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CONTENTS

CARNELL, Creator of
NEW WORLDS 3

Let it be Natural
by Bert Campbell 7

Players of the Lens
by IAIN MACIAIN 9

BOOK REVIEWS 12

WHERE and HOW?
by Oscar Janser 14

ENIGMA by G. Whiting 16

GETTING THOSE BOOKS
PUBLISHED by J. J. Curle 21

BOOK REVIEWS 22

THE LOADED MAGAZINE 25

GENERAL CHUNTERING 28

(Cover pic by Staff Wright)

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Science Fiction
Born in Plumstead, London, in 1912, E.J. Carnell (Ted to his friends — John to the publishing world), is one of Britain's outstanding science fiction personalities of today. In fact, one might say he is THE personality, for there cannot be a fan in Britain — or for that matter in the English-speaking world — who has not at least heard of him.

Like most of his contemporaries, Mr. Carnell started on the path of science-fiction back in the days when the "BOY'S MAGAZINE" was publishing sensational serials about Venus and Mars for a juvenile public in the early '20's. Plus any books of that period. In 1936 he found his first American magazine — the Fall 1929 Wonder Stories Quarterly — and then haunted the London bookstalls for five years picking up the cheap (3d) ballast pulp mags, preferring ASH of the three then published. In 1936 he took out a direct subscription with S&F, which continued unbroken for 15 years until "foreign" subscription rates went haywire. During the war years while he was travelling the world with Combined Operations his subscription was kept paid (as gifts), by two of his close friends — Robert A. Heinlein and Forrest J. Ackerman. (Bob, by the way, is godfather to Ted's son Michael, and his daughter Leslyn was named after Bob's first wife).

Unlike most readers of those days in Britain, Carnell was enthusiastic in the active fashion. In 1936 he chose at random a number of readers' names, from the letter section of Amazing Stories, and commenced corresponding with Americans also interested in the s-f field. Amongst these was George Gordon Clark of Brooklyn, who was Member No. 1 of Garaback's Science-Fiction League. In short order, Ted was involved in writing articles for Clark's Brooklyn Reporter, a fanzine which appeared to have everything. From this beginning his columns were requested by numerous other amateur publishers ranging from Philadelphia to Los Angeles.

George Gordon Clark was instrumental in putting Carnell in touch with the HQ of the British Interplanetary Society, in Liverpool, and a close friendship grew up between him and Les Johnson, the then Treasurer. He recalls his first fan meeting as being held in the smoke-filled environs of Liverpool Street Station between himself, Les Johnson and Eric Frank Russell, with a subsequent journey to Hiford for the three of them to meet Walter Gilings. From this small beginning a major portion of British fandom and publishing has sprung.

In 1937 a small group of readers in Leeds formed a branch of the BIFL, and Carnell, Gilings, and Arthur C. Clarke, a fragile-looking youngster fresh out of college, journeyed North to attend Britain's first memorable Convention, from which evolved the Science Fiction Association, with its HQ in Leeds. Shortly after this the Liverpool HQ of the BIS thought it would be more advantageous to have the focal point of interest in London, and Carnell was one of the members who were instrumental in effecting this move, taking over editorship of the Society's Journal and Bulletin.

In 1938 the BIFL had also expanded, and decided upon a Metropolitan HQ, and Carnell then became involved in the Treasury-ship of the science fiction group. This same year he and Les Johnson launched the Science Fiction Service, a magazine trading business devoted to s-f with an office in Liverpool (subsequent to
the war he sold his interest to Mr. Johnson and directed his attention at the expanding book field.

Then, in 1939, shortly before he became married, occurred an obscure but momentous event. Britain's foremost fan magazine of those days was called NOVA TERRA, and was produced by several fans in Leicester under the guidance of Maurice K. Hanson. Owing to encroaching business ties Hanson decided to drop the magazine, but the SPA decided to take it over as their official organ. Carnell became the editor and changed the title to NEW WORLDS, an important point in his career — but at the same time an essential of even greater importance to present day readers of science fiction magazines. Devoted to short stories and controversial articles, the neatly duplicated first three issues of NEW WORLDS appeared some seven years before most fans realize! Only the advent of the war was to blame for the curtailing of both the magazine and the SPA in general.

Almost, but not quite still-born, the idea of his own magazine lay dormant in Carnell's mind throughout his trips to Algeria, South Africa, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Sicily, and Italy — but not quite. The war drove a wedge between many British fans and their beloved fiction. Carnell maintained contact with all his old friends on both sides of the Atlantic and when the early pioneers of hard-covered S-F started publishing in USA he was ready to take over British representation for them, handling Fantasy Press, Prime Press, Shasta, FPCI, and Hadley.

At the same time NEW WORLDS had not been forgotten. In January of 1946 Carnell was introduced to the directors of Pendulum Publications by Frank Edward Arnold. There had been a time back in 1940 when Ted was dickering with another publisher to put out a professional S-F magazine — but the scheme had fallen through after material for three issues had been framed. However, this experience was useful and so at the meeting with Pendulum's directors Carnell was well-armed, and the project was revived.

There were rumors of more than one S-F magazine to appear on the British market, and Carnell and Pendulum decided that their first issue should appear with as little delay as possible. No advance publicity was given at home, although a knowledge of the project could not be avoided in American S-F circles. Carnell had expected some difficulty in obtaining material, but within a fortnight he had received more than half a million words of MSS. From this quantity he had the not-too-easy task of selecting some 100,000 words for the first issue. The greater part of the material submitted, naturally, bore little resemblance to the type that Ted wanted. He had (and still has) a strong editorial policy, but in the case of the first issue of NEW WORLDS so little material conformed to his requirement that this policy he scrapped — for that issue — and selected as best he could stories that conformed to a very strained edition of his policy.

The main problem with which he was confronted was finding a suitable artist. No known British artist (in the medium) was available, and those artists approached had at best a vague — very vague — idea of the specialized approach required. Carnell considered that the cover of the first issue of the professional NEW WORLDS was the biggest handicap ever presented to a publisher; but quite fairly Ted says that this was not so much the fault of the artist but the medium in which he had to work, and production difficulties outside his control.

This first issue appeared on the British bookstalls in July of 1946, and reader reaction was negligible. Comment from die-hards of pre-war fandom, and a scattering of letters from newcomers was the sole result of Ted's hard work. However, things improved immensely, the second issue appearing in October being almost a sell-out. This was in part due to an intense sales drive launched against the wholesale and distributing trade; a section of the publishing world that does not take kindly to new periodicals. Reader reaction also picked up, and the number of letters commenting favourably, left no doubt in the mind of John Carnell that his magazine had received a warm welcome.
But then the storm clouds started to gather. A series of setbacks, involving two printers, paper shortages, power-cuts, and block making difficulties (to quote the major troubles) delayed the third issue until October of 1947. Consequently a large pro-
portion of 'reader following' had been lost. Annoyed subscribers had written irate letters to Ted, who answered all of them, in
terms varying from the humorous to the apologetic (and in a few cases, a touch of poetic licence). Such an exchange of corres-
pondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspondence, covering from correspon
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issue oversold by 3,000 copies, NEW WORLDS seemed doomed. Pendulum Publications suspended all business when the fourth issue was fin-
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A provisional scheme was worked out, and Carnell made the announcement that fandom would be invited to share in the new pub-
ing project. This announcement was made at the WHITCOM, held in London in 1948, the first of the revived British conventions, and was received with acclaim. Originally it was proposed to
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Spare-time devoted to administrative work, proportionate payment for authors, subscription drives using the existing fandom; all these and many more ideas to save pennies, to get a buying public, were used. But mainly the success of the enterprise resulted from the generosity of the Board, the members of which put in considerable hard work, without thought of payment; and to the initiative and imagination of Carnell himself — working in the evenings on editing copy, proof-reading, consulting with artists and authors; and in his lunch hours, harrassing type-setters, printers, and the hundred and one other people concerned with the production of a magazine.

Now on a bi-monthly schedule, although the date has been removed from the cover in accordance with the wishes of distributors, it appears that NEW WORLDS is here to stay. We hope so.

Of Carnell himself, having placed his 'baby' on a firm footing he is far from idle. Apart from the work — still considerable — of editing NEW WORLDS, and SCIENCE FANTASY (Nova's second string), he has for some time now acted as an author's agent, working in collaboration with Ackerman in Los Angeles for American sales, and on his own in the British field. Most of the British publishers, now interested in hard-cover SF publication, know him by reputation; he is often called in as an expert to advise. His first anthology — NO PLACE LIKE EARTH — has been published by Boardman this year. At present, he is compiling another collection, which will probably see publication early in 1953.

No known stories under his own name have ever been unearthed, except in the August 1942 ASF where he beat de Camp out of first place with an improbability Zreo story about Time Travel, but he has been accused of being a number of authors, most of whom he emphatically denies.

Although he wasn't the first s-f personality to cross the Atlantic and make contact with the American field (Eric Frank Russell made the trip in 1938), Carnell can be accused of starting the post-war "Transatlantic Trot" when he went at Guest of Honour to the 7th World SF Convention in Ohio in 1949. Since that date there has been a steady two-way traffic in personalities — the Ackermans, and de Camp's to Britain in 1951; Clarke and Harry Kay (one of the original pre-war SFA members, now a medical doctor), to the USA in this year; Walter A. Willis from Northern Ireland to the Convention in Chicago; and many other trips planned or projected in future — both in '52 and after. Carnell has certainly created quite a lot!

* NO PLACE LIKE EARTH was reviewed in O.F. 13/14.

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LET IT BE NATURAL
by BERT CAMPBELL
(Writing Science Fiction V)

Since I became an editor a while back I've been reading a
large number of s-f manuscripts from young hopefuls — and some of
them not so young at that. The thing that impressed me most about
these stories was their striking lack of naturalness. Only a very
few of the submissions rang true; the others were like plastic
flowers — inglorious travesties of something bright and beautiful.
(If you are anything of an artist you'll abhor much frozen lies).

Day after day they came in. Penned, I suppose, in hope and
high endeavour. I could tell that a lot of thought had been put
into them. A little too much thought, perhaps. Certainly they
were not penned in sincerity. The authors had been traitors to
themselves. They had lied and deceived, fawned and grovelled, at
some unseen shrine they called The Editor's Desire.

Now, I am all for supplying what the buyer wants. How else can
a writer live? But only in the matter of subject, theme or slant.
Not in the matter of style. My style is my own. Yours should be
yours. It is a priceless (to you and to me) pearl of accomplishment.
Not a thing to be bandsied about, chirvied and chipped, moulded
and mangled by editors.

The surprising thing, in my experience, is that editors don't
want to rape your style. They don't want every article and story
to be cast in the same uneasy pattern. Ask yourself; what is the
age-long cry, the song the editors sing?

FRESHNESS AND ORIGINALITY. Time and again you'll hear it. If
you go along to see them, they'll tell you the same thing. Give me
something fresh, something original!

You can't do that with subjects, themes and slants. There is
nothing new under the sun — except styles. That's how to be fresh.
That's how to be original. Not by cheating—— copying somebody
else's. Not even by consciously striving for some kind of effect.

That is the way to be unnatural. It was the fault of those
manuscripts I mentioned. You could see it in every line of
narrative, every word of dialogue. The authors had sat down at
their desks and written with three quarters of their minds on some
arbitrary rules they'd picked up somewhere or other.

Stick to the rules, by all means, when it comes to plot
construction, characterization and such things. But interpret them.
Don't just stick to them. Be like a conductor on his rostrum. He
doesn't simply wave a stick according to the time set down on the
score sheet. He interprets — and gets something of himself into
it.

My poor authors didn't get anything of themselves into their
stories. They were too busy cramming them with other people.
Unreal, shadowy people. You could see right through them,
physically and psychically. You knew just what they were going to
do, to say. No suspense, no solidity. The settings might have
come straight from guide books. Maybe they did, I wouldn't be
surprised. They were stuffy enough for it.

Here and there they would have a flash of brilliant wordage,
these authors of mine, like the sudden bursting into foliage of a
tree that's been struggling along bleak and black through a long
winter. I think they were tired at those places.

You think it's odd, I know. But it isn't. You see, they
plodded on, typing, scribbling, grinding out the stuff they thought
was WRITING. Then a weariness swept over them. The constant
jumping about of black marks on white paper got them down. They
let the rules go where all rules should go and started writing the
way they thought, the way they felt. Their writing became real.
Not good, mind you. Not necessarily, anyway. Sometimes it was crude technically, unsaleable. But only because they hadn't been at the game long enough quite. Only because they hadn't read enough and thought enough and written enough according to the dictates of their own inner feelings. But it was real and one can forgive a lot for that.

I rejected their manuscripts. Just as I've had mine rejected, all of two hundred times. I don't know whether I ought to have told them. Told them to write the way they want to write. To observe the rules of plot and character and dialogue and suspense and atmosphere, but to ignore completely the ready-made, reach-me-down styles of contemporary writing. To let their pens be fluent transmitters of their own way of looking at things, feeling about things, saying things.

Would they have understood me if I'd told them that a writer is a thinker who puts his thoughts on paper? That writing is just a vehicle for personal, individual approach to the problems, joys, places, talks and talismans that make up this great Scheme of Things?

Would they have understood, would you understand, if I told them that the inky shrine of The Editor's Desire is blasphemed, not revered, by sacrifice of individuality? That a prostituted style must walk the dark streets of oblivion until caught in the irrevocable mesh of an Editor's Profanity?

I hope you would. I hope they did. For, to my mind, it's the only road to honourable print.

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Phil Stong, editor: Twenty-Five Modern Stories of Mystery and Imagination.
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Back issues of OPERATION FANTAST available from the Editor, 1/- ea.
At the turn of the millennium the Heels challenged the Heroes to a friendly (sic.) match as part of the New Kiloyear celebrations.

They suggested the surface of Jupiter as a playing-field (to eliminate the weaklings), one of the denser asteroids for ball, and offered the Heroes choice of ends. Captain of the Heroes, the redoubtable Kinnison, chose the south pole and the two sides began to group forces a mere six months in advance. The Heroes put their really rugged types on the surface, the others in inertialless Bergenhelm-driven vessels overhead.

As our reporter was with the Heroes' side, it is not possible to describe, nor would it have been possible to describe, then or ever, in any terms intelligible to the readers' limited perceptions, the vehicles and deployments adopted by the Highest of the Heels, rich of Floor, ably seconded by Golshygth and Vrul. Suffice it to record that only the last-minute invention by Channing (of Venus Equilater-al) of a square-wave circularly polarised personal identity resolver with instantaneous atoms saved the Heroes from the utter chaos caused by the innumerable entities and images masquerading amongst them in human form. Even so, an unsuspected complication lost the Heroes the valuable services of at least two Gilbert Gosseyns. An appeal to the Umpires was unanswered.

Precisely on the microsecond, the ball materialised on the equal tor of Jupiter. Exactly one microsecond later it vanished completely. The Heroes would have been baffled at the outset but for Wor -sel of Velantia, who, with a mighty bellow of "It went that-a-way!" thundered lightly off into the methane-blizzard with the Heroes' for ward pack at his heels.

By this time Kinnison's long-range detectors had located the ball under several thousand kilometres of iron-hard ice IV just a short way south of the Red Spot. Launcelot Bigg's Excavation Group went for the ball with his disintegrators, with the Patrol holding off the attacking forces. Worsel and company, on the ground, were halted short by Couerl's force, who made short work of Peter van Hals -kirk and his boys. Already slowing down under the punishment of 16 gravities, at minus 160 degrees C their spacesuits were as brittle as glass. Their names are to be found engraved in pure uranium in the Heroes' Hall of Remembrance. Only the fact that Worsel's metam -abolism contained no phosphorus saved him. Meanwhile the patrol was barely holding its own as a horde of Harkles materialised in every vessel in the fleet and completely ruined the gunners' aim.

One Cade earned the Galactic Medal in that he was the only manin the entire fleet whose marksmanship never wavered. He continued to shoot with inhuman accuracy while sweat poured from every mm of his skin under the intolerable itch that drove several hundreds of his comrades insane. Just in time the Karres Decontamination Squad, led by Goth, teleported the Harkles on au ad into the centre of Golshygth himself. His comment is not recorded.

By this time, L. Bigg was only a few hundred kilometres into
the ice when he discovered that he had been booby-trapped. The underlayers of ice were pure deuterium oxide and his disintegrator touched off the H to He reaction; his name is to be found engraved in pure uranium in the Heroes Hall of Remembrance.

Fortunately, the Heroes' Long-Distance Removals team, G. Gosseyn, Lucky, and the Leewit had managed to get a PK hold on the ball. Unfortunately, Irth had it from the other side and they could get it no further than the surface. At this point Capt. Jocelyn, tossing off a drink, powder and all, smiled a weary and twisted smile, and snarled bitterly "What have I got to lose and how? Come on, you space-scum!" and led into a raiding party. By sheer speed and audacity he got a tractor on the ball and whipped it from the deadlock straight into the grasp of Worsel and his re-formed forward pack! Owing to some slight hitch in communications the LD Removals group were not informed of this impending manoeuvre. The Leewit and Lucky were immediately sent back to base for psychic repairs. G. Gosseyn suffered only a severe headache but he said not to remark that his side were ed to have it in for him more than the Heels did! Quick as a flash came the retort from the great Kinnison himself "Whadd'ya expect, you V.V. type?"

By this time the Worsel party were smashing their way relentlessly over the surface towards the enemy — or, sorry, opposing goal. Screen after screen of super-duper-dreadnoughts blasted their irresistible way across the ghastly surface of Jupiter; mountain ranges of flinty ice were only temporary obstacles. The ground forces dragged themselves through formaldehyde boge, and ammonia storms slashed down upon them. With fiendish ingenuity the Rich of Floor engaged them at this point, and the heat of battle catalyzed the ammonia formaldehyde mixture into a resin and stopped them dead. A young fellow named Britthouse earned himself immortality — he forced his tracked vehicle to keep moving long after all the other's had seized solid. He was eventually halted by the blowing up of his atomic motor. His name is to be found engraved in pure uranium in the Heroes Hall of Remembrance.

At this moment the Heels descended on masse. Fortunately Kinnison was prepared; at a given signal every man in the forward line was teleported into the battle-wagons overhead, and the entire fleet descended on the battlefield and wiped the area clean in a blaze of literally stellar intensity. He saved his forward line at last the ball. Duly had it half-way to the defenders' goal when the two Gosseyns, operating simultaneously, grabbed it. Backed by Worsel and the Karrses Junior Squad they hauled it back and flung it towards the Heels' citadel. Kinnison had learned his lesson, and kept his operators off the ground. Almost on their objective, the Heroes found the goal completely ringed by offsprings of the Leech. An appeal to the Umpires was unanswered.

Then began the most bitter and deadly struggle in the history of Galactic Sport. The Heroes held the ball, but could not reach the Heels' goal. The Heels held their ground but could not get the ball. The better the battle, the faster grew the Leeches. Man-ers, blasters, disintegrators, A-bombs, H-bombs, and HA-bombs; the Leeches devoured them all in voracious glee, and grew, and grew, and grew — AND CRIED! "By the great black brass-bound claws of Klono!" roared Kinnison. "We have only to keep this up to make them as big as Jupiter!". "Analysing the situation as a simple event in the space-time continuum the appropriate cerebral — as opposed to thalamic response," suggested G. Gosseyn, "is to stop fighting." Fortunately, a pink-cheeked, youngish medic by the odd name of O.D. Metmus —ah was able to stay off the apoplexy which threatened to deprive the Heroes of their leader at this moment, suggesting underlying lack of bromide, the redoubtable old warrior saw that the suggestion was
indeed a likely strategist. At his command the Heroes’ forces retired to their own side of equator and left the Heels surrounding by a solid ring of voracious and multiplying Leeches. However, Eich of Floor had not been idle; using the nega-bombs invented by the Heroes in an ear-lier encounter, he began feeding the Leeches with them. Naturally, the Leeches began to shrink.

"Feed ‘em!" roared Kinnison, "Feed the brutes!" Again the Heroes pried the beams and bombs, but the Leeches still shrank un-der the gigantic meal of nega-bombs which the Heels were pouring in-to them. Soon the Heroes began hurling in asteroids and planetoids— to this the Heels replied by feeding in negative chunks of space from inside the Coal-Sack Nebula, shipped along a sub-spatial P.K. trans-temporal tube. Roused to fury, Kinnison tossed in the smaller sat-elites of Jupiter; "I’ll strip the moons from every planet in the System!" he bellowed.

Back in Base Hospital, a weak and sickened warrior, with the seeds of death long growing in his radioactive blood-stream, clutched his communicator in translucent blue-glowing fingers and whispered a few words to the great K.K. before dying with a bitter smile drawn tight across his chalk-soft teeth. (His name has been engraved in ur-nium on the walls of the Heroes Hall of Remembrance).

"Contra-Terrane!" howled Kinnison, "Fetch up the Seeete as-teroid!" Clean into the centre of the appalling Holocaust ringing the Heels’ goal they flung it. But at the last half milli-microsecond Dxtl made a gigantic effort and twitched the ball from the grasp of the P.K. forwards and re-materialised it plumb in middle of the Heroes’ goal. Simultaneously the Seeete bomb hit the Leech and the subsequent inconceivably, unimag-inably violent concussion blasted the Heels’ entire force clear out of normal space-time, down their sub-spatial P.K. pipe-line to— where?

It has never been determined, but let it be known that, poised directly over the south pole of Jupiter the ball—strangely transformed—still remains. It is a perfectly smooth sphere of dense met-al, it hums slightly to itself, it remains rig-i-ly in its position, and neither tractor-beams, nor press-or beams, nor methane gales or ammonia storms, or any other force or power known to mankind can cause it to deviate by a fraction of an Ame-strum unit from its position. Does it contain —locked within its core— the essences of Dxtl, of CouerI, of Ggoleh-gghth, of the Rulls and the Harkles and the Eich of Floor? Do the Nine of Boskone plot to escape, within that prison?

No-one knows, but the Galaxy is strangely dull, and Kinnison, and Gosesyn, and the Leewit have been observed to look wishfully to-wards old One-Pole Jupiter, as if perhaps some some day a way might be found . . . . . .

All that remains is to record the only communication ever to be received from the Umpires before their great echoing vessel depart-ed for the Absolute Elsewhere.

It said:

"YOURS IS THE SEVAGRAM. YOU CAN KEEP IT!"

The preceeding "story" may not make sense to neo-fans, those who have not yet entered the Primary School of FANSMEN. Any fan, however, who has passed through the courses will appreciate at least part of it—even though he/she may have failed his/her tests for FIRST STAGE FANS-MAN and been relegated to a minor position. Recognition of some 50% of the references should be possible to a SECOND STAGE FANSMAN, while precognition of some 90% of the yarn should be possible to THIRDSTAGE FANSMEN, after they have read the first paragraph. Of course, FOURTH STAGE FANSMEN will already have visualised its appearance in this ish of O.F., in their Cortical Depreciation of the Cosmic Whole.
ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW edited by Kendall Foster Crossen (BODLEY HEAD, 240pp, 10/6)

THE GALAXY READER OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by H.L.Gold (GRAYSON & GRAYSON, 254pp, 9/6)

THE YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS edited by E. F. Bleiler & T.E.Dikty (G&G, 264pp, 9/6)

Now that other major publishers are taking a serious interest in science fiction the lead which Messrs Grayson & Grayson.ob-
tained by being "fastest with the mostest", in Britain, becomes a matter to be challenged. The anthology contributed by The Bodley Head to the rapidly growing number of science-fiction works available in Britain represents such a challenge, containing a selection of thirteen (there were 15 in the original edition) which give the reader a little of everything.

The first four are short items, all rather pessimistic in tone - Ward Moore's FLIGHT DUTCHMAN picturesque of man's robot-
weapons battling and after man has left the scene; Ray Bradbury, in THERE WILL COME SOFT RAIN, developing a similar-but-civilian theme; Forrest Ackerman's bitter THE MUTE QUESTION, relieved but so slightly by the sardonic humour of the last line; the faintly hopeful note of Walter Van Tilburg Clark's starkly sentimental THE FOR
-TABLE PHONOGRAPH.

A brighter note follows in the unusually uncomplicated story - AUTOMATON - which represents A.E. van Vogt, and continues in Crossen's own contribution, RESTRICTED CLIENTELE, closer to "true" science fiction than the most of his work, but still displaying that element of humour which is his saving grace. Then comes MEMORY, by Ted Sturgeon. This deals with a shortage of storage space on interplanetary transport, and is solved by "memory" - and no one can deny that memory does a pretty good job of storage.

Unrecognised martyrdom, and blind bureaucracy, are the themes of Sam Merwin's MARRIED FROM EARTH, a choice bit of dramatic space-opera. Miss Leigh Brackett casts aside swords-and-slaughter, to give us a tale of high endeavour, and a revolt which tears man from the confines of the Solar System, in RETREAT TO THE STARS.

In the lighter vein, Henry Kuttner's THE VOICE OF THE LOBSTER, with its delightful mixture of human, humanoid, and non-human characters. Perhaps a story that will be a little hard on the newcomer, who has not yet realised that British science-fiction & science-fiction, not one which is not quite too far-fetched to be a total loss. (After all, we all like to let our hair down sometimes, don't we?) The final section starts with Robert Arthur's TION'S RED, a trite tale well written, but when you discover that the two main characters are named Ayden and Ayseh...... The last story in the book pulls it back to a high level, however; Bruce Elliott's THE DEVIL WAS SICK - one of the few stories on a science fiction base which have broken the "religion" tabu - successfully. Between the last two mentioned comes TRANSFER POINT, a paradoxical tale of the last man, some of Anthony Boucher's best writing.

But although the story content of the book is good, it has two big faults. The preservation of Crossen's interminable preface is one. Some half of the references will be lost on the newer Brit-
ish reader, and I feel sure that 18 pages of fiction would be app-
reciated far more than this ponderous dissertation on the "histor-ical origins" of science fiction. And then the breakdown of the stories into sections labelled "Atomic", "Galactic", etc., "Ages". This was not too happy an idea in the original edition, and when one considers that in this version the "Galactic" section contains, in two stories, only one in which the reader is taken as far as the planet Mars, one realises how inappropriate such captions are.
THE GALAXY READER contains thirteen yarns selected from the mammoth American publication. I'll not stick my neck out and say these are the best - but they are "of the best". Richard Matheson's, simple but deceptive, THIRD FROM THE SUN; Miss Jacob's excellent man -meets-superior-culture PILOT AND THE HUSKMAN, which is one of the finest tales of its type that I can recall reading the similar but opposite REPELLENGUS BRIDGE, by William Tenn. These are three of the first four, over which I have no quibble. I am a little uncertain, regarding William Campbell Gault's MADE TO MEASURE, but at least it adds variety.

Clifford D. Simak's GOODNIGHT MR. JAMES has been retained, & lends a neat twist of its own to the collection. FIELD STUDY, Peter Phillips, overcomes the triteness of the "superman" theme, due only to Mr. Phillips' good writing. Dual-authored DARK INTERLUDE (Mack Reynolds & Fredric Brown) is short, but effectively points the fact that in our dreams of the future we are apt to overlook the facts of our not-too-pleasant present. Poul Anderson's INSIDE EARTH is one of the longer stories, concerned with a conquered world, and uses an unfamiliar idea of "Crush and Unite" as a change to "Divide and Rule" - although the basic idea of a threat to humanity causing the unification of mankind is not new, I feel that Mr. Anderson has uncovered a new side-line. John D. MacDonald is honoured by the inclusion of two stories, his SUSCEPTIBILITY, demonstrating the impossibility of successful Galactic administration of colonies, and COMMON DENOMINATOR, in which he suggests a method of making a race psychologically stable - one which I feel humans will not accept, as Mr. MacDonald in the yarn agrees.

THE BIOGRAPHY PROJECT, by Dudley Dell, is short, but the new idea is good; John Christopher's MAN OF DESTINY could have been a god to the natives, but..... How to dispose of misfits in the worldcul -ture of tomorrow is the theme of Ted Sturgeon's THE STARS ARE THE STIX.

THE YEAR'S BEST contains considerably fewer yarns than these other two books. Only four items, in fact. But assuredly four of the best ! IZZARD AND THE MEMBRANE, by Walter J. Miller, Jr. . . . AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, by Eric Frank Russell. FLIGHT TO FOREVER, by Poul Anderson; and Frank M. Robinson's THE HUNTING SEASON. Three, I note, from Astounding, and one from Super Science.

Miller's tale concerns an American cybernetician who is enforced, after suitable conditioning, to construct an electronic brain for the enemy. But the story is not the "usual" e.b. style, it very definitely is something special on those lines, on a par with that shorter item, JOHN THE REVELATOR. Over Eric Frank Russell's suggest ed culture, derived from the passive resistance and civil disobedience campaigns of Ghandi, there has already been considerable discussion; all I can say is that irrespective of one's opinion regarding the feasibility of the culture, no-one can deny that it makes a tip -top bit of imaginative writing. To anyone who wants to argue about it I now send postcards marked "MYOB"!

FLIGHT TO FOREVER had the dubious honour of appearing, more or less, in the guise of a British pocket-book. Now, I'll admit that sometimes authors do have similar ideas, but if the pb was "original", and you have read it, I'd suggest you read Anderson's version in this book, and see how the story should have been written! Oh, it is not anything "new" - it is quite possible that both Anderson and the author of the pb derived their ideas from some old and forgotten epic of past days, but, my friends, the difference! Frank M. Robinson -son can, I think, claim a new idea in his "hunt"; perhaps not with the "hunting", but in the setting and system of the hunt. The hero is outcast, sent back in time, and may be hunted and killed (legally and very definitely) by the huntsmen who also come back to the same era. Needless to say, the "past" in which this occurs is our "present", and some neat commentary on our civilisation is a by-product.

Three books, for a total of 29, containing some of the best of recent work, in a lasting format. You can't go wrong.
This arises from my letter in the '52 February LETTERZINE, and Mr. R.A. Whiting's letter in the Oct/Nov 'ZINE. A little more over the value of science fiction in advancing science.

If I understand it rightly, R.A.W. completely denies any influence science fiction can exert on scientific advancement, by erecting an impenetrable wall between "imaginary prediction", and "eventual and logical development". He completely overlooks that this imaginary prediction has repeatedly anticipated actual achievements in the scientific field, and I need quote only two examples, such as the patent application for the first submarine which was turned down on account of Jules Verne's TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, and the investigation made by the P. B. I. on Astounding's publication of a nuclear story during the war.

In my letter in the Feb-Zine I touched only one aspect of the theme, "Whither Science Fiction?", viz., the possibility of a heterodyning effect on scientific research. This time I wish to go a little further and examine what other future trends science-fiction could take, and how it may affect research in times to come. While it is true that large research teams backed by immense funds proceed in a strictly logical manner, proceeding step by step, smaller groups and individuals achieve surprising success by using plenty of imagination and applying unorthodox methods. I am speaking out of my own experience; as a chemical man who for some years obtained his results without tedious systematical work, by letting my imagination roam freely and putting "fantasies" to practical test. As an example, I invented a method to impart "wetstrength" to ordinary kraft paper when, in the beginning of the war, neither the hitherto considered correct type of paper made from rag-pulp, nor the orthodox method, were available except for "super-priority". Now let us proceed from the past and present into the future.

It cannot be denied that s-f is long past the stage when it was either completely ignored by men of science and industry, or at best regarded with contempt and ridicule as a sort of extension of the comics. It is therefore safe to anticipate that interest in s-f will encompass greater and greater circles, perhaps in a geometrical progression. Now I must be permitted to divert from this straight line of reasoning for a little while and ask myself what literary gestalt could s-f show, say in a hundred or two hundred years? Consider: there is an increasing tendency to get away from describing weird creatures, interplanetary and interstellar and even intergalactic journeys, and extra-terrestrial adventures, and the trend is now more on the socio-philosophical level. However, if you ask me to visualise a story a century or two hence, I confess I am completely up against a black wall. No way to come back to my "straight line of reasoning". It is conceivable, that a branch of s-f could be seized upon by an increasingly great number of scientists and technicians, professional or not, as a medium where they would express their daydreams and ultimate ideas. And furthermore, the value of such s-f might be gauged by the elaborateness and plausibility of such pseudo-scientific innovations.

Matters could come to such a head as to seriously interfere with patent priorities and industrial secrecy. I do not dare to extrapolate this trend any further within the boundary of this discussion, but I want to suggest to s-f writers the picture of a situation (purely fictional) where s-f is illegal, and an ambitious company is arraigned before the courts by a competitor for the phony patent of their advertising matter! Please, don't speak of mental gymnastics or say that I have put the cart before the horse; I did emphasize it is fiction. Now this little interlude shews up another aspect of our main theme. One can't simply
sitting down at one's desk and let one's "imagination roam" too "freely". This sort of imaginative speculation can only be fertile in the framework of a science-fiction story, acting as an instrument, a matrix, to weave in scientific predictions. S-f story writing is also an economical proposition and pays for the time expended at the desk (at least, this is the general belief).

I wish some mathematically trained chap would bring order into this theme. It seems to me that s-f is a first derivative of a value representing the total aspect of our civilisation. In that case, the effort to predict the very future of s-f would consequently be represented by a second derivative.

Our mathematician could assign the letters -

- \( u = \) the total content of civilisation (science, technology, etc).
- \( v = \) legitimate speculation.
- \( w = \) science fiction.
- \( t = \) time.

The total interrelation between these could be expressed by a function, \( f(u,v,w,t) \) and by differentiation, a beautiful differentiable equation could be derived containing partial differentials of first and higher orders. Whether any practical results could be achieved, depends on our sought-for mathematician.

Would anyone care to take it from there.... ?

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**FANTASY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

by Alastair Cameron, published by the Canadian Science Fiction Association, 54 Ellesmere Ave., St. Vital, Manitoba. Limited edition of 500 copies, price not marked. This system is without doubt the work of one thoroughly versed in his field. The compiler has set out to place, by the use of a system of letters and numbers, every fantasy in a category designed to present almost a complete picture of a story and its form. This is done in two ways. First, by using the numerals - 0 to 99, he classifies the broader aspects of the story's content, e.g. 79 Early Civilisations - adding a decimal place to these headings, the nature of the tale is further specified, e.g. 01.3 Psychological horror. Second, by adding six letters, he draws a "literary profile", giving information on type of plot, stress, fantasy-content. The first letter designates the story's wording; the fourth refers to quantity, c: borderline.

This is the framework on which Cameron builds his 700 odd numbers and 80 odd letters. His system facilitates classification of off-trail tales in the fantasy and weird genre, but its use for pure s-f could become cumbersome. The author's own classification of "Last and First Men" involves upwards of 60 characters, though a more typical example given, "Lost Darkness Fall", is 35.1: 86.6. dcmdbx.

Sadly missed however, are more examples of each division. How much clearer (and more interesting) it would have been to find each classification with a "prototype" or "definite" story of that category. Nevertheless, had I produced this admirable work of erudition, I should be very proud. — John D. Rolfe.

Don't quote me....

"The celebrated American airlift, however, which supplied food and fuel to Western Berlin...." Hugo Gernsback, page 28, line 2, 3-4 April, '53. I find myself very pleased to discover that I have an American unit, and that the few thousand folk we administered during that operation were all Americans. Or do I.... ? Actually that sort of blind assumption does more to harm international relationships than anything, and with the wide reproduction of yarns from US mags which now occurs, it might be well to avoid it, Hugo.
Early in the century one of mankind's oldest dreams had been brought to fulfillment. With the first successful landings on the Moon's dry and airless plains the conquest of space had begun. Later to Mars the rockets had sped in silent flight, circling and flaring in the thin clear atmosphere of the red planet. No trace or record of intelligent life had been found on its dry and dusty surface, but for a few hardy lichens a dead world—ruddy and forbidding. Hopefully men turned their eyes to Venus the Queen of planets, still an enigma with its all enveloping clouds.

Venus Satellite Station swung steadily on its appointed orbit. Separated from it by twenty thousand miles of space billowed the dazzling white upper clouds of Venus, brilliant in the glaring sunshine. Drifting with the station on its orbit appeared the black cylindrical bulk of the Automatic Survey Rocket. Flame flared from the rocket's rear propulsion tubes as it commenced to move away from the station, accelerating rapidly and silently in the cold crystalline clearness of space. Within the station's metal shell men sat; moving switches, watching meters and adjusting dials. The hum of equipment and extraction fans blending to form a steady background to their conversation.

"It will contact cloud in ten minutes," said the Astrogator. "Dead on course."

"Cameras on as soon as it clears the cloud," the Chief said. "This preliminary run ought to give us...." He broke off as the radio came abruptly to life with a steady hiss.

"Tanker four to station, contact established, will main radar watch, over."
The minutes ticked smoothly by, a deep silence reigned as each man concentrated on his instruments.

"Contact with upper cloud formations," the Astrogator's voice broke across the silence.

"Vision on."

"Roger."

All eyes focussed on the great grey projection screen at the end of the control room— it began to come to life—a picture formed—tendrils of thin white mist whipped towards them and across the screen as the rocket plunged into the top of the Venusian clouds. Gradually with the passage of time the screen darkened as the rocket plunged deeper into the cloud layers. A fleecy grey wall of cloud rushed towards them continuously, flicking sideways at the edges of the screen. Watching the screen the Chief felt a nightmarish feeling of unsupported fall that comes sometimes in sleep and a sensation that something would suddenly emerge from the rushing mist, crashing into him before he could move or shout. Reluctantly the Chief turned his eyes from the screen to glance at the radar range unit. The cloud began to thin out, individual clumps appeared whose turbulent upper surfaces rushed towards them, enveloped them, and then cleared away as the rocket rushed through into the open...
again. A swirling haze of dust between the clouds the whole pervaded by a sickly yellow twilight. The Radio Tech was busy giving a sort of wry commentary over the radio link for the benefit of the orbiting tanker crews, his voice mumbled in the background.

"The main cloud is beginning to thin out — the surface is just visible...." The Chief's eyes went back to the screen, a few stray clouds streamed past, the surface of Venus lay revealed below. A vast field lit by a murky, yellow and streaky twilight shimmering and hazy with a high, dense and turbulent cloud ceiling. In the distance a long mountain range dimly outlined against the yellow clouds; far below dust whirled and eddied.

"Level off, orbital course," the Chief said quietly in the hush. "Roger." The dim distant mountain range commenced to slide down the screen, as the rocket levelled off.

"Just as predicted," said the Engineer in a disappointed tone. "Another planet lost to science fiction," the Astrogator turned to grin at the Engineer.

"Not so fast," the Chief said quickly, "there appears to be a light over the horizon almost directly ahead of the Survey Rocket." All eyes returned to the television; a glow of light was just visible on the planet's murky horizon reflecting yelllowly from the underside of the clouds. "It may be a volcanic disturbance of some kind," the Chief said. "Possibly an active volcano, are the cameras running?"

"Yes chief." Slowly, almost imperceptibly the glow increased in size.

"Buildings," said the Radio Tech in a loud voice. "I believe you're right," the Astrogator said in an awed tone. Now coming slowly into view over the horizon were a group of dome shaped buildings, like a cluster of plastic beehives, glowing with a bright white light, which reflected from the clouds to illuminate the rugged and barren landscape around them.

"They must be immense," the Chief began, and then stopped. "What...."

A small black dot appeared in the centre of the screen, growing rapidly in size until it filled the screen - the screen changed to a blank grey.

"Radar contact broken."

"All circuits dead."

"Something ran into her."

The Chief's voice broke across the babble, "Check with Tanker Three, they should have been following her."

The Radio Tech reached for the microphone, a movement he was destined never to complete - at that instant the station and its occupants dissolved into a blinding flash of heat and light, a ball of expanding disintegrated matter.

Far away, hidden in the planet's shadow, floated Tanker Four, a deep space ship acting temporarily as a radio relay station. Through the open viewport in the control room, ained on the distant satellite, her crew of three saw with startled eyes the expanding white flower of flame that marked the station's destruction. The Skipper opened his mouth to speak, before he could do so, another white ball of fire appeared against the blackness of space on the tanker's television screen aligned on Tanker Three on the far side of Venus.

"Tanker Three," said the Radio Tech through stiff lips, staring in fascination at the screen where a cloud of white smoke was outlined in the sunlight against the dark background of space with its blazing stars.

"Let's move," the Skipper broke the stunned silence. Abruptly he
slammed the firing switch primary with the palm of his hand. "Strap in and for God's sake wake up!" he shouted at his dazed crew above the hum and click of relays. "Give me rear vision Jack." This last remark to the Radio Tech who was adjusting his 365s.

"Roger, Skipper."

A deep space ship is ugly looking in comparison with its atmospheric sister, but being fitted with Cardwell atomic drives is capable of high accelerations. The Tanker swung rapidly out of its orbit, flames streaming from the drivers, accelerating rapidly. The cloud shroud of Venus slid smoothly across the television screen, watched anxiously by the Skipper.

"I'm increasing acceleration," the Skipper shouted. "Hang on!"

A huge and heavy hand pressed them into their chairs, the hum rose in pitch and volume. What seemed ages later he switched off the main propulsion units and a deep silence descended on the control room; Venus now barely filled the visio-screen.

"The natives of Venus appear to be hostile," remarked the Eng-iner dryly, breaking the silence.

"What do you know; anyway the boys never knew what hit them," the Skipper said slowly.

"The same type of thing that hit the Survey Rocket I should say," the Radio Tech replied.

"Did you pick up anything on our radar, Jack?" the Skipper asked.

"I couldn't. It blew a fuse just before that business started, and that reminds me..." The Radio Tech opened the front panel of the set.

"That may have saved us," was the Skipper's cryptic comment. "Let's have some coffee, Jimmy," he added, addressing the Engineer, who was rummaging in the food locker.

"Night, Skipper. What are you planning to do?"

"First let's get a report drafted while the incident is still fresh in our minds, and as soon as we are within range of the communication satellite Jack can send it off. Our present course is set Earthside." The Skipper drew a message pad from the rack.

Several days later Tanker Four swung towards Earth from out of the Sun, past the Moon bright and glaring on its sunlit side, into an orbit around the planet. Through the cleared viewport Earth was visible with the curve of sunlight across the huge spherical bulk. A grey, blue, brown and green patchwork on the daylight side, extinguished with white fleecy clouds piled high towards the Northern Pole. Occasionally a bright blue flash appeared as the Sun was reflected in the heaving oceans. On the dark side twinkled the firefly lights of the big cities. The blue-white shining halo on the daylight side, which marked the limb of the Earth's atmosphere, shone off into the deep velvet blackness of outer space ablaze with many coloured points of light, like a haze of glittering diamond dust. A large bright dot against the background of stars identified Earth Satellite Six, the outmost of the satellite stations, a huge and ugly mass of metal serving as the communications centre for planetary radio.

Below, a small black dot outlined against the white clouds, the refueling station was just visible. The Skipper turned from the viewport, reflected sunlight throwing his features into relief. The electrotypist had commenced to click and purr, a message sheet pushed up jerkily from its slotted top. As the machine came to rest the Radio Tech tore the paper off and without a word handed it to the Skipper. Clearing his throat the Skipper read out it's printed message;


"So we are it," said the Engineer.

"I expected it," the Skipper replied, "we are readily available and only been out a year." To Jack, "Acknowledge this," he said, waving the message flimsy. With one hand he closed the viewport shutter.
and then pushed himself across the control room.  
"Action stations!"

Tanker Four was on it's third polar orbit around Venus, the crew - having set adrift the load of atmo fuel tanks and their accompanying radar beacon - had both retired to their rooms, leaving the Skipper to take his turn on watch. The deep silence which embraced the ship was broken by a shout from the Skipper which brought them dashing from their bunks.  
"Do you see what I see?", the skipper said in a hushed voice, as they crowded round him, clinging to the viewport handholds. Silhouetted against the glaring white cloud was a small egg-shaped object, apparently stationary.  
"A space ship!" was the Radio Tech's startled exclamation.  
"Get the camera ready," instructed the Skipper, operating the telescope controls. "I'll watch it, Jack, check for any radio emanation - are those fuel tanks cleared yet?"  
"Yes," said the Engineer, rummaging with the camera.  
"Nothing on the radio," the Radio Tech turned to watch the Skipper who was bent over the telescope, "see anything, Skipper?"  
"No details," the skipper mumbled. "How far behind are those fuel tanks?"  
"About a quarter orbit," the Engineer replied.  
"Activate their radar beacon, Jack."  
"Why, skipper?"  
"Just an idea."

"Roger. Here she goes," the Radio Tech reached out and closed the Beacon switch, a single pulse left the ship's radar; on the fuel tank cluster drifting far behind a relay closed silently, the beacon commenced to emit its steady call. Something attracted the attention of the Skipper near the strange space ship, a small black dot that appeared and vanished.  
"Near Vision, quick," he said urgently. The television screen cleared as they all swung to watch it; a black square of space with a bright haze of gleaming stars. Tenously the three men watched it; so suddenly what they all jumped an expanding globe of fire appeared on the right of the screen; there was a short silence as it died away.  
"There goes a load of atmo fuel," the Radio Tech's voice shook. "They must have those gadgets on radar transmissions."  
"What's the next move, Skipper?" The Engineer turned to face him. The Skipper did not reply for an instant but turned back to the viewport.  
"For the moment, sit tight," the skipper sounded puzzled. "They must be intelligent to build space ships, why the savage attacks? How can we communicate with them?"  
"What about a report Earthside, Skipper?" the Radio Tech said.  
"Wait until we are over the top," the Skipper said grimly. "There may be enough spread from that paraboloid to give them a fix on us."

"I think a coffee is called for," the Engineer said, floating expertly across to the food locker. A brilliant flash stabbed through the viewport, outlining the Skipper's head and filling the cabin with momentary light.  
"What the devil was that?" the Engineer said, transfixed in the act of opening the locker door. The Skipper swung around, one hand over his eyes.  
"My God," he said, trying to clear his vision. "Take a look!" Outside, against the white clouds of Venus, a huge cigar shaped ship hung, ablaze with lights from innumerable portholes.  
"It appeared suddenly," the skipper spoke in a husky voice, peering over their shoulders, "with a brilliant flash of light."  
"It must be miles long," the Engineer said in a shaky voice.  
"What..." The Radio Tech broke off as the static - which crackling from the speaker had formed an unnoticed background - died, to be
replaced by the steady hiss of a carrier; a dry metallic voice roared from the speaker in slow English...

"YOU WHO NAME YOURSELVES MEN AND ARE ON ORBIT, AROUND THIS PLANET, YOUR PRESENCE IS KNOWN. YOU HAVE NOT BEEN DESTROYED AS WERE YOUR FELLOWS, SO THAT YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR KIND AND TELL THEM THAT THEY NOW FORM PART OF THE GREAT GALACTIC CIVILISATION, WHOSE FRONTIERS ARE FOREVER EXPANDING. YOU UNFORTUNATELY STUMBLED ON OUR ADVANCED BASE BEFORE WE WERE READY. FROM THIS TIME ON YOU WILL BE COMPelled TO THE SURFACE OF YOUR PARENT PLANET. ALL YOUR SPACECRAFT WILL BE DESTROYED. IN DUE COURSE OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL ARRIVE TO COMMAND YOU. YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR PLANET NOW."

In the stunned silence that followed the Radio Tech reached for the microphone. "Go to the devil," he said. The Skipper, his face white and tense, turned from the viewport.

"Start transmitting, Jack," he said crisply. "Electrotype as much information as you can; this explains a lot of things."

"Roger." The Radio Tech's nimble fingers commenced to dance across the keyboard, the click and purr of the machine filled the cabin.

"That other ship is coming out," the Engineer said, peering into the telescope. His voice held a dazed note. "What are you going to do, Skipper?"

"The only thing we can do - rem the swine! Give the Earth a chance to prepare." The Skipper swung himself into the controlling seat. For an instant the steady click of the electrotype faltered.

"That should surmise them," the Engineer laughed shakily.

"Forward vision," the Skipper's voice cracked.

From the rear of the Tanker a humming arose, relays clacked as the Skipper eased the firing switch primary over it's arc. The television screen flickered and came to life, filled with the vast bulk of the alien starship. The Skipper felt the Engineer's breath on his neck. The warm-up lights glowed, throwing a ruddy glare onto their faces. Gently the Skipper depressed the firing secondaries, the image of the starship commenced to slide slowly across the screen.

"Now!" With a savage downward motion the Skipper slammed all switches to maximum. A screaming, whining, roaring deafened them drowning the Skipper's next words, although his lips moved. Terrific acceleration hurled them back, pinning them motionless, as fascinated they watched the image of the alien ship grow on the screen. Larger and larger. The Tanker, tiny by comparison, flames pouring from it's rear propulsion units, buried it's blunt nose in -to the side of the vast bulk and silently disintegrated. A white puff of fire appeared on the side of the starship, it grew slowly at first, and then with increasing speed, until it engulfed, swallowed the great ship, exploding soundlessly outwards. A huge ball of fire, flashing and growing, filled the heavens, a miniature nova - rivalling for an instant the sun's glare against the suddenly turbulent clouds of Venus. It continued to expand, now more slowly, growing less bright and more tenacious - stars began to gleam through.......

As the lecturer came forward to the rostrum the lighting slowly gained in intensity.

"Perhaps I should explain," the lecturer looked round the silent class. "The mental recording you have just received was built up partly from films taken by the expedition ship, whose crew witnessed the explosion, and partly from recordings of Tanker Four's transmissions. The originals, of course, you can see in the Space Service Museum. " His voice took on a new note. "The heroic actions of the three men gave Earth a reprieve. The base on Venus was captured and the equipment studied. When the next starship appeared Earth was ready, and the Empire suffered its first major defeat. As you will see in subsequent lessons the disintegration of the Galactic Empire followed swiftly, and the secret of the starships became available to all." The lecturer smiled. "That is all for today, children - class dismissed."
across the grass. A soft breeze played with the leaves at the base of a towering monument; electronic letters glowed across it's foot.

DEDICATED TO
Captain Jackson
Engineer Thoren
Radio Technician Smiley
EARTHMAN OF THE SOLAR SPACE SERVICE
"They opened the stars to all and gave the Galaxy
it's most treasured possession - FREEDOM"

GETTING THOSE BOOKS PUBLISHED

by J. J. Curle
( Editor for Grayson & Grayson, Ltd.)

Some of you heard me talk for a few minutes during the "CORON -CON" about the publishing end of Science Fiction and Ken Slater has asked me to amplify here a few sentences I used regarding the advantages of going to a literary agent.

Naturally. I can't speak for MAGAZINE editors. Prozines have to get the right stuff or go bust so they must methods of selection that work. With fanzines some appear to choose with great intelligence (fans are the most intelligent...!) while in others the selection appears to be made either with a pin or by a pinhead.

But when it comes to books a literary agent is your man. He takes 10% of what you earn so he's out to see that you earn a lot! He's in touch with the market, knowing what sort of work is wanted and where authors will get the best terms. He may know little about Science Fiction but he's going to judge you as the publishers (and 95% of readers) will - by your ability to tell a story that grips. Most budding authors know what they want to say and have something worth saying (if they haven't, no-one can help them), but very few know how to say it. A good agent can tell you where your story may need cutting and shaping, where an idea is not as new as you think, and where and how you fail to make your point clear (readers read for fun; they won't bother to continue if you make it hard work for them). Finally an agent takes the job off your hands; no more worrying and posting of tattered manuscripts, no more composing of letters to publishers, no more doubts as to who are the people to try (G. & G. are "jolly b")

I understand Ken can give you a line on some agents who handle this kind of work, so - go to it - and good luck.

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For your comparison
The second issue of the first GERNSBACK magazine & the second issue of the latest

Science-Fiction
SECON D STAGE LENS MAN: Edward E. Smith, Ph.D. (Fantasy Press, 1953. $3.00, 307 pp).

I realise my limitations. I am not capable of summarising the plot and action of this book into a few words. Nor shall I attempt so to do. Let it suffice for me to say that it picks up the tale of Civilisation's battle with Boksonia at the point where Kimball Kinnison is about to celebrate the defeat of Boksonia (the Rich, and their planet Jarnevon) by wedding Clarissa McDougall. It is at this juncture that the Arisian, Mentor, sends a mental message indicating to Lensman Kinnison that maybe the defeat of Boksonia is incomplete!

The story then wends its violently active way through sundry worlds of our Galaxy, and culminates with the defeat (what, again?) of the Boksonian empire in the Second Galaxy; with Co-ordinator KK and Redlensman Mac finally married and ready for a tough administrative position on Eloia.

Should the neophyte not be familiar with the names and places mentioned, a fifteen page summary of the preceding four books of this InterGalactic Epic is given in SECOND STAGE LENS MAN - Doctor Smith has done a very fine job indeed on this condensed and dehydrated history of Arisia and Eddora, Civilisation and Boksonia, not forgetting the Lens. This, I should have said, was impossible. But Doc Smith, like his heroes, seems quite efficient at accomplishing the inconceivable!

Of course, any true fan will know that Boksonia is not defeated, even this time, and that we have a sixth book - CHILDREN OF THE LENS - to come. Of members will know that a seventh Lensman's epic is under way, not a continuation but a parallel from the WORMY BLASTER series. The dust wrapper of this book mentions two more possibles - MADRECK OF PALAIN, and WORSEL OF VALANTIA - which must be a misprint - "VELANTIA", surely?

A number of folk don't like the Lensman yarns, for various of reasons. For one thing, all the adjectives were used up in the first two books and so the increasing powers of the weapons and defences require superlatives to express them. Having reached the "ultimate" in weapons, Doc Smith promptly produces the "ultimate" defence. Then a weapon to penetrate that, and defence against the weapon.

True, it may seem a bit stupid in words but that after all is the very nature of warfare - the "irresistible" armour of 1940 did not prevent the unconditional surrender of May 7th, 1945.

Characterisation - or lack of it - is another complaint made about the Doc's writing. This may be true. K. Kinnison is almost, if not quite, too good to be human. And the villains are incomprehensibly vile! But personally I do not think this "black & white" personification detracts from the yarn when the background is depicted in such vivid and colourful style. Edgar Rice Burroughs, in his stories, did the same thing on a smaller scale. Even allowing such faults, the book is stupendous in scope. Doctor Smith does not write for a fool, this much is certain. No moral is drawn, no object attained, no fallacy demonstrated - he writes to amuse the reader - presumably to make money. If you like plenty of action on a cosmic scale, you'll find it here. And help Doc Smith in his second & presumptive reason for writing.

Winston MYSTERY OF THE THIRD MINE: Robert W. Lowndes (201 pp)

VANDALS OF THE VOID: Jack Vance (213 pp)

ROCKET TO LUNA: Richard Marsten (211 pp)

All the above three are from the John C. Winston company; and are available at 2.00 each. The other two titles in their new five are BATTLE ON MERCURY by Erik van Lahn, and THE MYSTERIOUS PLANET by Kenneth Wright. The oldster will recall the days of the
MYSTERY OF THE THIRD MINE is a story of asteroid mining, and the frontiersmen of the future. In his introduction Doc Lowndes rather decries authors who have previously pictured "Mars in a state of civilization like that of the Middle West of 1848", and "asteroids like California in the Gold Rush days. They describe people living in 'boom towns' and working out on the 'frontier.' After this introduction I was rather interested to see how he tack- led the problem himself.

The miners, when not working on their claims in the Belt, live in "Carestown, the asteroid miner's domed city"... A pretty rugged existence, with a bit of softer living back in the city. The claims are "jumped". The Asteroid Miner's Association is an out- dly straightforward protective and co-operative group, with Mars' official backing, but has been infiltrated by crooks who are forcing honest men to the wall. But just when all appears lost, the Texas Rangers come charging up on their broncos, and the day saved for the honest miners. Substitute Mars Patrol, etc., and you have it. Seriously, despite Doc Lowndes' introductory comments, he has not managed to alter the "boom-town" and "frontier" system much.

However, he has managed to add a lot of background detail which puts the entire story into a very believable and readable form, and his "horses" are not obvious. There is quite a lot of plot, human interest, and "extrapolation" in the book, and I personally enjoyed every word of it. Recommended for all "juvenile- iles" from nine to ninety.

I can't make the same recommendation for Jack Vance's it -ern, I am afraid. It is a good juvenile, but I fear the more adult reader will be a little annoyed by the stupidity of certain of the characters, the stupidity being essential to prolong the story to book length. Space piracy is the subject, a few murders are given to add action, and there is plenty of suspense. The villain being brought to book by the nosiness of the juvenile hero. From the so very complex and absurd way in which the villain runs his gang, he doesn't deserve to last as long as he did. And I'm still puzzled, a few items did not tie-up neatly. But for the younger reader it is excellent, plenty of action, some intense drama in the best Yan- ce style, and quite a bit of misleading evidence to prevent guess- ing the villain too early in the game.

ROCKET TO LUNA concerns, naturally, the first trip to the moon. Made, equally naturally in this day and age, by a three stage rocket launched from a satellite station. Mr. Martin ack-nowledges the assistance of "Across the Space Frontier", and the advice of Arthur C. Clarke, in respect of technical matters - the early pages contain quite a few technicalities, but introduced so neatly that they are not boresome. By series of events not fully his own fault, hero Ted gets aboard in place of the fifth member of the official crew. The other members believe that he has replaced the right man by trickery, and he doesn't get a chance to tell his story, so suffers in silence. I suffered too! The situation in some respects was rather like that old cinema serial one, when you want to scream at the insufferably stupid hero "Turn round!", because the villain has spent the last ten minutes creeping up on him with a knife. Nobody thinks to ask Ted for his story, or to get radio confirmation from the base, until it is too late, and the bad type has got his yarn in first.

The pilot gets injured, and Ted has to land the shiphe does this unsuccessfully in the wrong place, partially wrecking it in the process. Suffocation, starvation and desperation all gibber at the crew. Although the now partially-recovered pilot is under- standing, and doesn't blame Ted; although two other members consider there may be something more to it than anyone; the fourth chap hates his guts! Of course it is with this man that Ted sets out on a 1,000 mile Lunar hike to fetch back rations, air, and fuel...

But a near tragedy on the trip brings about an opening of hearts, and everything ends happily with the rocket where it is supposed to be, and the crew fixed for an indefinite stay. Ted is
proved innocent. Sighs of relief from the anxious audience. But seriously, it is a finely written yarn, full of interest and excitement, but perhaps a little too full of long-drawn suspense. Proof of the excellence, perhaps, is the fact that the delay in getting young Ted out of his fix made me want to scream. If I'd not been interested I couldn't have cared less what happened to Ted.

Certainly recommended for juveniles. For adults, with reservations. I mean, if you have blood-pressure, or a weak heart or something of that nature.......

......Steve Gilroy

"THE LOADED MAGAZINE"

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION Monthly went into its new format in January of this year, No. 29, and is now the real handy pocket book size, 144 pp. The cover layout is an improvement, I think, and the backcover photo illos are quite good — screen shots thru 4s, most of them. Artwork inside as well, and although I was not impressed, it is improving. Bill Temple's IMMORTAL'S PLAYTHINGS was not of his best writing, I feel, and when I received ASFA29 I'd already read it in OW. Not that it was a reprint, in the true sense of the word, the mags must have appeared on the stands simultaneously, or very nearly so. A Bradbury yarn, WELCOME BROTHERS! is a reprint, definitely, but there are plenty of folk in UK who haven't read all of Bradbury yet. February (30) issue saw another ex-OW yarn. LADY OF FLAME by Byrne — and I'd sooner have Jon J. Deegan than S.J. Byrne, Mr. Gambell!

That was a reprint — THE NAKED GODDESS from OW '52 Oct. DANGEROUS POWER by R. M. Rhodes, short item, was a nice yarn on P.K. however, and with No 31 came a yarn I'm quite willing to forgive any or all past "wrong 'uns" for. THE ROSE, by Charles L. Harness. Now, I expect there will be little controversy over this one, but I think it was an excellent novel, introducing some newish ideas. Art versus Science is the theme; the question of necessity of a written language for a civilization, & the next evolution of mankind from his present cry —sails to a winged being, are just thrown in for good measure. NEVER BEEN KISSED by E. Everett Evans is the title given another OW reprint — LITTLELESS IGNORANCE, OW '50 Sep. There are two sequels — and for this one, Mr. Campbell, you have my full support — reprint the sequels as well. They are nice lightly treated and amusing yarns. The serial, by Syd Bounds, ends with this issue. FRONTIER LEGION, a fine yarn I'd have enjoyed if it had not spread over six months. That was a little too long! No. 32, just too hard at the time of writing, has a DWIGHT V. SWAIN yarn, another reprint and I refuse to comment! I have already — but supporting stuff is better, at a brief scanning.

Beating H.L. Gold's BEYOND to the stands, Lester del Rey has given us the first true "fantasy" magazine since the lamented Campbell UNKNOWN. It is titled, appropriately enough, FANTASY Magazine — although I've already heard there is a change of title in the 2nd (June) issue. Spine date and title page date differ — one says its March, the other February. What do I care — a real fantasy mag. The first issue is, by Robert A. Howard, and although L. Sprague de Camp has done his best to copy the master in his editing of the yarn, L. S. de C. shows thru rather more than R.A.H., I am afraid. Nevertheless, the story has the true Howard touch, and I'm all for more — find some more! But my personal selection of the best story in the issue goes to FEEDING TIME by Finn O'Donovan. It is not possible to say anything about it without giving the pointed ending away — so, just "highly recommended". Robert Sheklin gives a tale in the old UNKNOWN tradition — man and demon — but just who is which? And Steve Franee tells a tale that is strictly out of a "shaggy dog" — DRAGON FIRES — dealing with a dragon civilisation.

There are other yarns in the mag, all good, but on we must press — to ROCKET STORIES. Digest size, now familiar, and 39 cents familiar. Again, some confusion over the date — March or April — take your choice. One novel, two novelettes, and three shorts. In the lead yarn, QUEST OF QUAA by H. A. DeRosso, is drug-growing on Venus among the swamps. Apart from the peculiar properties of the Venusian drug, this could have been the simple story of a search for anyone's private hemp-patch in any old swamp — Pogo's, for instance. JACKROGUE SECOND by John 'akes is better, but is rather familiar.
THIS WORLD IS CONDEMNED by Ward Botsford has the most un-
usual and novel idea in the mag, I think, and although it is only
a short it ties in my article with Milt Lesser's THE EYES OF
WULD, a longer tale which also develops a somewhat new idea on an
old theme - Galactic conquest. Two other yarns in the mag, both are
good - but there is nothing really "outstanding" about this first-
issue, I fear. Not up to the standard of FANTASY MAG, SPACE S-F, or SPA.

Pressing the trigger again, I eject a dud cartridge. The new "slick" AMAZING STORIES.
Sorry, STORIES. The "new look" of the di-
gest mags has not been followed in here -
instead of the title on a colour band, it
is superimposed on the picture. The illu-
may, have something
to do with the yarn
MARS CONFIDENTIAL. I
don't know. I didn't
finish it. Not only
did I find it bor-
ing, but pitiful. I
quote - "we think
have X-rayed
the dizziest - and this
may amaze you - the
least planet in
the Solar System."
I can but presume I
have lost my sense
of humour, for it
was neither funny, nor science fiction, to
me. However, I'll raise my hat to Howard
Browne for the rest of the mag. A vast im-
provement on the last ten years of AS, with
PROJECT NIGHTMARE: Heinlein - PK approach
to atomic war; NO CHARGE FOR ALTERATIONS: Gold; THE WAY HOME; Ted
Sturgeon; TURNOVER POINT: Alfred Coppel (who is rapidly advancing
into the "big name" section); THE INVADERS: Leinster; THE LAST DAY
by Matheson, and finally the other "out of Place" item - Ivar
-genon's REELY LAUGH (Ivar is a house name, and to blazes, says
I, with Mr. Browne's statements otherwise). Colour work - one or
other tone superimposed on black and white for the interior art
work. 122 Pp, 35c, 4.00 or 5.00 for a 12 ish sub depending wheth-
er you live in or out of North America.

AVON SF & F READER has now had two issues, Jan & April,
and my info is that them is all. Despite "All New Stories" state-
ed on the cover they reprint ONE MAN GOD by Frank Owen, in APR 17
originally, in the Jan issue. In comparison with the other Avon's
these two are top-flight mags, "surrealist" cover art, fine selec-
tion of material of all kinds, including Arthur Clarke, Malton
Lesser, John Christopher, Charles L. Harness, and Jack Vance. I'd
not go overboard for the mag, but it is ideal for folk wanting a
variety of yarns.

I've already expressed, elsewhere, my disappointment in
SCIENCE FICTION PLUS, Gemsbeak's new mag, but a slight improve-
ment was indicated in the second and third issues. Although I'm
very pleased with the format, art work, and general appearance, it
reads to me as if I'd picked up an old 1930's (early) magazine in
error. But I hear that the July issue is rather more "pulpily" in
appearance - let us hope the contents are rather more modern, too.

Biggest new thing - literally - is the 192 page digest
size FANTASTIC UNIVERSE, SCIENCE FICTION, edited by Sam Merwin, Jr.
Fourteen yarns, and some book reviews. Clarke, Pratt, Bradbury, PR
Long, Bertram Chandler, Bradbury - quite an author line up, and
all pretty good yarns, too. 50c a copy, six for 2.50 in USA. No
art work other than the cover by Schomburg. Bi-monthly, this ish
dated June/July '53. Well worth buying, this one, even at 50c.
With a very similar title we find UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION. Digest, 35¢, only 128 pages with ten yarns, but quite readable yarns. Coloured interiors, one colour superimposed on b & w. Edited by George Bell, who has done good work by getting names, including Bloch, Sturgeon, Leinster, and Frank M. Robinson, into his first issue. I also note Nelson Bond back in there with a good all-though not unusual yarn. Best liked by me was BOW DOWN TO THEM—an anti-military-red-tape story, by Mark Clifton.

Then the next new one—VORTEX SCIENCE FICTION. Digest & 160pp, 35¢, not dated. No. 1 contains twenty stories, and has an unusual cover format—smallish central illo with a white backing, title and other data at top and bottom. The twenty yarns are by names new and old—Alfred Coppel with two yarns (one is by Darla Leppo, it says here!); L. Major Reynolds, Lester del Rey, Vance, Faen, H. Everett Evans, and Bryce Walton are among the "old". Mostly the yarns are good, a few are trite—but with twenty yarns there's a good chance of finding a good half will appeal to you. Naturally, they are all on the short side, 22 pages being the longest.

Last shot in the magazine—BEYOND FANTASY FICTION, Hal Gold's latest. Almost a misfire, Hal, I fear. FANTASY MAG scooped you—but you've done pretty well, just the same—but if you were aiming for the UNKNOWN target you didn't quite make it. Still, you probably have a target of your own, I'll reserve my judgment. Now—ella is by Ted Sturgeon (more caviare) ... And My Fear Is Great. It is 56 pages long, and is a story of "unknown" powers—mental powers, magic, call it what you will. Good, but rather slow. I thought James McConnell—All Of You—is good, but a pity that the idea—the "Spider Woman"—is getting overworked again. Still, James has given an unusual angle of sight on this—it is from the woman's viewpoint this time. Roger Dee's SPRING BIRD I did enjoy. A somewhat sentimental little piece, but no complaints. Others by Damon Knight, T. L. Sherred, Frank Robinson, Richard Matheson, and a joint work of Jerry Binsky & Joe Z. Deam. All very good, but none which are "outstanding". The "surrealist" mix-up of a cover I frankly—I'm no art-appreciator, tho'—did NOT like. Maybe it means some or other thing to some or other body, but not to me. Let us have, oh please, art work that illustrates things—as-they-are, and not this "abstract" stuff.

A glance at the older mags—Famous Fantastic Mysteries, I regret to say, is defunct. Last issue June '52. Startling goes back to bi-monthly, and PFM to quarterly. 3PF and Space S-F have also changed back to bi-monthly after a very short career as monthlies. FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION folded, we hear, after its second issue. Not lamented by me. NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION, the British editition—we are told an American NEBULA will appear, no connection between them—showed a vast improvement in its third issue, which features shorter yarns and more of 'em. There are three or four—perhaps more—worthwhile yarns in current serials, I'll list the ones I recommend below. Startling has produced another of the much debated stories of Farmer, noted below as recommended. Not quite as good as the first, THE LOVERS, in my opinion, but still very good. And that is all the space I've got.... sorry!

RECOMMENDED: Mission of Gravity—Hal Clement—4 part from TANGLE HOLD; F. L. Wallace—GSF Jun '53
FIRST LADY; J. T. M'Intosh—ditto.
LIBERATION OF EARTH; William Tenn—Future '53 May.


POLICE YOUR PLANET; Erik van Linth, Science Fiction Adventures '53 Mar (Ap-1s)
"GENERAL CHUNTERING"

The two "illustrative" items printed lower on this page are typical of our modern division between the ridiculous & the tragic...."space money"......and how to deal with the atomic bomb......no other comment to make......In this issue appears a review of J.T.M. Intosh's first novel......his second, BORN LEADER, will be out from Doubleday in November......Regal Books Ltd., 52 Victoria St., Manchester, 3, are supposed to be issuing two of S. Fowler Wright's novels in cheap editions about now......titles THE SCREAMING LAKE and CAPTAIN SPARROW......I wrote 'em for details, but had no reply......Wright sent a manuscript to an American publisher who has someone called Bradbury as a reader......said Bradbury turned the book down on some ground that it was "communistic"......have read the ms myself since and can only consider that Bradbury must also believe that British traffic lights are one third Communist......and what he must consider goes on behind a "red light district" is worth finding out......Hie Oesterbaan, Dutch editor of PLANET, mentioned the mistranslation & general nonsense attached to the edition of Clarke's SANDS OF MARS, published in Holland......from a letter of his I gather these included such things as "rocket" coming out as "jet aircraft", & novel ideas like "interplanetary air traffic", "exploding rockets", & "hyperbolic gliding movement"......EXPLORATION OF SPACE, translated by an engineer, is a far better item......other Dutch reprints include FEARLESS IN THE SKY, THE BIG EYE, THE DAY OF THE TRIPWIRE, and the MAN WILL CONQUER SPACE soon Collier's symposium......the John Wyndham book did not sell well, possibly because it had already been serialised in a large-circulation Dutch weekly......Ian T. Maasuley is now in Ohio, and ASPO is published (from the third issue) by Carson F. Jacks, 713 Coven -try Road, DECATER, Georgia......I'm not sure who is responsible now for the printed edition of Moskowitz's THE IMMORTAL STORM, but I guess Mr. Jacks can give you the dope......it will be 3.95 prepublication, and 5.00 postpub......and plans were set to have it re-written up to date......Ian mentions in a recent letter possible revival of COSMAG......Henry Barwell seems to have gotten out of fandom completely......and I'm wondering......just what has happened to the USA still-born O.F. library......Ian mentions magazine holdings......but what about the books?....
...top of the page is as good a place as any to draw your attention to the announcement at the foot...and this means you. By reason of sundry factors I shan't go into here I can no longer...I haven't been able to for some time, let alone "longer"
...give O.F. support by digging into my pocket...hence the hoisting sub rates up to 7/6, or 1.00, for four issues plus the HANDBOOK plus all the usual bits of paper that I send out...there is no compulsory to this, but I'd like to know how many of you are willing & able to afford those rates, and to make it easy for you I'm sending reply cards with this issue so that you can mail 'em back to me...then I'll be able to see whether it is worthwhile to continue a printed O.F. or to drop back to a mimeo-ed or duplicat-ed effort!...sad news, that, pals...but it all depends on how many cards I get back whether O.F. continues as now, or not...so if you want to see it continue...mail me the card filled up!...on to other things...Allen Newton informs me that juvenile sf is now being printed in Hebrew, in Israel...and that there is an sf club there...also that the first all-nerdro club, THE AFFRITION CLUB, has been formed in Lagos...mainly students drawn from the Trade Centre School there, and the club is sponsored by the Inter-national S-F Correspondence Club...next turner novel to come THE TIME CHEATERS...due now from Rinehart...from Bill Rubble, of the NORTH SHORE FUTURIAN SOCIETY, (Box 2725, 24 Spencer Road, KILLARA, NSW, Australia) comes word that the NSWFS is open to fans in other parts of the world although mainly for down-under folk...if you want to keep in touch with Aussie developments three USA pro mag, or one hard-covered book, will get you a years membership...they issue a monthly news-sheet, and a fammag TERRIFIC is on the way...half-freelace, 24-32 pages...swaps for similar fanzines, or or for USA prozine, one for one...President of the club is W. A. Brown, 24 Spencer Road, KILLARA...he probably has more room in No. 24 than Bill has in his box, so maybe you'd better send the mags, etc., to him...you can also get membership for 5/- sterlign...the death of James A. Williams, book dealer, rare-book appraiser, and senior partner in PRIME PRESS, came as a shock to the fans in general, and to the Ist World S-F Con Committee in particular...Mr. Williams had been in poor health for some time, but had never let this interfere with either his professional or his fan activity...he died on March 22nd, after a short serious attack of an intestinal illness...and he will be missed...his place as Convention Chairman has been taken by Milton A. Rothman, well known to fans and pros both under that name and as "Lee Gregory"...just sent to the publisher is L Sprague de Camp's ms for a "SCIENCE-FICTION HANDBOOK" - The Writing Of Imaginative Fiction...some 95,000 words...due out maybe in August...recently released was

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THE CONTINENT MAKERS, and this will be followed by THE TITANIAN RING...both from Twayne, whom de Camp hopes will publish all of his "Viagens" stories...also out is TALES FROM GAUGAN'S BAR, in which he and Fletchert Pratt combine in that delightful style made so familiar in the "Incomplete Enchanter" tales...which are being continued in FANTASY MAGAZINE... I...checking back, I find that the "second" Camp book may have the title "ROCKET'S ROBOT"...ROMANCE...there seems to be some uncertainty in my sources of in-formation...or else de Camp is being unusually prolific...STAR SCIENCE FICTION from Ballantine Books (pb at $5.95, hardcovers $1.50 - both issued same time) is first of series... Ballantine are re-ported to be paying 9% a word for material for the STAR series, and up to $3,000 for books...money, money, money...GSF Novels 15 is THREE GO BACK...Mitchell...124pp...and Bob Silverberg estimates - "its been cut even deeper than the severely abridged 1943 FFP var-sion"...as Mines mags will probably drop back 128 pages with the October issues...SF+ did not appear in July...the issue Ballantine June is dated August...Dell pb's have just issued 2nd editions of SFL, van Vogt, and FIRST HE DIED (Time and Again, from GSF), by Simak....and BALLANTINE are out with Gravy Planet from GSF, under the title "THE SPACE MERCHANTS"...they'll follow up with an ex- panded magazine yarn from Fletcher Platt, and on the stocks there are Arthur C. Clarke and Ray Bradbury collections......WEIRD TALES fol-lows the trend and goes 35c and digest with September....Don Wollheim, late of Avon and now with Ace, is editing a series of s-f books to come out back-to-back, a collaboration between the big battling publishers, reports to be a WORLD OF NULL A and THE SHADOW MEN, both by vV....second issue of PORTSMINDER, 5/- Australian fanazine edited by Douglas Nicholson, has now reached me...46 pages approximately 8 and a half by 6 and a half inches...yarns by F.B.Eryning, Royce Williams and Doug Nicholson, continuation of Vol Molesworth's ser-ial yarn, and an article by Norma Williams...semi-stiff binding, small photolith print...a fine

WANTED by T. G. L. Cockcroft
3, Stilline-street, Welling
Lower Hurt, New Zealand
Strange Tales 1931 November.
1932 January and March.
Weird Tales 1928 February.
1929 January. 1932 January.
1934 January and August.
1935 December. 1937 June.
1939 September and October.
Strange Stories
1939 October and December.
1940 February, April, June, and October. 1941 February.
Science and Invention
1927 December.
1928 April, May and July.
AMAZING STORY ANNUAL

South End, PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, comes a request for Amaz-ing Stories, "47 Feb. Jun. Jul...Alfred Gregory, on who's behalf we printed a plea for material for THE H.G.WELLS' CLUB some time back, tells me he is still receiving items from people, the latest from New Zealand, and would like to have express his highest appreciation for everyone's kindness - he has done his best to ask something for everyone, but in case he missed you...you know that your sending was appreciated...FWM '53 features THROUGH THE BLACKBOARD by Joel Townsley Rogers, and PI IN THE SKY by Frederic Brown...and an editorial on the debunking of Chlorophyll that is
very good reading....H.G. Robertson, 15a Westwood Road, South end, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, needs Amazing Stories '47 Feb. & Jul. to complete his collection of that mag....Brenda Houston, 52, Whippendell Rd, Harrow, Middlesex, asks for FANTAST, ZENTHE, GARMINT, and SATELLITE, to swap or sell, due in July in British edition of BEYOND HUMAN KEN, edited by Judith Merrill, 236 pp, 15, years, at 9/6 from Grayson & Grayson, and following that they have the third series of BEST IN SCIENCE FICTION - TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY, the collected yarns of John Christopher, two volumes to be drawn from Groff Conklin's OMNIBUS OF SF, and two to come from John W. Campbell's ASTOUNDING SF ANTHOLOGY....these last four are as yet untitled....from John Lane The Bodley Head you can get THE CRUCIBLE OF POWER, containing the title yarn by Jack Williamson, BUT WITHOUT HORNS by Norrell Page, and CRISIS IN UTOPIA by Norman L. Knight, 3 from the FIVE BEST, in 246 pages, at 8/6, due in September....also in September will come MEN OF TIME AND SPACE, 224pp, 8/6, a selection by Ted Dikty and Everett F. Bleiler....and then in October will come IMAGINATION UNLIMITED (Bleiler and Dikty - who else?) 192pp, 8/6....now available should be a new fanzine from Henry Robertson, 19 Victoria Road, Elgin, Moray, Scotland, an item devoted mainly to fiction...bl-monthly...3/6...24pp 8"x5"....on the subject of fandom, a message from Mr. E. B. RACHAMALILLA (No.1 dated April) at 2/- a copy with "Random Notes on FP Lovecraft" by Tom Cockey, Reflections of a Masroman, by Ter -zy Jeeves, and sundry other stuff....also from down under comes a new newsletter, ETHRELITE, edited by I.J. Crozier, mainly about Australian doings, but just the thing to keep you in the picture......but for general news for down-under let me recommend Graham Stone's SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, photolith in a 6½ x 9½ format, very well produced and very readable....biggest things from downunder, running very close in size and worth, are PERHAPS (I've not yet seen a copy of the first issue but read 2nd by air mail !) with a photolith cover and mimeo-ed innards, 42 pages of quite excellent articles and yarns, and the second issue of FORBIDDEN, 45 photolithographed pages - top note in that is a yarn by editor Doug Nicholson title Young Man of Middle World....prices of these are 2/- and 5/- respectively...reviews will appear in THE PAN PRESS No. 2....but I will try and fix subs for anyone who wants....In UK PNR finally is out....SPACE TIMES and SPACE DIVERSIONS keep coming on their quite standard...first issue of CAMBER appeared with XXXVI pages (that is: Fred Robinson's idea of numbering, not mine - it means 36) and the best bits of the issue are Bill Price's drawings for the covers...tho the rest is pretty good....FLYING SAUCER NEWS at 6d a copy is a mimeo-ed item to reach me from Richard Hughes, 42 Rothbury Rd, Hove 3, Sussex, and is the off of the Flying Saucer Club....worth it if you are interested in PS....biggest and bestest item from the U S A is THE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE FICTION, fourth and final issue with 60 pages at 50¢...long article by some verbous gazzer called Capt. K.F. Slater about British Pocket Books, rather cut out of date, the '52 magazine index compiled by Ed Wood, articles by Robert Bloch, Wood and sundry other folks....no fiction !....then there is FANTASTIC - WORDS, at 10d a copy, 30pp, fiction, articles - including a length -y one by Farmer about LOVERS, etc - subs to that can be obtained thru me, 7/- for 4, by the by...and then DESTINY, a very effort by Malcolm Willits and Karl Kemp...sub rate 50.00 for 5, lime, 32pp, articles, fiction, etc.....there are a few thousand more fanzines I have received, but those are perhaps the "best" at least in appearance - I'll cover more of 'em in PAN PRESS 2....I was rather of the opinion that Bernard Wolfe's book LIMBO (Random House, 3.50, & 438pp) would have caused more controversy than it has....for a tome with such a wealth of debatable matter it has received surprisingly little comment from fandom....but let us see what happens in the British fanworld when the Secker & Warburg edition appears - by the by - slight change in title - LIMBO '90 - at 15/-, 438pp, due out on July 23rd....well worth reading....review in next O.F., folks...for it appears to me that I have come to the end of this issue....and so adios for now.....
STOWAWAY TO MARS
BY JOHN BEYNON

NOVA SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS NO. 1

NEW WORLDS
SCIENCE FICTION

5½ x 7½"
approx.
128 pp,
at 1/6

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