

TAU CETI REPRINTS

Number One February 1961

Science Fiction Bibliography

VOL 1, NO 1

This brief pamphlet is neither complete nor entirely accurate. We hope fans and collectors will write and tell us about any omissions, mistakes, or inaccuracies it may contain. With your co-operation these few pages can be expanded into a definitive digest of information on all amateur science and fantasy publications. Your criticisms and suggestions will be appreciated.

1935

PUBLISHED BY

The Science Fiction Syndicate
509 West 26th Street,
Austin, Texas

10c a copy

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(The above is a reasonable facsimile of the cover page of what was, to my knowledge, the first bibliography offered to fandom. The Syndicate consisted of William L. Crawford and D.R. Welch. On the following pages I am reprinting the information offered in the bibliography, complete to original typos and misspellings --- but you should consult page 8 to separate the original errors from mine --- Homer Eofann nodded four times. My double parenthesis indicates the end of each original page.)

Tau Ceti Reprints: Bob Tucker, Box 702, Bloomington, Illinois. Fapa
(printed by Vic Ryan)

Pamphlets-Booklets

THE VANGUARD OF VENUS by Landell Bartlett

Issued by AMAZING STORIES in 1928, 24 pages, illustrated. 5 x 8. Out of print. The story itself is of little or no merit, nor is this item selling at any great premium. Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a copy for sale.

BETWEEN WORLDS by Garret Smith

Issued by WONDER STORIES as Number 1, Science Fiction Classics, 93 pages, stiff grey cover, 6 x 9. Not illustrated. Still in print. No additional title in this series has been published.

SCIENCE FICTION SERIES

The titles and authors of these eighteen booklets are too well known to enumerate. The first twelve are out of print.

THE CAVEMEN OF VENUS by Allen Glasser

Published by Solar Publications (Science Fiction Digest) in 1932, 20 pages, 5 x 8, not illustrated. Out of print. Although this particular story is poor, it is just possible that Allen Glasser may become a first rate author of science fiction,

((end of page 2))

THE PRICE OF PEACE by Mortimore Weisinger

Published in 1933 by Solar Publications (Science Fiction Digest), 20 pages, five and one half by eight, not illustrated. This story later appeared in AMAZING STORIES. Although this item is now out of print, the story is mediocre, and it is doubtful if it will ever command a high premium.

THRU THE DRAGON GLASS by A. Merritt

Issued in 1933 by the ARRA Printers (Science Fiction Digest), 24 pages, orange cover, 5 x 6. Not illustrated. A reprint of A. Merritt's first story, which appeared originally in All Story, November 24, 1917. It has not been reprinted elsewhere.

WOLF HOLLOW BUBBLES by David H. Keller

Published by ARRA Printers in 1934. "A Taine of San Francisco Story", 20 pages, 5 x 8, not illustrated. Listed as Scientific Detective Series, Number One. No other titles of this series have appeared. Not yet out of print.

THE DOUBLE SHADOW by Clark Ashton Smith

Published privately, Auburn, California. A collection of Smith's short stories and sketches, gray cover, 9 x 12, not illustrated. Still in print.

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GUESTS OF THE EARTH by Jerome Siegel

A mimeographed pamphlet written and published by Siegel shortly before he started Science Fiction. Very rare and now selling at a high price.

THE METAL GIANTS by Edmond Hamilton

Mimeographed by Siegal for the Swanson Book Company.

I WAS A PASSENGER IN MY OWN BODY by Captain North

A juvenile attempt at writing, published by the "Eight Publishers", Oakman, Alabama. Four pages, purple ink, bright yellow paper, 6 x 9, several indistinct drawings.

PAMPHLET NO. 1 by C.A. Smith and D.H. Keller

Published by Fantasy Publications in 1934. This pamphlet, the first of a project series, contains "The White Sybil" by Clark Ashton Smith and "Men of Avalon" by David H Keller; 40 pages, book paper, white cover, 4 x 7. Still in print. No other numbers of the series have yet appeared. Not illustrated.

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Fan Magazines

COSMOLOGY

The first of the fan magazines. Vol 1, No 1, May 1930, was titled The Comet, 8 x 11. Title later changed to Cosmology. Although it appeared regularly every month for nearly a year, the last issues followed no definite scheme of numbering or interval of publication. The magazine lasted, in all, seventeen issues, the final one bearing the date, 1933. Vol VI, No 1.

Copies are now so rare that they are almost unobtainable at any price. Featured were letters and articles by Willy Ley, the German rocket experimenter, Miles J. Breuer, R.F. Starzl, Lillith Lorraine, P. Schuyler Miller. Raymond A. Palmer was editor for almost the entire period. All issues, except the last, were mimeographed. The final number was published by the Science Fiction Digest Company.

THE TIME TRAVELLER

Probably the best known of all the fan magazine, The Time Traveler was edited by Allen Glasser and Julius Schwartz. It ran for nine issues--until November 1932. The first issue contains a complete list of science fiction films. Later numbers contain indexes of early issues of Amazing Stories and Weird Tales.

SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST

Vol 1, No 1 dated September 1932. Regular monthly publication for two years--first twelve issues large size 8 x 11. The present size has been used since September 1933. Title changed to Fantasy Magazine January 1934. Conrad H. Ruppert and Julius Schwartz have been its editors and publishers.

The Science Fiction Digest is certainly the most valuable magazine

for collectors. In its pages are in-

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dexes of science fiction in Electrical Experimenter, Science & Invention, Thrill Book, Argosy, All Story, and other Mumsey and Street & Smith publications. There are excellent biographies of many authors, including Edgar Rice Burroughs and A. Merritt; several original short stories, among them "The Scroll of Armageddon" by Arthur J. Burks, "The Drone" by A. Merritt, and "The Vortex World" by Raymond A. Palmer; and a reprint of Merritt's "Woman of the Wood."

Beginning July 1933 the famous COSMOS was published serially in supplement form, each installment written by a different author--such names as Ralph Milne Farley, Otis Adelbert Kline, David H. Keller.

All the early issues are out of print. Particularly high premiums have been placed on the Nov. 1933 number (When combination with THE TIME TRAVELLER was effected); the April 1934 issue which contains Merritt's installment of COSMOS; and the Anniversary Issue September 1934 featuring "The Drone." What price these issues will eventually command, no one can prophesy.

SCIENCE FICTION

Edited and published by Jerome Siegel, this mimeographed magazine ran five issues. All five are illustrated, and are of uniform size, 8 x 11. Vol 1. No 1 is dated October 1932. By mistake, the second issue, November 1932, was also numbered Vol 1, No 1. In addition to an abundance of fan material, SCIENCE FICTION featured stories by Raymond A. Palmer, Clare Winger Harris, Bernard J. Kenton, and illustrations by Clay Ferguson and Joe Shuster.

In spite of the bad printing (some pages are blotted and indistinct) copies are steadily sought by collectors. Out of print, difficult to obtain, prices are already very high.

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Prior to SCIENCE FICTION, Seigel edited two typewritten magazines, COSMIC STORIES and COSMIC STORIES QUARTERLY. Apparently, all copies of these last have been lost or destroyed.

FANTASY FAN

Attempting to establish a medium for the lovers of fantasy, Charles D. Hornig published THE FANTASY FAN for eighteen issues (September 1934 to February 1935). In his own words: "We have learned that there are not enough lovers of weird fiction who are interested enough in the subject to pay for a fan magazine. We may call it an experiment that failed."

Although he had a high ideal, and although he put as much as two hundred dollars into the venture, Hornig's magazine was never more than a pale imitation of the SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST. THE FANTASY FAN lacked vigor and strength, not through any fault of the editor, but rather because the readers of fantasy are not as enthusiastic as the fans of science fiction. Nevertheless, despite its faults, THE FANTASY FAN is of real value to the collector--stories by H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Eando Binder, and others; the reprint in serial form of Lovecraft's "Supernatural Horror in Literature," which originally appeared in the RECLUSE, a magazine now long out of print; a wealth of informa-

tion about book collections of science fiction and fantasy; biographical sketches and odd bits of material about WEIRD TALES authors. In all, the eighteen issues of FANTASY FAN are worth owning. It may be that back numbers will become even more expensive than those of the Science Fiction Digest, since the circulation was very small, and few extra copies were printed.

UNUSUAL STORIES

In the fall of 1933 many fans received a curcu-

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lar announcing a new science fiction magazine--UNUSUAL STORIES. The first issue, this circular stated, would be dated December 1933. The first page of "The Titan" by P. Schuyler Miller was given as a sample. In addition, there were glowing accounts of other stories awaiting publication--stories by George Allen England, Ralph Milne Farley, Stanton A. Coblentz, and Richard Tooker. Then, for several months there was silence.

Finally suscribers received the first sixteen page signature of "When the Waker Sleeps" by Cyril G. Wates, bound into a cover designated Unusual Stories, "Advance Issue," March 1934, Vol 1, No 1. A form letter eas enclosed explaining the delay in finishing the magazine. It seemed that the printer had proved incompetent and had given up the work after getting out the first sixteen pages.

A few months later suscribers were mailed, as a substitute, the first issue of Marvel Tales, and another form letter stating that it would be issued in place of the original magazine. In the meantime, W.L. Crawford attempted to finish Unusual Stories himself. He succeeded in completing six more pages, finishing the Wates story and the first few pages of Richard Rooker s "Tharda, Queen of Vampires." No suscriber received these last pages. They only heard that the project had been abandoned, although the publishers still have hopes of using the title.

The twenty-two page fragment in printed on heavy book paper, 6x9, white cover stock. "When the Waker Sleeps" has one illustration, and "Tharda" is illustrated by the cut later used on the cover of the third issue of Marvel Tales. In one respect, it is almost a blessing that the magazine failed: "When the Waker Sleeps" is probably the worst con-cotion ever feisted on a long suffering public. In contrast, Richard Tooker's

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story stands out all the more as a masterpiece. The all too brief fragment of the first pages of "Tharda" can only give one a hint of the beauty of that delicately written fantasy worthy of A. Merritt at his best.

MARVEL TALES

As we know, UNUSUAL STORIES was never finished; but Crawford continued the publication of Marvel Tales. The first issue, dated May 1934, contains stories by H.P. Lovecraft, August W. Derleth, and David H. Keller. The cover is light blue with an obscure illustration in dark blue, and titles in black lettering. A few copies, which have a heavy blue line down the left hand margin of the cover, are printed on book paper.

The second issue, dated July-August 1934, has an orange cover, illustrated in green ink, black lettering. The first pages of many copies of this issue were printed on book paper. There are short stories by Robert E. Howard and Frank B. Long. The third issue, Winter 1934, also has an orange cover, illustration and letters in black ink. A very few copies were run off with the cover illustration printed in red ink. This issue features the first installment of Schuyler Miller's "The Titan."

MARVEL TALES is certain to be a collector's item of no small value. The first issue is already out of print. The publisher's supply of the "red cover" issues of the third is exhausted.

Minor Publications

PLANETOID

Vol. 1, No. 1 was dated December, 1932. The second issue, January 1933. There is not a single item of interest, or a scrap information, in either issue. There is absolutely no reason why anyone should waste time collecting this item. Both issues are printed on cheap slips about one fourth the size of a sheet of typing paper.

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THE PLANET

This little mimeographed paper was the official organ of "The Scienceers." Vol 1, No 1 was dated July 1930. Edited by Allen Glasser, it was published monthly for six issues.

RADIAGRAM

The Radiagram is a typewritten affair edited by John B. Michel and Edward Gervais. No stranger collection of scientific fallacies and misinformation has ever been put into print--an unbelievable revelation of callow thinking and juvenile maunderings. Lasted but one issue, April 1933.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER

This magazine is the official publication of the International Cosmos Science Club, mimeographed 8 x 11. It is edited by John B. Michel and has appeared monthly since September 1934. It illustrates the general impotence of the average science fiction correspondance club. Contents are on a par with the Radiagram. No collector who has seen a copy will give this magazine any further consideration.

BULLETIN

Originally titled The Bulletin of the International Science Fiction Guild, it has now been changed to The Terrestiral Fantascience Guild. (We follow the original spelling.) Vol 1, No. 1 is dated May-June 1934, poorly printed in purple ink, 6 x 9. A half-dozen issues have appeared. The contents are on a level with the title. Unfortunately, it is still being published.

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SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST

First Year (12 issues) \$6.00
 Second Year (12 issues) 5.00
 Single Copies (Scattered dates)50

FANTASY FAN

Complete Set (18 issues) \$4.00

MARVEL TALES

Set First three issues \$1.00
 Vol. 1, No. 1 (May 1934)50

SCIENCE FICTION

Single copies50

Send all orders to:

Science Fiction Syndicate
 509 West 26th Street,
 Austin, Texas

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UNUSUAL STORIES

Complete 22 pages with cover ... \$.50
 Announcement Circular50

We do not guarantee to fill all orders for this item. Our stock is limited, and we cannot undertake to procure additional copies after our supply is exhausted.

SCOOPS

The English All Science Fiction Magazine

Complete Set \$10.00
 Single Copies50

This shortlived magazine (20 issues) which appeared weekly in the early part of 1934, contained stories by some of the foremost authors of science fiction--A. Conan Doyle, R.M. Lowe, John Russel Fearn, Phil E. Cleator, President of the British interplanetary society.

As yet little known in this country, it will probably become a standard item in all science fiction collections.

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(Errata and general notes by Tucker on the following page.)

ERRATA: although I have faithfully reproduced all the original typos and weird spellings, it is embarrassing to discover a few of my own included in the reproduction. Compositor Crawford had enough trouble without my errors being loaded onto his back. Let's correct my four typos, on my pages:

Page 2: an apostrophe was omitted from Merritt's name, at the end of the second line of text under "Thru The Dragon Glass."

Page 2: the lower-case r was omitted from ARRA Printers, first line of text under "Wolf Hollow Bubbles."

Page 4: 'February' was misspelled in the third line of text under "Fantasy Fan."

Page 5: 'was' was misspelled in the twelfth line of text under "Unusual Stories." It should read: "A form letter was enclosed ..."

The remaining typos may be credited to Mr. Crawford.

General Notes

The Bibliography was a twelve-page pamphlet, on what appears to be book paper, hand-set in about eight different type faces. Printer and publisher was William L. Crawford; and D.R. Welch may have wrote the copy. Pamphlet size was roughly 5x8 inches; the text was set neatly with ample margins all around; and page numbers appeared at the bottom in the center of the page.

Crawford followed his own rules of indenting; some paragraphs are indented but others are not, and mixtures appear on the same page. He sometimes set magazine titles in caps, and at other times employed a bold-face type using both caps and lower-case. (I used caps where he did, just as I have reproduced his typos and inconsistent spellings.)

On page 2, Crawford omitted the names of authors and titles in the "Science Fiction Series." For this, he should be run out of fandom. Does anyone have the missing data? On the same page, he guessed wrong about Allen Glasser becoming "a first rate author of science fiction." Ask Warner, Moskowitz or Speer what happened to this first rate author.

Page 3: Don Wollheim may have been the 'Captain North' who wrote "Passenger." He was thick with a printer-fan in Alabama at the time. On page 4, WLC obviously erred in dating "The Fantasy Fan." Hornig's magazine saw 18 issues from September 1933 thru February 1935. And on page 6, Crawford adds insult to injury by not mentioning the worthless editor of the most worthless fanzine. "Planetoid" may be blamed on me. On that same page he correctly spells the title of "The Radiogram," but Pavlat and Evans misspell it in their Fanzine Index. Again, Crawford reproduces the misspelled title of The Terrestiral Fantascience Guild, but Pavlat & Evans absent-mindedly correct this 25-year-old typo.

And so ends the first Tau Ceti Reprints with a brisk romp thru the fandom of a quarter-century ago. The prices asked by the Syndicate were murder: it would have cost me a half-day's pay to buy a single copy of Marvel Tales from them. And by the way, Jerome Siegel's fanzine, "Science Fiction," was the birthplace of Superman. Who said fandom was just a goddam hobby? -BT