

THE

SCIENCE

FICTION

NEWS

LETTER

An Empress Publication
Published weekly, at:
86-10 117th Street,
Richmond Hill, N. Y.
5¢ per copy; 6 for 25¢

Volume II, Number 23. Whole Number 49. November 5th, 1938.

COUP D'ETAT, OR WHAT HAVE YOU

The News Letter lays bare gory details of shift in power of Fantasy Amateur Press Association. On Oct. 25 Robert W. Lowndes resigned as Vice President. President John B. Michel appointed Olon F. Wiggins in his place. Michel resigned and Wiggins became president. On Oct. 31 Donald A. Wollheim will resign and Wiggins will appoint either Walter E. Marconette or Wilson to the Vice Presidency & Milton A. Rothman to the position of Official Editor. The FAPA mailing will come out the following day (Nov. 1) with a special edition of the Fantasy Amateur. James V. Taurasi, as Secretary-Treasurer, will be the only officer not affected. Novel will be the position of Wiggins, experiencing 3 degrees of membership within the space of a few minutes: regular member, Vice President, President!

THE LAIR OF THE POHL

The Science Fiction Poet's Guild, practically unique org, reports that absolutely no applications for membership have been received for the month of October. F. Pohl, Organizer thereof, is now worrying how to get rid of the dozen-odd (if I were Wilson I would say how very odd) members who have already forced themselves upon the Guild. . . . Latest cancer on the life of the great metropolis of NY is the Science Fiction Swing Band, with those eminent jitterbugs & follyboys J. Gillespie, Cyril Kornbluth, Ivan Mikhail, P. A. Wollheim & F. Pohl beating it out every second Sunday after Futurian meetings. . . . Tovarich Kornbluth, by the by, has just contributed a new facet to the cultural development of NYfandom with a hellish little thing called The String Game. Little can be said about this for publication, but those who simply have to know can probably get complete detailed plans of operation from Korny himself. . . . One of the pro mags is negotiating for the illustrative services of Leslie Perrin FAPA member & Mind of Man artiste, if negotiating is the word I want. . . I have a scoop on the news that 'EWS' publishers will shortly issue a mag called Strange Stories, but since the news will be widespread before this sees print I won't even mention it here. . . The Science Fiction News Letter Correspondents of America, new union in the field, may declare a strike on NL if contractual obligations are not lived up to by the publisher. Frederik Pohl, International President of the union, states: "Our member is 100% united behind us in any action we may take. He has voted unanimously in favor of the strike action. We trust to the intelligence of the reading public to cancel their subscriptions to this magazine if a boycott is called." The reason given by Brother Pohl in a prepared statement was withholding of wages due union member. . . Much public sentiment has already been aroused against this periodical by reason of the very v-e-r-y careless slips in typography committed by its publisher. Not content with making cryptic references to such alien institutions as the "outfil," the publisher has seen fit in the 29 Oct. issue to label those who read science fiction as "gans." Have a care, Empress Publications! There is a limit to what the awakened masses will stand! XXX

An exhaustive account of The Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference is to be found in the Oct. 23 issue of our eminent contemporary, Fantasy News. Jack Spoor, herounder, shows us some of the "lo-lites" of the affair:

A Fan Goes to Washington--Episode VII and last to be written
THE PHILLY CONFERENCE--NEUR RANDOM :Spoor/Oct22/F38

The Conference has, I believe, fully as great an attendance as Rothman expected, in the end. Probably owing largely to Wellheim's boycott, there was a universal spirit of good will among those present....Robert G Thomp: "How would you like to join --" (sorry, I no recall the name) "Publications?" F: "Is it connected with Cosmic?" (with a sidelong glance at JVT). T: "No." F: "Well, then, I might consider it." T: "The Science Fiction Miscellany is one of its publications." F: "No, no, no, no, no, no, no!" T: "If you join -- Publications, you have a chance of not getting your name mentioned in the next Miscellany." Intimidation, I calls it....What is the Purpose of Science Fiction? Weisinger frankly admitted it was to make money for the editors, but added what he tho't sh'ld be.. It seemed generally agreed to that af can't, alone, make technicians out of us, but no objections were heard to the statement that it gives its devotees a better-than-average understanding of science, but that, for us, that reason for reading it no longer applies.. Just how dead Michelism is was evidenced by the fact that the word occurred only once in the discussion, when I used it in connection with the alleged "Gernsback delusion".. Campbell's wire arrived at this point, and sounded as tho he'd known everything we were saying. F-F's purpose, he said, is to answer the "So what?" that is flung at atomic research, rocket experimentation, etc--to show what these lines of work may develop into; and to make the average man realize that the world will change....I fear Perlman, Baltimore dark horse of the Third Convention, didn't get his share of supper, tho of said supper there was a gr'at sufficiency. He spent all the time snap-shooting from various odd corners of the ceiling Outstanding memory of the marionette show: RGT's blonde head continually wandering into the line between Perlman's camera and the stage....

FOR THE RECORD: The Latest Scientifilm

Released Oct. 23, at the Broadway Cine Roma Theatre (N.Y.), "L'Antenato" (The Ancestor), an E.N.I.C. (Italian) production, stars one Antonio Gondusio. The story, briefly: Guiscardo is the last of a long line of Italian aristocrats. He's gotten into financial difficulties & contemplates selling his family's historic castle and marrying some low woman. Luckily his baron ancestor from the 15th Century takes a hand and come out of his tomb to set things aright,

P. S.

A. Merritt is back -- in Argosy, where his "The Ship of Ishtar" is being reprinted as a 6-part serial. Argosy's Nov. 5 issue presents H. Bedford-Jones' Halfway House story, "Isle of the Dead". . . David A. Kyle has discovered that the South has landlords, too, & has moved to 804 13th Av., Tuscaloosa, Ala. ("Libel! Libel!"). . . Fanmgs recd: Scienti-Snaps, Fall, '38; Cosmic Tales, Sept; Fantasy News, Oct 23 (special 6-p. issue). The first issue this week is Bob Tucker's The Science Fiction Advertiser, Vulcan-Cosmic pub, undated, 4-p., small-hecto. Except for being non-FAPA, this mag. serves same purpose as Ø's sheet of same name. Because of this, Tucker's second issue (which will be mimic)'ll be called Science & Fantasy Advertiser

Richard Wilson, Jr.

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