

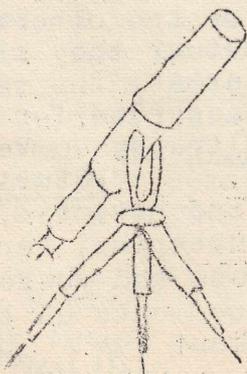
Number One,
Apr 20, 1940
Tri-weekly.

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OR 5¢



Cosmicobbers:

- Ima Ghoul
- Keith Moxon
- Frank Maggs
- Jack Radford
- Teddy Russell
- Donald H. Tuck
- Donald B. Levy
- Ralph A. Smith
- David H. Evans
- Roma Castellari
- Eric F. Russell
- A. Ghutney Ghoul
- William D. Veney
- Ralph H. Harding
- Charles La Costez
- Bert F. Castellari
- Michael F. Collins
- Charles S. Mustochan
- Kenneth M. Jefferys
- Neville Freedlander



Pardon me - but I am afraid I edit this thing, and so, like all other unfortunate fan-editors, it is my job to write this page. Of course, you don't have to read it, but it might be worth while, for it probably contains a few libel suits. Anyway, let's go!

just what Cosmos is supposed to be - 'taint a newsheet, nor a gossip - review - or humor fanmag, but a little of each, rather badly mixed! So it had better be termed a hybrid. A little news, some rotten views, & some so-called humor will generally fill the issue. Next time there'll be a more formidable content, but I thought it best to print the best of the letters received commenting on the last issue of Luna in a special section in this initial issue, so lots of material was unfortunately crowded out. The "Fan Magazines Received" columns will appear on the back page of every issue, and here all fanmags traded with will be reviewed regularly. The only other 'permanent' feature will be "Pardon me" but that can always be read last.

It's not very widely known that Wm Veney and EFRussell are conducting a rather vicious feud, but they are, and, if things keep on going the way they are now, it will have a serious effect on Australian fandom as a whole. The cause of the feud, being personal, we shall not discuss, but the effects are important... the first point is the refusal by Veney to duplicate Russell's Ultra. The latter, who is already losing about 12/- or more every issue, will now be stretched to his financial limit to have the fourteen page mag. run off commercially. This will eventually force him to cut down on the number of pages, quality of paper, and quantity of ink to each page which tends to suggest that Ultra will shortly follow the sad end of Science Fiction Review, Australian Fan News and Luna. Secondly, it seems as though a break-up in the Futurian Society of Sydney is inevitable, or, if not, the Society's meetings will not be very pleasant if one member and the Director are continuously at blows.

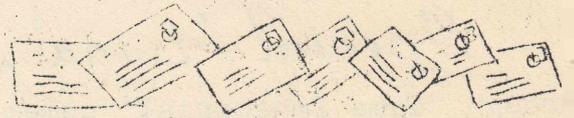
Enough on this unpleasant subject. Thru reasons of private and unknown facts, I have had to resign from the Society myself, so exactly what happens at the meetings in future, with the feud still raging, will not be recorded in the columns of Cosmos, unless either Russell, Veney or a 'neutral' mentions it in a letter or article. We can watch and wait!

As editor of Luna, I traded with Spaceways, Fantascience Digest, Le Zombie, Fantasy News, Polaris, Golden Atom, Sweetness & Light, and one or two others.. will the editors of these magazines kindly inform me whether they wish to trade with Cosmos as they did Luna? Unfortunately, hermes, the supplement announced in the fourth Ultra will have to be discarded for a while, as a result of the duplicating 'ban' placed on Ultra by Wm Veney. Even so, it might see an issue or two in the future. Futurian Observer, our cordially hated rival, is getting along fine nowadays, & I suggest you get it's address from the back page and subscribe. Foolscap sheet, done both sides (like a pancake) full of nooze and vooze & only for 2d or 5¢ a throw. Try it! And, o'course, your comments on this issue of "Oz" and fandom in general are awaited. Dankon!

POSTAGE DATE:

W. Malesworth

Letter:-



(If you think this department is copied from a magazine called VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION, - you're absolutely correct!)

Would a story, written around the idea that Sol is the only star with a planetary system, be popular? From 464 Rural Avenue, Salem, Oregon, USA comes the following opinion:

"There is only one thing wrong with the idea of a 'one-planetary-system' story and that is to write a story of that kind, the author would be going against all basic sf story ideals and it would thus be too revolutionary to be appreciated. Besides, it's been proven that many stars have systems of some sort, and so a story of this type would be out of order in the scientific world, which believes in the existence of other systems of planets. But you go ahead and sound out the idea on the readers of Cosmos and see what kind of answers you get to, say, a request in Cosmos, asking what they would think of such a story. Try it and see what happens! And, I hate to be a kill joy, but I was speaking to a friend of mine who works for Warner Bros., and he says Boris Karloff has refused to make any more Frankenstein films! This is all I know at present, but I am going to check up for I also heard he was going to make one more called "The Death of Frankenstein!" ..I am definitely not a fan of the amateur stories in TWS, but I'm definitely an admirer of Startling Stories. And, confidentially the revised Amazing Stories don't stink, they SMELL! I used to like them one time, but the fates (and Palmer? VM) have changed the thinking of my ways. For me it's Startling Stories, Fantastic Adventures, and Luna 100 per cent!

Warren Doolittle

Thanx, Warren, and I'd certainly be glad to hear other opinions of a 'one-planetary-system' story. Write in - don't be bashful!

This little epic comes from Tweed Street, Coolangatta, Queensland, from somebody who has something to say about George Stephens' letter in the first issue of LUNA.

"Tell George Stephens to go soak his head in the centre of the Sydney Harbor. There never has been any Dynamo Science Stories! The first time the word 'science' appeared on the cover of any magazine of this sort was the old Clayton "Astounding Stories of Super-Science," the first issue of which appeared way back in 1930, just ten years ago. The title was shortened to "Astounding Stories" about the end of the year, and continued as such till it started collapsing, when it was improved a little. I think it was then called "Astounding Science Stories" or something. All this is from memory but if you want any thing further, just let me know and I'll look up my collection.

Thanx, Ghas, tho' it was really called "Astounding Science Fiction." I am anxious to hear from you in the near future.

Chas S. Muesel

I AM SORRY, "OBS" DEAR! You will notice Ye Olde Gag Line opposite - about that hack Observer saying to get its address of the back page. Good Foo if I hadn't done the back page first and left out Obs! Anyway, you can get it from 10a Sully St, Randwick, N.S.W., Australia for 2d per ish

Special 'Luna' Section:-

Through "Time Immemorial" comes a letter of "Size Immeasurable" from 19 Newland St, Paddington, from a fan who sez water will become "Power inexhaustible"... "when The Great Ice Goes!"

"I was extremely pleased with the February Luna. Probably the most outstanding point was the instantaneous manner in which you put into operation the readers' wishes. Practically every request was granted or promised for the next issue. It's wunnerful! However my comments: "News From America" gave facts about the new professionals in a more detailed fashion than was possible in Obs. I'd appreciate an article of a similiar nature every few months. Despite the fact that "Difference" was of a weird nature & I don't like weards, I thoroughly enjoyed it. The excellent way in which you handled the phraselogy deserves high praise and let us hope you will print more like it. Smith's illustration, while not bad, could have been better. Skip "The Awakening." Next, we have Eric Russell's highly-entertaining "Time Travel - 2". This was far too short! When ER prepares the third of this series, as surely he must, kindly request him to make it twice as long. 've always maintained that fan magazines should keep the reader in touch with the pros instead of devoting them selves entirely to fiction, humor, and illustrations. The readersection was evenly divided between those urging Ghoul to write more, and those urging you to keep him out. My personal opinion favors humor in moderation - especially Ghoul's type - so bring him back! (Foocy to R. A. Smith, Eric Russell, Neville Freedlander & Co.) The Ghoul family, - Ghutney and Ima, are providing us with a laugh - and how we need that! More ghouls!

William D Veney

Travel" article for Oz!

ERussell is writing another "Time

We found this letter sticking on a cactus bush at 10a Gully St, Randwick:

"Easily the best in the February-March issue of Luna, as is the case with most fanmags, was the Readersection, closely followed by William Veney's "The Awakening." Before I go much further I must express my disappointment at Ralph Smith's illustration. I don't know whether anything went wrong when it was traced on the stencil or not, but it certainly did not come up to the standard of his work in Ultra. "News From America" was great! Being in such detail it really was news. As to "Time Travel - 2" it bored me a bit, but I did get through it. "Difference" was very good! Now that's over, I will have my say in the Ghoul argument. Ghut's humor is OK at times, but he makes a habit of contradicting himself! For instance, in his article in the second Ultra, he writes: "When Eric Frank Russell wrote Sinister Barrier that was one hack!" In the second Luna he writes regarding the same story: "Sinister Barrier is a story which is perhaps the greatest since Smith's Skylark, and all the more so because 'tis based on facts and not rumor Anyway it was OK by me." What do you say, Ghut?? Glad to see the mag is getting on.

Bert Castellani

You gesst it - Bert (Cactus) is the man we're reading of. And this comes from a flatlander, of 30 Oxford St, Bondi Junction. (Next page)

"Luna is certainly getting on! The third issue met my every wish as a new fan. William D. Veney's "Awakening" gave every scrap of information about Australian fandom a "greeny" could ask for. Coupled with this fine article, "Difference" was a well-planned science-fiction story, that certainly revealed a new angle to the question of the Earth's beginning. Am glad to see the improvement in the printing, and by the way, why not cut down on the letter column and so give extra space for more articles?

Neville Friedlander

Gosh, Nev, you're going to hate me.....Oz is going to be an alletter mag like VoM soon!

And, with joy in my heart and a song upon my lips I pick up a letter, tho' commenting on the second Luna, is printed here 'cos it comes from 303 Byran Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, USA:

"Thanks very much for the second Luna.....about a couple of the items in it. that synopsis of the story is tantalisingly familiar to me, and I know I've read it somewhere, but can't for the life of me think just where! The names of the characters are the only things that really stick, and I can't recall just where and when I read them. Probably someone else will be able to find out for you. All the rest of the issue was good, and the mimeoing especially fine. You have no idea how much better a magazine looks when its fairly dark! (Though Spaceways of late have been somewhat lighter, due I think to cold weather and its thinning effect on mimeo ink.) Anyway, I'm glad you're getting somewhere with Luna.. I imagine support will be forthcoming a little better, too. /Oh,=stop torturing me, Harry. VI/ At least that's the case over here, on this side of the globe: the first few issues are usually the hardest, by far. Now that you're getting some publicity, however, in a few American magazines, as well as in Australia, things may go along swimmingly. At least, let's hope so - there's nothing more exasperating than to have a fanmag fold up just when you're getting interested in it!!! /My own exclamation marks. VI/ Too many of them do it here, so let us hope that Australians don't imitate the US in that way!

Harry Harry

Anyway, Harry, Oz won't be folding up yet a while, even tho' every American stf mag has been banned in Australia, which brings me down to the statement that any Americans who are so good as to send along promags dated May 1940 and after, to 11 Northumberland St, Clovelly, will receive in exchange current and back-numbers of TALKS OF WONDER, which is banned in America. Or if U want something else in exchange, just name it!

From DONALD H. TUCK, of Tasmania (I haven't a copy of his signature!) comes this letter:

"I have just read the two latest Lunas and think that although it is fairly successful, it can still be improved, for nothing is ever perfect. I can't see the use of the Ghoul and heartily agree with Ralph A. Smith. The compendium on "Time Travel" is good, while "what readers say" could be better....anyhow, keep up the good work in the story line and give us all the news of US promags whenever possible.

----/Thank Don/

Fan Magazines Received:

Herein we review our rivals from home and abroad, received during the past few weeks. We suggest that you subscribe to some of these, they're well worth the small amount asked.....

POLARIS, Paul Freehafer, 404 South Lake Ave, Pasadena, Calif, U.S.A. Second issue has a cover by Bok, & contains weird fiction by Lowndes, Tucker, Bradbury and Barlow - also a poem by Rimel and "Imagi-Movies" by 4sj Ackerman. 16 pages, mimeoed in green ink, with strong yellow cover-paper. Best in the issue is "The Forgotten" by Lowndes. Reader-section is called "Observations." worth getting, for 6d a copy. (Oz' cover-telescope is copied from the heading of "Observations" but dont tell Freehafer: VE).....

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, Ackerman and Morojo, Box 6475 Metropolitan Sta, Los Angeles, Calif, U.S.A. Fourth issue of America's best fan effort contains about thirty letters from topnotch American and British fans, all of which are well-worth reading. Sprinkled throughout with 4e's sparkling wit, it fairly reeks of funfare! A letter by "Doc" Lowndes on Michelism is as entertaining as one by Tucker on anything and everything or one by Trudy on nothing! Quarterly, sells for 6d and is well worth it.....

LE ZOMBIE, Bob Tucker, Nox 260, Bloomington, Illinois, U.S.A. Since the arrival of Science Fiction Weekly and other newsheets, Lez is going back to the "bad old days" & does so with the current issue. It is packed with "departments" and puns. An example:- WE DENY IT DEFT: There is no truth in the rumor that Bob Tucker recently sold a story to ASTOUNDING under the pen-name of LESSmith! Same price as Oz, and is worth it.....

SPACEWAYS, Harry Warner, Jnr, 303 Byran Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A. Eleventh issue of this 25-page publication contains a reply to Moskowitz's vitriolic outburst by John Campbell, Jnr, Editor of ASTOUNDING, and also excellent material by leading fans. Best in the issue was "Secret of the Tomb", by Lawrence Hamling, followed by "The World is what You Make It" by Donald Wollheim. I wonder if I would have the courage to press that little red button? Hoy Ping Pong's "Author's Aid" is good - we await a story entitled "Escape from the Bill-Collector!" 3 for 1/3.....

GOLDEN ATOM, Larry B. Farsaci, 57 Lyndhurst St, Rochester, New York, U.S.A. Fourth issue is not so hot. It is written mostly by the editor but features an article by Warner, "Who is Your Favorite Author?" and material by Fred Fischer and other work. Will undoubtedly improve later on. About 9d a copy.....

Cosmos! is issued every three weeks from 11 Northumberland Str, Clovelly, Sydney, A, and sells for 3d or 5c a copy; or 5 for 1/- or 30c. Ads exchanged with all fanmags. Contributions urgently required in the form of letters and short articles. No 2 will be out on May 14th. Edited by Molesworth

ULTRA, Eric F. Russell, 274 Edgcliffe Road, Woollahra, Sydney, A. Fourth issue has a symbolic cover by Tom Veney, and features the conclusion of "Time Immemorial!" Material by Ima Ghoul, Warner, and Molesworth. Interior illustrations by EHRussell are very good. Back cover skitting "Amazing" by the editor - on "Hairazing Stories!" reader-section is called "Fan's Forum!" Selling for 6d a copy..... has a supplement called "Hermes!"