

S-F Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

No 338

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SECOND MAY 1960 ISSUE

10¢

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by J. Harry Vincent

MOSKOWITZ'S "GERNSBACK" ARTICLE COMING
IN "AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION STORIES"

Sam Moskowitz's article on the father of magazine science-fiction is going to be published in the September 1960 issue of Amazing Science Fiction Stories. This is one of a series of articles on science-fiction personalities that Sam is doing for Amazing's sister magazine Fantastic Science Fiction Stories, but because Amazing was Gernsback's first s-f magazine (and the world's first magazine exclusively dedicated to s-f) the editors of Amazing decided to publish it there instead of Fantastic.

As with all of Sam's articles of this type it gives full minute details on the life and works of Gernsback that you'll want to file away for handy reference.

ALMOST WE HAD A NEW S-F MAGAZINE

With Great American Publications adding and dropping science-fiction (and other) magazines faster than we can report them this was bound to happen, but we can hardly believe it did. For a short time this past month we almost had another science-fiction magazine on the market.

Great American had decided to use up the inventory of their recently dropped Fantastic Universe and publish a one shot magazine tentatively titled Summer Science Fiction. Hans Santesson edited one such issue, but ----- before he could get copy to the printers, Great American killed it. So ----- no magazine.

It was planned to be pulp-size, 160 pages and sell for 50¢.

What may happen before this gets to you, we hesitate to guess:

GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST

The British Edition of Astounding will start the changeover to Analog with the June 1960 issue. As yet they have no plans to increase either the pages or the price as did the American edition. In the American edition, the Analog is getting stronger and stronger. Soon, in a few months, Astounding will be nothing but a strong memory and Analog will be the Street & Smith's science-fiction-magazine.

The Swedish science-fiction magazine Hapna is still coming out. The latest issue received is the April 1960 issue. It contains 93 pages, digest-size with few inside illustrations and a reprint of a New Worlds cover by Brian Lewis. Featured in this issue are: Nelson Sherwood, Robert A. Heinlein, Nils E. Mielssen and Avram Davidson.

To those interested, profits from "The Fantastic Universe Omnibus" edited by Hans Stefan Santesson, will not reach the treasurer of Great American Publications, who recently published Fantastic Universe. Profits will go to the authors in the book, the editor, and naturally the book's publisher, Prentice-Hall.

Sture Sedolin, the editor of our Swedish edition of Science-Fiction Times, will be inducted into the Swedish Army on the 17th of May and will serve for 13 months. During that time, tho he'll have his typer with him, letters, etc., from him will be few and far between. That also means that the Swedish edition of Science (concluded on page 4, column 1)

THE SCIENCE-FICTION BOOK REPORT

by Stephen J. Takacs

SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS OUT MARCH 1960:

INVADERS FROM RIGEL by Fletcher Pratt, Avalon Books, N.Y., \$2.95. (224 pages) March 2, 1960.

THE HAUNTED STARS by Edmond Hamilton, Torquil-Dodd, Mead, N. Y., \$2.95. (192 pages) March 2, 1960.

NEW MAPS OF HELL by Kingsley Amis, Harcourt, Brace & Co., N.Y., \$3.95.- March 8, 1960.

THE ABOMINATIONS OF VONDO by Clark Ashton Smith, Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisc., \$4.00. March 12, 1960.

LEVEL 7 by Mordecai Roshwald, McGraw-Hill, N.Y., \$3.75. March 15, 1960.

STORM OVER WARLOCK by Andre Norton, World Pub. Co., N.Y., \$3.00. March 22.

AGENT OF VEGA by James H. Schmitz, Gnome Press, Hicksville, N.Y., \$3.00. March 30, 1960.

SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS OUT APRIL 1960:

STADIUM BEYOND THE STARS by Milton Lesser, The Winston Co., Phila., Pa., \$2.50. April 8, 1960.

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS, edited by Hans Stefan Santesson, Prentice Hall, N.Y., \$3.95. April 12, 1960.

NEXT DOOR TO THE SUN by Stanton A. Coblenz, Avalon Books, N.Y., \$2.95. April 29, 1960.

LORDS OF ATLANTIS by Wallace West, Avalon Books, N.Y., \$2.95. April 29 '60.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Brooklyn 20, New York
20 April, 1960

Mr. Taurasi:

Yesterday I received SFTimes #s 334-335a & am dropping you a brief note with regard to the suggested expansion of my "statistics". I will gladly do the expanding, but due to school-work & getting the next issue of my fanzine, Polhode, ready I will not be able to start until after June 15. Should this be

too long a delay, & should somebody else want to do the job now, he is more than welcome to it! I will do it, of course, provided any prozines are still being published at the time.

This thinning of the ranks among the prozines reminds me of a poll you ran a few years back (57 as a guess, maybe 56). The premise was that there were so many prozines around that an awful amount of crud was being published, & that the ideal number of proz would be 5 (The poll asked which 5 it should be). Well, we now do have 5 — 4 monthlies & 2 bi-monthlies to make 5 ish hitting the stands each month. A rehash of the results of that poll might make for interesting reading, & could probably bring much interesting and publishable mail.

As for the current question, I know this might (no might about it, it DOES) sound like a sacrilege, but I LIKE most of the SF being published today. Maybe if I went back & read my collection of pulp-sized ASF's I'd grow dissatisfied with today's stuff, but I just don't have the time to do so. Well, when I'm finished with school I should have a complete set of the Street & Smith's (I only need about 30 now) & I hope I'll have the time to sit back & enjoy them then.

There is a third rocket magazine being published today aside from the 2 mentioned in 334. It is simply called Space & (unless Scharf folded that too) it is being pubbed by Great American. Its history is a rather odd one:

It started out as a hot-rod magazine, Speed Age, but apparently wasn't selling too well. Anyhow, towards the end of the year, it began to experiment with articles on rockets, & even play them up on the cover; however, since it still was primarily a hot-rod magazine, I never bought it. Then, starting with the Jan 60 ish, it became Space incorporating Speed Age & went quarterly. Both the Jan & Apr ish still contained a large amount of hot-rod ads, but are limited to 1 or 2 h-r type articles. Both are bed-sheet size, & while the 1st has 72 pages, the second has only 64. It isn't too bad, but it is quite a bit cruder than the others.

Did anyone notice the quite sloppy

job done in putting together Space World? There were a number of goofs (such as "speed of light = 136000 miles per hour etc.), & many of the satellite pictures were incorrectly identified.

Why don't you put the fact that you're accepting 1st class subscriptions at \$3 per year with the other prices?

Has Mr. Van Houten completely dropped out of your staff? I notice that all ish up to 135a list him, but the last doesn't.

Starting with the 16 Apr ish, the SatEvePost is running a 3 part serial speculating what would happen if Hitler had decided to invade England just before France fell - a short of if-World type story.

Scientificfictionally yours,
Edmund R. Meskys

(Thanks for your most interesting letter Ed, we'll gladly wait until after July for the expanded article. Your first brought in a lot of comment. I believe that s-f pro mags will still be around then.

The results of that Poll (1956) were
1st - Galaxy Science Fiction - 32 points
2nd - Astounding S-F - 30½ points
3rd - Fantasy & S-F - 30 points
4th - S-F Stories - 18 points
5th - If Science Fiction - 16 points
Amazing Stories was 8th (tied with Other Worlds) with 7 points, and Fantastic was 9th with 3 points. No comment.

Space HAS folded.

Corrections were listed in the 2nd issue of Space World.

Yes, you can get Science-Fiction Times mailed (in the United States only) for \$3.00 a year (or \$1 a year extra to Permanent subscribers). Will list it when I do a new back page shortly.

Mr. Van Houten is not active with us at the present time. We hope that he'll find time to return shortly.

-the editors)

Tyndall AFB, Florida
29 Apr 60

Dear Jimmy & Ray,

S-F Times #'s 334, 335 & 335a arrived today and provoked some comment.

First, you're getting a little ahead with the news. Some of it was news by the time it reached here. But what

I'm still wondering is why it takes so long to cut a few stencils, run off the copies and mail them. Now granted that they were probably two weeks in transit between New York and Florida this still leaves quite a bit of time unaccounted for.

Fyfe's letter brings up the most important objection to Mesky's tabulation, the lack of attention paid to wordage. To save Ed the trouble here are word counts for the current type faces being used in the following:

Astounding 500 w/p
Galaxy 400 w/p
Fantasy & Science Fiction 470 w/p
If Science Fiction 435 w/p
Amazing & Fantastic

(small type) 490 w/p

(large type) 410 w/p

SF Stories & Future 360 w/p

Fantastic Universe 520 w/p

These are all calculated with a slide-rule and average out between the counts on several pages of several issues to rule out random miscounts. This shows that FU is not the bargain that Fyfe claims it to be. ASF is buying over 50,000 words more per month than Galaxy alone. And even if neither mag ran ads or anything but 100% fiction, ASF would still hold over 10,000 words more (or what Galaxy considers to be a short novel.).

As for your questions on what can be done to improve sf, I suggest that you borrow a copy of Earl Kemp's SaFari Annual. This symposium covers most of the possibilities.

Best

Norm (Metcalf)

(Thank you very much for the information on magazine wordage per page. As we have stated before, our distribution is troubled by the fact that this newspaper is edited and printed in College Point & mailed to our readers from Syracuse. The delay is usually between C.P. & Syracuse. This year a number of issues mailed to Syracuse two weeks between have arrived there almost together and hence had to be mailed out together. We are doing our best to improve our distribution.

-the editors)

JOIN THE PITCON

THE COSMIC REPORTER
(concluded from page 1, column 2)

ce-Fiction Times and his other s-f mag, Cactus, will be published ireegularly. They will be produced and mailed out by Geo Sjöberg, his partner. The Swedish edition of Science-Fiction Times is photo-offset, same size as our 1958 issues. Sture thinks he'll probably be able to publish it quarterly while he's in the Army with a promise of monthly publication when he returns.

In answer to the many letters the editorial office of Science-Fiction Times has received about obtaining the two issues of Great American's Space magazine, you can obtain them direct from Great American Publications, 270 Madison Ave., New York 16, New York. Write to Miss. Nora Percival and enclose 45¢ for each issue. The dates of the two issues with the title Space (incorporating Speed Age) are January 1960 and April 1960.

SCIENCE-FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

IF SCIENCE FICTION - September 1960:

Short Novel: KANGAROO COURT by Daniel F. Galouye. Novelettes: TO CHOKE AN OCEAN by J. F. Bone, and THE SIX FINGERS OF TIME by R. A. Lafferty. Short Stories: PARALLEL BEANS by Margaret St. Clair, WEDGE by H. B. Fyfe, WORDS AND MUSIC by Arthur Porges, and STAR PERFORMER by Robert J. Shea. Feature: WORLDS OF IF by Frederik Pohl. Cover by John Pederson, Jr.: "Why If's Art Is So Accurate". Issue will be on sale about July 1st.

SWEDISH SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS

by Sture Sedolin

"STOCKON 3" DELAYED ONE YEAR

Due to my going into the Swedish Army in May of this year, Sweden's Third SF-Con, The SROCKON 3, which was scheduled for August 26-28 this year, will have to be (concluded on page 5, column 1)

Paid Advertisement

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&
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FOR
TAFF

But urge you to vote and send in donations of at least 50¢ to: Robert A. Madle, 4500 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Md., or Ron Bennett, 7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England (2/6d in England).

SWEDISH SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

(Concluded from page 4, column 1)

delayed until the last days of August next year. More information on this at a later date.

STOCKHOLM TO BID FOR WORLDCON IN 1970

When I was in England London-fan Brian-Burgess remarked that he'd like to see the World-Con in Sweden in 1970, and when I arrived back in Stockholm, I discussed it with some prominent Swedish fans. They are all in favor of the idea. The first steps will be taken at STOCKON 3 in 1961. When I visit the USA in 1964 I'll try and find out what American fandom thinks of the idea. Many American and British fans have often said that they'd like to visit Sweden "some day" -- what will give them a better reason than a WorldCon?

NEWS IN GENERAL

The following British fans will be visiting Sweden this summer: the "non-existing" Alan Dodd, and Alan Burns; Mike Moorcock and Sandra Hall. Before this, Sweden hasn't had many foreign fans visiting, but Darrell Richardson tells me he visited Vallingby in '58, but didn't have my address!

When I visited Denmark in April I found out that no Danish SF-book or SF-series were being published at that time, but they have a lot of American pocket-books.

We haven't heard so much from Norwegian fandom, but it seems now that when Roar Ringdahl in Drammen has his "Norwegian Branch Office" of the ISFS (probably the only "Branch Office" ISFS has left) Norwegian fandom is born. Ray Nelson visited Norway recently, by the way. Roar has been working with his "Branch Office" for about a year now, and so far has about a dozen members. That's a good score when one thinks that before his "Branch Office" there were only two fans in Norway. No SF-magazine is published in Norway for the time being, but they can buy British and American SF.

JOIN THE PITTCON

SCIENCE-FICTION BOOK REVIEWS

by Lane Stannard

IS THERE INTELLIGENT LIFE ON EARTH? by Alan Dunn; \$3.50, Simon & Schuster, N.Y. 118 pages, large size (8½" x 11").

A look at today's life on Earth by Martians. A satire told in words and cartoons. Not actually science-fiction, but uses s-f to carry the author's message. Real funny, with a weird underline of the worse of today's life. This is one use that background science-fiction can be put to. Interesting and recommended.

CLASSIFIED ADS (More on back page)

WANTED

URGENT! Will pay \$1 plus postage for every copy of WHO KILLED SF returned to me by July 4. Earl Kemp, 2019 N. Whipple Chicago 47

LUNACON 1960

NEW YORK, 10 April, (CNS) -The Lunarians a local N.Y. science-fiction club, held their 4th annual conference, LUNACON 1960 today with Hans Santesson as MC. Films were shown by Chris Moskowitz and narrated by Sam Moskowitz. These were of the Detention and their wedding. Ed Emsh showed his excellent films. Some showed his covers being painted and some were artistic films. All were as well done as his art work usually is. Hal Lynch of the PSFS gave a talk on the PITTCON. The main speakers were Randall Garrett and Judith Merrill on the theme of "Where Is S-F Going?" but it turned out to be a blast against "New Maps of Hell" by Garrett and the feeling that s-f is going mainstream by Miss Merrill. A plaque was presented to Emsh for his excellent work in s-f. An auction and coffee break was offered about midways thru the program. The final event was a Fan Editors Panel with Ted & Sylvia White, James Taurasi, Sidney Porcelain, Belle Dietz, and MGED by Leslie Gerber. The discussion was whether s-f fan mags should publish only s-f. No real agreement was reached.

As usual the Lunacon was enjoyable and informative. -Lane Stannard

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Ray Van Houten, Vice-President.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

2c per word including name, address and
zone number. 25 words minimum, remit-
tance with copy. (NO STAMPS PLEASE!)

FOR SALE

THE IMPARTIAL STORM, Sam Moskowitz's His-
tory of SF Fandom, Hardcover Edition ---
Mini copies -- \$5.00 - Jerry Burge, 1707
Piper Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia.

THOUSANDS OF S-F, fantasy, mystery, hor-
ror, 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 thou-
sands; science-fiction, fantasy, weird,
adventure, detective, western and others
to complete your files, or we will buy
y o u r collection. Enclose stamp for
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Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

FOR SALE OF TRADE: back issue magazines;
ARGOY 1932-1941; **COMET**; **ASTONISHING-
STORIES**; **WONDER QUARTERLIES**, 1928-1930;
AMAZING; etc. Books: **BRIDE OF FRANKEN-
STEIN**; **BEAST OF THE HAITIAN HILLS**; **GALAXY
READERS**; etc. A l s o a few **BIG LITTLE
BOOKS** and **Armed Services** pocket books.
Send for list. **ROGER DARD**, Box S1387,
G. P. O. Perth, Western Australia.

**JOIN THE BIGGEST FAN EVENT OF 1960! THE
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\$2.00 makes you a member. When you re-
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take care of the rest. The \$2.00 includ-
es admission fees, progress reports and
the **BIG** convention PROGRAM. DO IT NOW!

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TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND (TAFF) VOTING FORM

Candidates

MAL ASHWORTH

ERIC BENTCLIFFE

H.P.(SANDY) SANDERSON

Votes must be mailed to reach Ron Bennett,
7 Southway, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate,
Yorkshire, England, no later than 15 June 1960.

Please write below your 1st, 2nd and 3rd
choices of a candidate to be sent to the 18th
World Science Fiction Convention to be held
in Pittsburgh, USA, in September 1960.

All candidates have
signed a statement to
the effect that if
elected, God willing,
they will travel to
the convention.

Should the winner be
unable to go because
of reasons beyond his
control, the second
will be offered the
opportunity and then
the third, provided
he obtains 25% of
the votes. If no-

one goes or if
there is not suf-
ficient money, the
cash on hand will be
held over until 1961.

Details of voting are
kept secret.

Reproductions of this
form are authorized (in
fact, encouraged) pro-
vided an exact copy is
made.

No proxy votes are al-
lowed. Each voting
fan must sign his own
ballot paper.

First Choice.

Second Choice

Third Choice.

Note: Your first choice will receive 3 points,
your second 2 points and your 3rd one point.
You may vote for any one candidate once only.
If you wish you may leave blank third and/or
second places. Under no circumstances will
more than 3 points be allowed any one candidate
on any one ballot. Write in votes permitted.

To be eligible to vote you must contribute a
minimum of 2/6d (50¢) to the Fund and have been
active in fandom prior to November 1959.
Contributions in excess of 50¢ or 2/6d grate-
fully accepted. If you are not a fan known to
the Administration, please give here the name
and address of a fan or science fiction club
to whom reference may be made:

.
.
.

Persons outside Great Britain may send money and
ballots to either Ron Bennett or to Robert
Madle, 4500 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Mary-
land, USA.

I enclose/have sent to you/Bob Madle the sum
of..... as a contribution to the Fund. (Note
that money paid for raffle tickets, special
fanzines, etc., does not count.)

Name.

Address

.

MAL ASHWORTH If you suddenly stop and ask yourself what makes fandom worth while the short answer is some wonderful people and some fine writing. It's amazing how often Mal Ashworth figures in both lists, since he hasn't been as prolific as some. But in our morass of mimeography it's worth that counts, and there nobody tops Mal. Whether it's the fabulous issues of Bem, or the effervescence of his later more informal fanzines, or the warmth of the classic MY FIRST REAL CONVENTION, or the good-humored satire of THE DASHCON REPORT in Hyphen or any of his other many columns or articles or even just a hilarious letter, everything Mal does is not just brilliant but likeable, because that's the kind of person he is. A reader of science fiction as long as he can remember, an active fan since the days of Quandry, universally liked in Britain and by scores of American fans through FAPA, he would worthily represent the best in British fandom.

Nominated by: Walt Willis, Arthur Thomson, John Roles, Larry Shaw, F. M. Busby.

ERIC BENTCLIFFE Eric Bentcliffe will make an excellent TAFF candidate in 1960, for many reasons. Among them are his long background in fandom both in publishing and actifanning, editorship of TRIODE, SPACE-TIMES, WALDO, The Space-Times Checklist and Songs From Space anthology plus numerous articles and letters throughout fandom. These all spell actifan. On the Convention side, Eric has been on the Committee of several British Conventions, participated in programme items, and worked before and behind the scenes on many others. As first Secretary of the BSFA, Eric did more than anyone else to enlarge the Association and set the stage for the 1959 Birmingham Convention. An ex-Chairman of the Manchester Group, and Ex-Chairman of the Liverpool SFS, OMPA member, Eric is also a member of the rare fannish order of Knights of St. Fantony. The social party side is another of Eric's strong points and of course very important in a delegate: he can get on his hind legs and address an audience.

Nominated by: Terry Jeeves, Norman Shorrocks, Eric Jones, Bob Pavlat, Phyllis Economou.

H.P.(SANDY) SANDERSON Long involved in British fanactivity, Sandy started as a leading light and Convention organiser for the N.S.F.C: perpetrated one of fandom's greatest hoaxes by creating "Joan W. Carr" and FEMIZINE: is founder member and treasurer of both OMPA and the SF Club of London and member of the LC: edits one of the Top Ten fanzines, the scintillating APORRHETA: is ex-FAPA (100 pages in his first year!), dropped for APÆ's sake: is able to report in vivid "Strawberry Ice/Inchmerry Fan Diary" style, with tape and cine record! Finally, he's a coffee-addict - no British fan could be a better choice!! (100)

Nominated by: Joy K. Clarke, Sid Birchby, Dean Grennell, Bob Tucker, Ethel Lindsay.