

PSFS NEWS

-- the gazette of Philadelphia Fandom --

VOLUME IV NUMBER 10

JULY, 1944

ODDS AND ENDS

The latest Avon Pocket Book is now out on the stands--The Dwellers In The Mirage, by A. Merritt. The cover of the book is very nicely done. This makes the fifth Merritt book published by Avon, and more are coming up soon--The Ship of Ishtar and The Face in the Abyss.

There was a long article on Hugo Gernsback in a recent issue of Coronet Magazine. To most of us who have followed Gernsback's career throughout the years it was a disappointing article, for there was much of interest left out of it.

Walter Dunkelberger, associate of Julius Unger, is now the editor of the little fanzine-on-a-postcard, Fanewscard

From FFF: David Bruce Widner arrived 11:04 A.M., July 6th--8 lb 3 oz. Homely as hell and covered with black fur. He possesses a voracious appetite just like his old man. Mother and child doing fine. No signs of tendrils, extra digits, bug-eyes, flap-ears, or fangs.

F. Orlin Tremaine, former editor of Astounding Stories and Comet, has a series of stories running in Detective Tales that are a sensation. Easy Bart, the leading character, is hailed as one of the most unique

characters since Sherlock Holmes.

Coming up in an early issue of PSFS News is a most unique article--an interview with Mr. Harry Brobst, close friend of the late master of the supernatural, Howard Phillips Lovecraft. The interview was written up by Joseph Selinger, of the Philadelphia Futurians. Watch for it.

Sam Mason has resigned as President and Chairman of the Philadelphia Futurians. Albert Pepper, formerly of the PSFS, is now President of that group.

Harry Newman, mentioned here several months ago as the person who made it possible for me to issue the PSFS News, is located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma--where Ben Lesser also was stationed for some time. Funny, both of them say that the place should be given back to the Indians.

Max Brand, recently killed in Italy, turns out to be a more amazing writer than any of us had realized. He used no less than 17 different pen names! He wrote three million words a year! He could turn out a complete magazine serial over a week end! His total output more than doubles the combined output of Edgar Wallace, Eppenheim, and several others!

NOTICE

Once again events have forced us to postpone an issue of the PSFS News, and as a result the July and August issues will be mailed out at the same time. Rather than putting out a combination July-August number, they will appear as two separate numbers. This will avoid any more confusion to the collectors. Enough confusion has been caused in the past without having any more.

JACK O'DAY IS DRAFTED

Jack O'Day, the newest and youngest member of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, is the latest to be called to the colors. Jack is now in Texas, training with a Tank Destroyer outfit. He says that--but I guess it will be better to let him tell you all about it in his own words.

Dear Ossie:-

Just a line to let you know everything is OK down here except the heat. One hundred and twenty in the afternoon. Nope the rivals have joined the PSFS by now. Two clubs wouldn't get along well.

Now that I have a little time to read I can't get any S. F. mags at the PX. I see where Amazing has gone quarterly. War conditions probably caused it. Received my copy of the PSFS News and was glad to get it.

I noticed an article stating the pocket book edition of the Moon Pool were selling for a buck. Lucky I bought mine in time. I still have it. Maybe some day it will be a collector's treasure.

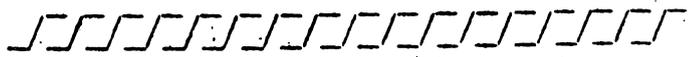
Around here we take salt tablets to replace the salt lost in sweating. Our fatigue suits are stained with salt from sweating. Believe me it's not very nice

drilling in a field with a temperature of 120. Sometimes I get fed up. They ought to give Texas back to the Indians.

Well, nothing more to say now so I will close hoping to hear some news about PSFS from you shortly.

Sftly yours,
Jack O'Day

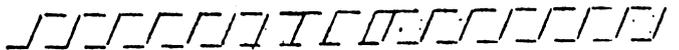
Jack was called into the army shortly after his eighteenth birthday. None of you fellows have met him yet, but when you do you will find him to be a swell guy, and a valuable and enthusiastic member of the PSFS.



LESSER DISCHARGED!

Yes, the first member of the PSFS in the service to be discharged is Ben Lesser, and it sure has been good to see him and his wife, Lee. Army life agravated an old ailment, and after six weeks in the hospital he was given a medical discharge. Needless to say, he is mighty glad to be back home again. He is now working on his old job, and resides in Camden, New Jersey.

Later we shall try to induce Ben to give us a write-up of his exploits in his own words.



"REBIRTH"

"Rebirth" by Thomas Calvert McClary, one of the finest science fiction novels ever written, has been issued in pocket book form by Bart House. The text will contain 15,000 words that had been cut out by the editor of Astounding Stories when it was first serialized in that magazine a decade ago.

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MASTER AUTHORS

FANTASY

ROBERT WILLIAM CHAMBERS:

Robert William Chambers, Author Artist, was born at Brooklyn, N. Y., May 26, 1865. Son of William and Caroline Boughton Chambers; Student at the Academic Julian, Paris, 1886-93; Married Elsa Vaughn Moler, July 12, 1898. First exhibited in Salon, 1889; illustrator for "Life", "Truth", etc. His devotion to art contributed to the rich beauty of his literary style.

His literary work "The King in Yellow" published in 1893, struck an absolutely new and original note in fiction. Like the aim of the best work in pictorial art; its purpose was not so much to "tell a story" as to present, as it were, a color scheme--a fantasy vibrant with imaginative quality, that would leave a definite impression on the aesthetic sense of the reader after the specific characters and events of the novel had faded from his mind.

"The King in Yellow" has the following vaguely connected short stories:

The Repairer of Reputations.	
The Mask	(Republished by F. F. M.
The Yellow Sign	(and are the best tales.
The Demoiselle D'Ys	(
The Prophets Paradise	
The Street of the Four Winds	
The Street of the First Shell	
The Street of Our Lady of the Fields	
Rue Barrie.	

Other Works of Chambers, equally fantastic, are "In Search of the Unknown", and the "Maker of Moons". These have not attained the popularity of "The King in Yellow". However, "The Maker of Moons" is most difficult to obtain.

Chamber's short story "The Tree of Heaven" (not to be confused with his book of the same title) is an excellent fantasy tale involving the reincarnation of the weaver of an old English rug (many centuries later) and whose death is required to restore the rug's brilliance.



July, 1944

SECRET

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ROBERT WILLIAM CHAMBERS:

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One section of the "Tracer of Lost Persons" deals with the discovery in an ancient Egyptian tomb of a "sleeping" Princess. After many adventures the body of the Princess is brought to New York (still in a cataleptic state) and she is awakened by the call which has been translated from the old papyrus by Mr. Keen.

Chambers later developed a chaster style than his first works--tales of the arabesque rather than the grotesque to use Poe's complimentary division of imaginative fiction. A large number of Novels (romantic, historical and mystery) were turned out, such as "America", "Eris", "The Younger Set", "The Dark Star", "The Cambric Mask", "The Flaming Jewel", etc. Any reader of fantasy who desires an occasional change to a lighter side would do well to acquaint himself with Chambers other works--yet there is a slight touch of fantasy in some of them.

None-the-less, "The King in Yellow", "The Maker of Moons" and "In Search of the Unknown" may rightly be termed "Classics of Fantasy" and are welcome additions to any fantasy collector's library.

These works have placed Robert William Chambers in the "Hall of Fame" of Fantasy literature as a "MASTER AUTHOR OF FANTASY--OF ALL TIME", along with Abraham Merritt, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Sir Henry Rider Haggard, and authors of Fantasy of their calibre.

Chambers died in New York, December 16, 1933. He was buried at Broadalbin, at the foot of an old oak under which he had written many of his novels.

A photograph of Robert William Chambers is enclosed. The original was taken in 1905 when Chambers was 40 years of age.

Sketch Prepared by Guyon L. Kendter.
May 9, 1944.
glk.

