

The Science Fiction Newspaper

# Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

17th YEAR - Vol. 12, #282

FIRST NOVEMBER 1957 ISSUE

Still Only 10 Cents

## "Science Fiction Stories" Will Go Monthly With Issue For May 1958

New York, 30 October, (CNS) - Robert W. Lowndes announced today that his magazine Science Fiction Stories will definitely go monthly with the May 1958 issue, on the newsstands about March 15, 1958.

This announcement ended a year of "on soon", "Times not ripe yet", "don't know when", "after the first of the year", "late this fall", and other on & off announcements and statements by Mr. Lowndes. Conditions in the magazine publishing and distributing field were in such an "unknown" condition this year that most plans had to be changed numerous times in an effort to meet the changing conditions, and a monthly Science Fiction Stories announcement came about just before the field went "crazy". Now, apparently conditions are getting back to normal, and the final announcement has been made. 'THIS IS IT' - Science Fiction Stories goes monthly with the May 1958 issue.  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

## "Science Fiction Times" Reporter Lifts Ban On "MAD" In Australia

Perth, W. Australia, 17 October, (CNS) - Roger Dard, our Australian reporter and agent, has just succeeded in lifting the ban on MAD magazine going into Australia. Australia has long banned all science fiction and allied magazines and has even, at times, confiscated gifts of magazines from US fans to Australian fans. While MAD is not a s-f mag, it is one that is read by most s-f fans.

Here is Mr. Dard's statement on lifting the ban on MAD: "I'm feeling mighty pleased since I have just successfully bucked the Big Brothers of the Customs Dept... A couple of months ago a  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

IT'S SOUTH GATE IN '58

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

JAMES BLISH, LARRY FARSACE &amp; A. MERRITT

848 Park Place  
Brooklyn 16, N.Y.  
10 September 1957

Dear Jimmy and Ray:

Anent Larry Farsace's letter: My putative obscurity has nothing to do with the matter. If only great writers were allowed to criticize great writers, no criticism would ever get written, out of inability to decide who ranked whom. Farsace's belief that Merritt wrote well is also an act of criticism, and Farsace is (to do him a favor) at least as obscure as I am; so he wouldn't be allowed to play either, by his own rules.

Admittedly both "The Topaz Gate" and "The Solar Comedy" were bad stories (The latter, by the way was a direct and deliberate imitation of Merritt's "The Metal Monster"); furthermore they are by no means the only bad ones I ever wrote. They also happen to have been the 8th and 12th sales that I made -- one of them was written in high school -- out of a total of 148 to date. I think it reasonable to suspect that in reaching back fifteen years for his examples, Farsace was looking for a sitting duck. Most beginning writers are sitting ducks, of course.

As for my "resenting" a dead man: right now, at the age of 36, I have a million and a half words in print in ten countries, including six novels (and two more novels will be published next year). This represents the output of 17 years, and I submit that it is not a disgraceful showing; in any event, I'm satisfied with it. I resent no professional writer, living or dead -- I'm too busy for that kind of childishness.

Mr. Farsace is of course at liberty to like the sample of Merritt copy he quoted. I'm equally at liberty to dislike it, and I do.

Regards,  
Jim Blish

INSIDE SCIENCE FICTION  
Post Office Box 356  
Times Square Station

New York 36, N.Y.

Ray:

I might say one thing to Larry Farsace -- he should know better than to criticize a critic on the basis: "You can't write as good, so what you say isn't worth anything; you're just jealous or something". Its immaterial whether or not Larry thinks Merritt is a better writer than Blish; it's nothing to do with Blish's criticism. You can't negate criticism by attacking the critic. I would say that, as a writer, Dylan Thomas is obscure (among the general public, his fame is due, I believe, primarily to his readings). I would say that, among the general public, Mickey Spillane is famous. I would not say, however, that it follows that Spillane is a better writer. I think the same reasoning applies to Merritt and Blish. In my own opinion, I don't think Blish, in his field, is obscure, and I don't think that he is a bad writer. I've never read Merritt, so I can't agree or disagree with Blish's criticism; but I do think that, when Larry is going to disagree, he ought not to do it on such an impotent level.

Best wishes,  
Ron Smith

1659 Lakewood Drive  
Birmingham 9, Ala.

Dear Jim &amp; Ray:

I hope Jim Blish give Farsace a good going over in his reply. If Jim is too busy I'll gladly take the task over with politeness and dispatch.

Most Sincerely,  
Alfred McCoy Andrews

915 West End Ave.  
New York 25, N.Y.  
October 21, 1957

Dear Jimmy:

I'd like to take issue most violently with Larry Farsace's letter in SFT #277 -- the one in which he "defends" A. Merritt's work by quoting from the works of reviewer James Blish.

Aside from the fact that the Blish stories selected were written about a bout 1941, and so hardly represent Blish of today in any but an archeological way, the Farsace rebuttal is totally irrelevant. I have my own strong opinions about the kind of criticism cur-

rently being put forth on the pro and fan level by Blish, Damon Knight, and others, but though I'm not always in agreement with their opinions or their methods I don't care to see a reviewer attacked by quotations from his own work. The man who points out that a bill is counterfeit is not required by law to replace it with a good one from his own pocket -- and to insist of a book reviewer that his own work (even his apprentice-work) should be superior to that of work under criticism is sheer irresponsibility.

Duverne Farsace to the contrary, the obscure do have the right to criticize the famous, and cats may look at kings. And whatever one may think of Jim Blish's opinions of Merritt, the way to raise objection does not lie in exhuming old stories of Blish's.

Bob Silverberg

#### SCIENCE-FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

#### NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECEIVED:

SOLOMON'S STONE by L. Sprague de Camp  
Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75, 1 October 1957.

SEA SIEGE by Andre Norton, Harcourt,  
Brace & Co., \$3.00, 4 October 1957.

PILGRIMAGE TO EARTH by Robert Sheck-  
ley, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢, 7 Oct. 1957.

YEAR 2018 by James Blish (pub. in  
England in hardcovers as "They Shall  
Have Stars"), Avon Books, NY, 35¢,  
9 October 1957.

DOUBLE STAR by Robert A. Heinlein,  
Signet Books, NY, 35¢, 9 October 1957.

#### SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

\*by James Blish

OPERATION: OUTER SPACE, by Murray-  
Leinster. Signet s1346, 160 pp., 1957.  
35¢.

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This is a reprint of a 1954 Fantasy Press hard-cover, apparently never serialized. It would certainly have been difficult to break into instalments, for the plot -- unusually for Leinster -- is of the "realistic" type,

in which one event unfolds out of the previous one without discernible pattern. This provides no well-marked points of suspense strong enough to serve as cliff-hangers.

It is, however, exceedingly convincing. In telling the story of the development of a faster-than-light ship drive, Leinster works unhurriedly, putting in all the details, disgressing when he thinks necessary, putting feet under all the events and characters, boots on the feet and floors under the boots. His viewpoint character is a likeable hardshell who works from what he thinks are 100% commercial motives, and who has no notion whatever that he is a hero (though this becomes plain quickly enough to his associates and to the reader). Underneath it all, never obtrusive but always operating, is the powerful social drive which Leinster believes accounts for all real exploration -- the Profit Motive, which he understands with the professional thoroughness of an economist.

Recommended in spades.

(James Blish is now editor of a pro s-f mag and can no longer do our book reviews; Gerry de la Ree is our new book reviewer, so all books and pocketbooks etc for review should be sent to him direct at: 277 Howland Ave., River Edge, New Jersey. -eds)

#### 16th WORLD S-F CONVENTION NEWS

by George W. Fields & Rick Sneary

The 16th World Science Fiction Convention will be known as the "SOLACON". Sol meaning, of course, the sun (the symbol of the convention). LA meaning Los Angeles and So. an abbreviation meaning "South Gate". Put them all together, stir liberally, and you have SOLACON (thank to Jim Wilson, once a LASFS director, now editor of the Convention Bulletin planned for November). The date of the con is Aug. 29, 30, 31 & Sept. 1, 1958 at the Hotel Alexandria, Fifth and Spring, Downtown Los Angeles. Memberships should go to the treasurer, Rick Sneary at 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif. This \$1.00 provides for membership card, program booklet, pro-

gress reports whether or not you attend. If you do, another \$1.00 fee will be charged. If you know you are to attend, send \$2.00 eliminating a rush at the Registration desk of delayed attendees. Boucher is toastmaster, Guest Of Honor not yet determined. The LASFS, Little Men and the PRS are participating so far.

The Convention Committee includes: Anna Moffatt, Chairlady, Len Moffatt, Secretary, Rog Phillips, Program Chairman, Honey Wood, Registration, Rick Sneary, Treasurer, Forrest J Ackerman, Pro. Public Relations, George W. Fields, Fan Public Relations, Stan Woolston, Printing and Publicity.

Committee Associate is Jim Wilson, Booklet Editor.

Representatives, home and abroad are: Willis and Thomson of Great Britain, Horrocks of New Zealand, and Dick Ellington of New York.

#### SCIENCE FICTION STORIES GOING MONTHLY (concluded from page 1, column 1)

with the May issue, complete details of this will be found in the March '58 issue. Bob Lowndes announced today that his policy will be to publish serials when and if he finds the ones he likes, and of course as long as his readers want them.

With Science Fiction Stories going monthly it will complete 19 years of s-f publication (except for the war years) by Columbia Publications. In that time they have published quarterly, bi-monthly, and one-shot magazines, but never a monthly s-f mag. Science Fiction Stories will be Columbia's first monthly s-f magazine.

#### "MAD" BAN LIFTED IN AUSTRALIA (concluded from page 1, column 2)

number of fans in this city complained to me that their copies of MAD magazine were being confiscated upon arrival by Customs censors. They proved their charges by showing me the official confiscation notices they had received from the West Australian Customs Dept. This made me hopping mad (and brother, if that's a pun, I won't apologize). So, taking a copy of MAD (#28) from my own collection, I airmailed it in a regis-

tered packet direct to the Minister for Customs at the Federal capital. Enclosed with the copy was a letter from me asking the Minister to read the copy and see if he could find anything offensive in the contents. I pointed out that MAD was a magazine of satire, and that his West Australian officers obviously were unable to understand or appreciate satire. That was on September 3rd, and on September 11th came a brief reply stating that the matter would be looked into. Today (October 17th) an airmail letter arrived from the Minister dated October 15th, and stating: "Dear Mr. Dard: I refer to my letter of the 11th September 1957 acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 3rd September 1957, concerning copies of the magazine MAD which were seized by the Collector of Customs for Western Australia. I would now inform you that I have reviewed the matter and have decided that the magazine may be released. The Collector of Customs, Western Australia, has been advised of the decision... In regard to the copies detained at Perth. The copy of the magazine forwarded with your letter is being returned to you under separate cover by registered post. Yours sincerely, Danham Henty, Minister for Customs." Unquote."

Mr. Dard has long been in the fight to end the ban on science-fiction and other magazines entering Australia. Our congratulations on one fight well won.

#### SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, Jan. 1958:  
 MINISTERING ANGELS by C. L. Lewis,  
 BOYHOOD PAL by J. C. Furnas, THE EVENTS  
 LEADING DOWN TO THE TRAGEDY by C. M.  
 Kornbluth, RECOMMENDED READING (a department) by Anthony Boucher, THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT by Gordon R. Dickson, A NEW LO! (an article?) by Ron Goulart, LITTLE TIN GOD by Jay Williams, THE 24,000-MILE FIELD GOAL by Golin Sturgis, THE NEW FATHER CHRISTMAS by Drian W. Aldiss, SPUTNIK: ONE REASON WHY WE LOST by G. - Harry Stine (article), REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION (novelet) by Mark Clifton, LEMMINGS by Richard Matheson, A TOUCH OF STRANGE by Theodore Sturgeon. Cover

painting by Mel Hunter (Vanguard satellite: in circle, firing of satellite; in square, Minitrack station; in oblong, 2nd stage suspended over 1st stage.)

#### THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

DARD'S "FANTASTIC NOVELS INDEX" WILL BE OUT IN THE U. S. AFTER ALL!

We are happy to say that we were wrong about Roger Dard's "A Check List Of Fantastic Novels". At the last minute Roger decided to paste in the name of his new U.S. agent for this excellent checklist and copies are now in the U. S. and being mailed out to buyers. The booklet is a small printed 12 page job listing all the stories etc. that appeared in Fantastic Novels by issues only. It has a foreword by August Derleth and was compiled by Roger Dard. Cover shows a black and white reproduction of the Sept 1948 cover of Fantastic Novels.

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MARGULIES GAVE PARTY TO "PLANE TRIP" FANS OF "LONDONCON"

New York, I September (delayed), (CNS) - Mr. & Mrs. Leo Margulies of Satellite Science Fiction were host and hostess at a "going away party" for the people-leaving on the charter plane trip to the London Convention here today.

Guests who enjoyed their hospitality, including hors d'ouvres, canapes, and pineapple punch (strong!) were:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leedham, Oscar Williams, Enid Williams, Forrest J Ackerman, Joan Sherman, Anette Benjamin, Arthur Kingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Jackinon, Frank Belknap Long, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Takacs, Judith Grad, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin M. Dietz, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harry Altshuler, George Nims Raybin, Mr. and the brand-new Mrs. David A. Kyle, (the former Ruth Landis), Fred Prophet, Dave McDonald, Donna Massey, F. Srudnicka, Paula Valenska, Ray Benjamin and Edward W. Bielfeldt.

James V. Taurasi, Sr., Ray Van Houten and Stephanie Van Houten covered the affair for Science-Fiction Times.

Mrs. Margulies was one of the passengers who left on the charter flight

the next day. She will represent Satellite Science Fiction and Weird Tales at the 15th World S-F Convention in London.

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"STAR SCIENCE FICTION" IS OUT WITH THE MOST HORRIBLE ART WORK EVER SEEN IN S-F!

James V. Taurasi showed me the first issue of Fred Pohl's Star Science Fiction this morning (31 October) and pointed out the interior illustrations or what passes for interiors. I've seen many poor illustrations in my time, even done a few myself, but never in my life have I seen anything that compares to this type of junk that is pointed at with pride in this first issue. Believe me if this is what the magazine is going to present to the readers, it might as well just fold with the first issue. It will do the field more harm than Galaxy's interior horrors will ever do. It spoiled the whole mag for me, I can't even read the issue because of them. For shame Mr. Ballantine.

\*\*\*

#### ARKHAM HOUSE REPORT

August Derleth reports: "Just a note to supplement JHV's report on Arkham House in the first September issue, which has just now come to hand -- the picture has fleshed out a little. Next week our new bulletin will start out for our patrons, and it will announce these books:

ALWAYS COMES EVENING, Collected Poems of Robert E. Howard, Compiled by Glenn Lord, \$3.00. Publication in December '57.

SPELLS AND PHILTRES, new poems by Clark Ashton Smith, \$3.00. Publication in May, 1958.

THE MASK OF CTHULHU, by August Derleth, \$3.50. May 1958.

Jackets are, respectively, by Frank Utpatel, Frank Utpatel, and R. Taylor, - the w-k artist-cartoonist.

#### STATE OF FANDOM

by Dick Ellington

Clippings received recently from Springfield, Mass. would seem to indicate that the newly-formed WESTERN MASS. SCIENCE AND FANTASY FICTION SOCIETY is going great guns. It's fairly rare to see stf club meetings getting newspaper

coverage at all, let alone an intelligent job like this. Fans in the Western Mass. area can get more info on the club by writing them (23 Homer St., Springfield, Mass.)

Another new club announces its first meeting -- the "Solar Plexes" of Newport News, Va. Of particular interest here is that they offer help to any fans in the area interested in forming clubs. If you'd like to take advantage of their offer you can contact the newly-elected President, H. R. Frye Jr., News Room, Daily Press, Newport News, Va.

\*\*\*

A couple of more fans have graduated to prodom; Alex Kirs with a first sale to Infinity and Bob Hoskins with one to IF. That last note is probably superfluous as Bob seems to have sent out postcards about it to just about everybody I've seen lately.

The continent is losing its wandering American fen. Ellis Mills passed through New York last month on his way back from Europe to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Greg Benford pulled in on the American October 8th from Frankfurt, Germany. Managed to get down and chat with him and his brother Jim for a few hours as they passed through. Mail and further copies of Void will be coming from Texas more than likely.

\*\*\*

Berkeley, California must look like a fannish boom-town these days. Ron Elik, Pete Graham, Terry Carr and Dave Rike are all going to college there now and by this writing there may be a few more fen on hand.

Mysterious-looking multilithed zines coming from various places in the Midwest herald the return of Lynn Hickman to the fan-pubbing scene at long last.

New York fen got a chance a couple of months ago to see a rare old sf film -- TRANSATLANTIC TUNNEL, which was shown at the Theodore Huff Memorial Film Society here in town. It proved to be something of a bust though. The excellent technical effects were badly offset by a sad lack of any decent acting and an utter lack of realistic plot interest.

Science Fiction fans having items for this column or fan mags they'd like to see reviewed here should send them di-

## SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

● THIS WEEK MAGAZINE, Oct. 6, 1957:  
"The Eyes Of Fu Manchu" by Sax Rohmer  
Part 1 of a new Fu Manchu serial with  
illos by Al Moore.

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● TIME, Oct. 7, 1957:  
Color photos of the recent test of  
the AELAS missile in Florida. This series,  
taken through a telephoto lens from  
the beach near the air base shows the  
take off & finally the explosion of this  
\$6,000,000 failure.

\*\*\*

● LIFE, Oct. 7, 1957:  
Life has a new series called: MAN'S  
NEW WORLD. This first installment shows  
technical triumphs. Worth looking at.  
Shown are FE's synthetic diamonds, solar  
pump, portable reactor, etc.; many of  
which were dreamed about in s-f stories  
years ago.

\*\*\*

We can expect to see a fresh crop  
of satellite articles appear in all the  
magazines, now.

## INTERNATIONAL SECTION

### BRITISH

by Michael Corper

Astounding Science Fiction, British Reprint Edition, for October 1957 has "Ribbon In The Sky" (Leinster), "Among Thieves" (Anderson), "Needler" (Garrett) "Drift" (Chandler); articles "And Still It Moves" (E. F. Russell), and "Addendum On The Symbolic Psionic Machine"; plus departments. Cover is by Van Dongen; interiors by him, Emsch, and Freas. I see that the month is now shown on the cover in upright type, instead of italics.

\*\*\*

Galaxy Science Fiction, BRE, #54, has "A World Called Maanerek" (Anderson), "Help! I AM Dr. Morris Goldpeper" (Davidson), "The Deaths Of Ben Baxter" (Sheckley), "Growin Up On Big Muddy" (de Vet); Ley's (continued on page 7, column 1)

rect to Dick Ellington, 98 Suffolk St.,  
Apt. 3A, New York 2, N.Y.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

(continued from page 6, column 2)

"Moon Contract" (article), and departments. Cover is by Gaughan, showing "When Meteorites strike", and interior-illos by Turpin, Martin, Dick Francis.

\* \* \*

John Spencer & Co have brought out p.b. "The Waiting World" (R. Lionel Franthorpe), a 158 page Badger Book costing 2/- . Clear type; no interior illos.

\* \* \*

Spencer & Co also published #11 of their Supernatural Stories, at 2/-, containing "The Night Creatures" (Micahel Hamilton), "Lord Of The Necromancers" (Max Char-yair), "The Lonely Things" (Peter Laynham), "It Came By Appintment" (Randall-Conway), and "The Haunter" (A.J.Merak) . The cover is by H. Fox, from the "Night Ereatures", and very nice look in subject matter and colouring. There a r e 158 pp.

\* \* \*

SCIENCE-FANTASY #25 brings us "Reason For Living" (Bulmer), "How To Win Friends"- (Chandler), "Solid Beat" (Kippax), "Straight From The Horse's Mouth" (Boland), "Bored To Death" (Brody), "Come-back" (Presslie), "Hidden Talent" (Silverberg). The cover is by Rubiosm from the first story.

\* \* \*

NEW WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION, #63, contains "Mission One Hundred" (Bulmer), "Sister Under The Skin" (Chandler), "Made O n Mars" (James), "The Watcher O n Sargan IV" (Hawkins); part 2 of "The Uninhibited" (Morgan); articles: "Power I n The Sky" (Johns), and departments. The cover is by Terry, symbolising the World Science Fiction Convention. Could the character on the right hand bottom corner be Carnell himself? Gosh. The "profile" is on Ben Morgan.

\* \* \*

Advance Information given me by Carnell is as follows:

NEW WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION, #64, will have "The Menace From Earth" (Heinlein), which is somewhat of a scoop for New Worlds as it will be the first publications of a new story by Heinlein in the U.K.; "Mate In One" (Wright), the concluding story in his Lutheran series; "A Sudden Darkness" (Parkes); "Scene Of Wonder" (Chandler); the conclusion

of Morgan's "The Uninibited". The article concerns the "Solar Atmosphere" by (Johns).

NEW WORLDS, #65, will bring us James White's "Sector General", centred around a gigantic inter-galactic hospital ship where both Doctors and patients are of various types of alien life. Disaster strikes when a runaway spaceship hits their ship. There will also be "To Percy" (Barclay), and other yarns will be contributed by Chandler, Donald Malcolm, and others, with a very fine story by Ballard: "Manhole 69". Johns' article will deal with "The Progress Of The IGY", and be part one of two parts.

AUSTRALIAN

by Roger Dard

After a long absence from the scene, another issue of The Magazine Of Fantasy & Science Fiction finally appeared. Australian Edition #11; Consolidated Press Ltd., 168-174 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Digest, 96 pages, 2/- . Cover by Kelly Freas, from the September 1956 U.S. issue. Contents: "Flying Dutchman" by Ward Moore; "Stardust" by Idris Seabright; "The Past And Its Dead People" by R. Bretnor; "Some Of My Best Fans Are Friends" by Robert Bloch; "Venture To The Moon" by Arthur C. Clarke; "Operation Afreet" by Poul Anderson; and, "Lonely Road" by Richard-Wilson.

The ultra-conservative WEST AUSTRALIAN, the leading Perth newspaper, gave a write-up to John W. Campbell and Astounding Science Fiction (which they mis-named Astounding Magazine) on their front page, in the issue of October 9th, 1957. They quoted JWS as saying that the Space Satellite was nothing new in s-f, and that now that it was science and not merely science-fiction, it joins the ranks of Atomic bombs and jet propulsion, which s-f predicted.

AUSTRALIAN

by Graham B. Stone

I don't think I told you before about the recent gaining of degrees -- M.A. and

Ph.D respectively -- by Vol Mokasworth, (former Science-Fiction Times Australian reporter) and Nick Sointseff, partners in the former Futurian Press and otherwise well known as Australian fans. Nick's Ph.D. is in Physics, and there's an interesting paradox here; you can't get a Ph.D. in Philosophy in Australia - the M.A. is the highest degree awarded and that pretty rarely at Sydney University. Vol is I believe only the sixth since before the war. His field is formal logic (which is not the same as the bilge that Campbell propounds editorially in ASF, in case you're wondering.) Vol revived the Futurian Press imprint to publish a short textbook for his adult education classes, "Logic: Notes For Workers' Education Assn. Students", earlier this year: now there's a second edition retitled: "Logic: First Steps For Beginners". Futurian Press also published a handsome book on the Olympic Games. There are no plans for doing any SF as before, this being a purely commercial affair.

The "International Section" in the next issue will contain news from Mexico, England, Australia, etc., as space permits.

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#### SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Winner- S-F Achievement Awards -  
1955 and 1957

#282

1st November 1957 Issue

Published twice - a - month by FANDOM HOUSE. By subscription from CANADA & U. S.: 10¢ per copy, 12 issues ~~or~~, or \$2.00 per year (24 issues). PERMANENT SUBSCRIPTION: \$10.00, from FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

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James V. Taurasi, Sr., Ray Van Houten, and Frank R. Prieto, Jr., Editors.

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