

FANTASY OBSERVER

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NEW BRITISH PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE ? : In a recent letter from C. S. Youd, British fan and editor of the FANTAST, to an Australian subscriber, reference was made to “. . .the forthcoming new British fantasy magazine. . .(The news will be out by the time this reaches. You, however will be the first Australian to know of it.)” To us the matter seems rather unusual to say the least. Owing to the war FANTASY has collapsed and TALES of WONDER considerably cut in the number of pages, yet some company is contemplating the issue of a new magazine. Could it be that Youd has become confused with the reprint editions of the U.S. Professionals soon to be released in England?

8 U.S. MAGAZINES TO BE REPRINTED IN BRITAIN : Owing to the fact that future supplies of American stf publications to England are virtually non-existent, (despite the distributor's promises that magazines will arrive eventually) British remainder men made and completed plans for special reprints of American magazines. On January 27th some of these reprints were issued. Among eight chosen titles were ASTOUNDING, SCIENCE FICTION, and UNKNOWN, the dates of them continuing roughly where the remainders left off.

The magazines will have about 96 pages and have trimmed edges, all American advertisements having been omitted. They will have the original covers, but most of the illustrations are left out and some of the short stories. The British Science Fiction Service charges 8d for the reprint editions and being published in British it is expected that they will come to Australia. Price will probably be about ninepence.

Aside from this: SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY has materialised in America!

RESTRICTIONS ON PULP IMPORTS : We notice with considerable concern the Federal Government's announcement that 50% of all imported American magazines will not be admitted into Australia. What actual magazines will fall under this ban is unstated, but when it is remembered all detectives, horror, weird, sex etc are already banned, we can draw our own conclusions. At least some stf magazines will be restricted: that is obvious. The government would not antagonise one section of the reading public by completely cutting off its supply of reading material for the benefit of another. Some westerns will go, some sport, some historic, some air, and some science fiction.

OBSERVER shall publish further details as they come to hand. All correspondence re this matter should be addressed to the editors (either one will do) and possibly we shall print some of it in our next issue.

RADIO NEWS : Broadcast every Monday and Wednesday night over radio station 2CH, at nine o'clock, is “Out of the Silence”. This play is a stf serial with a rather hackneyed plot. However it is dramatised in a way which makes it very entertaining. Unfortunately the following synopsis is not very concise as the opening episodes were unavoidably missed.

(Cont on back page)

FUTURIAN SOCIETY NEWS:

An error crept into our Futurian Society News of the fifth issue, which we would like to correct. The meeting labeled "No 7" was actually "No 6". Therefore the last meeting of the F.S.S. Was No 7, not No 8. (We hope U can follow what we mean.)

The seventh meeting of the Futurian Society of Sydney was held on 17th March, at 2.45 pm. Present at the opening were – Miss Roma Castellari, Ronald B. Levy, Neville Freedlander, Vol Molesworth, WDV & BFC. The Russell brothers arrived a quarter of an hour late, while Ralph A. Smith managed to be present for half-an-hour only owing to other business. . . Discussion was upon the best 5 stories of 1939, but owing to the unrestiveness of certain parties, had to be postponed. . . Elections were held and resulted in William Veney as Director, and Bert Castellari as Secretary. . . Ralph A. Smith announced his prospective member was away on a vacation and would not be back until next meeting. . . Eric Russell displayed 'The New Adam' just arrived. . . Ted Russell's quiz was most bothersome and provided a keen contest between the rival teams. Eric Russell's team eventually triumphed over that of the Director. Miss Roma Castellari and Ralph Smith held a serious discussion on various aspects on illustrating. . . Molesworth's proposal that a Club Library should be established was hotly debated and eventually carried by 5 to 3 votes. Levy became librarian. . . The round-robin story proved interesting despite side-tracking by certain parties. . . Meeting adjourned at 5-30 after the most stained and unsettled ever held. . . After the meeting, members broke company. Director stated that future outbursts would be stamped out. . . Secretary endorsed the statement.

RADIO NEWS (Cont) :

Story: Allan Dundas is working with another man named Martin on a station just out of town – Glencairn. With them is Dick Barry. Martin strikes something hard and metallic, uncovering what they find to be a door with five buttons on it. Martin starts to press some of the buttons and the door swings open. He, however, is injured in some way and the doctor confines him to his bed. He and Allan Dundas enter the strange door and go down a long flight of stairs which terminate at another door, which they also manage to open. Entering they find themselves in a large hall which is evidently a biological research museum. Electric lights have flashed on automatically. There is no sign of life here and at the end of the hall they find another door. This takes them into another hall which are idle machines the function of which they do not understand. Here again they find a metal door and after this continue to pass through other halls all of which are devoted to museums of the different branches of science. All was apparently created by some past civilisation.

Then when entering what is the last of the halls, the lights dim and a weird chanting music comes to their ears. Suddenly it stops and the lights brighten again. A strange sight confronts them. All around are art treasures and books amidst marvelous architectural work, while in the very centre of the hall is a glass dome, inside which they see what seems to be a statue of a very beautiful girl. Actually she is in suspended animation. The doctor finds a book showing how to revive her and also the necessary equipment. Allan has fallen in love with her. The doctor send him to his house to get his stethoscope and there he finds his fiancee marion and the doctor's wife waiting. He takes the stethoscope to the doctor who is undecided as to whether he should revive the girl and tells Allan he will return the next day. Meantime the latter has a quarrel with his fiancee.

(More on this next issue)

STOP PRESS: Statement made in the Daily Telegraph reads: "Fiction magazines from all non-sterling countries, it is believed, will be banned from importation to Australia under the new import control regulation." ("it is believed") We note the phrase and hope!

Futurian OBSERVER: Bert Castellari and William Veney edit this thing, and publish it fortnightly from 10a Sully Street, Randwick. Should anyone wish to buy a copy, they may well know that we won't take less than 2d a copy, or, if you like, 7 for 1/-. To Americans it's 5¢ or 6/25¢.