

Bill Grant

L I G H T

5¢

NUMBER 45.- LESLIE A. CROUTCH, BOX 121, PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO, CANADA-

JULY 1950.

ARE COMPARISONS ODIOUS?

BY NORMAN V. LAMB.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE IS TO MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN FANTASY MAGAZINES OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY. ALONG WITH IT WILL BE A SHORT ESSAY ON HOW THE WRITER SEES THE MODERN ISSUES.

Along with Homo Sap. the followers of Fantasy-- otherwise known as Homo Fantastical Sap.-- are faced with the dire results of an inflated currency. It is common knowledge that today's prices are much higher than in pre-war times. But are they? Shall we look over a few magazines devoted to the different forms of fantasy and see if that rule holds good?

The writer has divided the magazines into three classes and the reader is invited to agree or disagree with him-- whichever suits his feelings.

The first type of fantasy story is one known as the Science Fiction story. This is a story that is logical according to current day knowledge, being scientific precepts extrapolated. For an example of such stories Astounding Science Fiction has been chosen.

Next on the list is the Fantastic type. This is taken to mean a story that is not necessarily logical according to modern ideas. For an example of a magazine carrying such stories Amazing Stories has been chosen.

The final type is the Supernatural or Horror types. This type of story is the Occult, Mystical, or Weird. Weird Tales has been chosen as an example in this class.

Let us examine the October 1938 issue of Astounding Science Fiction. It contains 160 pages, $9\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$. The advertisements take up the equivalent of $16\frac{3}{4}$ pages and the illustrations account for 11 pages more. That leaves $132\frac{1}{4}$ pages of reading matter. The average word-count per page being 343-- we see that the total wordage per issue is around 45,000. Now we go to the February 1950 issue. It likewise contains 160 pages but they have shrunk to $7\frac{3}{4}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$. The advertisements take up $3\frac{1}{2}$ pages, and the illustrations take up $9\frac{1}{2}$ pages. That leaves us with 147 pages of reading material. The average word-count per page now being 252, we see that the total wordage per issue is now 37,000. A little calculation will enable us to see that the contents have decreased 8.2% while the price has increased by 25%. Hence the real value has decreased by approximately 35%.

Now for the October 1938 issue of Amazing Stories. It contains 144 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. Advertising, $7\frac{3}{4}$ pages, and illustrations, $10\frac{3}{4}$ pages, leaves us $125\frac{1}{2}$ pages devoted to fiction. An average of 336 words per page leaves us a total of 42,000 words per issue. Next we take the March 1950 issue of the same magazine. The 192 pages are still the same size. Advertising-- $10\frac{3}{4}$ pages, and illustrations $10\frac{1}{2}$ pages leaves the total devoted to fiction at $170\frac{3}{4}$ pages. The word count is now nearly 90,000 so we see the contents have increased by nearly 115%. As the price has increased 25% we see that the value of today's issue is 75% more than the older issue.

Lastly let us consider the October 1938 issue of Weird Tales. It contains

129 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$. Advertising $\frac{1}{2}$ pages and illustrations $3\frac{1}{2}$ pages leaves us 124 pages of fiction. Average word count per page being 322, gives us a total of around 40,000 words per issue. The March 1950 issue is next examined. The pages are still the same size but their number is now 96. Advertisements now account for $9\frac{3}{4}$ pages while illustrations take up 8 more. We are left with $78\frac{1}{4}$ pages of stories. Average word count is 382 per page, giving us a total wordage per issue of 30,000. We see that the total wordage has decreased by 25% while the cost remained equal. Hence the value of today's issue is now 25% below the pre-war copies.

Th recapitulate-- -- --

A-- science fiction now costs 135% of its pre-war price.

B-- fantasy fiction now costs 60% of its pre-war price.

C-- Weird fiction now costs 125% of its pre-war price.

The writer does not anticipate a headlong rush to subscribe to fantasy fiction because of these comments-- he merely wishes to show that inflation has not affected all types of fantasy magazines to the same extent. In fact, some of them are much cheaper now than in pre-war days.

WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE VALUES OF FANTASY FICTION MAGAZINES HAVE CHANGED TREMENDOUSLY DURING THE PAST YEARS. LET US NOW CHECK THE INDIVIDUAL MAGAZINES AND SEE HOW THE CONTENTS COMPARE.

First we will consider the Fantasy Magazines on sale for the month of October, 1948.

AMAZING STORIES-- monthly-- 144 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. Contains 6 complete stories, 1 serial and 7 features or departments. Illustrated rear cover. All new material. 20¢.

ASTOUNDING-- monthly. 160 pages $9\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$. 10 complete stories, 1 serial and 5 features or departments. All new material. 20¢.

MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES-- bi-monthly (irregularly). 128 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 6 complete stories. No features or departments. All new material. 15¢.

THRILLING WONDER-- bi-monthly. 128 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 8 complete stories and 11 features or departments. All new material. 15¢.

WEIRD TALES-- monthly. 128 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$. 9 complete stories, 1 serial, 2 poems, and 2 features or departments. All new stories except for one reprint story. 25¢.

Now we will look at the fantasy magazines on sale for the month of March, 1950.

AMAZING STORIES-- monthly (March 1950). 192 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 7 complete stories, 13 fillers and 5 features or departments. All new material. 25¢.

AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY-- quarterly (Spring 1950). Three copies of Amazing stories bound together. 16 complete stories. ALL REPRINT. 480 pages. 50¢.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION-- monthly (Feb.50). 160 pages $7\frac{3}{4}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$. 6 complete stories, 1 serial and 6 features or departments. All new. 25¢.

AVON FANTASY READER-- irregular (#11). 128 pages $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$. 7 complete stories and 1 dept. All reprint. 35¢.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES-- bi-monthly (Feb.50). 128 pages $9\frac{1}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 2 complete stories and 3 features or depts. All reprint. 25¢.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES-- monthly (Feb.50). 160 pages $9\frac{3}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 6 complete stories, 14 fillers and 2 depts. All new. 25¢.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES QUARTERLY-- quarterly (Winter 1949). 3 copies of FA bound together. 18 complete stories. All reprint. 448 pages. 50¢.

FANTASTIC NOVELS-- bi-monthly (Jan.50). 128 pages $9\frac{1}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 1 complete story and 2 depts. All reprint. 25¢.

FANTASTIC STORY QUARTERLY-- quarterly (Spring 1950). 160 pages $9\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. 10 complete stories and 1 dept. All reprint except 2 short stories. 25¢.

FANTASY BOOK-- irregular (#5). 80 pages $8" \times 5"$. 6 complete stories, 1 serial and 2 poems. No depts. All new. 25¢.

MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION-- quarterly (Winter-Spring 1950). 128

pages $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". 12 complete stories, 1 dept. 5 stories are acknowledged reprints, the remaining 7--- --? 35¢.

- A. MERRITT'S FANTASY MAGAZINE-- bi-monthly (Mar.50). 128 pages 9" x 7". 3 complete stories, 1 article and 2 depts. All fiction is reprint. 25¢.
- OTHER WORLDS SCIENCE STORIES-- bi-monthly (Mar.50). 160 pages $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{3}{8}$ ". 10 complete stories, 8 features and depts. All new. 35¢.
- PLANET STORIES-- quarterly (Spring 1950). 112 pages $9\frac{3}{4}$ " x $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". 7 complete stories, 1 dept. All new. 20¢.
- STARTLING STORIES-- bi-monthly (Mar.50). 160 pages $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". 5 complete stories, 3 features or depts. All new, except 1 story. 25¢.
- SUPER SCIENCE STORIES-- bi-monthly (Jan.50). 128 pages $9\frac{1}{4}$ " x $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". 7 complete stories, 2 depts. All new. 25¢.
- THRILLING WONDER STORIES-- bi-monthly (Feb.50). 160 pages $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". 6 complete stories, 4 features or depts. All new. 25¢.
- WEIRD TALES-- bi-monthly (Mar.50). 96 pages $9\frac{3}{4}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". 9 complete stories, 1 poem, 2 features or departments. All new. 25¢.

It will be noted that at the present time there are no less than 18 magazines of fantasy on the market. Compared to the five that were issues in 1938, it might appear as if the devotees to this kind of fiction are really in their element. However, there is one slight detail to take into account and that is the fact that exactly half of the magazines currently being published use reprint material, either wholly or in part. The writer, who has been reading this type of material for over thirty years, disagrees with the publishers' policies in that respect. He heartily dislikes spending good money to obtain stories that he has read many years back.

While many of the younger or newer readers may not have had the opportunity of reading the older "masterpieces", he feels sure that that is definitely not the reason why the reprint magazines are glutting the market. Publishing firms are not in business to disseminate fantasy fiction-- all have to make profits for their owners and shareholders. Hence the ever-growing use of reprint material-- at a microscopic cost compared to that paid for new material.

The writer strenuously objects to having to pay the same or even higher prices for publications that consist wholly or in part of such low cost material. Re-printing rights costing less than a tenth or even twentieth of the original cost he sees no reason why the publishers do not adjust the selling price of their magazines accordingly. Naturally knowing that the story costs are not all that go into the financial make-up, he does not expect to get magazines at a tenth of their present price: but he does claim that magazines utilizing reprint material to such an extent should lower their prices noticeably.

The writer makes no claims as to knowing the relative merits of the different magazines-- that is something that the egotistical readers of this type of magazine have been doing ever since they first came onto the market. He would like to state that the results of such listings of favorites and placings in orders adds up to a grand total of nil-- for the different types of fantasy appeal to different types of readers. The writer plays no favorites. He reads them all. Naturally, there are some that he likes more than others but he does not like to offer his opinions on same for the edification of fantasy readers in general.

There is a mystery the writer is unable to fathom and that is how one publisher can give its readers nearly 200 pages of all new material for 25¢, while another purveys a mere 128 smaller pages of mostly reprint material and charges 35¢ for the resultant product. Knowing that some readers will say that some of the magazines pay their writers more than others, he hastens to add that the story cost is not the only one that affects the selling price of the magazine. In the case he mentions-- the deader magazine does not even use illustrations, thereby lowering the cost of publishing somewhat.

It is to be feared that the publishers of some of the reprint magazines are in the market solely and simply because of the greatly increased demand nowadays. Their sole interest is mercenary and they do little if anything towards keeping fantasy

on a high level or endeavoring to raise its standards even higher. No! Instead of that they are foisting on the public time-worn plots that, to older readers like the writer, are utterly mis-suited to today's tempo. Their effrontery in purveying such inane and out of date material is insufferable. While there have admittedly been masterpieces of fantasy written in the past, they are few compared to the total number of stories that have seen print. Yet these reprint magazines come out with new issues every other month or so and blithely dish up some of these "Readers' Choice" masterpieces.

Some of the newer readers may believe in the Golden Age of Fantasy-- such age is always taken to mean before they began reading this type. (The Ancient fable of "far fields are always greener" brought up to date.) The writer would like to assert his opinion and that is that the Golden Age of Fantasy was---- the present time. Ever since the first magazines of this kind saw the newsstands the readers have had to wade through just as much hack work and space-fillers as they have to do today-- in order to read the stories that could possibly be classed as masterpieces. He would also like to state that ten years from today-- the A and H Bombs permitting the new readers of fantasy will bemoan their fate in not being able to get the masterpieces of ten years previous-- today. Actually they are fortunate in not having to laboriously work through so much utter junk that is inflicted on present day readers. The stories that leave a lasting impression are few and too far between.

How to do away with so much reprinting is beyond the writer's knowledge. After reading the "Readers' Column" of every fantasy magazine printed on this continent he has come to the cynical conclusion that they serve a very good purpose-- for the publishers. They help to fill up the pages of the magazines with unpaid material-- and that is all. If the publishers ever fulfil the requests from any of the letters it is certain that they did not do so because of those same letters. Hence the writer feels sure that it would be worse than useless to write to the editors of the reprint magazines begging for new material.

The only way to bring about the elimination of such money-making projects is simple-- don't buy the magazines that feature reprint material in any way, shape or form. Then if there are not enough new readers who will purchase the magazines they will vanish like snowflakes in the Sahara. Should that method fail the writer confesses himself at a loss.

As a parting thrust the writer would like to state the case against one publishing firm. This firm has had a reprint magazine for some years back and also started another of the same ilk that lasted a few issues and then hibernated for some years. It was re-issued then the publishers not only reprinted stories from their other magazines but went so far as to re-reprint the same stories again-- in the same magazine. One of the stories receiving that treatment was published as a hard cover book and also in a pocket book edition besides their original magazine printing plus their reprinting and their re-reprinting. While the story is admittedly a classic of fantasy, the writer asks: FIVE different printings? He feels sure that people desirous of reading the story could have gotten one of the four original printings without the necessity of then bringing it out all over again.

The writer would like to know if readers of fantasy agree with his ideas on the subject. Regardless of whether you do or don't, won't you write him and discuss the subject? Address him c/o of this magazine and the editor will forward all letters promptly.

THE END

.....
 Poor Dotty Lamons! I used to think she sure was pretty hot potatoes as a sarong girl, but after looking at J. Arthur Rank's Jean Simmons in the English film's "Blue Lagoon", poor Dotty looks like pretty small stuff! Jean in a sraong. . .

LIGHT

JULY 1950
NUMBER 45

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LIGHT is published whenever the mood inspires. Restricted mailing list and issuance through the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. 5¢ per copy, cash or swap, to all non-Fapans. No subscriptions accepted. This is a non-profit publication and no payment beyond a free copy in which material appears, can be made. Unsolicited material not desired. 116 copies per issue.

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AND IF AN "X" APPEARS HERE, YOU
BETTER GET IN TOUCH WITH ME PRONTO! ☐

MAIL BOX

(BOB GIBSON, CALGARY, ALTA) Concerning those poor old Anglo-Saxon four-letterers: they were probably kicked out of sassiety about the time veal, beef, prck and mutton, replaced calf, ox, hog and sheep at the table. Then their fate was sealed. Their "implications" were loaded, (to quote Heinlein), with a suggestion of grossness. Among a people that prefer such details to be suggestive, grossness is socially fatal to a word.

Perhaps apropos of which: someone in the ceramics class was describing a teapot that didn't have to be tilted to pour. The lid-- a very deep one-- was

lifted, a finger placed over the air vent in it, and it was forced down into place again. The volume of trapped air forced an even cupfull of tea out through the spout, which turned downward at the outer end. "Ah-ha," said our instructor, "you make one of those and we'll design a set of teacups to go with it. . . shaped like little thundermugs."

I've been carefully avoiding Tarzan movies for years now. But if the "Desert Mystery" should show up-- it's probably been and gone-- I'll try and get to it. "Mighty Joe Young" wasn't fantastic, apart from the size and tractability of Joe, but I enjoyed it.

"Forbidden Island" was, but I didn't. It was so punk a story, and so unimaginatively handled. Take the scene where half a dozen tyrannosaurs were supposed to be attacking the party. (They were supposed to be waiting for one to weaken enough for the others to kill him, and to have survived that way for years-- the plain was strewn with "skeletons"-- but there was a perfectly good brontosaurus somewhere else on the island.) They charged with slow, six-inch strides, and were so posed and lighted that they looked like slightly swaying rampikes, and they could have had something with a little bite to it. Two, supposed to be fighting over a man, stood still and made feebly pecking motions at one another, as futilely as boxers four feet apart. For a good, and even funny one, try "The Ghosts of Berkeley Square", a Britisher that doesn't try to overload its effects.

I have seen a copy of the Nov/49 AMAZING STORIES, and it gaverise to a bit of doodling that might be of interest. You know that Palmer has long maintained that space flight is impossible. There he triumphantly dragged out something about the atmosphere being at least 15,000 miles deep, with a temperature of 4,000°F at 400 miles out, and 18,000°F at 15,000 miles. And what space ship could travel 11,000 miles through air heated from 4,000°F to 18,000°F?

As I haven't read the article in question, I shall have to refrain from making any remarks-- ED

OK.

Of course, before the war it had been pointed out that the air probably got hotter the higher it went, beyond a certain point. and that matter in space

Must be at stellar temperatures, since an isolated molecule has difficulty in losing heat without outside help.

Suppose then, that you have a space ship 20 feet in diameter-- hmmm-- half circumference times radius (is that right?)-- call it 315 sq. ft. cross section. Now, in 15,000 miles, 25 doesn't mean much. At 25 miles altitude the pressure is .25% of that at sea level (Enc. Brit. 1943). 1/4 of 1% of 15 (to use round figures) makes it .0375 lbs. per sq. in. X 144 inches per sq. ft. X 315 sq. ft., gives you 1701 pounds of air, by no means all of it hot, that your ship will displace on the way out.

Temperature is a measure of the concentration, not the amount, of the heat present, and that 1700 pounds of air is diluted by nearly 15,000 miles of temperatureless space-- an average distribution of one pound to just under nine miles, and far thinner when it gets really hot.

I suspect that when measured in B. T. U's, you'd suffer more from the sunlight than from all of Rap's hot air. I would like to have someone who knows whereof he speaks to check up on the matter.

/Same offer goes here as for Lamb's article. If anyone wishes to delve into this deeper with Bob, can write to him c/o the editor, and his letter will be promptly forwarded-- ED/

XXX

(MOE DIXON, MONTREAL, QUEBEC) In re Duplessis comments: Amen, but aren't your remarks sort of stale? They are neither novel nor dangerous to our good Maurice, tho' they may serve the purpose of letting off steam.

As for the Nicol case, don't swallow TIME without a grain of Epson salt. I personally am both bored and irritated with these " crusading" journalist write-ups which give, as a rule, a sentimental, one-sided if moral, and seldom perceptive picture, and leave it at that. They make our local bigots sore, they arouse the antipathies of a lot of jerks who are remote from the situation, and they don't do any constructive good. It is the style of treatment TIME uses in reporting the Negro situation in the South, and has done no good at all where it counts. Of course, it does increase the moral smugness of the opposite party, and help along the magazine's circulation-- which is what they're after. But it's pretty shallow as a sincere approach.

I think we're all (namely, you, the readers of LIGHT, and myself) in broad agreement on such questions. Most educated and unbiased people are. But the style of treatment TIME uses merely gives some soap-opera written to our prejudices (instead of to the other side's, as so often happens when the newspaper discussing the business doesn't pussyfoot).

Take the Nicols case. They simplify it down to the good old Gothic-novel plot of a sinister bigot in alliance with a superstitious parent contriving to separate young lovers. In practise, it is perfectly possible that the girl was a silly little weak-minded fool, the husband an unpleasant and coarse individual who revolted the prosaic mother. The mother may have been a respectable woman, thoroughly decent within her lights (even if her lights be those of a bygone epoch). The priest similarly may have been a sincere and God-fearing man, merely misled as to the degree of his duty. In nine times out of ten, his interference might have been justified, but in this case, we may surmise, the neurotic girl reacted abnormally, and instead of the matter turning out for the best, she hanged herself. All this, of course, is pure speculation as to what might actually be the case. The true facts may be something completely different from either this speculation, or TIME's story.

But in any event, one isn't smart to take one of TIME's colored little tear-jerkers as factual reporting. As often as not, it isn't.

As for the judge awarding only \$400. and costs-- well, \$13,000 seems a little steep for Nicol to sue for. He may be trying to make a fast buck. If he should want to win more money, instead of the moral victory he has won, he can appeal to the King's Bench, to the Supreme Court, and ultimately to the Privy Council.

Jehovah's Witnesses business: Remember that there is a distinction between freedom to worship as you please, and freedom to propagandize as you please. Re-

member also that the propagandizing of the JW's is not ordinary preaching, but inflammatory stuff such as Orange Protestants and Iris Catholics used to pitch at one another in the good old days before World War I. I think the JW's should be treated by being given full liberty and being ignored, as English-speaking Westmount does in this province. But if any sect should be persecuted, they are excellent candidates, since they operate on the same style as the commies: studious trouble making, and professional martyrdom-seeking. They aren't too savory a crowd, preaching for "theocracy", and against such duties of democratic citizenship as voting and military service (although they are not genuine pacifists as are such sects as the Quakers). Don't bleed too much for them. Those cops who rushed the two dames out of their village may have saved their lives. I don't think much, though, of their treatment of the reporters.

As a final note, I might say that it is a far from intolerable to live here. We at least have no Sunday blue-law, no seventeenth century liquor laws, and no damn Puritan hypocrisy as to our moral perfection. Moreover, Duplessis is very sound on questions like private enterprise and property rights. He numbers among his open or secret supporters a fair number of prosperous English-speaking Protestants who are firm and even eloquent on the need for the freedom-loving peoples of the world to stand together against the menace of communism and its pilot-fish socialism.

Thus another side to the story of what might have happened in Quebec as commented on in the last LIGHT. I agree wholeheartedly with Diner on some of his remarks: but I do think that certain civil liberties in Quebec have been chained. I think that much that is wrong in Quebec could be corrected by a better means of educating the people. By that I mean the school system should be entirely under the authority of the provincial government, thus doing away with the separate schools. If Catholic and Protestant were educated side by side from the same books, by the same teachers, under the same roof, much of the misunderstandings that have their roots in religious differences would be overcome. Education should always be democratic. Let religion be otherwise if it wish, but refuse it the right to interfere in the mental and intellectual education of the child.-- ED/

xxx

(NORMAN V. LAMB, SIMCOE, ONTARIO) Did you get the "Wonder Story Annual"? You must get it Les its so gowdam awful-- I don't envisage much of a life for it if they print another issue like it. The main novel is only 18 years old and seeing that science hasn't advanced during that time the story is still wonderful. (??????). Phew phew phew! You know, Les, I will say that the current crop of Editors amaze me no end-- they are really marvellous for being able to gush so lovingly over the crap they dish up-- they are really better than the writers themselves. You know of all the mags today only PLANET is honest. They merely claim to be adventure stories and they have two good plots-- and have since they started. Boy meets girl, villain captures girl, villain tries to fornicate girl, hero rescues girl and takes villain's place. Boy pleased, girl pleased. Everybody pleased. Mind you you have to hand it to PLANET for having the guts to publish their trips for so damn long without trying to convince the buyers that they are getting something wonderful. They just print the junk and let it go at that.////Talking about the editor of S.S-- read the editorial in the new W.S. Annual. Boy will you ever enjoy it from the first to the last. Pardon me while I take some time off and puke. Do you think any fan will try to remind him of his remarks? If the letters printed in TWS and SS depict the fans' mentalities. I don't believe there will be any remarks. If you read one intelligent letter in those magazines a year I think you would think they are getting more grown up. /Oh how the fen are going to hate you, Norm!--ED/ That is one thing I admire about ASF-- the readers' letters are at least intelligent-- many times too damn much for me to understand but I would far rather see those letters than a lot of the TWS type. Talking of this and that-- I wonder what excuse JWO has now for not reissuing UNKNOWN? With all the mags enlarging their number of pages and bringing out new publications I don't think that the old

bogey Paper Shortage would suffice. ///Harold Wakefield has an interesting point in station that your Mimeo Ink could start a history of Can. Fandom. Only I don't happen to think for a minute that it would be worthwhile. After all, the fact that Fan Joe Blow has 12 fingers is of very little interest to fandom at large-- one would be sure to write and say his cousin Hugo had prehensile toes-- 18 of them. Hence if the history wasn't written it would occasion no loss.

XXX

(HARRY WARNER JR., HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND) Leafing through the magazines [in the recent FAPA mailing-- ED / I notice that the fine old art of commenting on the previous mailing is fast disappearing. Boggs and I are the only ones who do it in more than the sketchiest fashion this time. I'd hate to see the habit of extensive comments by a dozen or more members die out. It's a certain amount of reward for the effort you put in your own publication, and it proves a sort of continuity between the mailings, a connecting thread to the life of the organization. /For some time, Harry, I have had the notion to make up an issue of LIGHT of such comments, made right on the stencil as I read through the current mailing. Sort of off the cuff notes.--ED /

XXX

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LIGHT FLASHES

You know me: the guy who is always introducing a "new policy". This time it's going to be no exception. Having read the numerous remarks and hints about splitting up articles (and stories, in the past) into several parts, I have decided that the only decent, modern thing to do is to print everything in one piece. So from now on I am going to try to do that: to print in one complete instalment everything that I offer. This will result in some issues being taken up with one very long story or article and very little else. Especially as I intend sticking to the 10-page copies-- for the time being, at least. It may result in some other moderations, too. But I'll make no predictions. You'll get them as they come, if they come! Thus this issue presents Lamb's rather lengthy argument, or should I say "beef"?, on reprints and so on.

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The mailing list of LIGHT is being brought up to date, as is the annual custom. If you desire to remain on the mailing list, fill out this coupon and return. It is essential that I receive this by September 1950.

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COUNTRY _____

If you don't wish to mutilate your copy of LIGHT, a suitable facsimile will be acceptable. Please note there will be no second chance on this so mail today, don't delay.

Regarding the coupon on page 8. Bill Eastman, and staff members, needn't fill in. Bill because we have just made contact and therefor I KNOW he wants LIGHT, for the time being, at least. But there some I keep sending the magazine to that never mention it in their letters, or never even write. Some of those are in danger of being dropped, so they better beware! Regarding Moe Diner's remarks concerning TIME magazine. I don't agree with Moe entirely, but I will grant that perhaps he has a point there-- at least from his point of view. I have heard other accusations ~~that TIME's accounts are highly colored and not always to be relied on.~~ The only department that I find issue with is TIME's Cinema. Now there is a department that angers me sometimes, and at other times with which I cannot agree. The editor who takes care of the movies is either a nit-wit, or a consummate ass. About 1% of the times only is he accurate, up to date, and less than that percentage does his evaluations compare with mine. I have found that usually the films he dislikes I like, and the ones he thinks highly of bore me to death. Different sense of values?

Sign of the times? Headline in the Toronto Daily Star for Thursday, March 16, 1950. SLAP 35% DUTY ON FLOOD OF CHEAP JAP SHIRTS. In effect, this means Canada has imposed a dumping duty on Jap dress shirts that were selling in Canada for approximately \$1.17 each. The dumping duty is not a set percentage. The Customs Act provides that any cheap foreign-made article which would be imported and undersell any Canadian article of the same type, can have imposed on it a special tax, the amount of the tax to be sufficient to increase the price of the foreign article to the wholesale price of a similar article made in Canada. The government pockets the special duty thus imposed. Personally, I'm all for it, regardless of what some people say about being able to buy a cheaper article. I do not believe that ANY country should be allowed to dump cheap articles in Canada made in virtual slave-labor factories where the wages paid are but a few cents a day, thus underselling Canadian-made goods, which could cause shutdown of Canadian plants, unemployment, higher relief rolls, and in the long run higher taxes for the Canadian public. The person who buys cheap foreign-made articles does not stop to realize that he may pay the difference in the long run, though indirectly. The ONE way for Canadians to protect themselves, and their people, is to demand to see the country of fabrication imprint on every suspected article they buy. For myself, I buy Canadian-U.S.-British made goods first and foremost (though not necessarily in that order). If I cannot obtain the article I want, then before I will buy one that is foreign-made I will try to find a suitable substitute. If I must buy foreign-made, French-made comes next. Needless to say, I am just prejudice-minded enough that German, Jap, and Russian-made junk doesn't even rate. Though I do admit that German-made technical and scientific equipment is of a very high rate, yet I argue that just as good in that line is made in Canada, the States, or Britain, and we needn't buy outside of those countries. Race prejudice? No, just a strong disliker of people you can't apparently trust as far as you can throw. Why pour money into countries that have demonstrated they might return it to you, with interest, within your lifetime, in a very unpleasant manner? Charity begins at home. Look after your own FIRST! I expect I'll get a flood of letters after this, unbraiding me for my lack of Christian spirit.

XX
 "THE MAGIC ISLAND" by W. B. Seabrook.
 Bound in black cloth, title silver stamped on spine. New York, Harcourt and Brace, 1929. Illustrated with drawings by Alexander King, and photographs by the author. 336 pages. No dust wrapper but otherwise in excellent condition. If you don't like my price, make me an offer, cash or swap. SWAP \$2.00; CASH \$1.50. (LES CROUTCH) (adv)
 XX

XX
 COMING IN LIGHT NUMBER 47: A FOLLOW-UP TO BILL GRANT'S PICTURE IN LIGHT #45-- DECEMBER, 1949 ON THE MOVIE "DREAMS THAT MONEY CAN BUY". Sam. W. McCoy had written a detailed synopsis of this picture. It will be printed complete in one issue.
 XX

comments aimed point blank at the
F. A. P. A.

On October 13, 1949, two magazines and a book were mailed to Coswal. Coswal didn't think it necessary to acknowledge receipt. Nor did Mr. Coswal deem it necessary to answer subsequent cards and letters asking if he had received said parcel. Nor has Mr. Coswal considered it necessary to send me anything in return (in swap) though I have stated several times what I would accept in return. Therefore it is with an uplifted eyebrow that I read in the current "Fantasy Amateur"—"why did I say I'd found it did not pay to trust Fape members?"

Coswal's statement of his reasons for the last Postmailing is received here with a certain jaundiced air of disbelief. LIGHT was mailed not with the intention to appear in said postmailing. Nor was LIGHT late for the already mailed official mailing. Nor was it necessary that LIGHT be issued with such unseemly haste. I sent LIGHT early for the current mailing, that was all. I pictured the possibility of seeing LIGHT with the Number 1 beside it, therefore noting for posterity that Croutch for once had been an early bird. THEREFORE, MR. COSWAL, HENCEFORTH "LIGHT" IS TO GO INTO A REGULAR MAILING UNLESS I EXPRESSLY STATE I DESIRE IT OTHERWISE!!!!

Whether varying shades of paper means unsameness gives rise to an argument that isn't worth the proverbial hill of beans. Coswal thinks it does. I think it doesn't. It's merely two different points of view. So what?

-30-

The Bogen DB10 amplifier may be some shakos with its 42-15,000 c.p.s frequency response. But see the June 1950 issue of RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS. On page 49 J. Carlisle Hoadley (Audio Sub Section Head, Radio and Communications Section, Electronics Test Division, Naval Air Test Centre, Patuxent River, Maryland) describes an amplifier which has a frequency response of 33-20,000 c.p.s., with a variation from this curve of 1 db, plus or minus, at 2% distortion. I have seen descriptions of amplifiers that had a frequency range of 30 to 20,000 c.p.s. Someday I'm going to build one of these special jobs and then see if I can't extend the range. Should be fun!

Well, Harry, we COULD change the constitution to read that the 8 pages per year has to be duplicated by the fan in question. This would make ineligible any work done by a professional, in a letter shop, print shop, or what have you. Or we could say, 8 pages per annum by the fan HIMSELF, or 16 pages edited by the fan but duplicated by any professional or by any other fan. The way things are getting a member is just an editor. Another does the mechanical work. This makes certain of the magazines look very much alike. It does away with individuality. We might just as well have one magazine, divided up into sections, each section edited by a member, the whole appearing under one name and duplicated by one fan. It'd be just the same as what it happening right now with Coswal's purple prints appearing on more than his own publication. No doubt Coswal will take violent exception to this.

-30-

In Canada mimeographed matter goes as "printed matter", and I pay 1¢ for each 2 oz. or fraction thereof, regardless whether it is one, a whole batch, duplicates, or what have you. Books go at the same rate. Magazines are 1¢ per 4 oz. or fraction thereof. All must be wrapped so that at least one end is open for postal inspection. Parcel post is 14¢ a pound, over a pound you pay 1¢ an ounce up to 14¢, that is, 1 lb. 14 oz would be 28¢. But 1 lb. 15 oz. would not be 28¢, it would be counted as a straight 2 lbs, or still 28¢. Post cards are 3¢. Letter rate is 4¢ first oz, 2¢ for each additional oz. I'm not too familiar with air mail so won't quote any prices here. This will supplement Don Day's American. OK?

-30-

The Spring Mailing cost Coswal 11¢ to Perry Sound. What was the postage on yours?

-30-

I like Rotsler's pictures. Especially the women. Jo Kennedy isn't bad either.

-30-

Bookie-Nookie Laney should be in the radio business. More screwballs than you can shake an OZ4A at. Women that accuse you of stealing their whole radio cabinet just because you polished it up so it'd look cleaner! HONEST!!!!