

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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OUTSTANDING REPRINTS TO APPEAR IN FAMOUS FANTASTIC.

For quite some considerable time we Australian fans have been hearing about the 'great classics of the old Munsey magazines'. The majority of us are comparatively new to science-fiction, thus missing these classics when they first appeared, and as our finances are eaten up by keeping pace with current stf magazines, besides back issues of same, it has looked as though we would be denied the pleasure of reading them. However, since the issuing of FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES, the entire aspect has been changed and it is with great pleasure the editors of Futurian OBSERVER acknowledge receipt of a letter from the editor of the fore mentioned magazine, giving details of yet two more classics to appear shortly. These are: "The Blind Spot" by Austin Hall and Homer Eon Flint, and "Darkness and Dawn" by George A. England, which will commence in the May issue.

There is no need to remind our readers what American fans say about these stories. Almost without exception these have been rated as amongst the greatest of all time. Be sure to watch for them!

ODDS & ENDS

Comic Strips: (For those who read the things) The comic strip "Mystery Men of Mars" has ceased, while the same artist is now picturing Carl H. Claudy's "Thousand Years a Minute".

Radio: The "Lux Radio Theatre" season is presenting an increasing number of fantasy plays. The latest of these was "The Return of Peter Grimm" several weeks ago. It concerns a Dutch planter living in America, who dies suddenly and leaves no will. On his deathbed he instructs his adopted daughter to marry his nephew despite the fact that she loves his secretary. After death, however, Peter Grimm learns his nephew is an utter scoundrel and returns to find his only way to communicate with the living world is through the maid's dying son. Eventually after many exasperating experiences, including one in which he attempts to drive his secretary to make love to his daughter, Peter Grim is able to settle everything amicably and returns,

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with the maid's son, to the world of the "dead". Since Penfold's "Air Spy" session has ceased, we are without any broadcast of our imaginal anthem, the "Things to Come" March.

Films: Two fantasy serials are now appearing in suburban theatres. First of these is "Buck Rogers", who as we all know, was introduced in AMAZING several years back in "Armageddon - 2419" and "Airlords of Han". The other is "Mandrake the Magician". MGM's "Miracles for Sale" starring Robert Young is soon to be released at the Capitol Theatre. We believe this is something to do with murder and magicians, being in a way a fantasy film. "Dr Cyclops" has been completed so should be released soon in Sydney, starring Albert Dekker. "The Invisible Man Returns" is complete and features Sir Cedric Hardwicks, Vincent Price, and Nan Grey. "1, 000, 000 B.C." is also complete and stars Victor Mature, Lon Chaney Jnr, Betty Field, Carole Landis, John Hubbard, Mamo Clark, and Jacqueline Dahlia. It was directed by Hal Hoach so we expect it to be good! In "Black Friday" Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi are together again and it should prove good if it is in any way a stfilm.

Pro News: (Although this is only a rumour, it has come from reliable American quarters and can be assumed as being reasonably accurate.) ASTONISHING STORIES has proved such a tremendous success that it is to go monthly with its April issue. . Charles D. Hornig is reported to have left SCIENCE FICTION to go and take up an important post with the now quarterly publication, PLANET STORIES. . Hugo Gernsback is preparing (Cont on back page, Col 1)

ODDS & ENDS/

some new publication that whilst it is maybe not an actual sf magazine, will be of interest to fantasy followers. The American fan magazine, "Fantascience Digest", has forwarded the theory that it may be a photography magazine that caters for scientific and fantastic photographs.

FLASH!!! It has just occurred to us that perhaps Herbert C. MacKay, author of several scientific articles in U.S.A. Pros, may be the same Mr H.C. MacKay, science correspondent of the "Sunday Sun". Anyone know for sure?

THE POISON – AL COLUMN

As stated in our last issue, the mug we pick on this time is to be A. Ghutney Ghoul. We have already branded him as a hooligan of the lowest order, and it is certain that some day he will make a very grave mistake. Should this happen, he will be banished to a crematorium and have to live on cooked meat. Which will serve him right! (Apologies here, the typewriter slipped. BFC*) Perhaps they'll send him to India, where the heat turns meat bad!

Ghutney is famed the ghoul-world over for his collection of weird & horror magazines. Most of them were gained from the graves of dead weird fans, who had the thing they loved most buried with them. We know U won't believe this, but he actually bought and paid for some of them!!! He has copies of every Weird Tales ever printed, though he admits difficulty in getting Strange Stories. . . That is due to the fact that some of the weird fans are getting stingy and won't pay subs for them. Ghutney says he wouldn't try the bodies of any of the censors if they died, as they stopped the weird mags coming through. Then, of course, there is the horror mag he was going to publish – Creepy Stuff! It is guaranteed to give you a nightmare six nights out of seven. However, he will print no sex in it! Ghut is a gentleman. After the horror mag may come a weird – Queer Tales.

And after that will come peace to fans as Ghut will be ruined. The problem of the century is what does the initial 'A' stand for? We've tried everything from Arbuthnot to Awful, but nothing will fit. We made a call to Ghut himself. Please Ghut, what does the 'A' mean? Pending Ghut's refusal to comply, we'll call upon suggestions from the readers.

We intend to oblige sometime with a cartoon of A.G.G. And now onto that young 'lady' who has won a lot of fame as Australia's first active female fan – Ima Ghoul. Sister of the aforementioned A.Ghutney she is also as good at grave-robbing, twice as good at double-crossing. . .has gained considerable repute with an extinguisher. When we say 'extinguisher' we mean, of course, when she is equipped with a nice, sharp meat axe! A.G.G. values her for the assistance she renders at times.

They are now collaborating with other ghouls in a purge against the grave-diggers who pat the soil down hard after a job. To them it is dreadfully inconvenient to have to use a pick-axe on such cases. Our last word is this re two harmless souls; steer clear of 'em and be cremated!

Futurian OBSERVER: No 4, A fortnightly publication edited by Bert F. Castellari and William D. Veney. Editorial office: 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, N.S.W. This mag will continue as regularly as this up to date only if we are sent small items of news, gossip, or anything you think of interest to fans. . .

Next issue due of March 11th.

From KEITH MOXON:- You mentioned that I might be starting a magazine at this end. Well, I have the equipment, but I am sorry to say I don't think I would have the time to take charge of it. However, I would like you to put up before your next club meeting a request to establish an arm up here in Brisbane. I would be very pleased to start such a branch.