

FANTASY FICTION FIELD

Founded by Julius Unger

Volume 1 ... BI-WEEKLY ... Number 3

February 12, 1963 . The National Fantasy Review Whole Number 3

convention roundup

THE SILVERCON COMMITTEE held its latest business meeting on December 8, 1962, according to the SILVERCON NEWSLETTER. The Silvercon (25th Anniversary Science Fiction Conference) is scheduled to begin on Friday, July 3, 1964. First day activities include a group visit to the Worlds Fair, as well as registration. Convention proceedings will begin on Saturday afternoon, with a banquet scheduled for Saturday evening. The banquet is to be offered at cost, with \$1.00 discount given off the registration fee with the purchase of a banquet ticket. Randall Garrett has been selected as Toastmaster. More programming will be scheduled for Sunday afternoon and possibly Sunday evening.

The Park Sheraton Hotel has been selected as the location for the con. The Committee voted to set the registration fee for the Silvercon at \$2.50, with a \$1.00 discount when a banquet ticket is purchased. The Committee expects to begin accepting registrations in March, 1963. Early registrants will receive the NEWSLETTER, in addition to the Program Booklet.

The present Silvercon Committee is: Chairman, Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.; 1st Vice Chairman, Hans Stefan Santesson; 2nd Vice Chairman, Walter R. Cole; Secretary, Harriett Kolchak; Editor, Milton Spahn; General Advisor, Sam Moskowitz; West Coast Rep., Forrest J. Ackerman. Listed as active members are: Norman Codner, Belle C. Dietz, Jean and Ted Engel, Larry Kafka, Ed Meskys, Christine Moskowitz, Julius and Naome Postal, Max Phillips, Frank R. Prieto, Jr., Richard and Judi Sephton.

For information, meeting notices, suggestions, requests for NEWSLETTER:

Franklin M. Dietz, Jr., Ch.	Harriett Kolchak, Sec.	Milton Spahn, Editor
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Bronx 53, New York	Philadelphia 30, Pa.	Bronx 52, New York

THE 1963 LUNACON will be held on April 21 at Adelphi Hall, Room 10D, 74 Fifth Avenue, between 13 and 14th Streets, in Manhattan. Planning for the program includes a panel discussion on Edgar Rice Burroughs. The registration fee has been set at \$1.00, and starting time is 1:00PM.

THE ANNUAL ESFA OPEN MEETING will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 3, 1963, at the YM-YWCA Building, 600 Broad Street, Newark, N. J. Starting time will be 1:30 PM. Taking part in the program will be Willy Ley, Isaac Asimov, Lester del Rey, Otto Binder, and others. John Campbell is guest of honor.

FANTASY FICTION FIELD is published bi-weekly by Harvey Inman, 1029 Elm Street, Grafton, Ohio. Editor: Harvey Inman. Associate Editor: Paul Scaramazza. Subscription price: 13 issues for \$1.00 or 26 for \$2.00. All checks or money orders should be made payable to Harvey Inman.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS All comments I have received about continuing FFF without Julie have been favorable--so full steam ahead! Special thanks this issue go to Buck Coulson and Harriett Kolchak for news items, also many others. Paul Scaramazza reports he has all the material for the first volume of indexes, which will include Thrill Book, Weird Tales, as well as Gernsback's magazines through 1925. The next volume was to contain listing of all fantasy and science fiction published in 1926. This volume Paul will probably not be able to compile, since neither his nor my collection is complete that far back. Volunteers wanted!

I got my copy of the new ANALOG a few days ago and was almost speechless with admiration. At the physical makeup, anyhow. The oldtimers and the collectors will recall that once before JWC went large size with ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN in the early 1940's. But they were still printed on pulp paper then, and most copies from that era already show signs of deterioration. The new ANALOG, with its high grade paper, should last indefinitely with reasonable care. I will still take the old pulps, even with ragged edges, in preference to most of the science fiction currently being published. Slick paper and slick writing do not, of themselves, make good science fiction, but there are some who smile happily as sf moves closer toward the literary mainstream and oblivion. P. S. Miller, in his book review column in the current ANALOG, goes into this in some detail. His remarks are certainly worth pondering, no matter which way you feel about the trend.

Fan—Dango

Harriett Kolchak reports that JELERANG is in the editor's hands, and she expects a trial copy to be ready at the next meeting of the Mercurians on February 17. Harriett also reports that Jack and Marilyn Zeitz of Philadelphia have a new daughter, born January 17th.

Bill Bowers, editor of DOUBLE BILL and others, will have a new address, effective the 15th of this month. He will be moving back with his parents at: 3271 Shelhart Road, Barberton, Ohio. Bill says that, in spite of the advantages of having an apartment all to himself, there are also disadvantages. Such as the expense...

Dean Grennel has moved to Milwaukee. His new address is: Box 949, Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin.

Charles Wells was married on December 28 to Jane Ely. Joe Fekete was also recently married, the bride's name not specified.

Ethel Lindsay's TAFF trip report, detailing her visit to the USA and the Chicon is nearing completion. She expects it to be over 80 pages. Her address for inquiries: Courage House, 6 Langley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey, England.

A LOOK at BOOKS

FANS WHO ARE INTERESTED in details of the Russian spaceflights might consider moving to England, or at least working out a deal with a British fan. Panther Books, a British paperback firm, has published two paperback novels, "Gagarin: First Man In Space" and "Gherman Titov's Flight Into Space," at a price of three shillings sixpence (49¢) each. Both books are written by British newsmen Wilfred Burchett and Anthony Purdy, and both are liberally illustrated with photographs of the Russian "cosmonauts" and Russian space experiments in general; over 50 photographs in each book. A lot of the photos are typical Russian shots of the happy cosmonauts and their happy, happy lives; but there are enough photos of rocket and scientific installations to make the books worthwhile.) Neither book contains any startling revelations, and both are written to the "popular" level; but they do provide details that were lacking in most American accounts. (Though you do have to be careful about some of those details. An earlier British book, "Sputnik Into Space" by M. Vassiliev and V. V. Dobronravov, translated by Mervyn Savill from the Italian edition --!!-- also shows some photos. One of these is captioned "The Russian idea of the future...from a Soviet science fiction film." The same illustration appears in "Gagarin," this time captioned "Rockets and launching gantries." Of course, they are rockets and launching gantries, but Messrs. Burchett and Purdy carefully refrain from adding that they are also fictional.) "Sputnik Into Space" was published by Badger Books, priced at 2/6 (35¢) and is probably out of print by this time.

Reviewed by Robert Coulson

Paul Sceramazza, quoting from PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, says Arkham House will publish in April "Best Stories of H. P. L." for \$5.00. Due in May is "Collected Poems of H. P. L." for \$4.00. Coming on May 1 from Dover is an omnibus volume of John Taine: "The Time Stream," "The Purple Sapphire," and "The Greatest Adventure," for \$1.75.

Pyramid will publish in April a collection of eleven stories and nine Cartier illustrations from UNKNOWN. The title of the book is "The Unknown." The editor is Don Bensen.

Ace Books will continue its heavy program of science fiction books, doing four releases a month, adding up to five titles (considering the double book as two novels), and sometimes more. Scheduled to appear in March is the double, "Alpha Centauri--Or Die!" by Leigh Brackett and "Legend Of Lost Earth" by G. McDonald Wallis. Also to appear in March are the single novel books, "Armageddon, 2419" by Phil Nowlan (the original Buck Rogers story), "Tarzan the Invincible" by ERB, "A Fighting Man of Mars" also by ERB, and "The Sundial" by Shirley Jackson. Don Wollheim informs us that the latter is one of the higher priced books with marginal fantasy interest. In April, Ace will release the double novel volume, "The Silent Invaders" by Robert Silverberg and "Battle on Venus" by William F. Temple. Singles in April: "Witch World" by Andre Norton, "The Son of Tarzan" and "Tarzan Triumphant" both by ERB, and "The Angelic Avengers" by Pierre Andrezel. This last is also of marginal science fiction interest.

FROM:

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