

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 2 - No. 21

Corona, 25 May 1947

Whole No. 52

SUBSCRIPTION
HAS EXPIRED

ESER ACHIEVES MAJOR WRITE-UP

FANS "LIKELY TO ASTOUND THE UNINITIATED BYSTANDER AND AWAKEN HIS 'ADMIRATION'" SAYS NATIONALLY KNOWN EDUCATOR

In what is probably the most unusual and scholarly write-up science-fiction ever to appear in an important publication, Max J. Herzberg, nationally known educator, Literary Editor of the Newark Evening News, Principal of Waequahie H. S., Newark and author of over 30 standard high school and college texts, whose achievements rate almost a column in the Who's Who of America, devoted almost a thousand words to the feature article on the book page of the Newark Sunday News for 13 April 1947.

The article titled Science-Fiction a Cult centered its observations in the book review style around the book Elan by A. E. Van Vogt, the fan magazines Fantasy Commentator & Fantasy Review and the Eastern Science Fiction Association.

Said Herzberg: "These three publications - a novel and two magazines - are manifestations of a remarkable movement. It is a movement that is only in part literary; it is also scientific, technological, cultural and even spiritual. As a literary phenomenon it is named 'science-fantasy' or 'science-fiction', and its popularity has some extraordinary aspects."

Herzberg then gave a background history of the origins of science-fiction delving as far back as Lucian's Fabulous History (continued on page 64, column 2)

\$1.00

will make you a member of the Phileon Society and you will be doing your share in bringing about the biggest thing in science-fiction for 1947, The Fifth World Science Fiction Convention. Send your \$1 to Milton A. Rothman, 2113 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia 22, Penna.

The Cosmic Reporter

edited by Lane Stannard

By Airmail from Germany, Gordon M. Kull announced that his printed fan magazine which he co-edits with George R. Cowie was actually printed in Germany. Future issues will be printed by Kull's father, here, in the good old United States.

Kull commented on the numerous troubles he had with the German linotypist who couldn't understand English. Kull was aided by his wife Eva, who is actually Associate Editor of the magazine.

Kull and his wife Eva are now on their way home to the United States, and he plans to begin on the second issue of Vortex as soon as he reaches San Francisco, after a Jeep trip from New York. On this trip he plans to visit a number of fans and stf clubs.

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society meets today at 8 PM. Milton A. Rothman is scheduled to speak on Interplanetary Travel. Lloyd A. Eshback, director of Fantasy Press is expected to at- (continued on page 62, column 2)

TOME TALK

by Alex Osheroff

Arkham House title No. 25 arrived recently adding its bit to the terrific cumulative effect of the Sauk City Set. While Mr. Dorolet in trying for more general appeal of late has been getting away from the old guard Weird Tales' writers, i.e.: Smith, Wandrei, Long, etc. and plugging the "classical" weird writers such as Blackwood, Wakefield, and Coppard who may be more easily obtained in other formats, an Arkham House book, any Arkham House book is simply a must to the fervent affectionado who is suffering from the more or less common disease "complete collectivitis".

The current volume Dark Carnival by Ray Bradbury boasts a photographic cover jacket which is strikingly professional looking. There are 313 pages, 27 tales in the fresh Bradbury style. The stories have been collected from such sources as Mademoiselle, Harpers, and of course Weird Tales. The price: \$3.00 and well worth it, we opine.

The latest communication from Fantasy Press states that The Legion of Space by Jack Williamson will be in your avid paws the week of May 19th.

Prime Press announces the scheduled publication of their second volume Venus Equilateral by George O. Smith as approximately July 15th. The book will consist of ten novelettes in the Venus Equilateral series, one hitherto unpublished. It will have an introduction by John Campbell, Jr. and be priced at \$3.00.

Well we've had the Lovecraft cycle and the Van Vogt cycle, the latter still going strong though the former has waned a bit. Permit me to predict that the next trend will be for David H. Keller M.D. Not only is the N.F.F.F. en-

grossed in producing The Sign of the Burning Hart by Keller but two more "Fan publishing companies", one well-established and the other still in the embryo stage, are mulling over proposed Keller books. -ao

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page 61, column 2)

tend this meeting. Seems to us your club newsie PSFS News hasn't come out in quite awhile. How come, Bob Madlo?

The Queens SFL missed its May meeting and will probably also cancel its June meeting. The lack of meeting place is the main reason. The officers of the club will probably find a meeting-hall in time for its September meeting, the first of the 1947-8 season. The Queens SFL doesn't meet in July and August. Elections that were to be held in June, will be held in September, if the June meeting is not held. -ls

On The Newsstand

reviewed by Lane Stannard

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, June 1947 brings back to stf the first postwar cover of one Charles Schneeman and we'll predict that it will be the best cover of 1947, the Rogers will be a very close second. The only thing that might upset our prediction will be if Johnny Campbell will listen to our plea and let Cartier do a cover for ASF. Cartier deserves the front spot after the fine work he did for Unknown. Centaurus II by A.E. van Vogt is the best in the issue, ably illustrated by Schneeman. The serial Fury is coming along nicely. The three short stories were fair to very good. This issue is well illustrated by Urban, Schneeman and Cartier. With the return from the wars of its old-time artists, ASF is now one of the best illustrated stf mag.

The V-Mail Interviews

by Ray Van Houten, co-editor of Fantasy-Times

Part I - "The Shaver Hoax"

In the autumn of 1945, when the furor against the current-named "Shaver Mystery" was just beginning to make itself felt, questionnaires were sent to four leading stf pulp publishing firms in an effort to bring some amount of professional opinion to bear on the issue. The four publishers were Street & Smith (ASF), Standard Magazines (TWS and SS), Popular Publications (PFM), and Ziff-Davis Publishing Company itself.

The answers, as any astute observer of the scientific situation could have foreseen, were disappointing in the extreme.

Miss Mary Gnaedinger of PFM said "I prefer to stay on the side-lines while the present controversy over AMAZING's 'racial memory' stories goes on. Since our circulation seems to go steadily up with every issue, can't say that such stories have affected our circulation in any way, except good."

Sam Merwin, Jr., science-fiction editor of Standard had only this to say: "We have no quotable opinion to offer on AMAZING's racial theory gag."

John W. Campbell, Jr., ever ready with a word of solemn adjudication, lectured as follows: "I am afraid that you cannot publish my opinion of AMAZING's racial memory stories. It would not be ethical. It isn't right for one editor to discuss another editor's policy."

Raymond A. Palmer, who is, one may say, a key man in the investigation, had a most amazing statement to offer. Most amazing indeed. He said "AMAZING's present policy is the policy it has held for eight years, and will continue to hold, it being the

policy of the company (i.e. Ziff-Davis & Ed.) for all fiction magazines."

In other words, anything may be said "pro", but no responsible person is going to say one word "con". Responsible person, that is, in the sense of someone in a high professional position, a person whose opinion would make news. In other words, someone with something to lose.

Well, how about the fans who judging by past activity, have nothing, or very little, to lose? Any "con" men in their ranks?

Sure, plenty of them.

And plenty of the other kind too.

How do they divide up? There seems to be no solid grouping, merely a hurly-burly of personal opinion, one-shot diatribes, and jelly-spined beggings of the question. We, the editors of Fantasy Times may smugly say that the most coherent opposition to Palmer and the "Shaver Mystery" has been our own.

We may also say, not smugly at all, that said opposition has been about as effective as throwing baseballs at Betelgeuse.

What is needed is more coordination of effort, a continual din which will penetrate and finally permeate every corner of scientifiendom. Palmer claims that, spontaneously, a group of between five and ten thousand "believers" in Shaverism has simply "grown". That is a lot of believers. Can the "con" men lick 'em? Fantasy-Times thinks we can!

Why pulp stf magazines were not sent to the Armed Forces overseas is the question answered by the pro-editors next week.

FANTASY-TIMES

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

DOMESTIC ED: 5¢ a copy, 6 for 25¢

BRITISH ED: 6 issues for 1/-

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: James V. Taurasi

CO-EDITORS: Ray Van Houten & Sam

Moskowitz, ASSOCIATE ED: Al Brown

ASSISTANT EDs: Alex Usheroff and

Joe Kennedy, SCIENCE ED: Thomas S

Gardner, FILM ED: David Kishi,

ART EDITOR: John Giunta

"A COSMIC PUBLICATION"

EDITORIAL

EVERY MAN'S LIBRARY

by Alvin E. Brown

Associate Editor of Fantasy-Times

The present trend today among fandom is to collect books rather than the pulp science and fantasy fiction. Now some people may be able to afford to buy all the books that are published from the fantasy publishers but now about the average fan?

Can he, or she, buy everything at \$3.00 a clip or more? Uh, uh! BUT a hitherto unexploited, comparatively, field is that old and very familiar field wherein the pocketbook reigns supreme. We have with us pocketbook firms publishing general material, some that are devoted exclusively to detective, adventure or love. Yet there is not one that allocates even a small portion of their out put to stf or fantasy, a field that in the last two years has become increasingly popular and very profitable.

Figure it out for yourself, for the price of one book you can buy 6, yes six, pocketbooks! What do you think is the better bargain? We don't advocate discontinuance of book publishing, but how about a wee bit more publishing in the pocketbooks.

There is one publisher of stf, Standard Publications, that also puts out pocketbooks under the

imprint of the Popular Library. Now, here is a firm that holds the copyrights to material published in their own magazines, saving them the trouble of clearing said copyrights and other bothersome details, yet it has as yet not published one stf or fantasy title outside of Thrilling Wonder or Startling Stories.

Someone is either asleep at a switch or just doesn't give a damn. Here right under Mr. Pines' nose is a veritable goldmine or at least a very profitable bit of business that is a proven field, as witness Avon Pockets, still a lot more can be done.

So how about it, Mr. Pines? Can you do it or don't you want to? -arb

ESFA ACHIEVES MAJOR WRITEUP

(continued from page 61, column 1)

and terminating in Slan which he stated was "...an excellent modern representative of the genre. When it appeared in magazine installments, all available copies became scarce collectors items."

Of the fans he stated: "Their eagerness, fanaticism and often profound knowledge remind one of the 'ham' radio operators who before the war performed so many remarkable feats in sending and reception. They have a light in their eyes and a deep devotion to their cult likely to astound the uninitiated bystander and awaken his admiration."

"These fantasy fanatics have another outstanding trait - they like to talk about science-fiction. All over the country associations have been formed at which the fans meet, exchange information and views, listen to speakers on their favorite topic and often publish mimeographed magazines..."

Advertise in _____
_____ Fantasy-Times