

MOSKOWITZ IS SCIENCE-FICTION  
AUTHORITY FOR "THE ANSWER MAN"  
(Story On This Page, Column 2)

# FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

SUBSCRIPTION  
HAS EXPIRED

Vol. 2 - No. 19

Corona 11 May 1947

Whole No. 50

## BOK, CLYNE, O'CONNOR AT MAY ESFA MEETING

### *Moskowitz Gets Vote Of Confidence*

IN an amazing show of strength, 41 science-fiction and fantasy fans turned out for the May 4, meeting of the ESFA, despite the fact that no notices had been received, no celebrities announced, and in the face of a torrential downpour.

SAM Moskowitz, Director, read several letters received as a result of the last writeup in the Newark Sunday News; also a letter of inquiry from Albert Mitchell and Bruce Chapman for The Answer Man program; a reply from the editor of the New York Times Book Review section to the back-handed slam taken at science-fiction in Donald Barr's recent review of Jules Verne's Trip to the Moon; a review of John Campbell's book The Atomic Story in a highly uncomplimentary vein was read and then given to Thos. S. Gardner, Ph.D. to dissect.

THE writeup on science-fiction in This Week magazine was spoken on. It was also announced that because of inordinately high cost refreshments had been cancelled for this meeting.

ANTHONY Ceaser then made a motion that "The ESFA endorse a continuance of the mature, forward looking program being carried forward by Sam Moskowitz, in view of the fine results previously obtained, and the high calibre of the writeup received as a (continued on page 54, column 1)

### THE ANSWER MAN

SCIENCE-fiction fans who wonder where Albert Mitchell, The Answer Man, gets the correct answers to almost impossible science-fiction questions for his radio program may as well know that Sam Moskowitz is responsible for the replies. The Answer Man was referred to Sam Moskowitz by William S. Baring-Gould, author of Little Superman? What Now? when some science-fiction fan wrote in requesting information on C. A. Brandt's proposed magazine.

PADGETT AND TUCKER LISTED AMONG  
BEST WHODUNITS OF 1946

THE Mystery Writers of America in voting on the best detective novel of 1946 included in their voting The Brass Ring by Lewis Padgett and The Chinese Doll by Wilson (Bob) Tucker. -sm

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## THE MAY ESFA MEETING

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result." This was seconded by Thos. S. Gardner, and the club voted for this overwhelmingly with the exception of a small group of dissenters.

JOE Kennedy reviewed the outstanding fantasy events of the past month, followed by Dr. Gardner's talk on the essentials for the writing and appreciation of science-fiction, & also endorsing the views that juvenile antics by the younger fans must be dispensed with if science-fiction fandom is to continue to progress.

RAYMOND Van Houten, old-time fan just back from overseas, endorsed the view that the onus of "escape" literature on science-fiction had been proven wrong and refuted, as Moskowitz had previously said, by reviewers of the science-fiction anthologies in the two leading scientific journals in the United States, The Scientific Monthly, and the Chemical and Engineering News, and urged that science-fiction side in with the scientists rather than the literary men for its own best interest.

HANNES Bok, well known artist and author, was special guest of the ESFA and he spoke briefly on various artistic matters, and answered questions directed to him.

RONALD Clyne, who is now doing a major illustrating job for a new limited editions group, said that after attending meetings of several other major fan organizations he could honestly say that the ESFA was far ahead of any other similar organization in set-up, outlook and mature program.

PAUL Dennis O'Connor, publisher of The Fox Women, said that he hoped to have the second Merritt, The Black Wheel, ready for distribution at the Philcon and spoke of a great feature, revealed to the club in confidence, he

planned to have presented at the Philcon. He stated that there was a strong possibility his company could get a hitherto unpublished novel of Olaf Stapleton of extreme length. He also revealed that Dennis Wheatly and Louis Tracey were pseudonyms of M. P. Shiel!

ABE Oshinsky spoke of a tour by jeep down the Pan-American Highway to South America, that he and a friend of his were planning in order to view first hand the forthcoming eclipse for the World Astronomical Association of which Abe Oshinsky is President. (If Oshinsky makes the trip, he will act as Fantasy-Times and Cosmic News Service reporter and send back weekly reports.) This plan received a large write-up in the Brooklyn Eagle, premier Brooklyn and Long Island paper.

ANTHONY Ceaser then revealed that in examining the library of the great poet, Edward Markham, who wrote the world famous Man With the Hoe, at the Webster University on Staten Island, he discovered that 1/3 of a gigantic library of thousands of volumes was fantasy. Edward Markham had been a science-fiction and fantasy fan!

THEN adjournment was called to one of the most successful Eastern Science-Fiction Association (ESFA) meetings ever held.

## The Cosmic Reporter

edited by Lane Stannard

THE Green Man by Harold M. Sherman, published in Amazing Stories late last year, has just appeared in pocket-book form. Published by Century Publications of Chicago, as Number 104 of their Century Adventure Series, it has a very good cover, similar to the one used on Amazing, and contains 128 pages. It is printed complete (continued on page 56, column 1)

## FANTASY READER

DONALD A. Wollheim, editor of Avon Fantasy Reader writes us that the third Avon Fantasy Reader is on its way to the printers. Among other stories it will carry H. G. Wells' rarest science-fiction short story, The Queer Story of Brownlow's Newspaper; A. Merritt's Rhythm of the Spheres; Ray Bradbury's Homecoming; Frank Owen's The Silent Trees, as well as tales by C. L. Moore, Stephen Grondon (the first new story bought for this collection), H. P. Lovecraft and others.

MR. Wollheim answered a number of questions that Fantasy-Times had asked him concerning the magazine. About inside illustrations and a readers' column, Mr. Wollheim answered, "I do not believe that it is likely that there will be any inside illustrations for future issues. We prefer to consider the Fantasy Reader as a book, as a series of anthologies, and we wish to maintain book format as much as possible. For the same reason I think that a readers' column in such a publication would be somewhat superfluous. Though we are anxious to hear from your readers, we cannot feel that we do them a service by utilizing pages on such communications which can better be devoted to fiction."

ON the questions concerning Mr. Wollheim's connection with Ace Publications and the Keller story he bought for them, he answered, "I'm not connected with the Ace Magazines in any way, shape, or form. I resigned from that organization about a month and a half ago and am now associated full-time with Avon Books. I had scheduled Dr. Keller's story, "Praying Hands", with a change of title that I cannot at this moment recall, for appearance in the September issue of 10-Story Detective magazine. Whether it will actually appear in that spec

## THE ATOMIC STORY

CAMPBELL BOOK SUBSTITUTES "RHETORIC FOR FACT" SAYS N. Y. TIMES

JOHN W. Campbell's new book, The Atomic Story published by Henry Holt, received lashing criticism at the pen of Stephen Wheeler in the Book Review Section of the New York Times for April 27.

IN a challenging critique, Stephen Wheeler accused Campbell of being....."free with...!facts", about which he cannot possibly have accurate knowledge. Even when the answers are public property, Mr. Campbell is as likely as not to be wrong. He confuses the Hiroshima and the Nagasaki type of atom bomb. His account of the accidents at Los Alamos, which killed two scientists, is both erroneous and misleading. But these examples could be multiplied for columns. Finally he substitutes Rhetoric for fact- whenever it serves his purpose. His style is constantly one of high synthetic excitement which carries the reader along for a page or two and then becomes far-too hyper-thyroid for comfort. Mr. Campbell's book suffers most because the other two (three atomic energy books were lumped together in one review) are available."

IT is not known whether the reviewer, Stephen Wheeler is scientifically qualified to review the book since no scientific title prefaces or appends his name. In view of this fact we are turning a copy of the book over to our Science Editor, Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, who has the necessary background to properly review and evaluate a scientific text, and his review will appear in our pages shortly. -sm

ific issue is impossible to say until whoever is now editing that publication closes proofs."

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**FANTASY-TIMES**

"The Leading Fantasy Newspaper".  
Published every week by James V.  
Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd.,  
Corona, New York.

Domestic Ed: 5¢ ea., 6 for 25¢.

British Ed: 6 issues for 1/-.

Air Mail Ed: (US Only) 10¢ ea.

Editor-in-Chief: James V. Taurasi

Co-Editors:

Ray Van Houten and Sam Moskowitz

Associate Editor: Al Brown

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and Joe Kennedy

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"A Cosmic Publication"

**THE COSMIC REPORTER**

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and unabridged and while it is not the best story of science-fiction, it is the best story Amazing published in 1946. It was published in Amazing as a new story policy, at the time of the now infamous "Palmer insanity---Hoax".

-ls

## *Fantasy in the Theatre*

by David Kishi

GOOD news! The past month has shown quite an increase in films and plays of interest to fans:

ORSON Welles will produce, direct and star in a screen version of Macbeth for Republic Pictures this Summer. The picture will be done in black and white and with reasonable economy. It is scheduled to start in June. Fans who are not familiar with Shakespeare will see the fantasy in this "literate" film, in the form of the ghost of Banquo (a general in the story), and a few other apparitions.

ANOTHER Shakespeare item, Hamlet will soon be picturized at J. Arthur Rank's Deham Studios in England, and will be ready for release in late Winter. It will star Laurence Olivier, and Jean

Simmons, a newcomer. This picturization in all probabilities will be far better than the American film Macbeth. This too contains a few ghosts.

FERENC Molnar's play Miracle in the Mountains opened on April 19th at The Playhouse. It is described as a legend and it takes place about a century ago in the Carpathian Mountains. This play unfortunately had a short run of only three shows. However, the play was not discontinued because of the inconcinnity of Molnar's writing. The reason being that difficulty arose when there was a change in sponsors.

LEWIS Carroll's fantasy Alice in Wonderland has finally returned at the International Theatre, under the auspices of Rita Hansan and the American Repertory Theatre. It is an adoption of both Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass by Florida Friebus and Eva Le Gallienne. Bambi Linn plays the title role.

EXPERIMENTAL Theatre, Inc. who have produced many fantasies before are presenting Great Campaign by Arnold Sundgaard. This play incorporates the elements of dance and music; and concerns a plea for awareness of potential threats to democratic principles in a campaign for Presidency (of the U. S.). This will run for the customary five weeks.

**SOME SPECIAL NEWS!!**

AT The Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd, NY) starting this coming June 16th will present a new series of film revivals. In the Legend and Fantasy Series many films, some by Fritz Lang, some by Paul Wegener, will be presented. Also films under the Fritz Lang series will follow: Metropolis, and M are included. -dk

**PAST DEADLINE:** The PSFS meeting today will have Helen Cloukey as speaker. Their new constitution will be submitted to the members. Meeting will start at 8 P.M.