

PHILCON TO BE HELD  
AUG. 30, 31 & SEPT. 1, 1947

# FANTASY TIMES

the world of  tomorrow today

Vol. 2 - No. 5

Corona, 2 February 1947

Whole No. 36

## DOLL IN ENGLAND

(CNS) Jan 31. Bob Tucker informs us that his New York publisher has made arrangements with Cassells & Company, Ltd., of London to publish his book The Chinese Doll, in England sometime this summer. This same London firm has also taken an option on his next two books.

The Detective Book Club is still up in the air about the release date of the Doll but indications are that it will not be distributed to their membership before April.

The completed manuscript of his second novel Who Owns You? is in Rinehart's hands and a decision is expected within a month or so.

The 1946 Fanzine Index is completed and will probably be in the mails in a week or two. The Fanzine Index is free to all and if you fail to get a copy drop a postcard to Bob Tucker, P. O. Box 260, Bloomington, Ill.

## THE PHILCON

The first issue of the Philcon News has appeared, and a well made little information sheet it is.

In case you still don't know The Philcon will be held on Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1, 1947 in Philadelphia.

In a message from the chairman, Milton A. Rothman, it is proposed that the money (profits) be turned over to the club putting on the convention.

Also being planned is a photo-off set Program. It will be modeled (continued on page 10, column 1)

## OUTSIDER WILL NOT BE REPRINTED

(CNS) Jan 31. August W. Derleth, publisher of Arkham House, informs us that there is absolutely no basis of truth to the rumor being spread by prominent New York book dealers that The Outsider & Others will be reprinted. Arkham House has no intention of reprinting this, now or in the future.

However, several of Lovecraft's novels such as At The Mountains Of Madness and The Case of Charles Dexter Ward, may possibly see independent book publication. Possibly two or more will be in one volume.

Lost Worlds by Clark Ashton Smith has definitely been sold out completely and no copies are now available from Arkham. The sellout of Marginalia is probably a matter of days.

## FANTASY BOOK NEWS

(CNS) Jan 31. Recently out is Dark Music and Other Spectral Tales by Jack Snow. These are weirds and fantasies, 4 of them from Weird Tales, the other 14 never before published elsewhere. The book has a beautiful 4-color jacket by Ronald Clyne, and is dedicated to Lamont Buchanan, on the staff of Weird Tales.

Jack Snow is an outstanding radio script writer, and new author of the famous "OZ" series. The book sells for \$2.50.

The first Trover Hall book Puzzle Box, a collection of 6 fantasies of the Unknown type, is now (continued on page 10, column 1)



## Fantasy Book News

(continued from page 9, column 2) out and available from 2126 Grove St., San Francisco 17, Calif. for \$1.75. The second Trevor Hall book will be a sf novel by Edwin M. Clinton, Jr. titled Voyage in The Dark. Prepublication price will be \$2.50 until May 1, 1947. It is a tale of tomorrow's colonial empire

Half of the Fantasy Press first title Spacehounds of IPC by Edward E. Smith, Ph. D. is reputed to be already sold. Among future scheduled titles are Legion of Space by Jack Williamson, The Black Flame by Stanley G. Weinbaum, and The Book Of Ptath by A. E. Van Vogt.

## The Philcon

(continued from page 9, column 1) after the Pacificon Program, and says Robert A. Madle, it will not be a skimpy one either. Advertisements are now acceptable for the program, at \$5.00 a full page; \$2.50 a half page; \$1.25 a quarter page and 65¢ an eight page. Booster ads are 25¢ each. All ads should be sent to Robert A. Madle, Program Booklet Editor, 1366 E. Columbia Ave., Phila. 25, Penna.

The membership list consists of 93 members, 30 of which belong to BSFA and The Queens SF.

If you haven't joined the Philcon Society, do so at once by sending a Dollar to Milton A. Rothman, 2113 N. Franklin St., Phila., Pa.

ON THE NEWS STANDS  
By Alvin R. Brown

Astounding Science Fiction for Feb, 1947. This issue inaugurates another new size change in ASF, a great improvement over all previous sizes. This issue is a good issue with no particular story as outstanding. The serial proved to be a disappointment and not a little anti-climactic. Maturity was the host yet the issue only rates a B plus.  
( continued on page 11, column 2 )

## FOREVER IS TOO LONG

by Chester S. Geier

A review by Dr. Thomas S. Gardner

The March issue of Fantastic Adventures has one of the best stories ever published in FA. Chester S. Geier's Forever is Too Long is a story that will appeal to most readers of science fiction. It does not contain the metaphysical, illusory and illogical trash found in most stories in FA. This story ranks very high, and if smoothed out in places might even rank as a classic. The plot concerns one Trevor, who is made immortal by the radiation from a meteorite while it was being bombarded by the neutrons from a cyclotron. The meteoric lump is destroyed in some form of atomic disintegration, and the penetrating radiation affected Trevor so that his body cells were able to continuously renew themselves at the same rate as when bombarded, i.e. 32 years. The trouble that he gets into when his wife and friend learn of it, his pseudo suicide and succeeding adventures during the next hundred years make very interesting reading.

Now I should like to criticize this story from a constructive viewpoint so that if it is ever re-written it can be made more logical. First, the impression is distinctly given that the cyclotron produces neutrons. That is incorrect. A cyclotron accelerates charged particles, electrons, alpha particles, deuterons, etc., but not neutrons which do not have a charge. Neutrons are produced by bombarding a suitable target, such as beryllium, with charged particles. Geier is evidently unfamiliar with the cyclotron, because he has Trevor get increased neutron velocities by stepping up the power of his cyclotron, when in reality the kind of target used is the controlling factor, in addition to the velocity of charged particles. In Trevor's first marriage, as well as his second, eight years



bring about a crisis in his life in that his friends and family note that he is not getting old. In the first case that would make him forty. I wonder if Geier knows that with modern nutrition, people at forty can be almost indistinguishable from their looks at thirty? If Trevor's friends showed the signs of aging he describes at forty, they must have been burning all along the candle! It took about fifty years for Trevor to think of make-up and appropriate disguise. This is not true to life. If you know you were immortal and no one else, to save yourself, the average person would use make-up immediately. Trevor is almost as much a failure as an immortal as Weinbaum's superman in The New Adam. Trevor shys away from marriage several times because of fear and dislike of seeing his loved ones grow old. In the final incident, he goes into space and finds another piece of meteorite that he uses to make his wife, a mutant, immortal. He dies in an atomic explosion, killing his wife and another mutant who planned to get a death ray out of his mind and conquer mankind.

Although the biogen theory is not tenable, the best discussion that I have seen outside of a technical article, is included by Geier in this story. The transformation of the chemical biogen unit to the atomic type by the blast of hard radiations is used as the basis of the immortal theme. As is usual with the science fiction writers, a physical transformation is utilized for immortality. Actually, longevity work indicates chemical reaction rates, and means toward that goal.

My chief objection to Geier's story is that he paints his character and life with too small a brush. He could have doubled the length of the story, or made a series, with excellent results. The un-progressive and pessimistic outlook of Trevor, at the age of 120, is in contrast to the people who now live over a hundred. Thus

the psychology of Trevor was juvenile in some respects.

In spite of the criticisms, this story should be read, even by people who abhor the Ziff-Davis type of material. I would certainly like to see more of this type of well written material in the Ziff-Davis magazines instead of the usual line of psychopathic material we have been getting in the past few years. The remainder of the issue is very poor, with the best being Williams' Man of Two Worlds.

Congratulations, Chester S. Geier. You get a three bell rating on your novellette, and you could have made it a four bell one. Sorry you didn't. -tsg

#### On The News Stands

(continued from page 10, column 1)

Startling Stories for Mar. 1947 The Laws Of Chance by Leinster was quite good, and a great deal better than the usual run-of-the-mill SS novel. As usual, the shorts were the drag on the issue. If SS tried two novelettes instead of a novel and shorts, every issue might be tops. The H of F wasn't particularly brilliant but satisfying. I think it deserves a B-. -arb

For a review of Fantastic Adventures see Gardner's review of Forever Is Too Long. Sorry, no review of Amazing has come in yet.

#### COSMIC NEWS SERVICE

Fantasy-Times has completed final details for news exchange with Fanews and Embers. Fanews news will appear under the byline Fanews and Embers' under The Embers News Service (ENS), while Fantasy-Times news items will appear in Fanews and Embers thru Cosmic News Service (CNS). For the first time in fandom, all leading news mags are cooperating in news exchanges for complete service to fandom.-ed  
 Advertise in Fantasy - Times and reach the most interested fans & stf readers. \$2.00 full page, \$1.00 half page and 50¢ quarter page.



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"A Cosmic Publication"

EAST COAST CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT GREENSBORO, N. C. ON MARCH 23

(Fanews) Plans for a convention of East Coast fans is going forward. The Norcon is to be held at Greensboro, N.C. on March 23rd. Among the speakers will be: Manly Wade Wellman and Professor J. O. Bailey. Nelson S. Bond has been invited but hasn't answered as yet.

First on the program will be the election of officers for the year (This is the first official meeting of the North Carolina sfans group).

Membership in what may be called the Norcon Society is \$1.00 or whatever one wishes to pay above that. Any person may join and all fans are invited to attend. They need backers and boosters.

Unofficially, members of the State club have been kicking in an extra \$1.00 and signing up for the NFFF at the same time they pay their North Carolina dues. -sb

PACIFICON PROFITS

(Fanews) At the Dec. 5 meeting of the IASFS it was announced that the Pacificon Profits were \$95.60. \$47.80 was presented to the Foundation and \$47.80 was sent to NFFF. -t

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(CNS) Will Atomic Rays Cause Human Freaks? by Amram Scheinfeld is presented in the current Feb. 15 issue of Liberty. His answer is yes. The A-Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki can play tricks with Heredity for a 1,000 years to come. The article is illustrated

with a full page colored painting. In the same issue: Faster, Faster! by M/Sgt. Jay Keys, all about the Army's new 1,500 mile per hour rocket ship. Also in the same issue, a movie review of the fantasy film, It's A Wonderful Life. Mort Weisinger, once editor of TMS, has a short, non-stf article, in the issue.

(Fanews) Stanton A. Cobentz won third prize in a poetry contest staged by Mardi Gras Parade Magazine. The \$15.00 award was for his quatrain Atomic Bomb which appeared in Florida Magazine. -jak

(CNS) Science Illustrated, Feb. issue is out with some semi-stf articles and a letter from Dr. Thos S. Gardner.

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