

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

VOL. 3-N24

APRIL 1948

WHOLE N264

UNKNOWN ANNUAL

OUT JULY 15

To Be Titled—"FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS"

Keller Book At Binders!

The latest report from the Avalon Company states that "Life Everlasting" has been completely printed and is now at the binder. The binding should be finished by the end of March. In the race by The Avalon Company, The National Fantasy Fan Federation, The New-Collectors Group, The Hadley Publishing Co., and the Robert A. Madle associates, to get the first Keller book out on the market, it looks like The Avalon Company (whose volume is

reputed to be a "key" to the others) will get there first. However, "The Sign of the Burning Hart" is at the printers and is not yet out of the running.

"Life Everlasting" runs 384 pages with a 12 page bibliography of Keller's works published as a booklet supplement. Sam Moskowitz, who edited the volume, states that it will rank among the most important of fantasy volumes produced to date.

-ls

CARTIER ON COVER

Street & Smith will publish an Unknown Annual on July 15, 1948. It will be super large size, 8 1/2" x 11", 128 pages and 25¢. It will have one of the best Edd Cartier cover painting this reporter has ever seen. It will bear the title FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS. Mr. Campbell had thought of naming it "Out of The Unknown" but the book of similar title soon to come out put an end to that. It will contain only reprints from the old UNKNOWN magazine. Mr. Campbell refused to list the contents for your reporter stating that he wanted the customers to be surprised.

This volume will be a test run to judge the feasibility of re-viving UNKNOWN on a regular basis. -jvt

Street & Smith is moving their printing presses and other magazine publishing ma-

-continued on page 2-

SUPPORT THE TORCON

THE COSMIC REPORTER

edited by Lane Stannard

A. Bertram Chandler well known ASTOUNDING writer, has the feature "novel", a science fiction story titled "The Voyage To Nowhere", in the current

March, 1948 issue of ARGOSY.

March, 1948 issue of ARGOSY.

A Cosmic Publication

THE COSMIC REPORTER

— continued from p.1—

chines from their old plant at 79 7th Ave., New York, to their new plant at Linden, New Jersey. There is a good chance that the editorial offices of their pulp magazines, including ASTOUNDING, will also move there.

ASTOUNDING is now accepting ads for that magazine alone, a change from the old policy where you had to buy an ad in all their pulps or none at all. The ads sell for \$150 per page, per issue, and you'll see most of the "Limited Edition" fantasy book publishing companies advertising their wares there in the future issues of ASTOUNDING.

Taurasi informs us that Campbell claims he knows nothing of the two sets of rumors floating the fan world stating that L. Street & Smith will drop all their pulps this Fall, including ASTOUNDING; and 2. That ASTOUNDING will go bi-weekly in the near future. Campbell made it clear that ASTOUNDING is doing better than ever and WILL continue.

John Giunta reports that: A pocketbook entitled "Great Stories From The Saturday Evening Post" has as one of its many shorts, a fantasy on the humorous side, "Mr. Whitecomb's Gains" by Wal-

ter Brooks. It's pleasant reading but not worth buying the book for it, unless you want to get the book for itself.

John Giunta has just had a cover painting accepted by WEIRD TALES and Theodore Sturgeon might write the story for it.

The July issue of FANTASTIC NOVELS will reprint "The Second Deluge" by Garrett P. Serviss and it will probably be illustrated by Lawrence. "The Second Deluge" was first published as a serial in the Munsey magazine, CAVALIER in 1911. It was later reprinted in AMAZING in 1926.

Pat Frank's comedy-fantasy, "Mr. Adam" has just been published as No. 498 of the Pocketbook series. It's a delightful humorous yarn about the only man in the world that could become a father.

The British editions of ASTOUNDING, February 1948 and UNKNOWN, Spring 1948, have just appeared in England.

K. Martin Carlson informs us that the NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION has received 60 members thru Rog Phillips' column, "The Club House" in AMAZING STORIES. —ls

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1947 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

Part II - FANTASTIC ADVENTURES

The eight issues of FANTASTIC ADVENTURES offer a varied content from very good to very putrid.

January 1947 issue: The only good story in the issue is Don Wilcox's Princess of the Sea. This is readable fantasy and is weak in only a few spots. Wilcox can write whenever he wants to.

March 1947 issue: The best story of 1946 published in FANTASTIC ADVENTURES is C. S. Geier's Forever is Too Long. This story just misses being a classic. (I reviewed this in the Feb. 2 '47 issue of F-T) Contrary to some of the other readers of FANTASTIC ADVENTURES I do not consider C. F. Myers' creation of Toffee to be like Thorne Smith's creations. In fact I have read only one good Toffee story. Myers' You Can't Scare Me is a good example of the average run of the Toffee stories. R. M. Williams' Man of Two Worlds is readable, but not above average. The remainder of the stories are poor.

May 1947 issue: The Tale of the Red Dwarf is typical of the Shaver mythos. No better

and not as good as some. The best story of the issue is Ray Bradbury's Tomorrow and Tomorrow. This is a story that you will want to re-read sometime.

July 1947 issue: This issue contains a semi-classic short story of the old time writings, T. Sturgeon's Largo. Don't miss it. Don't expect too much adventure, but just a story you will remember. Forget the remainder of the issue.

September 1947 issue: The much heralded K. T. Von Gosel's The Secret of Elena's Tomb is 57,500 words of sheer, unadulterated junk. An outstanding story of the issue is R. F. Jones' The Children's Room. You can read this story and get a mental kick, just as you do from most of ASTOUNDING's stories.

October 1947 issue: Shaver's Witch of the Andes has some interesting spots, but is too long. For some screwy reason I liked G. St. Reynard's Mr. Feller and the Winged Horse. A Greek myth come to life may be funny -- to me. M. St. Clair's Whenever the Sun Shines is a good

little short that reminds me of AMAZING about 1928. R. Phillips High Ears will be read with interest by most people. The writing is fairly good, and the plot well developed.

November 1947 issue: C. F. Myers' Toffee Haunts a Ghost is the only Toffee story worth reading today. This is a good humorous tale. C. S. Geier comes up with Time Out of Mind. This involves a queer hypothesis about aging that has been seriously discussed as a philosophical problem. However with the work in bioenergetics and kinetics it remains only a philosophical problem of the past, but Geier was woven it into an interesting little story. You may like J. and D. de Courcy's Come into my Garden.

December 1947 issue: J. W. Pelkie comes across with another poor Toka story. In Toka Fights the Big Cats we are subjected to the wondrous Toka and his clan in another of their boring adventures. E. Arno's Perfume for a Princess is space opera that should be appreciated to devotees of the sciencetale. No story in this issue stands out.

Looking over the year I would heartily recommend, C. S. Geier's Forever is Too Long, Sturgeon's Largo, and

Jones, The Children's Room. -tsg

In our next issue, Thomas S. Gardner reviews the 1947 issues of WEIRD TALES. -ed

BACK ISSUES OF
FANTASY -TIMES
FOR SALE

Most of the following contain from 2 to 4 pages, and in some cases we have only one copy on hand. So first come gets it.-----

No. 29 -- 15 Dec. 1946
No. 31 -- 29 Dec. 1946
No. 32 --- 5 Jan. 1947
No. 33 -- 12 Jan. 1947
No. 35 -- 26 Jan. 1947
No. 36 --- 2 Feb. 1947
No. 37 --- 9 Feb. 1947
No. 38 -- 16 Feb. 1947
No. 40 -- 2 March 1947
No. 41 -- 9 March 1947
No. 42 - 16 March 1947
No. 43 - 23 March 1947
No. 44 - 30 March 1947
No. 45 --- 6 April 1947
No. 47 - 20 April 1947
No. 48 - 27 April 1947
No. 49 ----- 4 May 1947
No. 50 --- 11 May 1947
No. 51 --- 18 May 1947
No. 52 --- 25 May 1947
No. 53 --- 1 June 1947
No. 54 --- 8 June 1947
Any of the above at 5¢ each.
No. 57 -- October 1947
18 pages --- 10¢ each.
No. 58 --- March 1948 -
10 pages --- 10¢ each.

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DAVID H. KELLER

STORY TELLER

-----by Jacob Hudson-----

When I read Paul Spencer's letter in FANTASY-TIMES (February 1948), and found in it that one of my favorite authors of science - fiction and weird tales was in Texas for the winter, I lost no time in locating him. Texas is a large state, but fortunately only some 30 miles separated us.

I found him at Cedar Crest Ranch, Bandera, Texas. Since he has gone places and done things, there was a doubt in my mind as to what reception an ordinary fan would receive; to my surprise I found him rather ordinary, commonplace and perhaps even shy. That was my first impression. The following hours made me see the real man.

At first it seemed that he intended to do the interviewing. He asked me many questions. How long had I read science - fiction and who was my favorite author? Did I enjoy Lovecraft? What opinion of Lovecraft, Smith, Merritt? Did I enjoy weird tales? Had I ever published a fan magazine?

After a half hour of conversation he

knew much about me and I knew nothing of him. At last I bluntly told him that the sole reason for my visit was the writing of an article about him to be published in a fan magazine. I was certain that his life contained much of interest and that so far almost everything written about him had viewed him only from the view point of a writer. Had he done anything else in life than write?

That question made him laugh.

"First, last and all the time for over fifty years I have been a story teller. Perhaps my first story was inscribed on a clay tablet in Babylon. Maybe I retold ancient stories to the Arabs or sat exchanging stories with Bocaccio. Messac called me the spiritual grandson of Edgar Allen Poe."

"But I found that one cannot live and raise a family by telling stories, so I had to go to work. Ten years as a country doctor. Over twenty years serving the abnormals in State Hospitals. Through both wars from start to finish as a medical

officer. A few years of hard work as editor of pseudo-scientific magazines. There were many of these years that there was no time for anything but the dreaming of stories. So you see only a little part of my life was actually spent writing."

"However," I said, "I understand that you wrote a number of stories that for some years you were having more published per year than any other pulp writer."

"That is true. Unfortunately I never became a commercial writer. The only important thing to me was to write a story, as clearly and as beautifully as I could. Once it was written I lost interest in its financial value. If it sold, well and good. If it did not sell I was not discouraged. Of course, like most writers I liked to see my stories in print, and some of my most beautiful work has been printed in fan magazines, of small circulation. I have never refused the editor of such magazines when they requested a story and some of my best, such as THE GOLDEN BOUGH and THE DEAD WOMAN first appeared in amateur publications."

"How do you account for your seeming lack of popularity among the fans?"

"That has never worried me. I have never written for either the praise of the average reader or the approval of the editors. It takes a certain type of personality to enable the reader to enjoy my stories. And perhaps it takes a certain maturity of mind to appreciate what I am trying to say. It seems that a large number of readers consider my work, TRIFE, at least they have often used that word in print. Only lately a critic has said that anyone who reads BY THE WATERS OF LUTHE and considers it merits publication should have their heads examined."

"What is your opinion of the Shaver controversy?"

"A healthy affair, in some ways. After all there is not much difference between Shaver and Lovecraft as far as the basic idea is concerned. Even Jules Verne hinted at it in his JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH. Merritt talked about these Old Ones and Lovecraft wrote constantly in regard to such a menace. Last week I wrote in that vein in a story FINGERS IN THE SKY. I think the worst part of the Shaver work is that it has split fandom; but it seems that yeast, when it ferments, bubbles and

perhaps the endless arguments between the fans is a sign that the yeast is young and active."

"Are you going to write any more?"

"It looks that way. Spencer and Meskhovitz and my dear wife are determined that I rewrite three of my unpublished novels and an autobiography and I am working on a series of twelve stories about life in an isolated fishing village on the coast of Maine. That should be enough to keep me busy for a year at least."

"What do you think about Lovecraft?"

"A great writer but shadowed by a condition of life that so far no one seems to realize. I have an article on that which may be printed in an Australian fan magazine. That should be far away enough from Sauk City to cause little or no comment."

"Which do you consider your best short story?"

"At one time I thought it was THE THING IN THE CELLAR. Now I am not so sure. I am very fond of THE DEAD WOMAN and I think THE MIRROR MAN is very fine."

"Do you consider yourself an author?"

"I may become one if I can live for fifty more years."

And that is Keller as I met him in Texas.

He has his faults being human; being a humanitarian he is, at his best a charming personality; at his worst an interesting, though rather odd combination of scientist and dreamer. Many hate him, some love him but no one, meeting him, can ignore him.

The End

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ON THE NEWSSTANDS

reviewed by Lane Stannard

THRILLING WONDER STORIES - April 1948

148 pages and 20¢ begins with this issue. A fine cover by Bergey greets us this issue. Zagat's novel, The Faceless Men, is interesting and most of the shorter stories are good. This is one of the best issues TWS has published since way back when. Finlay and Lawrence are excellent. Glad to see Morey and Marchioni back again. The readers' column is interesting as usual. We find TWS one of the best s t f magazines published today. We rate this issue a super B plus.

departments OK. We rate this issue a B plus.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES - April 1948.

Lawrence's cover is unusual and good. City of the Dead is interesting and worth reprinting. Finlay's interiors are super. Austin's Masters of Fantasy is an excellent feature that should be reprinted in booklet form when enough of them are completed. The readers' column is the best in the field. We rate this issue a good B.

FANTASY BOOK
No. 2 (undated)

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION - March 1948

Rogers goes all out and gives us a real good cover this time. West Wind by Leinster and Her Majesty's Aberration by Lafayette are the best in the issue. Rogers and Cartier have excellent inside pics. The Space Suit by de Camp is very good and you will be very interested in checking the "space suit" photo on page 117 with Wesso's cover for the Sept. 1931 issue of ASTOUNDING. All

The cover of this baby pro is the most amateur job we've ever seen on a pro mag. We pick The Ship of Darkness by van Vogt as the best story in the issue. The other yarns are bad up to so-so. Interior illustrations improve from the last issue and are now fair. The Book Shelf is good. The readers' column is not bad the short. We suggest that this mag obtain better artists and better covers. The price has gone up to 35¢ for the good paper edition; the newsstand edition still at 25¢.

We rate this issue a poor C. ((This magazine is obtainable from Fantasy Pub. Co., 8318-20 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles 3, Calif.))

PLANET STORIES
Summer 1948

A fair cover this time in the usual PLANET

style. Best story is Pillar of Fire by Ray Bradbury. The rest of the yarns show an improvement over previous issues. Interior illustrations not bad at all. Readers' column is the silliest in the field. We rate this issue a poor B. -ls
The End

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

by Ray Van Houten

New methods of growing, preparing, distributing, and preparing food have a profound effect on the course of history. Canned and processed foods played a large part in the mapping-out of strategy during the Second World War; centuries ago salted meat made possible the long sea voyages of discovery and exploration; canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and thousands of other edibles have helped to raise the standard of health in the US to the highest in the world. A few years ago frozen foods won for themselves a quick place of importance in the nation's larder.

Now comes a flash in the frying pan, "electronized" foods. "Flash" is a good description, because foods to be preserved

by this method are subjected to a 4,500,000 volt bolt of manmade lightning, thereby killing off the bacteria which cause decay and spoiling. The food is not incinerated by this tremendous electrical discharge because it is of only fractions of a micro-second duration.

Dr. Arno Brasch, once sought by the Gestapo to work on the German atom bomb, is the inventor of the method, which he claims will prove of immeasurable value in preparing and distributing perishable chemicals, anti-toxins, serums, and blood plasma as well as food of all descriptions.

Cyclo-Octatetraene, COT for short, is a substance which may prove of more importance in our modern

world than even plastics have. The possibilities, exciting as yet to only chemical researchers, are being examined minutely. Because of its entirely new molecular pattern, COT is expected to yield thousands of new compounds paralleling those of the Benzene Ring series. New dyes, perfumes, plastics, medicines, and explosives with qualities never before seen are expected to derive from the work which is now being carried on.

A new radio circuit technically known as a "single-sideband" now makes short-wave radio communication just like telephoning. When this circuit comes into general use, the famous, "Roger Wilco, over" will become an antique. Radio sets could not heretofore receive and transmit at the same time, a fact which has always been a thorn in the side of every "ham". Now, with a "single-sideband" set, the nightly chatter will be more than double. The set also uses but one-third of the power of conventional sets now in use.

Not the cold germ, but a cold germ, has been isolated, tested, and pronounced the genuine article by the National Institute of Health in Washington,

DC. Its name is V14A, and tests have shown conclusively that it is neither a bacterium nor the virus which causes influenza. Penicillin and streptomycin have no effect on its virility. The electron microscope has been turned upon specimens and researchers hope that now the identity of the criminal is known, counter-measures will soon be developed which will wipe out at least this one cause of the common cold, the results of which cost the US at least a billion bucks last year. -rvh
The End

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THE FANTASY CLUBS

Organized Fandom Reports

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

Twenty - eight fans gathered at Newark, NJ for the February meeting of the Eastern Science-Fiction Association. The smaller-than-usual attendance was due to previous bad weather which made travelling difficult.

Lester Del Ray was the celebrity of the afternoon, and his explanation why he no longer writes stf was very interesting. It seems that stf and fantasy are by far the hardest pulp material to write, and are even harder to sell. Added to these difficulties is the fact that a yarn written for one pro mag must be completely re-written before it can be submitted to another, if, in deed, there would be a hope for it at all.

Therefore, said Mr. Del Ray, he has wandered to more remunerative fields.

Paul O'Connor of the New Collectors' Group, after announcing that he would shortly move to Colorado, sold several sets of proofs of the illustrations for "The Black Wheel" and five variant copies of "The

Fox Woman", donating the proceeds to the club's treasury.

Dr. Tom Gardner expressed the opinion that Campbell's idea of making ASTOUNDING read like a SatevePost of the future had fallen flat. Mr. Del Ray added that Street & Smith were not done cleaning house with their demotion of Campbell and firing of Stanton, but were hoping to get rid of the whole batch of pulp mags, including ASTOUNDING, because it interfered with their plans to publish pocket-sized books.

Director Moskowitz then revealed that the "Shaver mystery" will end with the next issue of AMAZING STORIES because the editors of that mag feel that "it has been proven twice over"!

Director Moskowitz, becoming plain "Sam" for the occasion, then auctioned off a small lot of pro mags, which netted a small sum for the club. -rvh

THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

((Note: The following accounts were extracted from copies of the official minutes.))

Meeting of 12th Jan 48

 Ten persons were present at this meeting. FJA held the floor for the entire duration, contributing various pieces of fantasy news, among which were that "World of A" will be delayed until May, that a semi-member, Eph Kornigsberg, was toying with the idea of having a large paper allotment diverted to Street & Smith so that "UNKNOWN" can be put out, that FJA is trying to sell L. Ron Hubbard's story, "Fear", to a large publisher rather than a fan outfit because he felt it merited it, and that a new magazine, "Neurotica", would soon be in the mails. Scientists, criminals, and psychologists will be among its contributors.

The meeting adjourned early, since FJA had run out of things to say.

Meeting of 22nd Jan 48

 Fourteen persons were present. FJA led off with an account of his efforts to collect \$5.00 owed the club by 20th Century-Fox for filming the clubroom. He went on to give more info regarding the sale to him of eight rare old WEIRD TALES, property of the club library, by Chas McNutt.

Walter J. Dougherty amused with few words

regarding his exchange with August W. Derleth over some letters of Lovecraft's which WJD had intended to publish privately for his own amusement. Derleth, being the owner of the Lovecraft estate, threatened suit, causing WJD to drop the project.

FJA announced, among other things, that L. Ron Hubbard had sold a story entitled "180,000 Miles Straight Up" to THRILLING WONDER STORIES.

Dale Hart broke the news that the Shaver-Mystery was shortly to be discontinued in AMAZING STORIES.

After more discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 P. M.

Meeting of 29th Jan 48

 Fourteen persons were present at this meeting. While FJA was holding forth on the subject of L. Ron Hubbard, REWARD walked in Rog Phillips.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Phillips said, "There isn't going to be any Shaver Mystery at two issues from now. On March 10 the April issue of AMAZING STORIES will be on the stands. It will contain the summation of the Shaver Mystery, the proof of the Shaver Mystery --- complete with photographs, letters, and so on. Palmer's editorial in that issue will go something like

this: "We have definitely proved that the Shaver Mystery is the truth ---- and since this magazine is devoted to fiction, rather than fact, we must discontinue it". Mr. Phillips stated that the fans' criticism had nothing to do with the discontinuance of the Mystery, and "that his fan column has nothing to do with Shaver". He admitted that he "hasn't been able to read Shaver's stuff for quite awhile". He also said that "Palmer has difficulties in getting the writers he wants".

Gas Willmorth said that Shasta Publishers next book would be "Who Goes There" by Stuart (John W Campbell)

FJA then finished his yarn about Hubbard by telling about LRE's book, "Excalibur", the inspiration for which was gained during an eight minute period of death which the author went through, and which had the alleged effect of driving four of its readers insane.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P. M. -ajc

 THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

 The Feb. 1st meeting of the PSFS was the first one under the new club administration. Committees were appointed as follows: House Committee, Al Pepper; Entertain-

ment Committee, James A. Williams, Valerie Davis, Alexander M. Phillips; Program Committee, Oswald Train, Robert A. Madlo, M. A. Rothman; Membership Committee, Helen Cloukey, Harry Buck, Larry Benedict.

A drive was begun to plan programs several meetings in advance. A number of promises for talks were obtained.

M. A. Rothman spoke on the development of nuclear physics, the general purpose of the talk being to explain just what nuclear physicists were trying to do aside from manufacturing bombs. -mar

AVON FANTASY READER

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BOOK REVIEW

The Key to the Great Gate

Possibly the least publicised fantasy novel, and a very good one, of recent months, is Hinko Gottlieb's "Key to the Great Gate", Simon & Schuster, 1947, 178 pp, for \$2.75. This house is putting out A. E. Van Vogt's three books, "World of Null-A", "The Weapon Makers", and "Blam"; every fan knows that unless he were dumb and blind, but who ever heard of "Key to the Great Gate"?

The book deals with the adventures in a Viennese prison cell of three ordinary men and Tarnapolski, the scientist, who has discovered and is able to control the fundamental nature of space as postulated by post-Einsteinian mathematics. Now these men live in luxury to the intense discomfiture of their German captors is a tale that is always amusing and often extremely diverting.

The book and the author each have an interesting history. Hinko Gottlieb is a Yugoslavian now living in Palestine who lost fortune, sons, and country in the Second World War. His long imprisonment by the Gestapo furnished the authentic background

of the "Key". The original manuscript was written in the Serbo-Croat language, and destroyed by the Germans. Later it was completed & translated into German, from which this edition was taken.

While this book is not an all-time classic, it is a most enjoyable fantasy, and deserves mention in any roster of recommended reading for the sf and/or fantasy fan. -Ray Van Houten

Stf Items

by John Giunta

RECORDS: Capitol Records has an album out called "Music From Out The Moon". It features that utterly weird and electronic instrument, the "Theremin".

That instrument was the musical backbone for the pictures "The Lost Weekend" and "Spellbound". The album is pleasant and weird listening.

The Theremin has a chorus and orchestral background.

CARTOON: I understand that the D.C. SUPERMAN offices have a complete file on Stf weird and fantasy pre mags. This fits in with Mort Weisinger & Julius Schwartz both being editors there. -JG

FANTASY IN THE THEATRE

by David Kishi

On February 7 to 8, 1948, on SUSPENSE (WCBS N. Y. - 8 P. M.), was presented a full hour story embellishing the talents of Robert Montgomery and John McIntire, both well-known to all theatre goers. Like the SUSPENSE of Thursday nights, there was presented a play which would appeal to all fantasy fans. It was "Donavan's Brain" by Curt Siodmak. Having never read the book, I was rather handicapped when I listened to this program since I could not tell whether the scriptwriters were at fault, or whether the original novel was. In the radio adaptation, a Dr. Patrick Arthur Cory has managed to harness the brain of William H. Donovan to an aseillo-graph which sends out sound waves, when the brain reacts to stimuli. Gradually, Dr. Cory succeeds in making contact with the brain, and he anxiously awaits each message with a red fervor. Dr. Cory is obsessed with the realization that Donovan's brain is alive, in contact with him, sending messages to him; and he, after a time, is taken completely into control

of the brain. Dr. Cory discovers himself signing the name William H. Donovan, smoking a cigar, where he never smoked before, and that his voice at the oddest times turns to a deep bass. He is taking on the characteristics of Donovan. Attempting to destroy the brain, which he finally realizes is evil, he discovers that he is completely in its control and cannot do anything against it. In the end, however, he manages to get rid of the brain but not without a price----. His wife is on the brink of insanity, he has killed his son, and he himself is dead.

The story of Donovan's Brain itself is a good one; moreover, it is basically sound as a piece of radio drama. However, one inconsistency ruined the entire story. Let us look over the facts

-----: In the end, Dr. Cory is so controlled by the mind of Donovan that he cannot destroy it. Even with the help of his son, David, and his assistant, he cannot do anything. Then, out of a maraculous period of enlightenment, in an effort to get rid of the brain, Dr.

Cory operates on his own son. After removing the brain of his son, he mutters something to the effect that now he knows why the brain had this control over him and why he had operated on his son, and so on. He, then, is able to destroy the brain of Donovan. Why? We don't know. He destroyed the brain of his son, and in doing so, he was given some power or something which enabled him to withstand the thoughtwaves of Donovan's brain. What we would like to know is, where is the consistency? Why did he have to destroy his son before he could destroy Donovan's brain? Why didn't Donovan's brain not have control over him as before? We'd like to know. This is the only criticism we have in this radioplay. In acting, sound effects, dialogue, and music, the standard was above average, though, we must add that the man-to-man explaining the story, between acts, was one of the worst things ever done.

John Giunta, Weird Tales' artist, sends in the following:

Have recently seen Jean Cocteau's adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" and it is good. The highlights of this fantasy are Cocteau's surrealist interpretations of the

Beast and the interior of his castle and properties. I understand Cocteau has some other

fantasies out on Broadway, but haven't been able to find them yet. The End

TOME TALK

by Alex Osheroff

The past two months have presented slim fare for this column and the book collector. As a matter of fact only three items of top drawer classification have made their appearance during that period of time. They're "The Arkham Sampler". (Arkham House, \$1), "Carnacki The Ghost-Finder", (Arkham House, \$3) and "The Black Flame" (Fantasy Press, \$3), the last of the trio coming just as this piece is bedded down.

"The Arkham Sampler" which we feel strongly tempted to call "The Derleth Sampler" is a quite unusual production and certainly not one, by any stretch of the imagination to be dismissed with the words, "So what". The format of the "Sampler" is excellent, typography large, well set up and quite inviting and the permanent cover by Ronald Clyne is a very good job. The contents however are quite a different matter. There is a great percentage of Derlethiana within the blue covers that pops out at you at a cursory reading. Upon

a more thorough reading and examination the percentage grows still larger and if as I strongly suspect there are two pseudonyms of Mr. Derleth in the book and that Stephen Grendon and August Derleth are one and the same the percentage reaches mountainous proportions. Which is all right I suppose except that it all shrieks out at you. "Not to be rebutted!"

Take the "Books of the Quarter" department for instance which is not only certainly a department for reviewing fantasy books but a sanctioned place and a suitable vehicle for panning people. Or take the "Editorial Commentary" in which Mr. Derleth asserts in no uncertain terms that those people who believe that the present day WHIRL TALES has slipped more than just a bit since the Farnsworth Wright era are merely worshippers at the shrine of the "good old days" and of course wrong. Or take the same section where Mr. Derleth states that Dorothy McIlraith and

Lament Buchanan would be in "extremis" before rejecting (which Farnsworth Wright did) his "classic" tale "The Panellled Room", and on page 94 wherein Mr. Derleth intimates he is a star (writer). Certainly no false modesty here.

Then too, there is the cute little trend of thought that runs through the book. The one that says sometimes softly, sometimes loudly that there are three distinctions of fantasy enthusiasts: the effie-ionado, the scholar and the "fan-collector" and that the latter is quite often synonymous with the word "scum" though of course Mr. Derleth does not use that ungentle word. However in most cases I identified myself and in myself the average person not entirely allergic to science-fiction with Mr. Derleth's usage of the word "Fan-collector", could of course be an inferiority or persecution complex but I think not.

There are of course many more features listed on the contents page than we have itemized so far and they are on the whole quite good. In the fiction section there is the piece that so many fans have been clamoring for, especially in the columns of FAMOUS -continue on page 14-

A MESSAGE FROM ALBERT EINSTEIN

If the present bitterness continues to dominate international relations we face catastrophe. We cannot count on the prestige or strength of any single nation to bring about international stability. The power that one country possesses today, tomorrow will belong also to others. Industrial installations, however complex, can be duplicated; inventive ingenuity and economic resources can be exploited under other systems of government. So long as international relations are determined by rival national sovereignties, the threat of atomic war will remain.

We scientists believe that a clear and widespread understanding of facts and implications of the atomic discoveries is indispensable to a reasonable public stand on questions of international politics. We believe that with such understanding, the American people will choose from among many paths to reach a peaceful solution and that they will move towards such a solution and not toward war. And we believe that, in the long run, security for all nations demands a supranational solution.

Now still a little time remains for us to consider different paths leading to the establishment of a federation of nations in which men may develop and use their creative capacities to serve mankind. Each one of us can do his part by working to bring about responsible public action based on understanding of the present crisis. Through our campaign of public education on the simple facts of atomic energy and its social implications, we of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists have pledged our utmost effort to this end. Friends have already subscribed \$400,000.00 of the one million dollars we need to carry out our minimum program. I ask your help in fulfilling our task.

* * *

Fandom has done many things in its years of existence. No united attempt of fandom could be for a cause as important and pressing as this one. We who have been readers of science fiction for years KNOW what an atomic war would mean. We KNOW of the hell and destruction such an event promises.

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TOME TALK

-continued from p. 12-

FANTASTIC MYSTERIES.
Its "The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath" in which Lovecraft burlesques Lovecraft. Also "Mara" by Stephen Graddon and "Messrs. Turkes and Talbot" by H. Russell Wakefield. In the non-fiction department we have "An Introduction: Strange Ports of Call", "History and Chronology of the Necronomicon", "A Little Anthology" and "Checklist, The Carvings of Clark Ashton Smith", and to close the contents there are three pieces of poetry by Clark Ashton Smith and one by Leah Bodine Drake. There is much that is good to choose from in this selection but it is also true that some of the contents shout louder and with perhaps less modesty than others.

Further Sauk City Saga Department: William Hope Hodgson's "Carnacki The Ghost-Finder" is the latest of the Mycroft and Moran presentations and the joint consensus of opinion seems to be that its a volume well worth having. The nine tales comprising its 241 pages are in fairly large type size which of course will be good news to many.

Fantasy Press Parade Department: And of course, here's good

news for the long-awaited "The Black Flame" by Stanley G. Weinbaum is finally out. This is an item we can hardly recommend strongly enough. "The Black Flame" and "Dawn of Flame" both within the same volume are Weinbaum at his best and Weinbaum at his best is something more than just merely satisfactory. There are 240 pages in the book and artist Donnell has done two double page spreads plus a frontispiece.

The End

Fantasy-Times

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Editorial

by James V. Taurasi

This month instead of the usual type of editorial, we'll talk about Fantasy - Times. First: The most of our departments are staff written, all our readers are invited to contribute to them. Dave Kishi for example is always asking for help in filling his column; Our news departments can always use all types of fantasy news and news-items. Any reader who wants to write an article will find Fantasy-Times has space for it. Then again, some reader may run across a new idea for a steady department; that too we can use. AND let's not forget "The Fantasy Corner" where the reader can blow

his top off on any fantasy subject. This column is missing this month, due to lack of interesting letters. Suggestions on improving Fantasy-Times are always welcomed, as we try to improve our magazine at all times.

We wish to thank at this time, STARTLING STORIES and AMAZING STORIES for their kind reviews of Fantasy-Times. Our subscription list is now at an all time high.

Just a final word. We want to say that due to lack of time, we have not had a chance to answer all letters written to us, please excuse any delays, we'll try to answer them as soon as possible.

-jvt

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