

SPACE-TIMES

MARCH 1968



vol 2 no 3

editorial

by
Eric Bentcliffe.

Recently we received a copy of ROCKETS, the official publication of the United States Rocket Society. This magazine, however, has no apparent connection with space-flight, its contents consisting of news of, and about, the society. And its main aim seems to be to encourage the reader to contribute to the society and thus enable Mr R.L.Farnsworth, who is editor and publisher of the mag as well as being president of the Society, to build his own rocket and journey moonwards.

The reason for mentioning ROCKETS here however, is not to review the mag, but to answer some of the rude remarks that Farnsworth makes about science-fiction and fandom. Mr Farnsworth says, in essence, in his editorial of the July '52 issue, that science-fiction is unreal in that it does not detail the primary functions of nature, we quote. "How many times have you read where the hero is far from base and has only so much time before the air runs out in his space-suit?? I will wager my Wilkie button that for every dramatic incident of that kind which occurs in the future, there will be 10,000 where the hero is in a hell of a mess because he cannot get back to the base and the bathroom in time."

True Mr F., true, but can you give me a quote from any other story, outside science-fiction, wherein the hero is caught in this kind of predicament???? The reason you do not have situations such as this in SF is not because the author does not take them into account, or be in ignorance of them, but that he would not get his story published if he included them. The censors, those so-called guardians of public decency, would hastily ban his book if he included the details you apparently desire. Do not blame this type of 'Unreal-ness' on science-fiction authors Mr Farnsworth, but on the Victorian era. Not only SF heroes have the constitution of a camel.

Mr Farnsworth also states that SF authors almost always ignore the climatic conditions of the planets on which they base their stories. We can only surmise from this statement that Mr F's reading has been confined to such magazines as Amazing Stories, for certainly many stories in the better mags have not only taken into account climatic conditions, but have been written around them, for instance, Hal Clement's "Iceworld".

As to fandom, Mr Farnsworth's opinion is, "for near shut eyes, stiff necks, and swollen ego's, we recommend SF chappies." There must certainly be representatives of these three types of person in fandom - as in any other group-, we must admit tho' that we have yet to meet any fans who fall into ANY of these categories. We would ask a question of you Mr Farnsworth. What gave your members their interest in Rockets?! Was it SF?! And did your members immediately cease to suffer from "near sight, stiff necks and ego's upon joining your society?!" The British Interplanetary Society, which Mr Farnsworth admits as being "vital and dynamic", was originally formed by readers of SF, and many of its members are both readers and writers of science-fiction. Admittedly, its President is dubbed "Ego" Clarke, but do you know why Mr Farnsworth???????

IT'S COMING SOON. No. Not the year 2000. ASTRONEER I mean, The N.S.F.C's NUMAG.

Outline

by

H.F. Sanderson....

Part 2...

Van Vogt, Wells, Campbell.

If you remember, last month I had just mentioned the fact that the rocket, as a means of propulsion, was getting a little worn out, when I got to that "Continued next Month" line. To continue:

The latest developments of course, involve atomic motors and space-warps which enable an author to shuffle his monstrous vehicles anywhere in any space or time, and also get them tangled up with various theories by Einstein, etc. I personally find it rather hard to visualise a space-ship with a crew of thirty thousand people, who spend ten years on a star-mapping expedition, as I was required to do by Van Vogt in his book "The Mixed Men". This despite the fact that I rave over Van Vogt! I think by now everyone must know all there is to know about him, but in case there is anyone who doesn't, here goes.

He was born in 1912, in Canada, of Dutch parentage. He always insists that in his normal school-days he was merely average, but he still managed a course at Ottawa University. He started work at 16 as a clerk, and then he took the route that all American millionaires are supposed to take. Apart from being a clerk, he spent a short time on a farm, became a trapper, had a spell in his father's law office and heaven only knows what else. I don't think he sold papers, which perhaps explains why he didn't end as a millionaire.

He started writing in 1932 at the age of 20, and sold his first story to "True Story Magazine". He went on churning out love stories and radio plays for several years, but in spite of winning 1st prize in a "True Confessions" contest, he grew tired of the heart-throb formula. In 1936 at the local Writer's Club he met Edna Mayne Hull who (as Mrs Van Vogt) was to leave her mark on every piece of science-fiction he had yet to produce. In 1938 he came across the August issue of "Astounding" which contained "Who Goes There" by Campbell, written under the Don A. Stuart by-line. This was the epic that made him change from love stories to science-fiction, and the first result was "VAULT OF THE BEAST" (Aug '40 AsF). His second story, published first, was "BLACK DESTROYER" (July '39 AsF). Both got top marks. In between came two others, then his masterpiece, "SLAN" (Sep-Dec '40 AsF). He refused to sell poor stories under a pseudonym to other magazines, which, while being bad financially, was very good for his writing career as it spurred him on to better and better efforts. From 1942 his stories were almost a regular feature of 'Astounding'. He has contributed in all over 40 stories to that magazine and 'Unknown', and claims a total output of approximately a million-and-a-half words, the equivalent of about twenty-five novels. Actually there have only been seven novels, the rest being made up of short stories and novelettes etc.

In his stories, almost anything can happen - and very often does. The ingredients of a typical Van Vogt plot would provide material for a dozen stories, and yet with all this he still concentrates on the human angle. He is in perpetual search of the superman, and considering this, and his apparent understanding of Non-Aristotlian philosophy and logic, I can only wonder how he ever came to get mixed up in Dianetics. Astounding isn't the same without him to my way of thinking.

I have, up to now, concentrated on space-travel, but those stories are not the only ones that have progressed. Time-travel, which H.G. Wells thought up as a para-scientific project, in his short but vivid and powerful romance "THE TIME MACHINE" has had its paradoxes unravelled (certainly not unravelled) in stories like Heinlein's

"BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS". H.G.Wells is often referred to as the father of science-fiction, but of course he is not. Science-fiction belongs mainly in the magazines, and the magazine story has its paternity mixed up more with the Burroughs-Haggard-Verne-Stockton-Gernsback authors, than with Wells.

Wells was born at Bromley, Kent, on Sept 21st 1866. During his early years he knew and suffered the many troubles of the "lower middle class", which form a part of many of his most famous novels. Grants and scholarships took him to the Royal College of Science at South Kensington, and in 1888 he graduated with first class honours as B.Sc of London University. He taught science for a few years, but then turned to journalism, and began his astonishing career as a novelist with "THE TIME MACHINE". He followed two paths as a novelist, one, the scientific as exemplified by "ISLAND OF Dr MOREAU" (1896), "THE INVISIBLE MAN" (1897), "WAR OF THE WORLDS" (1898), "FIRST MEN IN THE MOON" (1901), "FOOD OF THE GODS" (1904) and "IN THE DAYS OF THE COMET" (1906), the other, the social studies as exemplified by "LOVE AND Mr LEWISHAM" (1900), "A MODERN UTOPIA" (1905), "KIPPS" (1905), "TONO-BUNGAY" (1909), and "Mr POLLY" (1910). From about 1905 onwards, the two types became one, with the social angle dominating the stories.

Wells' most important Post-World-War-1 work was "THE OUTLINE OF HISTORY" (1920). He had been active in politics for quite a time, and in the General Election of 1922 and 1923 he stood, unsuccessfully, as Labour candidate for the University of London. His works from this period show a great tendency to spout propaganda for the Labour Party. His most important defect was his impatience toward slow democratic development. He wanted to create a new world overnight, and the world wouldn't change for him. He did, however, exercise a great influence upon his generation. His last work was "MIND AT THE END OF ITS TETHER" (1945). He died in London on Aug 13th 1946.

Another development in science-fiction, and a fairly recent one, is that of the Machine. This has progressed from the early Campbell stories, to the concept of the 'Games Machine' in Van Vogt's "NULL-A" stories, and in a different way to the robots envisaged by Asimov and Jack Williamson. Campbell is the man responsible for yet another, and even more recent development. In my opinion, perhaps the most important. I am referring to the stories speculating on the effect of science on human beings and on social organisation, instead of merely considering the science itself.

Campbell became editor of Astounding Stories in 1937, and he announced in the British fan-magazine, 'Scientifiction', that even the youngest reader was older than people thought. He altered the title of the magazine from ASTOUNDING STORIES to "ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION, because, he said, "Stories" had no meaning, whereas "Science-fiction" explained what the material was. Even more recently he altered the title again, almost doing away with the 'Astounding' part; and stressing the 'Science-fiction'. Reason? It's no longer astounding says Campbell. 1939 showed a tremendous improvement in material, there were 160 pages, "book-jacket" illos, and a smaller British Reprint Edition. The magazine was maintaining a reader-interest as much for its intelligent articles as for its stories. The arrival of Van Vogt, Asimov, Heinlein, and Sturgeon in rapid succession, heralded another phase of psychological and sociological styled stories. The magazine increased in size in the middle of Doc Smith's epic "SECOND STAGE LENSMAN" (nov '41 - feb '42).

Campbell's main problem now was to replace authors taken for the war. By Nov '43, paper shortages had reduced the size to pocket-format, but he was able to include a rotogravure section for photo-illustrated articles by Willy

Richardson. The literary standard was still deteriorating however, due to the war taking some of the best authors, although the magazine was still way ahead of the others.

The end of the war saw the return of many of the best authors, but Campbell's policy, which had been badly needed in 1937, was now becoming too stylised. Recently a change has been observed, and I think that the advent of such rivals as "THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE-FICTION" and "GALAXY" have helped to improve the situation by shaking AsF's position at the top of the ladder and awakening Campbell to the danger of his stagnation.

Mention of new magazines brings me to the most recent development of all, and my own opinions on the current trends. A vast number of new magazines and books have been coming out recently, and I don't think it's really good for science-fiction. Too many magazines means an increased need for stories, and a better chance for poor stories to be published. An increase in books at the moment is slightly different. Too many good books are published which aren't really science-fiction. I think that the present tendency in the social style of writing is going just a little too far. Although books like "BRAVE NEW WORLD" and "APE AND ESSENCE" (Huxley), and "1984" (Orwell) are brilliantly written, their science is very weak. So too is that of Philip Wylie. In fact Wylie's science is practically non-existent. "I AM THINKING OF MY DARLING" is very dull and full of double-talk, and even "THE BIG EYE"

(Max Ehrlich) was disappointing despite its Palomar background. In all these books, and many others like them, there is so much of an axe to grind that the science has become rather incidental and distorted. The danger, as I see it, lies in people's acceptance of these books as Science-fiction. They are not!

Although it is true that the number of books published is increasing, I am not so certain about the proportionate number of GOOD books.....

...END...

OUTLINEOUTLINEOUTLINEOUTLINEOUTLINE

high finance

Although I usually deplore characters who take a too serious view of life, it has become necessary for me to adopt a dour mien for a short while. The root of the trouble, as always, is MONEY. In this instance the non-payment of subscriptions is the main bug-bear. Many people who are receiving SPACE-TIMES have not yet paid up, most of them, I imagine, because they have not thought of it. To those people this is a reminder.

Now we come to the other type, who have lost interest in the club or SF in general, and who have not bothered to cancel ST. The club at the moment is running at a loss, expenditure is exceeding income and our small reserve of ready cash is disappearing at an alarming rate. The only way to combat this is to cease the issue of ST to the non-subscribers (this does not include Honorary Members and those who get review copies) and this is to commence with the NEXT ISSUE....

To round off I might point out costs sixpence per month -to you- this includes the cost of postage, and I think you will agree that the price is pretty reasonable. An extra 1/6 per annum, three-halfpence per month makes

you a full member of the club and entitles you to all other publications that we may issue. REMEMBER, WE WANT YOUR MONEY. In case you are in doubt as to where to send it, here is my address again.

6, Brookfield Grove, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs.

Brian Varley...Hon Treasurer.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM 11, Ramsden St !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



In connection with the above, will members please turn to the back page of this issue whereupon the dreaded truth will be found in the form of a dirty big "X"----if you have not paid up.....Eric Jones.



Westinghouse are at present constructing - or designing- three atomic power plants. One of these is being designed for the submarine "Nautilus"**** (now being built by the Electric Boat Co) which will be the first atomic - powered submarine. Larger plants for aircraft carriers and other naval units are projected. Such power plants will be the forerunners of commercial power developing reactors, confidently predicted to be in use in the U.S.A. by 1957-8..

****Nautilus was the submarine in Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea" and "The Mysterious Island"..... Frank Simpson.....

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NEW MEMBERS

Tom Piper,
464, 19th St,
Santa Monica
Calif., U.S.A.

Elmer D. Standish,
R.R.3,
Essex, Ontario,
Canada.

D. Rosenberg,
121, Heywood St,
Manchester 8.

J. Greenberg,
16, Carr Ave,
Prestwich,
Manchester.

Jack Bowman,
7, Hilton Drive,
Prestwich,
Manchester.

Donald B. Gooch,
"Rothesay",
Tonacliffe Road,
Whitworth,
Nr Rochdale, Lancs.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS...

Brian Varley,
6, Brookfield Grove,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Lancs.

Dale R. Smith,
3001, Kyle Ave,
Minneapolis 22,
Minn. U.S.A.



saltego trans miljaroj....

(JUMP THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS)

by

Jean Forge. (Translated by George Rowlands)

The Author worked throughout the night. In the morning, to get some fresh air, he went out in his car to where the sun, like a huge red ball, stood at the end of the earth.

Faster and faster he went, towards the sun's red luminance.....Presently he closed his eyes against the glare and stopped the car. He lay back sleepily....He was in a strange room and a lovely woman's voice was ordering him to sleep,...sleep....

When once more he returned from the land of sleep and became sufficiently aroused to explore with his eyes, the bed in which he lay and the room which enclosed it, he found both to be totally unfamiliar. They belonged, he supposed, to the man sitting near, a man whose shaggy, thick hair gave him a truly savage appearance.

The lovely voice belonged to his daughter, Maria, a pretty young girl whose manner was wholly different from that of the average modern girl. But was anything about this house familiar or ordinary??? It stood alone in the midst of a vast plain, far from any town.

After a time he saw an aeroplane leaving the house and wondered, vaguely, whom it had brought. He discovered that the savage-looking man was Sinjaro Fromage, an inventor whose main work was experimenting with radiations in the hope of discovering a time cancelling effect.

The machine he had built he called a C.O.Radion. From day to day the author became aware that he was getting stronger and healthier.....Strange!!!! Often, when he was with the lovely Maria, he found that her absolute lack of experience, her naivette, was impressing him with the difference between herself and the sophisticated girls of his previous acquaintance. He was not surprised therefore when, one day, she suddenly kissed him and declared her love for him.

Meanwhile, her father's experiments proceeded apace. With the C.O.Radion it would be possible to visualise happenings in other eras and times as if one were actually present in the flesh. Because of the inquisitiveness of a servant who risked touching the apparatus, Fromage discovered that contact with the Radion enabled anyone and anything to be transported to some historical era. He proposed that everyone in the house be transported to some historical era.

Because a professor of Latin, who was a visitor in the house, wanted to check on some facts of Latin pronunciation for a thesis on which he was then working, it was decided to make the trip to ancient Rome, to the period of the Emperor Nero. Days of preparation followed....What was the best thing to take to ancient Rome? Money!! The professor spent days trying to obtain Roman coinage, but was able to get very little for this period. Finally they decided to take the whole house and everything in it including a radio set, gramophone and many other modern artifacts.

They solemnly laid themselves down on couches....The Radion was set in op-

Here we present the first of a series of film reviews by.....

G.M.CARR

21st century box

Seattle, Washington, as one of the larger cities on the West coast of the U.S., receives a fairly complete coverage of movies. There is not a very large amount of stf available as yet, and the few that have come out have been thoroughly reviewed over and over again. Fantasy, on the other hand, is plentiful---both new and used. The University of Washington, for instance, has re-issued a series of fantasy films garnered from all over the world which might be of interest, and Hollywood, of course, grinds out new ones like sausages.

One of the juicier sausages of recent release is Bing Crosby and Bob Hope's latest 'Road!., this time to Bali.. The major portion is taken up with delightful foolery. As usual they kid themselves and the audience, and ring in ridiculous situations such as, for instance, one scene where Bob, Bing and Dorothy Lamour (in an ever-decreasing sarong) are lost in the Malayan jungle. Hope is booby-trapped, head down, in a tree. Bob and Lamour struggle to extricate him when suddenly a hunter, dressed for African safari, strides gun in hand onto the scene. Bing looks at him and says, "All right, go ahead." The hunter shoots into the air and solemnly stalks off again. Lamour asks, "Who was that?" Bing replies, "My brother Bob, I promised him a shot in my next picture."

The fantasy element is present in the witchcraft scenes at Lamour's court audience...She plays upon a magic flute and out of a basket come two tiny pink hands, like weaving heads of snakes...they grow and grow and out of the basket comes a tiny figure of a beautiful woman, growing ever larger as she emerges until finally she steps out of the basket (by now barely big enough to hold her feet) and places a lei around Hope's neck. Then she returns to the basket and to the music of the magic flute diminishes and disappears inside...Very weird. (P.S. Hope steals the basket and flute for a little experimenting on his own).

Some of the tomfoolery approaches science-fiction from the fiction angle of it. For instance, in one scene, Hope in full diving dress at the bottom of the ocean is captured by a giant squid. Frantically Bing and Lamour try to get him up on board again (the villian, of course, is merely interested in the jewels...) when they succeed in rescuing the diving suit, it is empty! Hope crawls exhaustedly on board behind them and Bing asks him how he got out of the suit..His reply is typically science-fiction. When you see it you'll get what I mean. The whole picture is beautifully done in color and some of the shots -- dancers especially-- are weirdly beautiful.(The singing is not much). The words that best describe "Road to Bali" are -- Laughable, but Lovely!

Fantasy of an entirely different nature was presented in the Fantasy Series sponsored by the University of Washington here in Seattle in a Swedish release, produced, directed and acted by Rune Lindstrom. The title "Himlaspelet" was translated into English as "Road to Heaven" -- and represents a sort of Scandinavian "Pilgrim's Progress". It involves a young peasant lad whose idyllic romance with a beautiful peasant maiden is interrupted into tragedy by her execution as a witch. In his despair (I thought he was a lily-livered weakling to begin with, to

let them take her without a struggle) he searches for the road to heaven that he might reproach God or at least find out why He permitted such an innocent girl to die so fearfully. His symbolic search takes him over mountain and valley through wasteland and storm, even unto Bethlehem...there he goes searching for a place to sleep in the crowded Inn, leaving his fellow-travellers, a young woman in travail and her helpless companion, to find whatever shelter they can in a stable while he accepts the comfort of the Devil's bed. From there he travels with these new companions to the halls of worldly pleasure. He revels in the lap of peasant luxury--plenty of beer-- until he seduces the Devil's mistress and runs away with her. He continues his betrayals, his cruelties, and his human frailties of vanity and greed right up to his old age, but it comes out all right in the end. Very comfortable creed for sinners, whatever the theological aspects may be... The photography on this old (1945) film is rather subtle, long idyllic shots of open fields and sunshine...and not much else. Its chief charm lies in the way it manages to bring all the high-flown wordiness of philosophical abstractions in religion down to simple every day level...and after all, that is where it belongs, isn't it?

=====:

THROUGH FANDOM WITH

SPYGLASS AND BOTTLE.

by

Brian Varley.

Below I shall detail the many and varied types of science-fiction readers. I would point out that this is not meant as a libel on anyone, but if the cap fits--by all means wear it!

TYPE 1:- The common or garden type. This character will read anything, that is providing he can beg, borrow, or steal it. Spending money is absolutely tabu. Joins a fan-club but leaves before a sub can be extracted.

TYPE 2:- The Earnest Fan. Writes fiction and articles for fan-mags. Reads AsF Galaxy etc, and scorns Planet and Weird Tales. This type is full of cunning, he corresponds with some poor American Fan who sends him stacks of American S-F mags and in return receives six or seven ancient Scions. This is known as trading.

TYPE 3:- The Science Fan. Reads scientific articles and lugs weighty tomes of mathematica around with him. He also writes letters to AsF, pointing out flaws in Einstein's latest theory, occasionally slips up and refers to Epstein's theory., but always manages to cover up. (This type is usually a secret member of the Dan Dare Space Cadets).

TYPE 4:- Letters to the Editor Type. Writes to any magazine which prints rubbish, starts off--"Mine Herr (Ha!Ha!) Gee! Wow! Gosh-O-boy!!! Gorblimey!!!Where did you find Daniel F. Ballyhoo?? He's marvellous! Collosal!,etc...Ends his letter by asking for femme-fan contacts.

TYPE 5:- The Shy Type. This little fellow will not read S-F in public conveniences (sorry, conveyances), and only reads it at home when the family is out. Usually a neo-fan, but if he can take it for six months, gets hardened to it and loses all pride. Normally reverts to TYPE 2.

animal, vegetable, or alien??

by
Eric Bentcliffe.

On a dull February morn in Manchester, there appeared a gleaming silver rocket some twenty feet high. Early morning workers who may have thought that the Martians had landed, were disappointed later in the day to discover that it was all part of the annual 'student's Rag'....It was not their world that the "Martians" were after, but their money.....John Russell Fearn, not content with being one of the most prolific authors extant, has now turned playwright, and a piece of his which deals with a "Telepathy gone wrong, experiment", is currently playing at one of Blackpool's theatres.....After a year of waiting, SLANT has re-appeared, it was, we think, almost worth the wait. 66 pages of fan-fiction and fun, with a cover by James White which appears to depict the Abominable Snowman's Spaceship. Walt Willis informs us that Slant is to go regular again...Plagiarism or coincidence????.....ASFm and AsF, Campbell and Campbell, Other Worlds, back covers or other worlds back covers...On this you can form your own opinion, however, the new contents page logo of Authentic is (apart from the wording) an exact copy of the one you'll find in Avon Science Fiction & Fantasy Reader!!!.....Science Fiction Plus, (mentioned in the last issue) has arrived, and tho' the paper is nice, I would not recommend this mag to a dog. If you would like to find out what the Gernsback Amazing was like and do not want to go to the expense of buying a copy, get a copy of SF+ , apart from the cover illo, which is quite good, the artwork in this mag (mostly by Paul) does not do credit to the paper,....Nor for that matter do the stories therein. Gernsback, who was probably the most "future-minded" editor of the twenties, is now apparently copying that well-known bird which likes nothing better than to fly in reverse.....Another old-timer who has recently re-appeared and has, also, in our opinion fallen flat on his face is E.E. Smith. He has a yarn "Tedric" in a recent issue of "Other Worlds", probably the kindest thing that can be said here is that he wrote it when he was twelve..... Colliers Magazine of Feb' 28th contains a feature on "The World's First Space-Suit" and "how and where we'll use it"...This article is not recommended to anyone who suffers from claustrophobia.....New, and shortly to be published items in America are:- " Ballroom of the Skies " by John D.Macdonald. "West of the Sun" by Edgar Pangborn, these both being originals. Anthologies:- "Future Tense" ed by Kendell Foster Crossen. "Space Service" ed, Andre Norton. And Pocket-books:- "Space on My Hands", Frederic Brown, and a new p.b. edition of Huxley's "Brave New World".....A title to be published simultaneously as a hard cover book and p.b. is "Star Science-Fiction Stories", a collection of new stories edited by Frederik Pohl, this latter item reads like a "Who's Who" of Science-Fiction. Represented on the contents page are:- Del Rey, Bradbury, Asimov, Kuttner, Horace Gold, John Wyndham, A.C. Clarke, Clifford D. Simak, and most of the other "name" authors.....L.Ron Hubbard has now scrapped his "Dianetics" time track and discovered that everything is 74 trillion years old. This is one of the credos of his new cult "Scientology" branches, which, according to Hubbard, are springing up all over the U.S.A...."People Today" -an American Magazine, carries in its Dec 17th issue an article on table top space photography, utilising the model space men and ships on sale today in the U.S.

as models....As these models are also easily obtainable over here (Try Woolworths -unpaid ad) we recommend the idea of table top space photography to any of our members who are interested in photography...Some very good results can be got by using these models.....((I think that you'll find the Woolworth's models are not so well made as the U.S. version !! E.J.))NSFC news. The Science-Fiction ashtrays, with the club's initials, are now ready and can be purchased from the Treasurer, Brian Varley. Prices 2/6 and 3/6..BUYNOWBUYNOW.



BRIAN LEWIS. Shame on you for S-T 7...The cover was awful, the stapling ragged (in fact my copy is just about reduced to single sheets) and the general appearance messy ((We don't possess a guillotine..E;J:) I think tho' that you have mastered the art of duplicating, the whole ish is nice and clear on that score. The fan-fiction was rough going, but I stuck gamely to "The fanzine reviewer motto", i.e. read all then take it out on the Ed. Best item in the ish in my humble opinion was "The Man in Khaki"....A.V or A., which, I presume replaces News and Views, is nice and I would like to see it gain more space in the mag. Secretary's plans I read with approval, especially as the Medway hopes to have rep's at the '53 Mancon.
((Length of A.V. or A. depends really on what comes in E.B.)

"HIC" SANDERSON. Terry's Ego Spot was about the best yet, and Dale's Diary and the "Turning Wheel" were both enjoyable. Best item in the first half of the mag was "Lost Word". Assuming that the entry date for the contest will be put back due to the delay in publication, I am sending my entry with this letter.... I liked Harry's cover, but how about trying to find out why he has an "Egypt" complex????.."The man in Khaki" was very good, especially the translation of "Caveat Emptor"...As far as THERMO is concerned I pass....Finally, if popular demand is sufficiently strong, I will consider releasing Varley as Tom White suggests.....

((Final date for entry of solutions to "Lost Word" is now MAY 20th))

TONY THORNE. Cover, Hmmm. I fancy the original, take that anyway you like. You know, E.J. will have to be more careful, blood everywhere on my copy, can't he print it without cutting his throat all over the stencils, ((I guess I musta got carried away with THE THING. E.J.)) Dale's Diary, very interesting, but fancy calling a refrigerator a refrigerator, we call them iceboxes!!! Fancy printing the dregs of Vince Clarke! Lost Word is more like lost weekend. Man In Khaki, dead comical, I really sniggered at the "Benyth this clcd" bit. T.J has boobed in his pseudomaths! Sure, I agree you get maximum power with A=0

by his nutty reasoning, but putting this in the original equation we have; P=O-K. sin θ . But he says sin θ is 1., sooo P=K. Thus if K is constant for any alloy, we can vary, or rather improve the power by different alloys. The fact that it's negative, presumably means that you build the engine in backwards so to speak, then you go forwards (right round the bend of course).Aha! How do we reverse????

((Space-Times. The only fanzine produced by Vampires!!!E.B.))

TERRY JELVES. Cover, mush better in original than production model ((A note here for ALL artists.When doing cover masters use a HARD surface and HARD pencil!! E.J.)) Duplicating, better every issue, but I don't care for the tiny sketches bracketing some titles. With all due respect to E.J., the heads look better without them ((You ain't gotten anymore E.J.)).Dale's diary, gudasever. Meetings in January, I hope you didn't wait too long for us to turn up. I had a fault in my time-machine, hence my absence. Book reviews, I didn't love the books either. Guess who; boy, I'm still guessing! Man in Khaki super, but who-dunit ? Give him a lollipop. Thermo, modesty keeps me from saying it's the best in the issue, additions by Vince, second best in the ish. Tom White. It was a ghost ship.Matter of fact it goes to Mars. O.K.?

GEORGE WHITING (West Country S-F Group)

Cover, a good idea and well executed but, I don't like Hecto. January issue, generally very good. The humour in Ego Spot was corny, and it grated a little. Can't see what Dale's Diary has to do with S-F, but it was well written and interesting ((Not S-F, but a change eh! E.J.)) The rest of the contents are above average including the story.Feb issue. No comment on Rog Dard's letter, I shall be interested to hear more. Thermomagnetism reminds me of the catch phrase used by Jimmy Durante, "everybody wants to get into the act", to use an Army expression, it has been flogged to death.Of the two, Vince Clarke's was the least dull.Lunar Exile, very good, congrats to the narrator. One final comment. S-T seems (to me) to be produced by a select group for a select group . I feel somehow that hovering in the background is a vast army of silent fen,inarticulate, dazzled perhaps by the displays of wit, the polished phrases - I wonder what they think of S-T ??

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. T H E E G O S P O T .

On the dissection table.....Brian H. Varley.

Brian is a humanoid with certain unusual characteristics which have to be seen to be believed.Physically, he has been likened to the popular conception of a Martian but his feet, which incline to be flat, confound this theory. His large capacity for liquid does help to hold up the theory, but his abhorrence of water once more decries it.Like Sandy, Brian is at the moment in the Army, a private in the pay Corps, and will be using his training as the Club's Treasurer. In reply to the standard questions he gave the following answers. Age 20, Sex, doubtful. Favourite story, Eric F. Russell's "Late Night Final". Author, Heinlein. Favourite drunk H.P.Sanderson.

A DUPLICATOR FAULT WHICH COULD NOT BE CORRECTED AT THE TIME OF RUNNING, CAUSED BAD PRINTING IN THE FEB ISH.THIS HAS NOW BEEN CORRECTED..APOLOGIES..E.J.

IF AN "X" APPEARS ON THE DOTTED LINE BELOW?
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO SPACE-TIMES, AND THE
N.S.F.C. HAS EXPIRED. PLEASE RENEW AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. THE NEXT ISSUE OF S-T WILL ON-
LY BE SENT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SEE "HIGH FINANCE" IN THIS ISSUE FOR THE
TREASURER'S ADDRESS..

(((.....X.....))))