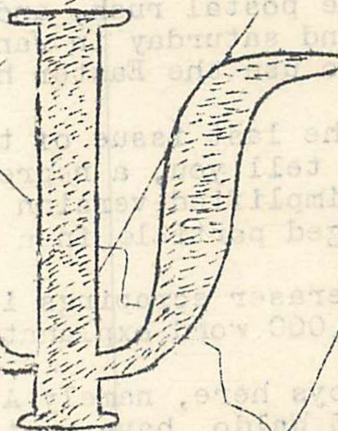


# ΠΛΕΥΡΑ



# PLENUM

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Milton A. Rothman  
2113 N. Franklin St  
Philadelphia 22, Pa.

For the Fantasy Amateur Press Association

## CADENZA

One quite large advantage of the January mailing date is the fact that I can work on Plenum during the Xmas holidays, mail it immediately after the postal rush, and still have it arrive at the editor's by the second saturday in January. Likewise, the April date will allow me to use the Easter holiday. I'm all for it.

The cover of the last issue of this sterling publication was, as any schoolboy can tell you, a representation of a cyclotron. The equation was a simplified version of the expression concerning the motion of a charged particle in a magnetic field.

A quantity of eraser scrapings is offered to the person who sends in the best 20,000 word explanation of this month's cover.

A few of the boys here, namely Alfred Prime, Jim Williams, Oswald Train, and Bud Waldo, have went and blew a hell of a lot of dough on a litho outfit, with which they intend going into business under the name of The Prime Press. The first item on the agenda is a collection of the Venus Equilateral Stories, and following that will be The Mislaid Charm, by Alexander M. Phillips.

The reason for mentioning it here is that, depending on how much they soak me, part or all of Plenum will probably be lithoed in the future. And if any of you people need some litho work done, they will probably give you pretty reasonable prices. This could possibly be a boon to the Foundation.

The "World of T" item which appears somewhere among these pages has already been published in the PSFS News, and since the boys thought it was pretty interesting, I thought that maybe those of you who don't receive the PSFS News would get a bang out of it.

I expect to be burned for heresy next month. That is, if Farnsworth doesn't sue me for libel first.

It's not that I'm prejudiced against the US Rocket Society (See next page). It's merely that they violate all of my instincts.



A CRITICAL COMPARISON OF  
THE AMERICAN ROCKET SOCIETY  
and  
THE UNITED STATES ROCKET SOCIETY

EXHIBIT A: The December, 1946 issue of the Journal of the American Rocket Society.

This is a 48-page printed publication, 6x9 inches in size, published quarterly, and received by the members of the ARS. Three types of memberships are offered: Active (\$10.00 per year), Associate (\$5.00 per year), and Junior, for students (\$3.00 per year).

The contents of this issue of the Journal are as follows:

First, a long technical article on "Liquid Propellant Rocket Development," by M.W. Nesbitt, Chief Engineer, Reaction Motors, Inc., containing several photographs of rocket equipment in operation, together with diagrams, graphs, etc.

Next, a list of 120 Active Members of the organization, containing the names of numerous engineers working on rocket research, and including E.U. Condon, president of the American Physical Society, and Alexander P. deSeversky.

Follows a short paper on "Elementary Formulae of Rocket and Jet Propulsion," by M.Z. Krzywoblocki, who recently had a long paper on jet propulsion in the Journal of the Franklin Institute. Next, several short papers on rocket weapons, the effect of the sun's heat on space rockets, jet planes in the army, elevators and levitators, and an article on "The Variable Nozzle as a Means of Maintaining Rocket Engine Efficiency when Throttling."

Finally, a yearly index, a list of books for sale, and the program of the December 5th meeting of the Society, in conjunction with the convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

EXHIBIT B: The May-August, 1946 issue of "Rockets," official publication of the United States Rocket Society.

This publication is 16 pages, 8½x11 inches lithod, published quarterly by R.L. Farnsworth, president of the Society. This Society is stated to be a not-for-profit corporation under the Laws of the State of Illinois. The subscription rate is \$3.00 per year; three years for \$10.00. (sic)

Cover: A "View from Infinity," purporting to represent a scene from the porthole of a spaceship, from which the readers are supposed to determine the date and time shown by the relations of the planets.

Apparently the sun is simultaneously in two different places as indicated by the shadows on the earth and moon, while the milky way is running north and south.

The editorial is entitled "Mystic Barriers," and deals with the question of why ancient nations never ventured very far from their homelands -- i.e., why the Egyptians never found the source of the Nile, why the Chinese never crossed the Pacific, why the great cultures of India and Ceylon did not discover Australia, why the Vikings failed to make a permanent settlement on the coast of America, and concluding with saying that now we have it in our power to explore the far reaches of the universe and what mystic barrier is holding us back? He says that all thru history there are only two interpretations to be placed on the failure of advanced cultures to spread out. One reason, which he finds unsatisfactory, is "mental inertia." The other alternative, which he says is also "peculiarly repugnant," is the idea of Charles Fort: "Maybe We Are Being Kept." He concludes with a call to break the mystic barriers, saying it's up to YOU to conquer space.

Next we have an article on Acid and Aniline as a Rocket Fuel, with a reasonably plausible cut-away drawing of a proposed rocket. This discusses the discovery, made during the war by Caltech, that red fuming nitric acid combusts spontaneously with aniline, and makes a fine rocket fuel.

There is a two inch squib on the Chicago Rocket Society, followed by a column on Mars as a candidate for colonization. Then a page on Inter-Planetary Archeology, by Gordian I. Armstrong, of Bradford, Pa. In this the author discusses the great mystery about the origin of man, the toys with the possibility, suggested by Chinese, Hindu, and Biblical legends, that man may have descended from the Martians, whose civilization matured before ours due to the more rapid cooling of Mars.

There is a photograph of John M. Griggs, an artist, demonstrating to a pair of teen-agers a drawing of a space ship. Then a note listing the many rocket fuels used by the Germans.

We now have an advertisement offering for sale government surplus asbestos suits for rocket experimenters at \$24.50. These are offered by Rocket Associates, Inc., which has the same address as R.L. Farnsworth.

Below this is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch item recommending to the readers the Fortean Society, which the editor calls the last stronghold of realistic, analytical thought. Follows a note on the British Interplanetary Society, and a notice concerning membership buttons for the USSR.

Next,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pages of excerpts from a talk given by R.L. Farnsworth at a gathering of businessmen, in which he discusses the commercial possibilities of space travel. He is enthusiastic over the benefits resulting to American businessmen if we Americans are the first on the moon. He says this vast globe can become the entire property of the first human who sets his foot upon its soil. He says motion pictures



of the first trip to the moon would be worth enough to pay the cost of the rocket. He also mentions use of the moon as a base for long-range bombing, as an observatory and laboratory, and as a stepping-off place for the other planets. He suggests that industries which finance rocket research can cash in by using it in their advertising.

Below this article is a note on the Corpus Christi Chapter of the US Rocket Society, followed by a photograph of a decently-equipped home chemical laboratory of a member in Detroit who wishes to collaborate with somebody in rocket research.

Next is the Philatelic Page, showing envelopes with special rocket stamps that were used for rocket mail. Two of these are Dutch, dated 1935. The other is American, also dated 1935, and has on it a stamp and a cancellation saying Experimental Parachute Rocket Airmail, Dec. 1935, Newark to New York. The editor admits that he does not know where this came from. (( My own cover from the first American rocket mail flight is dated Sept., 1935. This was the time when a stamp dealer named Kessler was making a big hubbub about rocket mail and cashing in on covers from the same. It is highly improbable that this Newark-to-New York deal was ever flown.)) (( Maybe Wollheim has some dope on this.))

Next we have a letter from R.L. Farnsworth to Senator Wayland C. Brooks, speaking to him in his own name, for all civilians, and also in the name of the thousand members of the US Rocket Society, Inc. He says that the army is going ahead with rocket research, and that he thinks civilians ought to have a chance to get into this, also. Below is reproduced a short reply from the Senator, in which he thanks Mr. Farnsworth for his kind letter, which he thought was fascinating.

There follow several miscellaneous items: A letter suggesting a permanent terminal in space; a note entitled Rumor Factory in which an individual claims that Ray Palmer writes the Shaver stories, and that Campbell does the Venus Equilateral stories, and the editor complains about the monotonous sameness of the science fiction diet, thanking heavens for van Vogt. A letter suggests protection against cosmic rays for space ships. A letter from the Smithsonian Institution turns down financial aid to the Society. A letter from an archeologist, now in the Marines, reporting on a Fortean phenomenon concerning a moving star which he saw one night on guard duty in South Carolina. A pair of letters on rocket fuels is followed by a note from an individual who has a chemical and electrical laboratory and would like to work on rocket problems in cooperation with other members. The editor suggests (apparently in complete seriousness) that he should do a little delving into the nature of gravity, since he has electrical equipment.

There is an advertisement of an auto motor heater (electrical) for sale by Rocket Associates, Inc. Also advertisements of Tire Locks and Tennis Balls for sale by Rocket Associates, Inc. Finally reviews of Ember, Sunspots, and the Journal of the Reaction Research Society, of Glendale, Calif. Also a list of books for sale, including the standard books on rockets, a couple on atomics, and: The Charles Fort Omnibus.



Oh yes, there is a small note concerning Rocket Associates, Inc., in which it is explained that after many delays their workshop was completed, and when electrical service is run in it could be available for research except for the fact that somebody has bought up the adjacent lots so that they can't shoot off rockets there, so they'll have to look for another location. They say a few shares of stock are still obtainable for \$10.00 per share. A stockholders meeting will be held in the near future. The final page lists about 100 members in Michigan, Ohio, and the South.

#### DISCUSSION:

I receive the following impression from the Journal of the American Rocket Society: This society goes about its business like a typical professional engineering society. Its journal is properly conservative, and is concerned in the main with technical articles giving the latest developments in real rocket research. As a professional organization it does not concern itself with cheap publicity or with commercialism, but quietly goes ahead with its work, confident in the knowledge that it is producing real results, slowly but surely, and cognizant of the most formidable technical difficulties in the way of space travel. The membership list of this organization is composed of individuals as solid as Gibraltar, and the fact that the organization now is sufficiently respectable to hold its convention in conjunction with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers is music to the ears of those who have followed the organization through the past ten years. The history of the American Rocket Society is a struggle towards respectability.

Regarding the United States Rocket Society, my purpose in reciting the contents of "Rockets" at such great and possibly boring length, was to let Mr. Farnsworth hang himself with his own rope. I do not intend to labor the point, but cannot resist enlarging upon a few angles.

When I hear the word "society" I visualize an organization with a constitution, elected officers, and the other paraphernalia that accompany it. What is the US Rocket Society. From all that I can discern, Farnsworth is the society, and the society is Farnsworth. Nobody has mentioned elections, a constitution, or officers other than the self-appointed president Mr. Farnsworth.

The subscription rate of \$3.00 per year and \$10.00 for three years may be merely an oversight, or perhaps Farnsworth's slide rule may need calibrating. Or does he think that his prospective "members" can't do arithmetic?

The diagram of the rocket used in connection with the article on acid-aniline fuel appears superficially plausible, except for the fact that the stabilizing fins are inadequate, and in fact, all reference to automatic stabilization is completely missing. In high school I used to draw pictures like that when classes got boring.



I look askance at the advertisements of miscellanea for sale by Rocket Associates, Inc. Are they running a rocket research laboratory or a rummage sale?

All of this, however, is quibbling. Let's get down to the main point. Let us correlate several pieces of evidence:

1. The editorial on Mystic Barriers.
2. The article on interplanetary archeology.
3. The plug for the Fortean Society.
4. The letters to Senator Brooks and the Smithsonian.
5. The identification of the Shaver stories with science fiction.
6. The Fortean data from S. Carolina.
7. And finally the suggestion that this person with the amateur laboratory work on the secrets of gravity.

The tendency to mysticism and fortuneism as shown by items 1, 2, 3, and 6 instantly puts me on my guard against crackpotism. I do not wish at this point to appear dogmatic and narrowminded, with a negative attitude towards new things in nature. I will not even say that Farnsworth is a crackpot. All that is necessary and sufficient for the purposes of prosecution is to say this: an organization which is endeavoring to promote legitimate interest in space travel, and which is trying to obtain financial aid for research certainly has no right whatsoever to give the slightest hint that the head of this organization is intellectually unsound. If I were Joe Moneybags, trying to decide whether to give a million dollars to the USRS or the ARS, there would not be a moment's hesitation in my mind.

Item 7 suggests to me that Farnsworth doesn't know anything about science.

Item 4 suggests to me a paranoid attitude: it is typical of this type that they write long pompous letters to organizations trying to arouse interest in whatever idea this type is promoting, and when they receive polite, non-committal letters in reply, they assume that everybody is against them, that everybody else is reactionary, and that nobody understands them.

Throughout the publication is the atmosphere of an amateur science club conducted by people with home laboratories, and hardly any mention is made of real contributions to rocket science being made by the Jet Laboratories of Caltech, the ORDCIT project of the US Army, and the Aerojet Engineering Corp at Azusa, Calif. No cognizance is taken of the fact that amateur experimentation with rocket combustibles is extremely dangerous (it's a wonder that my own head wasn't blown off ten years ago), and that rocket science has advanced beyond the realm of the home laboratory. Caltech is advertising for PhD's to work on their project.

CONCLUSION: Draw your own.

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Joe Smeg, first man to land on the moon says: I couldn'ta done it without Wheaties.

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## GENERAL SEMANTICS

## Part III

We start off with a letter from Jack Speer:

"My chief criticism of your second semantic article is that it's bad propaganda. While you do say at the end that there's a lot more stuff to Science and Sanity than is suggested by this article, you create the impression in the article that this is the core of General Semantics. Since nearly everything said is self-evident, you have probably caused numerous readers to say, 'So this is all Korzybski is. He just brings out and expresses in words what has been in my mind, and acted upon, all along. Apparently I will not profit much from reading this difficult book.'

"To more specific comments: I apply a reservation to your statement that colors., exist simply within the nervous system of the observer. This invites the futile old debate about whether there's a sound with no one there to hear it, something which is contrary to common sense but follows from this Berkeleian approach. In certain senses which may legitimately be applied to 'color', 'exist within', the color exists in the object.

"I haven't yet come to the part of SAS which treats 'All generalizations are false', but it doesn't seem to me that the proposed solution of the problem is much better than Russell's. This opinion is subject to change. Possibly the statement has no practical meaning anyway, but statements of similar structure, such as 'I never tell the truth' or 'we affirm nothing, not even that we affirm nothing' run into difficulties in application.

"My recollection is that my reference to 'the lousy French' was in a passage which was rather complimentary to them, dealing with the use of leisure time. I deny, and can cite statements to prove, that I ever took the shortcut of saying that 'Frenchmen are bad'. Nevertheless I think that it is proper to mention the French experience in a discussion of the 30-hour week; more, that an inference of some probability can be drawn that people bad in one way will be bad in another way if statistics show the two types of badness (I might have used any other general word for 'badness') often go together. So if I meet a Frenchman in Quebec who says that English is simply corrupted French and baby-talk, I may induce a probability that he did not support Canada's war effort very well. But this, I fear, is wandering from the point.

"Suffice now to say that semanticists will make their doctrine unpopular if they use it to pounce upon every use of such words as 'lousy'. As I indicated in SusPro, I think that semantics can't do its best work if it tries to dwell in a world apart, bedded on its special vocabulary.

"At one point in the article you mention primitives' confusion of orders of abstraction. If this kind of examples had been



clarified and given in more detail, it would have obviated my criticism of this installment. Perhaps the discussion of principles may serve a purpose in fannish discussions of nonaristotelianism, but the Message will not be carried to the Masses effectively unless such an article is supplemented by many commentators who, coming across examples of A thinking in stories, fanzines, public affairs, will put the finger on the errors, name the corrective principle, and show the true situation."

I agree with Speer in many ways. Perhaps the emphasis in the second installment was not quite what it should have been, but then I was mainly interested in giving an academic exposition of semantics, and was not trying to carry a Message to the Masses. It would have become too apparent before long that I didn't believe what I was talking about.

For the longer I meditate upon what I have to say, the more I feel the large gaps in my knowledge which leave important steps in my argument gaping blankly. For example, I have not seen any psychotics cured by the use of semantics. I have not even seen the results of null-A training upon normal people. I can't work the training on myself, because S&S doesn't say what to do beyond the first two lessons.

So I can't carry any Message to anybody until I am more certain that the damn thing works.

Regarding the more specific criticisms: The problem about whether a sound exists if there is no one around to hear it breaks down immediately when considered semantically. It's just an example of multiordinality, and the answer to the problem depends on whether you are considering the word "sound" to mean a mental sensation, or merely a vibration in the air. And so for the color problem, when we say: the book is red, what do we mean? Do we mean that the book has the property of reflecting light of a certain wavelength, or do we mean that the book produces a certain sensation in the brain which is called red.

Hayakawa says this about it: ...we talk about the yellowness of a pencil as if the yellowness were a 'property' of the pencil and not a product, as we have seen, of the interaction of something outside our skins with our nervous systems. .... Properly speaking, we should not say, 'The pencil is yellow,' which is a statement that places the yellowness in the pencil; we should say instead, 'That which has an effect on me which leads me to say "pencil" also has an effect on me which leads me to say "yellow"'. We don't have to be that precise, of course, in the language of everyday life, but it should be observed that the latter statement takes into consideration the part our nervous systems play in creating whatever pictures of reality we may have in our heads, while the former statement does not."

Re the lousy French business: One of the tricks used by those who rationalize group prejudices on logical grounds is to use statistics. They say things like: Statistically, negroes have lower intelligences than whites; therefore there is a probability that a given negro will have a lower intelligence than a given white. Or, 20% more crimes are committed in negro neighborhoods than in white neighborhoods; therefore I should be 20% more suspicious of a negro than of a white. Or words to that general effect.

There are two faults to this. In spite of what a group average may be, individual cases may possess any amount of deviation from the average. Secondly, an individual is not a statistic; he is a human being, and social justice demands that he be considered on his own personal merits.

This is slightly off the original question, however. Let's get back on the track. I was supposed to be writing about semantics, wasn't I?

You know what, fellas? I'm sick of writing about semantics.

The hell with it.

Oh, but we can't leave entirely without mentioning the fact that I re-read "World of A" the other week, and wish to report that it is even better the second time, particularly after having read Science & Sanity in between. S&S, while it gives a lot of theory, isn't much help in telling a person just how he is supposed to act after he has become null-A. Van Vogt has gone to his imagination for that, and has given a character study of a person who has completed null-A training, and it is a highly satisfying thing to read. Furthermore, I fail to find all of those loose plot threads that people were complaining about. Those hanging statements that did exist were merely to sketch in the vast background of the plot. Like when they are wondering how it is that all the galactic planets have humanoid natives, somebody says: "Somebody has gone to a lot of trouble."

One point that might give trouble is why Venus had no humanoid natives. But let's not ruin a good story by worrying about such trivia.

[illegible]

And let's have no gags about me being anti-semantic.

.....



It was like this:

The boys had come down from New York for the Philly Conference, and they brought with them a resolution to the effect that we should get the postal authorities to make Ziff-Davis label their magazine fiction, and not let them pass off the Shaver stories as gospel truth. The reason being that all this leads to madness and juvenile delinquency, etc.

What follows on this page is one of those cases of:  
"I wish I'd thought of that during the argument."

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### THE WORLD OF T

Goslin walked rapidly down the darkened street, his nervous system tense with the knowledge that he was being followed. The Book was clasped firmly under his arm, The Book whose existence threatened the very foundations of civilization.

Goslin looked up at the mighty Truth Tower that soared irridesciently into the air high above the city. It was a thousand years since the Truth Laws had been passed, those laws which required that all reading matter be classified according to whether they were truth or fiction.

There had been a periodical long ago -- a legendary publication known as "Amazing Stories" which had incited the animosity of certain truth seekers because of its policy of publishing fifth-order falsehoods under the label of fact, as a result of which there had been a wave of semantic disorders and anti-scientific sentiment.

Lost in the recesses of antiquity was the origin of the sanctified author, Richard S. Shaver, and almost forgotten was the violent discussion concerning the reality of the deros.

Following the passing of the Truth Laws it had seemed for a time that the planet would be plunged into bloody war over the labelling of books. Truth was elusive to classify.

It was then that the great G. Campbell de Sparken developed the Truth Machine, which even now was housed in the mighty Truth Tower. A repository of all knowledge it was, with the ability to read books as they were passed along its moving belts, and with the unerring power of classifying them into one of the several Truth Categories available: (1) Invariant scientific law; (2) Experimental observation; (3) Deductive hypotheses not violating existing laws; (4) Hypotheses violating existing laws, but with proper experimental background; (5) Hypotheses with insufficient experimental evidence; (6) Hypotheses in opposition to known experimental fact; (7) Lies, and so on.

With the decision as to the truth of books left to the T Machine, the world settled back to a period of utopian excellence. No longer were semantic disturbances created by confusion of the order of abstraction. No longer was there difficulty in cortico-thalamic integration, and evaluation of probabilities was simple, when the newspapers were required to label each paragraph "truth" or "opinion." Delusions popular to the common man were swept out of the corners of the mind and held up to the glaring light of observation, after which they disappeared.

However, it presently became apparent that there was an undercurrent of wrongness present. The subconscious mind of humanity was concealing something. Something was being held back from The Machine, and this defection was evidenced in a world-wide nervousness, with a tendency toward revelry compensated by a growth of Puritanism.

All of the existing books had been fed to the Machine and judged by it. All, that is, except one.

By a world-wide conspiracy of silence this one book had been held back from the Machine. Quietly it had disappeared from the book-shelves of the world, to be hidden in secret recesses in every home. It produced in mankind a schizophrenia -- a surface adherence to Truth, but underneath a tenacious maintenance of the ideas contained within that Book -- ideas which were the entire foundation of the previous civilization and which were so strongly held by all of man that their exposure to the searching inquisition of the Machine was unthinkable.

And why was all mankind engaged in this stupendous effort to cheat The Machine? Why was it afraid to allow this Book to be judged by The Machine?

Goslin knew the answer, as he threaded his way through the narrow streets toward the mighty Truth Tower. And it was his purpose to slip through the ring of guards with this very Book, to display it before the Machine and have it finally adjudged, once and for all. Then he knew that civilization would collapse, but he did not care. It was more important that Truth be known. Civilization was unimportant. However, it was because the others did not agree with him that a guard had been set around the Truth Tower to prevent him from reaching it with The Book.

The diabolical aspect of the situation was that even if the Book did not reach the Machine, civilization would ultimately collapse of its own schizophrenia. For the retaining of The Book from The Machine was due to a secret suspicion by all of mankind that The Book was not true. Yet all of the rules of civilization had come from that Book, and so it was necessary to preserve the appearance that the Book was true. However, because all men feared that The Book might not be true, they were afraid to allow the Machine to judge it, because to label The Book not-true would destroy the illusion which had been built up, and civilization would collapse.



The originators of the idea behind the Truth Machine had not foreseen this contingency. They had aimed at one periodical which published unscientific lore concerning creatures below the earth who were omnipresent and omnipotent, and who inflicted diabolical tortures upon men, and who indicated that all of scientific knowledge which had been learned was merely illusion and falsehood.

Yet this same description had gone beyond their original purposes, and had impinged directly upon The Book -- a book owned by virtually every person in the civilized world -- a book studied and re-studied by the majority of those who could read -- and whose teachings were explained once in every week of the year (and sometimes more often) to those who congregated in certain meeting places.

This Book described creatures living somewhere above the earth who were omnipresent and omnipotent, and who inflicted punishments and rewards upon the denizens of the earth according to their merits. This book described regions below the earth where diabolical tortures were inflicted upon men. This book opposed scientific knowledge based upon experimental evidence -- because solely upon the basis of dreams by various epileptic individuals it described the origin of the solar system as occupying a period of seven days, it described the first woman as originating from a rib of the first man, it described a flood occupying the entire world in which civilization had been saved by a boat upon which all the animals had congregated (even as Atlantis had sunk beneath the ocean), and it described several events known in the ancient parlance as "miracles" which violated the invariant scientific laws.

From the teachings of this book -- teachings which were put forth as absolute truth -- arose laws banning the teaching of Darwinism in the public school -- Darwinism being a subject based upon experimental and observational evidence. From the teachings in this Book arose opinions that the earth was flat and located at the center of the universe -- opinions which gave an ancient scholar named Galileo considerable difficulty.

Yet this book had risen to a central position of importance in civilization -- to such a position of respect that in any discussion or argument, a mere quotation from this Book was sufficient to strike confusion into the ranks of the dissenters. Also from this Book had come a respect for mythology -- a tendency and willingness to believe in ideas irregardless of evidence -- a looseness of thinking among men.

To Goslin, the seeker for Truth, this was an impossible situation. The Machine must see The Book. He must get through the guards.....there was a noise ahead of him, and a sudden shocking glare of light poured down directly upon him. Simultaneously there was the high-pitched whine of a powerful generator going into action, and through the space where Goslin stood passed a shaft of intolerable energy, rending him atom from atom, and a moment later Goslin knew whether the Book was true or not.

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## CODA

If I had any sense in my head I would throw most of this issue in the waste-basket. Apparently there is some sort of occupational psychosis which affects amateur publishers, and which compels them to publish a stencil once it has been cut, no matter how stinking it is. That explains why page eight remains in this issue. The plain fact of the matter is that I was boring myself to death, and my fingers decided that they just wouldn't write anything else about semantics. Often I think that my fingers are more educated than my head.

My head has been pretty worried about that article on the US Rocket Society. If Barnsworth is at all sensitive, which he probably is, I'm probably asking for a legal action. The funny thing is that I don't know Barnsworth from Adam, and have nothing against him personally. I'm just a born muckraker, I guess.

One night, during a meeting after the meeting, Benson Dooling suggested that instead of spending a lot of time telling jokes, we would just go around the circle and each one tell the last line of a joke. So it sounded like this:

Lucky Pierre, always  
in the middle.....

Parsnips? I thought it was creamed cauliflower!

Meyer --- go get it! .....

Finally got around to reading Rocket to the Morgue. Got a hell of a bang out of it. Will undoubtedly get more of a charge out of The Chinese Doll. It ain't every day that I get to be a character in a novel.

The American Physical Society is meeting in Los Angeles January 3, and two papers are to be given on rocket propulsion. One is on the problem of leaving the earth. The other is on the application of atomic energy to rockets. This, I am thinking, is a historic moment. If the boys at Caltech are starting to calculate atomic rockets, it looks like I'm gonna be heading west in a few years. Don't lets misunderstand me. That isn't the historic moment. The important thing is that papers are being given on space travel before the American Physical Society.

Sappy New Year.

