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THE SCIENCE FICTION WORLD



DALE TARR

CHARLES R. TANNER

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SCIENCE FICTION WORLD.

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CONTENTS

EDITORIALS.....	TARR & TANNER.....	1
"THE MOON POOL" IS IMMORTAL..	DONN BRAZIER...	3
A COMMENT ON COSMOGONY.....	TANNER.....	4
THE GOATHERD.....	By HIMSELF.....	6
THE RETREAT OF RELIGION.....	TARR.....	8
SCIENCE FICTION COMMENT.....	US & YOU.....	10
SPACE-CRAZY.....	TARR.....	11
P.S.....		12

EDITORIAL

TARR

Charley and I decided to split the editorial page of this issue into past and future and it fell to me to give a general delineation of forthcoming issues of "SCIENCE FICTION WORLD".

To begin with, we're placing an accent on articles. We want better ones. It doesn't matter what aspect of fantasy, science-fiction or fandom is the concern of the article--but it must be good.

That adjective must apply to all of our written

TANNER

There's a lot more to this magazine business than I ever thought, before I carelessly decided to get into it. I've had quite a respect, in the past, for the fellows who put out "Scienti-Snaps", "Pluto", "Nova", "Diablerie", and all the other super-mags that have come out in the past. Now, that respect is doubled. And I wonder just how close we are going to come to the ambitious program we have set for this mag of ours.

And yet-- no fan mag as

material whether it be poetry, humor, fiction, articles or otherwise. A word about fiction: we don't want the indifferent fan fiction which has been all too superfluous in fanzines. For that reason, I expect our best fiction will not be the conventional story, but will be "fannized." That is, it will probably be slanted toward fandom, not written as a story with appeal possibly for anyone.

And art! We're not too well set for artistry so you'll have to bear with us on that angle. It's not that Tanner has not done a good job, (I think) on drawing what we have in this ish or that someone such as Counts hasn't offered their abilities, but we just haven't got the facilities as yet. There will be an improvement,

And there you have our promise and our hope for the future of S-F World. We'll gladly accept anything which has fan interest-- providing it is reasonably good.

We'll have some regular departments which we hope you'll find interesting and-- well, you write in and help us make the mag one of your musts. For we are beginning to realize what the pro editors mean when they say that the readers make the magazine.

elaborate as this has yet been put out at such a small expense. Dale Tarr's method of mimeographing, like the atomic bomb, is either a boon to fandom or a curse greater than any yet discovered, for it may shower the country with mimeoed mags put out by enthusiastic Lemurians, not yet out of kindergarten. Briefly, the method consists of using a large tin can wrapped in cardboard and inked flannel, and attaching it to a stencil with adhesive tape. It is rolled over the sheet by hand, and there you are.

And the "beautiful" cover is drawn on architect's tracing tissue and blue-printed on home made blue print paper. The cost is negligible, the work-- is something else again.

It took quite a while to decide just how to turn out the headings. We finally decided on hekto, not because of its beautiful appearance, but because it was the most practical and economical. We're not satisfied with it, and future issues may see further improvements there. But the real improvements must be, as Tarr says, in the quality of our articles. With the exception of Brazier's analysis, this issue is all Tarr and Tanner. I don't like that a bit. So come on, fans, gif out. You are the staff of "The SCIENCE FICTION WORLD" and it's up to you as much as us. Fiction, poetry, articles, letters-- we can use anything if it's good.

THE MOONPOOL IS IMMORTAL.

DONN

BRAZIER

In 1941, Spaceways, your researcher asked a question: Are they still immortal? "They" referred to a group of stories which had garnered exceptional immediate reader commendation. The letter-to-the-editor survey was made as long ago as 1936, and in 1941, only one story in the group had completely dropped the ball. This story was "Brood of the Dark Moon" by Charles Diffin.

In 1936, I split up the group of stories into four categories, depending upon the number of favorable mentions they had received. The top of the list, as it appeared then, follows:

IMMORTAL-- Over 50 Commendations.

1. "Skylark of Valeron"--Dr. E. E. Smith....75
2. Legion of Space"--Jack Williamson.....65

CLASSIC-- Over 25 and less than 50.

1. "Colossus"--Donald Wandrei.....44
2. "Rebirth"--Calvert McClary.....43
3. "Lo!"--Charles Fort.....41
4. "The Mightiest Machine"--J.W. Campbell....38
5. "The Moon Pool"--A. Merritt.....29
6. "The Skylark of Space"--Dr. E. E. Smith..28
- "Brood of the Dark Moon"--Charles Diffin..28

Even in 1936 the appearance of "The Moon Pool", as well as "The Skylark of Space", on such a list of immediate reader reaction was sensational. Now today almost ten years later, all stories have been dropped by the wayside. Yes, you might remember them, even Diffin's, but do you vote for them in favorite story polls?

Judging from the top of the Annual BEOWULF POLL as it appeared in THE FANTASY, and viewing the years that have gone by, I have concluded that of all the stories given such overwhelming praise in 1936, only Merritt's "The Moon Pool" is immortal. (conc. on page 5)

A COMMENT ON COSMOLOGY

by
Charles K. Stanner

Theories on the origin of the solar system have been popular in the past, but none of them have been able to withstand the light of increasing science. From the hypothesis of Kant to the theories of Littleton they have all, one after the other, fallen before the onslaught of mathematics. Today we are, quite frankly, utterly unable to offer any theory of the origin of the solar system that is in accord with all the known facts.

Very probably, this is because we have not, as yet accumulated sufficient facts to devise a theory that is satisfactory. It is only within the last few years that we have realized that our universe is expanding, and it will still be some time before we will be able to comprehend just what it could have been like two billion years or so ago, when, in all probability, this solar system of ours came into being.

But there are certain facts, apparent to everyone, which, it seems to me, might very likely be investigated but which, up to now have been very generally overlooked. These facts I wish to call to your attention here.

First-- the meteors. These fragments of matter which fall so continuously from space are not wanderers from the depths of interstellar space as so many believe but infinitesimal planets which, almost certainly, have been revolving around the sun for as long as the earth has. And they are, mainly, of two kinds: meteors of nickel-iron alloy, with a smattering of other metals, and stony meteors-- complex silicates and other salts of the lighter metals. The stony meteors are much commoner than the nickel-iron type.

Now it is a curious fact that seismological research into the structure of the earth indicates that the earth has a core some thousands of miles thick, of metal which has a density and several other factors the same as nickel-iron. Many geologists have explained this by saying that when the earth was first formed, it was entirely molten and that the heavier elements all sank to the center, leaving the lighter elements to float on the top and form the "crust" that we know today.

But is this not asking a little too much of coincidence? Here is a planet whose core appears to be formed of the materials which make up one type of meteor and whose surface is made up of the materials which form another type! It is as if the planet had been made up of the one group of minerals and then coated with the other.

Now it so happens that we have, in the moon, the evidence of how that outer layer was deposited on the earth. It was showered down from space in the form of enormous meteors, the remnants of which are still falling. Where those meteors came from, I am not prepared to state, for I am not offering a theory, but merely pointing out a few facts that might help to make one. The surface of the moon, like the surface of the earth, is made up of rocky materials which are, in very large proportion, composed of the lighter elements. And the evidence of where those elements came from is evident, very-- on the moon. They were deposited from space, as meteors.

As a basis for a hypothesis I offer this: At one time, our solar system was a group of planets and interplanetary debris made largely of nickel-iron. From somewhere, a swarm of meteors of lighter elements entered our system and covered the planets with a thick coat. Ever since, the meteors swarming about in our system have been of two kinds, stony and nickel-iron. We've almost ran out of the nickel-iron meteors, that's why they're scarcer, but even the other type are not too common, now.

As to how a nickel-iron solar system might be formed I wouldn't even try to say. But a few years ago Eta Cassiopeae showed signs of becoming a Nova. It flared a pa bit, died down to normal, flared again, died again, and finally relapsed into its natural state. And at each flare, the iron lines in the spectrum burned blindingly bright. Was it forming-- or destroying-- a system of iron planets?

I don't know. I wish I did. Maybe then I'd have a theory of the origin of the solar system.

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"THE MOON POOL" IS IMMORTAL. (Conclusion)

Merritt's tale stood second this year. Where will it stand ten years from now? "The Brood of the Dark Moon" died in five years; the others died in ten; will "The Moon Pool" be living in 1956?

THE GOATHERD



Well, fen, I've been traipsing around through the system lately, spending most of my time in the Twilight Zone, and I've come up with some stuff that'll Titan Uranus.

Met Ackerman XVI, on Ganymede. He claims the election of Sncary XIV as President of the I. F. F. is 'Saturn for the worse. Anyway, Io him credit for the following problem. Lower away, fen, and see if you can berth this one:

(1) A contractor had to haul a certain amount of supplies from Ganymede to Titan in twelve weeks. Wanting to make as much profit as possible on the deal, he only leased five ships, after correctly figuring that with just the five, he could complete the job in ten weeks.

However, at the end of six weeks, one of the ships was destroyed in an explosion on a Titan drone. The contractor was unable to lease another ship. Was he able to complete the work within the allotted time using only the four remaining ships?

(2) Wonder what Norn Stanley can do with this one?

Satellite 'A' revolves around Planet 'B' at a distance of 100,000 miles. An observer in a rocketnocar which is passing through the orbital path of 'A' looks out a port and spies the satellite just as it is disappearing behind planet 'B'.

Question: Is the satellite within Roche's limit?

The latest story from Pluto is a yarn about an aged hermit who lives in one of the air-ice caves so common on that planet. The recluse claims the name of Campbell, and is the only man living who remembers a novel titled "World of A".

He wishes he could forget it.

That superb fan, that trusty colleague and world-famous poet, Mr. Jess Watt Yuncan, has not neglected to supply us with one of his lovely little quatrains. The



BY DALE TARR

THE RETREAT OF RELIGION



To the regular followers of the various churches who are not inclined to question or look into the different religious maneuvering and pronouncements it might appear that religious organization is, as it claims to be, a reliable leader and guide of human activity. The contrary is true as any student of history can readily ascertain.

The retreat of religion has taken place along three fronts; political scientific and moral and has retreated progressively as man has clambered out of the morass of ignorance in which he has so well-steeped by these self-styled guides.

It is a matter of historical observance that man leads and religious organizations follow him reluctantly and at quite a distance. Furthermore, human concepts of justice and right are the result of his own social nature and reasoning powers and are not derived in any way whatsoever from "divine revelation".

Politically the retreat of religion began about the time of the Renaissance when the catholic church approximated the height of its power. The great schism was a contributing cause which erupted from within over differences of interpretation of the same book. The Vatican was reduced from almost complete control over Italy and a strong hand which it kept in other European governments by various kings who, for one reason or another divested themselves of the Pope's interference. Charles of Spain wrested the Papal States from the pope and a king of England withdrew from catholicism to establish the Church of England because the pope would not consent to the king's divorcing his wife in favor of another woman.

The removing of the church control from government was extremely beneficial resulting as it did in increased laissez faire for the scientists who would have otherwise been kept in disrepute by the church. In this "New World" where people supposedly came to enjoy freedom of religion there was hardly any such thing for a century or more. Church prelates controlled the government and people of the various colonies and they laid down a variety of ridiculous laws concerning Sunday and also forbid "The drinking smoking and chewing of tobac-

co". The church's own indescribable edicts and laws helped vastly to lead toward one of the most beneficial events that ever happened-- the separation of church and state, a doctrine that should be continually observed but which is under constant attack by religious organizations in one way or another one of which is their infiltration of Bible instruction into the public schools.

Scientifically, the position of the churches was malignant. The churches have been forced to retreat from substantially all of their scientific positions as humanity led the way and subsequent leaders of the church have repudiated the attitudes of their predecessors even though both knew the things the book said and knew them equally well.

Christianity tied itself to sinking forms of science because they were more in accord with what the prelates deduce from the biblical record. Consequently we find Aristotle pitted against Bacon, Aquinas against Erasmus and Galen versus Vesalius. The prelate's cry became "sound learning-- the safe older studies".

During the middle ages and up into the Renaissance the churches held fast to such doctrines as-- the bones are the nucleus of the resurrection body and as such are incorruptible-- the touch of kings-- filthiness denoted humility and abasement of the body added to the glory of God while indignity to the body secured the salvation of the soul. In that connection it is worthwhile to notice the dirtiness of various religious characters such as St. Sylvia who never washed anymore of her person than her fingertips and St. Simon who lived in such intolerable filth that it was impossible to visit him.

Medicine in particular had a very bad time of it. Embryo physicians were confronted with a complex of obstacles. The famed St. Ambrose declared that "the precepts of medicine are contrary to celestial science, watching and prayer"; canon law declared the precepts of medicine contrary to divine knowledge; church authorities accepted and strengthened the concept that disease is supernatural in origin resulting from national sins and other such impossible sources even citing examples to show the sinfulness of resorting to medicine instead of trusting to saintly intercession. Add to all this the established fetishism of the church organization and the "relics of the saints". Even the smallest parish church had "relics", and money literally poured into their coffers from the gullible public. Different concerns which drew large sums of money from their possession of these relics naturally looked with disfavor on a science which discredited their investments. For over a thousand years under "Christianity" surgery was considered dishonorable and during that time Jews and Mohammedans considerably aided the advance of medicine. Many Arab contributions remain of value to the present day.

Hygiene and sanitation were held back. The Jews who were a comparatively clean people and not so liable to the ravages of widespread disease often found themselves blamed for the assortment of scourges which struck Europe at one time and another. The Jews were charged with everything from poisoning wells to being witches and if you think Hitler was bad for the Jews-- well he had plenty of precedent. Vaccination and inoculation were fought by the prelates as being interference with God's will. A round the middle eighteen hundreds an epidemic broke out in Montreal and health authorities there began a program of vaccination. After the first telling blows from the disease the Protestants began to accept treatment but the Catholics, exhorted by their priests and bishops held out until it became obvious to even the most deluded where right and wrong lay. Catholics dies right and left until their higher-ups gave in and let the health department continue its work. Most fans are acquainted with the historical struggles of astronomy and the enforced recant of Galileo; with the dreadful religious campaigns against witches, heretics and so forth so I'll skip over a lot of bloodshed and conclude with a couple of paragraphs on morals.

The main fault of the churches in moral doctrine was that the authorities tried to place every iota of human life in a moral cast. Where they should probably have been content with the promulgation of the ten commandments at the most they endeavored to make even people's dress a matter of morals. Everyone is familiar with the past objection of churches to dancing, card-playing, shorter skirts, smoking, etc. The church did not pause to take such matters up in even so much as the light of reason. Everything was morals. You see where the church wound up.

The outstanding truth is that religion based on divine revelation is a regressive force because it stems from man in his past ages. Religion follows the human advance instead of leading it and follows only because its living depends on keeping up with mankind. Man's social intellect is alone responsible for all the ills, all the good, all the rhyme and reason of this world of men and women.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

IF all the people in the world
Deny a fact with all their brains,
And ban its teaching everywhere--
The fact remains-- the fact remains.

---C. R. T.

LEWIS PADGETT

OF CURRENT

GEO. O. SMITH

RICHARD S. BAVER

E. E. SMITH

AND

CLASSIC

A. MERRITT

H. P. LOVECRAFT

When I was young, long ago, when old Bob Davis, bless his memory, was the John W. Campbell of his day there was no fandom, and indeed, no one at all with whom a reader of science fiction might discuss his favorite form of fiction. You read the stories in All-Story and Cavalier, and if you had an idea about the tale, you just kept still about it and let it fester inside you.

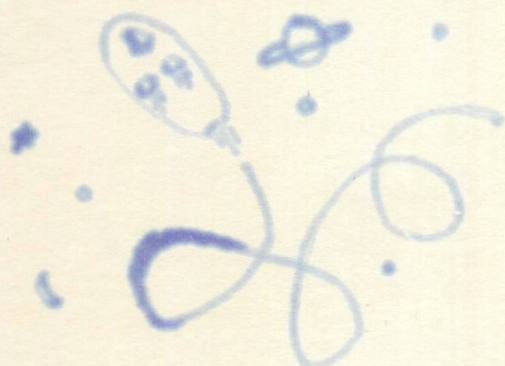
Today, there is a pretty well established organization devoted to science fiction and fantasy, and quite a number of excellent amateur magazines, theoretically published for the advancement of our favorite form of literature. But--

What per cent of the fan mags devote pages to a discussion of the stories appearing in the pro magazines? We talk about the classics quite a bit, we have one fine mag which gives excellent criticisms of the fantastic stories which are published in book form, but the percentage of articles on the current stories is amazingly small. One would think almost that the average fan considered himself above the reading of magazine fiction. And yet, I know from personal contact that a large percentage of the fans read "Astounding" regularly and most of them pay quite a bit of attention to the other magazines too.

So why not talk about 'em? What did you think of "World of A"? How did "Giant Killer" strike you? What do you think of Simak's extrapolation in his "City" series, or of that of Padgett in the "Baldy" series? What thoughts do you have on the "Foundation" stories; and do you think a galactic civilization would really be like that?

These are the sort of things that we want to print in this department. It seems to us that there is a place in fandom's literature for just such a thing as that. The discussions columns in the mags have degenerated into a sort of salvo-sneering mess that has no place anywhere where men have a reasonable amount of intelligence. There will be none of that in this department. But-- if you will send me in an article, no matter how short, on what you think about some current story, it'll find a place here. For instance, Moskowitz's excellent criticism of "World of A" in a recent "Fanews"- that's the sort of stuff we want. Let's go.

Science Fiction World



"I TOLD YOU THAT YOU
COULDN'T Toss FLAPSACKS
AND STEER AT THE SAME
TIME."



" - - - - OR WALK
BACK HOME."



"YOU SAY YOU'RE
FROM EARTH? I'VE
NEVER HEARD OF IT."



"ORBIT 34? NO WON-
DER! I THOUGHT YOU
SAID 'ORBIT 44'!"

-TARR-

P. S.

It hasn't come out as well as we would have liked it to. But dozens of fans have felt the same way about their first mag, and we can say that this issue is better than the last and that that issue was better than the first. And-- the next issue will be better than this. There are flaws in the mimeoing-- that you'll have to put up with, for our mimeo is a big tin can, as I've mentioned before. To Tarr and Tanner, it isn't the poor work that is a source of wonder, but the fact that it works at all. But if you like the stuff we have put in here, you'll bear with us and buy the mag and if you don't like it-- we'll probably keep right on putting the dang thing out anyway.

Oh, yes--

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