

The Arkham Sampler

Summer 1949

Contents

THE ONE WHO WAITS, a story by Ray Bradbury	3
IN THE YEAR 2889, a fiction by Jules Verne	9
HIEROGLYPHICS, a poem by Vincent Starrett	24
JOURNEY TO THE WORLD UNDERGROUND, a novel by Lewis Holberg	25
OBLIVION, a poem by Jose-Maria de Heredia	73
THE DOOR, a story by David H. Keller	74
TWO HORSEMEN, a poem by Vincent Starrett	81
TWO POEMS AFTER BAUDELAIRE, by Clark Ashton Smith	82
BOOKS OF THE QUARTER	
The Derleth Science-Fiction Collections, by Everett F. Bleiler	84
Ode to a Skylark, by Robert Bloch	86
More Caldecott, by Edward Wagenknecht	88
Poetry of Immortality, by John Haley	89
"American Dreams" and Utopias, by Everett F. Bleiler	90
Salem Again, by Robert Bloch	93
A Mixed Bag, by August Derleth	94

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TWO POEMS AFTER BAUDELAIRE

by CLARK ASHTON SMITH

THE GIANTESS

In times when Nature, filled with fervor limitless,
Conceived and brought to birth many a monstrous child,
I fain had dwelt anigh to some young giantess,
Even as lies a cat, voluptuous and mild,

At a queen's feet. Full happily I would have seen
Her soul and body burgeoning in dreadful games;
Divining if her heart behind the matutine
Mists of her eyes concealed a sun of somber flames.

I would have roamed her might rondures at mine ease;
Crawled on the thighward slope of her enormous knees;
Or when, at whiles, by summer-swollen suns oppressed,
She laid along the field her hugeness down,
I would have roamed her mighty rondures at mine ease;
As at a mountain's foot a still and peaceful town.