

WHY FFM'S NOVELS ARE CUT

-reported by James V. Taurasi-

In the September, 1947 issue of FANTASY-TIMES, Thomas S. Gardner wrote an editorial taking the editors of FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES to task for cutting some of their novels and editing out some sex in others.

Recently the editors of FFM invited us to their office to discuss the matter.

Mr. Alden H. Norton, Editorial Director of Popular Publications, publishers of FFM, clarified the matter with the following statements:

"I would say that Dr. Gardner's criticisms, as a collector, were well founded. However, they were unconsciously a little unfair to us, because of factors which are out of our control. We are confronted with the following problems in making up each issue of the magazine:

1. A great many of the books which we

want to run contain more wordage than our pages will permit, particularly since in order to have F.F.M. classified through the postal laws as a magazine, it must contain at least two stories or articles. In every case where we have cut an appreciable amount of wordage from a novel, we have done it with extreme reluctance, and sorely because it has been necessary in order to get it into the book ((FFM)) at all.

2. In a few instances it has been necessary to delete a certain amount of sex from novels. This has been done not through any desire on our part to improve or tamper with the book, but because the U. S. postal regulations are extremely severe on this point, and we cannot jeopardize the loss of our second-class mailing permit, which

would automatically put the magazine out of existence.

3. In every case where a change has been made in a manuscript, it has been done with the full permission of the author, or the owner of the copyright.

4. Your suggestion that we make a notation on the title page whenever a novel has been cut or changed in any way has a lot of merit; but I'm afraid that so many of the readers (non-fan) would get the idea that we are merely running abridged versions of all our stories, that it would fatally damage our circulation. As you know, and as we all regret, fantasy or science-fiction magazines meet very rigid competition from the larger selling western and detective books, and neither Mary ((Gnaedinger)) nor I want to do anything

SUPPORT THE TORCON

that would jeopardize F. F. M.'s chances on the newsstands.

I want Dr. Gardner to know that no one in the field has any higher regard for these classics of fantasy than Mary and I have, or any more reluctance to change them in any manner whatsoever. We do so as sparingly as possible, and solely because of the reasons I have given above."

Mr. Norton will in
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the future notify fandom, thru fan magazines, whenever a novel has appreciably been cut, tho both he and Miss Gnaedinger will try to steer clear of any novel that will have to have a large portion clipped in order to have it in FFM.

It was explained that to present a novel in two parts would cut down the sales of FFM.
The End

comic magazine, he has none in the second. This artist had a full colored inside illustration in THE SATURDAY EVENING POST recently, and we are informed: it was of a fantasy nature.

If any fan wants to read science-fiction written by Eando Binder, just pick up the current issue of CAPT. MARVEL ADVENTURES. He has a series of two page stf yarns running there.

The December 1947 issue of The British Edition of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION is now out featuring CENTAURUS II by A. E. van Vogt and features Schneecman's cover for that story, which appeared on the June 1947 issue of The American Edition of ASTOUNDING.

It seems that the two "one-shot" editions of Tarzan Comics that Dell published hit pay dirt because Dell has just issue Tarzan as a steady publication. Vol 1, No. 1, dated Jan-Feb 1948 and published bi-monthly. The first issue features TARZAN AND THE WHITE SAVAGES OF VARI, well illustrated by Jesse Marsh. Of interest to Tarzan fans is the Tarzan Ape-English Dictionary started in this issue.

It has been rumored and from some very good sources that Palmer may soon give up the Shaver junk. Palmer, it has been rumored-continued on Page 12-

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by James V. Taurasi

Lane Stannard is on a New Year's vacation and so your editor is taking over his column for this month.

We have seen Lawrence's painting for the first "revival issue" of FANTASTIC NOVELS & find it excellent. He has really captured the feeling of what we think is Merritt's best story. That's one cover we'd like to hang in our science-fiction den.

In the second "revived issue" of FANTASTIC NOVELS, dated May 1948, JASON, SON OF JASON by J. U. Giesy and illustrated by Frank R. Paul, will be reprinted. This is the third and last of the famous Palos trilogy. Along with it will be the short novel, the MOON POOL by A. Merritt, which will be il-

lustrated by Finlay. It you will remember was reprinted in the first issue of FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES. The book-length novel, CONQUEST OF THE MOON POOL sequel to the MOON POOL will be reprinted shortly after. It is interesting to note that the book, THE MOON POOL, a combination of both MOON POOL stories, printed quite a number of years ago, is still in print and may be obtained at around \$2.50.

Edd Cartier, fame artist of UNKNOWN and ASTOUNDING has done the cover to the second issue of the comic magazine, RED DRAGON, a Street & Smith publication. It is termed a fantasy comic. Tho Cartier did some of the cartoons in the first issue of this

TOME TALK

by Alex Osheroff

It seems to us at this writing that did the current tally of important new offerings in the book line appear some months, say six, past we would have greeted it with louder and happier shoutings of approbation. Not that this person, (anyway) is troubled with surfeit but repetition of good things breeds acceptance, detracts from glamour. Also, pertinent to this topic, one of our friends who knows his scienti-fictional confines that the overall picture of scienti-fiction book publishing is only seemingly greatly enlarged by the mile long lists of scheduled books fantasy publishers are wont to issue. Be that as it may the actual productions we have to report at this time is not meager.

From the West Coast comes Carcosa House'sAt the Sign of the Hyades initial offering, "Edison's Conquest of Mars" by Garrett P. Serviss. The Tale, Serviss' sequel to H. G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" is quite an oldie too, crowding the one-half century mark. Carcosa House has done a neat job on this, its debut into the field. The book is

"king size", sturdily bound in good cloth and there are thirteen full page interior illustrations adding the correct aura of antiquity. And to top it off there is an introduction and bibliography by A. Langley and Elizabeth Dew Searles respectively. "Edison's Conquest of Mars" is priced at \$3.50 and limited to an edition of 1,500.

While we're on the subject of "oldies" here's an item that is merely 84 years old. It's the Prime Press production of the utopia, "Equality, Or a History of Lithconia", (\$2.50) which last saw print in pamphlet form in 1863. It's a tiny book both from standpoint of page size and number of pages, (86). "Lithconia", sad to relate, impressed us neither with its format as did the Serviss book nor with its text which is an only very thinly fictionalized account of a utopia, practically a treatise. Albeit of some historical value because of its age and rarity its other shortcomings cause the book to fail to please.

For many years there was a dearth of "Skylark of Space" and an increasing consumer

demand was built up for Doc Smith's novel that bid fair to reach gigantic proportions. but as the guy said, "Time Wounds All Heels" and now we have not one but two copies for sporting "The New Look", the second edition of "Skylark" has arrived from Hadley Publishing Company. There are several interior illustrations by Major O. G. Estes in the new edition plus a brand spanking new cover jacket and we're happy to say that the binding affectionately known as the "oatmeal binding" so prevalent in "The Weapon makers" and "The Mightiest Machine" has been discontinued, at least on the current book. The price of course is still \$3.00.

A. E. van Vogt's third book (one from each of three separate and distinct limited edition companies) and Fantasy Press' fifth publication has arrived under the title of "The Book of Ptath" (\$3.00). Though easy reading. "The Book of Ptath" doesn't approach the high standard of "Slan" and "The Weapon Makers" nor does its format quite equal, though it misses by merely a whisker or two, the excellent format of preceding Fantasy Press editions.

Tales from "Unknown" which as time goes by is beginning to be dug into more and more by

the publisher, "Weird Tales" and some hitherto unpublished make up the selection of "Night's Black Agents" by Fritz Leiber, Jr., and if you liked the "Grey Mouser" series this Arkham House publication is your meat. Its a standard \$3.00 Arkham offering running to 237 pages and has a very nice cover jacket by Ronald Clyne New York artist.

Along with the influx of "junvenilia" so common during the gift book season has arrived Robert A. Henlein's "Rocket Ship Galileo". The book though not of first water importance to the reader-collector because it is a juvenile and simply that serves as the shadow before coming events and signals the end of the dearth of Henlein in the book field. "Rocket Ship Galileo" is from Charles Scribner's Sons, New York and sells at \$2.00.

From Paul Dennis-O'Connor of "New Collector's Group" comes quite a large segment of news. "The Black Wheel", Bok illustrated Merrittale should be in your hands as you read this and following its distribution "New Collector's Group" and O'Connor will move to Denver, Colorado. This exodus is caused by greater ease of publication processes and financial savings accruing

thereof in Denver. Martin Greenberg, connected with the company will however remain in New York and will handle the distribution and other allied business from the New York offices. Future schedules for the company will include "The Eternal Conflict and Other Weird Tales", previously unpublished tales by Col. David H. Keller, "The Carnelian Cube" by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt plus a second book by the Pratt-de Camp faction, the as yet untitled sequel to "The Incomplete Enchanter". Also on contract is Neil R. Jones' "The Outlawed World" and last but not least a volume by Lester del Ray.

Howsomever even this nice production schedule is not the end for up are plans for the issuing of large size stiff paper bound books by famous authors. These items will contain original fantasy shorts, boast a tipped in illustration and be limited to a 1,000 edition.

Also as yet still under consideration is the breathtaking (to this writer) proposition of the correlation of all material available on fantasy fiction. This project would use a half page for each book title, consist of summary of the work, information on first and later

printings and biographical material concerning the author. 'T would be bound in loose leaf form, sold on subscription and delivered in yearly sections. The estimated number of pages complete would be 6,000. Sort of a Gramophone Catalog (record collectors) or a Scott's Postage Stamp Catalog (stamp collectors) but this one for the fantasy fan with the built in pack rat instinct.

First fantasy book (tho. not of the month) club to appear on the scene is "Reader's Service Book Club" formulated by Cheney's Book Service of California. The club is worked on the redeemable coupons basis but is not in its entirety a strictly fantasy book club since the same offer is made to purchasers of non-fantasys.

Shasta Publishers of Chicago announce that their "Checklist of Fantastic Literature" originally scheduled for October publication will be ready for January distribution. Something new has been added: a dust wrapper by artist Hans Bok.

From Prime Press comes the good news that "The Torch" by Jack Boehdelt (\$3.00) and "...And Some Were Human" by Lester del Ray (\$3.00) are already set in type and proofs have been received

thereof. The former is the full length Munsey novel while the latter is a collection of ten tales including "Nerves" and "Hereafter Inc."

Fantasy Publishing Company, Inc. has added to their list "Death's Deputy", the hit novel from "Unknown" by L. Ron Hubbard. The book will be illustrated by Lou Goldstone and sell for \$3.00. Future proposed

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production from this company are another Hubbard, "The Indigestible Triton" originally published in "Unknown" under the pseudonym of Renee Lafayette, John Taine's hitherto unpublished "The Cosmic Geoids", more tales of the "Radio Man" series, "Caves of Ocean", "The Golden City" and "The Immortals" all by Ralph Milne Farley--ao

The End

Gardner went on with some scientific information regarding those experiments, the 200" telescope, and the new combination turbo-jet and rocket engine recently tested by the U. S. Navy.

Director Sam Moskowitz then introduced David A. Kyle, old-time fan who is now back with us.

John Brostoski, an up and coming young illustrator who is shortly to have an exhibit of his work at the Newark Museum, then passed a few personal opinions on the current crop of sf and fantasy illustrators in which he said the illustrators frequently placed upon them by editors didn't give them a fair chance to turn out something good.

Alex Osheroff wound up proceedings by reading Billy Rose's column, "Pitching Horse-shoes", devoted to the book "Pilgrims Thru Space and Time", which turned out to be a first-class plug for sf, from the days of Francis Bacon right up to the present.

The assemblage of 34 then adjourned, with the memory of an afternoon unmarred by one boring moment. -rvh

THE PORTLAND SCIENCE
FANTASY SOCIETY

The November 23 '47
meeting of THE PORTLAND

THE FANTASY CLUBS

Organized Fandom Reports

THE EASTERN SCIENCE- FICTION ASSOCIATION

For the first time in many months a meeting of THE EASTERN SCIENCE-FICTION ASSOCIATION was called to order without a guest celebrity as feature speaker, and far from casting one breath of discredit on any of the long list of personalities who have addressed us, it can be said that the December 1947 meeting of the Esfa was one of the most enjoyable ever held.

James V. Taurasi led off with a short resume of the month's science-fiction news.

Hugh Guthrie announced that Mr. Samuel Loveman, New York book collector and long-time friend of H. P. Lovecraft, has agreed to visit the

Esfa and to say a few words.

An interesting talk on sf anthologies was delivered by James V. Cullum, Jr., in which he stated that in addition to the two types of anthologies already presented for the fan's enjoyment, general anthologies and author anthologies two more types were ready for plunking, anthologies containing only a particular type of tale, such as "peril in space" yarns, and "series" collections. These last says Mr. Cullum may be expected at any time.

Secretary Ray Van Houten then introduced Dr. Thomas S. Gardner by reading from the December 1947 issue of SCIENCE DIGEST a write up of the doctor's experiments with queen bee royal jelly. Dr.

SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY was featured by the presence of a delegation from Seattle. Jack Speer, prominent northwest fan, drove down for the meeting. bringing with him, Alderson Fry, Librarian of the University of Washington Medical School Library. Mr. Fry, a newcomer to fan ranks, spent the afternoon preceeding the meeting in rummaging among Don Day's collection of pro and fanzines.

The John & Dorothy de Courcy had resided in Seattle for some time, this was the 1st time they and Speer had met and they found a great many items of interest to discuss and spent a large part of the evening comparing notes.

Also discussed was a plan to switch The FANSCIENT to a revolutionary new format with the third issue. This format, if adopted, will be all lithographed, and will be different from any previous fanzine in a number of ways. Final decision has been deferred until later but announcement should be made shortly after the first of the year.

New member Donald L. Vickroy joined at this meeting.

The December 7 meeting was devoted principally to a work session on getting out the second issue of The FANSCIENT which

was mailed the tenth. Thru the co-operation of Milton A. Rothman, Philcon Chairman, this issue is being mailed to all Philcon Attendees. Also a number of important items of recent correspondence were read and discussed.

Due to the Christmas holidays, it was decided to skip the Dec. 23 meeting. The next one will be Sunday, January 3rd. -dd

All Fantasy Clubs are invited to send in monthly reports of their organizations. ed

ON THE NEWSSTANDS

----- reviewed by Lane Stannard -----

astounding SCIENCE FICTION - January 1948
Rogers comes thru with an excellent cover to start the New Year right. The best yarn in the issue is Asimov's "foundation" story. NOW YOU SEE IT. EESmith's LENS yarn is quite a hit. All illustrations by Rogers and Cartier are excellent. We miss BRASS TACKS this month and 3 stories and one serial is much too thin for 25¢. We rate this issue a good B.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES - February 1948
Bergey has only a fair cover on this issue. It does not compare with the one he did for the Jan. issue of STARTLING. The best in the issue is THE SHAPE OF THINGS by Ray Bradbury a real gem. In fact all the yarns but the lead novel by Walton are above average. Inside illustrations are very good with Lawrence Steves being super-super. Finlay was not up to par. The Readers'

Column was perfect as it has usually been of late. We like the BOOK REVIEW department. We rate this issue a good B plus.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES - February 1948
Finlay's cover for this issue is real good. THE PEACEMAKER by Forster is very good and its illustrations by Lawrence are excellent. The two other yarns in the issue by Leinster and Derleth are not bad at all. We give an A plus rating to the feature, MASTER OF FANTASY by Austin. This should make a swell little booklet when enough of them are published. We rate the Readers' Column of FFM the best in the field. We rate this issue a good B plus. -ls

Please renew your subscription as soon as possible as Fantasy - Times mimeographs only enough copies to cover its subscription list.

THE FANTASY CORNER

---A DEPARTMENT FOR FANTASY - TIMES' READERS---

Sam McIlwain answers David Kishi's letter in our last issue:

Dear Jimmy: January 1, 1948

When the original version of my article "The Road to Avalon" appeared in the July 1945 issue of Ossie Train's PSFS NEWS, Milt Rothman termed my evaluation of Keller using Wolfe as a gauge as a "Senseless comparison". I justified this comparison in my TIME STREAM column in the January 1946 issue of that magazine. Now David Kishi, gazing disdainfully down from the pontifical elevation of his 14 years calls the comparison in the revised version of my article "silly". I would like to quote sections of my reply to Rothman with appropriate interpolations for general clarification.

"Keller was predominantly a human interest writer, a man who was concerned with the average fellow and his reactions to the world of advanced science. As a physician and at one time active psychiatrist in a mental institution he had the opportunity to study human nature at close hand and discern what seeming abnormalities were actually in accordance with normal human reaction. This acquired knowledge and, it seems to me, a love of human beings, was reflected in his work. The superiority of his knowledge of human nature even down to every variation and eroticism of the sex urge (of which phase he is a world authority having written and had published a ten volume set on sex) to that of Thomas Wolfe's is unquestioned. Thomas Wolfe's knowledge was superficial and interpreted through a tormented and at times chaotic mind! In his introduction to "The Web and the Rock" Thomas Wolfe called the novel an "exaggerated satire". This was true of all of Wolfe's works for in his opinion the entire American way of life was "an exaggerated satire". Coupled with this, Thomas Wolfe had a writing style of such immense power that it cannot be adequately described but must be read to be appreciated. (The pointing out of a single quiet sentence is a ridiculous counter argument and will be disproved by almost any substantial sampling of Wolfe. Note that Wolfe has said "We walk the streets" three times in the one "prize" sentence Kishi points out. That is not an economy of words but an attempt at power in writing. Effect through repetition.) Sometimes his description of places of people uncovered by their very intensity perspectives that the reader had previously not thought of or had not acquainted himself with. As often as not these "perspectives" existed solely in the exaggerations of Wolfe's creative mind and were not there for the reader to find. But always, Wolfe achieved his effect by driving brutal power. (Read "Wolfe's Genius Seen Afresh" by Franz Schoenberger in the August 4, 1946 issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW.)

Keller and Wolfe wrote about the same things: People. Only Wolfe did not write science-fiction. I chose Wolfe for comparison because though his subject matter was similar to Keller's, his style was as completely opposite as it is possible for styles to be. Keller achieved his effect by understatement, Wolfe by overstatement. Wolfe achieved fame before he died. Keller has achieved only a dying popularity in a limited field recently rekindled. Yet it is my honest belief that some of Keller's work will live longer than Wolfe's because Keller's human emotions are real. Keller reasons that a person will experience the

proper self-induced emotion when he reads the experience; that understatement will best carry the message. That is why the English language contains no more spine-chilling tale of horror in all its pages than Keller's "The Thing in the Cellar".

Thomas Wolfe describes your emotions for you. David H. Keller has you feel them yourself. Is there any question which method is superior?

If there is any challenge to my statement concerning the "Chaotic bewilderment" of Thomas Wolfe's mind, my source is none other than Thomas Wolfe himself: "I still wrote and wrote, but blindly, hopelessly, like an old horse that trots around in the unending circle of a treadmill and knows no other end nor purpose for his life than this. If I slept at night, it was to sleep an unceasing nightmare of blazing visions that swept across my fevered and unceasing mind. And when I awoke it was to wake exhausted, not knowing anything but work, lashing myself on into a hopeless labor, and so furiously at it through the day; and then night again, a frenzied prowling of a thousand streets and so to bed."

The preceding and many similar quotes may be found in Thomas Wolfe's autobiographical sketch, "The Story of a Novel" reprinted from a series of articles in THE SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE by Charles Scribner and Sons in 1936 and now available in Vikings Portable Library book of selections from Thomas Wolfe. The given quote is from page 61, paragraph # 2 of the Scribners book publication. In this book Wolfe describes the killing torment of his mind as he works on his second "novel"; of living in a little Brooklyn room, prowling the streets intermittently. His mind a constant torture of little fire needles that mock his inability to coherently assemble his works. Of four years of labor; millions of words of writing about everything and anything; and finally, his publisher fearing for Wolfe's sanity calls him up one night and tells him: "Your novel is finished. Assemble it in chronological order and I'll be down to look at it." Of Wolfe dazedly wondering how the publisher could know the book was done. Of the impossibility of assembling the thousands of sheets properly since no plot outline had been followed. How several million words were condensed down to a few hundred thousand for the book. That was Thomas Wolfe." The man whom David Kishi would claim did not use excess adjectives or phrases. (Read Russell Maloney's "Minority Report" in the NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW SUPPLEMENT of August 18, 1946 for corroborative views on Wolfe.)

As ever, Sam Moskowitz

Next we have Paul Spencer with a few words on Fantasy-Times and Keller:
Dear Jimmy:

December 31, 1947

....I find the mag ((Fantasy-Times)) most enjoyable and informative. Two relatively minor criticisms occur to me: a newszine should appear more frequently, ((Right you are Paul, but we lack the time to do so, much as we like to -ed)) and the profusion of spelling and punctuation errors is mildly irritating. ((Again we agree with you: we're a lousy speller, but we'll try to improve -ed)) In other respects, F-T is excellent, and I intend to follow it regularly in the future.

Congrats on the FANTASTIC NOVELS scoop. This is delightful news indeed -- almost incredible, especially since no announcement appears in the Feb. FFM. I have a somewhat alarming feeling that I must be dreaming about this particular bit of news. (('Tis no dream -ed))

David Kishi's remarks on Sam's Keller article are interesting. Just for the record, I want to say that I agree with Kishi on Thomas Wolfe.

Why Sam dragged Wolfe into the article I can't imagine. But it is possible to like both Wolfe and Keller, different though their methods are. I haven't yet read "By the Waters of Lethe", so can't comment on Kishi's remarks on that subject; but I have read "The Sign of the Burning Hart", which perhaps Kishi hasn't. And I firmly maintain that the story is fine literature and fine prose.

In this connection, I'd like to correct an erroneous impression which may have been conveyed by the "Hart" notice on page 9 of the Jan. issue. "The Sign of the Burning Hart" is not "a story of science". I want to make that clear so no one will be disappointed. It is, however, a most remarkable and unusual story, and I believe it will be very favorably received. Thanks for donating space for that announcement, incidentally.

Speaking of Keller,.....he has been making a tour of the South, and has visited with Andy Lyon and Harry Moore. He'll spend most of the winter in Texas, and plans to devote most of his writing to the revision of "Through the Black Door" -- his long account of his experiences as a psychiatrist. Andy Lyon is working on an all-Keller issue of his FAPA mag, FANOMENA.

Sincerely, Paul Spencer

Here's Raymond Isadore with an interesting letter:

Dear Jim:

December 22, 1947

Fantasy-Times has improved a lot in the short time I've been taking it. I especially like the section where Dr. Gardner, David Kishi and a few more go to town on each other. What started in a matter of Price, has developed into the ethics and mentality and general make up of a fantasy and science fiction fan. Now the arguing boys have attacked the fans and give us an IQ of about 69, which is approximately that of a high class moron. I thank them for not placing fans in the idiot category, at least my self respect has not taken much of a setback.

Sincerely, Raymond Isadore

And last:

Dear James:

December 15, 1947

I enjoyed the last issue as per usual. Glad to see a letter column in FT now. Please continue with said feature.

Incidentally, my own fanzine, MACABRE is due to come out around the first of next month. A dime will buy a sample copy. The first ish features crud by Ackerman, Croutch, Kennedy, Rotsler, Grant etc. ((Address is 7 Tacoma Ave., Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada. -ed))

Sincerely, Don Hutchison

AT PRESS TIME: Arriving too late for this issue is an interesting letter on Keller by Thomas S. Gardner. It will appear in the next issue. Along with the letter came Gardner's 1947 IN SCIENCE FICTION, a series of articles reviewing the pro mags of 1947. The first installment of which will appear also in the next issue.

Many thanks for the many Christmas cards so many of you sent in, we have them hanging on our Xmas tree. We had to cut the pages of Fantasy-Times due to a change of jobs last month and the resulting of having less money to lay out. Monthly editions always cost us around \$5.00 more than subscription intake, more when no ads are bought. So 14 pages, sometimes less is all we can offer you until further notice. Anyone want to donate \$5 or more an issue to secure 20 pages? -editor.

Readers AppRAISE Fantasy Book

From cover to cover, the first issue of FANTASY BOOK (the stf pro with the "new outlook") is receiving rave reports.

Geo. Cowie of Vortex: "Your first cover impressed me tremendously. I have seen an awfully lot of magazine covers these last twelve years, but seldom one as beautifully satisfying as your first. Puts the average pulp mag cover to shame, for sure." Complaining of the blinding and "nerve raking" colors that "leap" up at him (who?--it could only be Rick Sneary) from the covers of the stf mags, Sneary says: "Yours is with out doubt the softest and restfull I have ever seen. With just enough writing to tell you what is inside. All done on nice heavy paper. Aaaa. a dream come ture." Yes, a dream come "ture"--that's for sure. As for those contents,

Comments Harmon Florer of 1010 Dayton St, Hamilton, Ohio: "Let me say that I believe that with F.B. you have produced a classic. The magazine is the finest of its kind I have yet seen published and I have known them all for 25 years." A.E. van Vogt's curious "Cataaaaaa" is leading the race for first position, with Robert Bloch's "Black Lotus" close behind. "Fantasy Book has long been needed to provide the cream for our fantasy coffee," enthuses one reader.

They even like the ads! "To be praised to the skies is that editorial policy of yours regarding advertising. It certainly gives the magazine distinction as well as rendering all fantasy collectors a fine service."

Finally: "I received my three copies of Fantasy Book today, and frankly, I was so pleased with it that I felt sorry for my friends who have not had the foresight to subscribe to the magazine. I would like 4 -- four -- more copies of the first issue. I hope I can get them. Please send them as soon as possible."

May we suggest you subscribe as soon as possible? Your subscription can still start with #1. \$2.50 for 12 copies on newsprint; \$3 for the special book paper copies for collectors.

FANTASY PUBLISHING CO. (INC.)
8318-20 Avalon Blvd.
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THRILLOGY TRILOGY

News comes from the West Coast that the Fantasy Publishing Co. (Inc.) has acquired a contract coup for the hard-cover publication of Giesy's trio of classic interplanetary yarns, PALOS OF THE DOG STAR PACK, THE MOUTHPIECE OF ZITU, and JASON--SON OF JASON.....

Nearing readiness for release are OUT OF THE UNKNOWN, the van Vogt-mayne Hall "must" collection illustrated by Austin, Hunt, McNutt and Murphy, with a striking Hunt jacket, \$2.50; and the welcome addition to Atlantean Literature, Stanton Coblentz' THE SUNKEN WORLD, \$3.

The \$2 buy, Austin Hall's PEOPLE OF THE COMET, will follow soon and, due to popular demand, L. Ron Hubbard's DEATH'S DEPUTY will be given a priority printing. Mr. Hubbard will autograph a limited number of this book advance-ordered at \$3.

Also to be published or distributed by FPCI are:

THE RADIO MAN (Myles Cabot on Venus)---	Farley, \$2
THE COSMIC GEOIDS and Another-----	Taine, \$3
AFTER 12,000 YEARS-----	Coblentz, \$3
THE OMNIBUS OF TIME-----	Farley, \$3.50
THE RADIUM POOL-----	Repp, \$2
THE INDIGESTIBLE TRITON-----	Hubbard, \$3

And watch for an important Announcement concerning
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ENCORES OF THE MONTH

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THE COSMIC REPORTER
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ored, would have given up the Shaver junk long ago except that fandom pressure kept him from doing so. To us it seems that if Palmer gives up the Shaver cult, it is not because of fandom or anyone else, it is because the mags are no longer selling as the big brass at Ziff-Davis would like. We would like to point out that this Fall saw the return on the stands of AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY reissue, which appear to be nothing more than newsstand returns, covers removed and restapled into giant quarterlies. In these times of paper shortages, it seems that no company would put out large quantities of magazines on the stands unless they expected all of them to sell. So, it would seem that the Shaver double-talk no longer sells and so Palmer is going to swing back to good old sane stuff and recapture AMAZING's old readers. Remember this news item is, so far, just a rumor and nothing more.

As announced in FT quite a while ago, the SUNDAY MIRROR MAGAZINE SECTION, for Dec. 28, contained a full page article on Gardner's Queen Bee Jelly experiments.

-jvt

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

-----by Ray Van Houten-----

Uranium?

In fifty years it may be as out-dated a fuel as wood!

The guys working with the giant cyclotron at the University of California have discovered that the bismuth atom, when properly chucked under its little chin, splits with a speed a thousand times faster than uranium.

They didn't give out the MEV output figures, but Einstein's equations indicate that all atoms release the same amount of energy when smashed.

It seems a sure bet that the only reason that the uranium-plutonium group of elements were the donors of the world's first artificial atomic energy is that they are the most ticklish in the Mendelief Table. New techniques promise to allow the release of energy from many other elements; very possibly any element at all.

Thus collapse the several plans laid out in the past few years to safeguard the world from sneak atomic attack by rigid control of uranium deposits.

Photosynthesis is the name of the process whereby plants take simple elements out of the air and ground and, with the help of sunlight, build them up into cells of their own complicated tissue.

If this process could be made only one tenth of one percent more efficient, plant growth and hence food production would at least double.

California biologists are now investigating the inside secrets of how a plant builds the molecule chains of its substance with

an eye to improving on Nature.

During the first world war, German scientists pumped additional carbon dioxide gas into greenhouse air, and discovered that a concentration of only one half of one percent more than normal doubled the dry weight of plant tissue produced during one harvest.

With the world food situation in the mess that it is, such research holds more than passing interest for the governments of starving peoples. There would be no problem if it were possible to grow a crop of wheat every month or a field of lettuce or tomatoes every week.

The U.S. Army's experimental station at Sandia, New Mexico, must be a Paradise for a science-fiction fan. When it was first established, army authorities referred to it as a "special weapons" project, and refused to elaborate on the description because "construction and operations at this base fall into the category of restricted data under the Atomic Energy Act of 1946..."

The beginning of this year additional information that work on guided missiles is being carried on there.

This obviously means one or both of two things. Either the army is making an atomic bomb carrying V-2, or they are adapting atomic power to rocket propulsion.

The latter possibility would be an exciting stride forward in the history of mankind if successfully completed. The former arouses excitement of a decidedly more morbid nature. -rvh

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art editor.

EDITORIAL

by James V. Taurasi

News floating in from the West Coast, this
month indicates plenty of trouble within the
LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY over the
current fan column in AMAZING STORIES. Headed
by fan Forrest J. Ackerman, a portion of the
LASFS has gone on record as being against the
column and, it seems, against any fan who sup-
ports the column. It also seems that the other
portion disagrees with Ackerman, the Ackerman's
group hold the majority. It seems, from the
news received, that the minor group are going
to break away and set up their own LASFS and
carry on the club's magazine Shangri-L'Af-
faires. Now, in our opinion, it seems that this
minor group has full rights to break away from
the LASFS and start their
own group, since it
is very hard to work
with an organization in
whom's ideas you don't
believe, BUT they have
no right to carry on
the name of the club or
the club's magazine. If
this happens, FANTASY-
TIMES will back up the
Ackerman group. THO, to
keep the record straight
we don't see eye to eye
with Ackerman's views
on AMAZING's fan column
which we support. -jvt

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