

The Science-Fiction Newspaper

# Science-Fiction Times

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 12 - No. 270

First May 1957 Issue

10 Cents

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

# NEXT CHANGE 8 PAGES, OFFSET??

AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY noticed by now, we have, after fifteen years, changed our title.

Reasons for the change are, basically, two-fold.

Firstly, when FANTASY-TIMES was established back in 1941, the word "fantasy" was a blanket term, including science-fiction, weird-fiction and, of course, fantasy-fiction. While F-T has always been at least 90% science-fiction, in those earlier days "fantasy" was not the naughty word it is today.

Today fantasy magazines just don't sell. Mags carrying only weird and fantasy stories are no longer with us. And remember how quickly THE MAG OF FANTASY added AND SCIENCE-FICTION to its title!

We knew years ago that our title wasn't the right one, but, sentimentally perhaps, we just didn't have the heart to change it. But now, the situation being what it is, with the term "science-fiction" far overshadowing the term "fantasy", the change can no longer be put off.

John Giunta, our art editor, is working on a logo cut of the new title, and as soon as it is ready, we'll go back to printed headings. Johnny has been slightly delayed in getting at it

due to deadlines on his work for SATURN and VENTURE S-F, plus his cartoon strip for the Superman people.

Why we picked this particular time to change brings us to point two.

For over a year now, we've been noticing many signs which indicate that we've gone just about as far as is possible with our present format. In fact we've now reached a point where we can measure slumps and peaks in the field by corresponding slumps and peaks in THE TIMES!

For instance, about a year ago at the beginning of the present "boomlet", we had almost 600 paid subbers, with a circulation of about 700. At present, as the boom slides off, our list has cut back to about 500 paid subs and a circulation of a bit over 600.

We've realized for a long time that mimeographing and comparatively few pages was holding us back, so while we're on the subject of improvements, here's a proposition for all our readers:

Would you like to be getting for your \$2 per year, an 8-page, photo-offset SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, equivalent to about 16 pages mimeo, with PICTURES, special features (for which we do not have room now), less of the "continued

A Fandom House Publication



on page umpteen" baloney which we're forced to do now because of space limitations, a hard and fast publication schedule, with issues out on the 1st and 15th of each month, more detailed and complete reports from all over the world, and more complete coverage of the entire field, due to the fact that the time now spent on mimeoing, collating, stapling and general donkey work connected with THE TIMES could be spent on editorial content? Oh yes, and better, slicker paper than this lousy yellow pulp!

You would? We would too!

BUT, THE TIMES must support itself. None of us here at FANDOM HOUSE are in a position to pay for these improvements. We would if we could, but we can't.

Our present level of subs supports THE TIMES as it is. We can make the above improvements only by doubling our list of subscribers.

Here is the proposition: if each of our readers can get us just one more paid subscriber, we're in! We don't mean that any subber should renew before time; that wouldn't help. If each subber gets one more subber, that will double our sub list, and of course, double our yearly income.

That amount of money would support a photo-offset SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES.

About getting that extra subscriber --- we're sure that most issues we send out are read by more than one person. We figure that the average is at least two per issue. Why not suggest to fans who borrow your issue that they subscribe themselves? Club members --- how about suggesting to other members that they subscribe? Fans with heavy correspondence --- mention this deal in your letters.

We're sick and tired of seeing a mimeographed TIMES --- and we're convinced that you all are too.

How about it? -The Editors

#### HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

Looking for a good place to advertise it?

ADVERTISE in THE TIMES!

See page 8 for rates.

#### SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

by James Blish

TILL WE HAVE FACES, by C. S. Lewis. Harcourt, Brace, 1956. 313 pp., \$4.50.

People who think THE MOON POOL is a great fantasy should let their voices fall at least until they have read this novel, by the author of the already classic Maleidil trilogy (Out of the Silent Planet; Perelandra; That Hideous Strength). Here Lewis abandons science fiction entirely and goes back to myth: specifically, the myth of Psyche and Eros, of which our first written record (and still the best, though Lewis does not appear to like it much) is the Golden Ass of Lucius Apuleius, written in the second century A.D.

He tells the story as though he had invented it himself, setting it in a remote and barbaric country, and in a time when even the Greeks had not emerged very far from the shadow of the first, legendary Greek kingdom of Mycenae. Lewis does not pretend to have penetrated to the essential savagery of that time and place; indeed, both the narrative and the dialogues tend to be a little prim and English even by modern standards; what interests him is a single proposition which he states before the novel even begins --- "Love is too young to know what conscience is".

In his exposition of this idea he never makes a mistake, not even a minor one. The story is told from the point of view of an old queen who, though she is Psyche's half-sister, was born ugly and has been getting uglier ever since; Lewis makes her real, ugly, regal, pathetic -- and above all, tragically too loving of her foredoomed half-sister.

The supernatural is absolutely essential to the book; it is what the book is about; but the questions that it raises are hard questions, not just offstage tinklings and chills. This is not a book for children, and few adults who have no children of their own are likely to be patient with it, either. But it makes a very good test of what a



fantasy fan means when he characterizes a novel as "great". If his definition excludes this book, his opinion isn't worth listening to; send him back to Peter Rabbit.

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THE PARADOX MEN, by Charles L. Harness, and HOME AROUND AMERICA, by Jack Williamson. Ace Double Novel, 1955: 187 and 133 pp., 35¢.

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 The Harness is a reprint of the 1953 hardcover FLIGHT INTO YESTERDAY, originally published as a magazine story in 1949. It still remains one of the best science-fiction novels of the past decade, as well as one of the most complicated. Harness' method is deliberately imitated from van Vogt, but unlike his model, he handles it in masterly fashion, leaving no loose ends, and piling up a massive emotional and melodramatic charge. Harness has convincing rationales for everything he does, even in miniature; he has a good command of science and technology; and where his writing is clumsy -- as it is now and again -- it is with the clumsiness of a potential master, rather than that of a man with a tin ear.

This part of the volume alone is more than worth the price. The other part, the Williamson, is a highly routine thriller dating from 1941, but as familiar in pattern as though it had been written ten years earlier. Jack can turn out this kind of thing in his sleep, and this one reads as though he did exactly that.

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 N.B.: In my review of van Vogt's EMPIRE OF THE ATOM in the second March-issue of F-T, I recommended that the prospective reader spend his three-bucks instead on I, CLAUDIUS by Robert Graves. I did not then know that this stunning historical (not science-fiction) novel is available from Avon in a 35¢ paperback, Avon's number AT68. Thus if you would like to test my thesis that the van Vogt work is almost totally derived from the Graves, you need spend only an additional 35¢ to get both books; and --- for whatever it is worth --- you have my guarantee on the Graves.

## ACE SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS

by Donald A. Wollheim

Here's the latest information on forthcoming ACE science-fiction books:

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APRIL: Our double now out has a reprint of THREE TO CONQUER by Eric Frank Russell, and a new novel by Robert Moore Williams entitled DOOMSDAY EVE, which further extends this author's psi powers conjectures.

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MAY: We'll be doing a reprint of THIS FORTRESS WORLD by James E. Gunn, and Robert Silverberg's first adult s-f novel, THE 13th IMMORTAL, which deals with a world of mutants many hundreds of years from now.

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JUNE: GUNNER CADE by Cyril Judd will see its first paperback edition in this double book, along with CRISIS IN 2140 by H. Beam Piper & John J. McGuire. This is the book title of the serial "Null ABC" and concerns literacy and illiteracy of the future arising from the present school controversies.

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JULY: FIRST ON MARS by Rex Gordon will be a special Ace single this month. A most unusual novel, dealing with the first Earth rocketor marooned on the red planet for fifteen years. I personally think it one of the best Mars novels ever written -- one that adheres strictly to the facts about that planet.

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AUGUST: THE SECRET VISITORS by James White is the book version (considerably improved) of the New Worlds serial TOURIST PLANET. Along with it as a double will be Bob Silverberg's second adult novel MASTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, a first-rate novel of an overcrowded future Earth.

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 Also signed up, though not yet on schedule, is a reprint of EMPIRE OF THE ATOM by A. E. van Vogt, a reprint of STAR WAYS by Poul Anderson, another Verne classic, and a new novel by Frank Belknap Long. We've a new Wilson Tucker detective novel on hand for the autumn, too.



# ADVERTISEMENT

## SALE OF SCIENCE-FICTION, FANTASY, WEIRD BOOKS

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- Please mention SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES when answering advertisements -



## THE SCIENCE - FICTION RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

(Warners, NY) SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGS ON THE US NEWSSTANDS DURING MARCH, 1957:

N A M E	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Fantastic Universe S F	May	35¢	128	Digest	March 7, 1957	Monthly
Astounding Science Fiction	Apr	35¢	162	Digest	March 12, 1957	Monthly
Science Fiction Stories	May	35¢	144	Digest	March 12, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Amazing Stories	Apr	35¢	130	Digest	March 12, 1957	Monthly
Fantastic Science Fiction	Apr	35¢	130	Digest	March 12, 1957	Monthly
Super Science Fiction	June	35¢	130	Digest	March 12, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Dream World	May	35¢	130	Digest	March 12, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Imagination Science Fiction	June	35¢	130	Digest	March 12, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Galaxy Science Fiction	May	35¢	144	Digest	March 19, 1957	Monthly
Infinity Science Fiction	June	35¢	130	Digest	March 19, 1957	6-Weekly
Fantasy And Science Fiction	May	35¢	128	Digest	March 19, 1957	Monthly
Venture Science Fiction	May	35¢	130	Digest	March 21, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Science Fiction Adventures	June	35¢	130	Digest	March 28, 1957	6-Weekly
Future Science Fiction	#32	35¢	130	Digest	March 28, 1957	Quarterly

During the month of March 14 s/f magazines came out. All 14 were digests costing \$4.90, and containing 1,876 pages.

## SCIENCE-FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

ACROSS TIME by David Grinnell, Bour-  
egy & Curl, NY, \$2.75. Jan/28/57.

HIS MONKEY WIFE by John Collier,  
Doubleday, NY, \$3.75. Feb/5/57.

WHO SPEAKS OF CONQUEST? by Lan Wright  
plus EARTH IN PERIL, ed. by D. A. Woll-  
heim (two books in one) Ace Novels, NY,  
35¢. Feb/1/57.

SLAVE SHIP by Frederik Pohl, Ball-  
antine Books, NY, 35¢. Feb/1/57.

THE SHORES OF SPACE by Richard Math-  
eson, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢. Feb/6/57.

STAR BORN by Andre Norton, World  
Publishing Co., NY, \$2.75. Feb/18/57.

ASTOUNDING TALES OF SPACE & TIME, ed.  
by John W. Campbell, Jr., Berkeley Pub.  
Corp., NY, 35¢. Feb/19/57.

ISLAND OF SPACE by John W. Campbell,  
Jr., Fantasy Press, Reading, Pa., \$2.50  
Feb/25/57.

THE FROZEN YEAR by James Blish, Bal-  
lantine Books, NY, 35¢. Feb/26/57.

EYE IN THE SKY by Philip K. Dick,

Ace Novel, NY, 35¢. Feb/28/57.

COMING ATTRACTIONS, e d. by Martin  
Greenberg, Gnome P r e s s, NY, \$3.50.  
Feb/28/57.

CITY ON THE MOON by Murray Leinster,  
Bourey & Curl, NY, \$2.75. Feb/28/57.

THE 27th DAY by John Mantley, E. P.  
Dutton Co., NY, \$3.50. March/1/57.

THE SYNTHETIC MAN by Throdore Stur-  
geon, Pyramid Books, NY, 35¢. Mar/6/57.

THE FACE IN THE ABYSS by A. Merritt,  
Avon Books, NY, 35¢. March/7/57.

STORIES FOR THE DEAD OF NIGHT, e d.  
by Don Congdon, Dell Books, N Y, 35¢.  
March/7/57.

THE DEEP RANGE by Arthur C. Clarke,  
Harcourt, Brace & Co., \$3.95. Mar/8/57.

THE MASTER by T. H. White, Putman,  
NY, \$3.50. March/11/57.

NO BLADE OF GRASS by John Christoph-  
er, Simon And Shuster, NY, \$2.95.  
March/15/57.

THE STARS, MY DESTINATION by Alfred  
Bester, Signet Books, NY, 35¢. Mar/21/57.

WINDS OF TIME by Chad Oliver, Double-  
day, NY, \$2.95. March/22/57.

THE SEEDLING STARS by James Blish,  
Gnome Press, NY, \$3.00. March/26/57.



THREE TO CONQUER by Eric F. Russell, plus DOOMSDAY EVE by Robert M. Williams (both in one book), Ace Novels, NY, 35¢ March/27/57.

CYCLE OF FIRE by Hal Clement, Ballantine Books, NY, 35¢. April/1/57.

SLAVE SHIP by Frederic Pohl, (Cloth Bound Ed.) Ballantine Books, NY, \$2.75. April/1/57.

THE INFINITE BRAIN by Charles R. Long Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75. April/1/57.

THE POWER by Frank R. Robinson, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢. April/1/57.

#### NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

#### BLISH GETS REVIEWED:

84-66 257th Street  
Floral Park, New York  
March 20, 1957

Dear Fellas,

I have just finished reading THE FROZEN YEARS by your able reviewer, James Blish. I enjoyed the book and recommend it highly. The characterizations were excellent, particularly Cole, Fransworth and his wife, all of whom seemed like old friends by the books end. The plot was good and it was not overplayed at the end. This was fortunate as the weakest part of the book was its ending. The surprise of finding an alien among the actors was heavily dampened by the fact that he seemed out of place as a personality. It is sufficient to test the laws of probability to the extent that there were three intelligent life forms in one sun system. It is too much to expect two of those three forms to be so alike physically that one could not be immediately recognized as alien while wearing shorts. Another weakness is the lack of any buildup for an alien consciousness of morality. It would seem to me that a race that could annihilate another race would have few compunctions about being equally brutal to Earthmen. Especially when the implication is that they have "flying saucers" and superior weapons, at least good enough to destroy a fast moving satellite. One small point that Blish seemed to

have missed in his catalogue of hints pointing to Elvers alien nature was the fact that he was eaten by the dogs, the implication being that Malemots do not eat men; therefore Elvers was not a man. However, if Blish underplayed this point intentionally it was a bit too subtle. Another weak spot was Cole's admission to his wife that he slept with another woman. I have been taught (by an article in Esquire fifteen years ago) never to admit an infidelity to ones wife even when caught with your thermometer out. All in all a fine three hours of enjoyment and thank God no psionics or telepathy.

A fan.

Chester S. Forrest

(Thanks Mr. Forrest, we were wondering how to get a review of Mr. Blish's book without doing it ourselves. Your letter was the perfect answer.

-the editors)

#### MORE ON BLISH:

Box 336  
Berkeley 1, California  
6 April 1957

Dear Jimmy & Ray,

As long as your mag is in the mood for corrections here are some for #267. In the E.S.F.A. & Saucers article it is stated that Mt. Rainier is in California. Sorry, but when last heard from, it was some miles to the north in Washington.

In James Blish's review of EMPIRE OF THE ATOM nee THE ATOM GODS it is supposedly a rewrite of a 1946-7 ASF serial, CHILDREN OF THE ATOM. CHILDREN OF THE ATOM was a Gnome Press book by Wilmar H. Shiras composed of stories from '48, '49 & '50 ASF's plus two new stories. Furthermore, there were no serials in ASF lasting from '46 to '47. Van Vogt's THE CHRONICLER ended in Nov. '46, Dec '46 contained Russell's METAMORPHOSITE and Jan.-Feb. '47 contained Kuttner's TOMORROW AND TOMORROW. To reach the point, the material alluded to was a series of shorts in May '46; Aug. '46, Dec '46, Apr. '47 & Dec. '47, plus 20,000 words which van Vogt told me he added for continuity. Blish might have added that the book club edition



was published previously to the SHASTA edition and that the only difference between the two books is the addition \$3.00; Shasta Publishers, 5525 Blackstone, Chicago, Illinois, a different shade of ink on the flaps & end papers plus perhaps something on the back flap which I don't recall offhand. I, CLAUDIUS is available in an Avon 35¢ edition to afford further savings.

As for Blish's THE FROZEN YEAR I can only recommend a library of Polar books plus a good map of the Canadian Archipelago. This would have made the story more believable. Some other errors can be attributed to the typesetter or to moments of absent-mindedness on the part of Blish. Mistakes such as were made which were so easily detectable leads one to wonder about the rest of the novel. I have no wish to go over the story with a complete set of reference books as this would destroy my faith in Blish's ability to do a painstaking bit of work.

Sincerely,  
Norman Metcalf

(Thanks for an interesting letter, we always welcome corrections and comments on our newspaper and s/f in general.

-the editors)

#### AND STILL MORE ON BLISH:

Wenatchee, Washington  
17 April 1957

Dear Jim & Ray,

May I ask why Mr. Prieto did not list TALES OF THE FRIGHTENED as a science-fantasy mag? The first issue contained several s-f stories, along with the fantasy, and is just as much a science-fantasy mag as is "F&SF". And if Mr. Prieto does not consider FRIGHTENED a science-fantasy mag, how can he include DREAM WORLD under that heading? I think it unfair to list this mag in the same group as the so-called non-fiction FATE & SEARCH.

Even more ridiculous is the practice of listing paperback reprint novels such as GALAXY NOVELS as magazines! The only resemblance GN has to a magazine is that it is available on subscription. But so are the Ballantine P-B's. I suppose that next we will see

Ace Books listed as a mag?

A wee suggestion: Why not make your next poll for the best scientifilm of 1956? Such a poll would be very enlightening.

Your publication is excellent except for 2 things. First, no scientifilm or TV news. Secondly, James Blish. Mr. Blish seems to be intent on becoming another damon knight. If these two are representative of the much vaunted "critics", I'll take the poor, unenlightened "reviewers", such as Miller & Gale. Why not get Moskowitz to write your reviews?

I shall leave now by complimenting you on your fine mag, but hoping that someday someone will tell you that you can't hyphenate one syllable words at the end of a line!

Sincerely,

Arden M. Clift

P.S. What does "CNS" mean?

(TALES OF THE FRIGHTENED is not a science/fantasy magazine and is not considered one by its publisher. It is more an "off-trail" mag. DREAM WORLD is completely a fantasy mag. GALAXY NOVEL is listed as a mag because it has all the markings of one. It is suppose to come out on a regular schedule, tho it hasn't for years, and when a new issue comes out the old one is returned. ACE and BALLANTINE do not number each edition in order, and many, many newsstands carry more than just the current edition. We might take you up on that poll suggestion. A Movie-TV column is in the works, we've had one in the past. We are quite satisfied with Mr. Blish's reviews and went to a lot of trouble to get him. Why should he not try to become another damon knight (Tho we don't think he has to imitate anyone, he does OK by being himself), didn't knight win the "Hugo" for his reviews at the last Convention? Apparently a lot of people like that type of review. We quite agree with you on hyphenating one syllable words and will get after Mr. Taurasi to be more carefull. "CNS" means COSMIC NEWS SERVICE.

-the editors)

Watch for SCIENCE FICTION YEAR BOOK, OUT IN A FEW MONTHS, from FANDOM HOUSE.-eds



## SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

## Coming Up Next In The Pros

**GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION**, August 1957:  
 Novella: TIME WAITS FOR WINTHROP by William Tenn. Novelets: I F MONEY by Daniel F. Galouye, and THE MAN OUTSIDE by Evelyn E. Smith. Short Stories: BLAZE OF GLORY by Robert Silverberg, and MAKE ME AN OFFER by Con Blomberg. Science Department: FOR YOUR INFORMATION, "O u r Missile Arsenal" by Willy Ley. Features: FORECAST, GALAXY'S FIVE STAR SHELF by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by GOGGINS showing HOW TO USE A SPACE NET.

**FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION**, July:  
 THE WIND BLOWS FREE (novelet) by Chad Oliver, MS. FOUND I N A CHINESE FORTUNE COOKIE by C. M. Kornbluth, YOUR GHOST WILL WALK by Robert F. Young, A TRICK OR TWO by John Novotny, THE UNFORTUNATE TOPOLOGIST (verse) by S. D. Gottesman, LIFE CYCLE by Poul Anderson, SUMMERLAND by Avran Davidson, THE LITERATE MONSTER by William Chapman White, EITHNE by Idris Seabright, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER. . . by Carol Emshwiller, RECOMMENDED READING (a department) by Anthony Boucher, C S R by Charles Van Doren, WHEN JACK SMITH FOUGHT OLD SATAN (novelet) by Mary Carter Roberts, and T H E HOLIDAY MAN by Richard Matheson. Cover painting by Mel Hunter (Sears and Robot).

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AUSTRALIA: One Shilling per copy, Ten Shillings for 12 issues, One Pound for 24 issues. Permanent Subscription: Five Pounds, from ROGER DARD, Box S1387, GPO, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

James V. Taurasi, Sr., Ray Van Houten, and Frank R. Prieto, Jr., Editors.

Advertisements: \$10 a full page, \$5 a half page, and \$3 a quarter page.

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country) requested. Chanel Monaghan; 236 Columbia Place, Los Angeles 26, California, USA. ft-5

## WANTED

AMAZING STORIES ANNUAL. James V. Taurasi, Sr.; 18-36 129th Street, College Point 56, New York. -ft-1

## FOR SALE

For Sale: complete set of "Strange Tales" - \$23; two issues of "Miracle Science and Fantasy Stories" - \$10; four 1932-33 "Astounding" - \$1.15 each; a few scattered "Amazing", 1928-32 - 60¢ each; some early "Weird Tales", Oct, Nov, Dec, 1925 - \$3.50 each.

RICHARD H. WINTER

412 East Second Ave., Draper, N. C.

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