# FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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### DID JOHN DEVERN PULL A FAST ONE ?

Prominent among the names of contributors to John Devern's SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW was that of Mark Reinsberg. His contribution was the "New Amazing Stories." It seems that Reinsberg recently paid a visit to Harry Warner Jnr. and learnt for the first time of the existence of S.F.R. and of his article in it!

It is very likely that Devern wrote the article himself and tagged Reinsberg's handle to it! Putting a well-known fan's name on something he didn't write is a quaint American custom. Then again it must be remembered that the article gave many details that would be unobtainable to Aussie fans, for instance: how Farley visited Davis and suggested Palmer as editor and the detail on the cover and artists. We would willingly print the solution to the problem if someone can supply it. . .Devern won't, as he ceased corresponding some months back. And now he's in the Army.

Last word: Just happened to notice that that article was listed as by M. Reinberg. Note the omission of "s."

# ODDS & ENDS

Flash! "Expedition to Pluto" by Fletcher Pratt and Lawrence Manning is one of the stories in the Winter '40 issue of PLANET STORIES. . .THRILLING COMICS will feature yet another stf. comic strip -"Ace Jordan and his Rocket Ship." Ace Jordan sounds very like Flash Gordon. . . Notice all these new tough-gy strips? First was "Superman" by Seigel and Shuster. Then some bright individual thought of publishing WONDER COMICS (now WONDER WORLD COMICS) and not to be outdone, included the worst of the lot - "Wonderman," "Ultraman," "Marvelman," & "Amazing-man," (printed in AMAZING-MAN COMICS, which sounds very like AMAZING MYSTERY FUNNIES) followed. .Then several days ago someone mentioned MARVEL COMICS. Amazing, Thrilling, Wonder, Marvel. . . what next?. . . WORLD'S NEWS recently printed a short stf. yarn "tramps of Mars" by Frederick

The rest of this paragraph is no longer legible: Kim Huett

13th is the date for those who want to get a copy. . .TRUTH printed H.G. Wells' "The Terrible Bird," a few weeks ago. . .Listed in Dymocks catalogue is SIXTY DAYS TO LIVE, Dennis Wheatley, selling at 9/6. This book is the old, old tale of the comet of unprecedented dimensions, of the death-dealing properties which will strike the Earth within the next sixty days. Beautiful Lavinia Stapleton returns home on a visit, and her astronomer-uncle passes the bad news on to her. Her elders, feeling she should cram as much experience as possible into her abbreviated span, urge marriage. She complied. Much description of tempest, fire, and flood (to say nothing of a lapse of virtue on the part of the heroine) due to the approach of the baleful heavenly body. . . If you're interested in the occult and yogi mysteries, try SLEEPING THROUGH SPACE by Dr. Alexander Cannon, selling at Dymocks for 8/6. . . Before long, "Flash Gordon Conquers The Universe" (whatta man) should appear. . .What in hell did Sam Moskowitz mean in his article "Come The Dawn" in the first issue of STUNNING SCIENTIFAN, when he stated 'also Australian news Item'. Some one please help!

Radio: A surprise play appeared on commercial station 2UE, on the 31st of December. The well known actor-producer, Ellis Price, presented an interesting fantasy concerning an English businessman who captured one of the imps of fate. In return for its freedom, the imp allows his captor one request, which will become reality. . .the businessman asked for the complete files of the London TIMES for the year to come. How his joy at finding the Stock Exchange reports turns to utter depths of hopeless despair at finding his own name in the death-column of the following is excellently portrayed by Ellis. Price in one of the best pieces of realistic acting it has been my pleasure to hear. We scientifans know the plot well, but the way Price brought out that fellow's mental complexity

The rest of this paragraph is no longer legible: Kim Huett

#### ODDS & ENDS (continued)

play. Call the Martian the 'Christmas Spirit' or something and all interest to fans cease. . .Whatcha think? THE WORLD OF DOOM has finally ceased. . .but, ye lovers of the march, "Things To Come" needn't worry. Penfolds have adopted our (imagi-) national anthem for their theme on 'Air Spy'. SUNDAY SUN supplement recently printed an article on 'Sydney of the Future' and may print the comic strip, 'Superman', soon. . .

#### **INTIMATE JOTTINGS**

## A Castellari-Vomoswoth Item

Eric F. Russell reveals that he has not yet seen "Things To Come" though it has been revived several times. . . He forsook his last chance to go and review the last part of the "Flash Gordon" serial. . .Vol Molesworth has sold up all his 'new' AMAZINGS in disgust. . . Neville Freedlander reveals himself to be an unusual authority on Atlantis and other sunken continents. . . Bill Veney is writing a series of stories based on the immensity of "Power things. Some possible titles are: Inexhaustible", "Man Indestructible", "Fire Unquenchable", "Mass Imponderable", and "Size Immeasurable". Already "Time written is Immemorial" which Eric F. Russell is printing in ULTRA. . .Keith Moxon is contemplating filming an amateur stf play soon. . . Vol Molesworth informs us that his "Futurian Library" will not be issued for a while yet. VM & BFC

Futurian OBSERVER (No 3): Editorial address: 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, Australia. Editors: William D. Veney and Bert F. Castellari. . . . . . . . SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2d per copy, seven at 1/-, American rates: 3¢ per copy or 6 for 25¢. Send for our details for trade offers. Contributions: Any news of interest to stfans.

#### SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN FAN PUBLICATIONS!

LUNA:- With its fourth issue this excellent mag changes to its regular size and format. Cover by Veney, and material by Warner, Castellari &c. 8 copies will have thick blue covers. 6d per copy from Vol Molesworth, 11 Northumberland St, Clovelly.

ULTRA:- 14 pages of fact, fiction, & fun for the small cost of 6d or 10¢. Bimonthly from Eric F. Russell, at 274 Edgecliffe Road, Woollahra.

## AROUND AUSTRALIA

#### with the Rambler

Hobart: Donald H. Tuck, our Tasmanian correspondent, reports he is endeavouring to contact readers in his neighbourhood with a view to forming a club. His young brother (aged 13) has a slight interest, but cannot be counted as important. . .He will next try to contact fans through his bookstall dealer. Best of luck from Sydney Don, be sure and send us further details of your activities.

Brisbane: Keith Moxon, Queensland's most active fan at the moment, reports he has the use of a mimeograph. May we expect a fan magazine from Brisbane? Keith is taking an increasing interest in stf; so don't be surprised at what action he may take.

<u>Melbourne</u>: Alarm rose in Sydney circles recently when Marshall L. MacLennan failed to reply to letters. Fears felt for his support to Australian fandom were wiped out when Charles La Coster was favoured with a letter from Marshall.

Adelaide: Jack Radford informs us that Frank Maggs is the latest addition to the South Australian group. We hope Jack and Frank can repair damage done by Devern, Johnson, and Edwards in dropping out of fandom. Here's hoping for a change for the better takes place soon.

Sydney: At the fifth meeting of the Futurian Society of Sydney were present Eric Russell, Edward Russell, Ronald Levy, William Veney, Vol Molesworth, and Bert Castellari. Newly elected unanimously to membership was Neville Freedlander, which makes our total membership nine. Most of the meeting was passed with stf quizzes after club business was settled. Interesting discussions on Atlantis and other lost continents followed. Members please note: next meeting will be on Sunday Feb 25th. Unfortunately Ralph A. Smith was not present due to the fact that Secretary Russell neglected to let him know about it.

From VOMOSWOTH:- Your comments on the "great" Molesworth made me laugh. I do not object or deny in the slightest, except perhaps to say I have no intentions of feuding Bill Veney, or at least, not just now!

Don't miss our next issue!