

THE MAGAZINE OF

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MARCH

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(illustrating 5,271,009, by Alfred Bester)		

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*There has been some argument as to whether the title story and other items in Shirley Jackson's splendid collection THE LOTTERY (Farrar, Straus, 1949) can be strictly classed as fantasy fiction; they are intensely disquieting stories of an uncertain and terrifying world . . . but is this anything other than a realistic depiction of the world we live in? There can, however, be no question as to classifying Miss Jackson's first story for F&SF — a pure science-fantasy of time travel, and as tantalizingly provocative a fragment as we've seen in years.*

## Bulletin

by SHIRLEY JACKSON

(ED. NOTE: The time travel machine sent out recently by this university has returned, unfortunately without Professor Browning. Happily for the University Space Department, however, Professor Browning's briefcase, set just inside the time travel element, returned, containing the following papers which bear ample evidence of the value to scientific investigation of sending Professor Browning on this much-discussed trip into the Twenty-Second Century. It is assumed by members of the Space Department that these following papers were to serve as the basis for notes for the expected lecture by Professor Browning, which will now, of course, be indefinitely postponed.)

(From a newspaper, torn, heading reading only “. . . ld-Tribune, May 8, 2123”):

. . . indifference in high quarters which has led so inevitably to this distressing result. Not only those directly affected — and they are many — but, indeed, thoughtful and reasonable persons everywhere, must view with extreme alarm an act which has given opportunism an advantage over intelligent planning. It is greatly to be regretted that, among those in power

who were in a position to take action, none except the unpopular Secretary chose to do so, and his opposition was, as so frequently it must be, disregarded. In any case, let us unite in hope that the possible consequences will not take place, and prepare to guard ourselves with the utmost vigilance against a recurrence of such incidents.

*(From what appears to be a private correspondence.)*

June 4

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am haveing a fine time at camp. I went swiming and dived, but Charley didnt. Send me a cake and some cokies and candy.

Your loveing son,  
Jerry

*(A mimeographed sheet):*

American History 102  
Mid-Term Examination  
April 21, 2123

1. Identify twelve (12) of the following:

Nathan Hale	Grover Cleveland
Huey Long	Woodrow Wilson I
Carrie Chapman Catt	Joyce Kilmer
Merry Oldsmobile	Edna Wallace Hopper
Cotton Mather	Chief Sitting Bull
Robert Nathan	Old Ironsides
George Washington	John Philip Sousa
Oveta Culp Hobby	Sergeant Cuff
Sinclair (Joe) Louis	R. H. Macy
Alexander Hamilton	

2. The historian Roosevelt-sàn has observed that "Twentieth-century man had both intelligence and instinct; he chose, unfortunately, to rely upon intelligence." Discuss.

3. Some of the following statements are true, some are false. Mark them T and F accordingly:

Currency was originally used as a medium of exchange.

The aboriginal Americans lived above-ground and drank water.

The first American settlers rebelled against the rule of Churchill III and set up their own government because of the price of tea.

Throat-scratch, the disease which swept through

twentieth-century life, was introduced to this country by Sir Walter Raleigh.

The hero Jackie Robinson is chiefly known for his voyage to obtain the golden fleece.

Working was the principal occupation of twentieth-century humanity.

The first king in American, George Washington, refused the crown three times.

The cat was at one time tame, and used in domestic service.

4. Describe in your own words the probable daily life of an American resident in 1950, using what you have learned of his eating, entertainment, and mating habits.

5. In what sense did ancient Americans contribute to our world today? Can we learn anything of value by studying them?

*(A narrow card, indentifiably from a machine):*

#### YOUR WEIGHT AND FORTUNE!

Your weight is . . . . 186

Your fortune for today: Expect permanent relief in minor domestic problems, but avoid too-hasty plans for the future. Try not to dwell on the past. You are determined, clear-sighted, firm: use these qualities. Remember that you can be led but not driven.

(ED. NOTE: This last item seems of great significance. It is well known that Professor Browning's weight when he left the University in the time travel element was better than 200 pounds. The evident loss of weight shown indicatés clearly the changes incident to time travel, and points, perhaps, to some of its perils; there is possibly a hint here of an entirely different system of weights and measures than that currently in use. We anticipate that several learned and informed papers on this subject are already in preparation.)

