

# THE ACOLYTE

AN AMATEUR MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND THE SUPERNATURAL  
(An Outsider Publication)

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THIS ISSUE OF THE ACOLYTE IS DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF PAUL FREEHAFFER

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FRANCIS T. LANEY  
SAMUEL D. RUSSELL

## LIGHT FANTASTIC

I step along the garden path  
(Repatterned by the night wind's wrath)  
Into a frenzied filigree  
Of mists and moonshine. Spun for me  
To scatter with a single stroke.  
As effervescent as the smoke  
Of seared and burning phoenix flesh  
That fades within the tangled mesh  
Of mad creation. Then I heard  
The singing of a phantom bird.  
And woke and walked again--and found  
A second phantom on the ground.

Then smiled, as one who sips an acrid wine.  
Those flaccid lips, those sightless eyes--were mine!  
---Arthur Kennedy