

SCANSION

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science fiction weekly newsletter ----

The last time the chore of bringing out SCANSION fell to me, I managed to get the numbering somewhat astray, thereby adding to the wrongs we have heaped upon the odd characters who choose to collect outpourings such as this, and carefully file them away. Serve them right, anyway. For the record, Michael Duggan's issue was correctly numbered 18, mine numbered 18 should have been 19, Pat Burke's 20, and so we now arrive at 21.

Today's news of course is the expected visit of Arthur C. Clarke to the Thursday evening S-F club meeting at 333 George Street. Because it is difficult to imagine two more diverse types than Robert Heinlein and Jack Chandler, the two "names" to visit us so far, Mr. Clarke will undoubtedly be examined in minute detail by the fan, to determine what manner of fowl he is.

John Carnell, NEW WORLDS editor and long-time British fan, writes that he will publish the winning entry of the Fourth Australian *Convention* Science Fiction Short Story Contest, author and committee being agreeable, provided it fits the magazine's established policy. As the judges will probably apply much the standards Mr. Carnell does, I think incompatibility on this ground is unlikely.

The jollifications season provided the excuse -- if one were needed -- for the Science Fiction Drama Club to put on an eminently successful if comparatively quiet party, including a short comic sketch written for the occasion by Norma K. Hemming, at the Bondi School of Arts. Present were a number of members of Sydney's two fan clubs, and also a few people who gave both away in disgust when feelings ran high between these, and childish actions looked like becoming the trademark of fandom. It was pleasing to see Convention Organizer Bill Hubble, Futurian Secretary Harry Brunen, and long-lost fan Clive Mellor all being convivial together again.

Now that the Bridge Club Science Fiction Group has become a fairly stable institution, with a regular and reliable membership as well as a fringe of library borrowers and bods who appear every month or so just to maintain contact, it seems time to map out a programme of activities for the New Year. It is to be hoped that a forward-moving policy emerges, and that our veteran members can divert their attention from the mistakes and quarrels of the past, and give what time they consider they can spare for fan activities to the business of building up a centre of appreciation, collecting and indexing, and perhaps publishing, in Sydney.

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