

# FUTURARIAN

## ★ WAR DIGEST ★

DECEMBER 1941 VOL II NUMBER III

### AMERICA AT WAR

On behalf of British fantasy fandom we offer our sincere sympathies to our American brothers-in-spirit who are now being faced with some of the trials and tribulations, we over here have already experienced, and also doubtless, some of their very own. We hope that the essential spirit of fantasy fandom will remain, in spite of the difficulties now arising; and that the mental adventurer will still be able to plumb his uncharted course through the enchanted cosmos, regardless of mere mundane affairs.

But how will you in America be affected? The first result may be something of a blessing in disguise, namely the drastic reduction of the number of fantasy magazines. We venture to suggest the almost-immediate halving of the field with then a gradual pruning down to about a quarter of the present space - about five magazines in all. Certain authors with service connections and younger writers of call-up age are sure to withdraw entirely from the field, but the mean standard of writing will undoubtedly improve as the competition gets keener for the smaller number of pages to be filled. But USA will not have the paper problems Britain has had, and the fantasy magazine is hardly likely to disappear entirely.

Fan productions are in another boat entirely. So long as some paper, ink and stencils are available, as they surely will be, the primary consideration will be the continued presence of the amateur publisher. And here we are somewhat pessimistic. We fear that many of the foremost figures in American fandom will be snatched away rapidly by the clutching claws of conscription. Though quite a few have been rejected already for medical reasons we imagine these verdicts will soon be reviewed in some way. So very soon, the 20-25 age group of fandom will be drastically depleted; leaving fandom in the hands of a few, very few, older people - largely withdrawn from active participation - and the up-and-comings.

Therefore we would prophesy a continuation of fanmaggery, though with a drop in standard; in brief a return to an earlier and less sophisticated stage of fandom. But a great difference will be the measure of control effected by the recent tendency towards rational organization of fandom as an organic whole.

In any case you have our best wishes. Long may fans read, write and correspond.

An Amateur Magazine devoted to fantasy fiction .....  
Published monthly at 4 Grange Terrace, Leeds 7 .....  
----- Editor; J. Michael Rosenblum  
Price: 3d per issue, 3/- or 75 cents per annum -----  
----- Reciprocal Exchange Welcome.  
.....

PROLOGUE And so we try an entirely different method of producing "Fido" a method sans elaborate jummying - not that we ever did anything very involved - which will enable us to get on with the job at those odd intervals available throughout the month, whenever sufficient suitable material is available. Thus we will never know just what will be in the completed copy, or indeed, what it will look like. But we shall, we sincerely hope, have a little more time to ourselves. Your indulgence is requested, but we feel certain our position will be fully understood by all our friends.

And if the finished product is somewhat similar to Bob Tucker's "Le Zornie"; as we have a sneaking suspicion it might be, we apologise!!

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AMERICAN PROZINES Messrs A. E. Birt, 66 Chandos Place, London W.C.2, are able to place subscriptions to the following half-dzn. fantasy magazines: Astounding Science Fiction, 16/-; Famous Fantastic Mysteries, 7/6; Ward Tales, 8/6; Amazing Stories, 19/-; Thrilling Wonder Stories, 16/-; and Startling Stories, 9/6. All prices are for a years subscription. There is no limit to the orders they can take, and it will probably take about eight or nine weeks after placing an order before you receive your first issue. Don't all rush at once.

LONDONLETTER "Men About Town Dept"  
Bill Temple, with Joan, visited London on his last leave, camping out in the debris of their Wembley home. When Snaghurst and I met him, he was still complaining bitterly about army life. Can't understand why. Me, I'd just passed a delightful afternoon washing down walls and cleaning out the lavatory.

Later we picked up Harry Chibbett, dropped him hastily, ran into Frank Arnold in a Fleet Street milk-live, apologised and stayed till after ten pm. while Snaghurst told us about sex.

Londonletter, and its scribe, nearly came to an abrupt end last week, when lorry I was on decided to lose control on a hill, run up a banking, climb a telegraph pole, and miss another lorry by about a second, scattering the load on to the tarmac with nice resounding thuds... Load was five tons of bombs.  
Sidney L. Birchby.

Change of address A. Dewick is now at 3 Boy Lane, Wheatley, Halifax.

This Month's Howler A slight mix-up in his knowledge of British Fantasy has caused Donald Tuck of Hobart, Tasmania, to give C. S. Youd promotion. In his fanzine "Profan" Don refers to the pre-war British prozine "FANTASY" and mentions Youd as its editor. No, Don, our Sarivel has only edited his own fanzine "Fantas:", or maybe you are being prophetic!

S.O.S. Dept Renny Rannison very anxious to get back his copy of the Ann-issue of Spaceways, sent "on the rounds" Who is the culprit?

AND THEN THERE WAS --- ONE LESS

Yet another of our stalwarts dons khaki and departs for pastures new. This time 'tis Kenneth Bulmer of High Street, Lewisham, London; who is due to join the Royal Signals on the 27th of November. We Weep for this will mean the enforced suspension of STAR PARADE, after the issue enclosed with this mailing, a loss which will be felt deeply throughout fandom in this country.

Ken himself is a comparatively new and young fan, although he has been reading science fiction for quite a while. Actually he came into the wondrous circle of Anglofandom about a year ago, the sad result of receiving a sample copy of "Fido". In that short time he has rapidly worked to the fore as a competent all-rounder - publisher, writer, artist and literateur - of proved ability. He has suffered one of the greatest possible, of all blows under which a sf fan can stagger when his entire collection - together with his home - was blown to bits during one of the blitz's. Recovering gallantly, Ken plunged into the whirl of active fandom, and all will be sorry to see him go for a while.

STAR PARADE has formed its own niche and developed its own personality till it was perfectly capable of standing on its own feet as a separate production; in fact superior to quite a few issued in America, and allowed by their perpetrators to glorify the sacred name of fanzine. Another casualty will be FANTASY POST, whose first issue proved the need of a reprint digest to keep Anglofans in touch with contemporary thought across the water. More the breakup of the rapidly developing team of Arthur Williams and Ken Bulmer may have repercussions on the former's productions as well.

As usual, on behalf of all our clientele, we wish our would-be warrior all the best of luck, good reading and happy landings.

Cover Comments from Woolf Temple: These "Dream Landscapes" of Harry's are real little works of art. Tell him to let his imagination have an even looser rein - and see what happens! Images, symbols, forms, shapes, beyond our comprehension - and why should the viewpoint be straight-forward? Go off level, look from below or any angle, or even from inside! Or do I know what I'm talking about?

JUST RECEIVED from Los Angeles is a most interesting little booklet entitled "The Discovery of the Future". It is a transcription of the recording of Robert Heinlein's speech at the Denver Convention. Copies enough have been sent to cover a fair proportion of British fandom, which fact alone is enough to tell you that it is produced by Forrest Ackerman. Half-foolscap format, it contains in 18 pages a word for word account; produced with the aid of Walt Daugherty's recording; of Heinlein's advice to sf fans and evaluation of the sociological significance of science fiction.

Which leads us to quote a brilliant suggestion by the Smith; "I think the best way to acknowledge what he (Ackerman) has done for us, and is doing for us, would be to wait until things have settled down a little after the war and invite him over here as our guest, paying all expenses. Providing that the post-war depression hasn't hit us too hard, it should be within the bounds of possibility to raise the wind from amongst the older fans, for it is a far more worthy cause than the usual piffling little trifles (editorial aside - this b-machine is up to its tricks again) with which we concern ourselves. There are, of course, so many things that might happen to interfere with carrying this plan

INTO execution that it would be folly to make any promises now .. but it might be borne in mind" Sounds a very good idea to me, De Ray Smith, and one which ought to be within the bounds of possibility.

BSFWRS Julian Parr sends the following communique,

(a) All recipient-members of the BSFWRS who wish to dispose mags received through it (because (i) they've already read them, or (ii) they've read them and do not intend to save them) please send 'em to us, and we will see that they are redistributed to needy fans or to the SFExchange.

(b) Johnny Cunningham tells me that fans may pay for their mags "merely by sending me 1 or less than 1 shilling in unused G.B. stamps of any denomination ... that stamps will be sold to collectors."

TIN-TACKS RETURNS Yes my dears, TT is coming back but this time under the aegis of L/Sdr Carnell, E.J. otherwise known as Ted. He wants me to inform all you lucky people that he hopes to have a couple of sides in the next mailing, and is as usual, requesting material -- controversial chunks concerning the twins, and any other matters. Ted also appends; "Had an interesting meeting with Art Clarke last Sunday. He is stationed about 20 miles from me, and came over to this camp on a bike. Spent most of the day with me, mainly in the office where I am again working for the time being. Hades of the Past -- but it was good to see him. We want to know if this is the first inter-station meeting of any fans in Britain." Well I'm not quite sure, Eric Moss whilst despatch riding met an ex-member of the Leeds SFL in Plymouth last year, but only for a moment.

Ex-Tin-Tacker Don Doughty has now got to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, what is the Navy up to, these days?

Ken Bulmer informs us that Olaf Stapledon's "Starmaker" has now been published at 2/-. Thanks Ken, we were not aware of it.

What about those chain-letters re the proposed Futurian Society of Great Britain? How can we get any further forward if they are not sent back? So far only three out of seven have returned to the fold, guilty chains being the Fido-coeditors, South Coast, Lancashire and Scottish. Please send them on, whoever has them.

Another change of address. James Parkhill Rathbone is now to be found c/o Mrs Briggs, 34 Clapgate Road, Bushey, Herts. He hopes to be informed of any fan happening in the London area.

Horace Vella of 17 Altreave St, Farringdon Road, London W.C.1 states that he is always willing to hear from anybody, anytime, who is willing to sell books or magazines, relating to science fiction or fantasy.

NOW as to this issue of FIDO - 'tis a poor thing but mine own, seems to be about the best thing I can say about it. 'twas produced in a couple of short sharp rushes, fbr I seem to have had even less time than usual this month. About this matter of time, the date of publication of FIDO is being altered to later in the month from now on - probably about the 15th; this is so that it will no longer clash with two other end-of-month responsibilities I have. So now you know. Subscriptions expiring with this issue are those of A.C. Clarke, D. McIlwain, J. Parr, T. Overton, E.C. Williams (5) J. Gibson, and A.V. Clarke. Please renew promptly & help me.

Amongst my Postbag Deeply regret that the followings letters can not be answered individually and so I must trespass upon the collective space. D.R. Smith, no need to send anything to me but you can send a book etc direct; E.F. Russell, thanks indeed for letter, haven't heard from your Yank as yet; W.F. Temple, glad to know you are still living; R.G. Medhurst (pc) Thanks, where's Lib 3? Julian Parr; P. Tucker sir received, thanks; D. Houston, thanks for birthday greetings, have rewritten HW re S; A.W. Lushy, best of luck with the Mol, expect other enclosures when I remember; R. Johnson, sorry couldnt reply to your interesting letter. The rest of you I hope to deal with properly

BOOK-REVIEW "After This" by Ryland Kent (Hodder & Stoughton 1940 3/3)

What awaits us in the world beyond? Makes one think of "Outward Bound" does'nt it? And so does this book all the way through. A shipload of humans are hurled into eternity by an explosion and we learn the afterdeath experiences of quite a few individuals caught in the catastrophe. The work is stated not to be in support of any religious or occult doctrine and it obviously tries hard not to offend any, with the expected result of extreme wishy-washyness. All are good, really; and everyone is on the way. But where is it closed over. Still it is a brave try for tolerance and civilisation, someone with a message still in advance of today is trying to help the world along. But I wish he hadn't chosen to do it through the medium of fantasy.

STOP - PRESS

Latest news and second thoughts received on Dec. 3rd. and crowding out some reviews of Yank fanzines. Both Ted Carnell and Renny Renison have been having a good solid think about their respective publications. After revolving matters for a considerable time in that mighty dome of his Renny has come to a fairly definite conclusion "From now on, "O" leaves FIDO. It becomes an independent 'Zine (Heavens, thats 2 - following ZENITH's example, what are we doing to fandom?) ..feature stories articles poems etc. and NOT news and reviews. The latter will still appear in a two-side COSMOS SUPPLEMENT with FIDO which will continue to appear as long as possible" Only two issue of new 'zine to appear, 10 sides, full size 'cap and sell for 3d per copy. Further details will be appearing later.

Now for Ted; "Firstly, I'm not going to continue IT, either by name or as Don used to run it. I feel it was his and anything I did would not be the same ... Therefore it has to be different, and I might as well start off with all my own ideas. Here it is -- SANDS OF TIME: A sheet dealing mainly with the Street and Smith twins. My nickname for it is S&S which is where the title originated"

Getting quite exciting, all this fanzine activity. Though I would like to say that FIDO's sheets are dwindling ominously. Some newcomers look like being very welcome, eh messers Birchby, Gibson and Tucker, or anybody else who would like a go at any time. Which reminds us. Some copies of FIDO this month will go out with Heinlein's Denvention speech - will those people receiving same be so kind as to enclose the extra postage involved with their next letters to me?

Now chum and participator in FGPO is Ron L. Bradbury of 34 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester. Gosh, another Mancunian!

And that ends the broadcast for this month. Lets hope for more news next month, and a Happy Christmas to all !!!

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

"FALLOUS FANTASIC MYSTERIES"

The feature story of the October 1941 issue, "Palce of the Dog Star Pack" by J. U. Giesy, rather disapointed me to tell you the truth. It is a tale with a great reputation but whilst good, it isnt that good. To those fond of what it unblushingly is - fantastic adventure - I should highly recommend it as reminiscent of some of Burroughs best. 'Tis a tale of intrigue on another planet, to which the hero introduces our civilisations great gifts in the shape of offensive armaments, so that Right can triumph, and his lady love be won. Lovecraft's "Colour Out of Space" seconds this offering most ably and "The Readers Viewpoint" includes another bulletin from Frank Edward Arnold, Science - Fiction Association (sic)

The December '41 issue brings us the third in George Allan Englands bright trilogy. Following "Darkness and Dawn" & "Beyond the Great Oblivion" we are treated to "The Afterglow" a tale of the re-establishment of civilisation by a man and woman who have survived a terrific natural cataclysm, remaining in a state of suspended animation for some thousands of years, and then leading the scanty and barbarous decedents of the Americans back to their lost heritage. We found it most interesting but slightly irritating at times. "The Lost Garden" - Max Brand was merely mediocre, but "Crimes of the Year 2000" - Ray Cummings was astonishingly good.

FFM is keeping up quite a good standard especially by the use of the longer, and therefore better built-up and developed stories, though it is certainly surprising how disapointing the early "classics" turn out to be (though that does not mean they are not good) in comparison with quite a lot of todays much-maligned output.

And we finish the page with a little overflow from Fenny's COSMOS.

LATE NEWS AND REVIEWS. ANOTHER CASUALTY - John Morgan reports that he has got his call-ing up papers, and by now has reported for duty with the Royal Corps. of Signals. Our best wishes go to him in this trying time, and let's hope the war's soon over. "SPACEWAYS" Oct. '41 has just arrived along with our old friend "FAY". The former has a fairly good cover by Doc Lowdes, and an awful back cover by Robert A. Nelson. The material is all fairly good, but there are only two outstanding items. Widner's "20,000 Leagues over the Road" a humourous article about the famous "Skylark of Woo-woo", and "A Collector Speaks" (Part two) by Larry B. Farasi. All the rest is pretty good (ranging in ratings from about 2 to 7) but none of it is really outstanding. The latter ("FAY") has a Turner front cover which is one of the screwiest looking things I've seen for a while (or maybe I don't appreciate art). Back cover (also Turner) is a moderately good pic. of some young Mas who looks fairly pleasing to the eye. Another issue is promised! Best feature is DRSmith's COSMIC CASE No. 5 (the old NOVAS TERRAE series), closely followed by his third part of THE ROAD TO FAME. Next comes FOR NO APPARENT REASON, and all the rest of the material follows closely behind. General comment :- very enjoyable.. but not as good as the previous Webster issue. PLANET STORIES FOR WINTER '41-'42 has an excellent cover which I believe is by Bok. Interiors are by Bok, Lynch, Paul, Morey, & Stevens. Material not read as yet, but Sam has another short in, MAN OF THE STARS, as well as being spotlighted in the FEATURE FLASH (his little lido his-tory). There are 4 novelets, by Bond, Sam, Alan Connell, and Cummings (ugh!), & five shorts by Basil Wells, James Norman, Henry Hesse, PBLong, and Robert O. Lewis. The VIZIGRAPH is enlarged, and it is one of the best reader's depts. of any pro that I know of. PLANET can go a long way, but the material is still poor, & the authors still hacks. Still, it's worth reading & Editor Reiss is sincere.

\* Edited by : -\*

\* J. E. RENNISON\*  
\* At - 82 Rams -  
\* Greave Drive ,  
\* Blackburn,  
\* Lancashire. \*

# COSMOS

NUMBER FIVE  
(NEW SERIES)

\* ART EDITOR :- \*  
\* Arthur F. \*  
\* Williams.\*  
\* DUPLICATOR & \*  
\* DISTRIBUTOR :- \*  
\* J. MICHAEL \*  
\* ROSENBLUM.\*

## "May Hilaire Bellec Forgive Me"

by R\*O\*N\*\*H\*O\*L\*M\*E\*S .

Do you remember the Days  
Pal?

Do you remember the Days?

And the sprockets and the Rockets

And the bulging eye-sockets,

And the Hells and the "Bells" as pictured by Wells

And the wonderful visions of Smith?

And the Moons and Balloons and the Great Wahoons

And the People who lived in a myth.

Do you remember the Days, pal?

Do you remember the Days?

And the Moons and Balloons and the Great Wahoons

Who lived on Mars

Way up in the stars

Of Pablos and Deimos in haze?

And the Scandals

And the Vandals

Of the Void, the Android.

Of tales of wonder,

Plunder,

Thunder,

All torn asunder

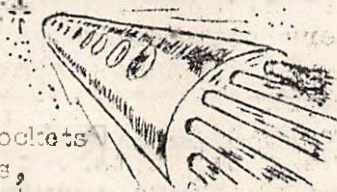
'Till you must gaze,

Through a haze

At the world which exists.

Do you remember the Days, Pal?

Do you remember the Days?



\*BOB GIBSON comments on FANTASIA.

"I had the good fortune to see

\* FANTASIA while on my last leave

\* and am unable to praise most of

\* it highly enough. The Silly

\* Symphony effect in the "Dance

\* of the Hours" struck me as be-

\* ing out of spirit with the rest

\* but that is a small kick. The

\* Evolution sequence was not st-

\* rictly scientific, perhaps, but

\* no-one should miss it. If none

\* of the rest of it was any good

\* at all the views of gaseous...

\* nebulae would be worth the pr-

\* ice of admission!

\* (This saddens my heart more c-

\* than ever, when I hear that the

\* Evolution sequence is not going

\* to be shown in the provinces.)

\*\*\*\*\*

\* I have not as yet, received the

\* SPACEWAYS Amish back. I have

\* traced it to Harry Syms so far

\* and if anyone got it after him

\* please let me know. IN THE MEAN-

\* TIME I DEMAND ITS RETURN TO ME.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will pay cost price, postage, and a bonus of 3d per mag. to anyone sending me the following :- AMAZING - Dec. '38, March, Apr., and May '39; Feb. '40 BRE of ASF; UNKNOWNS - May, June, July '39 and BRE March '40; MARVEL TALES Dec. '39. Write before sending to the Editorial address. Here's your chance to get some dough for nothing Also wanted cheap are Stapledon's - ODD JOHN, STAR MAKER, & LAST & FIRST MEN IN LONDON. Second hand copies are preferable; again write before sending, and I will pay cost price, postage, and a bonus of 1/- for the three. THESE ARE WANTED VERY BADLY.

EDITORIAL :- Thanks to all the guys who have sent me material and comments on the last issue of "CONIE", and who, with their kind co-operation are enabling YOU to see this sheet every month. Still more material is needed though, so why not spend that odd half hour writing a short story or article for me? Or better still a LONG one! There may not be a Dec. issue of "CONIE", or if there is it will probably be very small, as I have an exam. coming up about the middle of Dec., and as much as I'd sooner be issuing "CONIE", I'll have to get down to some sweating. However

"C" will be back again in full force in February. Will correspondents please note.. that from Dec. 1st onwards my correspondence is liable to become somewhat erratic and may even cease altogether for a time. However 'tis only momentary. I was thinking the other day that it might be a nice thing to find out who Britain's top fan was, so how about a Fan Poll to find Britain's Number one fan?? Let me know what you think of the idea when you write, and if the majority agree, I can give you full details in the next full sized issue. Just to finish up with, if any US fan sends me any mags., and doesn't get an acknowledgment of their receipt from me within a reasonable time, he may take it that either the mags., or my acknowledgment have been sunk, and can act accordingly. I always acknowledge receipt of anything as soon as possible, so if you don't get a reply within a reasonable time, drop me a line, and I'll investigate. With that we'll close this "Renny says" editorial for this issue, and here's hoping you enjoy "C" as much as I've enjoyed... preparing it for you. Keep Smiling.

\*\*\*\*\*

I title this, "Syd Birchby Says....."

I like fan-mags. Sometimes they run intelligent articles, and one can see that.. someone's been thinking, or they have a little genuine humour, and artistic merit and that makes up for the loads of guff and cross-talk, or the private jokes and recondite allusions to obscure events.\*\*\*\*\*Even worse are the magazines edited by people who have but one God, Science-Fiction, a deity to be worshipped to exclusion, studied in every whim, and copied in speech, manner and thought to the... last degree. Those ghastly little sheets that appear from nowhere and whose career resembles that of a deflating balloon, you know the kind of things I mean.\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*and I accuse you of betraying the present high level of "COSMOS" and your own good judgment by seeking to emulate these fizz-bangs. When you say, in asking for contributions, that you want no controversies started, except about science-fiction pure and simple, you strike a body blow at the thinking section of fandom.\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*Controversies, provided they are good-natured ones, are the lifeblood of fandom, just as of any social activity. Of course, I don't say that we should indulge in mud-slinging or personal abuse.\*\*\*\*\*But to stipulate that "COSMOS" must restrict itself to arguments over the relative merits of Wells and Weinbaum is the surest way of having a fan-fued start, due to sheer boredom.\*\*\*\*\*If fans want to talk politics, let them, subject to the usual war-time restrictions on free speech, and if they want to tilt against society's beloved twin windmills, Religion and Sex, then why not, for in England at least, most fans capable of provoking such a controversy may be trusted not to offend against manners and good taste.\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*Semantically speaking sciencefiction 'pure and simple' cannot be controversial, because it is not either pure or simple. It is a literary form expressive of and catering to humanity's wonder at life and its possibilities, this wonder having.. been brought nearer to tangibility by what is loosely called 'the industrial revolution', which therefore biasses the literature toward 'science' in its strict sense of the physical sciences. It is quite conceivable that society might have received its impetus from something other than industrialisation, shall we say, applied ethics (it would have done if Christ's teachings had prevailed, and did, in fact, do so until the Renaissance - to some extent). Society would have then pinned their hopes for progress on psychology, morals and spiritual growth, and should express it by what may be called 'ethic-fiction', as opposed to 'science-fiction'.\*\*\*\*\*In passing, such an 'ethic-fiction' did once exist, of which Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is the type.\*\*\*\*\*One should not, therefore, consider science-fiction as a self-sufficient unity. There is no irrelevancy in the... fact that a mentality that reads sfn. also reads, and reads with care, books on music and religion, or radical politics. It would not be true to the context of the sfn. movement if it did not.\*\*\*\*\*Now, let's start a controversy about con  
/ -troversies



The policy of "CONNIE" is to please the majority. Real fans, I think, constitute only about 40% of "FIDO'S" readers, and of those 'real fans' about 20% are fairly new to the field (as I am). These new fans are sfn. fans (as the 'old guard' were a number of years ago), and their God at the moment is sfn.. Maybe in another two or three years they will be as you are now, but we are dealing with the present. The majority of letters that I have received commend me on my present policy, and it is the majority that counts. The minority (for let us assume for the moment.. that you and your kind are in the minority) will not like "C", but as you know, it is impossible to please everybody. My policy is one that has been well thought.. out in the light of the above facts, and until the majority demand otherwise that policy will remain unchanged. We have BIBLIOPHIL which caters for the desires of the minority, and any time you want I am certain that Messrs. Webster and Medhurst will allow you to discuss politics etc. there. The fact that sheets such as BIB are not popular with the majority, is proved beyond all doubt by the failure of... CSY's WAR BULL some time back. However I am willing to feature all sides in this matter, and should the MAJORITY demand it, "C" will drop its pure sfn. policy. So it is up to you now. To meet the demands of the minority half way, I will feature one article of a controversial nature each issue - provided it is reasonably sensible and constructive. So it's up to you again to write the articles if you want them featured. I don't think "CONNIE"'s career is going to resemble that of a deflating balloon (not from the letters of praise I have so far received at any rate), and I don't think it's a fizz bang. I produce it for pleasure purely and simply - entirely for my own pleasure - and it exists at my whim. But, I do try to please the majority, and that is where you always win in the long run.\*\*\*\*\*

\*I agree with you that good-natured controversies are the life-blood of fandom, but there are not many political controversies etc. which are good-natured. They all seem to end up in that "bad-slinging and abuse" that you do not want. As to religion and politics the above idea of featuring one article per issue applies, but I WILL NEVER FEATURE SEX IN THIS SHEET! Sex cannot, in any way, be argued into.. sfn., as religion and politics can. In the latter cases I am willing to give you the benefit of the doubt, but in the former case I do not, and never will, agree. Sex, featured in "FIDO", is dangerous to its very existence, and so to quote Mike, "I do think the sex angle is completely out of place - besides, being dangerous to the continuance of "FIDO" - if the police start thinking things". That is from a source that can over-ride anything I may feature here, and refuse to print it. He is right, so if you don't like "FIDO" start asking for sex, and get it banned. As for the majority of fans not offending against good taste, I say that that's driven pure and simple. In the heat of a feud, most fans do not bother about 'good taste', and a lot of their remarks are most offensive to the majority of readers. Thus I hope I have answered you fully, and put up a good defence. The decision.. now rests with YOU, & YOU, & YOU, and until I hear the majority telling me I'm in the wrong - CONNIE WILL REMAIN A SCIENCE FICTION SHEET. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT.....

1. The Dec. '41 F.F.H. has an excellent Finley cover for the third of the DARKNESS & DAWN trilogy - THE AFTERGLOW by George Allan England. The really remarkable humanness of Finley's humans is a thing to marvel at. THE AFTERGLOW is illustrated by Paul in the interior, and he has done some really excellent pictures. It is for Beatrice and Allan to create a new world for mankind against the sub-human anthropoids, and they have many things to conquer before the world can again become the free place it was. There are two short stories :- THE LOST GARDEN by

Max Brand, (illustrated by Finley in his beautiful weird style), and the first of a series of CRIMES OF THE YEAR 2000 by Roy Cummings. The former is a weird tale of a meeting that had been foredoomed five hundred years before, and which no man could prevent. The latter is the first of a series which are to be reprinted... from time to time, and it is really a crime story placed in the future, where crimes are easier, but detection more infallible.\*\*\*\*\*2. T.W.S. Oct. '41 is not recommended to anyone who likes good stn.. The cover for Wollmen's ISLAND IN THE SKY is by Belarski. It is well printed, and above the usual lousy standard set by T.W.S.'s covers. Even then, the scene depicted is never mentioned in the story as it is drawn, even though there is something similar. I suppose that that doesn't matter to the readers of T.W.S. though. ISLAND IN THE SKY is b..... awful even though illustrated by Paul. The paper is lousy, and all the illustrations barring Pauls, and one Finley are absolutely awful. There are five shorts and every one is a sheer waste of paper. Dick Wilson's THE PURPLE BAT IS THE BEST STORY (sorry!) in the issue, and that is only mediocre. TWS should have gone better when it went bi-monthly, but it's a darn sight worse if one goes by this issue.\*\*\*\*\*3. ASTOUNDING Nov. '41 is something like a decent mag. should be. The cover for Doc. Smith's SECOND STAGE LENSMEAN is, I think one of Roger's best for a while. Done in light colours which blend perfectly... it is a master piece of art work. The Lensman looks like he should do - tough and ready for anything. (He also resembles Ron Holmes in a vague sort of way!)... The serial itself I will comment on on its conclusion. It is in 4 parts, and looks well up to Doc's. usual swell style. Rogers does the interiors, and they are eye-pleasing pieces of work. Other interiors are by Kolliker, Kremer, Orban and Schmoemann. The letter two are by far the best artists. The Novella is by Schachner, and is one good piece of work. A person who ~~was~~ <sup>had</sup> all weapons, can only be defeated by someone beyond all weapons. A gripping yarn with an excellent surprise ending. There are 8 shorts :- YOU CAN'T WIN by Malcolm... Jameson is a humorous little yarn with a new idea for cleaning out suckers but there was a catch..... FINITY by Grosser is a neat little story, and tells you how a guy can lose his girl, and in a few days time she can be married and... have a full aged daughter. DIRECT ACTION by John Haskins is a little bit of propoganda stn. put in for luck - but it's good. THE DOOR by Oliver Seari is slightly more of the UNKNOWN type - the door was to lead him out of the desert, but ironically enough it didn't. The best of the shorts is SEAT OF OBLIVION by Eric Frank Russell. The perfect hide out for a crook - in another man's body!

4. Dec. UNKNOWN WORLDS contains BIT OF TIMESTRY by Cleve Cartmill concerning 3 sisters who always seemed to be changing names and bodies.\*\*\*\*\*5. Nov. '41 ASTONISHING (courtesy Don Doughty) contains DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS Rocklynn's soul to INTO THE DARKNESS and (quote)" On glancing thru the mag. one queer thing struck me; this DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS has two illustrations, the first by Morey, and the second by Bok. That's the first time I've ever seen one story illustrated by two artists" (unquote). (Same goes for me, Don - anyone know of any story with two different illustrators besides this?)

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 FANTASY DEPT. FAN-ATIC Sept. '41 - pink cover and yellow paper (with a bit of blue for luck). Material isn't as good as it might be, but it isn't too bad.\*\*\* Arthur Cusp's poem - The ballad of the Three Bold Fans (Midner, Tucker & Doc) is by far the best feature of the issue.\*\*\*\*\*ULTRA August 1941 - interesting, and one of the better Aussie efforts. Material rather poor though. AUSTRALIAN FANTASY - June '41 - best Aussie effort - 4 colours and legible - material not so hot though SPACEWARD August '41 - small but decent Aussie effort - material is pretty good. WAVELENGTH Summer '41 (H.A. Lockerman) - very poor appearance and get up, but the material is pretty good. /All Hail the BSFWRS & BRE of UNKNOWN./

Firstly we come to our old friend S I D B I R C H B Y. Youth ho, "Welcome back to the miasmal swamp of fandom, and may it be many long months before you sink under the goo". (Well according to my horoscope "CONNIE" 'll last until the March issue, when she will retire for the summer months, so that she may at last reap a reward for her labours. She will be back next October, if she manages to pass a rather difficult exam.)

Now R O B E R T J. S I L B U R N has his say, "Congrats. on putting out "CONNIE", and for refusing to print overlibellous stuff. Also for reviewing Yank prozines. Re the latter, don't forget to refer to the cover, and its artist; and tell the reviewer to get another adjective besides "smashing". (Thankee very much, oh comrade, and I have seriously reprimanded myself for using "smashing" too much. Incidentally, the reviews seem to have been the best feature of the issue, and thus more space is given to 'em this time)

Canadian Bob G I B S O N drops us a line, "Sullivan's "AFTER '39, THIS?" indicates that fans can laugh at themselves. (So do lots of other things - and it's a healthy symptom).

Our ink-bedaubed (?) duplicator J. M I C H A E L R O S E N B L U M crushes the following into a rushed letter (Do you ever get any time for yourself, Mike?), "Welcome to "COSMOS" again - welcome indeed, as the number of sheets is dwindling rather ominously. People getting called-up and similar catastrophes - too too bad... (We still have "STAR PARADE" though). About "CONNIE", very nice. Recommend prozine reviews. Would be very grateful if you take over and tackle reviewing fanzines. (Editors please note that I now have official sanction - so in future you know where to send your mags! Will also take over personal notices from "Fido" so fans please note)

D E R E K W. G A R D I N E R comments, "The review of "PANTASIA" I found very interesting, and when I read further back in "Fido" that they were cutting the evolution sequence altogether it made my blood boil (Mine's still over heated). It's strange how good it makes you feel to see reviews although probably you will never even get a smoll of half of them.

A R T W I L L I A M S in a vain attempt to catch up with his correspondence says, "CONNIE" is swell! (Thank you for your exhaustive criticism Art, and I hope you will continue to review "C" as fully as above throughout the Winter!!)

Next we get our old friend, and one of our best writers, R O N H O L M E S, who complains for once, "C" was a bit of a mess. (Right) You were far too anxious to get it out. You should be like Ken, he uses his brain. (Ken, please note... that someone thinks you have a brain!!) No good material - no "S.P.". Then you can't say "S.P." is falling into a rut. (Ah, but we have some good material now, THOUGH WE STILL WANT MORE, including a swell story by Don Doughty entitled "ACCIDENT". It is definitely excellent.)

And now for the sciler himself, D O N J. D O U G H T Y - still at sea (ugh!!), "CONNIE" 4 has been read and duly digested (How you feeling after it? - I wouldn't really enjoy the paper myself, but there's no accounting for tastes!) Enjoyed... Art's review of "PANTASIA" - tho' he hardly seems to have written it with enough.. care for it to be meant for an article - letter excerpt? (Right) Review good, but rather adjectival. Reprint poetry excellent. Editorial inviting (to what?) Do you mean to quote letters at all in future? (Yes, if I have space, and don't feel too tired and fed up). Considering the lack of material and necessity to reprint it's an encouraging re-start (and it won't finish like last time, we hope!).

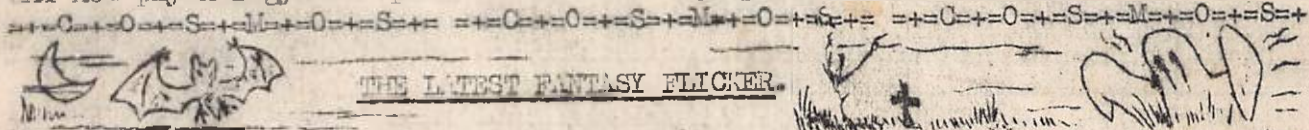
D O N H O U S T O N says, "I did like "C", and am looking forward to an 8 pager. However what about a change in name? (Sorry, but no dice).

Lastly J A C K G I B S O N (that grand SFK guy) says, "Glad you're carrying on the Heinlein discuss., likewise reviews. "C" fills gap left by "TT". (Oh yeah???)

If, as Doug Webster says in TT 8, Heinlein's psychology is that of a tiro, then the sooner we get a few tiro psychologists at the Ministry of Information the better.\*  
\*\*\*\*\*To support his contention, DW cites the character CALHOUN in SIXTH COLUMN, saying that for this person to go crazy and imagine himself the god MOTA was against what little small amount of character CALHOUN had been given. Was it? I don't think so. Those who have read the story will remember that CALHOUN was represented as being an irascible but brilliant scientist who is a little resentful of ARDMORE's usurpation of command. As the story progresses this resentment increases in a quite logical manner and for reasons which are obvious. From the... character which Heinlein has given CALHOUN it is perfectly safe to assume that such a person would brood over any wrongs which he fancies have been done to him. No, thinks the Webster will agree that brooding and self pity are short cuts to mental derangement, and who knows what form that derangement may take? Maybe DW is competent to predict what course it will take. Is that a subtle crack trying to... get past my censorship of libel policy?? If not.\*\*\*\*\*One example does not prove a case however. What of the very excellent psychology that is abundantly.. evident in "IF THIS GOES ON", "UNIVERSE" & "COMMON SENSE"? Hardly that of a tiro oh Doug?

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WHY "BLANK HEAVEN FOR HEINLEIN"? by Frank Mills (anyone know who he is?)

I too, do not take to Heinlein, so according to you, Ted, I am one of the minority. But maybe I am not a minority speaker. If some people read a story and cannot understand it, but feel that there is something about it that ought to make it a swell yarn, they will put a "very good" comment alongside it, even though they, not having caught the point of the yarn, have not really enjoyed it. This deliberate falsity of comments, is, no doubt, induced by the fact that everyone says ASF is the best mag., and features the only really good authors in the sf. field. As a result of this, and the fact that JWC raves over all of Heinlein's stories, a poor bewildered guy reading ASF (the normal average reader) will not want to write to JWC and tell him that Heinlein stinks, because... (the reader) could not understand the story. No, he won't have the nerve. He'll take the easy path and run with the crowd, praising Heinlein to the skies, though he knows that what he says is false. No, ted, if some of Heinlein's stories are too deep for you (a veteran fan) there will be many, many average readers who will not understand them. In this case the above will apply, and thus I've tried to prove to you that the mind of men works in such a way that though Heinlein may be rated high, it may be fear, and not psychology that puts him in that high place.



Though somewhat old to most of you, THE DEVIL BAT with Bela Lugosi has just arrived in Blackburn. The ads. said it was spine chilling, horrific, and would women please not scream. I went hoping for one of the best horror films I'd ever have seen, but alas, slack, I was not in the least moved as the victims went to their.. deaths and gave hoarse yells and screams. No, if you like detective pics., don't miss this, but if you want horror, save your money, sucker. Brother Lugosi is once more a mad scientist, trying to revenge himself on some persons who he thinks have cheated him. He develops a large bat (with the appropriate flashes of intricate electrical apparatus) and some lotion that it hates. He gives the lotion to his victims to rub on their necks as shaving lotion, then sets the bat loose, and it.. attacks the person with the lotion on them. He is defeated at last by a reporter