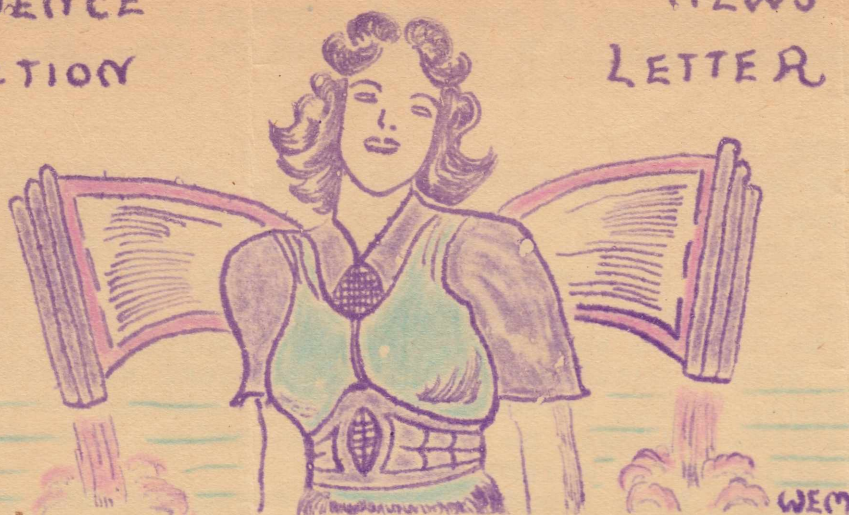


# SCIENCE FICTION

# NEWS LETTER



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## GOSSIP COLUMN

A letter from Lester Dent, Doc Savage's creator, reveals that he is sojourning in France. . . Mrs Charles Edward Pratt, so the papers say, calls her husband "Sweetie-Pie." This would not be remarkable were it not for the fact that Mr Pratt is, in reel life, one Boris Karloff. . . The Masked Spaceman, a Taurasi-FAPA publication, is the first of single-character magazine since the Blish-Miller "Planeteer." . . . Don Richards' "Tex Travis," a cartoon in The Sunday Worker, a Communist newspaper, is now scientificfictional in theme, dealing with the far future. . . Herbert E. Goudket, of 707 Jackson Av., NYC, has for sale photos of the Fourth Eastern Science Fiction Convention, \$1.25 for the set of 33. . . Leo Margulies, chief of Standard Publ., has said that the Oct. Thrilling Wonder Stories will definitely feature a fanmag review.

It takes a Texan (Dale Hart) to tell us of free fantasy to be had in our own city. Seize: "'Told L' a Tongue of Flame' (A Fire Prevention Fantasy) is a small booklet that can . . . be obtained by dropping a card to The National Board of Fire Underwriters, 8 John Street NYC," and says, further: "A 'Fantasy in Decoration' was held in New York recently. It was resplendent with outre creations."

We have at last discovered the identity of the elusive Fred Lawrence, author of two stories in Hell's. He is, believe it or no, a bit player for Warner Bros., appearing recently in "Penrod and His Twin Brother" . . . "That Gigantic Fraud, Astrology" (Reader's Digest, May), again rears its ugly head, this time in the movies, in a WB epic called "When Were You Born?", which pretends to solve murders and such by means of signs of the zodiac.

Postmarked Los Angeles, and dated June 5, comes this. "From Way Out West comes a self-styled 'crypticard' which says: You will never recognize the next Imagination!. No details volunteered."

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

At the close of the 4th Eastern Science Fiction Convention David A. Kyle took active offense at the dictatorial action of the self-appointed chairman, William S. Sykora, circulating a petition which was signed by 30 attendees who attested to the fact that Sykora's method of picking a committee to plan the World's Fair Convention, in 1939, was decidedly prejudiced. The document, duly notarized, is in the hands of Frederik Paul, who volunteered to take a day off from work in order to acquaint N.Y. editors of sf magazines with the true conditions of

the convention. A mimeographed copy of the petition will be mailed to each FAPA member. The chairman of the real convention committee, chosen at the 2d convention, held in N. Y. way back on Feb. 21, 1937, is Donald A. Wollheim.

### JIMMY AND THE COMMUNISTS

We had intended to write an article about this, but, unfortunately (fortunately, for you), we were too busy being bored to pay much attention to the fiasco. 'Twas after the June meeting of the Greater New York BFL. Daniel C. Burford, John R. Michel, Frederik Pohl, Donald A. Wollheim and this representative of the yellow press had gathered together to discuss that which has been chronicled in the paragraph next above. With a puzzling abruptness Taurasi was standing with his back to the wall, facing three wildly gesticulating radicals: Burford, Pohl and Wollheim. Michel, no doubt considering the affair beneath his dignity, joined us in silent boredom.

The verbal battle raged loud (loud enough to drown out the radio-ations of Joe Penner, in the next room) and long (20 minutes or so) without either side scoring heavily. After his self-appointed teachers had departed, Jimmy turned to us, saying: "You know, they sure can get worked up on that subject. I was just testing them out."

The Paramount picture, "Bulldog Drummond's Peril," relates what unscrupulous jewelers do to a scientist who discovers how to make artificial diamonds. . . . Walter E. Marconette will take over James V. Taurasi's *Queer Tales*, which has seen one issue. . . . The second of H. Bedford-Jones' *Halfway House* stories is in the July-Aug. All-American Fiction, entitled "The Vase of Heaven and Earth" . . . The new Jeddara is in the offing. We'll again accept your nickels for it. . . . "Jack Strand in the 4th Dimension Diamond-Ray Adventure," by Frank Frollo, the Flash Gordon picture-plagiariest, appears complete in the first issue of *Little Giant Comics*. . . . "Dr. Occult," one of the more intelligent cartoon stories, has been dropped from the pages of *More Fun Magazine*, along with 2 interplanetary strips. . . . Wallace (Wray) Quitman, author of "Outlaw of Space" in the current *Amazing* is really Raymond A. Palmer, A. S.'s Managing Editor.

Daw now spends a good deal of his leisure time poring over sf in magazines for what seem to him to be reactionary ideas or characters so that he can holler loudly about them to all and sundry. This is evident, not only from his letter in the August *Amazing Stories*, but also from a 2-page, mimeographed sheet he recently issued for the CPASF, in which he bombarded the Astounding serial, "Three Thousand Years!" This outburst has one virtue, however: it provides a comprehensive summary of the story for those too lazy, or, otherwise, without the desire to read it.

### PREVIEW

A few words from Walter E. Marconette, about his forthcoming *Shudder Tales*. "The pictorial section will be heated while the type matter will be carbon copied. This may be a step backward into the dark ages of science-fiction fan magazines, but even so this type of magazine is always quite clear, something which can't always be said for the straight hectographed book. *Shudder Tales* will not contain only the straight weird tales but also weird-scientific yarns. So far only one story is sketched, "Egyptian Hell". It's a yarn in which "The cult of the dread Bast, cat goddess of the ancient Egyptians, lives again in a modern metropolis!"

*Richard Wilson Jr.*