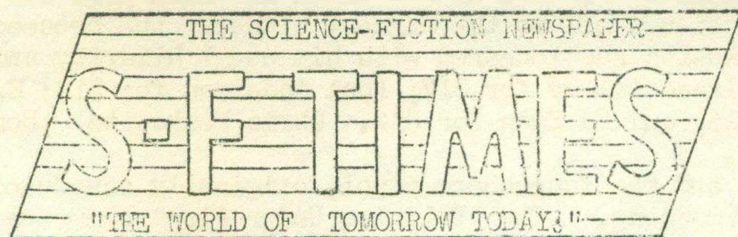


IT'S PITTSBURG IN 1960



No 323

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SECOND SEPTEMBER 1959 ISSUE

STILL ONLY TEN CENTS

DETENTION - HUGE SUCCESS

FANTASY & SCIENCE FIC. -
BLISH - FREAS & BLOCH
WIN HUGOS

by BELLE C. DIETZ

(With the assistance of Sam and Chris Moskowitz, Forrest J Ackerman, Dick Eney, George Scithers, Joe Christoff, Joe Casey, Elliot Broderick and Frank Dietz.)

ALTHO the convention didn't officially open until Saturday, Sept. 5th, when this reporter arrived Friday night there were already over 200 fans at the hotel.

FIRST DAY - Saturday, September 5th, 1959

TRUE TO tradition, the official program opened one hour and ten minutes late. The welcoming speech was made by co-chairman Roger Sims, and Dave Kyle was designated to introduce the notables present. Starting with the old-time fans, running through the pros and then the well-known newer fans, Dave managed to give a little background of nearly everybody in the room.

The Guest Of Honor, Poul Anderson, was presented to the audience and asked for a few words. He thanked the con committee for what he modestly called a highly undeserved honor and went on to thank the membership and urge them all to have a good time together. The Fan Guest Of Honor, John Berry, was introduced next, thanked the fans for bringing him over from Ireland and delivered the regards of former TAFF candidate Walter A. Willis.

1941

BEGINNING OUR NINETEENTH YEAR

1959

Bob Madle then said a few words on behalf of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund and passed out TAFF ballots. The current candidates, Don Ford, Bjo Wells and Terry Carr (the latter in absentia) were introduced.

Next came the Auction Block, an idea originated by Bob Bloch in which pros donate an hour of their time to be auctioned off to the highest bidder, the proceeds going to TAFF. The voluble SaMoskowitz auctioneered with his usual hilarity and wit and sold Willy Ley for \$12.98; Isaac Asimov for \$17; Poul Anderson for \$13; E. E. Smith for \$12; Judy Merrill for \$15; and Ed Emsh for \$12. Chris Moskowitz then proceeded to auction off SaM for \$9.

The program was running overtime and the fanpubbers panel, originally scheduled to follow was postponed to the next morning. The "Psionics Under Fire" commenced with John W. Campbell Jr. on the receiving-answering end! Tom Scortia, Ed Wood and Ted Gogswell for the prosecution, and Dean McLaughlin moderating. It turned out to be a really hot discussion and Mr. Campbell had to sweat mightily while explaining why so many psionics in Astounding. As a matter of fact during the whole convention much criticism on this theme was directed at John; never was an editor made more painfully aware of the opinions of some of his readers.

The Costume Ball was held in the evening. This was marred by poor presentation, lack of space and insufficient air-conditioning. The variety of costumes also were not what there were in the past, but there were some unusual ones. James Gunn, Judy Merrill and Larry Shaw acted as judges and bestowed prizes upon Bill Donaho for the most fannish costume, Nancy Shapiro for the best basic anatomy. Al Lewis for the most nauseating; Joe Christoff for the most beautiful (\$); and Betsy, William Edgar and Margaret Curtis for the most clever. Worthy of special mention are Pat Ellington and scantily-clad Virginia Schultheis (both tough competition for the best basic anatomy); Ruth and Dave Kyle in ingenious "brainy" garb and a Wizard of Oz group consisting of SaMoskowitz as the Wizard; Chris as the Tin Woodman, Joe Casey as the Yellow Brick Road; Barbara Silverberg as Dorothy; Alma Hill as Glenda the Good Witch of the North; Ted Johnstone as Toto; Frank Dietz as the Scarecrow; and this reporter as an orange Cowardly Lion. A jazz band played for dancing.

SECOND DAY -- Sunday, September 6th, 1959

THE OPENING auction on Sunday was delayed because church services were being held in the main hall but Tom Scortia started it off in the display room and Harlan Ellison took over when church was over. Harlan tried awfully hard but people were just not in a buying mood and stuff didn't move. Concurrently, a talk by Clarence B. Hyde of the Pittsburgh S-F Society was being given on Edgar Rice Burroughs. The faneditors' panel which had been postponed from the day before was put off still further to the last item on Sunday's program.

With the banquet beginning at 1:30 P.M., the convention was announced back on schedule. An estimated 230 sat down to the meal. To start off the speeches, Roger Sims introduced Doc Smith, who made a posthumous presentation in behalf of the National Fantasy Fan Federation to E. Everett Evans which was received by Forrest J Ackerman for "Ev's" widow. He then announced a new series of awards, beginning with this year, in memory of "Ev" to be called the "Big Heart" award. He then and there made the first of such awards to Robert Bloch.

The floor was then turned over to Isaac Asimov who acted as toastmaster. Isaac did a wonderful, hilarious job and kept the speeches moving along happily. He first presented John Berry, the Fan Guest Of Honor, who gave his impressions of the U.S. John turned out to be an excellent and humorous speaker and got a big hand at his conclusion. Mr. Asimov then designated Bob Bloch who was to act as assistant toastmaster and help him with the HUGO AWARDS. The Guest Of Honor, Poul-Anderson was next and gave the major banquet speech. He started it in a light vein and went on to a more serious discussion of s-f and literature. He was engrossing

and got rapt attention and a very large round of applause at the end.

The HUGO AWARDS were next and were presented in sealed envelopes. Mr. Asimov announced the categories and then handed the envelopes to Bob Bloch who opened them and read off the winners.

THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

BEST NOVEL - "A Case Of Conscience" by James Blish.

BEST NOVELETTE - "The Big Front Yard" by Clifford Simak.

BEST SHORT STORY - "The Hell-Bound Train" by Robert Bloch.

BEST MOVIE - No Award (by an overwhelming vote).

BEST ARTIST - Frank Kelly Freas (for the FIFTH consecutive time).

BEST MAGAZINE - Fantasy & Science Fiction (for the SECOND consecutive time).

BEST FAN MAG - Fanac.

MOST PROMISING NEW AUTHOR - (This was a rather unusual situation because the majority of those who voted marked NO AWARD for this category but the balance of those who did vote were almost unanimously for Britisher Brian Aldiss. As a compromise solution, the Convention Committee therefore didn't give him a HUGO, but made up a special plaque which was received for him by John Berry.)

There was one final award--George Nims Raybin presented John Berry with a drawing of a typewriter on behalf of the readers of the fan mag Cry Of The Nameless which entitled him to one portable typewriter to be delivered to him when he returned to New York to enplane for England. This award had been originated and most of the collecting for it done by Leslie Gerber of N.Y. who could not be present & was to replace Berry's worn-out typewriter. Amidst much applause the banquet was declared over and everyone was told to reconvene upstairs in 10 minutes to vote for the next Convention site.

After various announcements, Earl Kemp put in a token bid for Chicago for the 1960 Convention. Hal Lynch of Philadelphia then made the nominating speech for that city with a seconding speech by Dave Kyle. Doc Barrett made the nomination for Pittsburgh with a representative of the proposed con hotel, the Penn-Sheraton, giving some info about how suitable the hotel was for a worldcon. Earl Kemp then withdrew his token bid in favor of Pittsburgh. Frank Kelly Freas, Jim Harmon, Sam Moskowitz, Willy Ley and P. Schuyler Miller made seconding speeches for Pitt which was a dazzling display of pro support for a Pitt con. Sylvia White was next, with the nominating speech for Washington, D. C. Hans Stefan Santesson brought up a second for Washington. Ron Ellik and Bob Pavlat also made seconding speeches, concluding the nominations for the 1960 site.

John W. Campbell Jr. made a short talk stressing comfort and, above all, air-conditioning in the hotel as a matter of prime importance in choosing a site.

The doors were locked and everybody was asked to be seated as ballots would not be given to anyone standing and voting commenced. The ballot counters were: for Washington-Dick Eney; Pittsburgh-Marion Mallinger; Philadelphia-Will J. Jenkins; at large-Lynn Hickman, Virginia Schultheis.

While the ballot counting was being done (and the doors locked) it was decided that a good way to utilize the time would be to hold another auction and Harlan Ellison was again pressed into service.

THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE, announced soon thereafter went as follows:

PITTSBURGH, the way-ahead winner with 134 votes.

Washington ran second with 71 votes.

Philadelphia ran last with only 13 votes.

Amid loud congratulations for Pitt and offers of support and aid from the two losing sites and the audience, the Convention took a supper break.

One of the outstanding highlights of the program followed; the showing by Ed Emshwiller of four films made by him. Two of these had been shown in N.Y. previously at the Lunacon - a 16mm film on how he paints his s-f pro mag covers and displayed some of his abstract artwork and a very humorous 8mm film utilizing

cut-outs from magazine ads and camera technique to make them float around, dance, and in general perform laughably. The third was a changing abstract painting but the fourth, "Dance Chromatic", was the best of all and was synchronized with music on a tape-recorder. It consisted of a dancer on leotards doing a modern dance sequence with superimposed brush strokes and abstract paintings following her movements. The careful blending of music, graceful motion and lovely color combined to produce an outstanding film. The viewers agreed wholeheartedly and Ersh was given a long, loud and thoroughly deserved ovation.

The next item was a discussion by pro editors of their plans for their pro mags. First was Hans Stefan Santesson of Fantastic Universe who told about the 38 monthly pages of science fact articles he plans to carry and the fan news he will include. He mentioned that he has for a long time catered to sf fans' point of view and will probably include in a future FU 2 separate picture reports on the Detention. This plus his announcement on fan columns got Hans a round of applause. The charming Cele Goldsmith of Fantastic and Amazing then took the floor to say that she had been trying to put back in these mags that old "Sense Of Wonder" and discussed the November issue of Fantastic which was to be written entirely by Fritz Lieber. Lastly, the ebullient J.W. Campbell Jr. of Astounding discussed the changes he plans to bring about and said that constant change and improvement are necessary to growth. He plans to include a new section of at least 16 pages of slick paper in which illustrated fact articles will be printed, starting in January. He assured the listeners that the recent sale of Street & Smith to Condé Nast would not effect Astounding and gave everyone the news that this mag will go to 50¢ with the November 1959 issue.

Another auction was held at this point by Harlan.

A very interesting lecture on Mars was then delivered by Dr. Dean B. McLaughlin father of the sf writer and con committee member, illustrated with slides. Dr. McLaughlin expounded his theory that there may be very little vegetation on Mars but that the changing patterns or "canals" so often noted by observers might be due to layers of ash from active volcanoes which are blown around by possible trade winds on the Red Planet.

At 10:30 P.M. a two member panel, called "The Critics Clash" went on, with a clever twist. Damon Knight discussed what is good in s-f and P. Schuyler Miller what is bad. Since these two critics normally hold views diametrically opposed to the ones they were propounding, it made for a fascinating discussion, closely followed by the audience.

The showing of color slides by Dollens due next was completely cancelled. Instead the fanpublishers' panel was put on at 11:30 P.M. Panelists were Wally (Cry of the Nameless) Weber; Ted (Void) White; Ron (Fanac) Ellick; Boyd (A Bas) Raeburn; John (Retribution) Berry and Lynn (JD-Angassy) Hickman. Moderator was Bjo (TAFF candidate) Wells. This fan panel started off with a simple discussion of the types of fan mags each publishes, how each is put together and how each got its name and went on to become one of the best items on the entire program. The discussion became heated when it was thrown open to questions from the floor with both Ed Wood and Harlan Ellison tossing some very provocative questions at the panel. At one time or another nearly everybody at the con looked in or participated. It continued until about 4:00 A.M., making it one of the longest panels in the history of worldcons. All of it was recorded on tape and Bjo plans to publish it in Shangri L'Affaires, the official organ of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, at some future time.

THIRD DAY, Monday, September 7th, 1959

There was again a bit of program at 11:00 A.M. which this reporter missed, namely, the Hyborian Conclave, but the first thing on the afternoon agenda was Doc.

Smith who discussed how he gets the ideas for his stories and, in particular, the plot idea behind his newest novel, "Galaxy Primes". After a question answering session, the program went on to include another auction and then the raffle drawing for 11 winners. Each winner had his choice of which pro mag he wished a subscription to out of what was left. The first winner was Ejo.

John W. Campbell, Jr. then gave a forceful talk on "The Right To Be Wrong" in which he discussed the wishy-washy statements issued by scientists today with which it is difficult to disagree merely because you can't pin down what they're saying. He was all in favor of strong dogmatic statements combined with the ability of their proponents to accept criticism and change their views, when new discoveries or knowledge disprove such statements. He also said there is no such things as "truth". What we call truths are merely logos, i.e., beliefs created and accepted by human agreement. He defined the right to be wrong as the right to learn and said that if you've never made a mistake you'll never have the opportunity to profit by it and grow. He went on to tell about someone's newly patented invention which he thinks might turn out to be a highly unorthodox space drive and to deplore the fact that physical scientists are spending too much time today trying to buck and overcome the forces of gravity and inertia instead of trying to find out how they work so that they can be nullified. As might be expected, there were many questions asked at the conclusion of his talk.

In a surprise gesture, all those who had ever had artwork or prose published in Astounding were asked to come up on the stage. A sizeable number of pros crowded on and someone sounded the musical A. To the tune of "No, John, No" a highly amusing song directed to Mr. Campbell was sung with half the audience joining in the chorus.

The next thing was the "fan turned pro" panel which included Ed Wood as moderator and Marion Zimmer Bradley, Bob Silverberg, Damon Knight, Harlan Ellison, Larry Shaw and Jim Harmon. Each was asked to tell why he or she had turned pro. Marion Zimmer Bradley said she liked reading s-f, found there wasn't enough good s-f to suit her and had to go out and write some that was. Harlan Ellison, on the other hand, said it meant more to him than just writing good stuff.- he had stories in his system and had to write them to get them out. He also discussed the fact that strange as it sounds, an s-f writer cannot write just anything at all, and found his hands tied sometimes by the readers and editors so that he couldn't do experimental stories. He said he found more freedom in writing mainstream fiction than s-f. Damon Knight agreed with Harlan on the restrictions hampering an s-f author; he discussed the golden days when Galaxy was buying any type of s-f story but then it, as other magazines, began to develop a "personality" and then writers found that stories have to be tailored to fit so that any kind of s-f story will not be bought.

Jim Harmon candidly stated that he writes s-f for the ego-boo, the creative satisfaction and the money. Being a writer allows him to live the kind of life he wants and he stated that fandom is an excellent proving ground or apprenticeship for the s-f writer. He also said that writing s-f gives him a chance to have contact by mail and in person with the people he loves and respects most in the world - "all of you out there".

Larry Shaw said that although he is not an s-f pro, he is still a fan even though he did turn pro for a while. He enjoys being a fan because, in addition to loving s-f, he also loves fan mags. He said that when he was editing Infinity he was lucky because he had an understanding publisher who gave him a free hand but most publishers should not be publishers because they don't really like what they're doing - they're just making money. He said when he was an editor he never rejected a story just because it was experimental, although there were certain types of stories he was prejudiced against. In general, he accepted stories on the basis of good or bad writing. However, he never saw as many new ideas as he wanted to,

but he feels that writers should first master the conventional before writing the experimental; also it's hard to judge whether the readers will like a completely new and experimental type of story, no matter how much editorial experience a person has.

Bob Silverberg (who was introduced as the human typewriter) related the sad fact that he has only written six s-f stories this year and is now mostly writing for the slicks. He said he hadn't left s-f - it had left him - there were no longer enough pro mags left for him to make a living writing s-f. He said he'd learned to cope with editorial restrictions and doesn't mind knuckling down to editors because they pay him to do it. He also said there is a tremendous advantage in writing for men's magazines--there is no men's magazine fandom, such as s-f fandom to criticize the writer. He considered his fan career as an apprenticeship but he actually started writing at the age of nine. He also deplored the fact that there might not be any more fans turning pro for quite some time since there isn't enough s-f being published today to enable them to turn pro.

The topic then turned to how restricted s-f writers really are, with a heated argument going on between Marion Zimmer Bradley, who said she was writing to please the readers and Harlan Ellison saying he was writing to please himself. There was a very spirited exchange, concluding with many questions from the audience.

Two more portions of the program were cancelled; one being the collectors' panel and the other Judy Merrill's monologue on the men in s-f, but Judy was reinstated as a fill-in while the play "Beyond the Unknown" was readied for presentation.

Judy sat on the edge of the stage, her pretty legs dangling, and proceeded to give a charming talk about the pleasant and helpful personalities of Anthony Boucher and Fritz Lieber and how she met them. She revealed many fascinating facts and managed to pass the time so pleasantly and rapidly that the audience could have forgotten about the play were it not for the miscellaneous bangings and noise issuing from behind the curtain.

However, the play was announced ready and the attendees were treated to a highly amusing skit in which Sam and Chris Moskowitz, Tom Scortiam Karen Anderson, Barbara Silverberg, Cele Goldsmith, Fritz Lieber, Randy Garrett, Djinn Faine, Joe Christoff and Rosemary Becker took part. As contrasted to a fans' play, this was a pro play and most of the pro editors came in for a lot of rib-poking.

There was a little ceremony of handing over the Worldcon gavel to Dirce Archer on behalf of the Pittcon committee and the money collected at the Auction Bloch was turned over to Bob Madle on behalf of TAFF.

The convention ended with a final auction, the proceeds of which were to go to TAFF and the John Berry fund. The committee made an announcement to the effect that they were running in the black and also that the business session announced previously to be the last thing on the con program had been completely cancelled, including a report which was supposed to have been given by Dave Kyle on what progress he had made in dissolving the World Science Fiction Society, Inc. It might be noted at this point that the backdrop used for most of the Convention was the blue and white banner belonging to the WSFS, Inc.

The con was then officially closed, with deep sighs of relief from the harassed, fatigued and tired-but-happy convention committee.

Not included in the formal program but worthy of special mention was the fan-film "The Genie" produced by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, starring Bjo Forrest J Ackerman and Fritz Lieber, which was a marvelous job and beautifully done, and an impromptu speech by Randy Garrett with much audience participation, on bringing new fan blood into s-f fandom and how to treat new fans. Both of these were held Monday night after the formal program had ended.

It might be mentioned in conclusion that this reporter does not know of anyone at all who did not have a helluva good time at this very fannish and wonderful convention.

BELLE DIETZ TO HAVE FAN COLUMN IN "FANTASTIC UNIVERSE"

NEW YORK, 24 August, (CNS) - Starting in the November 1959 issue of Fantastic Universe, Belle Dietz will conduct a fan column consisting mostly of fan mag reviews. This column will run about a 1,000 words and will be titled "Fannotations". As this is written there aren't any fan columns in the professional magazines. Bob Madle's excellent "Inside Science Fiction" was dropped by Lowndes quite-a-time-ago. We welcome such a column as Belle is going to do and deem it a real necessity to the fan press of science-fiction.

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS - - - - - /Coming Up Next In The Pros/AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION STORIES November 1959:

Complete novel: "Sneak Preview" by Robert Bloch. Short stories: "Minor Detail" by Jack Sharkey, "The Observers" by G. L. Vandenburg, and "Shepherd of the Planets" by Alan Mattox. Feature: "Science & Superman: An Inquiry" by Poul Anderson.

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION STORIES November 1959:

As far as we can remember or find out this issue will be the first in science-fiction to present all the stories in one issue written by one man. Naturally with Ziff-Davis in the past there have been issues of their two s-f mags actually written by one person, but there pen-names were used to hide the fact. But the November issue of Fantastic will present the entire issue written by FRITZ LEIBER. The stories in this issue are: Novella: "Lean Times in Lankmar", Novelet: "Tranquility, Or Else!", and short stories: "The Reward", "The Mind Spider" and "The Improper Authorities". Grand idea, Cele, and congratulations Mr. Leiber.

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION (Hugo Winner 1958-1959) November 1959: THE MARTIAN SHOP (short novelet) by Howard Fast, FROM CARIBOU TO CARRIE NATION by G. C. Edmondson, PLENITUDE by Will Worthington, FRITT-FLACE by Jules Verne, I KNOW A GOOD HAND TRICK by Wade Miller, STARSHIP SOLDIER (conclusion) by Robert A. Heinlein, BALLAD OF OUTER SPACE (verse) by Anthony Brode, BOOKS "Without Holcum" by Damon Knight, SCIENCE: "C for Celeritas" by Isaac Asimov, FERDINAND FEGHOOT: XX- by Grendel Briarton, THE MASKS by James Blish, AFTER THE BALL, by John Collier, and DANSE MACABRE by Robert Choly. Cover by Emash, illustrating "Starship Soldier".

THE DIETZS GOING TO LONDON

NEW YORK, 9 September, (CNS) - Frank & Belle Dietz are leaving on September 25 to fly to London, arriving there on September 26, 1959. While vacationing there Belle will cover a "Symposium" given by London science-fiction fandom on October 3rd, and will visit Ted Carnell and the other pro s-f editors for Science-Fiction Times.

TIFFANY THAYER DEAD AT 57

/by Don Ford/

Notice is given in the August 31 TIME that Tiffany Thayer died at 57 of a heart attack in Nantucket, Mass. Thayer had several books of a science-fictional or fantasy classification: Dr. Arnoldi, One Man Show, The Greek, 33 Sardonics. He was, I believe, one of the founders of the Fortean Society and for many years edited the Society Magazine, Doubt.

GERMAN SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS

FIRST EUROCON

by Rainer Eisfeld

AUGSBURG, GERMANY, 27 August, (CNS) -- Held by the SCIENCE FICTION CLUB EUROPA, the first European Science-Fiction Convention, officially nicknamed 'Eurocon' was a resounding success. The event, arranged at the Hotel "Weisser Wind", Zurich, Switzerland, August 22/23 1959, was covered by radio, press, and news reel corporations of Germany and Switzerland. Attendance numbered a 130. Represented were the Club FUTOPIA, acting body of French fandom, the club N. O. V. A. (Paris), and the German s-f club STELLARIS. From Paris Herve Calixte, editor of SATELLITE, and his charming wife came; from Lausanne Pierre Versins and Jean-Pierre Chevalier. Just returned from the U.S., Paul A. Pradel brought fannish spirits from over-seas to the scientigathering.

Greetings and messages poured in from Isaac Asimov, THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION, The Austrian IGWU, THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, the CLUBE DE LITERATURE POLICIARIA (Portugal), and from French, English, Swedish, and German fans and authors. Exhibitions covered English, American, French, and German science-fiction. Guest of Honor was Freder van Holk, German author of renown. For the first time, Wolf Detlef Rohr, the SPCE Managing Director, could state: "I hereby declare the first European Science Fiction Convention opened!"

Main event was the establishment of the EUROPEAN SCIENCE FICTION UNION, created by the Portuguese Clube de Literatura Policiaria (President Joel Lima), the British Science Fiction Association (Secretary Dr. Arthur R. Weir), the French Club N.O.V.A. (President Rene Barjavel), the International Science Fiction Society (Chairman Erwin Scudla), the Science Fiction Club Europa (Managing Director Wolf Detlef Rohr), and the SPCE Country Chapters Swedish (President Carl-H. Bierbaum), Austria (President Erwin Scudla), and Switzerland (President Walter Wegmann). These constitute a committee which shall aim at a European cooperation of science-fiction enthusiasts.

Meanwhile, the U.S. NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (NFFF) and the SPCE have started a program of exchange memberships and further cooperation by exchanging information and magazines. J. Arthur Hayes, Chairman of the NFFF Welcomittee, and Janie Lamb on one side and Wolf Detlef Rohr and Rainer Eisfeld on the other were the first to exchange memberships.

Pierre Versins spoke on French science-fiction, Dr. Hans Gentsch from the Pabel Publishers, the first to publish s-f periodicals in Germany spoke on Science Fiction - a Popular Literature. Freder van Holk gave a lecture on Research And Fiction. A science fiction Forum, consisting of an author, a reader, a publisher, a fan mag editor, and a foreign guest, discussed current problems and answered questions. Television and USIS films were shown in French, English, and German. A fancy dress parade was arranged together with a Zurich Mannequin Studio, followed by sketches and a quiz.

A HUGO was awarded to Karl-Herbert Scheer for his novel, OCTAVIAN III, by Rainer Eisfeld as plenipotentiary of Hugo Gernsback. Deserving members were honored with golden membership badges. FORBIDDEN PLANET, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, THIS ISLAND EARTH, and THE FLY which were voted the best scientifilms, received documents. For the first time awarded; the KURD LASSWITZ Achievement Award went to Freder van Holk, the Weiss Publishers, and to Hans Hermann Kahl for his feature film, SUN, EARTH, AND PLANETS. This awarding concluded the official program.

The first EUROCON was over.

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

"NEBULA" TO FOLD

AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION STOPPED WITH ISSUE #39

GLASGOW, Scotland, 18 August, (CNS) - Sad news came from Peter Hamilton that his magazine Nebula Science Fiction will fold with issue #42. The only ray of light is the hope that he may be able to revive it at a later date. Increases in printing costs and the rejection by editor and publisher Peter Hamilton to cut rates to the authors, reduce pages etc has forced him to quit, at least for the time being.

American distribution of Nebula stopped with #39. It had been the first British science-fiction magazine to have copies distributed in the United States.

Stated Mr. Hamilton on why he was folding the mag: "Such is the recession in the science-fiction market in Great Britain that, following upon a recent substantial increase in printing costs, it has become quite uneconomical for us to continue producing Nebula in its present form. It is true that we might have been able to carry on by using a poorer quality of stories, or perhaps made stringent economies in the quality of paper used, art work, block making etc., but such is the reputation that our magazine has built up during the seven years of its existence that we did not feel justified in making any alterations in it which would lower its quality, or cheapen its appearance. Consequently our magazine has been withdrawn from the American market after issue No. 39. There will be three further British issues (priced at 2/6d.), the first of which has already been distributed. We decided on the production of these numbers so as to use up our considerable backlog of accepted stories, covers, etc., as well as to test market reaction to a British science-fiction magazine selling at 2/6d.

"Although we have no definite publishing plans after Nebula No. 42, it is just possible that the magazine might be revived at some later date, possibly as a bi-monthly or a quarterly publication. The present time is strangely enough one of extreme apathy towards science-fiction on the part of the public. It would appear that with all the immense strides that have recently been made towards space travel that the average man in the street, upon whom profitable running of any magazine eventually depend, has it firmly fixed in his mind that science-fiction is outdated, old fashioned or even at variance with the facts which are regularly doled out to him by the scientific "experts" of television.

"It may be that in due course there will be a swing back towards imaginative literature by the more intelligent sections of the public, and if and when such a movement takes place, it is quite possible that Nebula will reappear. In the foreseeable future, however there is very little likelihood of us carrying on even with a revised publishing schedule."

With Nebula gone, this leaves Great Britain with New Worlds, Science Fantasy and Science Fiction Adventures, all published by Nova and edited by Ted Carnoll; and Supernatural Stories published by Spencer. These magazines are not reprints, but home products (tho at times some U.S. reprints are used). Also still being published in England are Astounding Science Fiction, actually the oldest science-fiction magazine still being published there. Atlas started reprinting this in the Fall of 1939; Galaxy Magazine, now bi-monthly and 196 pages, Future Science Fiction, and Science Fiction Stories.

The editors of this newspaper sincerely hope that Pete Hamilton will find a way to revive and continue the mag in the very near future. We have followed the ups and downs of this mag from the beginning and it would be a shame for it to end this way.

BOB MILLS LEAVES DAVIS

WILL REMAIN AS EDITOR OF "FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION"

PAUL FAIRMAN NEW MANAGING EDITOR FOR DAVIS PUBLICATIONS

NEW YORK, 31 August, (CNS) - Bob Mills will quit his twin positions of being editor for both the Davis Publications and Mercury Press, but he will remain on as editor for Mercury Press on a free-lance arrangement. Actually he will leave as Managing Editor of Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine. This position will be taken over by none other than our old friend Paul Fairman, ed-editor of IF, Amazing and Fantastic. Paul has worked for Mr. Davis before, when Mr. Davis was part of Ziff-Davis. Bob Mills who recently became full editor of Fantasy & Science Fiction when Anthony Boucher quit because of poor health, will continue to edit Fantasy & Science Fiction on a part time basis, doing this work at home. He will work full-time for Herb Jaffe Associates, a literary agency for stage, movie, TV, magazines, etc. Manuscripts for Fantasy & Science Fiction should be continued to be sent to the F&SF office.

Bob Mills will leave Davis Publications on September 15, 1959 and will take over his new position with Herb Jaffe Associates on September 21, 1959. We wish him the best luck possible with his new position. Bob Mills has also become the new editor of the annual book "The Best From Fantasy & Science Fiction" with the 9th edition, now that Anthony Boucher has completely resigned from all connections with Fantasy & Science Fiction.

Bob informs us that Charles Beaumont will have a regular column on s-f movies and TV in F&SF starting with the December 1959 issue, called "The Seeing I". Fantasy & Science Fiction has its 10th Anniversary issue, October 1959, on the stands now, 162 pages and 50¢. It will return to 130 pages and 40¢ with the Nov. issue.

STREET & SMITH SOLD

/by Don Ford and Frank R. Prieto, Jr./

LOVELAND, Ohio & SYRACUSE, N.Y., 30 August, (CNS) - Publisher Samuel I. Newhouse bought control of Conde Nast Publications, Inc., and found it in the midst of buying Street & Smith. Newhouse then bought control of Street and Smith which had been a family corporation for 105 years. Street & Smith is of course the publishers of Astounding Science Fiction. Street and Smith reportedly lost over \$200,000.00 last year. The new owners intend to correct this. First move was to combine S&S Cham with CN Glamour. No other changes are planned at this time. Street and Smith will be operated as a wholly owned subsidiary of Conde Nast with Arthur Z. Gray continuing as S&S President. Street & Smith was founded in 1855 by Francis S. Smith and Francis S. Street. A grandson of the founder, Gerald H. Smith, retired as President in 1955.

Astounding was bought by Street & Smith from Clayton in 1933 and has been published as a monthly ever since. John W. Campbell became editor of Astounding in 1937 and still is. Two records that will probably never be broken.

Naturally all fans will be watching very closely for any changes in Astounding Science-Fiction.

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AND NOW 1964

NOW THAT the 1959 Convention is over, we must begin to work on the 1960 World Convention. In New York City and parts of New Jersey, the fans must begin to make plans for the 1964 Convention. There are a number of ifs on this deal. The first is to make sure that New York City gets the World's Fair in 1964. As this is written it looks almost like a sure thing. In our last issue we suggested how and why New York Fandom must work together for this Big Deal. The combination of World's Fair and the 25th Anniversary Year of the First World Convention makes it a must that the World Convention come to New York in 1964. New York Fandom is the only group that can present it and it must be a united group. This thing is too big to let pride and so called "glory" spoil it all. We can't tell New York Fandom what to do, but we sure can suggest; and there will be plenty of that from now on.

Last issue we mentioned that Bob Lowndes, Bob Mills and Cele Goldsmith had all showed delight in our "suggestions" of the Big Con. Since then we've talked to a few more pros to get their opinion and tentative approval of the Con. Bob Guinn, owner of Galaxy and If gave full approval and promised full support of the idea, as did Hans Santesson of Fantastic Universe. He even promised to use 1964 Convention propaganda in his magazine. John W. Campbell, speaking for himself only and not Street & Smith thought it would be a great idea and gave his personal approval. He stated that this was the kind of affair only the fans should run, and we quite agree with him. W. W. Scott of Super-Science Fiction, which may or may not be dead, goes along full blast with the idea. So all the pros of the Science-Fiction center of the United States have approved either fully or tentatively.

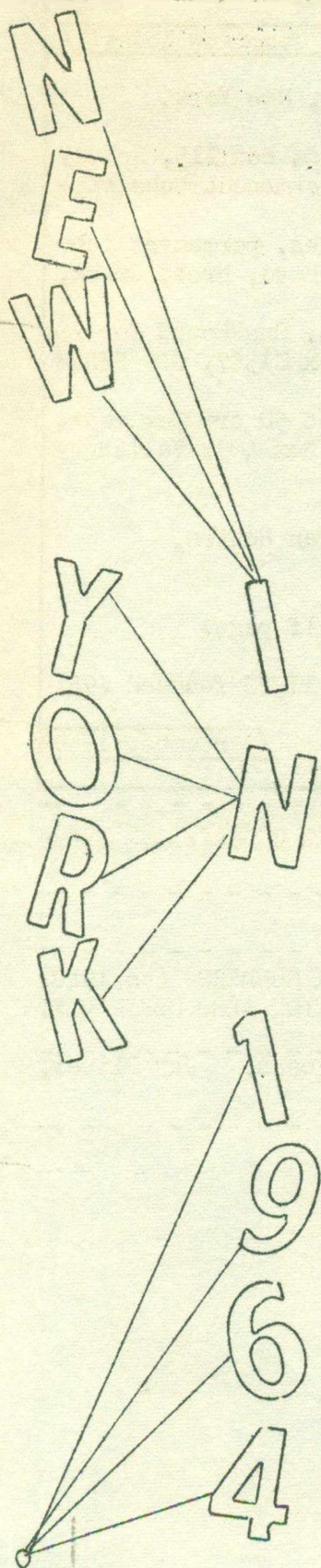
What we need now is for New York Fandom to get the ball rolling and get that Convention Committee started, and at once!

What do you think? What do you suggest?

IT'S NEW YORK IN 1964!

James V. Taurasi

-James V. Taurasi, editor.



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