

Fantasy-Times

10¢

1ST DEC 1953

NO 191

"SCIENCE-FICTION PLUS"

Delayed; Change Of Printers Is Blamed

COMPLETE REVAMP OF FORMAT CONTEMPLATED

NEXT ISSUE OUT POSSIBLY IN APRIL 1954

New York, N.Y., 10 Dec., (CNS) - It was announced today that there will be a temporary delay with the next issue of Science Fiction Plus. The publishers are making arrangements with a new printer and these negotiations have delayed the next issue which was supposed to be on the newsstands yesterday. Sam Moskowitz, Science Fiction Plus' editor stated that the next issue (No. 8) will probably be on the newsstands in February 1954 and the issue will probably be dated March or April 1954.

No change is being planned as to size, number of pages, or price. But, it is a good possibility that the entire format of the magazine will be improved. The cover format and logo format (possibly the "PLUS" will be much larger) will be worked over.

No change in editorial staff is foreseen.

BLACK FUTURE SEEN FOR S-F MAGAZINES

by James V. Taurasi

Flushing, N.Y., 1 Dec., (CNS) - An investigation of the science/fantasy field, plus numerous unconfirmed, but very reliable reports by the Fantasy-Times staff reveals that the immediate future of the magazine s/f field is black indeed. All s/f magazines have been effected by the slump in sales that began about a year ago, and, with very few exceptions, have not stopped at this date.

Investigation shows that a good majority of the publishers have been trying in numerous ways to combat this lack of sales. Some have gone digest

(concluded on page 6, column 1)

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

FANTASY RECORD

W E are beginning a new department in Fantasy-Times; giving you the record of a l l science/fantasy magazines published. This department was suggested by Dr.E.L.Smith at the MILICON II, so that readers of Fantasy-Times who live in places where all science fantasy magazines are not distributed, can know what magazines have come out. We discussed the department with many fans, and from their suggestions, this final form was developed. We will appreciate your opinions and suggestions. All dates listed are those of New York City. --the editors

NAME OF MAGAZINE	. DATE	DATE ON STAND	PAGES	PRICE	SIZE	SCHEDULE	TYPE
Science Stories	Feb. 54	Dec 1 1953	130	35¢	dig.	Bi-Monthly	
Galaxy S-F	Jan. 54	Dec 4, 1953	160	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	
Fantasy & S-F	Jan. 54	Dec 4, 1953	128	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	
Thrilling Wonder	Winter	Dec 8, 1953	130	25¢	pulp	Quarterly	
Amazing Stories	Mar. 54	Dec 10, 1953	130	35¢	dig.	Bi-Monthly	
Non S-F, but of interest to s-f followers:							
Mythic Magazine	Jan. 54	Dec 1, 1953	130	35¢	dig.	Bi-Monthly	
Fate Magazine	Jan. 54	Dec 4, 1953	130	35¢	dig.	Monthly	

BRITISH MAGAZINES; reprints of U.S. (U.S.) & British originals (Br.):

Authentic S-F	No. 39	Dec. 1, 1953	144	1/6	pb	MONTHLY	Br.
Fantastic	V.1 #1	Dec. 9, 1953	128	1/6	dig.	-----	U.S.
Amazing Stories	V.1 #1	Dec. 9, 1953	128	1/6	dig.	-----	U.S.
Fantasy & S-F	No. 5	Dec. 9, 1953	128	1/6	dig.	MONTHLY	U.S.
Weird Tales	No. 23	Dec 12, 1953	96	1/-	pulp	-----	U.S.
S - F Quarterly	No. 5	Dec 12, 1953	100	1/-	pulp	-----	U.S.

COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

In the December issue of Harper's, Gilbert Highet calls Ray Bradbury, in a review of "Fahrenheit 451", "...the finest living American fantasist". In the same issue there is (a. a review of another science-fiction book, "One" by David Karp; (b. a cover drawing by Rowland Emmett, whose recent book, "Emmett's Domain: Trains, Trams And Englishmen", should -- believe it or not -- delight all whom Bill Nolan, Ray Bradbury's #1 fan, calls "the finest living American non-fantasist"; (c. and a most amusing typographical error reported: Readers may recall my reference to an earlier Harper's article, "The Secret Of Life", by Loren C. Disley, in which the author was sceptical of purely materialistic explanations of the origin of life. In an editorial department "Personal & Otherwise" Disley was

quoted as saying, "This essay, then, is a yearning after false causes..." What he actually wrote, the editors now explain, is: "...a yearning after final causes..."

Hannes Bok has written a sequel to his popular novel, "The Blue Flamingo".... Sam Mines will edit another anthology, this one gleaned from other sources besides Thrilling Wonder and Startling Stories.... Due out from Farrar, Strauss and Young is a science-fiction collection entitled "In Time To Come", edited by August Derleth.... Bela Lugosi is now making "The Ghoul Goes West".

Shortly after the first of the year Forrest J Ackerman is scheduled for a twelve-minute interview, as "Mr. Science Fiction", on a Hollywood television program, "Close-Up". Mickey Spillane & Ida Lupino, he tells me, will be interviewed on earlier programs.

DONATE YOUR READ S-F MAGS TO FAN-VARS, VAN HOUTEN, 26 20th Ave. Paterson 3, NJ

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

15TH YEAR - #191

First December 1953 Issue

Vol. 8 - No. 23 - 10¢

SCIENTI-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

New Science/Fantasy Books Recently Out:

"Costigan's Needle" by Jerry Sohl, Rinehart & Co., N.Y., \$2.50.

"Attack From Atlantis" by Lester del Rey, Winston Co., Philadelphia, Pa., \$2.

"Danger: Dinosaurs" by Richard Martin, Winston Co., Philadelphia, Pa., \$2.

"The Coming Of Conan" by Robert E. Howard, Gnome Press, N.Y., \$3.00.

"E Pluribus Unicorn" by Theodore Sturgeon, Abelard Press, N.Y., \$2.75.

"The Curse Of Yig & Others" by Zealia Brown Bishop, Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisconsin, \$3.00.

"Looking Forward", edited by Milton Lesser, Beechurst Press, N.Y., \$4.95.

"Crossroads In Time", edited by Groff Conklin, Perma Books, Garden City N.Y., 35¢.

"Dimension Of Horror" by S. J. Bounds Hamilton & Co., London, 6/-.

"Empire Of Chaos" by H. K. Bulmer, Hamilton & Co., London, 6/-.

"The Lights In The Sky Are Stars" by Fr  d  ric Brown, E. P. Dutton Co., N.Y., \$3.00.

"The Complete Book Of Outer Space", non-fiction, Gnome Press, N.Y., \$2.50; 200 Illustrations. Paper back edition, Maco Magazine Corp., N.Y., 75¢.

"More Than Human" by Theodore Sturgeon, Ballantine Books, N.Y., Paper bound, 35¢; cloth bound, \$2.00.

"Shambleau & Others" by C. L. Moore, Gnome Press, N. Y., \$3.00.

"Space Lawyer" by Nat Schachner, Gnome Press, N. Y., \$2.75.

"Drak Enchantment" by Dorothy Macauley, Double Day, N.Y., \$3.50.

(concluded on page 6, column 1)

SLICK S-F

BY Donald E Ford

Time, November 16, 1953:

Mrs. Sylvia Skolski of Detroit is suing for divorce, charging that her husband, Thomas, had become "obsessed with the idea that space ships would land on earth. He read pulp magazines and comic books for hours, excluding me from his company".

Don't let your wives read this, boys!

Look, December 1, 1953:

A two page spread on the Pacific Rocket Society send up one of their test rockets. Mari Wolf is identified in one photo. Maybe some of you will recognize photos of other west coast fans.

Time, November 23, 1953:

Among items in the Science column, is this report on a machine control built by GE. It is hooked up to a milling machine & once the skilled operator runs through the operation one time, the motions are all recorded on tape, it can then be repeated by playing the tape over and over. Remember "Player Piano" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.?

Complete Book Of Outer Space:

This is a 75¢ "one-shot". It's made up of reprints of various articles of which there is nothing new to the average fan....he's probably read it all by now. It's not worth the 75¢. (Cloth bound edition, \$2.50.)

All books mentioned in "SCIENTI-BOOKS", may be obtained from STEPHEN'S BOOK SERVICE, 45 Astor Pl., N.Y. 3, N.Y.

THANKS GIVING 1953

A memo to myself (Forry Ackerman)

No one else has to read this, if they don't want to. I'm paying for it, like an ad. Five bucks really just to say how happy I am.

You know I've been intending to make this an annual custom for the last couple years, but the party Wendayne put on for me last nite (and on into 4am) was the catalyst that finally crystallized my plan.

It was my great good fortune that the local opening of WAR OF THE WORLDS coincided with my birthday, so that so many of my friends who have been waiting so long to see it could go and then come over to my place after the show. And who do you think was among the 65 guests? George Pal! (He'd tried to see his own picture at one of the 7 theaters where it simultaneously opened in the metropolitan area, but couldn't get thru the crowds!) I was more pleased than if I'd been awarded an Oscar when producer Pal presented me a bronze miniature of one of the Martian war machines from the film, mounted on plastic tripods, together with the inscription:

Happy Birthday
Mr. Science-Fiction
from your Pal
George

And I had been immensely flattered earlier during the day when FRITZ LANG phoned all the way from Oklahoma to express his regrets that he couldn't be at my party, and equally appreciative that JOHN PAYNE called to wish me many happies.

And I thank Eros that I have now reached the impetuous age of 37, when all the pretty girls feel it's safe to give me a kiss in front of my wife, so that I was well bussed by Norma Maubroch (thanks for starting the ball rolling), Helen Beaumont (whose hubby will be one of my most prominent clients in '54), Lenore Gillies, Thelma Hamm, Audrey Clinton, Lou (what a blond) Daugherty, Pat (what a brunet) Tomerlin, and Gisele (what a French femme) Verlaine. But Lauree, what became of you when the kisses were being collected? And Smidge Moxley--did you smidge my cheek? Can't recall. Guess one couldn't forget a kiss from Smidge, tho. Anyway, it was swell; and who can tell--if I live long enough I might get osculated by Bea Mahaffey!

I think it was the happiest B Day I ever had. Everywhere I looked I saw somebody I liked. Russ Hodgkins, the only other surviving charter member of the LASFS, Jean Cox, Fantasy-Times' own ace reporter. That ole varmint, Chad (call him Shane) Oliver, Billy-boy Nolan, impersonator par xint, Van, son of Slan, perennial fixture at any Ferrie-soiree. Party-livener Walt Liebscher. Punster number one, Barney Bernard. My pals the Greenbaums (even if they don't read stf), Jaque Fesco, too smart to read stf (in fact the smartest friend I have). Stu Byrne, hot contender in the sweetest-guy-I-know sweetstakes, neck-&-neck with Bill Hamling. Len Pruyn, The Last Gentleman. Oh--everybody!

In '53 I'm particularly grateful that good fortune sent me Totsu Yano from Japan, Karl Gustaf from Sweden, that fandom voted me a "Hugo", I had Bert Campbell as a house guest, Walt Willis wrote what he did on a birthday card, for kind words at the Convention from Bob Bloch, EEEvans and Isaac Asimov; for the rise (oh to be in at the fall!) of Marilyn Monroe, and Eartha Kitt; for Jimmy Taurasi's many favors, Ray Bradbury's continuing friendship, and for a treasured letter from Charles Beaumont.

MERRY XMAS

- ALL FRIENDS!

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THE FUTURE LOOKS BLACK

(Concluded from page 1, column 2)

from pulp; some have dropped magazines, while changing the schedule of others; some have dropped pages; some magazines have no schedule at all, but exist from issue to issue. And, of course, some are standing firm and are bluffing it through with the hope that an upswing in sales will save them.

Most of the publishers are trying in every way possible to hang on to their science/fantasy magazines, but we feel that in the very near future the break must come one way or another. We'll either see a number of magazines fold, while the rest return to their pre-slump schedules etc; or we'll see the slump disappear and most of the mags get back their health. But, our information at present, indicates that the first will happen. Of course we'll always see new s-f magazines come out and try their hand at getting the limited readership the field has to offer.

The boom is over, the bubble has cracked!

SCIENTI-BOOKS

(concluded from page 3, column 1)

"The Sky Block" by Steve Frazee, original, Rinehart & Co., N.Y., \$2.75.

"Expedition To Earth" by Arthur C. Clarke, Ballantine Books, N.Y., paper-

bound, 35¢; cloth bound, \$2.00.

"Out Of The Depths" by John Wyndham, Ballantine Books, N.Y., paper bound, 35¢; cloth bound, \$2.00.

"Conan The Conqueror" by Robert E. Howard and "Sword Of Rhiannon" by Leigh Brackett, both in one volume, Ace Pocket Books, N.Y., 35¢.

"Science And Sorcery", anthology, DPCI, Los Angeles, California, \$3.00.

The 5th INDIAN LAKE CON will be held May 22 & 23, 1954. This year it will be held at the HOTEL INGALLS, Bellefontaine, Ohio. Make your own reservations. For information contact: Donald E. Ford, 129 Maple Ave., Sharonville, Ohio.

James V. Taurasi has taken over the BARSOOMIAN from Joseph W. Miller, and will publish it three times a year starting with issue No. 7. No. 7 will be out the first of 1954. 20 pages mimeographed, containing articles and news on Edgar Rice Burroughs and his wonderful stories. 25¢ an issue.

FANTASY-COMICS for the s-f comic fan at only 5¢ an issue. The latest news and articles on the better science/fantasy, and weird comics.

WANTED: Issue #5 of BARSOOMIAN, to complete the office files.

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