

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

15TH YEAR - #195

First February 1954 Issue

Vol. 9 - No. 3 - 10¢

"IMAGINATION"
CUTS PAGES
TO 128

NOVA
PUBLISHING
AGAIN

BY WILLIAM L. HURLING

SCIENCE FANTASY TO GO BI-MONTHLY

Evanston, Ill., 2 Feb., (CNS) - Effective with the April 1954 issue (out the first week of March), IMAGINATION will be 128 pages. This cut from 160 pages has been necessary to offset sales slump and rising production costs. During the past year and a half costs have risen 15% on an overall basis. This was OK as long as sales remained high, but the extended slump of 1953 brought profit margins down sharply so economy steps of some nature had to be taken. Rather than drop Madge's monthly publication schedule to bi-monthly, we decided it would be better to cut the pages.

Departments will remain the same; Madge's letter column, and in particular, FANDORA'S BOX, have proven popular with most readers, so the page cut will be confined to story wordage. This means a reduction of about 10,000 words per month. We will continue our short novel feature story each issue, and balance the issue out with short lengths instead of including an additional novelette. Other departments and cartoons will be continued also.

Looking at the newsstands we note that only a few magazines remain at 160 pages. The trend seems to be 128 pages; this means that for the future we believe the 128 page book will become standard.
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

London, Eng., 20 Jan., (CNS) - After an eight-month period of suspended production, Nova Publications appear to have pulled out of their printing troubles and will publish Science Fantasy #7 on January 29th. Editor John (Ted) Carnell states that as from April or May this magazine will go bi-monthly. The magazine had been published before suspension as a quarterly.

A definite date has not been set for publication of New Worlds #22 or the second Nova Novel "BULLARD OF THE SPACE PATROL", but both of these are printed and bound and will probably be released the first week in February.

Unlike many American magazines which appear to be faced with a falling buying market, the Nova mags have been missing a rising British demand for more science fiction. This has been caused solely through Nova's last printer who was unable to keep any sort of schedule at all, and the Company decided to temporarily suspend their magazines until a more suitable printer could be found.

The first production by the new printer will be #7 Science Fantasy, but New Worlds #22 and "BULLARD" had to be cleared from the old printer before production could go ahead with the new one on both these series.

(concluded on page 4, column 1)

1953 in Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

(IN THREE PARTS - PART TWO)

NOTE: Due to lack of space we are forced to publish this article in 3 parts, instead of 2 as originally planned.-eds

OTHER WORLDS (7 issues). Other Worlds took a slump in quality this year, which it shouldn't have. However a few very good stories were published, to wit Mac Connell's "The Game Of White", and the appearance of good humor starting, a series, I hope, by Anderson and Dickson, "In Hoka Signo Vincet". A word about Byrne's "Power Metal". This should have been a top novel -- if Byrne could write a climax! He cannot and has failed in his past work to appropriately work in climaxes. Some good writing in "Power Metal". Other Worlds has been transformed into:-

SCIENCE STORIES (2 issues) with the same quality. With Tourneau's "Flight To Utopia", and Bloodstone's "Potential Zero" being the best stories in my opinion.

AMAZING STORIES, pulp size (3 issues) Nothing of interest. Archette's "Outlaw In The Sky" is a disgrace, as it appears to have been written as a Western laid in Texas, then reworked as a space-opera with rifles, ray guns, Texas and Mars being mixed up due to poor conversion of place names. Storm's "Frontiers Beyond The Sun" is the straightest and, in some ways, very clever piece of political propaganda that I have seen to date, written in such a way that the average reader will fail to grasp, and I am wondering if the editors did too!

AMAZING STORIES, digest size (5 issues although the last is dated Dec and Jan) The digest-size Amazing has rapidly improved from the lowest grade tripe, Lait & Mortimer's "Mars Confidential",

to a reasonably good magazine. Most of the stories are average or better and I would like to call attention to McGivern's "I Love Lucifer" as a different child story.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES (3 issues). No improvement over 1952. The best is probably Archette's "Gods Under Glass".

FANTASTIC (6 issues). I still do not understand why Fantastic has not improved more than it has. It has been inferior to Fantasy Fiction, although a superior job of physical workmanship has been put on it. Most of the stories are average, a few above, but I personally think the editors can do better! Outstanding are Asimov's "Sally", Bester's "The Roller Coaster", Shockley's "The Altar", Robin's "A Great Day For The Amorous", and several other can be read with interest. And, I could not leave out Bloch's "Let's Do It For Love". There is no reason why Fantastic should not be an outstanding magazine. I hope it becomes one.

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION (5 issues). This mag was better than average, and is very good evidence that quality alone is insufficient for success. Hope to see the last part of Anderson's "Escape".

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES (6 issues). This mag is also better than average and most of the stuff approaches Galaxy -- same for Space SF. Morrison's "Long Life To You", Albert's, has a macabre humor seldom found in this type of story. Chandler's "Farewell To The Lotos" is a good example of imagination applied to a sociological problem. Most of the stories in Space and SFA can be recommended.

FANTASY MAGAZINE (Fantasy Fiction Magazine) (4 issues). This is the closest approach to the better stories in Weird and Unknown to appear to date. Recommended. This may not survive because, in my opinion, our culture has passed this stage in its stories.

VON SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY READER (2 issues). Good stories with a special mention to Clarke's
(continued on page 5, column 1)

JOHN CAMPBELL, GERNSBACK, MINES ASIMOV, DE CAMP & LEY TO LECTURE AT CITY COLLEGE SF COURSE

SAM MOSKOWITZ & ROBERT FRASIER
ARE INSTRUCTORS OF THIS COURSE.

New York, N.Y., 25 January, (CNS) - Sam Moskowitz, managing editor of Science-Fiction Plus and Robert Frasier, author of books and numerous articles on science for national magazines, are instructors of one of the first courses on science-fiction writing. Their second 12 week course begins on Thursday March 11th, 1954 at The High School of Commerce in New York City. The course is presented by The City College School of General Studies in Collaboration with the New York Public Library.

The course will cover all phases of science-fiction and fantasy writing, including plotting, obtaining ideas, selling etc.

John Campbell, Jr of Astounding; Hugo Gernsback, father of s-f in magazine form; Sam Mines, editor of Startling Stories etc; and authors: Issac Asimov, L. Sprague de Camp, Lester del Rey, Willy Ley and others will be guest lecturers during the course.

The course will cost \$21 for the complete term.

"FUTURE" TO GO BI-MONTHLY AGAIN

New York, N.Y., 8, February, (CNS) - It was announced today that after its first digest-size issue, dated June, Future will return to bi-monthly publication. Thus, only one issue, the next June 1954 issue, will be published quarterly. The current issue, now on the stands, is dated March 1954.

As this issue of Fantasy-Times goes to press, Science Fiction Quarterly still remains pulp size, 25¢ & quarterly.

vortex temporarily suspended

New York, N.Y., 8, February, (CNS) - We were informed today that for the time being Vortex Science Fiction has suspended publication. The second issue, now on the stands, will be the last for the present.

Their new magazine Science Fiction Digest, which was supposed to be on the newsstands the last week in January, has been slightly delayed, but should be out by the time you read this. It is a 55¢ digest-sized, bi-monthly magazine of reprints. The cover of the first issue is a neat job by Martin, and features stories and articles by Ackerman, Willy Ley, Neville, van Vogt, Wollheim, S. Fowler Wright and others.

Gernsback Wins Luxembourg Award

New York, N.Y., 26, January, (CNS) - Hugo Gernsback, editor and publisher of RADIO-ELECTRONICS Magazine and SCIENCE-FICTION PLUS, was appointed "Officer of the Oak Leaf Crown" by Her Royal Highness, Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg, on the occasion of her birthday on January 23rd. The presentation of the citation and a jeweled medal was made by B. N. Zimmer, Honorary Consul General of Luxembourg at a ceremony in New York City.

The award was made to Mr. Gernsback for his meritorious service to Science. Mr. Gernsback was born in Luxembourg.

BARSOOMIAN, articles and information on Burroughs and his famous characters. Issue #7 now out, 25¢. James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, N.Y.

"IMAGINATION" CUTS PAGES (concluded from page 1, column 1)

standardized, much as the 35¢ price supplanted the 25¢ price several years ago. While it is true that page reduction right now is brought about by decreases in sales, the overall cost picture indicates the move would be made anyway at some future date. We do not anticipate reduction in current sales level as result of page cut; we believe readers purchase a magazine for its contents, and Hodge's usual high entertainment level in the sf field will be maintained.

NOVA PUBLISHING AGAIN (concluded from page 1, column 2)

Nova also announces a series of book plates by artist Gerard Quinn, which will be available to American readers as well as British, and plan a further series of illustrations as soon as the first stocks have been exhausted.

Line-up for Science Fantasy #7: Cover by Quinn from Francis Rayer's lead novelette "Seek Earthmen, No More".

Second feature story is McIntosh's "Beggars All", which readers may remember was in the Mag of F&SF sometime back. Short stories are: "Detective Story" by John Burke, "Stranger From Space" by Canadian femme Gene Lees, "Unfortunate Purchase" by E. C. Tubb, "Death Sentence" by John Christopher, and "Trojan Way" by Francis Richardson, plus a guest editorial by John Wyndham. Illos by Quinn, Hutchings, Clothier and Hunter.

Line-up for New Worlds #22: cover by Quinn from "This Precious Stone" by H. J. Murdoch; "Only An Echo" by Alan Barclay (This issue's "Profile"), "Come Away Home" by Francis Rayer, "The Perfect Secretary" by John F. Burke; "Museum Piece" by John Christopher, and "All Glory Forgotten" by Kenneth Bulmer plus an article by John Newman, entitled "Radiac". Illos by Quinn, Hutchings, Clothier and Hunter, plus the usual features.

SUPPORT THE FANTASY!

SAM MINES JOINS WRITERS SCHOOL FACULTY

New York, N.Y., 14 February, (CNS) - Sam Mines announced today that he had joined the faculty of The New York School of Writing, a correspondence course in fiction operating at 2 East 45th Street, New York. This is a course which uses Jack Woodford's amusing book "Trial And Error" as text, but which follows no textbook or lecture room procedure, working on actual stories with its students. Sam Mines has had wide experience in westerns and detectives, but of course is interested in specializing in science-fiction with those students who want to write this type of story. A full page ad in February 1954 Writer's Digest carried the first announcement and these ads will continue. A leaflet explaining the course methods is available free upon request. Fans with enough cash to finance such a course of instruction may now have an opportunity of working on actual story assignments with one of the top editors in the field.

S-F JONES GIRLS LEAVE EDITORIALSHIPS

New York, N.Y., 12 February, (CNS) - Science-fiction's two Jones girls, Beatrice Jones, editor of Fantastic Universe; and Pat Jones, Assistant Editor of Startling, Thrilling Wonder and Fantastic Story, have left their positions for other jobs in the publishing field. Beatrice Jones has opened up an Author Representative Agency at 14 W. 57th Street, New York 19, N.Y. and will be selling stories instead of buying them; while Pat Jones has become Editorial Assistance to True Experience and True Romance.

Pat Jones stated that she will miss helping Sam Mines put out the science-fiction magazines and hopes to some day obtain another position with sf magazines. She will be one of the editors attending the forthcoming FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S CONVENTION on April 25, 1954.

SLICK S-F

by Donald E. Ford

Picture Scope, March 1954:

"A Journey To The Moon", of casual interest to the average fan, who's been sated with this type of article. Of interest to completists only.

Bluebook, February 1954:

"Flying Saucers Are The Bunk!" by Donald H. Menzel. The Air Force cannot explain 20% of the reported sightings of Flying Saucers. Donald Menzel claims in this article, that these 20% are: "mirages, reflections in mist, refractions & reflections of ice crystals".

With so many people making so many positive statements which are contrary to the other, someone is going to have to eat a lot of "crow" at some future date.

Tops, March 1954:

A 2 page spread on William Gaines, who publishes MAD, and WILD SCIENCE-FANTASY, among others. In 1947, he inherited a Million Dollars & unsuccessful string of comic mags at the age of 25.

Time, February 8, 1954:

Mention is made of an "atomic battery" from RCA. This converts radiation into electricity. "Camel News Caravan" had it on TV. However, despite RCA's claims, it has been known & used elsewhere for several years.

Pathfinder, February 1954:

A post-card from Tucker informs me that this issue has a spread on s-f, book & mag covers, fans, clubs, fan mags etc. Am unable to find this issue on the stands, locally; but feel many of you will want this issue despite lack of review.

1953 IN SCIENCE FICTION

(continued from page 5, column 2)

"Forgotten Enemy", Cox's "Survivor", - and Jakes' "Forever Is So Long".

UNIVERSE (3 issues). Average to better than average, below Space SF and

SCIENTI-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

New Science/Fantasy Books Received:

"Science Fiction Carnival", edited by Fredric Brown & Mark Reynolds, Shasta Publishers, Chicago, Ill. \$3.50.

"Space Tug" by Murray Leinster, original, Shasta Publishers, \$2.50.

"Tomorrow's Universe", edited by H. J. Campbell, Hamilton & Co., London, England, 8/6.

"Conjure Wife" by Fritz Lieber, Lion Pocket Books, N.Y., 25¢.

"The Mark Of The Moon" by Francis Gerard, Popular Library, N.Y., paper-bound, 25¢.

"Born Leader" by J. T. McIntosh, original, Doubleday & Co., N.Y., \$2.95.

"The Sprague de Camp Anthology", Hamilton & Co., London, England, 7/6.

"Tomorrow!" by Philip Wylio, Rinehart & Co., N.Y., \$3.50.

"A Mirror For Observers" by Edgar Pangborn, Doubleday, N.Y., \$2.95.

"Man Of Many Minds" by E. Everett Evans, Fantasy Press, Reading, Pa. \$3.00.

"Wild Talent" by Wilson Tucker, Rinehart & Co., N.Y., \$2.50.

"City" by Clifford D. Simak, paper-bound, Perma-Books, N.Y., 35¢.

"Riders To The Stars" by Curt Siodmark, Ballentine Books, N.Y., 35¢, paper-bound.

"Star Science Fiction Stories", edited by Fred Pohl, Ballentine Books, N.Y., paper-bound, 35¢, cloth-bound, \$2.

"The Snake Lady & Other Stories" by Veinon Lee. The Grove Press, N.Y. \$3.50.

Science Fiction Adventures. De Camp's "The Hungry Hercynian" worthy of old Unknown. Young's "Janusnek" is a grim story of penags tomorrow morning. Let us hope it's more like Power's "The Calibrated People".

(concluded in the next issue)

For the best convention of the year, we invite you to THE 4th ANNUAL FANTASY CONVENTION, Sunday, Feb. 25th, 1954, at WILDERMAN'S HALL, 3rd Ave at 16th St NY

Fantasy-Times is published semi-monthly by RANDOM HOUSE. RATES: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues for \$1.00. (AIR-MAIL, US & Canada ONLY: 15¢ a copy, 12 issues for \$1.50). James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Ave., Flushing 54, New York. All money-orders, etc should be made out to James V. Taurasi only. BRITISH RATES: 9d. per copy, 15s0d. per year, from MILGROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria St., LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND. AUSTRALIAN RATES: One Shilling per copy, 10 Shillings for 12 issues, and 1 lb. for 24 issues, from ROGER DARD, 202 James St., PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to illness in the Van Houten family, there has been delays, in issue #194 being mailed out, while this issue is being mimeographed and mailed from the Flushing Office. Please bear up with us during this emergency; we are doing all we can to place Fantasy-Times back on schedule. -James V. Taurasi

"THE FANTASY RECORD", compiled by James V. Taurasi

(continued from the last issue)

UNITED STATES SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES:

NAME OF MAGAZINE	DATE	DATE ON STAND	PAGES	PRICE	SIZE	SCHEDULE	TYPE
Universe S F	March	Jan. 23, 1954	130	35¢	dig.	BI-MONTHLY	-----
Science Stories *	April	Jan. 25, 1954	130	35¢	dig.	BI-MONTHLY	-----
Imagination	March	Jan. 23, 1954	132	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	-----
Fantasy & S F	March	Feb. 4, 1954	128	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	-----
Amazing Stories **	May	Feb. 2, 1954	130	35¢	dig.	BI-MONTHLY	-----
If	April	Feb. 10, 1954	120	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	-----

(Not science/fantasy, But of interest):

Date	March	Feb. 4, 1954	130	35¢	dig.	MONTHLY	-----
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BRITISH S/F MAGAZINES: (Reprints of US: "US"; British originals "BR")

Future S F	No. 9	Jan. 28, 1954	100	1/-	pulp	-----	"U S"
Dynamic S F ***	No. 1	Jan. 28, 1954	100	1/-	pulp	-----	"U S"
Wonders of the Spaceways	No. 9	Jan. 28, 1954	132	1/6	P.B.	-----	"B R"

*all interiors by Finlay. **1st issue with readers' col. ***1st British edition.

During January 1954, 13 s/f mags came out. 2 pulps & 11 digests. The pulps cost a total of 60¢, plus \$3.85 for the digests: a total of \$4.45. The pulps contained a total of 258 pages; the digest: 1,572 making a total of 1,830 pages.

(To be continued in the next issue of Fantasy-Times)

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by James V. Taurasi
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