

#1  
August, 1967

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Material herein is devoted to the sword-and-sorcery and sword-and-science publishing fields with the most emphasis laid on events current and future. The future of this publication being in some doubt, subscriptions, contributions, or loo's are not being solicited.

Information used in this issue came from Betty Ballantine (Ballantine Books), L. Sprague de Camp, Lloyd Alexander, George Ernsberger (Avon Books), Dick Lupoff, Andre Norton, George Scithers, and Don Wollheim (Ace Books). Special Contributor - Lin Carter. Art Credit: Robert E. Gilbert, pages 2 and 5; Chuck Owston, pages 3 and 8.

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## ROBERT E. HOWARD

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### THE CARTER & DE CAMP CONANS

Lin Carter

Sprague de Camp and I are writing some brand new Conan stories to plug some of the larger gaps in the Conan canon. To the book Conan, which Lancer will bring out around the end of the year, and which includes the first few Conan stories, we are contributing two new stories. One, "The Thing in The Crypt", will be the very first Conan story. It's about what happens to him between the time he busted out of that Hyperborean slave-pen swinging that length of chain, and the time he turned up in Zamora for "Tower of The Elephant".

Towards the end of that book will also appear (for the first time in print) "The Hand of Nergal" which I completed from a fragmentary, untitled Conan story Howard began but put aside. Directly following it will appear a de Camp & Carter novelette, 15,000 words long, about Conan's career in the service of King Yildiz of Turan as a mercenary. This story takes Conan far east into a prehistoric version of Tibet, a stupendous valley called the Cup of Meru, complete with a walled city of stone called Shamballah, an inland sea, and a bunch of evil lamas who rule the proto-Tibet through a vile and loathsome little god-king. Title of this one is, as of right now, "Thralls of Shambal-



lah", although the title may undergo further evolutionary changes before the tale finally reaches print.

On these de Camp & Carter Conans, Sprague and I exchange letters until the plots are worked out to our mutual agreement. I then prepare rough first draft copy and Sprague does the final revisions. The collaboration seems to be working quite smoothly. We are adding 20,000 words of new Conaniana to this book, and plan to contribute 45,000 words to the "next" Conan book. We also have a full-length 65,000 word Conan novel in the plotting stage, for which Lancer has contracted with final draft of the manuscript due in November for publication sometime in 1968. Provisional title is Conan of The Isles. In it, we pick up the scene a good twenty years after the de Camp/Nyberg novel, The Return of Conan, and have Conan venture into the New World ... to the mid-Atlantic islands of the Antilles, as pictured by Lewis Spence, where the Cimmerian tangles with a degenerate batch of Mme. Blavatsky's Atlantean priesthood, who fled the sinking of Atlantis to take refuge in Antillia. More on this one later ...

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## POSTER

Lancer Books has printed up a Conan poster! They took the cover painting for Conan The Adventurer, my pick for the best Fra-zetta painting for the series so far, and blown it up to 17"x22" and framed it in a 22"x28" black background. Title is CONAN (bright red) The World's Greatest Fantasy Hero (white). Available from Dept. LC, Book-

masters, 999 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 at \$1.00 each plus a 50¢ handling charge for any size order. (Thanks to S.F.WEEKLY for the information on ordering.)

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## SOLOMON KANE

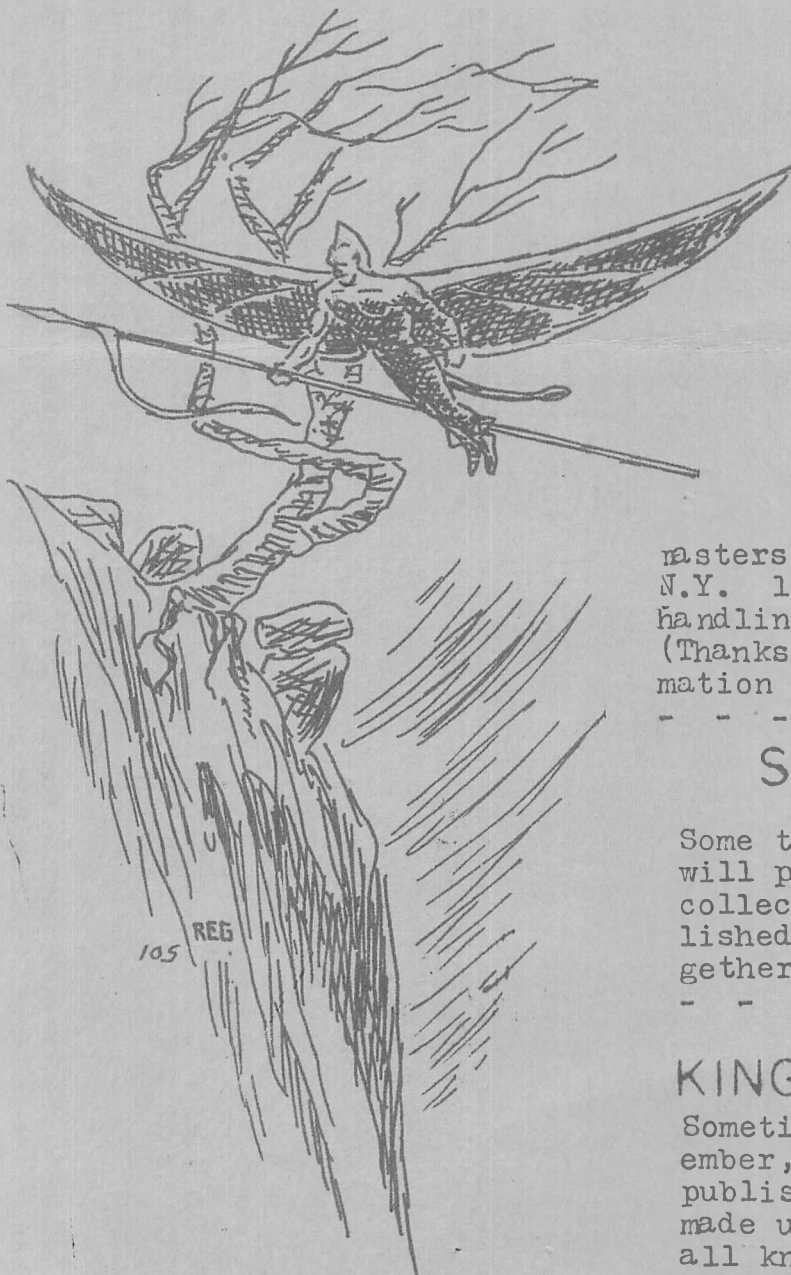
Some time this year, Donald M. Grant will publish Red Shadows, a complete collection of the previously published Solomon Kane stories, together with some new material.

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## KING KULL

Lin Carter

Sometime this fall, October or November, perhaps, Lancer Books will publish a volume called King Kull, made up of the two Kull stories we all know and love, "The Shadow Kingdom" and "Mirrors of Tuzun Thune",





plus a fantastic treasure-trove of ten or a dozen BRAND NEW KULL STORIES which Howard left in various stages of incompleteness when he blew his brains out. Probably because of the Conanesque flavor of my Lemurian books, Glen Lord, who is editing the book, asked me to complete and polish these fragments. Some of the "new" Kull stories run to 9,000 words, like the one I have titled "Riders Beyond The Sunrise"; others, like "Altar of The Scorpion" and "The Striking of The Gong", are only three or four thousand words long. The three fragments which I revised, polished, and completed are titled "Black Abyss", "Wizard and Warrior", and the above-noted "Riders". I also added a little wordage to the end of "The Skull of Silence", polished and revised the above-noted "Gong", and drew a frontispiece map of King Kull's world.

The cover, by Roy Krenkel, is as stunningly gorgeous and complexly intricate a painting as he has ever done. It is truly superb.

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## SWORD-AND-SORCERY BRIEFS

(Classification here and in other places subject to the whims of both the Editor and of his Sources.)

Thomas Burnett Swann's The Weirwoods, companion-in-mood to his Hugo-nominated Day of The Minotaur was published by Ace in July, cover by Morrow.

Avon will re-issue Heinlein's Glory Road in September with a new cover emphasizing the fantasy nature of the book.

Emil Petaja's Lord of The Green Planet is out as part of Ace H-22 (Doubled with Tom Purdom's Five Against Arlane). Petaja has moved to the ancient Irish legends for an element of his background here.

Though the fantasy element is weak, most sword-and-sorcery fans will be quite interested to see Talbot Mundy's Tros of Samothrace in paperback. Starting with Tros (now out), Avon will publish the epic in four volumes, continuing with Helma, Liafail, and Helene. Douglas Rosa (who has recently illustrated Avon's Merritt reprints) has done a striking cover for Tros: Avon plans Rosa covers for the remaining three books in the series. Avon plans to release other Mundy books later on with Frazetta covers.

Nehwon: Ace is planning to do the Fafhrd and Gray Mouser books as a series! At this stage, no exact information is available, but I hope they include all of the shorts that Fritz Leiber has written since Two Sought Adventure was out in hardcover.

Fanews: The new AMRA (Box 9120, Chicago, Ill. 60690) is in typing now and should appear to the eager subscribers shortly.

The Hyborian Legion will hold a Muster at the Worldcon this Labor Day. Time to be announced there.

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The King is dead! Long live the King! But amid the plotters and would-be usurpers, the new King has but small chance for long life.

Mezentius, King of Fingiswold, Rerek, and Meszria was born, in Zimiamvia, to King Iardan of Fingiswold and Queen Stateira in Rialmar in 723 A.Z.C. Despite the untimely death of his father, Mezentius' throne was maintained for him until his majority by the Queen and her advisers. From the age of 19 onward he defends Fingiswold from foreign attack. At the same time, by his political astuteness, he adds the crowns of the kindred lands of Rerek and Meszria to that which he has rightfully inherited.

Mezentius maintains the uneasy union of the three kingdoms for more than a quarter of a century, until his death. Within a year now, the enmities which Mezentius had suppressed, indeed had turned to his own benefit, rise into the flame of open battle. Through the powerful prose of E.R. Eddison's Mistress of Mistresses, we glimpse the turmoils of Zimiamvia torn by civil warfare. And through those struggles, the figures of the contestants rise up in awful splendour. Horius Parry, Vicar of Rerek and Beast of Laimak stalks forth amid an atmosphere of brutish evil. The uncertain trio of the late King's adviser's waver and falter in the winds of war. Lessingham, cousin and sometime ally to the Parry, makes his steady way, unstained by the morass of intrigue through which he must move. Barganax, Duke of Zayana, avatar (together with the late Mezentius and the Zimiamvian Lessingham) of the Farthly Lessingham, moves here between the torrents of love and war.

This, then, is the world that Aphrodite chose for her Lover. To which She went as Queen Stateira to prepare it; and again appears as Amalie, Fioranda, and Queen Antiope to share it with Her Lover. Mistress of Mistresses (Ballantine - August, 1967) tells of the wars and conspiracies of the successors to Mezentius. In A Fish Dinner in Memison (Ballantine - Spring, 1968), Eddison went back in Zimiamvian time to tell of events towards the end of Mezentius' reign together with a glimpse of our Earth seen through Zimiamvian eyes.

Ballantine has used a Barbara Remington cover for Mistress of Mistresses which is done in a style that very elegantly unifies that work with Eddison's earlier The Worm Ouroboros (Ballantine - April, 1967). I find the artistic concept of the Worm framing scenes of this world, uniting them artistically as the Worm does in fiction, quite satisfying.

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Buttons: About two months ago, The Big Store, 112 MacDougal St., New York, N.Y. 10017 was carrying buttons of the Worm Ouroboros straight from the title page (page v) of the book.

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## ANTHOLOGIES

L. Sprague de Camp's elegantly be-mapped The Fantastic Swordsmen is out to join his two earlier Pyramid collections (Swords and Sorcery and The Spell of Seven).

In November, Ace will bring out Terry Carr's fantasy anthology, New Worlds of Fantasy.

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# WITCH WORLD

George R Heap

Since 1963, when Simon Tregarth came into the lands of Estcarp, Alizon, and Karsten, Andre Norton has woven a fictional spell of warfare, witchcraft, and wanderings in this world of adventure. There we fared forth with Simon and Jaelithe of Estcarp to Karsten, Sippar, and the Kolder lands beyond the Sea and beyond the World itself. And with Herrel shape-changer and Gillian to Arvon and the Ashen World. And yet again with Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea, sons and daughter to Simon and Jaelithe, to the riven land of Escore and the people of the Green Silences.

Thus far the books published have been (all by Ace Books):

1. Witch World - 1963 (Simon and Jaelithe.)
2. Web of The Witch World - 1964 (Simon and Jaelithe.)
3. Three Against The Witch World - 1965 (Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea.)
4. Year of The Unicorn - 1965 (Gillian and Herrel.)
5. Warlock of The Witch World - 1967 (Kyllan, Kemoc, and Kaththea.)

Mrs. Norton is considering Kaththea's Story for the final title of the series (Kyllan and Kemoc were the narrators of Three Against and Warlock.) While the news of another novel in the series is a pleasure to hear, even when it is only in the possibility stage, I am rather disappointed to think it may be the last. There are so many possibilities in the Witch World itself ---- not to mention the still unresolved fate of Simon and Jaelithe who disappeared while investigating a possible resurgence of the Kolder power.

On a happier note, there are plans (but in no way concrete) to produce a map covering the present five books. No information available beyond this. There is a map, of course, covering a portion of the story area, in Web of The Witch World.

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Witch World was reprinted by Ace in July (from S.F. WEEKLY). Ace also has announced The X Factor (August) and Moon of Three Rings (November), both by Andre Norton, but unconnected with the Witch World.  
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Andre Norton's fascinating "Wizard's World" in the June issue of If is not part of the Witch World series. It is rather a story of an alternate world, originally written some years before Witch World.  
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# THE SHAPE OF THONGORS <sup>TO</sup>COME Lin Carter

If you happened to read either of my Lemurian books (#1 The Wizard of Lemuria, Ace, 1965; #2 Thongor of Lemuria, Ace, 1966), you may be interested to hear that the third in this series will be out late this fall, September or somewhere around there.

#3 is called Thongor Against The Gods, and it carries the barbarian warrior into the eastern plains of ancient Lemuria for the first time in the series ... into the trackless steppes of the unknown east, where the savage and war-like Rmoahal hordes rule and roam in their mighty chariot-caravans. It also brings Thongor into conflict with Zaar the city of black magicians for the first time -- a conflict which will widen in a later book of the series.

Thongor Against The Gods is not going to be published by Ace. The outline was submitted to them last year (February, 1966, in fact), and Ace dawdled over it, without ever giving me a definite acceptance or refusal. After a year of this, my agent asked for it back and passed it to Paperback Library in February, 1967, where it was snapped up and I had a contract in two weeks. Seems Don Völlheim would rather have me do science fiction like The Man Without A Planet rather than more sword-and-sorcery. This is okay with me; I want to do more sf; but I also want to continue the Lemurian books as there are plenty of things I want to do within that mythos before ending with it.

Thongor's infant son, Prince Tharth, makes a brief appearance in #3. Also in #3, the Red Druids of Slidith Lord of Blood are smashed in a ferocious 24-hour battle, the seacoast city of Tsargol (which Thongor visited briefly in Wizard) is set free from the evil rule of Yelim Pelorvis the Red Archdruid who had seized power when Thongor slew the Sark Drugunda Thal, and Thongor's old friend and fighting comrade, Prince Karm Karvus, becomes Sark of Tsargol with Thongor as his Sarkon or Overlord.

Paperback Library confessed themselves agreeably surprised and pleased with Thongor Against The Gods. In fact, Jerry Gross had a clause written into the contract giving them first refusal on the next Lemurian book. I have since worked up #4's outline and Jerry is looking at it right now, and doubtless watching to see how advance sales on #3 go.

The fourth in the series is called Thongor in The City of Magicians. There is a gap of about four years between the two books. Thongor will again venture into the plains of the Rmoahal hordes, this time to secure a supply of the valuable and mysterious sithurls with which Iothondus of Kathool, a young natural philosopher and mage of Patanga (who will be a continuing character and gradually assume larger importance as the series goes on) believes can be adopted to a laser-like weapon and perhaps used as a power-source for the air navy of the young Empire.

These sithurls, or power-crystals, are rather like galena crystals such as were used in old-fashioned crystal-set radios. They absorb sunlight and transmute it into electricity. The electricity can either be leaked off slow and steady (power-source) or drained in one flashing bolt of ravening fury (weapon). At the end of Thongor Against The Gods, the Valkarthan discovers them and brings one back with him to Patanga for his mages to study. #4, Thongor in The City of Magicians, ends with a cataclysmic air battle in which the flying





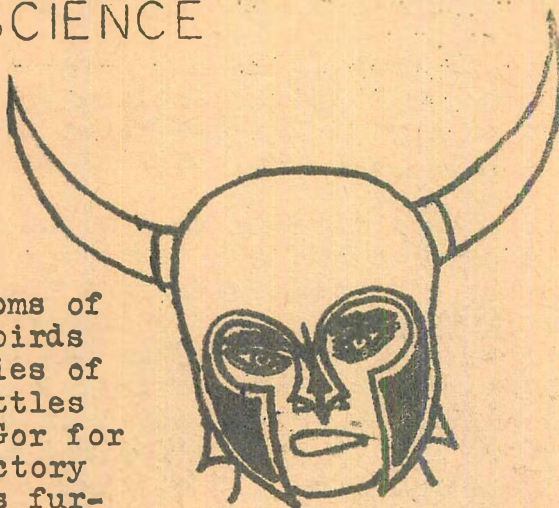


Taran's Prydain contains some part of the folk-tale and legend of ancient Wales. Yet to that part is added the realism of the lives of kings, warriors, craftsmen, and farmers who people its hills and valleys. We learn somewhat of their needs and desires as well as of the magics of wizard, witch, and the Fair Folk.

Mr. Alexander's seventh book will complete the series and resolve the problems that have beset Taran, and the readers, throughout the chronicle. For although each book is a story in itself, there is that element of doubt necessary to make a series enjoyable, taken as a whole. Whether there is a further future for Taran and Prydain, only our own future can tell.

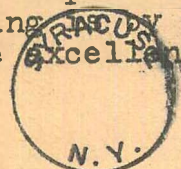
## SWORD-AND-SCIENCE

Counter-Earth: John Norman continues the adventures of Tarl Cabot across the plains of Gor in Outlaw of Gor, due from Ballantine in December. In Tarnsman of Gor, Tarl is taken across space to the city of Ko-ro-ba. Here he trains as a warrior and learns the often cruel customs of Gorian life. He rides the savage Tarn birds that serve as aerial cavalry to the armies of the Tower Cities. In Tarnsman, Tarl battles in the wars and political struggles of Gor for his adopted city and wins through to victory and love, only to lose all. I await his further exploits on Gor with interest.



One Million Centuries: Dick Lupoff's first novel will be out as a 350-page book by Lancer this September. Look for it on the stands in late August. The cover painting, by Jack Gaughn, and from the preliminary sketches I've seen, will be excellent.

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