

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

1

Vol. 10 - #224

FIRST JUNE 1955 ISSUE

Ten Cents

THREE MORE BRITISH US REPRINTS FOLD

"GALAXY" & "ASTOUNDING" ONLY MONTHLY
US REPRINTS LEFT IN GREAT BRITAIN

Liverpool, England, 26 March, (CNS) - Our British agent, Milcross Book Service informed us today that the British Editions of Amazing Stories, Fantastic, and If, are believed suspended. All subscriptions held for these magazines by Milcross has been returned. The last issue of Amazing Stories was #8, but this is the third series of British editions of Amazing Stories. The first lasted but a few issues and was large-size (8 1/2" x 11"). The second series was pulp size and over 20 issues appeared; while the third was digest-size. The last issue of Fantastic was issue #8. Its last issue was #15.

This leaves only two monthly U.S. reprints on the British market: Astounding Science Fiction, the oldest science fiction magazine still being published in England, and Galaxy Science Fiction. Four other U.S. reprints come out on an irregular schedule: Lowndes' Dynamic Science Fiction, Future Science Fiction and Science Fiction Quarterly; all in pulp format; and Tops In Science Fiction, which has seen 2 issues, both in digest format.

While the British own products are coming along quite well: New Worlds and Authentic Science Fiction are on monthly schedule; Science-Fantasy is bi-monthly; while Nebula Science Fiction, now more or less irregular, will soon hit a steady bi-monthly or better. The British Science Fiction Magazine is still on a somewhat irregular schedule. Space Facts and Fiction, which reprinted the fiction from pre-war Columbia US mags, seems to have folded. On the super-

MAY "HAPNA!" IS OUT

Flushing, NY, 20 May, (CNS) - The Swedish science fiction magazine Hapna!, May 1955 issue, has just arrived.

The cover is a full color reprint from the Autumn 1951 issue of Britain's New Worlds, by Bull. Contents are: serial "The Legion Of Space" by Jack Williamson from the 1934 Astoundings; Ray Bradbury's "Eldballongerna" from his book, "The Illustrated Man"; "Enda Utvagen" by William F. Temple, reprinted from Thrilling Wonder Stories, and "Gamle Doktor Metusalem" by Rene Lafayette, the first "Old Doc Methuselah" story, reprinted from Astounding. A note states that more "Methuselah" yarns will be reprinted in the future. Plus book reviews, s-f club notes and other departments. Some two color inside work is still being used by Hapna!

The April 1955 issue featured a photo of Forry Ackerman and film star Joan Shawlee looking over a copy of Hapna! The contents, besides the Williamson serial contained: John Wyndham, reprinted from Thrilling Wonder Stories; Henry Hasse, reprinted from Planet Stories; and Arthur C. Clarke, reprinted from Amazing Stories. Plus departments. Hapna! is published monthly, 98 pages, good paper and digest-size.

natural side, Spencor publishes two: Supernatural Stories on a bi-monthly schedule, and Out Of This World, on an irregular basis.

BRITISH "GALAXY" GOES UP IN PRICE
BRITISH "ASTOUNDING" SUBSTITUTES COVER
AND OTHER BRITISH NEWS
(see page 3)

by Michael Corper

Penguin Books issued Aldous Huxley's "Brave New Worlds" at 2/6, on April 28, 1955.

Wm. Heinemann, Ltd., now publish a Heinemann Science Fiction Series at 9/6 each. The publishers brought out "Dark Dominion" (David Duncan), "Down To Earth" (Paul Capon), "Utopia 239" (Rex Gordon), and "The World At Bay" (Paul Capon).

British Science Fiction Magazine, #11, is the last of Volume 1, the editor told me. Issue #12 is expected to be #1 of Volume 2. The cover will be of an entirely new design. Changes keep on coming in order to extract the utmost effect within the frame of economy, Vargo Statten added.

Advance info on #12 (or Vol. 2 - #1): Lead novel: "The Black Occupier" (Wm. E. Bentley), serial "Only Death Brings Peace", "A Matter Of Vibration" (Vargo Statten), "Material Nightmare" (M. J. Commander, a new writer), "Lost Post" (Barrington Bayley), Astronomy article (Dan Seeson), Editorial, and departments.

The British Argosy for April 1955 contains Lord Dunsany's "Fatal Mistake" (from "Victorian Sidelights"), and Jack Vance's "Music Of The Spheres" (from Better Publications).

Fontana Books, pocketbooks, are publishing Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea" at 2/6.

Nebula Science Fiction, after issue #12 will change printers and almost certainly appear on a regular 6-weekly schedule (if, however, at first impracticable, bi-monthly). It is also very well possible that the mag will appear monthly within the next 12 months. The number of pages, and format, will likely be maintained, but the special features augmented by a scientific department of about 2,000 words.

Advance info. on Nebula #13: "This Night No More" (F. G. Rayer), "Planet" (concluded on page 4, column 1)

by Jakob Bleyemehl

The general demand for cheap s-f novels has been complied with by the publication of a series of novels under the title: UTOPIA-Grossbände*, selling for one mark only:

Kollar: "Invasion aus dem Weltraum", Kennedy, E. R.: "Der geheimnisvolle Planet",

Brown, G. S.: "Gefahr aus dem Nichts", Lorraine, Paul: "Grenze zwischen den Welten".

Elliot, Lee: "Flucht in die Zukunft", Cameron, Berl: "Geister der Vergangenheit" (Lost Aeons).

Another collection (juveniles) has been edited by the same publishers under: UTOPIA-Kleinbände for half the price. 30 volumes are already in the hands of young fans.

The Gebr. Weiss-Verlag has now nearly completed the edition of the novels of Germany's foremost SF-writers: Hans DOMINIK and Freder van HOLK, the first is represented with 14, the latter with even 16 novels in the collection: "Die Welt von Morgen". Of the younger authors there are less, two by P. E. SIEG: "Insula" and "Angolosa", Richard KOCH: "Der Stein der Weisen" and Claus EICK "Der Tag Null".

Three Americans are now represented in this collection: Ed. Hamilton, R. A. Heinlein, and Nelson Bond.

Two Britons: A. C. Clarke and Bernard Newman, and one Frenchman: René Barjavel: "Sintflut der Abome".

All in cloth: 5.80/6.80 Dmark.

For fans with a liking for serious books your reporter recommends:

Wagemann, E: "Welt von Morgen" - wer wird Herr der Erde?",

Grelling, W: "Wie werden wir Leben?" Die nächsten 150 Jahre", and

Neher, F. L.: "Menschen zwischen den Planeten" Der Roman der Raumfahrt nach Entwurf und mit Vorwort von Prof. W. von Braun, 588pp. 14.80 Dmark.

* see Fantasy-Times #221 and #223

The number after your name on the mail-order, is the number of the last issue of Fantasy-Times you have coming. Resubscribe early and thus not miss an issue.

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL

Galaxy Novel #25 will reprint "The Last Spaceship" by Murray Leinster.

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION

The August 1955 issue of Galaxy Science Fiction will contain: two novelets: "The Flat-eyed Monster" by William Tenn, and "Country Estate" by Daniel F. Galouye; three short stories: "Wiskaboom" by Allan Askin, "A Gift From Earth" by Manly Banister, and "Twink" by Theodore Sturgeon; one book-length serial, installment 3: "Preferred Risk" by Edson McCann; one science department: "For Your Information" by Willy Ley; and two features: "Editor's Page" by H. L. Gold and "Forecast". The cover will be by Ersh showing "Arrival of the Ambassador From Sirius".

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

206 Ruscombe Avenue
North Hills, Penna.

Dear Editor:

The Fanvet Convention was a success. We all enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed the old Tarzan film.

Speaking of Tarzan - how many knew that Gene Polar, one of the very early Tarzans (Return Of Tarzan?) was on Garry Moore's "I've Got A Secret" show? His secret of course was that he was Tarzan, and no one guessed it. He got a big hand. He was the New York City Fireman who was chosen for the part. The picture was said to have been lousy, but that wasn't mentioned on TV of course. The latest Tarzan was then introduced, and they are both big men - Garry Moore stood between them then and he looked like a runt. Polar is now the oldest living Tarzan, since the death of Elmo Lincoln.

Ossie

Ossie Train

(Thanks for the interesting info. -eds)

BRITISH "GALAXY" UPS PRICE TO 2/-

by Milcross Book Service

Liverpool, England, 25 May, (CNS) - The latest issue of the British Edition of Galaxy Science Fiction has gone up in price, from 1/6 to 2/- (#26) and is a reprint of the July 1952 U.S.A. Edition in the main.

Apart from Galaxy, the only British Reprint Editions now appearing are Astounding (Monthly), and Future Science Fiction and Science Fiction Quarterly (both Quarterly).

(See page one for earlier story on British Reprints of U.S.A. science-fiction magazines. -eds)

BRITISH EDITION OF "ASTOUNDING" DROPS CHRISTMAS COVER

Flushing NY, 28 May, (CNS) - The June-1955 issue of the British Edition of Astounding Science Fiction arrived today with a collector's item change.

The British Astounding is usually a reprint of the U.S. Edition six months before, thus with the June '55 issue of the British Edition, it brought up the January 1955 USA Edition, on which was presented a Christmas cover by Freas. Since June is no time for Xmas decorations, the British Edition dropped the Freas cover and substituted the December 1951 Rogers cover (Outward Bound). Outside of this change, the issue, in the main, is a reprint of the January 1955 USA Edition.

CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

by Roger Dard

Star Weekly of Toronto, Ontario, Canada for March 5th 1955 contained an article "From Earth To Moon And Back" by Arthur C. Clarke. Illustrated by Bill Book. It's a digest of Clarke's book "The Exploration Of Space", the Book illustrations are good and in color. The February 12th 1955 issue contained a complete novel "The Cosmic Crusaders" by John Russell Fearn, also illustrated by Bill Book. It's a further adventure in Fearn's "Golden Amazon" series.

FANTASY - TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"
("S-F Newsscope" and "Fantasy-Comics")

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Editors and Publishers

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BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION NEWS
(concluded from page 2, column 1)

bound" (Tubb), "Down Rover Down" (E. F.
Russell), "Mansion Of A Love" (Wm. F.
Temple), "The Green Hills Of Earth"
(Heinlein), and "Personal Artifact" by
new author Chris Lyster.

For the future, stories scheduled
include: "Storm Warning" (E.F. Russell),
"Sunset" (Kenneth Bulmer), "Investment"
(Tubb), "Counterpoint" (Lan Wright), and
"In Loving Memory" (James White). Also
work by new authors.

The statements in respect of policy
are still dependant upon final arrange-
ments, and are quoted provisionally, of
course.

As regards the often-mentioned
American Science Fiction: If all goes
well it should be on the stands by the
end of 1955, probably under the sub-ed-
itorship of David S. Gardner.

FANTASY-COMICS

by Bill Blackbeard

CURRENT AND BACK ISSUE 'EC COMIC MAGS
EXCLUSIVE STOCK IN TRADE OF NEW YORK
NEWSSTAND

(concluded in right hand column)

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSCOPE

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

In the March 1955 issue of Texas Rang-
ers, a monthly Standard magazine, sis-
ter to Startling Stories, there is actu-
ally a science-fiction story! It is
"Crazy Mixed-Up Cow" by Harold Helfer,
and concerns a fellow who breeds a gas-
oline-producing cow. -Roger Dard

Those who want to collect the "Doc Sav-
age" stories and cannot locate the U.S.
editions, can now do so by obtaining
the British edition of Street & Smith's
Detective Monthly. In each issue, a
complete Doc Savage novel is reprinted.
The current May issue has "The Disap-
pearing Lady", a Doc Savage novel, by
Kenneth Robeson. The magazine is pub-
lished monthly by Atlas Publishing &
Distributing Co, Ltd, publishers of the
British Edition of Astounding Science
Fiction, 18 Bride Lane, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4, England, 64 pages, pulp-
size, trimmed edges and 1/-.

Eugene "Jeep" Gold, son of Mr. & Mrs. H.
L. Gold, graduated from elementary
school on June 2nd 1955 and will attend
Walden High School starting in Septem-
ber of this year. Eugene is 13½ years
old and #1 booster of Galaxy at the
science-fiction conventions in the New
York area. He aided in the auction at
the recent Fanvet Convention.

(concluded from left hand column)
New York, NY, 27 May, (CNS) - Visitors
and native New Yorkers alike will be
interested to know that this city is
not only unique in possessing a book-
store devoted completely to science-
fiction and fantasy (Stephen's Book
Service, 125 4th Ave., N.Y. 3), but in
having a sidewalk newsstand which sells
only current and back numbers of Bill
Gaines' Entertaining Comics Group pub-
lications. The stand is located at the
corner of Broadway and 49th St; is open
in the evenings and on week-ends, and
specializes in MAD and Panic, of which
all issues -- but the rare #5 -- are
always on sale. Also featured are many
issues of Weird Science-Fantasy, Shock
Suspense Stories and Two-Fisted Tales.

Fantasy-Times

BOOK REVIEWS

SECTION
2

Vol. 1 - No. 3

BEYOND EDEN by David Duncan, Ballantine Books, N.Y., 1955, 169pp., 35¢.

Mr. Duncan is without a doubt a novelist of some experience. He is a good writer. But "Beyond Eden" is not a good science-fiction novel.

It reads nicely, carries the reader along through the details of an engrossing scientific saga up to the near future without a hint of anti-scientific bias.

Then, apparently having written himself into a corner, he turns his back on the science-fiction theme he has so ably developed, solves the story in terms of character, and the whole thing blows up into a flash of moonshine and disappears.

Sea-water is being pumped into the California desert basin, purified, and used for agricultural irrigation. The project is weeks away from completion when unusual properties in the water are noted. Project scientists are able to isolate this property and discover, according to Mr. Duncan, that it is a sort of primeval essence of life. Its effect is to accelerate plant growth and when imbibed by a human, to change his character so that it becomes moreso in the way it already tends to go.

A senator drinks the water and dies. A number of people in the area are adversely affected in various ways. A Congressional investigation of the project, led by the villain, is started, at the climax of which the heroine, in order to prove that the water is harmless and save the project and the hero, drinks a concentrated brew of the essence. The villain, incidentally, is also loaded with the stuff, making him even more villainous.

Suddenly the proceedings are interrupted by the announcement that the part of the project known as China Lake is covered by a mass of wildly growing

algae! The whole cast of characters tumble down to the shore of the infected body of water, and the reader tenses himself for the grand denouement.

So what happens? Does Mr. Duncan explain all about this mysterious "essence"?

No, he does not. This is what happens -- in quick succession, the villain is carted off to the peculiar pen, supplies of the essence are destroyed as being too dangerous to toy with, the heroine filches a crystal and feeds it to the hero, and the two of them -- transformed somehow therewith into super-people -- go hand-in-hand into the wilderness.

Explanations? Mr. Duncan babbles something gretinoid about phases of the moon and allows the whole scientific premise upon which he based his story go at that.

"Beyond Eden" is an example of the "johnny-come-lately" trend, wherein the science-fiction idea becomes merely a convenient, easy gimmick, allowing the lazy novelist to make his characters perform ever more hair-raising antics without the necessity (he thinks!) of finding prosaic motivation. Blame it all on the "essence of life", says Mr. Duncan.

What these guys don't realize is that, as soon as they enter the s-f field, they're working under a discipline a lot tougher than the one they're trying to escape! --Ray Van Houten

MESSIAH by Gore Vidal, Ballantine Books 1954, 202 pages, 35¢.

Gore Vidal is one of the better known writers in the "nav" (i. e., "avant-garde") fiction developed in America by a group of self-selected authors in the post-war years. His previous work (amounting to seven novels since 1946) has been admired by critics close to this

group, but has been frequently disparaged as uneven and inordinately prolific. What they will think of this new novel is unimportant and of only academic interest here, of course.

The important thing is that Vidal has written (for the first time, I believe) a science-fiction novel worthy to stand with the best efforts in the sociological sub-category of the genre. It is a biting, terrible, unforgettable portrait of -- as the cover blurb has it -- "a world that worshipped the Angel of Death". The "Angel of Death" in this case is John Cave, a mortician's assistant who rises, on the strength of his hypnotic personality and appeal to what the author postulates as the underlying death-wish in contemporary society, to the status of pope and deity in a new "religion" which sweeps all previous orthodoxies off the face of the earth.

The story, once it strikes a clear path through the initially rather boggy prose of the author, carries the reader

irresistably with it to a highly effective, if rather lurid, climax. The characters involved with Cave's meteoric rise to power are excellently realized by Vidal; one of them, Eugene Luther, fled to a still Moslem-dominated Egypt after the climactic events in the Cave saga, is the narrator of the tale. Another character, called only "Clarissa", seems to be a whimsy of the author's -- she is a product of pure fantasy, and seems unrelated to the essential reality of the rest of the novel.

Ballantine Books, I feel, is to be congratulated for selecting this recent E. P. Dutton & Co. book for reprinting in their science-fiction series; otherwise it would almost certainly have been overlooked by most fans, and left to the tender mercies of the "new" critics. The pocketbook publisher has done a good job of presentation, too: the cover by Powers is one of his best. Get this one and read it.

-Bill Blackbeard

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