

No 2  
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# THE FUTURIAN

The Independent British Science Fiction  
Magazine.

SEPTEMBER

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A GREEN JESTER PUBLICATION

# THE FUTURIAN

An amateur magazine published quarterly, by The Green Jaster Press at 4d. a copy, postfree; - 4 issues for one shilling, America 10 & 30 cents respectively.

Reciprocal exchange welcome.

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All views expressed herein are those of the writers

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Very many changes are taking place today, in all departments of modern life; and the science fictional microcosm is by no means excluded from this tendency. Within the last year the number of professional Stf. magazines has been doubled, and two of them are British, thus confounding the prophets. Fandom too, has had its changes and, dare we use the word?, its 'mutations'. And we in our own small way are trying to do our share.

We have tried to make this the best issue of the **FUTURIAN** yet, but must repeat the never-failing adage — a magazine is what its readers make it. So please come along, and enter into the spirit of the thing. Deluge us with suggestions, contributions and criticisms. All are welcome!

And don't forget, we want **YOUR** support especially.

# Astronautics!

Dedicated to the Astronautical, Interplanetary  
and Rocket Societies of Britain and America.

We bought a penny rocket and we  
watched its feeble spark,  
As it fizzed out of the bottle and  
exploded in the dark,  
And along it's feeble trail, saw the  
Earth-Mars-Venus mail....  
Then a Bobby came towards us &  
we bolted from the park.

We bought some sulphur, charcoal  
and a special kind of nitre,  
And made each others' noses bleed  
to settle who should light 'er.  
We all went to assist - in fact none  
of us were missed,  
For the wretched thing exploded -  
and half murdered the igniter!

So we lie abed and hope ('neath the  
bandage and the dope,  
Which is guaranteed to cure us quite  
soon),  
That soon after we are healed, - - -  
there's a brand new testing field,  
And a hope that carries us right to  
the moon.

H. Gottliffe.

# Kindergarten Science Fiction

By JOHN RUSSELL FEARN

THE long hoped for advent of Newnes' science fiction magazine, together with the return of 'Passing Show' to this particular field, augers well for the future, but it will definitely never gain a firm hold until Editors decide to cast aside their reticence & allow authors greater play of ideas.

I cannot criticise magazines which have not appeared on the stands (Newnes and others still unborn) but I can and do deplore the mediocre quality of existing English sciencefiction - excluding books, that is. Most of it is childish, the kind of spoonfed rubbish the Americans vomited back ten years ago. I am as bad as the rest because of the stringent editorial policy refusing expansion of ideas. The only thing to do is to use old stuff which reflects one in a very unfavourable light, but at least provides the puerile slant that seems to be necessary.

This necessity is not, I contend, a real one. The British public may be unversed in science fiction, but they can certainly understand a good story when they meet with it - a thing they certainly have not done so far. Weak, old fashioned plots give the wrong idea to s-f and ruin its chances rather than build them up. Stories of atoms, planets, and travelling through the earth are so old that they smell: yet they are always trotted out when a new magazine begins. It's all wrong! I don't suggest a thought variant by any

means, but I do suggest that these old plots be written with some idea of a new slant. Don't blame the authors; blame the policy that prevents them using their ideas. It's up to the readers to demand it and not put up with stuff which must convulse the Americans into paroxysms of laughter. Science fiction is barely scratched yet; fellow authors, let's see what we can do to put it on a straight story basis and then sell it to the market which can appreciate it. Ideas are born to be given to the world, not strangled through lack of vision.

And I repeat, the public is ready for it. If not, why is it next to impossible to get an American sf magazine at any bookstall or even second-hand? Far, far more than we can ever count know the real meaning of sciencefiction, and it is high time that existent British examples of this literature were thoroughly spring cleaned and made free of mothballs.

The ideas are there. Readers, demand that they be used!

John Russell Fearn

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### BOOK REVIEW

'Not Since Genesis' by Storer Clouston (Jarrolds 7s. 6d.) is a satirical work debunking modern crazes - political, national and racial. It deals with a meteorite which (apparently) must fall on part of Europe, & each portion reacts according to environment and belief. The author has also written another science fictional book in 'The Chemical Baby' E.M.

# Fan Parade No. 1.

## TEMPLE, WILLIAM FREDERICK.

To introduce this series of introductions we have chosen a very well-known figure in British stf. circles, who tells us in his own words all about himself. Mr. Temple's writings include 'Lunar Lilliput' in the second Tales of Wonder and a story for the fourth issue provisionally entitled 'The Smile of the Sphinx'.

Grew on a gooseberry bush in Woolwich 1914.  
Not responsible for the war, Arsenal or self. Education from books - mainly Wells.

Present employment - Stock Exchange clerk.

Interests; sciencefiction, music, films, photography, psychology, astronomy, sociology, darts, rocketry, crosswords, country walks, country pubs., other pubs.

Worst Vice; analysing (always quite wrongly) the characters of friends by means of a scrappy, half-digested knowledge of the worst psychology.

Pet Likes; pickles, kittens. Douglas Fairbanks, hot water-bottles,

Pet Hates: cabbages, housework.

Favourite Stf. book; "The First Men in the Moon" (H. G. Wells.)

Favourite Authors: Wells, Stapledon, Weinbaum, Eric Frank Russell.

Chief Ambition -- to become possessor of the privilege (by means of luck, theft or work) to lay in bed all day every day, not to be the slave of an alarm capitalist or bloated clock.

## Leeds S. F. L. Report

During the last six months the League has returned to its old scheme of holding discussions each alternate meeting on a talk given at the preceding one. Since April, these talks have all been given by members.

At the April meeting, held on Sunday the 3rd., Eric Moss gave a talk on what he was pleased to term 'Practical Communism'. We only wish some of our American friends could have been present, to join in the miniature war which ensued. For obvious reasons we will refrain from commenting on this, or the more sedate May discussion; except to report that no two members could agree on any one point,

In June, J. M. Rosenblum treated us to one of his all too rare talks on out of the way science fiction; this time in reference to 'Pre-war Sciencefiction'. He dealt at length with the works of John M. Stin and G. Griffiths. Amongst other authors, he included a brief survey of the contributions to fantasy of Doyle, Wells, Poe, Anstey, Lytton and Dunsany.

Due to the Bank Holidays, the August meeting was held on the 7th. of the month; A. G. Snowden spoke on what is, perhaps, his favourite subject- 'Cities of Tomorrow'. He spoke learnedly and at length quoting from such authorities as Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, & Erich Mendelsohn; and gave us an idea as to the probable nature of our future homes,

Secretary's, and Librarian's reports have been given and accepted at each meeting: and one new member (Mr. A. Rivlin) has been welcomed.



**'THE FUTURIAN' by JAMES V. TAURASI**

In response to many requests, we are giving below a summary of the details concerning our corresponding membership scheme; for full details write to the secretary.

**DUTIES**

Dues are 1s. 6d. (40 cents) per annum, which sum includes the subscription to the Futurian, now the organ of the Leeds SFL.

Members are expected to write to the society at least three times a year. It is preferable that they should be in communication with a member in Leeds.

**ADVANTAGES**

A membership certificate immediately on joining.

Supplies of printed notepaper at a nominal charge.

The reasonable use of the advertisement columns of this magazine free of charge.

Correspondence exchange .

Participation in special contests.

Use of the League library .



## ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

Amongst the books added recently to the Chapters library are included the following,

The Absolute at Large	Karel Capek
Ragnarok	Shaw Desmond
The 1,000th. Frog	W.D.Hubbard
The Gold Tooth	John Taine
One Sane Man	Francis Beeding
Weigher of Souls	Andre Maurois
The Dark Frontier	Eric Ambler
The Lost Garden	Geo. C. Forster
News from Nowhere	W. Morris

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## COLLECTORS ITEMS (For the more avid fan)

The Futile Press (Box 27 Lakeport Calif.) announce the publication of 'Commonplace Book' by H.P.Lovecraft. It consists of a compendium of notes and ideas collected over many years; and is 'an inexhaustable mine of weird conceptions and scholarly annotations'. Is limited to 75 copies and costs one dollar.

The Bizarre Series of Millheim, Pa. U.S.A. will follow their publication of A. Merritt's 'Three Lines of Old French' with 'Thing in the Cellar' by David A. Keller.

Finally, the LANY cooperative of 1903 W. 84th. Place, Los Angeles, California; will publish a limited edition of 100 copies of 'The Hyborian Age': Robert E. Howard's memorial volume. It deals particularly with the Conan sagas, and is a 34 page mimeographed work. Priced at 35 cents.

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## Americanews AS RECEIVED FROM FREDERICK POHL

The principal items of interest in the USA of late seem to concern new clubs and groups. Not less than a dozen fresh ones have appeared in the last 2 weeks. Among them are several new forms; a Science Fiction Poet's Guild, for instance, and one for Artists. F. Pohl who is organising the former, gives its present membership at about 12, which is not bad for a select body.

Peahaps the most novel of the lot is the Loyal and Benevolent Protective Order of Wolheim Stooges, whose Secretary, J. B. Michel, states is open to all fans of whatever standing, who have ever had occasion to differ with William S. Sykora. A word in explanation, Sykora recently spent several hours at a meeting of the Greater New York SFL reading letters written by him to all sorts of fans, which labelled dozens of fandom's leading persons as 'stocges of Donald A. Wolheim'. Several of those present, who so were labelled thought they might as well have the name and the game, so organised the LBPOWS.

The Futurian Science Literary Society has been formed as a New York fan group, restricted to persons of progressive leanings. It will take over the publication of the furore-creating 'Science Fiction Advance', and may affiliate with a shortly-to-be-announced new international alliance of science fiction fans.

Another new group (mentioned elsewhere) is to be called New Fandom, and is reported to be the first gun in a oneman onslaught by Sykora to drive out of science fiction Michel, Wolheim, and Pohl.

## COMING FROM CAMPBELL (Cut down)

Mr. J. W. Campbell is on holiday as we go to press, so has not sent us his usual forecast.

However he does inform us that Astounding's next astronomical cover will appear on the November issue. It will portray the next planet out in series — Jupiter as seen from Gsnymede. This viewpoint was chosen because it appeared in a story on hand, and served ideally from an astronomical point of view. Both Io and Europa are large enough and can be near enough to Ganymede to show as small moons against Jupiter's bulk. Callisto shows only as a point of light because of its great distance, while the lesser moons would be invisibly small.

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## BOOK NEWS

Amongst the new books published recently are:

CHAOS by Shaw Desmond Hutchinson 8s. 6d.

A frightfull and frightening story of world war; slaughter and cruelty, stupidity and jealousy; yet some people manage to keep their heads clear.

SAURUS by Eden Phillpots Murray 7s. 6d.

Inhabitant of another planet, arrives here, handicapped by no previous knowledge of our world but with highly developed ability and understanding, giving his views.

Messrs. Methuen have now produced cheap editions of Starmaker by W. Olaf Stapledon and Lost On Venus by Edgar Rice Burroughs both of which are priced at 3s. 6d.

The Penguin series have added Wells' Invisible Man to their list of sixpenny books, - classed as a thriller.

And of course we must have our

## FAN GOSSIP PAGE

Collected by 'Jemini'

We hear from New York that they are expecting about 1,000 regular fans and an indeterminate no. of visitors to the 1939 convention there; which, if plans mature will be a 3 day session. Panels may be formed to discuss various questions . . . our congratulations are due to Ken Chapman, prominent London fan, on his recent marriage . . also to Olon F. Wiggins, S.F. Fan editor, on the birth of a daughter - his second . . . Arthur Clarke and Will Temple are house-keeping together in a flat at 88 Grays Inn Road W.C.1 . . . . Claire P. Beck is at present visiting correspondents in New York and vicinity . . . the Futile Press has on schedule a book of Clark Ashton Smith's poetry to be entitled 'Incantation' . . . the results of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association's elections are: president - J. B. Michel, vice pres. - R. W. Lowdnes, secretary - J. V. Taurasi, official editor - D. A. Wolheim . . the membership limit of this society (50) has now been reached . . . J. R. Fearn sent 'Fantasy' no less than 14 yarns to consider . . . Ted Carnell has resigned as publicity director of the B.I.S. . . . new American society to be called New Fandom being formed, Will Sykora and Sam Moskowitz sponsoring it . . . there are now two weekly stf. productions Wilson's Stf. News Letter, and Taurasi's Fantasy News . . . . Raymond Van Houten has resigned his post as manager-secretary of the Science-fiction Advancement Association, R.A. Squires is temporarily holding this job . . Thats all.

James Rathbone esq. would like to correspond with a Weird Tales fan of any age, shape, size or colour; write c.o. Parkhill, 24 Heriot Place, Edinburgh 3.

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Zero to Eighty Northrup  
Ship of Ishtar Merritt  
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