

Science Fiction Weekly

the national fantasy news-review

VOL. I. NO 12 2574 BEDFORD AVE BROOKLYN, N.Y. MAY 5, 1940

De

WRIGHT SUPPORTS SFW STAND

FANTASTIC NOVELS

ADVANCE COPIES of Fantastic Novels show a magazine that should bring delight to the heart of every lover of the weird and fantastic, as well as offer attraction to the so-far uncaptured fan.

Finlay's drawing for the third installment of "The Blind Spot" has been taken and the jewel in the ring reproduced on a dark background. Illustration is tinted. The head "Fantastic Novels" stands forth in a burst of fire.

This issue has 144 pages, trimmed edges, and a good grade of paper. The print is a trifle smaller than that used in Famous Fantastic Mysteries inasmuch as "The Blind Spot", a long novel, could not have otherwise been published complete. As is, many readers may want, and would be able, to have book-bindings made for this issue of the magazine.

There is also a short story by Perley Poole Sheehan, "Monsieur De Guise", which rounds out the issue. Promised for the next issue is "The People of the Golden Atom" by Ray Cummings. Austin Hall's sequel to the "Blind Spot" -- "The Spot of Life" will be presented in the near future.

THE JULY ISSUE of Future Fiction is due out in a fortnight, inquiries at the office of the publishers revealed. Current issue of Science Fiction makes no mention of the famous "quarterly" for which money had been collected.

In the recent controversy caused by the change in the editorial staff of Weird Tales, Mr Farnsworth Wright, former editor takes his stand in support of Science Fiction Weekly's position. Another weekly fan magazine had urged a boycott on the part of Weird Tales' writers and readers; Science Fiction Weekly's position was: Support the magazine, regardless of who is editor, and take their word on expressed policy until and unless future issues show bad faith on their part.

Commenting on this, Mr Wright stated: "I quite agree with you that WT fans should support the magazine regardless of who is editor, as long as WT continues to maintain the standard it has set in the past. It would be a pity if the magazine which has been the foremost exponent of weird and fantastic fiction should perish."

CORRECTION

MILTON A. ROTHMAN, President of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, writes: "Error in FAPA story in Science Fiction Weekly. You left out part of a sentence, giving impression that one must have had material in the mailings in order to vote in the coming election. Please correct, telling members that they can vote if they have codices of material in the June mailing."

/Our apologies, Mr Rothman. Incidentally, FAPA members, don't forget that the deadline for June mailing is June 1, 1940.7

SCIENCE FICTION
WEEKLY

12

The National
Fan Review

Volume One Number Twelve
May 5, 1940

Published at 2574 Bedford Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York. 5¢ per issue; 3 for
10¢; 8 for 25¢. We will exchange with
any other fan magazine.

Advertising: fullpage ads: 75¢. We
will also exchange quarter-page ads, to
be published whenever we have a full
page of same to hand. In all such cases
an extra page of reading matter is guar-
anteed.

Statements or opinions published
here do not necessarily reflect views
of the editors. Our pages are open to
orderly rebuttals at all times.

EDITOR -

Robert IN -

W. CHIEF

Lowndes

ASSOCIATES

Chet Cohen

Dick Wilson

Leslie Perri

CITY DESK

H. C. KOENIG WRITES: "What do you
think of the idea of inviting read-
ers to send in "howlers" to me for
inclusion in my column. I could add the
necessary (?) comments and send them a-
long with my own."

We think it an excellent idea.
All readers are invited to notify Mr H.
C. Koenig, of 540 East 80th St., Brock-
lyn, N.Y., of any amusing slips in the
professional or fan mags they may come
across. Mr Koenig will include these,
with the original comments, plus h i s
own, along with his own findings for the
"Their Own Petard" column.7

READERS OF AMAZING STORIES may have
noted an add in the back for the
"Lemurian Fellowship". The add
promises data on the lost continent of
Lemuria, on Atlantis, and on new con-
tinents to arise in the future. An-
swerers of the add will receive a 60
page pamphlet entitled "Lemuria, the
Incomparable, the Answer". Contents are
hodge-podge of Rosicrucian continental
concepts, Colonel Churchward's Mu vol-
umes, various shreds of fact and myth a-
bout various places and things, some

semi-political agitation in regards to
masses of working people and an aristo-
cracy of ruling Citizens, and a plan
whereby the reader can work his way up
to full Lemurian Citizenship and hence
become one of the ruling class of the
society that is to replace present civi-
lization. Also a request for the five
dollars to pay your registration fee so
that you can start learning to be a Le-
murian. When you graduate you will
presumably have fur and a tail like all
true lemurs.

ADDENDA: "The First to Awaken" is
the title of the Utopian novel by
Granville Hicks and Richard Bennett
to be published May 24, by Modern Age
Books. The book is copiously illustra-
ted with little sketches of scenes,
buildings, and people of the year 2040.
... Warner Bros. have scheduled a film
based on Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem,
"Annabelle Lee" for next season. Tenta-
tive stars of film are Olivia Di Havi-
land, Jeffry Lynn, Donald Crisp, Fay
Bainter and Marjorie Rambeau. ... Ever
since the motion picture "Frankenstein",
showed in Dallas, Alfred J. Frankenstein
and his wife have been the subject of
jokes and wisecracks, they said in a
petition filed in district court. They
asked to have their name shortened to
Frank. ... A recent visitor to the
Ivory Tower was Marvin Press, radio
actor, who has played in radio presenta-
tions of "The Tell-Tale Heart", "Zom-
bie", and others. "Karloff" Press is an
old crony of your editor as the two were
in Maine together in the CCC in 1934.
Thereafter, Karloff went to Los Angeles
to study at City College, and it's been
five and one-half years since they've
gotten together. ... Says Damon Knight:
"In case you haven't already, you might
mention in Squeaky that Science Fiction
Service's new address is 46 Mill Lane,
Liverpool, 13, England." ... Dave Kyle
is trying his hand at stf illustrating
again, as well as dumping mss. into the
Futurian Agent's lap. ... Jack Robins is
running for the Secretary-Treasurer's
post in the FAPA. ... President Rothman
tells us the vote-counters will be For-
rest J Ackerman, Morojo, and Hodgkins.

THEIR OWN PETARD by H. C. Koenig
FROM A LETTER by Jack Robins in
Science Fiction Weekly, Volume One
Number 8. Re a statement of mine
in a previous issue of SFW. "This is
the most severe condemnation of all new
fan magazines that I have ever seen. It
condemns every new fan magazine just be-
cause the fan happened to start publish-
ing it at a much later date than other
fans have started publishing their maga-
zines."

"It says, in effect, that SFW
stinks because it is a new magazine ..."

(Boy, was I glad to see that let-
ter. It's the first come-back that I
have had to any items in this column. I
was just a wee bit afraid that I was
being politely ignored - - and, g o s h
if there is one thing I hate to be, it's
ignored. And, besides, the Editor might
decide to cut out the column due to lack
of interest, and then where would I be?
So, thanks for the plug, Jack.

But, seriously, the point I was
trying to make was simply this. There
are too damn many s.f. and fan magazines
cluttering up the market; good, bad, and
indifferent. Dick Wilson calls atten-
tion to the fact that there are over 70
of the pseudo-scientific comic books
published and that the deluge is slowly
but surely driving completists crazy. I
feel the same way about the s.f. and fan
magazines. - - There is one saving
feature about the fan magazines: some of
them are so badly printed that they cant
be read. -- Wilson also says that "some-
thing ought to be done about the deluge"
and points out that Sun Fun Magazine is
bringing out a character which combines
the best features of Mandrake, Superman,
The Shadow, etc. That's the idea in a
nutshell. Combine the best features of
the various s.f. magazines in three or
four really fine magazines: eliminate
the others. Do the same thing in the
fan field, ending with, let us say, a-
bout six or eight fan magazines of ex-
cellent quality. Ah, what a world this
would be. Such a one as the Futurians
never dreamed could exist. There's a
revolutionary idea for you.

One more thing. Your uncouth h
statement that, in effect, I think "SFW
stinks because it is a new magazine."
Mind your manners, young man. You are

writing to a high-class magazine.
"Smell" might be acceptable, but
"stinks" - - why, bless my soul, it just
ain't being done in the best of circles.
Might I suggest a little course of "Emi-
ly Post". - - Quite to the contrary, I
think that SFW is one of the best week-
lies in the country. A few more column s
like this one and it will be the best in
the solar system.)

(Mr Koenig is grossly ignorant of
the proper usages of the verbs "to
stink" and "to smell." Mr Robins usage
of the word "stink" is proper and cor-
rect and it would have been poor English
indeed to have used the word "smell" in
re an inanimate object. Smelling is done
with the nostrils and is a receptive
effect. Stinking is the giving off of
the gaseous emanation. Thus proper us-
age would be to say: "SFW stinks; Koenig
smells." - - Grammar Editor.)

Mr Koenig's case rests upon seman-
tics alone. But semantics are powerful
things; sometimes it is much better to
offend grammar than run afoul of them.7

RESCUE

To the Ivory Tower last week came
a cry for help from Bob Tucker: Flash!
Reinsberg and Korshak leaving today for
Fort Wayne after a 4-Day stay with me.

I'm a nervous wreck!

Gotta aspirin? (Unquote)

Immediately, the Medical Divisio n
of the Futurian Society was contacted
and an aspirin duly mailed to Tucker.

ADDENDA: Members of the Fantasy
Amateur Press Association will soon
be asked for donations to help ba-
lance the budget. ... Chet Cohen, John
Forté, and John Giunta are trying to
break into professional illustrating and
should make the grade. Giunta has al-
ready had considerable success with com-
ic-magazine work. Alfred J. McKeel, of
1100 E. High St., Jefferson City, Mo.,
is doing a department for The Alchemist
which will contain the pronunciation of
the names of as many fans as he can get
hold of. It should be interesting.

INVITATION

Come and meet 4e, Morojo, and Pogo
At the Convention this year in Chicago.

- - - daw

FANFARE

Fanfare is back! After its first ill-fated attempt, it appears again, this time with the financial support of no less than 14 fans, (members of the newly-formed Stranger Club), and it's bound to go places.

Second issue contains material by Avery, Chauvenet, Singleton, Weiner, and gives details in Widner's poll.

Cover contest and other features. Send a dime for a single copy (or a quarter for three issues) to: - -

Arthur L. Widner Jr
Box 122
Bryantville, Mass

IT'S A FACT !

Many of your favorite science fiction authors were once fans who wanted to write.

Today, a new crop of writers are coming up from that same body. Today, again, there is a bigger market for writers of sf than ever before. An opportunity for the writer with a fan background.

You can learn to write science-fiction by writing it; but you can learn quicker, easier, if you have professional assistance. This Agency has aided a large number of the now sf writers, such as Donald A. Wollheim, Lee Greger, S. D. Gottesman, Oliver Saari, Richard Wilson, and Damon Knight. Write today to Robert W. Lowndes at this address for particulars, and let me know what you have done and what you plan to do in science-fiction writing.

Robert W. Lowndes

ARE YOU A FUTURIAN ?

If you are a true-blue science fiction reader and fan, then you must be interested in the future.

You might say that the difference between a fan and a non-fan (given equal intelligence) is that the former can talk about the future without falling into clichés that bored our grandparents.

And, surely, if you are a fan, interested in the future, you believe that science is going to play its role therein - - in fact, that science will play an increasingly larger, beneficial role.

Well, if you think along such lines, you are a Futurian.

And if you're a Futurian, why not say so? Write the Futurian League at this address and tell us about it.

C O S M I C T A L E S

Now under new editorship

will soon appear

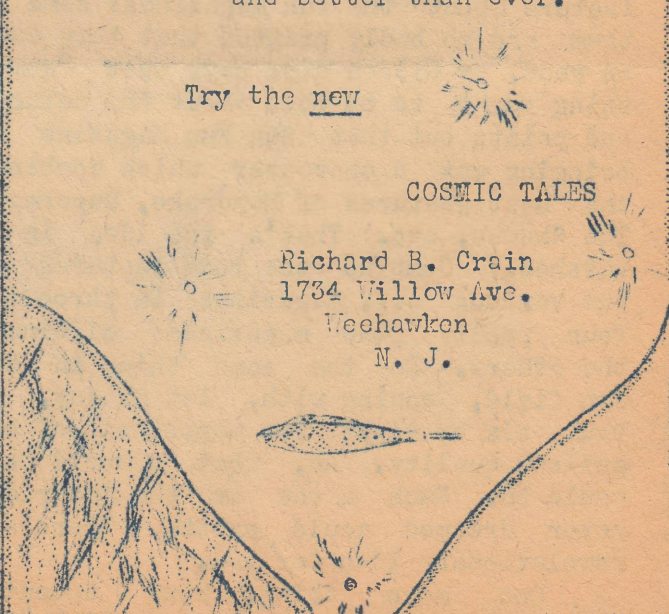
with an issue bigger

and better than ever.


Try the new

COSMIC TALES

Richard B. Crain
1734 Willow Ave.
Weehawken
N. J.



... dick wilson's STRICTLY PUBLIC *

 THE OTHER DAY we were looking thru a pamphlet on the ABC's of Parliamentary Procedure. All very impressive and weighty, but just a bit silly, we think, for fan clubs. Whereat we let bubbles slide through our think-tank (Hi, Doctor Smith!) and finally came to the conclusion that oogs and oogs of pother could be saved in fan clubs by the simple expedient, hereafter to be known as the "Stitch in Time" motion.

Let us say that Fan Club X is in session, trying to stay on Terra for a period of time long enough to transact a little routine business. But the members haven't been in the right mood, and a lot of horseplay has been going on -- motions to buy Mars piece by piece from the natives in exchange for buckets of water, etc. According to the straight and narrow path of Parliamentary Procedure, someone must become serious and make a number of ritual motions before things can get back again. Then is the time.

Member A rises and says: Mr Chairman, I move a stitch in time.

The chairman responds with: At what time by the clock did we enter this stitch, Mr A?

Let us say the monkey business started at 2:30. Then Mr A says: At 2:30.

Chairman: And when will we arrive through the stitch?

Let us say it is now 2 minutes before 3. Mr A: At 3 o'clock.


The chairman states the motion. It is not debatable, though the period of the stitch as stated by Mr A can be amended through customary procedure. A vote is taken, motion passed.

Chairman: Gentlemen, I observe that it is now 3 o'clock; a second ago, it was 2:30. Apparently, we have gone through a stitch in time. However, since no one is missing, the secretary will please inform us where we stand as of 2:30 and the meeting will proceed. Any doodlings on the minute books suggesting fictitious events, allegedly occurring between 2:30 and 3 PM will be crossed out. We must stick to realities.

Simple, isn't it?

* Guest-written by RML.

FROM THE VAULTS

 HIS COLUMN consists of items here and there, salvaged from some old files, possibly intended for publication in some former fanmag.

2. Reckoning

When you die, kick off, depart this life, and meet him for a reckoning, what will you say?

When that event meets me, I will pretend that I must go back to get my Record Book, since I have a poor memory and am a poorer liar (he hasn't bothered to notice me before).

Yes, I would go back on that pretense. But it is quite likely that the suddenness of the reckoning prevented my paying the last installment on an abestos suit, and I need go back for that reason only.

Also, after I am judged, it is probable that the real object of my return will stand me in good stead; for I understand that the summers in hell are particularly torrid.

3. Messengers

Death has an insatiable curiosity. He is forever wanting to get first-hand information about Life; so he appoints messengers to bring him the dope: he beckons at the Livers, and they respond ... some willingly; others very unwillingly.

& since Death wants to learn all about Life, he chooses as his messengers the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the discerning, and the unenlightened. But, as each messenger has a different definition of Life to give, Death remains puzzled.

So he keeps choosing messengers in an effort to know all about the force that possesses men to live and love. And thus the Livers of Life are forever being plucked away ... some willingly; others very unwillingly.

When the Livers of Life have, sometime in the dim and kisty future, cut the party-line over which Death calls his messengers, no man need leave to commune with him ... willingly or very unwillingly.

- - - DALE HART - - -

OUR FANMAG REVIEWER SAYS:

The Time has Come to -- Snide, the Thud & Blunder Magazine, Issue # 1, Damon Knight, 803 Columbia Street, Hood River, Oregon, (10¢). For a different fanmag. Among the price less pieces herein are: "The Rocket", "Via Totem Pole", and "Essay on the Freedom of Space". Hoy Ping Pong and other stf humorists had best look to their laurels; Sir Damon runneth up hefty competition.

Science Fiction Fan, #s 37, 38, 39, 40, & 41. Obtainable only through yearly subscriptions @ \$1. Olon F. Wiggins, 3214 Champa Street, Denver, Colorado. The oldest now-running monthly is catching up on overdue issues. Outstanding in these five are such items as "The Purpose of Science Fiction" (D.W.F. Mayner), "The Last of H. P. Lovecraft", (John B. Michel), and "The Great Science Fiction Novel" (C. Samuel Youd).

Futurian Observer, #s 1,2,3,4,5 Published at 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, Australia, by William D. Veney & Bert F. Castellari @ 3¢ per. Interesting notes and comment by Australian fans on stf and fandom there.

Fantasy War Bulletin, Vol 1, Number 5. Final issue, published by C. S. Youd, 244 Desborough Rd., Eastleigh, Hants, England. Account of the fanmag situation in England and effective denial of rumor that Sam Youd was through with stf and fan activity.

Mercury, Vol 1 # 3, published monthly by J.J. Fortier, 1836 - 39th Avenue, Oakland, Cal. (5¢). West coast patter and general news in what the editor calls the "hell to breakfast stfan news".

Golden Atom, #7 (into which is incorporated Outre #4), published monthly by Larry Farsaci, 48 Lewis St., Rochester, New York (15¢). Interesting article by John W. Campbell, Jr., on the Campbell-Stuart tales. Collectoers, items, etc.

New Fandom, Vol 2 # 1, April, 1940. Only items of note in this issue are "A Critique of Science Fiction" by that painful bore, Thomas S. Gardner, and "Reader Vs Fans" by that equally painful bore, Charles D. Hornig. Other material consists of the usual editorial by Moskowitz, and departments of no par-

RTLUR L. WIDNER WRITES: "Koenig's 'Their Own Petard' isn't bad, but I didn't care for his illogical attack on 4e in #7. Admitted that 4e has done a lot of unorthodox stuff with words (most of which is sensible), is he to be prohibited from criticising such a stupid error as attempting to hyphenize words like 'light', 'been', etc? I don't see where that had anything to do with HCK's blast. These strict purists are a pain in the neck, anyhow. If we listened to them, we'd be still going around writing 'thee', 'thou', 'yelept', and whatnot. Mostly not."

NANCY WARNER WRITES: "I don't agree with Mr Koenig when he says (or, anyway, implies) that there are too many science fiction magazines. Perhaps it is tough on people who try to buy and read them all, but they're a minority, anyway. Matter of fact, aren't the fans a minority, too? What I mean is, no matter how many science fiction magazines there are, if a new one can come out and keep coming, doesn't that prove that there were not enough to satisfy the reading public before? Because, if there were, then how could the new magazine keep going?

"I know, for my part, I've got me many a headache trying to figure out whether or not fans are really representative of science-fiction readers. Please don't publish my address, Mr Editor, because I'm afraid I'll be bombed after this next statement. I think that the fan is the exception and not the rule. Because if the majority of science fiction readers saw things the way the real fan does, then any science fiction magazine which was not pretty near as good as Astounding would soon die for lack of support from the buying public."

(Fan Mag Reviews, Continued)

ticular interest. 16 pages, poorly mimographed on cheap grey paper, orange silk-screen cover with very uninspiring and unoriginal design. This magazine will certainly give the new fan a very low opinion of fan publishing and writing.

- - - rsc - - -