

YALT'S WRAMBLINGS
WINTER F.A.P.A.

DOOD BY LIEBSCHER



I'm really going to wramble in this one. Several things have been bothering me for some time and I want to get them off my chest. Firstly, I'm going to ask a few questions, answers for which will be duly appreciated.

1. What has become of Allen Class? Al, you may remember, is the fan who won the award at the Dervention, the award for overcoming the most difficulties in order to attend. For a while we carried on quite a prolific correspondence and he seemed to me to be the best of fan material. He published one issue of "Physcomorph", the fan mag noted mainly for "the necktie that was a slight shade of nausea". Suddenly he dropped out of the fan picture and I haven't heard anything about him since. Any info re Class will be appreciated.

2. How many Fapans have a copy of Charles Finney's "Circus of Dr. Lao" and what price would they ask for it if they sold it. And, would someone have the kind generosity to let me borrow a copy for a perusal--BEFORE I GO MAD.

3. How many Fapans have read Arthur MacArthur's "After the Afternoon" and how many own a copy? Ditto "Doctor Arnoldi".

Do anyone know in what book, magazine or periodical a story by Mindret Lord entitled "Babel" appeared? Nelson Olmstead dramatized it on the radio recently and I'm still laughing.

WHEREIN WE WAX SERIOUS

Re the Cosmic Circle. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? It seems to me to be a sorry state of affairs and a big blow to fandom when an editor, the most generous in the pro field, decides to discontinue donating originals and giving publicity to conventions just because of one moronic nincompoop. Personally I take this stand: I will not recognize, correspond with, or have any dealings whatsoever, with any fan even remotely connected with the Cosmic Circle. Furthermore, it is my contention that the perpetrator of fascistic, so-called magazines, such as the Cosmic Circle Commentator and similar trash, should be expelled from FAPA and, if possible, fandom. At least we can do something definite about the former. And I believe that something should be done, but quick.

CULLINGS STUFF

There follows some cullings from "Bookman's Holiday", a column by Charles Collins, which appears every Sunday in the Chicago Sun's Book Week section. I found them quite interesting.

"A correspondent asks for aid in finding the title and author of a book which contains an old philosopher or astrologer who describes himself to a visitor in this way:

"I am the eternal nonogo, the concentrated negative, the everlasting essence of nothing . . . I am the signifier, representing the infinite divisibility of the particle."

The letter writer thought that the author might be A. Conan Doyle but Vincent Starrett, a Doyle specialist, says no. We thought that it might be one of Mark Twain's joshes, but Franklin J. Meine, a Twain expert, vetoes the suggestion. Maybe the tale belongs to the field called "science-fiction"; if so, August Derleth can take the case. We're tossing the problem up for grabs."

The following week this item appeared:

"And if you want more evidence that bookmen stick together in such emergencies, consider the report of August Derleth, assigned to search the field of "science-fiction" for the gabby astrologer:

"I took half an hour away from my new mystery novel in progress, and looked into Stapledon, Wells, Merritt, Taine, Verne, Lewis, the Wellheim anthology, Phil Stong's anthology, Hodgson, M. P. Shiel, E. R. Eddison, and even turned to the manuscript of our new Arkham House book (Donald Wandrei's "The Eye and the Finger") to re-read that remarkable short story, "The Red Brain". But it was no go. Altho the quotation is familiar to me, and I know I have read it in its context, I am unable to tell you where it occurs. I am reasonably sure however that it does not come from the field of the weird and horrible, which is more my field than that of science-fiction."

THE NEW BOOKS

TALES OF TERROR -- Selected by Boris Karloff -- 317 pp.
Published by the World Publishing Company. 49 cents.

A fine selection of yarns that are sufficiently terrifying, that is, if you can be terrified by a yarn. But, if you have several anthologies of ghost, horror or mystery yarns in your collection, you'll probably find

all the stories in this volume included in your other anthologies. However, this is a new book, and for the small price of 49¢ you can't go wrong. The following stories are included in the book:

The Waxwork - A. M. Burrage
Clay-Shuttered Doors - Helen R. Hull
The Judges House - Bram Stoker
The Damned Thing - Ambrose Bierce
The Tarn - Hugh Walpole
The Furnished Room - O. Henry
Our Feathered Friends - Philip MacDonald
Father Macclesfield's Tale - Robert Hugh Benson
The Hound - William Faulkner
The Tell-Tale Heart - Edgar Allan Poe
Amy Foster - Joseph Conrad
The Beast with Five Fingers - William F. Harvey
The Willows - Algernon Blackwood
The Beckoning Fair One - Oliver Onions

and a humorous yarn by Stephen Leacock, the title of which escapes me at the present moment, and the book is at home.

I sometimes wish the editors of weird anthologies would give some lesser know stories a break. One gets mighty tired of seeing "The Damned Thing", "The Beckoning Fair One" and the "Tell-Tale Heart" in practically every collection of stories of this type. Stories like "The Copper Bowl", "The Graveyard Rats", and other masterpieces that have appeared in *Weird Tales* are much more horrifying than some of the stories in this collection.

My favorite anthology of weird and fantasy stories is Harro's "Beware After Dark". In spite of the ominous title, this book has some of the most beautiful weird and fantasy stories between it's covers. Every story

in this collection is unique in it's own peculiar way, and every story is an unmistakable gem. "Beware After Dark" is one of my special shelf books.

LEGENDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS - Retold by Frances Frost -
Published by Whittlesey House -- \$2.50

Included in this book are 47 folk tales of the United Nations. If you liked Rip Van Winkle and others of the same ilk, you like this one.

MR. MURKEL --- E. Phillips Oppenheim -- Published by Little, Brown -- 279 pp. \$2.

Haven't read this one yet, but I mean to. It's another Utopia yarn. All the reviewers have been panning it to high heaven. But, reviewers have often panned books that are favorites with fen.

THE FRENZIED PRINCE --- Padraic Colum -- Published by David McKay Company -- \$3.50

A beautifully illustrated book of old Irish tales. If Unknown is your meat, this is a whole steer.

GREEN MANSIONS: A Romance of the Tropical Forest -- W. H. Hudson -- Published by Alfred A. Knopf -- \$6.

A new and extremely beautiful edition of this perennial favorite. Some people praise this book to the nth degree, others shrug their shoulders. I can say this: It is one of the most beautiful editions I have ever seen, and the illustrations will delight the eye of any one, be he fan or no.

"BOOKS ARE FRIENDS"

THIS WINGED WORLD: An Anthology of Aviation Fiction. Selected by Thomas Collison. 520 pp. Coward-McCann Inc. \$3.50

A collection, the first, of aviation fiction. Main interest to fans are the sections entitled "Dream of Wings" and "Mystical Wings". The former contains stories by Samuel Johnson, H. G. Wells and Edgar Allan Poe. The latter section includes stories on the metaphysical side of aviation. There is another division of the book entitled "Wings of the Gods", which contains two stories from Greek mythology.

OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET -- G. S. Lewis --- \$2

At the time of this writing I am half way through this book and so far it has been very good. It has the sort of atmosphere and flavor that was prevalent in Wonder Stories between 1932 and 1936.

Speaking of Wonder Stories during the aforementioned period. I'd pay a dollar a copy for a mag that would feature stories of the same genre right now. Remember the wonderful stories: "Enslaved Brains", "Xanduin", Weinbaums classics, "Green Man of Graypec", "World of the Mist", "Druso", and that asme of acmes, which is still my favorite science-fiction yarn, the incomparable "Exile of the Skies". If I had to choose between any group of magazines for any given period I would not hesitate one moment, this group would be it, with a capital I.

OUR LADY -- Upton Sinclair --- Published by Murray and Gee, Inc. 192 pp. \$2.50

WARNING: If you are a true christian, and especially if you are a Catholic, you will hate this book with all the love you can muster. For it tears down all

all the illusions that it has taken the Catholic church hundreds of years to build up. But, if you take religion as I do, with a 'so what', I'm sure you'll at least admire Sinclair for what he tries to do, explode one of the biggest myths in history.

Briefly, the story is about Marya (Mary), who was not a virgin, and who had nine children, the eldest being Jesu (Jesus). She is also ignorant of the rituals of the Catholic church. By an incubation she is transported to the present time and finds herself in, of all places, a stadium, the Rose Bowl no less. At the time there is a football game going on between Notre Dame and U. S. C. As luck would have it (and the author) she finds herself seated beside a young priest, who, as luck would have it (and the author) understands her language, Aramaic. She engages in a conversation with the priest, who is startled at the way she is unknowingly tearing down everything that the Catholic church stands for. The young priest finally, in desperation, consults his higher ups and it is decided that the demon in Marya's body should be banished, and in this way Marya is transported back to her own time. As I said before, this book, rather liking this book, depends upon whether you are religious or not. But you must admit that it is fantasy.

When very young I read a book that intrigued my imagination immensely. I believe the title of it was "The Wonderful Adventure of Nils". I dimly remember a young lad who had an amazing round of adventures when he discovered that he could climb on the back of a goose and ride through the sky. I haven't seen the book since and was just curious as to whether any other fan had read it during their early days. Certainly it would be a swell book to start some of our future Slans with. (Full speed

8.

ahead and damn the preposition, and the sentence).

IDLE THOUGHT: I admit that I like "Madman of Mars" and "Guceto", but firmly believe that it would be very very nice indeed if these two editors would again collaborate on "Novacious", which was really a swell mag.

PERSONAL TO KOENIG: Thanks for the loan of "The Night Land", which I enjoyed very much, despite it's archaic langauge. Come to think of it, the story would have been a lot flatter without that sort of language, it did give the book a sort of an atmosphere.

MORE QUESTIONS: Can anyone supply me with a complete list of the fantasies of S. Fowler Wright?

Did you know that there is a firm in Chicago that sells Merritt's "Moon Pool", mint and unused copies, for the paltry sum of \$1.79? For \$3 I will give you the address of the place. But, kiddin, aside, anyone interested can drop me a line, dealers barred, but definitely.

What is the difference between a cow? Considering the circumstances, could you give an estimate.

Finally--"Chanticleer" will be out soon. 30 pages on 20 lb. paper. Air brush cover designed by that inimitable artist, Wiedenbeck. Articles, humor, etc., by Tucker, Fronson, Warner, Widner and others. And, last but by no means the least, a plethora of book reviews, six pages of them no less. Edited by fandom's rooster booster, yours truly, Walt Liebscher. Published on Nova Press, nuff sed.

REMEMBER THE ROOSTER THAT WORE RED PANTS