

SCIENCE FICTION TIMES

NO. 445

AUGUST 1967

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

EDITOR: JAMES ASHE

R. D. I, FREEVILLE, N.Y. 13068

PUBLISHER: FRANK PRIETO JR.

P.O. BOX 216 SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13209

ISAAC ASIMOV NOTES

Upcoming books are:

Science, Numbers and I, next collection of F & SF essays, which Doubleday will publish in June of 1968.

Asimov's Mysteries, not new stuff, but a collection of all his shorter pieces with a mystery or detective angle, to be published by Doubleday in April 1968.

Death Dealers, his one and only straight murder mystery, which was published as a paperback about ten years ago and dropped into oblivion instantly. Walker and Co. is putting it out in hard-covers next April probably under another title, possibly his own original title A Whiff of Death.

Follett Pub. Co. is putting out a series of his astronomical books, intended for eight-year olds. The Moon has already appeared. Completed and in press are Mars, The Stars, The Galaxies, and Light.

Then, as a matter of general interest, a rather elaborate book has now been completed and Doubleday is hoping to put it out in 1968. It is not science fiction but it is an unusual book to be put out by one of our group. It is a big book (possibly appearing in two volumes) on the Bible. (That's right!) His title for it is Background to the Bible.

(Isaac Asimov mentions, "That's all I can think of off-hand.")

SPRAGUE DECAMP NOTES

LS&C writes that he is now engaged in assembling a new book, chronologically the first of the Lancer paperback Conan series. This volume will contain the first half of Howard's essay, The Hyborian Age, plus three Howard stories, one Howard/completed by deCamp, one Howard/completed by Lin Carter, and two (pastiche) by Carter and deCamp in collaboration.

The Great Monkey Trial is due in October, and The Day of the Dragon (The

Age of Reptiles) will be out next spring. Another historical novel is underway.

LIBRARY SCIENCE FICTION

Edward B. Montgomery, Dean of the Syracuse University School of Library Science, suggested in a recent speech that library science might evolve more rapidly if some science-fiction writers would turn their imaginations to library problems.

Speaking on April 29, Dean Montgomery cited Pohl's recent article in the New York Times Magazine, "They Live in the Year 2000." Then he went on to discuss some of the future problems faced by workers in the library science field. Some of these problems are very basic. For instance, a very serious question now facing workers is, "What is a library? Is it a collection of books... or is it the collection of facts and theory inside the books?"

He also suggested that eventually the artificially separated "basic sciences" will be reassembled into four general sub-fields. There might be a science of information; a science of communication; a science of systems; and a science of application.

SFT MENTIONED!

Continued efforts at regular publication of a meaningful news magazine are showing some good results. In the August 1967 issue of Analog, P. Schuyler Miller mentions that he was unable to obtain literature from the NyCon 3 Committee, and was able to resort to the SFWA Bulletin and Science Fiction Times. He goes on to reprint some notes from SFT about coming conventions. Whoopee!

FOUNDATION TRILOGY GOES TO PRESS

Avon Books has gone back to press on all three volumes of Asimov's Hugo-winning thousand-year Galactic Empire trilogy. Regarded as the 'best all-time

series in the realm of science-and-fantasy fiction', the Trilogy has been previously printed in hardcover by Doubleday, and in paperback by Avon.

SCIENCE FICTION IN INDIA

Satyajit Ray, producer of many excellent movies placed and made in India, expects to begin filming a science-fiction movie in October 1968. He has obtained backing from Columbia, and his film will have Peter Sellers in a leading role.

The film's title is expected to be THE ALIEN. A spaceship lands in a pond somewhere in Bengal, with only a gold tip on its roof showing above the surface. Nearby people believe it is a sunken temple, and a nearby businessman, played by Peter Sellers, decides to salvage it. He hires an American engineer (not cast yet), and then the plot becomes more complicated.

A ten-year old boy will play the part of the single alien. His ship closely resembles a living organism, with veins and nerves with moving colored fluids visible under a parchment-like interior. (The New Yorker, July 22, 1967, p.25-27)

NYCON 3 PROGRESS REPORT #3

NyCon's third progress report continues the editorial policy of news, notes and advertising from all over fandom.

Those interested in Banquet tickets at \$5.50 are warned the hotel wants all tickets purchased before Friday noon, Sept. 1. A list of 279 nominations for Achievement Awards will certainly interest professionally inclined s-f writers. Noted that The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress and Flowers for Algernon have been challenged on grounds of prior competition, but admitted by the Committee.

Many ads from hard core fandom. Particularly noted, for instance, an ad from the Hari Seldon Foundation Society... who knows what might come of such a fan-ish group in a mere century or two? And a very ODD ad from ODDly, R.D. Fisher's ODD MAGAZINE. And ODDly, (ODDkey sticks) lots more.

BE ASS...

It appears that our publisher, Frank Prieto Jr., has not yet mailed out the July issue of SFT. This delay was not caused by editorial problems. All editorial work was completed and the issue was finalized for publication on the

evening of June 28.

But events have delayed completion of editorial tasks for the present issue. Ann Ashe has been taking examinations for her Master's degree in library science. Much study and hard work is involved in successful completion of these difficult tests. So preparation for this issue did not get well under way until the evening of August 4. Finalization is on August 6th, but publication may be delayed by extraordinary difficulties relating to the not yet mailed July issue.

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Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full page - \$5.00

Half page - \$3.00

Quarter page - \$2.00

Classified - 2¢ per word

Science Fiction Times is published monthly by Science Fiction Times Inc., P.O. Box 216, Syracuse, N.Y. 13209. Subscription rates are 30¢ per copy, \$3.00 per year (Overseas \$5.00 per year)

MOVERS DELIGHT

Bennett, Vern - P.O. Box 705, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

Gaughan, Jack - P.O. Box 516, Rifton, N.Y. 12471

Jones, Jeff - 70 West 82nd St., New York N.Y. 10024

Latimer, James - 4011 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Md. 20023

Schumacher, Jim - 330 S. Berendo, Los Angeles, Calif. 90005

A NEW ARRIVAL

Don and Maggie Thompson have a daughter Valerie Lee, born July 20, 1967. She weighed in at 6 lbs., 15 oz.

THE WSFA JOURNAL

The official organ of the Washington Science Fiction Association. Edited by Don Miller; current temporary editor is Jay Haldeman, 1244 Woodbourne Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21212. Mark contributions "FOR TWJ".

Opening with a Meetings and Convention calendar, this 22-page, well-mimeographed monthly publication is a mine of useful fanish information. Other useful notes include a listing of current paperback publications, a generous number of s-f book reviews, and a copy of the ESFA minutes for their June 4th meeting.

This is a good, thick, solid publication. Its mailing schedule may be in for a change; note on the back page says "published monthly until September", with subscriptions being sold on a basis of number of copies received.

SFWA BULLETIN NOTES

Recently out: Vol.3 #3, Whole number 12.

Election report is that Robert Silverberg is President, James Blish VP, and Roger Zelazny sec-treas.

Andrew Offutt provided an interesting article about clichés titled A DULL THUD RANG OUT IN THE GREY DAWN, etc. End of title for a very thought-provoking 6½ pages.

Noted limericks that will be familiar to any writer, with appropriate illustrations.

Mack Reynolds describes the advantages of residence in San Miguel, Mexico. For the fiction writer the advantages are considerable.

Correspondence discusses problems met by writers, and there is a letter from Joseph P. Martino in which he lists four large reports developed by the Syracuse University Research Corporation. These reports closed out a study completed in 1964, for the purpose of guessing what the world might be like in 1985. This looks like a gold mine of interesting details for s-f writers.

Larry Eisenberg provided four pages of data on "Grants and Awards Available to Writers".

Much additional information fitted in between the high points and larger pieces.

YANDRO #172

One of the oldest and the most reliable of all fanzines, Yandro #172 was recently received on its usual regular

schedule. Published monthly by Robert & Juanita Coulson, Yandro is really a kind of semi-pro zine specializing in detailed coverage of what is important in fandom, along with dual editorials which may recommend printing materials, detail the latest fight with a sometimes balky mimeograph, or discuss other matters. There is nothing trivial in Yandro, and one significant recent activity has been its very strong support of STAR TREK. Yandro is fandom at its best, with a good proportion of pro notes and news.

35¢ each, 3/\$1.00, or 12/\$3.00 to Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, Indiana 47348.

J.B. POST MENTIONS

J.B. Post, a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia, is very interested in good reading. He is also interested in good science fiction and in fandom.

"We are offering up burnt offerings to the gods of lecture schedules," he writes "Willy Ley has agreed to be the principal speaker for the next Phillycon if his lecture schedule doesn't get in the way."

Also, "By the way, do you think there is going to be a Lovecraft revival? If there is a big one soon, I can see the buttons: "Yog-Sothoth loves Shub-Niggurath", and "Visit Innsmouth".

On July 5 Night Talk, a local all-night talk show run by Jack McKinney, had Lester del Rey, Fred Pohl, Tom Purdom, Alan Hoffman (a local fan) and myself as guests from 10-12 pm. We talked a little about sf, put down the saucer cultists and monster movies, and had a very interesting talk back and forth on cryonics.

In The Egyptologists, Amis and Conquest have a group of dirty middle-aged men form a wife-cheating cooperative. What makes this of interest to s-f readers is that the main characters also read it and discuss it briefly. When discovered and they are forced to present a real scholar, one of the members masquerades as "Professor Asimov".

JERRY PAGE NOTE

Jerry Page feels a recent entry in SFT was not well worded. We have corresponded in the matter, and at last Jerry has asked me to run the following:

PUBLIC NOTICE: The implication in the story "New Worlds Receives Grant", in Science Fiction Times #442 that IMPULSE also received a grant from the British

Government is unintentional. The undersigned also apologizes for the unintended slur to Michael Moorcock in the patronizing line in the last paragraph, "believed... interested in new work from... U.S." (Jerry Page)

LETTERHEAD CONTEST

The Ozark Science Fiction Association has opened a contest for a letterhead design to be used in connection with their 1969 Worldcon bid. The winner will be awarded a free Worldcon membership and banquet ticket in the event their bid is successful; and a free Ozarkon membership and banquet ticket if the bid fails. The winning entry will be picked by the Worldcon bidding committee, and a deadline will be set later. Try John Steele, President, for details (c/o M.C. Kuhlman, 939 Holly Hills, St. Louis. Mo.)

THE DEATH OF THE SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES, OR, DO EDITORS EAT THEIR YOUNG?

A Guest Editorial by Norman Spinrad

The science fiction magazines are headed for extinction, done in by greed, cowardice, and tired blood. There are now four (If, Galaxy, F&SF, Analog) count 'em, four surviving sf magazines devoted primarily to new stories. Worlds of Tomorrow has gone the way of all flesh, largely unlamented. Amazing and Fantastic are now reprint mags and are being boycotted for good reason by SFWA. This leaves the entire field of less-than-novel-length science fiction in the hands of three men (Fred Pohl, John W. Campbell and Ed Ferman), count 'em, three. Let that sink in for a moment.

Four magazines controlled by three editors. 42 issues a year. That is the sf short story market, in toto. The average issue of the average sf magazine contains six stories of various lengths. So about 250 sf short stories and novelettes can be published in any given year -- minus the space taken up by serials. The membership of the Science Fiction Writers of America is now around 250. The Cold Equation: there are more people trying to write sf than there are sf stories published in a year. In other words, if every member of SFWA (and to be a member you must be a published writer in the field) sold one story a year, no one could sell two. And in practice, most of the stories are

sold by maybe a couple dozen writers. This is the situation the young writer of sf faces in the short story field. Except that it is worse than these figures indicate.

If has taken to the unlovely practice of starting a new serial in the same issue that it concludes the previous serial, thus eliminating five or six short story slots a year. Analog has taken to running more than one fact article per issue thus eliminating 6-12 short stories a year.

Yet ironically, Fred Pohl and John Campbell are crying for good short stories! They are not getting them. Why? Because the good young writers are being driven out of the short story field.

The average paperback sf novel advance is \$1500 for a 60,000 word novel. The average short story rate is 2¢ a word. In order to make \$1500 writing short stories a writer must sell about 72,000 words of short story, say 12 stories. How many stories must a non-Big Name write in order to sell 12? Forget it, baby! You can't make a living writing sf short stories unless you are a Big Name, and even then it's mighty rough.

Okay, so forget money for a minute. Writers write so readers will read what they have written. This means that even a writer who isn't dependent on short stories sales for a living (say someone like myself who can make enough money in three or four months of writing tv to live well for a year) is going to be loath to write short stories simply because he knows that too many of them will go unpublished. You get tired of shouting in a whirlwind.

There is one way for a relatively talented young writer to make it writing sf short stories -- you can become the pet of one of the three editors in the field. You can write stories around the ideas that John Campbell tosses to you and have a reasonably good chance of selling the stories to Analog. You can start a series of stories for Fred Pohl, as Larry Niven, C.C. MacApp and others have done and mine a single vein to exhaustion. Once you have gotten your series started, you've got a good chance of selling regularly and making a quick reputation for yourself. A quick cheap reputation. There is a technical term for writers who opt for one of these alternatives. The term is whore. There is also a term for a man who encourages whoring...

What does this mean to the reader? It means that the sf mags are not likely to produce another Sturgeon or Bradbury -- a master of the short story form -- before they sink into the tar pits with the other armored reptiles. Young sf writers who value their integrity must move heavily into novels. Yet the science fiction short story and novelette is one of the richest literary forms in all history. Sturgeon, Bradbury, Cordwainer Smith, so many of the greats were and are primarily short story writers. Ballard is a great short story writer whose novels betray the fact that he is a great short story writer. Zelazny is primarily a short story writer and a prolific one -- yet he must hold down a regular outside job to make ends meet.

What can be done about this sorry state of affairs and who can do it? The primary need is for more markets. If the young writer had eight or ten chances of selling a story instead of the present three, he would be more inclined to write short stories. Who can create these sorely needed new markets?

SFWA is trying to force Amazing and Fantastic into once more becoming viable markets. Fans can help by bombarding Ultimate Publishing Corp. with letters demanding an end to the reprint policy and by refusing to buy the reprint mags. Fandom saved Star Trek with its letters; surely it can do something about a situation in which it has far more leverage.

Fred Pohl can help by divesting himself of either If or Galaxy and thus bringing a new editor into the field. A new editor means a new market, even if he is editing an old magazine. Fans can help with their letters asking Mr. Pohl to confine himself to the editorship of one magazine.

If these two campaigns are successful, the number of markets will be doubled from three to six, and we will have turned the corner. Momentum will have been gained. Young writers will have more chance to develop within the sf short story form, and more good writers will infuse some of the old excitement back into the magazines. And who knows, a larger pool of good writers should mean more readers for the mags, which should encourage the birth of new sf magazines.

Perhaps Ace and other paperback publishers would be encouraged to bring out semi-monthly "book-magazines" of original short stories. The readers are

there -- sf paperback novels sell around 75,000 copies on the average, enough sales for an sf magazine. The possibilities are varied and limitless.

But first, we've got to open those three new markets. If we don't have some new markets soon, the magazines we do have will go the way of Worlds of Tomorrow -- and that would be a tragedy for readers and writers alike. Write those letters!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 4-6 - Gateway Con II, Downtowner Motor Inn, 12th and Wash. Sts., St. Louis, Mo.
- 4-7 - Island-Con in Berlin
- 4 - WSFA Meeting, at home of Miss E. Cullen, 7966 W. Beach Dr., N.W., Washington, D.C., at 8pm (phone RA3-7107)
- 4 - FISTFA meeting, at apt. of Mike McInerney, Apt. 5FW, 250 W. 16th St., N.Y.
- 5 - BSFS meeting, at homes of various members. Call or write Jack Chalker, 511 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, Md., 21207 (phone 367-0685) for info.
- 5 - COSFS meeting, at Center of Science & Industry, 280 E. Broad St., Columbus Ohio, at 7 pm.
- 6 - ESFA meeting, at YM-YWCA, 600 Broad St., Newark, N.J., at 3pm.
- 11 - The Gamesmen meeting, at home of Buddy Tretick, 3702 Wendy Lane, Silver Springs, Md. 20906 (phone 942-8306) Call as far in advance as possible.
- 11 - PSFS meeting, at Central Philadelphia YMCA, Broad & Arch Sts., Philadelphia, at 8pm.
- 12 - COSFS private meeting, at home of Dale Davis, 1073 Fordham, Columbus, Ohio (phone 267-9379) at 7pm. Prior notice required.
- 18 - WSFA meeting, see above.
- 18 - FISTFA meeting, see above.
- 19 - BSFS meeting, see above.
- 19 - Lunarian meeting, at home of Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10453 (phone 878-8082) at 8pm. Guests of members and out-of-towners only.
- 19 - COSFS meeting, see August 5 above.
- 19 - Cleveland sf, comics, movie fan club meeting, W.100th and Detroit, Cleveland, Ohio, at 6pm.
- 19-20 - Tokon III, at the Nippon-Gakusei-Kaikan in Tokyo.
- 25 - Gamesmen meeting, see above.
- 26-27 - Deep South Con V, at the Dinkler Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. For info,

write to: Jerry Page, 193 Battery Pl.
NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30307.

26 - COPS private meeting, at home of
Keith Lammers, 346 Crestview, Columbus
Ohio (phone 263-6911) at 7pm. Prior no-
tice required.

26 - Annual Open Meeting of Ontario S-F
Club in Toronto, Ontario. For info
write OSFiC, 1054 Coxwell St., Toronto,
Ontario, Canada.

September

1-4 - NyCon 3, at the Statler Hilton in
New York. Membership \$3.00. Write:
NyCon 3, P.O. Box 367, Gracie Square
Station, New York, N.Y. 10028.

November

11-12- Phillycon, at the Hotel Sylvania.

March 1968

30-31 - Marcon 3, Holiday Inn East, 4801
E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43217.
Roger Zelazny, CoH.

Meetings held every week:

Cincinnati Fantasy Group - every Sat.
at homes of various members. For info
write: Lou Tabakow, 3953 St. Johns Terr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236.

Fellowship of the Purple Tongue - every
Sat. at the home of Phil Harrell, 3021
Tait Terr., Norfolk, Va., at 2pm
(Phone 853-1259)

LASFS - every Thurs. at 8pm in the Sil-
verlake Playground, Silverlake Blvd.
& Van Pelt St., Los Angeles, Calif.

BIBLIOMANIA

NEW HARDCOVER BOOKS

Best of Amazing, selected by Joseph Ross.
Doubleday. \$4.50.

Buzzati, Dino. Larger Than Life.
Walker. \$3.95.

Davies, L.P. Psychogeist. Doubleday.
\$3.95.

Dennis, Clifford E. King Joker. Hamburg
N.J., Willoughby. \$4.95.

Knight, Damon. In Search of Wonder; Es-
says on Modern Science Fiction. 2d ed.
Advent. \$6.00.

Leinster, Murray, Jack Williamson, and
John Wyndham. Three Stories. Double-
day. \$3.95.

Nolan, William F., and George Clayton
Johnson. Logan's Run. Dial Press.
\$3.95.

Playboy Book of Horror and the Supernat-
ural. Playboy Press. \$5.95.

Silverberg, Robert. The Gate of Worlds
(juv) Holt. \$4.50.

Silverberg, Robert. The Time Hoppers.
Doubleday. \$3.95.

Spinrad, Norman. The Men in the Jungle.
Doubleday. \$4.50.

Tolkien, J.R.R. Lord of the Rings. 2d ed
Houghton. 3 vols. \$6.00 each.

AUGUST RELEASES FROM ACE

Brunner, John. The World Swappers.
(reissue) G-649. 50¢

Jones, Neil R. Space War: Professor
Jameson Space Adventure #3. G-650.
50¢

Leinster, Murray. S.O.S. From Three
Worlds (3 novelettes) G-647. 50¢

Norton, Andre. The X Factor. G-646.
50¢

Purdom, Tom. Five Against Arlane /
Emil Petaja. Lord of the Green
Planet. H-22. 60¢

NEW PAPERBACKS

Aldiss, Brian. Earthworks. Signet
P3116. 60¢

Anthony, Piers. Chthon (orig) Ballan-
tine U6107. 75¢

Charbonneau, Louis. Down to Earth (orig)
Bantam F3442. 50¢

Conklin, Groff, ed. Twister (reissue)
Belmont B50-771. 50¢

Dickson, Gordon R. Soldier Ask Not (orig)
Dell 8090. 60¢

Garforth, John. The Floating Game (The
Avengers) Berkley F1410. 50¢

Garforth, John. The Laugh Was on Lazar-
us. (The Avengers) Berkley F1411. 50¢

Harrison, Harry. Make Room! Make Room!
Berkley X1416. 60¢

Heinlein, Robert A. Stranger in a Strange
Land (reissue) Avon V2191. 75¢

Holly, J. Hunter. Mind Traders. Macfad-
den-Bartell 60-291. 60¢

Howard, Robert E. Conan the Conqueror.
Lancer 73-572. 60¢

Laumer, Keith. Worlds of the Imperium.
Ace M165. 45¢

Leinster, Murray. Timeslip! (orig)
Pyramid R1680. 50¢

Lymington, John. Froomb! Macfadden
60-287. 60¢

Maddock, Larry. The Emerald Elephant
Gambit; Agent of T.E.R.R.A.#3 (orig)
Ace G644. 50¢

Majors, Simon. Druid Stone (orig)
Paperback Library Black Magic Novel
of Terror 52-488. 50¢

Robeson, Kenneth. Retief's War. Berkly
X1427. 60¢

Robeson, Kenneth. Sargasso Ogre. Bantam F3441. 50¢
 Santesson, Hans Stefan, ed. Gods for Tomorrow (orig) Universal Award A240. 75¢
 Simak, Clifford. Cosmic Engineers (reissue) Paperback Library 52-498. 50¢
 Swann, Thomas Burnett. The Weirwoods (orig) Ace G640. 50¢
 Vance, Jack. The Last Castle / Tony Russell Wayman. World of the Sleeper. (orig) Ace H21. 60¢
 Verne, Jules. From the Earth to the Moon. Intro. by Robert Lowndes.; Airmont Classics CL142. 50¢
 Vonnegut, Kurt. The Sirens of Titan. Dell 7948. 75¢
 Whitaker, David. Doctor Who in an Exciting Adventure With the Daleks. Avon G1322. 50¢
 Williamson, Jack. Bright New Universe. (orig) Ace G641. 50¢
 Williamson, Jack. One Against the Legion Pyramid XL657. 60¢

REVIEWS

NO MAN'S WORLD, by Martin Caidin. Dutton. \$5.95.

Martin Caidin has written a very important book. Not good enough for a Hugo but pretty good. Carp though one will about the excessive use of flashback, the irrelevant (though interesting) excursions into private lives, the right wing sentiments expressed by many of the characters, and the implausible Chinese attack on the Russians that ends the book with Soviet-American cooperation, one cannot deny the power of the book. The story: in 1971 the Russians have been on the moon for three years. The Americans, seeking a place in the Sun on the Moon, land an unarmed party. The Armed Russians say "leave". The Americans leave. The UN sends up an expedition. The UN expedition is shot up. The U.S. throws its full industrial might into a crash program that involves all sorts of lovely subterfuges. There is conflict (shoot 'em up Bang Bang). The Chinese bomb the Soviet base and the U.S. joins hands with the Russians. Curtain.

But hold on there. There is more to the book than just the story line. It has the best description of the Moon's surface I have read recently. You

aren't just reading about the Moon, you are on the Moon. From the opening I felt that the Moon was indeed a harsh mistress, that I was imperiled by the desolate airlessness, that I was there. For this reality of place I forgive all the book's shortcomings. (J.B. Post)

SWEENEY'S ISLAND, by John Christopher. Fawcett Crest R1029. 60¢

A gradually developed and unfolded story in which a mixed party is marooned on a South Sea island. A theme of sex/blood/violence is played out. Finally the survivors are rescued.

At the end of the book, a number of paragraphs are devoted to an idea that the island is a scientific experiment, involving long-term gamma radiation of an isolated ecology. Perhaps this is a good way to boost an already considerable tension, but I don't think it qualifies the book as science-fiction.

TRAVELLERS BY NIGHT, by August Derleth, ed. Arkham House. \$4.00.

This is the third in a series of collections of original stories in the realm of the macabre, and the poorest of the three. What is lacking is both brilliance of writing and originality of conception. Perhaps the best from a literary point of view is "Death of a Bumblebee". "Family Tree" and "Terror of Anerly House School" are good workings out of their themes. "Episode on Cain Street", "The Cellars", and "Denkirch" are competent and worth reading if you like the kind of story each is. "The Cicerones", "A Handful of Silver", "The Unpleasantness at Carver House", "Not There", and "The Crater" I found disappointing. "The Man Who Rode the Trains", "The Wild Man of the Sea", and "The Horror From the Middle Span" require bringing a special sympathy to the story before one can enjoy them. All in all a mediocre collection. Convince your local library to buy it. (J. B. Post)

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, by Robert A. Heinlein. Avon V2191. 75¢

Avon's 7th printing in paperback, in July 1967. Top quality reading; some newcomers may find it rather odd. It has considerable relevance to modern life, a point which has not missed the publisher's notice.

SPACE GYPSIES, by Murray Leinster. Avon
G1318. 50¢

This straightforward, rather routine piece of science-fiction writing consists of one adventure, an emergency, and I think a too-simple solution. Uninspired but readable and enjoyable.

THE BEST OF AMAZING, Joseph Ross, ed.
Doubleday. \$4.50

To be honest, I did not care for this collection. Nearly all of the stories could be found reprinted in other anthologies. The slightly pompous (but true) introduction put me off. The selection implies a definition of "best" which is arguable in s-f circles. But most strongly, it presents a picture of Amazing which does not agree with my memory; and I agree that this is a highly personal reason for not liking a collection.

The stories are all worth reading several times and this collection should be in most public libraries (Arise, fandom! descend upon your neighborhood libraries! but for what it is I would suggest we all wait until it comes out in paperback at a fair price.

The stories are: "The Lost Machine" by John Beynon Harris, "The Worm" by David H. Keller, "The Runaway Skyscraper" by Murray Leinster (which did not appear in Amazing), "Marooned Off Vesta" by Isaac Asimov, "Anniversary" by Dr. Asimov, "The Metal Man" by Jack Williamson, "Pilgrimage" by Nelson Bond, "Sunfire!" by Edmond Hamilton, and "Try to Remember" by Frank Herbert. Good stories all. I guess my big objection is simply that this was not called Best of Amazing I, and leave the possibility open (depending on the economics of publishing) of having more collections because there were a hell of a lot more stories that could be called "best". (J.B. Post)

OF OTHER WORLDS, by C.S. Lewis. Harcourt
1966. \$3.95.

This collection of C.S. Lewis' essays and stories has been edited by Walter Hooper. Mr. Hooper has collected Mr. Lewis' essays, both complete and fragmentary, dealing with the writing of fantasy. "On Science Fiction" and "Unreal Estates" (a dialogue among Mr. Lewis, Brian Aldiss, and Kingsley Amis) are required reading for anyone with any interest in science fiction. Mr. Lewis is "one of us". When read together, these essays present an extremely reas-

onable philosophy of criticism. The entire book is a joy to read because Mr. Lewis writes so very well and so very learnedly about the various strands of the web of fantasy.

The stories are a fragment of a novel about Helen of Troy after the war, and three short stories reprinted here but worth reading even if one has read them before. Writers: add "On Stories" and "On Criticism" to the list of required reading. (J. B. Post)

THE ACCURSED, by Claude Seignolle.
Coward-McCann. \$5.50.

The two stories in this book, "Malvenue" and "Marie the Wolf" are not exactly supernatural stories. They are "diabolical tales" of what could very well happen in rural communities beset with superstition. Nothing happens that is not explicable by non-supernatural means but there is the delightful possibility that the statue is evil and that Marie is cursed. The style, translated from the French, may put off some readers with its flashbacks and reminiscences within flashbacks but these stories are powerful despite their awkward English prose. "Malvenue" concerns the head of a statue dug up by a farmer. Bad luck plagues him and the head is destroyed. His daughter finds the pieces and becomes a regular juvenile delinquent until she is destroyed. Marie in "Marie the Wolf" was blessed as a little girl by a wandering wolf drover. She is supposed to have healing powers. At first she doesn't use them but is finally conned into saving the life of a child, for which she is called a witch. The mass hysteria destroys her lover and an admirer, ruins the landlord, and makes her family outcast. (J.B. Post)

RECALLED TO LIFE, by Robert Silverberg.
(reissue) Lancer Focus 72-156. 50¢
144p.

Recalled to Life is Bob Silverberg's excursion into the realm of reanimation. It deals with Jonathan Harker (lawyer and ex-governor of N.Y.) who is hired by the Beller Research Lab to act as an intermediary between the Lab and the public. Harker is beset with all kinds of difficulties -- theological, philosophical, political, psychological, and personal (all of which are handled quite admirably by Silverberg) Finally, to calm public animosity, Harker himself success-

fully undergoes the reanimation process. One of Silverberg's better efforts, give it a try. (R. Brisson)

THORNS, by Robert Silverberg. Ballantine U6097. 75¢

This is a good book, I think, presented by the publishers in a pandering poor light. It explores a problem in human interaction: a triangle involving a man, a woman, and science; assembled by an interesting villain.

This basically good story suffers from some bloating that is probably supposed to make it more salable. Maybe the sex and brutality angle will increase the number of volumes sold. But it does not do so much for the quality of the story.

Yet this is an interesting and thought-provoking book. You can adjust a few sections for yourself, greatly improving its balance. Maybe you will try to work out a better ending. Seeds of greatness here, did not quite grow up.

MEN IN THE JUNGLE, by Norman Spinrad. Doubleday. \$4.50.

Bart Fraden, his mistress, and his aide-de-camp, Vanderling, flee Fraden's kingdom-by-the-sea, his phony republic of the Asteroid Belt, when the forces of the less phony Earth governments drive him from his lucrative enterprise. Seeking new worlds to conquer, they decide the planet Sangre has the most revolutionary potential. And here Norm Spinrad shows he has the makings of a good writer. The society he depicts so realistically is based on sadism, or at least a mercantile hedonism (pleasure is a commodity -- more for him means less for you). Vanderling's disintegration is convincing though it lacks a touch of sympathy. The final Gotterdammerung where Fraden barely dismounts his tiger and, with mistress, is off for more worlds, does indeed have power. All in all this would be quite a story, except...

Mr. Spinrad is current and hip and in. This is shown by all the slang expressions embodied in his text. Now, there is nothing per se wrong with slang, but in this tale it gets in the way. A simple narrative style can carry a good story. My enjoyment was diminished by the unnecessary intrusions of the current slang expressions in a good story of the future. I kept wanting to say, "Norm, baby, you don't need these."

Still worth reading, even if he did blow it. (J. B. Post)

SEXUALIS '95, by Jacques Sternberg. Berkley. 60¢

I suspect that when Toi, Ma Nuit was translated from the French into English something was lost. Someday I must read the French edition. As Sexualis '95 it is neither very good science fiction nor very good pornography.

In the year 1995 most folk copulate at the drop of a hat. It's the hip thing, man. Our hero (and narrator) is a rather introspective chap who prefers the writers of a classical past like Lovecraft and Matthieson to the hacks of his day. Oh, he grabs his share of women, but he is never happy about it. He is an outsider in his own time and searches for a meaning in life. He encounters Michele a girl who is even farther out than our hero. She actually exhibits psychotic symptoms. The book shifts from sexual encounters (all casual) with many women to his non-sexual encounters with Michele. M. Sternberg ends by killing them both in a train wreck.

Really, Brave New World is better s-f. Where M. Sternberg may be strong is in the writing which doesn't come through in a translation. This may be a rather powerful book in French but it is only an interesting diversion in English. (J.B. Post)

STARSHINE, by Theodore Sturgeon. Pyramid X-1543. 60¢. 174p.

About the only thing Ted does nowadays is write fascinating introductions for science fiction books. So, any new Sturgeon collection is not to be missed, and Starshine is no exception. It contains six stories (mostly vintage Sturgeon) some of which have appeared in earlier collections (Artman Process, World Well Lost). The stories range from the whimsical fantasy of "The Haunt" to the grim teachings of "The Pod and the Barrier". The only bad story "How to Kill Auntie", seems to be a fugitive from a detective magazine. Other than that one story, each possesses the magic Sturgeon touch and makes the collection an excellent one. (R. Brisson)

THE WARLOCK, by Wilson (Bob) Tucker. Doubleday. \$3.95.

Bob Tucker scores again, this time with

a mystery type espionage story. As all of Bob's books this one keeps the reader tense until the very last paragraph. Are all the legends about Warlocks true? We invite you to read this book and find out.

The story opens as Anson Bolda walks thru the gate to freedom. After 11 months in the dread Russian prison camp he is at last exchanged. But as he walks thru the gate he is met with the question, "How did it feel when you came over?" He isn't sure how he feels; there's one emotion stronger than any other -- this is hate. A fierce, burning hate coupled with a desire for revenge. Why had he been doublecrossed? Who were his doublecrossers? He meant to find the answers to these questions, and he did, but that was many pages later.

Reporting to Headquarters Bolda finds himself on another secret mission. He narrowly escapes death traps set for him and his mind keeps asking why are they after him? Why does anyone want a captured Warlock? Why do they send him on secret missions only to tell others where he has gone? Suddenly he finds the answers to all his questions, but only after he has found one high in security circles is the one letting info leak out to the world of Bolda's whereabouts. Then why does he not complete his plans for revenge when he knows who and why he has been persecuted these many months, why he did time in a Russian prison camp. You will find the answer to these questions in the last chapter of the book, and you will not lay the book down until completed. A sprinkling of romance is included, but not enough to spoil the effects of the mysterious espionage... and it could be happening to someone in the U.S.A. today. Be sure and read this book. (Janie Lamb)

DR. WHO IN AN EXCITING ADVENTURE WITH THE DALEKS, by David Whitaker. Avon GL322.
50¢

Avon did nobody a favor by publishing this book. But they placed an excellently worded warning inside the front cover:

"On the planet Skaro their space craft sets them down in a world all but destroyed by atomic war. Two races survive: the peace-loving Thals, and the hideous Daleks, their slimy bodies encased in giant machines."

THE MIND PARASITES, by Colin Wilson.
London, Arthur Barker. 2ls.

Arkham House will have published an American edition at \$4.00 by the time this review appears. This edition will have an introduction lacking in the British. I trust the story shall be the same. And what a story it is. In a technical sense a novel, it is better called by C.S. Lewis' phrase "pseudo-history." Drawn from sources as diverse as Lovecraft and Gurdjieff and Fort, the story smacks of the reworkings of Shaverism by S.J. Byrne in the old Other Worlds. Professor Gilbert Austin, while reading the papers of a deceased friend, discovers that mankind is plagued by parasites residing in the psyche. These are the baddies who cause all the trouble in the world. They (or as it turns out, it) reside in the vast Jungian collective unconscious that the hero gradually taps for his own advancement. Austin and his followers manage to defeat the parasites after many harrowing experiences, but there can be no final victory of mankind over the parasites "because they were mankind."

This is a book of ideas where everything is sacrificed to idea. Perhaps too many ideas but s-f readers will love it. (J.B. Post)

HYPERBOLIC TIMES

#1

August, 1967

Published and edited by George R. Heap, Box 1487, Rochester, N.Y. 14603
for distribution with SCIENCE FICTION TIMES. Extra copies available
for 20¢, cash or stamps.

Material herein is devoted to the sword-and-sorcery and sword-and-science publishing fields with the most emphasis laid on events current and future. The future of this publication being in some doubt, subscriptions, contributions, or loc's are not being solicited.

Information used in this issue came from Betty Ballantine (Ballantine Books), L. Sprague de Camp, Lloyd Alexander, George Ernsberger (Avon Books), Dick Lupoff, Andre Norton, George Scithers, and Don Wollheim (Ace Books). Special Contributor - Lin Carter. Art Credit: Robert E. Gilbert, pages 2 and 5 ; Chuck Owston, pages 3 and 8 .

ROBERT E. HOWARD

THE CARTER & DE CAMP CONANS

Lin Carter

Sprague de Camp and I are writing some brand new Conan stories to plug some of the larger gaps in the Conan canon. To the book Conan, which Lancer will bring out around the end of the year, and which includes the first few Conan stories, we are contributing two new stories. One, "The Thing in The Crypt", will be the very first Conan story. It's about what happens to him between the time he busted out of that Hyperborean slave-pen swinging that length of chain, and the time he turned up in Zamora for "Tower of The Elephant".

Towards the end of that book will also appear (for the first time in print) "The Hand of Nergal" which I completed from a fragmentary, untitled Conan story Howard began but put aside. Directly following it will appear a de Camp & Carter novelette, 15,000 words long, about Conan's career in the service of King Yildiz of Turan as a mercenary. This story takes Conan far east into a prehistoric version of Tibet, a stupendous valley called the Cup of Meru, complete with a walled city of stone called Shamballah, an inland sea, and a bunch of evil lamas who rule the proto-Tibet through a vile and loathsome little god-king. Title of this one is, as of right now, "Thralls of Shambal-

lah", although the title may undergo further evolutionary changes before the tale finally reaches print.

On these de Camp & Carter Conans, Sprague and I exchange letters until the plots are worked out to our mutual agreement. I then prepare rough first draft copy and Sprague does the final revisions. The collaboration seems to be working quite smoothly. We are adding 20,000 words of new Conaniana to this book, and plan to contribute 45,000 words to the "next" Conan book. We also have a full-length 65,000 word Conan novel in the plotting stage, for which Lancer has contracted with final draft of the manuscript due in November for publication sometime in 1968. Provisional title is Conan of The Isles. In it, we pick up the scene a good twenty years after the de Camp/Nyberg novel, The Return of Conan, and have Conan venture into the New World ... to the mid-Atlantic islands of the Antilles, as pictured by Lewis Spence, where the Cimmerian tangles with a degenerate batch of Mme. Blavatsky's Atlantean priesthood, who fled the sinking of Atlantis to take refuge in Antillia. More on this one later ...

POSTER

Lancer Books has printed up a Conan poster! They took the cover painting for Conan The Adventurer, my pick for the best Fra-zetta painting for the series so far, and blown it up to 17"x22" and framed it in a 22"x28" black background. Title is CONAN (bright red) The World's Greatest Fantasy Hero (white). Available from Dept. LC, Book-

masters, 999 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 at \$1.00 each plus a 50¢ handling charge for any size order. (Thanks to S.F. WEEKLY for the information on ordering.)

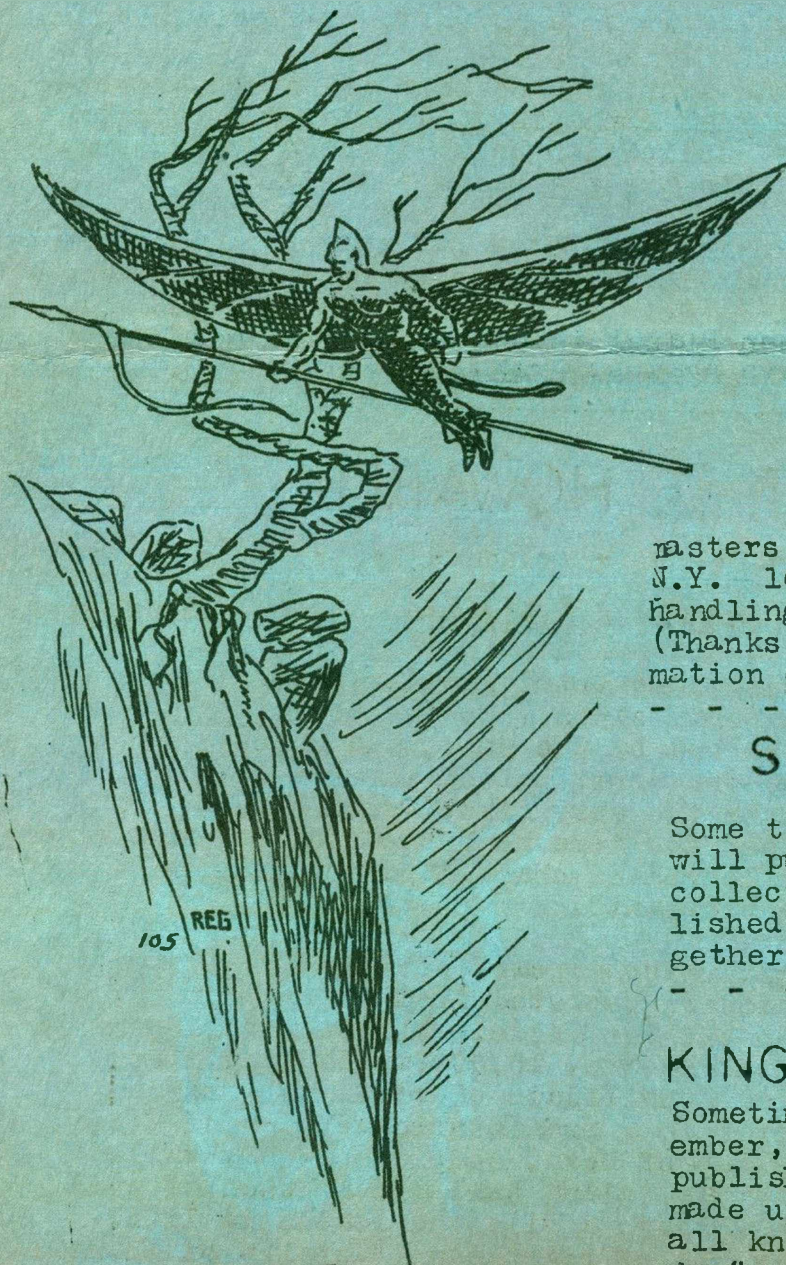
SOLOMON KANE

Some time this year, Donald M. Grant will publish Red Shadows, a complete collection of the previously published Solomon Kane stories, together with some new material.

KING KULL

Lin Carter

Sometime this fall, October or November, perhaps, Lancer Books will publish a volume called King Kull, made up of the two Kull stories we all know and love, "The Shadow Kingdom" and "Mirrors of Tuzun Thune",



plus a fantastic treasure-trove of ten or a dozen BRAND NEW KULL STORIES which Howard left in various stages of incompleteness when he blew his brains out. Probably because of the Conanesque flavor of my Lemurian books, Glen Lord, who is editing the book, asked me to complete and polish these fragments. Some of the "new" Kull stories run to 9,000 words, like the one I have titled "Riders Beyond The Sunrise"; others, like "Altar of The Scorpion" and "The Striking of The Gong", are only three or four thousand words long. The three fragments which I revised, polished, and completed are titled "Black Abyss", "Wizard and Warrior", and the above-noted "Riders". I also added a little wordage to the end of "The Skull of Silence", polished and revised the above-noted "Gong", and drew a frontispiece map of King Kull's world.

The cover, by Roy Krenkel, is as stunningly gorgeous and complexly intricate a painting as he has ever done. It is truly superb.

SWORD-AND-SORCERY BRIEFS

(Classification here and in other places subject to the whims of both the Editor and of his Sources.)

Thomas Burnett Swann's The Weirwoods, companion-in-mood to his Hugo-nominated Day of The Minotaur was published by Ace in July, cover by Morrow.

Avon will re-issue Heinlein's Glory Road in September with a new cover emphasizing the fantasy nature of the book.

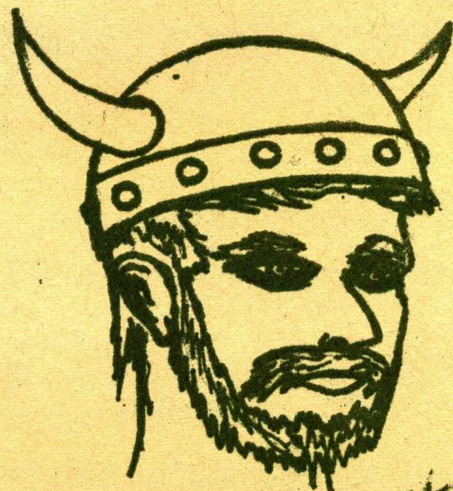
Emil Petaja's Lord of The Green Planet is out as part of Ace H-22 (Doubled with Tom Purdom's Five Against Arlane). Petaja has moved to the ancient Irish legends for an element of his background here.

Though the fantasy element is weak, most sword-and-sorcery fans will be quite interested to see Talbot Mundy's Tros of Samothrace in paperback. Starting with Tros (now out), Avon will publish the epic in four volumes, continuing with Helma, Liafail, and Helene. Douglas Rosa (who has recently illustrated Avon's Merritt reprints) has done a striking cover for Tros; Avon plans Rosa covers for the remaining three books in the series. Avon plans to release other Mundy books later on with Frazetta covers.

Nehwon: Ace is planning to do the Fafhrd and Gray Mouser books as a series! At this stage, no exact information is available, but I hope they include all of the shorts that Fritz Leiber has written since Two Sought Adventure was out in hardcover.

Fanews: The new AMRA (Box 9120, Chicago, Ill. 60690) is in typing now and should appear to the eager subscribers shortly.

The Hyborian Legion will hold a Muster at the Worldcon this Labor Day. Time to be announced there.



ZIMIAMVIA

George R. Heap

The King is dead! Long live the King! But amid the plotters and would-be usurpers, the new King has but small chance for long life.

Mezentius, King of Fingiswold, Rerek, and Meszria was born, in Zimiamvia, to King Iardanús of Fingiswold and Queen Stateira in Rialmar in 723 A.Z.C. Despite the untimely death of his father, Mezentius' throne was maintained for him until his majority by the Queen and her advisers. From the age of 19 onward he defends Fingiswold from foreign attack. At the same time, by his political astuteness, he adds the crowns of the kindred lands of Rerek and Meszria to that which he has rightfully inherited.

Mezentius maintains the uneasy union of the three kingdoms for more than a quarter of a century, until his death. Within a year now, the enmities which Mezentius had suppressed, indeed had turned to his own benefit, rise into the flame of open battle. Through the powerful prose of E.R. Eddison's Mistress of Mistresses, we glimpse the turmoils of Zimiamvia torn by civil warfare. And through those struggles, the figures of the contestants rise up in awful splendour. Horius Parry, Vicar of Rerek and Beast of Laimak stalks forth amid an atmosphere of brutish evil. The uncertain trio of the late King's adviser's waver and falter in the winds of war. Lessingham, cousin and sometime ally to the Parry, makes his steady way, unstained by the morass of intrigue through which he must move. Baganax, Duke of Zayana, avatar (together with the late Mezentius and the Zimiamvian Lessingham) of the Farthly Lessingham, moves here between the torrents of love and war.

This, then, is the world that Aphrodite chose for her Lover. To which She went as Queen Stateira to prepare it; and again appears as Amalie, Fioranda, and Queen Antiope to share it with Her Lover. Mistress of Mistresses (Ballantine - August, 1967) tells of the wars and conspiracies of the successors to Mezentius. In A Fish Dinner in Memison (Ballantine - Spring, 1968), Eddison went back in Zimiamvian time to tell of events towards the end of Mezentius' reign together with a glimpse of our Earth seen through Zimiamvian eyes.

Ballantine has used a Barbara Remington cover for Mistress of Mistresses which is done in a style that very elegantly unifies that work with Eddison's earlier The Worm Ouroboros (Ballantine - April, 1967). I find the artistic concept of the Worm framing scenes of this world, uniting them artistically as the Worm does in fiction, quite satisfying.

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Buttons: About two months ago, The Big Store, 112 MacDougal St., New York, N.Y. 10017 was carrying buttons of the Worm Ouroboros straight from the title page (page v) of the book.

ANTHOLOGIES

L. Sprague de Camp's elegantly be-mapped The Fantastic Swordsmen is out to join his two earlier Pyramid collections (Swords and Sorcery and The Spell of Seven).

In November, Ace will bring out Terry Carr's fantasy anthology, New Worlds of Fantasy.

WITCH WORLD

George R Heap

Since 1963, when Simon Tregarth came into the lands of Estcarp, Alizon, and Karsten, Andre Norton has woven a fictional spell of warfare, witchcraft, and wanderings in this world of adventure. There we fared forth with Simon and Jaelithe of Estcarp to Karsten, Sippar, and the Kolder lands beyond the Sea and beyond the World itself. And with Herrel shape-changer and Gillian to Arvon and the Ashen World. And yet again with Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea, sons and daughter to Simon and Jaelithe, to the riven land of Escore and the people of the Green Silences.

Thus far the books published have been (all by Ace Books):

1. Witch World - 1963 (Simon and Jaelithe.)
2. Web of The Witch World - 1964 (Simon and Jaelithe.)
3. Three Against The Witch World - 1965 (Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea.)
4. Year of The Unicorn - 1965 (Gillian and Herrel.)
5. Warlock of The Witch World - 1967 (Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea.)



Mrs. Norton is considering Kaththea's Story for the final title of the series (Kyllan and Kemoc were the narrators of Three Against and Warlock.) While the news of another novel in the series is a pleasure to hear, even when it is only in the possibility stage, I am rather disappointed to think it may be the last. There are so many possibilities in the Witch World itself ---- not to mention the still unresolved fate of Simon and Jaelithe who disappeared while investigating a possible resurgence of the Kolder power.

On a happier note, there are plans (but in no way concrete) to produce a map covering the present five books. No information available beyond this. There is a map, of course, covering a portion of the story area, in Web of The Witch World.

Witch World was reprinted by Ace in July (from S.F. WEEKLY). Ace also has announced The X Factor (August) and Moon of Three Rings (November), both by Andre Norton, but unconnected with the Witch World.

Andre Norton's fascinating "Wizard's World" in the June issue of If is not part of the Witch World series. It is rather a story of an alternate world, originally written some years before Witch World.

THE SHAPE OF THONGORS ^{TO}COME Lin Carter

If you happened to read either of my Lemurian books (#1 The Wizard of Lemuria, Ace, 1965; #2 Thongor of Lemuria, Ace, 1966), you may be interested to hear that the third in this series will be out late this fall, September or somewhere around there.

#3 is called Thongor Against The Gods, and it carries the barbarian warrior into the eastern plains of ancient Lemuria for the first time in the series ... into the trackless steppes of the unknown east, where the savage and war-like Rmoahal hordes rule and roam in their mighty chariot-caravans. It also brings Thongor into conflict with Zaar the city of black magicians for the first time -- a conflict which will widen in a later book of the series.

Thongor Against The Gods is not going to be published by Ace. The outline was submitted to them last year (February, 1966, in fact), and Ace dawdled over it, without ever giving me a definite acceptance or refusal. After a year of this, my agent asked for it back and passed it to Paperback Library in February, 1967, where it was snapped up and I had a contract in two weeks. Seems Don Vollheim would rather have me do science fiction like The Man Without A Planet rather than more sword-and-sorcery. This is okay with me; I want to do more sf; but I also want to continue the Lemurian books as there are plenty of things I want to do within that mythos before ending with it.

Thongor's infant son, Prince Tharth, makes a brief appearance in #3. Also in #3, the Red Druids of Slidith Lord of Blood are smashed in a ferocious 24-hour battle, the seacoast city of Tsargol (which Thongor visited briefly in Wizard) is set free from the evil rule of Yelim Pelorvis the Red Archdruid who had seized power when Thongor slew the Sark Drugunda Thal, and Thongor's old friend and fighting comrade, Prince Karm Karvus, becomes Sark of Tsargol with Thongor as his Sarkon or Overlord.

Paperback Library confessed themselves agreeably surprised and pleased with Thongor Against The Gods. In fact, Jerry Gross had a clause written into the contract giving them first refusal on the next Lemurian book. I have since worked up #4's outline and Jerry is looking at it right now, and doubtless watching to see how advance sales on #3 go.

The fourth in the series is called Thongor in The City of Magicians. There is a gap of about four years between the two books. Thongor will again venture into the plains of the Rmoahal hordes, this time to secure a supply of the valuable and mysterious sithurls with which Iothondus of Kathool, a young natural philosopher and mage of Patanga (who will be a continuing character and gradually assume larger importance as the series goes on) believes can be adopted to a laser-like weapon and perhaps used as a power-source for the air navy of the young Empire.

These sithurls, or power-crystals, are rather like galena crystals such as were used in old-fashioned crystal-set radios. They absorb sunlight and transmute it into electricity. The electricity can either be leaked off slow and steady (power-source) or drained in one flashing bolt of ravening fury (weapon). At the end of Thongor Against The Gods, the Valkarthan discovers them and brings one back with him to Patanga for his mages to study. #4, Thongor in The City of Magicians, ends with a cataclysmic air battle in which the flying

navy of Patanga lays siege to the Black City of Zaar ...

As for future events in Thongor's career after Thongor in The City of Magicians, I am a bit hazy .. you will understand we are now talking two books ahead ... but #5 may be called either Thongor Fights The Winged Men or Thongor At The End of Time. The scene will be laid five or six years ahead of City of Magicians; Thongor will for some reason venture into the northern parts of the Lemurian continent, beyond the Mountains of Mommur which run from east to west midway through the continent like a mountainous spine. He will become embroiled with the Winged Men of Zand, a mysterious people who have access to a fantastic cavern world beneath the crust of the continent. Prince Tharth, who may accompany his sire on this adventure, is about twelve years old.

Beyond that, I am not sure, although there will be a future book which I now contemplate titling Tharth, Son of Thongor, laid five or six years beyond the one about the Winged Men of Zand. I confess I don't know in just what part of Lemuria the story will be laid.

It should already be obvious, just from reading the two Lemuria books in print right now, that the series as a whole is conceived as a gradually expanding narrative history of the founding and growth of the mighty and legended Golden Empire of Lemuria. Simultaneously, the first of a new Atlantis series laid in Thongor's world but a quarter of a million years after his era, is under way. Lancer Books has accepted the first novel in this new Atlantis series: The Black Star. It is not laid in the final age of Atlantis, the age of the sinking of the continent, but earlier in Atlantean history. More on that later.

PRYDAIN

George R Heap

3. Coll and His White Pig - 1965.
4. The Castle of Llyr - 1966.
- (6. The Truthful Harp - Fall, 1967.)
5. Taran Wanderer - 1967.
- (7. -- title undetermined --
- March, 1968.)
1. The Book of Three - 1964.
2. The Black Cauldron - 1965.

all by Lloyd Alexander. Published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc. Jackets, maps, and illustrations by Evaline Ness. (The listing above is according to the internal chronology, somewhat presumptively in the case of The Truthful Harp. The numbering indicates publication order.)

Coll and His White Pig and the forthcoming The Truthful Harp are primarily picture books, providing a brightly illustrated introduction to the main series for younger readers (four through eight). They introduce, in tales of their earlier adventures, two of Taran's companions in the main chronicle.

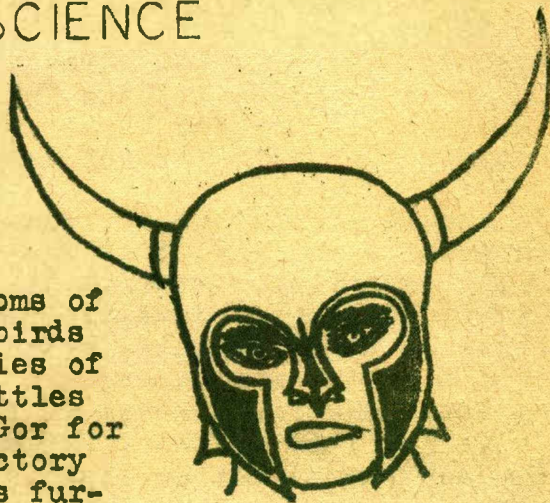
The heart of the series, from The Book of Three to Taran Wanderer, tells of Taran's growing up in the sword-and-sorcery land of Prydain. Across the brightly coloured warp of the land with its realms of adventure, magic, hardship, and striving; Taran grows from a headstrong boy to an accomplished young warrior. He comes from dreams of glory to a knowledge of the values of sacrifice, labour, and achievement. Yet throughout, he has gained friends, skills, a measure of knowledge of himself and has learned the value of these things.

Taran's Prydain contains some part of the folk-tale and legend of ancient Wales. Yet to that part is added the realism of the lives of kings, warriors, craftsmen, and farmers who people its hills and valleys. We learn somewhat of their needs and desires as well as of the magics of wizard, witch, and the Fair Folk.

Mr. Alexander's seventh book will complete the series and resolve the problems that have beset Taran, and the readers, throughout the chronicle. For although each book is a story in itself, there is that element of doubt necessary to make a series enjoyable, taken as a whole. Whether there is a further future for Taran and Prydain, only our own future can tell.

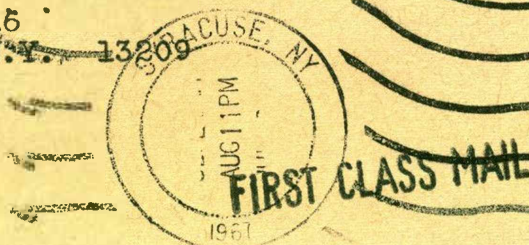
SWORD-AND-SCIENCE

Counter-Earth: John Norman continues the adventures of Tarl Cabot across the plains of Gor in Outlaw of Gor, due from Ballantine in December. In Tarnsman of Gor, Tarl is taken across space to the city of Ko-ro-ba. Here he trains as a warrior and learns the often cruel customs of Gorian life. He rides the savage Tarn birds that serve as aerial cavalry to the armies of the Tower Cities. In Tarnsman, Tarl battles in the wars and political struggles of Gor for his adopted city and wins through to victory and love, only to lose all. I await his further exploits on Gor with interest.



One Million Centuries: Dick Lupoff's first novel will be out as a 350-page book by Lancer this September. Look for it on the stands in late August. The cover painting is by Jack Gaughn, and from the preliminary sketches I've seen, will be excellent.

SCIENCE FICTION TIMES
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