

The Science Fiction Newspaper

Science-Fiction Times

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

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Second May 1957 Issue

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Two Mags Cut Pages, Indicating "Boomlet" Has Cracked

"SATURN" AND "SCIENCE FICTION STORIES"
EACH DROP SIXTEEN PAGES.

New York, 6 May, (CNS) - The second post-war science-fiction "boom" showed serious cracks today as two science-fiction magazines came out with pages cut. SCIENCE FICTION STORIES that only recently had upped pages from 130 to 144, and announced that it soon would be going monthly, came out (July issue) with a 16 page cut; and back again to 130 pages. (In counting their pages, the cover is counted as page 1, in their 130 pages; while the first inside page is counted as page 1 in the 144 page issues). The July issue of SATURN came out, in this secture, also with a 16 page cut; cutting from 128 pages to a mere 112 pages. This makes SATURN the s-f magazine with the smallest number of pages ever published in a digest s-f magazine. Before this, for quite a time IF has had that honor with 120 pages.

This cutting of pages has been the first since 1954 when a good number of (Concluded on page 3, column 2)

15th WORLD S-F CONVENTION NEWS

THREE AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED BY LONDON WORLD CON

by Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.
(Recorder-Historian of "World Science Fiction Society, Inc.")

New York, 1 May, (CNS) - At a meeting of the Convention Committee of the World Science Fiction Society, Inc., held in London on April 2, 1957, it was unanimously decided after due consideration that the custom of presenting individual Achievement Awards is impractical this year, due to the widely divergent reading habits of the international attendance expected this year.

The fact that many members in both countries are not likely to read publications of the other country would make it necessary to provide individual a-

A Fandom House Publication

wards covering both the British and American publishing fields.

It is almost certain that the International Fantasy Award for the best novel of 1955-56 will be revived this year, promoted by a group of London publishers. This award will be presented at the World Convention. Therefore, the Convention Committee has selected certain awards which will be made in conjunction with the 15th World Science Fiction Convention. These will be: Award for the best American Professional Magazine; Award for the best British Professional Magazine (British reprints to count as British magazines) and the best Fan Magazine published in any country in the world, during the period of July 1956 to June 1957.

The Awards will almost certainly be replicas of the International Fantasy Award Trophy, but without the Global lighter, as the mold is available for such use.

The Committee regrets that it is not possible this year to be able to include the many interesting individual awards which have now become an integral part of World Conventions. Even if the Committee should find an amicable solution to the problem, this year's Convention will undoubtedly be on a much smaller scale than recent Conventions, which would preclude any large sum being available to purchase a larger number of such awards.

The Convention Committee will have this announcement in JOURNAL #2 (May), a Ballot will also be included for each member. Ballots must be returned to the London Secretary not later than Saturday, August 31, 1957.

I feel that the London Committee has done an excellent job in resolving this rather difficult question, and am pleased that they will be able to continue the tradition of presenting Achievement Awards at the World Science Fiction Conventions.

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SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

by James Blish

THE SYNTHETIC MAN, By Theodore Sturgeon. Pyramid, 1957. 174 pp., paperback, 35¢.

This is Ted's 1950 novel, THE DREAMING JEWELS, which I missed in the hardbound edition. It is not major Sturgeon -- it has most of the expectable defects of a first novel -- but even minor Sturgeon is big in our league.

On the debit side are most of the characters, who are strange black or white creatures quite unlike the complex people Ted usually manages to create. One villain is a stock Gay Nineties sneerer, the other an aging lecher from the same period; the carnival folk who make up most of the rest of the cast tend to disappear into their physical oddities, and the hero is Superman. The plot is complex and under much better control than is usual in first novels, but it's hard to believe in or care much about because the people involved in it are so deliberately stagy.

All this is told, however, in the rich, faintly overripe Sturgeon prose, dripping with vivid insights and images and exuding its dependable bouquet of love for the language and for human emotions. The science-fiction thesis is both original and brilliantly worked out, so that even the rare slips are not damaging to the argument (e.g., epinephrine is not just "close enough" to adrenalin, as Ted says; it is adrenalin; the latter is a trade name for the former).

I think what I am trying to convey is that this is not a satisfying novel, but it is a highly enjoyable one.

SLAVE SHIP, by Frederik Pohl. Ballantine Books, 1957. 147 pp., paperback, 35¢; 160 pp., hardbound, \$2.75.

Oddly, Ballantine's various blurbs for this novel do more for its central idea than the author himself did. The (Concluded on page 4, column 1)

Last 25¢ S-F Mag Gone; "SFQ" Now 35¢

"SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY" ADDS 32
PAGES AND UPS PRICE TO 35¢

New York, 8 May, (CNS) - The last 25¢ magazine in the science-fiction field gave up the ghost and upped its price to 35¢, adding 32 pages in the deal. With the August 1957 issue (out by the time you read this) SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY, the last of the 25¢ s-f mags upped its price to 35¢, but in doing so has added 32 pages, making it now 130 pages. S-F QUARTERLY is also one of the last s-f magazines still being published in pulp size (the other being Palmer's OTHER WORLDS). With the addition of 32 pages, it makes this magazine about the biggest buy in the field. About the only s-f mags that can touch it in amount of material are ASTOUNDING with 162 Digest pages and perhaps GALAXY with 144 Digest pages.

So another page in the post-war history of US s-f magazines comes to a close. The 25¢ s-f mag, with us since 1926, is gone. ALL s-f mags in the US now sell for 35¢ a copy.

SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY will still continue quarterly publication.

ZIFF-DAVIS' S-F NOVEL PUBLICATION GETS SLIGHT CHANGE OF TITLE

New York, 29 April, (CNS) - Ziff-Davis' new science-fiction publication in which a complete s-f novel taken from a s-f movie will be featured will have a slight change of title. It will now be called AMAZING STORIES SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS. The "logo" AMAZING STORIES reduced in size will serve as part of the logo for the new publication. Formerly it was to have been called AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS.

WANT TO SEE AN 8 PAGE PHOTO-OFFSET
"TIMES"? GET US AN EXTRA SUBBER!!

"FLYING SAUCERS" TO INVADE "AMAZING STORIES"

New York, 29 April, (CNS) - Paul Fairman, editor of Amazing Stories, announced today that the September 1957 issue of his magazine will be a special "Flying Saucer" issue containing about 1/2 fiction and 1/2 "facts" on "Flying Saucers". This issue should be on the stands about August 10th.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: The editors of SCIENCE FICTION TIMES deplore the fact that a so called science-fiction magazine must resort to such goings-on as "Shaver Mystery", "Dianetics", "Flying Saucer" and other rot to fill their pages. We are of the opinion that a science-fiction magazine should publish science-fiction. If you "guys" like this junk better than you do s-f, then why in hell don't you get out of the s-f publishing game and make your "millions" publishing every sort of "lunacy" that crops up every year? -the editors)

THE "BOOM" CRACKS

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

the digests cut from 160 to 128. It also points to an end of the "Boom" that has been around since 1955 when Shaw brought out Infinity Science Fiction. What will the future bring? On past experience we'd say that you can expect a number of digests to cut pages to 112 in the near future. Also the "Boom" is about over. A few (maybe) new titles may appear, but some now out will bow out before the year is over.

The usual summer slack season will mean the end to those that have been hanging on the thin edge, tho some might get thru by cutting pages.

Robert W. Lowndes stated that the paper and printing problems forced the cut to 130 in SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, and that a paper problem is holding up his going monthly with SFS, in fact he tells us that there will be quite some time before he gets enough paper to be able to bring the mag out monthly. If and when SCIENCE FICTION STORIES goes monthly, it will be the first Columbia s-f magazine to do so.

As a closing thought to the problem of making a s-f mag show a profit, let's not overlook the possibility of a 50¢ s-f magazine. -the editors

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES BOOK REVIEWS (concluded from page 2, column 2)

idea -- that man have learned animal languages and can now use animals as helpers in various enterprises -- is a fertile one, and Pohl lays the foundation for it with great skill. Then he abandons it in favor of a stale and preposterous espionage - and-abduction plot reminiscent of the Dr. Bird stories of the early 1930's, in which the animals play only the most minor of roles. The payoff has nothing to do with the animals, either -- or with anything else that has happened in the novel; it's just a hat trick.

What happened? Was the novel written too fast, for publication in Galaxy? If so, why didn't Fred revise it for Ballantine? A performance like this, from a man I know is thoroughly aware of what he is doing, baffles me; I don't understand how so experienced a writer can take a good idea and throw it down the drain in favor of dim evocations of Capt. S. P. Meek. I strongly suspect, however, that this is an instance of haste compounded by laziness, and/or contempt for the average reader.

Too bad; it could have been a hell of a good novel. As it stands, however, it is not recommended.

Advertise in SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES.
See page 6 for rates.

THE TIME STREAM

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

Only 17 copies of the excellent NEW-YORKCON MEMORY BOOK are left according to its publisher, K. Martin Carlson of 1028 3rd Ave., South, Moorhead, Minnesota. You must reach him before June 1st if you want a copy as Mr. Carlson will be leaving for Sweden then. Only 100 copies were printed. \$1 a copy and well worth it. -JHV

L. Sprague de Camp has an article "Let's Go Hunting For Dinosaur" in the February 1957 SAFARI. -JHV

Dick Ellington married Pat Werner (one of the hard working gals who did much to produce the New York World Convention last year), on March 15th, 1957. Dave Kyle and Ruth Landis were best man and bridesmaid, while Dick and Doey Wilson were in attendance too. They were married by a judge out in New City. Our congratulations and a lifetime of happiness to both of you. -JHV

Who will be the first s-f publisher to produce a 96 page digest science-fiction magazine for only 25¢? There's talk about it. -JVT

There was an article in the February, 1957 issue of THE BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS entitled "Why do Scientists Read Science Fiction?" by Arthur S. Barron. The name is unfamiliar to me but the guy knows his stf -- moderately uncomplimentary to stf, but of interest. -Dick Ellington

PHOENIX! FIRST FANCLAVE

Phoenix, Ariz., 24 February, (CNS) - From 12 noon till 12 midnight yesterday the first recorded Phoenix fangab was held here in the home of Lou and Cynthia Goldstone. Our special guest for the occasion was Forry Ackerman, who drove a thousand mile round trip to participate. Arthur Louis Joquel, author of the non-fiction book "The Challenge Of Space", interviewed Forry for (concluded on page 5, column 2)

Shasta Prize Novel Not To Appear??

College Point, NY, 16 April, (CNS) - What may turn out to be one of the most peculiar situations ever to develop in the science-fiction book publishing field, if not in the general book field itself, was confirmed recently in a letter from Mr. Freeman Lewis, executive vice-president of Pocket Books, Inc.

The peculiar situation is that Shasta Publishers of Chicago may not be able to publish the hardcover edition of the winning novel in their own "Shasta Prize Novel Contest" of a few years back!

Winning Novel was "I owe For The Flesh" by Philip Jose Farmer (retitled "The River Of Eternity"). According to Mr. Farmer, contract deadline for the hardcover edition by SHASTA was 9 February 1957.

Bulk of the \$4,500 prize money due to Mr. Farmer was \$3,000 from Pocket Books, Inc., for paperback reprint rights.

In answer to a query from the SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, Mr. Lewis stated:

"We contracted with Shasta Publishers to issue a paper bound reprint of Mr. Farmer's novel and paid an advance of \$3,000 on signing the reprint contract. Shasta, by failing to publish their edition of the book within the time limit set forth in its contract with Mr. Farmer, violated that contract and Mr. Farmer informed them of said violation and the contract became null and void. Under those circumstances it was obviously impossible for Shasta to fulfill its contract with us for a reprint edition so that our reprint contract also became null and void. We have, therefore, asked Shasta to return the advance made to them by us.

"No contract for the book has been

signed directly between Pocket Books, Inc., and Mr. Farmer, though such a contract may be signed in the future."

In answer to our request for further information and clarification from Erle Korshak of SHASTA, in which we listed several specific questions which we felt should be answered, the following communication was received from Mr. Korshak:

"Dear Mr. Van Houten:

"Thank you for having called the article SHASTA PRIZE NOVEL NOT TO APPEAR? to our attention, before publishing same.

"While this article has a number of inaccuracies, we fail to see how any objections to them on our part would do us any good.

"Yours very truly,

"SHASTA PUBLISHERS

"s/t Erle Korshak".

THE TIME STREAM

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

half an hour on tape, for delayed broadcast on a KASC science series radio program: Forry answered questions extemporaneously about the growth of science-fiction from the time HGWells to the modern magazines, with sidelights on science-fiction fans, clubs, conventions, etc., the world round. Out of the Ark, but looking considerably younger than Methuselah considering he had a story ("Planet Paradise") in the February 1924 Weird Tales, was Richard Tooker, author of the noted prehistoric novel THE DAY OF THE BROWN HORDE as well as a number of appearance in early Amazings and Wonders. Theodore Pratt, whose short story "Think" was published in the March 1957 Fantastic Universe, was present, and attendees were reminded that he has two fantasy novels to

his credit, "Mr. Limpet" and "Mr. Thirkle's Trolley". Mildred Clingerman sent regrets that she couldn't make it from nearby Tucson. Forry was presented with a clock-eyed hat designed (literally) to make time fly, as indeed time did and all too soon the conclave had come and gone. Sole representative of canine fandom present was Peanuts - The Wonder Dog, a dark terrier bedecked for the occasion with a cardboard rocket attached to her back reading Black Destroyer, a name to which she lived up.

AVALON SCIENCE FICTION BOOK NEWS

by Lane Stannard

Avalon Books, 22 East 60th Street, New York 22, NY, will publish for May 1957: BIG PLANET by Jack Vance. For June 1957 it will be CONQUEST OF EARTH by Manly Banister. They have published in the science-fiction line: For January 1957: ALIEN DUST by E. C. Tubb; for February 1957: ACROSS TIME by David Grinnell; for March 1957: CITY ON THE MOON by Murray Leinster; and for April 1957: THE INFINITE BRAIN by Charles R. Long. Before January 1957, they published: POLICE YOUR PLANET by Eric van Lhin, STAR WAYS by Poul Anderson, and THREE TO CONQUER by Eric Frank Russell. All are cloth bound and sell for \$2.75 per copy.

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SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

PLAYBOY, April 1957:

"Victory Parade" by Henry Slesar. In the war of the future, the surrender is won & the victory parade is due up 5th Ave. The machines parade, but no men return.

THIS WEEK, March 31, 1957:

"Shooting For The Moon" by Jack Stewart. An article about two 18 year old members of the La Crescenta-Glendale Chapter of the Reaction Research Society. So far they've built 12 rockets & they fire them in the Mojave Desert. They recently achieved an altitude of 50,000 feet with one of their models.

TIME, April 1, 1957:

In SCIENCE column, mention is made of tests proving chlorophyll exposed to sunlight contains free electrons & is therefore a solar battery.

International Edition

Science-Fiction Times

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

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May 1957

SECTION TWO

MEXICO

by I. L. Jacobs

This will bring you up to date on the contents of the Mexican edition of The Magazine Of Fantasy & Science Fiction.

CIENCIA y FANTASIA

#2: ONE ADAM FOR 5,271,009 EVES by Alfred Bester, THE TRANSFORMER by Chad Oliver, THE INVIGORATER by P. G. Wodehouse, DREAMS ARE A PRIVATE MATTER by Isaac Asimov, ALTHOUGH JUST A SMALL COUNTRY... by R. Bretnor, THE YEAR 2000 by Robert Abernathy.

#3: REMOTE TECHNIQUE by G. C. Edmonsén, Poul Anderson & Miriam Allen de Ford argue merits of Dr. R. S. Richardson's thesis that "pretty girls" will have to be sent at regular intervals to Mars to entertain the first explorers who reach that planet. STEEL by Richard Matheson; EMERGENCY OPERATION by Arthur Porges; PLIABLE CREATURES by Daniel F. Galouye, THE CHALLENGE by John W. Vandercook.

#4: VOYAGE TO THE PAST by Poul Anderson, HOME RUN CHAMP by William Morrison; THE SHIP by Wm. Nolan & Charles Fritch, THE PLANETS ARE NOT ENOUGH by Arthur C. Clarke, NATURE OF THE SPECIES by R. Bretnor, THE FIRST MEN AMONG THE MARTIANS by Jay Williams, PAYMENT IN ADVANCE by C. S. Forester; GIRL IN THE BOTTLE by Stuart Palmer, IT HAPPENED ONE AFTERNOON by Robert Bloch.

#5: A CHANCE TO LIVE by James Blish,

THE DARKEST DRINK (a "Saint" story) by Leslie Cgarteris, DEATH THROUGH THE TELEVISION CHANNELS by Richard Matheson; THE LAST PROPHET by Mildred Clingerman, RUFUS by Kem Bennett, NEGLECTED LANDS by C. S. Lewis, THE COUNTRY OF THE KIND PEOPLE by Damon Knight, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE DEVIL by Lord Dunsany.

E N I G M A S

I trust your readers are aware that discrepancies in the story titles are unavoidable. They are translations from the Spanish titles which themselves are often modified by the editor. All these stories presumably have appeared at one time or another in the various Standard Publications.

#10: SABOTAGE IN SPACE by Sam Merwin, Jr. (illo Schomburg), INTERPLANETARY CHALLENGE (novel) by Kendell Foster Grossen (illo Finlay), PRIZE FOR THE FOOL by George O. Smith, THOUGH RECORDER by J. W. Groves (illo Emsh), FLIGHT #18 by Paul A. Torak, Article by Pat Jones on the movie "War Of The Worlds" illustrated with two stills from the film, METAMORPHASIS by Mike Curry (illo Orban), THE DOLL by Leslie Waltham, THE POLITICIAN by R.M.J. McGregor, MYSTERIES OF THE ARTIC -- an article by J. G. Edmonds, THE WATCH OF GOR JEETL by Charles A. Stearns, THE STARS AND THEIR PERSONALITIES -- an article by R. S. Richardson (illo Schomburg).

June-July 1956 - #11: THE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE (Interplanetary Cold War) (novel) by Wallace West (illo Finlay), POWER AND IMPULSE -- unsigned article, CITY

COVERING: Great Britain, Australia, Germany, Mexico, Portugal, Sweden, Etc.

OF THE UNBURIED DEAD by Chad Oliver (illo Peter Poulton), MURDER BY REMOTE CONTROL by Kris Neville (illo Finlay), ON A STAR by J. W. Groves, TO ARMS! by John Christopher (illo Dreany), FLEETING memory by Bill Venable, TIME TRAVELER -- poem by A. Kulik, THE STARS ARE NEAR -- article by R. S. Richardson, THE NEUROTIC ROBOT by Murray Leinster (illo Emsh), SUB-SONIC UMBRELLA OF THE SUN -- short article by Carter Sprague, FREEDICTION OF TIME -- article by Levis Island.

August 1956 - #12: THE ROUND TRIP TO ATLANTIS (novel) by Noel Loomis (illo Lawrence), WEATHER, INC. by Wesley Long (illo Finlay), SOILD BUBBLES -- article by Robert Castle, DEFEATED SPY by Theodore Sturgeon, THE DIAMONDS OF THE PLANET ORYX by Murray Leinster, DESTRUCTION OF THE DEMON OF EAST LUPTON by Wm Fitzgerald, THE ZODIACAL LIGHT -- article by "EF", HAPPY, WARM GERMS -- article by Albert Rosenfeld.

September-October 1956 - #13: THE RADAR PULP (The White Spot) (novel) by Murray Leinster (illo Emsh), FURTHER, ALWAYS FURTHER! -- short article by "IT", EVE OF MARS by Robert F. Young (illo Finlay), TAILSMAN 13 by Leslie Waltham, POSITION OF THE STARS -- unsigned article, SMILE, ROBOT, SMILE! by Bryce Walton (illo Orban), THE ELECTRONIC HOUSE by Richard R. Smith (illo Emsh), CRAZY "GORILLA" by R. W. Stockheker (illo Orban), WHEN MACHINES FALL IN LOVE by Gordon R. Dickson (illo

"International Edition"

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES - #23

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A FANDOM HOUSE NEWSPAPER

SWEDEN

by Leif Helgesson

The second Swedish Science-Fiction Convention (STOCKON) will be held in Stockholm, this summer, August 24-25, 1957. There will be no registration fee for foreigners, and all who can make it will be most welcomed. For more details write to STOCKON, Box 895, Stockholm 1, Sweden.

Schomburg), FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON by Alfred Coppel (illo Finlay), PROBLEMS OF A SCIENCE-FICTION EDITOR by "RS". (continued in the next issue)

In the next issue: The complete listing of stories that appeared in the Australian s-f magazine AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION compiled by Roger Dard.

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