

# FANTASY NEWS

W E E K L Y

- o A COSMIC PUBLICATION
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## o AN INTERVIEW WITH FARNSWORTH WRIGHT by Sam Moskowitz

~~DATE~~ 22nd, 1939, is filed in the annals of fandom as the day when Farnsworth Wright, editor of "Weird Tales", was interviewed for the 1st time since his arrival in New York. The interview was consummated by your correspondent, and arranged in advance.

The offices located in the same section with others of the Short Stories Inc, are very neat and comfortable, but no special effects are utilized to "brighten up" the place, such as hanging a few stuffed Ban-shees on the wall or a couple of groveling Ghouls underfoot. Editor Wright himself, is remarkably cheerful when you consider the terror-ridden manuscripts he plows thru daily.

After a short discussion on various angles of "The World Science Fiction Convention", the trend of the conversation turned to the one and only "Weird Tales". Farnsworth Wright confided that the bi-monthly issuance of "Weird Tales" is but a temporary measure put thru because of slackening sales in the Summer months, and that it would not be continued as WT's regular policy. The magazine will appear for the space of two issues, at intervals of 6 weeks. Therefore, the August 1939 issue of WT goes on sale June 15, the Sept number August 1st, back to normal again.

It was learned that "Far Below" was very well received by the readers, but that a tremendous chorus of protest was aroused because the story had not been illustrated by Finlay. "Giants of Anarchy", it seems is receiving undue condemnation because it had no relation to the uncanny. Upon being asked whether he considered Harry Warrner's ratings in FANTASY NEWS quite fair, Wright replied to the negative. He pointed out a story he considered rated too high! However, he considered "Far Below" rated much too low, and Clark Ashton Smith's "The Willow Landscape", "A little gem rated ridiculously low".

Naturally the questions turned to a demand for future lineups of "The Unique Magazine". Wright obliged by giving the following. Two Novels are scheduled. First "Twilight of the Gods" by Edmond Hamilton, dealing with characters of Astrology, and making them seem as real people. Secondly Thoms P Kelley's "A Million Years In The Future", which Wright enthusiastically commented upon as "the finest interplanetary story I have ever read, and by far the best WT's ever printed. It hits a new slant on Interplanetaries and surpasses by light years Kelley's last two excellent novels. E Hoffman Price reappears in the pages of WT in the August issue with "Apprentice Magician", which cops the cover and which Wright describes as "whimsical humor". Price has a second unusual yarn scheduled known as "Sp-

anish Vampire", "which is a tale of a vampire poisoned by its own kind of blood, and therefore killed." Lovers of David H Keller, M D will be glad to know that Wright considers his forthcoming novelette "Lords of the Ice Age", as "up to Keller's very highest standard of past years." It was found that the two unpublished novels by H P Lovecraft had not yet been submitted to Weird Tales.

Upon your correspondent explaining that it was such little knickknacks as the note above Lovecraft ghosting for Houdini which give WT it's atmosphere, Editor Wright divulged something further in the same line. Farnsworth Wright was the original ghost-writer for Harry Houdini. It was Wright & not Houdini or Lovecraft who wrote "Spirit Fakers of Hermannstadt", and "The Hoax of Spirit Lovers" which appeared in early WT's. When Wright obtained the position of editor of Weird Tales, he recommended Lovecraft to Houdini for the latter's need of a ghost-writer, hence the recent reprint. Another question asked was how WT managed to maintain its standard of quality despite the increased number of pages. Two answers were given. First of all, back in 1923 when Edward Baird was editor of WT very few manuscripts were received, and there wasn't very much to pick from. In contrast to the hundreds received every month by WT today. In corroboration of his statement Farnsworth Wright pointed to neat piles of manuscripts on his desk. There were rejection slips for no less than three prominent fans among them. Too bad I'm ethical. However, there is a yarn under serious consideration by old-timer J Scholoss, author of "The Second Swarm" etc. Secondly he has a better chance to balance the issue now that he has 160 pages. Before with the regular readers department, reprint selection Quinn Novelette, and chapter of a serial. it was a tough job selecting

a fine enough variety of material. However, with 32 more pages, his problem is more or less eliminated and he can balance the issue so that the material reads better. His future hope is that he will receive enough support so that he can afford to jump the pages up to 176 as "Short Stories."

Wright promised to help out with the convention as much as possible. He will attend along with his wife and son. He has seen Metropolis twice and believes it one of the finest scientific films ever made and can't wait to see it again at the Convention. He also contributed a number of Finlay originals toward the auction. In the future he will put aside other illustrations for the auction. One fact that impresses most after a conversation with Wright is his determination to maintain the quality of "Weird Tales" at any cost. WT has had some pretty rough sailing at times, but even when the magazine seemed to be forming the proverbial throaty death rattle Wright never compromised with quality, and eventually his policy proved sound. WT is in its 17th year now, and is probably the most respected pulp magazine in the United States. May it's banner of quality reign many more. sm

o SEEING PALMER

by W Lawrence Hamling  
Alexander M Phillips is about to return to AMAZING with a great story, "THE BEAST OF THE ISLAND" which cops the cover on the September issue. The cover is done by FUQUA and is one of his best yet. Now for a little mystery! Watch for the most sensationally "different" story ever published in any science fiction magazine - - its coming soon in AMAZING.  
Frank R Paul's third printing on FANTASTIC deals with "THE MAN FROM MERCURY" and on the fourth issue will be, "THE MAN FROM SATURN."  
Neil R Jones has failed again to

click with AMAZING on another one of his "Jameson" stories. It seems that Mr. Jones cannot write to fill the new editorial requirements of AMAZING STORIES and until he can it is doubtful whether we will see much of the reknowned Professor. Palmer informs me that the editorial staff is personally planning a Jameson plot which will be submitted to Mr. Jones for authoring. The complaint against Neil lately is that his yarns are mere travelogues, and not actual adventure. Well maybe time will tell.

Until recently there has been a rather unimportant figure connected with ZIEFF-DAVIS, employed in the position of first-reader for all manuscripts. This person is Jerry K Westerfeld. Well, I am happy to announce that Jerry Westerfeld has now been appointed assistant editor to AMAZING. It may be interesting to know that there is a touch of humor connected between Palmer and Westerfeld in that upon entering their mutual office, you are greeted with two signs propped conspicuously upon a heavily laden desk. Before Jerry's desk reposes the inscription, "Oleo Margarine used here!" and on Ray's desk perches another, "Oleo Margarine used here too!" Try and figure it out!

ZIEFF-DAVIS may publish in the near future a South Sea Island Magazine I can't say much about that now, but will later. Also there is a slight possibility that a weird may be published. wh

#### CONVENTION FACTS

Acknowledgement is due to the "Bizarre Series" for their contribution of 6 copies of their excellent brochure, "THREE LINES OF OLD FRENCH" by A Merrit to auction off at the WORLD STF CONVENTION. A letter from "AMAZING STORIES" says: "I am taking up the matter of advertising in your Convention

program. If you will send us your program's size specifications, we will make a layout for our Ad. Certainly you may be assured that "AMAZING STORIES" & "FANTASTIC ADVENTURES" will give you the same cooperation. We will reserve several original printings (cover-ed) for your auction....Thanks, Ray, fans will be glad to see ZIEFF-DAVIS doing her share towards the success of the WORLD STF CONVENTION.

From Farnsworth Wright, editor of WEIRD TALES, comes this tense, but thrilling message: "We will take a page ad in the Convention Program. If it is to be printed (it is -ed) we can furnish you with a cut of the title (Weird Tales)." I wonder if the fans really realize the ulterior significance of that message. It means simply, that "Weird Tales", quality exponent of weird-fantasy-scientific stories is meeting science-fiction at closest proximity in the entire history of fantasy fiction magazines. It is outright recognition of the fact that lovers of weird-fantasy, and science-fiction are essentially of the same stock. It has always been an acknowledged fact that the audiences of both phases' of fantastic fiction are to a large degree the same individuals, and that the two blend into one another.

The OSA shall again issue STF AND NONSENSE, under the editorship of McPail as a Convention Mag. Each member is scheduled to have a page message to the world meet. The magazine will be large size and contain about 8 or ten pages. Here is the official requirements of the convention magazines: THEY CAN BE OF ANY SIZE OR SHAPE, OF ANY NUMBER OF PAGES and if possible, must have 100 or more copies of each. They must be in by June 24 1939. Mail them to Sam Moskowitz 603 So. 11 St, Newark, New Jersey. The Convention Committee reserves the rights to reject any magazines that do not reach their require-

PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE FICTION RATINGS  
by HARRY WARNER Jr

AMAZING STORIES JUNE 1939

	T 5%	C 20%	P 35%	N 40%	TOTAL	100%
SECRET OF THE PYRAMID	1	16	26	34		77
TRIAL OF ADAM LINK, ROBOT	1	18	32	35		86
PE-RA, DAUGHTER OF THE SUN	1	15	20	39		75
WHEN TIME STOOD STILL	3	17	25	32		71
JOHN HALE CONVICTS A KILLER	0	13	20	36		69
THE PIT OF DEATH	0	16	30	35		81
total for the entire magazine						77%

/ TITLE T - CHARACTERIZATION C - PLOT P - NARRATION N /

CONVENTION FACTS (continued)

ments.

BOOSTER ads and all other ads for the convention program must be in the hands of TAURASI, 137-07 32nd Avenue, Flushing, New York, no later than JUNE 20, 1939. BOOSTER ADS sell for 25¢ ea. The following names have been added to our evergrowing list of BOOSTERS: WALTER SULLIVAN, NANCY FEATHERSTONE, JOE W SKIDMORE (per FJA), THOMAS HINMON, Mrs Charles Sykorz, ROSE ALBERTI, MILLIE TAURASI, their names will appear under the title: SCIENTIFICTIONIST in the CONVENTION PROGRAM.

CONSENSUS by DALE TARR

Someone's been smuggling all the STF news by me lately, darn it, so I will have to confine myself solely to ASTOUNDING of June and J.W.C. Now, look, J.W. is it fair to practically pull an illustration from UNKNOWN and plaster it on Page 39 of ASTOUNDING? I think Burks is now paralleling Van Lornes's approach to reproach. -- Only three stories really deserving of mention in Analytical Laboratory. -- Simak's Rocklynne's and Williamson's. -- Those three ought to crowd each other for 1st place, so I won't call their order. -- Vincent's or Burk's one should lose out entirely. ( I

say that Vincent's THE MORONS will cop 1st place - ed) De Camps article of course did well. -- 3 good stories, 2 good articles - 3 poor stories. This is all. dt  
P.S. GET YOUR NAME ON THE "SCIENTIFICTIONIST" LIST! dt

THE VISASCREEN

Horace L Gold and L Sprague de Camp have collaborated on "None But Lucifer", forthcoming novel in UNKNOWN....Eric Frank Russell has sold UNKNOWN its first feature article, "Over The Border", continuing in the Charles Fort tradition.... The feature novel in the November issue of STARTLING STORIES is to be by Jack Williamson.

STF ITEMS by JOHN GIUNTA

AS for DYNAMIC SCIENCE STORIES all that could be secured is that the cover will be by J W SCOTT, illustrating the Novel: Marvel SS is already off the press and is only waiting to be released. The latest issue of CORONET features a scientific short story of a dentist who found a way to make live teeth, and a scientific article "THE INVISIBLE DESTROYER" of the bacteria destroyer called the phage. The coming JUNGLE STORIES #3 will again feature another KI-GOR Novel. Authors slated for future issues of SCIENCE FICTION

# AMAZING STORIES

*For Sale*

1934: Jan - April - May - June  
July - August - Nov.

1935: Jan - Feb - March - Apr.  
May - June - Dec.

1936: Feb - April - June - Aug  
October - December.

1937: February - April - June  
- August - October -  
December.

- - - - -  
26 issues complete for \$5.00

- - - - -  
| | | | |  
EDDIE SMART  
MT. VERNON, MAINE  
| | | | |

ALL ITEMS mentioned in previous  
Ad are still FOR SALE - waiting  
for buyers.

In addition: NOVAE TERRAE, Oct '37  
8¢ -- BULLETIN OF THE LEEDS SFL  
with three FUTURIANS 35¢ -- WEIRD  
TALES June 1930, 50¢ -- ORIENTAL  
STORIES, Winter 1932, 25¢ ASTOUND-  
ING STORIES, June 1930 & March 1931  
25¢ ea. -- DETECTIVE TALES, March  
1923 (Dr Dunraven's Discovery) 35¢  
LAND OF THE FAN-SHAPED FLAME 10¢  
-- FOREST OF FEAR, by Diffin, 5¢.  
and many other items:

LARRY FARSACI  
48 Lewis St  
Rochester, NEW YORK

YOU MUST BUY

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LET!

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TION FANS, WHO ARE REAL FANS,  
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The price is so that live you in  
the finest pent house in Manhatt  
n or a nice warm? bench in the  
park, you'll still be able to  
have your name published in the  
CONVENTION BOOKLET!

- - - - -  
ITS ONLY 25¢ PER NAME! no stamps

- - - - -  
YOUR ORDER MUST BE IN BEFORE  
JUNE 20, 1939!

- - - - -  
TAURASI, 137-07 32 Ave Flush, NY

are Leslie Stone, John Russell Fearn  
and Stanton A. Coblenz. J6

o FANAMAG REVIEW by LOUIS KUSLAN

THE FANTAST May 1939 Vol 1 # 2- 20  
quarto size pages, fair cover by  
Robb, The contents include: MARS &  
VENUS, an essay by Osmond Robb; A  
very humorous article on "How to  
Write Weird Poetry" by Dave McMill-  
win; "Conversation Piece" by Soffer  
"Enopolis" an article on the Stuart  
facet of Campbell, written by  
DRSmith...FANTAST'S FOLLY, the read-  
er(s) department.... An excellent  
buy at 7¢ or 40¢ for 6 issues from  
CSYoud, 244 Desborough Rd, East-  
leigh, Hants, ENGLAND.

SPACEWAYS June 1939 Vol 1 #6 26  
pages, mimeed, large size. Excell-  
ent cover by Widner...Contents:  
"From the Control Room" an editor-  
ial...."The Space Terror", a play-  
let by Leslie F Stone...A really  
good weird story "Frisco Fog" by  
pro author, TPKelly...."News from  
AMAZING by WLHwaling..."Paradox Pl-  
us" a collector's column by LBFar-  
saci..."A Fan's Toothbrush", chit-  
chat by DHart...."Legions of Leg-  
ions" by Wacky Jilliamson, side-  
splitting..."Stardust by the Star-  
treder...."From The Reader's....  
Plenty of good poetry too. 10¢ ea.  
HWarner Jr, 303 Bryn Pl, Hagers-  
town, Md. lk

o SCIENTIRADIO by Walter Sullivan

"THE CIRCLE" presented once again,  
a poem, by Stephen Vincent Benet  
entitled "METROPOLITAN NIGHTMARE".  
In this as in many other of his  
works, Mr. Benet seems to be warn-  
ing the human race that it needs  
some changes. The following is a  
short summary of this work:

The Summer in New York grows hotter  
and damper. The Gulf Stream changes  
it course, Tropical birds visit NY  
and the people begin to slow up.  
Before long the termites (Gardner

o SCIENTIFILMS by Mario Racie Jr

George Melies, the French Film  
pioneer made a version of the  
GULLIVERS TRAVELS in 1903, and  
also made TUNNELING THE ENGLISH  
CHANNEL, a story about a Transat-  
lantic Tunnel, in 1907. Somewhere,  
in some film library or private  
collection there must be a print  
of these films, as yet I haven't  
found them.

Karl Dreyer's LE VAMPYRE, (1920)  
was about the subconscious mind.  
This same film was remade by the  
French director, Epstein.  
THE WIZARD OF OZ, was once made  
by Chadwick Films, (British)  
Sir Cedric Hardwicke will appear  
on the screen as he really is for  
the first time in "ON BARROWED  
TIME", supernatural film. In all  
of his previous roles he has been  
required to wear a beard. mr

o SCIENTIRADIO (continued)

please note) migrate to New York,  
and it is soon learned that in-  
stead of eating wood, they eat---  
steel! I think it is as good, if  
not better than his poems on the  
next war and the revolt of the  
machines.

Arch Coblers play for this week was  
"THE WORD", which also dealt with  
the next war. In which everyone  
except one couple is removed from  
the Earth, supposedly by God. ws

o SEND IN YOUR

*Booster Ad.*

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE! THEY MUST  
BE IN BY JUNE 20. ONLY 25¢ AND  
YOU HAVE YOUR NAME IN THE PROGRAM  
BOOKLET, UNDER THE TITLE, "SCIENTI-  
FICTIONIST". SEND YOUR 25¢ to:

o JAMES V TAURASI  
137-07 32nd Ave  
Flushing, New York

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- "The Gravity Professor"
- "Hippograt"
- "From Time's Dawn"
- "The Greater Miracle"
- "Worlds Within Worlds"
- "The Devil of the Western Sea"
- "The 'V' force"
- "A Jungle Convert"
- "The World in the Balance"

ALL THESE EXCERPTS R FROM FIFTEEN TO THIRTY YRS OLD!

35c: "1000 Times Lighter Than Air" - "The 3-Eyed Man" - "Sky Woman"

PRE-CONVENTION SALE, AFTERWARD REGULAR PRICES WILL PREVAIL

50c: "Copper Princess", "Woman of the Pyramid", "Under the Andes"  
(1913, 87 pgs) (1914, 93 pgs) (1913, 139 pgs)

\*\*\*\*\*  
BURROUGHS ORIGINALS! "The Mad King", 50c. "A Fighting Man of Mars", 50c. "The Eternal Lover", 75c. "The Moon Maid", \$1. "The Chessmen of Mars" (6 illustrated instalments, 1922) - \$1.25. Tarzan of the Apes (1912) - \$1.50. UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS (By "Norman Bean", 1912 - 5 pts) \$3.00.

All prices ppd. In ordering, please state several alternatives. PS: No mail will be ansrd from this adres for 5 wks after Jun 26.

*San Science Field*

236 1/2 N New Hampshire  
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SCIENTIFICTION - BOUGHT - SOLD - AND - EXCHANGED

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WANTED: A partner, who knows either stamps, coins or scientifiiction. Must have capital to invest. Must, of necessity, reside in New York. Must be interested in scientifiiction. The object is to open up a scientifiiction book and magazine shop in the City, which will eventually become the headquarters for all scientifiiction fans in New York. All who are interested write to Julius Unger at the address given below.

FOR SALE: BATMEN OF THORIUM, Russell, and other stories-\$1.00; ACROSS SPACE, Hamilton, and other stories-\$1.00; PIGMY ISLAND, Hamilton, and other stories-\$1.00/

WANTED:

AMAZING QUARTERLIES: Spring 1928, Summer 1930, Fall 1930, Fall 1934, Winter 1933.

AMAZING STORIES ANNUAL

AMAZING STORIES Monthly: April 1926, May 1926, July 1926, Feb 1927, April 1927, June 1927, July 1927, March 1928, March 1929, Jan 1930, Aug 1930, September 1930, May 1934, September 1935 November 1935 December 1936.

Will trade for other science fiction magazines, or will buy if reasonable.

When you are in New York, stop in and examine my collection without obligation to buy. Buy from a dealer who is a fan first, then a dealer. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

JULIUS UNGER  
1349 50<sup>TH</sup> ST  
BROOKLYN-NY