

# Science-Fiction Times

"The 'World Of Tomorrow Today!'"

17th YEAR - No. 294a

FIRST JUNE 1958 ISSUE

(FREE with issue #294)

## 'ASTOUNDING' WINS 'S-F TIMES' 1958 POLL

COLLEGE POINT, NY, 10 May, (CNS) - The First Annual Science-Fiction Times Poll was counted and tabulated today, showing many startling surprises in the results. The returns were good, they were not as large as expected by the editors, but large enough to continue the Poll next year.

One thing brought out by the Poll which should not surprise anyone is that s-f readers like everyone else have minds of their own. Almost every section showed many different returns. Nine and ten stories or items were picked strongly for most sections. The winners usually winning by two or three points. This we liked, as it showed that our readers have a varied taste, and thus a more honest return, than if we have a majority of readers along only one line of thought. The winners won in strong competition, and deserve congratulations from us all.

Now for the results:

### 1. Serials: Won by "CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY" by Robert A. Heinlein, from Astounding Science Fiction.

As far as the magazines went: ASTOUNDING 1st with 50 points, GALAXY 2nd with 40 points, and FANTASY & S-F 3rd - 10 points.

### 2. Best Complete Novel:

This was declared "No Contest" as most returns were on books instead of Complete Novels published in magazines. Of the few magazine returns, SAT-ELLITE was 1st, and S-F ADVENTURES second. You'll note that both magazines feature complete novels.

### 3. Best Novelet:

There was a tie for first place and both from ASTOUNDING. "CALL ME JOE" by Paul Anderson and "NUISANCE VALUE" by Eric Frank Russell. ASTOUNDING 1st with 70 points, VENTURE 2nd with 20 points, & FANTASY & S-F 3rd with 10 pts.

### 4. Short Stories:

"DIDN'T HE RAMBLE" by Chad Oliver from Fantasy & S-F. FANTASY & S-F 1st with 50 pts. SATURN 2nd with 20 points, & a three way tie: ASTOUNDING, VENTURE & INFINITY 3rd with 10 points each.

### 5. Best Departments:

A three way tie: "INFINITY'S CHOICE" by Damon Knight from Infinity, "FOR YOUR INFORMATION" by Willy Ley from Galaxy and "FAN SPACE" by Archibald Destiny from S-F Adventures. A four way tie for first place INFINITY, S-F ADVENTURES, GALAXY, and ASTOUNDING with 10 points each. A two way tie for second place IMAGINATION and FANTASY & S-F with 10 points each.

### 6. Best Covers:

Six artists were mentioned, with ED EMSH easily winning first place. FANTASY & S-F 1st with 30½ points. A two way tie for second place ASTOUNDING and S-F ADVENTURES with 20 points each. A three way tie for third place GALAXY, INFINITY and IF with 10 points each.

### 7. Interior Illustrations:

Only three artists were mentioned. KELLY PREAS was first with 90 points, ED EMSH was second with 50 points and WOOD was third with 10 points. ASTOUNDING 1st with 30½ points, INFINITY 2nd with 20 points, & GALAXY 3rd with 10 points.

Adding up all the points (those mentioned in the list three places in the above listings and all others) we get:

1. ASTOUNDING.....190½ points.
2. FANTASY & S-F.....120 points.
3. GALAXY S-F.....70 points.
4. Infinity.....50 points.
5. S-F Adventures.....40½ points.
6. Venture.....30 points.
7. Satellite.....20 points.

- Saturn.....20 points.  
8. Imagination.....10 points.  
If.....10 points.

Now let's see what it means:

Astounding won hands down. It came in 1st in serials, novelets, interior illustrations and departments. It was a poor 3rd in short stories and while it tie for first in departments, this was split among two departments. Miller's book reviews and Campbell's editorials. The only editorials that were mentioned in the poll.

Fantasy & S-F came out a poor third in serials, then they don't run many. It came out also a poor third in no. 's, but beat all others by coming in a strong first in short stories. It also beat them all in covers. The only department that drew was Boucher's book reviews.

Galaxy Science Fiction was a weak third. It was second in serials, was out of the running in novelets and short stories. Willy Ley's column was the only department mentioned, (first place). It was a poor third in covers and interior art.

Saturn surprised us all by coming in second in short stories, the only mentioning it received.

Larry Shaw did darn good with the departments: Knight's book reviews and "Fan Space" each in each of his mags tied for 1st place. His mags' covers came in 2nd and 3rd, while Infinity took 2nd place in interiors. Not bad for a somewhat new comer.

The only mention Imagination received was Bloch's fan mag review column, while If's only mentions were the Mal Hunter covers.

Further surprises were that there were no mentions at all of Lowndes' magazines, nor of Bob Madle's excellent (we think) "Inside Science Fiction", or of Lowndes' editorials.

A special award is being made up to be presented to John W. Campbell, editor of Astounding, later this year. Our congratulations Mr. Campbell.

**SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES**  
 "The World Of Tomorrow Today!"  
 Winner 1955 and 1957  
 "S-F Achievement Awards"  
 Published twice-a-month by **SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC.**, P. O. Box 184, Flushing 52, New York. 10¢ per copy, \$2 per year (24 issues). PERMANENT SUBSCRIPTION: \$15.00.

**BRITISH:** 9d per copy, 7s6d for 12 issues, 15s0d per year. PERMANENT SUBSCRIPTION: 3 Pounds 10s0d from H. M. JOHNSON, 16 Rockville Road, Broad Green, LIVERPOOL 14, ENGLAND.

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**SLICK SCIENCE FICTION**  
 by Donald B. Ford

**PLAYBOY**, February 1958:  
 "Examination Day" by Henry Slesar, A story of the future. At 12 the children are given an I.Q. test by the government. Those who exceed the Gov't. maximum are killed.

**TIME**, February 17, 1958:  
 Arthur C. Clarke's book, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY is reviewed.

Von Braun is the cover feature of **PLAYBOY**, May 1958:  
 A parody of an ancient S-F story. Supposedly written in 1648. I like the entire issue. (Last of the comic style issues. Next issue 8 1/2" x 11" and slick paper.)

**Playboy**, #3:  
 This magazine is published by the Russian embassy for distribution in the U.S. It contains a s-f story: "Flight to the Stars" by Alexei Savchenko: In 1977 the hero takes off in a rocket to go to Mars & photograph & return. The atomic drive goes haywire, he speeds up past the speed of light & thus inadvertently proves man can go to the stars. When he gets back, he finds that 12 years had passed on earth & that he is a soviet hero.

I don't know whether the Russians have claimed to have invented s-f yet, but if so perhaps this is one of their early attempts. I'd say the interest is more for a collector, here, rather than for a reader.

**THE TIME STREAM**  
 by J. Harry Vincent

Lloyd Jacquet reports: "Doubleday will publish on September 4, under the title: A MILE BEYOND THE MOON, a collection of Cyril M. Kornbluth's writings. Kornbluth, who died on March 31, at age 35, wrote "The Syndio", "The Explorers", and "Net This August", and several more in collaboration with Frederick Pohl. Ballantine Books will publish some time this year Pohl's "Wolfbane"."

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planning monthly publication from bi-monthly this fall, if all goes as well as now.

The MAD-like mag **Panic**, has no relation to MAD's sister mag, **Panic** of old. In spite of "Anniversary" on cover it's a first issue. Old-time s-f artist Leo Morey did the excellent cover.



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