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The Shadow of the Unattained: The Letters of George Sterling and Clark Ashton Smith

By George Sterling

Hippocampus Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 344 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in. In 1911 the poet George Sterling was the focus of a thriving literary community in California that included Jack London, Mary Austin, and the aged Ambrose Bierce. When he received a letter and some manuscript poems from a young writer in Auburn named Clark Ashton Smith, he immediately recognized that a literary prodigy of tremendous potential had come his way, and for the remaining fifteen years of his life he nurtured Smith's poetic talent with care and sensitivity. This volume presents, for the first time, the complete surviving correspondence between these two poetic titans. In the decade and a half of their involvement, they exchanged many poems and prose works, visited each other on several occasions, and discussed the burning literary and social issues of the day—Modernist poetry, the founding of *Weird Tales*, the publication of their collections of cosmic and fantastic verse, and much else besides. Such figures as H. L. Mencken, H. P. Lovecraft, and Donald Wandrei are the subjects of their frequent letters, and we come to see why Smith took over the mantle of poetic greatness from Sterling, whose suicide in 1926...



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