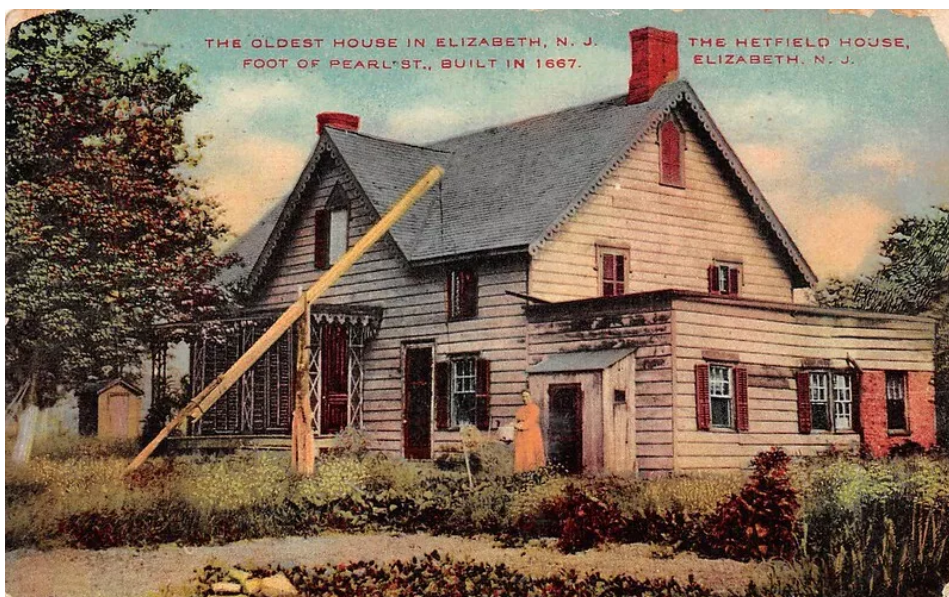


1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#69 | 10 MARS 1925



Hetfield House, la plus vieille maison d'Elizabeth, la ville du New Jersey contiguë à Staten Island, c'est l'expédition d'aujourd'hui, ne pas confondre avec la Hatfield House de Philadelphie, de 1760, une des plus belles maisons coloniales de la côte Est, celle de Moses Hatfield, la joie d'apporter une très humble correction à l'œuvre lovecraftienne collective puisqu'il y a une lettre (une simple et seule lettre !) à rectifier, pour une fois, dans la transcription S.T. Joshy du « 1925 diary » !

[1925, mardi 10 mars]

Up early — start with GK on trip — Atl. Av. Ferry — Staten Island —
Port Richmond — churchyards — Eliz. Ferry — walk thro' town — dinner
— explore — Hatfield House — complete circuit in twilight — Perth
Amboy — Parker Ho. — walk — ferry to Tottenville — train — N.Y.
Ferry — subway — Tiffany — home — find SH — discuss & retire.

*Levé tôt. Parti en exploration avec Kirk. On prend le ferry Atlantic
Avenue. Staten Island, puis Port Richmond. Cimetières. Ferry pour
Elizabeth Island. Promenade dans la ville. Déjeuner. On explore. Visite
de Hatfield House. Circuit complet jusqu'au crépuscule. Perth Amboy.
Parker House. On revient par le ferry de Tottenville, puis train et ferry
pour New York, métro pour finir. On s'arrête au Tiffany. Sonia est à la
maison. On discute, puis couché.*

Important, parce qu'Elisabethville n'est pas facilement accessible depuis Manhattan ou Brooklyn : il faut rejoindre Staten Island, traverser pour reprendre un ferry. Mais c'est une enclave coloniale que Lovecraft considère comme favorable. Du temps du magasin de chapeau V^e Avenue, lui et Sonia avaient même envisagé de s'y installer. La marche urbaine devient une fin en soi. Il y reviendra début août, même itinéraire ferry bus ferry, pour écrire *Lui*. Dans le journal, un épisode qu'on pourrait considérer comme comique : mais les rituels dans les forêts de Louisiane évoqués dans Cthulhu sont-ils si différents ?

New York Times, 10 mars 1925. De Kitchener, Ontario, 9 mars. Anna Reynolds, prêtresse réputée d'un culte connu à Toronto sous le nom de « Foi dans la lumière sacrée » a été écrouée aujourd'hui. On lui reproche d'avoir présidé à Bluevale, Ontario, un cérémonial nocturne aussi exotique que bizarre, dans lequel dix jeunes porcs ont été sacrifiés « en offrande aux esprits infernaux ». L'inspecteur-chef P C Whiteside l'a arrêtée sous le motif qu'elle était « mentalement irresponsable et un danger pour la société ». Earl Underwood, le fermier qui a fourni les pourceaux, a déclaré aux autorités qu'il « faisait tout ce qu'Anna Reynolds lui disait de faire », a été mis en garde-à-vue pour interrogatoire. Cette dame est une infirmière professionnelle. Elle est venue de Toronto à la ferme des Underwood il y a plusieurs semaines pour assister Mme Underwood lors d'une maladie, a déclaré l'inspecteur-chef Whiteside. L'histoire du fermier, telle que relatée par Whiteside, commence jeudi dernier lorsque la prêtresse a ordonné à Underwood d'élever un grand bûcher de rondins au centre d'un champ. Puis elle a ordonné à Underwood que dix de ses plus beaux jeunes porcs soient attachés sur le bûcher, ce qui fut fait. À minuit, la prêtresse mit le feu au bûcher. Comme les flammes des rondins d'épinette et de la graisse de porc s'élevaient vers le ciel, elle accomplit d'étranges gestes, prononça d'étranges incantations, supposées se mêler à l'odeur envahissante pour repousser les démons, dit Whiteside. À l'aurore, le bûcher fut

recouvert de terre, et il continua de brûler à feu couvert pendant trois jours, répandant sur tout le pays une odeur de cochon rôti. L'arrestation suivit après une plainte déposée par les voisins d'Underwood.

STUDENT ENDS LIFE IN SIX-STORY LEAP

Morbidly Depressed, He Plunges
From Window in Columbia
Dormitory.

LEFT A NOTE FOR MOTHER

"Act Necessary to My Happiness,"
It Read—Overstudy Believed
a Reason for Deed.

While in a state of intense morbid depression, Henry Mead, 25 years old, a graduate student in English at Columbia University, committed suicide by jumping from a sixth-story window of Hartley Hall, at Amsterdam Avenue and 115th Street at noon yesterday. Mead came to Columbia from Brown University, where he had received a degree of Bachelor of Philosophy under his original name, Henry Meadowsky. When he came to New York he dropped the last two syllables.

Mead had no intimate friends among his fellow students. He roomed alone on the sixth floor of the college dormitory, and although several of the prominent athletic students at the university occupied rooms close by, they saw little of him. Walter Kopsch, last year's football captain, and George Pease, the present captain of the eleven, lived on the same floor.

One of the dormitory maids had been in Mead's room a short time before his leap to death. At the time he was writing at his desk. As soon as she left the room he locked the door. Several pedestrians were passing on Amsterdam Avenue when Mead's body landed.

When the door of Mead's room was unlocked, two empty iodine bottles were found on the floor, and on the desk were four notes. One of these was to his mother, who lives in Fall River, Mass. It read:

"You might try to console yourself with the knowledge that I consider this act necessary to my happiness and that whatever pleases me should be pleasing to you."

Another note was addressed to Dr. G. Alfred Lawrence, a neurologist of 64 West Fifty-sixth Street, which read: "Dear Doctor: You have failed."

A third note to the college authorities read: "Please permit Harry L. Binkhoff, 1542 Thirtieth Street, Brooklyn, to take my possessions. If there should be any refund of fees, give that also to him." Other notes instructed Schrafft's and the Bowers Savings Bank that Mr. and Mrs. Binkhoff were his beneficiaries.

Mrs. Binkhoff is Mead's sister. She was notified by the college authorities, and later communicated with her brother in Fall River. The body will be taken there for burial.

It was said that Mead had been subject to spells of depression for some time. Worry and overstudy are believed to have brought on the melancholia which seized the student yesterday.

HELD FOR SACRIFICING TEN PIGS TO 'DEVILS'

Toronto Nurse Is Accused as
Priestess When Farmers Pro-
test Over Wierd Pyre.

KITCHENER, Ont., March 9.—Anna Reynolds, reputed priestess of a cult in Toronto known as "The Faith of the Holy Light," was in custody today.

She was charged with having presided over a weird exotic midnight ceremonial at Bluevale, Ont., in which ten hogs were sacrificed as "an offering to devilish spirits."

Constable P. C. Whiteside arrested her on the charge that she was "insane and dangerous to be at large." Earl Underwood who furnished the hogs and who told authorities he "would do anything Anna Reynolds said to do," was in custody for questioning.

The woman is a professional nurse. She came from Toronto to the Underwood farm several weeks ago to attend Mrs. Underwood during an illness, according to Constable Whiteside.

The farmer's story, as related by Whiteside, is that last Thursday the priestess ordered Underwood to build a great pyre of logs in the center of a field. He did so. Then she ordered that ten of the farmer's choicest hogs be trussed upon the pyre. That also was done.

"At midnight the priestess ignited the pyre. As the blaze of pine logs and roast pig mounted skyward, she made queer gestures and uttered strange incantations, which were supposed to mingle with the ascending odors and thus drive away the devils," it was related by Whiteside.

At daybreak the pyre was banked with earth, so that for three days it smoldered, sending over the countryside the penetrating odor of roast pork.

The arrest followed a complaint by farmer neighbors of Underwood.

FIND ROYAL TOMB OF 5,000 YEARS AGO

Americans at Giza Open the
Sepulchre of King Sneferu, 3000
B. C., or One of His Circle.

AT BOTTOM OF DEEP SHAFT

Alabaster Coffin and Many Ob-
jects Visible—Great Import-
ance Attached to Discovery.

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.
By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, March 5.—The Ministry of
Public Works issued the following com-
munique today:

"The Harvard-Boston expedition work-
ing among the Giza pyramids has found
an important tomb. The burial cham-
ber is at the bottom of a 150-foot shaft
which passes through fissured rock and
is not over safe and possibly will need
strutting before the work of clearing
can continue. No detailed examination
is yet possible, but a plain rectangular
alabaster coffin is visible with a num-
ber of poles, the tops whereof are cov-
ered with gold foil.

"By the side of the coffin is a plank,
or at least something resembling a plank,
with inscriptions, among which the
Cartouche of Sneferu, first King
of the Fourth Dynasty (about 3000 B. C.)
and predecessor of Cheops, is dis-
tinguishable. Presumably the body
within the tomb is of some member of
Sneferu's family or one of the high
officials, or conceivably that of the
King himself.

"The floor of the tomb is covered by
a quantity of objects, including alaba-
ster bowls, a copper basin or ewer and
remains of heavily gilded chairs. As all
the wooden framework of the furniture
has disappeared, the ornamentation is
very fragile and the task of extraction
and preservation will be long and deli-
cate."

Dr. Reisner, head of the expedition,
is at present in America and the good
fortune of the discovery has fallen to
the lot of his assistant, Allen Rowe.

Egyptian and European officials of
the Antiquities Department attended the
opening yesterday. The great depth of
the tomb shaft and the dangerous con-
dition of its sides render inspection by
the public impossible.

Budge Believes It Is King's Tomb.

Copyright, 1925, by The New York Times Company.
Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, March 5.—News of the dis-
covery of the tomb at Giza, announced
today, was received by Egyptologists in
London tonight as of the highest im-
portance. The unusual depth of the
shaft is regarded by Sir Wallis Budge,
formerly keeper of Egyptian antiquities
at the British Museum, as reason for
believing the tomb may prove to be of
"great importance."

Dr. Alan H. Gardner, on the other
hand, is not prepared to indulge this
belief in view of the fact that Sneferu
hitherto has been supposed to be buried
at Meidum, where one of his pyramids
stands.

Dr. Budge expressed the opinion that
the shaft made it "quite likely" the
tomb is that of the King. Also, he made
a comparison between this and the dis-
covery of the tomb of Tut-ankh-Amen.

"The world," he said, "will remember
the excitement caused by that discovery
and the joy of finding gilded chairs and
couches inlaid with blue glazed porce-
lain. But these things blinded people to
the fact that we have not recovered
one historical fact from that tomb.
Tut-ankh-Amen was a King of no im-
portance, but in Sneferu we have cer-
tainly one of the master builders of
Egypt, who may possibly be bracketed
with Usersten III. and Thothmes III.

EARTH'S DIAMETERS ACCURATELY FIXED

Measurements of Dr. Hayford
of Northwestern University Ac-
cepted by International Congress.

7,926.678 MILES AT EQUATOR

Polar Diameter Is 7,899.964 Miles—
Twenty-five Nations Will Use
Figures in Their Measurements.

Special to The New York Times.
CHICAGO, March 5.—Director John F.
Hayford, head of Northwestern Uni-
versity College of Engineering, has de-
termined the equatorial and polar diame-
ters of the earth with such accuracy
that his figures have been adopted in
all countries.

This triumph for American science
was announced by the International
Geodetic and Physical Union at their
recent meeting in Madrid, Spain. It was
stated today by Professor William H.
Burger, Professor of Civil Engineering
at the university. Director Hayford is
seriously ill at his home in Evanston.

This decision of the international union
means that every boundary survey in
the world in the future will be based
on the Hayford figures. Measurements
prove the form of the earth is an ellip-
soid, a sphere flattened at the poles.
This is known as the ellipsoid of ref-
erence, for to it are referred all the
computations, astronomical and geodetic,
which employ the dimensions of the
earth.

By working with measurements gained
with the United States Geodetic Survey,
Director Hayford has fixed the value of
the equatorial diameter at 7,926.678
miles and the polar diameter at 7,899.964
miles. The difference between these
two diameters is 26.694 miles and the
ratio for the earth's flattening at the
poles is therefore 1 part in 297.

In 1686 Reichert turned the attention
of mathematicians to the earth's devia-
tion from a spherical form. Since that
time French, British and German have
worked at the problem. Newton, late in
the seventeenth century, computed that
the earth as a revolving body, must take
the form of a slightly flattened sphere.

Various values, chiefly those of Clark
in 1866 and the earlier one of Bessel,
have been used during the last century.
It became necessary, in order to coordi-
nate the geodetic work of various na-
tions, that they should all use the same
ellipsoid of reference. The question as
to the choice of an ellipsoid was raised
in 1919. In 1921, when the first general
assembly of the union was held in Rome,
the section of geodesy charged the Ex-
ecutive Committee to fix and recom-
mend as soon as possible an ellipsoid
of reference common to all nations on
the same continent. Twenty-five nations
were represented at the Madrid meeting
recently and this was the decision:

"The Hayford ellipsoid, determined in
his investigations in 1909 and 1910, upon
the figure of the earth and isostasy, was
the one which represented with the
greatest precision all of the land sur-
face of the earth. The values com-
puted by him have about four times the
weight of the other ellipsoids. These
values, though deduced from observa-
tions made in the United States have
been shown to apply equally well to
other regions."

Dr. Hayford was presented with the
Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographi-
cal Society of Great Britain in 1924 for
his researches.

PAINTER CLASSES WOMEN BY NOSES

Spanish Artist Prefers the
Retrouse to the Curved
After Viewing Fifth Av.

ENRAPTURED BY BEAUTY

Moya del Pino Declares Feminine
Pulchritude and Luxury of
Dress Bewilders Him.

Moya del Pino, celebrated Spanish
painter, who arrived here last Sunday
with two other distinguished members of
the Spanish court to give an exhibition
of Velasquez paintings under the aus-
pices and patronage of the King of
Spain, was in raptures yesterday over
the beauty of New York women he had
seen on Fifth Avenue.

"I never saw so much luxury in
dress," he said. "Their wonderful
clothes and wraps, together with their
beauty, actually bewilder me. I never
saw anything to surpass it in Europe.
So far I have divided them into two
classes—women with curved noses and
women with retroussé noses. I like
better this retroussé nose. It is quite
fascinating."

The artist heads what is known as
the Spanish artistic mission, whose ob-
ject is to foster appreciation of Spanish
art and culture in America. The other
two members are Francisco More de la
Torre, a sculptor, and Gonzales de la
Pena, an art critic and a cousin of the
Duke of Alba. They are at the Hotel
Pennsylvania.

The collection includes, besides the
forty-two copies of Velasquez, which
Moya del Pino made in the Museo de
Prado in Madrid, a recent portrait of
King Alfonso, which the artist painted
at the palace in Madrid several months
ago especially for American exhibition
purposes.

"The King is most desirous that the
American people should see him and
know him in simple attire, and not in
military dress or in royal pompousness,"
said the artist. "It is a half-length por-
trait, and the King is wearing a black
lounge suit, a semi-soft collar and a
dark blue cravat."

"He posed for me for one hour at
each sitting, in the tapestry room at
the palace, sitting on an onyx-top table
in true democratic fashion, and usually
smoking a cigarette. He is the soul of
simplicity, very democratic and the
nicest man in our country."

The collection of paintings, which is
owned by the Société Exhíbitores Ve-
lasquez, of which King Alfonso is the
head, and the Duke of Alba and all the
Spanish nobility members, will be shown
first in Philadelphia, beginning March
26, under the auspices of the Philadel-
phia Forum. It will come to New York
during the Easter season.

Alexander P. Moore, American Am-
bassador to Spain, will arrive in New
York today from Florida to confer with
the members of the mission about the
exhibition here and in other cities. The
mission will visit Washington, D. C.
Several months ago Moya del Pino
painted a fan which was sent through
Ambassador Moore to the White House,
as a gift for Mrs. Coolidge.





Cartes postales années 20 de Port Richmond, au nord-ouest de Staten Island, là on reprend le ferry pour Elisabeth, côté New Jersey. Lovecraft déteste ça, Kirk probablement pas, mais moi j'aurais de toute façon craqué, dans l'attente du « traversier » pour quelques huîtres et une soupe aux clams, plus l'ambiance !



Le célèbre peintre espagnol Moya del Pino, débarqué hier à Manhattan, déclare concernant les femmes américaines qu'il les préfère nez retroussé à nez busqué. C'est parfait pour se faire remarquer, et obtenir un bon petit paquet de solides affaires. Représentant officiel de l'Espagne aux Etats-Unis à cause de la grande exposition Velazquez, il a eu l'intelligence de proposer d'y adjoindre un portrait du roi Alphonse... Encore un qui a l'âge de Lovecraft (né en 1891) mais ne mourra qu'en 1969... un peu détrôné par les Dali et d'autres.