

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

No. 6.

March 25th, 40.

Price 2d.

REVIEW OF SUPER SCIENCE STORIES

In the second issue of "Futurian Observer", we gave details of the new publication, ASTONISHING STORIES, and in concluding that item, gave notice of its companion magazine, SUPER SCIENCE STORIES. The views expressed are those of only one of the editors (William Veney) and are not necessarily those of the other.

As stated previously, the first issue is dated March and sells for 15 cents, about 1/-. Jack Binder paints the cover and he certainly has done a workmanlike job. The colours are striking yet well blended to avoid sensationalism. The interior illustrations were extremely weak, with the possible exception of a sole drawing by Fox, who appears to be imitating Finlay. Judging from the signatures, the rest of the work was done by Binder, Lasker, and Eran.

Going through the contents page the stories are:

"World Reborn" by Thornton Ayre, which appears to be one of the worst Ayre has ever done. It commences in the typical Ayre style but degenerates as the story progresses to utter hack saved only by the author's unquestionable writing ability.

"Guyon 45X" by Dean D. O'Brien is an adventure story with a slight scientific twist. The same may be said for Ross Rocklynne's "Tran-Plutonian Trap". Neither of these stories are particularly outstanding and are of the type generally found in any mag.

Probably the best story in the issue was "The Lotus - Engine" by Raymond Z. Gallun. This was an 'A' grade story excellently written and presented by an author who seems to be staging a come-back with a vengeance. Two favourites who displayed examples of complete hackneyed work were John Russell Fearn, with his "Phantom From Space" and Harl Vincent with "Gravity Island". These two were unutterably putrid and lacked any of the masterful touches their authors have displayed in the past. "Emergency

Refueling" was an interesting short-short by James Blish. Completing the list, is Frank Belnap Long, Jnr's "Stitch In Time" which probably rates second in the issue.

Features include a poem by Barclay, critical book review by D. Wollheim of 'The New Adam', details of the new international organisation, The Science Fictioneers & a preview of forthcoming stories. A point of interest is that the promised smooth edges are missing.

Summing up, the first issue is nothing out of the ordinary and well below the standard of ASTONISHING.

---WDV

ODDS 'N' ENDS

Comics: We've mentioned Amazing Mystery Funnies, Wonder Comics, Thrilling Comics, and Marvel Comics - now comes Fantastic Comics! Fantastic Comics contains mostly stf strips, however, some of the titles being "Samson" (another tough guy), "Stardust the Superwizard", & a short story, "The Planet of Death". "Space Smith" and "Flick Falcon In the Fourth Dimension" are also included. Incidentally, some of the titles of strips appearing in Marvel Comics include "The Human Torch", "The Angel" (more tough guy!), "The Sub Mariner", and "Ka-Za the Great" (another Tarzan!). .Other tough

(Cont on back page, Col 1)

ODDS 'N' ENDS (Cont):

tough guy strips are "Iron Munro", and a new angle is used in the "Doll Man". This time the tough guy is about six inches high after shrinking himself in an experiment.....

Late News: "Topnotch Comics" is featuring Eando Binder's "Scott Rand in the xxxxxxxxxxxx /Apologies forwarded – this is BFC's bad writing again – VM/ Worlds of Time". Planet Comics is the latest addition, featuring "Flint Baker and the One-Eyed Monsters of Mars", (!) "Auro, Lord of Jupiter", "Captain Nelson Cole and the War of the Worlds", "The New Comet", and "Planet Ranger".....

Personal: Harry Warner, Jnr and W. Lawrence Hamling are collaborating on a story for a pro. . Charles S. Mustchin of Coolingatta may visit Sydney soon.....

Books: If you haven't got "The Princess of Mars" and "Chessmen of Mars" by Edgar Rice Burroughs, then there are cheap editions selling at the New South Wales Bookstall for 1/6 per vol.....

Miscellaneous: We have discovered that the "New Amazing Stories" article by Mark Reinsberg, which appeared in Devern's "Science Fiction Review" was reprinted from some American fanmag – probably "Fantascience Digest", as was "Dead Reckoning" from Imagination. That is if Madge's Readers column are reliable. . ."Sunday Sun" recently printed a short stf story, "Death By Astronomy", but the same paper rejected two fine articles by Prof A.M. Low. One was "Three Hundred Years From Now" and the other "Kill Fear & Be Happy". . The solution to Vomosworth's 'Puzzling Scrap of Past Stf' has been found by Vol himself. The story was 'School In the Ruined City' by an unknown, printed in the old English 'Wizard'. . John Guinta now runs a column in Amazing Mystery Funnies, in which he reviews fanmags. This department was started in the December issue and in it he reviews Spaceways, The Fantast, New Fandom, Fantascience Digest, and Fantasy News.....

Radio: Sorry, nothing doing lately!!!

Film: Ditto!

NEW FANMAGAZINE COMING

On his return visit to Sydney, K. Moxon, prominent Brisbane fan, in another interview with OBS' editors, told us what he intended doing in regards to publishing a fan mag and forming a Futurian Society of Brisbane.....

Speaking of the fan mag, Keith said: 'After thinking the matter over, I have decided to publish a thirty or forty page magazine, which will contain only fiction. I shall probably put it out at half yearly intervals, but I would like those who intend contributing to know that only novelettes of about six thousand words length, & of fairly good standard will be accepted. Price of the mag, by the mag, with be a shilling.' (25¢ to American, we presume – OBS).....

On the club Moxon said he would see what could be done on returning to Brisbane. He cannot definitely say whether or not a club will be formed, as he has very little time to spare for these matters.....

OBS says: The appearance of Keith's magazine is something to be looked forward to by all Australian fans, and Americans too for that matter. For though American fanmags spring up like weeds almost daily, new Aust. Fanmags are few and far between. And to fan-authors we say, what about settling down and trying your hand at something for Moxon? To those who cannot write we say: be sure and subscribe to this new mag for it's going to be a treat!

Futurian OBSERVER: Published fortnightly by Bert F. Castellari and William D. Veney, at 10a Sully St, Randwick, NSW, Australia. Price 2d or 5¢; 7 for 1/- or 6 for 25¢. Drop us a line and tell us your pet kicks about the news and we'll gladly print 'em. Wanted: 20 or 25 paid subscribers so we can turn for pages. Also wanted: someone who will give his honest opinion on OBS so that we can print the truth once in a while. . A correction: OBS is the unofficial organ of the FSS, not official as Vomosworth insists.