

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER
An EMPRESS Publication
Five cents the copy; 6 for 25¢.

Published weekly at
86-10 117th Street,
Richmond Hill, N.Y.

Volume III, Number 14. Whole Number 66. February 25th, 1939.

SCARCELY CREDIBLE COMMUNICATION

From Sam Moskowitz: "Before you read any further I strongly advise that you take a good grip on yourself (and incidentally the chair). Prepare a goodly supply of restoratives and a soft place to fall should you suddenly pass out.... Taurasi and myself would like the honor of guest-editing The Science Fiction News Letter during the three weeks you are away on vacation!!!!!!. If you accept our offer we promise to do a good job on the News Letter...making a real conscientious effort to maintain and better your standard. No tomfoolery intended...."

We have put away the smelling-salts and have recovered sufficiently from the blow between the eyes dealt by the above's message coherently to think. We naturally never expected anything of this sort from rivals Moskowitz & Taurasi. We had, in fact, only a short while ago, gratefully accepted the offer of John B. Michel to publish Nell during our vacation, with Donald A. Wellheim & Frederik Pohl acting as newshawks. But when we received the Moskowitz Missive, we had the glimmer of a very screwy idea which might easily become practicable, should both sets of would-be publishers agree to it. Very Screwy Idea follows:

That there be two editions of Nell each of the weeks we are relieved of the responsibility of being stooge to great financial institutions. Michel-Pohl-Wellheim to do the issue of May 6 (Vol. III, No. 24a, Whole Number 76). Moskowitz-Taurasi, upon receipt of same, to perpetrate issue of May 9 or 10 (Vol. III, No. 24b, Whole Number 76A). M-Z-W, one week after #76, do issue of May 13 (Vol. III, No. 25a, WN 77). M-T, &c, &c. Clear? Agreeable? In this way, each of the groups will easily be able to refute the misstatements of fact made by the other group (We have little doubt that each proxy-publisher will have things to say about the other--they have had plenty to say in the past.).... Subscribers would receive 2-for-1 at no extra charge. Nell will reimburse publishers, of course.

What say you, gentlemen?

FUTURIAN BOY MAKES GOOD

As noted in passing last week, Isaac Asimov, Secretary of the Futurian Society, has made his second & third sales to the pros: "Ad Astra", a 6900-worder, to Astounding Science-Fiction, and "Ring Around the Sun", a bit shorter in length, to Science Fiction. Mr A. denies that a sequel to the latter is being prepared, entitled "Ring Around the Rosie", dedicated to Britain's Mr Rosenblum.

And now for the 5 favorite fantascience films of our budding genius, listed while under the influence of the brew dispensed at a Brooklyn soda-fount: "Things to Come", "King Kong", "Son of Kong", "Frankenstein" & "Dracula".

B. R. & Co.

New Universal's latest serial is "Buck Rogers", based on the Phil Nowlan-Dick Calkins strip, featuring Buster Crabbe as Buck, Constance Moore as Wilma & Jackie Moran as Buddy Dare (Deering?). There are 12 (thrill-packed, no doubt) chapters. Chapter 1, titled "Tomorrow's World", begins at N. Y.'s neighborhood houses Feb. 24

IT IS NOT YET

"How America Entered the Next World War" is a picture-fable to be found in Lock for Feb. 28. Based on an article by John Haynes Holmes in The Christian Century and supposedly written in 1991, the 4-page prophecy is made up of retouched and posed photos and a scene from "Things to Come". The cover-photo--that of a gasmasked child praying--is from this off-trail bit of stf... Also in this issue is a 3-page picture review of Universal's "Son of Frankenstein", which, says Lock, "starts a new horror cycle...Death rays, space-ships, disintegration beams and other weirdly lethal instruments are being built in every property shop. 'Nightmares for everybody' is the Hollywood slogan for a more horrible 1939."

Samuel Hopkins Adams' "The World Goes Smash", story of the American revolution of 1940, first serialized in Liberty in Sept., 1937--later published in book form--makes another appearance in the N. Y. Post Feb. 15...The David McKay Co.'s Feature Book #18 is Lee Falk & Phil Davis' "Mandrake the Magician", reprinting the cartoon strip from Sept. 13, 1937 thru Jan. 29, 1938--10¢...Wm. Ritt & Clarence Gray's "Brick Bradford", having done with the Fortress of Fear, will next be embroiled with an evil genius, Avil Blue, who creates "The Metal Monster"--a titanic robot menace to all mankind"...Bernard Maskwicz, Fantasy Digest artist, has sold cartoons to Hooey, the defunct humor mag.

We dropped in at the Miami Theater (on soon-to-be-El-less 6th Av.) and saw the Latin Films presentation of "A new edition of Gabriele d'Annunzio's masterpiece, 'Cabiria'", which is evidently a very old Italian silent picture. It is a non-talkie, but sound has been added, and there are new English & Italian titles. The story takes place some time before the Christian Era--as Mr Wells would say--and deals with the Roman wars of colonization and with sacrifices to the god Moloch, etc. The fantastic element is provided by a magic ring which protects its owner, Fulvius, a Roman spy, from all harm.... "Cabiria", which plays to Saturday afternoon audiences of 40, is now, for some reason, in its third week.

THE FOHL VAULT

The Futurian Society of New York, one of the largest and most active fan groups ever to exist, is so proud of its prowess in one city that it may shortly sponsor a world-wide organization. If it goes thru, the new group will have an organizational set-up of an entirely new type, and one which should obviate the faults which contributed to the break-up of the ISA and make the SFL and SFA relatively impotent (to name only three of dozens)...John Michel has bloomed as a bard by peddling a poem to a local newspaper...The details of the new 5-handed, 4-player checker game, scheduled to appear herein, will be delayed indefinitely, as gilles-phi, the inventors, haven't yet buckled down & played it out. In case anyone is interested. fp

THE WEEK'S ARRIVALS

Fantasy-News, Feb 12, V2#8

Le Vombiteur, Feb 18, V2#2

The 2d of "these 5c affairs" published by the Los Angeles SFL, undated, untitled, featuring a tribute to the late Joseph Hatch and "Sabina of the White Cylinder", by Forrest J Ackerman; "Has Science-Fiction a Future?" & "Extremes & Extremitys" by Chas. D. Hornig & Dale Hart; and a "sophisticated phantasy" by Ralph Milne Farley: "The Man Who Could Turn Back the Clock". 5¢ from Bx 6475, Met Sta, LA/Cal

Dick Wilson