

Thursday, 23rd September, 1954.

S C A N S I O N

weekly science fiction newsletter

No.12.

This week has not brought out any startling news for followers of science fiction, but there are the usual activities afoot amongst the fans, and a fair quota of magazines, mostly as bad as we have come to expect, on the stands. An attractive-looking issue of our old stand-by NEW WORLDS, however, is amongst the pay-dirt in the load of dross. Editor Carnell is to be congratulated on his use of first-rate American novels not previously printed in magazines, or previously published in book form in Great Britain. TAKEOFF and WILD TALENT are undoubtedly better than any material which would otherwise have been available to him.

Another upswing in attendances at the Thursday evening meetings has been very welcome for the improvement it has made in the financial position of the group, and for the further stimulation of interest it has brought about amongst the regular comers. No less than four magazines are in preparation at the hands of our Thursday nighters -- publishing is always a fair measure of the enthusiasm of a science fiction fan group -- and interest runs high in discussions of Convention plans. The closest to completion of the fanzines is Kevin Dillon's COMMUNICADO, containing some really first rate critical material by Lex Banning and Royce Williams. The newcomer to science fiction's amateur publishing is Michael Duggan, who brought out SCANSION No.9. His zine is to be called INTANGIBLE. Michael is an avid reader of the flying saucer literature, as readers of his issue of this news sheet undoubtedly noticed, so if any of you feel like buying into an argument on the subject, he is the man to see.

At the next count, we expect to find the library of the North Shore Futurian Society has over a thousand items in it. A rough count the other night gave a total of considerably more than nine hundred. This society, which is technically not a society, has practically no relationship to the geographical area of Sydney's North Shore, and which has carried over the term Futurian from the days when the Futurian Society of Sydney was an active organization in the field of science fiction affairs, has been considering changing its name. So far, however, no one has come up with a name satisfying anything like a majority of the members, so for the moment North Shore Futurian Society it remains. What's in a name, anyhow? Someone'll be suggesting elected officers, next!

Parting question -- how come the non-drinking fans (a majority, some say) don't get together socially to anything like the extent the fans who meet over a glass of beer do?

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