

British Science-Fiction Booms; More New Mags Announced

IN CONTRAST TO the gloomy picture of the US science-fiction field which is painted by recent news stories --- mags folding, issues delayed for months, pages cut, publishing schedules curtailed to bi-monthly or quarterly, and a general heavy drop in circulation --- news from Great Britain indicates that publishers there are moving briskly about in an atmosphere of rising public interest and acceptance of science-fiction, rapidly expanding readership, and a relaxation of the materials and production problems which have beset them since the beginning of WW II. In recent issues we have announced an upswing in BPE activity, and last issue came the news of the coming companion to "NEBULA". The stories below are the latest news in the current comparative boom in British s-f.

- A Fandom House Publication -

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

13th Year - #190

2nd Nov 1953 Issue

Vol 8 No 22 - 10s

"VARGO STATTON S-F MAG"
DUE IN MID-JANUARY;
JOHN RUSSELL FEARN, ED.

(Information by Ken Slater)

London, Eng., 20 Nov., (CNS) - A new British s-f mag, featuring all new stories, no reprints, will be on sale in the British Isles and Canada on 14th January.

Entitled "VARGO STATTON S-F MAGAZINE"; it is published by Scion Ltd., 6 Avonmore Rd, London W-14. Price of the mag and the number of pages have not been announced. It is pulp-size.

The first issue, marked Vol. 1, No. 1 and dated January 1954, contains a novel, "Beyond Zero" by Vargo Statton, a short novel, "March Of The Robots" by Volsted Gridban, a novelette, "The Super

(Concluded on Page 6)

PEARSON LTD STARTS
MONTHLY S-F NOVEL MAG
UNDER "TIT-BITS" IMPRINT

by Michael Corper

London, Eng., 6 Nov., (CNS) - Another firm has started off publishing s-f, C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., of Tower House, Southampton St., London WC-2. Under the imprint of TIT-BITS S-F Library, they will bring out a series of monthly novels. Each will be digest size, have 64 pp.; have small, but extremely clear, print and will cost 9d.

They will be out on the second Tuesday of each month, and all stories will be original British narratives, NOT reprints.

The first issue (Sept. 1953) has "The Hell Fruit" by Lawrence
(Concluded on Page 6)

You will find top-line original stories by

ERIC SPANK RUSSELL

J. T. McINTOSH

ROSS ROCKLYNNE

E. EVERETT EVANS

SYDNEY J. BOUNDS

D. R. JAMES

WILLIAM F. THURPEL

A. BERTRAM CLAUDIER

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F. G. RAYNER

E. C. TUBE

AND MANY OTHERS

as well as regular fan articles by

FORTUNE J ACKERMAN

KENNETH F. SLATER

WALTER A WILLIS

TONY C. THORPE

appearing regularly in

NEBULA

SCIENCE FICTION

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"NEBULA SCIENCE-FICTION", 159, Crownpoint Rd., GLASGOW, S. E., Scotland

FAN ANTHO PLANNED
AS FIRST OF SERIES

Hackensack, N.J., 27 Nov., (CNS)-
An anthology composed of fiction
which has appeared in s-f fan-
mags of the past is now being
compiled by Calvin T. Beck, well-
known NY fan and recent columnist
for "S-F QUARTERLY", for possible
publication by a major book house
in Fall, 1954.

Submission of material is
invited; Mr. Beck's address is
Box 497, Hackensack, N.J.

Submissions must be in their
original fanmag format, with suf-
ficient return postage. A typed,
revised version may accompany the
original, following usual M S
standards.

"Negotiations will commence",
states Mr. Beck, "Between a pub-
lisher and myself, when the antho-
logy has been finished. So far,
several of the major publishers
are more than 'interested'; none,
however, belong to the 'special-
ist' s-f publishing group, though
half have published a fine load
of s-f heretofore, Doubleday & Co.
to name one it's more than
likely that the whole business
will wind up in their hands...."

Mr. Beck further states that
payment for material is doubtful,
depending on the publisher's al-
located budget. He hopes that the
volume will be the first of a
series, giving s-f amateurs equal
opportunity to be published as
enjoyed by unknowns in the gener-
al fiction field.

Material for this first col-
lection should be sent before
May, 1954.

COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

Raymond J. Healy has a new
anthology of s-f stories, similar
to his "New Tales Of Time And
Space", which will be published

FAN IS VICTIM OF ACCIDENT

Arlington, Va., 13 Nov., (CNS) -
It is with regret that we learned
today that George Pubols, s-f fan
and long-time subscriber to "FAN-
TASY - TIMES", was accidentally
killed on 23rd June last, over-
come by carbon monoxide gas while
preparing to wash the family car.
He was 17 years of age.

FORRY PRESENTS "HUGO"
TO H. J. CAMPBELL

Hollywood, Calif., 9 Nov., (CNS)-
The presentation of a "Hugo" to
H. J. Campbell, editor of the
British mag, "AUTHENTIC 3-F", and
popular s-f author, by Forrest J
Ackerman, perhaps the best-known
of all s-f personalities, was re-
ported in detail, complete with
picture, in today's issue of the
newspaper, "BEVERLY HILLS NEWS
LIFE".

The lengthy article, written
by Bob Landon, had Campbell's
middle initial wrong ("F" instead
of "J"), but was at least 90% ac-
curate and favorable overall.

The presentation was made at
Forry Ackerman's home, to which
the British editor had journeyed
after the Philly Convention. Am-
ong the guests were A. E. Van
Vogt, Curt Siodmak and Alex Apos-
tolides.

Brought out in the article
was the fact that the "Hugo" was
originally presented to Ackerman
by the Convention Awards Commit-
tee, who accepted it only with
the understanding that he should
relay it to editor Campbell, as a
more deserving recipient.

by Random House. There will be
stories by Bretnor, Boucher, Gold,
Neville (a sequel to "Bettyanne"),
Van Vogt (a sequel to "Fulfill-
ment"), and Dr. Fink, author of
the best-selling "Release From
Nervous Tension". Big news of
the volume is an original story
(Concluded on Page 6)

A N O P E N L E T T E R T O F O R R I E A C K E R M A N

Porrie, why is it that everybody likes nothing better than to take a crack at you? If you question them, they don't have anything against you -- they really don't mean anything by calling you a communist or a rapist or an embezzler, they just do it casually, unthinkingly. It makes me mad, even if it doesn't you. I've admired and respected you for years, as any fan reasonably must, for you've done more for Fandom individually and collectively than ANYBODY. Some people seem to think a long line of envious and prejudiced lies justifies further efforts along these lines, lies begetting bigger lies. I have yet to pin anybody down who could present any solid, substantial accusation of guilt against you, much less any proof of these tenuous, flimsy lies. There's one thing, tho. Anybody who slings mud at you just manages to get himself dirty. By your own nature, there will always be people who know you for the fine person you have proven yourself to be to them, that no large segment of Fandom or Prodom can ever be made to believe the lies, and will know the liars for what they are. But apparently people will continue to take advantage of your limitless generosity, and continue calling you an axe murderer, a Russian spy, a poisoner, just for the damned hell of it. Why don't you slap them down once in awhile? Just for the people like me who get mad at the lies about a fine man, why don't you slap them down?

Sincerely and Respectfully,

JIM HARRISON,
427 E. 8th St.,
Mt. Carmel, Ill.

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Founded 1941

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LONDON, W.6., ENGLAND.

"VARGO STATTON S-F MAG"...
(Concluded from Page 1)

Disintegrator" by Stefan Inker-
man, one short, "The Copper Bul-
let" by John Wernheim, and Part 1
of a three-part serial, "The In-
evitable Conflict" by E. C. Tubb.

Features will be "Rocket
Mail", a s-f correspondence club,
"Science Facts And Speculations",
"Books Of Note", "Editorial For-
um" and "Thoughts For The Month".

"Vargo Statton" is the well-
known pen-name of veteran British
s - f author John Russell Fearn.
"Volsted Gridban" is also Mr.
Fearn. It is no surprise to note
that the mag's editor is also Mr.
Fearn under the Vargo Statton al-
ias.

The contents page announces
that "The 'VARGO STATTON S-F MAG'
is an all-British production".
It falls just short of being an
all-John Russell Fearn production.

No frequency of publication
is given, but judging by the dat-
ing, it is planned as either a
monthly or a bi-monthly.

TIT-BITS S-F LIBRARY....
(Concluded from Page 1)

F. Rose; October is "Cosmic Exod-
us" by Conrad G. Holt; November
will be "Doomed Nation Of The
Skies" by Steve Future; December

will be "The Star Seekers"
Francis G. Rayer; and January,
1954, will be "Before The Begin-
ning" by Mark Reison.

Covers for these books are
reported to be purchased through
an agency, and the name(s) of the
artist(s) are not known.

Also by the same publisher
is the TIT-BITS S-F Comics, a
series of cartoon stories in the
same general style. These also
are monthly, are put out on the
first Tuesday, at 9d, and are al-
so 64 pp.

The illos are lively, imagi-
native and clear. First two were
illustrated by Turner. December
issue will feature "Capt. Diamond
& The Space Pirates".

COSMIC REPORTER...
(Concluded from Page 3)

by John W. Campbell; Campbell
has not written a story since
1939 (his book, "The Moon Is Hell",
is a revised version of a short
novel written in 1935, I'm told;
his last mag-published story was
"The Elder Gods", "UNKNOWN WORLDS"
Oct, 1939).

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