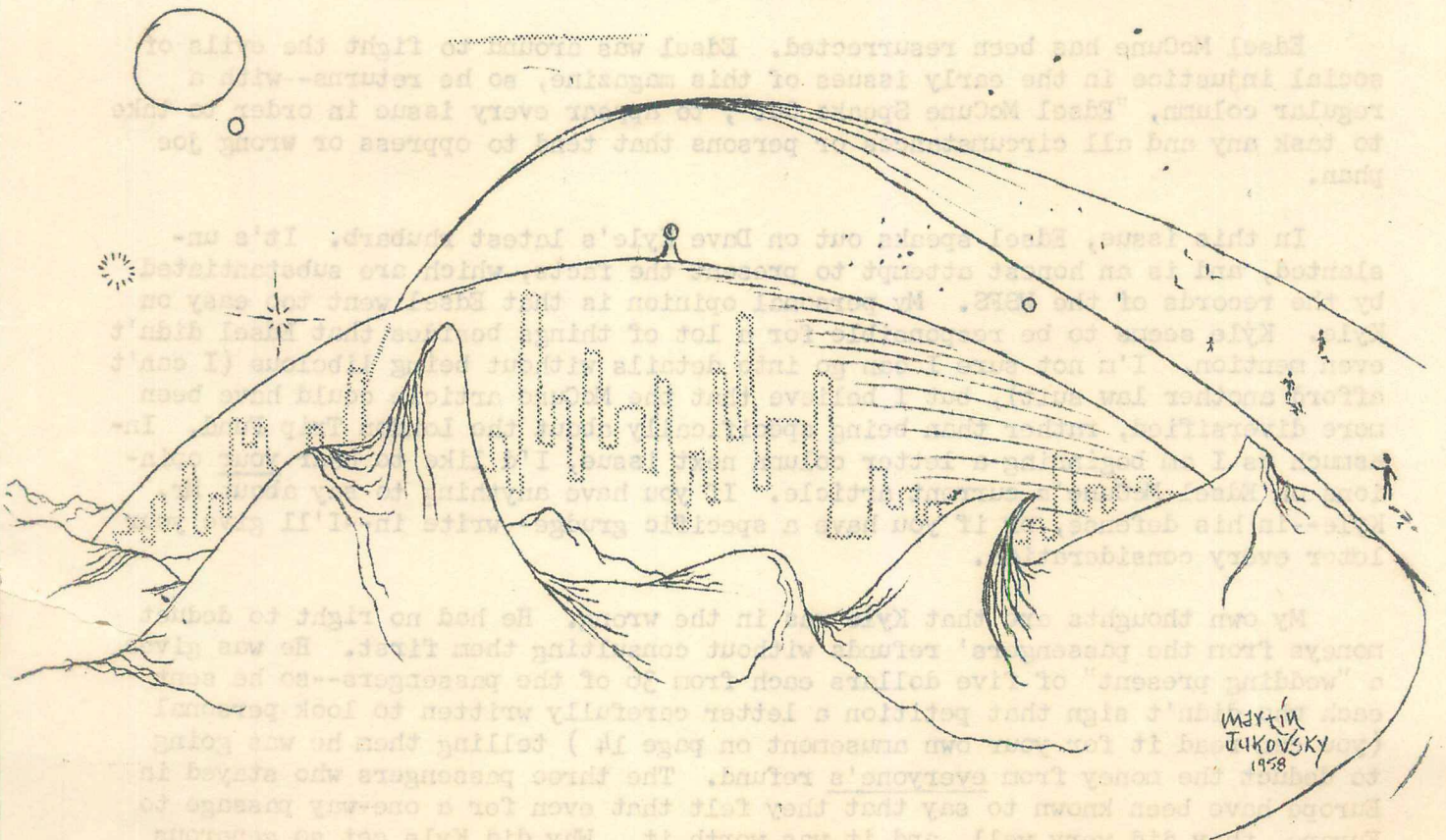
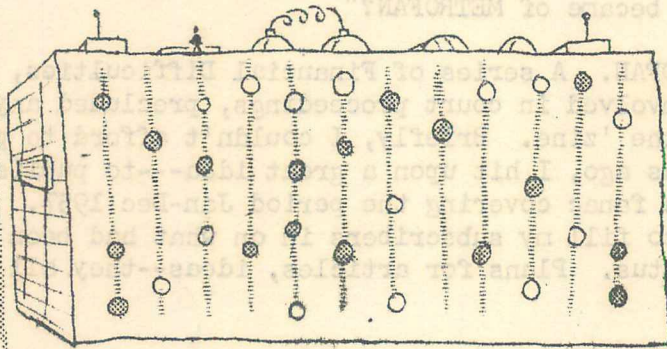


metrofan



mdy+in
JUKOVSKY
1958

THIS ISSUE — DAVE KYLE CONFIDENTIAL feature article—



METROFAN REVISITED

~editorial~

Here it is over half a year since the last issue of METROFAN was published. Since then, readers--those that could be bothered to attend club meetings, that is--have repeatedly asked, "What became of METROFAN?"

Nothing ever became of METROFAN. A series of Financial Difficulties, topped of by my being directly involved in court proceedings, precluded any even minute expenditure towards the 'zine. Briefly, I couldn't afford to publish it. Then, a couple of months ago, I hit upon a great idea---to publish a sort of yearbook of New York area fanac covering the period Jan-Dec 1957. It would be only fair, I reasoned, to fill my subscribers in on what had been going on during METROFAN's enforced hiatus. Plans for articles, ideas--they all raced through my head.

Before I knew it, however, 1957 was over with. And Procrastination worked its evil spell: I found that I had done little work on this massive 'zine. So I gathered what material I had handy, and here you are. You'll find bits and pieces that were intended for that annish incorporated in this issue. Ken Beale's concerted effort chronicling the entire year's SF, Fantasy and related motion pictures (quite an underaking, I might add), for one.

Edsel McCune has been resurrected. Edsel was around to fight the evils of social injustice in the early issues of this magazine, so he returns--with a regular column, "Edsel McCune Speaks Out", to appear every issue in order to take to task any and all circumstances or persons that tend to oppress or wrong joe phan.

In this issue, Edsel speaks out on Dave Kyle's latest rhubarb. It's unslanted, and is an honest attempt to present the facts, which are substantiated by the records of the WSFS. My personal opinion is that Edsel went too easy on Kyle. Kyle seems to be responsible for a lot of things besides that Edsel didn't even mention. I'm not sure I can go into details without being libelous (I can't afford another law suit), but I believe that the McCune article could have been more diversified, rather than being specifically about the London Trip Fund. Inasmuch as I am beginning a letter column next issue, I'd like to hear your opinions on Edsel McCune's current article. If you have anything to say about Mr. Kyle--in his defense, or if you have a specific grudge--write in--I'll give your letter every consideration.

My own thoughts are that Kyle was in the wrong. He had no right to deduct moneys from the passengers' refunds without consulting them first. He was given a "wedding present" of five dollars each from 36 of the passengers--so he sent each who didn't sign that petition a letter carefully written to look personal (you can read it for your own amusement on page 14) telling them he was going to deduct the money from everyone's refund. The three passengers who stayed in Europe have been known to say that they felt that even for a one-way passage to Europe, they did very well, and it was worth it. Why did Kyle get so generous with other people's money? And who asked him to spend \$50 to publish a souvenir booklet?

(Continued on page 13)

METROFAN

new series

NUMBER 7

JANUARY 1958

EDITOR- DAVID MACDONALD

This is the unofficial publication of the New York Fandom Council, composed of Circle, ESFA and Lunarians---three first-rate stf clubs in the New York Area. Letters, etc. should be sent to David MacDonald, 39 East Fourth Street, New York 3, N.Y. Assisting with this issue are Frank and Belle Dietz, technical assistants, Martin Jukovsky, Art Editor, and Ken Beale, Editorial Consultant. People receiving this free are members of the various clubs, as well as select outsiders. Fanneds can get it by exchange, and others for 50¢ a year. Individual copies on request. Published monthly.

CIRCLE

--THE NEW YORK SCIENCE FICTION CIRCLE--

REGULAR MEETING FOR JANUARY WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

JANUARY 26th

at

2:30 P.M.

Place:

Apt. 3R
39 East 4th St.
New York City

Directions:

Lex. Ave IRT
Local to Astor Place
or IND "D" to
B'way-Lafayette St.

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

ESFA

REGULAR MEETING FOR JANUARY WILL BE HELD:

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 2nd

at

2:30 P.M.

Place:

Slovak Sokol Hall
358 Morris Avenue
Newark, N.J.

Directions:

Take #25 Springfield Ave. Bus
From Penn Station (Newark)
Get off at Morris Ave. and
Walk 1/2 block right.

Robert Smith, prominent member of the Baker Street Irregulars, will speak on Sherlock Holmes.

3

[all illustrations by jukovsky]

SPACESHIPS
AND
CELLULOID

ken beale

sf film panorama: 1957...

A summary of the films released during the past year, including sf, fantasy, horror, and related subjects.

Science Fiction February - "The Incredible Shrinking Man"
(Universal-International)

was, as every fan knows, written by Richard Matheson. He wrote and sold it simultaneously to movies and books, which explains why the film "followed the book" so closely. It was a typical mass-medium version of sf: a simple straight-line plot and one single fantastic idea. Everything was set forth clearly enough for a

6 year-old to follow. U-I gave this heavy advertising and a good production, with much intricate special-effects work. Like "Dr. Cyclops" and "King Kong" before it, it caught the public fancy by its combination of a simple but novel idea and clever camera trickery. The result, while entertaining, can not be taken quite seriously. (See also review, March issue of this publication.)

March - "Fire Maidens of Outer Space" (Saturn Films) proved that British sf movies can be just as bad as ours, if they try. This one did. The (ha!) plot concerned the first rocket flight (manned) to another world, with the odd goal of one of Jupiter's moons. The inhabitants of said moon proved to be a bevy of nubile young nymphs, descendants of survivors of Atlantis, and their father. (What happened to the mother was never stated.) There was also a chap clad in a suit of long underwear and a false face, who is referred to as a "neanderthal". That appellation more properly belongs to the producer of this near-zero budget affair.

"Manbeast" (Company unknown) was a fanciful little cheapie about a couple of Abominable Snowmen who played hell with a Himalayan expedition. Some interesting mountain-climbing photography saved it from being completely worthless. ---guest review, by Norman Clarke.

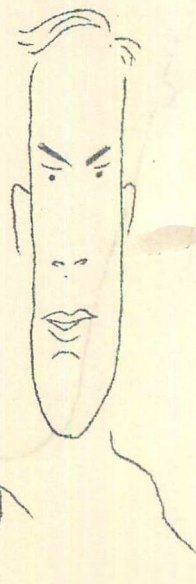
April - "Attack of the Crab Monsters" and "Not of This Earth" (Both from Allied Artists) were reviewed in July. They were fairly good sf-horror melodramas.

"The Deadly Mantis" (U-I) was yet another in the cycle of giant-whatsit films. A preying mantis, this time. Otherwise, it was indistinguishable from its predecessors. Distinctly 3rd rate.

May - "Kronos" and "The She Devil" (Both released by 20th Century Fox) were reviewed in June. The former was a competently done giant-automaton thriller. The other, a poor job, was a botched version of a Weinbaum tale about a superwoman.

June - "The Land Unknown" (U-I) was quite similar to Doyle's classic, "The Lost World". U-I's typically slick treatment made it effective, if not outstanding. There were good sets and trick effects. Another example of how many Universal sfilms leave the competition far behind.

"The Gamma People" (Columbia) also opened this month. I have no review on hand, but according to the general press, it was another British bomb.



July - "The Beginning of the End" (American Broadcasting-Paramount Theatres) had more giant bugs. This time they were (honest) giant grasshoppers. It was a good two or three reels before the first one showed up. It proved immense enough (atomic tests, you know) but about as horrifying as Lassie. Scientist-hero Peter Graves eventually licked them, and the world was saved once more.

---Norman Clarke

"20 Million Miles to Earth" (Columbia) was another king-size monster job. And a careful (albeit unsuccessful) imitation of "King Kong", with at least two scenes being direct copies. An expedition to Venus brought back an animal specimen, which escaped and began to grow. And grow. After the usual fuss the Army killed it off. Ray Harryhausen's special effects were the mainstay of the picture, being in nearly every scene. But quality was sacrificed to a low budget and rapid production time, and the results were below his best previous work ("Beast From 20,000 Fathoms", "Earth vs. The Flying Saucers"), tho' good in certain spots. A routine affair.

"The 27th Day" (Columbia) was a pleasant surprise - no monsters. Why it was booked as co-feature to such low brow fare as "20 Million Miles" only Columbia's bigwigs can explain. The two were obviously aimed at different audiences. An alien race, forced to escape its own doomed planet, looked to Earth as a new home. Being incapable of violence, they decided to let us destroy ourselves. They therefore gave us a new superweapon, and sat back to await results. That was the theme: A remarkably adult one. Unfortunately its development was more ordinary, and script, direction and much of the cast were humdrum. Towards the end, the action degenerated into pure melodrama. Another weakness was a deus-ex-machina ending. A moderately good film, which could have been an excellent one.

August - "Invasion of the Saucer Men" (American-International) was based on a Paul Fairman story. It dealt in a broadly humorous manner with a saucerful of green men and their effect on a small town. While an army contingent, led by a bumbling C.O., rushed to investigate them, the aliens caused trouble for some romantic teen-agers and a couple of fast-buck artists, with amusing results. The film really didn't make much sense, but didn't pretend to. ----Norman Clarke

"X, The Unknown" (Warner's) was another quiet little chiller from Hammer Productions of England, whose previous science-horror feature, "The Creeping Unknown" proved a high point among last year's crop. (They also made "Curse of Frankelstein".) While not up to their earlier effort, "X" proved engrossing enough, with a typically restrained and British approach to its subject. Dean Jagger, as a U.S. physicist, added to the effect. The theme was the invasion of the earth by a strange life form from below its crust--a formless, glowing mass of radioactive matter. It raised the expected havoc before science subdued it. Despite familiarity of theme, this was a tense and frequently exciting job.

September - "The Monster That Challenged The World" (United Artists) turned out to be several giant molluscs, bred by the usual atomic experiments. In a Malthusian effort, they began threatening our west coast first, then the waterways of the world. They were stopped by a bright bunch of Army (what else?) medics. A slightly above-standard low budget product. ----Chris Steinbrunner

"The Cyclops" (Allied Artists) was worse than anything Columbia's Sam Katzman has done or ever will do. Acting, special effects and story (?) were of the lowest calibre, with its Polyphemus-like giant emerging as the funniest creature since the shmoo. ----Norman Clarke

"The Night The World Exploded" (Columbia) was a compilation of extinct newsreels of disaster strung on a thin storyline. Scientists unearthed a new element, safe under water but explosive when dry. It seemed the earth was getting arid; you know the rest. Kathy (Mrs. Bing Crosby) Grant gave a better performance than Katzman's production methods usually allow. ----Norman Clarke

"The Giant Claw" (Columbia) belonged to a monstrous extraterrestrial bird. The film began well, but drowned in its own formula before the third reel. Some good special effects and a spasmodic sense of humor kept interest going. (The trick work was Harryhausen again.) ----Norman Clarke

October - "The Black Scorpion" (Warner Bros.), as I'm sure you'd never have guessed, was about a gigantic scorpion of ebon hue. Several, to be exact, but one in particular went on the usual rampage thru Mexico City. The novelty here is that it was stopped by the Mexican army. In the picture business this is known as "the switcheroo". Willis O'Brien, of "King Kong", did the special effects, which were not up to his past work.

"The Amazing Colossal Man" (A-I), which followed the above film into a local theatre, represented scant improvement. The opening sequences built up a fair bit of mystery and suspense, but once we discovered the Big Secret - and I do mean Big - it went rapidly downhill. It seemed unable to decide whether to treat the protagonist as hero or villain. Glenn Langan turned in an above-par performance in the lead role, but this was rendered naught by some of the sloppiest trick work I have yet seen, and a dull and ponderous plot-line. The scene in which he went berserk and tramped through Las Vegas was ludicrous, with Langan being careful to demolish only the ornamental signs atop local nightspots!

December - The sf year ended with MGM's "The Invisible Boy", an above-average job and a sequel (of sorts) to "Forbidden Planet". Some vague hints of time-travel were used to account for Robby the Robot's presence in the near-future. The scientist who captured(?) him was unable to make him operate, but a 10- or 11-year old boy was, under the guidance of an electronic computer. This device was the real villain of the piece, and an impressive-looking gadget it was, too. There was also an Earth Satellite (manned) and a giant kite apparently powered by antigravity. The comic relief, as in "Forbidden Planet" was of uniformly low calibre, and mostly based on people treating odd situations as if they were commonplace. Typical SatEvePost stuff, which was not surprising considering this was where the story originally appeared. But the menace was beautifully done, the camera magic (Rabin and Block, who did "Kronos") and gadgetry quite neat, and the denouement pure Asimov. Pity it wasn't in color, tho'.

Fantasy & Horror February - "Bride of the Monster" (Banner Pictures) starred the late Bela Lugosi. The painful plot had him puttering in his lab, trying to make Things grow. He'd succeeded with his pet octopus, and almost made the grade with the reporter-heroine. "Soon, my dear," he cackled, "you will be de Bride of Science!" But instead he fell victim to the machine himself. As a climax, lightning happily struck everything. Poor Bela. ----Norman Clarke

March - "Pharaoh's Curse" and "Voodoo Island" (both from UA) were two very so-so horror pix, tho' the former had a few good spots. (See review, June issue.) "Voodoo Woman" and "The Undead" (A-I) are among the films I am unable to comment on. The reviews list the plot of the first as witchcraft on a tropic island, the second as a sort of Bridey-Murphy-in-reverse who really revisits the past under hypnosis, where she is unjustly accused of witchcraft. Shades of Jane Rice and the Patchwork Quilt stories! (In Unknown, for the benefit of the ignorant.) I also have no review of "The Red Balloon", (Lopert) a French short about a small boy and his animate plaything.

May - "The Man Who Turned to Stone" (Col.) had five friends of the legendary Count de Saint-Germain learn from him the secret of eternal life.

(Continued on page 15)

EDSEL MCCUNE SPEAKS OUT: DAVE KYLE

THOSE WHO KNOW ME PERSONALLY know what my attitude is towards the World Science Fiction Society. But in spite of my personal animosity towards the organization, I feel it only fair to defend it when its supporters, namely the fans here in America and overseas, appear to have been taken advantage of.

One such instance has fans in the New York Area puzzled. A number of people have been accusing Dave Kyle of mismanagement of Society funds, and have used every available method to make him answer to this, to no avail. Many fans have leaped to Dave Kyle's defense, as well as to that of his antagonists, without a clear picture in their heads of the facts. Those who have come to me for an explanation, those who have made up their minds without viewing the entire story, as well as those who have just heard vague rumblings, may read this report and come to their own conclusions.

I present no opinion of my own. The material included was taken from the files of the WSFS, in the possession of Franklin M. Dietz Jr., Recorder-Historian. It is all factual, and the original letters can be examined by any member of the Society.

IT ALL STARTED back in March, 1957. Dave Kyle, who had personally undertaken the job of arranging for a plane trip to the London Convention allegedly asked a few local fans, close friends of his, for help in making these arrangements. He presented to them a contract he had made with Pan American for a one-way trip, signed by himself in the name of the World Science Fiction Society. None of the officers of the Society had seen this contract, which was for approximately \$7,000. This contract had no cancellation clause in it - if enough passengers did not sign up, the Society would then become liable for the full amount. These friends of his, George Nims Raybin (Legal Officer, WSFS) among them, were far-sighted enough to ask Dave to amend the contract and secure a return trip. Dave Kyle then asked these friends to assist him in preparation of a publicity release. They helped him revise the draft he presented, and in preparing the final draft for mailing; including printing, stuffing and addressing 1400 envelopes in a space of three days. Dave Kyle and Ruth Landis typed and stuffed about 400 of these over a period of two weeks - 1800 in all.

The letter was signed as follows: David A. Kyle, President, London Trip Fund of the World Science Fiction Society, Inc.--Secretary-Treasurer: Ruth Landis--Vice-President: George Nims Raybin--Vice-President: Belle C. Dietz. It was sent out on March 15th. On March 29th, a letter was received by George Nims Raybin from the London group authorizing such a committee. Between the period of the letter being mailed and the appointment of the committee, the committee was operating without the authorization of the Society. From that date on, however, a working committee had been set up.

This committee consisted of those friends of Kyle who helped him (in actuality doing four-fifths of the initial work) prepare the circular-mailing and advised him on policy decisions. Dave Kyle had no foreknowledge of the committee's being set up. Once it was set up, he refused to cooperate with the members, claiming that since the committee was set up without his consent, he had no responsibility toward it. He seemed annoyed both that George Nims Raybin took the matter in his

own hands by writing the Society for this authorization; and complained that Belle Dietz was too "aggressive" in her attitude and actions (viz., she had her own ideas on the way the committee was being run and expressed them). In brief, his idea was of a trip arranged and carried out by himself with the help of a few others. He resented the fact that the people he came to for help turned around and wrote the officers in London for permission to form a committee.

On April 15th Dave Kyle informed the other members of this committee that he had been refused a contract on the basis of round-trip by Pan American. He had then gone to the various airline offices around New York City, settling on and signing a contract with KLM. He did this without notifying the members of the committee of his intention, despite the fact that there were other arrangements possible that might have meant the saving of some \$1,000 (details on request) or more to all the passengers.

April 18th the committee met at Ruth Landis' apartment. The bank account set up in the name of the committee early that month had been signed by Ruth Landis and Dave Kyle: Checks on the account could only be drawn by one of these two members. George Nims Raybin contended that his name should be added to the bank account as an authorized co-signer in case any emergency arose whereby neither Ruth nor Dave could get to the funds. The committee unanimously approved this. Ruth was instructed to forward a form to the bank with George's signature for this purpose. (This was never done, despite the numerous occasions when she was reminded.) A motion was then passed, that no member could make policy decisions without first consulting the committee. Also, at this meeting the committee passed a resolution to the effect that all actions taken by the members of the committee to that date were approved and ratified. Passed unanimously.

In June, Frank received a letter from Ted Carnell (1957 WSFS Chairman) asking him for the passenger list. He (Ted) had written Ruth Landis inquiring about the list to no avail. Frank and Belle visited Ruth the following day. Ruth at first refused to hand over this list, but finally did give them a partial list - of those who had fully paid for their passage. This incomplete list was immediately airmailed to Ted by the Dietzes. Ruth also indicated that she was prepared to send out, on her own, refunds to those who had sent in cancellations.

June 8th - a meeting of the committee was held at which the officials of the Society from the eastern U.S. - three Directors and two officers - were present. At this meeting Dave Kyle apologized for acting unilaterally and promised to make no further decisions and to send out no further releases (this in reference to a letter he sent out without the committee's knowledge at the end of April - acting for the committee in the committee's name) without the approval of the committee.

On June 25th, Dave sent out a release, together with a list of the passengers, without notifying the committee beforehand. George Nims Raybin sent a letter to Dave objecting to two items in the release - the disclosure of the existence of an "emergency fund" and the inclusion of plans for a tour of Europe on which he (Dave) had requested a consensus of opinion. The committee had no power or authorization to set up a tour of Europe: It was only empowered to arrange for a trip to and from England.

(continued on page 16)

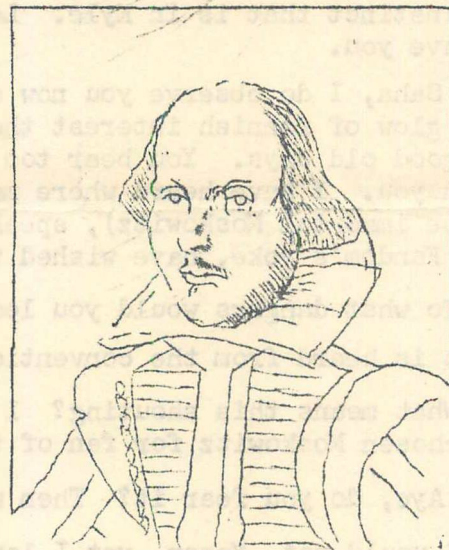
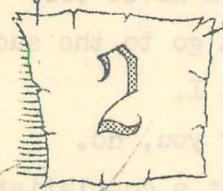
the tragedy of SAM MOSKOWITZ

A PARALLEL TIME-TRACK ADVENTURE

BY KENNETH BEALE and DAVID MacDONALD

Continued from last issue. The story so far: Lin Carter and Ron Smith, Sergeants-at-arms at the NewYorCon, come upon a group of faaaaans who are awaiting the arrival of Sam Moskowitz, extremely Big Name Fan and convention committee organizer. Jealous of SaM's popularity, they break up the crowd and send the fans on their way. They then leave the stage to disperse other such gatherings and destroy any materials they discover pertaining to Moskowitz, chiefly copies of The Immortal Storm hucksters offer for sale. So begins Act One.

installment



mr. macdonald

Scene Two

Time: Shortly after.

Place: Same, before the convention hall.

Sam Moskowitz: Jean!

Dan Curran: Peace ho! Moskowitz speaks!

Moskowitz: Jean!

Jean Carrol: Here, my Lord.

Moskowitz: Forget not at the auction, Jean, to bid for the original manuscript of "Ralph 124C41 Plus", for the fan traditions say, the auctioneer wishing to buy an auctioned item, shall not bid himself. Kyle!

Dave Kyle: Moskowitz, my lord?

Moskowitz: Do you also place a bid when they put the galley proofs of 'The Immortal Storm' up, thus to increase the price and mine egoboo as well.

Kyle: I shall remember. When Moskowitz says, "Do This!", it is performed.

Priest: Moskowitz!

Moskowitz: Hark! Who calls? Every noise be still! I hear a tongue, shriller than all the fannish clatter, cry, "Moskowitz!" Speak. Moskowitz is turned to hear.

Priest: Beware the third day of the con!

Moskowitz: What fan is that?

Curran: The Priest of Kahtah bids you beware the third convention day.

Moskowitz: Set him before me. Let me see his face.

(Mason drags the soothsayer out of the crowd)

Dave Mason: Fellow, come from the throng. Look upon Moskowitz.

Moskowitz: What say'st thou to me now? Speak once again.

Priest: Beware the third day of the con!

(Moskowitz considers the warning for a moment, then turns proudly away)

Moskowitz: He is a fughead. Let us leave him. Come.

(The procession moves off)

Mason: Do you go to the auction?

Art Saha: Not I.

Mason: I pray you, do.

Saha: I am not a completist. I do lack some part of that collectors instinct that is in Kyle. Let me not hinder, Mason, you desires. I'll leave you.

Mason: Saha, I do observe you now of late. I see not in your eyes that glow of fannish interest they were wont to have when we did talk of the good old days. You bear too gaffiated a manner to your friends that fan with you. I have heard where many of the greatest BNF's in New York (Save the immortal Moskowitz), speaking of Saha, and groaning underneath Seventh Fandom's yoke, have wished that Noble Saha were once more an actifan.

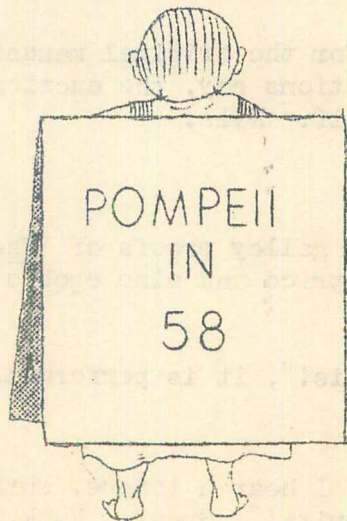
Saha: To what dangers would you lead me, Mason?

(A shout is heard from the convention hall)

Saha: What means this shouting? I do fear the assembled fans have chosen Moskowitz for fan of the year.

Mason: Aye, do you fear it? Then must I think you would not have it so.

Saha: I would not, Mason, yet I love him well. But, wherefore do you hold me here so long?



Mason: I myself was born as intelligent as Moskowitz, so were you....we have both read as much, and we can both endure the current flood of crud as well as he. Remember when the troubled Gernsback was searching for an editor? Moskowitz said to me, "Darest thou, Mason, come into his private office with me and compete for the job?" Upon the word, inexperienced as I was, I strode in, and bade him follow: so, indeed, he did. We prepared our qualifications, so we could begin our interviews. But ere we could start, Moskowitz cried, "Help me, Mason, or I never shall turn pro!" As Sykora, our great ancestor, did the first convention bear

(Continued on page 19)

DISCLAVE^E

The Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA) is currently making plans for a 1958 conference. Many years ago it was the habit of the WSFA to hold a spring conference ("Disclave") in the Washington D.C. area. GAFIA and FAFIA entered, and it has now been over five years since the last Disclave.

The plan this year is to have an informal gathering, with no speeches and no organized entertainment except for an open party on Saturday evening. Tentative location is the Arva Motor Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, approximately one mile west of Washington on U.S. Route 50. The Arva is new, rates are reasonable (\$9.50 to \$10.50, single or double; \$13.50 for four (two double beds)), free TV and AM-FM radio in all rooms, free ice, all rooms with bath. The swimming pool will be completed in January 1958.

The weekend of May 10-11 appears to be the only possible date for the Disclave. On Saturday, May 10, the lounge will be reserved for a bring-your-own-drinks party. (Liquor prices in Washington D.C. are low, and you may save by buying in Washington. Virginia prices (ABC) are about average.)

May 10-11 is close to Midwescon time but, while WSFA wishes to avoid any scheduling conflict with that fine fannish institution, any earlier date for the Disclave would interfere either with cherry blossom sight-seers or the nationwide pilgrimage of school children into Washington at end-of-school time every year. Tourist accommodations are crowded almost all the time in Washington; in March and April there are no such things as accommodations.

Interested people should drop WSFA a card. A later postcard announcement will give further details on date and place to those who send cards. Information on progress will be printed in later issues.

Only twice since its completion has the Arva had vacant rooms overnight. Both of these times there was only one room vacant. Reservations are not only necessary, they are mandatory--if you expect to stay at the Arva. So, if you intend to go, plan now to send in an advance room reservation. The address and any further information will be in a later issue.

Send postcards to Bob Pavlat, 6001 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland.

SF POETRY

At the recent Philadelphia Conference, Tom Purdom (Philadelphia's answer to Martin Jukovsky) and other local fans read a number of poems that tied in with SF in some manner. This portion of the program, despite previous criticism,

was very well received, and Sam Moskowitz and Christine Haycock began work on a similar program for an ESFA meeting. They attempted to outdo the Philadelphia group. It seems they have succeeded: In any event, a recording of their effort is being circulated among numerous fan groups. For those localities who were unable to attend that ESFA meeting, the preface to that session is reprinted below.

If any of you readers know of any off-beat SF poetry that could be published without infringing on copyright, we'd like to hear from you. With the next issue, your editor plans to begin publishing such works in a regular column, to appear monthly, headed by some prominent local area fan.

"If there is one form of expression in which the themes of science fiction have been neglected, it is certainly verse. Science fiction readers have taken considerable interest in the artistic interpretation of the scenes in their stories and there have been a number of outstanding artists whose illustrations in the field have been worthy to hang in galleries. The motion picture as a means of portraying scientific themes has been extremely active for many years. We have heard science fiction plays on the radio and seen them on television. Within the past year Broadway has experimented with a number of pure science fiction plays, at least one of which proved to be a long-running hit. Several science fiction ballets have been performed at World Conventions and a Ray Bradbury story was successfully transformed into an operetta for another. Puppet shows of science fiction are not unknown, yet poetry is seldom used even as fillers in the magazines and its history in this field is far from a rich one.

"The first step in remedying this fault was taken at the recent Philadelphia SF Conference, under the direction of Philadelphia's gift to 'The Gilded Cage', Thomas Purdom. At that function, a series of passages from classic and near classic poems which had been used in some context in science fiction stories was pieced together and recited by three skilled performers. For the Eastern Science Fiction Association, we have gone one step further. We have assembled what we hope will be an interesting selection of poems, every one of which is a bona fide poem of science fiction and are presenting them in a manner much as a disc jockey might present his discs."

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NEWS NOTES
.....

Calvin Thomas Beck has made his presence known again. A new confidential type magazine has gotten newsstand distribution in N.Y. at least-financed by himself with his mother as ass't editor. Nothing great, but the public may eat it up...Best news of all this year (in my estimation anyway) is the way the Circle has gotten back on its feet; over 25 members (more than either of the other 2 N.Y. area clubs)...The Circle held elections last month. MacDonald declined re-nomination for Director. New officers: Charles Freudenthal, Director; David MacDonald, Sec'y; Martha Cohen, Treas. This makes the 3rd N.Y. fan club in which a girlfriend of a prominent member has been elected an officer. It's a conspiracy, sez I...Watch for ESFA plans for a huge open meeting in March...While we're at it, The Lunarians (NYSFS) are making plans for LunaCon #2 in April. I'll be there...And rumbles of a Circle "MetroCon II" in October. Not as elaborate as its fabled predecessor but interesting, nonetheless, Watch for further details...The New York Fandom Council is back again (presumably it never left). NYSFS is now a member. 1st big job planned-to take the pulse of N.Y. fans/readers and bring up to date

(Cont'd bottom opposite page)

EDITORIAL (cont'd from page 2)

On the other side of the fence, Kyle's argument seems to be that the Dietzes and George Nims Raybin forced themselves on him---trying to take his pet project as well as his glory away from him. I'm not so sure of that---although they did go over his head in writing to London for permission to be a "committee". And Kyle could have conceivably gotten the Society in trouble more than once if he had succeeded in running this trip himself. If so, the committee knew what they were getting into---and shouldn't look for too much sympathy on that count.

I'm curious to know why it was that George Nims Raybin and the Dietzes felt that the plane trip had to be run by five people, all of whom were pulling in different directions. I have a vague feeling that Kyle was justified in being annoyed at the prospect of having to argue with George Nims Raybin (we all know what a feat that is--most of the time I'd rather just give in to him) or the Dietzes, in order to get anything done. And what's more, Kyle lives 500 miles away from the Bronx, where most of the "committee" decisions seem to have been made.

Examine the facts yourself. Drop me a line if you feel at all strongly one way or the other. Although I doubt there's much anyone can say in Kyle's behalf.

Before I close, I'd like to say a few words about the 1959 and 1960 convention sites. Ads have been taken by the Detroit, Chicago and Dallas groups, and a rumor has it that Milwaukee is interested. Of all of these cities, Detroit has my vote--and yours too, I hope. I'll explain my stand further in the next issue.

Also, Edsel tells me he's roaring mad. Munich, it seems, is planning to put in a bid for the 1960 convention. He promises to have a real hot article for me on this subject next issue. I'll give you this much of a hint--he's against any attempt to drag the con out of the U.S. that year or any other year. I sort of agree with him.

There's a lot I'd like to say on other subjects, but I've taken much too long as it is. The deadline for the next issue is February 14th.

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NEWS NOTES (Cont'd from preceding page)

N.Y. fan mailing lists...4 cities, (count 'em, four) are interested in bidding for the Con site in '59. Detroit. Dallas. Milwaukee. Chicago. Let's hope Detroit gets it...We have it (sigh) on very good authority that Germany intends to bid for the WorldCon in '60. Here we go again, fellers. Let's make it Sputnik in '64 ...Elaine Phillips, lovely wife of Max, had a visit from the stork. Bow in future fan Lewis David...Sandy Cutrell has been seen in these parts off and on. He'll be here permanently soon...Ron Smith plans to move back to California next year... As I've said in a previous issue, more and more fans are being attracted to N.Y. Bill Merrill (formerly of Boston) is now living in Brooklyn...Detroit fans are forming a Motorcade--at least 12 cars going together to South Gate. This number can easily double by Con time...Jim Wilson (editor of this year's Journal) has rejected an ad submitted by Detroit on the basis of its lack of "esthetic appeal". Detroit, needless to say, is up in arms...Arthur Kingsley (self-styled Director WSFS) has been sharply rapped on the knuckles for using that title sans election. Wish I could give details--it's quite a funny--but space won't permit...What's become of Jan Jansen and Contact?

DAVE KYLE, INC.**

potsdam new york

CONFIDENTIAL

[The following letter may give the appearance of being written personally to one individual, but identical letters were received by other passengers of the London Trip who declined to sign the petition mentioned.]

WE, the members of the LONDON TRIP FUND, who are flying to the FIFTEENTH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION in LONDON.

DO WISH TO STATE

that we are most pleased with the operation of the LONDON TRIP FUND and the opportunity given us to attend the SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION in Great Britain

THEREFORE

we wish to publicly tender our thanks to all those who have made this trip possible and particularly to

DAVID KYLE

who has given unreservedly of his time and energy to the organization of this flight and who, furthermore, has just been married to LONDON TRIP FUND secretary RUTH LANDIS

THEREFORE

as a token of our appreciation to DAVE KYLE and RUTH LANDIS KYLE who have profited in no way by their hard work on our behalf, and with the understanding that certain monies shall be returned to us out of our paid fares, do wish to give as a combined thank you and wedding present the sum of \$5.00 each to be subtracted from the monies coming to us.

[THE FOLLOWING WAS HANDWRITTEN BY DAVE KYLE]

Dear _____:

In checking the signatures on the "Special Award" I find that your signature is not included. I'm embarrassed to mention this, because I don't want you to feel it was in any way obligatory. However I think I'd better mention it in case, through an oversight, you didn't get your name on the list. The "Special Award" is to be published with all the names and I don't want to slight anyone. I've typed it above so you can be sure of what it says exactly. The only ones I know of who declined to sign were Belle and Frank Dietz and George Raybin with whom I've had personal trouble. The checks have been made out with the five dollar deduction, so I'm sending yours to you. If you do not wish to be included on the list please don't hesitate to drop me a line and I'll send you the additional amount. If I don't hear from you, your name will be included with the others. I want to honor your wish, so don't be reluctant to let me know! Okay? (In the meantime I'll get some more blank checks -- I've already run out twice!)

[** fictional letterhead
courtesy art editor]

Best personal wishes from Ruth and me
for the holiday season!

Dave

[One fan's answer on following page]

ONE FAN'S REPLY

Dear Mr. Kyle:

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to get my name on the published "Special Award" list. However, if it is all the same with you, I would prefer to receive a refund of the five dollars.

I would also like to have the three dollars you deducted for the Harrisons returned as well.

Thank you for this present and past courtesies and best New Year's wishes to you and Mrs. Kyle.

Sincerely,

(Name Withheld)

SPACESHIPS and CELLULOID (cont'd from page 6)

This consisted of injections of the blood of young girls of "child-bearing age". These five, having survived to the present era, turned up as the heads of a reformatory for girls. They were all in danger of turning to stone without their injections, and in fact were already quite heavy and resounded hollowly to slaps. Two young social workers inevitably foiled their evil schemes. ----Chris Steinbrunner

"Zombies of Mora-Tau" (Col.) concerned a cache of jewels in the hold of a vessel sunk off the African Gold Coast. The zombies in question, originally the crew, now guarded the loot. At the cost of a few lives, the jewels were recovered; at the end, however, the hero threw them back into the sea. Freed of their obligations, the undead turned to dust. There were a few good moments. ----Chris Steinbrunner

"The Living Idol" (MGM) was made by Albert Lewin, whose previous films have included "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and "Pandora and The Flying Dutchman". Scholarly James Robertson Justice believed his Mexican ward to be the reincarnation of an ancient Aztec maiden, sacrificed to the tiger god to satisfy the fates. He released a tiger from the zoo, but in the end it was he alone who paid the price for what was only a delusion. The mood was terrific in places, and the color photography of Mexican scenes, Inca ruins, etc., was very nice. Like many of Val Lewton's films, ("Isle of the Dead", et al.) this can be classed as horror and semi-fantasy. ----Chris Steinbrunner

August - "The Curse of Frankenstein" (WB) was not another sequel, but a British-made redoing of the original Frankenstein tale. As such it was not up to the original, due to a weak ending and generally low-key horror scenes. What it needed was "big" scenes, like the memorable climax (in Universal's 1931 original) of a howling mob besieging the monster in a windmill. However, it was a pretty good horror picture on its own, with sufficient suspense and with gloomy color photography aiding the mood. One of the better examples of the current scare-crop. (Cont'd on page 17)

By July 7th, Roberta Wild (Sec'y of Con) wrote that she still had not received the list of passengers, and was going to book all the passengers into the hotel inasmuch as she could not find out which of them wanted rooms. This resulted in a loss to the Society of about \$100.00 due to some passengers having made other accommodations.

July 22nd Ted Carnell received the complete passenger list from Ruth Landis.

August 17th another release was sent by Dave Kyle to the passengers, without the foreknowledge or authorization of the committee. He again included the plans for the European tour although he had been specifically directed by a majority of committee members not to do this under the London Trip Fund's auspices.

The convention rolled around. In London, Dave took a group over to Europe for the tour. He charged them \$3.00 for reservations and his services in arranging the tour. Seventeen people went over. He received a total of \$51.00. None of these "services" were rendered---this was brought before the other members of the committee by a number of people who went on this tour. The committee explained that they had given Dave no authorization for such a trip and therefore ~~could not take any further action.~~

Dave could have saved at least eight passengers \$25.00 apiece by making simple arrangements with KLM for a return trip to start from Amsterdam after the convention--the plane had to fly from Holland to London anyway. He was asked to arrange for the plane to pick up passengers at Amsterdam as well as London but refused, stating that he was on his honeymoon. Belle Dietz was then approached on this and made the necessary arrangements but because of its being so late, only two passengers were able to take advantage of this and they had to pay for their passage from Amsterdam to London.

After the convention it was discovered that there was \$1,305.50 in the trip fund bank account--presumably \$23.73 refund for each round-trip passenger. Since he had not returned the money by October 14th (slightly over three weeks after the plane returned) Belle Dietz sent out (without notifying Dave Kyle but also not under the auspices of the committee) a postcard to the passengers explaining to them that the money was in the bank and that they should notify Ruth Landis Kyle of what they wanted done with their share. This money, it had been agreed, was to be returned to the passengers at the time that they landed. On October 15th, 1957, Frank sent Kyle a letter asking him why he had not as yet returned the money. Dave's response was that, inasmuch as Frank's letter carried a notation that copies were being furnished the officials of the WSFS, he wanted the addresses of the officials so he could send copies of his answer to them too. Frank supplied this information by return mail. Dave thereupon sent Frank a letter demanding he be told who authorized them to send out the aforementioned postcard and asking what it had said. Frank replied that he felt this did not concern Dave and demanded an accounting of the remaining funds, but he enclosed a copy of the postcard. Dave then replied that he wished the names and addresses of the members of the Advisory Council of WSFS, which Frank furnished him. No further communications were ever received by the Recorder-Historian from Kyle.

(Continued on next page)

In a letter dated November 12, 1957 to certain passengers, Dave Kyle presented his explanation in an interim account, together with the refund. From the bank balance he deducted \$50.00 for the publication of a "Souvenir Final Report"; and \$245.00 for a "wedding gift" (or \$5.00 apiece). Only 36 people signed a petition donating this \$5.00 to him, the rest of the passengers refused to. Dave, in this interim account, stated that he was deducting the money from everyone's refund. To those who had not signed the petition, he sent a separate report (see page 14) mentioning that it must have been an oversight on their part and he was deducting it anyway, and if they objected, they could write him personally and ask for the money back. However, he was going to publish the names of those who did donate the money to him, inferring, it would seem, that this would make the rest appear cheapskates. These two letters were received during December, despite the early November date.

He also deducted \$165 (\$3 from each refund) to return \$55 apiece to the three passengers who were unable to return on the plane, feeling that "We are indebted to them and should show our appreciation and good will to them by cutting their loss".

None of these deductions were authorized by the committee. Dave has the accounts of the committee in his own hands, and there is no way of holding him in check on this matter. However, letters have been sent out to the directors of the Society, informing them of these developments.

OH YES. A small matter of \$50 petty cash, \$10 miscellaneous cash and \$47.10 of Arthur Saha's, or a total of \$107.10, has been withheld by Dave Kyle since the close of the 1956 convention, and has not been returned by the date of this writing. Numerous records and checks from the NYCon are still in Kyle's possession, despite instructions to turn them over to the Recorder-Historian.

All of this information is substantiated by the records of the Society in the possession of the Recorder-Historian, and can be checked by any member who is interested. I will keep you informed of further developments.....EMcC

SPACESHIPS and CELLULOID (cont'd from page 15)

"I Was a Teenage Werewolf" (A-I) traced a badly-tempered James Dean type (Michael Landon) on his journey into psi-land. His vicious temper seemed to indicate lycanthropy in the family tree, and age-regression experiments confirmed this. Werewolf he became, and werewolf he died, while someone muttered the strikingly original curtain line, "It's not right for man to tamper with nature." ---Norman Clarke

"The Unearthly" (AB-PT) was a substandard affair enlivened only by John Carradine's impressive villainy. Glandular operations turned people into "things" in Dr. C.'s country rest home. Now if that isn't original enough for you, I don't know what you want. Tor Johnson, ex-Swedish Angel, filled a subsidiary role. His acting was up to ring standards. ---Norman Clarke

September - "The Body is a Shell" (White Knight Producs.) must go unreviewed. It concerned life after death as the Spiritualists envision it, and according to reviews in the press, was highly amateurish.

"The Vampire" (UA) Modern scientific explanations involving what sounded like leukemia brought this traditional theme up to date, but out of focus. A goodly doctor's experimentation transformed him into a bloodseeking Mr. Hyde-type. There was one nice sequence involving a chase through dark streets. ----Chris Steinbrunner

(continued on following page)

November - The second of the abovementioned pictures was "Cat Girl" (A-I) which was British made. Anyone who has ever seen Lewton's "Cat People" will instantly recognize the source of inspiration (and deliberate imitation) here. Quite well done, it involved one of the few genuinely new supernatural ideas in decades--not lycanthropy, as Lewton's film did, but a sort of psychic sympathy between a girl and a leopard. Despite many fine, broodingly atmospheric scenes, this one disappointed me by coming to grips with its theme only a few minutes before the end. Still in all, one of the best new film fantasies in a long while.

The following sf films were generally re-issued this year: "1,000 Years From Now" ("3,000 A.D.") (American Picture Co.-Lippert); "Cinderella" (Buena Vista-RKO); "War of the Worlds" and "The Conquest of Space" (Paramount).

I wish to thank Chris and Norman for their kind assistance, and to accept all responsibility for errors and mis-classifying certain films as sf or fantasy....KB

!! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !! !!
: TRAVEL TOGETHER TO SOUTH GATE COMMITTEE :
! Geo. Nims Raybin - Frank Dietz - Belle Dietz !
! Apt. 4C !
! Dear Fans: ! 1721 Grand Ave. !
! Bx. 53, N.Y. !
: Traveling to the SolaCon? Don't go alone! :
: Watch for further announcements of plans to :
: travel in a group. Arrangements will be made :
: by air, car, bus & train. Write to get your :
: name on the mailing list. T-T-T-SG Committee :

TRAGEDY OF SAM MOSKOWITZ (continued from page 10)

upon his shoulder, so did I the timid Moskowitz. And this Fake Fan has now become a BNF. And Mason is a wretched LNF and must bend his body if Moskowitz carelessly but nod on him. He had laryngitis when he was in Cleveland: and, when the fit was on him, he did cough! 'Tis true, this BNF did cough! And that same voice whose volume doth rattle the windows did lose its power. I did hear him gasp, aye, and that tongue of his that bade the fans mark him and print his articles in their fanmags, 'Alas!', it did cry, "Conduct the auction for me, Ellison!" As a sick neo. O Kahtah, it doth amaze me that such a mene perole should so catch the eye of the fannish world and be the leading fan.

Saha: Another general shout! I do believe they are for some new honors heaped on Moskowitz!

Mason: Why man, he doth bestride the narrow galaxy like a lensman, and we, petty fen, must walk under his huge legs and peep about to find ourselves dishonorable graves. Saha and Moskowitz? What should be in that Moskowitz? Why should that name be sounded more than yours? Write them together in a fanzine, yours is as fair a name. Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well. Weigh them, it is as heavy. Conjure with them, Saha will start a spirit as soon as Moskowitz. Now, in the name of Kahtah, upon what boomfood does this our Moskowitz eat, that he has grown so great? Era, be shamed. Fandom has lost the breed of true fans. When could they say till now, when talked of fandom, that her wide universe encompassed but one fan? Oh, you and I have heard the old time fans say, "There was a Saha, once, who would have made a filthy huckster the leading fan as easily as a Moskowitz.

Saha: What you would work me to, I have some aim. I have thought of this, and these times. Saha had rather be a casual reader than repute himself a BNF under these hard conditions that Moskowitz is like to lay upon us.

Mason: I am glad that my weak words have struck but this much show of fire from Saha's jets.

Saha: The auction is done, and Moskowitz is returning.

Mason: As they pass, pluck Curran by the coat. And he will, after his sour fashion, tell us what hath proceeded worthy of note today.

Saha: I will do so, Mason. But look you: the angry spot doth glow on Moskowitz' brow. And all the rest look like the house detective hath broken up their beerbust.

Mason: Curran will tell us what the matter is.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

* LUNACON N° 2 *

The Lunarians (NYSFS), New York's youngest SF club, are planning to put on LunaCon N° 2 on Sunday, April 13, 1958. Plans are not yet complete for the program but it will include London Con films. Watch METROFAN for further announcements.

You are receiving this issue as:

☐ A member of a constituent club of the New York Fandom Council (ESFA, Circle or The Lunarians). ESFA and Circle meeting notices are on page 3.

☐ Your dues in ESFA / Circle / Lunarians have lapsed: You will be removed from the mailing list if you do not attend a meeting in the next _____ months or pay your dues.

☐ A subscriber. You have _____ more issues coming to you.

☐ Trade?

☐ A contributor

☐ A friend

☐ Your name has been suggested to us as one who might be interested in receiving news of fan activities in the New York area. However, if you do not respond by subscribing or attending a meeting of either ESFA or the Circle in the next _____ months, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.

☐ There is an allusion to you herein, on page _____.

☐ You are an officer in an established fan club who might be interested in keeping your club up-to-date on NY fanactivity.

☐ You requested a sample issue.

☐ Other.....
.....

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c/o David MacDonald
39 East 4th Street
New York 3, N.Y.



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