

TYNDALLITE
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From Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 1368,
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Mailing comments page 784
Robert Bloch from
Weird Tales
Nov 1934 787

The New Port News #187 Sep 1999 –
Ned Brooks

p. 2 You say that we're getting
closer to Isaac "...Asimov's dream of
the 'nudged quanta' data storage, where
the entire recorded knowledge of the
human race was kept in a device the size
of a shoebox." Is this shoebox from a
midget or Paul Bunyan? At least the
human race is progressing from the days
when all knowledge was written on the
head of a pin.

Derogatory Reference #93 1999 –
Arthur D. Hlavaty

p. 2 I appreciated your
comments about new works "by"
deceased authors being published.

NESFA Press' publication of *The
Compleat Boucher* seems worthwhile.
He did some excellent science-fiction.

I have mixed feelings about
publishing the complete short stories of
Fredric Brown. While he did some
excellent stories, such as "Arena", a lot

of his shorts fall short of being
worthwhile.

pp. 3-4 Thanks for your praise of
Ken MacLeod's *The Cassini Division*.

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette
#60 Sep 1999 – Richard
Dengrove

p. 19 Yes, Curt Siodmak's
*Floating Platform Number One Does
Not Reply* was about mid-ocean airports.
You're also right that this was due to
limitations of the then airplanes. That's
why Greenland was scouted for suitable
airport locations, Midway Island had a
base built, etc.

THE SPHERE Vol. 182 no. 1 – Don
Markstein

p. 3 You comment about Jerry
Siegel and Joe Shuster putting comics
into a ghetto and say you

"...opened with a discussion of
*Hugo Gernsback, founder of modern
science fiction, and the revisionist point
of view about him that started gaining
acceptance in the 1970s.*"

What revisionist point of view
did you have in mind? My view is that
by founding *Amazing Stories* Gernsback
concentrated science-fiction into a
readily-obtainable form. With his
eclectic taste (Howard P. Lovecraft,
Abraham Merritt, Edgar R. Burroughs,
Herbert G. Wells, Edward E. Smith, etc.)
he provided a broad spectrum of science
fiction. With his successors stories were
accepted because they were nominally
science-fiction (Raymond A. Palmer,
Howard Browne, etc.) regardless of their
quality. With John W. Campbell, Jr. the

idea (not always achieved) was to write a good science-fiction story. Of course, this alienated some people, who found that some of the stories required that the readers have some common grounding in science, science-fiction, etc. rather than reinventing science-fiction with each story. Fred Lerner has been arguing that unless a story comes from the "in-group authors" that it isn't science-fiction, an untenable position.

pp. [4-5] Thanks for your candid review of your own story "Dentist To the Cosmos" concerning Doctor Paingloss doing a job on a gigantic space whale. After he got through repelling the invading aliens it was indeed the best of all possible galaxies.

PETER(,) PAN & MERRY #23 -
David Schlosser

p. 2 Underdone meat is rich in Vitamin C. Dr. Frederick A. Cook intuited this (prior to the discovery of vitamins) and saved the lives of the *Belgica* expedition, including Roald Amundsen, in the 1890's. That's one of the reasons that Amundsen beat Robert F. Scott to the South Pole, Amundsen knew that he, his men and his dogs had to have fresh meat in order to prevent scurvy. Scott refused to believe, ate a defective diet and while suffering from a combination of malnutrition and scurvy committed suicide to gain revenge on Amundsen.

p. 3 You wonder about DNA testing for putative Lost Tribes of Israel. The Lemba in southern Africa have a high degree of DNA correlation with the descendants of Aaron and are still practicing Judaic ritual. It's highly probable that they are genuine Jews,

rather than a group trying to abuse the Law of Return.

Trivial Pursuits #85 – Janice Gelb

p. 12 I can testify from personal experience that in the evenings before television became common that our family actually read books and magazines, and listened to the radio. Even after my father bought a television set I seldom watched it. The decline in magazines, particularly science-fiction, occurred in the mid-1950's, just as television sets were becoming common. A number of people feel that instead of being a coincidence that it is causality.

'YNGVI IS A LOUSE" AND OTHER GRAFFITOS #61 Sep 1999 – T. K. F. Weisskopf

p. 9 You say that Joan Aiken Hodge wrote a biography of Georgette Heyer. Great, we can all now get a Heyer education.

You say about Robert A. Heinlein's fiction that "...but it so involves the reader!" I think that most of his best fiction gives his readers the idea that he wishes to share the adventures of his friends, the characters, with his readers.

You say that Leo Frankowski wrote a currently-plausible lost-race novel entitled *Fata Morgana*. You've aroused my curiosity on just how did he do it.

p. 10 I'm looking forward to your projected three volumes of James H. Schmitz stories. I hope that he sells well for you.

p. 11 If you'd like to read some excellent science-fiction about "...huge, world-encompassing secret cabals.", try "Talbot Mundy"'s *The Nine Unknown*, *The Devil's Guard* and "The King Of the World" from *Adventure*. The book versions of "TKOTW" have all been butchered. The heroes go up against a group of nine immortals that rules the world from behind the scenes and it only gets better and more complicated. Perhaps you might consider reprinting them.

GUILTY PLEASURES Sep 1999 – Eve Ackerman

pp 1-2 Thanks for the book reviews.

p. 2 You complain about the cover art on books and say that the authors do also. This sort of thing makes or breaks impulse sales. I wonder how much conscious effort some publishers put into selecting their covers.

Caution – May Contain Fnords! [no #, nd] – mike weber

pp. [8-9] Thanks for your approving review of the first Harry Potter book. Apparently it's all that it was cracked up to be.

p. [10] Your suspicion that Robert Bloch didn't have to hide behind a pseudonym after criticizing Conan is justified. See Bloch's letter, which I've reprinted in this issue. Farnsworth Wright even mentioned that Bloch had an upcoming story. I wonder why these garbled versions are accepted in preference to the facts.

I'm disgusted that Lyon S. de Camp has received death threats because of his biography of Robert E. Howard.

AVATAR PRESS v2#5 30Sep1999 – Randy B. Cleary

pp. 1-8 Thanks for your non-pernicious *DragonCon* report.

p. 9 Thanks for your lukewarm review of David Drake's *With the Lightnings*.



roduces an entirely new
n; at least, new to me.
ard Wandrei, is one of
at entirely gripped my
end. I did not care
Man, as it seemed quite
attempted no explana-
. *The Sinister Painting*
Naked Lady was perfect.
Tantavul, needless to
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Shorter Stories

Dayton, Ohio, writes:
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s Model."

bert E. Howard

, of Toronto, writes:
ie September issue of

WT and I find it so exceptionally good that I am breaking my silence of several months. I vote first place to my old favorite, Howard, for the first installment of *The People of the Black Circle*. It is Conan at his best, a truly absorbing story that didn't allow my somewhat jaded interest to falter. It appears that this serial will make history for WT. I give second place to Mindret Lord for *Naked Lady*. At last it appears that we have a successor to the late Rev. Whitehead. Enough said. . . . I liked Julia Green's poem, *The Return*. I am glad to read that you do not contemplate an author's page. I doubt if it would materially enhance modern fiction of the weird type to know that author so-and-so eats dill pickles. However, I must say, in deference to other opinions, that a more thorough understanding of Poe is obtained by a careful reading of his life story. . . . The cover design is O. K. It certainly is truly weird. It is evident that M. Brundage has been reading and benefiting by the fans' letters of criticism."

A Crack at Conan

Robert Bloch, of Milwaukee, writes: "The present issue of WT is rather remarkable in that the short stories by far excel the longer ones—a fact which each successive issue makes more evident. Conan is rapidly becoming a stereotyped hero, but I was greatly pleased with Francis Flagg; a real writer, with something to say. I am awfully tired of poor old Conan the Cluck, who for the past fifteen issues has every month slain a new wizard, tackled a new monster, come to a violent and sudden end that was averted (incredibly enough!) in just the nick of time, and won a new girl-friend, each of whose penchant for nudism won for her a place of honor, either on the cover or on the inner illustration. Such has been Conan's history, and from the realms of the Kushites to the lands of Aquilonia, from the shores of the Shemites to the palaces of Dyme-Novell-Bolonia, I cry: 'Enough of this brute and his iron-thewed sword-thrusts—may he be sent to Valhalla to cut out paper dolls.' I would like to see the above tirade in print—I feel sure that many of your other readers would support me—at least there is good material there for an argument." [Sharpen your axes, you loyal supporters of the Conan tales, for anon we shall publish a short story by Mr.

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—Mrs. Mary Bean
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Bloch, the author of the above letter. It is entitled *The Secret in the Tomb*.—THE EDITOR.]

From a Budding Medico

Harry S. Weatherby, of Washington, D. C., writes: "Being an interne in a large hospital is not all that it's cracked up to be, and I have to have a magazine or two to occupy my mind when I'm not tending to a patient. WEIRD TALES amply fills the spot and its stories are not only weird but also very brilliant. I have never seen a more clever group of writers than those that you have. The September edition was packed with action and chilling moments for the reader. The best story, in my opinion, was *The Jest of Warburg Tantavul*. The plot was closely knit and ran very smoothly. Three cheers for Seabury Quinn—he could write all of the magazine and I would never get tired. His imagination is something to rave about. Second best was *Vine Terror* by Howard Wandrei. I'm very fond of vampire tales of any description, and this one certainly appealed."

Another by Cahill

J. Wasso, Jr., of Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, writes to the Eyrie: "*They Called Him Ghost* by Laurence J. Cahill, in the June issue, is one of the best stories to appear in WEIRD TALES in recent years and earns an undisputed place in the immortal company of the seven or eight greatest stories published in WEIRD TALES since its inception." [Mr. Cahill's story has been very popular with the readers of WEIRD TALES. An even more unusual story by him—a story entitled *Charon*—is scheduled for our January issue.—THE EDITOR.]

De Grandin's Triumphant Return

Alvin Earl Perry, of Rockdale, Texas, writes: "I was pleasantly surprized on seeing Bram Stoker's tale as the reprint story this month; please let's have more by him. Another reprint which I am looking forward to, and which I am sure you will print soon, is Edmond Hamilton's first story, *The Monster-God of Mamurth*. From what I hear, this must be one fine piece of literature. Little Jules de Grandin certainly made a triumphant return in the September issue. Seabury Quinn wove the threads of plot expertly for the dynamic Frenchman in *The*

Jest of Warburg Tantavul; the yarn is told vividly and in a manner that creates an almost tangible atmosphere of terror. . . . Arlton Eadie's serial, *The Trail of the Cloven Hoof*, is coming along remarkably well, although I consider it merely an old plot with a new twist."

Old Ideas Rehashed

Julius Hopkins, of Washington, D. C., writes: "I have read every story in the September WT, and without a doubt the best story in this issue is *Vine Terror*, with part one of *The People of the Black Circle* in second place. Most all of the tales in this number are old ideas rehashed, but even with that they are so well written that reading them becomes a pleasure instead of proving uninteresting perusals. However, next month's issue promises to bring forth a host of new ideas, headed by WT's new sensational writer, C. L. Moore. I was glad to see Seabury Quinn return with another adventure of Jules de Grandin. Now that he has returned, don't wait too long to publish another story by Edmond Hamilton. And see if you can't get Frank Owen to pen some more of his tender and colorful orientales for the delight of WT readers. I like the cover on the September WT. It is truly a weird picture, and I notice that a certain magazine dealer in D. C. has his front display filled with copies of WT and it makes a truly weird and beautiful exhibit. I am following *The Trail of the Cloven Hoof* with much interest and regret very much that I have to wait a whole month between installments. I wish you would have Mr. Eadie write some more adventures of Count Roulette, who appeared in *The Eye of Truth* in your issue of September, 1932. Count Roulette was a distinctive and most appealing character."

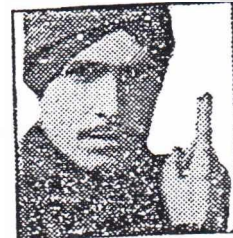
A Stupendous Issue

Fred Anger, of Berkeley, California, writes: "Titanic! super-colossal! stupendous! (copyright Jack Darrow). These and half a dozen other words followed by exclamation marks describe the September number. Cover A-1! M. Brundage is scrubbing pastels around at a terrific pace. Who in the world could be dissatisfied with a cover like the last one? . . . *Naked Lady* was kind of

(Please turn to page 654)

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