

# Weird Tales

ALL STORIES NEW—NO REPRINTS

JANUARY, 1946

Cover by A. R. Tilburne

## NOVELETTES

- KURBAN** . . . . . Seabury Quinn 8  
*Like Pharaoh's necromancers, he could cast his rod upon the earth  
and it became a live, hissing serpent*
- CHARIOTS OF SAN FERNANDO** . . . . . Malcolm Jameson 24  
*There are many unsolved mysteries in this strange world of ours—  
like the bizarre adventures at the Amazon's headwaters!*


## SHORT STORIES

- SIN'S DOORWAY** . . . . . Manly Wade Wellman 38  
*A soul is free to enter heaven if its burden of sin is borne by  
a living person*
- SEED** . . . . . Jack Snow 48  
*How thin is the veneer of modern learning. And how little it takes to  
shake one's faith!*
- MR. BAUER AND THE ATOMS** . . . . . Fritz Leiber 58  
*If a person suddenly became radio active, with all that atomic energy  
inside his body. . .*
- SATAN'S PHONOGRAPH** . . . . . Robert Bloch 62  
*Have you ever heard of a recording machine so damnably delicate  
that it captures the human soul?*
- PIKEMAN** . . . . . August Derleth 66  
*The tombstone warned "Prepare for death and follow me!"*
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*What, pray, would people be like if they were reduced to their  
least common denominator!*
- ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD** . . . . . Charles King 82  
*The mass of bloated flesh that could be formed into different shapes  
by kneading with the fingers—was me!*

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*Except for personal experiences the contents of this magazine is fiction. Any use  
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B. McILWRAITH, Editor.

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# Superstitions and Taboos

By Weill

WITCHES WERE ESPECIALLY DREADED ON CHRISTMAS EVE WHEN IT WAS BELIEVED THEY WOULD COME INTO A NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE TO BEG, BORROW, OR STEAL SOMETHING TO USE AGAINST THE OWNER. HOWEVER, IF ANYONE STANDING BELOW THE WITCH WHILE SHE WAS HURTLING THROUGH THE DARKNESS WERE TO CALL HER BY NAME, THE WITCH WOULD DIE WITHIN THE YEAR.



FLOWERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BELIEVED CURATIVE AGENTS AND THE PROTECTORS OF HUMANITY.

THEY ARE THOUGHT TO SAVE MAIDENS FROM SPINSTERHOOD, BRIDES FROM BARRENNESS AND MARITAL UNHAPPINESS, SICK PEOPLE FROM FURTHER ILLNESS, AND THEIR PRESENCE IN A ROOM WAS CONSIDERED SURE PROTECTION FROM THE DEPREDATIONS OF GHOSTS.