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IN BRIEF

Bramwell Fletcher and Helen Chandler, of the cast of "Outward Bound", enacted a scene from the time-travel play, "Berkeley Square" Mar. 9 over NY's WHN...Has anyone, we wonder, read Dana Chambers' "Some Day I'll Kill You"? We ask because Time labels this mystery as having a "somewhat Flash Gordon plot." ...Huge, elegant, red Martians prance malevolently on the cover of the Nov. 27, '38 issue of Bohemia --a Cuban magazine. Within is found (in Spanish) part 1 of a serialization of H. G. Wells' "La Guerra de los Mundos", plentifully illustrated.

FLASHES FROM ENGLAND --by G. Ken Chapman

I intend to use this column entirely for one purpose this week, namely an interview, kindly accorded me last weekend by Editor Walter H. Gillings, of Tales of Wonder fame.

The rumour has been consistently going the usual rounds here for several weeks now that ToW's circulation was causing certain changes to be made in the policy of the magazine. What these changes were to be only a few people knew, and these few were not prepared to divulge.

Naturally, my first question to WG was to ask him just what the secret was, and he told me at once that there was a secret no longer. He went on to tell me a story which will give British fans cause for jubilation, and will show our American cousins that old England is not going to lag so far behind in this great game of scientific-tion, after all.

"You will remember," Gillings started, "that the last issue of ToW set forth an editorial questionnaire. Well, such a ready response was forthcoming from all typew of readers that further steps in the development of the magazine will probably be taken."

"In what direction?" I asked.

"Well, mainly regarding frequency of publication" was the heartening reply. "Practically everyone seems to want ToW more frequently ...the readers are overwhelmingly in favour of it. Whether the magazine will be monthly or bi-monthly has not been decided, but it is almost certain that it will appear at least every other month, following the 7th (Summer, '39) issue."

"The large number of replies to the questionnaire," said Mr Gillings, "has been most helpful and illuminating, and is summed up in the editorial of the next issue."

I asked Mr Gillings for a few facts regarding the mass opinions, and he gave me the interesting revelation that readers have voted John Beynon (Harris) their most popular author, with William F. Temple, author of the recent success, "Smile of the Sphinx", as a good second. Eric Frank Russell was 3d, and John Russell Fearn, Edmond Hamilton and Charles F. Hall all level for 4th place, while Festus Pragnell and J. M. Walsh shared 5th place in the scale of popularity.

The replies indicated that readers were not concerned whether stories were by British or American authors, as long as they were good yarns, and Mr Gillings announced his intention to continue featuring the best of the suitable material on both sides of the Atlantic. He also promises to fill the many requests for particular reprints, wherever it can be arranged.

When I asked him for the line-up for the forthcoming, Spring, '39, issue (due on the stands on March 28th) he told me that three more famous American names and two new British writers are added to the list of ToW contributors.

"The cover," WHG said, "will illustrate a scene from Murray Leinster's story of the fantastic, insect-infested world of 30,000 years hence, 'The Mad Planet', which appeared originally in Argosy some years ago, and is being reprinted for the 2d time." Other reprints from yesteryear will be A. Hyatt Verrill's 'The Inner World', which received an honourable mention in the first Amazing Stories cover contest, and finally 'The Gas Weed' by Stanton A. Coblentz.

Major S. P. Meek will make his debut in Tales of Wonder with a new short story entitled 'The Mentality Machine.' The English veteran, Geo. C. Wallis, contributes 'Voyage of Sacrifice', while the two new writers are Charnock Walsby (as forecast by your columnist last week), who is featured with 'Warning from Luna' (the title, apparently, has been editorially altered), and D. J. Foster, with 'The Alien Error'. W. P. Cockcroft makes his welcome reappearance in sci magazines with a short story, 'The Thing in the Ice'.

Mr Gillings concluded the interview by telling me that his readers expressed themselves in favour of articles being included in the magazines, and said that ToW will include one in every issue, if possible. Arthur C. Clarke has one in #6, describing the rocket-ship designed by the British Interplanetary Society, which is claimed to be capable of reaching the Moon.

MARCH MAILING

We shall not speak of the latest Fantasy Amateur Press Association mailing at any great length, because FAPA members have seen it, and non-members will feel terribly jealous. We were especially delighted with les messrs. Hodgkins, Shroyer, Kuttner, Mooney & Barnes' Sweetness and Light, decorated with a tipsy cherub; 'Mirta Forste's' Novacious; Part II of the Swishers' S F Check-List; welcome encores are Vol. 1, No. 1 (#2) of Flabbergasting Stories and a portfolio of the works of that inspired poet, Sarcophagus W. Dribble, alias Bloch, reprinted from Fantasmagoria. Unique is the S-F Bolshevik, priced at a rouble and printed in red on an ungummed sticker; its sole message: "Down with everything."

NON-FAPA

Cosmic Tales, Mar, V1#9
Fantasy-News, Mar 5, V2#11
The Satellite, Mar, V2#3
Spaceways, Mar, V1#4
Le Vombiteur, Mar 4 & 11, V2#s4&5

"FAVORITE PHANTASCIENCE FILMS -

"'Things to Come', 'Metropolis', 'The Invisible Man', 'The Eternal Mask'. I was going to leave my list at just four, never having seen any others in the same class with the foregoing, but an inspiration strikes me--it's unfair to deprive me of that fifth vote, so I'll use it in a negative manner: if by any chance you should receive any votes for 'Doctor X', please use my fifth vote to neutralise one of them. That is unquestionably the lousiest piece of tripe I can at present recall having seen. --R. D. Swisher"

COMING!!!

Free dishes--er, pictures--next week, courtesy Elmer Perdue.