

Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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(#310) TEN CENTS

1958 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Edward Wood

IN TWO PARTS - PART TWO

INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION (7 issues) (20) Number 6 in a field of 23. Larry Shaw's magazine had some good material in it. Consider "Leg Forst" by Clifford D. Simak (April), "The Leaf" by Robert F. Young (March) etc. It is a commentary upon our times that this fairly good science-fiction magazine dies while absurdities like Monster Parade* enjoy success.

*Monster Parade has since folded. -editor.

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION (12 issues) (91) Number 1 in a field of 23. Anthony Boucher has such a variety of stories in his magazine that it usually has something for everybody. Add to that Robert Heinlein's "Have Space Suit - Will Travel" and it's an unbeatable combination. It remains to be seen if Robert Mills will retain Boucher's deft hand at selecting stories. One always wonders why the circulation of this magazine is not higher. One reason might be that altnatross ofna title. The Once and Future King, John Collier stories, etc, seem to sell yet mention a story as fantasy and the public distaste is something fierce.

SATELLITE SCIENCE FICTION (6 issues) (14) Number 7 in a field of 23. I like long stories and feel that the best science-fiction has appeared in the novel and serial form. Here a r e simple stories, simply told. The field has always needed a magazine on the order of Startling Stories where the longer story could be printed complete. I probably rate this magazine a bit higher than I should because of the excellent articles by Sam Moskowitz.

SATURN: SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY (1 issue) (5) Unimpressive.

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES (4 issues)(12) The old Planet Stories in digest format. Here a r e the stories for those who dislike to slow down for logic or thinking. Plenty of action in "Shadow o n the Stars" (April) Silverberg, "Vengeance of the Space Armadas" (March) Knox etc. Y e s I think there is a place, not large mind you, for a magazine of this type in science-fiction.

SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY (1 issue) (28) The last issue of the last science-fiction pulp contains the readable "We, The Marauders" by Robert Silverberg. Of course Edmond Hamilton did it so much better in "A Conquest of Two Worlds" in Wonder Stories in February 1932.

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES (8 issues) (28) Number 5 in a field of 23. Another e x-ample of astute editing by Robert W. Lowndes. His editorials pertain directly and intelligently to science-fiction. The stories maintain a fair level of interest. However I don't think L. Sprague de Camp's serial "The Tower of Zanid" was worth all the fuss Lowndes made over it. I suppose somebody liked it.

THE SECOND WORLD OF IF (1 issue) (2) Number 8 in a field of 23. Nine novelettes from If 1954-6. An excellent idea amply fulfilled. A pity there will be no more.

SPACE TRAVEL (3 issues) (3) This retitling of Imaginative Tales was short lived. Changing titles and not content seldom helps a magazine. Typical Hamling type fiction.

STAR SCIENCE FICTION (1 issue) (1) This title was at first a paperback for 3 numbers, lasted one issue as a magazine and has now reverted back to its paperback format. It's just as well. The year was hard for the regular science-fiction magazines. It was deadly for the newcomers.

SUPER-SCIENCE FICTION (6 issues) (13) Thomas Gardner ranked this magazine higher than I do. The print job is terrible. Among the stories I found "Slaves of the Tree" (June) by E. Rodman and "All The Troubles of the World" by Isaac Asimov to be excellent. The stories are simple and the plots uncomplicated.

VANGUARD SCIENCE FICTION (1 issue) (1) Chalk this one up as a good try for James Blish. Unlike some first issues that have come to science-fiction, this one had some thought behind it. Certainly it should be read for Kornbluth's "Reap the Dark Tide".

VENTURE SCIENCE FICTION (4 issues) (10) Seldom has there been more agreement between two people than between Gardner and myself on this magazine. The blatant appeal to sexual sadism was disgusting. The science-fiction field has had previous experiments in this type of thing and with results equally dismal. Yet perhaps one has to accept the trash to obtain that classic gem by Cyril Kornbluth "Two Dooms" (July) which happens to be my choice for second best story of 1958.

WHAT OF 1959?

WITH ONLY 10 titles left at the time of this writing and with the possibility of less than a 100 issues appearing in 1959 it appears that the field is near a condition of equilibrium. Any continued decline in the number of titles or issues would finish the magazine field as a sizable market for writers. Once we were three... Look for continued inroads by the horror addicts. Some magazines should improve their positions greatly by format-price-editor-story changes.

T H E E N D

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS - - - - - Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASTIC The April 1959 Fantastic, out March 19, 1959, will contain: Novelets: SECOND MAN TO THE MOON by Jack Williamson, and THE ECSTASY OF IT by Kate Wilhelm. Short stories: THE ABNORMALS by Harlan Ellison, AFTER THE FUNERAL by Gordon Dickson, HEAR A PIN DROP by Edward Wellen, KEEPERS IN SPACE by Rog Phillips, A DOZEN OF EVERYTHING by Marion Zimmer Bardley, THE ARM OF ENMORD by Jack Sharkey, and A TOUCH OF SUN by Arthur and Irwin Porges.

AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION STORIES The May 1959 issue will contain a Russian science-fiction story INITIATIVE by Boris & Ackady Strugatsky reprinted for the first time in the United States from a Russian science magazine. It has been translated by Harman Rutley. The June 1959 issue will contain a full-length complete novel, A HANDFULL OF STARS by Poul Anderson.

B R I T I S H:

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES No. 7 of this British science-fiction magazine will contain two short novels OCCUPATION: WARRIOR by James White, and THE SUN CREATOR by Nelson Sherwood, plus a short story ANACHRONISM by Clive Jackson. The cover is by Brian Lewis. This issue will be out in England during February.

The 8th issue, out in April 1959 will contain: SEED OF VIOLENCE by Jay Will.

iams, and DON'T CROSS A TELEKINE by Phillip Stratford, plus a short story HALFWAY HOUSE by Clifford C. Reed.

THE SCIENCE-FICTION RECORD by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING JANUARY 1959:

Table with columns: NAME, DATE, PAGES, PRICE, SIZE, DATE ON STANDS, SCHEDULE. Lists magazines like Amazing SF Stories, Fantastic Universe SF, Science Fiction Stories, etc.

During January 1959 nine science-fiction magazines came out. Eight were digest size costing \$2.85 and containing 1,066 pages. The other was large-size costing 35¢ and containing 64 pages, for a total cost of \$3.20 and 1,130 pages for the month.

NOT SCIENCE/FANTASY, BUT OF INTEREST:

Table with columns: NAME, DATE, PAGES, PRICE, SIZE, DATE ON STANDS, SCHEDULE. Lists Flying Saucers, Science World, Science Digest.

WE ARE SORRY: In the last SCIENCE-FICTION REPORT we listed Galaxy Novel in the "Not Science/Fantasy etc." listing. Naturally the Galaxy Novel series are science-fiction. Arthur Jean Cox has informed us that in his and Blackbeard's report of the Solacon there was an error. There was no "motion" to disband the WSFS, INC, but a "motion" to approve a "petition" to disband. We are sorry that these errors happened. -editor

MIDWEST NEWS by Donald E. Ford

TAFF candidates announced by Madle are: Terry Carr, Don Ford & Bjo Wells. Ballots will soon be circulating and the voting will continue through 1959. Cut off at December 31.

The Cincinnati Fantasy Group had an annual birthday party for Don Ford and Loy Tabakow, who along with Ken Bulmer, were born on January 14th. The Indianapolis group made a long distance 'phone call for the occasion. Our greeting card to Ken Bulmer was a stereo slide of the gang, which is being mailed to him.

In the process of being organized, by some of the members of the C.F. G., is an investment club. We haven't actually gotten started as yet, but it looks like a pretty certain thing at this stage. We want to do it & it's merely a matter of getting set up.

Midwestcon is set for the last week-end in June. North Plaza Motel, Cincinnati 37, Ohio. This will be the 10th annual Midwestcon & we will have a surprize or two to spring on fandom this year!

RICHARD WILSON SELLS SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL TO MOVIES

NEW YORK, 12 February, (CNS) - On Monday February 9, 1959, Richard Wilson signed a contract with America-Internation Pictures at the Ballantine Books office selling the motion picture rights of his book "The Girl From Planet 5". America-Internation Pictures will make a serious, better-class science-fiction film of the book. This is the first of Dick's books to be sold to the movies. The novel came out as a Ballantine Book (Cloth \$2.00 & paperback 35¢ in 1955). The agent who did the selling is no other than Forrest J Ackerman.

America-Internation Pictures are the producers of many horror films including "I Was A Teen Age Werewolf" and others. They intend to make Dick's book into a straight science-fiction film tho.

Dick has a story coming up in the next Galaxy Magazine. He also has a novel in the current British Science Fantasy, called "Super City". "Super City" is a reprint from Infinity Science Fiction. There is appeared as a two-part 40,000 word novel. Dick cut it to 30,000 words for Science Fantasy. The cut is so skillfully done that it doesn't show in reading. It too, would make a good s-f movie. -JVT

JOHN GIUNTA TO ILLUSTRATE "SATELLITE SCIENCE FICTION"

NEW YORK, 12 February, (CNS) - We have been informed today that John Giunta will do inside illustrations for Leo Margulies' Satellite Science Fiction and Short Stories. We understand that he has illustrated a short novel by Farmer, and a short story in Short Stories, plus other work.

John started illustrating science-fiction in the pre-war Super Science Stories. He has done work for Amazing, Comet, Weird Tales, Saturn and others. He has also done numerous s-f comic books and has edited an edition of True Crime comics. He is an old-time s-f fan, having put out Amazing Wonder Tales and other fan mags in the late 30s, been a member of the committee that put on the First World S-F Convention in 1939, and is still the Art Editor of Science-Fiction Times.

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