

## SCIENCE FICTION

# NEWS LETTER

March, 1951

No. 19

## CHECKLIST OF 1950 BOOKS

Compiled by Sam Moskowitz

(The figure in parenthesis indicates the issue in which that book was reviewed.)

### Crown Publishers, New York

Conklin, Groff (editor) - The Big Book of Science Fiction (17)

### Dodd, Mead & Company, New York

Davenport, Basil (editor) - Ghostly Tales to be Told; a Weird Anthology

### Doubleday & Company, New York

Asimov, Isaac - Pebble in the Sky (15)  
Bond, Nelson - Lancelot Biggs: Spaceman (17)  
Bradbury, Ray - The Martian Chronicles (16)  
Clement, Hal - Needle (16)  
Heinlein, Robert - Waldo & Magic, Inc.  
Merril, Judith - Shadow on the Hearth (17)

### Dover Publications, New York

Wells, H.G. - Seven Science Fiction Novels of H.G. Wells (18)

### Fantasy Press, Reading, Penna.

de Camp, L. Sprague (and)  
Miller, P. Schuyler - Genus Homo  
Smith, Edward E. - First Lensman  
Smith, Edward E. - Galactic Patrol  
van Vogt, A.E. - Masters of Time (16)  
Verrill, A. Hyatt - The Bridge of Light  
Williamson, Jack - The Cometeers

### Fantasy Publishing Company, Los Angeles

Coblentz, Stanton A. - After 12,000 Years  
Farley, Ralph Milne - The Hidden Universe  
Farley, Ralph Milne - Omnibus of Time  
Franklin, Jay - The Rat Race (16)  
Weinbaum, Stanley G. - The Dark Other

### Frederick Fell Inc., New York

Bleiler, Everett F. (and)  
Diky, T.E. (editors) - The Best Science Fiction Stories: 1950 (17)

(continued on page two)

## READERS' POLL UNDERWAY

William N. Austin, of the Wolf Den Book Shop (3317 west 67th st, Seattle 7, Wash.), has begun circulating lists and questionnaires for his annual science and fantasy poll to determine the bests in five fiction categories. Readers wanting to participate may request booklets from above address.

Austin lists one hundred and one authors whose work appeared in the science, fantasy and weird fields last year (named alphabetically from Aiken, John K. to Young, Roger Flint), and asks you to select the ten best.

In the next category, he names forty original novels, short novels and long novelettes published, and requests the top ten of your choice. Following this is listed sixty-two regular-length novelettes for choosing, again ten. In each case, author and date and place of issue for every title is noted, to aid the memory. Winding up the parade of last year's fiction, ninety-seven short stories are listed (with data) and you are to select the fifteen of your liking.



Finally, thirty-six magazines are mentioned, with the participant listing those read in order of preference. The magazine list is larger than the News Letter checklist because Austin includes some mystery and adventure magazines bordering on the science-fantasy field, plus a non-fiction publication, two pocketbook series, and two amateur magazines using fan fiction.

### FANTASY BOOK WINS AWARD

Jack Williamson's volume, THE COMETEERS, won the January award for excellence in design (fiction class), given by the trade magazine Publishers' Weekly. The book was designed and published by Lloyd Eshbach, of Fantasy Press (Reading, Penna.)

In addition another trade magazine, Book Design & Book Production, selected it for special mention for excellence in design. This is the first time any fantasy specialist house has been so honored.

Fantasy Press is reducing the price on their 1951 books to \$2.75.

the leading newspaper of the science fiction world

Fell, continued:

Gernsback, Hugo - Ralph 124C 41-Plus (17)  
 Wollheim, Donald A. - Flight Into Space (17)

Gnome Press, New York

Asimov, Isaac - I, Robot (19)  
 Beyer, William Grey - Minions of the Moon  
 de Camp, L. Sprague (and)  
 Pratt, Fletcher - The Castle of Iron  
 Greenberg, Martin (editor) - Journey Into  
 Infinity (19)  
 Greenberg, Martin (editor) - Men Against the  
 Stars (16)  
 Howard, Robert E. - Conan the Conqueror (18)  
 Simak, Clifford D. - Cosmic Engineers (18)

The Grandon Company, Providence, R.I.

Merritt, A. - Dwellers in the Mirage (19)

Greenberg: Publisher, New York

Pragnell, Festus - Green Man of Graypec (18)  
 Sturgeon, Theodore - The Dreaming Jewel (17)  
 van Vogt, A.E. - House That Stood Still (18)

Grosset & Dunlap, New York

Kuttner, Henry - Fury (18)  
 van Vogt, A.E. - The World of Null-A (18)  
 Williamson, Jack - The Humanoids (18)  
 Wright, S. Fowler - The Island of Captain  
 Sparrow (18)

J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia

Wylie, Phillip (and)  
 Balmer, Edwin - When Worlds Collide (bound  
 with) After Worlds Collide (18)

Pellegrini & Cudahy, New York

Derleth, August (editor) - Beyond Time and  
 Space (16)  
 Leiber, Fritz - Gather, Darkness (16)  
 Williams, Charles - The Descent of the Dove  
 Williams, Charles - The Greater Trumps (17)  
 Williams, Charles - Shadows of Ecstasy

Perma-Books, Garden City, N.Y.

Conklin, Groff (editor) - The Science Fiction  
 Galaxy (15)

Prime Press, Philadelphia

de Camp, L. Sprague (and)  
 Pratt, Fletcher - The Incomplete Enchanter  
 Dumas, Alexander - The Wolf Leader  
 Griffith, Mary - 300 Years Hence (16)  
 Keller, David H. - The Eternal Conflict (16)  
 Keller, David H. - The Lady Decides (16)  
 Smith, George O. - Nomad (15)

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York

Heinlein, Robert - Farmer in the Sky

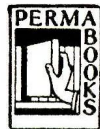
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Shasta Publishers, Chicago

Heinlein, Robert - Man Who Sold the Moon (15)  
 Leinster, Murray - Sidewise in Time (15)

Simon & Schuster, New York

Padgett, Lewis - A Gnome There Was and other  
 Tales of Science Fiction (18)  
 Stewart, Will - Seetee Shock (16)  
 van Vogt, A.E. - The Voyage of the Space  
 Ship Beagle (17)

FOREIGN, AND OUT-OF-THE-WAY AMERICAN FANTASY

Compiled by Dr. A. Langley Searles

London, England:

Aclon, Harold - Prince Isadore (Methuen)  
 Coates, John - Here Today (Methuen)  
 de Barr, Edith - Gaelon, or The Stocktaking  
 (Chapman-Hall)  
 Gheorghui, C. Virgil - The Twenty-Fifth Hour  
 (Heinemann)  
 Hyam, Edward - The Astrologer (Longmans)  
 O'Brien, Pat - Lost Paul & Others (Secker &  
 Warburg)  
 Winn, R. - My Dear, It's Heaven (Cassell)  
 Woodruff, Philip - Island of Chamber (Cape)

The Continent:

Deharme, Lise - La Parle 'a Cate (Gallémard,  
 Paris, France)  
 Jens, Walter - Nein Die Welt Der Angeklagter  
 (Hamburg, Germany)  
 Kosach, H. - Der Welsluhe (Surkamp Verlag,  
 Hamburg, Germany)  
 von Kuhnelt-Leddehn, Erik - Moskan, 1997  
 (Thomes-Verlag, Zurich, Switzerland)

New York and Philadelphia:

Archibald, William - The Innocents (Goward-  
 McCann)  
 Balint, Emery - Don't Inhale It! (Gaer)  
 Gheorghui, C. Virgil - The Twenty-Fifth Hour  
 (Knopf)  
 Holland, W.B. - 25 Ghost Stories (Halcyon)  
 Household, Geoffrey - The High Place (Atlantic,  
 Little-Brown)  
 Kenton, Edna (editor) - Eight Uncollected  
 Tales of Henry James (Rutgers University)  
 Kneale, Nigel - Tomato Cain & Others (Knopf)  
 Linklater, Eric - A Spell for old Bones  
 (Macmillan)  
 Ross, Malcolm - The Man Who Lived Backward  
 (Farrar, Straus) (17)  
 Tashlin, Frank - The Passion That Didn't  
 (Farrar, Straus)  
 Warner, Rex - Men of Stones (Lippincott)

British, Australian, Mexican

## 1950 MAGAZINE CHECKLIST

Compiled by James V. Taurasi

(Explanation of code letters: nd, magazine had no date; nn, no volume numbers.)

British originals:

### New Worlds

#6 - Spring  
#7 - Summer  
#8 - Winter

### Science Fantasy

V1, #1 - Summer

British reprints from American sources:

### Astounding Science-Fiction

V7, #1 - January  
#2 - February  
#3 - May  
#4 - June  
#5 - August  
#6 - October

### Weird Tales

January (nn)  
March (nn)  
May (nn)  
July (nn)  
(One 1949 issue  
appeared between  
January and March  
numbers above.)

### Planet Stories

#1 (nd)  
#2 (nd)

### Cosmic Science Stories

(Consisting of reprint  
material from American  
Super Science Stories)

### Fantastic Novels

#1 (nd, nn)

#1 (nd)

### Amazing Stories

#1 (nd, nn)  
#2 (nd, nn)  
#3 (nd)

### Fantastic Adventures

#1 (nd, nn)  
#2 (nd, nn)  
#3 (nd)

### Startling Stories

#2 (nd)  
#3 (nd)

### Super Science Stories

(Has 2 British  
editions.)

### Thrilling Wonder Stories

V1, #2 - May  
#3 - June

(A) #2 (nd, nn)  
(A) #3 (nd, nn)  
(B) #1 (nd)

Australia, new and reprint:

### Thrills, Inc.

#1 - April  
#2 - May  
#3 - June

#4 - July  
#5 - August  
#6 - September  
#7 - October

Mexico, reprint:

### Los Cuentos Fantásticos

V2, #24 - January  
V3, #25 - May

#26 - June  
#27 - July  
#28 - October

### Antología (De Cuentos Fantásticos, Poliacos Y de Misterio: fantasy & mystery)

#1 (nd)

(These magazines have Canadian editions,  
identical with American counterparts:)

A. Merritt's Fantasy, Famous Fantastic  
Mysteries, Fantastic Novels, Fantastic Story  
Quarterly, Out of This World Adventures,  
Planet Stories, Startling Stories, Super  
Science Stories, Thrilling Wonder Stories,  
Wonder Story Annual, and Weird Tales.

(To make the magazine checklist complete  
in one issue for collectors, the following  
American 1950 list is reprinted in full from  
the last issue.)

Compiled by Sam Moskowitz

Amazing Stories (12 issues)  
Amazing Stories Quarterly (4)  
A. Merritt's Magazine of Fantasy (4)  
Astounding Science Fiction (12)  
Avon Fantasy Reader (3)  
Famous Fantastic Mysteries (5)  
Fantastic Adventures (12)  
Fantastic Adventures Quarterly (4)  
Fantastic Novels (6)  
Fantastic Story Quarterly (3)  
Fantasy Book (2)  
Fantasy Fiction (1) title changed to:  
Fantasy Stories (1)  
Future Combined with Science Fiction  
Stories (4)  
Galaxy Science Fiction (3)  
Galaxy Science Fiction Novel (2)  
Imagination (2)  
Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction,  
The (4)  
Marvel Science Stories (1)  
Other Worlds (7)  
Out of This World Adventures (2)  
Planet Stories (4)  
Startling Stories (6)  
Super Science Stories (6)  
Thrilling Wonder Stories (6)  
Two Complete Science-Adventure Books (1)  
Weird Tales (6)  
Wonder Stories Annual (1)  
Worlds Beyond (1)

Merritt's magazine expired with the 4th  
number listed above; Worlds Beyond expired  
with its 3rd issue, February 1951.

### ----- LATE BOOK NEWS -----

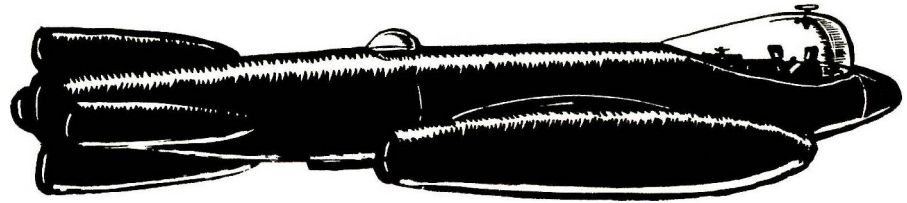
THE STARS, LIKE DUST by Isaac Asimov  
(Doubleday, New York City, 1951, \$2.50)

Received just at press time, this volume  
is the hard cover edition of Asimov's serial  
"Tyrann," which just finished running in the  
March issue of Galaxy Science Fiction.

Biron Farrill, by use of a fake radiation  
bomb, is driven from his college into space,  
where half against his will he is forced to  
match wits and arms against the tyranny of a  
villain bent on enslaving the works. Nothing  
new in that plot, but under Asimov's pen the  
yarn moves and reads smoothly, new twists  
are introduced, and the whole is of a qual-  
ity to be expected in Galaxy's fiction. -BT



# New Books



**I, ROBOT** by Isaac Asimov  
(Gnome Press, New York City, 1950, \$2.50)

Dr. Susan Calvin, as you may remember if you've read Asimov's many robot stories in *Astounding Science-Fiction*, is a "robopsychiatrist", a specialist who knew the robot behavior patterns better than she knew men. Eight robot short stories and novelettes have here been deftly woven together and described as a novel. The book purports to be an interview, with the reporter prying into Dr. Calvin's seventy-five years of life and dealings with robots and humans: the eight yarns thus become her outstanding memories. And a neat and rewarding trick it is, for the stories just about cover the history of robots from their inception until the day when one of them rules the world.

The first robot was built as a child's governess, the next few were sent to the mines on Mercury, the utility ships stationed in space. Eventually there came a defective robot who could read minds, and a near-perfect machine who seemed a man. Good! -BT

**DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE** by A. Merritt  
(The Grandon Company, 51 Empire St., Providence, Rhode Island. 1950. \$3.00)

Merritt has of course written many fine stories, most of them pure fantasy whatever the science fiction fans may claim when mentioning their own favorites. This fantasy happens to be one of the favorites of your reviewer, one of the better Merritt tales.

Merritt worked constantly with the same characters: like as not the hero is a tall Viking or a tall Irishman, the girl is eternally an elfin spirit with a romantic name. And like as not, sex is delicately threaded in. *DWELLERS* gives us the tall Viking and a fair miss called Evalie. The *MIRAGE* is just that, a mirage found in a deep, hidden vale in the Alaskan wilderness. The valley floor seems alternately to be a lake, and a rock-strewn wasteland. The Viking descends the cliff to see which it is and discovers that it is something else altogether, with a strange civilization dwelling beneath. -BT

**PRELUDE TO SPACE** by Arthur C. Clarke  
(Galaxy Science Fiction Novels, 105 West 40th Street, New York City. 1951. 25¢)

Editor H.L. Gold has come up with something different in his line of 25¢ novels, a new and original book from a British author who writes a really absorbing yarn of the first manned rocket to the moon. The novel is painstaking in detail, revealing the writer's real knowledge of his subject, and quite adult in its treatment. In the February issue of *Galaxy Science Fiction*, Gold explains why this novel was bought instead of a certain other.

**JOURNEY TO INFINITY**, Martin Greenberg editor  
(Gnome Press, New York City, 1951, \$3.50)

A top-notch dustjacket by Cartier covers a top-notch Greenberg anthology containing twelve stories which sketch the history of Mankind, from pre-prehistoric beginning to a most uncommon ending. This volume is the second in the *Adventures in Science-Fiction Series*, a companion piece to last year's volume in which the imaginative history of space flight was told in several yarns collected under one cover.

This imaginative history of Mankind begins with Chandler's "False Dawn," the tale of the civilization existing in earth's own dawn; second comes E.E. Smith's "Atlantis," which is not a short story at all but an extract from one of his novels. There follows Brown's "Letter To a Phoenix," Sturgeon's "Unit and Conquer," Williamson's "Break-down," MacDonald's "Dance of a New World," Asimov's "Mother Earth," CL Moore's "There Shall be Darkness," Leiber's "Taboo," Cartmill's "Overthrow," Merrill's "Barrier of Dread," and Russell's "Metamorphosite." If you recall this last, you will remember that life ends with a flower that loves the sun. Like the first volume, highly recommended.

**THE MOON IS HELL!** by John W. Campbell, Jr.  
(Fantasy Press, Reading, Penna., 1951. \$3)

And it is, no doubt of it. Fifteen men took off in the first spaceship to explore the moon, and two years later thirteen of them were still alive. This is the story of those thirteen after the second year; a prologue seven pages long gives a brief sketch of the ship's launching and the first two year's work. The story proper begins after those first two years on the moon, when the explorers are awaiting the relief ship which will take them home again. It finally comes, but not to their relief.

The thirteen men then realize that they must stay alive for as much as another year perhaps, when earth can build and send a second relief ship. They have a two month's supply of oxygen, a bit more food and water. The rest is up to them and John Campbell, and he works hard to save them. Also included in the book is Don Stuart's "The Elder Gods," a novelette from 1939. The novel itself is new and has never before been published anywhere. Hannes Bok has designed a beautiful dustjacket. -BT

## BOOKS AND WRITERS



Robert A. Heinlein has 3 books scheduled for spring publication. The 25¢ Signet edition of **THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON** will be released in February, and bound in the back of the book will be an application blank for those readers who would like to attend a showing of "A trip to the moon" at New York Museum of Natural History. (This is the 1st volume in Heinlein's Future-History series, although the pocketbook will not include all the stories found in the \$3 edition.)

Coming in March from Shasta Publishers (Chicago), will be the second volume in the series, **THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH**, price \$3. And in April, Grosset & Dunlap (the reprint house) will publish his **BEYOND THIS HORIZON**, at one dollar. This story first appeared in *Astounding Science-Fiction* in 1942, and was issued in book form by Fantasy Press, 1948.

Willy Ley has a new interplanetary book coming from Viking Press in May, **ROCKETS, MISSILES, AND SPACE TRAVEL**. Priced at \$5.

A.E. van Vogt, hardy perennial, will have another book in the spring from Greenberg-Publisher, **THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER**. The volume will include the short weapon-shop novel from *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, the two ditto novelettes from *Astounding S-F*, plus twenty thousand words of new material.

Ken Crossen and Milton Luban are also on Greenberg's spring list. Crossen is editing a science-fiction anthology, **ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW**, while Luban is represented with a fantasy novel, **THE SPIRIT WAS WILLING**.

Kenneth Heuer, a lecturer on the staff of the Hayden Planetarium in New York, has a non-fiction volume coming in March, **MEN OF OTHER PLANETS** (\$3.50). Heuer discusses the various kinds of life possible on the worlds of space (and the advance descriptions say life on the stars as well); he includes all known data on planets and speculates on life possible thereon. Pellegrini & Cudahy are the publishers.

August Derleth edits another science-fiction anthology from the same house, due in March. **FAR BOUNDARIES** includes a score of stories written between 1787 and 1950, including J.A. Mitchell's short novel, "The Last American," which is available in book form if you can find it--slightly rare. Also in the 320-page collection is Leinster's "De Profundis," van Vogt's "Dear Pen Pal," Leiber's "Later Than You Think," Bond's "And Lo! the Bird," plus others. **FAR BOUNDARIES** is priced at \$2.95, quite lower than Derleth's previous anthologies from this house.

Groff Conklin's new Perma-book anthology,

**IN THE GRIP OF TERROR**, will be a horror and weird collection, not science-fiction as we stated last issue. Due in early March, 35¢. Conklin does have another science anthology on the press, **POSSIBLE WORLDS OF SCIENCE-FICTION**, ready about June from Vanguard Press. Twenty-two stories included.

Frank Scully's **BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS** will be reissued in March, 25¢ edition.

A. Merritt, old master of fantasy, will have two re-reprints on the Avon pocketbook stands: **THE METAL MONSTER** (which should be on sale now,) and **THE SHIP OF ISHTAR**, for April release. Meanwhile, Avon has published **PERELANDRA** by C.S. Lewis, an interplanetary saga larded with religious overtones. And still another Avon book is **WAR OF THE SEXES**, an anthology including Edmond Hamilton, etc. (Hamilton has **THE CITY AT WORLD'S END** coming in March, from Frederick Fell, at \$2.50.)

Erle Melvin Korshak, Shasta Publishers, is preparing an anthology, **THE GREAT BOOK OF SCIENCE-FICTION** for April release.



Arthur C. Clarke, British author (see page four) and former fan, has a non-fiction book coming from Harper & Brothers in May, **INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT**. The tome includes all the recent developments in pilotless rockets, plus a forecast of what lies ahead for manned spaceships and orbital platforms. The book is subtitled "An Introduction to Astronautics". Sixteen pages of photographs and other diagrammatic line drawings included.

Gerald Heard, writer of weird novels, is likewise represented on the Harper spring schedule with, **IS ANOTHER WORLD WATCHING?**, a "riddle of the flying saucers" volume. Heard speculates on the saucers, their origin, means of locomotion, and possible crew.

Ray H. Wiley has written what is called an "utopian novel," **ON THE TRAIL OF 1960**, an after-the-atom-bomb yarn. Exposition Press.

Donald Wollheim's anthology from Frederick Fell Inc, **EVERY BOY'S BOOK OF SCIENCE-FICTION**, has been scheduled for February.

Lester del Ray's non-fiction tome, **IT'S YOUR ATOMIC AGE**, due in April from Abelard Press (New York) at \$2.25.

C.L. Barrett (not a writer) is piloting the 1951 Ohio Science Fiction Conference. The date is May 19 and 20, the place is at Beatley's Hotel on Indian Lake, Russell Point, Ohio. This is a summer resort and will accommodate up to 200 people. For more information on attending, contact Barrett at 119 S. Madriver, Bellefontaine, Ohio.

And in these two lines we'll say that--  
**MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON** (25¢) just arrived.



# Science Stories



George Earley has sold to *Other Worlds* six trick photographs which will be used on the two inside covers of the April issue. Earley built small table-top sets of rocket-ship interiors, lunar landscapes and crews, and shot scenes in close-up. Earley's Miami University Science Fiction Society also presented the university library with set of s-f books and a magazine subscription.

Anthony Boucher has a science-fiction murder yarn coming up in *Esquire*.

Lyell Crane of Toronto is leaving this month for London, to attend the British S-F convention which convenes in mid-May. (To the best of our knowledge, he is the only North American fan making the trip.)

Joquel Kennedy, the Jersey flash, placed yarns with *Other Worlds* and *Future Fiction*.

Damon Knight, his editing job at *Worlds Beyond* having gone beyond him, has returned to writing fiction for a living (?). His top short story of last year, "To Serve Man," is to be reprinted in Bleiler & Dikty's 1951 *BEST SCIENCE FICTION* anthology.

Our Special TAOS, NEW MEXICO Dept:

Fredric Brown spent a week in New York in early February, doing Mutual broadcasts and other publicity work on his Bantam Book reprints. Brown is one of the best-sellers in Bantam's mystery pocketbook field.

Jack DeCourcy has picked up a job running a radio repair shop, in between stories.

Walt Sheldon, late of this writers' colony, has returned to the Air Force and is now a swivel-chair captain of Public Relations at the Pentagon in Washington.

Mack Reynolds and wife (and goats?) have moved back into Taos for the winter, temporarily deserting their canyon home which they thoughtfully named "El Rancho Del Bem". Mack and Fred Brown are collaborating on two s-f novels, one each for *Amazing* and *Startling*, while on his own he has completed a science-fiction mystery, now making the rounds.

Jack Williamson, Brown and Reynolds are planning to drive to the New Orleans convention together come August.

Dick Wilson, pre-war writer and now boss man of New York's Transradio Press Bureau, is back in again with a yarn to *Planet*.

Joe Gibson, another yesterday's fan, has sold a novelette to *Other Worlds*.

Bob Pavlat, working on a fanzine checklist for these past several months, has just about completed the indexing for the years 1900 through 1945.

## OVERSEAS:

British fans are up in arms and organizing mass letters-of-protest to *Street & Smith* magazines and John Campbell, because *Astounding Science-Fiction* has jumped the subscription rate for overseas readers from \$3.25 a year to ten dollars.

The Science Fiction Festival Convention is the official title now given the coming mid-May European affair (and no coined word such as 'Festicon' is being applied.) To be held at the White Horse Tavern, and the Bull and Mouth ditto, 31 Bloomsbury Way, London, the convention opens informally the evening of May 10th and runs through the 13th. Two auctions will underwrite the conclave and a banquet is scheduled for the closing night. Membership in the convention society costs 50¢ to U.S. fans, and should be mailed to Charles Duncombe, convention treasurer, c/o The White Horse Tavern, Fetter Lane, London E.C. 4, England.

Walter Gillings may relinquish editorship of *Science-Fantasy* magazine, due to press of outside work. The second issue of that prozine has just been published.

Arthur C. Clarke is working on a less-technical sequel to *INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT*, plus another new novel; and a British publication reported that his U.S. *Galaxy* novel (see page 4) had a press run of 150,000. (If they pay the usual royalty of 1¢ per copy, neat, Mr. Clarke, neat!)

British bookstalls are being flooded with inferior quality pocketbooks of a semi-s-f nature, sometimes coming as fast as three a week. Sample title: "The Mushroom Men of Mars". Vargo Statton (John Russell Fearn) has a large hand in it.

## MAGAZINE NOTE:

The initial issue of a new quarterly magazine, *Suspense*, appeared in early February, dated Spring and priced at 35¢. The publication closely resembles *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and contains a mixture of science-fiction, fantasy, crime and detective stories, both new and reprint. Science yarns in this average first issue are by John Chapman and Ollie Saari (a collaboration), S. Fowler Wright, and William Tenn. Ray Bradbury, Theodore Sturgeon and Alexander Samalman are present with reprint fantasies. Twelve yarns all-told, the book is edited by Theodore Irwin. (Parrell Publishing Co., 420 Lexington Ave, New York City, 17.)

Marvel Science Stories switches to the now popular pocket-size format with its May issue, on sale in February. Editors claim better fiction will be published henceforth.



THE  
MOVING  
PITCHA'S

Columbia Pictures has apparently shelved "The Big Eye," and to date, 20th Century Fox has done nothing with "Farewell to the Master". At the bottom of this column will be found a review of "Prehistoric Women".

Two more space-operas are scheduled by Hollywood, "Three Thousand A.D." which is announced as a story of "what the world will be like one thousand years from now", and "The Man From Planet X." This latter epic is completed and ready for release, while the first-named is in preparation. Both pictures are from an independent concern, Wisberg and Pollexfen Productions.

Arch Oboler of radio renown has completed and is making distribution arrangements for a film entitled "Five", a story about five people left alive on earth after radioactive dust has wiped the world clean. It is set in the very near future.

Eagle-Lion, makers of "Destination Moon" are preparing another, "Two Lost Worlds". No information on story-line is available. Lippert Films expects to have ready this year, "The Lost Continent," which deals with a continent discovered beneath the Pacific ocean. Monogram's "Flight to Mars" is still on the docket but no work has been done. Paramount's "When Worlds Collide" is almost completed. RKO Radio is making a picture dealing with "atomic medicine" and prisoners used as guinea pigs; the title is "Experiment Alcatraz". Meanwhile, their Campbell epic, "Who Goes There?" will be released as "The Thing", and the plot has been twisted to this: a man from Mars cracks up his space ship at the north pole, and is captured by scientists and the U.S. Air Force. Gonna go see the movie, John?

And finally, again, James Cagney once more announces that he will film the Thorne Smith novel, "The Stray Lamb."

#### THE STORY:

#### "Prehistoric Women"

Six young girls and an old woman are the survivors of a group that escaped more than a decade ago from their male-dominated tribe and founded a new Amazon-like tribe. Tigri (Laurette Luez) is the leader and the Wise Old Woman (Janet Shaw) tells them they must go out before the next full moon and find them husbands or the tribe will not survive. It is their idea to make slaves of the men as well as husbands (turning the tables) and they do capture men who are bewildered by their skillful use of slingshots and clubs, and are kept captive in the trees. Their leader Engor (Allan Nixon) discovers striking two stones together will start fire, and so saves his comrades and the women from a terrible giant. He and Tigri, now in love, found a new tribe.

## THE BIG BLOODSHOT EYE

In regards the last line of that movie review, bottom of column one: we know a lad who desired to found a new tribe in an Ozark love camp some years ago, but he didn't get very far with the ambition. Fandom seemed unwilling to cooperate, or some silly thing. Rumors have been circulating that the chap is dead; a reader from New Jersey showed us a clipping from the New York Times in which it was stated that a man by the same name---and general address---committed suicide after murdering his mother. Could this be our boy?

Have on hand two changes of address, and the people concerned asked us to pass them along: Fred Pohl and his Dirk Wylie Literary Agency may now be found at 220 Fifth Avenue, New York City, 1. And Corporal Clarence L. Jacobs has departed overseas, like this: HQ. 7966 Eucom Det., Signal Section. Paris Detachment, APO 58, Postmaster New York. He will quickly discover that chocolate bars and cigarettes no longer buy the nice things he may crave. Five million other guys fixed that windfall.

Back on page six you'll find mention of George Earley and his Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) fan club. Since that was typed, further doings have arrived: Earley and a second member, Bruce Ronald, are now writing and broadcasting (three times a week) an s-f serial over the campus AM-FM radio station. Called "Jet Jim," the serial has a mutant placing certain weapons in the hands of hero Jim, in order that Jim may help the future and thus save the mutant from becoming a mutant. In addition to scripting, Miami fans also act parts in the drama. They hope to present a 30 minute show at Ohio conference.

The following is reprinted from the Feb. 10th issue of the Chicago Herald-American, with permission of the managing editor:

## Artist's Model, Cult Teacher Found Slain

BERKELEY, Cal., Feb. 10.—(INS)—The scantily clad bodies of a man and woman tentatively identified as a former teacher and pupil of the cult of "Dianetics" were found shot to death in a basement apartment last night.

Both had been dead about two weeks.

Police said the woman, tentatively identified as Helen Cary, 28, artist's model, apparently had shot her estranged husband.

David, 30, through the chest and then taken her own life with a bullet through the mouth.

Inspector A. T. Frock said Cary until recently had been a teacher in the L. Ron Hubbard Dianetics Institute in Los Angeles.

Both had attended the school and returned to Berkeley separately about three weeks ago. Frock said Mrs. Cary formerly posed for students at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland.

Dianetics has been described as a simplified form of self-psychoanalysis.

The woman's body, clad only in a dress, was found near the man's, which was naked to the waist.

A neighbor's complaint of water leaking under the apartment door led to the discovery.



## LETTERS



Charles Dye (Locust, N.J.): "My God! Where did you get the fantastic information that Jack Vance was Henry Kuttner? That is just about the (blank) thing I've heard since many years ago when a well-known fan told me van Vogt was John W. Campbell!"

Damon Knight (New York): "I don't know who started the rumor that Vance is Kuttner but to the best of my knowledge it's just another symptom of Kuttner fever. ... The following facts (speak for themselves): 1- Vance's agent is Scott Meredith. 2- Kuttner has two agents, one for pulp and one for slick and book sales; neither of them is Meredith. 3- The pulp agent has had nothing of his to offer for many months. 4- Kuttner, when last heard from, was going to school and not writing. Will also stick my neck out and say that Vance's writing shows a distinctive personality which does not resemble Kuttner's; and that in some of his poorer stuff he makes mistakes that K stopped making ten or fifteen years ago."

Henry Kuttner (Los Angeles): "Maybe Vance is a pseudonym, but not one of mine. I like his "Magnus Ridolph" stories very much, but I didn't write them."

Tony Boucher (Berkeley, Calif.): "Where does this superstition arise about Jack Vance being Henry Kuttner? It has about as much foundation as your various demises. Vance lives in Berkeley and is Vance."

\*( Okay gents, stop shooting and we'll apologize to Vance and Kuttner. But the next time a well-known author living near Philadelphia tells us that somebody is actually somebody else, we'll unlimber and fire our juiciest (blank)! -BT )\*

This publication does not print letters from people who fail to sign their names.

## SCIENCE FICTION

### NEWS LETTER

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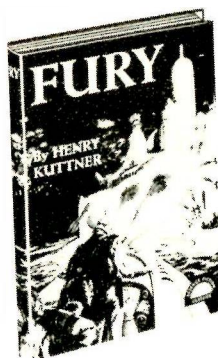
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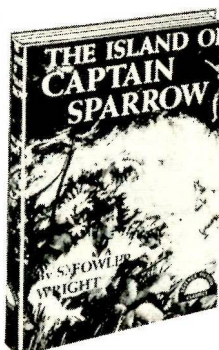
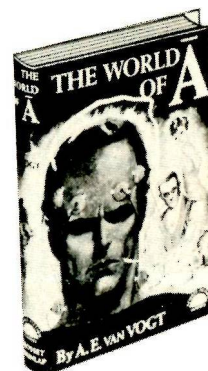


### FURY by Henry Kuttner

Fury is a novel of violence. The earth is dead long since, blasted in a self-sustaining chain reaction. Remnants of the human race have settled on Venus. The rulers are immortals, genetic mutations who live a thousand years or more. An important novel that you will enjoy.

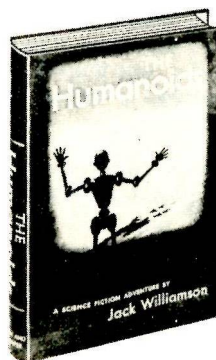
### THE WORLD OF A by A. E. Van Vogt

A tale of the future evolution of the mind of man, a wild and free extrapolation from today's society—based on emotions and appetites, rather than on mentality—to an inconceivably complex and exciting tomorrow, when man has finally learned how to dominate his environment and his own baser instincts.



### THE ISLAND OF CAPTAIN SPARROW by S. Fowler Wright

This enchanting science fantasy is the tale of two diametrically opposed types of civilization: one composed of the decadent descendants of a Nineteenth Century pirate crew, the other the remnants of a tiny, strangely advanced civilization.



### THE HUMANOID by Jack Williamson

The unexpected solution of this galactic struggle of five or six individuals against hundreds of millions of robots is a strange, frightening and gripping story.

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