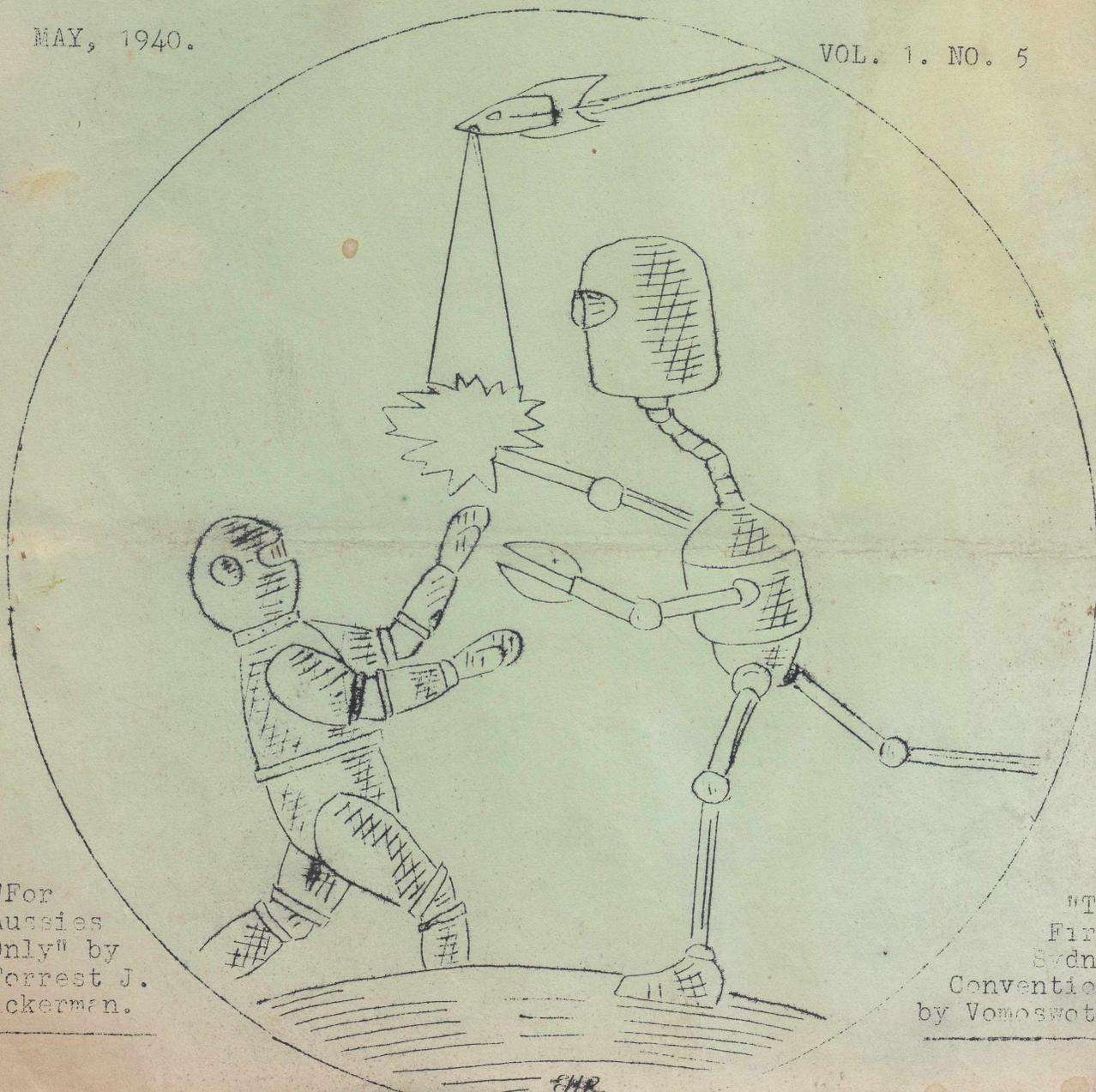


ULTRA

MAY, 1940.

VOL. 1. NO. 5



"For
Aussies
Only" by
Forrest J.
Ackerman.

"The
First
Sydney
Convention"
by Vomoswoth.

EMR

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COVER - Edward H. Russell - BACK COVER - Editors -
ILLUSTRATIONS - Ralph A. Smith & Chas. S. Mustchin.

ULTRA.... volume 1 number 5. Published once in a blue moon from
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ART- Ralph A. Smith.

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ADVERTISING RATES.... Full page one dollar, 5/-; 1/2 page, 50 cents, 2/6
1/4 page, 25 cents, 1/3; smaller ads 3¢ or 2d a line. (The above para-
graph is only a filler as no one's ever paid for an ad in ULTRA)

CONTRIBUTIONS....(Dis way please) are URGENTLY needed. Stories, arti-
cles, poetry, etc. (Weird, stf, or fantasy) Try your hand at these &
send the result to ULTRA..

— PRESS! —

— PRESS! —

Futurian OBSERVER: One foolscap page mimeed on both sides, can be
had from its editors at 10a Sully St; Randwick, Sydney, NSW, Aust for
6 issue for 25¢.

VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION: contains letters from fans from the
world over. Letters from prominent American fans that contain gossip,
news etc. Every issue of it is packed with information concerning the
pro's, fans, & their mags. 10¢ per copy from Forrest J. Acjerman, at
236 1/2 N. New Hampshire, Hollywood, California, USA.

POLARIS: Its a weid fan mag, Edited by Paul Freehafer at 404 S.
Lake Ave; Pasenda, California USA. 3 for 25¢. (1/3) Cover by artist -
Bok, who illustrates WEIRD TALES. & fiction by prominent weird fans ,

THRILLING WONDER STORIES

What would happen if science were able to create men in duplicate, be able to manufacture living, human, carbon copies? Plenty - and that's the absorbing theme of THE EXPERIMENT OF DR. SARCONI, the feature novel for the July issue of THRILLING WONDER STORIES, written by Harry Bates, veteran scientifiction editor and popular fantasy scribe. (author of: "Alas, All Thinking", "A Matter of Size") here's a novel that will make you welcome Bates back to scientifiction fold. Incidentally, the story presents a unique scientific problem... see if you can solve it before the hero does!

Remember Alfred Bester, the first winner in our contest for amateur authors? The lad's going strong, and you'll find him represented in the July issue with an unusual novelet, VOYAGE TO NOWHERE. There are three major characters in this story -- with no one of them an Earthman! As far as we know, this is the first interplanetary story with a non-tellurial cast. Write us if we're wrong.

Also included in this number, is Willard E. Hawkins' entertaining, time-travel novelet, ROMANCE ACROSS THE AGES. A superman from the future searches for the perfect mate... and finds her in the past. She's Estrella the "oomph" girl, and what her vibrations of glamour do to the world of to-morrow makes first class scientifun.

SCOOP! Anton York lives again -- in Eando Binder's feature novel-- THE SECRET OF ANTON YORK, on deck for August THRILLING WONDER STORIES.

STARTLING STORIES

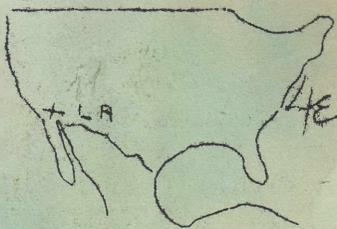
Is there something new in fantasy literature? We say yes, and offer: THE KID FROM MARS, a complete, booklength, novel by Oscar J. Friend. This exciting novel, scheduled for the September issue of STARTLING STORIES opens a brand new vista in the realms of pseudo-scientific literature. True, all our sf novels are different...but here's one you'll remember a long, long time. You'll find excellent characterization plus strong suspense in this distinctive novel of a Martian stranded on Earth. And look forward to the illustrations. They're by Schomburg.

CAPTAIN FUTURE

No one has ever explored the weird machine city of Mars. No one has ever roamed the mistlands of Saturn. That is, no one but that strange band of adventurers --- The Futuremen! Prepare for the Fall issue of CAPTAIN FUTURE, wherein the road-headed wizard of science, together with Grag, the robot, Otho, the android; and Wright, the brain; explore the mysteries of Saturn. THE TRIUMPH OF CAPTAIN FUTURE is the title of this fourth account of the exploits of the futuremen -- and it's a triumph for Edmond Hamilton, the author!

STRANGE STORIES

The pick of weird fiction in every issue of STRANGE STORIES, and every one a world beater. Two yarns slated for the banner August issue are: SATAN'S SIDESHOW, an unusual novelet of a Siamese twin who murders his brother, by Carson Judson; and THE SEAL OF SIN a novelet of evil powers by Henry Kuttner. And many other tales by fantasy favourites in this no.



FOR AUSSIES ONLY

by

Rockswan



It recently has come to my attention U fellow fans "down under", are in the dark on a lot of Americanews. From one source I hear it is not clear to U whether the Marvel Tales once published by fam Wm Crawford has been revived or the MT of which U've heard is another venture altogether; again I read U're in need of intelligence concerning Famous Fantastic Mysteries--that copies in the land of the Southern Cross are as scarce as Northern stars. So while due in time-limitations I cannot possibly promise to continue this as a regular feature. I am taking it upon myself to survey the scientifantasy pro field for U as it stands at the presenttime.

Let us begin with the first mentioned Marvel Tales (ne Marvel Science Stories), whose career recently ended (at least, publications been suspended.) It appeared as a pseudo-science sexer, '38 Aug, 114 pgs, 15c, its first issue notable for fact it brot back Paul, published one the top stf storys of the yr--Arthur J. Burks 50,000 word novel, "Survival" non-sex in nature--& had 3 scorchers by Kuttner ("Dark Heritage", "Dictator of the Americas", under the assumed names of Robt Kenyon & Jas Hall) The Nov. no., #2, gave the sequel to "Survival" -- "Exodus"--on which opinion was divided, mine being it didnt aproach th original, which was aclaimd classic. Kuttner contribd "The Time Trap", Williamson "The Dead Spot", Coblentz "Rout of the Fire Impd", & Keller "The 30 & 1". Wmson's "After Worlds End" was the feature of #/3, with a wonderful cover by Wesso. "Tomoro", at 70,00 words, took up the most of #4, sole other story being Harl Vincent's (Schoepflin is the real name) "Newscast". Sensus of opinion seemd to be publishers had bought a "name" (Taine) not a story in "Tomoro". As I recall, I didnt exactly understand same but I liked it. (I might mention that with its 3d issue MSS became a strate-science pub but when I was in New York attending the FIRST WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION I met editor Erisman and he said since the mag had sold better as a sexer he was returning to this original sexation policy.) #5 had 5 storys, "Dark Invasion", being the book-length novel by Kummer. 6th and last issue was a super-sexer, substituting Tales for Science Stories & featuring "The Angel from Hell" by Jack Williamson under the pseudonym of Nils O. Sonderland (!) Ray King (Cummings) contributed "Lust rides the Roller Coaster"(!) --but need I continue? F ns refused to recognise Marvel as a stf mag.

MSS presented a very good feature "Excursions into Possibility". The mag achieved 6 issues in about 16 mos. Ill-fated companion DYNAMIC SCIENCE saw but 2 nos., first noted for its beautiful space-ship cover by Paul (the one fans nearly tore themselves to pieces over at the time of the Nycon or New York Convention) & a satirical novel by Coblentz, "Lord of Tranerica". This first ish was dated 39 Feb. Same price & no. of pgs as MSS. Reader column called--oops, my mistake, DSS never had one. In MSS it was Under the Lens. In the 2d and final Dynamic Binder killed off Hitler & Mussolini, as I recall in "Prison of time", the novel. L Sprague de Camp appeared with a future war story emphasizing th possibilitys of subtle propaganda's part. Typicly illustrated by Paul.

SCIENCE-FICTION, edited by ex-asst-ed of Gernsback Wonder now is in its 6th number ('40 Mar), 15c, 114 pgs. Fans like it for its fan-section entitled The Fantasy Fan (same name as Hornig's one-time printed fan-pub), devoted to reports of doings of prominent fan groups, personalities & amateur publications. Readers' dept. titled The Telepath, probly is the most popular r. d. appearing in any stf today, due to its breezy nature & informal participation by ye Ed. The Eternal conflict is an theory-discussing dept. Current issue is dedicated to Jack Darrow. Some the outstanding storys during its one yr existance have been Binder's "Where Eternity Ends", "' Telepathy is news' ", by Paul Edmonds (Kuttner), "Strange Creature" by Raymond Z. Gallun, "Swordsmen of Saturn" - Neil R. Jones, Cummings "The Atom Prince", & "Planet of the Knob-heads" by Coblentz. Articles about the Tongue of Tomoro appear regularly in SCIENCE-FICTION, 'Karlo' Hornig being an ardent esperantist.

Items about the scientificfictionalanguage also are featured in FUTURE FICTION, companion to SF, whose 2d ish just has been publisht with same format, price, ed, etc as SF. Ayre, Kummer, Hamilton & Williamson share honours in the current number. Readers of both SF & FF have opportunity to win original cover illustration for most interesting letter. Letter dept in FF is titled -- correction, as yet untitled. Cover offered for winning name.

Among such "old faithfuls" as Thrilling Wonder, Amazing & Astounding, all are appearing monthly, with a retinue of sisters, brothers & companion. (In this connection I note I neglected to mention Sci Fic has announced a 35c quarterly is skeded to appear soon with 176 pgs (over 160,000 words); smooth edges and no adverts. Rumord this will be a reprint pub tho of what, we are left to wonder. However maybe we can find out soon as Hornig is due to arrive in LA, where he intends to stay, editing his mags long-distance.)

Looking at Apr AmS we find 146 pgs for 20c, an illustrated back cover, interiors by Krupa, Fuqua, Morey & Paul; concluding (2) instal of 2-pt serial "Black World" by editor Palmer under pseudonym 'ARSteber', "When the Ice Terror Came" by 'Jack West' (Jerry K Westerfield, ex-asst-ed AmS.), "War of the Scientists" by Fearn, "The Case of the Murdered Savants" by Ayre & "Revolt of the Ants", (Original title "A Little Bug Shall Lead Them") by graduate fan Milton Kateletsky. This latter tale is a miniature classic. Ants communicate fact to man they wish to vote! & consequent complications.....Some storys have severall illustrations. Correspondence Corner is what the readers' section is called here. Lots of depts like The Observatory, by 'Rap' (Palmer), Riddles of Science, Science Quiz, Meet the Authors etc. By popular demand AmS recently publisht Weinbaum's superman story THE NEW ADAM in bk-form.

Companion to AmS is Fantastic Adventures, only large size mag in the field. Appearing monthly at 20 c, it is featuring on the back covers, Pauls' conceptions of life on the Other Planets, suitable for framing. 98 pgs. Plethora of depts :- Editor's Notebook, Fantastic Hoaxes, (Currently being conducted by Willy Ley) Romance of the Elements, Introducing the Author etc., & Readers Page. Phil Nowlan (ceator of 'Buck Rogers') is to be found in this issue with the conclusion of 2-pt "Prince of Mars Returns". Eando (Otto is doing all the writing nowadays) Binder (Pronounced like him-her) offers

"The Little People", Bond is humorous with "The Man Who Weighed -12", & one-time ed of Ast, F. Orlin Tremaine, contributes a sequel to a popular story, entitled "Jalu, of the Radiant Valley". That about sums up the situation with the Palmer publications.

THRILLING WONDER, under the aegis of Mort Weisinger, also up from the ranks of fandom, is a 15center, with 130 pgs. A novel is featured in each no., the current being "Rear of the Rocket" by Friend with a 'Carlyle-Quade' coming next in "7 Sleepers". The r.d. here is known as The Reader Specks. TWS also presents on issue a story by an amateur. Special features are Scientifacts, If---! Story behind the Story and Swap Column. Wonder sponsors The Science Fiction League.

Startling, #1 companion to TWS, same price, pgs., bi-monthly. Booklength novels ("When New York Vanisht", Kuttner, Mor, with many illustrations by Schorburg.). Cover by Brown. Interiors often by Finlay. Reprint each ish of an old-timer ("A Martian Odyssey", "Valley of Dreams" etc.) -- Bob Olsen's "The Phantom Televue" is the revival this time. Olsen, incidently, is an LA author; as is Kuttner. (Or isn't the latter fact anything to boast about? --I wuz on'y kiddin', Henry!) Guest Editorial (Taine, Kline, Farley have been a few of the contributors, as I remember) --this ish its Manly Wade Wellman, Meet the Author, Review of Science Fiction fan publications, Thrills in Science, & a r.d. called The Ether Vibrates (After Weisingers old Newscolumn in Fantasy Magazine, the all-time fave fannag).

Strange stresses the supernatural. It is another of Weisinger's, featuring 13 complete uncannyarns per ish Sponsors The Black Arts Club, in which you may become a Votary & possibly a Master.

4th in the Quartet of Weisinger's "star-studded streamlined" mags is the quarterly CAPTAIN FUTURE (Wizard of Science), featuring the bk-length exploits of the Superman of Tomere & his companions Greg the Thinking Robot, Otho the synthetic android, & Simon Wright - the Living Brain. Written by Edmond Hamilton. Spr 40 (#2) is "Calling Captain Future". R.d.: Under Observation. Classic Reprint: "The Human Territes", by Dr Keller, pt 2. A feature: The Worlds of Tomere.

PLANET popt all unannounced on fandom a few mos ago, a 20c quarterly whose 2d issue just appeared. Half-clad interplanetary beautys are featured on the covers but the storys belie them, being strate stf. In the current issues 128 pgs are containd "The Girl from Infinite Smallness" by Ray Cummings, "Martian Terror" by Edd Earl Repp, "Dictator of Time" - Nelson S. Bond, "The Tantalus Death" - Ross Rocklynne, & 4 others, one being under the previously mentioned Cummings pseudonym 'ray King'. Illustrations are by Morcy & a coupla newcomers. Depts: The Feature Flash (about authors.), The Vizigraf: ("kicks, kudos, bombs and bouquets--helpful and interesting letters welcome") Ed: Malcolm Reiss, an unknown.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, the fans' favourite from Alaska to Australia, Zealand to Zanzibar -- as far as my info goes. I presume U Aussys are familiar with this pub, if any, so no statistic necessary. With "Gray Lensman" completed -- "If this Goes On--" has started, wherein sykology is perfected to the point of science. Story one of Ast's rare +nova+ designations, is by Robt A Henlein, friend of mine who lives here in Hollywood. Ast has just inaugurated a new size larger type. Following the Henleinarr ative

will be L Ron Hubbards "Final Blackout", a sort of followup of the former story; in fact, the same supertank shown on the cover for "If-----" will appear destroyed, on the cover for "Final". Hubbard, incidentally, got started on stuff here in H'wood. The May Ast will feature a 20,000 word novel by the late Phillip Francis Nowlan. The creator of 'Buck Rogers' died February 4th...

Of UNKNOWN I imagine similarly I need not little. The subtitle Fantasy Fiction has been added to it within the last couple of issues. In the March one 3-pt serial reaches its finish --- "On the Knees of the Gods" --- while Williamson's strats. "The Reign of Wizardry" Finlay had a couple of illustrations here lately.

Thank to Ray Bradbury of LA, Weird Tales has a new artist rivaling Finlay, Brundage & Ferman. Hannes Bok, shy, retiring fantasy fan late of Seattle, Washington, who visited the Los Angeles SF League several yrs ago with some wonderful original illustrations, and Ray called on Wright (ex-ed of WT-- of which more in a minute) at the time of the SF Convention, & persuaded him to give young Bok a break. Praps U have seen his 39 Dec cover (& inside he did a conception of the character 'Northwest Smith' for "Nymph of Darkness", story by Nyusa, invisible Venusian Maid, on which I collaborated with Catherine Moore) which was well revd. His Mar cover is "tremendous" ! WT recently has undergone a number of changes, reduced price to 15c, pgs to 128, serials to be eliminated, ditto reprints, True Experiences dept started...& now, a new editor, or rather, "editress"! This is not to stress "women don't make good editors", as Mary Gnaedinger has made one the best, as we soon shall see; but the rule of WT by the editress of Short Stories is regarded as an usurpation by fans here, who are up in arms at the rude eustation of Farnsworth Wright. Wright it is felt, made WT what it is, in fact is WT. Much more might be written about "all this" but I do not have the time nor is it implicit in the purpose of the article. Suffice to report one thing I had forgotten WT is bi-monthly at the present time. & (I will get in my plug for the Universalanguage!) Farnsworth Wright speaks Esperanto fluently! (Morejo & I met him in his office & conversed with him at the time of the convention. Morejo: World's leading lady fan, who has adopted the single -- (pronounced Mo-ro'yo--Tongue of Tenere name as her own. An angelena, or resident of Los Angeles.)

I mentioned one Mary Gnaedinger a moment ago. She selects the reprints for the all-classic mag, FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES. & believe me, she deals all aces: The Moon Pool! The Sky Woman! The Radio Man! The Lord of Death! The Blind Spot! Darkness & Dawn! --- every issue a veritable fantascience feast! 15c for 128 smoothed-edged pgs, Finlay & Paul pix. The Readers Viewpoint is r.d. There is nothing more I can say..

In Astonishing we find the phenomenon of the first 10c science fiction mag (In USA anyway) 112 pgs, editorial, fanmag notices, bk-film & music (fantastic) reviews & a r.d. called Viewpoints. Edited by grad-fan Frederik (no 'e') Pohl. 3 nov lets: "Chancellor Planet", Pelton Cross, "Half Breed", Isaac Asimov & "The Lifestone" Paul Edmonds (Henry Kuttner) - & 4 shorts "White Land of Venus", "Elephant Earth", "Asteroid" (by Grad-fan Leo Greger! Milton A Rothman) & "After the Plague".

Superscience is the latest title on the market, 15c, 128 pgs, bi-monthly. New crew of artists. 8 storys in initial no; poem, bk-reviews, & introducing Science Fictioneers, nu world club. Wherever U live, sez Yed, U are not alone. In New York City or London, the greatest metropolises on the Earth, in a small town in the United States, in Africa for

Australia, wherever -- if U read science-fiction & U are a fan ----- U are not alone. It is with this that I shoud like to leave U.

your friend, '48j' Ackerman.

Sciencerealy,

— IN OUR NEXT ISSUE —

"S-F Comics" by Warick Hockley, (an ultra-short). Another part of Chas. S. Mustchin's "Creatures of Imagination", (Pretty long, isn't --it?) "Following Fort" by Vol Molesworth, sequel to "As I See Fort ". & Colin Roden's "The Ant Invasion" (another short-short)..... This issue will appear sometime in July, owing to fact that this issue --is out early.

+++++

READ SCIENCE Fantasy
— Review —

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ADDRESS: 14 Henley Ave; Litherland, Liverpool, 21
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COSMOS

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7
THREEDENCE

— THE FIRST SYDNEY CONVENTION ^o
by Vomoswoth.

The first Sydney convention was held on Feb 31st 1940. Those attending included The Futurian Society of Sydney (en masse) Mick Collins, Keith Moxon, Don Lawson, Jack Radford, Tuck, Pollard, MacLennan, and many others. The convention opened well, Veney giving a speech to the accompaniment of loud and infrequent snores.

VENEY: Gentlemen, please..... (In desperation)

MOXON: Please what?

VENEY: Let it slide. (He subsides, and sits down to find his chair is occupied by Mick Collins.)

CASTELLARI: I think it would be correct to have the handsomest person present give a speech.

RUSSELL: (rising and bowing) Ahem.....

VENEY: (rising and bowing) Er....er.....

RADFORD: (ditto and ditto) Ha....hum.....

RUSSELL: Australian fandom has progressed since ———

VENEY: Since I began my survey ———

RADFORD: Altho I come from South Australia ———

MOLESWORTH: What sins?

RUSSELL: Not sins, ass. I said since.

COLLINS: Since when?

SMITH: Who said anything about a surlie?

VENEY: Survey, not surlei!

RADFORD: I have done more to help fandom than any other ———

CASTELLARI: Being the most handsomest man ———

MOLESWORTH: Oh, since. Sorry, Eck. Go on!

RUSSELL: I give up!

LEVY: If, sir I may be permitted to voice an opinion.....

FREEDLANDER: Little children should be seen and not heard!

LEVY: Well, Bill Veney's talking....

VENEY: (Again in desperation) Gentlemen please!

(Enter A. Ghutney Ghoul)

GHUTNEY: That's all right, you needn't stop because I'm here! Go on, kids, you amuse me!

COLLINS: Who are you calling kids?

attend your convention.

CASTELLARI: (Interestedly) Who are they?

PILOT: (Apologetically) Ackerman, Wollheim, and Moskowitz.

VENEY: (In shocked disgust) What? Small fry! Throw them out!
(Exit Pilot, assisted by FSSites)

SMITH: Getting back to science-fiction, what do you think of the new Amazing?

CASTELLARI: Louzy!

VENEY: It stinks!

MOLESWORTH: Awful!

MOXON: Horrid.

And all others voiced their opinions.

RADFORD: Look at the letter section for instance.

MOLESWORTH: Eh? I've had three letters in it.

POLLARD: I've had more and three.

RUSSELL: And I've had a couple.

RADFORD: (Patronisingly) That's what I mean.

MOLESWORTH: (Utterly untypeble.) Grrrrrrrrrr!

(Exit Radford, followed pugnaciously by Molesworth Russell & Pollard.)

VENEY: (In tears) What a convention!

SMITH: Excuse me!

TUCK: Excuse me!

LEVY: Ta....ta...

COLLINS: I gotta go now.

VENEY: (Breaking the long silence) Well, that was our convention!

CASTELLARI: Yes.

VENEY: Nice, wasn't it?

CASTELLARI: No!

VENEY: Shall we go home?

CASTELLARI: (Breaking into tears) Yes.

(EXIT)

AND THUS ENDED THE FIRST SYDNEY CONVENTION

GHUTNEY: You poor children!

CASTELLARI: (heatedly) Now look here Ghoul.....

MOLESWORTH: (poetically) There was a young feller named Ghoul, who ----

GHOUL: Really, I am not a child, I am seventeen!

LEVY: Everseen what?

RADFORD: If I may get a word in edgeways....?

VENEY: (p^he^w) SHUT UP.

(Silence.)

MOXON: Lets have a science-fiction discussion.

VENEY: A good idea, we'll talk about fanmags. Now Obs.....

RUSSELL: Speaking of fanmags, Ultra.....

MOLESWORTH: Why speak of Obs or Ultra? Lou is the one....

MOXON: I mean good fanmags!

VENEY, CASTELLARI, MOLESWORTH, RUSSELL: (altogether) Most insulting...
...no sense of reality.....whatta cad....dashed fool....most annoy-
ing.....,ought to be removed....tut....tut....

MOXON: Cry-babies!

COLLINS: Do you call this a science-fiction convention?

GHOUL: Not when you're arround.

(BANG!....Ghutney is carried out on a stretcher, followed in silence ,
by Ima, nose in the air.)

POLLARD: May I suggest....

VENEY: Though Obs is only two pages....

CASTELLARI: Its as good as ten!

MOLESWORTH & RUSSELL: Rats!

VENEY: (Excitedly) Now look here!

RUSSELL: Not at that face!

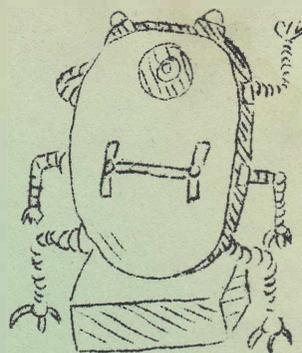
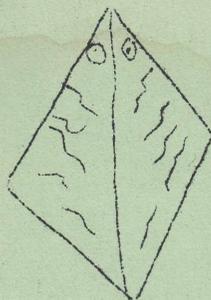
(Enter an air pilot.)

PILOT: Where can I find the great Vene^y?

VENEY: (Happy once more) Here I am!

PILOT: I've just rushed some Yanks over here by 'plane specially to

"CREATURES OF IMAGINATION"
by Chas. S. Mustchin.



Those ultra-terrestrials; Frogs, Crocodiles & Beetles. Those invaders from the depths, Octopi & Fishmen. Those giant insects and ants in queer unexplored corners of the world. Those reptile remnants of a long dead past, Tryannosaurus Rex and his pals. Those creatures bred and developed by scientists (Insane of course) to overpower the human race, either to-morrow or any time thousands of years hence.

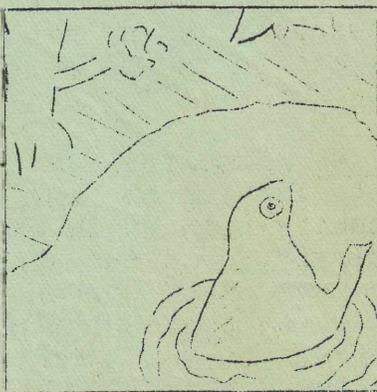
Did H.G.Wells start it with his "War of the Worlds"? That was certainly one of the first to capture the imagination of readers the world over. And with the publication of the first scientifiction magazine (Amazing Stories, all fairytales to the contrary) in April 1926, thousands of creatures have appeared and menaced humanity. Up to the present however, the only creatures to threaten mankind are fellow human beings And even they are hard enough to cope with. Let us hope that nothing ever appears that even faintly resembles the medusae in Jack Williamson's "Legion of Space".

A. Hyatt Verrill introduced intelligent lobsters or crawfish large as men in his story "Beyond the Pole" in Amazing Stories of October 26. These huge cold-blooded crustaceans possessed a civilization at the North Pole. They communicated of course by Telepathy, thoughts being broadcast by their antennae. They had a zoo of the queerest animals that Mr. Verrill could imagine; flies as big as turkeys, immense spiders with six-foot hairy legs also creatures with enormously long snakelike necks and great round bodies. In the same issue was "The Island of Dr Moreau" by H.G.Wells. On this island was wrecked a boat with certain animals on board, a puma & pigs etc. Evolution and biology went wrong and inter breeding brought forth some very queer creatures. However the story was satire and an excellent travesty on human beings.

Nov. '26 Amazing had "The Mad Planet" by Murray Leinster. Giant insects on earth in future times. This story was reprinted in Tales of Wonder No. 6. December had about the first good "maneating tree" story. This was "Through the Craters rim" a story of a strange race kept captive within an extinct volcano crater in South America, by a ring of 20 feet high trees with long tentacles. Amazing Aug '27 saw the first half of "The War of the Worlds" by H.G.Wells. Here, the authors fancy of Martians appeared to me, to be a cross between spiders & octopi. The following issue had H.P.Lovecraft's greatest story, "The Colour out of Space"; A creature that came on a meteorite, a creature of gas and vibration and horrible greyness, causing queer mental influences.

Amazing Stories at that time was being published by Experimenter Publishing Co. The same company published Science and Invention magazine, which in late 1927, and early '28 ran a long serial "The Metal Emperor" by A. Merritt, a story of thinking reasoning beings not of flesh and body, but in metal cubes and pyramids.

The one and only Amazing Stories Annual of 1927 had several interesting types of the unusual. There was the Phantom of the Snake Mother in "The Face in The Abyss" by A. Merritt. There were "The People in the Pit" by the same author. The people were phosphorescent slug creatures, ablaze with light, who floated in the air and were equipped with small whip-like tentacles. However, just about this time "world saver" Hamilton received his inspiration, and started to thrill the fans of that time with his "earth threats". The metal beings in "the Comet Doom", appeared in Amazing Stories of Jan '28 & has been reprinted in Tales of Wonder No. 8. A phrehist-Ancient Horror" appeared in April '28. A. Hyatt Verrill had "The King of the Monkey Men" a story of intelligent monkeylike creatures (of course) in Sth America, printed in Amazing Quarterly Spring '28. In the fall quarterly of the same year he had "The World of Giant Ants" one of the best stories of giant ants that I've read. In this story there were giant bees, caterpillars & wasps and the explorer in America) had quite a thrilling time before he left his friends, the ants.



A giant worm that can eat masonry and wrecked a flour mill, by eating solid concrete flooring, was fed a red hot stove by the miller, without affecting its appetite. However, he overbalanced in trying to shoot it in the eye, and went the way of all his belongings. This was the story of "The Worm" by Dr. David H. Keller, in March 1929 Amazing.

In June '29, the beetles arrived. By experimenting with alkaline solutions upon glands of beetles, the scientist accidentally discovers a way to cause abnormal growth in the Coleoptera. The original beetle of a variety known popularly as the Tiger Beetle, half an inch long, grows to between four & five feet. It escapes of course, and kills five people before the scientist catches up with it. He lets fly with both barrels of a shot gun — bang, bang, Bingo for the beetle.

A. Hyatt Verrill's story "The Bridge of Light" in Amazing Quarterly Fall 1929, introduces a pterodactyl, a dinosaur, and giant serpents, among perils to be overcome on the road to a forbidden land. No, you're quite wrong, it happened in Mexico. Edmond Hamilton has "the Other Side of the Moon" in the same issue. Whacko for turtle men! They have (or rather had, as the hero vanquishes the whole race) an elevator that goes to the moon in 1½ seconds flat. With his story in the Summer Quarterly of '29, "Venus Liberated", Harl Vincent enters the picture. A human like race on Venus is kept under subjection by a race of huge creatures, bulbous bodied, covered with horny protuberances, & with great tapering tentacles. Of course, the Earthians rectify this dreadful anomaly.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

BUT AUSTRALIAN FANDOM

Does exist!
Believe it or not by Russell.



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Brisbane QLD.
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