

has a number of innovations that might be applicable wh

ABOVE THE MADD'ING CROWD

Dear Ed:

I should like to make a comment on your magazine. Editions of IMAGINATION on my neighborhood newsstand have attracted my lingering attention. The magazine is indeed an improvement on the poor maligned "pulp" which somehow seem to subsist for the most part in spite of low quality literature, poor type paper, and horrendous format. I am glad to see a magazine in the field which is willing to print stories embodying respectable vocabularies and subtle ideas as well as the forceful plots and tense action essential to this type.

Moreover, as an indifferent draftsman who still recalls his early aspirations to art, I feel that the quality of your covers and illustrations is not only exceptional, but also the argument that first draws a reader to IMAGINATION.

Samuel W. Eager, Jr.
132 Chestnut St.
Albany, N. Y.

Thanks, Sam, and we'll do our best to keep every issue better than the preceding one wh

AN ABOMINATION YET!

Dear Mr. Hamling:

Even a tag of red pencil comment on a rejection slip is a help. I thank you for the one anent my last submission. I'm trying another one that is probably not too gruesome—since you published that abomination DRINK MY RED BLOOD . . .

I have read "Dracula" seven or eight times and could read it again; it is a book, with enough in it to show the dangers and horrors of

vampirism. But I do think this story in the April IMAGINATION is just a bit on the raw side. Dealing with a child, and dealing with something an imaginative child of morbid nature could think to try, it is unlike a story such as Ted Sturgeon's SHADOW, SHADOW, ON THE WALL in the February issue, which was a superb tale. I am quite interested in seeing what reaction you get to publishing a story like that. I will say the story is splendidly written, but it seems more like the precis of a forthcoming novel. The author might make a book out of his idea—if he has the kid get a stake driven through his foul heart in the end!

But the other stories were excellent, and the cover design is exquisite. The nicest concept I have seen on a fantasy magazine. The tale, BEYOND THE FEARFUL FOREST is a masterpiece of allegory, by jove, as well as being an intriguing tale.

Miles McAlpin
P. O. Box 122
Tillamook, Ore.

If you'll look through the reader department this issue you'll see a few reactions to the Matheson story, Miles. And as we said, the reaction is mainly rave notices or extreme distaste. All of which goes to show the wide preference in stories . . wh

AN AUTHOR PROTESTS

Dear Bill:

While reading the June issue of IMAGINATION I ran across the reference to Spanish-language fantasy magazines in FANDORA'S BOX. To quote: "Even if you never see these magazines and never want to, it's interesting to know that your favorite authors and stories are being enjoyed by fans who can't read English."

To which, I'm afraid, it's necessary to add: For which privilege none of the authors represented are receiving one red cent. Evidently Miss Wolf is not aware of the fact that some of these Spanish magazines print by out and out piracy. The stories which go into them are selected, it seems, by an American, an extremely well known fan who apparently is proud of his participation in this kind of literary thievery.

There seems to be little that the pirated authors can do about this condition at the moment; however, you, as editor of an American science-fiction magazine which will probably be pirated by *Los Cuentos Fantásticos* sooner or later should at least refrain from printing what amounts to tacit approval of the practice.

Incidentally, none of my own stories have ever proven popular enough to our friends South-of-the-border to be pirated in this fashion, so I have no personal axe to grind.

James Blish
171 Pelton Ave.
Staten Island 10, N. Y.

The literary piracy practices of the Mexican magazine you mention are no secret to your editor, Jim. While I edited FANTASTIC ADVENTURES at Ziff-Davis we found that not only were some of our stories stolen by this questionable Mexican outfit, but they also used our covers, blocking out the logo. The matter was taken up with the attorneys of AS & FA, but it seemed as if there was no legal hold we could get on this magazine. As to our personal feelings on the matter you can imagine how angry we were—and are that a cheap fly-by-night Mexican firm would do such a dastardly thing under some technicality of a copyright being invalid insofar as they are concerned. And we'll go on rec-

ord right now and say that in all likelihood we won't be able to stop them from pirating stories, illustrations and covers from IMAGINATION if they choose to do so, but if we ever meet anybody connected with the project we'll have a few choice things to say.

As to the mention in FANDORA'S BOX, we don't censor fan news. We try and be as fair as possible—even to a nauseating magazine like the one mentioned. Anything in science-fiction is fan news and the fans have the right to know and express their views in any manner in the proper departments of this book. And along these lines we'd like to mention one other thing. Mari Wolf's husband is Rog Phillips. And I believe Rog has had some of his work pirated by this same publication you mention. Which shows that Mari is reporting the news fairly, even though she may have an axe to grind personally.

As to an American having a hand in this literary piracy, we don't know anything about that wh

A FIRST LETTER

Dear Ed:

I'm enclosing a check for my subscription to IMAGINATION.

I enjoy your magazine immensely. I have been reading science-fantasy about 15 years now, and Madge has an excellent variety of different types of science & fantasy.

I have never written to an editor before to give my opinion of a magazine—but yours merits it. Thanks for a wonderful magazine.

R. S. B.
5303 Suwanee Ave.
Tampa 3, Fla.

Thanks for the nice words, RSB, but say, why only the initials? . . . wh

WANTS TO BUY AND SELL