

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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PEGASUS PUBLICATIONS

Pegasus Publications, headed by K.J. Krueger of 125 Dana Place Buffalo, 8, N. Y., has just issued their first periodical, Vol. 1 No. 1 of Space Trails, The Magazine of the Future, a small professionally printed publication of 22 pages containing a reprint of Bob (Wilson) Tucker's short story Prison Planet from the Fall 1942 issue of Planet Stories. The magazine features a black and white cover by Jack Wiedenbeck, and a photo and short biographical of Wilson Tucker. The Magazine retails for 15¢ a copy.

Announced as forthcoming from Pegasus Publications is the cloth bound book I Found Cleopatra by Thomas P. Kelley which ran as a serial in Weird Tales. Advance copies of this book are \$2.00 autographed. After publication price will be \$2.75. Also planned if the first book is successful are the following novels: I Found Helen of Troy by Thomas P. Kelley, A Million Years in the Future by Thomas P. Kelley, The Last Pharaoh by Thomas P. Kelley, The Wolf Leader by Alexandre Dumas, and Half-Gods by Murray Sheehan. -sm

FANTASY BOOK PLATES

Recently printed by Bizarre Bazaar is a quaint 3 1/2x5 fantasy book plate. The picturization shows two women peering over the shoulders of an ogre-ish looking creation. Done by Hannes Bok, it is reputedly one of his best works. There is space below the drawing for a name or an inscription.

((Ed. note: Copies obtainable at \$3.50 per hundred from David Kishi, 171 West End Ave, NYC 23))

THE ATOMIC STORY

In contrast to the scathing review given John W. Campbell's book The Atomic Story by The New York Times several weeks ago, Gerald Wentz, reviewing for the New York Herald-Tribune of May 25 1947 had the following to say: "The truth about atomic power and its source within the atomic nucleus is so much more fantastic than fiction that it takes a good writer of fiction to tell the story well. Thus the unique talents of John W. Campbell--both as a scientist and a writer--came to fruition in this absorbing story ---in The Atomic Story he emerges as a skilled expositor, a superb teacher. The thousands who tried to understand the Smyth Report on atomic energy would do well to start again with this book. It is an excellent primer for the Atomic Age."

The reviewer was not as complimentary of Campbell's calling in Life saying: "Mr. Campbell has for some years edited the rather juvenile monthly called Astounding Science Fiction...He is the prophet of the 21st century, as Buck Rogers is its symbol. -sm

TOP SECRET

Readers should watch Fantasy-Times for announcements on the following: No less than three projected new science-fiction anthologies. One will choose largely from older issues of Amazing, Wonder and Astounding, a second will be made up of "literary" science-fiction and a third will be slanted to be used as a text book in the schools' science classes. A prominent fan is mixed (continued on page 66, column 2)

The Cosmic Reporter

edited by Lane Stannard

Sam Merwin, Jr., editor of Thrilling Wonder and Startling Stories, is expected to be feature guest and speaker at the Eastern Science Fiction Association, when it meets today. -sm

Fredric Brown has just signed a contract with Startling Stories to do some lead novels. -Brazier

An attempt will be made this week-end to put out the first issue of the Record Edition of Fantasy-Times. It is the aim of James V. Taurasi to record on wax the news of the previous month and to play it at each meeting of the Esfa. Two sides of a ten-inch record will be tried, running at the regular 78 per minute, so that they can be played on the regular record player. If successful and arrangements can be made to cut additional records from the first master, they may be offered for sale to fantasy fans. Watch this column for further info. -ls

In a small news item hidden away in the back pages, the Long-Island Star-Journal, the leading local paper, announced thru a UP press release from Los Angeles, that Dr. Stafford Warren, former medical chief of the Manhattan Project, had warned that the dropping of 500 Hiroshima-size atom bombs would destroy every human being, plant and animal in the world. Those not destroyed by the actual explosion of the bomb would eventually succumb to the deadly radio-active after-effects. Some future, if we don't watch our step! -ls

It has been reported that most of the Merritt reprints of Avon have been sold out. -jhw

The current issue of The Shadow Comics has an atomic story, in which the "man in black" saves the world. -jhw

Science Illustrated comes out with a few stfish articles this month (June 1947). When The Big-

Eye Opens is an article on the near completion of the 200 inch Palomar Mountain telescope. The article includes many pictures showing the great mirror from start to almost completion.

One page is devoted to the Junior Rocketeers and their activities, with numerous pictures.

Stf fans will enjoy reading the long article on Slick Goodlin the pilot of the first U.S. rocket ship, the XS-1, also with plenty of pictures. This ship looks like the rocket-ship, many stf artists have been drawing for ages.

Man-Made Mole, tells of a Russian invention of an "underground boat". A contraption that digs its way under the earth surface, a la many stf story. This is illustrated with a full page drawing by Kendrick Rucker. Hey Palmer, you better look into this to get into your "cave-cities".

A small item in the Month In Science page reveals that the ships that took part in the Bikini atom bomb test are still "hot". Most of the ships are to be broken up into scrap. -ls

TOP SECRET

(continued from page 65, column 2)

up with two of them, also two-sensational limited edition fantasy titles to be announced in the near future.

On The Newsstand

reviewed by Lane Stannard

Planet Stories, Fall 1947. A fair cover of a girl, a man, and a few BEMs decorate this issue, which contains ten stories of super "space opera" adventure in the well known Planet tradition. Ray Bradbury leads by a small nose in a field of so-so stories, well illustrated as usual. The readers' column is better this issue. The not the best, we sorta love this science-fantasy-adventure mag. -ls

The V-Mail Interviews

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

Part II - "Lack of STF Overseas"

An important point touched by the questionnaire sent out by the overseas edition of Fantasy-Times was the reason that special editions of the stf pulps were not supplied to the armed forces overseas. Not one issue of any science-fiction magazine ever appeared in the selections made available to the foreign-serving soldier. There were western story pulps, detective pulps, Colliers, SatEvePosts, Liberty Magazines, Pics, Lives, and a dozen others; the monthly haul was culled and reculled hopefully time after time by the avid fan, but the hope finally died. The question is still unanswered --- why weren't the science-fiction pulps sent to war?

Here is what four leading editors had to say when the question was put directly to them: Sam Merwin, Jr., of TWS and SS: "We didn't publish overseas editions because we had barely enough paper during the war to keep going on the home front."; Mary Gnaedinger of FFM: "We were very lucky to get enough paper to keep FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES on the stands during the war. It would have been impossible to even consider publication of an overseas edition."; Raymond A. Palmer: "I have no knowledge of the reason for the two magazines (AMAZING and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES - Ed.) not being included in overseas editions."; John W. Campbell, Jr., of ASTOUNDING: "Plans for an Armed Forces Edition of ASTOUNDING were in progress at the time V-E Day and V-J Day successively slowed and finally stopped these plans."

Excuses---even good ones---are still no substitute for meat to feed that gnawing hunger for a good solid scientific gorge when you haven't seen a Timmins

cover or a BEM for years. The paper shortage excuse, the most popular, seems furthermore to have doubtful worth, since it is your present scribe's information that extra paper was supplied to publishers for the purpose under discussion. And don't get the idea that the overseas soldier was asking for a handout---those mags were sold, buddy, at full domestic price, over the counter of the local post exchange. It is true that selections of slick magazines, notably Life and Readers' Digest, were given away, but not to the individual GI. The allotment was about twelve or fifteen magazines per unit of 300 men or more! If you were lucky, you got to see them before they fell apart.

There must have been a way to do it --- John Campbell says that ASTOUNDING was all set for the leap. But what a long time he stood swinging his arms!

Although the whole thing is now water under the bridge it would seem that the science-fiction fan serving overseas was very shamefully neglected.

It should be said in the interests of fair play that there was another source of science-fiction available. A surprising percentage of the reprints put out by Armed Forces Editions of the Council on Books in Wartime were fantasy, and not a few were out and out science-fiction! Among these titles were "When Worlds Collide", "The War of the Worlds", "Superman", "Donovan's Brain", and "Dracula". Most fans had read them long before Uncle Sam beckoned, but they were manna-like nevertheless.

The third and last of these articles will appear next week. -ed

FANTASY-TIMES

"The Leading Fantasy Newspaper"

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DOMESTIC EDITION: 5¢ ea, 6 for 25¢

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: James V. Taurasi

CO-EDITORS: Ray Van Houten & Sam Moskowitz, ASSOCIATE ED: Al Brown

ASSISTANT EDS: Alex Oskeroff and Joe Kennedy, SCIENCE ED: Thomas S. Gardner, FILM ED: David Kishi,

ART EDITOR: John Giunta

"A Cosmic Publication"

35 AT PSFS

The meeting of The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for May 25, drew the largest attendance in the history of the club: 35. Among the visitors was L. A. Eshbach, who displayed copies of The Legion of Space, a most handsome book. Also just off the press was the first offering of the Prime Press, The Mislaid Charm, by Alexander M. Phillips. James A. Williams made the salestalk on that, with order blank in hand.

The publishers seem to have been working overtime during the past week, as Robert Madle and Jack Agnew blew in bearing the overdue Phileon News. A little later, in came Allison Williams and Helen Cloukey with a really solid issue of Variant. Benson Doolling's crudite paper on the Duo-finned Narcissoelinh is one of the masterpieces of fan writing of all time. Illustrations by George O. Smith make it an item not to be missed.

The talk of the evening was Interplanetary Travel (Part one; methods of propulsion) by M. Rothman, who examined the various forms of space drives suggested in science-fiction, and came up with the conclusion that any form of space propulsion which we can conceive of building at the present time must be rockets, in one form or another. A lively discussion ensued, as usual.

A visitor who must not be neg-

lected was J. P. Chrisman, of Chicago, who has the distinction of being the first person to arrive in Philly for the Phileon.

Cosmic News-Letter

Harry Vincent

Bob Tucker reports that he has received his first royalty check for the Chinese Doll weeks ago. This check covered only the two months of November and December of 1946, and we are happy to report that over 3,000 copies of Tucker's book were sold in those two months. The British deal for the Chinese Doll has been closed and the book should be published there before October of this year.

John Giunta, Weird Tales artist is now hard at work on a new comic strip called The Unforseen. The this strip at present is a detective story, future strips, Mr. Giunta informs us will be fantasy, with the leading Character being the well known Devil. This strip will appear in the second issue of a new comic magazine, to be called, Wanted, the first issue of which has not as yet come out.

Mac Raboy will soon be seen as the artist for the Sunday fantasy comic strip, Flash Gordon. Mr. Raboy once did the art work, with John Giunta, on the comic strip, Captain Marvel, Jr., now done by Jack Binder and written by his brother, Otto Binder.

John W. Campbell, Jr. has an article, Base On The Moon, in the current, June 1947 issue of PIC.

In this article Mr. Campbell predicts, among other things, that somebody's going to the Moon----within five years. The article is well illustrated by a photo of a V-2 Rocket and a drawing by Chesley Bonestell, who is good enough, in our opinion, to appear on the cover of Astounding SCIENCE FICTION.

Support the Phileon by becoming a member of the Phileon So.