



# Fantasy-Times

*The World Of Tomorrow Today!*



( Sixteenth Year Of Publication )

Vol. 11 - No. 260

First December 1956 Issue

10 Cents

## Standard Mags May Re-enter S-F Field With A Digest

Flushing, NY, 16 November, (CNS) - From a very reliable source we learned today that Standard Magazines, Inc., were seriously thinking of re-entering the science-fiction field once again. If they do come in, the source stated, it will be with a digest-size magazine, 130 pages, 35¢ etc, and not with a pulp size mag. Although no title has been discussed, it is understood that it would be either Thrilling Wonder Stories or Startling Stories. Actually the report goes on, a l l this is in the "talk" stage and no actual plans have been made.

We contacted Jim Hendryx, Jr., the present pulp magazine editor at Standard and asked him about the "rumor". His statement was a simple, "No comment".

Standard Magazines took over Hugo (concluded on page 4, column 1)

"FIRST WORLD OF IF"  
FEATURES 160 PAGES,  
20 STORIES, HUNTER  
COVER & 50¢ PRICE

"IF" ANTHOLOGY OUT EARLY IN JANUARY

Kingston, NY, 15 November, (CNS) - Publisher James L. Quinn announced full details today on his paper-backed anthology that should be on the stands approx. January 12th, 1957.

The complete name is THE FIRST WORLD OF IF. The size will be 5 3/8" (concluded on page 4, column 1)

Merry Christmas To All!



# Forry Celebrates 40th Birthday With 2 Parties

Los Angeles, Calif., 26 Nov. 1956 (CMS)

The 9 year old boy who picked up a science fiction magazine in 1926 and never laid it down joined the "Life Begins" Brigade over the weekend.

One hundred and two fans, friends and writers were with him on his 40th birthday, 24 Nov 56, from 8 in the evening till 2am, an additional 83 attending his second party the following nite starting at 7pm.

The rolloccall of celebrities at both occasions included Ray Bradbury, AE van Vogt, Kris Neville, Paul Blaisdell, Ib Melchior, Ray Banks, Sam Merwin, Chas Beaumont, Frank Quattrocchi, Mark Clifton, Sherwood Springer, Helen Urban, Winona McClintic, Gene Hunter, Ed Clinton, Frank Riley, Thelma Hamm, EEEvans, Arthur K. Barnes, and Morris Scott Dollens.

Charles D. Hornig, one of Forry's oldest friends in the field, came 400 miles for the occasion.

Prominent fans included Len Moffatt, Rick Sneary, Roy Squires, Stan Woolston, Geo Fields, Chas Nuetzel, Tad Duke and Walt Liebscher.

Among the movie personalities were Anna Sten, Eugene Frenke, Ray Harryhausen, Vincent Sherman, Barbara Orme, Gisele Verlaine, DeVallon Scott, Yvonne Fredrich, Pandora Bronson, Josanna Mariani, Martin Varno, Wyatt Ordnung and Ned Mann.

Walt Willis sent a cablegram from Ireland, and Robert Bloch, Tony Boucher, Cylvia & Leo Margulies, Dean Grennell, Curtis Casewit, Isaac Asimov, David Kyle, Ruth Landis and Hans Stefan Santesson were among out-of-state well-wishers via card and wire. Nolla Hellinger telephoned from New York.

To more fully share his birthday enjoyment with friends around the world Forry has purchased ad space in this issue of Fantasy-Times to reproduce a letter from Robert Bloch and quote other memorable birthdayana. (see page 6).

Quotable quote from the notable occasion: Forry: "Next year I expect to have 500 at my party." Fan: "How?!"

## FANTASY-TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

by James Blish

OVERLORDS FROM SPACE, by Joseph E. Kelleam, and THE MAN WHO MASTERED TIME, by Ray Cummings. Ace Double Novel, 1956; 146 & 172 pp., 35¢.

---  
The Cummings is a 1929 item, and unlike some few of Cummings' early novels, it has not worn well; indeed, it's hardly readable now.

Mr. Kelleam does not come off much better. Out of a welter of defects, the one that proves fatal is that the Zarles, the Overlords of the title, are so stupid that one wonders how they ever managed to conquer the world in the first place.

Skip this one.

THE BIG BALL OF WAX, by Shepherd Mead. Ballantine Books, 1956. 181 pp. 35¢.

---  
Mr. Mead, an advertising agency executive, is given to taking frequent bites -- this is his fourth -- at the hand that feeds him. Here he reinvents Huxley's "feelies", and postulates that they will not follow the course of development of the movies, as Huxley almost automatically assumed, but will instead go the way of commercialized radio and television. The narrative takes the form of a corporate inter-office memo, the style of which Mr. Mead burlesques with savage accuracy; in some scenes, however, he seems to be writing a broader and cruder version of "The Hucksters", and in others of "Player Piano". All the same, it's often funny, and in spots manages to be frightening almost in spite of itself. All in all, it's a good way to kill an hour.

(concluded on page 8, column 1)

Forry: "Instead of most of my friends, invite a few of my enemies!"



# James Blish Novels Sold To Ballantine & Gnome

New York, Nov. 23, (CNS) -- The last quarter of 1956 opened with a flourish for F-T's book reviewer James Blish, with the sale of two of his own books. One went to Gnome Press, the other to Ballantine Books.

The Gnome Press manuscript, tentatively scheduled by Marty Greenberg for this year, is called THE SEEDLING STARS. It includes the complete canon of the author's "seeding program" series. The series, which was begun in 1941, comprised two short stories and three novellas, of which Surface Tension is by far the most widely remembered. A 11 five stories have been rewritten and expanded somewhat for the book version.

The second sale is a brand new novel called FALLEN STAR. Although it will be published (probably in both hard and soft covers simultaneously) as one of Ballantine's regular monthly science-fiction novels, it differs sharply from most s-f stories and from anything else in Blish's 1,354,000-word output to date. It takes place in 1958 and deals in part with the International Geophysical Year, which will have begun by the time the book sees print. Thus the science content of the story, though some of it is speculative, is largely drawn from plans and projects which have been in the works for some years.

The plot centers around an expedition to the North Pole, where a little over half the story takes place. Rumors already afloat at the Explorers Club have it that the loused-up Polar Basin junket described in FALLEN STAR has a recognizable counterpart in recent history. The author's only comment on the rumor: "I am not now and have never been a member of the Explorers Club".

Advertise in Fantasy-Times. \$10.00 a full page, \$5 a half page and only \$3. a 1/4 page. Fandom House, P.O. Box 2331 Paterson 23, New Jersey.

## SCIENCE-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

### LATEST S/F BOOKS OUT:

TIME FOR THE STARS by Robert A. Heinlein, Scribner's, NY, \$2.75, 10/23/56.

TO LIVE FOREVER by Jack Vance (Cloth Bound Ed.) Ballantine Books, NY, \$2.75, 10/24/56.

THE YEARS BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS AND STORIES: 1956, edited by T. E. Dikty Fredrick Fell, NY, \$3.50, 10/25/56.

THE PAVES OF NULL A by A. E. van Vogt, Ace Books, NY, 35¢, 10/26/56.

E. PLURIBUS UNICORN by Theodore Sturgeon, Ballantine Books, 35¢, 10/27/56.

STRANGERS IN THE UNIVERSE by Gifford D. Simak, Simon & Schuster, NY, \$3.50, 11/1/56.

POLICE YOUR PLANET by Eric Van Linn, Bourey & Curl, NY, \$2.50, 11/2/56.

## SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

☉ True Strange, Incredible, Weird, and Factual, #1, October 1956:

What a title! This is published by the same outfit that had True Weird awhile back. It's sort of a slick Fate with more sex thrown in. Nothing in it worthwhile, but it'll probably be a collector's item 5 years from now.

---  
☉ Time, October 1st, 1956:

A write-up on Jean Shepherd, his "I Libertine", and other troubles in the Radio & Television section.

---  
☉ MAD, December 1956:

James Blish has a parody of the old pulp mags in this issue. He should have included the athlete's foot from the back covers, though.

---  
(continued on page 4, column 2)



by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

SCIENCE/FANTASY MAGAZINES OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING OCTOBER 1956:

NAME	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Infinity Science Fiction	Dec	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 2, 1956	Bi-Monthly
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Nov	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 3, 1956	Monthly
Amazing Stories	Nov	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 9, 1956	Monthly
Fantastic Universe S F	Dec	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 9, 1956	Monthly
Science Fiction Adventures*	Dec	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 9, 1956	Bi-Monthly
Astounding Science Fiction	Nov	35¢	162	Digest	Oct. 9, 1956	Monthly
IF	Dec	35¢	120	Digest	Oct. 11, 1956	Bi-Monthly
Galaxy Science Fiction	Dec	35¢	144	Digest	Oct. 13, 1956	Monthly
Satellite Science Fiction	Dec	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 23, 1956	Bi-Monthly
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Dec	35¢	128	Digest	Oct. 25, 1956	Monthly
Venture Science Fiction**	Jan.	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 25, 1956	Bi-Monthly

\*First issue misnumbered Vol. 1 - No. 6. \*\*First Issue.

During the month 11 science/fantasy magazines came out. All 11 were digest-size totaling \$3.85. They contained 1,458 pages.

NOT SCIENCE/FANTASY, BUT OF INTEREST:

Fate	Nov.	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 2, 1956	Monthly
Search	Dec.	35¢	130	Digest	Oct. 9, 1956	Bi-Monthly

STANDARD MAY ENTER SF FIELD AGAIN  
(concluded from page 1, column 1)

Gernsback's magazine Wonder Stories in 1936, retitled it Thrilling Wonder Stories and continued publishing it on regular schedule until early 1955 when it was combined with Startling Stories. Between 1936 and 1955, Standard Magazines published at one time or another the following titles in the science fantasy field: Thrilling Wonder, Startling Stories, Strange Stories, Captain Future, Space Stories, Wonder Annual and Fantastic Story.

"THE FIRST WORLD OF IF"  
(concluded from page 1, column 2)

wide by 7 5/8" deep (digest-size); 160 pages; price 50¢. A beautiful wrap around cover has been done by Mel Hunter who has also done the "end papers" (inside front and rear covers). The issue will contain no interior illustrations. The editors will be James L. Quinn and Eve Wulff.

About the book, Mr. Quinn stated: "This is a completely new book, all stories have been completely re-set in a new type face called Electra. It will contain 20 short stories offering a wide a variance of theme and mood as possible -- which makes it pretty much different from most other science-fiction anthologies, in that most of them seem to be built around a single theme or type of story. It will be distributed on the newsstands but, inasmuch as the print order is very limited, a lot of cities and towns will not receive copies."

All the stories are reprinted from the magazine If.

For more details, see Ad on page 7 of this issue.

SLICK S-F (cont. from page 3, col. 2)

Life, October 8, 1956:

"Limitless Power Out Of The Sea" by-Ralph E. Lapp. A condensation of the book, Atom & People. An article about-thermonuclear energy.

(continued on page 5, column 1)



FANTASY-TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

2¢ per word, including name, address & zone number. 25 words minimum, remittance with copy. FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

FOR SALE

\$1.00 each -10 for \$7.50: Castle - SAT-ELLITE E ONE, Cox - PURPLE PROPHET, Crane - HERO'S WALK, Fletcher - WALL OF THE UNICORN, Judd - GUNNER CADE, Karp-ONE, Le Fanu - UNCLE SILAS, Maine - TIMBLINER, McCann - PREFERRED RISK, McIntosh - BORN LEADER, Moore - GREEN-ER THAN YOU THINK, Pangborn - WEST OF THE SUN, Pratt - UNDYING FIRE, Sohl - COSTIGAN'S NEEDLE, van Vogt - SLAN, Wolfe - LIMBO, Wylie - GLADIATOR. Books in fine, unopened condition. Send for the complete bargain list. Science-Fiction & Fantasy Publications, 127-01 116th Ave., S. Ozone Park 20, N.Y.

FOR SALE: Science-fiction, fantasy, and weird books, magazines. Free catalog. Gerry de la Ree, 277 Howland Ave., River Edge, N.J.

ADDITIONAL BACK ISSUES OF FANTASY-TIMES

FOR SALE: All Photo-offset, 10¢ ea. 12 for \$1. 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158. NOTICE: Issue #254, 15th Anniversary issue has been completely sold out. FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

WANTED

WANTED: Issues #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 of Fantasy-Times to replace issues stolen at the recent Edison Hobby Show, where selected issues of Fantasy-Times were on exhibit. James V. Taurasi, Sr., 137-03 32nd Ave., Flushing 54, N.Y.

SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS, FANS: Correspondence invited. OBJECT: Round robin correspondence. Reply stamp (your country) requested. Chanel Monaghan, 236 Columbia Place, Los Angeles 26, California, USA.

WANTED: AMAZING ANNUAL, James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Ave., Flushing 54, NY.

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

(concluded from page 4, column 2)

---  
● Playboy, October 1956:  
"Put Them All Together They Spell Monster" by Ray Russell. A satire of the horror & s-f movies.

---  
● Classics Illustrated, #133, July '56:  
"The Time Machine" by H. G. Wells is reprinted in cartoon form.

# Attention — ALL FAN CLUBS!

Flushing, NY, 13 December, (CNS) - James V. Taurasi, Sr., is compiling a list of all science-fiction clubs, for planned publication in the October 1957 issue, of Amazing Stories. He requests that all clubs instruct their secretaries to send to him complete information on their organizations. The information should include the following:

1. Name of organization and purpose.
2. Names of all officers of said organization.
3. Name and address of officer to whom you write to.
4. Is your club a national, state or local organization?
5. Is it affiliated with any other organization?
6. What are the requirements for membership?
7. Approx. number of members.
8. Amount of Dues.

Deadline for this registration of s-f clubs is March 1st, 1957. Corrections or additions to information sent may be made to that date.

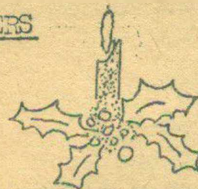
It is the hope of Amazing Stories that the publication of this information will help the clubs get new members and will help the readers of Amazing Stories select the club they care to join.

S-f clubs outside the United States are also invited to send in information on their organization.

All such information should be sent to James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Avenue Flushing 54, New York.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS

A MOST



MERRY CHRISTMAS

the editors & staff of Fantasy-Times



Robert Bloch  
November 20, 1956

Dear Forry:

Thanks so much for the invitation to your birthday party -- and believe me I'd give my left ventricle to be able to attend! (Yes, I said "ventricle" -- look it up, it's clean).

But what is all this nonsense about being 40 years old? This may be all very well for the pointed-head crowd (and if you think I'm being unkind to fans, I can show you photographs of a group of fans standing in a row and believe me, you can't tell the difference between them and a picket fence) but you and I know differently.

40 years old, eh? Why, I've known you for more than 40 years myself! I can even remember your first column on films, when you announced that Georges Melies was filming A TRIP TO THE MOON. Of course, he didn't actually get around to making the picture until 20 years later...in 1902.

I remember when you were a stage-hand in charge of oiling the costumes for R.U.R.

That was right after you graduated from 8th grade with Doc Smith.

So let's not have any more of that "40 years old" stuff. Even if it does fool the people. I'll admit that Huxley's raw carp diet has done wonders for you, just as my raw liver diet has helped me. Even though it's a problem for you to find enough carp and it's a problem for me to find enough human livers.

But I'm glad you made it. As I've told you before, kid, you're an institution in fandom. Just as Bellevue is an institution in New York.

Please say hello to the gang for me -- and accept my very warmest and best wishes for the good years yet to come.

Bob

FOR FERRY  
Oh, four decades is a long,  
long stretch  
By the clock or by the stars  
Measured from here on Mother Earth  
Or a satellite of Mars

-//-

Forty years has seen S-F paled  
By super-sonic jets  
Helicopters and radar screens  
And Hydrogen-cobalt threats

-//-

Take hope my friend, who has lived  
this span  
Do not use an ancient garage;  
Continuum and that quantum deal  
Can put a curve in your age.

-Vernon Rich.

This is to report that we feel sort of  
sorry  
We weren't allowed to present gifts to  
Forry

We'd planned to import, at the  
greatest expense  
A novel which made absolutely no sense  
But which dealt with the future, was  
printed in Norse,  
Had a nude on the cover (in peril, of  
course).

A collector's bonanza! We need hardly  
hint  
That it would have been perfect, viz.  
jacket and mint.

-//-

And now that you know how we'd planned  
to be sporty,  
D'you think it was worth it for you to  
turn forty?

Happy Birthday

-Eph and June Konigsberg

And thanks so much, Walt Willis, Casewits, Mary Dziechowski, Goldstones, Hans Santesson, Margulies (es), John Flory, Berta Burnill, Lil Tyus, Ib Melchior & Ed Watson, Terri Bartfield, Ruth Landis, Dave Kyle, Dean Grennell, Shermans, Wahrmans, Mary Trelwancy, Greenswood, Nella Hellinger, Omi, Wendy, Aunt Beeze, and Mother for your special remembrances.

--Forry



20 OUTSTANDING SHORT STORIES FROM

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF IF MAGAZINE!

THE FIRST  
World Of IF

BY

ROBERT ABERNATHY

DAVE DRYFOCS

ISAAC ASIMOV

CHARLES L. FONTINAY

CHARLES BEAUMONT

HORACE B. FYFE

JEROME BIXBY

DICK HETSCHEL

JAMES BLISH

MILTON LESSER

RICHARD BOLTON

EDWARD W. LUDVIG

ED M. CLINTON, JR.

FRANK RILEY

MIRIAM ALLEN DE FORD

ROBERT SHECKLEY

PHILIP K. DICK

GEORGE H. SMITH

KIRK AND GAREN DRUSSAI

ROBERT F. YOUNG

Edited by James L. Quim and Eve Wulff  
Cover and end papers by Mel Hunter

NOTE --- The printing is a small one and many cities and towns will not receive copies. If your newsdealer can't get you a copy, send 50 cents to Quim Publishing Company, Kingston, New York, and a copy will be mailed to you at once.



FANTASY - TIMES - #260

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"  
(16th Year Of Publication)

Published twice-a-month by FANDOM HOUSE

U.S. & CANADA: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1  
or \$2.00 per year (24 issues). Perman-  
ent Subscription: \$10.00, from FANDOM  
HOUSE, P.O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, NJ.  
BRITISH: 9d per copy, 15s0d per year,  
from H. J. JOHNSON, 16 Rockville Rd.,  
Broad Green, LIVERPOOL 14, 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.

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

Advertisements: \$10 a full-page, \$5 a  
half-page, and \$3 a quarter-page.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION  
(Established 1937)

FANTASY-TIMES BOOK REVIEWS

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

I. LIBERTINE. by Frederick R. Ewing.  
Ballantine Books, 1956. 151 pp.;  
35¢.

Ewing, of course, is Ted Sturgeon,  
though the photo on the back of the  
book shows Jean Shepherd, the disc  
jockey who inspired the book. Surpris-  
ingly, the novel is not a burlesque of  
a hairdryer historical, but an authen-

FANDOM HOUSE

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

PRINTED MATTER

Form 3547 Requested

All required postage Guaranteed

tic historical romance, complexly plot-  
ted, and researched up to the eyebrows.  
Set in 18th Century England, it's well  
written, witty, and has a fine gallery  
of ripe eccentrics for characters; my  
favorite is lawyer Barrowbridge, the  
hero's mentor.

Despite some alchemical chitchat  
and one chapter in which a pharmaceuti-  
cal miracle is blithely committed, the  
book is not science-fiction; indeed, I  
doubt that it would be possible to  
guess, from the text alone, that the  
author is a major s-f writer. It's not  
a major work by any means, but it's a  
hell of a lot of fun -- if you like  
historical novels.

THE END OF THE WORLD, edited by  
Donald A. Wollheim. Ace Books, 1956.  
159 pp., 25¢.

This anthology contains two excel-  
lent and often reprinted stories by Ar-  
thur C. Clarke and Robert A. Heinlein;  
a routine spy story by Philip K. Dick;  
two dreary, primitive pieces by Edmond  
Hamilton and A. R. Long; and one of Al-  
fred Coppel's many exercises in sense-  
less brutality, for which almost any  
s-f theme seems to provide him a suffi-  
cient excuse. Two of the six stories  
are preceded -- and one is both preced-  
ed and followed -- by quotations, in an  
apparent attempt to suggest that there  
is more food for thought in the three  
worst yarns than there actually is (or  
perhaps the editor just ran out of quo-  
tations early in the attempt, and  
shoved in the ones he had at random).

Add a dime to your quarter and buy  
a magazine with it.