

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 2 - No. 15

Corona, 13 April 1947

Whole No. 46

2ND BRITISH FANTASY OUT SOON

The second issue of the new British Fantasy, edited by Walter Gillings, appears four months after the first, dated April, 1947. Three issues are the most that can be expected, we are informed, in view of the desperate paper situation which restricts new British publications.

In spite of a limited printing causing a scarcity in copies in the U. S., copies may be obtained from Cheney's Bookshop, San Jose, Calif. and David Kishi, 171 West End Ave., N. Y. 23, N. Y. Single copies may also be obtained direct from the publishers--- Temple Bar Publishing Co., 24 Store St., London, W.C. 1--- but no subscriptions can be placed as yet.

The current issue features a novelette by Eric Frank Russell; Relic; short stories by P. E. Cleator, Norman Lazenby, E. R. James and Charles Willis, and articles by Walter Gillings and Thomas Sheridan. Among other features is a correspondence section Viewpoints, which has been instituted at the request of the readers.

In Matter of Fact, the editor-deals with the general reaction to the first issue and the story policy the magazine will follow. A novel feature which will present 'Famous Fantasies' in short story form, beginning with Bohun Lynch's Monace from the Moon is promised, the idea being to acquaint the general reader with some of the lesser-known fantasy novels which have been published in the past. In this respect, the Editor will welcome the aid of fans, not only in suggestions but (continued on page 40, column 1)

KELLER RECOVERING

After an unfortunate fall on March 2, 1947, as a result of which, Col. David H. Keller suffered two fractured ribs and internal injuries invaliding him for almost a month. In his latest communication, Col. Keller writes that he expects to be up soon and to continue with his writing. A letter from Robert A. Madle, Secretary of the PSFS, informs us that if Keller is feeling fit he will attend one of the May meetings of the Philadelphia group.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

edited by Lane Stannard

Air Trails for May, 1947 comes out with a fine interplanetary cover, a view of Earth as seen from the moon. It pertains to the lead article in the issue, Fortress in the Sky by Capt. B.A. Northrup. This article, ably illustrated by Frank Tinsley in a style reminiscent of Paul, is an evaluation of the Moon as a military base. Something that should not be missed by any one. -arb

Sometime this month, This Week Magazine (Supplement magazine section circulated with the NY Herald Tribune) will feature an article boosting the science-fiction field, specifically ASF and Campbell. -jk

The March issue of Harper's Magazine contains a weird short (continued on page 40, column 1)

FANTASY-TIMES

Published weekly by James V Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, New York, 5¢ a copy, 6 for 25¢. In Great Britain, 6 issues: 1/-.
 Editor: James V Taurasi; European Ed: Ray Van Houten, Ad. Manager: Sam Moskowitz, Associate Ed: Alvin R Brown, Assistant Ed: Joe Kennedy, Science Ed: Thomas S Gardner.
 "A Cosmic Publication"

EDITORIAL

THE TWENTY FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES

(a guest editorial)
 by Sam Moskowitz

Although Munsey and other companies printed large quantities of science-fiction before 1926, the founding of Amazing Stories by Hugo Gernsback in that year is regarded as the beginning of science-fiction in a truer light, since it aimed to devote its pages exclusively to such stories and to work for literary and scientific acceptance as a constructive force in the modern world.

Through the years, hard times and misconceptions have seen the pulp magazines stray from the upward path. They have fought harder for standardization and anonymity as just another pulp "escapist" story pattern, than they have for advancement of the literature.

The cries and pleadings of their faithful following of readers was ignored on the pretense that anyone who wrote a letter to a professional magazine was a "fan" and "Fans" were a crackpot minority.

The editors were wrong. The atomic bomb, the rocket, the transmutation of energy into matter, and many other headlines achievements leave no question that there is more to science-fiction than "escape". The reputed sale of the science-fiction anthologies at figures around 25,000 with

new editions still coming off the presses, have proved that they were wrong. It had to be conceded that the fans were the ones most likely to pay \$3.00 for a book, and sales were showing that the figure on fans had to be revised upward from 250 to 25,000, and not everybody can afford a \$3.00 book so common sense must place the figure much higher.

The selfless efforts of the science-fiction fan to better the lot of science-fiction, and incidentally the circulations of the magazines by obtaining past write-ups in Time Magazine and The New Yorker are neutralized by the reporters survey of the appeal of the various magazines, which leaves something to be desired.

When the war brought startling advances in science, and the public's attention was attracted to science-fiction, most of the magazines were in no condition to stand the critical scrutiny of an intelligent reading public.

A fan convention held at the right time and attended by a competent reporter, received a six page write-up in Harper's. The "fans" were found to be sane, intelligent and a forward-looking lot. With one exception, the magazines were found to be wanting. Forward looking Standard Publications has already changed their policies of their magazines in line with this new information. Like other magazines, they will have to hurry, for a science-fiction club meeting has been attended by one of the nation's leading educators and has been declared "educational". As a result, he has recommended the introduction of science-fiction into school English and Science classes, and into the school library.

The fans have done their part. They have achieved publicity in nationally circulated magazines of distinction. They have obtained educational sanction of the
 (continued on page 40, column 1)

HASH--A Review of The TALL OF THE RED DWARF WHO WRITES WITH HIS TALE, as told to Richard S Shaver

by Thomas S. Gardner

The May 1947 Fantastic Adventures carries a story by Richard S. Shaver which is composed of several things on Shaver's mind that he felt he had to get off. A minor schism is noticed at once the two high priests of the Shaver religion do not agree very well. Palmer, in the editorial, tries to imply that there is much more to the story than fiction, while Shaver insists in his prologue that it is all a great big lie, but also implies that the initiate will believe it for "the Red Dwarf wrote it", but for us poor simplotons it is a lie for we can't see the light! So take your choice.

The story itself is rather trivial. It concerns a strange planet, a man who wants wisdom, a stone god, and various paraphernalia of both Shaver and Greek mythos. The man goes into a cave (sic!), reads books that give the history of his origin and planet, offends a goddess, is made old, regains his youth, must carry out certain tasks to remain young, etc. He lives with a witch who has a laboratory, overcomes a queen who is sometimes a goddess, etc. The fiction part is rather boring, and I doubt that even Shaver thought it was worth very much.

The essence of the story is a satire on modern science, science fiction fans, and anyone who doesn't believe and swallow the Shaver drivel. Now it is truly shown, a la Shaver, that those who read modern books, especially science books, are all wet, and can never gain the Kingdom of knowledge thereby. However, the corollary follows that one can read certain kinds of books, much older than man, and get, yea, much

wisdom! Especially books written by implication, by Titans, or others of the same ilk. On page 20, a healthy dig is taken at the Stefan. And also by a statement the Stefan can never recognize truth, for verily, he cannot see truth in the Shaver truth, and as a conclusion to the original premise, he shall always be misbegotten and benighted! For an interesting discussion of education see pages 41-2, and it is too bad that the poor educated fools that exist created our civilization, will build the space ships that will leave the Earth, and the wonderfully wise people, the two million crack-pots in this country have failed to create anything to-date. For an example of their thinking and "scientific" outlook examine the sections devoted to them in Amazing for the past two years. It is extraordinary how much Shaver hates books--I can only presume that only thought records in tero and dero have any reality! On page 45 Shaver links wisdom, love, science, superstition, religion, life, as different facets of the same thing. Also was Shaver referring to the earth whose majority have rejected his deros when he had the Red Dwarf write, "for wisdom ...my direful, inescapable Red conclusion is that it is not in existence upon this planet." Tough Shaver, old boy, I guess we will have to go along building up civilization without the benefit of Shaverism, deros, etc., and I wonder if any of the thousands of scientists who are doing things will realize what they are missing? Perhaps if they did they would go to the nearest insane asylum and spend their time taking down the ravings of the inmates. This was recommended not too many months ago.

Which type of investigator will reach the moon first, Shaver's type, or the other? Step up gents, and lay your bets. I know which one I am betting on -tsg

BRITISH FANTASY

(continued from page 37, column 1)

in preparing condensed versions of such books for publication.

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 38, column 2)

literature. But all the advertising in the world is worthless if the product doesn't live up to its notices. The fans have done their part. It is time for the science-fiction magazines to do theirs, so that by its twenty-fifth anniversary magazine science-fiction will be all that its followers have claimed. -sm

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page 37, column 2)

story by Ray Bradbury, entitled The Man Upstairs.

The Unvisited and Night Life of the Gods are now out in pocket book form, 25¢ each.

Fantasy Story Magazine, the first all-fiction fan magazine in years will be out in a month or two. It will feature new and old stories by fans in a neat mimeo format with an excellent photo-off set cover by, weird tale artist, John Giunta.

The world destroyed by atomic war of October 1947 is the new serial just finished in Collier's. It is a two parter and started in the April 12th issue. It is super illustrated, by Dave Mink, in full color. Called The Blast it is written by Stuart Cloete. It reminds one a little of Rebirth as one reads it. It is an interesting story of a man who survived the atomic war and the return of this country back to the Indians.

The first mailing of the Spectator Amateur Press Society, now APA specializing in straight stf, will be distributed May 1st, and will contain publications by Coslet, Fox, Christensen, Alpaugh, Maddox, Kennedy and many more.

Fan publishers desiring to join should send 25¢ for a half-year's dues to Ron Maddox, 20 King St., New York 14, New York.

The March 29, 1947 issue of The Saturday Review of Literature has as its feature article, The Unwritten Classics by L Sprague de Camp. The article deals with The Necronomicon, The Book of Thoth, The Book of Dzyan and others. The article is a chapter from his forthcoming book on magic, witchcraft and occultism to be published by Henry Holt. -sm

August W. Derleth's recent book on Writing Fiction is of particular interest to phantophiles inasmuch as it devotes several vigorous chapters exclusively to the art of writing weird and science fiction. -sm

tome talk

by Alex Osheroff

The Legion Of Space by Jack Williamson, Fantasy Press' second volume goes to the bindery before April 15th.

Alexander M. Phillip's really top-notch Unknown story, The Mis-laid Charm is scheduled for May 15th publication.

Hannes Bok is still busy finishing the first draft of The Black Wheel, Bizarre Bazaar's second volume.

And still they come. There are mighty juicy rumors floating around concerning the organization of two more fantasy book presses. One is a second Philly publishing house and the other a New York-New Jersey combine. -ao

Rumors are making the rounds of two new pro stf magazines to be published in the very near future ON THE NEWSSTANDS returns in the next issue, reviewing TWS, Planet and others.

ADVERTISE IN FANTASY-TIMES

Full page for \$1.00 or 4/-

Half page for \$0.50 or 2/-

Quarter page for 25¢ or 1/-

ADVERTISE IN FANTASY-TIMES