

# 1965: The Year in Horror-Fantasy Books



by Lin Carter

Editor of *Spectrum*, the book review magazine of the science/fantasy world

**EVERY YEAR** books of all types jostle for your attention; 1965 was like any other, crowded with new releases and reprints of old favorites. Let's quickly scan (with unjaundiced eye, please) the full year and winnow out a few noteworthy items from the hundreds offered. Leo Margulies produced, in *Worlds of Weird*

## JANUARY

(Pyramid, 50¢), a worthy sequel to 1964's collection from the famed *Weird Tales*, again selecting seven good chillers. Best were Clark Ashton Smith's "Mother of Toads" and Dr. Keller's "The Thing in The Cellar." Gorgeous Finlay cover and interior black-and-whites. Less inspired was *Shadow Beware* (Belmont, 50¢), third in the new series of dull 'Shadow' stories that utterly fail to capture the thrilling air of mystery that made the old pulps so charming. A first collection of his Charles-Addamsy cartoons, in Gahan Wilson's *Graveside Manner* (Ace, 40¢), offered chuckles adroitly served up. A quality paperback of Algernon Blackwood's *Tales of Terror and the Unknown* (Dutton, \$1.75), brought back 11 familiar tales, notably "The Willows" and "The Wendigo." sf writer/anthologist Damon Knight turned to the supernatural with *The Dark Side* (Doubleday, \$3.95), which puts between hard covers a dozen off-beat tales by Bradbury, H. G. Wells, Ted Sturgeon, Heinlein, and others—including Avram Davidson's small classic "Golem," which is (a) science fiction, (b) horror, (c) delightful humor, and (d) a refreshingly original lampoon of Frankenstein, as well as (e) a thoroughly new twist on the Man-Made-Monster theme. Quite a lot for a short-short.

Pro-lific Robert Bloch led off the next month with *Tales in a Jugular Vein* (Pyramid, 50¢), but the best thing about the book was the stunning Jack Gaughan cover. Better fiction was

## FEBRUARY

offered in A. E. van Vogt's *Monsters* (Paperback Library, 50¢), in which the usual ghouls appeared against backdrops of everyday modern life. It gave the familiar monsters a new dimension of realism: you expect them in Transylvanian castles, but it's a jolt to encounter them in laundromats! In the wake of his TV series, Charles Addams held a *Monster Rally* (Pocket Books, 50¢), a new reprint of his hardcover cartoon-collection. Tarzan returned in *Tarzan and the Madman* (Ballantine, 50¢), one of the NEW Burroughs novels, never-before in paperback, and good stuff. Some jolly Tibetan-type occult fiction made the scene in Lobsang Rampa's *Cave of the Ancients* (Ballantine, 60¢), a sequel to his *Third Eye* of 1964. It comes on like factual autobiography, but don't be fooled.

March came in like a lion with *Tales of the Incredible* (Ballantine, 50¢), a mouth-watering collection of old EC science fiction comix—including "Judgment Day," a pro-integration sf

## MARCH

tale which once upset the Comics Code Authority, and the memorable "Chewed Out," a humorous extension of a Katy McLean story. (She heartily approved). Another Addams reprint slithered under the door, *Homebodies* (Pocket Books, 50¢). And the Lord of the Jungle made a return appearance in Barton Werper's *Tarzan and the Abominable Snowmen* (Gold Star, 40¢)—"abominable" is the right word, too. Better fare, for those who prefer their horrors served up as non-fiction, was Eric Maple's *Dark World of Witches* (Pan Books, 3'6—or 75¢ where I bought mine). This pb from Britain, available in few stores but worth ordering, presented a popular history of Middle Ages witchcraft persecution, tricked out with old woodcuts and engravings. Nice! But best of all—and one of the most valuable books published this year—was *The Serials of Republic* (Screen Facts Press, about \$2.00) in which Alan G. Barbour gives a full page of info on each of Republic's 66 serials: complete cast-list, a still and production credits, plus a list of chapter titles! Priceless! How about more of the same on Columbia, Alan?

The 'Doc Savage' reprints continued with a gem for monster-fans, Kenneth Robson's *Brand of the Werewolf* (Bantam, 45¢), straight from the old Street & Smith pulp (Jan. '34 issue) and

## APRIL

a whale of a tale. This makes Belmont's uninspired 'Shadow' series look lousy by comparison. Another in the same vein was the first of a reprint series from the old *Phantom Detective* mag, Robert Wallace's *The Vampire Murders* (Regency, 60¢). I am less enthusiastic here, simply because

Continued

