

# SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER



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

5¢ copy - 6, 25¢

Vol. II No. 1  
Whole Number 27

June 4th, 1938

## THE CONVENTION PUBLICATIONS

There were fourteen magazines, pamphlets, etc., issued especially for the Fourth Eastern Science Fiction Convention held in Newark on May 29, 1938. Four of these were published by out-of-towners not present at the occasion. Best of these is *Fantastic*, issued by Litterio B. Farsaci, of Rochester, N. Y., boasting of a printed cover. Mimeographed and hand-written contents include further addenda to the Service Department which ran for quite some time in the *Science Fiction Digest* and in *Fantasy*. . . Forrest J Ackerman took the convention committee literally when they requested that each publication contain 12 pages. FJA's *Baroque Bagatales Brobdingnagian* contains 12 pages, all---with the exception of the cover---blank! . . . Walter Earl Marconette, of Dayton, Ohio, issued a special number of his *Scienti-Snap* which contains two stories by Henry Haskell Hunter and the editor, entitled "Sacrifice on Arnah" and "Doom Moon." Both are well written, and the latter has a novel plot. . . Denver's Olon F. Wiggins' contribution is *Science Fiction Conventioneer*, featuring a James V. Taurasi Bob and Koso story, "The Space Navy," and an article, "In Tune with the Times," by Russell A. Leadabrand. James and Mary Rogers illustrate.

The Michelistic Committee for the Political Advancement of Science Fiction brought forth *The Science Fiction Advance*, dated March, April and May, 1938. This 15-paged, red-bound magazine is frankly Communistic. . . John B. Michel and Donald A. Wollheim issued the CPASF Pamphlet No. 2: "Rejected -- Convention Committee," two speeches which William S. Sykora and Sam Moskowitz objected to having read at the convention. . . *The Scientifilmaker*, dated May and a first issue, urges you to subscribe and baffles would-be obligees by giving no address or subscription rates. A rather childish article, "Make Your Own Cartoon Movies," by James V. Taurasi, and "What I Have Done to Get Metropolis," by William S. Sykora, fill the issue. . . . Taurasi also contributes a magazine, *Wonder Fiction Annual*, #1, 1938, containing "No Return", by JVT and "Almost", by David A. Kyle, both reprints from *Cosmic Tales*; also "The Last Interplanetary S-F Convention," by Thomas G. Robertson and "Scientiscraps," wherein Dale Hart makes, we believe, his initial appearance as a writer.

Vol. I, No. 8 of *The Science Fiction Scout* is merely the stapling together of Nos. 1 thru 6, with a cover by Nils Frome. Most important thing in the issue is the news of the reprinting of A. Merritt's "Creep, Shadow" in the Summer issue of *Detective Book Magazine*. . . e are curious as to the whereabouts of *Scout* #7.

*Cosmos* is the title of Robert A. Madle's, containing some *Cosmos*

Train newsnotes, "Ramblings," a rather sad short story, "Too Bad," by Louis Kuslan; "Convention Highlighters," in which Madle gives some personal opinions of the ESFCiv's two sponsors, Sykora and Moskowitz; Milton A. Rothman writes "Science in Science Fiction;" "Collectors," by Jack Speer, is a reprint from a recent Science Fiction Collector. Credit for the cover is given Jack Agnew, tho it bears the signature of John V. Baltadonis.

What seems to be Sam Moskowitz' magazine is Different. Our confusion is caused by that cryptogrammatic credit at the bottom of page 2. "Fate" is a piece of fiction by a "William Dewey," who may be the Willard Dewey of Everett, Wash., or may be another of Moskowitz' pseudonyms. Claire P. Beck's younger brother, Groo Beck, contributes another story, "Space Coffin." Completing the issue are 3 short articles: "Definition," by Dale Hart, "Was Gallileo's Experiment Conclusive?" by Litterio B. Farsaci, and "Thrilling Wonder," by James V. Taurasi.

Robert G. Thompson submitted a well-written and very entertaining story, "The Magic Drug of Witch-Dr. Boog." The extremely bad hectographing, unfortunately, makes reading of the tale almost prohibitive.

Jack Gillespie employed the greater part of his journey from New York to Newark in cutting up long strips of yellow paper, upon which were masses of mimeographed wordage. A stapler, which protruded from his hip pocket, was to have bound 12 different jagged pieces of paper together to form his convention publication. At the last moment, however, he lost courage, and the Affair went Just Thingsless. Seven pages of it are devoted to caustic comments on the Moskowitz-Wollheim affray (tho J.G. was somewhat hindered by the lack of a Z on his typewriter). We found, to our dismay, "Stuff by Wilson" (scraps written on subways), in there. A sample of "stuff by gillesp," an article(?): "Astrology. If you are born under the sign of Ghu Ghu the Watermelon please write your congressman." Just Things will probably find its way into a future FAPA mailing.

Our contribution to the fund of convention-al knowledge was The Convention Crier, 12 pages of wilsonish fillers. (Ad follows.) Half a dozen or so copies left are available at above address for 10¢ each.

Handbills circulated by Michel-Wollheim include a demand that a C.I.O. worker dismissed from the staff of Standard Magazines be reinstated. Another asks: "Who are the Friends of the ISA?" and appends a blank to be filled in by those desirous of becoming members of the latest of organization, The Friends of the ISA. The other 2 are "The Truth about the ISA" and "Science Fiction Internationale," a songsheet.

#### CONTEST WINNERS

Before going on, we'd like to finish the list of answers to the questions asked in NL #24; seems that we wandered off into nothingness toward the end of Q 8. Continuing, then, from the bottom of p. 1, NL #26: "-der, Schneeman 9. Not Karloff: Colin Clive 10. Anthony (or Tony)." The 5 winners who capture 3-issue subscriptions (or renewals) to the News Letter are: Mirta Forato, Modern Apts., 3d & Vermont, Los Angeles (score 72%); Jack Speer, 137 NE Park, Oklahoma City - 67%; John V. Baltadonis, 1700 Frankford Av., Philadelphia - 65%; Melvin C. Schmidt, R. R. #4, Mt. Vernon, Ind. - 55% and Dale Hart, Box 1361, Highlands, Texas - 50%.

Rabid fans will be glad to spend a dime for the May 30 issue of Life: pages 48 & 49 give a picture-review of the play, "I Married an Angel"; a photo of "R. H. R."s author, Karel Capek, is on p63; pictures of Prague's statues of the Golem and its creator, Rabbi Loew, are on 64; and 71 shows pix of a gent named Tarzan Metz, who longs to play ERB's character on the screen, wherein the muscular one poses loin-clothedly a la ape-man; same page shows the wheeling, N. Va., Negro-amateur production of "Snow White" or a portion thereof.