

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

14th YEAR, Vol. 9 - #207

NEW YORK, 2nd September 1954

TEN CENTS

"WEIRD TALES" DELAYED

New York, NY, 28 September, (CNS) - The next issue of Weird Tales, which should have been on the stands around the first of September, has been delayed but it will be out in a few weeks. The magazine hasn't changed publication schedule, nor any other changes; it will continue as before, a bi-monthly. The delay was caused by the moving of the editorial office to 200 West 57th St., New York, NY, and vacation of the editor.

NEW ADDRESS FOR "FANTASY TIMES"!

Paterson, NJ, 29 September, (CNS) - FANDOM HOUSE, publishers of Fantasy-Times, today obtained a Post Office Box, as their official address. The new address of Fantasy-Times is now FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey. All news-items, correspondence, ads, subscriptions, etc., should be mailed to that address.

There will be no changes at all in the Fantasy-Times set up. The newspaper will still be edited in New York and published and mailed out in Paterson. This new arrangement will mean speedier servicing of subscriptions and other business of the publications put out by FANDOM HOUSE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

by our readers

127 Shephard Ave.,
Newark 8, New Jersey,
September 28, 1954

To the editor:

It is normally not a good or particularly satisfying passtime for an editor or an author to question a reviewer's remarks, particularly when the disagreement lies in an area of opinion. But when the reviewer invents his own motif for a book, and then criticizes the editor for not living up to it, it is just a bit too much. When he goes further and criticizes the book for doing the very thing he has accused it of not doing, he becomes ridiculous. And when he disputes statements that can be proved in black and white, he deserves what he is about to get.

A book of the nature of THE EDITORS CHOICE OF SCIENCE FICTION is bound to get spotty reviews. The reason being, that when it was compiled there were thirty science fiction titles on the stands. There are only twelve stories in the book. Obviously we had to leave out some magazines. When the book further does not limit itself to the present, but attempts selections from magazines no longer being published, any criticism that it fails because it has not included a certain magazine is sour grapes on the part of the editor who makes it and stupidity on the part of the reviewer. Further, adherence to this policy makes for such diversity that it is understandable that while everyone would like some of the stories few will like them all.

There is an error in the book-jacket blurb that Bill Blackbeard has (continued on page 3, column 1)

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

by William Blackbeard

ESCALES DANS L'INFINI, edited by Georges H. Gallet, Librairie Hachette, 1954, 256 pp., price unknown.

This recent collection of ten short science-fiction stories deserves commendation here for its editor's good taste, as exemplified in the quality and variety of the tales he has chosen for inclusion in what seems to be the first science-fiction anthology to be published in France.

The book's title, which may be rendered loosely as "Ports Of Call in the Infinite", characterizes the theme underlying the selection of the stories it contains. M. Gallet says in his introduction, "it has been said that, in science-fiction, it is not the principal character who is the true hero, but the 'setting'. Baudelaire would have loved that, he who wished that somehow he might be carried, 'no matter where, away from the world!' This book offers ten responses to that wish. Ten responses chosen from among a multitude of others in a collection begun more than thirty years ago, without any pretension other than that of giving a sampling of the variety of settings that science-fiction has imagined, invented, prophesied, to carry you to the very planets, around the stars, into unknown dimensions, out of space and time."

This book is part of the Librairie Hachette's science-fiction series, called "Le Rayon Fantastique" — an engaging name, inasmuch as "rayon", in French, means both "ray" and "bookself" — and is the latest title in what has been, under M. Gallet's guiding hand, an excellent selection of recent novels in the field. These include Russell's Sinister Barrier (Guerre aux Invisibles), Sturgeon's The Dreaming Jewels (Cristal Qui Sonde), Stapledon's Odd Job (Rien Qu'un Surhomme), van Vogt's World Of Null-A (Le Monde des A), and other first-rate titles by Heinlein, de Camp, Clément, Leinster, Taine, etc.

Escales Dans L'Infini is the first (concluded on page 4, column 1)

News Of The Great Event Of 1955

The 13th World Science-Fiction Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio in 1955 has set up their officers. Mrs. Noreen Kane Falasca is Chairman and Program Director; her husband, Nick Falasca is Co-Chairman and Publicity Director (this takes in editorship of Progress Reports and Program Booklet); Ben Jason is Treasurer; Honey Wood is Secretary; and Steve Schultheis is General Consultant. They are now having their letterheads and membership cards printed, which should be ready by the time you read this.

No Hotel has been decided on yet; the two offers are being considered. The Guest Of Honor has not as yet been picked. Planned is a "Mystery Guest Contest", details of which should be given out soon.

Ad rates have already been set for the Progress Report and the Convention Booklet:

* * *

SIZE	FAIS	PROS	COPY DIRECTIONS
Full page	\$8.00	\$14.00	11 3/4" x 7 1/4"
Half page	\$4.00	\$ 7.00	6 7/8" x 7 1/4"
1/4tr. page	\$2.00	\$ 3.50	6 7/8" x 3 5/8"
Col. inch	\$1.00	\$ ----	1 1/2" x 3 5/8"

SPECIAL RATES

All those taking ads in all four Progress Reports will be given a discount of 25%.

CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOKLET

The rates for the Convention Program Booklet will be the same as a single issue of the Progress Report.

Membership in the Convention Committee is \$2.00. The Convention now has a PO Box; its official address is: 13th World Science Fiction Convention, P. O. Box 508, Edgewater Branch, Cleveland 7, Ohio.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL FANVET CONVENTION will be held on Sunday, April 17, 1955 at Wordemann's Hall, 3rd Ave., at E. 16th Street, New York City, New York.

TED DIKTY S-F PROF AT CHICAGO Y.M.C.A.

Chicago, Ill., 8 September, (CNS) - Ted E. Dikty, long time s-f fan and co-founder of Shasta Publications, will teach a course in science-fiction, at "Learning For Living", Central YMCA in Chicago, Illinois. The course opens October 7, 1954, will run for ten weeks and cost \$12 (\$10 to YMCA members).

The various classes will feature some of the outstanding authors, editors, etc., of science-fiction. They include: Wilson Tucker; Melvin Korshak; Frank Robinson; Alfred Amos, editor of the Chicago Tribune Magazine Of Books; Fritz Leiber; Mark Reinsberg; Julian May Dikty, Chairman of the 10th World S-F Convention; and William Hamling, editor of Imagination.

For Further information write to: "Learning For Living", Central YMCA, 19 South La Salle St., Chicago 3, Illinois.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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quoted, but it is not the one he points out. The book jacket states: "each of the twelve editors of the twelve leading magazines publishing science-fiction, has chosen from his files the story which he evaluates most highly and nominates for inclusion in this, the most representatives of all anthologies." That blurb leads people to believe that the stories have been picked from 12 of the leading current magazines. This is obviously and admittedly not so. But nowheres does the blurb state that these are the best stories that have ever been published in those magazines. It does state that these are the stories which the individual editor "evaluates most highly". And since it is the policy of the book not to use a previously anthologized story, the selections have to consider that limitation.

Bill Blackbeard makes great moment of the fact that the selections in the book were "Unanimous" on the part of the editors. He states "we are not interested in the products of "unanimous" agreements, however valid such might be." The implication is, then, that

the choice made by the editor of the magazine, whether it is his own story under a pen-name, regardless of how poor it may be, would be acceptable to Blackbeard for the sake of interest. But -- he goes on to say, that while Dorothy Mollwraith's choice from Weird Tales wasn't bad, she could have done better, and then goes on to make a selection of his own! So, when the editors make their own selections, and Bill Blackbeard doesn't like them, he slams them for not picking the one he prefers. The hypocrisy of his criticism is now revealed, and his entire point invalidated.

Nowhere has he presented evidence that the stories are not the "Editors Choice", but he claims that the book does not live up to its title because "only one of the stories in this collection can truly be considered as very likely the next ever to appear in a particular magazine, in editorial or anyone else's judgement, and that is, curiously enough, "Death Of A Sensitive" by Harry Bates from Moskowitz's own ill-fated Science-Fiction Plus. May I state that though I picked that story myself, the question of whether or not it is the "best" that appeared in Science-Fiction Plus is merely a matter of personal preference, and I feel sure many would disagree with both Blackbeard and myself on that score!

He states "Some examples from the book's contents will serve to point up the meaninglessness of its title: John W. Campbell has chosen from Astounding, "What Thin Partitions", by Mark Clifton and Alex Apostolides and from Unknown, "All Roads" by Nora Farnsworth, Howard Browne has selected from Amazing, "I, Robot", by Eando Binder, and Samuel Mines has picked from Thrilling Wonder, "And Someday To Mars", by Frank Bellmap Long." Pray, tell me, why do these selections automatically "point up the meaninglessness of its title: "???" Does Bill Blackbeard think that the editors had nothing to do with making them. Why doesn't he write Campbell, Mines and Browne and find out?

He goes on to say, "These surely are not stories which, as Moskowitz claims, "created a considerable stir at the time of (their) original appearance", and "have been tested and ap-
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anthology of short science-fiction in this series. It contains the following stories: "Odyssee Martienne", Weinbaum; "La Girafe Bleue", de Camp; "Shamblau" Moore; "Touristes de s Temps Future" ("Pawley's Peepholes"), Wyndham; "Colin-Maillard" ("Blindman's Buff"), Giesy; "L'Homme-Machine d'Ardathia", Flagg; "La Bete du Vide" ("A Beast Of the Void"), Gaium; "Trois Lignes de Vieux Francais", Merritt; "Station Interplanetaire No. 1", Wellman; and "Le Sourire du Sphinx" ("The Smile Of the Sphinx"), Temple.

This is certainly a more than fair selection from M. Gallet's thirty-year-old science-fiction collection. We hope that its popularity leads to several additional anthologies of equal quality — much of the best science-fiction, of course, is to be found in the short story and novellette format, and that part of science-fiction should be as well represented in French as the novel already is.

PRO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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proved by the most exacting and final of critics, public opinion itself." The best of these mentioned above, "All Roads", is only a minor gem... At this point I must strongly recommend that Taurasi get somebody to review books who knows something about the history of science fiction, or that Blackbeard confine himself to giving his personal opinion as to whether or not he likes a story, because now he is dealing with facts, not opinion and obviously he does not know what he is talking about. We will forget about "All Roads", since Blackbeard is willing to tolerate it, but he says the other stories range from "the unexceptional to the unspeakable." Apparently not many agree with him. On page 121 of the December, 1953 issue of The Analytical Laboratory of the Dec., 1953 issue of Astounding Science Fiction, "What Thin Partitions" won first place in the readers opinion with a rating of 1.86, the closest runner up being Lewis Padget with 2.28. As to "I, Robot", I refer Blackbeard to the readers departments of the February

March and April, 1939 issues of Amazing Stories, to the hundreds of other mentions that story has since received. To the fact that it sparked off an entire series of Adam Link stories, that it changed the entire trend of robot stories in science-fiction. It was one of the most popular stories published in the history of Amazing Stories under the aegis of Ziff-Davis. Anthony Boucher, reviewing the Editors Choice in the August, 1954 issue of The Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction lists "What Thin Partitions", and "I, Robot", as two of the three most outstanding selections in the book. Frank Long's story "And Someday To Mars" never received the acclaim of the above two, but according to Sam Mines was one of the most popular shorts his magazine has published.

Blackbeard's reviews suffer from wordiness, ambiguity, contradictions and ostentatiousness. Earlier in his review he states that none of the three volumes reviewed were worth one third of the price asked. In his review of 9 TALLS OF SPACE AND TIME he commends the book to the reader "when and if it appears as a pocket-book reprint". Then without catching his breath he states: "The book buyer could hardly do better than pick it up, and for the "completist" or the Connoisseur" it is a must. "What kind of a review is that for gods sake! The man cannot arrange his thoughts, and is ignorant of semantics. A "completist" buys everything regardless of quality. A "connoisseur" is an individual of critical and fastidious tastes.

-Sam Moskowitz.

(The letter above has been turned over to Mr. Blackbeard and if he desires to answer; his answer will be published in a future issue of Fantasy-Times. One thing tho, we looked a long time before we took on a book reviewer, and one reason, among others, was that few reviewers were good enough for the job. Mr. Blackbeard, in our readers and our own opinion, is about the best in the field. Another point: It's getting to be an old story; whenever a writer of Fantasy-Times knocks a magazine or a book, we get a "recommendation or suggestion" from that magazine or book's editor or publisher to "fire" the boy. Sorry,

but we choose our writers with care, and only our readers can "fire" them. It would seem that the only way to get a good review in Fantasy Times - is to put out a good book or magazine. -The editors)

PANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

The Magazine Of Fantasy And Science FICTION

The December 1954 issue of Fantasy And Science Fiction (vol. 7, No. 6) will contain: "The Fishers" (novelet) by Robert Abernathy; "Special Talent" by Charles Webb; "The Seventh Bullet" by Salci; "Kalato" by Edward Lee; "A Case History" by Gordon R. Dickson; "The Cat, The Brahmin And The Penitent" by Francois Augustin Paradis de Monerif (translated by R. Bretnor); "The Ardent Soul" by William Morrison; "Time And Place" by Robert Sherman Townes; "Recommended Reading" (book reviews) by the editor; "Wish For The Moon" by Glen Menexson; "Totem and Taboo" by Philip Jose Farmer; "The Father-Thing" by Philip K. Dick; "The Bourbon Lake" by John Novotny; and the index to volume 7.

Science Fiction Stories

The first bi-monthly scheduled issue of Science Fiction Stories, January 1955, on the stands between the middle of October and 1st of November, will contain a cover by Emsch and interior illustrations by Emsch, Freas, and Orban. The issue will feature two novelets: "Gift Of The Gods" by Raymond F. Jones, and "Ripness" by M. C. Poarse; plus: short stories by Monroe Schere, Algis Budrys, Garda Jamiean and Dennis Wiegand. Also a feature article by Wallace West on time travel. The issue will contain 128 pages, be digest-size and sell for 35¢. The it will carry on the volume numbering of Future (Vol. 5, No. 4) it is not combined with Future. This is Science Fiction Stories' third issue.

Science Fiction Quarterly

The next, February Science Fiction Quarterly will continue to come out in

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald R. Ford

Time, September 6, 1954:

In the "Books" section the novel: I AM A LEGEND by Richard Matheson is reviewed. Then, in another portion of this department, Robert Plank, a psychiatric social worker, is quoted as saying many science-fiction plots betray "schizophrenic manifestations" in the minds of their authors. quotes came from: INTERNATIONAL RECORD OF MEDICINE AND GENERAL PRACTICE CLINICS.

Merely points out something the fans have known for a long time....you gotta be nuts in order that the other nuts will like your stories.

SATURDAY EVENING POST, Aug. 28, 1954:

"The Second Trip To Mars" by Ward Moore, illo by Bernard D'Andrea. In 2002 the UN expedition landed on Mars to find out that in 1887 an Englishman had already made the trip. Mars resembles England of that time, when the UN expedition arrives, due to the Englishman's ability to civilize the "natives".

This is one of the top short stories of the year. Don't miss it! It is also one of S - F's rarities---a good humorous story.

pulp-size and 25¢. It will contain a long novelete by Charles D. De Vet, and a cover by Freas. Damon Knight's book review column, and Bob Madle's "Inside Science Fiction", but minus '20 Years Ago' section, are transferred over from Future to SFQ starting with this issue.

Startling Stories

The Winter issue of Startling Stories will contain a novel by Poul Anderson: "Snows Of Ganymede" and will feature an article: "Poul Anderson's Future History". This is something new, where Poul Anderson's stories dealing with the future will be listed, with a small excerpt from them, thus giving a picture of the future. This may be done with other authors in the future. Also, from now on all covers will actually illustrate a scene from a story in the (concluded on page 6, column 1)

FANTASY - TIMES
The World Of Tomorrow Today
(S. F. NewsScope and Fantasy-Comics)

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FANTASY FORECASTS

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issue. In the past most covers have just be s-f scenes without regards to any story in the issue.

FANDOM HOUSE
Publishers of Fantasy-Times
P. O. Box #2331
Paterson 23, New Jersey

Publisher Wm L. Crawford, producer of Spaceway and FPCI hardcover books, and Editor Jim Harmon, fan and author, announce two new slick magazines, one science-fiction, one man's magazine featuring as much as 50% of special interest to science-fictionists. The high print order for these magazines means unused unsold copies (invariable with all magazines). In order to give fans the benefit of these idle magazines we are offering pre-publication 24 issues of each magazine (48 issues in all) for \$3.50.

This is Harmon's deal so orders should be sent to him within a reasonable length of time and mention of this ad. — Science Adventure Group, Jim Harmon, Editor, Editorial Address 427 East 8th St., Mt. Carmel, Ill. (Money-orders payable to Harmon.)

(This offer expires on November 1st, 1954, after that, 12 issues for \$2.00)

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