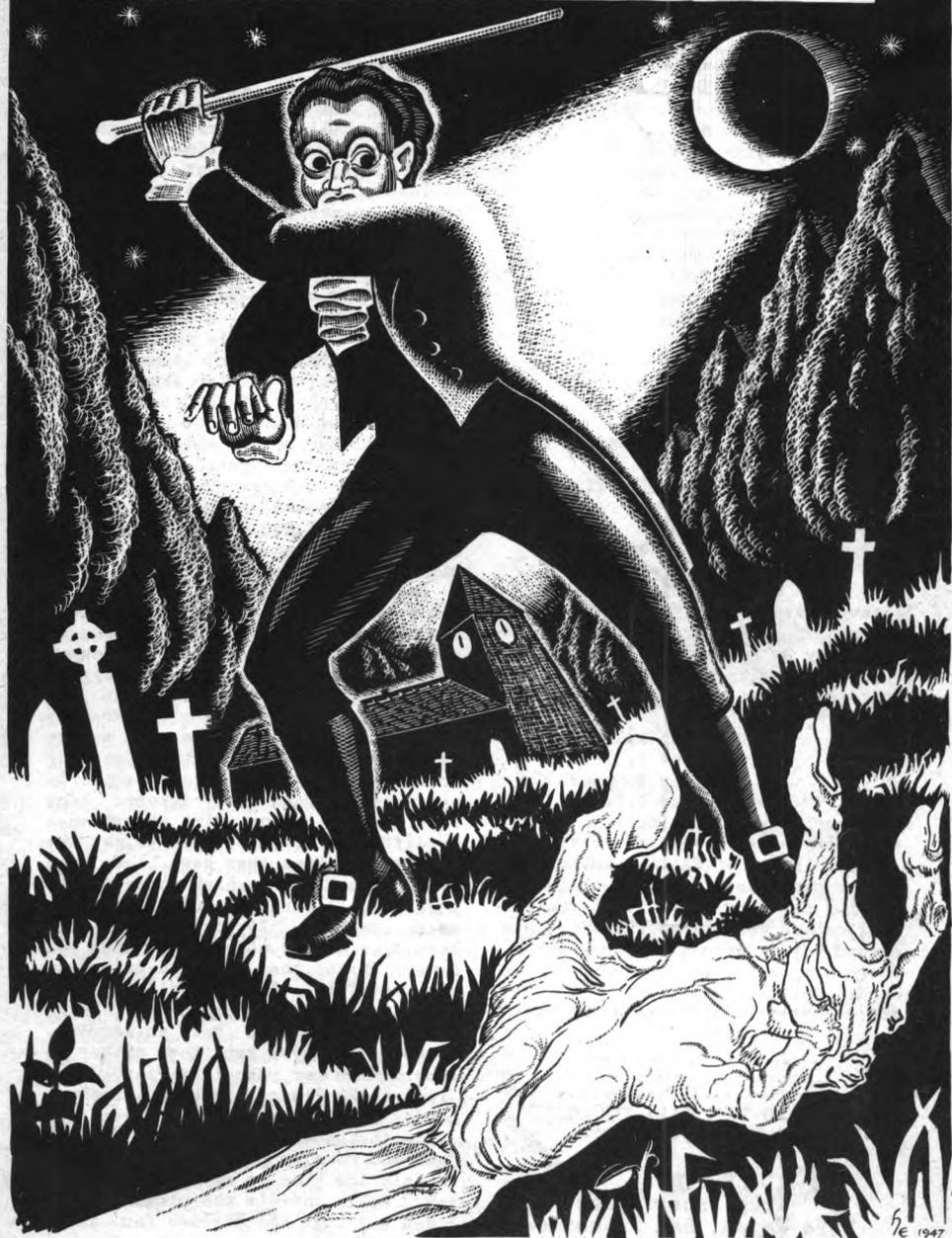


FANTASY ADVERTISER

VOLUME III
NUMBER 2

10¢

JULY



FANTASY ADVERTISER
 Volume III Number 2
 J U L Y 1 9 4 8

'The Amateur Professional for Professional Amateurs',
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 EDITORIAL We are late again, & minus
 many of our prize features
 We plead guilty of overwork, rush and
 a certain amount of laziness. We can
 only promise to do better next time.
 Incidentally, however, I don't think
 that there are quite as many typos in
 this issue.

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- No 3 -- Sep 1, 1948
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BEYOND THE WALL OF SLEEP
 H. P. LOVECRAFT
 Fine, d/w
 \$30.00
 King Bros. Books
 624 Hayes, San Francisco

All other things happened, however. Our author for the Interplanetary Epic fell down on the job again, failing to come through with the goods. Therefore this issue is pretty much a compromise. Three short items for articles fill the center section. We were pretty short of good small illos so saved most of the best and only used a few. The cover, which we had intended to use next year, is a beautiful job however; one that not only the author but FANTASY ADVERTISER can be very proud. Ernst is English artist, and we have a pair of half pages you will see one day.

Next issue will contain a short article on the Torcon; this issue reports on the recent English convention. In connection with the latter, J. Newman who was instrumental in organizing the meeting has sent these words:

"...Let me end with a plea for help. As you know, magazines are very scarce over here because of the Board of Trade ban on subscriptions to American magazines and their import. Many fans in this country find it extremely difficult or impossible to get the latest magazines over here. We have the Cosmos Library, which is available to all Anglo-fandom, but it is by no means complete. If you US fans could send over an odd copy or two when you have finished them we would be extremely grateful. If you would like to send direct to an Anglo-fan, Frank Fears will let you have an address. However, if you send them either to John Newman or the librarian, Jimmy Clay at n17, Fludger Street, Lewisham, London SE-13, we will see that they reach the fans. No doubt the British fans who receive magazines direct will be only too glad to reply in the same way." Well, there's the plea; I think I can say that the English fan is a

good trader, having traded with many myself and getting, I fear, much the best of it. There is, in England, a treasure of thousands of uncollected fantasies. I picked up several hundred during the war there, and I am willing to bet there are plenty left

Julian Parr (another Englishman) who wrote our FANTASY IN GERMANY for this issue would appreciate some suggestions for German titles to look for. Two that I have thought of were Fedor Kaul's books "Contagion to This World" and "Manui," both of which have different German titles than that, & which I do not know sans research. You suggest some. The address is 6 R/B Intelligence Office, c/o 808 HQ CCG (BE), B. M. O.R. (19), Germany.

A special gadget for collectors is the June 29th issue of Antiquarian Bookman (R.R. Bowker Co, 62 W 45th St NYC 19) (same folk who put out Publisher's Weekly) which is devoted to fantasy, containing articles by Jim Williams, Ted Dikty and others on the subject. The issue was distributed at the Torcon.

Gerry de la Ree, co-publisher of LOKI and frequent advertiser here, has announced his marriage July 1, and a subsequent delay of LOKI #2, plus a new address: 46 Johnson Ave, Hackensack, N.J. Congrats, Gerry.

Old news now, but Shasta Pubs had a booth at the American Bookseller's Association convention in Chicago and right up with the big boys - Simon & Shuster, Random, et al. I savvy they boated stf for all it was worth...uh what connection has this with Antiquarians' special issue, Earle?

Also from Shasta came their catalogue, fashioned after Arkham House's and an announcement that there would be a few copies of the Stuart volume, WHO GOES THERE? for display at Torcon time. One of the covers has seen the light of LA.

Earle Cornwall, who wrote the appreciation of W. Paul Cook in this issue, cannot remember the name of the book that the following phrase came from, and would like, if anyone does remember it, to know: "as ancient as that old gardener standing over there" -- I looked -- but there was no gardener there."

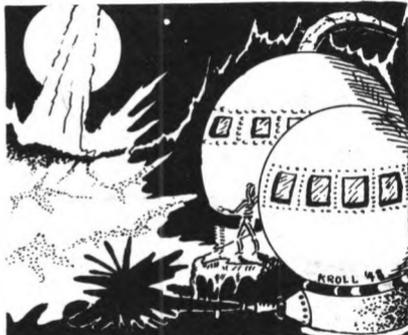
Regarding our proposed news column, C.J. Bowie-Reed, Publicity Director of the Picton SFS, and active member of the Montreal SFS has offered to handle the Canadian news. We are writing Jack an acceptance & are still looking for American, English and Australian representatives.

After the nasty blow to our plans for this issue, we are not so blithe as to future issues. However, the Interplanetary Epic and Grossman's pictures are still coming up; we have a set of material for Merritt issue, another lengthy bit on Poe, illustrated by the author, Herman King, which may grace the Xmas issue, and some more shorties. We've still got several interior illos to produce, but we're using lots of these; the field is wide open. We have been contacted by several of our artists desiring to do a set of illos for their favorite books such as the one Estes did. The go ahead signal has been given, and soon you will see some of these.

Before we forget it, our English representative, J. Michael Rosenblum, has announced the expectancy of little Rosenblum about the date of issuance of this FANTASY ADVERTISER. Good luck to Betty and Michael.

And good reading to the lot of you

57



AStoria 8-2377

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All Letters Answered

F-L-A-S-H!

A letter from FJA revealed to a startled LA crowd that the next World S-F Convention will be in Cincinnati!

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Vol. I, No. 2

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July, 1948

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Fankinds' Fanzines

R.A. ELCUN

Since we received huge piles of review issues this time up we cannot hope to review them all; but most of them are listed here.

THE FABULOUS FAUST FANZINE, v1 n1, Jun, 50¢, 77pp.
Darrell C. Richardson, 6 silver Ave, S. Fort Mitchell, Covington, Ky.

A huge publication on very fine paper, printed cover, litho printed, and photo insets on the interior, with some excellent interior decorations and multicolor mimeo work, all devoted to Frederick Faust:- his stories, poetry, and life. A wonderful job of mag making.

FANTASY REVIEW, v2 ns 8, 9, May, Jul, 15¢, 20pp.
Walter Gillings, 115 Wanstead Park Rd, Ilford, Essex, Eng.

The May issue contains notes on authors and writings, and the July issue some of the doings at the London convention, as well as the regular feast of news and reviews.

THE FANSCIENT, v2 n2, Sum, 15¢.
Don Day, 3435 NE 38 Ave, Portland, Ore. 32pp.

In spite of the rather microscopic printing brought on by the 50% reduction in the offset process, this issue is the best of those so far produced and is the first one I can heartily recommend to readers. Format - professional; Artwork - excellent; Content - very good.

CANADIAN FANDOM, n15, May, 10¢.
Beak Taylor, 118 St George St., Toronto 5, Ont, Can. 36pp.

The usual high quality of interest in this CAFP pub, heightened by the technique of cutting the stencils on varitype.. Recommended.



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Fantasy in Germany

by Julian Parr

Here is the list:

- Reinhold Eichacker: Der Kampf ums Gold
Hans Dominik: Atomgewicht 500
Die Macht der Drei
Der Brand der Cheops-
pyramide
Wettflug der Nationen
Das Weltenschiff
Thea von Harbou: Das indische Grabmal
Der Mann im Mond
Metropolis
B. Kellermann: Der Tunnel
Die Bruecke
Gregory: Der Atomkrieg
Stratosphere
St. Bialkowski: Start ins Weltall

I'd be glad to hear of more.

- FILMS -

Well, this subject could be very big. So we'll cut it down to my size by excluding the traditional German fantasy films of the first inter-war period, and concentrate on the second. In any case, pre-war films (of any worth) are no longer shown here, so I'd have to work on hearsay.

Post-war fantasy films: none have been produced. (You see how badly off the Germans are?) But I can give you previews of two films now being produced which, I think, could be considered "Fantasy".

"Das seltsame Abenteuer des Herrn Fridolin B." now being shot near Berlin by Wolfgang Standte (who produced "Die Morder sind unter uns"-an anti-Nazi film banned in the British Zone, but recently shown in the Academy cinema in London). Pre-publicity describes it as a courageous, and sharp-tongued satire on the times... The hero, who lives in a far-off and ghostly land where a Bureaucracy rules, where life tries to flow under a thick blanket of red-tape, regulation, forms, and a peerage of bureaucrats, is robbed of his identity papers, & is thus considered by the authorities as having no existence. The "dead" man drags his indisputably living form from office to office, shouting 'but I'm alive!' into deaf ears. One still shows the scene at the consecration of a monument to the national saint -- a huge, grotesque figure of a man in frockcoat and stiff collar, with a huge pen in his right hand as a lance, and a bundle of forms in his left, held like a shield. The despairing "dead" man climbs up onto



First of all, I must warn you. Germany, the land of forests and castles, womb of the world-view and the V2, nurturer of modern mythology and "Metropolis", lies open to the rampant fantast. New fields - a harvest to gather, seed to be sown. Well, you'll be disappointed. I was.

I'm afraid I made a hash of this investigation. I've not brought the subject of fantasy up very often in talking with Germans. I suppose it's the old story: the decadence of the occupation personnel, surrounded (as I'm told they are) by luxury, idleness and immoral rearmament. Or perhaps it's my susceptibility to Nazi influences. For I seem to have lost my old concern for the important things of this world. But one needs the brazenness of a crusader to try to raise the interests of these poor fantasy-starved Germans to a higher plane. I can only give a list of books I've only heard are Fantasy.

I've only seen one of them. Here books are luxuries, and fantasy books are real rarities. The only book I have handled is St. Bialkowski's, the "Start ins Weltall" - a pure American Amazing adventure: the rocket flight to Venus, the interplanetary adventures, the intrigues and wars, the heroism and villainy. A very poor adventure, but definitely stf. And the owner would not part with it!

the pedestal, and prays for the return of his life.....

Somewhat similar is the film "Die Herr vom andern Stern" now under production at Munich. Starring Heinz Ruhmann, brilliant German comedian, it describes the arrival of a man from another planet. This superman, who can overcome distance merely by the power of mind (and, as the German preview describes it, "Doesn't even need atomic energy") arrives on this planet, dropping into a dingy little alley in a German town. The preview goes on: "This gentleman travelling about the universe on a tour, had unfortunately forgotten (because this was apparently not necessary on other planets) to procure identity papers for himself. Even his unusual faculties fail to save him from falling under the wheels of our bureaucracy and he had to submit to various model examples of bureaucratic procedure—including military training! As he attempts to preach "Reason" at an election meeting, he becomes the center of a violent fight in the hall. He would've probably left our backward planet at once if the selfless love of a simple girl hadn't kept him back. Unfortunately, he is forced to reach the conclusion that Flora's love is not quite free from material wishes, so that our superman soon thinks once more of leaving our little world".

While I, with a glimmer of my former perspicacity, can criticize the use of "Stern" instead of "Planet", I must admit to admiration of the satirical technique; although I suppose the real fan would consider example of German backwardness in that the German's love for fantasy is, like Flora's, "not quite free from material wishes."

Another film is being planned by the Neue Deutsche Filmgesellschaft which may turn out to be real fantasy. In any case, the real-life occurrence on which it is based is fantastic enough for any fan. Listen to the following account, and you'll understand why the normal procedure is being reversed in this case and the film writers are toning down the fantastic improbabilities of the event.

The facts are, according to the report, verifiable from the documentary evidence of several doctors and scientists, including the writer, Dr Rolf Reissmann, of Baden-Baden.

"On a spring evening in 1921, Stuttgart police picked up a Mongolian girl on the Schlossplatz. She

could not understand German and - as was later ascertained - could make no use of objects common in civilised life. It was supposed that she had been brought from Russia by a released POW, who had left her to her fate in Stuttgart. However, it was soon discovered that the girl spoke no Russian, and in fact understood none of the generally known languages. As she was a clean, quick-witted girl, she was taken in by a lady in Stuttgart as a housemaid.

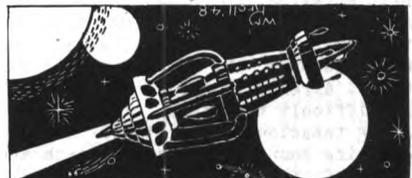
One morning she was found in a sleeplike condition lying before a Tibetan statue of Buddha. This led to the discovery that her speech was unmistakably a West-Tibetan dialect. The girl remained under continuous scientific and medical control for more than nine months, but there was no indication of the transformation that was due to take place.

A sudden raging attack of fever, with no warning symptoms but with a temperature rushing to impossible heights, robbed her one day of consciousness, and, while she lay in bed like a corpse, a remarkable change took place in her features. The brown-yellow complexion paled, and the former almond-shaped, slant eyes grew to the normal West European size, the cheekbones receded... When she regained consciousness, after a few hours and began to speak in a throaty German dialect, it was a German peasant girl, M----, who lay on the bed.

It was only after days and weeks that the doctors were able to determine that the girl, M----, lost consciousness during a violent quarrel with her parents. What had happened after that was unknown to her as was the whole of her second life in Stuttgart.

The planned film, "The Lost Face" will tell of a doctor under hypnotic compulsion. It is to be hoped that this Hollywood tactic will not prevent the film from reviving some of the splendours of German fantasy films.

jp





W. Paul Cook

(deceased January 22, 1948)

by

EARLE CORNWALL

Paul Cook's death was not a surprise to friends in the National Press Association, nor the Fossils, because his poor health & two major operations were subjects known to members.

For nearly 50 years he had been friendly with many amateur and advanced journalists -- particularly Howard P. Lovecraft, Rheinart Kleiner, Ernest Edkins and his boyhood chum, Edward Cole. Aficionados who possess that choice omnibus, Lovecraft's BEYOND THE WALL OF SLEEP AND OTHER TALES, will surely read again and yet again Cook's charming chronicle intime, "Appreciation of H.P. Lovecraft" (35 pages in rear section of the book). I confess having read it many times....Fine writing!

My own connection with Lovecraftiana dates from some years after HPL died, due partly to Cook as a correspondent - if one could call this master of brevity and his short sharp notes a "correspondent".

Outside this most human biographical sketch of HPL, I have seen little of the writings of W. Paul Cook in the magazine files of NAPA members. The things long since published by Cook have become collector's items, viz., THE MONADNOCK MONTHLY through thirteen years, ending in a final volume of 76 pages, beautifully illustrated, 7x10 in format (1901-1913).

This was followed by THE VAGRANT, a 5x7 deluxe issue, (1923-1927), the last one 312 pages!

During these years a close friendship with Lovecraft developed; a circle of Boston and Providence acquaintanceships, Cole, Kleiner, Morton, Long, et al, with Lovecraft's eventual death in 1937 a severe blow to all.

Cook's next magazine, THE GHOST, an elaborate 8x10g, numbers 1 to 5, next appeared, 50 pp each, (1943-'47) As it would seem, a sort of token to the memory of Lovecraft, else none could surmise why it was titled THE GHOST. Already this file of THE GHOST is difficult to obtain. Aficionados cling tenaciously to their copies, learning soon after Cook's death the owner of the Driftwind Press could find no copies among Cook's effects.

About every form of verse & short story, biographical sketches and literary reminiscence will be found in Cook's five GHOSTS, in varying degree of literary craftsmanship, from the sing-song beat of "Jungle Tom-Toms" to the 30 page ultra-fine "The Weird Tale in English Since 1890" by August Derleth; sketches of Lovecraft, of the Old Gentleman of Providence Plantations & his circle of friends on night visits to graveyards and other strange by-ways; "Lovecraft and Benefit Street" by Dorothy Walter; "Burrowings of an Old Bookworm" by Rheinart Kleiner, a lengthy sketch on book collecting as interesting as our weary eyes have ever seen; letters of Robert Howard, Hoffman Price, etc.

All of which, when combined with editing and printing the things mentioned, plus volumes of TOLD IN VERMONT descriptive poetry and his vocation as foreman of printers on the Athol TRANSCRIPT and Driftwind Press mark W. Paul Cook as a professional who did much to encourage amateur journalists. In our opinion, Cook's finest gesture was dragging from a darkened den that super craftsman Howard Phillips Lovecraft; pushing him with cajolery and encouragement into the light-hearted circle of United Amateur Journalists where most members play with little journaletts not knowing the difference between a manuscript and a masoleum. From this group of quabbling, imitation writers Lovecraft soon passed to WEIRD TALES forming new friendships with professional writers, poets and editors; and Cook, it seems, was always there in the background--a true friend when a friend was needed.

For some of the above data I am indebted to the magazine, INTERLUDE, Feb '48, published by Edward Cole, boyhood chum and friend of W. Paul Cook until death parted them. Cook died January 22, 1948, at Burlington Vermont.





THE AUTHOR (left) with PETER HAWKINS at the WHITCON.

May 15th 1948, the first postwar British Science-Fiction Convention! Book hunting; meetings; new friends; food; the auction. Who can look back on such a gathering without nostalgia and regret?.

In 1944 the Cosmos Club held a convention, The Eastercon, in Teddington. Many fans were in the Forces then. In 1946 the British Fantasy Society collapsed & Britain was without practically any form of fan society. The teen age fans were unable to get magazines, except reprints, and many of the old timers were still not demobbed. However, a group of enthusiasts met at Fred Brown's place in London and the London Circle was born. At first only a dozen or so fans turned up to the meetings, but soon the news spread, and now the regular informal Thursday evening gatherings at the White Horse in Fetter Lane are one of the bright spots in the lives of London fans. It was this group that sponsored the Whitcon.

The Whitcon was planned at fairly short notice but over fifty fans came along, many travelling from as far away as Stoke-on-Trent, Sheffield, Yarmouthshire and even from the untracked depths of Ilford. Many fans who were unable to attend sent along books and magazines for the auction, as did several generous fans in the States.

On the Saturday afternoon the out of town fans were met by members of the London group and parties taken around the bookshops in the Charing

Cross Road, whilst another party visited the Science Museum. They later converged on a Lyons Corner House and were reinforced by a number of new arrivals. After a pleasant tea they traveled by underground to the White Horse in Fetter Lane, where the main meeting was held. The room itself was lavishly decorated with dozens of fabulous illustrations. Original covers from the old "Tales of Wonder" were propped next to illustrations from "New Worlds" and "Astounding". One table was completely covered with piles of magazines and books, some overflowing onto the piano and the floor. Another table was covered with copies of the latest science-fiction and weird magazines, all of which are extremely difficult to get nowadays because of the ban on subscriptions to American magazines. The outstanding exhibit on this table was a copy of Dr. Aiken's magazine "Beyond". One typed copy of each issue used to be circulated on a chain to all the interested fans.

The guest of honour, A. Bertram Chandler arrived a little before Walter Gillings called the meeting to order. Wally spoke about the difficulty of publishing science-fiction magazines in Britain. He told the gathering how FANTASY had folded because of the paper shortage and how unlikely it was that any existing publisher could be interested in this field. Why should not fantasy fans publish their own magazine in this country?

John Carnell then told the Convention about the collapse of Pendulum Publications and consequent indefinite hold up of "New Worlds" No. 4. In spite of the excellent reactions of the trade to "New Worlds" and "Fantasy" ("New Worlds" No. 3 was oversold by 3000) both magazines had been suspended and Ted suggested the formation of a new publishing company. Such a company could be financially backed by fans. Both he and Wally Gillings had been surprised at the enthusiasm of those who had been invited to participate in the scheme.... Ted went on to tell of the success of the London Circle, which had accomplished more than any other organisation, such as the Science Fiction Association. He reviewed the present book situation, saying that books were still coming over from the States but the new regulations made their import very difficult. After telling the fans about the latest books he went on to tell them about the Big Pond Fund, saying that it was open for another fan to go if he so wished.

Arthur C. Clarke then introduced his most professional "I" and gave a talk on "Science Fiction and Astronautics". "Ego" Clarke dredged up the past, telling of the time when the British Interplanetary Society was mainly composed of sfans, comparing it with the present, when only 20 per cent of the B.I.S. are fans, and the first moon rocket is not so far away Arthur showed how science-fiction had helped to introduce new ideas such as astronautics by breaking down psychological barriers. In spite of it a many poor stories much science-fiction was read by scientists in this country and Arthur went on to reminisce how he had introduced "Thrilling Wonder" into the Cavendish Laboratories, hitherto sacrosanct to "Astounding"; the attache' case of a wellknown scientist, thought to contain massive tomes, found to be full of old "Wonder Stories"; and the Nobel prize winner reading "Astounding."

The Secretary then raised a number of points. By a large majority, the fans present voted the excess money from the auction, after expense had been met, should be donated to the Big Pond Fund. A visit to Kew Gardens the following day was announced. A vote of thanks to the organiser was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously.

Lt. Ken Slater had sent two pounds to buy all the Whitcon attendees a drink, so, before attacking the running buffet, the meeting hurriedly broke up to drink Ken's health. There was plenty of food available and in spite of the fans' efforts there was some left over, an unheard of thing at any British fan gathering. So on groups of fans were clustered around the bar, the buffet, the auction table and one another. Everyone was talking, enjoying the convention hugely. At this point it might be worth while to mention that only one fanette, Miss Daphne Bradley, came along, although a number of the fans' wives were present.

The auction, the event for which every fan had been waiting, was held later on, just as coffee was served. We soon knew what it was going to be like. Poor Ted Tubb (may fans have mercy on his soul -- wouldn't be surprised if he had knocked it down to someone for 6d) assisted by Landy & Plum was deluged by goodnatured sneers and cracks as the evening wore on. However, even if the atmosphere did grow a little thundery when Ted tried to sell a couple of Ziff-Davis "Amaz-

ings" and "F.A.s". The first books sold were those donated to the Big Pond Fund by American fans. A number of Arkham House books from Derleth, A signed Clare Winger Harris anthology and several others were sold very quickly. Then the magazines were brought on and the fun started. If a normal being had walked in he would have considered himself insane, for such scenes just don't happen. The bidding was keen, especially for the rarer items. Three much sought after items were the "Amazings" containing the "Skylark of Space", wartime "F.F. M.'s" and "Weirds."

Last of all came the illustrations. An original cover from "Tales of Wonder" was put up by Wally, bid by Wally, raised by Wally (didn't recognize his own voice!) and finally knocked down to Wally for two shillings. Another illustration, this time of Eve and the Serpent, by Dennis, raised much comment but most of the wives silenced their husbands before they could bid. Apparently competition was not wanted.

The auction was over by 10 PM, raising about \$70, of which nearly 50 would go to the Big Pond Fund after expenses had been deducted. The gathering adjourned to the bar down below until 10:30 when they broke up, some going to a late supper at a nearby cafe and some going straight home.

The Whitcon was undoubtedly a great success & with this experience we should be able to have a bigger & better convention next year. You may be interested to know that we have published a Whitcon Booklet containing articles, comments, and information about the Whitcon and Anglofandom. Copies can be obtained for 1/- (25¢) from either J. Newman, 35, Balstrode Ave, Hounslow, Middlesex, Eng. or the Secretary of the London Circle Frank Fears at 6, Ferme Park Mansions, Ferme Park Road, Crouch End, London, N-8. Frank Fears will be only too glad to help anyone who wants information on Anglofandom or the London Circle. Ken Slater is publishing now a Whitconzine which may be obtained from him at "Riverside", South Brink, Wisbech, Cambs., or from J. Newman at 3d per copy (4d with postage).



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SPARX, v2 n1, Jun, 10¢, 30pp.
Henry Spelman III, 75 Sparks St, Cam-
bridge 38, Mass.

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up, and some quite interesting discus-
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FAN ARTISAN, v1 n1, May, 10¢, 46pp.
Fantasy Artisans, Box 1746, Orcutt,
Calif.

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containing some excellent mimeo art
by the 'Artisans' - Brown, Manning,
Grossman, Kroll, Bullock, et al. Even
a couple comic strips. The art repro-
duction is excellent and is recommen-
ded.

SHANGRI-LA, n7, Aug, 10¢, 20pp.
Dale Hart, Apt 20, 1116 Georgia St.,
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Editor Hart resigning with this is-
sue. The LASFS undecided as to whom
will run the club organ henceforth.
To be hoped that they get a man of
equal ability. Contents of this issue
hit a heavy & serious note.

MACABRE, v1 n2, Jun, 10¢, 36pp.
Jack Doherty, 68 Latimer Ave, Toronto
Ontario, Canada.

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liar esprit de joi that seems to infuse
Canadian fanmags. The cartoons in the
mag are of a quality with those in Fan
Ads.

THE SYDNEY FUTURIAN, #7, 8, 9, 10; 5¢
E.F. Russell, 274 Edgecliff Rd, Wool-
laura, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

SPEARHEAD, v1 n1, May, free.
Thomas H. Carter, 817 Starling Avenue,
Martinsville, Va.

FANTASY TIMES, v3 n6, Jun, 15¢, 26pp.
James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd,
Corona, N.Y.

TYMPANI, v2 n2, May, 5¢, 7pp.
Bob Stein, 514 W Vienna Av, Milwaukee 12

THE MUTANT, v2 n2, May, 10¢, 24pp.
Michigan Science Fantasy Society,
22180 Middlebelt, Box 384, Farmington.

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