

SCIENCE FICTION

# COLLECTOR

May, 1938



## The Editor Speaks

We sincerely hope that you like this issue of the COLLECTOR. This is our first small-sized issue -- under our editorship, of course.

The number of pages we have in our issues depends entirely upon our readers. If we intend issuing the COLLECTOR regularly at a fast rate, we cannot rely on any great number of pages for our issues. Therefore, we use what we get while we can. This issue, for instance, is 33 pages. That was because the influx of material was good-sized. Now, the next issue might only have 24, or 36. The rate at which material comes in is never fixed and is quite unreliable. However, we will endeavor to maintain the same (or nearly the same) number of pages every issue. If a fan mag has a good number of pages, and comes out monthly regularly, that's going some. And, we intend doing just that!

Our heretofore regular contributor, Sam Moskowitz, has missed this issue. Why, we have no idea. However, we hope to have Sam back with us again next issue. . . . Schwartz, it seems, is very busy at the time. Nice we would have his column. . . . 'Ted' Carnell can't make every issue, so intends contributing his regular column to us at a bi-monthly rate.

Again we make our plea for more support. Perhaps you have a correspondent who doesn't subscribe to the COLLECTOR. Give 'em a yank and find out. Every new subscription means further assurance of the COLLECTOR's regular issuance.

Let's hear what you think of our articles. Write in giving us your viewpoint. You're all welcome!

# SCIENCE FICTION ~ COLLECTOR

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Vol. 4 No. 1      May, 1936      Whole No. 19

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The SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR is issued  
monthly at 1700 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania. The SFC is a COMET PUBLICATION.  
Price rates: 10¢ per copy, \$1.00 a year. All  
material excepting fiction desired.

# A Matter of Taste

A rush, a rush, to the nearest news-stand,  
 (Of course you have two dimes in your hand!)---  
 Oh, this might seem to be confounding:  
 "Quick, quick! I want Astounding! ---  
 Not on top? Then let's look under---  
 Maybe you have got a Wonder;  
 While you're on your search a-razing,  
 See if you have got Amazing;  
 What? My gawsh! Just what I feared---  
 You're even sold out of your Weird!  
 Every month there comes this friction,  
 Racing out for science fiction ---  
 A plague on Hugo Gernsback's ghost---  
 Will read the Saturday Evening Post!  
 But I'd rather read stuff with art by Wesco  
 Than gawk at ads prattling toothpaste and Esso!"

--- HILT ASQUITH ---



When SCIENCE FANTASY MOVIE REVIEW was recently launched, anyone who read that magazine would find, tucked away in the upper right-hand corner of the contents page, a lone phrase, "To further the cause of the fantastic notion picture....." A great and worthy aim is expressed in those nine words, yet, to be quite honest, they mean very little. For, as is always the case, the movies themselves will shape the ultimate destiny of the bizarre drama.

However, this article is not so concerned with the unusual cinema's future as with its past. It considers, very precisely, the period from 1933 to the present. And, when culled from the herds of films produced within these five years, only five deserve to be included in fantasy's "Hall of Fame." They are, in order of their appearance, "King Kong," "She," "Things To Come," "Lost Horizon," and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

The first of this select group, "King Kong," was the first notion picture to vividly impress itself on my brain. Previous to my initial viewing of that masterpiece, movies were only a form of passing entertainment. I saw them, enjoyed many of them, then promptly forgot them. Such was not the case with "King Kong." Four times I returned to breathlessly watch the magic of Hollywood bring before my

eyes those strange, unearthly monsters of the prehistoric past. Even today, after five years, I can remember in minute detail every action, every speech of that glorious adventure film.

"She," following on the heels of "King Kong," was the first derived a certain amount of fame from its predecessor. The general public could still remember the thrills provided for them by the giant ape. Consequently, when another film appeared bearing the brand of Merriam C. Cooper, people flocked in droves to see it. Nor were they disappointed. A strange, subtropic, unbelievable world somewhere near the North Pole greeted their optic senses. To this film must go the prize for being the best portrayal of a lost empire.

"Things to Come" veered sharply from the path of "King Kong" and "She." This picture was not merely an adventure film; it had a message for those intelligent enough to grasp it. For that reason, people with little imagination found it not to their taste. As is the case with a great percentage of the human race, what they did not understand they condemned. "Things To Come" was not the box-office hit that its first two fellows in the "Hall of Fame" proved to be.

"Lost Horizon" would have met with the same reception as "Things To Come," I believe, had it not been released at road show prices. People reason by cost: "Well, this picture's expensive. It must be good; we better see it." Therefore, "Lost Horizon" was a hit. It was a hit at least in attendance and comment; actually, many people did not see its true worth, and did not like it.

The last

The last of the "Hall of Fame" films is perhaps the queerest of all. Fantasy it is, yet not the more general forms, science fiction and weird fiction. Rather, it draws its

subject matter from the fairy tales of childhood, recognized of course. Yet, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" has met with more success than any of the other four films mentioned in this article. Since this picture is still current, there is no need for further comment; should anyone desire to investigate beyond this point, he may still do so.

I suppose this list will meet with howls of derision. Fans will spring up to right and left in defense of some film not mentioned as a member of the "Hall of Fame." Such films as "The Invisible Man," "Bride of Frankenstein," "Werewolf of London," "Miracle Maker," and many others will be nominated for inclusion with the select few.

Well, mayhap some of them should be included. No two critics greet the same motion picture with identical reactions. But of this we are all sure: regardless of the many bright lights shining in the past, the future should hold even greater productions of a fantastic nature.

Have U got IMAGINATION? "The  
Fanzag of the Future with a Fu-  
ture!" - Monthly nineozag of 30  
LARGE SIZE, legible, provocative  
pages. For the lat of a life-  
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current with 1st new out. 10¢  
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## Concerning Reprints, Sequels and Quarterlies.

by  
Thomas Whiteside

There are always a few of us who, in the interest of Scientifiction advancement, demand, beg, or cajole the editors of the several Scientifiction magazines for one of the above mentioned pieces of endeavor.

When considering reprints, I usually forget the whole affair because I can see no reason for having space taken up by two magazines that contain practically the same reading material. It is also an unnecessary expense on the publishers of the magazines.

Sequels are, when properly used, and of a good quality, to the advantage of the financial interest backing a magazine. If a number of people become so interested in the adventures of a group of fictitious characters that they would part with money to purchase the magazine that brought forth more adventures of the same characters, then Mr. Editor should, for his own interest, bring forth the demanded sequels.

For years the scientifiction fans have been voicing their ideas on the subject of Quarterlies; but since WONDER STORIES folded up, and AMAZING STORIES became wobbly at the knees and staggered, the Quarterlies seem to have reached the end of a short and undeveloped life. The original idea of the Quarterly was supposed to be the fact that it enabled the publishers to give the readers longer stories than could be



handled in the monthly issues.

Now, if you really want to combine the factors of reprints, sequels and Quarterlies, and get something really worth while, why not try this? Print "The Skylark of Space," "Skylark Three," and "The Skylark of Valeron" all in one large quarterly-sized magazine. We wonder if ASTOUNDING STORIES would co-operate with this idea. If you recall they stated when announcing "The Skylark of Valeron" that it would never be reprinted. This idea would save the time that is wasted jumping from issue to issue in the monthly numbers. Another advantage is that the whole story would be in one binding. Then again, if ASTOUNDING STORIES would not give in, the same idea could still be carried out with the Arct, Wade and Grey series by John W. Campbell, Jr. Personally, I am in favor of the idea being worked both ways.

In Sympathy With  
Sam Moskowitz

by

Milton A. Rothman

We sympathize very deeply with you, Sam. We are almost as sorry for you as you are for yourself. But you brought it upon yourself. The mistake of hero worship is a great one. One of the reasons we have such harmony and quiet(?) in Philadelphia is because I had the other members broken of that habit early.

Perhaps you should move to Philadelphia. We have no such troubles here as you do in New York. Perhaps that is because we have never done anything important enough. And we never have any monetary arguments because we never have any money. But that is beside the point.

You, Mr. Moskowitz, are not the only person who has ever spent money for a cause. I happened to be present at the time Donald Wellheim handed to Will Sykora a goodly sized note to pay the expenses of the second convention. 'Tis sad that such a friendship should be gone, but perhaps not forever.

As for the activities of certain inebriated persons, you make the mistake of judging the whole by a part. Even if every fan in New York were the same way, that would still not be the entire science fiction world. In my opinion, those three, or four fans, who habitually and openly drink, do so mainly for the pleasure of showing off -- especially the one that claims to be 15. The thing to do with that type of child is to ignore it.

I can give two explanations for the reason science fiction fans do crazy things. First, perhaps the mind of the science fiction fan, being of a higher type, has a greater appreciation of a humor, and enjoys fun in ways that seem to average people unusual. Second, perhaps it is because science fiction fans think that their minds of a higher type, and therefore think that they are entitled to have fun in unusual ways. The curious thing is that I know people who are not science fiction fans who are even more silly than science fiction fans.

The one thing that was really important in your article is the word "Scatterbrained." That is a matter for real discussion and delving into psychology. Perhaps it is because the very energetic and intelligent adolescent always has the failing of diversified interests that hold his attention transiently. To those of us who have that tendency to a lesser extent other fans appear ridiculous with their starting and dropping of unimportant projects. But I confess that I, too, have had many such experiences, although my cycle seems to be slower, and less

apparent, although quite as violent.

It is true, however, that science fiction fans are a hoax, when it comes to their vaunted high intelligence and imaginative powers. They think they are hot stuff, and when they read something like "The Intelligence Gigantoid" they put themselves in the place of the title character. But they really are fakes when it comes to real thinking. I proved that by a little experiment called "Lessons in Super Science."

Scatterbrained or not, however, it is true that science fiction fans have continued reading science fiction, although perhaps more for the reason that science fictiondom is a place in which one can feel important.

The reason I am to a small extent immune from these faults is because I, personally, read science fiction for the contents, and not merely as an excuse for fan activities. Science Fiction is more than a literature; it is a philosophy, which can uphold one's spirits as readily as other philosophies.

The way to keep from such a fall as you have had, Sam, is not to ride high upon the little white clouds of hero worship, but to be an atheist and not worship anything except philosophy. You can be safe there, because it can be your own personal philosophy, and you can change it according to needs, and nobody will say anything.

On — "They're Grand — But they Have Their faults."

— Oliver E. Saari —

For something over seven years I've been a "small fan," and before moving to Minneapolis I was also in a small town — the only fan

IN THE whole burg, far's I've been able to see. But I've never felt these noble surges of fan worship which Mr. Moskowitz describes. For the first three or four years I was content to buy all the mags, as well as all issues of **ARGOSY** and **BLUE BOOK** containing science fiction, for the sole purpose of reading and reveling in the stories themselves. In those days I was really nuts about science fiction. I never read the readers' departments, and it never occurred to me that there were these so-called "big fans" who managed to chisel valuable space out of every issue. Then one day I sat down and spewed all my pent-up enthusiasm for s-f in a letter to **AMAZING**. That found its way into **DISCUSSIONS** somehow, and the sensations of seeing it in print were such as to precipitate several more or less insane missives aimed in the same direction. But even then I never thought of the real "fan activities" that were going on. The **SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE** made only a few ripples in my calm disposition, and I began to discover that there were such s-f bigwigs and rogues as Darrow, Ackerman, Tucker, etc. Ackerman I thought of as a windbag, Darrow a persistent bore, and Tucker a nut. Of course I didn't bother to join the SFL.

It wasn't till I perambulated to Minneapolis, and, consequently, into the influential sphere of one E. E. Blakely that I became fan conscious. I joined the **JAFSCO**, the **SFL**, the **SPAA** and a half-dozen other things. All this almost ruined my taste for the actual reading of science fiction; I started raising issues right and left. That phase passed quickly, thank heavens, and soon I was back in the old grind. I still didn't pay any attention to the outside fan world, save for a few correspondents I'd somehow acquired, and I didn't buy any of the fan mags. We dragged G. . . . man into the blessed circle, and, subsequently, R. B. Heisen and Benson was my own particular discovery, turning up in one of my classes at school. Benson, too,

hadn't been paying any attention to the s-f fan world, but he'd been reading the mags for some time. (I underlined that because it's significant) Doug had been reading s-f for only a few months, and already was going full blast in fan activities. Not quite the same for Chapman and Madsen, but almost. I still buy all issues and try to fill up the remaining gaps in my collection. Benson buys ASTOUNDING and is building up a fair collection of large-sized back issues. The five of us still meet once in awhile, but our meetings have nothing to do with science-fiction.

But I started out to discuss Moskowitz's article. All this lengthy history I have included merely to point out that not all real science fiction fans are at all fan-conscious, or envious of the would-be big-shots. There are thousands who read the mags and never let out a peep, and these are the people I place my faith in. They read the magazines because they like this form of literature, not because they expect to make good in the "fan world." I take great pride in placing myself once more, after a short absence, in that category. And such I'll probably coast on for many years yet. I have a vague hope of sometime meeting the Greatest of Greats, the Great John W. Campbell, Jr., and perhaps someday chatting with one of my correspondents, but beyond that the so-called "science-fiction world" can go hang for all I care.

But to get back to the article in question I shall refrain from asking proof for all of Sam's ~~guess~~ statements, not because I am afraid that I might be one of these he's slamming (He doesn't know about my Saturday nite drunks, or the highly refined and lofty subjects I discuss with the Great Benson), but because I can guess, in a fair way, to whom he is referring. Hain no doubt comes into it, and possibly Well hein. Probably Sykora is a soap-box communist.

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# Only Complete Against Michelism

April 29th, 1938

EVER since it appeared on the scene -- before the word came to general use -- Michelism has been absolutely and completely wrong.

No, I'll take that back. One thing, one only, about Michelism has been all right. Its intentions are good. The fans backing it sincerely believe that their proposal is the thing to do. But aside from that, the history of Michelism, from the time Wellheim rose to address the third Eastern Science Fiction Convention, to the present, is one long series of unfair tactics and mistaken ideas.

In considering Michelism, we must not confine ourselves to consideration of the resolution proposed at the Convention. Much more significant are Don Wellheim's article in *NOVAE TERRAE*, "Commentary," and other broadsides of the past few months. The chances are anyway, that the resolution will be presented in a stronger form at the World Convention next year, which being held in New York City will probably be beset by any number of quasi-Communists there to vote us into Michelism.

So far as I have been able to determine, no one except a group of New Yorkers knew ahead of time what was coming off. The speech "burst like a bombshell" and only extemporaneous opposition to it could hastily be far

Despite this the resolution was defeated. Following up their initial advantage, however, the Wollheimists bombarded fan mag after fan mag with their side of the question. Only recently has there been much done toward pointing out the weaknesses of the Michelist arguments. Ted Bruce Yerke, while endorsing Bolshevism, has shown that the fan nature precluded the possibility of cementing them in a body behind any measure. And the Leeds SFA's Sociological Circle has distributed an outline of the Basis of the Federation of Progressive Societies and Individuals which definitely is opposed to the revolutionary method of gaining reform. The present article is an attempt to cover the ground more completely.

If I AM to be really complete, I must first mention the parliamentary error in the introduction of the motion at the Convention. There would be little point in doing this, except that a very similar situation is likely to arise next year. With all due respect to Mr. Rothman's chairmanship, I feel that that voluminous oratory was out of order until the motion itself had been presented. All the authorities seem agreed on this: that the first step in discussion must be a presentation of the motion to be debated. This was an important matter in this case, because a large part of Michel's speech as reported -- I have ordered a complete copy from the CPASF, but have not received it yet -- was irrelevant to the statements made in the resolution. My inquiries lead me to believe that had the resolution stood alone it would have been adopted almost as unanimously as the Kyle compromise was -- that the speech, which must henceforth be considered along with the resolution, turned the majority against it. Had the resolution been stated at the beginning, subsequent happenings would have been entirely different. And the fans had a right to know what Wollheim was talking about.

For the next point, I ask you to suppose for a while that the resolution passed. Then



what? Yes, then what? The Convention, which speaks for fandom, has committed itself to a declaration that may scare off many newcomers who would otherwise presently come to see our viewpoint. And, on the other hand, what good has it done? What possible difference, as a practical matter, does it make whether fandom has said yes or no? Do we all then join the Communist Party and boost Earl Browder for President? Or, more immediately, do we start contributing money to the movement? What progressive, active program has the Michelism faction to offer now? If the real purpose of the motion was merely to make the fans take an interest in ideological controversies, why did Wollheim's group resort to all that secret maneuvering in an attempt to stampede the Convention before an opposition case could take form? Yes, suppose that we have accepted Michelism, now what? A majority of something over a score of fans have, we are supposing, approved the motion -- what a tremendous, magnificent army of recruits for the great Cause! Yet, as Yerke has pointed out, it is not to be expected that all fans will back any single proposition. The Wollheim solution, proposed in *NOVAE TERRAE*, is that we purge our ranks of all those that disagree -- the Ackerman sycophant, of Esperantic muddle; the Taubert group of dabblers; the Philadelphia fans, who "will not think;" and others. Despite his great experience on this line, I seriously question Mr. Wollheim's ability to carry out this project, commendable though it may be.

WE COME now to a consideration of that toward which Michelism aims -- a Soviet America. As Michel and Wollheim have declared a number of times their membership in the Communist Party and have stated their intention of getting fans to support that party -- Don's "Commentary" said Michelism believes America's only hope is Communism -- let us examine the aims and methods of Communism. I have not gone to the trouble of looking up the Communist

platform, but I anticipate no correction from Wellheim & Co when I say that Communism insists on Revolution. They hold the opinion that the abuses of the present day can be swept away only through a rising of the Masses such as they say occurred in Russia. Do you agree? It is on this point that I most strongly oppose Communism. The Communist belief is that the moneyed classes are so strongly entrenched and in control of the world that it will take all the grief of a Revolution to cast them out. In reply, I wish first to quote Robert Quillen's Paragraph, "The new set-up is unfair. Nobody knows what government will do to business, but everybody used to know what business would do to the government." That illustrates better than anything else I know of, the changed state of affairs. The most powerful group in America today is not the Fifty Families--not the Munitions Makers--but the Democratic Party, controlled by the New Deal. And the New Deal is working for the same things we desire. And barring the faint possibility of a radical shift in the political party line up, the Democratic Party is certain to continue in power for at least another six years, and if successful in this interval, for a long time to come. Yet the Communist set of theories has not changed much since the days of Karl Marx and scarcely at all since Lenin's time, despite the fact that Russia itself has retreated from pure Communism. It is the Communists who have not kept their minds clear and watched the world. Yet Wellheim and his satellites are asking that we cast our fortunes with the Communists and risk our future on a small group whose doctrines are already obsolescent.

"If not Communism, what?" shouts Robert Forsythe in a pamphlet distributed by DAW's Committee for the Political Advancement of S-F which we must take to represent the Committee's views. Now, "if not this, what?" has never been a good argument. Logic as taught in High School would be sufficient to show the utter foolishness

ness of this attitude -- that a person, without examining Communism itself, should, because he thinks everything else is going to the dogs, embrace the Reds. The scientific attitude, "A thing is not so until proven so" still holds. In a minute we shall look further into this thing called Communism.

But first let me answer Forsythe's "If not Communism, what?" The answer is evolutionary socialism, by which means most of the world's great advances have come about, and the means asked for by Wells, Stapledon, Huxley, et al for achieving the aims listed in the Basis. This is also the type of socialism asked by the American Socialist Party -- a group which, while much larger than the communist, is still too small to hope for much but suggestions from. Briefly, the evolutionary socialists ask that governments gradually take over the vital industries as fast as government can be made capable of managing them--first the utilities--many steps have already been taken in this direction--then closer regulation of agriculture, textiles and housing, and the simultaneous protection of the individual against sudden strokes of misfortune: by bank insurance, Social Security and so on. Similarly, the Basis asks that a World State come gradually into being. The advantages of these methods are at once clear. For one thing, the strife and destruction of a civil war are avoided-- and you must remember that seldom, if ever, does a government instituted after a revolt stand long; there is a full generation usually of fumbling and bloodshed, and more often than not an eventual return to at least the form of government of the old days. Evolutionary socialism obviates all this. Moreover, reform, under it, will come in naturally. If you are a socialist and believe in democracy, you must take some sort of evolutionary viewpoint, for when it operates, changes come only as fast as the majority desires: when the majority desires no further changes for a while, the movement pauses and

and consolidates. The Communists, on the other hand, demand that you accept their view on things and work for its realization as a whole thing, egotistically believing that they have discovered the perfect system.

And here we see one of the greatest disadvantages of Bolshevik theory. All their actions are based on the idea that Revolution must come. Thus their aim is to make the state of things not better, but as unbearable as possible. Acting on this concept, they foment labor troubles; and what though the individual laborer does lose by a strike? The day of Revolution has been hastened? We see, then, why DAW, while approving the idea of simplified spelling, insists that now is not time for it. It would, you see, make the world a little more bearable and the Revolution would not be received quite so enthusiastically. And so on and on; that is but a recent example that came to my notice. Communism, then, is a movement downward instead of upward.

When I started this article, I intended going on and considering Communism aside from its methods; however, this article is so long now Balty may have to cut it, so I'll let it go for a while.

Some of the points above advanced may not stand up under rebuttal -- undoubtedly there will be refutation -- and you probably do not entirely agree with me. No matter. On any of the main points -- the question of what comes next; the impossibility of swinging fandom entirely into line; the unnecessary of Revolution; the destructive Communist methods; the unworthiness of Russian Communism itself -- I appeal to the reasoning mind of which every stf fan is possessed. Do not adopt Michelism.



Henry Hasse has compiled what seems to be the most complete science fiction index ever made, consisting of something like five hundred typewritten pages. What a job that must have been! Incidentally, H.H. is now in Seattle, Washington --- having moved from Indianapolis, Ind.

Aside to Bob Madler: The B.F. Davis of the Ziff-Davis Company, publishers of AMAZING STORIES, is not Bob Davis as you think but a young lady by the name of Bernie Davis How's Gerty?

There must have been a great number of scientifilms out now since 1932. At that time there appeared in THE TIME TRAVELLER a complete list of all that had appeared since been produced to that date. Maybe sometime I'll try to bring that list up to date. It would be quite impressive by this time. Jules Verne's great old book, "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" will be made in Technicolor by B.G.M. So far, the cast is said to include Robert Taylor and Freddie Bartholomew. The picture was made many years ago in the early days of the movie industry, one of the very first.

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society will put on a surprise show at the Convention

in Newark. If it comes out all right, it should prove to be a hit. It will be a sort of fore-runner for the bigger and better show that will put on at the World Convention in 1939. It will be a real novelty.

Just before "The Lad and the Lion" by Edgar Rice Burroughs came out in book form, I obtained a copy of the serial story. It appeared in the ALL-STORY back in 1917. The magazine serial contains only the part of the book dealing with the adventures of the Lad in Africa. There is only the barest of hints that he might be a Prince. The addition of the part concerning the European kingdom and the revolution make the book much more interesting. I do not know if that part was written recently and added to the story for book publication, or if it was written years ago. Someone did say that it appeared in ALL-STORY CAVALLIER back in 1914, and I would like to have definite information concerning this.

Burroughs' latest Tarzan novel has just finished in ARGOSY. It is my opinion that in the last couple of years his stuff has shown decided improvement. Some months ago ARGOSY also published the latest Venus novel in six parts. And still it leaves us in the air concerning many things, and a fourth story of Caracul Napier seems to be needed.

Oh, hum. Wasted several hours of my time compiling a list of authors and their pen names. When along comes some bloke with a booklet consisting of the same.

According to a clipping sent to me, a University of Minnesota faculty member and a Wisconsin novelist are among 58 winners of the Gugenheim foundation fellowships in the fourteenth annual series of awards announced recently. I will skip mention of the faculty member, Dr. Faith Thompson, but the novelist is none other than August William Derleth, of Sauk City, Wisconsin. They and the other fellowship winners

were chosen by the selection committee of the foundation in New York City from among nearly 1,000 applicants as the ones giving most promise of adding to the "Scholarly and artistic power" of this country. Mr. Derleth's project will be creative writing in the field of the novel. He is the author of two novels, "Place of the Hawks," published in 1935, and "Still is the Summer Night" published in 1937. No mention was made of his many stories in WEIRD TALES and elsewhere.

Otto O. Binder, who recently spent three weeks in Chicago, was at one time the editor of a newspaper syndicate in that city, which handled full-length novels of all types.

Among the many books I have picked up recently was the biography of Frank A. Munsey. Seems that he was the most hated man in the newspaper game -- and he certainly was one of the biggest figures of journalism for years.

'Wonder' what happened to THRILLING WONDER's companion magazine? No one seems to know.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, they say, is always willing to help the young writer. But he will not read any manuscripts, even for his own relatives. Burroughs, Inc., sure is hard on middlemen! He handles his own radio programs, book publications, and there is even "Tarzan" bread, and a lot of other "Tarzan" products. And the various companies all pay for the use of the name, too!

--- Ossie ---

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COSMIC TALES --- The cover has its best effect when you hold it a short distance away from your eyes -- oh, say thirty feet or so; at which distance it exudes a not unpleasing effect. Needless to say, the cover is drawn by that super artist James V. Taurasi. The illustrations on the interior are quite terrible. The cover is much superior to the best of those inside. The crimes some people will commit to have even edges! This March-April issue is a fine example of such a case. 'Nuff said. The two best items are "Return Mail" and "Around the Circuit," respectively. The stories are all fine examples of what should not go into fan mags --- with the possible exception of "Rab Hounds of Ganymede." That is not quite so bad as the others. Rosenblum starts "British News and Views" this issue. In our opinion this is the worst issue to date.

RELIOS . . . One thing that riles us is the con-founded inconsistency with the numbers of the pages. You never do know exactly how many pages are in the magazine. The cover is less sloppier than last month's -- therefore, a bit better. However, much could be improved. The entire issue is decorated(?) with fine examples of how an artist shouldn't draw quite profusely. "A Witch Woman's Curse" by Fred Lawrence (alias Corwin Stakney -- and we have proof) is not bad at all. In fact, it's okay. "Knock 'Em Down and Drag 'Em Out" is not as good as we had expected. "PanParade," by Donald Duck Liverwurst, is undoubtedly the "gem" of the issue. Other articles



in the March-April issue (#6) are by Farsaoui, Sykora, Fein, and again, Stickney. Commencing with this issue is "Reader's Opinion" which is a summary of what the readers thought of the various issues. Then, of course, there is "Comments from the Clientele." Moskie is to be praised for his commendable hectographing this issue, in that it is quite legible throughout the entire issue.

THE ATOM --- With this third iss -- cops! Pardon us! We thought this was the year '45 for a moment....our mistake.

SCIENCE FANTASY MOVIE REVIEW --- The second issue comes out a little earlier. It is an "extra" issue; thus explaining the decrease in the number of pages. "Wajan" or "The Son of a Witch" is reviewed by our friend Richard Wilson. The hectographing is clear.

IMAGINATION! --- Thru sum quir kwirk th's th 1st tim we'v rviewd ths mag. Th covr's quit atraktiv.....Th contnts is wel varyd wth sum intrestin artikls. DAW carries the flag fr michelism wth 'n artikl 'n nsr 2 Yerke. D'rekly opp'sit th page 'sa "New Attack on Michelism" by Erick Freyor. A good item 'n th ishu 's "Why Stf Editors Go Nuts" by 'Jack Coburn.' Othr reglr stuff present.

Note: We still have the NEWS LETTER with us. Issue # 23 has hit the hay at this date.

And, last, but surely not least:

THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN:..... A good, colorful cover by JM Rogers adorns the exterior of this very prompt amagazine. Interior designs are by James and Mary Rogers. Best cut is James' for "Forecast" by Olon F. Wiggins..... Still no IPO Poll, sadly enough.....The usual editorial is present with nothing unusual happening. "Maganeews" continues to 'enlighten' us with 'news' we've already known.....Hoakowitz

has another of his articles, this time "Ancient Fantasy Fandom." A rambling "What is Michelism?" in contributed by Robert W. Loendes. R. A. Wadle has, in this issue, "They Always Come Back." Jim Blish is the observed in this issue's "As Others See Us." The readers' department, "Fan Echoes" is present in this issue. Altogether an interesting issue ... tho a few days behind unofficial time.

# The Readers Say

WALTER EARL MARGONETTE writes:

The 18th COLLECTOR was quite good. The cover, while excellent, was not so good as that on the 17th. I enjoyed the vivid coloring of the latter very much. All of the regular columns, as usual, were fine. "Tubby Talse" contained some real information for the newer fans. Moskowitz's article...well, I told him personally what I thought of it so there's no need to repeat it. Most of the interior cuts were interesting, both your's and Agnew's.

JOHN L. CHAPMAN types us:

Hektoring excellent throughout. You were right when you said 'If it's a Comet Publication it's legible.' Hektoring is what counts, after all. No signs of degeneration in the columns...in fact they're getting better. Not much to Hellheim's article, but the one by Moskowitz was swell. He hit the right angle on the big guns. Perhaps the New Yorkers can supply an answer. Rest of the issue good. Cover nice piece of work. Hope you can increase the number of pages in the small size, and make room for "Science Fiction Eye," and a few other things, providing the readers contribute.

OLIVER E. SAARI writes:

Received your latest COLLECTOR and decided to send you this letter commenting on it, without waiting another minute. I like to criticize and your March-April COLLECTOR caught me in just the mood.

The hectoring in this issue much better than usual. I always get eyestrain reading a hectored mag; but this time the effect was minimized. Clearer letters, less smearing and blotting, more uniformity throughout. All the drawings were well-reproduced and quite artistic, especially those for "Fantaglimmerings" and "Long Distance."

Editorial: Explains the better hectoring. OK

Fantaglimmerings: Contains some interesting points. G.A.R., as Arcot would say.

Tubby Tales: Not interested.

They're Grand--but they Have Their Faults: Here Moskowitz pens a rather biggish article which might have been better had it contained a unit purpose or theme, but was personal enough to capture my interest, nevertheless. Just what Sam was driving at I couldn't quite fathom. Oh, well. That article was thought-provoking and worth reading at least.

The Eternal Wanderer: Ossie pens an interesting column. This month he set me dreaming of the "Good Old Days."

Did I skip "Long Distance?" If so, it was purely accidental. That was a clever and enjoyable presentation, one of the best. May you publish more news from the English fans.

Fan Mag Review: O.K.

The Readers Say... this and that. "The War of the Dolts" is amusing.

Well, there you have it. Misguided but well-meant drools of wisdom from a wise and weathered sage of twenty. I'll pad the comments with a little casual interest too if I can scrape up two-bits for the COLLECTOR's next three issues before mailing this. Adios.

LOUIS KUSLAN writes us:

Here are a few comments on the latest COLLECTOR:

A good cover which looks like your work... "Fantaglimmerings" was very good, as usual. "Tubby Tales," likewise... "Long Distance," very ingenious. I hope it didn't break the COLLECTOR's bank account (which I understand runs into the millions) to pay that telephone bill... Moskowitz article was good, as usual. I hope he didn't aim some of those barbs at me... "Eternal Wanderer," very interesting. This feature has picked up quite a bit since its inception... "Fan Mag Review," excellent, as good as any... "The Readers' Say," just keep this up.

I approve of the change to a monthly, and a small size. It's ok with me to charge five cents more as long as you use that good paper and increase the number of pages.

J. CHAPMAN MISKE writes:

I wish the magazine were printed, because it really is of high enough calibre to deserve it; however, why wish for impossibilities. That "poem," "The War of the Dolts," though correct in its contention perhaps, was certainly some of the most rotten poetry it has ever been my misfortune to read - boy, it was something! Glad to hear you're going back to the small size. I like the feel of a magazine in my hand to be thick and compact, so I hope it's around twenty to twenty-five pages at least.

DALE HART pens us:

The 18th issue is every bit as good as the 17th ---- and that's saying something. Another excellent cover. Clear hectoring. The two regulars, Cassie and Bob, tie for first place. Moskowitz takes second - his article was very well done, but somewhat depressing. DAW gets third place. Carnell is fourth. Fan Mag Review fifth. The Readers Dept. and poem I place in a different category, but both were good. The former is indispensable. Ads interesting. I don't favor the change concerning the price.

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The 18th issue was well liked, and the opinions on Moskowitz' article varied so much that Carnell's novel presentation was liked by all. Write in any of us your opinions.



Some notes about the First National Science Fiction Convention will probably not be amiss. First of all, the affair was a tremendous success as far as attendance is concerned. There were over 100 readers, fans, authors, editors and science hobbyists present. The Convention Hall was completely occupied, and there were several standing! Will Sykora and Sam Moskowitz believe that if 100 are sufficiently interested to attend a small convention, perhaps 1000 will attend the forthcoming World Science Fiction Convention. Frankly, I believe that, with proper cooperation from the professional publications, there is no reason why this large number will not attend. And speaking of cooperation, both John W. Campbell and Mort Weisinger have stated that they will devote considerable space to advertising the World Convention. Thrilling Wonder's sister magazine will also contain an advertisement when it hits the stands, which will occur some time next winter.

Among the celebrities present were: Campbell, Weisinger, Margulies, L. Sprague de Camp, Otto and Jack Binder, Manly Wade Wellman, Ishmael Reed, F. Belknap Long, J.D. Clark, R.D. Swisher, Kline and several others. The fan group included all the New York fans, of course, and in addition: the Philadelphia group, comprising

Rothman, Esquith, Agnew, Quinn, Simpson and Madle; Louis Kuslan, John J. Weir, David A. Kyle, Anyzeski, Doolittle, Swisher, and numerous others. One significant fact was that there were more inactive fans present than the active ones. Many of these readers and inactive fans travelled quite a bit to attend the convention, too. Some of them travelled from Connecticut, Maryland and distant parts of New Jersey. I'm quite sure that many of these inactive fans, who have now received the urge, will soon become members of active fandom.

Of course, speeches were presented by all of the celebrities, and plans for the World Convention were formulated. It was unanimously agreed that there must be some organization to sponsor the convention next year, but whether this organization will be the ISA or a new fan club is a debatable point. Naturally, the Wollheim group could not permit the ISA to be reorganized as this would be reconstructing what they destroyed. However, the ISA will be reorganized, and only the future can tell whether the World Convention will be sponsored by this great organization.

There were a large number of magazines, pamphlets, etc. distributed at the convention. Most of them were quite good, both of manner of reproduction and material contained therein. However, there were a few utterly stupid handbills distributed by the CPASF (Communist Party's Agitators in Science Fiction) - thanks to Jack Spear) telling all fans to write to TWS because a certain employee received his walking papers. Too bad. Another asked "Who are the Friends of the ISA?" and denounced those who plan to reorganize it as deadly enemies of the organization. Such inane and stupid statements as: "We oppose firmly and unhesitatingly all attempts made to slander, defoul and besmirch the name of the ISA," and "dragging its proud flag into the dust," etc. This type of Wollheimish tripe goes on for five paragraphs, and then requests all those who sympathize with them to join the

And now for some more fan news: Jack Agnew, after due deliberation, has decided not to issue his announced publication, the FANTASER, after all. Instead, he will revive the FANTASY FICTION TELEGRAM, the fifth issue of which will appear within the next few weeks. Agnew has quite a bit of good fan material slated for publication, and hopes to equal the earlier TELEGRAMS. . . . In the recent PSFS NEWS contest there was but one reply, and that was from the great \$\$\$ himself. And, amazingly enough, he received 100% for his answers. Asky apparently knows his science fiction. . . . Charles H. Bext, who appears to have uncanny luck in purchasing old WEIRD TALES, recently bought Henry Haase's set for \$30. . . . The third of Kuttner's "Hollywood on the Moon" series will be "The Star Parade." . . . Eric Temple Bell will be the guest of honor at a forthcoming LABFL meeting. . . . And speaking of Los Angeles brings to mind the interesting anecdote related by Correspondent Squires concerning the recent flood. It seems that Art Barnes was spending the weekend in his cabin down in Tujunga Canyon, which was very hard hit. After the storm, avalanche, etc. were over, Barnes found an old Science Wonder Qdly floating downstream, apparently proving that he wasn't the only sf fan there at the time. But it could have been Art's GSC, Roy.

Incidentally, if it means anything, your columnist was appointed Acting Vice-President of the FAPA when it was undergoing organization last May. However, when the first mailing arrived, Danill McPhail was the Acting Vice President! The curious thing about it is, RAM did not refuse the position nor resign, and McPhail didn't know anything about it until the first mailing arrived. Form your own opinion. . . .

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