

Science Fiction

News Letter



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FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION

The second FAPA mailing arrived this week, containing ten different fan magazines and assorted publications of interest to the average stfist. For purposes of classification, we shall divide the contents into three groups, namely: Printed, Mimeographed, and Hectographed.

First, the printed. This includes what is perhaps the most interesting single article ever published by an amateur science fiction fan: "A History of the Necronomicon", by the late H. P. Lovecraft. It "being a short, but complete outline of the history of the book, its author, its various translations and editions from the time of the writing (A. A. 730) of the Necronomicon to the present day." Sponsored by Wilson H. Shepherd's Rebel Press. . . . Numbers 4, 5 and 6 of Volume 6 of THE PHANTAGRAPH are present, offering all manner of odd stories, articles, poems, etc., the majority of which would most likely not find print elsewhere by reason of their very queerness. Outstanding is the article---or short-story, whichever it is meant to be---by Donald A. Wollheim, "Picture of a Young Man With a Vision". . . . The October issue (#6) gives proof that Daw has been busy of late amassing titles of fan magazines, and ownership of them, for this number of TP, "(formerly the T. F. G. BULLETIN)" has combined with it THE SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, FANTASTORY, THE TIME TRAVELLER, THE PLANETEER, CURIOUS STORIES, QUEER, etc. So that's where they went. . . . Nos. 7, 8 and 9 of the Bulletin of the British Interplanetary Society are included.

-- Among the mimeographings are THE F.A.P.A. FAN, Numbers 2 and 3, dated October and December. Herein Daw dispells the doubt that has arisen as to whether or not the FAN is the organ of the FAPA. It is not. The official organ, not yet published, is THE FANTASY AMATEUR. A membership list dated Dec. 15 shows that there are already 21 members. . . . Daniel McPhail contributes a one-page tabloid called THE ROCKET, an output of the Choctaw Press. This is the first issue, dated December. The editor announces himself as candidate for Vice-President of the Association. . . . Then there is an 8-page Michel-Wollheim mijimag, THE MENTATOR MAGAZINE, dated Winter 3 A.Gh. Page 6 warns that "THE MENTATOR MAGAZINE is the original MIND OF MAN magazine. Beware of imitations!" So you see what you're up against. . . . Frederik Pohl brings out another Ego Publication called THE SCIENCE FICTION

ADVERTISER, which, outside of IMAGINATION, offers you the cheapest advertising rates in any fan magazine. . . . There is also THE VOICE OF THE GOSTAK, another Ego-Pohl first issue, which contains as swiftly-paced a story as we have read in any magazine, called "Dick Armstrong and the Martian Invaders", and written by Don Q. Jote. The tale has, excepting apostrophes, two pieces of punctuation, both periods, one of which is at the end of the story; the other is in the author's name. . . . There is, too, an application for membership and a ballot for the election of officers and an amendment to the constitution.

The hectographed inclusions number six. One of them, SOLOR, has already been reviewed. The first issue of the FANTASY HERALD, issued by John V. Baltadonis and Oswald Train, and dated Winter, 1938, is the neatest. The front and back covers illustrate scenes scientifications, while the two inside pages contain an editorial, an amusing poem called "Science Fiction Dilemmas", by a person calling him(or her)self Stella Rover, and four weirdish cuts by Niles Frome. . . . Robert A. Madle and Jack Agnew co-edit THE METEOR, a 4-page first issue (Winter, '38) containing "Something Different", by Willis Conover, Jr.---a parody on the average scientification yarn. The hectoing is rather poor. . . . HERMES is Jack Speer's contribution. Printed on a note-sized sheet, it offers news in tabloid form. . . . Two election circulars urge you to vote for Robert A. Madle for Vice-President of the FAPA, and for John V. Baltadonis for Secretary-Treasurer.

BULLETIN

The second news bulletin sent to the editors of the more (ahem!) prominent fan magazines by Leo Margulies, Editorial Director of THRILLING WONDER STORIES, arrived this week. From it we learn that the plans for a sister magazine to TWS are still nebulous, since the results to their request for fans to write in demanding it have been only fair. Those who haven't as yet written to Standard Magazines are urged to do so. . . . A new science fiction artist looms on the horizon. His name is Alex Shomburg, and a sample of his work will appear in an early issue. Hank Kuttner's "Hollywood on the Moon" will rate Brown's April cover. . . . A new writer will be represented: Frederick Arnold Kummer, Jr., the son of the famous novelist, will have "The Exterminators" in a future issue.

GREETING CARDS

The Leeds Chapter of the Science Fiction League sends a card which shows, on the cover, a rocket ship departing for other spheres, with the legend "Fiction today - - - Fact Tomorrow!" To the recipient is conveyed "Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year." Opposite are listed the members of the Leeds Chapter. The card was printed by the Nova Cooperative Press. . . . Frederik Pohl's wishes each and all a Joyeux Noel, & depicts several mortals being goolly crushed in a wine-press or like instrument, and warns of the Ego pubs that may arrive during 1938. . . . John B. Michel and Donald A. Wellheim keep aloof from anything so theistic as an Xmas greeting. They say, however, in four colors: "Salud! on the New Year from Michel-Wellheim Publications. Fight against Fascism and for a Scientific World Economic & Social System. . . ."

Happy New Year!

Richard Wilson, Jr.