

A MAGAZINE OF THE BIZARRE AND UNUSUAL

Weird Tales

REGISTERED IN U. S. PATENT OFFICE

Volume 33

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Published monthly by Weird Tales, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. Entered as second class matter September 24, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y. Single copies, 25 cents. Subscription rates: One year in the United States and possessions, Cuba, Mexico, South America, Spain, \$2.50; Canada, \$2.75; elsewhere, \$3.00. English Office: Charles Lavell, Limited, 4 Clements Inn, Strand, London W.C.2, England. 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.

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FARNSWORTH WRIGHT, Editor. 178



WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

The
Plumed Serpent

By HOWELL CALHOUN

What surging hordes have swept before your face
Of cold blue stone! What caravans of slaves
And golden idols have rolled past this place
Of death! And loose-frocked priests, within huge caves
That loom below your horrid skull have read
From bibles older than sage Egypt's lore;
And drums beat far below your chiseled head
While maidens swayed upon the painted floor.

Your once translucent eyes of rough-hewn jade
Which gazed upon the holy Aztec kings,
The centuries of dust have overlaid,
And caked upon those orbs two crumbling rings.
Where once great Montezuma bowed in fear,
The visages of jungle beasts now leer.