



The Science Fiction Newspaper

# Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 16 - No. 7 FIRST APRIL 1961 ISSUE (#359) STILL 10¢

## SERIAL BY E E SMITH & EVANS BOUGHT BY "IF"

### "SPACE WORLD" GOES MONTHLY

#### WILLY LEY JOINS "SPACE WORLD" STAFF

#### "SPACE WORLD" TO PUBLISH WEEKLY SPACE NEWS LETTER

by Otto Binder

New York, 25 March, (CNS) - Willy Ley is now the Consulting Editor of Space World. He will continue writing one article per issue, plus checking each issue for scientific errors before presstime. Starting with the August issue, he will also write an insert of four pages to be called "Willy Ley's Space News Letter". Subject matter obvious: all the latest space-age news each week, between issues of Space World. (After the first introductory insert in Space World, The Willy Ley's Space News Letter will be issued as a separate booklet). Subscription rates for the weekly news letter will be \$10 to \$15 yearly (not yet decided).

As of the July issue, Space World

(continued on page 2, column 1)

#### NEW COVER POLICY FOR "IF" & "GALAXY"

New York, 5 April, (CNS) - Frederik Pohl who is editing Galaxy Magazine and If Science Fiction while editor H. L. Gold, is slowly recovering in the hospital, announced today that he has bought a novel written by E. Everett Evans and Edward E. Smith and will present it as a two-part serial starting in the November 1961 issue of If Science Fiction. The title of the serial is "Masters of Space". It is the first serial that If has run since it was bought by Guinn.

Stated Fred Pohl about the new E.E. Smith serial: "I'm personally very happy about this story---I grew up on Doc Smith's Skylark and Lensman stories (as I guess you did too!), and I still re-read them in book form every year or two for fun. "Masters of Space" doesn't reach the universe-wide proportions of the later stories in those series, but it's a fine, exciting job. I think the old-timers will enjoy it for old times' sake---and I'm hoping the newer readers will enjoy it even more."

Going on to comment on other news items about If, Fred said, "Couple other long-range news items you might be interested in. If is starting a new ser-

ies about an interplanetary diplomatic trouble-shooter by Keith Laumer that I like a lot; the first story, "The Frozen Planet", will be in the September 1961 issue. In July we're finally beginning the letter column we promised--on a very small scale---but that's the readers' fault, not ours. We get more letters, we'll print more letters. This month we didn't get them."

Galaxy Magazine will also get a new series. Commented Fred, ".....this one by Jack Sharkey, about a man whose job it is to visit extraterrestrial planets and project his mind into alien bodies. I think this will be well liked, too---Sharkey has some interesting aliens up his sleeve, and the stories have that "sense of wonder" that Sam Moskowitz used to talk about, that many readers think is underplayed in science-fiction today. The first story is "Arturus Times Three", and it will be in the October Galaxy."

One of the most interesting news items to come from If and Galaxy is that there will be a change in cover policy. Fred Pohl announced that item with: "Also, starting with the August Galaxy and September If, we have a new cover policy: Covers will actually be from stories in the issue they appear on. August Galaxy cover is from "The Deep Down Dragon" by Judith Merrill; September If from "Spawning Ground" by Lester del Rey."

It would appear from all these announcements that a program of improvement has been started with both If and Galaxy; improvements that are badly needed in this reduced field of only six science-fantasy magazines.

In closing his announcements, Fred made this statement: "There are a number of other major stories in the safe for both magazines---but they haven't been definitely scheduled yet; when they are, I'll let you know."

#### "SPACE WORLD" GOES MONTHLY (continued from page 1, column 1)

goes monthly. Subscription rates are:  
6 issues - \$2.75 (7 issues with cash instead of billing).

9 issues - \$3.75 (10 issues with cash instead of billing).

12 issues - \$5.00 (14 issues with cash instead of billing).

18 issues - \$7.00 (20 issues with cash instead of billing).

A special contact through the Press Department of the Embassy of the USSR, in Washington, will give us exclusive articles written by Soviet space scientists, the first of which starts in the July issue, by Inna Yavorskaye (a woman scientist) who is the official Secretary of the Interplanetary Travel Program (the Soviet version of our NASA's space program), as formulated by the USSR Academy of Sciences. Dr. Hubertus Strughold, of our Space Medicine activities, met Madame Y. at a COSPAR meeting and describes her as one of the most brilliant scientists living.

The ASTRO-CALENDAR, which yours truly started in the Nov., 1960 issue (and which was received enthusiastically) will be carried on with elaborations by Willy Ley in his news-letter. It will be the most complete guide bar none (and that includes all the trade magazines) to all launchings---non-orbiting tests, satellites, moon probes, deep-space vehicles, aborts, etc.---from 1957 on after Sputnik I, with a special review of highlights before that back to Goddard's first launch of a space-capable rocket booster.

Here's the advance line-up for Space World of July (out early or mid-May):

"Man-in-Space, Dateline Washington"...about the three astronauts and how they were chosen.

"Man-in-Space, Dateline Moscow"...by that woman VIP...about their imminent plans for manned flight, including 20 items of information never before released in America.

"Fact and Fiction of Space Travel"...no, not about science-fiction unfortunately, but a rundown of proposed space projects that analyzes if they're feasible or too impractical.

"New NASA Chief"....interview with James Webb.

"Interplanetary Colonies---#3 of series, Extraterrestrial Bases", by yours truly...taking in the possibilities of colonization of Venus, Mercury,



the asteroids and Jupiter's moons.

"Uses of the Ion Drive", by Ernst Stuhlinger, #2 man after von Braun of the famed German rocket team working on Saturn, in which he tells how the "weak thrust" ion-drive will be important in long interplanetary trips, able with its steady operation to build up speeds of 100 miles a second.

"Space Balloons"...ten new types of "inflatable" space vehicles now planned, since Echo's great success.....including giant space stations made of plastics, and even powered spaceships.

"Astro Artists"...interview with Roy Scarfo of GE's Missile & Space Vehicle Dept... who does futuristic space visualizations of their engineering products...and some are more out-of-this-world than Bonestell's.

"All About g Forces"...not to be confused with g-strings....by Willy Ley, a basic explanation of the what, why and how of high-g and negative-g forces.

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#### SCIENCE-FANTASY BOOK REVIEW

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by Ray Van Houten

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"THE SIRENS OF TITAN" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.; Houghton-Mifflin Co., Wayside Road, Burlington, Mass.; \$3.50. Previously published as an original paperback book by Dell Pub. Co., Inc.

I read the Dell paperback of this book when it came out. I read this hardcover edition when received by us for review. So far as I know, the two are identical, word for word.

I still don't get the message, if any.

This edition is billed on the jacket as "a satiric fantasy about ourselves". It's fantasy, I agree, and not science-fiction, and its satiric tone is obvious. It may be about Mr. Vonnegut and the kind of person he knows, but I fail to recognize myself or anyone I know among its assorted skew characters.

I hasten to point out two things: first, that this may not indeed be a shortcoming of Mr. Vonnegut or his book, but a lack of sufficient perspecacity in

myself; and second, that reader-identification with any of Mr. Vonnegut's characters is not strictly necessary for his story to be interesting and meaningful.

However, it seems to me that obscurity is a shortcoming, and any author who writes a book so loaded with symbolism, kookie characters, inconsistent situations, and a razzle-dazzle of what are apparently supposed to be "shlue" attitudes, but which don't shock worth a damn, must be writing for his own amusement, and hence deserves to have his effort ignored.

"Player Piano", Mr. Vonnegut's earlier novel, was recognizable as science-fiction, its premises were soundly based, and there was a quality of freshness about it that intrigued. "Sirens" has none of these advantages and substitutes nothing, as far as I can see, worthwhile.

Better I should read about "gyro-cosmic-relativators" than "chrono-synclastic-infundibulators" --- I can become interested in what Anthony Rogers is doing. I could hardly care less to know about Constant and Rumfoord.

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#### SCIENCE-FICTION FAN MAGAZINES

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by Edmund R. Meskys

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AMRA #14 (2nd series), 29 7" x 10" pages multilith, published irregularly (5 during 1960) at 20¢ per copy by George Sciethers, Box 9006, Rosslyn, Arlington 9, Virginia.

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Amra, a fan magazine devoted to epic adventure fantasy (particularly Howard's Conan series), is usually known for its magnificent artwork at the expense of written matter. In this issue, however, the artwork is not up to its usual standard and the written matter is quite expressive and extensive.

The best article in the issue is Redd Boggs' "Does Conan Need Suspenders?" which answers an article in #11 by Buck Coulson. Redd says that the Conan series does lack suspense, but the lack is due to Howard's type of plot development and not (as Buck said) due to inherent

weaknesses of the series story. In any pulp story, whether series or one-shot, you are almost certain of the outcome (even in "the bitter pit" type of story such as "The Cold Equations") and the suspense comes from how the hero will escape. "We may not be particularly worried that Stevens & Nadia will die on Ganymede in E. E. Smith's 'Spacehounds of IPC', but we are anxious to discover how they manage to escape from that desert moon." But in the Conan stories there is no plot & any suspense present is just fleeting and not heightened by the proper development. Redd ends up by pointing out that the Hyborian age and not Conan is the real hero of the series. The "interest...centers, not so much in the exploits of Conan, as in the adventurous spirit of the age in which he lives....The appeal of the stories is to readers who want, not so much suspense (as)...the sense of displacement in time that Howard's gaudily colored and boldly imagined stories convey. Obviously these stories are admired particularly by readers who find their own world as drab and prevasive as Howard found Cross Plains, Texas." A very fine article (which raises in its 3 pages many more fine points than I could hope to report here) and I can hardly wait for the reaction in the next few issues.

Another good article is John Poc-sik's "The Case for Solomon Kane" which is unfortunately impaired by the accidental omission of 2 of the 7 promised plot summaries. This article calls the attention of the Conan fans to Robert Howard's little known but apparently good stories of Solomon Kane. It is very interesting but ends on a puzzling note by suggesting that some future chronicler (such as Bjorn Nyberg) of the (prehistoric) Conan can have him meet up with (Elizanethan) Kane. How -- by time machine?

The two remaining full articles concern themselves with Howard's sources of background in writing Conan. Chuck Hansen & Norm Metcalf discuss Mundy's influence on Howard in "Conan of the Khyber Rifles" while P. Schuyler Miller discusses some of the mythology Howard borrowed when writing the Conan books.

The test part of the issue winds up

with a translation into English by Poul Anderson of an 11th century Norse poem, a lettercol, a humorous translation into Anglo-Saxon by Poul Anderson of L. S. de Camp's report on the PITTCON business meeting, and an editorial which reports on the PITTCON meeting of the Conan fan club (The Hyborian Legion) and plugs the newly set-up E. R. Burroughs & J. R. R. Tolkien fan clubs and their publications.

This issue has an usually high proportion of material directly concerned with Conan for there is usually also material of Fritz Leiber's Fafhard & Grey Mouser stories & other related items. Altho I am not a Howard fan, I have found every single issue of the second series of Amra extremely interesting and enjoyable. (The first series, I understand, was a mimeographed club newsletter for the Hyborian Legion.

As I said, the artwork isn't up to the usual Amra standard, but it is still good. (Best item is a cartoon by Jim Cawthorn on pg 16). Usually, however, the artwork is so marvelous that it alone is worth the cost of the issue.

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In the 1st May issue of Science-Fiction Times, Ed Meskys will review the Monday Evening Ghost.

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MOTION PICTURES, STAGE, & TV  
by Ken Beale

#### THE BEST OF 1960 - Part 2

In recent years, the best horror films have been of British origin; mostly from Hammer Films. 1960, however, saw what may be the modest beginning of an improvement in domestic quality. This was American International's The Fall of the House of Usher. It was easily the year's best horror movie.

I am afraid that Richard Matheson's script wasn't responsible for the film's success. It is rather to director Roger Corman, an old hand at s-f and horror, that credit must be given. His handling of the rather sparse material was first-rate, especially in the dream sequence and the finale. And of course Vincent Price's acting was impeccable.



Hammer's Brides of Dracula was a stylish and shuddery sequel to their successful Horror of Dracula. It had a genuine atmosphere of 19th-century terror, which is one element the Usher film lacked. Strangers of Bombay, again from Hammer, was a sinister oriental thriller in the best Sax Rohmer tradition.

Also from England, Jack the Ripper came close to being first-class, but seemed too hastily put together. Circus of Horror had a clever actor named Anton Diffring, but little else. Finally, Bluebeard's Ten Honeymoons wasted George Sanders almost completely.

Apart from the Poe film mentioned above, American horror films were much worse. The Tinger tried to turn theaters into a Fun House, (Buzzers under the seats), apparently in an attempt to keep the audience's minds off the picture. Producer Castle's second release of the year, Thirteen Ghosts, went in for more of the same. P. T. Barnum wouldn't have been surprised to learn that Castle's productions are making money.

Terror is a Man, which I saw only in part, looked moderately interesting. (Its idea was borrowed from Wells' "Island of Dr. Moreau".) Alfred Hitchcock made a huge splash with Psycho, which I didn't see (deliberately). And Universal came out with something called The Leech Woman, which is a fair contender for the Worst Horror Film Ever Made.

Also released were Caltiki, The Hypnotic Eye and other assorted creepies.

In the field of Fantasy, two Russian features were outstanding: The Sword and the Dragon (see this column, S-FT #352), and the animated cartoon The Snow Queen, which I was unfortunate enough to miss.

The Three Worlds of Gulliver (again see #352) was a near-miss. The producer seemed unable to decide if it was a children's or an adult film, and it suffered accordingly. As expected, the special effects were fascinating.

Goliath and the Dragon (which I actually saw in '61) proved to be the best of the recent Italian historical spectacles. It had a centaur, a batman-creature, and other fantastic elements, which more than made up for the dubbing

and the weak story. Also released: The Boy and the Pirates.

In the Borderline category, I Aim at the Stars spent too much time in World War II Germany, and too little at Cape Canaveral. Thus throwing away a potentially fascinating subject, or burying it in a mass of phony political controversy. Also released: Hercules Unchained (better than the first film, but less fantastic), and Tarzan the Magnificent.

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Our congratulations on the 20th Anniversary of NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION, NFFF. Started on April 1941, it became 20 years old this month. It is the oldest National Science-Fantasy Club in the country. One that is growing year by year. If you are not a member, you should be. Write to Ralph M. Holland, 2520 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, for details.

-editor  
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TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND (TFFF) VOTING FORM

Candidates

RON ELLIK

DICK ENEY

All candidates have signed statements that if elected they will go to the British Convention to be held in 1962, probably at Easter time. In addition they have posted bond and their platforms are listed on the back of this ballot form.

Should the winner be unable to make the trip, the second place winner will be offered the opportunity.

Details of voting will be kept secret.

Reproductions of this form are authorized (in fact, encouraged) provided exact copies are made.

Votes must reach: Don Ford, Box 19-T, RR #2  
Loveland, Ohio, USA before Sept 30, 1961.

I vote for:.....

(Note: Since there are only 2 candidates, we have modified the voting system slightly.)

Write-in votes are permitted.

No proxy votes are allowed. Each voter must sign his/her own ballot.

To be eligible to vote you must contribute a minimum of 50¢ (2/6d) to the FUND and have been active in any phase of Science Fiction Fandom prior to January, 1960. Contributions in excess of 50¢ or 2/6d are not only gratefully accepted, but encouraged. If you are not a known fan, give here the name and address of a fan or Science Fiction club as a reference.....

Overseas fans may send money and ballots to:  
Eric Bentcliffe, 47 Alldis Street, Great Moor,  
Stockport, Cheshire, England

I enclose the sum of ..... as a contribution to the Transatlantic Fan Fund. ( Make checks and Money Orders payable to either Don Ford or to Eric Bentcliffe; NOT to TFFF.)

Name.....

Address.....

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## PLATFORM

**RON ELLIK** We'd like to nominate Ron Ellik for TAFF because we like him. His history with FANTAC, which during his co-editorship was awarded the fanzine Hugo in 1969, and his long service as an officer of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association prove him a capable publishing fan. He's a convention fan because we've seen him travel cross-country to attend world conventions and Midwestcons. He reads science-fiction because we questioned him to be sure he did; he even collects a little bit. He can associate with young fans and with old guard fans equally well. We would be proud to have Ron Ellik as a representative to England in 1962; however, the best reason for nominating and sending him is that the English fans will like him as well as we do.

Nominated by: Bjo Trimble, C. L. Barrett, MD, Larry T. Shaw, Arthur Thomson and Ron Bonnett.

**DICK ENEY** **MONUMENTAL:** that's the word for Richard H. Eney, whose praises I sing! **MONUMENTAL:** that's the word for his latest, greatest work, Fancyclopedia II. This alone reason enough to nominate him; this alone reason enough to elect him! Dick Eney: valued member of FAPA, OMPA, SAPS. Dick Eney: collector (and reader!), publisher, convention-goer, the fan's fan, complete to beard but minus guitar. London will be mad about him! (True, he has some faults, but we're keeping that quiet.) Vital statistics: male, single, age 27, height 6'-3", heady of eye and ready to travel. Back your FANCY for TAFF !

Nominated by: Howard DeVore, Dean Grennell, Lynn Hickman, John Berry and Archie Morcer.

\* \* \* \* \*

As of December 1, 1960 TAFF has \$355.60; raised from the following sources:

"Auction Bloch" at Pittsburgh	\$99.00
Donation from Wally Wesor	\$50.00
Registration fees from the candidates	\$20.00
Donation from the PITTCOM Committee	\$200.00

Our goal is to make this campaign so successfull, financially, that we can bring the British delegate over to the 1962 U.S. convention as well.

Three TAFF trip write ups may be ordered from either Don Ford or Eric Bentcliffe when sending in your ballot & contribution to TAFF. They are: TAFF BAUDEKER by Don Ford (\$1.25), EPITAFF by Eric Bentcliffe (\$1.00) and A FAKE FAN IN LONDON by Bob Madle (\$1.50). Copies will be mailed upon publication. Ford's and Madle's reports are First Fandom projects and the profits will be donated to TAFF. A 4th report, COLONIAL EXCURSION by Ron Bennett may be ordered from either Bob Pavlat or Ron Bennett. Pre-publication price: 75¢.

Don Ford & Eric Bentcliffe