

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

14th YEAR, Vol. 10 - #217

SECOND FEBRUARY 1955 ISSUE

Ten Cents

SEVEN MORE BRITISH SCIENCE-FICTION MAGS FOLD

THREE WERE AMERICAN REPRINTS

Liverpool, England, 19 January (CNS) - Fantasy - Times' agent, Milcross Book Service, has informed us that seven more British science-fiction magazines have folded. Three were American reprints and four British originals.

The British editions of Planet Stories folded with #12, Startling Stories with #18, and Thrilling Wonder Stories with #104. This is the second series of TWS to fold in England.

The British originals, all published by John Spencer & Co., are: Futuristic Science Stories with #15, Tales Of Tomorrow with #11, Wonders Of The Spaceways with #10 and Worlds Of Fantasy with #14.

A few months ago, the British editions of Weird Tales, Fantasy & Science Fiction and Beyond Fantasy Fiction folded.

The British science/fantasy magazines are now going thru the same recession that American science/fantasy magazines went thru in 1953 and 1954.

John Spencer & Co is still publishing its two supernatural magazines, Supernatural Stories and Out Of This World on a bi-monthly basis.

The finest convention in the Eastern US is the 5TH ANNIVERSARY FANVET CONVENTION, to be held on Sunday, 17 April '55 at BERDERMANN'S HALL, 3rd Ave., at East 16th Street, New York City, at 1:00 PM.

S-F STUDENTS SELL FIRST STORIES TO "FANTASTIC UNIVERSE"

New York, NY, 10 February, (CNS) - Two students of Sam Moskowitz and Robert Frazier's SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY WORKSHOP have sold their first science-fiction stories after completing a single twelve lesson course. The stories have been purchased by Leo Margulies for his science-fiction magazine Fantastic Universe Science Fiction.

At the beginning of the September 1954 semester, it was announced by the instructors that the best stories written by members of the class would be submitted for consideration to Leo Margulies' Fantastic Universe Science Fiction. Mr. Margulies had previously requested to see the best stories produced by the class.

The prize winning story was written by Thomas J. O'Hara and entitled "Incident". Honorable mention was given to Robert Epstein for his story entitled "Exchange". This story was also purchased.

In announcing his decision to purchase the Thomas J. O'Hara story Mr. (concluded on page 4, column 1)

by Our Readers

by Arthur Jean Cox

Rutherford, New Jersey
January 25, 1955

Dear Editor:

I want to congratulate Donald A. Wollheim on his short column in Fantasy Times, #214, explaining A C E SCIENCE FICTION BOOK NEWS. Something of this type is badly needed to improve relations between publisher and the reader. Authentic information on forthcoming books is sometimes hard to get, and Don's honesty of treatment is even rarer.

I should like to take this opportunity to suggest some points that may make closer relations and decrease the present resentment that many readers have toward pocket books.

a. Although I am not convinced that titles should be changed, if they are, then the old title should be printed in parentheses under the new title. Some publishers do this, and it should be adopted by all of them.

b. If published before, the place and date of publication should be given.

c. Only in rare cases should changes be made by the editor instead of the author, and if changes are made a short statement to this effect should be printed.

d. The abridgement of a story is a sure indication for many would-be readers to pass it up.

e. If the author rewrites the story, this should be stated. If an estimate can be given of the percentage change so much the better. I have read books that blatantly advertised "completely rewritten, and find the changes very minor -- much to my disgust.

Congratulations Don on the most honest statements about your books that I have seen in a long time. Keep up the good work.

One plea, as many originals as the budget can afford rather than reprints!

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Gardner

(We will publish any and all s/f book news we receive, Tom, and we quite agree with your letter, adding only that those rules should also apply to science/fantasy magazines. -the editors)

Algis J. Budrys denied in a recent letter to Forrest J Ackerman that he had painted the cover on the current Planet Stories, despite the credit line on the contents page listing him as the artist. Budrys stated in the letter that he has been studying illustrating lately, having in his mind the possibility that he could illustrate some of his own stories, but he fears that a cover painting is beyond his abilities. The Planet cover was really done by Kelly Freas.

The two Bleiler-Dikty annual anthologies, "The Best Of Science Fiction" and "The Best Science Fiction Novels" are to be combined this year, and in the future. The new consolidated anthology will probably feature two short novels of the previous year, plus nine or ten short stories.

During the past few years, Los Angeles fan Jim Kepner has been telling friends about a novel he intended to finish someday. Recently, he had what he calls "the dubious pleasure of reading my own story written by someone else". A fellow named Gore Vidal "anticipated" him by writing "The messiah", recently published in pocketbook form. "The Messiah" is virtually identical with the novel Kepner was planning. (for the beady-eyed people who see ulterior meanings in every casual statement, let me say, no one, including Kepner, suspects Vidal of having "lifted" the story from him.)

(Editorial Note: Arthur Jean Cox's brother, Bill((see Ackerman's column in the last issue))has arrived in New York and will make his home in Flushing.)

Perth, western Australia
January 30, 1955

Dear Editor:

Could you please give me some information? Could you please tell me how many issues, all told, of Fantasy Comics appeared? I have them from Vol. 1, No. 1 (September-October 1952) to Vol. 2 No. 12, whole No. 15 (December 1953). (concluded on page 4, column 1)

by Forrest J Ackerman

THE OCTOBER COUNTRY will be the new title for the new, majorly revised Dark Carnival from Ballantine. Bradbury's first juvenile, "Twitch on the Night", has just been published (Pantheon, \$2.50). He recently turned down a second offer to script WAR & PEACE...

Recent buys from LA guys include: Boucher's purchase of "Artifact" from Chad Oliver; Hamling's check for "The Last Plunge" by SJSackett (now in Kansas but a Californian at the time the story was written); and the BEST OF '55 accolade from Dikty for James Causey for his Galaxyarn, "Felony". Dikty has also signed on Oliver's ASF hit, "Of Course", for same prestigious annual; while Andre Norton breaks into this elevated company for firsttime with her F&SF appearance, "Mousetrap". Macmillan will get its proud old feet wet in the s.f. juvenile field with a book about Saturn by Atlantis (that's really his name) Hallam.

Two movie producers are simultaneously interested in SLAN...Frank Quattrocchi has cinemadapted his own "Plant Inspection" under the title Venus Philanderer....Blurb'd as "the year's most original story of suspense", First Edition pocketbooks has released a blowup version of a Collier's serial by Jack Finney, THE BODY SNATCHERS, which has already been bought by Hollywood. Yarn appears to combine elements of "Needle" and "Puppet Masters", is laid in Calif.

Eastcoast Fax: John Campbell's WHO GOES THERE? will be released in April, as a Dell pocketbook...Wm Sloane's companion novel to WALK THE NITE (bought for filming) will soon be reprinted by Dodd, Mead; its title, The Edge Of Running Water....Groff Conklin has done us all a favor by selecting eleven of Ted Sturgeon's stories, which Funk & Wagnall have packaged for Spring as "A WAY HOME"....We'll have to hold our breaths till April when Longmans lets us in on Basil Davenport's conclusions; he's done an INQUIRY INTO SCIENCE FICTION...

From England: Eros Films has completed STRANGER FROM VENUS with Patricia Neal; and from Australia I learn, that distinguished Britisher Arthur C. -Clarke has sold THE 9 BILLION NAMES OF

by Donald E. Ford

Life, January 24, 1955:

"Practical Plan For A Satellite". A four page spread on the proposed MOUSE. (Minimum Orbital Unmanned Satellite Of Earth). There's a drawing, approximately 1/2 size showing a cut away section of the instruments that'll send back data on the atmosphere 200 miles up. It's estimated that the MOUSE will stay up for 30 days before it loses it's inertia & falls into the heavier atmosphere & burns up.

- - -

Bluebook, January 1955:

"The Past Master" by Robert Bloch, illo by Ed Vebell. Man from the future shows up with 6 millions in cash & starts buying old art masters. Says he wants to save them from atomic destruction. As he's returning, an atom war starts & his ship is hit, I liked this story very much.

-

"The Public Hating" by Steve Allen, illo by John McDermott. In 1978- people go to stadiums, watch TV, etc. to hate convicted prisoners. Thus, they execute them by their mental powers.

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"How To Flip A G.I. Lid" by PFC Bill Safire. An article on letter writing. Letter-hacks please read.

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Life, February 7, 1955:

"Age Of The A-Plane" A 5 page article; illustrated by Rolf Klep, on what Life thinks the A-Plane will look like & how it will be serviced and handled.

-

Same issue has a feature layout on "Hinduism", which is the 1st of a series Life is beginning on the World's great religions.

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

Volume 6, Number 5, May 1955: "Time Pa- (concluded on page 5, column 1)

GOD for filming in my bailiwick. (Fja)

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

At this point they stopped coming, and I assume those 15 issues are all that appeared. BUT - I would like to be absolutely certain of this, as I get my science-fiction material bound, and I would like to get my file of Fantasy Comics bound. So naturally I have to be certain I have the complete set before taking them to my binder.

Fantastically,
Roger Dard

(Yes, Roger, those 15 issues were all that were published of Fantasy Comics, it combined with Fantasy Times after that. You might be interested in knowing that we published one issue of Barsoomian, (No. 7; Jan-April 1954). Bill Blackbeard has taken Barsoomian over and we'll have news of the publication of #8 very soon. -The Editors)

S-F STUDENTS SELL FIRST STORIES TO "FANTASTIC UNIVERSE"

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

Margulies stated: "We have decided that "Incident" by Thomas J. O'Hara was the prize-winning top story. I should say that this is the most imaginative and successful of all the stories submitted. It is surprisingly good and needs very little revision." Mr. Margulies announced that he may also take a second story by Mr. O'Hara which was written and worked over in class, but no definite decision has yet been arrived at regarding this second story tentatively titled "Rescue Squad".

Of the second student who sold, Mr. Margulies said: "Exchange" by Robert Epstein, will also be published in Fantastic Universe and will be accorded honorable mention. This is a very close runner up. The mature and very imaginative concept underlying it rebounds greatly to Mr. Epstein's credit, for he has shunned the innumerable hackneyed themes available to a newcomer in the field and has charted a boldly original course right at the start."

Thomas J. O'Hara, is 23 years old, had previously worked for the New York Journal-American.

Robert Epstein, is 40 years of age, and is a civil service employee in the Postal Department.

This is the first sale of any type

by J. Harry Vincent

"FANTASTIC STORY" BEST SELLER

We were not too surprised to hear that Fantastic Story Magazine is the best seller of the Standard three s-f mags. After Fantastic Story, Startling is best, with old-timer Thrilling Wonder last on the list. Seems there might be something to what Sam Moskowitz has been saying these past few years that - the old-time stories were better. We agree on one point: the science - fiction of the old days, mixed with the advanced know-how of today's science/fantasy writing, might make the s-f mag of tomorrow a top seller. Might be worth a try by some top-notch editor.

LARRY T. SHAW IS EDITING AGAIN

Larry T. Shaw, one time assistant editor of IF, is back editing again. This time its for Rodding and Re-Styling, a hot-rod and auto customizing magazine published bi-monthly, digest-size, slick paper and 45¢. Before IF Larry was editor of Auto Age. Asked at a recent NY Circle meeting why he "left" IF, Larry replied that he and publisher James Quinn didn't see eye to eye on the contents of the magazine.

NEW PRINTER FOR "ASTOUNDING"

Although the current issue of Astounding Science Fiction (March 1955) looks
(concluded on page 6, column 2)

for either of them.

Thomas J. O'Hara's prize - winning story is scheduled to appear in the May 1955 issue of Fantastic Universe Science Fiction, out early in April. Robert Epstein's story will appear in the June 1955 issue. If accepted, O'Hara's second story will follow a month later.

THE SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY WRITERS WORKSHOP is the only college level science-fiction writers class in the country. It has two semesters a year, 12 two hour classes a semester. It is an adult class conducted evenings. The next series begins March 10, 1955, 7:00 P.M. at the High School Of Commerce, 155 W. 65th Street, New York, N. Y.

THE FANTASY RECORD

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES THAT CAME OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING JANUARY 1955:

| N A M E | D A T E | P R I C E | P A G E S | S I Z E | D A T E O U T | S C H E D U L E |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Science Fiction Stories | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 6 '55 | Bi-Monthly |
| Imaginative Tales #4 | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 6 '55 | Bi-Monthly |
| Fantastic Universe S F | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 128 | Digest | Jan 6 '55 | Monthly |
| Universe Science Fiction* | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 8 '55 | Bi-Monthly |
| Fantastic Science Fiction** | April '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 11 '55 | Bi-Monthly |
| If - Worlds Of S F | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 120 | Digest | Jan 11 '55 | Monthly |
| Imagination | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 14 '55 | Monthly |
| Astounding Science Fiction | Feb. '55 | 35¢ | 162 | Digest | Jan 20 '55 | Monthly |
| Fantastic Story Magazine | Spr. '55 | 25¢ | 114 | Pulp | Jan 20 '55 | Quarterly |
| Fantasy & Science Fiction | Mar. '55 | 35¢ | 128 | Digest | Jan 26 '55 | Monthly |

During January 1955, 10 S/F magazines came out. One was a pulp and 9 were digest size. The pulp cost 25¢ and the digests \$3.15, making a total of \$3.40. The pulp contained 114 pages; the digests 1,188 pages, making a total of 1,302 pages.

*This is the last issue with the name Universe Science Fiction; starting with the next, May 1955 issue, it will be called Other Worlds Science Stories.

**First issue with the sub-title "Science Fiction".

NOT SCIENCE/FANTASY, BUT OF INTEREST

| | | | | | | |
|------|----------|-----|-----|--------|-----------|---------|
| Fate | Feb. '55 | 35¢ | 130 | Digest | Jan 4 '55 | Monthly |
|------|----------|-----|-----|--------|-----------|---------|

RECEIVED FROM ENGLAND DURING JANUARY 1955:

| N A M E | D A T E | P R I C E | P A G E S | S I Z E | S C H E D U L E | T Y P E |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------|------------|
| New Worlds Science Fiction | Jan. '55 | 1/6 | 128 | Digest | Monthly | British |
| Galaxy Science Fiction | #21 | 1/6 | 128 | Digest | Monthly | US Reprint |
| If - Worlds Of S F | #14 | 1/6 | 128 | Digest | Monthly | US Reprint |
| Astounding Science Fiction | Jan. '55 | 1/6 | 128 | Digest | Monthly | US Reprint |

FANTASY FORECASTS

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

trol" (Novelet) by Poul Anderson, "Nobody Hunts Witches" (Verse) by P. M. Hubbard, "With Malice To Come" (3 Vignettes) by James Blish, "Free Dirt" by Charles Beaumont, "James" by Gordon R. Dickson, "Mary Celestial" by Miriam Allen deFord & Anthony Boucher, "Recommended Reading" (A Department) by The Editor, "Pattern For Survival" by Richard Matheson, "Eleventh Commandment" (Novelet) by J. T. McIntosh, "Who's Counting?" by Rodger Lowe, "The Tin Halo" by John Novotny, and "Imagine" by Fredric Brown. Cover Painting by Stanley Meltzoff (illustrating a flight from the prison Planet).

MILCROSS can supply you with any current British science/fantasy magazines or books. Also with used s/f books and magazines. Fantasy-Times has used this service since 1937 and finds it very satisfactory. Write today for a catalog. MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

WANTED: for the Fantasy-Times files, #10 SCOOPS, Program Booklet of the recent, 1954 WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION. Fandom House, Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

WANTED: Toy train (Tinplate) catalogs - before 1946. Complete set of MARX Army Train. James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, New York.

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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Quarterly, Spring issue due March '55
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Editor: Frank Paro, 252 West 3rd St.,
South Boston 27, Mass.

FANDOM HOUSE

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

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE
(concluded from page 4, column 2)

the same as any other issue at first
glance, there is a mark difference. It
is the first issue of Astounding by a
new printer, over the river in Brooklyn.
A close inspection will show that the
cover has lost some of its gloss and
sparkle. The interior print job is
grey instead of jet black and light in
many spots. This effects many of the
illustrations. The format, tho similar,
has been changed somewhat. The paper
is not as good as before, tho still one
of the best used today. Tho the maga-
zine is an eight of an inch smaller all
round, it now contains 42 lines instead
of the normal 39, making the printing
a good deal smaller. It all adds up to
the fact that the new Astounding is
much more harder to read.

A LARGE-SIZE S-F MAGAZINE?

Popular Publication's singular notion
to do away with the pulps and enlarge
them instead of digesting them, might
be the snower to the overcrowded digest
newsstand displays. We have been making
a close study of their products and can
just picture Famous Fantastic Myster-
ies or Super Science Stories in the --
8 1/2" x 11" format. It might be just the
ticket to bring the science-fiction
field out of the recent recession. Mr.
Popular Bossman, what say, give it a
good try?

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