



FOCAL POINT, Volume 2, Number 23, a fanzine of news, views, and reviews, is edited by rich brown (410 61st St., Apt D4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220) and Arnie Katz (59 Livingston St., Apt. 6B, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201). Assistant Editor: Colleen Brown. Invaluable Help: Joyce Fisher. Australian Agent: John Bangsund, (1/8 Bundalohn Ct., St. Kilda, Vict. 3182, Australia. 12/A\$3.) Published bi-weekly, it is available for news, all-for-all trades (both editors, please), or 6/\$1. Illustrations by Jay Kinney. Vote in the Egoboo Poll! February 1, 1971.

VIRGIL FINLAY DEAD AT 56 Virgil Finlay died on Monday, January 18, after lingering in a coma for three days, of a liver ailment. Finlay had been in poor health for several years, beginning with an operation for cancer during 1969 and culminating in his most recent illness which had the famed pulp artist near death for several weeks before he succumbed. A convert to Judaism, Finlay was buried in Rochester in a religious cemetery.

Virgil Finlay began illustrating for WIERD TALES in the mid-thirties, and went on to carve a special niche in the annals of science fiction art with his many covers and interiors for FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES and other pulps of the forties and fifties. In more recent times, he was known as a fine artist, with numerous exhibitions of his work at major galleries.

L. RON HUBBARD SUES MOSKOWITZ L. Ron Hubbard, acting on behalf of Scientology, has threatened Sam Moskowitz with a law suit for "libel by innuendo" as a result of remarks SaM made in an introduction to an anthology which included one of Hubbard's stories. In his remarks, SaM stated that Scientology had been denounced by the British and Australian governments. Hubbard took exception to this and threatened to sue unless a public apology was issued and the comment removed from the book's subsequent editions.

This seems to be a new tactic for Scientology. Recently, they threatened a similar suit against Ultimate Publications over an article by Barry Malzberg on Scientology, but withdrew the suit when Sol Cohen agreed to publish a pro-Scientology article.

UNICON WITHDRAWS BID FOR 1974 The Unicon, a bid for the 1974 convention co-chaired by Brian Burley and Fred Lerner which wanted to hold the 32nd World SF Convention on the campus of Columbia University in New York City, has announced its withdrawal from the race.

They stated that, although they still consider the idea of a worldcon held on a college campus a good one, they found that the Columbia administration could not guarantee that necessary construction would be completed by convention time. They didn't find any other local site which pleased them, so they decided to withdraw.

The co-chairmen and most of the committee are withdrawing in favor of the Washington in '74 bid, the rest of the committee presumably remaining uncommitted, or possibly in favor of Washington's only current rival The NYCon 4 bid chaired by Al Schuster and Art Saha.

**COMICS CODE AUTHORITY CHALLENGED
MAY BE REVISED AND LIBERALIZED**

The next issue of Spiderman will be distributed without the seal of The Comics Code Authority which has appeared on all but Dell-Gold Key comics since the mid-fifties crackdown. Stan Lee elected to publish a story concerning drug addiction which the code would not approve, without code approval, rather than revise it or junk it.

A stormy two-hour mediation session was unsuccessful in getting the Code people to relent or inducing Marvel to yank the story.

In a possibly related move, a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Comics Code Authority will meet during the last week of January to discuss changing the comics code to allow more adult material to be published. The outlook is not wholly bright, however, since John Goldwater of Archie Comics is a staunch opponent of liberalizing revision.

**MONDO-CON DRAWS THROGS
A BUST FOR STFANS**

The Mondo-Con, an attempt to put comics and s.f. fandoms under one roof, was held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, January 22-24. The attendance, 434, was large, especially so since there was considerable turn-over, at least among the s.f. fans. None of the ones we talked to seemed to have stayed at the con more than a few hours, although most localites put in an appearance, and there were some out of town visitors like Frank Lunney, Jay and Alice Haldeman, Hal Clement, Rusty Hevelin, and a few others no one told us about.

The general consensus was that the majority of attendees, as expected, were comics fans, and they set the tone for the convention. The huckster room was nearly solid comics material, which was all right, but some of the hawkers felt the need to sell their wares with methods more appropriate to a carnival barker, which wasn't.

Our staff of veteran reporters was most lax about attending the program, but those who peeked in reported that nothing very awful or very wonderful happened. Best moment was said to be Robert Silverberg making Isaac Asimov, much touted as a humorist for some reason, repeat a particularly banal joke twice for the audience so they could dwell on the fecundity of Mr. A's sense of humor.

BALTICON V SCHEDULED

This year's Balticon, which will be held under the auspices of a committee composed of Brian Burley, Ted Pauls, and Dave Halterman, is scheduled for the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Hanover and Baltimore Sts., Baltimore, February 12-14. The Guest of Honor will be Harry Harrison, who will speak at a dinner meeting of the Great Wall of China SF Society to which all attendees are invited to subscribe.

Room rates are \$16 for a single and \$21 for a double, and membership is \$2 advance and \$3 at the door. More information from: Ted Pauls, 1448 Meridene Dr., Baltimore, Md. 21212

SCANDINAVIAN CONVENTION SET

The 16th Scandanavian sf convention will be held in Gothenburg on the West Coast of Sweden, May 20-23. Sponsoring groups are the Gothenburg club Cosmos and The Tolkien Society of Sweden.

The committee, owing to internal squabbles is made up of neofans banded together under the name "Galactic Circle". This group attempted to occupy the Art Show room at the last Scandanavian convention and hang up a banner reading "Stop Creeping Socialism -- Kill All Workers". The group promises a more mature approach to their convention.

CARTOONISTS SOCIETY FETES PROS The National Cartoonists Society, at its Tuesday, January 19 dinner at the Lambs Club, honored a number of famous names in the comics field, Will Eisner, Murphy Anderson, Gil Kane, Stan Lee, and FOCAL POINT's beloved reporter Denny O'Neil. After the dinner, a two hour tape was made by the various guests. The tape will be made available to groups wishing to know something more about how one becomes a professional in the comics field.

DEL REY, BENJAMIN TO WED Lester Del Rey, noted sf author, and Judy-Lynn Benjamin, managing editor of GALAXY, have announced plans to wed. Lester was widowed last year when his wife Evelyn died in an automobile accident on the way to a small sf convention in Florida.

ALL SWEDISH FANDOM PLUNGED INTO WAR! The Board of Directors election of the Swedish Science Fiction Society held December 18 saw a fannish party "Opposition 70" sweep its candidates into office. Jorgen Peterzen was elected President, John-Henri Holmberg was elected Secretary, Mats Linder is the new Treasurer, and Kristina Hollind and Peter Carlsson were chosen Official Editors.

The new officers campaigned on a platform of ending the inactivity of the previous administration. The club has begun holding meetings in Stockholm with guest speakers and publicising them well. They hope to increase society membership which has been static for about five years.

All is not rosy, however, since Sam J. Lundwall, leading Swedish pro, sent in his resignation to the board of directors. "The latest development in the Society causes me slight nausea," he wrote, "and I want no further contact with it until when and if the Holmberg-mafia resigns; at such a time I will be glad to re-enter the Society."

OSFA ELECTS OFFICERS The Ozark Science Fiction Association, St. Louis' formal sf club, elected officers at its October 25th meeting. (News travels fast from St. Louis these days...) Doc Clarke was re-elected president, Joe Butler became Vice President, Becky Bierman was elected Secretary, Marsha Allen was elected Treasurer, and Doc Clarke and Leigh Couch continue as publishers of, respectively, OSFAN and SIRRUISH.

If you're wondering what happened to names like Ray Fisher, Pam Janisch, Wayne Finch, and Bob Schoenfeld, they've been quietly insurgent for a couple of years and have their own informal club.

FANAC REVIVED! No, this doesn't mean a third newszine coming out of New York City. The FANAC which has just been reborn is the Swedish newszine capably edited by Carl J. Brandon, Jr., alter-ego of John-Henri Holmberg of Holmberg-mafia fame. The fanzine was revived with its 44th issue and plans to publish bi-weekly.

Although FANAC is written in Swedish, the news of interest to the English-speaking fan-world contained in our sister newszine will be translated for us by John-Henri and will appear here. And Swedish fans will get to read translations of FOCAL POINT news and perhaps such as Terry Carr and Harry Warner will also find their way into Swedish.

NORSTRILIAN NEWS CHANGES EDITORS John Foyster and Leigh Edmonds, respectively editor and publisher of the Australian newszine NOSTRILIAN NEWS have announced that, effective with issue 22, Bruce Gillespie, P.O.Box 245, Ararat, Vict. 3377, will be taking over.

HARRY WARNER IN HOSPITAL Harry Warner entered the hospital on January 25 for a stay of indeterminate length. He asked that all fans be patient with him if his current illness makes him fall even further behind on answering letters or writing LoCs. FOCAL POINT joins with the rest of fandom in wishing Harry a speedy recovery.

FUND NEWS

\$1045.00 is the new total in the Bob Shaw Fund, up somewhat from last issue's \$1006.00.

Further direct contributions are no longer being sought for the fund. But please note: We have tried to keep adequate records of things but admit there may have been some errors. If you have paid for already-published special BoSh fanzines and have not yet received them, or requested the 20 free fmz along with contributions of \$1 or more but have still not received them, please contact rich brown (address below). Ok?

SPECIAL BOSH FMZ The following fmz are those which have been or soon will be published to benefit the Fund. Fmz marked with an asterisk have already been published and will be sent to you as soon as your money is received.

*MICROCOSM #14, 50c, Dave Burton, 5422 Kenyon Dr., Indianapolis, Ind.

*FOCAL POINT 12.5, \$1, rich brown, 410 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220.

*APA-L #289, \$2, Fred Patten, 11863 W. Jefferson Blvd., LA, Calif. 90230.

The Enchanted Duplicator, \$1, Arnie Katz, Apt. 6B, 59 Livingston St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

INNUENDO, \$2, Terry Carr, 35 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

METANOIA #9, 50c, Greg & Suzy Shaw, 64 Taylor Dr., Fairfax, Ca. 94930.

BEABOHEMA #13, \$1, Frank Lunney, Box 551, Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem, Pa.

INFINITUM #5, 50c, Dave Lewton, 735 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46220.

NOPE #12, 50c, Jay Kinney, 215 Willoughby Ave., Apt. 1212, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205

TRANSLATIONS #2, \$1, John-Henri Holmberg, c/o Thomas Mellgren, Nedre Slottsgatten 16, 752 20 Uppsala, Sweden.

BOSH FUND AUCTIONS All bids for the following auctions should be sent to Colleen Brown, (410 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, NY 11220). Send no money, unless specified, just a bid on the items you want. We ask that bids be submitted in increments of at least 50c on items under \$10, and \$1 on items over that.

CLOSED AUCTIONS Lenny Kaye still has not sent us \$8.50 for his MOJO NAVIGATOR R&R NEWS. :: PANIC BUTTON 6-15 will belong to Robert Whitaker as soon as he sends us \$25 for the set. :: Richard Bergeron has outbid everyone else for the complete set of SLANT donated by BoSh and now owes the fund \$65.

AUCTIONS STILL ON The following items are still the subject of furious bidding. Items which have been asterisked have not received bids since the last issue of FOCAL POINT and will be closed out if no further bids are received by February 9.

*SPACESHIP 21, donated by Lee Hoffman. Top bidder is John Leavitt @ \$4.

*SCIENCE FICTION FIVE-YEARLY #4, donated by Lee Hoffman. Robert Whitaker has bid \$4 for the issue.

*A BOOK OF WEIRD TALES #1, donated by Forry Ackerman. Robert Whitaker is current high bidder at \$2.

*MIRACLE SCIENCE & FANTASY STORIES #2, June-July 1931, donated by Forry Ackerman. Missing spine and baccover. Poor condition. Steve Stiles has bid \$4 for the issue.

*THE ARKHAM SAMPLER, Winter, 1949, donated by Forry Ackerman. The "all sf" issue. Mike Padwee has bid \$4.50.

*FEN CRITTUR COMICAL BOOKS, donated by Richard Bergeron, written by Willis & Shaw. Robert Whitaker has bid \$3.

*WARHOON \$15 & #17, contributed by Richard Bergeron. Joseph Pate has bid \$2 on each (a total of \$4). Issues may be bid on separately.

*UNKNOWN WORLDS, June, August, October, 1943, sewn together, donated by Robert Whitaker. Only defects being small areas chipped on June and October covers. John Leavitt has bid \$4.50.

*THREE pen & ink illustrations by Vincent DiFate, contributed by the artist. One appeared in ANALOG. Chester E. Lee has bid \$3.

*The Boats of "Glen Carrig" by William Hope Hodgson, donated by Forry Ackerman. Second edition, 1920. Robert Whitaker has bid \$3.

*REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST VII, 182pp from the pages of SPACEWAYS. Chester E. Lee is the current high bidder at \$7.50.

*FIVE COPIES of Don Ford's TAFF report, two volumes, donated by Lynn Hickman. We have bids from Joseph Pate (#4.50), John Leavitt (\$4), Chester Lee (\$4), Richard Labonte (\$4) and Robert Whitaker (\$3.50).

A COMPLETE set of LIGHTHOUSE (#1-15), donated by Richard Bergeron -- in mint condition. Joseph Pate is high bidder @ \$45 for the set.

*QUANDRY #14, donated by Lee Hoffman. Robert Whitaker has bid \$2.50.

*UNKNOWN, March, 1939, V1N1, donated by Forry Ackerman. In excellent condition; only minor rips along spine. High bid is from Tom Mullen @ \$13.

*TWO ORIGINAL Rotsler-Kirk collaborations, full page. Both of high fanzine quality. Neither have been published. Joseph Pate has bid \$5.50 for the pair.

*FUTURIA FANTASIA #1, donated by Lee Hoffman. Robert Whitaker has bid \$47.

*NEKROMANTIKON #1, donated by Dick Ellington. Chester E. Lee has bid \$2.50 for the issue.

THREE COPIES of THE GOON GOES WEST, donated by FM & Elinor Busby. The top three bids are from Richard Bergeron (\$7), Barry Gillam (\$7) and Chester E. Lee (\$6).

THE WHITE SYBIL by Clark Ashton Smith b/w MEN OF AVALON by David H. Keller, donated by Forry Ackerman. Printed. Bruce Robbins is the current top bidder @ \$8.

QUANDRY #13, donated by Dick Bergeron. Missing page 40, "A Dream" by Dave English. rich brown has bid \$10 for the issue.

HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT: A TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY, donated by Dick Ellington. Bruce Robbins had bid \$5.

WILD HAIR #3, donated by Richard Bergeron. Bruce Robbins has bid \$10 for the issue.

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #2, contributed by Forry Ackerman. Fair condition. Joe Staton has bid \$3 for the issue.

FANCIFUL TALES, V1N1, Fall, 1936, donated by Forry Ackerman. rich brown is top bidder at \$8.50.

FANTASY MAGAZINE, June 1936, donated by Forry Ackerman. Bruce Robbins has bid \$8.
(Continued at end of "Infinite Beanie")

THE INFINITE BEANIE

A COLUMN BY TERRY CARR



Sid Coleman came to town to spend New Year's Eve with us, and we took him over to a small party at the Dillons'. We entered to find Leo and Diane sitting around the kitchen table in semi-darkness rapping with a few friends from the neighborhood. This is the typical scene at their place; sometimes I think it must go on at all hours of every day, though I know that couldn't be true else how would they ever have got their cover paintings in on time? Not that they usually did, of course. Anyway, we came in and sat down, and someone said to me, "We're talking about ghosts." "What about ghosts?" I asked. Leo said, "He was telling a ghost story -- go on, man, tell the story for them." So the guy told an A-number-one ghost story complete with mysterious moanings and deaths in the house and all.

When it was over, Leo asked me, "Did you believe that story?" I temporized, then said, "Well, sure, I believe those things happened, but I don't necessarily think the explanation of ghosts is necessary." I explained how it could all have been coincidence and so forth.

"Uh-huh," said Leo. "Well, what about you, Dr. Coleman? You're a physicist and everything, for chrissake. What's your opinion of this ghost story?" "Yes, Sid," I said, leaning forward, "what does a representative of hidebound, repressive, orthodox science say when he's presented with evidence of supernatural phenomena?"

"What do we say?" said Sid. "Why, we just say, 'Feets, do your stuff!'"

Virgil Finlay died yesterday, at the much too young age of 56. According to the New York Times, "As a fantasy and science fiction illustrator he was the focal point of Finlay Fan Clubs in many parts of the world." That's nonsense, of course, but it's certainly true that he had a lot of rabid fans in our microcosm. I count myself as one of them.

Bear in mind that I speak now of the Virgil Finlay of the 40s, the man whose illustrations of A. Merritt's novels for Fantastic Novels and its companion magazines were so beautiful that I expect he'll always be remembered as the only proper illustrator of Merritt. He was incredible with Leigh Brackett's stories, too, and Ray Bradbury somehow has never been as good since he went whoring off after publication in magazines where he wouldn't be illustrated by Finlay.

Oh, Finlay had his faults. In an issue of THE FANSCIENT at the end of the 40s Don Day did an article exposee of Finlay. Finlay was a copier, he said, and proved it by citing drawing after drawing by Finlay in which the people were obviously copied from motion picture stills of Tyrone Power, Rita Hayworth or whoever. He pointed out that Finlay was such an artistically unlettered man that when he did these copies he didn't stop to think about which direction the light was coming from in the photos from which he worked, so that the faces might be lit from the right while the rest of the scene had its light-

source off to the left: shadows fell in opposite directions for no reason. And Day made fun of Finlay's floating bubbles, which always managed to hover in front of the heroine's nipples.

Well, all right. But nobody mounts massive attacks against pygmies. Virgil Finlay was a giant in the field of science fantasy illustration. If you've only seen the drawings he did during the last decade or so of his life, when his eyes were reportedly beginning to go bad, you can't know how wonderful Finlay's art was. Look further back; look at his drawings for Merritt's The Conquest of the Moon Pool, or Brackett's The Moon that Vanished, or Kuttner's The Mask of Circe, or almost anything else he did from the late thirties till the early fifties. Look at his cover paintings for Theodora DuBois' The Devil's Spoon or Murray Leinster's The Mad Planet. Virgil Finlay, along with Hannes Bok, Frank R. Paul, Lawrence Sterne Stevens, Edd Cartier and very, very few others, is a great science fantasy artist.

If there's anything like an afterlife, I trust Virgil Finlay is now nestling happily among beautiful maidens who left their bubbles home.

Finlay's death reminded me that when I recently typed out the results of various fan polls of the 40s and 50s that I'd collected, I left out the results in the various professional categories, since they weren't germane to the subject of fannish halls of fame, which I was writing about because the Egoboo Poll distributed with FOCAL POINT has a couple of categories for that. Well, it happens that SFWA is currently polling its members for a second volume of the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, this to cover longer works than appeared in the first book, so on that flimsy hook I hang the following poll results about what fans thought of the professional world in the dim past when some of us still had our sense of wonder and others hadn't yet acquired any senses at all.

The Third BEOWULF Poll of Fall 1945 had categories for best short stories and novels, the nominees not being confined to any particular year, and the results were like this (again, the numbers in parentheses indicate points totals, not necessarily votes per se):

<u>Short stories</u>	(Fall 1945)	<u>Novels</u>
1) A MARTIAN ODYSSEY by Stanley G. Weinbaum (15)		1) SLAN by A. E. van Vogt (15)
2) TWILIGHT by Don A. Stuart (J. W. Campbell) (9)		2) THE MOON POOL by A. Merritt (14)
3) MIMSY WERE THE BOROGOVES by Henry Kuttner (7)		3) DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE by A. Merritt (9)
4a) THE OUTSIDER by H. P. Lovecraft (5)		4) THE NEW ADAM by Stanley G. Weinbaum (8)
4b) THE WENDIGO by Algernon Blackwood (5)		5a) FINAL BLACKOUT by L. Ron Hubbard (7)
		5b) SINISTER BARRIER by Eric Frank Russell (7)

Fantasy was a lot more popular in fandom of the forties because the level of writing in that field, which was an accepted one in book circles, was rather higher than that of the writing in science fiction itself. Thus Merritt had two of the top six novels and Lovecraft and Blackwood tied in the short story category. (Blackwood isn't much in fashion today, but, among other things, he'd had a collection of his

short fiction published in an Armed Services Edition. These were essentially just paperbacks published for free distribution to servicemen during WWII, but naturally sf collectors pounced on them when they could. They're pretty rare today.)

Aside from the greater predilection for fantasy, the poll shows John Campbell's publications placing five of the eleven stories in the two categories, and Stanley G. Weinbaum, nearly a decade after his death, doing well in both categories. (THE NEW ADAM is the Weinbaum novel that got votes not because it was the best of his novels but because it had recently been published, for the first time, in Amazing Stories.)

Joe Kennedy's FANTASY REVIEW, published in January 1946, had four pro categories, with results as follow:

Magazine stories (January 1946) Books

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) THE WORLD OF A by A. E. van Vogt (53) | 1) PORTABLE NOVELS OF SCIENCE edited by D.A. Wollheim (49) |
| 2) NOMAD by George O. Smith under penname Wesley Long (32) | 2) BEST SUPERNATURAL STORIES OF H. P. LOVECRAFT (30) |
| 3) GIANT KILLER by A. Bertram Chandler (28) | 3) THE SHIP OF ISHTAR by A. Merritt (28) |
| 4) DESTINY TIMES THREE by Fritz Leiber (27) | 4) THE OPENER OF THE WAY by H. P. Lovecraft (27) |
| 5) THE BOATS OF THE GLEN CARRIG by William Hope Hodgson (25) | 5) MARGINALIA by H. P. Lovecraft (17) |

Magazines

- 1) Astounding (290)
- 2) Famous Fantastic Mysteries (118)
- 3) Planet Stories (39)
- 4) Thrilling Wonder Stories (36)
- 5) Startling Stories (24)

Authors

- 1) Henry Kuttner (260)
- 2) A. E. van Vogt (183)
- 3) Isaac Asimov (128)
- 4) George O. Smith (106)
- 5) Murray Leinster (88)

Again John W. Campbell and Astounding have a strong showing; not only is Astounding the first place magazine, but it has considerably better than twice as many points as the second-place magazine. The top four magazine stories were published by Campbell, and all five of the top authors were regular Campbell contributors. Notice the books, though: four of the top five books were fantasy books. Happens that the #1 book, though, was Don Wollheim's VIKING PORTABLE NOVELS OF SCIENCE, which as I recall was the very first science fiction anthology ever published. A presager of things to come, maybe.

The Fourth BEOWULF Poll, Fall 1946, yielded these results:

Short stories

(Fall 1946)

Novels

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) A MARTIAN ODYSSEY by Weinbaum (39) | 1) SLAN by A. E. van Vogt (27) |
| 2) TWILIGHT by Don A. Stuart (J. W. Campbell) (19) | 2) DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE by A. Merritt (18) |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3) THE OUTSIDER by H. P. Lovecraft (16) | 3a) THE NEW ADAM by Weinbaum (17) |
| 4) MICROCOSMIC GOD by Theodore Sturgeon (15) | 3b) THE MOON POOL by A. Merritt (17) |
| 5) MIMSY WERE THE BOROGOVES by Henry Kuttner (13) | 3c) THE SHIP OF ISHTAR by A. Merritt (17) |

Pro Magazines

- 1) Astounding (316)
- 2) Famous Fantastic Mysteries (236)
- 3) Weird Tales (137)
- 4) Startling Stories (121)
- 5) Planet Stories (101)

Artists

- 1) Virgil Finlay (291)
- 2) Lawrence (158)
- 3) Frank R. Paul (115)
- 4) Hannes Bok (90)
- 5) Schneeman (36)

Fantasy is still very popular: three of the top five novels are by A. Merritt, Famous Fantastic Mysteries is getting closer to Astounding in the points-totals, and Weird Tales jumps into the top five magazines too. Astounding is still the best of the magazines, of course, and it dominates the story categories aside from Merritt. But look at that artists' category: Finlay in front by nearly a 2-to-1 margin over Lawrence (Sterne Stevens), a co-illustrator for FFM...and the best Astounding can do is place Schneeman a very weak fifth. Well, Edd Cartier hadn't got going yet.

Joe Kennedy's FANTASY REVIEW reported the next poll:

Magazine stories (January 1947) Books

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) THE FAIRY CHESSMEN by Henry Kuttner (296) | 1) ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE edited by Healy & McComas (810) |
| 2) PATTERN FOR CONQUEST by George O. Smith (265) | 2) THE BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by Groff Conklin (646) |
| 3) VINTAGE SEASON by Henry Kuttner (251) | 3) SLAN! by A. E. van Vogt (345) |
| 4) METAMORPHOSITE by Eric Frank Russell (214) | 4) SKULLFACE AND OTHERS by Robert E. Howard (268) |
| 5) CALL HIM DEMON by Henry Kuttner (203) | 5) THE HOUSE ON THE BORDERLAND And Other Novels by William Hope Hodgson (247) |

Authors

- 1) Henry Kuttner (932)
- 2) A. E. van Vogt (660)
- 3) Murray Leinster (356)
- 4) George O. Smith (331)
- 5) Ray Bradbury (201)

It was a banner year for Kuttner, who was voted best sf author by a wide margin and who had three of the top five magazine stories (all, characteristically, under pennames: as I recall, THE FAIRY CHESSMEN was by "Lewis Padgett," VINTAGE SEASON was by "Lawrence O'Donnell" and CALL HIM DEMON was by "Keith Hammond"). Astounding was still doing well, with the top four magazine stories and the top four authors as regulars. Science fiction anthologies were just coming in,

but they dominated the poll of best books easily. And Ray Bradbury made his first appearance in the polls, the only non-Astounding writer to make the top five.

The Dreamland Opinionator Poll of April 1948 showed the following:

Magazine stories (April 1948) Books

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) CHILDREN OF THE LENS by
E. E. Smith (81) | 1) THE WEAPON MAKERS by A. E.
van Vogt (34) |
| 2) THE END IS NOT YET by
L. Ron Hubbard (80) | 2) THE FORBIDDEN GARDEN by
John Taine (25) |
| 3) THE STAR KINGS by Edmond
Hamilton (78) | 3) SLAN! by A. E. van Vogt
(24) |
| 4) FURY by Henry Kuttner (70) | 4) DARK CARNIVAL by Ray Brad-
bury (23) |
| 5) AESOP by Clifford D. Simak
(56) | 5) OF WORLDS BEYOND edited by
Lloyd Arthur Eshbach (22) |

Authors

- 1) Henry Kuttner (85)
- 2) A. E. van Vogt (47)
- 3) Ray Bradbury (46)
- 4) Theodore Sturgeon (39)
- 5) Rog Phillips (31)

Artists

- 1) Virgil Finlay (109)
- 2) Lawrence (74)
- 3) Hannes Bok (53)
- 4) Edd Cartier (47)
- 5) Hubert Rogers (27)

Pro Magazines

- 1) Astounding (84)
- 2) Thrilling Wonder Stories (39)
- 3) Startling Stories (33)
- 4) Famous Fantastic Mysteries (21)
- 5) Amazing Stories (15)

It was still a strong Astounding year -- the magazine placed first by better than 2-to-1, and both Edd Cartier and Hubert Rogers placed as artists. But Amazing Stories, Shaver Mystery scandal and all, was beginning to make a showing too: Hamilton's STAR KINGS placed third among magazine stories, and only 3 points out of first place; Rog Phillips, an Amazing regular, showed as fifth best writer, and Amazing itself made the top five magazines of the year. I'm not sure how much this had to do with actual quality; STAR KINGS was one of the best space operas ever written, but I have a feeling Ackerman's pogrom against Amazing may have created some Insurgent Backlash votes. Aside from that curiosity, notice that Bradbury moved up to a close third among the writers, that Sturgeon made his first appearance among the top authors, and that Virgil Finlay still reigned comfortably supreme as the most popular sf artist working.

And so onward, to the FANTASY ANNUAL and the results of the year-end Dreamland Opinionator Poll:

Magazine stories (Dec. 1948) Books

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) ...AND SEARCHING MIND by
Jack Williamson (609) | 1) WHO GOES THERE? by John W.
Campbell (260) |
|--|---|

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2) THE PLAYERS OF <u>A</u> by A. E. van Vogt (605) | 2) SINISTER BARRIER by Eric Frank Russell (245) |
| 3) IN HIDING by Wilmar H. Shiras (396) | 3) THE WORLD OF <u>A</u> by A. E. van Vogt (215) |
| 4) DREADFUL SANCTUARY by Eric Frank Russell (392) | 4) BEYOND THIS HORIZON by Robert A. Heinlein (89) |
| 5) WHAT MAD UNIVERSE by Fredric Brown (275) | 5) STRANGE PORTS OF CALL edited by August Derleth (80) |

Authors

- 1) A. E. van Vogt (437)
- 2) Ray Bradbury (372)
- 3) Henry Kuttner (274)
- 4) Theodore Sturgeon (243)
- 5) Jack Williamson (146)

Artists

- 1) Virgil Finlay (492)
- 2) Edd Cartier (454)
- 3) Lawrence (447)
- 4) Hannes Bok (247)
- 5) Chesley Bonestell (162)

Again, as it was throughout the forties, it was an Astounding year, as you can see for yourself. Only two new names in the poll are worth comment: Chesley Bonestell had begun his series of superb astronomical covers for Astounding a year or so before, and here he is on the poll; and, most curious of all the data recorded in all these polls, Robert A. Heinlein makes his first appearance on the polls cited with a weak 4th place showing among the books, a reprint of his earlier Astounding serial BEYOND THIS HORIZON. But it's not as strange as it seems at first: Heinlein did no sf writing during World War II; instead he was working for the U.S. Navy. He came back to the field in 1947 and 1948 with several stories for the Saturday Evening Post, prime among them The Green Hills of Earth, and published Columbus Was a Dope and Jerry Is a Man within the field, plus his first two sf juveniles, ROCKET SHIP GALILEO and SPACE CADET.

But we were talking about Virgil Finlay, weren't we? Well, if you've been noticing it, Finlay easily took first place among the sf artists on every one of these polls. He beat Frank R. Paul, Lawrence Sterne Stevens, Hannes Bok, Edd Cartier, Hubert Rogers and Chesley Bonestell. You couldn't ask for much more, I'd say.

Virgil Finlay died yesterday, at the much too young age of 56.

-- Terry Carr

AUCTIONS, continued:

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, donated by Andy Main. The set is complete from the first issue in Fall, 1949, through March, 1958. 1959 is complete but the set has only eight issues between the beginning of 1960 and May, 1963. From May, 1963 to the end of 1968, only four issues are missing. Al Schuster has bid \$60 for the set.

"THRU THE DRAGON GLASS" by A. Merritt, 24 pp, printed, donated by Forry Ackerman. Bruce Robbins is the current high bidder at \$8.

MORE NEWS

MELBOURNE SF CLUB CLOSED The Melbourne SF Club was told by the Department of Health
BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH that it must cease public entertainment in their present
club rooms. The Fantasy Film Group had been having weekly
film showings in the rooms and was scheduled to show the Emil Jennings version of
"Faust" before the order came to desist.

Mervyn Binns advised the club that no more meetings would be held in the rooms which
had housed the club for more than seven years. He noted, however, that plans to
secure new quarters were well along. (Norstrilian News)

BOB BLOCH WRITES And writes and writes, as the following list of forthcoming works
indicates. Upcoming is Sneak Preview, a novel from Paperback
Library; Fear Today Gone Tomorrow, a new paperback collection from Award; "The Animal
Fair", a short story in PLAYBOY; "The Oracle", a short story in PENTHOUSE; appearances
in ALFRED HITCHCOCK magazine and the Arkham House anthology Dark Things; and a new
novel and movie in the works.

NEW SWEDISH SF SERIES William Forlags AB, which recently purchased Paperback Library
in the U.S. will be launching a new series of science fiction
soft cover books under the editorship of well known fan John-Henri Holmberg. The books
will be published in uniform editions simultaneously in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and
Finland, with later publication in as many as 16 European countries a possibility.

Some of the novels will be reprints of the Paperback Library catalog; others will be
chosen by Holmberg. No book which has been translated previously into Swedish, Danish,
Finnish or Norwegian will be published. The word limits are 40,000-45,000, and Holmberg
says that Williams will be the first Swedish pb house to publish without cuts. You
can push your books at John by sending them to: John-Henri Holmberg, Norrskogsvagen 8,
S-112 64 Stockholm, Sweden.

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