

STILL ANOTHER POLL --- BUT FOR A REASON

...And the reason for this poll is not that we question the accuracy of the very competent polls sponsored by Beowulf, or the NFFF . . . It is rather that this survey will attempt to cover ground left untouched by previous tabulations of fan opinion.

Perhaps an explanation is in order. At any rate, we've been working on a project for some time -- a project that cannot be undertaken alone, and which will require the help of all readers of Vampire, to whom these poll ballots are being sent.

Early in January 1946 we intend to publish THE 1945-46 FANTASY REVIEW, a large mimeographed booklet which will contain a complete review, factual and critical, of the 1945 fantasy field in all its aspects. It will summarize month by month all major news events of the year, and will review in detail all important fan magazines, fantasy books and professional mags issued during '45.

However, such a publication would be next to worthless if it contained the opinions of but a single fan; consequently, it will have to reflect the views of a good cross-section of fandom, with as close a degree of accuracy as possible. Rather than six months from now, this poll is being held during the closing weeks of 1945, when practically all important fantasy publications of the year have appeared, their contents still recent.

We're asking you to vote for the best authors of '45. This should be judged only on new work published this year, either in magazines or books, and automatically eliminates such old stand-bys as Lovecraft, Merritt, and science-fiction writers inactive at present. In other words, this department pertains to the best fantasy author of the year, judged on the basis of work published this year.

Secondly, since we can't overlook our fans writers and publishers, best fan journalists of the year. This classification applies to any fans whose work during the year, either in the publication of fantasy fan magazines or in ~~the~~ writing of fanzine material, makes them in your opinion outstanding. This may, of course, include work published in amateur press associations, as well as general fan-circulated magazines.

Third, you're being asked to vote for the three top stories published this year in the fantasy, weird, or scientificion prozines. As for reprints such as those featured by F.F.M. and Startling, you're perfectly free to vote for them if you care to,

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since they are important when compared with the rest of the year's prozine material, even tho 1945 cannot take credit for their first publication.

Finally, we want to determine the three best fantasy books published this year -- and in this division we only ask that you confine this to new books published during the year, rather than merely further editions of past fantasy classics. Any type of book is eligible here: novels, pocket-editions, Arkham or Argus output, anthologies (such as Speak of the Devil, Portable Novels of Science, etc.) or newly-edited selections of the works of certain authors.

You are not obligated, of course, to sign your name to the ballot, or to fill in every item, if it is inconvenient, or if you do not wish to do so. The deadline for ballots to be in: December 15th, 1945.

Complete results of this poll will be published in THE 1945-46 FANTASY REVIEW, and full details of this publication will appear in Vampire #4, which will be issued soon. It is expected that the REVIEW will run approximately 40 pages -- whatever the price, it will be a very small one.

It will probably be the biggest project we've tackled since entering fandom, and if you'll help us out by filling in the enclosed postcard now, and returning it before December 15, the REVIEW should be a success. We sincerely consider it a worthwhile project, for all fans, readers, and collectors of fantasy literature.

Thanks!

...Joe Kennedy

Dover, N.J.

November 23, 1945