

SCIENCE FICTION News Letter



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THE THEATRE

New York saw the openings of two more science fiction plays and a fantasy film this week. Monday brought the farce, "If I Were You", adapted by Paul Hervey Fox and Benn W. Levy from the Thorne Smith novel, "Turnabout", which deals with a man and wife who change bodies. Constance Cummings is starred. . . . Saturday the Ernst Toller New York State WPA "No More Peace" opened. This play takes place in the state of Dunkelstein and also in heaven. The stage settings are constructed in such a way that the audience gets a cross section view of the mythical European nation as well as a look into the Upper Regions. Napoleon and St. Francis, of the latter locality, have a wee wee as to whether the country can be made to go to war even tho it wishes otherwise. It can. Noah, Socrates, Cain, Lot and an Angel are other characters. . . . The Ludwig Prywes production, "The Dybbuk", is a Yiddish motion picture likened by one reviewer to "The Golem", and has as its theme the premise that the soul of a dead person may take up dwelling in the body of a person still living. . . . "The Greatest Show on Earth" closed last night, January 29, after a run of 25 days.

SNOW WHITE

The RKO picture, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", is not, as one might think, the first film of that title. 21 years ago Famous-Players-Paramount produced it. Captain Jimmy Rosen, "king of the little people", had a part in this as one of the dwarfs. He played the same role in the Winthrop Ames stage version 25 years ago. He is now acting as the Radio City Music Hall's chief of "special dwarf delivery service", during the film's run at that theatre. . . . There are now being sold Snow White writing paper, birthday and get well cards, cut-outs, etc., besides the numerous versions of the story which are being published at various prices, from 10¢ up. . . . George Jean Nathan, the Great Critic, is quoted in the New York Post as saying "I haven't seen 'Snow White' yet, but they tell me it's splendid. No wonder. There are no actors in it."

THE FAN MAGAZINES

When John V. Baltadonis came to New York this week he brought with him the 16th--and thus far the best--issue of THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, dated November-December. The old columnists are present, as always: Bob Hadle's "Fantagliamblings", Lawrence Patchall's "Fan-

lasy Film Flashes", Carnell's "English Epigrams", Ossie Train's "The Etc. al Wanderer", "Fan Magazine Review" and "The Readers Say." Sam Moskowitz has another of his discussions in the issue, this time entitled "Are There Any More Weinbaums Among Us?"; Milton A. Rothman's contribution is the first of a series of articles on Super Art, this one dealing with music and musical instruments of the future. A witty, bearded gent in a dunce cap called Azygous (look up the word in your largest dictionary: you'll find it's a synonym for Salitaire) contributes "Call It What You Will", a gossip column filled with many and varied untruths. Wollheim reviews the 3d Convention and plugs Michelism. Mowrie Dollens is back with a few cuts and a poem called "Farewell."

The second, Jan.-Feb., FANTASCIENCE DIGEST turns up large size, 20-paged. A short, and (we thought) rather pointless story by Dr. Keller heads the issue, called "The Mother." Rothman again asks the question brought up in a readers column of FANTASY: "Is Science Fiction Juvenile?" Daw describes his visit to the celestial regions in "My Mission in Heaven." James V. Taurasi and Oswald Train collaborate on a fairly entertaining short story called "It's Just the Same." Willis Conover, in his "Looking Around", quotes portions of letters he has received from weird fiction fans and authors. J. Chapman Liske who has a poem in the current AMAZING STORIES, contributes "Spawn." A very good cover by Jack Agnew (who, as we write this, is busily engaged in playing toy soldiers with JVB and Will Sykora). Interior illustrations are by Agnew, Baltadonis, Taurasi and Giunta. A readers' column completes the issue.

The Jan. 24 number of THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN contains "Problem Child, Aged 12", by Robert W. Lowndes; another anonymous columnist, called simply Himself; the usual Fanfarade, and forecast, the Jack Speer IPC Poll, "As Others See Us", an unusual biography column, by a Fred Wellorner.

Olon F. Wiggins had planned to issue GALAXY for the first FAPA mailing. Unfortunately, it was not finished in time, but was mailed with the latest FAN. It contains good art work by Charles Stiles, ads, and a story which, because we do not wish to injure the feelings of Mr. Taurasi, its author, we shall not review. There is also mention of the Kuslan-Wiggins-Taurasi American Fantasy Association, which will demand \$1.25 per year dues.

THE SCIENCE FICTION SCOUT (formerly THE SOLAR SCOUT, which title was discontinued because it was discovered that a professional magazine was called the same), No.3, arrived this week, undated. Contains an Osheroffian editorial, 3 articles (by Moskowitz, we expect) called "Let's Talk", "A Dozen Years From Today", and "Correspondent Facts."

With GALAXY came Jack Speer's THE ZENITH FOUNDATION, which was banned, by the post office, from the recent FAPA mailing because Speer had made corrections in pencil. Two pages, setting forth the aims and results of the radio feature.

Richard Wilson, Jr.
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