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THE SCIENCE-FICTION GAZETTE.

Editor - Eric C. Williams.
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Gratis to S.F.A. Members only.

This Gazette is primarily to inform members of some emergency changes that have been carried out in the Secretarial workings of the SFA. The measures, if ratified at the forthcoming Convention, will become permanent part of the SFA Constitution.

Perhaps it is not generally known, but the workings of the SFA have for long been very unfairly distributed. The Council is, owing to its widely scattered nature, unable to deal with matters of any real urgency. Much of the business that might have been placed before a Council has had to be dealt with and settled by the Chairman of that body, G. Ken Chapman, in order that the matter might be dealt with expeditiously.

This same member has had to handle the Secretarial side of the Association, duties involving correspondence with all members and prospectives, Branches and prominent Honorary Members, organising the Annual Conventions, attending to such things as printing of all stationery, the preparation of Gazettes, Constitution, and Prospectus. Lately, owing to the lack of support from other members, he has had to take part Editorship in NEW WORLDS.

Such duties, as may be imagined, have even interfered with Mr. Chapman's domestic life, and because of it's increasing volume, the work has become considerably behindhand. He cannot help this.... we are to blame that he was at last forced to declare that he could not continue with his position and that it was up to other members to co-operate.

You may not realise it, or perhaps you know only too well from editorials of the Editor of the late "Novae Terrae", that the members of SFA, when it comes to active work, are the last word in apathy. Thus, when Mr. Chapman first mentioned his intention of possible resignation to various members of the London Branch, they, recalling the utter disinterest that had been displayed on other occasions where official business had to be settled by the membership, entertained grave doubts as to whether — unless anyone was forthcoming from the London ranks — the SFA could continue as a united body. However, Frank Arnold, an enterprising London member, offered to take over the responsibility of controlling the activities of the Association, as covered by the duties of the Executive Committee, on condition that that Committee was expanded, so that the work should be split up between a number of executives. In the emergency, the London Branch assumed the responsibility of putting the motion into immediate operation, and the position is now this:-

All correspondence will still be sent to Headquarters at 23, Farnley Road, London, S.E. 25. Once a week it will be divided amongst the members of this Executive Committee, who will deal each with a definite section of the correspondence, viz. Frank Arnold - Executive Secretary, dealing with all questions of policy and criticism; G. Ken. Chapman - Primary Contact Secretary; Eric Williams - Gazette Editor; Maurice K. Hanson - Secretary for Branches; Eric Hopkins - Members' Secretary; Leslie Smith - Information Bureau; and Sidney Bounds - Secretary to the Treasury. The case of Sidney Birchby, who was unable to attend the London Branch meeting, will be considered later. All that this change implies is that the work has been lifted from the shoulders of one and spread over the shoulders of seven.

The re-entry of Eric Williams to the Executive Committee, necessitates a change in the Librarianship, this now being taken over by H.T. Kay, 321, Brownhill Road, Catford, London, S.E. 6, to which all future Library reference should be made.

A certain number of internal changes will undoubtedly be necessitated during the ensuing months, and we would ask members to bear with us for the time being, until the new Executive Committee has settled down.

In conclusion, we wish to impress upon our members that we want comments and suggestions on our arrangements, which were literally thrown together in a day. We think the method adopted is the only sane thing to do, but we do not wish to appear dictatorial in taking

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over the task and then announcing it. It would indeed give us satisfaction to see some other Branch enthusiastic enough to take over the above duties, and it is up to them to volunteer, if they have any ideas on the subject.

And, please remember, if you decide to give us a trial, that we do not get paid for running the Association and that you can't expect us, who, after all, are only fans like yourself, to sweat our hides off trying to keep the Association alive without suggestions and co-operation from you.

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The above final paragraph might apply, too, to NEW WORLDS, which is in urgent need of manuscripts, and help with typing and stencil cutting, from country members. Here is a way in which YOU, personally, can help to advance the SFA. Assistance, please!

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SFA 10s/- Prize Scheme. The first of these prizes, in connection with the "Tales of Wonder" £1.1.0. Prize for the best reader's letter, was won by Member Jack Gordon of Glasgow, to whom we tender our heartiest congratulations.

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We regret to announce the retirement, through excess of personal work, of our Publicity Director, D.W.F. Mayer of Leeds. Mr. Mayer parts company with the Officials of this Association on the best of terms, and his position will not be refilled until the whole matter has been discussed by the Council, when they meet at the Convention.

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New Members and Acknowledgements. We are unable to get these departments of the Gazette ready for this issue, in time for press, and same will appear, together with further additions, in the next Gazette.

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Owing to popular request, we shall arrange to print reports of Branch meetings in all future issues of this publication. Branch Secretaries are asked to keep in close touch and co-operate with the appropriate official at this office, Maurice K. Hanson.

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SFA, 23, FARNLEY ROAD, SOUTH NORWOOD, LONDON, S.E. 25, ENGLAND.

Dear Member,

You are hereby definitely invited to attend the forthcoming Convention, on May 21st next. This event, as you will already know, is the really big event of Britain's sft. year, and 1939 will be no exception, as far as entertainment is concerned.

If you want to meet and hear speak, Professor A.M. Low, D.Sc, John Beynon Harris, John Russell Fearn, George C. Wallis, Leslie J. Johnson, Charnock Walsby, William F. Temple, Benson Herbert, Douglas Mayer, Frank J. Arnold, and a host of other celebrities, be sure to come along to the "A.O.D. Memorial Institute, Lambs Conduit Street, London on May 21st, at 3.30 P.M. We would much appreciate it, if you could let us know in advance that you intend to come, as we are arranging for all delegates to take Supper with us after the Convention is over, and we wish to have a fair estimate of the number we have to cater for.

Every SFA member who can do so, should come to this year's event, which will undoubtedly be the most lavish to date....YOUR presence alone is required to make it a real success.

The Association's accounts and reports will be presented, and several important measures will be discussed (see above), so that it is in your own interest, if you are seen, to be sure you are with us. In addition, many celebrities will address us, on vital subjects to all. **MAKE SURE THAT YOU COME ALONG.**

Yours sincerely, G.K.Chapman.
(Council Chairman).