

AOSTRA FANTASY

NO. 1

JUNE



AUSTRA-FANTASY

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June 1940

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"AUSTRA-FANTASY" is published quarterly
from 183 Domain Road, South Yarra. S.E.1
Melbourne.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - 6d. per copy.

We will be glad to include advertisements for any other mag.

- AUSTRALIA-FANTASY -

Vol. I

No. 1

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We are here with the first issue of "AUSTRALIA-FANTASY". It cannot be compared with the veterans in the Australian field as yet, but we'll buck up soon. The serial in this issue is absolutely an amateur effort. It was rated quite highly in the short stories from our Class in 1939.

We intend to appear quarterly, unless something interferes, and we shall need plenty of contributions. Come on, you fans send in your articles, stories etc. and don't forget the verse page. Send in your letters criticizing our first issue.

Warwick Hockley)
Keith Taylor c) EDITORS

"SUPRON'S FOLLY"

Supron was tired. Also he had nothing to do. He began to get peevish and irritable. Then he noticed one of the infernal clusters of light that were everywhere floating in through the door. They were still a mystery to him as he was only a youngster and had not had much scientific training.

But still, it aroused his interest. He bent forward to examine the cluster. It seemed to be composed of numerous specks of light. He wondered vaguely what they were really made up of. Well, he could soon find out. He picked up his force-projector and directed the cluster over to his father's experimental disintegration chamber.

The chamber was composed of a violin shaped box of incredibly dense metal. Even the all pervading light-clusters could not penetrate its walls.

Supron closed the door and switched on the current. He slowly advanced the rheostat until the gauges registered five hundred million volts. After half an hour he opened the door and porbed around inside with his force beam.

Nothing came out.

Aton, Supron's father came home from the laboratories that evening and Supron told him what he had done. Aton listened with mounting rage.

"You ignorant little fool!" he burst out as Supron finished his tale. "Some of those light-clusters, as you term them contained living worlds! From the description you give, I recognize the cluster you destroyed. One of the worlds in that system was green. There were seven seas on it and it swarmed with people. You have destroyed millions of living breathing people! You ought to be consigned to the disintegration chamber yourself! To them we would not be as dense as their most perfect vacuum!

-----oOo-----

"THE LOST CITY"

by

PETER TEHAN

Part I

CHAPTER 1

"Well, goodbye Harry. I wish you luck", said Bill, to the deep-sea diver, aboard the salvage ship "Marmaid". The vessel was in the mid-Atlantic, searching for a sunken bullion ship.

Staggering across the deck, hindered by his modern diving suit, Harry ordered a sailor to hurry and screw his helmet on. With a final wave of his hand Harry was lowered into the sea.

Bill waited and listened to the sailor sending messages to the diver below. After half an hour, a message came from Harry saying that a rock had fallen on his foot, and that he could not reach his boot to remove the rock. He asked for some one to come down and help him.

Having assured the captain that he was capable of the task, Bill quickly donned a diving suit, had his helmet adjusted and was lowered over the side of the "Mermaid" and into the sea beneath to help a trapped friend.

CHAPTER 2.

Bill at last touched the bottom of the sandy floor. Shoals of small fish darted here and there. He stumbled on, vainly searching for his lost friend. When at last he found Harry, he shuddered to think how he would get him back safely. With a heave, the rock toppled off the diver only to find that he had sprained his ankle and had to limp along the ocean floor.

The pair, one stumbling, one aiding, made their way (as they thought) slowly back to the ship, passing long wavering seaweed and strange fish. They at last came to a tall column of rock. With surprised eyes Bill saw a rough rock door at the bottom of the column. Both Harry and Bill pulled at the door, and to their surprise, it swung open.

The two divers went inside to find a small, dark room filled with water. With a grinding of unseen machinery, the water was strangely forced out of the open door, and, just as the last of the water was driven out, the door shut.

Suddenly without a sound the floor opened beneath their feet.

They hit hard rock. Unseen hands grasped them and suddenly all went black.

END OF PART I

"THE INVISIBLE MAN"

(Apologies to H.G. Wells)

"What be the book y're reading, Tim?" asked Mrs. Peters of her fourteen year old, London educated son.

"The Invisible Man", Mother - you know, H.G. Wells; its a good book, a bit fantastic though.

It's strange, Mother, you know living in the village where the story takes place. The Man kept his head covered with bandages, and when he took them off, it looked as if he had no head."

"That'd be awful" said Mrs. Peters as she went out. "It would be too", she reflected as she tidied up the dishes, "No head - brrrrr!"

She glanced out of the window. What was that on the lawn? Someone a stranger sitting in her favourite armchair! The window was covered in mist on the outside so she went outside to see who it was.

Suddenly, she screamed and stared incredulously. The figure in the chair was headless! She flopped down on a bench and tried to think.

"The Invisible Man". - It suddenly struck her; "He must be asleep; if she could get Tim to hit him on his invisible head with the iron -"

Tim, suddenly roused by the scream ran outside to see his mother prostrated on the bench.

"Why, Mother, what's wrong?" he asked anxiously.

"That - That; - The Invisible Man, she pointed, horrified.

"That - my guy? I haven't a mask for it yet. It's the 5th tomorrow you know."

This time, Mrs Peters had fainted..

-----oOo-----

S.F. QUIZ.

1. Who wrote "The Exile of the Skies"?
2. The hero of the "Moon Pool" was -
Martine Crane, Dick Jarvis, Larry
O'Keefe.
3. John Campbell Jr. wrote -
The Plutonian Drug, Uncertainty
Hebron Procyon
4. One of the first fan mags was -
Golden Atom, Time Traveller,
Fantasy News.
5. (TRUE OR FALSE)
E.E. Smith wrote "What a Course"
6. There have been four "Frankstein"
movies
7. The Author of "Darkness and Dawn"
was Eando Binder.
8. Arther J. Burks had a novel in
"Argosy" in 1939.
9. Who played the name part in the
"The Invisible Man"?
10. Who was the first managing editor
of "Wonder Stories"?

FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE

S.F. REVIEW

The latest "ASTOUNDING" (May) contains last novel of Phil Nowlan..... "Space Guards" which stops in this issue, with "Inertion" lifters, rocket pistols, disintegrators etc....." "Final Blackout", continues in another instalment quite as good as the first. Perhaps Ron Hubbard's best yarn.

Next is April "ASTONISHING". Best in issue is Harl Vincent's "Master Control" which a la T.W.S. is, "a novellette of the robot-controlled world". Some good illustrations by Hannes Bok in this issue; they illustrate "Stepsons of Mars".

In the May Y.W.S. which contains "7 Sleepers" (not one of Kuttner and Barnes' best!) the best is "Gems of Life" by Binder. They reveal in this issue that the story of Paramount's "Dr. Cyclops" was written by Kuttner! The yarn is lined up for June 1st.

If Henry can get one yarn filmed maybe he can get another. Perhaps we'll see a Carlyle-Quade in technicolor soon p'raps.

Tops in the May "UNKNOWN" is L.S. de C's "Roaring Trumpet" in which he collaborates with Fletcher Pratt.

Nothing more oh yes, Rogers' cover for "Space Guards" in "ASTOUNDING" is terrific.

PARAGRAPHS.ARTISTS -

Frank Paul seems to be getting more work lately. He's doing work for Amazing, Fantastic Adventures, Famous Fantastic Mysteries, Wonder etc. His work for F.F.M. seems to be fresher and clearer than his illustrations for the others. A very good one, I though was his cut for "The Time Twin" in T.W.S. His cover for Fantastic Adventures was good too.

Just the same I think Astounding has the best art work in the field

 Martin Alger and the SFTPOBEMOTCOSEM have a real monster on their hands with the April T.W.S. cover. It illustrates Kuttner's "Beauty and the Beast".

 It might interest some to know, that Well's "Invisible Man" Stapleton's "Last and First Men" a number of Sir James Jean's works and a Poe omnibus can all be obtained in the Penguin series for 10d. each. Also Well's "Shape of Things to Come" in Hutchinson's Pocket Library at 10d.

 "The Invisible Man" was recently revived at the Australian Cinema in Melbourne. I though that they didn't stick to the book very well.

During 1937 there was an s.f. serial entitled "Undersea Kingdom" It was about some scientists who find Atlantis in a rocket submarine. I don't think it was released out here but it was published as a serial in "Boys Cinema" and appeared to be well above the usual run of serials.

Last year in our class at Melbourne High, we had to write a short story for English. I was quite surprised at the number of s.f. yarns that turned up. One was a direct takeoff on Well's "Stolen Bacillus" substituting a ray for the bacillus.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE S.F.L.?

You, might say -"I don't think there's much wrong with it. There are chapters spread all over the U.S.A. holding regular mettings. What's wrong with that?"

There's nothing wrong with that. But that's not the point. Perhaps I should have said, What's wrong with its sponsors?

When the League was started back in 1934 by Hugo Gernsback, things were going fine. There was a drive for more s.f. films conducted by Forrest Ackerman and E.C. Reynolds. P. Schuyler Miller was organizing a bibliography. About twice a year science fiction tests were held by which fans could gain s.f. degrees, B. Stf. etc. Under the stimulation of the directors league members were urged to write editorials, articles and letters eto newspapers and periodicals. By means of these, scientification was brought more in the public eye.

However, when "Wonder" changed hands the size of the S.F.J. department began to decrease until now it has been reduced to about one column.

Why can't the S.F.L. be revived to its old form? Maybe someone will start a movement for revival in America. We out here can't do much.

-----oOo-----

VERSE.

These poems (oh yeah!) are not supposed to be perfect examples of how to write poetry. Please remember this.

"MEN OF SPACE"

The speed they fly at is immense,
and fast it needs to be:
For as they roar across the void
The dark and airless, deathly void
Their home cannot be seen

Their home is but a mote in space,
Circling a yellow star,
But as they roar across the void
They know that far across the void
A small green world awaits.

-----oOo-----

HOW WILL WE END?

How will the world end? Will it be destroyed in some vast eye-searing cosmic conflagration, or will the sun gradually begin to wane and die, until one day it finally blinks out and the earth is covered in a vast sheet of ice.

Both these things are quite possible and the former is possible today. A wandering planet or comet might collide with the sun and cause it to flare up and burn the planets to a crisp as far as the asteroids. There would be no protection for us against the flaring streamers of gas. The only escape would be to emigrate to the outer planets such as Uranus, Neptune etc.

The other possibility is quite obvious. Physics tells us that a store of potential energy must eventually die out. The sun has tremendous stores of energy but one day it will collapse. Of course it will take a long time but it must happen. Its slowness, however will probably be our salvation. By the time it happens a method of protection will probably have been devised.

SCIENTIFILMS

The two latest films of interest are Universal's "Invisible Man Returns" and Paramount's "Dr. Cyclops".

In the Former the Man actually doesn't return. His brother makes a wrongly convicted murderer invisible so as he can escape and prove his innocence (I believe this has already been released in Sydney)

In "Dr. Cyclops" (Which is in technicolor) ye famous mad scientist reduces some fellow scientists to about six inches in height. There are some good trick shots here. "Dr. Cyclops" incidentally is directed by the man that made "King Kong".

The only other s.f. films lately have been - "Some of Frankenstein" "Return of Dr. X" "Television Spy" and a serial "Buck Rogers".

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Richard Vaughn | 6. False |
| 2. Larry O'Keefe | 7. False |
| 3. Uncertainty | 8. True |
| 4. Time Traveller | 9. Claude Rains |
| 5. True | 10. David Lesser |