

The AUSTRALIAN S.F. NEWSLETTER

The space age is really with us it seems, but who among we SF fans thought that it would start so quickly or in the manner it has. Obviously the one factor that has accelerated the development of space travel research has been the cold war. Just as the race for bigger and better armaments in the fighting wars has ended in the advancement of science and technology, so it continues in the so called cold war. What a surprise and a shock to many though is the fact that the Russians are leading the field. The lack of co-operation between the US Armed forces and to a lesser degree the other Western nations, not to mention the fact that the Russians apparently captured the cream of the German rocket scientists after the war, could account for this. Though the West is no doubt rapidly catching up all credit up to now must go to the Russians. How different this picture is to the many painted in countless sf stories we have read. Obviously the space race is going to be much different from the one we have visioned.

When the uninitiated goon who on hearing you read sf asked you whether you intended to go to the moon, or the accomodating friend or relation asked whether we really thought man would fly off into space, many I am sure answered immediately yes, if only to put the 'disbelievers' in their place. Very few I am sure ever expected to really see their dream come true, at least not so soon at any rate, now they tell us that man will be landing on the moon and the planets in a few years. I dont think I am being over optimistic when I say 'he who laughs.....'

If the current trend in the US is any guide -the way these SF magazines are rapidly biting the dust- I think the fans feel that SF has let them down. Quite a few magazines are now featuring factual articles on space travel. I heard a rumour that IF is to be replaced by an item called SPACE AGE to be edited by Martin Caiden, slick to sell at 50c, but I repeat this was only a rumour. Others to go I believe included VANGUARD, VENTURE and INFINILY. SF ADVENTURES which has definately folded in the US edition is being carried on in the British edition, with mostly original material. Number six features THE SHADOW of the SWORD by local author now overseas Wynne Whiteford, who I believe has had a few stories published recently including one in the July 58 issue of AMAZING.

The Pulp Magazine is back! Perhaps the publishers would not like it described as such, but with the March issue SATELLITE. US sf magazine has gone monthly and increased its size to 11 X 8 ins. Price 35 cents. Lead novelet is A World of Slaves by John Christopher, plus other stories and articles including Cyrano de Bergerac by Moskowitz and two 'lost' stories by Sturgeon and Bradbury.

For the benefit mainly of those lucky people who have ways and means of getting US publications, I will list some new and recent hard covers and pockets books. From Doubleday comes during the period August 58 to March 59 the following; A TOUCH of STRANGE by Sturgeon, NO PLACE ON EARTH by Louis Charbonneau, FIVE GALAXY SHORT NOVELS by H.L. Gold, BEST FROM F & SF :Eighth Series -Jan- \$3.75, NOT IN SOLITUDE by K.F. Gantz -Feb- \$ 2.95, A MEDICINE for MELANCHOLY by Ray Bradbury -Non-SF -Feb- \$3.50, and NINE TOMORROWS by Isaac Asimov -Feb - \$2.95 -Short Stories.

November and December pocket books were: THE BLUE ATOM -R.M. Williams-& THE VOID BEYOND -ACE D. CUMMINGS-ACE, DEEP RANGE -Clarke- Signet, MIRROR for OBSERVERS -Pangborn-Dell, STAR SF 4 -Pohl- Ballantine, THE TRIUMPH of TIME -Blish-Avon, The BIG EYE -Ehrlich-Bantam, The DAY AFTER TOMORROW -Heinlein-Signet, FIRST on the MOON -Jeff Sutton -Ace, NEW TALES of SPACE & TIME -Healy- Cardinal, The SECRET of ZI-Bulmer & BEYOND the VANISHING POINT -Cummings-Ace, SIX WORLDS BEYOND -Dikty -Crest, TIME to COME -Derleth-Berkeley, TOMORROW'S GIFT -Edmund Cooper.- Ballantine.

Besides the brand new Bradbury to be published by Doubleday in the US, Rupert Hart-Davis in England have announced THE DAY IT RAINED FOR EVER. This appears to be a collection of vintage Bradbury stories which have not been previously published in a British hard cover, such as THE ROCK CRYED OUT, FAHRENHEIT 451 is to be published in Russia, according to John Gunther in his book INSIDE RUSSIA.

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AUSTRALIAN SCIENCEFICTION NEWSLETTER

The British publishers Bodley Head stopped publishing sf quite some time back. The reason now becomes obvious when they issue the following titles at the reduced price of 3/6 sterling (probably 6/- Australian); THE LONG WAY BACK -Margot Bennett, CATEGORY PHOENIX and IMAGINATION UNLIMITED both by Bleiler and Dikty; ANGELO'S MOON - Alec Brown, FUTURE TENSE -K.F. Crossen, SKY BLOCK -Steve Frazee, HELLFLOWER -Geo. Smith, and the LONG LOUD SILENCE -Tucker. All these titles were originally in the 12/- or 13/3 range and at 6/- are being given away. Definitely worth buying. They will all be available from McGills late in February.

Due this month are the following British PB titles; THE SHORES of SPACE -Matheson-Corgi, THE STARS LIKE DUST -Asimov-Panther, THE ISOTOPE MAN -MAINE -Corgi, EXPEDITION TO EARTH -Clarke -Corgi. Due next month so far is TO THE END of ETERNITY by Asimov from Panther. Digit are doing Verne's FROM EARTH TO THE MOON.

The best of the recent British hard covers is E.F. Russell's WASP. This is a must even if you have read the New World's serial. AN UNCERTAIN MIDNIGHT by Edmund Cooper has a plot reminiscent of a number of stories including 'Tomorrow Some times Comes' by Rayer and although no classic it is worth reading. The same goes for Charles Eric Maine's THE TIDE WENT OUT which although logical and well carried out seems to lack -to coin a much quoted phrase -'a sense of wonder'. A SOUND of ECHCES by Richard Matheson is just barely sf and I would recommend it only to Matheson fans.

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In conjunction with the Ballarat Begonia Festival the local Astronomical Society's SF Group are putting on an exhibition on space travel. Some members of the Melbourne Club will be attending and a report of the trip will appear in a later issue of ASFN. Any MSFC members wishing to attend please get in touch with me. Date; Either the 28th of February and the 1st of March or the weekend 7th and the 8th of March.

A complete recataloguing of the MSFC Library will be carried out sometime during the next few months. All members with items overdue are once again requested to return all items they have out. Donations of any unwanted sf of any description will also be gratefully received.

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Frank Bryning's story The PLACE of the THROWING STICK has appeared in the annual Angus and Robertson short story collection Coast to Coast. This is edited by Dal Stevens who is well known for his Australian tales with a fantasy flavour.

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In the Australasian Post for January 22nd is a review of THE UNCERTAIN MIDNIGHT by Edmund Cooper. It is by the 'champion' for SF Gordon Williams, who quite often gives an SF book a good review and this review is no exception, but this and I quote is what drew my attention: Talking about Mr Cooper at first he says "It seems that the mantle of the brilliant Asimov, recently dead, has fallen upon him, and he wears it with distinction." My own humble opinion is that Mr Cooper has a long way to go to catch up to Isaac Asimov and as far as I know, and I feel sure I would have heard by now, he is very much alive. I mean to do what I can to check on this, so if you can not wait till the next issue of ASFN drop me a line. Its not funny, it just might be true and a lot of less informed people probably believe that it is.

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A few new SF and fantasy titles have been announced by British publishers. They include; The OUTWARD URGE by Wyndham and Parkes -Feb 2, from Michael Joseph, AFTER THE RAIN by John Bowen from Faber and Faber, TWO HOURS TO DOOM by Peter Bryant from Boardmans, KINGS DAUGHTER by Jane Gaskell from Hutchinson, ON THE LAST DAY by Mervyn Jones from Cape, THE CENTENARIANS by Gilbert Phelps from Heinemann, FORTY YEARS ON by Doreen Wallace from Collins. The SF or fantasy quantity in a couple of these is in doubt, but more news about them in later issues of ASFN.

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Harking back to my reflections on the dawning space age, it seems that every day now some VIP or periodical makes some new 'world shaking' statement on the subject. Particularly the Russians who I am sure have been reading a lot of sf magazines. They have stated among other things, that eventually people will live on the moon with the

(Continued P3)

aid of an artificial atmosphere created from the moon's natural chemical elements. That a round trip to the nearest star would take $3\frac{1}{2}$ years space time - ten years on earth - using a photon drive. That sooner or later Earth people will meet intelligent beings on other planetary systems. Just on eighteen months ago this would have been laughed at in many quarters but now it is generally being taken quite seriously. But just as in Fred Brown's 'Martians Go Home' I think SF is perhaps not dying but is seriously being effected by recent events.

The British Interplanetary Society, long advocates of space travel, appear to be receiving some recognition from the British government. Plans have been submitted for a space rocket. The British don't talk much about what they are doing, they just do it. Woomera is now recognised as the best rocket proving area in the world. Look out Yanks and Ruskies the Pommies will beat you to the moon yet.

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Local authors who have been having success with Nebula include Norma Hemming, who has had stories published before and nineteen year old Nigel Jackson, who has had two short stories accepted by editor Peter Hamilton. AFPA has always encouraged local talent and we wish them all good luck and more publishing success in the future.

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What is happening to the MAGAZINE of FANTASY and SCIENCE FICTION? Change of format, though slight, and paper has not been popular with local F&SF fans. The quality of the contents is also dropping they tell me. Is it because Tony Boucher has given up the editorship for good?

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More new US Pocket books to be issued recently included:
AFTER THE RAIN - Bowen - Ballantine, BR-R-R! Conklin - Avon, TIME TO COME Derleth - Berkley, The MONSTER FROM EARTH'S END Leinster - Gold Medal, WAR of TWO WORLDS Anderson / THRESHOLD of ETERNITY Brunner - ACE D, THE WINDS of TIME Oliver - Pocket Books and CRY HORROR - Lovecraft - Avon.

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One of the most unusual Christmas and New Years greetings 'cards' is without a doubt publisher HUGO GERNSBACK'S annual FORECAST. As Melbourne agents of Gernsback Publications we received a copy at McGills. It is not sold by the way it is only printed in a limited number and distributed free to Mr Gernsback's friends and customers. Taking the form of a glossy midget magazine of $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{4}$ dimensions it is edited by Mr Gernsback and illustrated by Frank Paul, and deals with current developments in science in much the same way as Science Fiction Plus did. But it mainly deals with what we can expect to see happen in the world of science in the near future. It includes such articles as 'Television Space Observatory', 'Stored TV Reception', 'Illuminated Satellite' and 'Space Sickness'. Just as in the old magazines Experimenter and Radio and Electronics and his novel Ralph 124c41 + many of Mr Gernsback's predictions in FORECAST become fact every day. An editorial of the Washington Post after they had received a copy of FORECAST said, "But it is willingness to indulge in fantasy that is the first step to innovation. Mr Gernsback is an honorable member of an authentically American breed whose eyes are fixed on distant stars, risking ridicule from the earthbound and mundane. May his breed increase."

Is there any body who has any copies of SCIENCE & INVENTION, 1920 issues, ARGOSIES (US) 1912 to 1930, BLUEBOOK before 1930 and between 1940 and 45 and WEIRD TALES before 1925, to sell, give away or exchange. Also I require many issues of British ARGOSY from 1949 to the end of 1958.

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One of our main sources of supply of US mags and pockets books Fantast (Medway) Ltd., run by Ken Slater have changed their address to 75 Norfolk St., WISBECH, Cambs., England. If you have not previously had any dealings with them, send for their latest catalogue now!

For all your SF requirements contact Dave Cohen of the BLUE CENTAUR BOOK COMPANY, Box 4940, G.P.O. Sydney, NSW.

If you want your Science Fiction Collection properly bound DON LATIMER, 646 Bell Street, Pascoe Vale South, Victoria 'IS BOUND TO PLEASE.'

ALL SCIENCE FICTION FANS are invited to attend the MELBOURNE SF CLUB meetings each Tuesday and Thursday at 8pm, at 506 Little Collins Street Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWSLETTER
TRADING POST

McGILL'S AUTHORISED NEWS AGENCY
183-5 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Vic., Australia

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY BOOKS in stock;

The Naked Sun	Isaac Asimov	17/-
Caves of Steel	..	12/-
Non-Stop	Brian Aldiss	18/9
Deep Range	Arthur C. Clarke	17/-
The Red Planet	Charles Chiltern	12/6
The Uncertain Midnight	Edmund Cooper	17/-
Best SF One (paper cover)	Edmund Crispin	7/6
Two	..	18/9
Three	..	18/9
Occum's Razor	David Duncan	15/6
Jupiter in the Chair	Ronald Fraser	18/9
Double Star	Robert Heinlein	17/-
Black Cloud	Fred Hoyle	18/9
The Sundial	Shirley Jackson	18/9
The Dreamers	Roger Manvil	15/6
Wasp	Eric Frank Russell	14/6
Brother Bear	Guy Richards	15/6
Strangers in the Universe	Clifford Simak	18/9
Seeds of Time	John Wyndham	15/6
The Midwich Cuckoo	..	17/-
The Day of the Triffids	..	17/6

POCKET BOOKS :

The Stars Like Dust	Asimov	3/9	Moon Ahead	Greener	4/-
Foundation	..	3/-	Scream From Outer Space	Haynes	3/9
Pebble in the Sky	..	3/9	Christmas Eve	Kornbluth	3/-
Currents of Space	..	3/9	The Shores of Space	Matheson	3/9
Caves of Steel	..	3/9	Incredible Shrinking Man	..	3/-
To the End of Eternity	..	3/9	Crissis 2000	Maine	3/9
Project Jupiter	Brown	3/-	Timeliner	..	3/9
Moonraiders	Bounds	3/-	The Isotope Man	..	3/9
White August	Boland	3/9	Escape to Venus	Lott	3/9
Expedition to Earth	Clarke	3/9	Gladiator at Law	Pohl and Kornbluth	3/-
Earthlight	..	3/-	Frankenstein	Shelley	3/9
Journey into Space	Chiltern	3/-	From Earth to the Moon	Verne	4/9
Death of Grass	Christopher	4/-	The Day of the Triffids	by John Wyndham	4/- each
Prisoner in the Skull	Dye	3/9	Satellites, Rockets and Outer Space	Ley	4/9
No Man Friday	Gordon	3/9	The Exploration of Space	Clarke	5/6
The Chrysalids - The Kraken Wakes			The Scottie Book of Space Travel	Clarke	3/9

MAGAZINES:

Astounding 2/6, Galaxy 2/9, Future 3/- Original 3/-,
SF Adventures 3/-, Science Fantasy 3/- New Worlds 3/-
Nebula 2/6, Fantasy & SF 2/-
Latest issues and some back numbers available

Postage extra on all orders for books and magazines.

Also available ;

The Lords of the Rings : The Fellowship of the Ring, Two Towers,
and The Return of the King by R.R.Tolkien @ 34/9 per vol.
The Answer to the Space Flight Challenge Tinsley 8/6
The Complete Book of Satellites and Outer Space 8/6
Space Satellites Lloyd Mallan 8/6

Melbourne SF Club WANT LIST - All quotes and enquiries to
 Mervyn R. Binns, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston N 18, Victoria, Australia
 Hard Cover Books Wanted

Title	Author	Edition	
AD 2500	Angus Wilson	British	Original
Dark Carnival	Ray Bradbury	..	..
A New Sprague de Camp Anthology		..	..
Jorkens Borrows Another Whiskey Dunsany		..	..
Intelligence Gigantic	J.R.Fearn	..	
The Golden Amazon		..	
The Golden Amazon Returns	..	..
The Hounds of Tindalos	Long	..	Orig.
Men. Martians and Machines	E.F.Russell	..	..
Jizzle	John Wyndham	..	..
The Man in the Cradle	?	..	
Galactic Patrol	E.E.Smith	..	
Islands in the Sky	A.C.Clarke	..	

All these needed in good condition with DWs, for preference.

HC Books wanted -condition not important:

Worlds of Tomorrow ✓ Derleth British Edition

HC BOOKS FOR SALE :

The Continent Makers	De Camp	US DW	Good	20/-
Operation Outer Space	Leinster	BritDW	Fair	6/-
Mirror for Observers	Pangborn	Brit..	Mint	12/6
The Starmen	Bracket	.. ..	Good	10/9
Summer in 3000	Martin	.. ..	Poor	2/-
No Place Like Earth	Carnell	.. ..	Fair	BP 6/-
The Big Eye	Ehlich	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Beyond Human Ken	Merril	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Jurgen	Cabell	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Men Against the Stars	Greenberg	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
The Man Who Sold the Moon	Heinlein	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Men of Space and Time	Bleiler and Dickty	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Liners of Time	Fearn	.. ..	Fair	BP 4/-
Princess of the Atom	Cummings	.. ..	Fair	BP 6/-
Conditioned for Space	Ash	.. ..	Fair	5/-
Beachheads in Space	Derleth	.. ..	Good	BP 8/-
Born in Captivity	Berry	.. ..	Fair	BP 5/-
Borderline	Vercours	.. ..	Good	BP 7/-
Pursuit Through Time	Burke	.. ..	Good	5/-
Night in Babylon	Wellard	.. ..	Fair	BP 7/-
Few Were Left	Rein	.. ..	Good	BP 7/-
The Dollmaker	Sarhan	.. ..	Faie	BP 7/-
Tiger! Tiger!	Bester	Bk Clb..	Good	6/6
I Robot	Asimov	Brit..	Good	10/-
Mary's Country	Mead	.. ..	Mint	9/-
Satellite E One	Castle	US NDW	Fair	5/-
beyond the Barriers of Space & Time	Merril	Bk Clb	Fair	5/-

No reasonable offer will be refused for any of the above titles.

POCKET BOOKS FOR SALE : All mint

Deadly Image (Uncertain Midnight)	Cooper	4/3
War with the Gizmos	Leinster	4/3
Esper (Jack of Eagles)	Blish	4/3
Snows of Ganymeade		
War of the Wingmen) ACE D	Anderson	4/3
Second Foundation	Asimov	4/3
Worlds of Tomorrow	Derleth	4/6
Genius in Orbit:Waldo	Heinlein	4/6

Also expect to have spare copies of the following in two or three weeks :

Station in Space Gunn, Honeymoon in Hell - Brown,
 The Cosmic Rape -Sturgeon, Who?-Budrys, Six Worlds Yonder and
 The Space Willies -ACE D by E.F.Russell, The Syndic -Kornbluth,
 City -Simak, and Race to the Stars -Margulies & Friend. All mint
 and 4/6 each.

MAGAZINES FOR SALE :

F & SF US FEB 55 3/- ASF US 45 SEP DEC 4/6 ea. 48 MAY MAR 4/- ea
 ASF US 52 FEB MAY AUG 1/- ea
 ASF BRE 46 SEP 48 DEC 49 APR 1/- each Oct44 Jul 41 2/- ea
 VENTURE US Mar 57 3/6

TRADING POST

DICK DAVIES of 197 Noble St., Newtown Victoria
Has the following items for sale;

- The Iron Star Taine US HC 20/-
- War With the Wingmen) Anderson US PB 4/-
- The Snows of GANEYMEADE)
- Men on the Moon) Leinster US ACE D PB 4/-
- City on the Moon)
- Triplanetary Smith B Bk
- Time and Again Simak
- Tiger Tiger Bester :: 5/- each
- World of Chance Dick ::
- The Dying Earth Vance (Fair only) 3/-
- Mags: Fand SF Oct 56 FEB MAR APR 58 3/- each
- Unknown BRE Sum 47 Win Spr 49 1/- each
- Astounding BRE Oct 44 Jul 46 Jun Aug 47 1/- Taped spines on all

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Phil Leitch of 33 Laura St , East Brunswick , Victoria is
wanting information regarding the Anton York stories by he believes
Eando Binder , in Amazing or TWS around about 1940.

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Jack Bristowe of Main Road, Upwey , Victoria still wants to
buy back issues of NEW WORLDS , SCIENCE FANTASY and NEBULA AT 1/-

*
Bob Smith of 1 Timor ST., Puckapunyal , Victoria has the
following for TRADE or SALE :
ASF US Prices according to conditio from 1/9 to 3/6
48 Oct Dec 49 Jan Feb Mar May Jul Sep Oct Dec 50 Jan Mar to Dec
51 , 52, 53 , all issues , 54 Jan Feb Mar May Jul , 55 All except
Sep, 56 Jan Fe 57 Jun Jul Aug . Bob also has some other items
to dispose of, including F&SF US Jan Feb Mar Apr 53 Feb 57 4/- ea
First World of IF 4/- . Write fro further lists and information

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWSLETTER

Produced and edited by Mervyn R Binns

4 Myrtle Grove Preston N18 , Victoria, Australia

Copies free/ but donations of sf material or cash gratefully
recieved for the MSFC Library for whom this is produced.
I would be greatful also to recieve any items of news that you
think may be of interest to other sf fans.

Printed Matter

From MRBinns
4 Myrtle Grv.,
Preston N18 ,
Victoria , Australia

To Phil ~~Leach~~ Leitch
33 Laurast
East Brunswick