

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Vol. 19 - No. 6

December 1960

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RENEW

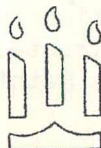
If your name on the current roster (issued last issue) is followed by "60", then your dues expire with this issue of TNFF, (unless you have renewed since then -- I do not have a complete list of all renewals to date.) New Members who joined during the past two months are probably also paid up for 1961. All others -- rush your renewal today to: Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tenn. One year for \$1.60, two years for \$3.00. Husband and wife teams may be listed for one membership fee, with only one copy of the official zines and one vote. If each wants their own vote, they must pay as two members.

Editor; Ralph M. Holland

Associate Editor: Dora G. Holland.

All material for the Feb. 1961 issue must be in the editor's hands by Jan. 10.

The editors wish all the members of the NFFF all the compliments of the season, and hope that the coming year will be the most enjoyable and most prosperous one they have ever had.



Included with this issue is a speech made by Hugo Gernsback before the M-I-T S-F Society. It expresses so well what I have long felt, but have never been able to adequately express, that all I can add is a fervent "Amen".

Many of our members are either Fantasy Fans, or read both S-F and F-F merely for amusement, or as an escape. Which is, of course, their right. The NFFF attempts to provide a home for both types, and has no activity requirement (except for officers).

I can enjoy a good fantasy yarn, but my real interest leans more toward science fiction -- which is perhaps natural, since about 40 of my years have been spent as an engineer. I have also always felt a particular attraction to Mr. Gernsback's type of S-F -- which again may be natural, since my introduction to the subject was via his old Electrical Experimenter (and later Science and Invention). Shortly after the first Amazings I left such childish things behind me forever -- but found that scien-tifictionitis is an incurable disease -- and so here I still am.

The need which Mr. Gernsback cites is real and it is urgent. Yesterday's science is inadequate to solve tomorrow's problems -- as no one should realize better than an engineer who has to work with it. I might also mention to the technical students in our membership that every Junior Engineer I ever met who was worth the time and trouble of training also happened to be a present or "former" S-F fan. I think this more than a mere coincidence.

If any of our student members are interested in starting a S-F club in their school or college, we will give them every possible aid. Additional copies of the Gernsback speech can be supplied for this purpose. We would be very happy if members of such local clubs would also join the NFFF, but this is not a condition of the aid,

At this writing, I do not have the final results of the election, but the Teller has notified me that I have been reelected President, so I will proceed to organize the club for 1961.

Up until now I have been following the departmentized plan set up by President Bill Venable and Don Susan. This was to name each Director head of a "department" covering some category of club activity, and then letting him name the necessary committee heads. The President had to make the official appointments, since he is responsible for conducting the affairs of the club, but they were pretty much "rubber stamp" OK's

The plan has not worked out too well. Often something would happen to cause a Director to become inactive, and a whole group of committees and bureaus would slow down or stop. Then too, many otherwise well qualified members would refuse to run for Director because they did not have the time for the additional administrative duties. This system is, therefore, being abandoned this year. Committees will be named directly by the President once more, and if it later seems wise to group them into departments, it can be done then. Appointees may or may not be Directors, all depending on conditions.

The partial list of 1961 officers is:

Secretary-Treasurer -- Janie Lamb is hereby reappointed to this post for 1961.

Election Teller -- Stuart Hoffman will continue in this office.

Historian -- K. Martin Carlson will continue to serve here.

Manuscript Bureau -- The outstanding manner in which Ed Ludwig has handled this job naturally dictates his reappointment -- with a Presidential Citation, or something.

Welcommittee -- and Art Hayes are almost synonymous. He has expressed hopes that he can pass the job along to someone else, but until that person is found he is being again named. Clayton Hamlin's Follow-Up Bureau is being merged with the W-C under the name of Information File. It is not known at the moment whether or not Clay's duties as President of the I.S.F.C.C. will prevent him from handling the File. If so, Art is empowered to name a replacement.

Neffan News Service was organized by Stan Woolston as at least a semi-personal project, so will remain under his direction in 1961.

Round Robins -- will continue to be directed by Seth Johnson, His Fanzine Clearing is NFFF recommended and endorsed, but is Seth's personal project, so he will continue to head it, naturally.

Senior Hostess for the Seacon (1961 World S-F Convention) -- G. M. Carr was named to this post at the Pittcon, but to avoid any questions, she is hereby reappointed for the year 1961. She is also ex-officio chairman of the NFFF Convention Planning Committee. Esther Richardson has accepted an appointment as Hostess and committee member, and will assist "G E M" in this job. Additional committee members will be named as she feels that they are needed.

Public Relations Officer -- Albert J. Lewis (California) will head this office in 1961. Publicity Director, who will work under the P.R.O., will be named later.

Replies have not yet been received from members contacted regarding other offices, so will have to be announced later. We hope to quickly reactivate Recruiting Bureau, with Supplies Department perhaps following later. Publications Department will all depend on the financial position of the club. There are several items which members would like to have published, but it is up to the new Directorate to give the "go ahead" by appropriating the necessary funds -- if they can find any to appropriate. The prospects do not look too bright at the moment. Funds have already been set aside for Tucker's Neo Fans' Guide, so that will be available as soon as Tucker gets it published. We have no late word on the publication date.

Seacon -- Our convention arrangements committee cannot do much until the plans of the Seacon Committee have progressed further -- and, even more important, until the new Directorate has decided how much money can be allotted for this purpose. The NFFF meeting at the Pittcon voted unanimously that we should have a Coffee Room at future conventions "within the limit of our financial ability", so the Directorate is obligated to give this first priority after the fixed expenses, but the important question our Hostess needs to know is "how much?"

The 1960 Directorate voted \$112 for Pittcon expenses (an initial \$100, plus \$12 for the Art Show trophy, and individual Neffers probably contributed almost as much. Many of these were straight contributions, and the donors do not want reimbursement. However, we hope, either in this issue or the next, to list all the Pittcon participation expenses, regardless of by whom paid, so that members and officers will know the total cost of such, and be better able to plan in the future.

We started 1960 with a surplus in our treasury. Several issues of the letterzine had been missed, so the money allotted to them was still on hand. We also had a "windfall" of \$73 in the form of NFFF funds which we finally managed to recover from a former Treasurer after a lapse of several years. This year we are starting out with zero surplus, all 1960 funds having been either spent or appropriated for items which will come due early this year. We are now down to our current income from dues, which will probably curtail our Seacon activities a bit, and require economies in our current running expenses.

The largest single item of Pittcon expense was room rental. Up to the moment, this is the personal contribution of Alma Hill, altho I am personally opposed to any one person shouldering such a load, and it should be a club expense in the future. There now seems to be a chance that the Seacon committee may be able to provide a free room for us, altho this is not definite yet, and depends on how successful they are in their negotiations with the hotels.

The blue TNFF's (The Pittcon Souvenir Issue) were probably the next largest cost, altho these were personally contributed by myself, and no such publication is planned for the Seacon. Only five persons took the trouble to even acknowledge the receipt of them, out of 225 distributed, so the demand for such seems almost nil. Better I should spend my \$40 for 8mm movie film next year!

Our present income of 12¢ per member per month is not paying the way at present, and the new Directorate will probably have to decide whether to cut the size of the official publications, go back to a subscription letterzine rather than a free one, or recommend that the members vote a dues increase.

The Seacon committee has accepted our offer (also voted at Pittcon) to man -- or help man -- the Registration-Information booth. Members willing to work at this please register your name with our Senior Hostess, G. M. Carr.

Rafel

Since the completion of the major event of the fannish season -- the World Convention -- the Directorate, as a whole, has been busy trying to tie up loose ends, pay bills and, without infringing on the jurisdiction of the Directorate you elect for 1961, trying to get everything in as ship shape as possible.

Correspondence has been heavy, dealing with many items, some of which you are no doubt aware of now. The election and referendum ballot took a fair amount of correspondence time.

There have been some comments from members about the fat treasury the N3F has. The Directorate is the agency in the N3F responsible for allocating funds to the various obligations of the club. The last treasury report showed a balance, as of September 1st, 1960, of \$ 256.50

Our liabilities as of the same date are:

Dues collected for 1961 and on (*)	\$ 112.00
Tucker Neo-Fan Guide allocation	50.00
Oct. & Dec. TNFF @ \$18.00 each	36.00
November Tightbeam (#)	11.50
N3F Art Show Trophy	12.00
Prizes for fiction writing contest	20.00
Extra expense of Election TNFF (@)	15.00

\$ 256.50 00000

(*) This represents dues prepaid for 1961 and on, which cannot be properly used until those years.

(#) Only \$6 of this amount has been claimed to date, since there is a possibility that other expenses might come up later.

(@) The Directorate voted early this year to limit the official publications to \$18.00 per issue, provided they were mailed on or before the 10th of the month in which they came due. However, the Election issue, with all the platforms and reports, exceeded this amount beyond what it was felt fair to ask the editor to assume, so the extra amount was added. This still does not cover the entire cost.

Tucker's Neo Fan Guide should be issued shortly, but we can't give you a definite date as yet. However, you should have it as a 1960 benefit.

The Fiction Writing Contest has been approved, and the prize money OK'd. You will be hearing the rules and regulations from Ed Ludwig soon, so sharpen up your typer and your wits, and get ready to send in a contribution of fiction when Ed announces the official start of the contest.

Our thanks to the LASFS for helping us get such a beautiful Art Show trophy at a reasonable cost.

The Directorate has been considering the following amendment to the Constitution, which was sent in by a member, and which may involve a vote by you. --

Add to Art. V, Section 1:

"Petitions looking toward the revision, reversion, or setting aside any action of the President or Directorate shall be submitted within (1)(2) calender year(s) following that action, or such petition is invalid and without force."

Removed from Sec. 1, to a separate section by itself:

"The power to alter or amend the Constitution is invested solely in the membership."

((Editor's note: A later report advises that the above was approved for submission to the members by a vote of 4 For, 1 not voting. However, the four were tied 2 and 2 as to the length of time, so this will have to be settled before you can ballot on it. The next issue will contain a ballot.))

In my last Directorate message for 1960 -- maybe my last, period -- I wish to thank all those who have helped me during the year. While I have not found my duties easy, still I can look back with pleasure on this year, and hope to see N3F go on to a better time than even 1960.

* * * * *

Welcommittee - A committee that continues functioning more or less as planned, with no changes having taken place, cannot report much except that the job that is to be done is being done.

The committee has 23 members. It has had more members, and it has had less. The current members are: Don Anderson, Lloyd Broyles, Jack Chalker, Ann Chamberlain, Wayne Cheek, Douglas Clark, Mike Deckinger, Gordon Ekland, Bob Farnum, Judy Glad, Clayton Hamlin, Ken Hedberg, Phil Harrell, Marijane Johnson, Seth Johnson, Lenny Kaye, Richard Keyes, Bob Lambeck, Bill Mallardi, Norman Metcalf, Mary Quinn, Esther Richardson.

There has been an ominous quiet from the committee Round Robins, but this, I hope, is only a temporary difficulty. The committee publication, the Bullzine, will be out by the time you read this, with its 31st issue.

* * * * *

Follow-Up Committee - This has been only a partial success. The FILE part of it depends on YOU asking for the information to make it a success. It also depends on you providing the information that is given out. Several have given, and several have asked for information. These have been taken care of.

Changes in the make-up of the group are being considered, but has not reached a definite enough stage to be able to comprise a part of this report. We expect these changes to take place next year.

* * * * *

Manuscript Bureau -- It is with pleasure that I keep hearing of members who have had successful dealings with the Bureau. It is operating at a higher level of efficiency than it has for several years. We feel that our decision to give Ed Ludwig a free hand has paid off in a bureau that is becoming well known for its success.

Back to generalities -- I think we owe a vote of thanks to those Directors who did not run for reelection, for duties assumed and taken care of in 1960 and previous.

Plans are tentatively being made for the 1961 Seacon Neffer participation. Much of this will have to be decided by the 1961 administration, so we cannot make any report on this item -- except that participation in the Seacon will depend largely on how soon YOU, the members, renew your membership. We can't participate to any degree without funds. The \$112 we have on hand for 1961 is not sufficient to cover our basis expenses, so you can see that your renewal is important.

MANUSCRIPT BUREAU - Ed Ludwig, Chairman.

The Manuscript Bureau was relatively inactive this report-period. If there is anything to be a report at all, it must be one of an event in your Chairman's life.

On Saturday, October 22, 1960, at 3:10 AM, my mother, Ethel Harris Ludwig, who had been a victim of many of the ills that flesh is heir to, passed away. I am grateful that, although her general health had faltered for several years, her last illness was comparatively short.

Except for my four Coast Guard years, I had lived with my mother for all my life, and for the last fourteen years there were only we two, together. Although not a true science-fictionist, it was she, more than any other person or thing, that inspired and cultivated my love of imaginative literature and of writing.

I lived my early years, the Depression Years, in a small California town. There was no distracting television. I had no obnoxious brothers or sisters, and automobiles had not yet been accepted as superior substitutes for legs. Outside our house

were quiet, tree-lined streets, and inside were my mother's quiet, sensitive imagination, searching mind, and sense of humor. It was inevitable that I should find the greatest adventures in the world of books.

It was my mother who introduced me to my first imaginative story -- a long out-of-print fantasy and her favorite tale: "Blunder and the Wishing Gate." Later, "The Wizard of Oz" and Carl Claudy's "A Thousand Years a Minute" appeared as shining Christmas presents, as did the portable typewriter on which I now write.

Still later, she was to give me the coins with which to buy a wonderful magazine called "Wonder Stories". After that purchase, we were to make a fabulous 20-mile journey each month to a larger town called Stockton to buy copies of three magazines -- "Wonder", "Amazing Stories", and "Astounding Stories".

During her failing years, when much of my time and thought was occupied with her illness, my science-fictional activities and, indeed, many of my personal activities were of necessity restrained. It was a source of considerable consolation, even during those months when the greatest terror imaginable was that of a telephone ring in the darkest hours of the night, that now, should I so choose, I might devote as much time to the pursuit of my varied activities as I wish. It was a meagre consolation for the loss of more love and gentleness than I shall ever know, but nevertheless a substantial one.

For her, I found faith in the words of the 23rd Psalm. For myself, strangely, I found great meaning in the last lines of a science fiction book I had recently read -- Chad Oliver's The Winds of Time:

"I'm only forty. That's not so old. There is still
time for me, time for children and happiness and life.
Only forty, only forty, there is still time for me

"They were all moving into the unknown.
No one of them had a home.
But they knew now that the winds of time are patient
and blow forever.
This was not the end.
This was the beginning. "

No reports were received from any of the other officers or committees this issue.

We have a letter from Bob Farnum, enclosing one he wrote to the Postmaster General about the proposed restriction of second-class mailings, which is likely to spell the doom of most, if not all, our S-F prozines. They are not being reproduced due to lack of space but, to put it in a nutshell, our dear P.M. General had one of his assistants give Bob the polite run-around -- which is standard ordinary procedure I fear. In other words, the Postal Authorities don't care much what we fans think or say. I might suggest that, along with your protest to the Postmaster General you drop a note to your Senator and Congressman letting them know how you feel on this subject. They probably won't promise much, if anything, either -- but they do want your votes next election day (if you are of voting age -- and so far as they know you are whether you actually are or not), and so if enough of you write them it will begin to sink in and they may add their weight to the protests. In case you have forgotten, the thing we are protesting is the proposed amendment to -- USPO Rule 39, CFR, Part 22.2 (7).

IMPORTANT NOTICE -- NFFF dues are by the calendar year. In the past we have been carrying delinquent members a few months, but our right to do this has been challenged, and so we will have to cut them off on Dec. 31, per the constitution. Rush your renewal dues to Janie today (unless you are paid up for 1961).

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

7

NEW MEMBERS

((The following list is taken from the Secretary's reports, plus a couple of new names which came in via the President's office, and may not be listed by the secretary yet. Some of them appeared on the last roster, but have not been published in TNFF before.))

Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.
Hugo Gernsback, 154 West 14th St., New York 11, N.Y.
Owen Hannifen, 16 Lafayette Place, Burlington, Vt.
Franklin Hiller, 99 Sellinger St., Rochester 5, N.Y.
Flora Jones, 210 Terry Ave., #483, Seattle 4, Wash.
Richard A. Koogle, 5916 Revere Place, Dallas 6, Texas.
Mike McInerney, 81 Ivy Drive, Meriden, Conn.
David Mills, 1006 Waverly, Baton Rouge, La.
Radell E. Nelson, 212 Columbia Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.
Bruce Robbins, 90 Stoneleigh Ct., Rochester 18, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Sanderson, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx 53, N.Y.
Irving Siegel, 2037 Farnham Rd., Toledo 7, Ohio
Jeff Wanshel, 6 Beverly Place, Larchmont, N.Y.
Charles Gordon Waugh, 3620 Lott St., Endwell, N.Y.

REINSTATEMENTS

Dirce S. Archer, 1453 Barnsdale St., Pittsburgh 17, Pa.
Thomas Cagle, 3403 Harrison St., El Paso, Texas.

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

Ann B. Chamberlain, 2440 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 6, Calif.
George R. Frerich, Jr., P.O. Box 270, Hollywood 28, Calif.
Emile Greenleaf, 1303 Mystery St., New Orleans 19, La.
Ron Haydock, 607 E. Washington, Santa Ana, Calif.
Alan J. Lewis, SA 338-873, GT B-5, USCG Training Sta., Groton, Conn.
Ray Nelson, 333 Ramona, El Cerrito, Calif.
Bruce Pelz, 2790 W. 8th St., Los Angeles 5, Calif.
Bjo & John Trimble, 2790 W. 8th St., Los Angeles 5, Calif.
Mary Quinn, 131½ S. Eastern, Oklahoma City, Okla.

RESIGNED - Please remove from your roster - D. Bruce Berry.

* * * * *

Editor's note: Janie's report was delayed due to a death in her family. The space below here was being saved for it, but word was received that she was running it off herself this time, so it will be added as a loose insert.

Financial report on previous issue of TNFF -- Vol. 19 - No. 5

Ran 225 TNFF's -- 250 rosters -- mailed out 195

8 reams of paper @ \$2.00	\$ 16.00	Stamps - 22 foreign @ 10¢	2.20
31 stencils @ \$ 4.15 per quire .	5.35	Stamps - 173 US @ 7½¢	12.98
2 lbs. ink @ \$2.75	5.50		
		Total	\$ 42.03

Mailing envelopes donated by publisher. Extra postage required by blue TNFF's donated by publisher.

N E E F F T R A D E R

Send in your Sale, Trade or Wants direct to K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Thrid Ave., So. Moorhead, Minn. No charge. Get it in early.

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I have a few copies of my books for sale. Some of these are VERY scarce. All of them will soon be sold. Order now!

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 The Sign of the Burning Hart
 - NFFF- .sponsored. . . . 4.00

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N.F.F.F. HISTORY

by Eva Firestone.
Stenciled by Kaymar.

9

(Historian)

TNFF Vol. 4, #7, July 1945..Page 1 - List of head officers, Table of contents, Pres. Message.. that is - the Acting Pres- Tucker.. He starts it thisaway " Short and sweet, and not too sweet, That's Everett's specialty." Is just a note of 3 paragraphs.. Page 2, article- THE GENTLEMAN HAS THE FLOOR by Joe Fortier.. Constructive suggestions ideas etc with reference to N3F..Very good- amusing in some statement One of them "Damn both the federated concept and campaign for members to influence hackneyed pulp publications; full speed ahead with a society to offer some tangible services to a guy who likes to mess around with this mighty interesting hobby." Then this:- "Every one seems to be groping around for an all-inclusive purpose to the NFFF, one that will reveal some almost mystical far sighted goal.".. and he wishes they could find a name for the club "preferably something snappier and more compact." (bet John enjoys what he is reading right now)EF). Continues on page 3- then comes FANZINE SERVICE DEPARTMENT.. Fanzines pub issued during May and June '45. Page 4- UNIFEN- Scientifictionist in the Amer. Armed Forces..Page 5- Sec'y/Treas Report..Income..\$167.42
Total expenses.. 108.82
Balance.....58.60

At end starts the Roster which is continued pages 6,7,8. Lists 148 members. Then 1/2 page Message about membership status written by Dunkelberger. Page 9- top- gives changes in addresses. Rest of page has WELCOM REPORT by Tucker and a map by Speer- locating homes of "PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS of The National Fantasy Fan Federation. Showing dispersal to minimize bombing losses." heh heh.. is a map USA.

TNFF Vol. 4, #8, Aug 1945..Page 1- List head officers; Table Contents; Acting Pres. Message- gives tally on "Recent balloting on the proposed new Constitution".. Accepted by a margin of two votes over the required 2/3 majority, with exception of the following sections- Art. I -rejected- 51 to 51; Art. III-c- rejected 36 to 66; Art. VIII -A-2 rejected 36 to 66. Tellers were Myrtle A. Douglas, Gerald Rewett, James L. Kepner, Jr. Page 2- V-Pres Message continued..Page 3- continued- contains letter from Evans resigning..as pres..says that N3F now "is a going and growing concern.. needs a different type of handling.. that work I am not capable of doing as well as quite a number of other members..am therefore clearing the way for the appointment and future election of a much more capable man who can handle this second period of the organization's activities." and pledges HIS fullest co-operation with successors.. says will retain all his interest in the work of N3F and "hopes and expects to continue actively in its work.."

Before this letter by Evans.. Tucker says at top of page-"It would be a healthy sign if a large number of candidates filed for office. With 140 odd members on the roster, at least 139 of them should run for some office." (the page before- he talked about the forthcoming election - platforms to be in Oct. ish).. and continued" And please note: B.Tucker,V-Pres and at present the acting President, is NOT running for election to any office. After all, I've held this one office for a number of years and it's time I vacated. There are plenty of other members who could do the job."

((Eva Firestone typed 21 more pages, so we continue next TNFF))
Neffly KAYMAR

Hugo Gernsback was at M.I.T. October 21st. He gave an interesting talk -- reminisced about his friendship with Nicola Tesla, and gave a recipe for Duck Tesla which he said was for the benefit of the ladies in the audience, but really it is frustrating because of omissions. See for yourself. Tesla got his ducks from a special Long Island duck raiser, so they had a special flavor, and his celery the same way from another source. All right, let's say the modern supermarket does even better. So, he lines a casserole with celery, puts in the duck, which has been seasoned with salt, herbs, and spices -- get that for vagueness -- then the duck is covered with more celery. After this is done, Gernsback said, the casserole is sealed up tight, put on to bake at 2:30 and served for dinner at 8:00. It must take a super-slow oven, which I approve, and suggest 275 F. Or possibly, since he had a French chef and old fashioned ranges, possibly the casserole was sealed with dough and not baked at all but simmered on the back of the stove. Or first baked and then finished with a simmer. Anyway, if anybody wants to try Duck Tesla you have to use your own judgement with the seasonings and be very cautious what you use for herbs, because cooked celery can be devilish in some combinations -- come out tasting like gasoline. Gernsback certifies that it tasted delicious and that Tesla, with all his other talents, was also a remarkable cook. I would suggest, at a hazard, that the seasoning might be reconstructed if you rub the duck with a mixture of butter, salt, freshly ground black pepper, finely cut garlic and dried chervil and chopped parsley. These shouldn't argue with the celery, but beware oh beware thyme, sage or oregano. And you serve it with forks and spoons -- don't attempt to use a knife to carve this duck, says Gernsback, and I should think not, after five and one half hours cooking!

The MIT kids got Gernsback into an argument as to what is really Science Fiction -- or rather, they tried to. Of course, this got nowhere. Fans are never going to accept any absolute definitions of anything -- it's just in the nature of the fan viewpoint. I feel that Grandsire Hugo is correct anyhow. Science Fiction does not experiment around with social-science viewpoints at all. Asimov, for example, does not write social-science-fiction no matter what he says he does; even his own sayso would not make this true and I believe he hesitates to say so. It is hard to believe Isaac hesitating to say anything, but we have seen this. In fact, real science fiction has a touchstone-viewpoint, or philosophy, which is so innate that it is unconscious but invariant. In this viewpoint, mankind is the hero and ignorance of the physical universe is the real foe. The Bad Guys may or may not be humans, or even alive; they are either natural forces or are allied with the unknown one way or another. No matter how beset, the hero keeps his head and wins out by brute force and intelligence. There are some stories so full of gadgetry that they are no fun to read -- unless you think gadgetry is fun. Some stories get away from this viewpoint in part or entirely, and the borderline is sometimes hard to find, but the general picture is recognizable, otherwise why have such a label at all? "Interaction of men and machine" would be one of the ways you could phrase it. Sure, this gives rise to social problems; indeed to many of the most crucial problems of our own times. None the less, the fundamental philosophy, or viewpoint, is not experimental at all -- it is the fixed fulcrum that gives us leverage to toss all other ideas around so lightly. And I do feel that the unproven hypothesis ought to be taken lightly -- don't you?

People with no sense of humor can't be expected to dig science fiction, since it means taking ideas lightly and seriously, both at the same time. This, in turn, gets the trufan to feeling mighty cranky, lone, and defensive, and taking oneself too seriously. This gets you no further than arguing verbalizations. What I go for is fact-fiction these days, and Interplanetary is taking up so much of my time that I'm going to have to postmail IES Bulletins to N'APA members to take care of my membership in that. My fanzine ZZZ, just has to wait up a while. The whole field of S-F ought to be grabbing for skyhooks to catch up with reality, and then go ahead again where it belongs. The Gernsback

viewpoint may have produced some dry writing and may never circulate to the millions, but if that's a condition you insist on, go get Readers' Digest. Luckily for me, Belle is broadminded and willing to take a science fanzine in an apa for a while. It is actually pretty close to the genre, though, and even, I feel, useful to it, if the amateur scientists can get together among us. What ever did make science fiction special except the scientific playing-with-ideas in it? You can do this in fiction or you can do it in reports-and-discussions of new ideas, either way. Both approaches require imagination and a sense of humor -- anyway, a realization of what's serious and what's to be taken lightly.

Wernher von Braun was here the week before, and what a difference. Instead of a captious few in the Little Theatre downstairs, there was an overflow audience in the main auditorium, which must hold a couple of thousand. Von Braun is known to be a person who took a new idea at least once; but otherwise he is a narrow specialist, successful, famous, a living man and a legend; but nothing to compare with Gernsback in creativeness or influence on our times. He said nothing which would have been new to S-F readers, is a very dry speaker and yet had so friendly an audience that the slightest attempt at felicity of phrase drew a ripple of laughter. At one point, where he mentioned transportation methods for bringing together the separately-manufactured sections of the C-1 rocket, he remarked that the first stage is too enormous for transportation by air, and they have had to use a subsonic form of transportation: river barges. This pleasantry not only occasioned laughter but -- believe it or not -- applause. So well are some aspects of science understood, and so well is a pioneer appreciated -- after he gets somewhere. Those of us who like journeying for the sake of the journey should just know where we are and let the applause go where it wants to, yes? It does make me feel a bit unwashed and hairy, but only in the context, and does no harm if so understood.

New Market for S-F: Actually, S-F writers can sell in most of the slicks today if they can meet the slick requirements in the way of tabus. I hate to see them try, though, because if there was one thing that made the old stuff great it was the utter freedom the authors had in plot material. However, here's the item:

Bluebook For Men. Editor Maxwell Hamilton, 152 West 42nd St., New York -- wants lengths from short-short up to 20,000 words -- adventure-type, including science fiction of the "it-might-have-happened" type. They will also use other types of stories, just so they're hairy and muscular enough. Playboy stuff, sexy S-F, and social-science fiction would probably get a fast rejection, since they want action-adventure type of entertainment. Here's wishing them luck, judgment, and room on the stands for their new venture.

Writers trying to sell the slicks have one incentive -- money. Payment is at least five times the average paid by, for example, Ziff-Davis -- sometimes ten times as much or more. Another thing is that the mainstream magazines which run an occasional S-F story are getting to be so widespread that the author is less restricted. Authors just wouldn't offer a Z-D yarn to J.W.C., or a Galaxy type to F&SF. Stf magazines have personal-editorial slants you can see a mile off. They are as exacting as the slicks. It is true that slicks are so dominated by their advertisers that they are restrictive also, but still they give more variety of outlets and chances. If the S-F writer or agent will take the trouble to canvass all possible markets, there is probably no story that could not sell somewhere today. In fact, that is where all our favorite authors have been disappearing to. Believe it or not, Isaac Asimov has an article on reducing in Mademoiselle, and on the blurb page a photograph of the author, retouched to look slender. In the mainstream today, anything can happen.

Stf cartoonists might be interested in a new market: Scoff, 7644 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago 34, Ill. Offering \$20 to \$100 for cartoons and illustrations. They may turn out a bunch of crums, though; magazines which offer "humor and satire" make me nervous about where they are going to draw the line -- some of them just don't, seems zif.

--- Alma Hill.

There seems to be a fairly widespread idea, both inside the NFFF and outside, that the NFFF and the amateur journalism clubs are bitter and irreconcilable enemies. As Mark Twain once said of reports of his death, this is greatly exaggerated. Before getting into the main portion of that question, however, it might be well to define what "fan" and "fandom" means in the NFFF, since some claim that our definition is different than that used by many other fans.

In the strict and narrow sense, of course, a "fan" is a follower of any sport, hobby, or diversion; and a "fandom" is the total of all the various activities which are in any way connected with, or grow out of, that particular thing which the "fans" are following. In NFFF nomenclature the terms are used in a sense which restricts them to things concerned with scientifiction and fantasy-fiction.

While some members of the club may have their own private standards, it is made quite clear by official documents and letters and articles by NFFF spokesmen that the official position ever since the club began has been that there are many branches, or facets, of our S-F and F-F, and that any person who is engaged in any one or more of these branches is a bona-fide fan. Few fans have the time to get into all phases -- at least not all at once. Some may find one particular activity which they like so well that they never get beyond it. But they must still be recognized as fellow members of our fraternity. I think that the majority of fans outside the NFFF would also subscribe to these principles.

It is true that there are some a-jay members who have very provincial and immature minds (and mental maturity does not necessarily have any connection with chronological age). A few of them seem to have constipation of the brain and diarrhea of the typewriter, and make themselves obnoxious to anyone within range of their mailing list. These are usually comparative newcomers who have learned that publishing is a lot of fun (which it admittedly is) but haven't yet advanced beyond the gosh-oh-boy-oh-boy wonder-of-it-all -- there is no trufandom but publishing and SAPA, or FAPA, or CULT -- or whatever club they happened to get into first -- is its prophet! They try to show their mental superiority by writing long and caustic (and usually very inaccurate) criticisms of anything and everything in sight, and studiously avoid any shred of constructive comment. If the name of the NFFF should come up, it is standard ordinary procedure with this type to prove their sagacity by immediately assuming such an intense attitude of loathing and disgust that it is almost impossible of coherent expression, and they must revert to "paugh", "ug", "phui" and other elementary sound symbols of their infancy or early childhood.

It is likewise true that there are some Neffers who are occasionally just as narrow minded about the particular limited phase of fandom which interests them, and are just as venomously intolerant of any fan who happens to find some other phase of the hobby of more interest. All that I have said about that particular type of A-jayer can be applied equally as well to that certain variety of Neffer.

One or two screaming bigots are more noticeable than 50 or 100 fans who are just going quietly along trying to enjoy themselves and get along with everyone. And so there has grown up in the minds of many fans the notion that these loud-mouthed boors are characteristic of the a-jay clubs, or the NFFF, as the case may be. The truth is that this type is very much in the minority in both cases -- probably not more than one or two percent. I am acquainted with many fans whose interests run chiefly or exclusively to publishing, and about 99% of them are people whom I enjoy knowing. Most of them will admit (in private at least) that there is a legitimate place for all the other phases of fandom for which NFFF attempts to provide a home. They recognize these as important parts of fandom -- but they just happen to like publishing better.

On the other side of the picture, it would be ridiculous for NFFF to be "against"

publishing, or the clubs which specialize in sponsoring it. FAPA was among the groups which organized NFFF, and Neffers have been active in the a-jay groups ever since. We have many members, who like the publishers cited above, find some phase of fandom of more interest to them than publishing, but I find that most of them will agree that publishing is an important part of fandom.

It must be remembered that most of the professional artists, writers and editors were introduced to fandom by the NFFF, and then gained their experience in the fanzines, many of which were in one of the a-jay clubs. If either the NFFF or the publishing groups fall down on the job, there will be little or no new talent to replace the pros of today. The neos of today are the professionals of tomorrow. If we fail to keep them coming along, then the literature which forms the only basis of our entire fandom will either disappear entirely, or fall to a new low, and all of our organizations will decline along with it. Fandom is an interdependent "world", and no segment can hope to go it alone.

This is why the NFFF has lately tried to take a larger part in the world cons once more, and constantly urges its members to attend -- and why we hope in the future, now that we have begun to regain some of our former strength and power, to participate more in the regional conferences -- or even sponsor them where none exist now. It is a good thing for the Neffers to meet the publishers and get an insight of their problems and aspirations, and it may be broadening for some of the publishers to become acquainted with the mainstream of general fandom, as exemplified by the NFFF. Both sides will benefit from seeing how the other half lives -- and from discovering that they are nice to know -- and practically human, in their own peculiar way.

WESTERN NEFFCON

Neffers in Western U.S. are planning a get-together at the Baycon (Westercon XIV) to be held in Oakland, Calif., July 1, 2, and 3, 1961. The program has not yet been set, but we can assure you that a good time will be had by all. Our own Honey Wood is chairman of the Baycon, and Fritz Leiber will be Guest of Honor.

-- first step is to join the Baycon, of course. This can be done for \$1.00 now, but will go up to \$1.50 in June, so hurry. Checks and money orders should be sent to:

Miriam Carr, 1818 Grove St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

((Regional con sponsors and committees -- send us the information on your con. We will be more than glad to list it in TNFF.))

CORRECTION

Thanks to Coral Smith for calling attention to a typo in the Pittcon Issue of TNFF regarding the date of Earle Bergey's death in the cover art article by Chris. This should have been 1952 instead of 1932. It was correct in the original article, but was miscopied in cutting stencils for the special edition.

We also note that in a couple of places Hugo Gernsback's name is mis-spelled with an "e" instead of an "a" -- for which also apologies to all. Stencils are usually inspected particularly close for possible errors in names or dates, but this issue was put out in such a hurry that the proof-reading was a bit sloppy.

Our sincere sympathy to three members who have been saddened by deaths in their immediate families -- Dirce Archer and Ed Ludwig both lost their mothers, and Janie Lamb lost a brother. There doesn't seem to be much of anything that can be said in such cases to help ease the sorrow, but I am certain that the sympathy of the entire club goes to these members.

ELECTION RESULTS -- Stuart Hoffman, Official Teller

P R E S I D E N T :

Ralph M. Holland 106
Douglas O. Clark 8

D I R E C T O R :

J. Arthur Hayes 92
Marijane Johnson 77
Alma Hill 64
Guy E. Terwilleger, Jr. 62
Clayton Hamlin, Jr. 56

Albert J. Lewis 44
Emile E. Greenleaf, Jr. 43
Bruce E. Pelz 32
Bob Lichtman 29
Robert N. Lambeck 24
Alan J. Lewis 21
James D. Chambers 9

R E F E R E N D U M (on the reinstatement of Paul Harold Rehorst)

Yes (for reinstatement) 12
No (against reinstatement) 78

The count was stopped after the arrival of the afternoon mail on Nov. 17, 1960

((President's note: The Directorate selects its own Chairman. In accordance with past custom, Art Hayes is hereby named Acting Chairman for the purpose of conducting the vote and organizing the Directorate.))

T I G H T B E A M -- This is now the official name for our letterzine, the Directorate having approved it by a vote of four votes For, one not voting.

Editor for the next issue is Bruce Henstell, 813 Tigertail Road, Los Angeles 49, Calif. Mailing date is Jan. 1st, 1961, so you don't have much time to get your letter in. Don't miss out, write it today.

R U B B E R S T A M P S -- Ann Chamberlain, 2440 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 6, Calif., is our rubber stamp expert, and can supply anything you might want along that line. NFFF and ISFCC membership stamps, return address stamps -- in fact, you name it and she'll make it. Her special for fans is any three lines for \$2.08 Write her for details.

P H O T O S T A M P S -- Prove to your friends that you're almost human! Use photo stamps on your correspondence. Marijane Johnson, 1011 East Hoffman Ave., Spokane 22, Washington, can supply these from any snap-shot or negative -- which is returned unharmed. They come in two sizes -- the small ones about the size of an ordinary postage stamp, and the larger ones about twice that size. Gummed and perforated ready for use. Last price I had was \$1.50 per sheet, but that was some time ago, so check Janie for exact details.

S E A C O N -- Seattle, Washington -- Labor Day week-end. NFFF will be there -- will you ?? Send your \$2 (or \$3 if you want to pay it all and get it over with) to Seacon, P.O. Box 1365, Broadway Branch, Seattle 2, Washington.

SCIENCE FICTION VS REALITY

Address by

Hugo Gernsback

Publisher

RADIO-ELECTRONICS

Before

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

October 21, 1960

As one who has been continuously immersed in science fiction, for almost 50 years, I believe it would be apropos to look at a number of facets of the art of science fiction and explain a few points which have puzzled many of its followers.

First and foremost, just what is science fiction? Second, what is it trying to accomplish? Third, why is it of such vital importance today? Fourth, what is its future? I hope to throw some light on these questions in my talk today.

There is a vast amount of confusion nowadays regarding the interpretation of science fiction as a vehicle of communication of ideas.

The average man unfortunately does not differentiate between science fiction on the one hand and fantasy, fairy tales or adventure on the other. Indeed, many authors believe that they are writing science fiction, when actually they are fabricating Alice in Wonderland tales. There is nothing wrong with fantasy or adventure literature -- indeed there have been countless excellent stories in that field, but they can never be science fiction. Thus if you take an otherwise excellent Western and transfer its locale to an imaginary planet that orbits Alpha Centauri, that does not necessarily make it a science fiction story.

When I brought out the pioneer science fiction magazine AMAZING STORIES in April 1926, I said editorially:

"At first thought it does seem impossible that there could be room for another fiction magazine in this country. The reader may well wonder, 'Aren't there enough already, with several hundreds now being published?' True. But this is not 'another fiction magazine'. AMAZING STORIES is a new kind of fiction magazine! It is entirely new -- entirely different -- something that has never been done before in this country

"There is the usual fiction magazine, the love story and the sex-appeal type of magazine, the adventure type, and so on, but a magazine of 'Scientifiction' is a pioneer in its field in America.

"By 'scientifiction' I mean the Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and Edgar Allen Poe type of story -- a charming romance intermingled with scientific fact and prophetic vision

"And not only that! Poe, Verne, Wells, Bellamy, and many others have proved themselves real prophets. Prophecies made in many of their most amazing stories are being realized -- and have been realized. Take the fantastic submarine of Jules Verne's most famous story, 'Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea.' for instance. He predicted the present-day submarine down to the last bolt! New inventions pictured for us in the scientifiction of today are not at all impossible of realization tomorrow. Many great science stories destined to be of historical interest are still to be written Posterity will point to them as having blazed a new trail, not only in literature and fiction, but in progress as well."

I made these remarks 34 years ago. It will be noted that I used the word "Scientifiction" then -- I did not originate the term "Science Fiction" till 1929 in my magazine SCIENCE WONDER STORIES, when I observed on page 3 of the June 1929 issue:

"I started the movement of science fiction in 1908 through my first magazine MODERN ELECTRICS. At that time it was an experiment. Science fiction authors were scarce. There were not a dozen worth mentioning in the entire world."

What I said in 1929 is just as true today in respect to true science fiction authors. Note that I emphasize the word science. There are still not more than a dozen real science fiction authors in the world even today.

II.

Classic science fiction writers of the calibre of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells will always be exceedingly scarce. Who are the outstanding authors who really write the best imaginary science fiction stories today? The following is perhaps as good a list as any, keeping in mind the accent on science:

Dr. Arthur C. Clarke
Dr. Isaac Azimov
Robert A. Heinlein
A. E. van Vogt
Clifford D. Simak
Theodore Sturgeon
Hal Clement

The work of these highly imaginative authors will certainly exemplify the early slogans which I used to adorn the mastheads of AMAZING STORIES in 1926 and SCIENCE WONDER STORIES in 1929: Extravagant Fiction Today -- Cold Fact Tomorrow, also Prophetic Fiction is the Mother of Scientific Fact. Through the years in my pre-occupation with popularizing science fiction, I added other slogans in variation of the theme: Science Fiction Today -- Fact Tomorrow; Science Fiction is the Blueprint of the Future.

You will observe that the invariable leitmotif of my interpretation of science fiction has remained the same to this day. It must mirror the present or the future in acceptable and plausible scientific terms.

To make certain that the science facts in our stories were always correct within the meaning of the latest scientific knowledge or approved theories, every story, before it was accepted, was submitted to a scientific authority in its related field who passed on the supposed facts and either approved or rejected them as unsound or unfeasible.

Beginning with the June 1929 issue of SCIENCE WONDER STORIES, I listed under the masthead of the magazine a total of 14 associate science editors in Astronomy, Botany, Electricity, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics and Radio, Physics, Zoology.

Among the distinguished scientists we had were: Prof. Donald H. Menzel, now Director of Harvard Observatory; Dr. Clyde Fisher, Curator, the American Museum of Natural History, New York; Prof. F. E. Austin, Dartmouth College; Prof. C. Irwin Palmer, Armour Institute of Technology; Dr. Lee de Forest, inventor of the vacuum tube, and others.

With such a formidable array of scientific talent, we were able to make certain that we published only the best and most worthwhile stories in science fiction, whether they were short, or book length novels. We scoured the world for authors -- not only Americans, but those from England, Germany, France and other countries. Perhaps we set our sights too high, in refusing to publish anything except stories based solely on science -- we never accepted pure fantasy stories as are the vogue today.

As I already pointed out pure science authors are very scarce. Sooner or later they run out of scientific ideas or plots, and if they are the rare scholars who also excel in good literature to boot, they often find it easier and more profitable to write non-scientific stories or novels.

And let us make no mistake, the average science fiction author does not write masterpieces in English. Often the quality of the genre's literature is mediocre. There are very, very few H. G. Wells's or Edgar Allen Poe's. Their quality is much more apt to fall into the Jules Verne category.

Yet we should not lose sight of the important truth that the outstanding science fiction author need not be overconcerned with belles lettres. His wholly unliterary story, such as Jules Verne's imaginary submarine in "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea", may set scientists and technicians aflame for years, inspiring them to translate into reality that which the science fiction author's imagination blueprinted in great detail and perfection.

Curiously too, few good professional scientists are also good science fiction authors. They are, as a rule, dedicated to their particular field, which seldom allows them to venture into uncharted depths. They must always think of their reputations first, hence they are loath to make what to them might appear as sensational predictions. The science fiction author has no such compunctions. As long as he is on safe ground as to his science, he can let his imagination soar illimitably.

Why am I so concerned in all this harangue on the science emphasis of science fiction? I think I have an excellent reason.

From the beginning I have always strongly felt that science fiction was one of the world's greatest vehicles for the propagation of coming scientific trends, as well as an actual trial ground of man's future technical progress.

One has only to leaf through my former magazines, beginning with MODERN ELECTRICS in 1911, to fully understand this. The coming space age was fully exploited in hundreds of stories and pictures; space craft of every description, rockets, space men, satellites, space stations -- all in great profusion, month after month, year after year. Ridiculed by most -- even scientists -- science fiction never wavered in its mission to instruct the comparatively small band of believers.

Then when on Oct. 4, 1957 the actual space age burst upon a thunderstruck world with Sputnik I in orbit, Americans were dismayed and everyone was astonished, except the million science fiction fans. To them of course it was ancient hat, and how wrathful they became against our government and our scientists for the poor judgment and unprogressiveness that caused us to miss the space boat and fall into second place as a technologically leading nation.

Today our country is in mortal danger. Since Sputnik I and even before that, we are no longer first in many scientific-technical endeavors. We have sat too long on our laurels. Sooner or later we are certain to be eclipsed IN IDEAS by the U.S.S.R. unless we change our ways in outgenerating the Russians in the bold SCIENTIFIC IDEAS that have been our heritage for generations.

Make no mistake, the Soviet Union has already more science workers than the U.S. and their ability should never be underestimated. They overlook nothing.

Very recently they discovered science fiction and are now actively engaged in exploiting it to the hilt. They are reprinting all the best science fiction literature in the world -- our own, German, English, French and others.

I happen to know this only too well because the Moscow Book Ministry informed me that they are also reprinting my 50-year-old science fiction novel, Ralph 124C 41+, in 1961. Inasmuch as we have no copyright agreement with the U.S.S.R. the Russians as a rule just help themselves to our literary works -- for free.

Why does the U.S.S.R. suddenly go into science fiction so assiduously? The reason is elementary. The Russians know only too well that before there can be any progress there must be ideas. And what is one of the greatest proving grounds for future scientific progress? Science fiction, of course. It is at once one of the cheapest and most universal sieves with which to catch ideas. These ideas -- absurd as often they may sound -- frequently prove to be the very stimulus some sober technician needs in his work.

IV.

Take for instance H. G. Wells' Public Address loud speakers (Babble Machines), which he described so vividly in "When the Sleeper Wakes" (1899), decades before they were actually produced.

As the late and illustrious Dr. Michael Pupin, Professor of Electrical Engineering of Columbia University, and a famed inventor in his own right, pointed out, and I quote: "To discover the need for an invention and to specify it constitutes 50 percent of the invention itself."

Let me observe at this point that in recent years science fiction unfortunately has degenerated away from the classic concept of the genre with its strong emphasis on science. There being a continuous scarcity of good science story authors, publishers of science fiction magazines and books must perforce take refuge in pseudo-science yarns and more and more fantasy. This stems also from the curious fact that far too many publishers mistakenly classify science fiction in their minds exclusively as entertainment.

Knowing little about science, they usually do not understand what science fiction really is and what it tries to accomplish.

They do not know that science fiction is educational first and foremost because it always aims to instruct. Second, it is a trail-blazer in that it heralds new ideas and trends. Third, it has a sacred mission in the future progress of the world.

May I venture here a strong conviction that science fiction, now emerging in the U.S.S.R., will certainly never be read as pure entertainment by the masses. The Russians are far too serious and practical for that. Nor will the Ministry which is to guide its future, fall into the American fantasy trap which has recently denatured science fiction to such an alarming degree in this country.

What of the future of science fiction? I see not only a very healthy renaissance for the art but I truly believe that in the future science fiction may attain a commanding rank in literature, second to none.

Several reasons that will make it more universal have already been enumerated by me. Then too, we have recently entered the space age with all its breathtaking, electrifying possibilities spreading out in every direction of the physical universe. This then in human history will be its greatest, its most fascinating age -- the age of forward-looking science and technology, the greatest age of human achievement. This means also that the hitherto weak efforts of science fiction will be eclipsed a myriad fold in the future.

It has been said that the space age belongs to the young. Equally true is the fact -- it has always been a fact since its inception -- that science fiction is the domain of youth. The gifted young mind often has the faculty of an uninhibited, intuitive, forceful imagination that can sour and ferret out the secrets of nature.

I could not cite a better illustration of this than by pointing to the small and dedicated band of science fiction adherents who constitute the Science Fiction Society of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This to me is vastly significant. There are, to be sure, dozens of science fiction societies throughout the land, many of them even printing their own mimeographed "Fanzines" or fan magazines.

But at the moment I do not know of the existence of any other S. F. organization connected with a learned technological faculty. Your movement here certainly augers exceedingly well for the future of science fiction and deserves all encouragement

as a permanent and growing movement in the U.S. Such a movement deserves official recognition and encouragement by every faculty.

Every college science fiction society should publish its own modest, yet outstanding magazine, edited by its own staff. Not only would other S. F. society members subscribe to it, but outside science fiction enthusiasts would subscribe to it as well.

Such a magazine should not be only the usual fanzine that discusses stories and authors from other magazines, but it must print its own stories authored by its own college men.

There has always been a dearth of short, short science fiction stories -- less than 1,500 words long. In a college magazine with a modest number of pages such stories would be apropos. Incidentally, if the story is good, professional magazines will buy it -- not only the regulation S. F. magazines, but periodicals such as the Saturday Evening Post, which frequently runs short features of this genre.

It seems to me that such an undertaking would be a "natural" for the Science Fiction Society of M. I. T. It has the best talent in the world, it has access to a vast reservoir of science and technology in every form and it could easily become the leader of an important new movement in science fiction.

I fervently hope that it will succeed.

I thank you.

-- E N D --

Hugo Gernsback
154 West 14th St.,
New York 11, N. Y.

((Reprinted, by special permission, for free distribution to the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation -- December, 1960.))

