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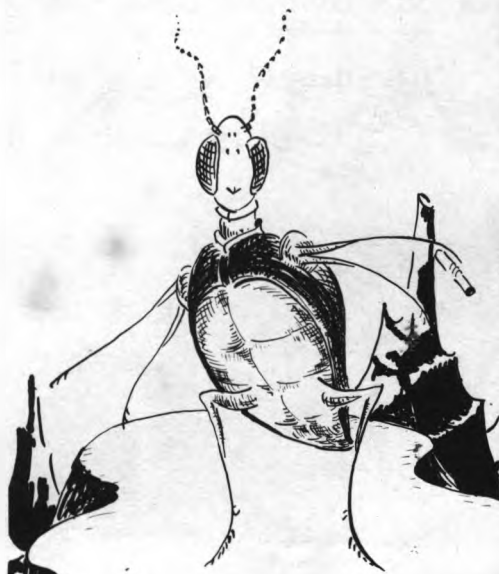
Fantasy Advertiser

15¢



November 1950

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EDITORIAL ADDRESS: 1745 Kenneth Road, Glendale 1, California

November
1950

Volume 4
No. 5

Fantasy Advertiser



15¢ a copy
1s. 1d.

75¢ a year
5s. 4d.

The front cover this issue is by Neil Austin, back cover by Frank Jonbrian. Interior drawings are by Jon Arfstrom, Austin, Ken Brown, Allen Chambers, Jack Gaughan and Jonbrian.

Books are reviewed this issue by Les Holbrook, Malcolm M. Ferguson, Dan Imbrifer, Jack Kelsey, Leo Lemming, Julian Parr, Roger Scott, and the editor.

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CLOSING DATE for copy to be in the next issue: **DECEMBER 15th**

Notes From the Editor

Leave us face it. Fantasy Advertiser slipped---and slipped badly---with this issue. Because of an improbable combination of circumstances there are no lead articles this issue (I'd planned to have two real meaty ones) and the quantity of shorter material somehow doesn't fulfill expectations either. The temptation was great to delay publication about two weeks and thereby eliminate this issue's editorial deficiencies. After all, I reasoned, a year from now few would remember that one issue of FA had been published half a month late, whereas the issue as you now have it will still exist, an anemic testimonial to its publisher's faltering competence. The decision to publish on schedule is necessitated by the one point of FA's editorial policy that is not subject to change, namely, that of giving dependable service to the advertisers. Already we have some small reputation for regularity of publication and are unwilling to sacrifice it to any other consideration.

With the next issue, however, there will be one minor change in publication date. Whereas previously each issue has been mailed to the subscribers early in the month of its date, the next issue will be dated three months later than this one and mailed around the middle of the preceding month. That is, following November the next issue will be dated February and will be published the middle of January. I've given up attempting to lead the date of the issue by gradually advancing the publication date. Initiating the new practice at this time will allow me an extra two weeks to prepare the next issue which, because of the present fumble, promises to be exceptionally large.

Several items of exceptional interest have recently been sent us. The first issue of CHALLENGE, the new poetry magazine featuring subject matter of scientific and science-fictional interest and a symbolic cover by Ralph Rayburn Phillips, upholds all expectations. Obtainable from Avalon World Arts Academy, Rogers, Arkansas, at one dollar a year, and well worth your support.

Issue number one of ROCKET RESEARCH is one of the most elaborate amateur publishing jobs you're likely to see. The issue contains many photographs and a wide variety of articles on rocketry. Published quarterly at 3262 Castera Ave., Glendale 8, California. Current copies, 75¢ each; annual subscriptions, three dollars.

GALLEY, the estimable little magazine published to promote the interests of all little magazines, has recently given a great deal of attention to the s-f fan magazines. The current (Fall 1950) issue includes an article by Stanton Coblenz, "The Science Fiction Little Magazines", which offers many interesting suggestions to the s-f fan publisher. (The previous issue had in it an article by FA's editor discussing the advertising problems of little magazines.) Those of you publishers who have not yet established contact with GALLEY are missing a unique opportunity for publicity and information. GALLEY is published quarterly (\$1.50 a year) by Proof, Inc., Box 190, North Hollywood, California.

Recent issues of these science fiction fan magazines have caused FA's editor to feel a pang or two of jealousy: RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST, \$2.25 a year from 2524 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4, Calif. PEON, single copies free from Charles Lee Riddle, PN1, USN; Fleet All Weather Training Unit, Pacific; c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif. FANSCIENT, six quarterly issues for a dollar, 3435 NE 38th Ave., Portland 13, Oregon. SCIENCE FICTION NEWSLETTER, 50¢ a year, Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.

The three dollar award to the contributor of the drawing voted best in the September issue is Jon Arfstrom who thereby becomes our first two-time winner.

The Auction Report

The two science fiction auctions conducted by mail through Fantasy Advertiser were neither run-away successes nor abject failures. They were the cause of far more labor and expense to me than I would have liked, but all in all were, I think, worthwhile and were accorded enough response to encourage me to conduct another one. The tentative date for it is April---the February issue will carry a confirming or denying announcement---and (don't hold me to this!) plans are brewing for conducting this one in the flesh.

On the whole the prices brought by the auctioned items were under the peak prices we've seen asked. Until now we've had no way of knowing how many of these high prices have actually been paid, however. And as you may remember, 'way back in January when the first auction was announced, I stated that its prime purpose was to bring to light a truer picture of market values of the collector's items in our field.

Values of such things are pretty hard to pin down. Particularly in cases of such items as are seldom offered for sale and for which at any one time there are few prospective purchasers. The prices offered for such an unusual item may vary over a wide range from one sale to another merely because one individual has entered or been eliminated from the market. However, the publication of auction records is one of the most significant guides to market values, especially when, as in the case of FA's auctions, the auctions recorded were conducted with the knowledge of most of the field's collectors. I feel that this magazine is performing a valuable service to science fiction collectors and dealers in publishing the following listing, a service whose value will increase with the publication of prices from additional auctions.

September issue auction prices:

(unpriced lots received no bids or one bid which was not acceptable)

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Lot #2 \$3.11 | Lot #21 \$11.81 | Lot #37 \$7.50 |
| 3 3.85 | 22 1.00 | 38 4.00 |
| 4 .75 | 23 3.00 | 39 10.00 |
| 8 11.81 | 26 1.27 | 41 3.11 |
| 10 1.10 | 29 2.00 | 42 3.15 |
| 12 1.25 | 32 3.61 | 44 2.35 |
| 13 1.25 | 33 3.00 | 45 1.38 |
| 15 2.63 | 34 4.40 | 46 1.23 |
| 17 5.00 | 35 3.00 | 47 5.00 |
| 18 5.00 | 36 3.30 | 48 16.50 |
| 1. \$2.11 | 40. \$2.61 | 43. \$2.11 |
| | | 52 1.25 |

I'm very sorry that the amount of space that would be required has precluded a reprinting of the auction lot descriptions---and that the issues including the auction catalogs are out of print. Editor

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The Voyage of the Space Beagle

by A. E. Van Vogt. Simon & Schuster, 1950; 240 pp., 2.50.

Author Van Vogt takes the logical view that the crew and scientists on a spaceship will be under proportionately greater strain than the members of, say, the Byrd polar expeditions. Added to the undercurrent of bucking among the travellers on the Beagle are conflicts with various plausible but unpredictably potent space creatures.

The story is told from the point of view of overall science coordinator ("Nexialist") Elliott Grosvenor, who believes that the specialists in each particular science can best help in a situation if someone is aboard who knows enough about that science and all the others to plan and ask for the help needed.

From this and other references, it would seem that Van Vogt has developed a suggestion from Oswald Spengler's Decline of the West, just as M.P. Shiel resorted to Henry George for ideas in Lord of the Sea. In neither, however, are we under any obligation to believe in too big a dose of Spengler or George, and such borrowings are to be commended as vital to the inflow of new ideas to s-f.

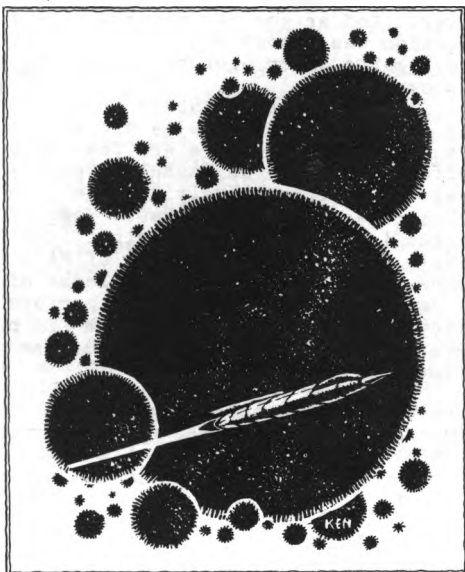
In this story Van Vogt supplies interplay of character, plus interests other than the exclusively mechanical, helping resolve s-f's preoccupation with gadgetry. Recommended.

* * * * *

Perhaps you won't notice, but this title is bound in "boards" -- that is, a paper composite rather than a sized cloth over a similar stiffening fill. This is a good economy move, as this type of binding compares reasonably well in durability with cloth, being used occasionally in special editions on an equal footing with cloth. It is presumably less expensive in this case, for Simon and Schuster is the leading major publisher in saving you money on format modifications, in the least painful way possible.

Incidentally, the problem of dust-wrappers is an annoying one, for the d/w has come to have more appeal and assumed a larger share of book cost, in the s-f field. Often this is at the expense of the book format. The reader finds himself in this dilemma, especially if the d/w is of thin paper: 1.) he must remove the wrapper if he wishes to read the book, lend it or refer to it extensively, or the d/w will get torn. In this case he leaves the book cover naked (or worse than naked if the d/w has an attractive nude on it). 2.) he can preserve his books in a mint condition, borrowing from another collector for reading purposes. The book dealer is coming to set too great a store on mint copies of books, in d/w. A book, like a magazine should stay in one piece through several readings and then permit of being sold as a "good copy." If I am going to buy a book it won't stay mint long. If it's no good I'll throw it at the cat.

Malcolm M. Ferguson



Behind the Flying Saucers by Frank Scully.

Henry Holt, NY, 1950; 230 pp., 2.75.

Frank Scully, like Donald Keyhoe (The Flying Saucers Are Real), tells us that the f.s.'s are of extraterrestrial origin. But unlike Keyhoe's book, which is well-documented, this one must be taken on faith or rejected as so much very bad science fiction. For Scully's principal source of information is a "Dr. Gee" who, for reasons that might be necessary and sufficient, is not identified; and even the willing believers cannot overlook the frequent contradictions and technical errors that would be intolerable in a science fiction story. Inasmuch as these discrepancies have been exposed by several better critics than I, I will here leave my derogatory opinion unsupported. But rather than emulate Scully's methods too closely, I will refer the curious to any of the lengthy dissections of the book by the scientifically-more-erudite-literary-critics, and the credulous to the book itself and its poorly written tale of pint-sized, scale model humans, magnetic propulsion, magnetic "radio" (by means of magnetrons!) and an insufferable quantity of redundant irrelevancies.

Of collateral interest to me are the several laughable reviews of this book that have appeared in national magazines and newspapers, written in some cases by men who have wide and honorable reputations as literary critics. What particularly interests me here is the attitude, implicit in these reviews, that an individual adept at the evaluation of literary work is, ipso facto, a competent judge of technical matters. Could this possibly be the childish semantic error of confusing art with exposition because the written word is the common medium of communication? I'm a literary critic; literature is found in books; this scientific theory is explained in a book; ergo I'm equipped to criticize the theory! This is undoubtedly an unfair simplification, but if you've read these same reviews you'll probably agree that, dictators of public literary taste though some of the critics are, they might have done better to judge the book on its deplorable literary style than the credibility of its statements and theories.

I find in these reviews neat illustrations of a ubiquitous factor which makes the creation of great science fiction a highly improbable event. For it is, to s-f's perhaps ruinous misfortune, almost a truism that the intellectual or man of letters will be virtually unable to comprehend what science is all about. These reviewers of previous reference pass unaware over Scully's basic scientific misconceptions, only to fasten triumphantly upon such a minor matter as the author's faulty arithmetic in a figure of speech. Another reviewer decided Scully was unfit to write upon a technical subject because of his giving field strength measurements in terms of areas. It was the reviewer's certainty (retracted in a later column) that linear measurement is sufficient! Now, such an error is not to be excused merely by lack of knowledge (which in itself would disqualify the reviewer just as he would have disqualified Scully) but shows a deficiency in simple spacial imagery, one of the abilities by which I.Q. is measured. Let me here go out on a limb and state my belief that I.Q. (whatever that is) is something a literary man, or any other artist, can do without. Whatever is the basis for his sort of genius hasn't yet been measured.

There is much that might be said on the subject of literary minds, scientific minds, and that bastard blending of the two, the mind of the science fiction writer. But my purpose here is only to point out what a fiasco can result from literary critics' trying to tear apart a journalist's account of what might have been a scientific subject. And, oh yes, to ask of literary critics in future not to consider themselves judges of the ideas in all books, even though the books are composed of words, which are the tools of, among others, literary craftsmen.

Jack Kelsey

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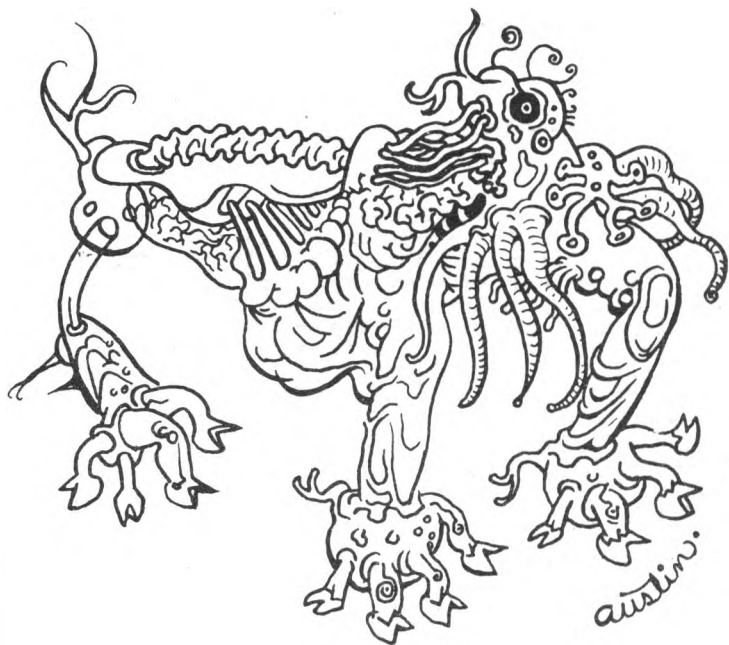
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The Antiquarian Bookshelf

a department conducted by various hands, this month...

by Julian Parr

Auf Zwei Planeten by Kurt Lasswitz.

Germany, 1948, 326 pp. No English translation in print.

Kurt Lasswitz was born 20 April 1848 (this edition being in commemoration of the 100th anniversary) and at the time of his death in 1910 was well known as a scholar, philosopher, and author. Auf Zwei Planeten appeared in 1897 and was obviously influenced by the then novel discussions of the possibility of life on Mars and by the Polar expedition of the Swede Andree, who attempted to reach the north pole in a balloon and eventually disappeared. Lasswitz' mechanics seem a little primitive to us: his space travellers started in a balloon, reached Mars by means of an anti-gravity device; and were there astonished by kitchen sinks which produced breakfasts at the touch of a button; by rocket ships which bore traces of a development from airships, having by-passed the aeroplane stage; by solar powered city machinery; by staggered moving footways; by vehicles moving at 250 mph; by a cinematograph which could project the image of past occurrences on the screen; by huge cities of towers, overhead roadways, and glass structures; by defensive energy screens which stopped earthly shellfire; and by a United States of Mars under an apparently beneficial rule which, however, sent its emissaries to establish a Protectorate over Earth, starting its rule by calling a Peace Conference after ordering world disarmament. After attempts by the humans to protect their "personal freedom", it was discovered that the Martians had brought with them a disease which spread over the Earth. The hero, working with the benevolent Martian Protector, was able to defeat this menace and several others. Eventually the "colonial" idea got the upper hand in the Martian senate: Earth was to become an economic slave-colony. Earth resisted, overthrew the Protectorate, and reached a negotiated peace with a more liberal Martian government. World peace, interplanetary peace, happy ending.... Rather a smooth work for 1897.

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Drawing by

Jon Arfstrom

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REVIEW

VOL. I, No. 1

SUMMER, 1950

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WALTER GILLINGS, Editor

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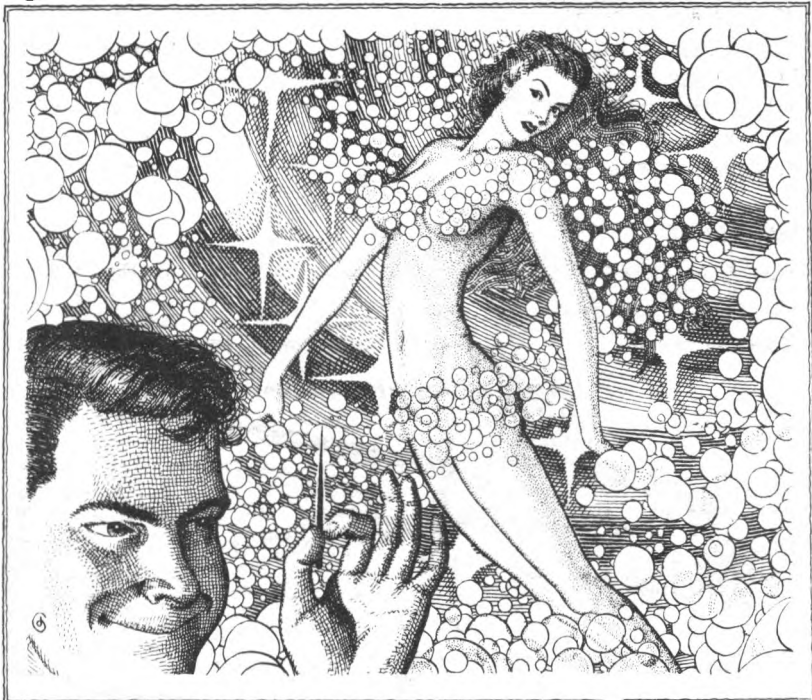
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by Jack Gaughan

(with apologies to the master)



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Arthur C. Clarke, member of the British Interplanetary Society, and of author or some renown, has written INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT - the last available word on the subject of space travel. 1.33

Of interest only, we would also like to mention a British reprint of the Ley and Bonestell work THE CONQUEST OF SPACE. Printed in a Crown 4to, cloth edition, with 160pp & 48 plates (16 in colour) this edition should make a hit in UK, costing only 18/-.

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Available in British editions are Lord Dunsany's two recent works, collections of his short tales: THE MAN WHO ATE THE PHOENIX, & THE FOURTH BOOK OF JORKENS. each 1.30, including postage.

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| | |
|--|-----|
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| Kerruish, J.D. THE UNDYING MONSTER, Allan, London, 1936. fair. | .70 |
| Lambourne, John. THE KINGDOM THAT WAS. Murray, Lond, ex with d/w | 1.00 |
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Big Book of Science Fiction, edited by Groff Conklin.

Crown Publishers, 1950; 545 pp., 3.00.

The quantity of words in this book well warrants the title. My guesstimate is close to one-third of a million words, which in point of quantity makes this the s-f bargain book of the year. As evidence of the far more important factor, quality, here's a list of the book's contents:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| MR. MURPHY OF NEW YORK | McMorrow, Jr. | ONE LEG TOO MANY | Alexander |
| THE DIMINISHING DRAFT | Kaempfert | MAN WITH THE STRANGE HEAD | Breuer |
| A MATTER OF FORM | Gold | DEFENSE MECHANISM | MacLean |
| ISOLATIONIST | Reynolds | MARGIN FOR ERROR | Padgett |
| NOBODY SAW THE SHIP | Leinster | PLANETOID OF DOOM | Colladay |
| MEWHU'S JET | Sturgeon | E FOR EFFORT | Sherred |
| THE OUTER LIMIT | Doar | SHIP THAT TURNED ASIDE | Peyton |
| RAT RACE | de Courcy | MANNA | Phillips |
| DEAR DEVIL | Russell | LONG DAWN | Looyis |
| IN THE YEAR 2889 | Verne | ROGER BACON FORMULA | Prait |
| FOREVER AND THE EARTH | Bradbury | THE WINGS OF NIGHT | del Rey |
| THE MINIATURE | MacDonald | DESERTION | Simak |
| SANITY | Leiber, Jr. | CONTACT, INC. | Osborne |
| THE ONLY THING WE LEARN | Kornbluth | ARENA | Brown |
| NOT WITH A BANG | Knight | CULTURE | Shelton |

& "Peacebringer" by Ward Moore and "Emergency Landing" by Williams.

In "E For Effort", T. L. Sherred spins a powerful yarn about a machine which recreates three-dimensionally any past event. It is used by its inventor and his associates to produce accurate motion pictures of historical events. Their last picture, a documentary of political events prior to and during the war, will appeal to the wishful-thinking facet of every fan's imagination. Sherred's style is smooth, fast-paced, and exceptionally gripping. I'm somehow reminded of James Cain.

Ward Moore (whose novel GREENER THAN YOU THINK is one of the outstanding fantasies of all time) is represented by "Peacebringer", an excellent satire with a bite. The nominal villain of the yarn has discovered an anaesthetising liquid he calls "Paxite" with which he attempts to establish, extra-legally and peacefully, a world government. The whole thing causes one to wonder what this man Moore does that's so all-fired important he doesn't take time to write more stories.

Mr. Conklin anticipates the criticism that will be most often made of the book, "...that it is overweighted with practically current stories. (The) ancients are prone to demand some of their favorites from an earlier age, and complain of discrimination against the 'classics'. They may have something there.

"On the other hand, when I go back over the tales I so fondly remember from the science fiction of the Twenties and the early Thirties, I find most of them today do not live up to my roseate memories of them. Nevertheless, I have included a goodly number of old-timers in the BIG BOOK. The balance is still, I think, acceptably across-the-board, particularly when it is realized that so little of the earlier stuff stands up today, and also that one of my aims has been to represent as many of the new and up-and-coming writers as I could."

One can agree with that opinion and yet maintain that even the comparatively small amount of really good older stories has not been very thoroughly mined by the anthologists. For Mr. Conklin's purpose of presenting the newer writers we have nothing but approval.

Among the older stories is "Mr. Murphy of New York", a most entertaining yarn rescued from the complete oblivion of a 1930 Saturday Evening Post. Though the writing may be dated, the bewildered, voluble Mr. Murphy is a character I'll long remember. For a reason or reasons unknown to me, I had almost forgotten how good Padgett is at his best. "Margin For Error", which presents an extraordinary

The Dreaming Jewels, by Theodore Sturgeon Greenberg: Publisher, 1950; 215 pp., 2.50.

I recommend this fantasy as an ably-written, well-constructed novel, with topnotch characterization and atmosphere. It might be compared in style and treatment to Philip Wylie's Gladiator (I say this to help you pigeonhole it on your shelves, not to show a derivation I don't believe to exist).

The story turns on the old folk-theme of external soul, to which Sir James Frazer gives a volume or so of The Golden Bough. But the idea is as modern as the setting -- a circus carnival.

Theodore Sturgeon has always managed to make his writing interesting and suffused with a human warmth. The plot never thins on us, and there is no heavily faked and extraneous "business" such as characterizes many pulp writers' (and slick writers', to be sure) work.

The dust-wrapper blurbist refers to the dreaming jewels as "from another planet" which did not appear to be so from the text, but their dreams are "Living flesh-and-blood creatures which sometimes don't quite get finished." And this is an interesting concept upon which to hang a yarn... Daniel Imbrifer

Farmer in the Sky, by Robert A. Heinlein. Scribners, 1950; 216 pp., 2.50.

This yarn's for teen-agers, smoothly and accurately written, with particular care as to plausibility regarding space ships and astronomy.

Bill Lermer and Dad are among the colonists to Jupiter's third moon, Ganymede, emigration being prompted by food shortage due to population increase. (If this were an adult book, one would like a fuller explanation why there wasn't a rationing of power as well as food, for could not the energy spent in travel in this advanced time be used for stimulating food growth?)

The trip to Ganymede is accomplished in three ships, first the Bifrost (named for the Norse bridge to Valhalla), lifting to the space-moored, space-built Mayflower, which traverses most of the intervening space and drops its passengers by the ferry, Jitterbug.

A good book for teen-aged readers, with a respectable innocuousness which should endear it to librarians, parents, and others buying books for adolescents. For a fair portion of the book-buyers for younger people have built up in their minds the idea that the circus colobes of the pulps, the brief nod to voluptuous beauty in heroine and hero permeate the pulps with the devil only knows what iniquities. Be that as it may, Mr. Heinlein has a market which he serves very well, and no doubt readers of Farmer in the Sky will seek further in science fiction. Leo Lemming

BIG BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION continued

individual in juxtaposition to a most unusual but convincingly realistic government, fully reestablished my enthusiasm for this author.

Ray Bradbury's story of Thomas Wolfe transported to A.D. 2257 tends to be rather emotional but is withal so forceful that the reader's response will justify the tension. One of his best.*

In the last story, mankind's world ends, in the words of T. S. Eliot, "...not with a bang but a whimper." Ironical as hell.

The library of modern science fiction is significantly enriched because of Groff Conklin's anthologies. He has recently become s-f editor, or some such title, for Grosset & Dunlap, who have announced publication of Lawrence O'Donnell's FURY, so I guess the good work will continue. Les Holbrook-

*I agree, and to date only Bradbury has disagreed with me. Ed.

Science Fiction at Its Best

ROBERT HEINLEIN
Farmer in the Sky *

Illustrated by Clifford Geary

Suppose you and your family were just about to migrate to Gany-
mede, one of Jupiter's moons, on the space ship *Mayflower*?

This is what happens in Robert Heinlein's new science fiction story,
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At a time when there is not enough food to support Earth's popu-
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ing on another planet. We follow their adventures with complete in-
terest, are concerned with young Peggy's gallant efforts to adjust to
the atmosphere of Ganymede, and the welfare of the whole family
in the Great Disaster. As always in Heinlein books, the story is told
with all the scientific accuracy which is due to the author's background
of aviation-engineering.

PREVIOUS BOOKS

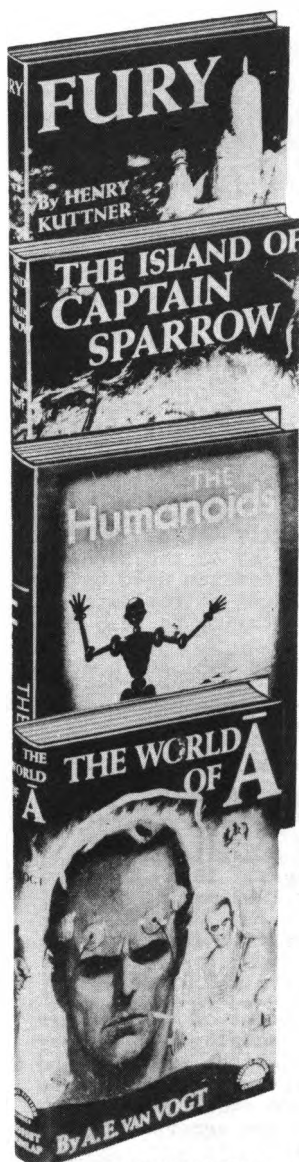
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MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON - \$3 / SPACE CADET and
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GROSSET & DUNLAP, 1107 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

The Best Science Fiction Stories: 1950

Edited by Bleiler & Dikty. Frederick Fell, 1950, 2.95.

The 13 stories presented here are surprisingly lavish with ideas, served up with a prodigal compactness (a paradox to tie your boat to) which is the best possible boost for s-f we could ask. These writers have not padded their yarns, not tried to stretch and graft and reshape them into novels -- not that I'm one bit against novels when they warrant their length, but I must favor the sacrificing writer who refuses to stuff his story with extra words at so many cents per word.

You've already heard good words for Ray Bradbury's Martian Chronicle series, which is represented here by two topnotch stories not in the Doubleday volume -- "Dwellers in Silence" and "The Man". Henry Kuttner's "Private Eye" is the most ingenious piece in the lot to my way of thinking, bearing the most novel implications here. Fredric Brown's "Mouse" is effectively handled, too, while Robert W. Krepp's "Five Years in the Marmalade" has an adroitness suggestive of John Collier's treatment.

Vincent Starrett's introduction should not be missed. His discernment and good taste here as elsewhere are true to the mark. Starrett is followed here by E. F. Bleiler who welcomes an attempt to trace the origin of the theme of Ray Bradbury's extra-ordinary robot family in "Dwellers in Silence". Such tracings are indeed interesting, but each critic will take a different course in this cross-country chase. Starting with Starrett and Bleiler with a double mention of the German Romantic writer E.T.A. Hoffman, I would next pick up the automaton that contemporary Achim von Arnim used in "Isabelle Von Aegypten" -- formed from a mandrake root. Reading such material, Hawthorne may have found sources for his "Feather-top", from which in turn L. Frank Baum quite probably derived his Jack Pumpkinhead in his famous juvenile "The Marvelous Land of Oz".

Since such matters are the critic's vittle and drink, I'm further tempted to ask, re notes on the provocatively titled "Private Eye" yarn, whether you've noticed the eye in the sky on the hindside of the dollar bill (a bit of design suggesting devices used by the Masons) which reprints both the obverse and reverse of the National Seal? (I can just visualize the late Crazy Kat trying to keep "obverse" and "reverse" straight.)

But enough of this prattle; you get the book and see how you like it. Dan Imbrifer

More Case Histories

Cases numbers 3 and 4 in the Harvard Case Histories in Experimental Science series (see editorial in FA's Sept issue) have reached me and in nowise tend to reduce my enthusiasm for the series. The new titles are "The Atomic-Molecular Theory" by Leonard K. Nash (115 pp, \$1.35) and "The Early Development of the Concepts of Temperature and Heat" by Duane Roller (106 pp, \$1.25).

Roughly following the pattern of the first two papers of the series, the present volumes are rich with extractions from the papers and notebooks of the scientists influential in the development of the subject theories. Each of them is, to me, downright fascinating in its exposition of the methods and pro-

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cesses of thought of the earlier scientists, showing where they made their mistakes and why, and what the later influences were that permitted other investigators to avoid the errors of their predecessors.

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Ralph 124C 41+, by Hugo Gernsback. Frederick Fell, 2.50.

This is a remarkable tour de force, deserving of your thoughtful consideration.

Many of its predictions have been fulfilled (already -- though we are so far from the year 2660 that we should often lower author Gernsback's sights half a millenium for him). The heralding of radar and the "hypnobioscope" -- whereby memory retention is facilitated in sleep -- are outstanding. I believe the author has patents in this latter field. Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, 1932, uses this idea too. Microfilm's universal use was prophesied, too, though I have seen specimens of microfilm used during the Seige of Paris in 1870, for pigeon post.

The scientific bases of anti-gravitational forces are discussed for the first time in science fiction in full and logical fashion. Dean Swift and Edward Everett Hale were among Gernsback's predecessors with air-island-cities, though Dr. Hale's city was a real satellite, revolving around the earth at a rate differing from the earth's own -- hence "travelling" in relation to the earth's surface. (See "The Brick Moon" which first appeared in book form in His Level Best, 1873.)

We realize today in reading Ralph 124C 41+ that the inventions are piled one upon the other without having interacted to change the way of life by a fraction as much as will soon have occurred when we have caught up by a little more (or detoured) these inventions. However, this was written in 1911 when we were not as aware as now of the interplay of influences of inventions upon one another and upon social conditions. And even if writers of that day could reasonably have been expected to have such an awareness, author Gernsback certainly had his hands full projecting advances in the various technological fields.

An invention is not a thing in itself simply begetting the next invention in line, as the editors of the Popular Mechanics-type magazines are inclined to show us, but a source of effects in the arts and social sciences which set up entirely new premises and bases for later inventions. Recommended reading in this line is the hard-cover-by textbook A History of Mechanical Inventions by Prof. Abbott P. Usher (1929).

While this review has been critical, I have been stimulated by reading this book, and think you will be, too. Ralph 124C 41+ has been influential in the growth of science fiction. Author Gernsback's style is not stilted; the author rates very highly for verisimilitude in his technical prophecies, and amazingly well for the imagination and study behind them.

Daniel Imbrifer

The following books are in very fine condition (good as new) with d/w, except as noted otherwise. \$2.00 each, ppd.

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THE RAT RACE, no d/w....Franklin
THE PORT OF PERIL.....Kline
MASTERS OF TIME.....van Vogt
GENUS HOMO no dw Miller, De Camp
BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS Scully
OMNIBUS OF TIME.....Farley
FLIGHT INTO SPACE...ed., Wollheim
DON'T INHALE IT!.....Balint
ROCKETS AND JETS.....Zim
\$3.00.....DIANETICS.....\$3.00
\$1.00...THE ATOMIC STORY...\$1.00

R. A. Squires, 1745 Kenneth Road
Glendale 1, California



The Bridge of Light

by A. Hyatt Verrill.

Fantasy Press, 1950, 248 pp, 3.00.

Those inclined to categorize have been known to divide the tales of lost races according to whether the race in point is or is not one known to have existed. The present title is an example of the former and among those of its type (note that this device of definition excludes the books of A. Merritt) is outstanding.

None of the stock characters and plot elements is lacking. The protagonist searches for and finds a Mayan city, isolated for centuries. He becomes a priest of one of the native gods, marries a native girl, and un-

til the story's end is in danger from a rival priest. BUT (all caps) what is significantly distinguishing about this book is the more careful character-drawing, featuring a hero whose actions and thoughts can be accepted by the modern reader, and the obvious familiarity of the author with the culture of the ancient Mayas, which makes for greater realism in the delineation of the "lost" people than one ordinarily finds. Verrill's scholarship is evident throughout but only to the point of making for more interesting, convincing narration.

The story opens rapidly. The actual adventure begins on page 23 after an amazing amount of background has been laid and a noticeable mood of suspense induced. Roger Scott



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 Cash to: S.L. Birchby, 6 Windsor Rd., Levenshulme, Manchester, 19, England.

Science Fiction Classics

Grosset & Dunlap, 1950; \$1 each.

FURY, by Henry Kuttner, 186 pp.
THE HUMANOIDS,

by Jack Williamson, 239 pp.
THE ISLAND OF CAPTAIN SPARROW,

by S. Fowler Wright, 297 pp.
THE WORLD OF A,

by A. E. van Vogt, 246 pp.

As this issue goes to press, the latest books received for review are the first four titles in a new inexpensive series. Of the four, two have recently been published by Simon & Schuster, one (the Wright book) was originally published in 1928 and has been long out of print, and Kuttner's first book under his own name is an honest-to-gosh first edition.

Grosset's s-f editor Conklin has chosen stories which are of interest to the experienced s-f reader such that he'll be glad to have them in hard covers and yet which are of a sort to appeal to the growing market of later discoverers of the stuff. Short introductions to each book have been supplied by the editor.

Format-wise the books resemble G&D's other dollar books, and are worth the money. Look for them (in their colorful dust wrappers) among the reprint fiction if your bookseller hasn't a special s-f section. RAS

Top prices paid for Science-Fantasy magazines and books. Prefer magazines prior 1945.

Need Astoundings prior 1945. Send lists of what you have and describe condition.

I have one of the largest collections of Science-Fantasy in the South.

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Tips for Advertisers...

The next issue, February 51, will in one sense be "special". In imitation of Antiquarian Bookman, a magazine that very ably serves the general used book trade, we'll dignify the issue with the term "Permanent Reference." If enough ads of a "permanent" nature come in to show your interest in this sort of an issue, we'll have one every year. The idea, of course, is to have concentrated in one issue ads of the sort that buyers and sellers will want available for reference throughout the year.

The first example to come to mind is the want ad for books difficult to find. If the issue carries a sufficient number of these, booksellers will probably check the listings against their stocks at occasional intervals instead of only once.

Publishers who don't issue catalogs regularly might find it worthwhile to have their backlists published in this issue. Collectors and dealers both would then have a compact reference to what is in print in s-f.

And fan clubs, if you intend at any time to use advertising to gain members, this issue'll be your best bet.

We've had little success in the past at interesting those who provide such special services as bookplate designing, book and magazine binding, printing, reference tools, etc. However, and if ever, now's the time.

Let it not be inferred that ads of more ephemeral significance will not be welcome. The permanent type ads surely won't crowd the issue!

The February issue will go out soon after Christmas. And although for many of us that will be a time of minimum book-buying, I hope you advertising booksellers won't overlook the fact that many of FA's readers are still of an age to be principally on the receiving end of the holiday. Surely you could do worse than to place temptation before them via the pages of Fantasy Advertiser.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Key to classified advertisers:
 Da Roger N. Dard, 232 James St.,
 Perth Western Australia
 Ke Harold F. Keating, 7 Arnold
 St., Quincy 69, Mass.
 Le R. A. Leadabrand, 1505
 Topeka, Pasadena 7, Calif.
 Lo Glenn Lord, 702 E. Belmont,
 Pasadena, Texas
 Sq R. A. Squires, 1745 Kenneth
 Rd., Glendale 1, Calif.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR SALE

BEST, 25th Hour, 1st, \$3.50 Lo
 DOYLE, Lost World, v.g. \$2.00 Lo
 WELLS, 7 Famous Novels, \$2.00 Sq

Stf Treasure Box, 20x10x5 inches
 Contains 26 mags, 6 pocket books
 16 Little Blue Books, fine shape
 All for \$6.00 or will sell sep-
 arately. Write for complete list
 of contents.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES WANTED

| | |
|--|----|
| AMAZING ANNUAL, 1927 | Da |
| AMAZING QUARTERLIES (many) | Da |
| COLLIER, His Monkey Wife | Le |
| ERSKINE, Solomon, My Son | Sq |
| FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, Quarter- lies, 1941-1947 | Da |
| F.N.s, 48 & 49, good cond. | Lo |
| FANTASY COMMENTATORS, V. 1 No. 1 Dec 43, V. 1 No. 4 Dec 44, V. 1 No. 10 Spring 46, V. 2 No. 3 Summer 47, V. 2 No. 6 Spring 48. | Ke |
| JASTROW, History Human Error | Sq |
| PITKIN, Short Introduction to History of Human Stupidity | Sq |
| POINCARÉ, Outlines of Science | Sq |
| USHER, Abbott P. A History of Mechanical Inventions | Sq |
| WALFORD, Twisted Clay | Le |
| WONDER QUARTERLIES, any | Da |

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 7144 Kedron St. Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLASSIFIED SECTION FEES:

(The Classified Section is open to subscribers only.)

Wants, 5¢ per line; all other classifications, 10¢ per line (count
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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO EXCHANGE

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Will sell other scarce ERB.

Write: Paul Latimer

4151 Greenwood, Oakland 2, Calif

PUBLISHERS' CATALOGS WANTED

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Scientific Sq

ADVERTISEMENTS WANTED

Your want ad in this space next issue. Someone probably has what you need, but is just as lazy about advertising it for sale as you have been in advertising for it.

During 1950 we've lost track of the following subscribers. Their copies of the magazine were returned with the indication that the Post Office had no forwarding addresses for them. It'd be much appreciated by FA if you'd bring the matter to the attention of any of these subscribers who may be known to you. Their subscriptions'll be continued to the extent of their credit if they'll supply addresses.

G.J. Adams, Garvin Berry, N.J. Bowman, Harold W. Cheney, Jr., Theodore R. Cogswell, Bob Coleman, Vernell Corriell, James B. Cullum, Jr, Thomas P. Curran, Decil, Richard Enos, O.G. Estes, Jr., Bob Farnham, Robert A. Fewel, Robert Gay, Andrew Gregg, Jim Hamm, Harold (Springfield, Oregon), John Harvey, Nina Hedrick, W.L. Holmes, Glenn Housh, R.E. Keyser, Richard McLellan, James S. Morton, O.C. Nielsen, Heway Nundocha, Frederick I. Ordway, Robert R. Reed, Thomas M. Sawrie, Virginia L. Shawl, Eldred Smith, Robert J. Smith, William Stolze, Mark Walsted, R.E. Wright, John York, William Young. Thankee.

WANTED: material for a bibliography of bibliographies. If you know of any serious, competent work of bibliography in the science-fiction or fantasy fields (other than such well-known sources as Bleiler, Bailey, Lovecraft, Morse, and Nicolson) please send us the pertinent data and a brief resume of the work's coverage. We'd like to include in this reference such fan-published material as magazine indices and other listings that are reasonably complete within their intended limits. Publishers of any such which are still in print please supply addresses and prices, and copies if you wish them reviewed. Thankee.

FANTASY ADVERTISER

1745 KENNETH ROAD
GLENDALE 1, CALIFORNIA

The Fantasy Writers of America

The Fantasy Writers of America is an organization of published writers in the fantasy and science fiction fields. Its purposes are 1) shoptalk and mutual assistance for writers in these fields; 2) aiding the rise in popularity of these fields in every possible way -- special awards, anthologies, intelligent publicity, and so on, as well as the direct encouragement of high standards in the fields; 3) securing better conditions in relation to rates and rights than the individual writer can do himself. Interested writers are invited to get in touch with the West Coast Secretary, Forry Ackerman; Mid-west Secretary, Bob Tucker; or East Coast Secretary (and temporary chairman), Theodore Sturgeon.

When ordering from booksellers and publishers, please mention having seen their ad in Fantasy Advertiser. If you haven't seen their ad here, er, you might say something about that, too.

FANTASY ADVERTISER

November
1950

