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1960
IN

BY EDWARD WOOD

SCIENCE FICTION

THE DOWNWARD trend in the number of American science-fiction magazines which started in 1958 continued during 1960. At year's end, the depressing total was six American magazines (4 monthlies and 2 bi-monthlies) producing at the rate of 60 issues per year. Supplementing these titles were the three British science-fiction magazines of John (Ted) Carnell (New Worlds Science Fiction, Science Fantasy, and Science Fiction Adventures) which were being distributed in selected parts of the United States during the latter part of the year.

Some people have found some sort of comfort in the fact that so great a part of the surviving American magazines are now monthly publications. Apparently the grasping of straws has now been refined into a new form of self-delusion. "Ah for the days of 1926 when there was a 100% monthly field....!"

Let us avoid these semantic crutches and take a long hard look at the facts. Under the revised circulation and ownership statement act of June 11, 1960, publications are now required to list average circulation figures per issue (average over a year). By careful scrutiny of the following magazines, the appended circulation figures and the month of the issue in which they appear are included for the information of the reader.

ANALOG SCIENCE FACT & FICTION	74,408	December 1960
AMAZING STORIES	48,018	January 1961
FANTASTIC	38,759	January 1961
GALAXY MAGAZINE	91,000	February 1961
IF SCIENCE FICTION	54,000	March 1961
MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION	47,574	January 1961

During 1960, three magazines started, s i x folded, three changed or altered titles and logos.

This year as in the last two reports, the magazines will be listed in alphabetical order. The number of issues published during 1960 (carrying a 1960 date), the number of issues published by that title since inception and other pertinent remarks will be indicated for each title.

1. AMAZING STORIES, 12 issues (361) The old "aristocrat" of science-fiction made a marvelous comeback this year after decades of obscurity to oust H. L. Gold's Galaxy from 3rd place. There is a freshness o f spirit about the Ziff-Davis twins that argues well f o r the field. F r o m "The Night of the Long Knives" by Dritz Leiber (January) to Sam McClatchie's "The Last Vial" (Nov-Jan) there was something o f worth in every issue. It has been far too many years since one could honestly say that about Amazing. Some of the better stories of the year were "Transient" by Ward Moore (Feb), "Seven From The Stars" by Mation Zimmer Bradley (March), "T h e Trouble With Tycho" by Clifford Simak (October). Sam Moskowitz's article on Hugo Gernsback in the September issue was memoranle. Sam is also selecting reprints from the early years of Amazing to show the current reader that it wasn't "all monsters and mad scientists" a s some so-called experts about science-fiction have maliciously termed these years. Happily the original illustrations a r e being used to give the old stories the proper setting. It will be interesting to get the new readers' reaction to some of the old stories. Also i t might stimulate some of them to read and to learn about the history of the "aristocrat". With the October issue, the title was shortened from Amazing Science Fiction Stories and a new logo used. With that issue, articles by Lester del Rey were instituted. During the year the artwork has shown improvement. T h e schomburg cover on the October issue was a welcomed relief after the hackwork of Vali-

gursky and Summers. Now if Finlay were to... Well done editors Goldsmith and Lobsenz, well done indeed.

2. ANALOG SCIENCE FACT AND FICTION, 12 issues, (361). With the October issue, a great period in American magazine science-fiction came to an end when the present title replaced the time honored Astounding Science Fiction. Campbell's magazine rates as #1 in a field of 15 for 1960, not because of anything exceptional in his magazine but by default, since The Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction which has been beating him regularly for the past 3 years fell a bit in quality and had nothing as outstanding as it did in 1958 and 1959. It is a sad commentary o n our field that the first place magazine has to win that place by default!

"Deathworld" by Harry Harrison (Jan-March) started off well and looked like every bit of a classic until it floundered in the usual Campbellian psionics slush. "Star Tiger" by Christopher Anvil (June) excellent. "The High Crusade" by Poul Anderson (July-Sept) - foolish. Anderson's "The Lonest Voyage" (Dec) - dull. Certainly Poul Anderson needs no one to shout his talents to the field. He is among the best in the field today and his output is prodigious but Campbell ought either give him a rest or allow him to write what he really wants. Mack Reynolds' "Adaptation" (August) was one of his best stories.

Regardless of personal feelings, it cannot be denied that Campbell continues to put out an interesting (at times) if frustrating (too many times) magazine of

high caliber material marred only by the thought that Campbell is capable of much better than he is now putting forth. Was there really a need for the transition in titles and logos from the February through October issues.

3. FANTASTIC, 12 issues, (73). The same comments as for Amazing go for this other Ziff-Davis Publication. The title was shortened from Fantastic Science Fiction Stories with the October issue. The special round robin story "The Covenant" in the July issue was merely one of a number of attempts to upgrade the magazine. Far more successful in doing this was the inclusion of the Sam Moskowitz articles about science fiction writers which originated in the late Satellite Science Fiction. They are models of what science-fiction articles should be and they bring across to the newer reader that science-fiction has a tradition and a history worthy of study. The material in Fantastic is much more uneven than in Amazing. One comes across a gem like "Mariana" by Fritz Leiber (February) only to be confronted by the utterly contemptible worthlessness of "The Crispin Affair" by Jack Sharkey (July-August). For a talent like Poul Anderson to write about "Dominic Flandry" is like Leonardo da Vinci illustrating comic books.

4. FANTASTIC UNIVERSE, 3 issues, (69). /folded/ Since the entire line of Great American Publications has folded, it was unreasonable to expect Hans Stefan Santesson's magazine to escape. Yet this last of the science-fiction pulps tried manfully to succeed. The serial "The Mind Thing" by Fredric Brown (March) will be completed as a Bantam paperback. While partial to the "psycho-ceramics" (crack-pots), Santesson did put out an interesting and lively magazine. A pity there will be no more.

5. FEAR!, 2 issues, (2). /folded/ There is a need for a magazine of the caliber of Weird Tales or Unknown. However the need for poor imitation of those magazines is negligible. This was another of the Great American Publications.

6. FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION, 2 issues, (48). /folded/ Supposedly only suspended until another distributor could be found, it is assumed that the Columbia science-fiction pulps are gone. Robert W. Lowndes has edited his magazines under handicaps as great as any other editor in the field. Time after time, he has obtained worthy material with payment rates so low as to be insulting. But there comes a time when the inevitable must triumph. Certainly, when the complete story of American magazine science-fiction is written, it will be said of Lowndes that no editor ever did so much with so little.

The February issue contained the Hal Clement story, "The Lunar Lichens" among with a reprint from the April 1942 issue "Passage to Sharanee" by Lowndes under the pen-name of Carol Grey. In the last (April) issue, the only material worthy of notice besides the reprint "The Case of the Baby Dinosaur" by J. S. Klimaris from the October 1942 issue was "Caliban" by T. N. Scortia and Jim Harmon.

This was the second series of publication for Future, the first commencing November 1939 and ending February 1943. The second series started with the May-June 1950 issue.

7. GALAXY MAGAZINE, 6 issues, (110). It is no longer possible for a bi-monthly magazine to compete on even terms with monthly magazines unless it is publishing material of superlative worth. Therefore, Galaxy is ranked 5th in a field of 15. Unless H. L. Gold does something to improve his story material, the situation can only get worse. Gold did publish probably the best story of the year in the magazine, "Something Bright" by Zenna Henderson (February) but it takes more than one or two stories to make a first class magazine. Readable and likeable was "The Sentoril Luggage" by Neal Barrett, Jr. (October) and "The Lady Who Sailed the Soul" by Cordwainer Smith (April). But the rest? Easy to forget, hard to remember. Willy Ley's department, "For Your Information" is always worth the purchase price of the magazine but one wishes that Gold could find some good stories to fill out the

ANOTHER YEAR has been written off and once again that time comes around that the past year's output of science-fiction magazines must be looked over, balanced and accounted for. 1960 was a bad year for our literature in magazine form. Low in numbers and quality, they also showed a low interest by the editors and publishers. Amazing Stories, and to a smaller percentage, Fantastic, were the only "light" in an otherwise dark field. They showed interest in themselves. The murder of the Astounding title was a black day. It is interesting to note that only Amazing Stories and Fantastic now have their original titles. Analog Science Fact (and) Fiction was born Astounding Stories of Super Science, The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction was The Magazine of Fantasy, If Science Fiction was If, and Galaxy Magazine was Galaxy Science Fiction.

Our super-reader, Edward Wood, the man who reads them all, gives us a good account of what happened in 1960. You will enjoy it. It is one of the finest annual report we've ever published.

-James V. Taurasi, Sr.

rest of the 194 pages. Since Frederik Pohl is so much better a book reviewer (except when reviewing items favorable to himself) than Floyd Gale that Horace might well consider the replacement.

8. IF SCIENCE FICTION, 6 issues, (59). If reads a lot like a magazine that is being held back so that it doesn't outshine its companion. The book reviews by Fred Pohl are the best in the field today next to those of Peter Schyuler Miller's in Analog. Also the stories are a trifle more memorable than in Galaxy, to wit: "Heel" by Philip Jose Farmer (May), "A Tourist Named Death" by Christopher Anvil (May), "Mindshake" by Jim Harmon (November). Here again the frequency of publication must be considered in the evaluation.

9. THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, 12 issues, (115). Robert Mill's magazine is #2 in a field of 15.

The quality of material was just not high enough to lift it above Analog this year. High on anybody's reading list should be: "The First Men" by Howard Fast (Feb). "The Oldest Soldier" by Fritz Leiber (May), "To the Tombaugh Station" by Wilson Tucker (July) - regarding Tucker's story, Mills should be told that an editor is supposed to cut, not butcher, "Rogue Moon" by Algis Budrys (December). Does Alfred Bester read the books he reviews? The replacement of Damon Knight as book reviewer by Alfred Bester or anyone for that matter seems mistaken from any conceivable angle. The incisive clarity of Damon Knight is needed in science-fiction.

10. NEW WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION (American), 5 issues, (5). /folded/ This Great American Publication was a reprint mixture from the British publication of the same name. There was no indication anywhere in the magazine that it consisted of reprints from a foreign publication nor was proper editorial credit given.

11. NEW WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION (British) 12 issues, (101). For 14 years now, John Carnell has been editing this magazine through good times and bad so it must be with a sense of well-deserved accomplishment that he celebrated the publication of the 100th issue (Nov). Usually Carnell's strength is in his serials but this year they were disappointing, "Time Out of Joint" by Philip K. Dick (Dec 59-Feb), "X For Exploitation" by Drian W. Aldiss (March-May) also published as Bow Down To Nul, Ace D-443, "The Fatal Fire" by Kenneth Blumer (July-Sept). The short stories lifted the magazine into #4 position. With better serials Carnell may rank even higher in 1961. The Sector General series by James White is excellent and one of the best in the series was "Out-Patient" (June). Also John Wyndham has continued his Tron series with "The Emptiness of Space" (Nov) which is also printed in the January 1961 issue of Amazing Stories as "The Asteroids 2194". Since all three Carnell magazines are being distributed in the U.S.A. with the only difference from those sold in the United Kingdom being the price on the

cover, a question arises as to what will the reader do when he finds the same story/stories in the domestic science-fiction magazine. They amount to more than a few. Then there is this business of First North American serial rights.....

12. SCIENCE FANTASY, 6 issues, (44).

One of the few magazines to print an occasional fantasy story. It also has been reprinting Sam Moskowitz's articles from Satellite and Fantastic. "The Sound-Sweep" by J. G. Ballard (Feb) "The Dtyad Tree" by Thomas Burnett (Aug) and "The Painter" by the same author (Dec) are memorable among the high level of material common to all of Carnell's publications.

13. SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES, 5 issues (17).

Nothing profound in this Carnell magazine but simple straightforward adventure stories having all the advantages and disadvantages of that form. There is a needed place for this type of magazine in the field. I happen to like it very much. "A Touch of Neanderthal" by Brian W. Aldiss (Sept) is one of the author's finer efforts.

14. SCIENCE FICTION STORIES (The Original), 3 issues, (38). /folded/

The remarks about Future Science Fiction apply equally well here. There were 5 reprints in the three 1960 issues. Thomas N. Scortia's "Artery of Fire" (March) was probably the best of the original stories.

Some magazines fold in mid-stream (Fantastic Universe, Satellite, etc.) while others seem to wither away into dry huskless parodies of magazines (Weird Tales, the Lowndes magazines, Fantastic Adventures, etc.). It is probably better to fold quickly than to linger on as an anachronism.

It is sad to watch a ny magazine fold even those that amply deserve it but it is heart-wrenching to watch the old-timers fold one by one and to think back over the years as to what might have been. I still remember buying the first issue, March 1939, which was edited by Charles Hornig and had an editorial by Hugo Gernsback "...t h e magazine will have a long life...no reason why Science Fiction Magazine should not have a bril-

liant future."

15. SHOCK MAGAZINE, 3 issues, (3). Another ill-fated attempt to publish a fantasy magazine in the United States. While a shade better than Fear!, a publication that will not even list its editor leaves something to be desired as to the confidence behind it. In the 3 issues, o n'e has gnereous helpings of Robert Bloch, Ray Bradbury (the Weird Tales Bradbury, not the current semi-precious Zen Buddhism Bradbury), Ted Sturgeon, etc. For \$1.05, the set's a bargain.

BY SOME STRANGE sort of alchemy I find that I reviewed 15 titles for 1960 and the same number for 1959. I can predict with some certainty that the number reviewed for 1961 will be less than 15.

The impending publication of the bibliographic material mentioned in my review of the 1959 magazines is still impending. Yet 1960 was outstanding for the publication of Earl Kemp's symposium on Who Killed Science Fiction? which if it did not settle the matter on a definitive basis did clear the air of many opinions. Also of high merit was Redd Bogg's The Big Three: Ten Years in Retrospect, a 24 page summary of Astounding, Galaxy and Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction during the 1950s. There h a s been a gratifying return to first principles by many fans who are paying some attention to science-fiction these days and are finding it interesting. Too many ignored it in recent years.

The magazine field is n o w in an equilibrium of sesperation. With six domestic titles put out by only four publishers, the fight to survive will be something to watch. Equally interesting will be the change if any in circulation figures. They show the slim profit margin on which the survival of the entire magazine science-fiction is based.

T H E E N D

Join the 19th WORLD S-F CONVENTION, The SeaCon. \$2 brings you Progress Reports & Program Booklet, \$1 more if you attend. SEACON %Seattle S-F Club, INC., P.O. Box 1365, Broadway Branch, Seattle 2, Wash. or to SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC.

ACKERMAN'S NEW MAG TO BE CALLED "SPACEMEN"

LOS ANGELES, 27 January, (CNS) - Forrest J Ackerman announced today that his new movie magazine will be called Spacemen. We understand that the first issue will be on the stands in mid-March.

The First issue will contain:
SPACIAL DELIVERY: a letter column.

THE SHAPE OF SPACE TO COME: Is there a new Rocket Film on the docket? Another Space Pic scheduled for production? A property like WAR OF THE WORLDS, FORBIDDEN PLANET, THIS ISLAND EARTH bought by a Studio? A producer planning an Interplanetary Movie? The First Move will always be reported right here.

COLLISION COURSE: WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE the echoes are heard for many a year. Ten years are as yesterday in the Space World where the Wylie-Balmer-Pal picture had its premiere. Re-live it here & now.

GUEST RIDERS IN THE SKY: Be our Guest and go Behind the Scenes with FJA to witness the filming of RIDERS TO THE STARS.

MENACE FROM THE MOON: When civilizations Clash a BATTLE IN OUTER SPACE is the Best Place for a War of 2 Worlds.

O'HENRY'S COMET: Short (story) of Space #1: "The Smuggest Smuggler" by Sci-fi author Jim Harmon.

THE VOYAGE OF THE SPACE EAGLE: 12 TO THE MOON; or, "Hi, Moon!"

ORBITuary Dept.: Out of the "Morgue" and into Another Whirl, a Second Look at Favorite Scenes from Past Successes as requested by YOU the Readers.

MONSTERAMA: A Perilous Parade of Creepy Creatures from Other Spaces like WORLD WITHOUT END...THIS ISLAND EARTH...Nova, the Planet of KING DINOSAUR...I T CONQUERED THE WORLD...20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH...and THE CREEPING UNKNOWN.

SPACE PETROL: A Star-Crossed Quiz. Test your Interplanetary Quotient!

HISTORIC FOTO: For an Historic First

Issue an Hysterical Memento from 1939: Teenage RAY BRADBURY (wearing Monster Mask made by Teenage RAY HARRYHAUSEN) Menaces Youthful Spacenik FORREST J ACKERMAN.

COVER: by Bail Gogos: Space Man of Distinction.

SCIENCE-FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECEIVED:

SEPTEMBER 1960:

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR by Ben Barzman, Putnam, NY, \$3.95, Sept. 30.

SHADOW HAWK by Andre Norton, Harcourt, Brace & Co., \$3.50, Sept. 30, 1960.

OCTOBER 1960

PLEASANT DREAMS by Robert Bloch, Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisc., \$4.00, October 4, 1960.

THE HIGH CRUSADE by Poul Anderson, Doubleday & Co., \$2.95, October 11, 1960.

INVADERS FROM THE DARK by Greve La Spina, Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisc., \$3.50, October 26, 1960.

THE SATANIST by Dennis Wheatley, Hutchinson & Co., Ltd., London, Eng, \$4.50, October 26, 1960.

WALL OF SERPENTS by L. Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.95, October 27, 1960.

HUNTERS OF SPACE by Joseph Kelleam, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.95, October 27, 1960.

NOV. & DEC 1960

GREAT GHOST STORIES, edited by Herbert Van Thal, Hill & Wang, NY, \$3.50, November 22, 1960.

A DECADE OF "FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION", edited by Robert P. Mills, Doubleday & Co., \$4.50, December 5, 1960.

OUTLAWS OF MARS by Otis Adelbert Kline, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.95, Dec. 28.

COLLISION COURSE by Robert Silverberg, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.95, Dec. 28.

JANUARY 1961

THE FIFTH GALAXY READER, edited by H. L. Gold, Doubleday & Co., NY, \$3.95, January 12, 1961.

FEBRUARY 1961

TWILIGHT WORLD by Poul Anderson,
Dodd, Mead, NY, \$2.95, February 1, 1961.

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASTIC - April 1961

Novelet: DESCENT INTO THE MAELSTROM by Daniel F. Galouye. Short Stories: THE VIOLIN STRING by Henry Hasse, MULBERRY MOON by Arthur Porges, and DISCOVERERS by Henry Slesar. Serial: WORLDS OF THE IMPERIUM (conclusion) by Keith Laumer. Features: EDITORIAL and ACCORDING TO YOU.

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION - April 1961

SOFTLY WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING by Evelyn E. Smith, THE HILLS OF LODAN by Harold Calin, THE SHIP WHO SANG by Anne McCaffrey, DEAD MAN'S BOTTLES by Robert Graves, JUDAS BOMB by Kit Reed, FERDINAND FEGHOOT: XXXVIII by Grendel Briarton, Science: "My Built-In-Doubter" by Isaac Asimov, Books by Alfred Bester, COSMIC SEX AND YOU by Nils Peterson, DADDY'S PEOPLE by Richard Banks, ON HEARING ANOTHER REPORT (verse) by Doris Pitkin Buck, and NOMANSLAND (novelet) by Brian W. Aldiss. Cover by Emsh.

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FOR SALE: ASTOUNDING * March 1934 complete to December 1958. 292 issues, all with covers * \$250.00. Julius Unger, 6401 24th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by J. Harry Vincent

Robert W. Lowndes is now editor of Exploring The Unknown, and managing editor of Real Life Guide. Both magazines are published by Health Knowledge, Inc.

Exploring The Unknown is a Fate type magazine, but without the restriction of Fate. It covers all phases of the occult, supernatural, etc. Published bi-monthly at 50¢ a copy.

Real Life Guide is similar to Gernsback's Sexology.

Bob Lowndes continues to be the editor of Avalon Books.

James Warren the publisher of Famous Monsters and the new Spacemen, informs us that he is sending Forrest J Ackerman the editor of both mags to attend the big March meeting of ESFA, where New York-New Jersey Fandom will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Amazing Stories.

Speaking of monster mags, Charlton Publications has just published the first issue of an imitation of Ackerman's Famous Monsters, called Horror Monsters. Large size, 64 pages, 35¢. Charlton will be remembered as the publishers of Fantastic Science Fiction in the early 50s. The best that can be said of Horror Monsters is that it is a fairly good imitation.

We are most happy to note that more and more stands (in New York City) are now carrying the Carnell three British science/fantasy magazines. We are unhappy to note that even the little spot illustrations used inside of New Worlds have now disappeared. Come, come Ted, your excellent magazines should carry interior illustrations.

The British edition of Fantasy and Science Fiction is still carrying some inside illustrations. It also now has on the contents page: "First Again at the World S-F Convention, 1960".

The British Astounding has now also become Analog.

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