

Thursday August 5, 1954.

science fiction

S C A N S I O N

weekly newsletter

No.6.

Theatre parties are in the air. The success of the WAR OF THE WORLDS party, which was attended by over fifty, including pioneer Australian science fiction fan Charles La Coste from Miranda, and well-known Newcastle fan Ted Butt, has encouraged Convention Treasurer David Cohen to plan one to attend KILLERS FROM SPACE, at the Mayfair Theatre on Monday 16th. of August. We don't expect the show to be in the class of THE WAR OF THE WORLDS -- which was a sadly cheapened version of the classic novel anyhow -- but it should provide a pleasant evening's entertainment, even without the assistance of THE FRENCH LINE, a biological fantasy, which constitutes the other half of the programme. Tickets at five shillings each from David Cohen, Box 4940, G.P.O., Sydney.

The 1955 Convention Committee is unfortunately being hindered by rat-baggery emanating from one of the Sydney clubs. The latest childishness to hand is a bogus "report", making out that there will be no Convention next year. A few months ago, the publisher of this calculated-to-mislead document was begging money from fans to pay for the typewriter and duplicator he has used to produce it, pleading that he would use these "in the interests of fandom". An occasional occurrence like this serves to remind us, when we start to give ourselves airs of being "intellectuals", that as a movement we are no more free of petty animosities and swindles than any other such.

Pleasing to all of us has been the return of the aristocrat of British science fiction magazines, NEW WORLDS, to our news-stands. The magazine has not slipped at all from its previous high standards during its twelve months' hibernation, and its three numbers since its return have brought us a fine serial and some very good complete stories. It is a shame that the business management of this magazine has never been in a class with its artistic achievements.

Just to hand -- the July 1954 (U.S.A.) ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, containing the conclusion of Poul Anderson's serial "Question and Answer", and the first part of a three-part (!) article on the problem of interstellar flight. The art-work throughout the magazine is pleasing and distinctly science-fictional, but once again the cover only reveals its slight connection with science fiction upon examination.

This issue of SCANSION starts the second series. In the first series, each of the five editors had his number available to readers within a few days of the scheduled time, even though two of our number are making their first plays in the field of amateur journalism.

This issue edited and published by R.D.Nicholson, at 24 Warren Road, Double Bay, N.S.W. Next week's editor: Mr. Pat Burke.