

# FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM



WALD WOLFFMILM OSWALD TRAIN

JANE MEL MILTON ROTHMAN

# FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM

EDITORIAL

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# EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Well fans, you are now reading the initial issue of the FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM. Tell us, frankly, what you think of our little publication. As many letters as possible will see print in our reader's department, so write!

Now to clear matters up a little, a word in explanation. Many fans reading this magazine are wondering if this is the outcome of the FANTASCIENCE DIGEST, the much talked about printed magazine, which we announced. It is not. The FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM is what might be termed a side-venture, speaking of the FANTASCIENCE DIGEST, the first issue of that magazine will not appear for quite a long time due to lack of necessary accessories. We have already purchased our press, but to begin printing we are in need of quite a sum of money, and at the present time we are financially embarrassed.

What do you think of our columns, "The Eternal Wanderer", "Phantasmagoria" and "The Electric Eye"? Please mention them when commenting on the FFT. We also invite comment on Rotman's article.

Beginning with this issue our policy will be to publish a science or weird fiction story, whether it is complete or an installment of a serial yarn. This month we present "The Green Book" by Duane W. Rinal, and next month we plan to have an interesting science fiction story by Milton A. Rothman.

In conclusion I'll state that any sort of material pertaining to any phase of fantastic fiction is welcome. Of course, payment is out of the question.

# THE ETERNAL WANDERER

BY OSWALD TRAIN

This is the first issue of our new magazine, but since the other fellows have already told you all about it, I won't waste any time.

I wonder how many of you know that way back in 1923 Hugo Gernsback made all plans for a science fiction magazine, but the project fell through for some reason or other. I have heard that he even sent out announcements of the coming magazine. Wonder how it would have turned out if he had gone through with it all.

Our -- ahem -- publishing company is planning to issue stories in booklet form at regular -- or irregular intervals. Among them will be "The Brain", by your Uncle Ossie, which was announced twice for publication in the Barnesboro Star. Other stories by Milton A. Rothman, Robert Hadley, John W. Baltadonis, and a host of others.

In the first two issues of Amazing Stories Gernsback listed several stories which would be reprinted, among them H.G. Wells' "War in the Air", "Jesseiah of the Cylinder", by Victor Rousseau, Three German stories, and others. But none of these appeared.

"The Diamond Lens" has been reprinted twice in Amazing Stories.

I hear that A. Merritt considers the "Ship of Ishtar" his best story. I agree with him -- probably because I read it before I read "The Moon Pool." If any of you have not read it as yet, jump at the chance to read it should the opportunity arise. It is one of the few really great stories of science fiction. I once borrowed a copy from Albert Feder, co-author of the Type Stories, and enjoyed the story so well that I determined to have a copy for my library.

## ALBERT BATTADONIA

My great was this deterioration that I actually copied the entire novel on a typewriter and bound the pages into a large book. Rothman was so much struck by the story that I gave him the carbon-copy volume. As far as I know, these are the only two such copies in existence.

Some time ago I came across a pile of old **ALL STORIES, ADVENTURES** etc., in a magazine store. I bought some and mentioned to our director some of the titles I had seen, and that I intended returning. Well, what did the no-and-s do and go and see some of the very ones I had spotted.

The A. of Milton A. Rothman is for Arset (my connection with Campbell's?). Albert's is Albert. Battadonia could not tell me the meaning of the middle V. in his name. It probably stands for viper.

It handed me a big laugh to see that George Gordon Clark advertised for Vol. 1 No. 2 of **AMAZING STORIES ANNUAL**. There was but one issue, and that was simply Volume No. 1, 1927.

Rothman tells me that Phillip Francis Newlon, creator of the famous Buck Rogers, lives in Philadelphia, possibly at the Penn. A. C.

Stephen J. Hale, author of several fine stories in **Amazing** is a member of the faculty at Northeast High School. Madie and Salpadonia and the fortune is study art under his supervision. He told Madie that he has stories accepted by **Amazing** which have not been published yet. I have discovered his address and will attempt to get in touch with him soon. Possibly an interview will come from it.

\* \* \* \* \*

# The Green Book

BY DUANE W. RIMEL



"It is a curious book," Arnold was saying, as he flipped the green-covered tome on the table. "I picked it up at a book store down town for a nominal sum."

"And the title?" I inquired, eyeing the object with growing relish, since I had already recognized signs of great age upon it. One glance was enough to arouse my interest.

"Apparently the thing has none--though the symbols it contains might give a hint as to a name. So far I have read only two chapters, but both of these are about a sort of apocryphal symbol. In a sense it is a physical study--and in places not altogether pleasant."

"Is the book dated?" I took my eyes from it and looked about the large room which served Arnold as a combination study and library.

"No," he replied, "and that makes it all the more puzzling--though the value is greatly reduced in spite of its apparent age. It might have been written anywhere between the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries, and the English is very crude and ponderous."

"I would like to read it some time," I said quite truthfully, "but surely you will tell me more after reading two chapters--"

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"Well, it dwells at length upon an unseen God of vague description, and it even gives crazy formulas for communicating with Him."

"Very interesting," I said, though inwardly I decided that I would not, after all, care to pursue the volume. I had heard of such nonsense before.

I left some time later, learning nothing more about the book, but asking Arnold to call on me immediately if he found any points of real interest, for though I still feigned a longing for it, I was, in reality, quite sceptical of the thing. Judging Arnold's sensitive temperament, his enthusiasm for obscure mental experiments and kindred rubbish, I could not comfortably associate him with an unknown work on the subject. Despite my own disbelief in the volume, I nevertheless held a well-bearred respect for certain principles of the study. His reluctance to discuss the book's contents were not a good sign either.

With these thoughts in mind, I hurriedly returned, and as it was already late evening, I secluded myself in the library to read. But I could not keep my attention on the novel and soon lost it all. It was near midnight, I think, when the phone rang as I expected. Arnold was on the wire, and in a considerably state of excitement which he tried unsuccessfully to hide.

"I've been experimenting with inner vibrations," he said.

"How is that?" I replied eagerly, and gave him my full attention.

"The latest," he went on, "I've just finished. They are all in the form of a very short book about a letter. The received and the sent."

"What is it?" I asked, "the received and the sent?"

"That is the name of the book," he said, "the received and the sent. It is a very short book, but I consider it very good."

take out what it was. . . I thought I'd try again. . . ."

My protests were out short. The door was hanging up. In some heat I dashed into the room and made my way to his study. I ran several blocks down the street. Perhaps I had a little more of that fateful cry in my mind when I finally reached Arnold's study he was dead, with the strange green book open on the table before him. On his forehead, the mark of a pale red wound, and his neck were dark welts like a twisted executioner might have left. There had been a little struggle.

My first act upon reaching the house was the shock of reality was to see the green book in my clothing. Then, in the morning, at his house, I went home alone. I did not want to be discovered. I heard that Arnold met his death. I was not sure, and I set me on my way.

I placed the book in a secret place of my library, where it was not noticed. I wondered just how I could discover the name, and so I went from the shelf and find out. Perhaps I will be able to discover the real cause of my friend's death. . . .

COMING NEXT MONTH

ANTICLIMAX

by

Milton A. Rothman

also

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# PHANTASY MAGAZINE

BY

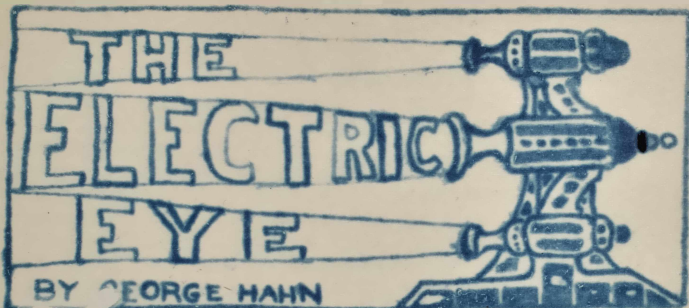
## DONALD A. WOLLHEIM

There was to have been **ASTONISHING**

is well represented in the councils of the League of Nations, a member of the Council of the League of Nations, Salvator De Madariaga of Spain ("The Sea and the Giraffe" etc.); and by the Governor-General of Canada, John Buchan (Lord Tweedmouth) who has written fantastic novels.... Jean E. Michel shows signs of being an up and coming writer. He has had "Meteorite" in the May **AMATEUR AFFAIRS**, "The Stars Look Down" in the June **California** and "Department Store Death" in the August **YANKEE**, and several other acceptances from other little magazines.... Donald A. Wollheim had "The First Rocket Flight" in the July **YANKEE**, and several other small magazines have accepted material from him.... Milton Rothman won a scholarship at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, as well as a 25 dollar chemistry prize upon his graduation. Congrats and best of luck.... The first International Rocketmail Flight occurred in July when several rockets were shot across the Rio Grande to Mexico and back... The International Scientific Association, the oldest science fiction club still in existence, is recommending experimenting with rockets this fall.... **THE AMATEUR FANTASY WRITERS GUIDE** contains an invaluable list of 25 current sf. publications with details, addresses, etc. It can be had for 10 (ten) cents from your columnist.... Daniel McPhail is planning to issue **STRANGE** a small magazine on the style of **QUEER** recently launched.... Morris DeLons plans to issue **SCIENCE**

ADVENTURE STORIES this fall. The old British, who spent the Summer charroffing the flora and fauna of a Wisconsin Lake, may find the PRE-MUNDANE STORIES... Stapledon's "Last and First Men" is a stiff, classic. His recently published "Odd Jobs", a thought variant idea, and is at work on an interplanetary novel called "Star Mares"... is a new magazine in imitation of Tarzan... ARGOSEY has at last returned to Fantasy with "The Devil in Hollywood", "Buccara International" and "Tarzan and the Magic Men"... Charles D. Hornig is now living in Los Angeles looking for a clerical job. There is a chap who had one of the best opportunities yet, anduffed it.... Friedrich Pohl issues a chain of science-mags called the ESO pub.... FANTASY one of them, publishes short stories of fantasy fiction.... Despite THRILLING WONDER STORIES, very few chapters are still existent. Known defunct ones include New York, Brooklyn, Ridgewood, Austin, Denver, Monticello, Bloomington, East New York, Bronx, Elizabeth, Lebanon, Stamford, Newark, Jersey City, Lakewood, Woodmere and Albany.... Written on the first Day of March at the End of the First Year of Our Church. (Editors Note: Although some of the news above may be "stale", it is thru no fault of the author. It is caused by the late appearance of the magazine.)

\* \* \* \* \*



A SHORT SURVEY OF INTERESTING AND ODD HAPPENINGS IN THE LAND OF SCIENCE

### TWILIGHT OF MAN

And new Science, which can be both a blessing and a bugaboo, is threatening women with the loss of men, with a world without husbands.

It may be a couple of eons away, but the earth is headed for the last roundup of the male of the species, according to the findings of Dr. David Causey, professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas. The Doctor delivered this bombshell forecast in a report made to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Nature, the old Indian Giver, wished the male on the world merely as an afterthought, and now she's turning toward doing away with him, Dr. Causey suggested in revealing that "Twilight is settling over masculinity in the animal world."

Long ago women ceased to be the weaker sex, as mortality statistics and physiologicall studies have repeatedly proven. More male than female babies die. Throughout life man is more susceptible to most diseases than woman. Woman's span of life averages more than that of man. There is plenty of other evidence that science can present to disprove the idea that man is the stronger sex.

For proof of his contention, Dr. Causey referred his fellow scientists to the fishes, many species of which, are showing signs of swinging back to those dim, dark, ages when life was perpetuated without masculine aid. Some species are using the male simply as a servant of the young, as the queen bee uses the drones, while with other species, that tradition female function, care of the young, is shunted entirely onto the male.

For instance, the American bow fin must have a clearing in which the female deposits her eggs. Then it takes care of the young, while the male number a thousand miles away, watches. The bow-fin male is smaller, more beautifully colored than the female, and no match for any female.

Another fish, the stickleback, has the sole care of the young after the female deposits them. He constructs a mud-bower for the young, and when they roam too far, he dashes after them and brings them back in his mouth.

According to the foremost scientists all life began in the water. The water still reveals fundamental secrets of life and points to important trends, and here are the fish, with their fins pointed to the FUTURE, and their eyes far seeing.

Some of the birds too, have taken this wing up. The Australian brush turkey for instance, can give more man all the courtship in the deck and still with the henpeck content with wings down. The turkey male builds a vegetable hut in which the female deposits the eggs. Then the female departs, leaving the male in the hut to look after the eggs. The decaying vegetable matter makes a warm nest. For six weeks he sits there, until the chicks are hatched. Then he takes care of them until they are old enough to leave the shelter. He feeds them, and appears the development of the young, and they can fly.

The Council of the League has just received the results of a committee survey on women wage earners in the higher salary brackets. The committee existed the fact that at least 60% of the women expressed themselves satisfied with conditions and their salaries etc. Most of the women questioned insisted that they frequently invited men to dine at their apartments, to go riding in their cars, to go to the theatre as their guests--and such invitations were very rarely refused. Whether this is the result of economic conditions or a biological fact is a moot point, anyway, whether good or bad.

\* \* \* \* \*

# SCIENCE IN SCIENCE FICTION

BY MILTON A. ROTHMAN

An analysis of science fiction, and a reply to those who say that science fiction is science fiction.

Science Fiction may be defined as that type of fiction, the plot of which is based upon fantastic facts which are extended by means of imagination and reasoning to a logical conclusion.

Of late, this definition has been questioned by certain people who have asked for less science in science fiction. These people, evidently persons in the field, have the mistaken idea that science fiction is going out of vogue. However, the fact is really that we agree that science fiction, although printed in pulp magazines, is a little more than pulp and romance material.

Science fiction does have science in it, and if it does not have science, we may as well stop to call it by the little scientific fiction. We do not say for extended imagination, or do we say that only facts that are scientifically known are used in the stories, for in such case there would be no room for imaginative development. But we do say that there be a solid foundation for the imaginative reasoning used, and that nothing in the story violate certain established physical laws.

In these few words, even this response, I point to John W. Campbell's statement, "Science and the Imagination," in this story, that science and imagination are not to be separated, and that they are joined, as it were, in a single whole.

violating the most fundamental law of science, that of conservation of matter and energy. In "The Irrelevant" this same law was violated, but admittedly and with open eyes, as opposed to too many other stories.

Science fiction can be divided into four distinct groups. Within these groups are various subdivisions, which, however, do not concern us at present.

First, there is the story in which there is both good science and plot. Where the science is extended to a logical conclusion, and where the story is interesting and dramatic. This type need not be discussed any further, as it is obvious that this is the ideal science fiction story, and that anyone who objects to it is surely looking for something other than science fiction.

The second type is the story in which there is no science to speak of, but in which there is a good story. Included in this is the adventure story which is set in a fantastic lay-  
ing. These stories are a welcome refreshment after the scientific type AS LONG AS THE AUTHOR STICKS TO HIS POLICY OF NOT ATTEMPTING ANY SCIENCE. Many times an author will write something which superficially sounds like science, but which, upon closer inspection, will be found to have absolutely no basis at all, merely containing the foundationless imaginings of the author, which throws it into this or the next two classes, according to its character. Also included in this class might be stories such as Perence X. O'Leary, or Dusty Ayres, although these stories are so childish as to merit only the disdain of the experienced scientificationist.

It has come to my mind many times that these stories should be called by a name other than science fiction. The only reason they have come to be called by that name is the lack of a more suitable one, but it seems that the time has come for these stories to be put

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in their proper place.

Third comes the story which has no science and little or no story. This type is harmless, unwelcome, and little of it ever gets into print.

The fourth class is the most harmful and vicious of any other type. This is the story in which the science is twisted or falsified so as to get a desired result. In many cases the author knows little science and merely makes up stuff which he hopes will pass the inspection of the harassed editor. This type of story is really harmful, in that it creates a wrong impression in the minds of the readers who do not know better. Those who know science are disgusted (perhaps many prospective readers are lost that way), while those who do not absorb the false science as facts, retaining impressions which may last a long while.

It is this type which every intelligent fan should battle with all his might. In order to do this, the reader must have a knowledge of higher science, which is sometimes hard to set in understandable form. Therefore beginning with next issue, there will be published a course in Super-Science, in which will be discussed science as applied to science fiction.

In concluding, I wish to impress upon the reader that he should never lose sight of the fact that he is reading SCIENCE fiction, and not Scientifhobby!

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