

# Science-Fiction Times

"The 'World Of Tomorrow Today!'"

17th YEAR - No. 292

FIRST APRIL 1958 ISSUE

STILL ONLY 10 CENTS

## 'S-F ADVENTURES' FOLDS

### KNIGHT NEW EDITOR OF 'IF'

#### "SATURN" BECOMES A DETECTIVE MAG!

NEW YORK, 8 April, (CNS) - Robert Sproul reported today that his magazine, Saturn, Science Fiction & Fantasy, has left the science fantasy field and will become a detective magazine with its next issue (no. 6). The magazine had been losing money with the last few issues, and Bob feels that he can make money with a detective magazine.

The new name will be Saturn Detective Stories. The magazine will continue as a bi-monthly, 114 pages, digest and 35¢. Sproul will edit the "new" mag himself. No art work or stories have been selected as yet, and no date has been set for the new Saturn.

Sproul also publishes the new "MAD" type mag titled Cracked.

#### INTERNATIONAL SECTION

AUSTRALIA  
by Roger Darr

### S-F BAN LIFTED

PERTH, 27 March (CNS) - The ban on (continued on page 3, column 2)

KINGSTON, NY, 9 April, (CNS) - Damon Knight, well-known science-fiction writer, has been appointed editor of If - Worlds Of Science Fiction. James L. Quinn, who edited the magazine for the past six years, is withdrawing as editor in order to devote more attention to



Damon Knight

the business and production phases of his firm. Mr. Knight will work from his home in Milford (Pike County) Pa.

Damon Knight, who was born in (concluded on page 4, column 4)

LAST ISSUE DATED JUNE 1958

NEW YORK, 7 April, (CNS) - Larry Shaw announced today that Science Fiction Adventures has folded. The last issue is the June 1958 issue, now on your newsstands. The reason for killing off S-F Adventures, is that its circulation had gotten too low and the magazine was losing money. Infinity Science Fiction, on the other hand, is now "in the black" and will continue on a bi-monthly schedule. It was only with the last issue (Apr. '58) that S-F Adventures ended its 6-weekly schedule and went bi-monthly (see S-F Times #289). Its first bi-monthly issue was to be its last.

Science Fiction Adventures began life with the December 1956 issue (wrongly numbered Vol 1 - No 6) and was on the newsstands in October 1956. It was then a bi-monthly. Not too long after, it went 6-weekly and news that monthly schedule was planned for the Fall of 1957. So good were things then that early in the Fall of 1957, a new issue came out with Now Monthly! on the cover, but it just wasn't so. Between the time the covers were printed and that issue came out, returns from previous issues had indicated that circulation was on the downgrade. Plans for monthly publication were delayed and the mag continued on a 6-weekly schedule. Then on March 3, a bi-monthly schedule was announced. Now S-F Adventures is gone. In England, during February, Ted Carnell started publishing the British Edition of S-F Adventures on a bi-monthly schedule. It is expected that the British Edition will continue.

For a photo of Larry Shaw, see S-F Times #291.

DETAILS ON "SOLACON" ON PAGE 3

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

"FANTASTIC" AND THE DEROS

April 3, 1958

Dear Jimmy:

The mid-February issue of Science-Fiction Times reached me today. In it an article by you, DEROS ENSLAVE FAIRMAN, flicked a sore spot in what I had thought was a very touchy hide - namely, my own.

As you know, when I took over the Ziff-Davis Fiction Group from Ray Palmer, in 1949, I junked



HOWARD BROWNE

something like \$8,000 worth of material concerning the "Shaver Mystery". I did this because I personally didn't like the stuff and I didn't think there was much of an audience for it. As the editor, it was my decision to make and, right or wrong, I made it.

Now Paul Fairman, as the editor, has made his decision. He didn't do it because "he is incapable as an editor to (sic) bolster the circulation by publishing good science-fiction/fantasy." He did it for the old-fashion reason that he felt there was a market for a one-shot issue on the subject, and that by publishing that one issue he would make a profit for his employer. (This, incidentally, is a reason too many fan magazine editors and self-styled critics seem unable to regard as valid.) He was not moved to do so as a way of thumbing his nose at his readers or at James Taurasi or at the rajah of Cooh-Behar; he was not ordered by the front office to put out such an issue (when Z-D hires an editor they trust him until he falls on his face, then they fire him).

Fairman, of course, doesn't need any defending by me nor anyone else. He is a fair-more conscientious editor than I ever was, and far more sensitive to maladroitness and jingoistic criticism. Or perhaps by this time he has learned (as I had to learn) that the critic who speaks for everyone is too seldom qualified to speak for anyone. Let me hasten to agree with you that everybody has the right to criticize; I hope you will be as quick to agree with me that it's a pity too few are competent at it.

The last paragraph of your article, Jimmy, is much too broad and sweeping to go unchallenged.

To quote you: "Once again, facts show that a true s-f fan or reader hasn't a chance to have his voice heard in what's to be published in certain s/f magazines". Surely the phrase "true s-f fan or reader" is one of definition. If your tastes alone are those of the "true" fan, then you have something; if not, then you have nothing. And do I understand that only your version of the "true" fan shall have his "voice heard" - while the voices of other readers are treated like a whisper in a high wind?... You conclude: "No wonder an honest s-f editor has a hard job keeping circulation up!" Perhaps, Jimmy, their troubles stem from hardening of the imagination, by sticking unyieldingly to the cement rut carved for them by the "true" s-f fan.

That, James, pretty much sums up my reaction to your column. It is the reaction of one person - a man who spent 12 fairly successful years as a magazine editor. Best, always, Howard Browne

(Many thanks for your letter, Howard. I deeply appreciate and respect your viewpoints. But, you above all, know well how I feel about "The Shaver Mystery" and other occult and non-s-f cults that both the professional and the fans like to dig up now and then. As long as my name appears on the editorial staff of this paper, I will oppose all such rot. My two partners are in full accord with this as are most of our staff. Paul Fairman is a good friend of ours and knew well in advance that I was going to "rub it in" on this Shaver deal, as I did when he published that "Flying Saucer" issue of Amazing last year. I and my partners shall continue in the future, as we have in the past, to point out to our readers all such disgraceful action by pros and fans. There is a point at which we cannot stand by and see science fiction's grave dug without putting up a fight.--James V. Taurasi.)

## THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

"GALAXY" DOINGS

NEW YORK, 20 March, (CNS) - we are happy to hear that the Galaxy Novel series have gone pocket-size. Publisher Bob Guinn informs us that the new size will be 4-1/8" x 6-3/8" and contain 192 pages, and that the first title in this new size is ADDRESS: CENTAURI by Wallace. It should be on your newsstands now. This new size should get Galaxy Novel displayed on stands and stores that do not usually carry s-f magazines. It should boost up sales greatly.

Mr. Guinn tells us that the news on a Galaxy TV program was

quite premature. They are definitely working on the idea of a TV series, but nothing has jelled as of now. (TV GUIDE, please note!)

It will be of interest to all s-f fans and readers that Galaxy Science Fiction has a numerous foreign editions, probably second only to Readers Digest. As of now there are editions in Great Britain, Italy, France, Germany (see S-F Times #291), and in about two months, one in Finland. They are at present negotiating with four other countries. That's spreading the s-f word around this world of ours!

About the most interesting news is that Galaxy will soon be placed on tape for distribution to the blind. It will probably work this way: The qualified person will pay \$3.50 for the first tape. When he returns this tape, he will receive a new one without extra cost. This can be continued for five years, and when he returns the last tape and tells them he wants no more, the \$3.50 is returned to him. Details are now being worked out. A most commendable idea.

Galaxy, like most other magazines is still having trouble getting on the newsstands where readers can buy them. Mr. Guinn asks that if Galaxy is not on your newsstand, ask them to get it for you. Also let Galaxy know where this stand is and its name and they will do their best to get it there for you. Readers and Publishers working together will finally succeed in getting the s-f magazines back on all stands.

Galaxy is not alone in this. Since (and before) American News quit, many newsstands cannot get or will not carry s-f mags. With your help, in time, they'll be back. A little s-f publishers will deeply appreciate your help and you'll be helping yourself at the same time.

"NEW WORLDS" AND ILLUSTRATIONS

In a recent issue of New Worlds, our good friend, Ted Carnell, took us to task for our remarks on his dropping inside illustrations in New Worlds. He claimed that it was in the name of progress. He pointed out that books had dropped inside illus quite a few years ago. He also poc-poc-ed our notion on departments (fan etc) in the magazines, and our inference that American s-f mags were suffering because of their lack, pointed to the so-called boom going on in these United States.

We would like to point out the difference in circulation of books and magazines. Books have only (on average) to sell a few thousand to make money, and books stay on a book store shelves for months and still be saleable, while mags must sell quite a few thousand to just break even, and are only on sale a very short time. In our opinion, to sell magazines it

takes more than good stories, it takes good makeup and good illustrations (both on cover and inside). Place two mags with the same average of good stories, one well illustrated in and out & the other not, on the stands. The now and then reader will look both over and usually buy the one that is well illustrated. Remember he can not read both mags at the stand, out he can judge the mag he wants by looking it over.

I still state that cover and interior illos are just as important to a magazine as stories, and I still refuse to read the first issue of Star because of the crummy illos.

'Don't get me wrong tho, I love New Worlds and enjoy it very much, and think that Carnell is a darn good editor, but Ted you're making it mighty hard for me to enjoy the mag with that lousy so-called modern cover you have on #69, and I'm well aware of the fact that it was a complete sell-out!

Oh yes, Ted, what great s-f boom in the U.S.? Have you read Science-Fiction Times lately?

SOLACON NEWS

by Lane Stannard

SOUTH GATE, 23 March, (CNS) - Len Moffatt, Secretary of the 16th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held at the Alexandria Hotel, 5th & Spring, Los Angeles, on August 29th through September 1st, 1958, informs us: "Ray Bradbury will be one of our feature speakers! We wanted him on the program, not only because he is an accomplished speaker, but also for the benefit of our delegates from the other parts of the country (and the world, for that matter) who have not had the opportunity of hearing him before.



"Other outstanding items on program will be a Future Fashion Show (by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society), a play (by the Little Men of

Berkeley) and a demonstration and a film (by Pacific Rocket Society). As well as the Auction Blph...."

This year the Convention Committee plan to publish an "up to the last minute" directory of Solacon Members' names and address in the Program Booklet. This will include all those who join by July 1st. All those who do not care to have their address published should so inform the Committee as soon as possible and they will be happy to honor their request.

Shortly after South Gate obtained the 58 Con, Recorder-Historian of The World Science Fiction Society, Inc., published a n an-

nouncement of the 1958 Convention Committee. Some errors occurred in this announcement and we've been asked to publish the correct listing: The 1958 World Science Fiction Committee consists of: Anna Sinclare Moffatt, Chairwoman; Len J. Moffatt, Secretary; Rick Sneary, Treasurer; Stan Woolston, Printer; Rog Phillips, Program Director; Honey Wood, Registrar; Forrest J Ackerman, Pro Publicist; George W. Fields, Fan Publicist; and Ted Johnstone, Novelty Investigator. Consultants are: Frank & Belle Dietz, Dick Ellington, Roger Harrocks, Arthur Thompson, and Walter A. Willis.

Six awards will be made at the Solacon for achievement in s-f publishing and fandom. There will be three "bests", the best novel/novelette, the best short story, and the best magazine; and three "outstandings", in the fields of art, motion pictures, and acti-fandom. These "Hugos" will be voted on by the membership, and ballots will be mailed out in June.

Membership in the World Science Fiction Society, Inc., a re \$1.00 (you get membership card, Progress Reports and the Convention Program Booklet); whether you attend the Convention or not; and \$1.00 Registration Fee, at the Convention. (Both can be paid now.) Send the \$1 (or \$2) to Rick Sneary, Treasurer, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif.

Reserve your Hotel Room(s) now. The rates are:

Single	\$5.00	\$6.50	\$8.00
Double	6.50	8.00	10.00
Twin	8.00	9.00	10.50
Suites	10.00	to 25.00	

Send your room reservations to Len J. Moffatt, Secretary, 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif.

The Banquet this year will give you three choices of main courses, but you must let the Committee know as soon as possible which you want so that they'll know how many to order. The courses are: Prime Ribs of Beef - \$4.50, Lobster Newburgh - \$3.50, and Half Broiled Chicken - \$3.25. The Banquet reservation should go to: Anna Sinclare Moffatt, Chairwoman, 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif.

SEE YOU IN SOUTH GATE IN '58  
INTERNATIONAL (cont. from page 1)

Merritt has been lifted, also the "blanket" ban on all forms of s-f (as reported in Science-Fiction Times #282). The new Minister For Customs, M r. Denham Henty, has made sweeping changes, and has expressed his intention to liberalize our antiquated censorship laws. Henty is the first really courageous and freedom-loving Customs Minister this country has had in decades. This does not mean that the Customs will no longer exercise control over imported literature - they will continue to do so, and the absurd blanked ban on detective magazines and comics remains, for instance. But at least (concluded on page 4, column 3)

TENN & BUDRYS  
AID MILLS EDIT  
"F&SF" &  
"VENTURE"

NEW YORK, 11 April, (CNS) - Robert Mills of Mercury Press, Inc., will have the expert aid of two Consulting Editors in editing Fantasy & Science Fiction and Venture Science Fiction, now that Anthony Boucher has left F&SF.

William Tenn will be Consulting Editor of Fantasy & Science Fiction & will aid in keeping that "Boucher" touch in that magazine.

Algis Budrys will be the Consulting Editor of Venture Science Fiction and keep the editing pressure off Bob, now that he has taken over the full load of Fantasy & Science Fiction.

All manuscripts for either F&SF or Venture should be sent to: Robert Mills, Mercury Press, Inc., 527 Madison Ave., New York 22, NY.

SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Press

● VENTURE SCIENCE FICTION, July, 1958. TWO DOOMS (novelet) by C. M. Kornbluth, SCIENCE; THE CLASH OF CYMBALS by Isaac Asimov, BOOKS; ON HAND... OFFHAND by Theodore Sturgeon, CONTACT BETWEEN EQUALS by Albert Stroud, THE BIGGEST DAMN MARTINI IN THE UNIVERSE by John Novotny, THE MONEY TREE (novelet) by Clifford D. Simak, LADY OF SPACE by Lester del Rey, and VENTURING by The Editor, Frederik Pohl, and Theodore Sturgeon. Cover by Emsh, illustrating "Lady Of Space". Interior illustrations by Giunta and Hurqitz.

● GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION, July, 1958. NOVELTS: THE BACK OF OUR HEADS by Stephen Barr, BULLET WITH HIS NAME by Fritz Leiber, and INNOCENT AT LARGE by Poul and Karen Anderson. Short stories: WE NEVER MENTION AUNT NORA by Paul Fleher, MAN IN A QUANDARY by L. J. Stecher Jr., and BLANK FORM by Arthur Sellings. Science Department: FOR YOUR INFORMATION "IGY" by Willy Ley. Features: EDITOR'S PAGE by H. L. Gold, and GALAXY'S FIVE STAR SHELF by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by DEMBER showing manned satellite, cut away to reveal lone operator and controls. Radar viewer in center gives continuous visual information to spaceman surrounded by recording instrumentation and equipment in blind vehicle; the windowlike openings are solar-power units. Small jets power return to Earth, braking by ribbon chute on reentering atmosphere. Final stage of rocket following satellite in background.

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AUSTRALIA: One Shilling per copy Ten Shillings for 12 issues, One Pound for 24 issues. PERMANENT SUBSCRIPTION: 5 Pounds, from ROGER DARD, Box S1387, GPO PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ per word including name, address and zone number. 25 words minimum, remittance with copy. (NO STAMPS!)

FOR SALE

SCIENCE-FICTION FANTASY WEIRD REFERENCE BOOKS - Pocketbooks - Magazines New and Old - Bargains and Bonuses. SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY PUBLICATIONS, 127-01 116th Avenue, S. Ozone Park 20, N.Y.

FANTASY NOVELS. A Check List, Compiled by Roger Dard, Foreword by August Derleth, 12 pages, printed, 35¢ from James V. Taurasi, 18-36 129th St., College Point 56, New York. (NO STAMPS PLEASE!)

Complete your amazing collection. We have all kinds, old and new; science-fiction, fantasy, weird, adventure, detective, western, etc. Send in your want list. BOOK-LOVERS BARGAIN HOUSE, B O Y 214, Little Rock, Ark.

ENTIRE GALAXY COLLECTION from October 1950 to September, 1959. \$22.00. Most mint copies. Includes a subscription for 15 issues. Glen Goodknight, 10559 Pinyon Ave., Tujunga, Calif.

SALE: Hundreds of recent s-f and fantasy mags - 1951 to 1958 - 25¢ each. Many older ones, including: ASTOUNDING, UNCANNY, WEIRD, MARVEL SCIENCE, SUPER SCIENCE, FFM, PN, DYNAMIC etc at higher prices. Write for list. Have EC comics - 1952 - 1954 - 20¢ each. Richard Minter, 412 E 2nd Ave., Draper, NC CATALOG OF NEW AND USED SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY MAGAZINES. Write Gerry de la Ree, 277 Howland Ave., River Edge, New Jersey.

WANTED

STILL WANTED: the 1927 AMAZING STORIES ANNUAL in good condition with full front & back cover. Will

pay \$5.00 for copy or \$10.00 in ad space in one issue of S-F Times. SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC., P. O. Box 184, Flushing 52, New York.

DAMON KNIGHT NEW EDITOR OF "IF" (concluded from page 1, column 2)

Oregon, came East in 1940 to try his luck as an illustrator and writer. "I got five dollars a side, and a cent a word", he says. He held editorial positions with Popular Publications (*Super Science Stories*) and Hillman Periodicals (*Worlds Beyond*), and in 1950 turned to full-time writing. He has published a novel, "Hell's Pavement", a book of critical essays, "In Search Of Wonder", and "about a hundred" science-fiction stories, of which a dozen have been anthologized. The 1956 World Science Fiction Convention awarded him a "Hugo" as the field's best book reviewer. He lives with his wife and two children in Milford, Pa., where he is co-sponsor of the annual Milford-S-F Writers' Conference.

The October issue of *If* will be the first edited by Mr. Knight. In a statement about *If* and future issues of *If*, he said: "I'm working now on my first issue, to be dated October. It'll be on the stands August 15, 1958, with a Valigursky moon cover. The October issue is something of a novelty -- an all-space issue, with the stories so selected and arranged that they form a coherent future history of space exploration. There's an uncommonly powerful novelette by Don Berry, MAN ALONE: This is a guy to watch, incidentally, and so is R. M. McKenna, who appears in the same issue with THE FISHDOLLAR AFFAIR.

"My book reviews will henceforward appear only in *If*", in a new department called "In The Bal-

ance". The "Science Brief" and "Science I.Q." departments are being dropped, and the letter department will be retitled shortly. Otherwise, the October *If* will look very much like previous issues; I hope you'll find that the fiction has a little more zip to it. In December, we are planning important changes, with others to come. *If* is having its face lifted; it's going to be not only the most attractive magazine on the stands (our printing and format have always been superior), but the biggest and best. We will go monthly as soon as circulation warrants it. Rates are up now, to a top of 3¢ (the bottom is 2¢ as before). This is going to be a magazine that I can get excited about, and I hope some of that feeling will carry across to the readers."

In *Infinity Science Fiction*, Bob Silverberg will take over Damon's book review column, while in *Science Fiction Stories* and *Future Science Fiction*, his column will be taken over by Calvin M. Knox.

INTERNATIONAL (concl. from page 3)

one step forward has been taken; henceforth science-fiction will be judged on its merits, and not banned en masse as the detective magazines are.

SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECEIVED

CHILDREN OF THE ATOM by Wilmar H. Shiras, Avon Books, NY, 35¢, 7 February, 1958.

THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS by John Wyndham, Ballantine Books, NY, \$3.10, February, 1958.

INTO OTHER WORLDS by Roger Lancelyn Green: "Flight In Fiction From Lucian To Lewis", (non-fiction), Abelard-Schuman, NY, \$3.75, 12 Feb.

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