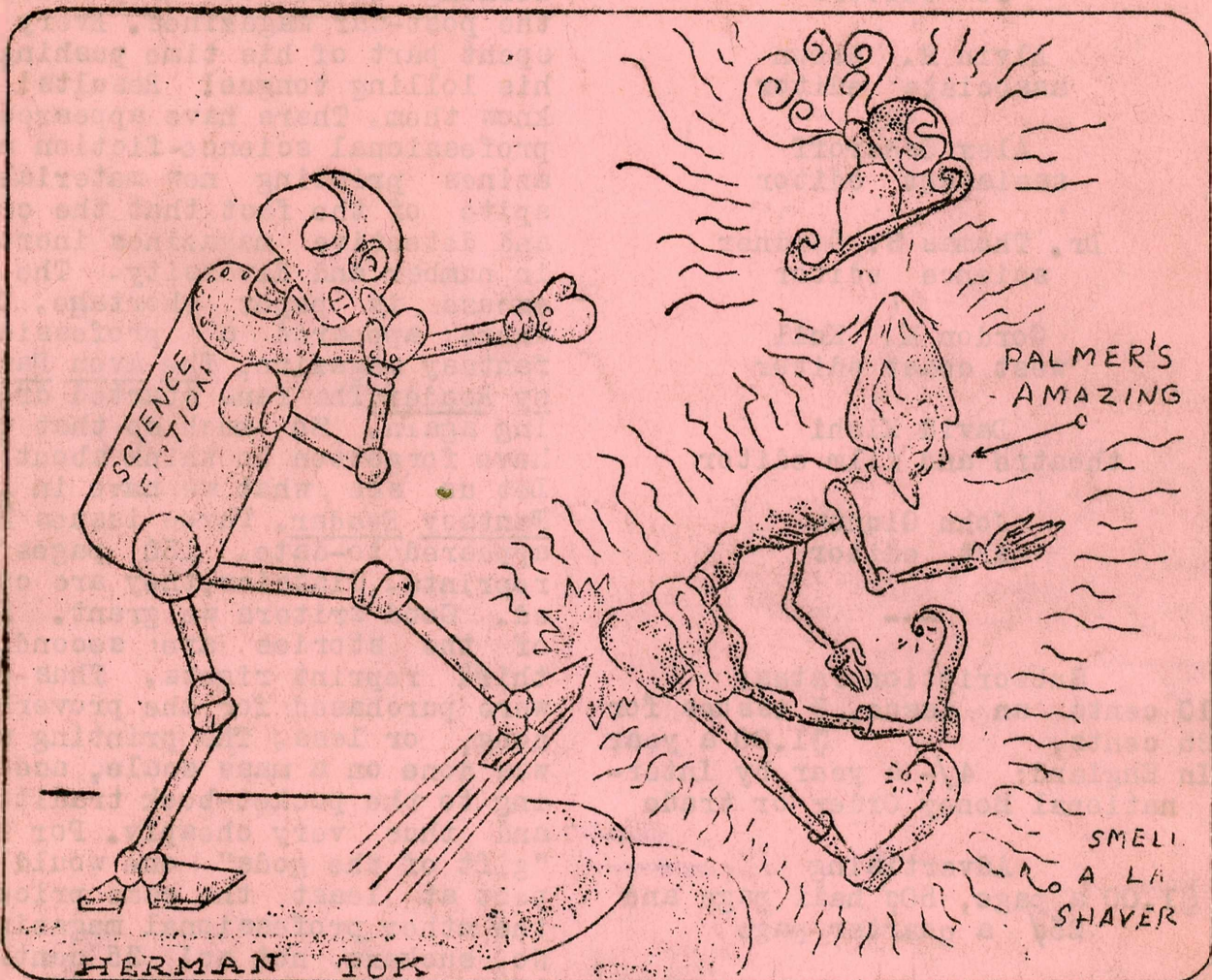


SIXTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

September 1947



Read THE BROKEN RECORD by Thomas S. Gardner
on page eight

FANTASY-TIMES

-this month's editorial-

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

ARE SCIENCE FICTION FANS SUCKERS?

Vol. 2 - No. 25 Whole No. 56
September, 1947
Sixth Anniversary Issue

by Thomas S. Gardner
science editor of Fantasy-Times

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The post-war hysteria has hit the science-fiction fans. Everything was promised during the war plastic cities, a helicopter under every kitchen sink, a blonde in every bed-room, utopia unlimited! So the science-fiction publishing field let drop hints of the post-war magazines. Every fan spent part of his time pushing in his lolling tongue! Results! You know them. There have appeared no professional science-fiction magazines printing new material in spite of the fact that the comic and detective magazines increase in number and diversity. The old excuse is paper shortage. Then there appeared a professional fantasy magazine, The Avon Fantasy Reader. The fans started drooling again. So much so that they have forgotten to think about it. Let us see what we have in Avon Fantasy Reader. Three issues have appeared to-date. 130 pages of reprints. Classics, they are called. Good writers we grant. Many of the stories are second and third reprint rights. Thus they were purchased for the proverbial song, or less. The printing work was done on a mass scale, according to the pocket-book tradition, and thus very cheaply. For this "gift of the gods" one would expect at least the same price as the other professional magazines. No, suckers, not so! 35 cents is the price as compared to 25 cents for Astounding SCIENCE-FICTION, and less for the others such as Planet Stories and the Thrilling Group. Thus we are confronted with a magazine that cost relatively nothing to put out, charging 40% more than the highest



The Cosmic Reporter

(the science-fantasy news of the past month)
collected and edited by Lane Stannard

THE PHILCON

During the past month, the Philcon Society and The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society have been putting the final touches to their plans for the key affair of science-fiction for 1947.

Milton A. Rothman has sent in to Fantasy-Times, the almost complete program line-up of the Philcon, the 5th World Science-Fiction Convention. As it stands at this writing, the Philcon will run as follows:

Saturday, Aug. 30, 1 PM:

Greetings & introductions
Main Speaker, John W. Campbell
The Editors Speak: Sam Merwin
L. Jerome Stanton, Donald
A. Wollheim, etc.

Introduction of resolutions

8 AM:

Messages from the publishers
Auction

Sunday, 1 PM:

L. Sprague de Camp: "Adventures in the Occult."

Discussion (topic to be announced)

Fan Organizations

8 PM:

Entertainment, conducted by
L. Jerome Stanton

Monday, 1 PM:

George O. Smith (topic to be announced)

Symposium on space travel:
Willy Ley & Thomas S. Gardner.

Discussion and voting on resolutions, finances, and the site of the 1948 Convention.

7 PM:

Banquet.

The convention will be held at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel, 39th & Chestnut St.; near 30th St. Penn. R.R. Station. Those coming in from New York should get off at the 30th St. Station and not at the N. Broad St. Station. The night before the convention will be open-house at the PSFS club-room, which is located at 56th & Pine St., Philadelphia.

Just a last minute reminder that it is not too late to join the Philcon Society and help to do your part to present the convention. Just send your \$1.00 right away to: Milton A. Rothman, 2113 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia 22, Penna.

Bob Tucker informs us that he is going to the Philcon and then be off to New York where he will take in the September 7th meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association. Tucker's second book is due out October 23rd and he hopes to have his third finished by convention time.

THE PHILCON MEMORY BOOK

K. Martin Carlson and Walter Dunkelberger are planning to issue a combazine entitled The Philcon Memory Book to be distributed after the convention. All science fiction clubs are being requested to contribute a special issue of their club organ (200 copies required) for inclusion, any unaffiliated fan magazines are also welcomed. Write Martin Carlson,

1028 3rd Ave So., Moorhead, Minn.

BOOKS, MAGAZINE ETC.

According to August W. Derleth Robert Bloch will have a "horror novel, psychological murder & insanity", The Scarf published by Dail at \$2.50. Derleth says: "don't miss it...it's a swell job."

Pocket-Books Inc. has brought out two fantasy pocket-books the past month. The famous, old-time weird, Dracula by Bram Stoker. We have read the book many times before but found the publishing history of Dracula very interesting. The second fantasy pocket-book is Turnabout by Thorne Smith. You can now get most of Thorne Smith's fantasies in pocket-book format, all published by Pocket-Books Inc. Dr. David H. Keller's "Taine of San Francisco" story, Hands of Doom, can be found in the current, October 1947, issue of 10-Story Detective. The original name of the story was "Praying Hands". Wollheim, then editor, changed the title. The story is not as good as the previous Taine stories. (NNS) Guaranteed, a short short story by E. E. Evans, has been brought for either TWS or Startling. (NNS) Hungar McPholly's Ghost, a fantasyarn by William Warren Graham, is in the August Adventure.

GORDON COMES HOME

Gordon M. Kull, arrived from Germany, early last month, and with his charming wife, Eve, dropped in for a visit at the Taurasis. After spending an enjoyable afternoon, Gordon was interviewed on The Record Edition of Fantasy-Times. The next day the Gordons visited the Esfa and on Monday jeeped down for a visit to the PSFS. Then a slow trip home by Jeep visiting all the fans and stf organization possible. Gordon also plans to stop off at Chicago and see Palmer of Amazing and see first hand about Palmer's deros. A report of his

trip will probably appear in the next few issues of Fantasy-Times. Gordon is the co-editor of the new printed fanzine, Vortex.

NO SEPTEMBER FANTASY-TIMES RECORD

At the last minute, the apparatus used by Fantasy-Times to record the monthly Fantasy-Times disks, became unavailable, so FT will skip the September disk. It is hoped that new apparatus can be secured for the October disk, and the two disks planned for the convention.

FANTASY ITEMS

Miss Allison Williams, 122 S. 18th St., Philadelphia 3, Penna. is now soliciting material for the super convention issue of Variant, official club organ of the PSFS, of which she is editor. This issue will be lithographed, and will be worth the while of every fan artist and author to be represented therein.

John Giunta, fantasy artist, is hard at work on a cover for Weird Tales.

Sam Moskowitz and William S. Sykora have named their publishing company, The Avalon Company. They are at present in the midst of publishing Keller's LIFE EVER-LASTING and Other Tales of Science and Fantasy.

The NFFF is planning to publish Keller's The Sign of the Burning Hart, in a limited edition of 500 copies, if they can get enough prepublication orders. The price is \$1.50 to NFFF members, \$2.00 to all others. Address: Paul Spencer, 88 Ardmore Road, West Hartford, Conn. Order your copy at once.

How would you like to make over \$200 for answering this question: "What famous series of books was written about Sir John Claton, Lord Greystoke?" This was the question given over the radio program, Teletest. A program that calls persons by phone and if you answer right you get the \$\$\$\$.

Fantasy in the Theatre

by David Kishi

Tho, ostensibly, we have a remarkable lack in announcements of new productions and plans for such, we do have some news of the many revivals of old fantasy movies and plays.

Shades of Elwood P. Dowd!! "Harvey" is still running! With a pleasant substitution of James Stewart for Frank Fay, during the latter's vacation, we can see this is humorous fantasy, in a new light. Fay's portrayal of Dowd was a serious one, and not as light as Stewart's but since there is a difference of age between the two actors, we can see why there is a separate interpretation of the character of Elwood P. Dowd, dipsomaniac...Harvey is currently playing at the 48th Street Theatre.

At the City Center Theatre, we have a classic fantasy - Rip Van Winkle, with Philip Bourneuf, Frances Reid & Byron McGrath, etc...etc... The story, which most readers know, concerns itself with a man who falls asleep and when he awakens he discovers that "It ain't when it's supposed to be".

Ostensibly, with the publication of Bram Stoker's DRACULA in Pocketbook form, it seems as if the presentation of Dracula as a play at the John Drew Theatre was planned. Could be... It stars that horror fans delight, Bela Lugosi. It had a short run during the week of July 14th.

With the summer theatres in full bloom, we do have a fine crop of plays which might be of some entertainment specially for the fantasy fan. Just as a sampling, we can see Blithe Spirit (Noel Coward's mad farce), Dark of the Moon, Finian's Rainbow, The Medium & The Telephone (Yes, they are still running...), etc. etc..

See your local paper for more!

In the film field, we can still hold your heads high for we have just as bright an accolade as the "legitimate" theatres. At the Thalia Theatre (in New York), we have Fritz Lang's "Last Will of Dr. Mabuse" and also at the Museum of Modern Art, Lang's "Metropolis". Ben Hecht's remarkable "Specter of the Rose" is at the Irving; and at the Avenue Playhouse, Walt Disney's Fantasia is around for the second time. It's one of Disney's best pieces!

These following pieces should not be missed by fans if they want to see the tops! in fantasy films. First is "Stairway to Heaven" starring David Niven, now currently playing at the 68th Street Playhouse. For my money it is almost impossible to equal in film production, all-round acting and in the story, itself. One of the most logical denouements ever seen by this reviewer... Second is H. G. Wells' immortals, "Things to Come" and "The Man Who Could Work Miracles". These two pictures may also be complimented for their all-round excellence. And aptly handled by Alexander Korda. ...Now playing at the Squire.

Third is "Miracle on 34th Street", now running at local RKO Theatres. Receiving excellent reviews by John Mason Brown in the Saturday Rev. of Lit., this fantasy promises to be pleasant...

And lastly is "Dead of Night" starring Michael Redgraves. This picture is one which is so outstanding that I recommend all to see it at the risk of their not sleeping for three nights. It contains many excellent scenes reminiscent of old horror pics. Don't

-continued on page 18-

1946 in Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

Part II - WEIRD TALES and PLANET STORIES

Weird Tales

Six issues. I enjoyed M. James' on's Chariots of San Fernando. This has the elements of terror and weirdness reminiscent of the Weird Tales of long ago. A very clever story, strictly fantasy, is Fritz Leiber's Mr. Bauer and the Atoms. However don't believe it. Do you like Manly Wade Wellman's fantasies? If you do, don't miss Twice Cursed. The cleverness of Robert Bloch's The Bogy Man Will Get You will then make it a night. I have read many of Seabury Quinn's stories of his famous characters, Jules de Grandin and Dr. Towbridge, some are very poor, and the earlier ones quite good. You may enjoy Three in Chains if you don't get disgusted with Seabury Quinn's writing down so much to the reader. For an old-time nostalgic ghost story, Harold Lawlor's The Silver Highway will please you. This is the best story of its type I have read in years. Wellman's Shonokins can be developed into one of the best themes today, just as Lovecraft built up mythologies that touched on reality. However I do not believe that Wellman is doing so well now. He is becoming illogical and is beginning to lack continuity in his plots. For example, in Shonokin Town he does not develop obvious points. I would suggest that Wellman re-read his own stories in an attempt to straighten himself out. A well written story of the far future when mankind goes down is Edmond Hamilton's Day of Judgement. You will like it, not because of its

doom theme, but of its humanity. The machine almost gets the best of man in A. V. Harding's The Machine. You may shiver at some of the points, that is, if your imagination can go beyond the words on the page. Sheer horror is reached in M. Banister's Six Flights to Terror. In fact the Sept. WT from which the last three stories are recommended was the best issue of the year. A rather strange theme is developed in Mayaya's Little Green Men by H. Lawlor. It is not new but, well, you read it. How would you like to have a few little green men? Might come in handy at times. I liked C. H. Thompson's Spawn of the Green Abyss, although it smacked of the classical WT of about twenty years ago. WT was not bad this year, neither was it good. It was distinctly mediocre, but worth reading if you weird, otherwise stay away.

Planet Stories

Four issues. This is a rather peculiar magazine. Very seldom does it reach great heights and great depths, but sometimes the sameness of the mediocre stories palls on one. To start off with, another war of tomorrow, say ten, or twenty years from now, is Noel Loomis' Electron Bat Electron. America wins again, in the story, let us hope in reality in the coming atomic war. I rather like the stories of Planet as sheer adventure, so I will recommend G. F. Fox's Engines of the Gods and

-continued on page 14, column 1-

The World Of Tomorrow Today

by Ray Van Houten

Flying saucers!! If all the hulabaloo about these phantom phlying phugitives from Ghu's pantry was laid end to end, it would lead directly into the nearest laughing academy without a stop. The latest developement at the time of writing is that rewards totalling a cool three grand have been offered for an on the hoof (or wing (or Bergenholm!)) specimen.

Many explanations, ranging from the most obvious of mass hysteria to red corpuscles on the retina and dead spots in the film have been advanced, but not even a science-fiction fan has yet had the audacity to state that we are entertaining other-worldly visitors. And don't expect your present scribe to be the first to get his neck in the wringer.

But wouldn't all our faces be red, just IF --- ?

Overheard at the July meeting of the Esfa: "What I want to know is, where are the cups ---?"

The announcement of a new radio-transmittal process which can handle a million words per minute gives food for deep thought. Aside from the advantages derived from transmission, the mere output approaches that of the best high-speed printing presses now in use. It will be interesting to watch how the patent rights are distributed; such a process is capable of turning the news distribution business upside down overnight, but it is to be doubted that any great dislocation of the status quo will come to pass, except as a comparatively slow and orderly process. The day when the morning paper will be radioed to your breakfast table as you imbibe your coffee-

and is still in the world of tomorrow.

New super-weapons are a dime a dozen, not only in science-fiction pulp magazines. The US Army last month turned loose information regarding a revolutionary new type of rocket engine which, instead of heavy, hard-to-manufacture castings, uses sheet metal for most of its construction. It is claimed that this engine can outperform the German-designed V-2.

Gen. George C. Kenney also had a super-weapon to shake out of his GI sleeve when he addressed the graduating class of MIT this summer. He claims that a sort of super-sonic whistle, emitting sounds which the human ear cannot ordinarily detect, could disrupt the nervous systems of whole populations, putting the home front out of commission while this super-annoyance could be maintained in operation.

Light waves, he also stated, could be similarly put to use.

While such effects have been recognized by scientists for many years, it is only until recently that any serious thought has been given to their potentialities.

Another military man, Gen. Roger Ramey of the Eighth Air Force, had another revelation to make down in Texas. The B-36, world's largest bomber, will carry as part of its own fighting equipment a jet fighter for protection against attacking planes. Although large planes have carried small fighters before, this is the first time that one has been part of a bomber's armament.

Meanwhile, the goliath that started it all, Old Man Atom Bomb himself, was still making news.

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of U S atomic research during the war, added his name to the long list of the world's atomic physicists who have warned that unless international control over atomic research is quickly established, there will be nothing to prevent military minds from "brooding" about how they would handle a full-scale atomic war. Which last, all agree, is something to be avoided. It seems strange that all these solemn words by men who best know what the horrible results of atomic warfare will be, have had so little moving power to the world's power politicians.

Prof. A. M. Low, world-known British scientist, had a few pertinent words to say about the world of tomorrow in an LNS dispatch from London. Although his material was handled in a flippant manner, by some staff writer, he touched on several points of interest. He predicted that in fifty years any aircraft with a top speed of less than 3,000 mph will be last year's model, that stenography will be completely mechanized, that artificial satellites of Mother Earth will have been constructed to el-

minate radio fading, that the family car will be a triphibious vehicle, that housework will be reduced to the push of a button or two, and that new materials will so accelerate technology that the impossibilities of today will be commonplace tomorrow. This, coming from so authoritative a source, is vindication for the predictions which science-fiction authors have been making for years.

Willy Ley's article on the imminent beginning of the age of space flight in the July issue of MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED shows up pretty poorly in comparison with his work for ASTOUNDING and other science-fiction magazines. In fact, your author doubts personally that Mr. Ley wrote it, but the difference may be due to the necessity of slanting down to a less specialized reading audience. The illustrations, on the other hand, were superb. Chesley Boncstell, the artist, should certainly be captured by some enterprising editor and exhibited to the world of science-fiction. As good as Finlay or Leydenfrost, boys. Must be seen to be appreciated.

-rvh

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The Broken Record

by Thomas S. Gardner

The Shaver mania has reached such a peak that the entire June 1947 issue of Amazing Stories was devoted to it. Such smoke should have a little fire---which was true in the old days, but with modern warfare a lot of smoke usually means a camouflage! Let us take a good look at the widely heralded bible of Shaverism and see what it looks like.

On page 7 the editor throws out some hogwash about somebody or something, deros shall we say, trying to prevent the publication of this issue. Rather than thinking that somebody tried to prevent the publication of the trash of this issue, the description sounds like a well developed persecution complex, with concomitant breakdown of the organizational abilities usually used in carrying out a piece of work. The re-hash of the Shaver stories is an excellent case history of well-applied propaganda leading to mental hallucinations. Some may recall William S. Sykora and myself stating at the 1946 Philly Conference that the continual burying of ones' self in any form of pseudo material such as the Shaver stuff will eventually lead to a psychopathic state. According to the statements made in this issue certainly tends to bear out our contentions. It requires a lot of knowledge, which the editors of A. S. do not have, a lot of logic, general semantics, and plain common horse sense to retain normal mental equilibrium and still swim in a sea of misinformation. The reference to Oahspo as a thought record is an attempt to bring in all the junk believed by the crackpots into the series. My suggestion to you is to go to the 42nd Street Public Li-

brary and get Oahspo and look it over. I did. It is just as nutty as the Shaver stuff, if not even more so. Palmer even drags in E. F. Russel's Sinister Barrier (1st issue of Unknown). Russel is a Fortean, but I doubt his incredulity to swallow the Shaver stuff as fact. I doubt if John W. Campbell (editor of Astounding) will agree with Palmer that he and Russel did the Shaver stuff first. Campbell is a level headed scientist and not given to such aberrations. Palmer's lack of semantic training is evident in his interpretation of what Campbell meant by Sinister Barrier being factual in basis!

One should read R. S. Shaver's Proofs. Here is the statement of Shaver's position. He believes the stuff he writes as truth! Everybody else, especially scientists, are nuts! Isn't it rather strange that people who know as much as Shaver, do not aid mankind by inventions, discoveries, creations of things, and development of laws that can be verified? The dumb, stupid scientists and engineers have to do that for Shaver. Too bad!

So the Devil's Tower is a petrified stump of a tree trunk! Hmmm. Most extraordinary. A chemical analysis of the matrix could quickly settle that. Or does Shaver believe that all chemists are faking when they analyze things?

Now to the section, What Man Can Imagine; Roger P. Graham who had a short section on what was stated beforehand to be a great discovery in mathematics and turned out to be elementary, and partially incorrect, calculus of Variations and some probability, now proves the other drift. This proof consist of making a scratch

on the surface of a mirror, taking a site by a transit, from two sides and finding that the reflection of the other-cross-hair and the scratch do not coincide. They do not, as pointed out by Al Brown, because the light is reflected from the silvered back of the mirror, and the scratch cuts from the top. The light waves are refracted through the glass and the parallax developments fail to coincide with the scratch line. Graham suppose you use a painted line on a smooth metal surface and watch them check!

On page 129 Palmer goes into detail to show how someone (deros?) tried to prevent Graham from getting his little article on pages 156-8 printed. Experienced printers tell me that in setting up mathematical equations they often mess them up. In my own technical articles having mathematical equations I have never yet received a galley proof sheet in which the equations were correct the first time, and oftentimes they are printed incorrect! Now as to the value of Graham's conversion of Newtonian and Einsteinian Mass concepts, well if he will look in the mathematical works of Lorenz he will find the same thing developed about 25 years ago. Strange the deros didn't blast things then or the countless time the thing has been repeated.

The remainder of the articles are rather trite stuff of the same general caliber. As far as articles are concerned, this issue measures up to preceding issues of A. S. during the past two or three years. **TRIBE!**

Now the stories, and the explanation of my strange title to this article. Have you ever heard a broken record on a player go, I love you....I love you....I love, etc., or some other refrain? Well, even I was surprised. The stories in this issue are practi-

cally rehashes of what has been printed before, and to my amazement, poor as the past stories were, these in this issue are even poorer! The writing shows a formula style that is very boring. The plots are so much the same that I have described before, that I will not bore you with it again.

The whole issue is very poor. How Ziff-Davis can face it is amazing in itself. It is interesting to note that in a few issues later Palmer blasts a reader for saying that too much space is being given to Shaver. Palmer proudly points to the future issues that do not give Shaver so much space. -tsg

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Tome Talk

by Alex Osheroff

Prime Press Presents: Probable publication date of Prime Press' second volume, "Venus Equalateral"; now at the printers is August. Author George O. Smith has done quite a bit of rewriting on the series and in addition has written a new story, "Mad Holiday", which will be included. The dust jacket as well as several decorations thruout the book will be by the author. There will also be five interior illustrations by artist Sol Levin. The Price, \$3.00.

"Equality, or a History of Lithconia" which is perhaps the first published American utopian story is also at the printers. The story which originally came out in a Philadelphia newspaper, "The Temple" in 1803 saw hard covers for the first time in 1837. We have it from the current publishers that much interest in "Lithconia" is being shown by followers of the utopian theme. Price is \$2.50.

Third on the list for Prime Press is "The Torch" by adventure story writer Jack Bechholt. Termed as one of the better of the old Munsey Classics, "The Torch" originally printed in a 1920 vintage ARGOSY was scheduled for FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES but was dropped when FFM changing hands, changed policies. The story will undergo revision before being published sometime in the fall. Price will probably be in the neighborhood of \$3.00.

Alexander M. Phillips, author of the enthusiastically received "The Mislaid Charm" is engaged (how busily we don't know since he is a quite leisurely writer) in completing "The Maniac Poltergeist" which will amount to a companion volume for the aforementioned "Mislaid Charm".

Unscheduled as yet but coming sometime in the future are two more volumes by George O. Smith. They're "Nomad", previously published in ASTOUNDING under the pen name of Wesley Long and "Pat-tern For Conquest".

David H. Keller's "Sign of the Burning Hart" will go to press when sufficient orders reaching National Fantasy Fan Federation justify it. Price will be \$1.50 to members and dealers, \$2.00 to others.

"There's good News Tonite..... Dept." Eric Frank Russell is re-writing his highly acclaimed UNKNOWN novel, "Sinister Barrier" for publication by Fantasy Press sometime in 1948. Incidentally we have word, tho not official, that the edition of "Spacehounds of IPC" is completely sold out.

Shasta Publishers of Chicago, Illinois (The Dikty-Korshak combine) are bearing down on the final preparation of the manuscript of "The Checklist of Fantastic Literature" which is a double indexed listing of over 5,000 fantasy volumes. "Checklist" will go to press shortly. Its a limited edition of 1,000 and its pre-publication price is five berries.

Speaking of bibliographies, the next issue of A. Langley Searles' "Fantasy Commentator" should do land-office business for in it will be reprinted the initial installment of Searles' Bibliography originally published by Julius Unger. Further installments will be run serially. Its the deep dark secret mentioned in the current issue of "Fantasy Commentator" and here we're giving it away.

-continued on page 15, column 1-

The Fantasy Clubs

Fantasy organizations are invited to send in their monthly meeting reports to Fantasy-Times for publication in this column. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

July 6, 1947 meeting -- ALEXANDER M. PHILLIPS GUEST SPEAKER

Thirty-seven science-fiction fans turned out at the July meeting of the Esfa, which is continuing meetings straight thru the Summer months, to hear Alexander M. Phillips, well-known science-fiction and fantasy author (whose first book "The Mislaid Charm", taken from a short novel in UNKNOWN has just been issued by Prime Press) from Philadelphia, review Lecomte Du Nouy's best seller "Human Destiny". Phillips felt that the basic tenets of the book were out of kilter but did not feel qualified to refute the scientific points broached. Mr. Thomas S. Gardner came to the rescue and ripped the main points of "Human Destiny" to shreds with scientific facts, and was accompanied in the debacle by Dr. A. Langley Seares. The conclusion was that this book was more dangerous in the unscientific viewpoint it presented to its readers than the Shaver stories in AMAZING STORIES, and that it was an example of a good scientific man like Du Nouy descending into religious mysticism.

In place of Joe Kennedy's review of the month, James V. Taurasi presented the fantasy news of the past month recorded on disks. These were played on a record player loaned by Miss Frances Forman. The records were so successful that one will be done each month. The Esfa and Fantasy-Times will jointly record a short history of past World Science Fiction Conventions on two disks to be presented at the Philcon.

Gordon M. Kull, co-editor with George Cowie on the sensational printed VORTEX had just returned from Germany (see The Cosmic Report or in this issue) with his charming wife, and spoke on future publishing plans of VORTEX which looks bright since his father owns a printing establishment. The first issue was printed in Germany.

Ray Van Houten was appointed "a committee of one" to make arrangements for the Esfa Delegation going to the Philcon Convention at the end of August. Non-members New York fans can join this group.

Abe Oshinsky announced that an article on science-fiction was scheduled to appear in the current issue of POLITICS.

Among those present were Oswald Train; up from Philly, Richard Witter, Les Mayer, James Cullum, Lloyd Alpaugh, Frank Grubel, Anthony Ceaser, Lloyd Mitchell and many others.

The Eastern Science Fiction Association meets the first Sunday of the month at 358 Morris Ave., Newark, New Jersey at 2:00 P.M. Drop in and enjoy a good program.

THE PORTLAND SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY

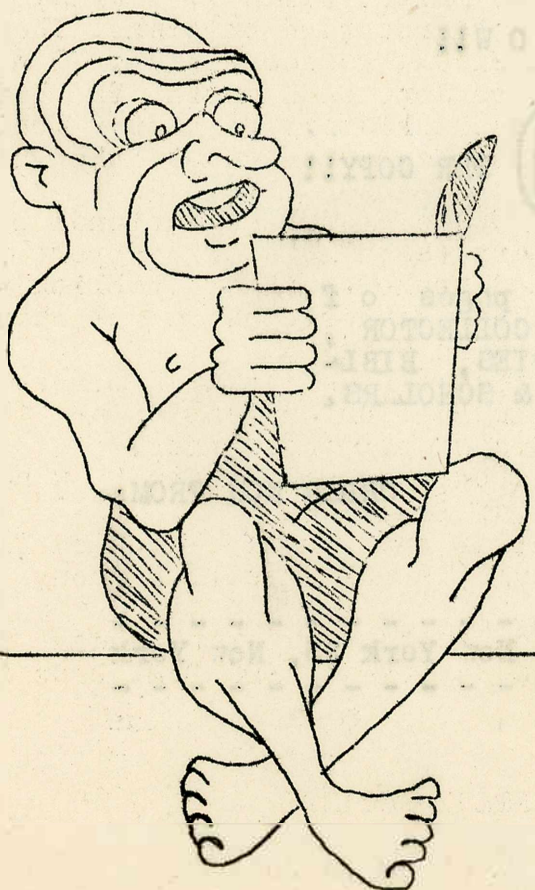
On June 29, 12 members of the regular meeting in June. The principal business of the evening was a Portland SFS met at the last reg-

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discussion of points to be included in the Constitution. Working from a suggested outline furnished by Betty Shreeve, the various articles were discussed and a rough draft drawn up to be rewritten by Forrest Davis who was appointed Chairman of the Constitution Committee. David Shreeve, husband of Betty, who works out of town was present and became a member.

The next meeting was held the following week on July 6. In spite of being the fourth of July weekend, 8 were present including Al Montpelier, new member. The evening's program consisted mostly of informal discussion of sf and fantasy and of a decision on the format of the new fanzine.

The July 20th meeting was devoted to a final decision on the name of the fanzine, its format and budget. The name chosen is The FANSCIENT. The first issue will consist of 24 pages, 4 1/2" by 8 1/2". Of these 24 pages, 8 will be lithographed and the balance mimeographed. Definitely scheduled for the first issue of The FANSCIENT is an Autobiographical sketch of A. E. van Vogt together with a portrait and a complete bibliography of his sf and fantasy, both in magazine and book form. It is planned to make a regular feature of these biographies-bibliographies, with a different leading author represented in each issue.

Also in the first issue of The FANSCIENT will be the 1946 list of authors with the most stories under their names. This is the same as was distributed following Don Day's speech at the Pacificon last year, but of course brought up to date. Art work by Ralph Rayburn Phillips and others will appear.

We would like to take this opportunity to contact any interested parties who are not at

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1946 IN SCIENCE FICTION
-continued from page 5-

E. McDowell's The Blue Venus in the first 1946 issue. If you want sweat, mentally, read Ray Bradbury's The Million Year Picnic. You may thrill to V. Garson's The Shadow-Gods. I did. A perfectly incredible story is Ray Bradbury's The Creatures That Time Forgot. I seriously doubt if metemorphosis can be speeded up as described. Strikes for L. Sternig's Total Recall and Ross Rocklynne's Six Tuesdays. The last three from the Fall, June-Aug. 1946 PS, the best issue of the year. The next best issue, the Winter, Sept-Nov. issue. I recommend, if you like the superman mythos. G. F. Fox's The Man the Sun-Gods Made. What a superman. Also Basil Wells', Fog of the Forgotten, and Harry Sternig's Breath of Beelzebub. Wish I had some of the stuff in the latter story. What a party I could throw? Well, I might as well confess, I enjoy PS, even though they are adventure and I do not get splinters in my fingers as I do when I read Astounding, from scratching my head, of course.

Thomas S. Gardner will review the 1946 issues of Famous Fantastic Mysteries, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories in the next, October issue of Fantasy-Times

ARE SCIENCE FICTION FANS SUCKERS?
-continued from page 1-

ever charged for a professional magazine in the science-fiction field, exempting quarterlies of the old Amazing and Wonder Stories, which delivered two to three times as much reading matter as Avon Fantasy Reader. To my surprise I have heard very few kicks from the fans. They have been hypnotized by the fancy covers and have yet to start thinking about

the magazine. One fan has talked this over with me, a prominent fan and he also agrees that the price is too high. What a racket! Avon, give the readers a square deal, your profits must be exorbitant by now, cut the price to 25 cents like other pocket-books.

While the urge is on me, I want to cast a stone at Famous Fantastic Mysteries. It seems to me that an honest policy towards its readers should be a major point with a magazine. FFM, however, takes novels, cuts them drastically, up to 25% for Phra the Phoenician, does not state they are abridged, and pawns them off as the complete novel by implication! The excuse is they are often too long. Print them in two parts then, or leave out the lousy short stories that usually fill up the space, or at least state under the by-line of each novel that it was cut and be honest with your readers. Wasn't there some kind of court action last year about a pocket-book cutting and pawning the book as the complete novel? Wasn't the decision reached that if the story is cut it should be so stated on the cover? Also since FFM reprints only novels that have appeared only in book form, shouldn't they also conform to the same thing?

By the way fellows, just by coincidence I have a bridge to sell. I wouldn't part with it except I find myself unexpectedly hard up. I feel sure you won't want to miss this chance of a life time. Sure, I will show it to you and its worth the one hundred dollars I'm asking, here it is, the Brooklyn Bridge! Who will be first?
-tsg

PLEASE!

Don't request copies of the August 1947 issue of Fantasy-Times. It is completely sold out.

TOME TALK

-continued from page 10, column 2-

The Sauk City Saga: "Strange Ports of Call" will be the title of August Derleth's forthcoming science fiction anthology. Marked for inclusion at present are "At the Mountains of Madness" by H.P. Lovecraft, "The Cunning of the Beasts" by Nelson S. Bond, "Blunder" by Phillip Wylie, and "The Million Year Picnic" by Ray Bradbury. Derleth is contracting for David H. Keller's "The Worm", first published in a 1928 AMAZING STORIES for inclusion in the volume.

Out from Alfred A. Knopf, New York is an incorporation of two much sought after books, "The Celestial Omnibus" and "The Eternal Moment" under the new title of "The Collected Works of E. M. Forster". Included in the twelve tales reprinted is the classic science-fiction story of a de-powered, mechanized world of the far future, "The Machine Stops". Price is \$2.75.

Finally the trimvirate is complete. We're talking of course of "The Night Side" subtitled "Masterpieces of the Strange and Terrible". The book, as the preceding two, "Sleep No More" and "Who Knocks", is edited by August Derleth and published by Rinehart and Company. Price is a wee bit steeper this time being \$3.50. Altho not all of the tales come up to the level of "Masterpiece" the book taken as a whole attains a satisfactorily high standard. Stories we liked especially were Hank Kuttner's "Mimsy were The Borogoves", "The Three Marked Pennies" by Mary Elizabeth Counselman and "Sammy Calls a Noobus" by Henry A. Norten.

Want to go quite aways back in the annals of science-fiction? A copy of the newly published and aptly titled "Away from the Here and Now" by Clare Winger Harris will accomplish the trick. The

eleven tales included the not exactly new and breathtaking to the blasé present day reader retain much of the charm and easy readability of the "good old days". Aside from the stories the format of the book itself presents an aura of genuine antiqueness, almost as tho someone had kept the book in pristine condition for fifteen years unlike its companions (which it resembles) the Taine, the Kline and the Cummings books. The publisher is Dorrance and Company of Philadelphia and the price (antiquated too, in this age of high prices) is \$2.50.

F O R S A L E

(all books in mint condition)
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 Lost Worlds - \$3.00
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 The Moon Terror - \$1.50
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THE FANTASY CLUBS

-continued from page 12, column 2-

present on our mailing list. We publish a monthly News Bulletin, telling about the doings of the PORTLAND SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY. At present there is no subscription charge for this, tho we will appreciate any small sums to help defray the cost of publication. A request will bring it to you and it will be sent without extra charge to those subscribing to The FANSCIENT. The FANSCIENT, which will be issued quarterly, will sell for 15¢ a copy or 50¢ a year. The first issue, dated September will be issued the latter part of August. For more information write to Donald B. Day, 3435 NE 38 Ave., Portland 13, Oreg.-dd

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The selections for September are:

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On The Newsstands

reviewed by Lane Stannard

WEIRD TALES September 1947

A super excellent cover by Boris Dolgov displays this issue. The best story in the issue is Clark Ashton Smith's Quest of the Gazalpa with Eena by Manly Banister. Interior illustrations by Dolgov are the best with Coye a close second. Weirdisms by Cole is becoming an excellent department. The coming "Silver Anniversary" issue of WT sounds interesting. Price increased to 20¢, no increase in number of pages. We rate this issue a B-.

AVON FANTASY READER No. 3 (undated)

An excellent collection of fantasy, well introduced via the Ellery Queen style. Wollheim has been doing a good job with this magazine. We liked C. L. Moore's Black Thirst best with Merritt, Wells and Gordon right up there. The cover was very good this time. We would suggest interior illustrations in this magazine and also the name of the cover artist. We rate this issue a B plus.

STARTLING STORIES September 1947

So BEM or pretty girl on the cover this time, but it makes for an interesting cover by Bergey. Lord of the Storm by Keith Hammond is not a bad novel. We liked it. The Circle of Zero by Weinbaum is not one of his best, but it was the last "Standard" had and worthwhile reprinting. Cummings' Up and Atom was way down there. We don't approve of character series being placed in other than

the magazine they originated in. "Tubby" yarns should stay in TWS. Finlay interiors are the best yet. The Readers' Column is "like the good old days" good that is. We rate this issue a good B, tho not quite a B plus. Keep up the good work Sammy.

Astounding SCIENCE FICTION August 1947

Ugg! What a lousy cover! Rogers should be ashamed of himself for this. It's hard to choose which of the short stories is the best, they are all excellent, but we choose Insomnia Inc. by Walton. The serial starts off Ok, we'll rate it when it's finished. The articles were very good as usual. Ah! Brass Tacks is good this time Campbell, you should have it at least this long all the time, longer, if possible. The art work is bad this time with only Cartier and the wash drawings of Timmins being good. Davis shows a promise. We rate this issue a very good B plus. The bad art work kept it from an even A.

Also out this month were AMAZING STORIES, September 1947 and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, September 1947 but who can read that trash!)

N O T I C E !

If this copy of Fantasy-Times is marked "Subscription has expired", please renew your subscription as soon as possible; as we print only enough copies to cover our mailing list and we don't want you to miss a copy. Thank you.-ed

Fanzine Reviews

by Bob Tucker

THE GORGAN

(15¢, Stanley Mullen, 4936 Grove St., Denver 11, Colo.) July issue: One of today's best fanzine buys, this 60 page hekto job refutes critics who believe a mimeo is required to make a readable fanzine. Printed cover, 7 good articles and stories, plus departments put this fanzine in your required reading list.

SHANGRI - L'AFFAIRES

(10¢, Chas Burbee, 1057 S. Normandie, Los Angeles) The LASFS continues to shell out its good money and Burbee continues to have fun while turning out this magazine for the club. June issue offers BEEvans, FTLaney, CBCondra, FJackerman, Tigrina, and BTucker who ramble on for pages, while 11 fans send in letters.

TIME TRAVEL TALES

(5¢, Rex Ward, 428 Main St., El Segundo, Calif.) This 4 page "second August issue" asks the readers whether or not the publication should be suspended. Why not tell him, youse guys?

FANTASY REVIEW

(6d, Walt Gillings, 15 Shore Rd., Ilford, Essex, Eng.) June-July number offers 20 printed pages of possibly the best fanzine going today; contains articles, fan news

& gossip, book reviews galore. Ackerman of Calif. & Kishi of New York are the American agents to contact for a subscription.

FANTASY COMMENTATOR

(25¢, Langley Searles, 19 E. 235th St., N.Y.C.) Summer issue: continuous repeating of "this is the best" destroys the value of the whole review---but nevertheless---!! 35 pages of book news, book reviews, bookish articles, plus Sam's fan-history serial.

TYMPANY

(5¢, Redd Boggs, 2215 Benjamin St. Minneapolis 18, Minn.) Far be it from us to laud another newszine, but Tympany has it on the ball; their handling of news is of a different slant as national news of interest to fans is the thing; not strictly fan news. Bi-weekly.

DREAM QUEST

(10¢, Don Wilson, 495 N. Third St. Banning, Calif.) The July issue boasts 7 articles and stories, 5 departments, 2 verses, and artwork in its 52 pages, but alas and alack, the 52 pages are so badly mimeographed its hard on the eyes. Thicker paper, much more ink, and slower mimeographing will match contents and magazine.

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE

-continued from page 4-

miss it.

Lastly, & finally, we have "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir", made from R. A. Dick's pixillated story of a woman's meeting with a ghost. Now playing at the Radio City Music Hall in New York.

On the air, like the movies

and theatre, we have some interesting pieces: Most of these will run for the summer only. On Wednesday, the old "Light's Out" series have once more been inaugurated. And on Thursday, a new program with Peter Lorre called "Mystery in the Air", which we announced a few months ago is now in full run.

See you next month.

-dk

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