

# Fantasy Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

13TH YEAR - #192

Second December 1953 Issue

Vol. 8 - No. 24 - 100

## "FANTASY FICTION" Killed As No. 5 Goes To Press!

### SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES TO CONTINUE

New York, N.Y., 16 Dec., (CNS) - Fantasy Fiction is dead! The February 1954 issue of Fantasy Fiction, which should have been on the newsstands now, will not appear, it has folded. "It died one of the strangest deaths ever to hit a magazine. The covers, interior illustrations, stories, departments etc had all been bought and the issue was at the printers when the Big Brass gave orders to kill it. Thus the first issue to be edited by Fletcher Pratt dies before it was born!"

The first issue of Fantasy Fiction then called Fantasy Magazine was dated March 1953. It saw three other issues: June, August and November 1953. It was suppose to be published bi-monthly, but most of the issues were actually published quarterly. Lester del Rey was then editor. Issue #4 was begun by del Rey and completed by Harry Harrison and issue #5, that will never appear was edited by Fletcher Pratt. The magazine was rated by many as the best fantasy magazine since Unknown past away.

This makes the third Raymond magazine to fold this year. Space Science Fiction and Rocket Stories have long since gone to the great beyond. Only  
(concluded on page 6, column 1)

### "FANTASTIC" RETURNS TO FULL COVER FORMAT

READERS' COLUMN SLATED FOR BOTH  
"FANTASTIC" & "AMAZING STORIES"

New York, N.Y., 16 Dec., (CNS) - The sophisticated, so called "modern" cover design currently on Fantastic will be junked in favor of the usual full cover paintings of the past. The readers did not care for the new design and with the April 1954 issue, the full page painting cover design will return. Also with this issue, the readers' column will return to Fantastic. It seems the readers missed this warm touch and demanded it back. The next Amazing Stories, May 1954 will also see a readers' column.

This returned readers' column will contain only "interesting" excerpts from letters sent in. Answers to letters will be published only when necessary.

At present there are no plans to return the much needed fan column to Amazing Stories.

(concluded on page 6, column 1)



## COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

On December 15th the tabloid newspaper, The Los Angeles Mirror, featured on its front page, a large photo of Phillip Jay Tucker, producer of the science fiction movie "Robot Killer", lying unconscious on the bed of his room in "a swank Hollywood hotel". On the floor, a quarter inch from Tucker's drooping hand, lay a copy of Fantastic. The magazine cover and title were plainly visible in the photograph but The Mirror felt that its presence was so significant that they painted in a large white arrow pointing to it and referred to it in their caption to the picture. In the story, inside they also made a great deal (in a vague way) out of the fact that Tucker had been reading "a pulp copy of 'Fantastic'" just before the barbituates he had taken in a supposed attempt to commit suicide began to take effect. It is not clear from their account whether they think that the reading of such magazines indicates a stage of mental and moral deterioration, or whether they were just introducing the magazine as a prop to lend a "spooky" air to the incident.

Tucker, in a letter written to The Mirror a day or so before the event, declared that he was going to kill himself because of the ill-treatment he had received in Hollywood. He said that he never received any money for his double stint as director and producer of the 3-D quickie, "Robot Killer". In his letter, which was filled with abuse for various Hollywood producers and studios, he admitted that "Robot Killer" had some faults but pointed out that it had opened at a first-run downtown theatre -- which, he declares, was no mean accomplishment.

Tucker first came into the news a few months ago when the popular local columnist, Paul Coates, directed a two-day blast at him for his plans to produce a picture glorifying the gangster "Lucky" Luciano, who was deported to Italy some time ago. The picture was being financed by Mr. "Lucky" Luciano. It was dropped because of the adverse

## SLICK S-F

by Donald E. Ford

Life, December 14, 1953:

Photos of a new "hand" development by GE to handle "hot" engine parts on their atomic engines. It weighs 15 tons, but is so delicate that it can handle an egg.

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Time, December 14, 1953:

Philco Corp has developed a method of machining Germanium, used in transistors. 2 hair thin streams of liquid indium salt are squirted at opposite sides of a slab of germanium. These carry an electric current which slowly dissolves the germanium. When nearly through, at 1/10,000 of an inch apart, the current is reversed & deposits of metallic indium is left on each side making 2 indium electrodes to which wires can be attached. Philco is figuring it can mass produce transistors with greater speed & accuracy. Should bring the price down, too.

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NAD

#9 is out, along with #1 PANIC, which is the companion magazine to this comic. If you've never gotten either of these you're missing something.

publicity.

A Mirror reporter got to Tucker in time to save his life. He called the doctor almost immediately on arrival -- just taking a few minutes to photograph the unconscious man, the magazine, and so forth.

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According to the contents page of the January Astounding, the department "In Times To Come" is to be found on page 69. For an amusing surprise turn to page 69. Prophetic, maybe?

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The popular English novelist and playwright, J. B. Priestly, has an article on science-fiction in the December 5th issue of The New Statesman and Nation. He comments on the paranoid aspects of the flying saucer mania and suspects that the current popularity of science-  
(concluded on page 6, column 2)



# William B. Ziff, Publisher And Author, Dead at 55

New York, N.Y., 20 Dec., (CNS) - William B. Ziff, founder and chairman of the board of directors of the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, died this afternoon of a heart attack at his home in New York City, after an illness of several months. He was 55 years of age.

Mr. Ziff's firm took over Amazing Stories in 1938 from Teck Publications, and a year later founded Fantastic Adventures. Today his firm is still publishing Amazing Stories, tho in the new digest size; while Fantastic Adventures is gone, its place being taken by the digest Fantastic.

William B. Ziff founded the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company in 1935, which today besides the two fantasy magazines also publishes: Photography, Flying, Radio & Television News, Radio Electronics Engineering, Photographic Annual and Modern Bride, plus some comic magazines. Up until 1949, the firm also published hard cover books.

Mr. Ziff was born in Chicago and became an artist and cartoonist at the age of 20. At 22 he was the head of his own advertising company and was soon making \$75,000 a year. He was a air pilot in World War I with the Army's 202nd Aero Squadron, and always believed that Air Power was of great importance in modern war. His book, "The Coming Battle Of Germany" expressed his opinion that Air Power was superior to the Army & Navy. It was a best seller of 1942. His first venture in magazine publishing was Ziff's Magazine, a humorous periodical that later was called America's Humor. His first serious magazine was Popular Aviation, which is today's Flying.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Amelia Morton, two sons, PFC William B. Ziff, Jr., and David; two daughters, his mother and a sister.

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS



WE WANT to take a little space and wish all our readers and friends A MOST MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY, VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR — and to pass on to you a little background on the goings-on within the RANDOM HOUSE organization.

We have lost one of our founder member. John Giunta, one of the leading artists in the comic magazine field and s-f artist, has given up his part ownership in RANDOM HOUSE. Because his work takes up most of his time and he could not do the work he wanted on Fantasy-Times, he decided to leave the organization until such time that he can do his share of the work. But, he will continue as Art Advisor and do art work for us when he can. The organization is now owned by James V. Taurasi, Ray Van Houten and Lester Mayer, Jr.

Vol Molesworth returns to - Fantasy-Times as Australian reporter with the next issue. He, along with Roger Dard should cover the land "Down Under" quite well in the future. Welcome back, Vol.

Due to the happy event at the Taurasi homestead, and a week's illness of Van Houten, Fantasy Times was slightly delayed the past two months, but that's all over now, and things are back to normal (?).

We wish to thank all of you who sent us Christmas cards; they are most appreciated and are all hanging on the RANDOM HOUSE Christmas Tree at the Flushing office. Some of them are collector's items, —the editors



# ACKERMAN REPORT

by Mr. Science Fiction

I understand at least one agent-gives a cool (and oftentimes hot) reception to my column, claiming intent at deception, because he suffers from myopia and cannot distinguish between me in my professional facet and my fan-nish. When I write "The Ackerman Report" I am disseminating news as a fan. Naturally, most of my news comes from the LA area, and most metropolitan authors are my clients; ergo, Ackerman clients are heavily featured in my reports. But at the same time if I am informed of some sale by Dick Matheson (an Altshuler client) or Mark Clifton (now freelancing) or otherwise represented Fred Brown or Floyd Wallace or Bill Gault, I am inclined to include it, not in an attempt to delude anyone that they are my clients, but only out of common courtesy. It is really not my professional duty to plug any of the aforementioned five--their agents may purchase space in Fantasy Times or write Reports of their own if they wish to publicize their clients' sales—but it is a sorry reward to be accused of base motives if I give a non-client a break.

A singular honor has been bestowed on Thelma Hamm: her Amazing storiette, "The Weapon", has been chosen by the publisher of Writer's Digest as his concept of a perfect short-short, and reprinted for the benefit of annual entrants into WD's annual prize contest.

English and Australian fans will soon have the opportunity, in separate publications, to read Chas Beaumont's popular "Fritzchen". Beaumont's latest sale is to Orbit, "The Meeting". James Causey will appear in Orbit #2 with "Exploitation", and Fordon Dewey with "The Hushed and Secret Hour".

Argosy has been cracked by Phil Farmer & Curt Casewit (neither Ack'man clients)—congrats! Chad Oliver has pleased John Campbell with "Of Course", to be featured in a future ASF. Marion Zim-

mer Bradley has a major opus, "Centaurus Changeling", coming up in FESF. Con Pederson will offer "Roads of Wonder" in If, and Ed Ludvig "The Holes & John Smith"—same mag.

TOMORROW'S UNIVERSE, a "sleeper" anthology from England edited by Bert Campbell, hits the pleased purchaser with Chas Harness' "Heritage", Ross Rocklynne's "The Immortal", Chad Oliver's "Shore of Tomorrow", Kris Neville's "It Pays to Advertise", Thelma Hamm's "Native Son" and van Vogt's "M 33 in Andromeda". A couple of the stories in the collection are not by Ackerman clients.

"Festival of Earth" by Charles Eric Maine (Meredith client) is tentatively scheduled for Spaceway #4. No. 3 will include "The Alien" by HJ Campbell and "Hybrid Enigma" by Max Sheridan, as well as a third straight appearance in a row of Atlantis Hallam. Imagination will introduce Larry Maddock with "Made to Order", present Harry Warner's "Metastasis". The writing team of Jack and Dorothy de Courcy will return with "Foundling of Venus" in Fant-U. Weaver Wright will be reprinted in Science Fiction Digest with "Dwellers in the Dust", along with Olaf Stapledon, van Vogt, Major Reynolds, Thelma Hamm, and Fowler Wright.

SFWright goes into the next Conklinthology with "Automata", and Ron Smith has bought his original, "The Bomb That Laughed". Recent Smith purchases also include Neville's "Love in Bloom", Oliver's "Under the Microscope", Bradley's "Black & White", Joe Slotkin's "Martian Who Hated People" and a scientifilm feature by Forrest J Ackerman.

Curt Siodmak's Riders to the Stars (scientifilm) will be offered in book form by Ballantine. Portuguese rights to Pragnell's "Green Man of Graypec" are now being sought, after sales to France, Germany and Italy. CEMaine's "Time Slip" was recently teevee'd in England, and his next novel will be "Timeliner". Van Vogt's Space Beagle booked in Swedish. Tetsu Yamō nipponizing Neville's "Bettyam-ko", Asimov, CASmith & Evelyn (all non-Ack) have done newbies for IN TIME TO COME.



FANTASY - TIMES  
Science-Fiction Newscope  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Founded 1941

Published semi-monthly by FANDOM HOUSE.

Rates: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues for \$1.00.  
Air-Mail (U. S., Mexico & Canada only),  
15¢ a copy, 12 issues for \$1.50. Adver-  
tisements: \$5 a full page; \$3 a half  
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Ten Shillings for 12 issues; and 1 lb.  
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## FANTASY RECORD

Compiled by James V. Taurasi

(continued from the last issue)

UNITED STATES SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES:

NAME OF THE MAGAZINE	DATE	DATE ON STANDS	PAGES	PRICE	SIZE	SCHEDULE	TYPE
Spaceway	Feb. '54	Dec. 15, 1953	160	35¢	dig.	Bi-Monthly	---
Galaxy S-F Novel	No. 18	Dec. 15, 1953	128	35¢	dig.	Bi-Monthly	---
Astounding S-F	Jan. '54	Dec. 16, 1953	162	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	---

BRITISH SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES: (Reprints of U.S. "US" - Originals "BR")

Planet Stories	No. 8	Dec. 18, 1953	66	9d	pulp	-----	"US"
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(to be continued in the next issue)

FANTASY FICTION DIES ON THE PRESSES

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

Science Fiction Adventures is left and this one edited by Harry Harrison.

The May 1954 issue of Science Fiction Adventures is now being put together. It will contain a feature novel "Rule Golden" by Damon Knight with inside illos by Ebel. Two shorts scheduled for the issue are by Judith Merrill and Katherine MacLean. The fan department is by FANVET member Lee Riddle, and there will also be a readers' column.

FULL COVER TO RETURN TO "FANTASTIC"

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

Ziff-Davis two non-fantasy fiction magazines are in trouble. Seven Seas has been discontinued, while Conflict's next issue has been postponed.

COSMIC REPORTER

(concluded from page 2, col. 2)

fiction might be derived from the same psychological source. He does not praise the work of Ray Bradbury, however.

WANTED: Issue #5 of BARSOOMIAN, to complete my office file, #7 BARSOOMIAN out in January, 20 pages mimeoed, 25¢. James V. Taurasi, 137-05 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, New York

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