

BLOOMINGTON



NEWS LETTER

Anthology

New York: Frederick Fell, of the book publishing house bearing his name, enters the science - fiction field about July with the first of a series of anthologies culled from last year's magazines. To be entitled SCIENCE FICTION: THE BEST OF 1948, & edited by fantasy veterans Everett Bleiler and T. E. Dikty, of Chicago, the first volume will contain the following twelve "bests":

(from Astounding:) "No Connection" by Asimov; "Genius" by Anderson; "Strange Case of John Kingman" by Leinster; "Ex-Machina" by Padgett; "Period Piece" by Coupling; and "In Hiding" by Shiras.

(from Thrilling Wonder:) "And the Moon be Still as Bright" by Bradbury; "Happy Ending" by Kuttner; and "Knock" by Brown. (plus:)

"Thang" by Gardner, from Leaves of Glass; "Doughnut Jockey" by Fennel, from Blue Book; and "Mars is Heaven" by Bradbury from Planet Stories.

Options looking towards similar anthologies for 1949, 50, and 51 have been inked. Editor Bleiler handled the popular CHECKLIST for Shasta last year.

Other Anthologies

The Fell volume is one of many due this year. Following on the successful heels of his STRANGE PORTS OF CALL of last year, Pellegrini & Cudahy (New York) will publish August Derleth's new anthology, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON this spring, containing 20 yarns, a mixture of magazine and classical shorts from the pulps, Colliers, Post, and books. About 480 pages, price about \$3.75.

Scheduled for May 24th release from Dell 25¢ books is FANTASY STORIES edited by Orson Welles, containing the radio script of his scare broadcast, plus nine shorts from the pulps (two by Bradbury).

Probably already on sale is PLANETS OF ADVENTURE, 15 yarns, 80,000 words, three dollars, from Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc., Los Angeles. From the pen of Basil Wells, 8 are new stories, 7 are reprints from the pulps. Jacket trouble delayed the volume.

Anthropoidea

Minneapolis, April 1st: Redd Boggs, editor of the 1948 Dreamland Opinionator Poll (page 5, last issue) announced on this date the winners of the popularity sections of that nation-wide survey.



Kendy

Most popular fantasy fan in the United States was judged to be Josie Kendy of Dover, New Jersey. Miss Kendy, twice-before winner and probably the world's eldest fantasy enthusiast, beamed happily at our cameraman but complained the flash bulbs hurt her eyes. She does not wear glasses, although 94 years old.

Josie has been steadily regaining her sight since studying under Prof. vanVogt at Los Angeles in July, 1946. Queried about her favorites, Miss Kendy is of the opinion that science-fiction will never again rise to the heights reached by Captain Future and Hawk Carse; she prefers illegible fanzines, Lemurian-minded editors and carries her lunch when riding bicycles.

At the opposite end of the popularity poll were named twin brothers Tiny and Tony Towner-Burpee, Los Angeles, as "worst fans of the year." The Tony twin is on the left. The twins were thus singled out for "honor" by their notorious club-wrecking activities in Los Angeles last year. They now live in South Gate, belong to the "Outsiders".



Towner-Bupree twins

Tiny and Tony are known for their sensitive fannish faces, & quit the circus to settle in Los Angeles after discovering a fantasy club and colony in the city. The twins are now planning.

The BOOK SHOP

THE PORCELAIN MAGICIAN by Frank Owen
Illustrated by Frances Dunn. (Gnome Press,
421 Claremont Parkway, New York; 1948; \$3.)

For the lover of smooth and sometimes ironic fantasy rather than science-fiction is this collection of 14 stories, subtitled "A Collection of Oriental Fantasies." Frank Owen's work is well known to Weird Tales readers. Our favorite among the 14 is "Pale Pink Porcelain," a tale of two men courting the same girl. One man makes porcelain, invites his rival to inspect the ovens, and presents the girl with a specimen of pale pink porcelain, the delicate shade of rosy dawn. You follow? And then the girl tells the surviving rival the payoff.

Frances Dunn does a neat job on the jacket and interiors. Typography is fair.

SLAVES OF SLEEP by L. Ron Hubbard
(Shasta Publishers, 5525 Blackstone Ave.,
Chicago, 37, Illinois. 1948. \$3.)

Again fantasy, but swashbuckling adult fantasy just the opposite of the gentler specimen reviewed above. Hubbard spins a yarn of a man trapped in two bodies, his own (languishing in jail for a crime he did not commit) and that of "Tiger", a pirate out of the present-day Arabian Nights. The gradual fusing of the two opposite personalities into what amounts to the same man in both worlds makes the theme of the tale; while one man fighting his way from jail and the other fighting the Jinns comprises the plot. The novel appeared in UNKNOWN in 1939.

The typography is excellent and the dustjacket by Hannes Bok is an eye-opener.

THE WHEELS OF IF by L. Sprague de Camp
(Shasta Publishers, Chicago, 1949, \$3.)

Science-fiction this time, seven well-received and well-remembered novelettes and shorts that entertained the war-time reader of ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN. De Camp is noted for his humorous touch: there is included "The Contraband Cow", a tale of bootleggers in beefsteak when India joins the union of world states and introduces a new prohibition. And "The Gnarly Man", a genuine Neanderthal working the Coney Island side-shows, fighting off a female anthropologist slightly on the wolfish side. Or "Hyperpelosity", wherein humanity undergoes an odd mutation and the clothiers go broke.

The title story is a long time-travel novelette, detailing the adventures of a New York district attorney who suddenly finds himself elsewhere, trapped on a wheel of "if". As is usual in Shasta volumes the printing and binding is the best. Book presents a wonderful four-color jacket.



-Edd Cartier
courtesy Fantasy Press

DARKER THAN YOU THINK by Jack Williamson
Illustrated by Edd Cartier. (Fantasy Press
P.O. Box 159, Reading, Penna. 1948. \$3.)

A fine presentation of the printer's art and a must for your library if you are at all partial to Williamson and the evil things which lurk within you. This novel reports the return to civilization of an expedition to the Gobi Desert, and a chest they brought back with them. The Cartier illustration above is a hint of one of the things loosed from that chest: the two in the picture are really one.

Man into snake, into wolf, into flying dragon, into tiger the secret was unloosed from the chest. This too is a 1940 UNKNOWN novel, skillfully transformed into a volume worth owning for its beauty.

WITHOUT SORCERY by Theodore Sturgeon
Illustrated by Robert Tschirky. (Prime
Press, Box 2019, Philadelphia 3; 1948. \$3)

Ray Bradbury, in his introduction to this volume, could have said (but didn't) that it contains some of the damndest yarns you could ever hope to read. It does. It presents "it", which was never born but walked thru the woods to the consternation of humans who met it. Also included are: "Shottle Bop": a small shop which sold old bottles with things in them; and "Brat", a brat who dropped out of the sky just when a couple needed a baby to please an old lady; and "Maturity", the tale of a young man who was too young, and needed aging.

There are thirteen tales in the volume by Sturgeon, and Sturgeon-times-thirteen is a literary feast not to be passed up. A n illustration proceeds each story.

News-Letter is presented to you without charge, providing you write for each issue. Pronto.



SHASTA PUBLISHERS

(In this, the first of a series of articles covering the small fantasy publishing firms on the map, your reporter must mention that he successfully resisted proffered bribes thrust upon him by publicity-seeking publishers. While in Chicago gathering material for the following article, the reporter was plied with lavish entertainment, expensive meals, unlimited drinks and pretty girls. The reporter accepted it all, and wrote what he pleased. The press must be free.)

SHASTA PUBLISHERS' rapid growth can be best measured by the size of the press runs they have given the printer for each of the four books currently in print. Never large to begin with, the fantasy publisher must base his order on the number of copies the previous book sold, and his editions cannot compare in size with those of the big New York houses. Despite this, Shasta points to a steady, unspectacular upswing.

Their first book saw 2000 copies in print; the second rose to 3000; the third up to 3500; and the fourth climbed to 4000 copies. On the press now is another, with 4000 copies, and coming later this year is the first of a series in which each book of that series will see between 4000 and 5000 copies. In a fantasy house, that is growth.

Melvin Korshak is director of Shasta, with Everett F. Bleiler his executive editor, and T.E. Dikty the circulation director. This trio, plus Mark Reinsberg of Colorado Springs own and operate the business at 5525 Blackstone Ave., Chicago, 37, Ill. The 4 men are long acquainted with the fantasy field, having been readers and collectors as long ago as 1935. The firm is located in a basement salesroom of an apartment hotel, which also houses a thriving second-hand book business operated by Korshak and Dikty. There are two part-time employees, a typist and an order-packer.

Shasta acts as jobber to the Chicago area bookstores, stocking books of all other fantasy publishers for resale not only to these stores but buyers-by-mail. An inspection of their invoices show they have shipped orders to buyers in Mexico, Canada, Cuba, South America, Sweden, Switzerland, England, South Africa, and --just recently-- an agency called "Gosinoizdat" in Moscow. Why Moscow wants science-fiction books is anybody's guess.

The Frederick Fell anthology of 1948 science-fiction (see news on page one this issue) was originally a Shasta project; they released the anthology to Fell upon the latter's interest in it.

The Shasta Line-up (and now in print:)

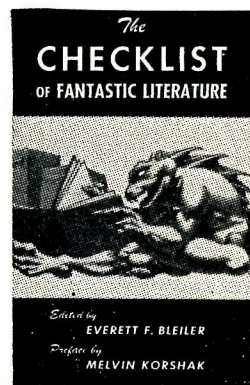
CHECKLIST OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE (1948), edited by Everett F. Bleiler, black-and-white cover by Hannes Bok; 455 pages, \$6. 5000 fantasy book titles indexed two ways.

WHO GOES THERE? (1948) by John W. Campbell, two-color cover by Hannes Bok; 231pp; \$3. Seven science-fiction tales by a veteran.

SLAVES OF SLEEP (1948) by L. Ron Hubbard, three-color cover by Hannes Bok; 207pp; \$3. Double life: on earth and in a dream world.

THE WHEELS OF IF (1949) by L. Sprague de Camp; 4-color cover by Hannes Bok; 223; \$3. Time-travel and six other science-fictions.

Bleiler, editor of the popular CHECKLIST OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE, is currently at work on a companion volume, GUIDE TO FANTASTIC LITERATURE, to be published this Fall in a 450 paged edition. The GUIDE will thumb-sketch and analyze about 1000 fantastic books; will sell at \$6. Books noted will be indexed by author, title, and subject matter.



Forthcoming, in addition to the GUIDE mentioned above, Shasta will publish Murray Leinster's SIDEWISE IN TIME, in April, and later on H.L. Gold's NONE BUT LUCIFER. Toward the end of the year will be issued the first volume of Robert Heinlein's entire "future history" series; Heinlein is doing four new stories to fill gaps in the "history"; each book will carry a graph showing how the yarns fit together temporally, similar to the graph in May 1941 Astounding.

Book 1, EARTHBOUND, will contain: Life Line, Let There Be Light, Word Edgewise**, The Roads Must Roll, and Blowups Happen. (The double asterisk indicates new story.)

Book 2, THE SOUND OF HIS WINGS, will contain: Requiem, Fire Down Below**, Logic of Empire, and The Sound of His Wings**.

Book 3, ECLIPSE, contains: Eclipse** If This Goes On, and Coventry.

Book 4, METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN, to have Misfit, and title story.

Book 5, title lacking, will contain: Universe, and Common Sense.

Korshak believes that science-fiction outsells weird and fantasy fiction by far, for reasons that are readily apparent to the science-fiction fan. But, says Korshak, the died-in-the-wool fantasy enthusiast, or "fan" makes up less than 10% of his trade.

OUR READERS

Ted Carnell, London: "Three weeks ago there was little hope of getting on any westbound boat owing to the heavy number of Americans visiting Aunt Mary in Scotland and requiring return transport. I was in the Army with a guy WHO and now I have a booking on the Queen Elizabeth reaching New York on August 31. Al Prime is meeting me at the docks and will take me to Philly; there I will either link up with someone or catch a night train to Cincinnati. After ye convention I may go to Chicago with Korshak for a few days. Play poker, do you?"

Don Day, Portland, Oregon: "Portland is bidding for the 1950 convention. As has been reported elsewhere, it seems unlikely that any of us can make it to Cincy this year, but Ackerman (of Los Angeles) will make the bid for us."

Wilmar Shiras, Oakland, Calif.: "Why not give addresses and prices of all magazines and books mentioned? A lot of us haven't ESP very well developed yet. ** The University of Virginia is to have a ten-day display of Nelson Bond's first editions of James Branch Cabell's works, and an address by Bond on Cabell to the Virginia Bibliographical Society."

Arnim Seislstad, Grosse Point, Mich.: "You're wrong about (the) Fantasy Book Club being first. The Fantasy Guild started operations in March, 1948. It's procedure was much the same as the other book clubs. You will find one of their ads in the May 1948 Astounding. Apparently it didn't make enough money, for it officially ceased operations on January 1, 1949."

Poul Anderson, Minneapolis: "I might suggest you run a series on foreign fantasy works available in English. It's odd how many are not aware that Capek has written more science-fiction works besides R.U.R., that Jensen's Nobel Prize-winning THE LONG JOURNEY is one of the finest fantasies ever written, that Lie's WEIRD TALES FROM NORTHERN SEAS are just that, and very good."

FANTASTIC FICTION FOR SALE

Brand new, cloth-bound,

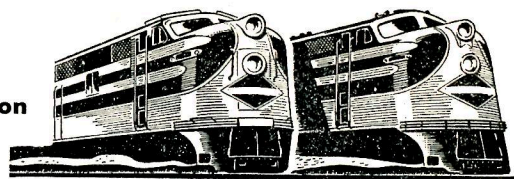
library size sample: \$ 1.00

Catalogs 10¢ (refunded)

HOUSE of STONE

Lunenburg, 20, Massachusetts

travel information



Going to Cincinnati for the Labor Day clambake pardner? Then you'll have need of an iron horse, a gasoline buggy or shank's mare. If it be either of the latter two, worry it out for yourself and send us a postcard from Kansas. But if you aim to ride that new contraption, the steam cars, why then we aim to save you the embarrassment suffered by people from New Jersey, and steer you on to a good thing.

From New York and Philadelphia: the swiftest train is the Pennsylvania's "Cincinnati Limited" leaving Pennsy station at 5:25 each evening; just fifteen hours to the clambake city, getting you there in time for breakfast if you eat breakfast. Second fastest, and for tourists and toughs originating in Albany, Buffalo, and Canada, is New York Central's "Ohio State Limited" (#15), leaving New York at 4 in the afternoon, Buffalo at 11:50 that night, arriving in Cincy at 8:30 the next morning. Both trains air conditioned, carry diners and a saloon. What more do you want?

Detroit to Cincy: The B&O (#53) leaves Detroit at 3:15 pm daily, arrives at 9:35 that evening.

Baltimore & Washington to Cincy: The B&O (#75) leaves Baltimore at 8:00 am, Washington at 9 am, arrived at 8:30 pm.

Anyone journeying from the Far West must change trains at Chicago or St. Louis; there is a conspiracy afoot to prevent you from riding straight on thru. Ask your ticket agent to book you out of Chicago on the train mentioned two paragraphs below.

When coming from the westcoast, forget speed and buy a free-reserved seat on the "California Zephyr" leaving San Francisco (Western Pacific railroad) at 9:00 am daily for a trip thru the Rockies in a "Vista-Dome" coach. You'll never regret it. The dome is a glass observation bubble atop the car, seating 24, affording a view of the entire train and surroundings; it is the greatest advance in rail travel since diesel engines, and no eastern railroad can match it. Of course, if 62 hours of sight-seeing is far too much for you, there are 48, 49, and 50 hour schedules obtainable on Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Santa Fe.

Chicago to Cincinnati: the slickest thing on wheels around here is NY Central's "James Whitcomb Riley" (#4). All seats are reserved in advance free; it leaves Chicago at 4:40 each afternoon, arrives at Cincy 11:10 that night.

Harry Moore and his cutthroat crew can come up from New Orleans in 19 hours. L&N's "The Humming Bird" (#6) leaves there at 11:30 am, reaches Cincy 6:30 next morning.

Norman Stanley
43 A Broad st.
Rockland, Maine

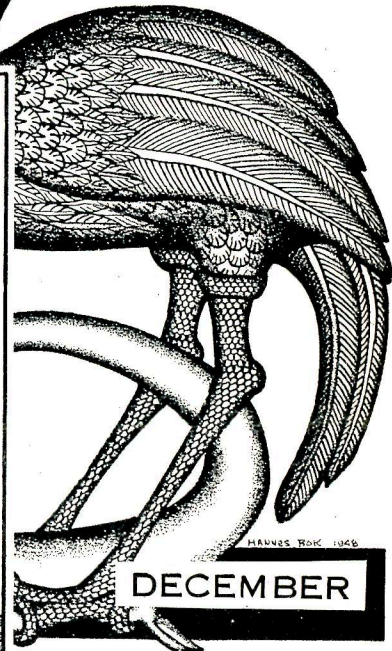
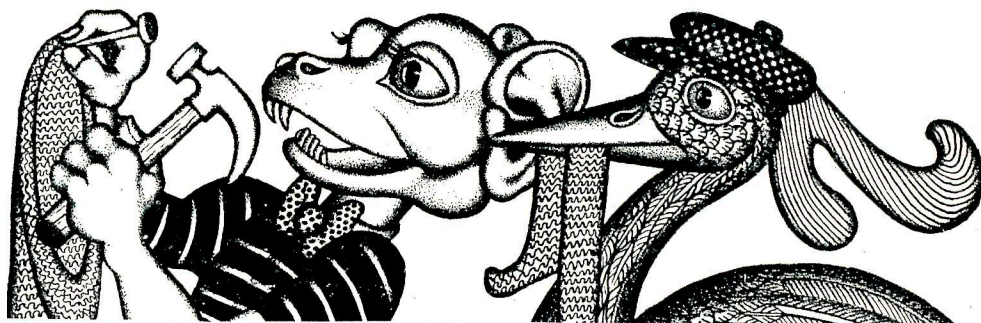
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Boat—SCIENCE FICTION!



These three pix are from 13 appearing in the 1949 Fantasy Calendar, published by Gnome Press, 421 Claremont Parkway, New York, at \$1. Cover-sheet on calendar is by Hannes Bok, was originally a FOX WOMAN illustration.



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

In addition to cover Bok illustrated six months, Edd Cartier, five, and Paul, one.

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FANTASY CALENDAR for 1949

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