

The Fantasy Book Club **BULLETIN**

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Fantasy Book Club

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Charter Membership Open

Indications are that the Fantasy Book Club will have enough members by the end of 1948 to insure its permanent success. This important achievement, anticipated by the Club founders and earnestly sought for by the charter members, is being accomplished because the Club has proved to be just what it had been planned to be: a money-saving organization of fantasy and science fiction readers who desired the best books in the field.

Credit for this goes not only to those who devoted their time to its formation but also to those members who have convinced others of the value of membership.

In view of the enthusiasm of those who are just becoming acquainted with the advantages of the Fantasy Book Club, the charter membership is still being made available to all those who join before the end of the year.

All prospective members are certain to join if the simple facts of membership are pointed out to them: The club will make outstanding selections from month to month. When a member has purchased two different selections he will receive, absolutely free, one of the available premium books. In this manner all members will be certain to get three of the best current fantasy books for the price of two, including all other privileges of the club. The club member is obligated to buy only two selections a year.

We hope the editorial on page three will interest all members and prospective members.

HAVE A CIGAR!

In the upper left hand corner of this page are those fascinating little marks which read: "VOL. 1, NO. 1." Whenever we've come across them in the past we've always felt a little intrigued, a bit impressed, as though we were somehow in the presence of a new baby, kicking and squalling in its greeting to life. And we would wonder, at that moment, what the future would hold in store for it. Perhaps that's your reaction now to this, our child. Like all parents, we're optimistic toward our baby's future. We'll be happy if you'll join with us in our high hopes—after all, all of you who have this first issue are the godparents.

WIN A PRIZE!

An appropriate name is needed for this bulletin. We've decided to let our readers choose it for us and we're offering a prize for the winning entry. The winner will receive an original Hannes Bok black and white illustration, one of the excellent drawings which the artist did for "The Gnome Press' Fantasy Calendar for 1949." Simply send your entries to the editor. You may submit as many suggested names as you wish. A tie gets an equal prize.

An Editorial: "In Your Hands . . ."

You are holding in your hand the first issue of a new publication devoted to fantasy fiction literature. What you see here is not much — but it is a beginning. It is a beginning, the editors sincerely believe, which will develop into a magazine both informative and entertaining.

Primarily the idea which motivated the publication of this bulletin was the need felt by the Fantasy Book Club to disseminate information to all those who might be interested in the club's activities. In addition, however, it was felt that such a bulletin, if properly edited and printed and containing material of both specific and general interest, could be made as entertaining to the readers as it could be valuable. Plans, therefore, have already been made toward this goal. This first issue represents the foundation upon which the editors will build.

Though this bulletin might perhaps seem premature in its appearance, there is a good reason for its immediate appearance. On November 3 through November 11 a Book Festival is being held at the Museum of Science and Industry in Radio City, New York city. Represented at this Book Festival will be the Associated Fantasy Publishers, those smaller book publishing houses which deal exclusively in fantasy and science fiction material. The Fantasy Book Club felt that it would be appropriate for the first issue of its bulletin to coincide with that festival. The material contained in this bulletin, therefore, consists almost entirely of the most pertinent information.

Distribution will be made not only to members and prospective-members of the book club, but also to those who attend the festival.

It is fitting, therefore, that we

should extend our greetings in particular to all those who attend the festival and invite those who receive this bulletin in time to visit us there. We are certain that the Associated Fantasy Publishers, to date represented by the Gnome Press, Fantasy Press, Prime Press, Arkham House, Avalon Company, Hadley Publishing Company, Fantasy Publishing Co. Inc., New Era Publishers, and Shasta Publishers, will have a display which will be of interest to both the confirmed fantasy fan and the as-yet uninitiated. The booth will be located in the foreground as one enters the museum and is certain to be an attraction in its own right.

We wish to apologize for the delays which we have encountered in the past which has disrupted our schedule and to remind you that in the future the Fantasy Book Club will serve you promptly and efficiently with an eye to saving you money in your purchases of good fantasy books. We know that you will enjoy our next bulletin which will contain short stories by A. E. Van Vogt and Lester del Rey, an article by Fletcher Pratt, book reviews of both club and non-club selections, letters from you, and many other features.

We hope that if you are not already a member of the Fantasy Book Club that you will become one shortly. Details can be found within the pages of this bulletin. Member or not, though, you may receive a sample of the next copy of this bulletin by request. But, and we hope this will please you, all members of the club will automatically receive every copy of the bulletin absolutely free. With your support the Fantasy Book Club should offer you much relative to this type of literature so fast gaining in general popularity.

2nd Premium Book Chosen

SEARCH FOR UTOPIA WITH DREAM-STONE MAKES FINE NOVEL

Is this world of ours merely the figment of our imagination? Is it just a dream? Will we wake up any moment and find ourselves in another world, another time, another dream? Arthur Cleveland Finch, principal character in L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt's new novel, "The Carnelian Cube", Gnome Press, \$3.00, wanted to know the answer also.

While engaged in an archeological project near Lake Van in Armenia, Finch obtains a small cube of carnelian curiously incised in Etruscan characters. The claim is that it is a "dream-stone" and though Finch scoffs at the idea when he retires that night he places it beneath his pillow, wishing that people would be more rational. Archeologist Finch, with that curiously inscribed ancient charm beneath his head, sleeps and then awakens — in another world.

He discovers himself near his old home in Kentucky. But it is a Kentucky strangely changed. Everything has been completely "rationalized". Unable to adapt himself to this new world which he once dreamed might be a perfect one, he uses the power of the cube first to enter a world of individualism unrestrained and then the decent world of science. And so the stone carries him onward in search of perfection, through a series of the most humorous, exciting adventures a man could want to experience. But which world, "The Carnelian Cube" asks, is the real world to Finch? The world he has just left, or the new one?

Three current selections and two future selections are now listed by the Fantasy Book Club. In addition, a second premium book has been chosen. A premium book will automatically be given free for every two regular book club selections purchased.

The three selections now available to members of the club are:

"The Carnelian Cube" by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt. Gnome Press. \$3.00

"Skylark Three" by Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.

Fantasy Press, \$3.00.

"Slaves of Sleep" by L. Ron Hubbard. Shasta Publishers. \$3.00

Any or all of these books may be purchased from the Fantasy Book Club — and credited toward any available premium. The first premium book available is:

"The Porcelain Magician" by Frank Owen
Gnome Press, \$3.00

Two more regular selections have been made but will not be deliverable until future publication dates. These two are:

"Without Sorcery" by Theodore Sturgeon
Prime Press, \$3.00.

"The 31st of February" by Nelson Bond. Gnome Press, \$3.00.

A second premium book has been selected prior to publication this year. This second gift will be:

"Pattern for Conquest" by Geo. O. Smith. Gnome Press, \$3.00.

These books represent a variety of fiction — running from the delicate prose - poetry of oriental fantasies to the super science of interplanetary action-adventure.

FREE A NEW FANTASY! BOOK FOR YOU!

Buy a book and become a member of the Fantasy Book Club. It's as simple as that! For every two books purchased you will receive a premium book free. No obligation to buy more than two books per year — and pay only the regular retail price!

YOUR CHOICE OF PREMIUMS

"The Porcelain Magician"
by FRANK OWEN

Illustrated by

FRANCES E. DUNN
GNOME PRESS \$3.00

"Pattern for Conquest"

by GEORGE O. SMITH
GNOME PRESS \$3.00

Either or both of these
books can be yours, free!

All members receive the Club Bulletin regularly—free! Write now for
a sample copy.

THE GNOME PRESS" FANTASY CALENDAR

FOR 1949

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EDD CARTIER,
HANNES BOK AND OTHER ARTISTS,

\$1.00 PER COPY

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

BE A CHARTER MEMBER! JOIN NOW WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY OR ALL OF THESE SELECTIONS

"The Carnelian Cube" by L. S. de Camp
& Fletcher Pratt Gnome Press \$3

"Skylark Three" by Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.
Fantasy Press \$3

"Without Sorcery" by Theodore Sturgeon
Prime Press \$3

"Slaves of Sleep" by L. Ron Hubbard
Shasta Publishers \$3

"The 31st of February" by Nelson Bond
(soon due) Gnome Press \$3

Fantasy Book Club

300 West 67th St., New York 23, N. Y.

NELSON BOND TO APPEAR IN NEW FANTASY BOOK

The outstanding future selection of the Fantasy book Club, it can now be announced, will be Nelson Bond's collection of short fantasy stories entitled "The 31st of February", to be published in the first part of 1949 by the Gnome Press for three dollars.

Mr. Bond is one of the finest contemporary fantasy authors and his work has been published by Coward-McCann after the outstanding success of his radio program. This book is certain to become a "best seller".

ACTION KEYNOTE OF RON HUBBARD'S "SLAVES OF SLEEP"

The Fantasy Book Club selection which will become available during the month of November will be "Slaves of Sleep" by L. Ron Hubbard, Shasta Publishers, \$3.00.

The story concerns Jan Pierce, brow-beaten bookworm who owns a strange vase. When the vase is opened the Jinn within, released, cries a curse of eternal wakefulness and fuses Jan Pierce with Jan's alter ego in the World of Sleep: Tiger — buccaneer and rogue. Tiger, daring adventurer of the World of Sleep, flouts the Jinn royalty, kidnaps a temple dancing girl and embarks on his wildest career of excitement and laughs.

Written as only L. Ron Hubbard can write a humorous fantasy, the Arabian Nights come to life, with swashbuckling adventurers, angry Jinn, and Solomon's Seal skillfully woven into the fabric of one of this year's best fantasies. "Slaves of Sleep" brings you reading entertainment par excellence.

INTERPLANETARY ADVENTURE NOW IN BOOK FORM

Another epic from the pen of Edward E. Smith, Ph. D., is "Skylark Three", Fantasy Press, \$3.00, the sequel to "The Skylark of Space". These two books are probably the most famous of all interplanetary yarns in science fiction.

In "Skylark Three" the reader again meets Seaton and Crane, DuQuesne and a host of others. The story flashes through space to Osnome; encounters the porpoise men of Dasor, the incredible ancient race of Norlamin, the monstrous Fenachrone — beings only the amazing imagination of Dr. Smith could conceive.

Action packed from cover to cover, holding one breathless with the saga of Seaton and Crane as they battle the Fenachrone — the Fenachrone, ancient and evil, who aspire to rule the universe. Unexpectedly attacked by a space ship of the Fenachrone, Seaton and Crane save themselves by using a zone of force. Realizing that they do not have the knowledge to fight this sinister enemy they go to the Norlamin for help. Armed with the science of this older civilization they go forth to challenge the supremacy of the Fenachrone.

For those who like their super science mixed with spectacular thrills, this novel remains one of Dr. Smith's best.

MATERIAL WANTED

The editors will be happy to consider any material submitted by our readers for publication in the bulletin. Articles, letters and other items by necessity must be brief. At present payment is limited to material directly contracted for from writers. Information on advertising and material to be purchased will be furnished upon query to the editors.

"FANTASY CALENDAR FOR 1949" FEATURES EDD CARTIER, HANNES BOK

ORIENTAL FANTASIES, ENCHANTING PROSE BY FRANK OWEN

"A picture book. Words the pigment into which he dips his brush. Words — yellow and crimson and mauve; green in every measure of verdancy from its early Spring pallors to its late Autumn glooms. A silver mist of words." So says Ida Gilbert Myers in "The Washington (D.C.) Star" about Frank Owen's works.

After years, Frank Owen finally makes his long - awaited appearance with another book. A collection of Oriental fantasies with plots as elusively intriguing as minute carvings in jade, are offered in "The Porcelain Magician", Gnome Press, \$3.00.

Two of the longer stories are new and unpublished. Many of the older ones are classics. Take "The Purple Sea". Lee Goona, tea merchant of Canton, Tokio, the Formosan Islands. Traveling among these ports, he is wrecked upon a rock-reef by the fierce typhoon. Here, unconscious, semi-conscious and then wide awake, he comes under the spell of the sea and the land and the woman — or was it a woman? If a woman, why certainly, one of those creations of the dreamer and the poet.

Fully illustrated by a new artist for fantasy literature, there is an added beauty and lure to Frank Owen's stories. Frances E. Dunn is well-known to contemporary art lovers, her work refreshing and imaginative. The enchantment of her work captures in pen and ink the immortality of Frank Owen's prose poetry.

Of special note in the field of fantasy literature is the initial appearance of a collector's item, the new **Fantasy Calendar for 1949**, published by the Gnome Press.

This calendar contains twelve illustrations, one for every month of the year, done by outstanding fantasy artists. Included in the artwork are four black and white pieces done by Edd Cartier whose work is considered by some as the finest today in this line. Mr. Cartier has interpreted the four seasons of the year and his Winter scene in particular will be certain to evoke many compliments.

Also featured in the calendar will be Hannes Bok, long noted for his imaginative work. Mr. Bok has for years specialized in the weird and the unusual and his reputation for craftsmanship has created a consistent demand for his art.

The remaining illustrations, at this writing, have not yet been definitely announced, but they, too, are to represent work by the foremost artists in fantasy.

All these drawings have been especially prepared for the calendar and are entirely original. Advance comment has been unanimous in its approval of this project by the Gnome Press, publishers of fantasy and science fiction books, and a large demand has already been indicated for the calendars.

The price for "The Gnome Press' Fantasy Calendar for 1949" has been placed at one dollar. The Book Club, as a convenience to its members, has arranged to take orders for it. We recommend it as something worthwhile to have. The illustrations are suitable for framing, reproduced at about six by seven inches, with no advertising matter contained in them. It is our belief that they will make excellent, though inexpensive, Christmas gifts.

(Just in case you might have missed the latest story on the "flying saucers" and also to prove that there's more to this thought-provoking news event than just year's "hysteria", we are reprinting an Associated Press story as published in the New York Herald Tribune. —Editor's note)

Lighted Flying Disk 'Eludes' F-51 Pilot

Second Flyer, 2 on Ground,
Support Story of Chase

FARGO, N. D., Oct. 2 (AP) —A National Guard fighter pilot today told a story of a thirty-minute encounter with a mysterious flying object over this city in the darkness last night—and his account was supported by two control tower operators and another flier.

In a signed statement for Air Force intelligence, the pilot, Lieutenant George Gorman of the

178th Fighter Squadron, North Dakota Air National Guard, asserted that he chased and engaged in aerial maneuvers with a lighted disk-like object which outran and outmaneuvered him. He was flying an F-51 fighter.

Watching him and the object with binoculars were Lloyd Jensen and H. E. Johnson, both of Fargo, control tower operators at Hector Airport here. The pilot of a Cub plane, Dr. A. E. Cannon, of Fargo, also reported watching the proceedings.

Lieutenant Gorman said he first caught sight of the lighted object at about 4,500 feet. It out-turned and outran him for nearly a half hour until he lost it at 17,000 feet.

(Another newspaper on the same day added— "All four men identified the object as a round light, perfectly formed, with no rays leaving its body and traveling at a speed considerably faster than the F-51. (270—400 MPH—Ed.)")

Hand of George
THE FANTASY BOOK CLUB
BULLETIN

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