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Freyor's Last Bow-----.

With the passing of Imagination I reluctantly put the dust cover on my typer as far as solentifictional fandom is concerned. And considering the lusty and thouroughly enjoyable pogroms I've engaged in and with varcius prominent members of this aforsaid fandom I'd like to gather up a few loose ends and knot them before I put my rather checkered homespun away. To begin with here's an open sentence or two to Don Wolhiem. Donald, I don't agree with your politics; I probably wouldn't like your brand of cigarettes; but Donald I've learned to think you're pretty much alright. I make no apologies for the DAW thing; I enjoyed writing it; but I will say this that when you took it good naturedly with the laconic comment, "DAW isn't DAW, he's two o-ther guys", I LIKED you. Here's hoping we can cross pens again sometime.

To Miske, Thanks for your letter in the September issue. You displayed that "good taste" which you so deplored as lacking in my writings. I feel that any article written by my self is a decided success when it can produce a hodge podge of sanctimonious shrieks, holier-than-thou's, and an abandoned descent to personalities, as my burlesque evoked from you. Knowing that you read Esquire (And look at the nast cartoons, too!) I can understand your obvious sophistication.

Then, too, there seems to be an idea in the minds of some that I was the machinery behind Madge's recent censorship program. I wish to say here and now that not only am I not guilty of this stop but on the otherhand I have fought it as best I could. I wish that I could draw some correlation between this censorship policy and Madge's demiso-----but there are no grounds for it! So, curses, I can't set my face in smug lines and murmur, "I told you so!"

And in conclusion please don't attribute last month's "Ressurrection" to me. It was a full length review, but after having been bowlderized by the inimitable Mr. Ackerman and embroidered by numerous of his typical insertions-----I relinquish my dubious paternity! Forrie is the Pop. And he's welcome to the changeling.

S'long. (Advt, sic)



## WAY OUT WEST

AZSHYGOUS

Yes, regular readers, we know; this is nothing nr like what was announced in #12. Immediately noticeable is the thinness of the number --1/3d the size the augmented edition that was forecast, only 1/2 normal. That color conception of Madge doesnt greet U on the cover. Issue is anywhere up to 10 days late in arriving. & U may've read rumors to the effect that Madge is moribund. The rumors were rite.

None can feel more badly about all this than the roster of the LA Leag, publishers; & in particular myself, Morojo & Forry, who have been most intimately involved in the work of producing IMAGINATION!. But, Forry points out: "Somewhere I heard that a great pianist--perhaps Paderewski--declared something to the effect that should he fail to practice during one day, he woud know it; if he let 2 pass, the critix woud know it; & if 3 went by, the audience woud know it." Similar is our situation. In the middle of making Sept Madge we were caught by the calamity of our chief compositor's change in status. He decided it was time to quit working Father & started working for Uncle; that is, Uncle Sam. Whereupon we became acutely conscious of the fact that the production of our publication--in the proper proportions, with the desired degree of neatness, "novaciousness" &c--was a good-deal-of-the-day job the month thru for one individual. With fulltime free, 4c had been hard-pressed (as indeed had I & Morojo, already workers) to keep up with the imagi-nation, falling badly behind in our reading, correspondence--sleep. It frankly became evident that without Forry's aid Madge would become but a shade of her former self. 4c was working from 4 pm til midnite, making it impossible for me or Morojo to confer with him in the evenings; & it is scarcely feasible to carry on compositing by correspondence!

Deterioration began with the last number, which was not all we desired it to be. Like the Paderewski parallel, we knew; some of U discerned it too. The fate of our organ was earnestly discussd from divers angles among the mems. Bradbury, Brady & Bruce Yerke volunteered to try to carry on but proposal was vetoed because it was felt any foster-fathering of Madge would alter her unique personality beyond recognition & we did not wish IMAGINATION! to continue in name only. "Eventually it was decided 'twould be best to bring the business to a stop while Madge was on top, rather than sadly to watch her decline. We had produced, regularly each month, for 12 mos., an aggregate of 257 (provocative-provoking, reader take your choice) pgs, establishd a reputation for reliable, prompt appearance, standard size &c.

An unfortunate incident was the leak that Madge was to die after Xmas. This was denyd on a technicality. Info further unfortunately was not publishd as was presumed it would be & by & by between Bradbury & Bob Tucker, Taurasi & "Tiny" ('scuse it, Myrtle), reports were really balled up. Suffice it to say we had no ulterior motive in obscuring the inevitable other than to insure enthusiasm woudnt fall off in entering our contests for mss & Madge's picture.

No, we arent backing out on the \$ contest which was so enthusiastically supported. During the ensuing month we'll prepare a special pamphlet, priced at \$.10, containing our selection of the 4 best, & U'll do the rest to select the winner. Articles to appear are Jabberwork, Nancy Featherstone; Bk of the Dead, Bob Tucker; Fans Panned, Ted Carnell; & After 1939--What?, Jack Speer.

Anent the cover: In case U hadn't heard, most the amateur artists of the Imagi-nation were invited by us to enter an "artistic competition", submitting their conceptions of Madge - "the fan of the future", our pick of the most pleasing pic to constitute cover of this issue. Specifications were: Head & shoulders, only, required, inclosed in a rectangle 6" hi by 4" across. Madge to face left at 3-quarters (i.e., her head 1/2-way between full-front & profile), her eyes regarding the reader. In color; hair red, eyes green. Infectious smile, air of unconventionality, aura of intelligence, aspect of dauntlessness, tang of tomoro-- First response came from Walter Earl Marconette, famous for his females. Baltadonis, Dollens, Mooney, Rogers Team et al were contacted. Even Catherine Moore, Wm E Dold Jr (yes, Elliott!!). Nancy Featherstone tryd her hand, Ray Bradbury's Aunt Niva, & no less than 3 different entrys were recvd from anonymiss "Miss Tree". (Y, even Weaver Wright "executed" an attempt. But it was not a wow.) But our silk-screen process prospect fell thru, & we've not yet been satisfyd, anyhow, that we've really found Madge. Not finally content to accept merely the best bet submitted so far, we wait til "the rite girl comes along." The competition is still on. We'll give the winner one dozen reproductions. At such a time as we "locate" the lady of our choice, we plan to publish her picture as a memento & provide it free to all readers of at least 3-issues' standing...

Nancy Featherstone recently has taken up residence in LA, joined our chapter. A 5th Thursday falling in Sept, the gang's been invited to the Featherstone flat for extra meeting of the month. Nancy, a competent stencilist, eagerly offered her services to assist with this Ann-ish but it developd her machine would not function properly for stenciling & she could not come to Morojo's to use hers. Morojo was under the weather. "Anny" Anshutz, an excellent & ever-willing substitute when times get tough, wasn't feeling well either. Pogo, who has stencild before in pinches, no longer sojourning with her cousin Morojo. Instead, Pogo's bro Jogo staying with Morojo's son Vodoso; Jogo a good typist--in the making. In the end, the major stencil stint devolved on Forry--who never intended to become so involved in the operations of IMAGINATION! in the first place.

Readers who've been with us all the way may know the name IMAGINATION! & slogan were evolved by Forry, offered Roy Test for his proposed fanmag. When in July '37 after considerable printing the first, "pyrotechnic" number had to be abandond, & he was anxious for our roster to express itself in some material manner, Forry suggested we carry on with "The Fanmag of the Future--with a Future!".

Eyewitness Acky writes: "Ah, the hectic hec-codaze & nites--yes, they, too, were frights--at Morojo's old Apt. at Shatto Pl., where Madge was born on a gelatin pad! Had ever a baby a stranger birthplace!

"So Many Memorys!-- The pgs spoilt, discarded ...the conferences at Yerke's, my place, Morojo's...alternating delight & despair with the whole affair. Bruce was editing the initial issue, when we learnt he couldn't spell. Now we just couldn't put out a publication with illiterate orthograpy, could we? so Ackermanese was incepted!

"We pledged positively not to annoy U with our estimation of each story in each professional mag; stating that just so everyone could refer back & enjoy Big Laf at our expense 5 yrs hence when we should be printing the only recognized story summations...still further acknowledging

we wrote the latter for a bigger lat in 1948 to think we ever that we'd last that long! (Maybe we were optimists to think even the world would last that long!)

"In 6 days we were sold out. One month later a quarter was offered for a copy. In 2 mos' time, 35c for one in good condition. 3d month, 50c for copy in any condish. & the 5th ish saw the fanomena of the first number's commanding \$1--a 1000% increase!

"IMAGINATION!'s first cover was by Vodoso. Autographic congratulations were extended by (among others) Ed Earl Repp, who was to return to Stf; Joe W Skidmore, untimely to die; & L Ron Hubbard, to establish himself as a stf favorite. WAY OUT WEST was inaugurated, to gain immediate popularity & ever remain our favorite feature. Bruce Yerke wrote 'Foo-losophy' & an article as 'Ted Berk'. All very colorful, all very curious.

"Our 2d cover was designed by Russ (& incidently the lettering, which our draftsmannish Director so uniformly has reproduced from month to month) & has remained one of our simplest & best. Blue. This was our first mimcod issue, done on Saturday afternoons after hrs at Morojo's office. With the exception of Morojo, we were novices at the new art. Signatures did not reproduce so very well. Last pg was stenciled rite at the office. Also the interviews with Art Barnes & Cath Moore (Perry Lewis pounded out these employing the Columbus system of typing: Finding a key & landing on it. (Hope U havent a good memory as I think I may've used that pun before in Madge. Like the Columbuships, I'm all at sea...)). 'It Hapnd in Hypr-Space' a hi-lite by 'Hanky Panky' (Kuttner). The Hazy Hord begins, 2e (Perry - get it?) providing 4e with sig for Weaver Wright. We learnt Allis Villetta had become an ex-Canadian & new Californian, also a Mrs (Kerlay). It was she who nicknamed IMAGINATION!

"Weird Tales artist Mooney makes next cover. Yelo. Russ, Morojo, Forry, Celeste Dz Pnto, conjecture 2 hrs what to write on outside of the pictured mag in the colossus' hand. 'Bk of the Universe'? Or maybe 'Food for That'. Memory dims, now, re other suggestions, but I recall Russ always favored just a Big Question Mark.

"New Yr No. One the best! Expressive, timely cover, again by Mooney. In blue. Beginning biogs--Russ, Morojo. Letter from Lovecraft. Hollerbochen's Dilemma!

"Feb: IN MEMORIAM - Stf Author Skidmore. Among Our Mems, Mooney & Squires. Mystery Manuscript. 'Ashtrays & the Downfall of Civilization'. First appearance Vogue typ. Flagg-FJA serial finally ends, & with it, fiction in Madge.

"Mar: Marred by Bradbury's foist cover--blue--boo! Yerke-Lewis in interview. Atheism rears its ungodly head. Robt the Bloch. 'Resurrection'. Ad by Burroughs.

"Apr Foo. Green, drawn by 'John R Hodgc' (Russell Jno Hodgkins) after a suggestion by Jack Erman. Frechafer & Fairchild write-ups. Rap. Brady breaks in. Yerke replies to 'Michelism', which as yet we don't even know how to pronounce. Azygous-Wilson contributes. Ackerman writes in orthodox English!

"May: 'Spirit of Spring' by Bok (he carved the cut for COSMOS). Shepherd-Vodoso, Among Our Mems. More Michelism. Allen Glasser returns. Special: Karel 'RUR' Capek. 'Why Stf Eds Go Nuts'. Miske's



signature.

"June: Cover blue; Bradbury, 'edited' by RJH. Memos put under the microscope: Anschluss (er, Anshutz) & Bradbury. 'Who is Warner Van Lorne?' Kuttner's 'Upside-down in Time'.

"July: Green again (the cover); no illustration. Guest Edited by Chas D Hornig. 'Disillusion', Moskowitz. 'Mathematica Minus', Bradbury. 'Way Down East' (Conventionikmax), Richard Wilson Jr. 'Who is DAW?'. FJA's Middle Name. Issue almost entirely orthodox.

"Rest the readers will b too familiar, I feel, with the remaining, recent, issues to warrant resumé."

"Of all the words of mice & men, the sadist are 'It might of been!'" We will now torture U listing the contents skoded for this ish... Pg 2: WAY OUT WEST. 3: MEET OUR MEMS (Fotos of the Imagi-natives). 4: INTERVIEW--ACKERMAN. 5: FANTASCIENCE FLASHES! from Claire Voyant & Guestars. 6: HAS STF A FUTURE?, Chas D Hornig. 7: AUTOBIOGRAPHY--HOWARD. 8: MICHELISMANUSCRIPT, Jno B. 9: FANTASCIENCE FILMART, FJA-Kerlay; ONWARD ESPERANTO!, Erdstelulov-Morojo. 10: BK REVIEWS FROM ABROAD, Haussler-Frechafer; IMAGI-MIK-NAX: JNO TAINE. 11: HOLLERBOCHEN COMES BACK, Ray Douglas Bradbury. 12-17: \$ PRIZE CONTEST MSS. 18: QUESTION COMPETITION (Completion, False & True &c. First Prize: First Madge. 2d, Amazing Stories Annual. 3d, "Waters of Lethe" - Dr Keller. 4th, 6-mo. "!" sub. 5th, The Hyborian Age. 6th, 2d Madge.) 19: FANTASY FICTION'S FOREMOST FAN, Arthur K Barnes. 20: SHAME ON FANDOM!, Louis Bremmer. 21: GRAPOLGYARNS--A MERRITT, Zhan Dark; ETHER EERIES, Dr Acula. 22: RESURRECTION--Darkness & Dawn, the classic Geo Allan England Trilogy...Fred Shroyer; VERSE OF THE IMAGI-NATION ...Gillespie, Perdue, Speer, Wilkinson. 23-28: VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION. 29: ADS. 30: Q&A DEPT--Synopsis, "1000° Below Zero"...Thrill Bk mag serial by Murray Leinster resumed by Pogo. Interior Illustrations by Harryhausen, Vodoso, Bradbury.

3 courses are open to our subscribers; U may use your remaining credit to acquire Back Nos; leave your subs to be filled by future pubs of the LLSFL; Pamflots & sundrys we shall issue from time to time (example: "Hollerbochen Comes Back, Shame on Fandom! & Fantasy Fiction's Foremost Fan" for 5c); 3, we will (as the ads go) "cheerfully refund your money." (Well, anyway, we will promptly return what you've coming.)

Lang:

Life: First Sept meet onlived by scientificrossword puzzle contributed by Perdue, adaptation of a popular campus puzzler. 4e so rash as to offer quarter cash for anyone who could solve same, having little presentiment of the precociousness of Pogo. To construct the crossword, draw a small square, 3 lines horizontally & 3 vertical. U now have 16 smaller squares. Number 1-2-3-4 down left-hand row, 1-5-6-7 across top. Horizontal: 1--Insects. 2--Organs of sight. 3--To annoy. 4--to annoy by simplifd spelng (name of Publiculprit #1). Verdigo: 1--What does carbonated H<sub>2</sub>O do? 5--What do false teeth do? 6--What do bedbugs do? 7--What do stfans do? Ans, see pg 12.

We welcomed back St Shroyer & that chroniccommuter twixt New Jersey & LA, Chas Dee Hornig.

Due to an imaginative Beverly Hills theater mgr who minted manoy with a triple thriller program, marquees in movieland have more than featured fantascience films during the month, including (often 2 at a time) "Deluge, Frankenstein, Bride of F., Kong, Son of K., WereWolf of London, Things to Come, Transatlantic Tunnel, Walking Dead, Invisible Man, Mummy, Ghoul, Raven, Gabriel Over the White House, She, The Scoundrel, Man who Lived Again, Clairvoyant, Invisible Ray, FBI, Crime of Dr Crespi--" At many revivals of "Dracula", Bela Lugosi has apcard in person. Topping their own records, Harryhausen has now seen King Kong 25 times!, Ferry THINGS TO COME for the dozenth (also "Lost World" for the 10th time, & Morojo is up there with 8 to date on Wells' "scientificmasterpiece").

Well! As I write 'twas lastnite we got together at Nancy's, & whatawow it was! 14 fans & the Featherstone in 3 hr fan-

# VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION

faint Praise from FANDAMN

Walter E. Marconette

Boss of the Dayton Branch of EMPRESS Publications, 2120 Pershing Bd, boos & boosts. "Bonjour, amis: - Latest issue (August) of IMAGINATION! received, read, and properly filed a-

way for future generations. Being in a rather nasty mood this month, I thought I'd write you some sort of comment. Said comment could be condensed to one word, 'PHOO-IE'. However, to be a bit more gonzo, I'll give a more detailed report. ~ Mille. Talbert did a very nice job on the cover; in fact, the best I've ever seen on IMAGINATION! 'Way Out West' and 'Fantascience Flashes' were, as usual, interesting to the nth degree. Mille. 'Patti's' biography also rests in this class. Lowndes' short filler (I presume you clipped this from a letter?) is another one of those things; I agree fully with parts of it, and in turn I disagree just as fully with other parts. Interesting, anyhow. Kuslan's article was not bad at all. 'Dead Reckoning' is typical of a certain school of humor. (Yech, the kind U have to school yourself against! PD. --Not Police Dept...Printer's Devil! What's that U say? IMAGINATION! isnt printed? That's the devil of it! Say, how long is this going on? Fade away, parenthetical nest; we want Marconette!) Still good. Dracula's series still retains my interest. ~ Well, sirs and mams, you may begin to wonder why that large 'phooie' was inserted in the first paragraph. (O no, we know; we already have read the letter.) I actually seem to be praising everything! Understand, I didn't mean most of the material, but rather the return to so-called 'modern' spelling. Damn!!!! (You heard me Acky! Yep, and you too, Morojo!) (Me too, Pogo) Haven't we readers anything to say about this one point? If you don't watch out we'll have Michel and his pals down around your ears. It's pure dictatorship, you know. ~ Until Madge drops Ackermanese, (probably never), I remain, Walter E. Marconette." (Now that's where U're wrong: After this issue U won't have to suffer any more simplified spelling here. The question now comes to our craniums: U say until Madge drops Ackermanese U remain Walter E. Marconette...Who will U b afterward?!) "P.S. I hereby give you permission to print what Dick Wilson said about you in the latest issue of SCIENTI-SNAPS. Or wouldn't you care too much for this honor?" Quote: What I Think of Present Day Fan Mags by Richard Wilson Jr., from Scienti-Snaps Summer '38, pg 17. "On to IMAGINATION!, one of the top-notch fan magazines. It is edited by an intelligent bunch of fans, and is extremely neat. Articles, stories, interviews, and reviews of plays, radio dramas, and movies are all presented in its pages. The magazine has an appreciative and critical clientele, as evidenced by the lively readers' columns. A delightful informality and sense of humor is wielded by the publishers. The one item that stands out like a sore thumb (as they would say) is its overindulgence in so called Ackermanisms; the use of extremely abbreviated and telescoped English. Ackerman, Morojo, and Pogo seem to be the outstanding exponents of this outlandish outrage, with Hodgkins, Yerke, and Lewis the conscientious objectors. The rest of the staff seems indifferent. The best solution of the problem would appear a vote among the readers to decide the issue. If such a course has occurred to FJA & Co, they more than likely will not make use of it, through fear of overwhelming opposition of public opinion." --Well, Walt?

CARNELL--Science-Fiction Service--17 Burwash Rd, Plumstead; London SE18/England. comments: "Mille gracias for MADGE, here 2 days back. Boost previous words of praise still higher with statement that mag is easily tops now. Your writing staff is a wow. You may know that at SFA monthly meetings here I spout a column entitled FANS AND FAN



MAGS, being a concentrated digest of all mags received in each month. ~~~ Best received article yet read was DEAD RECKONING by A GHOUL. Please pass congrats to author. (Sorry, Ghoul has moved to another graveyard--& left no forwarding adres.) ~~~And, in request to MADGE's plea for material for Anniversary ish, am enclosing personal contribution. Maybe just a trifle hard on the fans (I certainly don't really mean it), but, you asked for new treatments, and I thought this way quite a novel change. ~~~ Please thank Russ for LA SEA cons received here via Ken Chapman. Receipts already en route via NOVAE TERRAE. ~~~ Hot news for next MADGE. Harry Turner of Manchester, who did interiors for last TOW (pics were spoiled in the reproduction), submitted a batch (including a cover painting) to Editor Sprigg of FANTASY. Sprigg wrote back full of onthusiasm, stating work far better than any in first ish, and promised should there be a second number, Turner will be contacted pronto. ~~~ Will pass you full news re FANTASY directly they have Directors Meeting early Sept. ~~~Blythely,"

JACK CHAPMAN MISKE, 5000 Train Av: Cleveland/O: "Dear Madge, Perhaps you'll remember that I swore, by gawd!, to enter your anniversary contest. Well, I sat down like a man inspired about two hours ago, and the enclosed piece is yhe result. Frankly, I don't think you'd use it even in an ordinary issue, but then, as I say, I want to know - you'll find what - and that's why I'm writing it and sending it in. ~~~ After much mental labor, I have counted the words, marking the hundreds, for your convenience, and they come to, I think, 769, precisely. That should just about fill one page nicely. ~~~ If you should want to use it, I have just one restriction. No changes at all in spelling or punctuation. If you should not want to use it, send it back, and I'll include the postage with my order for the following Madge. No sir, I wouldn't trust you with the stamp. (Miske's manuscript was returned--unread.) ~~~ That's about all there is to say, except that I may be nuts, but it's a darned swell way to be."

We pause at this point to acknowledge receipt of a letter from JACK (G-Man) SPEER, which unfortunately has been lost, strayed or was stolen. Last we saw of it was at the first Leag meeting of the month when it just had arrived & was being passt about.

the entries *Dale Hart* Top Texas Fan, from Bx 1361/Highlands: "Enclosed find of Percy T. Wilkinson and I. The contest closing Sept 1st, y'know. ~~~ Will subscribe--resubscribe, rather--to Madge soon. Don't worry, for I won't miss a copy. I'm just short at this time. (U need a new ribbon, too, Dale. We almost that that was blank paper stead a letter: Ink on latter had grayd a-way to such slate state. Might I suggest your next purchase b a beegee? --Morajo) ~~~Was gratified to note that my material is scheduled to appear. ~~~ I'm not sure whether Percy is qualified. He reads my copies, though. He plans to subscribe to a lot of mags at an early date, including I! Anyway, he entered the contest. --- PTW is now an active fan. He belongs to FooFoo, SFL, and the FAPA. You have noticed Percy's two appearances in fan mags undoubtedlessly. More by him is on hand. (Percy seems to have a pressagent. Or else Dale doliberately is elevating an alterego. O, well: every fan to his own pseudonym.) ~~~ I hope that you like my entry, and hope that it will appear in Madge, even if it doesn't win the prize. ~~~ The stfal situation is shaping up pretty nicely down yere in this neck of the woods. ~~~ Also enclosed is a newspaper clipping that partly substantiates my article. Repeat: Article no hoax. ~~~ Luck----"

*Chas Parker* of 1218 S Cedar St, Casper/Wyo, waxes whimsical: "You'll find enclosed with this missive a bit of a sonnet. ~~~ And I suppose I'd better do a bit of apologising to you for the pessimistic tone which it has taken. ~~~But then, I'd writton the thing on a Sunday morning, the Sunday morning, you remember, after we'd been thrown out of Sloppy Joe's dive for dancing on the table? Ah, me, Madge, I enjoyed that date with you more than any of the others we've had. ~~~ And the morning after that date, Madge, I wrote this sonnet. The beer was alright, of course; and so were the whiskey scours and the gin fizzes; but we never should have



have tried mixing them together. And that morning there came an eternal moment of clear understanding, showing me just what unqualified fools we science-fiction fans are. ~~~ I have called this sonnet a portrait. To a small degree, tho, it is a composite photograph of all science-fiction fans. ~~~ Of course, Madge, this is not the type of thing that you've been including within your charming self. But you've been so delightfully unpredictable, your womanly moods so variable, that I thct you might appreciate it. ~~~ On second thot, Madge, you'll find two sonnets enclosed. The second is entitled 'A Sonnet Found in a Madhouse.' But, if you accept it, it will also be a 'Sonnet found in Imagination!' and Euclidean logic (Things equal to the same thing. . . ) will then tell us what Imagination: is. Or will it? (Madge is jealous. Perdue's poem concerns another woman--Well--obviously "NL", or Wilson's News Letter. It concludes: "Why cage the cheese inside the chicken coop? Why beat bananas with the brazen bell? Until my lollipops can loop the loop, I'll love the contents of your clothes, dear Nell." Og's philogistines!) ~~~ Another enclosure, Madge, is a three-cent stamp. That will be the postage for Fred Shroyer's column on 'God-Busting,' which the judges evidently thot was too good for you. As the anything could be too good for you, my little vodka flower! Even tho Fred Shroyer may be a quarter-wit, as John Bolin claims, he still writes intelligently and well. Aside; that three-center will also return these two comets of mine, I fear. ~~~ One more enclosure, Maggie, and I'll be thru. (Wassamalla, butch; envelop full?) It is now the twenty-seventh of August, and no September issue. Not having my books with me, I can't tell whether or no my subscription has run out. So, there's half a dollar's worth of threes scattered around thru this envelop, not counting the Shroyer special. Start the subscription running again, or if you're just a wee bit delayed in your appearance, Madge, extend my present one. In any case, don't forget to send out the Sept no. ~~~ Frate via, ~~~ Personal aside to Madge: How about next Friday nite, huh?" (Next Fri? Sorry, El, but already dated up by Vance. U know. Science Fiction Advance?)

From 5000 Train Av,

Cleveland/O. we hear from JACK CHAPMAN MISKE again. Writing Madge seems to b his passtime. "Dear, dear Madge, Madge, I love you! For better or for worse, for almost anything, I love you. Serene and fair, you are, like a gem of the purest water - (See# Merely the thought of what is to come as I turn back your dress - as you persist in calling it; see what a spot it puts me in?- fills me with joy. I wriggle with rapture. That's beautifully alliterative, isn't it? ~~~ This issue is pretty dull, of course (snicker), but even that fact doesn't dull my enthusiasm. Just the reading of that perfectly startling forecastale made me so benevolent that I enjoyed the entire rotten issue. I can hardly wait to lay hands on it - the anniversary issue, I mean. If it's what you say it is - well, 'Death, where is thy sting?' -but if it isn't... the same quotation will still do. Good Ghu! am I doomed to die no matter what happens? One thing makes me wary: Merritt is supposed to appear. Unless I'm wrong, that means the issue won't appear. You'll never get around to Merritt in one month! But enough of this philosophical pondering. On to more material things... ONWARD MISKE! ~~~ There is no outstanding article this month. Some are fair, some are rotten, and some I wouldn't even submit to TWS. Probably best thing in the issue was WOW. Boy, are you guys fools for luck! Complete set of SFD and FM free, with 350 other mags thrown in. Why, I'd espouse 'Michelism' for that. I'm glad for my sake and sorry for Campbell's that he can't (won't) print his two space-novels. Can Squires or anyone tell me something about Unique? Has it gone under? What's the matter with the Glendale boys? (As I write, Leag meet was last nite & Roy & Perry returned. "The 2d" --Squires II--said from what he knew Unique was thru.) ~~~ It's nice to see the Science Fiction Eye, but not as nice as it could be. Practically no real news, and nothing of especial interest. Is this going to be a permanent dept., or is it just an experiment or a guestar(Haxzat, Ack?) act? (Winchell like to know.) Brady biog could stagnat water, I'll grant you, this month, but just the same, you are still supreme.

have been better done. (Contradiction, please! By its very nature, an interview with such a rare fan cannot be well done!) That reminds me of something. I'm in a bit of a daze about this Pogo biography. Do I, for some quite obscure reason (just a whim?), get an extra ish of Madge from a young lady? What an odd world. Never let it be said that JOM faltered, though. So look; send me two anniversary issues...and the day they arrive, I'll despatch to Pogo a copy of the special JULY-August, 1935 issue of Phantagraph. One good turn deserves another, huh, Pogo? Thanks a lot for this unprecedented generosity...and just one more thing. What does HPPF stand for. I have belabored my weary brain searching for an answer, but I'm as dumb as ever. Only one that has occurred to me is 'hassonpheffer.' It should be spelt REMOTELY like that. (HPPF: Hi Priestess FooFoo) ~ My opinions to date about Hornig's articles can go right on being unanimous....he's still rotten! I take back what I said about his still being a bad editor. I really think the old Wonder the best yet. But what a mess he can make of fan mags! ~ I'm surprised that Kuttner didn't put a girl (and a strip-tease?) in his article and then submit it to Marvel SS. (So-Low Science Storys will feature, in a nonexistent number, Hank's "She Strip to Conquer", described as "a saga of a solar plexus".) To think that that guy still lives after all these years. You know, I don't want to give the impression that I never read Forry's column. I don't read it only on those occasions when it's straight review. At other times I have enjoyed it a lot. It was only very mildly interesting this month. You can abolish 'Resurrection' and the muttonhead - yeah, that's what I said - who runs it, too, for all of me. I disagreed too vehemently with 'Personality Parade' to enjoy it much; and even if I had agreed, it could never have been enjoyable, 'cause it isn't that type of subject. Wollheim hasn't done anything that would make him #1 fan for the last two years, not even the PAPA make him that. Although Forrest J may be a great guy - I'm sure he is, in fact - he hasn't ever done anything either. And now he's doing less than ever. The real #1 fan, far and away, is Claire Beck. He's done more this year than everyone else together. What do you think? And where was Henry Hasse, Jack Darrow, Oliver Saari, etc? ~ Twice Told Talos was interesting. I suspected something of the kind without even reading the original tale. Somehow it's a source of never-ending astonishment to me that there are people who think Bradbury funny. Puns are the lowest form of humor, and his stuff is the lowest form of puns! Sorry, Bradbury, that you were wrongly accused of writing 'Who is DAW?'. I know now who the sophist sap is, and I hope some one exterminates him. But you, B., should be sorry for some of the low stuff you stooped to. I still dislike book reviews - or any kind of reviews. 'Grafology-gyarns' was better, and in all fairness, I must confess that it sounded like the good Doctor. After reading Doc's tale in the current MSS, I'm inclined to think he may have something on the ball after all. But, oh lordy, that last one of his in WT! 'Ether Eeries' (I'm glad to learn it isn't a Series) is still rotten...it's a review, isn't it? That accounts for it. I just this vory second woke up to the fact that it wasn't 'HAR-OLD HERSEY' who wrote that article, but some one burlesquing him. It wasn't very good anyhow. I thought it odd that he'd poke fun at himself, but I didn't look closely. Just took it for granted. ~ Incidentally, the cover is pretty good. What is it? A character study of the author of 'Dead Reckoning' or just a member of the chapter posing? (That was no drawing, that was a magic mirror, revealing your true nature, Miske!) Another incidentally is that the mimo-ing wasn't very good. ~ Imagi-nik-nax was a flop for me. I think that the Voice gave me more enjoyment than anything else. But gosh, you never should have taken up half of it with letters from me. I feel like a hog - no, friends, I don't look like one. Not noticeably, anyhow. Aok, I apologize about that crack; but I think you, or maybe Madge's staff, should apologize to Wollheim - even if he is awfully dumb these days. I think mags should be chocolate-coated. Especially WT when it pictures a ghoul on the cover, cause it's so convenient for them to work from the inside out. You shouldn't even have bothered to print Michel's letter. He'll keep up his silly line of rot forever if permitted. Keep the stuff out of Madge. Only a few kids in New York think they care about it anyway. (Contradiction, please!)



Russell J Hodgkins, age of Editor Campbell; Morojo, with a son reading stf; & Ackerman, who votes - can U?...These 3, men across the sea (some married!) & other Thinking Fools, members of the imagi-nation whose novacious minds r not restricted to routine routes of that, "like trains, that can run only to the terminals & back", but have hept up to the folly of following the old-fashion, conventional "Crooked Road"-- These, adult & non-Newyorkers know they care. --Miss Shelst) ~ This last page is just a waste of paper (but y so qualify only the last pg?), since all I'm going to do on it is sign off. But to do that I'm going to wait for the afternoon mail and my green ribbon - which it should bring. Your ads are terrible. (But not their results!) I like very much your proposed motto. Let me recommend 'The Hyborian Age' to your readers. It's great. (Miske praises the Lany Co-op Pubs product, the Howard Memoriam, ltd no. available at 50c ppd thru RJHodgkins: 1903W84 Pl. LA) Finally, enclosed is a dime for the next - and greatest - issue. This is service. I just typed the last word when the mailman came up the walk with the ribbon. ~ Sincerely yours," (signed in green. & while we r about it, might mention Marconette's missive also typt with Morojo's technical ribbon. Whilst Perdue employd the nonstopparagrafing.)

The Lost Letter--from JACK (FOO) [unclear]  
 1812 R NW; Wn/DC--just turnd up in Morojo's purse. "The wanderer is back in the fold, having finally gotten this subscription matter in shape. And now what's this nonsense about you quitting after the yuletide? As for Foxy having to give up working for Madgo --"don't" he know that a government job is the best place in the world to pursue your hobby (especially one with hours such as hisn)? (Well, U may know it--but Uncle Sam "don't"! No sooner did I start carving a career as a Timekeeper than they doubled my dutys, making me "Witch Doctor" (first aid medical man) on the midnite shift. Next, now, they've added truck-dispatcher to my titles. With my triplicate tasks, I don't even have time to chat anymore with the ghouls on the graveyard gang...) If it's financial nonsupport, then raise the subscription price. But don't quit us! How about that guy whose sub runs till 1940? How about all us punks? -- Cuming cover this time...HanKuttner turns out stuff in the BoBloch fashion...DAWilson guestars better on Fanatiscience Filmart than the regular author...Dale's opinions sprisingly intristing... 'Twice Told Tales' doesn't tell the half of it...Gnats to Mathematica Menace...Have- n't you caught onto the graphology technique yet? Get a single impression from the handwriting and then generalize from it...Miske shows signs of progress in 'Is there anything worth while?...Yes, Michel is the very last man in the world to get too serious about mything. (Snort)...Three cheers for Miske, and poeey to these punks that think 'Spicy' and 'Peppy' are magazines devoted to seriously considering solutions for the pressing problems of our day...Remember noticing in one of the issues I missed, at F/D's, that Hornig sez the significance of my 'no war in Europe at all immediately' rests on the interpretation of 'immediately'. Bog to take issue. Think my meaning reasonably clear. Recently saw somewhere that there will be no war in 1938, there need be no war in 1939, and if we can keep out of war until 1942, we will have secured ourselves for a generation. -- It really is sinful for an errant child to say so little of once again clutching a copy of I! in his paw, but I figure you'd like to have a rest from my lengthy missives, too. -- PS: Re 'fair play'. OK--If Michel will let Shroy-or address every readers' audience he, Michel, ever does!"

the uniquely angular, precisely regular handwriting, from  
 1812 R NW, Rochester/NY: "Dear Madgo: Enclosed find a dime for which extend my subscription (?) another month. -- I note in the current issue that Schwartz's advertisements in The Time Traveller & the SF Digest never did much good in getting a copy of 'Conquest of Mars' for him. So I guess the little information in my enclosed bit will be news even to him. ~ Try to include the article in the October Imagination! If you can't get it in the Table of Contents put it in as part of the reader's department which I understand is to be unlimited. ~ I wonder what you would do if you should receive comments from every subscriber? Or is that too improbable to ever happen? -- I'm waiting expectently for the anniversary issue. It must be worth waiting

*L.B. Farsese #48*

for if it is to contain something by A. Merritt, R.E. Howard, and J. Taine. Here's a toast for a happy birthday!" We follow Farsaci's suggestion to run his article in our readers' dept. editing it to suit our requirements.

"The Lone Wanderer" on

CONQUEST OF MARS. Larry B Farsaci.

I had been planning to go thru the files of The New York Journal for 1898 on a visit to NYC some time in the future in search for Conquest of Mars. Imagine my surprise when I found via Schwartz in the Sept IMAGINATION! that the files of this newspaper for '98 along with several other yrs long ago were destroyed by fire! It was a surprise tinged with disappointment.

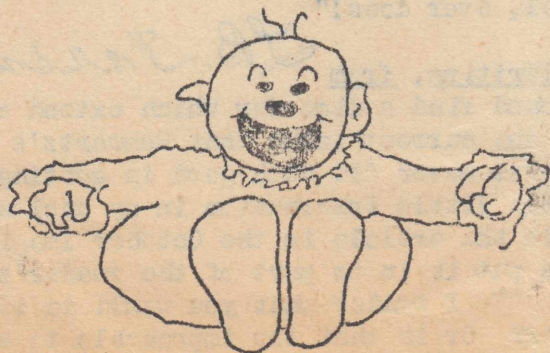
But there is still a lot of hope left. I, for one, know, thru correspondence, of a stfan who has a copy of Conquest of Mars; & thru a reference bk at the main library found, several mos. ago, that this story by the famous astronomer, Garrett Putnam Serviss, was publisht "in many leading newspapers of 1898." That word "many" indicates it may not be such a hard job after all to get a copy. Wouldn't be bad idea for fans to go thru their city newspaper files for 1898.

CABrandt's ad in AmS did a lot to give fans the impression COM was pub't also in bk form. I don't believe it ever was. (But LA's baroque-bk bibliophile, FBShtroyer, says it was & that he has it amongst his items still back East.) Many yrs ago I read in some letter that it was pub't in 16 or 18 vols! The writer must have confused the word "volumes" with chapters. Imagine a story 16 volumes long!

Incidentally, I seem to be the only fan who knows the complete title. It's: EDISON'S CONQUEST OF MARS, a Semi-Scientific Romance."

LOUIS KUSLAN, now publisher of Cosmic Tales--170 Wn Av. W Haven/Ct, writes: "Dear 'Madge', Received Sept. 1! in good shape and was pleased no end. ~~~ But, before I get on to the summary, I'd like to know if it is true that It will fold with the December issue or thereabouts? If so, I'd sure hate to see it go. As Wally Marconette said to me, 'Sure we all "pan" it, but I for one shall hate to see it go.' ~~~ Hauser's (the name is Harryhausen) cover was impressive. Must be a drawing of Ghughu. ~~~ WOW as interesting as usual. ~~~ So Schwartz has finally come back with the Science Fiction eye, eh? Been out of the fan mag quite a while. ~~~ Kuttner's article--so, so. ~~~ Bradbury, while not as funny as last time, still is without peer. ~~~ Who wants Grafologyams? ~~~ Chocolate Mar's article--hoomorus. ~~~ Voice of Imagi-Nation! Still a top ranker. Seems as tho our friend Misko described himself in his first letter, lines 4-5. To answer Sir Chapin's query, the type of stories I would print are not uncommon. In fact, Fantasy, the new British sf mag, is composed of entirely ideal stories, at least to my way of thinking. Read it and see."

NANCY FEATHERSTONE, formerly of Altadena, now an Angeleno residing at 851 Heliotrope Dr (Olympia 8454), says "The pretty little souvenir I enclose is for the October Ish, to which I am looking forward with large gusto. After that very very nice compliment you gave me on the ballyhoo sheet, I feel I should be enclosing at the least an autographed photograph. So here it is:



most sincerely,  
Busta Guttery  
aged .95



"I should be delighted to have you inform Mr. Wilson publicly, re the table he offered to exchange for the graining one to which I was allergic (one g), that I would be pleased to accept an operating table from him, express at the new address. My motives are of the very best, I swear. I've been intending to have some people in for dinner for just ages. The fan letters you published in September were awfully interesting. The magazine has more finish and sparkle every month. I have decided that it must be a gigantic undertaking to keep us fans panting for more, each issue. For example here I am losing weight waiting for the sequel to Hollerbochen's Dilemma, as well as the big Contest Number. Later: Just having learned the sad news of poor Madge's sentence, I have to add my means to the rest. It really is a pity that such a flourishing young literary publication should have to stop. I can guess some of the emotions that are seething around in your heart over it too. Remember tho that you have done a splendid thing in a triumphant way. Here I am - getting soggy over it-- Anyway--my sympathies!"

adresses "Editor, IMAGINATION! Dear

will find ten cents in stamps for which I wish you to send me the latest copy of your excellent fan-magazine, IMAGINATION! If there is to be a new issue published within a week, could you kindly send me that one? If not, the current issue will do. I would also like to find out the approximate publishing date of your magazine as I intend to be a fairly regular subscriber from now on." (Madge was wont to appear first of each month, as dated.)

RAY CUMMINGS SENDS FOR SAMPLE COPY!

Vulcan Publications--Bx 260. Bloomington/Ill explains: "This letter is the result of some items that was printed in recent issues of FANTASY NEWS, to the effect that your 'IMAGINATION' was going to do a fade-out with the December issue, or thereabout. I noted the item of Morajo's postcard denying the statement. It is my turn, therefore, to apologize to you and the staff of IMAGINATION for causing these untruthful statements to be published in FANTASY NEWS. Untill your post card note was printed in the latest issue, I had no inkling they were untrue. About three or four weeks ago I received the information from one of the staff members of MADGE, that the magazine was running into difficulties, and would probably cease publication upon the completion of its first year. Naturally, coming from one who should know, I took the information for its face value, and passed it on to Taurasi for his FANTASY NEWS. A public apology for starting these 'subversive rumors concerning our MADGE,' (the words of one accusing reader) will appear in a forthcoming issue of FANTASY NEWS. I have asked Taurasi to publish such for me. In addition, I would appreciate it if you would inform your associates on the staff of MADGE my position in this matter, and make it clear to them that I have no intentions of causing any hard feelings with you fans. May I hear from you?" (U may: U really r blameless, as U may know by now, explanation oferd in WOW. We regret all the ruckus, appreciate your sincerity.)

Money talks! Many thank to cash customer ROBT MARK BAKER of 1319 1/2 Howe St. Vancouver-BC/Canada, Charter Subscriber, for his renewal for \$, regretfully returned.

DALE HART: "Say, I got a big scare when FN gave out the report that 'I' would soon fold her tents. I'm anxious to know who won the contest. Spear says: '...and, like everyone else, I'm sure of winning.' Won'er if he will? we will soon know. Margulies, in a letter concerning League, highly lauds your bunch. I was late in sending sub money--but you can rest assured that I'll allus be a subscriber to Madge, even if I hafta sell my Skylarks. I sincerely hope that the chapter in general is providing help in the production of the organ; it isn't fair for a small group to do all the work. Giving credit where credit is due, I'll say that Imagination! has surpassed most fan mags. It is punctual in arrival, and the contents are consistently good. I think F.J.A. is largely responsible for this. A long life to the magazine from L.A., a deserving pub." So long, friends.



tascience funfest. Bradbury, Hornig, Shroyer & Forry allowing little let-up in lafter. & after--O those eats! Delicacys, donuts, drinks. Sensation of the eve (Anniversary of Madge's birth) was the surprise reading of the radio-gram from London: CONGRATULATIONS TO MADGE MANY HAPPY RETURNS SEA. Say, a grand thot, guys! & perhaps a couple pair of eyes were momentarily misty. A yr ago, amidst great gayety, we passed out Madge; lastnite we knew shortly Madge would pass out-- "Ah, well, it was swell while it lasted; we did have fun, made place in sun. So, thanx--for the subs & such. & strictly foo-to-ghu, Madge'll miss U too!"

Tag Ends (Little things Madge's had on her mind lo these many months): "Mirta Forsto" means Myrtle Forest in the Universalanguage, get it? Collaborators. Ray Bradbury was "Herald Hershey", also wrote "Way Down South". "Sedepi", Celeste De Pinto; To-jojo, T Bruce Yerka. Dead Reckoning a re-write by FJA of FBShroyer submission; accompanying pic of A Ghoul, freshand reduction by the J of large original by Harryhausen. Ansring RMBaker, who admired Morojo's handwriting without knowing its author; The mimed word IMAGINATION! on our return adresses were written Apr by Ack, May - Morojo, June - Geo H Wyman, Aug - Leonard Adland, Sep - Erdstolulov. Forry has acted as our interviewer on the Among Our Mem's write-up. Henry Kuttner was "Ryner the Spout". The ClaireVoyant-see of 4e was assisted by Hank. Ofcourse, Jack Erman, Erdstolulov, Claire Voyant, Weaver Wright, Fojak & family are all pigments of Clark's colorful imagination. (X-word ansr: Vertical--BITE!)

Trivi-oughts: We always've meant to clear up (tho no one commented) that we knew "Wassermann" was mispeld in Bloch's Sharring Interview; "power fuels" in Russ' WOW of June shouldve read "powder fuels"; "short a rocket" "shot"...

Well --the inevitable Farowell. Do not look at it that Madge has died; rather, we regard it as a case of "suspended animation", trusting one day a friendly fate will allow the resurrection of "Stf's Radical" (fominine of "radical", informs Morojo).

"Th Fanmag of th Future--with A PAST!"

# Imagination!

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Extract from

"The Lone Wanderer's"

Conquest of Mars:-

Personally, I would be as satisfied to read a good synopsis of this story as to read the story itself - that is, unless it is really a classic.

Finis

