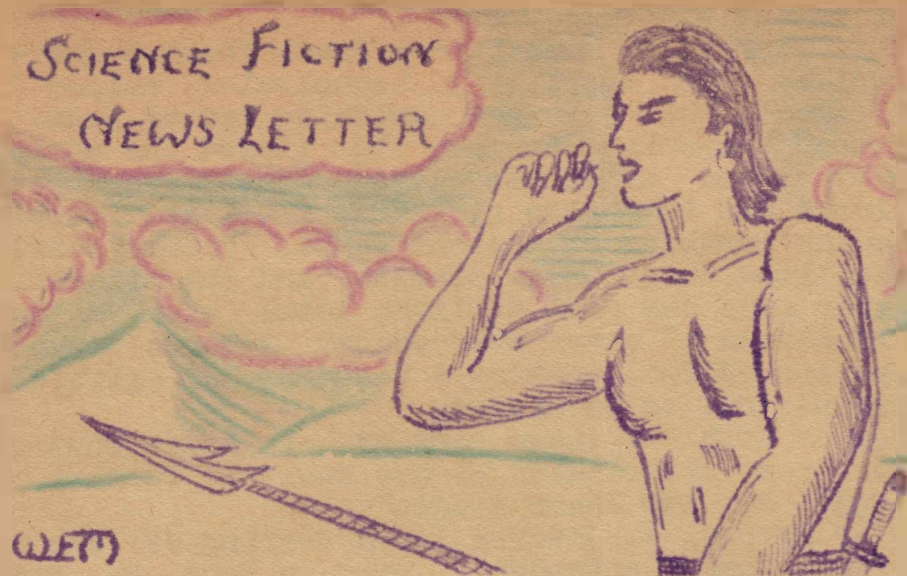


SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER



Published weekly
at 86-10 117 St
Richmond Hill NY

5¢ copy 6 for 25¢

Vol. II No. 4

Whole Number 30

June 25th, 1938

GOINGS-ON

Arthur Bronson, of Publication Press, Inc., 506 Fifth Ave., Minneapolis, will edit Mystic Science Monthly, "a new magazine in the market for articles dealing with mystic and occult subjects. Descriptions of successful experiments in mental telepathy and clairvoyance, eye-witness accounts of what happens in haunted houses, cases of prophetic dreams, premonitions, etc."

Work on the reconstruction of Berlin, called "the most ambitious city planning project of modern times," began June 14. The city's new streets are planned by Hitler to cope with traffic of the year 2500, when millions of "volksautos" will have come into popular use.

The reason why no one will be able to recognize the next imagination! is because Charles D. Hornig, ex-Wonder's ex-ed., will be guest editor. . . There is a Moon Manufacturing Co. in Chicago. . . Gary Cooper, in the Paramount picture, "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife," speaking on the transAtlantic phone from the French Riviera to New York, asks: "How did Flash Gordon get out of that burning submarine?" . . . There are 20 people in New York City named Frankenstein. . . Doc Savage really exists! But his name is Theo F., not Clark, Jr., and he is a Doctor of Divinity living in Manhattan. . . Watch for the formation of an FAPA Laureate Committee, and its five annual awards. . . Robert G. Thompson has a new self-bestowed degree: D. Tm. (not to be confused with the D. T.'s), meaning Doctor of Temponautics. . . Henry Haskel Hunt is, of course, Walter Earl Marconetto---and we must make it a point to ask him where he got that SFL emblem atop his return address. . . What we believe to be the first recorded science fiction double feature played at NY's Audubon Theatre this month: Universal's "Dracula" and Russia's "The New Gulliver". . . The Futile Press offers its third book, priced at \$1.00: "Commonplace Book," by H. P. Lovecraft, "being a compendium of notes and ideas collected by the late master of fantasy over a period of years."

"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS," AGAIN

"Gulliver's Travels" will be filmed, it was announced today (June 16), as a feature length cartoon picture with full color and three dimensional effects. Max Fleischer and Paramount Pictures, Inc., will produce the picture at Fleischer's new film cartoon studio in Miami Fla. The job is expected to take 18 months. (DH)

OUR DAY. - With a Bow to the First Lady

Thursday, June 16. First to Manhattan's Plaza Theatre where we saw, among other things, an MGM short, in technicolor, called "An Optical Poem," which should be required watching for all fans. . . While Franz Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody is played the music is visually interpreted by means of multi-colored geometrical figures. Circles, squares, oblongs and triangles gyrate in intricate orbits. The triangles resemble the pyramids of ancient Egypt; globes whirl about each other as satellites about their planets and the planets, in turn, circle their mother sun; one blob of light looks like a comet plunging thru space; squadrons of other tear-shaped figures dash by, appearing as Brown-like spaceships, against a backdrop of glittering stars. . . . An experience not to be missed.

Then to a bookshop on 49th St., near Park Av., to stare enviously at an ancient handbill once distributed by the National Theatre, advertising the play "1955: or, 100 Years Hence."

Next to the home of Herbert E. Goudket for a meeting of the Scientific Cinema Club of New York, attended also by John B. Michel, Mario Racio, Jr., and Donald A. Wollheim. The club was disbanded by a unanimous vote, whereupon it was discovered that, because of a clever manipulation of the books of the society by William C. Sykora, insuring him a complete return of all his expenses (incurred thru the showing of "The Lost World"), the remaining members were left holding the bag, to the tune of several dollars.

The alumni then made their disillusioned way to a nearby soda parlor, where cooling beverages were sipped in time to the emanations of a nickel Wurlitzer. (Sample selection: Slim & Slam, Negro swing vocalists, tearing into a sedate little piece called "Flat Foot Floogie (with the Floy-Floy).") Suggested headline for Dan McZhail's Rocket: "SWING-MADDENED JITTERBUG WOLLHEIM KICKS OVER TRACES! RUNG AMUCK IN BRONX DIVE!!" Donald will sue.

After which the group, now minus Goudket, made its way to an El station (your raconteur meanwhile casting many anxious glances at newsstands for the July Astounding Science-Fiction, a long day overdue). Exit, en route, Michel. Arrived at Times Square to discover that, from one spot, were visible four theatres playing fantasy films: "The Golem," "Tarzan Escapes," "King Kong" and "The Eternal Mask." The three of us left, after a bit of fortification in a convenient cafeteria, for a session (two for a second) with "The Eternal Mask," the absorbing Swiss film wherein Dr. Dumartin, ably portrayed by Mathias Wieman, a victim of split personality, wanders thru tunnels of madness, seeking himself.

Two two in the morn when we emerged and walked subwayward, this party pausing long enough to buy a copy of the Daily Mirror in order to follow the adventures of Al Capp's "Li'l Abner," who, after a tussle with Mammy Yokum's sulphur-'n'-molasses and the Land of Nod, finds himself possessed of the ability to foretell the future. . . Ella Cinders, in the same paper, now finds herself on America's Lost Plateau and beset by bearded cavemen.

Alfred Kreyenborg's drama, "The Planets," recently broadcast from the Hayden Planetarium, has been sold by Laurence Roberts to Farrar & Rinehart for early book publication. . . The first of five parts of Eric North's "Three Against the Stars", also known as "The Satyr" and front-covered as "'X' from Saturn," appears in Argosy for July 2. Also in this issue is Eustace Cockrell's "Round Trip," deservedly called the short story of the month, describing a mortal's visit to the pearly gates. And "The Invasion of America" begins July 16.

---Richard Wilson, Jr.