

MAY

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THE

M.S.A. BULLETIN

VOL.

2

NO.

4

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MAINE SCIENTIFICTION ASSOCIATION

RAMBLINGS from NORM STANLEY:
Club Executive Sec.-Treas. :
--excerpts taken from a recent
letter of his to Jim Avery...

Have gotten the MSA records juggled around now so that they add up fairly well. Not that they were in bad shape--just my unfamiliarity with them..... I am going to get up a special bulletin of MSA finances and mail it out as soon as possible. This, I have hopes, will bring in some of those back dues. I am going to credit all payments on back dues at the 5¢ rate. I should think that since Waterville apparently has more fans per square mile than any other town in Maine, the boys there, MSA members and hangers-on, would get together and form a local organization, to be more-or-less associated with the statewide association. (What about it, Waterville? --ed.)

As for policy, I don't intend to introduce anything world-shaking. Unless a majority of the members choose otherwise, the MSA will continue its traditional policy of independence of other fan activities. No connections with other organizations, other, than the usual neutral relations. Affiliation with other organizations is a matter of choice among the individual members rather than the Association as a body. These, of course, are my own views. If any members have a different proposal it will be brought before the MSA and put to a vote.

(cont. next column)

'Tis indeed passing strange that the library is not used by the other members. The time limit has been removed and eight more volumes are due to be added shortly.

It is with surprise and sorrow that we learn of the death of Jerry Clarke's father. The club extends its sincere regrets.

ANNOUNCING ---

The start of a new monthly column by Leslie A. Croutch, on-titled "This 'n' That". If you want to be well informed, turn to page 3 for the first in a new series.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Charles Hornig is running an authors service. We didn't either until we saw his quarter page adv in the May issue of the WRITER'S DIGEST.

AVERY CAMPS ON EDITOR'S DOORSTEP!

Stop presses! Flash!

In the best tradition of fandom, Jim Avery (now on the dole) is happily sponging on Editor Meador and family for a few days. Jim arrived Sunday night via Jerry's car, and has since been reading, 'riting, and turning a mimeograph crank. More of which we'll read about next issue, no doubt.

A last minute letter of comment from my friend (?) Les Croutch, the Canadian. Though he holds out hope that it will improve as he is beginning to appear, we hope. (-ed.)

The April issue of the Bulletin --you asked for it, sonny ----- was putrid. Absolutely putrid. No articles. No news. No cover picture. Mimeeing poor. Doesn't seem to take as well on that smooth paper as it does on the standard stuff. All that was in it was news of the MSA. Who in hell cares if you went for a visit and so on? But then--look who the editor is!

(Wonder what Les means by this last crack? We've always said there's nothing like a pat on the back by a friend. Hope you will like the mimeeing better in this issue Les; our mimeo is rather old and anemic; takes a lot of ink to keep it going and a lot of tender catering, but Jim is beginning to learn its quirks. There isn't much MSA news in this issue. That is one commodity that seems to be lacking just now. ----ed.

The MSA BULLETIN is published supposedly the first or last of every month by the Maine Scientifiction Association. Edited at 42 Washington Street, Rumford, Maine. Please address all letters to the Rumford office. Advertising rates are 10¢ per quarter page. Subscriptions: 5¢ per copy, six issues 25¢, 12 issues, 50¢. Please send cash or 1¢ stamps. Free to MSA members. Contributions are welcomed; may be on any phase of fandom with good solid articles or light column most needed. We exchange with many other fan mags..... Back issues 5¢ each. No copies in volume I available. One Vol. II no. 2 available. Plenty of the others.

EDITORIALLY YOURS

--ye ed.

Original illustrations and covers from stf. magazines are almost unobtainable except through competition in contests conducted by a few of the magazines, Amazing & Thrilling Wonder being the two, so far at least, which have given the fans a "break" in this manner. These have proven popular and valuable; we wonder why more of the pros haven't taken up this plan. Is it for lack of originality in ideas? I think not; Wonder has had any number of fine suggestions; they considered Jim Avery's so valuable that he was awarded an original by W. H. Finlay. Why are the publishing houses so "close-fisted" when it comes to the subject of originals? I understand that Weird Tales uses theirs almost exclusively for news-stand & poster advertising. Mary Gnaedinger informs me that the Muncy Co. has acquired pretty strict rules about theirs being sent out: three subscriptions to the magazine (agents commission to obtainer plus picture) is the rule. She does send them out for special reasons, such as to be raffled at stf. clubs. The last is a good method practiced by most of the magazines.

When FANTASTIC ADVENTURES was started, Ziff-Davis ballyhooed that the FANS had asked for the large size, trimmed edges, etc. NOW, they tell us that we have been clamoring for the small format; darn nice of them to jump at our whims; BUT we are certainly whimsical fellows to be so darned changeable.

And who are the 15 followers of Fantasy Fiction? See May issue. Ben Luna, Jr. President. If this isn't a house letter, I miss my guess!

THIS 'n' THAT

-by-

Leslie A. Croutch

Meador's a pal of mine. So what? He's editor of this Bulletin. Again, so what? Merely that he's been after me to do something for him. "Poems, stories, articles. See?" Sez he with a gruesome leer on his ugly countenance. So what, thinks I. I've seen Karloff, Lugosi, and Basil Rathbone on the silver sheet and wasn't scared, so why should I be of this Rumford guy? But....in the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" someone says (don't ask me who) that extreme ugliness is fascinating. First you are horrified, then you are astonished, and then you are amused. Maybe that's why I'm in this jovial mood--but enough of this slightly insane patter. I'm going to try to help the poor fellow out by giving him this Chatter Column every month. I'll tell you what I've heard, read and been told. I won't commit myself by saying it'll all be the gospel truth, because in this racket of science-fiction you say something today and tomorrow you find you're a liar. So--merely that I'll do my best to pass on things I've gleaned from here and there and which I hope might amuse you. But now the introduction's over; shall we open the door and see what juicy tid-bits are strewn over the floor this month?

Do you know that WAR OF THE SCIENTISTS which ran in AMAZING originally was 18,000 words in length? RAP blue-pencilled it to the extent of 5,000 words. Now we know why it was a bit jerky in spots, don't we? . . . You all know Fearn and Ayre, or don't you? What, you don't? Ayre wrote "Man From Hell" you know, while Fearn has given us such swell tid-bits as "Mathematica" and "Mathematica Plus". Many fans have thought Ayre is a pen-name for Fearn. It is not so, though they are as thick as beans in a can. They actually live together, believe it or not. . . SUPER-SCIENCE bought Neil R. Jones' "The Invisible One" and PLANET STORIES has purchased his "The Stolen Brain". Looks like we'll see more of his fine yarns. . . . I got word yesterday that starting April 20, Munsey Magazines will attempt to set up a censorship bureau, similar to the Will Hays office over films, to control all pulp magazines. This will enable them to fine or stop entirely all horror and sex magazines. Munsey wants to establish this censorship just like the Will Hays office: complete power over all pulp magazines before they are put on sale to the public. . . Rumor has it that Farnsworth Wright is starting a magazine to run in competition to WEIRD TALES. 'Tis said that all the old authors like Kuttner, Kelley, etc., have agreed to aid him in every way possible. . . a nice little fantasy that was apparently overlooked in reviews is the Shirley Temple film, "The Blue-Bird". The technicolor adds to the atmosphere tremendously; the fantasy is well done and not at all cheap. I rank it on an order with "Wizard of Oz" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". . . of interest to music lovers and particularly those fans who have electric record players is the fact that Decca records has an album, No. 74, containing the full musical score of the "Wizard of Oz" with sound effects and dialogue just as they were in the film. The price is very reasonable, too. In Canada the Album is \$1.96. In the United States, as far as I can tell, --- (continued on Page Nine.) ----

MASS. FANS ORGANIZE

We have news from Arthur L. Widner, Jr. of the organization of a new fan club in Massachusetts. Apparently New England is coming to the front in fandom. Maine has started to show itself, and now Mass. is gathering steam.

The new Mass. club is reviving Francis Paro's FANFARE as the club organ, and are laying plans for making it a top-notch fanmag.

The first meeting was held at the home of Chauvenet in Cambridge. There were seven present. Everybody got acquainted and talked more or less; nothing was accomplished by way of organizing. Widner played a game of chess with Chauvenet and was skunked. Paro fell asleep at the supper table. It sounds like a very (un)lively meeting; date was February 18, 1940.

The second meeting was held at Swisher's home in Winchester on March 17th. A. L. Widner, Jr. was elected Director; Paro elected Sec.-Treasurer. It was decided to collect dues and use them to finance the club paper. Ten members present. Members were asked to bring material for consideration for publication at the next meeting. The Eastern Mass. Fantasy Society was selected as the official name of the club. Paro fell asleep on the way home in the bumpy-riding Skylark of Foo. What? Again?

On April 7th the third meeting was held at the M. I. T. dorms of Earl Singleton in Cambridge. Eleven members were present, including four newcomers, making the total membership fourteen. Name of the club was changed to the STRANGER CLUB. Material for the first club-sponsored issue of FANFARE was

commented upon and accepted. Meeting adjourned temporarily to view a partial eclipse of the sun which was at its height about 5:00 P. M.

Widner tabulated three more votes for his author poll from Singleton, Le, Maire, and Thomas. The meeting which lasted about two hours broke up at 5:30, the remaining members adjourned to Singleton's rooms for discussion of various stf. topics.

There is to be a fourth meeting at Singleton's place again on May 12th. Any MSA member is cordially invited to attend if able to do so. (What say, Phil?)

"CRIMES OF THE YEAR 2000"

This was a series of eight short stories which ran in the Munsey Detective Fiction Weekly in 1935. The first appeared in the July 6th issue, the rest following in July 20, Aug. 3, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, and 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30th iss's.

This outstanding and unique series was written by Ray Cummings "Crimes against Law in the future".

How many of you had hear of this series? It will be reprinted in Famous Fantastic Mysteries sometime in the future; be on the look-out for it.

Van Onlooker Says: It's not every fan magazine that can make the boast that the BULLETIN can! For what other fanmag in the world is published on paper manufactured in the same city in which it is edited? And I do mean just that!

Van Onlooker will appreciate your comments and suggestions for material. Write c/o editor.

THE "DEAN" OF SAD TALES

by, of course
-jacques dean-

The slender package was warmly received into my devout hands and borne upstairs with more tenderness than would have accorded a new-born infant. The wrapper was removed with delicate care. I held my breath, thrilled beyond all comprehension at the sight of those glorious purples, yellows and reds that decorated Vol. XIX, No. 8 of Fantastic Confusing Stories. Those long years of searching were all behind me now. In my stout, steel, combination-locked cabinet would now repose every issue of science-fiction magazines ever printed. I was broke, but happy. Now I could rest after the long years of struggle and search; my reward was contentment and a serene peace of mind.

I unlocked the door and stood for a time in admiration of the orderly rows of famous magazine - Fantastic Confusing Stories, Amazing Wheezy Tales, Famous Frantic-Fanatic Tales, Silly Blunder Stories, and those five ultra-rare issue of Looney Lunar Stories; ah! Paradise! My life's work was completed.

But - - -, horrors! Could it be true? An empty space? There it was - - -, Vol. XXVIX, No. 58 of Confounding Science Mixtures was missing! (interval for a frantic but careful search) Shortly calmness returned and with it a resolution to go at the thing in an orderly fashion, and with a level head. A domestic inquiry and search revealed nothing, so I sent double the face value to Hungry Joe Ginsberg, dealer - extra-ordinary, and waited with growing impatience. Two weeks crawled past, my apprehension rising steadily, finally getting beyond control. Suppose there were no copies available anywhere? But surely, I thought, anything can be had if you're willing to pay for it.

Then came a kick in the britches by fate, working through the agency of Hungry Joe. He returned my money with a note: "Buddy, I would give you ten times the face value for this mag you want. For a week I have been down on my knees, my voice is honky from pleading. All I can say is, the book just ain't."

Somewhat startled at the possibility of my fears becoming realities, I spent an entire evening and eighteen stamps on inquiries to all the dealers I knew and a few pen-pals besides who were always willing to part with a magazine--for a price. Back came the replies, and they might just as well have been carbon copies. Vol. XXVIX, NO. 58 simply wasn't. Nobody had a copy. It seemed as though someone had bought or else had stolen them from underneath the very noses of the collectors. All further and far-reaching efforts were as equally futile. That issue had positively disappeared from the face of the earth. There were going to be more years of anguish ahead for me I knew, for the science-fiction bug is a resolute critter. He does not stop 'til he has his hooks on every page that was ever printed. A hole in his collection is a drafty hole in his conscience. It must necessarily be mended. But hunches come to bone heads, too, so off I traveled to the Big City in search of Hungry Joe Ginsberg.

(cont. next page)

"Now that you make me think of it," said Ginsberg, "I do remember it because it was stranger than usual, the bird what bought it. I had three copies and this little guy bought 'em all and wanted to know if I didn't have any more."

"Bought three copies, eh?" I said. "Now that is strange."

The next thing I know Ginsberg was kicking me on the shins and making 'psst--psst' noises out of the side of his mouth. In such situations I can't think very fast so I just stood and watched. A little, old fellow was approaching us, blushing profusely, and smiling, and beaming as if he were well pleased with something.

"Ah,--Mr. Ginsberg--" he spoke rather timidly. "Do you have any more copies of--ah--that magazine I bought the other day?" Rising anger followed the dawn of comprehension. Disregarding any respect due Joe's customers, I was on my feet and had a badly frightened little man by the coat lapel. "You thieving little runt!" I shouted down at him. "Just what in the blue blazes are you up to anyway? Trying to hog all the magazines in the country! I ought to shake you 'til your false teeth rattle like castanets." "W-w--Oh, please wait. Just one moment," he implored in terror. "You stole my magazine," I accused him. "You stole magazines from everybody in the country! YOU'VE bought or stolen that issue from every dealer that had it. Tell me the truth about this, or by-----"

"Heavens, have I really done wrong?" he wailed. "I was only trying to---."

"Well, what were you trying to do--corner the market?"

"Oh, no. No. You see, I--I--. Well, Editor Grumble of Confounding Science Mixtures printed a letter of mine in that issue, and I was so---."

"So pleased," I interrupted with sudden understanding, "that you set out to grab up every issue printed. Of all the little concentrated /%#x?%#!."

And thus was the mystery of Vol. XXVIX, No. 58 of Counfounding Science Mixtures finally brought to an end. Threatened with the wrath of a true fan, the little magazine pirate immediately promised to return all the magazine he had stolen, and to offer for sale the vast surpluses he had bought.

Moral: It's all right when a fellow has a letter printed if he buys up ten or so copies, but when a guy tries to get them all--why, by George, that's down-right egotism.

* * * * *

Van Onlooker Says: Upon completing "The Roaring Trumpet" in the May UNKNOWN, I was so darned impressed that I practically ran (not walked) to my nearest public library and got their entire stock of Norse legends. Imagine my surprise in learning that the entire 60,000 words of the "Trumpet" were condensed into about eight small pages of large type entitled "Thor's Wonderful Journey" and recounted event for event every major incident except for the horn-drinking episode which may possibly have been cut at the S&S office. I for one would have liked to see how de Camp and Pratt would have handled this. Since reading the legend, I've often wished the horn hadn't been destroyed during the Ragnorak. Imagine having that fastened to the business end of a bock brewery!

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PERSONALITIES

SEABURY QUINN: practiced law for seven years; at the outbreak of the World War he enlisted but was transferred to the Intelligence service from which he was Honorably Discharged. His principal form of amusement is walking in all kinds of weather. His first accepted story was published in 1918 and dealt with a vampire. His first tale for WEIRD was "The Phantom Farmhouse". Jules deGrandin and his foil, Dr. Trowbridge was created in 1925. There have been 95 stories published of this character, the first being "The Horror on the Links". One of his outstanding tales was ROADS, January 1938 WEIRD TALES, a delightful tale of the Yuletide Spirit. Seabury is a slow workman; he spends hours in research, gathering data with all the care he gives to the preparation of a fact-article, and seldom turns out more than 1500 words a day. gwm.

Van Onlooker Says: In science-fiction, there's no way like the old way. If you don't think so, borrow a volume or two of Norm Stanley's bound magazines and compare them with the present day output. Up to now, Norman states that there has been only one borrower who has taken advantage of his lending library. Come, come, surely you can't think so much of CONFOUNDING SCIENCE YARNS as not to try some of the old-timers!

DID YOU KNOW?--

--that Tarzan has earned "everybody concerned" about a hundred million dollars. This includes movies, radio serials, breakfast cereals, etc.

THE BIZARRE SERIES

Just received; the second booklet in this unique series, "The Thing in the Cellar" by David H. Keller, M. D. Dr. Keller considers this the best of his many stories. This booklet also contains an interview with Dr. Keller by Julius Schwartz and Mort Weisinger, an article by the author himself trying to solve the mystery of this famous story, and the most outstanding feature of all -- each booklet is personally autographed by Dr. Keller.

This booklet is printed on antique book paper; all for the sum of 25¢. There are a few remaining copies of the first booklet in this series: A. Merritt's "3 Lines of Old French", which are being sold out for 15¢

Address all orders or inquiries to: Richard Frank, Editor
The Bizarre Series
333 S. Burrowes Street
State College, Penna.

BACK ISSUES

In this column there will be reviewed each month one of the older magazines, each of which are obtainable to MSA'ers from Norm Stanley's lending library.

MIRACLE, SCIENCE & FANTASY STORIES

June-July, 1931 Vol. 1 No. 2. There were only two issues and these are extremely rare.

Harold Hersey, Publisher
115 pages, small format.

Table of Contents:

TAXIE -- The Hanging Gardens of Honolulu in Half an Hour

--a Frontispiece by Elliott Dold
The Bowl of Death--Elliott Dold
Revolt on Inferno--Victor Rousseau
Fish-Men of Artica--J. M. Gregory
12 illustrations, including the frontispiece, and one map.

ANALYZING THE WORD "COMIC"

-Norman F. Stanley

This article (really an excerpt from a personal letter to Jim Avery) was thought to be of interest as so many so-called comic magazines have appeared in the past few months, among them a lot of supposedly stf and fantasy adventure strips. editor.

The word comic is something to watch. Philological evolution before our very eyes. Properly it is an adjective corresponding to the abstract noun, "comedy". This latter has been pursuing a leisurely and quite respectable course of evolution, so that its popular meaning is now far from that of Shakespeare. I'm not up on etymology, but I suppose these words derive from the mythical (not mythological) "Comics".

But this adjective! Overnight almost, COMIC has become a very concrete noun. What is a comic? Probably the meaning hasn't yet jelled, but it seems destined to be a narrative in which the story is told principally by pictures, with conversation and a minimum of written description. The picture form creates the illusion of reality without the necessity of skillful writing and presents the story in a form readily absorbed without mental exertion.

The evolution of this word is obvious. The basis is cartoon humor, which, however, telling a story in a single picture is essentially subtle. A story told in a series of cartoons is much more obvious, and here we have the "comic strip".

From a series of the short strips, delineating the ex-

ploits of a comical character, but otherwise unrelated to an interrelated series and to the continued story in cartoon form are the next steps. The Serialized cartoon with its more complex plot, allows the use of more serious themes not adapted to the very short cartoons. Hence the indefinitely drawn out adventure strip, or, comic strip comes into its own.

It's the "comic section" and what would one expect to find in such a section? COMICS of course! BUT, just now the tendency seems very much toward deadly seriousness in the comic stories; but from their early heritage they're all still "comics".

This nominative use of the word is now well-nigh universal and seems likely to continue for lack of a more suitable synonym.

* * * * *

THE "SAINT"

You've all heard of the "Saint", or seen him in the movies; this swash-buckling hero created by Leslie Charteris. But, so you know that he once became interested in "The Man Who Liked Ants"? This was in the December 2nd, 1937 issue of Munsey's Double-Detective Magazine. This was a story written in the approved fantastic manner. Man plans to rule the world-- creates man-sized ants to do the dirty work-- Hero meets girl, meets villain-- villain shows Hero plans-- Hero doesn't approve-- Hero returns & upsets applecart-- villain doesn't get to rule world So what! And the Saint goes merrily on his way. gwm

it will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$1.40. This is complete with a beautiful album which comes without extra charge. Canada may soon have its first science fiction organization. Ted White of Toronto is organizing the Ontario Science Fictioneers. So far activity has been that of obtaining members. . . Don't sneer at those 20-25¢ paper covered books you see in the larger book stores. The English Penguin series has many fine works. Other English firms also print these books and many fantasies may be found among them. Hutchingson & Co. have many fine titles; one is Dennis Wheatley's "The Devil Rides Out". This is truly the most weird thing since "Dracula", which is a wonderful piece of writing. . . Watch for these new magazines: Red Star Mysteries has been issued by Munsey; plots used will not be regulation ones; they want supernatural, but no sexy stuff. Another new one is Bob Erisman's sex-horror "Real Mystery". This about winds up the cat and puts out the clock for this time. I'll be seeing you next month--if the editor doesn't shoot me first. (he won't! ed.)

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PERSONALITIES

Mary Gnaedinger: Editor of FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES (or should it be editoress?), sends birthday greetings and news to the fans that "Darkness & Dawn" by George Allan England and "The Rebel Soul" by Austin Hall will be the next features in FFM and that "The People of the Golden Atom" by Ray Cummings will follow closely. She thinks that being a purveyor of science fiction is a lot of fun and she's "crazy" about the old stories, too.

I, the ed., am, or was, under the impression that Mary was, or is, a Miss; having received letters signed as such. But Richard Crain, ed., of COSMIC TALES tells me that the correct title is Mrs. Who is right? He or I? Him or me?

Miss/Mrs. Gnaedinger is a pleasant person with whom to correspond and very prompt in answering letters, which is a virtue seldom found in stf.... She is a fan as well as an editor; belongs to the Queens Science Fiction League. She has promised not to over-do the new stories. gwm.

Van Onlooker Says: Those FUTURIAN boys down in Brooklyn are as clever as the very dickens at writing funny stuff. In the Dec. issue of ESCAPE (a very crafty little pub at a nickel per from Dick Wilson, 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn) appeared the following epitaphs which bear repeating here: "Somewhere within this dismal hole, lies all that left of Frederick Pohl".... "O quaff a cup, and make ye merry, Above this grave of Leslie Perri"..... "Drop a tear, O gentle mourner, Here lies SPACEWAYS' Harry Warner". etceteraetceteraetceteraetcetera

MERCURY

5¢ per - 6 for 25¢
published every 4 weeks
J. J. Fortier
1836 - 39th Avenue
Oakland, California

News and comments from the Pacificoast. Interesting reading, nice style. April issue (6 pgs) contains a full page illustration by Tom Wright which isn't bad at all. (Exchange adv.)

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The treasury of the MSA,
needs some help,
So c'mon and pay. (van O)

AMONG THE CLASSICS

A Voice Across the Years: novel by I. M. Stephens and Fletcher Pratt. Amazing Stories Quarterly - Vol. 5 No. 1 Winter 1932)
Available to MSA'ers in stf library volume A Q 4.

by Norman Stanley:

Those who appreciate satirical fiction a-la Coblentz or otherwise, will find meat worthy of their digestion in this seldom mentioned, but none-the-less classic tale of interstellar travel. It is one of my favorites. I consider it to be in some ways superior to the Coblentz satires, especially in that the authors achieve the satirical effect without resorting to the ridiculously extreme comparisons that are Coblentz' stock in trade. And in addition they have put a wealth of sound science and philosophy into the story. To give an idea of some of the thought, and mirth provoking situations which occur therein, the following gives a brief idea: An explorer from a human, technologically advanced race on a distant world (Murashema) lands on Earth with a space ship, cracks up, and learns English telepathically from a copy of "The Merchant of Venice", and for some time thereafter, speaks only in blank verse with a decidedly limited Shakespearean vocabulary (his ship must perforce be a "leaden casket"). His Tellurian friends strive to pass him off as an earthman and things go from bad to worse as his exceedingly complex Murasheman code of ethics continually bumps up against the equally complex, but oh so different Tellurian standards.

The story then takes him back to Murashema with an earthman companion, where much the same difficulties arise when the latter tackles the Murasheman brand of civilization. There is a really wonderful description of the Murasheman social organization, which is totally unlike anything to be found in Tellurian society. It is a concealed dig at Utopias in general. Murasheman society has no unemployment, no wars, no crime, no youth problem, in fact, none of the ills of earthly society. But the Murashemans have their troubles nevertheless. As a satire, the "Voice" is superb and as a story it is not without its moments of suspense and action. If you like stf, you'll like this novel.

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Norm Stanley has written up an interesting account of his lending library and offers several plans for its use.--Don't fail to read this in the next issue.

SEABURY QUINN: has just completed a ghost story with a Civil War background entitled "The Last Waltz". It hasn't been sold as yet.

We understand that STRANGE STORIES is going to bring out another of Quinn's, the Damned. This is a ghost story - one of the kind we knew years ago before the present flood of ghost-like monsters, who are not true ghosts. (It is beginning to appear as though STRANGE is going to monopolize Quinn, with WEIRD losing out--we wonder if this will be true of the other WEIRD authors as well----. ed.

* * * * *

OUR VIEWS

Your latest MSA BULLETIN was a good paper and had no little merit in it. How can you run things on 5¢ a week, even if all members paid? How can members in the club receive these additional things like membership cards, special Bulletins, MSA stickers, etc? I'm afraid 5¢ a week is inadequate to meet the requirements of this club? Right? (As a matter of fact, 5¢ a week is very little. At present all we can hope to do is build up the Bulletin and get enough outside subscriptions to carry it; then we can do more for the members.-ed.) Well, anyway, I think you are doing a good job and I wish you success for the future. I am interested in that "New Adam" offer and will send the postage next week. (That'll be fine, Phil. How about more members taking advantage of this offer and of Norm Stanley's lending library? -ed.)

Phil Gilbert
York Beach, Maine

& "THEIRS"

I was interested in the MSA, and therefore I appreciated those bits of information on all phases of the organization. I liked the Rogue's Gallery immensely. You might try getting all your information organized. By this I mean that you should have all the important news on the first few pages. Take all the Pro Mag news and you have a column well worth looking into. All in all, I liked your mag.

Richard B. Crain
Weehawkin, New Jersey

Thanks so very much for the copy of the MSA BULLETIN. It's the first I've seen and I'm sincerely grateful to you for it. From the contents you fellows up there among the big trees must have one hell of a swell fantasy group.

Rick (Frank)
State College, Pa.

Congratulations on MSA BULLETIN. Very bright, very newsy, and very attractively gotten up. You and your co-workers can award yourselves with a flock of A's on this job. Another item which interested me - and will interest all readers, I believe -- was that on page 6, col. 2, referring to the new management of Weird Tales and their discontinuance of the weird story reprints, using "true psychic experiences" in their place. Of course I agree with the comment: "This may be progress. But if so, deliver me from progress."

Seabury Quinn
Washington, D. C.

Yea, brother. Verily, that paper thou has acquired is ye batt's eyeballes. The April BULL, using it, looks fine. I hope FANFARE does as well.

Art (Widner)
Bryantville, Mass.
(cont. next page.)

Just received the latest edition of the MSA Bulletin. Having seen all of your magazines so far, previously from Jim Avery, I think I can safely say this is one of the best to date, if not the best. Your material this time is more interesting, at least, being more varied and of greater interest to the outside world fan---though of course I realize you have to make most of your appeal to MSA members. (that's where you're wrong, Harry; we intend to have our material appeal also to the "outside" world fan. We are busy lining up contributors, material, news-leads, and what-not.---ed.) About the only criticism I can think of at present is that a bit more ink wouldn't do much harm here and there, especially around the edges. In case you don't know, on mimeo runs of 100 or less, it often works better to ink the pad from the outside---the side the stencil actually lies against. Try it and see. (attention: printer-----ed.)

Harry Warner, Jr.

AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY

The tentative title of a quarterly science fiction magazine, soon to be published by Ziff-Davis, is Amazing Stories Quarterly. It will not be the oldtime quarterly revived, however; the format will be the same as that of the monthly; 250 pages of complete science and fantasy fiction.

Editor Palmer states: "The magazine will be slanted to the general pulp readers; and, for that reason, I'm afraid the fans won't exactly be satisfied. The idea behind the quarterly is to introduce a whole new group of readers to science fiction, and, in that way to benefit the entire-professional stf field, as well as ourselves." (Exchange, Mid-West News & Views, & Science Fiction Weekly.)

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT E. R. Burroughs use to lie awake nights telling stories to "himself". These are now read by millions as the Mars and Pellucidar series....

-advertisement-

The following issues of Action Comics are wanted: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17. Write care of this magazine, stating prices.

Just received: the April '21st issue of SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY. Very good; they are fast again with news, two departments worth mention are "City Desk" and "Their Own Petard", the latter by H. C. Koenig. All in all, a very fine issue. This is a mag that the up-to-date fan shouldn't be without. 25¢ per 8 issues. 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.....

Van Onlooker Says: I always get a great kick every time I read through an issue of ASTONISHING or SUPER-SCIENCE and see the names of my friends gayly cavorting throughout the tales as heroes, villains, and assorted drapings. For instance in "Stepsons of Mars" (written strangely enough by one Ivar Towers) appeared the names of famous fans Lowndes, Bradbury, Wylie, and Speer, while in other stories the names of various other Futurians have appeared quite frequently. Now we're only waiting for such chaps as Taurasi, Moskowitz, and Sykora to be worked into a yarn--or--even our humble self.

-advertisement-

1st issue FUNTASY still available at 10¢ from Jim Avery, 55 Middle St., Skowhegan. Maine's First Fan Magazine--Winter '39.

THE ROGUE'S GALLERY

PHIL GILBERT: hails from York Beach, stands 5.9 in his stocking feet, & is a 145 pounder. He was born in Boston and received his education there. His work has been varied; he has been a salesman, farmer's helper, gardener, and for a while worked on the Boston Fish Pier; he has been driving a truck for the past two years. He has three great loves; reading and music. The semi-classics are his favorites with Strauss topping the list. Better call on the Primus, Phil.

His 3rd great love is, of all things, a girl. (name Phil?) They have been "going together" for ONLY eleven years and he has been "faithful forever". He should be in line for either a promotion or a pension.

Stf has taken up his spare moments for the past two and a half years. His indulgences are cork-tipt ciggies and going to Boston.

PRO MAGS

ARGOSY had a short novel in the May 4th issue by Frederick Painton...The World That Drowned- an Atlantis story that is different. Introducing Joel Quate, time detective. This seems to be the first of a series. ---Very good.

RED STAR MYSTERY: another newcomer in the Munsey group. Introducing Don Diavolo, the Scarlet Wizard, in the first of a series. For a mystery series that is off the usual line..10¢

UNKNOWN: "The Roaring Trumpet" by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt; shouldn't be avoided. Among the old Norse Gods at the time of the Ragnarok (or Götterdämmerung if you prefer Wagner).

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES: So this mag has not only gone small format, untrimmed edges, minus back illustration, but in the bargain has also gone bi-monthly. All at the "asking of" we readers! In the same convenient size as its sister magazine-(I was strong enough to hold up the larger mag-ed.)-----and what a cover!!! One redeeming feature was the Lancelot Biggs tales, if he doesn't appear to frequently. Van Orloster told me it marks the beginning of the end--and the sooner the better.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES: Dr. Cyclops: cover not bad. But what I would like to know is: did the movies make the pic from the story by Kuttner, or vice versa? Pete Henx is very good---I could stand much more of this character.

MUNSEY: announces that henceforth Famous Fantastic Mysteries will be a bi-monthly with the new Fantastic Novels filling in on the odd months. 'Nough said. You probably know this already, but I've got to fill space somehow.

COSMIC TALES

Presenting material of the best type. You simply cannot miss the issues. It's a must on your list. It's 15¢ per copy 25¢ per 2 75¢ for six issue subscription. Send all orders to: Richard B. Crain 1734 Willow Avenue Weehawkin, New Jersey Mineo'd --30 pages--illustrations. (exchange adv.)

MSA'ers: Please give careful thought and study to the column by Norman Stanley on our front page. And also Phil Gilbert's letter on Page 11. (subtle, huh?)

ADVANCE NEWS

There may be items in this column from time to time which do not seem to be "advance news" as so stated. This is due to the fact that many items which are "advance news" when received, have become otherwise by the time of publication.

SCOOP---WE THINK!

The Sept. issue of WEIRD TALES will contain:

- Edmond Hamilton
- Dorothy Quick
- The Valley of the Undead
- Helen Weinbaum
- The Heart of Atlantan
- Nictzin Dyalhis
- Test Tube Twins
- Ralph Milne Farley
- Seven Seconds of Eternity
- Robert H. Leifford
- The Blind Farmer and the Strip Lancer
- H. Bedford Jones
- Past Tense
- Larry Silvia
- The Unusual Romance of Ferdin - and Pratt
- Nelson Bond
- The Reward
- Robert Clancey
- COVER is by Roy Quigley of Mass. on the lead story "Seven Sec - ends of Eternity."
- Larry Herman will also be well represented.
- all in all this sounds like a good issue.
- As we go to press: Returns from the chess battle of the century between Art Widner, Jr. and Jim Avery have just begun to trickle in; Widner playing white, and Avery: black.

White

Black

1. P - K4
2. QKt - QB3
3. P - Q4

- P - K4
- KB - QB4
- P X P

Gerald W. Meader
Editor-MSA BULLETIN
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