FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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THE AWAKENING: A long time ago there was a magazine called Futurian Observer, which made claim to being Australia's most regular fan publication and undisputed leader in the race for the most number of typographical errors! Then that fag mag lost a co-editor, got another, while the other original co-editor became terribly lazy. After issue number thirty of the magazine the lazy co-editor became so lazy that he didn't do another thing for two months, which gentlemen, is the reason why Obs is so late.

After two months pleading, pushing and urging from Ron Levy, Bert Cas. had decided to issue the four or five missing mags. We shall try to keep the news at the right period in the issue it would have appeared, but you're bound to find things slightly topsy-turvy, as news is not that abundant, even with the Sydney Conference.

Let us make it clear to readers that there is only one reason for the issuance of these editions. That is to compensate those fan-eds who have been sending us mags during the past two months and to ensure a regular supply of fan mags, for although we have no further interest in publishing we have in reading the viewpoints and discussions of our American and British brethren. This is our only method of getting the mags and so. . . Do not expect regular appearances on a fortnightly basis. Rather it will appear in six-weekly-bursts. But it will show up just as it always has. At present we are in the same state as certain Yanks, who, to quote Tucker, “awaken twice a year”. If we tread on any toes it will be because we think we are justified in doing so. We don't just do it for fun! Beware they corns!

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STF ON SCREEN AND AIR: Five Ways (Paddington) and Hurstville theatres recently revived on the same programme “Things to Come” and “1,000,000 B.C.”. It seems likely that this pair may tour the suburbs together as did the horror duet, “Bride of Frankenstein” and “Dracula's Daughter”. . .If it does then we can expect reports of “I've seen 'em both a dozen times”. . .Sydney fans going to see “40,000 Horsemen” are trying their hardest to pick out David R. Evans, who acted as an extra for quite a number of scenes. The scenes they're watching for are those in which he is knocked out as an Arab, skittled as a Turk, and bowled over in other places. Wonder if they have any particular reason for it? . .A long and interesting lecture on re-incarnation was delivered by Raymond Blanche, sponsored by the Theosophical Society, over a Sydney radio-station recently. He quoted from various articles and mentioned three of J.B. Priestley's plays. . .Radio station 2GB has revived the old “Witch Tales” programme. . .The Lux Radio Theatre has turned sfnal with “The Man in Half-Moon street”, a play about a man who becomes immortal by glandular injections etc. It also featured “Outward passage”, the story of the souls who go to heaven in a ship. Halfway, two suicides have to get off and go back because they were rescued from a gas-filled room. A man heard their dog barking. . .Oh hell, that's all.

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IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY! Back to March again and with it comes the reminder that two years ago appeared the first issue of the first Australian fan magazine. Also the last issue. We refer to Science Fiction Review, which was a small-size, 16 page hektoed magazine edited by John Devern of Adelaide. With the passing of Science Fiction Review came the finish of all connection with Devern for he just didn't bother to write any more. The first issue of SFR was 99% reprint from other magazines and we believe that this was done without permission. Given a chance it might have worked out into something worthwhile, but alas, in those days there was no such thing as Australian fandom and thus little or no support for SFR. About 16/18 copies were printed in all, but the distribution of them was never traced. As far as it is known only two Sydney fans have copies – William D. Veney and Eric F. Russell. Copies, it is known, went to England and America, but just who received them is not known. An attempt to trace these was made and Harry Warner Jr. very kindly printed a notice enquiring who received copies. Nothing has yet resulted from this. Devern's magazine however was partly responsible for the awakening of Sydney fans and soon after three fans and one non-fan set about putting out Australian Fan news – Australia's first mimeod magazine. The first issue dated may eventually appeared in August – and that was its end. Since then we've seen quite a number of fanmags put out in this country, though compared to American and British publishing it does not amount to much. Some Americans state that Aussie mags are few and far between which is perfectly correct. Though in recent times there has been a flock, there will probably be a drop. But fandom out here is comparatively small and the cost of publishing often holds back what might be a really worthwhile effort. Finally, we still have to contend with wartime conditions and the jolly old ban – what?

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MORE REPRINT EDITIONS ARRIVE: More copies of reprint editions of American stf mags recently arrived in Sydney. They were the January 1940 Unknown, and the November and December 1939 Astounding STF. These are very hard to get as not many agents are selling them. Speaking of reprints, we notice that for some time an Australian company has been reprinting American comic books (minus colour). Such a pity that the science fiction market is too small for reprint of mags.

AUSTRALIAN STF POSSIBILITY: David R. Evans has made arrangements with an Australian magazine to publish six stf or fantasy tales which are not too advanced. He invites manuscripts of approximately 2,000 words. This will be a professional experiment and accepted manuscripts will be paid for at current magazine rates. Address manuscripts to DRE c/- Futurian Observer.

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We have completed arrangements with J. Michael Rosenblum for the distribution of “Futurian War Digest” with Futurian Observer (in Australia only, of course) and the distribution of Obs with FWD in England. Fans in Australia who publish mags are asked to send their copies in exchange. The result of this arrangement is more stf reading for both Britishers and Aussies. Thanks to JMR – 'twas his idea. Another notable feature of such an arrangement is that it will bring British and Aussie fans closer together – a thing which has long been needed. Before the war British and Australian fandom were only beginning to get acquainted.

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Futurian Observer: (No.31.) Fortnightly. Edited by Bert F. Castellari, 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, NSW. 7 for 1/- or 20 cents. Please address all exchanges to above address and no other! “Twill save trouble.

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