

Science Fiction Weekly

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WEIRD TALES STAYS WEIRD

Office of Mr W. J. Delaney, March 23: That the entire network of rumours and speculations instigated by Fantasy-News to the effect that Weird Tales might become a horror magazine is based on misinterpretations was revealed in an interview today.

Mr Delaney's statements in reference to the mystery-terror-horror magazines, among which Weird Tales is most often placed by newsdealers, referred only to the outside appearance of the magazine. It was by no means stated that he considered Weird Tales in competition with these magazines as to content.

Mr Delaney further stated his personal liking for weird and fantastic fiction and his belief that there is a place for a magazine, of wide circulation, dealing with such tales. But, he added, we must remember that it is a pulp magazine. It is not a privately-printed work of art, selling at fancy prices; we cannot afford to become so lost in fantasy, so esoteric, that we lose touch with the great majority of our readers. Neither, on the other hand is it necessary to write down to the reader, or try to persuade him he is getting any more than we are presenting. Mr Delaney has refused to cut down on the costs of the magazine (in other words, rates to authors); on the contrary, some of the best-known writers of pulp fiction have been contacted for forthcoming issues. If Weird Tales were planning to become a horror magazine, they would not be getting H. Bed

ford Jones to do a series of stories or Frank Gruber, whose recent novel in Short Stories made such a success.

The reprints are being eliminated now because Mr Delaney believes that a magazine must live in the present rather than in the past, must find new, fresh stories rather than try to rest upon the laurels of older days. The covers will be weird; the element of sex which had been overplayed to the point of misrepresenting the magazine has been eliminated. In the stories themselves, all types of weird and fantasy fiction will be presented.

There is one rule, however: Weird Tales does not want stories which center about sheer repulsiveness, stories which leave an impression not to be described by any other word than "nasty". This is not to imply that the "grim" story, or the tale which leaves the reader gasping at the verge of the unknown, is eliminated. Mr Delaney believes that the story which leaves a sickish feeling in the reader is not truly weird and has no place in Weird Tales. A better balance in the individual issues will be made; in the future, readers will not find several stories of the same type in the same issue. And, finally, stories where in the characters are continually talking in French, German, Latin, etc will be frowned on, as well as stories where in the reader must constantly consult an unabridged dictionary. In brief: richness of expression, yes; eight-cylinder words where two-cylinder words will do, no.

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THE NATIONAL FAN REVIEW

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We accept advertising to the tune of seventy-five ¢ per full page only. Each time such ad is received, an extra page of reading matter is guaranteed.

News taken from other fanmags is marked "exchange" and source is given. Such news may be precisised or quoted depending on space available. On controversial items, or matters of orderly rebuttal, each side is permitted one statement only.

SFW will exchange with any other fan magazine so desiring.

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CITY DESK

TWO NEW TARZAN TALES are current these days: Blue Book features a complete novelette, "Tarzan and the Champion", in its latest issue, and the June Thrilling Adventures magazine will feature "Tarzan and the Jungle Murders". In addition to these a new cartoon magazine is devoted entirely to Tarzan-strips, reprinted from the Sunday comic supplements.

JD. SHARP, famous old-time stf author, (who turned out such fine tales as "The Eternal Man", The Eternal Man Revives) explains his long absence by a prolonged attack of illness which kept him in bed several years. He will return to the magazines in the August issue of Astonishing Stories, with a long novelette tentatively titled "The Lodestone Core". *** F. E. Hardart, one of the newcomers, cops the cover of the third issue of Astonishing. Cover is by Mayarka, and is both an eye-

opener and a beauty. *** To date, the I Towers novelette, "Stepsons of Mars" is a good way in the lead for favorite yarn in the April issue of aforementioned magazine. No marked complaints about Bok's illustrations have come in to date -- on the contrary!

MORE FANTASY BOOKS

Watch for "The Shadow of Atlantis" to be published soon by E. P. Dutton of New York. The book is advertised as "the most complete and convincing book on this fascinating, adventurous, and scientific subject." Author is Col. Alexandre Braghine.

Then there is "Monkey on a Stick" by Henry W. Cline (Morrow), a social satire, "The Star of Satan" by Georges Bernanos (Macmillan) about diabolism, "First Port of Call" by Elizabeth Jordan (Appleton), a strange story about an airplane crash. Those who like Don Marquis will be pleased to hear of "The Lives and Times of archy and mehitabel", an omnibus of those famous characters' stories.

Later this year, Alfred Noyes, English poet, will author "The Last Man" an optimistic view of the very distant future. Just published are "Utopia, Inc." by Herman Everett Gieske (Fortuny) about a modern Atlantis, and a new book by August W. Derleth, dealing with Sac Prairie, called "Atmosphere of Houses". (Prairie Press) Frank Utpatel, who did the art work for Lovecraft's "Shadow Over Innsmouth" illustrates this book.

Non-fictional works to appear that will be of interest to the science-fictioneer will include "Life on Other Worlds" by H. Spencer Jones (Macmillan). which is a scientific investigation into the question, and the much-awaited study of the Orson Welles' radio scare "The Invasion from Mars" by Hadley Cantril, which will be published by the Princeton University Press.

TOWER TRIUMPH

Tower, March 18: Richard Wilson (Dick to you) is the latest of the Futurians to win one of those interesting slated-for-acceptance slips from Harry Stephen Keeler's Ten Story Book, his agent, Doc Lowndes, revealed today.

THEIR OWN PETARD by H. C. KOENIG

From an advertisement re "Golden Atom" in Fantasy News, Volume 3 Number 21: "Here's some of the comments received on the first G. A. -- From Ed. Hamilton: 'I think its one of the best fan magazines I've ever seen yet. It's carefully got up and has lots of real information in it.'"

(Carefully got up. You're only spoofing, aren't you Eddie? 'Fess up -- you hardly looked at it did you? Or, if you did, you are certainly handling the truth with penurious frugality. Why, man alive, an adding machine was required to count the number of typographical errors in the first few pages of the magazine. And the English!! It was pretty nearly as worse yet as your two-sentence review quoted above. Guess you were just trying to be nice to the boys, eh what, Eddie? Sort of a little act of reciprocity.)

From a letter in "And Having Writ" in Unknown October, 1939: "So far I have only read three stories in this, the April issue, but on the whole it seems to be no better nor worse than the first. There was a greater balance of good stories, whereas the last issue had one stupendous story and its share of good ones."

(A gem from the secretary of Los Angeles Chapter, SFL. Boy, oh, boy, its the height of something or other. But, on second thought, it is quite typical of the juvenile letters we have been trained to expect from that section of the country. Ah there, Forrie, my lad!)

From Fantasy News Volume 3 Number 13: "Science Fiction Quarterly is to be Out in a Month. The Dream of Fans. The most hopeless of all optimists dreams is about to be consummated. A quarterly, a live, living, breathing, sacred quarterly is announced as a 'sure thing' by Blue Ribbon Publications."

(There is only one thing more awfuller than another s-f magazine, and that's another fan magazine. I certainly wish some of these fans would cut out eating rarebits, pickles and ice cream before going to bed.)

((The pages of SFN are open to any person or persons wishing to make an orderly rebuttal to anything in this column. Editor.))

EASTERN MASS. FANTASY SOCIETY

Cambridge, Mass. March 18, 1940: Yesterday the Eastern Mass. Fantasy Society held its second meeting, at the home of Mr and Mrs Swisher in Winchester. Present were: the Swishers, Arthur L. Widner, Jr., John Ferrara, William Zimmer, William Schrage, Francis Paro, Marjorie Wilson, Earl Singleton, and LR Chauvenet, a total attendance of 10. At this meeting, definite steps toward organization were taken. Art Widner was appointed director, and Paro sec'y-treasurer. It was decided to meet monthly, and to publish a club organ bi-monthly. After some discussion Paro's Fanfare was selected as the official magazine of the society, and the date for the first publication under EMTS auspices tentatively set for the May meeting. The next meeting was arranged for April 7, and Earl Singleton chosen as host. There was some discussion of whether the society should be "fantasy" or "science fiction" in name; on a vote, "fantasy" won by 8-2 on grounds of wider appeal. Some dissatisfaction was expressed with the EMTS title, and this designation must thus be considered a tentative, pending someone's bright idea. (Are there any bright-idea's gals, or guys, in the audience?) It was decided after some consideration that for the present, at any rate, no attempt should be made to affiliate with other fan organizations, but outside contributions to Fanfare will be quite welcome. In general a moderately liberal spirit may be expected to prevail in the magazine.

ROB TUCKER, who has just joined the Futurian League, writes: "Upon perusing the latest SFN, I note I left you hanging on the limb in one place by saying that the 'three of us had rented a room', and neglecting to mention a third party. The third person is my brother ... *** I get a big kick about F-N and New Fandom plugging the Convention and the IFF. F-N is always advising its dear readers to join up and support us. Wanta know something? At the time of the last nose-count, when Fantasy Fictioneer went to press, not one Queensie belonged!"

Support, bah!"

QSFL MEETING *

March 10, (Fantasy News exchange):

Despite the heavy rain and sleet storm on March 3rd, 29 members, visitors and celebrities turned out for the regular monthly meeting of the Queens Science Fiction League held at Bohemian Hall.

Among the prominent science-fiction celebrities who have recently joined the QSFL are Farnsworth Wright, Miss Mary Gnaedinger, Hannes Bok, and John Victor Peterson.

NEWARK SLF TO FORM

March 10, (Fantasy News Exchange)*:

A Newark Chapter of the Science Fiction League will be formed in about one month. Groundwork on this chapter will be done by Sam Moskowitz. A free meeting room in a Newark school has already been obtained.

Meetings will be held so as not to interfere with the dating of the Queens Science Fiction League. All members will be urged to cooperate with and attend QSFL meetings. With these two good chapters working in harmony, superior results should be obtained.

*((The editor of this magazine wishes to call the attention of readers to the fact that we cannot vouch for the accuracy of exchange news from the magazine quoted above, insofar as, in the past, it has been proven guilty of a number of gross exaggerations and falsehoods.))

CORRECTION

We note with amusement an interesting little misprint in the latest issue of Startling Stories. On page 103 of the May, 1940, issue, "Valley of Dreams" is represented as "copyright 1904, Continental Publications". Uh - uh, Stan. Weinbaum wasn't writing for Wonder in those days. You mean 1934!

CITY DESK

M B. THOMPSON, of Lincoln, Neb. writes: "Do you know of any fans interested in, and conversant with, the synthetic language called Latino Sine Flexione" or "Interlingua"? I spent a few hours studying a book on

"Interlingua" and then wrote a letter in that language to another fan (Mrs Beasley of Lyndon, Kansas). She had never heard of the language, yet she read the letter without difficulty. We both think Latino Sine Flexione is vastly superior to Esperanto (don't shoot, Morajo; I'll be good!) because of the absence of almost all grammar, and the freedom from orthographic difficulties. The grammar of Esperanto has always been the chief difficulty of that language, and it was mainly because of it that Latino Sine Flexione got its start in 1903." ((If any fan would like to contact Mr Thompson on this subject, his street address is 3136 "Q" Street, Lincoln, Neb. SFN awaits an orderly reply from any Esperantist fan who wishes to make same. Editor.))

THE GENERAL SECRETARY of the Futurian League wishes to announce that membership cards will be mailed out to registrants at the earliest possible moment, but that printing will be held up for a week or so until it can be ascertained the amount which will be required. It seems that registration has exceeded expectations.

AT LONG LAST the FAPA Mailing has come through. It was, in the opinion of your editor, worth the wait. In regard to the FAPA, we quote from a letter by President Milton A. Rothman: "I did intimate that various people would be dropped from the FAPA because of the activity amendments, but upon further consideration, it was decided to give all but the most hopeless another chance, as a result of which the current mailing is being sent to all, with an opportunity to pay up back dues."

MR MALCOM REISS, editor of Planet Stories tells us that over a score of irritated to irate letters arrived at his office in disagreement with the opinions expressed by Olcn F. Wiggins in the "Visagraph" section for the second issue.

Get in your Olds or new V-8
And see the Chicon before it's too L8!