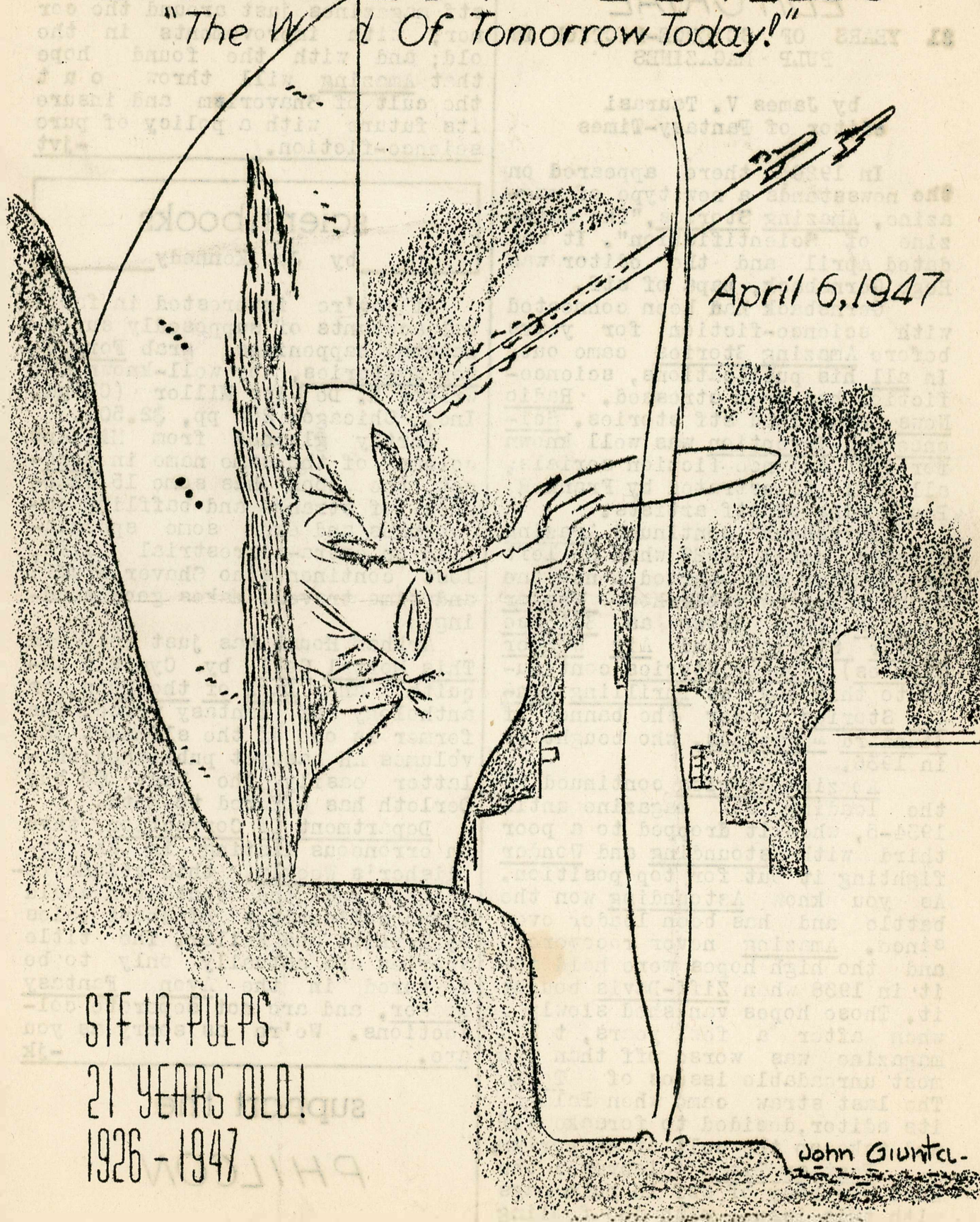


FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

April 6, 1947



STF IN PULPS
21 YEARS OLD!
1926 - 1947

John Giuntel.

EDITORIAL

21 YEARS OF SCIENCE-FICTION IN PULP MAGAZINES

by James V. Taurasi
editor of Fantasy-Times

In 1926, there appeared on the newsstands a new type of magazine, Amazing Stories, "The Magazine of Scientifiction". It was dated April and the editor was Hugo Gernsback, papa of stf.

Gernsback had been connected with science-fiction for years before Amazing Stories came out. In all his publications, science-fiction had been stressed. Radio News contained stf stories. Science and Invention was well known for its science-fiction serials; all well illustrated by Frank R. Paul, king of stf artists.

Gernsback continued Amazing Stories until 1929 when he left the company and started a new one under which he published Wonder Stories (Then known as Science Wonder Stories and Air Wonder Stories). Wonder Stories continues to this day as Thrilling Wonder Stories under the banner of Standard Magazines, who bought it in 1936.

Amazing Stories continued as the leading stf magazine until 1934-5, when it dropped to a poor third with Astounding and Wonder fighting it out for top position. As you know Astounding won the battle and has been leader ever since. Amazing never recovered, and the high hopes were held for it in 1938 when Ziff-Davis bought it. Those hopes vanished slowly, when after a few years, the magazine was worse off than the most unreadable issues of Teck. The last straw came when Palmer, its editor, decided to forsake stf and take up the cult of Shaverism.

Fantasy-Times celebrates the 21st birthday of stf in pulp mags with this issue, with the feeling that a new "golden age" of stf is

about to open; with new and better stf magazines just around the corner; with improvements in the old; and with the found hope that Amazing will throw out the cult of Shaverism and insure its future with a policy of pure science-fiction. -jvt

scientibooks

by Joe Kennedy

If you're interested in factual accounts of supposedly supernatural happenings, grab Forgotten Mysteries, by well-known stf writer R. De Witt Miller (Cloud, Inc., Chicago; 202 pp, \$2.50).

Partly gleaned from Miller's column of the same name in Coronet, the book has some 15 chapters of strange and baffling occurrences and even some speculation on extra-terrestrial life, lost continents (no Shaver stuff) and time travel. Makes good reading.

Arkham House has just released This Mortal Coil by Cynthia Asquith, and Dark of the Moon, an anthology of fantasy verse. The former is one of the slimmest \$3. volumes AH has yet published; the latter easily the best \$3 buy Derleth has offered to date.

Department Of Correction: thru an erroneous listing in the Publisher's Weekly, this column recently predicted that Avon would issue collections of short tales by Merritt and Keller. The title stories are actually only to be featured in the Avon Fantasy Reader, and are not separate collections. We're as sorry as you are. -jk

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FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 2 -- No. 14

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STURGEON WINS BRITISH PRIZE

Theodore Sturgeon, well-known American science-fiction author, recently won the \$1000 cash prize in a literary contest sponsored by the British Argbsy.

The amazing part of it all, is that the contest was primarily for British authors and it speaks well of Mr. Sturgeon's writing that he did take the prize, the only one to be offered.

The story that did the trick was a former Unknown reject, Bianca's Hands, that Mr. Sturgeon had written 7 or 8 years ago.

It is the story of a simple-minded country boy who falls in love with the hands of an idiot girl, the hands being possessed, seemingly, with a life of their own. He eventually marries the idiot girl because of his love for her hands and is eventually strangled by them. The ending is what is termed an unusual ending and must be read to be appreciated.

Mr. Sturgeon will shortly appear in Astounding SCIENCE FICTION with a story entitled Thunder and Roses, a science-fiction story. -Al Brown

AVON CORRECTS FANTASY-TIMES

In a letter to Fantasy-Times, Donald A. Wollheim, editor of The Avon Fantasy Reader, stating that the Avon lists do not include issuing collections by Merritt and Keller. (For further information see the column Scientibooks by Kennedy, this issue).

Avon is thinking of a book of (continued on page 36, column 1)

Paper Shortage Slows Unknown's Revival

by Joe Kennedy

Because of the critical paper shortage, work on the revival of Unknown has come to a standstill, according to Miss Catherine Tarrant of the Street & Smith staff.

Evidently the powers-that-be don't want to risk reviving the magazine, then running out of paper. So Unknown's fate rests on the decision of the head office.

Bales of letters clamoring for its revival have been received at Street & Smith. The staff seems in favor of returning Unknown to the stands as soon as possible. Said Miss Tarrant: "I felt as if I should have paid the company for helping to edit Unknown -- I got so much fun out of it!" So anxious fans will have to bide their time, and keep hoping.

Astounding SCIENCE FICTION has also felt the paper shortage pangs, which is why the rotogravure science pages have been printed on ordinary paper stock these past 2 months. The office, however, is not satisfied with the reproduction of the pictures, and plan to use roto paper again as soon as it is available.

Campbell's plea for new writers, in the Dec. issue, got a big response -- in fact, the office was swamped. Several of the yarns submitted proved usable, so watch for new blood in future ASFs.

L. Ron Hubbard has sent in the manuscript for a new serial, reportedly a knockout, and the first installment will appear sometime this summer. -jk

FANTASY STORY MAGAZINE
coming out soon

Published weekly by James V Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, New York. 5¢ a copy, 6 for 25¢.

Editor: James V. Taurasi; European

Ed: Ray Van Houten, Ad. Manager:

Sam Moskowitz, Associate Ed: Alvin

R. Brown, Assistant Ed: Joe Kennedy,

Science Ed: Thomas S. Gardner.

"A Cosmic Publication"

AVON CORRECTS FANTASY-TIMES

(continued from page 35, column 1) Merritt's shorter pieces, though nothing concrete has been done about it and the Keller book is definitely out because the editors do not think there is sufficient demand for such a volume.

Also of note is that Avon is scheduling a collection of H. P. Lovecraft's short stories, late this year. It will not bear the title, The Haunter of the Dark as has been rumored since no title has been selected as yet.

Mr. Wellheim has recently

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE

by David Kishi

Twentieth Century-Fox disclosed that negotiations are under way to obtain the services of Joan Fontaine for the leading role in the projected screen version of Henry James' story The Turn of the Screw, which has been described at different times as a ghost story and sometimes as a psychological horror story.

Sol Lesser's next RKO production Tarzan and the Lost Kingdom, has been retitled Tarzan and the Mermaids.

Fritz Lang and his company, Diana Productions, are preparing once more to produce a picture; although this will not be a fantasy, this information will be of interest to all fans who appreciate the marvelous technique of Fritz Lang, creator of immortal fantasy films. -dk

joined the Avon staff on a full-time basis.

NEOPHYTE

"THE FANZINE
OF DISTINCTION"



Camarillo, California
WILLIAM ROTSLER

