

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

It's a pity Gaston Leroux's "The Phantom of the Opera" isn't fantastic: Universal will remake it, possibly in Technicolor, with Boris Karloff in the title role and with Deanna Durbin as Christine Daae...Life continues to publish pictures of fanciful interest: its Dec. 26 issue presents scenes from "A Christmas Carol"--one of Marley's chain-clanking ghost--, the Chicago Advertising Managers Club "Shudder Show," or the burial of Santa Claus, a 5-page pictorial section, complete with angels, depicting the birth of Christ as if it happened in New England, today--and a photo of the prizewinners for the most grotesque costume--"Men from Mars"--at Akron's recent Rubber Ball...The Jan. 2 issue gives scenes from Hal Roach's "Topper Takes a Trip," explaining some of the invisibility effects...King Features Syndicate released "Dickens' 'The Chimes' -- A New Year's Fantasy" in cartoon form, by William Sherb & David Vormelker...Robert G. Thompson, who sports purty printed stationery, writes: "In 'Thimble Theatre' by Segar (but Segar is dead, so it must be ghost-written now--pun!!) Popeye is on an island somewhere or other where he has met a 'she-nymph'. She recently showed him a spring from which a wild boar started drinking, to end up a tiny piglet... I'd like to ask if you've noticed the similarity of Dinny, pet of the title character in V. T. Hamlin's strip, 'Alley Oop,' to the Mahars, super-intelligent reptiles in Edgar Rice Burroughs' Pellucidar books...Riddle: If the Communists came into power Tuesday, what science-fiction organization would Taurasi be by Friday?...Answer: A New Phantom." ... Click for Feb., 1939 shows on its cover a photo-drawing depicting a Martian carrying off a swooning maiden. Within is drawn a parallel between Orson Welles' broadcast & Hitler's radio speeches.

CINEMA

"A Christmas Carol," the MGM picture made from the Charles Dickens' story, opened Dec. 22 in N. Y., starring Reginald Owen and Gene & Kathleen Lockhart, and complete with Marley's ghost and the Spirits of Christmas, Past, Present & Future. (Resume in the Jan. issue of Screen Romances.--The original story was published Christmas Day, in full, in the N. Y. News & affiliated newspapers, with a marvelous illustration of Marley's ghost by Kidd.)

N. Y.'s 86th St. Casino Theater saw the opening Dec. 23 of "Faehrmann Maria" (Ferryman Maria), a Terra-Film (German) production, starring Sybille Schmitz in the title role. Supernatural.

United Artists' "Topper Takes a Trip"--"Topper"'s sequel--op'd Dec. 29 at Radio City Music Hall with Roland Young in the title role. It is from the novel by Thorne Smith, and is concerned with Cosmo Topper's adventures with a band of invisible ghosts. (The Jan issue of M vie Story Magazine, in which it is resumed, credits the story in error, to Ed Sullivan--unless we're in error; Sullivan may've cleaned it up for the movies.)

THANKS A MILLION

To Morojo, for her Xmas gift of one of those neotric, green-&-brown typewriter ribbons.

To Claire Beck, for a packet of scientifiction including the April, 1935, issue of the TFG Bulletin, Murray Leinster's "The Morrison Monomunt," the Oct., 1930, Amazing Detective Tales and the advance circular announcement re Unusual Stories.

To Maurice K. Hanson, for clippings from the Daily Express & Daily Sketch (London) regarding the Martian invasion.

To Elmer Perdue, for candid camera shots, taken directly from the screen, of the scientifilms: "The Man Who Could Work Miracles," "Frankenstein," & "Arrest Bulldog Drummond."

To John B. Michel, for a set of beautifully silk-screen International Observer covers, which is his contribution to Nell's-Grab-Bag.

To Dale Hart, for an envelope full of press clippings of fantastic nature, and the weird story, "Always Second," by Michael Fessler, from Esquire for Oct., 1934.

To Roger Wilson--our brother--for H. G. Wells' "The Shape of Things to Come."

To all of you who remembered us with Xmas & New Year cards.

AMATEUR SCIENCE, FICTION & FANTASY MAGAZINES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Futurian, Dec. 25, 1938, V1#2

The Satellite, Jan., 1939, V2#1 (Change, this issue, to mimeographed, large-sized format, 12 pages.)

Fantasy-News, Dec. 26, 1938, V2#1. 8-page issue. With this was mailed 4 mimeographed pages of reprinted material by Sam Moskowitz, more of which will be distributed from time to time, with a view to ultimately assembling in one volume all his worth-while works. Also included was:

Current Fantasy, Dec., 1938, V2#1, hectographed now on letter-size sheets.

Fantasy-News, Jan. 1, 1939, V2#2.

Le Vombiteur, V1#6 (undated), & V1#7 (Dec. 31, 1938).

Le Vombiteur Littéraire, an occasional supplement to Le V. This issue, Mimeographed with silk-screen cover, presents word sketches of Michel, Wollheim, Lowndes, Pohl, Kornbluth & Gillespie by Leslie Perri.

Cosmic Tales, Oct.-Nov., 1938, V1#7; & Dec., 1938, V1#8.

The Zombie, #1. Undated, perpetrated by Bob Tucker & mimeographed on a letter-sized yellow sheet. Contents consist entirely of ballyhoo for the second issue of D'Journal. Au verso may be found a reproduction of the cover of D'JOURNAL. (Sic! We catch Cover Artist Taurasi in no 'N' of errors!)

The Review. (Prepublication title: The Teleview.) Really the first issue (and, says Wally Marconette, ed., probably the last), a typo turns it into Vol. 50, No. 1. Dated Jan. 2, 1939, it consists of three-large-sized, well mimeographed pages. Two synopses of dramatizations of the fantasy programs on C.B.S.: "The Hermit's Cave," "The Phantom Under Traffic Bridge" & "The Masked Figure at Mardi Gras" are provided by the editor. 5¢; 6 for 25¢.

ENCLOSED

S-F Dividend #6.

Lick Wilson