

Joseph Hatch

- fantasy fan of some reknown, voluntarily ended his life last summer at the age of 26. Hatch will b rememberd for "Blackout", the First Prize Winning Story based on FANTASY Magazine's Cover Contest of the 2d ('34 Sep) Anniversary Issue, which short-short, a scientifilm story, was published in the Scientifilm ('35 May) FM, & "The Final Vision", memorable miniature fantasyarn in the manner merittesque, printed in the First Anniversary Amateur Correspondent ('37 Sep-Oct). I shall remember him as a wonderfully witty & worthwhile correspondent (#71 of the SPL). We (Joe & I) were the collaborators behind "Woe Henry" who wrote "A Time Tale" in FM '34 Oct-Nov.

In the '34 Jun, Jly, Aug & Sep FMs apeard a unique feature, Cigaret Characterizations, consisting of words about a "weed" in the individual styles of such celebritys as "Sky-lark" Smith, Coblentz, Dr Keller, OAKline, Arthur J. Burks, the writing Binders, late HPLovecraft, Jack Williamson, Francis Flagg & again as many. Readers, for their entertainment & edification, were to identify as many of these men with their manuscriptets as possible. In Aug Joe wrote me & askt: "Say, how do you like 'Cigarette Characterizations'? I think they're something. It is a very amusing thing. Here's the way it's affected me: I wrote up one myself and am sending it to various of my pals here and there. Will you write one for me?" The following is a re-presentation of my response to his request, publicly dedicated. Except for minor modernizations of spelling, the original has not been altered; I shall ask U to realize, therefore, that U r reading an earlier Ackerman, an FJA of 5 yrs ago, aged 17.....

Sabina of The WHITE CYLINDER

By Forrest J. ACKERMAN, For Joe HATCH

"Cigaret life if U don't weaken!" quoted Omnihil. "Can U match that?"

"Not in a lighter vein" replyd 4SJ. "But did I ever tell U of Sabina--Sabina of the White Cylinder? 'Tiny--beyond the vision of a microscope', she dwelt in a land where man-made heat nor flame could reach her. Thus it was that when they pluckt the leaf that containd her little world, ground it up, procest it & inclosed it in a thin tubular paper, that she knew naut of it.

But there was the spirit of science within beautiful Sabina. She mixtured the Crystals. & they melted between her pearly teeth & releast thruout her body a great expanding force. & lovely Sabina grew--expanded into another world!

She choked, & wildly thresht her arms to push from her a loose-packt prison of curld brown leaves that threatend to enfold & stifle her.

& then she felt the flame.

From ahead, thru the odorous leaves, came smoke--moist, hot blue smoke that welld great tears in her eyes & choked her; & a monstrous cyclonic rush of it tore her backward, pinning Sabina tight against the leafy background.

& the redness could b seen advancing!

Choking smoke...crushing current...mounting heat--& the leaves burning away, falling to gray ashes, a wall of fire advancing toward Sabina! Man-made heat & flame could harm her now, Sabina grown to cigaret circumference size! "

The maid from micro-smallness, trapped in the tube! The fiery curtain, advancing!

"Good Lord, 4J! What happened!" Omni burst in, terrified at the position of the girl in the story.

"She had one more Crystal" I replied. "I believe you have met my wife?"

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## HAS SCIENCE-FICTION A FUTURE?

by Charles D. Hornig

(The heading of this article is reproduced as printed by the author, the editor of SCIENCE FICTION. We have not edited the editor's article...)

"Science-fiction is degenerating. The stuff published now is putrid, unscientific, and fit only for children. Give me the good old days."

How many times have you seen the foregoing paragraph, in effect, in the readers' columns of the science-fiction magazines? Try counting them instead of sheep when you go to bed tonight.

The question is--is science-fiction really degenerating? Is its hey-day past, and will it go the way of the dime novel?

I say, emphatically -- NO!

The dogmatic quotation opening this article is typical of the ex-science-fiction fan. The chances are ten to one that you will be an ex-fan five years from now. It's all a matter of imagination.

There are scores of thousands of people with enough foresight to appreciate the value of science-fiction, but I believe the number of such persons to remain substantially constant--increasing only with an increasing population. However, the identity of this group is constantly changing.

The sad but only too apparent fact is that the quality of imagination gradually vanishes from the youthful mind of the average scientist as he forges his way further into the realities and struggles of everyday existence. This constantly increasing contact with things as they are today and personal obstacles to be overcome, causes his imagination to turn to practical skepticism.

So, before you know it, Mr. Science-Fiction Fan is no longer mentally capable of dreaming about future civilizations, for his problems with the present take most of his time and all of his imagination.

Then he says something like those quoted sentences, little realizing that it is his waning interest in science-fiction that gives him these pessimistic ideas, and not science-fiction itself!



For science-fiction itself is unchanging! There have always been, and always will be, good science fiction authors--and there will always be a substantial number of fans.

Of course, there are some science-fiction fans who never lose their interest in the future and whose imagination often leads them to wonderful discoveries--things that make science-fiction come true! It is these people who will tell you that science-fiction is never on the wane.

So remember, dear reader, if the sad day should ever come when science-fiction seems hollow to you--and let us hope that day is far in the future--do not blame science-fiction for your metamorphoses. Remember that you have lost something--and not fantasy!

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SCIENCE FICTION'S CHANCE TO LIVE! is discusst in detail in Bruce Yerke's Scientifaction, unfortunately crowded out of this "issue" but to appear in our next "number". See following page for further information....

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#### EXTREMES & EXTREMITYS

"Dart" Hale

Here's a quotation from a letter written to me by a "fan": "Another thing that gripes merry hell out of me is being classed as an stf fan. Evidently you do. There's nothing I detest as much as that bunch of sub-morons. I'm bloody well sick and tired of the yappy, slack-mouthed kids and double-crossing, back-knifing, egotistic monomaniacs that make up the breed. I'm through, see? And you can play everything I've said, straight across the board." Rather vicious, that. It is worse than the ravings of Peter Duncan or HHWelch. It's too bad fandom contains such a creature as the writer of the above. He--or shoud I speak in the neuter gender?--is an extremist. Suffice to say that he is not "thru". Instead, he's still with us. & I wish to make it clear he's no friend of mine!

Manufacturing criticism when writing to the editors of both pro & amat. mags only confuses the situation. Give unstinted credit where credit is due; criticize, constructively, what U consider merits it. The editor of any pub welcomes well-thot-out remarks. Remember Burks' article ("Don't Be Afraid to Criticise") in the 2d Correspondent.

One of the field's numerous extremitys is a single fan, with little or no help from associates, publishing a whole flock of mags, most of which appear infrequently, irregularly & inferiorly. If only a few were publisht these could appear consistently & b of commendable content. (Busily dodging the brix heaved at me for saying this, I wail "But I'm only tellin' the truth!")

J'ever try collecting every fanmag publisht? I did, but soon gave up in disgust; however, I got all but 2 or 3 of the very minor ones now. Many fans find it advisable to concentrate on the more worthwhile magazines when subscribing. I find that a very wise practice because my coffers often r sadly depleted. But remember--I'm not trying to say any fan shoud not subscribe to all he can: By all means support every one U'r capable of,



both in subs & material.

No doubt the reader can think of many other extremes & extremities. Just mentally complete the list in the life of your own reasoning.

The Man Who Could  
TURN BACK THE CLOCK

*Ralph Thorne Harley*  
Sophisticated Fantasy

Once upon a time...

There was a man who had the power (whenever he found he had made a mistake) to turn back the clock & do the event over in the life of his experience.

It so befell that this man once spent a long long time alone in the presence of a very beautiful and seductive young lady.

And, when he told his wife about it afterward, and she asked him rather suspiciously how he had behaved with the young lady, he replied in a surprised tone, "Why, perfectly properly, of course! It never occurred to me to do anything else."

Whereupon his wife snift, and said, "It was no credit to you to resist a temptation which never tempted you."

Then the man saw he had made a tactical mistake; so he turned the clock back a few minutes and tried the conversation again.

This time, when his wife expressed suspicion, he admitted: "It was all that I could do to keep my fingers off her; but my deep and loyal love for you gave me strength to resist the temptation."

But, instead of feeling complimented at this evidence of devotion, the wife became exceedingly angry. "No credit to you!" she snapt. "You oughtnt even to have wanted to touch her. I've read somewhere that it is just as immoral to want a woman, as to get her."

So the man's miraculous power of turning back the clock did him no good. Except, of course, to teach him that there's no pleasing a woman, no matter what you do!

Which he ought to have known anyway.

Realizing which, he turned the clock back again, a little further this time, to the episode of the beautiful and seductive young lady-----

"The Reputation of a NAME  
Is worth 1000 words!"  
(old Ackermanese proverb)

SHEP'S

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COMING CONCOCTIONS: 3d of these 5c affairs, featuring "Scientifaction", a Cigaret Char-acterization by Joe Hatch, "Lower Mathematicians" by EMcamp &--howzabout somethin' by U, buddy? ~~~ Our Unique Contest is shaping up swell (see 60th Nell); deadline extended 30 days & the mss probly'll b pub't about mid-Mar, 10c. ~~~ Another VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION out in Apr at 10c. ~~~ THIS is an LASFL Pub (5c) Bx 6475 Met Sta, LA/Calif.