

# FANTASY - COMICS

"The Newspaper Of The Science-Fiction Comic Field"

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(Whole No. 16)

## EDITORIAL

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WHEN I JOINED the N'APA, I looked around some of my old titles to see if any of them could be used in this new amateur press association. One title I had a lot of fun with, and one that is little of in science-fiction fandom, was Fantasy-Comics. I edited and published this for SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC. (then known as FANDOM HOUSE) for two years. It began with the Sept-Oct. 1952 issue, was published bi-monthly for a time, then went monthly and the last issue was dated December 1953. It was only the extra work of Fanzets that forced us to fold the magazine. It never really became a big deal as at most it had about 60 subscribers, but it was a lot of fun putting out. I feel that this is an ideal title for the N'APA and here it is.

FIRST I HAVE to make one point clear. The title, and subtitle is owned by SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC. and I'm using it with their kind permission.

I intend to publish articles, and news about the many science/fantasy comics now being published, and maybe now and then report about some of the science/fantasy comics that came out years ago. I have no intention of covering the field completely, that would take up all of my time, and I still have to publish Science-Fiction Times semi-monthly. But as a quarterly of interesting science/fantasy comics, this should be an interesting and quite an off-trail assignment.

*James V. Taurasi, Sr.*  
James V. Taurasi, Sr.

JOIN THE PITTCOON

# TARZAN

Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc, 750 3rd Ave., New York 17, N.Y. Bi-monthly. 10¢ per copy. 32 pages.

Dell has been publishing Tarzan Comics since 1948. For quite a time it was a monthly comic, but of recent years it is a bi-monthly. The stories are a strange mixture of the book and movie Tarzan blended into a most interesting, and most-times fantasy/weird adventures that do credit to the originator of Tarzan, Edgar Rice Burroughs. Usually there are two Tarzan tales in an issue, with a continued non-Tarzan story, "Brothers of the Spear". While "Brothers of the Spear" is a most interesting adventure comic, it is rather out of place in Tarzan Comics. I've often wondered why this space could not be used for another

Tarzan story. One idea that I've had for a long time is to see this space devoted to the comic version of "Tarzan of the Apes" run as a long serial. They could, after the first Tarzan book was completed, run the rest of the Tarzan books as serials in comic form. "Brothers of the Spear" could become a comic magazine of its own. It would do well as a comic magazine, as the story, illustrating and theme are outstanding.

The current issue of Tarzan Comics is May-June 1960, #118. It contains: "Warriors of the Walled Valley", and "The Buffalo Cart", both Tarzan stories. "Brothers of the Spear" begins a new serial called "The Fallen City". The cover is a regular painting (not a cartoon) and shows Tarzan and Boy, and illustrates "Warriors of the Walled Valley".

# MEN INTO SPACE

Published quarterly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc. 10¢ per copy.

This is a Dell "TV Adventure". Issue #1 is numbered as part of their overall one shot comics #1083. It is proposed to be published quarterly but whether it will contain its own numbering or continue with the general numbering is not known. Anyway this is the first issue. The cover contains a photo of William Lundigan as "Col. Ed McCauley", and in the background is a painting by Chesley Bonestell (Mr. Bonestell does the backgrounds for the T-V series "Men Into

Space" on which this comic is based). The issue contains three stories based on the stories of the T-V "Men Into Space". They are: "Space Probe", "Moon Landing", and "The Dust and the Depths". The interior artist is an excellent one, with some of the finest details I've ever seen in a science-fiction cartoon. I've not see such wonderful work since Wood did work for the old E-C science-fiction comics. It is an outstanding s-f comic book, one that should please most science-fiction readers (and even some of those that do not like it as a TV series). 32 pages.

# SPACE WAR

Published bi-monthly by Charlton Comic Group, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. 10¢ per copy.

This is one of those lousy comic books that give science-fiction comics, and

the regular field, a very bad name. The stories are terrible, even as the worse space operas, and the cover and interior illustrations are the worse ever seen. We do not recommend this at all. 32 pages of pure junk.

# The Story Of AMAZING ADVENTURES

(Reprinted from the June 1953 Fantasy-Comics)

**A** MAZING ADVENTURES was among the early Ziff-Davis' experiments in the comic field. It was intended to be the "comic" partner to the old-timer of the science-fiction pulps, Amazing Stories. That it was not a booming success can not be blamed on Ziff-Davis or its editors. The magazine, in its field, was among the best. It was a flashy science-adventure comic that boasted excellent cover paintings, and better than average interior illustrations. The stories were well plotted for that type of magazine, while the numerous small features and picture articles were of great interest.

THE MAGAZINE NEVER had a steady publication date that lasted longer than a few issues. In fact only two issues came out on a set schedule.

THAT THERE MIGHT be future issues, there is a fair possibility.\* We sincerely hope that Ziff-Davis allows the magazine to continue in the very near future and this time give it a fair chance to become one of the popular science-fiction comic of the day.

WE WOULD LIKE to mention some of the interior artists of the first issue. There was Murphy Anderson, who did the feature story, "The Asteroid Witch" (which story rated the cover by none other than Amazing Stories' Jones); Ogden Whitney with "D-Day"; Wallace Wood with "Winged Death On Venus", Wood is now well-known to readers of E-C's Weird Science & Weird Fantasy and Planet Stories\*\*; and "Trespasser In Time" by none other than Alex Schomburg who needs no explaining.

YES, WE AGREE, you can do worse than to bind Amazing Adventures and place the volume among your better magazines, comics or books.

## D A T I N G      I N D E X

- #1 -- 1950  
#2 -- 1950  
#3 -- May-June, 1951  
#4 - July-August, 1951  
#5 -- October-November, 1951  
#6 -- Fall, 1952

\*Since this was written, Ziff-Davis has given up publishing comic magazines.

\*\*Now works for GALAXY MAGAZINE.

# SUPERWORLD COMICS

(Reprinted from the February 1953 Fantasy-Comics)

**H**UGO GERNSBACK, "the father of science-fiction", who's new s-f magazine, the field's first real slick, Science-Fiction Plus, is now on the newsstands\*, tried his hand at comics in 1940. The magazine Superworld Comics \*No longer being published.

lasted only three issues, but proved that Gernsback was, and is, the expert when it comes to things science-fictional.

THE COMIC WAS typical of a Gernsback science-fiction magazine. It featured science articles of a science-fictional nature and a science questionnaire. It also featured Frank R. Paul, "dean of the science-fiction illustrators" as

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cover artist and illustrator for two of the comics. Paul illustrated "Mitey Powers" and "Marvo 1-2 Go Plus", two outstanding science-fiction comics. It is a shame that the magazine could only last three issues. Had it continued, it would have been the leader of the field.

TODAY, COPIES OF this magazine are collector's items, sort after by every collector of science-fiction.

D A T I N G I N D E X

- Number 1, April 1940
- Number 2, May 1940
- Number 3, August 1940

THE INVISIBLE MAN

BY H. G. WELLS

Classics Illustrated, published bi-monthly by Gilberton Company, Inc.; 101 5th Avenue, New York 3, New York, 15¢ per copy, 48 pages.

Classics Illustrated has published many science/fantasy classics in the past (Many of which we'll review here in future issues), about the latest is H. G. Wells' masterpiece, "The Invisible Man". It is a well illustrated story that follows the book mighty close. The interior artist is N. Nodel. The cover is a painting and not a cartoon. It is well done by Biggs. One page bibio of

H. G. Wells and a drawing of him appears on page 46.

This is issue #153 of Classics Illustrated and is dated November 1959.

THE COMIC REPORTER

by The Editor

In my opinion science/fantasy comics are very important to our field. They are the only means we have to introduce science-fiction to the younger readers. Introduced by the comics as they grow older they'll be picking up the regular science-fiction magazines and start reading them. We haven't any introduction science-fiction magazines today that a newcomer can break-in on. Gone are Planet Stories, Thrilling Wonder and the like.

My 6-1/2 year old son is enjoying science-fiction thru Superman and the other National D-C comics that feature this character. Later he'll go on to D-C's Strange Adventures and Mystery In Space, then on to the science/fantasy published in Classics Illustrated and the Dell Comics. After that he'll be able to read and enjoy the regular magazines of science-fiction, the s-f pocket-books and hard-covered books. It should not be long after that if he's still interested in science-fiction, he can start giving me a hand with Science-Fiction Times. In time, if his interest is still with science-fiction, he can take his place in fandom and give his "old-man" a chance to semi-retire (That is give the orders and get away from the actual hard work). That should take 8 to 10 years. But then he might find other hobbies to his liking and I'll have to continue as is.

To get back to comics, in my opinion it is part of the science-fiction field much too much overlooked. Naturally there is a lot of junk in the field, but like in everything else this must be overlooked and the better ones enjoyed. I hope to from now on, point out the better science/fantasy in comic magazines to you.

I'll be very interested in hearing your viewpoints on science/fantasy comic magazines.