

SCIENCE- FANTASY

REPORT CARD

SAPS
#16

NO.

FAPA
#56

JULY
1951

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THE
SCIENCE - FANTASY
REPORT CARD

JULY 1951

PRICE: 10¢

VOL 1, NO 3

Published occasionally by W. N. Austin, 3317 W. 67th St.,
Seattle 7, Wash. Fanzine trade arrangements welcomed.

Nothing but statistics this time. Am hurriedly arranging this into shape before leaving for Alaska where I'll spend the summer, hoping that the results will suffice to keep me in both SAPS and FAPA till I return in October. Sorry about dropping NAMELESSENTIALS, the 1950 PROZINE INDEX (Lee Riddle promises something tangible here). Hope to catch up with things when I get back.

At any rate, this issue contains the results of a fan poll of 1950 prozine favorites I conducted during the first half of this year. In many respects the results were not wholly satisfactory, particularly in the manner which I handled the short stories. Then too there were only fifty-two poll returns, of some hundred and fifty sent out. Still, I think most the results are indicative of present tastes of fans, if not of the science-fantasy reading public in general.

All thanks to fans who contributed support and ideas towards the project, and to Royal Drummond who's promised to publish this during my absence. (I've cut the stencils for a MACABRE INDEX which lists many issues of TERROR TALES, HORROR STORIES, etc., magazines closely affiliated with fantasy publications of their times. Dunno whether or not this will get published till I return tho. Meanwhile, luck, everybody!) wna

SCIENCE - FANTASY POLL: 1950. Results (52 ballots)
(Fans participating are listed on p. 4)

I. AUTHORS. (10-1)

	1949	Points	Votes	1st Pl.
1. Robert A. Heinlein	6	240	32	5
2. Ray Bradbury	2t	221	31	9
3. Theodore Sturgeon	4	143	25	2
4. A. E. van Vogt	1	140	23	3
5. Isaac Asimov	2t	136	24	2
6. L. Sprague de Camp	7t	114	21	0
7. Henry Kuttner	15t	95	16	1
8. H. P. Lovecraft	5	87	13	2
9. John W. Campbell, Jr.	12t	81	15	0
10. A. Merritt	7t	72	13	1
11. Clifford D. Simak	23t	71	12	1
12. Clark Ashton Smith	7t	68	11	2
12. Jack Vance	o	68	10	1
14. Murray Leinster	23t	58	12	0
15. L. Ron Hubbard	10t	53	14	1
16. E. E. Smith, Ph.D.	10t	48	9	1
17. Eric Frank Russell	o	47	13	0
18. Robert E. Howard	20t	46	8	2
19. Arthur C. Clark	o	45	9	0
19. Rog Phillips	12t	45	7	2

OTHERS: H.G. Wells, Fredric Brown, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Stanley G. Weinbaum, Lewis Padgett (Kuttner), Wilmar J. Shiras, Fritz Leiber, Lord Dunsany, Robert Bloch, Poul Anderson, L.S.de Camp & Fletcher Pratt, James Branch Cabell, James H. Schmitz, Arthur Machen, George Orwell, Jack Williamson, George O. Smith, Richard Matheson, Edmond Hamilton, John D. MacDon-ald, Edgar Allan Poe, Walter de la Mare, Lester del Rey, M. R. James, John Taine, C. L. Moore, Rene Lafayette (Hubbard), Nelson S. Bond, Frank Belknap Long, Richard S. Shaver, Katherine MacLean, Ray Palmer, Mack Reynolds, Damon Knight, E. R. Eddison, and Jules Verne. (10 to 44 points.)

III. NOVELETTES (PROZINE) (10-1)

	Mag.	Pts.	Votes	1sts
1. Dear Devil (Russell)	Ow	197	30	8
2. Stars Are the Styx (Sturgeon)	GSF	184	27	9
3. Second Night of Summer (Schmitz)	GSF	163	25	3
4. New Foundations (Shiras)	ASF	142	21	5
5. The Helping Hand (Anderson)	ASF	99	16	1
6. Truth About Cushgar (Schmitz)	ASF	96	15	0
7. Little Black Bag (Kornbluth)	ASF	79	17	0
8. The Last Enemy (Piper)	ASF	72	12	2
8. A Pinch of Culture (Kahn)	ASF	72	16	1
10. Transfer Point (Boucher)	GSF	71	12	1
11. Okie (Blish)	ASF	65	11	2
12. Bindlestiff (Blish)	ASF	62	9	0
13. The Sound (van Vogt)	ASF	61	10	1
14. Incommunicado (MacLean)	ASF	60	10	3
15. There Shall Be No Darkness (Blish)	TWS	57	10	1
16. Honeymoon In Hell (Brown)	GSF	52	10	0
17. The Star Beast (Anderson)	SSS	48	9	0
18. Contagion (MacLean)	GSF	47	9	1
19. The Usurpers (St. Reynard)	FA	46	6	2
20. Wide-Open Planet (de Camp)	Fut	42	8	0

OTHERS (20 points or more): Lion and the Lamb (Leiber), Egoboo (Banister), Discontinuity (Jones), Paradise Street (O'Donnell), Voice of the Lobster (Kuttner), Journey For Seven (MacDonald), Tools of the Trade (Jones), A Step Farther Out (Gallun), Typewriter From the Future (Phillips), The Old Ones (Curtis), A Stone and a Spear (Jones), Be Young Again! (Leinster), and Heritage (Harness.)

IV. SHORT STORIES (PROZINE) (15-1)

	Mag	Pts	Votes	1sts
1. To Serve Man (Knight)	GSF	258	24	3
2. Potters of Firsk (Vance)	ASF	256	24	6
3. Born of Man & Woman (Matheson)	F&SF	212	18	10
4. Way i.t.Middle o.t.Air(Bradbury)	OW	209	22	0
5. The Exiles (Bradbury)	F&SF	181	18	2
6. Coming Attraction (Leiber)	GSF	164	15	2
7. Process (van Vogt)	F&SF	139	14	1
8. Later Than You Think (Leiber)	GSF	131	14	2
9. Gnurrs Come Fr.t.WoodvorkOut(Bretnor)		130	15	F&SF 0
10. There Will Come Soft Rains(Bradbury)		123	12	Clrs 0
11. Misbegotten Missionary (Asimov)	GSF	121	12	1
12. Judas Ram (Merwin)	GSF	113	9	2
13. Nobody Saw the Ship (Leinster)	Fut	111	11	1
14. Carnival of Madness (Bradbury)	T.V.S	110	12	0
14. Exposure (Russell)	ASF	110	12	0
16. The Xi Effect (Latham)	ASF	107	11	2
17. World the Children Made(Bradbury)	Post	101	13	1
18. Forever and the Earth (Bradbury)	PS	93	9	3
19. Loom of Darkness (Vance)	WB	89	7	2
19. Not With a Bang (Knight)	F&SF	89	11	1
21. Enchanted Village (van Vogt)	OW	82	10	0
22. Take Two Quiggies (Neville)	F&SF	80	10	0
23. The Better Mousetrap(deCamp&Pratt)	F&SF	76	10	0
24. Gavagan's Bar (deCamp & Pratt)	F&SF	75	8	0
25. In Value Deceived (Fyfe)	ASF	71	5	0

OTHERS (25 or more points): War of Nerves (van Vogt), Gypsy (Anderson), And All For One (Bixby), Illustrated Man (Bradbury), Silly Season (Kornbluth), Mitky Rides Again (Brown), Star Ducks (B.Brown), Report on the Barnhouse Effect (Vonnegut), Suburban Frontiers (Young), Fear Planet (Leinster), Inspector's Teeth (de Camp), Mindworm (Kornbluth), Every Work Into Judgment (Neville), Puzzle of Priipiirii (Tenn), Frownzly Florgels (Brown), Monkey Spoons (Counselman), Angel With Purple Hair (Paul), and The Traitor (Hart).

V. 1950 FANTASY MAGAZINES (15-1)

	1949	Points	Votes	1st Pl.
1. Galaxy Science Fiction	(-)	684	49	20
2. Astounding Science Fiction	(1)	654	48	19
3. Fantasy & Science Fiction	(10)	446	39	5
4. Startling Stories	(2)	313	34	0
5. Other Worlds	(9)	302	32	1
5. Galaxy Novels	(-)	302	30	0
7. Thrilling Wonder Stories	(3)	295	33	0
8. Worlds Beyond	(-)	257	28	0
9. Imagination	(-)	225	26	0
10. Avon Fantasy Reader v	(5)	212	25	1
11. Super Science Stories	(12)	197	25	0
12. Famous Fantastic Mysteries	(13)	145	18	1
13. Planet Stories	(11)	142	18	1
14. Two Comp. Sci.-Adv. Books	(-)	106	16	0
14. Fantastic Adventures	(7)	106	17	0
16. Fantastic Novels	(15)	103	15	1
16. Future	(-)	103	18	0
18. New Worlds (English)	(6)	95	14	0
19. Weird Tales	(8)	94	9	1
20. Amazing Stories	(4)	80	14	0

Others: A. Merritt's Fantasy, Science-Fantasy (English), Nekromantikon (amateur), Sinisterra (amateur), Fantastic Story Quarterly, Fate, Wonder Story Annual, Out Of This World Adventures, Fantasy Stories, Captain Zero, Marvel Science Stories, Avon Fantasy Novels, 15 Mystery Stories, Thrills Inc. (Australian), Fantasy Book, Jungle Stories.

GALAXY and ASF ran neck and neck all the way, with the newcomer maintaining a slight lead during the final half. Other newcomers (GALAXY NOVELS, WORLDS BEYOND and IMAGINATION) elbowed their way into popularity ahead of many 1949 favorites. Notable nosedivers: FA, NEW WORLDS, WEIRD TALES, and AMAZING. These are still being published, however, although eight magazines have failed already thru June, 1951.

All in all, a good year, in quality and quantity.

FAVORITE SCIENCE-FANTASY AUTHORS
FAN POLLS 1934-1950

	1934	1935	1939a	1939b	1941	1942	1944	1945a	1945b	1946a	1946b	1947	1949	1950	POINTS
David H Keller	1	1	4	5	10			14							35
A. Merritt	2	8		7	7	5	1	1		1			7	10	61
John Campbell	3	3	1	6	1	3	8	7		8			12	9	62
SA Coblentz	4	10		4											15
EE Smith, Ph.D.	5	2		8	3	2	6	6				7	10	16	55
Edg. R. Burroughs	6	4						15		14					14
HG Wells	7			1	5			9		12			17	20	25
John Taine	8			9	9			18		10					9
Jack Williamson	9	9	5		6	8		16		21		9	20		23
Eando Binder	10		3				10								10
Stanley Weinbaum		5		3	2		4	5		6					41
Laurence Manning		6													5
Richard Vaughan		7													4
John R Fearn		9							14						3
L Sprague de Camp			2		4	4	7	13		9			7	6	39
Olaf Stapledon				2				10		19					11
HP Lovecraft				10	8	9	3	3		2			5	8	41
Robert Heinlein						1	2	2		5		12	6	1	50
AE van Vogt						6	5	4	2	3	2	2	1	4	70
L Ron Hubbard						7		12				10	10	15	8
Isaac Asimov						10			3	13	10	18	2	5	27
Henry Kuttner							9	8	1	4	1	1	12	7	47
Clark Ashton Smith								11		11	20		7	12	8
Edmond Hamilton								17	8	17	8	7			12
C L Moore								19	15		12	14	15		5
Ross Rocklynne								20	6	18					7
George O Smith									4		4	12			15
Murray Leinster									5	15	3	6		14	21
A Bertram Chandler									7		11				5
Fritz Leiber									9						2
Leigh Brackett									10						1
Gard. F Fox									11		15				2

(continued)

	1945b	1946a	1946b	1947	1949	1950	POINTS
Malcolm Jameson	11						1
Frank Belknap Long	13						1
Don Wilcox	15		17				2
August Derleth	17						1
Manly Wade Wellman	18						1
Richard S Shaver	19				116		2
Robert Bloch	20	16	14	14			4
Theodore Sturgeon		22	6	4	4	3	28
Ray Bradbury			5	5	2	2	32
Eric Frank Russell			9	16		17	4
Raymond F Jones			13	16			2
Harold M Sherman			16	18			2
Heinrich Hauser			18				1
Arthur Leo Zagat			19				1
Rog Phillips				5	12	19	8
Robert E Howard					18	18	2
Wilmar J Shiras					19		1
Algernon Blackwood		20					1
Clifford D Simak			7	11		11	6
Margaret St. Clair				20			1
Hannes Bok				20			1
Jack Vance						12	1
Arthur C Clarke						19	1

Points are figured on a basis of 10 points for a 1st place vote, 9 points for a 2nd place, etc., thru 1 point for a 10th place selection. In years where more than ten authors were selected, one point was given for each author garnering a 11th place thru 21st place selection.

Polls consulted: first two were conducted by WONDER STORIES; Doc Lowndes had one of the 1939, Art Widner I believe, the other. Widner conducted polls thru 1942, with Gerry de la Ree and Joe Kennedy taking over till Don Wilson's 1947 poll.

Norman Winslow's 1949 poll were Nameless selections; Austin, 1950

Sorry to have omitted the other poll results; I just was not able to lay my hands on them at the moment.

Here's a recapitulation on the composite poll results, with point scores included:

1 A E van Vogt	70
2 John W Campbell, Jr.	62
3 A Merritt	61
4 E E Smith, Ph.D.	55
5 Robert Heinlein	50
6 Henry Kuttner	47
7 Stanley G Weinbaum	41
7 H P Lovecraft	41
9 L Sprague de Camp	39
10 David H Keller	35
11 Ray Bradbury	32
12 Theodore Sturgeon	28
13 Isaac Asimov	27
14 H G Wells	25
15 Jack Williamson	23
16 Murray Leinster	21
17 George O Smith	15
17 Stanton A Coblentz	15
19 Edgar Rice Burroughs	14
20 Edmond Hamilton	12
21 Olaf Stapledon	11
22 Eando Binder	10
23 John Taine	9
24 L Ron Hubbard	8
24 Clark Ashton Smith	8
24 Rog Phillips	8

PROZINES: 1950, or,
PULP FICTION I'D RATHER HAVE
MAROONED WITH ME ON
A DESERT ISLAND

One Sunday afternoon not long ago I put off no longer a long-procrastinated chore of scooping up the litter that accumulates in my spare bedroom (I call it spare. I used to sleep in it but the hundreds of books, magazines, the sheet music, notebooks and whatever else it takes to make a bachelor's quarters the usual untidy mess that it is) in the course of a year or so.

This being a task of hours, I started early and worked late. My system it to screen it into piles: correspondence, checklists, magazines, music, books (into sub-divisions), fan magazines, professional magazines, and a few other classifications that slip my recollections at the moment.

These I finally bundled after a fashion and then shunted them out of harm's way.

At least I was successful in gathering together for the first and perhaps, last time the greater part of my fantasy magazine accumulation of 1950.

The next time I remained home for several hours not devoted to sleeping I checked through these magazines, flipping thru the stories once again---in many cases for the second time too many.

I discovered that including items like the locally-published SINISTERRA, the semi-fantastic FIFTEEN MYSTERY STORIES, and excluding the Canadian and English reprint magazines, and dismissing FATE on the grounds that its material purports not to include fiction as such, that thirty-five fantasy, science-fiction and semi-fantastic magazines saw the light of existence to the extent of a hundred forty-eight issues during the year. Excluding those in foreign languages too.

These magazines I then placed into the month they were dated, or would have been dated if they had received a month tag instead of a season or numerical designation. Then I sorted them into the order of preference within their month of appearances.

	Ja	Fe	Ma	Ap	My	Je	Jy	Au	Se	Oc	No	De	
A. Merritt's Fantasy		6		5			2			5			: 4.5
Amazing Stories	9	9	6	6	12	9	9	11	11	12	14	9	: 9.3
Astounding S-F	1	1	5	2	3	3	1	4	2	4	2	3	: 2.5
Avon Fantasy Novels				9	11	5				13			: 9.5
Avon Fantasy Reader								2		8	4		: 4.7
Captain Zero	8		12										:10.0
Fam. Fant. Mysteries		3		3		2		1		9			: 3.6
Fant. Adventures	7	2	11	7	4	7	5	9	10	6	12	7	: 7.3
Fantastic Novels	6		10		10		6		9		13		: 9.0
Fant. Story Quarterly				8			11			10			: 9.7
Fantasy & Sci. Fiction			1			1			1				2: 1.3
Fantasy Book			13										10:11.5
Fantasy (Fict.) Stories					5						7		: 6.0
15 Mystery Stories		7		4		6		3		3			: 4.6
Future					6		7		3		10		: 6.5
Galaxy Sci. Fict.										1	1	1	: 1.0
Galaxy S-F Novels										2		6	: 4.0
Imagination										14			8:11.0
Jungle Stories		8			13			12			15		:12.0
Marvel Sci. Stories											16		:16.0
Nekromantikon (semi-pro)			8			8			8				: 8.0
New Worlds (English)			4					5					: 4.5
Other Worlds	5		9		2		10		7	11	11		: 7.9
Out of This World Adv.							12						11:11.5
Planet Stories		5			7			6			6		: 6.0
Science-Fantasy (Eng.)								7					: 7.0
Sinisterra (amateur)				10				10					:10.0
Startling Stories	3		7		9		8		4		8		: 6.5
Super Science	2		2		1		4		6		9		: 4.0
Thrilling Wonder		4		1		4		8		7		5	: 4.8
Thrills, Inc. (Aust'lia)					14	10	13	13	12	15	17	12	:13.3
Two Comp. Sci.-Adv Books											3		: 3.0
Weird Tales	4		3		8		3		5		5		: 4.6
Wonder Story Annual				11									:11.0
Worlds Beyond												4	: 4.0
148 issues of 35 magazines													(12.3)
	9	9	13	11	14	10	13	13	12	15	17	12	

The preceding list is interesting personally for several reasons, the principal one being that it serves as a guide to my changing tastes during the year. It also brought more sharply to my attention the following points:

- That GALAXY elbowed its way into the lead right off the bat. And much as I enjoy ASF, present and during the past, I consider the stories appearing in GALAXY possessing a greater variety in appeal. They rate better generally from stand-points of fiction although the ideas are probably not as interesting to a technician as those in ASF.

- That AMAZING promised much and produced little in an attempt to provoke renewed interest of stfans. The March, 1950 issue. Thereafter they reverted to form, with one or less stories per issue of genuine interest to fans.

- That ASF maintained a high level throughout the year and certainly must be considered one of the top leaders in the field. Personally I found many stories, especially those appearing during the latter part of the year, that seemed just a little stuffy and a mite obscure. For the first time in my stflife I encountered ASF stories that I did not bother to read in entirety. Probably not entirely Mr. Campbell's fault either....

- That Don Wollheim still manages to unearth enough interesting reprints to keep up my interest in AVON FANTASY READER despite the 35¢ price, and despite the irregularity of distribution. But OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVENTURES! Comic books with words...

- For some reason both A. MERRITT'S FANTASY and FFM had it all over FANTASTIC NOVELS. Was sorry to see MERRITT magazine drop out of the picture.

- CAPTAIN ZERO was another Popular Publications magazine to do a quick fadeout. This one was mostly ruff-tuff adventure with the added element of invisibility.

- FANTASTIC STORY QUARTERLY and WONDER STORY ANNUAL appeared. Reprints mostly and fairly interesting.

- FANTASTIC ADVENTURES attempted to present novels of the type that once made UNKNOWN a top favorite, but most of the efforts showed too much concession to popular tastes of the general reading public. Even so, these novels were vastly superior to the shorts that "rounded out" their issues. (Little wonder I'm a "square".)

- FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION reinforced its position as one of my three favorite magazines, a spot it is likely to retain as long as the present editors continue in the saddle.

- FANTASY BOOK: merely another prozine to clutter up the joint. Mediocre.

- FANTASY FICTION: FANTASY STORIES: A new one, digest size, consisting mostly of ARGOSY reprints, some of them downright readable. Doubt that this one will remain long with us tho...

- 15 MYSTERY STORIES, while not strictly a prozine, had enough original fantasy and offtrail fiction to deserve more attention than it apparently received; it folded with the October issue. They certainly had some curious slants on their werewolf and vampire yarns. (This one was previously known for some eighteen years as DIME MYSTERY.)

- FUTURE started off again this year pretty much in the same manner as where they left off during the war. Something one can take or leave alone. Still, Lowndes has a knack for picking out the best of the rejects from the lush spenders.

- GALAXY NOVELS came up with two tales, one good and one indifferent---but both worth keeping around a while for a possible re-reading still later. That is, if one is a Fan.

- IMAGINATION also put in two appearances, neither auspicious. At 35¢ it's robbery. (The third issue soured me completely.)

- JUNGLE STORIES carries adventure with fantastic overtones; occasionally there's one worth reading.

- MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES was not only revived but continues! Last word said something about paying up to five cents a word.

- NEKROMANTIKON packs plenty of prestige (and class) for a fan publication. The recently arrived fourth issue is up to standard.

- NEW WORLDS, an English contribution to good stf, leveled off somewhat this year after a fine revival last year. Upper crust material for my money, and dandy paper---and trimmed edges.

- Rap gripes me because he manages to place a "must read" short in every issue of OTHER WORLDS and then waters down the issues with formula novels. At 35¢ it's not a good investment, not is it improving. (Personal opinion.)

- OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVENTURES. (See AVON FANTASY READER)
- PLANET STORIES maintained or even slightly improved their even-keeled position, and edges out FUTURE in my esteem because of a general smoothness of format and material.

- SCIENCE-FANTASY, a newcomer from England, put in a fairly presentable appearance but shows the effects of too much good English ~~stf~~ being sent first to the USA.

((I'm going to buy me some correction fluid one of these days and start using the stuff. Laney tells me you paint the stuff on the typer keys before cutting stencils and that one never makes a mistake as a consequence. Sounds almost fantastic.))

- SINISTERRA, a local fan magazine, otherwise known as the Upper Case SIN, displayed sufficient maturity in its initial presentations to merit consideration of those tolerant enough to read fan fiction.

- STARTLING STORIES did not rate above THRILLING WONDER STORIES this year because its novels, its long suit, were not up to the standard of those published during the previous two years. Both lost some ground on the field during the year because of intense competition; but Sam Merwin still rates as one of the favorite editors in the field. I'd hate to imagine what the magazines would be like if he was not editor.

- THRILLS, INCORPORATED, an Australian product, has appeared monthly since April. It's rather juvenile compared to American and English publications but it's a start.

- TWO COMPLETE SCIENCE-ADVENTURE BOOKS made a commendable debute and gives promise of meriting continued attention.

- WEIRD TALES, the longest-lived prozine, continues, its material of inconsistent quality but generally somewhat better-than-average in quality for those who enjoy supernatural fiction---this despite the high price for the small number of pages and generally shabby format. (And still one of few magazines I read from cover to cover right around publication date.)

- WORLDS BEYOND made one 1950 appearance, and two issues in 1951, and looked as though it might offer serious contention for a position in the Big Three. Then it folded. Don't ask me why---and don't expect it to make sense if you ask yourself, and reply correctly.

((Lovely year, wot?))

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oo

wm n austin
S-F REPORT CARD
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