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OCTOBER-1941

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The Aims Of Famous-Fantastic-Mysteries

By

Mary Gnaedinger

(Written especially for FANTASY-TIMES)



FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES has had and always will have for its chief aim, the maintenance of a consistent high quality in its stories and illustrations.

In a way this is hardly a difficult problem, as the Munsey firm-ament has always been spangled with bright stars of science-fiction, fantasy, and weird-fantasy. In fact, many of these are the brightest stars of all fantastic literature!

Whether the stories are new or old (the long ones will be nearly always old) this same quality will be the only ticket of entrance to F.F.M. We feel that our former "new" contributions have been of excellent quality, and our opinion has always been backed by the fans' letters. The "old" items were long ago acclaimed by fandom.

In this field of story-telling above all others the art work is a tremendous part of the fantastic atmosphere. We have every confidence that Finlay and Paul can carry the fantasy and science-fiction job and Hannes Bok can take on certain weird stories which lend themselves to his style. Other artists have been mentioned, and when a problem in illustrating arises, we shall consider these fantasy favorites, too.

Most of the fans have said that only in matters of small detail have they wished for any change in this book, FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES, now combined with FANTASTIC NOVELS. They have mentioned greater frequency, in publication; one of our aims is to bring these great stories out more often and there is much reason to believe that it will not be long before this happens.

To sum up, all of our aims come under one that includes all---- and that is not to retrogress in the future from the standard that has been accepted, and indeed set, by the readers of F.F.M. themselves!

Mary Gnaedinger--editor F.F.M.

THIS is the first of a series of articles by the editors of science-fiction magazines, where they tell us of the aims of their magazines. Look for John W Campbell jr, Leo Margulies, etc in future issues!

MORT WEISINGER AND SUPERMAN

MORT Weisinger, long the main stem in the editorial staff of Thrilling Wonder Stories, Startling Stories and Captain Future, has for the last few months been working for SUPERMAN and the other magazines published by DETECTIVE COMICS and allied companies. His new work is to edit the stories before they are drawn into cartoon form. He is one of the staff of editors that work on the SUPERMAN stories before they are drawn.

Weisinger may be remembered for his work on FANTASY MAGAZINE and other fan publications. For his stories in the old (and new) WONDER STORIES; and for his columns and editorial work on the Standard science-fiction and other magazines.

Weisinger has always been a top-notch science-fiction fan and it is hoped that his new job will not keep him out of science-fiction too much.

You did a good job with Wonder, Startling & Capt Future Mort, and FANTASY-TIMES wishes you best of luck with SUPERMAN.

ASTONISHING & SUPER SCIENCE NEWS

At a meeting with Mr. Norton, new editor of ASTONISHING and SUPER SCIENCE STORIES, FANTASY-TIMES was informed that ASTONISHING will in the near future present a two page fan column. This column will contain Author's and fan's biographies, fan mag reviews and other interesting news of stf fandom.

SUPER SCIENCE STORIES will continue selling for 20¢ and still contain 144 pages, but it will in the future contain more stories per issue. The next issue of this magazine will be dated November and appear in August.

The next issue of ASTONISHING STORIES will be dated December and be on sale during September. After this it will appear regular bi-monthly.

The TAURASI-MOSKOWITZ literary agency have sold ASTONISHING A 6,000 word short of Harry Walton. John Giunta has sold drawings to the above magazines.

Mr. Norton, the editor, asks all readers to write in and let him know what they think of his two stf magazines. This is his first job of editing science-fiction magazines, and is anxious to know how his mags go over with fandom.

E. E. SMITH TO TRY FULL TIME WRITING

E. Smith, famous science fiction author has decided to try full time stf writing. He is no longer working at his former job, and before looking for new work, he plans to write science-fiction for a living. It has usually taken E.E. Smith for two to four years to write a super novel. Now that he is working on them full time they should be coming out quite a bit faster, thus pleasing his many fans that always wailed at the long delay between novels. Mass production coming from E.E. SMITH, but also quality with quantity, FANTASY-TIMES wishes you.

FANTASY-TIMES is published every month by James V. Taurasi, 137-07 32nd Avenue, Flushing, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES are 5¢ a copy, 6 issues for 25¢ (NO STAMPS PLEASE)
ADVERTISING RATES are \$1.00 full page, 50¢ 1/2 page, 35¢ 1/4 page.

JAMES V. TAURASI editor and publisher

SAM MOSKOWITZ associate editor

ALEX OSHEROFF reporter at large

FANTASY

CORNER

where the editor and readers meet and talk

OVER 200 copies of the first issue of FANTASY-TIMES were mailed out to fans and authors thruout the country. These were in two editions of 100 copies each. They brought in results, yes, but not enough to stop us from asking again for subscriptions and support. We're willing to add pages and make other improvements without adding to the price, but can't do it till the subs start rolling in.

We're out to print all the news of the month, plus articles, plus covers by the finest artists in the field, plus departments. That is our aim. We'll print all news of interest sent in. If you disagree with an article publish here, the pages of this magazine are open for your article. Every one has his say in this, the fan's own magazine. That is our policy.

Now from our readers, we hear:

From Graph Wildeyer, who states: "Thanks for sending me the 1st issue of FANTASY-TIMES. You have a good idea in this monthly news sheet. There is place for a monthly, which can go into more detail about some of the news that pops up.

This first issue was very interesting. Enclosed find 25¢ for a subscription to FANTASY-TIMES." (Thanks Graph, the more subs we get the pages we add to this mag)

"GOOD BOY" as John M. Cunningham writes in part: "Would like to trade ads with U & appreciate your overtures. I can do it in the case of CTQ with a fairly clear conscience, as it primarily is a fiction mag; but when it comes to a news mag...well, U noe I still distrust U in that respect & regard U as one the Bad Boys of fandom; & I don't care to advertise anything of which I disapprove. F-T has got off on the wrong foot, far as I'm concerned, with the Astr & SuperSS business: your biased report & those sour grapes by the moskrat.

Ofcourse I am pleased to see U editorially support the British boys via the BSFWRS; & by all means: green."-----(O.K., 4SJ, a letter is winging it's way over with arrangements for that COSMIC TALES Ad)

AND 1st from John M. Cunningham writes a long 3 page which we print only

"Today I was very pleased to receive from FANTASY-TIMES and think it might well be classed which is ahead of the news, much like

Person, on the Manhattan Merryground and the "NEWS FOR THE AMERICANS" Truly your fanzine has the news ahead of its actual happening. It was

of the BSFWRS letter, from

a small part: you a copy of the s-f fanzine

Robert S. Allen & Lew

"NEWS FOR THE AMERICANS"

It was

CONTINUED Page 6

COMPARISONS ARE ODIIOUS

by Sam Moskowitz

FANDOM has lost something. Whether or not that "something" HAS been lost indefinitely is hard to say. But that "it" is gone now is undeniable.

It is hard to define just what it is that fandom has lost. You might call it a state of mind, a manner of being. And science fiction fandom has lost that undefinable "it", not in the progress of deterioration so much as the forward surge of expansion.

Perhaps it might be explained more simply by saying that the science fiction fandom of today has lost its traditions, and the many quaint customs that went with them.

I do not say that this loss is for the worse. I simply state that I, as a semi-old-timer miss those little traditions, those peculiar habits, those distinguishing traits. They lent color to the entire field. Added glamour and a cheerful glow to the entire proceedings.

Gone are those slap-happy fans who used to bid dollars for a single carbon-copied sheet of paper. Gone too, the competitive collecting spirit that made fans add to their professional and amateur collections with frantic, urgent speed. Toppled to the ground is the grand old religion of worshipping "The Science Fiction Digest", as the come of attainment for any fan magazine. Discarded are the halos about the once hallowed forms of science fiction editors, and trampled in the dust the once revered history of science fiction fandom.

Today, few fans, if any descent into a fit of melancholia when unable to obtain a fan magazine they want. Today, few fans would give 10¢ a copy for the old "Science Fiction Digest" once unobtainable at dollar premiums. And the person who slipped down a dollar bill for the first issue of "Science Fantasy Correspondent" today would be ridiculed into oblivion. Yet there was a time when dozens of fans would have gladly paid a dollar for the first "Science Fantasy Correspondent". A time when in wild fan would have gladly mortgaged his home for a chance to procure a complete set of "Science Fiction Digest".

There was too a time when science fiction fans were glad to receive a copy of Dollen's old "Science Fiction Collector". Would have found something of interest in every typographical error; every light and dark hektographed area.-----No more.

In the year 1938 science fiction fans would have fainted in ecstasy at the sight of fifty paged, mimeographed publication like "Starlight". Would have stood on their heads in expression of joy to be able to grasp a copy of "Stardust". And so many of the fan magazines which are today taken as a matter of course, accepted as ordinary in make-up pages, such as today's Spaceways, Alchemist, Fanfare, Pluto, Specula, etc etc etc. Why if anyone of those fan magazines had appeared in their present format back in 1937 or 1938 the editors would have been feted beyond their wildest imaginings. Would have been declared to the skies as the greatest fans of all time. Would have been carefully inscribed in the annals of fan history as a fan who published an epoch-making fan-journal, "as good as "Fantasy Magazine".

All those petty little illusions.

Those rose colored dreams. Those imaginings of the most imaginative--- they're all come true. Each and every one of them. In the past few years virtually everything that a science-fiction fan, as a science-fiction fan has ever dreamt of has come to pass. Perhaps they haven't been satisfied in the way they have appeared, but they have appeared, just as he sometimes hopelessly wished they would.

And the appearance of all these hoped for things, the materialization of every vaunted dream, the prosperity of the field as a whole and the ever increasing numbers of science-fiction fans in the sf field have marked finis to old traditions and old ways of thinking.

As far as progress goes, it has been for the best. But in achieving progress the fans have lost something. They have lost a great deal of the pleasure of dreaming things that seemed never-to-be-realized. Have lost the set of charming rules that used to govern the notions of fandom. Have lost a great deal of the enjoyment once vested in their hobby.

(Continued from P. 4) VERY unfortunate to hear that Orlin Tremaine was FORCED to resign from COMET, one of the fastest "up-coming" S-F publications put out. (latest indications are that COMET WILL pay for all material used, tho it may take a little time. Tremaine is to publish his own sf magazine in the near future--ed)-----I was surprised to note no mention of UNKNOWN in your first FANTASY-TIMES. This mag will change to UNKNOWN WORLDS etc (This news was over two months old when THE first F-T came out and thus too old to be used, we try not to use news that is over 3 weeks old - ed)-----.

We would have liked to have printed all of Johnny's letter, but lack of space prohibits it. Johnny Cunningham is trying hard to help the British fans obtain American sf magazines and is 100% supported in this by FANTASY-TIMES. For complete information on how you can help BRITISH FANS can be secured by writing to JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM, 2050 Gilbert St., Beaumont, Texas. See you next month and don't forget that subscription.

James J. Loran

editor FANTASY-TIMES

LAST MINUTE NEWS (AS WE ARE MIMEOGRAPHING)

DENVENTION---Conflicting reports have come in. Some stating that about 100 persons were there, others state that fewer persons were there. All agree that only 4 or so professionals were there. California is to have the convention in 1942. The pages of FANTASY-TIMES are open to anyone who wishes to report of the DENVENTION.

GERRY DE LE REF, JR. has sold a 1500 word-short entitled "TRYST IN TIME" TO FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS COMIC BOOKS. He received one cent a word for it.

FANTASY-NEWS announces that it will publish a super anniversary issue shortly and will try to resume weekly publication after that.

MARIO RACIC JR and FRANCIS SYKORA will be married this September.

COMETEERS JOHN GIUNTA and SAM MOSKOWITZ registered for the Drift last July, both became 21 last June. COMETEER DOLD has done a cover for the FALL ISSUE OF COSMIC TALES. It will photo-offset.