

FANTASY-NEWS

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THE NEW ADAM

by STANLEY G WEINBAUM

1939 - Ziff-Davis Pub-

lishing Company, Chicago Ill. Price \$2.00 262 Pages App. 45,000 words

Reviewed by Thos S Gardner

The New Adam -- The greatest disappointment of the year. After a ballyhoo and buildup that would lead one to expect a great story, a good science fiction story and one well worth reading, one becomes bored within a few chapters and only a flicker of interest kindles near the end-- perhaps in anticipation of the end. Instead of being one of Stanley's great stories, The New Adam, as published, is one of the poorer ones. The book reads as if it had been cut to pieces. The fans were given to understand that it couldn't be published in Amazing because of the sex angle-- there is very little sex in the book. The reviewer has read stories with more sex in them in practically every magazine he has ever read. If The New Adam could not have been published in Amazing, then the newsstands can be made into bare boards any day of the world due to sex. Frankly, the fans have been gyped. If the book has not been cut, then the reviewers were basing their opinions on the other works of Weinbaum --- never mistake, Weinbaum was one of the greatest writers the world has ever seen --- but The New Adam is not one of them. The readers have been royally rooked by advance information from those who have had the privilege of reading the original MS-- or the book has been cut to pieces. Personally, I believe it has been cut since the reviewers, some of whom I know personally, know good fiction when they read it -- and

the New Adam is only mediocre.

Some errors in science are present, especially chemistry. Edmond Hall, the New Adam is supposed to be the coming race of supermen -- yet Weinbaum has Hall prove that if he is a harbinger of the future man, that the future man is doomed before he begins. Really Hall is simply a mutation that failed. Weinbaum has Hall rationalize his existence as follows, He is a throw back to a past great race, but Hall realizes that no relics of past greatness exist, so he discards that theory. He is A MUTATION, MUST BE A SPORT, ONE OF THE FAILURES OF NATURE, JUST LIKE THE BILLIONS OF MUTATIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED, AND THAT HE HAS NO PERMANENT PLACE IN NATURE. THE ONLY DEFENSE OF HALL IS THAT PRIDE OF RACE PREVENTS SUCH A CONCLUSION. Thus Weinbaum defeats his own thesis, the third alternative, that Hall is the harbinger of the future man, the new race of supermen. If so, then all nature must change thruout the universe, for the type of mentality and psychology typified by the super-race---Oh yes, Hall locates others besides himself,---prevents the qualities that make for existence. If the super race as depicted were to be a billion in number, in a century of so they would be extinct. It is necessary to read the book to understand just why they could not become permanent. What a contrast to the superman that Taine depicted in "Seeds of Life" in an old Amazing quarterly. Taine had a type that would reach the stars -- Weinbaum's superman is destroyed by an innate defeatism that destroys initiative, ambition, and every emotional and in- (Continued on Page 3-Col 1)

TRANSATLANTIC NEWS AGENCY FORMED IN ENGLAND

A science-fiction news agency has been formed in England to supply the American fan-magazines with news relative to science-fiction in wartime Britain. This agency mails out the news items free and asks only that they are acknowledged when printed. This should very well take care of the British question as far as British news service is concerned. Even tho, FANTASY-NEWS has it's own reporters in England we are glad to be able to use news items mailed to us thru this new agency

THE WAR AND STF

(obtained from THE TRANSATLANTIC NEWS AGENCY)

Since the outbreak of war two well known British fans have been married. The first is the behind-the-scenes proprietor of the SCIENCE FICTION SERVICE - Leslie J. Johnson - vice president of the BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY and council member of the SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION. The 2nd, much in the limelight at the present, is William F Temple, Britain's best humorist, author of "The Smile Of The Sphinx", "Lunar Lilliput", "Mr Craddock's Amazing Experience" and "The Four-Sided Triangle."

Both aspiring husbands state that the war precipitated somewhat their marriages in view of the possible separation from their wives which conscription might cause.

William F Temple's story "Mr Craddock's Amazing Experience" which appeared in the February 1939 issue of AMAZING STORIES was originally entitled "Mr Craddock's Lifeline". The substituted title was R.P.'s idea.

"Mr C's Lifeline" sold to the Gernsback WONDER just before that magazine collapsed. The MMS was returned -- appeared in ALTEUR SCIENCE STORIES (SF. Publication) --

then was snapped up by Palmer to end up -- somewhat chopped about, in AMAZING STORIES.

British Fandon is to be starved of its opium - or so it would seem. Last week two American ships loaded with magazines (including current and remainder STF) were turned back at Liverpool. Only three issues of the November AMAZING reached this country, and they are reserved for the British Museum. No other magazines have appeared as yet.

As the outbreak of war were a prearranged signal, all British fanmags, and proposed fanmags, ceased publication. There will be one more issue of Youd's FANTAST after, which yje only publication existing will be Youd's single-sheet FANTASY WAR-BULLETIN. The SATELLITE, FANTAST NEW WORLDS and SCIENCE-FANTASY REVIEW may be regarded as obsolete with very little hope of resurrection. Projected McCABE and proposed GARGOYLE have been suspended indefinitely.

A report from London states that the two Black widow spiders which were resident at the London Zoo have been killed. It was feared that during an air-raid they might manage to escape and become a menace instead of a curiosity. We understand that Dale Hart has gone into mourning for these unfortunate members of his pet arachnida. tna

FAN MAG REVIEW by Harry Warner Jr

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ADS: \$5.00 page; \$3.00 half page; or \$12.00 three full pages.....@