

THE  
SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER

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#### SCIENTIFILM FARE

There are now exactly 40 versions of "Amphitryon", 38 as plays and two as movies. The Lumts did it on Broadway last season; called it "Amphitryon 38". From France came the first motion picture version, "Amphitryon" (or "The Gods at Play"). We now have the German (UFA) production, titled "Aus Den Wolken Kommt das Glueck", or "Fortune from Heaven." You must surely know by now that the story tells of Jupiter, the god, who, from his heavenly home, spies Alceme, falling in love with her immediately. As her husband, Amphitryon, is off to the wars, he feels free to descend to earth, taking the warrior's place. His servant, Mercury, also goes (much against his will, as he despises lowly mortals), assuming the form of Amphitryon's orderly, Sosias. It seems, in passing, that each of the 40 versions has a different spelling for each of the character's names.

On April 16 Broadway's Gaiety Theatre saw the world premiere of "Wajan" (or "The Son of a Witch"), an authentic story of "The Isle of Demons"---Bali---which tells of (quote) Frenzied Rituals! Mystic Powers! Death Rays of the Mind! Thrilling! Amazing! (unquote). This film, in its ads, capitalized on the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey signs (which read "The Terror is Coming!", referring to Gargantua, the giant gorilla), saying "The Terror is Here!"

"The Goldwyn Follies" may be accepted scientifically; it contains a producer named Merlin (Adolph Menjou), three mermaids (the brothers Ritz) and that lingual automaton, Charlie McCarthy. . . The Paramount film, "Men With Wings", will be scientificfictional in that it will require a futuristic airport for the climax. . . Another slightly fantastic movie opening this week was the Technicolor picture, "Her Jungle Love", of which Kurt Siodmak (writer of "F. P. 1 Does Not Reply") is co-author.

#### NOTES

One of Harlem's most popular drinks, just now, is called the King Kong. It sells for a nickel. (Our information is not first hand.) . . . We have it on good authority that G. L. Moore, who is secretary to a bank president in Indianapolis, does all her writing in the marble-vaulted darkness of a deserted bank in the one small spot of light still burning along about 8 o'clock at night. Miss Moore has just returned from Florida, where she effected a convalescence from diptheria. . . The NBC "For Men Only" program of April 11 had Boris Karloff as guest. Mr K told of his experiences before the time he became a star, and after; said his toughest make-up job was that for

"The Mummy", taking him 7 hours to apply and two to remove. . . . As-  
tounding Science-Fiction's editor, John W. Campbell, Jr., frequently  
puts "JWC/DAS" in the lower left-hand corner of his letters. The DAS  
should stand for the initials of a secretary, but in reality they  
stand for Don A. Stuart, non-existent writer whom everyone knows to be  
Campbell himself. . . . Maxwell Anderson's fantastic play, "High Tor",  
is being revived in the Southeast. . . . The Manteo Marionettes, famed  
British troupe, will arrive on Broadway in late April. Agrippino Man-  
teo and his sons operate the puppets, which are 4 feet tall and require  
considerable strength to manipulate them. Mark Twain's "A Connecticut  
Yankee at King Arthur's Court" will be in their repertoire. . . . New  
York night clubs are Le Mirage and The Black Cat. The former features  
a dance called "The Bride of Death".

#### THE MIGHTY BECK

The only fan magazine appearing this week is the March issue of  
THE SCIENCE FICTION CRITIC, with which PHANTASTIQUE is now combined.  
It contains six letters of H. P. Lovecraft, dated May 13 & 19, June 3,  
1936, Jan. 20 and Dec. 19, 1937 and Feb 28?, 1939(sic). F. W. & R. D.  
Swisher write "Apologia, Being a Farewell to Peter Duncan" and L. B.  
Farsaci contributes "The Hope of Science Fiction." There are 4 longish  
letters in the "Words from Readers" dept., all criticizing Duncan's  
farewell &/or Bahr's anti-England outburst in the previous Critic.

#### THE CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

From Jack Speer, whose new address is 137 NE Park, Oklahoma City,  
Okla., where he is attending business college: "I have several items  
this week, among which you may find some worth using in the News Let-  
ter. I dropped into a v&x and counted eight Snow White and the Seven  
Dwarfs versions. Also noticed that the success of this fairy tale has  
called forth new editions of a number of others. . . . Uncle Ray's corner  
discussed the possibility of the moon falling . . . The current American  
Mercury satirizes weird tales of the cheaper sort. . . . Okla. City preacher  
Swihart calls his country retreat Shangri-la. . . ."

Mario Racio, Jr., of 38-14 Astoria Blvd., Astoria, Long Island,  
informs us that: "Yesterday (April 10) the Smithsonian Institute had a  
program about astronomy. Rocket ships of the year 2038, death rays,  
the end of the world all were dramatized." (These imaginative skits  
are written each week by Prof. Peter Hawkins. That of Apr. 17 was  
story of the Inca civilization. Presented Sundays, NBC-Red Network  
4.30 PM, EST.)

SCIENTI-SNAPS' editor, Walter E. Marconette, 2120 Pershing Blvd  
Dayton, Ohio: "Adriana Casselotti, the original movie 'Snow White' a-  
peared on the April 7 'We the People' program. She enacted the se-  
quence from the picture in which Snow White told the dwarfs a story--  
a story which lead into the charming song, 'Someday'. She also sang  
'Whistle While You Work.'"

Coincidentally, from Willis C. Conover, Jr., 27 High St., Cam-  
bridge, Md.: "Still another 'Snow White' appeared as a Betty Boop (Max  
Fleischer) cartoon about five years ago. (Short subject, of course.)"

*Richard Wilson Jr.*