

AUGUST DERLETH SOCIETY



Vol.6 No.1

NEWSLETTER

WALDEN WEST FESTIVAL - SAC PRAIRIE

OCTOBER 10, 1982

A report by Bill Dutch

The program began with a presentation by Richard Bodreau, English Department, University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse, who discussed various aspects of Deleth's books comprising the Wisconsin Saga. The works that he reviewed were: BRIGHT JOURNEY, THE HOUSE ON THE MOUND, THE HILLS STAND WATCH, THE SHADOW IN THE GLASS and THE WIND LEANS WEST. John Westburg, North American Mentor Magazine editor and publisher, talked about his magazine and his own introduction to Derleth's writings. Jim Forsythe read a comment from Lois Byrns relating her recollections of August Derleth.

A panel discussion chaired by Bill Dyke and including Karl Ganzlin, Alice Conger and George Marx recalled many aspects

of the panelist's associations with August Derleth, as a writer and in his day to day life. At the conclusion of the panel, Bill Dyke called upon several members of the audience to share their recollections and observations of Derleth. The panel, scheduled for one hour, ran on for an hour and a half with very active participation from the audience. It seemed to this writer that we experienced a revival of a scene that happened quite often in days gone by at the Park Hall. The Free Thinkers, following a pot luck dinner, would sit back and listen to a guest lecturer, often Max Otto a professor of philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After the lecture the audience would gather around the speaker to ask

Copyright (c) 1982 by Richard Fawcett
All rights revert to contributors

Tales of the macabre, and Poetry. With all these productions he still found time to keep a daily journal of the people he met during the day - the things of wild life and plants he spotted during his early morning and evening walks.

Mr. Derleth enjoyed good food. He and I had many delicious dinners at the Firehouse Restaurant, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin; The Pines of Middleton, Wisconsin; The Simon House of Madison, Wisconsin. Whenever he was in Chicago, either for the drama or the opera, we would meet at his Club, "The Cliff Dwellers," for cocktails and dinner. After a fabulous meal he, his guests and I would leave for the theatre or the opera house. Since time meant so much to him he did not stay over, but returned to Sauk City, usually arriving home at 2:30 A.M. Perhaps he would then stay in bed an extra hour before starting his daily stint at the desk.

It still does not seem possible that my friend of so many years is gone. He helped me to live a full life, and it is this feeling that will sustain me in the years ahead.

A BRIEF EDITORIAL
by Richard Fawcett

Occasionally I receive requests in re. the value of books written by August Derleth. I rather suspect that my answers are probably not what the writer wants to hear, for I generally reply: "Whatever you can get."

In placing a value on any work of literature there are a number of factors to consider. First of course is supply and demand. A limited print run means nothing if no one is looking to add the work to their collection. The condition of the book is also important. Just as in stamp collecting where the gum on the back of the stamp is often more important than the stamp

itself, so too, the existence of a dust jacket and its condition may be the major factor in determining the value of a book.

Is the book with or without the owner's nameplate? Unless the owner is/was a famous person, a bookplate decreases the book's value. Is the work autographed by the author/illustrator? How common are autographed copies? Is the work a first edition? And so on.

The questions are many. The price you may have to pay for a book may depend largely on how anxious you are to own it, and conversely, the price you get for a book may well depend upon how anxious you are to sell.

I myself have paid \$90 for a tacky (mouse-chewed-in-one-corner) copy of the Arkham House edition of SOMEONE IN THE DARK, without autograph - I could'n't wait, to as little as \$7 for a pristine copy (with dust jacket) of RETURN TO WALDEN WEST autographed by both Derleth and Utpatel. Recently I bid on twenty works of August Derleth in a California book auction. Keeping my bids low in each instance, I was rewarded with some nine works of August Derleth for a total bill of \$75. Three of the books were autographed and all were in fine condition or better with dust jackets. Granted they all had bookplates, but with dust jackets and autographs, who cares!

As a result of my success in this auction I now have available an extra copy of WALDEN POND, HOMAGE TO THOREAU, with dust jacket and in fine condition. My first copy was one of the last available from the Thoreau Lyceum in Concord, Massachusetts, and is now replaced by a copy autographed by both Derleth and Utpatel.

Some of the auction lots on which I bid contained more than one book, so I also find myself with an extra copy of A HOUSE ABOVE CUZCO. Since Peter Ruber kindly supplied me with a mint copy of this work some time ago, the extra copy recently received is also available.

And now for those of you who have been patient to stay with me this far, a little reward. For the first Society member reading these words who will certify that he/she does not possess either or both of the works just mentioned, I will be pleased to send either or both books (as the case may be) to you free of charge. The winners of this little contest will be mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter. But never fear, your address will be published only if you so request.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOURSOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 1983!!! DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$5.00/YR. REMEMBER, THIS INCLUDES YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NEWSLETTER.

SEND THE FOLLOWING TO:

HERB ATTIX, ADS Treasurer
3333 WESTVIEW LANE
MADISON, WI 53713

Dear Mr. Attix:

Enclosed find \$5.00 in payment of my 1983 August Derleth Society dues.

Name

Street & Number

City State Zip

Concerning the first of the two poems in the next column, Elaine Emans writes: "I found 'A Battle over the Teacups' in GOOD TIMES THROUGH LITERATURE (for ninth grade)...published by Scott, Foresman & Co., in 1951. 'The Battle' appears in the first section entitled 'Thrills and Chills.'"

This is Volume 6, Number 1 of the August Derleth Society Newsletter: November 1982. Edited, published and distributed by Richard H. Fawcett, 61 Teecomwas Dr., Uncasville, CT 06382

AFTER READING AUGUST DERLETH'S
"A BATTLE OVER THE TEACUPS in a Ninth
Grade Text

by Elaine V. Emans

Train in Manchuria, 1932:
the stage seems worlds away, yet the war lord
General Wah of North China and Mr. Lu-

Gen, nationalist secret agent, can be heard
discussing matters of warfare over tea
served by a pretty woman, every word

chosen with care. The latter pointedly
sweetens his own tea, and later tries to slip
a powder into the General's -- wary, he

insists the cups be exchanged. (Wah dies in sleep
The textbook summary ventures to inquire
if the case would foil Sherlock Holmes.

Though I keep

recalling the brilliant sleuth could never err,
only Messrs. Doyle & Derleth would know for sure.

REMEMBERING CELIA THAXTER

When wind and other adversaries
threaten my flowerbeds I think of you
out there on windswept, rocky Appledore
nearly a century ago --
creating your garden in mainland soil
and manure taken ten miles by boat
from Portsmouth.

What didn't you plant in that area
fifty by fifteen feet? In the chart
I see Margaret Pinks to Sweet Rockets
to Asa Gray Nasturtiums, Traveler's
Joy to four tubs of Water Lilies
to Love-in-a-mist, Hugelias to Roses,
Hollyhocks to Iceland Poppies,
Phlox to Mignonette -- fifty-seven
flowers at least! Taking infinite pains
you were a green-thumbed genius.

Sleep on at the foot of the plot
where your garden blew near its lonely
beach, Sandpiper Lady...
Dream its glory back.

THE AUGUST DERLETH/BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS
BY

Nic Howard

When, at the Birmingham, England, fantasy convention in July, I was elected co-Administrator (with Mike Chinn) of the British Fantasy Awards, I did a little research into its past.

The August Derleth Fantasy Award was inaugurated in 1971 at the suggestion of Ramsey Campbell, as a fitting tribute and memorial by the newly-formed British Fantasy Society to a man who had done so much for the genre over the years. It was first presented in 1972, initially for Best Novel only.

In 1972 extra categories were introduced: Best Story, Best Film and Best Comic. These categories continued until the reorganization of 1977, when the August Derleth Fantasy Award was again presented for Best Novel only; the winners in other categories receiving the British Fantasy Award.

With minor changes in categories, and occasional Special Awards, this has continued to the present.

The awards are voted for by members of the BFS.

From 1972 to 1976, the award was a scroll designed by artist Jim Cawthorn. Jim Pitt's statuette of a cowed figure with a book was the award during 1977 and 1978, while since then an eldritch tentacled thing, a Cthulhoid being designed by Dave Carson has been handed to the honoured recipients!

AWARD LISTING

(Note: the award is given in the year following publication or appearance.)

1972

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE KNIGHT OF THE SWORDS

1973

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE KING OF THE SWORDS

Best Story: L. Sprague de Camp, "The Fallible Fiend"

Best Film: TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Best Comic: CONAN

Posthumous Award: Robert E. Howard (1906-1936), THE MARCHERS OF VALHALLA

1974

Best Novel: Poul Anderson, HROLF KRAKI'S SAGA

Best Story: Michael Moorcock, "The Jade Man's Eyes"

Best Film: THE LEGEND OF HILL HOUSE

Best Comic: CONAN

1975

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE SWORD AND THE STALLION

Best Story: Karl Edward Wagner, "Sticks"

Best Film: THE EXORCIST

Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

1976

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE HOLLOW LANDS

Best Story: (collection): Fritz Leiber, THE SECOND BOOK OF FRITZ LEIBER

Best Film: MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

1977

Best Novel: Gordon R. Dickson, THE DRAGON AND THE GEORGE

Best Story: Karl Edward Wagner, "Two Suns Setting"

Best Film: THE OMEN

Best Comic: HOWARD THE DUCK 3

Best Artist: Mike Kaluta

Best Small Press: Anduril 6

1978

Best Novel: Piers Anthony, A SPELL FOR CHAMELEON

Best Story: Ramsey Campbell, "In the Bag"

Best Film: CARRIE

Best Comic: WEIRDWORLD

Best Artist: Stephen Fabian

Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 1

1979

Best Novel: Stephen Donaldson, CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT

Best Story: Harlan Ellison, "Jeffty is Five"

Best Film: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND
Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN
Best Artist: Boris Vallejo
Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 2

1980

Best Novel: Tanith Lee, DEATH'S MASTER
Best Story: Fritz Leiber, "The Button Moulder"
Best Film: ALIEN
Best Comic; HEAVY METAL
Best Artist: Stephen Fabian
Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 3

1981

Best Novel: Ramsey Campbell, TO WAKE THE DEAD (U.S. title, THE PARASITE)
Best Story: Robert Aickman, "The Stains" (awarded posthumously, Aickman died earlier in 1981, a great loss to the genre and his many admirers.)
Best Film: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
Best Artist: Dave Carson
Best Small Press: Airgedlamh
Special Award: Stephen King

1982

Best Novel: Stephen King, CUJO
Best Story: Dennis Etchison, "The Dark Country"
Best Film; RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK
Best Artist: Dave Carson
Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales

Sources

WHO'S WHO IN HORROR AND FANTASY FICTION, Mike Ashley
THE BRITISH FANTASY SOCIETY, THE FIRST TEN YEARS, Dave Sutton

August Derleth, always a strong Anglophile, would have been pleased with this issue. In the spirit of Anglo-American cooperation which he did so much to foster, both articles on this and the preceeding page were contributed by members in the U.K.

DERLETH AND PARODY
by
John Kennedy Melling

I first encountered Derleth's work whilst staying with Colin Wilson, the author, at his clifftop home in Cornwall, England, in the early 1970's. As both friend and business advisor since the OUTSIDER was published I was no stranger to his splendid library of some 20,000 books, and in the guest chalet my mother and I found the row of Derleth's books, all warmly signed, from their meeting when Colin had been a visiting professor at an American university. Both authors are marked by a remarkable versatility and comprehensive knowledge, Arkham House publshed Colin's THE MIND PARASITES, and Colin frequently refers to Derleth in his own books.

One of my own subjects is the roman policier, particularly the use of parody and pastiche. There are more than one thousand parodies of Sherlock Holmes, from the comic to the occult, and involving personalities from Jack the Ripper to Sigmund Freud. Not all writers can absorb the local colour of time and place, either in the local characterizations, or even the dialogue, but I found from the first page August Derleth had created an authentic world for Solar Pons and Dr. Lyndon Parker with a vivid accuracy, so much so that I was startled to learn from George Marx that Derleth had not flown to London but plotted the stories from local maps and contemporary train timetables, as George was later to confirm for himself.

The straightforward parody was not only skilfully done, and with loyalty to Conan Doyle's original creations, but with a subtle humor and erudition comorable to Michael Innes and Ellery Queen, at the same time extending the original characters almost as did Gerald Fairley with Bulldog Drummond, and detective-story writer Francis Gerard with Edgar Wallace's Sanders of the River (Haycraft queried whether Fairley and Gerard were one and the same?)

The second paramount achievement was in group parody, as in THE ADVENTURE OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS. The famous European luxury express train parodies into a much more esoteric form, denoting wide reading, humor, style appreciation, characterization, and originality, perhaps unique in all the works of August Derleth, and yet further proof of his polished mastery of so many fields in literature. Certainly this particular example of parody and pastiche deserves much wider recognition, especially inter alia to travellers on the newly-revived and elegant Orient Express again speeding, thanks to American enterprise, from London to Venice. Most histories ignore Derleth's story in fact and fiction summaries, but I have notified both the New Orient Express proprietors and at least one historian, with fresh interest thereby generated.

Derleth Society member John Kennedy Melling is an English Author, historian, critic, and broadcaster on subjects from the Guilds to circus and antiques, and is the Special Assistant for affairs in England of the International Academy of Criminology of America. He wrote and published MURDER DONE TO DEATH, a survey of parody and pastiche in the detective story.

MURDER DONE TO DEATH, A Survey of Pastiche and Parody of the Detective Story, by John Kennedy Melling, 8pp., was published by Mr. Melling in 1979 in a limited edition of five hundred copies. The work contains no less than two favorable references to August Derleth's contributions; first a mention of the Solar Pons series under the heading "Number One- Sherlock Holmes," and second a lengthy and favorable review of THE ADVENTURE OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS under the the heading "PARODY EN MASSE."

IN THE SPIRIT OF AUGUST DERLETH
or
IT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A MEMBER

Ms. Kay P. Mulcahy, President
August Derleth Society
100 Jefferson Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dear Kay:

Thank you for the \$100.00 contributiion from the August Derleth Society for an adult scholarship. These scholarships are very much appreciated and sometimes make the difference in whether or not an adult student can attend classes.

I'm glad we were able to help you with the Derleth program last fall, and I cer..inly appreciate your thoughtful contribution.

Sincerely yours,

Aural Umhoefer
Dean

The above from the University of Wsiconsin Center. The following is from the Wisconsin Regional Writers Assoiciation, Inc.

Kay Price Mulcahy, President
August Derleth Society
100 Jefferson Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dear Ms. Mulcahy:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 1982. We are pleased to receive your check for \$100.00, to be applied to aid a student attending Rhinelander School of the Arts.

We have contacted Ced Vig with this information. He has on file the applications for the school. After checking these files, he returned our call to tell us there is a person who he feels could use the help. Using this information, we are sending him the \$100.00 to apply toward this scholarship. He, no doubt, will be in contact with you.

Again, thank you...

Sincerely,
Darlene Kronschnabel, President

REVIEWS

AMONG A GODLY FEW, by Peter Magliocco, Limited Editions Press, 8412 Wilbur Avenue, Northridge, CA 91324 is written with force and sensitivity. The sort of work that bites hard into the stuff that molds a nation, it probably will not have the distribution that it deserves. To quote from the book's own summary: "Set within the historical context of the 1968 Washington, D.C., riots, AMONG A GODLY FEW is a novel concerned with the emerging consciousness of its young narrator- P.F.C. Lozano, a young Hispanic American....AMONG A GODLY FEW is in the final analysis a personal examination of America - its historical present state in relation to its past-and what meaning it has to those of its family (Blacks, Hispanics, and all other citizens under fire) who search for its promise while pursuing their Constitutional civil rights."

You may not find yourself always agreeing with what the work has to say, it may in fact annoy you at times, but anyone who needs to be reminded, or would simply like to be reminded, that we are all a nation of immigrants (excepting my wife and her family, who were here to greet the boats) owes it to himself/herself to devote a moment to this well-written work.

Graeme Flanagan, a man who is living proof that the computer has far to go before seriously threatening the scope of the human brain, has once again favored us with one of his splendid, all too infrequent small press booklets, BOY'S OWN FANTASY ANNUAL - 1982, produced for the 10th Anniversary mailing of the Robert E. Howard United Press Association. BOY'S OWN FANTASY ANNUAL - 1982 is a splendid compendium of essays, reminiscences, stories, pictures and bibliography, put together with the care and attention one has come to take for granted in the case of Mr. Flanagan's publications.

Scantly clad young ladies (as scantily clad as one was allowed to represent the female form in magazines circa 1930-1950) delight the eye as full and part page reproductions of early fantasy and science-fiction magazine covers, one learns that Robert E. Howard once wrote a short story for the April 1929 GHOST STORY magazine under the name of John Taverel, and as if this were not enough, the final few pages include a checklist of sources where one may find reprintings of stories from UNKNOWN and UNKNOWN WORLDS, information for which the true fantasy fan is always athirsting. This little booklet (40pp.) is further enhanced by the presence of Graeme's own fine essay as well as reminiscences by Robert Bloch, L. Sprague de Camp, Manly Wade Wellman and Fritz Leiber. It is, in short, a splendid example of the best that the fan press has to offer.

ACTIVITIES OF OUR MEMBERS

Jim Turner sends word from Arkham House that Basil Copper's THE HOUSE OF THE WOLF will soon be ready for distribution. Price \$14.95. Mr. Copper is also currently at work on his next Arkham House book, THE BLACK DEATH, "a gothic extravaganza involving Satanism in the nineteenth century." (to quote Mr. Turner).

The Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation is alive and well promoting the arts in rural America and is currently seeking new members. For information write: Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation, Alderbaran, Spring Green, WI 53588 (608-588-7325). Mr. Gard has recently been named State Folklorist by Wisconsin governor Dreyfus, been initiated as an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa, presented a series of lectures at UW-Madison (extension) on creative writing, and lectured at the Rhinelander School for the Arts.

Joseph Payne Brennan was honored as Guest of Honor at the 1982 World Fantasy Convention in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mr. Brennan's latest work, **EVIL ALWAYS ENDS**, is available from Donald M. Grant, Publisher, West Kingston, RI 02892 at \$15 the copy.

Rehearsal Night, a recent work by Frank Belknap Long has been published in a limited, signed edition of 250 copies by Cat's God, Boston, MA. The next issue of **FANTASY MACABRE** will feature a short story written by Mr. Long for that magazine. **A FANTASY MACABRE FIRST!**

Brian Lumley has authored a chilling little book of poetry with equally eldritch art work by Dave Carson: **GHOUL WARNING AND OTHER OMENS**, is available from Spectre Press.

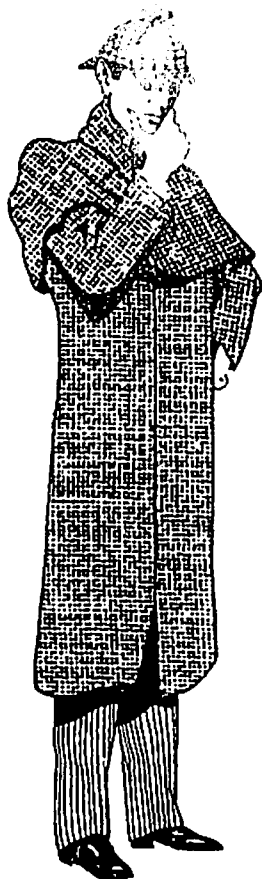
THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS, by August Derleth, edited by Basil Copper with illustrations by Frank Utpatel, represents the culmination of many years of planning and effort by Arkham House, not mention a large financial investment. Jim Turner, Roderic Meng, et. al. are to be congratulated for a job well done. Derleth Society members should make every effort to lend their enthusiastic support to this project. An enthusiastic response will serve to alert Arkham House and other publishers that printing the works of August Derleth is a sagacious enterprise.



ARKHAM HOUSE PUBLISHERS, Inc.

Post Office Box 546
SAUK CITY, WISCONSIN 53583

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO PRAED STREET!



The adventures of Solar Pons, written by August Derleth over a period of forty years, are generally considered to be the finest short fiction ever conceived within the grand tradition of A. Conan Doyle. Intended originally as Sherlockian tributes, these sixty-eight tales of Solar Pons and Dr. Lyndon Parker have become contemporary classics of mystery fiction and are presented here for the first time in chronological sequence. The two omnibus volumes in slipcase with forty illustrations by Frank Utpatel and with a foreword by Robert Bloch preserve the complete contents of "In Re: Sherlock Holmes"—The Adventures of Solar Pons, The Memoirs of Solar Pons, The Return of Solar Pons, The Reminiscences of Solar Pons, The Casebook of Solar Pons, The Chronicles of Solar Pons, the full-length novel Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey, and certain associational material previously obtainable only in limited-edition publications. The Pontine Canon is a literary feast for died-in-the-red Baker Street Irregulars!

* * *

"Warmly recommended to all and sundry, at once as excellent detective stories in the best tradition and as delightful 'sequels' to the great tales of the Detective and the Doctor!"—Chicago Tribune

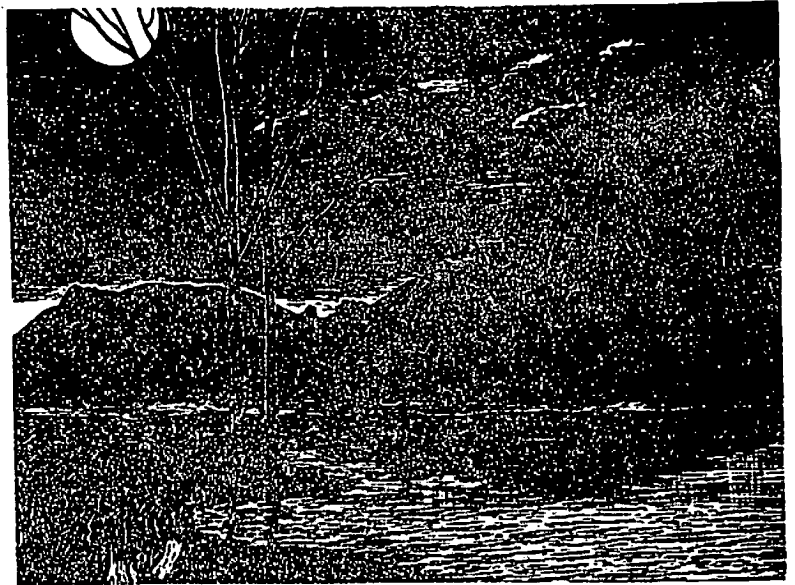
"None is more worthy than Pons to wear the deerstalker."—San Francisco Chronicle

"These stories recall, as nothing else has done, those delicious days and nights on Baker Street, days and nights that have vanished forever."—Louisville Journal-Courier

THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS by August Derleth
two volumes in slipcase with 40 drawings
ISBN 0-87054-006-8 (set) \$39.95 / 1400 pp.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Written orders to Roderic Meng

AUGUST DERLETH SOCIETY



Vol. 6 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

WALDEN WEST FESTIVAL - SAC PRAIRIE

OCTOBER 10, 1982

A report by Bill Dutch

The program began with a presentation by Richard Bodreau, English Department, University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse, who discussed various aspects of Deleth's books comprising the Wisconsin Saga. The works that he reviewed were: BRIGHT JOURNEY, THE HOUSE ON THE MOUND, THE HILLS STAND WATCH, THE SHADOW IN THE GLASS and THE WIND LEANS WEST. John Westburg, North American Mentor Magazine editor and publisher, talked about his magazine and his own introduction to Derleth's writings. Jim Forsythe read a comment from Lois Byrns relating her recollections of August Derleth.

A panel discussion chaired by Bill Dyke and including Karl Ganzlin, Alice Conger and George Marx recalled many aspects

of the panelist's associations with August Derleth, as a writer and in his day to day life. At the conclusion of the panel, Bill Dyke called upon several members of the audience to share their recollections and observations of Derleth. The panel, scheduled for one hour, ran on for an hour and a half with very active participation from the audience. It seemed to this writer that we experienced a revival of a scene that happened quite often in days gone by at the Park Hall. The Free Thinkers, following a pot luck dinner, would sit back and listen to a guest lecturer, often Max Otto a professor of philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After the lecture the audience would gather around the speaker to ask

Copyright (c) 1982 by Richard Fawcett
All rights revert to contributors

IN MEMORY OF AUGUST DERLETH

BY George Marx

After nearly three decades of friendship with the late August Derleth, my recollection of our formal meeting is very dim. I became acquainted with him through his knowing my family and I being a part of a group of teenagers of the 1940's who enjoyed Mr. Derleth's hospitality as he made his home open to us after our high school social activities. Also, for those of us who liked to read or listen to his large collection of classical, blues and jazz records - the house was always open. Mr. Derleth, at the time was in his early thirties and was very resilient. He could go about his writing and still have a group of teenagers underfoot.

After high school graduation I went to Chicago to work, as others from the same period went their respective ways. I would come home on weekends and meet with those who remained in Sauk City at Mr. Derleth's home on Saturday evenings. As time went on those who graduated from the University of Wisconsin moved on to their careers and the original group met only occasionally. Up to the time of Mr. Derleth's marriage in 1953, I was the last of the group being a regular Saturday evening visitor. It was during this period and after his marriage that we became confidants. Also, during this period and up until the last three weeks before his death, I knew how he was progressing with his literary works that he had "in the hopper," and the state of business of Arkham House publishers.

After his divorce following some six years of marriage our friendship took on a different dimension since he had the sole custody of his daughter, April and son, Walden. Many Saturday evenings I rode them on my back and read bedtime stories to them - thus

giving Mr. Derleth a little extra time to get another page written, or to answer the letters of his many correspondents.

During the spring, summer and fall of the year, after the children were asleep, he would tell his parents (then in their late seventies and living with him helping to raise the children) that we were going for a short ride into the countryside. In winter, we sat around the kitchen table drinking tea and eating his mother's homemade bread and jelly.

In the spring, before the mosquitos, and in the fall after their death, we would leave his car and walk, enjoying the odors of the Season, examining the stars and planets in the sky. During these walks, Mr. Derleth would give forth on his outline of Solar Pons adventures or chronicles that he intended to write. After being briefed I would make it a point to find out how the story was progressing. Thus I had the privilege of reading the first draft of his work, or, if Mr. Derleth was at work before our outing, he would show me on the map of Great Britain where Solar Pons was going to travel next from 22B Praed Street.

As a bit of information for those of you who have Mr. Derleth's "Solar Pons" collection, he never was in England during his lifetime. The first of the Solar Pons adventures were written while he was attending the University of Wisconsin in the depression years of the 1930's. He was able to sell them to magazines of the genre, which helped him through University during those difficult years. It was years later that he published them in hard cover under his Myron and Mycroft imprint.

Mr. Derleth was very versatile in his writings. He has over one hundred and fifty titles to his credit. The list includes the Solar Pons series mentioned above, the Judge Peck Detective Stories, The Mill Creek Irregular Series,

Tales of the macabre, and Poetry. With all these productions he still found time to keep a daily journal of the people he met during the day - the things of wild life and plants he spotted during his early morning and evening walks.

Mr. Derleth enjoyed good food. He and I had many delicious dinners at the Firehouse Restaurant, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin; The Pines of Middleton, Wisconsin; The Simon House of Madison, Wisconsin. Whenever he was in Chicago, either for the drama or the opera, we would meet at his Club, "The Cliff Dwellers," for cocktails and dinner. After a fabulous meal he, his guests and I would leave for the theatre or the opera house. Since time meant so much to him he did not stay over, but returned to Sauk City, usually arriving home at 2:30 A.M. Perhaps he would then stay in bed an extra hour before starting his daily stint at the desk.

It still does not seem possible that my friend of so many years is gone. He helped me to live a full life, and it is this feeling that will sustain me in the years ahead.

A BRIEF EDITORIAL
by Richard Fawcett

Occasionally I receive requests in re. the value of books written by August Derleth. I rather suspect that my answers are probably not what the writer wants to hear, for I generally reply: "Whatever you can get."

In placing a value on any work of literature there are a number of factors to consider. First of course is supply and demand. A limited print run means nothing if no one is looking to add the work to their collection. The condition of the book is also important. Just as in stamp collecting where the gum on the back of the stamp is often more important than the stamp

itself, so too, the existence of a dust jacket and its condition may be the major factor in determining the value of a book.

Is the book with or without the owner's nameplate? Unless the owner is/was a famous person, a bookplate decreases the book's value. Is the work autographed by the author/illustrator? How common are autographed copies? Is the work a first edition? And so on.

The questions are many. The price you may have to pay for a book may depend largely on how anxious you are to own it, and conversely, the price you get for a book may well depend upon how anxious you are to sell.

I myself have paid \$90 for a tacky (mouse-chewed-in-one-corner) copy of the Arkham House edition of SOMEONE IN THE DARK, without autograph - I could'n't wait, to as little as \$7 for a pristine copy (with dust jacket) of RETURN TO WALDEN WEST autographed by both Derleth and Utpatel. Recently I bid on twenty works of August Derleth in a California book auction. Keeping my bids low in each instance, I was rewarded with some nine works of August Derleth for a total bill of \$75. Three of the books were autographed and all were in fine condition or better with dust jackets. Granted they all had bookplates, but with dust jackets and autographs, who cares!

As a result of my success in this auction I now have available an extra copy of WALDEN POND, HOMAGE TO THOREAU, with dust jacket and in fine condition. My first copy was one of the last available from the Thoreau Lyceum in Concord, Massachusetts, and is now replaced by a copy autographed by both Derleth and Utpatel.

Some of the auction lots on which I bid contained more than one book, so I also find myself with an extra copy of A HOUSE ABOVE CUZCO. Since Peter Ruber kindly supplied me with a mint copy of this work some time ago, the extra copy recently received is also available.

And now for those of you who have been patient to stay with me this far, a little reward. For the first Society member reading these words who will certify that he/she does not possess either or both of the works just mentioned, I will be pleased to send either or both books (as the case may be) to you free of charge. The winners of this little contest will be mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter. But never fear, your address will be published only if you so request.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 1983!!! DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$5.00/YR. REMEMBER, THIS INCLUDES YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NEWSLETTER.

SEND THE FOLLOWING TO:

HERB ATTIX, ADS Treasurer
3333 WESTVIEW LANE
MADISON, WI 53713

Dear Mr. Attix:

Enclosed find \$5.00 in payment of my 1983 August Derleth Society dues.

Name		

Street & Number		
_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip

Concerning the first of the two poems in the next column, Elaine Emans writes: "I found 'A Battle over the Teacups' in GOOD TIMES THROUGH LITERATURE (for ninth grade)...published by Scott, Foresman & Co., in 1951. 'The Battle' appears in the first section entitled 'Thrills and Chills.'"

This is Volume 6, Number 1 of the August Derleth Society Newsletter: November 1982. Edited, published and distributed by Richard H. Fawcett, 61 Teecomwas Dr., Uncasville, CT 06382

AFTER READING AUGUST DERLETH'S
"A BATTLE OVER THE TEACUPS in a Ninth
Grade Text

by Elaine V. Emans

Train in Manchuria, 1932:
the stage seems worlds away, yet the war lord
General Wah of North China and Mr. Lu-

Gen, nationalist secret agent, can be heard
discussing matters of warfare over tea
served by a pretty woman, every word

chosen with care. The latter pointedly
sweetens his own tea, and later tries to slip
a powder into the General's -- wary, he

insists the cups be exchanged. (Wah dies in sleep .
The textbook summary ventures to inquire
if the case would foil Sherlock Holmes.

Though I keep

recalling the brilliant sleuth could never err,
only Messrs. Doyle & Derleth would know for sure.

REMEMBERING CELIA THAXTER

When wind and other adversaries
threaten my flowerbeds I think of you
out there on windswept, rocky Appledore
nearly a century ago --
creating your garden in mainland soil
and manure taken ten miles by boat
from Portsmouth.

What didn't you plant in that area
fifty by fifteen feet? In the chart
I see Margaret Pinks to Sweet Rockets
to Asa Gray Nasturtiums, Traveler's
Joy to four tubs of Water Lilies
to Love-in-a-mist, Hugelias to Roses,
Hollyhocks to Iceland Poppies,
Phlox to Mignonette -- fifty-seven
flowers at least! Taking infinite pains
you were a green-thumbed genius.

Sleep on at the foot of the plot
where your garden blew near its lonely
beach, Sandpiper Lady...
Dream its glory back.

THE AUGUST DERLETH/BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS
BY

Nic Howard

When, at the Birmingham, England, fantasy convention in July, I was elected co-Administrator (with Mike Chinn) of the British Fantasy Awards, I did a little research into its past.

The August Derleth Fantasy Award was inaugurated in 1971 at the suggestion of Ramsey Campbell, as a fitting tribute and memorial by the newly-formed British Fantasy Society to a man who had done so much for the genre over the years. It was first presented in 1972, initially for Best Novel only.

In 1972 extra categories were introduced: Best Story, Best Film and Best Comic. These categories continued until the reorganization of 1977, when the August Derleth Fantasy Award was again presented for Best Novel only; the winners in other categories receiving the British Fantasy Award.

With minor changes in categories, and occasional Special Awards, this has continued to the present.

The awards are voted for by members of the BFS.

From 1972 to 1976, the award was a scroll designed by artist Jim Cawthorn. Jim Pitt's statuette of a cowed figure with a book was the award during 1977 and 1978, while since then an eldritch tentacled thing, a Cthulhoid being designed by Dave Carson has been handed to the honoured recipients!

AWARD LISTING

(Note: the award is given in the year following publication or appearance.)

1972

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE KNIGHT OF THE SWORDS

1973

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE KING OF THE SWORDS

Best Story: L. Sprague de Camp, "The Fallible Fiend"

Best Film: TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Best Comic: CONAN

Posthumous Award: Robert E. Howard (1906-1936), THE MARCHERS OF VALHALLA

1974

Best Novel: Poul Anderson, HROLF KRAKI'S SAGA

Best Story: Michael Moorcock, "The Jade Man's Eyes"

Best Film: THE LEGEND OF HILL HOUSE

Best Comic: CONAN

1975

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE SWORD AND THE STALLION

Best Story: Karl Edward Wagner, "Sticks"

Best Film: THE EXORCIST

Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

1976

Best Novel: Michael Moorcock, THE HOLLOW LANDS

Best Story: (collection): Fritz Leiber, THE SECOND BOOK OF FRITZ LEIBER

Best Film: MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

1977

Best Novel: Gordon R. Dickson, THE DRAGON AND THE GEORGE

Best Story: Karl Edward Wagner, "Two Suns Setting"

Best Film: THE OMEN

Best Comic: HOWARD THE DUCK 3

Best Artist: Mike Kaluta

Best Small Press: Anduril 6

1978

Best Novel: Piers Anthony, A SPELL FOR CHAMELEON

Best Story: Ramsey Campbell, "In the Bag"

Best Film: CARRIE

Best Comic: WEIRDWORLD

Best Artist: Stephen Fabian

Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 1

1979

Best Novel: Stephen Donaldson, CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT

Best Story: Harlan Ellison, "Jeffy is Five"

Best Film: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

Best Comic: THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

Best Artist: Boris Vallejo

Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 2

1980

Best Novel: Tanith Lee, DEATH'S MASTER

Best Story: Fritz Leiber, "The Button Moulder"

Best Film: ALIEN

Best Comic; HEAVY METAL

Best Artist: Stephen Fabian

Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales 3

1981

Best Novel: Ramsey Campbell, TO WAKE THE DEAD (U.S. title, THE PARASITE)

Best Story: Robert Aickman, "The Stains" (awarded posthumously, Aickman died earlier in 1981, a great loss to the genre and his many admirers.)

Best Film: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Best Artist: Dave Carson

Best Small Press: Airgedlamh

Special Award: Stephen King

1982

Best Novel: Stephen King, CUJO

Best Story: Dennis Etchison, "The Dark Country"

Best Film; RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

Best Artist: Dave Carson

Best Small Press: Fantasy Tales

Sources

WHO'S WHO IN HORROR AND FANTASY FICTION, Mike Ashley

THE BRITISH FANTASY SOCIETY, THE FIRST TEN YEARS, Dave Sutton

August Derleth, always a strong Anglophile, would have been pleased with this issue. In the spirit of Anglo-American cooperation which he did so much to foster, both articles on this and the preceeding page were contributed by members in the U.K.

DERLETH AND PARODY

by

John Kennedy Melling

I first encountered Derleth's work whilst staying with Colin Wilson, the author, at his clifftop home in Cornwall, England, in the early 1970's. As both friend and business advisor since the OUTSIDER was published I was no stranger to his splendid library of some 20,000 books, and in the guest chalet my mother and I found the row of Derleth's books, all warmly signed, from their meeting when Colin had been a visiting professor at an American university. Both authors are marked by a remarkable versatility and comprehensive knowledge, Arkham House publshed Colin's THE MIND PARASITES, and Colin frequently refers to Derleth in his own books.

One of my own subjects is the roman policier, particularly the use of parody and pastiche. There are more than one thousand parodies of Sherlock Holmes, from the comic to the occult, and involving personalities from Jack the Ripper to Sigmund Freud. Not all writers can absorb the local colour of time and place, either in the local characterizations, or even the dialogue, but I found from the first page August Derleth had created an authentic world for Solar Pons and Dr. Lyndon Parker with a vivid accuracy, so much so that I was startled to learn from George Marx that Derleth had not flown to London but plotted the stories from local maps and contemporary train timetables, as George was later to confirm for himself.

The straightforward parody was not only skilfully done, and with loyalty to Conan Doyle's original creations, but with a subtle humor and erudition comorable to Michael Innes and Ellery Queen, at the same time extending the original characters almost as did Gerald Fairley with Bulldog Drummond, and detective-story writer Francis Gerard with Edgar Wallace's Sanders of the River (Haycraft queried whether Fairley and Gerard were one and the same?)

The second paramount achievement was in group parody, as in THE ADVENTURE OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS. The famous European luxury express train parodies into a much more esoteric form, denoting wide reading, humor, style appreciation, characterization, and originality, perhaps unique in all the works of August Derleth, and yet further proof of his polished mastery of so many fields in literature. Certainly this particular example of parody and pastiche deserves much wider recognition, especially inter alia to travellers on the newly-revived and elegant Orient Express again speeding, thanks to American enterprise, from London to Venice. Most histories ignore Derleth's story in fact and fiction summaries, but I have notified both the New Orient Express proprietors and at least one historian, with fresh interest thereby generated.

Derleth Society member John Kennedy Melling is an English Author, historian, critic, and broadcaster on subjects from the Guilds to circus and antiques, and is the Special Assistant for affairs in England of the International Academy of Criminology of America. He wrote and published MURDER DONE TO DEATH, a survey of parody and pastiche in the detective story.

MURDER DONE TO DEATH, A Survey of Pastiche and Parody of the Detective Story, by John Kennedy Melling, 8pp., was published by Mr. Melling in 1979 in a limited edition of five hundred copies. The work contains no less than two favorable references to August Derleth's contributions; first a mention of the Solar Pons series under the heading "Number One- Sherlock Holmes," and second a lengthy and favorable review of THE ADVENTURE OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS under the the heading "PARODY EN MASSE."

IN THE SPIRIT OF AUGUST DERLETH
or
IT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A MEMBER

Ms. Kay P. Mulcahy, President
August Derleth Society
100 Jefferson Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dear Kay:

Thank you for the \$100.00 contribution from the August Derleth Society for an adult scholarship. These scholarships are very much appreciated and sometimes make the difference in whether or not an adult student can attend classes.

I'm glad we were able to help you with the Derleth program last fall, and I certainly appreciate your thoughtful contribution.

Sincerely yours,

Aural Umhoefer
Dean

The above from the University of Wisconsin Center. The following is from the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association, Inc.

Kay Price Mulcahy, President
August Derleth Society
100 Jefferson Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dear Ms. Mulcahy:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 1982. We are pleased to receive your check for \$100.00, to be applied to aid a student attending Rhinelander School of the Arts.

We have contacted Ced Vig with this information. He has on file the applications for the school. After checking these files, he returned our call to tell us there is a person who he feels could use the help. Using this information, we are sending him the \$100.00 to apply toward this scholarship. He, no doubt, will be in contact with you.

Again, thank you...

Sincerely,
Darlene Kronschnabel, President

REVIEWS

AMONG A GODLY FEW, by Peter Magliocco, Limited Editions Press, 8412 Wilbur Avenue, Northridge, CA 91324 is written with force and sensitivity. The sort of work that bites hard into the stuff that molds a nation, it probably will not have the distribution that it deserves. To quote from the book's own summary: "Set within the historical context of the 1968 Washington, D.C., riots, AMONG A GODLY FEW is a novel concerned with the emerging consciousness of its young narrator- P.F.C. Lozano, a young Hispanic American....AMONG A GODLY FEW is in the final analysis a personal examination of America - its historical present state in relation to its past-and what meaning it has to those of its family (Blacks, Hispanics, and all other citizens under fire) who search for its promise while pursuing their Constitutional civil rights."

You may not find yourself always agreeing with what the work has to say, it may in fact annoy you at times, but anyone who needs to be reminded, or would simply like to be reminded, that we are all a nation of immigrants (excepting my wife and her family, who were here to greet the boats) owes it to himself/herself to devote a moment to this well-written work.

Graeme Flanagan, a man who is living proof that the computer has far to go before seriously threatening the scope of the human brain, has once again favored us with one of his splendid, all too infrequent small press booklets, BOY'S OWN FANTASY ANNUAL - 1982, produced for the 10th Anniversary mailing of the Robert E. Howard United Press Association. BOY'OWN FANTASY ANNUAL - 1982 is a splendid compendium of essays, reminiscences, stories, pictures and bibliography, put together with the care and attention one has come to take for granted in the case of Mr. Flanagan's publications.

Scantily clad young ladies (as scantily clad as one was allowed to represent the female form in magazines circa 1930-1950) delight the eye as full and part page reproductions of early fantasy and science-fiction magazine covers, one learns that Robert E. Howard once wrote a short story for the April 1929 GHOST STORY magazine under the name of John Taverel, and as if this were not enough, the final few pages include a checklist of sources where one may find reprintings of stories from UNKNOWN and UNKNOWN WORLDS, information for which the true fantasy fan is always athirsting. This little booklet (40pp.) is further enhanced by the presence of Graeme's own fine essay as well as reminiscences by Robert Bloch, L. Sprague de Camp, Manly Wade Wellman and Fritz Leiber. It is, in short, a splendid example of the best that the fan press has to offer.

ACTIVITIES OF OUR MEMBERS

Jim Turner sends word from Arkham House that Basil Copper's THE HOUSE OF THE WOLF will soon be ready for distribution. Price \$14.95. Mr. Copper is also currently at work on his next Arkham House book, THE BLACK DEATH, "a gothic extravaganza involving Satanism in the nineteenth century." (to quote Mr. Turner).

The Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation is alive and well promoting the arts in rural America and is currently seeking new members. For information write: Robert E. GARD Wisconsin Idea Foundation, Alderbaran, Spring Green, WI 53588 (608-588-7325). Mr. Gard has recently been named State Folklorist by Wisconsin governor Dreyfus, been initiated as an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa, presented a series of lectures at UW-Madison (extension) on creative writing, and lectured at the Rhinelander School for the Arts.

Joseph Payne Brennan was honored as Guest of Honor at the 1982 World Fantasy Convention in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mr. Brennan's latest work, **EVIL ALWAYS ENDS**, is available from Donald M. Grant, Publisher, West Kingston, RI 02892 at \$15 the copy.

Rehearsal Night, a recent work by Frank Belknap Long has been published in a limited, signed edition of 250 copies by Cat's God, Boston, MA. The next issue of **FANTASY MACABRE** will feature a short story written by Mr. Long for that magazine. **A FANTASY MACABRE FIRST!**

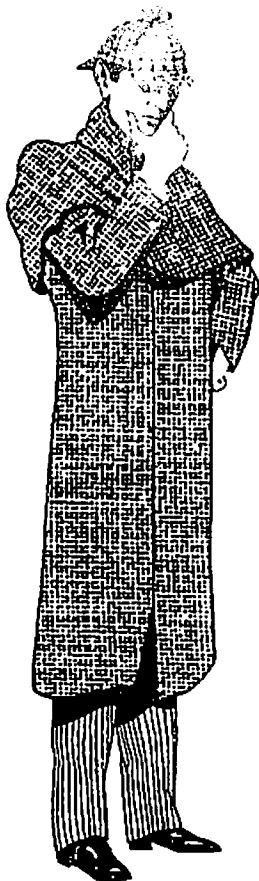
Brian Lumley has authored a chilling little book of poetry with equally eldritch art work by Dave Carson: **GHOUL WARNING AND OTHER OMENS**, is available from Spectre Press.

THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS, by August Derleth, edited by Basil Copper with illustrations by Frank Utpatel, represents the culmination of many years of planning and effort by Arkham House, not mention a large financial investment. Jim Turner, Roderic Meng, et. al. are to be congratulated for a job well done. Derleth Society members should make every effort to lend their enthusiastic support to this project. An enthusiastic response will serve to alert Arkham House and other publishers that printing the works of August Derleth is a sagacious enterprise.



ARKHAM HOUSE PUBLISHERS, Inc.
Post Office Box 506
SAUK CITY, WISCONSIN 53583

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO PRAED STREET!



The adventures of Solar Pons, written by August Derleth over a period of forty years, are generally considered to be the finest short fiction ever conceived within the grand tradition of A. Conan Doyle. Intended originally as Sherlockian tributes, these sixty-eight tales of Solar Pons and Dr. Lyndon Parker have become contemporary classics of mystery fiction and are presented here for the first time in chronological sequence. The two omnibus volumes in slipcase with forty illustrations by Frank Utpatel and with a foreword by Robert Bloch preserve the complete contents of "In Re: Sherlock Holmes"—The Adventures of Solar Pons, The Memoirs of Solar Pons, The Return of Solar Pons, The Reminiscences of Solar Pons, The Casebook of Solar Pons, The Chronicles of Solar Pons, the full-length novel Mr. Fairlie's Final Journey, and certain associational material previously obtainable only in limited-edition publications. The Pontine Canon is a literary feast for died-in-the-red Baker Street Irregulars!

* * *

"Warmly recommended to all and sundry, at once as excellent detective stories in the best tradition and as delightful 'sequels' to the great tales of the Detective and the Doctor!"—Chicago Tribune

"None is more worthy than Pons to wear the deerstalker."—San Francisco Chronicle

"These stories recall, as nothing else has done, those delicious days and nights on Baker Street, days and nights that have vanished forever."—Louisville Journal-Courier

THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS by August Derleth
two volumes in slipcase with 40 drawings
ISBN 0-87054-006-8 (set) \$39.95 / 1400 pp.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Written orders to Roderic Meng