

ANTIPODES

THE VOICE

DOWN UNDER

NUMBER 1

5th AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION MELBOURNE

to be held at the

RICHMOND TOWN HALL

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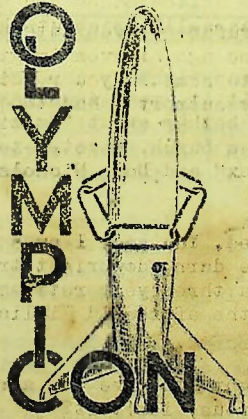
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THIS IS AN EVENT YOU MUST NOT MISS



BELIEVE
OR

IT
NOT

Despite rumours to the contrary, there IS a science fiction fandom Down Under. Now, you find this hard to believe? Oh, we may not have our equivalent of Willis or Tubb, but we do have our own little 'unusuals'.

In the past, Australian fandom has mainly been dismissed by world fandom on the grounds of being childish. THIS IS NOT SO. Why, we are upstanding intelligent fans, proud of our heritage and all that sort of rot. Of course, the fact remains that we've been basically a snobby, stuffy sort of crowd. None of this saturating of the United States and Willis Territory with innumerable fanzines rambling casually on about Okefenokee Swamp and places like that.

As much as we hate to admit it, most Aussifans are too damn interested playing with organization to bother about "fanzines" and stuff like that. You see, we're mainly a serious bunch, devoted to more durable accomplishments, such as Don Tuck's "index" and Doug Nicholson, of which more later on.

And now a secret is revealed. You see, I am a Truefan, You don't believe me? Too bad. Fact is, it's the darn, downright truth. It is because of this that I am coming out of a three year retirement and proceeding to deluge the British Isles and the aforesaid Willis Territory with fanzines and such.

WHY? Well, I suppose I ought to give you a reason for your suffering. It's far better to feel martyrous, isn't it?

If you put a potato in a cyclotron will you get fission chips?

The above interlineation copyright by Ian Crozier. Anyway, to get back to things important, I was simply astounded by the fact that even though Australia is holding one of the biggest Conventions at the end of this year, The Olympicon (see front cover), hardly anyone in the (pardon me) British Isles seems to know anything about it.

Now this, as you might see, is deplorable. Aussifandom has never found the energy to produce magazines like FEMIZINE, HYPHEN, CAMBER and things like that. To repeat: we're a darn serious bunch, too interested in fan politics to laugh at ourselves.

Now, as I said, I yam a Trufan. I even attempted to put out a fanmag along the above lines some time ago, I even imagine some of them found their way across the waters to some of you reading this now. Well, as the mags failed to find any support I had to quite naturally suspend

publication. In a fit of disgust at the lofty seriousness of Aussifandom I quit and set out to make money on the stock-market, or something equally as serious. Now, with the colossal Olympicon soon arriving, co-inciding with another big venture in Aussifandom, of which more anon, I felt that something just had to be done about things.

You're getting this first issue of the VOICE entirely free of charge. Aren't we good to you? (All donations kindly accepted. No C.O.D. thank you.) Publication will be kept up on a monthly basis for as long as the next year lasts. This could mean anything up to twelve months, so you can imagine how much a years subscription is going to cost you. That's right, a whole 12/-. Why, you can even have six issues for the unheard of price of 5/6. Amazing, isn't it? Personally, I'd take the 6 issue sub, or at least send 2/- for two issues. Postage per copy is 3d. down here, by the way.

Now, the purpose of the VOICE will be to unite Aussifandom with British fandom. Simple, isn't it? What we want are letters and articles from you peepul. You see, this mag is aimed at YOU and for YOU. The circulation in Australia will be relatively small. What we want to do is show you that a few Aussifans know quite a bit about Okfenoke, Lil' Abner, Ghu, Bheer and what have you.

I even read MAD.

True. And as much as I hate to say this - I LIKE IT. There, I've said it and I'm proud of it, so what the heck. You'll no doubt receive at least two issues of this thing on spec before any subs start rolling in. Not that I'm all that worried. If you like the mag and you like the idea, you'll sub. I'll even trade with any other mags if I like them. See? Works both ways.

If you think this issue is going to be crowded with an assortment of crud under yours trulys pseudonyms - you're just about right. As I've said (lovely phrase, that), there's not many Truefans down here apart from myself. But as soon as the thing get's moving the situation should change. At least I hope so.

Now, a short history of Aussie fanzine publishing, just to acquaint you with the current situation. Some three years ago a group of Melbourne fans formed a publishing company and began producing three distinct magazines. These were ETHERLINE, a fortnightly newszine, PERHAPS, the usual type of fanzine, and BACCHANALIA, a fantasy thing.

Of them all, only ETHERLINE is still going. It has seen seventy (70) issues in this time, and has improved out of sight. It is now 28 pages, impeccably mimeod, with block headings and etc; columns by Ackerman and etc. And it still sells for 6d, printed cover and all! BACCHANALIA never saw more than one issue. It was pretty much of a mess, despite average material and some good blocks. PERHAPS' first issue was about an all time low in production, though the material by Bert Campbell, Bob Silverberg, Charles Anderson, Roger Dard and

an assortment of crud under collective editorial bylines. Frankly, it was awful.

The second issue of PERHAPS followed about four to five months after. I'm not quite sure now. Anyway, it was quite an improvement, to say the least. I might add that we were so disgusted with the first issue that we gave fans the out that if they didn't like the mag, they were to pay what they thought it was worth. Needless to say, some of them paid nothing. So we embarked on issue number 2 with almost a total loss on issue number one.

Number 2, while having a wealth of good material by international fans, mainly secured by co-editor Roger Dard in Perth, was still a bit shaky as far as format went. Typos, overrun lines and all that sort of thing took the edge off what was actually a good mag. Photo-lithed back and front covers with brilliant scraper board work by a young lad by the name of David Rose. This issue had forty four pages as against twenty eight in the first, and sold (hah!) for 2/-. Contained an excellent article on censorship of s-f in Australia by Dard, a graphic account (eye-witness) of an A-B test from Charles Anderson and Hal Shapiro, a nice two page column by Bert Campbell (or should it be bert campbell? Pardon my Engleese.), who by now had consented to become a regular contributor, two awful attempts at fiction and one not-too-bad, an excellent series of book reviews by contributors, and a letter column. This issue also saw the introduction of an improved stencilling process for artwork, and the introduction of two colour, red and black, illustrating. Unfortunately the editorial staff went haywire over this and the result was an awfully messy appearance. Our one man art staff, Dick Jenssen, the only domesticised BEM in captivity, donned a series of pseudonyms such as Morton Kruss, de la Faye, Martin James and Dick Jenssen in a frantic attempt to outdo Emsh.

After this issue, the editor, being me, had a change of heart. As Aussie-fandom received the issue with the usual silence, he decided to change the whole insipid idea of the mag and make the 'third issue a more serious venture. This could also be blamed on the fact that he had grown up a little in the past year, and the fact that Dick Henssen, Mervyn Binns and himself were about the only ones who got a kick out of pubbing a less-serious ~~magazine~~ fanzine. Reluctantly, he sat down to simmer the whole matter over a slowly boiling nonfan.

Now, while all this was going on, a fellow in Sydney by the name of Doug Nicholson was sore at the fact that Australia did not, at that time, have a prozine. The ludicrous THRILLS INCORPORATED (see elsewhere) had about finished, and he and quite a few others thought it was about time a QUALITY professional magazine made it's appearance. Doug decided to put the general idea over with the first issue of a magazine he titled FORERUNNER. The rest is now history.

The first issue of FORERUNNER was a 50 page duplicated effort, not too well mimeed, but with pro-quality fiction by Frank Brynning, Norma

Hemming and veteran Vol Molesworth. Brynning was a highly successful pro-author, while Norma Hemming had brightened the pages of the last few issues of THRILLS with a few stories that at least tried to be adult. Both of them are staunch fans, and Vol Moleworth, of course, should be known to you all.

The first issue of FORERUNNER appeared a few months before the first issue of PERHAPS. The second appeared midway between issues 2 and 3 of the latter. This time it was 48 pages - PHOTO-LITHOED. The only bad thing being that as the costs were so high, editor Doug Nicholson was forced to charge 5/- per copy in order to recoup his investment. I understand some 500 odd copies were printed and distributed throughout the globe. Quite an achievement when one considers that of about 100 issues of PERHAPS NO.2 mailed out as sample copies to various fans in the U.S. and England, not one replied, with the exception of a few fanzine eds, including Joan Carr, who quite naturally wished to swap mags. This does not reflect on the quality of the magazine, but actually on the apparent disinterest shown by overseas fans to affairs down under.

When PERHAPS No.3 finally jelled, it was the culmination of several months careful planning. The services of a professional artist of excellent merit was secured, and the resulting illustrations (printed) enhanced the general appearance of the mag considerably. Continuing the "serious" motif, Bert Campbell contributed an excellent 2,000 word article titled "In Defence of the Slush Pile", Bert Chandler contributed a tail-piece to the TIFF thing that had been running in SLANT, and even managed to supply a similar piece by George O. Smith. These two items, run together, were about the best - as far as humour went - in the issue. Kevin Wheelahan, a local boy, contributing a scathing article on weapons in s-f, was ably illustrated with some wonderful cartoons by our artist Bruce King. T.G.L. Cockroft was represented with a scholarly and precise bibliography of the works of Robert E. Howard, Lyell Crane with the first part of the wacky adventures of "The Professor", Walt Willis (!) and Roger Dard crossed swords over censorship, Elron Hubbard, dianetics and each other. This was another highspot in an altogether excellent issue, easily the best example of ampubbing to come out of fandom in Australia. The amazing Philip Jose Farmer was represented by a poem, as was Bob Stewart. Aussie Pro-author Bruce Heron had a very powerful and off-trail short entitled "It Is Written", exhibiting the editors' desire for better fiction.

This was the issue Bert Campbell reviewed in AUTHENTIC. Unfortunately, it was also the last. As it is easy to see, the material in PERHAPS was supplied virtually 100% by overseas writers. That in itself is self explanatory of the disinterest shown in most Aussie fans towards writing for fanzines. Oh, they like them and they buy them, but only a very few even think of WRITING a letter of criticism.

For a few months I pubbed a true fanzine titled WASTEBASKET. Strictly for laughs, in the style of HYPHEN et al, in the hope of raising some interest. The result was, again, no material, no letters. Nothing except

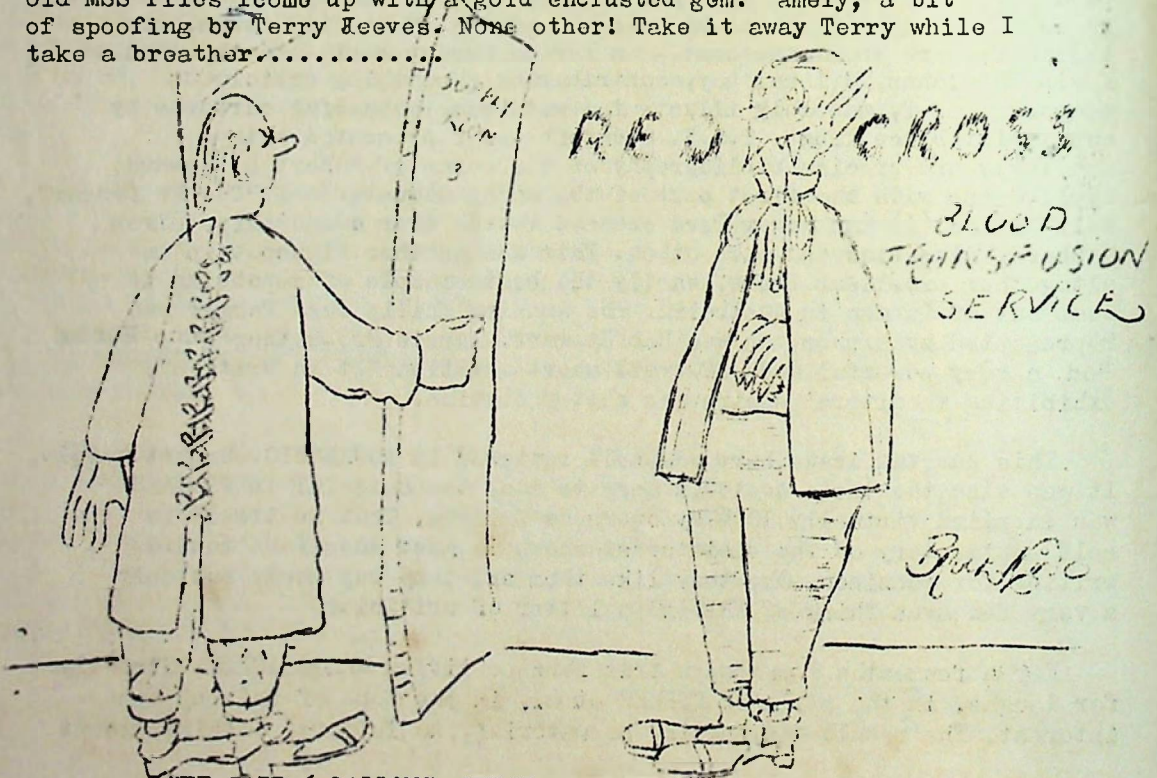
a great big grunt of disgust from yours truly. Having decided that I'd had enough of trying to arouse any interest in the Aussifans for home product fanzines, I retired from the sacred realms of ampubbing for greener pastures, much wiser and with a dreadfully fractured bank account.

ETHERLINE continued on, naturally enough. It was a newszine and the Aussifans really love news. And as they weren't expected to contribute anything they settled down to subscribing. The editor, Ian Crozier, managed to keep up a regular fortnightly schedule up until about nine months ago, when pressure of Olympicon publicity necessitated a three weekly schedule instead. Convention publicity is a big enough job on it's own, combined with editing and stencilling a 28 page magazine every few weeks it's down right frightening.

Mervyn Binns is the boy who's cranked the handle those past few years, with a few interventions from the rest of the gang. He still goes cranking merrily on, though there must be a state of exhaustion somwwhere. Naturally, he's the best crank of us all.....

Ellison is sure a BNFBig Noise Fan.....COPYRIGHT PENDING

As of now, I don't know whether Doug Nicholson plans to bring out another FORERUNNER or not. As it is, it seems to have outlived it's purpose. But that's about enough for the present. Digging deep in my old MSS files I come up with a gold encrusted gem. Namely, a bit of spoofing by Terry Reeves. None other! Take it away Terry while I take a breather.....



"HE SAID 6 GALLONS, NURSE. ANY TYPE WILL DO....."

The
JOURNEY

of the
VACUUM BEETLE

by TERRY JEEVES

The planet was lonely and dark as it swung on it's monotonous journey through space. Lonely because it was the only offspring of a dark star, and dark because of an absence of light. High on a rocky ridge sat Gai-ga, one of the few remaining life forms on the planet.

For many teks Gai-ga had been remorsefully trailing an odour emanating from a gaym. The gaym creatures were becoming scarcer, and in consequence so was the source of bul which Gai-ga's stomach craved so much. How well he remembered the days when he and his brethren would flock to the hunting grounds, pass through the tunnâtiles to the accompanying clink of the Gai-ga counters.

And then they would see the gaym.

But now these days were gone, and it looked suspiciously like Gai-ga would shortly follow them into limbo, unless a new source of bul appeared.

Then it happened. A great roaring filled the tenuous air around him. There was a flash that covered the sky, and as Gai-ga's eyes readjusted he saw a huge spherical object settling to the ground just a short distance away. Fearlessly he approached it, in time to see a rectangle of light appear in the sphere's bulk, and four dumpy figures emerge. Gai-ga's tendrils stiffened. Here was bul - bags of bul in fact. Now if only he could get aboard the ship both himself and the precious contents in his cranium would be saved.....

Melton, skipper of the Vacuum Beetle, gazed thoughtfully around as he stepped from the ship. Suddenly he saw Gai-ga, whom to Melton looked like a large flower. Melton stepped forward to pluck the flower, only to find it didn't need plucking. Instead of roots it had a mess of course tendrils that it apparently used for some form of locomotion or moving. At the top of the mess, two finer tendrils could be seen, surmounted by a large ball. "What do you make of it, Juanita?" He asked.

The Russian grunted. "Harmless. Let's put it in a jar in the mess-room."

One hour later a crew member was found smeared all over the mess-room ceiling. While the more artistic members of the crew debated over whether the colour-scheme was harmonious, others organized a search party for the killer. He would have organized it himself only he happened to be elsewhere at the time.

A search for possible hiding places disclosed three more bodies, all treated with the same smear technique. Gophknew, the only neckist on board, pronounced them dead and after X-Raying their bodies with a multiple singlescope, called the Skipper.

"Melton, this is hot stuff. Those men haven't got a trace of brain matter left inside them. I have two deductions to make and an offer of advice. Either someone slipped up in 'Intelligence', or our little pansy has done it. I suggest we kill the damn thing."

Melton scoffed, and told Gophknew that no crew member was expected to have any brains. The smearing was part of a undercover campaign to discredit his authority. After this bit Gophknew immediately hypnotised the entire crew by means of a vogtometer and set out to catch Pansy. He found her picking the Captain's brains and quickly threw a handy bucket of weedkiller over Gai-ga. Gei-ga immediately planted a cranium cell in the Skipper's remains and attacked Gophknew, who grabbed a Tommy-gun from a rack on the wall and fired it at Gai-ga, yelling "You ain't no lady!"

If Gai-ga had understood that last remark, he would have pointed out that it was the neckist's one track mind always dwelling on Neck-ing that lead to the error. Not understanding, Gai-ga therefore dodged the bullets and chased Gophknew down the corridor. The neckist snatched a house brick from his pocket and hurled it at Gai-ga, unfortunately with no effect.

Thrashing through the hydroponic gardens he scattered radioactive dust behind him. This he followed with a handgrenade, a baseball bat, and a pair of shoes the cook had only recently left lying around.

All this to no avail. Gai-ga still came on.

As a last resort Gophknew energised all the floors, ceilings and walls, first putting on dry socks so as not to energise himself. Gei-ga copied his movements and continued to advance. Nearer and nearer he waddled. Gophknew pressed back against the wall, and as he did so something prodded him in the back. He grasped it and brought it forth into view. It was a fanzine illustrated by that infra-weird artist, Sunburn Phipps. Gei-ga took one look, screamed, and just shrivelled up. "No wonder", Gophknew thought as he fainted, fell to the floor and bashed in his skull on the carpet. He never recovered, so the crew of the Beetle are still in a state of hypnosis.....thankhod.

(continuing?)

FANZINES IN AUSTRALIA

Continuing where we left off, just before our encounter with the Gai-gas, we were discussing fanzines. I think. Anyway, according to Mervyn Binns and Ian Crozier, a second issue, no doubt the last, of BACCHANALIA will be issued for the Olympicon. This will be a sooper-doooper piece of work, if the examples I've seen of the artwork (again on blocks. Seems to be agiving a little bit of trouble so they had to put it up on the blocks.....UP ON THE BLOCKS, see? Oh well.....) Only enough will be printed to cover expenses, and it will be on sale at the Con. I can't say whether or not the quality of the material will be up to par, but I imagine it will be the typically fannish stuff as with the first issue.

To return to past ventures : Round about the time the first ETHERLINE made it's appearance, Graham Stone, long time Sydney fan (among other things), president of the ASFPS (Australasian Science Fiction Society, which did more good in uniting a few hundred fans all over Aussie than any other organization), and fairly good writer, launched a publication by name of SCIENCE FICTION NEWS. This one was a four page photo-lithoed job, much along the lines of the offsett issues of FANTASY TIMES. The unfortunate part about the venture was that even though the production was excellent, the writing (by Stone and occasionally by Ackerman and Co.) competent, the "news" was usually way out of date. Copies of FANTASY TIMES were getting to Australia before Stone had the news in SFN. The less ambitious but more friendly ETHERLINE continued to be first with the news, excellent reviews covering the ENTIRE field of magazines, books and pocket-books, reviewing every issue of the mags as they came out and every hard cover and every pb - including the Statten and Curtis books. In short, it was a full and concise coverage of the science fiction world. In comparison, one well-known fan has called SFN as "interesting as a race between two snails." This might well be so. At any rate, editor Stone, after keeping his sheet on a monthly basis for a year or so, has now turned to bi-monthly. Instead of photo-lithoed, it is now typeset, in so being superior to previous issues. Editor has changed his style somewhat, in that the object doesn't seem to be news, but rather a survey of the current science fiction field every two months. As such it is an admirable production, but there just isn't enough of it.

The Melbourne publishers of ETHERLINE launched one of the weirdest attempts at fan publishing about eighteen months or so ago. This was entitled QUESTION MARK. The editor, first Kevin Wheelahan and later Ian Crozier, didn't seem quite sure what they were trying to do. The whole magazine was devoid of any personality whatsoever, despite the fair standard of material presented. As ETHERLINE was sold over the counter of one of Melbourne's leading booksellers and the leading science fiction centre in Australia, the idea was to sell "?" along the same lines. As

PAGE NINE.....This is getting bigger than I intended

a result you could find articles by Poul Anderson and others, reprinted by permission from the RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST in an effort to promote sales amongst the casual reader of s-f as well as the known fans, a series of articles on - of all things - DIANETICS, a case of flogging the dead horse yet again, and such illuminating articles as "IS GALAXY SO GOOD?"

There was an assortment of fan fiction by local boys that never amounted to much, but the mag never seemed to catch on and finished after five issues. Due again, apparently, to the disinterest shown by the fans. It was apparent, however, that the editors were unfamiliar in producing FANZINES, and the result, as in "?" was a queer hodge-podge of pseudo-professionalism produced in a mimeod fanzine. Editor Crozier took over the last three issues - in fact he did most of the editing for ALL the issues, but he just couldn't seem to breathe life into the magazine. As an assembler of news and reviews Crozier is second to none, and ETHERLINE is a credit to the producers, considering the difficulties under which it is now put out. But QUESTION MARK is a black mark that is best forgotten. Fancy trying to pretend a fanzine is a professional publication. Ghu forbäd! "?" consisted of 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ f'cap pages, mimeod and with typed story headings. The cover, was a printed affair. Only illos were used in the

ATTENTION! : This is a musical fanzine. It is stencilled with a sharp "c".
"e" see what I mean?

last few issues, and these were only regular tiny 'fillers'.

When Aussie fan politics were at their best, about two years ago, Bill Veney up in the wilds of Queensland produced a political newsheet by name of UGH! One of the better fanzines, I might add, and funny at times. Trouble was it never went to more than eight or so pages and only saw a handful of issues before new parties came into power.

At the present time the only fanzines now published are ETHERLINE, every three weeks and edited by Ian Crozier, SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, bi-monthly and edited by Graham Stone, and I believe there are a number of "litt irregulars", such as SONIC, which comes from the North Shore Futurian Society in Sydney, a rather juvenile affair of six odd pages, and one from NEW ZEALAND, of all places! At the present time I haven't an exact list to make; you will see that next issue. I know that the editors of the magazines concerned would be more than happy to post you a sample copy - maybe even COPIES, as I know some of them have quite a backlog of issues of hand. Deep in my own dark cellar I have about fifty odd copies of the gem of a final issue of PERHAPS that I'd like to get rid of. Just send a name and address to the villas listed at the end of the rag.

I'm a biblical typist.....Seek and ye will find

The above copyright by Bob Mc.Cubbin. We don't have much fun down here and digging for puns can be an arduous job. Not to say tough.

Promags

Down Under

This story begins about eight or nine years ago. I am speaking now of the POST-WAR field down under. I haven't either the authority or the knowledge to speak on events prior to that. Maybe in a later issue I'll get Bill Vency or someone to do an article along those lines. However, our story begins about that time, and with that infamous magazine known as THRILLS INCORPORATED. Some of you English fans might have seen copies of it. But I wonder how many of you know the hectic story behind this mag?

To begin with, THRILLS was without a doubt the most juvenile "science fiction" magazine ever published. The general line was just written comic strips - no characterisation, no writing, no nothing. Just the plain comic-book stories without the illos to go with them. I distinctly remember the first issue featured a "novel" of the future by the name of "Space Race". This one involved a race to Mars by two privately built space-ships and so forth. Actually had a mad scientist and a beautiful ditto, too. Brother, if you think the John Spencer mags were bad, you don't know how lucky you were!

Format of the first issue was about 8"x6", 40 odd pages. Illustrated(?) and with the colour cover. This sold for 6d. After a few issues it increased size (10"x8") and bulk (64p.p.) but the quality remained the same. It appeared on a roughly monthly schedule.

Now, it was about this time that one of the house authors either came across some U.S. mags or had them loaned to him. At any rate, he coined the brilliant idea of "lifting" certain stories and submitting them under his own name to THRILLS. Needless to say, they were subsequently published. Some times this hack just lifted the plot idea and re-wrote it to the THRILLS standard, but when Aussifans began to recognise stories taken from THRILLING WONDER, PLANET, and a few others, as appearing in their ORIGINAL form, they quite naturally got stuck into the publishers. Some of the plagiarised items that come quickly to mind are "Spaceways Checkmate" from PLANET as "Stalemate in Space" by Charles L. Harness, and the crowning indignity of all, "Marionettes, Inc" by Ray Bradbury.

After hearing from Vol Molesworth about this state of affairs, the hack who wrote under such names as D.K. Garton and Durham Keys was given the order of the boot and was never heard of again. Whether this was to prove an omen or not we did not know. But THRILLS never seemed to recover after that. Later on it cut down to digest size and 36 pages for 9d. They also had to appease one plagiarised author, F.C. Rayer, by allocating him free

advertising space for his novel, "TOMORROWSOMETIMES COMES", when it appeared.

THRILLS lasted out about 36 issues, building up it's circulation from 2,000 to 8,000 in that time. I don't know what caused them to fold the mag, perhaps because the circulation began dropping as soon as NEW WORLDS and associate mags began to put in an appearance in quantity over here.

Australia's leading professional writer is a chap by name of Frank Brynning, hailing from the wilds of Queensland. Frank first began appearing with stories in the local 'slick', AUSTRALIAN MONTHLY. His stories were, without one exception, on and about the space stations and their affiliates. As such they were excellent examples of the Heinlein-Sat. Eve. Post style. Frank had about half a dozen in this high-paying magazine before he came in contact with Aussifandom, through "A.M.", or so I believe. From the very off~~set~~ he proved a popular and friendly fellow in fandom, became well liked and steered well clear of the 'lunatic fringe' constantly engaged in bitter, asinine feuds.

Frank was represented in FORERUNNER, and later began selling with appalling regularity to the American FANTASTIC UNIVERSE. It has got so that some of us are beginning to wonder if Frank pays the editor! He is now invading the sacred domain of Cannell, and already has one delightful little gem appearing, "Place of the Throwing Stick", in a recent NEW WORLDS.

Doug Nicholson has the dubious distinction of having appeared in GALAXY to the tune of 300 dollars. ("Far From The Warming Sun" by R.D. Nicholson.) Dubious because he hasn't attempted it a second time, perhaps because he's been too busy editing FORERUNNER - and getting married. We're all pretty proud of our Doug, and it would be nice to see him crack the mag again.

Shortly before THRILLS folded, a new 'magazine' appeared. This was a pocketbook/36 pages effort, sub titled AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION. Whatever happened to be the lead story in any issue got the cover, with AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION down in a corner. The series were unnumbered and undated. They consisted solely of American reprints, selecting from the BEST SF STORIES series, Campbell's WHO GOES THERE, Heinlein's THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON and numerous stuff from THRILLING WONDER, FUTURE and associated magazines. It appeared monthly and kept up a regular appearance for well over 36 issues. It was graced with really terrific covers by a local lad named Stanley Pitt, who had also illustrated for the latter issues of THRILLS.

Towards the end of the series the publisher launched a companion mag titled SELECTED SCIENCE FICTION, same size, same price, but numbered this time. This only saw 4 or five issues, and though the general standards of both series was high they were ultimately suspended. Reason given was just a falling off in sales till they finally were just breaking even. The publishers, I might add, had treated fandom with unusual sincerity. They even did an unprecedented thing/ⁱⁿ giving three

FREE back cover advertisements for Australian fandom. Not only did this bring in many new members to the local groups but it gained quite a bit of attention from the casual reader. The results were highly satisfying. Naturally, the mags were missed.

A little over two years ago saw the advent of TWO promags of mixed merit. They were called FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION (sic.) and POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION. The first issues appeared with pretty horrible covers, copied from U.S. mags, and contents reprinted from various U.S. sources. The interesting part was that after Sydney fandom contacted the publishers certain BNF's were put on the advisory staff of the mags concerned, to aid in selecting the right material. The publishers insisted that they wanted to please the fans as well as the public, and, naturally, the fans jumped to it.

Three months staggered by. The mags were supposed to appear at alternate months, but so far nothing had happened. Then the publisher announced that the object had been to dispose of 15,000 copies of the mags in three months. As this number had been reached they would go ahead with future issues.

Both FUTURE and POPULAR began running fan columns on both the inside front and back covers. These were written by Vol Molesworth, and later by Graham Stone. The columns were slanted at getting the casual reader interested in fandom, rather than the established fans. So the columns continued on along this line, while the general make-up of the mags continued to improve.

Then funny things began to happen. The publishers announced that arrangements had been made with Forry Ackerman wherein they were to be supplied with a steady stream of first rate material. At the same time they began printing stories by Australian authors. Frank Bryning appeared, along with Norma Hemming and John Vile, with some pretty good yarns, but the "steady stream of first rate material" turned out to be merely a lot of rubbish Forry hadn't been able to foist off on the yankee markets.

Now, no one knows what actually caused this. Naturally, any fan who has access to American s-f quite naturally doesn't favour reprints. I don't know whether it was the fans "advising" that decided the publishers against the reprint policy and moved their attention to unpublished material, but I'd hate to think it was the fans. Original material - yes, but from Australian authors only. It was quite natural that Australian rates couldn't hope to compete with overseas markets. I know what the Aussie rates are, and they represent about 15% to 16% of the U.S. market.

The American stuff was awful. It wasn't surprising that the mags folded shortly after this, through their own fault, more's the pity. The magazines were a good idea. Their regularity was great, their fan columns ditto. Too bad they had to go off the track.

These magazines were both digest sized, 64 pages, and sold for 1/3, and later at 1/6. Then finis.

While POPULAR and FUTURE were still staggering along, the Australian publishers of the ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE issued No.1 of THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION. This was by arrangement with Mercury Publications, and contained selections from various issues of the American mags. It was not a complete reprint of any one issue. It had 128 pages, slick cover stock, and sold for 2/-. The schedule was quarterly.

Quite frankly, considering the past ventures, I don't think any of us expected the good mag to last very long. And we were highly suspicious of that 'quarterly' tag. However, it is STILL going strong - from strength to strength, as the saying goes. It has seen six excellent issues, and I understand the circulation is phenomenal, something in the region of ten or twelve thousand. For Aussie, that's really something.

Hot on the heels of MF&SF came the most ambitious promag ever to be seen down here. It was titled modestly SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY. That's right, a real, honest-to-god MONTHLY. It was 98 pages, printed on SEMI-SLICK paper with COLOR ILLS. This set us back 2/-, but it was well worth it. The publishing company, Atlas Publications of Melbourne, are one of the biggest mass publishers in the Southern Hemisphere. They issue everything from a hundred odd comic-book titles to mass circulation 'men's' magazines like SQUIRE. It was only natural, therefore, that they should give their first science fiction magazine a good send off.

The first issue was made up of stories and illustrations -including cover- from SCIENCE FICTION PLUS. While the Gernsback mag wasn't too popular with some fans, mainly in the States, it went down with a bang over here, and I, for one, couldn't think of a better choice as a reprint source, bearing in mind that the BREs of GALAXY and ASF are so widely circulated here that reprinting from THEM would be disastrous.

Much to our surprise, the second issue rolled out precisely on schedule. It featured the same slick cover (again from SFP) slick paper and colour illos. Again, all stories were from the Gernsback mag. Things were too good to be true when the THIRD issue appeared right on the dot. This was getting to be too much of a habit! A regular monthly Aussie magazine had once been only a dream, and now.....

The fourth issue came again from SFP. The fifth issue plummeted way down the scale. Not only was the slick paper dropped, but also the colour illos. Add to this the fact that most of the reprints were from COSMOS and you get a pretty lousy idea of the state the mag was in. This issue's cover was also from COSMOS. Number 6 followed suit, with a good Robert Bloch yarn from SFP and the rest a lot of bilge from COSMOS. Number 7 marked a brief return to form. Cover from SFP, as were most of the stories, which were, on the whole, excellent. Number 8 was more bilge (with one exception, a short-short by Chandler) from COSMOS. Cover

ditto .

At long last, came number nine and a change for the better. They stopped printing from COSMOS and instead turned to OTHER WORLDS and IMAGINATION. Their stories provide that something different, that something that is now lost now that STARTLING and THRILLING WONDER are no longer with us. They may not be carefully thought out masterpieces, but they do provide light entertainment for the less-serious minded fan. Anyway, this issue catapulted back to it's former position. Along with this came the news that with issue No.12 they would increase the number of pages to 114. These 6 extra pages would be devoted wholly and solely to fandom. That's right US. Graham Stone (he seems to get into everything) would be the winner, and the series would be modeled along the lamented INSIDE SCIENCE FICTION column run by Robert Adle in DYNAMIC.

Now this is a Good Thing. I only hope the success doesn't go to Graham's head. I can't help remembering what happened to POPULAR and FUTURE. I wouldn't like to see SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY follow them. It's a good mag and just the shot in the arm that's needed down here. The last issue to hand is No.11, again reprints from MADGE and OW. I understand the publishers are willing to accept stories from Aussie authors. A young lad by the name of W.N. Whiteford has one in No.12, also one in the 'man's' magazine put out by the same firm, SQUIRE. Needless to say, he has 'discovered' fandom and I hope he survives the encounter.

TO SUM UP, science fiction is booming down here. I suppose it was inevitable. After the U.S. England followed suit, and now it's our turn. Frank Brynning continues to appear in a monthly mag by name of THE AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL, A.M. having folded some time ago. Many of the weeklies and monthlies are tolerant towards s-f, but seem to prefer to run overseas stuff, though they will accept local effort if they like it. David Duncan's DARK DOMINION was serialised in WOMEN'S WEEKLY, as was Wyndham's DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS some years ago. Quite a few Bradbury yarns have appeared in WOMAN, and quite a few shorts have appeared in the weekly papers.

A LAST WORD ON FANZINES :

It's a belief in most Aussie fan circles (excluding the ETHERLINE/PERHAPS group) that artwork is unnecessary in fanzines. It is because of this that other attempts at fanmags have been so bloody dull. The reason there isn't any in this issue is for the simple reason I haven't located an artist as yet. Dick Jenness has deserted fandom for a University career that doesn't allow him time, at the present, for fanning. However, I'll have this matter under control by the next issue (in 4 weeks time), so I trust you won't suffer spots before they eyes as you no doubt have with this issue. I must also get to work and file down both the "c" and "o". Also my fingerhails which are too long to type with anyway.....

No doubt some of you are wondering just what our Conventions are like Down Under . Just to give you an idea, here is the report of the 4th. Australian S-F Convention held in Sydney on March 19th; 1955. The next will be held on December 1st, 1956.

AUSSIE CON :

W.S.

1955

By
IAN CROZIER

THIS REPORT FIRST APPEARED IN ISSUE No.47 OF "ETHERLINE"

As a prolude to the Convention, a very successful Fancy Dress Ball was held on Friday evening, March 18th; at the Convention site, Dunbar House, Watson's Bay. This had to be seen to be believed. Although the attendance of 40 could have been bettered, everyone present had a whale of a time. Some of the sights of the Ball were Bill Veney and partner as "Salome and the Wandering Jew", Arthur Haddon painted green as a Martain Grub, and, in my opinion, the best costume of them all : Norma Hemming as the DYNAMIC cover, recently out as a BRE, a Venusian swamp girl. Fortunately, the colour Norma used was a vegetable dye and came off fairly easily. Arthur was still showing signs of the copper based chemical HE used on Saturday evening. The report of his demise is expected hourly.

Bill Hubble turned up as a character out of Sprague de Camp's "Stolen Doormouse", while Doug. Nicholson was in character as a ghoul. Crozier went as himself. Gaaaah!

As a contrast to other years, this show went off with a bang, and so set the tempo for the rest of the Con. We can only hope that the participants have recovered by now, though Bill Veney was still looking a bit sick on it at the time of leaving.

SATURDAY MORNING :

Good publicity was obtained via the press and radio on the Saturday morning, and around 30 fans turned up for the morning

session, which was mainly a get-together-and-meet-your-neighbour-do. Original artwork was displayed from NEW WORLDS and NEBULA, both lots of which were auctioned on Sunday morning. On behalf of the Convention Committee, I would like to go on record, and extend our sincere thanks to both these publishing companies for their support shown to the Convention.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON :

The session opened around 2.30 P.M. with Dr. John Blatt being introduced by Con Chairman, Pat Burke. The title of Dr. Blatt's address was SCIENCE IN SCIENCE FICTION, and in contrast to previous conventions, this was interesting. My opposition to serious and technical address at a science FICTION Convention is well known, and I was prepared to criticise Dr. Blatt as much as I have previous Convention speakers. But I was agreeably suprised at the line taken by Dr. Blatt. He made good points on the earlier s-f, pointing out that science in those days in the main was a long a dreary description of a gadget which nobody, including the author, knew anything about. The renaissance came about under John W. Campbell, Jr. in the late 1930's, in which that editor pushed stories featuring the effect of new inventions on SOCIETY.

All in all, the address was most warmly welcomed by all those present, and I for one hope to see more emphasis in future on science fiction at Conventions, as Dr. Blatt gave us.

"Cats and other Pieces" by Lovecraft? Sounds more like something out of a Chinese restuarant to me..... T

TRANSPORTATION IN THE FUTURE was the title of an address given by Mr. John Spence, while Wing Commander Ian Scott gave a talk on Dianetics. I would assume these addresses were of interest to (a) a transport enthusiast, and (b) a Dianetics fan. To me they were just so much wasted time.

GUEST OF HONOUR was Arthur C. Clarke, and Dr. Blatt then went on the platform and provided the second highlight of the day, answering many and varied questions from the floor. I was amazed at some of the questions. They must have been boning up for weeks !

Mr. Clarke disclosed that the Americans were advanced in their plans for an Earth Satellite Vehicle, and in his opinion they should be in operation withing 10 years. One Sydney newspaper reporter apparently got carried away, as he reported Clarke as saying that man would be on the MOON in 10 years. It just goes to show you never want to say much when there's a reporter around, or you'll surprise yourself in the morning.

This was a very enjoyable part of the proceedings, and when it had concluded tea was taken. Attendance at this session was 51.

SATURDAY NIGHT :

Film night. Lead show was the epic DAY THE EARTH STOOD

17.....and this has got to end somewhere soon....

STILL, starring Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal . Sam Jaffe and Gort. Most readers know this one so I won't go into detail. Second film was the silent classic Fritz Lang's METROPOLIS from way back in the 20's.

SUNDAY MORNING :

Only about 20 fans turned up for the auction, and as a result prices were very low. There were only about 20 American items, the balance being BREs and original British pbs. and magazines. Top price was paid by yours truly : 17/6 for the pb. edition of Collier's FANCIES AND GOODNIGHTS. Mostly, the American stuff brought around 3/-, and the rest about 1/-.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON :

To some this was the best session of the whole Convention. Personally, I think it was a disgrace. Supposedly the 'business session', the business of presenting reports was finished fairly soon, and the matter which had flared up at the last convention was on again.

Of course he does have his moments of self doubt. I caught him down the back of the outhouse asking himself if he was as good as he knew he was.....

Reports were received from the Melbourne SF Group, delivered by Jack Keating; Adelaide SF Association by Margaret Finch, read by Arthur Haddon; Mr. Bill Veney gave attendees an idea of the activities of the Brisbane SF Group; Ted Butt reported on the demise of the Newcastle Group; Vol Moleworth gave a report on the Futurian Society of Canberra; Mrs. Molesworth reported that the Vertical Horizons femme group was apparently non-existent, but that it was hoped to form a new femme group in the near future for activities in connection with the FSS and Thursday Night Groups.

Mr Brian Finch was suprised to be asked for a report on the activities of the ARCTURIAN PLAYERS, but obliged as best he could. He announced the holding of a competition for would-be playwrights. For further particulars, contact Brian.

Bill Hubble reported on the activities of the North Shore Futurian Society, and mentioned that most of the energy of this group had been devoted to the Convention this year, so activities had been small.

David Cohen reported on the activities of the Blue Centaur Book Centre.

On behalf of the Futurian Society of Sydney, Ken Martin detailed the organization's activities over the past year, pointing out how close to extinction the club had been prior to the return of Bluey Glick from Melbourne. This situation can be traced to the split in Sydney fandom which took place some eighteen months ago.

Doug Nicholson reported on the present position of FORERUNNER, saying that the third issue would be the last. He mentioned that in his opinion there was great need for a magazine of FORERUNNER's type in Australia, in order to develop the fan authors and so help them break into the pro field. He hoped that somefan with more resources would start one.

A motion was moved by Vol Molesworth praising the work of Don Tuck in putting out the HANDBOOK OF SF & FANTASY, which, I am sure, every reader will second.

Doug Nicholson reported on the activities of the Bridge Club Group and SCANSION. He outlined the reasons for the move to the Bridge Club, and the reasons for the local sheet SCANSION, which was "a modern Futurian Observer, both in scope and popularity." (?)

It was moved by Vol Molesworth and seconded by Bluey Glick that the meeting deplore the Obscene Publications Bill now before the N.S.W parliament. This was carried unanimously.

The Chairman, Pat Burke, asked whether any progress had been made on the motion put forward at last year's convention, that the two Sydney Groups meet and try and iron out their difficulties. Motion was made and carried that the discussion be held under an impartial chairman, and delegate Ian Crozier from Melbourne was 'bulldozed' into the chair. He made it clear that the position was unhappy for him.

Discussion was held as to whether the tape recorder should be switched off, in view of the contentious matter being discussed. After a lot of heated discussion it was decided to leave the recording continue, but be transcribed under supervision of the Convention Committee.

Discussion was heated, and acting chairman Crozier never had much hope of controlling the meeting. I won't go into the gory details, but will finish on the earnest hope that when the two groups meet on April 4th they conclude once and for all this childish wrangling. After all, it's only a hobby - to most of us, anyway - and should be treated that way.

From where I sat it looked as if the whole thing was merely a clash of personalities, and the sooner these personalities are gagged, forced out or resign from fan activities altogether the better it will be for all concerned.

This type of thing was alright when we were schoolchildren but one expects a bit better from them now. My God! The Labor Party hasn't got anything on Sydney Fandom!

SUNDAY EVENING :

Highlight of the last portion of the Convention was an original play authored by Norma Hemming. It managed some publicity in the Saturday morning papers; titled MISS DENTON'S DILEMA it was tagged SEX WITH HEX in the tabloids, and as a result there was a very large audience present eagerly awaiting the raising of the curtain. When this was done by a very engaging nymph there was an immediate raising of blood pressure among certain members of the audience.

The play was a clever piece of work, reminiscent of the work of the late Thorne Smith, what with Gods, Goddesses, nymphs and etc. wandering around in gay abandon and very little else. Capable acting by the cast was appreciated, with Jack Legget superb in the alcoholic portrayal of the father of the Gods, Bill Vency suitably loud as Mars, Norma Homming as Miss Denton (younger version), Brian Finch doubling as Bacchus and the

older Miss Denton, and an unbelievable Cupid in the person of Bluey Glick.

On the whole, the Convention was a great success, and congratulations are to be extended to Arthur Haddon for the superb location of Dunbar House and to all other members of the committee.

Only one thing was missing - the result of the Short Story and Artwork Competition. What about it?

The artwork from NEW WORLDS and NEBULA was auctioned on Sunday evening and brought fabulous prices. Average was around 30/- each.

I was informed that all profits (if any) from the Convention will be passed on to the Melbourne Group for the Olympicon. This is a common practice in the States, and we here in Melbourne will continue it. Thanks a lot, Sydney.

Ian J. Crozier.

WELL, THERE YOU ARE.

If the above article has proved unintentionally funny I wouldn't be suprised. I think mayhap the graveyard gravity of proceedings (with 2 notable exceptions) might make Cuck Harris and Vinz Clarke laff themselves sane.

I do think that the Olympicon will be a bigger and better affair from all standpoints.

After all, the Melbourne fans are running it, aren't they? And tho they're pretty serious, they can at least laugh at themselves. That's an admizable quality down here.

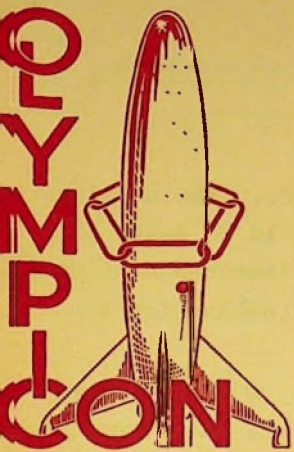
SPEAKING OF TRUFANS

which I was umpteen pages ago, I might add that the only other trufans found down this neck of the globe are Rog Dard and Bill Veney. Perhaps a few others - but I wouldn't swear to it.

AND THAT'S ABOUT IT

You'll find on the following page a list of people who'll be getting this mag, plus the rates plus the address and all that sort of thing. You'll also find a rather interesting announcement from Melbourne ampubbing that might interest you.

Ah well, till issue number 2.....and where can I get some crud to fill it up with?



5th AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION MELBOURNE

Dec. 8 & 9 1956

OVERSEAS PUBLICITY SECTION

6 Bramerton Road,
Caulfield, S.E.8.,
Vict. Aust. May, 1956.

Publicity Release 6

CONVENTION PLAY

Barry G. Salgram, a Group member, has been appointed Convention Committee in charge of the Play, and in addition, will act as producer. Barry has had considerable experience with Theatre groups both here in Melbourne and in Ballarat. I am sure that the play will be an unqualified success.

The play will be presented at the Congregational Hall, Cnr. Kent and Burnley Sts., Richmond, a few minutes walk from the main Convention hall. This is in order to give a proper presentation of the work.

A programme will be issued, and will be priced at 6d. For those interested purely in the play, associate membership is available at 2/6.

A good turn up from both amateur and professional theatre ranks is promised, and the play should go down as one (if not the) of the most successful sections of the Convention.

BALANCE OF POWER, by Norma K. Homming, is a serious drama, and will be really worth seeing, I can assure you.

Contd.

AUCTION MATERIAL

Of one thing I'm sure. The auction to be held at various stages of the Convention WILL be the best yet held in Australia. Why? Because even now we have more items, including rare items, than has been disposed of in past Conventions. In view of this, we have had to make a deadline for the receipt of auction material.

No material will be accepted after November 1st., in order that we may have sufficient time to prepare a catalogue. The usual commission of 10% will be deducted for material sold on behalf of attendees, and all donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

So get you material in as soon as you can, please.

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CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS

Further to our list in P.R. 4, the following fans have registered to date :

23.	Don Latimer	Victoria
24.	Anthony Boucher	U.S.A.
25.	R. B. Martin	Victoria
26.	H. H. Rippon	Victoria
27.	W. Patey.	Victoria
28.	Rex Meyer	N.S.W.
29.	J. Cleary	Victoria
30.	Don. Tuck	Tasmania
31.	Doug. Nicholson	N.S.W.
32.	H. Styles	Victoria

We thank those persons, and invite all fans everywhere to send their registration fees as soon as possible to :

R. J. McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove,
Hawthorn, Vic. Aust.

tomorrow

Editor: L. J. HARDING
Editorial Office: 4 MYRTLE GROVE
PRESTON, VIC.,
AUSTRALIA

THE WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION

The above is the title of a new "little" magazine to be published in late November, just prior to the Olympiads. It will feature mainly off-trail science fiction and fantasy stories by leading professional writers, as well as well-known amateurs. Payment for all material published will be by a 'cash prize' basis. This will average out around £1 per thousand words.

Articles of a serious, critical nature will also be featured. These may be in the form of 'book reviews'. Bibliographies of famous and/or lesser known writers of the genre will also appear at frequent intervals.

Publication will be at quarterly intervals. The magazine will be 30 to 36 printed pages. Editor will be L.J. Harding. As yet no British or American agents have been appointed. You will be informed regarding this matter in a later issue of ANTIPODES.

In conclusion, we would like to encourage contributions by British and American fans on the above basis. If YOU are a budding author we will offer criticism and suggestions if we fail to accept your manuscript. We are interested primarily in unusual and off-trail themes, particularly those that might be termed 'taboo touching' by the promags, rather than technical perfection, no matter how nicely it might read. Originality of theme and treatment are the basic requirements to all stories printed in "tomorrow".

We would be pleased if all those interested dropped a line to the editorial address of ANTIPODES. (see overleaf.)

-0-

Here follows a list of people who will receive this issue of ANTIPODES. As we are anxious to increase the mailing list (for obvious reasons) we would appreciate hearing from other addressees :

U.K.

WALTER A. WILLIS
PAUL ENEVER
ERIC BENTCLIFFE
MAL ASHWORTH
HARRY TURNER
MIKE WALLACE
FRED SMITH
RON BENNETT
HELEN WINNICK
TERRY JEEVES
ETHEL LINDSAY
NIGEL LINDSAY
LENE BOOTHROTD
DON ALLEN
SID BIRCHBY

ERIC JONES
ARCHIE MERCER
PETER TAYLOR
JOY GOODWIN
DAPHNE BUCKMASTER
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KEN BULMER
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BOB SILVERBERG
TERRY CARR
SHELBY VICK
GERALD STEWART
DAVE MASON
PETER VORZOMER
DON HOWARD DONNELL
JOHN HITCHCOCK
BOB FARNHAM
CAROL MC.KINNEY
KENT COREY
LYLE AMLIN
IAN T. MACUALEY.
GREECE :
BASIL COUTIS (PTO)

...and last of all :

HOLLAND :

DAVE VENDELMANS & CO.

GERMANY :

JULIAN PARR

Y
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ANTIPODES, The Voice of Down Under.

Issued monthly from 510 Drummond St;
Carlton, N.3,
Victoria,
AUSTRALIA.

It is edited and generally thrown
together by one Leo J. Harding at
the above address.

SUB RATE : 6 issues for 5/6.

In U.S. A : 6 issues for two
ptomags in GOOD condition.

P
U
R
E
L
Y FOR THE HECK
OF IT.

IF YOU WANNA SUB SEE INSIDE!

Oh, by the way. The next issue will
have at least 32 pages of humour(?)
so don't give up hope - yet.

P R I N T E D M A T T E R O N L Y

TO : _____

(RETURN ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE)

to assist reading remove this staple :