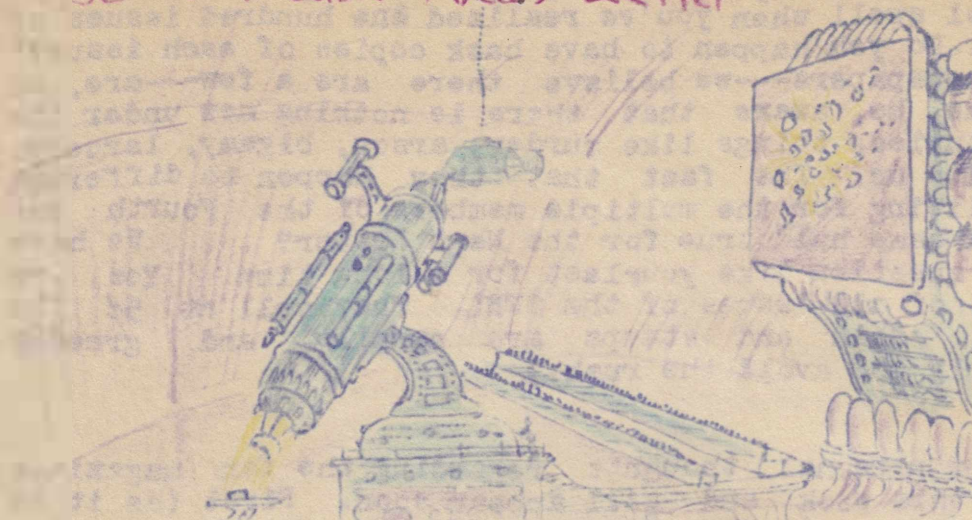


Science Fiction News Letter



Published weekly
at 86-10 117 St.
Richmond Hill NY

5¢ copy - 6, 25¢

Vol. I No. 16

March 19, 1938

JOTTINGS

A Nihil Sum, in a letter to the N. Y. News of March 9, said that he would destroy the human race at noon, Mar. 12, with his powerful thought waves. He must've forgotten about it. . . . A card from Richard I. Meyer announces the formation of the Chicago Science Fiction Clearing House, "an organization for the betterment of knowledge in science fiction." . . . New members of the Queens SFL are Herbert E. Goudket, Donald A. Wollheim, John B. Michel and Frederik Pohl. . . . Johnny Weissmuller, after 7 years of Tarzan roles, will play the title role of "The Wild Man of Borneo." . . . Part I of "The Red Star of Tarzan" appeared in Argosy for Mar. 19. The cover of the issue is entirely taken up by the ape-man, the painter of which, Rudolph Belarski, seems greatly influenced by MGM's Mr. Weissmuller. . . . "Hell Needs a Chaplain", a fantasy by Geoffrey Household, appears in The Atlantic Monthly for March. . . . "Hello," says a bearded bird in "The Jungle Family" comic strip of March 11, "clinic X? Send a shot of my Z.9 Ray down to this tomato-nosed ruffian", after which George B. is reduced to about half his former size. . . . The Lunt-Fontanne play, "Amphitryon 38", closed March 12. It may or may not reopen later this month. . . . A scientifiational-sounding play, "Satyr", by Chester Erskin, has a chance of opening on Broadway. . . . The March 11 Tim and Irene program presented a streamlined version of "Snow White."

FAN MAIL

Highlands, Texas, March 6. Dale Hart: "Have you started getting those free Gulf Funny Weeklies at Gulf service stations? 'Wings Win-fair' is now in a cavern ruled by Thorla, a woman possessing immortality. She gets her immortality from the 'fires of life,' which are the radioactive secret of her longevity. (That last word is spelled like the artist spelled it. My dictionary spells it longevity.) Can you use that in NL?" (You betcha we can use it.) "Meetings of the Tri-Cities Chapter of the SFL will be held in Goose Creek, Texas, at the home of A. B. Johnston. The Tri-Cities are Baytown, Goose Creek and Pelly. A meeting of organization was held on Feb. 23. Election results: Director, me; Vice-Director, Arthur Nelson (in case I'm absent); and, Secretary-Treasurer, Percy T. Wilkinson."

Philadelphia, March 8th. John V. Baltadonis: "The News Letter just seems to tell the same stuff every issue -- only thing is, it concerns different people and localities. One thing I have to compliment you on is your extraordinary regularity . . . I gotta hand it

to you. The very fact that you actually appear every week is swell! I betcha you'll feel swell when you've realized one hundred issues of the News Letter.....Do you happen to have back copies of each issue?" (Those who peruse newspapers---we believe there are a few---are, or should, by this time, be aware that there is nothing new under the sun: that, for centuries, things like murder, arson, bigamy, larceny, etc., have been going on. The fact that they happen to different people provides a living for the multiple members of the Fourth Estate. Does not the same hold true for the News Letter? . . . We have been waiting for a question like your last for a long time. Yes, we have on hand copies of all issues of the NEWS LETTER. They sell at 5¢ the copy, or 6 for 25¢. Coin and stamps are equally and greedily welcomed. Come early and avoid the rush.)

IMPRESSIONS

Here follow our personal thoughts regarding the fan magazines that have appeared this week and will appear soon. First (as it is called on the contents page): THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, Jan.-Feb. issue. There is the customary, lengthy and dull editorial. In one place Editor Baltadonis says: "The issue is absolutely devoid of fiction, as will future issues of the COLLECTOR be. If you have any objections to this policy, you can kick all you want. I won't care. I like the COLLECTOR without fiction and that's the way it's going to be!" Who said "The public be damned"? The issue contains the usual columns, "Fantaglimmerings", "The Eternal Wanderer", "Fan Magazine Review", and "The Readers Say." A new column is Julius Schwartz' "The Science Fiction Eye", bringing with it a breath of the old FANTASY. There is an interesting article by Sam Moskowitz called "Survey of the Fan World for 1938". That, aside from the art work (which is excellently done by Baltadonis thruout) and the ads, is all. . . The publishers have been wont to brag a bit about the COLLECTOR being the best hectographed fan magazine afloat. We disagree at least on one point. There are entirely too many strikeovers.

Also from Philadelphia comes No. 4 of PSYCHE NEWS, in red, purple, green and blue. This 4-page issue is in newspaper format, with blaring headlines enunciating unimportant local news, such as "Pack Dues Paid." Now Obituary Editor of the sheet is Jack Agnew. Besides the news(?), there is an editorial page and a page of the minutes of the Feb. 26 meeting of the Philly society. A bit more trouble to even the margins and brush up on the English would be welcome.

A Rogers-Other-World-dinosaur covers the March SCIENCE FICTION FAN. The editor editorializes, Wollheim Fanfarades and Wiggins Forecasts. There is a poor "Magazine" by J. V. Taurasi. "The New Amazing" by "Lane Stannard" may also be by Taurasi, tho anyone who received a form letter from Ziff-Davis could have written it. Of course there may be a Lane Stannard. An "AO" (who could be Any One) admits that he is the one behind "As Others See Us", which this month takes apart Sam Moskowitz. There are also "Between You and Me", by Robert Bahr, "Ye Fantai(?)sic Bookies" (whose author we suspect to be Wollheim) and 5¢ happy pages of Readers' Comment. Jack Speer's IPO Poll is back again. We personally wouldn't care if Wiggins gave the FAN entirely over to this feature, so interesting is it.

Alex Osheroff's 4th SCIENCE-FICTION SCOUT is out. The usual 4 pages contain ads, an excellent and funny editorial and a semi-biography of Hils H. Frome, with the subject's impression of himself.

Lack of room, unfortunately, forces us to postpone reviews of INTERPLANETARY TALKS, HELIOS and FAN ARTISTS until next week.