

Fourteenth Anniversary Issue!

Beginning Our Fifteenth Year Of Publication

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 10 - No. 230

First September 1955 Issue

Ten Cents

Ackerman Subpoenaed In License Investigation!

by Arthur Jean Cox

Well-Known S-F Literary Agent Accused Of Operating Business Outside The Law

Los Angeles, Calif., 28 July, (CNS) - Forrest J. Ackerman, literary agent who specializes in science-fiction, long-time s-f fan, and target of many a disparaging rumor-monger and mud-slinger over the years, was accused on the floor of the Los Angeles S-F Society at their meeting today of operating his literary agency without the proper license from the State Of California.

His accuser, Peter Kranold, a member of the Society, had attempted to present his charges at the previous meeting on July 21st, but they were not admitted to the floor because Ackerman was not then present to defend himself.

Mr. Ackerman received a subpoena from the Los Angeles Division of the California State Board of Industrial Relations to appear before them on the afternoon of Friday, July 29th, at

which time Mr. Kranold's charges would be reviewed.

During the LASFS meeting, Kranold proceeded to make the following charges --- 1) Forrest J. Ackerman was operating a literary agency without being bonded by the State of California; 2) he customarily sold world rights to his clients' stories, whereas other agents sold only first North American serial rights; 3) he sometimes sold stories for one-half cent per word, while other agents would take no less than two cents per word for a story; 4) Walter Ernsting, editor of the German s-f mag, "Utopia", Kranold alleged, had stated in a letter that Ackerman was supposed to be donating his commissions from sales to that magazine "to the club treasury", while a check-up with the LASFS director and former treasurer revealed that no such donations had been made; and 5) Ackerman had sold a story which his ten-year-old stepson, Michael, had written, for \$5, and had kept

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

50¢ as a commission on the sale, which Mr. Kranold characterized as "an example of unprecedented greed".

Ackerman said nothing during all this, but sat listening with an amused and wondering expression.

Kranold Expelled From LASFS

At this point, Ed M. Clinton, Jr., former director of the LASFS, arose and made a short statement to the effect that he felt that Mr. Kranold was incompatible with the rest of the membership of the club, moved that his \$1 membership fee be refunded, and that he be "banned from further participation in club activities".

This was seconded, and Mr. Kranold rose to make his defense. He had brought these charges before the club, he said, because "Ackerman founded the club and anything he is charged with reflects on the club".

After this, a vote was taken and the motion to expel Mr. Kranold from membership in the LASFS was carried unanimously.

Ackerman Answers Charges

In response to questions from other members, Ackerman answered two of Kranold's charges.

He said that when Ernsting started his mag, "Utopia", in Germany, Ackerman had suggested that Ernsting hold back 10% of whatever money was due for material from the Ackerman Agency, to be used by Ernsting for financing the magazine --- this amount, which would ordinarily be the Agency's commission on the sales, to be known as the "Alden Lorraine Fund". (Alden Lorraine was the name of Ackerman's brother, killed in Germany during WW II).

This, said Ackerman, was apparently what Kranold was referring to when he quoted Ernsting on "donations to the club treasury".

Ackerman admitted that he had sold a story by his stepson, Michael, to a British mag for \$3.50, but that they hadn't been paid for it yet. "Besides," he added, "Since my minimum fee for selling a story is \$5, I figure the boy

still owes me a dollar and a half."

ACKERMAN EXONERATED AT BOARD HEARING

Los Angeles, Calif., 29 July, (CNS) - Peter Kranold appeared before the California State Board of Industrial Relations here today, charging Forrest J. Ackerman well-known science-fiction literary agent, with operating a literary agency without a license.

Present at the hearing besides Kranold and the defendant was the latter's wife, Wendayne, and a half-dozen clients and friends, including your reporter --- "all of whom," Mr. Kranold told the commissioner, "Would be willing to lie for him, if necessary".

Ackerman had with him an inch-thick sheaf of licenses authorizing him to operate a literary agency; but discovered that the exact charge against him was for operating an employment agency without the proper license!

The Commissioner questioned Kranold as to whether Ackerman had promised him a job of some sort. Kranold replied that he thought that that was the implication of Ackerman's consenting to handle a television script he had written: that if the script was liked by some T-V producer, it might mean that he could get a job working for a studio as a script writer --- although he didn't recall that Ackerman had said anything of that nature.

Ackerman asserted that his business consisted solely of placing stories with publishers and producers, and that he had not, as yet, gotten jobs for his clients. He also said that although he had accepted four manuscripts from Mr. Kranold, their relationship had never been on a business basis --- that no money of any amount had ever changed hands between them --- a statement which Kranold confirmed.

Case Is Dismissed

The Commissioner, obviously perplexed, dismissed the case, declaring
(Concluded on Page 4, Column 1)

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July 23, 1955

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

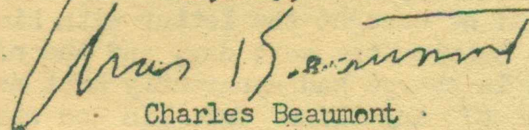
For the past four years the whole of my work has been handled exclusively by the Ackerman Authors Agency. Forry Ackerman has, in this time, contributed heavily by his efforts to whatever reputation I may now enjoy, and I wish publicly to express my gratitude, sincerely and without hesitation. In every way, our dealings have been mutually pleasant and satisfactory; Forry has labored far beyond the call of duty, and I cannot think of an occasion when he has not been completely -- almost fanatically -- honest, both in his opinions of my stories and in his business relationships. Certainly it is true that there never lived a kinder man, or one more thoughtful in the currently small matters of 'Author's Sensitivity' and personal loyalty. And I shall never have a better friend.

Since most of this is well-known, however, and since it is a fact that I have withdrawn from the services of the Ackerman Authors Agency, I feel a brief explanation can do no harm.

I have switched to the Harold Matson Company for a very simple reason: Whereas at one time my work consisted almost entirely of science-fiction and fantasy, it now consists primarily of 'Straight' fiction, with sf accounting for less than 10% of the total output. The Ackerman Authors Agency was begun as a service specifically for science fiction writers. As such it has flourished and functioned more than well; through its methods I have had placed all but two or three of my efforts in the genre (and these two or three flatly unreadable). In this connection I have no complaint whatever. Forry consistently marketed my sf, quickly, and to excellent magazines -- including a number of slicks and anthologies.

Yet though I am sure that there is no better agency than Forry's for science-fiction, I feel that a New York agency must automatically be of greater value to the non-specialized writer. And it is for this reason, and for no other, that I have made the change. Forry and I remain, as we have been for twelve years, very close friends. He's a gentleman of honor, one of the best sf agents in the business, and the nicest guy who ever drew breath.

Sincerely,



Charles Beaumont

ACKERMAN EXONERATED AT BOARD HEARING
(Concluded from Page 2, Column 2)

that he "simply could not see where Mr. Ackerman had violated any law". Kranold left, vowing that he would gather "further evidence", and that he would not rest until he saw "Ackerman and Campbell in jail." (This last was probably a reference to John W. Campbell, Jr., editor of "Astounding Science-Fiction".)

(Editor's Note: a telephone call to John W. Campbell, Jr., at his New Jersey home, as to his possible acquaintanceship with Peter Kranold, produced the information that Mr. Campbell "never heard of him". There are a number of other Campbells connected with science-fiction, including H. J. Campbell, William Gault Campbell and "Clyde Crane Campbell".)

Mr. Kranold had previously emphasized, in a private conversation, the seriousness of the charges, pointing out that conviction could mean a fine of \$10,000 and/or one to five years imprisonment. He also had told me that "the state has had its eye on Ackerman" and that it "has been preparing this case against him for a long time". He said that he had no personal interest in the affair and that he was appearing as "chief witness for the prosecution"; that as a "friend" of Ackerman's, he had succeeded in getting them to reduce the charge from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Actually, as I learned from reading the subpoena and attending the hearing, Kranold himself was the one and only claimant in the case. The State Board had absolutely no interest in the matter, aside from determining the truth or falsity of Kranold's charges.

Also, at the LASFS meeting at which Kranold made his charges, he was asked to show the letter from Walter Ernsting, but he said he couldn't, "because it was in the Government safe at the State Building" and couldn't be produced until "the trial".

Actually, it seems he was mistaken in this: he brought the letter with him to the hearing the next day, and the official in charge had apparently kept no papers of any kind for him and was viewing the evidence for the first

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time.

Wendayne Ackerman, who speaks and reads German, asked to see it at the hearing, and Kranold pointed out to her the passage in question, which she read aloud (in English). Both she and Kranold agreed on the literal translation of the words, but disagreed as to their interpretation --- the sentence or two concerned were rather vague. Kranold refused to let her see the rest of the letter, but it was apparently a forceful defense of Ackerman against some charges Kranold had made to Ernsting in a letter.

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WANTED

In connection with a proposed checklist of Science-Fiction and Fantasy Anthologies, if anyone has any information concerning the original publication dates of stories by the following authors: SAKI, JAN STRUTHER, ALGERNON BLACKWOOD, A. E. COPPARD, W. F. HARVEY, W. H. HODGSON, M. R. JAMES, H. F. WELLS: please contact W. R. Cole, 307 Newkirk Ave., Brooklyn 30, N.Y.

Fantasy-Times Magazine

SECTION TWO

(Formerly "Fantasy-Times Book Reviews")

Vol. 1 - No. 5

September 1955

Cox Again Cops Top Spot In F-T Survey

NEWS OF PRO-MAGS AND BOOK PROVE MOST INTERESTING TO "FANTASY-TIMES" READERS

Paterson, NJ, 30 June, (CMS) - A tally, completed today, of our readers' opinions of material which is appearing in "Fantasy-Times" reveals that Arthur Jean Cox's "Cosmic Reporter" has again placed first in interest, as it did in the two previous polls which have been taken, with a whopping score of 95%.

In the categories of news, professional magazines and books led the parade, with scores of 95% and 91% respectively.

Almost 30% of the "F-T" readership responded by sending in filled-out green sheets, giving a sampling large enough to gladden the heart of any pollster.

Bas is for the scores was the awarding of points -- 1 point for "yes", 2 point for "so-so", and zero points for "no". Percentages were then calculated against the number of returns received.

The complete tally is as follows:

TYPES OF NEWS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Professional Magazines | 95% |
| 2. Books | 91% |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 3. Professional Personalities | 85% |
| 4. Films, Radio & TV | 84% |
| 5. Fan News | 73% |
| 6. British News | 69% |
| 7. Fan Personalities | 69% |
| 8. Fan Magazines | 64% |
| 9. Other Foreign News | 64% |
| 10. Australian News | 60% |
| 11. Comic Magazines | 35% |
| 12. Newspaper Comics | 30% |

REGULAR COLUMNS

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Cosmic Reporter | 95% |
| 2. S-F Navsscope | 90% |
| 3. World Newsfax | 86% |
| 4. Scienti-Books | 86% |
| 5. Notes To The Editor | 86% |
| 6. Films, Radio & TV | 80% |
| 7. Slick S-F | 79% |
| 8. State Of Fandom | 78% |
| 9. F-T Book Reviews | 78% |
| 10. Fantasy-Record | 75% |
| 11. Fantasy Forecasts | 75% |
| 12. British News | 69% |
| 13. German News | 51% |
| 14. British Fantasy Record | 50% |
| 15. Australian Fantasy Record | 46% |
| 16. Fantasy Comics | 36% |

Thomas S. Gardner's yearly report on s-f had to be figured separately, as

a number of our newer readers had never read it and hence answered with a "?" or comments such as "what is it?" On the basis of total returns in Dr. Gardner scored a respectable 75%, but on the basis of returns which rated his column, he made a fat 90%.

Answers to the list of four questions proved most interesting.

In the matter of raising our subscription price provided we gave increased wordage and better appearance by going photo-offset or printed, 66% were in favor, 29% opposed, 5% indifferent.

On advance reproduction of upcoming covers on the professional magazines, opinion was equally divided --- 50% for and 50% against. This is surprising in view of the fact that news of pro maga was rated first.

As to our using covers of our own, readers turned the idea down overwhelmingly --- 23% in favor, 70% against, 7% indifferent.

Articles, when space permits, were landslided in by a score of 80% for, and only 17% opposed. A mere 3% were indifferent.

The preferences of our readership as revealed by this poll will be a very valuable guide to us in putting out "Fantasy-Times" in the future, and we wish to thank all those who took the trouble to return sheets, with a special bow for the many additional comments and suggestions.

"FANTASY-TIMES" FOR THAT XMAS PRESENT

Paterson, N.J., 7 August, (CNS) - This year, for that science-fiction fan, that science-fiction author, that science-fiction editor, that science-fiction artist, that science-fiction publisher, or that science-fiction reader, give them THE Christmas present that will be with them the whole year round, and be the best science-fiction present he ever received. Send them Fantasy-Times.

Fantasy-Times will present to them your good wishes all year round and also keep them informed with the latest news of the science/fantasy field that they are so interested in.

Rates to Fantasy-Times are very low. \$2.00 a full year, 24 issues; or \$1.00 for 6 months, 12 issues. Fantasy

FTM 2

FANTASY-TIMES MAGAZINE (Section 2 Of Fantasy-Times)

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EDITORIAL NOTE:

BECAUSE the publication of book reviews in this "section two" of Fantasy-Times was delaying the reviews too long, we have changed this section to articles, and have returned the book reviews back to the main body of Fantasy-Times.

WE invite our readers to submit short articles up to 1,500 words for future publication in this section. Return postage should be enclosed with each article, in case of non-acceptance. No payment can be made for use of said articles. Subject matter must be connected with science/fantasy.

The Editors

-Times comes out twice a month and as you well know, is the oldest science fiction newspaper in the field.

Send us the money (for 1 year or 6 months) for each person and we'll send him a card around Christmas time stating that you are sending him Fantasy-Times as a Christmas present. All such Xmas gifts will start with the First January 1956 issue.

In order for us to send him the Xmas card and get it to him before Xmas we place a deadline of November 1st for all Xmas gifts of Fantasy-Times.

Address all requests for this special Xmas gifts of Fantasy-Times to : FANDOM HOUSE, Dept "X", P. O. Box #2331 Paterson 23, New Jersey.

For British s/f magazines and s/f books we recommend the MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE. Everything in print in the s/f line can be obtained from them, plus some back issues. Write to MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

MORE ON --

Why "IF" Went Bi-monthly

by James L. Quinn

OTHER REASONS, perhaps stronger than those published recently in Fantasy-Times, on "Why IF went bi-Monthly", are television, movies and the Doubleday Science-Fiction Book Club. Every science-fiction thing I have seen on television (with the possible exception of three or four which were not listed as science-fiction) have been so poor that they are almost embarrassing to watch. So - no recruiting of new readers here. Movies, again with very few exceptions, put out some rather atrocious examples -- the kind that make possible readers of science-fiction shy away. And I'm not alone in this opinion. Persons having been initiated by some of the nauseating productions on TV and in movies have remarked: "I couldn't go for that stuff if you paid me...etc...". And a dealer in science-fiction books, magazines, pamphlets, etc., for the past nine years, writes me rather emphatically that the Doubleday S.F. Book Club is doing as much to kill the magazines and other books as anything else.

Here are a few lines from a letter dated June 8th: "I am afraid that, so long as Doubleday keeps their Science Fiction Book Club -- the field will not improve one iota. If there is a science-fiction dollar in the pockets of a science-fiction fan -- Doubleday will get it. There is just not enough money amongst the fans to support this book club --- and the magazines too --- the field is too small. I know what I am talking about as I have talked with dozens of customers --- in person and

M R. QUINN'S magazine, "IF", went bi-monthly recently, and we of "Fantasy-Times" were most interested in why it did so. It published good fiction, was well-illustrated, and had a very good format.

Mr. Quinn answered our request for information, and we published his statement a few issues back. No sooner had that issue been mailed than additional information was sent in by Mr. Quinn.

That additional information is published here. -The Editors

written to them by mail -- and I get the same reply: since the book club, the fans have confined their s-f buying to Book Club selections; and as a result have cut down on their magazine buying. Just think back -- sales in the science-fiction field started slumping just at the time Doubleday started this Science-Fiction Book Club --- and with their tremendous advertising --- they reached every science-fiction reader in the country, month after month. It wasn't too noticeable at first; but as they kept advertising in every science-fiction magazine, magazine paper-bound sales started to drop month after month; and so did cloth bound sales, too.

"I have dropped all my advertising since the Book Club started -- and I can honestly say, I got no results from any of my ads since the Club was rolling along --- regardless of what magazines my ads appeared in."

I thought this additional material might be of interest -- for the science
(Continued on Page FTM 4, Column 2)

by Arthur Jean Cox

I was surprised and pleased to note (in "Fantasy - Times" #228) that "Cordwainer Smith" has a novelette, "The Game Of Rat And Dragon", coming up in the October "Galaxy". "Smith" is the author of a wonderful story, a genuine "classic", called "Scanners Live In Vain", which somehow found its way into "Fantasy Book" #6 --- a Crawford publication, an ill-fated predecessor of the ill-fated "Spaceway". It's a story which few people seem to have read, but those who have acknowledge it as a very unusual story. To the best of my information, it is the only story which "Smith" has ever had published. After its appearance, I tried to find out all I could about him from the editor of "Fantasy Book", and was told that it was the pseudonym of someone who lived in Washington, D.C.; my impression at the time was that this was all the editor knew. Forrest J Ackerman, if I remember correctly, tried to get in touch with the author, but --- unsuccessfully! He couldn't be found. Lets hope he's here to stay this time --- especially if his second story is as good as his first!

MORE ON WHY "IF" WENT BI-MONTHLY
(Concluded from Page FIM 3, Column 2)

fiction fans should know why the future prospects are not too good.

It seems to be Old Home Month in "Astounding", with the August issue: stories by Eric Frank Russell, Lester del Rey, L. Sprague de Camp and James Blish, and illustrations by Hubert Rogers.

R. S. Richardson, science - fiction's captive astronomer and guest of honor at the recent Westercon, has a new juvenile coming soon from McGraw-Hill, title: "Second Satellite".

Forrest Ackerman tells me that Germany "is hot for the Shavery Mystery". Someone there wants to publish the entire series in book form --- "which turns the stomach", adds Forry.

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