

**FERN SEED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649582334

Fern Seed by Henry Milner Rideout

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Cover @ 2017

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**HENRY MILNER RIDEOUT**

**FERN SEED**



BOOKS BY  
HENRY M. RIDEOUT

FERN SEED  
THE FOOT-PATH WAY  
TIN COWRIE DASS  
THE FAR CRY  
KEY OF THE FIELDS  
*and* BOLDERO  
THE SIAMESE CAT  
WHITE TIGER

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WILLIAM JONES

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# FERN SEED

By  
HENRY MILNER RIDEOUT

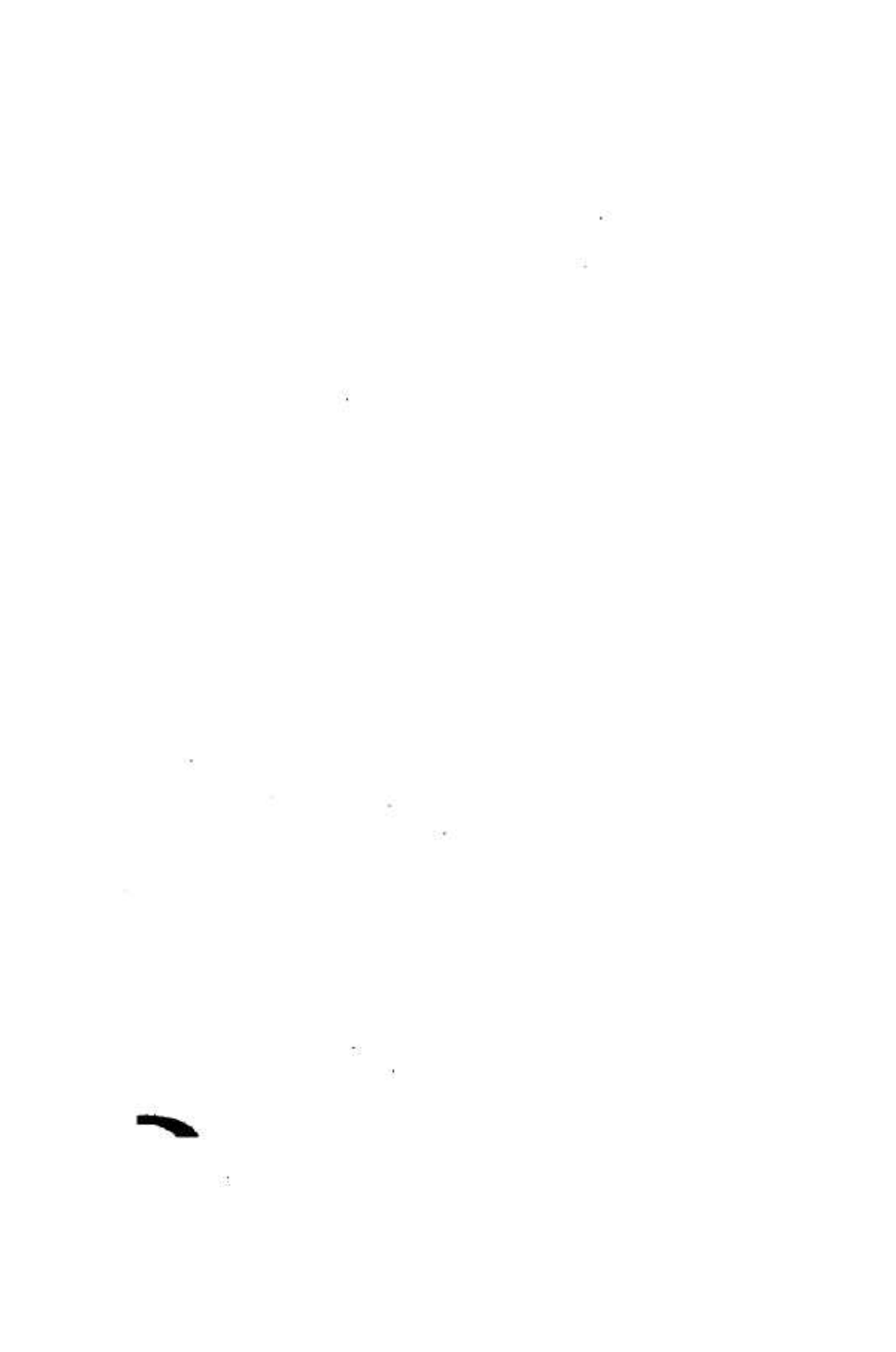


NEW YORK  
DUFFIELD AND COMPANY

1921

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## FERN SEED



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### I

AFTERNOON sun beat down on the quays of Alexandria, making the air boil and dance along stone-work, above dock water, among masts and funnels. A crowd waiting under the sun found it hot. Leonard Corsant, after some years in the Far East, cared little for this heat of Egypt; he had known worse; but now he felt impatient to go aboard, get out into good sea breeze once more, and continue his journey. He was going home to America.

Through her window in the little sentry-box office, a girl passed him his papers, and smiled. She was dark, pretty, and much more his friend than the occasion demanded.

"Again, sir! Ah, we always lose you!" she mourned, in excellent French.

Leonard returned her smile, as he took her pen. He had a good-humored face, sunburnt, careless,