

Telepath—No. 1

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Number One

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Editor and Publisher:

A. W. Haddon,

4 Douglas St., Waterloo,

N.S.W., Australia.

Price. One Shilling or 20 Cents.

EDITORIAL

Like a Phoenix from the ashes, Sydney fandom has once more risen from the depths of inactivity.

For many months past only four fans have been active. To these four the revival may be credited.

G.B.Stone; for his work with Courier and the Australian Science Fiction Society.

N.Solnsteff; for his activity as Editor of the first printed fanzine in Australia.

W.D.Veney; for his organization of the 4th Sydney Conference, and his later work on the Futurian Society of Sydney Revival Committee.

V.Molesworth; for excellent Futurian Press publications that have shown fans what can be done with a little skill and patience. He has also established an overseas market for those who are capable of using it.

Fandom owes fans like these a debt that can be partly repaid by our wholehearted support of all Futurian activities.

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F.S.S. NEWS

At the 162nd meeting of the Futurian Society of Sydney, member P.Glick was appointed Public Relations Officer.

THRILLS INC.

In a special interview with the editor of the Australian science-fiction magazine, Thrills Inc. Vol Molesworth was told the publishers were fully conscious of the shortcomings of the magazine; they had been faced with a number of very difficult problems to overcome, and hoped in the long run to produce a science-fiction magazine which would make an individual contribution to the field.

The editor, Mr. Alister Innes, cleared up a number of points which fans both in Australia and abroad had been debating. He said that when Thrills began publication more than eighteen months ago, it had attempted to introduce an untried form of fiction on an unknown market. It began with a sale of 2,000 copies which it has now built up to 8,000 odd per month.

"When Thrills began we had no science fiction writers," Mr. Innes said, "We had only a team of western and detective writers, and so we had to create a formula. Not necessarily a good one, but at least a functional one, for the writing of science-fiction. This formula — the child of necessity — was to take any story and put it forward 2,000 years, adapting plot and environment as the author went along. An example of this was "Jet-wheel Jockey" which was an adaptation of the film, "The Champion".

"Combined with this problem of getting western authors to write science-fiction were material problems of printing and circulation, which

for some months were really critical.

"We were also, in the early issues, hoodwinked by certain unscrupulous writers who plagiarised American science-fiction stories without our knowledge and certainly without our approval. As soon as this was pointed out by our readers, we sacked those writers.

"Our present policy is to give an author a title and an illustration and get him to write a story around them. This may not produce fiction of the level of *Astounding*, but at least it ensures an original story, as it is extremely hard to plagiarise a U.S. story to fit a new illustration.

"As Gernsback found out, we have also had to educate our readers as we went along, and although we have been far less scientific than our American cousins, this has been for the very good reason that the general reading public in Australia is far less advanced, in the field of science-fiction, than is the U.S. reading public. There may be a small group of regular readers who want higher quality Stf, but the bulk of our readers must be educated to science-fiction in slow and small doses.

"But we feel that if we plug at it hard enough and long enough we may produce something of a demand for better quality science-fiction, and may in the process produce a distinctively Australian brand of Stf."

Mr. Innes said his company had agreements with Pembleton's, England, and with certain U.S. publishers, under which an exchange of copyrights was obtained. He could obtain stories by U.S. stf writers easily enough, but preferred to use Australian writers and wait patiently for them to adapt themselves to what is to them a new and novel field.

"We have a long way to go," he added, "but we are trying to get there honestly."

(Pembleton's publishes the British edition of Thrills Inc., but under the title of Amazing Science Stories. Two issues have so far been published.)

Vol Molesworth. Fantasy Times.

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PLAGIARISM

You have seen Mr. Innes refer to the publication of plagiarised stories in the early issues of Thrills. While there are many stories in those issues whose originality is open to debate, some are straight steals. Two such stories are quoted below:

Thrills No. 6 — "Spaceways Checkmate" by D.K. Garton. Startling.

Thrills No. 8 — "S.O.S in Time" by Durham Keys. Amazing.

(Editor)

**THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN
SCIENCE-FICTION
CONVENTION**

The First Australian Science-Fiction Convention is to be a sincere and serious adult endeavour.

Principally to give our scattered fans a chance to get together and air their views, it is also our first chance to present a mature Australian fandom to overseas fans.

Sponsored by the F.S.S., the Convention Committee can still use your aid. Will you help?

Contact the Secretary now for full details.

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Convention Committee

Veney:	Chairman, Caterer.
Stone:	Secretary.
Solntseff:	Treasurer, Convention Editor.
Smith:	Controller of Exhibits.
Banning:	Films.
Haddon:	Auctioneer.
Glick, Haddon,	Publicity.
Smith, Stone:	

CONVENTION

The temporary Convention Agenda, now before the F.S.S. for approval;

10.00—12.30:	Opening of Convention. Informal gathering.
11.30—12.30:	Auction. (small hall)
14.00—17.00:	General Session. Large hall open for inspection.
18.00—19.30:	Formal Dinner. Guest Speaker.
20.00—22.30:	Films.
23.00:	Conclusion.

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IF
you are a fan, the
CONVENTION
is your affair!
why don't YOU help?

BOOK AGENCY

A number of American science-fiction novels (British reprints) have come onto the market here in Sydney.

Reaction to them has been very favourable, in fact one buyer said "I was amazed at the demand for this type of literature." I was also told that in view of this demand, new titles would be imported as soon as they became available.

As few of the known fans had been able to secure copies of the first release, I felt the need for co-operation between the company and fandom. With this in mind, I presented my idea to the company; they notify me immediately they receive a shipment, they withhold it from general sale for a limited period. This is now waiting for the Manager's approval. This would allow me to notify fans and allow them to place their order with the company before the books are on general sale.

The Book Agency is an F.S.S service and the fee is 6d. per letter. Address all correspondence to me.

A.W.Haddon.

TO THE MOON IN '52?

Robert Heinlein has often been asked when he thinks interplanetary travel will start. He has an engineer's reluctance to make prophecies that might sound wild-haired. So you may be surprised to hear that his considered opinion is: in five years. That is with unmanned rockets; with manned rockets ten years.

"We can achieve space flight very shortly," he said, "if anyone cares to foot the bill, for there are no basic scientific problems intervening. The problem is not primarily an engineering problem, but a political, financial, social and military one. What remains to be done is engineering development much, much simpler than the problem of the atom bomb. Interplanetary flight will be difficult and expensive as long as we must rely on chemical fuels, but it can be done. But once atomic power is applied to reaction engines—well, the sky is no limit then. However, that may be several years away.

"Last summer I asked the commanding officer of the White Sands Proving Ground when

he expected space flight. He did not want to be put on the spot, but he did say, 'We can do anything we want to do if we want to do it badly enough.' Since then, both the Army and the Navy have started using recruiting posters showing spaceships traveling to the moon.

"When? That brings in nonengineering factors. Will the U.N. achieve control of atomic energy? Will there be a third World War? Are we in for another disastrous depression? Are any of the major corporations willing to bet on the profits of space exploration? Does any country want the moon as a military base badly enough to pay for it? I could list many more variables, but never mind. Here I'll gaze into the crystal globe. First unmanned rocket to the moon in five years. First manned rocket in ten years. Permanent base there in fifteen years. After that, anything. Several decades of exploring the solar system, with everyone falling all over each other to do it first and stake out claims. However, we may wake

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up some morning to find that the Lunar S.S.R.—eight scientists and technicians, six men, two women—has petitioned the Kremlin for admission of the moon to the U.S.S.R. And keep your eyes on the British—the British Interplanetary Society is determined to get there first.

"In predicting technical advance, there is an almost insuperable tendency to be too conservative. In almost every case, correct prophecy of the Jules Verne type has failed in the one respect of putting the predicted advance too far in the future. If my figures are wrong, they are almost certainly wrong in being too timid."

Saturday Evening Post—1947

(Written four years ago by a well known author, this prophetic letter presents many very interesting points. We have little idea of the true state of affairs overseas, of what technical progress has been made, nor do we know how close they are to parabolic velocity. We certainly are not in any position to disagree with Robert Heinlein but, there isn't much time left.—editor)

TRIVIA

Monday to Thursday, 2.30 p.m.—2UW is presenting The last of the Randolphs. Set in a European castle, the play has vampires and an Egyptian Goddess's treasure thrown into the plot.

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The Damon Knight short To serve Man originally published in the 2nd issue of "Galaxy," was reprinted recently by the Australian "Short Story Magazine."

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The Australian magazine "Cavalcade" in a recent issue published; an article on Hugo Gernsback and his serial Ralph 124C 41+ (Modern Electrics. 1911); an article on the works of Poe, James and Lovecraft. The latter is strictly commercial in my opinion, but the writer is being investigated.



Classified

Exchange: Marvel Tales; Vol.1, No.4 in good condition for what have you.—A.W.Haddon.

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Something for sale? Auction it at the Convention.

Twenty printed pages —

ARTICLES

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NEWS

Editor and Publisher:

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Girraween, N.S.W.,

Australia.

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