

# LIGHTS

SEPT. 1941  
NUMBER 108

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the pages of  
**Writer's Digest**  
we find

(notes from the August issue)

A letter from page 9 of the current WRITER'S DIGEST may give some of you some incentive. Quote "We are in the market for Science Fiction and Fantasy cartoons: good rates. Would you please favor us by publishing this information in WRITER'S DIGEST to the attention of cartoonists? Our need is urgent." Signed Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, R.A. Palmer, 608 South Dearborn St., Chicago..... ASTONISHING STORIES and SUPER SCIENCE are now under the editorship of Al Norton who takes over from Frederick Pohl. The Policy remains about the same. But Mr. Norton says he will use a few stories with some ~~more~~ of frankly fantastic nature with some science basis. The two magazines use the same material. Payment is on acceptance, a half cent a word and up.....Want to write short-stories? CAPTAIN FUTURE, STARTLING STORIES and THRILLING WONDER are all in the market for short-short stories of 1500 words and less so get to work, you amateur fictioneers. 1500 words is a nice easy length to cut your teeth on!



J. MICHAEL ROSENBLUM (Eng.) "ELECTRON" very interesting, in spite of the fact that the swappers do not seem to love it." (Glad you like it JMR. The boys over here are beginning to become more favorable to this little mag. I feel the tide will soon turn. There is only the Gallup to hear from, and I think even he will admit it is better, now -Lac)

the NEWS are great. You've done a swell job and no kidding. Didn't think I'd ever see the NEWS become that classy. Sure you've not gone and got yourself a mine or hector? I can't comment on the contents individually as fellow fan, Ron Conium, has the issues and is devouring them avidly. But I'll give you what I remember. The Van Houten article was deliciously suggestive. Am sending him three big ripe pumpkins for the deflection derived therefrom (Thanks John. Next issue we reprint a nice article by Robert W. Lowndes from THE ALCHEMIST for February 41-Lac)

ROBERT J. ROSENBLUM: Lastnite I saw #127, I believe it was, of a Lil fm U apparently've been putting out for yrs. I nrly was moved to tears. Once again my pulse quickened & I rue my life as a Collector was not over--now I've something new to track down? What can U do for me for a starter? Frankly Brady give me your adres. (Well, this is a surprise! My fanzine accepted a s such? A collector's item? Will wonder's never cease? And in case anyone doubts this, let me assure em it's the real McCoy! Lac)

GORDON L. PECK: Why don't you change the name to something more professional-sounding? Enlarge the mag. I'll supply the art-work. Surprise the fans. Why don't you put a piece of white gummed paper on the staple edge to hold the pages together between? You need tailor-made dept. headings. (Don't mind him, he's got a heel-ache. He's really a swell egg and his bark is worse than his bite. Surprise the fans? If they could read the way you spell that would be surprise enough. Maybe someday you'll do a story like that, huh? Lac)

CLE MULE WRITES IN: Button your ears down, son, I got a idea. Oliver and I were down in The Vampires Den the other night and heard from unimpeachable sources that Ambrose the Ogre once has a picture taken. Oliver and I are wondering what Ambrose's Master would say if we got it and you printed it? (Well, well, seems like these boys are cut after Ambrose's Master's blood for fair. Who wants to see what Ambrose looks like? Lac)

# JOURNALING

by John Hallis Mason

... Saari has written two new yarns  
 the annual induced by summer's  
 ages having begun to abate. The CAN-  
 ... 7,000 words. In the first  
 one, THE SAND SEAS, ... 3,000  
 words, the second. In connection  
 with the former, Oliver says "Writ-  
 ing THE CANNIBALS was fun, and I did  
 a better job than I've ever done be-  
 fore. It only remains to be seen wh-  
 ether the editors think so". He got  
 THE CANNIBALS back from Campbell the  
 next day, to which Saari says: "It  
 woulda been too good to be true any-  
 way." He's dispatching it to Lowndes  
 his agent, to try to dispose of amen  
 some of the lesser magazines.....  
 In the matter of the second story,  
 which was also shot at Campbell fir-  
 st, there was a little more trouble.  
 The first 4,000 words of THE S H I P  
 FROM NOWHERE was written in two days  
 but then pressing duties interfered,  
 and he couldn't get at it for a week.  
 By the time he got back to the tale,  
 he found it impossible to finish it  
 satisfactorily. Was still sweating  
 over it when I last heard from him.  
 He thought his DEATH METEOR, printed  
 in UT, looked swell in print, so I  
 did. His comment about our friend  
 The Crouch, will probably please the  
 letter hugely. Verbatim: "Les Crouch  
 seems to be doing okay with his  
 fiction. Haven't read much by him as  
 yet, but what I have read was good".  
 Go on, Les, let's see that mighty  
 chest swell out! (It's already out  
 in good, that's all. Really good.  
 ...). From the same letter I find  
 the original plot of HERITAGE or UN-  
 DER THE SAND SEAS as Pohl renamed it.  
 The story was written as a 7,000 word  
 and from the first six that were  
 printed as the complete story, I'd  
 say it must have been good. But Pohl  
 had to make room for the ads so he  
 sliced a thousand words off the de-  
 nouement of HERITAGE, a much better  
 and more pertinent title. Natural-  
 ly the story collapsed like a balloon  
 that is pricked. Damned shame, too,  
 because it gave many people a

Plot is rather clever a  
 it's worth recounting. It's all done  
 on the right side, under  
 the label of PLOT, the final  
 skeleton of the story as it emerges  
 from the notations on the left  
 side, aimed after some  
 consisting of any and all random  
 that prompted the writing  
 of the yarn. The prime motivation  
 for instance, was the desire  
 to write a story about the  
 dry quicksand on Mars. Out of that  
 grew the tumbleweed creatures, the  
 long vanished Martians and a  
 rather well portrayed characters.  
 ... step into the limelight my-  
 self now for a moment, if you  
 n't mind the bit of egotism. I  
 a letter from Doc Lowndes,  
 agent, to the effect that he was  
 taking my two short-shorts, SAC-  
 RIFICE and MISSION, for his  
 mags. Both yarns are about 2,000  
 words in length, and both of  
 same general type: the sympathet-  
 ic (or perhaps it should be path-  
 etic?). Needless to say, I hope  
 they are liked anyway; and rath-  
 er hope at least one of them (the  
 better both) is printed in FF  
 following, as it will, the pub-  
 lication of our Les's first Am-  
 erican tale, SALVAGE JOB. He got  
 there first, but I wasn't far  
 behind. ... Lowndes mentions he  
 wrote a story around an ASTONISH-  
 ING STORIES cover and it has been  
 accepted, so he'll get what is  
 probably his first cover. (How  
 Ast nishing Les)

## CANADIAN AUTHOR SUBMITS SHORT-SHORTS

August 22: Leslie A. Crouch this  
 week mailed to his American agent  
 tale for shooting around the mar-  
 kets. Entitled THE HORROR IN THE  
 NIGHT, it uses a suggestive theme  
 that is only half-hinted at, leav-  
 ing the mind and imagination to  
 fill in the extra details. It is  
 quite horrific in idea.

-----V-----

an article

# ON THE MORAL UPBRINGING OF GHOULS

By John Hollis Mason

## "A SAD CASE"

But to the core of the matter: one night I was giving Gilbert some lessons in technique in a likely-looking grave yard when who should we run into but a curvaceous vampire.

Now, in case you're somewhat deficient in your knowledge of Half World etiquette, let me inform you that when a ghoul meets a vampire in the pursuance of his vocation it is considered the most flagrant of discourtesies to take any notice of him (or her). Don't ask me why; such things have their bases in a hoary antiquity and are not questioned, let alone investigated. That's the abominable thing about these human beings: they're always sticking their noses into things that don't concern them and trying to find out the whys and the wherefors of not-to-be-questioned ancient customs. That's why we're compelled to use them in a manner peculiarly nauseating to their concepts. However, to get back to my story:

Gilbert was a little ahead of me and rounded this gravestone before I did. As I followed him, there's this vampire, a lascivious looking wench, to boot, talking to Gilbert in the following manner:

"Oh, Gil, where have you been? I wondered if I'd ever see you again and-" Then she saw me. "Oh- eh, I mean-" and she turned and belted, a scarlet blush suffusing her wan skin.

It was too late to question the wench, but I looked in horrified indignation at Gilbert. "Gilbert," I said, "you haven't----" my words trailed off. Gilbert was looking profoundly embarrassed.

It goes without saying that this incident shocked me deeply. I would have thought Gilbert more discreet in such matters; but a vampire--

Of course I knew Gilbert was well on the way towards a loose life after this incident and there was little I could do now. Things had got to such a stage that he was beyond redemption. Eventually they got so bad, I had to turn him out of my lair. After all, with the rumors that were doing the rounds about him, I couldn't jeopardise my social standing by harboring him.

Of his untimely end, I only know what I heard, but it seemed that Gilbert got mixed up with a very bad crowd. Genii and elementals and that sort of thing. They were having a some big get-together and Gilbert was invited for a blind date. He thought he was going to have a heck of a good time. Well he was slightly mistaken.

For Gilbert's blind date was a Gorgon and Gilbert now reposes as an impotent stone statue in the Underworld!

(THE END)



if you ever try to bring up a ghoul? well I did. He was a nice little fellow too-- in the pre-adolescent stage. But as he grew older I began to fear for Gilbert's morals. That's always the crisis in the life of a ghoul, you know.

Ah yes, Gilbert's case was a very distressing. It makes me sad to think of it even now.

L. Sprague de Camp's first name is Lyons....William F. Temple's middle name happens to be Frederick....Thomas P. Kelley's full name is Thomas Patrick Kelley....and watch for CENSORED'S second appearance, Fred Hurter is editor of Canada's first actual magazine

AMERICAN SCIENCE

November 1938	15¢
December 1938	15¢
January 1939	15¢
February 1939	15¢
March 1939	15¢
April 1939	15¢
May 1939	15¢
June 1939	15¢
July 1939	15¢
August 1939	15¢
September 1939	15¢
October 1939	15¢
November 1939	15¢
December 1939	15¢
January 1940	15¢
February 1940	15¢
March 1940	15¢
April 1940	15¢
November 1940	15¢
December 1940	15¢
January 1941	15¢
February 1941	15¢

AMOUNT

May 3 1941	5¢
May 10 1941	5¢
May 17 1941	5¢
May 24 1941	5¢
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ASTONISHING

April 1940	8¢
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August 1940	8¢
October 1940	8¢
December 1940	8¢
February 1941	8¢

AMUSEMENTS

October 1938	15¢
July 1939 nc	3¢
July 1940	15¢

SCIENCE

January 1941	15¢
<u>FANTASY FANTASIES</u>	
September 1939	15¢
November 1939	15¢
December 1939	15¢
January 1940	15¢
February 1940	15¢
March 1940	15¢
April 1940	15¢
April 1940	15¢

December 1940	15¢
February 1941	15¢
August 1941	10¢
October 1941	10¢

FANTASY FANTASIES

January 1941	15¢
February 1941	15¢
September 1940	15¢
November 1940	15¢
January 1941	15¢

HEAVY METALS

September 1938, very rare, without covers

SCIENCE FICTION

November 1938	15¢
December 1938	15¢
January 1939	15¢
March 1939	15¢
April 1939	20¢
May 1939	20¢
June 1939	20¢

WORLD CHILDREN

zine; December 39 35¢

NEWSWEEK

March 17 1941	5¢
April 7 1941	6¢
April 28 1941	5¢
May 5 1941	6¢
May 12 1941	5¢
May 19 1941	5¢
May 26 1941	6¢
June 2 1941	6¢
June 9 1941	6¢
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June 23 1941	6¢
June 30 1941	6¢
July 7 1941	5¢
July 14 1941	5¢

PLANES

Winter 1938	15¢
Spring 1940	15¢
Fall 1940	15¢
Winter 1940	15¢
<u>POP SCIENCE</u>	
September 1937	15¢
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November 1937	15¢
December 1937	15¢
January 1938	15¢

February 1938	15¢
March 1938	15¢
April 1938	15¢
May 1938	15¢

June 1938	15¢
October 1938	15¢
August 1939	15¢
August 1941	15¢
September 1941	15¢

SCIENCE FICTION (Canada)

October 1941	20¢
<u>STANLEY</u>	
January 1939	15¢
<u>HERBIE</u>	
August 1939	15¢
October 1939	15¢

SUPER SCIENCE

November 1940	10¢
January 1941	10¢

TALES OF WONDER

78 Autumn 1939	40¢
14 Spring 1941	25¢

WONDER

August 1939	10¢
November 1940	10¢
December 1940	10¢
January 1941	10¢
February 1941	10¢

WIND TALES

April 1934	35¢
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BOUND SERIALS

Sun Sets At Five	10¢
Crooked Caribbean	
Cross	10¢
2 for 15¢ from Argosy	

CLOTHBOUND BOOKS

The Dark Frontier	30¢
The Iron Pirate	10¢
<u>POCKETBOOKS (English)</u>	
Invitation	20¢
Invisible Man	25¢
Dawn	25¢
(Dawn is a sequel to Deluge)	

FANZINES

<u>DEVELOPMENT</u>	
Vol. 1 #1 1941	10¢
<u>FANTASCIENCE DIGEST</u>	

by Donald J. Doughty.

Shivering tower of translucent light,  
outstanding and beautiful in the night;  
opalescent,  
weird, enchanting...  
so graceful... Present  
and past, combining  
ever - combining and weaving  
a future of joy yet grieving,  
with gladness,  
and sadness  
intermingle - ever tracing the future  
- a vague and entrancing vision,  
dependent upon, e'er seeking to nurture  
from, minds full of hope... derision.  
Angry and threatening, racing through the spectrum,  
the great beacon shuddered, grimly  
oppressive, jet-black as space. Aggressive hum...  
tempestuous chords muttered grimly...  
as hate, anger and malice their minds  
overruled; shrieking crescendo from Hell binds  
their fate - last remnant of Man. Ever-  
lastingly damn'd by thought evil, now never  
more may see or partake of that light -  
for he is doom'd - a creature of Night!

---

LEXICON BLUE S.....Gordon Peck

A dictionary is a volume in which furriners and dumbbells may find the meaning of any word with the possible exception of cuss words. The first dictionary was called Doomsdaybook and was invented by Noah (sometimes called Web Stir) in the year 1066. There were words of only one syllable in it, like cat, rat, dog, hog, pig, dig, etc. Noah had a hard time seeing as how he couldn't read or write.

Now we have dictionaries six feet thick in all languages (including French, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Hindu, Telugu, Brazilian, Korean, Tibetan, Japanese, Indian, Icelandic, Outlandish, Radish, Fish)...in fact, any language except "Latin Ex Porca" and Martian. They range all the way from Yehudi's Wordless Dictionary for the Deaf-dumb-blind to the Classic Webster's Guaranteed duodecillion-word, gold-plated, pearl-studded, gem-encrusted, gigantic, unexpurgated, unbridged, uncanny, unmitigated, unparalleled superencyclopedic, all-lingo, ultra-dictionary...whew...which contains such sesquipedalian utterances as "antidisestablishmentarianism" and "hydrooctulachicharmonicaphonical" and includes free charge, syzygy, pruzml, plrstmkyyz, and the meaning, derivation, pronunciation, accent, name, classification and shape of any word in any language (including Pig-Latin in the later issues). Besides all this, it includes foreign words and phrases, obsolete words, familiar allusions, characters of literature, Spanish cuss-words, how to order in a French restaurant, language of flowers, language of jewels, language of mule-drivers, how to write loff-letters, how to make phuj (sometimes spelled "fudge"), six lessons from Adam Lazonga, photographs, meteorological data, calendars, gazettes, atlases, X-ray photos, phrenological diagrams, scenic views along the Deep-sea

... River, logarithm tables, list of all societies and benevolent societies, longitude and latitude of any city, western... maps of Hitler's conquests, photos and biographies of famous men and women, fingerprints of some, lists of birds, fish, insects, etc. Everyone should own one.

**BRITISH FANDOM**  
*Our English friends under fire*  
 EXERPS FROM LETTERS

MICHAEL HORNBY Leeds, England: All remaining copies of TOR and FANTASY have disappeared off the market. I'm told to be repulped. Correspondents report the same thing has happened all over the country. And as there are no book sales the stock of the Leeds' shops doesn't alter one iota. The various cheap editions are now beginning to go out of print on quite a devastating scale. As stocks are used up no new copies are reprinted. All in all I'm pretty dismal over the chances of decent swaps, just now, when I need them most. Fan lights slowly burn very low, or are extinguished entirely as their owners are gradually absorbed into the war effort. It is a shame. I look like being a sort of last survivor - that is, if I am left alone, by the government and by Jerry. A bomb on our house would finish FIDO and my collection at one fell swoop and even if it didn't finish me.

JOHN RUSSELL FEARN Blackpool: Had sundry bombs again around here and chunks of shrapnel in the back garden. No damage done beyond plaster in the coffee. Tak, tak, what some people will do to make war unpleasant.

DONALD J. DOUGHTY Downham Market: As you may have seen in FIDO some time back, I was passed Medical Grade I, and provisionally accepted for the Navy as a Telegraphist back at the beginning of April - am still waiting to be actually posted.

(This column will be continued as soon as possible. Britishers keep their voices. It's YOUR voice in the magazine.)

TED WHITE Ted White, late of the Ontario Science Fictioneers, has finally arrived in England. He finds it pretty lonely.

some, so how about dropping him a line? His address is CPL. L. H. WHITE, B90767, NO.2 LIGHT FIELD AMBULANCE, RCAMC, CA., AF., C/O BASE POST OFFICE, CANADA. John H. Mason is working for a large Toronto firm, where they have a mimeograph. For a while he had the yen to publish a fanzine, but after studying the pros and cons decided to remain a fan author and let more intrepid souls brave the terrors of the mimeograph. Fred Hurter is hard at work on the next issue of his fanzine, CENSORED.

In Widmer's magazine, FANFARE for August 1941, we find in Joseph Gilbert's col. SLANDER the following quote: "Nomination for the lowest down trick of 1941. The Singleton Hoax. 'Twill be delightful to see the reactions due soon from all the fanzine editors who said a lot of those lovely lovely things about Earl and then were embarrassed by his untimely resurrection.' Clarence Howes' Mother is very ill at present. We all hope for her immediate recovery. I know.

CANADA'S "SCIENCE FICTION" MAGAZINE HITS STANDS

There has appeared on Canada's newsstands a mystery, named SCIENCE FICTION. It appears in ARGOSY-size format (8x11) and contains 64 pages in a flat style. It is supposed to be an all-Canadian mag. But it contains the regular sf authors, and the contents page has the American SCIENCE FICTION cut. Contents are THE LIFE BEYOND by John Coleridge, BARGAIN WITH COLOSSUS by Helen Weinbaum, STATUS QUO by R.R. Winterbotham, WISDOM OF THE DEAD by Ed Earl Repp, RADIANT AVENGER by E.A. Grosser, PRINCE OF PLUTO by Paul Dennis Lavonde. Illustrators present are Harold Bennett on the cover, inside we find Paul Kyle and some unknowns. Price is 25¢ ea.

CONTRIBUTE TO "LIGHT". YOU ARE WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE FAMILY!

Spring 1939  
 104  
**FUTUSIAN (English)**  
 Spring 1939 54  
 Summer 1940 54  
 Winter 1940 54  
 NEW !!  
 NOVEMBER 1939 (English)  
 July 1939 54  
**PLANETEER MAGAZINE**  
 March 1939 54

Here in the house of woe,  
 Here where the monster dwells  
 With unholy, obscene utterings,  
 And the noise from the seven hells,  
 Here in his lair the ogre  
 Weaves his unholy plot.  
 His aim is death to the mortals,  
 With want and sickness their lot.  
 So he sits, and his inner rumblings  
 Are sounds that the world may hear,  
 And the whole earth shakes and trembles  
 And the only thought in "Earth"

# In The Future

In our next issue we have a rare treat in store for you, a story written especially for LIGHT by Leslie A. Crouth, entitled "A CHILD IS BORN"

Our lead feature is a reprint from the February 1941 issue of LIGHT by Robert W. Downes entitled "NOTES ON DEVIL WORSHIP". We guarantee you an unpleasant fifteen minutes while you read it.

Coming sometime in the future, if God or Hitler doesn't prevent, two delightful little things. First is "TALE OF A MARTIAN" by Ray Bradley, reprinted from LIGHT. The second is reprinted from LIGHT of SCIENCE AND LIGHT, and is by that old Rebaeliasic adventurer of fantasy Hank Kuttner "EUNUCHS IN THE PLAINS"

## OOOLthe MARTIAN



"Yeah, I know, -And then the other guy says" That was no lady, that was my wife."

## Editor's Squawk

Not much to say, or much room to say it in, this time. This little column is a godsend, though, for it enables me to fill in that last odd bit of space that otherwise I might have a hell of a time doing anything. However, before going any further, I better say this is the 108th issue of this magazine, now called LIGHT among other things, it is helmed by Leslie A. Crouth, who sleeps at 121, Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada, by the waters of the Minnetonka, or mean Georgian Bay. Guess a blurb will help things out, and that is: Merritt has his "METAL MONSTER" in the April 41 issue of THE FIM, and Giesy's fine "PALOS OF THE DOG STAR PACK" in the October issue. You batch, I got "THE ALIEN" last year 10/40, and gottam getta the sweep back, I know.