

FANTASY-TIMES

(combined with "FANTASY-COMICS")

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

13th Year - #196

SECOND FEBRUARY 1954 ISSUE

Vol. 9 - No. 4 - 10¢

*"Planet" Goes Quarterly & Cuts To 96 Pages**"Two Complete S-A Books" &**"Tops In S-F" Discontinued*

by JACK O'SULLIVAN

Stanford, Conn., 1 March, (CNS) - The next issue of Planet (ordinarily July) will be called the Summer issue and will go on sale June 1st. Planet will be quarterly commencing with the Summer issue; it will also carry 96 pages rather than 112. If sales pick up I'm sure Planet will go bi-monthly once again. And of course, the reasons for going quarterly are financial; perhaps the longer selling period afforded a quarterly shall help.

Planet will remain a pulp; there are no plans to make it digest-size and increase the price. The cover format of the May (now on the newsstands) issue is a sort of trial balloon; if we receive enough favorable comment we shall make it the permanent format. The Summer issue will return to the old cover format; perhaps the Fall issue may resume with the new cover format. Cannot tell yet, however.

Subject to minor changes, here are contents of Summer Planet: long novel (concluded on page 3)

"SCIENCE STORIES"
SUSPENDED

Evanston, Ill., 25 February (CNS) - Bea Mahaffey announced today that her s-f magazine, Science Stories, has suspended publication with the current issue, but that Palmer's other three publications will continue. In her statement to Fantasy-Times, she said: "This will in no way affect the other three magazines. Fate will continue as a monthly under Clark Publishing, and Universe and Mystic will appear bi-monthly, during alternate months, under the Palmer Publication banner. Let's face it, the market is rough, and magazines are dying right and left. It was a case of letting one of the magazines go, and of the two sci mags, Universe shows the most promise. Stories scheduled for the June Science Stories will appear in the September or October Universe."

Miss Mahaffey is taking (concluded on page 3)

"S-F Plus"
Folds

New York, NY, 24 February, (CNS) - Hugo Gernsback's third adventure in science fiction magazines is over. He announced that his latest, Science Fiction Plus, has temporarily suspended publication as of the Dec. 1953 issue. He stated that his reasons for folding the mag is to be found in the editorial of that issue. The editorial reads in part: "...The sad fact is that the circulation of today's representative science-fiction magazines is below 100,000 - most of them averaging around 60,000,"

Our reporters investigating the matter have come up with some interesting but unconfirmed items. They state that during the issuing of the (concluded on page 3)

1953 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

Part Three

WILD TALES (6 issues). This magazine has gone small size without appreciable improvement in quality. The covers are the best part of the magazine. Best are Worrell's "Once There Was A Little Girl"; Counselman's "Night Court" and again, Counselman's "Way Station". Reprints are not considered and are better than average.

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION. (6 issues). In spite of the poor quality paper and poor covers, this magazine has quite readable stories at times. Highlights are: Sink's "...And The Truth Shall Make You Free"; Anderson's "Courier Of Chaos"; Tenn's "Liberation Of Earth"; MacLean's "Where Or When?" and De Vet's "Countercheck".

IMAGINATION. (11 issues) This magazine is the biggest surprise of the year. From below average, it has improved until the last six months is above average, with some top stories published during the year. I shall mention only two: Holden's "The Time Armada" which is a very good sociological study in many ways, and for sheer humor, Crosby's "Roll Out The Roll" is the best I've seen in a long time. Oh yes, I must mention the psychological study of stress, Heinlein's "Sky Lift". The editor of Imagination is to be congratulated for

pulling out of a hole into a very readable magazine. If he keeps up Imagination could easily come out near the big boys soon. Last six months of the year recommended for majority of stories.

VORTEX (2 issues). This magazine is an experiment in a large number of short short stories, and is somewhat better than the readers I have talked with think it is. It is not good—but also not putrid. It must improve if it is to get into the quality class of the lower ratings.

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION (3 issues). Stories better than average for the most part, but needs a more realistic attitude on price. Ferrat's "The Same Man Of Satan" is unusual.

COSMOS SCIENCE FICTION. (2 issues). Below average in quality, with a few of somewhat better quality. Morris' "Expatriate" is a fantasy weird. N. R.'s "Terran Menace" needs more than the gimmick used to be good. Anderson's "The Troublemakers" probably the best.

SPACEWAY (1 issue) Hunter's "The Glad Season" best; and most above average.

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES (1 issue). Pease's "The Way Of Decision" is very good. All average and some above.

ORBIT (1 issue) Better than expected. "D. P. From

Tomorrow" by Reynolds interesting; Brandts' "Luana Of The Gardens" rather beautifully done in parts.

ROCKET STORIES (3 issues). A good try but the market was against this magazine. Best is Cox's "Apprentice To The Lamp". All stories readable.

MYSTIC (1 issue) Phui

SCIENCE FICTION PLUS (7 issues) This magazine has had the most fantastically good make-up ever to appear in a professional science-fiction magazine. The best story was Oliver's "Hands Across Space". Also the greatest disappointment of the year was Leinster's "Nightmare Planet", presumably a sequel to his "Red Dust" and "Mad Planet". The latter two are better written, better plotted, and show character development of the two main ones, Burl and Saya. Unfortunately Leinster and the editors of SF Plus deserve rotten eggs for not keeping any continuity putting Burl back into juvenile character, and a very childish, and stupid method of writing in short, jerky sentences for this story. Let us hope that if the series is considered for book publication that the book editor will coerce Leinster into doing a good job by writing a brand new story and simply forgetting "Nightmare Planet" altogether.

SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY (4 issues). Average to slightly better. Rec-

omended. Jones' "Inter-mission Time" as best.

Read Gardner's concluding comments on "1953 In Science Fiction" in our next issue. -eds

"FICTION" GOES QUARTERLY (concluded from page 1)

about domigods by Ray Gal-lun; short stories by Poul Anderson; Winston Marks; James McKimney, Jr.; Chas. Stearns; Robert Sheckley; and Bryce Walton.

Two Complete Science-Adventure Books magazine has discontinued publica-tion. I also doubt very much if we shall come out again with Tops In Science Fiction. Understand the pulp edition fared better than the digest size.

As to identifying ar-tists: The Vizigraph (May) stated that such would be the case commencing with the next issue.

SCIENCE STORIES (concluded from page 1).

ing a vacation from the Palmer magazines, during the month of April and will visit her home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

SCIENCE FICTION PLUS (concluded from page 1)

last issue, October 6th, 1953 and the suspension announcement. Gernsback had tried hard to obtain a new and cheaper printer, and that for a time it looked as if the magazine might have continued with some changes in paper and format. It seems that at the last minute the deal

FELL through. They also state that while the maga-zine never published in the black, it made a jump of 40% in circulation with its last issues, and had it continued, it would have been successful. They point out that it takes a great deal more money to put out a magazine of that size than one of digest size and that the breaking point is thus that much higher.

With the folding of Science Fiction Plus, once more the field of s-f is left to pulps and digests, with only a very few pulp size magazines holding on. It also leaves the field without a magazine with color interior illos and just about kills the plans of a few other publishers who were all set to either publish new large size s-f magazines, or increase their present mags to that size, had S F Plus been suc-cessful.

BOOK REVIEWS

SPIDERS' WAR, by S. Fowler Wright, Abelard Press, 1954 256 pp., \$2.75.

Although the author of "Spiders' War" displays a certain irritating smug-ness in the incessant re-iteration of his Neander-thaloid social and politi-cal views, his novel never-theless proves to be a fairly compelling bit of storytelling. Those read-ers who can stomach the graphic description of hu-man evisceration and quar-tering set forth in the

first two chapters may find the story absorbing, although one hopes they will find themselves fre-quently out of sympathy with the author and his hero. "Spiders' War" is not science-fiction in any ordinary sense of the term (among other things, it involves time-travel by magic--possibly as feasi-ble a means of accomplish-ing this unlikely feat as any, however--and spiders enlarged to the size of elephants without corres-ponding structural changes who gambol about the for-ests of the far future as though they were still seeking miniscule prey among the grass blades) but it is an interesting con-temporary specimen of the outre adventure fantasy of the Famous Fantastic Mys-teries variety.

-William Blackbeard

FANTASY-COMICS

by Lane Stannard

(NOTE: All subscribers of Fantasy Comics, will have their subs filled with is-sues of Fantasy Times, -ed)

Virgil Finlay illustrates a six-page set cartoon story, "The Mad Planet" in the current, Apr-May, '54, issue of Mystery In Space. A good story and those il-los by Finlay are just about tops.

A new science/fantasy com-ic mag has come out in Mexico: Fantastico. It reprints from American s-f comics. The first issue, January reprints an issue (concluded on page 4)

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FANTASY-COMICS
(concluded from page 3)

of Avon's Strange Worlds.
While the 2nd issue, Feb-
ruary, reprints an issue
of Frankenstein. In Span-
ish, of course.

FANTASY FORECASTS

The May issue of Fantasy &
Science Fiction, out about
April 1st, will contain:
the first part of a 3 part
serial. "Star Lumnox" by
Robert A. Heinlein; plus:
"An Old-Fashioned Poker
For My Uncle's Head" by
Margot Bennett; "The Pio-
neer" by Will Stanton; "The
Gingerbread Man" by Dale
Jennings; "The Airborne
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the editors. The cover is
by Jack Coggins.

The May issue of Imagina-
tion will contain: "The
Giants From Outer Space" by
Gooff St. Reynard; "Off-
Limits Planet" by Robert
Sheckley; "Comic Santa
Claus" by Daniel F. Galou-
ye; "Prelude To Space" by
Robert W. Haseltine; "Can-
cer World" by Harry Warner
Jr.; "Spies Die Hard" by
Arnold Harmor; plus the
regular features. Cover
by H. W. McCauley; inter-
iors by McCauley and W. E.
Torrey.

YES, FORREST J ACKERMAN
IS TWO-FACED

....and I have seen them
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an author, and he submits
to me as an editor. In
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only American agent I've
dealt with from whom I've
had every satisfaction and
a really honest deal. For
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H. J. Campbell

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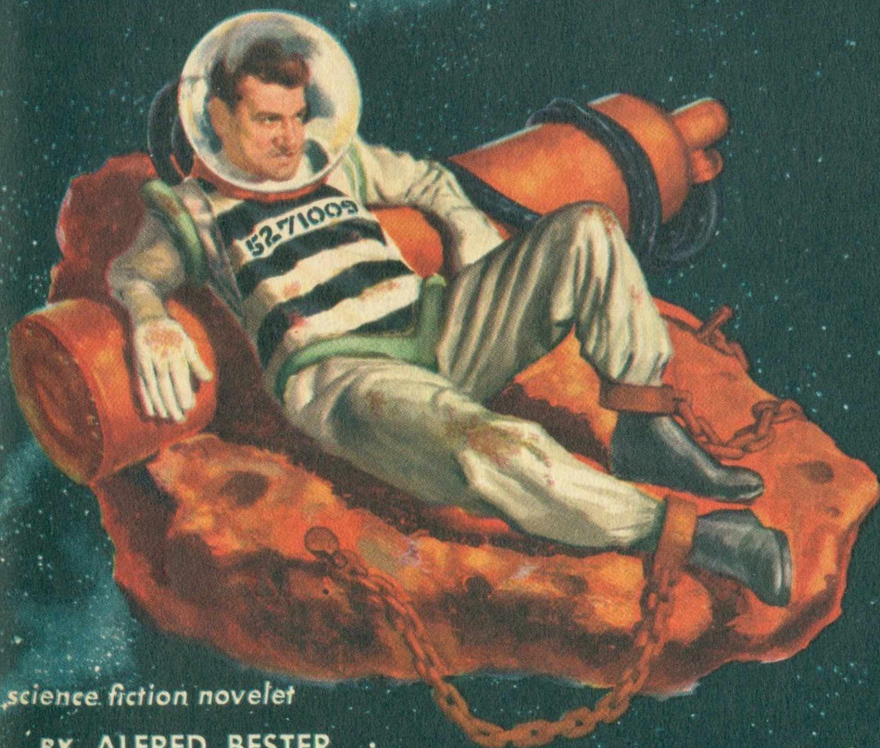
Fantasy and

Science Fiction

MARCH



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a science fiction novelet

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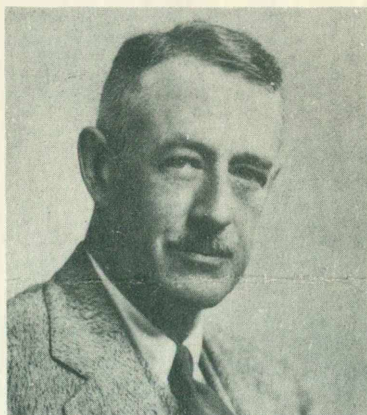
MARCH 1952

"Science fiction . . . creates and enters . . . a world of new frontiers." J. Donald Adams in the New York Times Book Review

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The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction

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—continued from back cover

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By J. T. McIntosh. (described on the other side of this page)

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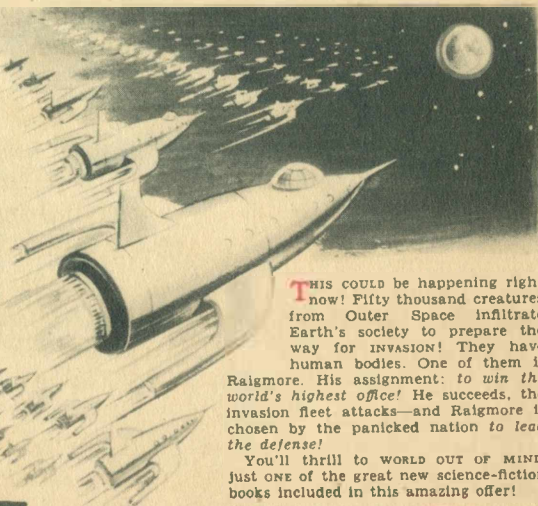
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