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Table of Contents

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR.....4 Arthur J. Cox BOOK REVIEWS.....10 Malcolm M. Ferguson Carolyn Gaybard Jack Kelsey Russell A. Leadabrand ALFRED KORZYBSKI: A TRIBUTE....12 Neil Austin ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSHELF.....14 R. G. Medhurst QUOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE.....20

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Notes From the Editor

On this page in each issue and from time to time elsewhere in the Advertiser, I have identified myself as "the editor" of the magazine. And on each such occasion I have been troubled by an awareness of how little actual editing - in the sense of making selections - has gone into the issue.

I would sey that my greatest activity has been in the pre-editing stage. That is to say, in deciding what is to be in the issue without benefit of reference to what is available (for, more often than not, when I inspect the manuscript file for emptiness, I find great quantities of it). The success of this doubtful process, of course, is dependant upon that of my follow-up efforts to acquire material of the nature decided

I have been most noticeably handicapped here by my near-abstinence from all science fiction activities (with especial reference to those of s/f "fandom") - a condition which has endured now for about 12 years and has resulted in my being in the not-to-be-unexpected state of having virtually no friends in fan circles to whom to appeal. Those few, let it be stated at once, here been most gener-

ous whenever called upon.

However, let be noted the partially compensatory factor that the pages of FA have been graced by the contributions of a not inconsiderable number of individuals who, notwithstanding their being unknown to the inner circles of "fandom", are obvicusly possessed of a comprehension of the field entitling their critical writings to serious consideration. That is to say, the cogency of their statements makes the novelty of their viewpoints an asset rather than otherwise.

Material from today's well-known fan writers has always been welcomed, though little has been received during my editorship. But in the meantime, a small group of "outsiders" have in these pages been displaying justification for their growing reputations as honest, penetrant critics.

After which self-congratulation (for which I hope there is some basis), let me return to what seems to be becoming a dissertation on "The

Problems of Editing"

But even when the "pre-editing" has been effective, there remains the problem of balance. This magazine, as I see it, should carry advertising in at least half of each issue. (Many subscribers would say all of the issue, I know. But when that becomes the magazine's policy, I'll resign and look for a job that offers more fun for the money - my money. At any rate, I publish all the ads I get -

and about 20% of those that appear represent a large amount of behindthe - scenes cajolory, brow - beating, and other forms of intimidation.)

The remaining half of the issue (a maximum decreed by economics), I think, should include reviews of all the significent new books (as well as warnings, where appropriate, about the non-significant); at least one fairly long article, and a number of shorter ones - or columns, departments, and/or what-have-you's.

Now these latter items should be so collected in each issue as to afford some sort of balance among a number of various subject-types - including material of a nature to be of value to the newer as well as to the veteran reader, and, of course, the mere collector must in some portion

be given his due.

Whereupon it begins to become apparent that any balanced selection that is to contain signale portions of all the desired ingredients must be considered over a period of two, three, or even four issues. Viewed in this light, I find that the past year of FA seems to me to be not entirely inadequate. To, me, and I assume to almost as much extent, the subscribers, balance per issue is a matter whose importance can wait until the magazine has tripled in size.

Decisions as to picture choice have in most cases been referred to Euclid, which practice can lead to interestingly incongruous effects when the requirements of geometry are not given consideration in a page's in-

itial planning.

I want to offer a blanket apology - with absolutely no intimation of a promise to do better in future - to sll those whose letters to me have gone unanswered. In most cases where some action on my part has been indicated, I have done that which seemed reasonable, often without replying to tell what had been done or why it hadn't. The downright preciousness of "spare" time is, of course, to be blamed for this discourtesy. The Commicide business has been booming (may I go so far as to say, "regretably", without becoming the subject of en investigation?), provid-ing me the opportunity of working longer days and more days per week. This retrogression of my standard of living hes increased my earnings to a quantity detectable outside a laboratory, and the Advertiser must contribute to the fund of time being sacrificed to its publisher's love of money.

The enlarged copies of Stirling Macoboy's cover drawing for the April issue will not be available. This is because of the - to me - unexpected price of doing the sort of job on it (Continued on page 20)

bundled all the ads I det - (Continued on bage 2

Frank Belknap Long is a marginal writer in the world of science fiction; he exists upon the borderline of popularity. I believe that this is so not only because of the infrequent appearance of his fiction, but also because of its uneven quality, strange characterization, disconcerting imagery and, during one period of his development, obtuseness of meaning.

But this is a coin which is easily reversible; latent in these "defects" are those same characteristics that elevate Long's work, at its best, to a level of uniqueness not often achieved in pulp science fiction.

Long's work divides itself fairly easily into three periods. The first of these was his apprenticeship as a fantasy writer in the twenties and early thirties. He was an admirer of Lovecraft, a member of that writer's circle of friends, and his stories were deeply influenced (in subject matter, if not in style) by Lovecraft's work in Weird Tales, the magzine in which much of his own early fiction appeared.

This was a time of self-conscious artistry for Long. He was intensely concerned with the quality of his writings; seemingly, his stories sched to be read, yet throbbed with embarrassment at being exposed to the public eye. This passage appears in the earliest story by Long which I have read, "Death Waters", in Weird Tales December, 1924:

"His last comment seemed melodramatic and unnecessary, and we suddenly realized that the veteran was not an artist. He lacked a sense of dramatic values. we turned wearily aside and puffed on our long pipes. It is difficult to forgive these little defects of technique."

This paragraph was probably meant as a defense of the body of the story which followed, as it was narrated by "the veteran", yet it so unavoidably and effectively calls sardonic attention to the writer's own style that its intent seems masochistic. Similar interjections appear in others of his early stories.

As the years went by, the self-consciousness of technique disappeared, apparently as Long became more confident, but it has remained in another form - the extreme self-consciousness of his characters, an almost invariable aspect of his stories.

A self-description of his work, of what he had been trying to do, appeared in one of Long's stories almost twenty years after "Death Waters", in the same magazine; "The Peeper", March, 1944:

"...he had written stories like dew-drenched spider-webs, prismetic and strenge and with a little gruesome wrench at the end which made people happy deep down inside. Very sensitive and imaginative people, of course, because only such people deserved to be made happy in precisely that way."

"The Peeper" relates of the "murder" of one Michael O'Hare, fantesy writer and poet, at the hands of Mike O'Hare, hack and gossip-columnist. But one morning, Mike O'Hare is found

-5-

deed in his newspaper office under strenge circumstances, and in his typewriter a sheet of paper is found, on which these words are typed:

"Look for Michael O'Hara below the cliffs of Inishowen, where the silver lark takes wing. Look Mike O'Hara here, where he shall run from the reaper and be cut down."

Perhaps this is an autobiographical account of a tragedy - Long's work didn't acquire that hackish feel it so often had until the forties but, if so, we must callously shoulder it aside; we are not concerned much in this brief essay with the great body of his work, and can touch but lightly upon that which we are discussing: his better science fic-

This divides itself neatly into two groups: his science fiction in Astounding Stories in the nineteenthirties (which had, stylistically, its fentesy-equivelents in Weird Tales) and his stories in Astounding Science Fiction in the nineteenforties (which, stylistically, had its fantasy-equivalents in Unknown Worlds).

Long's stories in the Tremaine-Astoundings are among the best and lesst-heralded pieces in science fiction. I herald them here - for they were besutiful gems of simplicity, both in construction and prose.

About half of these stories were situated in the remote future, in the twilight period of mankind. Three of the pieces - "The Last Men, The Great Cold, and Green Glory" - have a connected background: They take place in an era in which mankind is dominsted under, on and above the earth by insects - ants and bees - and under the sea by barnscles, this last reversal being the cruelest irony of all. Mankind is resigned to its lot, yet takes pride in the tradition of its former greatness - "it was more than a legend" - though their insect mesters hold them in as little regard as we hold their present progenitors.

But the situation is more than a simple reversal of power; Long has effected a subtler transposition: Mankind seems to have lost that spontaneous impulse to individual self-preservation which seems so natural to us, and in its stead we find that mechanical disregard for death possessed by the ants and the bees, the individual existence of one of them being such a small percentage of the swarming total that its continuation has no biological importance to the species as a whole. For men of Long's remote age, death held no terror; they were not contemptuous of it, for contempt implies more consideration than they gave it.

In "Green Glory", Atasmas, dweller in subterranean tunnels, servitor to the ants' exalted creed of world conquest, is chosen for a mission. He is to carry a tiny green spore, a virus-fungus, in a cylinder to the hive of the enemy bees; he will then plant it and the fungus will spring forth in a green explosion, overwhelm the great hive and destroy all life in it. He is carried to the hive of the bees by a flying insect, which is then supposed to depart, but the insect chooses to wait, asking Atasmas, whose death is supposed to mark the completion of his duty, to plant the spore and return swiftly to him, without waiting to see the spores blossom. This action is inspired by admiration for Atasmes' tiny courage. But-

"Atesmes was stunned and frightened. He started back in smazement and looked dimly up at the great shape. 'Why do you disobey the great mother? he asked, with tremulous gestures.

"The winged form replied: 'We who fly above the earth do not obey the small ethics of your little world of the tunnels. We have seen the barnacles in their majesty and the bees in their power, and we know that all things are relative. Go, and return quickly.'"

In the great hive of the bees. Atasmas meets a creature he has never seen before, a woman - "one of the night - shapes which visited men in their dreams" - who saves him from the devouring maw of a bee grub. With her, he discovers new emotions he did not know before, but the old loyalties are not easily extinguished. Despite the woman, despite his opportunity for escape, he plants the spore and he and the night-shape are transformed in an instant into vegetal - things, "covered forever with a shroud of deepest green", while far sway the great winged shape waits with thrumming wings for a man who will never return.

Only in one story does there appear a brief burst of defiance: "The Last Men", Maljoc goes singing into the homorium of the females to choose his mate. He has been counseled not to select too-beautiful a creature for men and women of singular physical appearance were frequently "lifted from the little slave world of routine duties in the dwellings of the masters and anaesthetized, embalmed and preserved under glass in the museum mausoleums of Agrahan" just as the ancestors of men had captured beautiful insects, impaled them with slivers of steel and arranged them in boxes in nest display. Despite this warning, desire overcomes caution. The two are seized by a master and swept away into the sky

until Maljoc, with a strange defiance that transeends his instinctive obedience to the masters, injures the giant creature and deliberately releases the woman and himself from its hold, so that they fall, held tightly together, to the earth far below.

"But in that moment of swoon-

ing flight that could only end in destruction, Meljoc knew that he was mightier than the masters, and having recaptured for an imperishable instant the lost glory of his race, we went without fear

into darkness."

(This ending has given me a thought which I would not mention if it had not been advanced to me by another person, just as hesitently as I am advencing it to you. And that is, that Maljoc and his mate consummated their marraige in their flight earthward - something which Long could state explicitly in a pulp hardly story, but which might possibly represent another exchange of characteristics between man and insect, suggested to him by his natural-science hobby; for many insects mate in flight - as an example, the firefly, the male sweeping the female aloft and both bobbing against the darkness, a bifurcated beacon of miniscule love, until the completion of the act, upon which their lives and lights are figuratively and literally extinguished.)
The third story, "The Great Cold",

The third story, "The Great Cold", ends as does "Green Glory and The Last Men", with the small, brief spark of coupled tragedy -and-triumph against the great dark of the remorseless fu-

ture.

In these three stories we find nearly all those qualities, both stylistic and thematic, which character-ized Long's work in the thirties. "Lost Planet, The Blue Earthmen, Vapor Death, and Exiles from the Stratosphere" are similar in atmosphere and, though different in background. contain also the themes of fierce prides in race and tradition. In what is perhaps his finest story, "The Flame Midget", we find again the consciousness-of-size motif, as we do in "The Lichen from Eros" and, in an inverted fashion, "Spawn of the Red Giants" (as well as "Giants in the Sky", in Weird Tales). In "The Flame Midget" were-discover also the preoccupation with flight-and-death in which Richard Ashley is carried into the stratosphere and set spinning like a pinwheel in fiery splendor by the spaceship which had been berthed in his right kidney.

II

During the forties Long's stories acquired a different air than that which they had possessed in the previous decade. Perhaps the most obvious change was that the child-like naivity was replaced by a grow-

ing sophistication and increasing complexity of outlook. His science fiction stories of the Tremaine era had had a charming simplicity of style, strongly reminiscent of fairy-tale writings; now, apparently, a counterreaction had taken place, the stylistic pendulum swinging in the opposite direction.

As suggested in my previous paper on Clifford D. Simak, there is less of a difference between extreme simplicity and extreme complexity, from the viewpoint of effect, than would seem at first thought; both are usually more or less desperate attempts to achieve the same effect; that of seeing things as if for the first time

- seeing them in a new way.

In various ways, complexity of prose or lack of it aside, Long has succeeded in his objective; he has often achieved the goal of seeing and presenting accustomed things in unusual light. To choose at random a carefully-selected example, there are the neanderthals in "Bridgehead" who, like the posteriors of baboons, are colored red and blue - for, after all. there is no reason why they should be as monotonously and dully colored as we present - day whites, negroes, orientals, polynesians, and so on. Then, there's the following description from a recent story of Long's of some animals discovered by our hero on an alien planet:

"The creatures walked upright and were vaguely lizardlike, but with a raw-skinned aspect of face and limb that made me repudiate the idea that they could be true reptiles. Embryonic! It's tricky, but there's a certain flabby pinkness which suggests the unformed,

the monstrous.

If you read the passage again, editing out the disgust connotations, you may recognize the species he is describing.

And the love of seeing things afresh, the desire to escape the dullness of familiarity, expresses itself openly in Long's work - as in this other passage from the same story.

"The Unfinished".

"My hands were steady on the controls, but for a moment I felt like a badly scared giant killer swinging down from a beanstalk that would have spanned the gulfs between the stars. I really did. Star rovers are linked to the world of childhood in a variety of ways, for they see the same strange hues everywhere they turn."

As the reader might suppose from the above examples, Long's complexityof-style does not lie so much in any deep, involuted prose, but in peculier construction and presentation.

His stories of the forties have drawn more expressions of puzzlement and confusion from readers than per-

-7-

haps those of any other writer (with the likely exception of A. E. van Vogt, and with this last it is a different matter, having more to do with "plotcomplication" then with presentation). As the classic example, we might begin with the first of the new "ser-1es" , "To Follow Knowledge", which Mr. Campbell called, "A completely strange story". The method of construction used in "To Follow Knowledge" appeared to a certain extent in "Alies the Living, Bridgehead and Census Taker" (which, though it ap-peared in Unknown Worlds, is science fiction if we use the definition of "stated or implied naturalistic explanation for phenomena"). It appeared

definitely in "Filch" and "The Trap" and somewhat in "The Critters" and "Guest in the House". "Step Into my Garden" and "It Will Come to You", fantasies in Unknown Worlds, also seem

to belong to this group.

In many of these stories, no explanation worthy of the name is given; rather, the meaning of the stories becomes recognizable only when we reslize that they are elaborations on analogies. The core of one of these stories is not an explanation, as with most science fiction stories, but a metaphor. We might compare "explanation" to a blueprint and a metaphor to a model, a description in three dimensions - like the bodiless images of the soldiers in Long's "Alias the Living", which are projected ahead in the attack to draw the snipers' fire.

This must remain merely a suggestion; but if our analogy does hold true, if a Long story of this period is essentially an inflated poetic image, then it's conceivable that events in such a story would not appear in s sequential pattern - perhaps there would be blurred transitions between bits of action and dialogue. I'm stacking the cards. For such certainly appears to be true of "To Follow Knowledge" and, to lesser extents, of "Census Taker, Filch, The Trap, Bridgehead", and the fantasy, "Step Into My Garden". Of course, some of this blurred transition, this nonsequentiality, might be explainable on the grounds that several of the stories have time-travel as their subject-matter - "Census Taker" and

"Bridgehead", to be specific; and "To Follow Knowledge" concerns multi-possible worlds. But such an explanation isn't totally satisfactory; first. it doesn't explain the stories which don't fall into the time-travel category and, secondly, it doesn't explain why Long is so fascinated with the theme - even interjecting it, apparently unnecessarily, into his fantasy, "Fisherman's Luck": It might be suggested that the cheotic-order of time-travel appeals tohim, as it bears some correspondence to his own creative processes. The business of curious transition appeared again, confusingly, in Long's latest story in Astounding, "Prison Bright, Prison Deep"; this story is concerned with a mystery and at various points in the story, the characters arrive at explanations, with no more trouble and effort than that by which the reader arrived at the same explanation - because it was printed there on the page before him. There Is a blur, and one of the protagonists is acting up strangely, to the bafflement of the reader, because of some subterranean thought - process that suddenly took place inside him.

Whatever drawbacks Long's method of story-telling has had, and there are several, it has one major virtue: He has been able to handle delicate ideas as story themes, which otherwise are too fragile to be usable. For example, "The Trap" is based upon the association that perhaps just as life takes strange forms, it, itself, might be a form or pattern. Stated this way, it not only sounds like nonsense (which is probable) but very swkward - which it isn't, under Long's

handling.

In his most recent fiction, the writer seems to have sbandoned the style in which he wrote "To Follow Knowledge" and the stories which immediately followed. Those stories of his which I have read the past two years seem to be hackneyed and uninspired (including the above "Prison Bright, Prison Deep"), with an exception appearing now and then (such as "The Unfinished"). Long would seem to be a very "spotty" writer, but I believe that it's worth reading his poor work in order to read his good.

References: The stories which are most mentioned and the magazines and References: The stories which are most mentioned and the magazines and issues they appear in -- "The Last Men", Astounding Stories, August, 1934; "Green Glory", AstS, January, 1935; "Green Cold", AstS, February, 1935; "The Flame Midget", AstS, December, 1936; "To Follow Knowledge", Astounding Science Fiction, December, 1942; "Fisherman's Luck", Unknown Worlds, July, 1940; "Census Taker", UnkW, April, 1942; "It Will Come to You", UnkW, December, 1942; "Alias the Living", AstSF, January, 1944; "Bridgehead", AstSF, August, 1944; "Filch", AstSF, March, 1945; "The Trap", AstSF, May, 1945; "The Critters", AstSF, November, 1945; "Prison Bright, Prison Deep", AstSF, August, 1950; "The Unfinished", Super Science Stories, January, 1951. The phrase, "my previous essay on Clifford D. Simak", refers to "Rustic With a Cosmic Sense" in Shangri-La, number 25.

-8-

Book Reviews

Beyond This Horizon

by Robert A. Heinlein Grosset & Dunlap, NY, 1951, \$1.00

If you're an expert on genetics, you'll want this book, for you'll see your subject expanded to its logical attainments. If you've had a course in genetics you'll be interested in learning what the course was all sbout, and you'll find yourself working out Punett squares to check up on Heinlein. If you've never heard of genetics you'll enjoy the novel for the liberal education it'll give you. If you furthermore never want to hear of genetics you'll still enjoy the book, for Heinlein's science never leaps at you from the printed page.

The same is true of philosophy. If you're interested in hearing of an attempt by a group of scientists to prove or disprove the existence of life beyond this life, then this novel is for you. If you eren't, simply skip these portions. To this reviewer's taste, the book is improved by the addition of a little deep thought, but if you think differently...well,

it's a good yarn without it.

It is interesting to note that
Heinlein has again produced a story
which, though it is pure science fiction, retains a strong tie to the present; a bridge, so to speak, over
which we may cross. This he does by
retaining normal characters and nor-

mal problems, even though his setting be to us abnormal.

The story concerns the young genius Hamilton Felix, end product of five generations of controlled breed-ing. Rather than being a mad genius, Felix is a quite normal person. Like any young bachelor, he enjoys his freedom and intends to keep it...until, one day, he meets a girl ... THE girl. Like any young man suffering from awareness he is troubled by the perplexities of life. He is so troubled that he refuses to continue his genetically perfected line until Mordan, the Genetics Moderator, can prove to him that there is a reason for the continued propagation of the human race. If there is something after this life, then this fact in itself is an enswer, but if life ends with death there is no point for continuing the race. What normal youth has not questioned thusly, searching for the "why" of it all? But being normal, Felix' love for the girl overwhelms his questions and he decides to lay sside his doubts and become a

husband and a father. In true Heinlein tradition, the answer comes from an unexpected source, Felix' own children.

With this "normalcy" as his bridge, Heinlein succeeds in vividly picturing Felix' world, its mores and its problems. As in his "future history" series, Heinlein is not satisfied with merely building cities in the sir, so he also gives a startlingly realistic account of this future society, adda a band of self-appointed geniuses who decide to rule the world, an "ancient" who had been placed in suspended animation in 1926, a telepathic child and a few minor threads of plot, and behold, a fascinating, meaningful yarn arises!

City at World's End

by Edmond Hamilton Frederick Fell, 1951, \$2.75

A "super a-bomb" detonated in the first attach of what presumably becomes a war temporally transports intect Middletown, s city of 50,000, to a far future. The twilight Earth is cold and possessed of no surface moisture. The moon is much nearer, the sun cooled and dimmed, but the Earth's rotation period is apparently unchanged.

The inhabitants of Middletown discover some great dome-enclosed cities, products of an advanced civilization, but no intelligent life. To escape the cold they migrate, with great emotional upheavals, to one of the cities from which a heating shaft penetrates to the Earth's core, also

cooled.

Using a 20th century gasoline-driven generator to power one of the city's transmitters these people seek contact with the future men whom they hope survive on Earth. None do, but the signals reach an Earth-born civilization across the galaxy, whose emissaries arrive to study and govern.

John Kenniston, a young scientist who had been employed in secrat military research in Middletown and who has assumed a position as sort of councilmen to the mayor, is taught the future-men's language (an evolved English). The stage is set for the story's climax when the Federation of Stars' envoys tell Kenniston that the entire New Middletown population will be removed from the city to which it has, with difficulties, been able to adjust, to a more suitable planet.

-9-

Legal struggle, political intrigue, and an insurgent attempt to revitalize Earth follow.

Years ago Ed Hamilton was nicknamed "World Saver", and once agein he performs his act of salvation. He has provided himself no interstellar warriors to repulse this time, but he does effect a revolutionary change in galactic politics in the process.

This is an interesting yarn; fast moving without violent action, and embodying a reasonable amount of novelty. Its physics couldn't withstand scrutiny, and I found parts of it annoying from sociological and psychological standppints - but Hamilton puts the story across anyway.

Jack Kelsey

Four-Sided Triangle

by William F. Temple Frederick Fell, 1951, \$2.75

I note, not without pleasure, that Temple's yarn goes along with the trend in science fiction; that is to say, "Triangle" is literature as well as science fiction! Or perhaps one should say that Temple has returned to the old methods, for surely the habit of good craftsmanship is apparent in such older works as Beresford's "Hampdenshire Wonder" and Arlen's "Man's Mortality", both examples of literature at its modern best.

"Triangle" in its earlier, briefer form (Amazing Stories, November, 1939) is the perfect portrait of science fiction as the poor cousin of modern literature, while the present novel exemplifies science fiction as inspired storytelling equal to the best literature produced in our generation.

Both the magazine story and the novel work from the same basic plot: a triangle of two men and a girl is introduced, then the girl is placed in a "reproducer" which the men have invented and is duplicated, thus making of the triangle a square. Trouble arises when it is discovered that the original and the duplicate, being in reality the same girl, are both in love with the same man. Thus the triangle, supposedly a square, remains three sided. Trouble increases when Bill, the unwanted side of the "square", is killed through his own carelessness and overconfidence in a lab experiment, leaving a true triangle of. the two girls and Rob, the remaining

But a plot outline and a completed story are two different things. In the magazine yarn four puppets manipulate and are manipulated by a "gadget", while in the novel four living antities struggle to adjust themselves to the effect which a scientific discovery has had upon their lives. It

is this human element which makes the difference. Wheels go 'round, jets blast, Mars is blown to oblivion, and what the devil does it matter so long as no human being is involved...and there's a big difference between a human being and Captain Jinks of the Space Marines... Yet when an author introduces a living character and says "Look what happens to him when he faces this new gadget", then wheels turning and jets blasting and Mars exploding take on meaning.

The technical explanation of Bill and Rob's "reproducer" is retained in the novel, even expanded, but now, instead of using the descriptive method. Temple allows his two young scientists to explain in their own words the intricacies of their discovery. Thus he brings to life an otherwise "slow" passage and at the same time uses their own conversations to contrast the impatient, fieryhaired Bill with the orderly-minded The result is the bolstering of characterization and the intensification of the science theme. Thruout the entire novel Temple shows that he has now learned his craft well, writing in a flowing, unrestrained style, and almost unconsciously following the advice of those writers before him who formulated from experience the rules of good literature.

It is the following of these simple rules based on sound logic that makes this novel worth reading. I fail to see what the attraction has been for science fiction writers to commit wholesale slaughter upon these literary rules. It is not necessary for a writer to bow seven times each morning toward these gems of wisdom, but it does seem that it is necessary for him to realize that they are based upon trial and error, upon hundreds of years of applied logic, and that he might just as well devote himself to breaking the law of gravity as to breaking these laws of sound writing. Aristotle stated that a hero in a tragedy must fall thru a tragic flaw in his own character. Mr. Temple applied this statement to his young scientist Bill, and the story is good not because Aristotle believed in the principal, not because Mr. Temple believed in it, but because it is proven truth... It was true long before the birth of Aristotle and will be true long after "Triangle" has been covered with the dust of the centuries.

Why, since science fiction is by its own admission attempting to claim citizenship in the world of fiction, does it fight so desperately to remain a literary law unto itself? Why should it be considered necessary to do away with characterization, local color, the tragic flaw, and all attempts at craftsmanship in order to add science to a short story or a novel? Why is

it impossible to intermingle the laws of literature with the laws of science? Mr. Temple and men like him are at last proving that such is not the case, and their works are gaining, not losing, from this intermingling. Thru their efforts science fiction is slowly making a "comeback" and is finally taking its rightful place in the world of literature.

Carolyn Gaybard

Dreadful Sanctuary

by Eric Frank Russell Fantasy Press, 1951, \$2.75

If you're looking for a fantasy that has plenty of suspense and yet is credible, with characterization handled to suit adult tastes, with idiom and jargon kept within reasonable limits, try "Dreadful Senctuary".

It's a good blend, with just a few of the tones of "Brave New World" - not put in for effect, and not played too strongly, but apperently expressive of the author's views, and consistent with those of the protagon-ist. As I say, the teste is not too heavy, so if you don't care to con-template the sardonic philosophizing of the Huxley-Orwell school there's plenty of action to concern yourself with.

The yarn's set in the year 1972 - near enough to the present to permit the use of familiar phrases, ideas and concepts with occasional changes rung on them. This trick isn't over-played either, as it often is by s/f writers.

plot concerns efforts to The send experimental rockets to the moon, with complications furnished by an international secret society. hero's squaring off with these hombres make a suspenseful detective yarn of the novel

Malcolm M. Ferguson

The Day of the Triffids

by John Wyndham Doubleday, 1951, \$2.50

I tried this first when it appeared in Collier's in a somewhat condensed form and didn't like it. Now, several months later, I have just fin-ished the book - and have revised my opinion upwards.

It reminds me vaguely of two stories I read years ago, when they first were published (both have since been reprinted): "Rebirth" and "Side-wise in Time". This story is even

more discomforting, however.

The "triffid" is a perambulating, cleaginous, vegetable with a lethal stinger. An aerial accident scatters "triffid" seed all over the globe and in a few years the people take for granted the odd, walking plants that sometime grow to the height of ten feet. When the plants' "stinger" is exposed and fatalities result, open season is declared.

There is a night long fantastic display of brilliant green meteoric explosions. This display, so bright, so fantastic, is viewed by nearly everyone in the world. The next day each member of this vast audience is blind ... and prey to the triffid.

Only a few sighted people remain ... some try to care for the blind ... others look out only for themselves ... all have to wage a constant struggle against the deadly vegetables. Decay, social and physical, quickly

appears.

This is a discomforting book ... in these days when so many horrible futures seem possible. This possibility - "The Day of the Triffids" - is not pleasant.

The book is recommended reading ...it presents much food for thought. Russell A. Leadabrand



Beginning next issue and thenceforth I would like to publish among the book reviews a number of short comments about each of the new books.

Every subscriber is invited to contribute to this section - which, I'm afraid, will be called "Micro Reviews" - as frequently as he likes. A single sentence citing the quality of the book most impressive to the contributor is preferable. From one to fifty words will be the suggested limits. Payment? I'm afraid not for these briefs. Mailing dimes to perhaps thirty contributors would be s nuisance. How about doing it for the fun of it ... and the value of such a consensus? Postals are OK. editor

Alfred Korzybski: a tribute by Neil Austin

The following passage from "Science and Sanity" was selected by Mr. Austin to accompany his drawing at right.

"The prevalent and constantly increasing general deterioration of human values is an unavoidable consequence of the crippling misuse of neuro-linguistic and neuro-semantic mechanisms. In general semantics we are concerned with the sanity of the race, including particularly methods of prevention; eliminating from home, elementary, and higher education inadequate aristotelian types of evaluation which too often lead to the un-sanity of the race, and building up for the first time a positive theory of sanity, as a workable non-aristotelian system. The task shead is gigantic if we are to avoid more personal, national, and even international tragedies based on unpredictability, insecurity, fears, anxieties, etc., which are steadily disorganizing the functioning of the human nervous system. Only when we face these facts fearlessly and intelligently may we save for future civilizations whatever there is left to save, and build from the ruins of a dying epoch a new and saner society.

A non-aristotelian re-orientation is inevitable; the only problem today is when, and at what cost."

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The Antiquarian Bookshelf

A department which explores the little-known by-ways of fantasy's past,

aubtitled Collector's Crevice by R. G. Medhurst

this issue's only contributor.

I suppose that one ideal of fantasy collectors is a huge volume listing all the fantasies that were ever published, in any language, with lavish notes on content and merit by a very superior Collector of infallible taste am judgment. Nothing like that will emerge from this column. How-ever, if the "Crevice" becomes a regular department of Fantasy Advertiser. we may from time to time produce some information that will come in quite useful for the compilers of such a volume, as and when they come to light.

I am hoping brother (and/or sister) collectors will write in with their discoveries (c/o the editor or direct to me at 126, Finborough Road, London, S.W.10, England) and their questions. With the latter I shall do my best. or, failing, shall publish for those better equipped to deal with. Fantasies (and especially science fiction) published in England are, of course, more in my line, but it is not out of the question for me to be of use in the American field.

Needless to say, I shall often have cause to mention Everett Bleiler's remarkable "Checklist of Fantastic Literature" (Shasta Publishers. Chicago, 1948) which will for ever after be referred to simply as "Check-

I shall probably have to apologise for a certain scrappiness in this first instalment. The excuse is the not uncommon one of having to beat a deadline.

Two fantasies by a gentleman cailing himself Godfre Ray King, not mentioned in Checklist, are: "Unveiled Mysteries", Chicago, Saint Germain Press, 1934, pp260, frontis. The Magic Presence, same publishers, 1935, pp393, frontis. & one coloured plate. These constitute vois. 1 & 2 of a series, vols 3 & 4 being "The 'I am' Discoveries" and "The 'I am' Adorations and Affirmations." While I have not seen them, it seems doubtful whether the last two could come within our scope. Perhaps someone can supply information on this point. also anything else of interest that Mr. King has produced.

These volumes purport to be an account of Mr. King's experiences with an "Ascended Master", St. Ger--14-

main. It appears that one is intended to take them as seriously as Shaver's Lemurian episodes. During the course of the narrative we are confronted with a welter of electronic and chemical inventions, a visit to a city in a fertile Sahara of the remote past. communication with Venus and so on. The writing is not of a high order (Mr. King claims this as a positive virtue) but we are assured that everything described igliterally true. The uniform beauty of the characters

becomes oppressive.

An item that is worth having for completeness (though I wouldn't suggest spending any large sum on it) is Richard A. Proctor's. The Borderland of Science". My copy was published by wyman & Sons (London, 1882, pp438 X11), but this is only a reprint of the original edition (Smith, Elder & Co., 1873). The book consists of "Cornhill Magazine". Two of them,
"A Voyage to the Sun" and "A Voyage to the Ringed Planet are in fictional form, the journeys being performed by some not very clearly specified form of "astral travel". The sun episode is quite vividly described: it concludes, as do most popular astronomical writings of the period, with a word of praise for the Almighty. The Saturn episode suffers. of course, from the then current idea that Jupiter and Saturn were incandescent worlds. On the strength of this, most of the Saturnian moons are described as inhabited, the Mimasians, in particular, being talked about in some detail. Proctor turned out many "popular science" essays, mostly of a purely journalistic interest. I have not found any others in fantasy

The following is, as far as I have been able to discover, a complete listing of the fantasies and possible fantasies of Charles Dudley Lampen. a) "The Dead Prior" - Elliot Stock, London, 1896, pp 221, not illus. b) "The Queen of the Extinct Volcano:

A Story of Adventure" - Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, 1898, pp 224, illus. by Leonard Linsdell. (Reissued by Sheldon Press, London, 1929.)

c) "Mirango the Man-Eater: A Tale of Central Africa" - SPCK, London, 1899,

pp248, illus. by Ernest Prater.

d) "The Stranding of the 'White Rose': A Story of Adventure" - SPCK, 1899,

pp 221.

e) "Barcali the Mutineer: A Tale of the Great Pacific" - R. A. Everett, London, 1900, pp 312, illus. by Harold Piffard.

f) "O'Callaghan the Slave Trader" - Digby, Long & Co., London, 1901, pp 312, illus. by C. Dudley Tennant. g) "The Frozen Treasure: A Tale of Arctic Russia" - SPCK, 1902, pp 248. Items (a) and (b) have only a

slight fantasy content. The first has a single ghostly apparition. occupying only a couple of pages or The second is concerned with a "native" race, only vaguely described, inhabiting the interior of an extinct volcano on a Pacific island, complete with a "white queen". Items (c), (e) and (f) are, however, essential for a complete collection. They all have a "lost civilization" theme. (c) involves a lost white race, of Egyptian descent, in Central Africa, worshipping "Isis and Osiris" and blessed with a King Oimenephthalah. (e) a surviving Roman outpost on a Pacific island and (f) a "Lost City of Zen" in West Africa. I have not been able to find any information about (d) and (g): I cannot even guarantee that they have any fantasy element.

As for the quality of these things, I think I can safely say that I have not read anything in hard covers quite so unadmirable. The style is very crude: there is not merely little plausibility, but even little consistency from page to page in these A sort of bull-headed outpourings. crassness shows up constantly in Mr. Pampen's work. All coloured people are "niggers" of course, and "foreigners" are something sub-human, either loyal and dog-lake or shifty and shiftless. It is not easy to imagine what "knowledge" the S.P.C.K. thought it was promoting, unless perhaps it had in mind the not always rewarding researches of the toiling fantasy col-

lector.

5. I don't feel so happy about the David Lindsay position as Checklist appears to be. Bleiler segregates two Lindsays, one responsible for the remarkable series of novels from "A Voyage to Arcturus" to "Devil's Tor" and the other, called "David T. Lindsays, one responsible from "A Voyage to Arcturus" to "Devil's Tor" and the other, called "David T. Lindsays of the content of the

say", for the series of air adventures and thrillers published by Hamilton of London. This appears to be on the authority of Mrs. Jacqueline Lindsay, widow, presumably, of the first David Lindsay.

One or two preliminary points may be noted. One (quite a slendor one) is that in the case of some of the earlier Hamiltons, the "T" is omitted from the author's name. Another is that the British Museum cataloque confidently ascribes all the Lindsay productions to the same man. This suggests to me that the Museum authorities had some positive evidence: they seem usually quite cautious. There certainly seems no internal evidence of style or characterization to suggest that two men were involved. Though the subject matter of the two series of books is very different, I had no doubt when I read, for example, "The Ninth Plague" that this was in fact written by the original David Lindsay.

I wonder whether it should be surprising, supposing that only one David Lindsay produced all these books, that his wife would suggest the con-The Hamilton novels are undoubtedly pot-biolers, though not without merit. The earlier series. on the other hand, remarkable productions as they were, seem to have been financial failures. It is surely possible that if an author were forced to turn out trivial works, having failed to find an audience for his important writing, he might well have conveyed to the people around him a feeling of dislike for his association

with such stuff.

This is, of course, all conjecture. Perhaps in time to come we may

produce more solid evidence.

Considering Lindsay's relatively small output, it seems a pity that Checklist did not stretch a point and list the volume referred to in the introduction under its (presumably) American title "A Blade For Sale". The data on the English edition are:

The data on the English edition are:
 "Adventures of Monsieur de Mailly" - Andrew Melrose Ltd., London &
New York, 1926, pp319. This, though
much slighter than "A Voyage to Arcturus" and the others, is quite an
exciting adventure story with, as
Checklist points out, just a touch
of not very relevant fantasy.

Editor's note: I concur most enthusiastically with Mr. Medhurst's suggestion that other readers of the Advertiser contribute to Antiquerian Bookshelf (I think we'll retain that department title rather than using Mr. Medhurst's proposed "Collector's Crevice" - "TAB" is somewhat more to the point when you consider that the entire content of FA is directed to the collector). You may send your contributions of out-of-the-way and otherwise little-known bibliographica to either of us; acknowledgment will accompany each printed item. The editor (whose choice, as it happens, will be the deciding one) will be partial to notes about science fiction as opposed to (other?) fantasy, and to those about books that may be recommended to readers over those that are of other interest only.

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(NOTES FROM THE EDITOR, cont.)
that the drawing deserves. Remittances have been returned to all who
ordered it. I am very sorry.

And yet another of my plans has fallen through. The auction that was announced for this issue. This failure due to lack of response. I will probably try again but will have entries enough assured from local fans before making a general announcement.

I plan soon to make a rather sizable book purchase from Dells, my English agents. In order to build up my credit with them, the foreign subscription rate is now reduced to 3/6 per year and foreign ad rates (see rate card on contents page) are cut to allow 20¢ per shilling exchange rather than the official 14¢. These sub and ad rates will probably apply for a limited time, but will hold until noted otherwise.

Experience has shown the summer season to be noticeably slack in advertising. And inasmuch as an issue with few ads makes greater demands upon my personal funds than I've begrudgingly become accustomed to contributing to an issue, the magazine will skip a month this summer and the next issue will be dated September. Its publication will be timed for copies to be displayed at the convention in New Orleans over Labor Day. Which, I humbly suggest, ought to

make your ad in that issue more than ordinarily successful - if you get it in, that is.

Quotable Correspondence

No one has yet called attention to the publication of Edward Everett Hale's "The Brick Moon" in book form in his 1873 collection "His Level Best and Other Stories". This antedstes the book appearance cited by Bailey and by Bleiler by 26 years; but more important, it means that this interesting space oldie is accessible in another form than had previously been generally announced, and hence may turn up for the seeker...(This in re Arthur Clarke's "Space Travel in Fact and Fiction.") Hale used the name "Ingham" - protagonist in "The Brick Moon" - in other fiction (as "The Ingham Papers"). It was a projection of Hale's first person singular. Bailey reports, it is in Atlantic Monthly 1870-1, but I haven't checked my stock for it...

Malcolm M. Ferguson

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