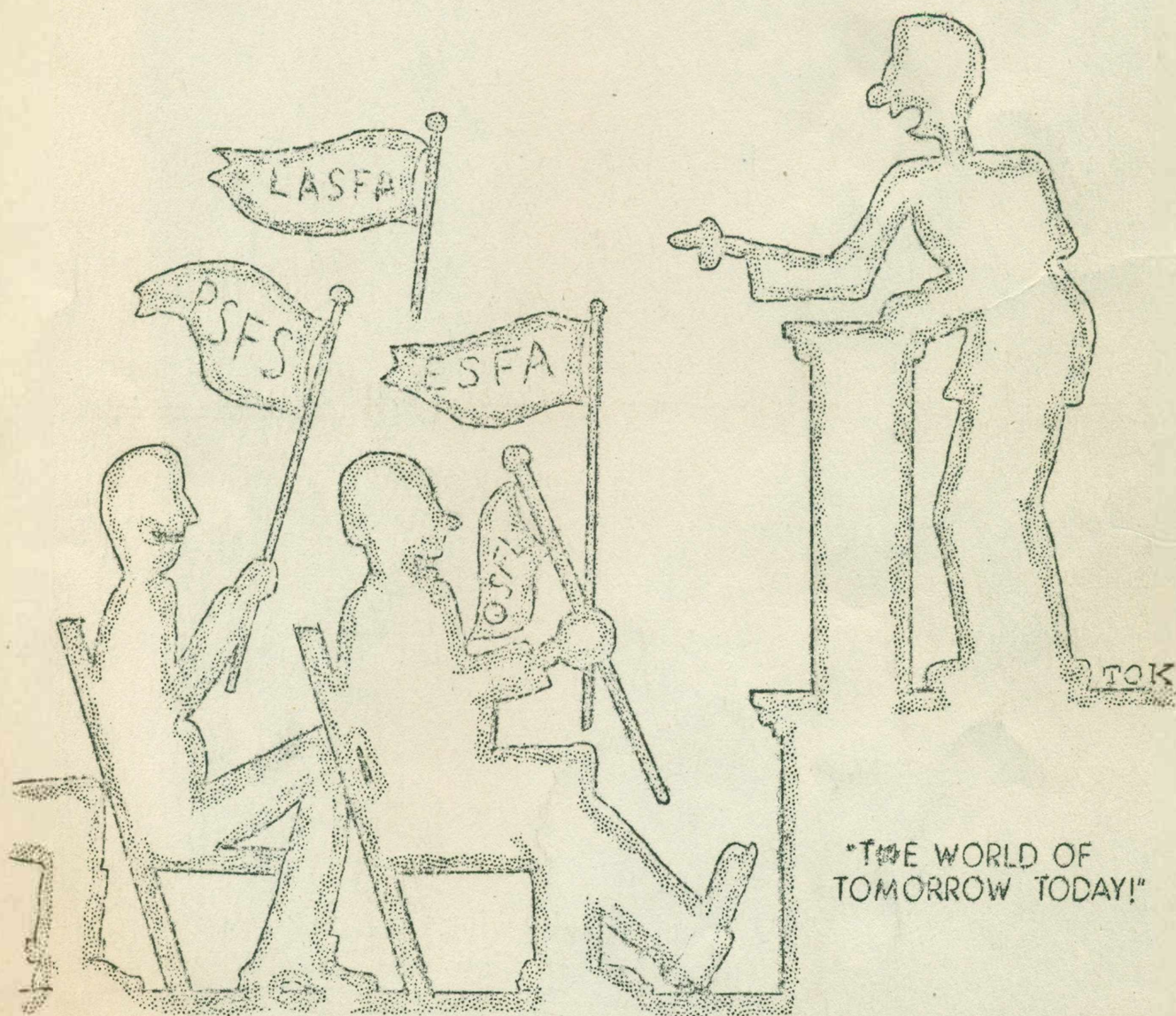


# FANTASY TIMES

NO. 58  
NOVEMBER 1947



"THE WORLD OF  
TOMORROW TODAY!"

## THE PHILCON

SEE PAGE 11



"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY"



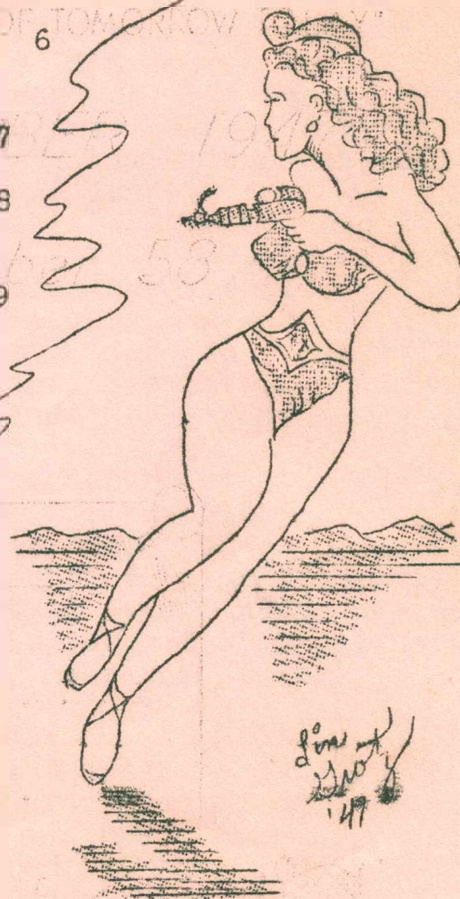
NOVEMBER 1947

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Cover by Lin Grotz



# FANTASY-TIMES

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

JAMES V. TAURASI, editor-in-chief

Ray Van Houten and Sam Moskowitz, co-editors; Alvin R. Brown, associate editor; Alex Osheroff, assistant editor; Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, science editor; Gordon M. Kull, west coast editor; David Kishi, theatre and film editor; John Giunta, art editor.

Vol. 2 - No. 27

November 1947

Whole Number 58

## EDITORIAL

BY JAMES V. TAURASI

Fantasy-Times had to be rushed this month in order to get it out on time, and it looks as we type this editorial that the rushing did the job, so far we ARE right on time. The delay in getting out our last issue put the work on this issue behind time, so hence the rush. We sincerely hope that we can get back on schedule with our next issue and give you a better magazine, both in looks and contents.

Ray Van Houten's department, "The World Of Tomorrow Today" is missing from this issue, due to a slight illness on his part. He's fit as a fiddle now, so expect his column back next issue. We haven't heard from Bob Tucker and his "Fanzine Review"; his column was well-liked and we hope he can resume it with the next issue.

Fantasy-Times' Philcon Report came in just too late to make this issue, tho we tried hard to get it in, it was just too late, so look for it next issue. It is very complete and we're sure you'll find it very interesting. Fandom should thank Milton A. Rothman and the members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for the swell job they did in putting out the Fifth (Philcon) Convention. It is the first convention that no one can kick about; and when that happens it's really a good job, well done.

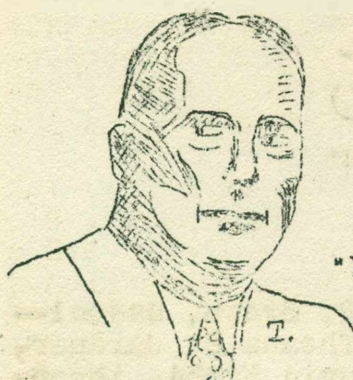
Mimeograph paper has become harder and harder to obtain lately. Tho we have been promised a steady supply from our supplier, we can't be too choosy about the quality, so you'll find three grades of paper in this issue and most of it bad. Blame the "postwar" times for this.

We'd appreciate hearing from you and getting your opinions of Fantasy-Times. We try to follow all worthwhile suggestions. Our new department, "The Fantasy Corner" is all yours, make use of it.

FANTASY-TIMES is published monthly by James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, New York, 10¢ an issue, 3 for 25¢, \$1.00 a year. Advertising: \$1.00 a page, 50¢ half page and 25¢ a quarter page.

Fantasy-Times is a Cosmic Publication.





DR. DAVID H. KELLER

# THE ROAD TO AVALON

"THE GRAND OLD MAN OF SCIENCE FICTION"

By SAM MOSKOWITZ

THE ROAD TO AVALON was first published in the December '45 issue of FANTASY-TIMES under the title BY THE WATERS OF LINTHE. It has been brought up to date by the author for this presentation.

I N these afterdays when many of the old idols of science-fiction have toppled and have begun to live a sublimated existence in the memories of those who will not let themselves forget a better day, no flame burns more warmly in the candle of the mind than the name of David H. Keller, M. D.

A man of compelling intelligence and shining humanity, a doctor of the mind as well as the body, he labored for love thirty years before he sold his first work at the age of forty-six.

Hugo Gernsback was well aware when the original manuscript of "The Revolt Of The Pedestrians" was set down after first reading that he had stumbled upon an author who could extrapolate upon minutely exact science, apply to it the psychology of a human being and emerge with a result that made contemporary science-fiction writers seem cold-blooded as icicles by comparison.

For Keller was interested in one thing predominantly. How would the inexorable advance of science affect the person as a human being? What would be the physical and mental results of a too artificial life? For Keller preached a new gospel. He believed in science as a devote man believes in God. But he believed that science must be adapted to the emotions and psychological reactions of man, and that man must never bend himself to fit the mold of science.

In his semi-classic "The Revolt Of The Pedestrians" he showed how too great dependence upon vehicular conveyance would physically effect man, and the inevitable gap that would grow between those who continued to live normally and the majority who claimed superiority because they were a majority and for no other logical reason.

In over one hundred published stories he displayed a fecundity of new ideas that was absolutely astounding. In psychology written scientifically to fiction form he had discovered an inexhaustible gold mine of plot variations and he mined this rich field in his own easy going manner.

"The Pent House" gave a sketch of a money crazy world of advanced science slowly perishing by the over-incidence of dread cancer. comp-



uting that the entire race will be dead in ten years a doctor chooses a young man and woman to live with him in a marvelous pent-house wonderfully stocked against the necessities of life and completely insulated against all infection from outside. These two, he hopes, will start a new, more perfect race when every one else is dead.

Ten years of idyllic happiness in which time a child is born to the couple. At the end of ten years the doors swing open and the doctor emerges to view the chaos of the world. But Dr. Keller has given the victory to science. A cure for cancer has been discovered. The world still pursues its slap-happy course. The Doctor tells the couple that judging by existing conditions, nothing can save the world from extinction at their own hands in the next ten years. The couple seem to understand him, for they allow the door to be closed on them for another 10 years of serene happiness and comfort.

In the world of the future, life has been lengthened and the population stabilized to a point where only the most physically and mentally perfect couples are allowed to have children, and only at the special decree of the government.

A child is born to one happy, chosen couple. From the instant of birth the child is never theirs but is cared for by the scientific state. Specially trained and guided the child becomes a veritable genius. Upon reunion with his parents he regards them as curiosities who had the good-fortune to conceive him.

Elated by his genius the government informs the parents that they will be accorded the unprecedented honor of being permitted to bear a second child.

In a sentence of singular quietness that fairly shrieks the agony of a broken heart, the father wires the official government: WE WILL NOT HAVE ANY MORE CHILDREN. Old timers will remember "Unto Us A Child is Born."

Fan magazine editors have often been accused of poor taste, and indeed Robert A. Mello editor of FANTASCIENCE DIGEST had a lot of explaining to do when he rejected "Valley Of Bones" by Doc Keller for his fan magazine and kept "The Mother". For "Valley Of Bones" was subsequently accepted and published by WEIRD TALES. BUT-time has vindicated his choice, for eight years after publication I can still visualize the closing scene of "The Mother", in which she, mother of 20 children in the scientific world state of tomorrow receives a telegram informing her of the death of her daughter. Her husband trying to comfort her, as she cries inconsolably with the words: "Perhaps", he hesitates, "Perhaps we might adopt a baby!"

Where has an author included such subject matter in a science-fiction story before or since?

"The Stenographers Hands", "The Ivy War", "The Rat Racket", "The Tree", "Air Lines", "The Yeast Men", "The White City", "White Collars" "Half-Way Hill", "A Biological Experiment", "The Boneless Horror" and dozens of others present us a string of enjoyability in reading that France and England well appreciated, judging by the rate they were reprinting these stories before the war.

Critics of Keller have flatly stated he couldn't write. That the powerful subject matter and authentic insight triumphed over the style and made Keller a popular writer. They say his style was as weak as dish water, that it was dead and insipid and often silly.

We wonder if these men are not too much overawed by the wild, driving, aimless power of Thomas Wolfe. A phenomenon with a writing style



of such great intensity that it probably will be admitted as one of the greatest in the history of literature. Words, adjectives, expletives surged from within him. Strong words were what he needed to describe the chaotic bewilderment of his own mind. And his words were rendered useless, for despite alarmingly frank descriptions of sex-ridden degenerates he never did figure himself out and died as he had lived without plot or meaning.

Thomas Wolfe wrote of the same things Dr. Keller did: People. But his style was diametrically opposed to that of Keller's, and he achieved fame before his death.

Can these people brand Keller's writing style as something inferior because after years of practice he became proficient at saying what he wanted to say in as few words as possible. If he achieved by understatement what Wolfe never achieved by screeching power is he necessarily second-rate? Can it be denied that few living writers have ever written an ending as powerful as that for "The Thing In The Cellar." The psychological import of that story was numbing. The only thing comparable was his own grotesque tale "No More Tomorrows" which would have failed with the addition of one superfluous word. Wolfe would never have had the self-restraint to omit a last powerful expletive.

Keller all his life strove for the "beautiful story". He achieved that beauty of style many times, incomparably blended with a note of horror that Lovecraft might have envied. He mistakenly believed that he was writing the "beautiful story" when he wrote "The Golden Bough", "Men Of Avalon", "Binding Deluxe", "Creation Unforgiveable" and the likeable Cornwall series for old Weird Tales. Those were readable but ineffective sort of things. It was in the novel that Keller achieved his dream of literary beauty (yet never the sheer beauty of omission of all-horror that Lovecraft achieved in "Quest of Iranon"). In "The Metal Doom" he chronicled the break-down and rebuilding of civilization in a manner surpassed only by McClary's "Rebirth". And in "Life Everlasting" he paints an unforgettable canvas of the human race at long last attaining immortality--but at a price--sterility! No disease, no fear of death, a boundless future in which to live and love and be happy. And step by step, incident by incident, with incisive and indefeatable logic, Dr. Keller, Master of psychology shows discontent; and finally open rebellion against the childless state of immortality. Led by the women the people appeal for and reachieve their normal, mortal state, attendant with all its ills and disasters. Perpetuation of the race is the true immortality.

"The Conquerors" was a fine novel as science-fiction novels go, but in its sequel, "The Evening Star" David H. Keller reached his zenith. Rarely have beauty of style and fecundity of ideas blended in a happier union. The great science of man unaccountably defeated by unsuspected natural laws. Pell-mell in retreat from the Evening Star he had hoped to conquer; the very genes of his body altered by unknown mutations, man turns at bay, defeated, his science gone and retrieves the secret weapon of his soul--courage. With all hope of retreat blasted he achieves a victory of spirit that halts for a moment the blind, mindless course of natural law. "The Evening Star" is Keller's great science-fiction novel.

David H. Keller's style was as studied and deliberate in its own fashion as that of the late H. P. Lovecraft. Keller deliberately wrote the way he did. Sometimes the results were sorry duds, as were all-



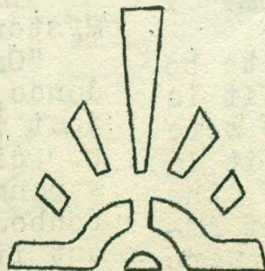
too-many of Lovecraft. But occasionally his style and subject-matter "clicked" and the result was stories possessing the great power and scope of "Life Everlasting", "The Evening Star", "No More Tomorrows", "The Thing In The Cellar", and others. But more often any other author in the history of science-fiction, his style and his stories were readable. He was consistantly readable and enjoyable to a greater extent than any other writer in the history of fantastic literature.

In his own inimitable style he created the lovable detective "Taine of San Francisco", who is undoubtedly the finest "scientific" detective to appear in fiction to-date. This little man, so naive in the ways and manners of the world, and brilliant exclusively in his knack for ingenious scientific sleuthing, left a warm glow in the minds of those who read of his doings. His reply to all those who offered him tobacco in any form is immortal; "No thank you. I used to smoke, but I found that tabacco was bad for the delicate enamel of my teeth, and once that is destroyed, it is never replaced". Some day Ellery Queen will discover "Taine of San Francisco" and brag about it.

Despite a testimonial dinner in New York and some excellent reviews calling him the find of the year, Dr. Keller's book "The Devil And The Doctor", was abruptly dropped like a hot potato by its publishers Simon and Schuster. Dealers ordering copies were informed it was out of print, and unceremoniously hundreds of copies were remaindered. The reasons are conjunctural, but the religious angles may have drawn down the wrath of many churches. Dr. Keller's previous books "The Sign Of The Burning Hart" and "By The Water's Of Lethe" & "Le Geurre de Leurre", never achieved significant circulation. Let this be no criterion of the man's ability. Lovecraft's first two books failed miserably, one of them selling less than 50 copies.

Dr. Keller's stories have the necessary quality to charm millions. Some day, a volume of his stories published at the right time may give him his mark in the world. This might conceivably be soon inasmuch as THE AVALON COMPANY is bringing out "Life Everlasting And Other Tales Of Science, Fantasy and Horror", THE NEW COLLECTOR'S GROUP has contracted for "The Eternal Conflict", a novel and 10 other stories, all previously unpublished, the NFFF is reprinting "The Sign Of The Burning Hart", and no less than three other publishers are dickering with Keller. A Keller boom might reasonably follow upon the footsteps of the Lovecraft boom, and the fans may yet gain another of their fellows deserved literary recognition. -sm

The End





# I Remember Palmer

BY G. KULL

I found Raymond A. Palmer's office, after what seemed endless search, and introduced myself to a personable young man who said his name was W. Lawrence Hamling. Palmer was out, so I waited, while Hamling went back to work on the dummies of the next FA.

I amused myself for a short time examining the many fine originals which hung about on the walls. Then Hamling joined me again.

"Want to see Ray about the Shaver Mystery?" he asked.

"Partly, and partly a social visit," I said. "What is this Shaver thing all about? Haven't read an AMAZING in years. Been overseas. Heard about it from the big noise it's causing in the fan field."

He explained. Most of the details I had already gathered. He decried the "handful of fans" known as fandom trying to run a magazine whose policy was controlled by many more thousands than they. He said he had been a fan, but had quit because of fandom's attitude.

The fans had never liked Palmer, he said, even with all the assistance and contributions to past conventions he had made. The Shaver stories were just the chance they had been waiting for to pounce on him.

"Do you believe in them?" I queried.

"No," he said. "I have to be shown." But, he went on, it is neither he nor Palmer who sets the policy of the magazine, it is the reader. I expressed the opinion that perhaps most of AMAZING's present readers were cultists and religious faddists, which many fans believed the Shaver stories were designed to attract, but Hamling said he didn't

believe such to be the case.

AMAZING's readers, he believed, were people who at one time or another had noticed strange occurrences, and had hitherto chosen to say nothing for fear of ridicule. When the Shaver tales appeared, these people found in them an answer to the unexplained things they had witnessed.

Palmer popped vigorously thru the door at this point. He shook my hand as Hamling told him what we had been talking about. I took my opportunity.

"From what I've gathered, Mr. Palmer," I said, "The general consensus of opinion seems to be that the Shaver stories were written and presented to drum up publicity --- and subscriptions."

"That's not true," he said. "We didn't anticipate what happened. Although it couldn't have been better had it actually been a publicity stunt, we presented the Shaver Mystery merely as something new in science-fiction. I didn't believe it either, but here was someone who claimed racial memory; it was something new. The circulation of AMAZING went up 50,000 overnight."

"I wish I were getting some of the returns from it, as fandom seems to think," he continued, "But I get wages just like anyone else."

"Do you believe in the Shaver Mystery, Mr. Palmer," I asked.

"Only on the face of the evidence, and not blindly. There is just too much supporting evidence to disregard. When something strange happens, it just can't be fobbed off as impossible; that is, not if we are going to look at things from a scientific standpoint. Many of these unusual things are happening, and when examined closely they all seem to



point rather definitely in one direction."

"Do you check up on your readers' letters?"

He said that he tried to judge them on sincerity, and as a result, the most 'strange letters never got printed. As an example, he brought out a letter from a Coast Guardsman and his buddies telling of discs with transparent portholes which, apparently in trouble, had dumped a load of stuff that had damaged their ship. A sample of the falling debris was sent along with it, and University of Chicago scientists had failed to identify the substance.

Palmer said that he was spending \$500 to find out if it was all a bluff.

He said that he wished the fans would give him a break. Be-

ing a science-fiction fan, and liking science-fiction, he wanted to be one of the 'boys, but fandom wouldn't let him. He felt that, although he may not have printed the best of material during the war years, he was putting out some top tales now, having saved the best of his material for the postwar issues. Now the fans weren't even reading these good stories, he complained.

My impressions were, as I left, that Ray Palmer is not insane, nor does he think that Shaver is. As far as I could judge, Palmer was answering honestly.

NOTE: Material in quotes in the above article are not necessarily the direct words of the speaker, although the sense is substantially maintained in all cases.

The End

### FANTASY BOOK PUBLISHERS INDEX

1. FANTASY PUBLISHING CO., INC. (also referred to in "Tome Talk" as FPCI) at 8318-20 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles 3, Calif. Catalog available.
2. FANTASY PRESS (under directorship of Lloyd Arthur Eshbach) at P. O. Box 159, Reading, Pennsylvania. Four illustrated brochures mentioned in "Tome Talk" are available.
3. THE AVALON COMPANY (co-ownership, Sam Moskowitz and Will Sykora) P. O. Box 8052, Clinton Hill Station, Newark 3, New Jersey. Neat advertising brochure may be obtained on request.
4. "Shadow Girl" by Ray Cummings and "Liners of Time" by J. Russell Fearn, both published in England may be obtained from David Kishi 171 West End Ave, New York 23, New York at \$2.50 each.
5. "Arkham Sampler" explained in detail in 1947-48 Arkham House - catalog now available from Arkham House (August W. Derleth) Sauk City, Wisconsin.
6. PRIME PRESS at Box 2019, Middle City Station, Philadelphia 3, Pa. Advertising Leaflet on "Equality; or, A History of Lithconia" and perhaps others obtainable from this company.
7. CARCOSA HOUSE at 774 Caliburn Drive, Los Angeles 2, Calif. Neat circular on "Edison's Conquest of Mars" obtainable from this company.

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Alex Osheroff's "TOME TALK" appears on page 9.



# Fantasy In The Theatre

BY DAVID KISHI

Fantasy has been for a long time ---- in fact was in the beginning ---- mainly used for entertainment. Last year a radio program, entitled "The Fifth Horseman", established an impeccable precedent by being a fantasy which was not for entertainment but for beneficial propaganda purposes. This "Fifth Horseman" series was the best fantasy program series ever presented that year, in our opinion. Then again, this year, another fantasy program was given. Although not a series, this one program is nominated by us as being the best fantasy performance of the year, 1947. It was titled, "1960? Jiminy Cricket!" It was a musical documentary, with all of the Disney progeny taking part; and also was, as the "Fifth Horseman", a propaganda piece but not as forceful as the latter. With two under the bridge, and favorably reviewed by the critics, is a new vogue coming into being? we hope so; and thus we depart to other trivia in the fantasy in the theatre field.

RKO has scheduled an anti-war film under the title, "The Boy With Green Hair". The story is a fantasy about a war orphan.

Samson Raphaelson, successful stage and screen writer, is on the final lap on a play that has occupied him for two years and should be finished at the end of October. It is temporarily labeled "Fable" with fantasy woven into the plot. It is about young and old people in a small town.

"Land Of The Lost", well-known children's fantasy program, will return to the air on October 11 at 11:30 AM over station WJZ in New York and via the ABC network thruout the country. These radio programs are put out in cartoon form in "Land Of The Lost Comics".

Over "Escape" classics in adventure will be presented, and the first offering when it returns on the air October 1st, will be Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game", which was produced as a weird thriller on the screen. This story was originally a out-and-out adventure story but the movies have transformed it into weird.

It was announced a few months ago, but accidentally not mentioned by us, that Bud Abbott and Lou Costello will make a new film, entitled, "The Brain of Frankenstein". The story is, of course, about "Frankenstein" who is in search of a human's brain; and by some remarkable coincidence, he wants Lou Costello's. There you have it; and if you've seen any of the Bud Abbott and Lou Costello flickers, you'll probably know what course the film will run. We think it is going to be quite humorous; try not to miss it, but if you have something better to do, do what you have to do first.

Rickey Slavin sends in this item: Nip Nelson, in his appearance at the New York Paramount, includes in his repertoire of imitations and mimicry a stiff note. As a vehicle for his imitations, he uses a rocket ship, which lands on Mars. Jimmy Stewart is the Captain, Orson Welles narrating, and as a final touch, when they land on Mars, the natives are tobacco auctioneers. Get to see this, if even only for the entertainment value.

That's all for this month, but here is a tip: Go see "Down to Earth"; It is an excellent fantasy.....

-dk



# Tome Talk

BY ALEX OSHEROFF

From the West Coast comes news that demands colorful adjectives, - news that produces anticipatory mouth watering. We are the happy recipients of a catalog from Fantasy Publishing Company, Inc. of Los Angeles which lists eleven forthcoming book titles that quicken the avid reader's and collector's pulse more than a little.

First of the proposed parade will be "Out of the Unknown", one of the most appropriate titles we've seen in lo, these many moons for the half dozen tales by A. E. van Vogt and the Mrs., E. Mayne Hull stem from UNKNOWN WORLDS. Illustrated by Neil Austin, Roy Hunt and Charles McNutt and priced at \$2.50, the first 250 copies of "Unknown" only will be autographed by the co-authors.

Next will come "The People of the Comet" by Austin Hall taken from WEIRD TALES of 1923 vintage. It concerns the adventures of star-rover, Zin of Zar and Sora, the girl from the stars, (unquote). Selling for \$2.00, this item it seems, will not be published by FPCI but FPCI will act as the exclusive distributors for the actual publishers who are as yet unnamed.

Following will be Stanton A. Coblentz's well liked AMAZING novels "The Sunken World" and "After 12,000 Years". Selling at \$3.00 per, both of these books will be actual FPCI publications.

Also....there will be an Ed Earl Repp volume. Priced at \$2.00, it will contain "The Radium Pool" from SCIENCE WONDER STORIES and "The Stellar Missile". this item will be distributed exclusively by FPCI.

Also scheduled for publication by FPCI is "The Omnibus of Time" by Ralph Milne Farley, a collection of his time travel tales from ARGOSY, TOP-NOTCH, WONDER and WEIRD. Running to 100,000 words, "Time" will be priced at \$3.50.

Sounds good, doesn't it? But hold on because we and they aren't - done yet for also on the agenda is the famous "Radio" series by Ralph Milne Farley. In order of publication they are: "The Radio Man", (\$2.00); "The Radio Beasts", (\$2.00); "The Radio Planet", (\$2.50); "The Radio Menace", (\$3.00); and "The Radio Pirates", (\$2.00). These also will be an FPCI publishing project.

"Of Worlds Beyond", (\$2.00) and "The Forbidden Garden", (\$3.00) - are the two new offerings from Fantasy Press. The former, a symposium on writing science-fiction, by Heinlein, Taine, Williamson, van Vogt, de Camp, E. E. Smith and Campbell made its surprise debut at the Philcon. Besides the seven articles and a fine introduction by Lloyd Arthur Eshbach there are writeups and photographs of each of the authors and the volume to top it off is printed on slick paper. As an associational item, this is a must. John Taine's "The Forbidden Garden" adheres strictly to the company's policy of excellent material in a superlative format. The book contains a generous amount of text and is attractively illustrated by artist A. J. Donnell and with the little extras such as end leaves and illustrated chapter headings.

Speaking of extras, there's something more, in the advertising scheme of things of Fantasy Press. I'm talking about the little illustrated brochures, one for each book, sent out in droves by FP, which



have an associational value on a par with newspaper clippings of fantasy book reviews.

Avalon Company is holding to its scheduled publication date (October 15th) of "Life Everlasting and Other Tales of Science, Fantasy & Horror" by David H. Keller, (\$3.00), and the volume should be out with in two weeks after you read this. Thirty pages have been added to "Life Everlasting" including a double index of Keller's published stories. In addition the book will be re-inforced by head bands because of its thickness and top-stained. The aforementioned have raised the cost of publication and the book will definitely go up in price after publication.

From England we have news that Olaf Stapledon's latest book "The Flames" (6 shillings, Secker & Warburg) is out. Of this item, "The Daily Worker", (English) states: "Contemporary literature's most ingenious master of macabre fantasy has excelled himself." Also Rhoda Broughton who is scheduled for a forthcoming "Arkham Sampler" has authored "Twilight Stories" (6 Shillings, Home & Van Thol) a book of short ghost stories and last but not least we are in receipt of a slim volume from England, "The Shadow Girl" by Ray Cummings.

Momentarily as this column is bedded down, we are awaiting receipt of "Equality; A History of Lithconia" (Prime Press, \$2.50) and "Edison's Conquest of Mars" by Garrett P. Serviss (Carcosa House) but to top it off with an actual addition to our shelves there has arrived at the nth hour of this writing, "Venus Equilateral" by George O. Smith, (Prime Press). Its a thick volume of some 450 pages and though the price has gone up to \$3.75 it still looks like an excellent buy from where we sit.

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-ADDRESSES OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSES MENTIONED IN "TOME TALK" APPEAR ON PAGE 7-

## The Fantasy Clubs

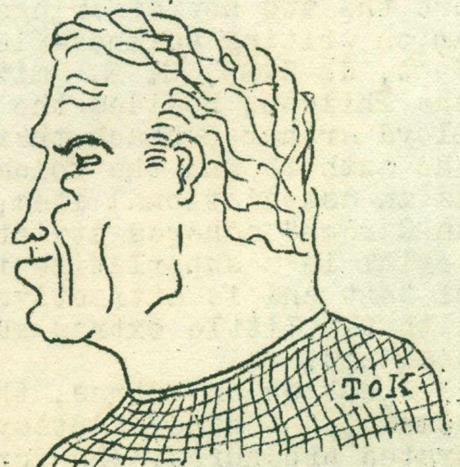
-ALL FANTASY FAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED TO SEND IN THEIR REPORTS-

### THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

The September meeting of the ESFA was a record breaker! When called to order by Director Sam Moskowitz, there was an attendance of seventy persons! This, outside of national gatherings, is a record for any meeting of a science-fiction club that has been reported.

Also somewhat of a record, the feature speaker was August W. Derleth all the way from Sauk City, Wisconsin, a very rare visitor in the East because of his business and other commitments.

-continued on page 15-



August W. Derleth



# ON THE NEWSSTANDS == 1946 IN SCIENCE-FICTION ==

reviewed by Lane Stannard

by Thomas S. Gardner

## STARTLING STORIES

November 1947

The Man in the Iron Cap by Murray Leinster is an excellent novel that does credit to STARTLING. We suggest that you read it. Williamson's Through the Purple Cloud is a good pick for the "Hall of Fame" department. We liked it. Bergey's cover is very good this time and Stevens-Lawrence illustrations for the novel are super-tops. The Readers' column is really good and The Fan Mag Reviews brought in 40 new subscribers to Fantasy-Times; thanks Sam. STARTLING has been on the upgrade for the last two years. We rate this issue a good B plus.

## astounding SCIENCE FICTION

October 1947

An excellent astronomical cover by Bonestell really sets this issue above all others; we'd like to see more of this type. A fine collection of stories this time with Ole Doc Methuselah by Lafayette the best in our opinion. The serial The End is not Yet by Hubbard ends neatly with Rogers pics improving greatly. We liked them this time. Cartier takes top prize with his swell inside pics. We still think that editor-in-chief Campbell should let him do a cover. Departments and article, O.K., as usual, but where, oh where, is Brass Tacks? We rate this issue a low A.

## WEIRD TALES

November 1947

Matt Fox's cover for this issue is good, but we're getting a little sick of this type of cover; we'd  
-continued next column-

## Part IV

## THRILLING WONDER STORIES

Five issues. For a real, weird, fantasy combination, Keith Hammond's Call Him Demon, takes the prize. I have asked several people to read it. Some may call it science-fiction, but what do you call it? I wonder how many of us will find ourselves like the character in Henry Kuttner's The Little Things? It is an interesting though. Murry Leinster's Dead-City deserves the title, Amazing. Accidents have changed history, and this fictional accident is written in a plausible vein for your entertainment. The best issue of the year is the Winter one containing E. Hamilton's Forgotten World; M. Leinster's The Disciplinary Circuit; F. B. Long's Atomic Station; and the supporting cast is not too bad. The last issue of the year had only one good story, Jack Vance's Phalid's Fate. A very human and damn good psychological story with an action theme. A hard combination. The year for TWS is B-. -tsg

Lack of space prevents us from presenting the review of 1946 issues of astounding SCIENCE FICTION which ends the series. It will be published in our next issue. -the editor

like to see some real weird cover now and then. We'll pick Bloch's The Cheaters as the best, among a string of fairly good yarns. The best inside illustrations were by Coye; we miss John Giunta's excellent art-work tho. We're looking forward to WEIRD TALES' 25th Anniversary issue. We rate this issue a good B. -ls



# THE FANTASY CORNER

## A DEPARTMENT FOR FANTASY-TIMES' READERS

AVON FANTASY READER'S PRICE (cont.) GARDNER ANSWERS KISHI

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Dear Dave:

I was very glad to see your answer to my criticism of the price of AVON FANTASY READER. I was wondering what argument a defender would take. First, prices, have gone up. Therefore let us push them higher, by paying practically nothing for material, and charging higher than anybody else! Dave, what kind of economics do you follow?

Now as to buying or not buying a magazine. You are perfectly correct in your statement. However I was thinking of something different, merely a matter of ethics and morality. As you probably know the reading of science-fiction and fantasy is a form of addiction with the same drive found in narcotic addiction. If you doubt that try to induce, buy, or force a fan not to read any more. Only a few can break away. As you know semantic blocks are set up in the mind when one becomes rabid about any field that makes it very difficult to break away. Now the laws of all civilized lands prevent preying upon addicts of any type. For example, there are narcotics, which if given to anyone will so bring on addiction they to get another shot, the addict will kill any one, steal, perform treason or any other crime. Now I do not suggest at all that any fantasy addict is that bad, but they are bad enough to buy magazines and books and go hungry! I have seen that happen more than once. I have seen adult, educated men buy fantasy when their families needed the money to live on. The same thing is observed with an alcoholic. Now do you, from a moral standpoint, wish to condone something that takes advantage of the customer and fantasy addict? Frankly, I don't. Incidentally, are you quite as sure now as you were in your letter after having seen the fourth issue of AVON FANTASY READER?

In regard to FAMOUS FANTASTIC, get hold of the last FAPA mailing and read the article by Harry Warner in THE...THING #3. In this article Warner discusses the cuts on novels in FFM. The reason given, for cutting the mag seems to be the magazine is read by fantasy-mad kids who are fed on pap, Sex, social problems, and anything above about ten-year mental level are deleted from the novels. Read this article I entreat you, and then ask yourself the question: Are fantasy readers so mentally retarded that their reading material has to be censored.

Cordially yours,  
Thomas S. Gardner

AND NOW WOLLHEIM ON GARDNER'S "BLIND SPOTS"

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Dear Mr. Taurasi:

I am writing in protest against the absolutely dishonorable fashion in which Thomas S. Gardner has falsified and distorted the opinions of Barrows Dunham in his review of Dunham's book Man Against



Myth. It is evident that the only "Blind Spots" that Gardner has are those in his own mind which prevent him reading or even quoting a passage correctly. Gardner quotes Dunham as saying that "fascism and communism are opposites" on page 245, and then goes on to claim that Dunham restricts the choice of Americans to one or the other of these opposites. This is absolutely NOT what Dunham says, but the reverse!

First, Gardner cannot even get the page right in his hysteria. Page 245 contains no reference to either communism or fascism. Gardner presumably meant page 247. On that page Dunham quotes a statement made by Stuart Chase in Chase's book The Tyranny of Words, a statement made by Chase as an example of what Chase believed to be a "two-valued" logic structure. This sentence of Chase's reads: "Events make either communism or fascism inevitable in America." To this, on page 247, Barrows Dunham writes as follows:

"Now, it happens that 'communism' and 'fascism' are opposites, but not contradictories; they exclude each other, but they do not exhaust between them all the political possibilities. It is therefore erroneous to assert that you must have one or the other."

That seems plain enough. Evidently Gardner cannot read simple English correctly when it crosses his preconceived biases. For instance he states that for Dunham "There can be no criticism of communism, Russia, or Stalinism." There is nothing whatever in this book that gives Gardner grounds for making any such statement. He is misloading Fantasy-Times readers utterly when he makes it.

I found "Man Against Myth" to be a brilliant study of numerous popular fallacies, which I would unhesitatingly recommend to anyone. I would especially suggest that Gardner pick up the book where he seems to have left off and read the next chapter entitled "That Words Will Never Hurt Me." Then analyze his own article in its light. But it does not need my opinion to uphold the book; far better philosophers and scientists have done so. Albert Einstein says of the book, "It is an instructive, amusing and courageous book whose success is most desirable in the public interest." Professor John Dewey says of it, "Professor Dunham has written a remarkable book...one does not know which to admire most, the pertinence of the book to the present situation or the extraordinary clarity and deft wit with which the book is written. For me, it is most decidedly the book of the year (and in the interest of good sense and intelligent, clear-headed action, one can hope the book of the year for many years to come.)"

I certainly hope the readers of your magazine will obtain the book for themselves and see to what an incredible extent Gardner has falsified its content and argument. In expressing this hope, I am not to be thought of as giving an opinion for or against General Semantics. But I must state that I am constantly astonished at the fact that some persons who espouse the cause of semantic clarity seem quite unable to express themselves in anything but hysterical, highly emotional, and generally ungrammatical English.

Yours very sincerely,  
Donald A. Wollheim

(Thank you, Mr. Wollheim, for your interest in our magazine, we are -- always interested in what our readers think of the articles we present and we try to present as many letters as we can in this department. We will let Mr. Gardner answer your letter, if he cares to, next issue.)



Dear Mr. Graham:

Your letter in Fantasy-Times was quite interesting to me. Of course, you know you are asking for a total analysis of your three articles. I mentioned. I think I will have the time to give that to you within the next year in a series of articles, some of them staff written in parts, and we will duplicate the experiment you suggest also.

Now as to the general tone of the letter. I wish to call particular attention to the readers of Fantasy-Times to your letter. During the past hundred years there have been about fifty very bitter controversies among scientists. In only a few cases have letters such as yours been written. The statements you make are libelous as you are well aware of. In almost no case in any of the controversies have the opponents cast doubts upon the honesty, or the validity of the training of the members. Such a statement as you make is extraordinary, as you would only have to check the last edition of American Men of Science, The roles of the American Chemical Society, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, or even the published doctoral dissertation to realize the statements you made are absurd, concerning my honesty, and validity of training.

Your article on math you refer to will be dissected and reported on in detail in due time. I will let the readers of Fantasy-Times judge as the total analysis is published. Arrangements are already under way for such work. The implication of faking hardly does credit to any one. Frankly, if Mr. Graham has discovered an ether drift, the physicists I know would be most glad to work it through in every detail.

If you wish or can help out science, we will holdout a helping hand, but NEVER GET IT IN YOUR HEAD THAT YOU ARE SACROSANCT AND CANNOT BE CRITICIZED. NOR DO NOT THINK THAT ANGER, LIBELOUS STATEMENTS OR THREATS OF EXPOSURE IN AMAZING STORIES WILL BE CONDONED. NOR THINK THAT YOU WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO WRITE CIVIL LETTERS IN THE FUTURE. IF YOU EXPECT TO WALK WITH THE SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT THEIR CODE OF CONDUCT. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IN THE FUTURE.

Sincerely yours,  
Thomas S. Gardner.

AND NOW JUST ROOM ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE LETTER  
-----

Dear Jim:

I have just received and looked over the October Fantasy-Times. It is right up there with the best of them for my money. Seems as though Dr. Gardner started something with his article last month on the high price of AVON FANTASY READER and other publications. Oh well, each to his own opinion, that is what makes this a free country..... I liked the cover on the October Fantasy-Times; it is simple but the atomic bomb explosion effect is very well done. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Raymond Isadore



-cont. from P. 10-

including Arkham House publishing work. Mr. Derleth gave a very fine talk, touching upon the point of science-fiction's place in literature, and then answered questions from the floor, mostly in connection with Arkham House and book publishing. During a fifteen minute intermission, the famous author autographed dozens of books for the eager collectors present.

The semi-annual elections were held at this meeting, with Sam Moskowitz and Alex Osheroff retaining their positions of Director and Treasurer; while Ray Van Houten replaced Richard Witt-

er as Secretary.

Joe Kennedy gave us a report of the PHILCON which drew a lot of laughs, and Tom Gardner told us the latest news in connection with K-R serum, a cancer combatant developed by Russian research workers which, Gardner says, is distinctly promising.

Director Moskowitz introduced many well-known personalities, including Forrest J. Ackerman, Bob Tucker, Stan Mullen of "Gor-gon", Don Wollheim, J. B. Michel, Hannes Bok, Don Grant of Hadley Publishing, old-time fan David M. Speaker, John Nitka, and Marie Dragonette. -rvh

THE PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

The past month has been one of feverish activity in THE PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY. The greatest activity was in connection with the production of the first issue of THE FANSCIENT, The Portland Group's major fanzine. A book of 24 - 5 1/2" by 8 1/2" pages, 8 of which are lithographed, it presented many problems of layout and production as well as the problem of suitable material to present. Further difficulties were caused by the fact that an abbreviated issue of 200 copies, for inclusion in THE PHILCON MEMORY BOOK, had to be run separately due to the makeup of the PMB. Critical response so far has been favorable. There are still a few copies available to start subscriptions with the first issue. The rate is 50¢ a year of 4 issues. Send orders to Don Day, 3435 NE 38 Ave., Portland 13, Oregon.

In spite of the meeting falling on Labor Day weekend, 12 persons were present including new members Helen Sandoz and Cherol Preisz. Miss. Sandoz is Editor and Publisher of THE NORTHWEST BACKGROUND, a magazine majoring in coverage of the cultural activities of the Northwest.

The principal business of the meeting was the final reading and adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws. They were passed as read, the only point on which there was debate being whether to abandon the voluntary contributions for raising funds in favor of regular dues. It was decided to commence regular dues of 50¢ a month for regular members and to continue the Associate (out of town) Memberships at \$1.00 a year.

The September 14 meeting featured the election of officers for the coming year. Donald B. Day, who has served as Temporary Chairman during the formative period, was elected President. Joe Salta was named Vice-President; Ralph Rayburn Phillips, Secretary; and Gerald Waible, Treasurer.

Further business of the meeting included discussion of the first club party scheduled for Saturday night, September 20th. -dd

-SEND IN YOUR FANTASY CLUB'S REPORT-



# FOR SALE

THE DOLL AND ONE OTHER - Blackwood - new, dust wrapper -	\$2.50
TALES OF TERROR - Karloff - new, dust wrapper -	.40
WEIRD TALES OF TERROR AND DETECTIVE - H. F. Heard - new, dust wrapper -	1.00
GREAT GHOST STORIES OF THE WORLD - Laing - new, dust wrap.	1.50
25 MODERN STORIES OF MYSTERY & IMAGINATION - Stong - new, dust wrapper -	1.50
WORLDS GREAT CRIME STORIES - Sayers - excellent, no wrapp.	.75
THIRD OMNIBUS OF CRIME - Sayers - excellent, no wrapper	.75
THE KISS THAT KILLED - Leronx - excellent, no wrapper ..	.75
THE MACHINE TO KILL - Leronx - excellent, no wrapper	.75
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# THE COSMIC REPORTER

EDITED BY LANE STANNARD

## STF BECOMES SCIENCE FACT

The world at large were informed, last month, what science-fiction fans had known for months, when Dr. Thomas S. Gardner presented his discovery of longevity to the American Chemical Society, convened in New York. Dr. Gardner obtained his inspiration for this work when he read Dr. David H. Keller's novelette, The Boneless Horror in the July, 1929 issue of SCIENCE WONDER STORIES. In his story, Dr. Keller, increased the life-span of his characters by using a "royal jelly" formula. Now, Dr. Gardner has discovered that the Queen Bee jelly is the key to long life. His discovery used on fruit flies increased their average life span 46%.

THE NEW YORK TIMES (daily); The Science Section of THE NEW YORK SUNDAY TIMES, TIME MAGAZINE, NEWSWEEK, THE JOURNAL-AMERICAN and newspaper thruout the country carried news of this discovery, last month and in the near future THE AMERICAN WEEKLY, Hearst's Sunday magazine supplement, will carry a full page write-up, illustrated, on it. FANTASY-TIMES announced it, months ago.

None of the reports carried the news that Dr. Gardner had gotten his inspiration from Dr. Keller's story.

The Boneless Horror will be published next month in Keller's anthology, "Life Everlasting".-ls

## WOLLHEIM'S MAGAZINES DELAYED

Donald A. Wollheim, announced last month, that his two proposed science-weird-fantasy fiction mag-

azines, to be published by Avon, have not been dropped. The current paper shortage has delayed their initial appearance. It seems that a certain paper concern promised paper to cover their publication and at the last moment backed out. Mr. Wollheim promises that the magazines will come out as soon as a new source of paper is discovered. Both magazines, yet unnamed, will be regular pulp in format and contain new stories only. Mr. Wollheim has stopped purchasing new stories for these two magazines until the situation clears. At present, Mr. Wollheim is the editor of the reprint, pocketbook sized, fantasy magazine, AVON FANTASY READER, now in its fourth issue. -jvt

## CARTIER FANS ATTENTION!

Fantasy fans who like Edd Cartier's super art work should pick up the current, Vol. 1 - No. 1, issue of the new quarterly comic magazine RED DRAGON. The cover, very Unknownish, and two of the cartoons in the magazine are by Edd Cartier. The cartoon strips, both "fantasy-magic" are titled, RED DRAGON and BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL. The magazine is published by Street and Smith.

## MORE COMIC MAGAZINE NEWS!

Dell Publishing Company has added two Tarzan magazines to their "popular cartoon magazine series". They are: No. 134, TARZAN AND THE DEVIL OGRE and No. 161, TARZAN AND THE FIRES OF TOHR. They are not newspaper reprints.

Alley Oop, the time-traveling



cave-man, now comes out quarterly in a comic magazine named, you guessed it, ALLEY OOP. Science-fiction? You bet!

Other all-fantasy cartoon magazines are PLANET COMICS, with its near-nude dames and super interplanetary adventures; and FRANKENSTEIN, the meek monster.

### KELLER NEWS

Robert A. Madle and his associates have purchased David H. Keller's new novel, THE ABYSS, and will publish it in combination with a reprint of THE SOLITARY HUNTERS.

Hadley has bought THE TALES OF CORNWALL, a series of stories by Dr. Keller. Some are reprints, but four have never been published.

Avon is getting out an anthology and will include Keller's 'THE THING IN THE CELLAR,' which will make the seventh printing of this story. A record, no doubt.

Dr. and Mrs. Keller have proofread the galley sheets of Avalon Company's Keller anthology, "Life Everlasting", and was very pleased with the stories selected. Dr. Keller states, "Sam's (Moskowitz) introduction (to "Life Everlasting") is almost worth the price of the book."

### TARZAN'S OLD MAN IS 72

George Dixon devoted his whole column, WASHINGTON SCENE, in the September 9th issue of New York's DAILY NEWS to a trip he took to Tarzan's creator, Edgar Rice Burroughs. It was Mr. Burroughs' 72nd birthday. Among the interesting information in the article was the fact that Mr. Burroughs obtained the background information to his first Tarzan novel from the book "Barkest Africa" by Stanley.

### STF NOVEL IN DOC SAVAGE MAGAZINE

Science-fiction fans should pick up and read, OR THE WORLD WILL DIE by John D. MacDonald, published in the current, Nov-Dec, issue of Doc Savage Science Detective. The novel is illustrated by fantasy's best artist, Cartier. The cover on this issue illustrates the novel, tho it is done in the unnatural so-called "modernistic" style.

### AS WE GO TO PRESS

#### The P S F S

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society meeting was held on September 28. The guest was Lester del Rey, who gave a most interesting impromptu talk based upon the introduction to his forthcoming book, being published by Prime Press. The general discussion concerned the state of the world today.

The PSFS meets every other Sunday at 8 P.M. -mar

#### The Philcon

Milton A. Rothman, able chairman of the PHILCON, held last month writes: "You have a slight inaccuracy in your headline (last issue). The auction made about \$360, not \$400, and there were about 200 people present. 175 registered, and there were surely 25 running around unregistered." (Thanks for the info, Milt, -jvt)

### NOTICE!

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 an issue. -ed



## THE COSMIC BOOK SERVICE

The Editorial Staff of FANTASY-TIMES will pick each month a few of the current fantasy book titles and offer them for sale to the readers of FANTASY-TIMES. By following these selections, you will be sure that your bookshelves contain the best.

### THIS MONTH'S SELECTIONS ARE:

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VENUS EQUALATERAL by George O. Smith  
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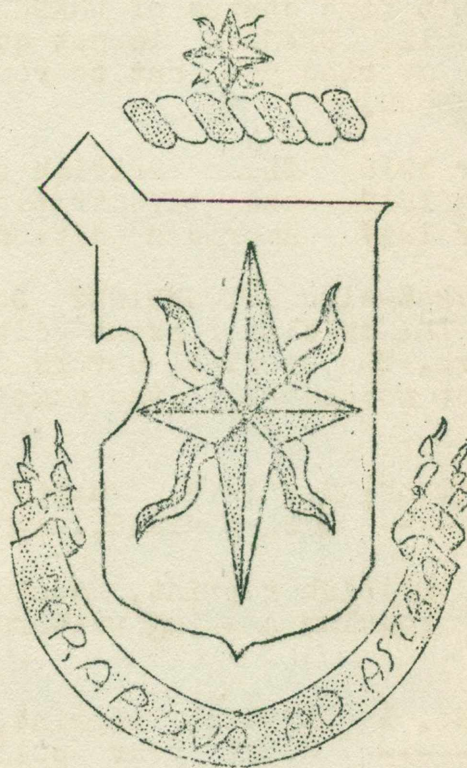
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