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Merry Christmas

and

A Fantasy-full New Year

"This is A Cosmic Publication"

FANTASY-TIMES is published monthly by James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, New York. 10¢ an issue, 3 issues for 25¢ and \$1 a year. ADVERTISING: \$1.00 a page, 50¢ a half page and 25¢ a 1/4 page. JAMES V. TAURASI, editor and publisher
 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; Milton A. Rothman, Philadelphia editor and John Giunta, art editor.
 "This is a Cosmic Publication"

EDITORIAL

Did you ever realize that the pro fantasy magazines actually support fandom's World Conventions by supplying about half or more of the hard-to-get money to put them on. By giving, FREE, inside illustrations and covers for convention auctions and by buying ads in the program booklets they make these conventions possible. The only returns they can expect is "good feelings" of their readers (and fandom) and advertisement. Yet, following the last (PHILCON) convention, no one (not even Fantasy-Times) has mentioned, in their reports of the convention, who contributed to the auction that brought in about \$400.00. So let's right a great wrong: The covers and inside illustrations auctioned off at the convention were supplied FREE by FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES, published by Popular Publications, Inc.; THRILLING WONDER STORIES and STARTLING STORIES, published by Standard Magazines, and ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, published by Street & Smith Publications, Inc.

To the editors and publishers of these magazines, Fandom says, thank you.

- - -

Any good that Palmer "may" expect from the fan column he proposes to publish in AMAZING STORIES will be lost if he continues to blast fandom by loud, misleading, semi-truths. Palmer, as all others who try to put the heat on any worthwhile organization, takes an item and so twists it to make it mean what he wants it to mean. This kind of propaganda was well used by certain European dictators to their people. It seems quite humorous to see Palmer go out of his way to keep insisting that fandom consists of only 200 fans, while there are actually 2,000 or more. Palmer should check on the last Convention to see how wrong he is. There were about 200 fans at this Convention alone, and those 200 were only a small part of fandom. Hundreds of fans couldn't make the Convention.

Mr. Palmer, here's a little tip on how to make friends with fandom, and it's very, very simple at that. Just get rid of the Shaver mysteries and allied junk and print some good, real, science-fiction and fantasy.

Fantasy-Times does not, and never will approve AMAZING STORIES or FANTASTIC ADVENTURES as long as they publish the "Shaver Hoax". We do approve of the proposed fan column tho, as long as it stays clear of the "Shaver Cult", and as usual we'll approve any good sf story they get around to publishing.

-the editor

FANTASY-TIMES

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

JANUARY 1948
VOL.3 No 1

THE COSMIC REPORTER

EDITED BY LANE STANNARD

FANTASTIC NOVELS REVIVED!

In a surprise announcement, Mary Gnaedinger, stated that FANTASTIC NOVELS will reappear on the news-stands January 21st, 1948. The issue will be dated March 1948 and the magazine will appear bi-monthly following.

What was more startling was the announcement that FANTASTIC NOVELS will feature "Munsey" reprints, a fact that no one thought possible under the Popular banner.

The first reprint will be A. Merritt's famous SHIP OF ISHTAR, which, you will remember, was scheduled to appear in FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES just before FFM was sold to Popular. THE SHIP OF ISHTAR will be illustrated by Virgil Finlay.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES will continue its policy of reprints from books only and the April issue will feature the novel, THE CITY OF THE DEAD, by Augusta Groner. FFM will continue to be published bi-monthly alternating with its sister magazine, FN.

Fantasy-Times offers the best of luck to the revival of FANTASTIC NOVELS and states great approval of the move to reprint the great "Munsey" fantasy stories.

FANTASY BOOK IS OUT

The first issue of the large sized pro magazine, FANTASY BOOK, published by The Fantasy Publishing Company, 8318-20 Avalon Blvd, Los Angeles 3, California and selling for 25 cents a copy (and publishes a collector's edition on slick paper) has appeared featuring a selection of stories by Robert Bloch, A. E. van Vogt, Stanton A. Coblentz, Henry Hasse and others. The feature novelotto "People of the Crater" by Andrew North was originally announced for publication in William H. Crawford's MARVEL TALES, but the magazine folded before it could be published. "Black Lotus" by Robert Bloch is reprinted from the first issue of another Crawford old publication, UNUSUAL STORIES, and is one of Bloch's very earliest works, preceded perhaps only by "Lilies" published by the same publishers and clearly shows a strong influence of Dunsany's style on Bloch which he quickly cast off. The next issue announces among other things "Star of the Undead" by Paul Dennis Favond which covers Frederik Pohl, former editor of ASTONISHING STORIES.

Charles McNutt continues his standard illustrating policy of copying closely scenes of other artists. In his illustration for "The Catazaaaaa" by A. E. van Vogt, he copies, poorly a scene

illustrating Donald Wandrei's "The Witch Maker", in several others he simulates (poorly) Virgil Finlay. -s

GORDEN'S VORTEX FOLDS

Gordon M. Kall announces that due to lack of support, (only about a hundred subscribed) his superlative semi-pro fan magazine, VORTEX, has folded. The second and final issue is now out in mimeographed format with printed illustrations and cover. It features a hitherto unpublished short story by David H. Keller, M. D. entitled "Heridity".

The first issue of VORTEX was printed in Germany, sent in bulk to the U. S. and distributed from here. -s

PHILCON "MONEY" REPORT

All money owed by the PHILCON has been paid, or soon will be paid. \$100 has gone to the PHILADELPHIA SFS, \$50 has gone to Canada for the next convention, \$15 was sent to Sam Moskowitz for the disabled vet., and \$25 each has gone to the Foundation and to the NFFF. Receipt of money from a large debt now makes it possible to send \$30 more to each of the latter two places. The total amount of money which has gone through the books for the convention, including the banquet, but not including the room deposits, has been \$1100! That ain't hay-mar (it ain't -ls) -s

BRITISH PRO MAGS OUT

Great Britain has come back strong after almost fading from the fantasy field a few months back. Out the past month, from England, are NEW WORLDS No. 3; the first in over a year, boasting a good

cover by Slack, who reminds us of Morey and a good crop of stories; STRANGE ADVENTURES and FUTURISTIC-STORIES has each put out a second issue, each contains only one story, have good, varnish covers and are printed on slick, tho much too thin paper and each contain 32 pages; The British Editions of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, marked October 1947 and featuring Home of The Gods by A. E. van Vogt, and UNKNOWN WORLDS marked Winter 1947 featuring THE SEA THING by A. E. van Vogt. ASTOUNDING is reprinted regular pulp size, in England, and not small pocket-book size as in the U.S. -s

AMAZING'S PROPOSED FAN COLUMN SPLITS FANDOM

What the Shaver Mystery stories could never do, has been accomplished by the announcement that at AMAZING STORIES would soon publish a fan magazine review column. This column to be presented "On the level, honest and without Shaver junk" and run by Rog Phillips. Ackerman, in a letter in the fan mag FANDOM SPEAKS, begged fandom not to have their magazines reviewed in the proposed column, with the threat that he would not contribute to any fan mag that did.

After a month we find that a good number of fan mags support the column only and not AMAZING; a few (very few) supporting AMAZING, Shaver and all; and a fair number not supporting it.

The LASFS and the BSFS have gone on record against the column while some clubs have decided not to even vote on it.

The first column is supposed to appear in the March issue of AMAZING STORIES. -jvt

Can anyone supply me with the complete set of FANTASY-NEWS? My set was lost by dampness while I was in the Army. -James V. Taurasi

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

by Ray Van Houten

From the Groton, Conn., Naval Base comes an AP story about the Navy's recent tests of a new torpedo, details of which were not available. FANTASY-TIMES and your erstwhile reporter wish to draw our readers' attention to an article which appeared in the August 47 issue of F-T, in which it was stated that Breeze Corporations, Inc., of Newark, NJ, had developed a jet-propelled submarine torpedo. It is distinctly possible that this is the "secret" weapon used in the Groton tests. If so, F-T scoops the Associated Press by a good four months!

In the same article a jet engine for submarines was also mentioned. It will be interesting to note just when tests of this device will be reported in the country's press.

One of the toughest nuts medical science has had to crack is the treatment of chronic infections which seat themselves in the nooks and crannies of the human organism. Chronic infection is the direct cause of most forms of blindness and deafness, and is known to be at least a contributing factor in several types of rheumatism and arthritis.

Dr. Jacob Jacobson is the discoverer of the amazing effects of benzyl cinnamic ether, or benzyl cinnamate, in the treatment of this condition. In clinical studies now being conducted at the Hard of Hearing Clinic of the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital this chemical proven harmless by preliminary

tests is being used with excellent results to improve the hearing of persons whose deafness is caused by chronic inflammation, which causes about 95% of all deafness.

Equally astonishing results have been obtained in cases of blindness caused by trachoma and corneal opacity brought on by chronic inflammation.

This new work, already far beyond the research stage, holds great promise of eliminating the majority of blindness and deafness in future generations.

One of the leading sci fags has been rather heavily laden since the atomic bomb with stories of the world of the future populated by mutations of the human race brought about by the hard radiations which are bound to be sprayed around in large amounts during an atomic war. All sorts of dread metamorphoses have been portrayed, each more gruesome than its predecessor.

Preliminary results of a survey of the sea life in Bikini lagoon, in which an atomic bomb exploded last year, show that extremely little change has come about in any of these tiny creatures during the elapsed time, which would correspond to many generations of human development.

It is therefore doubtful that such vivid departures from mankind's normal evolutionary pattern would in fact come to pass. Let us hope, however, that we don't have the chance of finding out for sure!

Oona(ugh!) has at last been out-Oona-ed! Modern electronics is the knight in shining armor. Remember Oona's encounter with the Vizi-math, and that pestiferous machine's ability to read notes addressed to it? Well, one of the devices recently exhibited at the University of Michigan is an electronic pencil which scans a line of type and translates it into sound! It was originally designed to enable the blind to read ordinary books, but stiff fans will instantly recognize it as the great-granddaddy of the Vizi-math, and incidentally a host of other literate machines of the world of tomorrow.

Did you ever hear the old wheeze about crossing mosquitos with lightning bugs so that you could see the damned little things coming? Dr. Rajinder Pal of India must have, and thereupon hit on a bright idea. Working at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, he found it necessary to devise a method of following the flight paths of night-flying mosquitos. Confined in old-fashioned lamp chimneys, the insects were given a coat of fluorescent paint by puffing on them dust which glows when ultraviolet light shines on it. Then, when released, Nature's little buzz-bombs can be followed wherever they chanced to go.

Due to a new approach to the study of the origin of all life on the Earth, groundwork is being laid for immense strides forward in every department of biology. The basis of all life, it is now suspected, is the ability of virus-like molecules called proto-genes, to extract simpler molecules from their surrounding medium and from them synthesize an exact replica of themselves. In such a manner, it is believed, the genes in our own bodies con-

struct the life-sparks of our own vitality. The genes not only serve as blue-print but do their own modelling as well.

Slight imperfections in the genes lead to the production of "off-balance" enzymes, with very great results in the individual so afflicted. It is expected that a deeper understanding of these basic life processes will give the biologist of the world of tomorrow power to choke off the growth of cancerous cells by making it impossible for them to reproduce themselves; to change a congenital idiot into a normal human being by producing in his bloodstream the enzyme which combats the para-hydroxy-phenyl-pyruvic acid that is responsible for his stunted mental state; and perhaps even to perfect a super-enzyme in us all which would immediately kill any disease virus which happens to venture into the body.

Moreover, it is already known that a simple amine, benzedrine, has an improving effect on certain sections of the brain, and a simple amino-acid, glutamic acid, has raised the intelligence of mentally deficient persons. These substances are very close to the gene-enzyme level. Therefore biochemists as well as stiff authors are visualizing the production of a super-brain with all the trimmings of a Harry Bates novelette!

The End

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THE FANTASY CLUBS

Organized fandom Reports

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

November 2, 1947 Meeting

The unexpected attendance of Dr. and Mrs. David H. Keller, in addition to the scheduled appearance of Frank Bolknep Long, made the November meeting of the EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION a star-studded event, and the forty-one attendees made the most of the agreeable surprise. After the business of the meeting was over, Mr. Long took the platform and answered many questions from the floor, most of them concerning little-known phases in the life of Howard Phillip Lovecraft, with whom he was well acquainted. Dr. Keller followed with some observations about the lack of beauty in the writing of stf, which, he said, was not a fault of science-fiction's alone.

Dr. Keller also made an unexpected offer. He said that anyone dissatisfied with "Life Everlasting", a forthcoming book of his to be brought out by Avalon-Publishers of Newark, NJ, would have their money refunded by sending him the book and their reasons for not liking it!

Dr. Thomas S. Gardner then had a few well-chosen words to say about his work in gerontology, the science of longevity, in which he revealed that although his experiments with queen bee royal jelly had been eminently successful, the field was still wide open for further research.

Paul Dennis O'Connor was an unscheduled speaker who ladled out the latest gossip about the stf book publishers with a lavish

hand.

It was decided at this meeting to re-issue the club organ, "A-MEN", with the secretary, Ray Van Houten, as editor. James V. Taurasi will do the mimcoing. Copies will be available for the next meeting. -rvh

PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

Twelve members were present at the October 26th meeting. Authors John & Dorothy de Courcy were present and announced that their plans for leaving the Portland area had been indefinitely postponed. A spirited discussion was entered into concerning various phases of professional publishing and events in the fan-field, with the de Courcys providing many interesting sidelights. New member Don Berry was present for the first time at this meeting.

The November 9th meeting, after a brief business session, was devoted to an editorial conference on the coming issue of The FANSCIENT. In addition to making final decisions on material to be included, plans were discussed for additional publications to be put out by various members of the society. A radical innovation in the fanzine field was discussed and two groups in the society made tentative plans for publication of individual fanzines. One group included Jerry Waible, Don Berry and Tom Harryman; another Joe Salta and Lambert Ashton.

Something definite should be known shortly on this new innovation and announcement will be made as soon as possible. We want your opinion on it. If it works

out, it will be of real interest to all potential fanzine publishers.

Through the courtesy of Milt Rothman, PHILCON Chairman, we have been provided with a copy of the list of Philcon attendees. All who have not received the first issue of The FANSCIENT, will receive a sample copy of the second issue.

-dd

THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

Saturday, November 1st, the PSFS held a Halloween party which was quite a bang-up affair. Nearly everybody wore costumes, and prizes were given. First prize was won by John Bois, who wore a rather horrible outfit representing a Lensman from a distant star. The Galactic Patrol was well represented, as Jim Williams was a Private, 8th class, in the Patrol, while M. Rothman was a Green Lensman, complete with illuminated lens. Hellen Cloukey wore Hindu garb, while Al Prime was Chinese, Bud Waldo was a pirate, Oswald Train was a glamor girl, Allison Williams was a diabolical devil, and Al Pepper was indescribable. Games were played, things were drunk, and people were drunk. Oh yes, George O. Smith came as Don Channing, complete with soldering iron.

-mar

WASHINGTON, D. C.

After a long period of inactivity, Washington, D.C. has again been brought into the science-fiction fan picture by young artist, Russell Swanson who has organized a fantasy-social club in that city. Russ is a 19 year old PFC, still in the service of Uncle Sam, and is station in the city's vicinity. A remarkable interplan-

etary scene he drew in pastels for the PHILCON elicited the admiration of most present and resulted in its sale to Lloyd Mitchell of Woodbridge, N. J. for \$30.00.

On Sept. 24, 1947, partially as a result of Convention inspiration, Russ Swanson organized a Washington, D.C. fan group. Rallied were Frank Kerkhof, Robert Briggs, Charles Berry, Robert Paviat, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Courtis, & Hayden Garrett, all of Washington D.C. and area. Efforts have been made to get Willy Loy and Groff Conklin to the meetings and early success is anticipated. Meetings are held in The Transportation Building, 17th Ave. and 8th St., Room 1030, Washington, D.C. Meetings are held every other Sunday (utilizing Nov. 31 as a gauge) and are called to order at 7:30.

Interested parties are advised to contact Secretary-Treasurer, Frank Kerkhof at 1705 Q St., NW, Washington, D. C.

-s

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

-ed

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----- "The Sign of the Burning Hart" -----

by Col. David H. Keller.

Paul Spencer, Chairman of the NFFF Bookcom, announces that the
FIRST AMERICAN EDITION of the "Sign of the Burning Hart" will be pub-
lished in a limited edition of 500 autographed copies. This is a story
of science and adventure and is an unusual Off-Trail story. The book
will be cloth-bound and contain a never-before-published article by
D.H. Keller, describing the history and inner significance of the story

Price is \$1.50 to all NFFF members, and \$2.00 to others.

----- Philcon Memory Book -----

This Book is a giant publication containing copies of the var-
ious fanzines and special Philcon Edition, all bound together.

It is jointly sponsored by the NFFF and the PHILCON Society.
Many illustrations of the convention and prominent fans are included
also. Joe Kennedy has an art page and a write-up on the "Low Life" of
the doings at the convention. Dont miss it!

The price to NFFF and PHILCON Society members is 50¢. All others
can obtain copies at 75¢ each.

----- Index of Authors & Publications -----

Darrell C. Richardson of Kentucky has offered this to the NFFF
members. This is your chance to get an Index covering most of the
well known sf stories and the Authors. They will be mailed out a few
at a time thru-out the year, and should be filed in a Folio or a 2 or
3 holed Binder. Here you have a permanent record, that you can refer
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For particulars on membership, write to;

A. MARTIN CARLSON -- Sec-Treas.

1028 third ave south, Moorhead, Minnesota.

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

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE

by David Kishi

It has been said elsewhere many times before that "Fantasy has come into its own". True enough. And we would like to say that once again; for just a few weeks ago on November 19th, the first television fantasy show was video'd for the public. The title was "But not Goodbye"; the story of which you probably recognized as once being a vehicle for Keenan Wynn and Frank Morgan some time back. The story was about a New England family; the father of which dies, leaving nothing to his wife and children, having invested with his best friend his entire savings in real estate which, at the time of his death, did not realize a buyer. Thus, the father of the unfortunate family attempts to aid his family, and he refuses to go with his own long-dead father to Heaven (or?). The ensuing action evolves around the story of his finaglings in saving his family. Although the story in the film and on the video was the same, the television show was not the film. The play had an entirely different cast, and which by the way, was presented quite well.

Seeing, in one scene of the play, the way the engineers (by simultaneous projection) actually showed the father, now dead, walk (it seems) through a solid wall, we can happily imagine how wonderfully well television could be used as a medium for fantasy!

On October 5th, the Ford Theatre (WNBC, Sunday, 5-6 P.M.) presented (though we missed it!) a dramatization of "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court". It received poor reviews but it was, at least, a step toward fantasy, and was something to assu-

age those pangs of frustration felt in many a breast of those "fantasy addicts" (sic!)

On one of The Mysterious Traveler series programs (WOR, Wednesday, 8 P.M.), while we were turning the radio dial between WNBC and WQXR, we heard:

An hysterical male voice:

"You'll never get me! Never (with force)! Come (to a female whose name we forgot!), into the time machine; you (oh boy!) and I shall leave this place for-(with resolution)-ever!"

Then, running footsteps of two people followed by many, and:

A commanding male voice:

"Don't let them get away!" (with a if-you-do-you'll-die intonation.)

Then, more running feet, followed by a clanging of a metal door. A humming sound like a running elevator (that's what we heard) followed, and:

The commanding male voice:

"It's disappearing" (with marvel and chagrin).

And a cracked, nervous, voice cried out from the slowly disappearing time machine:

"You'll never get me now!"

Thus ended a true science-fiction play -- a real stf story, not fantasy for once. It's another milestone on that dusty road of science-fiction! In a way, we're happy we missed it; and yet, look how funny it would have been with its poor acting and tawdry melodramatics!

The Mysterious Traveler, however, always presents weird material, and sometimes it is good.

It has been announced that the fantasy project, "A Shamrock for Stephen", has been retitled to

"That Old Magic", and that Tyrone Power and Peggy Cummins will play the leading roles.

RKO has recently purchased a screen play by Samuel Grafton, tentatively titled "A Modern Ecstasy", dealing with two people who become victims of radio activity during atomic bomb experiments at Los Alamos. Herman Man-
kiewicz has been engaged to expand it into a scene io for 1948 production.

A month or two ago, this department asked for letters: It's true we received some but few were worthy of publication. We are depending on you to get all the latest in this column. We want news of forthcoming movies, radio programs and plays; we want your opinions or reviews of stf movie, radio or plays. Full credit will be given to all who have material published. Thanks-Kishi.

T h e E n d

THE FANTASY CORNER

A Department for fantasy-times' Readers

Dr. David H. Keller -pro & con

FIRST WE HEAR FROM DAVID KISHI:

Dear Jimmy:

October 17, 1947

Sam Moskowitz's article (November issue of Fantasy-Times) on David H. Keller was pleasant enough, but Sam's euphemisms of Keller are illogical, and waxes assinine with each new paragraph. It is a pleasant eulogy of Keller who is a fine gentleman, scholar and doctor but to compare David H. Keller's writing with that of Thomas Wolfe's is silly. It does not jibe! They are entirely two different types of authors; it is like comparing Henry James to Frank Baker. Sam says, "If he (Keller) achieved by understatement what Wolfe never achieved by schreeching power is he necessarily second-rate?" This first of all is a nonsensical supposition that Wolfe never achieved anything of literary prominence; he did as Sam himself says; and he did achieve what he aimed to get. If not in the whole, in the most part. It does not make any difference whether author writes with "strong words..." or "adjectives," or "expletives..." It is not the way by which an author writes but how. The simple prose of "Alice in Wonderland" would not be anything, mean anything, if it were hackneyed, verbose, or pompous; or if adjectives were used in a such a large dose as in Wolfe's writings. Similarly, the writings of such people as Kant, James, Schopenhauer, etc.. would not be anything, if they were broken down into three-syllable worded opera because the meanings, the thoughts, the ideas would not be able to be expressed in such simple terms-- without the use of strong adjectives. Wolfe achieved his literary pinnacle because he used-- skillfully-- the words which were at his fingertips; he did not only throw in an adjective here or there to enhance his style; when he added a word, he

blended and strengthened it, and gave it a particular duty to perform, either by modifying the thought, or beautifying it... He however, did not achieve literary greatness because he used "schreeching power" and using every adjective and every concomitant expletive. I cite, as an example, --at random-- the first words that my eyes fall upon in his book, "The Face of A Nation":

"America has a thousand lights and weathers and we walk the street., we walk the streets forever, we walk the streets alone."

And where has Wolfe anywhere in this excerpt used an unnecessary adjective, and yet have fine quality as prose? This is an ideal example of his work. With his skill, Wolfe has made something which is almost poetry; he simple uses the refrain, forming the cadence, giving it wholesomeness, giving it expression; and he has achieved something which contains the properties of lyrical, beautiful and literate prose.

Sam says, "Dr. Keller's previous books, "The Sign of the Burning Hart", and "By the Waters of Lothe", and "Le Geurre de Leurre", never achieved significant circulation. Let this be no criterion of the man's ability". If you've read "By the Waters of Lothe" and can honestly and sincerely say that you think it is fine prose--or for that matter, good writing to merit any sort of publication--; try reading it again, or-- have your head examined...

David Kishi

MORE ON KELLER FROM PAUL SPENCER:

Dear Mr. Taurasi:

November 10, 1947

I understand you're going to publish some letters attacking the stories of David H. Keller; (We had a number of letters "attacking" Col. Keller's stories, mostly from Esfa members, and after hearing Col. Keller speak at the last meeting of Esfa, they asked us not to publish them - editor.) I'd appreciate an opportunity to speak in his defense. It is my opinion that Keller is one of the finest writers in the fields of science fiction and weird fantasy.

One thing that should be kept in mind when appraising his s-f stories is that most were written during the early days of the science fiction magazines. During that period, authors were getting away with murder. The typical story of the Twenties and Thirties presented some sort of new invention or strange adventure, with a minimum of plot and writing skill. Keller wrote a great many "gadget stories", and it speaks well for his ingenuity and originality that the ideas in such Kelleryarns as "The Revolt of the Pedestrians", "The Yeast Men", "The Feminine Metamorphosis", and many others are still startling and thought-provoking. Keller turned out stories in great profusion; yet all carried new, strange, intriguing ideas. In other words, Keller met his contemporaries on their own ground and beat them.

In addition, however, he introduced a precision and clarity of style unusual at the time, and still none too prevalent. Moreover, we can trace to Keller the origin of the present scientificfictional emphasis on psychological and sociological problems. Not content to present a novel idea, Keller went on to consider the problems his new inventions, etc., would offer to the everyday man in the street. In Keller -- with the exception of a few brief tales -- the emphasis is not on the "gadget" but on the effect of the "gadget" on people. This is probably the most important factor in obtaining for Keller his

tremendous reputation during the Thirties.

It may be said that his stories have dated. This is true of some of them. It is also true of some or all of the stories of most of fantasy's top writers. Yet others of Keller's tales remain fascinating. "The Human Termites" is still a terrific yarn -- and in stories like "The Literary Corkscrew" and "Life Everlasting", skillful writing and the emphasis on human values give timeless quality. Compare them with other stories in the same magazines, and see how they stand head and shoulders above them in enduring value.

Furthermore, it is my opinion that science fiction is not Keller's best medium. (I think I may add that this is also Keller's opinion.) His weird fiction, for example, is even more timeless, more beautifully written. I refer you to "The Thirty and One" (in the second issue of MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES, in spite of its being weird). "The Thing in the Cellar", "The Golden Bough", and the other tales of the supernatural. There you will find original ideas combined with really beautiful writing. Much of Keller's prose in these tales sings like music --- and for effects of sheer blood-curdling horror, Keller's careful understatement is remarkably successful.

Let me acknowledge that his style has its limitations. I myself found it rather disconcerting at first in its extraordinary simplicity, though I now find that simplicity an all-too-rare merit. Writing as he does in short sentences, using a fairly elementary vocabulary, even at times violating strict rules of grammar, Keller has undeniable limitations. Sometimes this style is inadequate to handle his subject-matter, especially in some of his science-fiction. Yet -- and this is particularly true of his weird-fiction -- it is also peculiarly fitted to deal with certain moods and topics. Through this style, Keller achieves effect of pathos, drama, horror, and humor few writers can duplicate.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that all this has to do with Keller as a pulp writer. Pulp writing is really not his field. He really spreads himself (with the exception of some of his finest pulp stories) only in his non-pulp work. Unfortunately very little of this has been published; most of it exists in manuscripts written purely as a labor of love. But I refer you to The Devil and the Doctor (published in 1940 by Simon and Schuster) and The Sign of the Burning Hart (now in production by the National Fantasy Fan Federation) ((see ad on page 9 -ed)) for samples of what Keller can do when given free rein. I am now working on an article about some of his unpublished novels in which he gives further evidence of his real scope of his talents. ((we'd like to see the article when its finished -ed.))

In short, Keller is not a writer of pulp thrillers. Whatever his limitations, the man is a genuine literary artist.

Sincerely,
Paul Spencer

- - -

STILL ON KELLER WE HAVE:

In the November Fantasy-Times Sam Moskowitz reports that critics say:

" KELLER CAN'T WRITE "

Loquacity, garrulity, verbosity,
Used as device by man
In search quite frantic

For words pedantic
To describe an
Inconsequentiality.

Locquacity, garrulity, verbosity:

With meter, stroke, asterick or
worse-
Under scoring- Latin-root-words,
French nouns and Spanish verbs
They report of the
Struldbrug of Luggnagg
Or some old hag
Libidinous
And lethiferous.

Loquacity, garrulity, verbosity,
Are not glossophlegia
But are indulged by
Microcephelagia
Who with logarithms
Mighty
Define the Infinit-e.

Loquacity, garrulity, verbosity
And persiflage
Are for the tale medicore
With a tinge of ochre

So Keller can't write?
Can his critics indite
A tale like "The Mother?"
Or another
Of such courage and gloom
As "The Metal Doom"?
Symbols "are silly"!
Can they conquer a dragon
Armed only with a wood-lilly?

"No Other Man"
Ever can
So inspire
With "dish water".
If one would aspire
To shrink a "Kelleryarn"
Let them then "larn"
Of the lore
Which Keller's mind has stored
By the tome.

-A KELLERFAN

So ends our "Keller, pro-&-con section, so now on to:

WOLFEHIM ANSWERS GARDNER'S LETTER OF OUR LAST ISSUE

Dear Taurasi:

December 4, 1947

Thomas Gardner's letter in reply to my recent note about "Man Against Myth" is at hand and I must state that his method of expressing his thoughts is anything but lucid. I insist that a review which spends eighty or ninety per cent of its substance attacking an author's views vehemently cannot be considered as doing justice to a book the reviewer admits to being at least eighty per cent excellent. I insist that Gardner did falsify Dunham's opinions on the matter on which Gardner dwelled at greatest length.

I must state that I find Gardner's third and fourth paragraphs much too confusing and unclear to permit me to discuss them at length. From what I can gather of Gardner's intent, I do not think that he has given an accurate picture of what he said in his review. In any case, the fault seems to lie in Gardner's being an ardent and confirmed advocate of what is called the "multi-valued system of logic". Unfortunately it should be borne in mind by the readers of Fantasy-Times that the overwhelming majority of the world's thinkers, scientists, philosophers, and politicians do not accept this Gardner-Korzybski-Chase system. An extremely tiny handful of the world's thinkers advocate the so-called "non-Aristotelian" system, the rest do not. Your readers educated in the general schools, high schools and colleges of the United States, Canada, and Great Britain have been educated in the accepted two-value logic structure system. Whether this is good or bad is something yet to be proved. Gardner, believing it to be bad, is crying his opinions from an exceedingly partisan position when he tries to tear down Dunham's incisive and excellent defense of conservative and almost universally standard logic usage.

I do not know what Gardner means by "correct labelling of moves, drives, and programs." But if Gardner means "name-calling", I insist that he reread Dunham's masterful handling of that--the first reading seems to have failed to penetrate Gardner's blind spots.

I have always understood that the primary concern of semantics was for the consideration and use of language as an exact instrument for transmitting thought. Gardner's statement that he does not bother to make his fan writings grammatically comprehensible seems to be a rather flagrant violation of the tenets he claims to hold. Or doesn't Gardner think fans deserve to hear his thoughts in their clearest forms? I must insist that in view of this his advocacy of semantics seems to be tinged with a bit of--shall I say--hypocrisy?

I enclose my check for \$1.50. By all means let the staff of Fantasy-Times and other interested readers peruse the book for themselves.

Sincerely yours,
Donald A. Wollheim

The book "Man Against Myth" has been ordered and when it arrives it will be turned over to the editorial staff. After they finish it, it will be made available to any and all readers of Fantasy-Times. I thank you both, Mr. Wollheim and Mr. Gardner for making this possible.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR READERS AS SPACE WILL ALLOW:

Dear Mr. Taurasi:

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the eminently fair and sensible stand you are taking on the w-k Shaver controversy. I think it is high time fandom grew up.

Sincerely, Mrs. R. S. Brown

Dear Jimmy:

.....In your editorial you've a fair proposition which just about all fan-zines are following, as far as I know....The fan column will benefit fandom all right, I hope, as everyone else does, that it will never be tainted by the Shaverstuff....The "Fanzine Reviews" is welcomed back. I hope you can have one every month. (Bob Tucker, please note, -ed)....Well, now the "1946 In S.F." is over, will Dr. Gardner do a column on 1947? (He will, "1947 in Science Fiction" starts next issue -ed)....One of my favorite columns is Ray Van Houten's "The World of Tomorrow Today".....

Yours, Ed Cox

Dear Mr. Taurasi

Rec'd the Dec '47 FT today and found it very interesting as usual. I heartily agree with your policy on Amazing Stories. Altho I frown on The Shaver hoax, per se, I think that stuff like R.P. Graham's 'And So Shall Ye Reap' highly acceptavle--excluding RAPs ever present "editorial" comments.....

Sincerely, S Brown Jr

Hello Mr. Taurasi:

.....Especially enjoyed Alex Osheroff's "Tome Talk" and your "Fantasy Corner".

Sincerely, Edwin C. Harler, Jr.

FANTASY BOOK NOTES

Due to a rush of personal business Alex Osheroff was unable to do his "TOME TALK" column this month. He will be back, tho, next issue. -ed.

"Pilgrims Through Time and Space" by J. O. Bailey, published by Argus Publications for \$5.00 has been roundly slammed by the fans but has received better reception in wider circles. Reviews of this book have appeared in THE NEW YORKER, SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE and TIME MAGAZINE among others. Its latest plug takes the form of the entire content of Billy Rose's syndicated column "Pitching Horseshoes" which appeared in the November 18, 1947 issue of PM and other newspapers. Billy Rose was particularly impressed by the accuracy of many predictions in science-fiction stories and urged members of the UN council unable to come to an amicable agreement to study this book carefully, and take particular note of the fact that new science-fiction stories have men of the future fighting their wars with bows and arrows! Willy Ley mentioned at the PHILCON that he has a review of this book coming out shortly in astounding SCIENCE FICTION that will rip it from stem to stern.

Sam Moskowitz and William S. Sykora, in a circular to their customers, announced this month, that their first book, "Life Everlasting and Other Tales of Science, Fantasy and Horror" by Dr. David H. Keller, has been delayed until January 1948, due to their printers not being able to squeeze the printing of the book into their rather crowded schedule. The adding of 100 pages to the original 320 planned, delayed the linotyping, thus throwing the company's schedule out of gear.

All customers have been notified of the delay (other book companies, please note) and from the proofs seen, the book will be well worth the delay.

Knopf Publishers have claimed so successful reception of their book "Collected Short Stories of E. M. Forster" (all but two of which are fantasy), the book now being in its second edition, that they have announced "The Collected Short Stories of A. E. Coppard", a very large percentage of which will also be fantasy. This later book will be larger than the Forster volume and sell for \$5.00.

Dell Publishing Company has just issued, as number 201 of their pocket-book series, H. G. Wells' THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON. It boasts a fine cover and back cover map of the moon. 25 cents at all news stands.

Apropos of Keller who has no less than five books contracted for we understand that a 6th composed of 12 "Taine of San Francisco" stories will be signed for shortly.

Russell Swanson has done the cover-jacket illustration for "Life Everlasting". It is similar to Leo Morey's AMAZING STORIES' cover for the same story. Shasta Publications are also dickering for his work on a forthcoming, as yet unannounced volume.

Please renew your subscription to Fantasy-Times as soon as possible as we mimeograph only enough copies to fill our subscription list.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF FANTASY-TIMES WILL BE OUT JANUARY 15, 1948

ON THE NEWSSTANDS BY LANE STANNARD

PLANET STORIES

Spring 1948

A typical Planet cover of a guy, a gal and a BEM flashes us this issue, a little below par for a Planet cover. The stories have been picking up quite a bit of late and this issue carries on the improvements. We pick Bradbury's JONAH OF THE JOVE RUN and PLANET IN REVERSE by Guth as the best. Inside illustrations are fairly good. The VIZIGRAPH is the childish reader's column of them all. We rate this issue a good B.

FANTASY BOOK

Vol. 1 - No. 1 (undated)

We'll call this new magazine a baby pro since it has a very limited newsstand circulation. The format and size are swell and the printing of a "slick paper" edition for collectors is an excellent idea. THE PEOPLE OF THE CRATER by North, FLIGHT THROUGH TOMORROW by Coblentz and THE CATAAAA-AA by A. E. van Vogt are our selections as the best in the issue with Austin doing the best illustrations. We do not like the cover. We rate this issue a C plus.

WEIRD TALES

January 1948

We're getting mighty tired of the current type of cover; we'd like to see a real weird cover. THE

DEADLY RATIO by Sturgeon is the best yarn this issue. Coye has the best illustrations and Giunta outdid himself in the small cut for the poem MOON-MARKED. We rate this issue a poor B.

STARTLING STORIES

January 1948

Bergey really went to town and gives us one of his best covers. It is, in fact, one of the best covers STARTLING has ever had. Bok's BLUE FLAMINGO is unusual and a good piece of fantasy, we liked it. Stevens-Lawrance's illustrations for it are super excellent. HALL OF FAME story by Hamilton is quite good. Readers' column is one of the best. We rate this issue a B plus.

astounding SCIENCE FICTION

December 1947

A very dull cover by Alejandro covers this issue. AESOP by Slack was interesting tho a bit confused, so we pick THE BARBARIAN by van Vogt as the best. BESmith's serial, CHILDREN OF THE LENS is coming along fine. Cartier and Rogers do some fine work with the inside illustrations. Departments all OK, the BRASS TACKS should have smaller type. This issue fell down a little when compared with other 47 issues. We rate it a very poor B plus. -ls

James V. Taurasi
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T O :

Leslie Hudson
Roseland, Va.

