

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"



Vol. 11 - #243

Second March 1956 Issue

Ten Cents

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Miami Beach 41, Florida
March 10, 1956

Dear Jim & Ray:

Glad to see Fantasy-Times plopping in the mailbox again, even though the 'first Feb' issue didn't arrive until well into March. As the oldest and most dependable of our extant fan publications, even F-T is entitled to an occasional lapse. However, I hope it will get back on schedule soon.

I got a big kick out of "RED FACES — The Big Boo-Boo Of 1956", and then noticed that the line about ASTOUNDING also appeared on the back cover of FUTURE #29. What a joke on the whole field! And to be honest, I wouldn't have noticed it at all except for the article in F-T.

Incidentally, while speaking of FUTURE, it was conspicuous by its absence from Dr. Gardner's review of 1955. Although it has fallen from bi-monthly to irregular (actually about semi-annual) publication, I think it still rates as a magazine rather than a book. Does Dr. Gardner disagree? Or did he simply overlook the issue or two that appeared last year?

Sincerely,
Dick Lupoff

(Even tho we produce Fantasy-Times as close to professional practices as possible, there are times that family incidents slightly delay an issue. We still work on as a hobby on our off-time, but, as usual, we'll be back on
(Concluded on page 4, column 1)

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS SCORE

conducted by J. Harry Vincent

80 AT "ESFA" ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Newark, N.J., 4 March, (CNS) — About 80 persons attended the tenth anniversary meeting of the Eastern S-F Association (ESFA) held here today.

Speakers were Frank Kelly Freas, "Hugo"-winning s-f illustrator, Will ("Murray Leinster") Jenkins, Willy Ley and John W. Campbell, Jr., editor of Astounding Science Fiction.

Other notables present were L. Sprague de Camp, Milton Rothman, J. J. Coupling, John Victor Peterson, Evelyn E. Smith, Frank Belknap Long and Judith Merrill.

Keynote, delivered by Sam Moskowitz, was "What's Right With S-F?" Time was allowed to the 14th World S-F Convention Committee, represented by chairman David A. Kyle, to present the latest news of arrangements for that big affair of 1956.

Attend a very interesting program, George Raybin showed color movies made at the Cleveland Convention last year.

"WORLD S-F SOCIETY" INCORPORATED

New York, N. Y., 23 February, (CNS) — The World Science-Fiction Society, the sponsoring body for all world s-f cons from now on, was incorporated here today pursuant to the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York.

The first directors are: George Mims Raybin, Arthur Saha and David A. Kyle. Mr. Raybin is attorney for the
(concluded on page 4, column 2)

by Arthur Jean Cox

SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE REVIEWS

"Fire Maidens From Outer Space"; written, produced and directed by Cy Roth; starring Anthony Dexter. If anyone had stood outside the lobby during the length of time this picture was being shown (75 minutes), they would have supposed it to be the greatest comedy movie ever produced. I have never seen any "serious" picture which has caused such continuous laughter in the audience as this one did, when I caught it as a preview recently.

The story concerns a space flight (clips of old V2 takeoffs) to the 13th moon of Jupiter, under the leadership of Anthony Dexter, who seems to be having trouble keeping from laughing. There they discover an atmosphere and terrain reminiscent of that of England (where the movie was filmed), a Man with the Head of a Beast (that is, a man wearing a Halloween rubber mask), and a surviving colony of Old Atlantis composed entirely of some two dozen beautiful virgins and one doddering old man. In the course of their adventures they encounter druggings, romance, an attempted sacrifice to the fire goddess and, believe it or not, a ballet by Orgi Cassini.

Undoubted the worst science-fiction film I've ever seen. Of course, I've missed a few.

Unfortunately, I didn't miss "Bride Of The Monster", starring Bela Lugosi -- a standard mad-scientist-in-the-old-mansion thriller, relieved only by Lugosi's outrageous overacting and puzzlement as to where the makers of the movie found such unfamiliar faces to play the minor character roles; my guess is that they are all relatives of the producer.

By the way of contrast, there's the British fantasy movie, "The Night My Number Came Up" (J. Arthur Rank-Baling Studios, starring Michael Redgrave and Alexander Knox). It tells the story of a man who has a dream about an airplane disaster, in which the passengers and crew are killed. He tells it to a

by Roger Dard

(March 9th) Science Fiction Monthly, No. 7, digest size, price 2/- and 98 pages. Cover and interiors illustrated. Contents: "The Orneks and The Gogos" Charles E. Fritch; "Intelligence Factor" Corwin F. Stickney; "Gateway" Bertram Chandler; "Hands Across Space" Chad Oliver; "Ultimate Life" Albert De Pina and Henry Hasso; "The Great C" Philip K. Dick; "The Big Tick" Ross Rocklyne; and "Icarus Brought To Earth" (article) by R. S. Richardson.

Graham B. Stone adds to the above: "Paper is still pulp this time but the interior color is back, with headings and one illustration in red. There is also an unsigned editorial, "Influence of the 'Fans' On Science Fiction" -- the same old one as last issue. This is apparently cut down from an editorial in some US mag -- perhaps Science-Fiction Plus -- and as it stands it doesn't even mention fans at all, just talks about there being a boom in SF -- which dates it by a couple of years -- and says that there's plenty of room for another mag, etc.

"I don't know where the cover comes from, but it's excellent. Shows the moon breaking up under tidal stresses on approaching to Roche's Limit; Earth devastated visibly by ocean tides; some personnel are seeing it from a spaceship in the top left corner. (Probably Paul's cover for the August 1953 Science-Fiction Plus, eds.)

COMPANY of persons who are going on a flight the next morning; they laugh, but as the flight gets under way and proceeds the details of the narrated dream fall into place, one by one....Excellent suspense is developed.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HARD TO FIND BOOKS? Try us, we have thousands of books, all subjects and types, Science-Fiction, Horror, Ghost Mystery, Western, fiction and non-fiction both domestic and foreign editions, also all back issue magazines and comics. We sell and trade. Write: Kisch News Co., 4873 Cochran St., Santa Susana, California.

by Bill Blackbeard

THE FICTION FACTORY, or "From Pulp Row To Quality Street, The Story Of 100 Years Of Publishing At Street & Smith", by Quentin Reynolds, Random House, 1955 284 pages, of which 86½ are illustrative, \$5.00.

"The Fiction Factory" is a surprisingly lovely, frequently erroneous, and sadly mishandled book. It represents an attempt on the part of Street & Smith, Random House, and Quentin Reynolds to produce a public memorial volume to celebrate Street & Smith's hundredth anniversary as publishers. The attempt must be held to have resulted in failure.

An entire chapter is devoted to Astounding, wherein lies the appeal of this book to the readers of Fantasy-Times. The chapter is brief and wrong on almost every point it cites in its discussion of the magazine. Campbell clearly never proofread a word of it. However, it is very favorable to science-fiction as a whole, agrees with and recommends Davenport's recent study of the field, pauses to endorse a personal enjoyment of Asimov's robot shorts, and would seem to indicate, aside from the author's statements, an official pleasure with Astounding on the part of management at Street & Smith — especially since a l l of the publishing house's now much-touted fashion and home-making magazines are lumped into another chapter only as long as the one given to Astounding.

One particularly irritating feature of this book, insofar as the science-fiction and fantasy fan is concerned, is that although such magazines as Sea Stories and Bill Barnes are discussed at length in the text and their covers given prominent reproduction, the infinitely worthier and more unusual Unknown is not mentioned at all. The Thrill Book, however, is mentioned briefly, but only to suggest that it represented the pioneering publication in science-fiction; there is, of course, no reference to Amazing Stories whatsoever.

(concluded on page 5, column 1)

by Donald E. Ford

● Collier's, March 2, 1956:
"The Devil To Pay" by W. A. Powers. Man makes pact with devil to be great lover. Short story on 1 page. Not bad.

● Collier's, March 16, 1956:
"Teletype" by Will F. Jenkins. A detective story, essentially; but it has enough interest to sustain the average fan.

"I C B M" by Hanson W. Baldwin. A long article about the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. Mel Hunter has 1 nice illo. A rash of these articles are appearing in almost all the mags, lately.

● Life, February 27, 1956:
"The Epic Of Man" III in this series.

"U.S. Races For A Supermissile". Article similar to Collier's, only covering missiles besides ICBM. Leydenfrost has some beautiful illos in this one. Worth getting.

● Time, February 27, 1956:
"Science" column notes a new camera, "Eva", which photographs via infra-red, on a thin film of oil. Life has some other photos, too.

● Mechanix Illustrated, March 1956:
"How The Flying Saucer Works" by Willy Ley. Willy tells how the Air Force will build a "saucer".

● Bluebook, March 1956:
"ESV Can Make Your Life Better" by Lloyd Mallan. Bluebook flipped their lid & went all out on this. There are 10 separate articles on this subject telling how we'll all be living in such a better world that it makes you feel like skipping ahead 25 years, via time machine.

However, the thing that is really good in this issue is: "Power" by Frank M. Robinson.

It's been a long time since I've enjoyed a story any better than this one. It's sort of a detective story a la Tucker, with a dash of Frederic Brown thrown in to capture the suspense.

This person has the power to make objects move via mental commands (telekinesis). Also can make people do his bidding, can kill them, etc. Women go for him, too.

The hero tracks him down, finally, to a completely unexpected ending. I'd like to say more, but don't want to spoil the plot. All I can say is get it & read it. It's what Bluebook calls novel length. Maybe 40,000 words as a guess. You'll find it hard to put down before the ending.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

schedule in no time at a l l. We are proud to be able to state that tho we have been late numerous times, we have only skipped two scheduled issues since 1946. We enjoyed writing "Red Faces" also, and the editors and/or editors of the magazines involved got a big kick out of it. Dr. Gardner did review the 1955 issue of Future. See page 6, issue #239.
-The Editors-

Cambridge 42, Mass.
6 January 1956

Dear Ray:

.....Error Spotter's Dept. in FT #236, you print a n editorial note at the end of the Mahaffey story, about Palmer and his Tarzan complex. Now, I grant you that Rap h a s been quite a personality i n science-fiction for a long time; he also has been one of the most controversial, and one who come up with an awful lot of brainchildren. But please don't make him quite such a Superman. My own reliable source, Day's INDEX, says that John Bloodstone is actually Mr. Stuart James (Colossus 3) Byrne.

As for Bloodstone being a house name, I doubt it, since in 1951 a series of three stories --- the "Michael Flannigan" trilogy) --- appeared i n Amazing, a different publisher entirely.

Sincerely,
J. Martin Graetz

(Ray Palmer, in the current (April) issue of his magazine, Other Worlds, page 85, states: ".....Howard (Browne), like few others, didn't cotton to the Shaver

Mystery, and never believed a word of it. Which was okay with him, but when a guy named Stuart Byrne (S. J. Byrne) wrote a couple o f stories imitating Shaver type material, he became convinced it was the best Stu could do, and never gave him a tumble after that. We l l, we wrote Howard and asked how he'd like some Ray Palmer stories for Amazing. He said "And how!" So we got a story from Stu, put no name on the title page, and asked Howard to pick a pen name. Howard called us "John Bloodstone". We are proud to say that the John Bloodstone stories about Michael Flannigan in Amazing Stories were extremely popular. However, here is the rub --- Howard simply won't believe John Bloodstone is S. J. Byrne, but insists Ray Palmer is the guilty guy. It also seems Jimmy Taurasi, who puts out that wonderful fan news magazine Fantasy-Times, heard from Howard (we surmise) that John Bloodstone is Ray Palmer, and now deduces that t h e great Tarzan novel we've been talking about in recent issues is our work.

"To put the record straight, and to give credit where it is due (and this is a secret that can't be kept anyway), S. J. Byrne is John Bloodstone, and he is our successor to Burroughs."
.....
-The Editors-)

SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

Society a s well as treasurer of the 14th World S-F Cong; Mr. Saha is co-secretary (with Dick Ellington), and Mr. Kyle is Chairman, respectively, of the 14th Con Committee.

OLD S-F MAG TO BE REVIVED

Look for an old science-fiction title to be revived by a n e w owner in the very near future.

FICTION HOUSE NOT PUBLISHING

Malcolm Reiss and Jack Byrne, recent of Fiction House have opened a Literary Agency at 342 Madison Avenue, New York. Mr. Reiss tells us that Fiction House is no longer publishing, Rod & Gun and Planet Stories being their last magazines, but the company still keeps an

office open in Conn., doing business with reprints, TV rights etc. Mr. Reis hopes that in the near future Fiction House will start publishing again, and that that reactivation will possibly revive Planet Stories.

"FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION" MOVE

Fantasy House (Mercury Publications) has moved again. New main offices at: 527 Madison Ave., New York 22, NY. They publish among other magazines, the popular Fantasy And Science Fiction.

"SHORT STORY" RUMOR

Rumor has it that Short Stories will be revived in the near future, with Weird Tales returning shortly thereafter. This is suppose to happen under the old publisher. Remember it's just a rumor.

FAN COLUMN FOR AUSTRALIAN MAG

The Australian monthly, Science Fiction Monthly will increase its pages to 114 possibly with the July (#11) issue. These additional 16 pages will be turned over to a FAN column, to be conducted by Graham S. Stone, who aids Roger Dard with Fantasy - Times' Australian News. Mr. Stone will have full run of the column which will be the biggest being published today. Our congratulations, Graham.

VALIGURSKY ARTICLE IN NJ PAPER

Gerry de la Ree had a feature story (with pictures) on science-fiction artist Ed Valigursky in the March 10, 1956 edition of the Week-End magazine section of the Bergen Evening Record of Hackensack, N.J. This is Gerry's third science-fiction article in this paper. It's a two page article with two photos of Valigursky & three of his drawings.

FANTASY-TIMES' BOOK REVIEWS
(concluded from page 3, column 1)

The fundamental fault of "The Fiction Factory" lies in the selection of the author. Competent as Quentin Reynolds is in many fields, he knows little or nothing about periodical Americana, a fact simply and adequately dem-

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, June 1956:

"The Man Who Came Early" (novelet) Poul Anderson, "Star Slugger" William Morrison, "The Ship" William Nolan & Charles Fritch, "The Planets Are Not Enough" (article) Arthur C. Clarke, "Genius Of The Species" R. Brethor, "The Asa Rule" Jay Williams, "The Science Screen" (a department) Charles Beaumont, "Payment Anticipated" C. S. Forester, "Bottle Babe" Stuart Palmer, "Recommended Reading" (a department) Anthony Boucher, "All On A Golden Afternoon" (novelet) Robert Bloch, and the index to close out Volume 10.

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, July 1956:

Cover by Emsch, illustrating "The Saboteur" by Randall Garrett, inside illo by Emsch; "Whap Shot's" by Fred Pohl, illo Emsch; "Art-Work" by Jim Blish, illo Orban; "The Third City" by Bryce Walton, illo Kelly Freas; "The Lonely One" by Robert Silverberg, illo Orban; and "The Secret Weapon Of Titipu" by Ralph Spencer; plus all the regular departments.

onstrated at a hundred points in this work. Clearly, every bit of material he uses is picked from some reference source unconnected with a close, working knowledge of his subject or, if based on valid sources, has been gotten entirely wrong or, at best only partially right in the course of transcription: either is in itself a certain sign of a lack of real interest so complete as to altogether invalidate the man for his task.

This disinterest is reflected further in the writing. It would be hard to imagine a duller book about a potentially more engrossing subject. And when one looks at the quotations he has selected as representative of the material he is discussing at one point or another, one must assume that Reynolds remains cloddishly unmoved by anything in popular fiction between the levels of "Little Orphan Annie" and Isaac Asi-

MOV. (It is more likely he has simply quoted the first things he saw upon opening sample copies of the magazines in question to get through a dull job, but he has no one to blame but himself if the former conception prevails.)

The Astounding chapter is graced with a full color reproduction of a Bonestell cover, as well as with a two page spread from Cartmill's "Deadline" with an Urban illustration, and another Astounding cover is reproduced in part on the back cover of the book.

Look at this volume; buy it if you think the eighty-six pages of color and black and white illustrations are worth \$5.00; but don't read it for anything but laughs. "The Story Of 100 Years Of Publishing At Street & Smith" is a book that still remains to be written; "The Fiction Factory" is only a pathetic travesty of it.

SCIENTI-BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW S/F BOOKS OUT RECENTLY:

THE FORBIDDEN PLANET by W. J. Stuart Bantam Books, NY, 25¢.

PLAGUE SHIP by Andrew North (Andre Norton), Gnome Press, NY, \$2.50.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF SPACE TRAVEL by Albro Gaul (non-fiction), illus by Virgil Finlay, World Publishing Co, NY, \$4.95.

ATLANTIS: THE MYSTERY UNRAVELLED by Jurgen Spanuth (non-fiction) The Citadel Press, NY, \$4.00.

DOUBLE STAR by Robert A. Heinlein, Doubleday, NY, \$2.95.

FANDOM HOUSE

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

PRINTED MATTER

Form 3547 Requested
All Required Postage Guaranteed

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Published twice-a-month by FANDOM HOUSE

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U. S. & Canada: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1.00, or \$2 per year (24 issues).

Permanent subscription \$10.00.
FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331,
Paterson 23, New Jersey.

British: 9d per copy, 15s0d 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: \$5.00 full page, \$3.00
per half page.

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

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!
(established 1937)

FANTASY-TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

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

159 mags.-S.S. - T.M.S. 1940 to present
complete! \$30.95. Amazings - '38 - '53
incomplete, \$20. Include postage. Write
Thomas O'Dell, 8250 Wisconsin, Det. 4, Mich
Fantasy-Times #200, \$1 a copy. FANDOM
HOUSE, P.O. Box 2331, Paterson 23, N.J.

MORE CLASSIFIED ADS ON PAGE 2



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