

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER
Published weekly at;
86-10 117th Street,
Richmond Hill, N. Y.
5¢ the copy; 6 weeks. 25¢.

Volume I, Number 2

December 11, 1937.

CORRECTION

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MERGER

There came in this week's mail a circular, purply informing us that there will be no LUNA, no FUTURE SCIENCE STORIES, no COSMIC PUBLICATIONS. . . . We have, instead, UNITED PUBLICATIONS, presided over by Jack Gillespie, James V. Taurasi, and Robert G. Thompson, whose sole purpose, it would seem, is to issue the new, mimeographed, COSMIC TALES. . . . Also, say they: "we will publish a COSMIC TALES ANNUAL and a cloth and paper back." Unravel that.

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SPECULATION

We recently attended a cinema—a not unusual custom with us—and saw "The Prisoner of Zenda." We were immediately struck, not having read the book, with the similarity between this picture and a novel, by Edgar Rice Burroughs, "The Mad King." Each scene is laid in some nonexistent European kingdom. Each hero, at the beginning, has a

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beard and bears a startling resemblance to the monarch of the kingdom he is visiting. Each, in time, takes the ruler's place during the coronation. Each, naturally, falls in love with the king's betrothed; and each goes thru all sorts of swordplay and peril to preserve each throne for each king--neither of which would make half as good a ruler as either hero. . . . Why, Mr. Burroughs?

VIA MISTER FARLEY

Says Jack Gillespie: "I liked 'The Science Fiction News Letter.' You sure do go to extremes. A semi-annual magazine and a weekly one. The contents of the SFNL were exceptionally good. I did notice one mistake, however. It was in your editorial when you were stating the publication intervals for the various magazines. You mentioned that there were fan magazines that appear monthly, bi-monthly, annually and three times a weekly. The last is a misstatement. You probably meant to say once every three weekly." . . . Quite right, Mr. G., we did mean every three weekly, referring to Mr. Dollens' FANTASY FICTION DIGEST. Thank you for the nosegays you hurl . . . Words from an admiring reader (John V. Baltadonis): "I am hereby uttering a sound of loathing, contempt, etc. for the SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER . . . ugh! What a ride the fans get taken for when they pay a nickel for that affair! Focey! I bet you make about 99% profit on that -- dont you? Of course, the idea behind it is swell, and, what little you have is swell -- but not for the price you demand . . . most emphatic cally no!" Johnny really loves us at heart; you'll get used to him... Robert A. Madle holds forth: "Speaking of the S*F News Letter, it is rather good--what little there is of it. At first glance I didn't care much for it. This was at JVB's house, but after reading it I decided that it is worth the money--but only because it is composed of news. I sincerely hope you can bring it out every week. Why, if this were done, you would go down in the history of Science Fiction! Your name would be preserved for remote posterity! Good luck, anyway."

JUST NEWS

Tootsietoy has brought out three of the Buck Rogers Battle Fleet, copied as nearly as possible from the plans given by the Buck Rogers Company. There are the Battle Cruiser, Flash Blast Attack Ship, and Super Dreadnought, about 4" long, and sell for 10¢ practically anywhere. They can be made to zip thru the air, if you feel like playing, by stringing cord thru two concealed pulleys on each ship. . . . The New York Fantasy Association and the Greater New York Science Fiction League will have merged by the time you read this. . . . "The Beasts of Tarzan" is among the late Big Little Books. . . . Another BLB, "Dick Tracy & the Spider Gang," a novelization of the Republic serial, was written by Russell R. Winterbotham. . . . Last week Jack Benny gave his version of "Lost Horizon" slapstickally. . . . R. Van Houten has taken over the Science Fiction Advancement Association. The first issue of TESSERACTION, by him, we hear, is already out. . . . The Fourth Science Fiction Convention will give Newark the benefit of stf. . . . Another FAPA mag, THE FANTASY HERALD, is among the voluminous COMET PUBLICATIONS. . . . Issue #2 of THE FANTASCIENCE DIGEST will be large size. . . . M. Marchioni, JVB tells us, eats prunes. . . . The English society is not the first SCIENCE-FICTION ASSOCIATION. Another, hyphenless, was formed back in 1933 by an Alexander Ostrow of the Bronx, New York.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Wilson, Jr.