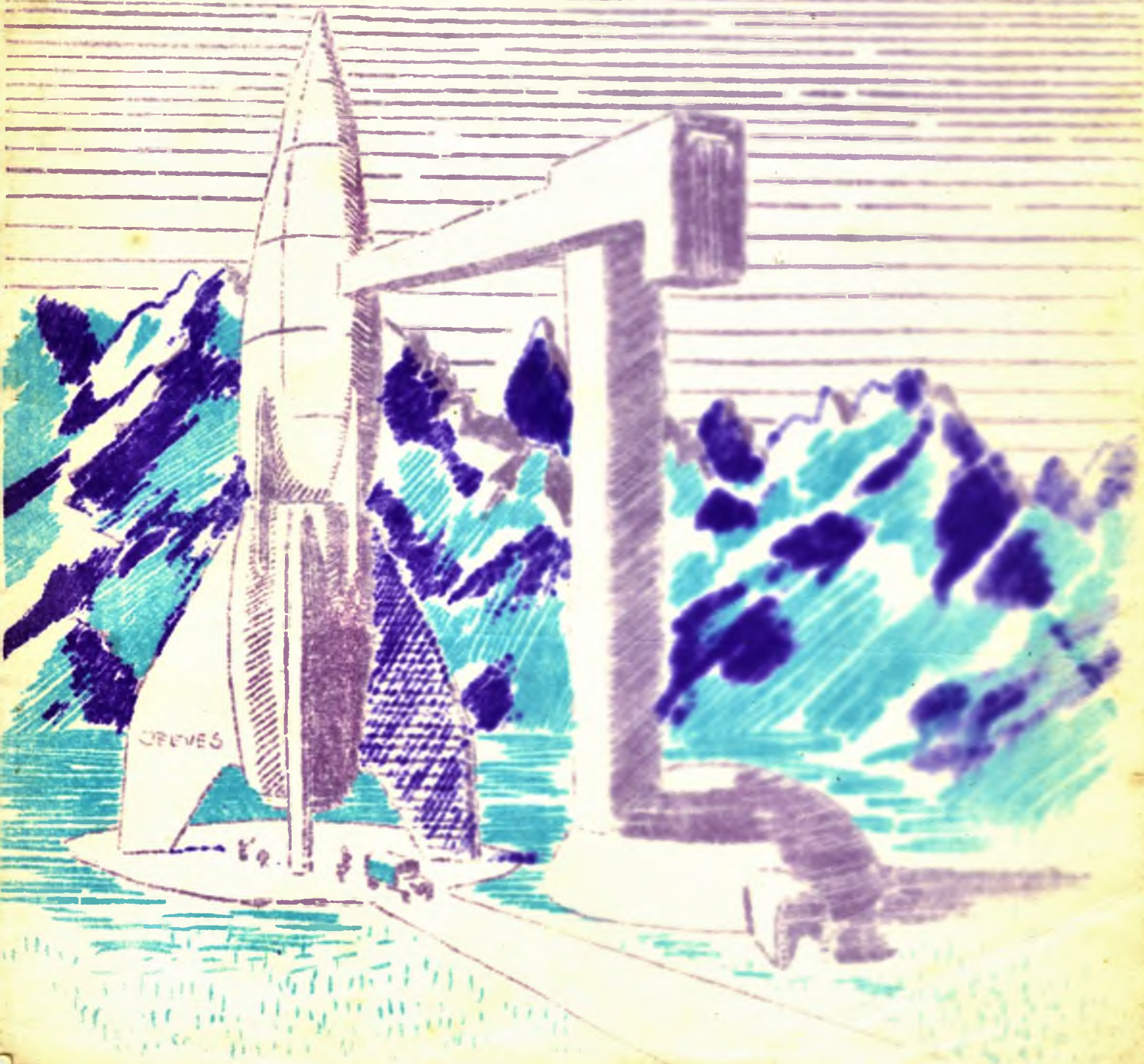


# SPACE-TIMES

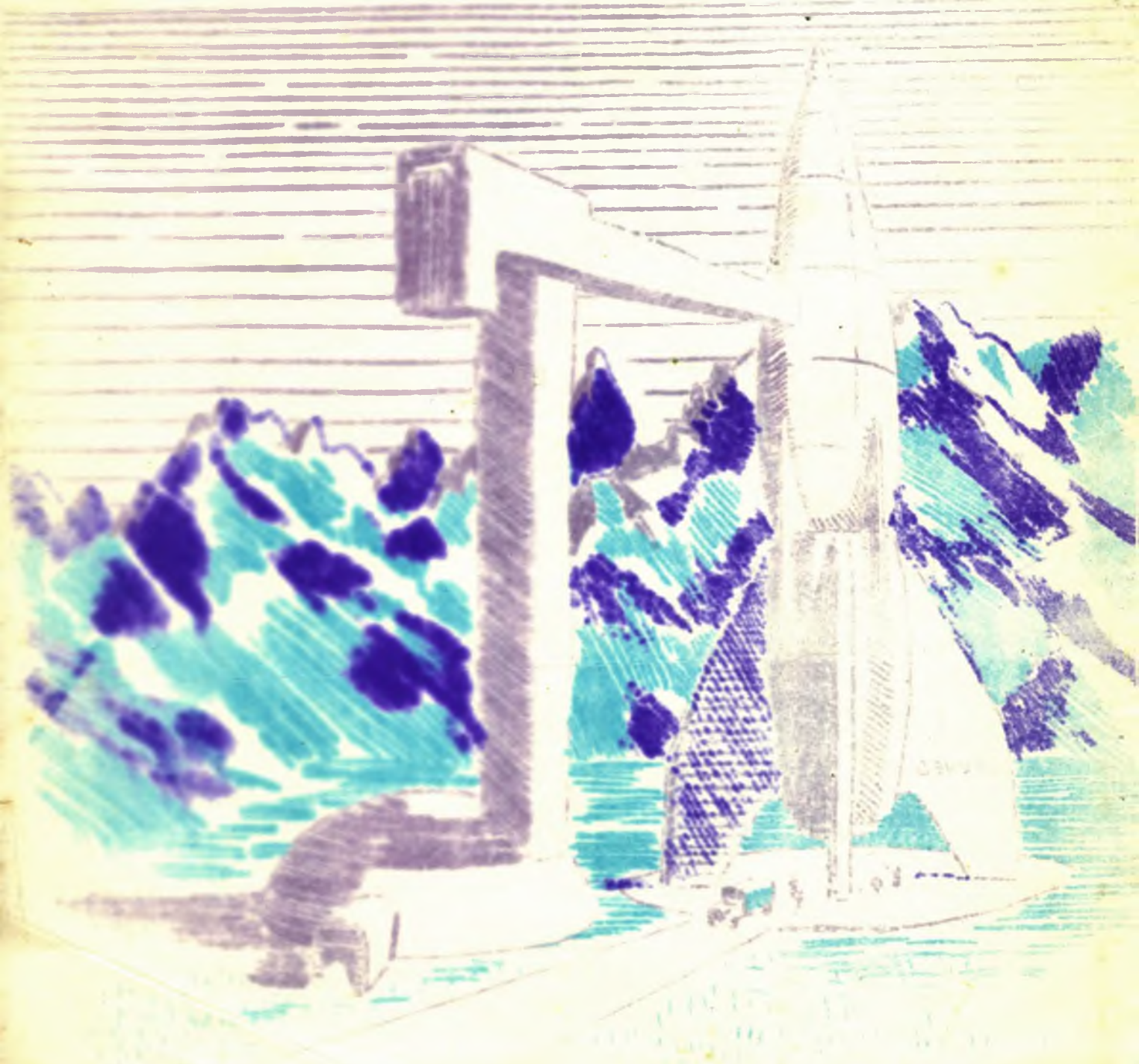
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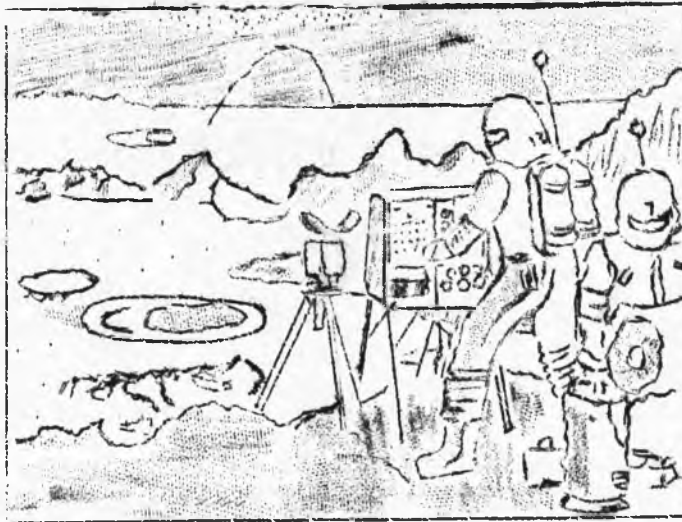
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ERIC  
BENTCLIFFE.

COVER BY:  
JEEVES.



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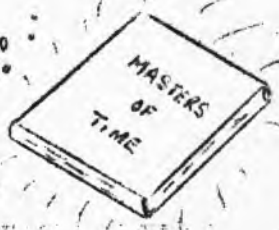
EDITORIAL .....By Eric Bentcliffe.....Page 1.  
The EGO SPOT.....By Frank Simpson .....Page 1.  
DALES DIARY .....By Dale .R. Smith .....Page 2.  
THERMOMAGNETISM :....By H.P. Sanderson.....Page 2.  
(A CORRECTION)  
A DRUNK AT THE MANCON..By Brian Varley.....Page 4.  
A MATTER OF CONTROVERSY...Reply Number One.....Page 5.  
A MATTER OF CONTROVERSY...Reply Number Two.....Page 6.  
GUESS WHO???.By Geoff Lewis.....Page 7.  
AUTHENTIC S-F REVIEW..By Paul Sowerby.....Page 8.  
NEWS AND VIEWS.....By Eric Bentcliffe.....Page 8.  
THE PRESSOR BEAM.....Page 9.  
FLOG 'N WANT .....Page 0.

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This periodical is registered with the G.P.O. as scrap paper.

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# FLOG 'N WANT



Pete Campbell, 60, Calgarth Rd, Windermere, Westmorland. HAS FOR SALE:::::  
GUARANTEED SUB-STANDARD @ 1/6 ea.

F.A. Aug '50, July '51, BRE 8.  
T.W.S. Dec '48. Weird. Nov '49. New Worlds. No.14. Planet. July '51.  
F.S.Q. Spring '51. (Vol.1. No.1.) S.F.Q. BRE 1. Imagination. April '51.  
"Fight for Life" pb by Leinster.

NEW OR GOOD CONDISH: Startling. Aug '52 2/6. ASF. Feb '36 3/6.  
New Worlds. No. 17. 2/- Weird BRE 14 1/6.

+++++

Eric Bentcliffe, 47, Alldis St, Gt Moor, Stockport, Cheshire. HAS FOR SALE:::::  
ALL AT 2/- PLUS POSTAGE.

Worlds Within. by Rog Phillips  
Time Trap " " "

Wonder Story Annual. '50.  
Fantastic Story Quarterly. Wint' 51. Galaxy Novel No.2.  
Fantasy Book. Vol.1.No.3.

### AND

'Universe' by Heinlein. (pb Edn) 1/6. 'Martian Chronicles! Bradbury (n.c) 1/6  
Fantasy Book. Vol.1. No.3. (De Luxe Edn) 2/6.

+++++

Frank Richards, 174, Hollins Ln, Middleton, Manchester. WANTED!!!!!!!!!!

Good clean copies of British S-F Pocket Books (NOT B.R.E.'s!) Please  
send details of Titles and price required.

+++++

A LETTER FROM THE PRINTER.....Eric Jones.

We, of the N.S.F.C., have got a monthly magazine called Space-Times. It's upkeep  
takes nearly all of the funds in the club, so I am writing this with the express  
intent of cutting costs down to a minimum without in any way cutting the size  
or regularity. Is there ANYONE in the club who is "in the biz", able to get  
duplicating ink and/or semi-absorbent paper at wholesale prices ??????????

WE NEED YOU !!!! We are not too proud either! We will gladly accept  
any donations of paper and ink. Send them to Space-Times Press. Y'now the address.

We have arranged a swop system with Liverpool for stencils, so they are not  
needed so badly, but we do need CHEAPER paper and ink. Different colored inks  
are wanted (oil base, fluid type, Roneo) for experiment..CAN YOU HELP ????

EDITORIAL

by

ERIC BENTCLIFFE.

In this issue we haven't much to say. We had a **bee-ootiful** planet-blasting piece all written up about Conventions and unfair voting etcetera, which would have made several fans in the south call on Ghu for salvation. However, the nasty letters we have been writing recently have apparently assisted "The Mobius Strip" members to extract their digits, and we are pleased to announce that 'something' is being done ( ) that space is purposely left blank for your comment. Seriously though, we do think this matter of voting for a future venue at Conventions, or by using a postal ballot, or by a fixed rota system is a problem that must be solved before a lot of us can really enjoy life.....We think it will be soon.

\* \* \* \* \*

EGO SPOT

FRANK SIMPSON

On being interviewed by our reporter, our Librarian Frank Simpson stated that he was 5' 11½" in height and weighed 186lb. He works as a research chemist for one of the 'Big Three' Terran chemical combines; Frank first took an interest in S-F at the tender age of ten when he started picking up copies of Amazing Stories, Wonder stories, Air Wonder stories etc at 3d & 6d a time in Woolworths, he reckons that a few hundred of those mags would have been a good investment. Before coming in contact with S-F he read Edgar Allen Poe's and Bram Stokers works, and had a hell of a fright after reading Dracula when some bird or bat tried to get in through the bedroom window. Suffered from nightmares for several years afterwards.

His favourite mag is Astounding", but he also enjoys most of the better mags. When asked for his favourite story or author, he said he had lots of favourites, perhaps though, the honours went to some of the whacky stories in "UNKNOWN". Frank claims he's no fan - "Fans", he states, "have less and less time to read more and more".

He produced a doctor's certificate stating that on the 4th April 1951, he was given an injection of a mild strain of the virus 'scientii creduleus' as a protection against club members infected with the more virulent forms such as "galloping fandom" & "fanzine agitans".

On being asked about his playwriting activities ("1966 and all That") he said, "I would like to declare most emphatically that the rumour that I write under the pen-name of Noel Coward, is without any foundation whatsoever".

\* \* \* \* \*

!!!!!!! COME TO THE SUPERMAN CON . . . . . !!!!!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS OF N.S.F.C. ARE : SUNDAY'S, NOV 9th AND 23rd ..  
ALSO ON SUNDAY DEC 14 th AT THE 'WATERLOO'.....



DALE'S DIARY, OR THE AMERICAN COLUMN.

by

Dale R. Smith.

If I am a bit bitter this month it is due to a fan magazine. I read a report stating that "Fantastic Adventures" was folding with the October issue. So I believe it, and start to work - change my records and move all issues of the mag from the current to inactive section of the shelves. So a few days ago what do I see - yes, the November issue on the stands - Nuts, - and now I can't even find the reference that caused all the extra work.

Leonard Lyons, widely read U.S. columnist, reports that Bob Hope and Bing Crosby's next film will be "Road To The Moon". Can't you see Hope punching holes in Crosby's space suit ?? It should be most entertaining although undoubtedly quite un-scientific.

Mack Reynolds, author of "The Case Of The Little Green Men" is currently working on a novel concerning the world 100 years in the future. The title will be "Tomorrow". This information is, I hope, an exclusive for I got it straight from Reynolds on his recent visit to Minneapolis.

"The Mars Project" by Werner von Braun will be published by the University of Illinois Press in the Spring of 1953. This book will present data supporting the current possibility of a round trip to Mars.

"Antiquarian Bookman" for October 4th gave the recent Convention in Chicago a nice spread. The cover carries a picture of the science-fiction magazine editor's panel and inside is another photo showing the book publishers panel with a nice convention report by T.E. Dikty.

DYNAMIC SCIENCE FICTION, SPACE STORIES and SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES are all new magazines with first issues only on the stands to date. That now makes a total of 22 titles appearing, or scheduled to appear, regularly. Not included are MARVEL (only one issue so far this year), WONDER STORY ANNUAL (one shot a year), FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION (which may have died a quick death with its first issue, I hope) and WEIRD (which is too weird for me). And that all adds up to about 168 issues per year. I have not attempted any average calculations on the British issues, but they also occupy space. WANTED - MORE BOOK SHELVES FOR CHEAP.

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THERMOMAGNETISM

A CORRECTION...BY H.P. SANDERSON.

It is obvious that Mr. Jeeves is not conversant with the latest developments in this field. A recent White Paper entitled "Results of the Committee Enquiry into the Properties of THERMOMAGNETS" discloses the fact that the Government became interested in Dr. Rich's work just over a year ago. To be more precise, the interest was in the magnetising of an iron ring so as to have the magnetic field entirely within the iron. (Fig 1.)

An experimental Laboratory was set up to try to reverse this procedure, but at first no progress was made. Then it was suggested that the original ring be cut at A A\*, B B\*, and straightened out into a bar. The black portion between C & D (Fig 1.) was removed during this part of the experiment. The result was as shown in Fig 2. This was now bent in the opposite direction, and a smaller ring was obtained as shown in Fig 3. You can imagine the excitement this idea

caused, but more is to come. The smaller ring (Y) was forced into the larger one (X) and was held at the exact center of X by the magnetic fields. The result of this experiment was a wheel with no spokes or connections. An axle was fitted to Y, and a tyre over X. (Fig 4.) Three cars were built, using this new principle, and an attempt was made to test them. Unfortunately, it was now discovered that the axle is joined to the rim of a wheel for two reasons. One is to support the car - and the magnetic fields do this job perfectly. The other is to ensure that the rim of the wheel goes round in the same time as the axle.

Unfortunately the magnetic fields are not rigid enough for this. The axle spins at tremendous speeds and the rim and tyre hardly move at all. The friction between the fields also caused various electrical disturbances, -shorting the batteries and affecting the gears etc.

The vehicles in question recently reverted to normal wheels, and were placed first, second and third in a big race, thus proving the soundness of the engines and bodywork. Many more exciting hints are given in the White Paper but we are told that..."In view of the present troubled state of the world, this committee does not intend to disclose its findings fully".

I hope that in my own humble way I have been able to throw a little more light on an engrossing subject.....

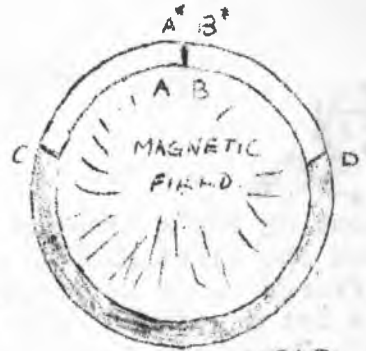


Fig 1

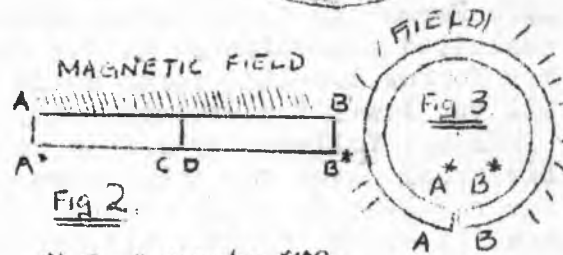


Fig 2

V Small magnetic ring.  
X Large "

M Fields  
A Axle  
T Tyre

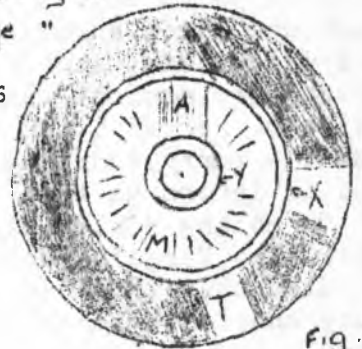


Fig 4

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N.S.F.C. NEW MEMBERS

Sgt Barstow,  
Sgts Mess,  
R.A.F.  
Holme-on-Spalding Moss,  
E.Yorks.

Charles Saunders,  
2, Dagenham Rd,  
Rusholme,  
Manchester.

Ray Daniels,  
201, Ashton Rd East,  
Failsworth,  
Manchester.

Frank Hayes, 45, Holden Rd, Leigh, Lancs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

FRANK RICHARDS,  
174, Hollins Ln,  
Middleton, Manchester.

ERIC JONES, ( as from Nov 3rd)  
Montpellier Spa Hotel,  
Lansdown Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

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DRUNK AT THE MANCON  
BRIAN VARLEY

( A 'NOT SO SERIOUS ACCOUNT' OF THE 5th OCTOBER '52)

About 85 BEM's (mostly Bug-eyes, but one or two blue-eyes) were present when the first MANCON opened, behind schedule of course, at 12.15.

After a short introduction by our debonair and handsome Dave Cohen, who will now let me off the five bob I owe him, we were treated to "A Lecture on Alien Life Forms" by 'Prof' Frank Simpson, who, with the aid of a blackboard - which exhibited a liveliness of its own in trying to turn frequently - illustrated how Terran low-life forms could be adapted to exist on other planets..... All you low-lives are cordially invited.

This was followed by a Team game of Twenty questions between Manchester and Liverpool which was taken very seriously by the participants. Each question was received by a long silence, during which navels were contemplated. For the benefit of the 'iggnent', the navel is that little hole you put salt in when eating chips in bed.

Lunch was taken during a break in the above fiasco at L.POSNERS (no cracks) after which came Mike Rosenblum's natter on Anglo-Fandom. This kind of fandom is even more ancient than the 'Windmill' kind.

Next came our visiting Author, the one and only (Praise be!!) J.R.Fearn. Mr Stat --sorry, Fearn was very frank about his various nom-de-plumes, but hastened to inform us that as 'Astron-del-Martia', he is only irresponsible for "The Trembling World". All the other 'classics' by that author are not his fault. Also Vargo's recent "Laughter in Space" is correct, and not a misprint for 'Slaughter'. Mr Fearn tells us he turns out THREE V.S. epios a month, plus sundry short stories; he also sleeps at times.

After J.R.F. stepped down to the terrific applause, John Brunner of 'Nebula' took the stand (it's still missing by the way---) and gave us a rather 'nebulous' (argh!!) outline of NEB's hopes and dreams. John brought about 200 copies of the first issue, and sold at least three of these.

Next came that colossal, magnificent drama, "1966 and all That". This was marvellously acted by myself and one or two assistants from the buorgeois--- Film companies apply to Mr F.S.Simpson.

Following this was 'Fantasy Charades' which was fortunately stopped by the arrival of the long-awaited personality, for through the door burst "The Man from Planet 12X", complete with space-suit and Ray-gun. After destroying the occupants of the stage with his death-ray, which was loudly applauded, he battled his way out through hastily vacated chairs and dissappeared completely. Your reporter understands that Wurzel Sanderson - the Second Stage Drunk - is after him in his 'Whiskenholm'.

Next came the eagerly awaited Auction conducted by Messrs Jones, Pickles and Bentcliffe (if I mention Eric's name enough I'M bound to get this published). Yours truly got the job of collecting the cash, but it's not my fault that we lost money. Amongst the good stuff were many BRE's which brought various munificent sums, such as two unused penny stamps and a Space-Times cover. The value of BRE's is, however, sadly underrated. They can be used for propping up wobbly tables and chairs, cover downwards of course, or as draught excluders.

The Tea-Bufferet was held halfway through the Auction so that pockets could be searched for the odd coppers.

After an interval during which photographs of Convention members were taken (to be published by Weird) there came the highspot, a showing of the J.R.Fearn



film, "Black Saturday". This had a terrific plot, just like Picasso in motion. Apparently this kind of 'blackout' cures what ails unhappily married men and also the urge to drink. After the film I began to wonder whether J.R.F. was not also "Hank Janson".

With this the convention ended, and we all went home except the committee who stayed behind to collect fag-ends. If I may end on a personal note, I would like to thank those kind people who didn't drain their glasses. Thank You.

INTERSTELLAR COPYRIGHT BY "SPACE-TIMES". HAVE IT VIDEOD TO YOU DAILY!!

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#### A MATTER OF CONTROVERSY

In issue number four we featured an article by Ken Slater in the express attempt to provoke you, the reader. It seems that we succeeded and here we print the the replies received.....The Editor.

Is it necessary for the readers of love stories to fully understand the chemistry and mechanics of love ?

Is it necessary for the readers of detective fiction to fully understand the analytical proclivities of Sexton Blake, or Sherlock Holmes or the commissioners of Scotland Yard ?

Must one have a complete understanding of the 18th Century social structure before reading Jane Austen or Thackeray ? Should one analyse 'Treasure Island' and deplore it for its technical faults ?

Must one indeed reject 'Alice in Wonderland' for its manifest absurdity ? Shall we scrap such classics as the 'Odyssey' because of its obvious inaccuracies ?

Shall S-F fans eschew Science-Fiction because much of it is psuedo-scientific ?

Ken Slater seems to have assumed that everyone thinks the way he does - Heaven forbid !! Apparently he credits S-F fandom at large with having ideas, most of them idiotic, wherewith they should or would explain away their predilection for S-F.

Does he really believe that all these 'prating little fans' are incapable of having realised for themselves, long since, that S-F like any other fictional reading is escape literature ?

Good S-F has, generally speaking, the same qualities as Jonathan Swifts works. Especially Gullivers Travels. Those who wish to see it for what it is - a superb piece of political satire, can, and will justify themselves for their astute analysis, but they miss the joy that the not-so-clever reader gets out of reading the 'Travels' as a fairy tale.

Why the devil should we have to give sound logical reasons for reading S-F ? Why must we find any reasons at all for reading S-F except that we enjoy it ?

Why should it be deemed necessary for a soccer fan to give adequate reasons for being so ? Or a cricket enthusiast to explain his idiosyncrasy beyond that it is something he likes doing. And isn't the whole mess of things one likes doing just an escape from things one has to do ?

The average S-F fan (to which class I proudly claim to belong, and if, indeed there is such a thing) who knows Sweet Fanny Adams of scientific technology can, notwithstanding his ignorance, still pick out the best of the yarns he reads and is conscious of inconsistencies which seem to creep into every S-F tale, whether he understands the implications or not. I can quote dozens, but just

one glaring example: Astounding, Feb 1939. "Lorelei of Space".....Man step out into space without spacesuits..Bottom of page 119, 2nd col. "Lifeboat was in its compartment.Spacesuits in their lockers and the door had been opened from the inside -----without spacesuits, knowing that sure death awaited them they stepped out of the Maria Stella into the void."

They were induced to this deed of daring by a luscious female whom, it seems, (bottom page 121, col2) had to wear an oxygen mask - at least, and used a spaceship built in 2017 which, according to the men taken to it, was 'Some Ark', old and obsolete.

Unfortunately no other date is given for comparison, but the inference that the 'Ark' was at least, hundreds of years old, and yet those men could calmly cross space without discomfort and one of them so perky that he wrestled with and tried to kiss the girl who was floating around clad only in a loose white tunic and a glass oxygen mask. Against which read (bottom of page 133, col 2.) "the centuries of Thantus existence have shown no scientific advancement - no progress of any sort." Yet without having made any progress they could transport men from one spaceship to another in space, and without spacesuits.

I don't remember reading any S-F tale without noticing some such discrepancy --but why worry? It's fiction! But in spite of these technical errors, I'm sure that most 'prating little fans' will continue reading, and enjoying S-F and that without publicly denouncing it to be escape literature, and even perhaps to feel a little superior for having noticed the faults, and who knows all literary tricks? Maybe that's why the faults are there!!

Slater, don't be so smug! Yours isn't a controversial issue at all and if people have ever given you the reasons you expound it was probably because they were too kindly disposed to destroy your illusions.

You haven't set off a controversial firework, only lit a damp squib, but your contemptuous descriptive designation of fandom is highly inflammatory. However, perhaps the end justifies the means, you have roused a number of apathetic fans to an appreciation of their position.....

*Cassidy R. Lewis*

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A CONTROVERSIAL REPLY.

Ken Slaters discussion of "A Controversial Issue" reminds me of that fabulous bird that has one wing shorter than the other, and is therefore constrained to fly in circles of decreasing radius until its career is terminated in the obvious way. "Why don't you read Detective Stories instead?" he enquires, and proceeds to demonstrate that we prefer science-fiction because it is - with capitals, and underlined - "Escape Literature".

How quaint! The inference is that detective stories are not "Escape Literature. Not only detective stories, but love stories, wild west stories, historical romances and all the other sub-divisions of popular fiction, ---they are not escape literature either!! These tales of indestructible heroes, of beautiful and intelligent heroines, of virtue always triumphant in the end, of men drinking whisky and women gin - like water, with even less effect - these are not escape literature? These incessant fornications which only produce babies when required for the purpose of the plot - these are a true representation of everyday life?

Of course not. At least ninety-five percent of popular fiction is escape literature, and the other five percent is suspect. Setting aside Superman and his

ilk of the comic strips, men and women of science-fiction are no more and no less subject to the limitations of the flesh than are the characters in the other types of fiction, and it is surely the defects of our physical personalities that are the most intimate weaknesses from which we seek to escape in our reading. Moreover, to most of us, a distant country on this planet is as far removed from our experience as the life portrayed in an Earth colony on an Alien planet. The question of why we read science-fiction instead of other forms of popular fiction is actually a question of why do we prefer this particular form of escape literature instead of one of the many other forms available.

I think that the answer is both very easy and very difficult. The impulse that causes some people to read science-fiction is the same as that which causes a more select, more gifted some, to become scientists. To define more exactly that special type of intellectual curiosity, of desire for physical knowledge, is not within my powers, and is not essential to the argument.

The fortunately gifted youth who gazes with longing curiosity at the stars becomes an astronomer; we lesser mortals read space-opera. Within us is the desire to know and to create; we cannot, so we read stories which give us the illusion of knowing and creating. Science-fiction is popular amongst scientific workers, more so probably than in any other section of the population, and this also illustrates the connection. Sugar-coated science? Not quite, not since the footnote era passed away. Perhaps it would be closer to the truth to say 'sugar-coated philosophy.....'

*AR Smith*

\*\*\*\*\*

GUESS WHO ???

by

GEOFFREY R. LEWIS.

I told a lie. Oh me! Oh my!  
In public too: I named  
As favourite, Vargo Statten,  
And King Lang also claimed.

Though at such times I sound a twerp,  
My close friends know I'm not.  
(Except the one dear boozing pal  
Who designates me. 'Sct')

But frankly friends, and others too,  
I'm really all 'Bon Ton'.  
Sans peur, et sans reproche, ne pas ?  
Bon gré, mal gré, eh non!

Kai nu por la lastan versojn,  
Tion mi donu vin,  
Se vi facile legas nun,  
Vi plibonigi min.

(Write in and tell us who this is, we won't give you a prize !!!!!!!!!!!!!)

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A-NEO-ZINE!!!! THE MEDWAY'S FANMAG, WRITE TONY THORNE, --- THEY'RE NOT A-DOZINE.



NEWS & VIEWS.

by  
Eric Bentcliffe.

Since the advent of N.S.F.C., S-F clubs have been springing up all over the place. The two latest are the "Leeds S-F Association", formed by E.L. Milbourne 39, Hillidge Rd, Leeds; and the "West Country S-F Society", the secretary of which is George Whiting, 'Rising Sun Inn', Randwick, Stroud, Glos. We wonder if this latter is a 'Clarke's' House. (S-T Press is moving down thataway next month!) Pete Campbell informs us that 'Delphic', the Lakeland S-F-O fanzine should soon be ready. A new British fanzine is the "Neo-zine", put out by Tony Thorne & Brian Lewis for the 'Medway Mudrats', quite a creditable first issue. The sub' rate is 2/6d per 4 issues from: 21, Granville Rd, Gillingham, Kent.

"Jets blasting, Bat Durston came screeching down through the atmosphere of bfggrhty etc"---No! you'll never see this in Galaxy, but you will see it in -- "SPACE-WESTERN", a new U.S. mag which features "Spurs Jackson and his Space Vigilantes"; going to the sublime from the ridiculous, a British edition of "Galaxy" (a reprint in entirety) should commence either November or December, due also is an Italian edition... Latest new mag to reach this side of the pond is "SCIENCE-FICTION ADVENTURES", this, though not stated, is by deduction a companion to "SPACE S-F", it has the same publishing address, and the editor is Phillip St John, a pen-name of Lester Del Rey who edits 'Space'. For 'Topper' fans, a new series is to be made in England with Alec Guinness in the title role. You may have to go to the U.S.A. to see 'em though, as the films are being made expressly for American T.V. At last!!! -Startling with the Feb '53 issue will have trimmed edges. On Oct 6th we saw the Moon on T.V. scanned directly through a reflector telescope. This was -for our money- one of the best things that T.V. has yet done in this type of thing. Conductor of the programme was a Dr Alan Hunter-----any relation Alan ?????

The N.S.F.C. Christmas party will be held on Saturday Dec' 20th at the "Waterloc" ---'Come all ye faithful'. Sub's of 1/- per week, payable as from this issue, are requested from those who wish to attend - to save you all lashing out on the night, and to pay for prizes and Ye Plum Duff.....

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REVIEW OF 'AUTHENTIC S-F

by  
Paul .L. Sowerby..

Authentic No.24. "AFTERMATH" by Brian Berry.

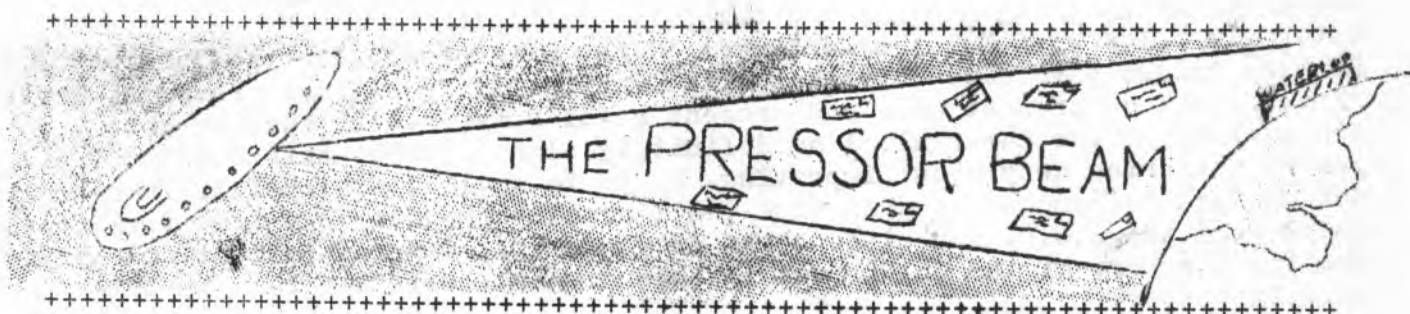
As usual, Brian gives a well-written, readable story, but it cannot claim to any great originality in the plot which is merely a very ingenious combination of three stock plots. 1) The R.U.R. plot. 2) The pugnacious superman plot. 3) The rampant anti-science pseudo-religious mob (who seem to have originated with Muckle John Gibbs' "Sweetsingers") plot. The number of stories of each type that have appeared must be stupendous, but it seems unlikely that any other tale has ever united the three; though it must be said that plot (1) seems only to have been included as an afterthought, being hardly integrated with the other two. This may be the result of making up the story to the correct length to fill the mag. In addition, "Aftermath" contains several improbabilities in its plot detail, but these may not be apparent to the

casual reader. On the whole, "Aftermath" was readable and enjoyable.  
AUTHENTIC No.25. "PLASTIC PERIL" by Roy Sheldon.

This author is definitely improving; whilst his earlier work was of very low standard, this piece is on a par with Jon J. Deegan's, except for the first chapter, which was weak and naive. Heaven help the human race if it is going to man its Interstellar ships with giggling girls (ugh!) and adolescent flirts. However, the second chapter brings the reader to a higher plane. Page 22 is notable in that it contains a very good Technical point - followed up on the next line by a technical howler! The improbability of humanoid aliens is the only point that mars the rest of the story, which is well told, and attention holding with several original ideas. In general, it was better than "Aftermath".

( cont on page 10. )

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'HIC' SANDERSON. At the risk of hurting Mrs Jeeves' feelings, I must say that the cover of S-T # 5 is an improvement over the previous issue. The mag on the whole is improving tremendously, the short stories have quite a lot to do with this, and Dale's Diary is very good. The 'poem' I did not like, I refuse to associate myself with it, but I class myself as a Fan.

BOB SWARTZ. (Greater Boston S-F Society). I liked the articles and little quips very much (S-T No.2) the only thing I didn't like was the printing (We didn't crush the beetles fine enough. Ed) Eric Jones's coverage of the London Convention, excellent. S-T No.3. Now it looks like a regular fanzine (Brother, it's the only regular one in the U.K. Ed) and is away from the newspaper format. S-T No.4. Well, now you are cooking with gas! (produced by distilling A.S. Ed) THIS ISSUE IS EXCELLENT. A very good cover and splendid illos. A table of contents was also needed; I'M glad to see that you have one. Ah! That printing! SUPERB! You have very good coverage of the U.S.A. by Dale, and Ken Slaters article is good. By all means keep on putting out S-T. A newsletter is a wonderful step in the progress of any club. I'm with you 100%.

Sorry to cut your letter short Bob, but shortage of space enforces this. Ed.

DON R. SMITH. The arrival of the October S-T took me a little by surprise - I can hardly recall another example of a fanmag sticking to a monthly schedule for two months running (THREE Don!) It is now so presentable that I shall have to abandon picking faults in the production (Thanks for the egoboo E.J) and relieve my malice by niggling about the performers. Dale's column is certainly much improved. I must extract more gen about the CHICON; I view them in the spirit of "There, but for the grace of Ghod go I". Syntony; I thought to be the perfect sample of the sort of story one finds in fanzines. I was going to say more, but perhaps I'd better not. Thermomagnetism is a good example of the sort of thing we ought to find in fanzines, though strangely enough ASF

prints them too these days. I enjoyed it. I also enjoyed A.C.C's "Travel by Wire", an excellent selection for reprint.

BRIAN LEWIS (Medway S-F Club) S-T improves with every issue - keep it up! Why the different 'wall-paper' ? (Our supply Robot was late.Ed.) The Editorial seems a bit vague, obviously every editor his or her mag to be the best, otherwise why produce one (Tell him Tony!) I enjoyed the 'Fan' but didn't like 'Syntony'. By the way, I put Thorne onto 'Blackout', - anyone would think he thought of it !!!

VINCE CLARKE There's something definitely strange about Space-Times. It comes out on time, oh, so regularly, and yet is quite well produced. You must be mad. Or if not you soon will be. Look, for heavens sake keep it like it is. DON'T go trying to improve each ish. Every fanzine editor does that, and if he succeeds, the intervals between ish'es get longer and longer until the whole thing becomes too big a burden for the poor guy and it just naturally folds up. (NOT the Ed Vince! 's the printer wot 'as the burden!E.J.) So many 'zines have done this that it's practically an axiom.Improve and bust. If you can keep present size and present regularity, you'll succeed whatever the quality of the material. I am definitely alarmed about this because I see you're nattering away about improving. Do it in small doses! S-T 5. There's not so much to comment on this time ,as I usually shudder away from fan-fiction and I read the A.C.C. fan piece about 12 years ago. Congratulations on getting the first report of the CHICON out in this country. Dale's column is definitely better.

We think as regards improvement, that Vince has quite a point.What say you.Ed.

WALT WILLIS. Well, congratulations! I'd heard while in the U.S. that S-T had gone monthly, but didn't know it had got so good. Best thing in the whole issue I thought was Jeeves' lovely deadpan piece about 'thermomagnetism.Wonderfully well done and in conception worthy to rank with Asimov's thio-timeline. I think you've scooped the entire fan press with your Chicon report. I was one of the Judges at the masquerade, and we'd have given first prize to that girl with the three breasts only that she didn't want to be considered. (Bet all your new subbers write in for copies of No.5 now!) Instead we gave it to Ginny Saari who has only two, reasoning it was quality that counts in these matters and not quantity. Hope the Mancen went off O.K. Wish I could have been there.....

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AUTHENTIC REVIEW (cont)

AUTHENTIC No.25. "Martians in a Frozen World" by Rick Conroy. This new author has a style which at times is much above the usual S-F magazine's standard,being rather reminiscent of G.F. Ramuz's in "Triumph Of Death".As to the plot,the editorial remarks that it is not entirely original. However,it contains far more originality than some recent S-F' - including the first original space-ship for thirty years.Apart from the same improbability as in ASFM 25,the story is really well done,and can definitely be recommended as good reading,without hesitation. This issue of ASFM makes a break with previous layout. A new serial by Sydney.J.Bounds starts in this issue,a very welcome innovation.Without reading it (presuming readers will also wait until all parts are available) it appears to be a most appealing story,and well written as one would expect from its author. The supporting material is on the same level each time; the most readable is the Editorial,the most informative 4sJ's column.

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