

SPACE TIMES

N.S.F.C NEWSLETTER



VOL. I. No. 3.

AUGUST '52.

Apathy apparently exists in N.S.F.C., as in all organisations----- .It is a lamented fact that from the seventy odd copies of "S-T No.2.", distributed, only SIX letters of comment were received----- . In this issue you will find a short history of N.S.F.C., by Dave and Sid. We can't tell you that this mighty document was picked up off a sandy beach in Southern California after being dropped by a Spaceship, but we hope you enjoy it just the same----- . Another item in this issue that you will find amusing, is Frances Evans' "FUTURE MURDERY RHYMES", she may write some more if you ask for them---- . A.E.(Taff) Williams has been inveigled into writing an article entitled, "GADGETS IN SCIENCE-FICTION", which also appears herein----- . E.B.

NEWS AND VIEWS. By Eric Sentscliffe.

Geoff Lewis is now out of Hospital (Temporarily at least) and thanks all the folk who were kind enough to write to him. Geoff informs me that he may be going to the U.S.A. for a few weeks around Sept-Oct, he will be visiting San Francisco and Akron, Ohio, and will be pleased to look up any folk we know of around these areas.

Perpetrator of "Astroneer", Paul Sowerby, will be in London around the time this reaches you, we believe he is staying at "The Pillory", Welling? Kent. James White is reported as not now speaking to the other folk at "Oblique House", reason, he has sold a story to "NEW WORLDS".(Assisted Passage. 8000 words.) I suppose Walts possible visit to U.S. suggested the title----. Whilst we are on the subject of Mags, for some time there has been a doubt as to which was the WORST S-F Mag. NOW there is NO doubt----. "FANTASTIC SCIENCE-FICTION" has arrived, fifty pages of the worst stories and artwork seen since "AMAZING" had a pup. This may be a 'one shot',--. WE HOPE!

Issue number two of "SPACE" has appeared, and the contents by Leinster, Simak, Pratt, etc, look very interesting. The cover is by Erle Bergoy, but you would never have guessed it: the publishers of "SPACE" have FOUR more S-F mags projected. Two new books reported by Dale are, "ACROSS THE SPACE FRONTIER" by "A group of Eminent Scientists", pub Viking, due Sept 26th, Edited by Cornelius Ryan, and "PLAYER PIANO" by Kurt Vorregut, concerning "America in the coming Electronic Age", from Scribner sometime in August. John Gunn of the "British Fantasy Library" has produced a very useful but unfortunately incomplete "Directory of Anglo Fandom", it is illustrated by Bob Shaw who, we are told, has since been banished from Belfast. Congrats on a nice job blokes----- and that's all for this issue, except to inform you that the Sept issue of "S-T" will be edited by Eric Jones, due to E.B. being in JERSEY on vacation for a couple of weeks in August-----.

AN EMBARRASING MOMENT

There was a Fan - who, upon receiving an Epistle from the customs to the effect that they were holding a parcel addressed to him, the contents of which were apparently on the banned import list, and would he kindly forward his import licence, -- promptly wrote back stating that his pen-name was Eric F. Russell and that he required the maga for research into the S-F field. Result, he received the parcel together with a request for his AUTOGRAPH-----

BUY BUY BUY!
THE FANTASY SOCIETY'S
"FANTASY CALENDAR"
FOR '53. SIX YILLOS FOR
2/6
WRITE TO: ALAN HUNTER,
124, South View Rd., Southdown
BOURNEMOUTH.

(2)

THE BOO SPOT.

The Radar Beam is set on A.E. (Taff) Williams, another founder member of N.S.F.C., and the club's memory man. Taff was a Flt/Lt in the R.A.F. and did the inspection on Elijahs' Chariot--- No, he isn't that old, only 30---. He is well known around Manchester as having a complete set of As-F (U.S.Ed) and very carefully never lets any of us know when he leaves home for the weekend. He also seems able to recall each and every story published in As-F.

Taff is now a research physicist with the I.C.I., --a branch of science he first got interested in when reading S-F.

Favourite Authors, Don A. Stuart (J.W.C.) James H. Schmitz.

Favourite stories, "Forgetfulness" by Stuart, and Eric Frank Russell's "Metamorphasite". Only hobby outside Science-Fiction, --- Sleeping. E.B.

N.S.F.C. NEW MEMBERS.

Frank Dodd, 72, John Street, Auckland, W.I., New Zealand.

Walt A. Willis, 170, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, N. Ireland.....

BIRTH OF A NOFION

Being the story of the Foundation of the Nor'west Science-Fantasy Club.

-----And it came to pass-----

Way back in the grim dark days, of early 1951, a not so fictional fanatic, Dave Cohen, received an epistle from one Eric Bentcliffe of similar mental aptitude. Result--- Birth pains of the N.S.F.C. Then, (in the words of a better author than yours truly) there arose a great pestilence in the form of Chronicles, the hieroglyphics of which almost resulted in a "Mighty Exodus" of S-F fans to a more peaceable clime. Those magnificent sages that did, how-

-ever, join us in the glorious "Fight For Recognition", painfully tore their aging gaze from equally ageing, yellowing parchment tomes of philosophy, (Astounding, Amazing, etc, etc.) crept out of their crevices and crypts, braved the hostile glare of wives, mothers-in-laws, and so forth, and branched out into the hitherto secret cult of----"FANDOM".

And so, dear fans, late in January 1951, and at the Oxford Hotel, we saw the birth of the (since dubbed) MANCHESTER MUSHROOM. The founder members; FRANK RICHARDS, "DUFFY" WILLIAMS, ERIC BENTCLIFFE, and DAVE H. CONN, downed their difficulties in Nectar, and with an aura of smoke hovering above them, had their first discourse on subjects topical.

MARY thanks go to O.F., PHANTASMAGORIA, WONDER, S.F. REHS, SLUDGE, SLAFT, T.W. F.F., and last, but by no means least, the MANCHESTER CITY NEWS, for publicity on the first club to be formed outside London, with the exception of MERE ROSEBUDS' LEEDS GROUP.

At last our "Pipe Dream" of Fans were materialising, and our headquarters fixed at the "Waterloo Hotel", Nighthow, Manchester. 8.

Our first member worthy of mention here is the late COLLING LAMBERT, well remembered amongst fans, he is sadly missed by all.

SLOWLY at first, but steadily, we were finding strength in numbers. Local publicity was effected in the form of posters (thanks to LES JACKSON) which were distributed to bookshops throughout Manchester. Response was rather poor but not altogether wasted, members still trickled in, either in person or in a primitive form of teleportation known as mail, and with the adroit use of van Vogt's ESP we influenced other fans into membership. THIS "Mushroom" certainly were no fungus..... Other towns caught on, clubs began to form throughout U.K., Bradford, Liverpool, The Junior Leicester Club., and now to crown it all, negotiations for an Amalgamation of all U.K. clubs were entered into.

Ah! The N.S.F.C. was now looking quite the healthy young man it was. Guests were invited to meetings, Ken Smith, who sowed the seed we founder members fertilised, and a well-known amateur writer, graced our first General Meeting. Later followed by Derek Pickles, Marjorie (now Mrs Pickles) and Mavis, of Bradford, the well-known actives. Later on in the year came the inestimable Lyell Crane, well known amongst Internationally active fandom. The most recent guest was the famous Ted Tubb, well known connoisseur of S-F, and LIQUOR.....

Here, it should be made known, our strength was becoming impressionable, with approximately 25 active members, and 15 to 20 postal members. Our Library was becoming very active under the conspicuous guidance of Frank & Maureen-Simpson.

Round about this time came "THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL", in which our Club played some part in the publicity. In return we had a visit to the trade showing, got a mention on the back of the pamphlets, and one of our Fans had her picture published talking to GORT, the robot, in the Manchester Evening News. (Fans is the spur!)

LONDON Convention, 1952. N.S.F.C. well and truly recognised, and ably represented. Good plugging took place for the holding of the Major Convention in Manchester next year, disregarding the fact that it always rains on Sunday. Undeterred by our defeat in the show of hands for the MAJ-CON, in Manchester next year, we publicised the MANCON with good response.

ERIC picked up his much awaited "Checklist"(Part 1.) whilst in London, and needless to say he had paid for it's publishing in sales before he left for home.

MEMBERSHIP is now around 60 overall, and we are still expanding--- must be this Manchester air--- (further plug for the MAJ-CON.)

We have received membership subs from U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Norway., besides all parts of the U.K.

ASTRONOMER has recently come off the production lines, and though a rather poor effort, will be much improved when the actual Number 1. issue comes off---August we hope! Newsletter (Space-Times) have started going out monthly, No's. 1 & 2 already circulated, and here's No.3.

WE are now working on a design for a badge for the Club, and anyone with ideas are requested to send a drawing in to Eric Bentcliffe. The Library is now reaching almost astronomical size, books and mags are loaned at a very reasonable rate.....

THERE, dear fans, is a short history of the Nor'west Science-Fantasy Club. At long last the dreams of those four, so long ago, has borne fruit. Members are now receiving something worthwhile for joining us when we had nothing to offer but promises.

AND WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST BRITISH SCIENCE-FANTASY FEDERATION.

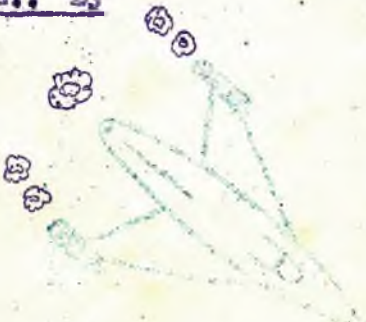
THE "Manchester Mushroom" needed much fertiliser, and some little weeding, but we are certainly here to STAY

By Dave Cohen, Secretary,
ably assisted by Sid Klepper.,
Treasurer.

NURSERY RHYMES OF THE FUTURE.. By
Frances Evans.

1)
Mary had a little jet,
It carried her to school.
It made her very late one day
When she ran out of fuel.

'You've a LAZY brain", the teacher said,
After giving her the cane.
"In future, teleport yourself, And don't be late again".



2) Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
 Constantly sucking his thumb.
 His mother despaired when the doctor declared,
 "Your son's telepathically dumb".



Wasn't it sad for that poor little lad,
 Sitting with idle hands,
 That he should be dumb all because of a chum
 Who had carelessly scrambled his hands?

3) Mary! Mary!, quite contrary,
 How does your garden grow?
 By electronics; my hydroponics
 Are constantly 'fed' from below.



4) Little Miss Muffett, sat on a tuffett,
 Concentrating on time.
 She travelled that Sunday
 To ten years next Monday,
 Thinking to reach her prime.



She was there in a flash, but Oh! What a crash!
 Poor silly Little Miss Muffett.
 This story ends sadly,
 She hurt herself badly,
 She found she'd forgotten her tuffett.

GADGETS IN SCIENCE-FICTION.
 By A.E. (Taff) Williams.

I was approached by the perpetrator of this Newsletter, with a view to writing an article on gadgets that appear from time to time in Science-Fiction. For some reason, he thinks that I am qualified to pass judgement on them from a scientific probability angle.

I must explain first that I am a sucker for a plausible gadgetale, if it's well written. I'm sure no fan would refuse to read "First Contact" because no explanation is given for the now famous "Overdrive", in fact that word is now accepted without thought on the question.

Dr. E.E. Smith, in his Lensman series, postulates his famous "Bergenheim" for faster than light travel, and if you accept the fact that it cancels inertia,

then his spaceships would work as he states, but any physicist will tell you that mass and inertia go together, and are inseparable for our science. Doc Smith could supply material for many articles regarding his scientifically extrapolated gadgets; his force fields which flare up thro' the Spectrum as the enemys' ravaging beam pierces thru course after course of screens, his Tractors, Pressors and Shearing planes of Force. His Sunbeam now, would require a return path to the Sun; try running a valve without any volts on the anode and the valve soon settles to equilibrium, with a 'space charge' of electrons protecting the anode from further damage.

His negative matter sphere is, in some respects, one of his more cumbersome super weapons, it would have been so much easier and more plausible to go and look for a suitable chunk of contraterrene matter, and, using Stewart - Will-lemsons' patent separator, mount one of his world moving Bergenholms on it.

A more authoritative person than I, has written an article on that impossible gadget, the hand blaster, positronic pistol, heat gun, Delamator or what have you; they are definitely out as self contained energy weapons. However, these facts did not detract from my pleasure in reading "Gunner Code" which had a gun as the focal point of the story.

In the June '51 issue (AsF) a short story called "Entity" postulates a very interesting gadget, a radiation absorber which absorbs over a wide range of the spectrum, but rebroadcasts on one wavelength only and was used by the long dead 'makers' as a source of power. An interesting concept, and with todays rapid advances in physics and Electronics, more than a probability.

Jan '51 As-F carried a story "Situation Thirty", a tale of two gadgets exchanged by alien cultures under conditions of war stress and suspicion. The effects on the crews, and their decisions regarding these gadgets, made a logical and interesting item.

I have, I know, barely touched the surface of the subject, but space (Geometrical) is my master; if I have not mentioned your favourite gadget, or if I've destroyed your faith in it, remember, I'm most probably wrong in the above remarks. If so, I bow my head in shame, but I have enjoyed writing this and chasing memories of gadgets thru my magazine files.

FLASH:

I hear that a "Roneo" Duplicator is on it's way to me, so next month may see a different issue with clearer print. I apologise to anyone who gets a blurred copy, but they are sorted before makeup. Write in if you don't like the format, write anyway and let us know your views, they help no end-----

Eric Jones.

SPACE - TIMES is published by the Nor-west S-F Club, England., on the first of each and every month. Editor. Eric Bentolife, to whom all comments and material should be sent.(47, Alidia St, Woodsmoor, Stockport, Cheshire, England.)

Printed by Eric Jones.

FROM THE NORTHWEST SCIENCE-FANTASY CLUB.
ENGLAND.

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:

4, FORT STREET,
MANCHESTER. 5.

DUPLICATED MATTER

TO.

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