

THE  
LASFS  
ANNUAL  
BANQUET

HONORING  
MEL HUNTER

SATURDAY  
MARCH 20, 1954

## ART COMES INTO ITS OWN

Our Guest of Honor tonight -- February 20th, 1954 -- is MEL HUNTER, Stfantasy artist Extraordinary. It was less than a year and a half ago that this bright new star of the SF field appeared above the horizon but in that short time he has had a success so phenomenal as to be almost unbelievable.

When Walt Daugherty started raving of a new artist he had met and whose work he had seen, we gave it more or less attention and wondered if the guy could really be as good as touted. Then Daugherty brought his "find" to the club .... and one look at the pictures convinced us that for once Daugherty was actually understating.

This MEL HUNTER was actually terrific!

The next morning Evans called Ackerman and suggested the latter, as agent, get in touch with Evans' publisher and ask if this new artist could do the dust jacket for his "Man Of Many Minds". Ackerman did, and the publisher said "Yes", and Hunter did -- and you have all seen the marvelous job he did. Also, the publisher gave Hunter a commission for another jacket. Since then Mel has done

three others. His first cover was on GALAXY for February of 1953, and since then he has had 21 other covers, a total of 22. And besides this, he has done 25 interior illustrations for magazines and books, besides a lot of other work that has not, as yet, been published or used (some of this is for projected motion pictures.)

MEL HUNTER has also had three public showings of his pictures -- at the Westerncon, the Flying Saucer convention, and at the National STF Convention, held at Philadelphia last year.

One of the most outstanding characteristics of Hunter's work is the minute detail in every one of his pictures -- this in addition, of course, to his fine use of color, and the excellence of his drawings and designs.

The L A S F S feels proud of counting this talented young artist among its members. He was recently elected Director and served one term with deserved appreciation. Each of us sincerely hopes his future will be ever brighter and more successful.

And, incidentally, not the least of the reasons why we love MEL HUNTER is his very charming wife, Nancy. Ah, me .....

AUTOGRAPHS

Will J. Hunter

