

## NEWS LETTER

## CONVENTION REPORT :

NEW ORLEANS SELECTED FOR 1951  
 375 WAS TOP ATTENDANCE FIGURE  
 "DESTINATION MOON" PREVIEWED  
 DIANETICS PRAISED AND PANNED

Portland, Oregon, September 1-2-3-4: The eighth annual science fiction convention closed with a dinner and dance Monday night, after toppling many previous records. Altho no registration book was kept, an evening session devoted to Dianetics drew 300 people and a midnight sneak preview of the Heinlein movie, DESTINATION MOON, pulled 375. All in attendance were card-carrying members.

In brief, this is what went on:

133 fans voted on next year's convention city. Harry Moore & Mack Reynolds made the bid for New Orleans, receiving 101 votes. George Young and Erle Korshak made the bid for Detroit, pulling 29 votes. Will Sykora again asked for New York, and got 2 votes. One blank was turned in; one ballot taken.

Erle Korshak, as auctioneer, garnered approximately \$620 from the sale of artwork, books, magazines. Franklin Dietz paid the top price of \$34 for the Malcolm Smith cover on the May, OTHER WORLDS, "Dear Devil". The auction profits were used to pay off the cost of the banquet, hiring of a theater, and other minor expenses.

175 people bought dinner tickets at \$1 each, auction money making up the deficit of \$1.50 per plate. Theater rental was \$50, with Eagle-Lion Films furnishing the picture free-gratis. After all expenses, a profit of approximately \$150 was turned over to the next convention committee, along with office equipment and a card file of 1100 names. In all, more than 500 fans joined the Norwescon Society.

Both Portland newspapers carried daily stories and/or pictures of the convention, sometimes serious, sometimes satirical. The chief targets for joshing was Dianetics and the universe-creating of E.E. Smith.

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## FANTASY WRITERS ORGANIZE

Long talked about in the fan press, the initial steps to organize a fantasy writers group were undertaken at the Portland convention. Using the pattern of the Mystery Writers of America (a professional society dedicated to improving the lot of the detective story writer), a dozen science and fantasy writers laid the groundwork of a new organization.

Backed by Anthony Boucher, Howard Browne, Beatrice Mahaffey and Forrest Ackerman, editors and agents who are writers as well, a temporary framework was drawn up and regional secretaries appointed to begin work. Theodore Sturgeon was named Director, Groff Conklin as eastcoast secretary, Wilson Tucker for the midwest, and Forrest Ackerman as westcoast secretary (all pro tem.) Co-signers in addition to the above were Mack Reynolds, John and Dorothy DeCourcy, Roger Phillips, and E.E. Evans.

Eventual goal of the organization will be a membership of all fantasy and science-fiction writers in the States, a decided improving of royalties and rates now paid such writers, the elimination of unfair publishing practices and policies, and the social benefits of such an organization.

Addresses of the regional secretaries of the Fantasy Writers of America are: Conklin, 56 west 70th St, New York City 23. Tucker, Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. Ackerman, 236½ north New Hampshire, Hollywood 4, Calif.

## ANTHOLOGY FROM ASTOUNDING:

John Campbell announces in the October issue of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION that, sometime after the magazine's 21st birthday next January, they will assist in publishing a 100,000 word anthology of the best short stories and novellettes from their back files. He invites the readers to send in their own selection of yarns they think should go into the book, and states the most popular selections will be used.

No publication date, publisher, or price are mentioned.

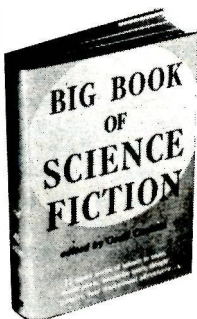
# New Books

Three anthologies are foremost in book news this autumn, altho unhappily, not all three are equal in merit. We said last year, and we say it again, the Frederick Fell firm badly needs an editor who knows what science-fiction is all about. With the exception of their annual "Best" anthologies (which are edited by two experts), their s-f books are surprisingly poor in quality.



**BIG BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION**, edited by Groff Conklin, (Crown Publishers, New York, 1950, \$3) is out in front, and not to be missed. Conklin is a good editor who loves science fiction, as his past volumes prove, and this is another distinguished collection. Here you'll find 32 yarns, a few as old as Jules Verne, most as new as this year's magazines.

Knight is present with "Not With a Bang," Gold with "A Matter of Form," Padgett with "Margin for Error," Ted Sturgeon's "Mewhu's Jet", Simak's "Desertion," and be sure not to overlook Loomis' "The Long Dawn". From other than the usual sources, the editor has drawn "Mr Murphy of New York," "The Diminishing Draft," and "The Outer Limit". Over 500 pages and well worth the price. -BT



**THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES: 1950** edited by Everett F. Bleiler and Ted Dikty, (Frederick Fell, New York, 1950, \$2.95)

A good companion to the first in the series, begun last year. Thirteen yarns, 350 pages, second in importance only because the above volume is far larger. Dikty & Bleiler know the field and select with care, using only 1949 magazines as their hunting ground. Outstanding are Kuttner's "Private Eye," Sturgeon's "Hurkle is a Happy Beast," two by Bradbury, Simak's "Eternity Lost," and Fred Brown's "Mouse". This series is to continue for at least another three years. -BT

**FLIGHT INTO SPACE**, edited by Donald Wollheim (Frederick Fell, New York, 1950, \$2.75)

Turkeys like this make us wish Fell had the science-fiction editor, altho the unexplainable thing here is that Wollheim is an editor and has turned out worthwhile books in the past.

Twelve yarns, 250 pages, with each story tied to a solar object: the sun, moon, each planet, and the asteroids. The selections (with a very few exceptions) shouldn't have been disinterred from their lost graves. -BT

**SHADOW ON THE HEARTH** by Judith Merrill (Doubleday & Co, New York, 1950, \$3.00)

"Shadow" is one of those rare, good first novels, a happy blending of borderline s-f with the straight, conventional novel. Miss Merrill tells a very real and heart-rending story of the Mitchell family, of suburban New York, during and after an atomic explosion over the city. She manages to bring to light numerous, up to now unthought-of problems which might naturally arise during such a catastrophe.

There is distinct evidence of a deep, sincere study of the subject matter and honest presentation. Merrill presents her story so convincingly that this reviewer felt happy and a trifle smug about living in the middlewest. -MEW

**LANCELOT BIGGS: SPACEMAN** by Nelson Bond (Doubleday & Co, New York, 1950, \$2.50)

Back in our letter section this issue, Mr. Bradbury of the Doubleday firm discusses the books published by his company, stating that three of them have been originals; this is not one of the three, this is a series of short stories put together like a novel.

This character Biggs is a tall, skinny spacehand whose specialty is getting into trouble and pulling his ship and his captain in with him. At the last minute he works his way out, heaping himself, captain and frequently ship with gold or glory. An element of "humor" runs thru the book, it says on the inside dustjacket. Nelson Bond could have published this under a pen name to save himself some criticism. -BT

**VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE** by A.E. van Vogt (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1950, \$2.50)

This is another, but better, example of what can be done with short stories and novelettes written yesterday and made into book form today. Van Vogt sends the Space Beagle out on a charting expedition, then carefully weaves into the plot his 1939 stories, "The Black Destroyer" and "Discord in Scarlet". There is a third old story present which we cannot identify, one dealing with bird-like people who hypnotize the ship's crew by projecting images across space; it appeared in ASF about 1943.

A readable book, concerning the trials and tribulations of the only Nexialist aboard a huge exploring vessel. Old hands will recognize the previously-published stories when they come to them, but they are intelligently fitted into the whole and are not mere "chapters" of the book. -BT

**BEYOND THE MOON** by Edmond Hamilton (Signet Books, New York, 1950, 25¢.)

This was originally titled "The Star Kings" when Frederick Fell published it last year. It also may have appeared in magazine form earlier, under the same title. Space-opera, in the Hamilton style. -CH

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# WHAT'S NEWS

## THE AMATEUR PRESS:

The 1950 FAN DIRECTORY has arrived, at 30¢, from Len Moffatt (5969 Lanto St, Bell Gardens, Cal.) This 36 paged printed booklet lists 400-plus names and addresses by states, and a cross-index.

Wm Auston's 4th REPORT CARD (3317 west 67th St, Seattle 7, Wash.) has arrived, containing 27 pages of reviews of 27 magazines now being published. Also included are a checklist of fantasy in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, a fantasy survey, six pocket-book and 22 miscellaneous reviews. At 15¢.

Kenneth Arnold (Box 387, Boise, Idaho) offered for sale at the convention a 16 page lithographed pamphlet showing photographs and photostats of letters, pertaining to the so-called flying saucers. Cost was 50¢.

The RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST is an item not to be passed up, especially now that they've acquired a new press and spread themselves with color printing, inserts, and so forth. Magazine offers the top articles in the s-f field, bar none. (25¢ from George Finigan, 2524 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley 4, Calif.)

K. Martin Carlson's STF TRADER has folded. Ditto Arthur Rapp's SPACEWARP. Rapp is back in the army, and the Burbee-Laney team turned out a final issue of SPACEWARP.

THE FANTASY INDEX, a companion to the s-f ditto published last year, and indexing all such magazines, will be ready next month from Robert Peterson, at \$1. (1308 S. Vine St, Denver 10, Colorado.)

James V. Taurasi and Ray Van Houten have issued the first monthly number of THE FAN VET, organ of The Fantasy Veteran's Assn. (409 Market St, Paterson 3, New Jersey.)

If it isn't already too late, write for a copy of EGOBOO, a printed pamphlet, from Manly Banister (1905 Spruce Ave, Kansas City 1, Mo.) Written and handset by Banister, the yarn is a delicious satire on fandom.

Three examples of new fanzines published by adults, and adult in tone and appearance, are SINISTERRA (3200 N. Harvard, Seattle 2, Wash.), RENASCENCE (419 Frederick St, San Francisco 17), and MEZRAB (Box 431, Tahoka, Texas.) The Frisco entry is printed and the others mimeographed--but easy on the eyes.

Michael DeAngelis published a printed issue of GARGOYLE, with the entire contents saluting Arkham House, August Derleth, and HP Lovecraft. (1526 E. 23rd St, New York.)

Lee Quinn's THE FANZINE EDITOR is a new one (Box 1199, Grand Central Station, New York City 17) that's worth writing for.

## THE AMATEURS:

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society has voted to sponsor another Conference on Sunday, November 12th. Milt Rothman is chairman. The annual Philly conference, granddaddy of all s-f conclaves, originated back in the late 1930's.

The first Southern science fiction conference took place in Lynn Haven, Florida, over the 4th of July weekend. Attendance figure was 20, from 3 states; an auction pulled in \$85. Two science films and a private showing of HG Wells' THINGS TO COME, plus wire recording sessions, made up the entertainment.

The "Westercon," annual California fan gathering (sponsored this year by the Outlander Society) met on June 18th. More than 120 attended, original Bonestell paintings were offered for auction, and \$279 was raked in. Bradbury, Richardson and Van Vogt were the speakers. San Francisco sponsors the event next year.



Earl "Plaster" Parris made up and had for sale at the convention, small science fiction lapel pins. (\$1, Box 228, Lewes, Delaware.) Rick Sneary now exploring possibility of NFFF pins.

Photographer Emil Peteja has an article coming up in POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY, "Flying Saucers in the Darkroom." Peteja and his partner, Frank Hanson, specialize in fantasy and s-f photos. A back issue of WRITER'S DIGEST ran an article on same. (579 Bridge-way, Sausalito, Calif.)

George O. Smith, according to a wedding announcement received, married Mrs. Dona Stebbins Campbell on Aug 19th. Since then, Smith has gone overseas for Philco Radio. Other weddings: Erle Korshak of Chicago and Irene Odenheimer of New York were married on June 30th. Charles Dye and Katherine McLean (both New York) were married in early June.

Reprinted below is a thumbnail review of DESTINATION MOON. That picture's producer, George Pal, has begun work on WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE for Paramount Pix.

An independent outfit called Horizon Pictures has purchased 3 John Colliers stories (from the book, PRESENTING MOONSHINE), for future filming.

## THE STORY:

### "Destination Moon"

Warner Anderson, an atomic scientist, and Gen. Tom Powers, whose first attempt to build a rocketship to the moon was sabotaged by foreign powers who also realize that he who controls the moon rules the world, gain the aid of Industrialist John Archer in their second venture. Despite the withdrawal of government support, due to adverse public opinion, the three and a young technician take off for the moon. Surmounting a series of adventures, the moon-bound crew reaches its goal. Because of greater consumption of fuel than was calculated, the ship is stripped even to the radios for the trip back. Just nine days after their take-off, the successful interplanetary explorers return safely to earth.

(Running time, 90 minutes)

## THE CONVENTION:

Tony Boucher and a panel of fan-readers were interviewed on s-f during the banquet, and a tape recording made for a later broadcast over Portland's KPOJ.

The entertainment session which followed the dinner and closed the convention brought out 20 or 30 costumes, of which the 3 best won prizes consisting of manuscripts from Ted Sturgeon, Mack Reynolds, Rog Phillips. A five-piece orchestra played for dancing. Sturgeon entertained on the guitar, and two local lads, Davis and Waible, brought down the house with an illustrated lecture lampooning dianetics. On a previous evening, the DeCourcys demonstrated a "Matter Transmitter," nearly killing Joe Salta and hotel bellboy in the process.

Kenneth Arnold, the Idaho aviator who first spotted the "flying saucers" explained how the false name was born, played tapes and recounted interviews with people who claimed to have seen objects and men flying in the sky. Included was a taped interview with California radar technicians, who report they have been tracking unseen objects for some years. Arnold reported he first saw the objects in 1947, has seen them 4 times since, believes some of them are alive and not mechanical, and stated he has traced reports of such objects back to before Christ.

These resolutions were handed in and dealt with as indicated:

(1) A recommendation that Heinlein's "Green Hills of Earth" be set to music was passed. (2) A resolution asking that the NFFF determine future convention sites was killed. (3) A protest to New York's Hydra Club, condemning their three-day July conference was killed, along with the suggestion that the Hydra and ESFA people never be allowed to sponsor a national convention. (4) 1950 profits were given to New Orleans. (5) In addition, letters of thanks were forwarded to Eagle-Lion for the film, and certain radio networks for better-class s-f air programs now appearing.

## THE SPEAKERS:

Anthony Boucher, co-editor of MAGAZINE OF FANTASY, and the convention's guest of honor, discussed the relationship of science-fiction to the detective story, pointing out how many of the same writers work in both fields. He said s-f in book form is the first competition to detective fiction to appear in 35 years, and that book science-fiction can, if it improves itself, become equal to the romance-western-and-detective markets now plied by most publishers. Boucher traced the history of the whodunnit from 1920, and thinks s-f can easily duplicate detective fiction's climb. But, he pointed out, it will not be helped by the publishing in bookform of hoary old magazine yarns, by several short stories disguised as a novel, or by overly-technical stories. Several unhealthy examples were named, with members of the audience contributing their pet dislikes and titles.

Forrest Ackerman, Los Angeles literary agent, long-time fan, and recent convert to Dianetics, spoke on that subject and pulled the largest audience of any session up to then. (Only the showing of "MOON" later in the evening drew a larger crowd.) Ackerman briefed his audience on the introduction of Dianetics into Los Angeles, recounted many personal experiences there, and followed with an outline of the movement. Audience participation waxed hot and heavy at times, and the following day's papers had fun.

Howard Browne, editor of AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, said there would be no "new" AMAZING in the near future due to unexpected war and material restrictions. He was referring to the proposed slicked-up magazine, and did not mention the rumored new pulp magazine supposed to take AMAZING's place when that periodical went slick. He further stated that in response to a poll taken among readers, interplanetary covers will replace the sexy scenes henceforth. In FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, the policy will be a long "Unknownish" type novel and s-f shorts.

Beatrice Mahaffey spoke briefly on Ray Palmer's accident & subsequent improvement, and stated that henceforth readers will find science-fiction in OTHER WORLDS, and fantasy in IMAGINATION. The first-named is now publishing every six weeks with a monthly date as the goal, while IMAGINATION remains bi-monthly. Several Bok covers are coming up.

## PROGRAMMING:

Aside from "MOON," other movies shown (in the hall) included: "Blood of A Spectator," a slapstick comedy written and filmed by New Jersey's Joe Kennedy, George Fox, Lloyd Alpaugh & Ron Maddox; "Monsters of the Moon," the old 1940 Chicago convention film patched up by Ackerman and Tucker; and several humorous-horror scenes filmed by amateur producer-fans around Los Angeles.

Special sessions included discussions on fan magazine publishing, the amateur press associations, national fan clubs, present-day book science-fiction, the playing of several s-f radio transcriptions including a Bradbury story, and round-table talks.

The movie "ROCKETSHIP XM" was lambasted and described as "trash". Fans and editors agreed there were too many magazines in the field and that some semi-professional book houses would be better off non-existent. An editor stated that fan magazines should devote themselves to criticizing poor stories. A writer maintained that the science-fiction field is now the only one in which freedom of speech can be and is practiced. Books by Judith Merrill, Ray Bradbury, Bleiler & Dikty, Heinlein, and Sturgeon were pointed up as examples of the better s-f. And someone present stole about a hundred dollars worth of new books displayed in the hall.

The Australian fan group sent a recording of one of their meetings, followed later by a cablegram from Roger Dard.



## The Reporter

Frank Robinson sold 2 yarns, to Ziff-Davis and ASTOUNDING.

Fredric Brown is finishing up a science-fiction detective novel for AMAZING, which will later be expanded for book publication.

Ray Bradbury has sold his MARTIAN CHRONICLES to Bantam Books for a two-bit edition to appear next summer, under the new title, THE EARTH MEN. Meanwhile, Doubleday will pub a collection of his shorts in January.

Will Jenkins (Murray Leinster) working on an anthology of s-f stories for beginners ---new readers, not children. Included thus far are "The Strange Case of John Kingman," "Mewhu's Jet," and "Trip One."

Fred Brown, Mack Reynolds, Bill Temple, Larry Shaw, Cy Kornbluth and Jack Vance have placed yarns with the new Damon Knight s-f magazine coming from Hillman in November. The second issue will contain Judy Merrill, William Tenn, Poul Anderson, and others.

George O. Smith has a pocketbook coming from Century Books this fall: OPERATION INTERSTELLAR.

Craig Browning (who is Roger M. Phillips) has WORLDS OF IF coming from same company soon. This will be his third from Century, with three more to follow.

Howard Browne (writing as John Evans) is currently on the stands with two mysteries: HALO FOR SATAN (Bantam Books) and HALO IN BRASS (Pocket Books).

Arthur G. Strangland writing s-f again. Leslie Crutch sold a short to Ziff-Davis. Wesley Long is writing a book on radar, for the juvenile audience. Wilson Tucker's THE STALKING MAN is out from Mercury Mysteries. J.T. Oliver sold THE PHANTOM BUGGY to FATE.

L. Ron Hubbard's DIANETICS still making publishing history, with 55,000 copies sold, and a second book due this winter. New title will be DIANETICS---WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU, at \$2. Meanwhile, the American Psychological Association officially frowned on dianetics by adopting a resolution cautioning the membership against using its techniques, except for tests as to its validity.

Robert A. Heinlein has a new bookout for youths, FARMER IN THE SKY, from Scribners.

Balmer & Wylie's two novels, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE and AFTER WORLDS COLLIDE, have been combined in a single volume, at \$2.95, from Lippincott publishers.

Fantasy Press announces that Eric Frank Russell's DREADFUL SANCTUARY will close the 1950 publishing program, with appearance of the volume possibly postponed until early in 1951. John Campbell's THE MOON IS HELL will be published in November.

## MAGAZINES

Fiction House, the company now publishing PLANET STORIES, will have a new magazine in October. Entitled TWO COMPLETE SCIENCE ADVENTURE BOOKS, the mag will probably appear quarterly, at 25¢. Each issue reprints two s-f novels which have appeared in book form, the first issue containing Isaac Asimov's PEBBLE IN THE SKY, and L. Ron Hubbard's THE KINGSLAYER.

Hillman Periodicals will have its new magazine ready in November, dated December. Damon Knight is editing. The job will be in digest size, 128 pages, monthly, at 25¢. Title is set but cannot yet be revealed.

**AMAZING**  
STORIES

Ziff-Davis plans to keep two pulp magazines in the field, after-when-and-if AMAZING STORIES changes to slick format.

No data on the proposed new pulp mag is available, although the appearance of the slicked-up AMAZING has definitely been set back due to war restrictions on paper, etc.

Two British publications mentioned last issue are making efforts to become regularly appearing magazines: FUTURISTIC SCIENCE and WORLDS OF WONDER. Each is scheduled for a six-weekly publication date, priced at 1/6.

Enclosed with this issue of NEWS LETTER are the covers for GALAXY, H.L. Gold's new magazine, and the cover for his company's first reprint, SINISTER BARRIER. A series of such reprints are to follow.

## FANTASY ADVERTISER

On the basis of its many advertisements of books and magazines wanted and for sale by collectors, dealers, and publishers, Fantasy Advertiser has achieved the largest circulation among science fiction fan magazines.

Such support from subscribers has led in recent issues to greatly increased quantities of book reviews, bibliographical data, and articles of value to the reader and collector.

The subscription price for eight bi-monthly issues is one dollar, but the cautious reader may sample one issue for 15¢. FA's address is:

**1745 Kenneth Road  
Glendale 1, California**

## THE BIG BLOODSHOT EYE

Have you noticed lately that you are living in a world of If? Someone has poked a finger into the If Wheel, turned it, and certain positions have been subtly changed. Some fans continue their familiar ways; in others, the hounds are chasing the hare.

New York's Hydra Club, and New Jersey's Eastern S-F Association have a severe critic in the person of Will Sykora. Previous to the July 4th conference sponsored by those two groups, Mr Sykora kicked up quite a row over the legitimacy of three-day conclaves in general, and the Hydra party in particular. He claimed they were unfairly competing with the annual convention, that they would siphon off illustrations, money, and fans whom the convention badly needed. He may have a point but we do not choose to argue it here.

In the course of his fight against the 4th of July conference, he sent out to members of fandom letters, circulars, and we are told telegrams, urging everyone to boycott the affair. It was with surprise that we later learned Mr Sykora attended the conference. And with considerably more surprise, we further learned that Mr Sykora left the conference at the request of, and with the assistance of, one or two police.

Not being there, we relied upon friends who were for the following information: Mr Sykora is alleged to have created a disturbance in the hall during the speeches, and was asked to leave. When he did not do so as quickly as the chairman desired, police were called, who escorted the gentleman out. Sykora distributed a leaflet at the convention, entitled "The Hornet's Nest," which contained a photo of the event. The caption under the photo reads as follows:

"THE PAYOFF". L. Jerome Stanton, Hydra Club Prexy, ably assisted by John Law, attempts to gag a science fiction fan by a new 1950 brand of the well-known Exclusion Act. Event took place at the recent Hydra-ESFA conference on July 2, 1950."

Fans with long memories may be amused. I seem to hear Wollheim chuckling back there.

Off on another tangent: Claude Degler turned up at the Portland convention, wearing his own name this time. We snapped a picture of him which we shall forever hold dear. In the convention program booklet he ran an advertisement for a book service, and photographs of both himself and Cincinnati's Nancy Moore were there side by side. But we must beg to report that Degler didn't get to see much of Nancy at the convention ---- she spent most of her time on the arm of seven other guys, including Frank Dietz.

Prior to the convention a certain amount of unfavorable publicity and loose talk went around, concerning the event. People were of the opinion it was too far away and no one would go. People were of the opinion that the administration was unstable --quite a number of resignations-- and that it would flop. The attendance figure has pretty well knocked all that talk for a loop. Naturally each location draws heaviest in the local area, but no previous convention has ever pulled 375 people into a single session, including the giant city, New York. We might keep this fact in mind for future decisions.

Longest-distance runner to Portland was a fan from Florida, next up one from New York, and one from Toronto. Ohio sent five, Michigan six, Illinois four, New Orleans and New Mexico one each. Speaking of New Mex--- meaning Mack Reynolds--- he won't thank me for revealing here that he ghost-wrote the speech Harry Moore made, asking for the 1951 convention. Some of us feel that the ghost-written speech actually won the vote.



The following quote, taken from an article entitled "Should Old Fans be Shot?" appears in the first issue of RENASCENCE.

"Old horses, as we know, after years of faithful and imbecilic service are put out to pasture and left to the salt lick and the scratching post. Old Iowans come to California. Old Bug Eyed Monsters move from the front cover to the editorial chair. But there is no place for the Old Fan to go.

"He can go to hell," was the sprightly suggestion of an ex-fan friend of mine."

We might add that they usually do.

One of the frustrating things about a newspaper is that you consistently pick up a lot of news you can't print. Sometimes a friend passes along a tip that's too hot to handle; sometimes you are unable to confirm a report and must regretfully pass it by; and sometimes an editor or a publisher will give you something outright, and then order you not to use it. This latter category are the chief offenders, for by the time your next issue comes around, the competitor has already published it.

For instance, there are a hot string of pocketbooks coming up, well-known and well-liked authors available now at \$3, who will be available next year and the year after at 25¢. Can we mention the titles and authors? No. For if we did, the \$3 books wouldn't sell and the publisher would never give us another piece of news. And for instance, the complete line-up, name and appearance of two new magazines are at hand, but can we print the dope? No. The publishers don't want their competitors to know about them until they go on sale.

Nuts.

- Bob Tucker



## 60 Seconds to Presstime

... a glance at last minute news

The October issue of McCall's Magazine has a full page color reproduction of one of Bonestell's paintings, and an article on science - fiction. John Gunther interviews John Campbell on what makes it tick and how ASF got that way. Gunther states there are half a dozen magazines devoted to s-f.

Bantam Books (25¢) will publish HOW TO SURVIVE AN ATOM BOMB in mid-October. An anthology of Lewis Padgett's best stories will be ready in November, entitled A GNOME THERE WAS

Just arrived is the third issue of Manly Banister's THE NEKROMANTIKON, an amateur magazine of weird and fantasy. Magazine has a five-color cover and a 28,000 word fantasy "Twilight Fell at Camelot". (25¢, from 1905 Spruce Ave, Kansas City 1, Mo.)

Walter Gillings airmails in the cover of his new magazine and a copy of the contents page (part of which is reproduced below.) Only the cost prevents us from reproducing the eye-catching cover as well. Subscription price to the USA is \$1.50 for five issues, payable to Don Ford, 129 Maple Ave, Sharonville, Ohio. Walter and wife expect an addition to the Gillings family in December.

## Science-Fantasy

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SUMMER, 1950

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Cover by Powell

Illustrations by Powell, Turner and Gaffron

WALTER GILLINGS, Editor

### BOOK REVIEWS

RALPH 124C 41-PLUS by Hugo Gernsback  
(Frederick Fell, New York, 1950, \$2.50)

I read this book in the late 20's and was thrilled with it; I read it in 1950 and was thrilled anew. Gernsback loses only in that the style and plot he created in 1911 has, in the intervening years, been duplicated by hundreds of writers. That he is the father of science-fiction there can be no doubt: he predicted (in 1911) the flying saucer, night baseball, radar, fluorescent lighting, rust-proof steel, microfilm, magnesium alloys, televised opera, house-warming by earth's heat, liquid fertilizer, plant stimulation by high frequency current, diathermy, lie detectors, resuscitation of life ---the list is much longer.

Discount the plot, action and style; read the book by concentrating on the science. Altho the text has a Rover Boy tone it still has a freshness and life. The volume stands as a giant among s-f. -JS

THE DREAMING JEWELS by Theodore Sturgeon  
(Greenberg-Publisher, New York, 1950, \$2.50)

You'll get a shock on the first page of this fine s-f yarn, so naturally you'll turn the page ---and so it will go. Ted Sturgeon writes vividly and convincingly, so much so that you'll be hunting jewels of your own before finishing the story of the little boy who grew up to find he was a superman. The characters are strange but increasingly believable as the book develops.

You'll hate the Maneater, that collector of freaks, until you find out why he collects them; you'll rise right up from your chair when the beautiful Kay lifts a cleaver and crashes it down on a table, deliberately cutting off three of her fingers. It's exciting reading and as up-to-date as tomorrow ---it could happen tomorrow if it hasn't already. Has it, Mr Sturgeon? -JS

THE GREATER TRUMPS by Charles Williams  
(Pellegrini & Cudahy, New York, 1950, \$3)

Williams has created what would be an exciting book to a lover of fantasy of the thinnest quality. It is not science fiction and no s-f reader will see much interest in a deck of Tarot cards possessing powers of magic. Otherwise, you may like it. -JS

THE MAN WHO LIVED BACKWARD by Malcom Ross  
(Farrar, Straus, New York, 1950, \$3.50)

Skip it, gents, unless you are like a collector-friend of mine in Bellefontaine, Ohio, who buys everything. The man in the title was born in 1940 and lived back to the death of Abraham Lincoln. This makes no pretense of being science-fiction and is mentioned here only for the record. -BT

(These books reviewed by Jerry Sohl, Mari Beth Wheeler, Charles Horne, and Bob Tucker)

## LETTERS

Walter I. Bradbury (New York): "...Isaac Asimov's PEBBLE IN THE SKY, in its original version, was written with magazines in mind; that's quite true. However, it was extensively revised and changed with the idea of book publication in mind. Sam Merwin will substantiate that; Ackerman is quite right that Sam saw it before as well as after. In effect, when we took it for Doubleday, it was a new novel.

Let me comment on the question of "why no original s-f novels are being written by established authors with book publication the primary object." The implication there is simply incorrect. As Ackerman must know, Heinlein, Asimov, Bradbury, Nelson Bond, Max Ehrlich, John Wyndham (John Beynon Harris), to mention only a few, have been, and are, writing novels with book publication the primary object. (And, of course, so did George Orwell and Pat Frank.)

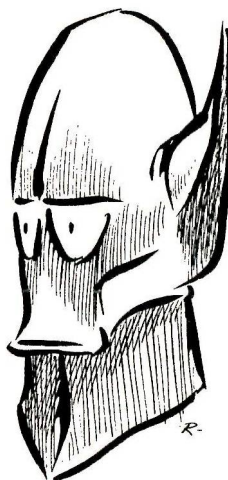
The point is, many authors know and others are finding out, that novels written primarily for book publication can very frequently pick up first serial sale from a magazine with only slight adaption. But it is difficult for a novel primarily written for magazine publication to be easily adapted into a good book.

At the risk of forcing a conclusion, may I point out something else: of the s-f books published by Doubleday since the start of our program, three of them were written as originals for us. Those three all achieved book club distribution, and all ranged upwards of 20,000 copies each. I am including Judith Merrill's SHADOW ON THE HEARTH in the three, even though it was not primarily described as straight science fiction. It has been taken by the Fiction Book Club and will get a distribution there of at least 50,000 copies. THE BIG EYE hit over half a million.

... I cannot help feeling that s-f authors will make more money, in more fields, and will lose none of their previous sources of income, if they write their books with the purposes and standards of book publication in mind."

Arthur Levine (New York): "Redd Boggs acerb style is usually amusing, even when one feels that his judgement is based more on a desire to be interestingly iconoclastic rather than unimpassioned fair. Apart from his personal lack of esteem for Campbell's current editorial product ... Boggs is manifestly unfair and unscientific in the reason for his criticism of Dianetics, and of Hubbard's method of presenting it to the public. The article in ASF was not a "full-blown" exposition of Dianetics. It was merely a descriptive and summary introduction to the subject which, as was stated in the article, was fully set forth in Hubbard's book.

As to suggesting that the "psychology experts" criticise Dianetics and cross-check it before submitting it to the public, Boggs merely shows his intrinsic reliance on "authority" and his disinclination to do any thinking for himself. First, I doubt if in any allegedly scientific field are there as few widely accepted authorities as there are in the fields of psychology & psychotherapy. Second, the only things required to check Hubbard's findings are two people, one of whom has read Hubbard's book with care and intelligence, and is willing to try (his) techniques for a fair period of time without distorting the test by attempted use of other therapeutic methods and theories. In fact, I can see that by initially reaching an audience of ASF readers, Hubbard may have hoped to secure a relatively large number of scientifically-minded, intelligent experimenters who would not be handicapped by too large a background and belief in other methods of psychotherapy."



Robert Bloch (Milwaukee): ".... I quarrel with his (Boggs') reasoning when he hits out at Derleth for recommending WORLDS IN COLLISION and SCIENCE IS A SACRED COW as "especially worthwhile." As I see it, Derleth was asked for a literary opinion as a leading book critic -- and he gave it. With all the controversy raging over WORLDS IN COLLISION, it undoubtedly is especially worthwhile to read it if one wants to keep well-informed and take sides in what has become quite an interesting discussion.

When Redd infers that because Derleth is an s-f anthologist he should not recommend books that are "anti-science," he is confusing his categories. Unless of course, Redd believes that science-fiction is a sacred cow. Of course it is possible for one to be a very eminent science-fiction anthologist still be eminently anti-science. Just as it is possible to be a very eminent ghost story anthologist and still disbelieve in ghosts."

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