



SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER

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MEMORANDA

J. B. Priestley, the British author of one of last season's fantastic plays, "Time and the Conways," again dips into it, this time via a novel, titled "The Doomsday Men" and published by Harper's at \$2.50. It concerns the Brothers MacMichael, who plan to blow up old Mother Earth.

A couple of weeks ago a book almost ceased to be science fiction. Howard Hughes came within 11 hours of performing the feat of David Whitley in his plane, the Eagle, as he circumnavigated the globe in a little over four days. The book, by William Wallace Cook, was published in 1925 by Chelsea House. Title: "Around the World in Eighty Hours."

Member No. 50 in the FAPA is Percy P. Wilkinson, of Highlands, Texas, member of Iri-Cities SPL (directed by Dale Hart), who has thus returned to science fiction after an absence of six years. . . The Am-kin future film, "If War Comes Tomorrow," shows Russia being invaded. The invaders are quite frankly shown to be Germans, with swastikas visible upon their planes, tanks, etc. . . . Hollywood producer Jed Buell will put the Gargantuan American folk-lore character, Paul Bunyan, on the screen. The "giant" of the picture will be a normal actor, and the rest of the cast midgets. . . . Frederik Pohl is joining the Communist Party. He will be the first science fiction fan to do so.

BOBBY'S HOBBY-LOBBY

This from Robert G. Thompson, unfortunately crowded out of the last issue: "On Sunday, June 10, all fantasy fans should have spent the 1800 seconds between 7:00 P.M. and 7:30 a.m. listening to HOBBY-LOBBY, Jello's summer program on which unusual hobbyists (hobbyists with unusual hobbies, rather) come from all over the country to tell of their spare-time pursuits. Two had to do with weird- and science-fiction: Big Looie, a robot, and the gentleman, or maybe it was gentlemen, who had constructed him, and operate him by remote control. He walks, talks, and plays the harmonica. The other was a young lady (I'm not sure she was young, but I might as well be chivalrous) who collected remnants of the witch-burning period in the U.S.A., such as ornaments which were used to protect homes from the evil sorcerers. Next week, if I understood correctly, they will have . . . a hobbyist whose hobby is tracking down ghosts."

DEMOCRACY

The 1,036th plan mulled over by World's Fair architects and engineers was decided upon as the one to be used in the interior of the perisphere half of the Fair's Theme Center. Visitors will enter the base of the trylon and ascend the escalators to the sphere, mounting one of two moving circular platforms (called "magic carpets") from which may be had a view of Democracy, "The City of Tomorrow," below, in model form. The exhibit will be seen as from a height of 7,000 feet. The entire show will take only six minutes, but the illusion of change from day to night, with the waning of the sun's light and the illumination of the city, is perfectly planned and many weeks must be taken before synchronization of lights, music, projection, etc., to the split second, is completed. The exhibit will open May 1, 1938, and was designed by Henry Dreyfus.

STAGE & SCREEN

Bert Lahr has been given the part of the Cowardly Lion in MGM's "The Wizard of Oz." A batch of midgets were being tested for parts in this picture, which is advertised as being a musical. Mario Macic, Jr. says it is being done in picture and cartoon form. . . . "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" played in London for 22 weeks, breaking all records. . . . Raymond Massey (star of "Things to Come") is leaving the cast of the London production of "Idiot's Delight;" his place is being taken by Lee Tracy. . . . The Dowager Queen Mary recently attended a performance of "Amphitryon 38" in London. . . . Walt Disney knows what features and shorts he will release up to 1945. . . . The Los Angeles SPL may or may not know this: Max Reinhardt, on August 15, will inaugurate his annual Salzburg-in-Hollywood season with a \$100,000 dramatic presentation of "Faust" at the Pilgrimage Theatre. . . . Sinclair Lewis appears as Doremus Jessup in his play, "It Can't Happen Here," at Cohasset, Mass., in summer theatre. . . . Desmond Hurst's picturization of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" brought to a close the 10-day period devoted to British films in the International Film Festival at New York's 55th Street Playhouse.

Have you matinee movie addicts noticed the same high-pitched, whining sound that has been used in three different Republic fantastic serials? In "The Undersea Kingdom" the sound was that of the motor of the Atlantean Juggernaut; it was the sound made by the Flying Wing---when ruining bridges by means of vibration---in "Dick Tracy;" and, now, in "The Fighting Devil Dogs," it is the sound made by the destructive artificial lightning-bolt hurled by the masked madman, The Lightning. (Of course, we're the only one that cares about the above, but if we put it in the NL it'll keep, while if we note it elsewhere 'twill be but a matter of days before it gets lost among the other scientifiotional debris that clutters 86-10.)

EUGENE, AGAIN

A postal from our ever-loving brother, Roger C., postmarked Elkton, Md.: "Coming out I saw a sign with a jeep advertising some gas. N.L. still getting along all right?" (NL getting along fine, and thank you.)

ANECDOTE

After rummaging thru the lady's trunks for a few minutes, the customs officer cried "Aha!" and drew forth a bottle.

"That's holy water," said the lady, "from Palestine."

The customs officer extracted the cork, discovering that the bottle's contents smelt strongly of the aroma of the fermented grape.

"Holy water, eh?" cried the c. c. "Smell this!"

"My goodness," said the lady. "A miracle!"