

# Fantasy Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

14th YEAR, Vol. 9 - #210

NEW YORK, 1st November 1954

TEN CENTS

## VILLIERS GERSON, N.Y. TIMES BOOK REVIEWER, JOINS STAFF OF AMAZING STORIES

### FAN MAGS ALSO TO BE REVIVED

NEW York, N.Y., 4 November, (CNS) - Villiers Gerson, who does some of the science-fiction book reviews for the New York Times, will soon be doing them for Amazing Stories also. In a change of policy, Amazing Stories will reinstate many of their popular departments of when the magazine was a pulp. As was announced recently, a full readers' column will soon return to the magazine, - also plus one of its favorite columns, The Fan Mags' Reviews. Since "The Club House" by Rog Phillips has gone over to Palmer's Universe, Roger De Soto has been assigned the task. Mr. De Soto asks that all fan editors to send in their publications for a real honest review. They should be sent to his home address: Roger De Soto, 361 East 50th Street, Apartment 6-G, New York 22, New York.

The first new book reviews and fan mag reviews will be in the May 1955 issue of Amazing Stories. No titles to these columns have as yet been picked. The full readers' column will be found in the March 1955 Amazing titled "According To You".

Another step towards the real s-f magazine was also announced by Howard Browne. He states that in the future, the so-called "arty" loose-type of illustrations will no longer be used in his magazines. The old-tight-type of illustrations, so artly used in Amazing (concluded on page 4, column 2)

## BRITISH "BEYOND", "MAG OF F & S-F" AND "WEIRD TALES" DISCONTINUED

London, England, 29 October, (CNS) - Milcross Book Service, our British agent, informs us that the British editions of Beyond Fantasy Fiction, Fantasy & Science Fiction and Weird Tales have folded. Beyond folded with issue #4 and was published bi-monthly; Fantasy & Science Fiction folded with issue #12 and was published monthly; while Weird Tales folded with issue #5 and had been published bi-monthly. This was the second series of Weird Tales published in England, the first was the pulp-size magazine of which over 20 appeared published bi-monthly.

## "BEYOND" DROPS "FANTASY" FROM TITLE

New York, N.Y., 5 November, (CNS) - The current issue of Beyond, #9, shows a change of title from Beyond Fantasy Fiction to Beyond Fiction. The reason for the change is a try at increasing its newsstand sales. Robert Guinn, through research, has discovered that  
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COME TO THE "5th ANNIVERSARY FANVET CONVENTION" ON SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1955



by William Blackbeard

GRIM TALES OF FANTASY AND IMAGINATION  
(THE MOONLIGHT TRAVELER), edited by  
Philip Van Doren Stern, Pocket Books,  
Inc., 1954, 485 pp., 55¢.

There may be some devotees of the fantastic story unfamiliar with Philip Van Doren Stern's superlative anthology of weird and ghostly fiction, The Moonlight Traveler, which first appeared under the Doubleday imprint in 1945. If so, the reappearance of this collection under another title as a 55¢ pocketbook reprint should be of interest to them, for rarely has such good taste been displayed in the editing of a book of this type.

The Moonlight Traveler was, to this reviewer's knowledge, the last major anthology to totally eschew all material from the pulps, and it is perhaps weakened thereby to the extent the editor had to depend on stories too frequently anthologized previously — such as Copland's "Adam And Eve and Pinch Me", Beerbohm's "Enoch Soames", and Poe's "William Wilson". Nevertheless, it is a pleasure to see a book in which such tried-and-true masterpieces are surrounded by a collection of lesser-known stories of equal caliber.

Among the latter are Oliver Onions' "Phantas" (a refreshing change from his equally good but overused "Beckoning Fair One"), Conrad Aiken's "Mr. Arcularis", and Ralph Straus' "The Most Mad-dening story in The World" (which isn't, but nevertheless amusing and provocative). Frank Bellnap Long's Joycean puzzle-piece, "To Follow Knowledge —" might seem to fill that bill in science-fiction on a first reading, however.)

In this reviewer's opinion, the two outstanding tales in this collection are Forester's "The Celestial Omnibus" and Scott Fitzgerald's "The Diamond As Big As The Ritz", and if there is any reader of fantasy so fortunate as yet to have the experience of reading the one or the other still before him, I cannot urge this opportunity to obtain them too strongly upon them. Several of the stories qualify as sci-  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

by Arthur Jean Cox

A new anthology, "Beyond The Barriers Of Space and Time", edited by Judith Merrill, will be out from Random House in November.

The November Argosy has a short science fiction story by Arthur G. Clarke, "The Invention"; and the same issue of Ellie Book contains an interesting history of the magazine, written by Donald Kennicott, one-time editor. Past-Covers are reprinted and writers like H. Rider Haggard and Edgar Rice Burroughs are discussed.

The French are seeing flying saucers! Or, rather, they're seeing the little men who pilot them. According to Time, October 25, M. Jean Marcy saw the first extra-terrestrial visitor last October (1953) in a wheat field. He was a little whiskered man, just under 4 feet tall, who wore a fur coat, an orange corset and plush cap. When M. Marcy said "Bonjour", the bashful little man fled. Since then, says Time, the French press has run wild, "and a deluge of Martians has been raining down ever since". The article goes on to say: "The Martians were anything but standardized. One who stopped M. Roger Barrault near the town of Lavoux had brilliant eyes, an enormous moustache, wore rubbers and spoke Latin. Another asked M. Pierre Lucas, a Breton baker, for a light. He was bearded and had a single eye in the middle of his forehead. M. Lucas could not remember the language he spoke".

Dr. C. G. Jung, the creator of Analytic Psychology, was asked for his opinion as to the meaning of the flying saucer sightings and, surprisingly, he says some very sensible things. He suggests that the seeing of the saucers and of the little men is inspired by "the fear of an apparently insoluble political situation in the world.... At such times eyes turn heavenward.... and miraculous forebodings of a threatening or consoling nature appear from on high".

The American Consulate in Paris has  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)



# THE METROCON REPORT

New York, N. Y., 31 October, (CNS) - "What's Wrong With Today's Science-Fiction?" was earnestly and vigorously discussed for two days recently by an impressive group of authors, editors, artists and publishers of the science-fiction field. This event occurred at the Metrocon on Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 1954, at the Hotel Empire in New York City.

The two-day Metrocon (officially named The Metropolitan Science Fiction Conference) was convened in the Embassy Room of the Hotel Empire on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday. On Saturday night a Halloween Party was attended by well over 200 persons in the Lotus Club just off Central Park East.

A score of speakers agreed that science-fiction today is sick and enthusiastically attempted a diagnosis. Some of the pros saw s-f on its death bed and frantically sounded an alarm. A few others, however, considered the illness normal and ordinary with a need for only mild remedies, if any at all. The majority, though, do consider the illness serious, and the two-day airing of views, it is hoped, will help in getting the patient on its feet.

Whatever the result of the Metrocon, one fact stands out impressively: Those who attended the conference thoroughly enjoyed it. The consensus of opinion is, as one author phrased it; "it (the Metrocon) was an outstanding success -- comparable to many world conventions!"

Dave Kyle of New York shared the co-chairmanship of the conference committee with Sam Moskowitz of Newark, N. J. They pointed out that one of the unusual aspects of the affair was the attendance of so many out-of-towners specifically for the gathering, in particular from Chicago and Cleveland. The married authors, Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett, came from their Ohio home to be Guests of Honor.

The formal sessions were marked by two remarkable qualities: the speakers were top-notch personalities and the speeches themselves were extraordinarily interesting.

The Metrocon was sponsored by the Science Fiction Council of New York Fandom, a representative body which coordinates fan groups in the area and represented at the Metrocon, the N. Y. S-F Circle and the E. S. F. A.

In addition to Co-chairman Kyle and Moskowitz, the following were conference committee members: Jean Carroll, Dick Ellington, Art Saha, Lin Carter, George Nims Raybin, Dan Curran, David Mason, Fran Farrell, and Phyllis Scott of Boston.

One tangible result of the Metrocon is the sudden mushrooming of talk for a New York bid for the 1956 World Convention. Based upon the remarkable success the Metrocon scored, innumerable fans and pros alike now agree that not only is New York Fandom capable of uniting for such a bid, but more important is qualified to do a good job. The S-F Council of N.Y. Fandom, although not yet committing itself, is known to be considering making such a bid.

Here's the way the program ran:

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: David Kyle opened the conference at 1:35 by introducing the officiating chairman, Sam Moskowitz. The first speaker was Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, noted gerontologist and s-f writer, whose topic was "An Analysis of the SF and Fantasy Field". Cyril Kornbluth, writer, flailed into "SF Book Reviews" with humor and sarcasm. William Sloane, editor, publisher and author of To Walk The Night and Edge Of Running Water, delivered what many considered the highlight speech of the day on the qualities needed and lacking for good s-f. After a recess and the taking of an official picture, Lloyd Arthur Eshbach, writer, editor, and publisher, discussed "Problems of S-F Book Publishing Today". Lin Carter, of the Metrocon Committee, then introduced Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett, Metrocon Guests of Honor, who greeted the gathering. Other celebrities were introduced. William Tenn (Phil Klass), writer and anthologist, switched from his usual humorous style to present a serious talk entitled: "Something Wrong, They Say?" Thomas

(concluded on page 4, column 1)



### FANTASY BOOKS

(concluded from page 2, column 1)

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once-fiction --notably Kipling's "Wireless", Lord Dunsany's "Our Celestial Cousins", and Benet's "The Curfew Tolls".

There are twenty-one stories in this large anthology, and if any of them prove unfamiliar to you upon inspection of the contents page, buy it -- They're all good.

### THE COSMIC REPORTER

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

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indignantly denied the assertion that the weird little people seen by the French are tourists from this country.

### THE METROCON REPORT

(concluded from page 3, column 2)

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Calvert McClary decried, in "Rebirth of S-F", today's lack of sound science in s-f and researching difficulties. David Kyle, as Chairman of the Nat'l Sponsoring Body Committee on Organization, reported on the SFCon and the Nat'l Body and advanced a provocative idea for a "S-F Hall Of Fame". Noreen Kane Palasca, 1955 WORLD CONVENTION Chairman from Cleveland, then told of the progress and plans of the "Clevention". Sam Moskowitz then wound up the afternoon as auctioneer in an auction made very brief because of a necessarily prompt adjournment at five o'clock.

SATURDAY NIGHT: A large crowd gathered at the Lotos Club. Of the movies shown in the ballroom, the film furnished by Will Grant of Toronto on past fan activities was the most fun. The "Story Of Time" puppet film was applauded for its professional excellence but the amateur production of Richard Matheson's story, "Born Of Men And Women", with special credit to Alan E. Nourse, was the unanimous hit of the evening. A special panel of celebrities combined with "Metro" -- the fan made robot with Dave Mason its creator and motivating force -- to produce a humorous quiz show which also was very well received.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON: David Kyle again opened the meeting, at 1:30, and Sam

Moskowitz continued as officiating chairman. Alan E. Nourse, writer and editor, led off with "What's Wrong With S-F -- A Dissenting Opinion", followed by Harry Harrison, editor, artist and writer, speaking on "The Death Of S-F". Isaac Asimov, writer, answered "How's the Foundation in S-F?" and delighted the audience by mixing humor in his serious discussion. An auction and recess followed. Then came Murray Leinster (Will F. Jenkins), writer, with "S-F Ain't What It Used To Be -- And It Never Was!". Lester del Rey, writer and editor, stirred the audience with his controversial "Where Do We Look?". Robert Frazier, told of "S-F In Colleges". Anthony Boucher, editor of Fantasy & Science Fiction, followed with his "Survey Of The Field". Then came the knock-down-and-drag-out talk of writer and critic James Blish, "Critics Can't Be Blamed", which climaxed the conference's serious theme. Isaac Asimov returned with "We Go Away Happy", to end the two days of speeches with his inimitable good humor. The Metrocon then was adjourned with the awarding of door prizes to everyone who desired an illustration or manuscript.

### "AMAZING STORIES"

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

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of the past will once more be used. He states that he has some new artists that should fill the bill quite nicely.

### "BEYOND"

(continued from page 1, column 2)

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many persons will not pick up a magazine marked "fantasy" because to them "fantasy" means children fairy tales and little more. Mr. Guinn found that they didn't read Beyond because of this, but when urged to try a copy they found that they liked that type of fiction. So, at a try at increasing the newsstand sales of the magazine he has dropped "Fantasy" from the logo. This is strictly an experiment and whether the "Fantasy" portion of the title will return or not depends on the sales of these experimental issues.

The next issue of Beyond Fiction #10, will be on the newsstands around (concluded on page 6, column 1)



# THE FANTASY RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

## S/F MAGAZINES OUT IN THE UNITED STATES THE 2nd HALF OF OCTOBER 1954:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PP.	SIZE	DATE OUT	SCHEDULE
Spaceway	Dec. '54	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 19 '54	BI-MONTHLY
Orbit Science Fiction	Nov. '54	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 21 '54	BI-MONTHLY
Fantastic Story Magazine	Winter	25¢	114	Pulp	Oct. 21 '54	QUARTERLY
IF-Worlds Of Science Fiction	Dec. '54	35¢	120	Digest	Oct. 23 '54	MONTHLY
Beyond Fiction*	#9	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 25 '54	BI-MONTHLY
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Dec. '54	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 28 '54	MONTHLY
Science Fiction Stories**	Jan. '55	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 28 '54	BI-MONTHLY
Galaxy Science Fiction	Dec. '54	35¢	160	Digest	Oct. 30 '54	MONTHLY
Galaxy S F Novel	#22	35¢	126	Digest	Oct. 30 '54	BI-MONTHLY

During October there were 13 science/fantasy magazines; 1 pulp with 114 pages and 25¢ and 12 digest with 1,600 pages and costing \$4.15; making a total of \$4.45 and 1,744 pages.

\*First issue with number instead of date (see Fantasy Times #208) and first issue with "fantasy" dropped (see page 1). \*\*First issue on regular schedule, actually #5, but using the volume numbering of Future Science Fiction.

## NOT SCIENCE FICTION, BUT OF INTEREST:

Ustic	Dec. '54	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 19 '54	BI-MONTHLY
Ecto	Dec. '54	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 30 '54	MONTHLY

## ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND IN OCTOBER 1954:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PP.	SIZE	SCHEDULE	TYPE
Tops In Science Fiction***	#1	1/6	128	Digest	- - -	U. S. Reprint
Amazing Stories	V. 1-#6	1/6	128	Digest	BI-MONTHLY	U.S. Reprint
IF-Worlds Of Science Fiction	V. 1-#11	1/6	128	Digest	MONTHLY	U. S. Reprint
Galaxy Science Fiction	#18	1/6	128	Digest	MONTHLY	U. S. Reprint
Astounding Science Fiction	Oct. '54	1/6	128	Digest	MONTHLY	U. S. Reprint
Science-Fantasy (#10)	Sept '54	1/6	128	Digest	BI-MONTHLY	British Orig.

\*\*\*A partial reprint of the US magazine. The U.S. edition was pulp size, this is digest size. Same cover painting as U. S. first issue, but design and logo of cover is that of the 2nd U. S. issue. (See complete story in next Fantasy Times.)

## SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Time, October 25, 1954:

SCIENCE column reproduces some cartoons from France depicting Martians, who are supposed to be on the Flying Saucers seen in France, lately. Made quite an impression in papers, there.

Real, November 1954:

"They're Not Telling You The Truth About The Spies From Outer Space" by Frank Edwards. This former news commentator says the Pentagon said there were 87 reports for the 1st 5 mos. of 1954 & Wright Field says they received over 700 reports a week for the same period. Rest of article is familiar saucer re-hash.

American Weekly, October 24, 1954:



"Flying Saucers Come From A Distant World" by Prof. Hermann Oberth. Says "We're been observed for Centuries", etc. You can take it from there & play the rest by ear.

Bluebook, November 1954:

"Adventures In Editing" by Donald Kemmick. A former editor of Bluebook (for 42 years) tells of his experiences while in that post. In doing so, he gives much of the early history of Bluebook & at the same time the history of a lot of Tarzan and science-fiction of those years. I found the article very absorbing & think most fans, fan editors, and all PROS. will find it worthwhile.

Argosy, November 1954:

"The Invention" by Arthur C. Clarke. In France a machine is invented to record sensations, which can be reproduced by recordings later on. They started out recording the sensations of gourmets, etc. Later on the sensations of 2 couples are recorded etc. Can't tell you much more without revealing the entire plot. Anyway, get this item...It's well written, humorous, and a "must". Should be reprinted. Boucher take note!

"BEYOND"

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

the end of January, or during February.

A word about the poor reproduction of some of the illustrations in issue #9. They were intended to be photo-offset, but Mr. Guinn's press broke down, and they were published by regular printing on an outside press.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

From Our Readers

Columbia Publications,  
New York 15, New York,  
October 26, 1954.

Dear Jim:

What's this I see at the bottom of page four of your 2nd. September 1954 issue (#207)? Let me quote: "...when ever 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. ..."

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Editors and Publishers.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

Come now, Lad, aren't you exaggerating? For example, the reviews of my magazines that run annually under the aegis of Dr. T. S. Gardner haven't been what you'd call enthusiastic. But have I ever hinted, let alone recommended, that Gardner be removed?

Naturally I get a chuckle out of your contention that some of my worthy colleagues can't take anything less than a total edulation, but let's set the record straight, since you brought the matter up. I'm in favor of honest criticism, which means showing no mercy to whatever the critic considers less than worthwhile, regardless of whether my own efforts emerge bloody. (You'll have to change that last word to "exaggerated" for your British editions in order to avoid international offense, which is not intended.) Then when a forementioned critic praises you, that praise means something!

as ever,  
Robert W. Lowndes

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