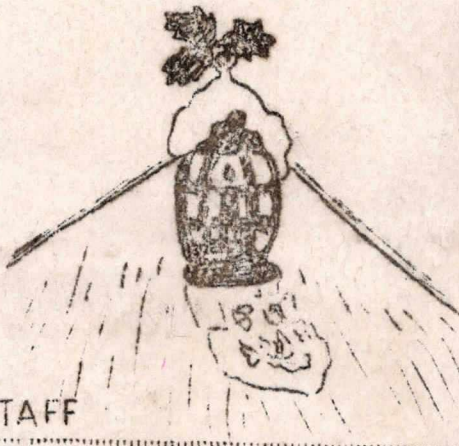


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J J & STAFF

TO *P. D. Swisher*
AT 15 Sedgwick Road
Winchester, Mass

AMERICAN FAN PUBLICATIONS - 1939

by Robert W. Lowndes

Author of "The Lamp Was Low", "The Gourmet", "Blacklist", et cetera

(Note: This does not pretend to be a complete review. However, the exceptions of a few titles which the writer either neglected or was unable to obtain, this is presented as a summation of 1939's highlights in fantasy fan publications.)

Publications by enthusiasts of imaginative fiction have hit a new high-water mark this year in prolificity. The flood has, in some ways, paralleled the deluge of new professional fantastic magazines upon the American market. The trend in fanpubs, however, has been toward elevated standards of quality, while the professional innovations, is the opposite, for the most part, has been the case. There remains, however, an unsatisfied need in the American fanpub mart; a monthly journal of catholic taste, dependable as to time schedules, neat as to appearance, and unrestrictive as to policy.

The greatest center of publications has been the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, better known as simply FAPA or Fapa -- East Coasters prefer to pronounce the initial-letters, while the "Westerners" simply say "fahpaa". This organization, the most democratic all-fan organization in existence, has, despite internal struggles, succeeded in maintaining both quantity and quality output. In the face of a ruthless drive on the part of a self-seeking few, seeking to control the organization for their own narrow ends under the much frayed demagoguery of "saving the members from communism", added to official mistakes, and tactical errors on the part of some of its staunchest democratic supporters, the quarterly mailings have still appeared. They have been high as to quality in content, widely diversified as to the viewpoints expressed and catholic as to the type of creative output therein. This organization has displayed both the strongest and weakest points of its present setup; its members have shown themselves ready and able to defend democratic principles of the club (with the exception of a few heretofore mentioned), and their actions and attitudes have indicated that whatever changes may be needed in the organization's lineup, these changes must be made in the direction of more rather than less democracy.

In the mailings of this year, to name only a few items, have appeared the "Science Fiction Check List", R. D. Swisher's masterly compilations which meet a much needed problem in the field, that of making a record of publications over the span of years; "The Reader and Collector", H. C. Koenig's thought provoking criticisms of imaginative fiction and fan-activities; "The Vagrant", R. W. Lowndes' presentation of Marxian viewpoints as related to stf and fandom; "Sustaining Program" & other items by Jack Speer; "Science Fiction Debater", Milton A. Rothman's stimulating publication devoted to controversial matters; "Chaos", J. Chaoman Miske's achievement in the direction of pure fantasy; "Vision", devoted to poetry. (RWL); "Futurart", John B. Michel's contributions toward mutations in fan-artistic efforts, and various publications containing the art work of Walter E. Marconette and Leslie Perri.

For the period ending June, 1939, the Laureate Committee of this organization selected those members which it believed worthy of particular commendation to represent the association as Laureates in the given field. Their selections were: (1) Publishing Laureate -- John B. Michel. (Honorable mention to the team of Morojo & Fojak). (2) Editing

LOWNDES

Laureate -- R. D. Swisher (Honorable mention to Russel J. Hodgkins). (3) Artist Laureate -- Walter E. Marconette (Honorable mention, Leslie Perri). (4) Poet Laureate -- Robert W. Lowndes (Honorable mention to J. Chapman Miske). (5) Literary Laureate -- J. Chapman Miske (Honorable mention, H. C. Koenig).

A larger percentage of items included in the mailings of the FAPA this year were neatly and carefully made up than before; a smaller percentage of items sloppy in appearance and worthless in content crept in. This has been accomplished without compulsion, discrimination, or censorship of any kind. In his latest message (Fantasy Amateur, Volume 3 Number 10) President Rothman states: "I still believe that in an amateur publication it is possible to publish stories that are actually better than what you see in the professional magazines. Simply because the professional magazines will not publish a story that is too literary. Make the amateur magazines as artistically excellent as you can, and leave the hack to the professionals and then you will have a bunch of papers to be proud of."

Thus the year 1939 in the FAPA ends on a note of hope despite the battle that still rages between the vandalic few and the many.

We come now to the larger division of publications -- the independent magazines, owned and operated by a single fan, or a few grouped sheerly for the purpose of publication. It would be interesting to know if any of these made a profit this year, but that question is of minor importance as fanpubs are not edited for the monetary returns they hope to bring. Let us summarize, briefly, some of the more outstanding of these. (Not in order of excellence)

There were three weekly publications in existence at the opening of the year: Wilson's "Science Fiction News Letter", Taurasi's "Fantasy-News" (according to the editors, it can be hyphenated or not as you like) and Lowndes' "Le Vombiteur". All three appeared regularly at that time; all three sold for 5 cents the copy; all three issued supplementary knick-knacks, and all three dealt with news items.

"The Science Fiction News Letter" filled one important need. It brought to the fan and collector, weekly, news upon important developments within the field of fan-activities and inside information, not only upon the professional stf magazines, but upon bits of stf and fantasy in other magazines, in books, comic strips, movies, plays, and whatnot. It appealed both to the fan and to the collector. As its editor said in the final edition: "It seems very odd to us that there are people in the fan-world who consider only the professional pulp magazines which deal in science fiction as worthy of their attention. These publications, in our opinion, are only a very small and not-so-shiny facet of the field -- if we may mix our metaphors a bit. We should soon grow weary of stf if the pulps were its sole medium of expression. We haven't read a pro magazine from cover to cover in years, but hardly a week passes that we don't read two science fiction novels. He who denied stf in movies, in plays, in books, and on the radio, must indeed have a very limited vision." The News Letter, however, ceased publication with the edition of May 29th principally because Editor Wilson had become tired of being tied down with a weekly publication. Its place, to date, has not been taken.

"Fantasy-News", while chiefly interested in the pulp magazines, did carry as well fugitive items on fantasy appearing elsewhere, as well as news of events in the field. Its news, however, was for most part restricted to the meetings of the Queens Science Fiction League. Operating under rather poor mimeographing handicaps of a machine, hampered by poor spelling and faulty grammar, Taurasi still succeeded in issuing a newsheet worthy of fan's attention up to the time of the World's Science Fiction Convention. After that date, news items in "Fantasy-News" slipped from slight (understandable and forgivable) bias to out and out falsification and deliberate distortion, so that today the magazine exists as a virtual "Voelkischer Boebachetr" in fandom, pathetic in its attempts to deceive, and amusing in its efforts to keep from falling into the hands of those fans who know the truth on the stories it distorts and who would expose its deceit.

"Le Vombiteur" never gave real competition as a newsheet, nor did it attempt to do so. Its editor clearly stated that the sheet existed sheerly for the sake of expressing whatever he felt like expressing (and publishing anything sent to him he liked). It was a fore-runner of unorthodoxy and whimsy in fan-publications, and, despite the ultra leftness of its tenor, the many items of little interest to non-Marxist fans, and the many occasions upon which it tore into personalities (as often wrong as right), it did succeed in building up circulation and gaining friends. Publication was suspended shortly before July and it ceased to exist as a weekly publication. It is more than likely that it will appear as an irregular publication divested of the more esoteric aspects of leftism but retaining the unorthodoxy and whimsy.

"The Science Fiction Fan" managed to retain monthly publication up to June of the year, after which time personal difficulties forced Editor Wiggins to hold up appearance. Its main handicap was one of appearance and the editor's yen for making articles unintelligible in many places via typographical errors. There was in addition the handicap of resentment it had caused to many fans through a number of well-meaning mistakes the editor had made, plus the outright hatred of reactionaries and demagogic self-seekers.

While perhaps sympathizing with Wiggins' desire to keep out poor quality material, many fans felt that the tactics of publicly stating that no material by a fan named Sam Moskowitz would ever again appear in the magazine was both unfair and opposed to democratic principles. Had Wiggins been merely content to reject such items by Moskowitz as he felt below his standards, but giving that person the chance to make his grade, then there would have been no ill-will resultant; except perhaps from Moskowitz himself, who might have felt that Wiggins was over-using the rejection privilege on him and turning down stuff that was really good. The West Coast fans had long been alienated, because of resentment at a matter involving Forrest J. Ackerman and an Esperanto column. Just who was in the right on this is not important now as it happened back in 1936. But the result was important in that, from that date, these fans simply did not buy the magazine.

Despite these handicaps, the Fan has published a reasonably large number of items well worth the reader's and collector's time. The reactionaries are determined to drive this magazine out of business

LOWNDES

completely because of its fearless policy in regard to them and to their activities. Whether or not they succeed will depend for a great part whether or not the editor can correct past mistakes, retain all that is best in the magazine, present a better-appearing journal and keep regular time schedules, and remake contacts once lost. If this can be done, then the Fan cannot be killed; if not, there is a good likelihood that the campaign against it will succeed.

"Science Fiction Progress" appeared shortly after the convention as a monthly pamphlet devoted to a review of the month's significant occurrences in and around the field of both professional and amateur activities. So long as it can appear regularly and refrain from personal-fueled material, it will fill a real need in the field, and, despite the campaign on the part of the demagogues against him (and the absurd contentions on the part of the crusaders against communism that he is not a fan) Wollheim's remarks are still read and his viewpoint considered. As Charles D. Hornig once remarked: "Right or wrong, Donald A. Wollheim cannot be ignored."

"Le Zombie", originally an occasional sheet or so, slightly reminiscent of Le Vombiteur, recently emerged as a bi-weekly news magazine, devoted to all subjects in reference to fan-activities and publications, pro and am. Neither an extremist nor aloof, Tucker has made a sincere attempt to present un-biased reports, and to cut through the maze of conflicting statements from all factions. While retaining much of the whimsical Pong undertone, the magazine has taken its stand in defense of principles and personalities under fire from the reactionaries and anti-progressiveness and petty dictators. Its main handicap is one of appearance, inasmuch as Pong's typist is not the speller he might be. However, those defects are gradually being eliminated.

"Spaceways", recently named first-choice in a poll conducted by Le Zombie, has worked hard for that honor in its first year of existence and has an admirable record behind it. Its material has been varied, and for the most part, of high quality; it has presented collector's articles, fan-fiction, fan-poetry, reviews, comment, criticisms, and whimsy in good proportion. While Editor Warner states that the magazine will use nothing controversial, numerous controversial items have appeared, and numerous battles in the readers have taken place. The editor, however, has succeeded, we think, in not antagonizing either personalities or viewpoints. Recently it has changed its policy to the extent that it will be more careful upon what is published and that, in cases of dissension, both sides will be able to present their side once, and that will end the matter so far as Spaceways is concerned. While not perfect, as the editor admits, this is at least a satisfactory attitude and one which will increase the already high reputation of the magazine.

In appearance it is neat and attractive. The margins are even on both sides, a matter which a majority of readers feel to be of import, the margins around the page, for the most part, adequate. Its covers have varied in quality, as the editor uses a large variety of fan-artists, thus getting away from stereotyped fronts. At present it is using interior cuts which enhance the appearance. Unless something unfortunate happens, we can say: Keep an eye on Spaceways.

LOWNDES

"Scienti-Snaps", nominally a bi-monthly, has been a little late in appearance lately due to personal difficulties of Editor Marconette. The magazine, however, ranks as the neatest-appearing fan pub on the American Rialto. It affected a tour-de-force this year by combining the best features of the mimeo and hektograph; a mimeographed format with hektographed illustration-sheets included, or neatly pasted in enclosed sections.

In quality, it also ranks high. It has presented fiction, analytical articles, poetry, reviews, and comment plus commendable art-work by the editor. Its policies are one of unrestrictivity and its judgment in selection of material has been wise. This publication should go on unhindered in the coming year.

"Fantascience Digest", changing from hektograph to mimeograph early in the year, has suffered from the handicap of irregularity in appearance. However, in other respects it has done well for itself. Neatly mimeographed, it lacks even right-hand edges, a matter particularly noticable when double-columns are used. Its tone has been generally light and devoted to the fan who reads stf fot its own sake. In its own way, however, it has served its purpose well, and, provided the editor is able to keep it coming regularly, should continue successfully.

"Ad Astra" is an ambitious newcomer, suffering from slight touches of narcissism. Its very enthusiasm pushes it onward and the sincerity of the editors tends to make amends for existing defects. The magazine needs rearranging as to artistic presentation, even right-hand edges and a little more care in the typing.

It is a fan-mag devoted primarily to the professionals (magazines, editors, and authors), but it does carry articles of interest by prominent fans. Inasmuch as this type of fanmag is needed (so long as it is not overdone -- there is room for only one or two of this type) Ad Astra should be able to carve out an enviable reputation and circulation for itself once its handicapping defects are corrected.

"Fantasy Digest" also changed from hektograph to mimeograph this year, but, unlike others, the change was for the worse. The first 2 issues from the mimeograph were deplorable as to appearance and in many places impossible to read. In its hektograph format it presented the work of a new fan-artist who showed much promise, but since the change we have not noticed outstanding work from him.

The material in the magazine has been of fairly high quality, but it is doubtful if Dikty will be able to put out a successful publication unless the appearance is radically improved. There are too many neat and attractive publications in existence now for any save the more all-embracing fans to continue buying one which is difficult to read and onnatractive to behold. We hope Dikty will be able to come through.

"New Fandom" is a journal which should be the very tops, if one is to believe what the editors say about it, but isn't. Inasmuch as we are not clear of prejudice on this publication we will say no more except to admit ungrudgingly that at least one issue during 1939 was

very good in content.

"Escape" which should have been listed among the monthly publications, is something which one will either enjoy very much or find entirely unworthy of attention. It is whimsy and fugitive creativity in the Wilson-Kornbluth manner. Unrestrictive to material contained so long as it is not serious. The mimeographing is clear, the content good if you like that type. It tackles everyone. Your writer is among those who think it swlegant.

The LASFL Publications deserve a place all by themselves. "Voice of the Imagi-Nation", a magazine of letters to the editors, fills a needed place in the fan-field. It does not over-fill it, however, because the journal appears but quarterly and, to be timely, such a magazine should appear at least monthly. However, Madge-Voice is not a crusadeur*does not suffer too much from infrequent publication,*and its editors have expressed themselves firmly upon such occasions as when firmness and decision in defense and support of democratic prin-was required. For the rest of the time they have contented (Principles themselves with being charming people and inveigling others into being likewise. Editors: Morojo and Fojak.

"Mikros" is a catch-all for the Los Angelenos and has among other things carried stimulating articles on the subject of Technocracy. As with the LASFL Pubs. all it is neat and attractive in appearance.

"Futura Fantasia", Bradbury Unlimited, is a third of these pubs. and has featured both serious and whimsical material, as well as notable items of creative art and writing. One cannot but enjoy these pubs. and their only real handicap is their infrequent appearance as opposed to the other fan-mags. They are well-representative of the free and unafraid, outreaching spirit which should permeate the entire field and issue forth in every publication. Perhaps after the present struggle for existence*those who would stamp out this*praiseworthy spirit for their own selfish aims, even as they pose as defenders of fandom, is over, we shall see a renaissance in fan publications. If and when this comes, it will be the West Coast which will have forged some of the strongest weapons for its victory.

As this is being written, three new publications have recently seen their first issues: "Polaris", "Stunning Scientifan", and "Farefare", edited by Freehafer, Fortier, and Faro respectively.

As with most first issues, they suffer from the handicap of inexperience in publishing.

"Polaris", however, hits stellar notes at its first chirp. It is neat, attractive, excellently mimeographed, tasteful, and high in the quality of content. It is regrettable that the editor has not a well-known name in fandom, for the magazine deserves to be gobbled up as it would be wereaa more prominent fan to inaugurate it. However, quality tells, and, at the risk of prophesying, we see that Polaris has an admirable future ahead of it.

"Stunning Scientifan" was greatly handicapped in its first issue

by hasty presentation in places, poor typing, bad hyphenation of words, poor layouts, and a very badly-appearing contents page. The material presented in the first issue, considering the size, was good.

Most important, however, is an editor's attitude toward his mistakes and toward criticisms. The editor of this magazine has shown a sincere and wise attitude upon this point, and a willingness to learn both from his own experience and the experience of others. The magazine bounds with enthusiasm, and, unless this be but a flash in the pan, future issues of Stunning Scientifican should show up well in the flood of publications going the rounds.

"Fanfare" also suffers from inexperience at mimeographing, and poor typing. It shows as well, however, a somewhat distinctive individuality which is refreshing. If the editor can correct defects mentioned and carry out the excellent policy as expressed in his first editorial, "Fanfare" should go places.

"Sweetness & Light", edited by the Friendly Five, should have not been reserved for last place, unless you consider it as dessert. It is something that fandom has needed for many years, a refreshing kick in the fanny. Sheer burlesque of fandom and fan-attitudes strikes high notes even while it staps on toes and hands out the delicate bronx cheer to hot-air merchants. Without benefit of the bologna, this neat, attractive, and artistic magazine is a must for the mature and intellectually inclined enthusiast.

To leave particulars and generalize; now, more than ever before, there is room for a large number of items on the American fanmag rialto. The increased number of magazines professional mean an increased number of readers, some of which will become fans. But they will not be as the oldtimers, all embracing, devouring every stf mag avidly. The deluge makes such activity impossible save a few who can afford to spend most of their time reading.

Thus, we will have a varied number of fandoms, each circulating around a particular pro magazine or type of stf-mag. The only way these separated circles can be made aware of one another, can obtain an impression of American fandom as a vast living whole, is through all-fan amateur publications.

As we said above: There still exists unsatisfied the need for a regularly-appearing, all-fan publication; one which can and will serve all fans regardless of their magazine preferences, their interpretations of stf, or their viewpoints. This magazine is yet to appear. Who will publish -- will it appear at all --

Only time can tell.

STATISTICAL ADDENDA:

Fantasy Amateur Press Association -- for particulars, write the Secretary-Treasurer: Robert A. Madle, 333 East Belgrade St., Philadelphia, Penna.

ADDENDA

- Fantasy-News -- James V. Taurasi, 137007 32nd Avenue, Flushing, N. Y.
- Le Vonbitour -- Robert W. Lowndes, 2574 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Science Fiction Fan -- Olon F. Wiggins, 918 - 29th St., Denver, Colo.
- Science Fiction Progress -- Donald A. Wollheim, 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Le Zombie -- Bob Tucker, Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.
- Spaceways -- Harry Warner, 303 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Maryland.
- Scienti-Snaps -- Walter E. Marconette, 2709 East 2nd Street, Dayton, Ohio.
- Fantascience Digest -- Robert A. Madle, 333 East Belgrade Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Ad Astra -- Mark Reinsberg, 3156 Cambridge Avenue, Chicago, Illn.
- Fantasy Digest -- Ted Dikty, 3136 Smith Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- New Fandom -- Sam Moskowitz, 603 South 11th Street, Newark, New J.
- Escape -- Dick Wilson, 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.
- Voice of the Imagi-Nation -- Box 6475 Metropolitan Station, Los Angeles, California.
- Mikros -- Russ Hodgkins, 1903 West 84th Place, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Futura Fantasia -- Ray Bradbury, 3054 1/2 West 12th Street, Los Angeles, California.
- Polaris -- Paul Freehafer, 404 South Lake Avenue, Pasadena, Calif.
- Fanfare -- Francis Paro, 125 West Sixth Street, Boston, Mass.

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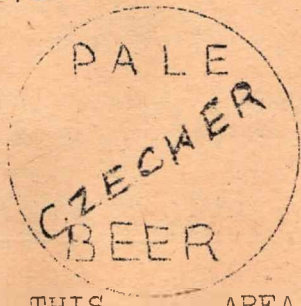
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A MATTER OF SIZE

By James D. Tillman, Jr.
and Walter Fleming

Professor Epicauta stared in fascinated wonder at the rising sheerness of the towering cliff-side and spoke absently to his colleague.

"It is quite plainly a formation of the old sandstone period, sir. If you will look immediately above the red deposit you will discern a white deposit. I trust on closer investigation it will prove to be a limestone formation."

The two learned professors moved closer to the base of the mighty wall of rock and earth.

"You are indeed correct my dear Epicauta. Please note the minute fossils preserved in the lower red layer. I am sure that that one there" -- pointing -- "is a species of prehistoric ant. Note that it differs little from the ant of today." High above their heads at the upper limit of the red color was a broad white band. This should be limestone, according to their predictions.

"Yes, my honored brother. But now I am puzzled, for what is this other band of white limestone, extending horizontally down through the red sandstone deposits?"

"Perhaps," hazarded Professor Maculata, "The conditions which brought about this limestone deposit occurred some millions of years earlier at this point, than they did generally elsewhere."

"Let us attempt to scale it," Professor Epicauta stared with measuring eye up the side of the enigma. "Perhaps great discoveries await us on the face of this monstrous cliff. Truly, it will be a marvelous chance to see the correct order of the deposits!"

"Agreed," answered the other professor. "I believe we are adequately equipped for the climb."

They started up the face of the cliff. Eventually they reached the top of the red deposit and started across the white layer that had so fascinated them. "Strange," Professor maculata observed, "that this layer does not seem to be as thick as the one below. Apparently this limestone period was not of as long duration as the one immediately proceeding it."

And then the two colleagues were introduced to a shock! At the top of the white layer's under discussion was a second red deposit: Maculata eyed his companion quizzically....

"Either my old eyes are deceiving me, or we have made a great and world-shaking discovery!" he announced half fearfully, for this was something unheard of!

"No; you are correct," assured the other. "There seems have been two sandstone periods. Let us continue upwards." They once more began their tedious climb.

Shortly afterwards the red deposit ended, and another white layer was encountered. Their wonder knew no bounds when realized (they) it was another limestone layer, and, peering upwards through the gathering darkness, they almost lost their balance in surprise -- above the present white layer began another red sandstone deposit!

That night they prepared a paper on their astounding findings. That paper shook the scientific world to its very core, upsetting, as it did, all previous pictures of the various deposits of earth and stone that told the story of prehistoric days. It (the paper) reported that previous reports had been false, that there were no less than thirty sandstone periods, and twenty-nine limestone periods!

O *O* *O* *O* *O*

Thus today the great monument to a forgotten nature stands, not the mysterious era-packed stone cliffs of delving scientists, but instead a crumbling weather-torn red brick wall; crawling with wild life, with spiders and beetles that scour its nether-regions, and occasionally a brave wandering beetle will make a breathless dash straight up the wall half-way to the top over crumbling mortar and indented brick, and at the last moment when on the point of losing grip, turn, and scurry down again.

THE END

MIDNIGHT REVELS REVIEW...

It has been my honor to receive a personal copy from John Michael Desch of his latest book, "Midnight Revels". It is on the modern trend toward pure fantasy, and leaves the conventionalism of the usual run of "fairy tales". On first glance, that is what you take it to be, but let me assure you to the other extreme. It is a book of the revels of the little ~~Social~~ ^{Social} ~~reputation~~ ^{reputation} when the midnight stroke of the clock sets them loose. Visions of sprites; Puck perched on the moon; Sambo, stealer of the show, and his untimely death; all are perfected to utmost realism. Xavier Kraemer illustrates most magnificently and profusely. A fantasy in verse with 78 pen-ink illustrations in 88 pages, bound in full cloth cover, 9 x 6, it sells for only \$1.50 at SUNSET PRESS, 1045 Sansome Street, San Francisco, Cal.

By that time the moon was high in the sky,
And on its curved rim the sprites did espy
Sweet mischievous Puck who, from his high place,
Was viewing the show with a smile on his face.

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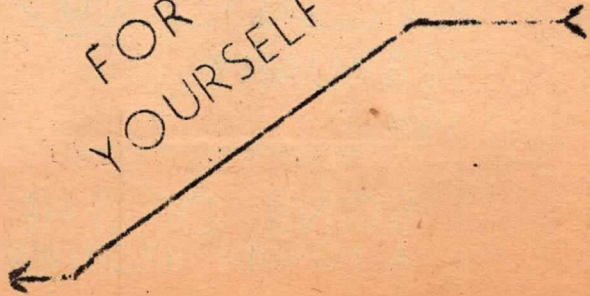
An application by the Fortier Transportation Company of Fresno to purchase the Johnson Transportation, Inc., concern of Bakersfield and Los Angeles will be subject of an Interstate Commerce Commission hearing at 2 P. M. December 11th, at the Hotel Fresno.

As proposed by Russel A. and Wa J. Fortier, the deal for an undisclosed consideration will involve the purchase of the Johnson corporation which operates on various routes in Kern County and south of Bakersfield.

A large share of the materials

ADVANCEMENT ?

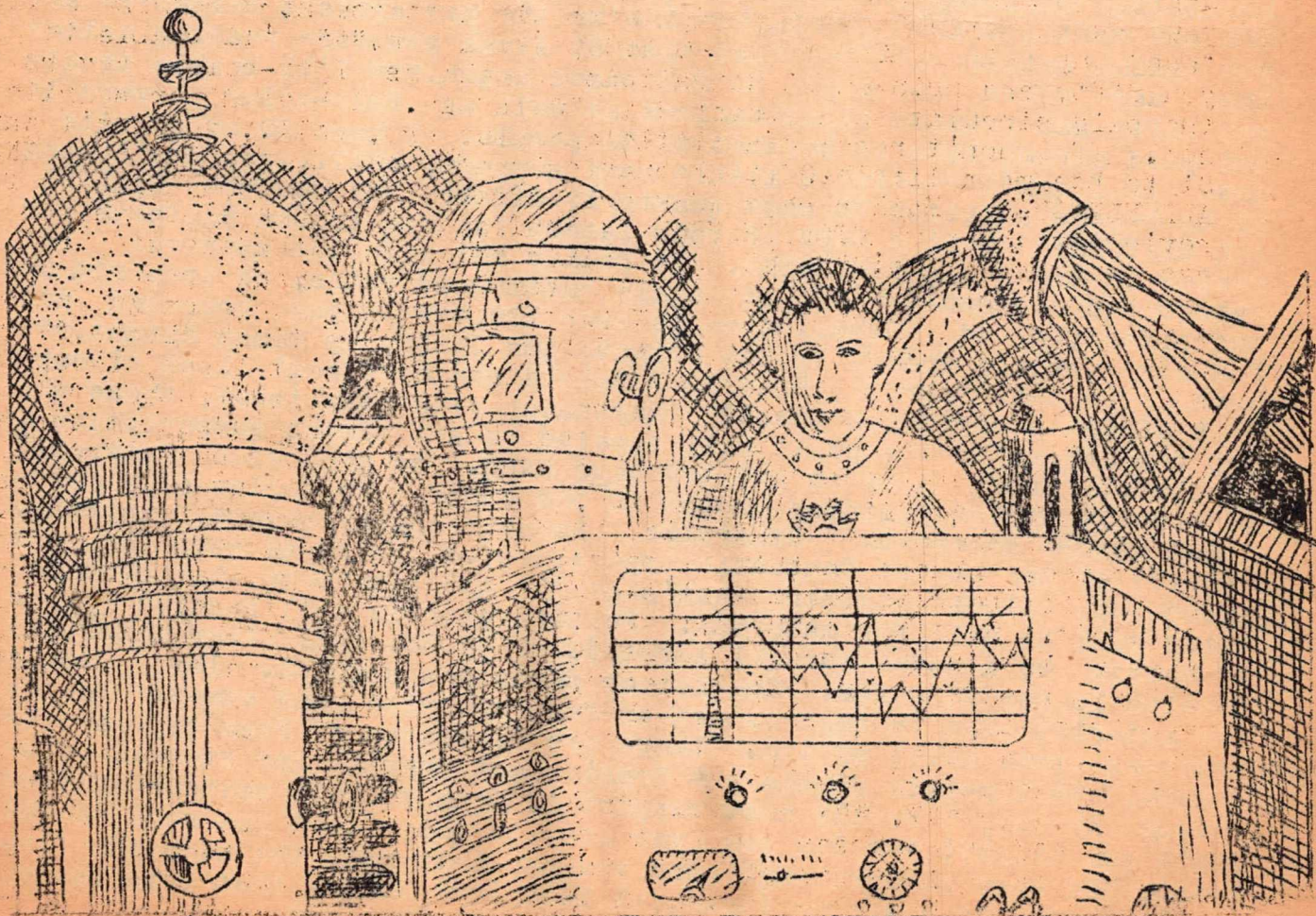
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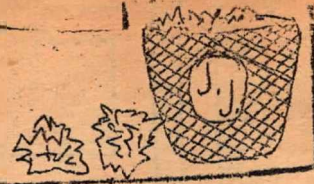
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DO WE? PLEASE DON'T FAIL US. JOE



WASTEBASKET REVIEW



Hi Fella's: With this issue I incorporate a new feature into fan mag formats. All controversy in a special section to be used as a regular supplement to SS. Everything in the editorial line, special list work, biographies, etc., will be included. How do you like it?***Beginning with this issue, this publication will be known as simply.... THE SCIENTIFAN. I offered prizes as title awards, but about half of the readers sent in the same name, see...*** Bob Tucker says that he has been as busy as our dear Adolf lately, and believe-you-me, that's being on THE busier side of life.*** I wish to thank Mr Jenkins of the J T JENKINS COMPANY of San Francisco for the bulging subscription he took.*** Who's the dirty printer that forced STARDUST to hold up publication!*** The ad for the FORTIER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY shud be ~~boxed~~ as it is a very reliable firm, Mr Fortier having the respect everyone in the trucking industry.*** We recommend (all in fun) San M to the column known as "Cry on Geraldine's Shoulder".*** Make a note of the fact that not enough people answer the poll.*** Where are the rest of the knocks? Not enough letters. Got several cards, etc., but you can't print a couple of words in the Readers' Section and expect it to hold interest.*** SPACEWAYS is on the road to success. HW has gotten Willis Conover, and is getting Virgil Finlay.*** I want every person in the vicinity of Oakland to join my OAKLAND FANTASY PROGRESS. Only requirements are to belong to the organization of the SFL and coming SUPER SCIENCE.*** How're the new artists doing?*** Are you taking notice of the fact that Si gives you more reading matter than any other fan mag? 40 BIG pages again.*** I'll be able to give you fifty and printed illustrations as well as four-color covers if the paid circulation is boosted to 50 people. I have 20 or so rite now. If I don't receive a little more support, well...you don't want Si to become a little 20 page quarterly affair, do you?*** CALLING ALL EDITORS: Mail a copy of your latest fan mag to Don Wollheim for review in the new ASTONISHING. It really met with the approval of everyone concerned!*** I am again cutting ad rates, so step ryt up and place your ad. Circulation is over 100.*** Among proposed new fan mags are the GEMET, by Tom Wright; and SNIDE, by Damon Knight.*** Have you seen FANFARE, Francis V Paro's new creation? Lack of support almost stopped him too.*** Beginning with next issue, those who cop top honors in the poll will receive a six months subscription, absolutely free. Come on and try your hand. We need good material! We have no strict policies except in one case. No topics of a religious nature accepted. Otherwise, hokay. Knock anyone, anyboby. Stories of the utmost fantastic type accepted, weird as possible, and humor too. Almost anything that's good! And take note that next time, rates will be paid for material. Feature stories will receive 1¢ per 20 words. So a novel wud get about \$2.00/\$2.50. All other materials receive 1¢ per 25 words. Two letter words not counted. 10¢ bonus for material sent in that is set-up for even rite hand edges. Poetry receives state rates of 15¢. There are 67 spaces of Pica typ in the future. 54 lines to a page. # Cops: Just wrecked the stencil up above.# Anyway, I really need support if I am to help amateur aythers don't you think?! *** Did you ever stop to think that you save at the least, 30¢ when subscribing? And you can help make the magazine firmer by giving it a strong financial basis!*** Hoping that this issue, with MERCURY, has pleased you enough, I say g'bye.***

B/Cin'/U in the mail, JOE.

SULLIVAN'S COLUMN

JAN-FEB 1940

PAGE M3

00 FANTASY IN HARPERS MAGAZINE 00

WALTER SULLIVAN

Since Joe thinks that my list of fantasy from THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY was of some interest, I have gone ahead and compiled a similar list from HARPERS MAGAZINE.

It will be noticed, as in the ATLANTIC, most of the early stories deal with the supernatural, and that they are also anonymous. It seems that these stories were popular during the latter part of the last century, and that the authors wished to remain unknown. As you will notice, many of the stories were reprinted from other's magazines. This list covers HARPERS from 1830 to 1938 (1050 issues).

HARPERS MAGAZINE

DATA

	vol.	pg.	iss.
GHOST STORIES - ? 1*	1	83	6/50
THE HAUNTED HOUSE IN SHERWOOD FOREST - ? 2*	1	473	9/50
THE WAHR WOLF OF THE LOVERS OF HUNDERSDOF - ? 3*	1	797	11/50
A TRUE GHOST STORY - ?	1	801	11/50
THE DEATH OF A GOBLIN - ?	2	478	3/51
THE GHOST THAT APPEARED TO MRS. WHARTON - ? 4*	2	72	12/50
GHOST STORIES OF CHAPELWOOD - ?	2	499	3/51
THE GHOST RAISER - ?	5	106	6/52
FISHER'S GHOST - ?	6	778	5/53
A TRUE GHOST STORY - G. P. R. James	6	497	3/53
A GHOST OF A HEAD - ?	6	52	12/52
GHOST STORIES - Editor's Page article	6	669	4/53
VAMPYRES - ? 5*	10	618	4/55
A POT OF TULIPS - 6*	11	807	11/55
BUCKNOLL - ? 7*	12	336	2/56
RATHER GHOSTLY - ?	17	363	8/58
THE LOST ROOM - 8*	17	494	9/58
WHAT WAS IT? - 9*	18	504	3/59
THE ATOMS OF CHLOANI - J. D. Whelpley	20	195	1/60
HORROR: A TRUE TALE - ?	22	514	3/61
THE HAUNTED AND THE HAUNTED - E. B. Lytton	22	365	2/61
THE SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPH - Seeley Register	27	122	6/63
HOW I OVERCAME MY GRAVITY - Fitz James O'Brien	28	779	5/64
THE HAUNTED HOUSE AT WATERTOWN - Edwin Kirke 10*	35	443	9/67
THE PHANTOM BRIDGE - Alice Cary	36	387	2/68
THE TREAD OF INVISIBLE FEET - Justin M'Carthy	42	409	2/71
WED IN THE MORNING - DEAD AT NIGHT - C. Walsh Mason	42	379	
THE MUMMY'S FOOT - Mrs. H. S. Conant 11*	42	749	4/71
THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF MY FRIEND BROWNE - J. Hawthorne	44	214	1/72
A GHOSTLY VISITATION - Mary Beach	52	129	12/75
THE PIN GHOST - Mrs. E. T. Corbett	54	62	12/76
KENS MYSTERY - Julian Hawthorne	67	923	11/83
GENESIS OF THE RIP VAN WINKLE LEGEND - John B. Thompson	67	617	8/83
THE RIVAL GHOSTS - Brander Matthews	68	905	5/84
THE GENTLE GHOST - Mary E. Wilkins	79	366	8/89
A GHOST - Lafcadio Hearn	80	116	12/89
CARLOTTA - Justus Miles Forman	110	900	5/05
LEGENDS OF THE CITY OF MEXICO - Thomas A. Janvier 12*	113	382	9/06

THE DRYAD - Harry James Smith	118	634	3/09
THE GHOST - Harrison Rhodes	115	956	11/07
THE DERRINGTON GHOST - Elizabeth Robins	123	447	9/11
THE DEAD FINGER - Howard Pyle	123	489	10/11
THE DYE OF FATE - Howard Pyle	124	883	5/12
THE HAUNTED ORCHARD - Richard Le Gallienne	124	211	1/12
THE EVIL EYE - Howard Pyle	124	383	2/12
AN ADVENTURE IN PALAENTOLOGY - Alan Sullivan	128	518	3/14
A HUNDRED YEARS HENCE - Alan Sullivan 13*	131	943	11/15
THE HALF GHOST - Wilbur Daniel Steele	135	241	7/17
THE MOST MYSTERIOUS MANUSCRIPT IN THE WORLD - - John M. Manley 14*	143	18	7/21
THE SOLDIER AND DEATH - Arthur Ransome	145	743	11/22
THE WEATHER BREEDER - Merrill Denison	149	311	8/24
AMERICA IN THE YEAR 2500 - Anonymous 15*	156	685	5/28
THE AFTERNOON OF A BIOLOGIST - Bernardo De Voto	157	408	9/28
THE CRYSTAL BALL - Charles Caldwell Dobie	159	541	10/29
THREE STORIES - Andre Maurios	163	57	5/31

- * 1 An incident in the life of M. Clairon. From Household Words.
 2 From Howitt's Country Year-Book.
 3 Colburn's Magazine
 4 Dublin University Magazine
 5 Article
 6 Author given in index as Fitz James O'Brien
 7 A new ghost story of old Virginia.
 8 Author given in index as Fitz James O'Brien
 9 A mystery -- Fitz James O'Brien by index.
 10 J. R. Gilmore in index
 11 Skip it!
 12 1. El Callejon del Padre Lecovna
 2. El Puente del Cuervo
 13 Article
 14 Article
 15 Article

YOGI PRESENTS CHEMISTRY IN 10 EASY LESSONS

When taking up chemistry seriously, of course a course of many years would be required to cover it. We shall try to abbreviate the procedure and cut it down to reading material of 9 minutes, 32 seconds. No time is included for extra thought by the reader.

I. MATTER

Matter can be thought of as existing in anyone of 48 states: California, New Mexico, Arizona, etc. Of course some scientists insist on classifying it into solid, liquid, and a gaseous state, and as long as we are not seriously involved in either side we may present both views. The latter group define their theory in the following:

- a. Solids have a definite volume and shape.
ex: Ann Sheridan
- b. Liquids have a definite volume but take the shape of container.
ex: W. C. Fields
- c. Gasses have neither a definite shape or volume.
ex: A. hot air
B. Sam Moskowitz

Of course the first group divides their members into Democrats, Republicans, and freaks of nature. (continued elsewhere)

Meet the Authors.

HARRY WARNER, JR. ("Horror's Cellar", "Exposing the Back Numbers", &c)

Some dope about me? Well, I'm about your own age--seventeen next month--and have been reading science fiction for about six and a half years. Before that, too, I was always intrigued by Jules Verne, but he was rather dry for me at the time. Then I found my first copy of Amazing, one of the last of the large size issues. Wonder went on my reading list a month later, and with its fourth issue under S&S, Astounding. Never did any fan work at all, not even corresponding, until 1936, when I had my first letter to the pros published. I requested correspondents, got a million, and still have three or four of them in more or less steady contact. Avery was one, and we more or less grew up together, both discovering the fan mags at about the same time. Then he suggested we start a fan mag of our own; we hunted around for facilities and finally ended up by starting to hekto the first issue. Half way through the hekto started to go on the blink--he was doing that end and I the editing--and he became more and more busy than he had been, and had to quit. Or rather, had to resign most of his duties, and it was up to me to get the mag out. I procured a mimeo, luckily, at a church that was selling its old one very reasonably, and eight days before the first issue was due, started all over once more. It was out a week late, and since then everything has gone along very nicely.

TOM WRIGHT ("The Sun Pool", &c)

Here's some data on me: I'm 15, brown haired, blue eyed, 5 ft. 3 in. tall and weigh about 85 pounds. (not accurate.) I'm in the ninth grade (Should be in the 10th but was sick a year.) Not handsome. Main interest and future profession (I hope!) is chemistry. Also am interested in practically all things scientific. (Physics, astronomy, etc.) Scientifically I'm interested in the artistic side. Am a fair artist (I think). Mark Reinsberg wanted some of my drawings for Ad Astra covers, but as I knew nothing of mimeo and stencils, I had to decline. Mabey you could help me on the points. I'm almost sure I can join your chapter. I also think of going to the Chicon in 1940!

W LAWRENCE HAMLING ("The Finger", "Stardust Ad", &c)

I am 18 years of age, was born on National Flag Day, June 14, 1921. Was born in Chicago. I've traveled the length and breadth of the country, many times, always during the summer, and have found these United States a very interesting place. I graduated last June from the largest High School in the world, Lane Technical School, and while there I majored in Journalism and received my first interest in writing so it was natural that I should join the school magazine staff, and soon I found myself with the title, Editor-in-Chief. I was enrolled in the Quill & Scroll, International Honor Society of Journalism through my literary activities. (THE FINGER was voted the best story in a ten year High School period)

I have written only ten stories in my life, one of which has seen print in AMAZING STORIES; May 1939. I have written only one story since then, but am now turning to writing more diligently. Maybe I will appear again, who knows! (THERE WILL BE MORE WRITE-UPS NEXTTIME)

ALL-STAR FAN MAG REVIEWS ---

*****: Exceptional, ****: Excellent, ***: Good, **: Fair, *: Passing.

GOLDEN ATOM.....	November 15	10¢.	***	M
HORIZONS.....	October	10¢; 2/15¢	****-	H
SPACEWAYS.....	November	10¢; 3/25¢	****	M
FANTASCIENCE DIGEST.....	Jul -Aug - Sept	15¢; 6/75¢	****	M
LE ZOMBIE.....	December 16	3/10¢	*****	M
FANTASEER.....	Second Issue	5¢; now 10¢	***-	H
FANTASY DIGEST.....	Aug - Sept	10¢; 3/25¢	***-	M
SCIENCE PICKLON FAN.....	July	12/\$1	***	P
FUTURIAN.....	Summer	10¢; 4/30¢	***-	P
FANTASY WAR BULLETIN.....	Number 2	2¢; 6/12¢	***	M
THE FANTAST.....	September	6/40¢	***	M
AD ASTRA.....	November	10¢; 3/25¢	***#	M
FANTASY FIGHTER.....	Nov - Dec	10¢.	***#	M
COSMIC TALES.....	Summer	15¢; now 10¢	*****	M
POLARIS.....	December	10¢; 3/25¢	***	M
FAN-FACES.....	April	5¢; 6/25¢	**-	M
FANFARE.....	December	10¢.	**-	M
FUTURIA FANTASIA.....	Fall	10¢; 3/25¢	*****	M
VOICE OF IMAGINATION.....	December	10¢.	****	M

M: Mimeographed, H: Hektoed, P: Printed, -: Poor printing, #: Typing. Fanfare hung close to 1*, but was just a little too good. Ad Astra hung close to 4*, but poor typing held it back. Le Zombie exceptionally neat. Futuria Fantasia is a tie with Cosmic Tales for hi honor.

Moskowitz and McPhail material is still late, so step it up boys!!!!

EXCHANGING THIS ISSUE ARE: Madle, Dikty, Meyer, McPhail, Youd, Wiggins, Burke,, Bradbury, Carnell, Taurasi, Warner, Agnew, Weinman, Faro, Groveman, Marconette, Farsaci, Molesworth, Litz, Wilson, Goldstone, Moskowitz, Baltadonis, Friendly Five, Wollheim, Russel, and if there are any others, they have been added after cutting stencil. I will mention you next time. Every exchange receives a review in this timely fashion as above, eliminating inaccurate story reviews and giving a consensus of opinion of several people. Please send the exchange within a month after our publication date.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE MARS BOOKS BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS WE GIVE THE TITLES NOW PUBLISHED:

- A Princess of Mars
- The Gods of Mars
- The Warlord of Mars
- Thuvia Maid of Mars
- The Chessman of Mars
- The Master Mind of Mars
- A Fighting Man of Mars
- Pirates of Venus
- Lost on Venus
- Swords of Mars

TARZAN BOOKS ESPECIALLY FANTASTIC ARE:

- Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar
- Tarzan the Terrible
- Tarzan and the Ant Men
- Tarzan and the Lost Empire
- Tarzan at the Earth's Core

ALSO:

- Black Motor Car, H. BURLAND
- Tour of the World in 80 Days, J.V.

MORE BY BURROUGHS:

- The Monster Men
- At the Earth's Core
- The Outlaw of Torn

- Tanar of Pellucidar
- Jungle Girl
- The Eternal Lover

THE CUSTOMERS ALWAYS WRITE - - - - - AND SO -

HARRY WARNER, JR: I can proceed with ease to STUNNING. Yippee!. It's really better than I had suspected and expected, Jce. At least I never dreamed you'd manage to crowd so much into one issue -- honestly, on reading it, it seems as though you have about sixty pages contents ...As to Bill's story I'll merely say what I said to him: It should have sold to WT....Illustrations for it pretty good, but they seemed rather hurried to me (difficulties in tracing) ...Moskowitz's article should have been a very good one, but unfortunately he let his enthusiasm run away with him, and his prejudices drag him down. That is, a little more looking at the facts squarely, and a little less looking at them the way he likes their editors, would have been appreciated. While at times he's right even in his prejudices, the fact remains that it is simply impossible that all of his friends have the good fan magazines and his enemies the bad ones. However, the article was certainly worth reading, and he said some valuable things several times. But the comments about Scienti-Snaps and Tucker's mags rather get my goat. (me too) I really thought that Lowndes' story was the best thing in the issue...Frankly, I shouldn't care to see any of the Burroughs Stories reprinted...Hoy Ping Pong and Tucker have been better, but they are certainly readable. Ackerman extremely good...Hornig didn't say much, though it was well done. Sullivan is to be complimented. SPACEWAYS - HORIZONS

WALTER SULLIVAN: I am very busy and do not have time to comment on the mag, but I will say that I think Dale Hart has attacks of feeble mindedness at times...Dale and I are good friends, and I am his most severe critic. RESEARCH IN FANTASY

ROBERT W LOWNDES: First of all, the size is rather good...Your issue is considerably marred by three things. (1) Poor spelling and typing. (2) Poor word division at the end of the line. (3) Uneven rite hand edges and insufficient space between columns...Your contents page is very poorly laid out.....And your headings are anything but neat..... Leave larger margins around your pages at all times. Page five is very good in this respect.....I might add that the heading for "The Finger" is neat and attracts attention...."The Finger" struck me as good, though somewhat long-winded and suffering from intense verbiage. On going thru a second time, contents good. BROOKLYN

R D SWISHER: In your first issue I thought Walter Sullivan's list from the Atlantic Monthly most noteworthy (please note that it is now a regular feature ...The Guy who draws your gals seems to have been very slightly influenced by Petty, and I can't help but wonder why she spends her summers in a place so cool she has to wear pants..Moskowitz' article sure had all the enheartening prediction of professionalistic delectableness, if you catch what I mean. No lusciouser profusion of verbiage could be found outside a tropical jungle....I only hope that Bob keeps publishing for me alone....Still, It is always good fun when Sam lets down his hair and has a good cry....And you might have the girl on the cover pull up her socks-or am I a boor?....Mr. Hoy's Clipping Bureau really took second place in your first issue. I hope he finds a new batch of clippings by deadline for the next issue. CHECKLIST

W J FORTIER: Really enjoyed the magazine.....I am enclosing a \$5.00 bill for an ad....That feature story, "The Finger" was a humdinger... Keep up the good work! FORTIER TRANS - COMMERCIAL T - JOHNSON CO

THE READERS RAVE ON - - - -

W. LAURENCE HALLING: Your illustrations were excellent....Here is how I rate the contents per your request on bottom of page 15. For logical reasons, I exclude my own contribution.:

- # 1. "Vitons, Vitamines, & Vitaphones"
2. Exposing the Back Number Racket
3. Comes the Dawn
4. The Ultimate Ultimate
5. Nothing

Best Artist: M. Lanka, Krupa (?)

Favorite Department: Fans Reviews

Big Dislike: THREE: # 1. Complete lack of neatness. # 2. Inaccuracy of Contents Page. ALL THAT GLITTERS is listed for page 37 -- yet starts on page 35. FANTASY IN THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY was not even listed, yet it was a full page article! INSANE was listed for page 35 - I don't even have the story in the magazine! FUTURISTIKOSTUMZ is listed for page 33 -- it is on an unnumbered page! Besides, I don't have page 33 or 34 either, for that matter! # 3. The editorial is supposed to be the best, and usually a pretty long article, and it usually belongs in the front of the magazine. It is found on page 42 (the last page) and is short, inadequate, and too much space was wasted in printing various autographs where the space could have been utilized by more editorial. CCSFL PUBLICATIONS

DAMON KNIGHT: Chief fault of STUNNING was stapling. I'll send my sub soon...How about misspelling of "ad's"? Otherwise, hokay. SNIDE

J T JENKINS: We are enclosing \$3 for subscription purposes so that we can watch the progress of your magazine, as follows: The higher the plain on which you put your magazine, the better off you will be insofar as the attraction the magazine would have for advertisers. (& we're working towards this end)...Less sensationalism (we are getting away from this, to)...Less impossible stuff....While I appreciate that advice is cheap and seldom wanted, I believe that you should work towards this end. (do you readers think the stories should be less fantastic, less "wacky"?) KENWORTH MOTORS

BOB TUCKER: I suggest you change the name to simply: THE SCIENTIFAN (and here we give the readers what they want). Mimeographing was poor, but that is expected from all first efforts...The cover wasn't original (we think so)...Suggest you "cleanup" contents page...Certain portions of SM's article is practically word for word repetition for one in Dikty's Fantasy Digest...Doc Lowndes' story compares well with one of the finest he has ever written....I hope sincerely some gal fan copies the summer costume of FUTURISTIKOSTUMZ to wear to the Chicago Convention in 1940!..."Nothing" was just that. It stinks...I liked Charlie Hornig's and Harry Warner's; I didn't care for Dale Hart's; Ackerman's and Jorgensen's were readable, so what more can I do now but close? LE ZOMBIE - THE YEARBOOK

////////////////////////////////////
 J Chapman Miske...R D Swisher...R W Lowndes...Jack Donovan...E M Fantz
 Al Sherman...I M Rosenblum...Sam Moskowitz...with this issue your sub
 expires. You will be mailed one more edition if your letter has not
 arrived with money or stating you wish subscription cancelled. We
 trust that you will mail the mag back the same day without opening if
 you wish to drop our mag from your mailing list. Disregard this note
 if you have mailed us a letter, material, etc., since this was sten-
 ciled. Please comply as we trust you. - J. J.

[POLL]

WE INAUGURATED A SORT OF POLL LAST ISSUE, AND FINDING THAT THOSE WHO DID TAKE NOTICE CONSIDERED IT A VALUABLE FEATURE? WE ARE PUTTING IT ON IN A BIGGER AND GRANDER STYLE THIS TIME. DEADLINE FOR ALL BALLOTS IS SET AS MARCH 15, AND YOU MUST SUBMIT ON THIS BALLOT PROVIDED OR AN EXACT SIMALE. NOTHING TO BUY! NO OBLIGATION! JUST ANSWER HONESTLY:

THE BEST STORY OR ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE	_____	_____
SECOND BEST	_____	FOURTH BEST _____
THIRD BEST	_____	FIFTH BEST _____
BEST ILLUSTRATOR	_____	SECOND BEST _____
MOST INTERESTING FEATURE	_____	WORST FEATURE _____
I LIKE THE NEW MERCURY SECTION	_____	THE AD'S ARE NEAT _____

MY FAVORITE FAN MAG IS	_____	SECOND BEST _____
MY FAVORITE PRO MAG IS	_____	SECOND BEST _____
MY FAVORITE PRO AUTHOR	_____	SECOND BEST _____
MY FAVORITE FAN AUTHOR	_____	SECOND BEST _____
I WANT A STRICT OR LOOSE EDITORIAL POLICY	_____	
I TRADE AT _____ STORE	_____	I HAUL BY _____ TRANS _____
I SMOKE _____ CIGARETTES	_____	I DRINK _____ BEER
I WANT BETTER PAPER _____ OR _____	_____	I WANT A LARGER MAG _____
I WANT A BIG MAG _____ OR _____	_____	I WANT THE PRICE LOWERED _____
I WANT NOVELS _____ OR ARTICLES _____	_____	OF TWENTY PAGES OR SO _____
I WANT CONTINUED STORIES _____	_____	I WANT A SERIES ON _____ SUB _____
I WANT SS MONTHLY _____ OR _____	_____	I WANT A COMPANION MAG _____
I WANT MORE ILLUSTRATIONS _____ OR _____	_____	I WANT ILLUSTRATIONS IN COLOR _____
I WANT A QUIZ CONTEST _____ OR _____	_____	I WISH TO CONTINUE POLLS _____
I WANT A NEWS COLUMN _____ OR _____	_____	I WANT A CARTOON FEATURE _____
I WOULD APPRECIATE THE RESULTS OF READERS OPINION OF STORIES IN THE PRO MAGS AS LISTED IN ANYLITICAL LAB, ETC. _____	_____	
I WISH THE "MEET THE AUTHORS" CONTINUED _____	_____	
I AM IN FAVOR OF HAVING THE NEXT SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION IN _____	_____	
BECAUSE _____	_____	
I AM WILLING TO PAY FIVE OR TEN CENTS MORE AND RECEIVE ABT 60 P _____	_____	

WE TOOK A POLL

OUT OF APROXIMATELY 20 REPLIES, WE TOOK THE FOLLOWING DIAGNOSIS:

- # 1: THE LAMP WAS LOW
- 2: THE FINGER
- 3: VITONS, VITAMINES, & VITAPHONES
- 4: COMES THE DAWN
- 5: TIED: EXPOSING THE BACK NUMBER RACKET
THE COSTUMES

FAVORITE DEPARTMENT: WALTER SULLIVAN'S REVIEWS--ARTIST: T. MASLANKA.

BEST ARTIST: T. MASLANKA BIG DISLIKE: CONTENTS PAGE

We asked for the respective ages of the readers and only two or three of our subscribers answered in this respect. Perhaps I am to consider that you have not yet passed a first birthday. Write and tell me for my own personal interests. It gives me an idea as to whom I am corresponding with, whether you are 6 or 60. COME AGAIN!