

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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THE TIMES

SIGNS INDICATE WEIRD TALES DEAD

Flushing, N.Y., 24 November, (CIS) -Has Weird Tales folded? That's been the question around New York for the last few months. The answer is a guess, as far as this paper can gather. We have plenty of reports, some from very reliable persons, but the actual facts we have been unable to obtain.

The last issue of Weird Tales to appear on the stands was the September, 1954 issue, out in July. At this date two issues have been skipped. The last time we were able to contact Miss McIlwraith, she informed us that due to their moving, her vacation, etc., the mag, along with Short Stories had been delayed. Later the September issue was recalled (a procedure that usually means that the mag has folded, or probably will not come out for a good many months) from the newsstands. Call after phone call to Miss McIlwraith never found her in. From two weeks ago on no one answered the phone. Two days ago, the Telephone Company informed us that the phone had been discontinued. Numerous letters to Weird Tales asking for information have gone unanswered.

It would seem from the above, and from numerous reports, that Weird Tales has folded. The best we can expect is that it may be revived in the near future by the same company, or has/or will be sold to another company.

"OUT OF THIS WORLD" OUT IN ENGLAND

Flushing, N.Y., 22 November, (CIS) -The John Spencer company has just issued a new bi-monthly weird/supernatural magazine in England. Called Out Of This World, it is pocket-size, 132 pages, trimmed edges and sells for 1/6. The first issue is undated. It contains 5 new stories ranging from fair to good, an excellent full-colored cover and fair interior illustrations. It is a companion magazine to Supernatural Stories, which has just seen its 3rd issue.

It can be obtained direct from John Spencer & Co., 24 Shepherds Bush Rd., London, W.6, England. (six issues for \$1.50 to U.S. readers) or from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE.

The company also publishes four science-fiction magazines and s-f full-length novels; all in pocket-size.

HAPNA! STILL MONTHLY

Flushing, N.Y., 24 November, (CIS) -The
(concluded on page 6, column 1)

COME TO THE "5th ANNIVERSARY FANVET CONVENTION" ON SUNDAY, April 17, 1955

by Bill Blackbeard

THE IMMORTAL STORM, by Sam Moskowitz, The Atlanta Science Fiction Organization Press, Atlanta, Ga., 1954, 269pp., & 15 pp of photos, indexed, with a preface, \$5.00.

If the following review reads like an advertisement, I must confess I could not have written it in any other way at this time. Any book which can make the adult reader feel again the thrill and excitement in science-fiction fandom that he felt at sixteen -- feel it without reticence or shame -- is something of a work of magic, and that magic has caught this reviewer completely in its spell. Frankly, I was enthralled by every word of it. From as objective a standpoint as I can take, however, it seems unlikely that a work of greater interest to the fan or professional than Sam Moskowitz's The Immortal Storm will appear in a light-year.

The book presents a continually exciting, revealing, and thoroughly documented history of fandom from its earliest origins among a few scattered Gernsback followers through the startling success of the First World Science Fiction Convention in 1939. It is written in a swift, breathless style that seemed to this biased reviewer the best sort of vehicle to carry a journalistic history of this sort, and the entire history is handled with a sense of the dramatic unique in a record of this nature. Much of the text is concerned with the kaleidoscopic political affairs of early fandom (here, for example, is the full story -- as objectively told as it could be by one of the embittered participants himself -- of the Futurian-New Fandom battle, which at one point "threatened to disrupt and shatter all organized fandom in the United States") and in handling such matters Moskowitz is at his best. To quote a paragraph at random:

"But this was, the last straw.

The spark had reached the magazine, and the long-awaited explosion took place. It was without precedent in drama, and superceded in brute dicta-

torial force anything the ISA had hitherto resorted to. The second meeting of the reorganized New York Chapter was in progress, with Hornig presiding, in a New York school room. Suddenly the clumping of many shoes was heard, and in burst Sykora and Wollheim at the head of eight other youths (not all science fiction fans) recruited from the streets for rough action if necessary. Sykora walked up to Julius Schwartz, a member of the audience, and shook a fist under his nose as a gesture of defiance to the Fantasy Magazine group. Then with the aid of his companions he chased Hornig from the platform. Producing a gavel of his own (one which later became famous, being wielded at many conventions and fan gatherings), Sykora proceeded to call the meeting to order in the name of the New York branch of the International Scientific Association. Such brazen effrontery left the audience too flabbergasted to protest. Wollheim then ascended the platform and vividly outlined his grievances with Wonder Stories..."

But the book is a great deal more than the record of feuds and political contretemps. Here, presented in detail, are the early attitudes and activities of many of the men who have subsequently shaped science-fiction in great part by their accomplishments as editors, authors, and agents. The portrayals of these individuals, which occasionally etched in acid, for the most part seem to be objective and competently handled. Here, too, is a record of the development of the science-fiction magazines themselves, and the best documentation of the form and nature of the fan press in the 1930s to be found anywhere. Here, for all the foregoing reasons, is some of the most absorbing reading the fan has ever had available outside science-fiction itself -- and, for my money, better than much of the material being published in that genre today.

A few criticisms seem in order. For example, it does seem that Moskowitz might have noted in his epilogue that many of the active leaders of the allegedly communist-orientated 'Futurians' (concluded on page 6, column 1)

S-F FIELD AT LOW EBB: ---SAYS SAM MOSKOWITZ

Philadelphia, Pa., 14 Nov. 1954, (CMS)—Sam Moskowitz, last speaker on the program of the 13th Philadelphia S-F Conference held at the Sylvania Hotel in this city today, left his audience of about 50 persons in a "thoughtful silence" after opining that the science-fiction field is presently in a very sad state indeed, and backing up that opinion with cold facts and figures.

L. Sprague de Camp, top s-f and fantasy author, led off the program with a talk on "mad scientists" — in fact as well as fiction. He was followed by P. Schuyler Miller with very recent data, some as yet unpublished, on archaeological dating methods. — Miss Judith Merrill, well-known authoress and anthologist and next scheduled speaker, was unable to be present.

Moskowitz, long-time fan, editor, anthologist and writer of s-f fandon's amazing history, "The Immortal Storm", led off his evaluation of the state of s-f by asking his audience what they thought the average pro-mag circulation was. Guesses ranged from 80,000 to 200,000.

He then proceeded to build up his gloomy picture. Astounding S-F, said Mr. Moskowitz, is the leader in circulation, and the only s-f mag for which undisputable figures are available since it is the only one whose circulation is vouched for by the Audit Bureau of Circulation, a trade organization which checks on circulation for the benefit of advertisers.

Mr. Moskowitz claimed that the ABC figures for ASF for the first 6 months of 1955 were 84,583 average, and for the first 6 months of 1954, 74,825 average. This, he claimed, was the top circulation in the field, and that the average circulation for the field was something like 40,000. He also revealed that under his editorship, S-F Plus had reached third highest circulation, which was not enough to support continued publication.

Also, he said, rates of payment to

authors had hit "depression levels" in that outside of four magazines, rates stood at 1¢ per word or lower, and that a 50,000-word novel could sometimes be bought for as little as \$150 with the excuse to the author that "you couldn't sell it anywhere else".

In the same category, he said, were the "package" and "multiple" deals foisted upon editors. A package deal is one where the editor is given a lump sum, out of which he pays for stories, articles, art-work, etc., and whatever is left, he can keep. A multiple deal is where an editor is handed a string of mags to edit at a stipulated salary, only a couple of which might be science fiction.

In Moskowitz's opinion, the circulation figures for ASF, given before, indicate that the state of affairs is still dropping, and that the evils attendant to the package and multiple editorships keep this tendency going. A package editor can make more for himself by lowering rates to authors and illustrators, which necessarily cheapens the mag he produces, while the multiple editor is overworked, cannot give decent attention to his couple of s-f mags, which must be edited in the same stereotyped manner as the westerns and detectives which vie for his services.

The four mags which pay the better rates, he stated, were ASF (3¢ - 4¢ per word), Galaxy S-F (3¢-4¢ per word), Mag Of F & S-F (2¢ per word), and If (2¢ per word), while it has been reported that Lowndes, for Science Fiction Stories has, on occasion, paid over 1¢ a word.

He said that if science-fiction would turn away from the tongue-in-cheek, slickly-written but idea-impo-erished type so prevalent today, back to the sincere, idea-ful type, accenting the "sense-of-wonder" upon which s-f built its reputation, while keeping some of the improved writing technique of the present, the field would again reach a healthy level of existence. He

(concluded on page 4, column 2)

LASTS 20 YEARS OLD

S.R.O. AT ANNIVERSARY

Los Angeles Cal., 29 Oct (CNS) - All attendance records were shattered last night at approximately the 900th meeting of the world's oldest operating sci-fi club, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Soc'y, on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. The newly redecorated club site, Freehafer Hall, named in memory of the popular fan of the early 40s, Paul Freehafer, was packed to capacity, with a large overflow-crowded at the door. The estimated attendance was 75. Four surviving Charter Members were present for the occasion, Director Wm S. Hofford (president of the club when it was chapter #4 of the Science Fiction League), Russ Hodgkins, Roy Test, and Forrest J Ackerman. Auctorial celebrities introduced included Ray Bradbury, Ross Rocklynne, Charles Beaumont, Chad Oliver, Kris Neville, Gordon Dewey, Mari Wolf, Chas Fritch, and a brace of others. Surprise turnout of the past: Art Widner, one of the top ten fan of an earlier era, once, famous as Fandom's poll-taker. Oldest attendees: septegenerian Bob Olson, and Weird Tales writer Dr Adolphe de Castro-96.

After the opening of the meeting, present director E. Everett Evans passed the gavel to Russ Hodgkins who in turn introduced Forry Ackerman, historian for the evening, who for the next 3 hours took the roomful of listeners on a verbal voyage thru two decades of h-lites and low-lites in the career of the club. Recalled were the contributions of Morajo and T. Bruce Yerke to the club...the creation of the club organ, Imagination!...the pre-talent days of a boisterous adolescent by the name of Bradbury...the crises over constitutions, Esperanto, simplified spelling, Technocracy, to beer or not to beer in the clubroom, etc. Recalled were the first Christmas Party...the 100th meeting...the 500th...the rise of Heinlein...the lecture HG Wells gave in Los Angeles (concluded on page 5, column 1).

COME TO THE FANVET CONVENTION

S-F FIELD AT LOW EBB

(concluded from page 3, column 2)

said that much of today's science-fiction was written to please the critics, the "johnnies-come-lately", and what he termed the "bandwagon boys", those who jumped into science-fiction during the so-called "boom", seeking to make a fast buck out of a field they knew practically nothing about, and for which they cared even less.

Moskowitz ended on a note of hope, however, pointing out that there are at present 24 s-f mags being published, indicating that there is a wide-spread readership; and that for some strange reason s-f authors, unlike those in other fields, will turn out top-notch stories even at low depression rates, apparently for the love of the subject itself.

Other items on the program were a short auction and the showing of an experimental film, "Born Of Man And Woman", based on a Richard Matheson story.

THE ACKERMAN REPORT

by Mr. Science Fiction

RAY BRADBURY's "The Concrete Mixer", from a '49 TWS, will be reprinted as a feature of the Xmas issue of Playboy. Ray's just sold a new semifantasy about a fragon to Esquire.

Rick Strauss, Hollywood scripter and producer of the scien-telefilm "Destructive Orbit", will make his fictional debut in the January Authentic with a 12,000 worder, "The Teamster". Same issue will present the 7th printing of my anthologized "Mute Question", a money-maker oddly enough originally written for and given away to a fanzine.

Tony Boucher is enthusiastic about Marion Zimmer Bradley's revision job on "The Climbing Wave". It started out as

an 8,000 worder called "Pilgrims' Progress"; all 25,000 words of it will be featured in a future F&SF.

A multanthology is taking shape (.) under the aegis of Groff Conklin, with Ed M. Clinton jr's "Small World" from IF, David Grinnell's "Lysenko Maze" from F&SF and Kris Neville's "Experimental Station" signed for the Table of Contents.

SLAN will be Germanized for serialization in Utopia and Japanized by Totsu Yano for his country's new s.f. pro, to be titled, basically, Science Fiction. Wendayne Ackerman has just finished translating "Phenix" into English, the latter being the French play form of "Fahrenheit 451". Wendayne is also assisting Chad Oliver learn German for his degree in anthropology. In Sweden, the serialization of Jack Williamson's "Legion of Space" has begun in Hapna!, and Italy's Urania will offer "Donovan's Brain" in the near future.

Scientifilms scheduled: "The Quaternary Experiment", "Red Planet Sram" and Judy May's "Dune Roller" with Richard Carlson. "Hell in the Heavens" will have a time travel (futurewards) denouement.

LASFS 20 YEARS OLD

(concluded from page 4, column 1)

geles...the toil to produce the Fancy-glopedia...the day Pearl Harbor was bombed...the war years in Shangri-La...the insurgents and the Khavves...the time FIA came within an ace of being "drummed out" of the LASFS by the Laney faction...the production of the Fourth World S-F Convention in LA in '46...the chapter at one time in Hollywood...the Westercons and the Panquets.

The "History" was supplemented by a snapshot show, throwing on the screen 50 fotos or so of members as they appeared in the early days, outstanding events, etc.

Everyone received a copy of some past issue of an LASFS publication...a mint copy of the #1 Amazing was acquired at auction by Stuart J. Byrne for \$7.50...twelve new s.f. books were raffled...and Thelma Hamm (Mrs Evans) won the Door Prize, the All-Stf issue of the Arkham Sampler.

Anniversary celebration lasted

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

Some more information about "Who's Who In Oz": It has 288 large size pages, 500 illustrations and 650 characters. Besides a long biography of L. Frank Baum, original author of the Oz books, there will be biographies of some of the other Oz authors and of all the illustrators. The book costs \$3.75. (as mentioned here in the 1st October issue, it is written by Jack Snow and published by Reilly & Lee.)

I hesitate to enter into a controversy involving two such ferocious antagonists as Sam Moskowitz and Bill Blackbeard but I hear from a Very Reliable Authority that the original editor of The Editor's Choice of Science Fiction was Donald A. Wollheim, somehow replaced by Moskowitz. As a matter of fact, I'm told that under Wollheim's editorship Howard Brown selected "If This Be Utopia--" by Kris Neville as his favourite story; in the book, as published, his favourite story is "I, Robot" by Eando Binder.

Harpers recently published a juvenile fact-book by Arthur C. Clarke, "Going Into Space".

C. S. Lewis, author of "Out Of The Silent Planet" and other well-known science-fiction novels, has written a fantasy of juveniles, about a talking horse: "The Horse And His Boy". MacMillan Company. \$2.75.

FOR THE BEST CONVENTIONS HELD IN THE EAST IN UNITED STATES, come to the Fanvet conventions. The next one will be held on Sunday, April 17, 1955, at Wordermann's Hall, 3rd Avenue and East 13th Street, New York City. Authors, editors, artists and fans will be speakers, BIG AUCTION, NO ADMISSION FEE.

from 7 till midnight, with coffee and home-made cakes served by hostesses Wendayne Ackerman and Helen Urban. "Get your reservations in early," counsels Jean Cox, "for the 25th Anniversary in 1959."

"HARNAL" STILL A MONTHLY
(concluded from page 1, column 2)

Swedish science-fiction magazine Harnal is still coming out strongly. It is still a monthly, tho' it skipped an issue during the summer. Two issues arrived today, the October (#7) and November (#8) issue. The serial SLAN by A. L. van Vogt ended in the October issue and Jack Williamson's "THE LEGION OF SPACE" began.

The November issue contains an excellent cover by Paul Dell, the serial by Jack Williamson, and stories by A.E. van Vogt, Bertram Chandler and Arthur C. Clarke. Illustrations are mostly new. The mag is digest-size, 98 pages, slick paper and sells for \$4.00 a year. It is the only s-f magazine published today with color interior illustrations similar to S-F Plus. It can be obtained from: Grafiska Forlaget, Science-Fiction-Tidskriften HARNAL, Jonkoping, Sweden.

FANTASY BOOKS
(concluded from page 2, column 2)

have long since disassociated themselves from the majority of the ideas they advocated with such vehemence in the 1930s and early 40s, and that fandom today contains no organized groups representing either the extreme political left or right — indeed, politics is anathema in formal fan activities for the most part. Too, the author might have rewardingly dwelt at greater length on some of the calmer backwaters of the fan movement in the 30s, such as the group of writers and fans which made up the unique correspondence coterie organized about the gothic personality of H. P. Lovecraft, rather maintaining such wholehearted concentration on the main stream of fan events. But there is no doubt the latter approach makes for a more continually engrossing story.

The book has a black and white jacket done by Frank R. Paul in the "traditional" manner which, appropriately, has the look of a fan mag cover from the 1930s, and is attractively bound in blue cloth. The contents are clearly photo-offset on good quality book paper, and there are innumerable

photos of many well-known gang and authors, many in amusing informal poses. Langley Searles has contributed a brief preface, and Jerry Burge and Carson Jacks have compiled one of the most thorough and efficient indices I have ever encountered in any book. The volume is a joy to behold and to read.

It is a "must", of course, for every fan and for every professional — for anyone, indeed, interested in the remarkable phenomenon of science-fiction itself. It is part of the fan's basic reference library, and belongs on the same shelf with such excellent volumes as Bretnor's Modern Science Fiction, Donald B. Day's Index To The Science Fiction Magazines (and its supplement, Bradford M. Day's An Index on the Weird and Fantastica in Magazines), de Camp's Science Fiction Handbook, and — if you are lucky enough to own a copy — the Fanzyclopedia. But above all, it belongs in your hands — just as quickly as you can get them on a copy.

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