

# Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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FIRST MARCH 1958 ISSUE

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## 'IMAGINATIVE TALES' FOLDS; 'SPACE TRAVEL' TAKES ITS PLACE

### WSFS INC. SUES DAVE KYLE

#### HEINLEIN & LEY AT ESFA MEETING

Newark, 2 March, (CNS) - At the annual open meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association at Newark, New Jersey, featured speakers were Robert Heinlein and Willy Ley. Mr. Ley reported on the failures of Vanguard's 1 and 2 and the success of the Jupiter C, on the Russian Sputniks and the latest developments in satellite carrying rockets.

Mr. Heinlein's talk was more general, ranging from the inadequacy of our educational system to Finagle's Law, "If anything can go wrong in an engineering experiment it will".

Also featured was a memorial panel on the late Henry Kuttner, comprised of Sam Moskowitz, moderator, Cyril Kornbluth, Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, Larry Shaw and L. Sprague de Camp.

The introductions to the speakers were ably handled by Allan Howard, the Director of ESFA, who also announced the presence of Ed Asmiller, Walter Kublius, John Victor Peterson, Hans Stefan Santesson, Sylvia Margulies, Katherine McLean, Sol Levin and Fred Shunaman. Among the fan attendees were Al Lynch, Oswald Train, George Heap, James V. Taurasi, Ray Van Houten, Frank Frieto, Jr., Frank & Belle Dietz, David MacDonald, Geor-

ge Nims Raybin, Roger Sims, Ian Macauley, Dr. Chris Haycock, and many others.

New York City, 10 March, (CNS) - A suit has been instituted by the World S-F Society, Inc., against David A. Kyle, Chairman of the NY Convention in 1956, for the return of \$107 which was issued to him as petty cash during his tenure of office, and about \$100 of Convention funds which he received for advertising in the Convention Journals and from other sources.

A summons and complaint was served on Mr. Kyle on 4 February 1958, after attempts by George Nims Raybin, Legal Officer of the Society, by letters, phone and through mutual friends, had failed to get in touch with Dave.

The final day for Mr. Kyle's answer to the summons and complaint was 24 February 1958. This passed without any word. Judgment was therefore entered on 6 March 1958. The suit bears Index No. 2785-1958, and was brought in the New York State Supreme Court, New York County.

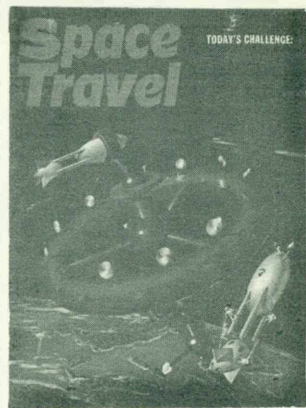
ge Nims Raybin, Roger Sims, Ian Macauley, Dr. Chris Haycock, and many others. -BD

#### AT PRESS TIME

All manuscripts, etc., from now on, sent to Fantasy & SF, should be sent to: Robert P. Mills, 527 Madison Ave., New York 22, N.Y.

C. M. KORNBLUTH died of a heart attack on 21 March, 1958.

Evanston, Ill., 14 March, (CNS) - Bill Hamling has discontinued his magazine Imaginative Tales, and has replaced it with a new science-fiction magazine, Space Travel. The new magazine will feature fiction and science fact. It will continue the Tales schedule, alternating with Imagination. The



new mag will be digest-size, 35¢, 130 pages and be published bi-monthly.

Stated Mr. Hamling on the change: "I've discontinued Imaginative Tales and replaced it with a new magazine entitled Space Travel. It will follow the Tales schedule, the first issue dated July, on sale last week in April. The book itself will be a combination of science fact and fiction. I'll be using science articles pertaining to the new space age in lengths up to 5000 words each. (Brand new market here for qualified science writers.) Fiction will be based (concluded on page 4, column 1)

## 1957 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

## Part Four - CONCLUSION

● **GALAXY NOVEL**, 2 or 3 issues, I think. (The failure to put an imprint date where I can find it is a mistake.) Hubbard's "Fear" is in my opinion one of the World's great psychological horror novels. You won't loose by reading these novels if you have not done so before.

● **OTHER WORLDS** (and recent title: Flying Saucers From Other Worlds, 5 issues. This fiction magazine has been plagued from the start. I have heard that it has been discontinued. The closest to a good story is Fontenay's "The Heart's Long Wait". This story has human understanding.

● **FLYING SAUCERS From Other Worlds**, 3 issues. To the believer this is a fact magazine, to the non-believer, a fiction magazine. As a fact magazine it is so loosely offered that anything goes. As a fiction magazine, not worth the effort.

● **SEARCH MAGAZINE**, 6 issues. Almost every issue identical in theme, with individual variations of each preceding issue. Strictly for those who believe in this stuff, and students of sociology. The latter will get an idea of some of the things held over from the Neanderthal period.

● **INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION**, 7 issues. A very good magazine with good format. Recommended reading for the fighting fifth place. Del Rey's "The Band Played On" concerns the grim necessities of life of a garbage collector in the space age. Unsung heroes are heroes even though unsung. Vance's "The Men Return" has a good theme, but I believe Rog Phillips could have done better with it. This is heresy I realize, but that is the way life goes. Clarke's series of stories about the Space Station are fine. I could go on Dickson's "The General and the Axe", etc., but if you read all the issues you will see what I mean.

● **IMAGINATION**, 6 issues. Unfortunately this magazine has uneven stories. A very few good, most average or poor, but excellent cartoons! The best story is Reinsberg's "Comete Or Die!" One trouble is that I have always believed that Imagination should be fighting for fifth place, but so far it has fallen down. What is he trouble?

● **IMAGINATIVE TALES**, 5 issues. Excellent cartoons, and the stories are the same grade as Imagination. Silverberg's "Starship Saboteur" is a real problem today, not just tomorrow. Fanaticism has always tried to throw monkey wren-

ches into the gears. An empathy type and interesting Hamilton, is "The Ship From Infinity". Hamilton, for good averages, and sometimes superb stories is close to Leinster, except that Leinster has more complicated plots.

● **FANTASTIC UNIVERSE**, 12 issues. I have been appalled at the general drop in quality of material in this magazine. The growing use of the UFO controversy instead of good stories is unfortunate. However a few stories saved the year, e.g., Piper's "Lone Star Planet", for humor and de Camp's stories, especially the collaboration with Bjorn Nyberg, "Conan The Victorious". However the short-stories which I have admired in the past are getting pretty poor. Why?

The following tables summarize my count for the past few years taken from my discussions:

YEAR	TITLES	NO. OF ISSUES
1957	26	1614
1956	20	118
1955	21	117
1954	27	150
1953	38	185
1952	28	149

The constancy of issues for the past six years is somewhat amazing with a low of 117 and a high of 185, an average of 146.6 per year. This emphasizes Moskowitz's excellent analysis in the 1957 issue of THE SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK\* that there exists a hard core of readers who keep the magazines going!

Due to extra work, and special training I have ventured into, I must cut down my fiction reading about 50%. Thus I plan to eliminate this amount or more in the field of science-fiction, rather than general fiction. I plan to read regularly Astounding, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Galaxy, If, Science Fiction Stories, Future Infinity and Science Fiction Quarterly\*\*. I may read parts of SF Adventures, Satellite, Super Science, Venture, sometimes Saturn, and I may even dip into Imagination and Imaginative Tales sometimes. I will buy, but not read the remaining titles, but I wish to keep my collection intact.

I have read thousands of stories and I sometimes ask myself has it been worth while? Frankly I cannot answer that question, if I knew in advance what was worth reading, I feel sure that I could have eliminated over 50%, but even then anthropologists of whom many are very good, miss some good material. Will I ever try to read back issues in the future and catch up again.....maybe if the flood ever recedes! If not, never! I have been well pleased with Campbell, Boucher, Gold, Lowndes as well as several other editors, and as editorial writers, Boucher in his book column, although I usually disagree with Boucher here; and have been sadly disappointed in

Palmer. Perhaps I have always been wrong about Palmer. I have always thought he could do far better as an editor, as an editorialist, and in general, than he has done. Cambell is head and shoulders above all others as an editor and editorial writer; Lowndes comes next! (It should be remembered that I personally consider both Campbell and Lowndes to be wrong quite often, but both write high level editorials!)

Willy Ley and L. Sprague de Camp stand out as article writers, with Macklin, and the Philadelphia group coming along also.

I have come to the conclusion that science-fiction, although a part of the World's literature, may have less effect on the future than it has had in the past. Good science-fiction is still rare, and the best things published in the field have not been science-fiction at all, but the books and articles about science-fiction and fantasy, e.g., Bretnor's, de Camp's, and Davenport's books; Sam Moskowitz's "Immortal Storm", etc., are far better than 99% of the science fiction published the last twenty years.

In spite of my periodical pruning I have read a lot of good and interesting fiction in the field. I have no plans ever to write a yearly column again\*\*\*--in fact I hope I never have that much time! Other things are more important. To those who don't agree with what I have said in the past, that is your right, and I would defend it to the death; don't forget I may not agree with you either! Let's all pull for better science-fiction and fantasy, not just MORE! Vale.

## THE END

\*Published by Science - Fiction Times, Inc., now OUT OF PRINT.

\*\*Since Dr. Gardner wrote this report Science Fiction Quarterly has folded.

\*\*\*Edward Wood carries on with these annual reviews, starting with "1958 in Science Fiction".

## THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

Lloyd Jaccuet of the American Jules Verne Society supplies us with the following information on Jules Verne: "Two of Jules Verne's books have been announced for publication in the past several weeks. One is "The Mysterious Island", probably the best of the so-called "Island" adventure type of books ever written, to be released April 7, by Dodd, Mead & Company, priced at \$3.50. Lippincott is publishing a hard cover edition of the famed "From the Earth to the Moon and A Trip Around It" on February 26, at \$1.95, and this same title will appear under the Crest Books imprint on April 15, as a 35¢ pocketbook. No doubt this last title, which was the third book written by Verne, almost 90 years ago, was suggested by the recent

Russian and U. S. attempts at satellite activity."

Have you noticed the format improvements in recent issues of Fantastic, Amazing Stories, and Astounding Science Fiction. All are very welcomed. We have wanted the Ziff-Davis books to include the names of the interior artists for quite a time; now this has been included in the recent slicking up process. Good! We also liked the way John Campbell has dressed-up the interior of Astounding. The contents page, tho, looks more "cheaper" than the old one, but the rest of the interior looks real neat. Astounding, in our opinion, is one of the best interior illustrated s-f magazine today. If's interiors are excellent too, as are some of the others.

Weird fiction has had a bright up-sweep in England lately, and we understand that there is a big demand for weird-supernatural books in the U.S. Now, Margulies, would be the ideal time to revive Weird Tales, NOW!

How times have changed! The news on the WSFS Inc. suit to regain some of its money from an apparently reluctant former Convention Chairman reminds me of the time in 1951 when the New Orleans Convention Committee calmly walked off with \$50 which the attending membership of the convention had voted to be turned over to The Fantasy Veterans' Association.

Nothing could be done about that dirty deal, although the memory lingers on.

It seems about time that something like this be done to bring out the fact that convention officials admit an obligation to s-f fandom when they accept their positions, and that the money they handle belongs to WSFS, Inc., and not to them or their local group.

The "Inc." after the "WSFS" protects each one of them from personal financial loss because of the Con, but it also should be axiomatic, I think, that it stands for "no personal gain", too.

Backstage NY fandom is buzzing with all the old scandals connected with past cons --- stolen money, drunken editors crawling around hotel corridors on their hands and knees, private "parties", and the time when the convention attendees themselves had to troupe around the host city to dig up their own convention hall!

Also observed --- one of the principals concerned with the present-to-do feeling very downhearted about "knifing a fellow-fan in the back". Baloney! You did your duty, George; take a bow!

### NOTICE

On 10 March 1958, our Legal Advisor, George Nims Raybin, informed us that our new company name, Science-Fiction Times, Inc. was now official. So Fandom House, Inc. fades into history on the insistence of Random House, Inc. as they felt that our old name was too close to theirs and it was either a case of doing as they requested or face court action that we hadn't the necessary cash for.

In the future, all checks, etc should be made out to Science-Fiction Times, Inc. only. AND remember our new address is: SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC., P. O. BOX 184, FLUSHING 52, NEW YORK.

You still have time to take part in our 1st Annual Poll and Award. See issue #286 for full details. New Deadline: 30 April.

-The Editors

### SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

by Gerry de la Ree

BEYOND THIRTY and THE MAN-EATER by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Science-Fiction & Fantasy Publications, 1957 (Published Jan., 1958), 229 pp., \$3.00.

We owe to Bradford M. Day a debt of gratitude for putting between hard covers for the first time these two short novels by the late master of adventure, Edgar Rice Burroughs.

Beyond Thirty originally appeared in All-Around Magazine for February, 1916, while The Man-Eater was published as a 6-part serial in The New York Evening World from November 15 through November 20, 1915.

Two years ago the two stories were published separately in mimeograph format between paper covers. These neat but inexpensively produced booklets, published anonymously by L. A. Eshbach, were sold at \$5 a copy and may, in time, become collector's items. At that time Mr. Day announced he would publish the two novels as one book at a much more reasonable figure. This he has done.

The book, published in an edition of 3,000 copies, will prove a valuable addition to any Burroughs collection, and deserves the attention of all fantasy collectors. For one who just buys books for reading entertainment, the volume cannot be fully recommended, however.

Beyond 30, the first novel, is more in the vein of science fiction prophesy than most of Mr. Burroughs' scientific romances. Whereas his Martian and Venusian series were merely adventure stories plotted on other worlds, Beyond 30 was the author's view of our world 200 years hence.

Woefully outdated, decidedly corny, and in some respects poorly written, the story was based on the

hypothesis that the United States did not become involved in World War I; that, in fact, the entire western hemisphere completely cut itself off from Europe and Asia, the dividing lines being 30 W and 175 W. For 200 years, the author tells us, no Pan-American had crossed these lines.

But in the year 2116, the narrator of the story, Jefferson Turck, a 21-year-old naval officer, is tossed beyond 30 by a storm. He and three comrades are left stranded in a small boat, in which they make their way to the shores of England.

Here they find a land and people returned to savagery. Lions, tigers, and wolves roam the countryside. From this point on the story is typical Burroughs. The hero meets a girl, starting the usual E.R.B. series of kidnappings and adventures. The chase moves to the continent of Europe and there reaches its happy conclusion.

Perhaps the weakest scene in the book is when hero and heroine stumble onto a palace in an otherwise destroyed London and find intact, the throne of England. Conversely, we felt the most effective segment was the injection of an African tribe that had become all-powerful and considered the white race inferior. It was an effective, if unintentional satire on our American society.

The Man-Eater is far the more effective story of the two. Although it is based on a series of most improbable coincidences The Man-Eater is a fast-paced adventure yarn which proved surprisingly readable. This is neither fantasy nor science-fiction. But for entertainment and story-telling, it has Beyond Thirty beat in every respect.

New York, 19 January, (CNS) - Anyone who follows The New York Times Book Review cannot help but have noticed the scarcity of science-fiction book reviews during the past year.

Although the science-fiction and fantasy field produced many books, both hard cover and paperback, during the year 1957, leading review sources just about ignored their presence.

In an effort to determine the reason for the sudden scarcity of reviews, we recently wrote to Francis Brown, editor of The New York Times Book Review.

His reply, dated January 8, 1958, read in part: "Thank you for letter about science-fiction. While we have not dropped the reviewing of it wholly, we certainly have cut down considerably, because science-fiction has been in a bad slump and most of the books have been too poor to warrant space."

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in complete agreement with Mr. Brown's statement. The year of 1957 was not one that science-fiction can be proud of.

-Gerry de la Ree

THE SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK, #1  
1957 Edition, IS ALL SOLD OUT!!  
PLEASE DO NOT ORDER! -eds.



**"SPACE TRAVEL"**

(concluded from page 1, column 3)

almost entirely on space travel themes of one sort or another, actually imposing little limitation on the imagination.

"Imagination stays as is, of course.

"Reason for new title is obvious, I feel. This is the space age and Imaginative Tales is just not up to date enough as a title, or a magazine. It sounds too fantastical whereas Space Travel is right to the point. Editorially I'm slanting Imagination (which has a solid following of its own) a bit more to the factual side. You'll notice future issues starting with June, using feature articles, and the covers will be more timely too."

The first issue of Space Travel, dated July 1958 and numbered: Vol. 5 - No. 4 (continuing the numbering of Imaginative Tales, who's current and last issue is dated May 1958 and Vol. 5 - No. 3) will contain: Two articles: TODAY'S CHALLENGE-SPACE STATION by Henry Bott, and SURVIVAL PROBLEMS FACING MAN IN SPACE by Guenther Schmidt, Ph.D. Novel: PLANET OF EXILE by Edmond Hamilton. Short stories: BLIZZARD-BRAIN by Darius John-Granger, THE ULTIMATE VICE by A. Bertram Chandler, and TO PLEASE THE MASTER by Margaret St. Clair. Features: THE EDITORIAL MAGNETISM, ROBOT TRANSLATORS, REMAKING THE EARTH, SCIENTIFILM MARQUEE, and THE COSMIC PEN CLUB. Cover by Malcolm Smith (see cut), depicting Space Station.

**SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS**

Coming Up Next In The Pros

● **FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION** - June 1958: CAPTIVITY (a novelet of The People) by Zenna Henderson, THE DREIESTEIN CASE by J. Lincoln Paine THE COMMUNICATORS by Edward S. Aarons, DEVOTION by Kit Reed, SERVICE, INC. by Rog Phillins, THE SCIENCE STAGE (a dent.) by William Morrison, GATHI by Miriam Allen Dufford, BRIPMAV by Damon Knight, RECOMMENDED READING (a dent.) by Anthony Boucher, THE QUESTING TYCOON (A Saint novelet) by Leslie Charteris, and the INDEX TO VOLUME XIV. Cover by Mel Hunter (The cover satellite, the third stage of a rocket, is larger and more complicated than present ones. Mel Hunter based his painting on predictions made to him by Heinz Haber and Werner von Braun.)

**THE SCIENCE FICTION RECORD**

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

During February 1958 13 science/fantasy magazines appeared in the U. S. All 13 were digest-size and 35¢ each. They contained 1,738 pages and cost \$4.55. Excepted where noted they each contained 128/30 pages. They were: FANTASY

(concluded on column 3)

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BACK ISSUES OF FANTASY-TIMES AND SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES FOR SALE: SPECIAL SALE ONLY 10¢ each. List alternates as some are very limited. First come First served! 11-92-93-128-136-137&137a-139-140-141 - 142-143-145-146-147-148-149-150 - 151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158 - 159-160-161-162-163-164-166-168 - 169-170-171-172-173-175-176-177 - 178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185 - 186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193 - 194-195-196-197-198-199-201-202 - 203-204-205-206-207-209-210-211 - 212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219 - 220-222-223-225-226-227-229-230 - 231-232-233-239-235-236-240-242 - 243-244-246-247-248-251-252-256 - 257-258-259-262-263-264-265-266 - 267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274 - 276-277-286-287-288. Frank Prieto, Jr., R. D. #1, Kirk Ave., Warners, New York.

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James V. Taurasi, Sr., Ray Van Houten and Frank R. Prieto, Jr., Editors and Publishers.

ADVERTISEMENTS: \$20 per full page; \$10 per half page; \$6 per quarter page; & \$3 per 1/8 page.

\*\$15.00 after 1 June 1958.

**S-F RECORD (concluded from col. 1)**

& SCIENCE FICTION (Mar. M), FANTASTIC UNIVERSE SF (Apr. M), INFINITY and S F ADVENTURES (Apr. and last 6-weekly issues; now bi-monthly), FUTURE SF (Apr. BM), IF, (120 pp, Apr. BM), ASTOUNDING SF (162 pp, Mar. M), AMAZING STORIES (146 pp, Mar. M), SATELLITE S F (Apr. BM), FANTASTIC (Mar. M), FANTASY & SF (Apr. M), IMAGINATIVE TALES (May BM), and GALAXY SF (144 pp, Apr. M).



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