

# EXTRA

Fourteenth Year Of Publication

## Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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FIRST JULY 1955 ISSUE

Ten Cents

# 'AMAZING' GOING MONTHLY WITH FEBRUARY 1956 ISSUE

New York, N.Y., 16 June 1955, (CNS) - Howard Browne announced today that his magazine, Amazing Stories, will return to monthly schedule with the Feb., 1956 issue. The year 1955 is Amazing's 30th Anniversary year, the world's oldest science-fiction magazine.

Mr. Browne stated that the reason monthly publication is again possible is that the magazine's circulation has gone up enough to make it a sound deal. It was only after Editor Browne junked his "modern" type of science-fiction stories and illustrations that the magazine took a new lease on life. The experiment was, a failure, the readers wanted the old-type "action" stories and the "old-type" real-life covers and illustrations. Browne saw his mistake in time and hence he has been the only editor this year to announce a substantial increase in circulation and a change from bi-monthly to monthly. Th-

is at a time when most s-f magazines are folding, combining titles or cutting pages. Another point that upped the circulation of Amazing Stories has been the return of departments to that magazine. Editorial, fan-mag reviews, book reviews, and a long, long readers column have all gone a long way to give the magazine that certain atmosphere that keeps readers instead of the cold unwelcome icy so-called "sophisticated" look that catered only to a snobby few and which the ordinary reader dropped like a hot potato.

Amazing Stories is the world's oldest science-fiction magazine, founded

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER



by the father of s-f magazines, Hugo Gernsback. Its first issue was dated April 1926. It was then large size, approx 8 1/2" x 11", and sold for 25¢. It went pulp-size with the October 1933 issue. The first Ziff-Davis issue (still pulp-size) was the June 1938 issue. With this issue Ray Palmer became editor and the price of the mag was reduced to 20¢. Later with increase in pages the price was again raised to 25¢ and it was only when Amazing went digest size, with the April-May 1953 issue that the price was raised to 35¢. Palmer left Amazing in the Fall of 1949 to start Other Worlds, and Howard Browne took over as editor. Except for a few months in 1938-39 when Ziff-Davis bought the magazine from Teck Publications; during World War II, and since it went digest size, Amazing has been a monthly, under Ziff-Davis.

Amazing has had three series of British reprints, and one series of Japanese reprints, all of which folded.

The last report of a science-fiction magazine going monthly that Fantasy-Times was able to make was one year ago in our 1st July 1954 issue when we announced that Fantastic Universe had gone monthly.

—James V. Taurasi

#### SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Life, May 16, 1955:

THE COURSE WHERE STUDENTS LOSE EARLY SHAKLES by Morton M. Hunt. A feature Article, illustrated with drawings & photos of the MIT course in Creative Engineering. This was a feature article in the May '53 Astounding, as well.

— — —  
MAD, July 1955:

The old MAD comic is now a slick. In this issue they lampoon the articles "Is a trip to the moon possible?" that  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

(concluded from right hand column)  
power to him!

Yours truly,

*Kenn Curtis*

Kenn Curtis

#### NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

4722 Peabody Avenue  
Cincinnati 27, Ohio  
May 20, 1955

Dear Mr. Taurasi:

Re Jim Harmon's letter and the little Spaceway controversy: I'd like to voice my opinions on the matter. First of all, I agree wholeheartedly with you in that Criswell's "articles" stink. To me, they're just so much-wasted space. I read the first in the series in Spaceway #Feb 55, and that was enough for me.

Now Crawford has devoted the June 55 cover to this junk. This is going too far, to say the least! Although the stories are generally pretty good in Spaceway, and the illos are nothing to be ashamed of, Crawford has definitely lowered his magazine's standards by printing Criswell's crackpot pieces.

(By the way, that Harmon must have some ego, calling his own story a "superb" work. Even if it was, he's got no business pointing it out. That's for editors, critics, and the readers to decide. Personally, I didn't think "People Of The Valley" was so hot.)

I was interested to see that William Gaines, ED's editor-in-chief, gave a talk at the Fanyet Con. I've been an EC Comics fan ever since they revolutionized the industry with their New Trend mags in '51, and agree fully with Gaines' viewpoint on comics censorship. The comic books carrying the "Seal Of Approval" now are one heck of a lot worse, from the story and art standpoint, than they were before they were "cleaned up". Even so, I don't think there's an artist in the field that can compare with EC's Al Williamson, Wally Wood, or Joe Orlando.

Well, it seems like everybody's down on H. L. Gold these days. You can't pick up an s-f fanzine these days without running into an anti-Gold letter. I, myself, respect the man highly for what he did to Galaxy. I believe he is a very capable editor and that he has brought the reading public much good s-f in the past few years. More  
(concluded in left hand column)



# "PLANET STORIES" GETS TRIMMED

Flushing, N.Y., 9 June, (CNS) - The Summer 1955 issue of Planet Stories came out today and to the surprise of everyone, it boasted trimmed edges, making this date a historic one in the history of science-fiction magazines. For the first time in 25½ years, ALL science-fiction magazines published in the United States now have trimmed edges. It was back in January of 1930, when the first issue of Astounding Stories Of Super Science appeared on the stands that untrimmed edges came into being on a science-fiction magazine. Astounding was the first pulp-size magazine and, as most pulp magazines, had untrimmed edges. Before that all s-f magazines: Amazing Stories, Science Wonder Stories, Air Wonder Stories, Amazing Stories Quarterly and Science Wonder Quarterly all were large size and had trimmed edges.

The low point of the untrimmed edges came in the mid-30's, when the three science-fiction magazines then published: Astounding Stories, Wonder Stories, and Amazing Stories all were pulp-size and had untrimmed edges.

## FANTASY FORECASTS

### Coming Up Next In The Pros

#### IF - Worlds Of Science Fiction

October 1955 issue: Short stories: LAST RITES by Charles Beaumont, MEETING OF THE BOARD by Alan E. Nourse, SLOW BURN by Henry Still, PRISONER OF EARTH by Robert E. Young, JUVENILE DELINQUENT by Ed W. Ludwig, Novelette: THE PROXIES by Arthur Selling. Short novel: THE ALMOST-MEN by Irving E. Cox, Jr. Features: WORTH CITING, WHAT IS YOUR SCIENCE I.Q.?, HUE AND CRY, SCIENCE BRIEFS and THE WORLD OF IF (a new department about people, authors, artists, books, movies, events, etc., in science-fiction). Cover by Ed Valigursky, "The Moon Ships".

## SUPPORT THE FANVETS

## WORLD NEWSFAX

by Forrest J Ackerman

SUPERFANTASCIENZA--this is a giant (350 page) pulpsize volume out of Italy with 3 sci-fi novels under the one cover. Now if we could just find someone who reads Italian --because one of the novels is by a Russian! N. Muhanof's contribution is called "Il Signore dei Mondi", which, from my Esperanto, looks like "The Master of the World". Laid in 2423 AD, chapetr heads seem to suggest action all the way from Atlantis to Mars, and one chapter head appears to translate into "End of the War and Revolution".

DOME AROUND AMERICA by Jack Wmson will be published by Ace...Tony Boucher has his first sci-fi collection (and his time too) coming from Ballantine...Ballantine is talking a collection with that "Chaddo's In the Sun" lad, Oliver...Oliver's had two offers from Italy for translation of Shadows in the Sun...Oliver & Beaumont are doing the 3rd in the F&SF supercliche series which began with "The Last Word" and continues with "I, Claud", the third to collect and kid the supernatural themes, with a big roundup scheduled for the 4th and (perhaps) last.

To keep you Posted on your New York Post checklist, the latest additions to the Sunday supplement section (Week-End Magazine) have been: following "Micro-Man" by Weaver Wright, "The Box" by Arthur Forges (1 May); "The Red and the Green", Joe L. Hensley (8th May); "All Cats Are Gray", Andre Norton (15 May); "The Trespassers", Bob Shaw (22 May); "The Liberator", Arthur Forges (29th)--all from my Agency, as are the Post's latest two purchases, "The New Sound" by Beaumont and "The Radioactive Bachelor" by Grinnell.

Latest Rumor Dept: That Marion Z. Bradley has left the Ackerman Agency for Harry Altshuler. Zim denies it while sending me her latest manuscript... "Ackerman was crooked on a deal with Henry Kuttner." Drop 'round and see my letter from Kuttner on that one which reads: "Dear Forry: Since, as we both know, we have never had any literary-dealings together, it would be diffi-



cult for "you to have been 'crooked' with me." The crooked minds at work again! Next Rumor?

Agents Jacques Chambrun and Scott Meredith have sent woo-letters to Ack client Charles Beaumont. I guess he's fair game, as I've represented him since the beginning of his career, five years ago, and have failed to ever ask him to sign a contract with me...Frank Gruber has just given me a historical fantasy, "Atilla's Assassin".....Arthur Jean Cox has completed his first novel, a remarkable off-trail tale of science-fantasy.....Samuel J. Sackett has just turned in to me his outstanding editorial job as original anthologist of THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY, a carefully nurtured collection featuring unusual new work by Farmer, Matheson, Beaumont and a large Table of Contents of other knowns & unknowns, all work especially prepared for Sackett...Ray Bradbury, in his next major work, will attempt to reassure anyone who may have doubts in these troublous times that life is still, nevertheless and notwithstanding worth living. Ray is infanticipating a third daughter and anticipating possibility (via Paul Gregory) of a Bdryplay presentation of Fahrenheit 451, to be followed by a movie version. F-451 is definitely scheduled for TV (hour long) this Sept.

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION  
(concluded from page 2, column 1)

almost every magazine has run at one time or another. I enjoyed the entire magazine, however MAD is one of those things you either like or dislike intensely. And after they satirized POGO it only made it worse.

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James V. Taurasi, Sr., & Ray Van Houten  
Editors and Publishers.

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FANTASY-TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

MAD STRIKES BACK! written by Harvey Kurtzman and illustrated by Jack Davis, Bill Elder and Wallace Wood, Ballantine Books, N.Y., (#106), 184pp., 35¢.

Hard on the heels of The MAD Reader, Ballantine has published a second, mad-but delightful anthology of stories from the unique MAD comics. Humor at it's mad best is to be found in some of MAD's top stories, including "Prince Violent", "Gogo Gossam!", "Poopoye!", "Ping-Pong!" and many, many others. Not s-f, but, my, oh my! -Lane Stannard