

July 16, 1931

407 East 183 Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dick,

I've already sent Tarrano the Conqueror, so you must have received it already. When you read it tell me how you like it.

I was surprised to find out that you were only 16, and a junior in high school. I thought ~~you were~~ ^{were} 19! Well, we have something in common. I am only 16, too, and have just entered the senior class in the Theodore Roosevelt High School. What is the name of your high school? Do you have to pay to go thru high school? We don't.

How do I get so much money for science-fiction? Well, I use Zambock for what is termed a "sucker." For instance I go down to a book store, by myself, and I buy a weird Tale that costs me 25¢. I tell Zambock it costs me 40¢, so he gives me 20¢ as his half, so it turns out that I only spent 5¢ for the book! I suppose that is pretty cruel, but when a guy is science-fiction crazy as I am, he gets the books by hook or crook. And anyway, Zambock is pretty rich -- I'm not. Mrs. Zambock wanted to take George for a trip to Europe on his vacation, but he didn't want to go! Can you beat that? Instead he's going on a trip thru New York State. This of course will be regrettable to me since I won't have much to do during the summer. But good old George gave me ~~me~~ \$5 to spend on books during the time he is away! How would you like to have a friend like that?

We keep the science-fiction library over George's house in the cellar, under lock and key, and padlock. Since George is going away, I might be able to sneak the Blind Spot out of the house and send it to you. So if one of these days the postman brings a package to the door and it contains the Blind Spot you'll know who it came from. Please take good care of it, protect the cover illustration. It's in bad shape already. And when you send it back send it flat, not rolled!

Well, since you ask I'll tell you all I know about Glasser -- some bad things too. The only science-fiction magazine he buys is Astounding Stories. He claims it is the best of them all. You'll notice that even Booth Cody praises them! The rest he borrows from a chap, who you may have heard of, or read some of his letters in the discussion columns, Louis Wentzler. In other words he's pretty tight with his money. Can you imagine? When a story of his appears in a magazine, he only buys one copy! He has a wonderful personality. He is about 21. Graduated high school, and ~~xxx~~ took a journalist course at Columbia University for four years, and then turned author. He has had about 6 or 7 stories accepted. He really believes in re-incarnation, and won a debate on the subject at one of the meetings of the Scienceers. He only lost one debate at all the meetings we held, and that was "Will Insects ever Dominate Man?" He took the affirmative -- and lost. Other ~~debates~~ ^{debates} which he won are: Will Science ever Supersede Religion? (NO), ~~With~~ use of Robots Benefit Mankind, (YES) Is Physical Immortality Desirable, (YES) Is the Airplane more practical than the dirigible, (YES-) Is environment

the greatest factor in Human Development? (YES) Is re-incarnation a fact in nature, (Yes). Enough...

In Zagat's questionnaire, which I hope you'll send in your next letter, he's waiting for it, question 5, as do all the rest refer only to science-fiction.

Your method of solving the Williamson puzzle is pretty unsure and too uncertain. I was thinking at first of the weight solution. The girl's body would weigh much more than the spores. So all the captain has to do is to lift the casket and see which weighs more. But as I think of it, and ask other persons they all seem to have thought of it; the weight solution. But when I was down-town to a second hand book store, I mentioned it in my last letter, the guy down there informed me of his solution, and it is great, and original! I doubt if anyone will ever think of such a solution, and it's logical too. I'm sorry I can't tell you the plot but if we can write it up in the 250 words in a good style it's bound to cop one of the cash awards. On our first draft it came out to be 650 words! And I don't see how we are going to cut down on it.

Here's some more science-fiction news. Cap't S.P. Meek will soon have the following stories in Astounding: The Solar Magnet, Poisoned Air, and Giants on the Earth. The Last being a serial. In Amazing he will have Awlo of Ulm. And in Strange Stories a story named Nastrutia! (If you so desire, I'll give you his biography next. Please state so.) Stanton A. Coblentz is vacationing in Europe, Hamilton and Williamson are taking a vacation trip down the ~~Missippi~~ Mississippi and Meek is vacationing in Honolulu. Two novels of Coblentz are awaiting publication In Amaz. The Blue Barbarians, in the next issue, and the Man from To-Morrow. If you have searchful and keen eyes you might have noticed that Douglas Dold's name has disappeared from the masthead on the latest Astounding. He died about a month ago.

Here's the dope on Endersby:

Name: Victor Arthur Endersby
Born: 1891
Married: Yes
College: Graduated from Leland Stanford University in Civil Engineering in 1916
Vocation: Bridge Engineer
Avocation: Literature - technical, scientific, philosophical, and fiction.
He is a member of The American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Association of Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Again, let me remind you to send that Zagat questionnaire. And if you get The Blind Spot take care of it -- and don't lend it out.

Scientifictionally yours,

Julius Schwartz.

1. Age
2. Education
3. Vocation (if still in school please so state)
4. Are you a regular or occasional reader of science-fiction
5. What magazines do you read (in order of preference)
 - a-regularly
 - b-occasionally
6. List in order of preference the following classes of stories
 - a-interplanetary
 - b-future
 - c-fourth dimensional
 - d-weird-scientifically or rationally explained
 - e- weird-without scientific or rational explanation
 - f-stories of present, or recent past with scientific elements
 - g-stories dealing with imaginative forms of life, such as giant insects, living plants, etc.
 - h-synthetic monsters
 - i-prehistoric monsters surviving to present day
 - j-war and secret service
7. Do you prefer tense gripping action with no let-up, to quieter stories in which emphasis is placed on the scientific aspects
8. Do you like long scientific explanations
9. Or would you prefer they be held to a minimum
10. Are you willing to take your science on faith, to permit the author to omit scientific explanation entirely
11. Do you prefer logical science, or would you prefer the author to be illogical in his science where doing so would make a more thrilling story
12. Do you like some romance, or would you prefer the women be left out
13. Who are your five favorite science-fiction authors-in order of preference