

SSSSS CCCCC I EEEEE N N TTTTT I FFFFF I CCCCC TTTTT I OOOOO N N I SSSSS TTTTT  
 S C I E NN N T I F I C T I O O NN N I S T  
 SSSSS C I EEEEE N N N T I FFFFF I C T I O O N N N I SSSSS T  
 S C I E N NN T I F I C T I O O N NN I S T  
 SSSSS CCCCC I EEEEE N N T I F I CCCCC T I OOOOO N N I SSSSS T

a frontier publication

"Science, when she has accomplished all her triumphs in her order, will have to go back, when the time comes, to assist in building up a new creed by which man can live."  
 -- John Morley, British statesman and author -- 1838-1923

contents

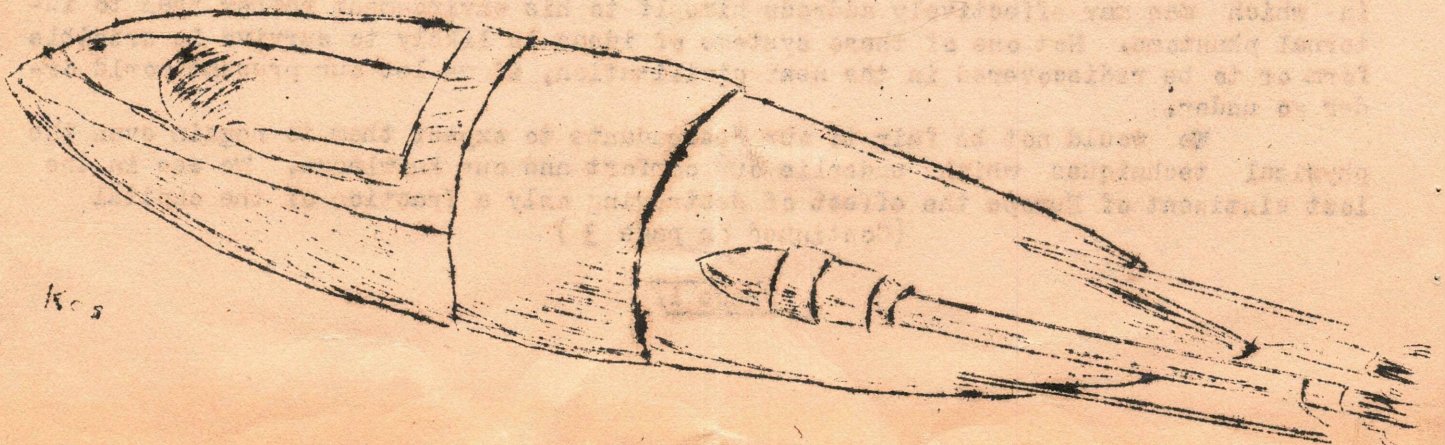
It's Up to Us	Jack Speer	1
...Another Man's Poison	Thomas S. Gardner	2
The World of 1990	Weaver Wright	4
An Analysis of Heinrich Hauser's "Titans' Battle"	Robert B. Langan	5
Book Review: <u>Forgotten Mysteries</u>	Henry Elsner Jr.	6
For 'Em and Agin 'Em	Letters	7
The Curtain Falls	The Editor	16

Scientifictionist is edited and published by Henry Elsner Jr., at 13618 Cedar Grove, Detroit 5, Michigan. Subscription rates: 10¢ per copy, 3/25¢. Published whenever time and material will allow. Vol. 2, No. 2, Whole number 8. March-April 1947. An "X" here indicates your subscription has expired with this issue. Scientifictionist is a frontier publication, of which the other member is Psycho, published by Phil Schumann, 2732 West Clybourn, Milwaukee 8, Wisc.

Volume Two

Whole Number 8

Number Two



KCS



## IT'S UP TO US

by Jack Speer

If there is any rightness in human aspirations, our Western civilization must be preserved. This is not said in worship of the status quo, but in protest at the many voices saying that the world is in such a mess that the A-bomb might just about as well wipe the slate clean for a fresh start.

Before going further we have to dispose of the romantic belief that man in a state of nature is a noble savage and is only corrupted by civilization. The man without civilization is a savage squatting before a fire, bodily miserable with vermin, cold, and disease, and mentally miserable with animistic projections of his fears, misapprehensions of his inner yearnings, ignorant of the nature of the simplest object he holds in his hand. Our age has the best chance to save man forever from that fate.

Oh, there would be new civilizations, if mankind survived. But by what license do the pessimistic optimists suppose that such civilizations would be like ours or the Greeks', rather than like the dozen others in antiquity which were by our lights as totally misdirected as the Spanish Inquisition?

Books would survive, perhaps. Scattered individuals might even preserve in their own minds the essential attitudes to which men have progressed in this middle decade of the twentieth century and which are recognized as the highest values ever attained. But it takes more than this to save the good things of a civilization. The Dark Ages were no less dark because some men, in the universities, knew that the earth was round and Jerusalem did not stand at its center. In our day the mass of men are kept keyed up to a certain degree of awareness of the world and its structure, by means of public schools and colleges and their products. These in turn are kept worthy of their task by teaching standards enforced by normal schools and professional associations, and preserved against decay by the continual ferment of inquiring minds tied into a farflung network of intercommunication. Collapse of our political and economic integration would break up this intricate mechanism. Extremes would no longer cancel out, and all manner of local errors and personal prejudices and idiosyncrasy would creep in. Society would revert to its normal condition of class privilege and oppression. Misunderstandings of science tenfold those presently propagated by religious organizations, encouragement of erroneous interpretations of the facts and forces of history, loss of prestige for cultural achievements which would be no longer available in variety nor properly interpreted, and stifling of the inquisitive and progressive spirit are the best that could be hoped for.

Consider some of the hardwon intellectual achievements of the last two hundred years. Liberal democracy has been justified in theory and proved in practice, with the help of a new continent to try it out in. Darwinism, based on an enormous body of collected observations of countless men, did far more than explain the origin of species; it suggested a mechanism which will cut the foundations from under many more metaphysical forms of superstition, when the full impact is felt. Locke, Berkeley, and Hume blasted old ideas of the means of our knowledge, and opened up the way for pragmatism and nonaristotelianism. General Semantics, impossible to be invented or explained without the body of modern scientific knowledge and its refinements by Einstein, Eddington, et al, points the way to an orientation in which man may effectively address himself to his environment rather than to internal phantoms. Not one of these systems of ideas is likely to survive in credible form or to be rediscovered in the next civilization, if we let our present world order go under.

We would not be fair to our descendants to expect them to regain even the physical techniques which underlie our comfort and our knowledge. We see in the lost continent of Europe the effect of destroying only a fraction of the capital

(Continued on page 3)



I was very much surprised to see Gerry de la Ree's article, "Agharti -- an Overlooked Classic" in the Scientifictionist, Vol. 1, #6. Here was a story that I could not like because of its political tenor even though it was well written. Is it possible that Gerry and I reached contrary conclusions because we read science fiction differently? I believe that it is impossible to read a story completely isolated from background, reality, and implications. However, even to assume that one can do so is contrary to fact, in that we live in a pattern of society that fixes to some extent our outlook. For example, most of us think that headhunting is wrong in the sense that it should not be condoned by society. If I read a story that praises the value of headhunting both to the individual and to society, then I am so suspicious of it that I could not consider it a good story even if the mechanics were well done. Thus I cannot read with pleasure nor appreciate stories, articles, and polemics that glorify nazism, communism, fascism, or any other type of totalitarianism. Thus, by knowing the background and theme of van Vogt's WORLD OF A, I enjoyed it more and felt it as a truly great force in fiction, than many other people. Critics dissected it line by line, page by page, for mechanics, and van Vogt's ever present confusion of continuity, and failed to see the true status of the novel. Perhaps I cannot see Hauser's AGHARTI for the same reason, as my mental viewpoint is antipathetic to the paranoid type of German mind that involves their god-persecution complex. Frankly I do not believe that anyone can judge van Vogt's story without a background broader than the average reader of science fiction has. This background would have to include General Semantics, and especially Korzybski's book, Science and Sanity.

De la Ree stated that Hauser made a literary name for himself by his book, The German Talks Back. That is slightly incorrect, as Hauser was well known for years, and the 42nd St. Public Library in N.Y.C. lists 16 cards on Hauser. Some of his work was fictional and some non-fictional in type. The German Talks Back, Holt, 1945, should be read for the background of AGHARTI. Then see if you like AGHARTI! Hauser fled to this country to save his hide, made money here and was well received. However, he deeply resents the rest of the world protecting themselves from the "good" Germans, and by implication they are the same as made Belsen, Dachau, Polish atrocities, Greece, Lidice, and the whole gang who attacked their neighbors five times in 80 years! Even the publishers of The German Talks Back say this: "This book is not a document written in the spirit of fairplay .... he doesn't like us, he does like Germany, and the Spirit of Prussia..."

"When the author's ms was submitted...we read it with anger, revulsion,, a book actually issued as a warning of the type of people in Germany, in words by a German who hates America and wants to go back to Germany...issued in the interests of free speech."

We can draw the following conclusions from the book: 1. Most Germans loathe everything America stands for. 2. Germany must return to Prussianism, i.e., militarism and another bid for world power to rebuild their ego and feeling of superiority! Hauser throws in a lot of false and pseudo history. Hauser slants his statements to suit his thesis: no one should object to the poor "good" Germans dominating the rest of the inferior breeds of man! He almost justifies the piracy, and looting of Europe! To the German mind, deliberate force, cruelty, etc., are expressions of their god-given ego! America is blamed for Germany not enslaving Europe, for the German depression after World War I, for everything in fact. Now, I am not exaggerating. Read the book for yourself. If you want to know the true status of the German mind, read Brickner's Is Germany Incurable?, Lippincott, 1943.

Thus I earnestly suggest that you read Hauser's book, The German Talks Back, and then read AGHARTI. If you fail to read the other first, then the clever propaganda of AGHARTI will have succeeded, and you will have added another sucker to Hauser's list, in preparation for Germany's Third World War attack on the rest of



the world. If you read as suggested you will see the sly innuendo that the allies should not have blamed the "good" Germans, that bad leaders were to blame. Note the clever glorification of the elements of nazism, and the read in idea that nazism would have been good for Europe but the bad, bad, wolves outside of Germany did not give it a fair chance!

De la Ree states in regard to WORLD OF A: "only a few fans were able to muster the courage to say they like it. They were those, of course, who read the story, failed to understand it, and therefore imagine that it must truly be the story of the century." Well, I have recently recontacted six men in the field of research chemistry who liked the story; they are men who have proven they can think clearly, accurately, and successfully. They admit every single criticism made against the story of van Vogt's, but still maintain it is a good story. The theme and implications were tops, they state. Now I fear that I must make a contradictory statement to Gerry's. Not only do I believe that he did not understand van Vogt's WORLD OF A, but also I must state that he did not understand, nor read AGHARTI with an understanding eye; but merely with the attitude of another fiction story to amuse the hours and pass the time away. Neither the mechanics, which Hauser has, nor the clever propoganda which was present, should blind one to thinking a little when reading.

Therefore, may I suggest that thinking be included as a part of reading science fiction, especially the implications of the story as well as the little red riding hood adventures of the characters. There is one strange point in AGHARTI. It was obviously written after the use of the atomic bomb. The release of energy occurs in all atomic reactions except for the synthesis of elements in the extreme ends of the table of elements. This is determined by the sign of the packing fraction. Even when energy is used up in atomic reactions, heat energy is not utilizable. Yet Hauser has atomic bombs absorbing heat, freezing people instantly, etc. Now, even a speaking acquaintance with heat flow, specially the laws of radiation and cooling, should have prevented such a gross error. Frankly, I was shocked to see such a complete blunder; even Shaver has not made that error to date. (As I recall.)

Hauser said last year that he wanted to go back to rebuild Germany, but wanted to leave his children here for America to care for and make something out of. To date, as far as I have been able to determine, Hauser is still in the U.S. What is holding him up? I am in complete favor of his going back to Germany and staying there. We have enough native fascists and his kind of "good" people without Hauser. #####

IT'S UP TO US -- cont'd from page 1

equipment, and in Russia the difficulty of building a new plant even with trained help and imports from outside. Our barbarous descendants will not have the resources of our ancestors to work with. The richest ores in the earth have been worked over. Expensive machinery is required now to mine and refine them. This is true of metals, and the coal beds laid down for us two hundred million years ago. Petroleum is even more hopeless as a power source for a primitive future. The very soil from which we draw our food, thousands of years in the forming, we are allowing to wash into the salt sea or leeching of its elements until commercial fertilizers and special agricultural methods are necessary to keep it producing. A civilization based on poverty of the necessities of life can attain no great heights. Little leisure can be seen in the post-Blowup world.

No, gentlemen, there is far less chance that our barbarous descendants will win thru to Utopia, than that we may. We in this generation will nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of Earth. #####

A lawyer, a doctor, an architect, and a communist were arguing over whose profession was the oldest. "Even primitive society had to have laws", said the lawyer. "But before society was even organized, there had to be a doctor when the babies came", put in the doctor. "But even before that, God was an architect when he created heaven and earth out of chaos", said the architect. "Ah! And who creates chaos!"



## THE WORLD OF 1990

As Imagined by Sydney Fowler  
As reported by Weaver Wright

Sydney Fowler, better known as S. Fowler Wright, author of The World Below, Deluge, etc., wrote a book last year: The Adventure of the Blue Room (Rich & Cowan, England, 8/6, 168 pages). It is laid in 1990. Rather than relate the plot of the story, I have chosen to acquaint you with the world panorama and various minutia as gleaned from reading the novel.

Five years hence... Great food riots encarmine Europe as an outgrowth of an irrational rationing policy. Those disobediant to the ukases of the dieticians are strictly sentenced, altho sentences are invariably deferred. One day Western European officials wake up to the fact that over 300,000 have been sentenced to death for food infractions. Even children are liable to execution at any time. And when a child of 10 insists: "I would rather die than eat spinach!", well, it may sound funny the way I tell it, but it leads to disruption of the nutrition laws -- the State cannot be thwarted by children -- and rebellion flames.

Forty-three years hence... The war of 1979 has left two-thirds of Asia a poisonous waste from which human life has disappeared completely. A hundred million corpses have rotted there, and tigers and cobras breed among the empty ruins of former human dwellings.

The population of the world has been reduced to 500,000,000

The 3 great powers are the English-Speaking Commonwealth, the Latin-American Union, and the United States of Europe.

The inspiration of the League of Nations has lived on. It has metamorphosed into the Council of the Clouds, located at high Quetta in Latin America.

War has not been outlawed, but Atomic war has been renounced by the world. Military struggle in 1990 has rigidly observed rules. In the event of provocation now, the offended Group has first right at offense, which shall be of a nature such as to harass but not directly menace the enemy. The opponents' scientists have 3 months to neutralize the effects of the assault and, if unsuccessful, the attacker wins. If successful, counterattack is then the privilege of the assaulted Group. This continues till one side submits. If the rules are broken, the neutrality of the third power is to be cast aside and all its resources aligned against the de-seivers of civilization.

German is the universal language of Europe.

Berlin is one huge, miles long building.

A European make auto, the Aurora, is characterized as "very easy to drive!"

Rugs are made of lizard skin, smooth-surfaced and ultra-soft.

A sea may be warmed,

Periodicals, other than fiction of some approved and regulated types, are verboten.

There is little privacy of word or deed. It has become a courtesy to receive a guest in a blue-lit room, because this is the color least sympathetic to secret photography.

Radio has replaced the printed word for news, it now being possible to tune to the type of information desired at any time, like turning to a page in a paper.

A standard feature of "room service" in hotels is the provision of a femme de la nuit, should the guest desire a pleasure companion. A choice may be made by televisor. There is a service charge, should the assortment of feminine pulchritude displayed dail to intrigue the potential customer into ordering a sprig of rosebud. #

Beverages and firearms seem to have remained the same.

Nor have the primal passions -- love, hate, ambition, etc. -- altered.

The opening sentence is: "God forgive me." This statement is qualified by the remark that "the expression was no more than an atavism of speech, for...Ed-

(Continued on page 15)



## AN ANALYSIS OF HEINRICH HAUSER'S "TITANS' BATTLE"

by Robert B. Langan  
Editor, Great Lakes  
Technocrat

Amazing Stories for March 1947 presented Heinrich Hauser's most recent contribution to American science fiction. We read the whole story. It was a struggle to get through it, but somehow we did it. The story does not hold one's interest because it is poorly written and far too long for the material it contains. The author's ignorance of the subject he deals with is outstanding. He may know a little about biology, or medicine -- but he is non compos mentis when it comes to psychology, economics, and Technocracy.

As a specific example of what we mean, take this gem on page 53: "...hard boiled politicians bowed their heads, confessed their grievous inadequacy, renounced their own rule and handed powers over to a World-Council of Scientists." However, they apparently didn't hand over the political and financial method of operations, or abandon it; for in the next 100 pages Hauser tells a story of a world operated by scientists using the political and business methods instead of the scientific method. All the age-old concepts of power, domination and exploitation are worked overtime by the ruling classes of scientists. Scientists might make that kind of a muddle of social operations, but the application of the scientific method would not. If, as and when the scientific method is applied to social problems there will be no muddling around, no age-old exploitation or maneuvering for power and everything else that accompanies our present method of social operations. If this occurs, it is proof that the scientific method is not being used.

What Heinrich Hauser is picturing, then, is a world turned fascist. He is picturing a fantastic projection of fascism ostensibly under the control of science but operated from behind the scene by the elite. In fact, we get a strong impression that Mr. Hauser is putting out a projection of his own suppressed desires: "Titans' Battle" is a wish-fulfillment. There are several grounds for this conclusion:

First; the author's name is German.

Second; his overlabored effort to inject American slang into the story so as to give it a folksy ring. The slang he uses is all antiquated and out of date. There are numerous examples in the text.

Third; his frequent derision of 'inferior' races. This is a typical fascist giveaway. Science recognizes no inferior or superior races.

Fourth; his lefthanded laudation of Hitler on page 82 where he says: "Of Hitler the Devil, who always wanted the good and always did the bad."

Our guess is that Hauser is a German either newly arrived in this country or one who has not been assimilated into the stream of American culture. The whole mess has a foreign ring to it.

His ignorance of 'economics' is demonstrated by his continuing to have society operated by Price System methods long after Abundance had been realized. The Mamlock foods gave all men freedom from want. They could eat six times a day; hours of work got so short that the Senate was hard put to find something for the people to do. Yet all this was carried on by the age old Price System methods of buy and sell. The rich got ever richer but at the same time the masses had Abundance. What kind of 'economic' stupidity is this? Then, the masses deteriorated physically because of this abundance to the point where a person was old and worn out at the age of thirty. What kind of scientific stupidity is this? Even the Price System has been able to do better than this, yet here comes Heinrich Hauser and tries to feed us a line that if scientists got control everything will get much worse than it ever was under the old ways. What kind of editors will pass a mess of stupid, fascist propaganda like that. You'd think they'd have more regard for the reputation of their own magazine and for the common sense of science fiction fans. It seems to us that on this ground alone every science fiction fan in the country has a legitimate occasion to protest to this magazine. (Continued on page 15)



After years of being badgered by everyone who has a solution to the question of what makes the universe go round, from Charles Fort to Richard Shaver, lovers of the off-trail and the supernormal will be glad to see a book that is at once both fascinating and matter of fact in its presentation.

Forgotten Mysteries is a collection of odd phenomena of every type, all carefully documented. The author, who has spent 15 years in this type of research, is considered one of the foremost authorities in the field, and for years edited a column in Coronet magazine under the same title as the book. Mr. Miller has apparently formed no synthesis as a result of his investigations -- at least none is stated or implied in his book. He makes no explanation himself for any of the cases he cites, but does include important objections to the alleged supernormality of the occurrence, whenever such evidence has been brought forward.

The section that was the most startling -- or perhaps annoying -- to this reviewer was the three chapters on "Ghosts", "Haunted Houses" and "Poltergeists". Personally, I have always regarded "ghost stories" as the products of an overly active imagination, coupled with old-world superstition. But Mr. Miller presents some startling evidence to show that there is something which acts as "ghosts" have been reported to do.

Although about one-half of the book is devoted to material in the psychic field, there is plenty of solid stuff for the dyed-in-the-wool scientificist. In "Enigmas Out of Space" are presented some very interesting evidences of life on the Moon. Besides the more or less generally known incident aboard the Marconi yacht, the author reports that in 1924 radio signals which seem quite conclusively to have come from the planet Mars, were received and photographically recorded on a special device. The reports of mysterious lights in the sky are also included in this chapter.

Of the most general interest at the present time will be the chapter on Vanished Continents. In his introduction to the chapter, Mr. Miller states: "To believers in such lost lands, this chapter will probably be disappointing. It contains data which I hope are thought provoking, but no conclusive proof. I have never found a single case which of itself proves the former existence of these legendary continents... It remains that no authentic and irrefutable written record of such a disaster has been found..."

The six cases of evidence in this chapter are divided as follows: three cases of known sudden catastrophes or sinkings of land indicative of a possible continental submersion; a comment on the Easter Island images; report of solid basalt heads weighing twenty-five tons found in a Mexican jungle, 100 miles from the nearest source of that mineral; and a translation from an ancient Mayan manuscript.

All fifteen chapters of this book are well worth your perusal. Each chapter is headed by the author's introductory remarks on the subject, and the book is furnished with a comprehensive index. We think this is the best book on the subject to be currently produced. Highly recommended.

#####

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Pro-stuff: Merwin's duo, Startling and Thrilling Wonder really seem to be hitting a fast pace. George O. Smith is apparently slated to become one of their regular stand-bys. In addition, many of Astoundings authors are appearing in the pages of SS and TWS: Robert Heinlein's first post-war stf story to appear in a stf pulp is the short-short, "Columbus Was a Dope" in May SS; Theodore Sturgeon comes up with a short in the June TWS. Editorial in June TWS announces that mag will hereafter run fanzine reprints. Fan-stuff: VORTEX, 20¢ per copy from Cowie-Kull, 70 Mirabel Ave. San Francisco 10, Cal., contains 80 pages of printed material -- dedicated to off-trail presentations.



FOR 'EM AND AGIN 'EM  
Wherein the Reader Speaks

Stifist on Downgrade

After receiving and perusing Stifist #7, I arrived at the conclusion that the magazine has been on the downgrade for the past few issues, although still up there among the better ones. At the expense of enlarging Coslet's head, I'd like to say that he has been quite noticeably absent from your pages, detracting quite a bit from the general quality of the mag.

The hector'd cover looks much better than the plain austere ones which adorned a couple of issues. Since there is no other artwork in the mag, how about giving us a really good cover every time.

Kennedy's Utopia article was pretty much on the beam. While many different plans for bettering humanity will be advanced, very few will get anywhere at all, while still fewer will achieve even a portion of their aims. At present, the Animist Party (not Animalist, JoKe) seems to be the most aggressive and active one, with some wide-awake ideals. Only time will tell what will come of them, but if they are realized, swell.

Ackerman's book review makes me want a copy (not for five bucks, though). For a person who dislikes stories without plots as much as I do, Stapledon does an admirable job of keeping my interest.

By his excellent review of the stories, Norman Stanley makes one wish that Wertenbaker could have written more. I trust that these magazine reviews of classics will remain a regular feature. And the contribution about Astonishing was just barely interesting. I see no point in listing a number of stories which appeared in a magazine, unless each story is analyzed in detail, which is not done here.

Bob Stein's article was rather useless. He's just saying what any normal person of today is thinking. It's a changing world. The capitalist who is dumb enough to try to deal with labor 1907 style now, deserves to be in trouble. And it's a pretty stupid person who would attribute the characteristics of an individual to a whole race. If that were the case, a person would have a chip on his shoulder toward the whole world. Not that some people aren't this way.

The biggest disappointment was the letter section. I can always find something of interest in it, but this time was an exception. Too few letters were included, with all of them much too long.

Thanks to Searles for tipping me off about Escape on Venus. I was unaware that it was just a series of the Carson yarns which appeared in FA a few years back. I'm not enough of a completist to want to shell out a couple of bucks for a book which is a duplicate of a magazine sale.

Horrible horrors! Hadley admits he didn't even read Skylark of Space. How could he be sure that it would be a hit? His opinion should have been representative. Poor Skylark -- battered from pillar to post. However, most opinion seems to agree that Skylark was a good yarn, just a little out-dated.

One particularly irksome letter in the readers section was that by Russ Hodgkins. Having no desire to hinder any good advancement by any group, and also having no desire to endorse Technocracy, I think that I may speak impersonally now. Either Hodgkins wanted to reply to those he singled out, or he wanted to use the letter as a means of getting publicity. If the first were true, why couldn't he have written each of them a letter personally, instead of subjecting all the readers to his remarks. Or, if he were using the letter as a means to convert some of the non-Technos, it was a poor way to go about it; there is no surer way to turn a person against anything than to try to forcibly shove it down his throat, by making him read it when the person is not faintly interested. (Pardon, Henry-- I forgot I was stepping on your toes, also).

One more item: there was too much Elsner this issue. Hereafter confine your editorial remarks to the necessary business, instead of rambling on and on for 2 lines, as you did this time. Andy Lyon, 200 Williamsboro, Oxford, North Carolina



◇ GOOD THING ◇

---Down to STFist #7:

cover: pretty crappy: - ever hear of the idea of drawing straight parallel lines in pencil before lettering in ink? -- Stein, I presume. Well conceived (altho stereotyped) - but not on YELLOW PAPER!

"Utopias Made to Order" -- good. I might even say: a GOOD THING. A bit of elaboration on the theme is needed, though. More and better articles of this kind and calibre, please.

I like the idea of 1 or 2 book reviews per issue - as long as it is of an unique book (as 4e's Stapledon review) and when of sufficient importance. Searles' Burroughs-review was definitely out of place, as far as I am concerned - when it merited only one line:- "Escape on Venus": the usual Burroughs, even more so than usual.'

AMONG THE CLASSICS - Wertenbaker! Maybe so, I haven't gotten to him yet. When I settle down with my old Amazings and Astoundings, I'll keep him in mind. May even read a Hawk Carse or something, too.

Brecker's "Astonishing Stories etc" -- good.

Stein's page -- nuts!

Letters -- 3 cheers for Hadley.

AN IDEA!: since you have Cockcroft (& in a pinch, Stein) why not do something really good? like: a) conduct a poll, finding 2 or 3 or 4 (or the number you can handle) favorite pro-mag covers and b) reproduce them in full color as your covers! With or without the original scare-head on top. That, done rightly, would be a GOOD THING (according to me).

For some peculiar reason yours is the only mag (almost) that I take trouble to comment on. Not that my comments are anything to be taken seriously, even if they are legible and coherent (which they usually are not).

Keep giving me what I like, Hank, and I'll probably keep on egoing your boo - in my own left-handed way. Earl Leeth, Lt. Cmdr, USNR, NATS, VR-8, Box 53, Honolulu, Oahu, T.H.

◇ Dissertation on Utopia ◇

I received SFIST 2/1, and here are the inevitable comments. Inevitable, because anything that I've ever argued about, when I see a dissertation somewhere, it will draw my comment. The first comment is on Joe Kennedy's excellent article, UTOPIAS MADE TO ORDER. This man Kennedy is certainly a versatile chap. He seems to be able to slant his style to anywhere -- witness the publication of his letters in the proz, and compare the style to this article. Well, that is off the subject. In regard to the whole subject of Utopias, I would like to call to your attention that portion of Groff Conklin's introduction to THE BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION which deals with utopian novels. He says something like this -- "All utopian novels have an idea to sell, and in that resides their dullness." I agree with that 100% -- not because it was said by a person of authority, or anything like that, but because it is my opinion too. (Perhaps I shouldn't use that word. It might bring to mind some other opinions of mine..) anyway, I am inclined to think this way about all Perfect States, Utopias, anything of the kind.: There are, in this world, two million different ideas of the Perfection. Naturally, because no two individuals are alike. And there are also, as Joke points out, two (or more) schools of thought about the ultimate destiny of the human race. There are, of course, those who believe humanity is nature's experiment, which is due to flunk in about a year, or more. Nature tried the dinosaurs, this school reasons, she tried humans too. Dinosaurs flunked. So will humans. Now, I happen to agree with this particular school, although it has no bearing on the subject what I believe. (Please don't comment about my sentence construction.) Personally, I like Captain Future. I, however, like to think of myself as anything but a damfool idealist. The exact reason for my contempt of idealists I don't know.

Now, it will be said, the subscribers to the theory of the soon-flunking of man will have no need for Utopias. They will reason that since the human race is due



to go soon, why give over any efforts toward improving its living place, if it is all going boom anyway? Well, I'd answer something like this. Utopias are of two kinds. One is the logical -- objective -- idea of the perfect world, a world which will do the most good for its inhabitants, no matter who they are. The other is the subjective idea -- the individual's own idea of what HE -- HIMSELF -- would like most to see, and to hell with the other guy -- and to hell with the race. And the first -- the objective -- Utopia will naturally differ with the individual too. No matter how objective you will try to make it, the Utopia still remains the individual's own idea of paradise. What is paradise to one man will be hell for another. If you are a Buddhist, nothingness is paradise, and the ultimate goal toward which the individual should strive. If you are the type of person who likes to be converted by every evangelist on the street corner, then a world of Hallelujah-praise-the-Lord would be the best state. And so on. Your idea of the perfect world, state, or what-have-you depends on a gillion factors. Your religious beliefs, your situation in life -- poor, rich, etc. -- your occupation, heredity, race, environment, schooling, and so on forever. We can't ever have the perfect state, because there would always be those who would be unsatisfied. If we have ultimate luxury, there would be the Horatio-Alger persons, who would hate every second of it. If we had the system where hard work was necessary, the naturally lazy person would consider his life one continuous torture.

As long as there are humans in the world, we cannot have Utopia. It just is not possible. There is NOTHING that can be "perfect" or "good" enough--I am handicapped for lack of a word here -- to make any type of Utopia. There's no definition of Utopia but this -- "One person's idea of a good time."

I will pass over 4e's book review by saying that I am only interested in book reviews if (1) I am in doubt and am wondering whether the book is worthwhile, and (2) if I've already read the book and am looking for an argument. In this case, the review has convinced me that I don't want the book, so we will stop here.

You are mean in running "Among the Classics". Review of this kind serve only to tantalize. You know darn well we can't get those old Amazings, so why review stories that we will 10 to 1 never read? On the other hand, if you have access to the old issues and cash to spare, the thing is definitely worthwhile.

The review of Astonishing is interesting to me, because I've read all the issues and this comes under the heading of "looking for an argument". I'd just like to make one comment -- where he says "anyone that didn't like this story should see a doctor", I don't think this type of statement is too wise. He is setting himself as a greater-than-God critic. Because he liked the story, anybody that didn't is crazy. Well, I liked it, all but the ending, which I thot stank. Another comment I'd like to make on Astonishing, by the way...I think Pohl was about the best blurb-writer in pre history, and Norton about the worst.

"Weinbaum and Semantics" starts out leading you to believe that you are going to read a variable-constants article on words. Then he leaves the subject entirely. Watsa big idea, anyway?

Russ Hidgkins' letter naturally meant nothing here, because I didn't read the snide comment made on Tech by Speer, etc., and I know less than nothing about the ism in the first place. However, it sounds suspiciously like Marxism. It sounds swell in the blueprint, the theory of it. But try to put it into practice, and along will come somebody like Stalin and use it as his private means to a rise to power and dictatorship.

Okay, we shall skip on to the comments on Gerry de la Ree and his review of Agharti and the comments on't. Of course I didn't read Gerry's review in Stfist, but I presume it read something like that letter in Amz Aug. 46 ish in which he said: "AGHARTI IS WONDERFUL ADULT APPEAL WITHOUT RESORTING TO THE SCIENTIFIC HODGE PODGE PREVALENT IN A CERTAIN OTHER STF PUBLICATION." Now that remark is almost pitifully imbecilic, and sounds like the rantings of Palmer himself. (If you want a sample of pure Rap, see next Vampire.) But that's off the subject, as I am so fond of going. I didn't think A was a classic. I didn't like the story at all. It suffered from a dirty-sex complex, somewhat like Shaver. As a sociological study it might have suc-



ceeded; but as the hodge-podge it was, it failed utterly in my estimation. It was dull. It was uninspiring, unentertaining, unamusing, uneducational; the writing was not enough above the average to make it worthwhile on that ground alone. It had nothing to make it stand out. I think it stunk.

...The Green Man, on the otherhand, was a real story. It was entertaining and amusing. The writing was above average. It had no pseudo-emotional appeal of the best seller type a la the Strange Woman, etc. It was engrossing from start to finish. It had a thought underneath, too.

I wonder if de la Ree has read "Titans' Battle". He will probably say it is a classic. In my opinion it was a particularly rotten textbook. Don Wilson, 495 North Third Street, Banning, California.

### [/ "A Would Be Utopia Maker" /]

This issue was an improvement over the last two, with Kennedy's article the outstanding item in the issue. I was particularly interested because I am or was one of those would be Utopia makers. Back in 1937, before I even knew fans existed, I started up a club called the "Peace-Makers", and it was our ambition to eliminate all war from the world by uniting the world under one flag. Our method of accomplishing this was to invent some super weapon which would make us invincible, and force the nations to combine for their own good. I haven't given up all hope on this project yet, but am biding my time till I finish my Disinto-Exploso-Invisibility Ray! I lost almost all touch with fandom during the war years and so missed the Claude Degler affair. It must have been fun while it lasted!

Stanley continues in his usual interesting style on his very interesting subject. It's funny, but whenever I read one of Stanley's articles I always begin to try to figure out a way to rob the library of Congress of its complete collection of Science-fiction. (By this time some of you fans are wondering what kind of complex I have -- mostly criminal!) Karl Brecker did a good job on his reviews of the Astonishing Stories series, although I would have enjoyed longer comments on many of the stories he mentions; but I imagine space and time limit him. While going over his article, a thought struck me. In all the time I've been in touch with fans I've never heard anyone mention two oldtime mags which I thought contained a lot of science fiction. They are "Dusty Ayres and His Battle Birds" and "Operator # 5". The former concerned the adventures of Captain Ayres of the USA Air Corps during a time when the USA was being invaded by an Asiatic dictator who had managed to conquer all the world except the western hemisphere. Most of the stories had very little about flying in them tho the title of the magazine might lead one to believe otherwise, and many of the stories were quite good. Operator 5 was about a secret service man's adventures, and the last year or so involved a dictator who had conquered all of the world and most of the US. These stories also I thought were good and much along the order of "Final Blackout". Perhaps some fan could be found who had a collection of these mags and would be willing to write up an article somewhat along the lines of Brecker's.

Stein's bit about semantics and SGW didn't impress me very much. I somehow got the idea from reading it that Stein got off the track in his article and finished up in an entirely new angle.

I don't know anything about Technocracy, but if it will solve all the problems that Hodgkins infers in his letter, perhaps it would be worth looking into. At any rate he had one of the most interesting letters you've published in several issues. I also am looking forward to seeing some good replies, for he has chosen some worthy opponents to attack! The book reviews and other letters rounded out what was quite a good issue in my opinion. Let's have more of the same and oftener. Al Lopez, Pooch Corner, Bingham, Maine.

### [/ Utopia and Fandom /]

Kennedy's there with a bang! His remarks on the socialistic trends in fandom outdo the entire issue combined. After finishing a Binder or Williamson yarn, I



step out into the sunshine -- and behold -- I'm in the dark ages. Looking around I see the slums, the beggars going from door to door, (no remarks Elser, I don't live in that kind of a neighborhood) the drunkards sprawled out in the streets. No wonder slightly "tetched" fen such as Degler get stupendous ideas such as insignificant fen molding the course of a world of two billion. (And do the two billion need it!) Artificial Socialistic Evolution. Kennedy's statement: "fortunately I believe most of fandom's serious thinkers to be light years ahead of the man on the street" was indeed provocative. I'll go him one better: I believe most of fandom to be light years ahead of the man on the street. Speaking of the man on the street reminds me of an every-day occurrence that is one of the reasons for fandom's superiority complex. When in the local Technocracy headquarters, I looked out of the window to see what the average man does when he stops to look at Tech's window literature: he laughs! Laughs at that which the average fan will at least consider seriously before making any statement or sign of his opinions. [Ha Ha! --ed] Because he (the average man) is so narrow-minded, many of the neo-fen make many ridiculous remarks about him -- such as: "the average man compared to the average fan is as the Neolithic-man is to man today." It was this type of statement than Degler capitalized upon. Keep Joe coming with more like "Utopias Made to Order."

A statement by Bob Stein in "Stanley Weinbaum and General Semantics" tied in directly with something Kennedy said. Bob writes: "Many people have a tendency to ascribe the actions of an individual to the entire class to which he belongs. For instance, if bitten by a dog, he would act as tho all dogs were vicious. Or if injured (morally or physically) by a Negro, or Jew, he believes that all 'niggers' and 'kikes' have the characteristics of his injurer." Kennedy says: "The Pro-Scientist opposed the use of science-fiction as a means to disseminate anti-scientific propaganda, citing Frankenstein as an example of the type of story that was doing much to harm the reputation of science-fiction." Frankenstein, then, was the dog that bit the public. Ha, that pro-scientist movement gave me a laugh. In the first place, the author didn't write Frankenstein AS SCIENCE FICTION. Again, the public read the story and probably didn't classify it as s-f. The majority of the people didn't know what the term "science-fiction" meant until quite recently. Tell an "unlightened" person that Frankenstein is stf, then ask him what a story about rocket-ships is classified as -- 10 to 1 he won't know.

The cover: ugh! Stein did a lousy job if I ever saw one. Stfist is the number 3 zine -- there's a reputation to uphold. It would have been better for you to go back to your "too conservative" cover -- the "no-drawing" type.

Although I can't quite agree with him, Hodgkins' letter on Technocracy was the best in the ish. Give him the original to Stein's drawing. (Ha!)

All in all, the issue was about as good as number 6, the only reason for such a high rating being Kennedy's fine article. His article is the finest I've yet read in STFIST -- more from him, please. Ben Singer, 3242 Monterey, Detroit 6, Mich.

### [/ "Hodgkins Has Put Himself on the Spot" /]

Kennedy's article seemed generally sound, and I agree that misguided idealism is better than none, but it should be pointed out that in some circumstances it may have an adverse effect. The "rantings of a would-be prophet" which don't pan out provide an occasion for cynics and people like the America First Press (Hearst, McCormick, &c) to stigmatize idealism generally with the brand of impracticality. And to the individual also precocious idealism can result in a hardheartedness in later years which would not occur had the idealism come only after the individual learned discretion and built his hopes on a sounder foundation. "Probably unintentional, but Joe's miscalling the Animists "Animalists" is amusing. He gives a detail or two about them that I don't have in the current Mopsy: The elimination of "bureaus" to give way to technical councils is a beautiful piece of attempted word magic. The proposal to collect \$5 a week from every worker to establish one of the most important funds violates the principle of taxation according to ability to pay; and \$250 or \$500 annually out of a poor family's income would be a drastic bite.



Ackerman's book review was somewhat above his usual standard. It was surprising to see Uncle Olaf still putting the disintegration of Luna and explosion of Sol into his future. These apparently belong to the future history of Last and First Men, the early parts of which have been outmoded by events. He still clung to this history in 1937 when he wrote Star Maker, but I thot that by Darkness and the Light he had discarded it.

Never having read Astonishing to any extent, I was glad to get the lazy man's survey of it. Upon reading this I was moved to start an index of prozine reviews. Recently I mentioned to someone that to gain full value book reviews should be entered on the cards of the Great Bib, if not published. It would be useful if prozine reviews also could be indicated in the prozine index now under preparation. These have occurred to me as sufficiently extensive story-by-story reviews of most of the contents of certain prozines to be worth mentioning: S-f mags up to 1942 -- Inspiration April 46; 1939-42, series in Sustaining Program 1941-43; 1941-43, series in Horizons of the period; 1940-43 all pros, contemporary columns by Wollheim and Carter in FFF. Under the heading of particular magazines we could list, for Astounding and Unknown since 1942, departments in Sustaining Program and Horizons; and for Astonishing, Scientifictionist Jan and Apr 1947. In the authors' section, the memorials on Howard, Weinbaum, Wells, and others might be referred to if they contain reviews of many of their stories, or material that would otherwise be justified for indexing. And in the story-index section of the prozine index, FFF's history of the Tumithak series should be indexed, Coslet's summation of Probability Zero in Scientifictionist, and perhaps special articles on particular stories. I don't believe, however, that utility would justify the indexing of stories which are mentioned in articles on "Time travel tales", for instance. The purpose of all this would be to guide the person who has access to a large fanzine collection to reviews in which something is told about a story so that he can decide whether it is worth making special efforts to get hold of, also to provide more information on what a story is about than can be conveyed by the decimal classification, and possibly to meet other uses. Can you or the readers supply other sources of many story-by-story reviews.

Stein's article on SGW and GS was worth a page. I remember that remark about Tweel, but it never came to mind while I was reading Science and Sanity.

It is almost sufficient answer to the first part of the Hodgkins letter that despite his implied claim to a good acquaintance with the characters involved, he doesn't even know my attitude toward "private enterprise". " His grudging inclusion of "and yes, the human element" in the factors considered by Technocracy calls for the observation that anyone with any acquaintance with progressive movements must see that human nature is the most refractory by far of all elements in the problem of reform, yet Technocrats toss this aside with little more than the remark that a different environment and training could change "human nature" completely. " Not being sure that I have the pertinent portions of my files here, I won't go to the trouble of digging out a refutation of RJH's statement that Technocracy has never set a definite date for the collapse. But I'd like to mark for the record that Hodgkins has put himself on the spot with "Months rather than years" until the final prediction is realized. That's the only way to catch these millenarians. " And while we're on this subject, I'd like to point out that the comfortable assumption that the collapse will soon enuf convince people that they must take Technocracy's proffered blueprints is no longer comforting in a world where the collapse, if it comes, will be accompanied by a destruction of most of the capital equipment and a good fraction of the population with which the reign of plenty is to be ushered in. " As an idle query, what does "economy of abundance" mean in precise terms? That there will be plenty of the necessities of life only? Or that there will be plenty of every conceivable luxury, including powerdriven mimeos for all fankind? If not the latter, then money will be far from "totally useless" -- and I don't care whether you invoke word-magic and call money "energy certificates" or "weetongs". " Russell's analogy of the ocean liner captain is illichosen but appropriate, for there is hardly any dictatorship more absolute than that of the master of a ship at sea, which



would never be tolerated in peacetime on land. The analogy of the hydroelectric chief engineer is inappropriate, because the comparison omits the little detail that the dictatorship of the Technate governs not the flow of electricity and water, but the lives of men. " In closing, I'd like to refer to the denunciation of forming an opinion about Technocracy without investigating it fully. Hodgkins seems not to realize that there are always countless ideologies calling for our attention and demanding that we make a "full investigation" before judging; at present they range from the Shaver Mystery to General Semantics. Obviously we haven't time for all this. These several schools of thought all have an opportunity to claim a few minutes of our time in one way or another. Unless it can say in that time something that makes us feel that it's worth further investigation (and General Semantics has done that), such an ideology must accept its failure with good grace. In the course of years, Technocracy has had many hours of my time and other scoffers'. It has made little use of that time except to trumpet a special jargon, blare nonsequiturs, paint unworkable futures, and shout that the years of scientific research which are claimed to have gone on behind the scenes have made it infallible. I am not moved to enter a "Study Course".

One effective firstperson narrative by Heinlein comes to mind -- Solution Unsatisfactory. It probably would not have accorded with the plan of the History of the Future to introduce a narrator into it. Methuselah's Children, Logic of Empire, had well defined protagonists; that was enuf. Come to think of it, though, wasn't If This Goes On -- firstpersoned?

The concurrence of opinions on the Skylark of Space suggests that science-fiction stories age at a greater rate than most. This would naturally be true of the gadgets, but Skylark isn't condemned on that basis. Yet some few classics do survive the years to provide a full measure of enjoyment upon rereading or reading by some latterday devotee. Somebody ought to write an article and tell us why. Searles had something to say about this at the Newarkon, but I don't believe he hit the nail on the head.

Letter section this time was unusually long. Nearly everything in it was good reading, unusually good, but the letters were of somewhat forbidding length. If you have any policy against wholesale exision of comments which aren't of general interest, you'd better abandon it before you print any more letters from me. Jack Speer, 4518 16th N.E., Seattle 5, Washington.

#### ▮ Sneary Comments on Animism ▮

The last issue was to my way of thinking the best one so far. Just full of worthwhile stuff. Plus Kennedy's article -- which I think is about the best one he has ever done. This is pretty much of a compliment when you realize I don't agree with all that he said. First off, JoKe has never been one of the "Utopian" kind, or at least not since I've known him. And as a result I think he dealt rather roughly with the four groups he mentioned. I've never heard the Technocracy party say when the price system will fail, and the Animist party, as he could easily have learned, is not now like he pictured it. Mr. Madole tells me that his information was based on the plans laid at the beginning when there were only a handful of members and little had been planned. There are now thousands of members (mostly, non-fans) and much better plans. For one thing the "\$5 a week" has been done away with. And of course the party will be made up of people other than fans. Mr. Madole wants and hopes to get a great many fans as members, however, because he feels they are more ready to accept the new ideas -- which are really nothing new, just better arrangement of old ideas. You really ought to let an Animist member write an article on it for you. (Not me, tho).

I haven't time to review the rest, but it was all good, and much more interesting than the last issue. (poor Coslet). Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, California.



▮ Addenda to "Utopias Made to Order" ▮

Bob Stein's colorfully hector'd cover for Stfist #7 was quite good, I thot, tho the title lettering doesn't look very painstakingly done. But cover drawings like this are a big improvement over simply mimeo designs.

In reading over "Utopias Made to Order", yours truly can see that he didn't completely succeed in bringing out the point of the article -- that is, that political movements in fandom have been greatly influenced by the proz. Also, I made a coupla overly-sweeping generalizations which should've been clarified. Nonetheless, the main thoughts are there, and I'm looking forward to comments on it in next issue's letter section. It should be definitely pointed out that mentions of Technocracy, Communism, &c in the same section as the references to the Cosmic Circle and the Animalists wasn't intended to imply any criticism -- either pro or con -- of the aims of the aforementioned political movements.

Ackerman's review of Stapledon's new book proved interesting and informative. Stapledon's later work, like that of Wells, seems to be becoming more and more fraught with scientific mysticism, a sign nor overly healthy, in the opinion of this 'umble one.

Among the Classics was hyper, and I enjoyed every bit of it. More please -- this feature is rapidly becoming one of the best columns in fanzinedom, if not the.

"Gone and Forgotten": tsK! another serial. The remarks on Rocklynnne's "Darkness" series in Astsh hit the nail on the head -- can't see why these really excellent yarns haven't been generally acknowledged as the semi-classics that they are. Like Kuttner's "False Dawn" (TWS), Patzer's "Ship From Nowhere" (Gernsback booklet), Geier's "Enigma of the City" (AS), the Darkness series seems consigned to the oblivion of the seldom-read sections of pulp collectors' mag stacks. In fact, I think Rocklynnne is a vastly underrated writer -- like anybody else in the field, he's done his share of un-memorable tales, but I think I'll remember the skillfully developed and convincing atmosphere of his earlier Hallmyer tales in Planet as long as anything yet read in the pulps.

Stein's article on general semantics didn't contain much concerning Weinbaum, the title of the piece to the contrary. However, Bob made a very good point. This is easily the best thing RLS has written yet.

If Stfist awarded originals like the Vizigraph, my votes for best letters in For 'Em & Agin 'Em would go to (1) Hodgkins, (2) Stevenson, and (3) Boggs, with an additional nod to Al Lopez's missive. Hodgkins is obviously pretty well steamed up over fan apathy for Tech'y, but his comments on fan critics strike uncomfortably close to home.

Searles' review of Escape on Venus winds up another high-quality issue, for which congrats to ye. Leave us hope for longer editorial ramblings nexttime, tho. What happened to the last-issue ratings? Personally, I yam glad Stfist won a high place in the recent Fantasy Review poll -- for it most certainly deserved it, to put it mildly. Joe Kennedy, 84 Baker Avenue, Dover, New Jersey.

▮ "The Green Man" Disposed of ▮

I won't comment on the January issue in detail; it didn't seem quite up to par, though. Of course you just have to do what you can with the material you get.

Al Lopez in speaking of "Ast. Stories" presumably means Astonishing Stories, that being the only magazine to appear with such a title during modern times; the context though would better seem to fit aSF, which ceased to be Astounding Stories some nine years ago. Or maybe Lopez has been ripvanwinking for the last decade. I had thought the "Astounding" in aSF's title pretty harmless in its present diminished form, but apparently it will have to be dropped entirely to cure certain die-hard antiquarians of the habit of referring to the magazine as "Astounding".

Lopez's sober and evidently perfectly sincere comparison of "The Green Man" with Agharti" is either laughable or irritating, according to how you look at it. Hauser, as Palmer has been quick to point out, is a writer of sufficient liter-



ary stature at least to be taken seriously by book reviewers and literary critics; Harold M. Sherman's principle achievement, so far as I know, has been the production of innumerable volumes of juvenile sports stories. Their novels reflect their respective backgrounds.

"Agharti" has already been sufficiently discussed for the nonce; Hauser is not going to push Wells, Stapledon, and Huxley off the map overnight, but even his casual pulp writing establishes him near the top among the lesser science fiction writers, and by strictly literary standards probably above any other writer for the pulps during recent times.

"The Green Man" and Harold M. Sherman I'll herewith dispose of. "The Green Man" is marked by ludicrous, elephantine efforts at whimsy and never succeeds in deciding whether to be fiction or outright farce. It violates one of the most basic rules of fiction-writing, one that is likely to be referred to in lists of the 'ten commonest blunders of amateur writers' in any writers' magazine -- in the end it all turns out to be a dream. For those who like dreams, Burbee publishes better ones. The kindest thing that can be said of "The Green Man" is that it is grotesquely funny if you have the sort of sense of humor that finds amusement in gross ineptitude. R. I. P.

Kennedy's piece is interesting. I'm not persuaded that the naive idealism of the characteristic s-f reader (particularly the very young one) is altogether healthy and desirable, but it seems to be fairly normal in this culture during adolescence. It does lead to some distressingly rude awakenings in some cases, and too often foreshadows attitudes in maturity either of defeatist pessimism or of blind escapist refusal to recognize facts. Look around at any fan group to see what I mean. C. Burton Stevenson, 521 E. Monroe, Phoenix, Arizona.

#####  
"TITANS' BATTLE" (cont'd from page 5)

Now the question comes up of what his reason was for slandering Technocracy. Obviously, in view of Hauser's ignorance, stupidity and fascist leanings Technocracy gets associated with some very bad company in his story. This is done by using the transfer and name calling devices of propaganda. (See the Sept.-Oct. 1944 Great Lakes Technocrat for an explanation of these propaganda devices.) Technocracy is mentioned about twenty times throughout the story. It is pictured as a dictatorship of the 'elite', the old families, the big property holders. If this story were thoroughly analyzed instead of being read only once we think a good case could be made for a law suit. All official Technocracy literature states social objectives diametrically opposed to the type of tyranny that Hauser pictures. Anyone who has ever read any of our literature would at once note this fact.

Intentionally or not this story is fascist propaganda against Technocracy. Hauser is guilty of lying, misrepresenting and slandering Technocracy. However, it seems to us that any real science fiction fan will dismiss the whole story as one of very low grade. Anyway, we think that Technocracy will survive Hauser's lies and low grade imaginings.

This is the kind of story that puts science fiction in bad odor. We imagine the body of H.G. Wells would turn over in his English grave if he could hear about this. He and Verne and other masters of science fiction did not write fascist propaganda. They told a series of stories of science in the service of humanity. #####

THE WORLD OF 1990 (cont'd from page 4)

our Richter...was not likely to have his mind encumbered by any superstition of the existence of a personal deity." Atheists in the audience, however, are doomed to disappointment, for the book concludes "...and they understood that there is not weakness, but quiet strength, in the long patience of God."

# Reviewer's note: Rosebud is not an expression employed by author Fowler, but by a fouler author by the nomdeplume of Wilson (Chinese Doll) Tucker, believed to have been an actual character, destroyed when the Balinese atombombed Bloomington, Illinois, in 1969.



## THE CURTAIN FALLS

by the Editor

Over a year and a half ago, in September 1945, the first issue of Scientifictionist saw the light of day. The express purpose of the magazine was to provide a place of expression for scientific discussion of all types, there then being no fanzine catering exclusively to the straight s-f fan. We feel that in the publication of these eight issues we have carried out our purpose to the best of our ability. Now, however, after much serious thought on our part, we arrived at the conclusion that the time had finally come when it would no longer be possible for us to continue the publication of Scientifictionist. In short, Stfist is dead and buried with this issue.

The reasons for this decision were numerous, and we think, well founded. Foremost is the lack of time. Since the time when we founded this fanmag, our general outlook has changed considerably. From occupying by far the dominant place in our sparetime activities, fandom has come to be only one of our fields of interest. Some have claimed that fandom is an escapist hobby; a withdrawal from the reality of life into a pleasant inner world. The more one becomes entangled in fan doings, the more one realizes the truth of that statement.

However, we believe that we are most fortunate in living in this world of today. We cannot help but think that this era -- the "Age of Confusion" as H.G. Wells has called it -- is one of the most significant in the history of mankind. That we are in the midst of an age of change so profound that the daily turmoil which we witness is merely the most superficial glimmering, no one can deny. It is our deep-felt conviction that as a citizen in this world, we must not withdraw into an inner shell, but do our utmost to study and investigate these changes, and then in our small way, to take part in them. The vast fields of knowledge vital to an understanding of today and a personal orientation, both in the realm of books and that of personal experience, takes time to study. Time and more Time.

We also feel that the literature of Science Fiction, to a greater or lesser extent, is one of the types of knowledge contributing to a general broadening of one's mental attitude. Science Fiction, we have found, is one of the most stimulating and yet pleasurable pathways to thought yet found. Ever since our first introduction to s-f, we have avidly read and collected it. Fan activities are a natural consequence of the stimulation from s-f, coupled with a desire for self-expression. Fan publishing is one of the most important facets of this activity. The choice we had to make is whether it is the most important item.

Lately affairs have come to the place where we have a nearly complete file of Astounding, FFM, Super Science, Startling, and others, all unread. Current magazines pile up on our bookcase, unread. We've been lucky to be able to read  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the stories in any current ASF. And to us, S-F literature, itself, is by far the most important phase of fandom. And our correspondence has lain unanswered for months. We also feel that the friendship and exchange of ideas brought through correspondence is perhaps the only lasting benefit wrought from fandom. So we decided that this state of affairs could not long remain, and as a result Stfist had to go.

Other difficulties were the usual ones besetting publishers nowadays: rising cost and increasing scarcity of supplies and lack of material -- particularly the latter. To those of you who have made this magazine what it has been in the past year and a half, go our sincere thanks.

This does not mean complete cessation of our publishing activities. By far the most popular feature of Stfist has been its letter column, and this we intend to continue to publish. We've received many letters of appreciation of this black-and-white forum. So please continue to send in your letters of comment -- we'll see that they reach an audience. Format of this venture will be nothing fancy, but we guarantee its readability. The whole thing will be on a strictly informal basis. The publication frequency will depend entirely on the amount of response. It's entirely up to you. Come on, send those letters in! Share your thoughts with the world!



From:  
Scientifictionist  
13618 Cedar Grove  
Detroit 5, Michigan

Return Postage Guaranteed

Contents: Printed Matter





To:

Dale Tarr,  
1349 Scott,  
Covington, Ky.

~~Scott~~

20 RB

02