



# Fantasy-Times

*The World Of Tomorrow Today!*



( Sixteenth Year Of Publication )

Vol. 12 - No. 267

Second March 1957 Issue

10 Cents

"AMAZING S-F NOVELS"

Due Out In June, 1957

"Dream World" Delayed Again

New York, 12 February, (CNS) - Ziff-Davis' new science-fiction publication, Amazing Science Fiction Novels, will be on the stands during June 1957.

It is still being planned as a quarterly, but additional information has come in on it. First: all plans to use stills from the motion picture that the novel is based on ("2,000,000 Miles To Earth") has been dropped. Tests were made and the results were not good. So, instead there will be 10 line drawings based on stills from the picture and drawn by Novick as interior illustrations. The colored photo cover has also been dropped and for the same reason. In its place will be a 4-color painting by Edward Valigursky. The new publication will be digest-size, 128 pages and sell for 35¢. The name of the Novel will be featured on the cover, with the magazine's name in small letters.

The third issue of Dream World will be delayed one month, be dated August instead of July and be on sale June 10th or thereabout. The 2nd issue was also delayed. The reason is that Paul Fairman is having trouble getting the "right" stories for the magazine.

## E.S.F.A. Woos Saucer Bugs At Eleventh Anniversary Meeting

Newark, N.J., 3 March, (CNS) - the 11th Anniversary meeting of the Eastern S-F Assn was held here today, with a record attendance of almost 150 persons.

About 40 of these were s-f fans; the rest were "flying saucer" addicts, lured to the meeting by radio publicity on the "Long John Show" (WOR-Ritual, 1 to 5 a.m. nightly) upon which Sam Moskowitz and Allan Howard were interviewed.

The theme of the meeting was "Flying Saucers --- After 10 Years", commemorating the approximate tenth anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting at Mt. Rainier in California which set off the current craze.

It is interesting to remember that it was this same ESFA which refused to

celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the First World S-F Con (1939), by so emphatically rejecting the idea of sponsoring the 1949 World S-F Con.

Speakers were: Bob Mills, editor of VENTURE S-F, who gave the only s-f talk of the afternoon; Lester Del Rey, who lashed out at flying saucers in no uncertain terms; L. Sprague de Camp, who also took the negative; Hans Santesson, editor of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE S-F, whose opinion was "there must be something to it"; Ivan T. Sanderson, introduced as a "world-renowned explorer and naturalist, author and T-V personality", who expounded the theory that the saucers were living organisms; and Thomas S. Gardner, famous fan, collector, author and researcher, who was distinctly skeptical of the whole idea. Representatives of a couple of "flying saucer groups" also spoke.

Official count of non-members attending (each of whom was charged 25¢ registration fee) was 118. No count of members attending was available. When a show of hands was called for by Mr. Moskowitz, it was revealed that only about a dozen there had come in response to circulars sent out to people on the ESFA's mailing list; almost all the rest had been listening in to the abovementioned radio show.

#### SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

⊗ Time, February 18, 1957:

In the Religion section two books written by priests and dealing with ghosts are reviewed. They are: SHANE LESLIE'S GHOST BOOK (Sheed & Ward, \$3) & OCCULT PHENOMENA by Father Alois Wiesinger (Newman Press, \$5).

⊗ Life, February 11, 1957:

"Pushbutton Defense For Air War". A pictorial essay on the new SAGE system. Some really beautiful color shots of equipment, etc. Certainly as much science-fiction as what was in the mags 10 or more years ago.

⊗ Life, February 18, 1957:

"More Atomic Progress: A Report". Taken from the 21st semi-annual report of the AEC, Life shows in pictures some-

of the plants and processing methods now in operation & scheduled for the near future.

#### NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Milford, Pike Co., Pa.

Dear Jimmy & Ray:

Bill Blackboard has just called my attention to an error in IN SEARCH OF WONDER, p. 88: the story "Hole In The Sky", which I pen, is by Irving E. Cox, Jr., not Arthur J. Cox. It's entirely my fault -- I just checked the original ms. and the error is there. Too many coxes ... Sorry, fellows.

best,

damon (knight)

Loveland, Ohio

Dear Jimmy:

In issue #257 you requested your readers to suggest a possible person to appear on the \$64,000 Question program.

To my mind, there is only 1 person who can meet all the qualifications.... Doc Barrett. He has never done anything professionally in the field; he has a vast knowledge of the stories, magazines, and early days of science-fiction from the Gernsback days; he has read extensively much of the early hard cover works which have predated the magazines & go back to the classics in literature; he has enough poise that he would not "panic" on the program, itself.

In addition to all this, Doc presents a stable personality & character that S-F would not appear in a bad light, should the program get some wild eyed screwball who thought Shaver was the greatest thing there ever was. In other words someone who you would not be ashamed to admit that you know, when your next door neighbor got to talking about the program.

What do you think?

One thing is needed: the address to write these requests to. Can you get that from the New York telephone directory, or by phoning around? If so, please print it, along with Fantasy-Times' recommendation for candidate.

Sincerely yours  
Donald E. Ford

(Doc Barrett is quite satisfactory to the editors of Fantasy-Times, and I believe science-fiction, to be recommended as a candidate for the \$64,000 Question program. The address is: \$64,000 Question, CBS-TV, 485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York, and good luck.

-James V. Taurasi, Sr.)

#### FANTASY-TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

by James Blish

Book publishers who desire to have their books or pocket-books reviewed in Fantasy-Times should send copies direct to James Blish, 848 Park Place, Brooklyn 16, New York. -eds

EMPIRE OF THE ATOM, by A. R. van Vogt. Shasta, Chicago, 1957. 192 pp., \$3.00

The publishers make a ludicrous attempt, in the jacket flap copy, to couple the historical materials in this novel with the Italian Renaissance, to which it has not the slightest connection. The attempt appears to be a deliberate essay in misdirection, for the novel -- a rewrite of the 1946-7 ASIF serial "Children of the Atom" -- is plainly about Augustan and early Claudian (First Century) Rome; and it is, equally plainly, indebted almost throughout to a famous British novel about that era.

The intellectual bankruptcy revealed by the borrowed characters and plot extends to nearly every other aspect of the book. The "science" in the novel would shame a high school student: At one point, a man makes an atomic bomb by lumping together random amounts of radium, uranium, plutonium, and "ocks" (craecium?) into a "photoelectric relay system"; routine interplanetary flight is carried on by a people with no knowledge of interplanetary distances; this same people handles radioactive materials routinely but has no detecting instrument smaller than a spaceship (honest, that's just what the man says, on p. 130); and the hero's final weapon is a small ball of light which, he says, "contains the entire sidereal universe" -- the only ex-

planation we ever get of its magical powers.

The details of the novel are equally ill-imagined. At one point, a character visits a Roman street-side bazaar -- surely an open invitation to color. But van Vogt has none to offer us. He simply says that the buildings have been "gaily decorated", and that the stalls sell "merchandise" which has both "variety" and "quality". In another place, he describes spaceships ramming and overturning each other exactly like Roman galleys; the world of 12,000 A.D. also has legions, circuses, barbarian tribes (one of which is actually called the Cimbri, so openly contemptuous of the reader's memory is the author), a Senate, a slave population double the number of freemen, a Capitoline Hill, and many other such institutions which did not cost van Vogt a moment's thought of his own (and none of which correspond, except remotely in a few instances, with anything in the Italian Renaissance).

The style is about what you would expect from this author: the book is in English, but just barely. It abounds in tautologies like "mental preconception", in ugly neologisms like "upjument", and in clumsy lectures between characters preceded by the giveaway phrase "As you know...". Sometimes, also as usual, it is impossible to tell what the author is talking about: "The molecular world offers few possibilities except the forces which man's own body can bring to bear".

"Empire of the Atom", Shasta says, is the new van Vogt. Ignoring the fact that the novel is ten years old, I will still have to say that I liked the old van Vogt much better; at least, in those days, it was his own ideas he was peddling. Justice compels me to add that this novel also contains a number of shrewd psychological and political observations -- but only a student of the source material could say with confidence which of these, if any, actually originated with van Vogt. The rest is no more than a sterile pastiche.

If you have three bucks put aside for this book, I strongly recommend that you buy Robert Graves' "I, Claudius" instead.

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION, June 1957:

(Novelots) "Lulu" by Clifford D. Simak, "The Hardest Bargain" by Evelyn E. Smith, and "Confidence Game" by Jim Harmon. (Short Stories) "Prime Difference" by Alan E. Nourse, "Leading Man" by Lloyd Biggle, Jr., "Shock Troop" by Daniel F. Galouye, (Science Department) "For Your Information" - Tribes of the Dinosaurs - by Willy Kay, (Features) "Editor's Page" by H.L. Gold, and "Galaxy's Five Star Shelf" by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by KIRBERGER showing PORTRAIT OF A WORLD.

THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB:

For March, The Science Fiction Book Club presents to its members: "The Best From Fantasy and Science Fiction" (6th Series), edited by Anthony Boucher. Publisher's edition \$5.50, Book Club members got it for \$1.00.

For April, it's "The Naked Sun" by Isaac Asimov. Publisher's edition \$2.95, Book Club members \$1.00.

For May, it's "Strangers In The Universe" by Clifford Simak. Publisher's edition \$3.50, Book Club members \$1.00.

For June, it's "The 27th Day" by John Mantley. Publisher's edition \$3.50, Book Club members \$1.00.

All the above are regular hard covered books, printed special for the Book Club from the original publisher's plates.

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2¢ per word, including name, address & zone number. 25 words minimum, remittance with copy. NO STAMPS PLEASE!

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WANTED: Science fiction, fantasy, and weird books, magazines published before 1945, in fine to mint condition only. Will make offers on lots or single volumes. Gerry de la Rec, 277 Howland Ave River-Edge, New Jersey. -ft-13

International Correspondence Clubs (four clubs): Writers, artists; Hobbyists; Science Fiction Fan. Reply stamp (your country) requested. Charles McNaghan, 236 Columbia Place, Los Angeles 26, California, USA. -ft-2

FANTASY - TIMES - #267

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U.S. & CANADA: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1 or \$2.00 per year (24 issues). Permanent Subscription: \$10.00, from FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, NJ.

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(concluded on page 6, column 1)

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Covering Great Britain, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Mexico, Portugal, France, etc.

Vol. 2 - No. 12

March 1957

(Whole No. 21)

## BRITISH

BY Michael Corper

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, B.R.E. for February 1957, contains "The Naked Sun" (Asimov), part one of three parts, - "Death March" (Budrys), "Sound Decision" (Garrett & Silverberg), "What They're Up Against" (Hunton), articles: "Those Impossible Autotrophic Men" (Eulach) and "What Is a Machine?", and departments. The cover is by Van Dongen, and interior illustrations by Freas and Van Dongen. ASF is published monthly in Great Britain by Atlas Publishing and Distributing Co Ltd., of 18 Bride Lane, London E.C.4. at 1/9 per issue.

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May I remind interested readers that the following books are available in pocket editions (Pan Books Ltd, 8 Headfort Place, London, S.W. 1) at 2/- each: "The Second Ghost Book" (Lady Cynthia Asquith); "Out Of The Silent Planet", "Voyage To Venus" ((Perelandra)) and "That Hideous Strength" (C. S. Lewis); "A Book Of Strange Stories" (N. Van Thal); "The Green Hills Of Earth" (Heinlein); and, at 2/6: "Three Time-Plays" (J. B. Priestley), and "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" with "Through The Looking-glass" (Lewis Carroll?).

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Here is a short comment on the contents of New Worlds Science Fiction, No. 55. The novelette "And Earthly Over..." by Len Wright, is a story of a man who is sent by an Authority to liquidate a political menace on some other planet.

Section Two of Fantasy-Times

## AUSTRALIAN

"S-F LIBRARY"

ALSO FOLDS

by Graham B. Stone

Sydney, 18 February, (CNS) - Along with the folding of their magazine Science Fiction Monthly, Atlas Publications Pty Ltd., has also folded their science-fiction novel series, Science Fiction Library, of which 8 appeared.

The story is thrilling, but I feel that it could as well be transferred to a modern set-up, or even a Western. You will enjoy it, nevertheless. A. C. Clarke's "Royal Prerogative" deals with a future King of England who is space-minded. The introduction stamps this as 'his most outstanding story'. But surely Clarke has written better yarns? I thoroughly enjoyed "Build-up" (J. G. Ballard), dealing with the problems that beset a young man who, in a world of the future where a city is worldwide and built in layers, upwards and downwards, is looking for free space to try out a new invention of his; an old aeroplane type of ours. There is also a moral to this story - or could it be merely that the author was too impressed by London's Inner Circle subway line? "Prodigy" by Nita Polinda, has as subject the weeding-out of not-up-to

-standard human babies for the benefit of the race and breaks a lance for the misfits that are mentally more advanced than the physically luckier ones; while "Thirty-Seven Times" (Alan Guthrie) has a time-travel theme with a difference. "Patrol" by James White finally brings us a story about the invasion of Earth by a Bug race, and a warning not to be too hasty in our reactions.

(25 February) A few minutes ago I saw the new Authentic on the bookstands.

It is still priced 2/-, but has changed its title from Authentic Science Fiction on the cover to Authentic Science Fiction Monthly. Also, the number of pages changed from 162 to 128 and instead of the former straightforward book-style type set-up, the new issue has a double-column presentation. The size has been enlarged from pocket-book to digest size.

I also received from Editor Peter Hamilton, of Nebula, a copy of the Scots newspaper Daily Record, dated February 15, 1957, featuring on page 8 an article about him and his magazine, and some notes about American versus British science-fiction.

#### FANTASY-TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

#### REVISED LIST OF BACK NUMBERS OF

FANTASY-TIMES (as of 16 March, 1957).

Some are in very short supply, 1 or 2 copies only on hand. FIRST COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS. Only those listed below are now available - Order now, for once these are gone --- THAT'S IT!

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ALSO: Vol. 1 - No. 2, Nov 1949 "Tiempo-De-Fantasia" (Spanish Edition), 10¢ ea.

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P. O. Box #2331  
Paterson 23, New Jersey, USA.

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FANTASY - TIMES - #21  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

The "International Edition" of FANTASY-TIMES is published monthly by FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey, USA.

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