



ROGERS

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JAMES V. TAURASI...  
TOMMY M. ROGERS...  
WILLIS ELLIOTT...  
COVERS...  
ROOMS...  
HEAR NOW!...  
TAUTOLOGY...  
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This month's editorial will be devoted to spiking false rumors that have been going around lately, concerning the supposedly bad struggle ASTOUNDING was to have been going through. Due to recent rearrangements at STEPHEN & SMITH, Mr. TREMAINE'S duties have been so expanded as to force him to turn the editorship of ASTOUNDING over to Mr. JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR. I have been informed by editor CAMPBELL that all the rumors that have been going the rounds are definitely fairy tales and hokum. ASTOUNDING is not losing circulation, it is gaining. It already had the largest circulation of any science-fiction magazine in the world, and it has gained more since the time that announcement was first printed. I hope this straightens out this riddle, and the least said about the matter hereafter, the better off all science-fiction will be. Any rumors you hear after this, unless it comes from editor CAMPBELL'S own mouth, you can absolutely ignore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



DAN SPYKER of New York will issue a magazine called THE SCIENTIFICTIONIST in November. He says that it probably will not run over three issues. DAVID A. VYLE now states that the PHANTASY ARCHITECT may be considered officially defunct. He is contemplating the revision of a new and more plastic organization, very titled THE AMERICAN PHANTASY ARCHITECT. It is possible that the subject may light up at the coming Philadelphia convention and probable that it will be turned down. Expected attendants at the conventions are DAVID M. SPYKER, PHIL NOLLHEIM, and L. A. E. REICH. The chairman of the convention is to be HARVEY GREENPLATE. A silent but enthusiastic supporter of stf, MILTON A. ROTHMAN will be the secretary. In England the Second British Science-Fiction Conference is set for the first week in November. EDWARD CARNELL has taken an interest in V.H. JOHNSON'S magazine, idling business and the bandit-firm will henceforth be known as CARNELL and JOHNSON-to be stf to Britshers from London and Liverpool offices. The latest issue of NOVA (N.Y.), and all forthcoming issues, will be

located on the BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY machine by CARNELL-power engins. D. W. MAYER has won an examination to Leeds University and will probably resign SFA secretary to pursue his studies. WALTER H. GILLINGS has been elected chairman of the London FIS. Evidently the FIS is sponsoring a rocket race to arouse public interest in rocketry. Professor A. V. LOW is giving a cup as a reward. dare to add that the HIS technical committee is roaring ahead full-blast on some secret experiments. And at long last, TED CARNELL, to whom we are indebted for the above news, has finally become engaged and will wed fair Irene within the year. WILSON SPYKER is a leading candidate for the Presidency of the AMERICAN AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION. His latest AAPA paper is called the ASTRONAUT FREE-PRESS. Your own correspondent is in touch for the post of Criticism and managing editor. HARRY DOCKWEILER, who recently joined a Field-Artillery outfit of the U.S. National Guard, is organizing a semi-military type of organization known as the SCIENTIFICTION LEGION (Great Jupiter what will these crew-balls be doing next?). Editor Members will wear army caps and special insignia. DAVID A. VYLE has taken back the editorial directorship of the PHANTASY WORLD and will re-issue it (we hope). GRAVENARD WILLIE CONOVER was a guest at the home of VIRGIL FINLAY in Rochester, N.Y. for a few days recently. BOOFS--THE RAID OF THE TERRIBLE by JOHN JACKWORTH has appeared in the U.S. (Lippincott's) Another new book is AT THE DAWN OF THE MILLENIUM by LENORE G. MARSHALL--a novel of the future (CHRISTOPHER). New books announced for publication include THIRTEEN O'CLOCK-STORIES OR SEVERAL WORLDS by S. V. BENET, BROTHER PETROLO's RETURN a novel about a re-incarnated monk written by a dominican monk signing himself J.M.C. WAR WITH THE NEWTS by KAREL CAPYS (U.S. edition by Putnam's), GHOSTS by EDITH WHARTON speaks for itself. BILL MILLER will probab-

resign the secretaryship of the F.A.P. because of the rush of school work.... ROBERT A. HARRIS has elected new President of the PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE-FICTION SOCIETY..... ROY TEST, JR., is another in Los Angeles, has given up the idea of printing a magazine since finding that hand-setting type means work.... JULIE SCHWARTZ is now embarked upon a career as a teacher..... Though it is of little importance one of the pages in FANTASY MIRROR'S first issue was censored and about 50 copies seized as a result..... Commander P.J. SEARLES, firm supporter of astf, has recently been transferred from Pearl Harbor, T.H. to Boston, Massachusetts..... MUNSEY'S are bringing out a companion magazine to ARGOSY - A monthly called ALL-AMERICAN FICTION. It features the same type of fiction as ARGOSY including the "off-trail" or fantasy-yarn.... Rumors still keep on concerning ASTOUNDING STORIES. We have heard, but warn readers that we have not the slightest personal verification of it, that the circulation is now around 35,000 - which would mean a great drop in the last two years. It was estimated then at over 75,000! On the other hand, WRITER'S DIGEST states that although SWEET & SMITH have dropped nine titles, only one of them was edited by TREMAINE. It states that TREMAINE'S remaining five - including ASTOUNDING - are doing well and buying actively. Fans are free to believe what they will. Personally the writer thinks that if ASTOUNDING hasn't taken a terrific drop in the last year, then the readers are doper than I thought. The magazine has been edited increasingly poorly, in my opinion, and the type of story and illustration is hitting ever new lows.... Over a thousand letters are said to have been received by TREMAINE concerning the upside down illustrations.... The Leftist tendency in science-fiction fandom is growing steadily. Simultaneously awakenings are in both in England and the U.S.A.



BY OLON F. WIGGINS

Editor GARDNER of ASTOUNDING sends me the story schedule for the December edition here is. DARK ETERNITY is by JOHN RUSSELL FEARNSHAW, which is the cover story, illustrated by M. V. DENNIS. CITY OF THE ROCKET HORDE is the short of NAT SCHACHNER. The long delayed MAN by ERIC FRANK RUSSELL will go in this number. AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG does one entitled THE WINDMASTER. SPACE SIGNALS by R. L. MAC FARLEY, JR. FROM THE VACUUM OF SPACE this one by J. H. HAGGARD. The HUNTER boys E. and C. do one called THE TIME CONTRACTOR. SPECTRAL ADVENTURERS, the work of RUPERT MC KAY.... E. E. SMITH, PH.D. has part four of LACTIC PATROL. Among the stories to go in the January ASTOUNDING are: PITHECANTHROPUS INJECTUS by MANLEY WADE WELLMAN.... WILLY Ley is back with the first of several articles on POWER PLANTS OF THE FUTURE.... DEAD KNOWLEDGE to be by DONALD A. STUART. ORMOLY OF MONERIAL this one by WARNER VAN LORNE, which will be the cover subject, to be drawn by R. E. MCGOWAN.... CLIFTON B. KRUSI yarns it with THE VOICE OUT OF SPACE.... Among the three lead novelettes for the February issue of THRILLING JOURNAL OF SCIENCE will be ZONE OF SPACE by HENRY ST. JOHN.

SHERIDAN this is an unusual story of a phenomenon of evolution.....IRHAM JUSS ROBINSON by MANLEY WADE WELLMAN, is about travel in the stratosphere. T.W.S. have also taken up WELLMAN'S yarn THE PLANET OF CHANGE concerning life on Venus....The cover story for this issue will illustrate a scene from LIFE IN THE SKY, and is drawn by HOWARD V. BROWN. This by the way is a sequel to CONQUEST OF LIFE (August, volume 10 # 1 1937).....Included in the same issue will be a profusely illustrated article by Sir JAMES JEANS, GIANT AND DEMON STARS....and VIA ASTEROID this one by CECIL GILLES, which is a sequel to his VIA ETHER (October, Volume 10 # 3 1937 T.W.S.) AMONG the other stories for future THRILLING WONDER STORIES will be the following:-WE THE INVISIBLE a novelette of hidden forces by LONG, JR.....THE DARK AGE a short story of the collapse of the mechanistic civilization, an old favorite, CLARK ASHTON SMITH.....BRAIN PIRATES a new PENTON and BLAKE interplanetary yarn, by JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.....HOLD UP THE MOON a novelette of the film of the future, by HENRY KUTTNER, which is the first of a new series.....Editor MARGULIES' Notes: Of late we have been receiving many good long stories--too long for publication in T.W.S. I'm wondering whether or not our science-fiction followers would like to see THAWARD MAGAZINE issue a companion quarterly to THRILLING WONDER STORIES. What kind of stories would you like to see in it? And how much should it sell for? May I have your suggestions on this, and of course. Well fellow fans how are you going to answer the above queries? If you would like to see a Quarterly written by first editor MARGULIES know it and I feel sure that he will see that we get that long awaited Quarterly.

## SCIENCE-FICTION FILM REVIEWS

"KING SOLOMON'S MINES".....STOPPER

REVIEWED  
BY

DAVID A. KYLE

KING SOLOMON'S MINES made by GAUMONT-BRITISH FILM COMPANY. Produced in England, this and popular novel by the well-known writer, H.RIDER HAGGARD, has been made into exciting, well-directed, and well acted picture. The cast includes CECILIE HARDWICKE, ALAN QUATERMAINE, PAUL ROBESON as UMBOPA and YOUNG as Captain GOOD, and JOHN LODER as HENRY CURTIS. Naturally the movie scenario made room for a heroine, KATHY O'BRIEN, played by ANN LEE. Miss LEE is a very pretty and very talented young actress, but her very irritating Irish accent in this picture gets on your nerves. The plot concerns the search for the lost jewel mines of King Solomon in the heart of Africa. UMBOPA encourages KATHY to follow her father, who hoped to find the mines, into unexplored territory. The other characters, unable to change her decision, accompany her two. After crossing the huge desert with great suffering, they become involved in a struggle between two tribes of savages. The picture speeds up in tempo--some thrilling scenes of volcanic eruption and the marvelous singing of PAUL ROBESON, in his very swell baritone voice, of MIGHTY MOUNTAIN make this a must science-fiction film.

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TOPPER produced by HAL ROACH from the no  
THORNTON SMITH. This hilarious comedy fa  
the most amusing fantasy-comedy film tha  
ever comes out of Hollywood. An excellent  
of CARY GRANT, CONSTANCE BENNETT, ROLAND  
BILLYE BURKE and ALAN MOWRAY is a great  
to the picture. The fun revolves around  
and BENNETT who are two happily married  
and rich happy-go-luckyes. Carefree and  
they like TOPPER played by ROLAND YOUNG  
is hsn-pecked, conservative, and a timid  
ered banker. When the couple crash into  
with their high-powered car and are killed  
action really gets under way. They are de  
physically, and yet they're not. They are de  
sible; they can make themselves visible at  
time, but in either case remaining perfectly  
solid and material. Finally deciding that  
are Earth-bound because they have not done  
good in their care-free life, they agree to do  
the only wat they can go to heaven is to do  
good deed. TOPPER is their good deed. No  
deed could be done than to make him over  
an independent and care-free man, that he  
enjoy life....They certainly go to town.  
Being invisible they pass from one funny  
tion into another. They involve TOPPER in  
street fight, a scandal, and shock his wife  
with a pair of ladies' unmentionables. They  
drive the police crazy, not to mention the  
agony of house detective EUGENE PALLETTTE.  
The antics of the ghostly pair will undoubt  
roll you in the aisles with laughter. You  
must see it. Yes, they finally go to heaven.  
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## THE FANTASY BOOKER

BY

## THE CLUE BOOK COLLECTOR

There is no better fun to be had out of science-fiction collecting than the pleasure of haunting old book stores in quest of volumes of fantasy. To make a regular routine of going over all the book stores you know of at least once a week, to search the stalls in front with a practiced and piercing eye skimming lightly in search of a familiar or suggestive title. Then every once in a while to thrust forth a hawk-like hand to pluck from the dusty tables or shelves a volume. Usually old, or ravaged by time. To swiftly run through its pages in search of some hint as to whether its contents are science-fictional or merely prosaic.

Many and often the disappointments, the false titles, the futile quest. Often long moments of indecision when it is necessary to actually read through several pages from some strategic appearing chapter in order to determine the true nature of the volume. And those thrilling moments when you realize you have made a strike, and that the nondescript volume is actually fantasy and thrills.

One grows immune to false titles after a while. One begins to even develop a sort of second sight by which one knows instinctively whether a title is of real promise or merely figurative. Such thrilling titles as PHASES OF A MINOR PLANET, THE RED PLANE, END OF THE WORLD, TOMORROW'S CHILDREN, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON, THE CITY OF FIRE, THE

Vanishing Point all serve to but to hide perfectly ordinary tales of life. Not a fant  
in the lot. And sometimes there are perfe  
ordinary titles that hide good science-  
fiction books. One must learn not to overlook such ordinary, or unpromising titles as Zamiatin), MAN'S MORTALITY (Arlen), BAN  
Parabellum-not to be confused with another book of the same name by John Paris), NUMBER 87 (Hext), THE JINGO (Chester), DROWSY (M  
hell), and large number of others.

A jolt that comes once in every book hunt is when his eye first lights on THE BLIND SPOT. What a thrill! But what a let down! It's only a religious treatise with the same name as the famous classic. The real BLIND SPOT has never appeared in book form. And then there is DARKNESS AND DAWN. All too often one runs across this title, but it is GEORGE ALLEN ENGLAND'S exceedingly rare masterpiece. It's just some tediously long volume by an author whose name escapes my memory (maybe TOLSTOY).

After years of experience, the hunter arrives at a point where he can glance at a case of books in a new store, and say at once "I am sure there is s-f here". A sudden feeling of being on the scent overcomes me. I go carefully through it. And almost invariably I make a strike. And there is times when I glance at what might seem to be a promising set of shelves and know at once that I will find nothing.

Book collecting is a grand hobby and a constantly interesting hunt. Stores are continually changing their stock and the hunt goes on steadily. And stores are always moving and starting up and going under, and to find a new one or attend the bankruptcy sales of an old one is always an affair of keen interest. Collecting s-f books is a real game.

\*\*\*\*\* Part One \*\*\*\*\*

## SCIENCE-FICTIONIST UTOPIA

BY

R. E. LOWNDES  
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Recently, in an article to FAN, I alluded slightly to the ideal science-fiction magazine. Since then, the idea has taken possession of my muddled grey cells, and now I find myself asking: what is the ideal science-fiction magazine? Of what would it be composed? Who would read it? How would it be edited? And so on far into the night.

Let us assume, for the sake of this analysis, that the conditions necessary for our ideal science-fiction magazine have come about. Some publisher, ChuChu bless him, has decided that science fiction is a money-making proposition, and is planning a magazine, or a chain of magazines, to be run just as the science-fiction adherents want them.

It will have to be a chain, of course. That much is evident. There are a number of types of science-fiction and a number of phases of science-fiction enthusiasm. First of all, let us take the several types and list them, just as if they were as distinctly separate as pigeon-holes, which is not the case at all.

1. Fantastic adventure. This is mostly ordinary adventure with a fantastic or scientific setting. There is no definite theme and the story meanders hither and yon like the WIZARD OF OZ or ALICE IN WONDERLAND. BUCK ROGERS can be cited as an example; so can TARZAN, MURROCKS in general, HAGGARD, KLINE, and others. A very prominent example today is JOHN RUSSELL FEARN, although in the ideal story, while the theme would be as elastic as FEARN'S, such as there is, would not be enormous as is sometimes the case with this gentle-

eman's work. It is not necessarily a good bad type; examples are either well-done or poorly done. The majority of examples to date are poorly done.

3. Scientific projection. The true form of science-fiction possible. The basis for this type are sound science or psychology which is as scientific as mechanics, biology, communication, etc., and while extrapolation may be unlimited, the roots are never lost. And, while undoubtedly fantastic, the story is logical in itself. H.G.WELLS and CLIFFORD DUNN are the prime examples of this school.

3. Pseudo-scientific projection. This differs from the above in that, while its logic must be sound in itself, its basis is either home-made or entirely theoretical and questionable. To wit: the various atomic theories which have been stated, considered, but not definitely proven or accepted. The greatest example of this type, to my mind, is H.P. LOVECRAFT. His scientific basis for AT THE CONTAINS OF MADNESS is speculative, but his logic and scientific-projection, assuming the primal factors to be true, are unimpeachable and all in all forms a great, truly great piece of creative writing. A. MERRITT is another good example of this school.

Now, what are the various phases of science-fiction reading? This cannot be analyzed, at present, with any degree of accuracy, as it depends upon the individual, and individuals are tricky things. Still, we will try to make a general survey, which of course, will be quite faulty as all generalities are.

1. The fascination stage. The individual is attracted by a science-fiction book, magazine, movie, or cartoon. Perhaps it is the fantastic cover or illustrations. Reading it opens a new world to him or her that they were unaware of. If he or she is in any way imaginative, a fan is born.

Obviously, then, types one and three will have the greatest appeal, for type two is likely to be very technical, assume and demand more than a little knowledge of science or psychology and requires a bit of experience to understand it. Perhaps hybrids of all three will have an appeal.

At any rate, the stories must not be too scientific, if they are of the second type. They must have too much depth and vision. They must have action and adventure and romance, such as the reader is acquainted with and such as he or she secretly yearns for. Therefore, one of our science-fiction magazines must be definitely aimed at the new reader, and since the majority of new readers will be of high-school age or younger, they must be written for them. Not to turn them off to them, but in such a way as, first to attract, than to interest, then send them on to a more adult fare.

3. The awakening stage. The brightness of the cover, bizarreness of the illustrations, thrill of adventure has began to wear thin. The reader finds too much action, not enough ideas. Therefore, we have the next magazine, which deals more with the basic problems of finding oneself in science-fiction environments than raving Martians, Russians, and Hatchacallit people from Wherever. There is more science, science articles, technical discussions, and fan departments. Stories are better written, fans are brought together in clubs or leagues.

3. The thinking stage. Here is all three types at their best. Thought and action are shown in their true light; experience given its proper valuation and thought wedded to experience so that depth can be attained. The circulation of this magazine will be much lower than the other two. Many readers will never read it at all, or will not read it long. It will be a very small percentage who work up, as it were from one to three; many, perhaps will not go through the stages at all.

What about the editors of these magazines? One thing is certain; there will have to be changes often. A fresh true viewpoint must be maintained, and, as soon as an editor of class one starts thinking in the terms of class two and three, he will have to be moved up. Editors will be fans themselves, of more than average intelligence, who have a keen interest in their magazine and their readers and know exactly what the readers of their magazines want.

And as soon as an editor begins to go by formula, no matter how good a formula, he has to be removed. Editors will hold their chairs for a term of not more than five years, for tastes change and mature greatly in that time, or rather, it often occurs.

Here then, is our ideal science-fiction magazines. The editors know just what their audiences appreciate, and, while they do not reject any good tale for their audience, they don't take anything that is poorly done or over or below the grasp of their readers. Readers' columns are lively things, into which editor does not hesitate to enter. Illustrations are well-done, well-chosen, and creditable to the magazine. Authors are paid promptly and well for their offerings and no nags, no matter what it is, is allowed to interfere with the policy of good workmanship; there is no SCHACKENF's in our ideal chain, they either buckle down to work and surprise everyone, including themselves, take to something else, or starve to death.

Ah yes, it's all impossible, or infinitely improbable, but it was rather a nice dream wasn't it?.....\*\*\*\*\*RWL

READERS  
OF FANZINES  
PLEASE NOTE

JAN

## EDITORIAL-CONTINUED FROM PAGE

TREMAINE, although turning the editorship of ASTOUNDING over to CAMPBELL, will retain a friendly, advisory interest in the magazine.

There will, incidentally, be only very few changes in editorial policy, following arrival here. Mr. TREMAINE'S policies have been liked by the readers, which is excellent reason to continue them. Occasionally a change will be made, and a trial period elapses while the readers—through the rejuvenated BRASS TACKS express their opinions.

BRASS TACKS exists for that purpose—the expression of opinions and the making of suggestions, and that is one department which you will see expand in the next few months.

The two paragraphs immediately above are quoted from editor CAMPBELL'S letter. My new address: 506-29th Street, Denver, Colorado. Please address all future mail to me at this address. You fan magazine editor, please change it on your mailing list.

This issue was to have been 32 pages, but in moving I have been delayed somewhat, but will eventually get out a 32 page. This edition may be only 16, instead of the usual 20, but the 32 page FAN will make up the difference. Well until next month, on to the stars with science-fiction.

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Will pay 50 cents for a copy of the April issue of THE SCIENCE-FICTION FAN. Write CLO P. WIGGINS, 506-29th Street, Denver, Colorado.

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