

# Fantasy-Times

A Cosmic Publication

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## THE FANTASY CLUBS

# WEATHER HOLDS ESFA CONVENTION DOWN TO 85

Newark, March 7, (CNS) The Third Anniversary Convention of the Eastern Science Fiction Association, held Sunday, March 7th, was the most successful gathering the club has ever held. In spite of the miserable weather, eighty-five fans and celebrities congregated to wish the Esfa "Happy Birthday." No business was conducted at the meeting, the time being wholly devoted to presenting the exceptional program.

## NOTICE!

Due to the increase in prices of mimeographing supplies and paper, we are forced to increase the price of FANTASY-TIMES to 15 cents a copy, 2 issues for 25cents and \$1.00 for 8 issues. All subscriptions in 'by the time this issue is sent out will be honored at the old price. Advertising rates remain the same as before!

-James V. Taurasi, publisher

Announcing the formation of

### THE FANTASY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Any fantasy fan who has served a minimum of three months in the military service of the United States of America is eligible for membership.

Any fantasy fan who is interested in becoming a charter member of the FANTASY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION can obtain full particulars and application blank by writing to

James V. Taurasi,  
101-02 Northern Blvd.,  
Corona, LI, NY.

Sam Merwin, Jr., editor of Standard's Science-fiction mags, led the roster of speakers by explaining the motives behind the change to a more mature approach in his mags, THRILLING WONDER STORIES, and STARTLING STORIES. Science-fiction, he believed, had evolved beyond the point where mere gadgetry would satisfy his readers. Humor, sound characterization and other refinements must now be included in a good fantasy tale.

Dr. Edward L. Simons, assistant professor of chemistry at Rutgers University and representative of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, laid down the policy of that organization for all fandom to hear. Dr. Simons stated that

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*"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"*



# THE COSMIC REPORTER

by James V. Taurasi

It started in February of this year; at the monthly meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association. A certain "limited edition" book publisher stood on his hind legs and announced that FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES was going to fold this Fall. As usual, Lloyd Alpaugh, Jr who jots down all the news he hears at these meetings for fandom's popular newssheet, TYMPANI, send the item in, not stating, of course, where he picked up that choice item. TYMPANI's editors, a little hard pressed for time, didn't bother to check on the item and published it.

TYMPANI winged its way to the west coast, where "No. 1 fan" 4sJ Ackerman picked it up and announced it to the local fantasy club, The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, not checking on it first.

Arthur Jean Cox, Secretary of the LASEFS included it in the minutes, and mailed a copy of it for publication in FANTASY-TIMES. (published in this issue -ed)

The editor of FANTASY-TIMES brought it to the editors of FFM, asking them about it. They stated that the rumor was untrue and

that they knew nothing about FFM folding. They went further than this, Mr. Norton, editorial director of Popular Publications, Inc. publishers of FFM, wrote to TYMPANI demanding that it retract the statement that FFM was to fold, -----or else! Mr. Norton also took the LASEFS to task for sending out their minutes, for publication, in which was the statement that FFM was going to fold.

Fans and otherwise, should be a little more careful before they open their big mouths at science-fiction meetings, -----unless they can backup what they say with facts. Here a small statement brought needless trouble across the country.

About a year or so ago, FANTASY - TIMES published a statement, quoting L. Jerome Stanton, then Assistant Editor of ASTOUNDING, that Street & Smith made a "deal" with Columbia Publications for the rights to the title SCIENCE FICTION, so that ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION could become SCIENCE FICTION. Now Mr. Campbell tells us that no "deal" was ever made. Mr.

Campbell informs us that a magazine must publish four issues a year to hold on to its title. Since Columbia hasn't published SCIENCE FICTION in years, the title is wide open.

Mr. Campbell went on to inform us that he had started ASTOUNDING on the road to become SCIENCE FICTION when he changed the name from ASTOUNDING STORIES to ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION ten years ago, but then Columbia put out SCIENCE FICTION and Campbell had to delay the gradual change. When asked when the actual change would take place; Mr. Campbell informed us that he did not know, but it would not happen until the readers began to call it SCIENCE FICTION instead of ASTOUNDING.

Laurence Mannings famous series from the old WONDER STORIES, "The Man Who Awoke", has been placed with a commercial book publisher and is scheduled to appear in the near future, with necessary revisions to bring it up to date. -sm

Milt Rothman reports: "The Philadelphia Bulletin" carried a two-column review of "World of A" by Roy K. Marshall, who is Philly's top science writer. -continued on page 15-



# 1947 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

## Part III - WEIRD TALES

WEIRD TALES has a peculiar policy. They seem to want very short stories in which it is difficult to develop horror themes to the best. I have always liked WEIRD, and still do, but I find many persons who formerly liked the mag, do not now.

January 1947 issue: Edmond Hamilton's The King of Shadows is the best of the issue. A weird-fantasy that you won't forget at once.

March 1947 issue: For once the whole issue is good, with special attention to E. F. Russell's Venturer of the Martian Mimics, a science-fiction; Fluffy by T. Sturgeon for horror; and to me, amusing witch tale by Robert Bloch, Sweets to the Sweet. Witches are not always old women or so this story will convince you!

May 1947 issue: Seabury Quinn's Masked Ball recalls the good weird stories of twenty years ago. You will like it for Quinn is a master at his art. W. Tenn's Mistress Sary is an interesting story of the children's cycle. A good werewolf story is Loup-

Garou by Manly Banister.

July 1947 issue: This is a banner issue. The Will of Claude Ashur is a real weird. Bradbury's Interim is a short short of striking writing, while R. S. Vreeland's The Robe of Forgetfulness will hold your attention. How would you like to put on the robe? M. E. Counselman's The Breeze and I is very good.

September 1947 issue: The best, H. Lawlor's The Girdle of Venus is very funny. How would you like to have a girdle that made every one love you, especially if you were a woman? Plenty can happen in such a

case.

November 1947 issue: This issue has some good stuff. The poorest is Ross' The Last Adam and Eve. Harding's The Inn by Doomsday Falls is a weird of sorts, that has the element of terror. S. Grendon's The Ghost Walk is excellent. M. E. Counselman's The Lens is the best of the issue. You will like G. Whitley's Castaway-----until you finish, then you will feel frustrated.

The year 1947 in WEIRD TALES does not offer outstanding material, but most is readable, unless you happen to be a perfectionist. If you are then don't read WEIRD TALES at all. -tsg

-----  
Thomas S. Gardner will review the 1947 issues of FAMOUS FANTASTIC-MYSTERIES in our next issue. -ed  
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## BOOK REVIEW

### World Aflame

WORLD AFLAME, The Russian-American War of 1950 by Engel and Piller (Dial Press, 1947, \$2.00)

"It is now May 14, 1955....the fifth anniversary of the beginning of the war between the United States and the Soviet Union...." With these words begins one of the most frightening books that has been published in recent

years. Frightening, because it so accurately depicts the not-so-distant future.

Most fans have read one or more of the gloomy post-atomic war stories that have appeared in recent months in ASTOUNDING and elsewhere. Yet, it



must be admitted that all too many fans do not realize what the full significance of atomic war actually means. And it is not their fault entirely, but also the fault of the authors. For how many authors simply begin their stories against a background of atomic destruction without adequately explaining the specific nature of the destruction?

That is what World Aflame attempts to do. It does not gild the lily, it does not speak about 'mysterious "Nation X"s'. It quite frankly and honestly recognizes the fact that if there is to be an atomic war it will be between the United States and Russia.

Some people may find the book brutal. Between the lines one can read a searing indictment of international diplomacy. The ugliness of war, not only atomic war, but all war is bluntly portrayed. And yet, the book is not an allegory, nor a parable, it is simple, straightforward account of people caught in a world holocaust not of their making, and of their leaders and generals.

The most frightening thing about the book is the author's lack of imagination. None of the gadgets so dear to the heart of sf hacks appear. There

are no force-screens, no cosmic-powered bombs, no secret new rays, in fact, even the rockets described are simply slightly improved versions of present models. It's as if a history of World War II was written in which the nations used only the weapons current in 1936. Nothing is described which does not exist, though at present only on the drawing boards or in the laboratories. But 35 million Americans are killed with these weapons.

Strangely enough, the country holds together. Most authors have pictured the government as completely

disintegrating under such conditions. But it does not, though the U. S. is A-bombed, subjected to biological warfare, and dusted with radioactive materials. And the Russian government holds out, too. The battle goes on, year after year, with a slow, crushing certainty, and less and less is left to fight over.

I would advise getting a copy now, for two reasons. First of all, the book will be hard to obtain by 1950. Secondly, maybe you'll be able to trade it for a can of beans in 1951. Assuming you survive.

-Joe Schaumburger  
The End

## THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

by Ray Van Houten

Remember H. G. Wells' "Food of the Gods" and its account, wholly fictional, of a substance which made living organisms grow to heroic proportions?

Such a substance has recently been discovered by Dr. Alfred Wilhelmi of the Yale University School of Medicine. It is in the form of rectangular-shaped, colorless, and transparent crystals, representing painstaking work by Dr

Wilhelmi, Dr. Jacob B. Fishman, and Dr. Jane A. Russell, and is the result of a search for pure, concentrated growth hormone.

Experimental rats, injected with the substance, double their weight in a few weeks. The gain is not fat, but a general growth of all organs and tissues.

The vistas of fantasy which this discovery opens to view is practically limitless.



In addition to the more sensational possibilities, some of which H. G. Wells himself pointed out such as lice as big as rabbits and rabbits as big as cows, there are many more practical and more fruitful uses to which the substance can be put. Now insight into the mechanics of growth is expected; quicker recovery from the wasting effects of some diseases could possibly result; and humans whose growth has been stunted by lack of natural hormone might be aided to their proper stature.

Even if we should encounter another ice age, when the sun dims to a fraction of its usual warmth and brightness, science now gives us assurance that we need not strive to death.

Sunless gardening, growing plants under artificial light with no aid whatever from the sun, is now a practical, cheap, and efficient reality.

The advantages of artificial lighting may be seen at a glance. Seasons are eliminated, there are no more cloudy days, light intensity may be regulated to a fraction of a candlepower, the lengths of day and night may be altered to suit whatever rhythm is found best

for quick growth and heavy yield.

The system works as well for a small indoor, "window-box" type of garden as well as for one the size of a greenhouse. It is cheap and efficient. In conjunction with hydroponic farming, it could revolutionize the food-producing industry in as short a time as it takes to convert an old abandoned factory building. It would bring the food production plant right into the heart of its market.

Another striking advantage is that even in the colder portions of the country, no additional heat is required beyond the lamp or lamps which supply the artificial sunlight. These lamps are nothing more than the familiar 40-watt cold-cathode type fluorescent tubes that are seen in store fixtures and displays all over the country. They come in many different types and colors, all of which are used in sunless gardening.

Burglars of the future may have to inch along like snails and handle their tools in slow-motion if a new burglar-detection device comes into general use.

The device operates on the same principle as the proximity fuse.

Radio short waves are broadcast, reflected from nearby surfaces, received and translated by servo-motors and other intermediate devices into action. Five-inch radio waves are used to detect motion as slow as one mile per hour. Persons approaching the installation can hardly therefore escape detection. It is a development of General Electric Corporation.

The End

### NOW IS THE TIME TO

### JOIN THE

### TORCON SOCIETY

It takes money to put on a successful World Convention AND that money is needed BEFORE the convention is put on. SO, insure the success of the coming 6th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION to be held this summer in Toronto, Canada, JOIN THE TORCON SOCIETY.

Only \$1.00 makes you a full member and you will be helping to make this coming World Convention the big thing it should be.

Ned McKeown,  
1398 Mt. Pleasant Rd  
Toronto 12, Ontario,  
Canada.



# THE FANTASY CLUBS

-continued from p. 1-

the time when a voluntary union between the nations of the world to outlaw the use of atomic weapons is past. His conclusion was that a world government which would override any thought of national sovereignty is not only a necessity if any of the human race is to survive, but an inevitability.

Dr. Tom Gardner, long-time member of the Esfa, then outlined a series of objectives which he believed could successfully fill the vacuum which now seems to exist in the imaginations of the world's peoples. Among these objectives goals toward which concerted effort could be profitably expended are space travel and the discovery of other sentient life in the universe, a workable world government, the elimination of disease, and the increase of the human life span.

Director Sam Moskowitz then read the speech, "The Place of SF in Modern Literature", which was to be delivered by Dr. A. Langley Searles, publisher of "FANTASY COMMENTATOR", who could not attend. The talk pointed out that sf's place in literature is growing fast because of the serious efforts being put forth to

bring the best obtainable material to the eye of the general-reading public in the form of books.

Mr. Orrin Keepnews, of Simon & Schuster, Inc., large New York publishing house, which will shortly release A. E. Van Vogt's "World of A", followed with a few words regarding his firm's present and future plans in fantasy books. He said that although no definite commitments had been made, Simon & Schuster were willing to put out any fantasy book which could stand up to the competition of the regular run of fiction on the market.

Among the personalities present were Ted Sturgeon, George O. Smith, Milt Rothman, Alfred Prime, Will Sykora, Ossie Train, Julius Unger, Jimmy Taurasi, James V. Cullum, Ray Van Houten, Alex Osheroff, and others.

An auction followed adjournment in which many choice items went across the board to high bids ranging from 20¢ to \$25, this last being the knock-down on a fine oil painting by J. Allen St. John.

The Esfa wish to thank FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES & FANTASTIC NOVELS; THRILLING WONDER STORIES & STARTLING STORIES; and ASTOUNDING SF for their generous donation of original illustrations

for the auction, without which the convention would not have been possible. -rvh

## THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

Meeting of February 12

4sJ Jackerman, Billie Cox, Vic Clark, Jean Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Calvin Shaefer, Oliver King Smith, Gus Willmorth and A. E. van Vogt were present at this meeting.

Walt Daugherty read us the much-discussed letter from August Derleth on the Lovecraft-deCastro affair.

4sJ announced that he had just received a letter from John W. Campbell, Jr., who says that during 1948 an Unknown Annual will appear. ((see April issue of FANTASY-TIMES for complete details)) A. E. van Vogt revealed that although Campbell calls the annual "a crack in the wall", he is still hesitating about issuing UNKNOWN WORLDS on its old schedule basis. He may, instead, decide to put out a companion science-fiction magazine to ASTOUNDING or he might issue ASF bi-weekly instead of monthly. (this was poo-pooed by Campbell -ed)

Forest told us that Ray Bradbury will do the introduction to



Theodore Sturgeon's book, "Without Sorcery" to be issued soon by Prime Press. He also read us a section from Henlein's book, "Rocket Ship Galileo" which contained a discussion as to whether the moon has a back, or not. Everybody enjoyed this little piece from the book, which is advertised as being a juvenile.

Gus Willmorth told us that the planners of the TORCON want suggestions for things to put on their program. E. Evans suggested a debate between those who like gadget type stories and those who like the newer sociology-type stories. He also reminded us that the NFFF expected us to mail them what our selections were of the finest fantasy and science-fiction illustrations so that they can publish a selection in a booklet. He made a motion that next week everyone bring, or list, their three favorite illustrations that have appeared in magazines. The motion was second and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

#### Meeting of February 19

The treasurer told us that there was \$6.35 in the treasury.

Van Vogt is going

to make a speech on science-fiction before the Manuscripter's Club, on the 2nd Friday of March. Ackerman will introduce him.

Ackerman had a couple of things to say:

1) Altho, he and Dale Hart didn't enjoy the current Spanish fantasy movie playing at the California and the Mason, the next one, "The Stronger Sex" looks interesting.

2) Famous Fantastic Mysteries will be on the stands for the last time when its October issue appears; it is collapsing due to poor sales. ((it's not so says its editors))

Our selections of favorite fantasy and sf illustrations were turned over to Everette. The artists most frequently mentioned were Cartier, Dold, Paul and Schoeman, along with Finlay and Rogers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

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#### Meeting of February 26

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A. E. van Vogt, his wife, E. Mayne Hull, author of the "Arthur Blord" series; E. Everett Evans, whose story, "The Undead Die", will appear in WEIRD TALES; Floyd M. Gerley, who wrote a book under a pen name; and Dale Hart, whose story "The Tongue and the

Dragon" will appear in FANTASY BOOK were at this meeting plus the regular members.

Van Vogt informed us that the rumor that Simon & Schuster are to put out Slam and The Weapon Makers was ~~just that~~ a rumor. As yet, Mr. Simon or Mr. Schuster have made no direct offer to him.

Arthur Louis Joquel told us that they are going to shoot off another rocket. By 'they' I mean the Pasadena Reaction Research Society, whom the L. A. DAILY NEWS call "the hotrod kids of the future". They are going to fire this one over land -- not a river: They had to swim for the last one.

'Theodore' is now in New York to try his great skill and his enthusiastic talent. Van Vogt has suggested that if any of us have any contacts there to write them with reference to 'Theodore'; he might find such reference useful.

When questioned about the speech which he is to give before the Manuscripter's Club next Friday, van Vogt told us that he would be allowed to bring anyone he pleased ~~ed~~ ---- that means us. His speech will be from 30 to 40 minutes in length.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05  
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## THE FANTASY CORNER

A Department For Our Readers

### A LETTER FROM THOMAS S. GARDNER REGARDING ROGER GRAHAM'S ARTICLES IN AMAZING STORIES.

Dear Jimmy:

In accordance with my recent letter I am inclosing a total analysis of three articles by Graham. The analysis was carried out by myself and a friend, a Ph. D. (Columbia) mathematician, who has specialized in the theory of sets, metric surfaces, topology, and relativity.

A brief summary of the seven, single-spaced typewritten pages of mathematics and discussions is given here. The complete analysis has been sent as follows:

One copy to Roger P. Graham, and one copy to James V. Taurasi for filing with FANTASY-TIMES material for reference for any one wishing to use them. I have also sent a photostat of the articles in question to for convenience in reading the analyses. ((The complete seven page analysis will be published by FANTASY-TIMES in the near future as a small booklet - editor))

"The Frame Concept of Numbers, Time and Space". The subject matter of this article is the Theory of Sets. This is a fundamental basis of several branches of mathematics and is of importance as developed by the specialists in the field. About 75% of the article is correctly developed. The remainder is not and is incorrect. A confusion of definitions accounts for part of the incorrect part, and some of it is not logically developed, technically called nonsense reasoning. A looseness of definition of number,  $dy/dx$ , etc., leads to erroneous conclusions as noted. We could not find anything new nor of great importance. A clear version of this may be found in Hausdorff's "Mengenlehre" or in Russell's "Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy". However Graham should receive credit for attempting this work, even though part of it is incorrect.

"Is There an Ether Drift"

The mathematics in this article are in good shape. It is impossible to give a correct interpretation of the data submitted without further work. We do not believe Graham has proven an ether drift, and believe there exists a confusion in regard to his definition of ether drift. The theory of ether drift assumes a static ether with the earth passing through it exhibiting a drag. There would be components, feeble in comparison to those tangential to the surface downward in such a theory, but there would not be just a drift toward the center of the earth. We have suggested several things to Mr. Graham to consider, and do not offer a flat interpretation at the present time. Further work will be carried out on this component. Strange as Mr. Graham seems to believe, we have not doubted his observation of an aberration, but simply doubt the interpretation. A discussion of errors of measurement is included, and also the consideration of astronomical aberration. The latter is not offered at the present time, as it



would permit measuring the velocity of the earth from the earth, which contradicts one of the principles of relativity. Implications of the experiment are pointed out, such as that the angle of reflection would not be equal to the angle of incidence for light.

"Unification of Newtonian and Einsteinian Mass Concepts".

This article is rather jumbled up, and an examination of the mathematical analysis given would be necessary to explain in detail. If interested see copies filed with Mr. Taurasi. The references used are Carmichael, Theory of Relativity; Eddington, Math. Theory of Relativity, and Lorentz, Problems of Modern Physics. Elementary explanations of relativity usually confused. So advise examination of complete analysis.

As ever,

Thomas S. Gardner

IN ANSWER TO THE ABOVE LETTER WE HAVE ONE FROM ROGER B. GRAHAM

Dear Jimmy,

It is understandable that Dr. Gardner, who is not a mathematician, should exhibit confusion on the basics of accepted mathematics while trying to use that mathematics to refute my frame article. I cannot understand a Ph. D. (Columbia), Mathematician who has specialized in the theory of sets, metric surfaces, topology, and relativity, possessing such confusion on the basics in his several specialized fields.

Complete ignorance of Cantor is apparent in the analysis. All infinities are lumped under the one term, Aleph, without a subscript. Dr. Gardner and his specialist friend assert that the cardinality of the class of finite integers is the same as the cardinality of the set of points that is a line. They calmly assert that my  $n_0$  is in reality "Aleph", then just as calmly go about the business of doing what I expressly warned them against; - paragraph 5 of my second letter in Fantasy-Times. Remember?

If they had stuck to the authorities they mention, then their errors would have been merely the errors of those authorities. The only authoritative statement appearing in the analysis is one from Bertrand Russell whom they imply is the final word on basic mathematics, indisputable and forever unalterable. I say that here because I wish to point out that Russell himself would not imply such a thing. Moreover, he has been made obsolete in some of his works already and has himself corrected errors of conclusion several times so that some of his standard works, far from being final truth, are already badly in need of revision in the light of more recent work.

"The cardinal number of a class C is the class of all classes that are equivalent to C." is the statement from Russell I am referring to.

This statement is weak in two places. First, it assumes that "for every class there is a cardinal number." Second, it assumes that "there is a method for proving beyond question that C is equivalent to at least one other class."

Therefore it seems that Dr. Gardner and his friend have unconsciously accepted the postulate contained in Russell's statement and have categorically denied the possibility of the alternative; - there is some class that does not have a cardinal number, and the alternative; - the method for proving the equivalence of two classes is open to question. Denying these two alternatives, they of course branded any passage in my Frame article that did not fit into their denial as either false or "not making any sense"; so that a priori it had to be either



entirely in agreement with accepted theory (in which case it contributes nothing of value to existing work), or it was false.

I would be interested in having Dr. Gardner and his friend refute the following reasoning in the pages of FANTASY-TIMES for its readers.

THE CLASS OF FINITE INTEGERS IS A NON CARDINAL CLASS.

Proof:- Let any set of finite integers be  $N_f$ . Then

$$N_{f_i} = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, f_i.$$

and  $f_i$  is the cardinal of that set. But it is also a member of that set, hence, is a finite integer.

Since  $N_{f_i}$  is any set of finite integers, it follows, by mathematical induction, that every set of finite integers has a cardinal number which is a finite integer, and which is an element of that set.

The class of all finite integers cannot have a member which is not a finite integer. The cardinal number of the class of finite integers must be a finite number. Proof:- let  $Q$  be said to be the cardinal number of some set of finite integers, but also be defined as greater than any finite number. It is then not an element of that set and by mathematical induction can be shown to be greater than the cardinal number of that set. It follows that the cardinal number of the class of all finite numbers must be a finite number.

Let  $F$  be the cardinal number of the class of all finite integers. Then by mathematical induction it can be shown that  $F$  must be the greatest finite integer. But  $2F$  would be a finite integer greater than  $F$ . It follows that there can be no greatest finite integer, and hence no cardinal number to the class of all finite integers.

Therefore the class of all finite integers is a non--cardinal class. In other words, there is no number, however defined, to describe the number of finite integers; for there is no NUMBER of finite integers.

Any symbol such as Aleph sub oh, said to describe the cardinality of the class of all finite integers, cannot be said to be a number. Therefore, Aleph sub oh is the symbol for non-cardinality, rather than the symbol for an infinite NUMBER.

In my Frame Concept, a Frame is defined as a non-cardinal class. The class of all finite integers is then the finite integer frame.

If Dr. Gardner and his friend can refute the above reasoning I would like to see it done, by specific, logical steps, so that the reader and I can understand it. An assertion that so-and-so who is a specialist SAYS it is wrong, is NOT a refutation! An assertion that the refutation of the above is on file with Mr. Taurasi is ALSO a refutation!

And since Dr. Gardner has not yet disproven the above, he is NOT in a position to comment even intelligently on the rest of the Frame Concept. Not understanding this first bit, how COULD he understand anything developed from it?

If you are interested, - their refutation of the above in the papers on file with Mr. Taurasi consists of the statements, "We can so invent a symbol and define it as the cardinal number of the class of all finite integers." And, "We do not assert a contradiction when we say the class of all finite integers is an infinite number. All we say



is that the number of finite integers is greater than any finite integer." All they need to do to understand is add the thought, "But since the number of finite integers would have to be a finite integer, and it cannot be, there IS NO number of finite integers. Hence - a non-cardinal class!" As it is, their refutation is undignified.

Roger P. Graham

AND TO CLOSE THIS DEPARTMENT FOR THIS MONTH, WE HAVE ONE OF THOSE "CUTE" POSTCARDS THAT EVERY EDITOR GETS NOW AND THEN. AS USUAL THE WRITER DIDN'T SIGN HIS RIGHT NAME:

Dear Mr. Taurasi: I DEFY YOU TO PUBLISH THIS:

There once was a writer named Keller  
Every story he wrote was a smeller  
And when it was found  
That he lived underground  
-- Why they called him "The Thing in  
the Cellar"!

by A. Nonimus Phan

## TOME TALK

by Alex Osheroff

Talk about April showers! This time the great majority of books that have been carried in previous columns as "pending" have come forth in a veritable flood and your reviewer and the fantasy reader-collector has been inundated.

We have before us, though in semi-nude form, the item that has been termed by your humble writer and others less humble as the forerunner and harbinger of a new cycle, the Keller Cycle. We say semi-nude of "Life Everlasting and Other Tales Of Science, Fantasy and Horror" since due to publication mishaps of classic proportions including the expiration of the

printer soon after the book was done, the cover jacket is not yet with us and a part of the book, while the bibliography has been published separately as a supplement.

The format of the book may be termed good, the quality of the text, we think, must be termed excellent. It is a "fanny" book. That is, the text is not merely presented alone with a "there you are, draw your own conclusions" attitude. There is the appetizer and the dessert in the form of the Keller photograph, the list of acknowledgements to the familiar and unfamiliar magazines and a lengthy introduction

which is the best we have seen in a "semi-pro" fantasy book. And were it not for the afore-mentioned mishaps, there would have been more.

It is a literate book. Keller's "simple" almost "elementary" style which might be a profound shock to a novice (to Keller) reader previously used to high-flown verbiage has a remarkable immersion or drawing quality once he is acclimatized. As has been related innumerable times Keller writes about human beings and so deftly does he spin his tale-web that the association value is tremendous. There are events in the tales that may be open to question and open to question from more readers than a "pseudo" scientific story of a  
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The Cosmic Book Service

ITS OUT!

# LIFE EVERLASTING

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All books etc on this page selected by the editors of Fantasy-Times for your enjoyment.

James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, New York



## TOME TALK

-continued from p. 11-

space warp o r t h e fourth dimension for though not everyone is scientifically trained enough to argue (or want to argue) einsteinian mathamathics with a physicist-anthor, almost everyone considers himself consciously or sub-consciously a n amateur psychologist. So the amateur psychologist reader may want to argue a point or two with Keller. He may say, "I vastly doubt that party A or race B would react thusly under given stimulus". Herein, of course, Dr. Keller has an "unfair" advantage. He can say, "This story is based on a documented case history".

There are two short tales in the volume almost worth the price of admission alone. "The Thing in the Cellar" we found par excellent even though the theme of the story. Choice paragraphs from its text, and its classic closing lines had been reiterated to us countless times before we had ever read it. We truly envy the reader who has not undergone such treatment and reads the story for the first time. And though we went through the same thing, though only once but very thoroughly (from Keller himself) on "A Piece of Linoleum", we would

use for this, a minor skirmish in Keller's overlasting battle of the sexes, were it not now so trite and overused the word "classic". Quite pointed, very accurate and tremendously amusing: "A Piece of Linoleum".

We have said it is a "fanny" book and a literate one. It is also an unusual volume inasmuch as not being satisfied with possessing these two qualities it possesses also t h e "more" quality. This may be expressed by the man who merely wanted to sample one potato chip and before he knew it the whole bag was gone. Your reviewer opines that it will be a rare reader of the Keller book who doesn't lay the book down with not only a rosy feeling of satisfaction but also a desire for more. This of course bodes much good not only for the current volume but also for t h e vertitable flood of proposed Keller books.

Next on the agenda we have the "Fantasy Guild" book of the month selection for march, "The Lost Cavern and Other Stories of the Fantastic" by H. F. Heard. Had this book arrived at any other period of time rather than now it would have b e e n a primary item and would have captured, probably, at the very least the "show" position.

A l l four novelettes a r e excellent, the title tale being somewhat reminiscent o f t h e unforgettable "land Under England" by Joseph O'Neill and "The Thaw Plan" a bonafide scientificfictional yarn of the "old school" type. I n "The Thaw Plan" which we'd place first, Heard pulls one of the quickest switcheroos we've ever seen in a long time. "The Cup" a n d "The Chapel of Ease", finely written, bear strong religious overtones and probably be considered wonderfull pieces by people with a bit more than a fair amount of religion in their souls.

It is an unusual occurence when t w o fantasy books by the same author arrive within a space o f a few days of each other. This has happened of A. E. van Vogt's "World of Null A", (Simon & Schuster, \$2.50) and "Out of the Unknown", (with E. Mayne Hall, Fantasy Publishing Company, Inc., \$2.50) and van Vogt now leads in the "current race for scientificfictional supremacy" over h i s nearest rival E. E. Smith with a score of five books to three.

From t h e format standpoint, "World of Null A" is not outstanding. As a matter of fact it is not too far removed from the class of books selling for a half-dollar. So



much for that. However from the standpoint of contents it is not too easy to give an opinion of the book or otherwise review it with any three or four well chosen words. Seems that in our reading of it we were so fascinated with the thought of the semantically trained earth of the future in general, the superman Gosseyn in particular, the Games Machine and the overall fast (though many, far too many times unexplained) action that we read on well past our apportioned bedtime. Yet even in our deep fascination we asked ourselves more than once, "Isn't this really Jargon?", "But a cowboy story on the planet (albeit future planet) earth?" Had not van Vogt fallen down on the last third of "The Weapon Makers" that story would have been adjudged by yours truly as a modern day classic and had the last one-sixth of "The World of Null A" accomplished a masterful tying up of loose ends and explanation we would have considered it a fine novel. As it was the last one-sixth did fall down and in future readings of van Vogt's novels we will probably be in more suspense than the author actually intends for, probably, the insidious trend of th-

ought will come unbidden to us that says "can it last?" no matter how marvellous the major portion of the story.

We are happy to bid FPCI's "Out of the Unknown", its debut in the field (under that imprint) welcome. Since the book arrived but this morning we are unable to comment on the fictional content (which nevertheless looks good) but can say that it is a very nicely put up job for the money. The printing and binding are of high caliber and there are six interior illustrations by Charles McNutt, Neil Austin and Roy Hunt plus a fine cover jacket by Hunt. Hunt again impressed us most favorably. One remembers his "monster" drawings for the fan journals and it is our opinion that in this phase of work Roy Hunt is unsurpassed by any fantasy artist though perhaps equalled by Hannes Bok.

Here we have a gripe, what amounts to a major gripe and what hurts more, from a source that we had heretofore considered totally unproductive of major gripes, "A Treasury of Science Fiction". Seems in semantics, the map is not the territory, the world is not the thing and sorry to say, "A Treasury" is not a treasury. Strong opin-

ion? Yes. Let's examine the facts. The overwhelming majority of tales contained are from ASTOUNDING of 1945-1947 vintage. Which might be O.K. of course had not the previous two sf anthologies completely picked ASTOUNDING clean of better than just good stories for that period of time. There are thirty stories in the book of which approximately three to four are of the excellent to classic designation which means therefore, figuring on a basis of five stories to an issue of ASTOUNDING, that you are getting little more than six issues of ASTOUNDING bound between hard covers for your three dollars. Even this not accurate of course. For usually in a period of six months of ASTOUNDING there are many more than just three or four stories of the excellent to "classic" variety. Mr. Conklin's explanation of what "can't happen here" but did is merely jargon.

And last of course, (the usual) not least we are in receipt of "The Checklist of Fantastic Literature" which is just about all that the publishers say of it. Though procuring it only last night, already it has helped us in the writing of this piece so you can chalk up an early small victory



for Shasta Publishers. Its expensive (\$6.00) but a nicely put up job, including a fine symbolic cover jacket by Hannes Bok and is complete within its set limitations. One could have wished of course for some sort of classification system of the books such as A. Langley Searles accomplished up to the letter E but one must also agree with the editors of "Checklist" that that might have proved prohibitive. -ao  
The End

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THE FANTASY CLUBS  
-continued from p. 7-

THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY  
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The February 29th meeting of the PHILADELPHIA SFS featured a talk by L. Sprague de Camp on engineering problems connected with reaching the upper atmosphere. -mar  
The End

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All fantasy and science-fiction organizations are invited to send in their reports for publication in this newspaper. -ed  
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The January, February and April 1948 issues of FANTASY-TIMES are all sold out. A few copies of the March 1948 issues are available at 10¢ each. -ed  
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BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES AND BOOK SALE

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MEDUSA - Visiak - \$2.00  
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Copies of British magazines, New Worlds, Outlands, Fantasy, Unknowns at 45¢ each.

John E. Koestner

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The Cosmic Reporter  
-continued from p. 2-

ter and director of the planetarium. The review was not very favorable, criticism being mainly that van Vogt was not sufficiently imaginative! Lordy, what's the world coming to? -mar

Our co-editor, Ray Van Houten, recently entered the fourth estate as editor of a country newspaper, the WYCKOFF NEWS, which publishes every Thursday at Wyckoff, New Jersey. Ray says that his experience in writing and publishing in the various phases of science-fiction was the background which led to the job.

Clayton Rawson, editor of CLUE, "A magazine guide to mysteries in books, radio, stage, screen and television" published at 219 N. Barry Ave., Mamaroneck, N. Y. writes:

"Probably with its second issue, CLUE magazine hopes to have a supplement devoted to science-fiction. Anthony Boucher will edit the supplement August Derleth will be doing some of the reviews."

"I would like very much to get a list with addresses of the science-fiction fan clubs.....because I would like to send each club a copy of



that issue."

-sm

TARZON COMICS has just published it's third issue. It is a bi-monthly publication of new material. -jvt.  
The End

BECOME A FAN-VET!-----

See the announce-  
ment on page one  
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EDITORIAL  
-continued from p. 17-

the 1949 CONVENTION in New York, AND upon receiving the 1949 Convention go ahead and put on the best convention of the past ten years.

What do you say,  
ESFA? -jvt

The End

ing department. We rate this issue an A.

FANTASTIC NOVELS  
May 1948

Jason, Son of Jason and The Moon Pool are classics and a must for all fans; how high can you rate them? Finlay's interiors are good and seeing Paul illustrating again brings tears to our eyes. Paul is science-fiction. Lawrence's cover is very good. The readers' department is starting out good, in time it should be tops. We rate this issue a super A plus.

AVON FANTASY READER  
(undated) No. 5

A glary, lousy cover with a touch of Flash Gordon and a dancing gal spoils this issue. The Scarlet Dream by C. L. Moore is the best in the issue. We always enjoy a Northwest Smith story. With the exception of The Words of Guru, Wollheim has made a fair selection this time, though 35¢ is much too high to pay for this pocket-book; 25¢ would be the right price. New style of binding is OK with us. We rate this issue a very poor B. -ls  
The End

## ON THE NEWSSTANDS

reviewed by Lane Stannard

astounding SCIENCE  
FICTION - April 1948

Bonestell has an interesting cover this time. We pick The House Dutiful by Tenn, as the best short in the issue, while the serial, ....And Searching Mind by Williamson is coming along very good. The rest of the yarns are well worth reading. Cartier is tops with his swell interior drawings. Rogers is so-so; Pat Davis is plain lousy. Departments are swell, but we suggest that Campbell use a smaller type in Brass Tacks. We rate this issue a plain B plus.

WEIRD TALES - May 1948

We liked the Matt Fox cover on this issue; for once it was weird. Derleth's Saunders's Little Friend is interesting, as is Brad-

bury's Black Ferris and the rest of the yarns are not bad. The trouble with the present day WEIRD is that it publishes only short stories. If it went back to the policy of longer stories and serials, the quality would improve. Dologov and Giunta have the best interiors in this issue. We rate this issue a B.

STARTLING STORIES  
May 1948

Bergey gives us a fair cover. Henry Kuttner's novel, The Mask of Circe is excellent. The other yarns in the issue are from good to excellent. All in all this issue makes good reading. Finlay is in top form with some of his best illustrations. The Readers' Column is excellent, and the Fan Mag Review Column, as usual is an interest-

Advertise in FANTASY-TIMES and reach the most interested fan.--  
See page 17 for rates.



## Fantasy-Times

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

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JAMES V. TAURASI, editor and publisher

Sam Moskowitz and Ray Van Houten, co-editors; Dr. Thomas S. Gardner science editor; Alex Osheroff, book editor; David Kishi, theatre editor; Milton A. Rothman, Philadelphia editor; Don Hutchison, Canadian editor; and John Giunta, art-editor.

"This is a Cosmic Publication"

# EDITORIAL

by James V. Taurasi

The 6th World Science - Fiction Convention is only a few months away and your help is needed to make it the success it should be. If you have not joined The TORCON SOCIETY, the organization that is putting on the convention, do so now. It will set you back only \$1.00, and that \$1 will help the boys pay for the convention. We suggest that you turn to page five of this issue and read how you can do your part in making the TORCON the biggest and best in history.

Talking of conventions, 1949 will be the Tenth Anniversary of World SciF Conventions. That first convention was held in New York. Remember? So-----we suggest that at the 1949 convention

be held in New York!

The first convention was sponsored by New Fandom, now dead, and was aided by The Queens' SFL, also dead. In New York, at present there is no organization to put on the 1949 NYCON, but just across the river, in a small town called Newark, there is an active organization, THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION, which besides taking care of the fans in New Jersey, also does quite well with New York fans. The Who's Who of New York Fandom are members of this fine organization, and so it seems that the duty of the ESFA is to put on the 1949 WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION.

AND the officers of this organization are

all veterans of the first convention. Sam Moskowitz, Director of the ESFA, was the Chairman of the First Convention; Ray Van Houten, secretary of the ESFA and Alex Osheroff, treasurer of the ESFA, were both on the First Convention Committee. In fact with the exception of Will Sykora & Mario Racic, all members of the First Convention Committee are now members of the ESFA; and of course there are quite a few "newer" fans who are members of the ESFA, and would be most happy to put on the 1949 NYCON.

Which leads up to this suggestion:

That the ESFA vote to send a representative group to the TORCON and ask to present -continued on page 16-



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