

# THOMAS S. GARDNER'S "1954 IN SCIENCE FICTION"

- begins on page two -

## Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

14th YEAR, Vol. 10 - #214

First January 1955 Issue

TEN CENTS

James L. Quinn, Ted Sturgeon  
John W. Campbell, jr, Ed Emsch  
Sam Moskowitz & Wm. Gaines  
Will Speak At FANVET Con.

HARRY HARRISON, MR. & MRS. LEO MARGULIES, MARY GNAEDINGER, EVELYN PAIGE GOLD  
WILL ALSO ATTEND

New York, N.Y., 30 December 1954, (CNS)  
James L. Quinn, editor and publisher of  
"If, Worlds Of S-F", Ted Sturgeon, now  
the field's hottest author and winner  
of the 1953 International Fantasy Award  
for his "More Than Human", John W. Camp-  
bell, Jr., editor of "Astounding S-F"  
for the past 17 years, Ed Emsch, popular  
illustrator, Sam Moskowitz, long-time  
fan, author, editor and anthologist,  
and author of s-f fandom's amazing his-  
tory, "The Immortal Storm", and William  
F. Gaines, publisher of s-f and fantasy  
comics under the Educational banner,  
have already accepted speaking places  
on the program of the FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

CONVENTION of the FANTASY VETERANS ASSN  
which will be held at Werdermann's Hall  
3rd Ave. at East 16th St., NYC, on Sun-  
day, April 17th, 1955.

Also in attendance will be Harry  
Harrison, editor of "S-F Adventures",  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Margulies of "Fantastic  
Universe S-F", Evelyn Paige Gold of  
"Galaxy S-F", and Mary Gnaedinger, for-  
mer editor of "Famous Fantastic Myste-  
ries". Howard Browne, editor of "Amaz-  
ing" and "Fantastic S-F" and Robert H.  
Guinn, president of Galaxy Publishing  
Corp., will attend if business does not  
interfere.

Many, many, more of the top peo-  
ple in the sf field have been invited. As  
definite word is received, more speak-  
ers and attendees will be announced.

The affair will be open to the pub-  
lic, and promises to be the biggest and  
(concluded on page 3, column 1)

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER



# 1954 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

ONCE again, we present Thomas S. Gardner's annual review of the professional science / fantasy magazines. Once again we've found his listings of great interest—and in most cases we agree with him, in some cases. Mr. Gardner, as far as we know, is the only person who reads every story in every issue. No greater love hath no man. —ed

## (PART ONE OF TWO PARTS)

THE SLUMP in the science-fiction and fantasy magazines has continued through 1954. Some improvements have been observed, namely in Astounding, Galaxy. If and I note with regret, although belatedly, the passing of Weird Tales (Fantasy Times, #211, 1st November 1954 and #215, 2nd December 1954). However, I feel that this demise, if verified, has been long overdue, as well as about a dozen other titles.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. (12 issues). An improvement was noted in 1954 to bring it into first place. The articles have been exceptionally good. The best novel of the year also appeared, Clifton and Riely's "The 'd Rather Be Right". A special mention to von Wald's "Runaway Home"; Blich's "At Death's End"; Godwin's "The Cold Equations"; and Brown's "Martians, Go Home".

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION. (12 issues). A high quality was maintained throughout the year. Personally I think it was a mistake to publish Heinlein's "Star Lunnax" in this magazine. It is a good story but not suited. Read every issue.

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION. (12 issues). I am glad to say that the quality of this magazine began to improve during the middle of the year, and the November issue is approaching what we expect from Galaxy. A special mention to Knight's "Natural State"; Hol and Kornbluth's "Gladiator At Law"; and Simak's "Ho-2".

BEYOND. (6 issues). Although I enjoy this magazine I cannot predict a future. The tenor of the times is against this type of literature. It has never reached the statue of Unknown, and Unknown failed. A special mention to Farmer's "The God Business"; Gurn's "Sine Of The Magus"; and Richard's "The Reluctant Adam" has a certain air that tickles — a little. The last issue is numbered, not dated. Shadows of coming events?

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL. (3 issues). In my opinion this magazine is a failure — reprints should not be used.

COSMOS SCIENCE FICTION. (2 issues). Nothing is recommended. Just a low average.

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION. (5 issues). Some stories are quite readable. Recommended: Garrett's "The Wayward Course"; Cox's "Peace On Earth"; Sherron's "Cure, Guaranteed"; Budry's "Despite All Valor". The quality of Future deserves better sales than it gets. Why?

IMAGINATION. (12 issues). This magazine took a terrific drop in quality this year, to my surprise. The story quality has reverted to the earlier junk typical of the early days of Imagination. Usually the longer stories in a magazine are the best — in Imagination the long novels of 1954 were far inferior to the shorts. An attempt at over-dramatization has effected Imagination. Hamling can do better. of that I am reasonably certain.

IMAGINATIVE TALLS. (2 issues). Reprints. One good trend, not sticking to the poor (in my opinion), Toltec stories.

SCIENCE STORIES. (2 issues). Robinson's "The Ocean Are Wide" is a fair story, but the two issues are sketchy (continued on page 4, column 1)



best' s-f gathering ever held in the NY area. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to walk in and take part. There will be no admission charge, and no collection will be taken up.

Featured will be a giant auction of original cover paintings, original interior illustrations, original manuscripts, rare back number magazines and rare books (as available), and other items of sciencefictionalia of interest to fans, readers and collectors.

This year, the Korean war having ended and the draft call having been reduced, resulting in fewer s-f fans being sent overseas to be supplied with s-f reading material, FAIRVIEW has turned its attention to establishing "science-fiction sections" in the libraries of service and veterans' hospitals for the use of the patients. This is so far the most ambitious project the club has tackled and proceeds from the auction will be used for this purpose. About \$500-\$600 is needed.

As always, of course, donations of cash, mags, books, etc., are welcomed by the Secretary, Frank R. Prieto, Jr., whose address is RD #1, Kirk Ave., Warrens, NY.

Further info regarding the Con may be had by writing to the Convention Committee Chairman, Ray Van Houten, 438 Main St., Paterson 3, New Jersey.

#### SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Collier's, December 24, 1954:

"Who's Who On The Moon" by R. S. Richardson. A brief article telling of various craters named after people. All told, there are 609 craters so named. Photo of moon with 12 craters identified & photo of these people.

"The Body Snatchers" by Jack Finney. I've goofed rather badly. I find that this is the last of a 3 part serial which is very definitely science-fiction. Haven't read it, but the synopsis mentions "seed pods" growing into shape of humans and then replacing that particular individual. Finally, the aliens are overcome and they leave the

by Donald A. Wollheim

Here's the data on Ace Book's forthcoming science-fiction releases:

January -- Robert Moore Williams' THE CHAOS FIGHTERS will appear as a 25¢ single volume. This is a novel of psi powers in the not too far away future. First book publication.

February -- A double book containing a reprint of THE WEAPON MAKERS by A. E. van Vogt, under the title of ONE AGAINST ETERNITY. Coupled with it is first book edition of Murray Leinster's THE OTHER SIDE OF HERE, which is a completely rewritten and modernized version of his old Astounding series THE INCREDIBLE INVASION.

March -- A double book, containing a really powerful original novel by Alan E. Nourse entitled A MAN OBSESSED, a tense novel of suspense, psi power, and terror in the next century. Companioned with this is Andre Norton's THE LAST PLANET, a fully adult novel of the downfall of a galactic empire originally published as STAR RANGERS (and grossly misrepresented as a "juvenile").

April -- Double this month will couple Leigh Brackett's revised version of THE STARMEN now entitled THE GALACTIC BREED, with an original by Robert Moore Williams called CONQUEST OF THE SPACE SEA, and dealing with the jump-off point for the Solar System at Pluto.

May -- This double features two originals, neither a reprint from any published book. One is Leight Brackett's THE BIG JUMP which was once in Space Stories. The other is a very good novel of the future entitled tentatively QUIZMASTER TAKE ALL by Philip K. Dick.

Also signed up but not scheduled is a new novel by Poul Anderson which is going to be serialized first in Astounding.

planet Earth.

Life, December 20, 1954:

"World We Live In: XIII - The Starry Universe". 26 pages in the last Life's series. This issue has Bonestell cover & several interiors. Color plates, (concluded on page 4, column 2)



in quality and one little gem appeared, Causey's "School Days". The latter story may not appeal to many people, but the child psychology is carefully interwoven into the superman mythos.

STARTLING STORIES. (4 issues). A slightly uneven quality is showing up in Startling Stories. The quality is stiff fairly good. I especially enjoyed Vance's "The House Of Lszn"; and Smith's "Spaceman Lost". The shorts are inferior to the novelets in this magazine. It was a mistake to reprint Tucker's "Time Masters", as I believe Startling Stories should eschew reprints.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES. (4 issues). Fairly good level maintained, just as in Startling Stories. In some ways a very remarkable story is Marks' "Trade III". Very good is Leinster's "Second Landing", in this author's inimitable, swashbuckling method of writing and plot development.

FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE. (4 issues). The reprints are good selections, but I am prejudiced against reprint magazines. The shorts are fair.

TWO COMPLETE SCIENCE-ADVENTURE BOOKS. (1 issue). Wilcox's "Tombot!" is a fair adventure story, and is Berry's "World Held Captive". Neither outstanding.

SPACEWAY. (4 issues). Hunter's "A Look At The Stars" is excellent. Progressively throughout the year the quality of stories and articles decreased in Spaceway. A few readable stories throughout, such as Maine's "The Festival Of Earth". However I get the impression that Spaceway is unstable in selection and either does not know what is good from bad, or unable to select good material.

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES. (2 issues). This magazine is better than one would expect to appear in a time of declining sales of most magazines. Please continue a series in "Peace Agent" with interesting sociological overtones.

Budrys does an interesting job in "In Human Hands". Jones' "The Gift Of The Gods" is timely in its psychology. All the stories are readable.

PLANET STORIES. (5 issues). Planet Stories is not doing very well insofar as story quality is concerned. I seem to detect a steady drop in quality. The best of the year may be Gallun's "Dawn Of The Demi-Gods" in its scope of concept.

WEIRD TALES. (5 issues). Weird Tales has been dropping steadily in quality except for reprints from years ago, and Weird Tales may be dropped by now. (see Fantasy Times, #211 and #215). Bannister's "Song In The Ticket" tries to recapture weirdness. Lovecraft and Derbeth's "The Survivor" almost captures the old master's style and quality to make it a good story for the Lovecraft lover. The reprints are the best in any issue.

SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY. (4 issues). Rather good adventure in these issues. The non-fiction articles are good. Special mention to Gallun's "The Guthrie Method", and West's "Moon Dance".

AMAZING STORIES. (6 issues). Amazing Stories is showing slight improvement. The stories are usually quite readable, but sometimes the excursions into fantasy does not always jell. A post-mortem on post-atomic war stories would help some, unless we are to die twice, once with the plethora of poor post-atomic war stories, and then the final day! The editors seem to be experimenting with an interesting mixtures of science-fiction and fantasy -- and may finally get some good stuff that way. Best of luck to them.

(to be concluded in the next issue)

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION  
(concluded from page 3, column 2)

gate-folds, and photographs through Mount Palomar telescope make up this beautiful lay out. Be sure to get this and hang on to it.



# THE FANTASY RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

## SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING NOVEMBER 1954:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Imaginative Tales #3	Jan'55	35¢	130	Digest	Nov. 4, 1954	Bi-Monthly
Fantastic	Feb'55	35¢	130	Digest	Nov. 4, 1954	Bi-Monthly
If - Worlds of S F	Jan'55	35¢	120	Digest	Nov. 6, 1954	Monthly
Fantastic Universe S F	Jan'55	35¢	128	Digest	Nov. 9, 1954	Monthly
Imagination	Jan'55	35¢	130	Digest	Nov. 12, 1954	Monthly
Astounding Science Fiction	Dec'54	35¢	162	Digest	Nov. 16, 1954	Monthly
Universe Science Fiction	Jan'55	35¢	130	Digest	Nov. 16, 1954	Bi-Monthly
Startling Stories	Winter	25¢	114	Pulp	Nov. 16, 1954	Quarterly
Science Fiction Quarterly	Feb'55	25¢	98	Pulp	Nov. 16, 1954	Quarterly
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Jan'55	35¢	128	Digest	Nov. 26, 1954	Monthly

During November 1954, there appeared 10 science/fantasy (8 digests and 2 pulps). The pulps cost 50¢; the digests \$2.80; making a total of \$3.30. The pulps had 212 pages; the digests contained 1,058 pages; making a total of 1,270 pages.

## SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES ARRIVING FROM ENGLAND DURING NOVEMBER 1954:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	TYPE	SCHEDULE
Supernatural Stories	#3	1/6	132	P-B *	British	Bi-Monthly
Fantastic	V1-#6	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Bi-Monthly
New Worlds Science Fiction	#28	1/6	128	Digest	British	Monthly
Future Science Fiction	#10	1/-	98	Pulp	US Reprint	-----
New Worlds Science Fiction	#29	1/6	128	Digest	British	Monthly
Out Of This World **	#1	1/6	132	P-B *	British	Bi-Monthly
If - Worlds of S F	V1-#12	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Monthly
If - Worlds of S F	V1-#13	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Monthly
Galaxy Science Fiction	#19	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Monthly
Galaxy Science Fiction	#20	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Monthly
Spaceway	V1-#3	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	-----
Astounding Science Fiction	Nov'54	1/6	128	Digest	US Reprint	Monthly
Science Fiction Quarterly	#7	1/-	98	Pulp	US Reprint	-----
Dynamic Science Fiction	#3	1/-	98	Pulp	US Reprint	-----

\*Pocket Book Size. \*\*This is a companion magazine to Supernatural Stories, both published by John Spencer & Co., 24 Shepherds Bush Road, London, W.6, England.

(Science/fantasy magazines out in December 1954, will be recorded in the next issue of Fantasy-Times; and will include the year's total listing of number of pro magazines actually on the stands in 1954, number of pulps, number of digests, and total number of pages of each type, plus costs.)

Fantasy-Times is published semi-monthly by FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey. 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1, \$2 a year. Advertisements: \$5 a full page. BRITISH RATES: 9d per copy, 15s0d. per year from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND. AUSTRALIAN RATES: One Shilling per copy, 10 Shillings for 12 issues and One-Pound for 24 issues, from ROGER DARD, 232 James Street, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

James V. Taurasi, Sr., & Ray Van Houten, Editors and Publishers.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION



by Michael Corper

New Worlds, #30, Dec. '54, contains: "Prisoner In The Skull", first of a 5 part serial (Chas. Dye), "Reconnaissance", (P. W. Cutler), "Trojan Hearse" (Dan Morgan & John Kippax), "Hitch - Hikers" (Greg. Francis), "The Robbers" (E. C. Tubb). Besides these stories, there are an article, "Energy", by John Newman, (who is the subject of the inside cover "Profile") and denarations. The cover, symbolising the "Prisoner" story, is by Guinn, who also does some interior illustrations, together with Hunter, and Lewis. The monthly, 1/6, is published by Nova Publications Ltd., 2, Abchurch Lane, London, W.C.2, and has 128 pp. It is digest-size.

I can now mention that there is now a Canadian edition of New Worlds published at 35¢, and a New Zealand edition costing 1/9.

In his editorial, Cannell says that within a fortnight the two NOVA NOVELS, "The Weapon Shops Of Isher" and "City In The Sea" will be out in the UK, but there may be some delay overseas on account of transportation. The series was held up two months because Cannell was not satisfied with the original cover designs. "City In The Sea" will see its first publication throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire, except in Canada. The series will be high quality production, and the next two titles, to be released two months later, will be Sturgeon's "The Dreaming Jewels" and Blish's "Jack Of Eagles". However, the

series will not be available in Canada since Canadian Rights are reserved by the general North American Rights; and some of the titles to be published have already come out in Canada in USA editions. Canadians will, however, be able to subscribe direct, while in other parts of the Commonwealth collectors will be able to obtain the issues in the normal way from retailers. The editorial goes on to inform us that publishers T. V. Boardman & Co. Ltd., London, will produce an annual pocketbook anthology of stories selected from the magazine under the title "The Best of New Worlds", at 2/4, the first of which will be out next Spring. They will also publish about that time E. C. Tubb's first hardcover novel, "Alien Dust", based on material from his past serials of shorts that appeared in New Worlds.

In the next issue of New Worlds there will be the 2nd part of "Prisoner In The Skull" (Dye), "Fair Exchange" (Ian Wright), "Kill Me This Man" (Francis Rexer), "Short Circuit" (Gavin Ford), "Outside" (Brain Aldiss). There are two more points about the current issue: 100: It contains a Survey form to find out what type of people read science fiction, and gives some details on the 1955 British Convention, which will be held at The George Hotel, Kettering (in Northamptonshire), on April 8-9-10th. The registration fee will be 2/6. Admission on the first day will be free, and 6/- on each of the other days (4/- for wives and children). The hotel has been taken over for exclusive use during the Convention. Secretary is Dennis Brown, 42 Silverwood Road, Kettering.

PANDOL HOUSE

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

Dear folks: Apologies for unusually sloppy appearance of some pages of this issue; result of changing brand of ink. Needless to say, have gone back to regular brand.

Frank M Dietz Jr 221  
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Kings Park LI NY

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