

18th Year Of Publication

# S - F TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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## BRITISH "GALAXY" GOES 192 PAGES & BI-MONTHLY

FLUSHING, 25 March, (CNS) - The British Edition of Galaxy Magazine #71 arrived today from England bearing the news that with the next issue, #72, it will follow the lead of the "home" edition (U.S.) and increase pages and price. Like the U.S. edition it will go bi-monthly. At present the British Galaxy is published monthly 128 pages and sells for 2/-. With the next issue it will contain 192 pages, still digest-size, and sell for 3/6. Like the 50¢ U.S. Galaxy it will be the highest priced s-f mag on the British market and contain the largest number of pages.

The current British Edition (#71) is a reprint of the December 1958 U.S. edition which was the last of the monthly 35¢ editions. The 128 page British Edition contains all but "Nightmare With Zeppelins" by Pohl & Kornbluth, Editor's Page and Galaxy's Five Star Shelf. The change announcement is in bold type on the inside of the front cover.

The British Edition of Galaxy Magazine is published by Strato Publications Ltd who also publish the British Editions of Science Fiction Stories and Future Science Fiction.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR ----- by Our Readers

March 6, 1959

Dear Jimmy:

The line-up for our first issue of IF will delight science-fiction's well-wishers. I'd like to expect the same of you and your contributors, but that is not possible until you and they understand the events that are being reported on in your admirable and exasperating newspaper -- admirable when telling the facts, exasperating when interpreting them.

The so-called boom of science-fiction was nothing of the sort. It was a Gold Rush, precisely the same kind of invasion that every promising field experiences. It happened to all our frontiers, from land to automobile manufacturing (you'd have invested in Ford, who failed twice, and was only one builder out of hundreds?) to TV (tens of millions poured into thousands of pilot films that will never ever sell) to record companies (practically everybody with a professional tape recorder) to oil (remember the wildcatters?) to movies (there are probably more independents right now than ever before) and on and on -- and you can count upon the same thing being repeated in algae production, growing meat in nutrient tanks, space-fliivver manufacture, land rushes to other planets, and all the probably countless profitable speculative developments in the future, many of which we can foresee, and more that we can't.

Like all rushes, science-fiction's had to end. The weak are shaken out; the strong remain. The seeming injustices may dismay the compassionate, the partisan, the wishful, but they are inevitable -- undercapitalization, inadequate know-how,

errors of judgement, internal conflict.

And something else that is visible on both sides of the editorial desk, but more sharply felt behind it:

The rush produced so huge a strain on writers, who of course produce the very thing we sell, that quality just had to drop. Too many markets were competing for the output of too few skilled authors. Borderline stories, which ordinarily would have been sent back for tuning up and polishing, had to be bought as is because somebody else would have grabbed them without change. Routine ideas and treatments had to be good enough because magazines were buying wordage to fill pages with, and writers were harried into turning out material that most of our temporary competitors were buying sight unseen. New authors sold quickly to learn anything but bad writing habits, and were thus deprived of editorial guidance that would have gotten them through their necessary apprenticeship. And -- obeying Gresham's Law -- the bad drove out the good; conscientious writers were demoralized into leaving the field, and some worthy titles were put to death along with the unworthy.

Far from being a distress area in publishing, science fiction is now recovering swiftly from the invasion. Far from being scorned for the compromises they were forced to make, the survivors deserve citations for the quality they were able to maintain. Most of all, those writers who managed to produce memorable stories during the seemingly unending crisis merit at least a statue apiece.

Now that the invasion is over, the authors and readers who were driven off by combat fatigue are returning, the hacks and raw recruits no longer dominate the field, and the editors can go back to editing instead of having to pick through pushcarts and barrel bottoms.

Certainly publishing has its economic problems, along with every other industry, and families and individuals as well. These are serious, but they can be solved in various ways, especially now that we are free to concentrate on them without the distractions of fighting off raids on our writers, artists and readers.

Yes, the boom -- if you still want to misname it -- is over. But what we have is normal competition, not a bust. There are good, firm markets for authors who know their business, and just as normal competition is the best thing in the world for magazines, it's every bit as beneficial for authors. There's nothing better for a man or a magazine than being challenged to do his or its best.

You can see the results right now. Galaxy and If look better than they have in years. So do our cherished friendly rivals. And the future is even brighter -- for us, for them, for competent, conscientious writers and artists, ditto agents and art reps, and above all for readers who want the newest, not the oldest, in science fiction. They're now, finally, getting not only the newest but the best.

Sincerely,  
Horace (H. L. Gold)

(We are in complete agreement with you on the recent "boom". We and our writers have stated numerous times that there was no base for a "boom" at that time. We called it a boom, boomlet, "boom" as just a phrase for what was going on. We can not agree with you that things are now "normal". With reports of rates being lowered, some s-f mags being issued "issue-to-issue" and the possibility of some of them folding at "any minute," we fear that it'll be quite some time before s-f mags reach a "normal" level. Galaxy, in our opinion, will not be normal until it becomes a monthly again! How can you say IF looks better than ever now when your first issue hasn't hit the stands yet (as this is written)? Our interpretation of what's going on may not agree with you, but it is an interpretation as we see it -- from the information and experience we've had -- and a checkup of our past issues will show that our average is better than good. We are entitled to our opinions -- as we honestly see them -- and so are you to yours. You'll find, as you have in the past, that you (and other editors) will always find space here to publish your opinions whether we agree with them or not. We sincerely wish your new 50¢ Galaxy and revived If the best of success.

--James V. Taurasi, Sr.)

Feb. 3, 1959

Dear Jimmy:

I note in #306 mailed with your letter that J. Harry Vincent infers that fandom does not approve of the W.S.F.S. demise. Where has he been? In my estimation that single item alone made the Solacon great.

If the W.S.F.S. had continued a couple of years or more, you would've seen a split of major proportions with a "rump" convention being held at the same time the 'World Con' of W.S.F.S. sponsorship was being held.

His veiled threats of legal reprisals, Postal Inspectors irritate me. However, that's a perfect example of why W.S.F.S. was killed off...the personalities of those who feasted on the power & glory (& God knows how small that is!) of being connected with W.S.F.S.

I'd appreciate it if you'd relay my views to J. Harry Vincent.

Don Ford

Dear Don:

Your opinion of my column on WSFS, Inc & Solacon appreciated. It simply isn't a case of whether fandom approved or disapproved of the WSFS, Inc demise (which as far as I can gather is not legally dead, tho dead as far as s-f is concerned), but of whether an organization has the legal right to take in money for a certain item and then not produce it. The Solacon committee took in money under the name of the WSFS, Inc., in fact obtained the right to produce a World Convention under the understanding that it would be a WSFS, Inc. World Convention. After obtaining all this money, they didn't put on a WSFS, Inc. sponsored convention, and did not dispose of the profits from the Solacon according to the conditions under which they agreed to. We again ask: Is this legal? In my opinion this was the only item that prevented the Solacon from being really great, because besides this, the boys and gals out there put on a wow of a convention. I'm only sorry that I wasn't there to enjoy it.

With fandom "letting them get away with it", what's to prevent future groups with "bright ideas" from putting on "rump conventions" in the future??? If you can get away with one item, why not another?

I made no threats, veiled or otherwise.

I too, my friend, have been irritated. Irritated in 1939 by the Communistic element in fandom trying to prevent the First World S-F Convention from being held, irritated in 1950 when the New Orleans World Con was ordered by fandom to donate \$50 to the Fanvets to help fans in the Armed Forces Overseas and then have that Convention Committee refuse to do so, and irritated in 1958, by the Solacon committee illegally "taking over" the World Con.

J. Harry Vincent

## LESTER DENT DIES

La Plata, Mo., 11 March, - Lester Dent, best known for his "Doc Savage" novels under the pen name of Kenneth Robeson, died today at the age of 54. He also wrote under his own name and under the name of Tim Ryan. Many science-fiction fans of the 1930s collected the Street & Smith magazine Doc Savage as part of their science-fiction collection. Although he didn't write all the Doc Savage novels published in the magazine, he did quite a number of them and those who followed the magazine closely could tell within a few pages whether it was Dent or one of the other Street & Smith writers writing that particular Doc Savage novel. Only a few years ago the Doc Savage novels were being reprinted in England.

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Send all your subscriptions to the above address.

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION, June 1959:

THIS EARTH OF HOURS (short novelet) by James Blish, Science: THE PLANET OF THE DOUBLE SUN by Isaac Asimov, SOUL MATE by Lee Sutton, AN EXPOSTULATION (poem) by C. S. Lewis, ABOVE VENUS, MORE OR LESS by Claud Cockburn, FERDINAND FEGHOOT: XIII by Grendel Briarton, MAYBE WE GOT SOMETHING by Josef Berger, THE HERO EQUATION by Robert Arthur, SNIP, SNIP (poem) by Hilbert Schenck, Jr., THE ALLEY MAN (Novelet) by Philip Jose Farmer, SATELLITE TRAILS (article) by Kenn Rolf, THE IOWAN'S CURSE by Charles G. Finney, and PRODUCTION PROBLEM by Robert F. Young. Plus INDEX TO VOLUME XVI, and cover by EMSH, illustrating "The Alley Man".

SCIENCE-FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED:

- PLAGUE SHIP by Andrew North; plus VOODOO PLANET by Andrew North (Andre Norton), Ace Books, NY, 35¢ - January 28, 1959.
DAYS OF THE GIANTS by Lester del Rey, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75 - Feb. 2, 1959.
DOOMSDAY MORNING by C. L. Moore, Avon Books, NY, February 3, 1959.
NINE TOMORROW'S by Isaac Asimov, Doubleday & Co., NY, \$3.50 - Feb. 6, 1959.
THE ENEMY STARS by Poul Anderson, Lippincott, Phila., Pa., \$2.95 - Feb. 10.
THE TIDE WENT OUT by Charles Eric Maine, Ballantine Books, NY, 35¢ - Feb. 20.
VIRGIN PLANET by Poul Anderson, Thomas W. Bourey Co, NY, \$2.75 - Feb. 24.
THE SUN SMASHER by Edmond Hamilton; plus STARHAVEN by Ivar Jorgensen, Ace Books, N, 35¢ - February 27, 1959.
ALAS, BABYLON by Pat Frank, Lippincott & Co., Phila., Pa., \$3.50 - Feb. 27.
THE PURPLE PIRATE by Talbot Mundy, Gnome Press, Hicksville, NY, \$4.50 - Mar 2
ALIENS FOUR by Theodore Sturgeon, Avon Books, NY, 35¢ - March 3, 1959.
THE HUNGER & OTHERS by Charles Beaumont, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢ - March 3, '59.

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