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2. The deadline will be March 1st.

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Table of Contents

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR				
"SHE" AND "L'ATLANTIDE" 4				
Darrell C. Richardson				
BOOK REVIEWS 10				
New Tales of Space and Time				
After 12,000 Years				
The Best Science Fiction Stories 1951				
When the Birds Fly South				
The Sands of Mars				
COLLECTOR'S CREVICE 21				
QUOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE				
1951 FANTASY ADVERTISER INDEX 34				

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Notes From the Editor

Fantasy Advertiser is no more. You are now stuck with some portion of a subscription to a magazine with the inexcusably unwieldy title of Science Fiction Advertiser. I'll try to justify this alteration which, with a flagrant irregard for democratic principles, has been effected in spite

of a disconcerting quantity of reader-objection.

At the risk of being not completely original, let me introduce my argument with a mere mention that the consumption of science fiction writings has increased greatly in the several past years. As a result of great expense and a detectable amount of effort, this magazine has acquired almost as many paying subscribers among the later crop of s-f devotees as it has among the older guard "fans". And somehow I think that the "old" and the "new" reader are entitled to dissimilar explanations. "Fans" please read the follow-

ing column at left; others, the one at right.

The title change arose from motives purely economical. Consider that most of the better magazines, the anthologies and other books. and the movies and radio shows and other popular outgrowths of our field have been labeled as "science fiction" and as such are commonly identified by the public at large. It seems to me that if this magazine is to reach any significant portion of the s-f aware public, it must be identified as s-f. To most others. unlike to most fans, fantasy does not suggest s-f. And so I suspect that the wonder expressed by some of you at my singling out s-f from the greater fantasy field will be matched in their minds by a questioning of the validity of any assumption of kinship between s-f and other components of the fans! "fantasy field."

The traditional science fiction or fantasy "fan" has frequently been an equally intent devotee of weird, supernatural, and, in fine, the full range of imaginative or off - trail fiction. He has been loosely organized thru clubs, "fan magazines", and an almost unbelievable number of reams-per-capita of correspondence, and has thereby undergone to varying degrees a sort of ideological inbreed-It came to be assumed as natural, if not downright inevitable, that one who read Astounding Science Fiction would also read Weird Tales. And the term fantasy was selected and generally used in referring to the matrix of widely various stories read in common by the fans. you can see that this pointed change in title is tantamount to a violation of a tradition.

That about ties up the subject, I hope. I merely want it understood how I see two prominent, opposed viewpoints of SFA's readers, and don't want no argument from nobody.

Well, perhaps I might risk one more thing: a personal opinion from the science fiction reader who happens to edit this magazine: S-f and fantasy, as I see their ideal forms, share a classification in that they both fall outside the limits of realistic here - now fiction. But I disagree with those who look upon them as co - directional departures from the main stream of literature, varying only in the magnitude of their departure.

"She" and "L'Atlantide"

by Darrell C. Richardson

Pierre Benoit "L'ATLANTIDE", Michel Publishing Company: Paris, 1919. "THE QUEEN OF ATLANTIS", Hutchinson: London, 1920. "ATLANTIDA", Duffield: New York, 1920.

The basic plot of "L'Atlantide" is that one which is most often described as a "lost race" tale. The lost city of the story is presumably the only surviving remains of the once great and highly civilized empire of Atlantis, located deep in the unexplored wastes of the Sahara. Ruling over this ancient city is a barbaric queen who is beautiful beyond the power to describe. She exerts such fabulous attraction for men that no man can survive her love for over a year. two French soldiers who find their way to this strange place possess formidable characters and the interplay between the two does much to add reality to the story.

The story starts slowly but builds up interest swiftly

with admirable sustained suspense. The moving tale quickens your interest and stirs your imagination until the book abruptly stops - unfinished. Personally, though, I liked the ending. I thought it one of the cleverest things about the book.

On almost every page of "L'Atlantide" one encounters evidence of the author's wide reading and broad academic background. It is also obvious that he has had training in methods of historical research. Were it not for the rapid succession of incident and the exotic nature of its setting, "L'Atlantide" might give the impression of being the parody of a thesis. It is a veritable mosaic of odds and ends of erudition and literary reminiscences. Scattered through the text may be found excerpts from Plato, ethnological and anthropological speculations, references to geological matters, geographical and botanical data, and quotations from a wide variety of literature; most of these being arranged in frequent footnotes. The use of such technique to lend plausibility to his incredible tale is not the least of his talent. Benoit was brought up in Tunis and Algiers and his intimate knowledge of Africa and the Sahara gives a ring of authenticity to the setting of "L'Atlantide".

Benoit's characters are not revealed so much by the writer's description and psychological analysis as by their own dialogue and actions. He demonstrates considerable ingenuity in the construction of plot and his special gift of carrying the narrative forward to a striking denouement is clearly seen in "L'Atlantide". Add to all of these qualities Benoit's humor and sense of the poetic and it can readily be seen why he has been popular with a great diversity of readers.

Pierre Benoit had already had two books published when

"L'Atlantide" was published in 1919. No small measure of the novel's immediate popularity was due to the publicity given it by accusations of plaigerism. Almost as soon as the novel appeared, several French and British reviews suggested that it bore a marked resemblance to H. Rider Haggard's "She" (1888). Then an article in the French Quarterly made a direct accusation of plaigerism. Many acrimonious letters and articles both defending and condemning Benoit were subsequently published in various periodicals. Benoit filed suit for libel. After the French Academy swarded "L'Atlantide" the Prix du Roman for 1919, Haggard's publishers instituted legal proceedings against Benoit in the French courts. Both parties eventually agreed to a withdrawal of the case. Meanwhile two French translations of "She" appeared, one containing a preface by Benoit in which he denied any previous knowledge of the novel. During this same year "L'Atlantide" received two English translations under the slightly changed title. "The Queen of Atlantis", and the following year it appeared in the United States as "Atlantida".

By early 1920 over seven hundred articles sout the "L'Atlantide"-"She" controversy had appeared! No doubt this publicity sold tens of thousands of copies of the novel's num-

erous editions and translations.

There are several circumstances that indicate the possibility of plaigerism in addition to the internal evidence. Benoit denied on many occasions that he could read English. However, a French translation of "She" had appeared in a Parisian magazine, La Vie Moderne, ten years before "L'Atlantide" was published. Benoit, of course, never admitted that he read "She" in this periodical.

Haggard's "The Yellow God" (1908), which resembles "She", and to which "L'Atlantide" bears at least as many resemblances as to "She", was not available to Benoit in a French translation. This would seem to eliminate the charge that "L'At-

lantide" was copied after "The Yellow God".

It would appear possible that the authors of "She" and "L'Atlantide" may have utilized some of the same sources. "She" contains certain similarities to Moore's "Epicurian" and also to Bulwer-Lytton's "Zanoni" (1861) and "A Strange Story" (1862). All of these works had been translated into French and widely read in France. It is possible that both Haggard and Benoit read these books and unconsciously used some of the ideas in their stories.

I have had the unusual privilege of reading several items from H. Rider Haggard's private and unpublished correspondence dealing with this intriguing controversy. These letters are in the private collection of Oswald Train. one

of the greatest of the Haggard collectors.
In one of his letters dated March 22, 1920, Haggard suggests that he was impressed by a similarity between one of the incidents in "L'Atlantide" as compared to "The Yellow God". To quote Haggard:

"What did impress me somewhat was a likeness between a scene in The Yellow God where the native heroine shows the mummies of the lovers of her predecessors to the hero, and one described in the Quarterly article. However, I dare say that was but a coincidence."

A little later on April 8, 1920, in a letter to E. Colman Rashleigh, Haggard after first saying that on first reading he thought "L'Atlantide" and "She" were as far apart as the poles, then proceeded to say:

"But on reflection there is an undoubted resemblance between the two books which, without in the least suggesting that it is intentional, is really most curious."

Haggard then goes on to point out, in this very interesting letter, at least eight points of definite similarity between the two books. However, he closes by repeating again that possibly all of this similarity is merely a coincidence.

It cannot be said that this matter has ever been settled definitely. After a rather careful study, my personal opinion is that Benoit did read "She" before he wrote "L'Atlantide" but I do not believe he deliberately practiced plaigerism. Instead I believe that "She" merely furnished some of the ideas and a part of the inspiration for "L'Atlantide".

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by Morris Scott Dollens

Reviews

New Tales of Space and Time

Raymond J. Healy, ed.; Holt, 1951; 294 pp., 3.50.

One of the few developments in the years since Hiroshima which it is possible to look upon with pleasure is the great increase in the number of science fiction books being published. The likelihood of a connection between the two phenomena has been investigated before and need not be elaborated here; whatever the cause, the reader who remembers the extreme rarity of science fiction in book form in the time before the war can hardly regard this particular result with any other feeling than gratitude it not actual gloating. So drastically is the situation changed from the old days that there is now not only the opportunity to pick and choose among the books available, but for those in ordinary economic circumstances, the necessity.

It is not surprising that the anthology of magazine stories makes up such a large part of the list of science fiction books. Magazines devoted to science fiction have been published now for twenty-five years, with fluctuating financial and literary success, it is true, but with enough regularity to supply a fairly effective training ground for writers and a sizeable backlog of stories with at least the claim to quality of having been bought for publication, and an ascertainable degree of acceptance by the science fiction

reading public.

To the credit of editors and writers of science fiction, this; working over of the magazines for material for anthologization has been remarkably successful from the literary point of view. It can hardly be imagined that so large a percentage of magazine stories in any other field would be considered by anyone to be worth preserving in book form, let clone by anyone willing to back his judgment by hard cash. And yet there has to be a limit somewhere. The vein of highgrade ore in the magazines, rich and extensive as it may be, cannot be mined forever without petering out.

One anthologist, at least, has foreseen this danger and confronted it in a novel way. This is Raymond J. Healy, who will be remembered for his collaboration with J. Francis McComas in editing one of the first and foremost of science fiction collections, Adventures in Time and Space (Random

House, 1946).

Healy's new anthology is called New Tales of Space and Time, and it is just that - an assembly of ten stories not previously published anywhere. So far as I know, this is the first time such a thing has been attempted in the science fiction field. It is to be hoped that it will not be the last.

Healy has chosen authors rather than stories. A list of them will indicate what is to be expected in the book: Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Frank Fenton and Joseph Petracca, Kris Neville, R. Bretnor, R. Schuyler Miller, Gerald Heard, Cleve Cartmill, A. E. van Vogt, and Anthony Boucher, who

-10-

also supplies an introduction as readable and stimulating as any of the stories. There is no reason to suppose that this selection is intended as a list of the ten best science fiction writers, if such a listing were even possible, or desirable, or wise. What it actually is is a selection of ten writers who are willing and able to pack a not too slim volume (294 pages) full of science fiction that is hardly ever surpassed and not often equalled in the magazines.

It may well be that the feeling of writing for a book publication rather than for a magazine has a liberating effect of the writer's talent. At any rate, there is a sense of unconstraint about these stories that is refreshing. Although the science fiction magazines are probably freer of taboos and editorial slanting than most others, there is an additional degree of freedom to this collection which makes a considerable difference. For instance, Neville's story, Bettyann, the longest in the book and one which a considerable number of readers will regard as the best, is of a sort that magazines just don't use. So is B+M--Planet 4, a further development of Heard's esoteric taste for honey. So, for that matter, in one respect or another, is every story in the book. If you want to know just why this is so, by all means get hold of the book by one way or another and see for yourself.

Healy has taken the burden of decision from the reader who has to choose among the new books available which one to buy. Buy this one.

After 12,000 Years

by Stanton A. Coblentz. Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc., Los Angeles, 1950; 295 pp., 3.00.

This reviewer humbly suggests that "After 12,000 Years" be made compulsory reading for every member of the armed forces above the equivalent rank of corporal, that the book be filmed, serialized in all leading newspapers, reviewed, "digested" and translated until every copy be thoroughly underscored, to stand as a warning against the stupidity in global war.

This is the story of a sleeper, Henry Merwin, who awakens after a 12,000 year sleep to find the world on the brink of war. He is enslaved, is worked long hours in a "defense plant" which produces the weapons of the future, insects. He is torn from the girl he loves, is brutally trained by an insane army, and is then sent into the front-lines. He lives to see the world overrun by its weapons, and then must sit by helplessly while a "peace conference" stalls and bickers, allowing the insects to finish their mopping-up campaign on a war-torn world.

The attitude of the army toward its individual soldiers may be sadly familiar to many of Coblentz' readers, for Merwin's "thought content" reads 69%, which is exactly 68% higher than the amount allowed a soldier. In order to correct this he is put thru P.R.D. (Personality Reducing Department) where ne is beaten by a discipline machine designed to give each soldier the benefit of a discipline which the army believes can be learned only by corporal punishment. (This machine relieves the officers of meting out such discipline

-11-

to each soldier daily.) (ed. note: I don't think the officers would have allowed themselves to miss this pleasure.) This treatment is expected to remove Merwin's objections to being slain and his question, "Why am I fighting?", for of course no such thoughts can be held by anyone save a traitor to his nation!

Contrary to most science fiction novels dealing with war this book dwells not directly upon the horrors of global war but upon the utter stupidity of methods used. War is always horrible...there can be no denial of that fact...but coupled with incompetence and insanity among those charged with gaining victory, war can lead only to global destruction.

The writing of this novel was the acid test which proved the genius of Mr. Coblentz, for a satire on a subject so closely related to personal life usually results only in bitterness. Any subject in which a writer shows enough concern to produce a lengthy satire offers too great a temptation for a show of emotions, for biased accusations and opinionated declarations. Thus we find Pope's satires criticised for containing personal grudges and resentments, and the satires of Swift and Juvenal for being impotent because of frantic, uncontrolled indignation. Yet Coblentz has succeeded where these literary giants before him have failed, for he, like Dryden, has held himself above the thing he satirized, has pictured for his readers, with as little interruption from personal venom as is possible, the dangers which could not be brought to attention in any form save satire used to its ultimate possibilities.

While Addison and Steele slapped hands with the sword of satire, while Swift plunged its deadly point into his readers at every turn, Coblentz has used the weapon as it was intended. He has fenced gracefully with his sword, has met parry for parry, and has then descended swiftly with the

final thrust.

Read the book for its literary qualities, for its morbidly amusing comparisons of present and future army life, or simply for its action - packed story, but above all read it, and let it not again be buried in the dusty heap of the past's forgotten works. Not, at least, until the day arrives when its message need no longer be remembered by man.

Carolyn Gaybard

1. Osgood, Charles Grosvenor: The Voice of England. Harper and Brothers, NY, 1935. pp 280-281.

The Best Science Fiction Stories 1951

E. F. Bleiler & T. E. Dikty, eds.; Fell, 1951: 351 pp, 2.95

Nineteen fifty-one will probably not be known in history as the year of the anthologies, although if it were, science fiction readers would not be surprised. The latest count shows that anthologies of stories from the science fiction magazines have been coming out at the rate of approximately one per month.

In the face of such competition, it takes something a little extra to compile a collection which stands out among the crowd. That Everett F. Bleiler and T. E. Dikty have this something will be no particular news to those who are already familiar with these editors! Best Science Fiction

-12-

Stories of 1949 and 1950, but it may be a little unexpected that the best Best yet should come out in such a year.

The Best Science Fiction Stories 1951 is actually a compilation of stories published in 1950. The date refers to the publication of the book rather than the stories. It might be thought that the editors would be a little pressed to find enough good stories in one year's magazines to fill some three hundred and thirty pages of text, but if they

were it certainly doesn't show.

It is probable that the ordinary reader will already have seen most of these stories before, but only those who follow the magazines very assiduously will have seen them And even those who have seen them all will be glad to find them again, in a more accessible form than a stack of old magazines. Do you remember "The Gnurrs Come From the Voodvork Out?" and "The Star Ducks"? Or, from the other side of the picture, "The Mindworm" and "Coming Attraction"? Well, here they are, with fourteen more of approximately equal memorability.

It is a fair bet that until you have read The Best Science Fiction Stories 1951 you will not have realized that 1950 was such a good year. Clyde Beck Clyde Beck

When the Birds Fly South

by Stanton A. Coblentz. Wings Press, Mill Valley, Calif., 1945, 1951; 8vo, 223 pp., 1.49.

It would be interesting to know how the publisher of this remarkable book can afford to sell it, even as a second edition, for so low a price. The entire format is at least the equal in quality to most of the fantasy books selling for twice the price.

When first published in 1945, the critical acclaim accorded the story was widespread and enthusiastic. It's a tale sensitively told, displaying a stylistic craftsmanship not often found in the genre; # "lost race" story, although

one deserving of more consideration than most.

Roger Scott

The Sands of Mars

by Arthur C. Clarke. Sidgwick and Jackson, London, 1951; 219 pp., 10s. 6d.

One might reasonably expect that Arthur C. Clarke, who is Chairman of the British Interplanetary Society and has for years been one of the foremost advocates of the possibility of space travel and the desirability of practical efforts to make it a reality, would tend to the gadgety approach in writing an interplanetary novel. The publication of his "Prelude to Space" as one of the Galaxy Science Fiction Novels about a year ago indicated that this was an unfounded fear, and "The Sands of Mars", recently issued by Sidgwick and Jackson, London, proves it.

In fact, "The Sands of Mars" achieves the somewhat unusual distinction of being a book which would be readable and interesting as a novel if it were not science fiction That is, Clarke has made people his primary con-His characters emerge as actual persons with lives that extend both ways in time beyond the scope of the nar-

rative, and not mere lay figures for the display of some clever pseudo-scientific idea or puppets animated by hoked-

up "conflict".

And yet the technological side has not been slighted, either by omission or distortion. At the time of the story interplanetary travel is still rather a novelty, but no longer new. Several orbital space-stations have been constructed, the satellites of Saturn have been visited, Mars has been colonized. Earth-Mars transit service is in regular operation, and the maiden voyage of the first interplanetary passenger liner is about to begin. The sole passenger and chief character of the story, Martin Gibson, is a writer who had concerned himself with stories of space travel when they were still considered science fiction. His intense but rather unsophisticated interest in space navigation provides an unobtrusive manner of explaining the technicalities of space flight, and at the end of the voyage. of survival on such an inhospitable world as Mars. these matters we are in the hands of an expert. It seems almost safe to say that this is the way such things will be done, some forty or fifty years from now.

It might well be argued that the excellence of a work of science fiction depends first of all upon the degree of verisimilitude which its author has achieved. Every reader will be able to remember up to several dozen potentially good stories which have been destroyed by the author's ludicrous misconceptions regarding facts of astronomy or physics or biochemistry or some other field of knowledge equally accessible, and as many more which, though they are based on logical extrapolations of science, have to do with characters that are moved by wires rather than human emotions. But he will remember much more vividly and long those few which, like "The Sands of Mars", avoid both these blunders, and read like the narration of someone who has actually experienced the things he tells of.

S.F.A. PAYS HIGHEST RATES ("2.16)

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On my recent birthoay as pleasured me with a treasure whose first page bears the holographic inscription: "For my friend, Forrest J. Ackerman, this unaltered (after publisher—Simon & Schuster—got through with it) ms. of the final version of "SLAN"; on the occasion of Forry's birthday November 24, 1951, herewith inscribed with all best wishes A& van Vogt". This I will not part with.

But I have another vanuscript

of SLAN, helographed "This is the copy of the ms. sent to Derleth. It contains many of the revisions made on the magazine version, but does not contain all the revisions subsequently made on the mriginal as sent to Arkham House." (height, 2-5/4 lbs.)

And another: "This is the version of Slan which was sent to an agent in 1941. and 'lost' by him for three years. After he found it he wanted to keep it but I had already sold a newly typed ms to Derleth." And finally: the out-of-print Arkham House first edn. of SLAN, with hundreds of revisions in the author's own hand, plus a hundred word inscription on the first page to the eventual possessor, and signed on the dedication page by his wife, C. Mayne Hull. I am not offering all three of the foregoing for sale, I am offering one to the highest bidder. I frankly do not know which would have the greatest appeal to collectors -- that's something that will be decided by your "Vogts" (!) — Pick the version you would most like to own and tell me your top bid on a postcard. For instance, "I'll give \$25 for \$2." If, in the end, someone has bid \$40 for #5, and no other bid for #1 or #2 has topped it, the item will go to that lucky bidder. I'll weit till the 15th of Marchto give you in the far corners ample opportunity to get your, bids in. But I suggest you make your choice All end let me hear from you before you forget about it and kick yourself around the rest of your life for not getting a chance at one of the SUPER COLLECTORS! ITEMS.....

AUTHORS

IN TODAY'S HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FANTASY MARKET. CAN YOU AFIORD JUHRA THAN THE BEST IN SPECIALIZED REPRESENTATIONS FOUR OUT OF THE 17 REPRINTS IN "THE BEST SCIENCE FIGTION OF 1961" FROM MY AGENCY—PRACTICALLY 25% FROM A SINGLE AGENT MENN THERE ARE SCIENCE FIGHT NEW STAR SYLVIA INCOME (FORTY CENTS A WORD TO COLLIER'S) HAS JUST JOINED MY CLIENTELE. CLIENT AE VAN VOOT WILL HAVE 6 BOME COBLIGHED IN '52, AND CLIENT RIS NEVILLE WILL APPEAR IN 6 ANTHOLOGIES! "THE BLIND SPOU" IS BEING REPRINTED IN ENGLAND, "SEEDS OF LIFS" TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH, "GREEN MAN OF CRAYPEOUP PUBLISHED IN GERMANY, FORD MC/CORMACK'S "HELL BENT" TALEVILED, WHI TEMPLE'S "FOUR-SIDED TRIANGLE" POCKETBOOMED AND EYED FOR FILMING! SINCE BECOMING THE FIELDIS ONLY SPECIALIST I'VE SOED MILLIONS OF WORDS, COLLECTED HUNGREDS OF CHECKS, FOR MEYMOND F. JONES, JOHN TAINE, OLAF STAPLEDON, NELSON BOND, DAVID H. KELLER, MURRAY LEINSTER, DAVID GRINNELL JACK MILLIANSON, HENDESSON STARKE, CHABLES HARNESS, JOHN & DONOUTHY DE COURCY, STANLEY WOLLEN, L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP, FRANCIS FLAGG, JOHN WYNDHAM, L. MAJON REYNOLDS, SEEELL P. MAIGHT, BROEF F. YOUNG, JOE GIBSON, STANLEY WEINERMUM, GREEN PRYYON, L. KON HUBEARD, J SCOTT CAMPBELL, CHARLES BEAUGHT, RIFT LOOKE, E.S. EVANS, PETER PHILLIPS, AE VAN VOOT AND DOCENS OF OTHERS. S. FUNLDE WRIGHT HAS PICKED DE TO AGENT HIS LETEST S.F. NOVEL!

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Slightly Honorable Mention: "Wouldn't you kick yourself for not subscribing for life if next month we raised the price to \$9.98 a year?"

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW--SUBSCRIBE FOR LIFE! -20Crevice

6. I suppose the very earliest submarine adventure featuring an artificial submersible craft is the diving episode in the apocryphal life of Alexander the Great (known as the "Pseudo-Callisthenes", since it purports to be written by Alexander's friend Callisthenes). The most easily accessible version, I think, is the translation of an Ethiopic version of Pseod-Callisthenes and some other Alexander narratives, by Sir Ernest A. Wallis Budge, published in popular form by Oxford University Press, London, 1933. Budge dates the original

of his version at around the fifth or sixth centuries.

Alexander's vessel, the Two-Horned, is described as "a cage of glass which was covered with asses' skins, and it had in it an entrance (or door) which could be closed and made fast with chains and It was roomy enough to hold three people and food for a hundred days, though nothing is mentioned about air supply. seventy nights it seems that the situation became desperate: "the cage of glass, in which the Two-Horned was sailing, was being heavily battered, and the sides thereof were being smashed by the waves of Fortunately, God sent the angel who has charge over the the sea". sea to Alexander's protection, and thereafter the Two-Horned is entertained by a succession of sea-monsters of astonishing length, being provoked thereby into what seems to me one of the more memorable remarks in fantasy literature: "Nay, the marvellous things of God are exceedingly wonderful".

7. No science - fiction collection is complete, of course, without the set of 20 "Scoops", the British tuppeny stf. magazine issued rather disastrously in the thirties. But I wonder whether everybody knows that no Scoops collection is complete without a large volume $(7\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{8} \text{ inches})$ called "The Boys' World of Adventure", published cy C. Arthur Pearson, London - I suppose sometime in the middle thirties. There are coloured plates and line illustrations, all by somebody called Drigin. A large spaceship set against a mauve space, with a distant view of Earth, appears on the front cover. This volume is a collection of thirteen anonymous stories, five of which are from Scoops. Presumably part of the idea was to recover some of the loss that Pearson's must have suffered on account of the Scoops f1asco. The stories are, of course, very derivative. Perhaps the most effective is "Wimpole's Weight Reducer", based closely on the Wells short story of the same theme.

In the course of an interesting letter, Mr. Hugh W. Fennell of 4, Dixon Road, South Norwood, London, S. E. 25, refers to what must be an almost unbelievably rare item by one Herrmann Lang, called "The Air Battle. A Vision of the Future", 1859, sm. cr. 8vo, green pict. boards, 112 pp., 4 pp. adverts. Pub. London, William Penny,

57, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Mr. Fennell remarks:

"This story has everything: world wars, fleets of airplanes, atom bombs, submarines, a race of blue-skinned humans. The story opens in an England submerged by sea except for a small piece of land. The cover bears an illustration of a giant spider, as big as a tiger, crawling towards a human being enmeshed in its web. I think the story is placed in the year 2000, but as I have disposed of the book as depending on memory. Isn't it astonishing that as early as 1859 a story of this type appeared! It is not in Bleiler." Mr. Fennell, speaking as a bookseller, has doubts about the

-21-

Checklist. He says, cautiously enough, "It has often occurred to me that Bleiler's Checklist, valuable and well-compiled though it is, only lists about 25% of the total fantasy fiction items published in English. It has occurred to me - I don't say that it is so." It may well be true that Checklist tried to do too much, As Mr. Fennell remarks: "Bleiler lists 'Alice in Wonderland' and Burton's 'Arabian Nights'. This seems to open the door to a lot of similar books..." Certainly it seems odd to list "Alice" explicitly but not "Sylvie and Bruno", and it is hardly adequate compensation to specify the Modern Library edition of the "Complete Works of Lewis Carroll"!

(Contributions to Crevice may be sent to the author at 126, Finborough Road, London, S.W. 10, or in care of the editor.)

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(continued from page 3)

H. S. Lavin.

Science fiction makes much of its conformance to (or, at any rate, lack of inconsistency with) present day science, and of the rationality of its own speculations. More usual fiction tacitly accepts, among other realities (and those unacknowledged fantasies that motion picture writers in particular would have us believe are "true to life"), those with which science is concerned. Fantasy ignores science and throws reality (and all pretense thereunto) out the window. It seems to me that s-f and fantasy take off in diametrically opposed directions from fiction in general.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: An essay on A. E. van Vogt's writings by Arthur J. Cox. This will be one of the most important contributions ever made to the literature of science fiction analysis and will occupy about 12 magazine pages. If you should miss this issue. it's my guess our back issue dept. will be hearing from you before long.

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Quotable Correspondence

May I say that in the matter of critical standards for stf. that I think Kemble has the best basis for his remarks? All literature, good literature, is literature of ideas. If these ideas be thrown into a fictional arena as the books of More, Swift, Wells, Butler (all concerned with fictional lands) or presented in the essay form (Bacon, Arnold, etc.), they must still be assessed in terms of their rightness and the form in which they are presented. Swift survives today because of the universals and the timeless contents of that which he presented. A hundred other utopies of his time are forgotten. I feel that the same standards that apply to all literature apply to that branch called science-fiction. And Kemble has listed the main standards in his article. Perhaps there are areas of emphasis that apply to different kinds of fiction: in science - fiction there is usually an implied or overt satire (in the broadest meaning) permeating the narrative. Anyway, it is an interesting subject. Some of your reviewers are so absorbed in particulars that they fail to graps the overall problems. Kemble, however, has found the meat of the matter and presented it damned well, too. I'd like to suggest a good book in this line: Robert Penn Warren's Understanding Fiction. Fred Shroyer

Briefly and to the point:

Change of title. How come to Science Fiction? Fantasy can cover both weird and science fiction, but the latter term seems to exclude the weird, yet seemingly half the books advertised in your publication are weird. Will the weird fans then drop off and the advertisers stop listing such books.

It is a narrow view that separates imaginative literature too cleanly. We are a small enough minority without subdivision!

Book reviews. So some buy the books as they come on the market and to heck with what a reviewer says? I understand their position and envy them. Wish I had the money. For those who wish to select carefully, the fine reviews

you run are a great help.

More important however, is this point. Without such reviews we are just another group of hobbyists. With them, we may claim a place with the best, for where else but in the high quality mags can you find such fine criticism? It is a regular weapon with me in battling the skeptics and converting intelligent gentiles (non readers of SF and Fantasy) to the faith.

Joke last: The November issue may have been a breather but something should be done about such a breath.

Theodore Moore (The name change is for one reason: I don't want the magazine to be overlooked by potential subscribers or publishers' promotion men who have learned the term science fiction. If the "weird fans" drop off, or don't advertise their books, you'll be entitled to one lusty "I told you so!". However, I don't expect it to happen, because (as you and I and the fans know, but the publishers don't) many s-f fans are also

-26-

Quotable Correspondence

weird fans, and a science fiction magazine is a good medium for advertising weird books just as it is for advertising science non - fiction. And although the review and article emphasis will be (as it has been for a year or two) on s-f, SFA's editorial policy will be fully as receptive to discussion of outstanding fantasies as it is to reviews of the kinds of non-fiction that have received attention here. See Dr. Richardson's article in this issue. ed)

I'm betting on your lasting qualities; here's my fivedollars for a life-time subscription.

our rather mercenary culture, I can offer you no higher form of commendation on your publication and its

policies.

Incidentally, whatever your reason may be, I, personally, am wholeheartedly in favor of the change in emphasis that I believe the change in your name portends.

Arthur Levine (I thought the change in emphasis had largely occurred in the past year. ed.)

I've found one of FA'S reviewers I almost always agree with - and two I usually disagree with. They are about equally useful guides.

Del Mason

Incidentally, I also hope that you will reconsider your stand on book reviews. With so many s-f books coming out. intelligent reviews can be very helpful in selecting "musts" - and yours have been consistently intelligent.

Paul Spencer

(There's recently been too much said by editors of amateur and professional magazines alike about the maturity and intelligence of their contributors. This issue I've broken my rule to avoid all such comment - but only to make the point that the book reviews in SFA are thought worthwhile by some readers.) -27-

...ads only tell me where to buy - reviews are very helpful in deciding what. Chuck Helgesen Keep 'em!

... Fantasy Advertiser is certainly more euphonious. several subscribers (Alas, I agree. #ed.)

I enjoy the book reviews very much as they seem to be done by experts. But by all means drop them if they are such a headache and so expensive at times. Perhaps you could get in a few once in a while. Ev Winne (The present plan is to try to review the most significand books and all given us for the purpose. ed.)

November FA, page 5 (Clyde Beck): "In short, science fiction readers...are likely to read serious books."

Page 16 (Stewart Kemble): "Readers of imaginative literature do not have the background and reading knowledge of other forms of literature - such as poetry, plays, essays, novels - from which to form a comparison."

Who's righter? The more or less positive observor? Ben Fletcher

...Mr. Kemble gives himself away when he summarizes our background deficiencies. I find his lack of mention of the sciences, logic, philosophy - or, in a word, any writing not primarily "literary" - most revelatory.

Vartin Bloch

(From the International Fantasy Award Committee)

The scheme for the awards for the best works of Fiction and non-Fiction in the field published in 1951 - to be made early in Spring 1952 - will, it is hoped, this time be based upon a much more representative selection by a great many more adjudicators.

To that end we are asking for your cooperation, and that of your readers, to help judge the works. To provide a sporting interest, we have decided to offer prizes amounting to twenty-five dollars to the three adjudicators placing six works in their correct order of merit, as revealed by

the adjudicators' selection as a whole.

The modus operandi is for all well-wishers, and would-be master-critics, to send us their names and addresses, together with one dollar, its equivalent in International Money Order, or twice its equivalent in good-quality science-fiction or fantasy magazines (for sale for the benefit of the Award). A further 50 & should be sent if a copy of a glossy 10 x 8 photograph of the 1950 Awards is required.

The committee will then record the donor as an Adjudicator, and will forward full details at once, and in December a full list of the 1951 publications for selection, to-

gether with an entry form for the competition.

What's it all about? The answer is simply that we believe that creative fantasy should be encouraged and that work of high standards should be recognized. Other fields of literature and art have their Oscars. Why not Science-Fiction and Fantasy?

Why do we need the money? The Awards, the photographs, the publicity, the stationery, have cost to date something over 150 dollars. The hard work and the loving care was donated free! The financing was guaranteed by the central group of original sponsors, and has been met. So now we need a cash basks to get the selection going for this year.

We feel that we are doing a good job for Fantasy as an

entity, and that all who care will help us.

Leslie Hood

Secretary, Fantasy Award Committee, c/o Fantasy Book Centre, 25 Stoke Newington Road, London, N.16, England

ELEVEN advertisers each had ads in three or more of last year's five issues (or, to even things up, we could count the editor and boast of a full dozen in this group of canny traders). The compiling of further statistics is prominent among the pastimes I find least inviting at the moment, but I imagine that there are various and sundry associated data that might be interestingly manipulated. For one thing, I'm sure these eleven comprise a significant percentage of all the year's advertisers, from which I find one particular conclusion both inexcapable and impressive. Against the possibility that your thought patterns haven't been conditioned to favor SFA (as mine have) allow me to labor the obvious and point out that, to me, it seems certain that those ll advertisers gave us repeat business only because their ads were pulling satisfactorily. I refuse to consider any objection that a 100% successful ad would not need repetition - or should I say that those who didn't repeat must have achieved perfect success! The editor (and pleased advertiser).

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-Index to Fantasy Advertiser's 1951 Issues-

AUTHORS

Barron, Neil: Sept 32 Beck, Clyde: Sept 28, 31: Nov 4 Clarke, Arthur C .: Feb 10: Apr 15 Coblentz. Stanton A .: Feb 5 Cox. Arthur J.: Feb 21: Apr 10: June 5: Sept 4: Nov 11 Elstrom, John: April 23 Evans, E. Everett: Feb 17 Ferguson, Malcolm M.: Apr 24, 27; June 11, 20 Gaybard, Carolyn: June 9. 10: Sept 28 Imbrifer, Dan: Feb 26 Jordan-Smith, Paul: Apr 5 Kelsey, Jack: June 9 Kemble, Stewart: Nov 16 Leadabrand. Russell A .: Apr 27, June 11; Sept 29, 31 Ley, Willy: April 25 MacCarthy, R. W.: Apr 29 Marshall, Jud: Apr 8 Martindale, George D.: Sept 29 Medhurst, R. G.: June 14

Montevideo, Sel: Feb 28 Silverburg, Bob: Feb 22 Squires, R. A.: Feb 28

BOOK REVIEWS

Applied Nuclear Physics Feb 23 Arthur Machen: Weaver of Fantasy, Feb 5 Between Planets. Nov 11 Beyond This Horizon. June 9 The City At World's End. June 9 The Day of the Triffids. June 11 Dreadful Sanctuary. June 11 The Four-Sided Triangle. June 10 Fury, April 10 Galactic Patrol, Feb 17 The Green Hills of Earth, Sept 29 The House That Stood Still, Feb 26 The Human Use of Human Beings, Nov 4 The Illustrated Man.

April 8 Lost Continents, Apr 25 Manhood of Humanity. Feb 21 The Moon is Hell, Sept 28 1950 Fan Directory, Feb 28 Prelude to Space, April 9 Renaissance, Sept 28 Solution T-25, April 27 Space on My Hands, Sep 32 The Stars, Like Dust, April 27 The Toymaker, Sept 31 The Undesired Princess, Sept 31 The Wolf Leader, Feb 28

ARTISTS

Arfstrom, Jon: Feb 8
Austin, Neil: Apr 4, 29;
June 10, 22
Brown, Ken: April 9, 23
Carter, Lin: June 11
Dollens, Morris, Scott:
Apr 6; June, fc, 17;
Sept fc, 17, 19, 20,
21, 22; Nov fc
Gaughan, Jack: April 29
Hunt, Roy: Feb fc; Apr 26
Macoboy, Stirling: Apr fc

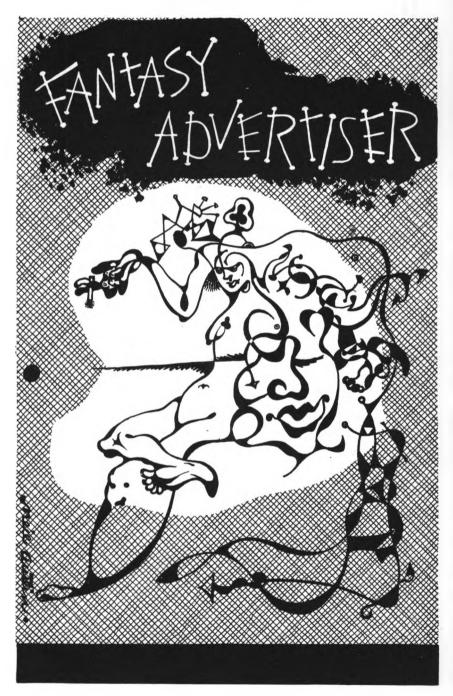
Phillips, Ralph Rayburn: Feb 28; June 19

ARTICLES

Astounding's Science Fiction: Some Changes in Form, Sept 4
Cybernetics, Science Fiction and Society, Nov 4
Evolution of Science Fiction Art, Sept 17
A Short Essay on Long, June 5
Space-Travel in Fact and Fiction, Feb 10, Apr 15
Those Critical Standards, Nov 16

MISCELLANEOUS

The Antiquarian Bookshelf
Feb 21, June 14
Contest Announcement,
Nov 21
Galactic Patrol ms. page,
Feb 19
Fantasy Press Book
Honored, April 24
1950 Fantasy Advertiser
Index, Feb, bc



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