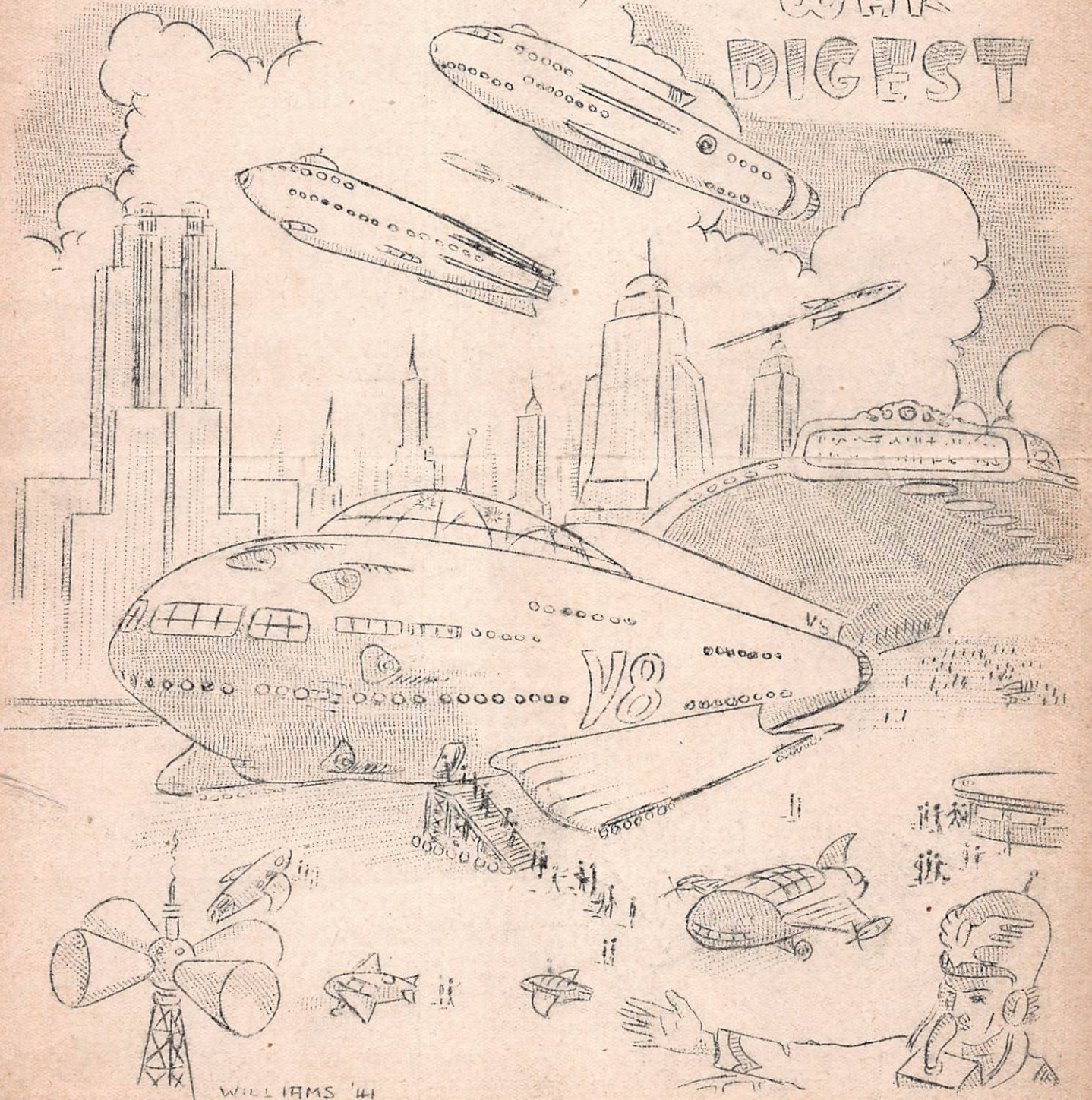


FUTURIAN

VOL. 1 - NO. 8 - MAY - 1941

WAR DIGEST



WILLIAMS '41

TWO MORE FANS CALLED UP

The last two "casualties" of British fandom are a couple of famous Londoners, namely Ken Chapman and Arthur (Ego) Clarke, respectively an erstwhile Secretary of the Science Fiction Association whilst the unique 'Ego' was a shining light of both that organisation and the British Interplanetary Society; besides being an inmate of the notorious Grays Inn Rd "flat". Chapman is now in the navy, after having been a War Reserve Policeman since the outbreak of hostilities. A.C. Clarke is now an A/C2 too, is in the RAF and at present stationed at Bridgenorth, Salop. Ego had hoped to continue his chainletter "FAN-MAIL" even when called up, but has been unable to have his typewriter with him whilst in training besides having no time. However, he hopes to be able to resume after being finally posted. He sends his best wishes to all Fan-mailers to whom he is unable to write just now. At present he is listed as a Radio Mechanic, but he hopes eventually to go in for navigational work.

THE recent death by her own hand of Mrs Virginia Woolf reminds us that altho she herself didn't produce any stf. so far as we are aware; the publishing house, The Hogarth Press, run by her in collaboration with her husband, Leonard Woolf, was responsible for introducing Murial Jaeger's very distinctive fantasy. The first two Muriel Jaeger novels, both of a stfical nature, "The Question Mark" and "The man with Six Senses" appeared under the Hogarth Press imprint in 1926 & 1927 respectively. RGM.

The only fantasy organisation still functioning in Britain today is the Stoke-on-Trent Science Fiction Club. Whilst not an ambitious organisation, the Club is quietly but successfully carrying on its activities. A quarterly report dated April 1941 has just been issued and gives details of the society's membership, finances and library; besides film and book reviews and general gossip.

London letter

First thing to record, with illuminated lettering, is the resumption of SX SFA meetings. Three have been held so far. Attendance is naturally limited; at the last there were nine present but several veteran fans remain to be roped in besides the drive for the new fans that I want to get started sometime.

Present last time were the Chibbetts, the Chapmans, Ericopkins, F Arnold, Denise ans self. Meeting, held in HQ of Anthropological Society, N.W.1, opened with introduction of newcomer John Bould, home on leave from Bedford, who at one time tried Kuda Bux's fire-walking feats. He was at once commandeered by Harry Probe-tt.

Ken Chapman came to say goodbye; he was to join the navy the following Wednesday. Although we were all very sorry to have him go, we were glad to know that he hopes to be trained within easy reach of London and expects to get home frequently.

That's the second fan we've lost recently whom we looked upon as a fixture. The other, of course, is the one & only (praise be!) Ego, who should by now have joined the RAF. Heaven help any Spitfire he has to overhaul! He'll probably instal a new drive and fly it to the moon.

S i d n e y L B i r c h b y .

A sixpenny book recently published which somehow or another managed to slip past unnoticed is "When William Came" by Saki (Penguin), a tale of Britain occupied by Kaiser William and his army. A little out-of-date perhaps, but reprinted now as a "warning" book; it comes under the category of the Might-have-been.

AMERICAN NEWS The May issue of COSMIC

STORIES includes the following yarns; "Phoenix Planet" J. Blish, "Dimension of Darkness" S. D. Gottesman, "Power" Hugh Raymond, "The Riddle of Time" W.P. Cockcroft, "No Place to go" E.J. Bellin, "Time Inc" J.L. Chapman, "The Improbable" C.R. Tanner, "New Moon" Basil Wells, "What Sorghum Says" Cecil Corwin & "Transitory Island" Richard Wilson. Also an assortment of features and an article on spaceflying. In connection with the magazine "The Cosmian League" has been formed and is open to all actively working for the future.

June issue of STIRRING SCIENCE STORIES will feature about 12 yarns; "The Pioneer" Arthur J. Burks, "Jitterbug" R.R. Winterbotham, "Human Mice of Kordar" Basil Wells, "Martian Fantasy" Henry Andrew Ackerman, "Trails End" Walter Kubilus, "Forgotten Tongue" W. Davies, "Spokesman for Terra" Hugh Raymond, "Mr Packer Goes To Hell" Cecil Corwin, "The Silence" Venard McLoughlin, "Kazan Collects" S.D. Gottesman, "The Moon Artist" Dr Keller, "The Grey One" R.W. Lowndes, & "The Words of Guru" by Kenneth Falconer.

Futurians here all getting along fine. Lowndes making out nicely with his FUTURE FICTION and SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY. Pohl coming on o.k.. Daniel Burford has placed illustrations now in 4 magazines, including WEIRD TALES. John Michel writing away and very successfully. Leslie Perri doing nicely on an editorial job unconnected with fantasy. Kornbluth writing like fury and making himself one of the big name writers.

D. A. Wolheim

AN article in the first number of SUN TRAILS - a miscellaneous publication issued at the editor's (Arthur Louis Joquel II) whimsy - analyses the cost of science fiction. Dealing only with US promags on the newsstand on February 1st, they find that the 22 fantasy magazines available cost \$24.60 a year or \$2.05 per month.

"DENVENTION" PRIZE OFFERED

"COMET" is offering a substantial prize consisting of a silver medal suitably inscribed and \$25 in cash, to the person who overcomes the greatest obstacle to attend the Denver Convention. The prize will be delivered at the last session by a committee of 3, consisting of the Chairman of the executive committee of the Denvention, the editor of COMET and a prominent s-f writer chosen by these two.

There are also rumours of a "T O'Connor Sloane Prize" to the person doing most to advance science or science fiction during the year.

WEIRD TALES is blossoming out with a poetry page again - the first is by Clark Aston Smith, illustrated by Hannes Bok. The May issue of W.T. contains a 20,000 word instalment of a new Lovecraft novel to be completed in the next issue. Titled "The Case of Charles Dexter Ward" the tale is written in the wellknown Lovecraft manner and brings back the Necronomicon and the Cthulhu tribe.

"LE ZOMBIE", Bob Tuckers Ghouls' Gazette and humcurmag extraordinary, is not after all to be suspended.

During the period Tucker will be unable to get it out, the Los Angeles group will combine to stencil, duplicate and mail it working from Tucker's durny. We forget how many fanmags this makes, that are being issued from the "Shrangri-LA" of Fandom, but 'tis a goodly number.

The "Boskone" or Boston tea-party was held successfully in late Feb. when some score of well-known fans crowded into the home of R.D. Swisher of Boston, Mass, USA. They consisted mainly of the New York Futurians and the Stranger club and included Kornbluth, Lowndes, Pohl, Michel Wolheim, Trdy Kuslan, Widner, Tiger, Bell, Feldman, Unger, Kyle, & Studley. Main activities were discussion re the newly formed National Fantasy Fan Federation, investigation of the Swisher collection and discussion.

GLEANNINGS garnered by RON HOLMES

Remember the "Fan Record" I mentioned a few "G's" back?? The recorded fanmag by Sully Roberts. Well, it flopped, the recording outfit was not as good as he thought, so he folded up after wasting time, energy, money and blank records on it. It's a pity really, the idea was colossal. BIZARR E? the only remaining printed fanmag, now that STARLUST has collapsed, has folded up. Editors Marchonnette and Miske had a loss of about 50% (15% due to the lack of co-operation from the fans. There used to be three printed fanmags in U.S. now none remains - as I mentioned when STARLUST commenced, a printed fanmag is impracticable in the present time with the present conditions.

I regret to announce the death of Erle Singelton, prominent U.S. fan and member of the FAPA. He committed suicide on the 9th of Feb. 1941. His death is the last of a series of unusual events, I wish to convey my sincere sympathies to his friends and relatives.

The S.F.I. are again issuing badges to members. 25¢ per. from T.W.S. Offices.

Astounding has recently accepted two stories and one article from E.F. Russell. The article is Fortean, entitled "Astral Artillery". The two shorts are "Seat of Oblivion" which should be in the May issue. And "Jay Score", an interplanetary yarn of which we will hear more of if it's popular.

Garrett Smith's "Between Worlds" is published in book form at 50¢ per. from T.W.S. (It was published years ago but some more copies were recently discovered; Editor)

My heartiest congratulations to John W. Campbell and I. Sprague de Camp - who have recently become fathers. I don't know the weight or sex of the offsprings as yet, but I'll spill the beans when I get it. Nice going fellers!!

MAGAZINE REVIEWS"COMET" Vol. 1, No. 3. March 1941

This is the new magazine edited by Orlin Tremaine, & actually the 1st number of it I have seen. Quite good, an air of unsophisticated freshness about it. Contents are varied - from novels to a couple of short shorts, in a special department; a good idea but rather reminiscent of fanzine fiction. Two feature stories are "The Immortal" - Ross Rocklynne, & "Star of Dreams" - Jack Williamson; the former about a never-aging woman marooned in a spaceship seems almost a new plot. I enjoyed the two novelets "The Psychological Regulator" - Arthur Cooke & "Dark Reality" - Robert Moore Williams. Three short stories "Headhunters of Nuamerica" - Stanton A. Coblentz, "Healing Rays in Space" - J. Harvey Haggard, & "Lie on the Beam" - John Victor Peterson, are merely mediocre. A special feature "The Spacean" tries to give an idea of the newspaper of the future but it doesn't click, - too much of the Yankee Tabloid about it!

"FUTURE FICTION" Vol. 1, No 5. April 1941

First issue edited by "Doc" Lowndes, tho we don't know how responsible he is for it. None so good. Best tale by far is "The Genius Bureau" by Helen Weinbaum, where the problem is what to do with some specially bred super-mentalities, who have solved all existing and possible problems and are therefore bored. 2 novels "30th Century Duel" - Manly Wade Wellman & "Martians Guns" - Stanley D. Bell are beautifully blood-and-thundery. 3 novelets "Radiant Avenger" E. A. Grosser, "Prince of Pluto" - P. D. Lavond, & "Status Quo" - E. R. Winterbotham, complete the issue.

ODD ITEMS

This page being stensilled three days after the opposite one, we now know that Clarke's FAN-MAIL will be continued for the time being by C. S. Youd of Eastleigh; editor of FANTAST By the way; another issue of this magazine is about half completed and should be out later this month.

We had intended to convey the sad news of the suicide of Earl Singleton of Cambridge, Mass; one of the most promising of the newer American fans, but both Ron Holmes and Doug Webster beat us to it. We can only add our sincere sympathy to all bereaved by this sorrowful loss.

"All Aboard For The Skylark" is the unusual title of an article by Eric Frank Russell, on research for interplanetary travel, published in the April issue of "TOMORROW" - a journal for the would-be citizen of a new age; no connection with the obsolete fanzine of the same name. Incidentally the same issue contains an article on agriculture and the future by E. Maurice Wood, our former farmer employer.

Don Doughty reports that he has had his medical exam for military service, passed Grade I, & been accepted for the navy as a telegraphist. Ah me, that's another. Also on the 'condemned' list are Harry Turner & David McIlwain. The latter wishes to announce that all issues ~~ix~~ of GARGOYLE after the next (No:6) & various supplementary PAN publications which he hopes to put out (including the Esperanto fanmag; JEN) will be sent free to a limited mailing list, consisting only of those who expressly write & ask to be included. First come, first served.

WE are absolutely overjoyed to be able to include a column on

BRITISH FAN PUBLICATIONS

GARGOYLE Vol.2 No.2, April 1941.

a 40 page PAN Publication from D. McIlwain, 14 Cotswold St, Liverpool 7, Nice to see it again. Up to standard - a good one. Specially enjoyed was DRSmith's "Glossary of Stf." and a terrific narative poem "As Youd Likes It" by E.C.Hopkins.

The SCIENCE FANTASY FAN duly brought out its first issue, April 41. Contents were as given in the last issue of FIDO. Scheduled for the next no. are; "A Spherical Spaceship" D.Nordquist, "Browsing"-'Heiklejohn', "Bank to front"-J.F.Burke, "Presenting No.2 - Harry Turner, "Scientist Creates Life"-special article, "The Man Behind Your Futurian War Digest" etc. etc.

JEN No.2 also published by McIlwain. Esperanto Fanmag, we wish we could understand it, especially as sundry referances to FIDO are scattered throughout. We must learn Esperanto.

THREE NEW REMAIDERS now available at 1/6 each are

The "Z" Ray by Edmund Snell

- a death ray and secret service!

The Wrecking Ray by G.E.C.Wedlake

- another ray, that melts steel & its use for sinking ships.

Lycanthia by Frances Layland Barrett

- a female werewolf yarn.

You are reading FUTURIAN WAR DI-
GEST? an amateur magazine devoted
ed to fantasy fiction. Published
monthly from 4 Grange Terrace,
Chapeltown, Leeds 7, by J.Michael
Rosenblum. Rates are 3d. a copy,
2/9 per year. Americans 75 cents
or promags to that value. Various
other sheets are mailed with due
to the kindness of fellow fans,
for which we are truly grateful.
A special Australian edition of
FIDO proper is published also, on
thin paper. Cover this time by
A.Williams stencilled by H.Turner

? Can you answer these ???

Here is a new feature. Some science fictional queries for you to try and answer, half are fairly simple, half not quite so simple. Answers will be given next month. If you like them, quizzes can be regularly given. Would other people like to try their hand at compiling some?

- 1) Who are: Polton Cross, Gawain Edwards, Don A Stuart?
- 2) Do you know the creators of: Miam Link, Taine of San Francisco?
- 3) Who were the first editors of: Tales of Wonder, Amazing, Wonder?
- 4) What are the sequels to: Skylark of Space, The Blind Spot, She?
- 5) Which "superman" story is written round an actual happening?
- 6) Do you know which was the first Thought Variant story & when it appeared?
- 7) Which was the first "fan-mag": in Britain, in U.S.A.?
- 8) What classic stf. tale has been reprinted several times including twice by Amazing Stories and also in a cheap reprint series over here?
- 9) Under what names have the following actual people published fantasy: Roger Sherman Hoar, Charles H. Dodgson, Neil Bell?
- 10) And are you aware who masquerade under the fictional names of: John A. Bristol, Weaver Wright, Roy Ping Pong?

There's a nice little lot. Write out your answers and next month see if you were \times right. No prizes offered.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o o-o

Received Recently

There has only been one post for me from U.S.A. during the month and none

at all from Australia. So it is a poor bag indeed that there is to report. Naturally the most exciting item is a mailing of the Amateur Press Association, containing over a dozen separate pieces. As you might know, these are produced for the sheer sake of doing them and deal with the thoughts of most of the prominent Yank personalities. All aspects of the fan field are met with in the various publications. Another welcome visitor is the March issue of Spaceways, as good as even. Notable for the loss of the Star-Treader, and his replacement as a columnist by "S F Cynic". I believe that the best item in the issue is a glorious satire by Bob Tucker in which he would have us believe that JWCampbell shoots craps with the other Street & Smith editors to decide who prints which story. Mort Weisinger runs contests because he
(continued next column)

P E R S O N A L C O L U M N

A. Blom, 14 Avondale Road, Hoylake, Wirral, Cheshire; has sf. books for sale or exchange. Also fans interested in stamps are asked to get in touch with him, he will exchange sf. books for stamps.

Dave McIlwain, 14 Cotswold St., Liverpool 7, will sell the complete set of Wonder's containing "Man Who Awoke" for \times 3/- postfree also Amazing ½ly - "Paradise and Iron", for 1/- postfree.

Anybody want some 95 issues of "Meccano Magazine" from 1928 to '35. Apply to JMRosenblum.

We must apologise this time for the nice mix-up of page numbers & hope you can work them out successfully.

collects stamps, postmarks, envelopes etc, and Editor Gnaedinger of Famous Fantastic, plays darts to decide which stories to reprint. Other arrivals at the same time were a batch of "Fantasy Fiction Field", issue no. 4 of The Larn Thing and Sun Trails.

ZENITH

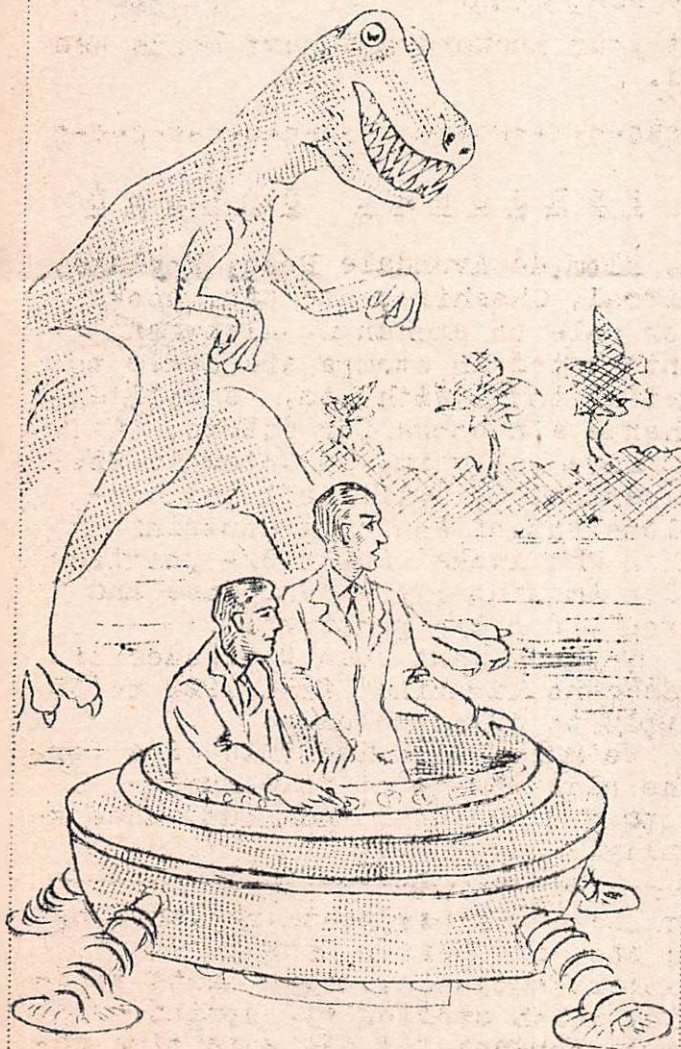
VOLUME ONE

NUMBER TWO

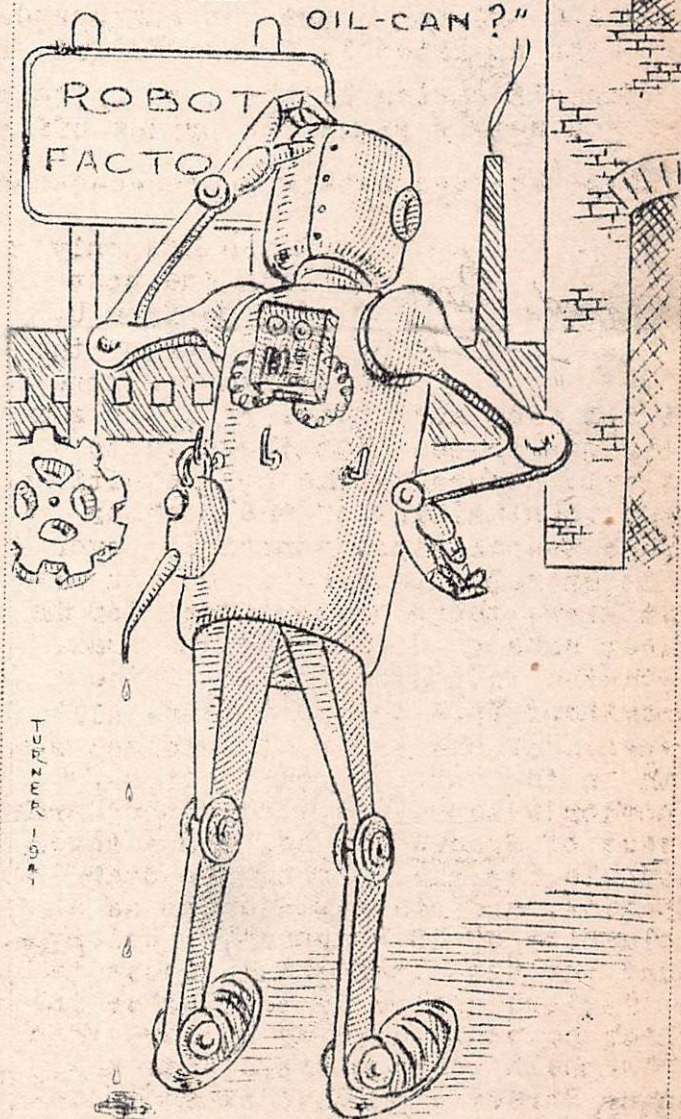
Edited by Harry E. Turner at 41 Longford
Place, Victoria Park, Manchester 14 . . .

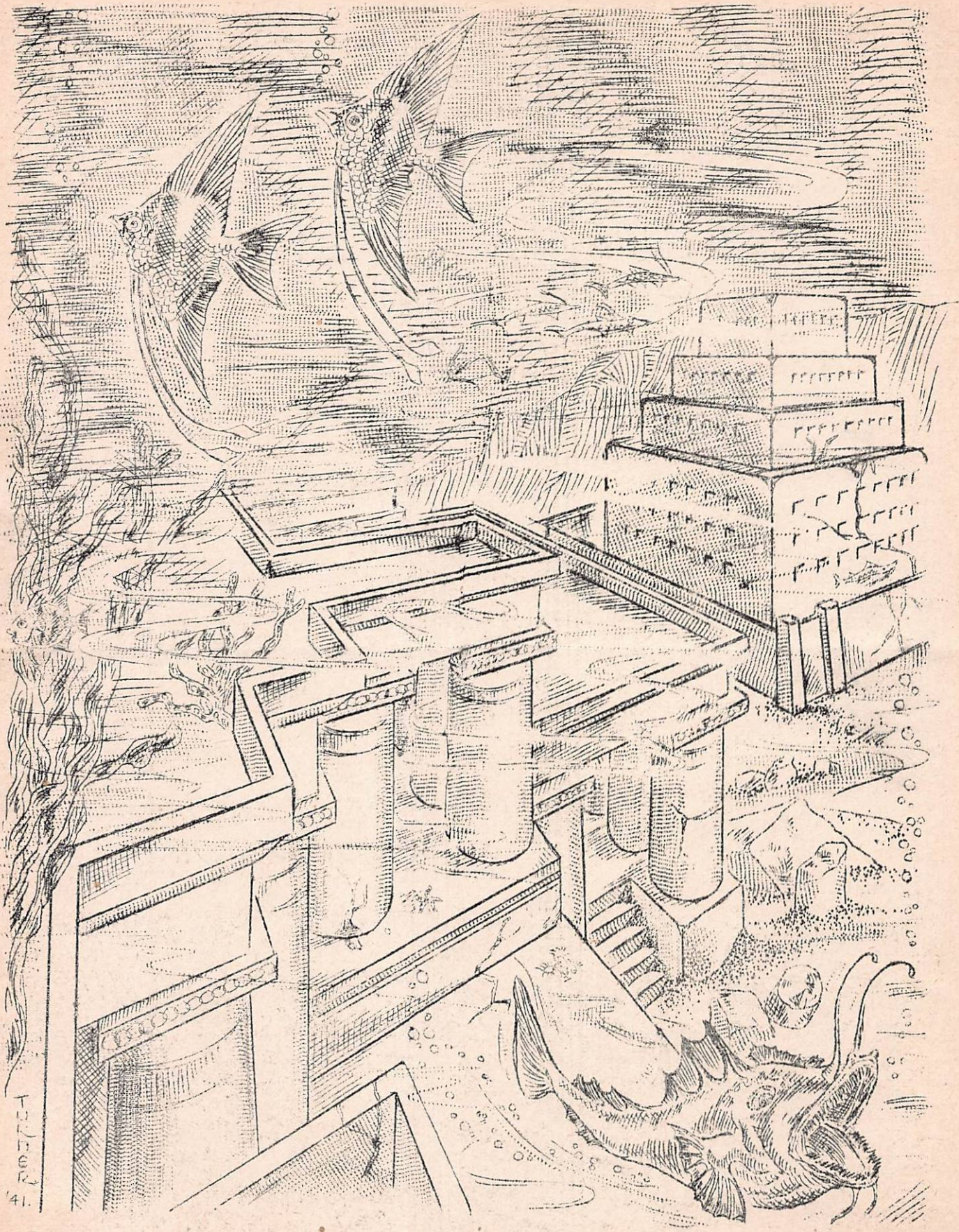
. . . Duplicated and Distributed by Michael Rosenblum.

"YOU'LL NEVER CONVINCE ME THAT
YOU CAN TRAVEL INTO THE
PAST!"



"WHERE DID I PUT THAT
OIL-CAN?"





T
U
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41.

THE ATLANTEANS

Sea-things like dim torches glimmer
Through our voiceless homes;
Ghostly-pale in sea-light shimmer
Wisdom's fallen domes.

Once proud we, an age's wonder,
Silence now our lot:
Far above the waters thunder;
Storm-winds touch us not.

Ocean-locked we lie,
Time doth pass us by:
Cold sleep we in the still heart of the seas.

MARION F. EADIE



F A N D O M F F . P . O .

This scheme, originally suggested by Julian Parr, has now been in operation for some two months, during which time some 30 letters have been dealt with. It seems to be reasonably successful and worthy of continuance. I am therefore devoting this otherwise spare page to giving an up-to-date list of possible participators.

The rules are simple: letters to any of the undermentioned can be sent to me at 4 Grange Terrace, enclosed with correspondence to me if you wish; and enclosing a penny stamp for each such letter. These will be mailed out at the end of the month with FIDO, except those to editors of accompanying sheets who will be dealt with each fortnight. Please be careful as regards weight - don't overrun two ounces per letter, or one ounce for foreign ones.

o-o

J. W. Banks (Eastbourne)
Sidney L. Birchby (London)
Sidney Bounds (London)
John Briston (Morden)
H. Kenneth Bulmer (London)
John F. Burke (Liverpool)
H. S. W. Chibbett (London)
Arthur C. Clarke (Forces)
A. Vincent Clarke (Welling)
Bernard H. Cohen (Leeds)
John C. Craiz (London)
Don J. Doughty (Downham Market)
Marion Eadie (Glasgow)
H. J. Ellis (Barrow)
Ronald Fishwick (Forces)
R. E. Folkes (Gloucester)
C. Roland Forster (Forces)
Derek Gardiner (Worthing)
Jack Gibson (Parkstone)
Walter H. Gillings (Ilford)
John Goldsmid (Leeds)
Harold Gottliffe (Forces)
Maurice K. Hanson (Forces)
Ron Holmes (Liverpool)
Eric C. Hopkins (London)
Donald Houston (Northampton)
Leslie J. Johnson (Forces)
Ronald Lane (Manchester)
Bert Lewis (Preston)
Eric Lloyd (Cragley Heath)
Edwin MacDonald (Inverness)
David McIlwain (Liverpool)
R. George Medhurst (Cambridge)
J. Morgan (Johnstone)
Eric Moss (Forces)
Eric Needham (Manchester)

R. E. Orme (Coventry)
Terence Overton (Cardiff)
Julian Parr (Stoke-on-Trent)
R. B. Pope (London)
Anton Ragasky (Stoke)
Rita Pittman (Oxford)
James P. Rathbone (Forces)
J. E. Rennison (Blackburn)
Osmond Robb (Edinburgh)
Eric Frank Russell (Liverpool)
Andrew Salmond (Glasgow)
W. Shelton (Forces)
A. G. Skeel (London)
D. R. Smith (Nuneaton)
William F. Temple (Forces)
E. A. Thompson (Pinner Hill)
Dennis Tucker (High Wycombe)
Harry Turner (Manchester)
Douglas Webster (Aberdeen)
Arthur F. Williams (London)
F. D. Wilson (Southport)
C. S. Youd (Eastleigh)
A. Bloom (Hoylake)

The following foreigners' can also be included from now on

Leslie Crouch
(Parry Sound, Canada)
Bert Castellari,
(Sydney, Australia)
Julius Unger
(New York, U.S.A.)
Harry Warner
(Hagerstown, Md, USA)
Milton Rothman
(Washington, DC, USA)

Veronica had been petting Fido in a friendly manner, when round the corner of the kennel came a little furry creature, tail stiffly erect and wearing a diabolical grin on its tiny face. "What!! another one Fido?" cried Veronica, "I shall call this one"

"HE SAID".

The Second.

Produced by Ron. Holmes, from 32, Rockfield Rd. Liverpool 4.
Duplicated and distributed by J.M. Roanblum. For which, many thanks.

R.G. Medhurst. London.
"People seem to be offended in such unexpected ways, and one thing I've noticed, by bitter experience, is that they don't seem to care for their letters to come, being displayed around the countryside. Lord knows why! Myself, I write for posterity!!"

K.N. Dwyer. Aust.
"Hal Roach's next on the list is "Topper Returns". Roland Young is to star again, of course, but Carol Landis is to replace Constance Bennett, Carol was in "Turnabout". Walt Disney has completed his "Fantasia" and "The Reluctant Dragon" and is making "Alice in Wonderland". "Fantasia", as you know, features a combination of Micky Mouse and Leopold Stocowski's Philadelphia Orchestra. Nice combination, what? The famous conductor plays all the famous operas during the film, and Disney shows the spirit behind the songs. One shows Earth in its primitive form of one million years ago. The sound-projection apparatus is so delicate that only one Theater in New York can screen it."

D.W.L. Webster. Aberdeen.
"Glad to see you're only thought of Hell in the busy time you're going to have there, shaking hands with old friends. That's the way I look at it too. Think of them all there in another 50 years - you and me meeting at last, Johnny standing reserved, /For what?/ Sam fighting as usual, Michael organising and trying to make peace, Smith laughing to himself, Ego and the rest of the London gang debating on metaphysics and space-travel, Jimmy Rathbone looking for the Fairies and protesting indignantly that he's not Hillary St Clair, Eric Hopkins laying off his chest at great length of Wordsworth, Dave quietly sublimating his sex impulses on the piano and Alfred leaning over his shoulder, and drawing pink surrealisms. And the Americans - the Futurics, Doc & DAW /ris/ spouting Technocracy while Wilson and Kornbluth just laff at the madness of it all, Mosky shouting nothingness, Spear cold and precise, Rothman a second Will Temple, 43j all energy, a flock of crazy girls /indispensable, my dear Doug, /and a horde of authors and artists, and editors. /NOT crazy ??/ Yes, it should be fun"

R.G. Medhurst. London.
"Suppose you've heard of Hal Chibbett's spook?? Sid and I investigated that spook. They stuffed me bodily into the back of the famous cupboard-under-the-stairs, rammed a table in hard, and squeezed in at the other side. Told me not to move -- Idea was to turn the table, of course, but that didn't move either. And, tho' they kept me suffering in blackness for a solid hour we didn't get a single tap. Harold brightened the proceedings by telling us of a family circle that persevered for 20 years before they got a table to turn!!"

? ? ? ?

U.S.A.

"The rich red light from the chamber beyond the door spilled like liquid fire, so fierce and vivid that it seemed as if it could only be accompanied by the scorching heat of an open furnace; but it held only a slight appreciable warmth. It blazed down from huge crimson arcs ranged along the cornices of the inner room along a haze of shining tubes and twisted wires; there was a great glass ball oposite in which a pale yellow streak of lightning forked and flickered with a faint humming sound. The light struck scarlet highlights from the gleaming bars of a great metal cage like a gigantic chicken-coop which filled the center of the room to within a yard of the walls. And within the cage something monstrous and incredible stood motionless, staring at them.

Simon could see it sometimes, years afterwards, in uneasy dreams. Something immense and frightful, listening like burnished copper, balancing on angled legs like bars of plated metal. Only for a few seconds he saw it then, and for the rest of that time he was held fascinated by it's eyes, understanding something that he would never have believed before.

And then suddenly the thing moved, swiftly and horribly and without a sound; and Sardon slammed the door shut, blotting out the eye-searing sea of red light and leaving only the austere cold whiteness of the laboratory.

/Reprinted from a work of a popular non-sf author. He is a sf fan and had a letter in a '38 TWS. He is English but lives in U.S.A.

Who is he, and which book is this passage from?? /never next month,

D. McIlwain.

Liverpool.

"After the present orgy of bloodshed is finished, an international movement like Esperanto - with the peace-aims which it has, will be like a breath of fresh-air in a slaughter-house. You, /Yes, YOU/ as a pacifist, /If you are one or not/ upholding the ideal of world peace and world-fraternity, and as a S-f fan, supporting the conception of a world-state and the dissolution of national fronteers, should definit- become an Esperantist. While the peoples of Europe and the world are devided into petty national groups which cannot understand each other without the aid of an interpreter, there will always be divisions, nationalism leading into militant jingoism, suspicion, and finally conflict. People may talk of the "United States of Europe", but it can never be anything but a myth while a Frenchman can only understand Frenchmen, while a GERMAN can only understand Germans, and so on.

It is this lack of interfraternization between national groups which is responsible for the success of the Hitler movement in Germany. The German youth have been trained to regard the germanic race as a superior strain to that of other races: they regard Frenchmen, Poles, Englishmen etc, as degenerates. But if, through some international medium, they could have got to know - personally - some of these "degenerate" races, (instead of obtaining all of their knowledge per the "Volkliche - scher Beobachter" -- Hitler's official mouthpiece) they would have come to realise that these "degenerates" were, after all, not so very different from themselves. "

Ron. Holmes.

Liverpool.

"My humble thank to those readers who have written to give their criticism of "H.S.", both of them, I'm glad they liked it, and I hope I shall be able to keep it up. I must apologise for the bad cutting of this stencill, I didn't account for the contrariness of this typer. "

Published by Douglas Webster at "Idlewild", Mountainhall Road, Aberdeen, and kindly duplicated for inclusion with Fido by Mr. J. Michael Rosenblum - The Man You Know.

* * * * *

Editorial Note.

A small number of fans in England received some unexpected and very sad news last month with the arrival of the March issue of SPACEWAYS. Since my business is quoting, I quote in part Harry Warner's words on introducing a poem "Moestitiae Encomium" by Earl Singleton. "Editor's Note: It is Feb. 12, 1941 as I type this dummy page, and in today's mail came notification of the tragic death three days ago of Earl Singleton. Less than a week ago I heard from him last; I had asked him to write a regular column for this magazine and he had agreed, promising to send the first instalment of it within a few days. These two pages--4 and 5--had been held open for it that will never arrive.***Although I never met Earl, our correspondence was steady and the loss is greater to me than most fans will realise. I am positive that he would want me to publish several manuscripts of his I had accepted for

Spaceways. A long poem which was originally intended for a future issue of this magazine is published below, and another poem will appear in the contest issue, as he wished. A third item, his short story "Goddess on His Arm", I feel it is better not to put into print, however, in view of its nature and the tragic circumstances...H.V.Jr"

Personally I was not lucky enough to have known Singleton, even in the only way I can "know" other fans - through the interchange of letters. I had written him only once. However, from what I know of him, Singleton was one of these fans whom it is a pleasure to hear of in America - he took no part in the fan-feuds. Having studied for three years in the Electrical Engineering Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he graduated M.Sc., was offered a scholarship by the Maths Department and was doing graduate work for a Ph.D. at the time of his death. Singleton was the editor of one of the latest US fan-magazines - NEPENTHE, devoted to the printing of verse by both fans and pro authors.

And so passes on a fellow fan . . .

DV

* * * * *

There was not a great deal of comment on the last issue of GA; and so I'm grabbing the chance to include several extracts from letters not dealing directly with anything which has so far appeared. To begin with, the question of intelligence, education & propaganda has been simmering for some while in Ragatzy-Webster letters.

ANTON RAGATZY: "You claim that the more intelligent and/or the better-educated are less influenced by propaganda in the immediate present. Well, this may be so. I know I stated my case, that this was incorrect, but I wish to restate my views, any revision being due to evolution in opinion. * * * * Modern education is naturally tainted slightly with various propaganda of government, nation, and the churches, according to its source. Otherwise, however, it is impartial. Other forces, forces of the contemporary world, in the shape of party propaganda, all tend to divert the individual in their specific direction, and at a time when the individual is insufficiently logical in his reasoning and immature in his intelligence. Now when a person early in life (this refers to the average, you understand) adopts a viewpoint, he usually keeps it, and the longer he keeps it, the less flexible his mind becomes. His philosophy becomes a habit. If you can keep all education impartial, and if you can prevent the individual's access to theoretical or abstract propaganda until he is quite mature in intelligence -- then, and not until then, will you have the opportunity for correct reasoning. I still think education an insecure method of securing unity of opinion, and unity of action. * * * Actually, any mis-

2/ apprehensions which may have appeared in my original comments on the subject were caused by the following 'logical' sequence:-

(1) The fact that in Nazi Germany, the majority of uneducated were wholly in support of the Nazi policy, and anti-British.

(2) The fact that in Nazi Germany, the majority of educated were wholly in support of the Nazi policy, and anti-British.

(3) The fact that in Britain, the majority of uneducated were wholly in support of the British policy, and anti-Nazi.

(4) The fact that in Britain, the majority of educated were wholly in support of the British policy, and anti-Nazi.

(5) The facts (1) and (3) can be accounted for by the susceptibility of the uneducated to propaganda.

(6) The facts (2) and (4) can be accounted for by the susceptibility of the educated to propaganda.

(7) Recently I have discovered an alternative to (6) ---

(6) The facts (2) and (4) can be accounted for by the economic, commercial or financial interests of the educated. * * * Actually, I believe it a combination of the former (6) and the revised version."

It will be noted that this makes no mention of intelligence, but only of education. Should anyone care to venture to break a lance on either aspect, he will receive a warm welcome here.

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EDWIN MACDONALD, in a letter which kicks off "What do you mean, by Gad, sir!", makes this interesting observation: "By the way, you might ask via the pages of the "Gent", how many fans keep their liking of science-fiction a closely-guarded secret [I could name a few who make no secret of their dislike of it], & don't let their neighbours, friends (who aren't fans), or more distant relatives, ever see them with a stf. magazine or writing to brother fans, etc. I'm afraid I don't go about with a big badge-"Science-Fiction Fan"--stuck on my lapel: people'd think I was "queer" - the people Ego describes in the "Gent". Perhaps I should have said, how many fans do not keep it a secret?"

This looks like an interesting subject for psychological research. Will readers please discuss it fully in their next letters, becoming as intimate as they feel judicious? Thanks. Incidentally, Edwin the Mac is one of the younger school of fans %, as will be readily seen from his remarks, destined to go further than most.

* * * * *

Brooding sadly that no letter from young Hopkins had arrived for some time (true: my last one was a bit long), I took to leafing through my vast pile of his past ones....an extremely pleasant task. In one short 16-page effort I found the following sample of the gentlest art, preceded by some rather insulting remarks about sophisticated acquaintances. Mr. George Medhurst, who has also sinned in this respect (Adaptive Ultimate indeed...green hair & carrots dangling in front of noses - huh!) may be interested to learn that the Webster yesterday spent much pleasurable time being bally to certain sophisticated persons' mother (a bracing widow of some 60 summers, whom he once asked if she went to the flicks alone), and she informed him cheerily that after another four years' study at Aberdeen, his best plan would be to carry on at...guess where? Cambridge. Yes. Some people are crazy.

ERIC C. HOPLINE: "Have just remembered the name of that bally ballet fellow:-

Constant Lambert, and he's an enthusiast! [An E. on swing.] But Sir Beecham....Tut, tut: a sad case. Mind you, he's not above having his little joke even with the adoring public. I well remember the time I went to a Sunday afternoon Beecham Concert to find that old Tom had lightheartedly deleted Mozart's 40th. Symphony and substituted some Variations upon the theme "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree"! True it is, that he also added Modart's 4th. Violin Concerto to the programme but

3/ neither of these cheery pieces made me cry half as much as the G. Minor Symphony would have. Luckily for the public's morale the chief work, Tchaikowsky's 5th. Symphony, was generously left in and boy! did old Tom swing it! He struts about very stately, y'know, but when he gets down to business it's really down - and up again like a jack in the box. Turning around, waving his arms, wiggling his eye-brows (for the orchestra's benefit), mopping his noble brow (for the audience's benefit), he fair radiated youth & energy and roared into the exciting finale, even once emitting an appealing bellow which rang across the hall (Queen's): I did not catch the words, but gather that the general message was "Hit it up, fellers!". They did. We, the poor mugs who paid, collapsed exhausted in our seats, while the Pill King strode triumphantly from the frantic scene. If you've never seen Beecham perform then you really must before you die; even if you must drag him from retirement."

Oh London Town's a fine town - and London's sights are rare. Eh, Eric ?

* * * * *

And now Dicky-bird Medhurst. As I expected, it was about 2 or 3 days after I stencilled the last ish that word came from him of a large & lavish Peace between the Youd & the Medhurst. Good - it had to be. As I quote the following passage it must be remembered that RGM is really, as Yorick says, "a most saintly fellow". He ambles through life dripping benevolence on all his fellow men - except the Smith. So does the Webster. As you will see, the War Against Smith is a matter of deadly seriousness: 'twill be pistols soon.

R. G. MEDHURST: "Quote from Smith in "F.M." :- 'Rather a curious point you raise about my sticking to surnames in letters. I think myself that it's the last remnant of my secondary school education, coupled with shyness. It doesn't extend, of course [of course], to verbal communication, in other words, speech.' ****Assure you I haven't forged this! Couldn't possibly have brought myself to forge that last horrible circumlocution. Well, look here, don't you think this momentous announcement should be published, in, say, G.A.? Or would it be ethical to get Ray's permission first? [He was told to object if he objected: had quite enough time to drop us a p.c. if he did.] Which sentence inaugurates my Campaign for Drawing the Wings of Smith. Splash him all over the place as "Ray", and never again let innocent fandom be terrorised by the monstrous personality fabled to hide under the grim nom-de-guerre of "Smith". We already have a "Don", and anyway "Ray" is much more suitable for letting Light into that Dark Place.* * * Hereby demand adequate space-allowance in G.A. for my Campaign, or else. All the best, G." ...Call it the CDWS, men.

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CONSENSUS OF OPINION DEPT. C of O would tend to indicate that the name The Gent for GA finds fairly general favour. So be it, gentlemen, so be it. The Gent. Still, I may be allowed my lonely lewd snicker over Art Williams' suggestion, the Gent-less Tart? Not quite that touch of the aesthetic which is in OSY's original suggestion; but funny, to simple minds.

* * * * *

Some comments on the last issue, from, firstly---

ANTON RAGATZY: "...real leisure for worthy objects. Such as politics..." (Hopkins). This is a fine example of intellectual snobbery. We find the whole process in a logical order as follows:-

(1) Of this community, a certain number of individuals, either for material gain or from mental inclination, dabble in the science of government, known as politics.

(2) The remainder of the community are known as the politically ignorant mass, and are allergic to any serious indulgence in politics.

(3) The present system of society places the responsibility for choice of government upon the interested and uninterested, the capable and incapable.

(4) This responsibility enables certain parties, individuals, or groups, to make use of the mass to lend weight to their political schemes or policies.

(5) Many 'intellectuals' have noticed this problem, and offer, as a solution, the

4/ education and "persuasion" of the people in politics, thus making the whole community politically conscious.

(6) This step would mean that the gap between individual and individual, party and party, would widen, parties would increase, and the community would be dissociated into bickering, quarrelling little groups, each pulling in a different direction, would increase political insecurity and, in other words, would make a damned mess of the whole affair.

(7) All this will be the result in the present state of affairs. But since the recognised necessity is to change this, why base your reforms upon it? If the individual is not interested in politics, it should not be necessary to waste time 'persuading' him in order to ensure that problem 4) disappears.

* * * * *

And secondly, DONALD HOUSTON: "Re the current issue of G.A. With this issue it improves in my estimation 100." In fact the only thing that's wrong with it is its 'nickname' & I hereby put in a vote for it to be changed to the Gent.***In this issue I see that a certain Mr. Hanson [just call him Maurice Hanson - we'll know who you mean] picks Unknown's fine stories to pieces, as far as I can see he really has nothing against it except for the 'whacky' yarns. I would advocate a second reading of his criticisms. I grant that some of these are rotten, but what is wrong with "The Mathematics of Magic" [nothing - except that I read it & haven't the slightest idea what it was about], or for that matter "The Indigestible Triton"? [quote JFB, 3:7:40-- "... 'Indigestible Triton,' which I enjoyed, deserts the shoddy writing."] Again, "Lest Darkness Fall" was not one of the 'sinister' types of yarns, yet it is one of the best stories that ever appeared between "Uk's" covers. I agree with him over the matter that the sinister yarns are the best, but not always, no, not always. As an example of this I give "Out Without Horns". I see that he tends to favour this yarn but personally I consider it to be one of the worst tales of the year. Then as to the short stories. That he could see in "All Roads" & "Warm Dark Places" beats me, & "It" wasn't much better. In direct contrast to these are "The Fruit of Knowledge" & "The Devil's Rescue", two fine shorts, but which are not even mentioned by Mr. Hanson."

I print this as an exercise in comparative criticism. Comparative, because it should be compared with the two samples, by Hopkins & Hanson, last issue, purely as criticism, not with any regard to the conclusions reached. And also because of the fact, to which most older fans are blind, & which I have been deliberately ignoring, that while Houston is a fairly representative sample of the majority of Pido readers, Hanson, Hopkins, Ragatzy, Burke, & the others....are not. A pity.

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PC from OS: "You will, I trust, appreciate the exigencies of the editorial life which are forcing me to withdraw your instalment of "The Road to Fame", even after two pages of it had been stencilled. This withdrawal has nothing to do with the merit of your writing, which is at the least adequate, but is occasioned by editorial realisation of the insuperable difficulties lying ahead for those who would follow after. I am ultimating Smith to do the whole thing himself, saving which it will be abandoned. THE SURVIVORS has actually been abandoned (after my Part 3 had been stencilled); Bill Temple has flatly refused to write it in the bath, which is the only spare time he has now. Expect soon a nice chatty letter on the cost of stencils!"

This raises an intriguing point. Will all those whom I haven't already asked kindly let me know what (if anything) they read in bath. Statistics later.

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Your Uncle Doug lets down his hair & tells a bedtime story: "Remember a scheme for circulating MSS? I asked if anyone would care to join in... Doughty, Holmes & Houston said Yes. Being experienced, I wouldn't let mere apathy deter me. But, tho the authors were the antithesis of the readers in consideration & helpfulness, due to there being a war on only four MSS were obtained between them all. So, dear readers? For elaborate figures on the number of authors asked, apply DHouston, or.....DW"

REVIEW

ASF ----- March '41

Preview for the BRE reader? Do you want this department to continue? Another cover in the terrific style of Aug. '40 -- who could the artist be, but Rogers? Heinlein's back with the feature novelet, "Logic of Empire", a further episode in his future's history, a story of the period previous to the setting of "If This Goes On --" - slavery on Venus! Cliff Simak's 'let, "Masquerade", not so hot -- EFRussell's "Spy" transfers to Mercury Vic Phillips of "Maiden Voyage" and "Salvage" collaborates with Scott Roberts in "Putch" -- an exciting tale in his usual vein. Theo Sturgeon time-travels again in "Poker-Face", an unusual story of a remarkable poker player. Jameson takes advantage of the present situation to provide the basis for his short -- "Blockade Runner". But Brass Tacker DBThompson provides the best of the issue's shorts, a tale of eccentric people, natives of a planet with an "Eccentric Orbit". MacDonald's "Sixth Column" concludes with the defeat of the Pan-Asians by the halood followers of Lord Noto - all brought about by the use of a certain narvellous "basic weapon"! RSRichardson succeeds in convincing us that "Space Has a Spectrum", and, therefore is not empty space at all! Schnoeman has a great illustration for Thompson's yarn, but otherwise is not so hot. Both of the Isips as usual; but Eron is still too unhuman. Editorial - swell!

Aspect of war

Genius utilising the power of expansion, unwittingly helped to create a veil of darkness over Europe's cities when they created (thousand pitied) the internal combustion motor.

Homo Sapiens now is master of venomous forces sufficient to cast shattering shellbom stratosphere high against the bomber flown there by the internal combustion motor;

Why then is Mankind so morose if his home and loved ones by explosive are destroyed? He has released the insensate fury of the Beast-God. He must bear the wrath of the Occidental Jaggarnath.

O, better than man's knowledge lost in brutifying holocaust, for ages -- 'til he/ye has control of his emotions as a whole to give in piece one with his neighbour and from destruction divert to labour the internal combustion motor.

WILLIAMS '41

RAMBLING: Thanks for all your letters, pals, and as most of you seem to think that TT's policy needs a little expansion I've tried to feature one of Eric Needham's poems overleaf, superimposed on a background illustration kindly drawn by STAN's editor-artist, Art Williams. Let me know what you think of it, also the general idea of policy expansion. That Man HOLMES again, tho' I'm afraid he's going to find himself very muchly cut: "Uninteresting McCann Business" was uninteresting. Why tear the guy to pieces??? "All right McCann IS Campbell - if you say so - but what mighty feat have you done, what have you proved, other than to show that Campbell has the decency to let some of his most excellent stuff go into print without claiming it for himself. And I might add that very few fans, the critical ones, would fail to grab every opportunity to get their names to every line of print which appears in AST, whether they were Editing it or not. "Review" was good; altho' I consider my opinion of mags to be of no value to people who are not concerned, I do firmly believe that the bore of tidings of mags is an asset. From Coventry, tho' recently shifted by "a big, beautiful bomb", come a few lines on the same question, by Ralph Orme -- "By a process of strict logic we shall soon be blaming Campbell for almost everything that's written in ASF. Who cares, anyhow, as long as we get the goods." Perpetrator of last month's FIDO's Suggestion Corner has another one up his sleeve: "---that subscribers to FIDO send a suggestion to the (Atlas) publishing company for a mag to replace UNKNOWN, if it flops, and guarantee the sale of a certain number of copies of the mag." Any offers? A pat on the back for Doug, from fellow-ed. Ken Bulmer, "What a way to head so absorbing an article; "This uninteresting McCann business indeed. With that smashing start TT no.2 couldn't go wrong. The review causes me to go green with thoughts of having to wait at least half a year before reading those yarns. coo!!" The Mellman -- "Don't you think that events are astounding enough, without the need for Astounding escapism?" May be an old story to youse guys, but Eric Needham explains: "Have you ever wondered why the omission of capital letters give a strangely futuristic look to anything? It beats me, even though I realize that I started to miss capitals when the shift key refused to function!" That stalwart ASTOUNDING fan, Ted Carnell -- "I doubt very much if the AST Annual will ever appear. It is definitely against the policy of SAS to have anything reproduced again, but changes in the market may make them change their minds. If they do, I should imagine that they will reprint many yarns that are famous, besides having new stuff. It depends on how many yarns they have on hand." Now think it out for yourselves, ladst Two Scotmen: Doug Webster, "I should also mention that the derivation of TT from BRASS TACKS is about three years old - Ego Clarke once had an extremely funny article in NOVAE TERRAE called "Tin Tacks & Science Concussions" Woo-woo!" Yeah, I saw it too, but not until after TTL was out!!! And John Morgan, who evidently has not been fortunate enough to have had a peek at "Slam": "I don't think much of friend Van Vogt. I think you will agree that that author's efforts have all been in the same strain; "all dealt with some utterly monstrous, alien animal, possessing the most amazing biological capabilities. (Yes, no???)" For an artistic finish, Harry Turner, "You can keep your Isips, Rogers, Urban, Kolliker, Erner and the ilk - I shot once upon a time that Merchioni and Sooty were pretty awful, but I'd much prefer the work of these two to the stuff dished up in ASF these days".

TT is very kindly duplicated and distributed with FIDO by J.Rosenblum, from stencils cut at 31, Bezwil Road, Dombas Market, Norfolk, by Don J. Doughty. Thanks, Michael -- and you guys who write!!