

FANTASY TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWS REVIEW

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FIVE CENTS

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz

POLLS! POLLS! POLLS! POLLS!

The Feb. 21, 1944 number of FANTASY FICTION FIELD presented the results of the BEOWULF science fiction poll as conducted by Gerry de le Ree, Jr. of Westwood, N. J. Through the years science fiction lovers have found other fans and readers opinions anent science fiction and fantasy of absorbing interest. If you want to see two old time fans really have fun sit and listen to them compare likes and dislikes in stories, artists, magazines, fans, fan magazines and editors in the field. These science fiction polls are no new thing, dozens of them in varying degree of detail have been taken and published. Some of them have gained a great deal of notoriety and acclaim, particularly Arthur L. Widners and Jack S. Peers polls, the latter of which was especially comprehensive. It would be intriguing to make a comparison of the various polls through the years, so fans, grab the mit of an inveterate science fiction enthusiast and lets ride our bucking time machine back through the years to the first poll of any importance.

THE SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE POLLS

In its early days THE SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE organized by WONDER STORIES was a live-wire club of considerable activity. Among their many activities was two sets of science fiction questionnaires published in the SFL department to be filled out by science fiction fans, and the ones getting over 70% of the questions right were qualified as First Class Members. These tests were the finest, most comprehensive of their type ever conceived in science-fiction. And boy, you had to be a real fan to pass them too! When you started these questions you were on your own and the rest of the science fiction world knew by the result just how informed and enthusiastic a fan or reader you really were. Forrest J. Ackerman, Lewis F. Terrance and William H. Dillanback tied for the highest score, 97% right. Milton A. Rothman, Julius Schwartz, C. J. Wilhelm, Helton R. Bowman, Harry Boesch and Phil Silverman were runners up with 95%. Others high up on the list were Robert W. Lowndes, Paul Frechefer, Donald A. Wellheim, Thos. S. Gardner, Arthur B. Gnaedinger (son of Mary Gnaedinger), Raymond A. Palmer and Arthur L. Widner. The results were announced in the April, 1935 issue of WONDER STORIES. AND HERES what these boys agreed upon among other things:

THE MOST POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR: David H. Keller, M. D. And he was, too--with almost everybody. The Conquerors, The Evening Star, The Human Termites, The Revolt of the Pedestrians, No More Tomorrows, The Thing in the Cellar, Life Everlasting, Unto Us A Child Is Born, etc., etc. had created the term Kelleryarn and made him the most beloved science fiction author of his time. In second place was A. Merritt, whose exploits in the literary field are too familiar to recount. Third was John W. Campbell, Jr. and fourth Stanton A. Coblentz whose superb satires The

Man From Tomorrow, The Blue Barbarians, In Caverns Below were something to rave about. Edward E. Smith, Ph. D., Edgar Rice Burroughs, H. G. Wells, John Taine, Jack Williamson, Eando Binder, Nat Schachner, Otfried von Hanstein and P. Schuyler Miller also ranked high.

THE MOST POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION STORY WAS: THE MOON POOL by A. Merritt! The Most popular author, David H. Keller, M. D. had not written the most popular story! Second in popularity was THE SKYLARKS by Edward E. Smith, Ph. D. Tied for ~~the~~ place was Richard Vaughans EXILE OF THE SKIES, probably the greatest interplanetary novel ever written. THE SECOND DELUGE by Garrett P. Serviss, THE HUMAN TERMITES by David H. Keller, M. D. and THE FINAL WAR by Carl Spohr were tied for third. REBIRTH, THE MAN FROM TOMORROW, DR. LUD MIB, LARRANO THE CONQUEROR, THE FACE IN THE ABYSS, THE SUNKEN WORLD, THE WRECK OF THE ASTEROID, COSMOS, THE TIME MACHINE, THE CONQUERORS and INVADERS FROM THE INFINITE also ranked.

THE FAVORITE SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE WAS: WONDER STORIES. There might have been a little loyalty in this, but WONDER was far from unpopular at the time.

THE TOP SCIENCE FICTION FAN WAS: FORREST J ACKERMAN

THE LEADING FAN MAGAZINE WAS: FANTASY MAGAZINE, by a light year.

Many interesting addenda's to the test were recounted, but are too numerous to mention here. Other fans mentioned at the start of this article were among the leaders of their day

The results of the second SFL Poll were announced in the October, 1935 issue of WONDER STORIES. Raymond Pool Mariella got the highest grade in this test--97%, followed by LeRoy Christian Bashore and Philip S. Hatherington tied for 2nd with 95% each. Donald V. Allgier, Herbert E. Goudket, William S. Christoff, William H. Stanbery, Oswald Train, Milton J. Latzer and Olen F. Wiggins all had grades of 90% or better.

THE MOST POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION AUTHOR: For a second time DAVID H. KELLER, M. D. was voted the most popular science fiction author. Dr. Edward E. Smith, Ph. D. rated second. John W. Campbell, Jr., third, and Edgar Rice Burroughs fourth. There was a triple tie for fifth place shared by Laurence Manning, Richard Vaughans and Stanley G. Weinbaum. Also runs: A. Merritt, Jack Williamson, John Russell Fearn and Stanton A. Collentz.

THE MOST POPULAR SCIENTIFictional CHARACTER: Edgar Rice Burroughs character, John Carter of Mars one that distinction. Second favorite was Richard Sarton of the Skylarks. Also runs included Knute Savory (of EXILES OF THE SKIES), Mark Carse, Taine of San Francisco and Professor Jameson.

THE MOST POPULAR SCIENCE FICTION STORY: EXILE OF THE SKIES by Richard Vaughans. A great science fiction novel that I fear many now science-fiction fans have never heard of, and which by right of quality should command high premiums--but which doesn't. THE SKYLARK OF SPACE by Edward E. Smith, Ph. D. & THE MAN WHO AWOKE by Laurence Manning tied for second place. Among the other great classics mentioned were: Twilight, THE SHIP OF ISHTAR, THE CONQUERORS, OLD FAITHFUL, SKYLARK THREE, and SKYLARK OF VALERON.

THE TOP SCIENCE FICTION FAN was still Forrest J Ackerman

THE TOP SCIENCE FICTION FAN MAG was still FANTASY MAGAZINE.

In commentary it must be said that these questionnaires very accurately reflected the tastes of the fans of that day as I remember them, and were, by and large, a good criterion of the tastes of the readers.

THE OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE OF PRIVATE OPINION

This project, financed and conducted by Jack Speer, active even today was immensely popular as a feature of the now defunct SCIENCE FICTION FAN published by Olen F. Jiggins of Denver, Colorado. Often not truly reflective of the opinions of all, due more to the idiosyncracies of editor Jiggins than on any shortcomings on Speers part, it still was usually close to accuracy and on the whole greatly respected. The difference here was that Speer usually asked one or two questions at a time, not the whole kit and kaboodle at once, therefore repells were taken on some items. Here is a summary of the IPO Polls.

- 1.) WHAT FAN MAGAZINE IS STRONGEST? (Dec. 1937). In order they were: THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN, THE SCIENCE FICTION CRITIC and the AMATEUR CORRESPONDENT. NOVAE TERRAE, THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR & COSMIC TALES also ran. Of these, the FAN'S leadership at that particular date was dubious, although a few months later it did rank as a leader in the field.
- 2.) WHAT ORGANIZATION DO YOU BELIEVE NOW HAS THE LEAD (Dec. 1937). THE SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION of England ranked first in the minds of fans and THE SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE second.
- 3.) NAME, IN ORDER, THE THREE TOP FANS. Donald A. Jollheim was far and away the leader, virtually running away from his next highest man who was Forrest J Ackerman, losing out on number one for the first time in many years. John V. Baldaonis ran third. Olen F. Jiggins, fourth; Sam Moskowitz, fifth. Robert A. Hadle, sixth; John B. Michel, 7th; James V. Taurasi, eighth; Edward J. Carnoll and Walter Gillings, both of Britain tied for 9th and Louis Kuslan, Julius Schwartz and Morris S. Dollans anchoring tenth place. (Feb. 1938)
- 4.) WHAT FAN MAGAZINE IS YOUR FAVORITE? The fan mag poll was done over because of doubts as to its representative accuracy. THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN again emerged first. THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR second; THE SCIENCE FICTION CRITIC third; COSMIC TALES fourth and NOVAE TERRAE 5th.
- 5.) HOW MANY REAL FANS WOULD YOU SAY THERE ARE? Estimates ranged from 20 to 1,000, the average settling about 100.
- 6.) HOW DO YOU DEFINE A FAN ANYHOW? was compositely answered: "A real fan fulfills practically all the following requirements. He buys and reads most of the professional fantasy magazines, collects them, and writes the editors. He subscribes to at least one fan magazine. Corresponds with other fans. Science fiction fandom is his ruling passion. He has probably tried his hand at writing, either for fan or pro magazines or both."
- 7.) WHICH PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE IS BEST? (May, 1938) ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION was a mile ahead of its nearest competitor, AMAZING STORIES with THRILLING WONDER STORIES a rather sad third.
- 8.) DEFINE SCIENCE FICTION. Was compositely answered as: "Science fiction is fiction dealing with the results of the occurrence of some scientific phenomenon or invention that has never been known to occur, but is possible in the sense that it cannot be proved impossible."
- 9.) YOUR AGE, PLEASE? (June, 1938). The average age of the fan of that day proved to be 18! The youngest 13 (Robert G. Thompson), the oldest 46 (H. C. Koenig).

- 10.) AND NATIONALITY. These were extremely varied, but GERMAN ranked first, ENGLISH second and SCOTCH-IRISH third.
- 11.) NAME THE TWO BEST FAN ARTISTS? (July, 1938). James M. Rogers won first place, largely because he was chief illustrator of the FAN and doing a more colorful than artistic job of it. John V. Baltadonis was second and Morris S. Dollens third. Nils H. Frome made fourth and Mary Rogers sister of James fifth. The artists were not nearly as good as many running around loose in the fan field today.
- 12.) THE THREE BEST FAN WRITERS. ROBERT W. LOWNDES took first place and SAM MOSKOWITZ (yours truly) took second, conceding first by a heart breaking margin of one point. RICHARD WILSON was third, DONALD A. WOLLHEIM fourth, JACK SPEER fifth, MADLE, BRADBURY & TAURASI tied for sixth.
- 13.) ARE YOU A MICHELIST? (Oct., 1938) 6 answered yes, and 17 no.
- 14.) TO THE BELIEFS OF WHAT CHURCH, IF ANY, DO YOU ADHERE? Fourteen said NONE. Three Catholic, 2 Baptist, 1 Methodist, 1 Campbellite, 1 Hebrew, and one Episcopalian. Many addenda'd that their adherence was not whole hearted. Most fans do not regularly attend any church.
- 15.) WHAT YEAR DO YOU BELIEVE THE FIRST ROCKET WILL REACH THE MOON? The replies averaged up to August 18, 1976!
- 16.) DO YOU THINK THE FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION WILL REPLACE SUBSCRIPTION FAN MAGS? 23 said No, and only one replied yes.
- 17.) WHICH PRO MAG IS BEST? (Dec., 1938). ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION again raced off with top honors by a wide margin. AMAZING STORIES 2nd & STARTLING STORIES & WEIRD TALES tied for third place.
- 18.) DO YOU BELIEVE A SOCIALIST WORLD STATE TO BE PRACTICABLE & DESIRABLE? Twelve answered Yes, 10 No, and 4 said "Desirable but not practicable."
- 19.) DURING WHAT PART OF THE SUMMER WILL YOU BE FREE TO ATTEND THE FIRST WORLD SF. CONVENTION? Early July was the consensus of opinion & that's when the convention was held.
- 20.) NAME IN ORDER THE THREE TOP FANS? (March, 1939) DONALD A. WOLLHEIM was first, SAM MOSKOWITZ, 2nd, FORREST J ACKERMAN third; JAMES V. TAURASI fourth, OLON F. WIGGINS fifth, ROBERT W. LOWNDES 6th, JACK SPEER 7th, JOHN B. MICHEL 8th, WALTER E. MARCONETTE & ROBERT A. MADLE TIED For 9th & RICHARD WILSON 10th.
- 21.) HAVE SOCIOLOGY, FAN FEUDS, etc., A RIGHT TO A PLACE AMONG FAN ACTIVITIES? Nine replied Yes, eight No and 10 gave Sociology a place but not fan feuds.
- 22.) WHOM DO YOU CONSIDER BEST AMONG PRESENT WRITERS FOR PRO SF. MAGS? John W. Campbell, Jr.-Don A. Stuart ranked first, L. Sprague de Camp, 2nd, Sando Binder, third, David H. Keller, M. D. fourth with Jack Williamson, E. E. Smith, John Taine and Clifford D. Simak runners up.
- 23.) WHICH FAN MAG IS YOUR FAVORITE? (April, 1939) SCIENCE FICTION FAN again ran first, SPACEWAYS second and NEW FANDOM third.
- 24.) ON THE WHOLE, DO YOU REGARD WITH FAVOR THE RECENT FLOOD OF NEW PRO MAGS? (Sept. 1939). Five Yes. Eighteen, No.
- 25.) HOW DID YOU COME IN TOUCH WITH FAN MAGS? 1.) Fan Mag ads in the pres. 2.) Sample copies. 3.) Letters in the readers columns.
- 26.) ARE YOU A MICHELIST? Nine Yes, fifteen, No.

(END OF PART ONE.....TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE)

Next issue the Resume' of Polls will be continued. We hope to cover in our next number Robert W. Lowndes LE VOMBITEUR poll, Arthur L. Widners 1st & 2nd Poll and eventually coming up to date with the BEOWULF Poll & the completion of the resume'.

A NEW BRITISH MARKET FOR SCIENCE FICTION

by

Walter H. Gillings

POST-WAR PROSPECTS for the expansion of British Science Fiction are bright. As soon as the paper situation permits, we can expect a new and remunerative market for such material in this country. I am authorised now to invite, for this market, original MSS. FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. Anything you send me will be welcome.

During this period of preparation, payment will be made ON ACCER-
-ANCE at a rate of Ll. 1s. to Ll. 11s. 6d. per 1,000 words, according to suitability. After the appearance of this prospective publication there will be regular openings and regular payment promptly on publication. Apart from any other requirements it may have, it will offer a more extensive market than has ever been available in this country to writers in this field.

The type of material needed is much the same as that which I invited for TALES OF WONDER, except for certain important differences. The main requirement is for NEW MATERIAL OF GOOD LITERARY QUALITY, relying as much on its story-value as on its unusual appeal. Authors may allow themselves every latitude in selecting suitable story-themes, so long as other considerations are fulfilled. It is desired to take advantage of the whole scope of Science-fantasy in its more intelligent forms, at the same time exploiting a wide field of imaginative interest apart from the strictly scientific.

These things are essential:

The creation of an atmosphere of PLAUSIBILITY by careful attention to details which in most American science fiction are taken for granted, and by thorough explanation of scientific facts and theories.

Vivid descriptive and characterisation.

Intensive action (not necessarily "thrilling" adventure), and racy dialogue.

Convincing development of GENUINE HUMAN INTEREST -- which does not mean mere "love interest", which will not be encouraged unless essential to the plot.

Complete originality is not expected. But NOVELTY OF TREATMENT and presentation of ideas, or new combinations of ideas, however familiar to the seasoned reader, IS required. However hackneyed the basic plot, if it is presented from a new angle, with due regard to other requirements, it will be more acceptable than a brand-new idea which is nothing more than that. Good STORIES, not ideas, is what is wanted.

But we must asky you to TRY to avoid those themes which are so familiar as to be wearisome: menaces from space, messages in meteorites, Frankenstein monsters and suchlike -- unless you can give them a twist so novel that even THEY appeal on that score. DON'T strain for effect by dealing wholesale with Universes and Galaxies, just for the sake of Size. We want to encourage tales of wonders on Earth as well as in space.

We want stories, too, in which the impact of marvellous events or inventions on the lives of a few ordinary people is given more attention than their effect on the whole human race. Try to give the reader the impression that he is participating in these marvels rather than just observing them from afar. And let him rub shoulders with simple, if clever, interesting people rather than world-famous Professors and their gifted daughters.

Especially welcome is the story which gives a detailed, intimate picture of life (or one aspect of it) in the world of the future. We are interested also in the scientific treatment of "pure fantasy" ideas. There is much material under the heading of Occult which might appeal if it were handled intelligently, with the accent on the POSSIBILITIES of future research and acquisition of unexpected knowledge. The "whacky" fairy story is NOT wanted, however, any more than the ordinary weird tale. Such subjects must have a SCIENTIFIC approach.

We are open to consider anything up to 20,000 words in length, but MSS. of four, six, eight and 10,000 words are most needed. If you require further guidance, don't hesitate to ask; and if you prefer to submit synopses of stories before writing them, they will be promptly consider.....8, Silver Lane, Purley, Surrey, England.

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FAN MAGAZINES FOR SALE: The following back-numbers of FANTASY TIMES containing a wealth of absorbing material are still available: Vol. 1 No. 1, and Vol. 1 No. 2 at 10 cents a copy. Nos. 4, 5 & 6 the only photo-off set fan mags ever published, are five cents a copy and number 7 under the title of FANTASY REPORTER, the number that smashed technocracy in U. S. fandom also photo-off set & 5 cents

NEW FANDOM: A few new copies of this famous club-organ judged to be the best of its type ever published are still available. Nos. 3 & 5 at 25 cents apiece and 7 & 8 at 10 cents per.

TELLOS, June & July, 1937 issues still available at 5 cents apiece. This is a printed fan magazine, the first venture of editor Moskowitz in the fan field.

THE SCIENCE FICTION SCOUT, Nos. 1 & 2 of the official organ of the New York SFL never generally distributed before. 5 cents a copy.

THE SCIENCE FICTION SCOUT (different then the above) published in 1938 by Alex Osheroff, issues 7 & 8 available at 5 cents per.

THE PLANETEEER MAGAZINE, big 24 paged character fan magazine. Hard to get item, 15 cents a copy

EXTRA! FREE! FOR NOTHING! With every order, a selection of hitherto undistributed collectors items of fan interest will be included.

THE COSMIC REPORTER by Cpl. James V. Taurasi

Rockets are in the News

The April 17, 1944 issue of LIFE gives a 3 page picture account of Britains 2-gun. They are actually Rocket Antiaircraft guns. The article goes on to say that they have been in use for two years. Six pictures of these Rocket guns are shown

Willy Ley - well known in scientific fiction for his articles and stories has an article debunking the Nazis in the April issue of LR NEWS ILLUSTRATED. He touches on Rockets in this article and shows a photo of the infamous 6 barrel Nazi Rocket gun, the Nebelwerfer.

Willy Ley also announces the publication of a new book of his to be titled ROCKETS: The Future of Travel Beyond the Stratosphere, and it will be published by the Viking Press, 18 East 48th St., N. Y., 17, N. Y. It will be priced at \$3.50 and illustrated. Willy Ley says of this book: "My book traces the history and development of both scientific and war rockets from the earliest times - from the ancient Greeks, in fact - up to the present and into the future....." My book approaches rockets from three viewpoints: (1) the scientific principle (it is surprising how few people understand what makes a rocket work - it neither "flies" nor is it "shot", nor does it "push against the air"), (2) the romantic dreams (the ideas of Jules Verne and his fellow "scientific" writers make entertaining and instructive reading today), and (3) the modern experiments that have already been made or can be carried out as soon as the war is over.....The climax of the rocket development, and the climax of my book, is the project of breaking away from the earth and going to the moon or one of the planets. This, I'm certain, will eventually be done...."

Scientifilms

The wife and I spent the Easter Holidays taking in Fantasy Films. We dropped in on The Uninvited at the Prospect and placed our stamp of approval on this swell ghost picture. We liked the last scene where the ghost is beaten and leaves the house.....Next day we took in Tarzan's Desert Mystery. Here they took a few Prehistoric monsters, a huge spider, Tarzan, boy, a beautiful young girl, desert and mixed them all up giving us a swell Tarzan Fantasy. Not as good as some previous Tarzan pictures, but worth seeing.....Along with Tarzan we saw a Chapter of Captain America, which is fantasy, what with a ray gun (one of the most realistic ones I've ever seen), a robot truck, that can be driven by remote control via television & odds and ends. The acting is above par for a serial.....Coming up for us to see is Mad and the Monster and None Shall Escape, stff., only because part of it takes place in the future!

ODD ITEM: WONDER COMICS has finally hit the stands, and we suspect it is published by Standard Publications tho their name & address does not appear therein. This mag reminds us of the time Standard sued a Comic firm for using the title Wonder Comics. The mag changed its title to Wonderworld Comics and also dropped Wonder Boy when sued by Superman.

FANTASY TIMES, (formerly Fantasy Reporter) incorporating New Fandom, Helios, Tesseract, Cosmic Tales etc. edited by Sam Moskowitz, 446 Jelliff Ave., Newark, 8, N. J. All communications regarding the magazine should be forwarded thereto. Subscription rates are five cents a copy straight. Short articles, reviews and discussions of current interest will be gratefully acknowledged. Publisher, James V. Taurasi, Art Editor, John Giunta, Editorial Advisor, F. Orkin Tremaine.
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THE FANTASY CORNER: Where Reader and Editor Meet.

We have received a few kind words which we shall pass on to the rest of our readers, and would appreciate a few lines from anyone who has something to say regarding the magazine, its contents and phodocs. JIM WENZ, of Baraboo, Wisconsin wrote us: "Dear Sam, Glad to hear you are reviving FANTASY TIMES as I am interested in seeing what one who writes such interesting articles as THE TIME STREAM can do with a zine. I don't know what photo-offset is but presume it was a type of duplication by photo printing. Hope you can use it again sometime. Here's ten cents for a slab." --- A short while later Jim wrote us again saying: "Dear Sam, FANTASY TIMES sure packs a lot of facts. Some that I wanted to know for a long time, too....Here is forty cents for back issues; and ten cents added to my sub., thanks; Jim Wenz." (Thank 'ye Jim and we hope to here from you again...ED.)

GERRY DELE REE, JR., old pal of Westwood, N. J. Says: "Dear Sam: Your fanzine, FANTASY TIMES arrived today, and was quite a surprise. Thought you'd forgotten about printing fanzines. While the makeup of the mag doesn't compare with such super-mags as Nova, Let, etc., the contents were very interesting.....I enjoy a small, informal magazine like yours more than those big, and most times dull issues that everyone seems intent on putting out. I'm enclosing a part of an article you once wrote for SUN SPOTS. I guess you will remember it. I was going to reprint it in the second issue of BEOWULF, mainly because the remarkable manner in which you foretold the future of most of the pro-mags. Well, read it over for yourself, and if you want to, use it, for Beowulf is dead as far as I know.....I haven't been doing very much in the Stf. line recently. I'm working on a daily paper in Hackensack--sports dept.--and I have been busy with other things.....Well, keep up the good work with FANTASY TIMES....Sincerely, Gerry (Thanks, Gerry, and we'll use that prophetic article or cur'ns somewhere in the next two issues. It toots our own horn a lot, but its FANTASY TIMES Type of material.)
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Coming up in our next few issues are: PSYCHOLOGICAL QUIRKS OF SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS by Thos. S. Gardner which is amusing and absorbing.

A REMARKABLE BIT OF PROPHECY as selected by Gerry Dele Ree, Jr. from a past article of editor Moskowitz. THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz which shall conclude the 'Resume' of science fiction Polls.

THE COSMIC REPORTER by James V. Taurasi will appear regularly.

DON'T MISS 'EM. YOU'LL LIKE 'EM

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: Sam Moskowitz :
: 446 Jelliff Ave. :
: Newark, 8, N. J. :
: Ret. Post. Guar. :
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Subscription Expired