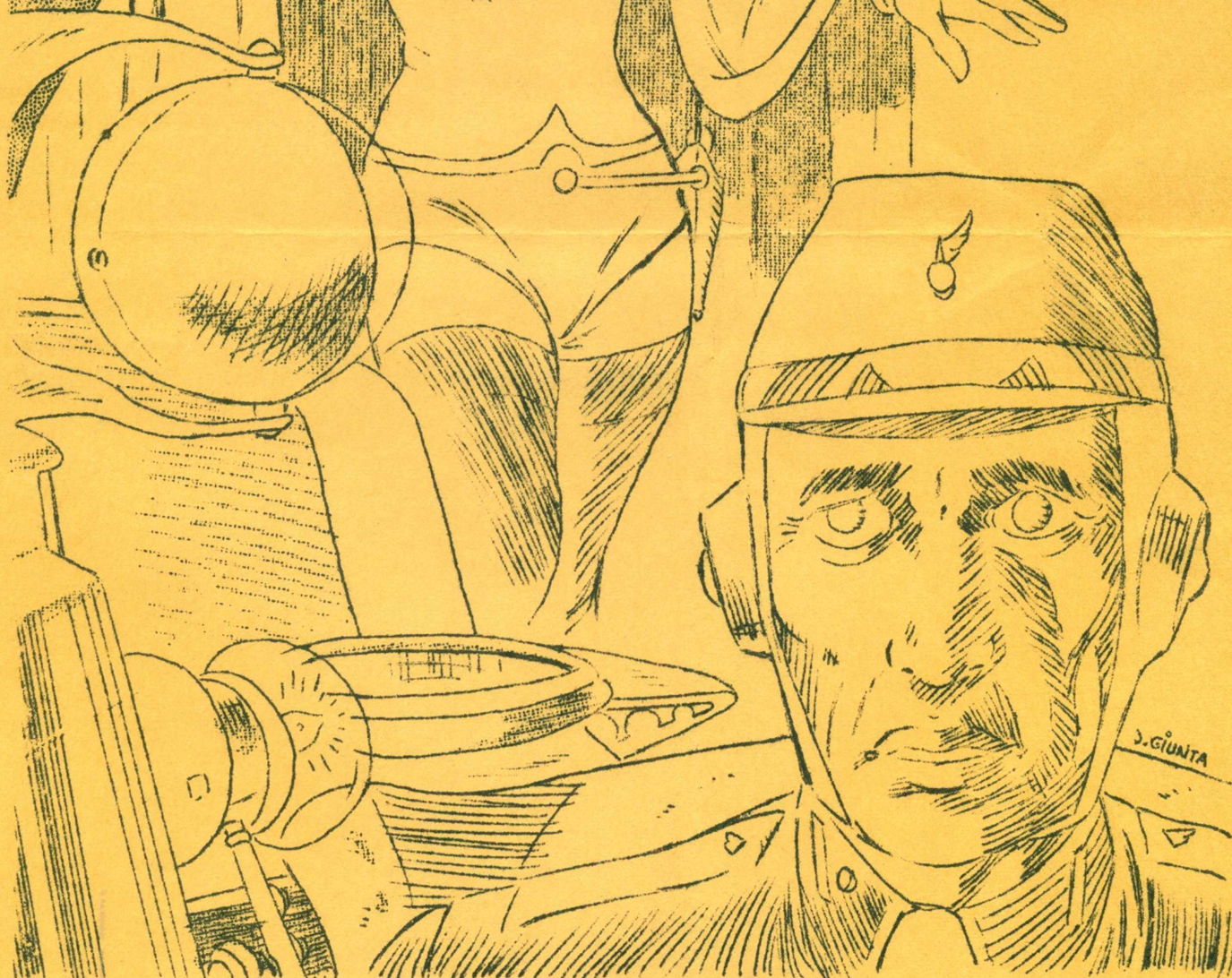


# FANTASY TIMES

August 1948

15¢



A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION



"THE WORLD OF  
TOMORROW TODAY!"

# Fantasy-Times

VOL 3-Nº 8

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## Contents for August 1948

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editor and publisher  
James V. Taurasi

Co-editor  
Ray Van Houten

science editor  
Dr. Thomas S. Gardner

movie editor  
Joe Schaumburger

art editor  
John Giunta

correspondents  
Milton A. Rothman  
Sam Moskowitz  
Gordon M. Kull  
Alvin R. Brown  
William S. Sykora

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-FANDOM HOUSE-

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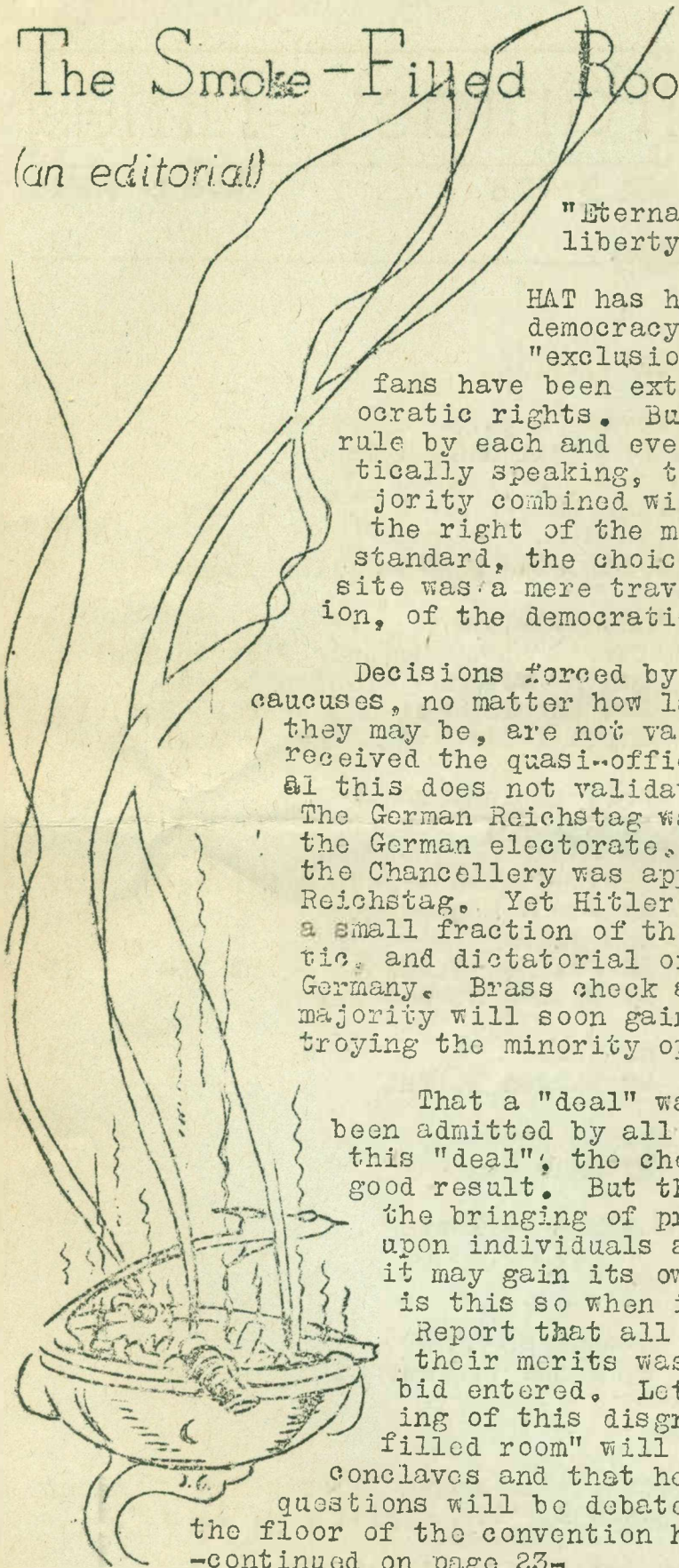
Our cover this month illustrates a scene suggested by "The Magician of Space".

Cover and inside illustrations  
by John Giunta

# The Smoke-Filled Room

(an editorial)

"Eternal Vigilance is the price of liberty" --- Thomas Jefferson.



HAT has happened to fandom's vaunted democracy? Ever since the so-called "exclusion act" at the NYCON in 1939, fans have been extremely jealous of their democratic rights. But democracy in a group means rule by each and every member of the group. Practically speaking, this means rule by the majority combined with iron-bound guarantees of the right of the minority to be heard. By this standard, the choice of next year's convention site was a mere travesty, a down-right rejection, of the democratic process.

Decisions forced by factions, cliques, and caucuses, no matter how large a fraction of the whole they may be, are not valid. Even when they have received the quasi-official rubberstamp of approval this does not validate their illicit activity. The German Reichstag was elected by a majority of the German electorate. Hitler's appointment to the Chancellery was approved by a majority of the Reichstag. Yet Hitler was representative of only a small fraction of the most ruthless, militaristic, and dictatorial of the high financiers of Germany. Brass check approval by an uninformed majority will soon gain unanimity by utterly destroying the minority opposition.

That a "deal" was made at the TORCON has been admitted by all concerned. The result of this "deal", the choice of Cincinnati, was a good result. But this does not at all justify the bringing of pressure by a minority group upon individuals and organizations so that it may gain its own selfish ends. Especially is this so when it is seen from the Torcon Report that all discussion of cities on their merits was suppressed and only one bid entered. Let us hope that a proper airing of this disgraceful caucus in a "smoke-filled room" will banish forever all secret conclaves and that henceforth all controversial questions will be debated fairly and decorously on the floor of the convention hall.

-continued on page 23-



# THE TORCON REPORT

by William S. Sykora

## part one

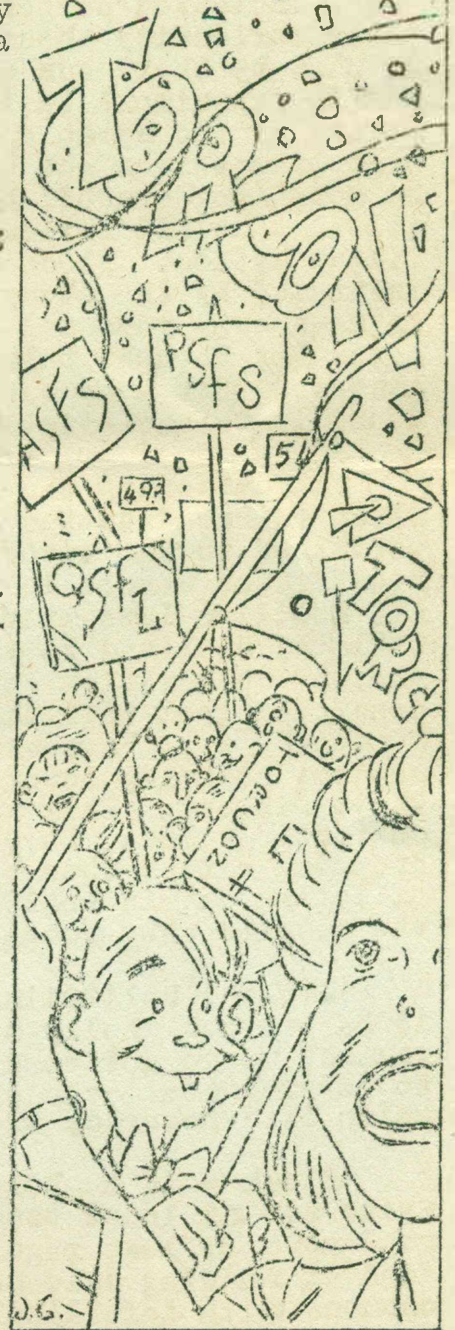
**T**HE SIXTH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION was called to order at about 1:30 P.M. of July 2nd 1948 at the Rai Purdy Studios on Queen Street, Toronto, Canada John L. Millard presiding as Chairman pro tem.

The following fans, authors, and publishers were introduced in the order listed: Melvin (Erle) Korsak, of Shasta Publishers; Milton A. Rothman, President of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society; Forrest J Ackerman of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society; Will Sykora, Director of the Queens Science Fiction League; Les Croutch of Parry Sound, Ontario; E. E. Evans of Los Angeles; Fred Hurter of Montreal; Harry Moore of New Orleans; Bob Tucker; C. L. Barrett, M.D.; Ted Dikty of Shasta Publishers; L. A. Eshback of Fantasy Press; David H. Keller, M. D. and Mrs. Keller; Sam Moskowitz, Director of the Eastern Science Fiction Association; Chan Davis; Jim Williams of Prime Press; Harold Wakefield; George O. Smith; Bob Madle of New Era Publishers; and Ned McKeown of the Torcon Society and Chairman of the Convention.

Millard announced that Brak Taylor was to be credited for the make-up of the souvenir journal to be known as "The Torcon Booklet", while Bill Grant was responsible for the art work and ads. Neither of these Toronto fans could be present at the opening session due to their employment.

Ned McKeown then said a few words of welcome and introduced Robert Bloch, author of many stories in WEIRD TALES and elsewhere.

Bloch said his was a sort of Jekyll and Hyde personality. Bloch and "Conscience" (with a Peter Lorre accent) proceeded to





conduct an imaginary conversation with himself, Bloch repeatedly rejecting the Lorre alter-ego's suggestions to : 1. flatter the fans present, 2. describe the world of tomorrow, 3. characterize fans as junior supermen, 4. tell how to write, or 5. go into a lengthy history of fandom.

Closing the conversation with himself, and dropping the Lorre accent, Bloch then went into his speech, which, he said, was on the subject of why science-fiction has developed the way it has, why people write fantasy, and why they read it. He cited articles by Dr. Edmund Bergler of New York in "The Psychoanalytical Review" for January 1944 and April 1945. The first of these articles, titled "A Clinical Approach to the Psychoanalysis of Writers", indicated Berger's opinion that authors write to satisfy their curiosity about people, to replace the authority of their mothers by their own dictatorship of their characters' activities and to experiment in immorality. Bloch spoke of the Freudian symbolism of the space opera, alien races, cruel princesses, and high priestesses who blast people into nothingness. As an example, he noted Lovecraft's hatred of the sea and fear of the cold, and stated that HPL rationalized this hate and fear by creating artificial mythos. Bloch said that Lovecraft's fear of cold was illustrated by the story, "At the Mountains of Madness", and again in a queerly reversed fashion in the story, "Cool Air". Bloch stated he thought this psychoanalytical approach may be correct & asserted that many such examples of Freudian symbolism could be found in science-fiction and fantasy.

In answering the question, "Why do people read Fantasy?" Bloch referred to the second of Dr. Bergler's articles, which pertained to the reading of detective fiction. Some of the reasons listed were:- 1. Liked to read mystery stories because they did not like love stories, 2. reader identified himself with the villain, 3. liked to see the authorities outwitted, 4. liked to see the authorities solve the case and catch the culprit. Bergler concluded from this that although the reasons given "aggressive reasons", i.e. "aggressive" against hero, author, victim, etc., the readers actually identified themselves with the victims who failed to win out. This was because the people really had "passive" characteristics. They indulged their drives by reading and dreaming rather than by "aggressive" physical action. The fear of losing out in real life was compensated for or escaped from by the stories they read.

Without belittling the value of Freudian analysis, Bloch said he did not wholly agree with Bergler's conclusions. For instance, we do not read stf for the science content in preference to reading sex, even though editors are eager to point out the scientific accuracy of the stories.

Bloch said he believed that there are about 500 authors who write stf at least occasionally, and about 500,000 readers who read more or less regularly. He said he believed these people are fond of reading science-fiction because the science in it is synonymous with infallibility. He thought that this is also the

reason why some people absolutely refuse to read stf because they cannot reconcile their own ideas of the world with the idea of a superman's superscience. That infallibility actually is the appeal that seems to be borne out by the evident association of the superscientist with the "father image". In this way, science-fiction provides "wish-fulfilment", as all problems are solved in the superscientific world of tomorrow. Additional evidence that science-fiction appeals to readers' desires for an infallible solution to their problems may be adduced from the fact that most stf readers and writers are agnostics or atheists. Religion is obviated because "science has all the answers", at least in science-fiction.

How close is science-fiction to science? Bloch answered by saying that authors as well as scientists use technological developments and pragmatic methods. But he said "It is sad, but true that today's scientists could make a better world" --- but scientists can be fired, bribed, ostracized, and otherwise persecuted, because they must work for a living like anyone else under the present set-up and they are subject to the will of "the powers that be".

On the other hand, leading scientists themselves will hold back progress as witness the effect of the Ptolemaists and Aristotelians. Bloch said he also saw grave danger to humanity in scientific developments during world-wide wars. There is danger, too, in this faith of the fans in the infallibility of science.

Despite commercial and political diversionary activity, there have been advances in science-fiction. Bloch said he believed there would be further advances, but not by any blind faith in the infallibility of science to solve all problems. The mind of man has to be advanced, not only his physical well-being. The primary reason for this advance is that science-fiction glorifies the individual, praises iconoclasts, favors builders rather than destroyers of civilization, and in general shows a healthy motivation of its characters. Even in the weird tale, in spite of the fatalistic attitude, the heroes have an intellectual curiosity, "a willingness to pry" which is a viewpoint that can lead to progressive change.

Concerning science-fiction itself, Bloch said he thought that there was as much permanence and literary quality in it as in any recognized classic. He said that Homer, Shakespeare, Poe, and Hawthorne are accepted by the critics yet they are remembered for their mythological journeys, ghosts, and fantasies more than for any other writings. These same critics dismiss Wells as a fantasist and current fantasy as trash. Nevertheless, Wells, as well as Huxley, Serviss, Bell and many others are remembered for their fantasy writings. Bloch said "A Brave New World" will be a timely book fifty years from now.

On the other side, the Editors are conscientious and hard-working. Some, like Farnsworth Wright of WEIRD TALES, give their



very lives for the advancement of the literature in which t h e y believe.

As for the fans, Bloch could only speak for himself. At the age of 15 he was a fantasy fan. He wrote to H.P. Lovecraft, w h o helped him get started. He was a member of the Milwaukee Fictioneers and knew Weinbaum. Both Kuttner and Bloch, for example, not only write but also read fantasy. The success of the ' Milwaukee Fictioneers was due to a sort of fellowship of fantasy.

All fans seem to have a general interest in or failing f o r Fantasy. They associate on a basis of cordiality and friendship. Sci and fantasy writers and readers are devoted to the art a n d fraternize on the basis of this devotion. For instance, Ruppert & Schwartz had so great a love for science-fiction that they published the Weinbaum Memorial Volume, and Derleth the Lovecraft Omnibus, in a period when times were hard and book publishing a very precarious venture. The time spent by fans on fan activities, t h e money spent or given freely, the genuine friendship and fellowship, all to boost science-fiction, is unique for science-fiction and not found in any other form of literature.

While there have been flaws, such as petty vanities, feuds, - attempts to inject religious and political bias, the conventions of fans have been nothing like the rah, rah conventions of the American Legion or the two major political parties. Fans are nothing - like mental giants or introverted geniuses. Bloch, in referring to the democratic heterogeniety of fan groups, said, "I think t h e composition of the crowd determines the make-up."

Fans give themselves more aggressively to their hobby. Some of them think fandom can save the world. They don't seem to enjoy - what they read. 'Fandom is just a medium for their nonomania t o change the world. But the Convention is a manifestation of t h e best in fandom. Bloch takes "a certain pride in writing Fantasy". Fans come to the convention to associate with others with l i k e ideas. "Friendship based on mutual interest" is Bloch's reason for the existence of fandom.

After the speech, George O. Smith remarked from the floor that he would wait for the Tucker Report before deciding whether t o give up science-fiction for sex.

A short recess was called during which soft drings were sold.

The fantasy publishers in attendance were then introduced. L. A. Eshbach, speaking for FANTASY PRESS, announced the publication of Campbell's "The Mightiest Machine". He said two other Campbells had been contracted for and would be published in one book. H i s company is collecting the rest of Weinbaum's short stories. "Cosmic Express" by Clifford D. Simak is in preparation, while "Sinister Barrier", illustrated by Ed Cartier, is in the mail.

Jim Williams of PRIME PRESS then announced the publication of

Ted Sturgeon's "Without Sorcery". He also said that PRIME PRESS have made arrangements to reprint DeCamp's "Lest Darkness Fall" in a format identical with the original book.

Erle Korshak of SHASTA PUBLISHERS announced that the Library of Congress has included "The Check List of Fantastic Literature" IN THE "Quarterly List", the most important listing of scholarly books in this country.

Forrie Ackerman spoke unofficially for the FANTASY PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC. He announced that after a great deal of difficulty the widows of Austin Hall and Homer Eon Flint have been located. Prior to this it was impossible to secure the rights to their stories, but now some of them will see print in book form. In answer to a question, he said Weinbaum's "The Mad Brain" has been rejected by all publishers. It is not Weinbaum's best by any means. Three of Olaf Stapledon's stories, "Flames", "O 1 d Man in New World", and "Death into Life", will be reprinted in one volume and retitled "Worlds of Wonder". FPCI will also publish some new material including the only unpublished novel held by Murray Leinster (for which no market ever existed with the exception of UNKNOWN), Taine's "The Black Godfish", and L. Ron Hubbard's "King Slayer".

Dave Kyle, Martin Greenberg's new partner in the NEW COLLECTOR'S GROUP, announced the forthcoming publication of "The Carnelian Cube" by deCamp and Pratt, a humorous fantasy about a stodgy archeologist who lives in three dream worlds. It will be printed on the press of a Monticello, N. Y. newspaper owned by Kyle's brother.

Sam Meskowitz spoke of the AVALON COMPANY and its only book "Life Everlasting" by David H. Keller. He also spoke of the fan publishing field generally and said that for an investment of only \$50 annually a fan could purchase the entire output of all the publishers.

Bob Madle spoke for the NEW ERA PUBLISHERS of Philadelphia, composed of Jack Agnew, Al Pepper and himself. They are bringing out two Kellerbooks, one an unpublished novel called "The Abyss" and the other "The Solitary Hunters" to be reprinted from WILDER TALES.

Ned McKeown told about the HOUSE OF YORK, a Canadian group formed for the purpose of making American fantasy books available to Canadian readers. By importing books at wholesale, a big saving in Canadian import duty would result which would be passed on to retail customers at a savings of about sixty cents on a \$3 book.

Jim Williams moved, and L. A. Eshbach seconded the motion to send a letter of thanks to the publishers of "The Antiquarian - Bookman" for devoting their June 26th issue entirely to the Convention. This motion was carried without a dissenting vote.



Joe Schaumburger requested that Joe Kennedy, number one fan, be introduced. Kennedy spoke briefly and said he was glad to be present.

A question was asked about Canadian prozines. McKeown replied that EERIE TALES had been a one-shot mag, while UNCANNY TALES lasted 21 or 22 issues and was still in print. He said that THRILLING WONDER STORIES, STARTLING STORIES and WEIRD TALES are on the Canadian stands. The Canadian editors can change the art work and cover, can cut the letters and departments and otherwise rearrange the content at will.

Moskowitz speaking for Franklin Dietz asked if fan mags editors would have a place on the program. McKeown answered that they would be called on after Tucker's report on Sunday evening.

It was announced that a private dinner would be given by the Kellers to which some of the book publishers would be invited.

A recess for supper was called until 7:00 P.M.

The first day's evening session began with Chairman McKeown calling on Milt Rothman to give a brief resume of the sciencefilm about to be shown. Rothman said that it was a long historical film tracing the history of physics from Dalton's invention of his atomic theory to the discovery and application of nuclear fission to the construction of the atomic bomb. The film was titled "Atomic Physics" and was made by Gaumont. Its chief interest lay in real life talks by Rutherford, J. J. Thomson, and Albert Einstein, as well as scenes of the exploding atomic bomb and the destruction caused by it, and the authentic laboratory scenes.

After the film, Mrs. Keller obtained the floor and read two telegrams of greetings from Charles Lucas and Chad Oliver.

George O. Smith was then introduced and spoke on "Interplanetary Communications". Smith stated that he "could devise a system to communicate with any planet". Given a sufficient power output at the transmitter and fine enough sensitivity at the receiver, the solution was simple. Smith asserted that transmitters and receivers already exist and are in use, which, with very little redesigning, could readily be used to accomplish interplanetary communication. As an example, he cited the recent contact with the moon by radar. The only major difficulty Smith pointed out was the time lag between the sending and receiving of the message due to the finite speed of radio wave propagation. The audience participated in a lengthy discussion following Smith's talk.

With that, the first day of the Convention came to a close.

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The 2nd day of the Convention will be published next issue  
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# The Fantasy Clubs

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This department is open to all Fantasy, Weird or Science Fiction Clubs. Send in your organization's report before the 20th of each month. -----  
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-editor

## Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

THE June 20th meeting of the PSFS was held on the farm of Jack and Buddy McNight. High spot of the meeting was the arrival of George O. Smith, the

newest addition to the McNight menagerie. Since George O. Smith is a female goat, there arises a certain amount of confusion in terminology. And since George O. Smith is probably the noisiest goat in captivity, not much business was accomplished at the meeting. However, a goodly quantity of spaghetti was consumed.

THE July 11th meeting found about 30 people in attendance. Rothman gave an account of the TORCON, there was some discussion concerning a party to be held in the near future, and there was a reading of the Toronto news accounts of the TORCON. A. E. Waldo gave a talk on werewolves, which rapidly covered the types of lycanthropy to be found in the various countries of the world. The meeting closed with a small auction to help pay the rent. -----  
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-mar

## Queens Science Fiction League

SAM Merwin, Jr., editor of THRILLING WONDER STORIES and STARTLING STORIES spoke at the regular meeting of the QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE held on Sunday, June 27, 1948, at Volkert's Hall, Long Island City on the topic "The Three Gods of Mankind". Frederic Brown, author of about 25 stories of sf and fantasy published in ASTOUNDING, UNKNOWN and the Thrilling Group, also made a short speech.

Despite hot and humid weather, eighteen members and guests attended. Among those present, besides the speakers and Director, were Kay Brickman, Frances Forman, Helen Schwimmer, Mrs. Sam Merwin, Jr., R. H. Rosen, John Randolph, Lawrence Weller, Eli Leebenstein, Larry and Steve Harris, Jack Towber, Ronald Kupinsky, Joe Gross, Peter Hammerling, and Thomas Erber. Kay Brickman served as temporary secretary in the absence of Frances Sykora.

In his talk, Mr. Merwin briefly mentioned the two gods of history, the God of Magic of prehistoric and ancient times, and the Jewish-Christian anthropomorphic God of the present day. He proposed a third God, the God of Science, and a God of the future, who could win the faith and belief not only of scientists and scholars, but also of people without any special training, by His emphasis -



on the betterment of society by scientific sociological development. Those present threw many questions at Mr. Merwin after his talk, principally about the inner workings of the pulp magazine publishing-field especially with regard to editorial policies in choosing stories suitable for his magazines. Mr. Merwin answered all these questions with perfect frankness, revealing many hitherto unknown facts about the field.

Frederic Brown, author of "Pi in the Sky", "The Angelic Anglerworm" and about 25 other stories, was next introduced and answered numerous questions about his writing career. He revealed that he has used the pen-name of Felix Graham once in fantasy pulps, more often in detective mags. He has had 8 stories in ASTOUNDING, 6 in UNKNOWN, and 6 in THRILLING WONDER STORIES. He has had two detective novels published by E. P. Dutton, a third is in preparation, and a fourth about half finished. Dutton has contracted for six in all. He has a novel, "What Mad Universe" in the current STARTLING STORIES.

Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories for August and July respectively were then rated by those present in accordance with the special rating system devised by the club some years ago, the ratings to be sent to Sam Merwin, Jr. for his comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

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## *Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society*

### Meeting of June 3; 443rd Consecutive Meeting.

Included in those present were Forry Ackerman, Konnoeth H. Bonnell, Jean Cox, E E Evans, Dave Elders, Dave Fox, Hal Curtis, Russ Hodgkins, Mike Kamman, Eph Koenigsberg, Louise Lupier, Paul Skeeters, Mike Scoles, Seth Shephers, Dick Timmer and Director Gus Willmorth.

After some discussion of the monetary situation of the club, a few interesting pieces of local chit-chat were exchanged. The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

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### Meeting of June 10; 444th Consecutive Meeting.

Present were FJA, Al Bauman, Ken Bonnell, Cy Condra, Jean Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Mike Fern, Russ Hodgkins, Mike Kamman, Louise Lupier, Seth Shepherd, Mike Scoles, Dick Timmer, Gus Willmorth and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Van Vogt.

FJA announced that he had sold Van Vogt's "Dear Pen Pal" to Derleth for the ARKHAM SAMPLER. Dave Fox gave news that COSMOPOLITAN will run a fantasy "Old Fashioned Magic" by Charlottle Armstrong, most likely in the December issue. FJA came back with the



news that ANTIQUARIAN'S BOOKSELLER will bring out a special fantasy issue on June 29th, and a reading of "Rocket Target No. 2" by Richard L. Farnsworth, president of the American Rocket Society.

Before the meeting adjourned, members were notified that nominations for club officers were to be taken at the next meeting, and elections were to be held the meeting after.

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#### Meeting of June 17; 445th Consecutive Meeting.

Members present were FJA, Kenneth Bonnell, Vic Clark, Joan Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Dale Hart, Russ Hodgkins, Eph Koonigsberg, Louise Lupier, Mike Scoles, Saph Shepherd and Gus Willmorth. Visitors were Ray Bradbury, A. E. Van Vogt, O. K. Smith, Dave Elders, Andy Michalanko and Joan Beresford. These last two are from England.

FJA reported that the fifth issue of ARKHAM SAMPLER would feature science-fiction and would be both 50% bigger and 50¢ in price. It will have material by Van Vogt, Bradbury, Ackerman and many others.

Nominations for president of the LASFS were: EEEvans, Joan Cox, Gus Willmorth, Russ Hodgkins and Dale Hart.

Dale Hart read a letter from Claire Winger Harris, old-time stf. author, which gave the news that Miss Harris had won an award for her fantasy book, "Away From Here and Now" from the MANUSCRIPTERS CLUB.

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### *Capital District Fantasy Society*

June 6th, 1948, saw the first meeting of the CAPITAL DISTRICT FANTASY SOCIETY, in Albany, New York. Present were Belle Kehl, Dorothy Quinn, Edward Lavery, Thyrl Ladd, Walter Randall, Larry Shaw, and Marion Zimmer.

The convention opened at two o'clock with a brief of discussion of formation tactics and it was agreed to canvass prozine letter-columns for area fans. Mrs. Kehl brought up her plan for buying books in such a way as to take advantage of the dealer's discount. Late August or early September was agreed on for the next meeting.

Business being out of the way, the fans began to drift toward the enticing piles of prozines heaped on the kitchen table. A good-natured mad scramble ensued, the auction having been scrapped in favor of a general rummage. Messrs Randall and Ladd, old time haunters of the bookshops, carried off most of the best, but no one did badly.

Next on the program were refreshments--which were well season--continued on page 20-



THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

# Super "Cat's-Whisker" Improves Radio *by Ray Van Houten*

THE story of scientific development is a story of simplification, notwithstanding the bewildering complication which seems to the layman to exist in all the ever-growing fields of knowledge. The return of many home radios to the relative simplicity of former days, when pioneers first tickled a crystal with a "cat's-whisker", and listened intently with glued earphones, today seems possible. Bell Telephone Laboratory engineers recently announced the invention of a new crystal amplifier which "will do almost anything a vacuum tube will do."

The amazing part of this new development, still in the laboratory stage, is the fact that it bears no resemblance whatever to the tubes which are familiar to everyone who owns a radio set. It needs no glass envelope, no vacuum, no grid, no plate, no cathode. It goes into instant action the moment a set is turned on; no warm-up period is necessary.

It all came about through highly technical pure research into the physical properties of certain solids, during the course of which Dr. John Bardeen, Dr. Walter H. Brattain, Dr. William Shockly and others discovered an entirely new fundamental of physics.

Those who played with wireless in the "cat's-whisker" days will recall that no vacuum tube gives the clarity of the old galena crystal. However, it could only be used for detecting(rectifying), and not for amplification. The new device can be used to amplify, within certain limits.

Known as a "transistor", the device is about the size of a metal shoe-lace tip. Its heart is a pin-head bit of germanium, a rare metal by-product of zinc refining and a semi-conductor of electricity. Two tiny wires touch the germanium. When power is delivered to one contact, the crystal rectifies the current, amplifies it 100 times, and it comes out of the other contact, ready to work the diaphragm of a radio loud-speaker.

(The information for the above article was taken from an article by Herbert B. Nichols in "The Christian Science Monitor") -rvh

T h e   E n d

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This is a Fandom-House Publication

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# Book Reviews

by Joe Schaumburger

SKULL FACE AND OTHERS by Robert E. Howard (Arkham House, 1946) \$6, 475 pp.

SKULL FACE AND OTHERS is a typical Arkham House book, at least in format. It is beautifully bound, with a neat, readable typeface, and a tastefully designed Bok dust wrapper. It is the sort of a book that is a credit to any fantasy library, as far as appearance goes.

In content, however, it does not quite match its format. True, it contains a number of superior stories -- stories such as "The Black Stone" that are nearly classic in their perfection, but unfortunately the book also contains some of the most godawful crud that ever slipped by unsuspecting editors.

Completely out of place in the book is a wild-and-wooly western story called "The Man Eating Jeopard". Now if the book was being published for the general public, Mr. Derleth could claim that he had included this story to demonstrate the author's versatility. However, since the book is supposedly published for the devotees of the weird and fantastic, I think it an unwise selection, and will probably tend to decrease sales. Luckily, the story is short.

"The Fire of Asshurbanipal" seems to have been written with the thought "If Lovecraft can do it, why can't I?" Cthulhu, mad Abdul, and the rest of the R'lyeh crowd are out in full force, but somehow they fail to impress you. Not a goosepimple in a carload.

Another story that seemed out of place was the title story, "Skull Face", a Sax-Rohmerish thing about a man who goes about stirring up unrest among the colored races of the world. He turns out to be an Atlantean at the end, but most of the story reads like a grade-B detective novel. There are touches of beauty in the story, few and far between, and the main fault of the story is its length. It runs 68 pages, compared with 20 pages for most of the others.

About the best story in the book is "The Scarlet Citadel". It's the story of Conan, King of Aquilonia, who is betrayed into the hands of a particularly nasty magician called Tsotha. This Tsotha has a remarkably revolting doom prepared for King Conan, and the King has to really be clever to escape. Blood flows like borscht. The story has the most original ending you've ever read.

Other worthwhile stories are "The Shadow Kingdom" and "The  
-continued on page 19-



# Fanzine Review

by Gordon M. Kull

(AA) Comet; (A) Nebula; (B) Star; (C) Planet; (D) Satellite

THE better type of fan mag seems to be predominating as of late. Outside of organizational group distribution the trend seems to be in the direction of a lesser quantity and better quality. We hope that this keeps up, and a continual motion away from wasted space toward meaty contents continues.

We'd like to review your mag also. Send us a copy to G. Kull 1246 45th Avenue, San Francisco 22, California.

(AA) FAN ARTISAN V.1-N.1 (Box 1746, Orcutt, Calif.) (10¢; 60¢ year) Something new for fandom. A magazine for fanartists to display their work with room for egoboo. Main content is art samples of members of the organ accompanied by five autobiographies. Fantastic Art articles by D.H. Keller, and others by Tuner, and Tarne. Poetry, and numerous short features finish off to make it a good first-attempt. Some pieces not so good, but overall the artwork is some of the best we've seen in fanzines.

(AA) FANSCIENT #4 (3435 NE 38th Ave, Portland 13, O.) (15¢; 50¢ yr) This "Faley's" is back again brighter than before. Unusual fiction - article with biblio by Beil R. Jones. "Author, Author"; good auto-biblio about Williamson. Rubaiyat verse and other poems. Fiction by F.L. Baldwin, and good book reviews. Top fan artwork by D. Bruce Berry, G. Waible, Don Day, Higbee, Schlitz.

(A) GORGON V.1-N.7 (4936 Grove St, Denver 11, Colo.) (20¢; \$1 year) Here is a mag which has been consistently good since its birth. The contents is wholly worthwhile and meaty. This is a mag which should be on every fan's list. More sidelights on Merrittales by Rasch. Fiction by L. Bartlett, J. Kennedy, articles by Frankus and Mullen (editor) who reviews past masters. Poetry of that new fan author and poet find Shan Nosgorov, L.A. Eshbach. Art by Hunt and Mullen, and slightly under the usual high level of previous issues.

(B) OTHER WORLDS V.1-N.3 (combined with K. Mar. Trader; 3401 6th Ave, Columbus, Ga.) (5¢) This is a zine also belonging to the "mast" list. Under par this time, but still full of good promag buys.

(D) STEANATIC V.1-N.2 (Hugh McInnis % YMCA, Warren, Ark.) (Free) This could stand lots of improvement. Presentation good, but contents sparse. Best are Math facts, and K.M. Carlson's article.

(B) SYDNEY FUTURIAN #8 (160 Beach St, Coogee, Sydney, NSW, Aus-  
-continued on page 19-



# 1947 in Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

## PART VI - THRILLING WONDER STORIES & STARTLING STORIES

THE greatest percentage improvement has been made by Sam Merwin with these two magazines. They are rapidly approaching - really good stuff. Congratulations, Sam Merwin.

Let us look at TWS first. Six issues.

February 1947 issue: Murray Leinster's The Manless Worlds is a thrilling saga of the galactic empires which are becoming popular. I should like to recommend W. W. Smith's Juke-Box as something a little different.

April 1947 issue: Kuttner's Way of the Gods is a peculiar, Merritt type story that will appeal. It is fantastic rather than science-fictional. W. Gitzgerald's The Gregory Circle starts a series that I both like and heartily dislike. The method of intuitive knowledge developed, is I believe, incorrect. The action is often humorous. G. O. Smith's Quest to Centaurus has the ending you like to see -- if you can believe it.

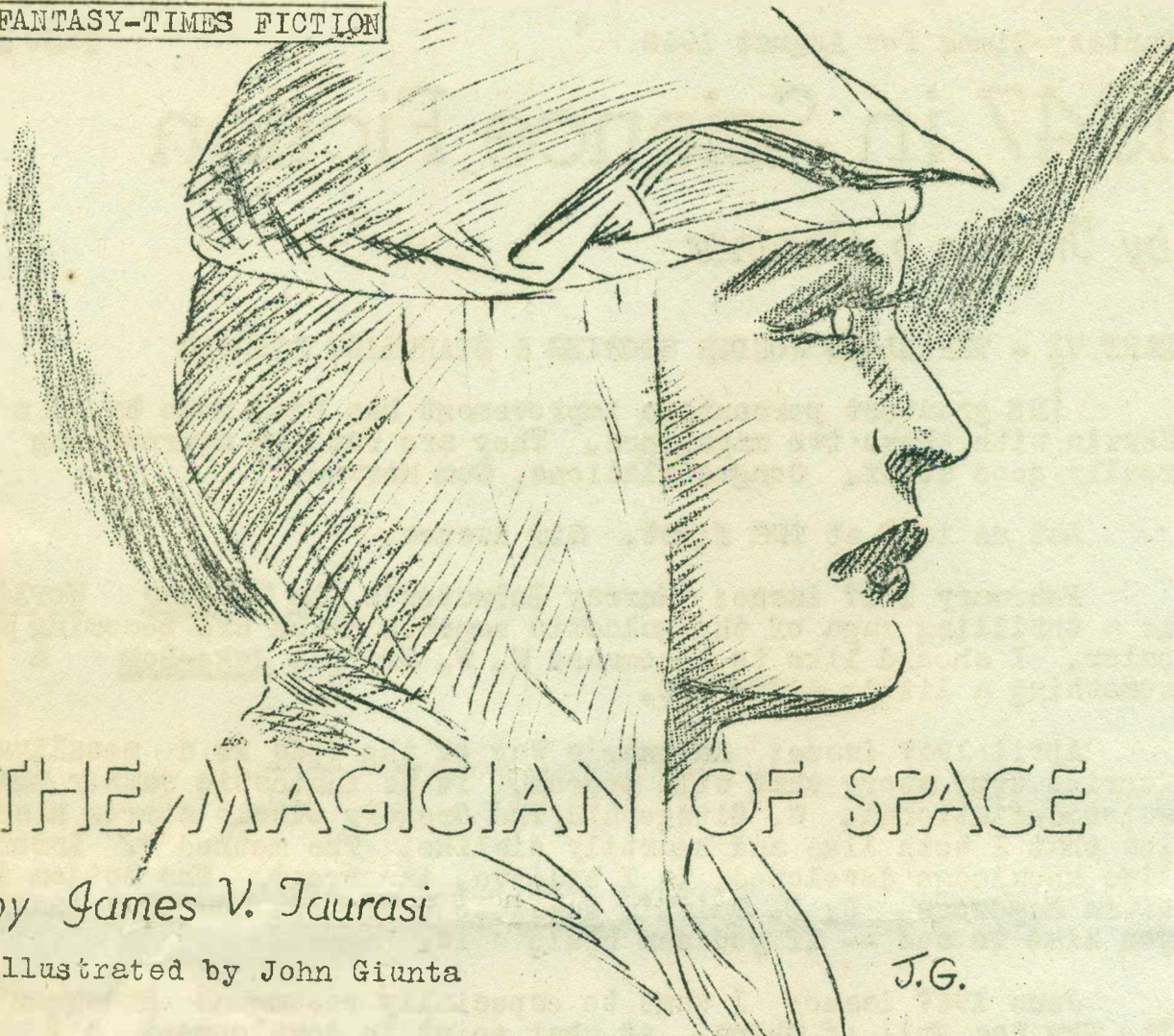
June 1947 issue: I want to especially recommend Sturgeon's The Sky Was Full of Ships. At what point in development of a race should another race begin to become afraid and take action? What if the action were premature? Well, you will read, and see. One author has three stories in this issue under different names. All are good. See if you can find them.

August 1947 issue: 'H. Hastings' Noon is rather grim, somewhat beautiful story. W. Gitzgerald's The Deadly Dust uses a highly probable method of atomic warfare. As usual the hillbilly genius counters. The stories are interesting, but I would like to put the question; are you willing to rely upon such solutions, i.e. hillbilly geniuses to solve problems?

October 1947 issue: Watch Margaret St. Clair. She is bringing a new type of approach to human problems to science-fiction just as Keller did years ago. Her Probate is not the first, but an example. Some people think her stories are trite, so are the stories in the SatEvPost. St. Clair is writing SatEvPost of tomorrow, today for TWS. If you like a little humor, read Kuttner's Exit the Professor. Well, queer people in those thar hills!

December 1947 issue: Samuel Mines' They Wouldn't Dare treats a favorite theme of mine. What would you do if you had a super weapon? Turn it over to the military authorities? Mines uses -continued on page 18-





# THE MAGICIAN OF SPACE

by James V. Taurasi

illustrated by John Giunta

J.G.

**L**AST call to get aboard sounded from the Mars-Earth space liner, SPACEHOPPER. A lone figure separated from the crowd and walked up the gangplank. She carried no baggage, only a small hand-bag. She was what is generally known as an Earthborn-Martian. She was small and slender as the regular Martian, but had the golden coloring of Earth instead of the lead coloring usually associated with a Martian. She came inside and signed her name on the ship's record book. Jane 6EM35 was the name she signed. She took out her passport and showed it to the officer. He signed it, gave her the key to her cabin, and gave the signal to take down the gangplank. The air-lock closed with a hiss, and the next moment the ship rose and was off on its journey to the Earth.

In her cabin Jane 6EM35 took a small map out of her hand-bag and studied it very carefully, then placed it on the metal floor and set fire to it. The ashes she picked up and threw down the air-shaft that supplied her room. No one would ever find it.

Days passed uneventfully. Then came the night that the midway dinner was to be held. Every passenger who wasn't space-



sick and all the officers who weren't on duty gathered in the great dining-room of the ship for the gala event. Jane had a table near where the Captain, a plump little man, and the highest ranking Earth and Martian men and women sat. During the dinner, one of the society women of Earth exclaimed to the Captain.

"Can't we get some fresh fruit aboard this liner? I should think that a person of my standards should have a little consideration."

"I'm very sorry, mam, but it's impossible to carry fresh fruit on a trip of this kind. It takes up too much room and we must make use of every square inch we have."

Before him Jane gazed at the Captain as if in deep thought, then she relaxed and continued eating. The Captain turned to his food. His face got white, great beads of sweat stood on his forehead. The society women next to him gave a snort. The rest of the officers stood looking at the Captain's dish with their mouths open. There in front of the Captain stood a dish containing the most perishable fruits of Earth!

No use saying that the Captain was angry the rest of the meal; he was. But above all he wanted to know how Earth fruit had come aboard an Earth liner which had just left Mars. It was a mess, but this was just the beginning. For the next two days things like that began happening throughout the ship. Passengers would say that they would like so and so, and it would appear for them. One woman exclaimed aloud that she would like a new gown, and, when she turned to look into a mirror, she saw that she was wearing it. She was out cold for two whole hours.

The Captain was at his wits end. How in the name of heaven could such things happen? He was pulled out of his thoughts by the first mate who informed him that another space ship was near by. The Captain rose to go into the control cabin when a loud explosion racked the rear of the liner. He yelled and rushed to the rear to see what the trouble was. With him went most of the officers in the control room and those thereabout. When they reached the rear they found that nothing seemed to be disturbed. No sign of an explosion was seen. Mistified the Captain and Co. started for the control room. They arrived just in time to see a figure in a space-suit slip into an emergency air-lock. Sitting on a chair as if in a daze was Clinkerton, the first mate. The Captain picked a glass of water from a small sink and threw it into Clinkerton's face. The man looked up as if he had just come to his senses and yelled, "Stop her, stop her quick. She's got the shipment of radium."

"What," exploded the Captain. "Quick man speak up. How did she get it. You are the only one besides myself who knew where it was!"

"I'm sorry, Captain," wailed the man. "It wasn't my fault. She hypnotized me into telling her where it was. I just couldn't



help it. Look----this was left in my hand. Gosh!!"

"Here, let me see," shouted the Captain as he took the piece of paper out of the first mate's hand. "Well I'll be darn! So it was her who was responsible for all those queer happenings. Darn it, I should have suspected it. We were all hypnotized into thinking we heard an explosion and the other things. And now it's too late to get her. She's probably aboard that ship that was near us, and is far away from here now. Darn!"

The slip of paper in his hand read, "With the compliments of the MAGICIAN OF SPACE!"

Later they found that Jane 6EM35 was missing and that the space where she had signed her name in the record book was blank!

The End

(reprinted from the Summer 1938 issue of SCIENTI-SNAPS)

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1947 IN SCIENCE FICTION -continued from page 15-

the same solution in some respects I did in The Traitor, which Hornig ruthlessly hashed up before publishing it in SCIENCE FICTION several years ago. Sam Merwin comes through with a good short, The Admiral's Walk. Thanks, Sam. All the short stories in this issue are good, but I did not like the novel; Kuttner's The Power and the Glory. Too much like Merritt without the master's touch.

Now when we examine STARTLING STORIES, we also find improvements.

January 1947 issue: Hamilton's Star of Life is quite good although chock full of fallacies of thinking.

March 1947 issue: Murray Leinster's The Laws of Chance is an excellent story after a devastating attack upon the U. S. You will like the characters, they have Leinster's touch of humanity, but Mr. Leinster, your super weapons pulled out of hats peeve me. I don't believe them. Anyway, you won't want to miss reading it.

May 1947 issue: The Merritt strain of writing is again apparent in H. Kuttner's Lands of the Earthquake. The adventure is good, and the descriptions well given. I like it. I want to call special attention to J. R. Fearn's The Arbiter. After reading it, please think about it.

July 1947 issue: G. O. Smith's The Kingdom of the Blind could have been better. It is a good story, but I feel that in a few spots it is weak. Kuttner's Dream's End is a very good psychological story. Wasn't there another story by the same title a few years ago, I believe in WONDER STORIES.

September 1947 issue: K. Hammond's Lord of the Storm is rec-



ommended. The personality changers described are possible today, and if wrongly used could be quite bad. The control of the weather as shown is quite possible. This story may be a preview of the future in some respects.

November 1947 issue: Murray Leinster comes through with a gripping tale of battle against odds, The Man in the Iron Cap. Would you like to have a Little Fella? Poovey on Polton Cross' Chaos. You can have it. -tsg

Thomas S. Gardner ends his review of the 1947 pro magazines with a long review of the 1947 issues of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION in the next issue of FANTASY-TIMES. -editor

### BOOK REVIEWS -continued from page 13-

Tower of the Elephant".

Should you buy the book? Well, it looks nice on the shelf. On the other hand, the stories aren't too hot. The poor ones cut number the good ones, though very slightly. It could be worse. -js

Joe Schaumburger will be back next issue with another book review. Plus a short review of A. E. van Vogt's "World of A" by Ray Van Houten. -editor

### FANZINE REVIEW -continued from page 14-

tralia) (exchange arrangements). This is an interesting and different zine issued by the Australian Society of the same name. Membership is open to the fans throughout the world. gmk

T h e E n d

### FANTASY-TIMES IS SORRY:-

Dear Mr. Taurasi

July 19, 1948

In your review of LIFE EVERLASTING by David H. Keller, M.D. in your June, 1948 issue of FANTASY TIMES, you made a statement to the effect that Col. Keller contributed his manuscript to The Avalon Company for publication sans remuneration. That statement is wholly inaccurate and I would appreciate it if you would print this letter to the contrary. Col. Keller was paid for his manuscript at a rate which compares favorably with that paid by most publishers, especially so since the book was published in so limited an edition. What may have given a false impression is the fact that the Col. agreed to payment after book publication, receiving no advance as is sometimes given in book publication. Col. Keller has at this date received payment for his manuscript, as a cancelled check and a gaping hole in our bank account will adequately attest.

Sincerely yours, Sam Moskowitz,

for Avalon Co.



THE FANTASY CLUBS -continued from page 11-

ed by table-time perusal of the CHECKLIST, which passed from hand-to-hand, while Mr. Ladd, at the head of the table, held forth most interestingly on odd finds and titles. After the refreshments, the group formed a compact unit around the sofa and began the traditional pastime for fans --- informal gab. Mrs. Kehl's large collection was at hand and on display so every so often the conversation of different fans would taper off as they would slowly subside behind the covers of one or more of the enticing titles lying about.

At 6 PM. the fans began to think about getting home, so the entire convention said goodby to the hostess, piled into Mr. Lavery's car and drove off, laden with magazines and memories.

As to future meetings, any fan within travelling distance is invited most cordially to attend. If we don't contact you, write to the hostess --- Belle Kehl, 48 Corning Street, West Albany, NY, or to Marion Zimmer, R.F.D. #1, East Greenbush, NY, and help the new CDEB grow! -mz

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that material for publication in this column is henceforth to be sent to the co-editor, Ray Van Houten, 409 Market Street, Paterson 3, New Jersey. Copies of the official minutes are preferred, along with any other secretarial notes which may prove of interest to our readers. -editor  
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advertisement

W A N T E D: Books by John Taine, John Collier, Frank Owen, Olaf Stapledon and S. F. Wright.

F O R In exchange for books by the above authors or for any -  
T R A D E: good Science-Fiction book I have the following books:  
Etidorpha - John Uri Lloyd  
They Went - Norman Douglas  
In the Beginning - Norman Douglas  
Purple Sapphire - John Taine  
In Search of the Unknown - Robert W. Chambers  
Lost Worlds - C. A. Smith  
Fantastic Memories - Sandoz, illust. by Dali

All books are in good to excellent condition except Purple Sapphire which is just fair. All are 1st Editions, except Etidorpha. I want books in excellent condition-only, if possible with Dust Wrappers.

JAMES M. PERRIN  
381-3 East 151 Street  
Bronx 55, New York



# The Cosmic Reporter

by Lane Stannard

## WEST COAST STF CONFERENCE TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 5th

The West Coast fans will have a miniature convention all their own on the 5th of September of this year. It is sponsored by the LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY and will be called the WESTERN CONFERENCE. It is scheduled for one day only and is for the sole purpose of the western fans who could not make the world Conventions held around the east coast. Five speakers are promised and western stf authors aplenty. We suggest to those that are interested to write to the LASFA Secretary, K. H. Bonnell, 628 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles 44, California. On behalf of FANTASY-TIMES may we wish this Stf Conference the best of luck.

While speaking of Conferences, we wonder if the PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY will hold one of their famous PHILLY CONFERENCES this year?

## THE PRO MAGAZINES

AMAZING STORIES QUATERLY REISSUE has jumped its price from 35¢ to 50¢; does this mean that the monthly AMAZING STORIES will jump from 25¢ to 35¢?? Mmmmmmmmm. By the way, AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES have just reduced their pages to 154; did you notice?

We would like to stick our neck out and make a prediction. We predict that before this year is out ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION - will go back to its old pulp-size (approx. 7" x 10"), will contain 128 or 144 pages and sell for 25¢.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES first 25¢ edition in 13 years appeared on the stands this month. We liked the stories, but my, Mr. Merwin do you call that a Fan Mag Review Column? It shouldn't happen to a dog let alone stf fandom. Fandom expects help from the pro mags, not kicks in the face. We'd suggest that you change it pronto and make it the same as the excellent column you run in STARTLING STORIES. And that readers' column. What happened, Sam, did you and your readers feel like reviving the supposedly dead Sgt. Saturn? For shame! Still we think TWS one of the finest stf mags published today.

## FANTASY-TIMES LENDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AWARDS COMMITTEE

Paterson, N.J., 24 July (CNS) - A very important step forward was taken today in the matter of the fantasy awards committee now being worked on by Ray Van Houten of Paterson. When FANTASY-TIMES donated the sum of \$5 to Mr. Van Houten to help him carry on the project. James V. Taurasi, editor and publisher of FANTASY-TIMES, made the donation.

In presenting this gift to Mr. Van Houten, Mr. Taurasi said:



"I feel that the success of this project will tend to raise the standards of the whole fantasy field, both professional and fan, since it will give everyone concerned, editors, artists, authors, publishers (both fan and pro), a mark to shoot for."

"This donation from FANTASY-TIMES, which is given in behalf of the entire staff, has no strings attached, and our only aim is that eventually that there will be a committee, representative of the WHOLE of the fantasy field, to present the awards as you have outlined to me."

"We are honored to be able to do our bit towards this goal, which, when accomplished, will be the biggest step forward since Gernsback published AMAZING STORIES."

-rvh

#### NEW BRONX FANTASY CLUB FORMED

July 25 (CNS) - An organizational meeting was held last night at the home of Miss Helena Schwimmer for the purpose of forming a fantasy discussion group for the fans of Greater New York.

After a hectic discussion, it was decided that membership be open to anyone professing an interest in fantasy. A few tentative names for the group were discussed, but they were felt to be inadequate. Joe Schaumburger, a Bronx, N.Y. fan, was chosen Temporary Chairman, until a set of by-laws can be drafted and regular elections held.

Present at this first meeting were Will Sykora, Phil Froeder, Rickey Slavin, Helena Schwimmer, Ray Short, Frank Maher, Milton Reich, Martin Margulies, Mrs. Schwimmer and Joe Schaumburger.

It is expected that meetings will be held weekly.

Those interested in joining should contact Miss. Helena Schwimmer, 1370 College Ave, Bronx 56, New York.

-js

#### COSMIC PUBLICATIONS BECOMES FANDOM HOUSE

At a meeting between three Eastern Fans, William S. Sykora, Ray Van Houten and James V. Taurasi, COSMIC PUBLICATIONS became a thing of the past and a new, more suited name, FANDOM HOUSE took its place. Under this new name, the old-time weekly, FANTASY-NEWS will be revived by William S. Sykora by the time you receive this issue of F-T. FANTASY-TIMES will be continued by James V. Taurasi and will add a new edition, THE BRITISH EDITION! This British Edition will be edited by Van Houten and published by Taurasi. It will be published monthly, 2 or more pages, and contain condensed news-items from F-T and F-N. It will be mailed FREE to British fans, and outside of review copies sent to all pro editors, it will not be circulated in the United States. Mr. Taurasi would appreciate names of British fans. For more information on FANTASY NEWS write to William S. Sykora, P. O. Box 4, Steinway Sta., Long Island City 3, New York.

#### UNKNOWN COMICS SEES FIRST ISSUE

One of the finest weird comics yet published is Adventures Into THE UNKNOWN, a quarterly comic magazine featuring weird-picture stories and weird picture-articles. We suggest that you pick up a copy. 10¢. Vol. 1 - No. 1 is dated Fall 1948.

-continued on page 23-



## THE FAN MAG COLLECTOR

This column is for our readers who have fan mags to sell or who want to obtain fan mags to complete their collection. It is FREE, but the editor reserves the right to reject any item.

WANTED: "Acolyte", first 8 issues, "Fantasy Commentator", early issues, "Leaves II", 1938. Ray H. Zorn, Troy Grove, Ill.

WANTED: "Fantasy Commentator", Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14. James M. Perrin, 381-3 East 151 Street, Bronx 55, New York.

WANTED: "Dream Quest" No. 1, "The Burroughs Bulletin" Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 5. Jas V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, New York.

The dead-line for material for the September FANTASY-TIMES is August 20, 1948!

## THE TIME MACHINE

The first attempt at publishing this fan mag failed because of the lack of fan support! But it will make a new appearance Aug. 15 as a mimeoed magazine of 16 pages. The first issue will contain a poem by D.H. Keller, a story by Con Pederson, Illos by Fried, Cockcroft, and Manning. Only 50 copies will be published. Write immediately, 10¢ per ish or 3 issues for 25¢. Published bi-monthly. Gordon Mack Jr., Box 138, Lake Arthur, La.

THE SEVENTH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION will be held in Cincinnati in 1949. Help make it a success by joining the CONVENTION SOCIETY. Send your \$1.00, now, to Donald B. Ford, 129 Maple Ave., Sharonville, Ohio. JOIN TODAY!

## -THE SMOKE-FILLED ROOM- -continued from page 2-

Nothing herein should be taken as<sup>a</sup> reflection on the honesty and integrity of the pro-Cincinnati group. They made the best of a bad situation. Insofar as any individual was involved, that individual is not blameless and a careful examination of conscience would be in order so that such a farce shall not again leave a democracy open to doubt.

The choice of Cincinnati for 1949 was a good one, and FANTASY TIMES will without question give unstinting support to the Convention Committee.

IT'S OVER THE RHINE IN '49!

## THE COSMIC REPORTER - continued from page 22-

## BUCHANAN AND FOOTBALL

John Giunta, our cover artist, comes thru with an excellent, tho not quite fantasy item:

Lamont Buchanan, assistant editor of WEIRD TALES, has just had a book published valled "The Story of Football". Its in text and pictures and very well put together. It has a foreword by Grantland Rice, sells for \$5.00 and published by Stephan, Paul Pub. I understand Buchanan was formerly Sports Reporter for the TRIBUNE.

-jg



And now a news-note from Gerry C. Brown:

Here's a news item concerning a well-known fantasy author. In the August issue of SCIENCE DIGEST, in the article "What Becomes of Gifted Children", L. Sprague de Camp is listed as one of 1400 persons selected as a child by Prof. Lewis M. Terman of Stanford U. as especially talented. These persons have had their careers followed, to see how they turned out in comparison to average people. De Camp is listed as an expert in naval architectural and patents, a graduate of M.I.T. and Cal Tech, and author of several books. "Round About the Cauldron", a history of occultism and witchcraft is given as "his most ambitious piece of writing" which he has just completed. The article is condensed from the April 18 1948 issue of the AMERICAN WEEKLY. -gcb

ONE OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF'S BETTER HALF

Betty (Mrs. Ray) Van Houten has submitted a short-short to Standard Magazines, Inc. for publication.

ELECTION RETURNS FROM THE WEST

From Los Angeles comes the information that Arthur Jean Cox - is the new Director of the LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY. Kenneth H. Bonnell has been placed in the Secretary's spot. -rvh

LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURE WRITTEN BY DOYLE IN AUGUST COSMOPOLITAN

Knowing that a large percentage of fantasy fans are also interested in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous Sherlock Holmes, we present this interesting item. Doyle stuck this manuscript in a hat box which he then placed in a safe-deposit box back in 1922 without telling anyone about it. It was discovered only a few months ago. You will find it in the current (August 1948) issue of COSMOPOLITAN under the title "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted". It is as interesting as any Sherlock Holmes yarn. In the same issue is a fantasy story "The Next Voice You Hear" by George Sumner Albee. -jvh

MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER NOW OUT IN COMIC BOOK FORM

VOL. 1 - No. 1 of MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER COMICS hit the stands - early this month and will appear quarterly hereafter. The first issue features the Mysterious Traveler story "Five Miles Down" that was heard over station WOR (in New York) quite a while back. It is fantasy and is well illustrated by Powell.

BOOK NEWS

The FANTASY PUBLISHING CO., INC. will release DEATH'S DEPUTY by L. Ron Hubbard sometime this month (August). Forthcoming shortly from this company is "The Works of M. P. Shiel. This book will be in the large size (same as "Out of Unknown" and "Sunken World") and will feature a jacket design based on the Salvadore Dali painting called "Three Young Surrealist Women Holding in their Arms the Skins of an Orchestra". Ralph Milne Farley's great story of a d-venture "The Radio Man" will be released in the fall of this year.