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ETHERLINE

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SCIENCE FICTION

No.
27

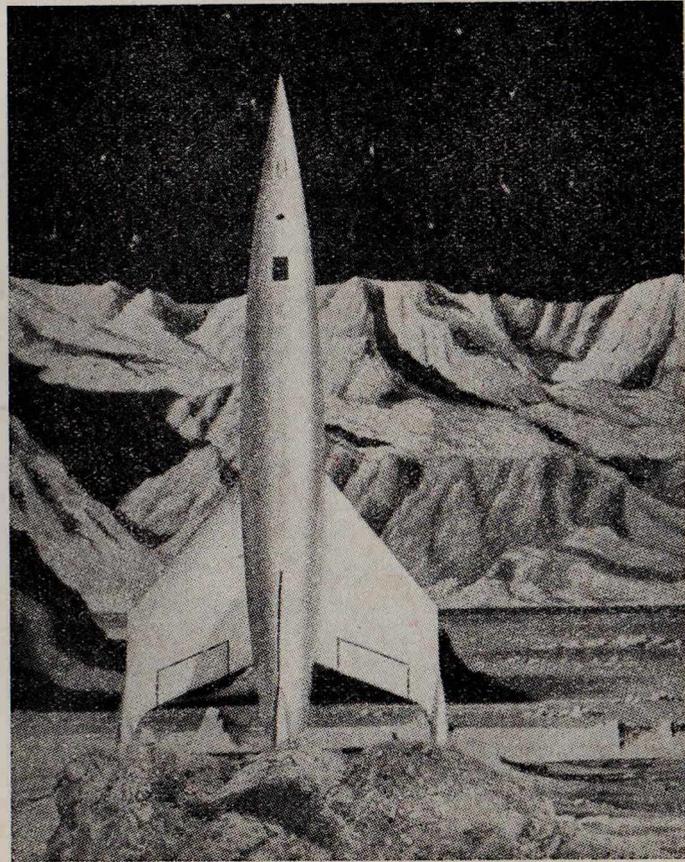
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VIEWPOINT

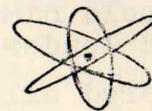
Well, this is it! The show window of Australian fandom is open, and in session at last. It has seemed a long time between the last Convention and this one, but I guess that was just anticipation on my part. One can only hope that we put up a good face to those outsiders who will be attending, and please, let the feuds wait till after it's all over. Then you can go hammer and tongs at each other.

In this issue you will find all the usual ETHERLINE features, plus a few special items to highlight this special occasion. A new feature in CHRONICLES FROM OUTER SPACE makes its debut this issue. The idea of this feature belongs to a group of American fanzine editors, who have kindly invited us to participate. It appears that a "CHRONICLE" is accepted by the Committee on its appearance in a fanzine, and the idea is to eventually publish the completed CHRONICLES in permanent form. This CHRONICLE was written by John Hitchcock, editor of the American zine, UMBRA. We hope you like it.

On behalf of AFPA, I wish to extend to the Organizers of the Third Australian Science Fiction Convention the best wishes for an outstanding and memorable success.

It only remains for me to hope that all you wise people who are attending have an enjoyable time, and to sympathise with those silly ones who have missed this event. They'll be sorry, won't they.

Well, now go to it. The rest of this is yours, and if you like it, then remember we HAVE a subscription rate, and we WILL be coming out for a long time yet.



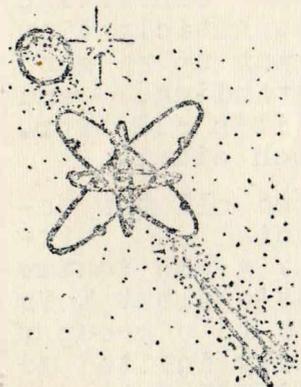
I. J. Crozier.

CHRONICLES FROM OUTER SPACE

REPORT THREE

RENAISSANCE

Entered by John Hitchcock.



There was a sound. One sound, and that was all. Nothing more -- for the prisoner had long been accustomed to the whir of the resuscitators in the surrounding cubbyhole. Then recurrent sounds -- footsteps, faraway footsteps, echoing down the deserted corridor. Gradually they became louder -- and louder, and the echo became less and less noticeable. Soon it was a different kind of echo -- subordinate to the firm and heavy step.

With every step there was a metallic click on the stones of the catacombs. By this the prisoner knew that this was his day. He had been confined in the tiny dungeon by the cruel Dictator's Official Assembly of Zoological and Anatomical Research, ten years ago. His digestive system in a year became useless; his lungs expanded enormously as he breathed in the air from the resuscitators.

Resuscitator itself was a misnomer -- they had originally been used unsuccessfully to revive people in coma or apathy. Their best value lay in sustaining life. There were three of them, to impart delicate mixtures of 'lagey' fordes to the air. With these things around, there was no need of food.

Now these things would be turned off, after 10 years of continuous service. But this is no time to get sentimental, he told himself. The footsteps were becoming louder and louder.

A weak light appeared all over the dung--

ETHERLINE

eon. It grew stronger and stronger, as the prisoner's eyes grew more and more accustomed to it. Then a clang that rang through his ears, vibrated his spine and made him want to scream with anguish. He couldn't make a sound -- that was one thing the makers of the resuscitators overlooked. The light turned off, and his eyes blurred. Then the door swung open, and he fell out onto the damp stones of the passageway.

A man was standing over him in a strange uniform. Olive-drab. Fitting the outline of the body. He himself was stark naked.

"By Jove, this is it!" someone said in a strangely familiar tongue.

The prisoner looked up. The man said, "Get up now. We have to give you some air. Come on."

The man spoke with a slight Southern accent -- English, of course. The prisoner was still confused. "Care for a Mint Julep?" asked the Southerner.

He helped him up and supported him as they walked and he talked. "No end of surprises on this place! I never thought when I was assigned to Alpha Centauri IV that I would find a place so much like Earth. And humans, too, ruled by a dictator. That was six months ago. The records say you were to have been taken out today. Funny coincidence, isn't it? You look like you're flying to me----" he rambled on and on.

Soon they reached the entrance to the hidden catacombs. Up they went, up into the fresh, sweet air up into the sun, up into a veritable Olympus. The prisoner fell to the ground. It was so good.....

"...and here we have a good government, controlled entirely by the United States, Britain and Germany. Russia didn't have a chance. You'll notice --- hey, what's the matter?"

What's the matter?

ETHERLINE

What's the matter ? The words rang in his ears..... and he awoke with a start.

"What's the matter?" he stammered to himself. "There was some scund that must have wakened me".

And in the distance he heard the sound again. Strange, wasn't it ?

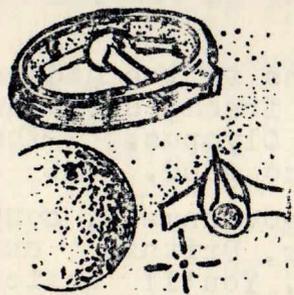
He had been dreaming. Of the day he would be freed. Time dragged in that little dungeon. He couldn't have given an estimate if he had to, of how long he had been in there. But he knew that someday they would come and free him. Wasn't he their guinea pig to observe how well a person displaced ten years would readjust himself to society ?

Yes, someday the sound would come. Of all the people to be imprisoned, he was the most valuable. He spoke the "lost" language called English. And it was his belief that on some other planet English was spoken widely.

Hark ! The sound ! FOOTSTEPS ! This was the day !

The footsteps were getting nearer and nearer. Nearer and nearer.....

What he didn't know was that his liberator spoke English with a Southern accent.....and came from Sol III..and would offer him a Mint Julep.....



THE BEGINNING

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Illustrated by Jenssen
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Who's will stage the next Con?
Be at this one, and find out !

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

AN AMERICAN REVIEWS THE VARGO STATTEN S-F MAGAZINE

I have just read a sample copy of the new English VARGO STATTEN SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE. I don't know if you have seen it, but if the first issue is in earnest of what is to come, I don't want any more. As far as I'm concerned, it stank ! The lead story was BEYOND ZERO - Vargo Statten - a pen name for John Russell Fearn. The next story, MARCH OF THE ROBOTS - Volsted Gridban - also JRF. There is also a novelette - THE SUPER DISINTEGRATOR by Simpson Stokes (could be JRF again), which was weak, and there were three shorts. There is also the first installment of a serial by E. C. Tubb. The mag is pulp size and could stand lots of improvement.

C.L.D. Bellfontaine, USA.

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GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION US Edition Feb., 1954

Good cover by Emsen again, since July, 1953, he's done 6 of the 8 covers while Hunter has done the other two. Four novelets and four short stories make up a fairly packed issue with the honours shared between McIntosh's MEN LIKE MULES and Ken Harmon's THE PASS-ENGER which is a really delightful piece of sheer horror. Both pretty good. BEEP by Blish is about a queer type of time travel - good. PET FARM by Roger Dee is another yarn about the characters who appeared in WAILING WALL (July, 1952. GSF) - again good. Fair are INANIMATE OBJECTION by Chandler Elliot and BOYS FROM VESPO by Arthur Sellings. Really stinko items are from, surprisingly enough, T. Tenn and Frederic Brown. The Brown item (or items, there are two of them) would be classed as poor even in a fanmag! These what would otherwise be an above average issue.

Dick Jenssen

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AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 41

The lead story by Richard DeMille, THE PHOENIX NEST is OK, if you are able to accept almost impossible coincidences. FLY BY NIGHT by E. Everett Evans - levitation. Charles Eric Maine could surely do better than THE BOOGIE MATRIX. In THE CENSORS by J. F. Burke, we are being watched. TWENTY FIRST CENTURY MOTHER by Katherine Marcuse - baby in a bottle, Momma don't like. KID'S GAME by Frank Quattrocchi is the best in the issue.

In the fanzine review section, QUESTION MARK gets favourable mention - listed as available from the AFPA address.

Tony Santos

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STARTLING STORIES BRE 16

Cover very good but not a patch on the original American job, which was really OUT of this world. If you don't like Ken Crossen's work (and quite a few don't), then you won't like LOVE THAT AIR which deals with advertising by, of all things, scent! If, like me, you like Crossen, then you'll have a hearty laugh. In my opinion, this is the best in the issue - very good..Dickson's SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME deals, humorously, with a couple of aliens on earth - good. Merrill's WHOEVER YOU ARE is a good attempt at predicting what happens at first contact but is oddly unsatisfying - fair..Herbert's LOOKING FOR SOMETHING is also fair, but Farmer's SAIL ON !! SAIL ON !! stinks. 'Nuff said. On the whole, a good issue.

Dick Jenssen

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FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION BRE 9

Cover - good, interior fair, but I think the inclusion of those filler illos spoils the mag somewhat. Best yarn in this mediocre mag is AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE - Simak, which is about a human returning to Earth in the far future and rec-

eiving a shock - fair. Anderson's COURIER OF CHAOS is a time travel paradox - also fair. So are BIG MAN WITH THE GIRLS (Pohl and Merrill) and THE MOON IS DEATH (Jones). The theme of the first has been overworked (Kath McLean did it in PICTURES DON'T LIE- Galaxy) and Jones' theme is not a very world-shattering one. Poor items are ROMANCE - Fyfe; COLD WAR - Warner, and ALIEN RESTORATION - Dye-cum-McLean. Article MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT - de Camp, is awful. A poor to fair issue - not one to read if you like well written, well plotted stf.

Dick Jenssen

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DYNAMIC SCIENCE FICTION BRE 1

Cover fair, interior fair. First of all, a gripe: After reading the book reviews, it's no use reading the book - the story will be secondhand by then. The stories, like those in FUTURE, are not at all good, best one being Gallun's fair DOUBLE IDENTITY - a human becomes a moon man (Selenite) and vice versa. Next yarn nearest the flush could be any one - they are all awful. IF THE COURT PLEASES by Loomis, about a lawyer defending a client from the future is only just fair. TIMBER by Barr & West - ugh! Ditto for SOMETHING FOR THE BIRDS by Dryfoos, vastly inferior to his SOMETHING FOR THE MAN that appeared some time back in STARTLING. The rest are indigestible. This is worse than FUTURE, and both are only a step removed from the degradation of AMAZING. My remarks about FUTURE also apply here.

Dick Jenssen

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ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION BRE February 1954.

Good cover by Miller - reasonable reproduction. Big issue - five stories, three articles, two editorials, Brass Tacks and a survey of British science fiction by Mrs. Dirge Archer in the Reference Library. The fiction lineup: WHAT THIN PARTITIONS, Clifton & Apostolides - Q.M. store needs poltergeisten; HUMPTY DUMPTY, Lewis Padgett - Baldy series; GIMMICK, Kath-

erine Maclean. Cute, Our hero's space ship blows bubbles, has vari-colored neon tubes flashing off and on with coils and antenna jutting out in all directions. But its only offensive weapon is a pen-knife in the pilots pocket.

The above rate good, but LITTLE JOE and THE GARDEN IN THE FOREST rate only fair.

Tony Santos

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FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION US Edition February 1954.

The best story here is undoubtedly Dan Galouye's SANCTUARY, dealing with an involuntary telepath and is a very good story from the author of the terrific TONIGHT THE SKY WILL FALL. Perhaps the next best are (these are too close to be seperated) Winston Mark's CALL ME ADAM, about a man sized, man-intellect amoeba, and C/O MR. MAKEPEACE by Peter Phillips, about an imaginary (?) person called Grabcheek. Both good. Enjoyable were IMMORTAL GAME - Anderson, about chess; PLAYGROUND - Morrison - giants 1162 ft. tall and THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE - Reynolds, a new twist on an old theme. The rest of the issue is a bit below average.

Dick Jenssen

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FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION BRE December, 1953.

No credit given for the quite good cover. My guess - Jack Coggins. Of the stories, six are fantasy and seven are stf.

The highlight: GRATITUDE GUARANTEED by Reg. Bretnor and Kris Neville; CAPTIVE AUDIENCE Warren Griffith; Frederic Brown's little gem, RUSTLE OF WINGS and OPEN EARS by Ralph Robin.

As one can expect from this magazine, there is very little material which deserves to be rated fair. Of the thirteen stories, I would call four excellent, five fair to good, and four fair only.

Tony Santos .

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More magazine reviews will be found further on.

CONVENTIONS I HAVE MET

by Lyell Crane

Of course I've been reading science fiction since way back; I just don't know how long; however, fandom to me is a much more recent occurrence, starting one day around six years ago, when I was reading a mag in a Canadian restaurant in Toronto. In spite of my efforts to keep the naked girlie cover out of sight, the eagle eye of one Art Ludlum won through, & I met my first other science fiction enthusiast face to face. To this time I had considered myself as probably the only reader in the world.

So I drifted up to the Ned McKeown establishment one Sunday morning thereafter to meet the Toronto group, which used to gather periodically in the McKeown basement; the walls lined with books and mags and the floor strewn about three inches thick with all of the correspondence of the last ten years. As Art mentioned about this novel letter filing system: "Why, they find everything from time to time!"

Well, as things turned out, and the state of organization being as it was, I didn't have much to do with fandom for some time, until Toronto got elected as the site for the "Torcon", one of the American "World" science fiction Conventions. I had nothing to do with the running of it, and attended only as a visitor, at practically no cost to myself, except the dollar membership. Quite frankly, at that time, the whole idea of a Convention seemed to me to be much ado about nothing. My! How one changes!

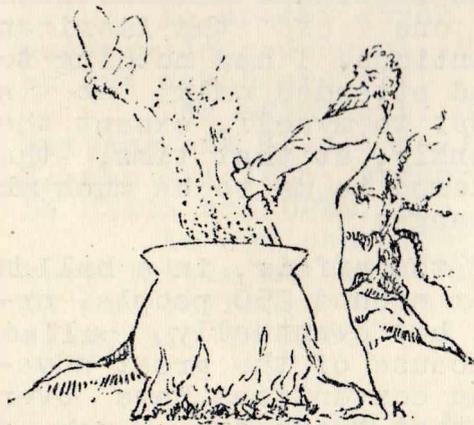
The organization of the affair, in a hall in downtown Toronto, to cater for around 250 people, creaked a little at the joints; but eventually pulled through quite successfully because of the great advantage which all North American conventions have over those held elsewhere; namely that there are such a

vast horde of enthusiastic and capable speakers, and other performers on hand, among the fans, writers, editors, agents, illustrators, and all the other groups necessary to produce science fiction as we know it in America today.

Another factor which tends to greatly assist American conventions is the very liberal donations of original illustrations and other collector's items which come from the professional magazines, to be auctioned for convention funds. I remember having seen one cover illustration go for 75 dollars in this way, on one occasion.

Well, to get back to the "Torcon". As far as I could make out at the time, the main attraction of going to these things seemed to consist of meeting old and new friends and acquaintances, drinking a fair amount of alcohol beverages of various types, & general hell-raising, up against the background of official convention programme, which in itself was quite enjoyable and interesting.

Not having been a follower of personalities at this stage of my fanactivities, I just met numbers of people indiscriminately, regardless of their fan importance. The only ones who seemed to stand out were Lloyd Eshbach, a publisher with a most businesslike attitude to science fiction, and Robert Bloch, the fantasy and weird author, whose speech was notable for its lack of fantastic weirdness, & for its down to earth approach to what to me had always seemed a cranky sort of activity - oh, and Bob Tucker presented the results of his Fan Poll,



with rather hilarious effect.

The noticeable trend seemed to be that anyone who took either himself, science fiction, or anything else too seriously, came in for quite a ribbing. Most of the established fans seemed to get into the business with all the enthusiasm in the world, and any newcomers of the timid variety were left right out in the cold. I ended up the weekend without the foggiest idea of what it was all about, and settled down to another year of reading, some increased fan activity by correspondence, but practically nothing locally.

The next "World" event the following year was scheduled to take place in Cincinnati (pronounced 'Cincinnati'), and suffered under the name of the "Cinvention" - although I think that perhaps the title "Sinvention" might have attracted more starters. In any case, they got around the same number of attendees, namely two to three hundred.

This particular event was held in a city hotel, which seems to have become the tradition for science fiction conventions in the States; in fact even non science fiction conventions, which are very prevalent, do the same thing. It's a funny thing about the American cities; the city management have their eye to business at all times, and they indulge in a very vast publicity campaign to attract as many conventions of all sorts to their district. When throwing a convention, or angling for one, the first thing to do is to contact the local "Chamber of Commerce" for vast quantities of gayly printed literature, as to why that town is the very place for a convention.

The reason for this immediately becomes obvious when one realises that for say a three day convention, each delegate would spend at least \$100, and often much more, which with a total attendance of 300 people, represented around \$30,000 of business. Of course, it also has the other effect, that when

some public relations guy sets down to figure out the ultimate blurb, and finds that there is practically nothing he can say in the town's favour, the city fathers have pull up their pants, and get stuck into the job of bringing the joint up to date. Imagine some poor Public Relations Agent trying to figure out something good to say about Sydney's transport position, licensing laws and hotels; and imagine the story he would take back to the Council. Ah, me! Progress was never easy!

Oh yes! It was the Cinvention we were talking about: So I drifted up to see the Toronto fans one day, and thunder-struck them by saying that I was off to Cincinnati, what do I do about it? A party of around four eventually decided to go, which trip incidentally was Ned McKeown's first by air, and if his apprehension at taking off is anything to go by, he will die of fright the moment he tries his first rocket trip.

It seemed that at least one hotel floor was taken over by the fans, who had also hired the hotel hall and other facilities, which are a part of the larger American hotels. Again my recollections are a little occluded on the event which happened so long ago; but the more noticeable points seemed to be of one publishing group setting up a bar in their room, where they plied all and sundry with drinks for free; smoke filled rooms were working full blast, lobbying went on; in one room they were ventilating the troubles of NFFF, in another they were tearing down some fanzine, and in another they were trying to build it up again. I sort of drifted hither and thither with a glass in my hand which got filled up at fairly regular intervals; and this time I gathered a little more idea of what it was all about. Oh! and I almost forgot, they had an official programme as well.

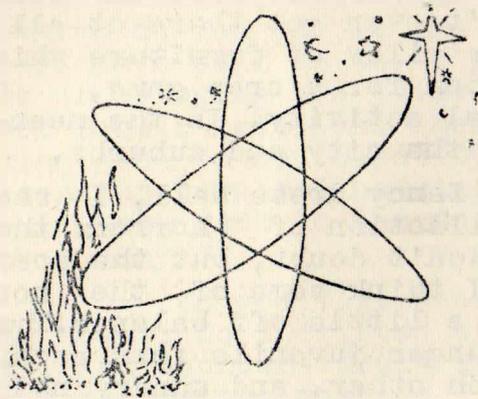
The hall itself was vividly decorated, with a vast science fiction back-drop painted for the occasion. Books, fanzines, hand-outs, membership forms,

advertising etc., were everywhere, including all over the floor. Some of the speakers started on time, most didn't, and some didn't even get there at all. Some were found later under piles of furniture which had been stacked to make room for a crap game, or some other form of cultural activity. In the meantime, I found time to tour the city and suburbs.

Then they had the fancy dress ball, I seem to remember; my! what a collection of horrors they were. Quite a good idea I don't doubt, but the costumes weren't too hot, and I think some of the non-fans in the hotel were put a little off balance. There were vast quantities of younger juvenile fans racing around playing jokes on each other, and sundry not-so-young juvenile fans doing likewise. The old timers who had weathered previous storms, took all this in their stride, and used this background of deliberate mayhem to get their points across, to heckle the speakers, and generally impress themselves upon the environment.

As far as the organizers go, the only thing that I can remember about them was that true to tradition, sundry of them collapsed on the convention floor at the early part of the gathering, to probably recover later on in some other spot. E. E. Smith made a speech of some sort, and his wife was called upon, and scuttled the impression previously created. Lester del Rey got up and made an ass of himself when his speech foundered half way through; sundry others gave forth with noble, inane, trite and humorous remarks. I seem to remember a debate of some sort, an auction, of course; and then we dragged ourselves onto the plane, to get lost at a transfer point in Ohio, to finally get back to Toronto exhausted. I understand Ned McKeown had a disastrous trip, in that his card-playing didn't cover his convention expenses.

Well, be that as it may, as far as American conventions go, I wasn't at any more, but the highlight of grandeur it would seem was later in Chicago,



the windy city, with almost a thousand attendees, and a gross turnover of around four thousand dollars. I hope that they had a much warmer climate for the con than when I visited the city some few months earlier.

By coincidence once more, I happened to be in UK at the Festival of Britain time, when the so-called "International" Convention was held. This

was, of course, in London where, while there was a large number of readers, there was practically no amateur fan activity at all. Almost all fan gatherings which took place in London did so under the direction of the professionals.

Fans from a large number of countries were represented, including Forry Ackerman from the States, and others from Europe. The proceedings started off with an address from John (Ted) Carnell, followed by Walter Gillings, who nearly torpedoed the affair; and then there was a long discussion on the problems of publishers in UK., their heart-breaking paper supply problems, the fact that there mags got second choice of stories from UK writers after the States had had a look at them, and so on. There were a number of good speeches, comedy items and a continual interchange between the audience and the speakers, which seems to be a feature of all conventions everywhere. A most noticeable thing was the extremely low prices paid for material at the auction; more strange in view of the great shortage of science fiction material at that time.

Attendance at the gathering was quite good, being between two and three hundred, most of whom

came from the London area. This is opposed to the state of affairs which exists at American conventions where the majority of those present are visitors from across the country.

The things which impressed me more about the London do were firstly the strong hand which the professionals were taking in running 'amateur' fan affairs in London, to such an extent that the amateur fans had practically no way of expressing themselves at that time. This may well account for the fact that there was not at that time, and as far as I know is not at the moment, any truly amateur fan club in the city; nor is there any other amateur activity in the form of fanzines, etc., coming from this city with a population about as great as the whole of Australia.

However, on the other hand, practically all the known names in London science fiction, (and there are a vast number), are in some way connected with the professional field, either as author, illustrator, or the thankless job of editor.

Fan activity in the other parts of the U.K. was not very great, with the exception of Belfast and the Walt Willis brigade, who exhibited a very strong and independent attitude, and who brought down coals of fire upon their heads from time to time, by their irreverent remarks about those influential in London fandom. This has since changed however, with a very numerous upsurge of true amateur fan groups in the northern part of the country.

European fans at the convention seemed largely to consist of ardent readers, and serious students of the field, who had made in some cases valiant efforts to get into the business professionally in their own country and in their own language, but with limited success.

The next gathering at which I happened to be present, again by coincidence of travelling schedule,

was the Second Australian Science Fiction Convention held in Sydney last year. Here we are again back to a truly amateur gathering, by virtue of the fact that there is practically no original professional magazine activity in Australia. Because of this, the only truly professional activity that one can indulge in is the selling of stories to the American field (as in the case of Doug. Nicholson) or the selling of stories locally as in the case of Frank Bryning, Norma Hemming and others.

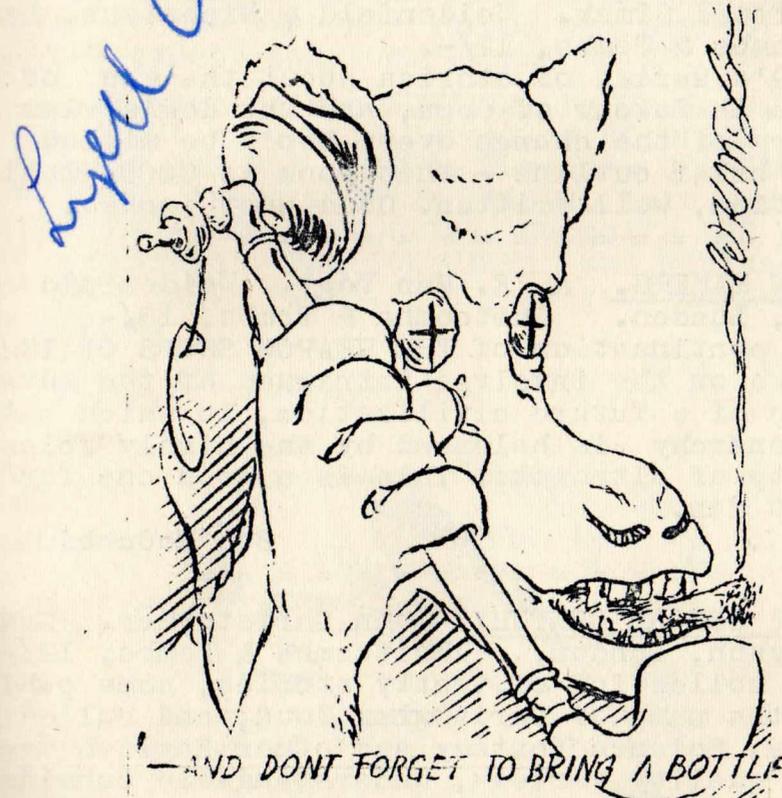
In Australia the situation is vastly different to the American scene, in that there is no vast horde of up and coming authors, editors, illustrators etc. from whom to conscript the programme. The organizers have to do more than list those who have been induced to attend, and leave the preparation of the speech to the individual concerned. They have to be responsible for the fact that every detail is suitable, and on time, and the only experience they had to draw upon was a smaller gathering the year before which attracted only 60 attendees.

The event itself attracted over 80 fans, and in spite of a few spots here and there, provided a good two days entertainment and instruction in science fiction for those who attended. While being a relatively small affair as overseas conventions go for a country with the population of Australia, and the vast distances to be travelled, the attendance could be considered remarkable; and particularly the fact that there were attendees from a total of five states. This was the first time in Australia that a significant interstate contact had been achieved, and the past year has done much to consolidate the position. This I think is the most outstanding thing which comes to mind when looking back on the event.

Well, there it stands at the moment. Maybe every science fiction reader still doesn't understand just what a convention is all about, and if so, they

they have that much in common with myself. However, as I have found something totally different in every gathering I have attended, from the large "World" or "International" conventions, to the small regional conferences, and as I have made new friends and encountered old ones each time, I will probably see my way through many more such events in the future. In particular, I will be present, but by no accident of my itinerary, at the Third Australian Science Fiction Convention, which will take place in Sydney at Easter 1954, the 17th and 18th April.

LYELL CRANE



BOOK REVIEWS

STRANGE TRAVELS IN SCIENCE FICTION. Grayson & Grayson. London. McGill's . 12/-

This anthology is approximately half of the Groff Conklin American OMNIBUS OF SCIENCE FICTION. The other half will be published shortly as STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION. This volume contains 13 stories, all reprints, and varying considerably in style and quality. Well known authors are Lovecraft, Boucher, Bradbury, Nourse, Raymond Jones, Fyfe, Brown, and Matheson. For the newer fan, a MUST.

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CITY. Clifford Simak. Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London. Whitcombe & Tombs, 12/-.

ASTOUNDING's series of stories about the end of the human race in favour of dogs, and the dog's view of the history of the change over. Don't be misled by the above brief outline - this book is GOOD, logical extrapolation, well written. Good dust jacket.

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THE WEAPON MAKERS. A. E. Van Vogt. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London. Whitcombe & Tombs, 12/-

This is a continuation of THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER, and carries on the involved intrigues of the advanced members of a future civilization, in which a tyrannical monarchy is balanced by the highly scientific society of altruists. This is a good one for the more adult fan.

Bob McCubbin

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THE TWENTY SECOND CENTURY John Christopher. Grayson & Grayson, London.. Whitcombe & Tombs, 12/-.

This is a collection of twenty stories, some published under the name of Christopher Youd, and culled from New Worlds, Science Fantasy and other English magazines. The quality varies, understandable considering the output, but is always readable. R.McC.

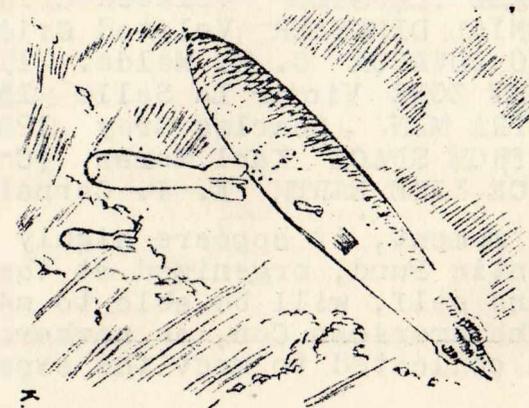
BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, 1953. Edited by Bleiler & Dikty. Frederick Fell, New York.

This volume should see English publication about December this year, if I'm correct. Quite a good collection, and a few excellent stories, of which 5 are from GALAXY, 4 from FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, 3 from ASTOUNDING and 3 from THRILLING WONDER. There are none from any other source. Best yarns are Henderson's ARARAT (F&SF), a truly great story about psi talent, F. Leiber's MOON IS GREEN (GSF), about a radioactively contaminated world, Ruessll's I AM NOTHING and FAST FALLS THE EVENTIDE (both ASF), Miller's COMMAND PERFORMANCE (GSF), McDonald's GAME FOR BLONDES (GSF), both of which have been reprinted in the BRE and, best of all to my taste, is Matheson's LOVER WHEN YOU'RE NEAR ME which is the most horrifying and nauseating thing I've read except for BORN OF MAN OR WOMAN.

Good stories are SURVIVAL by Tyndham, which first saw the light of day in Carnell's NO PLACE LIKE EARTH and Porges' THE FLY (F&SF), Temple's COUNTER-TRANSFERANCE (TWS), Jakes MACHINE (F&SF), Leinster's MIDDLE OF THE WEEK AFTER NEXT (TWS), Coppel's THE DREAMER (F&SF), Clifton's THE CONQUERER and Robinson's THE GIRLS FROM EARTH (GSF). A very good buy and highly recommended.

Dick Jenssen

=====



FANQUET REPORT

On January 20th, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society sponsored its annual FANQUET, this year honouring Mel Hunter for his many covers, dust-jackets and interior artwork. Besides serving as an excuse for an early-in-the-year fan gathering, it was the occasion for the announcement by Mel of the formation of a group known as the COUNCIL OF SCIENCES, Inc., a group who plan to do research in overlapping fields of science, areas where present day specialization tends to leave undeveloped. From his summary, it seems that there are quite a few members of this new group who are top flight scientists, and Mel said that already a new approach to rocketry involving a combination of jet and rocket principles is showing indications of working out as something different and possibly leading to space travel (he said something like this - hinting that its force was incredible -- perhaps on the order of the velocity of escape that has been spoken of so often). This aspect is "classified", so he could say no more of this at the time.

Mel gave a rundown on some of the members, extolling Maxwell Smith (Applied Physics), James Nuding (Applied Physics), Dr. Walter Riedel (Ph.D) , Charles Norman Skully and Benjamin Sachs. These guys have remarkable records and as they seem to be organized, we should be hearing more of them. Purposes: To coordinate frontiers of knowledge; to help all industry large or small, including the movie industry; to aid all member projects without taking away rights of the originator of the research.

John Marshall is head of the audio visual department, and Heinz Haber is in charge of a "major development".

Stan Woolston

=====

All interior illustrations by McLelland & Jenssen

THE CROZIER CANTRIPS

On Friday, March 26th, a dozen fans gathered Crozier's for films, food and froth. The films shown were mainly on Australia's northern areas - - Arnhem Land; Crocodile Hunters; Namatjira the Painter; and Charlie Chaplin in "The Rink". A very enjoyable programme. Thanks, Eric La Motte and Dan Bicknell. The sound could have been better in a couple of reels, but otherwise everything was good. We had a small auction, then supper. Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Low for the use of their home, and to Mrs. Low for the supper, which was enjoyed by all. As usual, a chess board made its appearance, two players and several assistants being necessary.

Kevin Wheelahan had to go to work at 11.30 and we heard 3XY's staff querying him on his bleary-eyed appearance and the bag of pies gripped in one hand. He blamed them all on Keith McLelland's bombo. A good night was had by all - very quiet.

ARMAK

=====

Historic Meeting

Arrived in Sydney on March 18th was a photograph of both Tetsu Yano and Harry Brook, with Tetsu's vast collection in the background. Harry is an ex Brisbane fan at present in the Australian Army, and Tetsu is a Japanese fan, recently returned from the US, where he was the guest of Forrie Ackerman.

Message on the back says: "This is the historic occasion of the first meeting of the Japanese-Australian Science Fiction Society" Signed: H. Brook. Also: "Under the stars customs vary, but friends are friends. We met on this tiny island and spent a pleasant time. We have already started an Australian - Japanese fanzine" Signed Tetsu Yano.

L. Crane.

ADVT.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BRING OUT A FANZINE OR SIMILAR PUBLICATION? IF SO, THEN CONTACT AFPA IMMEDIATELY FOR A QUOTE. YOU WILL FIND THEIR CHARGES VERY REASONABLE. PAPER SUPPLIED, AND STENCILS CUT IF NECESSARY. KEEP THE FAN BUSINESS WITH A FAN ORGANIZATION. AN EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL CHARGE. NEWSSTAND CIRCULATION. WRITE FOR FULL DETAILS TO :-

AFPA,
4 Myrtle Grove,
Preston, Vic.

=====

ADVT.

THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP WISHES TO ADVISE ALL THOSE INTERESTED PERSONS THAT WEEKLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT 8 PM., AT THE ODDFELLOWS HALL, 30 IATROBE ST., MELBOURNE, BELOW THE TAA FREIGHT DEPOT. A LARGE LIBRARY IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WISHING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT, AND SOCIAL & FILM EVENINGS ARE HELD FREQUENTLY. ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME. FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS CONTACT:-

Bob McCubbin,
90 Lilydale Grove,
Hawthorn East.
Phone: WB 3735.

ETHERLINE

Global Round Up

Among the new books announced by leading U.K. publishers this week were LANDS BEYOND by L. Sprague de Camp and Willy Ley, from Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd., priced at 21/- stg, and out March. THE GREEN AND RED PLANET by Dr. Hubertus Strughold, also from Sidgwick and Jackson, priced at 7/6 stg, due late May.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF OUTER SPACE, featuring the following:-

Development of the Space Station - Ley
Station In Space - Werner Von Braun
Space Medicine - Heinz Haber
Space Suits - Donald Menzel
High Altitude Programme - Robert Haviland
History of the Rocket Engine - James Wyld.
Legal Aspects of Space Travel - Schacter
Exploitation of the Moon - Gernsback
Life Beyond the Earth - Willy Ley
Interstellar Flight - Leslie Shephard
Spaceship in Science Fiction - Jeffrey Logan
Plea for a Coordinated Space Programme -
Werner Von Braun
The Flying Saucer Myth - Jeffrey Logan
Chart of the Moon Voyage
Chart of the Mars Voyage
Timetables and Weights
Space Travel Dictionary

will be issued by Sidgwick & Jackson priced at 10/6 stg. Containing 144 pages, the book is 9½" by 6½".

Next offering from the Bodley Head is FUTURE TENSE, companion to ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW and edited by Kendell Foster Crossen. Priced at 10/6 stg, it is due out in May.

Another of the current crop of flying saucer books is FLYING SAUCERS ON THE MOON by Harold T. Wilkins and priced at 15/- stg. Out in March.

ETHERLINE

Latest Bantam Book out in the States is RIDERS TO THE STARS by Curt Siodmak, priced at 35¢.

Latest bound editions from Hamiltons include THE INDESTRUCTIBLE by Rolf Garner and THE ECHOING WORLDS by J. F. Burke. both probably priced at 7/6. stg.

Latest UK publishers to enter the stf field are George Harrap with SPACE FLIGHT - VENUS by Philip Wilding, priced at 8/6 stg.

The next three selections of Sidgewick and Jackson's SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB are as follows:
 March/April I, ROBOT Isaac Asimov
 May/June VOYAGE OF SPACE BEAGLE Van Vogt
 July/August PLAYER PIANO Kurt Vonnegut.

T. V. Boardman & Co. will re-enter the stf. publishing field in August with STAR SCIENCE FICTION edited by Frederick Pohl, and DOUBLE IN SPACE by Fletcher Pratt, both at 9/6 stg. Also from this publishers will be a pocket book edition of THE BIG EYE, by Max Ehrlich, priced at 2/- stg, and due out in May.

Sidgewick & Jackson have released CHILDHOOD'S END by Arthur C. Clarke and THE GREEN HILLS ON EARTH in UK, the first at 10/6 stg, the latter at 9/6. stg. They also announced the first in a series of new British science fiction novels, under the editorship of Angus Wilson, noted UK critic. Title is HOLE IN HEAVEN by F. Dubrez Fawcett, and priced at 9/6 stg. It is due for release in May. Also listed for publication in May is THE HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY, by Giorgio Abetti, the director of the Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri, Florence. Priced at approximately 25/- stg, this should be a very interesting volume.

Weidenfeld & Nicholson announce the early publication of BEACHHEADS IN SPACE, a collection of invasion stories edited by August Derleth, and MUTANT

by Henry Kuttner, a series of the "Baldy" stories, & both priced at 9/6 stg. This makes 6 books scheduled for their Spring/Summer list.

Secker & Warburg announce the publication of the illustrated edition of George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM, the illustrations taken from the Halas/Batchelor full length cartoon, which is now on the screen in England. Priced at 12/6 stg, it should be here in a few weeks.

The second collection of stories from Bertrand Russell is now available in UK. Titled NIGHT - MARES AND OTHER STORIES, it is reputed to be a very good collection, and like his first volume, is illustrated by Charles Stewart. Priced at 9/6 stg.

A collection of short stories from Edward Lyams, author of SYLVESTER, titled STORIES AND CREAM will be issued in April from Longmans Green & Co., priced at 10/6 stg. These are mostly satirical, with a fantasy here and there.

A cheap edition of LATE FINAL, Lewis Gibbs' novel of post-atomic -war Britain will be shortly available priced at 6/- stg. Publishers are Dents.

THE WHEEL IN THE SKY by Bernard Rafe, publisher unknown, will be shortly out, priced at 9/6 stg. Nothing is known of this book, or the author.

Out in UK on March 19th was FARENHEIT 451 by Ray Bradbury, published by Rupert Hart Davis and priced at 9/6 stg. THE FIRST ASTOUNDING ANTHOLOGY was issued on March 22nd, as was S.O.S. FROM MARS. The Eric Frank Russell SENTINELS FROM SPACE came out on March 17th from Museum Press, and a new edition of the Wells' classic, THE TIME MACHINE was issued by Everyman's Library at 6/- stg. A new book, THE SUN, by G. Kuiper, was published by Cambridge University Press on March 12th, priced at 94/- stg. This is reputed to be the definitive on this subject.

POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

TWILIGHT ZONE Victor La Salle. Last people on Earth move to Mercury when the Sun cools. We have the Capital/Labour conflict complicated by a war between two Mercurian races. Guess who wins? Fair action stuff. McGillis 2/3

=====

MENACE FROM MERCURY Victor La Salle. Mercurians attack Venus. Heroic earthman tours the galaxy and comes up with the answer. There is a second "short" by T.W.Wade, 'Morethan Mortal'. Superman becomes tired of preventing war, and commits suicide. Both yarns are poorly written. McGillis 2/3

=====

THE EXTRA MAN Charles Grey. The war between Oxygen breathers and Chlorine breathers. Very reminiscent of "The C-Shute" (Asimov) in GALAXY of October 1951. Characters and writing are very, very similar. Don't try and link the title or cover painting to the story. Recommended for all readers. McGillis 2/3

=====

THE PURPLE WIZARD Volsted Gridban. This time Fearn takes Mark Twain's "Yankee at the Court of King Arthur" and gives it a facelift. Time travellers go back to Saxon England and a sticky time is had by all. Fair. McGillis 2/3

=====

ORGANIC DESTINY Arn Romilus. Crazy scientist's stereoscopic full-colour TV tranfers souls of young couple to 4th dimension, where they become humanity's guardian angels. Fair. McGillis 2/3

=====

FAR BEYOND THE BLUE Drax Amper. Ye Gods! Beings from Neo invade the bodies of Earthmen, making them red-eyed and radio-active. The presiding genius has wings, but goodies win again. Tech Book Store 2/3

ETHERLINE

CASTAWAY FROM SPACE Vektis Brack. Interplanetary explorer crashes on Earth. Becomes pro-Earth, and helps defeat his own race when they invade. Plenty of action. Technical Book Store 2/3

=====

THE X PEOPLE Vektis Brack. Invisible race from hyperspace plan to take over the Terran Empire. Professor's ego deflated by Lurvvvve! Just another batch of crud! Technical Book Store 2/3

=====

EXIT LIFE Volsted Gridban. Two couples leave Earth on the first space ship. Resulting radiation kills all life on Earth. They finally solve the problem of creating life, though sterile themselves. Tedious.

=====

OPERATION ORBIT Kris Luna. Invaders from space conquer Earth and try to move it to an orbit closer to the sun. Gallant underground members defeat them. Plenty of incredible action. McGillis 2/3

=====

Bob McCubbin

=====

"I'm getting
out" - -

Messel.

"Won't hurt"

Oliphant



Goodbye

Sez You!

ETHERLINE

FANZINE REVIEW

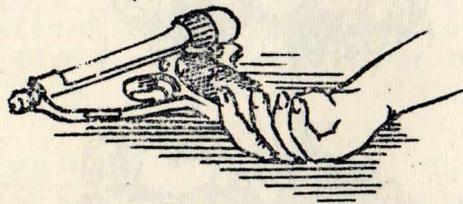
A LA SPACE Jan. 1954. Editor: Kent Corey, Box 64 . . , Enid, Oklahoma. No Australian agent, as yet, and if the Annish is the top effort, no Aussie fan would handle it. Multilithed in colours, making it even more difficult to read. Race Mathews has a poem in it, and as a friend of yours Race, I would suggest you concentrate more on chess or Geraldine - or did the editor leave the sensible bit out?

Lyn Hickman does a review of a teen-age fashion mag - just because they tagged stf names on their "creations". Did the piscatorial reviews write up the fashions when "Oyster" became a fashionable colour? And the Zoo authorities were silent on "elephant's breath".

The cartoons displayed a liking for juvenile humor. Wilkie Connor and Gregg Calkins waste a few pages, ably assisted by Richard Geis and Bob Johnson. My pen pal, Orville Mosher rambles on for nearly 3 pages - one nearly indecipherable (no ink?), not nearly as informative as when he writes to me. Too much straining for effect, I fear. I agree with Harlan Ellison (Pot of Gold) in many ways, but I am 48, therefore on the way out.

Fan reviews and "Alice Sez" failed to appeal. Sorry Kent, I think you wasted a lot of energy and good intentions.

Bob McCubbin



Oh no ! We didn't mean it !

TRADING BUREAU

WANT SECTION

John A. Vile, 82 Wollambi Road, Cessnock New South Wales, requires the following:

ASTOUNDING US Edition. Nov, Dec., 1952

UNKNOWN US Edition. April, 1939

NEW WORLDS No. 1.

GALAXY US edition Sent. 1953

John Gregor, Newhaven St., Everton Park, Brisbane, Queensland, requires American UNKNOWNs any date. Prices and list first.

Race Mathews, 8 Barnett St., Hampton, Vic. offers copies of American editions FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, GALAXY and most other mags., for the following BRE's.

UNKNOWN: Vol 2, Nos 4 & 6
Vol 3 Nos 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6
Vol 5, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6
Vol 6, Nos 2 & 6.

ASTOUNDING: October, 1939
April, July, 1940
May, 1941

Good condition and front covers essential. High cash prices if preferred.

Mervyn R. Binns, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston Vic., requires SCIENCE FICTION PLUS Vol 1, Nos 2 & 5. THRILLING WONDER BRE Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 7., STARTLING STORIES BRE Nos. 1 & 5.

Harold Eggleton, 42 Stevens St., Queens-cliff, Victoria, wants to sell or swap mags and pocket books. Send for list.

Kevin Wheelahan, 91 Monash St., Sunshine, Vic. wants any copies of GALAXY pre mid 1953, US edition. Send list and prices required.

=====

Chas Mustchin, Miles St., Coolangatta, Q
wants GALAXY US edition Nov, Dec, 1950
Jan, Feb, Mar, Aug, 1951
Feb, May, Aug, 1952

IF US edition May, July, Nov, 1952

=====

Ian J. Crozier, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield, Vic., requires the following:

US Ed. BEYOND November 1953

US Ed. FANTASTIC Fall, 1952

Nov/Dec. 1952

Sep/Oct/ 1953

Nov/Dec 1953

US Ed. F&SF Feb, April Oct. 1951

April, June 1953

FANTASY FICTION Nov. 1953

US Ed. IF Nov 1952, Jan, 1953, Sep, 1953

Nov. 1953 Jan, 1954.

=====

SWAP SECTION

Chas Mustchin, Miles St., Coolangatta Queensland has the following for swap.

ASTOUNDING October, 1949

May, 1950 (no over)

Nov, Dec, 1953

GALAXY Sept, Oct, 1952

IF May, July, Nov. 1953.

=====

SEND YOUR TRADING INFORMATION TO ETHERLINE

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION BRE Vol 2, No. 3

Poul Anderson's serial, THE ESCAPE is not continued in this issue, which is a reprint of the first US edition.

Nothing in the issue comes above the mediocre. Contents: PERMIT by del Rey, YOUTH by Asimov, THE EGO MACHINE by Sohl and TO EACH HIS STAR by Walton.

Tony Santos

=====

AMAZING BRE Vol 1, No. 2.

Well done, but rather peculiar cover by Suss - man. Eight stories of which three rate better than fair. BESIDE STILL WATERS by Sheckley, robot and his soul; THE MATHEMATICIANS by Arthur Feldman, cute little fairy tale; THE ENORMOUS ROOM by H.L. Gold and Robert Krepps, extradimensional yarn. None of the others are more than just a story. This rating includes Sturgeon's A WAY OF THINKING and Matheson's LITTLE GIRL LOST. The others include an unfunny funny, a destruction of Earth (symbolic) and a fanatic on a rocket.

Tony Santos

=====

IF BRE Vol 1, No. 3.

Usual good covers - Fagg outside, Valigursky on interior covers. One Finlay illo - wasted on SJAMBAK by Jack Vance. Literally space-horse opera. H.B. Fyfe's IRRESISTIBLE WEAPON is much below standard. A BOTTLE OF OLD WINE by Richard C. Lewis is peculiarly stupid. DRINK OF MADNESS by Walt Sheldon is fair. Two good stories, ONE MARTIAN AFTERNOON by Toni Leahy and WEAK ON SQUARE ROOTS by Russell Burton. Two better-than-fair, THE LONELY ONES by Edward R. Ludwig and PROGRESS REPORT by Clifton and Apostolides.

Tony Santos

=====

SCIENCE FANTASY Vol 3, No. 7.

Good cover by Quinn illustrates SEEK EARTHMEN NO MORE by Rayer. This, and John Christopher's DEATH SENTENCE rate fair. TROJAN WAY by Francis Richardson would have been much improved by the deletion of the last five sentences. The better stories were STRANGERS FROM SPACE by Gene Lees, BEGGARS ALL by J. T. McIntosh and E. C. Tubbs' UNFORTUNATE PURCHASE. The worm in a fairly good apple was DETECTIVE STORY by Burke.

Tony Santos

=====

FANTASTIC BRE Vol 1, No. 2.

LET'S DO IT FOR LOVE by Robert Bloch was amusing, while William P. McGovern's NEVER MIND A MARTIAN tried, but failed. The good ones: Sheckley's WHAT A MAN BELIEVES, some nice punishment in Hell. Ralph Robin's THE WRONG PEOPLE, a funny about an un-American extra-dimensional critter. The so-so efforts: Rog Phillip's FROM THIS DARK MIND; THE CHASE by Bill Phillips; METHUSELAH LTD. by Wallace West and Richard Barr. In between: THE SIREN SOUNDS AT MIDNIGHT by Frank M. Robinson. A nice moody piece about the wait before the blow-up.

Tony Santos

=====

IF BRE 4.

Cover by Ken Fagg. Contains A CASE OF CONSCIENCE by Blish - investigatory Committee, including a priest, finds that a new planet is a set-up by the Devil to show that God is not capable of perfection - not my dish, but I appreciated the logical approach. THE TROUBLE WITH BUBBLES - reminiscent of an S-F PLUS opus - men create miniscule worlds, then find that the Earth is also someone's plaything! PLANET OF DREAMS - bloated plutocrat makes planetary heaven - his disciples don't appreciate idleness. ROMANTIC ANALOGUE - a computer draws female curves instead of mathematical dittoes. A fair issue.

Bob McCubbin

Late News

Just arrived here is No. 3 FUTURE, which comes from Sydney. Two things stand out immediately. First off, is there any necessity to bill an 11 page short as a "Feature Novel"? We might be aping the overseas mags as fast as we can go, but please, don't let's overdo it. Secondly, the price. It was announced some time ago that the publishers were "assessing the reaction of the reading public to a new type of publication on an untried market. However, the reaction was sufficiently favourable to encourage the publishers to carry on".

That's all right Mr. Frew. In fact, it is to be expected on a new magazine. But is it a any reason to jack the price up just because you found your magazines were selling? I don't think so.

AHEAD OF TIME by Henry Kuttner and THE TITAN by P. Schuyler Miller are late arrivals, both priced at 12/-.

NEBULA 7 has also hit the stands, with a really terrific cover by Clothier.

In the film line, INVASION USA began its season as the support in the local 'hoss opra' house and judging by all reports, that's the best place it could be.

I hope the ugly rumors emanating from the Harbor city are unfounded. Right on the eve of the Con, too.....

The latest Malian Press item, THE OTHER SIDE slipped in very quietly.

What's the weather like, Sydney? It had better be good.....

IJC

IN MELBOURNE TOWN

Latest arrivals on the magazine front include AMAZING 24 and FANTASTIC 24, the last, welcome, of the pulp sized editions. FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION 6 and IF 4 are also here, priced at 2/3.

On the book front, a unheralded ENEMY BEYOND PLUTO by Jean Gaston Vandoux, published by Hector Kelly, presumably as a companion to this company's earlier SPACE TIME TASK FORCE. Juvenile, by the look of it, and priced at 7/6.

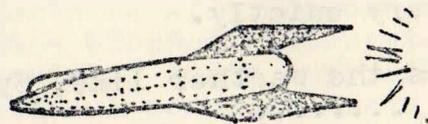
Two juveniles from Lutterworth Press in LOST ON VENUS by M. E. Patchett and THUNDERBOLT OF THE SPACETAYS by Hereward Ohlson, both priced at 9/3 are available at most booksellers.

A new Bernard Newman, THE WISFUL THINK is worthy of your consideration, dealing as it does with ESP to a certain extent. It is priced at 12/-.

Two more in the Master Science Fiction Series, TWIN OF THE AMAZON and THE AMAZON STRIKES AGAIN by that amazing author, John Russell Fearn, are available priced at 9/6 each. The next in this series will be SEETEE SHOCK by Will Stewart to be issued in UK in May.

My spy reports that there will be a pile of stuff in over the Easter break, so we should have a lot to report next issue.

IJC



ADVT.

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED
WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED
WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

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MELBOURNE GROUP REPORTS

18/3/54.

Bob McCubbin in the chair, 19 members present. We welcome Gustav Dunstan and his wife of Elsternwick, and also Bill Facker of East Melbourne.

It has been decided to place an ad in a Richmond paper asking for permanent meeting place..

We wish to underline the invitation to the fanettes - don't be shy, come along to the Thursday nights.

=====

25/3/54.

Bob McCubbin in the chair, 8 present.

The Chairman has struck an unexpected snag with the Royal Astronomical Society and has been directed by the meeting to make personal contact and endeavour to arrange a compromise.

There were sundry interruptions due the fact that Young China was dancing upstairs.

The party for June 7th will be at Val Morton's , 24 Lucerne St, Alamein, where METROPOLIS will be screened.

An ad was inserted in the RICHMOND NEWS & will run for 2 weeks.

Thanks for returning the books, Wallace !

=====

8/4/54.

Bob McCubbin in the chair - 10 present. A very quiet evening, no new members.

The main topic of discussion was some disturbing news from Sydney.

The first Observatory trip was held last night and 7 turned up. Unfortunately cloud obscured the sky for most of the evening, but the famous Rings of Saturn were seen.

ARMAK

FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

The fourth meeting of the FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF CANBERRA was held on Sunday, 4th April, and attended by five members, with two absentees.

The main item of discussion was draft constitution submitted by the Director. The constitution is a much shorter one than the FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY, but the meeting felt that it was more suitable for the requirements of a recently formed group having only a few members. After some amendments had been made to the draft, it was approved, and arrangements are being made to have several copies run off. When this is done, it will be made available to any group desiring a copy.

Also discussed was the possibility of increasing memberships, as to date only one new member has been enrolled as a result of the advertising inserted in magazines sold locally. Action was deferred on this matter until after the Convention.

The newly elected secretary, Mr. A Porter, has agreed to present the Society's report 3rd Science Fiction Convention. Three of our members have already joined the Convention, and more enrolments are expected from Canberra.

It was decided to ask M. de Vaucouleurs, the French authority on Mars at present working at Stromlo Observatory, to give the Society an informal talk on the planet. More details on this later.

Geoff Bennett.

=====

What is a Convention ?

Be at this one, and find out !

Don't forget, Sydney at Easter !!!

ADVT.

Question Mark

A DIGEST OF SCIENCE - FICTION - FACT -
FANTASY.

THE CURRENT ISSUE IS No. 4, FEATURING FLYING
SAUCERS AND A TERRIFIC ARTICLE BY
POUL ANDERSON.

QUESTION MARK IS ALWAYS IN FRONT - - - -

No. 3 PRINTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A FAN-
ZINE A REPORT ON THE A-BOMB EXPLOSION
IN AUSTRALIA - - - -

No. 2 FEATURED A REPORT ON DIANETICS IN
AUSTRALIA.

No. 5 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

ADVT.

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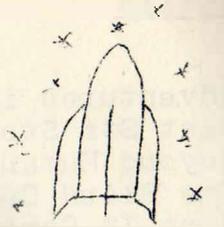
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Kevin Wheelaha,
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Sunshine, Vic. Phone: MM 1691

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SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY CATALOGUE

EASTER, April, 1954.

Magazine Listing:

Amazing Stories	BRE	2/6
American Science Fiction (Malian Press)		9d
Astounding Science Fiction	BRE	2/3
Authentic Science Fiction		2/-
Australian Flying Saucer Magazine		2/-
Beyond Fantasy Fiction	BRE	2/3
Dynamic Science Fiction	BRE	2/-
Fantastic	BRE	2/6
Fantasy & Science Fiction	BRE	2/6
Future Science Fiction	BRE	2/-
Future Science Fiction Aust.		1/3
Galaxy Science Fiction	BRE	2/3
If Worlds of Science Fiction	BRE	2/3
Nebula Science Fiction		2/10
New Worlds Science Fiction		2/6
Nova Novels		2/6
Planet Science Fiction	BRE	1/3
Popular Science Fiction Aust.		1/3
Space Science Fiction	BRE	2/3
Science Fantasy		2/6
Startling Stories	BRE	1/3
Science Fiction Quarterly	BRE	2/-
Thrilling Wonder Stories	BRE	1/3
Weird Tales	BRE	2/3

ETHERLINE

McGills

SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS

Adventures in Time & Space	Healy & McComas	13/6
Best Stf Stories 1,2 & 3.	Bleiler & Dikty	12/-
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