

FANTASY - TIMES

2ND NOVEMBER 1949

10¢

A. MERRITT'S

FANTASY

MAGAZINE



A. Merritt

(SEE PAGE 3)

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- CASA DE FANDOM, % James V. Taurasi, 157-03 52nd Ave, Flushing, New York -

The Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Jean Cox

E. Everett Evans has sold (via FJA) a 6,500 worder to OTHER WORLDS, "Little Miss, Ignorance", which will appear in the March issue.

Prediction: That the "Witches Of Karres" will be a big hit and that James H. Schmitz will turn out to be one of the science-fiction boys. (story in current (December '49) ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION IS TO ISSUE A FRENCH EDITION!

Robert A. Heinlein spoke November 5th at a Los Angeles High School on science-fiction, before a convention of the city's librarians. The librarians of this city have become tremendously interested in the field -- suddenly, discovering that something im-

portant has been around for years of which they've been unaware. A Santa Monica Library (a suburb of LA) had kept science-fiction books from Heinlein to van Vogt in its Juvenilia section. It might be interesting to note at this point that the New York Public Library keeps a file of FANTASY-TIMES, along with a few other fan mags.

Chesley Bonestell's beautiful astronomical paintings were exhibited recently (Nov. 2nd) at a dinner held in honor of a retiring Mount Palomar & Mount Wilson Astronomer. (No, it's not R. S. Richardson.)

a fantasy element is introducing itself into Gus Arriola's comic strip, "Gordo", which shows life of some Mexican Poons; very cute drawings.

The Christmas issue of BLUE BOOK contains a science-fiction short, "Delilah And The Space Rigger" by Robert Heinlein. Illustrated by John Griffen. Rather cute in a mundane sort of way.

The December issue of WRITERS' MARKETS & METHODS devoted a full page to reviewing Will F. Jenkin's science-fiction story, DOOMSDAY DEFERRED, which
(continued on page 7)

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4 - No. 21 (#94) A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION 2nd November 1949 Issue

A. MERRITT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE IS OUT

by James V. Taurasi

BURROUGHS, MERRITT, "MOSKOWITZ" IN LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS 21

by Arthur Jean Cox

There is an interesting error in number 21 LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS. The story, "El Sonador Omnipotente", (literally: "The Omnipotent Dreamer") has Sam Moskowitz listed as author. Actually, it's Stan Mullen; it appeared in MOONFOAM & SORCERIES as "The Sender Of Dreams". Hard to understand reason for mistake, but it might be pointed out that both of the fellows have the same initials. Mullen must be disappointed; it isn't every young writer who gets to appear in the same issue with Edgar Rice Burroughs ("La Resurreccion De Jimber-Jaw"), A. Merritt, ("El Vidrio De Los Dragones", literally — "Dragon Glass, From Through The —") and Edmond Hamilton ("La Hija De Los Vientos": "Daughter Of The Winds"). The cover is by Cartier, from the March 1940 UNKNOWN; interiors are by Joe Gibson, Virgil Finlay, Roy Hunt and Bill Rotsler.

NEW WORLDS 5 ARRIVES

BY Lane Stannard

The review copy of the fifth issue of NEW WORLDS arrived at the New York office of FANTASY-TIMES this (continued on page 4)

This month saw the first issue of A. MERRITT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE hit the stands and thus brings Popular Publications up to the front as publishing the most fantasy titles of the post war period.

This magazine brings to an end the arguments raised during the last year on having too much Merritt in FANTASTIC NOVELLS. Our own Dr. Thomas S. Gardner pointed this out when he reviewed F-N in his "1948 In Science Fiction". Now that AMFM is out it leaves F-N room to publish other worth while reprints. All in all this was an ideal solution.

The first issue contains a good cover and inside illustrations by Lawrence. "Creep, Shadow" is Merritt and needs no comment from your reporter. Only one thing bothers us, what will they do when they run out of Merritt yarns? Reprint them again?

FANTASY-TIMES wishes this new addition to the fantasy family a long life and much success.

((For more information on this magazine see "FANTASY FORECASTS" on page seven of this issue.))

IN ADDITION TO FAN ACTIVITIES

On Nov. 8, 1949 at 1:20 PM, Joe Schauburger, formerly on the staff of FANTASY-TIMES, and Helen Schwimmer, both stf fans, were married.

AVON FANTASY READER

a review by Thomas S. Gardner

PART I - Nos. 1 to 6

The successful publication of a reprint magazine is a difficult job. It is impossible to please every one, but it should please a majority of its readers. The release for publication of some stories may be hard or impossible to obtain. The particular tastes of the editor colors his choices, and thus may or may not result in a good magazine.

The covers of AVON FANTASY READER have been good, at least to my relatively untrained artistic eye. The make-up is satisfactory, and I would prefer the type of binding of the first four issues if possible. Now as to the stories themselves.

No. 1 - An attempt has been made to cover science-fiction, Leinster's "Power Planet"; Merritt's "Woman Of The Wood" and other genre such as weird, whimsy, etc. The selections are fair, and above average for the first issue of a magazine.

No. 2 - Several stories stand out, Manning and Pratt's "City Of The Living Dead" is a vivid tale. However, Howard's "Mirrors Of Tuzum Thumc" has always seemed to be a rather mediocre fantasy and not as good as the other King Kull stories in the series. A peculiar sociological story, Keller's "Stenographer's Hands" has been acclaimed as a favorite by many.

No. 3 - Several good stories in this issue. Merritt's "Rhythm Of The Spheres" is one of the most beautiful stories I have ever read. Lovcraft's "The Silver Key" is one of the best of the Randolph Carter series. Moore's "Black Thirst" is Northwest Smith at his better moods. Some people consider Bradbury's "Homecoming" one of the best vampire stories ever written.

No. 4 - The best story is Bond's "Conqueror's Isle". The remainder under par.

No. 5 - Moore's "Scarlet Dream" is another Northwest Smith that is good. While, Harris "The Miracle Of The Lily" is beautifully written.

No. 6 - A peculiar feeling comes over the old-timers to re-read Hamilton's "The Star - Stealers", a space opera of a vintage no longer published. If you like it you like it, and no comment is necessary. Merritt's "The Drama" has been one of the poorer of Merritt's works. And, Williamson's "The Metal Man" is definitely one of the poorer stories of Williamson. For an excellent novella of Williamson try "The Moon Era" which editor Wollheim might publish someday.

Dr. Gardner will review AVON FANTASY READER Nos. 7 thru 11 in the next issue of FANTASY-TIMES.

Thomas S. Gardner's famous annual review of the pro sf magazines; this time, "1949 IN SCIENCE FICTION" will begin in the 1st January 1950 issue of FANTASY-TIMES.

NEW WORLDS NO. 5 ARRIVES
(continued from page 3)

week. It has increased its pages from 88 to 96, the price is still 1/6, which should be about 25¢ at the current exchange.

This British sf magazine is showing signs of really getting on its feet and becoming one of the better sf magazines in the field. The cover is not bad; it's by Clothier and reminds one of Morey. Interior illustrations are by Clothier and Turner. All are excellent with Turner being best. The fiction is good. We really enjoyed reading it.

The next issue is expected out in
(continued on page 6)

FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION

by Lester Mayer, Jr

Salvador Dali, the surrealist artist, has cast aside his paints temporarily to direct a movie in Spain from his own original story. If my memory serves me correctly Dali wrote a fantasy several years back. Could this be it?

Philip Dorn will star in "Appointment With Fame", a film based on the life of the Italian violinist, Paganini. Paganini was a mystery to all during his lifetime. When still a boy, he "died", but regained consciousness inside his coffin. Some said he sold his soul to the devil in return for his mastery of the violin. It is a fact that no body has ever been able to play his compositions half as well as he did. For more information, read the interesting fact article "Paganini, Man Or Devil?" in the Oct 1940 issue of FANTA STIC ADVENTURES.

R K O has just re-released "Tarzan Triumphs" and "Tarzan's Desert Mystery" as a double bill. The latter picture contains a good fantasy sequence.

The Squire Theater on Eighth Ave in N Y recently showed an excellent double-feature supernatural programme. The two pictures, both reissues, are "Freaks" and "Day Of Wrath". "Freaks" is the most unusual picture I, personally, have ever seen. "Day Of Wrath" is a foreign film dealing with witchcraft and the burning at the stake of witches in Denmark in the 18th Century. Some unusual shorts round out the program.

"Zomba" is the type of picture which must be classified as

"Off - trail" as it is definitely not a fantasy. It tells of a gorilla's mother-fixation for a lost child it finds in the jungle. Though produced on a minor scale, the picture holds interest all the way through.

It looks as if a feud will develop between the movies' "Tarzan" and "Jungle Jim". The producer of the latter series, which stars ex-Tarzan Johnny Weissmuller, plans to have Jim fight lions, alligators and --- a novelty --- a man-sized eel. "Even our chimp is smarter than Tarzans 'Cheetah'", says the producer.

Television is still producing some fine fantasy stories. Latest of these was "On Borrowed Time", the play about the man imprisons Death in a tree. Basil Rathbone portrayed Death. The program: Ford TV Theatre, Friday nights.

The Philco Television Playhouse, not to be outdone, came up with an even more famous classic, "The House Of Seven Gables", the story of a horrible curse, written by Nathaniel Hawthorne. It was their selection for Sunday, Nov 6, and was an excellent presentation.

Down Memory Lane: It was 11 years this October that Orson Welles shocked most of the US with his Hallowe'en broadcast of "War Of The Worlds". Seems like only yesterday.

Walter Huston is being sought to appear in a play in England. He would portray an imaginary American president during a period of atomic conflict.

At least six months ago I reported that Lex Barker's picture, in full color and dressed in his Tarzan costume, would appear in the NY Sunday News. It finally did, too, on Oct 23. Lex looked very impressive.

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Fantasy Book Notes

by J. Russell Mars

A. J. Cox tells us that A. E. Van Vogt's "World Of A" is to be published in a French edition.

Prime Press has just printed Dr. David H. Keller's new book "The Homunculus" at \$3. Also ready from this publisher is the \$3 book "Exiles Of Time" by Nelson S. Bond. This is Mr. Bond's first published novel.

Latest addition to the 25¢ reprint field comes from Century Books of Chicago. It is "Time Trap" by Rog Phillips, which runs 160 pages. The number is 116.

There are currently three very good bargains in the NY bookstores which will interest fantasy fans.

The first is "The Purple Cloud" by M. P. Shiel, first published at \$1, now selling for 59¢ --- a saving of 40%.

The second is Mervyn Well's "The Unfortunate Pursey" originally issued at \$2.75, now selling for 59¢ --- a saving of 65%.

The third and best is the non-fiction work by J. O. Bailey, "Pilgrims Through Space And Time". Originally published at \$5, it can now be had for \$1.49, a saving of 70%.

Lane Stannard says that he has received the first of a series of 12 pocket books of science-fiction, all authored by Astron del Martia, and published by S. D. Frances of London. It contains 128 pages, and is similar in format to "New Worlds" although it is a little smaller in dimensions. The cover is excellent. Next of the series will be "Dawn Of Darkness". Price of each book is 1/6. Sole distributors are Gaywood Press, Ltd., 30 Gaywood St., London, SW 1, England.

According to Herman Von Tokken, coming out late this year from Gnome Press of NY is the first of a series of "Conan" stories by Robert E. Howard. And due around the first of

NINTH PHILLY CONFERENCE HELD ON NOV. 20TH

by Ray Van Houten

The ninth annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference was held on Sunday, 20 Nov 1949, at the Majestic Hotel in Philly. About 50 fans attended.

Included among the speakers were George O. Smith, Sam Moskowitz, Willy Ley and L. Sprague de Camp.

No resolutions were offered by any of the attendees for the consideration of the Conference.

next year from the same company is "Typewriter In The Sky" by L. Ron Hubbard.

Information from fantasy fan Robert Weiss reveals that "Frozen Hell" by John W. Campbell, Jr. is a 30,000 word novelette written in 1935. It is a "Don A. Stuart" story that the mags bounced at that time because it is in diary form. Mrs. Campbell considers it to be her husband's best yarn. It is to be published by Fantasy Press of Reading, Pa., along with a few of his stories from TWS, circa 1937, including "Lands Of Mars" which originally appeared in the magazine as "Brain-Stealers Of Mars".

NEW WORLDS NO. 5 ARRIVES

(continued from page 4)

January 1950 and the Company will try hard to bring the mag out quarterly after that.

You're doing a good job, Ted Carnell; lot's of needed luck to you.

The 8th World Science Fiction Convention will be held September 1950. It will be known as the "NORWESCON". Join the "Norwescon Committee" today and help make this convention a success. Write to: "Norwescon", P.O. Box 8517, Portland 7, Oregon. Membership is only \$1.00.

FANTASY FORECASTS

What's Next In The Pro Mags

"astounding SCIENCE FICTION", issue of January, 1950.

This issue will contain the last part of Isaac Asimov's Foundation serial "...And Now You Don't". Two novellas: "Not To Be Opened—" by Roger Flint Young and "Ole Morthor Methusalem" by René Lafayette; three short stories: "The Xi Effect" by Philip Latham, "Undesirable Alien" by David McCarthy and "Gypsy" by Poul Anderson; and an article: "Maxwell's Demon And Monsieur Ranque" by Arthur C. Parlett, round out the issue.

The cover will be by Bonestell illustrating "The Xi Effect". Interior illustrations will be by Cartier, Gaughan, O'ban, Rogers and Ward.

This will be the 20th anniversary issue of ASTOUNDING. In answer to a query as to whether the occasion was to be celebrated in the issue, Mr. Campbell replied: "No special point is being made on that".

* *

"A. MERRITT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE", February, 1950, #2.

Lead novel for the issue will be "The Smoking Land" by George Challis. The three short stories will be "Three Lines Of Old French" by A. Merritt, "The Sea Maiden" by Victor Rousseau, and "Science Of Time Travel" by Ray Cummings.

A department, "Calling All Fantasy Fans", by the editor, and a readers' column will complete the issue.

The cover will be by Saunders and inside illustrations will be by Virgil Finlay. Norman Saunders will be remembered as the painter of a couple of covers for "MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES".

* *

Some advance information regarding the March, 1950, issue of "SUPER SCIENCE STORIES" have come in. Fic-

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today."

Vol. 4 - No. 21 (94) 2nd Nov. '49 Issue

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Cover by Herman Tok

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tion will be by Van Vogt, Bradbury, McDonald, L. Ron Hubbard, Arthur C. Clarke and Neil R. Jones (a Prof. Jameson yarn). Cover by Lawrence will not illustrate a story; interiors by Lawrence, Loydenfrost and Cole. The usual departments will be included.

Further information on this issue will be published in this column as soon as received.

THE COSMIC REPORTER
(continued from page 2)

appeared in a recent issue of the SATURDAY EVENING POST. Reviewer was a well-known-authority-on-A. Merritt, G. Gordon Dewey who was lavish in his praise of the macabre tale of an aborted attempt of Soldados ants (army ants) to conquer the world. Jenkins is better known as Murray Leinster....

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