

Science Fiction Weekly

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FATHER OF NOTED FANTASY AUTHOR DIES

Dr F. B. Long, the father of Frank Bellmap Long, Jr., the father of popular author of both science and weird fiction, died on March 3rd. The father and son were very close and the tragedy will probably make it impossible for Mr Long to continue his brilliant record of stories for some time.

It is expected that Mr Long and his mother will soon move to another home, the exact location of which has not yet been determined. New York City, Connecticut, and Short Beach, Massachusetts, where Mr Long and Mr Otis A. Kline have been considering the establishment of a sort of literary workshop, are all possibilities.

Science Fiction Weekly extends its sincere condolences to Mr Long upon an irreparable loss.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES CONDENSES

Chicago, Ill. March 12: exchange, Mid-West Fan News: During a special interview, Mr Raymond A. Palmer, editor of Amazing Stories and Fantastic Adventures, announced that the latter will be changed to small size, which has become standard in the science fiction field.

This drastic alteration of format was necessitated by readers' demand, Mr Palmer declared; however, this change will considerably lower the cost of production and freight.

"All departments and features will be continued as usual" Mr Palmer added, "but it may be necessary to publish Fantastic Adventures every two months for a short time, instead of monthly, in order to give the readers a change to recognize its new format on the stands."

The final decision, as to the bi-monthly schedule, however, has not, as yet been made.

KELLER BOOK OUT SOON

Dr David H. Keller is the author of a new book, "The Devil and the Doctor", to be published by Simon & Schuster this spring. The book is described as the story of a middle-aged physician who has retired from practice to write a biography of the Devil. It combines fantasy with realism -- a Keller technique.

MOORE BOOKS

A number of new books of fantasy are scheduled for publication this spring. "The Twenty-Fifth Hour" by Herbert Best (Random House) is a story of the last civilized man and woman left in the world.

Lord Dunsany will return with "The Story of Mona Sheehy" (Harpers) about a girl reputed to have in her veins the wild blood of the Little People. "The First to Awaken" is a new one from the Modern Age people. Taking place a hundred years from now, it pictures a world of a stabilized society. Authors are Granville Hicks and Richard M. Bennett.

BRUNDAGE RETURNS TO WEIRD

Office, Weird Tales, March 8: The cover on the July issue of Weird Tales will be drawn by Mrs Margaret Brundage, famous pastel - artist, whose cover s graced the magazine from late 1932 up to the time it changed publishers in 1938, with but few intermissions. It will not be the same type of cover that has been associated with Mrs Brundage in the past, however, Miss McIlraith, Weird Tales editor revealed.

The line-up for the July issue includes a werewolf novelette by Seabury Quinn, and the first of a new series of tales by H. Bedford-Jones about a professional corpse. No new serials will begin until mag. goes monthly again.

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THE NATIONAL FAN REVIEW

Published every Monday at 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Volume One, Number Five; Whole Number Five. March 17, 1940. Five cents per single copy; three issues for ten cents; eight issues for twenty-five cents.

Full page ads only accepted at flat rate of seventy-five cents; each time such ad is received, an extra page of reading matter is guaranteed.

Wherever news is taken from our contemporaries, the source is given and such news marked "exchange". On controversial items each side will be permitted one statement.

SFW will exchange with any other fan magazines which so desires.

Editor - in - Chief

Robert W. Lowndes

Associates

Leslie Perri

Dick Wilson

THEIR OWN PETARD by H. C. KOENIG

From "Perk, Melpomene" in Spaceways, Volume 1 Number 8: "Slant your story for a particular magazine. ----- If you can, select the magazine it fits best and make it fit that one magazine as well as you can. Generally speaking, you should try to picture it either in Astounding or in any other of the magazines."

(And that, Mr Pohl, should be general enough for anybody.)

From Science Fiction Spotlight in Fantascience Digest, Volume 2, Number 4: "Re a review of the Weinbaum volume. 'A renowned scientist will receive one set a very famous writer of science fiction will receive another ----- The idea in back of it all is obvious: if the scientist likes the story ----- the science must be airtight; if the sf writer thinks its a good story, it must be.'

(I wouldn't call it obvious Mr. Madle. Naive is a much more appropriate word.)

From "Little Lessons in Something

or Other" in Science Fiction Debater, Volume 2, No. 1: "We have just read 'Sugar in the Air' and 'Brave New World' two very remarkable books that no sf fan should be without. One is illiterate until one has read them."

(See the little moron,

Doesn't give a damn;

Wish I were a moron --

Migawd, I guess I am.)

From "Golden Atom Tales" in Golden Atom, Volume 1 Number 1: "Mr Cummings' connection with the Edison Company may be said also to give his scientific deductions an authority that will add materially to the interest of the story -----."

(With no reflection on Mr Cummings: -- I still think his "Girl in the Golden Atom" is one of science fiction's classics -- I can't help but wonder just what part a utility company plays in giving authority to an sf story; and I can't help but wonder just what part Cummings plays in the utility company.)

ADMIRAL'S INSPECTION

In the US Navy, when Ship A is to be inspected by the Bigwigs, the crew of Ship B (sister ship, built along the same general lines) is transferred to Ship A. This crew inspects Ship A as a preparation; the Captain of Ship B gives the Captain of Ship A the works, and so on down the line.

By the time the allotted preparation time is up, Ship A has been inspected. Every move every man makes on that ship has been noted and timed.

There is a mock battle. At the controls, Captain B taps Captain A on the shoulder and whispers: "You've just been shot down." 1st Mate B jots down in his book how long it takes for 1st Mate A to get wise.

They tap the communications system, say: "It's been blown away" and see how long it takes for someone to catch on.

Later, of course, Ship B will be on the list, then, of course, Ship A (or, rather it's crew) has its fun.

In the April issue of Astounding, is Malcolm Jameson's "Admiral's Inspection", based upon this US Navy system: only it's inspection in space!

dick wilson's
STRICTLY PUBLIC

We present herewith the SONG OF THE
SCIENCE FICTIONEERS. (Tune: "How doth
the Little Crocodile", Decca #936A.)

The last line is to be spoken.

We are the Science Fictioneers - -
We're found on ev'ry hand;
We flit about in rocket-ships - -
We scorn to go by land.

We've travel'd interstellar ways
From here to there and back;
We can do without the boys from Mars:
We think them rather hack.

Don't mention Venus to us, pray;
We found it just a swamp;
And to visit Jupiter each day
Is no more than a romp.

We've met the men of Mongo's Ming,
We slew them where they stood;
We've killed more things from Outer
Space
Than any mortals should.

We know all about Dimension 4
Which has but one egress;
We have followed Tarzan to Earth's
core,
Which is nothing but a mess.

We haven't space here to relate
The perils that we've seen;
Nor can we pronounce the ghastly names
Of places that we've been.

We've been from Sun to Planet Q,
We've lived by ray and sword;
There's nothing more for us to do:
WE ARE SO GODDAM BORED!

CITY DESK

IN THE 2ND ISSUE OF SEW, Cyril Kornbluth told of his trip to Flushing, along with Milt Rothman and Elmer Perdue. According to Kornbluth's story, all three called on James V. Taurasi at that time.

However, a recent issue of Fantasy News has a slightly different version, implying that Kornbluth, although accompanying Rothman and Perdue, was not admitted to the Taurasi home. Accordingly

we wrote both Rothman and Perdue, asking them to verify either the SEW or the F-N report.

We quote, in part, from Perdue's letter: "... Mr Kornbluth did accompany us to the house of Mr Taurasi; and he did enter aforesaid house, although not at Taurasi's invitation; and he there remained until Mr Rothman and I departed from the menage.

"To amplify on the above: Upon n arrival (the place in question was in Flushing, and had the numbers 137-07 in front -- I looked) Mr Kornbluth knocked, the door being opened by a woman who spoke with an accent which I could not place. He asked for Mr Taurasi; being told that he was not up, or that he had just gotten up -- memory is vague on this point -- and the woman in question invited us in. We entered the hallway, Mr Taurasi opening the door of his room. Mr Kornbluth spoke first, saying something to the effect that we didn't know the way over, and that it had therefore been necessary to accompany us. To this Mr Taurasi made no reply, and in fact said not a word to Mr Kornbluth that I can remember, during the entire stop. And Mr Kornbluth said nothing further, merely sitting on the unmade bed, trimming and cleaning his nails in a manner that one would be forced to characterize as dour. He said absolutely nothing during the entire stay. Correction -- I indicated a two-foot pile of Operator Five's on a naerby chair, with a trace of hubris, I am sorry to say, and I believe he snickered. Nothing more."

We received no direct reply from Milton A. Rothman; however, his first issue of "Milty's Mag" tells of the trip to New York, mentions the excursion to Flushing, and implies that Kornbluth was with them within Taurasi's house.

MARCONETTE CRASHES POIL

Tower, March 12: Walter E. Marconette, noted fan artist, will shortly do work for Astonishing and/or Super Science Stories, his agent, Robert W.

"WEM's work, while untried, has brought forth considerable praise", stated Lowndes. "The space ships and planetary scenes are excellent, and well up to professional standards."

CITY DESK

CONTINUING FROM PAGE 3, we have just received a letter from Rothman in regard to this matter. We quote: "In Fantasy-News, the editor, or whoever wrote that story, makes the remark that on the arrival of Perdue, Kornbluth, and Rothman at Taurasi's house, Perdue and Rothman were invited inside. The omission of Kornbluth from the invitation has been noted and questioned. In the first place, all three of the visitors were already within the Taurasi residence before being seen by Taurasi. In the second place, I claim that Kornbluth, as accompanying me, had the right to admission on my ticket; if Kornbluth had been denied admittance, I would not have entered myself. In the third place invited or not, Kornbluth was definitely within the Taurasi den for the total period of the visit, which did not last more than half an hour. In the fourth place, nobody invited anybody. We just walked in."

DONN BRAZIER WRITES US: "Thank you for the poll mention in your first issue; it garnered me one vote from Swisher. Altogether, there were 12 votes counting my own. 'Gray Lensman' takes first place as 'best' story closely followed by 'Greater Than Gods'. 'Black Destroyer' received two votes for 'best' story and one for 'worst' story. 'Blue Men of Yrano' won easily in the 'worst' story divisions. Two prominent tales in this group were: 'Ultimatum from Mars' and 'General Swamp, C. I. C.' The latter story received a vote of 'best' story also; and 'Hermit of Mars' scored in both divisions. Three articles were liked equally well with three votes apiece: 'Tools for Brains', 'The Other Side of Astronomy', and 'Pandora's Icebox'. Only three covers were good enough to receive votes: October, November, and April. The latter astronomical cover won easily with five votes. One reader gave special mention to 'Shvam's Sword' as the best short story of the year."

ADDENDA: The May Movie Story is going to run the story of the movie "Dr Cyclops". The doctor is an ordinary-sized fellow, but he condenses

other folks! From a picture in the April issue of the afore-mentioned magazine, the other folks look like a beautiful damsel without much on! ***In the March Coronet, R. DeWitt Miller has two pages called "Forgotten Mysteries". Number one concerns a mummified hawk which oozes a dark substance from its mouth during the period of wars. (The Boer War and the World War are the specific cases leading to that generalization.) The next concerns the Martian canals of Schiaparelli. Number three starts: "William James once said that there are at least two worlds -- ours and another. Sometimes, he thought, the insulation between the two wears thin." The item concludes with an account of two Dutch scientists who devised an electrical machine to destroy that insulation. The last mystery is the one of perpetual motion -- the wheel of Orffyreus. (Donn Brazier)

THE TORONTO, ONTARIO, CHAPTER of the Science Fictioneers is now being formed. The Director, Edward Roy White, is a new but highly active staff. The Toronto Science Fictioneers will be the first all-Canadian fan club ever to exist (to the knowledge of your editor).

New chapters of the Science Fictioneers are also expected to materialize in Buffalo and surrounding territory (under the leadership of Mrs Ginger Zwick, who will be one of the very few ladies in charge of science fiction clubs), in Denver, (with Olon F. Higgins -- Science Fictioneer #1 -- as Director), and in San Francisco and surrounding territory under the leadership of Joe Fortier.

These, along with the Los Angeles, Westwood (New Jersey), 2 Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore branches, bring the total number of clubs affiliated to the Science Fictioneers up to ten. A rather good record considering that only one issue of the magazine sponsoring the club (Super Science Stories) has appeared at the time this is being written.

The Chicon's held, as you may know, On Labor Day, in Chicago.

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JM