

VOLUME 2
NUMBER 1
APR 1940



*The STF
General
Organization*

NEW FANDOM

Vol. 2 - (No. 1) - APRIL 1940

CONTENTS

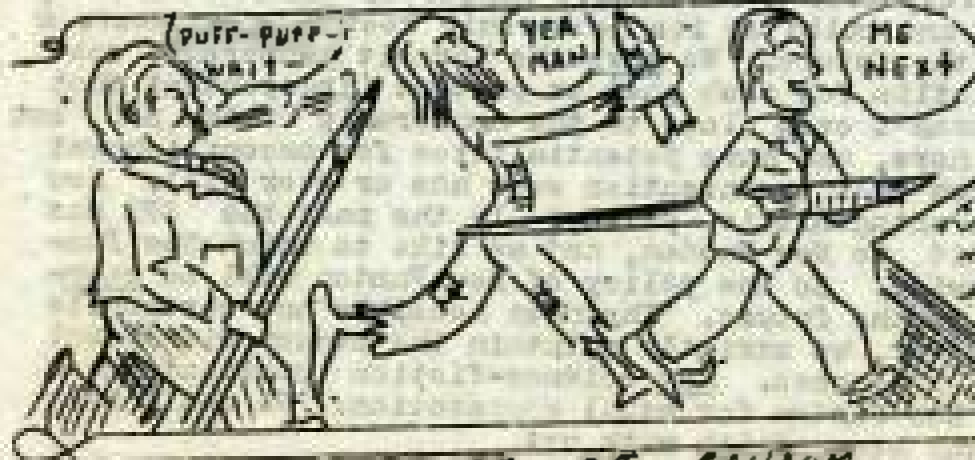
IN THE GROOVE (Editorial).....	2
By Sam Moskowitz.	
A CRITIQUE OF SCIENCE FICTION.....	3
By Thomas S. Gardner.	
VAN HOUTEN SAYS.....	8
By Ray Van Houten.	
READERS VS. FANS.....	9
By Charles D. Hornig.	
THE MANUSCRIPT BUREAU.....	11
A New Fandom Service.	
THE REST OF OUR GANG.....	12
Our Fellow Fan Dogs.	
DO THEY SAY.....	14
By Members & Readers.	
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	16
By Our Friends.	

"NEW FANDOM" is published every month by NEW FANDOM, the Science Fiction General Organization. This issue mimeoed by Will Sykora, 32-51 41st St., Long Island City, N.Y. Next six issues to be mimeoed by Jim Taurasi, 137-07 32nd Ave, Flushing, N.Y., Chairman of Publications Committee. MEMBERSHIP IN NEW FANDOM is \$1.00 per year, which includes ten issues of "NEW FANDOM", the official organ. Join now and help make the Chicago Convention a huge success!!

OFFICIAL ADDRESS is NEW FANDOM, c/o Ray Van Houten, 26 Seeley St, Paterson, N.J. to whom all membership dues should be sent as he is Secretary.

PRESIDENT is Sam Moskowitz, 605 So. 11th St, Newark, N.J. who welcomes all suggestions for improving the services rendered by NEW FANDOM.

COVER designed by James V. Taurasi, stencilled and screened by Mario Kavic, Jr. and Will Sykora.



IN THE GROOVE

by Sam Moskowitz

I think you'll be a little surprised at the early appearance of this number. Particularly after the miserable publication schedule we have been maintaining or rather not maintaining in the past nine months or so. The fates willing, this situation will be remedied in the immediate future. No promises mind you, but we will sincerely attempt to issue at periods of at least every six weeks, and if humanly possible, every month.

We have received many rather unkind, though undoubtedly justified letters from new members who have joined, waited months and then received nothing for their money. Please understand, we have not attempted to fleece you of your hard earned money or any such ridiculous angle. We have been delayed because of the most extenuating circumstances. Circumstances which could not be readily foreseen or denied. Things will run considerably smoother in the future.

No doubt most of you have already gotten wind of the fact that "New Fantom" has prepared one of the most superb examples of a truly democratic constitution ever presented before a science fiction club. This constitution was read at the most recent Philly Conference and received an overwhelming vote of approval from those present. Not to mention the various complimentary remarks which were quite happy to hear. This constitution was not prepared in a week or a month. We dropped everything for three months after the great "World Science-Fiction Convention", utilized three submitted constitutions of Jack Speer, Raymond Van Houten and Willison S. Sykora and patterned a superior effort containing, we believe, the finest points of each. But as another example of true democratic government we shall not simply attempt to foist a single effort of the board of the trustees over on readers without, at least, giving them a second choice. Jack Speer has asked that he be given the opportunity of presenting his constitution also, and giving the New Fantom members the opportunity of picking the one they thought best. Both constitutions will be presented in supplement form, containing the arguments of their conceivers and the actual wording of the individual constitutions and a method will be arranged for the New Fantom members to vote for the one they prefer. Fair enough?

This constitution practically insures the smoothness with which New Fantom will run in the future. With the load of the entire work taken off the shoulders of the few overworked members and distributed fairly and squarely over a reasonable number of willing workers, New Fantom can go on and build up its membership roster, plan newer & greater projects for the future. We have the largest membership roster of any science-fiction fan club past or present (independent that is). Of course we haven't even close to the membership of the SFL, but we have accomplished more, and have potentialities for accomplishment infinitely greater than that organization ever has or ever will. However, ours is not an antagonistic policy. In the past the SFL has rendered invaluable aid to New Fantom, and we like to think New Fantom reciprocated likewise. So the policy of New Fantom will be cooperation with the SFL in the future. The most sensible and worthwhile policy to adopt. However, we strictly maintain the utmost withdrawal from any entangling alliances. Any science-fiction publication or club can depend upon New Fantom for equal cooperation. We shall keep faith with everyone who keeps faith with us!

A CRITIQUE OF SCIENCE FICTION

by Thos. S. Gardner.

PART ONE

I. Can we give it a name?

The growth of a literature resembles a tree with a main stem that soon allows its branches to diverge farther and farther from the trunk. The story of science-fiction is strangely like our hypothetical tree in its many ramifications and changes. Before Gernsback started "Amazing Stories" in April, 1926, a great deal of science-fiction had been printed. At that time it was easily defined as a story whose plot concerned quite logical and not too far-fetched developments in science. The fields of fantasy and weird fiction were already heavy with age when the lusty infant --- science-fiction --- was born. Thus the early science-fiction stories emphasized science in spite of the well-drawn characterizations and the unique and intriguing situations. At that time it was possible to point to a story and say, "This is science-fiction, and that one is weird", and leave only a few border-line stories to be argued about. These border-line stories were often called "unusual" or "different" stories.

What is the situation today? We have an interesting web of stories that cannot be classed as any one type. The field has expanded enormously, and every conceivable angle is being investigated for fiction. However, a few definite sub-types are clear-cut and may be differentiated.

First we have:

SCIENCE-FICTION --- A story whose plot is the result of deductions made from accepted science. The imagination is drawn on logically, and without creating the feeling of unreality and impossibility. **Scientifiction** is a composite word invented by Hugo Gernsback in 1915 to represent the linking of fact and fiction in these stories. It is practically synonymous with science-fiction, and altho a good word, has not been used much.

SCIENTIALE --- A story containing a little science, but mostly given over to adventure. This type is usually the most readable of the classes, being light, with the science in the background, and the action turbulent and oft-times violent.

FANTASY --- A story in which the imagination has been turned loose to the limit. Anything goes, and the most recent developments are the metaphysical angles in the early New Astounding and currently in Unknown.

WEIRD --- A story based on the intermingling of the supernatural with the real. There are so many ramifications to the weird story that they will not be discussed in detail here.

The future will doubtless bring forward many new types.

II. The old masters.

Science-fiction is relatively new. Satire was the only form of

fiction that used fantasy to any extent until a few years ago. It must not be forgotten that science-fiction is a deliberate creation of this civilization, in an attempt to find a literature that would express the ideals of the Western World. Science-fiction is a planned literature, and is more significant of our world spirit than any other. Forget not that, until Herbert Spencer clearly elucidated that progress was a concept of man as a people, such was not realized to be the case. Science-fiction is the flowering of our ideals for tomorrow and the rising sun of the earth. Science-fiction fills a felt need!

Thus since science-fiction is relatively new, it has not been as bound by tradition and formal style as have other types of literature. The first writers used science-fiction for a different purpose than we do today. Jules Verne used it as a medium for a new and thrilling kind of adventure. Verne wrote scientales. Poe dwelt in fantasy and created the link between the supernatural and reality. To H. G. Wells science-fiction was simply a tool to express his sociological views. Consequently, the so-called "old masters" concentrated on fine writing, for their purpose was not to write science-fiction, but to express their needs and viewpoints in a new and arresting garb. Their audience was of a more intellectual type, especially as regards Wells, than the average reader of pulp stf. today. Thus their stories were better written and contained better characterization than the run of the mill science-fiction today. Many of their situations, however, appear to us as trite. That is because our imaginations have developed beyond their flights of fantasy. Most of the works of the old masters would receive scant attention at the editor's desk today --- not because they were poor science-fiction, but because they do not fit the pre-conceived mold in the editor's mind of what he wants to print. Because of this, much good science-fiction is sacrificed on the altar of policy. However, modern science-fiction has the advantage on the older forms because it sets no limits on the imagination and must have more than a few ideas and situations to hang a story on.

These older writers are not fair examples of science-fiction for they have been surpassed in many ways. They held their place because of the fine writing exhibited in their works, but that should not justify the belief of many that they are the models for modern authors. We can enjoy, some of us, this primitive form, but the great majority prefer the new --- post '28 brand.

The old masters developed and brought to our attention a good portion of the plots in use today. Wells wrote stories about practically every major science-fiction plot known --- the outstanding exception being Ray Cummings' size-changing idea, which has been worked to death since. Due credit must be given these old masters for their courage in striking out and creating science-fiction and its radical plots. Their foresight was magnificent and deserves all praise. They realized that the coming scientific civilization needed a more fitting form of expression --- they gave us science-fiction.

III. Early science-fiction.

Most magazines were afraid to publish science-fiction for years, and some still are. However, two things have happened recently that have made the world "science-fiction conscious". They are Orson Welles' radio broadcast of the "War of the Worlds" that caused a panic in the United States in the fall of 1938, and the New York World's Fair,

The growth of science-fiction is due to the far-sightedness and courage of the editors of a few magazines. The editors of what is now *Argosy* have from time to time published some of the best fantasy ever written. They have not, however, published much of true science-fiction. Such writers as Merritt, Cummings, Kline, Burroughs, and Farley were given first place in the issue. Many of today's science-fiction authors owe their success to *ARGOSY*.

The Blue Book have often published stories which might be termed as conservative science-fiction. Burroughs has been a frequent contributor and Anthony Rud has sold to them several times. A score of other magazines have ventured to publish science-fiction until today there are few that do not offer a science-fiction story every few months.

Science-fiction owes its greatest debt to one man --- Hugo Gernsback. One can say, without reserve, that if it hadn't been for Gernsback, science-fiction would be in the same state as it is in England, barely struggling along. Not only did Gernsback fostered science-fiction in all of his publications, but he has also written it extensively.

Science-fiction became of age and a part of history in April, 1926. The first issue of *Amazing Stories* came out on that date. The old *Science and Invention* published many stories that have been unsurpassed. One might mention Cummings' "Man from the Meteor", "Terrano the Conqueror", and Pezandie's "Dr. Hackensow's Secrets".

A story had to be not only good fiction, but unusually well-written and different, to be published previous to 1926. Only the best were accepted. There were only a few authors who devoted any effort to science-fiction and these wrote intermittently. Thus, most of their material would today be classed as fantasy or scientales.

Weird Tales opened up a field that has steadily grown in popularity. One may wonder why no more magazines have copied *Weird Tales*; the answer is that no more good weird stories are being written. *Strange Stories* is a poor imitation. In the past imitators of *Weird Tales* have disappeared from the market. Is it the handwriting on the wall for *Strange Stories*?

A comparison of early science-fiction shows that most readers prefer the present type, in spite of the influx of worn-out ideas and fourth-rate writers. We have evolved, and science-fiction has matured into a literature.

IV. *Amazing Stories*.

Amazing Stories was born with the April, 1926 issue. There have been only three editors to date. Hugo Gernsback, its founder, F. O'Connor Slocane, and Raymond A. Palmer, presently. A Lynch served for a few months between Gernsback and Slocane. *Amazing* has mirrored the personalities of its editors. Under Gernsback it was prone to carry a more varied bill of fare, with even some fantasy thrown in. Consequently the magazine appealed to a more general taste. When it first appeared, science-fiction authors were rare, and Gernsback had to rely a good deal on reprints to fill his magazine. These reprints still stand as classics. *Amazing Stories* slowly declined during the depression until most of the stories were practically unreadable. Illogic crept in and for a while the fans feared for the "Aristocrat of

Science-Fiction". The only thing that saved Amazing Stories was the publication of a few good stories now and then. E.E. Smith's and John W. Campbell's stories, in your author's humble opinion, saved Amazing Stories from passing away.

With the change to small size a very slow improvement set in. To the readers, the old Amazing had published real science-fiction --- and a lot of it was uninteresting. Thus in the years before its collapse and sale to Ziff-Davis, the stories contained no new or startling ideas. Amazing's forte then was the series stories, like the Professor Jenson series. These attracted much more attention than the novels or shorts.

Then Amazing Stories ceased with the March, 1938 issue, and the fans were gratified to hear that it would be revived by the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company of Chicago. Raymond A. Palmer was named editor. Palmer was a real fan, collector, and author; everyone expected great things from Amazing. Everyone was disappointed. June 1938 saw the first issue under the new banner. In spite of the fact (judging from the hally-hoo) that Amazing Stories has been a financial success, the fans have disliked it. The new group realized that heretofore they had been catering to a small select audience, and with an eye to a vaster circulation, made up their magazine to appeal more generally. The readers' department consists of new readers who like the mag for the same reason they like western stories. Emotional appeal... Thus Amazing started a pulp rush similar to the western story pulp rush of a few years ago. The stories have, from the standpoint of the fan, been very poor, many were love stories embellished with ray guns and rocket ships on strange planets. That went over big with the pulp fiction audience, always clamoring for something new. Amazing Stories has improved since the first issue, and a few good stories have appeared in it. Binder's "I, Robot" is one of these. Many fans have clamored for the return of the Jenson series, but they have been ignored. Amazing Stories will probably continue for a long time, despite the fact that the fans class it very low in the scale and read it last, if at all.

Only one Annual to the old Amazing was ever published --- for 1927. It consisted mostly of reprints. Several quarterlies were put out, and some of the best science-fiction of the times came out in them. During this period, Amazing Stories was at its zenith. Real science-fiction had been developed.

The new companion magazine, "Fantastic Adventures", has become a scientific mag, and many of its stories are not well-written. Due to its large size and attractive layout, it seems to be well on its way to success. Its great weakness lies in its "sweet" endings, which mirror mid-Victorian ideals. The new Amazing got over that to a certain extent. Up to July, 1939, Fantastic Adventures has not published an outstanding story, but the fans have hopes for the future.

It is possible that the wide use of English authors has slowed Amazing Stories up considerably. The English-writers do not always catch the American viewpoint, and are generally poor --- this does not go for Wells, who was an internationalist, anyway. The chief assets of the two Ziff-Davis mags are the eye-catching covers; which interest the customer and sell the magazine. Their departments are poor, and their make-up on the whole mediocre. If Palmer keeps the present policy, the old fans will leave him altogether, to be replaced by a greater number

of new readers who want only sugar-coated pills of future adventure.

V. Wonder Stories, "A Decade of Change".

It was a great day for science-fiction when Hugo Gernsback started a new line of magazines after leaving Amazing in 1929. The first magazine was titled "Science Wonder Stories" and appeared in June 1929. Its companion magazine was Air Wonder Stories, which came out just one month later, and consequently ran for only eleven issues, contrary to general belief. Science Wonder had every conceivable kind of plot, with a vim and gusto that the old Amazing didn't have. Air Wonder stuck to themes concerning flight, as its name indicates. At first it featured stratosphere and other terrestrial flight, but then it turned to Interplanetary flight. The complete set of Air Wonder is a rare collector's item and they contain some excellent fiction. Another failure was the attempt to publish the Scientific Detective Monthly. Those were the boom days! Today we are experiencing the boom of the new era and a new type of science-fiction. How will they rate in the long run? Will the new era also pass? In those days it seemed, for a while, that science-fiction would become a strong factor in the pulp magazine field, but it was too early. Ten years had to pass before such a spree was to develop --- culminating in today's crop of magazines.

The depression cut Gernsback down to Wonder Stories --- how it managed to survive and print good science-fiction was an open secret. Late and slow payment for material. Gernsback owes a debt to his authors who waited on him for years. He partially repaid that debt by printing some of the best science-fiction that has appeared to date. David Lessor and Charles D. Hornig, the managing editors, made the magazine readable in spite of poor sales and a rising tide of distrust. The amount of good fiction they put out is a tribute to the staff as a whole. Gernsback constantly experimented with new ways of presenting science-fiction to the public. The history of Gernsback Publications would make an interesting chapter in the history of American enterprise --- science-fiction being only one phase of it. Every type of story was tried, along with cover contests, new-type stories, and all failed to make the grade. Even the size, price, and paper changed several times. The now Astounding prides itself on its experiments --- Wonder beat them all! Alas, Wonder as the old fans know it vanished with the April, 1936 issue.

For a time the fans were inconsolable in spite of the fact that they, themselves, were a large factor in its demise. Why? They wanted Wonder, but they wanted a better business policy. They didn't get either, until the Thrilling Wonder Stories came out. An interesting interlude in science-fiction had closed; Gernsback had apparently passed from the field. The failure of Wonder had antedated Amazing's failure by only two years. Does it seem strange that Wonder, Amazing and Astounding failed? With the new viewpoints on science-fiction a great revival has started that may mean its success as a literature.

The new Thrilling Wonder Stories first appeared in August, 1936 with another fan as editor --- Mortimer Weisinger. Thus Astounding with Campbell, Hornig with Science-Fiction, Weisinger with Wonder, and Amazing with Palmer all have ex-fans and leaders in the field of outwearing to guide them. The rush is on! Thrilling Wonder has many weaknesses --- the chief of them being that all their stories are either puerile or stupid. Now and then a gem has been published ---

but as a whole the magazine dulls the mind. Until recently. In the last six months (Jan. to June, 1939) it has improved wonderfully, and may soon get into the elite clique. The usual story is badly written, and the ending is obvious, the plots old and heavily worked out, yet on issue appears sometimes that surpasses the average of even the other magazines. One issue contained Kuttner's "Star Parade", Weinbaum's "Tidal Moon", and Garth's "Hands Across the Void", and the succeeding issue was right back to sub-mediocrity. Now it is improving again. What's the matter, Mart? Can't you give us a good story every issue?

What Thrilling Wonder lacks, the new magazine "Startling Stories" has. Two magazines with the same editor, one in the highest rating, Startling, and the other in the lowest brackets. Startling specializes in great literature, or as close to it as the modern hacks can come, novels like Weinbaum's "Black Flame" and Hamilton's "Prisoner of Mars". The writing is forceful and the plots are well worked out. The short stories suffer by comparison to the lead stories. The departments are excellent. Wonder and Startling feature Kuttner and Binder, and usually the boys come across with some good material; Wonder has some good departments but the poorest "science" articles imaginable.

The first issue of Startling Stories was dated Jan. 1939, and has already become a favorite! What can be done with a good magazine is thereby shown. It is the author's private belief that if Mart Weisinger were given a freer hand by Margulies, both magazines would improve. The only improvement that Startling could have would be better short stories. It is just about perfect otherwise.

END OF PART ONE.

VAN HOUTEN SAYS - - - - - Watch for big things out of Peterson in the next few months! Not the least of these will be a new magazine, the details of which are still in a hazy state, but whose policy is the most clear-cut of any magazine that has ever appeared.

Have you ever wondered just why you felt uncomfortable whenever "Frankenstein" was mentioned as a science-fiction classic? Have you ever figured out just why you object to the derisive "mad scientist" cry?

We have found the answer. "Frankenstein" tells the story of a scientist, an experimental biologist, whose incredible scientific discovery gets out of hand and destroys him. A warning, in plain English, that the further progress of science will turn the world into a nightmare!

When science-fiction becomes a medium for spreading ANTI-SCIENCE propoganda, such as put forth in "Frankenstein", it is time for somebody to do something.

Story after story we read wherein a man with a super-scientific machine enslaves the world, and an equally-super-courageous hero saves humanity with nothing but his bare hands and the love of a woman to support him. Courage versus Science; Love versus Knowledge.

IS THIS THE IMPRESSION SCIENCE-FICTION IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE OF SCIENCE? We think not, and intend to fight tooth and nail against the further perversion of science-fiction. This issue is the most important in science-fiction today, and cannot be safely ignored any more!

In a month or so, Peter Duncan, Max Bart, and I are going to issue a "white paper" in which we are going to state our full policy. We will also ask for a statement of policy from every fan, fan mag and fan organization in existence. Please cooperate. FIGHT ANTI-SCIENCE!

READERS' PAGE

by

CHARLES D. HORNIG-

(From the editor of "Science Fiction" comes an intriguing reply to Harry Warner's "Whither Goest Thou?" All the more so because the author is not only an editor, but an active fan as well!)

Sam asked me to write something in answer to Harry Warner's interesting article in the January, 1939 New Fandom. I hope, in these few paragraphs, to set Harry straight on a couple of points.

Now first I want to say that Harry and I are good friends, although we have never met. We call each other "Harry" and "Charlie" in our correspondence, and I really consider Harry to be amongst the ten top fans in the world at the present time. His article proves that. He has a deep concern for science fiction and its future. He writes in the greatest sincerity, and I respect his opinions and suggestions to the highest extent. Were I in Harry's place, I would certainly be proud of that article. It is so analytic, and logical, and convincing.

As a matter of fact, it is so convincing that it almost convinced me of some things that I know to be otherwise. The errors that Harry makes in "Whither Goest Thou?" are due solely to lack of experience in the professional field. From the fan angle, he is entirely correct one hundred per cent.

I know that Harry, as one of the leading scientificionists, is very broad-minded and tolerant, and will therefore not take offense at my disagreeing with him on a few matters.

In the opening of his article, Harry speaks of Koonig's disgust with the fan mags. Koonig is an intelligent, mature individual greatly to be respected, but I am afraid he doesn't understand the fan mag situation. It is true that many efforts are pitiable, worthless publications--but he should remember that the fans are ambitious and courageous enough to try to issue fan mags, even when their facilities almost forbid successful jobs. I do not scorn those failures, because I am glad that those would-be fan publishers have had enough interest in science fiction and enough ambition to make the attempt at all.

Now to tear a couple of Harry's arguments to shreds:

I had to cringe a little under his accusations, because I am one of the professional editors--and he seems to have it in for all of us!

Harry doesn't seem to realize that, while the editor is a very important part of any magazine, there are other fractions just as important--to name two; publishing and writing--mostly writing.

An editor can write hundreds of letters to the best authors asking for material. He will usually get it in droves. Much of it will be old stuff that the authors have been trying to sell for years. If the editor commissions the writer to compose a story especially for him, the author will be glad to do it. If he is a good author, he will invariably do a good job--especially if the price is right. But

JOIN NEW FANDOM NOW!!! AND HELP PUT OVER THE CHICAGO SF CONVENTION!!!

The author is writing on order, and not on inspiration--therefore, he will seldom turn out a classic when he is commissioned to write.

So we see that the editor cannot demand masterpieces from his writers. Therefore, the best thing that he can do is to select what he believes to be the best stories that he receives. This is a mighty big job, and the most responsible of all--because no two out of 60,000 readers were to be presumed to be in complete agreement on which are the best stories. If each of the 60,000 readers were given the selection of a year's supply of material, I doubt very much that any two of them would make the exact same selection. I am also sure that some selections would differ from others about one hundred per cent.

The most that the fans can demand is an editor that is familiar with science-fiction. Fortunately, practically all of our professional science fiction editors today are fans or authors of long standing. Therefore, they know science fiction! That's as far as you can go. Each editor has his own idea about which stories are best, and you have just got to leave it up to him to decide. If he is wrong, his circulation will go down. If he is right, it will go up.

Suppose you were editing a science fiction magazine. After a few issues, you noticed that your circulation was climbing steadily. That would be very satisfying wouldn't it? Now, with all this prosperity, you receive a letter from a prominent fan--maybe a dozen letters from as many fans--praising your book to the skies. Could you honestly take them seriously? Could they convince you that you were a failure, in the face of success? I don't think so, because you would know that you were satisfying the readers of your magazine--and, we hope, the majority of the fans.

This brings to the fore another point that seems to be misinterpreted by Harry. He mentions the fans and readers as though they were the same people. But they aren't, Harry! They are two different classes. Their only similarity is that they like to read science fiction. The fans have something in addition--they like to argue it.

The readers, who make up at least eighty per cent of the life-blood circulation of any science fiction magazine (and I know Harry, because I have been investigating from the inside for more than six years) are satisfied to read the magazines and then give them away or throw them out. If one of the stories in the magazine meets their disapproval, they don't write letters about it. However, they will overlook one poor story, or maybe two--but if the magazine is filled with poor stories, they will simply stop buying it. And that's the only way an editor can know that his readers disapprove of his efforts.

So you see that the only way an editor can judge the quality of his choice, in the long run, is through the observance of circulation figures.

This shows that the readers must, from the standpoint of financial success, get first consideration. Aside from that, the editors really try to satisfy the fans--these active thousands who are always ready to advise the editors. And the editors truly appreciate that advice. Without it, editing would certainly be a monotonous business--and lonely. No editors need fans advice--many suggestions are worthwhile.

In conclusion, fans--remember that every editor wants to satisfy the fans, and only refuses when the suggestions, in his estimation (which, because of his experience, should be respected) would make the magazine less saleable. And the editors must first consider sales. Publishers hire them to make money--and not to merely satisfy a hobby.

THE MANUSCRIPT BUREAU

Because this column was omitted last issue we give it double space this number. For that reason and for the other important reason that the bureau is in really desperate straits.

In the past few months new, large, fan magazines have sprung up without notice. As has been New Fantom's policy in the past we have helped them indiscriminately. Supplying enormous quantities of material to assure their success. In the past six months New Fantom has supplied twenty four fan magazines with over 200 single spaced large size pages of material a tremendous amount. And because in the past six months our official organ has not been appearing regularly, the supply has been gradually dwindling until it is at the lowest point in the entire history of the bureau! As this issue goes to press we have enough material left to do two fan mags and we have four urgent requests on our list. We send out a frantic appeal for material. IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A SCHEMPFUL SUPPLY OF MATERIAL AT LEAST FOUR AND POSSIBLY MORE NEW FAN MAGS WILL COLLAPSE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS!

Have you ever tried to write? No? Well, for gosh sakes there is no time like the present. Stories, articles, poems, columns of any length or characteristic can and will be needed. To have placed every item ever sent us! A one hundred percent record! Fan mags editors do have material that they can never use, send it to us. You may receive material some day, and have to call upon the bureau. There are only a few fan mags, about 1% of the entire number existing today, and we have had to call upon the resources of the Manuscript Bureau. It is urgently needed now, and help your fellow fan magazine editors who are much less fortunate. Contribute.

In the past few months the bureau has sent material to:

SCIENTIFICAL, Published by Tom Hoguet. Material by Peter Duncan, Nils H. Frome, Robert G. Thompson, Sam Moskowitz, Erle Korschak & Julius Unger, and a number of others.

FANTASY, Published by Francis V. Para has been sent material by Sam Moskowitz, Harry Warner, Nils H. Frome.

SCIENTIFIC SCIENCE-FICTION, Published by J. J. Fortier, has been sent material by Sam Moskowitz, Nils H. Frome & Robert G. Thompson.

SCIENCE NEWS, Published by Bill Grovesman, has been sent material by Sam Moskowitz, Wilson Shepherd & Robert W. Lowndes.

THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, Published by John V. Baltadonis has received material by Sam Moskowitz, Peter Duncan, Nils H. Frome.

COSMIC-SCIENTI-TALES, Published by John Giunta, has received material by Sam Moskowitz, Peter Duncan, Nils H. Frome, Harry Warner, Jack Spear & others.

CURIOUS, Published by Franz J. Litz, has received material by Sam Moskowitz, Harry Warner & Gene Alfred Duane.

FANTASY DIGEST, has received material by Sam Moskowitz, N. Rioutner, Walter Sullivan, Gene Alfred Duane.

Minor contributions, of one or two items, were sent to Fantasy News Quarterly, Fantascience Digest & Scienti-Snaps. In some cases these were not asked for, but were voluntarily sent without notice by the Bureau head because they belong in these magazines. The above list is far from complete. But should give you an inkling of an idea of just how much material has been passed along in the past few months. Thanks is particularly due to Ray Van Houten, for sending along items by himself and Pete Duncan for distribution. To Sullivan, Warner, Gene Alfred Duane, Thompson & many others who have helped.

.....
 *****: THE REST OF OUR GANG *****

FANTASY NEWS, William S. Sykora, 31-51-41st St., Long Island City, N.Y. weekly, 10 cents for three issues, mimeographed, 4 to 6 pages.

This is the most complete and most reliable science-fiction news paper in the world. It is a weekly, has never missed an issue, and consistently scoops the fan world on all items of importance. Among the scoops it has carried in the past month are, complete, accurate accounts of the Second Annual Philly Conference; scoop announcement of the appearance of "Planet Stories"; announcement of two color illustrations in "Astounding" & "Super Science Stories" title; of the appearance of "Astonishing" & "Super Science Stories" etc., etc. At writing 94 weekly numbers have appeared and when the 95th appears next week, it will break all existing records for the consistent appearance of any fan magazine. Get this newspaper!

SCIENCE FICTION, J.J. Fortier, 1936 -39th Ave., Oakland, Calif: 15 cents, 42 large mimeographed pages. Vol. I No. 1.

This is one of the most voluminous fan magazines ever to appear. And for a first issue it does quite all right for itself. Among the bountiful supply of material it presents is "The Finger" a long well done weird-fantasy by W. Lawrence Hamling; "Comes The Dawn", a long, comprehensive analysis of the present fan mag situation by Sam Moskowitz, and other above-average features by Robert W. Lowndes, Charles D. Hornig, Harry Warner, Bob Tucker, Forrest J. Ackerman; Hoy Ping Pong, Dale Hart and others. Art work done by Bush shows promise. This mag should be supported.

COSMIC TALES, - Second Anniversary Issue. and last published by Louis Kuslan; henceforth John Giunta, 1355 80th Street, Bklyn, N.Y. will issue the mag. 15 cents, 40 large mimeographed pages.

The Second Anniversary Issue of "Cosmic Tales" is easily the best issue to date. The material and reproduction is of the very finest. The stories by David H. Keller, M.D., J. Harvey Haggard, J.M. Boyer, Dave McMillain, John Giunta, Garth Giles, in fact every story is an example of some of the finest fan fiction ever contained in a fan magazine. Speers long column about side-lights of the convention is excellent, while C. S. Youd gives us something to think about in "The New Science Fiction." We heartily recommend this magazine for some of the finest fiction ever to appear in a fan magazine.

THE SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR, John V. Balticonis, 1700 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, Penna., 32 halftoned pages, 10 cents. Vol. 5 No. 2

Here is the mag that the experienced fan will take to like a duck in water. It gives little, personal glimpses of the entire fan field. Recently it celebrated its third anniversary and is the oldest fan mag published today. "There Are Other Sides" by Sam Moskowitz, long article in the issue is the most sensational of the entire year. "Thots In The Dark" by the Infernal Wonderer is delightful in its intimate touches. Bob Madle contributes a fine news column, and there is a regular host of departments, etc. Profusely illustrated in all colors.

FANTASCIENCE DIGEST, Bob Madle, 333 E. Belgrade St., Philadelphia, Penna., 15 cents, 30 large mimeographed pages, Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 1939

This is one of the finest, if not the finest bi-monthly fan magazines published today. First class material and mimeographing. The latest number contains "Dawn of Death" short-story by Fred W. Fisher; It's Astounding, article by Harry Warner; "Case History", The finest article ever written by Sam Moskowitz; a fine, long news column, a quiz department, and a host of other excellent features.

AD ASTRA, Mark Painsberg, 3156 Cambridge Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10 cts
25 large mimeographed pages. November, 1939

This is one of the better fan magazines being published today. Among its many fine features is a printed frontpiece by Krupa; a positively damning attitude on "cutting" by E. E. Smith; a poor article by Campbell, and material of merit by Robert A. Madle, Leslie A. Croutch and others. An excellent readers department here.

SPACEWAYS, Harry Warner, 303 Bryan Place,AGERSTOWN, Maryland, 10 cents, 25 large mimeographed pages. November, 1939

This issue is a considerable drop in standard. Taurasi has a cover that's quite good, symbolic of Weinbaum. Leslie A. Croutch's short story "The Wax Doll" is the most entertaining feature of the number. The feature article by Georges A. Gallet is unspeakably dry; Dale Hart fails to be interesting; William Veney has an interesting though incomplete article on the Australian Sci.Fans. The poetry is above fan mag average whereas some of the departments rank from criminally poor to exceedingly good.

FANTASY DIGEST, Ted Dikty, 3136 Smith St., Fort Wayne, Ind., 10 cts., 25 large mimeographed pages., Aug.-Sept., 1939 issue.

This is easily the best issue to date in everything except the odiferous cover, and poor mimicing in spots. Shroyer asks "What Is A Fan?". Moskowitz indulges in a little well-directed satire; Sullivan has "Convention Scenes; Harry Warner, Erle Korshak & Larry Farwell intriguing "visit" accounts; Kuttner's satire is quite good as is most of the material. Included this on your list of fan mags.

SCIENTIFICSNAPS, Walter Earl Marconette, 2709 E. Second St., Dayton, O. (Please change in address please), 14 mimeographed pages, 10 cents Oct. '39

Has added a capable fan, J. Chapman Miske as associate editor. Feature of latest number is the first part of "A. Merrit---His Life And Works" by Merrit & Miske. Charles Tanger, has a humorous poem "Chant of the Scientifiction Author." We wonder why Lowder's article which hardly even mentions the word science fiction, yet discusses it is included? Other material of varying quality by Harry Warner, Richard Wilson & Colburne Jones.

FAN MAGS STILL BEING PUBLISHED:-The Fantascer, Le Zombie, Fantasy Fictioneer, PSES News, Voice of Inagi-Nation, Futuria Fantasia, Escape, The Satellite, Postal Preview, Fan Facts, Science Fiction Fan, Futurian, Polaris, Science Fiction Progress, Ultra, Vadjong, Mikros, Golden Atom, Van Houten Says, Fantasmagoria, Sweetness & Light.

NEW FAN MAGS, Stunning Scientifan, published by J.J Fortier, Fantasy Fictioneer, by Illini Fantasy Fictioneers, Postal Preview, by Ted Carnell, Polaris, by Paul Freehafer, Science Fiction Progress by Wollheim(?), Ultra, Australian fan mag by Eric Russell, Sweetness & Light (now a subscription mag) by Hodgkins, Van Houten Says, (now a subscription mag) by Van Houten, Golden Atom by E. E. Weirman, Fantasmagoria (reissued after long sus pension), Science Fiction War Bulletin published three issues in England and then was disbanded.

DISCONTINUED, "Science Fiction War Bulletin, Australian Fan Items, New Worlds, The Fantast.

PROPOSED, "Fanfare" by Francis V. Parc, Science Fiction Fandom by Larry Faracci, Fantasy News Quarterly by Taurasi, Star Dust, by W. Lawrence Hamling.

The above, as of, December, 1, 1939.

REORGANIZATION OF NEW FANDOM HAS JUST BEGUN!!! Sam Moskowitz, Bob Madle, Jimmy Taurasi, Mario Racio, Jr., Jack Baltadonia, Ray Van Houten, and Will Sykora have been appointed to the new Governing Committee.

SO THEY SAY

(Inasmuch as the monthly publication of "New Fandom" leaves us in a position of stenciling this issue before comments on the last have been received we will have to fill the department with various miscellaneous compiled in the past few months which might be of interest. ED.)

JOSEPH E. X. LACOVINO, of Auburn, N.Y., writes us:

Dear Mr. Moskowitz:

"Time, Incorporated, has been good enough to give me your name as the Managing Secretary of New Fandom. An article concerning your organization, you will recall, appeared in the issue of Time of 10 July, 1939.

"I have as a private collection a number of magazine firsts (Vol. 1, No. 1). I wonder if there might be among them some issues of interest to you or the members of your organization, and which they might desire to purchase of me?

"I have a list of these and will be glad to lend it to you, if you will communicate with me."

(New Fandom cannot print your address, Mr. Lacovino, because that would constitute an advertisement. But we will be glad to give same to any New Fandom member who thinks he might be interested. We cannot guarantee this, as has been our policy inasmuch as we have had no relations with Mr. Lacovino....ED.)

VIRGINIA CARTOFALSO, Secretary of "Thomas Alva Edison Room", Nichols Junior High School, Mount Vernon, N.Y., asks:

Dear Mr. Moskowitz:

"The Editor of Time Magazine has referred us to you. We are anxious to obtain the address of Mr. Ray Cummings, a former secretary to Mr. Thomas A. Edison.

"Please be assured that we will appreciate any assistance that you may render to us in this matter."

(Enclosed with her letter, Miss (we assume) Cartofalso included a letter from the staff of "Time magazine which we reprint below)

Nov. 16, 1939

Dear Miss Cartofalso:

"Sorry we haven't the address of Mr. Ray Cummings on hand.

"The Managing Secretary of the fanclub for readers of scientific-fiction - "New Fandom" - would be able to give it to you, very likely. He is Mr. Sam Moskowitz of 603 So. 11th St., Newark, N.J.

Sincerely yours,

Signed Dorothy Scott,
Subscribers Service

(We have forwarded Miss Cartofalso's request to Ray Cummings....ED.)

ALAN H. KELSO, of Havana, Cuba informs: -

"As I have been able to notice, you are one of the most capable scientificionists in the field (Blush.. Blush...ED.)

"Therefore I should like to bring the following matter to your attention.

"Long before I was a reader of Science fiction, I was working on a means of translation in space, not depending on air or any other surrounding medium except the ether.

"After years of experimenting I have finally found a means of translation (using only the ether as a medium, just as rockets do), But WITHOUT ANY EXPLOSIONS, AND WITHOUT HURLING AWAY OR LOSING ANY MAT

----- (THIS PAGE) -----
THE 1940 CHICAGO SCIENCEFICTION CONVENTION WILL BE PARTIALLY FINANCED
BY NEW FANDOM!!! HELP SUPPORT IT BY JOINING NEW FANDOM AT ONCE!!!!

TRR.

"I create in metallic pieces a field momentarily impassable to ether, and push downward against the ether, thus obtaining an upward reaction or lift.....The principle I have discovered is absolutely different from anything known up to now....and presents no technical difficulties to immediate utilization, or ~~larger whatsoever~~....calls for great precision in construction....needs airplane meters to move it.... unfortunately....lack means to build good precision model. That's why I write you, hoping to find comprehension among the sci-ence-fiction fans for things that ordinary people consider impossi-ble.

"I wish to get in touch with people that can help me with some funds to build a good flying model and to sell my invention in the United States.

"I would be very willing to share with anyone interested, 'till the successful sale of it, fifty percent of the profit." It may be a million dollar business.

"If you are not personally interested, I would be very much obliged to you, if you would kindly bring my letter to the attention of the science-fiction fans in general.

"Hoping I may hear from you and thanking you for the courtesy I remain:

(If anyone is interested in writing Mr. Kelso we will be happy to supply his address. We wish to state, however that we know nothing of Mr. Kelso other than this letter.....ED.)

WILLARD DEWEY, of Everett, Washington, SQUAWKS

"When the three stills from "Metropolis" were first advertis-ed in "New Fantom" no address was given so I sent my thirty cents to you as I thought we were supposed to do. That was April 20th, and I have heard absolutely nothing about this. I would like to know if they were sent to me. If they were lost in the mail -- Okay, we'll forget it. If not, I'd very much like some."

(A thousand and one humble apologies, Will, its all the absent mind-ed Secretary's fault. The stills were never purchased inasmuch as not enough orders to warrant it were received. All orders except yours were returned long ago. Your thirty cents will be sent you in short order, again let me voice my apologies.....ED.)

THOMAS A. HOGUE, N.Y. fan, and Queens SPL member voices: -

"After reading the copy of "New Fantom" you sold me at the Queens SPL meeting of September, I've decided it's about time I joined. You probably don't remember me, but I sat directly in front of you....Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for membership in "New Fantom" I hope I am in time for the convention issue, well so long, see you at the meeting in October (And so he did and we lived happily ever after.....ED)

STANLEY ELLENOR BROWN, "S. O. S. Clipping Service, Zion, Ill.wants to now if:

"In re your publication "New Fantom."

"Would it be possible for you to send me a sample copy of same?"

"Not only am I interested from the standpoint of reading this type of fiction, but as a collector, which is one of the Departments of my Clipping Service, I would like to have a copy for my files.

"However, should there be any cost for handling and mailing same I would be more glad to remit same to you upon your in-structions.

"And in any event that your magazine should prove interesting you can count me as a regular subscriber & member. Whatsay?"

☆ STARDUST ☆

the queen of fan mags

PRINTED: 20¢ a copy, \$1.00 for 6 issues, from W. Lawrence Hamling, 2608 Arpsle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

FANTASCIENCE DIGEST

the digest of imaginative fiction

LARGE SIZE MIMFOGRAPHED! 15¢ a copy from Robert A. Madle, 333 E. Belgrade Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR

the battle-ground of sf fandom

SMALL SIZE HECTOGRAPHED! 10¢ a copy from V. Baltadonis, 1700 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FANTASY TIMES

the fan mag within a fan mag

SEND NEWS OF YOUR SF ACTIVITIES to James W. Thoresen, 137-37 32nd Ave, Flushing, N.Y. and see them published in FUTURE FICTION.

NEWS
WHILE
IT'S
HOT!

FANTASY-NEWS

the sciencefiction weekly newspaper

PRICE:
THREE
ISSUES
TEN
CENTS.

LARGE SIZE MIMECOGRAPHED! Latest news of the sciencefiction world every week. Never missed an issue in nearly two years. William S. Sykora, Editor, 31-51 41st Street, Long Island City, N.Y.

The four sciencefiction fan magazines listed above are among the most outstanding of contemporary fan publications. They are published by Fans who have been active for years. A grand total of over fifteen years of intense fan activity is represented by these topnotch super-active fans. By supporting these fan magazines you support all sciencefiction fandom. Send in your subscription to all four NOW-NOW-NOW!!!!

Mark Reinsberg, speaking for the ILLINI FANTASY FICTIONEERS, accepted the full support of NEW FANDOM, when Sam Moskowitz offered that support at the SECOND ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION CONFERENCE. This acceptance may or may not be denied in the near future. But whether it is denied or not, NEW FANDOM intends that the CHICAGO WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION WILL BE A SUCCESS. Hence it will throw the full power of its organized strength in support of this convention, and, if necessary, will even underwrite part of the expenses entailed. IF YOU SUPPORT NEW FANDOM, YOU SUPPORT THE CHICAGO CONVENTION IN 1940! Send your \$1.00 annual dues to:

RAYMOND VAN HOUTEN,
Secretary, NEW FANDOM,
26 Seeley Street,
Paterson, New Jersey.

