

delighting in far-fetched Anglo-Saxonisms. One must remember the fashion for that kind of thing, at the time when these books were written - the time of Burne-Jones and Rossetti. I am reminded of how Swinburne, in one of his letters, mentions having met someone's baby in her 'push-wain-ling!' It was a craze, a fever, a cult - and who are we to criticise it? But I think it is only fair to say that anyone trying to write fiction should not immerse himself too deeply in William Morris, for the style is infectious, and he is likely to break out in a rash of how-now-forsooth-quoth-he.

But for all that the story is a fine one, and liberates the mind into the true country of fantasy. It is, of course, the very opposite pole to Sci-Fi. It harks back to a world like that of the Hobbits, where machinery is scarcely heard of, but magic underlies the things of nature - a wonderfully refreshing world. This goes for both books. Lin Carter, in his very adequate preface, hails William Morris as "The man who invented fantasy." And many readers will agree with him.

These books are, of course, paperbacks, handy in size, and I would particularly commend their cover-designs, especially that of the latest one; they are evocative of the true magic of "The Wood Beyond the World". I hope Pan Books will give us more like these, if they are to be found in this world.

Belladonna Took.

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Lud-in-the-Mist is published by Ballantine Books in paperback.

Deryni Rising is also published by Ballantine, in the Adult Fantasy series, in paperback.

The 'Elric' Novels are published by Mayflower Paperbacks, at 25p.

The Wood Beyond the World is published by Pan Books, through the Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series, in paperback.

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COMPETITION

As it says in the letter column, in his last letter to the editors John Abbott sent a silver brooch, to be used as a prize in a competition in Mallorn. Naturally this left the editors in a bit of a state, since they actually had to do some thinking for a change, and could only think of a competition to think of a competition - and you know where that leads.

The story moves to the unexpected ((You can say that again! ST)) arrival of Dave Weldrake in Richmond, where he stayed for a few days with Steve Thomson. One afternoon the conversation turned to the forthcoming film of LotR. Although hoping for a cartoon version - the only feasible way of representing the various races - we also discussed a possible cast for the film. Just imagine :- Gandalf and Shadowfax played by Roy Rogers and Trigger, respectively! Racquel Welch as Galadriel! Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda as Black Riders! John Wayne as Aragorn! The possibilities are endless. So...

All you have to do is to prepare a cast list for any of the major or minor characters in LotR; the editors will print as many entries as possible in the next issue, and send the prize to the most humorous and original entry printed. Closing date the same as press date for the next issue.