

## INTRODUCTION TO "GARAN OF YU-LAC"

During the middle of the 1930s in a small Pennsylvania town, a young man, without financing or experience, was trying to publish a science fiction magazine. The magazine was "Marvel Tales," though it started life as "Unusual Stories," and about the only thing ever accomplished by it was the uncovering of several stories which are now considered near-classics by some science fiction fans.

One day the young man answered a knock on his front door and found standing there a charming young lady, clutching a box of manuscripts. The fascinating person was Andre Norton and the manuscripts were "The People of the Crater" and "Garan of Yu-lac." Because this particular publishing episode came to an end shortly thereafter neither of these stories were published.

Over the years, the original manuscript of "The People of the Crater" was lost, though a shorter version of it did eventually see print in the first issue of FANTASY BOOK, under the pen-name of Andrew North, and was later anthologized several times.

The other—and we believe, better—story, "Garan of Yu-lac" is now being published for the first time.

Those who believe a story can't be any good unless it was written in the 1960s—or at least the 'fifties—had better skip this one; but those who know that some of the very best science fiction, such as the Burroughs' stories, A. Merritt's great fantasies, the Skylark tales, John Taine's gripping dramas, Robert E. Howard's powerful weird yarns and dozens of others of equal stature, were all written in the earlier portion of this century, will find "Garan of Yu-lac" to be on a par with any of these.

"Garan of Yu-lac" combines the vivid "other world strangeness" of the Burroughs' stories with the magic and witchery of those of A. Merritt—with perhaps a touch of Howard tossed in—but certainly it is no carbon copy.

We have been requested by Miss Norton to advise our readers that this story was an early experiment in her writing career; but, since we have never recovered from the loss of Burroughs and Merritt, we could wish, despite Miss Norton's polished, sophisticated and extremely popular stories of today, that she had continued with just a few in the same style as "Garan of Yu-lac."

—The Editor