

OBSERVER OBSERVED

From Donald A. Wollheim:- “The Futurian Society of Sydney is the strongest organisation in Australia. (And I hope you fellows don't break up - - trouble be damned: the name Futurians should alone bind you together - - four or five firm friends working informally under that title can warrant it.) That means in actual truth that the Futurian Society of Sydney is the strongest science fiction club in the entire Southern Hemisphere of this planet!

“The Futurian Society of New York with three editors charter members and staunch supporters, controlling directly seven pro science-fiction magazines and with a number of other pros such as writers and artists S.D. Gottesman, Hugh Raymond, Hannes Bok, etc. is now definitely the strongest science fiction club ever to exist. That is, the Futurians of New York are the strongest club in the Northern Hemisphere of this planet!

“Now New York State and Australia are almost exactly opposite each other on the face of the globe! Take a map and see. Draw a line directly from the Futurian Society of New York to the Futurian Society of Sydney and it will pass pretty nearly exactly through the centre of the Earth. And that means that the science fiction world today revolves on a Futurian axis!

“What a thought! Now will you Futurians behave!

“Regarding the FS of NY: Slight reshuffle of officers recently. They now stand: John B. Michel, Director; Leslie Perri (Mrs. Frederik Pohl), Secretary; Donald A. Wollheim, Treasurer; Cyril Kornbluth, Official Editor; and Robert W. Lowndes, Member-at-Large.”

From Frederik Pohl:- “Glad to hear you've been able to get copies of Astonishing and Super Science - - and gladder to hear your opinions of them. Have you been getting the more recent issues? I think you'll find an improvement in them, if you have - - particularly in the artwork. We had four artists represented in the February issue of Astonishing, the first issue that is - - and not one of them is working for us any more. Lasker and Dan just petered out, Eron is now illustrating for several other science fiction magazines, and Binder - - well, Binder is a fine artists, particularly on covers, but he works for a comic magazine firm, and therefore just can't be depended on to get his material in by deadline.

“Instead of those four, we're now using a bunch of brand-new, good artists - - Thorp, Mayorge, Waxler, Dun, Bok, Marxonnette, Giunta, and several others (you may know the names of the last three of them, at least, because they're science fiction fans as well as artists) - - and also Leo Morey.”

and from David R. Evans comes - - RESOLUTION.

“A successful rocket would not be bothered when encountering small pieces of flying matter when out in space because the “skin” of the ship would be highly tempered and tough causing the missiles to bounce off and leaving the good rocket ship to advance unhampered on its thrilling journey. Now, on the other hand, a “thin-skinned” vessel might arrive, with lots of luck, at its destination hopelessly buckled and battered if it encountered a few of these stray little meteorites. Of course, we all realise that the “thinskin” one is unsuitable for the job although it has good machinery inside. We all know what would happen if a small meteorite smashed the skin of the brave but puny “skinskin” rocket ship out in space. We would not like to be in it, would we? What a horrible death! And all because of that damned treacherous thin skin. The Futurian Society of Sydney is like the brave yet puny rocket ship. The Society has some good “works” within but it is hampered because of its thin skin. It cannot easily throw off tiny missiles which it encounters and it balls battered and beaten, just because it hasn't a good tough skin.

“Let us resolve, in the name of advanced science, that in the coming year, we will clothe the good machinery of the Futurian Society of Sydney with a good strong, highly tempered and gleaming skin and advance as all good rockets do. Not until then can we glory in the wealth of knowledge and happiness which is surely waiting for us at our destination. Onward! Look up, not back! Onward! Unhampered!”

- - - David R. Evans

From Colin Roden:- “You want criticism. There's nothing to criticise. Keep the columns. I've been waiting for something like that. Glad to hear Ronnie and Noel have made it up. (Or is that just propaganda?)” No, definitely NOT propaganda - - OBS.

