

NEW FAN FOR MELBOURNE.

"BEGINNING OF NEW ERA"

By Wog Hockley:

New fans who are really enthusiastic about stf are usually contacted very soon after they are discovered but Melbourne fan Harrison has been very hard to find. It took two months of searching before he was contacted. Then finally, Hockley got in touch with him, and set the stage for his entry into Melbourne fandom.

We will quote from past issues to show the search that took place, and was finally rewarded with success. No.1: "Aided by McGills Agency, Hockley is on the track of a new fan... There may be more details next week." No.2: "Hockley has not yet heard from new fan Harrison but he will investigate again."

No.4: "Lost - One new fan..... Hockley cannot find him, McGills say he has not been in lately."

In our last issue we told of Wog's partial success. He contacted Harrison, only to learn that his parents were down on stf, and it looked as though this new fan would quietly fade away. Hockley left a parcel of mags at McGills for him, and waited.

During the week he received a letter from him, including in its pages the following choice pieces: "I am more than interested in fantasy.... I am extremely interested in the fan club and the prospect of getting in touch with others interested in fantasy..... Please answer as soon as possible as I am anxious to hear more about the fan club."

He is to visit Wog over the weekend, and more details should be in our next issue. Hockley hopes it will be the "beginning of a new era in Melbourne fandom" We can only wait and see.

POLLS

No.2...AUTHORS

HEINLEIN 100%

It is a lot harder, say some, to pick five favourite authors than it is to pick artists. Consequently they are taking more time over their choice, which is all right as long as they do eventually vote.

Three votes have been received, however, and whereas Smith, Campbell, etc. have all missed points, comparative newcomer Robert Heinlein has scored the maximum, three out of three. At present positions are:

Number of votes	3
HEINLEIN	3 points
E.E.SMITH.....	2 "
ASIMOV, J.W.CAMPBELL, DE CAMP, DEL REY, KELLER, MERRITT, ROCKLYNNE, VAN VOGT, WEINBAUM, H.G.WELLS.....	1 "

Already there are twelve authors in the contest, after only three votes. This is due to the large number of authors, as compared with the small group of artists. Some people wanted us to change the number to ten favourites, but others said it would be hard to pick five who were extremely well liked, so we decided to leave the competition as it stands.

We expect a fairly large number of votes to come in before next issue, and this should make the contest a lot more interesting. Send in your vote as soon as you can.

NEW IDEAS.

We have a new idea with regard to the series of polls. When you send in your vote, also send in a list of contests you would like to be held. Our choice of subjects will in future depend a lot on what the readers want.

HOBART VOTES.

During the week we received Hobart votes in the poll for artists. Unfortunately, they arrived about three days after the close of the poll. However, the major positions were not altered by these additional votes. Rogers is still No.1 artist in the opinion of Australian fans.

Melbournes by Wog Hockley..Tasmanews by Don Tuck.

FUTURIAN SERVICE

We wish to make an announcement about a service that the F.S.S. started when they started their plan of endorsing messages, etc. but which was never clearly announced. It is a service that is designed to help fans, certainly not to any great extent, but it may save some fans a lot of trouble and work.

Most fans do a lot of corresponding, and gradually build up a huge pile of old letters, which contain, amongst a lot of "talk," a few important statements which might be wanted for reference at any time. And since these statements may be wanted, all the letters must be kept. When a fan wants to look up something, he has to dig through these letters until he finds what he wants. This may take considerable time.

If you sort out all the stuff you are ever likely to need, and copy it out, using some sort of index system, you will be able to dispense with the piles of old letters, and save yourself a lot of trouble when referring back.

The F.S.S. is quite willing to endorse these copies, providing they are genuine, so that the copies will be guaranteed accurate, preventing any disputes.

Take advantage of this offer now, send both originals and copies to the F.S.S., and they will do the rest.

MAGAZINES.

Cover on the latest Profan was done by a professional artist as Lindsay Johnston was unable to do it because of bad eyes.

Next Melbourne Bulletin will be done in elite type.

UGH!

From Melbourne: "Funniest sight of the week - K.T. parading around in a pair of pants, a few feathers, and some cocoa makeup as Red Eagle in "Pochahontas" a boy scout (Wog's spelling) production.

WE REPEAT, UGH!

In an advertisement in a Sydney shop, Astounding and Unknown are classed as WESTERNS!!!

EDITORIAL...Beginning of a new era?

As the subject for our editorial this week we take a statement by Wog Hockley, that he would not be surprised if Harrison's entry into Melbourne fandom were the beginning of a new era.

We do not like to doubt Wog. He worked hard trying to build Melbourne fandom into something really worth while, something to be proud of. But we do not see how the advent of Harrison can change the whole course of fan activities in the southern state. The saying that one swallow does not make a summer applies to stf as well as most other things.

Certainly, introducing Harrison into the fan world is laying the foundation for a vast increase in fan activities in Melbourne. But Melbourne fans must build further on this foundation before it is worn away by time.

Assuming that Harrison is a real fan, and that he sticks with other Melbournites for good, the Melbourne group is still exceedingly small. If they stay as they are now, while they may not lose interest, it will be impossible for them to go ahead.

We would suggest, now that Harrison has been found, that the F.S.M. be reformed. There would be three whole-time fans, and two who would attend when they could. That is quite enough for a start.

But after that start they should look ahead. If one fan should lose interest, or leave Melbourne, or for some reason have to break contact with the others, where would they be then?

To counteract this they must find new fans. Two or three, though hard to find, would be sufficient to give them the added security they need.

So if Harrison is the first of three or four new fans, and only if there are others to follow, can it be said that Melbourne fandom is at the beginning of a new era.

THE EDITORS....

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