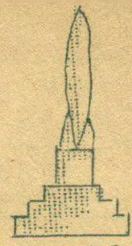


Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"



"HUGO"
1955

Vol. 11 - #242

First March 1956 Issue

Ten Cents

THE ANNUAL FANTASY REPORT

Compiled by James V. Taurasi, Sr.

FOR THE second time in the history of science-fiction, a complete report can be given of the science-fiction magazines as they actually came out, and not by the cover dates. Compiled from the monthly listings, "The Fantasy Report" by Frank R. Prieto, Jr., the 1955 Annual report shows that 1955 stopped the recession and the upward turn in science-fiction has begun. No, it's not a boom, but a slow steady climb from the deepest hole the professional science-fiction magazines ever fell into. Here is the complete picture of what happen in 1955 and as compared with the 1954 report.

DURING 1955, 109 issues were on the stands, consisting of 15,565 pages and costing \$37.25. In 1954, 142 issues were out with 19,048 pages and costing \$47.40. Of the 1955 109 issues 98 were digest-size and 11 were pulp size. The digests alone cost \$34.40, while the 11 pulps cost \$2.85 cents. In 1954 there were 21 pulps out and 121 digests. In 1955 you received 1,118 pulp-size pages (2,400 in 1954) and 12,447 digest pages (16,648 in 1954). Breaking this up into a monthly average we find that you received .916 of a pulp mag each month (1 3/4 mag in '54), and 8.16 digest mag (10 1/2 in '54). In pages you received 95.16 pulp pages per month (200 in '54) and 1,037 1/4 digest pages per month (1,587 1/3 in '54). Making a total of 1,130.41 pages per month (1,587 1/3 pages in 1954). If you bought all the mags, you payed an average of \$3.10 1/6 per month (\$3.97 1/2 in 1954).

IN 1954, only one month, April 1954 appeared without a pulp mag coming out;

In 1955 three months appeared pulpless, April, July and December. It was in April 1954 that no pulps appeared. March 1955 saw more new issues on the stands; 14, while June, October and December saw the least; 7 new issues. In 1954, May was the largest month with 16, while July was the lowest with 9.

WIDEN PLANET STORIES trimmed its pages, just before it folded, in 1955, it was the first time since 1950 that all science-fiction magazines came out with trimmed edges.

FOLDED DURING 1955:

Thrilling Wonder Stories

Fantastic Story

Spaceway

Planet Stories

Beyond Fiction

Startling Stories

(10 mags folded in 1954)

It would not be impossible that some of the above may be revived at a latter date.

S/F MAGAZINES THAT CUT PAGES IN 1955:

None
(10 mags cut pages in 1954)

S/F MAGAZINES THAT ADDED PAGES IN 1955:

Science Fiction Stories, 130 to 144
(No mags added pages in 1954)

EDITORIAL CHANGES IN 1955:

Phreon Raines left Standard.
Bea Mahaffey left Other Worlds.
Paul Fairman returned to Eiff-Davis.

MAGS THAT CHANGED SIZE IN 1955:

Other Worlds (from digest, 130 pages,
to pulp-size, 98 pages.)

MAGS THAT CHANGED NAMES IN 1955:

Universe Science Fiction, changed to
Other Worlds.

MAGS THAT CHANGED SCHEDULES IN 1955:

Amazing Stories, bi-monthly to monthly.
If, monthly to bi-monthly.
Imagination, monthly to bi-monthly.

NEW MAGAZINES THAT CAME OUT IN 1955:

Infinity Science Fiction
(No new mags came out in 1954)

MAGAZINES NOW BEING PUBLISHED:

Monthly Magazines

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION
GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION
MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION
FANTASTIC UNIVERSE
AMAZING STORIES
(1955 started out with 6 monthlies)

Bi-monthly Magazines

FANTASTIC (SCIENCE FICTION)
IMAGINATIVE TALES
OTHER WORLDS
SCIENCE FICTION STORIES
IMAGINATION
IF
INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION*
(1955 started out with 8 bi-monthlies)
*Quarterly up to now.

Quarterly Magazines

SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY
(1955 started out with 5 quarterlies)

One Shots

FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION
GALAXY NOVEL**
**only 3 issues came out in 1955.

Proposed for 1956

One bi-monthly (fantasy)
One annual (Maybe)?

CLOSING NOTE

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES was almost
revived in 1955, stories for one issue
was put together, then it was dropped.

X-SCIENCE FICTION didn't appear in 1955
and can be written off.

One proposed pocket-sized magazine was
killed from the effects of the American
News Company Strike. Covers and stories
for two issues had been bought and set
up.

By the end of 1955 ALL the magazines of
the first science-fiction boom (1939 --
1941) had died (not including the Colum-
bia mags that were re-lived as Vol. 1 -
No. 1 in the post-war boom). This
leaves only two pre-war magazines still
being published: Astounding & Amazing,
and one pre-war fan magazine: Fantasy-
Times. Hardest blow that fell in 1955
was the death of Thrilling Wonder St-
ories, the second oldest science-fi c-
tion magazine at the time it died.

The End

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

by Michael Corper

The fantasy film, REVENGE OF THE CREA-
TURES, is now being shown in London.

Over Xmas, the BBC broadcast the sound
of colliding galaxies that reached us
after 250,000,000 years. Also the
sounds of the ocean deep (13,000 ft, I
(continued on page 4, column 2)

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

The January 1956 issue of Encounter, a British literary quarterly, contains an enthusiastic four-page review of a new British science-fiction film, "The Quartermass Experiment". In theme it seems to be similar to the familiar "Who Goes There?" by Don A. Stuart: A scientist develops in his laboratory an organism which can absorb other creatures and assume their physical shapes and characteristics. One of the two stills reproduced shows a "man" with one of his arms in the process of transforming into something else; it has a realistic look about it which suggests that the picture has been done with some skill. My guess is that this picture succeeds in doing what "The Thing" should have attempted to do.

 "The Creature Walks Among Us" (a wonderful title) was previewed recently at a Los Angeles theatre. One of those who saw it, my brother, was reasonably impressed by it. "You can see," he said, "where they really tried to do a good job on it. At least, it shows effort and imagination. Unfortunately, they spend forty or forty-five minutes just capturing the Creature, like in the first two." "The Creature Walks Among Us" is the third in a series of films, the first two of which were "The Creature From The Black Lagoon" and "The Return Of The Creature". The story line of the current one concerns a surgical operation by which the Creature is transformed into an air-breathing being.

BOOKS-OF-INTEREST: This is the 100th Anniversary of the publishing firm of Street & Smith. To celebrate the occasion, Random House has just issued "Fiction Factory: From Pulp Road To Quality Street", a history of those one hundred years written by Quentin Reynolds. It's a beautifully printed volume which many science-fiction fans will want to own. It not only gives a
 (concluded on page 4, column 2)

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW S/F BOOKS OUT RECENTLY:

WORLD OUT OF MIND by J. T. McIntosh, Perma Books, NY, 25¢.

SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES IN MUTATIONS edited by Croff Conklin, Vanguard Press, NY, \$3.75.

THE RETURN OF THE KING by J. R. R. Tolkien, Houghton-Mifflin Co., \$5.00.

NO BOUNDARIES by Henry Kuttner & C. L. Moore, Ballantine Books, NY, cloth bound edition, \$2.00.

ALIEN FROM ARCTURUS by Gordon R. Dickson, and THE ATOM CURTAIN by Nick B. Williams, Ace Double Novels, NY, 35¢.

ARK OF VENUS by Clyde B. Clason, Alfred A. Knopf Co., NY, \$2.00.

CITIZEN IN SPACE by Robert Sheckley, Ballantine Books, NY, 35¢.

THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS by Edward Ruppelt (non-fiction) Doubleday, \$4.50.

THE CITY AND THE STARS by Arthur C. Clarke, Harcourt, Brace & Co., \$3.75.

THE DRAGON IN THE SEA by Frank Herbert, Doubleday, NY, \$2.95.

THE SCIENCE BOOK OF SPACE TRAVEL by Harold Leland Goodwin (non-fiction), Pocket Books, Inc., NY, 35¢.

STAR SHINE by Fredric Brown, (angels and Spaceships), Bantam Books, NY, 25¢.

CITIZEN IN SPACE by Robert Sheckley, (cloth-bound edition) Ballantine, \$2.

FORBIDDEN PLANET by W. J. Stuart, (original) Farrar, Strauss & Cudahy, NY \$3.00.

THE FORGOTTEN PLANET by Murray Leinster, and CONTRABAND ROCKET by Lee Correy, Double Ace Novels, NY, 35¢.

ALTERNATING CURRENTS by Frederick Pohl, Ballantine Books, NY, 35¢.

MINI, ROCKETS AND SPACE RATS by Lloyd Mallan (non-fiction), Julian Messner, Inc., NY, \$5.95.

THE LONG NIGHT by Martin Caiden, Dodd Mead & Co., \$3.00.

SNOW FURY by Richard C. Holden, Perma Books, NY, 25¢.

SPACE POLICE, edited by André Norton, World Publishing Co, NY, \$2.75.

TOMORROW by Philip Wylie, Popular Library, NY, 35¢.

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Mechanix Illustrated, January 1956: "Man's Conquest Of Space". This is an over all title of a series of 8 articles on what the U.S. is doing to meet the challenge of space travel. Willy Ley has 2 articles & 1 is a timetable of events, he's predicting. He guesses that in 25 years from now, we'll have expeditions heading for Mars & Venus.

MI is going to feature a new column on rockets & space travel. This'll be headed by G. Harry Stine, who writes fiction under the pen name of Lee Correy.

There's 34 pages of articles, etc in this issue.....all for 25¢. A good buy. Get it.

Popular Science, January 1956: "Inside The Midget Moon" by H. O. Johansen. Author makes a model of one of the new satellites the U.S. is going to launch. Number of photos & diagrams comprise this article. If you've wondered what the MOUSE will look like and how everything will work, then pick up this mag.

Time, January 2, 1956: SCIENCE column shows how an experimental space suit looks like.

Time, January 9, 1956: SCIENCE column shows a photo of the experimental aircraft that is wing & tailless. - It's called an "Aerodyne" & is lifted by air being pulled in to the craft & expelled downward through the belly. Life of same date has more photos & more explanation.

Bluebook, January 1956: "Disposal Service" by Robert Scheckley, illo: Bierbacki. Disposal Service offers to take care of Mr. Ferguson's nagging wife. He stalls & when he comes home that night, finds out that in the meantime she's taken advantage of their offer.

Rogue, February 1956: Nothing too much here. Frank M. Robinson is the editor. Howard Browne has a detective

story in this issue. There is an article on Aleister Crowley which may interest some fans, as he was a devotee of the Black Mass. At 35¢, it's still overpriced.

Pilot, February 1956: One of MAD's imitators.

Snafu, March 1956: Ditto, but not bad.

Playboy, January 1956: "I Like Blondes" by Robert Bloch. Collector from another planet. Some of his friends collect red heads, brunettes, etc. Some stuff them, some pickle them, but he prefers to eat blondes.

Well done. If you don't enjoy the rest of the mag, you're not a man!

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(concluded from page 3, column 1)

great deal of information about the early dime novels (the aspect of Street & Smith which interest most people) but reproduces, in color, covers from Astounding Science Fiction, Doc Savage, and The Shadow, and devotes entire chapters to them. The price is Five Dollars....Another book which may be of interest to science-fiction and fantasy readers is King Arthur Today by Nathan Comfort Starr (University of Florida Press, 1954), a discussion of the Arthurian legend in contemporary fiction. He writes at length of novels by James Branch Cabell, Arthur Machen, T. H. White and C. S. Lewis.....A novelized version of the MGM movie, "Forbidden Planet", is soon to be released in pocket-book form; the author's name is given as M. J. Stuart.....Pyramid will re-issue the Sturgeon collection, "The Way Home" as a pocket-book.

NOTE: My dad heard a radio interview with Morey Bernstein, author of the best-selling "Search For Bridey Murphy" and says that Bernstein remarked that he is a close friend of L. Ron Hubbard. Birds of a feather?

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION NEWS (continued from page 2, column 2.)

believe it was).

On November 30, 1955, the BBC started a 4-week serial for children on sound: THE PURPLE COMET by Peter Hayes. It ended December 21, 1955.

On November 15, 1955, for two weeks, the daily newspaper THE STAR ran a series of articles on the artificial moon, by American Dr. I. M. Levitt.

NEW WORLDS, S-F, #43, January 1956 brings us "Host Age" (Brunner), "Red Alert" (Jas. White), "The Hot Potato" (Barclay), "The Pensioners" (Cuthrie), "Magic Touch" (Lamont); article "The Mighty Midgets" (Newman); and features. The cover is by Quinn, from "Red Alert" Interior illos are by Quinn and White. This month's "Profile" is about John K. H. Brunner. John Carnell's Editorial: deals with the 1955 International Fantasy Awards Presentation.

The British Reprint Edition of SPACEWAY has been revived with #4. Digest-size, 128 pages. It folded after 3 issues over a year ago.

The British edition of Street & Smith's DETECTIVE MONTHLY for February 1956 contains the Doc Savage story: "Up From Earth's Center" by Kenneth Robeson; the March issue contains: "The Pure Evil" also a Doc Savage novel. The Feb. is illoed by Orban, the March by Cartier.

The British edition of Astounding for March contains: "The Short Life" by Francis Donovan, "New Blood" by James E. Gunn, "Security" by Ernest M. Kenyon and the conclusion of "Call Him Dead" by Eric Frank Russell, plus all the regular departments. Interior illos by Freas & Rogers. Cover "Follow Me..." by Emsh. Digest, 128 pages, monthly and still 1/6 per issue.

During 1955 the British Astounding changed from its "large" digest-size to the smaller digest-size of the USA. The British January '56 cover was a reprint of the USA January (Xmas) 1955 cover.

NOTICE: Many of the back issues of Fantasy-Times listed a few issues ago have been sold out, so please do not order-- until a new list is published, except-- we still have a few copies of ISSUE #200, at \$1.00 a copy. Fandom House, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

"HAPNA!"

The latest issue of Hapna! to arrive from Sweden is the February 1956 issue, Vol. 3, No. 2. It is still published monthly, digest-size, and 98 pages. It no longer has colored inside illustrations, but paper and print job is excellent. The current issue contains: "Donovan's Brain" (serial) by Curt Siodmak, illustrated by photos from the movie; "Den manskliga faktorn" by Lan Wright reprinted from a 1953 New Worlds "Generalen" ("Dead Hand" of the Foundation series) by Isaac Asimov from Astounding SF; and "Natten sodd" by Denis Lindbohm; plus an article "Planet Mars". Cover is by Quinn, reprinted from Science-Fantasy, #17.

MARRIED

Married on March 8, 1956, at the New York City Hall, Larry Shaw, editor of Infinity Science Fiction, and the well known fan, Lee Hoffman.

Married on February 19, 1956, at Chester, Pa., in a formal Jewish wedding, Hanlan Ellison and Charlotte Stein.

Both couples plan to set up housekeeping in New York City. The staff and editors of Fantasy-Times wish them all a life-time of happiness.

MILFORD S-F WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Damon Knight reports: "The 1st Milford Science Fiction Writers' Conference will be held September 4-9, right after the New York Convention. Among those already slated to attend are Sturgeon, Boucher and Theodore R. Cogswell. All professional & semi-pro s-f writers are welcome."

For rates and other information, write to: Damon Knight, Box 277, Milford, Pike Co., Pa.

THE TAFF ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the election of the TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) to send a fan

to England for the British Convention, was as follows: Lee Hoffman-362 points, Forrest J Ackerman-177; David A. Kyle-109, Tabakow-61, G. M. Carr-50, Wally Weber-57, Shapiro-10, and Kent Corey with 8 points. Since Lee Hoffman has turned down the award, Don Ford, in charge of the Fund Committee, has notified Forry Ackerman, second highest. If Ackerman turns it down, another voting must be held.

BLUEBOOK

McCall Corp. will drop Bluebook with its May 1956 issue, out in April 1956. Rumor has it that the circulation of Bluebook dropped from 400,000 to 200,000, while production costs have been going up steadily, thus forcing McCall to fold it. But, in our opinion, a magazine like Bluebook, will surely be taken over by another publishing house before long.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Editors:

I hope that you are not too busy to reconsider the year 1955 for a few minutes. While up-beat was in the air, science-fiction lost the old standbys - Planet Stories, & the Thrilling broad. It is sad to think that only two magazines Amazing & Astounding predate World War II. I suppose one could consider Future, Science Fiction Stories, & SF2 "pre-war" but they are almost more

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

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!
(established 1937)

like the newer pubs due to the new volume numbering. Oh well, it is a trivial point at best.

Want to bet that some more magazines will fail in 1956?

Best of luck,
Ed Wood

(We're never too busy to consider science-fiction. Right you are on all counts, see our Annual report on pages 1 & 2 of this issue. What mags do you think will fold in 1956? -eds)



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