

SCIENCE FICTION

JULY 1951

NEWS LETTER

AN EXPERIMENTAL ISSUE

**EIGHT NATIONS AT LONDON CONVENTION;
ACKERMAN ACCEPTS AWARD FOR U.S.**



(see page 3)

**FOR A GREAT CONVENTION
VOTE FOR THE DETENTION
DETROIT IN '52**

CONVENTION REPORT :

by Ted Carnell

London, England: Over May 11th to the 14th, between 200 and 300 professional and amateur enthusiasts of science-fiction, representing eight countries, met in the ballroom of the Royal Hotel (London), to celebrate the first International Science-Fiction Convention ever held. Highlight of this largest - ever British gathering was a surprise award promulgated by the London Circle for the best fiction book and best technical book of 1950. The panel of critics chose George R. Stewart's *EARTH ABIDES* (Random House) for fiction, and Willy Ley & Chesley Bonestell's *CONQUEST OF SPACE* (Viking Press) for the technical award. Forrest Ackerman accepted the two awards on behalf of his countrymen.

The awards, conceived only two weeks prior to the convention, went on the drawing board immediately and a twelve-inch spaceship taken from the Bonestell design on the February 1951 *GALAXY* cover has been approved; it will be mounted on an oak base complete with ornate lighter. Actual awards will be fashioned of heavy chrome for the fiction class, and bronze for the technical. Owing to the shortage of time, exact replicas were used in place of the models -- not expected to be ready for some weeks. It is intended that these awards will be made annually, and planned to embrace other fields of science-fiction, including the films. A special Fantasy Fund Award has been opened whereby anyone may donate. At present, the Award Fund Committee are using the Nova Publications address. (See next page)



The Sunday afternoon (13th) session included a three-hour coverage of the S-F fields by all overseas guests: Crane, Canada; Ackerman and Jacobs, the States; Gallet, France; Abas, Holland; Ostlund, Sweden; Willis, Ireland; Paynter, Australia; and Arnold for Britain. (Cpl. Jacobs flew in from his station in Versailles, France.) In addition, Frank Arnold reported on the Italian and Russian fields, while Wendayne Ackerman spoke on the German. A proposal was made by Lyell Crane to set up an International S-F movement outside the United States and the United Kingdom.

The convention followed similar lines to American affairs in that two auctions proved it a moneymaker. There were debates
(continued on next page)

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE COVER. Top photo, left to right: Ben Abas (Holland), Sigvard Ostlund (Sweden), Forrest Ackerman (USA), receiving the science-fiction award from G. Ken Chapman (England), Lyell Crane (Canada), Wendayne Ackerman (USA), Ted Carnell (Eng.)

Bottom picture, the gentlemen standing, left to right: Les Johnson, Walter Gillings (both England), Forrest Ackerman, Chambaz and George Gallet (France), Arthur C. Clarke (England), Ken Paynter (Australia), Lee Jacobs (USA), John Beynon, William F. Temple (both England), Ben Abas (Holland), Michael Rosenblum, Fred Brown and John (Ted) Carnell (all England).

The ladies, left to right: Mdm. Chambaz, Wendayne Ackerman, Mdm. Gallet, Mdm. Abas.
(Photos courtesy of Ted Carnell)

and discussions by prominent professionals, and Milton Rothman's two soap-operas "Life Can be Horrible" and "Who Goes Where?" were re-scripted for British consumption with outstanding success. These and other major items were wire-recorded. Wendayne Ackerman gave an outline of dianetics to a packed hall.

Film shows each evening included Doyle's feature, "The Lost World", Tucker's cutting-room floor epic, "Monsters of the Moon", three short films brought over by Ackerman, and a technicolor rocket film supplied by Arthur C. Clarke. Science-fiction "art" vied with Victorian paintings adorning the walls.

International Fantasy Award Committee

by Leslie Flood

The objects of the Fantasy Award are to encourage original work in the artistic creative branches of imaginative literature and

the expression of fantasy by visual or audible methods. While primarily directed at the encouragement of higher standards in the written word, especially in fiction, departments of the Award may in the future be allocated to such expressions as Poetry, the Film, Music, Visual Art, and other work considered suitable.

Great care was taken in the selection of the works qualifying for the 1951 Fantasy Award, and the two works adjudged the best of a meritorious selection were (for fiction), EARTH ABIDES, by George R. Stewart, and (for non-fiction) THE CONQUEST OF SPACE by Willy Ley and Chesley Bonestell. The principle award, that for EARTH ABIDES, was accepted by Mr. Ackerman for Dr. Stewart, Professor of English at the University of California in Berkeley. The Award mementos on this occasion consisted of desk ornaments in the form of a silvered spaceship mounted on an inscribed plinth of polished oak, which also supports a table lighter, the ensemble forming a handsome example of the highest form of the model-maker's art.

Funds to advance the provision of the Award, to promote interest in and secure publicity for the Award, have been forthcoming from various individuals and organizations, with the preliminary responsibility underwritten by this Committee. We will welcome all contributions, and it is hoped that publishing houses and individuals will become patrons. The Award will of course be non-profit making, is now in the process of being registered appropriately, and will submit a copy of its annual accounts to all donors-- whose suggestions and criticisms will be welcomed.

Finally, may I solicit your goodwill in publicizing the Award to the best of your ability, especially as regards editors of literary journals of all kinds. Donations should be drawn to: Leslie Flood, and endorsed "Fantasy Award Account". Please mail to me, in care of the Fantasy Book Center, 25 Stoke Newington Road, London N-16, England.

(Flood is secretary of the International Fantasy Award Committee. Donations should be made by international money order obtainable from any postoffice. No letter is necessary, as the postoffice itself mails all money orders to foreign recipients.)

The Reporter

REPORTING ON FANS AND FANDOM

Russells Point, Ohio: About seventy fans spent the week-end in riotous living at an Indian Lake resort hotel here, May 18-21, observing the second annual Midwest Science-fiction Conference. Swimming and boating vied with poker to hold the formal program to a minimum. Surprise visitors were Ned McKeown and Bill Grant, of Canada; while twelve members of the Detroit Science Fiction League appeared to plug for Detroit in '52. The Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland groups were present in force, as were fans from Chicago, Fort Wayne, Battle Creek, Indianapolis, etc.

Following a Sunday noon banquet which attracted sixty, the notables present made brief talks. Lloyd Eshbach of Fantasy Press revealed the coming plans of his company, stating that in the near future he hoped to publish a series of Collectors Editions (see news elsewhere in this issue). Ted Diky followed with the forthcoming program of books from Shasta Publishers, mentioning that Shasta expects to have at least seven titles this year. Bea Mahaffey, invariably introduced as the prettiest editor in the business, was introduced as the prettiest editor in the business. Old-time author Charles Tanner spoke on the possibility of his reviving the "Tumithak" series of past years. Randy Garrett and Frank Robinson made brief reports of their writings in progress. Robert Bloch, unable to attend, mailed a letter which was passed off on an unsuspecting Tucker to read aloud. (And in the evening a short fantasy film was shown, plus colored slides of several of the Ohio fans, and other interesting "art" subjects.)

With Dr. C.L. Barrett as master of ceremonies, those present voted to hold next year's conference at the same place, with the hotel guaranteeing exclusive occupancy if fifty rooms are taken. Conclave date will be on or before May 15th, 1952. No action was taken on a bid by Ray Beam to hold the Conference in Indianapolis next year. Harland Ellison won the Noisy-fan's door prize.

Following the dinner, the Ohio Fantasy Association met for elections. Roy Lavender (Delaware) was elected president, Ben Kelfer (Columbus) assumed the vice-presidency, and Al Wilson (Cleveland) elected secretary. After expenses, the association cleared \$26 on the meeting. Only one cover painting was auctioned, as the remaining artwork was by raffles (tickets \$1 each) to keep prices within everyone's reach. #

THE first issue of a RAY BRADBURY MAGAZINE is in the making and should be ready this summer, according to its editor, William Nolan (4458 56th St, San Diego, Calif.) Nolan plans a critical journal, including an Index of all Bradbury work in fiction, non-fiction, radio, books, etc. Asking for material from fans, Nolan states the magazine will not be "a glory publication ... in which fanatics grovel at the feet of the master". Material wanted for the project should reflect "an honest, accurate picture of the effect and content of Bradbury's work on present day fantasy".

THE Newark (NJ) SUNDAY NEWS ran a three-column photo of Sam Moskowitz on Apr 15th, accompanied by a long feature story on his S-F collection and a letter he wrote to Einstein. (next page)

The letter commented on the need of spaceships to exceed the speed of light, and Moskowitz pointed out this seemed possible under the General Theory of Relativity. Einstein replied, but the aid of Willy Ley and Thomas Gardner were needed to translate and explain the reply. Gist of the reply is that sometimes the maximum speed of objects might be greater than the speed of light, and sometimes not. (Moskowitz has offered NEWS LETTER the complete texts of his letter and Einstein's reply. If readers wish to see same, please speak up.)

MEANWHILE, another Moskowitz project, The History of Fandom rolls merrily on. Running serially in THE FANTASY COMMENTATOR, it is now in its 17th installment, has rung up about 125,000 words, and has brought fan history up to 1939. Moskowitz tentatively plans to halt the history with Pearl Harbor, which will add about 25,000 more words to the present total. Entitled "THE IMMORTAL STORM", the work was called to the attention of the publishers of "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" and other directories, with the result of Moskowitz being included in a volume entitled "WHO KNOWS-- AND WHAT". He is listed as an authority on science-fiction.



IN April, the National Fantasy Fan Federation announced the winners of the 1950 Laureate Awards, the top editors, writers and artists of last year as chosen by their 400 members. H.L. Gold and his GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION were named top professional editor and magazine, although they published only three issues last year. Ray Bradbury was picked as best pro writer, Edd Cartier as best artist. Then the fun began.

Lee Hoffman was chosen as the best fan magazine editor, but his publication, QUANDRY, wasn't even mentioned in the fanzine section. Named as the best fanzine was the extinct FANSCIENT, but its editor, Don Day, did not appear as one of the top ten fan editors. Close study of the list of ten best editors and ten best fanzines show that in only five instances do the choices match. Scizophrenia?

THE armed forces: George Earley, late of Oxford, Ohio, and Bethesda, Maryland, is back in uniform and stationed in Delaware. Pfc. Don Egleston, formerly of Cincinnati and Fort Benning, Ga., went overseas (Germany) with the 4th Division. Frank Robinson, Beverly Shores, Indiana, returned to the navy in June. Robert G. Cowan no longer dwells in Oakland, Calif., but an army camp.

NEW York's Hydra Club, working with the Norfolk & Western Railway, is publicizing a rail trip from the eastcoast to the New Orleans convention. Train leaves New York at 6:50 pm August 30th and stops at Newark, Trenton, Philadelphia and Washington for any fan convention-bound. Return trip leaves New Orleans Sept. 3rd.

JACK ("Juffus") Speer, rabid former-fan also known as John Bristol in his prankster days, was married in June to Myrtle Cox, in Seattle. Speer is a practicing lawyer in North Bend, Wash.

ANTHONY BOUCHER has taken charge as chairman of the Fourth Westercon, to be held in San Francisco, June 30th and July 1st.

TWELVE illustrations left over from the first Fantasy Veterans Convention in New York City, April 22nd, were auctioned by mail after the convention closed. Forty-six fans attended.

May 6, 1951

THEY LOOK IN THE FUTURE

Science Fiction Writers Long Ago Worked Out in Detail Problems of Interplanetary Travel—Predicted Atom Bomb, Earth Satellite, and Rocket Weapons

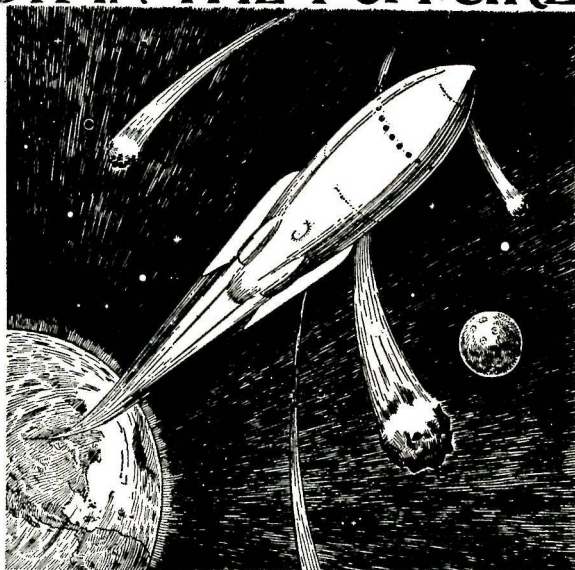
By Richard A. Frank

GOBLINS and ghosts could not have frightened the United States more than what occurred that chilly Hallowe'en night 13 years ago.

Millions listening to their radios heard that men from Mars had invaded the country, landing on a New Jersey farm. In growing horror they heard that the interplanetary visitors were exterminating the surrounding population, including vast numbers in New York City.

Everyone remembers the panic that ensued—how many people in the East left their homes to escape the invaders, and how children rushed home from play to be with their loved ones.

Of course, it was all a hoax, unintentionally perpetrated by a radio program produced by Orson



First space ship off earth likely will encounter racing meteors which could wreck vessel if they hit it, science fiction writers predict.

(Partial reproduction, by courtesy and permission of GRIT.)

Richard Frank, associate editor of GRIT, the national weekly newspaper, again placed a large science-fiction spread in that periodical's May 6th issue. A scene from *DESTINATION MOON*, a spaceship sketch, and a drawing of Nazi Germany's proposed "Island in the Sky" illustrate the article which deals with writers inventing and using techniques and tricks many years before the practical world gets around to them. Books and magazines are in.

THE long-prophected axe fell last month when the Postoffice clamped down on *INCINERATIONS*, the free-wheeling, free-speaking fanzine published by Forrest Davis in Portland, Oregon. Postal authorities, apparently acting on a complaint lodged because of his fourth issue, notified Davis the publication was objectionable and henceforth unavailable. This is the same issue that Rog Phillips refused to review in his fan column in *AMAZING STORIES*.

THE BOOK BULLETIN, a new journal of book reviews and news, made its appearance in June. Costing 1/4 a copy, published by Bob Pope (S.W. Hill & Hanover Sts., Charleston, S.C.), the magazine attempts to report on the science-fiction pocketbook field.

A GROUP of fen in the two states of Carolina have organized a new Southern fan club called "The Little Monsters of America", and published the first issue of their bulletin. For those unorganized monsters eager to join, address of the "Master Monster" is: Lynn Hickman, 408 west Bell St, Statesville, N.C.

Fans, slans, people and monsters read the News Letter.

People in The News

statement of the month: "Forrest J Ackerman has insured himself -- for the duration of his European trip -- for \$1000, which will go to the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society if anything should happen to him while he's overseas. The money will go, most likely (in the event it is ever collected, which is unlikely) towards the continuation of the LASFS annual amateur author's award banquet." (Insurance companies are untrustworthy, we take it.)

John W. Campbell has crashed the radio field in an off-hand manner, now that Street & Smith Magazines are sponsoring the program, DIMENSION X. (5pm, EST, Sundays, the NBC network.) Campbell is acting as technical adviser --- whatever that is. In a letter to one inquiring fan, Street & Smith said that broadcasts would be taken from recent issues of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. The program for June 17th was Isaac Asimov's "Pebble in the Sky", which appeared in only one magazine: TWO COMPLETE SCIENCE BOOKS. The story was greatly condensed and changed, the ending was left unresolved, and Asimov received no mention whatever when writing and production credits were announced at the end of the program.

Rog Phillips Graham and wife Mari have deserted New York, returning to California by way of Taos, New Mexico. Vague plans to settle down in Taos writer's colony were abandoned when they discovered Reynold's goats and hardy exterior plumbing.

Fred Pohl has spiked rumors currently circulating (started, perhaps, by an inaccurate NFFF list of pen-names) that Hal Clement is Arthur C. Clarke in hiding. Clement is Harold Clement Stubbs Jr. of Boston, while Clarke is Clarke, England.

Joyce and Ken Slater, London and Germany, are expecting an addition to their "Operation Fantast" company any day in June.

The University of Chicago science - fan club was planning a new lithographed fan magazine for May or June appearance, but as yet ...

H. H. Holmes (who is Anthony Boucher) has been added to the staff of the NY HERALD-TRIBUNE as full-time science-fiction reviewer. On the other side of the street he is mystery reviewer for the New York TIMES.

Picked-up from an Arthur J. Cox column in a recent issue of FANTASY TIMES is the following



That's Reynolds on the far right

Follow that Man —



to chills,
shocks —
and MURDER!

RED HERRING

by Wilson Tucker

Nobody but a drunk could think up such a screwy assignment for a private detective.

At least, Charles Horne thought the girl was drunk, when she called him in the middle of the night and asked him to help make her brother Clifford disappear.

A practical joke, she called it. And Horne, who wasn't above an easy fee, took the job.

But the girl wasn't drunk and the joke wasn't practical — at least not for Clifford. On the first night of his Horne-arranged disappearance, Clifford is found dead with a screw driver in his heart.

Things get even more complicated when the police name the girl as leading suspect, and she hires Horne to get her out of the jam. From then on it's a mad chase through two states, complicated by still another murder, an Ohio River steamboat, a lady wrestler, and a confused St. Louis detective named Thingbottom, who talks strictly in non-sequiturs.

As any follower of Charles Horne might suspect, this new adventure is fast, funny and original from start to finish.

\$2.50
RINEHART & COMPANY, INC.
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Personally inscribed copies
upon request

\$ 2.50

W.B. Read & Company
Bloomington, Illinois

BOOKS



ADVENTURES IN TOMORROW edited by Kendall Foster Crossen. (Greenberg: Publisher, New York, 1951. \$3.50)

An anthology of fifteen stories, divided so as to fall into four age groups: the Atomic Age (1960 to 2100 A.D.), the Galactic Age (2100 to 3000), the Stellar Age (3000 to 10,000), and the Delphic Age (10,000 to One Million, A.D.) In his choices of fiction by Boucher, Bradbury, Arthur, Moore, Clark and others, Ken Crossen is on the ball; but in a few other selections he must've been thinking of the day's baseball scores or soaring taxes.

Outstanding in this collection are: "The Portable Phonograph" by Walter van Tilburg Clarke, "Flying Dutchman" by Ward Moore, "Shambleau" by C.L. Moore, "Evolution's End" by Robert Arthur, and "Transfer Point" by Tony Boucher. The most remarkable piece in the book is a long and extremely interesting introduction by Crossen, in which he presents just about the best history and definition of science-fiction yet read by this reviewer.

Crossen discusses the many magazines in the field, certain editors and the good and bad marks they've left behind them, the recent cycle of films, scores of writers and their work, radio & TV facets, trends and revolutions within the genre, and finally fans and fan clubs. And this is as good a place as any, editor Crossen, to deny one allegation: a leading Los Angeles fan may have invented and spread "Ackermanese" but I'm damned if fandom has embraced it. LIFE magazine please note. -BT

DRAGON'S ISLAND by Jack Williamson. (Simon & Schuster, New York City, 1951. \$2.50.)

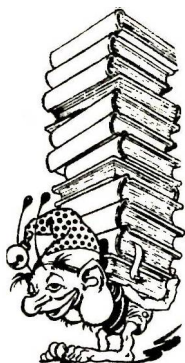
In an apparent effort to make science-fiction more acceptable to the book-buying public, these publishers are pushing this novel as their first "to be set entirely on our own planet and in almost our own time". The scene is New York and New Guinea, the time is less than twenty years distant. The novel is an original in more ways than one, having never before been published.

It is also original in that Williamson endeavors to grow space ships on metallic trees --- and without a doubt we'll read more of that in times to come. The plot is old but the treatment is fresh and worth your time: Homo superior is appearing among mankind, is being hunted down and killed because men fear them, do not want to give up their place on earth to them. Homo superior maintains a secret retreat in New Guinea where they desperately seek the means to protect themselves, to keep alive their children born to unsuspecting parents thru-out the world, to produce mutant beasts of labor. In New York, hate- and fear-ridden Homo sapiens have set up headquarters to eradicate them, and must guard their own ranks against intrusion of questionable men. The hero of course is first one and then the other; Williamson's pen reveals only occasional traces of pulp but for the most part we may well believe this novel was written for book publication primarily. Only space ships growing like apples is difficult stuff to swallow -- no pun intended. Good reading. -BT

RENAISSANCE by Raymond F. Jones. (Gnome Press, New York City, 1951. \$2.75.)

This is one of those novels typical of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION in the mid-1940's, the sort of a story old readers loved because it was a deeper voyage into a familiar maze, because it was written expressly for their kind of an audience. The novel will throw the average book-buyer for a tailspin, giving us pause to wonder: Is editor Greenberg publishing for the fans, or a mass public? This is certainly not fare for the latter.

Two planets, two populated worlds existing side by side and almost in the identical space, and there is the mysterious, forbidden doorway between. The story centers around the character, Ketan, who defies law, tradition and superstition to break thru into the other world by means of the doorway, the "Temple of Birth". No-- not what you think, but the science-fantasy-religious mixture sometimes referred to as 'Campbell-opera'. -BT



TYPEWRITER IN THE SKY and FEAR, two novels by L. Ron Hubbard. (Gnome Press, New York, 1951, \$2.75)

Of these two short novels, both of which were published in UNKNOWN WORLDS in 1940, "Fear" is easily the first choice of this reviewer. "Fear" is a psychological fantasy (even though the dust-jacket calls it science-fiction), really a horror story of a man who suddenly lost four hours out of his life, and somewhere or sometime during those four hours, also lost his hat. Being the kind of a man who couldn't allow the unknown to exist, he began a search for the hat and the four hours-- and when he found them the sky fell on him. Good!

"Typewriter" must have been written because at the time the magazine editor needed a novel in a hurry. An out-and-out pirate yarn with a fantastic twist, it is the story of a writer who used his best friend as a character in his fiction, until the friend winds up living the tales, and is forced to fight on two fronts at once: not only the pirates of the Spanish Main but also the author writing the melodramas. -BT

POSSIBLE WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by Groff Conklin. (Vanguard Press, New York City, 1951. \$2.95)

Conklin's fourth anthology is well up to the standards of his previous collections, and above par in some of his choices. The volume contains twenty-two novelettes and short stories never before published in book form, so have no fear of duplications.

Authors included are: Ray Gallun, Robert Heinlein, A.E. van Vogt, Malcolm Jameson, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Frank B. Long, D.L. James, Theodore Sturgeon, Nelson Bond, Margaret St. Clair, Hal Clement, Murray Leinster, H.B. Fyfe, Jack Vance, Katherine MacLean, John Berryman, Cliff Simak, Sam Merwin Jr, Poul Anderson, James H. Schmitz, and Arthur C. Clarke. The book is divided into two sections: The Solar System, and The Galaxy. The yarns date from 1939 thru 1950, with Conklin avoiding the trite, the BEMS, the telepathic ants and the talking dragons school. -BT

THE UNDESIRE PRINCESS by L. Sprague de Camp. (Fantasy Publishing Company, Los Angeles, 1951. \$3)

From UNKNOWN WORLDS, 1942. A humorous satire of the simple life in an Aristotelian world where logic is two-pled, good or bad, black or white, and reasoning is too literal for comfort. Our hero, an involuntary one dislodged from his own time & space, learns not to make mistakes like mentioning he is hungry enough to eat a horse. The princess is sweet, lovely and true-blue; the hero unwittingly saves her from the clutches of the monster and in good story book fashion finds himself made a prince, offered her hand in marriage and a gift of half the kingdom. Radical that he is, the offer leaves him cold. He wants only to go home. The other chap who really loves the princess is something of a social lion. Quite literally, remember. This makes for good fun. -BT

THE TOYMAKER by Raymond F. Jones. (Fantasy Publishing Company, Los Angeles, 1951. \$3.00)

A collection of science-fiction stories, Jones' first, "The Toymaker" is the lead novelette in this volume, the others being: "The Model Shop", "The Deadly Host", "Utility", "Forecast" and "The Children's Room". All but the last are from Street & Smith magazines, with the latter from AMAZING STORIES.

"Toymaker" is the story of two men, two civilizations, and their struggle for dominance. One world has the superior science and the bravado, the war-mongers and the propaganda machines; the other has a toymaker, a man who builds Imaginos for children. "Deadly Host" is the next best choice --- metal insects from an alien world, mechanical parasites seeking a host and finding many in the electrical concentrations of great cities. Top notch. -BT

GATHER, DARKNESS! by Fritz Lieber. (Grosset & Dunlap, New York, 1951. \$1 each.)

BEYOND THIS HORIZON by Robert Heinlein. (Grosset & Dunlap, New York, 1951. \$1 each.)

Two more volumes in G&D's one-dollar series of "Science-Fiction Classics", each with an introduction by Groff Conklin. "Darkness" (reviewed in SFNL #16) is a story of the future, with a priesthood of politicians and scientists keeping the world in ignorance to maintain their dictatorship, keeping the serfs and commoners in their place by use of religion and fear. The Dark Ages all over again, after the atomic blasting.

Heinlein's "Horizon" is a horse of a far different color and not so easily classified. A tale of the future, with controlled genetics and therefore controlled marriages; a young chap who is something of a genius and who should marry to produce more like him---but he prefers to invent super-pinball machines; a man from out of the past; and a society where nearly everyone goes armed, ready to duel to the death at the drop of an insult. Very good adventure, good Heinlein, and good reading. Get it. -BT

THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE by Fred Hoyle. (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1951. \$2.50)

Non-fiction, new. The book is the outgrowth of a series of lectures by Cambridge University astronomer Hoyle, and contains twelve astronomical photographs of earth, the moon, the sun, and

nearby star systems. The text deals with the solar system, the origin of the planets, the stars and outer space, the expanding universe, and what is to come for all bodies concerned. -BT

NEBULA X by Vargo Statten. (Scion, Ltd., London, England. 1/6.)

The eighth in a rapidly growing series of Statten's (John Russell Fearn) consistently good novels, this has an interesting theme. Re-created by the chance assembly of her atoms, a strange girl appears in an atom-smasher. She proves to be the greatest menace imaginable; owing to an implacable hatred and her powers of adaptability, she conquers the world solo, and is of course eventually duped. The book is further enhanced with a gorgeous cover by Roland Turner. (Reprinted, Operation Fantast NEWSLETTER)

BOOKS AND WRITERS



A SPECIAL series of Collectors Editions may appear in the near future from Fantasy Press, according to director Lloyd Eshbach. The books, all science-fiction novels of merit but lacking commercial risks, would be published in limited editions of 1000 copies each and bound in fine-grain covers. Copy price would be \$2.50, and no sales would be made to dealers. Eshbach said that in order to break even on production costs, individual collectors would have to purchase the books directly from Fantasy Press. He is currently investigating the possible demand for such editions. Also in the works at Fantasy Press are a series of bookplates, representing the work of four artists, which will be available with individual's names imprinted thereon.

MACK Reynolds' first mystery novel, THE LITTLE GREEN MEN, will be published by Phoenix Press. The book has a science-fiction background with a murder occurring at the "AnnCon", the 10th anniversary national convention; certain fanzines and fannish personalities are involved, and the villains appear to be un-earthly.

"Positronic Brain, Irridium Sponge: A manufactured metallic substance commonly considered as suitable for electronic-memory brains as in thinking robots or automafons. (Found in such books as I, ROBOT.)"

.... that is a fair sample of something unusual coming from Gnome Press. The leading book on their autumn list is to be an anthology of life on other worlds, with a science-fiction encyclopedia included, plus sixteen full-color illustrations by Edd Cartier. The volume is scheduled for October, although title and price have not yet been decided upon. The encyclopedia, as per the above sample, will cover the basic terms and definitions used in science-fiction and quote examples where they have appeared. Cartier's color illustrations will be used in conjunction with the various stories selected for the volume.

Clifford Simak has signed with Gnome Press to reprint his "City" series, starting early next year.

OTHER Gnome books scheduled for this year are: FOUNDATION, by Isaac Asimov; THE FAIRY CHESSMEN by Lewis Padgett; and THE SWORD OF CONAN by Robert E. Howard.

FOUNDATION is the first volume in a series of three slated for publication; this book will contain a new 10,000 word novellette about Harry Selden, plus "Foundation", "Bridle and Saddle", "Wedge", and "The Big and the Little". The next two volumes will carry on the same series, with this first one set for August. FAIRY CHESSMEN (Padgett-Kuttner) will also contain another novellette, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow". Scheduled for October release. SWORD OF CONAN, second in the swashbuckling series, will include "People of the Black Circle", "The Slithering Shadow", "The Pool of the Black One", and "Red Nails". Ready in the late fall. And finally, Gnome Press announces that its 1952 fantasy calendar is to have four-color illustrations by well-known fantasy artists.

James Blish has placed a novel, LET THE FINDER BEWARE, with Greenberg Publishers.

Larry Shaw will be present in upcoming issues of SCIENCE-FICTION QUARTERLY with a series of tales built around the "Dept of Insecurity".

Malcolm Jameson will see print in September with a book of tales, BULLARD OF THE SPACE PATROL. To be published by the World Publishing Co., at \$2.50, the volume includes several of the Commander Bullard stories.

Britain's Arthur C. Clarke will have another new novel in October, THE SANDS OF MARS. To be published in London.

A collaboration by Willy Ley and L. Sprague de Camp, THE LANDS BEYOND (non-fiction) has been scheduled by Rinehart for spring publication next year.

Five Talbot Mundy novels in a single volume, and five H. Rider Haggard novels ditto, are coming from Dover Publications.

Arkham House expects to have these two anthologies this year: AWAY AND BEYOND, nineteen stories by A.E. van Vogt; and TALES FROM UNDERWOOD, described as a definitive collection of David H. Keller's best stories, twenty-six of them.



Robert Nathan's newest fantasy, THE INNOCENT EVE, has been released by Knopf. Storyline brings Lucifer and a woman to earth searching for new recruits, Lucifer also hoping to latch onto the atomic bomb.

Tony Boucher's ROCKET TO THE MORGUE, a mystery involving writers, editors and fans, will be reprinted soon by Dell pocketbooks.

Arthur C. Clarke's non-fiction tome, INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT, recently published by Harper's at \$2.50. Diagrams & illustrations are included.

Carlo M.L. Beuf, German author, is introduced to American audiences with a short novel, THE INNOCENCE OF PASTOR MULLER, in which a photographer invents a camera-plate which can photograph people's thoughts. Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$2.50.



George Pal Now Preparing 'War of the Worlds'

by George Earley

George Pal's next picture at the Paramount studios will be the H.G. Wells novel, **WAR OF THE WORLDS**, to be filmed in Technicolor. His most recent film, **WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE**, is finished and will be released to theaters in November.

RKO studios, encouraged by the success of **THE THING**, (are you listening, John?) has purchased an original novel by Edward & Edna Anhalt, **LOST IN SPACE**, for early production. Meanwhile, "I Captured the Sun", a solar drama based on a 1912 Russian story, is being readied for filming by Independent George Moscow. To be filmed in Italy. And Columbia's serial, **CAPTAIN VIDEO**, will be released soon. (In case you aren't in the TV area, this is a rip roaring space-opera taken from that medium.)

MAGAZINES

Look for something new in the science-fiction field if editorial plans at U.S. CAMERA Magazine materialize. Editors are considering the running of S-F and fantasy stories having a photographic background. The length desired is 2000 to 3000 words, the payment is \$150 up.

THE STORY:

"Five"

On "the day after tomorrow" an atomic explosion renders the world almost completely dead and only five humans accidentally survive destruction. Susan Douglas, a young, pregnant widow, wanders about until she finds William Phipps, who has found refuge on a lonely mountain top. Later, their loneliness is relieved by the arrival of Charles Lampkin, a Negro bank attendant, and Earl Lee, an elderly cashier, who were saved by being locked in the bank vault. Lee dies from atom burns just as the others rescue James Anderson, an aristocrat who was on top of Mount Everest. Anderson refuses to help the others work and start a new life. He kills Lampkin and takes the girl to the city, where she finds the skeleton of her husband. Anderson tries to stop the girl from returning to Phipps. After Anderson contracts radiation poisoning, the other two humans plan a new and better world.

LIFE, Issue of May 21, looked over the S-F field and found it amazing enough to report on in a ten-page article, with pix. Reporters interviewed Sam Moskowitz, James Taurasi, H.L. Gold, Forrest Ackerman, John Campbell, and others; what they gleaned from Ackerman can be discerned on opening page. Ten fan magazine titles are displayed, this newspaper is mentioned, the Hydra Club banquet photograph of last year is printed, and there are 20,000 rabid fans in fandom --- **LIFE** says. Ray Palmer and Richard Shaver get the once-over-lightly on you know what subject, and Campbell receives similar treatment on again you know what. Scenes from forthcoming science movies illustrate the article, as well as an old **AMAZING** and a new Bonestell cover. Queer fan-words are inserted into our mouths and the usual myths attributed to both the fan and professional world are rehased and presented. (There is no truth to the rumor that recruiting agents of the NFFF hovered around all news stands.)

A new cover design and backing-strip is planned for **GALAXY SCIENCE NOVELS** to eliminate the confusion at news stands. Buyers and news dealers were balled-up by similarity to monthly mag.

Sam Merwin Jr. has left Standard Magazines for free-lance writing, leaving the four science and fantasy titles there to the editorship of associate editor Samuel Mines.

MARVEL SCIENCE FICTION is that magazine's new title. **FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES**, along with some other Popular Publication magazines, will revert to the old standard size.

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ASTRO RACE	" "
HOSTILE WORLDS	Gill Hunt
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EMPEROR OF MARS	" " "
GODDESS OF MARS	" " "
RED MEN OF MARS	" " "
MUSHROOM MEN FROM MARS	Lee Stanton
SEVEN TO THE MOON	" "
RECONNOITRE KRELLIG II	Jon J. Deegan
OLD GROWLER - Space Ship No. 2213	" "
GOLD MEN OF AUREUS	Roy Sheldon
ENERGY ALIVE	" "
WORLD IN A TEST TUBE	H.J.Campbell
DESTINATION MARS	George Sheldon Brown
BEASTS FROM BEYOND	Manly Wade Wellman
DEVIL'S PLANET	" " "
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THE METAL MONSTER	" "
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THE WHISPERING GORILLA	David V. Reed

Any of the above titles may be requested as part of your subscription, and will be supplied if still available, or may be purchased separately at 25¢ each. When ordering separately, please give alternatives. Shortage of paper compels the publishers to make limited printings

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LETTERS to the Editor

Thomas L. MacDonald (Carlisle, Cumberland, England): "Some of your readers may not know the reason for the chaotic numbering of British reprints from U.S. sources, and other British material. During and after the war, new periodicals were forbidden as a measure of paper saving. It was not practical nor

desired to put any such restrictions on new books; and it was impossible to make any clear distinction between one kind of book and another -- it would have amounted to censorship which was not popular here. Clever publishers realized toward the end of the war that a series of separate pamphlets could be issued without infringing the regulations; if they were not numbered or dated they did not constitute a periodical.

That is why there were such a crop of numberless, dateless series, right down to the spring of 1950 when many of the paper controls were withdrawn. As you may know, they still apply to newspaper material which is terribly scarce. As soon as these restrictions were withdrawn, the present series of numbered reprints from AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES began. On the other hand, the reprints of ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN continued to be numbered thru-out because they had been continuous since before the war and were counted as old established periodicals."

Ned McKeown (Toronto, Ontario): "Wynne Clack's listing of science-fiction material appearing outside the standard s-f magazines is by no means complete. To add what few I have:

- "There Will Come Soft Rains" (Ray Bradbury) Colliers, May 6.
- "Season of Disbelief" (Bradbury) Colliers, November 25.
- "Swept Her Into Space" (Ellen MacGregor) New Liberty, July.
- "The Boy Who Predicted Earthquakes" (Margaret St. Clair), Macleans Magazine (Canada), June 15.
- "Golden Amazon" (two novels) (John Russell Fearn), Toronto Star Weekly (Canada). Dates missing.
- "Outside Our World" (non-fiction) (John Gunther, illustrated by Bonestell), McCall's Magazine, October."

Norman Stanley (Rockland, Maine): "A bit of information for (you) whom I find wondering (in the last issue) if Kenneth Cassens is also Kenneth Crossen. I think not. Crossen is a west-coaster, is he not? Cassens has ---or had--- the distinction of being Rockland's foremost fantasy author, indeed, its only! He's a part-time Baptist parson who does quite a little fiction work, mostly for BLUE BOOK. He did a series of stories set, I believe, in the Minoan civilization, and also several fantasies. Nearest I ever came to meeting him was in 1948 when it chanced that he, I, Russell Chauvenet and Reed Dawson were sole guests at an inn across the bay from here on North Haven Island. I didn't know then that he wrote fantasy, or even wrote. Just recently he moved from Rockland and is now located in Boston, I believe."

— It was I, not Wynne Clack, who inserted that query in Clack's letter last issue. The similarity of names led me to suspect a typographical error, but such was not the case. Crossen is still Crossen, living in Santa Monica, California. —BT—

Gladys Fabun (Berkeley, Calif.): "The May (issue) arrived and we couldn't overlook the backhanded reference to the Little Men's Society in Stewart Metchette's letter ("Fan-News Roundup"). The San Francisco s-f group has split up into two groups, or at least according to the rumors we've heard, but the Little Men are going on as strongly as ever. We've a tendency, unfortunate perhaps, to concentrate on our magazine, THE RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST, and so scheduled the meetings for once a month, thus giving us a little more time to work on what is a very ambitious project. It may be that the San Francisco boys haven't always received our announcements and so have been unaware of our activities."



Dr. J. Lloyd Eaton, our president, has been very ill and is in his own sanatorium (convenient to have your own hospital.) And we are looking forward in the near future to Boucher's report on "What's with science-fiction in the east?" He's a good man to get the lowdown from, as you know by experience. Alice Thompson, local representative for LIFE and TIME has been around getting material for the (now published) article on science-fiction. The Little Men (were not able) to give her much material to use --of the kind LIFE wants-- because (we have no) lunatic fringe."

—(Apologies to all California fans covered in the Metchette report of last issue. Several letters indicated the report was highly erroneous, and Mr. Metchette will henceforth be regarded as a strayed lamb in our far-flung network of unpaid reporters... For Tony Boucher, the above reference to his being east is this: He went to New York to accept the presidency of the Mystery Writers of America, for the year 1951, and of course to take care of his editorial and publishing activities. May the Little Men continue to march as long as science-fiction and chowder hold out.)—

Raymond Isadore (1907—A south 14th St., Milwaukee 4, Wis.): "I and a fellow fan are working on a fantasy and science-fiction magazine checklist which will list about 130 publications according to year, month, volume number, and issue. This is quite a large project, about the biggest of its kind; it will be a printed booklet with an illustrated cover, slightly larger than pocket size. Tentative publication date is fall or winter, 1951. I'd like to get the fan reaction to this idea and wonder if you could mention it in some future issue? I would like to know how many would be interested in buying it, so as to estimate the print-run needed. The checklist would cover such oddities as the French CONQUETTES, the FLASH GORDON Magazine, DR. DEATH, LOS NARRACIONES TERRORIFICOS, and so forth."

Lin Carter (1734 south Newark St., St. Petersburg, Florida): "Two news items you may care to use: First, my booklet SANDALWOOD AND JADE, a collection of fantasy poems, illustrated by myself and professionally planographed, is now in print and on sale at 50¢ a copy. My first collection of seven short fantasies, THE LORDS OF IKRANOS, will be available sometime this year from the Gargoyle Press, New York. And finally, I'm leaving May 14th for an army camp in South Carolina."

—(Not leaving just because they were published, are you?)—

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER

Bob Tucker

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editor

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Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois

art work

British subscriptions to Ken Slater, OPERATION FANTAST. 7s/6d.

LAST BLAST:

Among other strange and startling things to be found in this issue is a glaring example of the right hand not knowing the left is engaged in malicious mischief. In our review of Conklin's new book, POSSIBLE WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION, we stated that in his effort to avoid the trite, editor Conklin omitted talking dragons and such. And a few sentences above that was listed the name of James H. Schmitz, who was present with a GALAXY yarn, "The Second Night of Summer". "Second Night" contains a pretty example of a talking dragon. We spotted this error during proofreading, and our first inclination was to brand Conklin a liar and a nincompoop, to accuse him of selecting stories with his eyes closed. After all, some other editors do-- it seems a disease among them. Just before firing the blast intended to pin back his ears, we made a cautious final check --to discover he didn't have the disease. Apparently we were thinking of baseball scores and taxes, for in his introduction Conklin stated quite a different thing: "...no scaly-worm dragons of sinister intelligence..." The critter in "Second Night" is not that kind of a critter.

AN EXPERIMENTAL ISSUE:

Can YOU afford a penny post card. In these days of soaring taxes? If so, mail us one, and give us your decision on this issue of NEWS LETTER. No long-winded pleas or arguments are necessary, just a "yes", "no", or "go to hell" decision on the size and format. Is this size the best, or the former large size? Don't complain about the change in type; we bought a new machine and you're stuck with it until your subscription expires. But you can do us a real favor by mailing your opinion of the change. If the large size is preferred by the majority, back we go.

HOW TO HAVE FUN:

The August issue of MARVEL SCIENCE FICTION contains several items worthy of the bellylaugh. They run a cover contest in each issue, in which the ten people selecting the ten best titles for the cover win prizes. The previous issue pictured a half-naked girl being carried up a ladder to a spaceship (in deep space with the men snugly clad). What title would you give this, ask the editors? The two best titles did not win prizes: "Foolishness", and "Quick Freeze of a Hot Box".

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