

THE SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

S-F TIMES

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

№329

Vol. 14 - #24

SECOND DECEMBER 1959 ISSUE

TEN CENTS

"NEW WORLDS" TO SEE U.S. REPRINT EDITION

FIRST U.S. ISSUE OUT IN JANUARY 1960

LONDON, 15 December, (CNS) - From one of our most reliable sources in the great s-f publishing center of Great Britain comes the interesting news that Great American Publications, Inc. of New York, that recently bought Fantastic Universe from King Size, is soon to publish the first American reprint of a British s-f magazine. Out in January 1960 (already out in some places by the time you get this) the first issue of the United States reprint issue of New Worlds will appear. The U.S. edition will be selected by Ted Carnell, editor of the original British edition. Hans Santesson, editor of Fantastic Universe, will add fillers to tighten up the job. The U.S. reprint edition will appear monthly, digest-size 130 pages and sell for 35¢. It is rumored that a 25¢ price was planned, but changed at the last minute. The cover of the first issue, we understand, will be a reprint from Fantastic Universe by Kelly Freas. The first U.S. reprint edition will be dated March 1960.

Unlike the recent limited appearance of Nebula in the United States, which was part of the original printing from Scotland, with only slight change of price notice, New Worlds will be the first time that a British science-fiction magazine will be re-edited for U.S. use, and be printed and normally distributed in the United States.

New Worlds is the leading British science-fiction magazine, having won a "Hugo" at the London World Science Fiction Convention of 1957. It is also the oldest British science-fiction magazine still being published. Only the British edition of the U.S. Astounding is older.

We congratulate Ted Carnell in being the first to have an American reprint edition published.

We have been unable to confirm this report in the United States.

SCIENCE-FICTION COMIC MAGAZINE WINS MAGGIE AWARD

NEW YORK, 14 December, (CNS) - STRANGE ADVENTURE WON A MAGGIE award at the recent MAGGIE AWARD CONVENTION! MAGGIE

NINETEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

AWARDS are sponsored by the Magazine, Paper Bound Books, Children's Books and Comic Publishing and Distributing Industry are given "for the best in mass distributed magazines, paper bound books, Children's Books and Comics."

We understand that in the Science-Fiction Paper Bound Book category, the winner was "On the Beach".

Strange Adventures came out with the August-September issue of 1950 as a bi-monthly and shortly after with the December 1950 issue it went monthly and has been monthly ever since. It is published by National Comics who also publish the famous Superman series.

"FANTASTIC UNIVERSE"

Cuts Pages

NEW YORK, 21 December, (CNS) - Fantastic Universe will cut its pages from 128 to 96 with the March 1960 issue. Heavier-paper will be used starting with this issue so that the cut will not be noted by the buyers.

Fantastic Universe will begin a three part serial, THE MIND THING by Frederic Brown starting with this issue.

When asked why his mag was cutting pages, Hans Santesson, the mag's editor stated "No Comment".

Great American Publications, Inc bought this magazine from King Size and changed the size from digest to pulp with the October 1959 issue. They also changed it from a bi-monthly to monthly publication. The magazine will continue as a monthly.

ANDERSON, BRADBURY, STURGEON, SHECKLEY, ASIMOV, KNIGHT AND OTHERS IN GALA ALL-STAR MARCH 1960 ISSUE OF "FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION"

NEW YORK, 23 December, (CNS) - The next in the series of gala ALL-STAR issues of Fantasy & Science Fiction will be the March 1960 edition. It will contain: THE MARTYR (short novelet) by Poul Anderson, DEATH AND THE MAIDEN by Ray Bradbury, LIKE YOUNG by Theodore Sturgeon, MAN OVERBOARD (short novelet) by John Collier, FERDINAND FEGHOOT XXIV by Gren-

del Briarton, THE GIRLS AND NUGENT MILLER by Robert Sheckley, THE MONSTER by Mirian Allen Deford, Science: THE FLICKERING YARDSTICK by Isaac Asimov, Books: CONCERNING ENCHANTMENTS by Damon Knight, APRES NOUS by Avran Davidson, and ALL THE TRAPS OF EARTH (novelet) by Clifford D. Simak.

The cover is a real beauty by Mel-Hunter and its a wrap-around covering both front and back covers.

CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ per word including name, address and zone number. 25 words minimum, remittance with copy. (NO STAMPS PLEASE!)

FOR SALE

THE IMMORTAL STORM, Sam Moskowitz's History of SF Fandom, Hardcover Edition --- Want copies -- \$5.00 - Jerry Burge, 1707 Piner Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia.

THOUSANDS of s-f, fantasy, mystery, horror, adventure books, magazines, comics, send your want, swap and sale lists. Karl Gottschalk, 131 Franklin St, Jersey City, New Jersey.

MAGAZINES bought and sold. We have thousands; science-fiction, fantasy, weird, adventure, detective, western and others to complete your files, or we will buy your collection. Enclose stamp for prompt reply. BOOKLOVERS BARGAIN HOUSE, Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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JOIN THE BIGGEST SCIENCE-FICTION EVENT OF 1960, THE PITTCON, the 1960 World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. over the labor-day holidays. Only \$2.00 makes you a member. When you re-subscribe to the "Times" just add an extra \$2 for the PITTCON and we will see to it that they'll get it.

CLAYTON ENTERS SCIENTIFIC FICTION WITH "ASTOUNDING"

TO BE PULP SIZE, 144 PAGES & 20¢

NEW YORK, December 1929, (CNS) -- Clayton Magazines will issue the first pulp-size scientific fiction magazine, Astounding Stories of Super-Science some time this month, it was announced by W. M. Clayton, publisher of that popular fiction chain. The first number, out soon, will be dated January, 1930 and the magazine will appear monthly thereafter.

Astounding Stories of Super-Science possesses some unusual features. It will be standard pulp-size in contrast to all other scientific fiction magazines to-date, approximately the dimensions of Weird Tales. Though its physical size will be smaller it will compensate it by offering 144 pages, more than any other scientific fiction magazine in history.

Astounding Stories will be priced at 20¢, the lowest price ever placed on a scientific fiction magazine. Up until now, all scientific fiction magazines have been 25¢ for the monthly editions and 50¢ for the quarterly issues.

Editor of the new magazine is Harry Bates who also edits Wide World Adventures for Clayton. Mr. Bates was formerly a newspaperman and his only previous experience with scientific fiction was the writing of a one-act play "Monkey Gland" which proved popular with the Little Theatre Group in New York and was

broadcast over radio. Mr. Bates states that the idea of the periodical had been in the mind of the publisher W. M. Clayton for some time and he was now testing its feasibility.

"There is little question that Astounding Stories of Super-Science will QUICKLY BECOME THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF its type", predicts Mr. Bates. "It is a matter of simple economics. Our rates are two-cents a word on acceptance. The other magazines in the field pay one-half cent a word on publication. All writers will submit their material to us first and we will have the pick of the field. Our rates will also attract writers to scientific fiction who were not willing to write for the previous low rates."

"Already we have secured some of the leading writers in the field", continued Mr. Bates. "The line-up of our first issue will be as follows: THE BEETLE HORDE (Part I) by Victor Rousseau; THE CAVE OF HORROR by Captain S.P. Meek; PHANTOMS OF REALITY by Ray Cummings; THE STOLEN MIND by M. L. Staley; COMPENSATIONS by C. V. Tench; TANKS by Murray Leinster and INVISIBLE DEATH by Anthony Pelcher. Coming up we have stories by Hal Vincent, R. F. Starzl, Charles Willard Diffin and Sewell Peaslee Wright."

The cover of the first issue will be by H. W. Wesso, who proved so popular when he was discovered by Amazing Stor-

ies last Fall. Interior illustrations will be by John Fleming Gould and H. W. Wesso.

To aid him, Mr. Bates will have as consulting editor Dr. Douglas M. Dold, who has written fantastic stories for Argosy and Ghost Stories. Though his editorial director is F. Orlin Tremaine, who gained fame as the man who piloted True Story Magazine under McFadden to the two million circulation mark, Mr. Bates states that he will answer directly to his publisher who must approve every story before it can be accepted. This is because of Mr. Clayton's deep personal interest in the magazine.

Astounding Stories of Super-Science

marks the entrance into the scientific field of one of the largest pulp chains in the country. Including Astounding, Clayton publishes 12 pulps: Ace-High Magazine, Ranch Romances, Cow-boy Stories, Clues, Five-Novels Monthly, Wide World Adventures, All-Star Detective Stories, Flyers, Rangeland Love Story Magazine, Western Novel Magazine, and Big Story Magazine. In addition Clayton also issues the popular Forest and Stream and Miss 1930.

"Our Policy", states Mr. Bates, "will be to present stories that not only are scientifically accurate but which will be vividly, dramatically and thrillingly told."

Gernsback Launches Another: "Scientific Detective"

NEW YORK, December 1929, (CNS) -- Scientific Detective Monthly, a magazine of scientific fiction detective stories was announced by Hugo Gernsback, publisher of the newly-launched chain of magazines Science Wonder Stories, Air Wonder Stories and Science Wonder Quarterly. A 16-page advance issue featuring the first installment of S. S. Van Dine's novel THE BISHOP MURDER CASE has already been mailed to readers of Gernsback's other magazines as a teaser.

The black and white cover by Frank R. Paul on the "advance" issue is not the same one that will be used on Scientific Detective Monthly, informs Mr. Gernsback. The first issue of the new magazine, dated January 1930, will feature the art work in full color of a new artist Jno Ruger.

Scientific Detective Monthly will be identical in format with Science Wonder Stories and Air Wonder Stories, large-size, book paper, 96 pages, monthly and sell for 25¢.

Editorial Commissioner of the maga-

zine will be Arthur B. Reeve, creator of the famed "scientific detective". Craig Kennedy, whose exploits in scientific detection have thrilled the nation since 1910. A new Craig Kennedy story will appear in each issue of the magazine. In addition to the Van Dine and Reeve stories, the first issue of Scientific Detective Monthly will also run a "Luther Trant" story by Edwin Balmer and William B. McHarg and other fiction by R. F. Starzl, H. Aston-Wolfe, Capt. S. P. Meek, U.S.A., and Ralph Wilkins. There will be a feature article by Mr. Reeve on "What are the Great Detective Stories and Why?"

A new series of "Taine of San Francisco" stories by David H. Keller, M. D. are being written for future issues of the magazine.

As a statement of policy Mr. Gernsback makes this point: "And while Scientific Detective Monthly may print detective stories whose scenes lie in the future, it should be noted that whatever is published in this magazine is based upon real science; and whatever will be

published will be good science. We de- | ods not based upon present-day science."
scribe no fictitious apparatus, no moth-

Sequel To SKYLARK Set For AMAZING

"AMAZING" TO ADD 16 PAGES

NEW YORK, December 1929, (CNS) -A sequel to THE SKYLARK OF SPACE by Edward E. Smith, Ph. D., will be announced in the January 1930 issue of Amazing Stories. T. O'Connor Sloane, editor of that magazine revealed in an exclusive interview with a Science-Fiction Times reporter. The novel is now in the house but the publication date has not been scheduled yet. Dr. Sloane believes he will retain Smith's own title of SKYLARK THREE.

THE SKYLARK OF SPACE is generally conceded to have been the most popular story in the four-year history, to-date, of Amazing Stories. It was published serially in the August, September and October 1928 issues of that magazine. Mr. Smith is a chemist for a Chicago doughnut firm and only writes in his spare time, therefore new novels from him will be an infrequent event.

"While waiting for the Smith serial, readers can cut down their impatience by reading BEYOND THE GREEN PRISM by A. Hyatt Verrill, a sequel to the very popular INTO THE GREEN PRISM of a year back," Dr. Sloane informs. "This novel will begin in the January 1930 issue of Amazing Stories which will add 16 pages, bringing its total to 112, thereby offering more fiction than any other scientific fiction magazine on the market. Each page of Amazing Stories runs 1100 words, so the additional pages are equivalent to an 18,000 word novelette."

"I am also proud of a new discovery of mine who will be given the cover of the January 1930 issue, Dr. Sloane said. "He is a young student of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology named John

W. Campbell, Jr. and his novelette WHEN THE ATOMS FAILED contains some of the most advanced theories on atomic energy yet published, as well as being very excitingly written. I commend this story to you."

The feature novel in the forthcoming Winter 1930 edition of Amazing Stories Quarterly will be the famous John Taine, author of THE PURPLE SAPPHIRE, THE COLD TOOTH and many other novels and will be titled WHITE LILY.

SCIENTIFBOOKS

Coming Stf Books In 1930

BURROUGHS, KLINE, CUMMINGS, TAINE,
ALL WILL HAVE BOOKS IN 1930

Two outstanding scientific fiction novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs from Blue Book are among the many fine books being offered to scientific fiction fans during 1930, according to a listing of scheduled titles included in a recent issue of Publishers' Weekly. Both of the Burroughs' stories deal with the center of the earth, the first of them TANAR OF PULLUCIDAR was serialized in Blue Book from March to August 1929; the second, TARZAN AT THE EARTH'S CORE began in Blue Book for September 1929 and is still running. Both books will be issued by Metropolitan.

Two books are also scheduled by the author generally conceded to be Burroughs' closest competitor, Otis Adelbert Kline. The first, MAZA OF THE MOON will appear as a four-part serial in Argosy starting some time in December, the second THE PRINCE OF PERIL is a sequel

to THE PLANET OF PERIL and will be issued in the Fall after magazine appearance in Argosy. McClurg of Chicago will publish both titles.

Other books of special interest to scientifiction fans include TARBANO THE CONQUEROR by Ray Cummings, scheduled by McClurg, which ran in Science and Invention during 1925 and 1926, and which many regard as Cummings best story; THE WORLD BELOW by S. Fowler Wright, well known English author of the bestseller DELUGE is scheduled by Longman's and is advertised as a fantasy of the far future; THE IRON STAR by John Taine is good news for all of his fans; MUKARA by Muriel Bruce from Henkle is a tale of Atlantis and another new author, Philip Wylie will have a superman story, GLADIATOR issued by Alfred A. Knopf.

GUEST EDITORIAL

30 YEARS AGO. TODAY
by Sam Moskowitz

As part of its salute to the 30th anniversary of the late-lamented Astounding Science Fiction, soon to become Analog Science Fact Fiction, Science-Fiction Times has asked me to write the feature stories for an imaginary Second December 1929 issue of this newspaper as they would have appeared then, including the announcement of the New Astounding Stories of Super-Science. That is as far as poetic license goes. Every fact reported in these write-ups is not only historically authentic and easily verifiable by evidence on file, but could have been obtained by any competent reporter of the period.

What does it mean in the light of historical perspective?

First, we must dispose of one of the greatest literary coincidences in history and one pointed enough to strengthen the cause of astrology. Astounding Stories of Super-Science published its first issue dated January 1930 and John W. Campbell, Jr. entered the science-fiction field with his first story WHEN THE ATOMS FAILED in the January 1930 issue of Amazing Stories. The fate of the two crossed and became one a few years later.

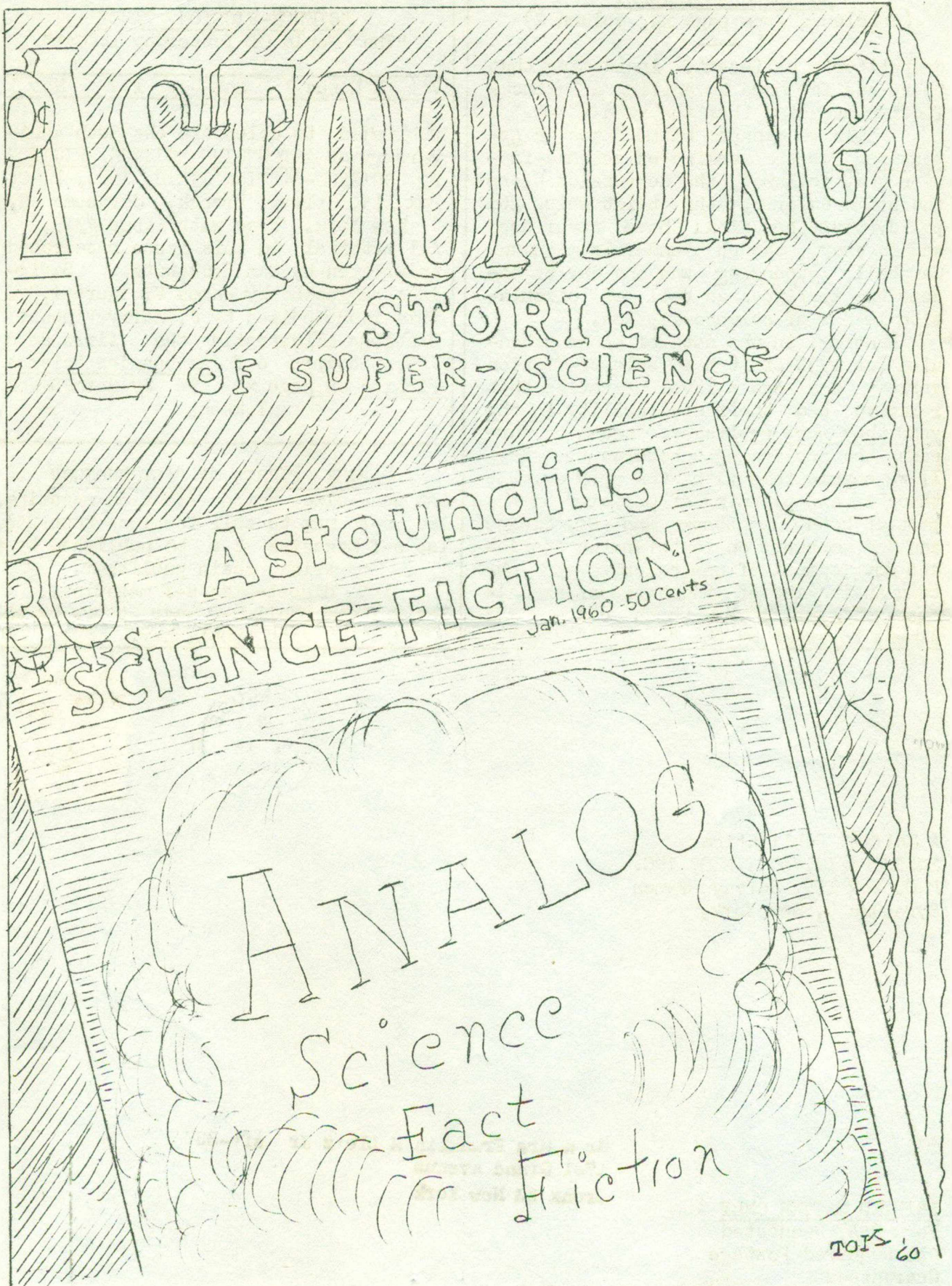
In December 1929 the science-fiction world was experiencing its greatest boom

since the first magazine appeared in 1926. This boom was set off when Gernsback lost Experimenter Publications and began Stellar Publications in June 1929. Gernsback launched four new science-fiction magazines, Science Wonder Stories, Air Wonder Stories, Science Wonder Quarterly and Scientific Detective Monthly. He sought to determine what type of fiction was most popular and promote it, but he maintained everything on a dignified if colorful and imaginative level. He worked hard at establishing a scientific tone. His periodicals were handsome and commanded attention. He appealed to the intelligence and imagination. In no real sense were his periodicals pulps nor were those of his competitor Amazing Stories and Amazing Stories Quarterly, still very much the field leaders, despite his challenge.

Astounding Stories of Super-Science CHANGED ALL THAT. In every aspect, save the author's rate, it was the epitome of everything cheap, lurid, sensational, pulpy, juvenile and asinine that has ever been charged against science-fiction. Its first cover featured a bug-eyed monster and a scantily draped damsel; its format conformed with the pulps and its rough edges were to become the symbol of its debasement of science-fiction.

The stories were strictly low-grade adventure formula, in writing and enjoyment below the level of Argosy's "Pseudo science" tales which it copied and its pretext of scientific verisimilitude insulting to the intelligence.

Its 32-year old editor Harry Bates almost arrogantly suffused with an aura of superiority, proved one of the most inept in the history of science-fiction. His boasts, in an interview, that two-thirds of his stories were sent back for rewrites when equated to titles of stories he claimed to have rejected forced the conclusion that the stories he received were not quite juvenile enough and had to be written down to comply with what he thought were needed. This was all the more ironic since he eventually developed to be one of the most brilliant writers of a later period. His two-cents a word over the three years of his editorship, bought him on the average, far inferior material than to his
(continued on page x6)



TOPS 60

30 YEARS AGO, TODAY
(concluded from page x4, column 2)

competitor's half-cent, indicating that there was far more to editing a science-fiction magazine than the word rate.

While we cannot blame Bates or Astounding for the decline of science-fiction that followed, the depression being the prime culprit, the taint which its policy gave the field have never been washed away, though under Tremaine and Campbell Astounding was one day to become the spiritual as well as circulation leader of science-fiction.

Finally, in the note of books scheduled for 1930 of the science-fiction variety we see a level of titles that relative to their desirability in the year they were published, equal or surpass the publishing schedules of today. If we couple this with the very evident thought and planning of policies on the part of both Gernsback and Dr. Sloane and the emphasis on outstanding stories and development of new talent, you obtain an inkling of the basis of the almost religious fervor which caused old timers to swear by the "good old days".

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES

"The World Of Yesterday Today!"

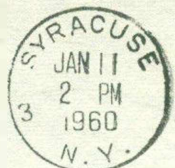
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All material in this issue researched and written by Sam Moskowitz. Basic idea suggested by James V. Taurasi, Sr. This issue edited by J. Harry Vincent. Drawings illustrating the first and latest covers of Astounding Science Fiction on page x5 are by Herman Von Tokken.

FAMOUS FIRSTS OF "ASTOUNDING"

- 1st pulp-size science-fiction magazine.
- 1st s-f mag to sell for less than 25¢.
- 1st s-f magazine to be published by a magazine chain publisher.
- 1st digest-size s-f magazine.
- 1st s-f mag published over 25 yrs by the same publisher.



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