

THE SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

S-F Times

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

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FIRST FEBRUARY 1960 ISSUE

TEN CENTS

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE FOLDS! MARCH ISSUE IS LAST

NEW YORK, 17 February, (CNS) - Hans Santesson announced today that his magazine Fantastic Universe has folded with the current, March 1960, issue. No reason was given for the magazine being suspended.

The magazine was bought by Great American Publications only a little over six months ago and their first issue was the October 1959 issue. They changed the size from digest to pulp and it sold for 35¢. Until the current, March 1960 issue it contained 128 pages; the March issue's pages had been cut back to 96. We have no information on what will happen to the serial started in the March 1960 issue. The magazine started life under King-Size Publications as a digest size, 196 page and 50¢ mag in the early 50s. Shortly thereafter it was scaled down to 128 pages, digest and 35¢. It went monthly under King-Size, but had

been reduced to a bi-monthly when sold to Great American. Great American upped it back to monthly publication and it was a monthly when it folded.

Just last month Great American put out the first issue of the United States Reprint Edition of New Worlds which will continue on a monthly basis. Good news is that Belle Dietz's excellent fan mag review column, Fannnotations will be continued in New Worlds Science Fiction along with Santesson's own book review & comment department. Santesson had "no comment" on the question of whether other columns, departments etc. would be used in New Worlds. He did state, however, that New Worlds, with the second issue on would reprint covers from the original British Edition. New Worlds will continue monthly publication.

Hans is also the editor of The Saint Magazine, once owned by King-Size, and Tightrope, a new Great American

FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE -- COME TO THE PITTCON OVER THE 1960 LABOR DAY HOLIDAYS

magazine, The Saint rocketbook series, published by Great American and edited by Hans has folded with #14.

Apparently the orders to fold Fantastic Universe came as a surprise, as the April and May issues had already been edited, tho not printed. E m s h had done the cover for the April issue.

SAM RUVIDICH REPLACES VAN DER POEL

NEW YORK, 20 February, (CNS) - Sam Ruvidich has replaced W. I. Van Der Poel as art editor of Galaxy Magazine and If Science Fiction, with the promise of a more jazzed up interior format for both magazines. Van Der Poel has been art editor of Galaxy since its first came out and took over the task of If when Quinn brought it from Quinn.

Another addition to the staff of the two magazines is Carla Kamp, who has been appointed as Asst. To The Editor.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Tangier, Morocco
January 24, 1960

Dear Frank, Ray, Jimmy and all:

Listen, fellas, apologies, apologies. I should've written long months ago, after you being so kind as to send me the early 1959 copies of Science-Fiction Times. But I got alibies.

The copies arrived just before I took off on a very extended trip for Rogue. In fact, it got so damn extended that I hardly got back at all.

I left my wife, dog, six parakeets and a turtle, in Tangier and went up to London to get visas to get into the satellite countries. It took so long to get them that while I was waiting I went over to Ireland then up to Scotland. I never did get the visas for Albania and Roumanis, but the others came through. So I went over to Amsterdam, then up to Berlin, then up to Warsaw, then down to Czechoslovakia, over to Budapest, down

to Belgrade, up to Sofia, down to Greece, Where I ran out of money. However, while in Berlin I had fallen in love with Nefertiti as a result of seeing her bust in the museum there, so I wired Bill Matting for more money and flew over to Cairo, where there are some more busts of Nefertiti. Then over to Jordan and, by devious ways, across to Isreal. Running short of money again I took a Turkish ship (a fate worse than debt) to Marseille and from thence started down through France and Spain to return to Morocco. The trouble was that while I was gone the Moroccans had joined the Arab League and since I had an Isreali visa in my passport I was theoretically not allowed to enter the country. Happily, at the airport they stamped me into the country without looking through my visas, and I'm home again.

All this is the way of alibi for not answering your letter sooner. I was snowed under with correspondence on my return and am just melting my way out now.

The trip had one happy result, science fictionally speaking. It occured to me that the social sciences, political economy and such, have been sadly neglected in the field and that, in view of the fact that there is so much interest in socio-economic systems and such, we should do some of our extrapolating along these lines. I've become somewhat tired of the "good guys and bad guys" approach to the Battle for Men's Minds, so I decided to try and do some stories on a more adult level.

So anyway, Astounding has taken four of these, two of them at the bonus rate. I assume they'll start appearing shortly. I'm rather anxious to get fandom's reaction since to say that these novelette are controversial is putting it mildly. Two of the stories are laid in Russia after the current seven year plan has been successfully completed and the U.S. eclipsed economically. Whew!

Best,
Mack Reynolds

NEWS FROM GERMAN S-F FANDOM

by Jakob Bleyemehl

A new Book-Club, for Friends of utopian

First February 1960 Issue

Literature: "Transgalaxis" Buchgemeinschaft der Freunde itoposcher Literatur" (16) Freidrichsdorf /Taunus, Western Germany/ Postfach 11, has been founded and already has 1600 members.

The Book-Club "Transgalaxis" has edited in August 1959 the long-awaited for Germans Katalog der deutschsprachigen utopisch-phantastischen Literatur aus fünf Jahrhunderten 1460-1960, which can be had from the address above for 7.50 German Marks.

It is the only existing German bibliography in this field and the only like the famous Donald H. Tucks work of reference. A must for every s-f fan interested in German Science-Fiction.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(incorporating THE TIME STREAM)

by J. Harry Vincent

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE AND HANS

It is real sad that Fantastic Universe has folded; real sad because the magazine had a chance to become really something IF and a big IF it is. Naturally all the blame cannot be placed on Hans Santesson, as he had a lot of taboos-placed upon him by the publishers. BUT, it still points out that in the long run no matter how you sugar up a publication with excellent fan departments and some good articles (Sam Moskowitz's articles were top-excellent, and Belle Dietz's fan column was good) you can not continue to shove down the necks of serious science-fiction readers (I'm not talking about fans, Hans) the junk that Hans (and other editors) tried. The regular science-fiction readers will NOT buy the mags. Any editor that tries to aim his science-fiction mag at any audience other than science-fiction readers, will in the not too distance future find that he is an ex-editor. Check over the science fiction mags that have tried this and you'll find that they are no longer editors, or at best are in serious trouble! Let's not louse up New Worlds now Hans.

And speaking of New Worlds, it's a disgrace to the science-fiction publishing trade. The mag is not edited by Hans Santesson as stated on the contents

page, it's edited by John (Ted) Carnell. And, the implication that it's a U.S. magazine with new stories is almost a crime. Here we have a mag, and with excellent stories, that has won a "Hugo" in original British Edition, that tries to make out like it's a U.S. product out and out. Nowhere in the issue is it mentioned that it first appeared in England. What a difference it is with say the British reprint of Astounding. There in plain English is stated that it is a British Reprint Edition (BRE). Look Great American, you should be proud to announce that New Worlds is a United States Reprint Edition (USRE). You might even get a few more readers. We're mighty happy to see a USRE New Worlds, but would like it to be more honest.

GALAXY

We were most pleased to hear that Van Der Poel has left Galaxy-If. His ideas of what science-fiction art should be left quite a bit to be desired. With exception of Wood, Ensh and one or two others, any artist who worked for them had to produce such monstrous art work that it actually turned readers away. In our opinion, science-fiction art should not be the so-called "modern", "off-trail" or what have you. It should be straight illustration of the story involved. It should be down to earth and show what the writer tried to say. Naturally some stories cannot be illustrated this way, but they are few and far between. In our opinion, Astounding is one of the better illustrated science-fiction magazines today. Fantastic Universe, with the exception of the November issue was well illustrated. The worse illustrated magazine of all time is the one issue Star by Ballantine. The best pocket-book covers today are the Ace pocket Books, the worse, again Ballantine's color spattered monstrosities.

"IN SEARCH OF WONDER" REISSUED

Advent: Publishers of Chicago have announced that they have reissued the long out-of-print "In Seach Of Wonder" by Damon Knight. Price is \$4.00.

Where will you be over the labor day Holidays of 1960? We'll be at the
P I T T C O N.

PITTCON NEWS

by The Pittcon Committee

PITTSBURGH, 4 February, (ONS) - Roger Dard is now our Australian Representative. Although Roger expected to attend PITTCON as fan CoH, his present health will not permit this. He will, however, send a tape-recording of greetings from Australian fans, and auction material.

Ted Carnell's PITTCON attendance is still under consideration by the Chairman of his company. Business....

A panel is being cancelled, and Hal Clement and Phil Farmer will speak instead. Both Hal and Phil are not around at cons much and are well liked, so this should be a move that will please everyone. We feel it is an improvement.

John W. Campbell, Jr. expects to be in Russia at the time PITTCON is held. If his plans change, we want him to speak at the banquet for a change.

Banquet arrangements have been made, and let me say that this is one con banquet where the food will be GOOD for a pleasant change. Sheraton standards are very high, but the banquet cost is surprisingly low for a wonderful menu.

We are getting some really unusual auction items. It would be wise to save pennies now to spend gold in the Golden Triangle at PITTCON!

The in-the-progress - o f -formation BURROUGHS BIBLIOPHILES will have its first meeting at PITTCON. Verne Coriell "will do his utmost" to be here. If so, this will be Verne's first con.

GENERAL NEWS: Frank Belknap Long, and New Orleans' Emile Greenleaf were here two weekends ago, and entertained by the PCFA with dinner, parties, etc. Dr. W. T. Bell is in hospital with a serious heart condition his daughter-in-law writes.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The PITTCON, 18th World Science Fiction Convention; will be held at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel, William Penn Place, Pittsburgh 22, Pa., on September 3, 4 & 5, 1960. Registration fee is \$2, (sent right now) to PITTCON, c/o Dirce S. Archer, 1453 Barnsdale St., Pittsburgh 17, Pa., or sent it to Science-Fiction

Times when you resubscribe and we will take care of the rest.

The first Progress Report is now out, and a most interesting issue it is. The Progress Report reveals some local convention dates that will interest you:

25 & 26 June 1960: MIDWESTCON #11 at North Plaza Motel, 7934 Reading Road, Cincinnati 37, Ohio. Details from Don Ford, Box 19T, Wards Corner Rd., Loveland, Ohio.

2, 3 & 4 July 1960: WESTERCON (BOYCON) at Boise, Idaho. Check with Guy Terwilliger, 1412 Albright St., Boise, Idaho. Guest of Honor - Rog Phillips.

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION - May 1960

THE OLDEST SOLDIER (short novelet) by Fritz Leiber, FERDINAND GEGHOOT: XXVI by Grendel Briarton, THE MAN FROM TOMORROW BY Fred McMorro, AMERICAN PLAN by Rex Lardner, POP! (verse) by Randall Garrett, THE TENDER AGE by John Collier, ONE ON TRIAL by Gordon R. Dickson, A SPECIMEN FOR THE QUEEN by Arthur Porges, Science: A PIECE OF PI by Isaac Asimov, WOOLY-jabber (verse) by Hilbert Schenck, Jr., Books: IAR YOG-SOTHOTH! YAH, YAH, YAH! by Damon Knight, BALLAD OF THE RED GIANTS (verse) by Joseph Hansen, and OPEN TO ME, MY SISTER (novelet) by Philip Jose Farmer. Cover by Mel Hunter (Music to Watch the Moon Rise by).

CLASSIFIED ADS

(see page 6 for info and additional ads)

WANTED

I want name, author, & date of index of historical novels published 10-20 years ago (small, paperbound, I think) listing these tales by their fictive periods. L. Sprague de Camp, Wallingford, Penna.

FANCYCLOPEDIA II (a review)

Science-Fiction Times doesn't usually review fan mags, but Fancyclopdia II is one of those rare exceptions that belongs in every fan's library, that it
(continued on page 5, column 2)

STATISTICS

by EDMUND R. MESKYS

Looking over the statistics on the number of issues published I noticed something which is quite a coincidence. Not only was the January 1960 issue of Astounding the 30th Anniversary issue, but it was also issue number 350.

Also, with the recent price and page changes, I decided to check on how much reading material the money brings. Since 1 "bed-sheet" page is equivalent to 2 digest pages, & the pulp page is between these 2 sizes, I count 1 pulp page as $1\frac{1}{2}$ digest pages. Also, whether or not the magazine numbers the cover as a page, I do not count it. In order of decreasing value then:

PAGES/¢	NAME OF MAG & DATES	¢ PER PAGE
5.49	Fantastic Universe 10/59-2/60 (128 pulp, 35¢), Galaxy 10/59, the "goof" issue (192 dig 35¢)	0.182
4.53	Astounding up to 10/59 (160 dig, 35¢)	0.218
4.12	current Amazing; Galaxy until 12/58 (144 dig, 35¢); Fantastic Universe after 3/60 (96 pulp, 35¢)	0.243
3.84	current Galaxy, Vol. 1 #1 Fantastic Universe (192 dig, 50¢)	0.260
3.66	most current digest - sized mags (128 dig, 35¢); last few-Satellite (64 bed sheets, 35¢)	0.273
3.52	current Astounding/Analog (176 dig, 50¢)	0.284
3.44	If, Worlds of SF up to 12/58- (120 dig, 35¢)	0.292
3.20	current F & SF (128 dig, 40¢); 11 & 12/59 Astounding, 10/59 F & SF (160 dig, 50¢) Worlds Of If.	0.312

Of course, the above takes no account for the quality of the material published, the space devoted to advertisements, and the number of words per page.

A very few rough word counts indicates that Amazing, Fantastic, & If have the most words per page among the digests. Next comes Astounding/Analog & F & SF with 5 to 7% less, then Galaxy with some 10% less than the first group, & Future, & New Worlds (USRE) with 20 %

less. An "equivalent digest page" of FU falls a little below ASF, F & SF being 8% less than the first group.

The first table was done with a slide-rule reading to 3 significant figures, & the 3rd place digits might be off a little due to errors in interpolation, especially for the larger numbers. Both columns were found independently, & not by taking the reciprocal of the other.

The "word counts" were obtained by counting the # of lines per page & then counting the number of characters/spaces in several lines which had no punctuation marks. I thought that this would eliminate differences due to the different typical-vocabularies of the individual authors. I say nothing, however, for the accuracy of this method.

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FANCYCLOPEDIA II (Cont. from page 4)

rates mention. It's an explanation of fandom, its serious, but mostly its humorous side. Not 100% accurate, but 100% enjoyable. From Dick Eney, 417 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va. - \$1.25. -ls

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2¢ per word including name, address and
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FOR SALE

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Mint copies --- \$5.00 - Jerry Burge, 1707
Piper Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia.
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Karl Gottschalk, 131 Franklin St, Jersey
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Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

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