

# Book Reviews By Jim Blish

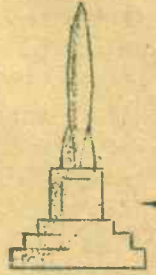
COMING SOON!

- story on this page -

Fifteenth Year Of Publication

## Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"



"HUGO"  
1955

Vol. 11 - #244

First April 1956 Issue

Ten Cents

## ZIFF-DAVIS To Publish New Fantasy Mag Late This Year

New York, N.Y., 2 April, (CNS) - From a very informed source, Fantasy-Times learned today that late this year Ziff-Davis will publish a new fantasy magazine. This new magazine, as yet not titled, is supposed to be based on the successful "Dream" issue of Fantastic, published last Fall. It might be of interest to note that Fantastic will have another "Dream" issue this year with the October 1956 issue. As with the 1955 issue, the sub-head "Science-Fiction" will be dropped with that issue.

The new magazine is supposed to be digest-size, 35¢, 128 pages, and be published bi-monthly at the start. If the above information is correct, it will make Ziff-Davis the leading fantasy publisher today. Ziff-Davis will  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

### JAMES BLISH JOINS STAFF AS REVIEWER

Science-fiction author James Blish, famous for his "Oakie" series in Astounding S-F and many other stories in practically all of the s-f magazines, has accepted our invitation to review books for Fantasy-Times.

His first reviews, on which he is now working, will appear here very shortly.

We are very proud to add Mr. Blish to our staff, and pleased that he can find the time to write for us.

"Right at the moment", he says, "Will Jenkins, Beam Piper and I are  
(concluded on page 4, column 2)

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SCIENCE-FICTION FIELD



by Harry Altshuler

ARTHUR SEELINGS, one of the most talented of the English writers, was born in the county of Kent; he thinks it must be something in the water there that breeds a strong fantastic strain in its writers: Wells, de la Mare, Dunsany. He was on the way to a science degree when he took his first job with His Majesty's Customs.....it consisted chiefly, he found, in ripping panties and such dainty netherwear to shreds for analysis. This somewhat damped his interest in science and woke him to a realization there were other things in the world.....a collection of his stories, "Time Transfer", appeared in England in March.

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FREDRIC BROWN is currently working on two books, a straight novel and a science-fiction novel. It's a race to see which one gets finished first.

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ALAN E. NOURSE, now entitled to wear "Dr." before his name, is moving into the last quarter of a busy year, interning in Seattle, Washington. Hasn't had time for much writing lately (although there's a new story coming up in Galaxy) but his idea for next year is to start practising medicine in some little town out West where there aren't many sick people, so he'll have lots of time to write stories. Nourse's Winston novel, "Trouble On Titan", has recently appeared in Italy as "La Rivolta Dei Titani".

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BLUEBOOK was just planning to go stronger on science-fiction when the powers-that-be decided to fold it.

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DICK MATHESON has a piece about writing science-fiction in Writer's Digest.

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WALT SHELDON, who turns out science-fiction occasionally and also straight novels, slicks, westerns or whatever else he can think of, is on the way back to Japan; he says he writes better there; so look forward to more stories once he's settled. He spent the last year on the West Coast

by Our Readers

Waterville, Minn.  
April 7, 1956

Dear Jim and Ray,

Received your Fantasy-Times today containing the Fantasy Report for 1955, which prompts me to set down a few words on the subject. I hope that you will find room to print this, for I feel that the thoughts contained herein should meet with more than frenzied indifference from the fans and readers.

Sixteen stf mags have folded in the last two years, among them some of the old reliable standbys. Now I agree that the field was crowded with the "boom" of the early '50's, but many more than the "late arrivals" have fallen by the wayside. Furthermore, I don't believe that any stf mag today is making enough money to justify its existence; and that some are operating in the red and are only continued because their editors and publishers like stf so much that they don't know when to quit! I would like every fan and reader to add just one more mag to their regular purchases if they possibly can, for I believe that irregardless of your taste in stf, you will be able to find one more mag that you will enjoy reading.

Secondly, every fan who is still fortunate enough to have science-fiction on their newsstands, bring them out to the front of the racks. It only takes a few seconds to do so, and new readers may be brought into the field by your actions. When I left for the Korean hate via the comfortable life of the US Army, every stf mag was appearing on the local stand. Not so upon my return, nor are there very many on the stands of surrounding communities.

(concluded on page 3, column 2)

and in Arizona, and pretty near stopped writing completely; those spots simply didn't stimulate his imagination the way Tokyo does.

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And tell your readers to buy some books! If sales don't pick up, editors at the general publishing houses tell me, they won't publish any s-f at all!



# BRITAIN CONFIRMS HOPE FOR '57 WORLD CON

by David A. Kyle

OFFICIAL STAND TAKEN AT KETTERING CON; BELGIUM, IRELAND, GERMANY AND U. S. REPRESENTED; DAVE KYLE HEADS U. S. DELEGATION

London, England, 3 April, (CNS) - London will definitely bid for the World Con in 1957. This official stand was reaffirmed and further plans were developed at the 1956 Kettering (England) Science-Fiction Convention held over the Easter weekend. Over 100 fans from many countries attended, including five from the United States.

From the U.S. were: Dave Kyle, present head of the World Science-Fiction Society, Inc., and chairman of the 14th World S-F Con to be held at the Biltmore in New York City over Labor Day weekend; Larry T. Shaw, editor of "INFINITY", and his famous femme bride, Lee Hoffman; Richard Wilson, author of "The Girls From Planet Five"; and Ellis Mills, Ohio fan who is currently with the USAF in Germany.

Also present were Jan Jansen of Belgium, Walt Willis of Ireland, and Anna Steul of Germany.

The site of the con was the George Hotel in Kettering, Northamptonshire, with the Royal Hotel and the Sun also having guests. The convention hall immediately adjoined the George.

The program opened Saturday afternoon with W. Carr of Ashington (W. H. Powers) giving an exhibition of hypnotism, using a half-dozen volunteers from the audience. Outstanding subject was Eric Jones of Cheltenham who vigorously rode imaginary bicycles, played phantom pianos and did a variety of other deeds.

Following the luncheon break, a pro editors' panel of Ted Carnell of "NEW WORLDS", Ted Tubb of "AUTHENTIC" and Larry Shaw of "INFINITY", discussed the field today. The remainder of the afternoon was given to the latest tape recorded drama of the Liverpool group

of "last And First Fen". It was an amusing pseudo-history of the world and fandom, using internationally-known fan personalities for the names of its characters. An auction followed.

Sunday afternoon was principally devoted to a discussion of British plans for holding the 1957 World Con in London, with the additional agreement that should the World site not be voted to England, an International Convention would still be held at that time.

Dave Kyle spoke on the possibility of U. S. fans attending and the dates which would be most suitable. The con voted officially to consider the late August-September period as the most desirable time and to attempt hotel facilities in suburban London.

A committee for a national sponsoring body for England was appointed, with Ted Carnell as chairman.

The remainder of the afternoon was then spent with this year's World Con chairman, Dave Kyle, outlining the plans for New York's gathering, drawing parallels to be considered by the London committee.

Saturday and Sunday evenings were spent informally, with various parties held throughout the George and Royal Hotels. Sunday night was particularly successful, with one party in Room 29, The George, rising to a crescendo of merriment. Reports from the eye-witnessing Americans are that not even the MidWestCons have exceeded the hilarity of their British brethren.

With the informality of the program and the emphasis on social activities, the resemblance to American regional conferences was striking.

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

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This is not necessarily the fault of the local dealers, for the man in question here has done everything he could to obtain copies for me; but his dis-



tributor has quit handling them! So keep your racks fronted with stf mags, or you may find your stands looking like the ones here very shortly. I have subscribed to five of my choice, but this does not help bring in new blood from this area.

If you also live in an area where the mags are few and far between, write directly for sample copies of mags you would possibly subscribe to. I know that Ray Palmer for one will be happy to send a recent copy of his mag "OTHER WORLDS" free to anyone who will enclose a dime to cover mailing expenses (address: Amherst, Wisc.). Other publishers also, I'm sure, will be happy to send you a copy for the newsstand price. If you do not know where to write to any publisher for their mag, write either "Fantasy-Times" or myself -- I'll be happy to furnish you with the address.

For those that are financially able, a gift sub or two to friends will go a long way to cementing friendships and keeping the mags coming. In most cases, subscriptions represent quite a saving over the newsstand price.

Sorry to have taken up so much time and space, but I feel that it is up to the fans now to keep the few mags left still in circulation. THE HAND-WRITING IS ON THE WALL! Wish all the continued success to your very excellent newszine and hope the headlines for '56 will be happier ones than the year preceding.

stfly yours,  
Herbert E. Beach  
210 West Pacuin

ZIFF-DAVIS TO PUBLISH NEW FANTASY  
(concluded from page 1, column 1)

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be the only publishing company with three fantasy magazines. While Columbia, actually publishes three titles in the science/fantasy line, one, Future is a one-shot magazine and cannot be considered as a full-scale publication.

The "no comment" answer was the only reaction we could get from Paul Fairman at Ziff-Davis. We could not reach Howard Browne, as he is now in Hollywood, writing a TV adaptation of "Cheyenne" for the Warner Bros. TV Hour. Mr. Browne is expected back at  
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FANTASY-TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ a word, including name & address, 25 words minimum, remittance must be sent with order.

FOR SALE

OLD Mags. FOR SALE

I have just recently added to my stock several hundred issues of "AMAZING", "AMAZING QUARTERLY", "WONDER" and "WONDER QUARTERLY" from the 1928-34 era. Many issues in fine condition, some in worn shape, some coverless. Priced accordingly. Would prefer to sell bulk of fine condition copies to one party interested in obtaining a fairly complete run for those years. Anyone interested in making such a bulk purchase, or those needing particular issues, should contact me immediately.

Gerry de la Ree  
277 Howland Ave.  
River Edge, N.J.

"FANTASY-TIMES" #200, \$1 a copy, FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box 2331, Paterson 23, N.J. Science-fiction and fantasy books and magazines for sale: for free catalog write to: Gerry de la Ree, 277 Howland Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey.

WANTED

AMAZING ANNUAL, SCOOPS #10, Australian: POPULAR S-F #1, FUTURE S-F #1, James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, New York.

PLEASE MENTION "F-T" WHEN ANSWERING ADS

Ziff-Davis when his Hollywood assignment is completed.

JAMES BLISH JOINS STAFF

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

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putting together a book of three nov-  
ellettes, written around an introduc-  
tion by Fletcher Pratt and Willy Ley,  
originally intended for a Twayne  
Triplet". We'll be looking forward  
to seeing this volume in print.

SCIENTI-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

McGILLICUDDY McGOTHAM by Leonard  
Wibberley, Little, Brown & Co, Boston,  
Mass., \$2.75.

INTERPLANETARY HUNTER by Arthur K.  
(concluded on page 6, column 1)



by Michael Corper

British Argosy has published the following s-f stories lately: in the April 1956 issue: Bradbury's "Chance Of A Lifetime"; in the March ish his "Enchanted Trolley"; in the February ish a story by Arthur C. Clarke, "Deep Range".

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"Space School" by Gordon Ford, was shown on the BBC's TV some time ago. It is a story about children's life on Earth Satellite One.

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New Worlds S-F, #44, February 1956, contains: "The Solomon Plan" (McIntosh), "The Falsifiers" (George Longdon), "Question Of Cruelty" (Jas. White), "Thing Friday" (Brunner), "There Is A Tide" (Aldiss); articles "Those Moon?" (Malcolm), "Between The Stars" (Newman), "Future Indefinite" (Ken. Johns); plus depts. The cover is by Bradshaw; interior illos are by Quim and Hunter. The cover depicts the Australian Woomers Range. Profiles are on McIntosh and Jas. White. Carnell's editorial is dedicated to authors, advising on requirements. Very, very useful. There is also info on the USA Midwestcon, to be held in May.

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New Worlds S-F, #45, March 1956, has: "Hyperant" (Rayer), "The Smallest Ally" (Bulmer), "The Unconventional Dustbin" (Ducan Lamont), "Emergency Call" (Guthrie), "Place Of The Throwing Stick" (Frank Bryning), "Fair" (Woodcote), article "Computers Don't Care" (Newman), and depts. The cover is by Terry (First Morning On Mars), and interior illos are by Quim and Hunter. The profile is on Bulmer. Carnell's editorial is on a TV discussion by authors J. B. Priestley and Edmund Crispin, of science-fiction.

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Nebula S-F, #15: brings us "Investment" (Tubb), "Sounds In The Sawn" (Shaw), "In Loving Memory" (White), "Green Hills Of Earth" (Heinlein), "The Artifact" (Chris. Lyster), "Birthday Star" (David Irish); plus depts. Front cover is by Jas. Stark, back cover by Ken McIntyre. Interior illos by Turner, Frew, Green-Grass and Hunter.

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

SCIENCE & FICTION CRITICS CLUB

Filling a comparative vacuum in the New England area is a new organization which seems destined for great things.

The name is: "Science & Fiction Critics Club", and the address is 230 Clarendon St., Boston 15, Mass. They welcome attendees from all over New England. Door is never locked weekdays, coffee makings always available in the galley.

They plan a good reference collection, a writers' workshop, and perhaps lectures and a tape record service.

If interested, drop a note to Mrs. Alma Hill, Secretary, at the above address.

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RESULTS OF OUR ADVERTISEMENTS

During the first few months of this year, advertisements offering free sample copies of Fantasy-Times to readers of science-fiction magazines appeared in Astounding S-F, Galaxy S-F, Mag Of Fantasy & S-F and IF, Worlds Of S-F.

In addition, a mention was given in the book review column of Fantastic Universe, and a half-page ad was purchased in Inside-SFA, a leading fan magazine.

Readers of F-T might be interested in the results of this campaign.

Total response as of the date of this writing (3rd April 1956) is 442, with a very small number of requests still coming in.

Breakdown according to mags:

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| <u>Astounding S-F</u> . . . . .           | 126 |
| <u>Galaxy S-F</u> . . . . .               | 126 |
| <u>Mag Of Fantasy &amp; S-F</u> . . . . . | 90  |
| <u>IF, Worlds Of S-F</u> . . . . .        | 60  |
| <u>Fantastic Universe S-F</u> . . . . .   | 9   |
| <u>Inside-SFA</u> . . . . .               | 8   |
| Source unknown . . . . .                  | 23  |

As of this date, 61 of these samplers have become subscribers.

Nebula S-F, #16: features: "Frontier Encounter" (Bounds), "Dying To Live" (Tubb), "Always" (Rob. Silverberg), "Hot



Water" (E. R. James), "Barrier To Yesterday" (Shaw), "The Moron" (John Seabright). Front cover by Jas. Rattigan; back cover Arthur Thomson; interior illustrations by Turner Thomson, Greenstass and Hunter. Tubb was chosen Nebula's most popular author for 1955; Bulner came second; Rayer and David S. Gardner tied for third place. Heinlein was favorite U. S. author. All this, in the Reader Opinion Poll. Also included in this issue were the regular departments.

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Editor Hamilton has recently issued his first Nebula News Letter, #1, dated March 1st, 1956. In it we are told that Stark, who did the truly fine cover of Nebula #15, has had offers of representation from overseas literary agents on the strength of this cover. He will work exclusively for Nebula, and appear minimum 4 times yearly. The News Letter has details on circulation of the mag., its coverage, details on Nebula #16, and info about U.S. author Silverberg.

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Editorial Note: Mr. Corper's story "The Great Fog", that he sold to a South Australian paper some time ago, has now also been sold to the Canadian "Montrealer".

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#### SCIENTIF-BOOKS

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

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Barnes, Gnome Press, NY, \$3.00.  
SECOND SATELLITE by Robert S. Richerson, Whittlesey House, NY, \$2.75.  
ALTERNATING CURRENTS by Frederick Pohl, Ballantine Books, NY, \$2.00.  
FORBIDDEN AREA by Pat Frank, Lippincott, \$3.50.  
FLYING SAUCER & COMMON SENSE by Wave-

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Paterson 23, New Jersey

#### PRINTED MATTER

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FANTASY-TIMES #244

### FANTASY - TIMES "The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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Published twice-a-month by FANDOM HOUSE

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#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U. S. & Canada: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1.00, or \$2 per year (24 issues).

Permanent subscription: \$10.00.

FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331,

Paterson 23, New Jersey.

British: 9d per copy, 15s0d per year, from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

Australian: One Shilling per copy, 10 Shillings for 12 issues, One Pound for 24 issues, from ROGAR DARD, Box S1387, G.P.O., PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

- o -

Advertisements: \$5.00 full page, \$3.00 per half page.

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James V. Taurasi, Sr., & Ray Van Houten  
Editors and Publishers.

- o -

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!  
(established 1937)

Circulation this issue - 1,300.

ney Girvan, The Citadel Press, \$3.50.

A WAY HOME by Theodore Sturgeon, Pyramid Books, NY, 35¢.

REACH FOR TOMORROW by Arthur C. Clarke, Ballantine Books, NY, cloth bound edition, \$2.00.

MISSION TO THE MOON by Lester del Rey, Winston Co., Phila. Pa., \$2.00.

THE OCTOBER COUNTRY by Ray Bradbury, Ballantine Books, NY, 50¢, paper bound.

A JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH by Jules Verne, Ace Books, NY, 35¢



Franklin M Dietz Jr ft-245  
Apt 309  
101 West 109th St  
New York 25 NY