

Fantasy Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 10 - No. 227

SECOND JULY 1955 ISSUE

Ten Cents

NEW S-F MAG DUE
IN MID-SEPTEMBER;
LARRY SHAW EDITOR

December FANTASTIC
Will Be Special
"Dream" Issue

FIRST ISSUE OUT IN SEPTEMBER 1955

New York, NY, 15 June, (CNS) - Larry T. Shaw announced today that he is editing a new science-fiction magazine, as yet no title has been announced, that will be on the stands in mid September.

In his announcement, Mr. Shaw stated: "I am editing a brand - new science-fiction magazine. I can't tell you the title quite yet, although it has been chosen. While it's a real natural, incidentally, it has never been used in the past, and that includes minor variations of the same word.

The first issue will appear about the middle of September. It'll be digest-sized, bi-monthly
(cont. p. 2 - Col. 1)

by Howard Browne

New York; NY, 13 June, (CNS) - As you know, Fantastic has climbed steadily in sales since the April 1955, issue - perhaps because of the changes put into effect with that issue.

But we're still not satisfied. No matter how good a magazine is, it can be better! That's why we're constantly trying to come up with something different from the general run; something unlike the fare found in other science-fantasy publications.

Perhaps, in the December issue of Fantastic (on sale Sept. 8th) we'll have exactly that. At least, making a stab at it.

What will make it different?
(cont. p. 2 - col. 2)

35¢, 128 pages on good paper, plenty of illustrations and a full four-colored cover. Line-up of features has not been decided, but there won't be many.

Publisher is Magnum Publications, 47 East 44 St., New York 17, NY, which has set up a separate corporation, Royal Publications, for the purpose. They will also publish a new detective magazine, which I shall also edit. (Their magazines at present are: Celebrity, Male Life, and TV Review.)

I have been given a completely free-hand in the selection of stories. I don't want to outline a set editorial policy yet, but it'll be strictly science-fiction with emphasis on character and human interest but also on stories that really go somewhere and indulge in genuinely interesting speculation and extrapolation.

The first issue will include stories by James Blish and Harlan Ellison, so far. It'll be Harlan's first pro-published story, incidentally. I'll always include both big names and new writers.

And here's something really hot: I talked to E. E. Smith at Bellefontaine, and he is very enthusiastic about doing a new series of stories for me! They'll be s-f, not fantasy--and they'll be space-operas which will fulfill all the requirements I mentioned before. I fully expect them to be one of the most zesty and exciting series of yarns that have hit the magazine field in a long time.

At first, this will be a sideline; I'm still editing Rodding And Re-Styling on a full-time basis. But I hope that will change soon."

More detailed information on this new s-f magazine will appear in the near future.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS!

Well, all the stories have been written to follow a premise - the premise that all of us are Walter Mittys at heart. Mitty, as you know, is James Thurber's immortal character who day-dreamed himself into incredible adventures in which he was the hero. And all of us, at one time or another, sort of pictured being able to walk through solid walls or eavesdrop on what people were thinking of us or having every-beautiful woman we met fall in love with us. You know?

Fantasy? Sure, but not the kind of fantasy you usually encounter. For in all the stories in the December issue the hero is YOU! You are going to walk through that stone wall; you are going to hear what your girl friend is thinking; a thousand lovely women are going to fall in love with you. It should happen to me!

The lineup of stories runs something like this: "Between Two Worlds" - Milton Lesser; "All Walls Were Mist" - Paul W. Fairman; "The Man Who Read Minds" - by John Toland; "He Took What He Wanted" - C. H. Thames; etc. The titles pretty well tell what the stories are about - and we'll assure you they're all entertaining as all get out!

The cover - well, let's kind of hold back a description of it. One thing we'll guarantee: it's an eye-opener of the first magnitude!

As we say, this entire idea is in the nature of an experiment. The sales graph and the letters or postcards from readers will weigh heavily as to whether we run similar issues in the future."

Later information received on this issue states that the cover will be by Ed Valigursky; interiors will be by Alex Kotsky; Dick Shelton, and Lou Priscilla.

(cont. p. 3 - col. 2)

"X SCIENCE FICTION" DELAYED AGAIN

Mount Carmel, Ill., 9 June, (CNS)-
X Science Fiction will be delayed
perhaps for quite a while, Jim
Harmon announced today. This
vest-pocket sized s-f mag was ori-
ginally scheduled for the Fall
of 1954 and then rescheduled for
early 1955. Now no actually
schedule for the first issue has
been set.

Mr. Harmon stated: "What's
late with X Science Fiction? Ob-
viously: everything. It may be
even later than we think, but I
have not given up hope. Some
people congratulated me on an or-
iginal idea for a s-f magazine --
a vest-pocket-size, concise maglet
a la Quick -- but I find to my
surprise that this very same idea
has occurred to many other people
and reached various stages of
completion. Those pre-thinkers
before me include (according to
Usually Reliable Sources): Hugo
Gernsback, Sam Moskowitz, Bill
Crawford, Calvin Beck, John Ray-
mond, and the respective publish-
ers of Look, Colliers, & Tempo.
So if X doesn't make it out soon,
probably somebody will beat me to
the punch.

The trouble is, such a pock-
et-size slick to sell to a limited
market should have a relatively
high price: 25¢ or even a full
35¢. You'll note this is the
price on such specialist pocket-
slicks for the musclebound set,
motor maniacs, and leaflets of
udderly beautiful nudes. The
question is: would fans (and read-
ers) pay 35¢ for a microbe-sized
magazine with half as many stor-
ies as a digest, merely for good
paper, halftones, photos, and
possibly interior color. As for
the quality of the stories, an
editor of the Top Three saw th

contents for my first issue, said
that I had done a "wonderful" job.
I had planned on 10¢ or 15¢ as a
price-tag, but it seems stf has
to be overpriced to sell."

Mr. Harmon goes on to ask
the readers of Fantasy-Times to
write to him whether they'd be
willing to pay 25¢ or 35¢ (and
which) for a pocket science-fic-
tion slick. Address your letter
or postcard to Jim Harmon, 427 E.
8th St., Mt. Carmel, Ill.

THE DECEMBER "FANTASTIC" (cont. from p. 2, col. 2)

The readers' column and editorial
will be present. For this issue
only the sub-title "Science Fic-
tion" will be dropped from the
cover logo, but will return with
the issue after that.

SCIENTI-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

RECENT S/F BOOKS OUT:

BEYOND EDEN by David Duncan
(Cloth Bound Ed) Ballantine Books
NY, \$2.

A WAY HOME by Theodore Stur-
geon, Funk & Wagnall's, NY, \$3.50.

THE MARTIAN WAY & OTHER STOR-
IES by Isaac Asimov, Doubleday,
\$2.95.

SARGASSO OF SPACE by Andrew
North (Pseud. of Andre Norton),
Gnome Press, NY, \$2.50.

THE 1,000 YEAR PLAN by Isaac
Asimov and NO WORLD OF THEIR OWN
by Poul Anderson, Double Ace Nov-
els, NY (both in one volume), 35¢

SWITCH ON THE NIGHT by Ray
Bradbury, Pantheon Books, NY,
\$2.50.

GLADIATOR - AT - LAW by C. M.
Kornbluth & F. Pohl, Ballantine
NY, 35¢.

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

Old-time fan, s-f illustrator and cartoon artist, John Giunta has recently sold to Fantastic and Amazing Stories. Giunta was a very active fan in the 30s and did illustrations and stories for numerous fan magazines. In the early 40s he started doing work for the comic magazines and is considered today one of the best in the field. Along with Manny Stallman, he does the comic book, Big Town, a D-C-Superman publication. He has also done many science-fiction cartoon strips, but his first love has always been science-fiction illustrations. He has had work in the pre-war and post-war Super Science, Avon Science Fiction and Fantasy Reader, 10 Story Fantasy, Comet Stories and many others. You'll soon see his excellent work in the two Ziff-Davis magazines.

Serials will return to Amazing Stories when it goes monthly with the February 1956 issue. They will run about 60,000 words and probably be broken up into four parts. Howard Browne plans to run them, as serials were run in the old days. In the issue where the last part of one serial is presented, the first part of a new serial will be published.

With the current Vol. 2-#1 (#13) issue of The British Science Fiction Magazine it has changed its name to British Space Fiction Magazine. Still edited by "Vargo Statten", it is now pocket-book size, 128 pages, monthly & 1/6. Contents listed now on cover, with a small colored painting on left side. Very neat.

FANDOM HOUSE

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