

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE

A MAGAZINE of the



BIZARRE and UNUSUAL

VOLUME XI

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, 1928, by the Popular Fiction Publishing Company

Contents for June, 1928

- Cover Design-----C. C. Senf
Illustrating a scene in "The Devil's Martyr"
- The Eyrie-----724
A chat with the readers
- The Devil's Martyr-----Signe Toksvig 726
A romance of love and witchcraft and Satan-worship, and dark clouds of doom that rolled up about the two lovers
- The Serpent Woman-----Seabury Quinn 737
Jules de Grandin solves a mystery involving a lost child and a giant snake—and back of it all is the serpent woman
- The Elemental Law-----Everil Worrell 753
A weird story of aviation and reincarnation—indescribably eerie were the faces that stared out of the black pool
- The Hate-----Wilford Allen 767
Born of a murderer's lust for torture, the Hate grew through the ages, and worked its retribution during the World War
- The Dimension Terror-----Edmond Hamilton 769
Millions of lives were blotted out in the frightful catastrophe that came upon the earth out of the fifth dimension

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

[CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE]

- The Lurking Fear**..... **H. P. Lovecraft** 791
Slithering shadows of red madness poured out of the underground burrows beneath the Martense mansion
- The Philosopher's Stone**..... **August W. Derleth** 805
A short tale of the Borgias—Messer Orsini was no match for the guile of the noted poisoners
- The Bat-Men of Thorium (Part 2)**..... **Bertram Russell** 807
A three-part serial story about a giant submarine, and a weird land below the bed of the Pacific Ocean
- Wild Horses**..... **Eugene C. Dolson** 818
Verse
- The Phantom Fiddler**..... **Arlton Eadie** 819
In the cellars beneath the old English tavern was committed an atrocious crime—a fascinating ghost-story
- The Blue Lizard**..... **Fiswoode Tarleton** 829
The hillman thought himself very clever in calling the "scorpion" to his aid in concealing his crime—but he failed
- Sonnets of the Midnight Hours:**
- 3. Purple**..... **Donald Wandrei** 837
 Verse
- The Last Laugh**..... **C. Franklin Miller** 838
From the jungles of Africa he came, with his strange tale of sacrifices to the fire-god—and weird was his revenge
- The White Road**..... **Manly Wade Wellman** 845
Verse
- Weird Story Reprint:**
- The Specter Bridegroom**..... **Washington Irving** 846
 A famous weird tale by a great American story-teller—a ghost-tale of medieval Germany
- Folks Used to Believe:**
- The Fad for Relics**..... **Alvin F. Harlow** 855
 Some strange beliefs were held by our ancestors

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.
HARLOW

The Fad for Relics



MEDIEVAL Christians had a craze for collecting relics, or supposed relics, of saints and sacred events; and they did not hesitate to claim relics of ethereal beings—as for instance, a feather from the wing of the Archangel Michael. Every abbey and church in Europe had its teeth, bones and bits of clothing from some holy personage. Relics even became an article of commerce. Canute, King of England in the Eleventh Century, commissioned his agent in Rome to purchase St. Augustine's arm for one hundred talents of silver and one of gold.

By the presence of these relics many miracles were said to have been performed—particularly by those which were believed to be portions of the body of Christ; but it is said that in some abbeys, when the saints did not readily answer prayers, the monks flogged the relics vigorously in the hope of bringing them to compliance.

A monk of St. Anthony, on a visit to Jerusalem, saw there several relics "among which were a bit of the finger of the Holy Ghost, as sound and entire as it had ever been; the snout

of the seraphim that appeared to St. Francis; one of the nails of a cherubim; one of the ribs of the *verbum caro factum* (the Word made flesh); some rays of the star which appeared to the three Wise Men in the East; a phial of St. Michael's sweat when he was fighting against the devil; a hem of St. Joseph's garment, which he wore when he cleaved wood, etc.; all of which," concludes the narrator, "I have brought very devoutly with me home."

King Henry III of England (1216-1272) once summoned all the great in the kingdom to come to London, and upon their arrival told them that the Great Master of the Templars had sent him a phial of the blood of Christ, which he had shed upon the cross—attested as genuine by the seals of the Patriarch of Jerusalem and others. The relic was carried in solemn procession to Westminster Abbey the next day, and the historian adds that though the road between St. Paul's and Westminster was very rough and miry, the king, as he rode along, kept his eyes constantly fixed on the sacred phial. Hales, in Gloucestershire, also possessed some of the blood of Christ.