



A Fandom House PUBLICATION

1ST NOV. 1949 10¢



# BELGIAN FANTASY

by Michael Corper

For well over a year now, the Brussels daily newspaper, 'Het Laatste Nieuws' (printed in the Flemish language), has been publishing a daily instalment of a series of adventures concerning a Scandinavian prince, 'Eric the Norseman'. These stories are told in short three-column texts and three illustrations at a time. The drawings are fine, and the text is at times absorbing and thrilling (for me, at least).

Without being exactly science-fiction these adventures can, to a large extent, be termed fantasy stories. They are not of the type published by ASF, PLANET, STARTLING, or any of the other USA sf mags., I should say. But, his adventures lead Eric the Norseman into a realm of fantastic excitement in faraway kingdoms on our own world; be it among the old Aztecs, the Japanese and Chinese, or in struggles against enemies belonging to his own race, e. g.

For fantasy fans, in my opinion, the two adventures (they are numbered, and his present one is the fourteenth in the series), that would be of direct interest are the one dealing with his visit to Atlantis in which he survives the colossal catastrophe that befell this ancient Continent. (By the way, he marries the royal heroine, of course: Winonah, who escapes with him together with a friend, dwarf Pim-Pim). Another story, of a Weird type, is his adventures in a land of Shadows.

This serial is also being sold by 'Het Laatste Nieuws' in separate book-form, priced at 10 Belgian Francs (20¢). For anyone interested, and able to read Flemish, the address is: Eniel Jacqumainlaan, Brussel, Belgium. Each booklet contains an adventure.

Marten Toonder Studio's, 9 Reguliers-dwarsstraat, Amsterdam, Holland, informed me that the adventures of

(continued right hand column)

# FINLAY & PAUL IN No 20

## Los Cuentos Fantásticos

by Arthur Jean Cox

LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS numero 20 has a cover by Virgil Finlay taken from the May 1942 SUPER SCIENCE STORIES. In this issue there are only three stories, as, for the first time, LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS, has published a novel, 'El Napoleon Del Universo', by J. George Frederick. It has two illustrations by Frank R. Paul. The other two stories are "Hacelotodo" by Ray Bradbury. Translated literally, the title means "It does everything"; it appeared in the September 1943 ASTOUNDING as "Doodad". The last is "Lo Llamaban Duende" by Laurence J. Cahill --- "They Call Him Ghost" (?).

This issue is dated October 15, 1949. The magazine is published in Mexico and is completely in Spanish.

# HOWARD V. BROWN ON 19

## Los Cuentos Fantásticos

by Lane Stannard

The last cover painted by Howard V. Brown for ASTOUNDING (Oct. '38) has been reprinted by LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS for their September 15, 1949 (Number 19) issue. This issue features such authors as Edmond Hamilton, Stanley Mullen, Garret Smith and others. Inside illustrations are by John Grossman, Clay Ferguson, Jr., S. Stibbard and Hannes Bok.

(continued from left hand column)

Eric the Norseman are written and illustrated by Hans Kresse. They add that the stories are written originally in Dutch, and that will continue until the author's imagination runs dry - which, they opine (and I agree with them) - may be for some time yet, considering his apparently inexhaustible reserves.

NEW YORK IN 1951

# FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4 - No. 20 (#93)

Established: Sept. 1941

1st November 1949 Issue

THE NOVEMBER 1949 ISSUE OF

## Astounding SCIENCE FICTION

An Interview With  
RICHARD A. HOEN

by Arthur Jean Cox

Richard A. Hoen, whose letter in "Brass Tacks" in the November 1948 ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION inspired the November 1949 issue of that magazine, has been kind enough to give to a FANTASY-TIMES' correspondent his personal reaction to this fantastic issue.

Mr. Hoen is 21 years old and in his senior year, majoring in biology, at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He has been reading ASF for eight years.

Q. "Did you have any inkling before the issue came out that your 'prophecy' was going to come true?"

A. I guess I am going to have to plead ignorance on quite a few counts. I certainly hadn't the faintest dream that any of my prophecy would turn up true. After all, such a thing is fantastic! Leave it to ASF!

Q. "What were your reactions when you first opened the magazine and looked at the contents page?"

A. My reactions when I flipped  
(continued on page 4)

A Statement From  
JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.

John W. Campbell, Jr., of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, announced the line-up of the November 1949 issue of his magazine the same day that it appeared on the newsstand, so the line-up could not be used in FANTASY-TIMES, but his statements on the issue is of interest.

Stated Mr. Campbell, "This is the special November issue. It has been made up to fulfill the prophecy made by Richard Hoen in his letter in the  
(continued on page 4)

ARTICLE IN TIME ON NOVEMBER ASTOUNDING

by Arthur Jean Cox

The October 31st issue of TIME carries on page 49 a short article on Richard A. Hoen and the November issue of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. As per usual, they got half of the facts twisted: Date letter was written, age of RAHoen, preferences in the magazine, etc. But still it does constitute desirable publicity; there was no "Zap! Zap! Look "Buck Rogers" stuff.

SUPPORT THE NORWESCON



A STATEMENT FROM JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.  
(continued from page 3)

November 1948 issue as closely as possible."

"As explained in the editorial in this November 1949 issue, this is, quite strictly, a proof --- a demonstration --- of one of the three valid methods of prophecy."

"Out of the whole deal --- which has taken nearly the full year to arrange, and required real cooperation from each of the authors involved, as you can understand --- there is also coming a unique bit of science-fictioniana. One pre-publication copy of the November issue has been sent round robbin all over the United States to each of the authors involved. It is being signed by each author, and I have myself specially dedicated it to Mr. Richard Hoehn. Hoehn himself is not yet aware of the proposition, and will, I suspect, learn of it only when he receives the specially dedicated copy!"

"Nowhere in the magazine itself is any mention made of Hoehn's prophecy in explicit form; the editorial does not refer directly to the prophecy letter."

AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD A. HOEHN  
(continued from page 3)

through the magazine will probably disappoint you. I looked at the lineup of authors; Asimov, Heinlein, Sturgeon, del Rey, van Vogt, de Camp, Richardson. "Astounding!" I said to myself. All my favorite authors in one issue. I didn't know how Mr. Campbell did it but I was delighted to see the list.

Then I glanced at the titles. "...And Now You Don't", of course, logical sequel to "Now You See It...". The rest appeared unworthy of the authors, trite, in a word corny.

But I did not recognize the title page as being substantially the one I had suggested a year ago. Maybe it was the Asimov story which threw me off. To keep my face from becoming

too red I'll gradually convince myself that that was the reason. The real reason is that I had forgotten all about writing the letter.

Q. "Were you disappointed in Stuart's absence?"

A. I was extremely disappointed, when finally I became aware of the situation, that Don A. Stuart had not appeared. Seeing all those authors back in the ASF fold I came to the conclusion that the editor can resurrect everyone but Don A. Stuart.

Whether it is better that he devote all of his time and contribute all of his ideas to other authors for development, I leave to each to decide for himself. Maybe it is all for the best but we still miss Don A. Stuart.

Q. "In the ANALYTICAL LAB would you still rate the stories in the same order as you did in your prophecy?"

A. It is my custom not to read serials until I receive all of the installments. For this reason I have not read the Asimov or Heinlein pieces. (This last statement is not altogether true; I was so glad to see R. A. H. back --- same initials as mine --- that I sneaked a look at the first two pages. It looks very good.)

As for the remaining stories: I would rate Sturgeon's "What Dead Men Tell" a slight edge over del Rey's "Over The Top" for being a novolotto. Next comes A. E. van Vogt with "Final Command". This ending is too pat. I hate to put de Camp last but his latest series does not appeal to me.

The article was excellent, but Richardson has written many better.

Looking down the Contents Page I see that I have rated the stories in the order that they are presented. I wonder if there is any connection.

Q. "Did you like the illustrations?"

A. Rogers has deteriorated. His last few covers seem to lack all imagination and he covers it up with mysterious faces, sketchy and improbable mixtures. It may be that the present cover area of ASF is too small to allow the paintings that made him tops.

The interiors are getting better all the time in ASF. They were all, with the exception of Brush's, excellent.

Q. "Do you have any other information concerning the issue which isn't generally known?"

A. These are some of the facts which complete the story:

I didn't find out about the whole thing until a representative of "TIME" magazine called me and asked if I had written a letter to ASF. I couldn't for the life of me figure out what he was talking about. So he sprang the news to me and I fell through the floor. Then I rushed to compare issue with letter. Then I called up the only SF fan in the city & asked him to do a little comparing. I was breathless.

Today I received from Mr. Campbell an insured package. If I were insuring it I would have made it for \$1 million. It contained a letter from Mr. Campbell explaining why the issue did not agree in every detail along with a COPY WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED BY EACH OF THE AUTHORS & BOTH EDITORS ALONG WITH A HOLOGRAPHIC DEDICATION TO ME BY JOHN W. CAMPBELL.

Imagine owning a magazine which was autographed by and contained the work of nine of the greatest names in SF. Mr. Campbell says in his letter, "It constitutes, I assure you, a unique piece of science-fictioniana --- nothing like it before, and probably never anything like it again". What a prize!

To conclude, I can only say that it doesn't seem possible that what I dashed off one night last year in ten minutes to kill a little time should explode so violently a year later.

Also my face burns when I think that I could read that last paragraph of Mr. Campbell's editorial and wonder what he meant.

My last point is this --- that issue was the clincher which settles in my mind the old Boucher-de Camp prophecy controversy.

NEW YORK IN 1951

## FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION

by Lester Mayer, Jr.

Walt Disney's latest production, "Ichabod And Mr. Toad", is now playing locally. It consists of two stories, told in cartoon form. "Ichabod" is based on Washington Irving's "Legend Of Sleepy Hollow" and "Mr. Toad" was adapted from Kenneth Graham's "The Wind In The Willows" (which is mentioned in the "Checklist Of Fantastic Literature").

"The Red Shoes", technicolor fantasy, made by J. Arthur Rank in England, began its unprecedented run at the Bijou Theatre in New York in October 1948. This October 21st, it celebrated its first anniversary at the same theatre. It is still going strong.

"Harvey", the movie based on the fantasy play about an invisible rabbit, will start production in January at Universal-International. They have no leading man for it, as yet, but hope to obtain James Steward for the role. Bing Crosby has also been mentioned as a likely possibility.

Sometime next year the British are going to remake Shakespeare's comic fantasy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream", this time as a musical. The stars of the picture will be Danny Kaye, Moira Shearer (who stars in the fantasy, "Red Shoes"), and Vera Zorina.

Sunday October 2nd, the Radio City Playhouse (5:00 P.M., NBC) presented its version of Nelson S. Bond's fantasy, "Conqueror's Isle". To refresh your memory, this story of mutants was last generally reprinted in the AVON FANTASY READER #4.

The television version of "Suspense" (Tuesday, 9:30 P.M., Channel 2) seems to be going in for fantasy. During the past month they've presented "Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde" by R. L. Stevenson, and stories by Edgar Allan Poe. The future holds promise of more  
(continued on page 7)



## FANTASY FORECASTS

"What's Coming In The Pro Mags"

### OTHER WORLDS

The March 1950 (#3) of OTHER WORLDS will be on the newsstands on January 2nd, 1950 and will feature a lead story, "Live In An Orbit And Love It" by Craig Browning which will get the cover painted by Malcolm Smith. The issue will contain two novelettes: "The Gamin" by Peter Dexter and "Mahaffey's Mystery" by Frank Patton. Five short stories complete the issue: "Lady" (Remember "An Adam From The Sixth?") by Richard S. Shaver, "The Fatal Technicality" by Rog Phillips, "Survival" by Henry Hasse, "Punishment Without Crime" by Ray Bradbury and "Norte Americanos, You Are Doomed!" by Alma Hill. The features for this issue have, as yet, not been decided on. The interior illustrations are by Malcolm Smith, Bill Terry and Jack Gaughan, Jr. (fan artist).

Mr. Palmer states: "We are using our first illustration by a fan artist. We are beginning our attempt to top the quality of the top magazines, such as ASTOUNDING. We have a new typeface which adds 2500 words to each issue, plus more pleasing appearance. Fans, PLEASE comment on this issue! What about those stories? We want really tough criticism now, because we're beginning to try out our new ideas, and we want to know where we hit or miss. Miss Bea Mahaffey, Cincy fan, is now on our staff! NOW is first mag to hire fans to aid in producing magazine."

\* \*

### AMAZING STORIES

The lead novel of the February 1950 issue will be "The Galaxy Raiders" by William R. McGivern. The two novelettes will be "Typewriter From The Future" by Peter Worth and "Tomb Of The Seven Tarjos" by Henry Hasse. Four  
(continued right hand column)

## Fantasy Book Notes

by J. Russell Mars

The Popular Library has released Norman Matson's "Bats In The Belfry" (Number 200), sequel to "The Passionate Witch" by Thorne Smith and Norman Matson.

From F. P. C. I. out in California comes L. Ron Hubbards "The Kingslayers" for \$3.

Also by Mr. Hubbard is "Final Blackout" which can be obtained at the remaindered price of \$2 from: The Hadley Publishing Co., 271 Doyle Ave., Providence 6, R. I.

From Random House of New York comes George R. Stewart's new novel "Earth Abides" at \$3. A world catastrophe story and what happens to the survivors. The book received a very good review in the October 31st issue of "Time" magazine.

Frederick Fell of New York has released Frank Bolknap Long's "John Carstairs: Space Detective" at \$2.50.

John W. Campbell's latest book is now ready from Fantasy Press of Reading, Pa. Titled "The Incredible Planet", it sells for \$3.

"Red Planet" is the latest book for younger readers from the pen of Robert A. Heinlein. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons of New York it is illustrated by Clifford Geary and sells for \$2.50.

(continued from left hand column)  
short stories will be: "Spiders Of Saturn" by V. E. Thiessen, "The Last Orbit" by Charles Dye, "No Teeth For The Tiger" by Paul W. Faiman and "The Franksters" by Rog Phillips. The cover will be painted by Robert Gibson Jones. The editor points out "The return to the magazine's pages of Bill McGivern, who in the last two years has become one of America's best detective story novelists; New names on the contents page; A new type of fillers (and) announcement that AMAZING  
(continued on page 7)

FANTASY - TIMES  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4-No. 20 (#93) 1st Nov. '49 Issue

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

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

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

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

Published twice-a-month by FANDOM  
HOUSE, % James V. Taurasi, 137-03  
32nd Ave., Flushing, New York.

RATES: 10¢ a copy, 12 for \$1.00.

ADS: \$1.00 a page, 60¢ a half page  
and 35¢ a quarter page.

NOTE: Make all checks, money orders,  
etc. payable to James V. Taurasi.

Cover by Bob Sheridan

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION  
(continued from page 5)

of the same.

Speaking of Poe, the Post Office  
Department issued a commemorative  
stamp in his honor, this past October.

"The Lake", by Ray Bradbury, was  
the story used on the Radio City Play-  
house on October 16th. This short st-  
ory was expanded to fill a half-hour  
program. Frankly I didn't care for it.  
Too Morbit.

FANTASY FORECASTS  
(continued from page 6)

STORIES goes to 196 pages beginning  
with the March 1950 issue."

\* \*

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES

The January 1950 issue will go on

sale on November 18, 1949 and the lead  
novel will be "The Usurpers" by Geoff  
St. Reynard. Plus two novelettes:  
"Golden Mask Of Agharti" by John & Dor-  
othy DeCourcy and "Revolt In Pacifico"  
by Anthony B. Ott. Also five short  
stories: "The Man Who Could Not Die" by  
Lee Francis, "Jirandel" by Warren Kas-  
tel, "Sanctuary" by Charles Recour, --  
"The Exteroceptor Deceptor" by Craig  
Browning and "The Crumbling World" by  
Berkeley Livingston. The cover is by  
Ramon Naylor and inside illustrations-  
by Summers, Terry and Anderson. The  
cover illustrates "The Usurpers".

## The Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Jean Cox

Forrest J Ackerman revealed at a  
recent meeting of the LOS ANGELES SCI-  
ENCE FANTASY SOCIETY that the item a-  
bout Don A. Stuart selling "We Hail"  
to ASTOUNDING (via the van Kampen Ag-  
ency) was sent into WRITERS' JOURNAL  
by him, all unknowing that we were to  
be disappointed in that respect.

WHISPER magazine has what might  
be called a science-fiction item in  
its December issue: "The Rape Of The  
Moon". In case you don't know, WHISP-  
ER is a photo-sox magazine; this is  
something to see.

Ray Bradbury's blood boils, he  
tells me, whenever he thinks how the  
editors of T7S and STARTLING turns his  
plain, honest, common "Demns!" into  
"Oh, Fudge!" Now, van Vogt comes up  
with a character -- a women -- in "The  
Shadow Men" who says "Mud!" -- "at  
least, it sounds like mud." Hmm, I  
don't know if I can continue to read  
those magazines if they use such un-  
shamed epithets as "fudge" and "mud".

### COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

A Review of AVON FANTASY READER  
by Thomas S. Gardner

COMING IN THE 1st JANUARY 1950 ISSUE  
1949 in Science Fiction by Gardner



# COSMIC BOOK SERVICE

Buy your books from the FANTASY-TIMES BOOK SHOP. Service at its fastest.

## THE LAST SPACESHIP by Murray Leinster

Three super-science novelettes involving the adventures of Kim Randall in his battle against the dictatorial and tyrannical forces of the inter-galactic empires of the future. Thrilling action in the tradition of E. E. Smith. \$2.50

\* \*

## THE HOLMNCULUS by David H. Keller, H. D.

Keller's most recent fantasy novel, first publication anywhere. A novel

of the engaging adventures of Col. Horation Bumble who attempted to grow a baby in a bottle, and the reaction of the world when they found out. \$2.50

\* \*

## FROM OFF THIS WORLD an anthology edited by Leo Margulies and Oscar J. Friend

The 18 best stories from STAPLING STORIES' "Hall Of Fame". Including the work by Stanley G. Weinbaum, Clark Ashton Smith, Jack Williamson, Henry Kuttner, David H. Keller, Thomas S. Gardner and others. You can't go wrong, 430 pages. \$2.95

Any previous books listed in this service may still be ordered. A L S O COSMIC BOOK SERVICE can get you most books in print. A card will be immediately answered regarding any request.

---

JAMES V. TAURASI, 137-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing, New York

---

Make all Postal Money-Orders & Postal Notes out to James V. Taurasi.

(NO checks, stamps or orders outside the United States, Please)

FANTASY - TIMES  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

FANDOM HOUSE  
% James V. Taurasi  
137-03 32nd Avenue  
Flushing, New York

PRINTED MATTER  
Return Postage  
Guaranteed



TO:

Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.  
P.O. Box 696  
Kings Park, L.I., N.Y.