

Fantasy-Times

s-f newsscope

Vol. 8 - No. 8

Second April, 1953 Issue

(Whole No. 176) - 10¢

'Weird Tales' Digest Size, 35¢

FIRST SIZE-CHANGE IN OVER 30 YEARS

New York, N. Y., 20 April, (CNS) - With its next issue, September 1953, Weird Tales will make its first size change in over thirty years and go digest-size. The price of the magazine will go up to 35¢ an issue. The new size will contain 128 pages. The same logo, same type cover, interior illustrations and stories will be continued. The only actual change will be the size and the price. The new type magazine will contain no advertisements. Since the British edition of this magazine is printed in England from the same mats as the US edition, the editor believes that the British edition will follow suit in due time and also go digest-size. The British publishers of Weird Tales already is the publisher of one digest-size US publication, Galaxy Science-Fiction.

On the non-s-f side of this company, their other magazine, Short Stories, will follow suit and also go digest-size, but it will contain 160 pages. Its new price will also be 35¢.

NEW EDITOR CHOSEN FOR "ROCKET STORIES"

New York, N.Y., 19 April, (CNS) - Harry Harrison has become the editor of Rocket Stories, starting with the 4th issue. He reports that payments for material will be on publication for the time being, but promises better relations here. (concluded on page 5, column 1)

'ASF' SPRUCES UP

New York, N. Y., 16 April, (CNS) - The current issue of Astounding, out this week sports a complete new format and paper throughout. It is an experiment, and if present plans to obtain this paper materializes, the magazine will adopt this new paper and format with its August issue. Editor John Campbell stated that there is some difficulty in obtaining this new paper so there are some uncertainty that it may be obtained starting with the August issue. The June and July issues will contain the old-type paper, plus the usual additional 8 slick pages for article pictures. When using this new type paper, as in the May issue, pictures can be used with it, making the 8 slick pages unnecessary.

Mr. Campbell also stated that the title logo of the May issue is the final step in enlarging the "Astounding" part of it, and is now the permanent logo of the magazine.

With the change of logo and the new paper, Astounding has taken another step forward in the long slow change from the bulky pulp paper of the war years to a slick, neat periodical that does justice to the excellent contents it presents.

PAGE CUTS FOR SOME MAGS?

Flushing, N. Y., 18 April, (CNS) - Reports coming in from numerous sources (concluded on page 5, column 1)

Slick S-3

by Donald E. Ford

● This Week, March 1st, 1953:

● "500,000 Years From Now - What Will We Look Like?" by Dr. Fred P. Thieme, illus by Percy Leason. Briefly, we'll have a larger head, smaller jaw, less hair, no beard, fewer teeth, no little toe, etc. A rather interesting article. About the usual "Sunday Supplement" reading fare dished out.

● Impact, April, 1953, Vol 1 - No 1:

● "Advance Party From Space" by Milton Lesser, illus by Jack Coggins. A 2 page short. A "Flying Saucer" & party look over two humans & after probing their minds decide that our race is too brutal to try to invade the Earth. The whole thing is rather gruesome. Must be a stray reject from the old Amazing. The rest of the magazine is more interesting, tho it is not of a s-f nature.

● Saga, April, 1953:

● "Escape From The A-Bomb" by George Rosenthal. An article giving tips on what sort of equipment one would need to survive after an A-Bomb attack. If you're worried, best to pick up this issue.

● Collier's, March 28, 1953:

● "Brass-Bound Secret" by Van Cort, illus by Siebel. The secret of anti-gravity is discovered & the military man responsible for the project thinks he is the victim of an elaborate hoax. It's science-fiction, that's all I can say for it...frankly, I didn't like the story.

● Time, March 23, 1953:

● In the BOOKS section, Ray Bradbury's "The Golden Apples Of The Sun" is reviewed. He is referred to as "The Poet of the Pulp". Bradbury fans take it from there!

● LAD

● This is a comic book. It hasn't a thing to do with science-fiction; but, I'll stick my neck out to the wrath of all POGO fans & say that this is far
(concluded on page 5, column 1)

Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Jean Cox

John Collier's "Fancies and Goodnights" - a collection of fifty of his short stories - has just been issued in pocket book form by Bantam; 35¢. It's a must!

● The Hollywood Reporter reviewed a new "B" - budget science-fiction picture in their April 8th issue. It's called "Invaders From Mars" and they liked it. The picture, which has no name stars, tells the story of an invading spaceship which burrows along under the ground and sucks people down into it. It stamps them on the backs of their necks with a peculiar metal device which makes them into automatons. I'm rather suspicious of its quality.

● According to the Hollywood Variety, April 9th, the new Gries-Siodmak version of "Donovan's Brain" will be premiered at the 6th West Coast Science Fiction Conference, which is being held the last weekend in May at the Commodore Hotel in Los Angeles.

● Dick Williams, a columnist in the LA Mirror, interviewed Ray Bradbury about his forthcoming movie, "It Came From Outer Space". April 7th. Williams writes: "The Greeks, who had a word for everything, coined a name 'Xenomorph' for the little men who aren't there.

"In the movie these ectoplasmic creatures are 'materialized' for one horrific moment - the climax of the picture.

"...The creatures which arrive accidentally on earth are not invaders at all...their one big desire, is to get out of here as soon as they can.

"...The visitors crash-land and to get their repairs made hypnotise and instruct by telepathy several unbelieving residents of a small Arizona town."

He adds: "Somehow Bradbury contained his curiosity and never visited the set once during the filming of the picture.

"I don't believe in writers worrying directors by showing up on sets
(continued on page 5, column 1)

(British News)

'Nebula' Going Bi-monthly

ISSUE NO. 3 WILL BE OUT SHORTLY

by Michael Corper

Wembley, Mdx, England, 4 April, (CNS) - Nebula Science Fiction, #3, Summer 1953 costing 2/-, a little longer than pocket-size and with 120 pages is an attractive affair containing: "Freight" (E. C. Tubbs), "Limbo" (Wm. F. Temple), "Mr. Udell" (David S. Gardner), "Enigma" (Michael Hervey), "The Beautiful Woman" (Chas. Beaumont), and "All Men Kill" (H. J. Campbell). It has several departments: Editorial, 4sj Ackerman's Scientifilm Previews, Letters, News on Fandom and two fan publications (UK), and a Science - Fiction Xword Puzzle. Illus are by Clothier (Who also does the arresting cover), Hunter, Quinn and Wilson. The print is a bit wide-spaced, but the margins are narrow. However, Editor Hamilton states in his report that, as from the next ish printing will be a neater job. Bar a small adv. concerning the 2nd Australian S-F Con., on May 1-3 next, and one re Liverpool's S-F Society's S-F publication, I am glad to find the magazine does not break up the text with any others, like some publications like to do at times. Editor Hamilton tells me also that the aforementioned "Beautiful Woman" story is a reprint of "The Beautiful People", from IF, Sept., 1952. All other material is original.

Peter Hamilton, Jr., advises me further that there will be a slight lull between Nos. 3 and 4, and adds that, although format, price and number of pp. will remain unchanged, ish No. 4 will contain ca. 10,000 words extra reading matter. Other good news is that, probably from ish No. 4 or 5 onwards, publication will be bi-monthly instead of quarterly. (This, judging from the Nebula No. 3 editorial, would be due to

the encouraging sales of ish No. 2). This editorial also points out that the extra 6d. charged for Nebula (most other British s-f publications costing 1/6 nowadays), enables payment of higher author-fees than the rates of other UK fantasy magazines.

Nebula No. 4 will have: "Adaptable Planet" (Syd. J. Bounds), "Pawn In Revolt" (Wm. F. Temple), "This One's On Me" (E. F. Russell), "...And It Shall Be Opened" (Peter J. Ridley), "Control Point" (Lan Wright), "Ultimate Harvest" (Paul Enever), (all this is original material) and a US reprint, "The Last Supper" (T. D. Hamm). There is a chance, however, that "Control Point" will be replaced at the last moment, Russell's story will be a new one to appear in a British mag for the first time since the war. Cover will be by Clothier, illustrating "Adaptable Planet". Hamilton's letter tells me that every ish of Nebula contains work by one completely new author and artist.

Nebula #5 is to include: "Destiny Is My Enemy" (Wm. F. Temple), "Alphabet Scoop" (Ross Rocklynne), "War's Great Organ" (J. T. McIntosh), and 4sj Ackerman's "Sabina".

I note from Nebula #3's editorial, on the question of reprints, that this policy will not be adopted by the publishers; one reason being the danger of discovering that one has read such stories already. Therefore, reprints in Nebula will be rare. (By the way, the reprint in #4 will only be a short-short of 750 w. as against the "Adaptable Planet"'s 20,000, e.g.).

The complete report on the 3rd ANNUAL FAN-VET CONVENTION, sponsored by the Fantasy Veterans Association, and held on April 19th, will be in the next issue of Fantasy-Times, plus a number of our famous Fantasy-Times columns and the latest news.

The Ackerman Report

by Mr. Science Fiction

The greatest assembly of scientifilm celebrities the world has ever seen met in Studio "A" of radio network ABC (Hollywood & Vine) on the long-to-be remembered evening of 16 March 53 for the first annual "Scientifilm" Awards jointly sponsored by the networkshop and the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. The packed auditorium saw star after star step onto the stage to receive beautiful framed awards drawn and executed by Mel Hunter, as I had the honor to introduce Frank Capra, Fritz Lang, Fay Wray, Geo Pal, John Archer, Curt Siodmak, Byron Haskin, Leith Stevens and a half dozen others. Great Gort from "The Day The Earth Stood Still" was the centerpiece onstage. An electrical demonstration of machinery used in "The Magnetic Monster" was part of the preliminary program, which included the platter preview of a new and definitive version of "Mars Is Heaven", introduced by Ray Bradbury. Introduced by Vernon Rich, ex-sf author and lead player in "War Of The Worlds", I was the emcee for the two hour show, which climaxed in the flashbulb popping presentation of the Scientifilm Awards. Afterwards the entire audience was invited backstage for refreshments and informal conversation with the cinema celebrities present plus such s-f notables as SJByrne, Clare Winger Harris, Norman Corwin, Ross Rocklynne, EDDyans, Sherry Springer, Charles Beaumont, Garin Druissai, Gordon Dewey and numerous others. Mounted stills were on display from "Frau In Mond", "Metropolis", "F.P. I", "King Kong", "Invisible Man", and other historical scientifilms up to "War Of The Worlds" and "Donovan's Brain". I should estimate that 75 fotos were taken during the course of the evening. The entire Awards event is worthy of a much fuller treatment, replete with pictures --and Science Fiction Plus is the magazine that was born to do justice to such an article. I have not broached the subject to Editor Moskowitz, but suggest that as many of you as would be

(concluded on page 5, column 2)

ADDENDUM TO:

1952 IN S-F*

by Thomas S. Gardner

AVON FANTASY READER

Avon Fantasy Reader No. 18. Readers of Fantasy-Times will recall some correspondence on Avon Fantasy Reader. It has had a varied career. When first issued the price was out of line, but when other magazines came up in price it levelled out with the field. The story selection has been slightly better than average with the best blurbs in the field. In spite of that it was not too successful evidently. Why? I have heard the following objections:

1. Too small print.
2. General appearance of the stapled back resembling the poorer publications.

Frankly in my opinion reprint success may not be related to quality, as the Avon Fantasy Reader is of a higher quality than surviving magazines. I personally noted one handicap--display was poor on many newsstands. The editor of the ill-fated mag should be congratulated on ressurecting little known pieces.

AVON SCIENCE FICTION READER

Avon Science Fiction Reader No. 3. Unfortunately I have not heard good comments on this publication. Almost everyone objected to the print-size. The story selection is average or perhaps above, the blurbs well done. However it never seemed to click judging by conversations with other people. The appearance is cheaper compared to most of the other magazines. However that is a personal opinion which may not be agreed on by others.

If ever re-issued, both mags could be improved by the editor using a board to help select stories, larger print, and stapling and binding like the digest--

(concluded on page 5, column 2)

*see 1st January 1953 Issue

HARRISON NEW EDITOR OF "ROCKET STORIES"
(concluded from page 1, column 1)

tween editor and contributors. Issue #2, he reports should be out shortly, with issue #3 in about 2 months after that. More details on this and other magazines of this company in a future issue of Fantasy-Times.

PAGES CUT DUE FOR SOME S-F MAGS
(concluded from page 1, column 2)

indicate that there is a great possibility that some of the science-fiction magazines now on the stands may soon face a cut in pages. This is due to the recent rise in paper and production costs. Tho, the editors are fighting hard to save their magazines from this loss of pages, it seems certain that they will lose out.

It is possible that some digest-size science-fiction magazines, now 160 pages, may be forced to become 144 pages and still retain their 35¢ price, while some 25¢ 144 page pulp-size mags, may have to cut back to 128 pages to retain their 25¢ price. Fantasy-Times would like to point out that there are on the stands today some s-f pulp-size mags already with only 128 pages and selling for 25¢, while some digest-size mags, also have only 128 pages and sell for 35¢.

SLICK S-F
(concluded from page 2, column 1)

superior to POGO. Get a copy! It is published by Educational Comics, Inc., 225 Lafayette Street, NYC 12. Subscription is 75¢ a year. BE SURE TO BUY A COPY OF "MAD"!

COSMIC REPORTER
(concluded from page 2, column 2)

with suggestions and comments," he said."

I find that "Robots Have No Tails", the picture being prepared by Dorso and Girard, actually is based on the Lewis Rodgott "Gallagher" stories. The movie will concern a scientist (possibly played by Cary Grant) who invents a robot

a hundred times smarter than any man, which then makes love to his girl friend.

THE ACKERMAN REPORT
(concluded from page 4, column 1)

interested in seeing such an article write to him and tell him so.

Fan of the 40s, Joe Hensley, returns as a pro as his stories "Treasure City", "Planet Of Insanity", "Requiem At Evening", "Beyond The Wall" and "Not Quite Human" all earn him checks--the latter an acceptance from Beyond... Anthology placements include "Recruiting Station" and "Not Only Dead Men" (van Vogt) and "Storm Warning" (Wollheim).

1952 IN SCIENCE FICTION
(concluded from page 4, column 2)

size magazines, Astounding, etc, or issues of Fantasy Reader at first.

I appreciate calling my attention to my oversight in commenting on these two. It was unintentional.

T H E E N D

F O R S A L E

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(*on leave with the U. S. Army)

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