

Fantasy-Times

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY"

10th YEAR - #202

New York - 1st JULY 1954 Issue

Vol. 9-No. 10 - 10¢

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE goes monthly

New York, N. Y., (CNS) - Leo Margulies, publisher and editor of Fantastic Universe, announced in the current, October issue, that it has gone monthly. In these days of magazines skipping issues, cutting pages etc., it is a happy event when we can announce that at least one s-f magazine is going monthly.

Fantastic Universe has one of the most interesting and unique history of any science-fiction magazine. It is the only s-f magazine in history (not counting quarterlies and annuals) that started life at 50¢ a copy and a hefty 196 pages. Later it changed to 160 pages and 35¢. Still later it cut to 128 pages. All this while it was a bi-monthly. Now it has become a monthly.

It's a good sign that the recession has ended and the upswing in science-fiction has returned.

We of Fantasy-Times wish Leo the best possible success with his likeable Fantastic Universe Science Fiction.

ANOTHER EDITOR QUILTS

Berkeley, Calif., (CNS) - Another editor has resigned from a science-fiction magazine. This time it's J. Francis McComas, co-editor with Anthony Boucher of Fantasy & Science Fiction. He, like the others, will take up full-time writing. Anthony Boucher will "go it alone".

(concluded on page 4, column 1)

"STARTLING" CUTS PAGES

New York, NY, (CNS) - With the Fall 1954 issue, (out by the time you read this) Startling Stories will cut pages from 130 to 114. Standard's other two s-f magazines will also cut to 114. Thrilling Wonder with its Fall issue and Fantastic Story with its Winter issue. There have been a number of page cuts on all of Standard's s-f magazines from time to time. At one time both Thrilling Wonder and Startling had 160 pages. Still, the Standard magazines contain the most pages in the current pulp field. While Standard's three s-f magazines contain 114 pages each, the other two pulps in the field, Science Fiction Quarterly and Planet Stories, each contain 96 pages.

Editor Alex Samalman hopes that this cut in pages will last but a short time. He has hopes that as the circulation of his s-f magazines go up, so will the pages. Meanwhile he's trying to obtain better stories for his magazines. Stories with less fantasy in them and more basic science-fiction; stories that stress more plausible human characterizations.

The 1955 FANVET CONVENTION will be held on Sunday, April 17, 1955 at Wexdormann's Hall, 3rd Ave & 16 St, NYC.

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

(continued from issue No. 200)

SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES OUT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR JULY 1954:

NAME OF MAGAZINE	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Fantasia	Oct.'54	35¢	130	Digest	July 1, 1954	bi-monthly
Universe S F	Sept.'54	35¢	130	Digest	July 6, 1954	bi-monthly
IF	Sept.'54	35¢	120	Digest	July 11, 1954	monthly
Imagination	Sept.'54	35¢	130	Digest	July 11, 1954	monthly
Beyond F F	Sept.'54	35¢	128	Digest	July 16, 1954	bi-monthly
Astounding S F	Aug.'54	35¢	162	Digest	July 16, 1954	monthly
Science Fiction Stories #2		35¢	130	Digest	July 17, 1954	
Fantastic Story	Fall'54	25¢	130	Pulp	July 23, 1954	quarterly
Fantasy & S F	Sept.'54	35¢	128	Digest	July 24, 1954	monthly

During July 1954, 9 science/fantasy magazines came out: 8 digests and one pulp. The pulp cost 25¢, while the digests cost \$2.80, making a total of \$3.05. The pulp contained 130 pages, and the digests 1,058 pages, making a total of 1,188.

(continued in issue #204 of Fantasy-Times)

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Esquire, August 1954:

"Men Without Bones" by Gerald Kersh, "Illo" by John Groth. Dr. Goodbody is the sole survivor of Prof. Yeowards expedition in Africa. They find a wreck-age of a spaceship, centuries old, in a strange valley. A metal plate shows a map that the ship came from Mars. Then a mysterious gray men appear. After killing one, it is dissected & has no skeleton, etc. Later the sun melts it into a mass. The Prof gets bitten by a snake and dies.....after saying he has proof, by the metal plate, that we are descendants of settlers from Mars & those gray men are really earth men. Goodbody takes it on the lam & barely manages to get out.....without the plate, of course. Good story.

Time, July 5, 1954:

On last page is a short brief on the paperback recession. Tells what most of us already know: the publishers flooded the market with so many copies that the average drug store dealer

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

Fantasy & Science Fiction

The November 1954 issue (Vol 7 - No 5) of Fantasy & Science Fiction will contain: "Dead Center" (short novelet) by Judith Merrill, "Dead - Eye Daniel" by Larry Siegel, "The Grom" by Arthur Por-ges, "Lease On Life" by Lee Grimes, "The Test" by Richard Matheson, "Transformer" by Chad Oliver, "A Matter Of Ethics" by J. R. Shango, "Recommended Reading" (a department) by the editor, "Sacrifice Hit" (short novelet) by Edmond Hamilton "The Weissbroch Spectacles" by L Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt.

can't find a place to display them all. It is said that a year ago, the V. P. at Pocket Books estimated 175 million unsold paperbacks were out. Many are returned without ever having been displayed. A lot of the blame is put on a reason we also know: too much crud being put out.

(continued on page 3, column 1)

AUTHENTIC cuts pages

London, England, (ONS) - Britain's Authentic Science Fiction has cut pages from 160 to 144 with its July 1954 (#47) issue. States editor H. J. Campbell: "Perceptive readers will note this month that Authentic is no longer bigger than any other British science-fiction magazine. While in the past we have been able to give you considerably more value than even magazines that cost more, we find that the time has come for a bit of retrenching. Magazine publishing in Britain is going through a somewhat difficult time & you will be aware that several old-established periodicals had to go out of print."

With its current issue, August, (#48) Authentic ends its series of covers BASED ON "From Earth To The Stars". An excellent series of covers that took the readers from the first manned rocket to man's final conquest of interstellar space. Next month a new series of covers begin; "Tour Of The Solar System". A planet-by-planet survey of our neighbor worlds.

Authentic is a pocket-size monthly selling for 1/6 per issue; has published more issues than any other s-f magazine in England. Outside of Los Cuantos Fantásticos it is the only s-f magazine to have been published at one time twice-a-month. It can be obtained from Fantasy-Times' British agent, MIL-CROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria St., Liverpool 1, England.

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

(continued from page 2, column 2)

True, July 1954:

"How It Feels To Be 'A Space Ship Passenger' by Don Dwiggin. The author got in a T-33, twin jet, and was flown in an arc to produce weightlessness for about 30 seconds.

Newsweek, June 21, 1954:

POGO captures the cover & inside is an article: "The Funnies Are getting Funnier Again".

TED STURGEON WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

New York, NY, - The 1954 International Fantasy Award has been won by Theodore Sturgeon for his book More Than Human. In October his novelette, "From Here To The Easel" will also be published by Ballantine Books as one in Star Science Novels, edited by Frederik Pohl, along with short novels by Jessamyn West and Lester Del Rey. More Than Human was co-published in October 1953 by Ballantine Books and Farrar, Straus & Young simultaneously in paper and hardbound editions at 35¢ and \$2.00 respectively.

The runners-up for the International Fantasy Award are Alfred Bester for The Demolished Man published by Shasta and now available in a Signet edition, and Frederik Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth for their co-authored book: The Space Merchants published in 1953 by Ballantine in simultaneous paper and hardbound editions at 35¢ and \$1.50 respectively.

The 1954 International Award is being made by an adjudication panel consisting of: Forrest J Ackerman, Fantasy-Times; Anthony Boucher & Francis McComas, Fantasy & Science Fiction; Red C. Brown; Groff Conklin, Galaxy; Basil Davenport, Book-Of-The-Month Club; August Derleth; Robert Frazier; Georges H. Gallot; Hugo Gernsback; Igor M. Maslowski; P. Schuyler Miller, Astounding Science Fiction; and Donald A. Wollheim, Ace Pocket Books.

Last year's International Award-winner for fiction was Clifford D. Simak for City, issued by Gnome Press, and L. Sprague de Camp and Willy Ley who got the non-fiction award for Lands Beyond, published by Rinehart.

Get Lost, June-July 1954, #3:

A take-off on The Thing.

Time, July 19, 1954:

There's been some rather drastic re-
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

FANTASY - TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today"
(S. F. Newscope and Fantasy-Comics)

Published semi-monthly by FANDOM HOUSE.

US & CANADIAN RATES: 10¢ a copy, 12 for \$1 from James V. Taurasi, 157-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, New York.

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, 232 James St., PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!

ANOTHER EDITOR QUIT

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

with ESSE.

1954 will go down in history as the year where in the short time of one month, four editors resigned. First it was Sam Mines of Standard, then Paul Fairman of Ziff-Davis, third was Sam Merwin of Galaxy, and now J. Francis McComas of Fantasy & Science Fiction.

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

(concluded from page 3, column 2)

visions in the staff at Collier's and under the new policy there'll be less

science-fiction.

Time, July 26, 1954:

C. D. has developed an X-ray microscope. Scientists expect to be able to study the interiors of living fruit flies & germinating seeds, as well as the fine structure of metals, paints, plastics etc.

Look, July 27, 1954:

"Will The Russians Beat U S To The Moon?" Russians scientists tell of their efforts towards a space station and space travel. One thing is certain, if this is true, it is the fact that it should stimulate the efforts of the U. S. on their own projects. It also gives a good reason to present to Congress when asking for appropriations.

Time, Aug. 9, 1954:

In RADIO & TELEVISION report it gives an account of Ken Nordine over WNBQ in Chicago, who once a week recites poetry to a late night audience. Says he has also read horror tales over TV and mentions some classics. Lovecraft's THE RATS IN THE WALL is one of the classics.

In SCIENCE: Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory at Buffalo is running tests in a hypersonic wind tunnel. Speeds up to 10,000 MPH. Studying effects of a missile entering the Earth's atmosphere at various angles.

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