



1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#43 | 12 FÉVRIER 1925



*Peg Woffington (1720-1760), Paris, musée Cognacq-Jay.*

[1925, jeudi 12 février]

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Wrote SH — Saw Kirk — met Loveman for Automat, bookstalls, cinema, coffee — home, his home, & home to bed. Woffington book.

*Écris à Sonia. Vu Kirk. Retrouvé Loveman à l'Automat, bouquinistes, cinéma, café. Maison, chez lui, puis maison. Lu au lit la biographie de Woffington.*

Lecture imprévue pour Lovecraft ce livre sur l'actrice Peg Woffington, actrice irlandaise morte à 40 ans en 1760, pauvre comme elle était née, elle qui fut porteuse d'eau puis danseuse de corde avant de connaître une grande mais brève gloire. Charles Reade lui consacre un roman éponyme dès 1852, d'autres livres suivent en 1878, 1888, 1892 (la biographie de J Fitzgerald Molloy, celle que probablement lit ce soir Lovecraft ?), enfin 1899. L'un des livres que Lovecraft a dû trouver pour quelques cents, après les achats chez les bouquinistes de Yonkers la veille, cet après-midi même à Manhattan : il le dit explicitement dans la lettre du 16 à Lilian : souvenez-vous de la récente annonce, dans le *New York Times*, qu'Haldeman-Julius va cette fin de semaine doubler le prix de ses Little Blue Books — c'est dans leur librairie qu'avec Belknap cet après-midi il s'est rendu, et revenu aussitôt chez lui lire son nouveau trésor. Livres regardant vers un lointain passé, l'époque du roi Geoges, et cette Angleterre qu'il veut à tout prix être la sienne. Sinon cette tentation, qui ira se renforçant, de faire vivre auprès de lui le XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle et ses personnages. Dans le Kentucky, et le dédale des grottes que Lovecraft ira visiter par deux fois dans les années à venir, dixième jour d'enfermement pour Floyd Collins. Une fois de plus, s'il entre dans un cinéma, aucune mention du film : c'est en octobre seulement qu'il verra le succès le plus massif de ces temps-ci, *The lost World*, mais récemment encore il s'étonnait qu'à Cleveland la plus grande et prestigieuse salle de théâtre soit désormais dédiée aux « images animées ». Peut-être la reprise du *The Man without a Country* de 1917 (une autre adaptation viendra en 1937) du roman d'Everett-Jones ? Un autre fil qui s'imposera cette année, deux avant la traversée de l'Atlantique par Lindberg, et avec petit accent Jules Verne, ou les ombres de Mermoz et Saint-Ex, l'exploration aérienne (ici française, au-dessus du Sénégal). Chaque jour, en Une du *New York Times*, la progression aveugle de ceux qui arriveront trop tard : une liaison téléphonique indique qu'il respire, mais a sombré dans le coma — leçon en direct du rapport de l'actualité à la tragédie (on mentionne que dans la Ruhr 200 mineurs viennent de mourir, mais cela ne peut créer à distance cette tension du jour après jour, propre au journalisme). Dans les

pages intérieures du journal, une lettre inédite de Lincoln puisque c'est fête nationale pour son anniversaire. Sur une scène de théâtre le pistolet chargé à blanc a tiré une vraie balle, l'histoire s'est réitérée il y a peu. Une publicité de chapeaux parisiens « juste débarqués du bateau » pour compenser l'absence des lettres qu'il écrit ces jours-ci quotidiennement à Sonia (« elle va bien mieux », dira-t-il à Lilian).

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*New York Times*, 12 février 1925. De Cave City, Kentucky., 10 février. Les ouvriers qui forent un tunnel de cinq mètres pour rejoindre Sand Cave ont eu cette nuit une preuve qui les pousse à croire que juste sous le niveau de cinq mètres où ils travaillent existe une fissure ou une crevasse qui pourrait les conduire à la grotte où Floyd Collins est retenu prisonnier depuis dix jours. L'écoulement de l'eau sur le sol du tunnel, et une odeur très reconnaissable d'huile de banane, dont un bidon a été renversé il y a plusieurs jours, lors d'une tentative de jonction avec la grande grotte du Mammoth, incite les contremaîtres et leurs ouvriers à augmenter la cadence, dans l'espoir que leurs efforts touchent à leur fin. Des grillons des cavernes, lesquels habitent seulement les fissures qui criblent le sol de cette zone du Kentucky, ont été découverts sur le sol du tunnel, montrant que l'accès à la grotte est proche. M E S Posey, secrétaire exécutif de la Commission des routes, et représentant personnel du gouverneur Fields, est remonté du tunnel à 23 h hier soir, tout recouvert de boue. « Nous sommes certains que nous approchons de Sand Cave, et un forage au diamant il y a quelque jours nous a indiqués un passage possible à 11 mètres. Quel que soit le passage que nous découvrirons, qu'il puisse nous mener à Collins est un autre problème. Nous pouvons seulement l'espérer. Il y a un passage qui mène à un point nommé le boyau, juste en dessous de Collins. Il est au-dessus de l'entrée de la grotte et peut-être nous sera-t-il inutile. Tout cela est encourageant, cependant, cela me redonne l'espoir qui était retombé ces jours-ci. » Le Dr William Hazlett, de l'hôpital Saint-Luc, Chicago, présent pour prendre charge de Collins immédiatement, s'il est encore en vie, a quitté son hôtel de Cave City pour rejoindre Sand Cave dès que ces nouveaux développements ont été sus. S'il y avait une possibilité de ramener Collins à la surface cette nuit-même, personne n'en sait rien. Un officier de l'armée a emmené le Dr Hazlett en urgence. À l'entrée de la grotte, un brancard de corde et cuir, faisant une sorte de harnais, a été préparé pour recevoir le corps de Collins et l'évacuer par le tunnel. L'espoir fait se bousculer les ouvriers dans la grotte. Quand les faits ont été connus à Cave City, plusieurs sont repartis pour la grotte en voiture. Selon certains témoignages, le travail est désormais plus facile pour les ouvriers, la roche étant mêlée de poussière. Le Dr Hazlett a certifié d'autre part, aujourd'hui, que Collins était encore en vie, selon des tests effectués par l'appareil radio attaché à la ligne électrique qui mène jusqu'à l'homme emprisonné. Des bruits de halètement indiquent que Collins s'agitait ou toussait. « On entend distinctement sa respiration dans les écouteurs, dit le Dr Hazlett. Quand je l'ai écouté cet après-midi, il respirait quatorze fois par minute, contre dix-huit pour une respiration normale, ce qui indiquerait qu'il est évanoui, ou dans le coma.

**200 NEW TITLES**

**CATALOG OF  
LITTLE BLUE BOOKS  
FOR 1930**

LOVE  
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EDUCATION  
JOKES  
MARRIAGE  
WOMEN  
SCIENCE  
HYGIENE  
AND OTHERS

**5c**

**HALDEMAN-JULIUS CO.**  
GIRARD, KANSAS

Printed in U. S. A.



Genuine "drama was infused into the second act of 'Hell's Bells' at Wallace's Theatre last night, when Eddie Garvie, who takes one of the principal rôles, shot Clifton Self, another actor, with a pistol that he did not know was loaded. Self escaped with a painful but not serious wound in his arm.

When the play was over, a charge of violating the Sullivan law and taken to the West Third Street station. He later was released on \$500 bail.

When the show was over, Clifton Self fell on Shirley, the leading lady, who was standing in the wings for a cue, fainted and apparently died for a few minutes. The curtain was lowered and for some time the people in front remained in mystified dis-

As soon as Miss Booth had been revived and it was learned that Self was not dangerously wounded the curtain was pulled back the third act. As he stepped off the stage after his final scene Garvie was put under arrest. The manager of the play, William Dellorf, was taken to the police station for questioning.

According to the facts obtained by the police, the pistol used was not the one usually employed by Garvie in the scene to prevent his fellow performers from taking to the stage. He was taken from being taken to an insane asylum by officers.

**VUILLEMIN'S PLANE  
CRASHES IN**

**Famous French Accidents—  
Mechanics Are Hurt—  
Is Killed.**

that they have amassed great wealth as prospectors. Through the machinations of those opposed to all that is good and lovable in the wanderers, the authorities are informed that "Jap" Stillson, played by Tom Walsh, is insane. When the officers come to get him Garvie, his partner in adventure, draws a pistol and commands:

"Stand back there, you coyotes!" Last night Garvie could not find the pistol he has used since the play opened. He remembered that a stage carpenter had a collection of weapons. Hurrying to the basement in time to be ready to take his cue, he selected a .32 calibre revolver and made his entrance.

Everything went well for a time. Self and the others impersonating officers made their regular move to take away Walsh. Ga

**Famous French Ace and His  
Mechanic Are Hurt—Sergeant  
Is Killed.**

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DAKAR, Feb. 11.—The efforts of the French Air Mission commanded by Colonel de Goyz to establish a Central African air route encountered a tragic interruption yesterday when one of the two planes engaged in the mission crashed to the ground at Niamey. One member of the crew, Sergeant Vandelle, was killed. His fellow passengers, Colonel Vuillemin and Sergeant Mechanic Knecht, were not seriously hurt.

The mission left Paris early in January and despite many obstacles made heroic progress in swift penetration of the Sahara region. The object of the mission was to organize an effective air route to Colomb-Béchar-Bangui which would constitute a line of direct air communication between the principal points in French Central Africa with Lake Tchad as the terminus.

The work of the mission has been followed closely, not only for its value from the standpoint of exploration but also from the viewpoint of technical problems of aviation, owing to the formidable difficulties confronting fliers in their passage across the Sahara. The planes, one in charge of Colonel de Goys and the other, which fell, in charge of Colonel Vuillemin, concluded their crossing of the Sahara and Sudan deserts Feb. 7, arriving on that date at Niamey. Descending at Niamey, the planes underwent a number of repairs made necessary by contact with the violent winds encountered on the trip.

Both planes left Niamey yesterday but were scarcely on their way before Colonel Vuillemin's plane came crashing to the ground. When the crew were extricated from the wreckage it was found that Sergeant Vandelle had been killed and the other two hurt. The exact cause of the disaster has not yet been ascertained, owing to the complete

Colonel Vuillemin is commonly regarded by French air experts as the champion flier of the world, not only because of his daring exploits during the war, but also of the sensational feats of exploration he has accomplished. He was the first flier ever to cross the Sahara

Colonel de Goys, commander of the mission, telegraphed the Ministry of Aeronautics he would continue the flight to Lake Tchad as soon as medical examination had been made of the gravity of the injuries suffered by Vuillemin and Knecht.

**Emancipator's Birthday to Be  
Celebrated by Many So-  
cieties in This City.**

HUGHES SPEAKS AT WALDORF

**Tributes at Statue in Union Square**  
—Blue and Gray Jointly to Desk  
    \* Lincoln and Lee Busts.

Birthdays will be celebrated on an impressive scale in this

...the nation by patriotic, religious, political and other means. Observance of the anniversary will result in the formation of thirty-one annual clubs—National Republican Club at St. Albans, the Secretary of State's Club in Washington, D. C., and 29 others. The speaker, who is only one of several to be arranged by the National Historical Club, The Non-Partisan Memorial Committee and other interested organizations with similar exertions during the past year, has been elected to the status of Lifetime Honorary Member of the National Historical Club. The committee has also arranged for the decoration of bunts of the colors of the flag at the home of Robert E. Lee in the Hall of the Lincoln Memorial.

My friend, today closes the discussion of the  
concern. The planting and the culture among

[illegible][illegible]

Continued from Page 1, Column 3.

"I have constantly admitted the legal right of Congress to interfere with their institutions in the States to ban the spread of slavery to new territory and to have a tendency to subvert the first principle of the Constitution, the right of self-government has consisted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have never felt that I have not expressed my harsh sentiments against the extension of slavery into the Territories. As I have not, I have constantly declared, as I really believe, that I have no objection to the extension of slavery as long as the difference of color is completely obliterated.  
 "I have never treated of slavery as a question of the rights of individuals, and I have never been conscious of departing from my purpose to regard it.  
 "I have said that in some respects the contest has been painful to me. Mr. Garrison has been constantly seized of a purpose to do every imaginable offense against me, and I have accordingly have done themselves more active in this. I have outlived a party which has been sacrificed to the Union. Abolition has been sacrificed to the Union."

**Said to Be the First That Mentions  
Father and Mother**

A recently-discovered letter of Abraham Lincoln, believed to have been written but never published, was in the hands of a collector in London yesterday as he possessed particular interest at this time of the Emancipator's birthday. The letter is the property of Thomas F. Madigan, a dealer in autographs and historical documents at 10, St. James's Street, London. He obtained it from the great-grandson of Samuel Maycraft of Elizabethtown, Ky., to whom it was written.

Mr. Madigan, who has handled many Lincoln autographs, says that in his twenty years' experience he never has seen nor heard of a letter of Lincoln as late as this. The President set forth in this new handwriting the date, address, place of his birth and the names of his father and mother. Thomas Lincoln was born in 1793 in Kentucky. In this one letter the Lincoln was written two words after Lincoln had been nominated.

[illegible]

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**\$8 50**

Made with dampproof rawhide inlay soles—just right for this sort of weather—and a big opportunity at this sort of price.

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Reduced to \$5.<sup>00</sup>



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**\$14.75**

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of the Little Masters of Paris*

Hats from the Little Masters of Paris that some day will be rated among the great masters of Paris. Hats from shops that correspond to New York's exclusive little shops on the exclusive side streets—the 40's and 50's. The Rue St. Honoré and the Rue Rivoli—rather than the Avenue and the Rue de la Paix. Individual fashions, naturally. All of them for immediate wearing. All of them smartly sparse of trimming. All of them distinctive of line. All of them in the braids; straws; satins; suede; ribbon; cellophane that Paris dons right now.

<i>Fuchsia</i>	<i>Almond</i>	<i>Beige</i>	<i>Apple Green</i>
<i>Lipstick</i>	<i>Pervenche</i>	<i>Rust</i>	<i>Grey</i>
<i>Nome</i>	<i>Gobelin</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Black</i>

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