



The Science Fiction Newspaper

Science-Fiction Times

"The 'World Of Tomorrow' Today!"

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SECOND JULY 1962 ISSUE

\$3 A YEAR

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by J. Harry Vincent

THE BRITISH "ANALOG"

The British Edition of Analog reached the new format and layout of the United States Edition with their May '62 issue. Here the British publishers played it smart. They adapted the cover and contents page format from America, but continued the old format in the interior. So while the cover resembles the "new" Analog, you get the feel and atmosphere of the "old" Analog inside. None of the "High School" text-book format for them, they keep a good thing when they have it. As before, they still use across the page columns (instead of two columns) they adapted years ago. The magazine is still published monthly, 128 pages and still sells for 2/6 per issue.

The current August 1962 issue is a reprint of the U.S. April 1962 issue. It contains all the fiction of the April 1962 US edition, but the "fact" article and editorial from the May 1962 issue. P. Schuyler Miller's excellent book review column is reduced down to 3 reviews.

ARE 35¢ S-F MAGS A THING OF THE PAST?

With Amazing Stories and Fantastic testing 50¢, 130 page magazines in the United States, with the possibility of going to that higher price in 1963, this leaves IF the only 35¢ science-fiction magazine left in the United States. If, we

believe would not be 35¢ for long. If all the other mags are increasing prices why should Guinn and Cohen leave If at only 35¢. Since Guinn increased pages and price of Galaxy a few years ago, it would seem reasonable that he would also increase the price of If (and probably) add pages, when all the other mags are higher priced. It looks very much at this time that most s-f mags will be priced at 40¢ or more in 1963.

But before we go too far let's look at the other side of the coin. A few years ago Trains magazine, a large-size slick, also like s-f selling to a very limited field, tried out a 75¢ price for a few issues (against its regular 50¢ price) and dropped the issue. 75¢ just didn't go over.

RAY BRADBURY

Los Angeles, a slick magazine for Southern California, had an article on Ray Bradbury in its March 1962 issue. This four page plus two pictures of Ray, one a full page, was written by Charles Davenport. It is a very interesting article on the "boy wonder" and reveals many interesting sidelights on Bradbury. One is that he cannot drive an auto. It touches on his early background and effort to break into the writing field, and what he is doing today. Along with the articles in Amazing Stories and Rogue, Ray has had himself well covered. We still think that Sam Moskowitz's article in the October Amazing was the

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EDITORIAL

College Point, N.Y., 25 July, (CNS) - For the last few issues, this newspaper has been mailed out from College Point, as will all future issues. Due to Frank Prieto not having time to handle the unglaorious and large job of mimeoing, collating, stapling and mailing out the paper, this has been taken over by the New York-New Jersey offices. For the time being Van Houten has been typing out the address stickers and Taurasi has been doing the rest. It is expected that next week Prieto will return the heavy address-o-graph to Van Houten, and that should speed up his end of the job. Prieto will continue to collect subscriptions and our home address will continue to be Syracuse. So continue to mail your subs there. All other material should be mailed to the editorial office in College Point.

We are well aware that the mailing out of this paper has been snafued, but good, for the past year, and we have high hopes that this phase is now over. We want to thank all of you who stuck with us thru this uncalled for mixup and will do our best to see to it that it doesn't happen again in the future.

We offer no alibi, we have none! We loused up, and we know it. Now we're getting our house in order to give you the service you are entitled to.

Advertisements are still \$10.00 a full-page, and \$6.00 a half-page.

Permanent Subscriptions are now \$20 each. This service will be discontinued as of October 1st, 1962. -the editor.

THE S-F MAGAZINE CRITIC

by Jay Kay Klein

ANOTHER NEW COLUMN for Science-Fiction Times, a much needed column. Jay Klein will review the long novels and serials of the science/fantasy magazines which we think you'll enjoy whether, as usual, you agree or disagree with the writer's comments. Glad to have you aboard, Jay. -editor.

The focus of criticism in science-fiction

has generally fallen upon hard and soft cover books, much as it has in other fields of literature. Science-fiction magazines deserve more attention, and their stories more timely criticism, for the core of science-fiction is the magazines. The contents of science-fiction books have generally appeared months and years previously in magazines.

Without any desire to engage in brutal dissections or grisly postmortems, I must include discussion of poor as well as top-notch stories in order to perform the task of criticism. Alfred Bester has left the field of science-fiction criticism with a sad commentary (Fantasy & Science Fiction, August 1962) on author and fan reactions. My general feeling about the tough business of writing is that sometimes an author outdoes himself, creating a masterpiece; sometimes he eases off, turning out a piece of work below his usual standard. And I always think that a writer would be better off if he had some immediate reaction to his recent creations, good or bad.

The first story under consideration is very disturbing, occupying some 85 precious pages of the bi-monthly Galaxy. In terms of quantity produced for sale, Robert Silverberg is one of today's outstanding writers. "The Seed of Earth", June 1962 Galaxy, has some very grave defects that really should have been remedied after a writer-editor conference and a thorough rewrite.

Basically, the story lacks believability, both in the background and in the action of the characters. There is no quarrel with Mr. Silverberg's writing style, which is smoothly professional. The story revolves about the idea that people are sent, willynilly and helter skelter, from Earth to planets of other star systems. The society as presented is very gentle and highly democratic, with free elections, and is just chockablock full of kind-hearted but conscientious administrators.

That such a basically good, well run, well intentioned society could heartlessly pick up people at random, sever their marriages, deny them schooling, waste their talents, and otherwise

render miserable is simply out of the question. Nor is it equally probable that the voting citizens, completely free of any suggestion of a terror state and hating the idea of arbitrary selection, would long permit such an unpleasant situation to exist. And it is unlikely that the 180,000 people snatched each month, with their millions of relatives and friends, would keep from raising one Hell of a ruckus politically if not physically.

As one reads along, one keeps looking for some overriding force, something to make the background believable. Perhaps, one wonders, everyone is hypnotized by a government psi-corps or chemically brainwashed by injections of a Martian tsetse fly. But no evidence of this appears, and indeed the remainder of the society would scarcely be so well balanced.

Also the idea of simply picking people at random and sending them to unimaginable hardships without any previous training is ridiculous. Presumably, this random selection is the outcome of a true democracy, where everyone is in the same leaky boat. Keeping in mind that all this suffering by the individual is for the ultimate good of society (populating the galaxy), it is even further unbelievable that the chosen ones would receive no training in survival, and that the groups would be thrown together by chance instead of being balanced as to sex, personality, and talent.

That such delicate differentiation is necessary is cited in the story itself "...the colonists would never be completely free of the shadowy neckless beings until they learned to function like parts of a well-machined instrument; as a colony must if it is to survive." (p.188).

The senseless lack of preparation training of the colonists leads to many useless deaths, when one of the points brought out in the story is the scarcity of colonists. When something is scarce, every means are used to conserve it. Starships are also scarce, and they are given every conceivable check and overhaul. "Nothing could be left to chance, not with a hundred-million-dollar starship." (p.134).

There are other unbelievable parts, such as the aliens' treatment of the humans. The aliens were much more believable in "The Wind of Siros" (Venture, September 1957), but then this short story hadn't as yet had the incredible beginning tacked on that lengthened it into "The Seed of Earth".

More than any other type of literature, science-fiction requires the utmost verisimilitude where possible to carry the reader over those areas which are inherently impossible or so far outside normal experience as to seem so. Even such minor details as describing the spaceship in an impossible manner help destroy the necessary feeling of rightness, of believability in the entire fabric of the story. "Its hull was plated with a molecule-thick sheath of gold, by way of ornament ..." Such a coating, of course, would be invisible. And the story fails to offer any cogent reason why the colonists must be cut off from outside contact for generations when the new planet is just a four-week hop from Earth.

Now, if the aliens turned out to be Earth psychologists giving the colonists their first lesson in survival -- but that would be another story. It is possible of course, that Mr. Silverberg has something of the sort in mind, and will expand the already lengthened story into a full size novel suitable for soft or hard cover publication.

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most complete and informative.

Our thanks to Ackerman for sending in this issue of Los Angeles.

ACKERMAN & THE SLICKS

Speaking of Forry, he had two items in "girly" magazines recently. One was in Showcase #4, a 50¢ "Adults only" mag. This was an article "Beauties and Beasts" on monster films and the actors therein. Also in the same issue can be found "Man With A Cane", an article on Bat Masterson, by science-fictionist Jim Harmon, and "Trace", a one page fiction by Jerome Bixby. Two: Ackerman has a

short story, "A Stitch In Time" in Women of Intrigue #3, a \$1.00 "girly mag". It is a humorous story of four teen-agers and their first visit to a nudist camp.

20TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

The 20th World Science Fiction Convention to be held in Chicago at the Pick-Congress Hotel, August 31 - September 3, 1962, will try among other things to add class to the attending portion of fandom. The banquets have long been known, much to the scorn of local newsmen and hotel employees as the place where even the Guest of Honor took off his dinner jacket so that he'd not offend 90% of the fans there who were in shirtsleeves & tieless. This year the Convention Committee asks that all who attend the banquet please come with and wearing coats and ties. Ladies are asked to wear long formal dresses. They want this Con to have dignity and charm. They are also stressing the fact that they are having a Masquerade Ball DANCE! They have obtained Charles Lane and Orchestra and they expect fandom to DANCE and not sit and stare.

We go along with all this, but we hope that when they say the Hotel IS 100% air-conditioned, it is actually so. So far, as far as s-f conventions go this has been far from so, and also explains, in part, why the male fans went around in tieless shirtsleeves. Maybe if for once the Hotel is air-conditioned and if said system is in working order, fandom will put on the dogs and spruce up with coats & ties. But getting it to dance --- this we gotta see!

Coatless or in long dresses, it appears that this World Con is going to be a real interesting deal, and all interested in science/fantasy should try to get there. Why not sign up now! \$3 makes you part of this, fandom's biggest affair of the year. Send that \$3 to 20th World Science Fiction Convention, P.O. Box 4864, Chicago 80, Illinois. Make those checks and money-orders out to George W. Price, who is the Treasurer.

M A D

Kelly Freas, Award winning science-fic-

tion artist who left s-f for other fields still does work for MAD magazine. The current October 1962 issue, #74, has an excellent Freas cover, and the unusual Maad-maad interior. Mad recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Mad's latest pocket book is MAD IN ORBIT also with a Freas cover. More on Mad in Orbit at a later date.

SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next in The Pros

I F -- November 1962

Serial (1st of 2 parts): PODKAYNE OF MARS by Robert A. Heinlein. Novelettes: THE DESERT AND THE STARS by Keith Laumer, and THE CRITIQUE OF IMPURE REASON by Poul Anderson. Short Stories: THE REAL THING by Albert Teichner, THE RELUCTANT IMMORTALS by David R. Bunch, THE MAN WHO FLEW by Charles B. Cunningham, Jr., TOO MANY EGGS by Kris Neville, and THE DRAGON SLAYERS by Frank Banta. Special Features: MOST PERSONAL, THE POPOFF by Theodore Sturgeon, and HUE AND CRY by the Readers. Cover by Virgil Finlay from "Podkayne of Mars."

STATE OF FANDOM by Lane Stannard

The next meeting of the EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION will be the 2nd Sunday of the month instead of the usual first, because the First Sunday of September 1962 will be The World S-F Convention at Chicago. At this September meeting, ESFA members will get a full report on the World Con from members who attended the gala affair.

The "Silvercon" Committee gets into high gear soon, with a meeting held before or after the next LUNARIAN meeting in Sept. Those interested should get in touch with Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx 53, New York. Any fan or fan organization who wants to pitch in and help to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the 1st World S-F Convention held in New York in 1939 is invited. The "Silvercon" will be held over the July 4th Holiday of 1964. Help is needed to make this celebration a great success.

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES

COVERS IN THE NEWS

X OCTOBER
Galaxy 1962

Ray Bradbury returns with
COME INTO MY CELLAR

Galaxy
MAGAZINE

OCTOBER • 1962 • 50c

Ray Bradbury returns with
COME INTO MY CELLAR

Beginning **A PLAGUE OF PYTHONS** by Frederik Pohl



THE BALLAD OF LOST C'MELL
by Cordwainer Smith

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WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Science-fiction stories on any theme of any length written by amateurs or pros for publication in Science Fiction Stories. We hope to eventually publish Science Fiction Stories on a quarterly schedule. In order to do this we MUST have a large inventory of good stories on hand. Your story may be one that we can use! Gain the experience of writing fiction by writing and submitting your stories to us. You pros who have a pet idea that no professional mag will publish, try us, we have only one policy --- GOOD STORIES! We cannot pay for any material published other than a copy of issue your material appears in. Please send stamped addressed return envelope with all submission in case we can't use it. ALSO NEEDED are a number of serious artists to illustrate future issues. Send us your samples now! Science-Fiction Times, Inc., James V. Taurasi, Sr., 18-36 129th St., College Point 56, N.Y.

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Frank Diety
1750 Walton Ave
Bronx 53, New York