



THE  
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NEWS LETTER

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WHEREIN WE SAY ADIEU

Adieu, but not goodbye. It happens that we shall be on our vacation, beginning today, for a period of two weeks, which, no doubt, will seem like a couple of weekends. Tomorrow we pack up and depart for the City of Brotherly Love, Pa. John V. Baltadonis, editor of The Science Fiction Collector and numerous other things, has very kindly consented to put us up for a week or so. After which we shall return to Goose Gotham for a long enough siesta in which to read our piled-up mail. Then to Monticello, N. Y., to visit David A. Kyle before that worthy (who, at the writing, is bidding fond farewell to New York City) leaves for his first year at the University of Alabama.

It is extremely doubtful that any News Letter will emerge from our hectograph during this period of time. Unless someone cares to be guest editor (hint-hint) for a couple of weeks, which possibility we strongly doubt.

MEMO: RE THE FOO FOO, FROM HING STREET CHINGU

To John B. Michel go all honors for discovering, when accompanied by Claire Beck, Donald A. Hollheim and yours truly, in the north-west corner of Gallery K27 of the Metropolitan Museum of Art a porcelain figure adapted from the Chinese dog of Foo. The porcelain figure adapted from the Chinese dog of Foo is very hideous.

IS-IT ANYTHING-OTHER? NO!

There seems to be a little misunderstanding. Certain gentlemen among the science fiction fans have pointed fingers of scorn at us and laughed uproariously at our "scandal-sheet," "yellow journal," or whatever you may choose to call it, saying, in substance: "You call it The Science Fiction News Letter, yet print items about such fantastic things as 'Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs,' 'Paul Bunyan,' etc. Where do you get off?" We don't get off. We keep right on going. We had been laboring under the delusion that the unsatisfactory term "science fiction," or "science-fiction," embodied weird fiction, fan-(or phan-) tasy, off-trail stuff, folklore, daemology . . . in short, anything not today possible, or generally scoffed at as improbable. We shall, if you don't mind, continue to labor under that delusion. If we have offended anyone's aesthetics we are sorry, and

apologize therefore. We shall not, however, change the policy of the News Letter,--nor the name. And we'll gladly refund the subscription money of anyone who wishes it. Live forms at the teller's window. Please keep to the right.

And now, having got the above off our chest, we feel free to expand several items, one or two of which might have been traveling under false colors. . . Columbia Pictures will soon release a batch of new serials. Among them are "Mandrake, the Magician" and "The Spider." . . . Robert Benchley may play the title role in "The Wizard of Oz." . . . Work on "Topper Takes a Trip" has been held up because Constance Bennett, of the original cast, has been working at Universal instead of MGM. . . Certain people suggest an organization called "New Fan-Dump," to be the final resting place for old and worn out science fiction organizations. (Any similarity, of course, between this name and that of any other organization is pure coincidence, however remarkable.) . . . Jack Speer is circulating a Petition of Reprimand which protests infractions of the NAPA constitution by its members....

J O K E

Adam (proposing): "Why do you keep me in suspense? Is there someone else?"

Eve: "That's just what I don't know."

#### WHEREIN IT IS SHOWN THAT TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Morojo sends "Lil news for Ur SFNL: DESERTER! Famous Fan quits army--of unemployd! The Great J is now drawing desirable pay from Uncle Sam as a Civil Service Sr Typist at the Engineering Mechanical Base in Burbank, home the famed horticultural king. His hrs r midnite 'on', known as the Graveyard shift, during which he keeps TIME.

"His private rocket being repaired, he has arranged for transportation from & returning to Hollywood with the First Aid fellow of the outfit who notes Perry carrying a copy of the British Fantasy inquired if he'd ever read Amazing Stories! . . . J has rovd his first check & asks me, acting as his Sekretario, to announce, thru your sheet, he's ready willing & able to b taken in--he thanx again the many many fanmag editors who kindly have supplyd him complimentary cyps their pubs in the past for purposes of publicity & now asserts he need only b sent a sample any new ayjay fantasy endeavor & he will be happy to support it with a sub. . . One un-4-tunate aspect of 4e's employment: Heretofore he devoted virtually the major portion every month to IMAG, in editorial capacity, as author, artist, columnist, compositor, subscription slerk &c. But now, his hrs long as a typical 'scientifiocombination' & freetime short as a word in Ackermanese-- The last line in IMAGINATION! 12 may prove unhappily profetic..."

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We have said that we're going to Philadelphia for a prolonged week end. We've neglected, tho, to mention that Jack Speer will leave Washington, D. C., for the same purpose August 27-28. Not the same p u r pose, really. He'll only spend a day or two in that fair city... Jed-dara is out, finally. It's, heheh, the June number. . . Jack Gillespie, who reports that John V. Baltadonis seems to be spending all summer tossing darts at targets, says JVB is thinking of making the target a caricature of Donald A. Wollheim to liven the game. . . . Juffus Speer has novelized "The Golem" for Empress' Science Fantasy Movie Review... Since the 38th and the current NLA are being published within a couple of days of each other, we didn't think (presumptuously, praps) you'd mind if we mailed 'em together....