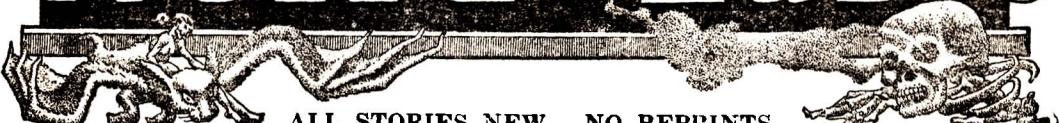


Weird Tales



ALL STORIES NEW — NO REPRINTS

May, 1944

Cover by Margaret Brundage

LONG NOVELETTE

IRON MASK Robert Bloch 4

*What manner of man was this creature who towered like a gaunt ghost
in the moonlight, his features covered always!*

NOVELETTE

THE DAY THE WORLD STOOD STILL Allison V. Harding 58

*There is an unseen atmospheric curtain that binds our dimension of space
and speed to us; suppose this were to—lower!*

SHORT STORIES

THE LETTERS OF COLD FIRE Manly Wade Wellman 30

*A strange solitary education—once a day a hand shaggy with
dark hair thrusts in food to the scholar*

MAN IN A HURRY Alan Nelson 40

*For 20 years the pudgy little man was always hurrying, as though to
some appointment for which he was already late*

UNPUBLISHED STORY H. Bedford-Jones 44

*The only logical conclusion was thoroughly out of the question—
the miraculous thing was monstrous and impossible!*

THE DEAR DEPARTED Alice-Mary Schnirring 54

*How could the medium know that this time the seance was
to be different—very different!*

THE LAKE Ray Bradbury 76

*There are some who play in the lake who are destined to be
young and small and unchanged forever*

THE GOTHIC WINDOW Dorothy Quick 80

*The strange window lent itself readily to a fairy tale; the only
trouble was that there is often truth in fairy tales*

A GROUP OF SONNETS

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SUPERSTITIONS AND TABOOS Irwin J. Weill 74

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*Except for personal experiences the contents of this magazine is fiction. Any use
of the name of any living person or reference to actual events is purely coincidental.*

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D. MCILWRAITH, Editor.

LAMONT BUCHANAN, Associate Editor.

FUNGI FROM YUGGOTH



“BEWARE St. Toad’s cracked chimes!” I heard him scream
As I plunged into those mad lanes that wind
In labyrinths obscure and undefined
South of the river where old centuries dream.
He was a furtive figure, bent and ragged
And in a flash had staggered out of sight,
So still I burrowed onward in the night
Toward where more roof-lines rose, malign and jagged.

No guide-book told of what was lurking here—
But now I heard another old man shriek:
“Beware St. Toad’s cracked chimes!” Aghast, I fled—
I paused, when a third greybeard croaked in fear:
“Beware St. Toad’s cracked chimes!” Aghast, I fled—
Till suddenly that black spire loomed ahead.

St. Toad’s



Decorations by

**A group of
sonnets by**

H. P. Lovecraft

HANNES BOK