



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

5¢ copy - 6, 25¢

Vol. I No. 18

April 2d 1938

### THE READERS TAKE OVER

Dale Hart, of Box 1361, Highlands, Texas, makes us happy with the following: "The News Letter continues to be good. Excellent illustration for the 16th issue. The news that back copies are available is gratifying. Your publishing NL on schedule is nothing short of miraculous. The material used is consistently worthwhile. Item: Juse secured a book called 'Boy Scouts in Death Valley or The City In the Sky.' It was published by M. A. Donohue & Co. of Chicago."

Filler from Jack Speer, Comanche, Oklahoma: "Boys' Life for April, which just arrived, has a-f story Atom Smashers and half page ARS." (ARS, we believe, stands for American Rocket Society)

News from Walter E. Marconette, 2120 Pershing Blvd., Dayton Ohio. "With the second issue Scienti-Snaps changes over to a quarterly. . . I don't think you have ever heard of my new publication, Science Fantasy Movie Review. I have started work on the first edition, but it shall not appear until after the second Scienti-Snaps. Price will be five cents a copy."

From the wilds of Manhasset, N.Y. (44 Norgate Road): "Following are several items to save the NEWS-LETTER from the wrath of the SPWOTD (Which, by the way, I am not connected with except for suggesting the name): Cocomalt BIG BOOK OF COMICS (price one top of one Cocomalt can) contains Don Hastings, authed by Ken Fitch, and pictorialized by Fred Guardner, a more or less interplanetary comic strip; Virgil Finlay has a picture in the AMERICAN WEEKLY for Sunday, March 20. It is illustrating a story about Joana Mandrilla, Wolf-girl of the Carpathians, who vanished again into the wilderness just before her wedding; Robert G. Thompson, scientifan extraordinary, has subscribed to the S-F NEWS LETTER since the first issue, and at the end of Volume 1, may write a story based on each and every letterhead used by the SFNL during the first year. (Yes, including Wollheim's!!!) Till the electrons in the ATOM once more resume their orbits, I remain, Robert G. Thompson"

### GUESSING GAME

There follow descriptions of various famous characters of science fiction, as used by their authors, or, at any rate, people other than us. Your job is to guess whom these phrases describe. The answers will be found in next week's News Letter. To make the game more interesting, the one to guess all correctly will be entitled to three extra weeks of the NL, free. Entries must be postmarked not later than midnight, Friday, April 1.

1. "Do you see that stately figure in the lead? A blond giant, and as handsome a man as I ever saw."

2. " . . . a figure, in human form, created by . . . a famous scientist . . . powerful being, endowed with colossal strength, blindly obeying the orders of his master."

3. "Professor . . . who is among our greatest living scientists---" "Well, sir?" I asked. "Why these invidious qualifications and limitations? Perhaps you can mention who these other predominant scientific men may be to whom you impute equality, or possibly superiority to myself?"

4. "He was a tall man apparently between twenty-five and thirty with grey eyes and black hair . . . leather trappings that supported weapons of unearthly design -- a short sword, a long sword, a dagger, and a pistol."

5. "His hand . . . seemed as cold as ice---more like the hand of a dead than a living man. . . face . . . strong aquiline, with high bridge of the thin nose and peculiarly arched nostrils. The mouth . . . under the heavy moustache, was fixed and rather cruel looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth; these protruded over the lips, whose remarkable ruddiness showed astonishing vitality in a man of his years." (Underscores ours.)

#### CLASH

The one-sided feud between William S. Sykora and Donald A. Wollheim came to a head last night (March 26) at the home of Herbert E. Goudket, at a meeting of the Scientific Cinema Club of New York. Wollheim, Goudket, John B. Michel, Frederik Pohl, Jack Gillespie, Mario Racio, Jr. and Robert W. Lowndes were all there, the last named as a guest. Sykora refused to meet Wollheim, remaining in another room, behind closed doors, while there. Michel, Pohl and Wollheim were proposed for membership. Sykora was of the opinion that these three were the cause of the downfall of the International Scientific Association (which he is attempting to re-form, according to a mimeographed letter mailed this week) and held that they were not sincere in their vows to make a s-f motion picture. Sykora threatened to withdraw from the Club if the three were elected to membership. They were elected, by a majority vote, and, after---what seemed like---many

hours of speech, during which Sykora attempted to change the voters' views, he resigned, promising to return, after a given period of time, to Goudket, should the Club be a failure, and begin again.

#### JOTTINGS

Russ Hodgkins, Los Angeles SFL Director, will have three of his IMAGINATION! Say Out West's bound for the next FAPA mailing. . . On March 21 we heard part of the score of the Russian satire, "The New Gulliver", on the air for the first time. It was the song sung by the Lilliputian crooner and played by Phil Spitalny's orchestra. . . Walter Earl Marconette's letterheads read "SCIENTI-SFU-PUBS"; the SFU, he tells us, stands for Science Publishing Union, which he may someday start. . . Mary W. Shelley's "Frankenstein" is the result of a nightmare. Chapter 6 of "Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars" incorporates scenes from the previous Universal serial "Flash Gordon." This picture is tinted green thruout. Can it be that the atmosphere of the Red Planet is green?