

E X T R A

Scientific-Fiction Times

"THE WORLD OF YESTERDAY TODAY!"

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FIRST MARCH 1926 ISSUE

(FREE)

AMAZING STORIES

FIRST ALL SCIENTIFIC
FICTION MAGAZINE
COMING FROM THE
PUBLISHERS OF
"SCIENCE & INVENTION"

HUGO GERNSBACK WILL PUBLISH "NO WEIRD STORIES"

NEW YORK, (CNS) - The world's first all scientific-fiction magazine, Amazing Stories, will appear on the newsstands in April, it was announced by Hugo Gernsback, publisher of the Experimenter Publishing Co., New York. The magazine will be letter-size, 96 pages, printed on heavy book paper, sell for 25¢ and be published monthly. It will be subtitled "The Magazine of Scientifiction". "Scientifiction" is a new term coined by Mr. Gernsback which he hopes will replace "Scientific Fiction". Actually, it was

arrived at by contracting the words "Scientific Fiction".

"By 'scientifiction' I mean the Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and Edgar Allan Poe type of story", Mr. Gernsback clarified. "A charming romance intermingled with scientific fact and prophetic vision. For many years stories of this nature were published in the sister magazines of Amazing Stories — Science and Invention and Radio News."

The out-and-out weird tale, the ghost story and the fairy-tale type fantasy will not appear in the new Amazing Stories. All stories must be based on credible scientific fact.

"We want stories that supply knowledge that the reader might not otherwise obtain, that inspire youth to enter a scientific career and that prophecy the future in the manner of Jules Verne," Mr. Gernsback said. "However, as they do this they must also entertain. The readership obtain pleasure from being mentally stimulated by the artistry of the writer. Many great scientific stories destined to be of an historical interest are still to be written, and Amazing Stories magazine will be the medium through which such stories will come to you. Posterity will point to them as having blazed a new trail, not only in literature and fiction, but in progress as well."

At present, Mr. Gernsback pointed out, few stories of scientific fiction are being written. Therefore, until new writers are trained and established writers learn that there is a market for work of this type, Amazing Stories will have to lean heavily on reprints. Contents of the first issue, dated April, 1926 will be "Off On A Comet -- Or Hector Servadax" (Part 1 of a two-part serial) by Jules Verne; "The New Acceleration" by H. G. Wells (also previously printed in Science and Invention February, 1923); "The Man From The Atom" (Part 1 of 2 parts) by G. Peyton Wertenbaker (reprinted from the August, 1923 Science and Invention); "The Thing From--Outside" by George Allan England (reprinted from the April, 1923 Science and Invention); "The Man Who Saved The Earth" by Austin Hall (December 13, 1919 All-Story Magazine); and "The Facts In The Case of M. Valdemar" by Edgar Allan Poe. There will also be an editorial by Hugo Gernsback titled "A New Sort Of Magazine."

Coming up in forthcoming issues will be "A Trip To The Center of The Earth" by Jules Verne, "The Runaway Skyscraper" by Murray Leinster, "The Krystal Egg" by H. G. Wells, and the beginning of a new series of "Doctor Hackensaws Secrets" by Clement Fezandie. Other new stories will be included as soon as they can be obtained.

Managing editor of the magazine will be T. O'Connor Sloane, M.A., Ph. D., a distinguished scientist with the prop-

per background to ascertain the scientific accuracy of the stories submitted for publication.

The cover and most of the interior illustrations will be executed by Frank R. Paul, who has for years illustrated the scientific fiction stories in Science and Invention and Radio News. This will be his first opportunity to do a cover.

Another "first" for this magazine, Mr. Gernsback announces, will be the use of "perfect binding". This is a brand new process of binding a magazine without staples, that makes it possible to open it flat when reading it, despite the thickness. This method is more expensive but expected to find favor with the readers. It will be inaugurated with the second issue.

The slogan of the magazine will be: "Extravagant Fiction Today....Cold Facts Tomorrow".

The Experimenter Publishing Co., and Mr. Gernsback have long maintained an active interest in publishing scientific fiction that dates back to 1911 when Ralph 124C41 Plus, a novel by Mr. Gernsback was serialized in Modern Electrics. Since that time, literally hundreds of such stories have been published in the company's various publications including Modern Electrics, Electrical Experimenter, Science and Invention, Practical Electrics and Radio News. Science and Invention in August, 1923 ran a special "Scientific Fiction" issue with a cover by Howard V. Brown illustrating G. Peyton Wertenbaker's "The Man From The Atom" and four other stories all published for the first time. Science and Invention has been averaging two scientific fiction stories an issue including such famous authors as Ray Cummings, H. G. Wells, John Martin Leshy, George Allan England, Hugo Gernsback, and many others.

One and sometimes two stories of scientific fiction run regularly in Radio News, a companion of Science and Invention, including more than a dozen by the famous "Pigs Is Pigs" Ellis Parker Butler. Practical Electrics, now discontinued, distinguished itself with serializing in 15 installments "The Ark of the Covenant" by Victor MacClure.

(continued on page 6, column 1)



HUGO GERNSBACK

"GHOST STORIES"

A MAGAZINE OF SUPERNATURAL FICTION

PLANNED BY MCFADDEN

NEW YORK, (CNS) - Ghost Stories, a magazine of fact and fiction concerning the supernatural, the occult and the psychic will be issued by McFadden Publications, Inc., New York City, sometimes in June. The magazine will be letter-sized, 96 pages, printed on smooth stock and sell for 25¢. The first issue will be dated July, 1926. It will be published monthly.

The policy of the publication was described by editor George William Wilder as follows: "There are many who claim contact with a spirit world. The experiences of such persons you will read in Ghost Stories magazine."

"During the past few years Spiritualism has numbered thousands of new believers among its followers. Who is to say that a spirit world does not exist? Voodocism is practiced in Africa, in portions of the United States, and elsewhere on the globe. Necromancy holds thousands in its weird spell. Mental telephthly is conceded to exist; practiced scientists of standing assure us that the control of thought transference is a discovery so imminent it may be made any hour of any day. Crystal gazes seemed to have looked into the future and predicted events with uncanny accuracy. Many are the men and women whose lives are guided by superstitions which they dare not oppose.

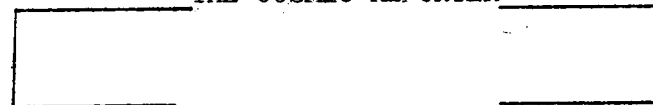
"From these and other departments of psychic lore we are drawing to build a magazine."

Most of the contents will either be fiction or fictionized true experiences. Skilled writers contribute to the publication. Already scheduled are stories by Fulton Oursler, Jack Bechdolt, Victor Rousseau, Grant Hubbard, Gilbert Patten, Eugene Clancy, Robert W. Sneddon and many others. There will be reprints of famous ghost stories by the masters. Among those already scheduled are "The Transferred Ghost" by Frank R. Stockton; "What Was It?" by Fritz-James O'Brien, and "The Open Door" by Mrs. Margaret Oliphant. A department in the first issue will be "Spirit Tales", concerning "Timely Topics of Current Psychic Interest". Another department of "True Ghost Experiences" will be added later.

The cover will be regular art work but the interior of the magazine will be illustrated by posed models, just as is Ghost Stories companion periodicals True Story and True Detective Mysteries.

Mr. Wilder is optimistic about the future of the periodical, feeling that the appeal to the fears and superstitions of the masses through the "uncanny, spooky, creepy tales" of Ghost Stories strikes a common denominator.

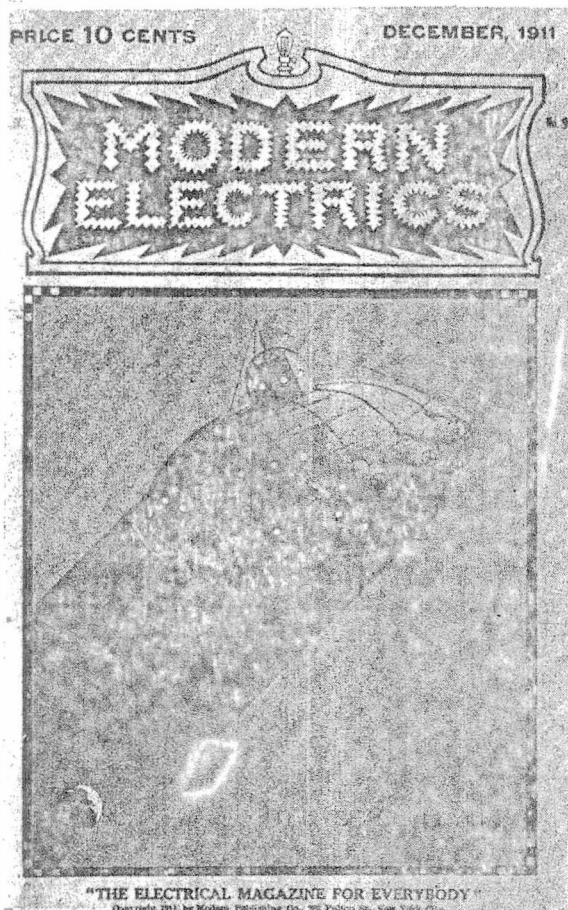
THE COSMIC REPORTER



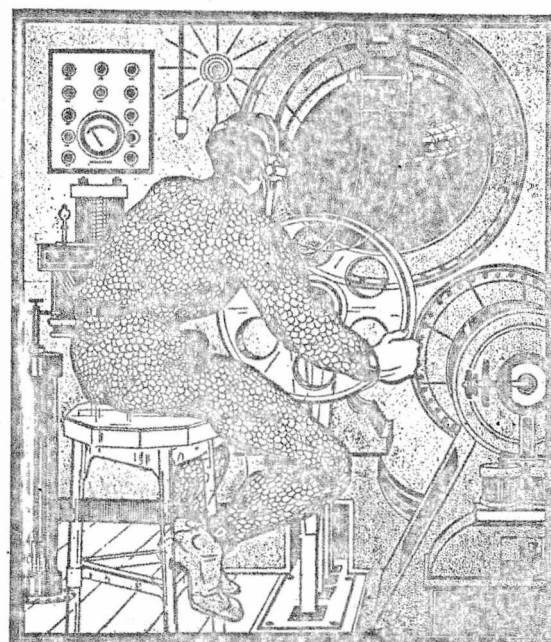
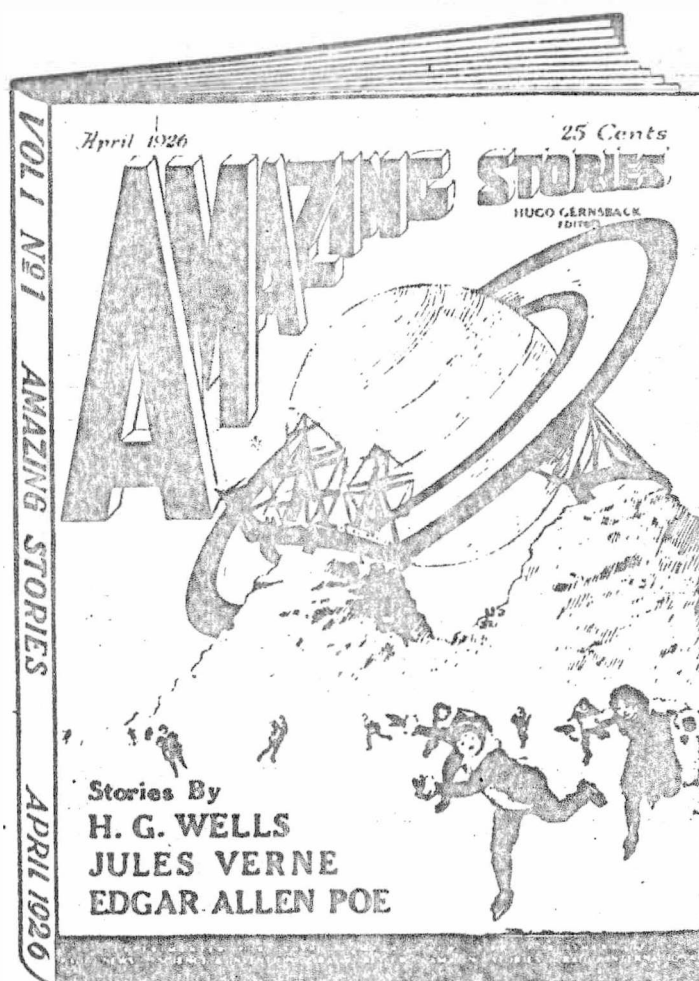
The Radio Planet, the third in a series of interplanetary novels by Ralph Milne (continued on page 6, column 1)

INTRODUCING

THE NEWEST STORY MAGAZINE



The Anti-Gravitator Space Flyer. Note gyroscopes and "radar" antennas on top of cupola.—From Modern Electrics, Dec. 1911.



Ralph in his space flyer overhauls the Martian, Llysanh. He will trap him with his Ultra-Generator.—From Modern Electrics, Feb. 1912.

"AMAZING STORIES", FIRST ALL SCIENTIFIC
FICTION MAGAZINE, COMING FROM PUBLISHERS
OF "SCIENCE AND INVENTION"
(continued from page 2, column 2)

Mr. Gernsback, himself, had his prophetic interplanetary novel "Ralph 124C41 Plus" published in book form by The Stratford Company, Boston. It originally was serialized in 12 monthly installments in Modern Electrics, a fore-runner of Science and Invention, beginning with the April, 1911 issue.

If Amazing Stories is successful, Mr. Gernsback promises to enlarge the magazine and increase the frequency of publication.

THE COSMIC REPORTER
(continued from page 4, column 2)

Farley is scheduled for early publication in Argosy. The two previous novels, The Radio Man and The Radio Beasts proved very popular with the readers. This is the only important fantasy novel on the docket for this magazine.....Adventure Magazine reports that they have a very unusual fantasy by T. S. "Green Splotches" Stribling titled Christ In Chicago pegged for their April 8 issue. The title gives an idea of the special nature of what they call a "long novelette".....On tap at Popular Magazine but not in the line-up as yet is what they term "a truly bizarre notion" incorporated into the Abominable Test by Fred MacIsaac....Definitely scheduled at Popular Magazine is the novel Goddess From The Shades by John Buchan, popular cloak and dagger novelist. There is a possibility this novel may see book publication later in the year. The story is founded, like Kipling's Brushwood Boy, on recurrent dreams which develop to be true.....Two stories of interest to fantasy lovers will appear in the unlikely pages of Flynn's Detective Weekly. They are both by Guston Leroux, famed author of Phantom of the Opera. The first, The Puppet will be published in the May, 15 issue, the second, Machine To Kill, will show on June 12.

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FICTION MAGAZINE "AMAZING STORIES"

NEW MERRITT NOVELETTE BOUGHT BY "WEIRD TALES"

(CNS) - A new novelette by A. Merritt, The Women Of The Wood, is scheduled for Weird Tales, Farnsworth Wright, editor of that magazine announced. This is the first time a story by the sensational favorite of The Moon Pool, The Metal Monster, The Face In The Abyss and The Ship Of Ishtar has ever been sold to a publication not in the Munsey chain.

"We purchased it with the proviso that we would not alter a word," Mr. Wright said, "and believe me it doesn't need it. Mr. Merritt tells us that it is the only story he was ever completely satisfied with upon completion. The story is a magnificent fantasy concerning a forest of trees in actual warfare against their human foes and is brilliantly written.

"Mr. Merritt is not the only fine thing we have to offer in the near future," reported Mr. Wright. "The cover of our April, 1926 issue will illustrate the second story by an author of unusual promise, Robert E. Howard, whose Wolfs-head should elevate him to the ranks of the very elite among Weird Tales' writers. The truly classic story in our April issue will be H. P. Lovecraft's The Outsider. Its every sentence bears the mark of the master literary craftsman; it is a sheer triumph of bizarrerie and outre invention. Not even Poe in his wildest flights of fancy has surpassed the winged beauty of this imaginative tale."

SCIENTIFIC-FICTION BOOKS

BURROUGHS AND MERRITT LEAD HARDCOVER SELECTIONS FOR 1926

Two of the world's greatest fantasy writers, Edgar Rice Burroughs and A. Merritt are among those who will have new

books during 1926, a survey of book publishers in the United States and England, conducted by Scientific-Fiction Times reveals. Three short novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs from Argosy will be combined into one volume by McClurg, Chicago, and published under the title of The Moon Maid. The novels were originally serialized under the titles of The Moon Maid, The Moon Men and The Red Hawk and are considered among Burroughs' best. Putnam will issue The Ship of Ishtar by A. Merritt first serialized in Argosy in 1924 and acclaimed as even greater than that author's The Moon Pool.

A second book by Edgar Rice Burroughs, a cloak and dagger tale of monarchies and intrigue, though non-fantasy will interest Burroughs' fans. It is The Mad King which will also be published by McClurg and is made up of two short novels initially published in All-Story in 1914 titled The Mad King and Barney Custer of Beatrice.

The first new Professor Challenger novel since 1913 when The Posion Belt appeared will come from Doran this year. The story titled Land Of The Mist is by the creator of Sherlock Holmes, A. Conan Doyle, and will be serialized on this continent later this year as The Lord of The Mist in Canadian Magazine. Word has it that Prof. Challenger will tackle the psychic and metaphysical this trip around.

Another oriental adventure fantasy by the father of Fu Manchu, Sax Rohmer, will be offered by Doubleday, Page under the title of Yellow Shadows.

A whole bevy of new, untried fantasy authors will make their debut this year and if advance notices of the publishers follow the usual exaggeration, the authors will have a difficult time living up to them. McBride's is particularly enthusiastic concerning Thorne Smith whose novel Topper they claim will be "tops" in any man's language. It is promoted as being a delightful blend of ghosts, humor, sex and sophistication entirely different than anything that has appeared. McBride also has many kind things to say about another relative newcomer, Robert Nathan, whose Fiddler In The Barley they will publish this year, regarding him as a poet util-

izing the medium of fantasy to present life's truths.

Boni, New York, also waxes lyrical about their "find" E. R. Eddison. They have scheduled his Worm Ouroboros for publication with an introduction by James Stephens. Their literature states: "The publication of Worm Ouroboros will add a new masterpiece to the language." They regard E. R. Eddison as the greatest literary find since James Branch Cabell.

More along the traditional scientific-fiction vein will be Doran's issuing The Death Maker by Austin J. Small, concerning a man with the power to destroy an entire nation in a week if he so desired. This is also a first book publication, though the novel previously was serialized by Street & Smith.

A number of good things are scheduled in Great Britain. Leading off the parade is another short story collection of the popular American fantasy writer Tod Robbins whose books The Unholy Three, Red of Surley and Silent, White and Beautiful are already collector's items. The British book from Philip Allan will be titled Who Wants a Green Bottle? Also included are Silent, White and Beautiful and Wild Wullie The Waster, both of which, with the title story appeared in the 1920 American collection Silent, White and Beautiful. In addition there will be Toys, A Bit Of A Banshee, The Son Of Shaemas O'Shea, Cockrow Inn And Spurs. Most of these titles should be familiar to fantasy lovers since they first appeared in the Mansiey Magazines.

Another British collection of fantasy from Selwyn and Blount, London, which draws heavily upon American talents is More "Not At Night", edited by Christine Campbell Thomson. This is a follow up to the very popular collection of last year titled Not At Night. The new volume will draw heavily upon stories from Weird Tales magazine, including selections by Seabury Quinn, Frank Belknap Long, Sewell Peaslee Wright, August W. Derleth, Donald E. Keyhoe and others.

Many readers will be interested in a new fantasy novel by E. Charles Vivian, scheduled by Hodder & Stoughton, London, to be titled A King There Was. Mr. Vivian's previous fantasies include City

Of Wonder and People Of The Darkness have been well received by readers in this country.

To round out the menu, there is even one volume of verse which readers of fantasy may want to own. It is by the popular Frank Belknap Long, one of

Weird Tales' best authors and will be titled A Man From Genoa And Other Poems. It will be published in a strictly limited edition by W. Paul Cook of Athol, Mass., who has published a number of other worthwhile collector's items on a non-profit basis.

EXCLUSIVE TO "SCIENTIFIC-FICTION TIMES"

WRIGHT PLANNED SCIENTIFIC FICTION MAGAZINE TO REPLACE "WEIRD TALES"

(CNS) - Both a magazine of scientific-fiction and a magazine of the supernatural were contemplated by Farnsworth Wright, editor and publisher of Weird Tales magazine in 1924, when it appeared that bankruptcy would shortly engulf that periodical Frank Belknap Long, well-known author of scientific and weird fiction reports.

To support his claim, Mr. Long has correspondence from Farnsworth Wright. In a letter addressed to Mr. Long dated July 20, 1924 on Weird Tales stationary, Mr. Wright states: "I think Strange Tales will go through, but I probably will not get it out before December 5 (the first issue bearing the date of January 1925). I do not want to call it Weird Story Magazine, as I originally intended, for I do not wish it confused with the old publication, whose crimes would be heaped on the head of the new, if it bore the name "weird". I do not like the caption "The Unique Magazine", either, for "unique" might be underwear or self-raising flour or a new brand of shoe polish. I think I will give it the short title: Strange Tales, with the descriptive caption: "A Magazine of the Bizarre and Unusual". I will specialize in pseudo-scientific tales, but the name "Strange Tales" will give me a wide latitude to choose any striking original

and different stories no matter what their theme."

The letter heads of the old Rural Publishing Corp., original publishers of Weird Tales also bore the title Ghost Stories. It was intended to publish that either as a companion to Weird Tales or as a replacement, since Weird Tales was doing so poorly.

Strange Tales was abandoned when Weird Tales was reorganized in 1924 and brought under the full direction of Farnsworth Wright who was editing it on a part-time basis, having been employed as a musical critic for Musical America, a trade magazine in the music field. Mr. Wright also obtained a financial interest in the magazine.

Mr. Long is well-known as the popular Weird Tales' author of such stories as The Ocean Leech, Nightmare of the Lakes, The Desert Lich, Death-Waters, Devil-Gold, The Were-Snake and many others. Mr. Long is also a very close friend of H. P. Lovecraft author of Rats in the Walls which has scored such a hit in Weird Tales.

SUPPORT THE ONLY

100% SCIENTIFIC-FICTION MAGAZINE
"AMAZING STORIES"

EDITORIAL

SCIENCE VERSUS SUPERSTITION

by Sam Moskowitz

THE TRUE drama inherent in the appearance of the world's first true science-fiction magazine, Amazing Stories, on the newsstands of the nation early in the Spring of 1926 has never been properly underlined, mainly because there were no newspapers like Science-Fiction Times reporting the events of the day. If Scientific-Fiction Times, this simulated newspaper had existed and published an issue similar to this one, mailed early in March, 1926, the situation would have been etched in base-relief.

What does objective reporting of the important fantasy news of March, 1926 tell us? What perspective may be gained from assembling all the elements on a few pages?

The key to the entire situation is the almost forgotten publication of the first issue of Ghost Stories, dated July, 1926 and appearing only a few months after the first issue of Amazing Stories. It, too, was a fantasy magazine but dedicated to the proposition that tales which appealed to the superstition, fears and collective ignorance of the masses offered the greatest thrill and the maximum appeal. Hugo Gernsback was also publishing fantasy of a type he called "scientifiction", a brand of fiction which I defined as follows: "Science-fiction is a branch of fantasy identifiable by the fact that it eases the 'willing suspension of disbelief' on the part of its readers through insisting upon an atmosphere of scientific credibility for its imaginative speculations in science, space, time, sociology and philosophy", but it was a type of fantasy that appealed to the reader's intelligence and forward-looking imaginative powers. Here was a true contest of reader maturity and reader appeal. Both magazines were the same size and prices, had the same number of pages and good distribution. If there was any advantage it went to Ghost

Stories which was backed by many more millions than Hugo Gernsback's Experimenter Publishing Co. could ever hope to muster.

After three years of "competition" Gernsback's Amazing Stories was not only highly profitable but had spawned a quarterly. In desperation, Macfadden first tried another entry, True Strange Stories, which failed after a few issues even though it ran some straight science-fiction as well as fantasies and then attempted, unsuccessfully, to buy Gernsback out. Failing in both, it was alleged that he was instrumental into edging Experimenter Publications into "bankruptcy" on a technicality.

Shortly afterward, he sold Ghost Stories to Harold Hershey who folded it after only a relatively few numbers.

The true courage of Hugo Gernsback in very sharply differentiating "scientifiction" in Amazing Stories instead of settling for a conglomeration of weird, fantasy, adventure and science-fiction as had Thrill Book in 1919 and Weird Tales in 1923 is brought sharply into focus by the presentation of documented material that Farnsworth Wright also planned a science-fiction magazine early in 1925 but lost the courage and incentive to publish it. Ideas are easy. Carrying them out is difficult. Gernsback had the confidence to present his concept of a science-fiction form in the purest form that circumstances permitted. His Amazing Stories, beyond any cavil, by example defined the boundaries of science-fiction and brought into being the entire existing field of today with all of its ramifications.

Weird Tales, since its very first issue had published in every issue a number of true science-fiction stories. It may very well be that the magazine owed as much of its survival quality to this fact as to the inspired literary excellence of the weird and fantasy material selected by its editor. It is doubtful if Weird Tales ever achieved half the 100,000 circulation that Amazing Stories boasted within a few months of its appearance. Since the quantity of science-fiction available to readers was limited it is entirely possible that Weird Tales actually gained rather than

lost readership by the competition Amazing Stories afforded.

It was fortunate that at the time when Amazing Stories appeared, that Argosy, which for many years had developed a marvelous array of top notch fantasy writers including Edgar Rice Burroughs, A. Merritt, Austin Hall, George Allan England, Homer Eon Flint, J. U. Giesy, Ray Cummings, Garrett Smith, Murray Leinster and innumerable others had for several years out its quota of fantasy to little more than a token representation. There was no question that Amazing Stories gained Argosy readers in droves.

That Argosy would never again be the primary source of good fantasy was ensured by the simple fact that new authors would tend to submit their efforts first to the specialty magazines devoted to fantasy and therefore, the fresh, new ideas would emanate from them.

In the future, names like Edgar Rice Burroughs, A. Merritt, Ray Cummings, Murray Leinster, Homer Eon Flint, and others considered part and parcel of Argosy would frequently show up first in Amazing Stories or Weird Tales, despite lower word rates.

The two most popular names in fantasy, Edgar Rice Burroughs and A. Merritt headed a book list for 1926, that otherwise did not look too prepossessing. However, the hindsight of 35 years enable us to see that some of the eager youngsters and "first novels" in

the field weren't going to be so bad, considering they included Thorne Smith, Robert Nathan and E. R. Eddison.

It is fitting that after 35 years, the first of all science-fiction magazines Amazing Stories not only survives, but is vigorously driving for the leadership of the field.

SCIENTIFIC-FICTION TIMES

"The World of Yesterday Today!"

Vol. X Minus 1 1st March 1926 No.2

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