

FANTASY - TIMES

2nd SEPTEMBER 1949 ISSUE

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BY LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS

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A Fandom House Publication

The Cinvention Report

PART II - "THE SECOND DAY" - Sept. 4th

by James V. Taurasi

At 9:30 A.M. about 15 fans gathered to hear David A. MacInnes play-back his wire-recorder and present two "Quiet Please" radio programs. The two he replayed were "Where Do You Get Your Ideas" and "If I Should Wake Before I Die". Both were by Willis Cooper, each a half hour long. By the time the first was half over about 50 fans had gathered with more coming in every few minutes.

At 10:45 A.M., Dale Tarr, President of the NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (NFFF or NFF) ordered all non-NFFF members out and called the NFFF portion of the "Cinvention" to order.

He first introduced Arthur J. Burks, well known stf author, to the members. Mr. Burks had just arrived at the "Cinvention" that morning.

For the first speaker, Mr. Tarr called on E.E. Evans. Mr. Evans spoke of the early days of the NFFF. He stated that he had entered fandom at the "Chicon" (The 2nd WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION held in Chicago in 1940).

President Dale Tarr spoke on the coming election and read two telegrams from two members who will run for the Director posts (the NFFF has 5 Director Posts).

James V. Taurasi was on next and spoke on the need of an improved "Official Organ". He recommended a photo - offset "Official Organ"; one more fitting an organization of over 300 members than the present day mimeographed OO. (Taurasi had the night before been instructed by President Tarr to investigate prices for such an organ.)

Harry B. Moore talked on the need for new members and suggested a "drive for new members". He also spoke on a proposed new "Artist Folio" to be pub-

lished by the NFFF. Votes were taken of the members present as to who they would like to have the folio of. The votes were as follows: 17 were for Cartier; 14 for Frank R. Paul; 13 for Dold; 22 for Bok (who was at the "Cinvention"); 11 for Finlay, and 20 were for a folio of mixed artists. 23 wanted information on the artists with their folios. A discussion followed between having a single artist or mixed artists folio first. Finally a vote was taken and the mixed folio was voted first. E.E. Evans moved that the folio information obtained be turned over to the NFFF Directors and let them decide from the info which folio to put out first. This was second and passed with 16 "yes" votes.

Art Rapp asked for the members to send in ideas and suggestions.

Dale Tarr asked for "lady members" to be typists and take other jobs and help out the NFFF.

It was announced that the FANTASY FOUNDATION and NFFF are putting out a "Fan Directory".

This ended the NFFF section of the "Cinvention" and time was called for a much needed lunch.

The afternoon session of the 2nd day was called to order at 1 PM. It was announced that Dave Pallat had won "The Outsider" raffel & Dave excitedly picked up the "hard to get" volume.

THE MAIN AUCTION was then announced and Melvin Korshak took the stand to conduct the auction. The prices brought in this year were not as high as at last year's convention, "The Torcon", but they were higher than the usual convention prices. Fans and collectors still have money to spend on the items they want.

Here are some of the high spots of the auction: The frontispiece for "Darker Than You Think", by Cartier brought \$19; Don Ford paid \$27.00 for the original oil painting used as the cover of the October 1946 FAMOUS FAN-

(continued on page 4)

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today"

Vol. 4 - No. 17 (#90)

Founded: September 1941

2nd September 1949 Issue

Was Science Fiction To Be Investigated??

In our 2nd July 1949 issue of FANTASY-TIMES, we printed a news-item by Lester Mayer, Jr., to the effect that Denton Walker, in his New York DAILY NEWS column of 13 July, 1949 had reported that a Washington Legislator prepared to demand an investigation of those writers for the science-fiction pulp magazines who apparently know too much about the atom bomb.

Apparently this "Washington Legislator" never went thru with his demand. Mr. Robert Briggs of fandom's WASHINGTON NEWS RELEASE did quite a bit of investigating in Washington, DC and came up with:

1. The Congressional Record for the 11 & 12 (July 1949) made no mention of it.

2. Mr. Begen of the Atomic Energy Committee (Senate) knows of no stf investigation.

3. The Atomic Energy Commission never heard of it either.

So it seems that the only man who could give us information is Denton Walker of the N. Y. DAILY NEWS. What happened, Mr. Walker?

H. P. LOVECRAFT IN NUMBER 18
LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS
story on page five

VAN VOGT'S

BLACK DESTROYER

REPRINTED BY

Los Cuentos Fantásticos

NEW YORK, Sept. 15, (CNS) - The 17th issue of LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS, just arrived in New York sporting a Cartier cover originally drawn for the December 1939 UNKNOWN and then it illustrated "Lo s Darkness Fall" by L. Sprague de Camp. It was Cartier's 1st cover. This number 17 issue of LCF contains the famous "Black Destroyer" by A. E. van Vogt, now nicely done up in Spanish, "El Destructor Negro" and also reprints the original Kramer illustrations. Also in the issue are Robert A. "Hellein", Kenneth Falconer and E. Everett Evans. Besides Kramer the magazine is illustrated by William Kroll, Orban, John Cockroff and Neil Austin.

This Mexican stf magazine, printed in Spanish, always is interesting and a collector's item.

HOWARD BROME, new editor of AMAZING STORIES & FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, gives information on the new policy of the two magazines. See page seven.

Its Portland In 1950

THE CONVENTION REPORT
(continued from page 2)

TASTIC MYSTERIES; it was by Lawrence. The cover for the February 1949 TWS was sold to Walter Cole for \$48.00. \$32 was paid for the cover of the 1st OTHER WORLDS. Inside illustrations were auction off for 50¢ to \$19. All pro mags except ASTOUNDING donated free original covers and inside illustrations as did most of the "limited edition" book publishers. There was so much stuff that all could not be auctioned off at this session and had to be carried on to the next day so that the planned program could continue.

At 6:30 that evening most of the fans gathered around the television set in the Ball Room to see the "Convention" program over station WLWT. The program lasted a half hour with Dave Kyle as M. C. and with stf authors, book publishers and fans in the cast. It was a serious program and one of the type that can do science-fiction a lot of good.

After the program was over, there was a recess until Ted Carnell, who had been on the television program, returned as he was to be the first speaker of the evening.

Ted Carnell, editor of the British NEW WORLDS, was the "Fan Guest Of Honor" of the "Convention". He thanked the U. S. fans for the kind treatment they had given him. He compared the British fans to the United States fans and found them both the same. He explained that there had been no fan activity to speak of during the war, outside of Rosenblum who just about kept the spark alive. He went on to thank the U. S. fans for the Stf Bundles To Britain during the war and of the many U. S. fans who are now engaged in securing U. S. stf mags for the British fans. He told of the endless red-tape he had to go thru in order to come to America. He stated that it took one year of work before he could get on the boat. He thanked the many that had contributed to the Big Pond-Fund that made it possible for him to

come over. Mr. Carnell told the fans on how the NEW WORLDS' publishing Company was formed after the original publisher quit. He stated that issue number four of NEW WORLDS was almost all sold out and that the magazine is a success. He expects No. 5 to be out around the end of this month. It will have 96 pages and will feature the return of Turner, England's favorite stf artist. Mr. Turner was in the Royal Air Force during the war. Mr. Carnell went on to talk about Walter Gillings and the good work he is doing for stf and his editing TALES OF WONDER before the war and FANTASY after. He informed the fans that some of the stories slated for FANTASY before it folded were finally sold in the U.S. NEW WORLDS is not considered a high priced magazine in England; it is more in the medium price field. Mr. Carnell informed us. Before leaving the stand he suggested that if possible, delegates from both the U. S. and England should attend each other's conventions.

Next on the program was George O. Smith, who was his usual humorous self and brought down the house with his rare gift of clowning.

The next speaker, Arthur J. Burks, spoke about his trip to Brazil looking for lost cities and the finding of none. He informed us of the power the readers have in influencing the magazines. They could make or break an author. He stated that L. Ron Hubbard could not come because he had to have a physical check-up.

Don Ford made the announcement that the auction, so far, had taken in \$750.00.

Lloyd A. Eshbach talked on Arthur J. Burks' million word production a year for ten years, making him one of the top producing authors of that time. Mr. Eshbach informed the fans how Burks helped Mort Weisinger get his job as editor of THRILLING WONDER and how Mort had rejected all of Burks' stories for the next two years.

Darrell C. Richardson spoke on the three best books he ever read and mentioned "Out Of The Silence" by Earl

Cox; A. Merritt and Burroughs.

Last on the program was a panel discussion featuring Judy Merril. It was announced at this point that Judy has edited an stf anthology, "Shot In The Dark", which will soon be out in 25¢ pocket book form. The panel discussion was on "My Science Fiction" & consisted of L.A. Eshbach, Fritz Leiber, Jr., E. E. Evans, Milton A. Rothman and Judy Merril. E. E. Evans was the M. C. Mr. Leiber was first and he stated that it gives authors a chance to cut loose on his imaginative powers. Judy Merril said that it gives a chance to reform the world and escape at the same time. She hates house work and sees the world of the future where none is necessary. She went on to state that other forms of fiction are down to a formula while stf is not. Mr. Eshbach said frankly he likes stf and is a stf fan. He knows stf so he publishes stf and he believes he can make money at it. Milt Rothman stated that he liked science and wanted to know of the world of the future. Numerous questions were asked of the panel and brought to an end the second day of the "Cinvention".

In the next issue of FANTASY-TIMES, Mr. Taurasi will report on the last day of the "Cinvention" and how PORTLAND got the bid for the 1950 Convention.

H. P. LOVECRAFT IN NO 18 *Los Cuentos Fantásticos*

by Arthur Jean Cox

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 10, (CNS) - This issue reprints a cover from the March, 1941 issue of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION: Part of their new policy of reprinting from better sources. The cover is by Hubert Rogers; illustrating for Robert Heinlein's "Logic Of Empire".

The stories in this issue are as follows:

(continued on page 6)

BOOK REVIEW

OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES

by Thomas S. Gardner

"The Humanoids" by Jack Williamson, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1949, \$2.

This novel is a partial re-write of Williamson's ".....And Searching Mind", ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, March, April & May 1948. A review was written, "Solution Strictly Phoney", and appeared in FANTASY-TIMES for July 1948. Let us see what changes have been made.

First of all, "The Humanoids" is a much better written piece of work than the serial. This has happened so consistently during the past three years that I am convinced that pro mag editors should demand a higher level of writing of their authors so that we can get the best first, rather than to have to wait for book publication and duplication of stories in our files.

The theme of the book has not been changed at all, but has been sugarified. For example, less emphasis is placed on the countless trillions of human animals in the perfect zoo-like existence or under euphonia. The struggle is thus localized to the main characters. The changing of the names of several of the main characters is rather purrile, it seems to me. The main thread of the story is practically identical with both versions, with minor changes in the ending to glamorize the re-conditioned ones; with a decrease in sex as the bait.

Now let us leave the fictional element and scan some statements that puzzle one. Page 49: "the same crisis that every culture meets, at a certain point in its technological evolution. The common solutions are death and slavery - violent ruin or slow decay". Then the third alternative, the humanoids is given. I violently disagree with this thesis. It is a good example of two valued logic applied to humans, with a extra human alternative.

By extrapolation earth has to become totalitarian slaves or decay! This motif has appeared before in stf. It is false, as other solutions are possible. For example we are at present in a crisis with Red Fascism, a totalitarian state. According to the above thesis, we can lose or submit and become slaves like the other common people behind the iron curtain. Or we can decay, by implication, either stalemating a war with Russia or winning it. No hope of a sane solution of a world state, an internal revolution in Russia, nor any other possible viewpoint to prevent the two alternatives suggested. Applause and other choice phrases to author Williamson.

Here I wish to suggest an entirely new interpretation to the viewpoints expressed. Is it possible that author Williamson implies that the Western Mind is so fuzzy, and so mixed up that it cannot grasp critical crises and carry out actions that will destroy menaces? For example, Forester (Claypool) builds three planet destroying missiles with the co-ordinates of Wing IV, the home of the Prime Directive. Forester knew of the menace, but instead of destroying it, waited, and waited, for the official-ok. Failure One: to take advantage of destroying an opponent that had no other objective than enslaving all except a few willing to work for them. Also the paraphysical bunch tried to change the Prime Directive, and necessarily failed. It is impossible to change any group dedicated for the destruction of all other groups. The paraphysical group could have easily teleported a planet missile, while Forester was the only man in the Galaxy who could build one single handed- and he helped to build the units that were to be used to change the prime directive. Now does Williamson imply that if a group cannot destroy a menace when given the opportunity it deserves to be enslaved? Could be.

Unfortunately author Williamson has several times before this shown his fear of science. Would he like to destroy all science tomorrow morning

at 10:00 A. M., and forbid any further development? Page 82. Humanoid speaking, (or is it Williamson?), "Scientific research is no longer necessary.... We have found on many planets that knowledge of any kind seldom makes men happy, and that scientific knowledge is often used for destruction."

Now if you were asked to vote on the following, what would you do:

1. Relative freedom as you have exactly today and to live as you are probably going to live until 1960. At that date we have an atomic war, civilization is either wrecked, and you may and probably will be killed, or

2. To have a guaranteed normal or even above normal life span shut up in a cage like the bears at the Zoo, fed, well protected, but not even allowed to read! Just vegetating.

Now vote! The Humanoids had the second solution for 9.99999plus percentage of mankind, while the few selects one, NOT YOU, live in luxury, developing parapsychology for the use of the humanoids, or to be reconditioned to accept this set up no matter what happens to the remainder of mankind.

* * *

(Note: This review should be read in conjunction with the earlier review. Knowing readers of FANTASY-TIMES, this is no hardship as probably all of you have it at hand. -tsg)

LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS #18 NOW OUT (continued from page 5)

1. "La Fuerza Diminutiva" (The Diminutive Force) by Waldemar Kaempffert. Ilustracion de Virgil Finlay.

2. "El Lector Se Ha Oividado" (The Reader Has Forgotten) by Arthur Cox. Ilustracion de Frank O'Leary, an original illustration.

3. "El Medallon" (The Medallion) by E. Everett Evans. Original illustration by Bill Rotsler.

4. "El Dios Microscopico" (Microscopic God) by Theodore Sturgeon. Original illustration by John Grossman.

5. "Aire Frio" (Cool Air) by H. P. Lovecraft. (unillustrated).

THE NEW AIMS of AMAZING

CHICAGO, Sept. 15, (CNS) - Howard Browne, the new editor of AMAZING and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, in answer to a number of questions asked of him by FANTASY-TIMES, has given us the aims of his two sf magazines and other interesting information.

He states that: "Both sf books will attempt to give fandom, and other readers, the kind of science-fiction stories they've asked for for so many years. While the comic-book type of such stories will be weeded out as quickly as possible, neither magazine will become a pseudo-scientific journal. The elements that go into any good story will be of paramount importance; but the scientific part will not be neglected. All the type of mysticism that borders on paranoia will not be published by us."

Bill Hamling, he informs us, will continue as Managing Editor.

When asked, if, as reported, FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, will print, in the future, only fantasy and leave sf for AMAZING, he answered, "No. Pure fantasy will appear only when we can find good ones - and most (and I do mean most - not all) good fantasy is confined to short stories with a simple story line."

To the question: Will the "Club House" be continued in AMAZING?, he answered, "By all means!"

Asked to give us the line up of editors of AMAZING & F-A now, he wrote: "Howard Browne, editor; William Lawrence Hamling, managing editor; and Lila Shaffer, associate editor."

Mr. Browne ended his letter with: "I ask fandom to withhold judgement on AS and FA until whatever change in policy is made can really take effect. The February issues will be the first to show radical changes. Letters of suggestion, criticism and general comment will be welcomed, appreciated and printed without being cut except as an aid to clarity. Our writers are not

going to "write down" to the readers, nor are they going to impugn the basic laws of science by offering, as truth, the babblings of befuddled minds."

We thank you for answering our questions, Mr. Browne, and wish you success as editor of AMAZING and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES. May they both be among the top, as outstanding sf magazines.
-the editors

Fantasy Forecasts

"What's Coming In The Pros"

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION

Mr. Robert Weiss, in an interview with John W. Campbell, Jr., has supplied FANTASY-TIMES with the following information concerning ASTOUNDING:

"And Now You Don't" by Asimov will be in the Nov., Dec., '49 and Jan 1950, issues of ASTOUNDING.

The serial, "To The Stars", by L. Ron Hubbard will be in the Feb. & Mar. 1950 issues. This is to be the first of a new series.

"The Wizzard Of Linn" by A. E. van Vogt will appear in the April, May and June, 1950 issues. This serial ties up the entire "Gods" series and explains why the culture is as it is.

* * *

S U P E R S C I E N C E

The January 1950 issue of SUPER SCIENCE STORIES will contain a 20,000 worder by Raymond Jones, a 10,000 worder by Neil Loomis and six short stories by Murray Leinster, L. Ron Hubbard, Henry Guth, Robert Moore Williams, Ray Cummings and John Wade Fanals. The titles to these have not as yet been decided upon. The issue will be illustrated by Lawrence, Bok, Paul, Finlay and a new artist Calle. Calle's originals look quite good. Also included in the issue are the regular departments.

Fantasy Films, Radio & Television

by Lester Mayer, Jr.

I am not accustomed to making predictions, but for once, I'm going to break the rule. If I'm right and I think I am, it should be of some importance. My Prediction: The forthcoming "The Valley Of The Mists" is actually a remake of A. Conan Doyle's "The Lost World". Several facts led me to this conclusion: 1. "Mighty Joe Young", the picture about a giant ape, is a tremendous success. That means producers will be looking for stories of a similar nature. 2. "Valley Of The Mists" will be made in Yucatan. The local of "The Lost World" was the jungle, too. 3. The picture will definitely include animation. 4. The same man who created the monsters in "Joe Young", "King Kong" and "Lost World" is working on this picture.

But if I'm wrong, will my face be red!

Arch Oboler is readying an African thriller series, starring Martha Scott, for TV. Further details are unknown.

Video's first hypnosis program, "The Amazing Polgar", debuts via CBS, Sept. 16, 7:45 P.M. Featuring Dr. Franz Polgar, an outstanding hypnotist, the session will demonstrate how studio participants, not home viewers, can be made to respond to hypnotic suggestions.

The TV counterpart of radio's "Suspense", returns to CBS after a Summer layoff, Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 9:30 P.M.

Crowded out of this issue are "The Cosmic Reporter", "Fantasy Book Notes" and part of "The Fan Mag Collector". They will all be with us next issue.

WANTED: FANTASY COMMENTATOR, #1, 3, 5 & 6. Submit offers: Arthur Levine, 139 E. 40 Street, New York 16, New York.

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4-No. 17 (#90) 2nd Sept. 1949 Issue

BOARD OF EDITORS: James V. Taurasi, J. Russell Mars and John Giunta.

ADVISORY STAFF: Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, science; Lester Mayer, Jr., movie and radio; & Arthur Joan Cox, west coast.

EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS: M. Corper and Francis R. Fears.

CORRESPONDENTS: Alvin R. Brown and Milton A. Rothman.

* * *

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Cover by Frank R. Paul.

(Reprinted from the June 25, 1939 issue of Fantasy-News. Reproduced on stencil by Herman Tok)

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A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

THE FAN MAG COLLECTOR

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

WANTED: BURROUGHS BULLETIN #3, DREAM QUEST #1. James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32 Ave., Flushing, New York.

WANTED: The FANSCIENT No. 2. Will pay cash or give 2 future issues for each copy. Wanted to complete sets for our subscribers. The FANSCIENT, 5455 NE 38, Portland 13, Oregon.

WANTED: FANTASY COMMENTATOR #1 to #15, FANTASY REVIEW #2. Gordon Rix, 131 Leila Ave., W. Kilsnan, Man. Canada.

WANTED: Complete set SCOOPS. Jas. Taurasi, 137-03 32 Av, Flushing, N. Y.

BOOK

BARGAINS

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THE MOON COLONY -Bell - Goldsmith 1937 - 1st ed. - excellent d/w -----	\$2.00
MURDER MADNESS --Murray Leinster - 1931 - 1st ed. - very good -----	\$2.00
THE MYSTICS ---K. C. Thurston - Harper 1907 - 1st ed. illus. good -----	\$2.00
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SHAPES THAT HAUNT THE DUSK -----19? - excellent -----	\$2.00
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Fantasy-Times

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