

# SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This issue of The Science Fiction News Letter has been mailed to all who have paid for the third issue of The Atom---without charge. Since The Atom has ceased publication (the fact of the matter is that it has been defunct for some time, but, up to now, we have been loath to admit it) there are two courses open to its ex-subscribers:

1. A complete refund of subscription money due them.

2. Transfer of funds from the coffers of The Atom to those of the News Letter; to be fair, however, two issues of the NL will be given where one issue of The Atom would have been.

A postal will suffice to let us know your wishes. In the event that silence greets our remarks, we'll assume that Plan Two is favored and act accordingly.

(The unfinished 3d Atom may be had, if desired, for a 1½¢ stamp.)

## SNICKER DEPT.

"Accusing Michel of being a Communist is a very serious charge!"--  
--Charles D. Hornig in the July Imagination!

## THE MAN WITH THE HO (You know: "Ho, come hither, Gossip!")

The Greater New York SFL has accepted the responsibility of becoming the handling committee for the 1939 New York World's Fair convention. . . William S. Sykora and Donald A. Wollheim, thru the arbitration of Chester Fein, have decided not to sue each other for libel and have come to an understanding. . . The Boris Karloff-Warner Bros. picture, formerly titled "The Return of Dr. X," has been renamed "Devil's Island" . . . "Crime a Hundred Years from Now," in Super Comics, has been replaced by "The Lost Colony of Atlantis" . . . The News Letter's first rival, Fantasy News, saw its first issue this week. It is well mimeographed, contains two pages of triple-columned news, sells for 3-1/3¢ and is published, weekly, of course, to fill out the subscriptions left by the disappearance of Cosmic Tales from the Taurasi stronghold. . . There is a lady in the Communist sf strip, "Tex Travis," called Zorina; and Zorina is the star of the Broadway play-fantasy, "I Married an Angel" . . . The first issue of the Marconette-Wilson-FAPA pub, Incredible, will feature a weird fantasy by Robert W. Lowndes: "The Tale of Chaon Daraka" . . . Walt Disney will eventually do "Alice in Wonderland" as a full length cartoon.

## BATTLE

From Jack Speer, of 137 NE Park, Oklahoma City, come these charges:

"While home over the week-end, I received my FAPA ballot. And the enclosure. No matter how honestly you count and re-check the votes, the election will have been a dishonest one, and if Wollheim wins, which I now doubt, it will be a hollow victory indeed. The very idea of putting your own campaign material in with the ballot; moreover, of giving the opposition no chance to reply! The charges are old ones; they certainly have not reached any new peak lately; on the contrary, they have quieted down disgustingly. But Don hypocritically feels it his solemn duty as president to lambast these candidates opposing him just before the voters mark the ballots ("Return as soon as possible"!)). Why, even in regular elections, the campaigners have to stand off fifty or a hundred feet from the voting place!

"But the thing that makes my blood boil is Wollheim's dropping the mailing at the last minute (he could have called on publishers for postage money if he's broke: cf. recent amendment), after announcing it would go out--that he left the mailing behind, with our stuff, and McPhail's endorsements, et al in it--but sent out his propaganda at a time when the members had no chance to check. A month ago he was complaining about Baltadonis sending the money, in private letters to McPhail, but he never gave Balty a chance to answer the charges by making them openly, sooner, preferring to save them for a dirty trick like this.

"Since we've sworn fealty to the FAPA, we'll back whoever's elected--but Wollheim should be censured--hard."

And a reply from Donald A. Wollheim, 301 West End Ave., New York:

"I fail to see where Speer gets off with calling the election dishonest. Speer himself writes that 'the charges are old...they have not reached any new peak lately...they have quieted down disgustingly.' I call to the attention of all that Speer admits complete knowledge that there have been 'charges', that they have reached peaks in the past, and that he is disgusted that they quieted down. These admissions of his prove everything I wrote in my President's Letter, namely that the club was being sabotaged outside of the FAPA pages, that there have been hidden charges which the makers did not bring to the attention of the members as a whole but used merely to try to prejudice and alienate a group of members. As president of the club I would have been guilty of gross negligence if I had failed to acquaint all members with these contemptible acts. I did not bring them to the members' attention sooner, as I was not aware to what extent JVB was behind them until the morning of the day the Letter was sent out.

"The Official Editor, through the Mailing Manager, (not the president) sends out the mailing. There was no reason to call on publishers for funds; there was plenty in the treasury. The ballots had to go out at a fixed period - see the constitution. Speer also admits that JVB was behind in his work and since Speer was in communication with JVB one may wonder why, in his love for the FAPA, he didn't remind JVB. One was he saving this information to try to damage the club? Or did JVB disregard his words of advice for this purpose?"

(Note: Because of lack of space in the News Letter, there will be no continuation of the above argument in these pages; we suggest that Messrs. Speer and Wollheim fight it out, if they are so inclined, in an FAPA publication, which would be a more appropriate place.)

--Richard Wilson, Jr.