

Fantasy-Times

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"X SCIENCE FICTION" OUT THIS FALL

Mt. Carmel, Ill., (CNS) - A new science-fiction magazine will appear on the news-stands late this Fall or early Winter. It will be printed on slick paper, the size, price and number of pages have not as yet been released. It will be called X Science Fiction and will be published by the Harmon-Crawford Publishing Company. Editorial address: Jim Harmon 427 East 8th St., Mt. Carmel, Ill. The company will also publish a non-s-f slick, Fact Adventures For Men. The non-s-f, it will contain many items of interest to s-f fans and s-f readers. Jim Harmon is the editor, while Bill Crawford, editor of Spaceway, is the publisher.

About the contents of the first issue, Jim Harmon states: "These books are in very early planning stages, I'll probably have the lead story in the sci-fic book myself: "Man Without Time". The lead story in the Men's magazine is an African adventure by a man named Clyde B. Hunt (pseud.). Again, I'll have the one stf feature lined up so far -- an article on space stations -- I'm agin 'em, believe in direct flight to the moon, a ready-made space station. However, there will be stf features by others, but no science-fiction per se. I expect these books may have bigger names than Spaceway -- I'm working on several now.

"Covers and artists? Probably the same as for Spaceway. Except I may do a few myself."

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SAMALMAN & RAINES ARE NEW S-F EDITORS FOR STANDARD MAGS

New York, NY, (CNS) - Alex Samalman and Eheron Raines became the editors of Thrilling Wonder, Startling Stories and Fantastic Story. They and their staff replace Sam Mines, who resigned last month.

Mr. Samalman stated that all three magazines will continue on a quarterly basis with almost no changes in policy.

MERWIN LEAVES GALAXY PUBS

New York, NY, 28 June, (CNS) - Sam Merwin, Associate Editor of Galaxy Science Fiction, Beyond Fantasy Fiction, and Galaxy Novels, has resigned his post to once more take up writing as a full-time profession.

Sam has had many editorial jobs in the science-fiction field. He became
(concluded on page 4, column 2)

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

by William Blackbeard

I AM LEGEND, by Richard Matheson, Gold Medal Books, 1954, 160 pp., 25¢.

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This first novel by one of contemporary fantasy-fiction's most sparkling novelists is something of a treat. Admirers of the old Unknown and Unknown Worlds will find in this book much of the sardonic twisting of everyday surroundings and people into elements of pure horror that characterized such unforgettable stories as Hubbard's "Fear", Page's "But Without Horns" and Leiber's "Conjure Wife". Campbell, I think, would have printed this novel without hesitation.

Nevertheless, I AM LEGEND is far from being a wholly satisfactory piece of work. The greatest flaw in the novel, certainly, is Matheson's rather specious attempt to explain the conversion of the world's populace of the near future into vampires, with all the standard reactions to crosses, wooden stakes, and garlic, in scientific terms. The book is not, could not be, science-fiction, and Matheson's tiring and wordy attempt to make it acceptable as such is a flat failure.

Accepting the basic premise of the novel, however — that an initially deadly disease has, in a short period of time, changed both the living (with a few exceptions; the hero is one) and those "dead" of the disease into ravening vampires — the reader will find himself well rewarded for his suspension of disbelief. Matheson is well able to communicate the suffocating hopelessness of the hero's position, barricaded in his home during the night, when the vampires lay siege to him, and able to forage during the day in an apparently dead city for supplies and means of escape from the terrible realities of his situation. The only objection I would make to this aspect of the novel is that Matheson takes too long to tell the readers why the vampires don't attempt to burn the hero out of his sanctuary and the explanation, when given, is not altogether convincing.

by Arthur Jean Cox

Isaac Asimov has a children's book on chemistry, "Chemicals For Life" coming out this Fall from Abelard-Schuman, illustrated by John Bradford. Another juvenile being published the same month is "Tiny Star And The Ocean Of Venus" by Paul French --- which I believe is a pseudonym for Isaac Asimov. It will be published by Doubleday, Jr.

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Simon & Schuster will soon publish "The Incomplete Pogo" by Walt Kelly, the fourth annual collection of the daily comic strips. They will also put out something called a "Pogomobile". The price of each item is \$1.00.

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The magazine which has seen the greatest physical improvement in the past few months is, easily, Future Science Fiction. The current Future (October) is a handsome issue with a cover by Kelly Freas and interior illustrations by Freas, Emsh and Virgil Finlay. The magazine strongly resembles IF in make-up and typography. Unfortunately, the fiction looks as uninviting as ever. Damon Knight's book reviews are worth the 35¢ in my opinion, however.

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Forrest Ackerman says that a new science-fiction magazine now being planned will not be "digest-size" but "vest-pocket-sized" --- Like Bold and Tempo. It will be called X Science Fiction, will cost ten or fifteen cents and will pay half a cent a word for fiction after publication.

The major and minor climaxes of the book --- the hero's relations with the ultimately traitorous girl which compose the first and his inadvertent badgering and tormenting of a surviving stray dog to its death which comprise the second --- are satisfactorily developed and deliver a fair punch in their denouements. In fact, it is in the emotional sphere that Matheson seems most successful in this novel; the rationale of the work, as indicated above, is ridden with implausibilities.
(concluded on page 3, column 1)

FULL READERS COLUMN RETURNS TO AMAZING & FANTASTIC

"FANTASTIC" TO HAVE "SCIENCE FICTION"
SUB-TITLE ADDED

New York, NY., (GMS) - A full readers' column will return to Amazing Stories with the next issue, and be started in Fantastic also with the next issue. Amazing's oldest department will once more return in all its glory. "Even", stated editor Howard Browne, "if it takes ten pages." It will be the first time that Fantastic will have a full readers' column. The clipped one page affair tried by Howard in recent issues proved to satisfy no one, so he is going to the other extreme and try out a full-blown column. Howard Browne reserves the right, however, to answer the letters in any way he deems necessary.

The editors of Fantasy Times approve of readers' columns in the professional magazines, as they add atmosphere and warmth to the mags. All that these two Ziff-Davis mags now need are editorials to really give it that touch so necessary to set magazines.

Fantastic will soon have the sub-title "Science Fiction" added to it, and stated Howard Browne, more science-fiction stories will be used in the future.

FANTASY BOOKS

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and pseudo-scientific nonsense. It is to Matheson's credit that these latter handicaps do little to impede the reader's absorption in the development of the story.

The point of the novel's title is revealed in the last line of the story; many readers will have guessed it before then, but it is still effective enough. On the whole, this novel would be worth your money at \$2.75 or \$3.00; for 25¢ it is not to be overlooked under any circumstances.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS

"Imaginative Tales" Out; "Toffee" Yarn Reprinted

New York, NY., (GMS) - William L. Hamling's new science-fiction magazine, Imaginative Tales is out. The first issue is digest-size, 35¢ and 162 pages containing a "Toffee" novel reprint. It is a very attractive magazine, with a good cover and interesting interior chapter headings. About the only other magazine you can compare it to is Galaxy Novels, tho it will never reprint novels of the type Galaxy does.

We like this magazine and think that it fits a need in the overall fantasy field, but we have one bone to pick. In all the ads for Imaginative Tales and outside of a small note on the contents page, there is no indication that the "Toffee" novel is a reprint. Even the name of the novel has been changed from "The Shades Of Toffee" to "Toffee". This we do not like at all. We don't mind reprints, but we do mind going out of your way to make it seem like new material. If its a reprint, let's not change the title, or be afraid to say its a reprint.

"Shades Of Toffee" is reprinted from Fantastic Adventures of 1950.

BRITISH S-F NEWS

by Michael Corper

The British Argosy has, in its August 1954 number, Roy Bradbury's "Lawns Of Summer" and John Wyndham's "New King Of Pink Elephant".

In London, the fantasy film "Them" is now being shown.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) broadcasted four of Bradbury's stories from "The Golden Apples Of The Sun" (Aug. 3-6): "The Flying Machine",
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FANTASY-TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"
(S. F. NewsScope and Fantasy-Comics)

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BRITISH RATES: 9d per copy, 15s0d. per year from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria St., LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

AUSTRALIAN RATES: One Shilling per copy 10 Shillings for 12 issues, & 1 lb. for 24 issues, from ROGER DARD, 252 James St., PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!

"X SCIENCE FICTION" OUT THIS FALL
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Harmon is offering a special pre-publication subscription rate for his two magazines. 24 issues of each magazine (48 issues in all) for \$5.50. This offer expires on November 1st, 1954. After that, 12 issues for \$2.00.

The schedule of publication has not as yet been set, tho it'll probably be monthly.

While the contents of the first issue has not as yet been set, here are some of the stories that have been bought for publication in early issues: "When Darkness Falls" by Harry Warner, Jr. (short novel); "The Man Who Was Made For Space" by Albert Bernhuter; "Atoms

And Stars" by Forrest J Ackerman; "All Out" by David Grinnell; "The Legend" by S. J. Byrne; "Sociological Note" by Robert Landon; "Law Of Averages" by Lynn Venable; "Animal Tracker" by Bernhuter; "The Prisoners" by Richard deMille; "The Superstitious Spaceman" by Jim Harner (serial). All are shorts unless otherwise indicated.

In the first Fact there will be a true experience novelet "I Lived As An Unknown Soldier" by science-fiction writer and fan, Joe Gibson.

SAM MERWIN RESIGNS

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

editor of Standard s-f magazines when Oscar J. Friend resigned, then after making tremendous improvements in them, he resigned and took up full-time writing. He teamed up with Leo Margulies, when Leo published Fantastic Universe, only to leave a short time after to become Associate Editor of the Fantasy trio.

Now full-time writing has taken him again and it is our understanding that he has some good items (not s-f) coming up soon.

BRITISH S-F NEWS

(concluded from page 3, column 2)

"The Great Wide World Over There", "The Meadow", and "The Golden Kite, The Silver Wind".

The number after your name on the mailer is the last issue you have coming to you. Subscribe as soon as possible.

FANTASY-TIMES

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