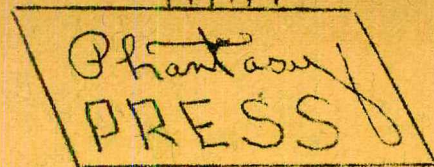


# PHANTASY PRESS

No. 51







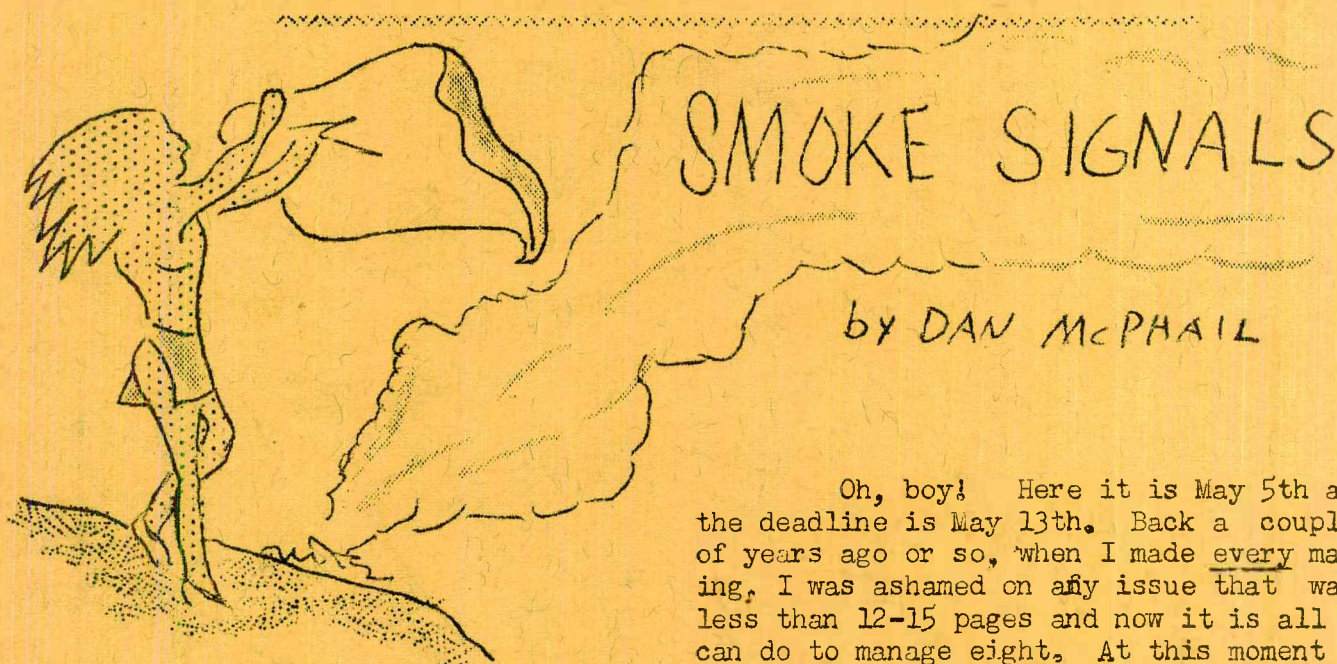
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DANIEL McPHAIL, EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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Cover is by Maurine Moore  
Back cover is by Danaline McPhail



Oh, boy! Here it is May 5th and the deadline is May 13th. Back a couple of years ago or so, when I made every mailing, I was ashamed on any issue that was less than 12-15 pages and now it is all I can do to manage eight. At this moment I am on my 6th stencil with no clear idea of what to put on the other two pages. But faint heart never beat a deadline, so....

Isolated as I am from the main stream of fandom, I do miss some events, but manage to hear of some things. I keep my interest in the First Fandom club, and I will have an article in the next anniversary edition of Lynn Hickman's fine mag, THE PULP ERA.

A letter from my long-time pal, Ted Carnell (we have now corresponded for 30 years!) advises me he will be at the Sheraton-Russell in New York City from the 2nd to the 16th of this month, with his wife, Irene. I hope to phone them there in order to maintain a tradition of phone contact, as we did on the two previous trips he made to our shores.

The group that sponsored the Southwestercon in Dallas last summer will host the Houston Comic Convention at the Ramada Inn, June 16-18. One feature is the showing of the classic film, Metropolis.



FROM

out of the past

by DAN McPHAIL



In those long-ago days when the fan world was sparkling new, we of the First Fandom era all dreamed great projects, many of which never got off the ground - or the drawing board.

I was like all the rest. In my files are many, many dusty "dummies" of proposed fan mags. Only a few ever reached the stencil stage. However, this article concerns an exception - a real effort I made to establish a worthwhile publication.

On June 1, 1931, I hand-printed the first issue of SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, mainly to record information and my impressions of my fascinating new hobby. This must have been about the second actual fan effort along these lines and appeared even before THE TIME TRAVELLER. Then I bought an old Oliver typewriter & SFN appeared "printed" on a bi-monthly basis until 1935 when I began to accept some subs. Then it did go print and for three issues, when my family

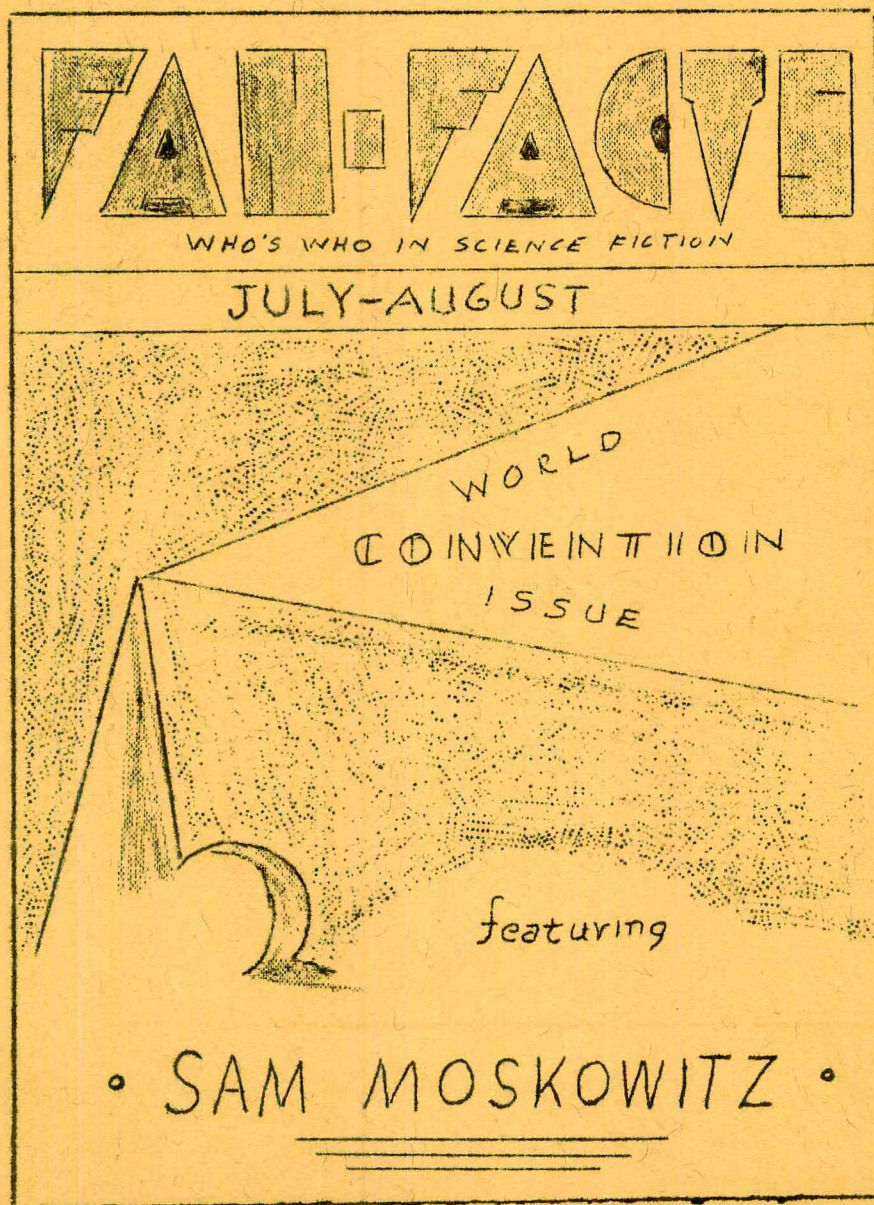
moved from Oklahoma City to Comanche, where Jack Speer & I chummed and were charter members of FAPA...but that is another story.

Anyway, the move away from the print plant job sounded the death knell to SFN, as I did not desire continuing it in a less imposing format.

However, I did invest in a Montgomery Wards duplicator and launched FAN-FACTS, designed to be a contemporary "who's who" for science fiction. I proposed that each issue would feature one person, fan or pro, with his picture and signature and a write up by some one who knew him best. I selected Mary Rogers, a very fine young Oklahoma artist, to render suitable likeness from photos I sent her and she did a excellent job,

The first issue, mimed size  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ , featured a "scoop" autobiography of Charles D. Hornig, "s.f. #1 travelling salesman" & editor of WONDER STORIES and SCIENCE FICTION.

The second Fan of the Month was James Taurasi.



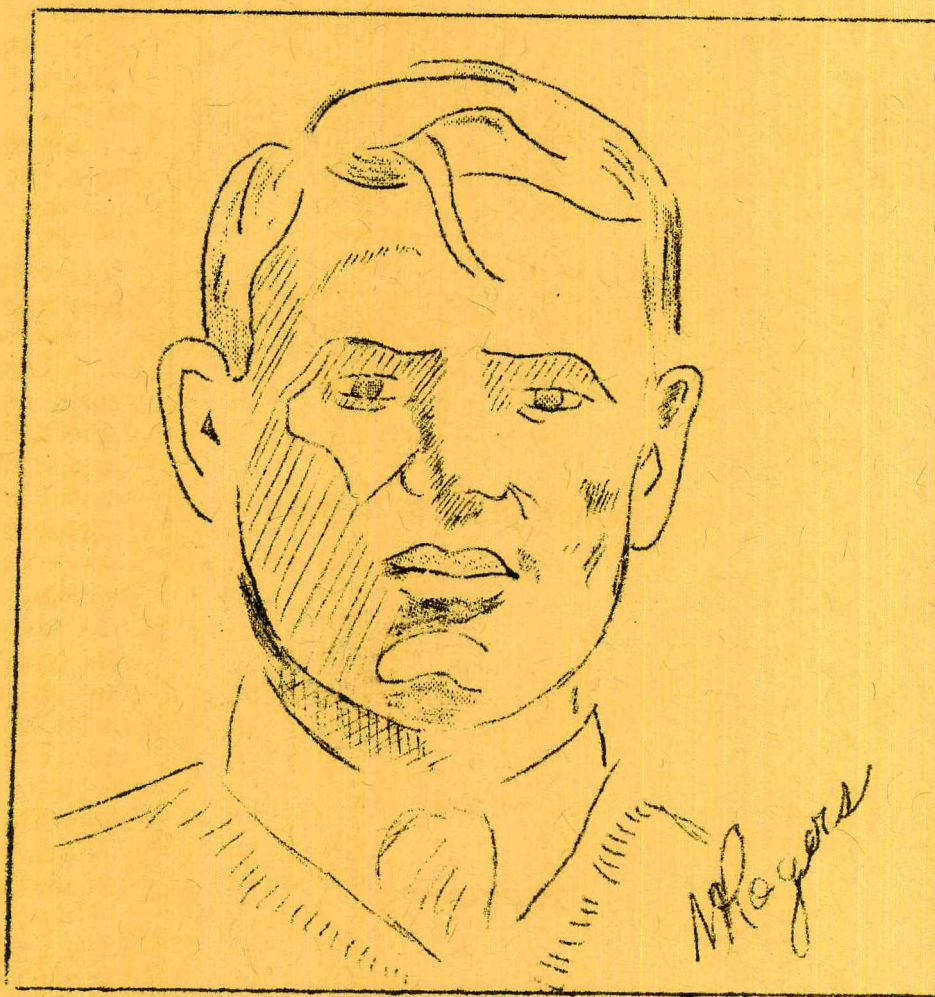


The third edition, to be a special World Con number, was prepared in part, but never completed. I had especially wanted to get the third issue out, as it featured Sam Moskowitz, then - as now - one of fandom's leading light. Jack Speer, at Sam's request, had written a keen, penetrating study of him. The entire number was dummed, and even some stencils cut, but circumstances arose that prevented me from completing it. I still have much material filed away, and for your interest, I present a repro of the cover plus Mary's drawing of Sam (pardon my poor tracing of it.)

The following three numbers would have featured Forrie Ackerman, Ted Carnell & Johnny Baltadonis. I still have drawings of them plus C.L. Moore & Dr. T. O'Conner Sloane & at some future date (perhaps in First Fandom Magazine) I hope to present a revival of FAN-FACTS. Material also included a movie review by Moskowitz and humor by Bob Tucker.

Some notes on a production schedule shows that I planned to feature in future issues, writeups on Wollheim, Tucker, Michael, Rothman, Speer, John W. Campbell, Schwartz, Palmer, Wilson, Lowndes, Wiggins, the Rogers twins, Marconnette, Weisinger Farnsworth Wright and me.

I'm sorry now that I did not get to produce the whole series. They would be of great value to historians now, and perhaps of great interest to fans in general.



Sam Moskowitz



A D-L-A PUBLICATION

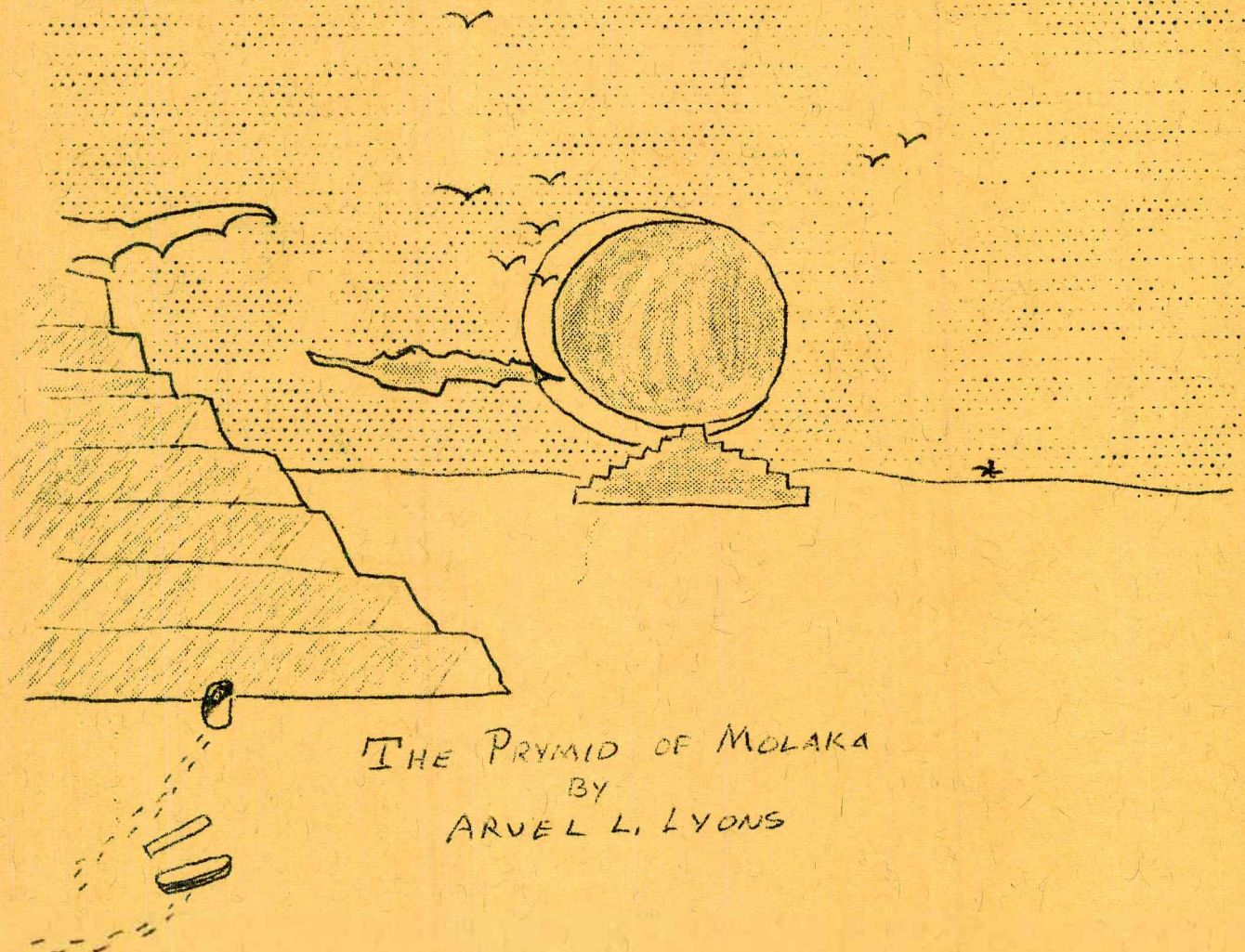
# TALES OF

JANUARY

# TERROR

204

ILLUSTRATED



THE PYRAMID OF MOLAKA  
BY  
ARUEL L. LYONS

Another "Out of the Past" item. What kid-fan in the old days did not dream of launching a magazine of his own! And some did, gathering fiction from friends (no matter how crude) and spending hours designing his format and thinking up an imposing title. Some of these efforts even appeared in typewritten editions - often only a single copy, or perhaps with 2 or 3 carbon ~~and~~ extras.

Above is reproduced the cover of a 1932 creation of mine - complete with the original spelling. Other great works of art were "The Tale in Type", "Cavern of Bats" & "Death From Mercury."





Lana Lin E