

1955 In Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

(Read The Conclusion -- Starting On Page Three)

Fifteenth Year Of Publication

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"



"HUGO"
1955

Vol. 11 - No. 240

First February 1956 Issue

Ten Cents

ALEX SAMALMAN

DEAD AT 51

New York, NY, 20 January, (CNS) - Alex Samalman, last editor of Standard Magazines' science-fiction magazines, died in his sleep this morning at the age of 51. Mr. Samalman had been employed by Standard Magazines for 28 years.

Mr. Samalman entered the science-fiction editing picture in June of 1954 when Sam Mines resigned that position. Before that he had authored a few science-fiction short stories which were all published in Standard Magazines.

At the time he took over Standard's three science-fiction magazines, Thrilling Wonder Stories, Startling Stories, and Fantastic Story Magazine, they were all quarterly. Early last year, Samalman combined all three into Startling Stories. Startling Stories was discontinued last Fall.

All who knew Alex will miss him, we of Fantasy-Times only knew him a short time, but even in that short time (concluded on page 2, column 2)

MRS. NAT SCHACHNER NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Leo Margulies

New York, NY, 30 January, (CNS) - As you know, one of the early very-greats of science-fiction, Mr. Nathan Schachner, passed away recently*. He was one of my oldest and best friends and even though I've been in this word-business for an adult lifetime I can't find the words to express my deep sorrow.

One of the many things he left to his wife, Helen Schachner, besides her memories of a loving, gentle and kindly husband, was a legacy of thousands of words of science-fiction. But, unfortunately, he left no copies of his many stories.

Mrs. Schachner would like to have (concluded on page 6, column 1)

*See Fantasy-Times #236.

The Newspaper Of The Science-Fiction Field

New Mexican SF Mag Out

by I. L. Jacobs

San Diego, Calif., 1 January, (CNS) - A new science-fiction magazine has appeared in Mexico. It is a reprint of US stories appearing in Standard Magazines, (Thrilling Wonder, Startling, etc.) It's a standard pulp in size, 128 pages, smooth edges and costs 3 Pesos (about 25¢ USA). It is published by Editorial Proteo, S.A., Orizaba 78, Mexico City, Mexico. To date it has published five monthly issues. It is called Enigmas.

I have retranslated the titles from Spanish to English, and they are all probably a bit different from what they were originally titled. They all should be recognizable to you people, who probably have title indexes of author's works to help you identify ones you don't recognize off hand.

Vol. 1 - No. 1 - August 1955

"The Dawn Of The Flame" and "The Black Flame" (novels) by Stanley G. Weinbaum, "Strange Ending" by J. M. Grove, "The Third Alternative" by Sam Merwin, Jr., and "The Inhabited Universe" (article) by James Blish.

Vol. 1 - No. 2 - September 1955

"The Dolls Of Vulcan" (novel) by Margaret St. Clair, "Martian Colonists" by Laurence Manning, "A Violation Of The Rules" by Fletcher Pratt, "The Subversives" by Chad Oliver, "The First Spaceman" by Gene L. Henderson, "Shadows" by Leigh Brackett, "Rockets Without Pilots" (article) by Willy Ley, "Your Eyes And The Nebulae Of Andromeda" (unsigned short article) and "Memories -- Of The Future" by William Ratrgan.

Vol. 1 - No. 3 - October 1955

"The Bird Of Time" (novel) by Wallace West, "A Visitor On Polix" by Kendall Foster Crossen, "Fifth Kokod Warriors" by Jack Vance, "The Test Of The Cross" by Paul Lawrence Payne, "Do You Know Your Brother?" by Graham Doar, and

"Stellar Populations" (article) by R. S. Richardson.

Vol. 1 - No. 4 - November 1955

"On March Toward The Sun" (novel) by Murray Leinster, "The Conquest Of The Moon" by Bryce Walton, "The World Thinker" by Jack Vance, "The Frozen Man" by Winston Marcks, "The Exiles On Mars" by R. Y. Bradbury, "From The Present To Five Million Years From Now" (article) by Carter Sprague, "Redhead From Another World" by John D. MacDonald, "How Pete Manx Humiliated The Amazons" by Kelvin Kent, and "A Family Matter" by Walter M. Miller, Jr.

Vol. 1 - No. 5 - December 1955

"Against The Black Night" (novel) by Arthur C. Clarke, "The Isotopic Men" by Festus Pragnell, "McInch The Inexplicable" by Jack Vance, "The Dwelling Of Moebius" by Robert Donald Locke, "I'm Stubborn Too" by Robert Moore Williams, "Work And Play" (article) by The Editors, "Unmerciful Heavens" (article) by Carter Sprague, and "Cosmic Anxieties" (article) by The Editors.

Vol. 1 - No. 6 - January 1956

Will contain: "Flying Brains" by Joseph J. Millard, "The Girl From The Year 2957" by Kendall Foster Crossen, "Wolves In Sheep Clothing" by Alan E. Nourse, "Decisive Factor" by Paul Lawrence Payne, and others.

ALEX SAMALMAN DEAD AT 51

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

found him to be one of the most likable and cooperative editor in the field. He went out of his way to help us with news-items for Fantasy Times and with the Frvets.

ATTENTION FAN MAG EDITORS: Those of you who send Rog Phillips your mags to be reviewed, should send them in the future, to his new address: Rog Phillips Richmond Commercial School & Lettershop, 1207 Nevin Ave., Richmond, Calif.

1955 In Science Fiction

by by Thomas S. Gardner

(In Two Parts -- Part Two)

S TARTLING STORIES, 4 issues. (Discontinued.) One would think that a publishing house that goes from five publications to one in the same field would have super-duper stories in the one. Wrong. These four issues highlight the actual and real decline of writing in science-fiction. Walton's "Too Late For Eternity" is probably the best story. Next is Young's "Jungle Doctor". Unfortunately the short stories are uniformly below the longer stories in quality.

● Fantastic Story, 2 issues. (Suspended.) Mostly reprints. Stearn's "The Blue Primroses" is clever. The reprints are fairly well selected. Weinbaum's "Pygmalion's Spectacles" is still good.

● Stories Annual, 1 issue. (No issue planned for this year.) Should this magazine be included? About one fourth is SF. However, nothing outstanding.

● Thrilling Wonder Stories, 1 issue. (Discontinued.) Margaret St. Clair's "Crescendo" is the best story, a fantasy.

IN MEMORIAM

The Standard Magazines have made history in science-fiction. They have published many good stories, and will never be forgotten. There is an outside chance that they will not issue any more in science-fiction, at least not for a while. I regret to see them go, but under the circumstances I believe their decisions are wisely made. Vale! They have had good and poor editors, good and poor writers, but time has caught up with them. Vale!

● Science Fiction Quarterly, 4 issues. This magazine holds up remarkably well for fast, action stories. The departments and articles are interesting. Irony! Read master writer Kornbluth's "The Adventurers". Morwin should develop his humor writing - see "The Eye

PART TWO of Fantasy-Times' famous annual sf magazine report by Dr. Thomas S. Gardner. Dr. Gardner's reports are always welcomed by our readers and form a base on "What Happened During The Year". Dr. Gardner has the "honor" of having one professional editor tell us that if we got rid of Dr. Gardner, he'd get us one of the biggest name in the professional field to do the job. Naturally we refused. -eds

In "The Window". I believe he might shine in that field, just as Pohl and Kornbluth are tops in social satire now. The survival of SFQ is proof that reading well, without being great, can still sell.

● The Original Science Fiction Stories 6 issues. Orchids and lots of them to editor Bob Lowndes for this mag. He has done a good job, and his mag here rates in class A as noted above*. Simak's "Full Cycle" is very good. In fact I recommend all issues. I must mention Jones' "Gift Of The Gods", and Pease's "Ripeness". Good writing makes this mag a must, as well as good stories. It is not written as well as MFSF, but who can beat that?

● Planet Stories, 3 issues. (Discontinued.) A long overdue wake for PS. Actually PS is about as good in some ways as ever, but people demand more now than 15 years ago. e.g., Brackett's "Teleportess Of Alpha C" is just as good

*see Fantasy-Times #239.

in 1955 as if written in 1954. Adventure on a lower level than SF Quarterly is 1955's ES contribution.

① Spaceway Science Fiction, 3 issues, in spite of February 1955 being dated inside as February 1954. (Discontinued.) The stories are neither good nor bad. I would like to see the completion of Evan's "Stairway Into Mars", and Farley's "The Radio Minds Of Mars", as mediocre as they are. The featuring of Criswell's prediction has had some thing to do, in my opinion, with the failure of this magazine. SF fans have been bitten too often to be misled very long now. Smith's "Towers of Silence" is a grim story. Best story is Kelly's "Igor", a story to end all vampire stories.

① Amazing Stories, 7 issues. One must hand it to editor Browne for trying. He is willing to experiment in hopes of better sales. This year shows some improvement in over-all quality, but I get a bad feeling that he needs more mature plot treatment. Also I get the impression that two or three people are doing most of the writing under different names. Is this possible? If so, it may account for a certain juvenile development of really good plots. Leinster's "Psionic Mousetrap" is well done. Jorgensen's "Two To The Stars" is in line with good action SF. Costello's "The Chained Man" has a different slant on justice. Fairman has done a good job in "One Man To Kill". I do not care for the Johnny Mayhem stories.

① Fantastic, 6 issues. Fantastic is doing better by turning to SF, and also emphasizing a subtle role of sex in stories. Instead of recommending stories pick up any issue and read it, not as super -- dooper great fantasy or SF, but as recreation reading, using some action, sometimes good plots, with a dash of sex once and a while, and interesting situations sometimes. There is a place for a magazine of this type.

① Fantastic Universe Science Fiction 12 issues. The hardness of this magazine is fantastic. When other magazines are drawing in their horns, Fantastic Universe is still a monthly, without much change in quality*. The

covers are usually intriguing. I have heard quite a number of complaints from the very short form of story used, but is that the reason that FU can stand a monthly schedule? Anyway, the stories are fair, seldom great, seldom stink, and usually if one is very bad can be quickly read and a new story tried. That is one advantage of the short form. Guin's "Unhappy Man" is quite well done. Del Rey's "In The Still Waters" is delicately handled, and worth your time. A chilly piece, not always subtle, is Morrison's "Hiding Place". Sam Merwin is developing a refreshing style, e. g., "The Man From The Flying Saucer". His humor is going over in many of his stories. Howard & de Camp's Conan stories are a pleasant fare, although they should not become too monotonous. Surly Conan should have some real plot development and real antagonists rather than over night affairs.

① Infinity Science Fiction, 1 issue. Recommended. Don't fail to read Clarke's "The Star". All stories are better than average. If this keeps up will definitely be in Class B, and a good chance for Class A magazines.

① If, 9 issues. Congratulations to If. A good year, and in Class A. Nearly all stories recommended. Knight's "Earth Quarter" is a good example of the high type of material. So for Dickson's "The Old Ones", Anderson's "Snowball" is a lesson in economics that many forget, and in politics by Asinov's "Franchise".

① AND special class, Mystic, 5 issues. This magazine has all the ear marks of a hobby. The editor does not like to have it classed as fiction, but if one reads it, the impression is fiction as a kinder classification. The quality remains the same as usual. Material classified as fiction by the editor could be improved by a more objective treatment.

(concluded on page 6, column 1)

*We have it on the highest possible source that Fantastic Universe has the 2nd highest circulation in the field.

RED FACES

THE BIG "BOO-BOO" OF 1956

by James V. Taurasi, Sr.

New York, NY, 5 February, (CNS) - Science-fiction fandom has made plenty of Boo-Boos in its time, we make plenty in Fantasy-Times, but when the professional end of the field makes a Boo-Boo, it's a honey. And, when they make it en-mass, it's "out of this world"! Settle down now folks and let us tell you of the big Boo-Boo of 1956.

Actually it all started when Astounding carried the SF Book Club ad on the back cover of their December 1955 issue. It carried a top-banner of: "Given To Readers Of Astounding Science Fiction". This added touch to the ad no doubt was felt gave an extra boost to it. But this added line has caused many editors and publishers to hide their faces and walk the back streets, AND has given Astounding untold free publicity.

Next in our drama, the March 1956 issue of Galaxy Science Fiction came out. Like always we read a few stories looked over the art work and that was that. But not so our co-editor Ray Van Houten; he looked at the back page ad. Yep, you guessed it, there on the back cover of Galaxy was the statement "Given To Readers Of Astounding Science Fiction". Ray called us up, we looked, and checked further. Yes sir, the back cover of Fantastic Universe -- same thing.

We called up our good friends Leo-Margulies of Fantastic Universe, and Bob Guinn of Galaxy. Same procedure was used. "Got the March issue of your mag handy?" "Yes", came the answer, "Why?". "Look at your back cover!" Cries of anguish came back over the phone. No they had never noticed!

Then came the final stroke of the hand of Fate. We went to see Howard Browne to pick up his editorial for the 30th Anniversary, April issue, of Amazing to run in this issue. We told him of the Ad. "You haven't run that Ad as yet", we told Howard, "Check your coming issues." "Yipe" squeaked Browne as he leaped for a huge sheet of print-



FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

GALAXY NOVEL

Rumors began floating around at the beginning of this year that Galaxy Novel had folded, and that issue #25 was the last. We checked on this, as we do with all reports and Mr. Guinn assures us that the magazine has not been dropped. He furnished us with the following information on the next two issues:

#26 will be "Chessboard Planet" by Lewis Padgett, will have a cover by Emsch and should be out early in March.

#27 will be "Tarnished Utopia" by Malcolm Jameson, cover by Emsch, and should be on sale at the end of May.

THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- April 1956 issue

"No Man Pursued" (novelet) by Ward Moore
"The United States Air Force Unidentified Aerial Objects" (article), "The Spaceman Cometh" by Henry Gregor Felsen
"I Kiss Your Shadow" by Robert Bloch,
"The Motorman's Glove" by Eric St. Clair,
"Operation Opera" by Tom Godwin,
"Recommended Reading" (department) by Anthony Boucher, "Don't Fence Me In" by Richard Wilson, "On Camera" by John Novotny, "Shock Treatment" (novelet) by J. Francis McComas, and "The Incredulity Of Colonel Munch" by Claud Cockburn.

ed covers for the forthcoming June Fantastic. Eagerly, Paul Fairman, Browne and us looked them over. "Oh No" shouted Howard, "It's In!" There it was, but this time on the 3rd cover and not the back cover. Rolling up the huge sheet, and almost knocking down Rogoff with it he rushed out of the room to have the printing of that Ad stopped. A moment later he was back, a sad, sad look on his face. No dice, it had already been printed. Look for it on the June issue.

(concluded on page 6, column 2)

MRS. NAT SCHACHNER NEEDS YOUR HELP
(concluded from page 1, column 2)

at least two copies of each issue containing stories by her husband. For, Helen Schachner has the fortunate opportunity of having some of Nat's outstanding stories reprinted - in various forms. But her files are lamentably empty. She does not even have a complete list of his published stories.

I have been asked by Mrs. Schachner to help her not only procure a complete list of his material but to obtain the missing copies. So - in memory of Nathan Schachner I call upon Fandom to come to her rescue. There must be among the many fans who read your remarkable Fantasy-Times a few who can help her. As far as a list of his stories in the science-fiction magazines is concerned, I happen to have that for her; for I've Mr. Donald B. Day's "Index to the Science-Fiction Magazines". But I do not have a list of those stories that were published in the magazines not covered by Mr. Day. I'd like to have that.

And, now, I'd like to know from those kindly sources who may want to be of assistance in helping me secure copies of his stories for Mrs. Schachner - what prices she would have to pay for them.

Thanks muchly for your anticipated cooperation.

(Editorial Note: Those who can help Mr. Margulies obtain the required magazines with Mr. Nat Schachner's stories, and those who have a list of Mr. Schachner's stories not published in the regular science-fiction magazines, should send the information to Leo Margulies, King-Size Publications, Inc. 471 Park Avenue New York 22, New York. Fantasy-Times is cooperating with its complete files of SF magazines and hopes that its readers will do the same. -eds)

1955 IN SCIENCE FICTION
(concluded from page 4, column 2)

In 1955, 21 titles* were published with 117 issues. Of these 14 titles

*Not including Stories Annual or Mystic and counting Universe SF and Other Worlds as two titles.

are still in the running. 1954 had 27 titles with 150 issues; and 1953 had 38 titles with 185 issues. Still too many titles and too many issues. My theory is that with about 8 - 10 titles with not over 100 issues, about 75 is better; good material should be expected in each issue all the time. If I am wrong and the quality does not improve, then the probability of the complete death of SF is eminent. If I have left anyone out please let me know.

PREDICTION FOR 1956

About five more titles will not appear in 1956, and the issues will probably drop to under 100. I hope the quality goes up correspondingly, but have some doubt after this year.

THE END

RED FACES
(concluded from page 5, column 2)

"Hey", we exclaimed as a thought came to us, "The June Fantastic comes out at the same time as your April, 30th Anniversary issue, of Amazing. Check that issue!" Browne picked up the phone and checked. "Oh No, not on that issue", he yelled. Yes that issue, of all issues, also carried the delightful line, "Given to Readers of Astounding Science Fiction." But here luck was with Howard. Since there had been changes on the cover up to the last possible moment, because it was a special issue, maybe it had not yet been printed. But it was at the production office in Chicago. A quick call to Chicago proved that indeed fate was with us, NO that issue's covers had not been as yet printed. Arrangements were quickly made to chop the offending line out, and Fantasy-Times had once more, as many times passed, saved the day.

"I don't mind giving my friend John W. Campbell, a free Ad", stated Mr. Browne, "but I don't think Ziff-Davis would like it."

All the above magazines, and a few more, are all printed by the same printer in good old Brooklyn.

Our thanks to our book reviewer now on leave to California, Bill Blackbeard, who also caught the Boo-Boo, and quickly notified us.

"AMAZING'S" 30TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

by Howard Browne

YOU NOW hold in your hands the 30th Anniversary issue of Amazing Stories. You picked it up for one of several of the following reasons: a) it was only slightly thicker than the Boston telephone directory, b) its cover was the most eye-catching item on the stand, c) you'd been looking forward to this particular issue for months, d) you were impressed by the caliber of the people whose names appeared on the right-hand portion of the cover, or e) you had nothing to do than hang around newsstands and paw the merchandise.

WHATEVER THE reason(s), you've got hold of it. It contains fourteen stories and one article from the files of Amazing Stories dating back thirty years - or more specifically, between 1927 and 1942. In addition, it contains an imposing list of articles by world-renowned figures in almost every conceivable field of endeavor - articles with a single theme: "What will the world be like in the year 2001?"

WHEN YOU finish reading this 30th Anniversary issue, you're going to have some questions. For one thing, you'll probably want to know why your particular favorites of that period were not included. Understandably, you may get a little huffy because they were left out. Let's answer that one right now.

TO BEGIN with, many of the best stories of those years were far too long to include, if we were to put together enough titles to make this collection at all representative. On other favorites, we did not control reprint rights and were unable to obtain such permission from the authors involved.

ANOTHER QUESTION you may ask is by what standard we made the selections we did. Very simply our sole standard was how entertaining was the story. Frankly we were appalled by the deadly monotony of style in many of the so-called classics of the Thirties, which will explain why only three of the stories in this collection are from that period.

WHEN, IN 1938, Ray Palmer became Managing Editor of Amazing Stories, the entertainment side of science fiction took over - and the result was some of the most exciting story material we've

had the pleasure of floating through. Gone were the ponderous styles, the verbiage, the highly technical explanations of what mattered little in the first place. The stories took on pace and excitement, the characters in them were faced with human problems, the dialogue was realistic...all the factors we take for granted today. That's why nine of the fourteen stories in this issue are from the early days of Palmer's editorship.

THE REST of the magazine is taken up with forecasts of what the world will be like when Amazing Stories brings out its Diamond Jubilee issue. A good many very prominent people were kind enough to give us their time and their imaginations - and we feel that what they had to say will be of real
(concluded on page 8, column 1)

IT WAS only a few months ago we were allowed to present to our readers an editorial from Amazing Stories that marked a milestone in science-fiction's oldest magazine. Now again we present another editorial by Howard Browne, and it also marks a milestone for Amazing Stories. This editorial will be found in the April 1956, 30th Anniversary issue, of Amazing Stories, on sale on March 8th. It will be a collector's item, of interest to the old-timers in the field, and to the new-comers.

MAY FANTASY-TIMES be honored to present an advance printing of the April 1956 editorial of Amazing Stories.
-The Editors

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 11 - #240

1st Feb. '56

Published twice-a-month by FANDOM HOUSE

Subscription Rates:

USA & CANADA: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1
or \$2 a year (24 issues). Permanent
subscription \$10. FANDOM HOUSE, P.O.
Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.
BRITISH: 9d per copy, 12s0d per year,
from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria
Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

AUSTRALIA: One Shilling per copy, 10
Shillings for 12 issues, One Pound for
24 issues, from ROGER DARD, Box S1387,
G.P.O. PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ADVERTISEMENTS: \$5 full page, \$3 per
half page.

James V. Taurasi, Sr., & Ray Van Houten
Editors and Publishers.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!
(Fandom House established 1937)

AMAZING'S 30th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
(concluded from page 7, column 2)

interest to you. What we cannot por-
tray is the tremendous effort that went
into arranging those interviews, for
one does not simply telephone a man
such as General Carlos Romulo, for ex-
ample, and say, "Hi, General. How about
my dropping around and asking you some

FANDOM HOUSE

Publishers of "Fantasy-Times"
P. O. Box #2331
Paterson 23, New Jersey

PRINTED MATTER

Form 3547 Requested
All Required Postage Guaranteed

questions about life forty-five years
from now?" No sir! You got to go th-
rough public relations men and women, a
few secretaries, and so on - and maybe
you never succeed in making the grade
at all. But we kept at it with unflag-
ging (well - almost unflagging) zeal
and determination. As a result, the
30th Anniversary Issue of Amazing Star-
log features a list of distinguished
contributors such as few magazines in
any category has ever attained.

A WORD about the illustrations.
Each is a brand-new drawing, depicting
the same scene originally used when the
story was first published. Altogether,
there are some forty illustrations, mak-
ing this issue the most heavily illus-
trated in our history.

IT REQUIRED almost four months of
relentless effort to put this 30th An-
niversary Issue together. Just how many
hundreds of thousands of words were
read by your editor, how many hours of
conferences were held with printers,
artists, department heads, etc., cannot
be computed. The desk lamps burned far
into many nights in our Madison Avenue
offices, and a lot of tempers got fray-
ed before the final okay on the final
page was sent off to the printer.

The End

FANTASY-TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ a word, including name & address, 25
words minimum, remittance must be sent
with order.

WANTED: Mint or almost Mint copy of
Tuck's Handbook. John Wasso, 119 Jack-
son Ave., Pen Argyle, Pa.



Franklin M Dietz Jr ft-245
Apt 309
101 West 109th St
New York 25 NY