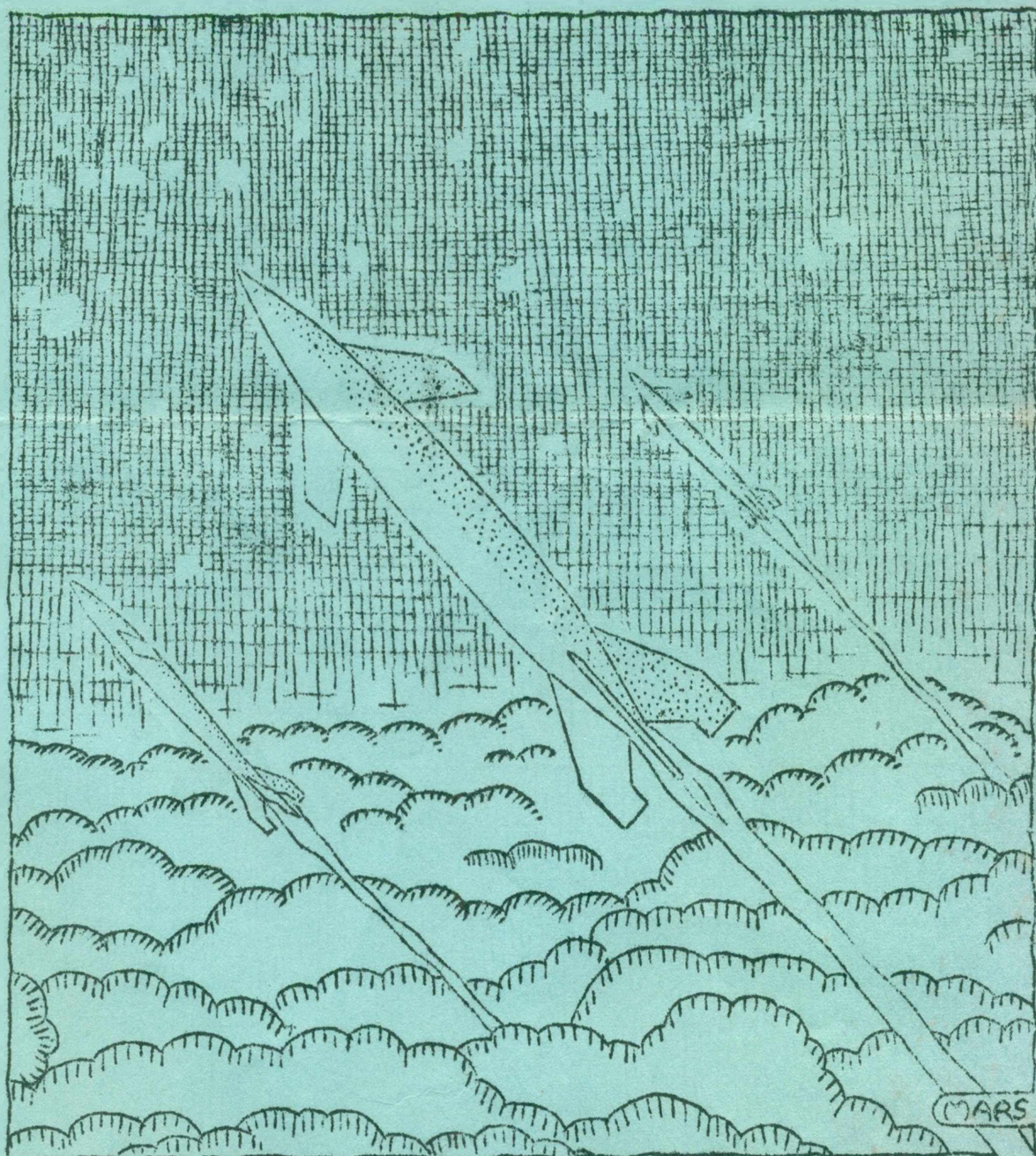


Fantasy Times

March 15



A Fandom House Publication

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4 - No. 5 (#78)

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

March 15, 1949

DUTCH STF MAG FOLDS WITH 4TH ISSUE

An interesting letter from Franklin M. Dietz, Jr., brought to light many interesting details about the Dutch magazine FANTASIE EN WETENSCHAP, and also announced that it has folded after only four issues.

Mr. Dietz's letter reads as follows:

"On page 1 of this latest (March 1st, #77 issue of "Fantasy-Times") issue you have the headline "Dutch STF Mag Is Out" and Cox goes on to explain it. However his history of its way of reaching his hands is in error, would be in correction. It follows:

Richard Abbott, head of the ASFOC came in contact with Ben Abas. I, a member of the club, was given Ben's address, being a fanzine publisher as well as President of The Fantasy Artists Club. In my first letter to him I asked Ben about his artwork, and mentioned my 'zine too, saying I was sending him copies. Upon answering he told me of his "Fantasie en Wetenschap", of which he is Editor, Publisher and chief artist, and which is the magazine in question.

The copies Nos. 1 and 2 he send me arrived just before my last issue came out, the Jan. '49 issue of "Science, Fantasy, and Science Fiction", and in the editorial that issue Ben's magazine was mentioned. Somewhat in answer to this mention Forrest Ackerman wrote me, being very interested in the publication, offering to buy the copies from me. Which was done, as I was interested too in getting Ben some anatomical books he wanted, over there what they do have are very expensive.

As to how Cox's review got so

(continued on page two)

FABULOUS MAGICIAN TURNED OUT 4,000 FANTASY FILMS

an article by Arthur Jean Cox

Bibliographers and biographers of the science-fiction world have searched the surface of an entire planet and throughout history for those who have left their impress upon that most fascinating of all imaginative fields. But one man they have almost entirely neglected whose contribution to fantasy has been profound, if slightly indirect.

He is George Melies (May-lee-ay), a French magician, puppeteer, cartoonist, actor, movie producer and director, writer, magazine editor, engineer, set designer, inventor, cinematographer, costume designer, and cigar salesman.

In 1895, already famous as a magician, caricaturist, and puppeteer, Melies became interested in that strange device, the camera; more especially, in pictures that moved. In a short while, he had invented the cut, the quick change, the double exposure, the negative exposure (sometimes used for ghost scenes), the fade and a half-dozen other now-well known movie techniques.

In that year, he turned out his first fantasy film, "The Conjuror"; a short affair, but one that marked the beginning of a long series of efforts. In fact, during the years 1895 to 1912 he turned out no less than four thousand fantasy & science-fiction films.

One of his most successful pictures was "Trip To The Moon", a film adaption of the story by Jules Verne,

(continued on page two)

DUTCH MAG FOLDS WITH 4th ISSUE
(continued from page one)

much in error of the origin of the copies I don't know, but I do know of the fate of Ben's publication (prouzine). The fourth issue, just recently out, is the last one Ben says, as he expresses it the Dutch are just too thick to accept STF.

Obtaining the magazine through the mail is impossible, that is unless one offers something Ben might be interested in, money exchange with the Netherlands being impossible."

FANTASY-TIMES thanks Mr. Dietz for this additional, interesting information, and is very sorry that FANTASIE EN WETENSCHAP could not make a go of it.

FABULOUS MAGICIAN TURNED OUT FOUR
THOUSAND FANTASY FILMS
(continued from page one)

which was made in 1902. When you consider how revolutionary it must have been it becomes, from a science-fictional viewpoint, one of the most important films ever produced.

Unfortunately, after Melies made his initial discoveries he didn't improve on them too much. For example, his film "Flight To The North Pole", does not vary too much -- or, any, to be rigorous -- does not vary too much in technique from "The Palace Of The Arabian Nights", although the latter was made nine years before the former.

This, among other things, must have contributed to his downfall. This fantastic little Frenchman -- (He was fantastic; he had a mustache that curled at the end and a little van Dyke beard -- he could have been a model for Seabury Quinn's Jules De Grandin.) -- never thought to vary the position of his camera. He would anchor it down in one spot and there it would stay throughout the production. Furthermore, he never discovered the close-up. The appeal of his films therefore, lay chiefly in their unusual plot and strange inventions shown

in them.

Another thing aided his financial downfall; his films never appeared in the English-speaking markets, except illegally. To combat the piracy of his scenes by American distributors, he put his trademark -- a large star -- all over his sets so that they appeared in the films. It wasn't unusual when in viewing a n interplanetary scene such as in "Trip To The Moon" to see a card-board comet move across the screen, saying, "Star Productions" on it.

A man came to Melies at one time and offered to distribute his films in this country if he would put up 50,000 francs. Melies did, the man disappeared. Another man, named Malrus, I believe, came to Melies and offered to distribute his films in this country if he would put up 50,000 francs. Melies throw him out, bodily. Malrus went over to another company of which, perhaps, you've heard -- Pathé.

This demonstrated that he had poor business sense. But, he had one idea which was really a corker. According to Prof. Baker of UCLA, a son of a wealthy Parisian family, after seeing Melies sets rushed enthusiastically to him and offered to buy him out for 50,000 francs, 500,000 francs, a million francs, whatever amount he named. "I'm sorry," said Melies, "But I couldn't let you do that. You'd just be throwing your money away. You see, these motion pictures are just a passing fad."

In 1938, George Melies died in a French poor house.

The End

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your issue of FANTASY - TIMES is stamped "Subscription Has Expired", please re-subscribe at once and thus not miss an issue.

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1948 In Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART V — THRILLING WONDER STORIES

THRILLING WONDER has now reached a point in which it is very difficult to rate the stories, as most are good. Sam Merwin has done an excellent job. The failure to comment on a story is thus no indication that it is not good, but simply less good than those commented upon.

FEBRUARY: Walton's "The Sleeper Is A Rebel" is a peculiar type of story that has a charm for its unusualness. I believe most will like it. William Fitzgerald's (Murray Leinster or Will Jenkins) series concerning his hill-billy genius Bud Gregory comes again in "The Seven Temporary Moons". In spite of the utter improbability of such a person, and my dislike of his fear of allowing his hill-billy's genius leaving his creations for the world to use, the stories are good action adventure, rather science fiction, i. e., scientales. Now I would like to drop a little brick-bat on the fans who don't like Margaret St. Clair's stories of Oona, and her husband. Whether you know it or not, this is SATURDAY EVENING POST stuff of the year 2400 written today. That is the kind of story published then, now. The stories are clever and the same average level, nothing brilliant nor even scintillating, just stories. The satirical "The Shape Of Things" by Doom-Man Bradbury is good.

APRIL: As a rule I don't like humor in science-fiction, but must relent on Kuttner's wonderful Hogbens. Take a look at "Pile Of Trouble" and see what I mean. A stirring story is Leo Zagat's "The Faceless Men".

JUNE: This whole issue is good. Smith's (George O., not Doc.) "The Trans-Galactic Twins" is worth reading any time. But I would like to call especial attention to Hamilton's "The Knowledge Machine" and Tenn's "Consulate". The latter rates tops for its

type. To top it off Ray Cummings comes through with a good yarn, "Ahead Of His Time". A world-saver of a different kind. (Maybe the world doesn't want to be saved!) Then we have the doom man, the brilliant writer, and his negative, psychopathic, anti-man-kind stories, Bradbury, "And The Moon Be Still As Bright". After half a dozen of Bradbury's brilliant stories you personally would like to start an atomic war and get rid of mankind -- including Bradbury.

AUGUST: A strictly lovable alien, Noel Loomis' "Mr. Zytztz Goes To Mars" with an excellent story back of it. I would like to see a sequel to this story on the following basis: With the earth space ships as a starter, and the remains of the alien's, how long would it take to work out a faster than light ship? These aliens are worth cultivating. Sturgeon comes through with his excellent "Memory" and a bit of villainousness of an extraordinary kind that you despise and are attracted to at the same time. A well written story is Fitzgerald's "The Devil Of East Lupton, Vermont", and of course another different, excellent story by Bradbury, "The Earth Men". What would you do if you found yourself in this situation?

OCTOBER: This issue is filled with excellent stories, the poorest being Brackett's "The Moon That Vanished". Why do I write that? It is well written, has adventure, etc., but the other stories have new ideas that overshadow adventure. Take Temple's "Miracle Town", Long's "Galactic Heritage", Bradbury's "The Square Pegs", Smith's "The Cosmic Jackpot", or "Referent" by Sterling. (As every child knows Brett Sterling is a house name.) All top stories of their kind. Enough said.

DECEMBER: This issue is very good again. Seems like Merwin is repeating himself, having good issues so often. Leinster's "The Ghost Planet" is a good problem adventure yarn, while Hubbard's "240,000 Miles Straight Up" too pertinent to be just a story. The
(continued on page eight)

Fantasy Films Radio & Television

by Lester Mayer, Jr.

"The Return Of October", about which I wrote a few months ago, is now playing locally. It is a whimsical story of reincarnation. Glenn Ford is starred.

Joan Fontaine may do "Peter Pan" on Broadway. No details on the deal were announced.

"Joe McSweeney's Atomic Machine" was the title of a play televised over Channel 7 during the "Actor's Studio" program, the evening of Sunday, March 6. Not having a television set, I can't say what the story was like. Sounds like a humorous fantasy. The same afternoon, three of Edgar Allen Poe's tales were heard on the "University Theater" program (WNBC - 2:30 p. m.). The stories were "Nosology", "The Cask Of Amontillado" and "The Fall Of The House Of Usher". Joseph Schildkraut was the star.

The following interesting items were sent in by our West Coast reporter, Arthur J. Cox:

"Jules Verne's 'Ilse Of Zorda' has been added to Lippert Productions' 1949 - 50 program schedule Paulette Goddard will make John Steinbeck's fantasy, 'A Cup Of Gold', in London William Dieterle hopes to make Victor Wolfson's 'The Lonely Steeple', with Susan Hayward and Marlon Brando. 'The Lonely Steeple' is described as an American 'Wuthering Heights', about a girl with a psychic block against love and a boy who marries her for spite.....

"Another man working on the movie adaptation of 'Steeple' is Berneis. Currently he is work-

ing on a piece of early Robert Nathan whimsy, 'The Fiddler In Bali', which has to do with a mysterious and omnipotent stranger who sets a whole town right.

"Recently I was privileged to attend the sneak preview of a picture at a large Los Angeles theater. We laughed when the title, 'Bomba, The Jungle Boy', flashed on the screen.

"However, this picture, starring Johnny Sheffield and Peggy Ann Garner, turned out to be very enjoyable. Apparently it was filmed in Africa, as it was authentic and quite well-knit. The photography was good, the characters realistic and the plot simple. This last is not necessarily a virtue, but in this case it was an asset.

"A major portion of the plot revolves around Patsy's (Peggy Ann Garner) supposed 'kidnapping' by a white savage, Bomba (Johnny Sheffield) and her father's attempt to find her. Actually, Patsy, who has been separated from her father's group, is living -- quite platonically, which is the fantastic part of the picture --- with Bomba in his jungle home.

"Bomba, played by the boy who played just that: 'Boy' in the 'Tarzan' pictures for years, was brought to the jungle as an infant by his guardian and mentor, Codie Hassan, a misanthrope. It is Hassan's detestation for the civilized world which is symbolic of the film's charm; the escapist desire to escape this world's jungle of steel and concrete and atom bombs. But Hassan is dead, one of Bomba's memories.

"After various events, such as a realistic plague of locusts Patsy is returned to her father, when he and a friend are rescued from an attacking party of Bhasai natives (lion-culturists of

(continued on page seven)

Fantasy Book Notes

— by J. Russell Mars —

Shasta Publishers have completed negotiations with Robert A. Heinlein to publish his entire future history, rather than merely the two volumes originally scheduled and announced. The stories will be published chronologically in five volumes. Tentative titles for the series: "The Man Who Sold The Moon", "The Green Hills Of Earth", "If This Goes On", "Mothuselah's Children" and "The Endless Frontier".

The series will contain the entire future history, stories that ran in "astounding SCIENCE-FICTION", stories printed elsewhere (SATURDAY EVENING POST, ARGOSY, etc.), and stories yet to be written. One of the latter is the title story of the first volume: "The Man Who Sold The Moon", 20,000 words long. Worth looking forward to.

Just out is "The Ghostly Tales Of Henry James" (Rutgers University Press, \$5), edited by Leon Edel. Among the stories are well-known favorites such as "The Turn Of The Screw", "The Altar Of The Dead", "The Great Good Place" and "The Beast In The Jungle". Of special interest to collectors are "The Ghostly Rental", published here for the first time since its original appearance in "SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY", and "Nora Vincent" and "Sir Dominick Ferrand", reprinted only once. A must for James fans.

The Gnome Press of 421 Claremont Parkway, NY 57 NY, has announced two new books as being ready for distribution. They are "Pattern For Conquest" by George O. Smith and "The 31st Of

February" by Nelson S. Bond.

The latter is a collection of 13 short stories. The price of each book is \$3.

Two books are also listed for future publication: "Sixth Column" by Robert A. Heinlein and "The Castle Of Iron" by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt.

If you are looking for out-of-print books, drop a line to Darrell C. Richardson, 6 Silver Avenue, Covington, Ky. His latest list includes some of the best bargains in used books I have ever seen. Dr. Richardson also has new books and a number of other fantasy items.

Below is a list of "POCKET BOOKS" of interest to the fantasy and/or sf. fan. All titles listed are in print and obtainable from your local magazine shop. If he does not have the one you want he can order it for you.

1. "Lost Horizon" by James Hilton.
123. "Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde", by Robert Louis Stevenson.
214. "The Pocket Book Of Science Fiction" ed. Donald A. Wollheim.
314. "The Bishop's Jaegers" by Thorne Smith.
384. "The Pocket Book Of Ghost Stories" ed. P.V.D. Stern.
401. "The Passionate Witch" by Thorne Smith.
409. "The Glorious Pool" by Thorne Smith.
428. "Night Life Of The Gods" by Thorne Smith.
447. "Turnabout" by Thorne Smith.
452. "Dracula" by Bram Stoker.
490. "Skin And Bones" by Thorne Smith.
493. "The Flying Yorkshireman" by Eric Knight.
498. "Peabody's Mermaid" by Guy and Constance Jones.
518. "The Stray Lamp" by Thorne Smith. (Continued On Page Seven)

The Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Joan Cox

Forrest Ackerman has a review of Heinlein's "Space Cadet" in the Winter issue of a "progressive" Los Angeles magazine, WELCOME NEWS.

Appearing in the March issue of CHARM is a science-fiction story by Ray Bradbury, "The Silent Towns", a beautiful, moody tale of abandoned Earth-colonies on Mars. John W. Campbell, Jr., is in the same issue with "Who'll Control Weather Control?", an article which must be startling to the readers of this magazine. In the contributors department, is a picture of Ray Bradbury and the following text: "At the age of twelve, when he received his first typewriter, Ray Bradbury decided to become an author. Possessing a typewriter does not always produce such a felicitous results, but Mr. Bradbury's ownership did. His work has since been published in many of the national magazines. A collection of his short stories, DARK VICTORY, (act-

ually, DARK CARNIVAL) was published in 1947. His "Powerhouse", which was published in CHARM, was one of the prize winners in the annual O. Henry Awards collection, PRIZE STORIES OF 1948." Also, there is a picture and blurb on JWC: "The weather may cause a lot of us irritation, but John W. Campbell, Jr. assures us that the weather will cause people some downright trouble when, and if, someone tries to control it to give everyone blue skies. Mr. Campbell is a nuclear physicist, and he applies his specialized knowledge by editing a national magazine whose stories are well known for their accurate scientific detail."

The March issue of SEVENTEEN is not to be outdone. It too, features a story by Ray Bradbury - "The Great Fire", an unusual little love story. Their contributor's department also has a picture and writcup of Bradbury. This issue has a water-painting by Leo Budolph, a science-fiction fan-noss, and a little item on her in one of their departments. The English fantasy movie, "Miranda", is reviewed, (continued on page seven)

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The Fantasy Clubs

by The Fan Editor

QUEENS SCIENCE-FICTION LEAGUE,
Meeting of 27 February 1949.

Held at the home of the Director, William S. Sykora, with fifteen members and guests attending.

James Blish, old-time fan now an author, was the guest speaker, who was bombarded with questions from the audience.

An interesting action was taken by the club when a motion was made and carried that Sam Merwin, editor of "THRILLING WONDER STORIES" and "STARTLING STORIES" be requested to revive the Science Fiction League, of which the Queens group is still nominally a part.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page six)

This month is Albert Einstein's 70th birthday. Several appreciations of his works and biographies of the favorite physicist are appearing. A very good one is in the March issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Another is in the March 21st issue of TIME which states that he has been working on his biography since 1947 -- it will be finished next year.

The March 21st issue of TIME also contains an article on stratospheric rocketry in its science department.

The article on general semantics, which will show Korzyski sitting at his desk reading "World of A", will not appear in LOOK, as first reported, but rather in LIFE. You may have to wait, also -- it probably won't be published until after the World Congress For General Semantics which will be held this July in Denver.

From the East Coast to the West Coast and Back -- Again; I have received word from an East Coast fan, Bill Holjn, that Waldemar Kampffart did an

(Continued on page eight)

FANTASY BOOK NOTES

(Continued from Page Five)

Collectors will be glad to hear that Melvin Korshak has a new catalog in preparation. It will be printed --- the previous ones were planographed --- and the edition will be over 5,000 copies. A card will bring you a copy. The address is: 5525 S. Blackstone, Chicago 37, Ill.

An annual selection of the best science-fiction of the year will appear in "SCIENCE-FICTION, The Best Of '48". This will be the first of a series of like anthologies which will appear each year. The publishers are Frederick Fell, Inc., of New York. The editors are Everett Bleiler and T. B. Dikty. The edition is to be released about the time of the CONVENTION. No price as yet.

A must for sf. fans is "No Place To Hide" by David Bradley, which is an account of the Bikini atom-bomb tests by a man who was there. Recommended! Bantam Books No. 421, 25¢.

To be published in May by Whittlesey House is "Peace Or Pestilence" by Theodor Rosebury, which is an analysis of the released facts on biological warfare. Mr. Rosebury was chief of the Airborne Infection project at United States Biological Headquarters during the war.

FANTASY FILMS RADIO & TELEVISION

(Continued from Page Four)

British Equatorial Africa) by Bomba.

"The picture ends with Patsy's father attempting to persuade Bomba to come back to civilization with them. Bomba refuses and walks off down the jungle path. Patsy floats down the river with her father to civilization.

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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% James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Ave.,
Flushing, New York. 10¢ a copy, 3 for
25¢ and 12 for \$1. ADS: \$2 a page, \$1
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THE FAN MAG COLLECTOR

This column is FREE to our readers who
want to buy or sell fan magazines. The
editors reserve the right to reject
any item.

WANTED: DREAM QUEST No. 1; BURROUGHS
BULLETIN No. 3. James V. Taurasi, 137-
03 32nd Ave., Flushing, New York.

FOR SALE: First 3 mailings of SAPS,
90% complete; miscellaneous other crud
included, 50%.

WANTED: FANTASY COMMENTATOR Vol. 1,
Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10; INSPIRATION,
the 40pp issue of 1946. Also copies
of FAPAZINES by Speer, Warner, Koenig,
Swisher and Chauvenot. Redd Boggs, 2215
Benjamin St, N.E., Minneapolis 18, Minn.

WANTED: ACOLYTE, 1st 8 issues; AMA-
TEUR CORRESPONDENT, Sept - Oct 1937;
BIZARRE, Jan 1941; COSMIC TALES, April
1941; FANTASMAGORIA, Mar 1937; FANTASY
Jun 1934; GOLDEN ATOM, Mar 1940; PHAN-
TAGRAPH, May 1937, Aug 1941; THE LOVE-
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1948 IN SCIENCE FICTION
(continued from page three)

problem is there, who will solve it
first and rule earth without the fairy
story ending of the heroes in the st-
ory? The best story of the issue, be-
lieve it or not, is Harness' "Fruits
Of The Agathon". Well written and de-
veloped. Right here and now I want to
state my dislike of Bong, Miller's
Orig Prem stories. "A Horse On Me", to
me, resembles some parts of a horse.
Bradbury blows up the earth again in
"The Off Season". Poor old Edmond-
Hamilton, he used to be called the
Doom Man. He always has aliens invad-
ing the earth, and the earth surviving
by the skin of its teeth. Now Brad-
bury has out played him -- earth blows
itself up. Bitter, bitter fruits of
the present is MacDonald's "A Child Is
Crying". If you have tears shed them
now, for tomorrow may be too late!
"Knock" by Brown is a Lady Or The Ti-
gor story of a different setting but
no less as grim, but here you know the
answer! Every now and then a story
like "Fuzzy Head" by Long comes up.
Many are good, and they appeal to the
feeling in most of us that we are
something different from what we are.

(Continued in the next issue)

(cont. fr. p.7) article on W. Olaf St-
aplodon's speech before the British
Interplanetary Society for the science
section of the NEW YORK TIMES.