

FUTURIAN ADVANCE

"Just to be alive today is to live Science-fiction!" -Donald Wollheim* "I agree!" -Raym*

Vol. I -- No. TWO * FUTURIAN ADVANCE combined with FUTURIAN LETTERS* MAY, 1944 ****
Edited by Miss Helen Bradloigh, assisted by the staff. Published by Futurian Press at
214 N. 20th, Newcastle, Indiana USA **A CIRCLE PUBLICATION** One of the "Cosmic Ester
prizes" of the World Science Fantasy Association* Write Helen your criticisms* Thanks.*
ON to BERLIN, ON to MARS, ON to ALPHA CENTAURI! *DR**DOWN WITH FASCISM IN FANDOM**Face

GUEST EDITORIAL by FRANK HOLBY

I would like to make a few criticisms at this point, and hope that they are taken in a friendly spirit. First of all, in my opinion, you should go in for more quality and less quantity. You seem to have amazing spirit and unbounded energy in your activities, so why not take a few more pains in the appearance of your reading matter? Also, a bit more care in sentence structure and grammar would help a great deal.

Your ideas and efforts for fandom are excellent. I hold a very real admiration at the way you have continued in Fandom, despite the verbal poundings of intel rant critics. I have often taken your side, in part, at least, in a great many conversations back in San Francisco.

I would appreciate your adding my name to your membership list.
BEST WISHES,

APPRECIATION by The Editor

Frank P. Holby

I would like to thank those whose warm response to the first issue of FUTURIAN LETTERS shows the very real need for a publication of this nature--among whom, were communications from Raym, Ron Maddox, Alfred Maxwell, Joe Hensley, Paul Klingbiel, Fred Pohl, Holby, Beak Taylor, Bob Tucker, & they're still coming in!

This ISSUE we appreciatively DEDICATE to the SIX members in BRITAIN, to Paul Freehafer, whose untimely death leaves all who knew him with a great sense of personal loss, and leaves fandom without one of its truly great fans and characters, one who can never be replaced; and dedicated also, to the WELCOMING of Joseph and Vivian SELINGER, and Janvier HAMELL, Gilbert NOBLE, and Frank HOLBY. Come on fellows! 3 big, hoarty cheers (that's right) for those new members who've decided to join us. The welcome mats out -- consider yourselves GUESTS of HONOR this issue.

We SALUTE again, the FUTURIAN SOCIETY of PHILADELPHIA-- and of course the good old FUTURIAN SOCIETY of NEW YORK, to whose publication SF ADVANCE this is dedicated.

A FUTURIAN VICTORY -- the Members WELCOME FRANK HOLBY
--by Don Rogers

I am sure the moms do welcome Frank--and as he is now stationed in an isolated army camp outside Abilene Texas, I imagine he'd be glad to hear from you CC fellows & girls. Frank is sort of a new fan, though I guess he's been associated with fandom and the fans in San Francisco now for a long time. He was at the famous STAPLECON hold at Forrie Ackerman's place, & other local fan get-to-gethers.

Your Roving Ambassador, who was former Director, met Frank Holby at Bill Watson's home in San Francisco, last October. My good friend George Ebey & I had gone over there to see-- I told you it was at Bill's place didn't I? --sorry; it was at Harry Honig's (Editor of Arcana) place that we met Frank Holby. (And now, so that Watson won't go beat up on poor Honig or somethin', I'd better mention also, that Watson is the Editor of Diablerie). Frank is a sincere, rather quiet sort of person; intelligent, and a real nice guy to meet & know--a dam nice guy!

Harry introduced Frank, we chatted, signed autographs, talked about far places and alien creatures called fans, admired Honig's swell fan den with its room full of sf. pictures & originals, grabbed various & sundry of Harry's collection of rare mags to glance at first one and then another. That is, we did these things between times and whenever possible, for arguing with Kepner's monomania or fixation complex against the CC. He seemed to have nothing on his mind but anti-Cosmic Circle Propaganda. After more or less successfully talking Honig out of joining, he tried to go to work on Frank. After awhile it became pretty disgusting to everyone.

I'm afraid even that I wasn't exactly a gentleman that evening. I was unusually disturbed, as witness the fact that I actually argued back with Kepner--which isn't my habit at all. Ordinarily such things do not bother me in the slightest. My only excuse is that I had just hitch-hiked five hundred (500) miles up from Los Angeles with the junk, and every blankety-blank mile of that way I had to listen to his ravings, about how the CC wouldn't work (according to him would ruin fandom if it did--& he evidently thought it would, or he wouldn't have been so fanatic about it), and he actually tried to talk me out of having anything to do with it & joining the NFFF (can you imagine the nerve of the guy-- me, the Director (at that time)). Under similar conditions most of the other fans would have quietly murdered him, in place of just arguing! It was when we got to Frisco & he began to try his lying propaganda on my friends in the bay area that it really got me. But it would seem that he was not so successful after all. At least Frank has now joined us.

I hope Frank will not mind these little reveries. The readers will recall that in "Speer and Fandom" I said that I could except defeats when they came, and that also I enjoyed my little victories more than most. This is one of them! Somehow--- Kepner was so sure of himself---& the other intolerant critics were so sure of themselves. K. was actually predicting (& once offered to bet me money on it) that the CC would not last 3 more wks! (that was last October-- 8 months ago).

Ah yes-- How times do change! Once Hitler was predicting that in a few more weeks he would review his armies as they paraded around Red Square in Moscow, and once, that within three weeks he would dictate the peace in London. One cannot help wondering what Hitler would say today? Or what Kepner would think up. Democracy goes on, the Cosmic Circle goes on under it's new Directorship, much more well-liked by all fandom. History (in fandom & otherwise) would seem to teach that there are always small minorities & power-cliques that try fanatically to hold down progress, perhaps they are successful for a small moment out of Eternity--then the inexorable stream of progress, the will of the majority catches them in it's undertow, and they are either carried along with the current, or else they perish or are left completely behind. It was largely my firm belief in these things, and what I choose the Will to Win of a group of people, that has carried us over the rapids of the last 8 months-- but these same past 8 months have borne me out, have proved right beyond my fondest expectations! There should be smoother sailing ahead for awhile.

But looking back over the troubled times---remembering the various fans. I talked to, in far-off strange places---and then when one of them joins, it makes me feel that one more milestone has been reached on the road of progress, that it all has not been in vain. Frank is in the army now-- I'd like for as many CC mems to write and welcome him as can. Even though he doesn't get time for activities, we'll keep him in touch with what's going on, won't we fellows? Frank Holby is the kind of fan we are glad to welcome --- that we are proud to have as one of us. Respectfully, D. Rogers

VOM is a mag that has even longer letters than this: 4SJ ACKERMAN, Bx. 6475 Met. Stn LA, Cal.

SHOO, SHOO BABY !!! -- by Helen

On the other side I have thanked the readers for their response to the 1st ish of FUTURIAN LETTERS which I Edited. I am also conducting this one--but a communication from makes it appear that this might be the last you would see of little Helen in these pages. I quote from Raym, in part: "Regretfully I announce that I'd rather Helen didn't handle the letter dept any more. Still too much pornography --- Let me handle this too." (Unquote.)

Raym is our Director, & I believe that he feels this is for the best. It's OK with me, except I would like to defend my handling of the column against the charge of "pornography". The material appearing in VOM & many of the well-known fanmags of the day, is "soxy" in the extreme compared with the mild pornography in just one place in my alleged "spicy reparto" with Joe Fortier. Joe & I like to talk about such things, don't we Joe? Of course there is the question, as to whether a letter section is the appropriate time and place. Obviously, it is overdone in some fan mags, but my intellectual intercourse with Joe in last issue---? Well, it's up to you, readers.

If you want yers truly to conduct ye olde roadahs column, I reckons y' all better write to Raym (117 Hamilton st, Live Oak, Florida) and toll him you wants yo'r little gal back (or that you don't, if such is the case). I suppose I will publish my 2 private mags, Fantasy Forum & Troy, but if anyone wants me to conduct the letter sec.

RAYM

Live Oak, Fla. Apr. 13, --" in addition to my CC work & proposed stenciling of CC Publications, I have my regular non-political fan activities, a huge lot of material to be stenciled for Unger, ---my regular PARADOX column which Wilimezyk wants before the end of April, & in addition I want you to mimeograph & distribute a mag for me in the next PAPA **** I am glad that you supported ACKERMAN. I wrote him an airmail letter expressing my belief in him the day I received the malicious account by the KNAIVES, before I even know your reaction; & Forrie's detailed reply convinces me of the truth of his goodness of spirit. Incidentally, "Oliver Kano Smith's" analysis of the situation is absurd, although a particular type of mind like his could easily construe the situation to be that. *** We're going to---make the Cosmic Circle all over again. We're going to turn it into a buisnesslike, smoothly-functioning organization with few if any inconsistencies. This implies---& the wholehearted cooperation of you and Helen. Most sincerely, Raymond
Live Oak, May 10

"I have no quarrel with the program presented in the first COMMENTATOR that you published in L.A., but I feel so much at one time can not be assimilated. Let us stick to what is possible of being accomplished in the reasonably near future.

Now, science-fiction is the largest media in existence that distributes our philosophies, clothed in fiction, to the general public, & I expect the nucleus of our organization to be composed of the followers of this literature. Among the science-fiction fansy Don Wellheim's Futurians most closely approximate us in their beliefs. Therefore, when we have redeemed ourselves for our past mistakes in the eyes of fandom, I have reason to believe that the Futurians would benefit our program immensely. **** But the response to our proposals was enormous. Only later---did we encounter the firm opposition which unfortunately assumed the character of a lynching party before reaction set in toward a more tolerant criticism. Our first successes were enormous. In England, particularly, did enthusiasm reach a high pitch.

We feel that there is a definite need for such a movement. The response to our early crude efforts tends to support this theory. Accordingly, under my direction we are trying again. We are following Wellheim's suggestion of concentrating on internal improvements.

Our future course is to be more stable & conservative. But we do make bold to say that before long we will have a society our members will be proud of, if our new plans mature as we expect them to. In accordance with these suppositions, we earnestly request a reply from you in order to better our movement and crystallize our points for future presentation. " ((another place Raym says:))

In addition to regular fanactivities and my CC writing & organizing, I have to type several doz. stencils for Unger (Imag-Index), prepare my poems for publication---and the preparation for a new job as telegrapher and stuff & stuff & stuff. . . Your Comrade, Raymond

Live Oak, Apr. 13, Dear Helen: Well, Helen, I believe that you & friend Don are sincerely trying to improve the Cosmic Circle. We have made a lot of regrettable mistakes which I have gone over with Don many times. I believe that we are a potentially great organization. ----

I believe in your courage and idealism in standing by the Cosmic principals that that we all agree on; I believe that our club is not just a youthful froth that we will "outgrow"--- *VI approved*

RAYM, FORTIER, HELEN and BLACK MAGIC -- by Helen

Remember last issue, and Joe Fortier's letter in which Joe says, "What's this mystic power Raym seems to hold over the women--" and I replied, "What's this Raym? Have you been practicing some sort of Black magic over us girls. Come clean." RAYM "COMES CLEAN" --or How to banish Tattle-Tale Groy in 6 easy washings !****

To lose Formality for a little while, Helen, thou daughter of Troy, I assure you I am not using black magic ((that's what they all say. Wonder how many other girls he tells that to?)), to make you girls "swoon" ((Jody swears--I'll have to have her teach me how. I taught her how to blush once.)) In fact up to now I have more or less ignored you --((they say ignorance is bliss--))

As for me, I am not in the least Gublian. I am tall & thin--etc. At night I go stumbling through the dark kitchen, repeating poetry to myself in a somnolent voice. ((You men are all alike--you shouldn't hit it so hard--and why in Helen.

~~and~~ you come in quietly-- if you must sneak in at 3 A.M.?!)) --I then clomp up to my don with a Frankensteinian tread, & lie for hours reading poetry. Classical English poetry. Enough of me. Plc use write Helen, at as great length as you find convenient I don't want you to think of me as an abstract ego of the Florida swamps, but as a close friend who likes you and wants to advise you so that your projects may succeed.

Love , *Raymond*

FRANK HOLBY

((Hope Raym doesn't mind my kidding in his letter. Here's a few words from Frank Holby. For text of it, read his "Guest Editorial". Abileno May 21, Dear Don & others :

Was glad to receive your "Cosmian" publications, which were forwarded from my former address. ---Your ideas and efforts for fandom are excellent. --- Unfortunately, my connections with fandom will be somewhat limited as long as I am stationed in this isolated camp, 12 miles outside Abileno. Best Wishes

frank Holby

ALFRED E. MAXWELL

May 1, 1944 Dear Claudio ,
First, I want you to think up something I can do to help---anything

if you take into consideration the fact that I am currently engrossed in a busy and time consuming radio course. ---((Among things which Alfred did not like, which I shall refer to at the close, was one mention of :)) The weak attempts at levity which Miss Bradleigh. Although I do like her letter column, mainly because it shows the power we (may I ?) have. ((You certainly may, Alfred.))

C.C. needs a strong hand at the reins to keep it from spurting off in the wrong direction and to guide it purposefully toward it's announced goals.

The campaign must be drawn up and plotted , step by step and the campaign must be carried out over a definite route.

The plan must be given a more concrete and cogent purpose.

But I'd better stop here , as I'm involving in such generalities that I'm not even getting my point across.

What I mean to say is, that I'd like to see WOLLHEIM at the head--- or, second , you ---with a firmer hold on the organization --as a whole.

I'm still all for the basic end of CC. But I do not like the way it is being attained, if you may type the current strivings of the members as attempts at the attainment of the final goal.

This represents an opinion. If it isn't in the majority, forget it. If it is, do something about it. Sincerely , A Follow - fan . *Maxwell*

((Don is now connected with the CC as a private member, no longer officially. Raym is Director. NO Don has not forsaken us, though he has offered to resign if the Director or members want him to, since the Spear attack. Read Don's comments to your letter in COSMIAN WORLD. About in addition to being the Western Area Organizer, since you are according to Don, fandom's champion letter writer, getting you to answer some of the CC mail, which would be something you could do in your spare time, and really help the organization considerably . I, too, would like to thank you for your kind offer. It is so gratifying how the great majority of the members have stuck with us even offering and insisting that they do something to help in our hour of need, and thru the attacks that have been made on us. As long as there are members like that, the CC can never fail. I am sure of it. No group could fail with members as loyal as the Cosmen are proving themselves to be ! Cosmic Circle members are go-getters--- never quitters ; fog ardless of anything else that might be said about them .

Too much comparison with the war has probably been done in the past . But as for the mention of "fascists" , that brings up the question of whether or not to call a spade a spade. One of the most vicious "onomy propogandists" that have been mud-slinging us, formerly published a mag called "S. F. FASCIST" , wrote articles defending Adolph Hitler etc., and is in with a Battle Creek clique who excluded Don from the annual conference he was supposed to attend as State representative, and the "NEFF" (DR calls it the National Fascist Fantasy Federation) who have announced that the "NEFF" hopes to become "fandom", in other words regimented, under their thumbs & every whim--- exclusive of any other fan club!! What can you do with people like that? This Spear person came to Newcastle around Easter and spied on our activities, in addition to his earlier published propoganda leaflet. Then he has went away again, and is now at-

tempting to have another campaign of propaganda and mud-slinging published, about Hager. Some sort of nonsense about "Dog" being formerly in an institution, and that "Dog" left Newcastle because of a charge of rape (the lie Marlow invented at the 2nd. Nyon in Battle Creek), and Spoor even says I understand, that he saw me (Helen Bradle) and that I denied any connection with "Dog". I never saw Spoor or even knew he was here till much later--as he never bothered to look me up. I was probably at Hagerstown at my work, but he could have found me.

Can you imagine the incredible shamelessness of the fellow, the brazen impudence of the guy? I certainly can not. How could any science-fiction fan treat others of his kind in such manner--how could he say such things? It is part of the KRAVVE-NFFF Blitzkrieg or attempt to discredit famous fans & clubs, in their avowed intent to become "fandom", exclusively! But it is so monstrous it still seems unbelievable to most of us. I repeat ---what can you do with such people?

The old tactic about spreading rumors about someone, repeating them over and over, is one that has been in use by Dr. Goebbels for years. It is hard for anyone to believe that anyone would tell such a big lie, or that anyone would repeat over and over such deliberate & shameless falsifications. Especially, sci fans --My god! We have a little policy which we have adhered to faithfully--we always like to tell our members what is going on--we never hide anything, and for this reason they are the best informed and probably most intelligent science-fictionists in the field. They are quite capable of making up their own minds & their own decisions. They also know mud-slinging and propaganda sheets that smell of Mein Kampf when they see them. Spoor may fool a few fans who are not informed and who hear only his side, but he will never fool a Cosmic Circle Member! If you wouldn't call the persons responsible for such ludicrously Nazi tactics "fascists", then will someone please inform me what they should be called ---they certainly are not lovers of democracy!

The campaign being drawn up that you mention, Alfred, is even now being done, & will be presented and discussed at the 2nd Live O'con, to be held any day now, perhaps by the time many of you get this. Send in your ideas right away, to have discussed or used at that important C. C. conference. We would like to have you get in with us on it; Don has told us much of the plans he discussed with you in Salt Lake City on his national tour.

Mr. Wollheim is now the Editor of the ACE DETECTIVE magazine. I understand he keeps in fairly close touch with Raymond our Director, and has given him much valuable advice and the wealth of his long experience, which is being used & put into effect by Raymond. A lot of things along the line of your "opinion" will be planned at Live Oak, Alfred. You should get in touch with Raym, and I like your ideas. Sincerely, Helen

BOB TUCKER
Bloomington May 16, Chorio: "Nor have I a quarrel with you, any of you, but I shall continue to fire away with glee at any & all NC manifestations that appear silly, assinine, or downright comical. ((Go right ahead Bob. We like humor too, especially the Lez variety. We do not object to humor--it is only malicious mudslinging & villifications that we do not like--and you have said yourself, that you do not like.)) Some of the stuff in NC publications was passed off as humor was something else again. Especially this bilge put out by Jody. ((Jody put out just one sheet. However, most of us agree that she went too far with it. She's now back in Frankfurt. However, she did get a lot of letters praising the thing, from fans in Service mostly. I've saw them.)) Someone should point out to her what and what not the postoffice considers decent.

The Xmas of the C'tator is another example. The interlineations were filthy. ((Suzzette did those. Perhaps they sound that way, but Suzzie was full of Xmas cheer that day, & didn't mean them to be as bad as they may sound to you.)) Not that I care a darn whether anybody practices such things; but I see no good reason to prattle about it in print. Such stuff coming into the homes of potential fans will scare them away faster than it will attract them. Unless they are sexual morons. Tch. Tch. ((Tch yourself! I've read some awful "cute" things in Lez. Jody's mag had a rather small circulation. The fans it went to were not new fans, & most were in service. She received many glowing letters, as well as I or so that were otherwise. Wait till

~~those~~ G.I's & burly sergeants hear you inferring they are morons--heh-heh))

With ~~measurment~~ I noted the masterful trimming job done to my 3 or 4 p letter in F.L. You practically eliminated everything but the pats on the back. ((I "dood" it all by my wittle self!)) Come, come, print more criticism. ((That's why we just printed Bob's letter complete. LeZombie is undoubtedly turning slow revolutions in it's coffin in which it snoops in daytime. Surprised Bob?)) Give readers the idea that you actually welcome criticism ((Dear readers, we give you the idea that we actually welcome healthy criticism.))

The 57 th issue of LeZ is enroute to you; am willing to exchange with your publications. However you are apt to get the bad end of the deal, as there probably wont be any more Zombies. I expect service of one kind or another this summer.

The Newscard has been returned to Frank in Chicago, now that he is back from Cal. Your items have been passed on to him. Thank you. You might ask Don to explain the statement that he visited me here in March & discussed the IFF. He never showed up here. Does he dream with his eyes open, or has he been hitting the bottle? ** Who is Vergio Allen? That party also gets LeZ. " Bob

((Thanks for LeZ. Enjoyed muchly! Sorry to hear it may be no more. Don doesn't do either--at least not in print. That should have been M-a-y, not M-a-r-. As you know, Future Fandom Stories is the only place that you can read of a thing in fandom sometimes, before it happens. Don was speaking of his proposed trip to see you in May. I did that stencil myself, and that was a typographical error. So--I don't know if Don will get over to see you yet in May so as to not make a fibber out of me, or not. But he had intended to do so at the time--we talked a lot of it. **V.A is just a minor NC fan, not active, though interested. I wasn't aware that anyone else here, got LeZ.HB))

MEMORIES of the FRONTIER SOCIETY & POSTWAR PLANS

Dear Helen:

Surprised & pleased to see my letter & your comments in FUTURIAN LETTERS. Also I'm following your suggestion in regard to supplying some details concerning the defunct FRONTIER SOCIETY.

by
PFC PAUL KLINGBIEL

The Society was born after reading Sinister Barrier in the first issue of Unknown. I had been collecting for several years odd items of special interest to me from science textbooks & science periodicals. These quotations weren't actually of a true Fortean nature, but something of the same spirit was there. I communicated my ideas to Don Brazier, my science fiction blood-brother. We had a pow-pow, and the Frontier Society was launched; I was director, he editor of the magazine.

In about a years time the society grew to approx. 40 members, circulation of the magazine to approx. 50. Then came the rumblings of WAR. Donn went first, about June '41. I had a government job in Chicago at the time, & plenty busy. I managed to get out 2 more issues--& they looked it! Then pressure on my limited free time increased to such an extent that I had to drop the whole thing, & dropped out of fandom too--that is active fandom. I was a civilian for nine months after that, & then the Army.

In it's hey day the Frontier Society was O.K. However, once Donn & I are civilians again, the scheme if adopted will have some changes for the better. I'm not sure about another society. I am sure of the revival of the magazine. ((3 CHEERS!))

Donn is determined to edit & publish my notes, the result of 5 years of investigating & reading, in book form. Whether the book would be of interest to fans is doubtful. One or two maybe--those who have studied science & math (college level), like Donn. A copy of the book will find it's place in the Archives of the Fortean Society NY. *** So much for that. I can't give you any detailed information, dates, etc., now, since all my material is in Wisconsin and I'm in Florida. But, oh for a typewriter! Sincerely, Paul

((Wasn't that interesting, members? Thanks for that prompt answer to my request for info about FRONTIER in F.L. You both surprised & pleased me, too! I'm sure the readers will have some pleased comments about it in next issue. I'm sure that after the war, you & Donn can get together on something, perhaps you will even decide on another society. We'd be glad to help. * WRITE, FANS! C U after Live Oak Helen ***