

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U.S. PATENT OFFICE



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 November, 1928

Cover Design.....	C. C. Senf
<i>Illustrating a scene in "The Mystery in Acatlan"</i>	
The Eyrie	580
<i>A chat with the readers</i>	
The Mystery in Acatlan.....	Rachael Marshall, Maverick Terrell 582
<i>It happened in Acatlan, and the horror of it drove the American to seek forgetfulness in strange drugs</i>	
The Polar Doom.....	Edmond Hamilton 589
<i>From under the polar ice a horror out of long-dead ages is loosed upon the world to spread terror and destruction</i>	
The Head From Ecuador.....	Robert Lee Heiser 608
<i>The sight of that shriveled head and red hair, with the tattoo-marks he knew so well, was too much for Dan Hack</i>	
Flame of the Ages.....	Robert Choate Albright 616
<i>Shabad Nagaur, high priest of the Fire Temple of Oudh, let the sacred flame expire on the altar</i>	

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

[CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE]

- The Cave of Spiders**..... **William R. Hickey** 619
*Into the wilds of South America went Seton and his wife—
and there in a ghastly cave a terrible thing happened*
- Sonnets of the Midnight Hours:**
8. **The Creatures**..... **Donald Wandrei** 624
Verse; decoration by Hugh Rankin
- The Last Test**..... **Adolphe de Castro** 625
*A superb novelette, through which, like a cold breeze from
the tomb, sweep suggestions of unearthly horror*
- Satan and Lilith**..... **George Sterling** 656
Verse
- The Werewolf's Daughter (Part 2)**..... **H. Warner Munn** 657
*A three-part serial of the weird adventures that befell the
daughter of the Werewolf of Ponkert*
- The Flying Death**..... **B. Wallis** 669
*A dread monster comes from the sky, and the horror of its
coming robs mankind of its age-old sense of security*
- The Tryst in the Tomb**..... **M. J. Cain** 685
*Sardinossa's bride lay dead in the tomb, while Sardinossa
lurked in ambush for the young gallant who came to visit her*
- Folks Used to Believe:**
- The Fairy Court**..... **Alvin F. Harlow** 689
One of the strange beliefs of our ancestors
- The Tenant at Number Seven**..... **August W. Derleth** 690
*The ancient Roman medallion was bought by a strange man
who lived at St. John's Wood—a bizarre little ghost-story*
- Weird Story Reprint:**
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**..... **Washington Irving** 693
*The story of Ichabod Crane's tragic misadventure with the
headless horseman—a favorite tale with our grandparents*
- Haunted**..... **Earl W. Scott** 711
Verse

For Advertising Rates in WEIRD TALES Apply Direct to

WEIRD TALES

Western Advertising Office:
YOUNG & WARD, Mgrs.
300 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.
Phone, Central 6200

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 Fairy Court



THE people of the Middle Ages supposed those imaginary beings whom they called fairies to be organized into a kingdom, just as were human peoples. Oberon was their king. By many writers he was claimed to be the offspring of Julius Cæsar and a fairy usually known as Morgan le Fay, though the Italians called her Fata Morgana. It was probably from this union that the term, "morganatic marriage," originally meaning a marriage of two people in widely different spheres, originated.

In old British legend, however, Morgan le Fay was a sister of the mythical King Arthur, and had her home in that beautiful Isle of Avalon, where souls leaving earth were restored to eternal youth. She was the one who revealed to Arthur the intrigue of his wife, Guinevere, with Lancelot. In Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (early Sixteenth Century), Fata Morgana is represented as dispensing all the treasures of earth, and as inhabiting a palace at the bottom of a lake. The Italians still give the name Fata Morgana to the mirages which appear on their coast.

There is some disagreement over the name of Oberon's queen. Some

earlier writers give her name as Mab, but the bulk of the evidence seems to be that Queen Mab was the fairies' midwife—that is, the fairy whose duty it is to deliver the fancies of men and to cause dreams by pinching the sleeper, whispering in his ear or driving over him in her chariot. Shakespeare represents her as not only adept in teasing and mischief, but as the hag Nightmare in person. Spenser, in his *Faerie Queene*, gives the queen's name as Gloriana. In later years, Titania is mentioned as the queen, though Shakespeare is the first writer known to have used this name.

In Poole's *Parnassus* (1657), the persons of the fairy court are given as follows: Oberon the Emperor, Mab the Empress; Periwiggin, Perriwinckle, Puck, Hob-goblin, Tomalin, Tom Thumb were the courtiers; Hop, Mop, Drop, Pip, Skip, Tub, Tib, Tick, Pink, Pin, Quick, Gill, Im, Tit, Wap, Win and Nit were the maids of honor, and Nymphidia the mother of the maids. Puck, a very humorous, mischievous elf, is often represented as the court jester. He is the same sprite known in the British Isles as Robin Goodfellow, Will-o'-the-Wisp, and even by other names.