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Famous
FANTASTIC
Mysteries

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Book-Length Novel

The Valley of Silent Men **E. Charles Vivian** 8

It was a nightmare place of devilish beauty—and horror, brooded over by the slow-death poison of a plant that was seeded in hell! And into its silent menace one man must go, to save its self-willed prisoners from its fatal lure. . . .

Short Story

The Counter Charm **Margaret St. Clair** 110

The bug-eyed monster in the life of *Unearthly Tales'* editor was a real-life nuisance—at first. That was bad enough. But when it chased him right into the pages of his own magazine—that was very bad!

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MASTERS OF FANTASY

Clark Ashton Smith—THE STAR-TREADER—Born 1893

It is fitting and proper that this man of double shadows should be the 13th in this series. H. P. Lovecraft rechristened him Klar-Kashton, and said of him: "None strikes the note of cosmic horror so well." A Dunsany with the vocabulary of a Shiel, Smith weaves phantasmal webs of word imagery which spellbind the willing victim and lead him in bonds of thralldom to vanished worlds and vanquished worlds, to worlds to be and worlds—better not to be: supplicate the Elder Gods that their diabolic denizens may never scabble and slither into our dimension! Does he create with xanthic chalk on ebon slate, recording forbidden glimpses of interstitial nightmare and extra-temporal rites? It is to be believed. A close acquaintance with George Sterling, Smith too has penned memorable imaginative poetry, 4 volumes of which have been collected. And those who have made the pilgrimage to his umbrageous abode in Auburn—and returned alive (and in full possession of their faculties)—report that he is the master not only of the written fantasy medium, but of the outré in sculpture and the sklifesque in sketch. There can be little doubt that this strange recluse is a sorcerer from another sphere!