

PSFS NEWS

-- The Gazette Of Philadelphia Fandom --

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KNOW A THERMATAUGE? HE'S THE MAN TO TELL!

There probably aren't any witches in Lansdowne.

But there's a man out there who knows all about them.

He can split a hair neatly in distinguishing a thaumaturge from an envouteur (in case you don't know, the former works wonders with the material world, and the latter causes nasty things to happen to people by maltreating their images).

HE KNOWS THE ANSWER

This dabbler in the occult is L. Sprague de Camp, a tall, husky, normal-looking gentleman. He lives in an apartment in Lansdowne Court with his wife and young son and a lot of learned books, including four written by himself.

Also with Ta'aroa. Ta'aroa is a tiki, and a tiki is a Polynesian fetish, and this is a rather ugly one, standing eight inches high in painstakingly carved wood.

Ta'aroa is the inspiration for de Camp's latest book, which will be concerned with all the occult and mysterious things people have believed in through the ages. And Ta'aroa is likely to take the blame if the book manuscript isn't copy-righted by the publisher's deadline of next September.

A FULL-TIME JOB

The book is tentatively called "Round About The Cauldron," a quotation you may recognize from Macbeth. It will run some 180,000 words, about as long as three drugstore detective stories, and de Camp is laboring on it full time. Lately he's been kept busy with research. That means attending cult meetings in New York, where they have wizards in great

number.

"On a single afternoon," de Camp said yesterday, "an East Indian gent in a handsome orange robe instructed me in the earth-shaking mysteries of the sacred syllable 'Om'; a numerologist analyzed my name and came up with some quite charming misinformation; and a leader of the Absolute Something-or-Other told me all about the absolutes."

There have been lots of excellent treatises written on the magic practices and beliefs of the Zulus, the Solomon Islanders, the Hairy Aims. "But," de Camp pointed out, "nobody as yet has done a really adequate job on the magic of our own Western Civilization."

So he's doing it--ten hours a day.

HOW TO DO IT

How do you get to be an expert on witchcraft?

De Camp didn't start out to be one. In fact, you might say that he started out to be just the opposite.

He was born in New York City; was graduated from the California Institute of Technology; worked at surveying, timber-cruising and mapping; travelled widely; took some graduate degrees in engineering and economics at Eastern schools, and wrote a still-standard text called "Inventions and Their Management."

Then he became an editor of a publication called The Fuel Oil Journal. But somehow that didn't still the troubled waters of his spirit, so he took to

writing fiction.

A DEALER IN FANTASY

In the four years between 1938 and 1942, he published half-a-hundred stories of extravagant fantasy including a kind of Connecticut Yankee book about a man who was thrown back to ancient Rome, and managed to replace the abacus with double-entry bookkeeping. "Lest Darkness Fall" was its title.

A pair of others were novels written in collaboration with Fletcher Pratt, the military expert with whom de Camp used to spend vast amounts of time moving ships around in war games of Pratt's invention.

As to why a trained engineer took to flights of fantasy and science-fiction, de Camp explained: "Science Fiction has a pretty distinguished ancestry; Plato wrote some in his day. And its not altogether fanciful."

WORKED FOR NAVY

He proved that by pulling a quick switch in 1942 when he donned the uniform of a naval officer and went to work in a Laboratory at the Navy Yard here. He did test and development work on airplane parts and accessories, specializing on high-altitude oxygen equipment.

And for relaxation, during the three and a half years of exacting service, he delved a little more into the lore of witchcraft when his days' work at the Navy Yard was done.

He piled up such monumental scrapbooks and notes that there was nothing he could do, when his service ended, but set to work to make a book out of them.

ALL ABOUT ATLANTIS

The still-current beliefs in the lost continent of Atlantis,

for instance, make a whole chapter. He re-examined all the data he could find, from Plato down.

There are lots of other chapters dealing with the subjects of the prophecies of Nostradamus, crystal-gazing, mediumship, and more such.

One of his theories about witches is stated this way: "The cause of the witch mania in Europe's Middle Ages was sadism.....Nearly everybody has a little sadism in his makeup, and there is always danger in any culture that the official class will try to increase their own popularity by catering to it and exploiting it. The great witch burnings belong to the same class as the great gladiatorial combats and persecutions.

NAZIS USED IT

"The history of Germany in the past 15 years is an example of how easy it is to corrupt a whole people to sadism. There have been outbreaks of witch mania in ancient Babylon and modern Africa, where one tribe almost exterminated itself by burning each other up as witches.

"It is the duty of any civilized person to be continually on his guard against any people in power to exploit the sadism of large groups."

De Camp himself is not given to honoring superstitions.

But he's careful not to say that in the presence of Ta'aroa, the Polynesian fetish, who might be annoyed.

-- Harry Altshuler.

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CONFERENCE!

Many of us have looked back with fond memories upon the Philadelphia Science Fiction Conferences of the past. Remembering them, and hoping that once again they would be held.

The very first science fiction convention was held here in Philadelphia, way back in the fall of 1936. True, the attendance was small, but there were present members of the PSFS, and a large group of fans from New York and Long Island, and it has gone down in fan history as the First Science Fiction Convention. After that, in the fall of every year, there was held in Philadelphia the Annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference, and these conferences were always well attended by fans from many nearby towns and cities. Then came the draft, and the war, and nearly all of the active fans in the east disappeared, to enter the armed forces of the United States. The last Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference was held in the fall of 1941. One was announced for 1942, but it never took place.

Now the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is proud to make the first official announcement of the next Philadelphia Conference. It will be held on the last Sunday of October, 1946.

This is still many months in the future, but already plans are being made to make it the biggest science fiction affair in the history of Philadelphia fandom. A committee has been chosen by the President to plan the affair, and this committee is headed by Milton A. Rothman, well known fan, writer, and collector. It is fitting that Mr. Rothman should be chosen for this important post as he was the original founder of the PSFS.

The aim of the committee is to insure the success of the Conference. An adequate hall will be found for the meeting, and a well rounded and interesting program is assured.

Further announcements of the progress of the Conference Committee will be made in subsequent issues of the PSFS NEWS.

NEWARKON

The Newark Convention, held on March the third, was indeed a tremendous success, from all indications.

The PSFS had the largest group of delegates of any organization attending the affair, having about a dozen members present. This is strongly indicative of the rapidly increasing activity of the PSFS. Members attending were: Oswald Train, Albert Pepper, Robert Madle, John V. Baltadonis, Jack Agnew, Joseph Selinger, Vivian Selinger, Charles Lucas, Jay Klein, Robert C. Thompson, and Honorary Member L. Sprague de Camp, who was the principal speaker of the day.

For a couple of hours before the Convention was scheduled to begin old acquaintances were renewed, and new ones were made. A good time was had by all, getting acquainted with the strangers and exchanging experiences with each other during the years that had elapsed since they had last met. The central point of good fellowship was the bar on the first floor, which did a good business.

After the informal get together the Convention was called to order by Chairman Sam Moskowitz at

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approximately 3:30. The war dead of fantasy were honored, and Walter Sullivan was chosen as the representative of the fans who were killed in action. In tribute to the departed ones, the entire assemblage stood in silence for a minute.

Various fans and groups were then called upon to rise, and they were introduced to the assemblage by the Chairman.

The first speaker of the day was Dr. A. Langley Searles, of New York. "Is Science Overtaking Fiction?" Yes, said Dr. Searles, and he blamed it all on the author. The average science fiction author does not bother to keep abreast with the world of science, and consequently many things that are introduced in their stories are actualities long before they appear in print. He stated that stories must rely more upon human nature. As example he cited out-moded stories of Verne and others. In the following discussion, Mr. F. Orlin Tremaine, former editor of Astounding and Comet, called for greater dependence on psychology. It was pointed out by George Tby that many fields in natural science have not as yet been exploited.

Mr. L. Sprague de Camp then spoke on "Lost Continents And Otherwise," in which speech he exposed many of the so-called authorities on Atlantis, Lemuria, Mu, and other mythical continents. Mr. de Camp spoke long and convincingly, and knew his subject well. This is the subject of a section of the book he is working on at the present time.

Several authors and editors were present and were called upon to speak briefly to the group. John W. Campbell, Jr., editor of Astounding Science Fiction and Mrs. Mary Gnaedinger, editor of

Famous Fantastic Mysteries were both unable to attend, although they had originally planned to do so. Sam Merwin, Of Thrilling Wonder Stories, spoke, saying that whether or not science is catching up with science fiction, the main thing he wanted was a good story. "Sergeant Saturn" was voted an honorable discharge. A revival of the Science Fiction League, as suggested by James V. Taurasi, was voted down. Chet Whitehorn and Orlin Tremaine were introduced, as also were Manly Wade Wellman, Robert Arthur and several others. C.A. Brandt, who for many years was associated with Hugo Gernsbacks Amazing Stories and Wonder Stories as Literary Editor announced that all preparations were completed for a new slick science fiction magazine, that the only holdup now was the paper shortage. Mrs. Doris Currier spoke in behalf of the Buffalo Book Company and their publications, and also announced their plans to issue a new pro science fiction magazine. Copies of the "Time Stream" were sold at the special low price of \$2.00.

The meeting was adjourned at about six o'clock.

The auction followed the meeting, and it was a tremendous success. Many choice items were auctioned off--scarce books, magazines, interior illustrations and cover illustrations.

Several books were bought at the auction for the PSFS library and a beautiful Paul original cover for an early issue of Science Wonder Stories was bought by the PSFS for the new clubroom when it is obtained.

Approximately a hundred persons were present at the convention.

THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

In a recent talk before the Physics Club of Philadelphia, George Gamow, of George Washington University, brought forth some new and interesting information concerning the origin of the universe and of the planets.

Dr. Gamow is the author of a popular book entitled "The Birth And Death Of The Sun," which may be obtained in the Pelican Edition. He is an authority on nuclear reactions, especially on those which take place within the stars.

In his talk, Dr. Gamow described several lines of investigation which, when taken together, give a picture of the origin of the universe which is fairly clear.

When the relative motions of the stars are measured, using the Doppler effect on spectroscopic lines, it is found that all of the stars seem to be moving away from us, and the farther the star, the greater its motion. This has been known for many years, and has been explained by the concept of the "Expanding Universe." If the stars are considered to be points on the surface of a balloon which is expanding uniformly, it will be seen that every point will move away from every other point. If one particular point is to be taken to be the earth, then all the other stars on the surface of this expanding balloon will be moving away from the earth with a velocity proportional to the distance of the star from the earth.

If, now, the motions of the stars are extrapolated backwards, it is found that they all come together in one point about three billion

years ago.

Furthermore, if the amounts of radioactive materials in the rocks of earth are measured, and compared with the quantities of lead which have been produced by the disintegration of this radioactive material, it can be calculated that these rocks--or that the material in these rocks--are created about three billion years ago. Likewise, if it is assumed that Uranium 235 and Uranium 238 were created in equal quantities at some time in the past, and knowing the fact that U235 decays at a greater rate than U238, it can be shown that they both were created about three billion years in the past.

When the figure three billion years continues to crop up in so many different investigations, we begin to believe that the universe must have been created--or at least must have come into its present form--three billion years ago.

There is another line of investigation which is quite technical, and which gives some information as to the conditions which must have existed during the first few moments of creation. It is known that when light elements combine to form elements which are half-way up the periodic table (for example if hydrogen were to combine to form silver) energy is given off. Also, if heavy elements, such as Uranium, break up into medium-weight elements, such as krypton, energy is given off. But for the medium weight elements to combine to form the heavy elements, energy must be absorbed.

This must have happened during the creation process, since the primitive state of matter con-

sisted of uncombined protons, neutrons, and electrons, which in effect is nothing but ionized hydrogen gas. The heavy elements must have been built up from this state, and it is possible to calculate the conditions that must have existed for the creation of each element.

Furthermore, all of the elements exist in certain proportions in the universe. Hydrogen is in the largest proportion, helium next, and the remainder in relatively small quantities. It is possible to calculate the conditions that must have been present to produce this proportion of elements. And it is found that this condition was a temperature of billions of degrees and a density of matter equal to millions of times the density of water. Furthermore this temperature and pressure must have decreased with great rapidity, so as to "solidify" the heavy elements in their present unstable form. (Any element is unstable if its fission will give off energy, and all of the elements above silver will do that.)

All of this, then, gives the complete picture: Three billion years ago all of the mass of the universe was condensed into a very small volume of practically infinite density and temperature. This exploded with great violence until in a matter of seconds all of the elements had been created in their present form and proportions (except for the radioactive ones which proceeded to decay). This great mass of homogeneous matter continued to expand, and in the course of time it began to condense around a large number of centers of gravity. These became the galaxies. As the galaxies became farther and farther separated the gas within each galaxy condensed around many centers of gravity to

produce the separate stars.

Now we come to a point concerning which there has been great controversy.

How were the planets formed?

The classical theory was the one of Laplace, which assumed that the sun was originally surrounded by a sphere of gas, which condensed under the laws of gravity to form the planets in their orbits. This was fine, except for one thing. For the condensation to take place, there must have been present an amount of original gas one hundred times as massive as the present planets combined. Where did the other 99 parts of gas go to?

The theory which has been popular recently (and which has been used in Astounding Stories to explain the presence of numerous planets in the galaxy) is that of the collision or near-collision of stars. However, Gamow claims that this theory has definitely proven false because the orbits of the planets would have to be more elongated than they are for the theory to hold water.

We were then in a dilemma, and only recently has a rational solution been available. Now Dr. Gamow claims that an explanation by Dr. Weizsäcker settles the whole problem.

Dr. Weizsäcker's solution is as follows: We stated above that hydrogen and helium comprise most of the mass of the universe. In fact, hydrogen and helium take care of 99% of the total mass, the other 1% being the heavier elements. However the material of the planets is just the opposite. Hydrogen and

helium make up a negligible proportion of the planetary mass. Noting this, it is possible to go back to the original Laplace Hypothesis and make it fit the true situation by saying that the gas cloud which originally surrounded the sun had 100 times the total mass of the planets. This was sufficient mass for condensation to take place. However, only the heavier elements got caught in the condensation, and the 99% hydrogen and helium was left in space, to be driven away from the sun by radiation pressure.

Naturally, the complete explanation is quite technical, and goes into the mechanics by which the molecules attract one another, and by which the larger particles form orbits around the sun which allow the least number of collisions which turn out to be the actual planetary orbits.

The thing which is most interesting to us is that we are now independent of the condition that stars must have passed one another to produce planets. For every star at one time had a gassy envelope, and every gassy envelope condensed in the same manner under the same gravitational rules. Therefore every star in the many galaxies (except probably double and other multiple stars) has planets. There are about thirty billion stars in our galaxy.

If half of these are multiple, that leaves about fifteen billion stars with planets in our galaxy.

No wonder nobody in Isaac Asimov's Foundation stories had any idea as to the extent of the Empire, or knew anything about the planets on the other side of the galaxy. Fifteen billion planetary systems give us opportunity for exploration for quite a few years in future.

--Milton Rothman

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 1946

The meeting was called to order at 8:00PM by President Train, at the home of Jay Klein. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer then submitted her report.

Old business was called for and the now ancient subject of a PSFS club room was brought upon the floor. After perhaps an hour of discussion, it was decided that we would keep on looking for a suitable location. Al Pepper mentioned several places that he had seen. A report was to be given at the next meeting upon this subject.

New Business. The subject of stationery was then brought up. It was decided that letterheads and envelopes would be printed as soon as practicable. Al Pepper was detailed to this job, due to his connections with the subject.

John Baltadonis mentioned the forthcoming Newark Convention. It was revealed that quite a few members planned to attend. For this reason it was decided to hold the next meeting on the Tuesday evening following the Convention, at the home of Miss Jean Bogert. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Robert A. Madle, Secy.

Members present were:

Oswald Train	Joe Selinger
Albert Pepper	Viv. Selinger
R.A. Madle	Jay Klein
Jean Bogert	Chas. Bert
A. M. Phillips	W. Jorgenson
J. V. Baltadonis	M. Moses
H. Altshuler	C. Lucas

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The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM, at the home of Miss Jean Bogert. The minutes of the preceding meeting were recounted from memory, as the secretary had forgotten to bring them with him. They were accepted. The treasurer's report was then submitted and accepted.

President Train then called for old business. Discussion of the PSFS club room was then resumed. A committee of three, consisting of Albert Pepper, John Baltadonis and Vivian Selinger was appointed to investigate any prospective sites, and to go ahead and rent a suitable place. It was decided that a definite vote would be held at the next meeting concerning the clubroom. Charles Lucas mentioned that it should be stated in the minutes that L. Sprague de Camp had donated several of his original manuscripts to the PSFS. Al Pepper read a list of the books owned by the club library. Following this several members expressed their opinions of the recent Newark Convention. A discussion pertaining to resuming the annual conferences was held.

Those present were:

Oswald Train
Albert Pepper
Robert A. Madle
Jean Bogert
Vivian Selinger
Jack Agnew
Jay Klein
Lex Phillips
Charles Lucas
Robert G. Thompson

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted
Robert A. Madle, Secy.

The meeting was called to order at 9. PM at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Smith, Ardmore, Pa. The treasurer gave her report and the secretary read his minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted as read. Business matters were then called for. Al Pepper told us about a clubroom that we almost had. At this point Ben Lesser offered us a club room gratis if we could wait until about June. The opinion that we should wait was unanimous.

Baltadonis brought up the subject of resuming our annual conferences. A committee consisting of Lesser, Pepper, Madle and Rothman was appointed to handle the affair.

Milton Rothman discussed the World Convention of 1947, and suggested that we make a bid for it to be held in Philadelphia. A discussion was held on the matter--further discussion to be held at the next meeting.

It was decided a program would be adopted for each meeting. At the next meeting Rothman will present a short news resume and the first installment of Sam Moskowitz' "Immortal Storm" would be read, and continued at each subsequent meeting.

A discussion of the first interplanetary story was held, but no definite agreement was reached as to which was the first. We got back as far as 1400.

Members present were:

Oswald Train
Albert Pepper
Robert A. Madle
Jean bogert

Milton A. Rothman
John V. Baltadonis
Helen Cloukey
Lex Phillips
Jay Klein
Ben Lesser
Joseph Selinger
Vivian Selinger
Charles Lucas
Robert G. Thompson

The meeting was adjourned at
10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Robert A. Madle, Secy.

WHO KNOCKS?

"Who Knocks?", the second of a series of weird and supernatural anthologies to be edited by August W. Derleth, has finally made its appearance after many delays. The book is published by Rhinehart and company (formerly Farrar and Rhinehart) sells at \$2.50 a copy. Like its predecessor, "Sleep No More," this anthology contains twenty stories--"Twenty masterpieces of the spectral for the connoisseur"--and is illustrated by Lee Brown Coye.

Looking through this book, we would say that it is a good buy for the money, and a fine addition to any library. In fact it is a "must" for all collectors. The stories are from such magazines as Weird Tales, Unknown, Strange Stories, the E. F. Benson story is reprinted from Visible And Invisible, while the Henry S. Whitehead story has never before been published anywhere.

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THE SHADOWS ON THE WALL--Freeman
RUNNING WOLF--Blackwood
OLD MARTIN--Compard

ALANNAH--Gronden
THE SHINNED HOUSE--Lovecraft
THE LAKE--Bradbury
THE SEVENTEENTH HOLE AT DUNCASTER
--Wakefield
THE ANKARDYNE PEW--Harvey
IT--Sturgeon
THE PHANTOM FARMHOUSE--Quinn
SQUIRE TOBY'S WILL--Le Fanu
NEGOTIUM PERAMBULANS--Benson
THE INTERCESSOR--Sinclair
THE DEAR DEPARTED--Schnirring
THE HOUSE OF THE NIGHTMARE--White
A REVISION TO TYPE--Hampton
THE FOLLOWER--Asquith
THE RAVEL PAVANE--Whitehead
THE GHOSTS OF STEAMBOAT COULER
--Burke
THE WOMAN AT SEVEN BROTHERS
--Steele

We recommend this book to all
lovers of ghost and horror
stories.

NEWS

A number of "Conventions" were held in Philadelphia lately --at least certain fans would call them such. There was the Tricon, held at Bob Madles place (Three present, later five); The Traincon, held in Ossie's famous room, with six present. Then there was the Victorcon, held at Victor's down in South Philly. No wonder Philly has always been called the "City of Conventions!" At a recent meeting of the PSFS, we had an all time high for attendance--there were twenty present at the meeting at Ben Lesser's in Camden, across the Delaware! After a long absence, Guy Wendter showed up at two meeting in a row. Glad to see you again, Guy. Ossie met Norman Adler recently. Norman is still interested in the club, but he has been a a very busy man for some time now. He will try hard to be present at an early meeting, however.....

BLACKWOOD

The long awaited "The Doll And One Other," published by Arkham House, has at last made its appearance. This, the first book of Algernon Blackwood in about ten years, will be received with enthusiasm by all Blackwood followers--and Blackwood followers are many!

It is a neat little volume, and is bound uniform with the rest of the Arkham House books. The cover is by Ronald Clyne, the young artist and is quite attractive. There should be no complaints this time about the smallness of the type being hard on the eyes. The type is large and easily read--similar to the type used in primers. Readers with weak eyes should rejoice about this.

The book consists of two novellettes, "The Doll" and "The Trod."

"The Doll" is the story of a strange image delivered to the suburban villa of Colonel Masters, of the terror its coming brought into the house, of the mortal danger it threatened to Colonel Masters and his small daughter--told in the very best Blackwood vein.

"The Trod" is the narrative of a little known corner of England where people in all walks of life have guards on their houses and persons--and even on their gates--lest one of the "gay people" appear on nights of the equinox and lure away the souls of all who walk unprotected.

These two stories are equal to the best that Algernon Blackwood has written, and will form a valuable addition to your fantasy collection. And if you collect Blackwood--well, then it is a must! Price is \$1.50.

NEW MAGAZINES

Two new magazines have been announced for the future. Tom Hadley, of Providence, Rhode Island, the publisher of "The Time Stream" and "The Skylark Of Space" announced that he is looking for stories to use in an as yet untitled publication and promised to use one story in each issue by an amateur in order to encourage more new writers. Very little information is available as yet as to Mr. Hadley's plans concerning this project.

Then Mr. C. A. Brandt has also announced the completion of plans for a new slick paper science fiction magazine. Mr. Brandt informs us that publication will commence as soon as the current paper shortage is over. In order to encourage the best authors and to obtain the best stories, Mr. Brandt announces that the new publication will pay the highest rates for their accepted material. He feels that this has long been a failing of science fiction magazines--that the rates they pay are too low, and consequently the material is too frequently of a low grade. "You only get what you pay for," he said. "If you pay a quarter of a cent a word as so many do, then you'll get stuff that is only worth that much. But if you are willing to pay five cents a word, then the finest writers in the country will turn their hand to science fiction and fantasy and the success of the magazine is assured."

We have our fingers crossed, as there are many who doubt the appearance of either publication. But if and when they appear, they will be most welcome!

FANTAGLIMMERINGS

During Rusty's recent visit with your correspondent he stated, among other things, that NEBULA, his news-fanzine of pre-war days, will probably be revived in June after Spzer discontinues STEFNEWS. Also, Rusty's paper, THE RIDER, may soon become just that. He intends to "ride" various things and people --for instance, dealers who publish advertisements similar to the three page affair in the last PSFS NEWS. Rusty is very earnest in his endeavors to procure items for fans at minimum prices, and for this reason his Collector's Service should be given all the help possible.

Anyone in the audience who has \$25 can obtain a complete file of Charles D. Hornig's FANTASY FAN from Sam Moskowitz. We were recently informed that The Fantasy Fan had a paid circulation of only 60, which is quite shocking when one considers that it was a neatly printed job featuring excellent material by C. A. Smith, Derleth, Lovecraft, etc. Reminds me of the time years ago, when I first met Julius Schwartz, then editor of FANTASY MAGAZINE. I was amazed to learn that FM had a meagre circulation of 200. When I first subscribed to FM in December 1934 I surmised that it must sell about 2000 copies. Of course, I had a lot to learn about the fan field.

Sam Moskowitz's "The Immortal Storm" has already reached 125,000 words, and he is only up to May 1938 --the first Newarkon. Sam states that he was very unbiased when he wrote his history of fandom but that page on page of damning evidence will unquestionably condemn a certain faction of fandom prominent several years ago. Incidentally, it is quite possible that "The Immortal Storm" will appear in book form.

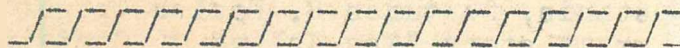
At a recent confab consisting of AM Phillips, Rothman, Train, Rusty Barron, Agnew and RAM, Jack Agnew reeled off a neat little plot which may be worked up into something nice by Lee Greger. If not, Rusty intends to have someone on the coast use it..... Authors had trouble with Uncle Hugo Gernsback even in the early days of Amazing Stories. Lex Phillips had to put an agent on Hugo's heels to obtain payment for his "Death Of the Moon," which appeared in an early 1929 issue.L. Sprague de Camp has sold an article on "The Unwritten Classics" to the SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE. It deals primarily with "classics" like "The Book of Thoth," "The Book Of Fibon," "The Necronomicon," etc. Sprague also informs that STARTLING STORIES will become another UNKNOWN. When it became evident that S&S no longer have any interest in reviving UNKNOWN, Margulies decided that there was a market for a magazine of that type, and STARTLING will be it. De Camp has already sold a story to the new "Unknown."

Milt Rothman intends to go in for writing again in a big way. His fiction will be written by Lee Greger and fact articles will appear under his own name. That is, assuming that he sells any, and there is no reason to doubt that he will. It is interesting to note that his first published story was considered good enough for Random House's anthology..... The reason the PSFS no longer uses the old clubhouse at 1700 Frankford Avenue is that Baltason has converted it into an art studio.....JVB and RAM are fixing up a real collection room at 1700 which will house the entire RAM-JVB collection. If all goes as planned, it will be the den all fans dream of. ...One of our most

 enthusiastic members is Bud Waldo, who recently returned from the Navy. Bud joined the PSFS in 1942 just before it was "disbanded" for the duration.

Well, that's all for now. More next time.....

--Robert A. Madle



BORIS KARLOFF

It certainly is a tough proposition for collectors these days, trying to keep up with all the new books that are coming out, besides rounding up as many of the out of print books as possible from the second hand book stores.

The latest anthology to come out is the long promised one by Boris Karloff, master of the horrific on the stage and screen.

This big collection is a superb one, and it is quite different from the usual anthology in that practically every story in it is out of print and practically unobtainable. In fact, there are many titles present that many collectors did not know existed.

The book itself is an attractive one, issued by World Publishing Company, and contains about 630 pages. It sells for \$2.75

There are 72 selections in the book, mostly prose, but there are a few selections of poetry.

The list of authors on the contents pages is practically a list of the great writers of the supernatural--and many true giants of the literary world besides.

You will find such names as Lord Dunsany, Algernon Blackwood, Somerset Maugham, John Galsworthy, Hugh Walpole, Ambrose Bierce, Charles Baudelaire, John Collier, Oliver Onions, Dorothy L. Sayers, Henry R. Wakefield, W.P. Lovecraft, Joseph Conrad, Walter de la Mare, Thomas Burge, Robert Browning, Thomas Hood, Ivan Turgenev, Guy de Maupassant, and many, many more.

This anthology will rank with the finest of anthologies of the supernatural. It is one of the biggest book bargains of the day.



NEWS

Sam Moskowitz, well known fan and collector from Newark, N. J., was a recent visitor to the PSFS. So the second half of the "Immortal Storm" was read by the author. Sam may become a member of the PSFS at a later date--he is thinking the matter over..... Thanks to the efforts of Harry Altshuler, his article on L. Sprague de Camp is reprinted in this issue from the Philadelphia Record. Thanks a million, Harry..... L. Sprague de Camp, an honorary member of the PSFS, was present at the last meeting. Work is progressing satisfactorily on his new book. He is a very busy man, working at least ten hours a day on the book..... Sgt. James Hevelin, of the U.S. Marines, recently spent part of his furlough in Philadelphia as the guest of Robert A. Madle. Rusty has about six months to go before he finishes his hitch in the service..... Jack O'Day is still in Germany, serving with the Occupational Forces. Judging from a recent letter, he may not be out for some time.....

RETURNING MEMBERS

The latest member of the PSFS to come back from the armed forces is Bud Waldo. He attended the meeting of the PSFS last week, and while he was still in uniform, he informed us that he would be discharged in a few days.

Bud was an active member of the PSFS back in late 1942 and early 1943, at about the time meetings and activities were suspended because of the war. In 1943, Bud went into the services and served in the Seabees.

It was not until a few weeks back, that any of us had any idea where Bud had been for the past couple of years. We are certainly glad to see that he is back once more, and anxious to become an active member once more.

A letter, received only a few days ago, gives us the information that old-time member of the PSFS has returned home again, and has been discharged from the army for a couple of months now--John Newton. The last word that we had from Johnny was late last year, when he wrote that he was in Tokio.

Johnny Served in the Phillipines campaign in the Field Artillery, and for a time was stationed only a mile away from Jack Agnew, near Manila. But unfortunately he and Jack were unable to get in touch with each other for by the time Agnew had John's address, he had moved on about a week before.

He finds it rather tough to get used to wrecking indoors again, after spending the last couple of years mostly out of doors. He tells us that he will try to make it to the next meeting if possible. He wants to see all of the boys again. The PSFS welcomes you, John.

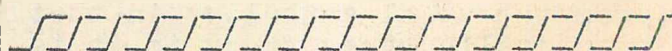
F. F. M.

Due to paper shortages, Famous Fantastic Mysteries will be unable to go monthly for some time. However, the magazine is now appearing bi-monthly, which is a decided improvement over the former quarterly publication.

The current issue, now on the stands, features S. Fowler Wright's great story "The Island Of Captain Sparrow." Also in the issue are "The Willows," by Algernon Blackwood, a long novelette, and a short story by E. F. Benson, "Roderrick's Story."

Announced for the June issue is that fine novel by Jessie Kerruish, "The Undying Monster."

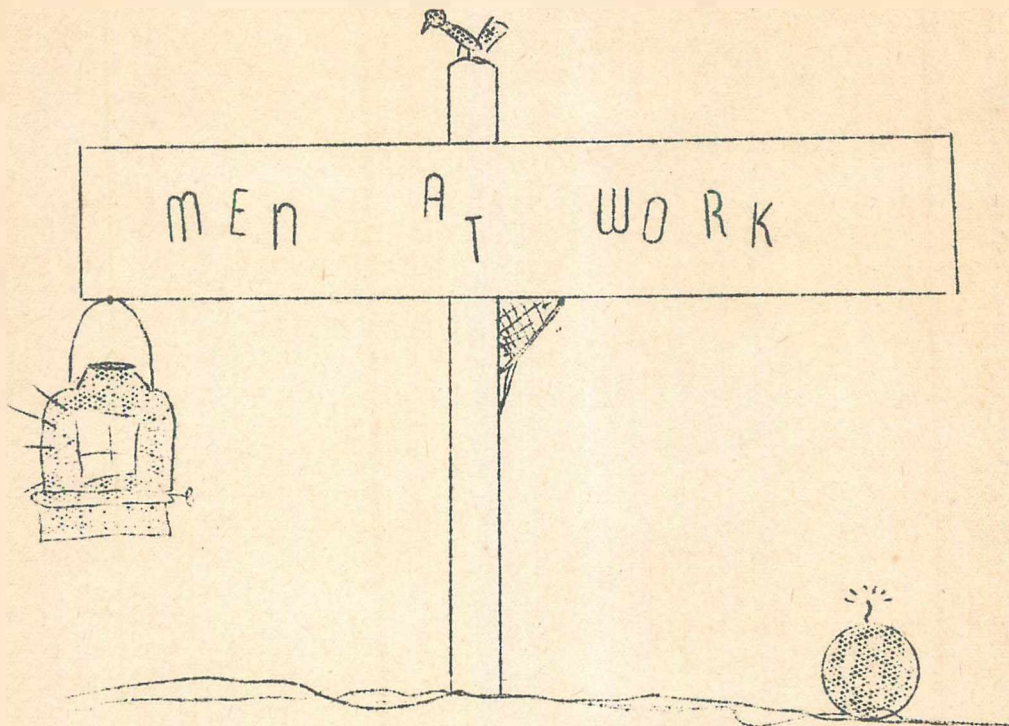
Mrs. Gnaedinger is constantly in the lookout for stories to be used in the magazine, and she tells us that she is always willing to get suggestions. A number of fine stories are lined up for future publication.



A MOVIE

"Angel On My Shoulder" is the title of a new, forthcoming movie. A Fantasy. A gangster, dead and condemned to hell, persuades the devil to come back with him to earth. There the pair play havoc with the lives of a judge and his daughter. The judge eventually outwits the devil and the gangster, and the pair go back to hell. The principal players are Paul Muni, Claude Rains and Anne Baxter but there is no information as yet on who plays what part.

This is probably the same picture, "Hell," which figured in the headlines recently.



The Pacificon committee is working to find a place for every attendee at the big convention. Of course, they need a slight bit of help ... such as the data of when you will arrive and what hotel rates you'll want. Help them by advising them now !

Walter Laugherty, Pacificon Director
1305 W. Ingraham, Los Angeles, 14, Calif.

