

Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 14 - No. 6

SECOND MARCH 1959 ISSUE

(#311) TEN CENTS

"ASTOUNDING" TESTS 50¢ PRICE

NEW YORK, 2 March, (CNS) - Astounding Science Fiction is trying out a 50¢ price in certain sections of the United States. The March 1959 issue which in most places is still 35¢, is being sold in selected spots at 50¢. This is to determine whether the 50¢ price is possible or not. If enough readers still buy the mag at 50¢, then Astounding will increase the price to 50¢ in the near future. Actually if Astounding goes to 50¢, it will, according to John Campbell, probably increase the number of pages, and this increase will be in slick paper. Mr. Campbell tells us that he has a number of interesting articles that he'd like slick paper to publish them on. Slick paper will better reproduce pictures etc. Mr. Campbell does not know at this time how many issues will be tested with the 50¢ price before Street & Smith makes up its mind whether to increase or not. Future test issues will be made only if the returns from the current test issue is not conclusive.

Mr. Campbell states that the test is actually not a true test as it is impossible to produce a mag with increased pages that the actual 50¢ priced mag, if such is the results, will probably contain. But, the results from this test, and possible future tests, should give Street & Smith an idea of how a 50¢ science-fiction mag would sell.

In 1951 Astounding increased its price from 25¢ to 35¢ and added 8 slick pages which were used mostly to illustrate the articles with photos. Later when better paper was introduced these pages were dropped as Mr. Campbell stated, the new paper could reproduce the photos almost as good.

Our thanks to our readers who reported the test issue. When we checked with Mr. Campbell, he informed us that he didn't know that a test issue was out until he received cover proofs of that issue, altho talks about a possible increase have been going on for a time.

NEW ADDRESS FOR "SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES"

SYRACUSE, NY, 1 March, (CNS) - Science-Fiction Times, Inc. is changing its official mailing address again. We found that with a Flushing address and a Paterson office mailing out the issues, there has been too much of a delay in getting the new subscribers on plates for mailing. This has been confusing our readers and a big headache to all of us. Since Ray Van Houten hasn't the time to both

handle the bookkeeping, subs and still mail out the issues, our Mr. Frank R. Prieto, Jr. has taken over the task. In the future he'll do the complete job of handling the subs and mailing out the issues. This should prove to be the solution in not only getting the mag out faster, but will give editor James V. Taurasi, Sr. more time to edit the mag and mimeograph it. He will be aided by Ray Van Houten.

The new address for all subs is: SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC.,

P. O. Box 115,
Syracuse 9, New York

All subscriptions

ads, etc. should be mailed to this new address.

The publication will still be edited in New York City. All news-items, articles and letter of comments should be sent to the editor: James V. Taurasi, Sr., 18-36 129th Street, College Point 56, New York.

We sincerely hope that this new arrangement will keep us on schedule, bring to you a better subscription service and do away with the mailing of double etc issues.

"S-F STORIES" GOES BI-MONTHLY

NEW YORK, 9 March, (CNS) - Robert Lowndes announced today that his science-fiction magazine Science Fiction Stories has gone bi-monthly from Ten-Times a year. Only last year Science Fiction Stories went monthly (the only s-f mag ever to go monthly at Columbia) only to go Ten-Times a year at year's end. Early this year it again started putting out monthly issues using the Ten-A-Year basis with the skip months at the end of the year. Suddenly the skip months were updated and the mag actually came out bi-monthly. Now the news is that it's actually bi-monthly until further notice.

Recently both Science Fiction Stories and Future Science Fiction dropped the colored covers and are using "line" drawings for covers. Actually the coming June Future will have a full color painting by Finlay. This cover was bought before the new policy went into effect. In the future both mags will continue using "color-less" covers. BUT, Bob Lowndes asks that all interested to please write in and let him know whether they like the new cover or not. Indications are that if enough write in one way or another that will be the policy. He states that since the change about the normal amount of letters have been received and these are in the majority for the new type of covers.

ILLNESS FORCED BOUCHER TO QUIT BOOK COLUMN IN "F&SF"

BERKELEY, Calif., 21 February, (CNS) - Bad health that forced Anthony Boucher to take a vacation from editing Fantasy & Science Fiction also forced him to give up as book reviewer for the same magazine. In fact he doubts if he'll ever return to editing again. Damon Knight is now the official book reviewer for Fantasy And Science Fiction as can be seen by the current issue.

When asked for details on his "retirement" from science-fiction, Mr. Boucher gave the following information: "Fact is, I've cracked up fairly thoroughly. In my doctor's orotund phrase, 'a classic outburst of symptoms of stress,'"

"I'm cutting down on tensions, commitments and responsibilities as much as possible. At the moment my regular work for the N Y Times Book Review, EQMM & the Herald Trib Book Review (as H H Holmes, as you know) is at least as much as I can handle."

"And I can't even make guesses about the future. Though I doubt if I'll ever return to magazine editing; I doubt if my doctor or my analyst would approve."

THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

SAM MOSKOWITZ SELLS "SATELLITE" ARTICLES TO ENGLAND

Sam Moskowitz, whose excellent science-fiction articles running in Satellite Science Fiction have been classed as classics of what s-f articles should be, has recently sold three of them to Ted Carhell who will use them in Science Fantasy. We expect that after these three are used, Ted will buy the rest of them and make them a regular department of Science Fantasy.

"SUPER-SCIENCE FICTION" TO CONTINUE MONSTER ISSUES

NEW YORK, 10 March, (CNS) - Super-Science Fiction's First Monster Issue was a success, so future issues will continue to be all s-f monster issues. On sale now is the "Second Monster Issue" June 1959. In the works are the "Third Monster Issue" August 1959 and "Fourth Monster Issue" October 1959. Mr. W. W. Scott states that returns from the First Monster Issue of Super-Science Fiction indicate a slight increase in sales.

Mr. Scott states that there are no plans to increase the price of Super Science Fiction. The mag will continue as a 35¢, 128 page, bi-monthly magazine.

FEWER ILLUSTRATIONS FOR "AMAZING" AND "FANTASTIC"

As you have noted in the recent issues of Amazing and Fantastic there have been a big cut in interior illustrations. In fact a recent Fantastic had only one interior illustration. We questioned the editor on this and she replied that in the future only stories that in her opinion are illustratable will be illustrated. This, in her opinion, will have the two mags carrying fewer illustrations, but better ones. So expect to see an average of about two illos in each issue. We strongly suspect that the new editorial director would like to see the two mags without interior illustrations in them at all.

IN GENERAL

Damon Knight who recently took over the book review column from Anthony Boucher for Fantasy & Science Fiction will only review worthwhile books he receives for his column in the future. Because of this plan, there will be no book review column in the June issue of F&SF. Mr. Knight didn't receive any worthwhile books to review for that month.

Cele Goldsmith would appreciate everyone referring to Fantastic as a "fantasy" magazine and not a "science-fiction" mag. She states that now it publishes all types of fantasy: weird, straight fantasy and of course some science fiction.

John W. Campbell takes us to task for referring to his psi as occult, he wants us to refer to it as "The field beyond science". As far as we are concerned his mag is still Astounding SCIENCE FICTION and as long as it is psi (or the more "beyond science") parts of it does not belong there. We again point out that he is 100%

right in stating that science-fiction must take a new trend to survive, but we think that psi is not it. In our opinion Astounding is the top s-f mag published today; we like it, and thus do not want to see it become another "shaver-type" hangout. We still haven't forgotten dianetics and how it loused up Astounding. AND we can't live down how these un-s-f themes brought about that Life article on so-called science-fiction. We like the stuff too much for this kind of junk. We still think that a science-fiction magazine should publish science-fiction.

BRONX, NY, 31 January. (CNS) - Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Saha became the parents of a girl, Heidi Elizabeth, 7 lbs., 13 oz., yesterday at 11:20 a.m. Art Saha, well-known in New York fan circles, was on the committee of the 1956 World s-f con in New York. Mrs. Saha is the former Taimi Leith. Congratulations to both.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

GERMANY - - - - - /by Julian Parr/

RUSSIAN SCIENCE FICTION CLASSIC

The Cologne publishing firm Kiepenhauer & Witsch has published the first German translation of Yevgeni' Samyatin's anti-Utopia "We" (256 pp, DM 12,80). Samyatin wrote this description of a future, completely bureaucratised world in 1920; it never appeared in Russia but translation was published in England in 1925. Since then French, Czech and now German translations have appeared.

In his review of the German version, the Swiss "Basler Nachrichten" accuses both Orwell and Huxley of plagiarism from this book; certainly Orwell, in an essay-written in 1945, drew attention to the "parallels" between "We" and "Brave New Worlds", and stated that the latter book must have been based, at least to some extent, on Samyatin's work.

YET ANOTHER GERMAN SERIES

The Hamburg publisher, Alfons Semrau, whose monthly Abenteuer im Weltenraum started last summer, has now brought out a second series of paper-back science-fiction novels, this time on a fortnightly basis. Under the style "Der Weltraumfahrer" (96 pp, price DM 1,-), the new mag will follow a policy of buying only new stories no reprints. The first titles: No. 1: E. E. Smith's "Skylark Of Space", No. 2: Sturgeon's "The Synthetic Man", and No. 3: Algis Budrys's "Who".

BRITISH - - - - - /by Ted Carnell/

NEW WORLDS No. 81:

This issue commences Charles Eric Maine's new novel "Count-Down" as a serial, which has already appeared in the USA in "Amazing Stories" as a digest novel. There is, however, one big difference with our version - by diplomatic editing the opening of the story has been altered, thus carrying the main mystery through to the third-installment. The author informs me that the American version was so badly edited that the story, as it has already appeared in your country, is almost incomprehensible!

NEW WORLDS No. 82 (March 1959):

The lead story in this issue is "Survival Problem" by Colin Kapp, one of our new finds of 1958. This story is in the tradition of his first published story "Life Plan", which appeared last November.

New short stories are "The Other One" by Brian W. Aldiss; "Confession is Good"

by Robert Presslie; and "The Silver Moons" by Alan Barelay. Kenneth Johns' regular article deals with CETEX - The Committee For Extra-Terrestrial Exploration. Plus Part 2 of "Count-Down".

NEW WORLDS No. 83 (April):

A new novelette by Harry Harrison "I See You" will see first publication in this issue. Artist Brian Lewis has produced an outstanding cover painting for this story. Short stories will be: "Searchpoint" by Francis G. Rayer; "The Outstretched Hand" by Arthur Sellings; and "Project - Stall" by Philip High. Plus the conclusion of "Count-Down".

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A new "Sector General" story by James White entitled "Visitor At Large" will be the lead novelette in No. 84. In No. 85 a new Kenneth Bulmer serial entitled "Patient Dark" will commence - this recently appeared in Ace Books under the title of "The Secret of Z1". Looking further into the future a new Brian Aldiss serial is scheduled for the Fall.

SCIENCE FANTASY No. 34 (March):

John Brunner's latest short novel "The Whole Men" is the lead story in this issue and is another outstanding piece of writing. Indirectly it is a sequel to his recent story "The City of the Tiger". But the action all takes place in the present time. Numerous short stories make up the issue, the most outstanding being "The Lady Was Jazz" by John Kippax, for which story artist Lewis has produced an interesting cover painting.

This issue also commences the first of a series of articles by Sam Moskowitz, all of which have been appearing in America recently.*

*see page 3 of this issue.

SCIENCE FANTASY (June) No. 35:

This issue sees the welcome return of Scottish author J. T. McIntosh with a long novelette entitled "200 Years To Christmas". McIntosh has spent the past 2 years writing straight novels, detective stories, and film scripts, but is now returning to the fantasy field.

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES No. 8:

Contains two short novels "Seed Of Violence" by Jay Williams and "Don't Croassa Telekine" by Philip Stratford. The issue is completed by a short story entitled "Halfway House" by Clifford C. Reed.

SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION STORIES (May 1959):

Novel: THE GALAXY PRIMES (conclusion) by E. E. Smith. Novelets: HUNTER PATROL by H. Beam Piper and John J. McGuire, and WET PAINT by A. Bertram Chandler. Short Stories: INIATIVE by Boris and Arkady Strugatski, MARTIAN V.F.W. by G. L. Vanderburg, and VISIONARY by Harlan Ellison and J. L. Hensley. Guest Editorial this month is by Isaac Asimov.

FANTASTIC (May 1959):

Novelets: THE HUNGRY EYE by Robert Bloch, GUARDIAN DEVIL by Robert Silverberg, and THE MIDDLE-AGED ROOKIE by Charles D. Hammer. Short Stories: QUEEN OF THE GREEN SUN by Jack Sharkey, THE CONVENTION by Ede Witt, MORE LIKE HOME by Raymond E. Banks and THE ONLY ONE THAT LIVED by Rog Phillips. States editor Cele Goldsmith about

the issue: "There's a variety of top grade fantasy in them thar stories."

IF (July 1959) ((First issue by Quinn and Gold)):

Novelets: GROWING SEASON by F. L. Wallace, CAR POOL by Rosel George Brown, and RECALL MECHANISM by Philip K. Dick. Short Stories: THE OGRE by Avram Davidson, NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS by Wynne N. Whiteford, SITTING DUCK by Daniel F. Galouye, MUTINEER by Robert J. Shea, A LIFE AND A HALF by Paul Flehr, and BAKER'S DOZENS by Jim Harmon. Feature: IN THE BALANCE by Frederick Pohl. Cover by Pederson: Artist At Work. Illustrations by Bush, Wood and Morrow. (The next (September) issue will be on sale June 30th.).

THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB:

The May selection is TRIAD: Three Complete Science Fiction Novels by A. E. van Vogt. This book contains: "The Voyage of the Space Beagle", "Slan", and "The World Of A". Originally published in three volumes at \$7.50, now combined in one volume for \$1.69 to members.

The June selection is NINE TOMORROWS by Isaac Asimov, a collection of nine of Asimov's finest stories. Original edition \$3.50, members' edition: \$1.00.

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NOTE: From our agent Roger Dard we understand that no issues of Science-Fiction Times have reached Australia since issue #296. We are checking to see what happened to the missing issues. Meanwhile we are mailing every Australian subscriber all issues from 297 on, so that they'll not miss an issue. -The Publishers.

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