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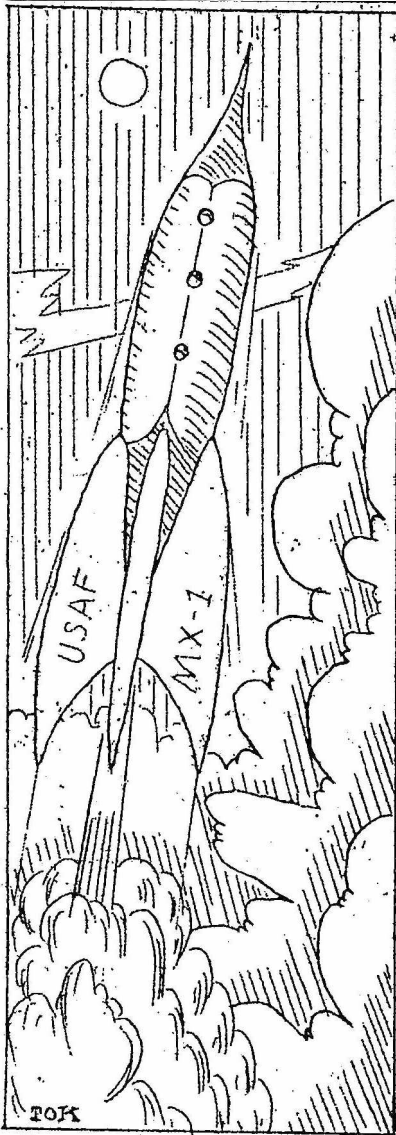
TOYS - 48

October 1948 - 15¢

Fantasy-Times

The World Of Tomorrow Today

James V. Taurasi, editor and publisher; Ray Van Houten and J. Russell Mars, co-editors and co-publishers; Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, science editor; Les Mayer, Jr., movie editor; John Giunta, art editor. Milton A. Rothman, Gordon M. Kull, William S. Sykora, Alvin R. Brown and Sam Moskowitz, correspondents.



EDITORIAL

Changes are going to be made with Fantasy-Times, the biggest changes since we went monthly last year. We are going semi-monthly. Yes, we are going to come out twice-a-month, starting with the next issue.

There will be a change in format, policy and price. From next issue on, we'll be 8 pages plus cover in size, two columns in format and 10 cents in price. We will stress the news items more and try to cover the professional field as complete as we can. We think you'll like our new Fantasy-Times and will be very interested in hearing from you.

Now step up and meet two new co-owners of Fantasy-Times; Ray Van Houten, who has co-edited this magazine for a number of years, and J. Russell Mars, a newcomer to active fandom. Russ has been binding his fantasy magazines, himself, for years. He has a number of articles, for fantasy collectors, coming up in the near future.

The three of us, with the help of the rest of our staff, will do our best to bring to you the best sciencefiction news magazine ever published.

From now on this magazine will be mailed out to you the 1st and 15th of each month. New deadlines are the 10th and 25th of the month. The next issue will be dated November 15th and will be mailed out on the same date.

-James V. Taurasi, publisher

Fantasy-Times published by James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, New York. This issue, 15¢. Starting with the next issue, Fantasy-Times will be published semi-monthly, 10¢ a copy, 3 issues for 25¢ and 12 for \$1. Ads: \$1 a page; 50¢ 1/2 page & 25¢ 1/4.

Cover and inside illustrations by Herman Tok

FANDOM HOUSE

LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS

Since the last issue of Fantasy-Times, the Mexican sf magazine, "Los Cuentos Fantásticos" has published three more issues. They are dated: August, 1st September, and 2nd September issues. The price of the magazine has been raised from 60 centavos to 90 centavos because, states the publisher, of the high cost of printing and paper.

The August, No. 4, issue reprints the December 1946, Amazing Stories cover. The 1st September, No. 5, issue reprints the June 1948, Famous Fantastic Mysteries cover. The 2nd September, No. 6, issue reprints the September 1948, Startling Stories cover.

Don Wilcox, Ray Bradbury, Ray Cummings, Rog Phillips, Chester S. Geier, Ross Rocklynne, Edmond Hamilton and others have had their stories translated into Spanish and reprinted in this magazine.

Virgil Finlay, Lawrence and others have had interior illustrations reprinted, and as far as we can find out, none of this reprinting of covers, stories or inside illustrations has been done with the permission of the original publishers. Astounding seems to be the only magazine not reprinted from.

Ziff-Davis is the latest sf publishing company that has informed us that they have not given permission to reprint their stories and illustrations to this Mexican sf magazine. -jvt

JOIN THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE and help make the coming 1949 "World Science Fiction Convention" the biggest, best and most enjoyable convention to date. Membership is only \$1.00. Write to Donald B. Ford, 129 Maple Ave Sharonville, Ohio.

LINE-UP OF THE 8th ISSUE OF *Avon Fantasy Reader*

Don Wollheim, editor of the Avon Fantasy Reader, has informed Fantasy-Times that the 8th issue of his magazine will contain:

QUEEN OF THE BLACK COAST by Robert E. Howard; THE MACHINE MAN OF ARDARHIA by Francis Flagg; THE CAT-WOMAN by Mary Elizabeth Counselman; THE MAN WITH A THOUSAND LEGS by Frank Belknap Long; ZERO HOUR by Ray Bradbury; THE OTHER WING by Algernon Blackwood; THE TEMPLE by H. P. Lovecraft; THE GOBLINS WILL GET YOU by John Michel; THE CANAL by Everil Worrell; and AN INHABITANT OF CARCOSA by Ambrose Bierce.

(For more AVON news see "The Cosmic Reporter" on page 19)

Merit Awards Report Presented At Conclave

The first pre-organizational report of the "Merit Awards Committee" project being handled by Ray Van Houten of Paterson, N. J., was presented to fandom at the Science Fiction Conclave held in New York on September 12th.

The report was a complete summary of the progress of the project up to August 31, and consisted of eight mimeoed pages in a stiff printed cover. Copies are available from Mr. Van Houten, 409 Market St., Paterson 3, New Jersey, for 10¢ to cover the cost of duplicating and mailing.

Chief item of interest contained in the report is the calling of the organizational meeting of the awards committee for sometime in April, 1949. At this time, representatives from all interested fan clubs and

continued on page 18

FANTASY TIMES

October 1948

Vol. 3 - No 10 - Whole No 70

PHILLY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON NOV. 21st

SUPER SCIENCE SCHEDULE DELAYED ONE MONTH

Latest news from Popular Publications is that SUPER SCIENCE will be on the newsstands around the middle of December instead of November. The first revived edition of this pre-war scientifiiction magazine has been delayed in order to make its schedule better suited with the other magazines the company publishes; a common practice. The first revived issue will be dated January 1949, instead of December 1948, as originally announced. The magazine will appear bi-monthly.

-jvt

From Unknown Worlds

It took over twenty years to happen, but this month it did. For the first time since Hugo Gernsback satisfied the hunger of scientifiiction fans by publishing AMAZING STORIES ANNUAL, a fantasy annual has hit the stands. John W. Campbell, Jr. and Street and Smith, combined with the talent of artist Edd Cartier have presented to the fantasy fans, A FANTASY ANNUAL, FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS. Campbell has done well with his selection of stories from the hard to get UNKNOWN WORLDS, now trying its

THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY will hold its ANNUAL PHILLY CONFERENCE on November 21, 1948. The location of the hall is 1626 Arch Street, Philadelphia, only three blocks from Penna. R. R. Broad St. Station.

The PSFS has been holding these Scientifiiction conferences since 1948, except for a few years during the last war, and last year, when they held the World Science Fiction Convention.

They expect about 100 fans, authors, artists and editors, tho the hall will easily hold about 200.

The Conference will start promptly at 1 PM, but the hall will be open from 11 AM on for the purpose of foregathering.

Featured speaker will be Lester del Rey. There will be shown a most unusual movie based on "The Fall of the House of Usher". There will be plenty of opportunity for discussions of fannish interest from the floor.

A raffle will be held to raise enough money to take care of expenses.

All interested in scientifiiction are invited.

-mar

best to come back to life. Edd Cartier has "overdone" himself with an excellent cover and inside illustrations. The format, size and price are ideal. No fan's collection is complete without it.

-ls

THE COSMIC REPORTER

edited by Lane Stannard

THE SCIENCE FICTION CONCLAVE

On September 12, the Queens Science Fiction League presented in New York the "Science Fiction Conclave". The Key-note of the gathering was a presentation of the fantasy merit awards project now being carried forward by Ray Van Houten (See page 2).

Speakers at the Conclave included William S. Sykora, the chairman, Alvin R. Brown, Leo Margulies, Sam Merwin, Jr., L. Ron Hubbard, Ray Van Houten and the guest of honor, F. Orlin Tremaine.

About 100 fans attended, some of whom stayed for the auction which was held in the evening.

(reprinted from British Ed of M)

ILLUSTRATED INTEREST

I wonder if anyone noticed that the illustration on page 72 of the Nov. '48 Fantastic Adventures features the identical woman as in the illustration on page 74 of the May 1946 number, both by artist William A. Gray. Laziness?

-Gordon Mack Jr.

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

Expenses of the West Coast Conference came to \$82.32; income was \$82.32. It came out even since Chairman Evans made a donation to make it do so.-AJCox

VAN VOGT NEWS

Super Science has bought van Vogt's "B-Day" from Agent Ackerman. Supposed to be a swell

story; rejected by Astounding in line with their new No-More-Atom-War-Story policy. Van has also finished the last of the Clane Linn series. He had intended to write the series merely to set the stage for a serial he was going to write -- but the series was so unpopular (compared to his other work) that he decided to drop the serial. His wife has finished another Artur Blord story. Van Vogt said that the story of his which was published in ASF and which drew the largest response from the readers was -- not SLAN or WORLD OF A -- but THE CHRONICLER. It did, in fact, receive more response than did SLAN, THE WEAPON MAKERS, and THE WORLD OF A put together.-ajc

FANTASY BOOK NOTES

Prime Press' "Without Sorcery", by Theodore Sturgeon, is off the press and is being proofread. Lloyd Eshbach has quit his job and is going to spend full time on Fantasy Press. Three of the fantasy publishers, limited editions, are holding talks concerning merging their circulation departments for the sake of economy and efficiency.

Simon & Schuster is planning to publish the Astounding serial "...And Searching Mind" by Jack Williamson, in early 1949.

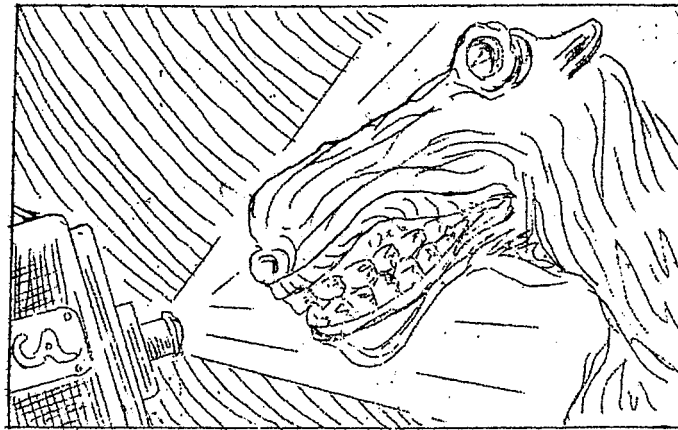
ODDS AND FANTASY

According to an assistant-director at UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL studios, UNIVERSAL is going to continue on page 19

FANTASY FILMS

RADIO & TELEVISION

by Lester Mayer, Jr.



A new film about dinosaurs, giant sloths, and other prehistoric monsters in a modern world is being made. It's called "Unknown Island" (previously titled "The Unbelievable"). Such pictures are few and far between. About the only other examples I can think of are "The Lost World", "King Kong", and its sequel "Son of Kong". The picture stars Barton MacLane, Richard Denning, Phil Reed, and Virginia Grey and is obviously a Grade B production.

A French picture "Passion in the Desert", has opened in the Squire Theatre in New York. I haven't seen it yet, but I'm just wondering if it's based on the story of the same title by Honore de Balzac, the story in which a man turns into a leopard.

There are quite a few science-fiction serials playing around town. Almost everybody has heard of the "Superman" chapters. Another one is "Brick Bradford". This one concerns time-travel, descent into the earth, etc. And about a year ago I saw one episode of something called "The Purple Monster Strikes". The whole thing was science-fiction (invisibility, fourth dimension, space-travel, mind-possession, etc.).



Want to see what the new Tarzan, Lex Barker, looks like? He has a small bit part in "Return of the Bad Men". He plays one of the Balton brothers. You'll have to look fast to catch him, though.

Sunday, September 5th, the CBS program "Escape" featured H. G. Wells' "Dream of Armageddon". The following night "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" was dramatized over the Lux Radio Theatre. Tonight, September 19th, "Escape" will present "The Man Who Could Work Miracles". This seems to be the leading program for science-fiction stories on the air today.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. recently met with J. Arthur Ranks, English movie magnate, to talk about starring in "Sir Launcelot and the Knights of the Round Table". It will be photographed in technicolor, and should be more spectacular than "Hamlet". Something

tells me at least part of this picture will be fantasy.

"Lost Horizon" is back again. It's playing in the same old movie houses around New York City. This makes the umpteenth time its been reissued.

Pat Frank is on his way to Hollywood to confer with Sam Goldwyn on doing the script for a picture about Annapolis. He's the author of "Mr. Adam". Another book of his, a non-fantasy, has just been published.

This seems to be a banner year for Guy and Constance Jones. Only a few months ago their "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" opened in New York. Now currently showing at the Roxy Theatre is the Tyrone Power picture, "The Luck of the Irish", based on their "There was a Little Man". It's about a newspaperman who meets a Leprechaun in Ireland. The picture is in black and white, but scenes of Ireland are photographed with a greenish tint. Incidentally, the Newark Sunday News a few weeks ago printed "There - Was a Little Man" in their magazine section.

For those fantasy fans who are lucky enough to own television sets, here is very good news. In the Sept. 28th issue of Look Magazine there is an article on a series of movies made especially for television. They will all be short features. Movies ready are "The Tell-Tale Heart" (E. A. Poe) and "A Terribly Strange Bed" (W. Collins). Future pictures will include "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", "Pit and the Pendulum", and other thrillers. There will be thirteen pictures altogether, to be made at the Hal Roach Studios by the new Menzies-Finney Co. Sorry, but I don't know when they will be shown, or over what station. -Jim

BOOK REVIEW OF "World of A" by A. E. Van Vogt

SIMON & Schuster's first venture into the stf. reprint field will probably turn out better for science-fiction than it will for S & S. "World" is supposed to be a stf opus which will stand up to the competition of the general run of stf currently being offered to the reading public, but although some elements in its make-up have been shamelessly borrowed from others, more accepted types of writings, there is just enough honest fantasy in the yarn to make its reception by said general reading public very doubtful.

The book is, however, an excellent plug for stf, and is dedicated to John W. Campbell, Jr., in whose mag it first appeared as a serial.

Practically all of the readers of FANTASY-TIMES are too familiar with the story for me to recount the plot here. This version is not much different from the serial, although what changes were made were for the better.

Cover design is by Leo Manso and is well-reproduced. Binding is the usual standard for its price. Typography and make-up are both excellent. The book is definitely worth owning, and for those who have not read it, it is a must! -Ray Van Houten

The Blue Pencil

A Monthly Commentary of the
Professional science - fic-
tion and Fantasy Magazines.

by Martin Margulies



IN a desultory attempt to be non-partisan and to preserve individuality this column will list the magazines alphabetically.

AMAZING STORIES - October 1948

The time (over) worn one-man-to-save-the-world idea served as plot for "The Brain", this issue's lead novel. The best that can be said for this machine-made hack is that one feels that Alexander Blade has his tongue-in-check while pounding it out. "Death of a B. E. M." was very unfunny. "The Frightened Planet" wound up with mid-Victorian male superiority as its portrayal of the correct role of women in society. In the "Cube Root of Conquest" one recognizes that Rog Philips is a very fine mathematician, but - what happened to the story? The serial, "The Return of Tharn", was easily the best written of the lot but, as for science, to Cro-Magnonize Polkie's Toka and then just shift - mags is going more than a little too far. What's this? A rival mag praised in the unholy pages of AS? Methinks Philips' arithmetic entered here somewhere.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION - September 1948

G.O. Smith did right well with an exhumed Verne plot in "The Cat-paw". Somehow, your columnist is always satisfied by Mr. Smith. "Dreams are Sacred" had an unusual idea and was well done, too. Sorry, but Lafayette missed the boat with "The Great Air Monopoly". O. D. Methuselah is not even living up to Captain Future standards. "Paper Planets" was very informative and very good, because, for once, poor mortals like myself could understand it. "The Gorgons" - an extremely contrived saga. "Dance of a New World" - a charming, though a bit dull, little love story. "Inheritance" - fast-moving and human, too. Campbell's Editorial fingered what may be the crucial fact in the battle against old age.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES - October 1948

Kaspa instead of Tarzan, lion instead of ape, etc., give C. T. Stoncham's "The Lion's Way". Beautifully and masterfully done.

but the proximity is too great-----. It all depends on for whom you were pulling in Bradbury's "The Women". Everything between the first and last paragraphs was better not written----. Tenn's "The Human Angle" was just obvious enough to hold your interest-----. "That Low" by Sturgeon read more like a synopsis than a story. Sorry, Ted, but watch that deadline next time----. Ironical that the current "master of Fantasy" is Edgar Rice Burroughs-----.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES - October 1948

After plodding thorough this revised version of "The Green Man Returns" entitled "This Way to Heaven", that Harold Sherman does not employ a ghost writer seems to us to be quite dubious. On the other hand, the use of names at all appears incongruous with Palmer's staff of unimaginative robots-----. Following the novel was a sam small-type yarn, "Ernest's Evil Entity" by Arthur T. Harris. It lacked only Erik Knight's inimitable prose and characterizations-----. Eureka! A good story! Bernie Kamins "The Well-Wisher" is one of the best stories I have read in FA for a long, long time. Keep it up, Bernie-----. Gnashing his teeth in a mirror must have inspired Bob Williams to write "The Pruning Man". I just couldn't stomach it-----. Some of the fillers were interesting, especially Recour's "Squeeze the Juice"-----. "The Reader's Page" is one of the best reasons for not writing to a pro-mag. The one unfavorable letter sounds like a crank. Glad they are not all like AS and FA-----. A thought in passing: It used to be that you could get, if not quality from the Z-D twins, then quantity. Oh, well!

FANTASTIC NOVELS - September 1948

To the lovers of Abraham Merritt, nothing more need be said than "The Conquest of the Moon Pool". This magnificent fantasy classic in novel-length consumed almost the whole of this issue's FN-----.

PLANET STORIES - Fall 1948

Emmett McDowell came through with "Citadel of the Green Death", a very fine and very adult short novel. He was up to his and Planet's usually high standards-----. G. F. Fox's "When Kohannes Screamed" did not ring quite true-----. Bradbury's "Mars is Heaven!" was sheer genius, a tense and gripping story----- some went for Chandler's "Preview of Peril", only more human than pathy-----. P.S. must have a monopoly on originality because Blish's "Against the Stone Beasts" very skillfully combined anti-matter with winged people AND BEMS-----. Bill Tenn scored with a spine-chilling time travel yarn in "Brooklyn Project"-----. Tennol's "Synthetic Hero" was entertaining but not much more-----. "When I was young, I was a Wetlander, but now I am an Aarthman" was the only sense I could make from Basil Wells' "Valkyrie from the Void"-----. All in all, though, a good ish.

STARTLING STORIES - September 1948

Hooray! an epic! If not in the history of science-fiction, then

at least in the annals of fandom "What Mad Universe" by Fredric Brown will live forever. Seriously though, it was a hilarious short novel; good science-fiction, and definitely slanted toward active fans. Where else would you have found it but in SS or TWS? Fred, we love you!-----. The De Courcys' work, "Rat Race," was so much better than some of their stories we have seen ELSEWHERE. Stay on the ball, Dot and Jack-----. P.S. Miller's "Tetrahedra of Space" was a fine example of old school S-F. It jars us into a comparison of then and now. Wonder if our moderns would emerge as the better?-----. One was able to glean some useful information from "First Target in Space" by R.T. Farnsworth, President, U.S. Rocket Society. Useful, that is, if you want to go to the moon. A cumbersome article; it could have been better-----. Like the old school writing, J.D. MacDonald's "Shenadun" could have been written by John Taine. It was good enough and Taine liked mountains anyway-----. "A plague on both your gambling houses; Magnus Ridolph rides again! "Senator's Short-Cut" was apparently by way of introduction to Jack Vance's new character. Want to see more before passing judgement-----. Merwin did right, we feel, in hauling the SABS on the carpet. Active fandom is great! B U T going hog-wild-and-handsome is turning fandom into a farce. If it continues, we may soon expect, following TALES OF PASSIONATE FANS, something like ONE FAN'S MAMMARY.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES - October 1948

Leigh Brackett, we are dumbfounded! We expected better from you. Not being S-F, "The Moon That Vanished" was not even good fantasy. Remaining undismayed, we await her next opus with usual enthusiasm. "That Mess Last Year" by J. D. MacDonald was pretty messy, not up to his usual par-----. In "Galactic Heritage" F. B. Long again proved himself a master. A tip-top short-----. Gibson probably had "I like You, Too" prepared for Sexy Ranch Stories under the name of Hoot instead of Joe and had to do a quick rewrite job.-----. A. J. Burk's "yesterday's Doors" started off well, but drifted into the abyss of Atlantis-----. Do not skip Sprague's "Riddle of Time"-----. William F. Temple deserved bouquets for the best story this issue, "Miracle Town". The characterizations were out of this world-----. Bradbury's "The Square Pegs" was entertaining, but far-fetched, mathematically--. Smith's "The Cosmic Jackpot" was an ingenious tale with George at his refreshing best-----. Benj. Miller's Original Prem. offering, "Date Line" was dull at best-----. Carroll's "Reverse English" was a modest story and had a right to be-----. "Softie" by Noel Loomis was a warm story with a new approach-----. Donald Taverty "No Winter, no Summer" was an enigma. On the surface it was much, but-----. If Brett Sterling's "Referent" had been referred to as nothing, what would have happened to Time? or better yet, re-sublimated thiotimeline-----. To those in the "know", Alpaugh is a pretty mercenary "Rhod"-----. Mr. Merwin, you should be ashamed! Your "Frying Pan" did fandom no good.

WEIRD TALES - September 1948

Take "The Rats in the Walls" mix well with some "Dunwich Horror",

half-bake in an August-type Dirlleth and you have "The Whippoorwills in the Hills". And you can have it----- Ray Bradbury proved himself again in "Fever Dream". It had us broke out in a cold sweat, perhaps the result of some fever----- "The Cracks of Time" by Dorothy Quick -- a strange tale of passion, maturely recounted----- Harding's "The Follower", -- the story of an unusual schizoid -- a gem----- Lawlor's "The Beasts that Tread the World" was a successful adventure in metaphysical philosophy----- Atavism and a women scorned did not improve "The Daughter of Urzun", by Stan Coblentz----- The idea behind S.T. Herrick's, "The Hidden Talent of Artist Bates" was essentially praiseworthy but the continuity was too manufactured----- Hamilton comes through again with his gripping "The Watcher of the Ages"----- Judging from "The River", Dotty Quick should stick to prose----- You got the other side of the story in Russell's "Displaced Person"----- Clark Ashton Smith's versatility shone through in his sonnet, "To the Chimera"----- "Ghoulies and ghosties" how does it go? Anyway, they are all in Peter Phillip's "Death's Bouquet"----- Beautiful characterizations but a poor plot----- "The Devil's Lottery", by Mary Elizabeth Counselman was a terrific philosophical thesis and marvelous fiction to boot. -mm

ROCK REVIEW

The Bowl of Night by Edward Liston, Coward McCann (1948) 246 pp, \$2.75

THE plot for this book is probably the oldest in fantasy. An American Doctor is trapped in a community located in a vally crater in South America. The people in this valley, the Gugoolmans are scientists and philosophers who disapprove of strangers. The hero soon finds that his hosts are extremely intelligent and can work higher math. Usually all strangers are killed but the doctor is allowed to live so that he may be studied. It is decided to sterilize the doc (as are 90% of the male Gugoolmans) but later this decision is recinded and the doc is actually allowed to have a mate. He falls in love with his assigned woman and, reluctantly, flees to the outside world in order to save his life.

Samuel Butler used this plot in 1872 in his Erewhon. Mr. Liston uses it for the same reasons as Butler, to take a poke at man and his so-called society. If the book is read for its satire it is a good investment. But it will, I feel sure, have little appeal for the majority of s-f fans.

If you are a collector, a sociologists or a lover of lost race stories this is for you. If, on the other hand, you are a modern s-f fan, like myself, pass this one up. --J. Russell Mers

NOTICE: Starting with the next issue, FANTASY-TIMES will be published semi-monthly, 8 pages, plus cover and 10¢. The next issue will be dated Nov. 15 and will be mailed out Nov. 15. It will be mailed out the 1st and the 15th of the month thereafter. All subscriptions will be adjusted to the new price. -the editors

FANZINE REVIEW

by Gordon M. Kull

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

BEFORE us this month we have another commendable pile of mag material. Each month the quality of the zines, since I have been transcribing this column, seems unreasonably to reach a higher level than the month before. Could it be that I have come in time to follow a new trend? I don't like to be repetitions, but it pleases me to report a CONTINUED UPSWING OF ZINE QUALITY.

(C) BLOOMINGTON NEWS-LETTER, N.6 (Box 260, Bloomington, Ill) (5¢) This is just about what the title implies. A dabble of this and that. Is gaining a coherence not present in past issues. We do not feel that it is worth 5¢ though, unless just for a bit of the entertaining writing of Bob Tucker its editor.

(A) CHRONOSCOPE, Aug 48 (2215 Benjamin St, NE, Minn 18, Minn) (15¢) This we like. Top mimeo work, top illos, top contents. No fiction this time. Just a list of names appearing on contents page will be enough for most of you. Keller, Brazier, Kennedy, Klingbiel, Lilith Lorraine, Rapp, Marion Zimmer, Genevieve Stephens. A poem by Lorraine and an article by her on writing living stuff; this latter we consider highlight of issue, but all well done.

(A) FANSCIENT, V.2, N.3 (3435 NE 38th Ave, Portland 13, Ore) (15¢) Still knocking down an A with lots to spare. High Calibre contents. Articles on G.A. England, R.E. Howard, Extrapolation (this latter a typical by H. Kuttner), D.H. Keller with biblio. Fiction by Miles Eaton, Don Day; miscellaneous matter by Atlas, Storer. And of course the usual superior art.

(A) PEON, V.1N.2&3 (2116 Edsall Court, Alameda, Calif) (5¢; 25¢yr.) Two copies within a month, and both worth the price and more. We place editor Riddle's special editorial at top of the list. It should cause some to pause--we hope so. Poems and letters at present compose the greater part of the mag. Articles weak, Fiction good, poetry very good, format and mimeo work is well done. It is with each issue expanding in content. We predict continual growth.

(AA) SCIENCE, FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, V.1, N.1&2 (Box A, Kings Park, N.Y.) (15¢) A Zine which has long been needed, here at last. It is partly composed of science articles; Fossils, Robot Brains, Space travel, Inventors. Articles by Moskowitz, Kroll. Fiction by Taurasi; poetry, Dietz, Schaumburger. A must on your zine list.

THE TORCON REPORT

by William S. Sykora



PART III - THE THIRD DAY

ON Monday, July 5th, the convention reconvened at 1:45 P.M. Ned McKeown spoke briefly about Dr. Keller's "Sign of the Burning Hart", being published by THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION. He announced that the edition had been sold out, creating the unique case of a book being out of print before it was published.

Joe Kennedy was then called and he gave a long eulogy to introduce the next speaker, David H. Keller, M.D. Kennedy said that Keller has

begun a first-hand study of the fans of North America, that the good doctor has corresponded with more fans than any other author, and that more active fans have visited him in East Stroudsburg than any other author. According to Kennedy, Keller has had more material published in fan mags than all other fantasy authors put together, and that he has stated that he will never refuse the request of a fan editor for material. Dr. Keller is constantly making new friends. The introduction concluded, Keller then mounted the platform.

Dr. Keller opened his talk with the remark that "there is nothing more precious in life than for an old man to have friends!" He said, "In a humble way, Mrs. Keller and I have been trying to pay our debt to fandom."

Keller then traced the development of tools, implements, devices, and machines invented by men as extensions of their natural bodies in their struggle to survive against the forces of nature. He asserted that these devices were used by some groups of men against others, to maintain their supremacy in human society. For example, Keller showed how ten armed knights could destroy 100 peasants without danger to themselves. Quoting an old saying, "God is on the side which has the heaviest cannon", Keller indicated that now a minority group of men owning the machines created by society as a whole in the struggle against nature could by their mere right of ownership conquer and maintain in subjection the vast majority of the human race.

But by the invention of printing, according to Dr. Keller, a means was discovered of equalizing man's position with man. For instance, Thomas Paine's book, "The Rights of Man", was one of the large factors in the formation of the United States, and one of the forces which raised human society out of feudalism into capitalism.

Then "explosions hitched to the four wheels of a wagon made the automobile" and the common man's education became broadened by travel. On the other hand, "pictures were captured on celluloid, and the human race had a new form of anesthetic amusement". Quoting Mrs. Keller, in a conversation with him about the inventions in his own stories, Dr. Keller said she asked him "Aren't you going to invent a machine to push the buttons? Do you want me to get a callous on my finger?" Thus he indicated how insatiable mankind's wants really are. Coupled with the increased life span ("The span of life expectancy in my lifetime has risen from 40 to 67 years of age.") society seems to be well on the way toward winning the struggle against nature.

But "no machine has ever been invented by man to enable him live at peace with his fellow men." Quoting Mussolini's son after bombing the Ethiopians, Dr. Keller said the "spurting blood looked like a rose." But in the last war, Keller pointed out that "humanity saw not one rose, but large fields of roses." Men have made "furnaces for steel, and furnaces to burn 16,000 people per hour." Following the philosophy of the syphilitic Nietzsche, the scientists of Germany, serving the industrial cartelists set out to become superman, actually super-demons, who by their superscience wiped out more than ten million people they thought were inimical to their own group's supremacy.

Writers dream; inventors make the dreams come true. Jules Verne dreamt of the submarine; shortly after he wrote "20,000 Leagues under the Sea", the undersea boat was invented. Wells dreamt of the airplane before 1898; in 1903 the Wright Brothers flew a Kitty Hawk. In 1919, Phil Nowlan's Anthony Rogers went to sleep and woke up five centuries later in the midst of jet planes, rocket guns, and atomic war. Jet planes and atomic weapons were actually used a few years ago in World War II. An examination of all scientific prophecies would seem to indicate that Gernsback's "Mystery" "Prophetic fiction is the Mother of scientific fact" has more truth in it than has been supposed. Keller went so far as to assert that science-fiction actually does influence the advancement or retrogression of society.

But editors choose and owners publish. And they publish the kind of science-fiction which stresses the destructiveness of science. Earth is destroyed, or saved in the nick of time by a superman; superior races destroy those not so far advanced technologically; science is dangerous--it does not build, it destroys. "Such is the pabulum," said Keller, "on which the adolescent mind is fed. If these (ideas) are turned into action," (as so many sf ideas already have been) "the human race is doomed."

According to Keller, authors should write about the beneficial aspects of science. But the good doctor put the blame squarely on the editors who refuse to print other than plots of world destruction. Concluding, Keller issued a challenge that as long as he can write he will stress the good science can do for society whether the editors accept his stories or not.

Sam Moskowitz then spoke at length on "The Ethical Backgrounds of Science-Fiction Conventions." Drawing a parallel with the Bill of Rights, Moskowitz showed that "science-fiction conventions are fan affairs." Stressing the danger from commercial interests advanced by the professionals who might want to subvert the conven-

tion to their own selfish purposes, Moskowitz said that eternal vigilance is the price of free conventions under continued control of organized fandom.

An informal financial report was then given in which it was stated that \$418.15 were the net proceeds from the auction after certain kick-backs were paid to owners of some of the items auctioned off. The total receipts of the convention were announced to be approximately \$1,078.15, while the expenses were about \$950.00, leaving a net gain of something like \$128.15.

A finance committee was appointed by the chairman, Ned McKown. This consisted of Evans, Rothman, Moskowitz, McKown, as representative of the present sections of organized fan activity, with James Hevlin serving as a neutral member. After a recess during which the committee studied the finances of the TORCON SOCIETY, Hevlin reported that it was unanimously recommended to give \$50 to the next convention committee, the residue (about \$40 to \$60) to go to the Toronto fans for their organization. This was approved by the convention without objections.

Announcements were made by representatives of some of the local fan organizations as to their next and future meetings.

The Convention was then opened for bids to the next world convention. C. L. Barrett, M.D. entered a bid for Cincinnati. REE Evans seconded the bid. George O. Smith suggested the next convention be called "The Cinvention". Sykora read the following statement:

"Mr. Chairman, fellow fans:~ I speak to you now in my official capacity as Director of the QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE, the New York fan organization which for ten years in the face of nearly insuperable difficulties, vicious attacks, and animosity has tried to maintain and advance the fan tradition in the City of New York. I am here for the specific purpose of carrying out the unanimous mandate of our group, who at the May meeting went on record as favoring New York for the site of the World Convention in 1949. This was in line with continuous announcements for a period of nearly two years and in accordance with an agreement reached at the PHILCON that New York would not bid for '48 with the understanding that it would bid for '49.

Had certain professionals, acting in an unofficial capacity, permitted things to remain as they stood, the QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE would at this moment be making the bid for New York in '49. Instead, after waiting to see the attendance figures and financial results of the auction, they chose to exert pressure to cause a bid to be entered under their sponsorship for New York.

I am against fan feuds in New York or any place else. But I would like to have it known that I will not stand idly by when groups or individuals whose motives are not above reproach attempt to take the initiative to the detriment of organized fandom.

In the interest of the peaceful, enjoyable, and uninterrupted advancement of science-fiction and organized fandom, I hereby withdraw any claim the QUEENS SFL may have to the 1949 convention, and recommend that we vote in favor of the resolution for Cincinnati in 1949."

A motion to close the bids was then carried making Cincinnati the unanimous choice of the TORCON.

Beak Taylor then asked for more material to be written on the spot for the Memory Book.

In answer to a question, it was announced that Cincinnati was a good convention town with the possibility that the convention - would be held in a hotel where all fans could get rooms. Fans were invited to send their questions to the new convention committee.

Barrett announced that Detroit had withdrawn their bid Sunday night in "the smoke-filled room".

Barrett said that the Cincinnati group are entirely democratic, two people come 100 miles to attend meetings, they are entirely neutral, and have no connection with any professionals.

Don Ford said that Cincinnati was about 300 miles from Chicago and St. Louis, about 500 from New York, and about 1200 from New Orleans. He said there were plenty of places to stay and that the Chamber of Commerce would boost the convention in "Time" magazine, and otherwise. He said author Charles Tanner is a member of their group, and Smith's bookstore, an establishment of four floors and basement, is a veritable book-collectors' heaven.

A recess was then called, the convention to reconvene at 7:00 P.M. for the Buffanet and Entertainment.

The Torcon Buffanet commenced about 7:30 P.M. on the evening of July 5th. Diners were seated around the periphery of a large room in the center of which were long tables on which large paper dishes had been placed. The dishes contained a supply of cold cuts of turkey or ham and a combination vegetable salad. Tomato juice, fruit salad, coffee and cake were also to be had. As each fan entered, he chose a plate and ate in a sort of buffet style. There were about 75 present. Several fans had second helpings as about 100 dinners had been guaranteed. Indigent fans were admitted free. The rest had paid \$2.00 each.

After the Buffanet, the fans retired to the main hall for the entertainment. George O. Smith acting as announcer and Bob Tucker putting out with the sound effects read the two newspaper reports of the Torcon.

When they had finished, McKeown announced that Hubert Rogers had done the booklet (Program) cover.

George O. Smith acted as master of ceremonies throughout the entertainment introducing the various acts. In between the acts he "consulted" a "manual for master of ceremony" which purported to instruct the tyro in the proper jokes, anecdotes, and stories to tell and the proper times to tell them.

Moskowitz recited Poe's long poem, "The Raven" from memory.

Dr. Keller told an anecdote about the experiences of an over-ambitious author with one of the "vanity" publishers, reading several letters of an imaginary correspondence between them.

Rothman played several selections at the piano, among them a nocturne by Chopin.

Bob Bloch then gave a burlesque of Tucker's report. George O. Smith held Bloch's charts as McKeown had held Tucker's the evening before, but as Bloch finished with each chart, Smith threw it off the stage onto the floor of the hall. One of the charts depicted three out-houses of different sizes. Bloch said these represented the limited edition publishers, and suggested that the chart spoke for itself regarding their output.

An impromptu auction of the Bloch charts was then held. They were bought by Ned McKeown for \$3.50.

Norman F. Stanley then burlesqued a lecture on semantics. He

He spoke about "The Thing-Thing". For instance, a drill which is used to bore a hole in another drill such as a hollow rock drill, would be known as a "drill-drill". Similarly, a mill for the construction of other mills would be a "mill-mill". Another example, extending the concept further, would be "birdseed-seed", which might even be called "birdseed-seed-seed", etc., ad infinitum. Stanley cautioned fans to be on guard against the pseudo thing-thing, in which parts of the same term referred to different ideas, e.g. the "light-light", referring first to the weight and then to the appearance of the object.

The Tucker charts used the previous evening were then auctioned off and knocked down to Tucker for \$3.50.

The entertainment concluded with a take-off on a radip soap opera starring Josie Benderavage, James A. Williams, Lee Gregor and George O. Smith. The title of the skit was "Life Can Be Horrible". The show was supposed to be sponsored by "Robert's Rhythmic Robots". Williams was the announcer, Smith played the part of heavy, Rothman played the male heart throb and also furnished the musical effects on the piano, while Benderavage demurely provided the pulchritude, in a pure, sweet, melodrama of the spaceways in the raw, about a couple stranded on a planetoid eventually saved by the girl's old man.

A diploma was then presented to George O. Smith bestowing on him the degree of B.O. in the Glorious Order of Stinkers.

C. L. Barrett, M. D. then got up and said, "How about it, do you want to give the boys of the TORCON SOCIETY a big hand for the swell job they did?" after which the audience stood and applauded.

Ned McKeown then led in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne", with Chan Davis at the piano.

McKeown then declared the convention adjourned with the words, "See you in Cincinnati".

-WSS

The End

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

Magnetic Clutch

by Ray Van Houten

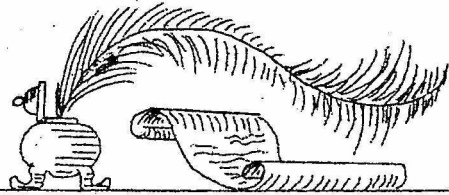
A new gadget, first used commercially as a toy, now bodes well to solve some of the most ticklish technical problems of power control and direction. This gadget is a magnetic clutch. It was first developed by Jacob Rabinow, a scientist of the Bureau of Standards, for a mathematical calculator upon which he worked during the war, and its advantages over other types of clutches are becoming more and more apparent.

The clutch is nothing more than two steel plates revolving in an enclosed drum, one attached to the power source and the other to the load. The drum is filled with an oil in which is suspended a quantity of steel filings. Around the whole shebang is a coil which is so placed that when the current is switched thru it, the plates and the steel filings become magnetized and the two plates are bound together as if by a solid bar. Researchers working with it claim that there is no wear, nothing to get out

Continued on Page 18

THE FANTASY CORNER

Our Readers Write



NOTICE: We expect to present a page of our readers' comments in every future issue of FANTASY-TIMES. Please make your letters short. A post-card will serve the purpose. Deadline for this department is the 10th and 25th, of each month. -editor

ABOUT OUR ASF PREDICTION

Sept. 28, 1948

Dear Jimmy:

Astounding Science Fiction, contrary to prediction in your magazine, will not go back to large size (pulp, 7" x 10" size). However, Campbell has written me to say that ASF might have some radical changes in its "physical make-up" sometime during the next six months, but as it is currently under discussion, nothing is definite.

Art Jean Cox

AND

Jimmy:

Don't think I ever told you that I very much enjoy FT; it's always one of the more welcome fanzine arrivals. Keep them coming. # ASF going back to pulp size. Well, it's definite now according to Forrest J Ackerman, and one of the best pieces of news in many moons. Too bad all the news from the plup world wasn't as pleasant!

Don Wilson
(All we can add to this is that both fan reporters and pro editors have been wrong before. Around New York is the rumor that Mr. Campbell has stated that ASF will remain as is. No word has yet arrived from Campbell. -ed)

ON OUR AUGUST EDITORIAL

James:

Concerning your editorial: I go along with you to a certain point. My opposition to the smoke-filled-room dealing was very vociferous at The Torcon. However, it should not be implied that The Torcon chairman was involved, or that he suppressed discussion of convention sites. In fact, Sykora at all times had the right to continue with his convention bid. The unfortunate thing was that he let himself be talked out of bidding.

Milton A. Rothman

HE LIKES GIUNTA'S GAL

October 11, 1948

Dear Jimmy,

I received the September issue of F.T. the other day. You know it was the glowing report of T.W.S.'s editor that induced me to sub to F.T., and, well, I'm not sorry I did.

No kidding, Jimmy, you've really got a fine fanzine. Keep up the good work.

I especially liked your art work, and especially the one on page two. Did John use a model on that one, and if so what's her address? I'm kidding, of course (it says here), but the art really was outstanding. Also the printing, or mimeographing, or hectographing or whatever method you use.

Also enjoyed the Torcon Report, since I wasn't able to attend, reading about it was the next best.

Gene A. Hydel

(John Giunta didn't use a model)

THE FANTASY CORNER (continued)

MORE ON GIUNTA'S GAL

.....I didn't like that near-nude on the last (Aug) cover! Let's not have any more!!

Ed Cox

ON BOOK REVIEWS

July 20, 1948

Dear James:

If Joe Schaumburger doesn't think much of the binding, artwork, paper, etc of TRIPLANETARY, then I would like to see him review Fantasy Pub. Co.'s PEOPLE OF THE COMET by Austin Hall, just out. This is the cheesiest job I have seen yet. The make-up of TRIPLANETARY is MAGNIFICENT compared to this! The paper in my 25-year old Argosies isn't as yellow as this! Even Hadley did better! I'm apprehensive because I have a lot of money sunk in F.P.C.'s books, having ordered them all, including the famous R.M. Farley "Radio" series. Hope Schaumburger reviews P.O.T.C. in the next issue of Fantasy Times, along with some "behind-the-scenes" information and explanation from the publishers.

John Wesso, Jr. (Not having seen, as yet, any of F.P.C.'s books, I can not judge on them. Joe Schaumburger is now in the U.S. Army, but if he will write the review, we'll publish it. Maybe the book's publisher would care to answer your letter.

-jvt, editor)

MAGNETIC CLUTCH

Continued from page 16

of adjustment, and no point at which the clutch "grabs" as ordinary clutches do. Applications of it are suitable for use in airplanes, autos, ships, trucks, tanks, gun directors, range finders, printing presses, power machinery, saw mills, guided

missiles and a host of other power application spots. -rvh

MERIT AWARDS REPORT

Continued from page 2

professional publishers will gather in an Eastern city, probably New York, to take part in the formation of the actual merit awards committee. Among the professionals who have declared their intention of being present is Mr. Orrin Keepnews of Simon & Schuster Publishing Co.

Wide support has been forthcoming for this merit awards idea. Many fan clubs and professional people have expressed their opinions of it, the consensus being that it will be a valuable adjunct to the science-fiction field. A large number of delegates are expected at the organizational meeting.

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 -ed

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

WANTED: "Dream Quest" #5. R. O. Bishop, 636 E. 20th St, Oakland 6, Calif.

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

Deadline for this column is the 10th and 25th of each month. -ed

Line-Up Of Amazing & Fantastic Adventures

The January issue of Amazing Stories will go on sale November 9th. It will feature a novel, DINOSAUR DESTROYER by Arthur Petticolas. This is a story of a "Tarzan" or "Tharn" type character - called "Daarmajd". The interesting, but sad sidelight to this announcement is that recently, the author, Mr. Petticolas, passed away. He had in mind continuing his character, but now this will be the sole story to appear from his pen.

Other writers to be included in the issue are four new writers: INVASION OF THE BONE MEN, a short by John Stuart Walworth; THE ROBOT AND THE PEARLY GATES, a short by Peter Worth; PATTERN FOR DESTINY, a short by Chester Smith; and THE FLEA CIRCUS, a short by August Meissner.

The cover is by J. Allen St. John, illustrating a scene from DINOSAUR DESTROYER. St. John you will note is the famous illustrator of the "Tarzan" books.

The January Fantastic Adventures will go on sale November 19th. It will feature a new novel by Chester S. Geier, THE RETURN OF SINBAD, an excellent Arabian Nights fantasy, up to Geier's high standard. Other stories will include: THE DEVIL OF DOOM, a short by A. Morris; THE CAN OPENER, a short by Rog Phillips (a unique little yarn); THE HAMMER ON THE MOON, a novelette by Charles Recour; THAT GUY, SATAN, SENDS ME!, a short by newcomer George Reese; and UNFORESEEN, a short by Roger P. Graham.

The cover is by Robert Gipson Jones, illustrating a scene from THE RETURN OF SINBAD, and is one of Jones' best cover to date.

-Bill Hamling

----- THE COSMIC REPORTER (continued from page 4)

ing to make a science-fiction movie during the next year, but what it will be he doesn't know. -AJCox

The British Edition of Fantasy Times, Vol. 1 - No. 2 has been published and mailed out to British fans. Tho the home edition, the one you're now reading, will be semi-monthly with the next issue, present plans call for continuing the British Edition on the present monthly schedule.

--- AVON FANTASY NEWS

Don Wollheim, editor of the Avon Fantasy Reader, has supplied us with the following news on the fantasy publications of his company: He states that there is still nothing doing with the Avon - fantasy pulps announced last year and later shelved because of the paper shortage. "The reference you published," Mr. Wollheim continues, "to an Avon sf comic magazine was apparently unfounded. We have no such plans." He also informs us that a volume of Merritt short stories is under consideration. He calls attention to a Avon book, now on the stands, AMOROUS PHILANDRE by Jean-Calli De Bibiena. This is the first American publication of a French fantastic novel of the middle 18th Century. He believes it appeared under the name of "The Fairy Doll" in the Checklist.