

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSPAPER

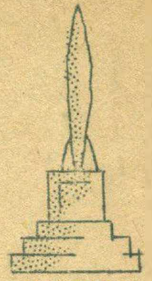
Fantasy-Times

(Fifteenth Year Of Publication)

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First June 1956 Issue

Ten Cents



"HUGO"
1955

Sam Merwin Will Edit New Margulies Mags COMPANY TITLE IS "RENOWN PUBS., INC."

New York, 28 May, (CNS) - Leo Margulies' new company will be called Renown Publications, Inc., and Sam Merwin, who worked under Margulies for Standard Publications' Thrilling Wonder Stories, Startling Stories, etc., and who also edited Fantastic Universe for Margulies for a time, has joined him again to edit his two new magazines.

Latest news from the new publishing company is that their Michael Shayne Mystery Magazine will be a monthly and contain 160 pages, while their science-fiction magazine, still untitled, will start off as a bi-monthly, with the hope of monthly publication in the very near future. The number of pages has not as yet been set for this publication. The s-f magazine will carry a full-length novel in each issue plus short stories. Blish is doing the first cover for it.

BLSH SELLS SERIAL TO ASF

New York, May 10, (CNS) -- Astounding-S-F today took into its inventory a two part serial by James Blish, "Get Out Of My Sky". The story was originally com- (concluded on page 2, column 2)

BOB OLSEN DEAD AT 71

PIONEER AUTHOR PASSES

by Forrest J Ackerman

Los Angeles, 22 May, (CNS) - It is my sad duty to inform the s-f world that Bob Olsen, age 71, died here last Sunday after a short illness. He was perhaps the first science-fiction author I ever met, nearly 30 years ago, and was my friend from the day I, as an audacious youngster, first rang his doorbell at a home now three blocks from where I live. His first stf story (he had previously had non-s-f published in Munsey) was "The Four-Dimensional Roller-Press", followed by five other pioneering 4th dimension stories. His "Educated Pill" (Amazing July 1928) became a humor classic in his lifetime. His "Ant With A Human Soul", published in the Spring-Summer 1932 Amazing Quarterly, had originally been the surprise novella scheduled for the ill-fated 3rd (concluded on page 6, column 1)

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

by James Blish

S-F: THE YEAR'S GREATEST SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY, edited by Judith Merril. 352 pp., hard covers, Gnome Press (New York), \$3.95; paperback, Dell (New York), 35¢.

The title is misleading, like most such titles. What it means is, "The year's best previously unreprinted s-f and fantasy stories under 20,000 words long". The book winds up with a summary of 1955, amusing but not analytical, and a list of stories which the anthologist liked but which failed to get past her restrictions.

I have not seen the Gnome version, but the Dell book (inexplicably billed as a "Dell First Edition") is attractively printed and contains an enormous budget of copy for the money. There are 18 stories, three of which (Davidson's "The Golem", Jackson's "One Ordinary Day, With Peanuts", and Kuttner-Moore's "Home There's No Returning) strike me as grade A work on all counts. Miller's "The Hooper" is only a hair less good, largely because its otherwise convincing analysis of a desperate man falls into hysteria; Finney's "Of Missing Persons" is the same hairline away — technically brilliant, yet it lacks conviction.

There are four B's, by Sturgeon, Duhrys, Asimov and Knight. The rest of the book consists of seven C or neutral yarns — journeyman work at best — and two abortions. The "Honorable Mention" list at the end includes a similar mixture, including A's.

It's obviously impossible for the buyer to lose on a collection which offers 18 stories of many different types for only 35¢. On that basis I do not hesitate to recommend the book. I am not at all sure, though, that a collection of stories half of which are mediocre or worse is representative of the "best" of 1955, even within Miss Merril's restrictions. If it is representative, then obviously the field isn't able to support a yearly "best" anthology, even in hands as capable as Miss Merril's.

by Arthur-Jean Cox

The face on the cover of the new Signet pocketbook, "The Unknown—Is It Nearer" is the same as the one which appeared on the cover of the February 1952 Galaxy. Both covers were done by Tom Powers, the second being his first for any science-fiction magazine.

There's a story by William Allen Ish in New World Writing #9 called "The Fantasy People" which appears to be an account of a fictional "fantasy convention".

A new Pogo collection is probably out by now from Simon & Schuster (\$1.00). Called "The Pogo Sunday Book", it is the first collection of the Sunday strips and has a slightly new format — 8½" x 11".

New juvenile is "The Complete Book Of Space Travel" by Albro Gaul, "profusely illustrated by Virgil Finlay", and published by World; and "Lucky Starr And The Big Sun Of Mercury" by Paul French (Isaac Asimov), published by Doubleday, Junior.

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, August 1956:

AND THE LIGHT IS RISEN Walter Miller, BRIDEY MURPHY: An Irishman's View (article) W. B. Ready, THE FOURTEENTH OF JULY Anthony Brode, COMPOUNDED INTEREST Mack Reynolds, WOMAN'S WORK Geron Drusai, RECOMMENDED READING (department) Anthony Boucher, FEAR IS A BUSINESS Theodore Sturgeon, and THE LAST PRESENT Will Stanton.

BLISH SELLS SERIAL (Cont. from page 1)

missioned by Twayne for a Triplet, but will appear in ASF substantially rewritten. It will be the first Blish serial to appear in any s-f magazine, 16 years after his first published story.

by Forrest J Ackerman

AL VAN VOGT has completed his new novel, The Great Judge.

Rog Phillips reportedly married to Honey Wood...The Beaumonts infanticipating (making Charlie a two-time pop)... E. Everett Evans won Boy's Club of America Annual Award for most-enjoyed book, his Dodd-Mead s.f. juvenovel "The Planet Mappers".....Stu J. Byrne (alias John Bloodstone) was recently interviewed on Edgar Bergen's teleprogram, getting in a lot of licks for sci-fi including a plug for Palmer's pet project, TARZAN ON MARS.

Sherwood Springer returns with "Lords Of Gestation" in Fantastic U.... Iscafade will feature a fantasyarn by Len Bruyn, "The Thirsty Men"...Jim Causey, Betsy Curtis and Mark Clifton will appear in future Authentics with "Exploiter's End", "Of The Fittest" and "Reward for Valour" respectively....Tiger has purchased "Black Angel" by RICHARD Martin.

F&SF is interested in two covers by Albert Nuetzell....Ib Melchior & Lou Bartfield have completed a treatment for Science Fiction Theater, "Waste Product"....Harry Warner Jr has cracked Galaxy with "Rattle Okay"...Ed Ludwig's "Comedy Of Terrors", from fenzine Inside, was reprinted in million readership NYPost...Week-End will be reprinting Don Wollheim's "Man from the Future" and Ib Melchior's "The Winner and New..."

Twenty-three participants in a recent meeting (biwkly) of the Chesley Donovan Socy entertained themselves by reading aloud (17 speaking roles) the complete play, "RUR". Present with a copy of the work in the original Czech was Nella Hellinger from Czechoslovakia...At the latest meeting of the Donovanites, the electronic tonality sound-track from "Forbidden Planet" was heard while kodachromes from the scientifiilm were exhibited on a screen....Simon and Schuster will publish a new sci-fi novel by Rachel Maddux, and Berkley Books has Manly Banister's Amazing serial--"The Scarlet Saint"--under considerat'n.

LONDON IN '57

by Donald E. Ford

True, May 1956:
 MORE EXPERIMENTS INTO THE UNKNOWN by Morey Bernstein. This is an excerpt from "The Search For Bridly Murphy". It tells about Edgar Cayce, who died in 1945, who used to diagnose people's ills by mail. I believe that Palmer has run some material about him in either Fate, or Mystic.

Time, April 30, 1956:
 In "Science" column, Dr. John C. Lilly tells about how he underwent a test to see how a human reacts to "brain-washing". Depriving the mind of all sensation is the best preparation. His account of his reactions reads almost like a fantasy, a la "Star Rover" style.

Time, May 7, 1956:
 In "Science" column the brightness of the Earth (as seen by an outside observer) is estimated to be .40. Venus is .64 & the moon .073. The color is blue.

True Weird, May 1956:
 This is the 3rd issue of a quarterly magazine on the order of Fate & Mystic. Nothing outstanding, but you might care to glance it on the stands just in case something turns up. Last issue they did have a Lovecraft story.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Cincinnati 27, Ohio
May 3rd, 1956

Dear Jim & Ray:

I'd just like to congratulate you and Fantasy-Times on the acquisition of James Blish as reviewer of books. By adding a writer of his caliber to your regular staff of columnists, you will undoubtedly be giving F-T's already near-complete coverage an added boost; if Blish's reviews can compare with his fiction, this should also make your 'zine the possessor of the best stf

hardcover/paperback criticism in fandom.

One gripe: it's been a long while since the last "State Of Fandom" report was printed. Are you saving that section for Con reports only?

Regards and all,
Kent Mookaw

(Jim Blish is an excellent author and book reviewer. We couldn't ask for any better. We're very happy he's with us. We'll print "State Of Fandom" whenever there is sufficient news of national interest to fill a column. Usually small items on fandom are picked up by "Science Fiction Newsscope". -eds)

Dear Jim and Ray:

Read Beach's letter but I feel the way for a publisher of s-f to get more sales is to get the people that don't read s-f interested in it, rather than readers buying the mags they don't especially like.

This can be accomplished by articles about s-f in other mags explaining the types, who prints them, and so forth, and by having s-f appear in non-s-f mags that print fiction.

I think the reason s-f is not doing so well is because there are too many s-f mags and not enough good authors. Think 5 mags would be an ideal figure.

yours,
Tom Maylone

(It would appear that better stories are needed for s-f to boom, but would not another s-f boom bring in a lot of "fly-by-night" operators and we'd be off again. Yes 5 mags would be OK, but what 5 mags of today's crop? -eds)

May 22, 1956

Dear Jymes:

Re P.T. #245, "Vargo Statten" is not (repeat: NOT), never was and never will be (repeat: NEVER) a pen-name of Eric Frank Russell.

And for the benefit of any fans standing upside-down in Australia, Eric Frank Russell is not (repeat: NOT), never was and never will be (repeat: NEVER) a pen-name of "Vargo Statten".

I dedicate this poem to your cock-eyed informant: - "The butterfly may

Kiss the grass, but you, my friend...."

Truly,
Eric Frank Russell

(We agree "Vargo Statten" is not (repeat: NOT), a pen-name for Eric Frank Russell. See P-T #247 for details. -eds)

SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

1957 TRANSATLANTIC PAN FULD (TAFF) NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the TAFF election to send a representative from the United States or Canada to England in 1957. The winner goes to London in September 1957 to attend the 15th World Science Fiction Convention, or an International Convention, depending on how the voting for the world con site turns out at New York this year.

The 1956 1st & 2nd place winners (Hoffman & Ackerman) both declined to go for various reasons, in 1956. This results in TAFF HAVING \$182.00 on the United States side and about \$80.00 in the Sterling area. With such an amount to start off the 1957 campaign, sufficient money for passage will be obtained for the 1957 winner. In order to do as much as possible to insure the TAFF winner making the 1957 trip, the rules have been slightly modified...

1. Nominations must be by signature of five persons, at least one of whom is generally known to fandom at large.
2. Each nomination must be accompanied by \$5.00 or its equivalent in coin-of-the-realm.
3. Each nomination must be accompanied by a signed statement from the candidate that he/she is willing to accept the nomination and will attend the convention, barring unforeseen circumstances.
4. All nominations, \$5.00 fees, and signed statements to reach: Don Ford, Box 116, Sharonville, Ohio by September 30, 1956.

KNIGHT'S BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADVENT

Chicago, 19 May, (GNS) - Advent: Pub-

Isihers, plans to issue it's first book August 30, This will be IN SEARCH OF WONDER, by Damon Knight. The book will be cloth bound, offset, o v e r 80,000 words. The introduction will be by Mr. Anthony Boucher.

The post-publication price will be \$4; pre - publication copies will sell for \$5. We feel that this book (based in part o n some of Mr. Knight's book reviews) will provide the definitive "inside look" at modern science-fiction and its writers. For more details, etc write: Advent:Publishers, 3508 N. Sheffield, Chicago 13, Ill.

L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP'S LATEST ARTICLES

Wilmington, Pa., 15 May, (CNS) - L. Sprague de Camp has "Forgotten Civilizations" (article) in the March 1956 issue of Science Digest. "Why Don't We ALL Have Two Heads?" (article about mutations) in the June (current) issue; a n d "The Great Fossil Feud" (Cope vs Marsh) coming i n the August issue of Science Digest. Also "Lost Atlantis" in the May (current) Frontiers, pub. by the Academy Of Natural Science, Phila.

ROG PHILIPS MARRIES HONEY WOOD

Honey Wood of Cleveland and Rog Philips of California, were married o n Monday May 14, 1956, in Richmond, Calif. Fantasy-Times wishes them a life-time of happiness.

SAM MOSKOWITZ'S LATEST SALES

Sam Moskowitz, former editor of S-F Plus and now a trade journal editor, reports a few sales this year. Already in print i s his article in the 30th Annish of AMAZING, a short-short-in Info and a portfolio of early space-ships in "Complete Book Of Space Travel" (World Pubs, 1956). Yet to be seen is a yarn to Ziff-Davis and another to FANTASTIC UNIVERSE. He is now working on an article assignment.

An interesting item in the May issue of Sam's mag, QUICK FROZEN FOODS (82 Wall St., NY 5 NY, 50¢ copy) is an article by Willy Ley, illustrated by Bonestell, called "Space Men On Earth Satellite To Subsist On Frozen Foods". A "mug shot" of Dr. Ley is included.

FANTASY-TIMES' CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ a word, including name & address, 25 words minimum, remittance must be sent with order. FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

TRY US for books, magazines and comics. Back issues o r new, large stock all types. Specializing i n Tarzan movie photos - 400 different - buy, sell or trade. - KISCH NEWS CO., Santa Susana, Calif.

BOOKS, AS new i n jackets: THE BLIND SPOT; Hall & Flint, \$2.50; THE BLACK FLAME, A MARTIAN ODYSSEY; Weinbaum, \$2.50 each; MISTRESS O F MISSTRESSES: Addison, 1st, \$5.00; SF ADVERTISER: incomplete run, 1947-54, 21 issues, fine, \$2.50. WANTED: Long: A MAN FROM GENOA, THE GODLIN TOWER; Wandrei: DARK ODYSSEY Will trade books, a s now in jackets, f o r - WEIRD TALES: 1939-March; 1938-February, March, July; 1937 - August; 1933-April, May; 1932-March, September; Inquire Glenn Lord, Box 775, Pasadena, Texas.

BACK ISSUES of Fantasy-Times: We are checking our stock of back issues and as soon as a list is drawn up, it'll be published. Please do not send for back issues until the new list is published.

DO YOU want the latest British magazines? NEW WORLDS, SCIENCE-FANTASY, NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION, AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION, and the British editions of ASTOUNDING or GALAXY; Get them direct from England; from MILGROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria St., LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

PLEASE RETURN "F-T" WHEN ANSWERING ADS.

JAPANESE SUPER S-F MAG

The Ackerman sci-fi collection has recently been enriched by a 322 page, profusely illustrated magazine from Japan, called JEWEL and designated as World's Science Fiction Special Issue, containing "Conqueror's Isle" by Nelson S. Bond, "Dr. M's Discovery" by G. Aida, "The Lanson Screen" by the late Arthur Leo Zagat, "Strange Playmate" by Isaac Asimov, "Farewell, Earth!" by U. Yumeza, "The Way To Pluto" by Wallace West, and HGWells' "Time Machine". Featured also is "On SF" by Komatsu Kitamura and "New SF in USA and England" by Tetsu Yano. In the latter article, a few references

in English stand out as: International Fantasy Award, More Than Human, Theodore Sturgeon, John Campbell, HLGOLD, Hugo Gernsback, Jack Williamson, Robert Heinlein, Forrest Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, The Humanoids, etc. A tremendous item for the collector.

PIONEER AUTHOR PASSES

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

issue of Miracle, Science and Fantasy Stories.

BOB OLSEN (born Alfred Johannes Olsen Jr) was one man in a million in America at the time he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in Lovdragt's town, Providence, Rhode Island. He had close to 30 stories published in the Gernsback Era, and remained true to the tradition of Gernsback stf to the end. It was just in March of this year that he submitted a 5000 word article, "Wanted: A Definition of Science Fiction", to Robert W. Lowndes (acceptance pending). He leaves half a dozen unpublished manuscripts, 2 sons, wife, and 2 daughters to whom he gave scientific names: Zora and Joyzelle Kaza (Kaza was the heroine of his Air Wonder story, "Flight in 1999") He was tremendously interested in ants and, I believe, knew about as much about entomology as anybody in the world—hoping to author a definitive work on the subject.

And what Bob Olsen leaves here is a legacy of love and friendship to those who knew him personally, Ray Bradbury, Charles Hornig and the local Manuscripters Club and LASTS among

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"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

others. He was kind, considerate, jovial thru all adversity of body (wracking arthritis) and loss of personal fortune. He was a dear old Santy Claus whose like we may seldom see again, young in heart to the end. May he rest in peace in his own "Isle Of Juvenescence".



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