

THE SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

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Ten Cents

"BRITISH SPACE FICTION MAGAZINE" SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

Liverpool, England, 14 April, (CNS) - Fantasy-Times' British Agent, Milcross Book Service, informed us today that British Space Fiction Magazine has "temporarily discontinued" publication with the current Vol. 2, No. 7 issue.

British Space Fiction Magazine started life as a large-size (approx 7 1/2" x 10") 64 page pulp magazine under the title Vargo Statten Science Fiction Magazine. It then boasted colorful covers and large full page interior illustrations, and priced at 1/6. For a few years before the magazine appeared, the British market had been flooded with numerous pocket - book novels by Vargo Statten (a pen-name of Eric Frank Russell) which had sold quite successfully. Shortly after its first issue, dated January 1954, Scion Limited, its publisher went out of business and Dragon Publications Ltd. took over the magazine.

It went from the large size to digest-size, and changed its name to British Science Fiction Magazine. It dropped most of the interior illustrations, but still continued its colorful covers. Later it went to its present pocket-book size, 128 pages but still kept its price at 1/6. It dropped its colored covers, and inserted the contents page there. This contents cover had a permanent full color picture of a rocket ship in a 1 1/2" strip on its left (concluded on page 4, column 1)

EIGHTH "FANQUET" BREAKS RECORD

Sixty fangelenos turned out to toast Helen M. Urban, winner of the LASFES' sponsored annual banquet for most successful club fan turned pro. Large-attendances in previous years had feted Ed. M. Clinton Jr, Mel Hunter, L. Major Reynolds and other winners (including the original, E. Everett Evans); But 60 was the all-time top figure. Evelyn Gold, Ib Melchior, Ed Clinton, Winona McClintic, Gene Hunter, Rick Sneary, Len Moffatt and Stan Woolston (presy of NSF) were among those present to hear toastmaster Forrest Ackerman emcee and introduce the Guest of Honor, a former sec'y and director of the LASFES who has in the past year sold to F&SF and two British sci-fi magazines. Mrs Urban's fanquet speech will be published en toto in Magnitudes, organ of the Chesley Donavan Foundation.

FIRST "RELAXICON" REAL GONE

The brainchild of Es & Les Cole of Northern Califandom blossomed beautifully over the weekend of 7-9 April as 18 adults, mainly pro's, converged on Carmel Valley, about 150 south of S a n Francisco and 550 north of Los Angeles. Forrest Ackerman drove Evelyn Gold up; Tony Boucher trained down from Berkeley; Mildred Clingerman planed in all (concluded on page 5, column 1)

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

I was misinformed when I wrote recently that L. Ron Hubbard was a personal friend of the "Bridey Murphy" hypnotist, Morey Bernstein...I have no information that he actually is.

Robert A. Heinlein surprised most Los Angeles fans by praising the "discovery", or scientific establishment of reincarnation, by Morey Bernstein, in his article in the 30th Anniversary Issue of Amazing Stories. Heinlein seems like the last person to be "taken in" by "Bridey Murphy". I suppose that it's possible that he might write a story about the subject. The fictional possibilities of the idea of reincarnation have been neglected in science-fiction; the only such story I know of which has been published in recent years is "Last Energy", by H. Beam Piper, which appeared in the August, 1950, Astounding Science Fiction.

CAPSULE REVIEWS: "Invasion of the Body Snatchers", a Walter Wanger picture based on the science-fiction novel by Jack Finley which was serialized in Collier's. A real thriller, one which no science-fiction fan should miss. It contains a logical flaw or two, but is otherwise chillingly plausible. Unfortunately, it ends just when it's really getting interesting...The audience booed this one when it ended--because it was ending...."The Atomic Man", an English garde-B mystery-science-fiction movie, starring Gene Nelson, who usually dances, and Faith Domergue. Fairly entertaining. One gimmick in it is a man who is seven-and-one-half seconds ahead of the rest of the world in time."Helen Of Troy", a Warner Brothers picture starring Jack Sternas and Rosanna Podesta, is an attempt to "popularize" The Liliad. Much of this "popularizing" consisted of editing out all the supernatural elements which were present in the original. Despite this, the picture is usually interesting and sometimes impressive...."Indestructible" (concluded on page 4, column 1)

conducted by Roger Dard

(11 April) Science Fiction Monthly, #8, digest-size, 98 pages, 2/-. Contents: "Simpson" Philip Katham; "Homecoming" Irving Cox Jr.; "When The Five Moons Rise" Jack Vance; "Shadows Before" A. Bertram Chandler; "Night On Horseback" Winston K. Marks; Neither the cover nor the interior illos are signed. The interior illos in this issue are black-and-white only, color has been dropped for the time being, apparently.

An Index To The Australian Science Fiction Magazines. An 18 page mimeographed booklet listing the contents of "Thrills Incorporated"; "Future Science Fiction"; "Popular Science Fiction" and the one-shot "Orbit Science Fiction". No price is stated for the booklet, unfortunately, so anyone wanting a copy should write to the publisher, Graham B. Stone, Box 4440, GPO Sydney, NSW, Australia.

(29 March) And now for added details by Graham B. Stone: About #8 Science Fiction Monthly, he adds: "The Editorial Page" unsigned, on fandom again. Cover shows two space-suited men thawing a swimsuited girl out of ice. Pretty good. Format as usual: no interior color in illos, just red headings. Mediocre illustrations."

No. 9 Science Fiction Monthly (May) will contain: "The Last Plunge" S.J. Sackett "Es Percipi" Stephen Marlowe, "Deadline Sunday" Daniel F. Galouye, "The Pioneer" Irving Cox Jr., "No Gun To The Victor", Theodore R. Cogswell, "The Editorial" unsigned, on space stations. Cover shows flying saucer attacking a city with citizens in the foreground registering alarm. Signed, but illegibly. Interior color blue, with two colored illos, the rest plain.

No. 10 Science Fiction Monthly (June) will contain: "The Day The Sun Died" Danile F. Galouye, "The Underground" Gordon Dickson, "Martyr's Flight" Hank Searls, "Selling Point" Norman Arkawy, "Not In The Script" Arnold Marmor, No (concluded on page 4, column 1)

INTRODUCING James Blish's

Fantasy-Times Book Reviews

FORBIDDEN PLANET, by W. J. Stuart; Bantam Books, 1956. 184 pp., 35¢.

This is a typical Hollywood product, which should be all the warning anyone needs. The fiction part of it includes a mad scientist, his beautiful daughter who's never seen another man, a spaceship captain, a robot, an invisible menace, a lost race...in short a huge grab-bag of 1928 cliches. As for the science, it starts off on the first page of the introduction with the usual ignorant blurt about the Lorentz-Eitzgerald contraction ("the Einsteinian belief that at or past the speed of light mass must become infinite") and goes downhill from there; the rest is a garble, of which "short the continuum on a six parsec level" is a fair sample. The story is told from the points of view of four different people, for reasons which mystify me, since all of them think and talk alike.

Worth at all costs.

ROBOT TOMORROW, by Arthur C. Clarke. Ballantine Books, 1956. 166 pp., 35¢

Another dozen stories by s-f's man of the year, ranging from his first published story, "Rescue Party", to three yarns published in 1953. Some of these are rather slight -- several, indeed, are no more than notions, stated in a few pages and abandoned, but even in this category there are surprises: "The Forgotten Enemy", for instance, is only a notion, but it's told with real conviction. "The Possessed", on the other hand, shows all the usual defects of the notion story, plus a defect almost never encountered in Clarke's work: the fact which the notion attempts to explain, the suicidal migration of the lemmings, is not a fact at all.

"Time's Arrow" is a performance of quite a different kind. Here Clarke paces the gradual solving of a puzzle

in physics by what looks at first like a symbol-system, a paleontological puzzle involving the track of a dinosaur in pursuit of its prey. It is a symbol-system, of course, and a good one, but it's more than that; the two apparently academic threads are brought together with an enormous dramatic jolt at the end. Tight plotting as most of us understand the term is a rarity in this writer's work, but obviously he can handle it as well as anyone when he chooses to.

As a collection the book is weak, at least for Clarke, but nevertheless well worth owning.

I, ROBOT, by Isaac Asimov.NAL Signet, 1956. 192 pp., 35¢.

I missed this collection when it came out in hard covers in 1950; I cannot imagine why. Anyhow, here it is in paperback, and well worth anybody's 35¢ -- or two bucks.

Asimov has given us two examples of story-series which afterwards are knitted, with mixed success, into a unified book. The massive "Foundation" series is so long that it is hard to retain any overall, unified impression of it; "I, Robot" is considerably easier to digest. The individual stories (except for "Robbie", which is slight to the point of wispieness) stand up well; the overall story suffers somewhat. The difficulty lies, I think, in the fact that there is no character development. Though a number of characters persist from chapter to chapter -- and Dr. Susan Calvin has been written in throughout -- none of them change, or are ever seen from the inside.

The idea, however, undergoes a complete evolution, thoroughly fascinating in itself. To this extent the book has unity -- a unity that is more hindered than increased by the transitional passages which Dr. Asimov has supplied to tie the episodes together.

These passages are apparently supposed to provide narrative continuity, but since there isn't any continuous narrative, these bits of piano wire and glue don't have anything to attach to. Only the grand idea undergoes development -- and it is sufficient and satisfying.

"BRITISH SPACE FICTION MAGAZINE"
(concluded from page 1, column 1)

side. It now contained stories, numerous articles and departments.

Though it always was listed as a monthly, it didn't at times come out on a monthly schedule for various reasons.

So after 19 issues and almost two and a half years of publication, it has stopped publication, leaving the British field to New Worlds, Nebula, Science-Fantasy, Authentic Science Fiction and the US reprints: Galaxy, Astounding Science Fiction Quarterly, Future Science Fiction and Spaceway.

THE COSMIC REPORTER
(concluded from page 2, column 1)

Man", starring Lon Chaney. A typical man-made monster picture; to be missed, if possible.... "The Creature Walks Among Us", starring Rex Reason and Jeff Morrow, produced by Universal-International. An honest attempt to film a good horror picture. If you liked the first two "Creature" films, you'll like this one..... Other science-fiction pictures currently circulating: "World Without End" and "On The Threshold Of Space".

New BOOKS, mostly juveniles: "Zip-Zip and his Flying Saucer" by John M. Schealer, illus., \$2.50; "Jules Verne, His Life" by Catherine Owen Pearce (Juv.), illus., \$2.25. "The Screaming Ghost", by Carl Carmer -- "factual" ghostlore, Knoff, \$3.00; "Bald Iggle", cartoon book by Al Capp, Simon & Schuster, probably \$1.00; "Starboy" by Carl Bismiller \$2.50.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWS
(concluded from page 2, column 2)

editorial. Blue headings only. Cover shows spacesuited man confronting indistinct figure (alien?) apparently on the moon. Good!

I Can Now Report that with No. 12 (August) will commence the feature "The Science-Fiction Scene" which I shall be running. This will be a section of reviews and general news and discussion running up to sixteen pages. The magazine will increase to 114 pages, price remaining 2/-. Subscriptions will be available at the rate of four issues for \$1.00 if any U.S. fans are interested in seeing it. Single copies 30¢. (Copies at above prices can be obtained from Mr. Stone, address above. -eds.)

No. 12 is to include Robert Moore Williams, Raymond Z. Gallun, Poul Anderson, Philip K. Dick and others.

Managing editor Michael Cannon says: "Our general policy is to reprint complete editions of overseas magazines as far as possible, for the time being."

THE FANTASY RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

OUT IN THE U.S. IN JANUARY 1956:

(Editorial Note: The lateness of this report is due to the US Post-Office. Mr. Prieto mailed in the January report twice and it never reached the Fantasy-Times editorial office. This version of the report was phoned in. The February and March reports will appear in the next issue of Fantasy-Times. -eds)

Ten science/fantasy magazines came out in January 1956. They were: Imaginative Tales, March '56; Fantastic Universe SF, March '56; Fantasy & Science Fiction, Feb. '56; Fantastic, April '56; Amazing Stories, Feb. '56; Other Worlds, Feb. '56; Science Fiction Stories, March '56; Astounding SF, Feb. '56; Galaxy SF, March '56; and Imagination, April '56.

All except Other Worlds were digest-size, OW being pulp. All cost 35¢ each, with a total of \$3.50 for all mags. The pulp contained 98 pages, the digests 1,227 pages, for a grand total of 1,325 pages.

Classified Ads rate: 2¢ a word, including name & address, 25 words minimum, remittance must be sent with order.

by Forrest J Ackerman*

A Checklist of New York Post Science-Fiction (bringing up-to-date listing to 24 April, 1955 published in Fantasy-Times No. 223)

DATE	NAME OF STORY	AUTHOR	REPRINTED FROM
1 May, 1955	"The Box"	Porges *	Startling Stories
8 May, 1955	"The Red And The Green"	Joe L. Hensley *	S F Quarterly
15 May, 1955	"All Cats Are Gray"	Andre Norton *	Fantastic Universe SF
22 May, 1955	"The Trespassers"	Bob Shaw *	Nebula S F
29 May, 1955	"The Liberator"	Arthur Porges *	Fantasy & S F
5 June, 1955	"The Radioactive Bachelor"	David Grinnell *	Pen
19 June, 1955	"The Rats"	Arthur Porges *	Man's World
26 June, 1955	"The Twilight Years"	Kirk & Garen Drussai *	If
3 July, 1955	"Shah Guido G."	Isaac Asimov	Marvel Science
10 July, 1955	"Greetings From Earth"	Sherwood Springer *	Imagination
17 July, 1955	"The Raid"	James Causey *	Other Worlds
24 July, 1955	"The Great Judge"	AE van Vogt *	Fantasy Book
31 July, 1955	"Punishment Fit The Crime"	Lyn Venable *	Other Worlds
4 Sept., 1955	"Show Business"	Boyd Eilleyby	If
11 Sept., 1955	"One Man War"	L. Major Reynolds *	Vortex S F
18 Sept., 1955	"Grim Fairy Tale"	Garen Drussai *	Vortex S F
18 Sept., 1955	"The Sportsman"	Sylvia Jacobs *	Vortex S F
25 Sept., 1955	"Homesick Lake"	Norman Arkawy and Stanley Henig	Fantastic Universe SF
2 Oct., 1955	"The Farmer's Daughter And The Martian"	Richard Terzian *	Vortex S F
9 Oct., 1955	"Native Son"	T D Hamm *	Imagination
16 Oct., 1955	"One Out Of Many"	Mark Pines *	Spaceway
23 Oct., 1955	"Franchise"	Isaac Asimov	If
30 Oct., 1955	"The End"	Charles E. Fritch *	Universe S F
6 Nov., 1955	"I'll Kill You Tomorrow"	Helen Huber *	If
13 Nov., 1955	"Then There Was Peace"	L. Major Reynolds *	Spaceway
20 Nov., 1955	"The Corner"	T D Hamm *	Vortex S F
27 Nov., 1955	"Guilty As Charged"	Arthur Porges	Best S F of '55
4 Dec., 1955	"The Highway"	Ray Bradbury	
11 Dec., 1955	"The Window"	Ray Bradbury	Collier's

*Represented by Ackerman Science-Fiction Agency.

(Editorial Note: The above stories appear almost every week in the Week-End Magazine section of the Sunday New York Post. They are one page in length and are usually illustrated. This is the second index of these stories; the first index appeared in No. 223 of Fantasy-Times. Mr. Ackerman will continue this index from time to time. --the editors.) (Note that no stories appeared in August of 1955.)

FIRST RELAXICON REAL CONE

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

the way from Tucson, Ariz; and Miriam Allen deFord, Roy Squires, Mari Wolf, Mel Sturais and others were among those attending the informal gabfest of golf, swimming, pingpong, croquet, elbowbend-

ing, singing, sunning, dancing, anecdoting and smorgasbord. Anyone attempting to discuss science-fiction or business was dunked in the pool. Candid films were shot of Tony Le Bouch in fashionable Bermudas and Evelyn Gold in fashionable swimsuit. Rumor hath it these films may be rented from Les Cole.

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A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

(established 1937)

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

FANTASY FORECASTS

[Coming Up Next In The Pros]

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, July 1956:

THE DYING NIGHT (novelet) by Isaac Asimov, THE DAMNEDST THING by Garson Kanin, HOUR WITHOUT GLORY by Robert Abernathy, THE CONTRACT by Bryce Walton, MARTINS: 12 TO 1 by Mark Reynolds, INSURING A REVOLUTION (article) by J. Francis McComas, WHITE GODDESS by Idris Seabright, EMILY AND THE BARDS SUBLIME

FANDOM HOUSE

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by Robert F. Young, THE WAITING ROOM by R. V. Cassill, RECOMMENDED READING (a department) by Anthony Boucher, THE SILK AND THE SONG (Novelet) by Charles L. Fontenay, THE CLUB SECRETARY by Lord Dunsany, NO MORNING AFTER by Arthur C. Clarke, I WANT MY NAME IN THE TITLE by Winona McClintic. Cover is by Chesley Bonestell ("Putting Rocket Into Upright Position For Take Off"), the painting is from "The Exploration Of Mars" by Werner von Braun, Willy Ley, and Chesley Bonestell, to be published by The Viking Press.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWSCOPE

[conducted by J. Harry Vincent]

Howard Browne is expected back at Ziff-Davis from Hollywood on May 1st.....We understand that Virgil Finlay will do covers and interior illustrations for Galaxy in the near future, no bubbles.....The 50th Anniversary Amazing issue to remain on stands another 30 days, two issues April & May now on stands.....REPLIES TO APPEAL OF MRS. NAT SCHACHNER IN RECENT ISSUE OF FANTASY-TIMES ALMOST NONE, MRS. SCHACHNER NEEDS YOUR HELP & NEEDS IT BADLY. SHE NEEDS LIST OF ALL HER HUSBAND'S WORK OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR SF MAGS, PLUS COPIES OF ALL MAGS SO THAT HIS STORIES CAN BE COPIED FOR POSSIBLE BOOK SALES. FANTASY-TIMES HAS LOANED HER SOME OF THE AF MAGS FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT SHE NEEDS MORE. YOU MUST HELP, I F ONLY TO SAY THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL STORIES MR. SCHACHNER TURNED OUT. CONTACT MR. LEO MARGULIES, KING-SIZE PUBLICATIONS, 471 PARK AVE., NEW YORK 23, NY.The new layout of Fantasy-Times is the work of Herman Von Tokken. Your letters on the new layout will be appreciated.



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