

S-F MAGAZINE OUT IN SWEDEN

(story on page three)
A Fandom House Publication

FANTASY-TIMES

(combined with "FANTASY-COMICS" and "SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSSCOPE")

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

18th Year - #197

SECOND MARCH 1954 ISSUE

Vol. 9-No. 5 - 10

"ORBIT" GOES BI-MONTHLY

AUSTRALIAN EDITION PLANNED

New York, NY, 26 March, (CNS) - Jules Saltman, editor of Orbit Science Fiction, announced today that the first two "one-shots" editions of Orbit had done so well, that the magazine is going on a steady bi-monthly schedule starting with the July-August 1954 issue (Vol. 1 - No. 3) on the stands around May 1st.

In these days of cut schedules, cut pages, and magazines folding right and left, this is indeed good news. Our congratulations to Orbit and its editors.

Author, editor, and old-time fan, Donald A. Wollheim is the story buyer for Orbit and is now buying for the 4th issue. Stories between 1,700 and 10,000 words may be submitted to him directly to the magazine's office or his home: 66-17 Clyde St., Forest Hills 74, New York. Don is doing this work on his own time, after working hours, as editor at Ace,
(concluded on page 6)

"NEW WORLDS" NOW MONTHLY

WILLY LEY
TO SPEAK
AT FOURTH
FVA CON.

TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
APRIL 25th, 1954

Flushing, NY, 28 March, (CNS) - Willy Ley will be the feature attraction at the coming FOURTH ANNUAL FANTASY CONVENTION, sponsored by The Fantasy Veterans Association. Along with him, Howard Browne, Paul Fairman of Amazing; Mrs. H. L. Gold, of Galaxy; Sam Mines of Thrilling Wonder; Robert P. Mills of Fantasy & Science Fiction; Jules Saltman of Orbit; Robert W. Lowndes of Future; Harry Harrison of Science Fiction Adventures; Donald A. Wollheim of Ace;
(concluded on page 5)

London, England, 17 March, (CNS) - Following the recent announcement that Britain's popular magazine Science-Fantasy has gone bi-monthly (from irregular), with the current #7 issue, Nova Publications, announced that their number one title New Worlds has now been made a monthly instead of its previous bi-monthly appearance.

Editor Carnell states that the first of the monthly issues will be published on March 26th in England, and thereafter on the last Friday of each month. The forthcoming issue will be numbered #22 and will not be the same as that advertised in the recent Science-Fantasy, but mainly material by "name" authors.

Format will be the same as the recent Science-Fantasy --- 128 pages selling at 1/6, but with a four color cover painted
(concluded on page 6)

1953 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART FOUR -- CONCLUSION

Unless I have omitted someone there were 183 issues (with a probable error of one or two) and 38 titles appearing at least once in 1953. In 1952 there were 28 titles with 149 issues.

It is my personal belief that only about 75 issues with a dozen titles can make money for any length of time. In 1953 Poul Anderson issued a series of the top writers in some ways. Conversations with readers of SF and fantasy agree that a feeling of disgust with the whole field has gripped them, and they have quit reading the pros. Many are taking up book collecting.

It has been my impression that magazines and authors have injured themselves by publishing a story, and then re-writing it for book publication. The theory is that book publication deserves better quality material--but quite often, and always in the hard-cover field, more people will read the magazines than the hard-cover book. Only in the pocket-book field will a greater sales sometimes develop than the magazines. Shouldn't the magazines have the author's best? Also the trick of book publishers advertising "never before published" and with tongue in cheek added in book form, or on toilet paper, burns up the buyer of a book, hard-cov-

BOOK REVIEWS

by William Blackbeard

WORLDS IN SPACE by Martin Caiden, Henry Holt & Co., 1954, 212 pp., 64 plates, indexed, \$4.95

This book is a wonderful bargain for the money--for those who don't already have Willy Ley's or Arthur C. Clarke's books

ER? OR PAPER? TO FIND THAT the story is one read in a magazine with the title having been changed. In most cases the book will give publication date of the magazine, but recently even this has been omitted.

In spite of the above, it is possible that the future of science-fiction lies with the pocket-books rather than the magazines field. Ballantine is doing an excellent job of pocket-books, simultaneously with hard cover books, and others will surely follow.

There were many good stories published in 1953, but few really great stories of classic caliber. Also a huge amount of sheer crap was shoved on to the newsstands.

In closing it is only fair to mention that I don't give a damn whether any one agrees with my opinions of the field or not. I don't mind stating that reactions to the printed word are purely personal and often subjective, so if I have stepped on anyone's toes, get a corn plaster!

THE END

on the same subject--interplanetary travel. Mr. Caiden's volume covers little new territory, although it does enter into more specific details of our military rocket research program than any previous work of this kind, and has a number of recent facts in its pages not hitherto recorded.

However, it is a dull book when measured against the writings of the two best-known authorities in this field, Clarke and Ley, and \$4.95 is a high toll for what must be only a late bulletin on a subject already well-known to readers of the books of these two authors. Mr. Caiden does have a certain refreshing level-headedness in his approach to his material, but errs too frequently, I feel, on the side of pessimism.

Sixteen of the plates in this volume are of and from various recent rocket missile tests, the remainder are the work of a technically accomplished artist named Fred L. Wolf who seems, however, to lack any real imaginative spark. His drawings are all interesting and one, oddly enough, so resembles the work of Frank R. Paul that it will startle many science-fiction readers who happen upon it in cursorily browsing through these pages. (Plate #52)

The book is attractively bound, jacketed, and printed.

STARSHIP THROUGH SPACE by Lee Correy, Henry Holt & Co., 1954, 241 pp., illus- (concluded on page 6)

"HAPNA," S-F MAG OUT IN SWEDEN

Muslavarna, Sweden, 3 March, (CNS) - Sweden's first science-fiction magazine has appeared. It is a well printed, digest-sized, 100 slick paged magazine. It contains a full colored cover by Paul, reprinted from Science-Fiction Plus and has two colored interiors. In appearance it is well above the United States or British s-f magazine and aside from not having interior illustrations in color, the two Italian s-f magazines, Urania and I Romanzi di Urania are the only ones who equal the slick print job.

The editor is K.-G. Kingberg, and the name of the magazine is HAPNA. Mr. Kingberg explains the title: "This little short word (HAPNA) means Be Amazed and we also invite our readers with the words Las och LIRA, which mean Read and Be Amazed".

The first issue dated March 1954 contains a Frank R. Paul cover reprinted from the May 1953 issue of Science-Fiction Plus, and "Tin-Can" by Ross Rockfame; "Space Suits" by Donald E. Menzel; "Old Man Henderson" by Kris Nevillo; "The Repulsion Factor" by Charles Eric Maine; two articles, "Space Travel 1960" and "Can Gravity Be Abolished" by Kingberg. The serial is "Slan" by A. H. van Vogt; plus: "Fan Activities in Sweden" and "Prize Contest".

The magazine, of course, is printed in Swedish and is obtainable in the U.S. by subscription. The yearly rate is \$4.00 a year. The address: Grafiska Forlaget, S:t Larsgatan 3, Jonkoping, Sweden.

Our congratulations!

ACE BOOK NEWS

by Donald A. Wollheim

ACE BOOKS' first couple of double science-fiction novels have received such favorable response from readers that we are going ahead with a regular schedule of science-fiction and will probably turn out a book a month from now on in that field. Coming next will be a reprint of Clifford Simak's RING AROUND THE SUN along with COSMIC MANHUNT by L. Sprague de Camp (this will be the Original Book Edition of his serial "The Queen Of Zamba"). Our first science-fiction single book will be the First Edition of L. Ron Hubbard's interstellar novel RETURN TO TOMORROW.

We've signed up books by Roger Dee, Murray Leinster, Andre Norton, Lewis Padgett & C. L. Moore, Isaac Asimov, and A. E. van Vogt, and are buying steadily. Leinster is also now engaged in completely rewriting and modernizing his old-time astounding serial THE INCREDIBLE INVASION. Lots more in the works too!

SUPPORT THE FANVETS!

FANTASY FORECASTS

COMING UP IN THE PROS

ORBIT SCIENCE FICTION

The first bi-monthly issue of Orbit Science Fiction, July-August, (See story on page 1) contains: "The Lure Of The Satellite" by George R. Price; "Why Skeets Malloy Has Two Heads" by Richard Shaver; "My Friend Bobby" by Alan E. Nourse; "Fellow Of The Bees" by Gordon R. Dickson; "The Cargo" by Len J. Moffatt; "Paradox Gained" by Mark Reynolds; "Hair Of The Dog" by Charles Beaumont; "The Ungrateful House" by August Derleth; "The Passage Of Orpheus" by Bryce Walton; "The Dog That Liked Carmen" by Roger Dee,

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE

Advance copy of the July issue of Leo Margulies' Fantastic Universe proves it to be one of the finest Leo has published to date. The cover, an excellent one by Alex Schomberg, should prove a delight to both those who want the old-type and also those who go for the new type. It's darn good. Contents are: "The Rations Of Tantalus" by Margaret St. Clair; "Battleground" by Lester del Rey; "The Celestial Blueprint" by Philip Jose Farmer; "Too Close To The Forest" by Bryce Walton & Al Reynolds; "A World To Die For" by Sam Carson; "Short In The Forest" by Idris Seabright; "Mr. Caxton Draws A Martian Bird" by Frank Bellamy Long; "An Ode To Genius" by Dal Stivens; "Exotic

(concluded on page 5)

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

There's a short article in the Autumn, 1953 issue of Etc: The Review Of General Semantics called "Communication in Science Fiction", by Robert Plank. I wouldn't personally recommend putting out a dollar for a copy if the science-fiction article is the only interest the magazine holds for you. Plank's thesis—that science-fiction represents a striving for new means of communication between people—is original, but hardly arresting or convincing.

Ballantine has issued Arthur C. Clarke's "Prelude To Space" -- as an original novel; one wonders? They are also going to put out a collection of stories by Robert Sheckley. Apparently, they're finding it difficult to maintain their original high quality of output.

Shasta will publish van Vogt's "Child Of The Gods" series in the not-too-distant future, I'm told.

Dodd, Mead will publish B. Everett Evans' juvenile novel, "The Planet Mappers". That makes three novels he's sold in the space of about a year. His "Man Of Many Minds" is out from Fantasy Press now and he's working on a sequel, "Man Of Many Bodies", to be published by the same company.

The March issue of Playboy reprints Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" (Pt 1 of 3)

SLICK S-F

by Donald E. Ford

Life, Feb 8, 1954:
"The World We Live In":
PART VIII "The Coral Reef".

Time, Feb 15, 1954:
In the Science section, it is noted from the Journal Of The B.I.S. that when man does land on the moon, there will probably not be any settlements under plastic domes. The internal pressure would be too great and underground installations will be more likely. Photo from DESTINATION MOON is shown, also.

Esquire, March 1954:
"Interval In Sunlight" by Ray Bradbury, illo by John Groth. A non-s-f story, but of interest to Bradbury fans. I thought it was very good; better than some of his more recent efforts.

LAD, May 1954:
This comic mag goes monthly with this issue. The cover is a take-off on Life. The lead story is "Flesh Gordon". Basil Wolverton has several pages of drawings in this issue, too. He won the "Lena, The Hyena" contest in Lil' ABNER a few years back.

Bluebook, March 1954:
"Button, Button" by Nelson Bond, illo by Tracy Sugarman. The United Nations has an artificial satellite containing a bomb which can be dropped on any part of the Earth, if any nation does not (concluded on page 5)

THE ACKERMAN REPORT

by Mr. Science Fiction

Note: Non-Ackerman clients mentioned in the following newsdispatches are designated by (NAC) in parentheses.

Ward Moore (NAC) has sold SatEveP a science fiction yarn called "Demominions Beyond", and is doing a sequel to his 3rd place prize-winner in the F&SF contest, "Lot". Chad Oliver is being anthologized left, right, up, down and in the middle with "The Ant & The Eye" taken by Funk and Wagnalls, "Blood's A Rover" by Permabook, "Stardust" by Ace, "Hands Across Space" by Derleth, "The Boy Next Door" by Merrill and "Of Course" by Ackerman. Beaumont continues his sellingstreak with "The Hair Of The Dog" to Orbit, "The Blind Lady" to Malcolm's, "The Beautiful Woman" to Hapna, and another to Esquire.

Ted Sturgeon (NAC) tells me prospects look "right good" for a one hour TV version of his wonderful "Thunder & Roses" this summer, complete with his own music... Katherine MacLean has collaborated with Michael Porjes on "The Prize".... Horace Gold has bought James Causeryn "Felony" and is anthologizing his Galaxy yarn, "Teething Ring". Mark (freelance) Clifton has had his collab with Alex (ditto) Apostolides, "What Thin Partitions" picked as Campbell's favorite for EDITOR'S CHOICE OF SCIENCE (concluded on page 5)

FANTASY FORECASTS

(concluded from page 3)
Dawn" by Aligis Budrys;
"Classified Object" by
Fanyet John Victor Peter-
son; "Under Observation" by
William Morrison; and "The
Deadly Ones" by F. L. Wal-
lace; plus book reviews by
Frazier. 160 pages, 35¢.

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION

Future Science Fiction starts off its digest-size career with an excellent dash cover and clean, modern format. The issue contains: Short Novel: "Hail To The Chief" by Sam Sackett; Novelet: "Peace On Earth" by Irving Cox, Jr.; Short Stories: "Sales Pitch" by Phillip K. Dick; "The Ultimate Invasion" by Sam Morvin Jr.; and "Rescue" by Gordon R. Dickson; plus departments: "Editorial"; "Reading And Writin'"; the excellent fan column by Robert A. Madle, "Inside Science Fiction: "Down To Earth" & "The Reckoning". Issue is dated June, 130 pages and 35¢.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

The June issue of Fantasy & Science Fiction, on sale around the first of May, will contain: "Heirs Apparent" (short novelet) by Robert Abernathy; "Miss Brinks" by Gordon R. Dickson; "Time Payment" by Michael Shaara; "Fish Story" by Leslie Charteris; "Housetrap" by Andre Norton; "Warrior In Darkness" by Levi Crow; "Mint, In D/J" by Ruth Laura Wainwright; "Visitors From Venus" by T. S. Watt; Part two of "Star Lummox" by Robert A. Heinlein; plus "Recommended Reading" by the editors

and the index to Volume 6. (The May cover proofs of F&SF is stapled in this issue of Fantasy-Times.)

4TH ANNUAL FANVET CONVEN'TN (concluded from page 1)
Dr. Thomas S. Gardner; John Victor Peterson; Leo Margulies of Fantastic Universe Pat Jones formerly of Standard; and many other artists, editors and editors of the Eastern States.

As usual, the convention will probably be the highlight of science-fiction activities for the New York area. Usually over 200 persons attend these interesting sessions.

All readers of Fantasy Times who can make it are invited to attend. The Convention will be held at Werdermann's Hall, 3rd Ave at East 16th St., New York City, a short walk from Union Square. The date: Sunday, April 25th, time: Program starts at 1 PM, doors open at 12 noon, all Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The main purpose of the Convention is to obtain hard cash to mail books and magazines to fans and readers in the US Armed Forces overseas. To obtain this cash, a giant auction will be held. The Fanvets are now collecting from the different editors and publishers, covers and interiors (donated Free by them) for this auction.

Come on down; have a good-time and support an excellent cause.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS!

SLICK S-F

(concluded from page 4)
cease aggression, they are

warned by the UN. The hero of the story is on this staellite & decides to take matters into his own hands...He pushes the button to release the Bomb. Don't want to tell the end because it'll spoil the story. It's a good story and worth reading.

THE ACKERMAN REPORT

(concluded from page 4)
FICTION. Dorothy McIlwraith has selected Robert Darbour Jonson's "Down Below" from Weird Tales for same anthology, and Howard Browne has named "If This be Utopia..." by Kris Neville.

SCIENCE-FICTION

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FANTASY - TIMES

"World Of Tomorrow Today"
(combined with FANTASY-
COMICS & S.F. NEWSSCOPE).

Published semi-monthly by
RANDOM HOUSE.

RATES: US, Canada & Mexico
10¢ a copy, 12 for \$1 from
James V. Taurasi, 137-03
52nd Ave., Flushing 54, NY.
BRITISH RATES: 9d per copy
15s0d. per year from MIL-
CROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68
Victoria St., LIVERPOOL 1,
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One Shilling per copy. 10
Shillings for 12 issues, &
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BOOK REVIEWS

(concluded from page 2)
trated, \$2.50.

This is a dull, obvious, routine juvenile, written in a style that would bring moans from the readers of Planet Stories. Doubtlessly many doting parents will buy this volume in hope of weaning their son from the reading of "those awful pulp magazines", and doubtlessly many teen-age recipients of the book will struggle through the deliberate naivety of the plot in the vain hope of encountering some conception or idea that will reward them for the time spent with it.

the story, such as it is, deals with the building and launching of the first starship in a society which has already conquered the solar system.

The only really unusual development in the plot occurs when a race of humans found on a planet of Alpha Centauri turn out to worship the same god as the Christian minority of this planet—complete with a theology involving Adam and Eve, the Ark, etc. Needless to say, this is handled with Sunday school propriety — and dullness.

One has said all that needs to be said in regard to the characters when one reports that they are prone to the frequent use of such expletives as, "great globular clusters!" and "flitting fireballs!"

"ORBIT" GOES BI-MONTHLY
(concluded from page 1)
so, no material for Orbit should be sent to the Ace address.

Vollheim informs us that Orbit has an Australian edition in the works that should be out "down under" by now.

(See page 3 for contents of #3 Orbit, and news of Ace's science-fiction pocket books.)

"NEW WORLDS" GOES MONTHLY
(concluded from page 1)
by a new artist named Kinneer. Contents include the first part of Cyril Kornbluth's "Takeoff" which is being run as a

three part serial; "The Sentinel" by Arthur C. Clarke; "Opposite Numbers" by John Wyndham; "Museum Piece" by John Christopher; "Relay Race" by J. T. McIntosh; "Only An Echo" by Alan Barclay; and a science feature on the forthcoming June Solar Eclipse by one of Britain's leading popular science writers, Maurice Goldsmith.

As from April 1st the Editorial address of the Company will be Derwent House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 where all editorial correspondence, LBS, and books for reviewing should be sent. This address will also be used later for dispatching, but at present the known address 52 Stoke Newington Rd., London N.16 still remains operative.

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