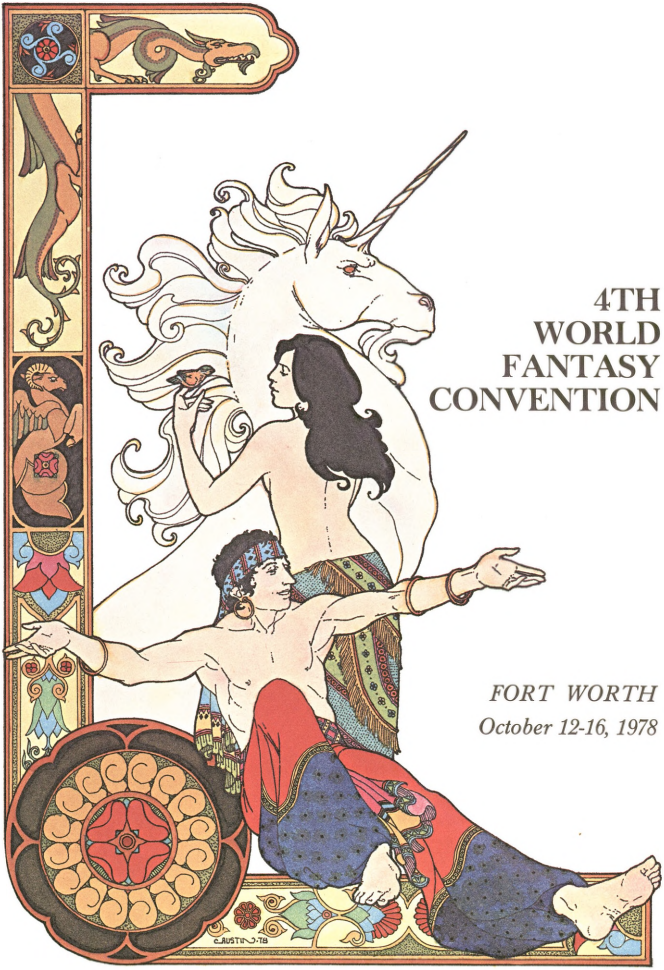
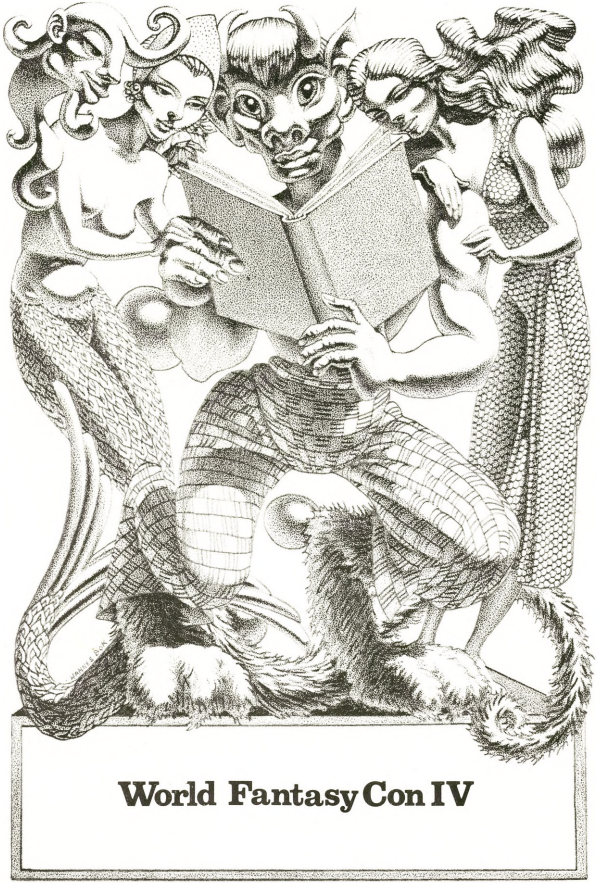


4TH WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

FORT WORTH

October 12-16, 1978



World Fantasy Con IV

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The Fourth World Fantasy Program Book is a one shot publication intended for the convention members. All rights revert to the contributors. Editor: Michael Templin

ROBERT ERVIN HOWARD

AND

THE FOURTH WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

In late 1974 I first conceived the idea of having a convention honoring Robert E. Howard somewhere in Texas. As with most of my good ideas I considered it a while, talked about it some, and then pigeonholed it away.

Then in the summer of 1975 I heard about a convention honoring H.P. Lovecraft that was calling itself the First World Fantasy Convention. This bit of information spurred me into action concerning my idea for a Howard convention. I checked on convention facilities in Brownwood, Texas, formed a tentative committee, and then flew up to Providence to present my idea to whoever had established this World Fantasy Convention. If Lovecraft was being honored by a convention of this magnitude I certainly was not going to let Howard be slighted by anything of a lesser stature.

When I arrived in Providence I found a convention that was certainly not international in attendance (although a few members were from such exotic places as Liverpool and Los Angeles) but was universal in it's spirit.

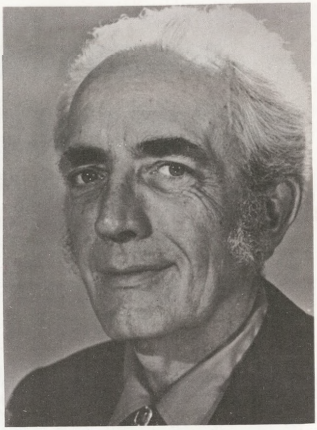
I then proceeded to talk up my idea for a World Fantasy Convention in Texas. When I was told that the next one was to be held in New York City I said that was too bad but I would take the third one. The problem was that a bid from Los Angeles was submitted and when a vote by the original committee was taken Texas was the loser by one vote and we got number four after moving the site to Fort Worth.

In the meantime the fantasy field has expanded many times over since the early 1970's. The field has changed and so has the Fourth World Fantasy Convention. This convention is not a Robert E. Howard Convention solely. It is a World Fantasy Convention honoring Robert E. Howard. A subtle yet distinct difference. Important as he is Howard is only a small portion of the fantasy field.

I hope that each person attending this convention enjoys himself but at sometime during the festivities remembers that everything that occurs here is dedicated to a man who did not even have a book published in his lifetime, who ended his existence in an act of despair, and yet whose work has survived to our benefit and inspiration.

FRITZ LEIBER

Guest of Honor



Fritz Leiber was born in Chicago on December 24, 1910, son of Shakespearean players Fritz Leiber and Virginia Bronson. He acted in his father's repertory company during 1929 and 1934. Leiber received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1932, majoring in psychology and physiology. He later spent a year at the Episcopal General Theological Seminary and was minister of two mission churches in New Jersey.

Leiber's list of accomplishments is staggering. He has won the World Science Fiction Convention's Hugo Award six times, the Science Fiction Writers of America's Nebula Award three times, the World Fantasy Award twice, the British Fantasy Society's August Derleth Award once, and was presented the Grand Master of Fantasy Award at the World Science Fiction Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

His first novel Conjure Wife has been twice made into a film and once into an hour long television program. His horror stories "The Girl With the Hungry Eyes" and "The Dead Man" were dramatized by Rod Serling for his "Night Gallery" television series. He has had two issues of magazines devoted completely to his stories (November 1959 Fantastic and July 1969 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction).

Leiber currently resides in San Francisco, where he has set his latest novel, Our Lady of Darkness, which has been nominated for the World Fantasy Award's best novel category. His newest sword and sorcery novel Rime Isle, has been published by Whispers Press in a limited hard cover edition illustrated by Tim Kirk.

Leiber's interests include science, metaphysics, history, chess, field astronomy, cats, acting, poetry reading, and the cinema. The Fourth World Fantasy Convention is pleased to welcome this unique and wonderful man as Guest of Honor.

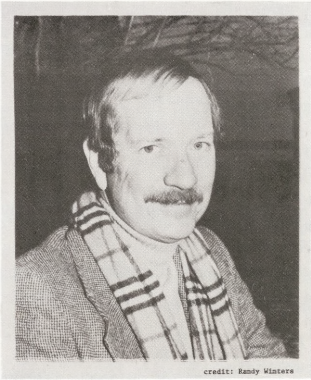
ALICIA AUSTIN

Artist Guest of Honor

Alicia Austin was born in Providence, Kentucky on November 24, 1942. Due to her father being in the Army she did a lot of traveling in her youth.

Alicia studied art at the University of Houston for four years on a scholarship, then studied cyto technology and accepted a job in Ottawa, Canada in 1964. This is where she was introduced to science fiction fandom.

She has had work published by Ace Books and has illustrated three books for Don Grant: Echoes From an Iron Harp and A Witch Shall Be Born by Robert E. Howard and Black God's Kiss by C.L. Moore. In 1971 Ms. Austin received a Hugo for Best Fan Artist. We are pleased to have this talented woman as our Artist Guest of Honor.



credit: Randy Winters

GAHAN WILSON

Toastmaster

Gahan Wilson is not an easily defined personality. He cannot be categorized just as a cartoonist even though he was the first student to graduate from the Art Institute of Chicago specifically as one and has produced his grimly funny cartoons for Playboy, National Lampoon and The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction for several years. He is also an anthologist, sculptor, book reviewer, and writer of excellent short stories.

The sculptor of the Lovecraft bust that is presented as the World Fantasy Award, Wilson is a prime and integral part of the Fantasy Convention. We are honored to have him as our Toastmaster.

ESTEEMED GUESTS

Ramsey Campbell
Lin Carter
Hugh B. Cave
C.J. Cherryh
L. Sprague deCamp
Lester and Judy Lynn Del Rey
Gordon Dickson
Stephen Donaldson
David Drake
Harlan Ellison
Charles L. Grant
Donald Grant
Stephen King
Tim Kirk
Glenn Lord
George R.R. Martin
H. Warner Munn
Andrew J. Offutt
Stuart David Schiff
Kenneth Smith
Roy Thomas
Lisa Tuttle
Karl Edward Wagner
Howard Waldrop
Robert Weinberg
Manly Wade Wellman
Michael Whelan
Donald A. Wollheim

WORLD FANTASY AWARDS - FINAL NOMINATIONS

BEST NOVEL: The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever (3 vols.) by Stephen Donaldson (Holt, Rinehart, Winston)
The Hour of the Oxrun Dead, by Charles L. Grant (Doubleday)
Our Lady of Darkness, by Fritz Leiber (Berkley/Putnam)

BEST SHORT FICTION: The Chimney, by Ramsey Campbell (Whispers, Doubleday, ed. Stuart D. Schiff)
Loveman's Comeback, by Ramsey Campbell (More Devil's Kisses, Corgi, ed. Michel Parry)
Manatee Gal, Ain't Ya Comin' Out Tonight, by Avram Davidson (F&SF, April '78)
Jeffty is Five, Harlan Ellison (F&SF, July 1978)
When All the Children Call My Name, C.L. Grant (Year's Best Horror, DAW, ed. G.W. Page)
Bagful of Dreams, by Jack Vance (Flashing Swords #4, Dell, ed. Lin Carter)

BEST COLLECTION OR ANTHOLOGY: Cold Chills, Robert Bloch (Doubleday)
Murgunstrumm and Others, Hugh B. Cave (Carcosa)
Swords and Ice Magic, Fritz Leiber (Ace Books)
Year's Best Horror Stories #5, ed. Gerald W. Page (DAW)
Whispers, ed. Stuart David Schiff (Doubleday)

BEST ARTIST: Lee Brown Coye
Stephen Fabian
Tim Kirk
Michael Whelan

SPECIAL AWARD: PRO: E.F. Bleiler
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Edward L. Ferman
Donald A. Wollheim

SPECIAL AWARD: NON-PRO: Jonathan Bacon
Gary Hoppenstand
Harry Morris
W. Paul Ganley
Stephen Jones
Robert Weinberg

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT: Jorge Luis Borges
Roald Dahl
Richard Matheson
John Collier
Frank Belknap Long
Manly Wade Wellman

****

Judges: Charles N. Brown
Carl Jacobi
Stephen King
T.E.D. Klein
Karl Edward Wagner

Judges' decisions will be announced at the awards banquet Sunday, October 15.

Pigeons
from
Hell

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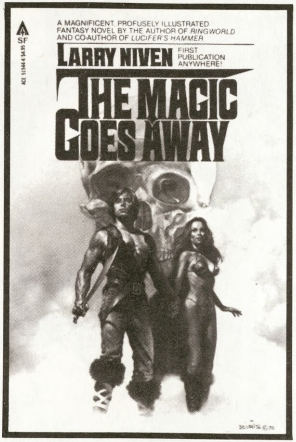

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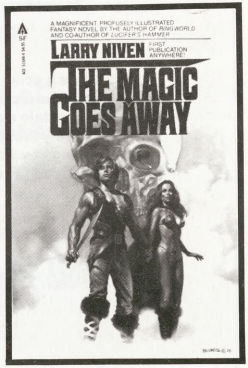
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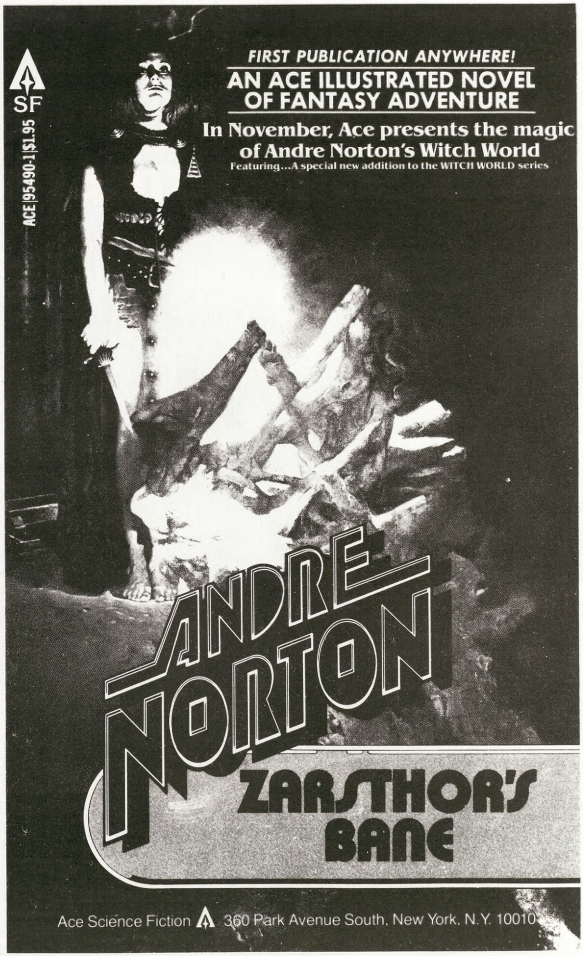
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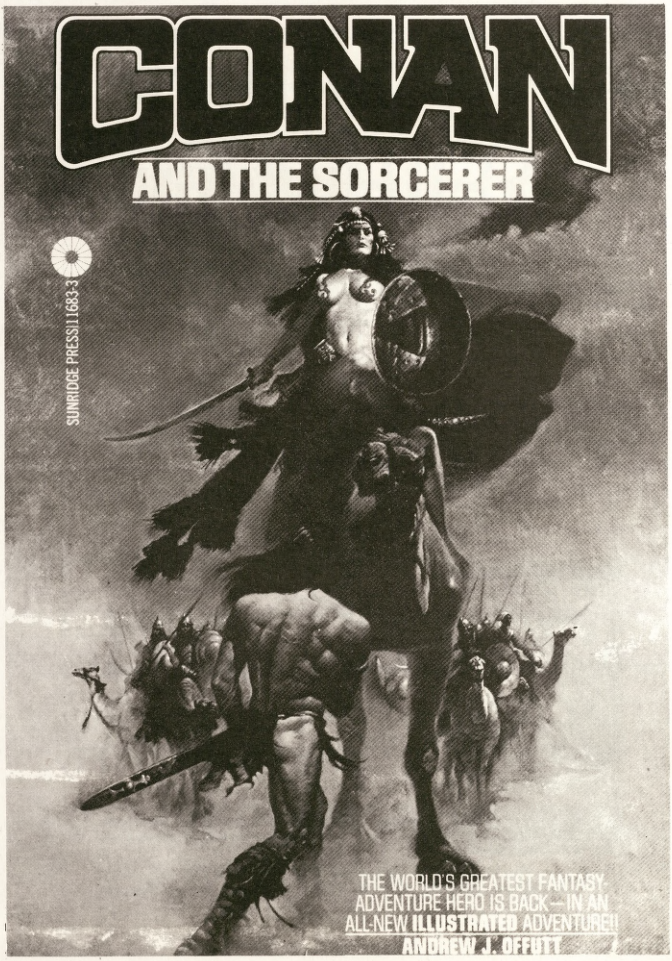
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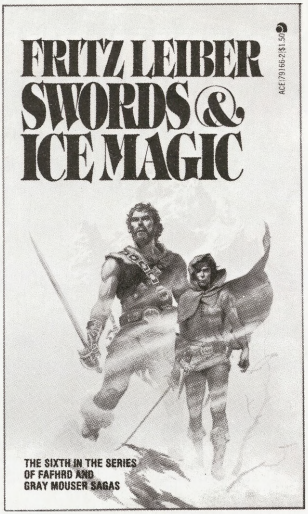

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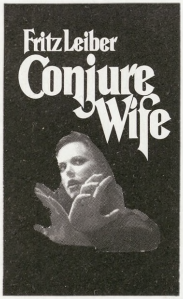

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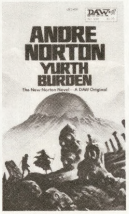

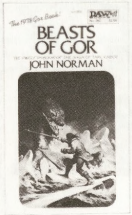

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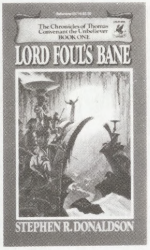

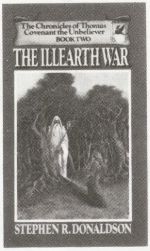

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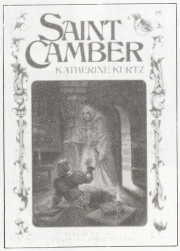

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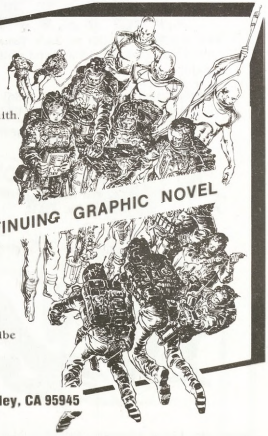

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Here are a few quotes from letters we've received, so far, about this issue:

ROBERT A. BLOCH --- Many thanks for the beautiful anniversary issue of WEIRDBOOK 13. Your lineup of artists and writers bespeaks the quality of the magazine... I particularly enjoyed the contributions of messers Page and Munn --- and thought, as I read, how fortunate we are to see the tradition of W.T. continuing today.

JOSEPH PAYNE BRENNAN --- My great thanks for your splendid tenth-anniversary issue. A magnificent job. You assuredly deserve the heartiest congratulations... I have little doubt that this special issue will, in time, become a collector's target.

ANDREW OFFUTT --- Here's my old mail-friend and (mail-) collaborator, Bruce Berry, on the good cover --- and back cover and interiors brilliantly devised and executed by J. K. Potter, whose work I don't recall having seen afore. And a bloodless legend by Charles Saunders --- what fun! The REH poem obviously inspired Fabian, who proceeded to create art that exceeds the poem in excellence. The Jon Holcombe work on page 33 is startling; truly otherworldly *and yet softly beautiful. I'd welcome it as the cover on any of my books.... odd one has the feeling that while "All Things Dark and Evil" is a good phrase, making a fine title, the Cole story's real title is that strange and evocative word/name, "Shatterface." And how well Munn writes, always. That which marks WEIRDBOOK more than any other such journals is its lack of typos and quality of language/punctuation.*

CHARLES R. SAUNDERS --- Your 13th issue is a tremendous accomplishment... Content-wise, WB13 is as good as many an anthology I've seen on the paperback racks. Better than many, in fact.... congratulations... let's see 10 more years like this!

CHARLES L. GRANT --- Many thanks for... WEIRDBOOK 13. I don't know where that magazine has been all my life, but you can rest assured that I'm not about to let it slip by again. It was, frankly, a delight (especially the Page and Bishop pieces), and the artwork was.... no words here. I was going to say 'fascinating,' but that's been used too often, and it really isn't strong enough for my reactions.

WEIRDBOOK 13 is our special 10th year anniversary issue, featuring an extra-large 100-page size (8½ x 11 inches as usual), perfectbound. This issue features novelets by Bertin, Cole, Bishop, Munn, Page; short tales by Castell, Lumley, Saunders, Wells, and others; a full page hitherto unpublished poem by ROBERT E. HOWARD; and artwork by Fabian, Berry, Pitts, and many other outstanding artists. The perfectbound paper cover version is $5.00--- and there is a special hard cover edition, limited to about 160 copies, which sells for $15... provided that it is available at all. (At this time of writing only about 30 copies are still on hand.)

IT'S WEIRDBOOK'S TENTH BIRTHDAY --- AND WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ALL OF THE WEIRDBOOK PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN PRINT. MORE DETAILS?--- JUST WRITE: W. PAUL GANLEY, BOX 35, AMHERST BRANCH, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14226. IF ORDERING, MAKE CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO WEIRDBOOK. TAKE 10% OFF ORDERS TOTALLING $25 OR MORE. DEALERS WRITE FOR OUR DISCOUNT RATES.

WEIRDBOOK back issues. WEIRDBOOK ELEVEN and WEIRDBOOK TWELVE are still in print. These are regular size (64 pages, 8½ x 11 inches in size). ELEVEN features fiction by Brian Lumley, Eddy Bertin, Charles R. Saunders, H. Warner Munn, Basil Wells, George Wetzel, Darrell Schweitzer, etc, with art by Roy Krenkel (the cover, which features a nude witch-woman surrounded by fantasy creatures), Stephen E. Fabian, Gene Day, and others. TWELVE features two long novelettes by L. Sprague de Camp and H. Warner Munn, with short tales by Eddy Bertin, Basil Wells, Janet Fox, Paul Collins, Darrell Schweitzer, Scott Home, and others. The front cover is a new "fantasy nude" by Fabian; back cover is by Gene Day, along with interiors by Day, Garrison, Hjort, Fulkerson, and others. Each issue presents a hitherto unpublished poem by Robert E. Howard. PRICE --- $3.00 each.

WEIRDBOOK previously was published in 32-page issues, now priced at $1 if available. As this is being written, TWO, THREE and FIVE are OUT OF PRINT, and it is almost certain that ONE will also be out of print by the time this advertisement appears. FOUR and SIX are nearing O.P. status, but will probably still be available. SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, and TEN should be in print yet for some time. They include tales by Howard, Munn, Wells, Home, Schweitzer, James Wade, Wade Wellman, and many many others, with artwork by A. B. Cox, Judy Fulkerson, Jim Garrison, Denis Tiani, and so forth. PRICE: $1.00 each.

HOLLOW FACES, MERCILESS MOONS is a "special issue" of 96 pages plus covers. Contents are all new stories by William Scott Home and all new art by Stephen E. Fabian. SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW *said: William Scott Home writes weird, often bizarre, violent (yet curiously static) fiction. Vivid, often boring, often electrifying material.. And Steve Fabian has done over a dozen drawings --- evocative, in his most graphic style --- some of them full-page. The book is 8½ x 11, offset, on white paper, heavy white cover stock, about 98 pages. Worth the money as entertainment and keeping value.*
PRICE: paper cover edition, $5.00 hard cover collectors edition, $15.00

THE GOTHIC HORROR AND OTHER WEIRD TALES is another special issue, this time of 64 pages plus covers, devoted to stories by George T. Wetzel, most reprinted from little magazines, with one entirely new novelette, THE PIRATE OF SHELL CASTLE, which has received commendations from several readers. Of this, SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW says: *(These)... books are printed in the same format as the magazine, 8½ x 11, which makes the artwork look very nice indeed. Wetzel is best known as one of the real pioneers of Lovecraft scholarship, but he has written a small amount of fiction over the years. He has a polished style and a definite talent for imagery, but I find most of his shorter work fragmentary and underdeveloped. One novelet in this book of course isn't, but the others are pleasant, if minor stuff. Very readable.* The eight full-page drawings (including the covers) are by Tim Kirk and are worth the price of the book all by themselves!
PRICE: paper cover edition, $4.00 hard cover collectors edition, $13.50

STILL AVAILABLE from WEIRDBOOK is the collection TOADSTOOL WINE, which features samples from six magazines --- FANTASY & TERROR, MOONBROTH, SPACE & TIME, WHISPERS, WEIRDBOOK, and WYRD. FOUR of these are still publishing, and a fifth has changed title and format, since publication of TOADSTOOL WINE in 1975. Excellent covers by Lee Brown Coye and Fabian, introductory article by Fritz Leiber, and MUCH MUCH MORE. PRICE: $2.95.

BARRY R. LEVIN

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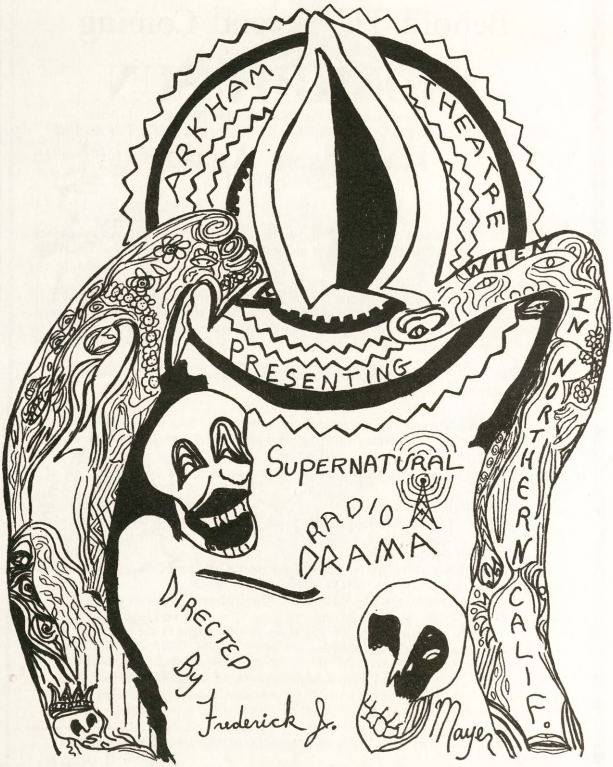
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CIMMERIA

I remember
The dark woods, masking slopes of sombre hills;
The grey clouds' leaden everlasting arch;
The dusky streams that flowed without a sound,
And the lone winds that whispered down the passes.

Vista on vista marching, hills on hills,
Slope beyond slope, each dark with sullen trees,
Our gaunt land lay. So when a man climbed up
A ragged peak and gazed, his shaded eye
Saw but the endless vista - hill on hill,
Slope beyond slope, each hooded like its brothers.

It was a gloomy land that seemed to hold
All winds and clouds and dreams that shun the sun,
With bare boughs rattling in the lonesome winds,
And the dark woodlands brooding over all,
Not even lightened by the rare dim sun
Which made squat shadows out of men; they called it
Cimmeria, land of Darkness and deep Night.

It was so long ago and far away
I have forgot the very name men called me.
The axe and flint-tipped spear are like a dream,
And hunts and wars are shadows. I recall
Only the stillness of that sombre land;
The clouds that piled forever on the hills,
The dimness of the everlasting woods.
Cimmeria, land of Darkness and the Night.

Robert E. Howard

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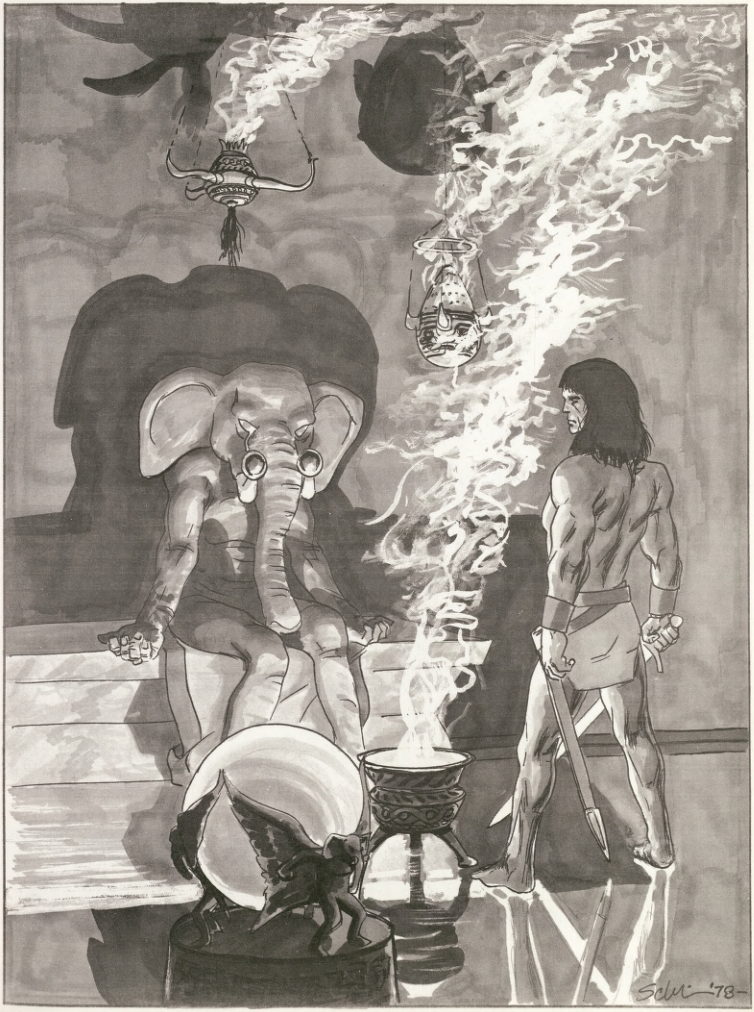
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