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ON THE AIR

Thursday night, December 30 was a gala evening for s-f minded radio fans. Alonzo Deen Cole's "The Witch's Tale" was heard over the Mutual Broadcasting System at 10 P.M. (all times Eastern Standard). The play was called "The Compact of Chester Rand" and dealt with Rand's bargain with a Dr. Magic, a being of supernatural power. The name of the heroine, coincidentally was Wilma, which name is linked with another famous character of s-f. The next Tale will not be heard until January 13. At 10:30 CBS's Columbia Workshop presented Part II of "Through the Looking Glass." The part of Alice was taken by Helen Claire. The sound effects were unique in that each was in music--a part of the score. We had the book opened as we listened and were surprised to see how closely the radio adaptation had followed Lewis Carroll's fantasy. It was noticeable that the radio Humpty Dumpty sang more of the Jabberwocky verse than is to be found in the book. At 11:15 Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" was heard over the MBS, with William Green in the dual title role. This was a presentation of the Theatre Digest. Another version of this story was heard a few weeks ago as a dramatization on "The Witch's Tale."

THE AMATEUR JOURNALS

It finally came to pass that the second issue of FANTASMACORIA, dated July, 1937, arrived. Had this number contained only one of the stories it did: "The Mist" by Emil Petaja, it would still have been a great event, for the tale is a superlative one, not to be missed. It embodies a character study of the late H. P. Lovecraft, which clearly shows the author's kindness and willingness to help others, though himself in need. The much heralded and long-awaited C O N E T PUBLICATION, "The Brain", whose mailing was delayed by the Xmas rush, arrived this week. It contains two stories by Oswald Train: "The Brain" and "The Lord of the Swamps." The latter was formerly published in the local paper of Train's former home town, "The Barnstable Star", and is a look at it. The former is a good story, telling of a group of scientists who discover a fossilized brain, and, by attaching a Machine to it, live the life of the owner, a Cro-Magnon man. The tale goes on in typical cave-man-story fashion. John V. Baltadonis has ten illustrations in the booklet, most of which are good. The January 1938 issue of THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN contains the first unissued

of the Third Eastern Science Fiction Convention, by Sam Moskowitz and a guy who may or may not be mythical---William M. Weiner. James Rogers is not so good this month, but is still better than Taurasi. Mary Rogers draws an appropriate heading for the Convention report. Donald A. Wollheim's "Fanfarade" is ever-present. The second IPO Poll (no relation to Frederik) results are given by Jack Speer. The three leading fan magazines, it seems, are THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN, THE AMATEUR CORRESPONDENT, and THE SCIENCE FICTION CRITIC. Hayward S. Kirby announces the publication by him of "Waters of Lethe", by David H. Keller, M. D. at \$1.00. A hint on how to read Robert W. Lowndes' "The Menace of Weinbaum" on page 15: Start at what appears to be the third paragraph---this is the beginning. Then hop to the top of the page and read down to "throw light on", where you turn the page. And don't be fooled by the number "20" on the last page of the issue. There are really 24. . . . IMAGINATION!, we fear, will be with us forever. The January 1938 issue has already arrived. We gather (or think we gather---since no one can be sure that what he reads in this mass of illiteracy is what he thinks it is) that Morejo's real name is Myrtle R. Douglas. Arthur K. Barnes and Henry Kuttner quibble about the significance of the K in the former's name. The latter claims that it means Kermit, while its owner maintains that it's Kelvin. There is a good, queerish short story by Ray Bradbury: "Hollerbochen's Dilemma." A letter written by H. P. Lovecraft two years ago is published. The editors seem to take great delight in the fact that he abbreviated his "and"s to the sign "&". It must be remembered that Lovecraft wrote the majority of his letters in longhand, and that the contraction to the ampersand is thus the natural thing to do. An advertiser asks 75¢ for the first issue of "Scoops." V. H. Johnson's Science-Fiction Service sells the same for 6d. Another generously offers the British edition of "Last and First Men" for 50¢. This also sells retail for 6d!

SCIENTIFICNOTES

David A. Kyle's Xmas wishes arrive on a calling-card, wishing you in red and green ink "A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year." Willis Conover, Jr.'s is a folder which has, handwritten, on the cover: "Merry Christmas, _____!" (whatever your name is). Inside is a drawing of the well-wisher. . . . Rand McNally has brought out a tiny book called "Paul Bunyan and His Big Blue Ox", by R. D. Handy, depicting some exploits of the only American folk-lore character. The WPA-Blue Seal Book, "Almanac for New Yorkers, 1938", tells of the metropolitan cousin of the famous Paul, named Big Nose Humphreys, who lived in the Bower a century ago. Mose was in the habit of leaping from Manhattan to Jersey without touching foot to earth, lifting swooning maidens from second and third stories of burning houses, and wearing arivls as watch-fobs. . . . "Power Pit 13" is in this month's Thrilling Adventures, illustrated, we do believe, by Wesso. . . The first part of Edgar Rice Burroughs' "Carson of Venus" is in the current (Jan. 8) Argosy. . . New York's Filmarte Theatre (which housed the American debut of "The Eternal Mask") plans for the coming year such foreign films as the fantasy "Drole de Drame"; "The Puritan", a psychological drama, and "The Queen of Spades", from the novel by Pushkin---which was heard on "The Witch's Tale" two weeks ago. . . Constance Bennett owns a spaniel named Topper, after Roland Young.

Very cordially yours,

Richard Wilson, Jr.