

33 Rippon Ave.,
Hillsdale, Mich.,
Dec. 14, 1931.

Richard Dodson,
Kirksville, Mo.

Dear Dick;-

Thanks for your letter of Nov. 7th, which I enjoyed as I do all your letters. And I particularly appreciate your writing the blurb that appeared in the December AS. That was thoughtful and kind of you, and I appreciate it. Such letters to publishers help!

The third Skylark is doing as well as can be expected. Maybe some people think it is easy to write a story in progression with the first two Skylarks---but I put about everything I had on Three, and it is going to be a real job to top it off.

Now about the new yarn, which I have provisionally named "Triplanetary"---which may or may not be its final one. The rough draft is practically done, and the first typed draft is three-quarters along. I imagine that I will have it all cleaned up by the first of the year. As for giving you more dope on it---I'll do better than that, if you say so. If you would like to own the original rough draft of this story I will send it to you as soon as I am done with it;---but you may not be able to read my handwriting, especially when it is all cut up with interlineations, erasures, marginal notes, and comments that I am others have scribbled on it from time to time.

Yes, I like Wonder Stories myself---I think it has improved markedly of late. I may submit this story to them. They have asked for it, but whether or not I send it to them is altogether a matter of price. I started out to write this yarn as wild as I possibly could, and strictly according to formula, but I found out that I couldn't do that kind of a job; so I rebuilt it and think I have done a really good job on it. It is fully as wild as it ever was, but it is not stereotyped. And, since I am such a slow writer, and furthermore since the third Skylark will of course have to go to Amazing Stories, I am going to sell this "Triplanetary" to the highest bidder, whoever they are.

Between Paul and Wesso, I believe that I prefer Wesso. I like his people a little better, and his machinery is as good when he takes time---which also, I imagine, is a matter of price. The first picture for Skylark Three was about the best piece of work I have ever seen. I rather think that there are a lot of angles to that business that you and I don't know about.

John Taine is very good. The Time Stream in particular has a stupendous conception---almost too much so for safe handling. Those paradoxes are appalling---but I hadn't better say much, because I am thinking a little about flirting with them myself in the coming Skylark! And as to a picture of myself---under pressure, I will probably have to get some made pretty soon. I have been a camera fiend for twenty five years, and yet haven't got a snap-shot of myself! Lots of the wife and kids, though?

Cordially yours,
Dick

P.S. Begging around to see if I couldn't find a picture to send you, I came across the identification I used to carry when I was on the road for the Bureau of Chemistry. This was taken in 1914, when I was 24 years old. It is, however, the picture of the man who wrote the part with this pervasiveness, but thought you might get a laugh out of it. I had to look for the winter work I'll send you a picture of the way who wrote "Triplanetary" when I send you the draft, and also you have enjoyed the two articles, you might send this Bureau picture back. E.E.S.