

SCIENCE FICTION
COLLECTOR



Page Two - Science Fiction Collector

ET CETERA

I'll bet a great many of you are more than a little surprised to see this issue so close upon the heels of the last issue. I find it kind of hard to believe myself. But the fact is that the Collector is here once again with another issue. I hope you like it.

For convenience' sake, I've decided to forget about "December" in the dating of the Collector. The twenty-fourth issue will be dated March-April, and the twenty-fifth May... Making the volume number and date just right for the Anniversary Issue.

Incidentally, about the Anniversary Issue... I hope to be able to get a really good issue together for you. I'm sure of one thing, it will be the best small-sized issue of the Collector thus far, having at least forty pages. Material alone will decided whether or not more pages will be added. So how about some contributions? I'm fast running short on material, what with no correspondence, et al.

I'll have a pleasant surprise for you next issue, which will inaugurate a new policy for the Collector. Watch for the next issue.

Those of you who have a few issues of IMAGINATIVE FICTION coming to you, will have their value turned over to a subscription to the Collector. for things don't look too bright for IF.....So, everything included, the following probably would be interested in the fact that their subscriptions expire with this issue. Dan McPhail, John J. Weir, Richard Wilson, W.E. Maroonette, and Everett F. Bleiler.

We still have back numbers of the Collector for sale. Here're the issues and their prices: Nos. 15 -20¢, 16-15¢, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, & 22 - 10¢ each.

That's all

S-F COLLECTOR

- January February 1939 -

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The Science Fiction Collector is a COMET Pub
and is issued when you least expect it by
John V. Baltadonis. Subscription rates are
much the same as ever, 10¢ per copy. Nothing
over two bits accepted, unless it's a ten spot.
Quite a few back issues are obtainable. Prices
and dates mentioned elsewhere, no doubt.

Scrambled Titles

— DALE HART —

(The following are cases of title scrambling. The scramblings may seem cockeyed at first--and some will remain so even after diligent study. But the object is to produce humorous effects and to revive memories. Try to place each title with as much exactness as possible--magazine, year, month (if possible), plot, etc.)

The Einstein See-Saw was made for A Baby On Neptune.

The Meteor Men of Fla used Lanterns of God to explore The Dark Side Of The Moon.

The Hellhounds Of The Cosmos did not have The Dog's Sixth Sense.

The Ship That Turned Aside for the Gravitational Vortex was manned by The Corpses That Lived and The Man From Mars.

When The Atoms Failed, almost everything else had done so already, for the year was 1930.

A Raid On The Termites In Caverns Below resulted in Futility, because the Insects Extraordinary had all escaped by boarding The Cosmic Express, a ship utilizing the Velocity of Escape.

She wasn't The Ideal.

The man who was Disowned was the true Exile

In B.C. 30,000. The Last Neanderthal Man
had No More Tomorrows.

Hawk Carse is supposed to be The Affair
Of The Brains of Harry Bates and D.W. Hall.

He Who Shrank was A Matter Of Size.

Be glad that The Tree Of Evil wasn't mixed
up with The Fourth Dimensional Demonstrator.

The Isolinguals were a Problem In Commun-
ication.

The Ice Man is always Twenty-Five Centuries
Late.

The Avengers Of Space, with Lorna Rand and
The Horrors, could put on a better show than
Flamingo or Prima Donna, 1880.

Martyrs Don't Mind Dying—if they're
Synthetic.

The Passing Star sent Missionaries From
The Skies who beat The Drums of Tapajos,
awakening the sleeper in Dream's End.

Signing the Petition

John James Weir

Although my name is unknown to many fans, new and old, I have been a fantasy fan since the perusal of a science fiction magazine in 1934. However, due to laxity on my part, I have never let myself be carried away at too great length by enthusiasm, assisting in stff. affairs only at odd times. One of these affairs was the protest of the Fourth Convention. A great deal had been said on both sides of this affair, ~~etc~~ and so, after listening and agreeing and disagreeing, I have decided to throw in my oar, having not only the right of an interested fan, but also being involved in the question. Please bear with me while I explain.

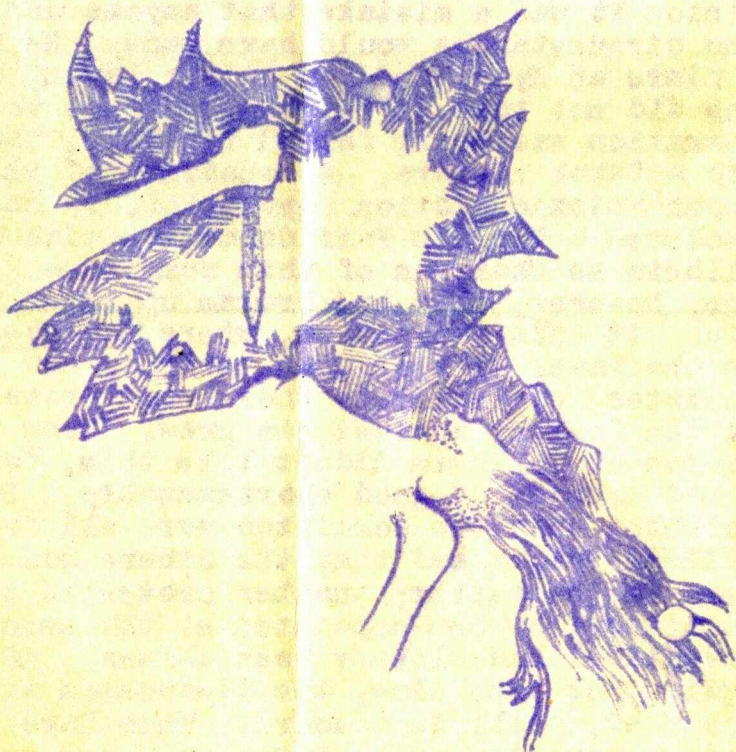
At the last convention I met many old friends besides making new ones. Among the former was Dave Kyle, who happens to be a personal friend. Having exhausted the usual conversation, the talk turned toward the organization of a new club to take the place of the defunct ISA. I shall not ramble, and make you lose interest, but I shall add before leaving this subject that I was enthused enough over the idea to warrant the transferring of my attention from the reorganization of the ISA to this new project.

During the convention Mr. Kyle brought this idea to the attention of the chairman, but it was finally put off until the discussion afterwards. Indeed the flames of discord had already begun to smoulder, bursting forth during the discussion. There was an almost personal

argument between Will Sykora and Kyle, and only for the fact that they were in front of a group hot words would have tumbled forth. If you are amazed at the idea of such an argument, let me present a few of the reasons. It had been rumored about during and before the convention that the Michelist group had come for the specific purpose of making a chaos out of the convention, that they were going to do everything within their power to make it a failure. It would be foolish to suppose that the sponsors of the convention would not hear of it, and so being human beings, they would be tense, listening to every word to find out which ones formed the bomb of the Michelists. Kyle's talk about a new club, instead of a reorganized ISA, probably made Sykora suspect that this was the long awaited for Michelist bomb, which most certainly was a false suspicion, but in your humble writer's opinion it was a mistake that anyone under the same circumstances would have made. He began to flare at Kyle, and the latter having a backbone did not take it quietly. It was then, as admiration was being formed for Kyle, that Will made a fatal mistake. As chairman of the Second Science Fiction Convention, he had appointed a World's Fair Committee with Donald Wollheim as Chairman of this committee. Since then, however, they had broken up their friendship. At this convention, where Sam Moskowitz was chairman, Will made an entirely new committee. Immediately there were protests and the feeling against him grew. Even the enemies of Wollheim didn't like this, for it is not considered good sportsmanship. Dave protested that the committee were all friends of ~~XXXXXX~~ Sykora and that the others did not have a say in the matter; another protested that the committee (the one appointed at the second convention) had already been chosen. After arguing for some time, the discussion was adjourned, still in discord. Then Dave Kyle wrote a petition against Sykora's undemocratic

act. Every person I saw write his name below the petition had read the petition first. That to disprove the remark made in one of the issues of Helios.

That appointment of a new committee was the only major wrong that Will committed during a fine convention. I appreciate Will's desire to have a convention that would surpass all those that had preceded, but I do not think that he should take the whole affair into his own hands, not caring what the other fans wish to do. That is why I signed the protest.



Typewriter Tappings

—EDWARD DALE—

Look in your local library for "The Secret Power" by Marie Corelli. It is a glorious combination ethereal fantasy and science fiction. You must read it, if you haven't already done so. The book gives one to think. There is a wealth of thought and significance to each page. Look, too, for anything else by this author, for it's sure to be good.

It must be grand to be a dictator, and have all the answers to everything figured out. Who of you intellectual fans have all the answers to the paradoxes and enigmas of fandom?

A Japanese official charges the Chinese with using "invisible" airplanes. "So fact, Humm--the Jap army can't be very tough if it's afraid of ghosts.

Plain tale of a tail plane. A famous designer of aircraft was studying closely a stuffed bird in a museum.

"That Bird appears to interest you, sir," ventured an attendant.

"It certainly does," was the reply. "Its tail plane appears to infringe on some of my patents."

Another book recommended is "The Third Eye" by Ethel Lina White. While neither strictly

neither weird nor scientific, it is nevertheless very good. It has sustained mystery, and contains many unique situations. The title idea could have been developed a bit more. Excerpts. ---She was gripped again by the sensation of having invaded some strange region outside time and space, where no one cast a shadow and nothing grew but fingernails. --- "It's a confidence stunt. The spirits haven't been reading their Financial News of late, and they put Mrs. Nash on to a bad investment. Now she's hanging up on their advice, which is too bad for poor Glaxo, because she gets a commission on these flutters. She wants to bring off another coup--so it's up to her to prove to Mrs. Nash what a know-all lot these spirits really are."

Jack Speer flits about the country with no regard for postal confusion. He alternated between the cities of Granche and Oklahoma City for a time.; and now he is in Washington, D.C. However, he should soon settle down. Letters to him are always promptly forwarded. Aside to Jack: stay in there and pitch. YouknowwhatImean.

I have received a letter from Albert Sydney Johnston, fellow TCSFLer, who is now studying at Columbia U. in N.Y.C. Here are some of his impressions which, I think, may be of interest, though not science-fictional.

"Squares of New York: noisy Hanover Square, sprawling like a brood of chicks under the protective El; cheap Franklin Square, lined with poolrooms and bars, sodden with the odor of washtub gin and stale beer; changing Chatham Square, filled for the moment by a noisy Chinese Funeral procession and placards demanding a boycott of Japanese goods; tinpanny Sheridan Square, lined with benches, crossed by human derelicts with baggy pants, shuffling walk,

prophet-like beards and binary eyes; incredible Times Square, teeming with theaters, noisy crowds, barkers; proletarian Union Square, with little crowds listening and agreeing or disagreeing with various crackpot orators--all of these are part of the distinct flavors of this widely differing yet singularly homogeneous city.

THE

Eternal

Wanderer

— OBSSIE TRAIN —

The essay of Mr. H. C. Koenig in the recent mailing of the FAPA was mighty interesting to me. I suppose I will be denounced as a traitor by a lot of fans, but I agree with Mr. Koenig on a great many of his points. His views also seem to be much the same as those of Dr. John D. Clark. At any rate, I thought that it was one of the most interesting items contained in that or any previous mailing. It tells what a technician of great experience thinks of the present fan activities. For one thing, there is not much real, working science included in the average science fiction story; most of it is really pseudo-science, or present day science stretched to an incredible degree. The article set me to thinking and wondering about a great many things. How many of the so-called "inner circles" of fans are really interested in science? My opinion is that their numbers are very few. Oh, I know that there are a number of young men in that group who are really studying for a scientific career--in fact I know some of them personally. But they are the exception rather than the rule. The great majority seem to be more interested in what so-and-so is doing over there in New York, or putting out fan magazines galore, or trying to make a lot out of some insignificant saying or

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action of some other fan, etc. Where's that fellow who says "What about yourself?" I never claimed to be interested in science beyond a normal curiosity; The only times I read a story for the sake of the science it contains is when the author has something original and interesting--which is seldom. I read science fiction because I like it, and collecting it is my hobby. I like good stories of all types --western, mystery, adventure, historical--in fact, I like historical fiction almost as well as I like stf. I issue a fan magazine also, but that is as a relaxation after long hours of hard work at my regular job. And then it isn't all relaxation, because some of the stories are so poorly written that they have to be rewritten and revised. Even a fair story by an amateur is hard to find.

And I do not approve of a lot of the activities of various groups of fans. They toss all sorts of insults back and forth at each other and think nothing of it; those insults would not be made if they were in speaking distance of each other. Others seem to think, as Koenig says, that all sorts of political discussions are a part of science fiction. The fellows mean well, of course, but how many of the others want to hear what they think about Fascism, Communism, or any other ism? If they want to advance science fiction, surely they can find a better way than that.

But don't get the idea that I agree with all that Koenig has to say, for I certainly do not. He is wrong in a great deal of what he says.

The latest Burroughs book, "Tarzan And the Forbidden City", was published at the first of the year in Argosy as "The Red Star Of Tarzan." John Coleman Burroughs, the son of the author, has done some fine art work for the book. He

is improving with each appearance. The frontispiece illustration is in colors, and is excellent. A swell story. By the way, they say that there is another Tarzan novel slated for early appearance in Argosy, which suits me fine.

Recently I have been filling up the gaps in my files of the stf magazines for 1937 and 1938. I read a number of stories in all of them and I discovered that Astounding had the highest standard by far. Really, it does one good to take a vacation away from reading stf, for when you resume it once more, you will appreciate it more than ever. It can go stale on you, and a vacation is needed to freshen your mind.

Science fiction is hitting a new high. At the beginning of this year, there were three magazines -- Astounding, Amazing, and Thrilling Wonder. It was a bombshell when Ziff-Davis bought Amazing and resumed a monthly publication after a few issues. Then there was a surprise for all when a new magazine, Marvel Science Stories appeared on the stands unannounced. Then in rapid succession came announcements of not one, or even two, but three new magazines -- Fantastic Adventure Stories, Dynamic Science Stories, and Strange Stories. Counting the English Tales of Wonder and Weird Tales, they will make ten magazines of the type on the newsstands. More than ever before. It is going to keep us all broke trying to keep up with them all. It looks as though science fiction getting into the public eye at last!

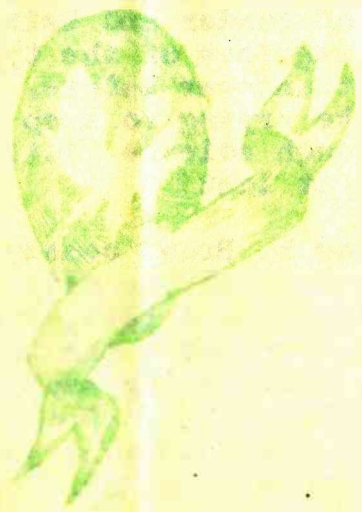
The new Joe E. Brown comedy, "The Gladiator" has at last arrived at the city of Philadelphia. Took a long time to get here, too. It was worth seeing, too -- even worth the torture of sitting through a very noisy swing band, poor singing, and other drivel. Take it from me, a bigger swing band makes my head ache just as bad as one of the lesser known ones does. And that idiotic

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and absolutely senseless song (?) "Flat Foot Floogey" is terrible--in fact it strikes-- even when sung and played by its originators. But to get back to the picture; I enjoyed it immensely. It isn't much like the book--and your crazy if you think that all the incidents of the book could be filmed--and it is a typical Joe E. Brown comedy. But it is Brown at his best; in fact, some critics call it his best picture to date. And when Brown is at his best he is really funny.

I can't for the life of me see why a lot of the fans were wondering if "Men With Wings" would be stf or not, when all along it was foretold by all the Hollywood writers that it was to be a history of aviation. They must have been thinking about Leslie F. Stone's story of the same title in the old Air Wonder Stories.

That's all till next time.

Osme



FAN MAG REVIEW

PSFS NEWS -- The new PSFS NEWS is a much more meaty magazine than before. Volume II Number 2, February, 1939 has twentyfour pages. This is the fourteenth issue to date. The price, incidentally, has been raised from five cents to ten cents the copy. The cover for this issue is by John V. Baltadonis. . . . The present editor is Oswald Train. . . . Contents for the issue includes: Editorial, Best Story of 1938 - Survival, Through the Keyhole by Vermin Slinko, Ramblings with Jack Baltadonis, Things and Stuff by MARS, Fan Mag Observations by Robert A. Madia, Story Ratings, Minutes of Recent Mailings by Jack Agnew, Coming. . . . A very good issue.

FAPA MAILING - March 3rd, 1939. . . . This is the most colossal mailing yet to have appeared. So colossal, indeed, that the mailings had to be sent out by parcel post! Some of the more interesting items in the bundle were: Sweetness and Light (Russ Hodgkins); The Science Fiction Variety (Bob Tucker); The Vagrant (R.W. Lowndes); Fantasy Graphic (Bernard Quinn); and there are many others. Of course, the Fantasy Amateur (official organ) is present. . . . Without a doubt, this is the best mailing yet to have appeared. It is hoped that future mailings will approach the standard set by this one.

FANTASY NEWS: - The last issue of this weekly was the 39th. It seems that now, four pages is the minimum for this weekly. While eight page (and more!) issues are not uncommon. Easily the best in its field.

FANTAGLINHERINGS

by

Robert A. Mauls

It has been some time since I last wrote this column for Ye Olde Collector; about five months to be exact. And while we're on the subject, I'll bet quite a few of you were more than moderately surprised when you received the very long-overdue issue of the Collector several weeks ago.

Perhaps the story behind the story of that last issue (October, I believe the date was) of the Collector will interest some of you. Last September JVB entered college and discovered that he could not issue the Collector, do his homework, and monkey around with the gals, all at the same time. Therefore he decided to discontinue the Collector. Several months elapsed. Ossie Train was continually reprimanding JVB for his laziness; perhaps that is one of the prime reasons Editor Baltadonis decided to continue the magazine after publicly announcing that it would no longer appear. However, I believe Sam Moskowitz is the real reason. For in the February, 1939 issue of SPACEWAYS Sam had an article published titled, "The World Changes," in which he mentioned that Baltadonis was no longer an active fan. JVB probably was enraged by this statement and surprised everyone (including himself---You said it!..JVB) by publishing the semi-completed October issue of the Collector. Therefore, take a bow, Sam! It might be mentioned that Baltadonis "got even" with Moskowitz by keeping the publication of the last issue a dark secret from Sam, who is an associate editor. Sam hadn't the slightest idea that it had appeared until he read Kuslan's fan mag review in the February 12th issue of FANTASY NEWS.

Not being content with starting the fan magazine world by publishing the Collector JVB is now in the process of finishing up his FANTASY FICTION PICTORIAL. This magazine, originally intended to be the official organ of the United Fantasy Artists, was started in the Summer of 1937. Therefore, it is almost two years in the making (Sounds like one of those stupendous colossal films.) Perhaps Philadelphia isn't much when it comes to the number of fans, but the fact remains that the following members of the PSFS publish fan magazines; Jack Agnew, John V. Baltadonis, Robert Madie, Bernard Quinn, Milton A. Rothman, Oswald Train and Thomas Whiteside. Quite an active group eh?

I recently became a wrestling fan and to my great surprise discovered that quite a few of the top-notch wrestlers have adopted fantastic pseudonyms. For instance; "The Golden Terror", who is the leading championship contender; Wild Man Zimm, the man from Mars; The Red Raider; The Shadow, The Red Shadow, and King Kong, a seven-foot monstrosity from Europe. The Golden Terror has established himself as the most villainous wrestler in the history of the sport. He relies on his 305 pounds and extremely dirty tactics to down his foes. Many a beer can and pop-bottle have bounced off his rock-hard dome.

Station WQAM of Camden, New Jersey broadcasts "Eugene Allen Poe Tales" every Friday evening at 10 P. M. Two other fantasy programs are heard regularly in and around Philadelphia. They are "Lights Out" and "The Hand of Destiny". Milton Rothman stated several weeks ago that he would be the next fan to sell a story to a professional

magazine. However, W. Lawrence Hamling and Mark Reinsberg beat him to the draw with "War With Jupiter," which appears in the current AMAZING.

The cover of the May WEIRD TALES will introduce Harold Delay, illustrating Everil Werrell's distinctly unusual story, "The Hollow Moon." Delay has been doing interior work for WT and he is the chief artist for GOLDEN FLEECE, the historical adventure magazine.

Margaret Brundage, whose nudes were formerly a part of WT, is now doing the covers for GOLDEN FLEECE. . . . Congratulations are in order to

Bernard Maskwicz who recently crashed the art portals of THRILLING WONDER STORIES. . . . On-

ward with NEW FANTASY to the World Science Fiction Convention in July.

o o o o o o o o o o
CO CO OO OO OO

THE READERS SAY

JACK F. SPEER -- Glad to see you're continuing to put out the COLLECTOR -- you must be as stubborn as I -- but I agree with whoever said he that you should make it 5¢. . . . Re Bob's Down With Witen, ye correspondent suspects that much of the misunderstanding is due to the fact that each side judges its enemies by their most unflattering acts, and itself by its most worthy. . . . TBYerke's was disappointing. The kind of stuff a non-stiff, regarding the future, would turn out; we should expect something better from our own kind. Did I ever mention that the bk "The Next 100 Years," re coming scientific progress, didn't even, according to the index, mention rockets? . . . JChM's article statement of one well known side of the question, and there have been ample statements of the equally well known other side. Looks like an IPO possibility. There are just

XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX-XX
to be decided upon before IPO ends. . . . Ossie
Train makes a good statement of position on
the sex no sex issue. Looking at latent mail-
ing, that's due to become a point of hot con-
tention soon. . . . Nothing more to comment
upon, so will follow the obvious course.

V-V

PANTASTIC
ADVENTURES

AMAZING's companion magazine has finally hit the stands, and what a magazine it is! Pardon us while we wax enthusiastic. Interim March 21st, Tuesday, is the red-letter day. When we first saw our copy, the format hit us as being rather strange. It just could n't be true...a large-sized magazine at last! But there it was, confronting our eyes in all its lurid redness.

Undoubtedly PANTASTIC boasts the best format of any science fiction magazine going. Large-sized, four-color covers, two of 'em, at that, even edges...whatamag!

Paul's back cover is simply magnificent! To dwell any further on it would be useless.

Krupa's illustrations for the interior, while not of the best, are very good.

But, (there's always a but) whatabout the stories? Frankly, they're not so hot! Just a li'l above the quality(?) of AMAZING's. And that's not saying much for them. We were disappointed when we read the magazine.

Well, they weren't bad, but they weren't excellent, or just good (throughout, that is... there was a story or so that can be called Good! We expected a different type of story from their play-up...That-variants, et al. Stuff like ASTOUNDING's...But, at least all the stories conform with the title, they're all fantastic adventures.... Hoping for a better second issue.

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