

EDITORIAL STAFF

FANTASY TIMES
formerly
Fantasy Reporter

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The Monthly News Review

Incorporating New Fandom, Helios, Cosmic Tales, Fantasy Review, Solar, Junior Science Fiction, Tesseract, Interplanetary Tales, Wonder Fiction, Wonder Fiction Annual, Queer Tales, Fantasy Artists, Science Fiction Scout, Current Fantasy, The Planeteer, Tales of Science, Space, The Masked Spaceman, Spacelines, Inc., Weird Fiction, The Science Fiction Circular, Different, Cosmic News, The Last Fan & Others, Vadjong, and other titles Moskowitz and Taurasi have issued through the years of their fan activities.

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Subscription rates are five cents a copy straight. Short articles, reviews and discussions of current interest will be gratefully acknowledged. Send communications of any kind to Sam Moskowitz, 446 Jelliff Ave., Newark, N. J.

SLINGIN' THE SCIENTIFictionAL BULL with Sam Moskowitz

Hello, Boys. I'm glad to be back at something I enjoy doing. The list of indebtedness has grown slim. The outstanding subscriptions to New Fandom, Cosmic Tales, Fantasy Times and the never-revived Fantasy Magazine are few in number, and on the main have not long to run. But while we can, not one obligation shall go unpaid. If you had outstanding subscriptions to any of the above-mentioned fan mags, you should not be surprised to find this token of acknowledgement in your mail box's at intervals.

We shall try to appear more or less regularly (monthly maybe). Our trappings and embellishments are few. We have no finery and we shall break no precedents. It is our hope, that the contents of this publication shall merit a few minutes interest on our readers part. We shall present a review of the news each month, as gainsayed from Fantasy Fiction Field, Fanowcard, Nebula and any other fan or pro publications we can get our greasy paws on. We shall present editorials of personal opinion anent salient items of fantasy interest. There will be reviews of the pro's and of important science-fantasy volumes. Occasional columns and articles of current interest will also be included. If you like us we'll be glad. If you don't we'll still keep coming until there's no more fun in it for us. And always remember this! Our pages are open!

Editorially we would like to come out in support of Julius Ungers remarkable weekly FANTASY FICTION FIELD, in whose pages your editors TIME STREAM column appears regularly with spot news. With its Science Fiction Book Bibliography, New Imagi-Index of all pro stf. mags prior to 1938 appearing as regular premiums, coupled with its own large weekly editions of fine news coverage it is an outstanding value in the field at 5 cents a copy from Julius Unger, 6401 24th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

THE TIME STREAM, following the current of important happenings in the fantasy field as analyzed by SAM MOSKOWITZ.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION:- THE FIRST DIGEST SIZE STF. MAGAZINE.

From the very first the cute digest-sized ASTOUNDINGS won my approval. Their compactness, readability, neatness and distinguished rotogravure section coupled with the additional advantages of better interior make-up, convenience in mailing the magazine to service men and no appreciable loss in reading matter smacked more of progress than expediency. The quality of the reading matter was more irregular than is usually found in ASTOUNDING but high spots were not entirely lacking. The amazing Henry Kuttner under his Laurence O 'Donnell non de plume turned out a ranking novelette in "The Children's Hour" in the March, 1944 number. "Far Centaurus" rated high on the list of A. E. van Vogt's better stories despite his voluminous output. The return of Murray Leinster to the longer scientific lengths was a triumph for ASTOUNDING. His story "Plague" in the Feb., 1944 number, while not of classic proportions was of eminently respectable readability. In the last few months "Ogre" by Clifford D. Simak and "Fricassee in Four Dimensions" by P. Schuyler Miller have also been outstanding. The resurgence of opinion decrying the inclusion of even good fantasy in ASTOUNDING was noted when Campbell included a left-over from UNKNOWN, "We Print the Truth" by Anthony Boucher in the December, 1943 number of ASTOUNDING. Somewhere in back of the average science fiction readers mind is a knowing fear that the publication of straight science fiction might lose out if fantasy were included regularly in science fiction magazines. This makes it tough on Street & Smith who have bought and paid for a number of manuscripts of UNKNOWN, and obviously ASTOUNDING is the only other magazine on their chain that could hope to utilize the UNKNOWN type of yarn. ASTOUNDING is now the only remaining monthly science fiction magazine. It is now, more than ever before, the league leading science fiction magazine.

PALMER, ZIFF DAVIS, DERLETH & WANDREI, POCKET SIZED SCIENCE-FANTASY

Several times recently in both AMAZING STORIES AND FANTASTIC ADVENTURES Ray Palmer has let hints fly freely that Ziff-Davis is seriously considering undertaking the publication of either pocket-books or standard sized volumes of science fiction. In the latest FANTASTIC ADVENTURES he comes straight out and says that some sort of negotiations are going on involving August W. Derleth and Donald Wandrei who have successfully been directing the publication of Arkham House's volumes of Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith and Derleth Omnibus's. In previous issues of his magazines Palmer has several times referred to Wollheims "Pocket Book of Science Fiction" and seems impressed by the possibilities such a medium offers in the science fiction field. Ray is not alone. We, too, are impressed by the truly amazing possibilities inherent in this branch of publishing. We visualize an entire string of new and classic science-fantasy novels and short-story collections, a library of pocket-books such as would make any true lover of science-fiction chortle with glee. In this regard we refer to the history-making publication of "The Moon Pool" by Avon Books and their projected publication of all the rest of his works! Editors, readers and authors alike will someday recognize this as a milestone in fantasy publishing, an event to rank among the most important fantasy publishing advances

of the past half-a-dozen years. Then, too, Henry Kuttner talks of Penguin books asking for permission to reprint his "Mimsy Were the Bero-groves" from ASTOUNDING for a projected pocket-book of the fantastic & supernatural. Things portend. The first one to get into this branch of fantasy publishing right, stands to profit considerably. Palmer says letters to Ziff-Davis requesting such a set-up would not be amiss. Co-operation in this respect would be sensible.

THRILLING WONDER? STARTLING, WEIRD, FAMOUS FANTASTIC TAKE A CUT

More and more the war is making itself felt in the fantasy world. Many fantasy publications have lapsed by the wayside, possibly never to return, those that remain have been forced to take drastic curtailing measures to comply with the paper and author shortage. These changes have been direct and merciless. Magazines have had to be abandoned, publishing schedules lengthened. Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories were forced to adopt quarterly publication. Amazing Stories and Fantastic Adventures were forced to go bi-monthly. Now, for the first time Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories have cut their pages from 128 down to 112. It is expected that Captain Future will follow suit. These changes are made with no intent to gyp the public, for not only are publishing companies allotted only a certain percentage of their former volume, but the price of paper the past few years has been graded up according to the acuteness of the shortage and their ceiling price is comfortably high. Not only have pages been cut as a result, but the circulation of various magazines is virtually frozen. No matter what the demand is they have to be satisfied with a ceiling number of sales. If they happen to be losing money at that ceiling its just too bad. Pulp are not as badly affected in this regard as slicks, for many of them were lucky to sell 40% of their print order before the war.

Weird Tales has cut her pages for a second time, this time down to 96, a record low. The editors hasten to point out that their wordage remains the same. I think that is less important than pointing out that a higher standard may result. After all, to make type any smaller than they have it now would necessitate the use of eight point. That way lies blindness. It is interesting to note that Weird Tales is the first pulp magazine in many, many years to feature poems on the cover as a selling point. That takes nerve, and proves what one reader maintained: "That despite its format Weird Tales is not a pulp magazine."

Famous Fantastic Mysteries, too, has taken a cut down to 128 pages from their previous 144. This means more crowding than ever in the already overcrowded pages of that magazine. And we would like to point out that the editors have been overdoing the prehistoric motive in science fiction in their choice of lead novels, what with "Three Go Back" by J. Leslie Mitchell, "The Greatest Adventure" by John Tain and "The Day of the Brown Horde" by Richard Tooker. It must be added however that "The Man Who Was Thursday" by G. K. Chesterton was an inspired choice. John Taine still has not recovered in my mind from the awful batch jobs he did on "Tomorrow" and "Twelve Eighty-Seven". His mantle of greatness rest precariously upon the strength of "Seeds of Life" and "The Time Stream", nothing else has has written has stood up alongside these two. I wish fans would keep their mouths shut about his five unpublished novels, sight unseen, taking "Tomorrow" as a typical example they should be consigned to the waste basket.

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz appears in every issue FANTASY TIMES

NEW AUTHORS ON THE RISE

The numbering of outstanding new authors developed in the past year have not been numerous nor outstanding. But we find several in the immediate spotlight. For one, Albert de Pina seems to have caused a mild sensation in PLANET STORIES, with his flare for the dramatic and excellent descriptive powers. More and more his name has been pushed to the front of the magazine, until now he has become one of the feature writers of PLANET. Nothing has come from his pen to fit the title classic, nor has he, in our opinion written anything that is better than passingly fair, but he's being pushed and now THRILLING WONDER STORIES announces a feature novelet of his for their next number.

Another new author who has continued to rise lately is Ray Bradbury. Remembering the years he plugged without even encouragement. Knowing that he is the possessor of one of the worlds largest collection of rejection slips, and knowing too just how poor some of his early stuff was, one can't help but feel just a tiny bit glad that he's made the grade at last. One hates to feel that patience, perseverance and hard work have no recompense in the long run. Bradbury is unusual inasmuch as since his first published yarn in collaboration with Henry Hassel he has gone on to crack virtually every publishing house in the fantasy field, including Famous Fantastic Mysteries whose pages many of the finest pro's have been unable to pierce. His shorts now appear in virtually every issue of Weird Tales, he had never recognition on recent AMAZING & PLANET STORIES, and while his work has not been sensationally received, many readers have found the style of writing he has developed easy to read and often clever.

REMEMBER? by Larry B. Farsaci

REMEMBER? when Edmond Hamilton (world-saver) had not yet introduced the romantic element in any of his science fiction yarns --- & Harry Bates listed as his second favorite author Anthony Gilmore, none other than Himself! the other favorites of his being Murray Leinster & Hamilton & E. E. (Skylark) Smith.

REMEMBER? how eagerly we looked forward to the work of Elliot Dold, thinking back to his unique-styled illustrations for Miracle Stories. ---the headlines: Jesse Returns!!! Wonder Stories Sold! Weinbaum is "John Jessel"! ---the sighs arising with the suspension of Magic Carpet, Strange Tales, and the end of the quarterlies --- the genuine sorrow at the passing away of Weinbaum, Daniels, Lovecraft, Howard --- the surprise at learning that Charles Cloukey had passed on without our knowledge at the time, and without his ever seeing his "Swordsman of Sarvon" in print in AMAZING!!

REMEMBER? the "new" ASTOUNDING and the term "thought variant" --- the forecasts for Triplanetary, Life Everlasting, The Legion of Space, The Skylark of Valeron? --- the looking-forward-to the sequels, Valley of Dreams, Son of Old Faithful, Colossus Eternal --- the surprise at finding that the cover of the last Clayton ASTOUNDING, illustrating "Salvage in Space", had been intended for "Triplanetary", the serial finally appearing in Amazing Stories after having been rejected by Wonder! ---"The Good Ideas That Never Materialize" column --- the lamented supposed death of Hoy Ping Pong (Tucker) which proved only to be a fake instead of genuine.....REMEMBER?

THE COSMIC REPORTER by Cpl. James V. Taurasi

Did you know that advance dope on the recent fanfare over the Jet Rocket Plane recently published in all newspapers appeared in a 1941 issue of Hugo Gernsback's magazine FLIGHT? The article was written by Willy Ley and it was a reprint from the New York newspaper P. M. of which Ley is science editor. Gernsback gave it a colorful cover on his magazine, so it seems that P. M. using a science fiction author, scooped the world on jet planes by three years! Willy Ley wrote an article on Rocket Guns for P. M. recently.....FLIGHT in England (not connected with Gernsback's FLIGHT) also published articles on rocket planes and other scientific themes.....THE NEW YORK JOURNAL-AMERICAN is publishing a series of "The World of Tomorrow" pictures. These appear daily and the first of the series depicted a gas station of tomorrow. Good drawings too.....F. Orlin Tremain is now writing detective stories for Popular Publications. Good top-notch stories! Tremain was a member of the old Cometeers club and adviser of this magazine.....Here's some Firsts for ASTOUNDING STORIES. 1.) First small size science fiction magazine ever published. 2.) First magazine to use the words "science fiction" on the cover title. 3.) First stf. magazine to go "pocket size". 4.) The only stf. magazine to remain monthly since 1933, thru depression and war. That, in my opinion rates ASTOUNDING tops, even the Johnny Campbell and I never will agree on inside and cover illustrations.....

.....Leo Moroy now does most of the inside illustrations for G-8, a semi-fantasy air magazine.....Gernsback's RADIO-CRAFT now features scientific covers every month, usually with an article by Gernsback. The covers are all connected with radio in one way or another, and are done by Alex Schomburg.....Grosset and Dunlap have just issued a "war-time" series of the Tarzan books of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Sorry, no Martian or Venus series, in fact they are out of print! These cheap editions contain the same covers as the original editions, but no inside illustrations.....We like the new policy of Famous Fantastic Mysteries in publishing reprints from more unobtainable books, but we still miss the great Munsey Reprints. That mag should continue publishing Munsey Reprints, policy or no policy.....PLANET STORIES is the best seller around this Army Camp, with ASTOUNDING 2nd. THRILLING WONDER AND STARTLING come third with AMAZING, FANTASTIC ADVENTURES AND CAPTAIN FUTURE last. Our P. X. carries them all, but few are left on the stands by the time the next issue rolls around.....

...What's this I hear about feuds on the West Coast? Aren't they the same boys who used to lament that all "fan fighting" was done in the East???--tsk. tsk.....Good old Unger still plugging away with FFF. I remember the day in 1940 when He and I put out the first few issues of FFF. Seems like quite a time ago, eh, Julie?.....CINEMA DEPT: Two vampire stories hit the screen recently. THE RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE and THE SON OF DRACULA. Both were extra good. THE SON OF DRACULA shows the Vampire actually changing from a human being into a Bat and visa versa, while THE RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE has Bela Lugosi, the original vampire, who puts across his role with realism. A great scene in our minds was when they were chasing Lugosi amid the explosions of a German raid over London. Two excellent pictures every fantasy fan should see...CPL. JVT.

