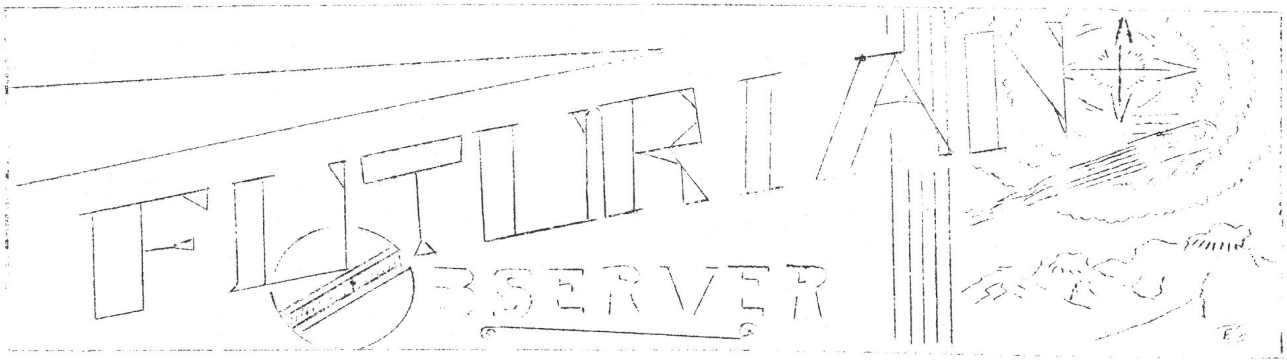

NO 14. 14th July, 1940. 2d.

POLL RESULTS: Well, here are the results of our poll. Remember what it was all about? We asked the readers of OBS to tabulate what they thought to be the best three stories of 1939. Fourteen readers rallied around and sent along sets. Excluding those already mentioned in NO 12, Tuck, Moxon, Hockley, Smith, and Roma Castellari have voted. Thanks! And here is the completed poll:

GREY LENSMAN	23	votes.
SINISTER BARRIER	15	" .
COSMIC ENGINEERS	10	" .
BLACK FLAME	7	" .
7 FEARLESS ENGINEERS	6	" .
FORTRESS OF UTOPIA	4	" .
IMPOSSIBLE WORLD	4	" .
CHILD OF POWER	3	" .

"Black Destroyer" and "Lord of Tranerica" received two votes each while the following received only one vote each:- "Cloak of Aesir", "Prisoner of Mars", "Catalyst Poison", "The Day is Done", "The Ghoul", "After World's End", and "Mr. Craddock's Amazing Experience". As was expected "Grey Lensman" streaked away to an easy victory with "Sinister Barrier" the runner up. The outcome was in doubt only at one point, when staunch UNKNOWN fans Eric Russell and Charles la Costa voted, but the steady stream of ASTOUNDING fans quickly put "Grey Lensman" back on top! Hooray! The battle for third place was extremely interesting as it was decided mainly on third votes. "Black Flame" looked a certainty but at the last minute "Cosmic Engineers" received another three votes finishing where "Black Flame" might have been. "B.F." however took fourth place with "7 Fearless Engineers" fifth and others following as above.

The bulk of the votes went to Street and Smith Publications numbering some 54 votes. This goes to show that ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN are by far the most popular magazines among active Australian fans. STARTLING was second, or rather third in popularity with AMAZING as fourth. DYNAMIC (now extinct) and MARVEL seemed to have been more popular than WONDER and others of the longer established magazines. The English magazine FANTASY even rated ("Child of Power" appeared in its third and last issue). It is also interesting to note that WONDER did not print any stories which merited mention. And by the way, the reason the popular TALES OF WONDER did not receive mention is that this magazine is all reprints. (TALES OF WONDER, incidentally, has seen its last issue for the duration!) Americans who are wondering why WEIRD TALES was not included will be consoled when we say that WEIRD has been banned from this country for some time, and as a result we would not know what was printed in it.

Many fans looking this over will think that we have treated this poll entirely too trivially. However, as the space for this in this issue amounts to very little we shall have to put what we can in another issue. Watch for more comment on this poll.

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FUTURIAN SOCIETY FOR MELBOURNE: Warwick Hockley informs us that he intends to form a Futurian Society in Melbourne. Good luck Wog! Say, dig up Marshall L. MacLennan! He's been silent for a long, long time!

ITEMS: Harry Warner Jr. and Eric F. Russell (Sydney one) bear a remote resemblance to one another. This has been shown by a comparison of the formers photo in the semi-pro STARDUST, with the map possessed by Eric. Another point of interest is both are the same height and as 'thin as a board'..

Confusing reports as to when the last shipment of American pulp magazines would be released have been made several times in the past two or three weeks. About a dozen different bookstall agents have been making these mixed reports – one said the last shipment would appear in three weeks, another said he would be receiving magazines till October. Even Gordon and Gotch Ltd., who have had a lot to do with the banning of the mags, cannot give us accurate information!..

Quote from "Science Fiction Weekly": "British fandom may be considered dead to-day, Australian fandom well on the way out. . ." What a blunder SFW had made. Unless something printed in an Australian magazine gave the Ivory Tower a mis-impression, we would like to know why SFW says this. If anything, Australian fandom is building up! The war, which is the indirect cause of the ban, has at least awakened many hitherto silent fans to the need of unity and co-operation. As a result the Futurian Society of Sydney has gained several prospective members and others already elected. Besides this fans in other states now feel the need for organisation and have been making inquiries regarding the formation of other Futurian Societies. New fan publications are being issued – some advertised two issues ago have already appeared! War or no war, ban or no ban, Australian fandom will carry on!! "Business as usual during alterations."

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FSS NOTES: The thirteenth meeting of the Futurian Society was held at 10a Sully Street, Randwick, on Sunday 30th March – ooops! 30th June with ten members and one guest in attendance. Guest was Colin Roden now an elected member. Meeting commenced at 2.45 with reading of the minutes and considerable comment from members. Director then made the statement that the club was, as far as activities are concerned, in a rut! Many points on this matter came to light but the subject was allowed to slide until later. Eric F. Russell delivered his lecturette on H.G. Wells. . .Mental telepathy tests were conducted with cards brought along by Ralph A. Smith but were spoilt owing to a rather noisy radio in a neighbouring house..

Kenneth N. Dwyer suggested that Australia should be represented at the World Science Fiction Convention in other ways than by letter or by a cable of congratulations. He suggested that a three minute record of the voices of the Futurian Society be made and forwarded to the Convention Chairman, Mark Reinsberg. This suggestion was agreed upon unanimously and the record is soon to be made!................

After refreshments K.N. Dwyer raised his objection to the club's informality. He said that a Chairman was needed to manage things when they became disorderly as the Director had many other things to carry out. Much argument and round-about talk followed and it was decided that a "policeman" was necessary to keep members orderly while others were speaking. Director would carry on his usual duties. Before a decision was finally reached Dwyer and Castellari were arguing so much on a particular point that they were shouting at one another At this Ronald B. Levy stood up and cried out, "I resign!" and walked out. He returned later and apologised for his hastiness. Meanwhile David R. Evans was elected to the duties of "policeman".

After this was settled members adjourned to see Ralph A. Smith's new model rocket go off. The rocket unfortunately was a failure, everything going up in smoke except the fuel! Meeting was officially adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Futurian OBSERVER: (14) issues from 10a Gully Street, Randwick at 2d per copy or 7 for 1/- or 20 cents. Editors – Bert F. Castellari and William D. Veney. Associate – Ronald B. Levy. Title cut this time by Bruce Sawyer. Other times by Ralph A. Smith..