 1938 (my error - April). However, years have passed since then and one has to renew to retain membership. And, as you know, since we are planning to join Technocracy, that rules out membership in any political body etc. No need to draw diagrams, I trust. Now, back to Juffus' (Jack Speer's) letter: Who said I believe that anyone who makes money on a thing must be entirely mercenary etc? Jack's wish, again, is father to the thought. The fact that most of the pro stf editors are that way doesn't make it a prerequisite to being an stf editor. But the fact remains, that, whether or not, by some mystic quirk they must be so, most of them are. Honorable exceptions occur in almost everything, but the rule usually holds good. And I see Jack is indulging in his love of irrelevancies in bringing up Asimov: I was not discussing newly-arrived stf authors. Again, people do not 'suddenly' become inhuman beasts: they either are that way potentially until something brings it out, or they aren't that way potentially. Sometimes they are forced into beastly actions by circumstances. In brief: crisis tend to bring out and accentuate a person's characteristics; they tend to wipe off sham and fronts. People do not, however, 'suddenly' make lightning changes. Things just do not move that way despite Hollywood. Hasta la vista -- and I hope 'kay' sends you another letter soon." *Doc* HART, that smart fellow from Texas way (Bx 1361, Highlands) hashish *Doc* to say (that shouldn't b a difficult pun to dope out): "Got VCM a few days ago. Haven't read it

yet, but it looks swell. Boyohboyohboy, it does! (The greetings were a nice idea. Look nice. And where did you get the type they were printed with anyway?) (At the AMPAS. & what is the AMPAS? The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, for which Forry works.) Russ wants to know how I took the LASFL's manifesto and resultant stands therefrom. I heartily agree with the sentiments and applaud your action. Like Mos kowitz, a few might have disagreed--but I'm sure that General Fandom think you-all's position-taking to be fair and correct. Twenty-five cents for VOM."

siderable con- *Norman Hellaway* about whose name there has been conjecture (we hope Mr H will enlighten),
 its from 212 Philips Terce, Union NJ, with this
 to say: "Dear Coeds: VOM arrived this morning with my little note surprisingly inserted. It caught me quite unawares. I hadn't noticed my name nicely checked on the cover and had begun perusing page by page. Finishing fellow countryman Carnell's interesting letter, I began the next. Suddenly the 212 Philips, struck home and my hitherto unobserving eyes (Would yo'all say i's) leaped to the right, and there it was, the familiar scrawl. This is my first act after being revived. For the comment coeds, I thank you. Paragraph four, page two, confirmed by suspicion that the pro editors were being a little generous with your magazines. It seems to me though that some of the fan editors must have okayed the idea, or the pros wouldn't have gone that far alone. Or is that being naive? (As Adam said to Madam: Naive, you should turn over a new leaf. Hornig has, for which we thank him. If Astonishing does not print prices, at least it does not declare we gladly give our goods away. Startling remains the sole offender.) A bit about myself. I've been reading stf. for a number of years, but only last summer began to interest myself in fan activity. I of course knew about Mr. Ackerman, also about Tucker and Wolheim etc., mostly through the old Wonder's reader's column, so I had a bit to get going on. Since the summer I've spent quite a bit of time trying to catch up on all the rest that I've missed. Quite a job. However I'm now passingly familiar with the various feuds, movements etc. I've written to a number of fans, take a number of fan mags from the slightly staggering total; these from different sections of the U. S. and opposing groups, so as to get a perspective, and am endeavoring to get a copy of Jack Speer's book. I see Mr. Wolheim doesn't think it would help anyone, and though I suppose it does contain some of the author's viewpoint, as many histories do, it could probably clear up a number of confusing items, Michelism included. I hear however that the book is pretty hard to lay hands on and I wonder if you could possibly tell me where a copy can be purchased. (Mr H has been supplyd.) My compliments on Mudge. Very nice gal. Her green eyes--I mean ink, do add to her charm, and she is also very neat, much more so than some of her girl friends. I hope to have many dates with her in the future. (Hope Agatha don't get mad) About #4. After some deliberation I'll risk a dime that Mons. Marlin consists of a typewriter and an imagination. One fellow questioned my existence at first, but I'll swear I wasn't that bad....The work of Trudy, pardon the familiarity, and some of the other west coast linguists is a bit of all right--once you get the hang of it. I used to stop, figure out a word, and having lost the thought go back and begin all over. After one or two times a sentence this got tiresome. I'm progressing though and ought to reach the writing stage in a few months. A few more lessons professors, s'il vous plait. (Avec plaisir!) The 14-yr-old ex-fan, gets me. The phrase I mean. I hate to commit myself, but I do share his ideas and those of E. F. Russell author of the amusing, 'Parody On Caesar', concerning a certain few of our magazines. Sometimes I honestly become disgusted, but a quick dash for a peek at one of the better magazines and the old confidence is restored....After Mr. Gilbert's letter I expect to read that DW is heading for Dixie. His next letter to the forum should be most interesting. And so Fare thee well from Union"

Comes CARNELL again from London Town, reporting: "...fanmags recently arriving by the ton -- Bradbury's, Freehafer's and Russ' SaL. ...I think the covers for SWEETNESS and LIGHT the cleverest I have seen in a long time. The little guy's a cute fella, but I missed his red nose on the last edition. Regretably, I did not think the contents up to standard at all -- but perhaps that was because there were two other LA pubs in to compare against. As for Bradbury's mag, the contents were good right thru. Corvais Return from Death was a veritable gem. ~~~ POLARIS was also smart, tho I am not a weird fan. Irene (Ted's wife) is the critic of weird literature in our combine -- and The Gourmet registered 100% with her! That's mighty high rating, for even WEIRD itself rarely rates anything near that. In fact, the last yarn rating 100% was Quinn's yarn, many months ago, of the Egyptain adventure, in which the fellow changed into a gal. It's so long back, that I've forgotten the title. ("Strange Interval" praps? I'm not positive myself--don't remember whether twas an Egyptian narrative--but bliev twas by Quinn--& about such a metamorfosis. 4e)

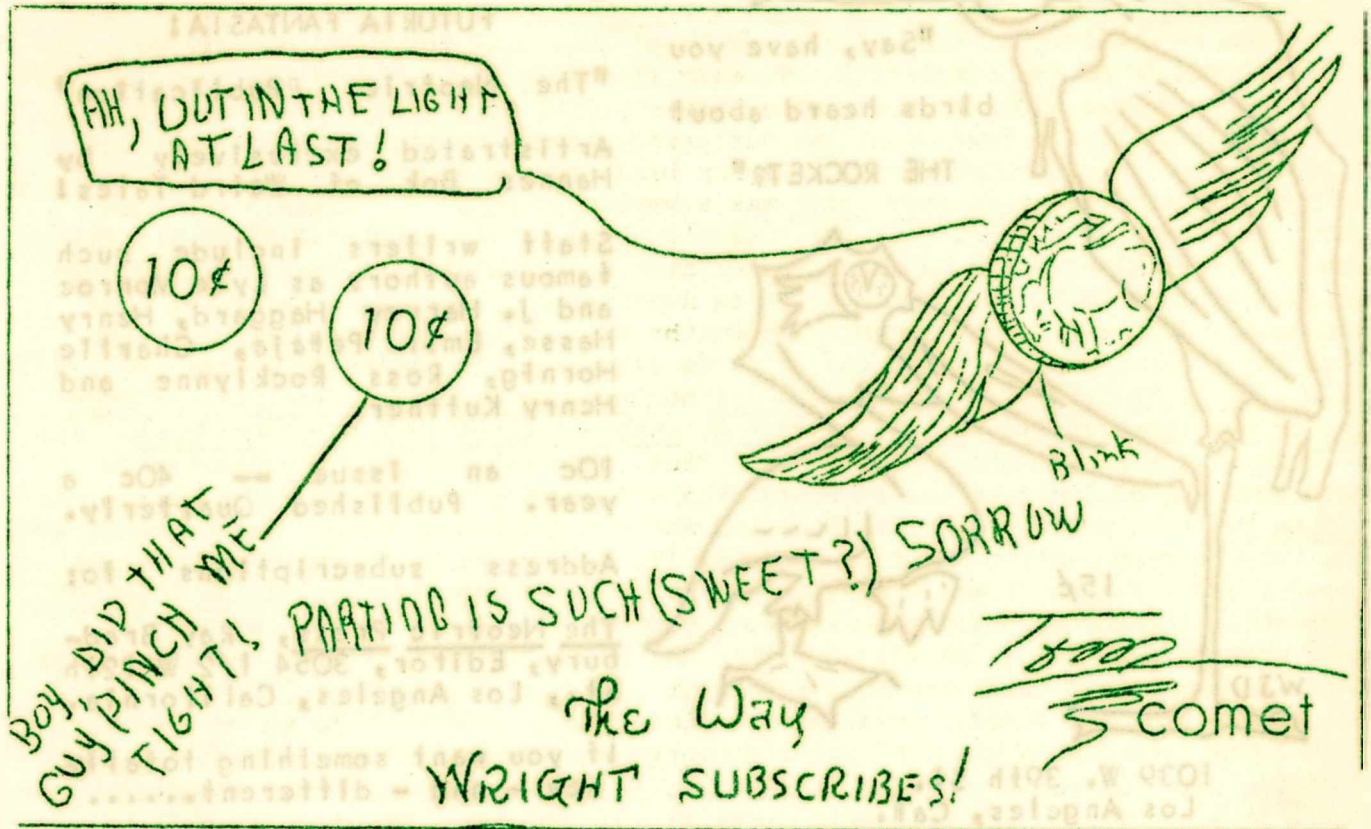
Next Friday is the final party at the Flat, when all the gang will arrive to feast upon the skeleton in the cupboard. The wolves were ararin' -- Poppa Clarke was selling out! The anguish upon his face was worth a million to watch. He was continually torn between emotion and dull despair. 'To be, or not to be, that was the question.' I settled part of the issue for him by annexing complete Clayton ASTOUNDING'S after which the wolves went to work with a vengeance. I stood by with an amused sneer upon my face (sic) inwardly cursing that my dealer's nature had to take second place to Better Self while the fans had first picking. ~~~ However, the most valuable piece, the most coveted prize of the Flat, was knocked down to me -- upon permanent loan! Schneeman's original interior above the opening bars of Stuart's Cloak of Aesir. Now stop rushing for your file, you're sure to remember that stunning o-pic! This original, signed by both Campbell and Schneeman, was brought back by Russell from his New York trip, and was actually donated by Campbell to the denizens of the Flat. However, as none of them wanted to cart it with them, and it is not the sort of thing that can be sold for cash owing to the sentimental value, it has been loaned out indefinitely to myself. It will grace the opposite wall to Brown's original oil of the Russell/Johnson Seeker of Tomorrow July 1937 ASTOUNDING! In my opinion, Brown's finest piece of art work in the S&S collection. ~~~ Speaking of art (see Carnell's "Art! I Choke!" in #1 SHANGRI-LA), this guy Kohl is turning out some fine stuff these days -- and Rogers covers have improved 100% since he first started. This guy Paul gives me a pain. He turns out pics like Schachner turns out yarns -- the same straight, stereotyped stuff time after time. Schachner's latest terrible masterpiece in the 'Past, Present & Future' series spoiled an otherwise perfect issue. It seems that the exploits of these misplaced nincompoops are likely to go on forever. They have already completely scoured the earth, below and above as well, and are still looking for 1940."

A few words come from a Canadian chum,

Randy VICKERS, who ryts (from 626 Constance, Victoria, BC): "Last V/M was nifty, despite lovely botch of one page, which I really shouldn't try to rub in, as I guess lots of others have done that before me. (Ah, yes, we were showerd. & now, we don't mind a shower--it's after the shower the rub comes in! Or is that going from bath to worse?) Idea: how about biographies of various fans, giving salient facts that might enable far-off fans like me to figure out which is which when oblique references to fonepoles, Lost Spooks, etc. start floating through the fanmag copy. It's all lost on me now. Anyway, put me down now for the next issue & so forth."

JR of Bx 122, Bryantville, Mass, hass is a dime for a copy of MADGE, partly cos I'm curius 2 c what an alletmag is like. ~~~ As U can c, I'm nu 2 this biz of simplifdyd spelin, but I like it, & once I get onto it, it'll save me a lot of time. Well, adiau or somthin like that. Sciencerealy,"

Arslaw - otherwise ARTHUR L WIDNER thiss to ssay: "Enclosd as thanx 4...& partly be-



"Vom Ackerman Says"

SUPPORT THE CHICON!

Join the American Rocket Soc'y!

Investigate Technocracy

Learn Esperanto

Spread Stf!

I second the motion! --VoMorojo



1039 W. 39th St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

FUTURIA FANTASIA!

"The Neotric PPublication"

Artistrated exclusively by
Hannes Bok of Weird Tales!

Staff writers include such
famous authors as Lyle Monroe
and J. Harvey Haggard, Henry
Hesse, Emil Petaja, Charlie
Hornig, Ross Rocklyne and
Henry Kuttner.

10c an issue -- 40c a
year. Published Quarterly.

Address subscriptions to:

The Neotric Press, Ray Brad-
bury, Editor, 3054 1/2 W 12th
St., Los Angeles, California.

If you want something totally
new - and - different.....

UNIQUE COLLECTORS' ITEM

Extra-large size bklet
reproducing lithograt-
ically 200 fantascience
stickers, letterheads,
calling cards &c. See
the stationery of PAUL
--Phil Nowlan--Fantasy
Magazine--that zxrthl'z
shiver...stickers used
by sf fans from 10 yrs
ago to date...& numer-
ous odds & ends. 10c
from 4c, 236 1/2 N New
Hampshire - Hollywood.

"SHANGRI-LA"

LA'S OWN

ORDER

YOUR

COPY

NOW

10c a copy from--

Box 6475 Metropolitan Station
Los Angeles, Calif.