

SCIENCE FICTION

NEWS LETTER

MAY 1951

No. 20

CONVENTION BULLETIN READY

The first issue of the Nolacon Bulletin, official news journal of the forthcoming 9th Science Fiction Convention, was published in early April. The convention committee has chosen the ST. Charles Hotel as headquarters and taken the Claiborne Room there for the three-day meeting. This year's conclave is in New Orleans, over the Labor Day weekend.

In a report dated February 27th, the bulletin states the convention society has 129 members; and a treasurer's report dated March 4th shows a balance of \$163 in funds on hand. Membership "cards" made of tooled aluminum were mailed out with the bulletin. Advertisements for the program booklet run to \$6.50 per page, \$3.50 per half-page, \$2 for a quarter-page, with booster adverts at sixty cents each. The booklet will be multi-lithed (similar to News Letter), and advertisers may furnish pen-and-ink sketches with their copy. Deadline is August first.

In addition to the St. Charles, seven other nearby hotels and their room rates are listed, with the request that you make room reservations as early as possible. These are being handled by Emanuel Lashover, 2936 Elysian Fields ave, New Orleans. The committee requests that all reservations be mailed to him; while memberships, advertisements, and all other matter concerning the convention be sent to Harry Moore, 2703 Camp st, New Orleans 13, La.

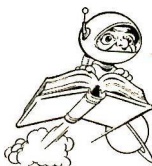
As for transportation, Moore asks that drivers willing to share the ride, and non-drivers wanting rides, each contact him for effective liason. If traveling by train, the Illinois Central from Chicago is the fastest in the Mississippi Valley--- from 8 in the morning until midnight, same evening. Coming in from the west coast, the Southern Pacific "Sunset Limited" is the best bet---a 50-hour trip but you have to fly to do less.

Travelers from the east are due for the worst and may as well face it: there is less speed south of the Potomac. The fastest is Southern Railway's "The Southerner," almost 28 hours from New York via way of Washington and Atlanta. Another route, through Washington and Cincinnati, requires 34 hours, although it is 300 miles shorter.

ACKERMAN SAILS FOR EUROPE

Forrest Ackerman and his wife, Wendayne, (of Los Angeles) sailed from New York in mid-April for England and the continent. Ackerman plans to attend the first European Science - Fiction Convention which opens in London on May 10th. Afterwards, the couple will tour France, Germany and Switzerland, expecting to return to the States in July.

As far as is known, they are the only Americans attending the London affair, altho one Canadian fan, Lyell Crane of Toronto, announced his intention of sailing.



Late dispatches from London say the convention has grown to unexpected dimensions, forcing the committee to abandon plans for housing the meeting at the White Horse Inn. The response to convention publicity proved so great that a hall at the Royal Hotel (Bloomsbury, London) was booked. The preliminary, informal sessions will open at the White Horse, and move to the hotel over the week-end for the business sessions. Walter Willis of Belfast, Northern Ireland, is publishing the official program.

NEW BOK FOLIO

A new portfolio of six Hannes Bok prints (most of which have never been published in magazines) will be available soon at \$3. Privately published, the folio will be sold only by Bok and his publisher. (Bok: PO Box 137, Cathedral Station, New York City, 25.)

Bok recently sold two covers, one each to MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES and OTHER WORLDS, plus an interior for a Poul Anderson yarn upcoming in SUPER SCIENCE STORIES.

GOTHAM FANTASY WRITERS

Ken Beale (115 east Mosholu Parkway, Bronx 67) advises that a Science-Fantasy Writers' Workshop is underway in New York, after having been organized last fall. Group at present consists of six fans and writers, with membership open to any would-be writers past their childhood. Beale states the members are not a conventional writers' club nor a writing class. There are no dues.

the leading newspaper of the science fiction world



New Books



EVERY BOY'S BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by Donald Wollheim. (Frederick Fell, Inc., New York City, 1951, \$ 2.75)

Wollheim has here collected ten short stories and novelettes for teen-agers, ten yarns which adequately suit their purpose, and ten yarns by the way that we adults read in the 1920's and 30's as adult fare. Here are Cummings' "The Gravity Professor," Bob Olsen's "The Four-Dimensional Roller-Press," S.P. Wright's "The Infra-Medians," Dresser's "White Army," Clifton Kruse' "Dr. Lu-Mie," Keller's "The Living Machine," Ed Hamilton's "Conquest of Two Worlds," Simak's "Asteroid of Gold," Jack Williamson's "In the Scarlet Star," and Ray Bradbury's "King of the Grey Spaces."

I enjoyed this volume more than Wollheim's recent anthologies for adults. Take that as either an ironical commentary on his editing or my taste. -BT

DREADFUL SANCTUARY by Eric Frank Russell (Fantasy Press, Reading, Pa. 1951, \$2.75)

"How do you know you're sane?" That was the big question in 1948, after Astounding S-F published Russell's top-flight science-mystery yarn. Remember the Norman Club, and the discovery of just such a club in Toronto during the convention that year?

By the year 1972, seventeen moon rockets had been shot into space with seventeen separate explosions, always short of the goal. Every factor was blamed, including Russian sabotage, until the Russians themselves made and failed with the seventeenth. Armstrong, a suspicious scientist, had a personal interest in #18 and he took steps to protect the ship, steps which led him and a detective to the Norman Club where he was forced to prove his sanity. In many ways this book will remind you of the author's earlier success, SINISTER BARRIER. A good one. -BT

SOLUTION T-25 by Theodora DuBois (Doubleday & Company, New York, 1951, \$2.75)

Mrs. DuBois is a mystery writer, with a long career and many solid thrillers behind her; this book shows her craftsmanship and command of the written word, but the science fan may raise an eyebrow at her command of the atomic bomb. In places it has too little power and in others, too much-- as for instance the opening scene when a house tucked away in the woods is flattened by a bomb falling on a distant city. And there is a certain carelessness with radiation.

The Russians are responsible for the bombing and they follow it with a full-scale invasion, taking the country very quickly. Poking around through the plot are a State Department man who seems to know the Russian plans exceedingly well, a hero who turns collaborationist to bore from within, and a pack of children who damned near wind up in the extermination chambers. Solution T-25 is the secret weapon to oust the invaders, an encephalic dosage compounded in an underground Florida laboratory. This novel, like Judith Merrill's of last year, is a fair example of the "outside" approach to science-fiction, as opposed to that written by the long-experienced old hands. -BT

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS by John Wyndham (Doubleday & Company, New York, 1951, \$2.50)

"When a day that you happen to know is Wednesday starts off by sounding like Sunday ---there is something seriously wrong somewhere." These are the opening words of this novel (which was serialized in *Colliers*) and set the mood for a different, exciting tale.

When William Masen woke up to a silent world that Wednesday morning, he knew something was amiss and quickly discovered the answer: with the apparent exception of himself, the entire world was blind. To complicate this situation, the triffids came, giant man-eating plants. The problem is unfolded in the two opening chapters, with the remainder of the book detailing the struggle between the triffids, the blind and the sighted. A very good novel, fast-moving and well-written, with a surprise ending. Wyndham is J. Beynon Harris. -MEW

THE ILLUSTRATED MAN by Ray Bradbury (Doubleday & Company, New York, 1951, \$2.75)



A companion volume to last year's THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES, nearly equal to but not the superior of that earlier tome. In this book, eighteen shortstories (four of which are new) are tied together by means of an Illustrated Man, an unemployed carnival worker who cannot hold a job because his skin-pictures are living, moving things instead of ordinary tattoos. No man will hire him when that man can see his own death pictured on the Illustrated Man's body. Bradbury, telling the tale, watches and puts into words the eighteen stories acted out on the Man's body as he sleeps; and in the end he too flees, as he finds his own death scene forming.

The volume opens with "The Veldt," which appeared in the *SatEvenPost* as "The World the Children Made"; also included are "The Other Foot," a sequel to the Negro rocket yarn of last year-- the sequel puts the shoe on the other foot by bring a white man to the Negro world of Mars, and a very brief story of a humble Mexican farmer who did not fear the end of the world because he did not know the meaning of the city-dweller's expression. For everyone but anti-Bradbury readers. -BT

CITY AT WORLD'S END by Edmond Hamilton
(Frederick Fell Inc., New York, 1951, \$2.75)

The dropping of an A-Bomb, a frequently used theme these days, has here been given a new and well-handled twist. Middletown, USA, was anyone's small hometown until one June morning when a bomb fell, blowing the place off the map. Right off the map-- see title. Middletown finds itself projected forward into earth's dying days, the air cold and musty to breathe, the sun an old red ball. As might be expected of such a situation, and Hamilton, the good citizens of Middletown and those others of the future fail to see eye to eye on many things. Readable. -MBW

FOUR-SIDED TRIANGLE by William F. Temple
(Frederick Fell Inc., New York, 1951, \$2.75)

This is a curious book which at first glance will turn away the casual browser-- which is to be deplored for the reader with patience finds gold once past the plodding beginning. Temple writes in a certain British tradition: slowly, much useless detail, infinite and careful attention paid to settings, background and characters' actions. On the debit side this loses readers who haven't the heart to wade through it; but on the credit side, a magnificent mass of story and motivation is gained at book's end.

The dust jacket as good as gives the plot away: two young English scientists, college buddies, discover the same girl. Forsaking the traditional fiction of one of them walking away into the lonely sunset, these boys decide to duplicate the girl so that each may have her. Good reading! -BT

KINSMEN OF THE DRAGON by Stanley Mullen
(Shasta Publishers, Chicago, 1951, \$3.50)

Mullen is one of the many fans who have turned to writing, and has placed several short stories in the nation's s-f magazines. This is his first novel, mainly on the fantasy side, and the reader is constantly reminded of Merritt's MOON POOL while reading the story.

The tale hinges upon a shadow world, found when an ocean liner plunges into the hole which drains the seas into the center of the planet. The inevitable battle shapes up, shadows from the other world bombard the earth, and are repulsed. -BT

IT'S YOUR ATOMIC AGE by Lester del Ray
(Abelard Press, New York City, 1951, \$2.25)

Del Ray, a popular writer of science-fiction, here presents a non-fiction volume on the A-Bomb and its after-effects, social, medical, political. In non-technical language, del Ray discusses facts about the bomb which are worth knowing: striking power, effectiveness, possible future army and navy use, transporting it as a weapon, safety factors, operating piles, and so forth. He presents data which many a "science-fiction fan" could absorb and thus learn what much of the magazine fiction is all about. -BT

FORTHCOMING FILMS: thumbnail reviews

THE STORY:

"The Man From Planet X"

Robert Clarke, newspaper reporter, is summoned by Raymond Bond, scientist whom he had known during the war, to an isolated spot in the Scottish moors where the latter is conducting world shattering experiments following the discovery of a new planet which is approaching earth at an alarming rate of speed. Clarke and Margaret Field, the professor's daughter, stumble upon an interplanetary space ship which has brought a weird inhabitant of the planet to earth to pave the way for a planned invasion by his people. He is friendly until William Schallert, power-hungry associate of Bond's, abuses him in efforts to extract scientific secrets. Then he terrorizes the countryside until he and his vessel are destroyed by artillery fire.



THE STORY:

"The Thing From Another World"

An emergency call from a group of scientists working on a secret project at the North Pole brings a group of army aviators, led by Kenneth Tobey, and a newspaperman, Douglas Spencer, to the scene from an air force base in Alaska. The scientists advise that a strange aircraft has fallen a few miles away, and Tobey organizes a search. The craft, frozen under ice, is completely destroyed when a bomb is used to melt the ice. However, a weird figure is found buried in a block of ice nearby. This is The Thing, which is flown back to the base, and which turns out to be alive. Inadvertently the ice block is melted, and The Thing, a flying saucer invader from another planet, spreads havoc and death among the worldings until he is outsmarted and destroyed.

LAST PAGE TO PRESS: late news-

Look for science-fiction write-up of some kind in LIFE or TIME magazine. Reporters interviewed Ackerman before he sailed.

A writer's guild bulletin reports that GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION is "a dead rocket" but this has not been confirmed. (See similar phony rumor nailed, page eight.)

FANTASY MOVIE STILLS

8 X 10 glossy prints. Rare photographs from early and contemporary fantasy films. Some of our titles are:

"The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (1919)
"Metropolis" (1926)
"Frankenstein" (1931)
"King Kong" (1933)
"Things to Come" (1936)
"Dead of Night" (1946)
"Beauty and the Beast" (1947)
"Destination Moon" (1950)

And many more. Send for free list.

FANTASY MOVIE STILL SALON

History of fantasy and science fiction motion pictures presented in 16 X 20 salon mounts ready for exhibition. Available for rental to fantasy groups. Ask for descriptive sheet.

"MARS, A FANTASY TRAVELOGUE"

16mm sound film for home or group rentals. Write for details.

HISTORIC CINEMA SERVICE
272A Hyland Street
Cresskill, N.J.

FAN-NEWS ROUNDUP

(by our unpaid correspondents)

SAN FRANCISCO AREA: (by Stewart Metchette)

The organized clubs in the area have not changed---much. The 'Futurians' were formed when the old name of 'Golden Gate Futurian Society' was dropped, and consist mainly of our clan living at 639 Oak St ... Mel Brown, Jim Kepner, Dennis Fraser and myself. The once-active people are now gone: Tackett, Bertram, Raphael, Aggie Rundle and George Dennis (the latter two now married). A group of younger fans have formed the 'Short Circuits', by far the most active club in the whole Bay area. The 'Little Men's Society' have clipped their meets to once a month and have almost dissolved. "Torquasion Times," bulletin of the 'Torpid Torquasions' is now defunct. Brown and Kepner's bookstore is likewise defunct, but expecting to re-enter business later on.

An exodus is being planned from Limbo Tower (639 Oak St.), with Brown, Kepner, and myself seeking a house and expecting to take in Claude Plum Jr. when we move. Hans Rusch is being shipped to Detroit for a month's training by Lockheed-Boeing, hopes to obtain additional training at New Orleans prior to the convention, and will then be permanently in L.A. Right after the Portland convention, Michigan's Ray Nelson and family was located in Berkeley. Ray visited several times before he returned eastward, stopped over in Chicago, and became lost. Hal Shapiro is in the Air Force, with mail coming from Anchorage, Alaska. He's sold several yarns to the s-f and other magazines under pseudonyms.

HOLLYWOOD FILM FACTORIES: (by George Earley)

In re, "Farewell to the Master." This picture has been retitled twice; first it was "A Journey to Earth" and now it is called "The Day the Earth Stood Still." Claude Rains was originally scheduled for the lead but now it seems Michael Rennie will get it. Filming starts in April, at 20th-Century.

GALAXY AUTHORS' INDEX: (by A.W. Bendig)

I have published and am enclosing a copy of an author-index for Volume One of GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION. If your readers would like a copy, they may have same by sending me a stamped and self-addressed envelope. (7144 Kedron St, Pittsburg 8, Penna.) The index, for the first six issues of the magazine, lists twenty-five authors with thirty-seven stories, articles and features.

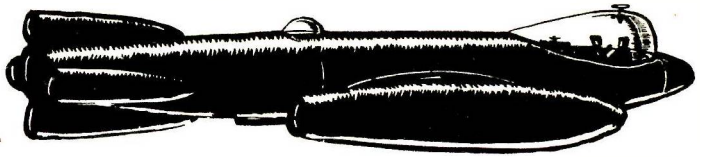
FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS: (by H. Ken Bulmer)

Astounding S-F has discovered an error in their calculations: overseas rate will be \$4 a year, instead of announced \$10.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

(by Roger Dard)

I would like to bring attention to what I believe is a surprising omission from all available checklists, and a suggestion for rectifying that omission. In the various checklists published by fandom, nowhere is there any mention of the Ziff-Davis Quarterly Reissues. Since there are some screwballs such as myself who regard these reissues as legitimate quarterly publications, and who actually collect them in addition to the monthly editions, I think it is time these issues are given a place in future checklists. At the moment, collectors are completely in the dark and lack such essential information as when the first one appeared, how many published to date, what years no numbers were published, and so on.



CONFABS:

The Washington (DC) Science-Fiction Association is holding (or has held) their second annual "Disclave" on Sunday, April 29th in the Hotel Statler. Firing off at one p.m. in the Pan-American Room, the conference speakers are (was): Sam Moskowitz giving the 'inside story' on reader-response to Sprague de Camp's "Krishna" stories; Art Rapp, late editor of Spacewarp, discussing the trials and tribulations of fan editing; Seabury Quinn (the creator of Jules de Grandin); and L. Jerome Stanton.

Following the talks will be an auction to raise funds for someone's pocket, and immediately afterwards, the film showing, "It Happened Tomorrow." An evening session is scheduled for informal meetings.

As mentioned last issue, the 2nd annual Midwest Science-fiction Conference, sponsored by the Ohio clubs, is slated for May 19th and 20th at Beatley's Hotel, Russell's Point, Ohio. Make room reservations directly to the hotel and bring your swim suits because the joint is a lake resort. Dr. C.L. Barrett and various other bigwigs will hold sway. At this writing, a caravan from Minneapolis and Chicago are planning to attend.

The first annual convention of the Fantasy Veterans Association convened in Werdermann's Hall, New York City, on April 22nd. Sponsored by Fan-Vet officers James Taurasi and Ray Van Houten, the affair featured a giant auction to raise money for the purpose of supplying overseas service fans with s-f books and magazines. Numerous original oil covers and interior illustrations were donated by magazines, as well as manuscripts. Visiting editors, celebrities, and an old science-fiction movie completed the program.

RENT DODGERS: George O. and Dona Smith have moved from Philadelphia to 88-09 35th Ave (6P), Jackson Heights, New York City.

BOOKS AND WRITERS



Bea Mahaffey, managing editress of *OTHER WORLDS*, tossed a cocktail party in her Evanston home recently for rival editor William Hamling and spouse, writers Ollie Saari and wife, Mark Reinsberg and wife, Ted Dikty, and Randall Garrett. Garrett phoned John W. Campbell long-distance to ask why his magazine was 25¢ in some states and 35¢ in a few others; he learned Street & Smith were conducting a test by offering 35¢ editions in four states, and watching sales figures.

Nelson Bond's *LANCELOT BIGGS: SPACEMAN*, is now available in a dollar edition, from Doubleday. Hal Clement's *NEEDLE* appeared in the same priced edition last autumn.

Anthony Boucher, co-editor of *MAGAZINE OF FANTASY*, was elected president of the Mystery Writers of America last month. Tony has published five mystery novels, numerous mystery and fantasy shorts, edited several anthologies, and at present reviews books for the New York Times & Chicago Sun-Times.

Shasta Publishers (Chicago), unproductive since early last year when they issued only two books, are attempting to make time with a heavy Spring and Summer schedule. By late Summer all of the following titles should be in circulation:

(1) A collection of short stories by Fredric Brown, *SPACE ON MY HANDS*; (2) the second edition of John Campbell's *WHO GOES THERE?*, with a new dust jacket; (3) Robert Heinlein's *THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH*, which is the second volume in his Future History series; (4) *BEYOND THESE WALLS* by Rena Vale, a new 100,000 word novel; and (5) *THE GREAT BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION*, an anthology edited by Erle Korschak. Later on --but not scheduled because of production uncertainties-- Shasta expects to publish Everett Bleiler's *GUIDE TO FANTASTIC LITERATURE*, plus volumes of short stories and novelettes by Anthony Boucher, and Theodore Sturgeon.

Jack Williamson's novel, *THE MAKER*, has been retitled and postponed. It is now set for May from Simon & Schuster, and will be published as *DRAGON'S ISLAND*. Likewise, his *SEETEE SHOCK* (under pen-name Will Stewart), is not expected from Gnome Press until June.

Wilson Tucker has two books coming this year: *RED HERRING*, a mystery novel ready in July, and *THE CITY IN THE SEA*, his first s-f novel, for late next fall or winter.

Frank Robinson and Jerry Sohl both have science-fiction novels in the early stages; Robinson's yarn deals with post-atomic life, while Sohl is concentrating on genetics.

The London Scene

(reported by Capt. Kenneth F. Slater)

A new magazine appearing in pocketbook-format is *SCIENCE FICTION FORTNIGHTLY*, from Hamilton & Co, Ltd. (1 & 2 Melville Court, Goldhawk Road, London W-12.) Six numbers have been published up to April, each containing a full length novel; no shorts. The editors state they hope to raise the standard of science fiction in England, while our critic-correspondent reports two of the six were reasonably good and the remaining four weak. Priced at 1/6 each (about 21¢), sample titles are: "Old Growler - Space Ship No. 2213," "Seven to the Moon," & "Phantom Moon." Several of the novels chronicle the series of adventures of hero Jon J. Deegan.

Edmond Hamilton's *THE STAR KINGS*, Fredric Brown's *WHAT MAD UNIVERSE*, and George O. Smith's *PATTERN FOR CONQUEST* all will see book publication this summer, at 9/6 each.

John Windham's (who is J. Beynon Harris) *DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS* to be released in May. F.G. Rayer's *TOMORROW SOMETIMES COMES* is out this month. Arthur C. Clarke's new novel, *THE SANDS OF MARS*, due in September. H.P. Lovecraft's *THE HAUNTER OF THE DARK*, with a preface and introduction by August Derleth, has been issued here; likewise another weird tome, *THE TRAVELLING GRAVE* by L.P. Hartley.

Dell's Bookshop (209-11 Kirkgate Market, Bradford, Yorks,) have released a check-list of sixty-three British pocketbooks now in print, including science, fantasy, mystery, weird and Tarzan titles.

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Len Moffat (Bell Garden, Cal.) and Anna Sinclare (Hollywood), were married in February. Wedding day coincided with the date of the annual Los Angeles S-F Society's dinner honoring the best new local writer who blossomed the previous year. Selected for dual spotlights were Moffat and Dave Lesperance--the latter writing under pen-name Gene Davidson in *TEN STORY FANTASY*.

George Earley's radio serial, "Jet Jim," has been revamped into a half-hour show and began on Oxford, Ohio college-station April 13th. After completion of college in June, Earley returns to the Air Force.

Four writers are present on the Doubleday list for the remainder of the year, making that company with a total of eight books the leading science-fiction publisher of 1951.

L. Sprague de Camp's original tome, *ROGUE QUEEN*, will be published in July. And in August, Robert Heinlein presents another new novel, *THE PUPPET MASTERS*. Following those in September will be editor Sam Merwin Jr., with *THE HOUSE OF MANY WORLDS*, and lastly, in November, two novelettes under one cover, *PROJECT EXCELSIOR* and *THE WANDERER RETURNS*, by Fletcher Pratt.

THE
AMATEUR
PRESS

DIGEST

Only a bare handful of worthwhile fan magazines have graced the opening months of 1951. While the deluge of journals from the amateur presses is as thick as ever, most of the output represents only wasted ink. Our choice of the world's two top fan magazines are SLANT, published by Walter Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland; and THE NEKROMANTIKON, edited by Manly Banister, 1905 Spruce Ave, Kansas City (1), Missouri. In these publications, quality appearance and contents are paramount.

The Spring, 1951 issue of SLANT is not only the best of its line, it undoubtedly equals and perhaps betters any fan magazine of the past twenty years; certainly it tops the professionally printed jobs of 1932-35. Willis, an amateur printer with pride in his work, sets the entire magazine by hand (46 pages this issue) and runs it off on a small press recently donated by Manly Banister. James White, Bob Shaw and Banister decorate the pages with many cuts, wood- and linoleum blocks, some of which are reproduced in two and three colors. Some fiction appearing in these pages have been picked up and reprinted by the professional magazines.

You can't buy SLANT--not with cash. The magazine situation being tight in Ireland, Editor Willis credits subscribers with two issues of SLANT for each current science-fiction magazine mailed to him.

Banister's NEKROMANTIKON (from Lovecraft folklore) is likewise an excellent job of editing and publishing. He uses a printing press for the covers and a few pages, and a mimeograph for the bulk of the interior. The magazine specializes in amateur fiction which nears (and sometimes equals) the work of professionals. Woodcut illustrations are used for dressing but the covers represent Banister's most painstaking work-- a recent one appearing in five colors.

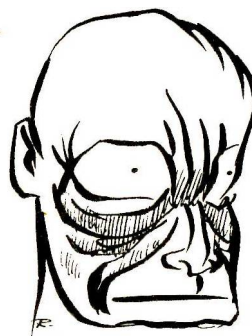
Until now the magazine has been published quarterly, but climbing costs and the great task of production has forced the editor to abandon that schedule. The next (5th) issue will be ready in June (containing a minimum of 64 pages) and will appear semi-annually thereafter. Price remains at 25¢ a copy.

QUANDRY, an up-and-coming mimeographed monthly published by Lee Hoffman, assisted by Lionel Innman, promises a return to the pre-war standard of informal fan magazines. Q specializes in humor, with numerous column articles and fan reporting. The duplication is legible and attention is paid to spelling and proofreading --- two items sadly lacking in a great majority of fan publications. Dime a copy from Hoffman, 101 Wagner Street, Savannah, Georgia. The editors have striven to bring back old-time fan writers.

Lilith Lorraine's CHALLENGE, a magazine of s-f and fantasy poetry, has been kayo'd, with the current 4th issue being the last. CHALLENGE will merge with DIFFERENT, another Lorraine magazine with seven years of steady publishing behind it. D is a quarterly, at \$2 a year, from Rogers, Arkansas.

ODD and FAN VARIETY are a pair of monthly magazines mimeographed in Poplar Bluff, Mo. The former has a slight edge over the latter because of improved editing, a better crop of writers and occasional printed covers. Both publications use articles, humor and news of a fannish variety, both torture the reader with poor typing and spelling, almost no proofreading. ODD, at 15¢, is published by Duggie Fisher Jr, at 1302 Lester Street. VARIETY, at a dime, is from Max Keasler at 420 south 11th Street.

The Ruth Newbury-edited INCINERATIONS (9109 S.W. Oleson Road, Portland 19, Oregon) continues as the untrammled free-speaker of the amateur press world, with several essays and articles of tongue-in-cheek type. 10¢.



The Fantasy Amateur Press Association is a group of publishers and writers who number 65 persons when they are at full strength ---and currently they are not, so a recruiting campaign is being waged. To be a member of FAPA, each fan magazine publisher is expected to print and deliver to the official editor no less than eight pages of mimeographed or hektographed material per year-- but the more the merrier. Four times a year the official editor mails to every member (in one large package) a copy of all such magazines sent to him; FAPA magazines are exclusive in that they are intended for the membership alone and seldom reach outsiders. Membership fee is \$1.50 annually.

Writers without access to a mimeograph contribute to the magazines, thus fulfilling their activity requirements. Some publishers like Harry Warner have a magazine in each quarterly package, while others appear but once or twice a year. For full information, write the secretary, Charles Burbee, 7628 S. Pioneer Blvd., Whittier, Calif.

The "Peondex", now in preparation, is announced as an accurate and up-to-date list of all 1949-1950 science fiction magazines, together with a cross-index of authors and stories appearing in those years. Priced at 50¢, mimeographed, the booklet is expected to be ready soon. The index is published by Charles Lee Riddle, PN1, USN., Fleet All-Weather Training Unit (Pacific), c/o F.P.O., San Francisco, Calif.

(continued on next page)

Fan Magazines, continued:

The most northwestern of states, Washington, seems to share with Georgia a rising publishing activity. In and around Seattle, a dozen or more fan magazines are appearing on a subscription basis or through the amateur press association channels. Although the editor of one pro magazine persists in fouling up titles and publishers in his fan reviews (NEWS LETTER was once published in Seattle according to the column), many publications there are worth looking into. For a master-list of them all, a dime brings you a copy of NAMELESSENTIALS, from William Austin, 3317 west 67th St, Seattle 7, Wash. Austin's magazine with the jaw-breaking name is a new guide to fan magazine publishers, the first issue covering the Seattle area.

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Nearly all fan editors and publishers desire to increase their circulations, even before they increase or barely improve the quality and appearance of their journals. A few succeed. Four professional magazines run amateur-journal reviews, while a fifth often mentions them in a news column. These five sources are usually the best circulation boosters available to fan editors, but the five vary widely in their usefulness.

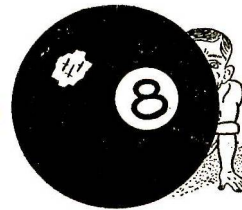
Roger Phillips Graham's long and gossip-laden column in AMAZING STORIES seems to be the best single source for promoting sample-copy requests, and subscriptions. He has plenty of space to spare, is informative and opinionated, and reveals a genuine interest in the fan magazines that is communicated to the new reader. (NEWS LETTER gets more requests for samples from his column than any other single source, with fully half of the samplers taking subscriptions later.)

In second place as an interest-catcher is the review column in STARTLING STORIES, although the busy, harried editor makes some wonderful and startling mistakes in his comments, while his printer often attempts to out-do him in fouling up listings. One can never be sure that any given title actually refers to the correct fanzine, or that the editors mentioned really edit that journal, or some other publication on the page. This magazine is read by people who willingly can spare a dime for a sample.

In third and last place, still judging by personal experience, is SUPER SCIENCE STORIES. James Taurasi has a keen interest in fan magazines, edits a superior job himself, but the meager space allotted him will permit only a bare handful of reviews, and even then wordage is kept to a minimum. The readers of SSS seem to be least interested.

Rog Graham's wife, Mari Wolf, has only recently inaugurated a review department in IMAGINATION; the column is too new to judge its effectiveness. Ray Palmer's OTHER WORLDS frequently plugs fanzines in news columns.

There remains two other methods of bolstering sagging circulations, one quite useless and one fairly effective. Fan editors habitually choose the useless method. Almost all fanzines are willing to sell or exchange advertising space; and almost all such space is chock-full of notices for other fanzines. This kind of promotion is 99% useless and unproductive because the reader has long ago learned to overlook and ignore such advertising, thanks to monotonous repetition. (Some months ago, NEWS LETTER placed a full-page ad in a well-established fan magazine, and to check results, offered sample copies for two cents each. One request came in.)



One outstanding exception to such advertising is the FANTASY ADVERTISER, published in Glendale, Calif. A half-page notice, repeated in the following issue, garnered more than two dozen requests for samples, and subscribers.

The most effective way to gain new readers, other than favorable reviews in the pro magazines, is the systematic mailing of sample copies to new names. The NFFF membership list and the 1950 FAN DIRECTORY each contain about four hundred names and addresses, with other new names appearing in every issue of the science-fiction magazines. By setting aside a certain number of copies of each new issue, and mailing those copies in alphabetical order to those four hundred names, the fan editor can create a system to slowly build his circulation. Sample copies thus mailed to strangers brings a good return in direct proportion to the quality and appearance of the journal. (A carefully worded, neatly mimeographed invitation inserted in the sample aids in obtaining results.)

Another and minor method is the display of copies at a convention or conference, but the display value is lost unless a subscription is obtained there and then. Attending fans gather up many such samples and are apt to ignore them all after returning home. He who extracts a long-term subscription when the fanzine is first being inspected, is the editor who can improve his circulation.

There now-- go out and make a million.

In a more serious vein, and a cut above the average in presentation and duplication, is CHIMERICAL REVIEW, jointly edited and published by John Kalas and Dennis Strong. (152, 942 N.W. Scribner Ave, Grand Rapids, Michigan.) The magazine appeals to young writers, has a large non-fan circulation, and prints controversial articles on contemporary topics. The March issue features an essay on a fantasy writers union.

Eva Firestone and the Nat'l Fantasy Fan Federation are preparing a Fanzine Checklist showing one hundred current titles.



LETTERS to the Editor



Anthony Boucher (Berkeley, Cal.): "Some bastard is going around spreading the rumor that MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION is about to fold; we've heard it from several sources. You of all people should know about rumors! So without going into evidential details or speculations as to the motive behind this rumor-spreading, I'll say that there's exactly as much truth in our folding as there was in your spectacular demise a year or so ago."

We'd be very pleased if you'd publish in SFNL a formal denial of the rumor. We're still very much in existence and getting stronger with every issue."

(We traced the rumor back to a Chicago editor, who in turn supposedly heard it from a New York ditto. Where the New York man found it is anyone's guess. -BT)

Sam Moskowitz (Newark, NJ): "I wrote to Police chief Ross Scott, of Newcastle, Ind., and he tells me that Claude Degler's brother killed himself, while Claude is still alive in California and was not implicated in any way in the murder-suicide. That clears up the Degler situation."

(Indeed yes! The many people who wrote us mourning his supposed death will be happy to know Superfan still rides. -BT)

Wynne Clack (Detroit): "Throughout the year you gave us a fairly good idea where to look for various science-fiction and fantasy stories in the magazines not devoted to the field. I also found quite a few you never mentioned, so how about coming through at the end of each year with a list of all the original stories (no reprints) published in non-fantasy magazines? Here is what I have cataloged so far for 1950:

Bond, Nelson S.

"The Pet Shop" Bluebook, March
"Life Goes On" Bluebook, October
"To People a New World" Bluebook, Nov.

Batsford, Ward

"The Needle of Space" Bluebook, July

Bradbury, Ray

"To the Future" Colliers, May 13th
"The World the Children Made"
SatEvePost, Sept. 23rd

Cassens, Kenneth (Crossen -??)

"Gertie Grooms the Bride"
Bluebook, March

"A New Moon for Scilla"
Bluebook, July

Claggett, J.H.

"Everything's Been Done Before"
Bluebook, December

(continued, next column)

Finney, Jack

"The Third Level" Colliers, Oct. 7th
Jenkins, Will F.

"Night Drive" Today's Woman, March
Sheldon, Walt

"Operation Reach" Colliers, May 20th
Vonnegut, Kurt

"Report on the Barnhouse Effect"
Colliers, Feb. 11th
"Thonosphere" Colliers, Sept. 2nd
"Epicac" Colliers, November 25th

Do you know of any others?"

(Lacking both time and ability to comb all outside magazines, News Letter would be pleased to print an annual compilation submitted by Clack or any other reader. -BT)

Bob Silverberg (Brooklyn): "Taurasi's checklist of British science-fiction, 1950, was well done as far as it went but he omitted a number (of such magazines) which appeared in November and December. Here are my corrections and additions:

Originals:

Science Fiction Fortnightly #1 nd, nn
Tales of Tomorrow #1 nd
Futuristic Science Stories #1 nd
#2 nd
Worlds of Fantasy #1 nd
#2 nd

Reprints from U.S. Sources:

Astounding S-F, V8 #1, December
Weird Tales, September and November
Fantastic Novels (second series) #1 nd
Science Fiction Quarterly, #15 nd

Taurasi's list of British Amazing Stories and Fantastic Adventures is also incomplete by two numbers each. British fans are now getting reprint editions of (the above two) plus Planet Stories, Fantastic Novels, Super Science Stories, Astounding Science Fiction, Thrilling Wonder Stories, Startling Stories. A new item has appeared called Amazing Science Stories, supposedly a reprint from an Australian magazine."

(Blame us, not Taurasi, for omissions in his report. We rushed him by imposing a November deadline and not all magazines had been published at that time. Hereafter, we will run checklists in January issues. -BT)

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