

# Science Fiction Weekly

VOL. I. NO. 7 2374 BEDFORD AV. 5 BROOKLYN, N.Y. MAR. 31, 1940

## CARNELL TO EDIT BRITISH STF MAG

London, 1940: Ted Carnell, famous English fan, and editor of "Novae Terrae" and "New Worlds" reveals that a new monthly British magazine, devoted to stf and fantasy, will shortly appear, with himself as editor.

Mr Carnell states, in part: "I was offered, and accepted, the full time position as Managing Editor of Britain's first monthly fantasy magazine! Such a statement is, I realize, breathtaking in the extreme, but ... suffice to say that I... have the skeleton framework of the first two issues well under way. At least as far as stories go. Actual make up, type, wordage, etc -- in fact, the entire "dummy" of requirements, has long been finished. Artists are now being lined up -- in fact, everything. All that now remains is for sufficient stories available for three or more issues before the actual publication of the first issue.

"Requirements: All normal types of science - fiction and fantasy, with science tamped down to be understandable by the masses, and 'characterization' thru-out the yarns. (More commonly known as 'human interest' on your side.) No 'mad scientists', 'alien horrors', sex trash, or harum-scarum science considered under any circumstances -- unless the author is so brilliant that he can out-write the readers' imagination. Briefly, I

would point to the type of stories recently published in Astounding Science-Fiction, by such authors as de Camp, del Ray, 'Feinlein', -- even Englehardt's "General Swamp, C.I.C." which would have been admirably suitable for British consumption. There are many others I can think of offhand -- Casey, Asimov, Peterson, etc. All these authors turn in material which deals with the little twists to slightly off-trail stuff rather than the super-galactic, planet-moving tripe which pervaded the magazines back in '35. I don't intend backtracking and following along in the steps of any known US magazine. I'm going to start right off with the 1940 vintage which it has taken Campbell a year to build up. The characters and the story are the things -- the science a minimum but vital focal point. I want material that the average reader could almost believe would happen tomorrow.

"Feinlein's 'Requiem' is the most beautiful example I have yet read of the type of stuff I want. I know I've a tough task here, and it may take some time before I build up the right slant, but I know just what I require, and the authors here are solid behind me."

The publication date of this newest addition to the science-fiction field is set somewhere in April, and the title is given as New Worlds.



Science Fiction Weekly

THE NATIONAL FAN REVIEW

Published every Monday at 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Volume One, Number Seven; Whole Number Seven. March 31, 1940. Five cents per single copy; three issues for ten cents; eight issues for twenty-five cents. We will exchange with any other fanmag.

On advertising: full page ads only accepted: price, seventy-five cents. Each time such ad is received, an extra page of reading matter is guaranteed.

News of interest will be quoted or paraphrased from other fanmags so that you, the readers, can have a full picture of what is happening in the pro and fan stfworld. In all such cases, news is marked "exchange" and source given.

The pages of this magazine are open at all times to orderly rebuttals on any statement or statements appearing herein. In all controversial matters, however, it is our policy not to carry such beyond one statement from each side of the case.

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THEIR OWN PETARD by H. C. KOENIG

From a letter by Forrest J Ackerman in Golden Atom, January, 1940: "----- I have only one particular complaint: your impossible division of words occasionally, as li-ght, be-en, wh-ere, etc. Please don't do that any more!"

(That complaint is a striking illustration of the weird and wonderful working of the mind of Wacky Acky. Coming from a kid who has murdered, maimed, twisted, and distorted more good o l d English words than any other fan in fandom, such request deserves appropriate recognition. ---- All together, boys, one loud, raucous Bronx cheer.)

From "The World is What You Make It" in Spaceways, Volume 2 Number 3: "So you're going to fly to Mars? I'll bet you think you are! ----- Ha, you're

going to be a big brave adventurer, a pioneer. ----- But, I'm saying you probably won't have the guts to pull that little lever. ----- It takes courage to pioneer. Courage I rather suspect you won't have. ----- I know you think it means being like Galileo, Newton, or Edison. ----- How do I know that for the most part you haven't got courage? Because only a relatively small number of you have the courage to get out of a rut now. Few of you dare even now to pioneer. ----- You're the one who was a - afraid to venture into the nasty field of politics when you could have had thousands and millions on your side. But then - politics - small stuff for a real hero like you. ----- You see, courage grows. ----- Have you the guts, science fiction fan, to join in today to lay the foundations for tomorrow? -----"

(We start off with a trip to Mars and end up -- as so many so-called science-fiction articles do -- with politics. The mere mention of a space ship or the fourth dimension at the beginning of an article, just enough to justify its inclusion in a fantasy magazine, and from then on, anything goes. It's a clever dodge, Don, very clever.)

After reading the article, I went into the silences; I thought and I cogitated and I meditated and I contemplated and out of it came a grand idea. I know it will surprise you, Don. But here it is. I know of only one group in science fiction who have the courage to pioneer for a better world; who have the fortitude to enter the nasty field of politics, who have the intrepidity to lay the foundations for tomorrow, who have the temerity to place themselves alongside of Galileo and Newton -- in other words, who have the guts to pull that little metal lever. The Futurians -- all four of them. Or is it seven?)

((You said it, keed! The Futurians.))

TALE OF WONDER

Liverpool, England (War Digest, exchange): The tenth issue of Tales of Wonder is due out March 19th, so should be in the hands of American subscribers next month. Editor Gillings states that the support readers have given may permit the magazine to continue indefinitely. He'd appreciate still more letters!



Shangri-La, 23  
Mar 40: CRAWFORD MISQUOTED! Bill Crawford is burnd about a statement of his which somehow got into print --- clipt -- in a contemporary wkly newsheet ((Fantasy - News Volume 4 # 10, page 3.)) Statement, as publisht, was that "they're all dead down here" (refering to the imagi - natives of LA). His original meaning, he made clear, was that, as he realizes, we are not interested in entering into competition with the professionals, & subsidize a printed mag he has in mind. Fact is, LA is more active than at any preceding time, what with wkly meetings (21 in attendance at latest with 4 new mems!), wkly publishing, get-togethers of from 6-10 fans (to put out Polaris, Voice of the Imagi-nation, Futura Fantasia, Novacious, The Rocket, & Shangri-La), & 3 further function s pland! 6 lbs of science fiction were recently gatherd & shipt French fan Gallet as a goodwill gesture from LA.

\*\*\* OLSEN ILL: Fans, old guard author Bob Olsen - - of the 4th Dimension series, ant storys & "Educated Pill" -- has been laid low by a chronic condition. He is in Ward 6-830, General Hospital, Los Angeles, Cal. under his real name, Alfred J. Olsen, Jr. He would greatly appreciate hearing from fans.  
\*\*\* To the Ladys: Angelica (if not Angelenic) Gibbs has completed her 5000 word article on SF for the New Yorker. Los Angeles! Leigh Brackett has 2d story in ASF. Pogo auditions for radio.

A -  
mong the Angelenos: Russ Hodgkins will donate his check for article "Continental Engineers", skeded in next Science Fiction, to Technocracy, Inc. 4e will accept the oferd appointment of Alfred Africano, Pres. the American Rocket Society, to be the ARS's "campaign director in charge of the science fiction field." L. Taylor Hanson (a note which myt've been included in the "To the Ladys" paragraf, as, as most of U noe by bow, "L" stands for "Louise") -- Miss Hanson is on the come-back trail, with a tale for Rap of pre-Christore Peru. Paul Frechafer's supply of 2d Polaris really is exhausted, the ads are not come-ons. Grady McMurty b e- comes a member of the Rocket Rserve!

Charlie Hornig accepts 2 ideas of 4e's for Superworld: a volcanikingdom angle & evolutionnarrative notion.

In re 4e:  
The J, thru the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (hereafter referd to as "AMPAS") has acquired 20 sele ot stills from super - scientifilm Dr Cyclops (which he previews in 3d Astonishing) to add to his collection of 700 fantascience film fotos. Articles by #1 Fan skeded to apear in fanmags soon include "Paul's Projector" (The Alchemist) "The Rocketeers" in The Rocket, "Meet 'The Earl of Hell'" (Shangri-La); & "Dreamstuff" (in conjunction with Ted Carnell) in England, plus 'Phil Lehr' material in Pluto, FuFa, Fantasy Fictioneer, & numerous others.

((Without in any way, shape, or manner desiring to disparage Mr Ackerman, or deny our columnist the right to her opinion, we must still point out, for the sake of facts, that 4e has not, as yet, been officially voted "Fan # 1." Editor.))

#### CITY DESK

J. J. FORTIER writes: "Perhaps you have read in the latest La-Zombie that all of my plans are nothing but wishful thinking, the way Bob puts it. Well, here is proof that one i s going through now. My club is at last going into activity! The name is final as Northern California Futurians. In our club are Yogi Jorgensen, Tom Wright, Leroy Brown, J. J. Fortier, Bob Millar, and others. It will be a section of the Science Fictioneers. The first meeting is skeded for April 13, at which we will review Startling Stories."

T OM WRIGHT writes: "Joe Fortier, who has been visiting me for the past two days, and I have finished plans for Dawn, the Moderne Annual. It will be a copyrighted affair of over 60 pages for 25¢. It will contain the best of amateur fiction (by authors that have sold stories to the pros) profusely illustrated in professional style.

Come from Montana, Mars, or Maine --- and remember:  
Get to Chi by spaceship or plane ---in September!

--- dick wilson



**Y**OUR FANLIG REVIEWER SAYS: Run, do not walk to get:

Fantasy Digest, 1st Anniversary-issue, Ted Dilly, 3136 Smith St., For t Wayne, Indiana (10¢). For articles by Shroyer ("Literary Calvinism"), Wollheim, ("The Final Poud" -- invaluable for a clear picture of fan-history), Kuttner, ("Of Mice and Me") Korshak ("Swanson of an stf Dealer" -- an expose of crookedness: stf back-number dealings) and Lowndes ("Who's Who in Methersville" -- a satire, take-off on the "Who's Who" series.)

Voice of the Imagi-nation, April 1940, Morojo, Bx 6475, Met. Sta., Los Angeles, Cal. (10¢). For another festi-val of letters from all over the fan field, intersperced with comment by the co-editors.

You might also try:

Golden Atom, Vol 1 # 6, Larry Farsaci, 48 Lewis Street, Rochester, N.Y. (10¢). For an interesting collector's comment and articles designed to appeal to the more or less non-fan stf reader.

The Futurian, Winter 1940, J. Michael Rosenblum, 4 Grange Terrace, Chapletown, Leeds 7, England. (10¢). For well-written articles giving the British outlook on stf, and a piece of (unintentional) super-silliness by D. R. Smith ("The Science of Names"). Harry Kay's piece "On Broadmindedness" recommended.

#### FROM THE VAULTS

((This column will consist of various and sundry items culled from old files -- things which were gathered for publication in something or other, but never did get published. Editor.))

1. My favorite Scientifilm -- Transatlantic Tunnel.

From the start, this choice will be contested on the grounds that it is not generally conceded to be one of the better scientifilms. Nevertheless, it is my choice and I have many reasons for judging it my favorite.

Of first importance are the players themselves. The large majority of scientifilms are generally cast with a staff of what might be called "in-between" players. For one reason or another, they have never reached the top of the heap and their rôles are confined to films that do not go in for any heavy emoting. Directors imagine that

because scientifilms have some basis of science, the characters may be stiffer than is usually the case (in productions using third-rate actors) and still go over big. Contrary to that belief, any good film with a scientific background calls for acting of the finest calibre. Remember the scene in "Transatlantic Tunnel" where the gigantic radium drill eats its way through a submarine volcano to safety? One lived that portion of the film. So realistically did Richard Dix, Leslie Banks, and others portray the terrible strain they were undergoing that many times I half-rose from my seat, grinding my teeth, suffering with them. The love interest in the film was no incidental affair, thrown in to liven interest; it played an important part in the picture, cleverly woven so that it fitted the science-fiction section of the picture to perfection.

Every step, every bit of action that took place in "Transatlantic Tunnel" had a direct relation to what preceded it. A rare thing in scientifilms. Nothing was side-stopped. Every angle of the tunnel-building under the Atlantic Ocean was clearly defined, even down to atmospheric pressure, and the possibility of a new, unknown disease breaking out due to the conditions of living underground, months at a time.

And, finally, "Transatlantic Tunnel" had one of those almost-unmentionable things in a scientifilm -- a logical ending. (Sam Moskowitz)

#### HARRY BATES RETURNS

Harry Bates, editor of the original Astounding Stories of Super-Science, who authored two well-taken novelettes in the Tremaine Astounding, returns to stf in the July issue of Thrilling Wonder Stories with a lead novel: "The Experiment of Dr Sarcóni". The theme: what would happen if science were able to create men in duplicate, living, human carbon-copies. Incidentally, add Mr Margulies in his friendly letter to your editor the story presents a unique scientific problem... see if you can solve it before the hero does.

Addendum: Alfred Bester, a 1st-prize-winner in one of the TMS contests, will have a novollete in the July ish.