

NEWS  
WHILE  
IT'S  
HOT!

# FANTASY-NEWS

the science fiction weekly newspaper

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THREE  
ISSUES  
TEN  
CENTS.

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 9

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1943

WHOLE NUMBER 166

## A. MERRITT IS DEAD!

NOTED AUTHOR & EDITOR  
DIES SUDDENLY!

Abraham Merritt, author of many weird tales and science fiction yarns, died of a heart attack on August 21st, at Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater, Florida. He was on vacation, having arrived from New York the day before.

Mr. Merritt was the editor of the American Weekly, a weekly newspaper magazine section, which featured many off-trail natural history and archeological articles. Occasional stf was also published under Mr. Merritt's direction including the celebrated "Ark Of Fire".

His collection of books on demonology, magic, ancient history and archeology was put to good use by the author in writing his many famous yarns. Among those best remembered are "Through the Dragon Glass", "The Moon Pool", "The Metal Emperor", "The Ship Of Ishtar", "The Witch Mother", "The People Of the Pit", "Seven Footprints To Satan", "Dwellers In the Mirage", "Creep Shadow", etc. It is rumored that he had many other novels left incomplete through lack of time. It is a fact that he was never satisfied with his "Metal Monster" later renamed "The Metal Emperor", and hoped to put this novel into satisfactory shape some day.

He supported many fan ventures such as Fantasy Magazine, contributing many articles and stories. His loss is mourned by readers and fans alike.

ADVERTISE in FANTASY NEWS! Largest paid circulation of any science fiction fan publication.

### 'ACOLYTE' NO. 5 LINE-UP

The Fifth Issue of Acolyte, the new fantasy fan mag will be out on September 15th. It will feature many science and weird fiction personalities.

Howard Wandrei has done the Litho Cover.

Among the fiction included is a "Prose Pastel" by Clark Ashton Smith; "Horror At Vecra" by Henry Hasse; an NAPA reprint of H. P. Lovecraft's, "The Beast In the Cave"; "The Tree", by John Hollis Mason.

Much poetry will be featured in this number. There will be "Apparition", by E.A. Edkins (an NAPA reprint); "On Waking In the Tomb, by Lilith Loraine; "Estranged", by Duané W. Rimel; "Runic" by Arthur Kenney;

The issue will be balanced by several articles and features as: "Homes and Shrines Of Poe" by HPL, (an NAPA reprint); "Within the Circle", by F. Lee Baldwin; "Little Known Fantaisistes", by Wakefield; topped off by "Fantasy Forum", by the Readers.

In addition, the issue will contain three full page interiors drawings by R. A. Hoffman.

The Editor is Francis T. Laney.

NEXT ISSUE we will publish a first hand account of the status of fandom in Philadelphia. Personal visits are being made to the former large fan localities to determine the activity there. Other Fan and Pro News will be featured as usual.

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NOTE: Please make all checks and money-orders payable to Will Sykora.

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B O O S T   S C I E N C E   F I C T I O N  
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EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

For two issues in a row now we have had to present sad news. First we reported the passing of UNKNOWN, a pro mag whose line-up of off-trail fantasy has been unique in the history of stf. And now we have to mourn the end of Abraham Merritt, a master of fantasy and scientific fiction.

While the work of Howard Philips Lovecraft may have been said to be the logical development of the work of Edgar Allen Poe and a polished gem of fine art, the work of A. Merritt received the highest form of flattery in that it was imitated but never approached. For mastery of touch and cosmical grandeur, Merritt's work was unsurpassed.

Though he was never satisfied with it, his long novel, "The Metal Monster", later renamed "The Metal Emperor", may be said to be his masterpiece. For delicacy and exquisite description and poignance of plot, his "Moon Pool" shines above all other scientific fantasy. And his first published story, "Through the Dragon Glass" showed even then the ability of the master that was to be.

A collection of Merritt's works would be invaluable, and it is to be hoped that a progressive publisher such as Arkham House will see fit to publish a complete collection, not only for its artistic worth but also for its value as a possible best seller. Such a collection should enjoy a wide sale.

SERGEANT RAY VAN HOUTEN WRITES:

Hello Will! -----

I got your letter O.K. in case you've been wondering, but I haven't had a chance to answer till now. I am now somewhere in England, and all the moving around sort of limited my letter-writing. Stf activity does seem to have ceased. By the way, if you send me the latest addresses of some English Fans, I may be able to get in touch with them. I saw Sammy when he was home on furlough. All muscle and two yards wide. Please write and please send me FN. How about a special V-Mail edition of at least one?

Yours etc.

Ray

Ed. Note: All subscribers of FN who have joined the armed forces are receiving this paper gratis. We hope, in this small way, to let the boys know we are thinking of them, and rooting for them. Let's beat Hitler this year!

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CORRECTION

There have been several errors in the numbering of recent issues of this newspaper. The following are correct:

May 2, Vol.8, No. 4, Wh.No. 161.  
May 9, Vol.8, No. 5, Wh. No. 162.  
Jul 25, Vol.8, No. 6, Wh. No. 163.  
Aug 8, Vol.8, No. 7, Wh. No. 164.  
Aug 22, Vol.8, No. 8, Wh. No. 165.

More numbers of FANTASY NEWS have been published than of any other science fiction fan magazine.