

SCIENCE FICTION on the STAGE, or
"The Flashing Stream" a flash in the
pan by REDD BOGGS.....

While the legitimate theater has
proven itself a successful medium for
the presentation of fantasy (Outward
Bound, On Borrowed Time, Lost Horizon),
science-fiction has been as scarce on
the stage as on the screen. If we
leave out "R.U.R." as being in a class
by itself, perhaps the best stf on the
New York stage in recent years was
"The Flashing Stream" by Charles Mor-
gan, which opened at the Biltmore
Theater, NYC, on April 10, 1939.

Sex and science is the play's
main theme, but it contains many el-
ements familiar to stf readers. Action
takes place on St. Hilary Island, being
used by the Royal Navy as an experi-
mental station. Commander Ferrers is
a great mathematician working on a
secret formula for creating aerial
torpedoes. One scientist is killed in
the first test, and Karen Selby ar-
rives to take his place. She and Fer-
rers fall in love (of course); the
quality of his work falls off. A 2nd
test also ends in failure, and the Ad-
miralty decides to abandon the project
unless Ferrers admits error in his
calculations. He refuses, but Karen
lies to save him, saying she has found
an error. The project continues; boy
gets girl. This sounds like a stock
war melodrama, but it qualifies as
prophetic literature for it was written
over 5 years before V-J began falling
on London. Unfortunately, the project
seems to have failed ultimately, for
Britain had no weapon such as describ-
ed in the play.

Also unfortunately, "The Flashing
Stream" was no great shakes as a play,
for it ran only 8 performances!

MORE NEWS ITEMS: H.P. Lovecraft's
story, "The Outsider" is reprinted
more - this time in The Complete
Sampler, Crime Club, \$2.50..... The
rent Magalettte, a poetry mag of Col-
bia, S.C., contains "Silent Eden", a
line verse by Redd Boggs who based his
inspiration from a Kuttner short in
with the same title; Boggs got \$3 for
the poem..... Arthur Levine pocketbook
mentioned on first page and also the
World Publishing Co. dollar edition of
"The Purple Cloud", by H.P. Shiel....
Don Hutchison thinks some Embroider-
might like to know that Seigel and
ster, creators of Superman comic-strips
once published a fanzine called Sci-
Fiction. (A fanzine is a fan magazine
like Ember!)..... Apparently like
law-makers who made π a constant
decimal figure, the ESFA has gone on
record against the Shaver Stories and
created some hard feelings in the
gain..... Recommended by Fredric D.
is THE OTHER PASSENGER by John Kier
Cross....

MILT THOM has arrived says Milt
in reporting a Jan. 3 meeting of the
Physical Society at Los Angeles. Held
at the U. of Calif. are the first
papers, Milt believes, ever presented
on rocket propulsion at a meeting of
the society. The first paper is "Es-
cape from the Earth by Multiple-Stage
Rockets", presented by Martin Summer-
field of Caltech. This paper deals
with the question of escape from the
surface of the earth, with special
reference to four missions: an earth-
elliptic revolving around the earth
above the atmosphere; a stationary
elliptic whose angular velocity equals
that of earth; a vehicle that escapes
the solar system, ((Milt repeated the
mission again, perhaps the last time
a vehicle that escapes from earth.
Editor))

The second paper is "Problems in
the Application of Nuclear Energy to Rocket Propulsion", by H.S. Seifer-
t, of Caltech. Quantitative estimates are made of the performance
meter "specific impulse" for the cases where propulsion is accomplished by
photons, fission fragments, and an inert working fluid.

How the Space Flighters Guessed...

Name	unmanned	manned	go?
H. L. Farnsworth	1947	47-48	yes
W. Campbell, Jr.	1948	1953	yes
Theodore Sturgeon	48	1955	yes
David Kishi	48	1965	no
Raymond A. Palmer	48-50	1975	no
H.O. Hoadley	1949	1958	yes
Gerry de la Ree	49	1955	yes
Jaques Heller	49	1956	no
Will F. Jenkins	1950	1950	yes
Walt Dunkelberger	50	51-52	yes
Bob Tucker	50	1955	yes
Dr. Fletcher G. Watson	50	1955	no
Ralph Milne Farley	50	1956	no
Harry Warner, Jr.	50	1970	no
Will S. Sykora	50	1980	yes
Charles A. Beling	50	1955	
Sam Moskowitz	50	1952	no
Joe Kennedy	50	1960	
Willy Ley	1951	1951	yes
Richard S. Shaver	51	1960	yes
Donn Brazier	1952	1960	no
Dr. Thomas S. Gardner	52	1956	no
Dandridge M. Cole	1955	1960	yes
Manly Wade Wellman	55	65-70	yes
John K. Beasley	55-60	70-75	no
Dr. C.L. Barrett	1960	1970	no
Hugo Gernsback	60	1972	yes
H.C. Weed	60	1980	
E. Sprague de Camp	60	75-2000	no
Alfred Africano	60	2000	no
Br. A. Langley Searles	2000	2100	no

Gerry sent along a little biographical data which you might find interesting. Hoadley is a physicist, specializing in geometrical optics, had an article in ASF not long ago under a penname. Dr. Watson of Harvard recently wrote an article on the dangers a space ship will meet in space. Beling, Weed, Beasley, Cole, and Kennedy are college students. Africano is past pres. of American Rocket Society. Among the s-f authors are Campbell, Sturgeon, Palmer, Jenkins (Leinster), Farley, Ley, Shaver, Gardner, Wellman, Gernsback, and de Camp.

Card from Dunkelberger received indicating that he wishes to be taller on a recount of NFFF election results. Apparently more details are in Fanews #300-01 which Euber has not yet rec.

THE EMBROIDERERS COMMENT

Redd Boggs: Milt's "Scientific Are People" was best item in #25. idea was used by Wright in "Brilliantly. Rev Bethke: My wife presents this argument at any particular moment the fly occupies only particular area of space. Obviously any object may be in only one space at a time, therefore it must be at a time. The same argument goes for the train. With both fly and train at rest, never meet. Boff Perry: In the world journals some organization is trying to eliminate reprint stories. ly. What does this bode for the Hall of Fame? Frank Robinson: Pocket Books has issued a bumper volume of Stephen Vincent Benet's stories and poems (414 pages). Merritt's Fox Women is out from the New Galaxy Group and looks pretty good. illustrations are especially fine. Harry Warner, Jr.: Gannow's Birth Death of the Sun restored my faith in science-fiction as an educational medium. I'd grown to feel that you don't learn as much from reading the magazines as is usually claimed. But this is the first real book on science read in the last five years, and I'm astonished at the ease with which I could guess what was coming next. Lopez: Speer has a point in saying we ought not go all out for the U.S. Society until we're sure it's not a fly by night affair. But at the time, what the Society was & did before the war is unimportant. What is doing now is what counts. And Farnsworth can get people or the Dept or Congress stirred up to do real research, then I'm all for him.

Thomas S. Gardner, writing in the Scientific Monthly, gives a favorable review of Samuel Brody's book Bioenergetics and Growth. Review was in SF for 1946. Another recent bio-philosophical book that should be good is Loeb's The Biological Basis of Individuality published by C.C. Thomas, 1944, at \$1.50 and a half. Loeb is the man who has done so much with polarizing physiological gradients.

J.W. CAMPBELL SAYS UNKNOWN TO RETURN

In a flash news note from Joe Kennedy the information is given that UNKNOWN will be revived on word of J.W. Campbell, its former editor. In the opinion of EMER, this is the best case in fantasy possible, for UNKNOWN was a high class pulp magazine giving the reader just that brand of fantasy which can hardly find a market otherwise.

DID NIKOLA TESLA ANTICIPATE VASSY?

Al Lopez writes that back in 1912, Nikola Tesla suggested in a public statement "a system of lighting on a industrial scale in which he proposed to treat the whole earth, with its surrounding atmosphere, as if it were a single lamp." He again referred to this scheme in 1920 but back of Tesla prevented him from carrying out the project although he claimed he had the entire idea worked out. It seems he planned to use some powerful ultraviolet ray lamps on the top of a high tower he had erected in Long Island which were to ionize the air at high altitudes. Then a high frequency beam of radio waves were to be aimed at this ionized layer of air, the result to be similar to the Aurora Borealis. The latter gave him the idea in the first place. Thus, it would seem that Prof. Vassy of the Night in to Day project was scooped in theory, if not in actuality.

L. Sprague de Camp Writing Book

According to a card received by Bob Stein from de Camp, the once very prolific and popular author is now active on a book dealing with witchcraft, etc., tentatively titled "Round about the Cauldron." It should be ready for distribution some time in 1947.

HERE AND THERE: At a recent session of a shortstory writing class your editor heard an amazing demonstration of backward speaking. Charles D. Stewart, 78 years old and still in feature writing etc., spoke to the class about writing, and then proceeded to the demonstration. He read any sentence suggested by the class, first forwards and then put the words together backwards. Example: En-bar becomes reb-ne. He did this rapidly and fluently. It reminded me of a red-headed laborer I worked along side of one summer tearing down old houses. This fellow could barely read and yet if you gave the page to him upside down he could read as fluently as a normal person does. He told me he always had a lot of fun with his teachers. Stewart mentioned "fine full of words" that could be selected randomly to form sentences. A fixed order, such as noun, noun, a sort of refined 50,000 monkeys thing; the results should be interesting.

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