

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

A MAGAZINE of the

BIZARRE and UNUSUAL

VOLUME X

NUMBER 6



Published monthly by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company, 2457 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Entered as second-class matter March 20, 1923, at the post office at Indianapolis, Ind., under the act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 25 cents. Subscription, \$2.50 a year in the United States; \$3.00 a year in Canada. English office: Charles Lavell, 13, Serjeant's Inn, Fleet Street, E. C. 4, London. The publishers are not responsible for the loss of unsolicited manuscripts, although every care will be taken of such material while in their possession. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and must not be reproduced either wholly or in part without permission from the publishers.

NOTE—All manuscripts and communications should be addressed to the publishers' Chicago office at 450 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Ill. FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor.
Copyright, 1927, by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company

Contents for December, 1927

Cover Design	Hugh Rankin
	<i>Illustrating a scene in "The Infidel's Daughter"</i>
The Eyrie	724
	<i>A chat with the readers</i>
The Saturnienne	Clark Ashton Smith 728
	<i>Verse</i>
The Infidel's Daughter	E. Hoffmann Price 731
	<i>Landon built a ziggurat in Feringhistan that he might aspire to the Hundred and One Strange Kisses of Surpanit</i>
The Sword of Jean Lafitte	W. K. Mashburn, Jr. 753
	<i>The shade of the old pirate returns to wreak vengeance upon the last descendant of his enemy's family</i>
The Swooping Wind	Wilford Allen 764
	<i>A strange little tale about a scientist who was the sport and creature of the winds, and under their protection</i>

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

The Witch-Baiter	R. Anthony	769
<i>A torture-tale of the witchcraft craze in Holland—a Dutch zealot, fanatic superstition, and a day of reckoning</i>		
The Devils of Po Sung	Bassett Morgan	775
<i>A creepy, powerful tale of brain transplantation—a pirate story of the South Seas</i>		
White Lilies	Josie McNamara Lydon	788
<i>Verse</i>		
The Canal	Everil Worrell	789
<i>Through the night flapped evil shapes, vampire-things of loathsome aspect—a shuddery horror-tale</i>		
The Jungle	Cristel Hastings	802
<i>Verse</i>		
Bells of Oceana	Arthur J. Burks	803
<i>A gooseflesh story of the sea by the author of "The Invading Horde" and "The Ghosts of Steamboat Coulee"</i>		
Folks Used to Believe		
The Dragon and His Kinsmen	Alvin F. Harlow	812
<i>The dragon, the griffin, the wyvern and the hippogriff</i>		
The Dream	Maurice Rothman	813
<i>A peculiar story is this, a fantastic tale about a dreamer whose dreams were more vivid than reality</i>		
White Orchids	Gordon Philip England	819
<i>The extravagant passion for rare flowers led to a weird and grisly adventure, and disaster</i>		
When the Dead Return	Percy B. Prior	826
<i>It is sometimes unpleasant to have a husband return from the grave, especially if the widow is married again</i>		
The Sleepers	August W. Derleth	829
<i>A five-minute ghost-story—the passenger was annoyed at finding his berth occupied by a specter</i>		
The Time-Raider (Part 3)	Edmond Hamilton	832
<i>A four-part serial story about an entity that sweeps back through time to seize its victims</i>		
Weird Story Reprint		
Dracula's Guest	Bram Stoker	849
<i>This story was originally intended to be part of the book, "Dracula," but was excised before the book was published</i>		

For Advertising Rates in **WEIRD TALES** Apply Direct to
WEIRD TALES

Western Advertising office:
YOUNG & WARD, Mgrs.
360 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
Phone, Central 6269

Eastern Advertising Office:
GEORGE W. STEARNS, Mgr.
Flatiron Building
New York, N. Y.
Phone, Ashland 7329

Folks Used to Believe

by ALVIN F.

The Dragon and his Kinsmen



FOR 2,000 years and more no fabulous animal was more universally accepted as really existing than the dragon in its various forms. The dragon which St. George, an early Christian hero, slew, was of the usual type—a thick, scaly body somewhat resembling a lizard's, bat-like wings, four legs with clawed feet like an eagle's, the body tapering into a tail which, like the tongue, had a sting in the end of it.

Even after 1700, a nature writer, though admitting that some doubted the existence of the dragon, said that there were "in Arabia Serpents called Sirenae, which have Wings; being very swift, running or flying, at Pleasure; and when they wound a Man, he dieth instantly. These are supposed to be a kind of Dragons. . . . Dragons are also said to be bred in India and Africa; those of India are much the largest, being of incredible Length: and of these there are two Kinds, one living in the Marshes, which are slow of Pace and without Combs on their Heads; the other in the Mountains, which are bigger and have Combs. Some are of a yellow, fiery Colour; having sharp Backs, like Saws. These also have Beards. When they set up their Seales, they shine like Silver. The Apples of their Eyes are (as it is said) precious Stones, and as bright as Fire, in which, it is affirmed, there is great Virtue against many Diseases. Their Aspect is very

fierce and terrible . . . Some do affirm that the Dragon is a black Colour; the Belly somewhat green and very beautiful; that it has a triple Row of Teeth in each Jaw, and very bright, shining Eyes; that it has also two Dewlaps under the Chin, which hang down, of a red Colour."

Pliny, the old Roman writer, tells of how dragons in India concealed themselves in trees and sprang down on elephants, fixing their teeth in the elephant's neck and sucking its blood. The elephant's blood, Pliny declared, is very cold, and was therefore much sought by the dragon in hot weather. One dragon could drink all the blood in an elephant's body, but was made so stupid by it that when the elephant finally fell from weakness, the dragon was frequently crushed beneath its body.

Closely akin to the dragon was the griffin, whose head, shoulders, wings and forefeet resembled an eagle's, while the body, hind legs and tail were a lion's. Griffins were the monsters who guarded the deposits of gold in the mountains of Scythia in ancient times. The wyvern had a body and feet (only two) somewhat like an eagle's, save with scales instead of feathers, bat wings, and the head and tail of a dragon. The hippocriff had four legs; the fore-part and wings were those of a griffin, the rear half of the body was that of a horse. A famous magician named Atlantes did his traveling on the back of a hippocriff.