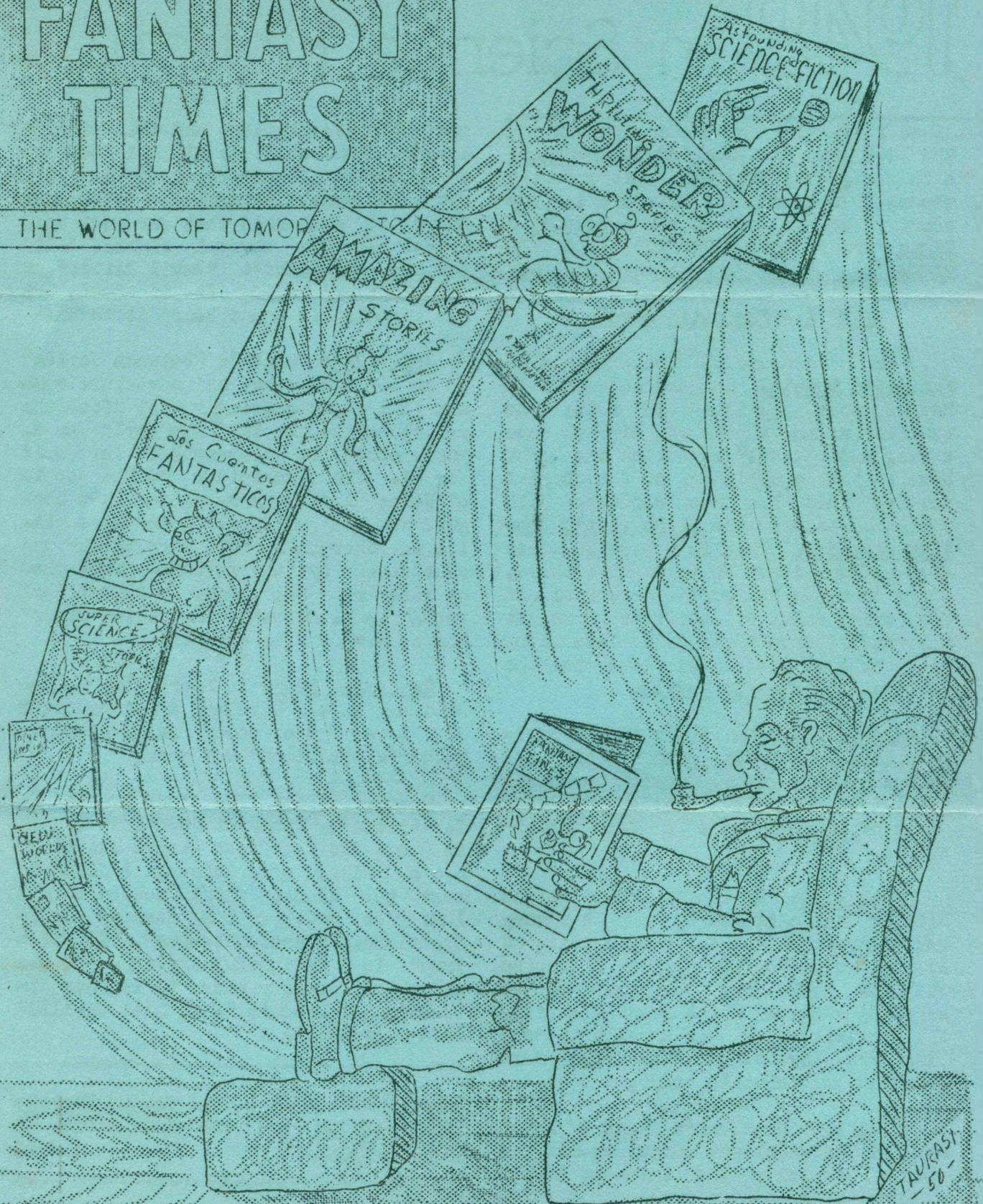


SUBSCRIPTION  
HAS EXPIRED

# FANTASY TIMES

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW



(SEE PAGE 2)

1ST JANUARY 1950 - 10¢



Presenting THOMAS S. GARDNER's fourth annual review of the sf pro magazines

# 1949 In Science Fiction

Since 1947, when Mr. Gardner reviewed the 1946 crop of promags, Fantasy-Times, each year, has presented this expert's views. We take great pleasure in presenting to you what is now a Fantasy-Times "tradition", 1949 IN SCIENCE FICTION. -ed

## PART I - Fantastic Novels

In accordance with past issues of Fantastic Novels, a good selection of novels were published in 1949. The quality of the shorts was high in some cases, and the only objection one might have is the republishing of the Merritt novels. This has been corrected with the appearance of the A. Merritt's Fantasy Magazine. This is a wise business move and can leave FN to other authors. There is no doubt of the perennial and deep sales value of Merritt's works, but they should have their just place along with others. Congratulations to the Editors of Fantastic Novels. \* \* \*

January 1949: Merritt's "Seven Footprints to Satan" is probably the most famous mystery story, judging by copies sold, even published. Holloway's "The Wrath of Amen-Ra" is a fair mystery story. \* \* \*

March 1949: England's "The Golden Blight" was acclaimed by many as a very good story. I found it only fair, as it is quite out-dated, and I despise would-be world savers of the type described. However the characterization, though stereotyped, was excellent. Robbins' "The Toys of Fate" is a very fascinating and terrible story. \* \* \*

May 1949: Rousseau's "Eye of Bala-mold" is an excellent adventure-fantasy story. It holds the interest in its

good characterizations and well plotted action. However it is slightly confused sometimes in character continuation until the end. Leinster's "The Red Dust" is a classic that one must read if not already several times. I did not care for Brand's "Devil Ritter" as much as I had hoped. It is good, but not the classic I had heard it to be. \* \* \*

July 1949: Smith's "Between Worlds" is an old time space and adventure opera that reads amazingly well after the years. Although laid in World War I, parts could be transcribed for World War II. The description of the people of Venus are very human and have both good and bad qualities found in earthlings. Sherman's "The Throw-Back" was considered by the reviewer great when he first read it, today it is not that good. E. B. Mason's "The Albino Otter" has some very grim qualities. \* \* \*

September 1949: Merritt's "The Dwellers in the Mirage", I reiterate, is his best. The cover is excellent. Oliver's "Platinum" was poor. \* \* \*

November 1949: The long awaited C. P. Stilson's "Minos of Sardanes" is not as good as the first story, but still has points of grandeur. I disliked most the almost fatal desire of all lost race writers to destroy their creations. Francis Stevens' "The Elf-Trap" is a delightful fantasy. It has strange old-worldly charm to it that attracted me. Mason's "The White Gorilla" is a fair story.

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Mr. Gardner will review Famous Fantastic Mysteries in the next issue of Fantasy-Times. -ed

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# FANTASY-TIMES

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY"

Vol. 5 - No. 1

NEW YORK - 1st January 1950 Issue

Whole No. 97

FLASHES FROM ACKERMAN

MERRITT, MULLEN, MEYRINK

## FANTASY AGENCY

HEADLINE MEXMAG N° 23

by Forrest J Ackerman

by Arthur Jean Cox

Have just negotiated deal between Murray Leinster and National Broadcasting Co. for radio dramatization of Astounding story FIRST CONTACT within next 90 days. Eastern fans, please write Program Dept of NBC, Hollywood, asking for more science-fiction on the air; Western fans, write NBC, NYC, requesting same. It might be a wise idea to include requests for some of the following (plus personal favorites of your own) in your recommendations, as there is a strong possibility of my placing them with the studio: "With Folded Hands", "Black Flame", "4-Sided Triangle", van Vogt's "Project Spaceship", "Beyond This Horizon", "The Hibernated Man", "Thunder & Roses". If all goes well, a program of from 15-26 half hour plays will be only the beginning! \*\* George Pal has just informed me that WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE will start shooting in March, same director as for DISTINATION MOON, and also in technicolor! \*\* I predict by the end of '50 there will be 25 fantasy magazines! -fja

### BULLETIN

Fantasy-Timer, Arthur J. Cox, has sold an article, "Linguistics and Time", to Astounding SCIENCE FICTION. No, article has no relation to do Camp's famous, "Language for Time Travelers".

SUPPORT  
THE NORWESCON

In many ways the 25th issue of Los Cuentos Fantásticos is the most interesting to date. For the first time it features an original cover, an oil painting by Folenc, an Ackerman Fantasy Agency find from Hollywood, showing a fire-maiden warding off a menacing bat-winged satyr. Merritt's "People of the Pit" is accompanied by a hit illustration by John Grossman from the pages of the fanmag Scientifantasy. "The Sender of Dreams" by Stan Mullen (from the book Moonfoam & Sorcery) is illustrated by Walt Daugherty. "The Orchid Queen" by Gustav Meyrink was translated from German into English by Wendayne Mondelle, Americanized by FJ Ackerman, then translated into Spanish south of the border. It is sparked by a unique photographic illustration. "Little Miss Ignorance" by EEEvans (scheduled for first English appearance in the May Other Worlds) is illustrated by a black-&-white reproduction of part of the cover that Roy Hunt did for AE van Vogt's Fantasy Book yarn, "The Ship of Darkness". "The Lady Was a Pirate", an original story by Carlton Furth, is illustrated by New Jersey fan Joe Gibson. And finally "!!!" by X is reprinted, with an original illustration believed to be Mexican in origin, from one of the prewar Wollheim magazines.

The preceding issue, #22, of LCF offered much of interest, too. Cover by Finlay from FFM's "Minimum Man". First story, an original by EEEvans, "The Door to Past", illustrated by Oscar Estes jr. Murray Leinster present with a recent "slick" story, "The Day (continued on page 8)



## POCKET REVIEW

## SHOT IN THE DARK

by Lane Stannard

In one of the best formats we've ever seen in pocket-sized books, SHOT IN THE DARK came out this month bringing to the reading public 23 science-fiction stories, mostly from such pulp magazines as PLANET, THRILLING WONDER, SUPER SCIENCE, etc. Though a few slick and book reprints are included, as we have stated, most are from the pulp sf mags. It is one of the few sf anthologies that has left out ASTOUNDING completely. Ably edited by Judith Merril, it is a must for all lovers of sf. The cover is good, but one must look close to find any connection with sf in it, as it is made up (title included) to look like a detective novel cover. We place this anthology down as one of the most representative of the sf pulp mag field and recommend it to all.

Published by Bantam Books, New York, No. 751, 310 pages and 25¢.

## MOSKOWITZ IS MOSKOWITZ

BY James V. Taurasi

NEWARK, N. J. January 2, (CNS) - Today at the home of Sam Moskowitz, it was discovered that an error had appeared in the 2nd November 1949 (#94) issue of FANTASY-TIMES. After a close research of the 21st issue of LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS, it was discovered that the Moskowitz story, in that issue, was really written by Moskowitz and not Stan Mullen as reported by Arthur Jean-Cox. The story is a reprint (and translation into Spanish) of Sam's story, "Man of the Stars" that appeared in the Winter 1941-42 issue of PLANET STORIES. What probably threw Cox off was that the illustration used in LCF was from Stan Mullen's "The Sender Of Dreams" from the book MOONFOAM & SORCERERS. - This is Sam's second reprint outside of

(continued on page 8)

Set of Destination Moon  
Televised

an article by Arthur Jean Cox  
(west coast representative of F-T)

The set of Destination Moon was televised December 13, 1949 over KTLA, Paramount for an entire hour: 9 to 10. The man-and-wife team who runs the show The City at Night, visited the set of DM. Program opens with a shot of earth receding into the distance and suddenly the surface of the moon welling up and filling the screen. Then, the man-and-wife team disembark from the rocket ship amid many exclamations and self-interrogations of the sort, "Oh, where are we?", you know. Suddenly, over the surface of the moon come four grotesquely-clad creatures -- men in spacesuits, none other than the four stars of our picture. (Man-and-wife team not clad in space-suits.) Also, showing up not clad in spacesuits were such notables as Irving Pichel, George Pal, Chesley Bonestell, Robert Heinlein and others. Pichel is a distinguished, gray haired, man, very self-possessed, who dominated the show immediately. George Pal speaks with a "quaint" accent, rather shy. Bonestell brought along his book, "Conquest of Space" with him and the cover was televised. Not much time was spent on Heinlein, much to the disappointment of the sf fans watching the show. He said a few words in his deep, impressive, authoritative voice, impressing upon the man-and-wife team and the listener the plausibility of all this. (in fact, much of the show was spent in doing just that.) However, Heinlein was just one person out of nearly a dozen responsible for the picture and so, from that viewpoint, the time spent on him was adequate. Much time was spent televising the gigantic crater-model which is really impressive and realistic. Done with startling detail. From the crater set the scene moved to Set no. 1 where the control room was located and that was inspected. Also, on Set no. 1 were

(continued on page 8)



# NEW WORLDS NO 6 OUT FEBRUARY

NO SIX

ONE & SIXPENCE

## NEW WORLDS

*fiction of the future*



by Ted Carnell

Ted Carnell is the editor of England's only pro sci magazine being published today. Here is his report on his next issue of NEW WORLDS.

LONDON, Dec. 25, (CNS) - The sixth issue will be published early in February and thereafter the magazine will be dated quarterly - - No. 7 being Summer 1950. We are enabled to do this officially at last as paper control ceases here as from March 1st.

Information on the next issue: Cover by Clothier from A. Bertram Chandler's "Coefficient X" another magnetic bearing story of his, this time set on Venus. (His previous story, "Position Line" took top place in issue No. 4)

Lead story is "Phoenix Nest", the final story in Aiken's trilogy of the Centaurians fight against the Galnos



of Earth. This last is, in my opinion, the best of the three, the whole making one of the finest science-fiction novels we have published in Britian (excluding Stapledon's work). Turner again illustrates Aiken's story.

Shorts backing the two long stories are "Adaptability" by F. G. Bayer, who is becoming a steady favorite with us here; "Adoption", by Don J. Dougherty, the first professional story he has written; and "Castaway", by George Whitley, who is a great personal friend of Chandler's.

At this early stage I am not sure whether I shall be able to include a short story by a very famous British book author. I'm hoping so, but the lights aren't all green at the moment.

Illustrations for the short stories are by Clothier again.

Lead novel for the Summer 1950 issue (No. 7), will be John Brody's sequel to "World In Shadow", entitled "The Dawn Breaks Red". Also coming up in that issue is a William Temple story which American magazine publishers stated was one of the best they had read -- but that they couldn't publish it! I think we can get away with it here in Britian, and I can guarantee all science-fiction fans will enjoy "Martian's Fancy".

Other material on hand by Peter Phillips, John Beynon (with a sequel to "Time To Rest"), Chandler, F. G. Bayer, and several new authors. I'm beginning to feel very happy about the shape of things to come.

Features in No. 6 will be as usual, plus an authors' corner and a film review. The latter concerns jet engines (in a film which is generally being released here in January to 3,500 cinemas), and follows a fantasy theme --- young air-minded youth reads science-fiction and dreams of becoming a jet pilot. Follows logical trend to where he grows up and becomes one. Beauty of the whole thing is that it is NEW WORLDS he is reading in his youth and the camera also shows interior of mag with rocket drawings. At London preview a week ago a huge cut-out from a

## FLASH

from F Jackman

LOS ANGELES, January 9, (CNS) - Seven days after he wrote it, Ray Bradbury has sold a thousand dollar science-fiction short to Saturday Evening Post. His second reaction (his first was to put an icepack on his head) was to phone me the good news. I'm sure all fandom joins me in extending heartfelt congratulations to its fabulous graduate.

## BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES, January 6, (CNS) - Our west coast representative, Arthur Jean Cox reported today that the British science-fiction magazine, Fantasy (post-war, edited by Walter Gillings) is being revived due to the great success of New Worlds.

## STATE OF FANDOM

by The Fandom Reporter

At the January meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association (Esfa) held on Jan. 8, 1950, its Director, Sam Moskowitz reported that he had been unable to arrange a meeting with the Hydra club to arrange for the proposed Eastern Conference to be held in a few months. This is the annual semi-convention held by the Esfa every March. This year it asked the Hydra to co-sponsor.

The next meeting of the Esfa will be held on the first Sunday in February at the Slovak Sokol Hall, 358 Morris Ave., Newark, New Jersey, at 3 PM. The speaker at the February meeting will be Arthur J. Burke.

The Hydra club Christmas party got an excellent review in the N. Y. Times for January 2, 1950.

still in the foyer of the Scala Cinema. London, showing the boy and NEW WORLDS. I am hoping to be able to publish that picture in No. 6 issue.



## FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION

by Lester Mayer, Jr

What I'm about to discuss now is probably old news to most of my readers, but I think it can bear retelling. I'm referring to Cecil B. De Mille's spectacle, "Samson And Delilah".

The world premiere of this adaptation of the fantasy fable from the Bible was held in two major motion picture houses in New York, four days before Xmas. The premiere, which was telecast and broadcast, was the biggest of the year.

What impressed me most of all, though, was the terrific newspaper ads used to exploit "S & D". They ranged from love scenes between the strong man and the beauteous siren, to shots of Samson fighting a lion, but I think the most impressive one of all showed the climax of the picture --- the destruction of the temple, with the stone idol crashing down into the ruins.

"Samson And Delilah", the story of a superman, is a picture most fantasy fans will enjoy --- certainly something you will regret having missed.

By the way, how do you think DeMille would handle one of the E. E. Smith space epics??

The Museum Of Modern Art Film Library has acquired several new prints which will be shown during the next year and a half. Included is the John Barrymore interpretation of "Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde". No date has been given for the showing, but I'll try to find out as soon as possible.

This picture is, I believe, the very first film version of the Robert Louis Stevenson clas-

sic. It preceded the Fredric March interpretation by several years.

A picture about to be released has the title of "D.O.A." (D.O.A. is an ambulance term signifying "dead on arrival"). It's about a man who tracks down and destroys his own murderer. It sounds like a fantasy.

The next Tarzan picture --- or at least part of it --- is to be filmed in England. I don't yet know what the title is to be.

Warner Bros studios announce the purchase of Ed McNamara's short story, "Marvin The Successful Ghost", which appeared in This Week, the Sunday magazine supplement of the NY Herald Tribune, for production early next year as a two-reel short subject.

A new TV show based on the predictions of Nostradamus has been optioned by a food sponsor for February telecasting.

This is much too late to do any of us any good, but I've just learned that Nelson Bond's fantasy, "Conqueror's Island", was recently telecast over the "Lights Out" program. But if you want some inside info on how the technicians provide fantasy and weird effects on television, read the article appearing in the Dec. 13 issue of "Cue" magazine. Really very informative.

---

MGM will film "The Next Voice You Hear", based on a Cosmopolitan short story, in 1950. Story tells of day God spoke on the radio..... -AJCox

I arranged for Seabury Quinn to be interviewed at Halloween. He was on the Nan & Bill show (WQQW). They were very pleased with his talk. -R. Briggs

John W. Campbell, Jr., appeared recently on "We, The People". -AJCox

## Fantasy Forecasts

What's Next In The Pro Mags

### THRILLING WONDER STORIES

Lead novel in the April 1950 issue will be "Planet Of The Small Men" by Murray Leinster.

Three yarns will share the novelette honors. They will be: "Journey For Seven" by John D. MacDonald, "There Shall Be No Darkness" by James Blish and "Nocturne" by Wallace West.

Short stories will be: "Carnival Of Madness" by Ray Bradbury, "Little Joe" by Cleve Cartmill, "The Time Cave" by Walt Sheldon and "The Borghese Transparency" by Carter Sprague.

Cover will be by Earle Bergey illustrating the Leinster yarn, and there will be the usual articles and features.

Interior illustrators will be Finlay, Stevens, Astarita and Napoli.

Editor Merwin comments on this issue: "Well-rounded issue with Mac Donald in great form. Blish and Leinster okay; West off on an unusual pitch and Bradbury at near-peak. Well up to recent issues."

MEKIMAG NUM. 23

(continued from page 5)

of Deferred Justice". O'Leary originally illustrates "Ervoel" by Fritz Leiber jr, a fanmag story. "The Hour of Triumph" (nee "Late Night Final") by Eric Frank Russell bears an original, and very interesting, illustration by Henry Eichner of the LASFS in addition to two spots by Orban. Issue concludes with a highly artistic layout on a short-short by Nick Beal entitled "The Silent Question": a devilish head by Hannes Bok purports to be a picture of the author; there is an original skiffesque drawing — full page, artist RAHoffman's impression of the world in

1990; and a fitting tailpiece from an issue of fanmag En Garde, showing the issuance of a mutant baby from an egg.

This peso-priced periodical continues to be one of the most stimulating of collectors' items.

MOSKOWITZ IS MOSKOWITZ

(continued from page 4)

the United States. His first was when the Canadian magazine, UNCANNY TALES, reprinted his story from COMET. Far be it from us to take away any credit from the Newark Lama of the Esfa, we are overjoyed to make this correction and hope that in the future many more of Sam's stories appear here, as well as in Mexico.

DESTINATION MOON SET TELEVISIED

(continued from page 4)

three naval officers, who, doubtlessly, were meant to loan the undertaking an air of officiousness and authority. Gene May, who many of you have seen in recent newsreels piloting the needle-nose plane which "pierced the wall of sound", was present also. All was very interesting. I find it amusing to speculate on the reaction of some unknowing fan who accidentally tuned in on the show; it must've been a thrill. Incidentally, that may happen to you; the show has been kinescoped and will be shown across the nation from time to time.

### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POND

by Michael Corper

As a member of the British Interplanetary Society, I receive its Journal. The November 1949 issue arrived to-day, and contained a rather amusing incident. In case you have not yet heard about it, here it is: Mr. L. J. Carter, the Society's Secretary, had an unexpected visitor one October evening; a journalist, representing a South London local newspaper. He had a few

(continued on page 9)



# The Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Jean Cox

The December 24th issue of The Saturday Evening Post contains a science-fiction story, "The Outer Limit", by Graham Doar -- which is genuine science-fiction, though nothing overly startling from the viewpoint of the died-in-the-wool sf fan. Contains a beautiful illustration by Melbourne Brindle.

Ray Bradbury recently attended a meeting of the Outlanders' Society and read to them a chapter from his soon-to-be-published book, The Martian Chronicles. Was told by a visitor to the meeting that it was really good which, in this case, is quite a compliment as he is usually cold to RB's stuff. Chapter tells story of a negro colony on Mars. Bradbury, incidentally, is becoming quite a speaker; he used to shun public appearances but seems to enjoy it very much now which is fine as he has an unusually dramatic voice.

LASFA held a gala party at their Christmas (December 23) meeting, complete with Tom-and-Jerries and a be-whiskered Forrest J Ackerman who handed out presents. Meeting was also election meeting. The beautiful showing made by the spontaneous, unanimous reelection of all officers on the slate was spoiled by Secretary Cox's resignation, due to pressure of other work.

The January issue of REDBOOK has a science-fiction feature; What the World Will be Like in the Year 2000, according to Aldous Huxley, Phillip Wylie, and others.

Retraction: Further checking by your Fantasy-Times' reporter has shown that the report given here that the SEP was not interested in further science-fiction stories is false. (Apologies to Mildred Reid of WRITERS' DIGEST.) That well-known magazine is very interested in science-fiction --- according to the Ackerman Authors Agency, they are looking for a science-fiction serial. As has already been reported (see page 6) they have bought a short story for 1000 dollars from Ray Bradbury: The Voldt.

FANTASY-TIMES  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today"

Vol.5-No.1 1st Jan. 1950 Whole No.97

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## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POND

(continued from page 8)

queries. Sit down, fans, sit down, if you want to know what he submitted to poor Mr. Carter: "Was the B.I.S. aware that the US Navy had succeeded in sending a rocket to Venus on Jan. 14, 1947?" When our Secretary replied that this was news to him and that, in any case, such an event would have become known in no time, the journalist produced unmistakable proof by pushing under Mr. Carter's nose, very seriously, nothing less than... ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION featuring 'The Aphrodite Project' by Ph. Latham (published in the USA in June 1949, and reprinted in the U.K. recently). The journalist appears to have remained unconvinced, whatever Mr. Carter said, and was finally persuaded to make a telephone call to the US Embassy. What the result was, we do not know. One can only guess.....



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