

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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TEN CENTS

damon knight

LATEST. FANVET CONVENTION SPEAKER

New York, N. Y., 12 Jan., 1955, (CNS) - Damon Knight, s-f author, reviewer, fan of many years standing, and former editor of Worlds Beyond, has accepted the invitation of THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSN to speak on the program of their Fifth Anniversary Convention to be held on Sunday, 17th April 1955, at Nordermanns Hall, 3rd Avenue, at East 16th Street, New York City.

Previously announced speakers at the affair will be James L. Quinn of IF, John W. Campbell, Jr., Ted Sturgeon, Ed Emsh, Sam Moskowitz and Wm F. Gaines of Weird Science-Fantasy.

In accepting the bid, Mr. Knight said, "This will be my first public speech since the Denvention in '40, when I got up and gulpingly advocated flags for fan clubs (so help me), but okay. Thanks for asking me."

"I've got," he went on, "at least one perennial gripe - - - opportunists and commercializers in s-f - - that ought to be good for 20 minutes, if for nothing else."

Many, many more famous sf personalities, yet to be heard from, have been invited to attend. The affair is shaping up to become the biggest and best fan gathering (outside of the World Con in Cleveland) for the year 1955.

"UNIVERSE S F" CHANGES NAME TO "OTHER WORLDS"

Cincinnati, Ohio, 10 January, (CNS) - Bea Mahaffey announced today that Universe Science Fiction will change its name to Other Worlds Science Stories, with the May issue. The current, March-1955 issue (on the stands when you get this) will be the last under the old title.

Bea Mahaffey, who has been working only part-time on Mystic and Universe, for the past year, will return to full-time duty with the magazines shortly. She has been doing part-time work at a medical clinic the past year, but when it came time to decide which to drop, she dropped the medical work and returned full-time to her first love, science-fiction.

Ray Palmer started Other Worlds when he left Amazing Stories, and in time it became a monthly magazine, but the recession in the field forced him to give it up and start Science Stories. To this he added Universe, which he bought from Bell. In time the same recession forced him to fold Science Stories, leaving him only with the bi-monthly Universe, which then dropped colored covers and most interior illustrations. Palmer has since added to the magazine "The Club House" by Rog Phillips, a letters column and the "Personals" department. Now he has changed the name to Other Worlds. Outside of the title, no other changes are planned at present.

"1954 IN SCIENCE FICTION" by Thomas S. Gardner - see page 2.

1954 IN SCIENCE-FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

(IN TWO PARTS - PART TWO)

FANTASTIC. (6 issues). This magazine is not jelling too well. Bixby's "The Young One" has a certain charm. Garrett's "Woman Driver" should give some humor unless you are rather-r-r-r prejudiced! Fantastic has one good point, and that is a developing sense of humor in its stories, and also a trend toward science-fiction rather than poor fantasy. Good fantasy -- yes, poor fantasy -- NO.

SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST. (2 issues). The field of science-fiction, fantasy, and weird is not extensive enough to justify this kind of magazine. Even the printing of rare gems once in a while would not justify it. The selections are fairly well chosen, but the type, in my opinion, dooms the magazine. Of course, I could be wrong too.

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES. (2 issues). Story content is fairly good. Kleine's "The Ride", and Scortia's "The Prodigy" will interest Astounding readers. Merrill's "Rain Check" has a double meaning!

UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION. (5 issues). The quality of this material is very uneven. Some of it is fairly well done, and some is very poor. Russell's "The Door" is a good example of a beautifully written story. Garrett's "The Surgeon's Knife" is good for its type. Tubb's "Homecoming" is a bitter story, and well done. Robinson's "The Dead End Kids Of Space" is worth reading, and Hamilton's "Starman Come Home!" is a good space opera. I have the feeling this could become a very good magazine with proper improvement and better selection.

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION. (8 issues). This magazine seems to be rapidly climbing in many ways in spite of the general level of the stories being average. One thing, it is bulky and the purchaser feels he is getting something for his money, which

is no more than other magazines, and much less than some. (e.g. Astounding) Some of the stories are fairly good and some are terrible. You may be interested in del Rey's "The Life Watch".

ORBIT SCIENCE FICTION. (3 issues). Orbit does a fairly smooth job. The make-up is quite appealing. Coppol's "Last Night Of Summer" is a powerfully written story. Causey's "So Lovely, So Lost" is a cruel and somewhat bitter story. Most of the stories are readable.

F. Worlds Of Science Fiction. (11 issues). This magazine has been steadily improving and most of the material is average or better. The stories seem to have been selected with more care than most of the magazines on the market. Hunter's "Malice In Wonderland" is an excellent satire. Jones' "The Colonists" is very good. Also Jones' "The Unlearned" is an important as well as a good story. I wish to note that Mari Wolf is doing very well for a beginner; Note, "The Very Secret Agent!" She is putting in a human touch that is sometimes missing from other writers.

In the 200th issue of Fantasy-Times Palmer of Mystic asked why I reviewed Mystic and requested that I drop it from my reviews. Frankly Mystic is more "science or fantasy-fiction" to me than any other classification. I grant Editor Palmer the right to classify it as he sees fit, but in order to partially conform with his request I will hereby give it a special fantasy classification, and:

MYSTIC. (6 issues). Mystic for 1954 showed, in my opinion, no improvement as a fiction magazine over 1953.

I refuse to drop anything from my list except on my own judgement. I would suggest that any reader of Fantasy-Times read a copy of Mystic and decide for himself if the material is not fantasy! Fantasy magazines are included in my reviews, which makes it legitimate. Also if RAP wishes, I feel sure that JVT would take a poll of Fantasy-Times readers whether or not Mystic should be classified as a "special" (concluded on page 4, column 1)

THE ANNUAL FANTASY REPORT

Compiled by James V. Taurasi

DURING 1954, for the first time, we published listings of the actual science/fantasy magazines that hit the stands that year. Ably compiled during the year by Frank R. Prieto, Jr., they give us a complete picture of how the field went that year.

During 1954, 142 issues came out, costing \$47.70 and containing 19,048 pages. Of the above 21 issues were of pulp size while 121 issues were digest size. The pulps alone cost \$5.35 for the year and contained 2,400 pages; while the digests alone cost \$42.35 and contained 16,648 pages. On a monthly average the story goes like this: Pulps 1 3/4 issues and 200 pages was the average. Digests: 10 1/2 issues and 1,587 1/3 pages was the average. Thus the overall average for each month was: 11 5/6 issues and 1,587 1/3 pages. To the person who bought all the magazines it cost him an average of \$5.975 per month.

In April 1954, for the first time in many, many years, no pulps came out. May 1954 had the largest amount of magazines come out, 16; July 1954 was the lowest with 9 magazines.

FOLDED DURING 1954:

Dynamic Science Fiction

Vortex Science Fiction

Science Stories

Science Fiction Plus*

Science Fiction Digest

Two Complete Science-Adventure Books

Tops In Science Fiction*

*No issues published in 1954.

Future Science Fiction quit as a bi-monthly and became a one-shot. Orbit Science Fiction and Cosmos Science Fiction, saw few issues in 1954, are still on the books, but have no issues scheduled at the present time.

Weird Tales has been reported in bankruptcy and can be considered folded.

Science Fiction Adventures suspended publication early in 1954 and is expected to be revived in 1955.

S/F MAGAZINES THAT CUT PAGES

Imagination, 160 to 128

Planet Stories, 112 to 96

Spaceway, 160 to 128

Beyond Fiction, 160 to 128

Startling Stories, 130 to 114

Thrilling Wonder Stories, 130 to 114

Fantastic Story Magazine, 130 to 114

Imaginative Tales, 160 to 128

Galaxy Science Fiction, 160 to 144

Fantastic Universe, 160 to 128

EDITORIAL CHANGES IN 1954:

Sam Mines resigned, replaced by Alex Samalman and Pheron Raines.

Paul W. Fairman, Sam Merwin, Jr., and J. Francis McComas resigned and were not replaced.

MAGAZINES NOW BEING PUBLISHED:

Monthly Magazines

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION

MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

IMAGINATION

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE SCIENCE FICTION

IF

Bi-Monthly Magazines

AMAZING STORIES

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION

IMAGINATIVE TALES

OTHER WORLDS

BEYOND FICTION

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL

SPACEWAY

Quarterly Magazines

STARTLING STORIES

THRILLING WONDER STORIES

FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE

(concluded on page 4, column 1)

Fantasy Magazine".

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS:

1954 had 27 titles with 150 issues; as compared to 38 titles and 185 issues in 1953, but in 1952 there were 28 titles with 149 issues! In my opinion there are too many titles, and too many issues being published to give a good grade of material.

Astounding, Galaxy, Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction, If, Imagination, and Fantastic Universe are currently rated as monthlies. This is 72 issues for these six mags. I contend that only about 75 issues can have good material in totality. (I do not think I have missed any monthly rating, if so, yell real loud.)

I detect a loss of strength in the old line magazines, Startling, Thrilling Wonder, Planet, etc., with a pick-up by newer mags such as If.

PREDICTION: Six to eight of the titles of 1954 will be dropped in 1955. Perhaps even more if the slump gets worse. I have heard that there is also a slump in the hard cover science-fiction books, and also the paper backs. In my opinion the day of the pulp-size is over, and there is some evidence that the digest-size may be in for hard sledding. If so there may be a shift toward the large size by the more progressive magazines.

Until 1955, Vale!

T H E E N D

THE ANNUAL FANTASY REPORT (concluded from page 3, column 2)

PLANET STORIES
SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY

One Shot Magazines

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION
ORBIT SCIENCE FICTION
COSMOS SCIENCE FICTION

Proposed for 1955

X SCIENCE FICTION

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES (revival)-

BRE "TOPS IN S F" OUT IN ENGLAND

Warners, N.Y., 18 December, (CNS) - Tops In Science Fiction saw its first British edition in October 1954. The first issue contains: "Citadel Of Lost Ships" by Leigh Brackett; "Task To Lahri" by Ross Rocklynne; "The Million Year Picnic" by Ray Bradbury; and "The Last Martian" by Raymond Van Houten.

While the first issue in the USA was pulp size, the first issue in Great Britain is digest-size and carries the same logo style and cover format of the second USA edition, which was digest-size. It has 128 pages and is published by Top Fiction Ltd, 139 Borough High Street, London, S.E.1, and distributed by Alexander Moring Ltd of the same address.

The cover of this issue has been changed from the first issue of the USA edition. The USA edition had a woman being attacked by a BEM, while the British edition has a man being attacked by the same BEM; tho the BEM has been changed somewhat from the USA BEM. The British edition has only 4 stories, while the USA edition had 8 stories.

-Frank R. Prieto, Jr

FARWEST NEWSFAX

(formerly "The Ackerman Report")

by "Farwest" Ackerman

Introductory remarks to my latest column: There are those that hold that the title "Mr Science Fiction" is an infantile and silly one that no self-respecting individual would be proud to be associated with. There may be a "Mr Rhythm" and a "Mr Industry" and a "Mr Show Business", etc, but they regard it as "peculiarly ridiculous" for an adult to be equated with such as appellation as "Mr Science Fiction". And in any event it has been indicated to me by Bob (or Wilson) Tucker that he feels Sam Moskowitz should be the rightful owner of any such title, altho I have been told that Sam himself accords the dubious distinction to Hugo Gernsback-- whose role in s.f. history is already
(continued on page 5, column 1)

THE FANTASY RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

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

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Galaxy Science Fiction*	Jan. '55	35¢	144	Digest	December 1 '54	Monthly
Planet Stories	Winter	25¢	96	Pulp	December 2, '54	Quarterly
If-Worlds of SF	Feb. '55	35¢	120	Digest	December 7, '54	Monthly
Fantastic Universe SF	Feb. '55	35¢	128	Digest	December 9, '54	Monthly
Amazing Stories	Mar. '55	35¢	130	Digest	December 9, '54	Bi-Monthly
Thrilling Wonder Stories	Winter	25¢	114	Pulp	December 9, '54	Quarterly
Imagination	Feb. '55	35¢	130	Digest	December 13, '54	Monthly
Snopceway Science Fiction**	Feb. '55	35¢	128	Digest	December 14, '54	Bi-Monthly
ASTOUNDING Science Fiction	Jan. '55	35¢	162	Digest	December 14, '54	Monthly
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Feb. '55	35¢	128	Digest	December 28, '54	Monthly
Galaxy Science Fiction	Feb. '55	35¢	144	Digest	December 31, '54	Monthly

During December 11 science/fantasy magazines came out. 2 were pulps and 9 were digests. The pulps cost 50¢ and the digests \$3.15, making a total of \$3.65. The pulps contained 210 pages; the digests 1,214 pages, making a total of 1,424.

*This issue is the first with 144 pages. **The cover is somewhat similar to Universe and Mystic.

NON SCIENCE/FANTASY, BUT OF INTEREST:

Eato	Jan. '55	35¢	130	Digest	December 2, '54	Monthly
Mystic	Feb. '55	35¢	130	Digest	December 20, '54	Bi-Monthly

RECEIVED IN ENGLAND DURING DECEMBER 1954:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	SCHEDULE	TYPE
Science-Fantasy	V.4 #11	2/-	128	Digest	Bi-Monthly	British
New Worlds Science Fiction	V.10 #30	1/6	128	Digest	Monthly	British
Fantastic	V.1 #7	1/6	128	Digest	Bi-Monthly	US Reprint
Amazing Stories	V.1 #7	1/6	128	Digest	Bi-Monthly	US Reprint
ASTOUNDING Science Fiction	Dec. '54	1/6	128	Digest	Monthly	US Reprint
Future Science Fiction	#11	1/-	98	Pulp	-----	US Reprint
Supernatural Stories	#4	1/6	132	P-B***	Bi-Monthly	British

***Pocket-Book Size.

FARTHEST NEWSPAK

(continued from page 4, column 2)

long secured as "The Bather Of Scienti-fiction". Howard Browne has gone on record for his candidate: Robert Heinlein, one of the deans of SF. As some readers have exhibited a basic antagonism toward the heading "The Ackerman Report by Mr Science Fiction", I have requested the publishers to please remove it and replace it with what I hope you will all find a completely innocuous byline. Fja, 1 Jan 55.

Chad Oliver will be in STAR SCI FI #3 with "Are There Any More At Home Like You?", and he and Chas Beaumont will appear in the Apr F&SF with a collaboration, "The Last Word"...Bleiler & Dikty wanted David Grinnell's "The Ly-senko Maze" for their next BEST, but Groff Conklin had got there first...Ten days after submission, Our Navy had taken "The Storekeeper and the Space War" by Gene Hunter, a record in these days, altho IF duplicated it in purchasing Kirk and Garen Drussali's collaboration, "The Twilight Years"...E. Everett Evans second novel, "The Planet Mappers", for

mid-Jan publication from Dodd-Read; a followup has been almost completed, "The Planet Colonizers".

Curt Siodmak is scripting "The Attack of the Flying Saucers" for Columbia and an episode of "Captain Pathom" as a video pilot....LA fan Peter Vorzimer will tour Europe this summer, first stop with Walter Willis, with Vincent Clarke (London), Jan Jansen (Belgium), Georges Gallet (Paris) and many others on the itinerary....New cover artist, Paul Blaidell, has sold two to Sweden's Harna, two to Germany's Utopia, another to Spaceway, and done a jacket for the Winston juvenovel, "The Ant Men". He has been asked for on You Asked for It, popular TV personality program, as has Jacque Fresco, scientifiilm technical effects man....Hollywood artist Albert Huetzol, father of fan Charles, sold a cover to Harna.

Chas Beaumont's IF hit, "The Jungle", has been snapped up by anthologist Vernon Shea.....Kris Noville has done "Invasion" for a new anthology of originals; Philip José Farmer, "Son"; Chas Beaumont, "A World Of Differents"; and Richard Matheson, "Old Haunts"..The Ballantine re-issue of Bradbury's DARK CELESTIAL will differ by half a dozen stories from the Arkham edition....Bela Lugosi will star in "Bride of the Atom" ...James Causey has sold "Competition", to Galaxy...And, closing out with an Eastern newsmag: Horace Gold will have a collection of 15 of his top tales published in March by Crown, under the title THE OLD DIE RICH.

RANDOM HOUSE

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THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSBOOK by Lane Stannard

FIAD, the non-science-fiction comic book that is read by most science-fiction fans will go large (8½" x 11") and click with its 24th issue. It will leave the comic format completely, contain 64 pages and be published bi-monthly. It will contain text as well as illustrations. Panic, its companion magazine in LAUNDRESS, will remain as is.

Evelyn Paige Gold, Managing Editor of Galaxy, will take her first real vacation in five years, when she leaves for California in February, for a month.



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