

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#33 | 2 FÉVRIER 1925

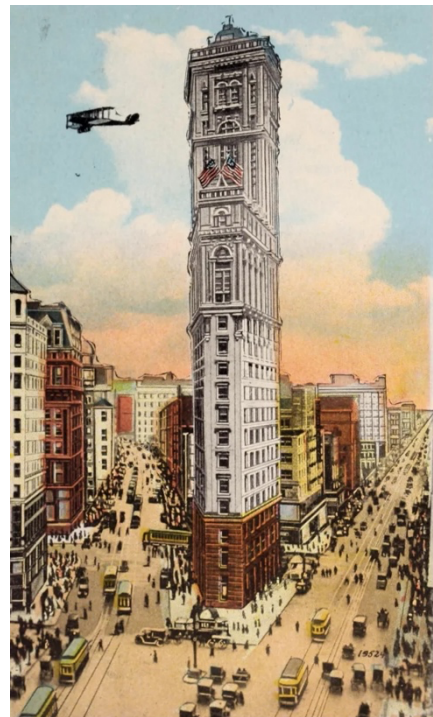
Cachet de la poste : Brooklyn, N.Y., 2 février 1925.

J'attendais message de vous vendredi, mais heureux finalement que vous ne soyez pas partie si tôt, puisque S H n'arrive que demain (mardi 3, les plans ont changé). Elle ne pourra rester que quelques jours, mais j'espère que vous pourrez la voir — je suppose que nous vous téléphonerons lorsqu'elle arrivera, afin que vous puissiez prendre vos dispositions pour le voyage. Elle a été hospitalisée une fois de plus, mais un traitement de la cavité nasale devrait lui permettre de tenir jusqu'à saison plus clémente, et que l'opération du septum ou de l'antrum pourra avoir lieu. Mes chaises sont enfin arrivées du réparateur — je suis à l'instant même assis dans l'une d'elles ! Et *Weird Tales* vient d'envoyer un chèque de 35,00 \$, plus les 37,08 \$ de Mariano arrivés par le même courrier ! La réunion du Blue Pencil de samedi soir était bien ennuyeuse, mais j'y ai composé et lu quelques vers comiques. Enfin, mes cheveux sont coupés ! J'ai trouvé tout près d'ici un excellent coiffeur, malgré un extérieur peu prometteur. Plus d'informations à venir.

Yraffneph

HPL

P.S. C. M. Eddy Jr. vient d'arriver ! En voyage d'affaires à New York pour voir Houdini et quelques éditeurs.



*Cartes postales 1920 : le Times building,
verso de la carte postale envoyée à Lilian.*



Manhattan vu depuis Brooklyn, cette « illuminated skyline » que Lovecraft ce soir emmènera faire contempler à C.M. Eddy, son ami écrivain de Providence.

[1925, lundi 2 février]

Word from SH — write postals — Eddy arr. With CME & GK to Taormina and Montague St. — meet SL in subway — Idol — Greenwich — with CME to 113 St — home by subway — Read Saltus.

Mot de Sonia. J'écris des cartes postales. Arrivée de C M Eddy. Avec lui et Kirk au Taormina puis Montague Street. On retrouve Loveman dans le métro, son Bouddha dans les bras. Greenwich Village. Avec Eddy on remonte 113ème rue, puis retour à la maison en métro. Je lis Saltus.

Carte postale rédigée et postée ce jour pour Lilian : au recto, l'immeuble du *Times*, ce phare en surplomb de Times Square, glorification de la ville contemporaine qu'il dénigrera tant plus tard. Sonia décale sa venue : « *word from* », un télégramme ? C'est en train de nuit qu'elle voyagera ce soir, une fois de plus, et devra pourtant se rendre directement au siège de sa compagnie pour une journée de travail. *Hypnos en novembre*, *Weird Tales* a publié en janvier *Festival*, et suivra ce mois de février *Déposition de Randolph Carter* (ce rêve étrange, trois ans plus tôt, où Loveman s'enfonçait dans la terre, un téléphone et sa bobine de câble à la main, et se faisait tuer, à peine transposé dans le récit) : aux 37 dollars mensuels délivrés par le notaire de la famille, unique vestige de la fortune familiale, s'ajoute un chèque de 35 dollars (un demi SMIC à échelle présente ? en tout cas trois semaines et demi de loyer), quelle reconnaissance autant économique que symbolique ! Mais, pour l'image qu'on se fait de soi pour soi-même, et dans l'image de soi qu'on offre aux autres, Lovecraft est un auteur de fiction qui publie désormais régulièrement dans un magazine populaire, mais dont l'importance s'affirme. Report de son voyage : nouvelle hospitalisation pour Sonia à Cincinnati. Pas un événement secondaire, l'arrivée semble-t-il inattendue de C M Eddy, l'ami écrivain de Providence la ville majuscule (« *C.M. Eddy Jr, of the City !* »). Un peu plus jeune que Lovecraft (il est né en 1896), ils se sont rencontrés à Providence en 1923 et ont partagé lectures et excursions. Eddy est aussi l'auteur de chansons, et un des contributeurs réguliers de *Weird Tales* (récits plus tard rassemblés dans *The Loved Dead*). Il a laissé un témoignage de leur amitié : *Promenades avec Lovecraft*. Lovecraft semble tout heureux de ce séjour d'Eddy, qui vient de *the city* pour quelques jours à New York. Eddy a rendez-vous avec Houdini : lui aussi en est le ghostwriter (un partage de plus, comme le fait que Lovecraft et Eddy se révisent et corrigent réciproquement avant publication). Loveman, qu'on retrouve dans le métro, a enfin été chercher la statuette de Bouddha achetée à la brocante la semaine précédente : Lovecraft note avec amusement

dans la lettre Annie l'étrange image qu'il offre ! Le Taormina est un petit restaurant italien qui a l'avantage d'être dans la même rue où habite Lovecraft, Clinton Street à Brooklyn, à quatre « blocs », et dont les prix leur sont accessibles, c'est pour cela qu'il est mentionné souvent. À la tombée du jour, ils monteront sur les hauts de Prospect Park, Montague Street pour le spectacle des lumières de Manhattan, que Lovecraft nomme à nouveau *illuminated skyline* sans autre description, avant de le promener dans les vieux dédales coloniaux et si fantomatiques la nuit de Greenwich Village. Après quoi on doit accélérer un peu (« *so we had to hustle a bit* ») pour « piloter » Eddy jusque chez Houdini, leur rendez-vous ayant apparemment lieu après le spectacle. L'avant-veille, en remerciement de son aide pour déménagement de ses livres, Kirk a offert à Lovecraft *Histoire sans nom*, de Barbey d'Aurevilly, traduite par Saltus : est-ce que Lovecraft a voulu aller plus loin en continuant avec cet auteur, qu'il connaît forcément déjà ? Edgar Saltus, mort en 1921, un autre de ces auteurs comme Dunsany et Algernon Blackwood qui se distingue par une élégance de l'écriture en prose, laquelle les prive partiellement de postérité, mais n'est pas une indication mineure sur la direction d'écriture de Lovecraft, l'année même où paraît le *Manhattan Transfert* de Dos Passos qu'il ignorera complètement. Saltus a publié plus d'une vingtaine de livres, dont une biographie de Balzac et un essai sur Oscar Wilde. Ce début de l'année 1925, Saltus vient de faire paraître *Uplands of dreams*, un recueil de ses articles dans les magazines de 1900 à 1914, c'est ce livre que lit Lovecraft (d'autant — source S.T. Joshi — que Loveman écrit au même moment un article sur Saltus). « Un génie incompris de la littérature américaine », suggère-t-on ? « Un décadent tout imprégné de Schopenhauer » ? Ce qu'il lit ce soir : *Lords of the Ghostlands*, « *Les seigneurs du pays des fantômes : une histoire de l'idéal* », en essai de 1907 présent lui aussi dans l'inventaire posthume de sa bibliothèque. Dans le journal, outre ce triste fait divers d'abandon d'enfants en plein hiver, on a retrouvé Ethel Leginska ! Encore un fond d'amnésie pour nourrir, bien plus tard, celle qui structure *Dans l'abîme du temps*.

New York Times, 2 février 1925. Un enfant de trois ans errant affolé dans le hall et les couloirs d'un immeuble au 473 de la 1^{ère} Avenue hier matin, avec un mot de sa mère annonçant qu'elle souhaitait « la fin de tout ça » épinglé à sa casquette bleue conduisit à la découverte de la mère encore en vie dans l'après-midi, tandis que l'enfant était accueilli à l'orphelinat. La mère, Mme Helen Karsten, 36 ans, fut retrouvée par les enquêteurs à son domicile du 535, 83^{ème} rue Est. Elle avait erré dans les rues toute la journée et s'était finalement résolue à mourir, déclara-t-elle aux policiers. Elle a été transportée au commissariat de 67^{ème} rue Est, et inculpée d'abandon d'enfant. Le garçon, Jackie, avait été découvert par Samuel Greenwald, un habitant de l'immeuble de la 1st Avenue. Il était très bien habillé, portant un pull de laine marron, un manteau

SECOND PLACE—For		Overseas side		win	
country	claiming	price	\$500	over	500
U.S.A.	overseas	overseas	500	500	500

LEGINSKA IS FOUND, HER MIND A BLANK; REPORTED IN BOSTON

Pianist Who Vanished Last
Monday Said to Be in a
Sanitarium.

THE POLICE LOCATED HER

Companion and Pupil Declares
She Was Discovered in a
Pennsylvania Town.

DETAILS ARE KEPT SECRET

Friends Only Assert She Suffered a
Break-Down and Is in "Awful
Condition."

Ethel Leginska, the pianist, who dis-
appeared last Monday night, has been
found. She is with friends. Her where-
abouts are being kept secret for the
time being. It was said that she had
suffered a complete lapse of memory
from Monday until Saturday, but that
her mind had cleared.

"She is in awful condition," said Miss
Lucille Oliver, her companion and pupil,
yesterday morning, after seeing the mu-
sician. "Her mind is a blank on what
happened to her from the time she dis-
appeared until she was found."

Miss Oliver told this much to Mrs.
John Gordon of 313 West Twenty-
seventh Street, at whose home the artist
was last seen on Monday night just be-
fore she started to Carnegie Hall to ap-
pear in a concert. Miss Oliver did not
say where Miss Leginska had been
found or where she had been taken. She
packed a suitcase, saying that she was
on her way to join the young woman.

Located by the Police.

The fact that the musician had been
found was confirmed by Captain John
Ayers, commander of the Bureau of
Missing Persons of the Police Depart-
ment. Captain Ayers declined, how-
ever, to say where or how she had been
found or where she was. His statement
was as follows:

"Ethel Leginska was located yester-
day at a place outside of the city where
she is staying with friends. Her dis-
appearance appeared to have been the
direct result of a nervous breakdown
caused by overwork."

"Her location was brought about by
the work of the Bureau of Missing
Persons."

"Leginska remembers nothing from
the time she left her secretary, Miss
Lucille Oliver, until she was located."

"On request if Miss Leginska the lo-
cation of her friends is withheld. Her
friends have also asked that no further
statement be made by the police. So
far as this bureau is concerned, the
case is closed."

On giving up this statement, Capt.
Ayers disappeared himself. He left word
that it would be impossible to reach him
and that he would have nothing further
to say on the matter.

Miss Oliver was reported to have dis-
appeared on Saturday night, but it was
said yesterday that she had come away
hurriedly because she had received news
that her teacher and friend had been
found. There was a rumor that, when
her mind cleared, Miss Leginska discov-
ered herself to be in a small town in
New York State. Another report had
her in Pennsylvania.

Miss Oliver, however, used a local
telephone last night in making a call to
the lodgings formerly occupied by her-
self and Miss Leginska.

Pins Suicide Note to Her Little Boy's Cap, But Mother Changes Mind and Is Found Alive

A three-year-old boy wandering in be-
wildered through the hallways of a
tenement house at 473 First Avenue yester-
day morning, with a note from his
mother announcing that she intended to
"end it all" pinned to his blue skullcap,
led to the discovery of the boy's mother
alive yesterday afternoon. The boy ob-
tained shelter with the Children's So-
ciety.

The mother, Mrs. Helen Karsten, 36,
was found by detectives at her home at
323 East Eighty-third Street. She had
wandered the streets all day and finally
decided not to die, she told the police.
She was taken to the East Sixty-seventh
Street Station, charged with abandoning
her child.

The boy, "Jackie," was discovered by
Samuel Greenwald, who lives in the
First Avenue house. He took the child
into his apartment. The boy was neatly
clad in a brown woolen sweater, a
white corduroy coat, clean white leg-
gins and patent leather shoes.

TAKE BELL-ANS AFTER NEALS
for Perfect Digestion.—Adv.

Greenwald warned the child and found
the three-page note of despair written
by the mother. There was "no heat, no
gas, no milk" for Jackie, the note said,
and the mother was tired of life. The
note added that the boy's father had
at 216 East Fifty-sixth Street and had
"plenty of money."

Greenwald reported to the police and
they began a search for both the
mother and father. At the address
given for the latter it was said that
Frank Karsten had not been seen for
a week.

In the Karsten flat at the East
Eighty-third Street address bureau
drawers were open and papers were
strewn about. Tenants said that the
mother had left with "Jackie" at 7
o'clock in the morning. The janitress,
Mrs. Lena Krummy, said there were
three other children, all girls, who were
being cared for in institutions.

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon Mrs.
Karsten returned home and was arrest-
ed. She would say nothing except that
she had "decided not to end it all."

PARIS SHOWS SKIRTS SHORTER BUT FLUFFY

Spring Fashions of the Design-
ers Reveal Continuance of
Slim Body Line.

LONG, TIGHT SLEEVES BACK

Contest Between American and
French Figures Has Apparently
Been Won by Former.

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Feb. 1.—Skirts shorter than
ever, with rounded fronts and fluffy
effects, the back line as straight as last
year and waists either very low or
rather high are the main features of
the Spring fashions which were shown
at the openings last week by such of
the great Paris houses as Paquin, Poiret
and Goergette.

The coming week is the greatest week
of the year for fashion displays, and
from these general lines there may be
some departures. But all are agreed
that last year's slim body line will be
kept. To it there has been added new
gracefulness in the enlargement of the
skirt in the way the apron enlarges it.
These aprons can be a series of frills,
a little, short, pleated affair beginning
at about the knee or flowing panels like
handkerchiefs hung by a corner, at-
tached below the waist.

All the frocks shown so far are very
wearable, but they seem to have been
designed to prevent successful imitation.
In afternoon frocks long, tight sleeves
have come back, and both for these and
walking dresses buttons are largely
used for trimming. Even some evening
gowns have six-inch sleeves. In some
of these a broad band round the hips
serves as a waist, and from it hang
handkerchief pieces, which have gradu-
ally been evolved from last year's tunic.

In these and some walking dresses, such
as Paquin showed, with a broad suede
belt round the hips, the waist has
dropped lower than ever. But on this
subject the last word has not been said.

Behind the scenes in the workrooms
of the great designers an interesting
battle is in progress. All, after and
during their labors, are trying to decide
whether they should frame their fash-
ions to the figure of the American or
French woman. It would seem as if the
former had won, for all the frocks
shown are best suited to the longer
limbed, Anglo-Saxon, Jean Tatou
is one of those who believes in the ulti-
mate victory of the figure of "Diana
over Venus," as he phrases it.

Even in France, he says, the increased
outdoor life of women and the develop-
ment of their limbs by tennis, golf and
swimming is causing the round, relative-
ly short figures of the last generation to
disappear. When he brought over his
group of American mannequins his idea
was not only that they should serve as
models for his American customers, but
that they should serve also as examples
for French women. From America he
brought back with him the greatest ad-
miration for the skill and quickness with
which American houses seize on the
latest Paris fashions and reproduce
them.

"France and America," he says, "are
the two nations best fitted to reach a
good understanding on a commercial
ground. France, by staidness, by tem-
perament and by wise use of the past,
has developed a genius for creation.
America, by the vigor of its methods,
the extent of its capacity and the extra-
ordinary productivity of its workers
has all the material means at its dis-
posal for repeating our models in series
and supplying its enormous clientele.
We are collaborators who can never be
competitors. We produce the artisans,
the Americans are workmen."

Patou announces that he is about to
open a hat department. "I can't help
it," he says, "if women, to be well
dressed, must have hats which complete
their costumes and, to be really com-
pleting, must originate in the same mind
that planned the costumes."

Report Device to Put Out Plane Fires

TRIN, Italy, Feb. 1.—The Ferre
brothers, airplane pilots, announce the
invention of a device for extinguishing
fires occurring in airplanes while in mid-
air. The apparatus, the details of which
are not given out, is attached to the
motor and works automatically when an
explosion occurs. Experiments are said
to have been successful.

Sinaloa's Ex-Governor Held for Fraud.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
MEXICO CITY, Feb. 1.—General
Ramon Turbe, ex-Governor of the State
of Sinaloa, has been arrested and con-
fined in jail on charges of misappropri-
ating funds during his administration.