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(WHOLE #377) \$3 a Year

ALL S-F MAGS INCREASE CIRCULATION IN 1961

"FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION" SHOWS GREATEST INCREASE - "GALAXY" THE LEAST

CIRCULATION figures published around the end of the year for the second time in magazine history gave the readers a good looksee of how the science/fantasy magazines did during the year 1961 and how they compared with 1960. 1960 was the first year these figures were published. As published they compared as follows:

NAME OF MAGAZINE	1961 CIRC.	ISSUE APPEARED IN	1960 CIRC.	INCREASE
Galaxy Magazine	92,000	April 1962	91,000	1,000
analog	77,449	Dec. 1961	74,408	3,041
Fantasy & Science Fiction	56,276	Jan. 1962	47,574	8,702
If	56,000	March 1962	54,000	2,000
Amazing Stories	p. 110	Jan. 1962	48,018	3,092
Fantastic	40,292	Jan. 1962	38,759	1,533

It is interesting to note the increase of 8,702 for FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, the biggest increase of them all; with AMAZING STORIES next with an increase of 3,092. ANALOG almost has the same increase with 3,041. GALAXY MAGAZINE shows the least increase with only 1,000.

Still the lowest in published circulation figures is FANTASTIC and it was the second lowest in increase, with only 1,533 added. Perhaps fantasy is still the hardest item to sell these days.

As with last year the figures of GALAXY and IF raise an eyebrow. We've discussed these figures with a number of persons in and out of the field, and the question of what they comprise of is still up in the air. There are a number of persons who question these figures and believe that they include the circulation of GALAXY and IF distributed in England. Since they are the only ones printed in the United States and also distributed in England, these figures could include this

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF PUBLICATION

circulation and thus in effect pad the overall figures. Other s-f magazines that do appear in England are printed and published there and thus can not be included in the figures published. Robert Guinn, publisher of both GALAXY and IF would not comment when asked the question.

No science/fantasy magazine folded in 1961. What will 1962 bring? — Perhaps a revival? It is possible.

THE STATE OF FANDOM

by Science-Fiction Times Reporters

THE 20th ANNUAL PHILLY CONFERENCE

by Edmund R. Meskys

Over 175 people gathered in the Penn Sheraton Hotel's "Hall of Flags" on Nov. 17th and 18th for the 20th annual s-f conference held by the Philadelphia SF Society.

Chairman Tom Purdom started off the program shortly after 1 PM by calling upon Sam Moskowitz to introduce the notables in the audience. As Sam pointed out, fans had gathered from far and wide for this conference — Ella Parjer from England, Forry Ackerman and Lee Jacobs from Los Angeles, Earl Kemp and Jim O'Meara from Chicago, several fans from Ohio, and Jerry Page from Atlanta made up the "traveling giant" contingent.

First major item on the program was an interview of James Blish by a panel of fans. As originally conceived, this panel would have consisted of one professional in the field (preferably an editor), one active fan, and one voluminous reader who did not partake in fandom, so as to get as diverse a set of viewpoints as possible. However the panel finally set up consisted of Dick Eney (publisher of SPECULATIVE REVIEW, compiler of FANCYCLOPEDIA II), Harry Warner (publisher of HORIZONS for the FAPA), and Jim Dunwoody (the non-fan reader); then Jim failed to show up and I was requested to fill his place with a one minute warning.

Anyhow, the panel finally got started and went on for about an hour, each panelist asking one or more question in turn with Tom Purdom occasionally interjecting one. There wasn't too much continuity to the line of questions with follow-up questions being asked 2 to 6

questions after the original. The discussion touched on Mr. Blish's new novel The Star Dwellers (which had been written as a pacifist's answer to Heinlein's Starship Trooper), his attempts to write historical novels about science (he hasn't yet been able to sell his first one about Roger Bacon and will soon start on the 2nd about the dual development of the patent and security systems for technical inventions in 15th Century Venice), his writing habits (such as doing a 10,000 word outline for a 60,000 word novel), his forthcoming stories (a new Cakie novel, A Life for the Stars, telling of the early days of the cities and fitting between Year 2018! and Earthman, Come Home, will be appearing in ANALOG some 9 months hence and from Putnam shortly thereafter), the troubles he had with his former employers (the Pfeiser Drug Co) after the publication of The Frozen Year, his favorite s-f, and other topics. Of the panelists Dick Eney was the best prepared, with a list of questions and quotations typed out. But I certainly must admire Mr. Blish; for his agility and frankness in answering the questions, but most of all for his guts in volunteering to get up before a panel and answering any questions it might ask. After all, we only had to think up questions — he had to answer them on the spot.

After a one hour intermission A. J. Budrys, David Fisher of Speery Rand, and Roy Freed of the ALCU discussed "The Future of Freedom", or the effect of modern technology on civil liberties, with occasional prods from the ever-present Tom Purdom.

After another hour break Ted Sturgeon got up to give his talk. He said that he essentially had a simple statement to make and that his entire talk would lead up to it. Also, he wanted us to think over what he's said after he finished, so he didn't want to answer

any questions then; but he would answer any questions we had before he started.

After a burst of laughter and a one-minute pause the questions started -- at first slowly, but then in a flood. Then he got started -- first off chatting idly about Philadelphia and the years he had spent in it long ago, going on to say that fans should do wild "blue sky" thinking about the world's problems because they just might come up with a solution, and finishing up by talking about "love". (All but the questions will be printed in the first issue of Frank Dietz's new fan mag, Luna.) This ended the official program for Saturday.

Next day things started somewhat later and in front of a much smaller audience -- many out-of-town people had gone home after the first day. First item on the program was to be announcements by a representative of SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES. Since James V. Taurasi, Sr. was called to work, and Frank R. Prieto, Jr. was ill this item was skipped.

L. Sprague de Camp and Avram Davidson with complete freedom to do whatever they wanted were next.

Avram started out by reading a prepared statement in praise of an author and explorer and suddenly announcing that he was speaking of the late A. Hyatt Verrill and not his fellow speaker as most had thought. They too answered questions from the audience, and kept it up for about 1½ hours. To a large extent the topic centered on the sword and sorcery type of fantasy though they also discussed other types of fantasy, early scientists and "lost" discoveries, selection of books by publishers, censoring of manuscripts by same, etc. This was by far the best and most popular item on the program.

After another hour break Hal Lynch gave a talk on "programmed teaching" and the so-called teaching machines, how they work and how they will probably help to relieve the teacher-shortage in the future. This was followed by a rather spirited discussion with the audience on some aspects of this.

Finally, after a rather brief break the last item on the program came on -- the showing of an old Flash Gordon movie

serial. Unfortunately this was started rather late and would have taken some 6 hours to show in its entirety; and by the end of the first hour a large part of the audience had left for dinner. After 2 hours only 9 or so people were left so they gave up and called the remainder off. Also the convention had run overtime and the hall should have been turned back to the hotel about an hour before that.

Forry Ackerman had a print of Fritz Lang's "The Girl In The Moon" along to be shown courtesy of Jim Warren of FAMOUS MONSTERS and SPACEMEN but unfortunately there was just no place it could be fitted into the program.

Thus one sees that this year the program consisted of a small number of long items, relying rather heavily upon audience participation, and with long intermissions. The purposes of the intermissions were two-fold -- to allow the attendees to meet and talk with old friends and to encourage patronization of the 2nd hand book table in the back of the hall which was helping to pay the club's expenses.

On the average the program was quite good, and a distinct improvement over the previous year.

Socially, the convention was a success too. Friday night Hal Lynch showed some films for early arrivals and then there was a preliminary party but due to poor publicity less than 20 persons were present. Saturday evening there was a full-fledged party for all attendees at the home of Harriet Kolchak.

MOTION PICTURES, STAGE AND TV by Ken Beale

Current Releases: An elaborate animated-puppet version of A Midsummer Night's Dream has opened at a local art theater. It was made in Czechoslovakia by Jim Trnka, whose earlier feature, The Emperor's Nightingale, has been seen here. This film is in widescreen and color, and features the voices of Richard Burton and members of Britain's Old Vic.....

Theaters everywhere are or will be playing Walt Disney's live-action Babes in Toyland, a lavish Technicolor production with Ray Bolger and Ed Wynn.....The Mysterious Island is yet another Verne film, made by the same Columbia Pictures unit that did The Three Worlds of Gulliver and The 7th Voyage of Sinbad. Color, with Cary Merrill, Jean Greenwood and Herbert Lom as Captain Nemo. Ray Harryhausen handled the special effects..... From Joseph Levine comes another Italian-American production, made in much the same way as his Thief of Bagdad (reviewed in SFT #369). This one is called Wonders of Aladdin, features Donald O'Connor and Vitorio De Sica, and is in color and CinemaScope, of course. Henry Levin, who did Journey to the Center of the Earth, directed..... An expensive British-made fantasy is The Innocents, with Deborah Kerr. Based on Henry James' "The Turn of the Screw", it was inspired by the successful TV version, which had Ingrid Bergman, Martin Stephens, the leader of the Children in Village of the Damned, appears here in a similar role..... Two Children films that may've already played in some parts of the country are The Magic Fountain (German-made by a U. S. firm, with Hans Conried and Sir Cedric Hardwicke heard but not seen) and Alakazam the Great (A Japanese cartoon, with the voice of Johatahn Winters).

Ken Beale has an excellent column "Master of Horror: Karloff" in the February 1962 issue of CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN, on the newsstands now. -----editor

SCIENCE-FICTION FAN MAGAZINES

by Edmund R. Meskys

Because of the rather lengthy Philcon report this month, the column is being limited to just a brief plug for the 30th (and probably last) issue of OOPSLA published by Gregg Calkins, 1484 East 17th South, Salt Lake City 5, Utah. No price is listed, but send a quarter -- that's what I did. This magnificently duplicated issue is dedicated to Robert Bloch and contains an 8 page checklist

of all professionally published items up to 1959 compiled by Mr. Bloch himself plus a 4 page introduction by him, and articles about Mr. Bloch by Walt Willis and Dean Frinnell. Also present is an article by Bob (Wilson) Tucker on his forthcoming revised "Neofan's Guide" and a bibliography of Robert Heinlein. -----

THANK YOU

Our thanks to the many, many Christmas cards received from subscribers, reporters and editors all over the world. As usual these are hanging on the Christmas trees at the two offices of Science-Fiction Times, Inc., in College Point, and Syracuse, New York. We appreciate them all.

1961 was a very bad year for SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES. Due to late postal deliveries in the early part of the year. Extended illness and away from home by printer and mailer Frank R. Prieto, Jr. during the later part of the year, many issues were badly delayed.

We are very, very sorry over this and will do our best to prevent it in 1962.

Frank is working hard over the Christmas and New Years holidays to get all the issues out.

On behalf of the editors, reporters and other members of the staff, I wish you a most HAPPY AND SCIENTIFUL NEW YEAR.

-----James V. Taurasi, Sr., editor

GERMAN SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS

by Burkhard Blum

Germany, 27 October, (CNS) - Here are some reports from the German-language science-fiction field. The "Gebrieder Weiss Verlag" will publish Stapledon's LAST AND FIRST MAN not in 1961, possibly in early 1962, but not too sure at this time. The "AWA Verlag, Munich" pubbed a cloth-bound, unabridged edition of van Vogt's THE VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE. The price is DM 7.80 (\$1.95), the volume has 270 pages. The German title was

WELTRAUM -- EXPEDITION DER SPACE BEAGLE. The novel was published in Germany in 1957 as issue #50 of Utopia Grossband by Pabel Publishing House in Rastatt with the title UNTERNEHMEN MICHSTRASSE, the price was DM 1.--.

The Gbr. Zimmermann Verlag published a collection from A. E. van Vogt, the title was DAS ABSOLUTUM and the Price DM 5.85 by the TRANSGALAXIS. It contained the three novelettes: VAULT OF THE BEAST, ASYLUM, and FULFILLMENT. Translator was Jesco Paron von Puttkamer, who wrote an afterword to the book. The TRANSGALAXIS had a special edition, limited to 100 copies, for the price of DM 8.50.

It is still not sure whether JACK OF EAGLES will be the Christmas volume of TRANSGALAXIS. You may be amazed, that I mention TG so often, but the center of the s-f life (not s-f fandom life) of all s-f fans in Germany is the TG.

The HEYNE VERLAG, MUNICH, published a pocket-book edition of Mark Twain's EIN YANKEE AN KONIG ARTUS' HOF, and a re-edition (shortened) of Nelson Bond's LANCELOT BIGGS, which was published in 1953 by Gerb. Weiss Verlag, Berlin.

During the BUCHMESSE in FRANKFURT Mr. Bingenheimer found out that the Hamburg publishing house Rutten and Loehning had edited again Sherrieff's HOPKINS MANUSCRIPT with the German title DER MOND FALLT AUF EUROPE. It had been published in 1955 by MAGNUS publishing House with the same title, but Rutten & Loehning did not know that. The publishing house brought out also a new edition of HG Wells THE TIME MACHINE, cloth-bound, DM 7.80. THE HOPKINS MANUSKRIPT, also cloth-bound does cost DM 12.80.

The Secretariat of GRAND-PRIX INTERNATIONAL DU ROMAN DE SCIENCE-FICTION told me that there has been 253 competitors with 255 novels in 1960. The second (this year's) GRAND PRIX has 203 competitors with 205 novels, in Italian, French, German, English and Spanish language. They are planning an Italian language s-f periodical.

The Austrian IGWU (Interessengemeinschaft fur wissenschaftliche Utopie) plans a translation of an American s-f novel. They will translate and duplicate it. Some German fans are shocked. In their opinion such a project is not only unnecessary, for there is now e-

nough good s-f published in Germany; they think it to be a crime against good taste. Furthermore, the publishing houses will know it, because Mr. Bingenheimer published it in TG and many publishing houses get TG regularly, and the book, of course, will not be published by the professional houses, because a lot of TG members will have it and will hardly buy the book edition too. Also some publishing firms sell a good deal of their books to TG. A German fan said this project to be 'idealism over dead bodies'. Of course there are also a lot of fans who agree with the initiators.

SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION -- March 1962:

JONATHAN AND THE SPACE WHALE (novelet) by Robert F. Young, THE MAN WHO MADE FRIENDS WITH ELECTRICITY by Fritz Leiber FERDINAND FEGHOOT: XLIX by Grendel Briarton, WONDER AS I WANDER by Manly Wade Wellman, A WAR OF NO CONSEQUENCE (novelet) by Edgar Pangborn, THE 63rd ST. STATION by Avram Davidson, Science: "That's Life!" by Isaac Asimov, Books by Alfred Bester, SHADOW ON THE MOON by Zenna Henderson. Cover: a complete wrap-around by Mel Hunter.

AT PRESS TIME

LASTS NEWS by Donald Franson

Elections held on Dec. 28, 1961 at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, for the first half of 1962 were as follows:

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SECRETARY: Jack Harness.

TREASURER: Paul & Ellie Turner.

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Frank R. Prieto, Jr., Publisher.
Ray Van Houten, Advisor.

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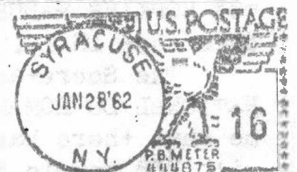
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