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Editorial Matters

It's a very interesting time in the publishing field. The lead story on job changing itself changes daily, and I have no doubt it will be out-of-date before this issue is out.

POCKET CHANGES

We've given an inordinate amount of space to the changes at Pocket even though they're not directly concerned with sf. After all, if Pocket decides to just accept that they're Jim Baen's distributor, they won't do sf for the next four years. (The Baen contract is a five-year one.) On the other hand, Pocket may try to buy out or renegotiate with Baen. Pocket has been in trouble for a couple of years, and science fiction has been just a part of it. (See Norman Spinrad's column.) The publishing end was neglected, while the distribution company was expanded. Selling Silhouette to Harlequin and taking over distribution of both was a huge moneymaker for Simon & Schuster and Gulf & Western, but it hurt the publishing company. Separating the distribution arm didn't help the morale of the sales force either. Dropping Timescape just when the backlist was about to become profitable was just plain dumb. Signing a non-competitive clause with Jim Baen was great for Baen but bad for Pocket. Without a front list, the Timescape backlist was dead in the water. In many cases, Simon & Schuster has treated Pocket as a poor relation instead of giving it the support it should have had. The hardcover sf list was pretty much ignored by Simon & Schuster. Jim Baen's hardcover list is suffering the same fate now. Jack Romanos started the hardcover line at Bantam with the philosophy that you could sell hardcovers like paperbacks. He succeeded impressively. It may be one of the things he has to do at Simon & Schuster/Pocket.

OLD-TIME PHOTOS

I usually like to run photos without too many detailed explanations of who the people are, but maybe doing that with 40-year-old photos is a little too obscure. The photos on page 27, from the collection of Frank Robinson, probably need some annotation. The top left photo was taken probably late in 1943 at the Slan Shack, a communal fan house in Battle Creek, Michigan. Evans, Tucker, and Robinson became professional authors, Krueger a bookseller and small press publisher, and Wiedenbeck an artist. The top right photo, taken at the 1952 worldcon, shows Philip José Farmer at his first convention; Earl Kemp chaired the 1962 worldcon and became an editor; Jeanne Smith was married to famed writer E.E. "Doc" Smith, shown below with young ex-marine Randall Garrett. Mari Beth Wheeler and Walter Dunkelberger were well-known

midwestern fans of the forties. F. Towner Laney and Phil Bronson were active Los Angeles fans. Laney is famous for "Ah! Sweet Idiocy" (1947), a book-length condemnation of Los Angeles fandom. The photo of Ray Palmer and Howard Browne was taken in Chicago outside the offices of Amazing Stories. Palmer was editor, Browne his assistant. Bea Mahaffey was editor of Other Worlds in the early fifties as well as other Palmer-run magazines. Julian May is well-known today as a writer; she also chaired the 1952 world convention. To round out the old-time pictures and put age into perspective, the editorial photo of ye editor was taken in 1942.

CORRECTIONS

We inadvertently credited Tor with publishing THE GAME OF EMPIRE by Poul Anderson. It's a Baen Book.

Joe Gonnella pointed out that he has two "n"s in his name. He refused to change it.

In the Walt Liebscher obituary, his fanzine's name should have been Chanticleer. Rosebud was published by Mari Beth Wheeler.

We managed to misspell the name of Janny Wurts (no "z").

THANKS

As usual, mailing was at the last minute. Help was furnished by Mike Friedrich, Ellen Leverenz, Bill Contento, the Locus staff, and Cybelle's Pizza. Thank you all.

--C.N. Brown



THE EDITOR IN UNIFORM