

WORLD WAR II

WAR BOND

YOU  
CAN

BUY

NOT  
TO



"CURSE YOUR MECHANIC - HE'S PUT THE WRONG RECORD ON. THIS IS NO TIME TO TALK OF THE LAW OF INVERSE SQUARES!"

## BRITISH FANDOM WAKING UP

We've been at a very low ebb for some months here in Britain, but by now it does appear that we are getting over the worst. During the last month the almost-unprecedented number of three British fan magazines appeared and yet a fourth is "on the stocks". First the resuscitated Fantast appeared, edited now by CSYoud and JFBurke in conjunction, and due to continue until the call-up of the former. Soon after Gargoyle no. 4, dated Jan. '41, came out, edited by Dave McIlwain (14 Cotswold St. L'pool 7). Both magazines are nicely up to standard, a high standard too! The third mag. is of course your faithful FIDO, and some details of the new arrival appear below. To add to the good work, Arthur Clarke's chain letter Fanmail has been doing very well in reuniting all the scattered Londoners, altho' now Arthur has been called up (beginning of April) its activities will suffer a partial eclipse. Other signs of the times are the great increase in inter-fan corresponding now taking place; and the suggestions for various helpful schemes, not to mention the co-operation in the production of Fido, I am so grateful for. All-in-all, it certainly does appear as if fandom has got over the long period of war hypnosis and is determined to carry on to the best of its ability regardless of the hazards which may turn up.

### OTHER ITEMS

A second issue of Messrs Swan publication "Yankee Science Fiction" appeared this month. Unfortunately it is impossible to be enthusiastic about it either in regard to cover, format or contents. A story by Jack Williamson is included. Incidentally, all the stories in Y.S.F. no. 1 were actually taken from Science Fiction quarterly No. 1.

RAFer Roland Forster has now got to the Shetland Isles, which must surely be one of the most desolate spots possible to maroon a poor science fiction fan.

### MORE "DENVENTIAN" DETAILS

Plans for the 1941 World Science-Fiction Convention to be held at Denver, Colorado next summer, are progressing nicely. Most prominent American fans have now joined the specially formed sponsoring organisation; the Colorado Fantasy Society. Special arrangements have been made to enable British fans to join this organisation and thus help to make the convention a success besides receiving various publications as they are issued.

English sf fans can become G.F.S. members by sending back copies of any English sf magazine, professional or fan, to the value of 50cents (about 2/6) to Lewis Martin, 1258 Race St., Denver, Colorado, U.S.A.

500 copies at least of a souvenir booklet and interested British fans will be able to obtain copies. "Booster stickers" are supplied to all CFS members and some of you will find one stuck on your copy of FIDO

### A NEW BRITISH FAN MAGAZINE

Arthur Williams of 3 Victoria Dwellings, Clerkenwell Rd. London EC1 announces the impending publication of a new fan magazine. Entitled "The Science Fantasy Fan", the first issue will consist of 20 quarto pages and will sell at 3d. The mag is to be hected from a hand printed original with copious illustrations. Line-up for No. 1 includes "Browsing" book reviews; "I Meet Wm F Temple" by JE Rennison; Short story by J. B. White; "Evolution of Stf." by J. H. Mason; a series of introductions called "Presenting"; Scientific Classic Review - No. 1 "The Moon Pool"; and the first of a series of illustrations depicting unorthodox types of spaceship. "Stan" is a welcome addition indeed to the current jangle of fanmagery.

AMERICAN NEWS We are getting a perfect influx of mag.'s over here; a new one seems to come out every month ---- fanags (Patent for fan magazine-Ed) the same. Among the newest are Wolheim's two. They are okeh, in fact, they're a little better than that in my opinion and long may they wave. I especially like the fantasy half of "Stirring Science Fiction".

A brand new SF mag is "Uncanny Stories", a bi-monthly by Manvis Publications Inc., edited in NY but published from Chicago. My classification of it is sub-SF. However it is SF; and has three famous names in it: Dave Keller, F.A. Kummer Jr., & Ray Cummings. It has 2 novels, one novelette, 1 SF short and two fantasies. Costs 90¢ a year, 15¢ a copy. Who edits the thing is something I don't know yet.

"Marvel" is out again, Vol. 2, No. 3 Bi-mon. by Western Fiction Pub. Co. It looks pretty good only I can't review it 'cause I just bought it a few minutes ago. The names are Jack Williamson, Polton Cross, Ray Cummings, Bruce Manchester, and Ray Cummings again.

Pluto (fanag) is defunct... editor got conscripted. SunSpots put out a good anniversary ish. Fanfare, Voice of Imagination, Horizons, Fantasia, & Alchemist are beautifully made these days; they look almost professional with their clear print and artistic covers. Spaceways' cover's gone surrealist; a lot of them going Bokim lately. Bizarre's dead... editor reported to have lost \$50 on it.

Tarzana edition of Burroughs Mars books coming out soon.... 75¢.

Jules Verne Club of N.Y. considering a pro mag. of exclusive Verne stuff. New film: "The Electric Monster" with Lon Chaney Jr. Brilliant scientist experiments with electricity on man.

from

Loretta Beasley,  
Sayre, Penn., USA.

## CLIPPINGS FROM CANADA

by Leslie A. Crouch

There's a bit of a debate going on this side of the Big Pond anent those two new science fiction magazines being put out by Albing Publications in New York and edited by former fan Donald Wolheim. "Cosmic Stories" and "Stirring Science Fiction". It has been charged by one famous American fan that Wolheim isn't paying for stories or artwork at all. But in the January issue (41) of WRITERS DIGEST these two magazines are quoted as paying ~~for~~ a word on publication. So your guess is as good as mine.

I am wondering if the two mags I mentioned in the December issue of FIDO are Wolheim's. Robert W. Lowndes, who, as you probably know, was an author agent in New York, wrote me saying he had the job handed him of filling the contents of the first two issues of a new and experimental magazine. Lowndes told me no money would be paid, but if the magazine was a success then payment would be instituted, and those who gave material gratis, would henceforth receive first preference and every consideration. Can Wolheim's magazines be these? (Editorial Note - I believe so, and also that professional writers received payment for their material, but "amateurs" did not).

STRANGE STORIES has been dropped from the Thrilling Publication line, leaving W<sup>W</sup>IRD in complete possession of this field.

STARTLING is asking for 40,000 word novels for the lead position, and pays \$200. for each one accepted. Incidentally I have good reason to believe that STARTLING pays a bonus for exceptional material.

YET ANOTHER 'tanner' book is due out this month (March) in the new Guild Sixpennies series, namely "The Thought Reading Machine" by Andre Maurois. Its an intriguing book and the title tells you the plot.

CLARIFICATIONS

garnered by

RON HOLMES

Pro-mags. UNKNOWN is on the brink, first it goes bi-monthly, then it rejects subscriptions - looks as though it is on the way out -- deep regrets. FANTASTIC NOVELS and F.F.M. will combine with the June '41 issue, and will continue under the name of F.F.M. Seems "Novels" isn't selling. MARVEL and UNCANNY are back without the sex, I've seen MARVEL and it is pretty good. Rumour has it that there will be a sister mag to COMET. FANTASTIC ADVENTURES ~~still~~ still appears in spite of rumours of its fold-up.

Personalities. Bob Tucker has sold a story to Pohl, twill appear in ASTONISHING this Spring. Damon Knight has story in first iss. of STIRRING SCIENCE STORIES. Second iss. of this mag and first of COSMIC contain two of his poems. Samoskowitz has story in COMET called "The Way Back". D. B. Thompson sells ASTOUNDING his "Eccentric Orbit". Bok, Forte, Hunt, and Giunta have commenced to illustrate for the pro's. Go to it, boys, if you do good for yourselves - you do good for Fandom, (we hope!!). Bob Tucker has recently become "Daddy" for the second time, nice going pal. A word from Bill Temple, "Joan and Ann are doing fine. The latter now reads, writes, sings and drinks beer. I can't think what's been holding her back." 'Tis truly said that the sins of the fathers' .....

Fan-mags. Sad news, four fold-ups. Alchemist folds because it's editor is so busy with the "Denvention" that he has no time for his mag. Pluto closes down because two of the editors are due to be called up; pity too, I had such a colossal article .... LeZombie folds for 90 days, as Bob Tucker expects to be out of work for a while - thus will be too broke to carry on. Deep regrets at the fold-up of "Fido's" pup "Cosmos".

Death of FREDERICK BRITTEN AUSTIN - a brief appreciation by R.G. Medhurst

The recent lamentable death of one of our English fantasy writers obviously calls for some sort of obituary notice in "FIDO". Mr. Austin was primarily known as a magazine short-story writer (in mags of the order of "The Strand": not pulps!), and his stories were collected into a number of books. He was, perhaps, rather less known as a novelist. Of stf. interest are;

"The War-God Walks Again"-London, 1926-stories of future wars, forecasting new techniques and new weapons. Has been justified by recent devlmts.


"The Red Flag"-London, 1932-a series of tales of the great revolutions of history, culminating in "The World is Red", describing the fate of the red "World Republic" of 2036.

"Tombrow"-London, 1930-a chronological series of tales intended to demonstrate mans' lack of moral progress. The first "Isis of the Stone Age" is set in the prehistoric past.

Also "On the Borderland" comprising a miscellany of tales of psychic & occultist phenomena.

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You are reading FUTURIAL WAR DIGEST, (nicknamed FIDO) an amateur publication dealing with and devoted to fantasy fiction. It is published monthly by J. Michael Rosenblum from 4 Grange Terrace, Chapeltown, Leeds 7; © 3d. per copy, 2/9 per year, postfree. (America 75 cents in stamps or promags.) There are also a number of accompanying sheets produced by fellow-sprite. A special Australian edition on thin paper commences with this issue, we'll be pleased to hear from you Aussies. (Just FIDO proper) Cover by Turner. Apologies for various awkward moments caused by a strained wrist of ye Ed's



**BOOK REVIEW**  
by Bert Lewis

This month brings from the publishers, a story of a "different" kind, but by no means a "new" type, as the same theme has been used before, and like the book "Outward Bound" tries to envisage a journey from this world to the next. The book, "First Port of Call", by Elizabeth Jordan (Long 7/6) is based on this theme, one even finds oneself wondering which of the characters will be permitted to return. An American aeroplane with its crew of five and eight ill-assorted passengers is forced down into the sea and after hours of suffering the thirteen find themselves on a mysterious island with all modern comforts. Only one is permitted to return, a rich young woman who comes to see the error of her foolish ways. Of course it isn't SF, but its darn good fantasy, like its predecessor.

Many will be acquainted with "The Birds" by Frank Baker, those who are will be pleased to hear that he has again given us a taste of his fantasy, of a different type this time, humorous almost to the point of satire. His latest effort is published under the ramisleading title of "Miss Hargreaves" (Eyre & Spottiswoode 9/-). He seems to have captured the spirit of the Wells we used to know. His "title part" is an 'invention' of two young men, holidaying in Ireland, to try to make an impression on the locals, by claiming 'her' as a close friend of a local celebrity. So far do they carry this 'pretence' that she actually materialises, much to their confusion; to complicate matters she is endowed with strange "powers", such as turning into a swan. Mr Baker succeeds in bringing a delicate situation to a very satisfactory end.

.....

"JUST A WORD"

BY THE



EDITOR

I simply must find a corner this month just to give a brief report on progress. With this issue our circulation reaches the 100 mark - about a half being subscribers, a third exchanges, while Leeds SFL members make up the rest with a couple of complimentaries and one or two "specimens". After 6 months of successful working I must express sincere thanks to my collaborators, & to all those kind people who have given me encouragement, helpful criticism & suggestions, and last but by no means least, the 'ordinary' subscribers who make the paper possible at all. With a special Thank You to Doug Webster for his unexpected and lovely 'half-birthday' gift to FIDO of two reams of paper.



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ENGLAND

FRANCE

SUGGESTION CORNER --- becoming quite a regular department, eh?

"Since this war began," says Jack Gibson, of 7 Belmont Road, Parkstone Dorset, "it has become increasingly difficult to get hold of science-fiction magazines. Therefore I think it would be a good idea if mags at present lying unused in the possession of fans should become available to other fans who perhaps have not been so fortunate in obtaining them.

To this end I propose setting up a "Science Fiction Exchange" on the following lines - I invite all fans who have magazines to make out a list of them & send it to me. All lists will be combined with my own, (which contains details of 153 mags) and I am willing to send the lists to anyone desirous of borrowing mags. Conditions are as set out below:-

- 1) No more than 5 mags can be borrowed at one time.
- 2) No mag can be kept longer than 28 (?) days
- 3) Care must be taken of all books.
- 4) Borrower must reimburse sender for cost of postage (about 2d per mag)

It would be unnecessary for fans to send me magazines as I will notify them as to whom they should send mags."

Well there you have Jack Gibson's plan, it's open to criticism and suggestions which you can send to him either direct or through "Fandom's GPO".

-o-

*Received Recently*

IN ALL some 19

PERSONAL COLUMN

pieces this month, which includes the two

English items mentioned previously. Of the remaining 17, 10 are Australian. For some reason Aussie

pubs. are very dear, a 16 page mag averaging 6d. and the contents are still in the adolescent stage. Of course fandom there is still comparatively young and will mature as time goes on. Of the Yanks, outstanding is the second anniversary issue of Tuckers LeZombie, 18 pages of Pongs inimitable humour and a photo of 12 fans at the "Chicon" adorning the cover. Also arrived is the Dec. Polaris - the weird fans own, published by Paul Freehafer. A huge issue of Pluto comes from the Literature, Science & Hobbies Club of Decker, Indiana, notable for FJA's interview with HG Wells. Two issues of the old-faithful Science Fiction Fan, Nos. 52 & 53, bring Olon Wiggins classy little magazine up to date - Britisher Ken Chapman figures in each, together with assorted gossip and reviews.

J.W. Banks, 28 Annington Road, Eastbourne, Sussex; wishes to get into touch with pacifist science-fiction fans. For sale, at less than 1/2 price new in at least fair cond.; postfree: "Modern Utopia", Wells 1/-; "Gods of Mars" Burroughs 1/3; "Many Dimensions" Williams 1/-; "Warlords of Mars" Burroughs 5d; "Time Machine" Wells 10d; "Tales of Space & Time" Wells 10d; "Dr Nikola" Boothby 6d; MAGS. TWS Jun 39, Unk. Jun, July 39; Weird Tales Jul 39; @ 5d each. Amazing Sep 39; last page missing @ 4d. Also 6d books @ 4d eh. "Science in War" "Digging up the Past" - Woolley; Tales of Mystery & Imagination - Poe. Write before sending money.

E. MacDonald, 25 Dochfour Drive, Inverness. Wanted. Various '34, '35, '36 Astounding's. List & prices to A.V. Clarke, 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent.

Some new people to add to the list for "Fandom's GPO" are Marion Eadie, Les Johnson, J. Gibson, A. Salmond, H.K. Bulmer, J.W. Banks, H.S.W. Chibbett, D.W. Gardener, Rita Pittman, Abe Bloom, E.S. Needham. Wonder if we can run to a full list next month!

This Uninteresting Mann Business

Since both Ted Carnell and I spotted McCann early on, fresh evidence was seen to the best advantage in its proper sequence. However! The first McCann article appeared in June '37, when there was a series of articles by Campbell running on a different topic altogether, which, since then there would have been no word of him becoming Editor, looked like continuing indefinitely. Reasoning - if JWC had an article on "Stress-Fluid" ready, how was he going to get it in print? Answer, pseudonym, which might well come in useful in future for the same reason.

It did come in useful. Six months later JWC became Editor and the series stopped just when he was getting set with his favourite subject - atomic power. This has been carried on since, in editorials, McCann articles, and fillers.

Consider these fillers - they're interesting. Knowing Campbell as a scientific sort of bloke, I expected most fans just put down all fillers on various scientific subjects, and especially atomics, to JWC. Then some reader demanded that whoever wrote the very good fillers should get a credit-line. What do do? - McCann's name appeared here and there after the longer ones. Useful chap, McCann - whenever there was an unfilled quarter page in AST, a up-to-the-minute filler by him arrived at the office.

You will recall the series of long letters Campbell wrote to Brass Tacks through '36 & '37, on astronomy and atomic physics. This was carried on most blatantly by McCann - huge letters, some of them like young articles - from '33 onwards, and it's significant that the McCann letters didn't have to start until after Campbell had arranged to become Editor, while his articles began when Campbell was still writing.

Now the tone and style of both letters and articles is noteworthy, since it's exactly the very concise and logical method of scientific writing which Campbell has been using these many years. Of course, having got the bee in my bonnet, I may be biased, but that's what I think.

And Campbell's attitude to McCann. I noticed several times how he talked of him - very informally. Sometimes he said plainly "McCann was wrong last month"; he apologised for mistakes etc. just as he would for his own, not at all in the tone he used for explaining, say, how Heinelein's "Blowups Happen" was out-of-date before it appeared.

I think one of my first clues was the fact that both Campbell and McCann lived in Orange, N.J. (and one or two of McCann's letters have had no address at all). If I were to use a pseudonym I think I'd name an address moderately near at hand, where letters could be collected. Then also, both of them spoke of McCann being conveniently in the AST offices several times, and reading MSS etc. which gave him lines for his articles. Me, I am very suspicious of Arthur McCann. DW.

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 Just to remind you that this sheet is compiled by Don J. Doughty at 31, Bexwell Road, Downham Market, Norfolk; kindly duplicated and distributed by JMR. More letters required, tho' you haven't done so badly this month; and remember, the main topic is ASTOUNDING Science-Fiction.

February 1941

REVIEW

As nothing was said against this department last month, though, to be truthful, only one person mentioned it, I s'pose you won't mindet appearing again in this issue's line-up.

Roger's cover for "Magic City" is artistically superb, tho' the STF seems to be subdued by the artistry, but a very welcome change from the purely STF painting. This cover novellet of Bond's is superior to most of the stuff he has been turning out lately, a really enjoyable tale of a semi-savage America, placed in the far future, with a religion and set of superstitions based on the remnants of a forgotten civilization - a delightful story. P. Schuyler Miller is responsible for the second 'let - "Trouble on Tantalus" - a vivid story after the same style as his "Pleasure Trove". Heinlein is whacky, but logical, in his "-And He Built a Crooked House" - the adventures of a three-dimensional model of a 4-dimensional house when an earthquake hit it! Our quota of whackiness for the month is completed by de Camp with a crazy time travel tale - "The Best-Laid Scheme". Sturgeon has improved this month, and tells of the spaceship that was "Completely Automatic". At the bottom of the list - "Castaway" by RMWilliams. And the serial, "Sixth Column", continues on its powerful way. The Klystron is subject of Short's article, while McCann reminds us of Mars' canali. Binder returns to illustrate "Castaway" and "Completely Automatic" - good. II and R Icip are in the mood for the 'lets; Schneeman's no worse; but Cartier!!! JWC makes his yearly "Invitation" to authors.

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RAMBLING - Mostly by other people this month - thanks pals!

Holmes (R): "I don't consider my opinion of AST to be of any value to anyone (I wouldn't like to misquote you, Ron) except myself, the Editor and the particular authors." And later: "'Tin Tack' -- I suppose some fool has christened it TIM or something by now (?)- was, for a first issue, Good."! A staunch supporter of Hubert Rogers is R.E.Orme: "Can you imagine Paul doing a cover like the Oct. '39 AST? If he tried he would probably draw something like a Venus flytrap, giving people the wrong impression. In any case Grey or Gray was never a favourite colour of Paul's, his impressions of spaceships, for instance, run to a riot of colours, putting the late Richtofen's Flying Circus to shame." But R.E. has it in for JWC too! "Ever read "Branches of Time" in a 1935 WONDER? (August '35) The title is self-explanatory. In fact, the same basic ideas are used as in Sells' "Other Tracks" of '38. Who said Mutant?" Prelude to a discussion by George Hedhurst: "Well, I hope it doesn't seem like blasphemy to you if I say that ASTOUNDING ceased to stir my depths some considerable time ago, to be more precise, somewhere between Clayton days and the Campbell Golden Age. K.Bulmer: "I was busily chowing over "The Stars Look Down" (what a grand yarn) and thinking nothing of London's traffic, I nearly made corned beef of myself under the grinding wheels of a bus. Or another time when I stood in front of the hand-opened type of draw on the Underground, until the train started again, waiting for them to open of themselves, as the majority do now. What a mug, doubtless you will say. I blame it all onto Science-Fiction." Scotsman J.Morgan is of the opinion that: "TIN TACKS will prosper, as, such a farnag has been needed for a long time, that is, one that is devoted entirely to one SF magazine. However, I think it would be a good idea to include comments on UNKNOWN, as the two mags have much in common." No more room this month, lads; 'pologies to those left out.



# ZENITH

EDITED BY HARRY E. TURNER

VOL-1 · APRIL-1941 · NO-1

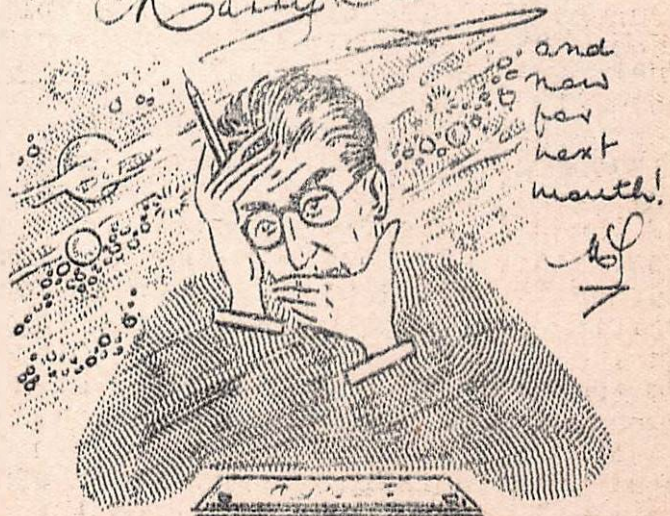
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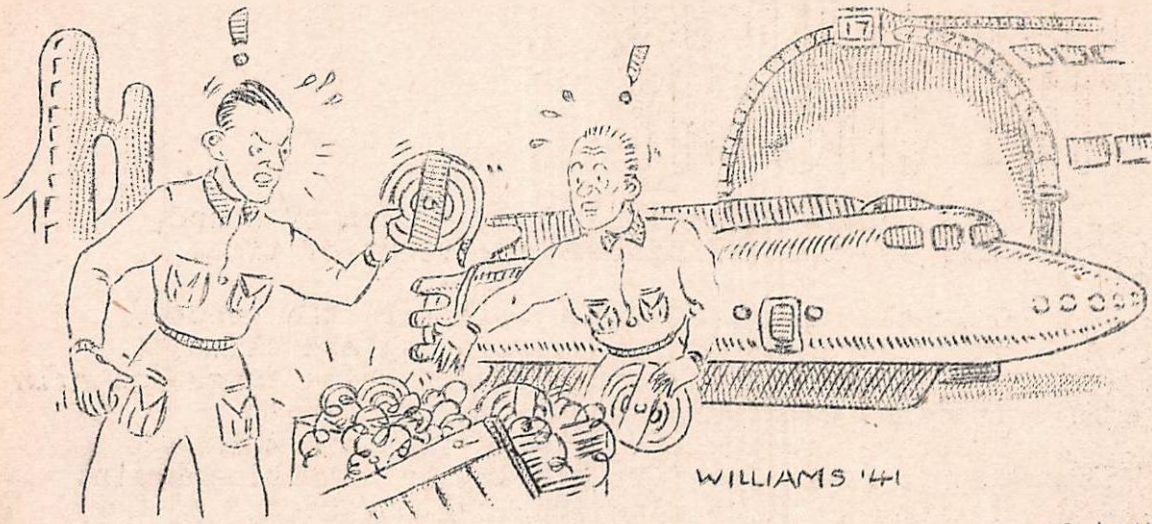
At last the above has arrived. Well, well! Only a few months ago I ne'er realised that I was destined to edit a fan-sheet. Truth to tell, I was losing interest in stf at that time. But Doug Webster, ably assisted by Mike Rosenblum, successfully dragged me back into fandom and so enthusiastic was I on my return to the fold that I rashly declared my intention of adding to the FIDO mailing. So Doug and Mike ought, methinx, to share with me all the bouquets (if any!) and the razzberries - not that I wish to avoid all responsibility for my creation! As nearly all the companion sheets deal with fan news and discussions, I thot mebbe the weary reader would welcome summat requiring less mental strain to appreciate; accordingly, the contents of my sheet will consist of cartoons, occasional 'straight' drawings, illustrated verses and odd odes, with mebbe a short editorial splurge. Of course, if you have other ideas on the subject (as you probably have!), let me hear 'em and I'll see what can be done. Anyway, send along your criticisms - if you think the mag is okay and shows promise, I'll carry on with it as long as I can; if you think it stinx to high heaven - well, that's just too bad and I guess I'll have to pack in and hope that my calling-up papers arrive soon!

But assuming you're in favor of Zenith continuing, I must ask for

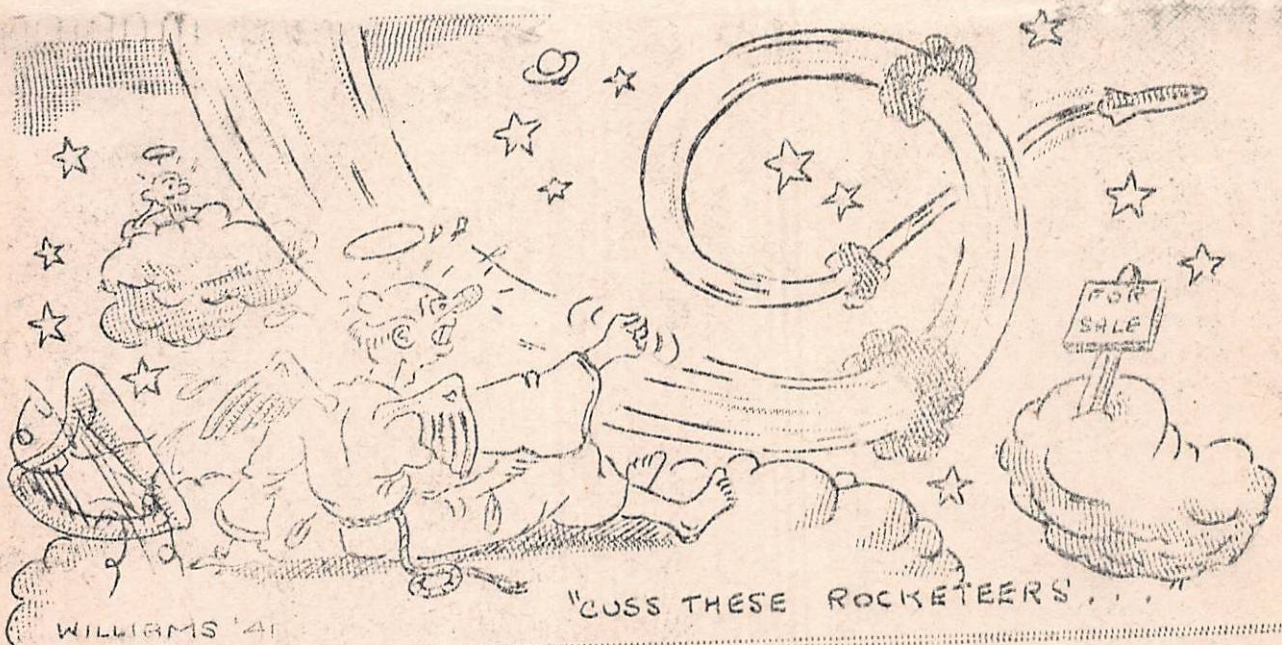
your assistance - I kno my comrade editors are making the same request, but just ignore them; support Zenith the unique and novacious publication! After all, even supposing I had the necessary spare time, I doubt whether I'd have the insidirection to turn out two or three pages of drawings each month. So I want drawings from you fanartists, verses from you fanpoets and suggestions (lots of 'em) from you mere fans! Osmond gang - cooperate! Follow the good example of JMR who so kindly advises and distributes this mag; of collaborator 'Art' Williams, and of Osmond Robb and JFBurke who made many helpful suggestions. Incidentally, the cover of the current FIDO was inspired by the latter - take a bow, Johnny! Now let's be hearing from you fans - please. And thanklot in advance. Thassall for now

Harry E. Turner.





"THOSE IDIOTS AT THE BASE HAVE SENT US CATHERINE WHEELS INSTEAD OF ROCKETS !!!"



"CURSE THESE ROCKETEERS..."

DON'T FORGET! SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:-

41 LONGFORD PLACE, VICTORIA PARK, MANCHESTER 14.

# THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON

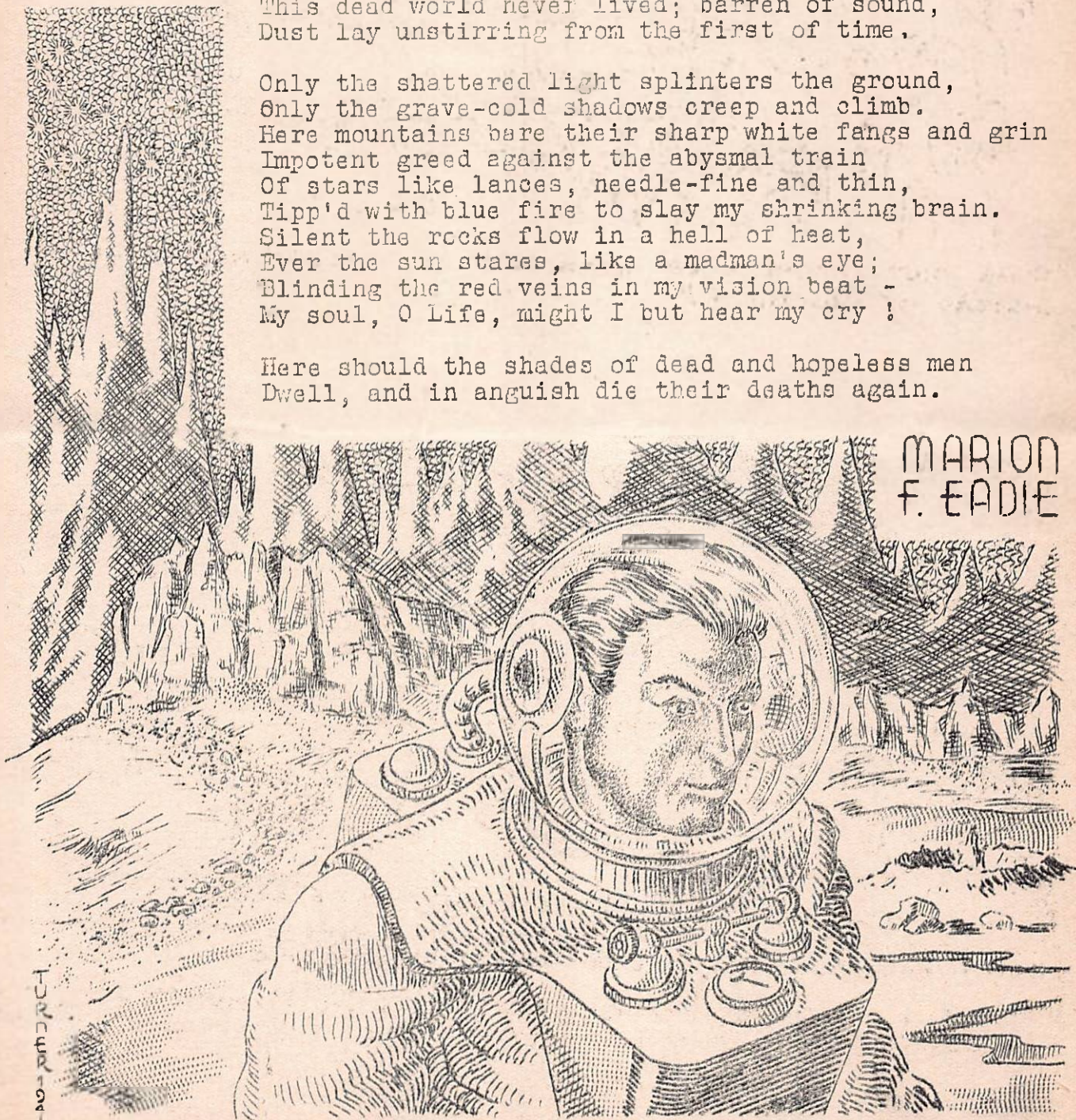
PAGE 3

This dead world never lived; barren of sound,  
Dust lay unstirring from the first of time.

Only the shattered light splinters the ground,  
Only the grave-cold shadows creep and climb.  
Here mountains bare their sharp white fangs and grin  
Impotent greed against the abysmal train  
Of stars like lances, needle-fine and thin,  
Tipp'd with blue fire to slay my shrinking brain.  
Silent the rocks flow in a hell of heat,  
Ever the sun stares, like a madman's eye;  
Blinding the red veins in my vision beat -  
My soul, O Life, might I but hear my cry !

Here should the shades of dead and hopeless men  
Dwell, and in anguish die their deaths again.

MARION  
F. EADIE



Being the first of a series of sheets produced by Ron. Holmes, from 32, Rockfield Rd. Liverpool 4, appearing at such times as HE thinks expedient. Duplicated and distributed by J.M. Rosenblum.

"YOU GET THE DOPE AS I GET HIM".

: - :- -:-

F. J. Ackerman.

U.S.A.

"I have recently shaken hands with H.G. Wells!! The experience, if you will pardon the pun, has left me a shaken fan. Behold, I even refrain from Ackermenese, so intent I am upon my subject! "

Julius Unger.

U.S.A.

"As you notice the date on the 3rd. issue of COMET is Mar. instead of Feb. This was done in keeping with the dates of the other mags. on the stands so that COMET would not look old. The magazine is not skipping a month and is still monthly."

W.D. Vener.

Aust.

"Sydney fans staged a blitzkrieg in the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" Fifty-fifty Letterette Column recently. It began with a letter signed "Stf" asking about the possibilities of an Australian professional Stf magazine. That was answered by someone who signed himself "Snubby", agreeing with "Stf". Later "Planet's" letter was printed stating a few more facts on the subject. In the last letter we managed to get in a plug for the Futurian Society of Sydney."

Damon (the demon) Knight.

U.S.A.

"As you probably know by now, the Newarkon Newark Convention has been abandoned in it's infancy. My friend Don Thompson says that fan activity seems to pile up in certain cases, untill the fan in q. goes slightly off his rocker; result, Miskes and Moskowitzs. "

Eric. F. Russell.

Aust.

"We're holding a convention in Sydney on Easter Sunday '41 let's hope the Sveon is a huge success."

Bob Tucker.

U.S.A.

"The signs are looking worse and worse over here, and it wouldn't surprise any of us if we declared war on somebody or other within three months. Funny thing is, we can't make up our minds who to declare war on... Japan, Italy or Germany. Personally, I think we will do much better to confine our efforts to attacking Siam, or someother place like that. We are about fit to fight an equal match with Siam. On second thought, they are kinda tough. Maybe we should concentrate on Monte Carlo, or Belgian Congo. "

W.F. Temple.

Lancs.

"I'm thoroughly 'browed off' with training now, and am in the final three weeks of it, are a few days leave - and then posting. Said training is undelevly intense, both physically and mentally. Have been laying miles of cable today, and also trying to grasp the complicated ditherings of an Artillary Field Battery 'deploying'. Tomorrow I have to deliver a lecture on Radio Communications. "

Ron. Holmes.

Lancs.

"Would readers Clarke (Welling), Ellis (Barrow) and Syms(Beckenham) kindly answer that letter I sent 'em last year, or do I have to plead with 'em ???? Would Art Williams drop me a line whenever he has the time. Will those readers who dislike this sheet kindly refrain from bothering me with complaints - I shall ignore them. To those who appreciate it, please write, I like to hear from you all."

Stencilled in an awful hurry by D. Webster at Idlewild, Fountainhall Road, Aberdeen - from letters he never has time to answer - & duplicated and distributed by JMRosenblum.

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A couple of minutes' thinking the other day brought one or two ideas into your editor's head: it is a fact, firstly, that Wido is a science-fiction fan-magazine; and also that this sheet, being issued with it, should entertain its readers a little by including some science-fictional fare. Luckily, my correspondents do sometimes mention stf. to me, so on searching through their letters, I find:-

MAURICE HANSON starts a letter thus: "I've just been reading four of your Unknown's. I can't say I'm terribly impressed by any of them; which won't worry you since you haven't read them anyway. But if you ever do, I mention that that the stories that stick to my mind - & therefore presumably the only ones to interest me - are "It", "All Roads", "Farm, Dark Places" and "The Tommy-knocker". The long stories in all four issues are much of a muchness; God knows how people can rave over them. The recipe for an Unknown smash-hit appears to be to plant a set of barely-sketched stock characters in a boringly bizarre world, let them stew in a juice of dull Edgar Rice Burroughs adventures with complete disregard for literary form, climax and denouement, season with occasionally mildly amusing anachronisms and archaisms, & be generally daft in an effort to produce "whackiness". Or, more simply, imitate the classic style of "'Have a cigarette' said the elemental." With a skilful writer - such as Sprague de Camp or Hubbard - this can be stimulating and amusing until the novelty wears off. It is the 'sinister' stories such as "But Without Horns", "None But Lucifer" and "Sinister Barrier", & the occasionally well-done shorts that make Unknown worth reading. So there!"

And that's just the beginning - says ye ed, laughing nastily. I'm pretty sure JFB has much to say on the subject, though I can't remember where. And ERIC HOPKINS did have much to say on stf. classics, if I could find it, which made good reading. Having had "The Time Stream" & "The Final War" forced on him, quoth he: "It was obvious from the start that Taine had produced something superior amongst the SF brood but the sweep of the thing did not quite capture my imagination. The action is a little confusing but I suppose that is excusable when the plot is considered. It is a thoughtful story but loses points, as a story not SF, when science pokes its nose in at the destruction of Eos & begins to cut planets in halves. Poof! All that stuff about "whirling vortices of light" and - "if we hit the ellipse on the edge with the !?!! beam, we'll swing it back into position. Otherwise we shall be annihilated!" And why not? That stuff, as I was a' going to snarl, gets me - the wrong way. One of the things I dislike about Williamson. And just part of everything I larf at in ESmith. I repeat - Poof! I should say that "The Final War" is the better of the two, viewing them as stories, you understand, not as SF. The latter is excellently vivid & gritty, and grinds onwards in a most logical & un-sentimental fashion. The style is good despite various quaintnesses of phrase, due to the author's Germanic origin I guess; brutal, striking, quite suitable to the theme, and thankfully free from coruscating rays &c. Yes, a very good story & undeserving of entombing in a SF mag. Spohr's prophecies of military developments are interesting in view of our first-hand knowledge of contemporary warfare(!) [Story was printed in WUNDER, '32/ Disregarding his obviously science-fictional creations like the paralysing rays (fictional so far, anyway), we find he foresees immense Maginot-like underground fortifications, annihilating weapons making these defences necessary, & a degree of military & civil organization which I can only call an amazing foresight of totalitarian warfare. Eh, what? I think we have several wars to go before we reach the pitch of organisation attained in Spohr's State - to refresh your memory - males 13-16 on war work, over 16 as soldiers, & females on war work 15 & upwards, the story ending with girls being taught as artillerymen --but we are having a taste of our descendents' splendid inheritance viz. civilians 16-60 conscripted as firefighters, & now the registration of girls for war work. I'm not saying it isn't necessary, mind you, but you can see where we are going from here. Just there, in fact.\*\*\*Summing up: I agree that both these stories are well above the mean (&

2/ how mean!) of SF but! if these are representative of the best in that field, that  
eld is sufficiently proved barren."

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J.F.BURKE: "The identification of fans with prominent people is quite an interesting game  
and I had some fun in my bath last night (yes, I do have baths) working out one or two  
similarities. Yourself I would place as Ford Madox Ford, of whom you've probably never  
heard. [/A dashed low trick. The name seems faintly familiar, but I've no idea who the  
gent is. Why doesn't somebody tell me these things?/ Eric Hopkins...mm...let me see  
now.../note, gentlemen - I'm giving you the number of dots exactly right each time/a co  
bination of poet and very discerning critic - oh, yes, Herbert Read to the life with the  
substitution of music for Read's artistic leanings. In fact, it's a perfect analogy.  
Have you read Read's latest, "Annals of Innocence and Experience"? It's a really  
thoughtful, interesting book."

And HERBERT READ gets his own back in a recent personal letter (he keeps calling me Dear  
Slug or Dear Mug, but what can one do with these poets?): "I have already told Sam that  
he is like George Orwell in my opinion. "Blitz", I said, shewed that he has Orwell's  
gift of vivid description, his realism, his left viewpoint, his sympathy with his fellow  
men, and his sly manner of slating this national system's faults when it's not looking.  
/That's not what Smith thinks about "Blitz"! Yessir, quite an Orwell.\*\*\*I don't see you  
as a Sassoon - you don't write poetry for one thing, do you? /No. Stay: - what impudence.  
Haven't you seen GG?/ - and besides, Sassoon served. But O'Brien might suit you in view  
of your short story scheme. Viewing you dispassionately, I should be forced to pull your  
ears & poke you in the wind to fit you in anywhere but maybe I'm too accurate. Sassoon  
will do; like yourself he doesn't seem particularly disturbed by the world tho' he was  
in the last war. But you wouldn't remember that.\*\*\*This game is not so easy as it seems  
at first. Now lemme see. Johnny is definitely a mongrel out of T.S.Eliot by D.H.Law-  
rence! /Yorick! You mixed a metaphor! His is the "Waste Land" mentality which has failed  
ed to follow Eliot to a religious solution but has been intensified in disgust of his  
fellow men under DHL's influence. John is not really contemporary in mood, I think.\*\*\*  
Eric Williams (where is the fellow? /God knows. Even JWB doesn't, now. Of course, JWB  
isn't God, is very definitely a Wells. He has the sense of the world's poor organisation  
& idealism and great ambitions for remedying these which could otherwise be attributable  
only to H.G. (or had: maybe he's altered them)."

ECH: "...the game's accuracy is well illustrated by the comparison of Smith with Poe,  
Tchegov, & Agate already!" . . . DRS: "...But I would remind Youd and yourself that  
there is such a thing as a law of libel, and that if people insist on saying that I'm like  
James Agate I shall be forced to use it. Stop me, I can stand insults as well as the  
next fellow, but there's a limit to all things!" . . . Yippee!

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And here R.G.MEDHURST replies to CSYoud's 10 points. Readers who care are advised  
to have both The Snag & GA 5 at hand, for even those who missed the beginning of this  
argument (which took place behind scenes) should be interested in it as an exercise in  
how arguments & quarrels arise & are propagated. "Point No.1. Accept your statement,  
C.S., that Warbull is finally withdrawn - with regret, if it means that work of the cal-  
iber of "Blitz" is to be lost to Fido readers. Had thought I'd made the Warbull with-  
drawal a basic point of my 'plaint, but maybe clarity eluded me. 2/ Thankee kindly, but  
I wasn't really waiting with all that impatience for a personal reply. Presume the  
"whopping big lie" refers to the par. commencing "That we regret", on p.1 of Snag. Read  
it again, Samuel! Have attempted to deal with the point of the Unanswered Letter in an-  
other place (Arthur's "Fan Mail" to be precise) Sorry you're out gunning for other fans  
who may have got entangled in my nefarious doings. 3/ Agreed, very bad taste. Sorry,  
I thought you liked that sort of thing. See, e.g., "Paean" in GG 1. Information as to  
why that was in bad taste, on request. At the moment, I must use Doug's space with due  
care. /Wish you would, dammit! / 4/ "I have never refused to give a hearing to the opposi-  
tion." Yes, I'll have to give you best, there, because to cite evidence refuting this

3/ would be to drag other, more harmless, fans into the range of your wrath. And of. last sentence of rejoinder to 2/, above. Yes, you "still will - in Fantast". Only thing is - you haven't. [Give him a chance...]. In view of Doug's Peace Campaign [See below], though, I give you full permission to continue to suppress my original remarks. 5/ Bravo! 6/ The point in question being par.4, p.2 of Snag? Read it again, Samuel. You'll find the venom of the Snag is really directed in a different direction from that of your sensitive self. 7/ No special answer appears to be called for. Except that "snob" isn't quite the word you were looking for here, I think. 8/ Par.3, p.3 of Snag? Once more, I'd recommend a second reading. With whatever exercise of ingenuity I can't see how I'm objecting to that GG article (amusing stuff, incidentally, but not quite up to your usual style, it seemed to me). 9/ Oh, Sammy, a distressing blunder! I'm so sorry, but as it happens, that "Socialist Standard" article was an attack on the "People's Convention"! 10/ Fear you're allowing spleen to vitiate judgement. Quoting from a letter signed C.S.Youd, dated 26-11-39, "I should make some mention of your excellent articles in "New Worlds" & "The Futurian". I thoroughly enjoyed both, especially since they contained what has become as rare in fan as in professional stf. circles - originality." Cf. with sentence 2 of 10/. Interesting notion at the end. Apparently you believe that having passed through a "stage", that stage is drained of significance for the rest of mankind. Sir Isaac Newton died a convinced, nay, a rabid, orthodox Christian. I passed thru the Christianity stage some time ago. Ergo, I am a greater man than Newton! What is your record, Communism, 3 months, Pacifism, 4 months, &c.? (The figures are probably inaccurate.) Well, Samuel, I admit you have more brain than the generality of men, but I have no evidence you are a towering genius, an Odd John. And I thus have no good reason to suspect that you have exhausted the potentialities of, say, Communism, by dabbling in it for a few months. Do you really seriously think that a brief time of reflection is sufficient for you to dispose of subjects to which men of genius, or near genius, have devoted life-times? So I wouldn't be so distressed if I did stand where your foot fell 2 years ago. Actually, I don't think I do, in view of, among other things, your confusing of the S.P.G.B. case with that of the "People's Convention"! " . . . The Peace Campaign. I asked RGM to be fairly meek & mild in reply; he has been - fairly. No answer, I think (& hope), is required, but if we must have one I think OSY will reply similarly. Recent communication with 1 or 2 Fido readers has confirmed in me the view they don't want "libel sheets". Good. Let's not have them. That leaves just one....

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W A R !

I regret to state that an active state of hostilities now exists between DRSmith & DWebster. With ample warning & even a formal declaration of war Smith launched his attack, scorning all the perfections of modern civilised warfare. He did not plant a 5th. Column in Aberdeen, he didn't even flood the place with propaganda (I've heard all his propaganda months ago, & it rolls off me like a ping-pong ball rolling down the Wall of Death). He says:- "It is becoming increasingly obvious that even Youd cannot approach yourself in sheer deceitfulness. I refer of course to this extra sheet, after protests of peace-making, and the downright vilifying to which you subject me at every turn. You, Youd, Medhurst, Hopkins and others are all of a kind (a kind rotten to the core), and only Burke and myself have managed to keep our heads in this adolescent squabbling, and come out as friendly as we were before." . . . I leave you to it.

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 They haif said: quhat say thay: lat thame say. JWB: "...G.A. (I refuse to use the disgusting new epithet)..." JMR: "...this month's G.A. (I refuse to say Tart which has an even more uncomplimentary meaning than usual in this part of the world)..." RGM: "Sorry to say I'm not keen on Les Tart as a pet-name. Somewhat unpleasant associations." DRG: "....Gentlest Art....GA....the Gent...." ECH: "Passing on to the 4th. Les Tart, might I grin hideously at Sam's accepted title for G.A.? I'm surprised at your rood minds. Fans, alas, grow naughtier with the years (& the experience)." My, my, what a collection of sissies! I'm quite willing to fall in with the wishes of the majority, & if a purely

4/ frivolous tart is too strong for our stomachs, I may say that as a snob (051 - three varieties) I am attracted by the pleasant genteelity of The Gent.

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ANTON RAGATZY: "The statement of yours regarding feelings and intellectual reasoning is all right in modern society -- but you can control feelings just as easily -- in fact easier -- than you can control reasoning. If one can't argue with a person because his feelings are radically opposed to your own - then it's too late to try reasonable conviction -- time for training and directing of feelings in youth."

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A variety of extracts from Eric the Hop: "I make it clear that I do not think football &c. should be banned or is disgusting - in its place. But you'll note that I listed all the leisure pasttimes which I call 'ocular', i.e. they do not require any effort on the part of those who are being entertained by them. And if they are to be the sole goal of our daily labours we might as well manufacture larger gas ovens & all stick our heads in them -- at once. I have no objection to anyone looking at the amusements I listed - I have seen many a football & boxing & cricket match, and shall always remember Billy Wilkinson winning the World's Speedway Championship at Wembley - but nobody could say that those & girls were my only desires. I have read a little & bought a few books - 20s at the moment - but how many of Britain's forty-odd millions have not? My purpose of describing the people as looking at amusements all their leisure was to emphasise the fact that most of them do nothing else. And that's my objection. By all means go to football, &c. - they're interesting in small doses although 'twere better to play them. I've done that too - & live in brick houses if it's not irritating friend, you would gurggle with joy if you set eyes on an Aberdeen of white, sparkling granite, but let's keep them in their proper place, the background, & the real leisure for worthy objects. Such as the politics some will not discuss, apparently.\*\*\*[which is admirable so far as it goes - but it doesn't go nearly far enough. There's much more in the Hopkins manuscript - dealt with, Charles, in a large chunk in my letter. Comments appreciated.]\*\*\*Arthur is very optimistic: he would rid the country of "poor material" in a generation, with good education. Individualised education would help a great deal towards a happier community but as you & I agreed, there are many who cannot be reasoned with because of natural darkness, truclence, weak-headed parents, &c. And you must have their support before you have the power to educate them.\*\*\*You cannot abolish the proletariat (i.e. those who live by selling their labour to the employers). You can make everyone a proletarian, an employee of the State directed by the people, which is Socialism & fair. The real difficulty of Arthur's definition is poor nomenclature. He really means that the people should be taught or persuaded (!) to appreciate the Arts & I'm with him for you cannot appreciate the Arts without appreciating human nature & its strengths, weaknesses; subtlety yet simplicity. But satisfy their immediate needs first: adequate food, clothing, housing, leisure, & assurances that sickness, unemployment & retirement do not automatically release the State's responsibility for their welfare.\*\*\*True education, which is the drawing out of the individual's qualities & supplying of them with knowledge & material, would distinguish the reasonably intelligent from the subnormal (as the p.f. calls 'em) if carried up to the age of 18 at least. Perhaps an example of the people's inability to think is that at least a third of the working class must vote for the Conservatives to take office, & they have had a handsome majority for 10 years. The Conservatives are not brutes but their activities in foreign affairs have hardly proved beneficial to the masses, have they? Neither is their home policy as altruistic as it could be."

SMITH: "I think myself that you rather spoilt the effect of "The Elder Gods", by the way: by including the too familiar gibberish at the end. [Go to, sir. Can it be that I fooled even the wily Smith? Why thinkest I used the word "meaning"? Too weak a joke? Anyway, I can do much better purple-patching, as such, than that effort.] I trust you will give us something longer on the same lines in "Fantast", for we could do with at least one piece like this month's "Mataiya" in each issue. [Oi, Warp! Let's collaborate, & slay them.]  
April fool, April fool, April fool! DRS never wrote that WAR passage on p.3 - I did. His last letter begins "Oh dear, Webster" & continues in the same strain. Ever been had?

P E A C E !

P E A C E !

P E A C E !