

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

DECEMBER, 1947

NUMBER 60

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial	1
by James V. Taurasi	
The Cosmic Reporter	2
edited by Lane Stannard	
THE Cosmic Book Service	4
Tome Talk	5
by Alex Osheroff	
Fanzine Reviews	6
by Bob Tucker	
1946 In Science Fiction	7
by Thomas S. Gardner	
Fantasy In The Theatre	8
by David Kishi	
The World Of Tomorrow Today	9
by Ray Van Houten	
The Fantasy Clubs	10
On The Newsstands	12
reviewed by Lane Stannard	
The Fantasy Corner	14

"This is a Cosmic Publication"

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 Csherooff, assistant editor; Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, science editor; Gordon M. Kull, west coast editor; David Kishi, theatre and film editor; Milton A. Rothman, Philadelphia editor and John Giunta, art editor.

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Whole Number 60

AMAZING STORIES

Events the past month has suggested that it is about time that Fantasy-Times presents to its readers its policy towards AMAZING STORIES.

Fantasy-Times does not consider "The Shaver Mystery and Allied Junk" science-fiction. It considers them the lowest possible fiction ever to be presented to young readers ever seen in any magazine of any type. The idea of presenting this Hoax in this day and age is beyond belief. That a magazine that once presented science-fiction had to be chosen to present this junk is the worse blow science-fiction fandom has ever had.

BUT we do not want AMAZING STORIES banned in any way or any form; we do not want the editor removed; we do not propose to consider everything published in AMAZING STORIES as bad. We do propose to take each item individually and judge whether it is good or bad. This actually has been the policy of Fantasy-Times since the lonely days of 1945 with the U. S. Army in Le Havre, France. We believe this policy is the only one that can be fair to all.

Using this policy as a guide, we approve of Roger P. Graham's (writing under his pen-name, Rog Phillips) proposed fan column in AMAZING STORIES. Mr. Graham has promised to run the column "honest and on the level" and as long as he does that we will support it.

We wish Mr. Graham all the good luck possible and hope that the day is not too far off when AMAZING STORIES can once again return to the science-fiction fold.

James V. Taurasi

FANTASY-TIMES is published monthly by James V. Taurasi, 101-02 North-or Blvd., Corona, New York. 10¢ an issue, 3 issues for 25¢ and \$1.00 a year. ADVERTISING: \$1.00 a page, 50¢ a half page and 25¢ a 1/4 page.

"This is a Cosmic Publication"

THE COSMIC REPORTER

edited by Lane Stannard

AMAZING STORIES TO HAVE FAN MAG
REVIEW COLUMN

FANTASY-TIMES' ASSOCIATE EDITOR,
AL BROWN, TO TAKE TRIP TO CALIF.

Early this month, Rog Phillips, who is in reality Roger P. Graham, mailed out to fan editors a form letter announcing that he intends to do a fan column for AMAZING STORIES. His circular states in part, "With the help of Don Wilson I have gotten RAP to promise the fans a column in AMAZING STORIES.....If you are agin Shaver don't let that make you turn your back on this chance. This column is for fandom, - nothing else....

...What I propose doing is follow somewhat the lines of Sgt. Saturn, but with less of the superior judging of the fanzine and more of the popularizing of fanzine publications and fan activities such as conventions, polls, etc..

....To make this a success I must have your cooperation at least to the extent of sending me your publication for review purpose. I would also like a short sketch of your history in fandom and science fiction, and one of each of your assistants, along with any ideas you may have on the whole thing....."

Forrest J. Ackerman in a letter in a special supplement to FANDOM SPEAKS #2, pleads with fandom not to support this fan column. He states in part, ".....I am not having any part of the fan dept.....What good is it going to do fandom to be publicized in Nameless Stories?....."

K. Martin Carlson, in an editorial in his KAY-MAR TRADER, writes, ".....No matter how you feel about PALMER and Shaver, lets give ROG a chance. It is for Fandom....."

Alvin R. Brown, Associate Editor of Fantasy-Times, who has been in the hospital and six operations the last four months, plans, if the hospital allows him, to take a trip to California for a recovery rest. He plans to stop over in Chicago and see the editors of AMAZING STORIES for Fantasy-Times and perhaps take in a few meetings of The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society while he is in California.

Can any reader give us information on a song entitled, THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY? We heard part of it, on the radio, recently.

-the editor

NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION HOLDING 1947 ELECTIONS

The NFFF is holding their 1947 elections will all main positions having only one candidates each while 12 fans are running for 5 positions of Directors. The elections will close December 10th, so there is still time for members to cast their ballots.

Paul Spencer, Chairman of NFFF's Book Committee, announces that Keller's book, "The Sign Of The Burning Hart" is nearing the printing stage. The book sells for \$2.00 to non-members and \$1.50 to NFFF members. For information write to: Paul Spencer, 88 Ardmore Road, West Hartford, Connecticut.

All NFFF members who pay their 1948 dues before December 1st, will get 25 stationery, with the NFFF emblem on them, FREE.

Work has started on a new constitution to be presented to NFFF members. Members Tarr and Lyon are working on it now.

The NFFF has a membership drive on, with a year's dues given free to all members who obtain five new members.

THE PHILCON MEMORY BOOK, published jointly by the NFFF and THE PHILCON SOCIETY, is now in the assembling stage.

For information on the NFFF, write to K. Martin Carlson, Sec.-Treas., 1028 Third Ave., So., Moorhead, Minnesota.

David Kishi of 171 West End Ave., New York 23, N.Y. would like to know the address of George Tullis. Can any reader help him out? —ed

LATEST NEWS ON "EDISON'S CONQUEST OF MARS"

Russ Hodgkins, in a letter to Fantasy-Times, gives the latest news on CARCOSA HOUSE's first book. He writes, "The first copies of 'Edison's Conquest Of Mars', begin leaving the bindery this week (Sept. 29), considerably later than expected due to unforeseen circumstances which we could not anticipate. Since the initial announcement of this historically important book great interest has been shown in it by collectors either little known or complete strangers to fandom. This has been a vindication of our judgment in selecting as our first book this legendary story of one of fantasy's great writers. We feel safe in predicting that, not only will it take its place alongside such important items as 'The Outsider' and 'The Dawn Of Flame', but that it will be equally difficult to obtain if pre-publication sales are any criterion. Patrons intending to obtain

this first, de Luxe edition of 'Edison's Conquest Of Mars' are cautioned to place their orders soon or chance disappointment later on. It is priced at \$3.50 and may be ordered from CARCOSA HOUSE, 774 Caliburn Drive, Los Angeles 2, California."

FANTASY POCKET BOOKS

Two interesting pocket-size books arrived this month.

THE POCKET BOOK OF GHOST STORIES, edited by Philip Van Doren Stern, was published by Pocket Books, Inc., and came out as Pocket Book No. 384. It is a reprint of the book THE MIDNIGHT READER which was published by Henry Holt and Company in 1942, and contains excellent stories by Wollcott, M R James, Blackwood, F. Marion Crawford and others. 25¢.

A. Merritt's CREEP, SHADOW CREEP was published by Avon as number 117 in The Avon Library. It is pocket-sized and 25¢. Avon published this in their MURDER MYSTERY MONTHLY magazine in 1943, and Fiction House published a cut version in their DETECTIVE BOOK magazine around 1938.

Coming from Avon, as their No. 136 of The Avon Library, is the pocket-sized book, THE LURKING FEAR by H. P. Lovecraft.

BRITISH MAG "FANTASY" NOT TO RESUME PUBLICATION FOR TWO YEARS

Writing in his fan magazine, FANTASY REVIEW, Walter Gillings states that he doesn't expect to revive his magazine FANTASY for at least two years. The magazine had published only three issues when paper shortage forced it to discontinue. He went on to state that before FANTASY was discontinued, Gillings had bought enough material for a dozen issues.

THE COSMIC BOOK SERVICE

A T L A S T !

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by John W. Campbell, Jr.

Limited edition of 1,000 copies, Don't miss out on your copy.
Rush your \$3.00 to Fantasy-Times.

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Best stories of weird fantasy since John Collier; a \$2.75 book, only \$1.50 from us.
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Send your order to James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd.,
Corona, New York.

These books are selected for sale by the editors of Fantasy-Times.

TOME TALK

by Alex Osheroff

October, though being fraught with promise of being a banner month in the annals of science-fiction and fantasy publishing, has come through with "only" three items of first water caliber. The three: "Revelations in Black" by Carl Jacobi, (Arkham House, \$3.00), "The Mightiest Machine" by John W. Campbell, Jr. (Harcley Publishing Company, \$3), and "The Sleeping And The Dead" edited by August Derleth, (Pellegrini And Cudahy, \$3.75).

"Revelations in Black", the first of the Autumn Arkhams and the twenty-fifth of the AH presentations (discounting the lone Mycroft and Moran) is conformative with the company's average \$3.00 weird. The majority of Jacobi's work is present herein, ranging in vintage from 1932 to 1947 and taken from such magazines as WONDER, AMAZING, STARTLING GHOST STORIES and old time and present day WEIRD TALES. The Volume is 272 pages and the dust wrapper is the work of Ronald Clyne.

"Night's Black Agents" by Fritz Leiber, Jr. is not a twin book to "Revelations in Black", that is to say it has not been issued at the same time, (tho, occasionally some Arkham House books are published in twos) but the proofs are already in Mr. Derleth's hands and the book should be forthcoming within not too great a space of time.

John W. Campbell, Jr.'s 1935 ASTOUNDING novel, "The Mightiest Machine" tho a bit on the heavy science side is of important historical and collector's value. There are 228 pages of text plus four full page interior illustrations and cover jacket by Pailthorpe and the edition is limited to a mere 1,000 copies. With its coming, Harcley Publishing Company seems to have picked up momentum for they promise us on November first the appearance of the Second Edition of E.E. Smith's "Skylark of Space" containing a tri-color cover jacket and six full page interiors by Major C. G. Estes and on December fifteenth, John Taine's "Seeds of Life". It is interesting to note, if we are permitted to wander a bit at this point that this will make Taine's third book in the current race for scientific supremacy (in the limited edition publishing field) and will put him neck and neck with van Vogt who will have a third volume out shortly. Running a good third of course is E.E. Smith, for discounting the second edition of "Skylark of Space" his "Triplanetary" should be out some months hence from Fantasy Press.

Out at this writing, though we have not as yet had the opportunity to peruse a copy, "The Sleeping And The Dead" edited by Derleth seems a worthwhile item to pick up. Thirty yarns comprise its 518 pages and the roll-call of authors ranges from the WEIRD TALES "old guard" to the names more familiar to weird fiction's "outer circle".

From Edward M. Clinton we have word that Trover Hall is definitely suspending publishing. He states that although their initial offering, "Puzzle Box" did well the competition in the field at the present time is too keen. Mr. Clinton is at present engaged in formulating plans for a fantasy "book of the month" club.

Shape of things to come dept. Fantasy Press informs us that "The Book of Ptath" by A. E. van Vogt, (\$3.00) will be out within a month.

-continued on page 13-

FANZINE REVIEWS

by Bob Tucker

NECROMANCER

(10¢, David MacInnes & Wife, 877 N. 3rd St., Memphis, Tenn. July) This first issue has definite class and quality, and betokens much for the future. If only they would stick to one kind & color of paper! 5 fictions, 5 features, 1 article, illustrated.

LOXYGEN

(10¢, Joe Schaumburger, 1822 Bathgate Ave, Bronx, 57 NY, Sept.) Another first issue, just the opposite in quality to the above: 4 fictions, 1 article, & filler. Illustrated, but ough. Punk sex creeps into one punk story.

VARIANT

(20¢, Allison Williams, 122 So. 18th St., Philadelphia 3, Sept.) The convention issue of this BEFS club bulletin is super in every respect: covers, contents and format. 48 pages offer 11 articles, 3 columns, 6 other shorts. Well illustrated, printed, bound. Latch onto it, friend.

THE PHILCON BOOKLET

(Free to convention attendees, Edited by Bob Madle & Jack Agnew) This year's program book is a gem of workmanship. With 36 pages of advertising, programs and usual whatnot. Yellow & black cover.

THOTS

(??¢, Henry Elsner Jr., 13618 Cedar Grove, Detroit 5, No date) Henry neglected to print address, price, date, or periodicity in this, the first issue of his all-letters plus magazine review fuz, so how does he expect greenhorns to contribute? This be the first successor to the defunct VOM.

FANDOM SPEAKS!

(10¢, money to Rex Ward, 428 Main St., El Segundo, Cal.; & letters to Jack Clements, 6310 Madison Rd Cincinnati 27. October.) 12 legal-size pages, 8 letters in this, the second (and Official) successor to VOM. Ackie turned money & sub list over to them. Good enough initial issue.

CANADIAN FANDOM

(5¢, Beak Taylor, 9 MacLennan Av, Toronto 5, Ontario. July.) The 12th issue of this always-excellent 38-paged fuz offers 3 fictions, 7 articles & features, plus poetry, ads, illustrations. The cover is a beaut, as usual.

FAN-BETTES

(5¢ & 10¢, Jonne Evans, 628 So. Bixel, Los Angeles 14, August) First issue of something new in fancircles: a fanzine for the children of fans. 16 pages, six articles & features, 2 fictions, illustrated. Solicits membership.

KAY-MAR TRADER

(5¢, K. M. Carlson, 1028 S. 3rd Ave., Moorhead, Minn. June-July) Vol 2, number 4, and this keeps rolling along. Ads, swaps, wants, articles, columns, NFFF news.

BLOOMINGTON NEWS-LETTER

(Free, Bob Tucker, Bx 260, Bloomington, Ill. Philcon issue) 6 pages containing 1 letter from Burbee and 5 LeZ reprints. Pfui.



-SUPPORT THE TORCON-

1946 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART V - Astounding Science Fiction & Conclusion

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION

I think that this is a good time to do a little lance tilting with various sundry ones. From several prominent fans I have heard a great deal of criticism about ASTOUNDING. They gripe that the stories have become lousy, etc. Now I wish to contradict them on the following counts. ASTOUNDING, contrary to the other science-fiction magazines, has two objectives. First, the one of Street and Smith of making money, primary and necessary, and one of the editor, which I have suspected for some time, to put out a science-fiction magazine that is close to the slicks and primarily for the scientifically trained reader. Thus he has to walk carefully so as to sell enough copies to justify the magazine from Street and Smith's viewpoint.

Now I know seven people, including myself, who are scientifically trained, two Ph. D. chemists, one electrical engineer, two taking their final Ph. D. work in chemistry, and two industrial chemists. I personally asked all six, besides myself, the following questions: Do you like ASTOUNDING's stories? Answers: Yes, in all cases. Do you think that ASTOUNDING is publishing poorer stories in 1946 than in 1945? Answers: No. In fact all rated ASTOUNDING as publishing a vast majority of very good stories. Now I think the answer is that the non-scientifically trained readers pay too much attention to mechanical details, and other features. Thus the WORLD OF NULL-

A had many mechanical & continuity defects ably pointed out by non-scientific fans, but the scientifically trained men thought it swell, in spite of those defects, the theme excellent, and the over-all picture well executed. The viewpoints are different for the two types of critics. Now I want to ask this question. If ASTOUNDING were to change to conform to the viewpoints of the leading fan critics, would we other readers like it as well? Frankly, I doubt it. If you can't like ASTOUNDING, don't read it, or pick out some other magazine to read more in keeping with your tastes. Now that that is off my chest, let's go.

ASTOUNDING is the only magazine to print nearly all stories superior to the best in all the other science-fiction magazines. Thus a rating of it is very difficult, so I recommend reading all stories in ASTOUNDING; and will pick out the best two in each issue, and the best novel of the year 1946, according to my opinion of course. Best Novel, George O. Smith's PATTERN FOR CONQUEST. This is the best Smith has produced to-date. The plot is broad, well executed, and damned accurate scientifically. It is outstanding and was well received by the majority of those I have talked with. Jan. 1946: G. O. Smith's FINE FEATHERS, and E. McDowell's VEILED ISLAND. Feb. 1946: L. O'Donnell's THIS IS THE HOUSE. No second. March 1946: F. B. Long's GUEST IN THE HOUSE, and Will. F. Jenkins' A LOGIC NAMED JOE. April 1946: A. C. Clarke's LOOPHOLE, and

R. F. Jones' BLACKMARKET, May 1946; A. C. Clarke's RESCUE PARTY and A. E. van Vogt's A SON IS BORN, June 1946; C. D. Simak's PARADISE and T. Sturgeon's THE CHROMIUM HELMET, July 1946; H. Clement's COLD FRONT and J. Paggett's RAIN CHECK, August 1946; E. Mayne Hull's BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS and P. Carter's THE LAST OBJECTIVE, Sept. 1946; VINTAGE SEASON by L. O'Donnell, the best novelette or short story of the year, and I. Asimov's EVIDENCE, Oct. 1946; H. Clement's ASSUMPTION UNJUSTIFIED and J. MacDougal's CHAOS, CO-ORDINATED, Nov. 1946; C. D. Simak's HOBBIES and A. Bertram Chandler's TOWER OF DARKNESS, December 1946 with B. I. Kahan's FOR THE PUBLIC rating first, followed by E. F. Russell's METAMORPHOSIS, L. Padgett's TIME ENOUGH, and A. E. van Vogt's HAND OF THE GODS. The poorest was the remaining story, G. O. Smith's THE IMPOSSIBLE PIRATE. The whole year rates an A- on the ASTOUNDING scale which is A plus as compared to any of the other science fiction magazines. The articles in ASTOUNDING are all well written, but I do not read them all, I care little for electronics from the technical standpoints, but read the others carefully.

IN CONCLUSION

Now for the bombshell, the best story of the year was not published in a science-fiction magazine! The top story of 1946 was first published in ARGOSY under the title of ATOMS OVER AMERICA by Will Jenkins (Murray Leinster), and later published in pocket-book form as THEY KILLED THE U.S. A. This story scooped the headlines of the newspapers in describing new types of atomic age apparatus which have been announced as fait accompli since the story was printed. I detected

only one serious technical error. The story states that the interceptor rockets had about 90 g. acceleration. The skin temperature at that acceleration will vaporize any substance known due to atmospheric friction. The low acceleration of the V-2 developed temperatures of around a thousand degrees, and their acceleration is about two g. effective. (Starts out with a weight of 14 tons, and has about 58,000 pounds thrust, of which only 30,000 lbs are effective at first).

The year 1946 showed an improvement over the war years of science-fiction. The Thrilling Group improved the greatest percentage, with ASTOUNDING still holding top honors. -tsg

The End

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE by David Kishi

Albert Sharpe who played in FINIAN'S RAINBOW, gala fantasy play, will have a part in THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR. A fantasy film adopted from the story by Betsy Beaton. The story deals with an old Irish circus performer working in the U.S. as a singing waiter, and a seven year old war orphan. The exact theme of the story is not known.

RKO will release, after they finish, A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT, adopted from Mark Twain's satire of the same name.

Last summer, Arthur Beckhard

-continued on page 13-

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

by Ray Van Houten

BRITISH STYLE

As culled from items in the recent British press, Britain's world of tomorrow seems overshadowed by a vast and heavy gloom. No talk here of new streamlined cars, multi-miled super-road nets or push-button kitchens for the missus.

Professor J.B.S. Haldane spoke out in the Sunday Pictorial on the subject of chief scientific interest to the Britisher — how science could protect the civilian from the devastation of atomic warfare. He presents no new facts, advances no new methodology, but is content to reiterate from the common British person's viewpoint what must be done to minimize the slaughter, when and if it comes.

Britain, says Prof. Haldane between the lines, might as well realize that to turn her energies to the development of a peacetime economy would be not only useless but the height of folly. And he intimates that since the great bulk of the world's scientific attention is directed to warlike research, it is only right that the overwhelming mass of the pounds sterling which Britain is able to allot to science should go toward the same end.

In the two articles by the professor which I have so far seen, not one line of research that he mentions is other than military in application. Even deep-sea exploration, he says,

will lead to advances in high-pressure chemistry, which "will certainly be applied in any future wars."

"It may," he adds, "Also be applied to peace-time travel."

This item has a similar grim connotation only if you remember some of science — fiction's own predictions.

A Scotch miner, eighteen years old but only three feet, eight inches high, found that his small stature was hindering his work as a miner. Cland-stimulating injections have increased his height during the past twelve months by four additional inches and the treatment is being carried forward in the hope of his eventually reaching five feet.

Is it a bit far-fetched to recall those stiff stories wherein the working class of society were bred to shape according to the job they were destined to perform? Button-pushers who were an eye and a giant forefinger, typists with ten fingers on each hand, laborers who are loaded with brawn and have a little pinhead set between their mountainous shoulders. Perhaps some bright British scion will seize upon this straw in the wind and will save the failing British-economy, save it by breeding the British working class into organisms ideally suited to their jobs. His chief tool will undoubtedly be the hard radiations released by atomic disintegration.

An anti-climactical word or two about flying saucers and what makes 'em sauce f o r certain people is the contribution of Dr. Harold Deardon. "the famous psychologist", the blurb says. At the time of his writing, he says, at least one of the bally things had been seen in England, and he was not surprised. Suggestibility accounts for the whole thing according to the doctor. If it wasn't flying saucers, it would be the old faithful Loch Ness Monster. Or a fly in somebody's mild-and-bitter.

"BEM MAY ADOPT SEVEN EVACUEES" says the headline over a small article on page four --- the last page --- of the Sunday Dispatch. What, I gasped, has the British public become so blase that a real live BEM rates only two inches on the hind page?? And such a horrible vision as the news conjures! Any BEM who is adopting young, succulent children, evacuees or no evacuees, has an ulterior purpose in mind and should be restrained in his BEM-ish appetites.

Be not alarmed, good readers. The item refers to Mrs. Priscilla May of Tonyrefail, Glamorganshire, winner in 1945 of the British Empire Medal, who has seven homeless orphans left over of the seventy she boarded during the war. She is very, very pleased about the whole thing. She and Mr. May have no children of their own, and will probably keep the kids on. -rvh

The End.

SUPPORT THE TORCON. The 6th Science Fiction Convention. Send your \$1.00 and become a member, to Ned McKeown, 1392 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Toronto 12, Ontario, CANADA.

THE FANTASY CLUBS

This Department is open to all Fantasy Clubs. We would appreciate your monthly report by the 20th of the month. -ed

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

October 5, 1947 Meeting

The Esfa felt the regular dip in after-convention activities as its attendance dipped to only 32 for this meeting. Arthur Leo Zaget, whom it was hoped would speak for the club was unable to make the meeting, and this was the 1st time in its history that the club did not have a feature speaker ready as scheduled.

Oswald Train, Director of the PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY again came up to sit in on the goings on.

The newly elected Secretary, Raymond Van Houten had written that he would be unable to attend this meeting, and so Treasurer, Alex Osheroff, filled in for him.

The club was almost free of business, except to mention that a small Ad had been purchased by the group in WEIRD TALES Magazine to congratulate that magazine on its 25th Anniversary.

The first speaker was Lloyd Mitchell, veteran fantasy collector of Woodbridge, N. J. Mitchell delivered a very good talk on how to systematically collect fantasy or any type of rare book for that matter. He covered the field of remainders, auctions, second hand book shops, etc., cautioned the uninitiate at accepting a book plainly printed "first edition" as

such, stating that often the actual first edition might have been published in England or elsewhere a year or more previous.

Mitchell's co-worker, Hugh Guthrie, also of Woodbridge, N.J. elaborated at great length and with considerable authority on methods of book production, methods of detecting actual first editions, subterfuges and fakes to be watched for in the book game. Guthrie is an authority on first editions of all types of books.

Sam Moskowitz concluded the program by speaking for more than an hour on the attempts at book publishing made by science-fiction fans previous to Arkham House. He ended his talk by showing that the multifarious publishers of fantasy today did not actually conflict, inasmuch as almost all were functioning in a specialized field. He said the greatest danger was in these publishers advertising 15 or 20 titles in advance, giving fans the impression that the field was flooded, when actually only a few books a month were being published.

-s

PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

At the September 28th meeting of the PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY, writers John and Dorothy de Courcy were guests of honor. In addition to being the first time the young Portland Society has been visited by established authors, it was the de Courcy's first contact with an established fan group.

Speaking before the club, John de Courcy analyzed the factors that set the science-fiction fans apart from devotees of other types of literature. He stated that it was the willingness to accept possibilities that distinguishes

the fantasy fan, and that his mental attitude prepares him to accept the new conditions as they arise.

Mrs. de Courcy then spoke on their writing, telling how they got started and describing their method of working. This was followed by a period of general discussion in which the de Courcys revealed that they had sold to PLANET and STANDARD as well as Ziff-Davis, as well as telling many other interesting things in connection with the publishing field in general.

At the close of the evening, a number of photos were taken of the group, some of which will appear in a future issue of THE FANSCIENT.

The principal part of the October 12th meeting was devoted to an editorial discussion of material for the next issue of THE FANSCIENT. John & Dorothy de Courcy, who were again with us, presented the club with a new, 2000 word story they had just written. As soon as those present had had a chance to read it, a lively discussion ensued, protesting their giving away such a saleable story. It is a new story, just written, that has never been submitted. Definitely off-trail, it is the type that ASTOUNDING would have snapped up during the thirties, but the de Courcys maintained that it would not fit the present requirements of any of the prozines. It will appear in either the December or the March issue of THE FANSCIENT and will be long remembered.

The de Courcys also donated the original illustrations to their stories "The Miracle Man" and "Chess and Double-Chess".

The climax of the evening was the playing of a hilarious skit recorded by the de Courcys and Millen Cooke and her husband.

ON THE NEWSSTANDS

reviewed by Lane Stannard

THRILLING WONDER STORIES
December 1947

Bergey's cover for this issue is the best he's done this year, and one of the few covers he's done without a BEM or a nude. Let's hope that this means a start toward better covers for old TWS. The novel, POWER AND THE GLORY by Kuttner was very good, but we'll pick Wellman's THE TIMELESS TOMORROW as the best. And, for third place, editor Merwin's THE ADMIRAL'S WALK. Inside illustrations were not bad at all this time, though we miss Finlay and Stevens. The Readers' Column, as of late, was excellent... TWS has come a long, long way since it's worse than worse issues of 1944. Keep up the good work Editor Merwin. We rate this issue a B plus. We recommend monthly publication and serials.

astounding SCIENCE FICTION
November 1947

CHILDREN OF THE LENS by "the master" E. E. Smith starts out in the well-known EESmith tradition and this promises to be a good a serial as any of the Smith's masterpieces. It feels like old times to have EESmith back again. Rogers' illustrations for Smith's serial are excellent. These washdrawings by Rogers have his pen and ink drawings all beat. We did not like his cover this time at all. It looked mighty rushed and crude. Rogers can do better and has. Look up his fine drawings for another EESmith serial back in 1939. As for the best short story this time we'll pick Lafayette's THE EXPENSIVE SLAVES. Cartier was ex-

cellent as usual, how about that Cartier cover, Johnny? Elliot shows promise, his work seems familiar. Glad to see BRASS TACKS back; say, Mr. Editor, how about using 6 point type and getting more letters in? BRASS TACKS should be presented each and every month. We rate this issue a very good B plus.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES
December 1947

Virgil Finlay gives us a really good cover for this issue, we liked it a lot. THE MAN WHO WENT BACK by Deeping is a good novel, and well worth reprinting. It is one of the best novels reprinted by FFM this year. We are glad to see a fantasy of A. Conan Doyle reprinted and THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS is not bad. Lawrence and Finlay's inside illustrations were right up there. The best in the issue was on page 105. We really are pleased with the series MASTER OF FANTASY, now running in FFM, it is excellent. We would suggest reprinting them in book form later. The Readers' Column is, as usual, the best in the field. We rate this issue a B plus.

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-The Editor

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE

-continued from page 8-

produced a play entitled THE SHINING THRESHOLD, at Dalmouth, Mass. The story is about a young scientist who discovers "a lot of atom secrets" after blowing himself to heaven during a faulty laboratory experiment. There are some possibilities that this might be produced this winter.

Universal .. international will soon have upon its roster of films, the play HARVEY. The rights have been bought; and it will soon go into production as soon as John Beck, the producer, is finished with ONE TOUCH OF VENUS.

In a write-up in the DAILY NEWS, it is stated that the TAR-

ZAN pictures have netted Edgar Rice Burroughs over four million Dollars in the last 30 years; and that the Tarzan series was the most expensive series films ever made --- including those Andy Hardy, Dr. Kildare, Maisie, etc. productions --- and that they net more. Sol Lesser, the current producer, says it is popular because of their fast action, and that adventurous outdoor pictures are of universal appeal because they deal with wild life and its natural hazards. The first book was published in 1914, and the first movie, 1918. Since then Burroughs has lived quite lucratively. He now lives in Tarzana, California, which was named after his well-known creation. -dk

T C M E T A L K

-continued from page 5-

and that their Christmas offering "The Black Flame" by Stanley G Weinbaum, (\$3.00) will make its appearance during the month of December. Also Paul D. O'Connor of New Collector's Group tells us that "The Black Wheel" by A. Merritt and Hannes Eck (\$3.00) should be out by the 15th of November. And to start the new year right we have it from Fantasy Publishing Company, Inc. that "Out of the Unknown" by A. E. Van Vogt and the Mrs. E. Mayne Hull (\$2.50), "The Sunken World" by Stanton A. Coblenz (\$3.00), and Austin Hall's "The People of the Comet" (\$2.00) are all scheduled for January 1948 publication. -ao

(ad.)

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THE FANTASY CORNER

A Department for Fantasy-Times' Readers

MILTON A. ROTHMAN COMMENTS ON THE OCTOBER ISSUE

Dear James: 29 Sept 47

The current (October) Fantasy Times contains various items of interest.

Tell Tom Gardner that I check him in his comments on "Man Against Myth." It is enlightening to read Phillip Frank's biography of Einstein, wherein it is shown that in Europe prior to World War I there was an intellectual fight between the Marxists and the Logical Positivists. Barrows Dunham's attack on semantics becomes understandable when you realize that the Logical Positivists were the forerunners of the semanticists, while Dunham is, of course, a Marxist.

Also interesting is Roger Graham's letter to Gardner. I won't attempt to defend Tom, as I am sure that he can take care of himself. If I had a couple of transit instruments I would try the ether drift experiment. What is interesting is that the original experiment of Michelson was not intended to measure motion of the ether. It was intended to show motion of the earth through the ether -- which is another story entirely. Graham's drift of the ether towards the center of the earth explains nothing.

It may be news to Mr. Graham that the Michelson-Morley experiment is not the only method that has been used to look for the so-called ether drift. Other methods have also been used, with the same results.

The fact that Mr. Graham is unaware of the work of Lorentz indicates that his knowledge of physics is quite meager. Lorentz was a very important physicist at the end of the 19th century, and long before Einstein he derived the equations showing the increase in mass and decrease in length of bodies traveling with high velocities. Fitzgerald did the same thing independently, and so the Lorentz-Fitzgerald contraction is named after them. Both of their work was superseded by Einstein's, since Einstein's was of a more general and fundamental nature.

As for the article on the "Frame Concept of Numbers," I read that pretty carefully, and found it to be a clever piece of work in which a system of mathematics is built up logically and correctly upon one assumption which I think no mathematician would accept as being true.

What really intrigues me is this: If Roger Graham's ideas are as good as he claims they are, why doesn't he have them published in the regular scientific journals instead of putting them into a juvenile publication such as Amazing Stories? The answer to that is fairly obvious.

yours

Milton A. Rothman

Thomas S. Gardner Answers Donald A. Wollheim's letter in the last F-T
Dear Jimmy:

In regards to the letter of Donald A. Wollheim concerning my article Blind Spots, I should like to bring out a few points. First of all one should get out the last two issues of Fantasy-Times and follow carefully.

First, Wollheim says, "protest against the absolutely dishonorable fashion...has falsified and distorted the opinions of Barrows Dunham in his review of Dunham's book Man Against Myth." The impression is given that I gave it a wholly unfavorable review. I said, "The major part of the book is excellent..." I strongly criticized only one chapter (IX), and part of another, in an eleven chapter book. Consequently the all-inclusive statement of Wollheim's is incorrect.

Secondly, my notes give page 247, so I evidently mistyped the page number. Sorry, to have led Don astray so much there, My error. Wollheim quotes several statements from Dunham, The first statement I gave and it is Dunham's opinion, that Fascism and Communism are opposites. Then I spent about two long paragraphs telling why this was incorrect. I certainly do not agree with Dunham that they exclude one another, even though Wollheim agrees. Now Wollheim seemed to have missed the point. Dunham had been doing a lot of cussing out of the multi-valued system of logic and seemed to prefer the two-valued system. On his own tenets, one is for one system and against the other! I disagree with this point, and discussed my disagreement in detail. There are other systems as Dunham correctly states, but in so stating he actually contradicts his thesis of a two-valued system of logic. I thus certainly agree with his statement that they do not exhaust all the political possibilities, and I suspect that my last paragraph was far more pertinent than I suspected when I wrote it.

Wollheim objects to my conclusion that criticism of communism being forbidden. That conclusion was based on the sections on pages 282-289 in which an excellent whitewash of communist activity is given on the basis of logic, fair-play, and intensity of belief of communists leaders, etc. My opinion is that a program sponsored by communists for the benefit primarily of themselves should be so labeled. I certainly do not think that anything should be labeled fascist, communist, or anything else just because one disagrees with it, but also they should be correctly labeled in spite of the fanatical ideology of the promogulators. Doesn't Wollheim also agree with correct labeling of moves, drives, programs, etc.?

The excellent case against racism would undoubtedly obtain the backing of such great humanists as Dewey and Einstein. I thoroughly agree with Dunham's treatment of the situation.

The majority of the book is excellent, at least 80% passes my tests.

However, so as not to discourage Wollheim, he is perfectly correct in one statement. My fanzine writing is ungrammatical. I correct only scientific work. Most fans already know this.

Wollheim implies that I have misled the readers of Fantasy-Times. Since neither of us evidently wish to do so, and since we both think highly of Dunham's book, with only my reservations noted, I should like to make a proposal. I suggest that Wollheim and I present the staff of Fantasy-Times with the book. For this purpose I am inclosing a money-order for \$1.50 (slightly over half the price) if Wollheim will do the same. Then the staff of Fantasy-Times and interested readers may examine Dunham's book and make up their own minds. Our discussion should have excited interest in it. I would only suggest that Chapter IX and the pages noted later be examined with a critical eye. Fair enough, Wollheim?

Sincerely,
Thomas S. Gardner

GRAHAM'S ETHER DRIFT (cont.) GRAHAM ANSWERS GARDNER

To. Dr. Gardner, Mr. Taurasi, and readers of F.T: Oct. 16, 1947

I may as well confess what is already obvious; & that the sole purpose of my letter which attacked you, Dr. Gardner, was to force a competent examination and public hearing on my frame concept article and my ether-drift experiment. I might add that if you had not been considered by me to be competent to do that fairly and honestly, once you went into it seriously, I would certainly have ignored your comments in The Broken Record.

In writing that letter I was also aware that the circulation of F-T is small enough and in close enough circle so that it would not work you permanent harm. You asked for it and you got it. That phase is over. You've raised the level of things to a respectable plane and invited me to join you there. I'll accept that invitation gladly.

I wish to point out to the readers quite emphatically that if Dr. Gardner finds me correct in the ether-drift experiment and/or the frame concept it is by no means a defeat for him. If he can prove me wrong in one or both it is also not a defeat for me. I have asked for and gotten a promise of a seriously critical analysis of my work so far published; a criticism that was invited in a harsh and bitterly challenging tone.

I can ask for no charity or mercy in this analysis and want none. I want none because IF I AM WRONG I WANT TO BE PROVEN WRONG QUICKLY. I have no intention of becoming one of those silly asses who have a theory that can't hold up. I am making no attempt to build up a reputation on false premises. I would rather sweep city streets for a living the rest of my life than get a theory accepted which might be proven entirely erroneous after I die.

Many of the adverse letters commenting on my frame concept followed the pattern of, "It's a little hard to get what Mr. Graham means by this. Now this is what he means. Blah blah. Now that I have translated Mr. Graham's statement it is easy to see that it is wrong." Actually such critics merely show that their translation is obviously wrong. The fact that many people, all of them teachers or college students, have written agreeing with the frame concept (one even working out the disproof of Cantor which I gave merely as a problem to be worked), is proof enough that that article does not need to be "translated" to be understood.

However, I will be the first to admit that the article as published is designed primarily to make it possible for the average reader to get the idea of a frame. It will be possible for Dr. Gardner to prove it is not rigorous. It may be possible for Dr. Gardner to cut it up into disconnected bits and then disprove the bits, one at a time.

He could do that easily because the bits are at variance with presently accepted concepts on infinity. I could do the same thing. Either he or I could do that to ACCEPTED mathematics and arithmetic.

I trust that such is not his purpose. I'm SURE it will not be. Such a farce would serve no value to anyone concerned.

The Frame Concept of Numbers Space and Time is copyrighted by me. (Registration: Class AA No. 490194). I now grant Dr. Gardner and Mr. Taurasi permission to publish and comment on all or any part of this article. I further grant Mr. Taurasi the right to publish this article in whole, minus AMAZING STORIES editorial comments, as it appears in AMAZING STORIES and sell it for a profit without royalties or any other money being paid me.

Since publication of the ether-drift experiment I've devised a setup much easier to work with, in which the data can be obtained by camera. I will forward details of this new setup to Fantasy-Times for Dr. Gardner's use within the next week or two.

Finally, I will cooperate in every way with F-T and Dr. Gardner in this projected analysis of my work. Further, I would appreciate it if I could have a chance to see each of Dr. Gardner's articles on it before it appears in print for the purpose of commenting on it privately. This is to his advantage, not mine. In that way, if he errs in any detail I can show him why I think he errs and give him a chance to strengthen his argument beforehand.

Yours truly,

R. P. Graham

(The details of the new set-up, mentioned in Mr. Graham's letter, has arrived and has been turned over to Mr. Gardner. -ed)

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

Dear Tom,

You apparently seem to have (re: your letter in the last issue) a remarkable power of misunderstanding what I say or write. I did not imply, as you thought, in my letter that we should "push" prices up. I did not suggest any such idea. I just cited the increase in prices, as an example for comparison-- as a fact. Nothing, nothing at all was said by me about pushing prices higher. And I do not follow economics. I chase it. You, yourself, are probably doing the same.

I don't know why you bring in the point of drug and alcohol addicts. This has-- although I can see your implication --nothing to do with the question. You say that some fantasy addicts cannot stop themselves, like alcoholics, from buying a fantasy magazine, whether it is of good or bad quality. And you write, "Do you, from a moral standpoint, wish to condone something that takes advantage of the customer and fantasy addict?" First of all, I do not condone anything which takes advantage of anyone-- whether it concerns fantasy magazines or not. Secondly, we are interested strictly in an economic question of the price of the FANTASY READER, not a sociological problem. You say that asking 30¢ for a magazine of AVON FANTASY READER's quality would be taking advantage. But, following your line of thought as an ideal example, let us say that we have a smuggler who has dope, and we have a buyer who wants it, who cannot stop himself. No matter how much the smuggler charges for 50 grains of opium or heroin or hashish is of no consequence: If the buyer is able to pay the price-- even if he has to "kill anyone, steal, or perform treason or any other crime". --he will take the dope. He, as you stipulate, has to buy it because he cannot break himself from his habit. This is true, but, whether the smuggler charges \$100 for a few grains of dope or whether he charges \$2.00, the addict would still buy it. And what is the difference whether an addict (fantasy, included) pays \$100 or \$2.00? We do not care how much the addict has to pay for his dope; we care however, about the harm the drug is doing to him, mentally and physically. The taking of dope has nothing to do with the price of such-- we care about the habit per se. And, even though we (as smugglers) charge \$2. instead of \$100, we would still be taking advantage of the addict because he cannot help himself. The Price Of An Item Does Not Vindicate Its Use! Therefore, analogously, whether Avon charges 30¢ or 15¢ for the FANTASY READER has nothing to do with the addiction (of any sort.)

It does not make any difference whether the fantasy addict pays 30¢ or 15¢, depriving the 22 kiddies of their milk. What is the difference whether-- as you suggest --an "addict" buys two sperate issues if the FANTASY READER at 15¢ apiece and starves his children, or 30¢ for a single issue and starves his children? He is still the recipient of the harm. Avon is NOT taking advantage of the "customer and fantasy addict." The price question is an irrelivent ramification of the entire problem. If you want to blast Avon for their editorial "prowess" go ahead; I'll back you there.

Incidentally, I have not seen a copy of the fourth issue of the FANTASY READER. I do not buy it-- I don't think it is interesting enough to warrant my bothering to read it before many other types of literature. I don't care, you see, how much Avon charges; its the quality and interest power that I look for. And I'll stand by my ink-guns. Even if the FANTASY READER is boring and most unappealing, I still say that the Avon Company has every right to charge whatever they please.

I am not a member of FAPA, and consequently do not receive any fanzines. And I haven't seen Warner's article. FFM may cut its novels, I don't doubt it but they still have every right to do so. The buyer has the right in turn to purchase the finished product or pass it by. This is where the buying eclecticism of a reader, and not the price of an item, influences the purchase. I do not read FFM. You say, "sex, social problems, (etc...) are deleted," and in regard to this, you ask, "Are fantasy readers so mentally retarded that their reading material has to be censored?" In my opinion, nothing has to be censored-- even for the ten year olds. The problem of the fantasy fans mental retardity is not for me to answer: but look at the evidence....

Sincerely,
Dave Kishi

JUST ROOM FOR ONE MORE LETTER

Dear Jim,

Oct. 11, 1947

I received the latest copy of Fantasy-Times yesterday, so I'll comment on it;

Kull's article was very good and presents a view of Palmer that is fair and impartial! I'm beginning to think that fandom has grossly wronged Palmer by their unreasonable attitude. After all is said and done, the fact still remains that 50,000 people who might have never read stf were induced to read it by AMAZING. Granted that a large proportion of the new readers are crackpots with delusions of persecution, still some of the new readers are sane and reasonable and will be a welcome addition to fandom after they forget the dero nonsense.

Lane Stannard's review of the current mags was well-written but I disagree with his comments on the Oct. ASF. The End Is Not Yet did NOT have a neat ending regardless of what Stannard thinks. It was totally unnecessary for the hero to be killed off at the end. Parts of this story were almost exactly like parts of Final Blackout. An author is in a sad way, indeed, when he has to plagiarize his own stuff. Or perhaps L. Ron Hubbard has only one plot and he has to keep using it over and over for want of something better.

The rest of the mag was very readable and I enjoyed the issue very much. Well written articles are always good, whether you agree with the author or not.

Yours Ghu-ly, Joe Schaumburger

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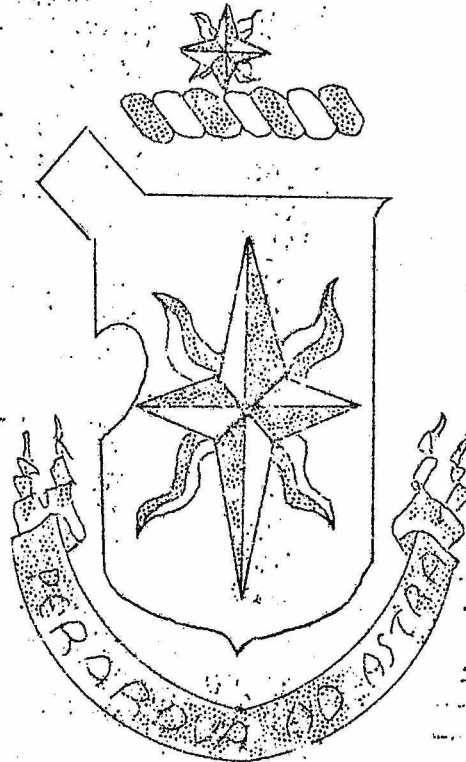
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