

# FUTURIAN OBSERVER

Number 28.

26th January. 1941

## WHAT YOU WERE MISSING

Thanks to Russ Hodgkins, we have fifteen pros on hand after a wait last a few months. A review of the magazines follows. "Fiends!" you can cry for torturing you thus! But we do not only review magazines. We also lend them. Anyone who wants to borrow any of these (in Sydney that is) just notify BFC. You will probably notice that we have not reviewed the entire fifteen – we had mentioned some of them in previous issues. Still, for the benefit of Sydneyites these are the mags: Famous Fantastic Mysteries; October, December, February; Fantastic Novels; July, September, November, January; Superscience Stories; September, November, January; Captain Future; Fall '40, Winter '41; Startling Stories; September, November, January.

### FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES:-

October issue contains; A. Merritt's "Face in the Abyss..." "Fungus Isle" by Philip M. Fisher and "Out of the Dark" by Anabel Redman. Verse by Robert W. Lowndes.

December issue contains; "The Sun-Makers" by Will McMorrow, "The Other Man's Blood" by Ray Cummings, and "The Sleep of Ages" by Stuart Martin.

February issue contains; Austin Hall's "The Spot of Life", Philip M. Fisher's "Ship of Silent Men" and Philip Richards write about Hall and Flint. Verse by Lowndes in both December and February issues. Cove on October issue by Finlay, December by Panl, and February by Finlay.

### FANTASTIC NOVELS:-

July issue of course, contains the "Blind Spot" complete. Only other story in issue is short entitled "Monsieur De Guise" by Perley Poore Sheehan. Trimmed edges.

September issue contains; Ray Cummings "People of the Golden Atom", A. Merritt's "Through the Dragon Glass", "The Middle Bedroom" by H. de Vere Stacpoole and "Spawn of Infinitude" by Edward S. Pilsworth. Paul covers.

November issue has been reviewed before so we leave that out.

January issue contains; "The Radio Beasts" by Ralph, sequel to the "Radio Man". Cover is by Finlay illustrating this yarn. Other two stories are Merritt's "People of the Pit" and John De Witt Gilbert's "the Ship That Died".

### SUPERSCIENCE STORIES:-

September issue contains; "Invisible One" by Neil R. Jones, "The Girl in the Bottle" by Jack Williamson, "Venusion Tragedy" by Max C. Sheridan, "The Radium Bugs" by Helen Weinbaum, "The Invasion" by Robert Willey, "Men on the Morning Star", "Strange Playfellows" by Isaac Asimov, "Rebirth of Man" and "Phantom From Neptune".

November issue contains; "Cepheid Planet", "The Monster on the Border", "Nova Midplane", "Asokore Power", "Dimension-Hazard", "The Horizontals", "Secret of the Crypt", "Mutiny in Hell", "The Outpost at Altark". Science Fictioneers column mentions the names of the Sydney Futurians who have become members.

January issue contains; "Collision Course", "Vacant World", "Being Like These", "Under the Sand-Seas", "Buckethead", "Water-Pirate", "The Dweller in the Ice", "Blue Boy", "Another's Eyes". Announcement to the effect that mag will be known as Superscience Novels Magazine. We like those Morey covers.

CAPTAIN FUTURE:-

Fall '40 issue was reviewed some time ago.

Winter '41 issue contains; "Captain Future and the Seven Space Stones". Cover by E.K. Bergey is on white background. Typical Hamilton yarn.

STARTLING STORIES:-

Main story in the September issue is "The World Without" by by - - ooh, an error - it's "The Kid From Mars" by Oscar J. Friend. "The World Without" is the Hall of Fame novelette by Benson Herbert. Cover by E.K. Bergey makes the Kid look like Buck Rogers... usual departments. "A Million Years To Conquer" is main story in the November issue - we've mentioned this one before. "A Yank at Valhalla" by Edmond Hamilton takes the January issue.

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From Vol Molesworth:

"At last I am able to give you the good news. Cosmos has folded up!!!! No more will Bill Veney be haunted by apparitions of Molesworth wanting articles for Cosmos. In future I want the material for Psychos. (We knew it was too good to be true. - Obs.) The reason for this is that instead of changing format again and sending fans completely mad - - I thot it best to to fold it up altogether and issue an entirely new mag. Twill be a six-pager, done all in green ink, with a three color cover by Ralph A. Smith (the illustration he did for Moxon) and Fort-knows-what else. Monthly, on the first day of each month. Will contain all letters and one essay per issue. Wog Hockley will probably be featured in No. 1 with an article on Egyptology. Besides this there'll be a special Cosmos Section, Fan Chatter, with letters from Castellari, Ron Levy (ed of ZEUS) and other well known fans. Probably will contain about 6 American fans, possibly including Ackerman & Swisher. Fan-mag reviews, etc will be included. In case this sounds suspiciously like an ad, I assure you it isn't. I've got a one track mind."

(Comment in next col.)

FUTURIAN SOCIETY TO MEET AGAIN

The Futurian Society of Sydney is to meet again! The date of the meeting is 28th January and it will be held at the home of William D. Veney, commencing at 7:30 or 7:45.

Expected present are Bert F. Castellari, Alan Gardner, Eric F. Russell, Edward H. Russell, Colin Roden, Graham Stone, Ronald B. Levy. However, Mr Charles La Coste will be unable to attend due to night work and Bruce M. Sawyer is in military camp.

It will be purely a business meeting to decide finally on such matters as the executives, rules, regulations and kindred subjects.

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Comment on the letter of Monsieur Molesworth: "So Oz is going to fold up - AGAIN! Ah, me Vol, (this is bfc typing) I recently made a bonfire of a terrific pile of letters we had received from you for Obs announcing the folding-up of Oz and the publication of a new magazine. A second fire bonfire was made out of the letters which come after those requesting us not to print your first letter... Still we'll presume that Psychos is coming out and that Cosmos is folding up.

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Futurian OBSERVER: (No. 28.) appears fortnightly from 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, NSW, edited by William D. Veney and Bert F. Castellari.

Price - 2d per single copy, 7 for 1/-. 7 for 20 cents is the lowest subscription acceptable from Americans.

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Ronald B. Levy remarks: "As regards the Sydncon:-"

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

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"William D. Veney became associate editor on Cosmos. Cosmos is folding up."

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"It is rumoured that the third issue of Zeus (official) will be the most surprising mag that has been issued in Australia.