

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

# Science Fiction Times

No. 452

March 1968

## Silverberg Home Burns

The home of Bob and Barbara Silverberg was badly damaged by a fire which broke out in the attic about 4 a.m., Tuesday, February 13. No one was injured (including the cats) but the roof and attic were destroyed, and about half of the third floor was badly damaged. There was little damage on the first two floors.

Bob's entire science fiction collection, and his extensive library of rare books and research materials were destroyed. Also partially destroyed were his Science Fiction Writers of America files (Bob is current President).

The house, in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, was formerly the mansion of New York mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. While it is being rebuilt, the Silverbergs are temporarily living elsewhere in the area. Mail to the address will still reach them. However, the telephone has been disconnected so urgent messages should be addressed to Bob via his agent, the Scott Meredith Literary Agency.

## Writers' Workshop

A Writers' Workshop in Science Fiction and Fantasy will be held at Clarion State College from June 24 to August 2, 1968. The Clarion Workshop, the first of its kind in the country, will carry college credit. Staff will consist of Judith Merril, Fritz Leiber, Harlan Ellison, Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm, and Robin Scott, each of whom will be in residence for one week. Participants may enroll for two, four, or six weeks. Fees will be modest (\$50 for each of the three two-week sessions) and inexpensive living accommodations are available at Clarion.

Inquiries should be addressed to: Robin Scott Wilson, Director, Clarion Writers' Workshop, Clarion State College, Clarion, Pa. 16214.

## Star Trek Saved

After issuing a series of conflicting reports to the press, NBC has finally made up its mind: STAR TREK has been renewed for the Fall 1968 season. It is planned for Monday evenings at 7:30. Other science fiction programs, however, are not so fortunate. All of them are in a very shaky position as far as ratings are concerned, and none of the others may be around next fall.

As we go to press, the only network to have released its complete Fall schedule to the public is CBS. The news from there is bad: the Robinson family has been permanently cast adrift, never to find their way back to Earth. The LOST IN SPACE series, in other words, has been cancelled. (It will probably remain on the tube through the summer, via reruns.) CBS will thus be without a single sf or fantasy program.

Other shows reportedly having trouble include ABC's THE INVADERS, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA (the latter looking very unhealthy indeed, having been on longest of all); as well as NBC's TARZAN and I DREAM OF JEANNIE. If these are all cancelled, only ABC's BEWITCHED and NBC's STAR TREK will be left to placate sf and fantasy fans. (Incidentally, ABC is pretty definite about BATMAN; the caped crusader is headed for the mothballs.)

Late Note: NBC has just released its Fall schedule. I DREAM OF JEANNIE and TARZAN have been dropped. STAR TREK is scheduled for Monday at 7:30 and THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR will be Tuesday at 8:30pm.

### STAR TREK MIXUP FINALLY UNSNARLED

As of late last year, the reports from NBC on STAR TREK were encouraging. The show was in no difficulty, and would be moved to a new day and time sometime late in January of this year. It was supposed to replace the cancelled I SPY series. (See SFT #450 for this story.) The fact that this did not

(Continued on Page 4)

As reported in SFT 451, February 8 was the premiere of PLANET OF THE APES. For a science fiction film, critics of the New York newspapers were quite liberal with their reviews and well they might be. Running almost two hours, this adaptation of Pierre Boulle's book is presented quite smoothly.

The plot is quite simple. An expedition comprised of three men and a woman leaves Earth in the not too distant future to explore the stars. It is evident that some form of suspended animation is used for the crew.

Through some malfunction, although this is not explained in the film, the space ship crash lands in a lake on a planet which is determined to be 320 light years from Earth, in the constellation Orion. Almost 2,000 years Earth time have elapsed while only 18 months space time has passed. Upon landing, the suspended animation equipment ceases operation and the crew awakes. The female member is dead; her equipment failed during the journey.

The three remaining crew members discover a group of humans who are apparently mutes. Subsequently, the humans are hunted down by a party of intelligent apes, armed with rifles and riding on horseback. One of the crew is killed and the two others captured. The story develops further that humans are considered beasts to be eliminated.

Charlton Heston, playing the part of Taylor, the expedition leader, was seriously wounded during the attack, and placed in an area for subsequent scientific experiments. Due to his obvious intelligence over the other humans, Taylor attracts the interest of a female ape scientist.

The apes' reactions at Taylor's ability to speak, as well as read and write, and his hostility for the apes, constitute the bulk of the film's action. There are, as can be expected, some typical clichés regarding human behavior, but the picture runs smoothly in most spots.

PLANET OF THE APES has a surprise ending that fills in all the questions that were not answered during the film.

The special makeup required was done by John Chamber and constituted the biggest expense of the film.

PLANET will be at Loew's Capitol and 72nd Street Playhouse through Easter. Subsequently it will be released in 60 domestic and 76 foreign cities.

One final note: the next film scheduled for Loew's Capitol is 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY.

This elaborate 20th Century-Fox production, in wide screen Panavision and color, opened here on Feb. 8. It was directed by Franklin Schaffner, a graduate of TV, who also did THE BEST MAN, a film with stf-ish overtones. The script was written by Rod Serling (in collaboration), who also came to movies by way of television (TWILIGHT ZONE, of course). It was based on the book by Pierre Boulle who, as everyone knows, wrote BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI. Starring are Charlton Heston, as a human; and Maurice Evans, Kim Hunter and Roddy McDowall, as apes.

The film is one of the most expensive productions of its type, and certainly one of the major sf films of the last few years. Its only rival will be MGM's 2001. PLANET has received generally good reviews. The N.Y. DAILY NEWS gave it three and a half stars and called it "enthraling." While also calling it "silly" and "heavy-handed," the NEWS admitted that the ending puts it into a new perspective and made it "significant."

The N. Y. POST said that it sheds light "on the pretensions of man" and that the ending was "a shocking commentary." The picture, said the POST's Archer Winsten, "provokes more self-examination" than most sf. (I assume he was either referring to filmed sf, or that he hasn't read much of the written variety.) He also called it "fascinating, imaginative and painstakingly produced."

The N.Y. TIMES, in the only negative review of the three, said that it was "no good at all, but fun, at moments, to watch."

VARIETY called it "excellent" and "an intriguing blend of chilling satire ... optimism and pessimism."

Other reviews included CUE magazine ("playful but message-prone"), a generally negative notice which ended by dismissing it as children's fare; and the N.Y. FREE PRESS, with a thoughtful, intelligent, but likewise generally unfavorable opinion.

Nevertheless, a film that costs this much is bound to have a heavy advertising campaign behind it. At last reports, this is paying off. The film broke the attendance record for the new (post-1959) Capitol Theater in New York and likewise at the 72nd St. Playhouse. It looks like the most popular sf movie since FANTASTIC VOYAGE.

It is paradoxical that the movies are rediscovering sf at the same time that television is discarding it (see the separate story, elsewhere in this

issue, on TV sf).

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WBAI's Baird Searles, who conducts a bi-weekly sf review series on that station, is taking a poll. He wants to know what you consider the 10 best sf or fantasy films. Those interested in participating can send their choices to him, c/o Station WBAI, 30 E. 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

THE SHUTTERED ROOM, based on the posthumous Lovecraft-Derleth collaboration, has opened here at one sleazy 42nd St. theater. Presumably it will eventually play more extensively. Gig Young, Carol Lynley and Oliver Reed are featured in the British-made production in color. It is co-billed with THE VENGEANCE OF FU MANCHU, with Christopher Lee.

Plans have been announced to film Anthony Burgess' futuristic juvenile delinquency thriller, THE CLOCKWORK ORANGE. The producer is a newcomer.

TV's Irwin Allen, producer of LOST IN SPACE and VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, has two new sf shows in the works. One is CITY BENEATH THE SEA, which is explained by its title. The other, called LAND OF GIANTS, features Kurt Kasznar and is definitely set for next Fall on ABC (perhaps replacing VOYAGE).

Another prospective TV series is based on a piece of sentimental corn called THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR, a forgotten fantasy film that should have stayed that way.

A film called BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS features Lucianna Paoluzzi...Columbia Pictures is planning MAROONED, a space adventure, as a 70mm reserved-seat film...Three other films of fantastic interest are due to be shown in a similar fashion: ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU CAN SEE FOREVER (which concerns ESP and reincarnation), FINIAN'S RAINBOW (another former Broadway musical, about a leprechaun, among other things), and TOM SWIFT (the boy inventor most of us remember from our childhood reading).

Hammer Films of England has finally completed a long-postponed project: the third in the "Quatermass" series. The first two, adapted from British TV dramas, were released here as THE CREEPING UNKNOWN and ENEMY FROM SPACE and were, in my opinion, the best things that studio ever did. This one is now called 5,000,000 YEARS TO EARTH, is in color, and has a script by the original author, Nigel Kneale.

A title I doubt you'll ever see on a marquee is THX 1138 AEB, which is what Warner Bros.-7 Arts announces their new low-budget sf picture will be called. Executive producer is Francis Ford Coppola, who did THE GRADUATE, as well as DEMENTIA 13, surely one of the worst horror films of all time.

## SYRACUSE U IN THE FILM BUSINESS

Syracuse University Research Corp. has been awarded a contract for \$500,000 by the U. S. Office of Education. A part of this grant will be used to develop scenarios or "future-pictures" which will depict alternative possibilities for society in the years 1980 to 2000. In developing these pictures the Syracuse team is not offering predictions of what will happen. Their aim is to develop pictures rationally and with sufficient detail to make them convincing and compelling. The researchers will select a set of circumstances that might exist in the year 2000 and "trace paths back to the present."

They believe "The future is present in each of us in the sense that we carry some picture in our mind of what we will be doing and how things will be at some time in our own future. In our research we hope to talk with experts in various fields and with concerned citizens, too, trying to draw from them their own pictures of the future. Putting together a 'future-picture' based on many sources can give us some indication of what our future may, in fact, be like."

Also at SU, three students in the radio-tv department have been given a grant by the Film Forum to produce an Orwellian science fiction story. The Film Forum was started to bring rarely seen classic and art films to the campus. Then part of the profits of the Forum were used to make awards to encourage student film-makers at the university. All rights to completed films remain in the hands of the film-makers. There is no restriction in subject matter and no editorial supervision or censorship.

## YOU FIND SF IN THE STRANGEST PLACES

The Monkees, TV zanies, are toying around with science fiction for future episodes. So far this year they have had a science fiction and a horror type show; and plan some more serious work for next year.

However NBC now plans to drop the show at the end of this season. So whether any of these plans will actually get on the air is doubtful.

The February Ladies Home Journal book bonus is "The Lucifer Cell" by William Fennerton. This is a borderline sf story of politics in a future England.

This isn't sf, but the February issue of Physics Today has an article about an author of interest to many sf readers. It is "Swashbuckling Physicist -- a Talk with George Gamow." He is perhaps best known to us for his Mr. Tompkins series although he has written 24 books.

come about should not be cause to blame your faithful SFT staff for inaccurate reporting. Rather, it was the fault of NBC and its typical vacillations. The network was seemingly unable to make up its mind as to what was happening to the show.

Re the campaign to save the program (covered in the same issue of SFT) NBC did a quick about-face. After assuring all and sundry that it was pointless, they suddenly allowed word to get out that STAR TREK was in difficulties. No less an authority than TV GUIDE was taken in.

In their issue of Jan. 20, they mentioned their surprise at receiving letters protesting possible cancellation of the show. They were informed by NBC they said, that there were no plans to cancel the series. In the Feb. 10 issue, however, they reported STAR TREK as being among those programs NBC was still undecided about.

VARIETY, the show business paper, similarly reported in their Jan. 31 issue that some two dozen series shows had marginal Nielsen ratings. STAR TREK was among them. These programs were hanging suspended, awaiting their fate. The sf show, they stated, had received a large amount of mail but only had a Nielsen share of 25.7.

TV GUIDE had some unflattering comments in their Jan. 27 issue, on the campaign to save the show. They called it an organized campaign, "allegedly instigated by a sci-fi magazine." The letters were coming in at the rate of 1,000 a week, and some of them "threaten to blow up the network" if the series were cancelled. They admitted, though, that the ratings were down. I don't know what sf magazine they meant but I suspect the concept of fandom is simply beyond the mass media; and so it was assumed that a magazine was responsible.

VARIETY noted the campaign obliquely while commenting on the fact that the series was already being sold to smaller stations for syndication (i.e., repeat runs after it had gone off the network.) They referred to "kiddies" picketing the Rockefeller Center offices of NBC. Regardless of whether or not it would be cancelled, the producers were trying to sell the show to individual stations (issue of Jan. 31)

The NEW YORK POST was more accurate in its report on the picketing. In the Jan. 24 issue the paper described the two NBC pickets as college girls, who also handed out leaflets and bumper stickers. Two weeks earlier, the story went on, 500 Caltech students had picketed NBC's Burbank Studios. The story added that the two pickets were Wanda Kendall of Pasadena, Calif., a student

at Caltech; and Deborah Langsam of Brooklyn College.

The final word on the program is that it will move to an earlier time slot (instead of a later one), and another night. The change will come in September. That is, unless NBC changes its mind again.

The moral of all this? Never believe a TV network. And also, don't be too quick to discount the necessity of an organized campaign to save a program, even if it appears to be in no danger. The campaign to save STAR TREK may really have done so.

--Ken Beale

## Obituary

LEE JACOBS

Lee Jacobs, "Leej" to his friends, died on February 15, 1968. He was apparently preparing for the LASFS meeting that evening, and slipped and fell in his bathtub. His body was not discovered until Saturday morning, when Dave Hulan and several other area fans came on a prearranged visit and found him.

Lee was an active fan, on and off, for over the past two decades. He lived in many parts of the country, but was at various times a LASFS member, a mainstay of the WSFA, and an officer in FAPA. He was stationed in Europe during his stint in the army, and returned there a number of times later. A quiet swinger, Lee enjoyed jazz, and delighted in loud shirts and a monstrous propellor beanie during conventions. In recent years his interest in fandom had been on the upswing, and he had joined the Cult and several other apas. In his own parlance, Lee Jacobs was a Good Man, and he's going to be missed by a lot of us.

--Ted White

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## BALTICONFERENCE

The second regional Baltimore Science Fiction Conference, held over the weekend of February 9 to 11, drew an attendance of 115 fans and pros. The program Saturday afternoon was based on the theme, "Is There A 'New Wave' In SF?" It consisted of a panel with Lin Carter, Alexis Gilliland and Andrew Porter, with Jack Chalker as moderator; a dialogue between Ted White and Roger Zelazny, with Jack Chalker moderating; and a speech by Samuel R. Delany.

The balance of the weekend was devoted to partying and dining. The Baltimore group which sponsored the Conference reported a deficit of \$25 for the weekend.

## FROM ENGLAND

J. G. Ballard asked the Arts Council for a grant to enable writers to write under the influence of pot and LSD. The Council was NOT amused with the results and withdrew the grant.

Second Brighton Arts Festival will be held April 27-May 12. Last year it was all psychedelic. This time it will be partly science-fictional...A science fiction film is being commissioned and so are two pieces of sci-fi music for children...there will be an exhibition of weightless sculpture made from fabric and filled with helium.

--Doreen Parker

There is now a science fiction group at the University of Aston, Birmingham. It has about 20 members so far, meets every two weeks, started a library, and invites guest speakers. Address: R.J.M Rickard, 91 Streetsbrook Road Shirley, Solihull, Warwickshire, UK.

Other groups -- At Oxford: Oxford University Speculative Fiction Group. Address: Jim Metcalf, chairman, Trinity College, Oxford University, Oxford. At Manchester: Hartly Patterson, Sec. & Treas., c/o Dalton Hall, Victoria Park, Manchester 14, Lancs. (80 members)

As part of a new drive to attract interest in SPECULATION, I will give away a special introductory issue to anyone who writes for it.

--Peter Weston, 81 Trescott Road, Northfield, Birmingham 31, UK.

## FROM GERMANY

The biggest sf serial in Germany and maybe in the world, PERRY RHODAN, goes to the USA now. Forrest J. Ackerman, the agent, sold the first issues to Don Wollheim from Ace Books. Some dates: PERRY RHODAN began in 1961 with an edition of 40,000 weekly. Now no. 350 is on the newsstands, still weekly. The edition is now one million per month; first edition 140,000, second edition 60,000, third edition 50,000. Also pocketbooks with a monthly edition of 40,000 and a monthly, but lower, edition of hardcovers are published. A film was made of the first three novels in technicolor and cinemascope. Comics run every second week. On the German market you can buy the figures of Perry Rhodan, space ship models, colored pictures of the serial -- as well known as Superman and Frankenstein. The greatest phenomenon is: since 1961 the five best known German sf authors have been writing PERRY RHODAN in perfect coordination and doing nothing else. A real sf writer team was born. We wonder what Amer-

(Continued on Page 6)

## SAM MOSKOWITZ FILLS TO TIME by Chris Steinbrunner

Some of the horror and science fiction movies making the transition to the TV screen this year have come, surprisingly enough, in longer versions than their theatrical release. This is because most network movies are allotted two hours of time and these two hours must be filled. So, when EVIL OF FRANK-ENSTEIN was approximately nine minutes too short, Universal specially filmed in Hollywood a brief sub-plot which was inserted... a sub-plot set in a village inn, and mostly talk, and using actors that were not in the rest of the film at all! (Which was easy enough to do, as the original film was shot in England.)

The same thing occurred in THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, where an extra scene of talk was added just to fill this color movie to a full two hour running time.

At WOR-TV, a New York independent channel which has a Monday night premiere movie slot, the same problem was faced. THE 4-D MAN, a science fiction thriller in color, was having its first New York telecast, and it was short by some seven minutes. As reported in SFT 450, sf historian Sam Moskowitz was asked to appear at the end of the film with a postscript on the development of the fourth dimension in science fiction. Naturally he had brought with him a fantastic array of old Amazing Stories, Wonder Stories, and other magazines from the 20's and 30's. The oldest illustration he showed was from the Metropolitan magazine of 1903, where a person having mastered the fourth dimension, walks back and forth through the walls of his cell. Other illustrations showed fourth dimensional surgery, the usual amount of fourth dimension robberies and "perfect" crimes, and such stories as Jack Williamson's Through the Purple Cloud and Clark Ashton Smith's The City of the Singing Flame. Moskowitz finished his excursion into the fourth dimension with this comment: "With inter-planetary travel almost a reality, science fiction writers today, find themselves using the fourth dimension as a locale for their stories much less frequently than they did in the past, what with an unlimited number of worlds out there. Yet, who can tell. Science fiction writers were right in so many other things, so perhaps there is also something in their notion of a fourth dimension."

Sam covered an awful lot of territory -- "Below the Infra Red", "The Blue

(Continued on Page 7)

by Sam Moskowitz

Avon has just turned out an anthology, Three to the Highest Power edited by William F. Nolan, which contains at least one coup: the first paperback publication of The Lost City of Mars by Ray Bradbury, originally scheduled for Galaxy Science Fiction and then withdrawn and sold to Playboy. The story is said to have been written to concretize a projected film version of The Martian Chronicles. The book also contains novelettes by Theodore Sturgeon and Chad Oliver, neither of which has previously been anthologized. Each story is prefaced by an interesting introduction and followed by a chronological bibliography of the author's works, and the total effect is an extremely good one. Every science fiction and fantasy reader should add this paperback to his or her collection.

However, I have a complaint to issue which I believe has a great deal of validity. I feel that the very least William F. Nolan could have done was to have given me credit for a very big assist with the bibliography of Theodore Sturgeon, especially since the back of the book states that the listing is "unavailable elsewhere."

It definitely was available elsewhere, in the September 1962 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction to be precise. My name was signed to it and it was copyrighted as part of the magazine; and since that magazine buys first serial rights only, I still own the subsidiary rights to it. It was the most comprehensive bibliography of Sturgeon done up to that time, and despite the fact that Nolan has been able to add a number of Sturgeon titles which appeared since my bibliography was published, it still is the most comprehensive. However, since it was compiled primarily from original sources, there existing only one important previous attempt to list Sturgeon's works (which I completely and properly acknowledged with full title and date) containing about half the material in mine and not done chronologically, it was in every sense a first and done for pay and to order for "The Theodore Sturgeon Issue" of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction in which it appeared.

It was not perfect (a disclaimer to that effect was made) and there was at least one bad typographical error and transposition made which caused me considerable pain. The man who breaks ground cannot always attain perfection.

Now, a perfectly reasonable thought comes to mind. If someone else did a bibliography of their own of Sturgeon's

work, wouldn't it necessarily have to be the same as mine, with the exception of correction of obvious errors? So, how can any claim be made that someone poached a bibliography?

I am not so much complaining that Nolan appropriated my bibliography as I am that he did not correct the errors. For some reason which I cannot explain, since I knew better, but I suspect the composing room, The Graveyard Reader by Theodore Sturgeon, which appeared in a book of the same title edited by Groff Conklin for Ballantine Books in 1958, was placed under the year 1948. Everyone knows such placement is ridiculous since Ballantine Books wasn't even in existence in 1948, and I rushed a correction to Avram Davidson, editor at the time, for a following issue. But he felt it would serve no real purpose to publish it and there the matter ended.

On glancing through Nolan's bibliography I was brought up short by the fact that The Graveyard Reader by Theodore Sturgeon was still, or also, listed for 1948. Of course I could have accepted this as an expression of Nolan's confidence in my research and normally I would have felt badly that I had let him down, except that nowhere was there the slightest acknowledgement that I had anything to do with the job. Had such a statement been made I would have again taken the anguished blame for that previous printing error, but I feel under no obligation to do so now.

Of course, there is always the very slim possibility that Nolan was aware of it all the time and rather than show up my inadequacies "covered" for me and deliberately repeated the error. If that proves to be the case, I will most certainly apologize.

#### International News cont.: from p.15

ican readers will say to PERRY RHODAN...

The 6th International SF-Film Festival will be held in Trieste, July 6-13. Forry Ackerman, Jacques Bergier (France) Arthur C. Clarke and - last year - Fred Pohl have been Guests of Honor there. I have visited this festival every year and wonder why the great idea of a SF-Film Festival has not been born in America or England, but only in Italy.

A big PERRY RHODAN-Con will be held at Easter in Frankfurt/Main. There are now 250 PR Clubs in Germany with more than 2000 members. This number grows from day to day. Soon they will organize and become one club. And after that the SF Club Germany (SFCD) will be a small group of 'old' fans, perhaps 350. But both clubs form Gerfandom and will work together.

--Walter Ernsting



## News from the Authors

(AND ARTISTS)

WILLY LEY

Rockets, Missiles and Space Travel is in its seventh revision, twentieth printing. It will reappear in late March or early April from Viking, with a new title: Rockets, Missiles, and Men in Space.

Appearing about the same time from Prentice Hall will be Dawn of Zoology. In this history of the subject, all the illustrations will be historical too, with nothing drawn especially for this book.

JACK GAUGHAN

The (welcome) pressure of business forbids I do any but deadlined work. I just finished all the art for International SF No.2 and World's Best 1968 (interior art). Now there are 3 mag covers (SOS the Rope, F&SF; A Specter is Haunting Texas, Find the Face, Galaxy) and an Ace cover and a Pyramid cover and a map for Bonnie and Clyde and.....

ON TV cont. from p.5

Dimension", "The Fatal Equation", etc. -- but my personal favorite fourth dimension story he could not, because of lack of time, get on the air. It's Bob Olsen's 1928 "The Fourth Dimensional Auto Parker" (Amazing Stories) which allows two cars or more to occupy the same space! What a boon for big cities.

### Reviews

FLASH GORDON, by Alex Raymond. Nostalgia Press. 1967. \$11.95

Let's face it: twelve bucks is a lot to pay for a picture book, especially when the pictures are reprints from old Sunday newspaper comic pages in black and white. On the other hand, almost all the pictures in this book (the pages are unnumbered, but it's hefty, and measures 11" by 14", too) are by Alex Raymond, who was probably the finest draughtsman the comic strip ever saw. So you balance it out. Flash Gordon nuts and Alex Raymond nuts won't have to do much deliberating. The rest of us ought to.

The art is either early middle-period or late early-period Raymond, which is to say that it is clean and precise, rendered in bold brush strokes (Raymond never whited out his mistakes; he made no mistakes). Straight lines are straight. Fabric drapes as fabric would. Blacks are spotted as a good illustrator does them, not as most comics artists tend to do. This was be-

fore Raymond's "Rip Kirby" period. "Rip Kirby" (still faithfully rendered in Raymond's style by John Prentice and Al Williamson these years) set the style for all contemporary serious comic strip work. "Flash Gordon" set the style twenty years earlier. There are scholars of the field who can show you from where Sheldon Moldoff took each swipe he used in "Hawkman". Moldoff was a glaring example, but far from the only one. Mac Raboy, who later took over the Sunday Flash Gordons, unabashedly modeled himself on Raymond when he began drawing "Capt. Marvel Jr." and "The Green Lama." And countless hacks made as much use as they could of the pictures in this book. Even the fantastic genius of Jack Kirby was, in his formative years, based on an interpretation of Raymond. So much for the art. (Well, almost. We should acknowledge that two pages in the book, those of May 12th and June 30th, 1940, are conspicuously not Raymond. They probably are the work of Austin Briggs...)

You can, if you wish, thumb the book for pretty pictures (they abound), but unless you're an artist seeking good material for swipes, you'll probably want to read the words as well.

And this is sad, because as a writer, story-teller, scriptor, or wordsmith, Raymond stank. No doubt the form didn't help. Trying to tell a story coherently in units of a single page, published a week apart, is no way to construct a story that reads well when assembled between covers. But, skipping the necessary cliff-hangers and opening synopsis, this is still a book of bad adventure/pseudo-stf fiction. The plots are idiot-plots. The suspense is based upon artificial devices. In the famous "Ice Sequence" (the longest in the book) our heroes are trapped in a cave under a mountain by something that resembles a giant octopus. It covers the mountain, right? But when Flash gets an idea for a way to beat it, he leaves by another exit for supplies left behind. What he does with those supplies not even George O. Smith would have had the cheek to attempt. But one keeps asking oneself, "Why didn't they all sneak out through that exit?" Why, indeed?

By modern standards, this is lousy sf. In fact, by the standards of the late thirties and early forties, when it was produced, it is lousy sf. The legend grown up around Flash Gordon has its basis only in the superb art. The publication of this book, by Nostalgia Press, may well strip away and destroy the aura of nostalgia which existed for so long. People will get a chance to read the strips for the first time. Sad.

Twelve bucks? A lot of money. The  
(Continued on Page 11)

## Calendar of Events

### March

- 1 FISTFA Meeting, at apt. of Mike Mc-Inerney, 250 W. 16th St., Apt. 5FW New York, N.Y., at 9pm.~
- 1 WSFA Meeting, for info write Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906.
- 2 COSFS Meeting, at home of Bob Gaines 336 Olentangy St., Columbus, Ohio, at 7pm. (ph. 263-6089)
- 3 Open ESFA, at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St. Newark, N. J. at 1pm. Reg. \$1.25. Tribute to Murray Leinster.
- 8 PSFS Meeting, at Central YMCA, 15th & Arch Sts, Philly, at 8pm.
- 10 NESFA Meeting, at home of member. Write NESFA, P. O. Box G MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.
- 10 Albuquerque SF Society Meeting, at home of member. Write Gordon Benson Jr., P.O. Box 8124, Albuquerque, N.M. 87108.
- 15 FISTFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 15 WSFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 16 Lunarian annual work meeting, at apt of Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. at 8pm. (ph. TR 8-8082)
- 19 Dinner get together of fans attending the IEEE Show, at the Three Crowns Smorgasbord Restaurant, 12 E. 54th St., New York; at 7pm. For reservation: Charlie Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10457.
- 23 COSFS Meeting, at home of Dale Davis, 1073 Fordham, Columbus, Ohio (ph. 267-9379), at 7pm.
- 23-24 BOSKONE V, Statler-Hilton, Boston GoH: Larry Niven. Registration fee: \$2.00. For info: Paul Galvin, 219 Harvard St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.
- 24 NESFA Meeting, at Boskone.
- 29 FISTFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 29 WSFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 30 Omicron Ceti Three Meeting, at 131 Edmunton Dr., N. Babylon, L.I., N.Y. (Grover Bldg. Apt. G-11) at 8:30pm. (ph. 587-3783)
- 30-31 MARCON 3, Holiday Inn East, 4801 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43217. GoH: Fred Pohl. Registration fee: \$1.50. For info: Larry Smith, 216 E. Tibet Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43202.
- 31 OSFA Meeting, in Auditorium of the Central St. Louis Library, at 2pm. For info: Ray Fisher, 4404 Forest Pk., St. Louis, Mo. 63108.

### April

- 5 WSFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 6 COSFS Meeting, at home of member. For info: Bob Gaines, 336 Olentangy St., Columbus, Ohio 43202 (ph. 263-6089).
- 7 ESFA Meeting, at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, N.J., at 3pm.
- 12 FISTFA Meeting, see March 1.
- 12 PSFS Meeting, see March 8.
- 12-15 THIRDMANCON, St. Anne's Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire, England. GoH

Kenneth Bulmer. Membership \$1.00. U.S. rep: Andy Porter, 24 E. 82nd St., New York, N.Y. 10028.

- 19-21 LUNACON/EASTERCON, at the Park-Sheraton Hotel, 56th and 7th Ave., New York, N. Y. GoH: Don Wollheim. Membership \$2.00. For info and adv. membership: Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10453.

### May

- 10-12 DISCLAVE, Regency Congress Inn, 600 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C.

### June

- 21-23 DALLAS CON, Hotel Southland, Dallas, Tex. Combined sf, film and comics con. Tickets \$2.50 ea. For info: Con Committee '68, 1830 Highland Dr., Carrollton, Tex. 75006.

### July

- 4-7 F-UN CON, in Los Angeles. Theme, Future Unbounded. Advance memberships \$2.00; supporting membership \$1.00. For info: Charles A. Crayne, 1050 N. Ridgewood Pl., Hollywood, Calif. 90038.
- 26-28 OZARKON 3, Ben Franklin Motor Hotel, 825 Washington, St. Louis, Mo. 63101. GoH: Harlan Ellison. Registration fee: \$2.00. For info: Norbert Couch, Rt. 2, Box 889, Arnold, Mo. 63010.

### August

- 29-Sept. 2 BAYCON, Oakland / Berkeley, Calif. Memberships \$1 Overseas, \$2 Supporting, \$3 Attending; make checks payable to: J. Ben Stark. BAYCON, P. O. Box 261 Fairmont Sta., El Cerrito, Calif., 94530.

### Meetings held every week:

#### Cincinnati Fantasy Group

Sat. at homes of various members. For info write to: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. Johns Terr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45236.

#### COSFS

Sat. at homes of various members, at 7pm. For info write to Bob Gaines, 336 Olentangy St., Columbus, Ohio 43202 (ph. 263-6089)

#### Fellowship of the Purple Tongue

Sat. at home of Phil Harrell, 3021 Tait Terr., Norfolk, Va., at 2pm. (ph. 853-1259)

#### LASFS

Thurs. at 508 South St., Andrews Pl. Los Angeles, Calif. 90005, at 8pm.

#### MITSFS

Fri. at 5pm in Room 1-236 MIT, Cambridge, Mass. Trip to Chinatown for dinner after the meeting.

#### MoSFA

Tues. at 7:30pm in the basement of 813 Maryland, University of Missouri at Columbia campus.



## ***Beyond Imagination***

### ON S-F AND FANTASY COLLECTIONS

Reviews & Comments by W. R. Cole

Science fiction readers have been urged to contact magazine and paperback distributors in their own areas in order to have better distribution of sf magazines and books. We join in this undertaking as we have found many locations, even here in New York, that sadly lack proper distribution.

A typical example of poor distribution is the lead anthology reviewed this month.

#### THE HUMAN ZERO AND OTHER SCIENCE FICTION MASTERPIECES

Ed. by Sam Moskowitz & Roger Elwood  
Tower Books 43-906, 1967.  
8 stories, 224 pages, 60¢

Tower Publications has published some science fiction in the past and it has always been extremely difficult to locate their publications.

This collection by Sam Moskowitz and Roger Elwood contains 8 short novels. Seven by such writers as Arthur C. Clarke, A. E. Van Vogt, Isaac Asimov (who seems to be in every anthology published these days) and Eric Frank Russell; and one detective story with an sf theme, by Erle Stanley Gardner.

The stories selected have never appeared in any previous anthologies. This in itself is surprising as the selections (obviously made by Sam) are all good and, most important, entertaining.

#### THE FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS

Edited by Hans Stefan Santesson  
Paperback Library 54-633, Feb.  
20 stories, 254 pages, 75¢

The original hardcover edition of this collection was published by Prentice Hall in 1960. Mr. Santesson is well versed in science fiction and has written a new introduction for the paperback version. For new sf readers, this paperback is interesting insofar as it covers a magazine that was published from 1953 through 1960. This anthology, however, covers the period from 1956 through 1960 when Mr. Santesson was its editor.

#### THE BEST SF STORIES FROM NEW WORLDS

Edited by Michael Moorcock  
Berkley Medallion X1513, Feb.  
7 stories, 158 pages, 60¢

This is the American edition of the paperback originally published in England. The term "best" is always open for discussion and this collection is no exception.

#### WALDO AND MAGIC, INC.

By Robert A. Heinlein  
Pyramid Books X1758, Feb.  
2 Stories, 189 pages, 60¢

This is the third printing of Heinlein's collection. Good Heinlein stories.

#### A WAY HOME

By Theodore Sturgeon  
Pyramid Books X1739, Jan.  
9 stories, 192 pages, 60¢

This Sturgeon collection shows the reputation of one of science fiction's great writers. This edition is the third printing since the paperback edition was originally published in March 1956.

#### LOOKING AHEAD - FORTHCOMING TITLES

##### NEW WRITINGS IN S-F 4

Edited by John Carnell  
Bantam Books, March 1, 50¢

American edition of the series being published in England. The original English edition was published in 1965.

##### THE REST OF THE ROBOTS

By Isaac Asimov  
Pyramid Books, March 15, 50¢

This collection contains eight of the stories from the hardcover edition and should be worth 50¢.

##### FUTURE PERFECT: AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Edited by H. Bruce Franklin  
Galaxy Books (Oxford Univ. Press)  
GB-241, \$2.25.

Professor Franklin has compiled an interesting collection of 21 stories and 18 special feature articles on science fiction. The hardcover edition sold for \$6.50, and this paperback edition will probably not be distributed through the normal sources. A recommended collection, both for the stories and the articles.

## ***Fanzines***

CØSIGN 14. CØSFS, 160 Chittenden Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201. Bimonthly. 8/\$2.50, 35¢ ea. Club o/o.

PSYCHOTIC 23. Richard Geis, 5 Westminster Ave., Venice, Calif. 90291. Monthly. 25¢ ea. General.

SF WEEKLY 217. Andy Porter, 24 E. 82nd St., New York, N.Y. 10028. Weekly. 12/\$1 or 25/\$2. News.

TAPEWORM 6. Jack Haldeman, 1244 Woodbourne Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21212. Irreg. 25¢ ea. General.

TIGHTBEAM 47. Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tenn. 37754. Bimonthly. N3F letters.

TNFF v.27 no.2. Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906. Monthly. N3F o/o.

## Bibliomania

### NEW HARDCOVERS

- Adams, John. When the Gods Came. Arcadia, 1967. \$3.50
- Asimov, Isaac. Asimov's Mysteries. Doubleday. \$4.50
- Ballou, Arthur W. Marooned in Orbit. Little, Brown. \$4.50
- Bentley, John. Where Are the Russians? Doubleday. \$4.95
- Bergaust, Erik. Mars, Planet for Conquest (juv. n-f) Putnam, 1967. \$3.50
- Blish, James and Norman L. Knight. Torrent of Faces. Doubleday, 1967. \$5.95
- Blish, James. Welcome to Mars (juv n-f) Putnam. \$3.75
- Cox, Luther. The Earth is Mine. Exposition Press. \$6.00
- Fennerton, William. The Lucifer Cell. Atheneum. \$5.95
- Garrett, Randall. Too Many Magicians. Doubleday, 1967. \$4.95
- Joseph, M. K. The Hole in the Zero. Dutton. \$3.95
- Lightner, A.M. Space Ark (juv) Putnam \$3.50
- Mystery in the Sky (juv. reader) McGraw Hill reading incentive series. \$3.75
- Nye, Robert. Taliesin (juv. fantasy) Hill & Wang, 1967. \$3.95
- Pearl, Jack. The Invaders (juv) Whitman, 1967. 60¢
- Price, E. Hoffmann. Strange Gateways. Arkham, 1967. \$4.00

### NEW PAPERBACKS

- Anderson, Poul. We Claim These Stars (new ed) Ace G697. 50¢
- Asimov, Isaac. The Universe From Flat Earth to Quasar. Avon NS25. 95¢
- Baum, L. Frank. Wizard of Oz. Fawcett World D1883. 50¢
- Blish, James. Giants in the Earth / We, the Marauders. Bob Silverberg. Belmont B50-813. 50¢
- Blish, James. A Life for the Stars (reissue, orig. Year 2018) Avon G1280.
- Blish, James. Star Trek 2 (orig) Bantam F3439. 50¢
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- Charbonneau, Louis. The Sensitives (orig) Bantam H3536. 60¢
- Churchward, J. The Lost Continent of Mu. Paperback Library 54-616. 75¢
- Crossen, Kendall Foster, ed. Adventures in Tomorrow. Belmont B75-215. 75¢
- Davies, Frederic. The Cross of Gold Affair: Man From U.N.C.L.E. #14 (orig) Ace G689. 50¢
- Eddison, E. R. Fish Dinner in Memison. Ballantine U7064. 95¢
- Farmer, Philip Jose. Day of Timestop (orig: Woman a Day) Lancer 73-715 60¢

- Fox, Gardner. Escape Across the Cosmos (reissue) Paperback Library 52-635. 50¢
- Franklin, H. Bruce. Future Perfect; American Science Fiction of the Nineteenth Century. Galaxy Books GB241. \$2.25
- Hamilton, Edmund. The Closed Worlds: Starwolf #2 (orig) Ace G701. 50¢
- Heinlein, Robert A. Farmer in the Sky (juv) Dell Laurel-Leaf Mayflower 2518. 50¢
- Heinlein, Robert A. Waldo and Magic, Inc. Pyramid X1758. 60¢
- Hoyle, Fred. The Black Cloud. New American Library P3384. 60¢
- Huxley, Aldous. Eyeless in Gaza (reissue) Bantam Modern Classics NY4090. 95¢
- Kersh, Gerald. Nightshade and Damnations (orig) Gold Medal R1887. 60¢
- Kuttner, Henry. Mutant (new ed) Ballantine Bal-Hi U2859. 50¢
- Laumer, Keith. Greylorn (orig) Berkley X1514. 60¢
- Mark, Ted. Back Home at the O.R.G.Y. (orig) Berkley X1510. 60¢
- Moorcock, Michael. Best SF Stories From New Worlds (orig) Berkley X1513 60¢
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- Mundy, Talbot. Jimgrim. Avon V2220. 75¢
- Nolan, William F., ed. Three to the Highest Power (orig) Avon S336, 1967. 60¢
- Santesson, Hans Stefan, ed. Fantastic Universe Omnibus. Paperback Library 54-633. 75¢
- Schmitz, James H. Witches of Karres. (reprint) Ace A13. 75¢
- Swann, Thomas Burnett. Dolphin and the Deep (orig) Ace G694. 50¢
- Swift, Jonathan. Gullivers Travels (new ed) Random Modern Library College Editions T92. 95¢
- Thomas, Dan. The Seed. (orig) Ballantine U6115. 75¢
- Verne, Jules. The Begum's Fortune. Ace H49. 60¢
- Verne, Jules. Journey to the Center of the Earth. Lancer Magnum Easy Eye Books 13-409, 1967. 60¢
- Walton, Stephen. No Transfer. Signet P3376. 60¢
- Wells, H. G. The War of the Worlds. Lancer Magnum Easy Eye Books 13-410, 1967. 60¢
- Williams, Robert Moore. Zanthar of the Many Worlds. Lancer 73-694, 1967. 60¢
- Wright, Lan. Pictures of Pavanne / Youth Monopoly, by Ellen Wobig (orig) Ace H48. 60¢
- Wyndham, John. Chocky (orig) Ballantine U6119. 75¢

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cette. Crown of Infinity. H51. 60¢
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der. H53. 60¢

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESS

- Carrouges, Michael. Kafka versus Kafka  
trans. by Emmett Parker (n-f) June.

### ATHENEUM

- Dickson, Lovat. Untitled book on H.G.  
Wells. Aug.

### CHILTON

- Platt, Kin. The Boy Who Could Make Him-  
self Disappear (juv) March. \$4.50

### DELACORTE

- Merril, Judith, ed. The Year's Best S-F  
12th Annual Edition. Aug. \$5.95
- Vonnegut, Kurt. Welcome to the Monkey  
House. Aug. \$5.95

### DOUBLEDAY

- Bulmer, Kenneth. Doomsday Men. March.  
\$4.50
- Dick, Philip K. Do Androids Dream of  
Electric Sheep? March. \$3.95
- Best From F&SF, 17th Series. Edward L.  
Ferman, ed. April. \$4.50
- Farmer, Philip Jose. Flesh. April.  
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- Balchin, Nigel. Kings of Infinite Space  
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- Caidin, Martin. The God Machine. March  
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- Conrad, Earl. Da Vinci Machine: Tales  
of the Population Explosion. June.  
\$5.95

### GROVE PRESS

- Barbarella, by Jean-Claude Forest.  
March. \$1.50 (paper)

### HARPER & ROW

- Clarke, Arthur C. The Promise of Space  
(n-f) April. \$7.50

### HARRIS WOLFE

- Once and Future Tales from the Maga-  
zine of F&SF, ed. by Edward L. Fer-

- man. April. \$5.95
- Young, Robert R. A Glass of Stars.  
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- Ready, William. The Tolkien Relation  
(n-f) May. \$3.95

### SHERBOURNE PRESS

- Garvin, Richard M., and Edmond G. Addeo  
The Fortec Conspiracy. April. \$3.95

### FREDERICK UNGER

- Emrich, Wilhelm. Franz Kafka; a Criti-  
cal Study of His Writings (trans.)  
April. \$11.00

### VIKING PRESS

- Ley, Willy. Rockets, Missiles, and Men  
in Space (n-f, rev. ed.) March.  
\$10.95

### WORLD

- Moskowitz, Sam, ed. Science Fiction by  
Gaslight: A History and Anthology of  
Science Fiction in the Popular Maga-  
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