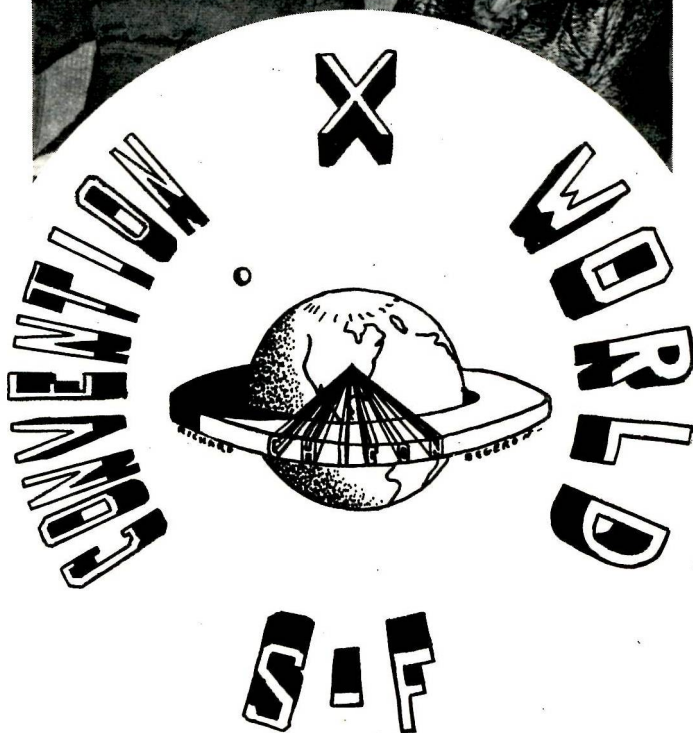


SCIENCE FICTION

January, 1952

NEWS LETTER

ANNUAL BOOK NUMBER



CHECKLIST OF U.S. BOOKS : 1951

Compiled by Sam Moskowitz

(The figure in parenthesis indicates the issue of News Letter in which that volume was reviewed.)

Abelard Press, New York:

del Ray, Lester: It's Your Atomic Age (non-fiction) (20)

Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisc:

Drake, Leah Bodine: Hornbook for Witches (poetry)
Smith, Clark Ashton: The Dark Chateau (poetry)

Doubleday & Company, New York:

Asimov, Isaac: The Stars, Like Dust (19)
Bradbury, Ray: The Illustrated Man (20)
Collier, John: Fancies and Goodnights
de Camp, L. Sprague: Rogue Queen (22)
Du Bois, Theodora: Solution T-25 (20)
Heinlein, Robert: The Puppet Masters (23)
Merwin Jr., Sam: The House of Many Worlds (23)
Pratt, Fletcher: Double In Space (23)
Wyndham, John: The Day of the Triffids (20)

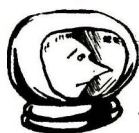


Fantasy Fiction Field, New York

Bok, Hannes (and)
Merritt, A.: The Black Wheel (second edition)
Smith, E.E.: The Skylark of Space (third edition)

Fantasy Press, Reading, Penna.

Campbell, John W.: The Moon is Hell (19)
Carr, Robt Spencer: Beyond Infinity
Miller, P. Schuyler: The Titan
Russell, Eric Frank: Dreadful Sanctuary (20)
Smith, E.E.: Grey Lensman (23)
Taine, John: Seeds of Life (23)



Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc., Los Angeles

de Camp, L. Sprague: The Undesired Princess (21)
Hubbard, L. Ron: From Death to the Stars
(volume contains Death's Deputy (8) & The Kingslayers)
Jones, Raymond: The Toymaker (21)
Pragnell, Festus: The Machine God Laughs
(volume was erroneously dated 1949)
Science-Fantasy Quintette
(volume contains The Radium Pool by Ed Earl Repp (14)
and The Triton by L. Ron Hubbard (13))
Taine, John: The Iron Star (23)
Wells, Basil: Doorways to Space

Frederick Fell, Inc., New York

Bleiler, Everett F. (and)
 Diky, T.E.: Best Science Fiction Stories: 1951 (23)
 Hamilton, Edmond: City at World's End (20)
 Temple, William F.: The Four-Sided Triangle (20)
 Wollheim, Donald: (editor) Every Boy's Book of Science-
 Fiction (20)

Gnome Press, New York

Asimov, Isaac: Foundation (23)
 Greenberg, Martin: (editor) Journey to Infinity (19)
 Greenberg, Martin: (editor) Travelers of Space
 Hubbard, L. Ron: Typewriter in the Sky (and) Fear (21)
 Jones, Raymond F.: Renaissance (21)
 Padgett, Lewis: Tomorrow and Tomorrow (and) The Fairy
 Chessmen
 Stewart, Will: Seetee Ship

Greenberg: Publisher, New York

Crossen, Kendall Foster (editor) Adventures in Tomorrow (21)
 Luban, Milton: The Spirit Was Willing (22)
 MacDonald, John: Wine of the Dreamers (23)
 van Vogt, A.E.: The Weapon Shops of Isher (23)

Grosset & Dunlap, New York

Heinlein, Robt E.: Beyond This Horizon (21)
 Leiber Jr., Fritz: Gather! Darkness (16 and 21)

Harper & Brothers, New York

Hoyle, Fred: The Nature of the Universe (non-fiction, 21)

Henry Holt & Company, New York

Healy, Raymond J.: (editor) New Tales of Space & Time (23)

Lippincott & Company, Philadelphia

Low, A.M.: What's the World Coming To? (non-fiction, 23)

Pellegrini & Cudahy, New York

Derleth, August: (editor) Far Boundries
 Derleth, August: (editor) The Outer Reaches (23)
 Huer, Kenneth: Men of Other Planets (non-fiction)
 Williams, Charles: The Place of the Lion

Perma-Books, New York

Conklin, Groff: (editor) In the Grip of Terror

World Publishing Company, Cleveland, Ohio

Jameson, Malcolm: Bullard of the Space Patrol (22)

Prime Press, Philadelphia

Flint, Homer Eon (and)
Hall, Austin: The Blind Spot (23)

Phoenix Press, New York

Reynolds, Mack: The Case of the Little Green Men (22)
(mystery--guilt by association only)

Random House, New York

Coggins, Jack (and)
Pratt, Fletcher: Rockets, Jets, Guided Missiles and
Space Ships (non-fiction)
Leinster, Murray: (editor) Great Stories of Science
Fiction

Rinehart & Company, New York

Tucker, Wilson: The City in the Sea (23)

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York

Heinlein, Robert: Between Worlds

Shasta Publishers, Chicago

Brown, Fredric: Space on my Hands (22)
Campbell, John W.: Who Goes There? (movie edition, 6 & 22)
Gray, Curme: Murder in Millenium VI (23)
Heinlein, Robt A.: The Green Hills of Earth (22)
Mullen, Stanley: Kinsman of the Dragon (20)

Simon & Schuster, New York

Simak, Clifford D.: Time and Again (22)
van Vogt, A.E.: Slan (23)
Williamson, Jack: Dragon's Island (21)

Twayne Publishers, New York

Pratt, Fletcher: (editor) Worlds of Wonder

University of Illinois Press, Urbana, ILL.

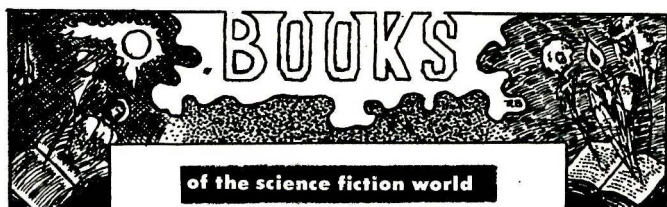
Marbarger, John P.: (editor) Space Medicine (non-fiction) 22

Viking Press, New York

Ley, Willy: Dragons In Amber (non-fiction)
Ley, Willy: Rockets, Missiles and Space Travel (non-fict.)

Vanguard Press, New York

Conklin, Groff: (editor) Possible Worlds of Science-
Fiction (21)



THE HOUSE OF MANY WORLDS by Sam Merwin Jr. (Doubleday & Co., New York, 1951, \$2.75)

Merwin recently resigned his magazine editorial duties to do free-lance writing, and if this is a fair example of his work he should have quit editing years ago. The novel is delightful reading, not only for his pleasant writing style but for several new gimmicks introduced, and fresh handling of the older ones. Like a competent mystery writer, Merwin reserves a stinger in the end.

The house of the title is a tangential point, the gateway to several worlds of IF; and to this house are drawn a man and woman who believe they are on a news-assignment, but instead find themselves involved in something far different, involved as foreign agents and assigned to New Orleans --a trouble spot in the Republic of Columbia. Mexico --which stretched from the Panama Canal to Nevada-- was threatening war; the Republic of Texas could not help, and revolutionaries were stirring in the Ozarks. Into this bizarre world the pair are thrown, to shortly discover that still another world must be visited if the first is to be saved. And as mentioned above, there's a twister in the tail. Good! -BT

THE PUPPET MASTERS by Robert A. Heinlein. (Doubleday & Company, New York, 1951, \$2.75)

To say that this is not Heinlein's best is not to belittle the book; he has done superior work but this one should not be passed over. It shows traces of hasty writing and an overdose of slang. It uses the theme of interplanetary invaders ruling the earth, but still it is worth reading for the Heinlein treatment.



The invaders are slugs, vile out-sized worms which attach themselves to the spines of men and women and thereafter control them, mind and body. Because they arrived in secrecy and successfully keep that arrival hidden for a time, there are none to fight them but a handful of security agents, chiefly two men and a girl. In less than fifty pages one of them is gone, ridden by a slug. Security has a two-fold fight on its hands: rid the nation of the evil things, and convince the nation they exist -- Congress is a Doubting Thomas.

Heinlein does it with some startling turns and some old ones, while his method of exposing them on the bodies of their hosts is quite amusing and quite logical. But come winter .. ? -BT

WINE OF THE DREAMERS by John MacDonald. (Greenberg: Publisher, New York, 1951, \$2.75)

The most original idea we've read in many years, well-handled

and well-written, this is unhesitatingly recommended. Considering the merit of this and other books reviewed this month, the state of science-fiction is indeed looking up.

Although the dustjacket describes it as a story of two worlds there are actually four: one apparently real, and three manufactured of dreams. The dreamers, a brother and sister together with the few survivors of their race, spend most of their time sleeping, locked away in mechanical cases. They have the power to enter their own dreams, to visit the three imaginary worlds and exercise control of the dream-people found there. The dream-folk of one world are insane toys under their playful fingers, while those of a second seem to resent their intrusion.

But suppose YOU were a pioneering scientist building a rocket ship on the western desert, and the person who was dreaming YOU didn't want that ship launched? How would you explain that to the Army, to Congress which was appropriating the money? -BT

SLAN by A.E. van Vogt. (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1951, \$2.50)

Old hands who were reading ASTOUNDING ten years ago will not need a review of this classic, but for late-comers it may be said that SLAN is regarded as the tops among "supermen" stories ... belabored though that term is. "Slan" is the name applied to the race of men and women whom nature creates when homo sapiens tends toward sterility; but man is blind to that fact and blames the "monsters" on Samuel Lann -- S. Lann -- accusing him of tinkering with biology. The story begins when a nine-year-old slan sees his mother shot down on the street, and finds himself running for his life. No man will permit a slan to live.

After the ASTOUNDING serial in 1940, Arkham House published the first book edition in 1946, and the price of that volume rapidly shot out of sight among collectors and speculators. This edition has been revised; material has been added, other material deleted and many parts of the novel rewritten, but it remains the same powerful, imaginative story of slans defending themselves from men and still trying not to hurt them. Recommended. -BT

THE CITY IN THE SEA by Wilson Tucker. (Rinehart & Company, New York City, 1951. \$2.50)

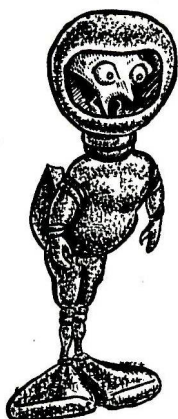
Tucker's first science-fiction novel comes as a relief from creatures out of space, assorted menaces directed at civilization and other such familiar doings; the only thing menacing anyone in this novel of post-atomic America is progress. Unnamed thousands of years from now the face of the earth is changed, bringing warm weather and an inland sea to the Mississippi Valley, and likewise bringing new patterns to the old familiar life-forms.

Tucker has the British Isles regenerated into a matriarchal form of government, has a military colony of women planted on the east-coast as overseers of spineless American descendents. Into this feminine warrior colony comes a giant of a man from the interior, from an unknown place which is blank on the maps, and he lures an expedition westward with him. What follows is as unconventional as the situation of four Amazonian warriors falling in love with the stranger--and how the author disposes of this problem is very unique in fiction. -Jerry Sohl

GREY LENS MAN by Edward E. Smith. (Fantasy Press, Reading, Penna. 1951. \$3.00.)

This is space-opera of the general level found in ASTOUNDING, where this novel appeared as a serial in 1939. The dustjacket, by Hubert Rogers, is a near-reproduction of the Rogers cover from the same magazine. The tale is the fourth in the "Lens" series.

Kimball Kinnison is a "grey lensman," an unattached agent of law and order who is accountable to no one, completely free to do as he pleases in combatting the lawless. His fight is constantly intertwined with the space patrol, and a nurse, in working to the top of the galaxy's organized crime, seeking the one leader who masterminds the whole. In this novel he seeks out and destroys an entire planet of criminal intrigue. -BT



WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO ? by A.M. Low.
(Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1951, \$3.)

A non-fiction book subtitled "Science Looks at the Future," we found this to be much more than is implied by the light dustjacket and cartoons scattered through the book, and still more than the volume intends itself to be. Quite possibly the jacket was designed to catch the passing eye, while the contents of the book is rich meat for the fan.

In ten thought-packed chapters the volume delivers the goods promised in the subtitle, opening up for examination and speculation the dawn of the atomic age, electronic machines carrying on without men, transportation --earthly and otherwise-- of tomorrow, the futures of sport, leisure, radio, TV, health and medicine, food, crime and punishment, and finally war -- the so-called pushbutton era.

Personally, we're going to make use of the book in still another way: it is a gold mine for a writer, overflowing with ideas, gadgets, gimmicks, etc. -BT

FOUNDATION by Isaac Asimov. (Gnome Press, New York, 1951, \$2.75)

A far different sort of a story concerning good and bad government, this novel is a combination of several shorter pieces originally appearing in ASTOUNDING, and if it could be said to have a hero, that man is dead before the book opens and never appears bodily in the script.

Harl Seldon, a specialist in psychohistory, foresaw the ruin and dismemberment of the Galactic Empire long before it happened, and accordingly set up a foundation that was designed to guide men through thousands of years of anarchy following the crash. Some few men attempt to follow Seldon's guidance, others attempt just as strongly to seek out and destroy the foundation that they may have free rein with despotic rule. The volume concerns many men in both camps, pictures many worlds throughout the Milky Way. In reader appeal this may be said to be the opposite of the space opera reviewed at the top of this page -- the younger ones won't go for this, probably won't understand it. -BT

THE OUTER REACHES edited by August Derleth. (Pellegrini & Cudahy, New York, 1951, \$3.95)

A volume of seventeen stories that we've looked forward to with some curiosity; each yarn was chosen by its author as his favorite, and we frankly wanted to see that favorite. As might be expected, choices seldom agree, but still the selection is a good one from anyone's standpoint. Particularly outstanding is Fritz Leiber's "The Ship Sails at Midnight."

Other stories are: Interloper (Anderson), Death Sentence (Asimov), This Is the Land (Bond), Ylla (Bradbury), The Green Cat (Cartmill), Gilt Along! (de Camp), Service First (Keller), Shock (Kuttner), The Power (Leinster), The Critters (FB Long), Pardon My Mistake (Pratt), Good Night Mr. James (Simak), The Plutonian Drug (CA Smith), Farewell to Eden (Sturgeon), Co-operate or Else! (van Vogt), and Finality Unlimited (Wandrell). Notes included by each author. -BT

THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES: 1951. Edited by Everett Bleiler and T.E. Dikty. (Frederick Fell, New York, 1951, \$2.95)

Definitely above the general merit of last year's level is this new collection, which boasts for the first time a new story not reprinted from any magazine, Frank Robinson's "The Santa Claus Planet"; this yarn makes excellent use of the cliché, "It's better to give than to receive." For the most part, this reviewer agrees with the title of the volume. The other contents are:

The Gnurrs Come from the Voodvork Out (Bretnor), The Mindworm (Kornbluth), The Star Ducks (B. Brown), Not to be Opened-- (Young), Process (van Vogt), Forget-me-Not (Temple), Contagion (MacLean), Trespass (Anderson & Dickson), Oddy and Id (Bester), To Serve Man (Knight--and our favorite!), Summer Wear (de Camp), Born of Man and Woman (Matheson), Fox in the Forest (Bradbury), The Last Martian (F. Brown), The New Reality (Harness), Two Face (FB Long), and Coming Attraction (Leiber). If you buy but one anthology a year, this should be it. -BT

NEW TALES OF SPACE AND TIME edited by Raymond J. Healy. (Henry Holt & Company, New York, 1951, \$3.50)

Ten stories, most of which are longer than the usual variety and some of which, surprisingly enough, are written by names not appearing in every other anthology. Although we can see no sane reason to avoid it, considering that all editors go for the best, still it is tiring to find the same names in all collections.

Included herein: Here There Be Tygers (Bradbury), In a Good Cause-- (Asimov), Tolliver's Travels (Fenton & Petracca), Bettyann (Neville), Little Anton (Bretnor), Status Quondam (Miller), B-plus-M -- Planet 4 (Heard), You Can't Say That (Cartmill), Fulfillment (van Vogt), and The Quest for Saint Aquin (Boucher).

By now, if you're alert, you'll have discovered the oddity.. all these stories are new ones, written expressly for the volume; Healy has, in effect, presented here a glorified, three-dollar-&-one-half promagazine with an outstanding difference: these yarns aren't apt to appear in such a magazine because they are off-beat in plot, treatment and outlook. Recommended. -BT

THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER by A.E. van Vogt. (Greenberg: Publisher, New York, 1951. \$2.75)

The weapon shops are what the name and title implies, shops where free men and hounded men may buy weapons to protect themselves from the tyranny and soldiers of the Queen; her minions are unable to enter - the doors will not open to them. That much is understood but I wish I could say the same for the story.



As best as I can grasp it, this novel has a hero who is a dopey country bumpkin, who allows himself to be sucked into all manner of fraud or scheme because of his naivete. Like his sister of fiction who meets a fate worse than death, our boy eventually finds himself prisoner in a male whore house. All this takes place in the future against a background of scheming Queen, scheming weapon shop proprietors, a scheming immortal man, scheming minor characters, and a girl who loves the boy. He finally schemes too. -BT

SEEDS OF LIFE by John Taine. (Fantasy Press, Reading, Penna., 1951. \$2.75.)

If you can successfully ignore a twenty-year-old plot with all its creaky characterizations, style, mannerisms and so forth, this may be meat for you. Reading like an old-time terror tale, Taine's yarn is one of artificial evolution, vastly speeded-up processes which work both havoc and miracles on frogs, chickens, spiders, and a man. For a time, the man is a created superman; but the man marries and has a son, bringing on the climax. -BT



The John C. Winston Company, a Philadelphia firm of bible and schoolbook publishers, is entering the S-F field this spring with four books: EARTHBOUND (by Milton Lesser), SON OF THE STARS (by Raymond F. Jones), FIND THE FEATHERED SERPENT (by Evan Hunter), and FIVE AGAINST VENUS (by Philip Latham). Plans are in progress to publish four additional titles next fall.

Shasta Publishers have made a tie-up with Pocket Books, Inc., in regards their first annual science-fiction novel contest, and have boosted the award money to \$4000 for the first-prize winner. The winning novel will be published first by Shasta and later by Pocket Books. Secondary awards of \$2500 are also offered, with the Chicago house publishing all accepted manuscripts.

Other Shasta news: Alfred Bester has sold them book rights to THE DEMOLISHED MAN (Galaxy serial), for a \$1000 advance payment, reportedly the highest fee ever paid in the sciencefiction field. Meanwhile, the house is launching a juvenile series this year, with Will F. Jenkins signed to do three. His first will be entitled SPACE PLATFORM.

Fantasy Press has released its publishing plans for 1952, which include six to eight regular books, four limited editions, and a series of twelve science-fiction and fantasy bookplates. The six books are by Taine (two titles), Weinbaum, Campbell, EE Smith, and Eshbach; in addition they hope to publish two others. One will be a collection of Eric Frank Russell's short stories, while the remaining volume is not identified.

As for their plans to publish special limited editions of 1500 signed copies each, Eshbach hopes to make a start this year despite the fact that only about 500 collectors have signed up. The tentative set-up calls for four books this year, with a fifth volume given as a bonus to subscribers who buy the four. Finally, the Press has issued a folder illustrating the twelve fantasy and science-fiction bookplates now available. There are three plates by Cartier, three by Bok, four by Ric Binkley, and two by Donnell.

Roy Squires is changing the name of his Fantasy Advertiser to SCIENCE FICTION ADVERTISER with the current January issue.

Groff Conklin's INVADERS OF EARTH will be issued by Vanguard this spring, containing two unusual items: an original pastiche by Tony Boucher, and an old 1907 German invasion story translated by Willy Ley. Included is the 1939 Orson Welles Martian script.

The almost-secret Fredric Brown and Mack Reynolds project mentioned here last issue is a new book, THE SCIENCE-FICTION CARNIVAL, "An Anthology of Humorous Imaginative Fiction," to be published by Shasta next fall. Running to 100,000 words and containing 22 stories by 21 authors (John MacDonald is twice), the tome is the first attempt to round-up the funny side. Editors announce that none of their selections have been anthologized before, and they have made every effort to choose unknowns in place of familiar names. The stories range from the 900-word "Swordsmen of Varnis" (by Jackson) to the 7000-word "Take Two Guliggies" (by Neville). Funniest piece omitted was Reynold's own "Ponce de Leon's Pants," which only a brave or foolish editor will print.

Ray Bradbury's MARTIAN CHRONICLES will be published in the French by Gallimard, Paris; while Danish rights have also been sold. He has a short coming up in Esquire. Bantam Books will finally issue in February his collection of yarns.

THE ROUND-UP: At least five more anthologies are to appear in print this spring. Meriln Press has scheduled a big one for February, TEN COMPLETE SHORT SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, edited by Margolies and Friend. The ten are from Startling Stories, and are priced at \$4.95. (*) Robert Heinlein's first anthology, DESTINATION: THE STARS, is due from Doubleday in February. (*) Donald Wollheim has another one, already overdue from McBride & Medill; PRIZE SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES OF 1952. (*) "Stephen Marlowe" is editing an anthology, title unknown, to be published by Ives-Washburn in March. "Marlowe" is the pen-name of a well-known fan lately turned writer. (*) And A.E. van Vogt's book, AWAY AND BEYOND, will be brought out jointly by Arkham House and Pellegrini & Cudahy in early March.

MISSION: INTERPLANETARY will be the new name for van Vogt's "Voyage of Space Beagle" when Signet publishes it this month.

THE FANTASY BOOKMAN

by Darrell
C. Richardson

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A RESUME OF BOOKS from Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc., Los Angeles.

After carefully checking the files of News Letter back to the first issue, I find that the following FPCI books were noted, but not reviewed in this publication: **OUT OF THE UNKNOWN** (by E. Mayne Hull and A.E. van Vogt), **PEOPLE OF THE COMET** (Austin Hall), **THE SUNKEN WORLD** (Stanton A. Coblentz), **DEATH'S DEPUTY** (by L. Ron Hubbard), **THE RADIO MAN** (Ralph Milne Farley), **THE WORKS OF M.P. SHIEL** (by A. Reynolds Morse), **THE COSMIC GEOLDS** (by John Taine), **PLANETS OF ADVENTURE** (Basil Wells), **TRITON** (by L. Ron Hubbard), and **WORLDS OF WONDER** by Olaf Stapledon. All of these titles are still in print and available; several of these books should be on the shelf of not only the collector but also the connoisseur. For example, **WORLDS OF WONDER**, containing three rare Stapledon books is a real treasure and a bargain as well. I personally do not think a science - fantasy library is complete without some titles by Stapledon. As practically all Stapledon books are out of print and scarce, as well as expensive, **WORLDS OF WONDER** presents the opportunity of buying three good books for the price of one. The **WORKS OF M.P. SHIEL** also is a terrific volume and a delight to the collector's heart. For the many who desire to collect all Taine and van Vogt books, **THE COSMIC GEOLDS** and **OUT OF THE UNKNOWN** are musts.



Recent FPCI titles which have been neither listed nor reviewed here include: **THE KING SLAYER** (1949, \$3, by L. Ron Hubbard), **THE STELLAR MISSILES** (1949, \$2.75, by Ed Earl Repp), **THE HIDDEN UNIVERSE** (1950, \$2, by Ralph Milne Farley), **THE DARK OTHER** (1950, \$3, Stanley G. Weinbaum), **OMNIBUS OF TIME** (1950, \$3.50, by RM Farley), **DOORWAYS TO SPACE** (1951, \$2.50, by Basil Wells) and **THE MACHINE GOD LAUGHS** (1949*, \$1.50, by Festus Pragnell). (*See FPCI checklist on page three.)

FPCI has also recently issued a couple of omnibus volumes. **FROM DEATH TO THE STARS** (1951, \$3, by L. Ron Hubbard) contains "Death's Deputy", "The Kingslayer", "The Beast", and "The Invaders". And **SCIENCE-FANTASY QUINTETTE** (1951, \$3.50) includes in one volume: "Triton" and "Battle of the Wizards" by Hubbard, plus "The Radium Pool", "The Phantom of Terror" and "The Red Dimension" by Repp. These two volumes are handsomely bound and have new jackets by Crozettl.

Perhaps a word or two about some of these especially recommended books would be in order. **THE HIDDEN UNIVERSE**, priced at only \$2, is bound very attractively in vivid yellow; it also contains another Farley tale, "We, the Mist". The book is economi-

cally priced and the Farley fans should go for it. Of greater stature is his OMNIBUS OF TIME which contains seventeen stories plus an Introduction and an "Aftermath". Farley is one of the old masters in the field of science-fiction and fantasy, and in this large volume he offers the best of his time-travel yarns. THE MACHINE GOD LAUGHS with a price tag of \$1.50 is described by the Publisher as "an experiment in low cost production patterned after the lower-priced British books". Though I will frankly admit that THE DARK OTHER is not one of Weinbaum's best stories, I would not be without it in my own library. Weinbaum did not write much before his premature death in 1936, and with the publication of one more volume of short stories practically all his work will be between hard covers. This means that most fans and collectors could own practically all of Weinbaum in book form. With the exception of the fabulously rare DAWN OF FLAME -- the 1936 Memorial Volume-- and THE NEW ADAM, the other three Weinbaum books are currently in print.

A REVIEW of THE BLIND SPOT by Austin Hall and Homer Eon Flint. (Prime Press, Philadelphia, 1951, \$3.50)

Perhaps I shouldn't write a review of this book because I'm prejudiced. That is, I'm prejudiced in favor of it. I have long considered it (along with its sequel, THE SPOT OF LIFE) one of the top ten among the old fantasy classics. In fact, both Hall and Flint can stand beside A. Merritt, George Allan England, Garrett Smith, Garret P. Serviss, Ray Cummings, Philip M. Fisher Jr., Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ralph Milne Farley, Otis Adelbert Kline and a few others as true pioneers in the field. They paved the way for the modern masters of the genre, who admittedly write the better stuff, but who owe a debt to those who came before.



THE BLIND SPOT first appeared in 1921 in ARGOSY ALL-STORY WEEKLY and now after thirty years it has book publication. It would have been in book form long ago if the heirs of Hall and Flint could have been located and the copyrights cleared. The story behind this plus the most intriguing tale of the mysterious deaths of Hall and Flint make for almost as fascinating reading as their great novel. THE BLIND SPOT borders on the occult. It deals with another dimension -- the gateway to another world co-existing with our own. The entrance to this other plane is located within a house in San Francisco, a house filled with strange phenomena. Out of this "blind spot" first comes the Rhamda Avec, a man of extraordinary powers, a man who has never seen the sun! The manifold intricacies of the plot are worked out with skill. One can never positively foresee just what will happen next, or correctly conjecture what the conclusion will finally bring.

An attractive book, it has a dust jacket and six fine illustrations by Hannes Bok. Forrest J Ackerman has written the Introduction. Prime Press should be complimented for presenting this book to the fantasy and science-fiction field. All in all, THE BLIND SPOT is a classic of imaginative literature.

(In his column next issue, Darrell C. Richardson will review, among other volumes, BEYOND INFINITY by Robert Spencer Carr. Of this book he says: "Mr Carr has accomplished in this volume something I have rarely seen in science-fiction ...")

CHECKLIST OF 1951 MAGAZINES

compiled by Sam Moskowitz

Amazing Stories	(monthly)	12
Amazing Stories Quarterly	(reprint)	?
Astounding Science Fiction	(monthly)	12
Avon Fantasy Reader	(irregular)	3
Avon Science Fiction Reader	(irregular)	2
Famous Fantastic Mysteries	(bi-monthly)	6
Fantastic Adventures	(monthly)	12
Fantastic Adventures Quarterly	(reprint)	?
Fantastic Novels	(bi-monthly)	3 - suspended
Fantastic Stories Quarterly		1
*title changed to:		
Fantastic Story Magazine	(quarterly)	3
Fantasy Book	(irregular)	1
Future Combined with Science Fiction	(bi-m)	6
Galaxy Science Fiction	(monthly)	12
Galaxy Science Novels	(bi-monthly)	6
Imagination	(bi-monthly)	5
Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction	(bi-m)	6
Marvel Science Fiction	(quarterly)	4
Mysterious Traveler	(irregular)	1
Other Worlds	(each six weeks)	7
Planet Stories	(bi-monthly)	6
Science Fiction Quarterly	(q)	3
Startling Stories	(bi-monthly)	6
Super Science Stories	(bi-monthly)	4 - suspended
Suspense	(quarterly)	3
Ten Story Fantasy	(irregular)	1 - suspended
Thrilling Wonder Stories	(bi-monthly)	6
Two Complete Science Adventure Books	(lr.)	3
Wonder Stories Annual		1
Worlds Beyond	(monthly)	2 - suspended



MAGAZINES

Paul Fairman's new magazine, "IF" should be on the stands by this time. Small-sized, priced at 35¢, the bi-monthly features such writers as Howard Browne, Ray Palmer, Rog Graham, Richard Shaver, and others. First issue features a guest editorial by James V. Taurasi, and an article on News Letter.

Howard Browne's FANTASTIC ADVENTURES will get an overhauling with the April issue, due in February. New format will be small size, slick-style, with 144 pages for 35¢. Reported rate of payment will range from 2¢ to 10¢; Browne wants new type of yarn.

In England, H.J. Campbell's proposed two-color, LIFE-sized magazine was killed; considerable material costing over \$4000 had been bought and the mag set-up for print when publisher said no. (Full details in forthcoming issue of Walter Willis' SLANT.)

The following is a publicity release: "The Ackerman Fantasy Agency reveals the much-sought secret of the tremendous fifty-million-circulation science-fiction magazine (which) FJA contracted for in Europe ... is a periodical being sponsored by the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO")." We wrote, in vain, for further information.



LETTERS to the Editor

Bea Mahaffey (Chicago): "Your unidentified android in the convention skit is Joseph A. Christoff, of Pensacola, Florida."

Chester A. Polk (Wernersville, Pa.): "Thank you for the sample copy of the News Letter which you recently sent me. I would not hesitate to subscribe, were it not for the fact that I disapprove of your editorial practices as regards news and purely personal opinions. I noted several instances in this October issue where you freely mixed personal opinions and otherwise irrelevant material with news. And as I am not yet well acquainted with the fan field, I suspect there were many other similar instances which I failed to detect.

I can not approve of this for it violates the code of ethics of good news publishing. News must be news, and opinion must be separated and properly labelled. I will be glad to send you a money order if in the future you change the present order of things. In the meantime, and I hope you have not allowed the above to prejudice you, I should like to submit samples of my artwork to your paper. I believe I can bring myself to turn out the little pictures you like to print."

(Can you draw files? -BT)

Roy Squires (Glendale, Cal.): "I'll be damned if it's worth mentioning, far less making an issue of, but I do want to express the opinion that my memory of a full-grown, extroverted character whose second-favorite indoor-sport seemed to be making passes at my women hardly coincides with your reported EE Evans reference to "the twelve-year-old Ray Bradbury hanging around the Los Angeles club room".

Ray's first LA-SFL meeting was the first Thursday of October, 1937. He and I had both recently turned 17 years old and Ray was from the first much too forcibly in evidence to be spoken of as merely hanging around. The second issue of the club organ, *Imagination*, Nov 1937, announced for future publication Ray's first published story --- It appeared in the fourth issue, Jan 1938. Announced as "Hollerbochen's Predicament," it was published as "H's Dilemma." I recall not too long thereafter, Kuttner naming "H's D" as his favorite story, but I can't now find the source."

Don Day (Portland, Ore.): "Can it be that you were so busy gathering news at the Norwescon that you didn't look at the Portland papers? I have ... re-examined the 231 column-inches of coverage we got in the local papers (and) in them I find no evidence of "unfairness, deliberate slanting and outright cheating of such news reports."

(The balance of Day's letter continues to take us to task for saying New Orleans received the first favorable publicity. Our error. We didn't see nearly the 231 inches mentioned above but what we did see was favorable. Pardon the poor memory. And in the meanwhile, will Southern defenders please climb down off our back? We did not slur the South, slurs, nor were we jealous because New Orleans captured the convention. We reported what we believed to be a poor affair, and would have reported the same of it had happened in Detroit, Chicago, Toronto, or Nome. -BT)

International Fantasy Award Committee

Leslie Flood (London): "We are at last able to report that the Fantasy Awards are on their way to America to the authors concerned-- since so very much time seems to have passed since Forrest Ackerman made a token acceptance of them last spring. The scheme for the Awards for the best works of fiction and non-fiction, published in 1951, will this time be based on a much more representative selection by a great many more adjudicators.

To that end we are asking your co-operation, and that of your readers, to help judge the works. To provide a sporting interest we have decided to offer prizes amounting to \$25 to the three adjudicators placing six works in their correct order of merit, as revealed by the adjudicators' selection as a whole. *(He means, if you guess the top six winners correctly, you win the cash.)* The modus operandi is for all well-wishers and would-be master critics to send us their names and addresses, together with \$1, or twice that much in good quality science or fantasy magazines, (to be sold for benefit of the Award). A further 50% should be sent if a photograph of the 1950 Awards is wanted.

The committee will then record the donor as an adjudicator, and will forward full details at once, together with an entry form for the competition and a list of 1951 publications. What's it all about? The answer is simply that we believe that creative fantasy should be encouraged, and that work of high standards should be recognized. Why do we need the money? The Awards, the photographs, the publicity, the stationery, have cost to date over \$150; the hard work and loving care was donated free. The financing was guaranteed by the central group or original sponsors, and has been met. Now we need a cash basis to get the selections going for this year. Will you help by giving us needed publicity?"

(Send International money orders or magazines to Flood, in care of the Fantasy Book Center, 25 Stoke Newington Road, London, N-16, England.)

MURDER IN MILENIUM VI by Curme Gray. (Shasta Publishers, Chicago 1951. \$ 3.00).

An original novel, the second from this house and the fore-runner of many to come, Gray's story is of murder six thousand years in the future. The society of that day is a curious one, dominated by women while the men are kept strictly in their place -- the home; and yet there are curious lapses, in which the quite male hero steps out of the house and out of his place to run the show.

In a world where death itself is barely understood, murder is something the barbarians practiced thousands of years ago, but murder strikes nevertheless -- even though a detailed explanation is necessary to convince the people concerned just what murder is and what the act means. This is a capital idea for a crime yarn, but the reviewer wishes Gray had concentrated more on it and less on the futuristic trappings of his advanced world. The volume has already been taken by the Unicorn Mystery Book Club. -BT

THE BIG BLOODSHOT EYE

THE TWO PRETTY GIRLS on the cover are Bea Mahaffey and Judy May (left and right), the first women to head-up a national science-fiction

convention. Bea is secretary-treasurer of the convention society while Judy is convention chairman --- or chairwoman, as you wish. The date will follow tradition: August 30 and 31, September 1, of this year; the place is the Morrison Hotel in Chicago's Loop, just next door to the convention site of twelve years ago. This location is two blocks from the Grayhound and Trailways bus stations, and within a mile of all railroad depots. The probable meeting hall will be the hotel's "Terrace Casino," a large room built like an amphitheater with tiers sloping down to meet the large stage. An adjoining anteroom will contain the exhibits and publishers' tables --- as well as a bar so that featured speakers will no longer have an excuse for being twenty minutes late.

Membership in the Tenth Anniversary Science Fiction Convention costs a dollar. That dollar is used to prepay initial costs such as advance advertising, convention news bulletins, postage, and so forth. In return for the dollar, each member receives the frequent bulletins, membership card, official program and badge of attendance. Send your check or money order to:

Science Fiction Convention, P.O. Box 1422, Chicago 90, ILL.
And please be careful of the address -- you don't want mail lost.

THIS ISSUE represents the second annual book number of News Letter, not only repeated this year but planned as an annual item henceforth by popular request. The request came from a young woman in Berkeley who is/was doing a thesis on science-fiction; she found the checklist a handy thing, and Moskowitz was willing. We believe the checklist to be an accurate one, but invite your additions where needed. Omit the border-line and "gay deceivers" please; we're interested only in actual science-fiction titles and closely allied tomes, such as the Abelard Press entry.

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