

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER



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PUBLIC NOTICE -- II

(Incorporating Memory Test.) Way back in May, 1937, there appeared the second issue of The Atom, now defunct.--See NL 31. We quote from page two: "PRIZE CONTESTS. ONE. Short-short story: 500 to 1000 words upon any phase of science fiction. First prize: The Macmillan \$2.00 edition of Norman Matson's 'Doctor Fogg'; 2d, 3d, and 4th prizes, respectively, one year, six months and six months subscriptions to The Atom. TWO. Scientifilm: Which, of all the science fiction or fantastic films you have seen, did you most enjoy, and why? Was it 'Things to Come,' 'Metropolis,' 'Frankenstein,' 'King Kong,' 'Dracula' . . . 'Alice in Wonderland'? Tell why in any number of words. Prizes: 9-, 6-, 3-, & 2-issue subscriptions to The Atom . . . Deadline announced next issue."

And the next issue, as you know, never appeared. We've decided that the contest, like the show, must go on. We'll set the deadline at August 1, 1938. Since The Atom was supposed to have appeared bi-monthly, the prizes for Contest One would've been: book, 6 issues, 3 issues and ditto. We'll triple that, except for the first prize, awarding, instead, copies of the News Letter. And, for Contest Two, we'll double the prizes. Winning stories and essays will appear in the First Anniversary Issue of the News Letter, appearing around Xmas.

Q. & A. DEP'T.

We quote from the Department of Exceedingly Idle Observations in the Speer-McPhail Stf. and Nonsense, EBFCiv booklet: "And down here we're wondering if we've been pronouncing the following names correctly" and several are listed. Here are the accepted pronunciations, as we've heard them, of 7/8 of the list: Dockweiler: doc'-erj-ler; Taurasi: correct Italian pronunciation tah'-oo-rahs but called either t-rahsi' or t-racy'; Baltadonis: ball-tuh-don'-is; Wollheim: wole'-hym; Osheroff: osh'-uh-rof; Lowndes: vowel sound as in cow, then follow thru; and Pohl: jst pole.

! DEP'T.

The vermilion New Yorkers changed the title of their club from The Committee for the Political Advancement of Science Fiction to The Committee for New Fantasy until they remembered that Marvel Science Stories is new fantasy. The men of Moscow are now in the market for a new name.

Sidney Howard's Theatre Guild play, "The Ghost of Yankee Doodle," which concerns the next world war, has been published in book form by Scribner's, at \$2.00. . . A group of the ex-members of the ISA took their annual boat ride up the Hudson River Sunday, July 3d. . . Jack Speer's current letterhead, if uninitialed, would read: "Jack Fascist Speer, Royal General of FooFoc, Institute of Private Opinion. . .". . . Broadway's "On Borrowed Time" will 175 performances old this week. . . Sam Moskowitz, Alex Osheroff, Mario Racic, Jr., William S. Sykora and James V. Taurasi (and, possibly, more) plan to visit Louis Kuslan, at his home in West Haven, Conn., near the end of July. . . Plans for the formation of the American Fantasy Association have been abandoned. Details in the July 10th Fantasy News. . . Captain Hazzard Magazine probably won't see another issue. Insufficient circulation. . . The August issue of Weird Tales appears---except for a few stock cuts---entirely without interior illustrations. . . A pro baseball player, whose whereabouts we can only designate as Eastern, is called Flash Gordon. . . Walter Earl Marconette's magazines will henceforth come out under the banner of Empress Publications. . . "Idiot's Delight," another story of future war, is being screened.

THE MAGAZINES

Two first issues this week, both James V. Taurasi's: The Masked Spaceman Magazine, dated June and containing a tale of the Planeteerish gentleman's exploits by Lane Stannard and J. Harry Vincent (both JVT), which will go into the next FAPA mailing; and Tales of Science, dated July-August and featuring Robert G. Thompson's short story, "Days of the Beginning." Each magazine is 4-paged, mimeod. . .

Also in: July Science Fiction Scout, now 2-paged, large sized, mimeod by Taurasi for Alex Osheroff; Fantasy News, July 3; Science Fantasy Movie Review, July issue, containing a chapter-by-chapter resume of "Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars"; and a booklet of drawings by Nils Helmer Frome, distributed by Sam Moskowitz.

JOKE DEP'T.

Since this seems to be a more departmental issue than most, we figure that we may as well instigate a section devoted to jokes, or reasonably accurate facsimiles thereof. We found the underwritten in a letter from John V. Baltadonis, of 1700 Frankford Av., Philadelphia, Pa., and to whom all indignant remonstrations should be addressed:

"JOKE COLUMN for NEWS LETTER: Joke #1 : -- Wollheim Joke #2: -- 1st pers. Who was that man I saw you with last night? 2nd pers. That was no man, that was Wollheim! . . . You're free to use them, if you so desire. I'd like every one to read them, so that DAW couldn't say I keep stuff like that under cover...what for? It's too good!"

JEER DEP'T.

Having gotten the above off his chest, Honest John beefs thus: "Speaking of the NEWS LETTER reminds me: You have recently degraded almost to the level of a Wollheim gossip column (though nothing could actually be that low)....not in gossip, understand, but in just plain material worth. Fooey! Methinkest that good available material for your sheet just 'isn't.' I'm sure no one would miss anything extraordinary in the stf field if you ceased publication; for, of late, you have carried nothing worth while at all!" (We hate you, too, Sir!)

---Richard Wilson, Jr.