



# Through the Time Glass

By Stanton A. Coblentz



**M**U, of the land of Morroh, the wisest of his race,  
From his crystal-towered temple, met Knowledge face to face,  
When through quicksilver windows of his Time-Revealing Glass,  
He watched the billowing ages draw close their hoods and pass.



He glimpsed milleniums crowded countless as prairie weeds,  
Man's serpent pathway twining through white and daggered deeds;  
And like a mountain searcher scanning the vague blue plains,  
His telescopic eyes beheld domains beyond domains.



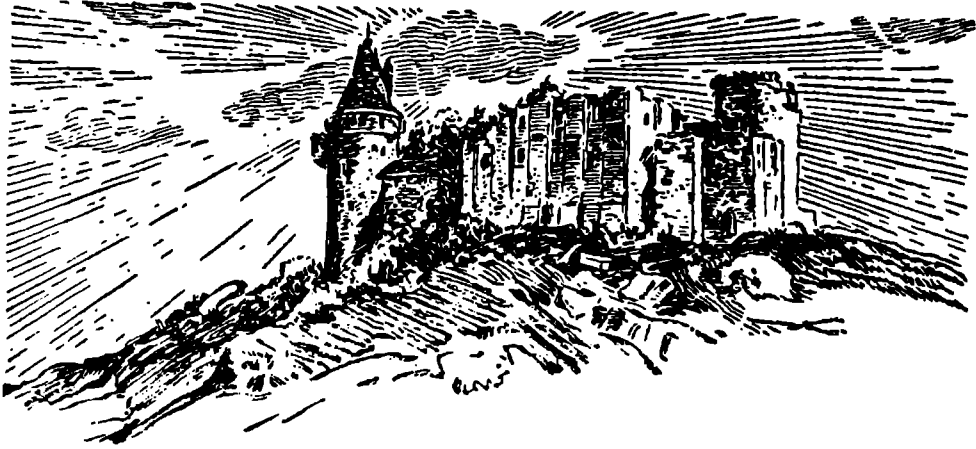
Low in the cloud-blurred distance a magnifying light  
Fell on a people sunken ten million years from sight.  
He saw their blunt steel barracks elbow the smoky void;  
Beheld their lightnings spout and crash, their fleets and towns destroyed.



Power the folk of Morroh never had dreamt nor sought  
Buzzed from the air, where iron birds mounted and swooped and fought.  
Power no bard had visioned dived under oil-smeared seas;  
Spat from the brusque gray squadrons and the gruff land-batteries.



Written Especially for Famous Fantastic Mysteries



What were those fierce wheels turning? What were those red-flamed mills?  
Those charred woods disembowelled? Those gouged black fields and hills?  
What were those dark crowds dashing, squirming where walls gaped high?  
For what were those grasping arms outreached? For what did they pant and die?



Mu, of the land of Morroh, nodded a wrinkled head.  
"They seem but raw, half-human things, rude-faced and meanly bred.  
Perhaps they were not men as we, but man-shaped, apish things,—  
Savages nursed on soot and fire—and their wings were vultures' wings!"



His large grave eyes were dimly moist as he turned aside and gazed  
At the land of Morroh lying calm, smokeless and golden-hazed.  
He heard clear women's laughter; and, from the amethyst courts,  
The hum of a laboring world enriched by friendly arts and sports.



And Mu recalled, "Great lizard kings once had their bellowing hour,  
And, like this monster, sank to earth, self-slain by their own power.  
Better that none should learn the ways of the Age of Blood and Brass!"  
So Mu, with weary strokes, destroyed the Time-Revealing Glass.